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## Graphical Abstract

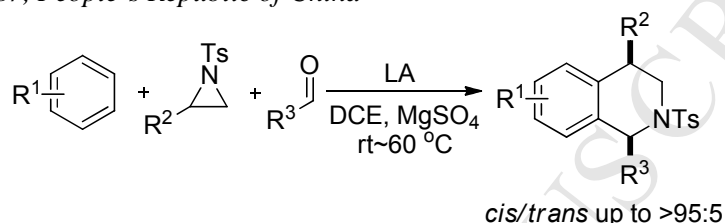
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*Tianjin key Laboratory of Structure and Performance for Functional Molecules; Key Laboratory of Inorganic – Organic Hybrid Functional Material Chemistry, Ministry of Education; College of Chemistry, Tianjin Normal University, Tianjin 300387, People's Republic of China*

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Tianjin Key Laboratory of Structure and Performance for Functional Molecules; Key Laboratory of Inorganic–Organic Hybrid Functional Material Chemistry, Ministry of Education; College of Chemistry, Tianjin Normal University, Tianjin 300387, People's Republic of China

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## ABSTRACT

A new Lewis acid promoted three-component reaction between the aziridine, arene and aldehyde has been developed. This reaction involves sequential ring opening of aziridine and Pictet-Splinger condensation and gives a broad range of *cis*-1,4-disubstituted tetrahydroisoquinolines in moderate yields with good diastereoselectivities under mild conditions. The methodology provides an rapid and convergent synthesis for the scaffold of tetrahydroisoquinoline and serves as a good tool for constructing the libraries of substituted tetrahydroisoquinolines.

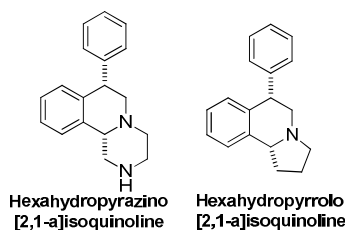
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\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +86-13752362654; fax: +86 022 23766531; e-mail: [hxxysy@mail.tjnu.edu.cn](mailto:hxxysy@mail.tjnu.edu.cn) (S. Xing)

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +86-13920926098; fax: +86 022 23766531; e-mail: [hxxylwk@mail.tjnu.edu.cn](mailto:hxxylwk@mail.tjnu.edu.cn) (K. Wang)

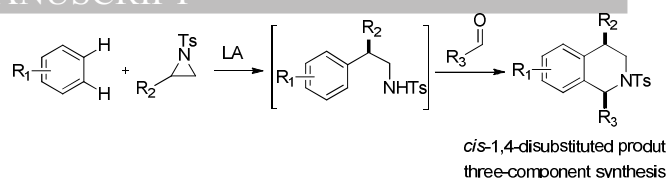
Tetrahydroisoquinoline (THIQ) derivatives are structural motifs of many pharmaceutically relevant molecules and natural products and exhibit a variety of biological activities.<sup>1</sup> For this reason, they have attracted continuous interest to design the synthetic methods for the construction of all kinds of substituted THIQs.<sup>2</sup> In particular, 1,4-disubstituted THIQs have been paid much attention along with their physiological activities investigated in recent years. For example, hexahydropyrazino [2,1-a]isoquinolines<sup>3</sup> and hexahydropyrrolo [2,1-a]isoquinolines<sup>4</sup> were found to be associated with antidepressant activities (Scheme 1). Although several reports were available for the synthesis of 1,4-disubstituted THIQs,<sup>5, 6</sup> most of them involved multistep syntheses employing two-component reactions. The reaction diversity and efficiency were often unsatisfactory. Moreover, the development of highly diastereoselective reactions for the synthesis of 1,4-disubstituted THIQs remains a challenging job.<sup>6</sup>

Because multiple chemical bonds in one-step reaction are formed, the multiple-component reaction allows an efficient and straightforward transformation from readily available materials to cyclic compounds with molecular complexity and structural diversity.<sup>7</sup> Due to avoiding the isolation and purification of intermediates, it saves a large number of efforts, times, and cost. Therefore, the multiple-component reaction has been widely used to the high-throughput screening in the discovery of modern new drug. Considering the continued importance of the THIQ derivatives in the field of organic and medicinal chemistry, developing efficient multiple-component reactions for the diastereoselective synthesis of THIQ derivatives is of great significance.



**Scheme 1.** 1,4-disubstituted tetrahydroisoquinolines

N-Sulfonylaziridine<sup>8</sup>, an readily accessible and good reactive organic intermediate, has been utilized for the ring-opening reactions with numerous heteroatom-nucleophilic reagents<sup>9</sup> and carbon-nucleophilic reagents<sup>10</sup>. Based on these ring openings, a series of tandem cyclizations involving two-components have been developed for the construction of nitrogen-containing heterocycles.<sup>6a,11</sup> But tandem multiple-component reactions are seldom seen.<sup>12</sup> We noticed that N-sulfonyl-β-arylamines were easily provided by Lewis acid promoted ring opening of N-sulfonyl aziridines with arenes.<sup>13</sup> If continuing to add aldehydes, N-sulfonyl-β-arylamines would further undergo Lewis acid catalyzed Pictet-Spengler condensation<sup>14</sup> in a cascade fashion leading to the three-component synthesis of 1,4-disubstituted tetrahydroisoquinolines (Scheme 2). To our best knowledge, few tandem three-component reactions were designed for one-step construction of the core skeletons of tetrahydroisoquinolines up to now.<sup>15</sup> This new three-component reaction undoubtedly provides a good choice for the rapid and convergent synthesis of tetrahydroisoquinolines. When carrying out this three-component reaction, we find that *cis*-1,4-disubstituted THIQ is isolated as the major isomer with a good diastereoselectivity. Herein, we hope to report about the results of the new *cis*-diastereoselective three-component reactions of aziridines, arenes and aldehydes.



**Scheme 2.** Tandem three-component reactions between aziridines, arenes and aldehydes

## 2. Results and Discussion

Arene **1a**, aziridine **2a**, and aldehyde **3a** were selected as model substrates for optimizing the reaction conditions (Table 1). A screening of different acids was firstly carried out. Sc(OTf)<sub>3</sub>, In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> and AgPF<sub>6</sub> failed to promote the three-component reaction (entries 1~3). To our delight, when BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> was used

**Table 1** Optimization of the reaction conditions<sup>a</sup>

Chemical structures of 1a (3,4-dimethoxyphenyl), 2a (N-tosylaziridine), 3a (4-benzyl-2-bromobenzaldehyde), 4a (cis-1,4-disubstituted THIQ), and 5a (trans-1,4-disubstituted THIQ) are shown.

Entry	Catalyst	Solvent	Additive	T	Yield( <b>4a</b> ) <sup>b</sup>	Dr <sup>c</sup>
1	Sc(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	DCE	none	rt	0%	-
2	In(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	DCE	none	rt	0%	-
3	AgPF <sub>6</sub>	DCE	none	rt	0%	-
4	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	DCE	none	rt	32%	86:14
5	SnCl <sub>4</sub> <sup>d</sup>	DCE	none	rt	12%	79:21
6	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	DCE	MgSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>h</sup>	rt	49%	86:14
7	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	DCE	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>i</sup>	rt	35%	86:14
8	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	DCE	4 Å MS	rt	40%	86:14
9	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	DCE	MgSO <sub>4</sub>	60 °C	63%	86:14
10	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	DCE	MgSO <sub>4</sub>	80 °C	60%	86:14
11	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>e</sup>	DCE	MgSO <sub>4</sub>	60 °C	20%	86:14
12	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>f</sup>	DCE	MgSO <sub>4</sub>	60 °C	63%	84:16
13	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d,g</sup>	DCE	MgSO <sub>4</sub>	60 °C	60%	84:16
14	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	DCM	MgSO <sub>4</sub>	40 °C	38%	86:14
15	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	MeNO <sub>2</sub>	MgSO <sub>4</sub>	60 °C	0%	-
16	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	THF	MgSO <sub>4</sub>	60 °C	0%	-
17	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	DMSO	MgSO <sub>4</sub>	60 °C	0%	-
18	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	CCl <sub>4</sub>	MgSO <sub>4</sub>	60 °C	62%	86:14
19	BF <sub>3</sub> ·OEt <sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	MgSO <sub>4</sub>	60 °C	25%	84:16

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions, unless otherwise stated: a solution of **1a** (0.3 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), catalyst (0.04 mmol, 20 mol%) in solvent (2 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature, then **3a** (0.4 mmol) was added and the mixture was further stirred for 18 h at set temperature; <sup>b</sup> Combined yields of *cis*-**4a** and *trans*-**4a**; <sup>c</sup> Determined by NMR analysis (*cis*/*trans*); <sup>d</sup> Catalyst (300 mol%) was used; <sup>e</sup> Catalyst (200 mol%) was used; <sup>f</sup> Catalyst (400 mol%) was used; <sup>g</sup> **1a** (0.4 mmol, 2equiv) was used; <sup>h</sup> Anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> was used; <sup>i</sup> Anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was used.

as the catalyst, **4a** was obtained in 32% yield with a good diastereoselectivity (*cis*:*trans*=86:14) (entry 4). In the three-component reaction by-product **5a** was also obviously observed because of double arylation of aldehydes. The structure of *cis*-**4a** was unambiguously confirmed by X-ray crystal structure analysis<sup>16</sup>. SnCl<sub>4</sub> could also promote the three-component

reaction, but a low yield was observed (entry 5). As additives, anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$  was found to be more beneficial for improving the yield of the three-component reaction than anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and 4 Å MS (entry 6~8). Then we attempted to raise the reaction temperature to 60 °C, the best result for the three-component reaction was obtained and **4a** was provided in 63% yield without the decrease of diastereoselectivity (entry 9). When the reaction temperature was further raised to 80 °C, a slightly low yield was observed (entry 10). Decreasing the amount of  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  from 300% to 200% gave a bad result and product **4a** was only isolated in 20% yield (entry 11). Then we tried to increase the amount of  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  to 400%, the result was similar with using 300 mol% of  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  (entry 12). We also tested the reaction using an increased amount of arenes (2 equiv), a slightly decreased yield was observed (entry 13). Besides, several different solvents were selected for optimizing the reaction conditions (entries 14~19). Unsatisfactory yields were detected in DCM and  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . In THF,  $\text{MeNO}_2$  and DMSO the reaction failed to afford product **4a**. In  $\text{CCl}_4$  the reaction gave a similar result as in DCE. Considering the high toxicity of  $\text{CCl}_4$ , we preferred DCE as the reaction solvent at last.

With the optimized reaction conditions in hand, the substrate scope of the three-component reactions was firstly investigated with a series of aldehydes and aziridines. The results were outlined in Table 2. It was found that various substituted aldehydes **2** and aziridines **3** successfully reacted with arene **1a**

**Table 2** Investigation of the scope of aldehydes and aziridines<sup>a</sup>

Entry	2	3	4 (R <sup>1</sup> /R <sup>2</sup> /R <sup>3</sup> )	Yield <sup>b</sup>	Dr <sup>c</sup>
1	2a	3a	4a (H/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	63%	86:14
2	2a	3b	4b (H/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	62%	85:15
3	2a	3c	4c (H/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /4-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	67%	82:18
4	2a	3d	4d (H/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /4-OMeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	52%	86:14
5	2a	3e	4e (H/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> )	63%	81:19
6 <sup>d</sup>	2a	3f	4f (H/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /Et)	64%	88:12
7	2a	3g	4g (H/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /i-Pr)	34%	86:14
8	2a	3h	4h (H/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /Bn)	50%	85:15
9 <sup>d</sup>	2a	3i	4i (H/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /H)	74%	-
10	2b	3b	4j (4-F/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /4-ClCC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	58%	83:17
11	2c	3a	4k (4-Cl/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	59%	86:14
12	2d	3a	4l (4-Br/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	60%	84:16
13	2e	3a	4m (4-Me/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	47%	88:12
14	2f	3a	4n (H/4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	42%	85:15
15	2g	3a	4o (H/4-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	25%	85:15
16	2h	3e	4p (2-Br/4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> )	65%	81:19
17	2i	3a	4q (H/Me/4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	50%	71:29

<sup>a</sup> The reaction was run under the optimized conditions; <sup>b</sup> Combined yields of *cis*-**4** and *trans*-**4**; <sup>c</sup> Determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*); <sup>d</sup> The reaction was run at 50 °C.

affording product **4** in moderate yields and with good diastereoselectivities. *cis*-Diastereomers were isolated as the major isomers. The structures of *cis*-**4a** and *cis*-**4f** were confirmed by

**Table 3** Investigation of the scope of arenes<sup>a</sup>

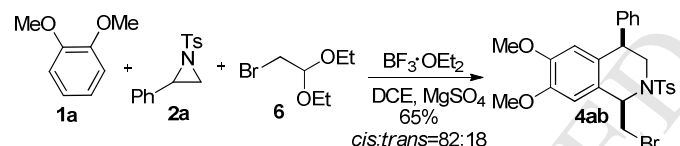
Entry	1	2	3	4	Yield <sup>b</sup>	Dr <sup>c</sup>
1		2a	3b		62%	78:22
2		2c	3a		58%	78:22
3		2c	3a		58%	33:67
4 <sup>d</sup>		2c	3a		56%	>95:5
5 <sup>d</sup>		2c	3a		40%	>95:5
6 <sup>d</sup>		2a	3b		20%	>95:5
7 <sup>d</sup>		2a	3i		39%	-
8		2a	3a		50%	86:14
9 <sup>e</sup>		2c	3i		42%	-
10		2a	3a		0	-

<sup>a</sup> The reaction was run under the optimized conditions; <sup>b</sup> Combined yields of *cis*-**4** and *trans*-**4**; <sup>c</sup> Determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*); <sup>d</sup> Before the aldehyde was added, the reaction time was prolonged to 5 h; <sup>e</sup> 10%  $\text{AgPF}_6$  and 100 mol%  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  was used.

X-ray crystal structure analysis,<sup>16</sup> and the relative stereochemistry of other *cis*-diastereomers were determined by the analysis of NMR spectrum compared with *cis*-**4a** and *cis*-**4f**. Firstly, we fixed arene **1a** and aziridine **3a** as substrates to examine the scope of aldehydes. Aromatic aldehydes substituted with both electron-rich groups and electron-poor groups were suitable substrates for the three-component reaction (entries 1~5). The desired products **4a**~**4e** were obtained in moderate yields with good diastereoselectivities. The aliphatic aldehydes also reacted smoothly with arene **1a** and aziridine **3a** and led to the corresponding products **4f**~**4i** in moderate yields with good diastereoselectivities (entries 6~9). Subsequently, several aziridines were tested to react with arene **1a** and aldehyde **3** under the optimized reaction conditions. It was found that aziridines derived from aromatic alkenes could successfully undergo this reaction. Electron-withdrawing substituents on the benzene ring, such as F, Cl, Br gave similar product yields to **4a**

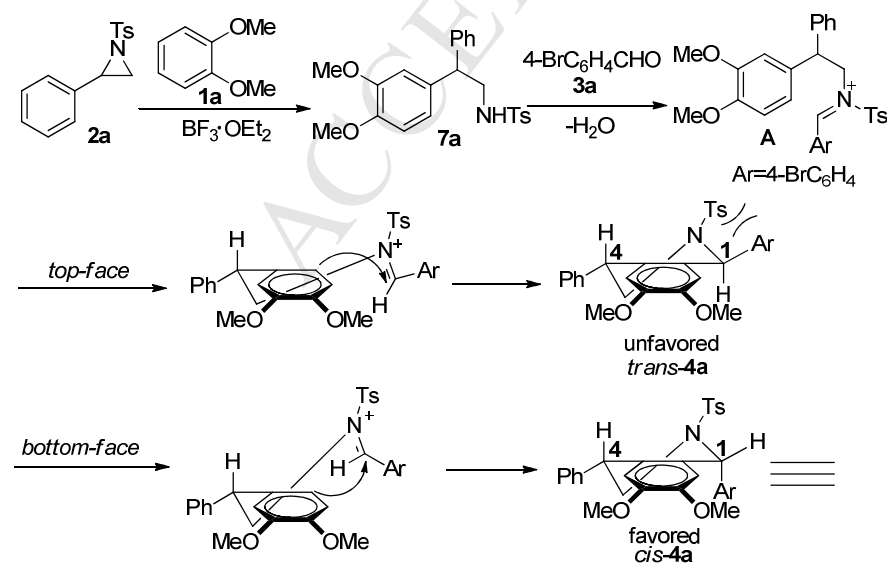
(entries 10~12 and entry 16). Electron-donating substituents on the benzene ring led to harmful effect on the yields of products. Aziridine **2e** underwent the three-component reaction to afford the corresponding product **4m** in 47% yield (entry 13). Besides, we examined the influence of the protecting group of the N-atom of the aziridines for the three-component reaction (entries 14~15, 17). Aziridine **2f** and **2g** gave the corresponding product with good diastereoselectivities, but along with remarkably decreased yields. When aziridine **2i** was subjected to the three-component reaction, a significantly reduced diastereoselectivity was observed.

In order to further broaden the application scope of the three-component reaction, several arenes and N-methylindole were selected to react with aziridine **2** and aldehyde **3**. The results were summarized in Table 3. In most cases, *cis*-products **4** were successfully provided in moderate yields with good regioselectivities and diastereoselectivities. As the minor diastereomer, the structure of *trans*-**4r** was also confirmed by X-ray crystal structure analysis<sup>16</sup>. Interestingly, when benzene, o-xylene, toluene were subjected to the reaction, corresponding product *cis*-**4** were obtained as single diastereomers (*cis:trans*>95:5) (entries 4~6). For chlorobenzene **2i**, the three-component reaction failed to provide corresponding product **4z** (entry 10). As an exception, p-methoxyanisole reacted with aziridine **2b** and aldehyde **3a** to give *trans*-**4t** as the major isomer (*cis:trans*=33:67) (entry 3). Perhaps the two methoxyl groups on the benzene ring, which are close to aryl groups on the N-heterocycle, enhanced the repelling interaction between the 1-aryl group and 4-aryl group in the *cis*-isomer. It caused that *cis*-isomer was more unstable than *trans*-isomer. Moreover, arene **1h** reacted with **2a** and **3a** leading to unexpected **4a** as the exclusive product (entry 8). The reason was that Br<sup>+</sup> may be removed instead of proton in the process of Pictet-Spengler condensation.



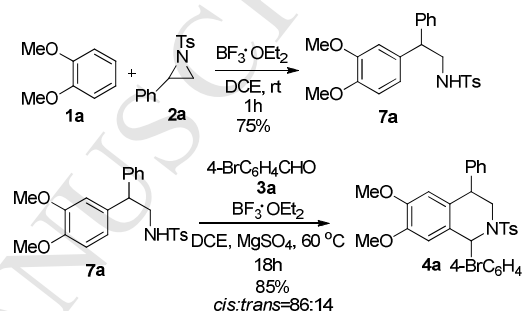
**Scheme 3.** Three-component reaction using acetal **6**

It should be noted that acetal **6** was also a suitable substrate for the three-component reaction (Scheme 3). Product **4ab** was successfully isolated in 65% yield with a good diastereoselectivity (*cis:trans*=82:18).



**Scheme 5.** a plausible mechanism for the three-component reaction

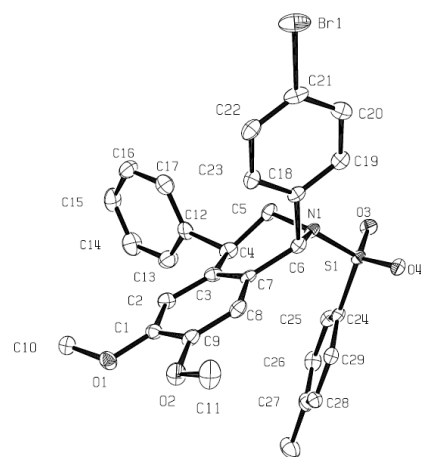
Then we investigated the mechanism of the three-component reaction (Scheme 4). As the key intermediate, amine **7a** was prepared in 75% yield by Lewis acid promoted ring opening of aziridine **2a** with arene **1a**. Then the reaction of amine **7a** with aldehyde **3a** was tested, tetrahydroisoquinoline **4a** was isolated in 85% yield with a good diastereoselectivity (*cis:trans*=86:14). According to this experiment result, a plausible mechanism for the diastereoselective three-component reaction was depicted in Scheme 5. In the presence of Lewis acid the ring opening of aziridine **2a** with arene **1a** afforded amine **7a**, which further reacted with aldehyde **3a** to give iminium ions **A**. A *top*-face attacking to iminium ions is unfavored. Because 1-Phenyl group occupied an equatorial position in half-chair conformation, and suffered from the gauche interaction with tosyl group which was roughly parallel on the ring of tetrahydroisoquinoline. A *bottom*-face attacking would provide a favored product *cis*-**4a**. From the X-ray crystal structure of *cis*-**4a**, we could see that the axial 1-phenyl group avoided the unfavorable interaction from tosyl group.



**Scheme 4.** Experiments for investigating the reaction mechanism

### 3. Conclusions

In summary, Lewis acid promoted three-component reactions of aziridines, arenes and aldehydes have been developed for the construction of 1,4-disubstituted tetrahydroisoquinolines. The presented transformation is facile, efficient and diastereoselective. In most cases, 1,4-*cis* diastereomers of tetrahydroisoquinolines were isolated as the major isomers. The application study of the three-component reaction in the synthesis of corresponding medical and bioactive molecules is in process in our laboratory.



X-Ray crystal structure of *cis*-**4a**



## 4. Experimental Section

### 4.1 General informations

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded with Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer instruments in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) were measured in ppm and with the solvents as references (For  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^1\text{H}$ :  $\delta=7.26$  ppm,  $^{13}\text{C}$   $\delta=77.0$  ppm). The multiplicities of the signals are described using the following abbreviations: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublets, br = broad. All reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers unless otherwise stated. Where necessary, organic solvents were routinely dried and/or distilled prior to use and stored over molecular sieves under nitrogen. Purification of products was accomplished by flash chromatography using silica gel (200~300 mesh). Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck silica gel GF254 plates and visualized by UV-light (254 nm or 365 nm). Melting points were obtained on a Yanaco-241 apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a MAGNA-560 spectrometer made by Nicolet Company. HRMS were recorded on VG ZAB-HS mass spectrometer with ESI resource. Aziridines **2a**~**2i** in this paper are synthesized according to the literature procedures<sup>17</sup>.

### 4.2 General procedure for the synthesis of tetrahydroisoquinolines

Under an argon atmosphere,  $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{OEt}_2$  (0.6 mmol) was added to a solution of arene **1** (0.3 mmol) and aziridine **2** (0.2 mmol) in DCE (2 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1h and then aldehyde **3** (0.4 mmol) and anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$  (400 mg) were added. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 18h. Cooled to room temperature, water (10 mL) was added and the product was extracted with  $\text{EtOAc}$  (20 mL $\times$ 3). The combined organic phases were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate=5:1) on silica gel to afford product **4**. The physical and spectra data of the compounds **4a**~**4ab**, **5a** are shown as follows.

**4.2.1. 1-(4-Bromophenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4a).** Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 63%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=86:14). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 190~193 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.62 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, J = 14.4, 8.2 Hz, 4H), 7.07 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 3.88 – 3.72 (m, 5H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.01 (dd, J = 13.9, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.4, 147.8, 143.3, 141.9, 140.5, 137.6, 131.4, 130.6, 129.7, 129.4, 128.7, 128.7, 127.2, 127.0, 125.3, 122.0, 111.7, 109.9, 58.5, 55.9, 55.7, 46.1, 42.5, 21.4. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{29}^{79}\text{BrNO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 578.0995; Found: 578.0985; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3083, 3029, 3010, 2951, 2930, 2833, 1612, 1597, 1517, 1466, 1449, 1334, 1306, 1259, 1221, 1162, 1093, 1071, 1040, 1008, 966, 846, 800, 770, 685, 664, 573, 558, 537, 504  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Minor diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 215~218 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.37 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (s, 2H), 7.22 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.95 – 6.89 (m, 2H), 6.43 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 4.12 (t, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.84 – 3.74 (m, 5H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.5, 148.2, 142.8, 142.7, 140.1, 136.8, 131.3, 130.6, 129.2, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0, 127.5, 127.0, 126.6, 121.9, 111.8, 110.3, 58.8, 55.9, 55.8, 47.1, 43.7, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{29}^{79}\text{BrNO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 578.0995; Found:

578.0985; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3728, 3674, 3526, 3295, 3030, 3009, 2961, 2933, 1770, 1714, 1592, 1517, 1486, 1467, 1453, 1342, 1323, 1161, 1110, 1092, 1008, 993, 879, 819, 797, 772, 701, 664, 556, 540, 527  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**4.2.2. 1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4b).** Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 62%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=85:15). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 178~181 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.62 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.22 (m, 7H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.07 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 6.24 (s, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 3.92 – 3.71 (m, 5H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.02 (dd, J = 13.9, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.4, 147.8, 143.3, 141.9, 139.9, 137.6, 133.7, 130.2, 129.7, 129.4, 128.7, 128.7, 128.5, 127.2, 127.0, 125.4, 111.7, 109.9, 58.4, 55.9, 55.7, 46.0, 42.5, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{29}\text{ClNO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 534.1500; Found: 534.1493; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3062, 3030, 3008, 2951, 2920, 2852, 1692, 1597, 1517, 1489, 1466, 1450, 1307, 1258, 1221, 1162, 1116, 1093, 1040, 1012, 965, 833, 770, 670, 652, 574, 558, 537, 507  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

**4.2.3. 6,7-Dimethoxy-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4c).** Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 67%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=82:18). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 187~190 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.23 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (dt, J = 10.4, 6.9 Hz, 3H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 3.95 (dd, J = 14.6, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.88 – 3.81 (m, 4H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.03 (dd, J = 14.6, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.6, 148.6, 147.9, 147.4, 143.6, 141.5, 137.3, 129.7, 129.5, 128.8, 128.6, 127.3, 127.0, 124.3, 123.5, 111.8, 109.8, 58.3, 55.9, 55.7, 46.3, 42.3, 21.4; one carbon resonance absent presumably due to overlap; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 545.1741; Found: 545.1737; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3708, 3675, 3315, 2933, 1603, 1518, 1452, 1347, 1245, 1222, 1161, 1092, 1031, 956, 860, 815, 740, 702, 650, 572, 558, 542  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

**4.2.4. 6,7-Dimethoxy-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4d).** Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 52%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=86:14). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 165~168 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.62 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (dd, J = 7.8, 4.1 Hz, 3H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.09 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 3.90 – 3.70 (m, 8H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.07 (dd, J = 16.3, 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.1, 148.2, 147.7, 143.1, 142.2, 137.9, 133.5, 130.2, 129.7, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 127.1, 126.4, 113.6, 111.6, 110.0, 58.6, 55.9, 55.7, 55.3, 45.9, 42.7, 21.5; one carbon resonance absent presumably due to overlap; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 530.1996; Found: 530.1989; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3290, 2933, 2850, 1605, 1512, 1463, 1338, 1304, 1249, 1223, 1161, 1119, 1092, 1032, 959, 862, 815, 763, 735, 703, 678, 657, 578, 561  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

**4.2.5. 6,7-Dimethoxy-1,4-diphenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4e).** Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 63%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=81:19). Major diastereoisomer:

yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.55 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.20 (ddd,  $J = 23.7, 15.3, 5.7$  Hz, 8H), 7.06 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 3.80 – 3.73 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 2.99 (dd,  $J = 16.4, 13.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.2, 147.7, 143.1, 142.1, 141.3, 137.8, 129.7, 129.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3, 127.7, 127.1, 125.9, 111.6, 110.1, 59.0, 55.9, 55.7, 46.0, 42.6, 21.4. one carbon resonance absent presumably due to overlap; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{30}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 500.1890; Found: 500.1900; IR (neat):  $\nu = 3061, 3028, 2972, 2933, 2868, 2853, 1600, 1515, 1494, 1452, 1400, 1340, 1305, 1265, 1244, 1223, 1161, 1118, 1109, 1030, 979, 959, 865, 813, 762, 740, 681, 661, 585, 569, 540\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

**4.2.6.** *1-Ethyl-6,7-dimethoxy-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4f)*. Compound **4f** was prepared according to a modified General Procedure. After aldehyde **3f** and  $\text{MgSO}_4$  (500 mg) were added, the reaction mixture was stirred at  $50^\circ\text{C}$  for 18h. Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 64%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=88:12). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p.  $138\text{--}141^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.66 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.19 (m, 4H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.08 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 4.89 (dd,  $J = 9.0, 5.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.08 – 3.98 (m, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.71 – 3.61 (m, 1H), 3.53 (s, 3H), 3.23 (dd,  $J = 14.9, 11.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.89 (ddd,  $J = 9.2, 6.5, 3.9$  Hz, 2H), 1.06 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  147.7, 147.6, 143.1, 142.5, 138.0, 129.8, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 127.9, 127.1, 127.0, 111.8, 108.8, 57.9, 55.9, 55.7, 45.9, 42.2, 30.3, 21.5, 11.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{30}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 452.1890; Found: 452.1893; IR (neat):  $\nu = 3026, 2968, 2929, 1609, 1517, 1446, 1372, 1337, 1266, 1243, 1222, 1159, 1122, 1037, 942, 814, 766, 732, 704, 678, 653, 566, 552\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

**4.2.7.** *1-Isopropyl-6,7-dimethoxy-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4g)*. Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 34%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=86:14). Major diastereoisomer: yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.29 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.03 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 4.58 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.11 – 4.03 (m, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.61 (dd,  $J = 11.4, 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.27 (dd,  $J = 15.2, 11.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.08 (dt,  $J = 13.4, 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.15 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  147.9, 146.8, 143.1, 142.9, 137.7, 129.1, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 128.2, 127.1, 126.9, 111.9, 110.5, 62.1, 55.9, 55.7, 46.7, 41.9, 34.1, 21.4, 20.6, 20.1; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 466.2047; Found: 466.2047; IR (neat):  $\nu = 3419, 2958, 2925, 2852, 1608, 1515, 1454, 1341, 1305, 1243, 1222, 1160, 1125, 1112, 1091, 870, 814, 759, 702, 660, 573, 543\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

**4.2.8.** *1-Benzyl-6,7-dimethoxy-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4h)*. Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 50%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=85:15). Major diastereoisomer: yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.49 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.25 (s, 3H), 7.11 (dd,  $J = 12.4, 7.9$  Hz, 4H), 7.04 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 5.29 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.98 – 3.85 (m, 2H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.16 (dtd,  $J = 20.6, 13.3, 6.9$  Hz, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  147.9, 147.1, 143.1, 142.5, 137.7, 137.7,

129.9, 129.5, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.1, 127.1, 126.7, 111.9, 109.5, 57.2, 55.7, 55.6, 46.4, 43.5, 43.2, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 514.2047; Found: 514.2048; IR (neat):  $\nu = 3061, 3028, 2956, 2934, 2856, 1601, 1515, 1453, 1340, 1246, 1223, 1158, 1118, 1092, 1040, 968, 912, 864, 814, 772, 734, 701, 660, 561, 550\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The mixture of major diastereoisomer and minor diastereoisomer: yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.50 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 7.17 – 7.07 (m, 6H), 7.04 (dd,  $J = 11.8, 4.9$  Hz, 3H), 6.83 – 6.77 (m, 1H), 6.24 (s, 1H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 5.88 (s, 1H), 5.30 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 5.11 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 3.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.98 – 3.87 (m, 2H), 3.81 (t,  $J = 4.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.75 – 3.71 (m, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.47 (s, 1H), 3.40 – 3.35 (m, 1H), 3.28 – 2.99 (m, 4H), 2.35 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  147.9, 147.9, 147.1, 143.1, 142.9, 142.7, 142.5, 137.9, 137.7, 136.5, 130.4, 129.9, 129.4, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.5, 128.3, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.1, 127.1, 126.6, 126.5, 111.9, 111.5, 110.1, 109.5, 58.4, 57.2, 55.7, 55.6, 55.4, 47.8, 46.4, 44.3, 43.7, 43.5, 43.2, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 514.2047; Found: 514.2048; IR (neat):  $\nu = 3422, 3361, 3027, 3003, 2956, 2926, 2854, 1601, 1515, 1454, 1341, 1248, 1222, 1158, 1118, 1093, 1040, 968, 865, 814, 750, 702, 660, 561, 551\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**4.2.9.** *6,7-Dimethoxy-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4i)*. Compound **4i** was prepared according to a modified General Procedure. After aldehyde **3i** and  $\text{MgSO}_4$  were added, the reaction mixture was stirred at  $50^\circ\text{C}$  for 8h. Yield: 74%. White solid, m.p.  $149\text{--}151^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.64 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 7.18 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 4.40 (d,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.28 – 4.18 (m, 1H), 4.12 (d,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.73 (dd,  $J = 11.6, 5.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.03 (dd,  $J = 11.7, 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  147.9, 147.9, 143.6, 142.5, 133.1, 129.6, 128.9, 128.5, 128.1, 127.7, 127.0, 124.1, 111.8, 108.4, 55.9, 55.8, 51.2, 47.7, 44.9, 21.5; The analytical data match those reported in the literature<sup>6a</sup>.

**4.2.10.** *1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4j)*. Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 58%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=83:17). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p.  $200\text{--}202^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.55 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.19 (dt,  $J = 17.3, 8.5$  Hz, 4H), 7.09 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.97 – 6.85 (m, 4H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 3.80 – 3.69 (m, 5H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 2.99 – 2.82 (m, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.8 (d,  $J = 244$  Hz), 148.4, 147.9, 143.4, 139.9, 137.7, 137.7, 137.6, 133.8, 130.2 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz), 130.2, 129.4, 128.5, 127.0, 125.4, 115.7 (d,  $J = 21$  Hz), 111.5, 109.9, 58.3, 55.9, 55.7, 46.1, 41.8, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{28}\text{ClFNO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 552.1406; Found: 552.1397; IR (neat):  $\nu = 3692, 3053, 3008, 2949, 2929, 2854, 1733, 1601, 1513, 1466, 1333, 1222, 1161, 1117, 1040, 965, 868, 834, 804, 766, 650, 569, 538, 505\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

**4.2.11.** *1-(4-Bromophenyl)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4k)*. Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 59%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=86:14). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p.  $199\text{--}202^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.54 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t,  $J = 4.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 4H), 6.90 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 3.77 – 3.65 (m, 5H), 3.53 (s, 3H), 2.93 – 2.84 (m, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR



(100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.5, 147.9, 143.5, 140.5, 140.3, 137.5, 133.0, 131.5, 130.5, 130.1, 129.5, 129.1, 129.0, 127.0, 125.4, 122.1, 111.5, 109.9, 58.4, 55.9, 55.8, 46.0, 42.1, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>28</sub><sup>79</sup>BrClNO<sub>4</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 612.0606; Found: 612.0595; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 2997, 2951, 2917, 2852, 1609, 1596, 1517, 1488, 1466, 1410, 1333, 1306, 1260, 1221, 1162, 1091, 1072, 1037, 1009, 966, 799, 767, 711, 661, 574, 562, 538 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

**4.2.12.** *1,4-Bis(4-bromophenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4l)*. Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 60%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=84:16). Two inseparable mixture of diastereomers, white solid, m.p. 193~198 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.61 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1.68H), 7.47 – 7.38 (m, 3.36H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 0.32H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 0.32H), 7.14 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 0.32H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1.68H), 6.65 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 0.32H), 6.45 (s, 0.84H), 6.40 (s, 0.16H), 6.38 (s, 0.16H), 6.20 (s, 0.84H), 6.17 (s, 0.16H), 6.10 (s, 0.84H), 4.05 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 0.16H), 3.88 – 3.68 (m, 5H), 3.60 (s, 2.52H), 3.01 – 2.88 (m, 0.84H), 2.38 (s, 0.48H), 2.36 (s, 2.52H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.6, 148.6, 148.4, 148.0, 143.5, 143.1, 142.3, 141.0, 140.3, 139.8, 137.6, 136.7, 132.0, 131.5, 131.4, 131.2, 130.9, 130.5, 130.4, 130.0, 129.5, 129.1, 129.0, 127.4, 127.0, 126.9, 125.5, 122.1, 121.1, 120.6, 111.7, 111.5, 110.2, 110.0, 58.4, 56.0, 55.9, 55.8, 46.1, 46.0, 43.1, 42.2, 21.5, 21.5; four carbon resonance absent presumably due to overlap; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>28</sub><sup>79</sup>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 656.0100; Found: 656.0085; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3673, 3294, 2953, 2933, 1595, 1515, 1486, 1466, 1448, 1408, 1333, 1306, 1220, 1163, 1110, 1009, 858, 799, 767, 657, 574, 561, 538 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**4.2.13.** *1-(4-Bromophenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-4-(p-tolyl)-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4m)*. Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 47%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=88:12). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 208~210 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.61 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (dd, J = 16.5, 8.2 Hz, 4H), 7.08 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 3.87 – 3.69 (m, 5H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.99 (dd, J = 14.0, 11.3 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.4, 147.8, 143.3, 140.5, 138.8, 137.7, 136.8, 131.5, 130.6, 129.9, 129.4, 129.4, 128.6, 127.0, 125.3, 122.0, 111.7, 109.9, 58.5, 55.9, 55.8, 46.1, 42.2, 21.5, 21.0; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>31</sub><sup>79</sup>BrNO<sub>4</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 592.1152; Found: 592.1147; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3310, 2995, 2952, 2922, 2854, 1655, 1595, 1515, 1485, 1465, 1448, 1334, 1257, 1162, 1115, 1037, 1007, 966, 818, 799, 663, 569, 546 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

**4.2.14.** *1-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-((4-bromophenyl)sulfonyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-4-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4n)*. Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 42%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=85:15). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 188~191 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.58 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (dd, J = 11.8, 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 3.91 – 3.71 (m, 5H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.05 (dd, J = 14.4, 11.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.6, 147.9, 141.6, 140.1, 139.7, 132.0, 131.6, 130.6, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.5, 127.3, 125.0, 122.2, 111.7, 109.8, 58.8, 55.9, 55.8, 46.2, 42.6; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>26</sub><sup>79</sup>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 641.9944; Found: 641.9931; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3726, 3083, 3061, 3008, 2962, 2948, 2927, 2830,

1722, 1573, 1516, 1449, 1364, 1337, 1273, 1258, 1223, 1163, 1117, 1092, 1069, 1040, 1009, 964, 863, 796, 771, 736, 702, 603, 568, 543, 521, 504 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

**4.2.15.** *1-(4-Bromophenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-2-((4-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)-4-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4o)*. Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 25%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=85:15). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 221~224 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.20 – 8.04 (m, 2H), 7.91 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.01 – 6.90 (m, 2H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 3.86 – 3.67 (m, 5H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 3.06 (dd, J = 14.6, 11.7 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.8, 148.7, 148.1, 146.6, 141.2, 139.7, 131.7, 130.6, 129.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.1, 127.5, 124.8, 124.1, 122.5, 111.6, 109.7, 59.0, 56.0, 55.8, 46.3, 43.0; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>26</sub><sup>79</sup>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 609.0690 Found: 609.0683; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3101, 2963, 2948, 2928, 2909, 1610, 1531, 1517, 1484, 1464, 1404, 1346, 1306, 1259, 1224, 1164, 1117, 1093, 1011, 961, 856, 797, 735, 606, 566, 500, 491, 465 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

**4.2.16.** *4-(2-bromophenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-1-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4p)*. Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 65%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=81:19). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 198~202 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.69 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.15 (dd, J = 16.7, 7.8 Hz, 3H), 7.06 (td, J = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 4.28 (dd, J = 11.7, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (dd, J = 14.4, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.93 – 2.80 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.6, 147.9, 143.3, 141.5, 140.4, 137.5, 133.0, 131.5, 130.6, 129.7, 129.4, 128.7, 128.7, 128.0, 127.2, 125.5, 125.3, 122.0, 111.5, 110.0, 58.6, 56.0, 55.9, 44.2, 41.0, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>29</sub><sup>79</sup>BrNO<sub>4</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 578.0995; Found: 578.0980; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 2951, 2932, 2910, 2831, 1515, 1484, 1466, 1449, 1364, 1335, 1245, 1223, 1163, 1117, 1091, 1037, 965, 856, 800, 767, 743, 690, 665, 572, 561, 542 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The mixture of major diastereoisomer and minor diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 150~156 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.68 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, J = 11.8, 5.0 Hz, 2.5H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1.5H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 3.5H), 7.15 (dd, J = 16.2, 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.11 – 7.03 (m, 2.5H), 7.02 – 6.96 (m, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 6.46 (dd, J = 7.2, 2.2 Hz, 0.5H), 6.40 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (s, 1H), 6.19 (s, 0.5H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 0.5H), 4.27 (dd, J = 11.6, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (dd, J = 15.0, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.89 – 3.85 (m, 0.5H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.74(s, 1.5H), 3.74(s, 1.5H), 3.65 (dd, J = 13.6, 4.4 Hz, 0.5H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.91 – 2.84 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.7, 148.6, 148.5, 147.9, 143.3, 142.6, 141.7, 141.5, 140.4, 139.6, 137.4, 136.8, 132.9, 132.4, 131.5, 131.3, 131.1, 130.9, 130.6, 129.6, 129.4, 129.1, 128.7, 128.7, 128.0, 128.0, 127.7, 127.2, 127.1, 126.8, 125.4, 125.3, 124.0, 122.1, 122.0, 111.7, 111.5, 110.0, 58.6, 58.2, 56.0, 55.9, 55.8, 44.2, 43.8, 43.0, 41.0, 21.4, 21.4; three carbon resonance absent presumably due to overlap; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>29</sub><sup>79</sup>BrNO<sub>4</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 578.0995; Found: 578.0980; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3053, 3007, 2952, 2932, 2832, 1597, 1515, 1485, 1466, 1363, 1306, 1274, 1245, 1162, 1118, 1092, 1038, 1009, 964, 856, 800, 761, 742, 691, 662, 572, 561, 542 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**4.2.17. 1-(4-bromophenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-2-(methylsulfonyl)-4-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4q).** Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 50%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=71:29). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 172~175 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.48 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 7.15 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 4.27 (dd,  $J$  = 11.7, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (dd,  $J$  = 14.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.10 – 2.99 (m, 1H), 2.72 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.7, 148.1, 141.7, 139.9, 131.7, 130.6, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 127.4, 125.4, 122.3, 112.0, 110.1, 58.3, 55.9, 55.8, 45.9, 43.6, 40.1; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}^{79}\text{BrNO}_4\text{SNa}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ : 524.0502; Found: 524.0506; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3753, 3678, 3654, 3143, 3025, 2930, 2372, 2340, 1610, 1486, 1458, 1402, 1334, 1247, 1223, 1117, 1073, 1034, 958, 862, 804, 771, 703, 593  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Minor diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 168~170 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.44 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.17 (m, 5H), 7.05 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 4.20 (s, 1H), 3.91 – 3.53 (m, 8H), 2.11 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.7, 148.4, 143.6, 139.9, 131.7, 130.9, 128.7, 128.5, 127.5, 127.1, 127.0, 122.4, 112.0, 110.2, 58.3, 55.9, 55.9, 46.3, 43.6, 39.6; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}^{79}\text{BrNO}_4\text{SNa}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ : 524.0502; Found: 524.0508; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3858, 3752, 3677, 3653, 3421, 3164, 2874, 2369, 2340, 1612, 1518, 1461, 1323, 1245, 1151, 1064, 1009, 968, 850, 786, 702, 589, 528, 460  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**4.2.18. 1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5,6,7-trimethoxy-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4r).** Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 62%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=78:22). Major diastereoisomer:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (dd,  $J$  = 19.0, 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.18 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (dd,  $J$  = 14.1, 7.6 Hz, 3H), 6.94 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 3.99 – 3.92 (m, 1H), 3.82 – 3.76 (m, 4H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.91 (dd,  $J$  = 15.1, 11.3 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  152.5, 152.5, 144.2, 143.1, 141.9, 139.0, 137.3, 133.8, 130.1, 129.2, 129.0, 128.5, 128.4, 127.3, 127.1, 126.4, 123.8, 106.3, 60.5, 59.3, 59.1, 56.0, 46.6, 38.6, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{31}\text{ClNO}_5\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 564.1606; Found: 564.1608; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3525, 3444, 3327, 3085, 3062, 3019, 2933, 2837, 1599, 1492, 1456, 1409, 1364, 1337, 1161, 1123, 1091, 1061, 1031, 1014, 979, 812, 745, 699, 660, 576, 566, 547, 508  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Minor diastereoisomer: White solid, m.p. 139~140 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.22 – 7.05 (m, 9H), 6.96 – 6.85 (m, 4H), 6.21 (s, 2H), 4.38 (d,  $J$  = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.87 – 3.75 (m, 4H), 3.74 – 3.61 (m, 4H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  152.7, 151.0, 143.7, 142.5, 141.3, 139.2, 137.0, 133.8, 130.7, 130.5, 129.0, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 126.8, 126.1, 122.6, 106.0, 60.6, 60.3, 58.2, 55.8, 46.0, 39.2, 21.3; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{31}\text{ClNO}_5\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 564.1606; Found: 564.1608; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 2977, 2938, 1600, 1492, 1451, 1406, 1342, 1280, 1238, 1161, 1125, 1107, 1088, 1044, 984, 965, 870, 814, 759, 703, 655, 581, 547  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**4.2.19. 5-(4-Bromophenyl)-8-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-tosyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-g]isoquinoline (4s).** Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 58%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=78:22). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 174~176 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.63 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.19 (dd,  $J$  = 10.9, 8.3 Hz, 4H), 6.98 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 6.17 (s, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.92 (dd,  $J$  = 3.5, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 3.93 – 3.68 (m, 2H), 3.00 (dd,  $J$  = 14.2, 11.4 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  147.3, 146.5, 143.6, 140.3, 140.2, 137.5, 133.1, 131.6, 130.6, 130.5, 130.1, 129.5, 129.0, 127.0, 126.4, 122.1, 108.9, 107.4, 101.2,

58.6, 45.8, 42.6, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{24}^{79}\text{BrClNO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 596.0293; Found: 596.0285; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3726, 3692, 3306, 3062, 3030, 2963, 2925, 2882, 1912, 1595, 1485, 1386, 1361, 1333, 1296, 1238, 1159, 1091, 1041, 1003, 961, 936, 856, 798, 786, 691, 656, 559, 537  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Minor diastereoisomer: White solid, m.p. 180~184 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.43 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.17 – 7.04 (m, 4H), 7.00 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 5.90 (dd,  $J$  = 5.5, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (t,  $J$  = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (dd,  $J$  = 13.1, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (dd,  $J$  = 13.0, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  147.3, 147.0, 143.2, 141.2, 139.8, 136.5, 132.6, 131.4, 130.7, 129.7, 129.2, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.0, 122.1, 108.9, 107.6, 101.2, 58.9, 46.4, 43.4, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{24}^{79}\text{BrClNO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 596.0293; Found: 596.0285; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3524, 3443, 3327, 2962, 2925, 2875, 1594, 1485, 1403, 1338, 1317, 1229, 1154, 1092, 1036, 1012, 960, 937, 854, 811, 692, 652, 565, 538, 506  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**4.2.20. 1-(4-Bromophenyl)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5,8-dimethoxy-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4t).** Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 58%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=33:67). Minor diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 166~168 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.56 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 4.01 (dd,  $J$  = 15.0, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.88 – 3.81 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 2.81 (dd,  $J$  = 15.0, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  151.9, 150.4, 143.0, 142.4, 138.8, 137.2, 131.7, 131.3, 129.9, 129.1, 128.4, 128.4, 126.9, 126.7, 124.4, 121.6, 110.7, 108.6, 55.9, 55.5, 54.7, 46.4, 38.0, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{28}^{79}\text{BrClNO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 612.0606; Found: 612.0612; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 2954, 2929, 2836, 1725, 1597, 1482, 1400, 1343, 1305, 1259, 1161, 1111, 1087, 1045, 1012, 971, 952, 813, 742, 711, 688, 666, 574, 553  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 197~200 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.31 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (s, 2H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 4.28 (m, 1H), 3.62 (d,  $J$  = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  150.8, 149.5, 142.9, 142.0, 139.3, 137.0, 131.6, 130.9, 130.7, 129.0, 128.8, 127.8, 126.9, 125.5, 125.1, 121.5, 109.7, 109.5, 100.0, 55.8, 54.3, 45.2, 38.2, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{28}^{79}\text{BrClNO}_4\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 612.0606; Found: 612.0612; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 2964, 2929, 2837, 1736, 1600, 1480, 1457, 1437, 1403, 1324, 1305, 1261, 1161, 1116, 1089, 1079, 1054, 1011, 971, 951, 929, 864, 814, 771, 735, 706.698, 673, 658, 575, 553, 543  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**4.2.21. 1-(4-bromophenyl)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-6,7-dimethyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4u).** Compound **4u** was prepared according to a modified General Procedure. After  $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{OEt}_2$  was added, the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 20:1). Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 56%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*>95:5). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 192~195 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.51 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.07 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 3.4 Hz, 4H), 6.90 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 3.76 (dd,  $J$  = 17.4, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.00 – 2.90 (m, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  143.4, 140.7, 140.7, 137.6, 136.2, 135.2, 134.3, 132.9, 131.5, 130.6, 130.6, 130.3, 130.2, 129.4, 129.0, 128.9, 127.1, 122.0, 58.4, 46.1, 42.3, 21.5,

19.4, 19.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For  $C_{30}H_{28}^{79}BrClNO_2S$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 602.0527; Found: 602.0528; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3678, 2975, 2939, 2883, 1596, 1487, 1452, 1405, 1358, 1336, 1162, 1095, 1071, 1012, 958, 855, 832, 810, 760, 710, 655, 561, 538 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

4.2.22. *1-(4-Bromophenyl)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-methyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4v)*. Compound **4v** was prepared according to a modified General Procedure. After BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> was added, the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 20:1). Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 40%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*>95:5). Major diastereoisomer: White solid, m.p. 186~189 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.59 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.13 (dd, J = 8.1, 5.2 Hz, 4H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.59 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 3.86 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (dd, J = 16.1, 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  143.4, 140.6, 140.5, 137.6, 136.4, 134.1, 133.0, 133.0, 131.5, 130.6, 130.1, 129.5, 129.5, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 127.0, 122.1, 58.7, 46.0, 42.4, 21.5, 21.0; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $C_{29}H_{25}^{79}BrClNO_2SNa$  (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>: 588.0370; Found: 588.0375; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3648, 3524, 3443, 3327, 3212, 3045, 2922, 2874, 1653, 1631, 1594, 1489, 1450, 1408, 1343, 1306, 1160, 1090, 1012, 957, 939, 814, 772, 711, 685, 653, 572, 558, 537, 519 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

4.2.23. *1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4w)*. Compound **4w** was prepared according to a modified General Procedure. After BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> was added, the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 20:1). Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 20%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*>95:5). Major diastereoisomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.60 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.26 – 6.97 (m, 10H), 6.73 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 3.97 – 3.82 (m, 2H), 3.12 (dd, J = 16.6, 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  143.4, 141.9, 140.0, 137.6, 133.8, 133.2, 130.3, 129.8, 129.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 127.5, 127.2, 127.0, 126.4, 58.7, 46.0, 43.1, 21.5; one carbon resonance absent presumably due to overlap; The analytical data match those reported in the literature<sup>6a</sup>. Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

4.2.24. *4-Phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4x)*. Compound **4x** was prepared according to a modified General Procedure. After BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> was added, the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 20:1). Yield: 39%. White solid, m.p. 138~140 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.58 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.12 (m, 5H), 7.09 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 – 6.95 (m, 4H), 6.78 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (d, J = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (dd, J = 7.9, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (d, J = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 3.77 – 3.64 (m, 1H), 2.96 (dd, J = 11.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  143.7, 142.3, 136.4, 133.0, 131.9, 129.7, 129.5, 129.0, 128.6, 127.7, 127.0, 126.9, 126.6, 126.1, 51.0, 48.0, 45.2, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $C_{22}H_{22}NO_2S$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 364.1366; Found: 364.1373; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3637, 3524, 3443, 3330, 3059, 3026, 294, 2921, 2883, 2845, 1953, 1920, 1883, 1656, 1597, 1492, 1452, 1343, 1326, 1164, 1090, 1052, 957, 782, 702, 663, 623, 554, 545 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

4.2.25. *1-(4-Bromophenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4y=4a)*. Compound **4y=4a** was prepared according to a modified General Procedure. Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 50%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=86:14). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 192~195 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.62 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24 (dd, J = 6.4, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.12 (m, 4H), 7.06 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 3.90 – 3.74 (m, 5H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.01 (dd, J = 13.9, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.4, 147.8, 143.4, 141.9, 140.5, 137.6, 131.5, 130.6, 129.7, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 127.2, 127.0, 125.3, 122.0, 111.7, 109.9, 58.5, 55.9, 55.7, 46.1, 42.6, 21.5. Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

4.2.26. *9-Methyl-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-pyridof[3,4-b]indole (4z)*. Compound **4z** was prepared according to a modified General Procedure. AgPF<sub>6</sub> (0.02 mmol, 10 mol%) was added to a solution of indole **1i** (0.3 mmol) and aziridine **2c** (0.2 mmol) in DCE (2 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1h and then aldehyde **3i** (0.4 mmol), BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> (0.2 mmol, 1equiv) and MgSO<sub>4</sub> (400 mg) were added. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 18h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 20:1). Yield: 42%. White solid, m.p. 245~248 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.66 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.20 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.17 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 4.37 – 4.23 (m, 2H), 3.82 (dd, J = 11.8, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.05 (dd, J = 11.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  143.9, 139.9, 137.4, 133.6, 132.7, 131.3, 129.8, 129.7, 128.6, 127.6, 125.5, 121.6, 119.4, 119.3, 109.1, 108.8, 51.9, 42.7, 39.5, 29.6, 21.5; The analytical data match those reported in the literature<sup>6a</sup>.

4.2.27. *1-(Bromomethyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-4-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4ab)*. Combined yield of *cis*-diastereomer and *trans*-diastereomer: 65%. The *cis/trans* ratio was determined by NMR analysis (*cis/trans*=82:18). Major diastereoisomer: white solid, m.p. 113~116 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.76 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (dd, J = 13.8, 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 3H), 7.11 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 5.34 (dd, J = 8.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.00 – 3.82 (m, 5H), 3.74 (qd, J = 11.2, 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.38 (dd, J = 14.4, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.6, 147.8, 143.6, 141.8, 137.3, 129.5, 129.3, 128.8, 128.8, 127.4, 127.3, 125.6, 111.9, 109.1, 56.3, 56.0, 55.7, 46.3, 42.7, 35.6, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $C_{25}H_{27}^{79}BrNO_4S$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 516.0839; Found: 516.0832; IR (neat):  $\nu$  = 3028, 3006, 2963, 2937, 2913, 2851, 2835, 2251, 1598, 1517, 1463, 1402, 1338, 1311, 1274, 1248, 1221, 1161, 1114, 1044, 1015, 913, 880, 837, 816, 731, 701, 680, 653, 582, 559 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Minor diastereoisomer could not be obtained in pure form due to trace amounts of its.

4.2.28. *4,4'-((4-Bromophenyl)methylene)bis(1,2-dimethoxybenzene) (5a)*. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.41 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 5.40 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 6H), 3.78 (s, 6H). The analytical data match those reported in the literature<sup>18</sup>.

### 4.3. Confirm the reaction mechanism of three-component reactions

4.3.1. *Synthesis of N-(2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (7a)*. Under an argon atmosphere,



$\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  (0.6 mmol, 3equiv) was added to a solution of arene **1a** (41.4mg, 0.3 mmol) and aziridine **2a** (54.4mg, 0.2 mmol) in DCE (2 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1h. Water (10 mL) was added and the product was extracted with EtOAc (20 mL $\times$ 3). The combined organic phases were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate=2:1) on silica gel to afford product **7a** (61.6mg, 75% yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (dt,  $J$  = 7.5, 3.5 Hz, 4H), 7.14 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.05 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 6.68 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (t,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (t,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.50 – 3.33 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  149.1, 148.0, 143.4, 141.0, 136.6, 133.0, 129.7, 128.7, 127.7, 127.0, 127.0, 119.7, 111.3, 111.2, 55.8, 55.7, 50.0, 47.3, 21.5. The analytical data match those reported in the literature<sup>13c</sup>.

**4.3.2. The reaction of amine (7a) with aldehyde (3a).** Under an argon atmosphere,  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  (0.45 mmol, 3equiv) was added to a solution of amine **7a** (61.6mg, 0.15 mmol), aldehyde **3a** (55.5mg, 0.3 mmol) in DCE (2 mL). Then  $\text{MgSO}_4$  (400 mg) were added. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 18h. Cooled to room temperature, water (10 mL) was added and the product was extracted with EtOAc (20 mL $\times$ 3). The combined organic phases were dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate=5:1) on silica gel to afford product **4a** (73.7 mg, 85% yield, *cis:trans*=84:16).

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## Supplementary data

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tet.2015.xx.xxx>.

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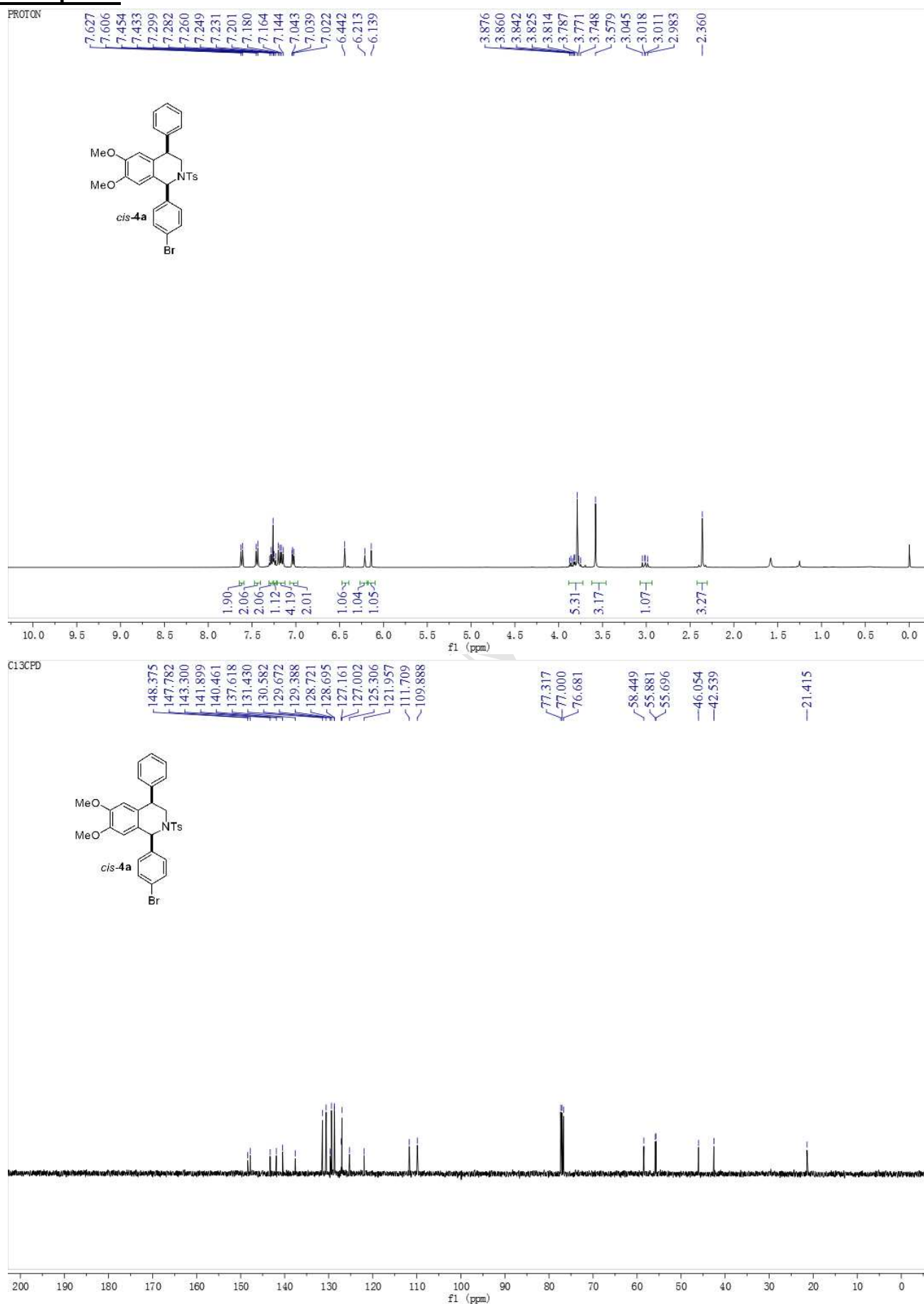
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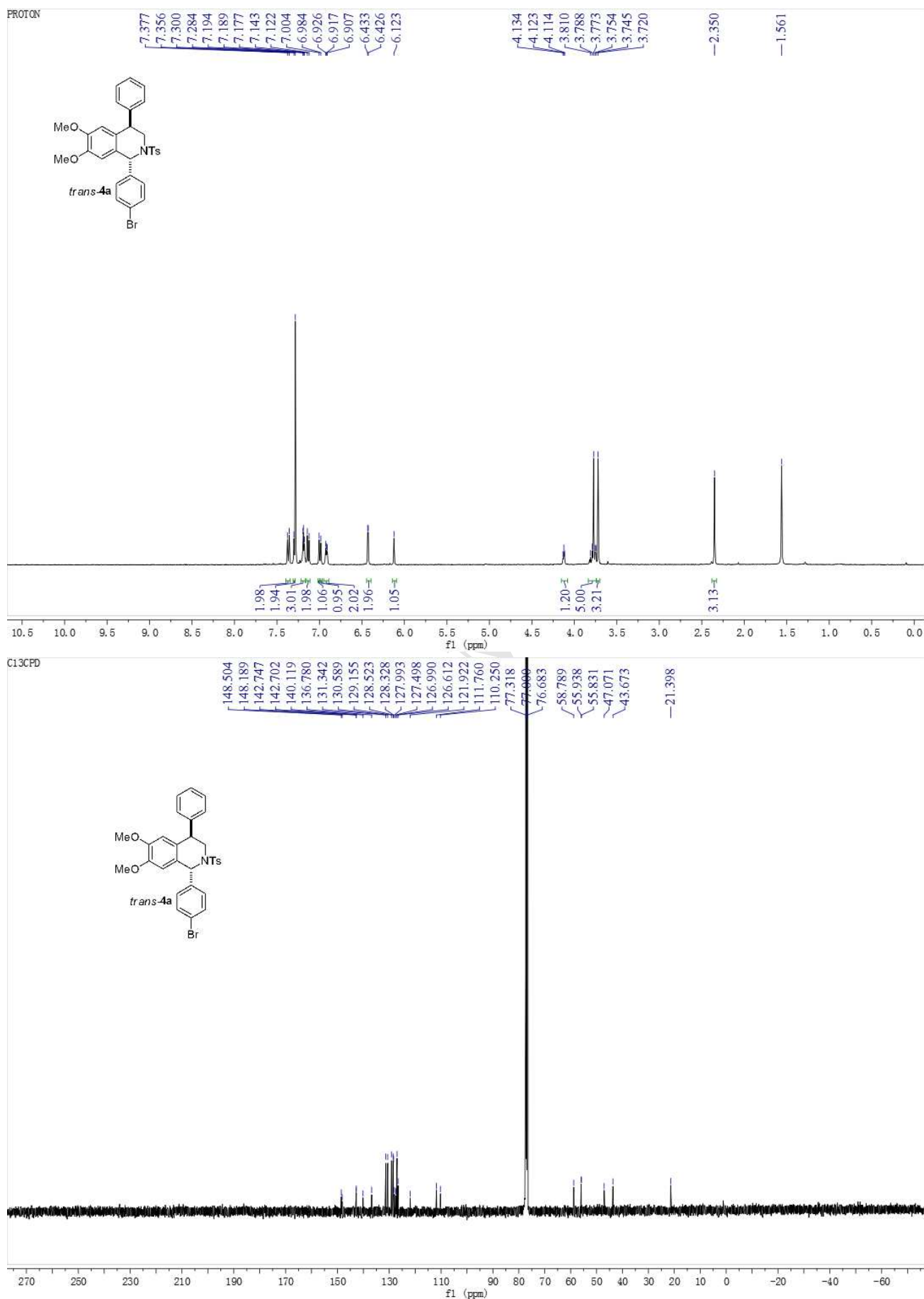
Siyang Xing\*, Jing Ren, Kui Wang\*, Hong Cui, Wenrui Li, Han Yan

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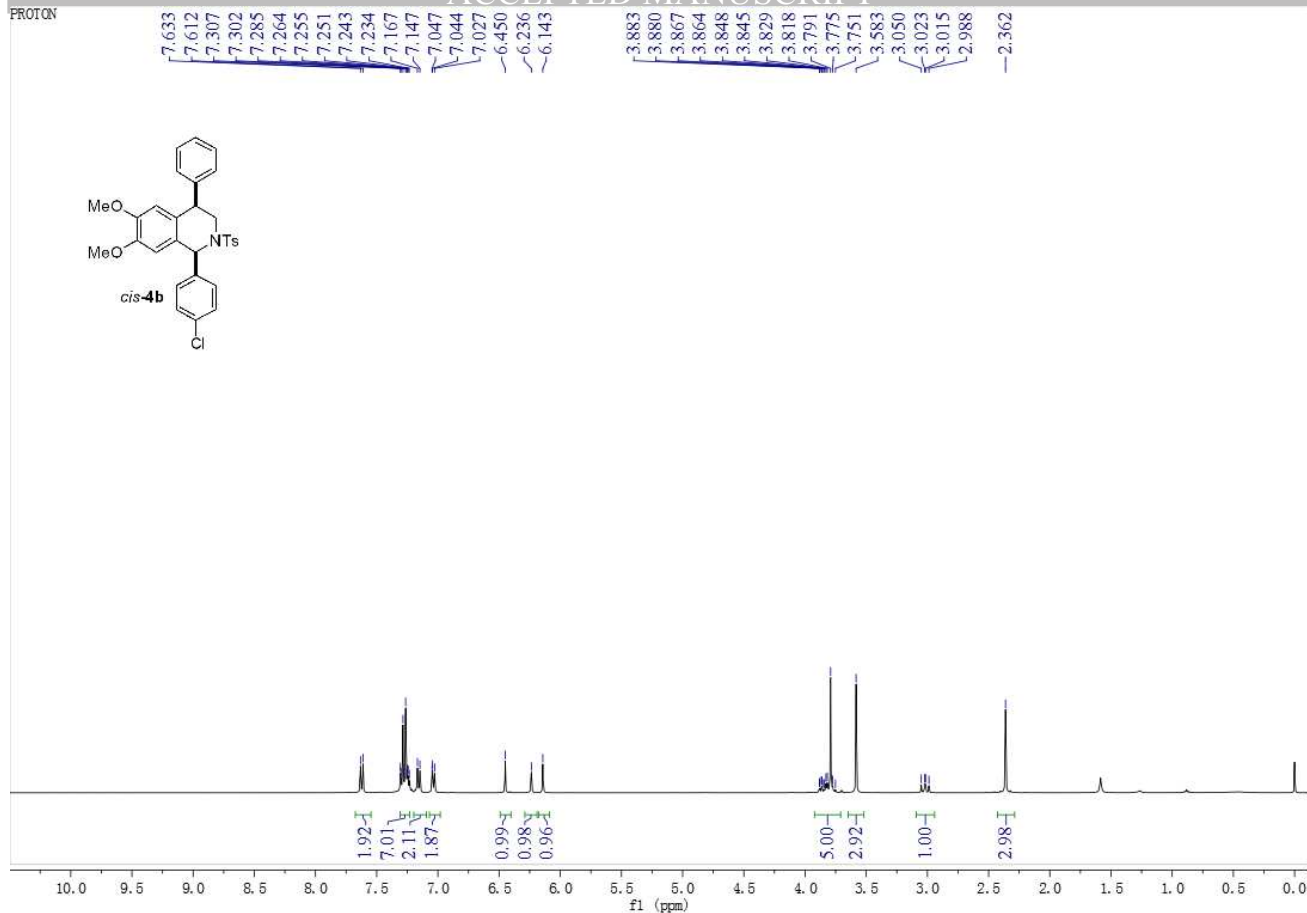
1. NMR spectra -----S2
2. ORTEP drawing for compound *cis*-4a, *cis*-4f, *trans*-4r-----S36

## NMR Spectra

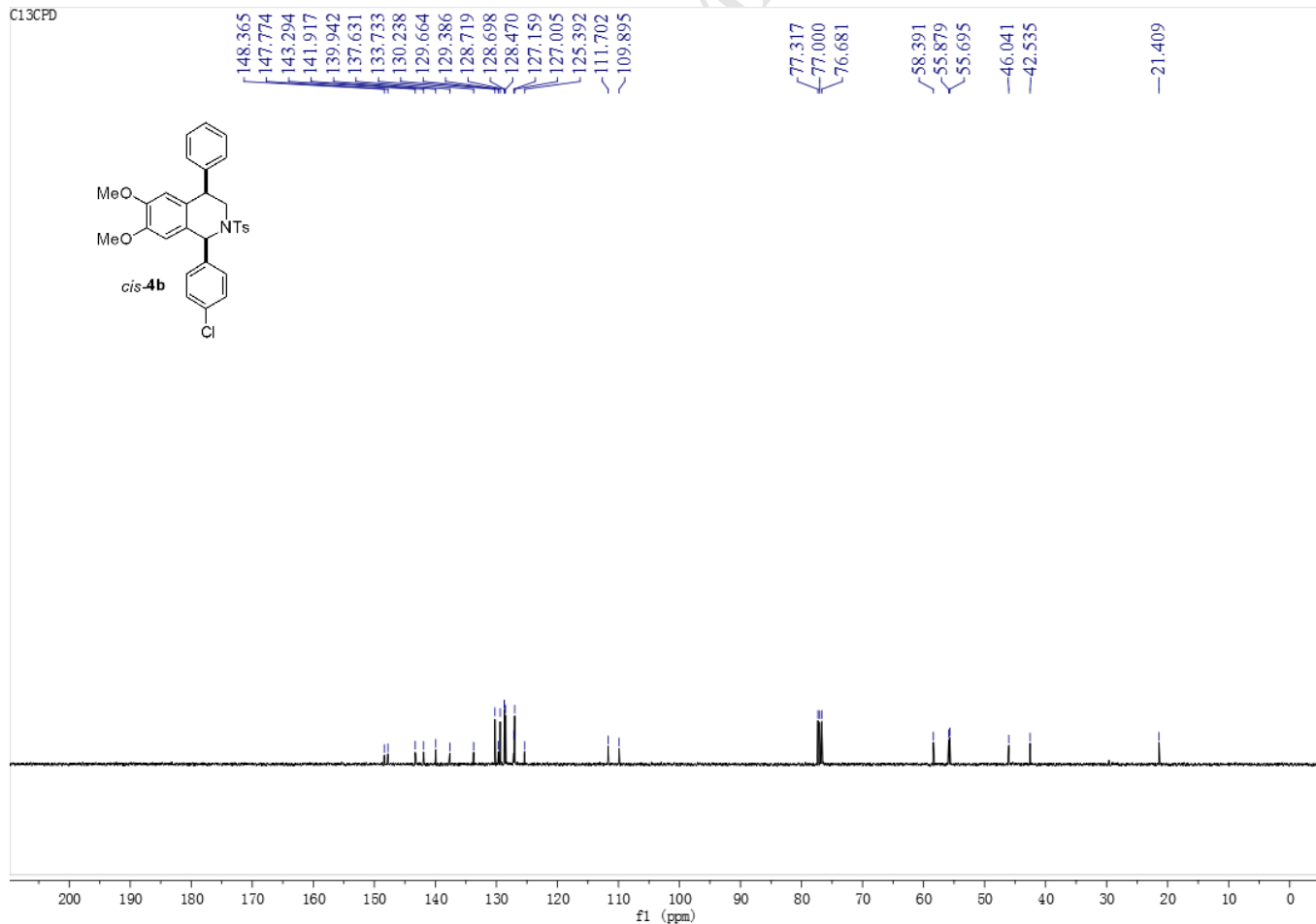


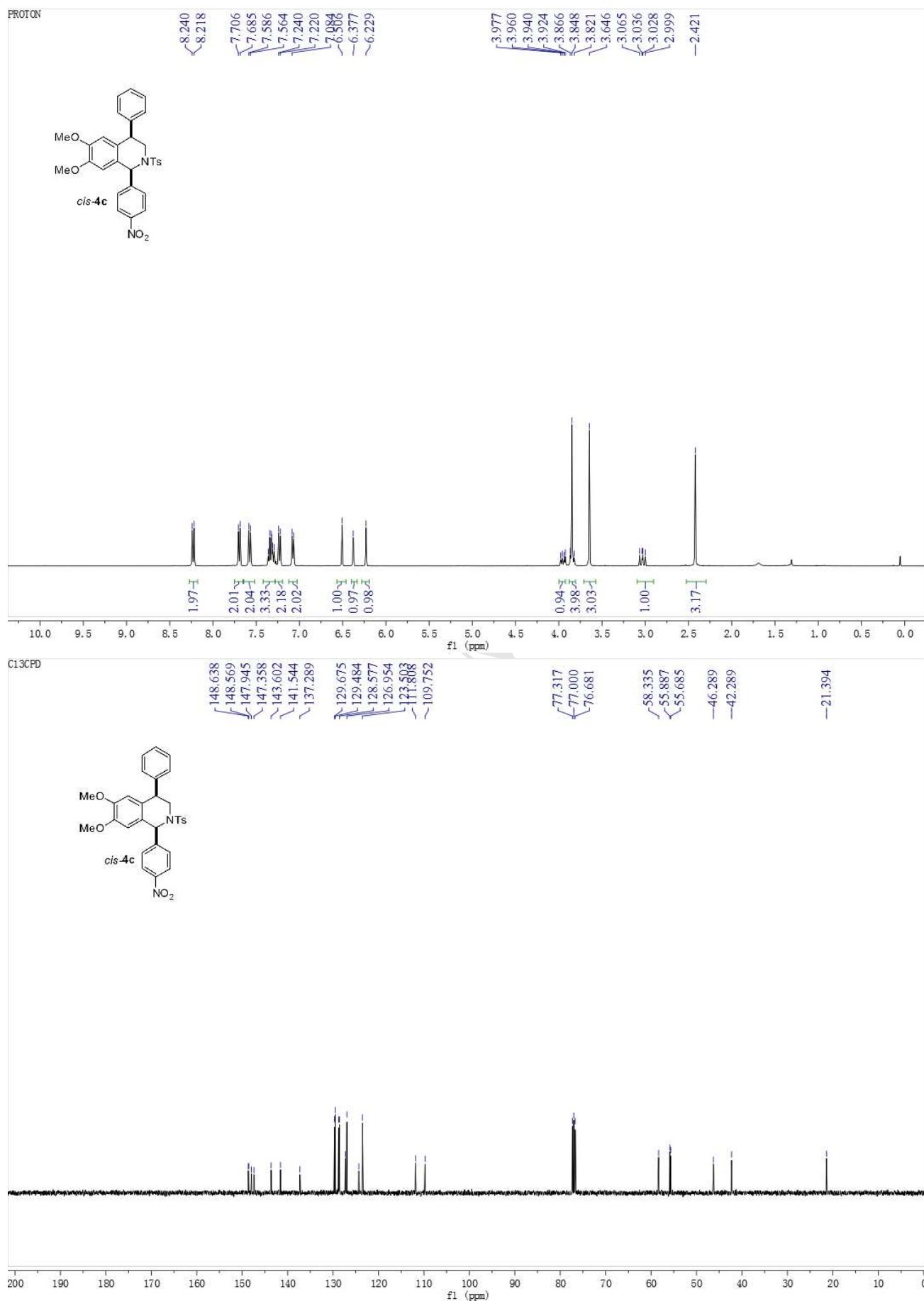


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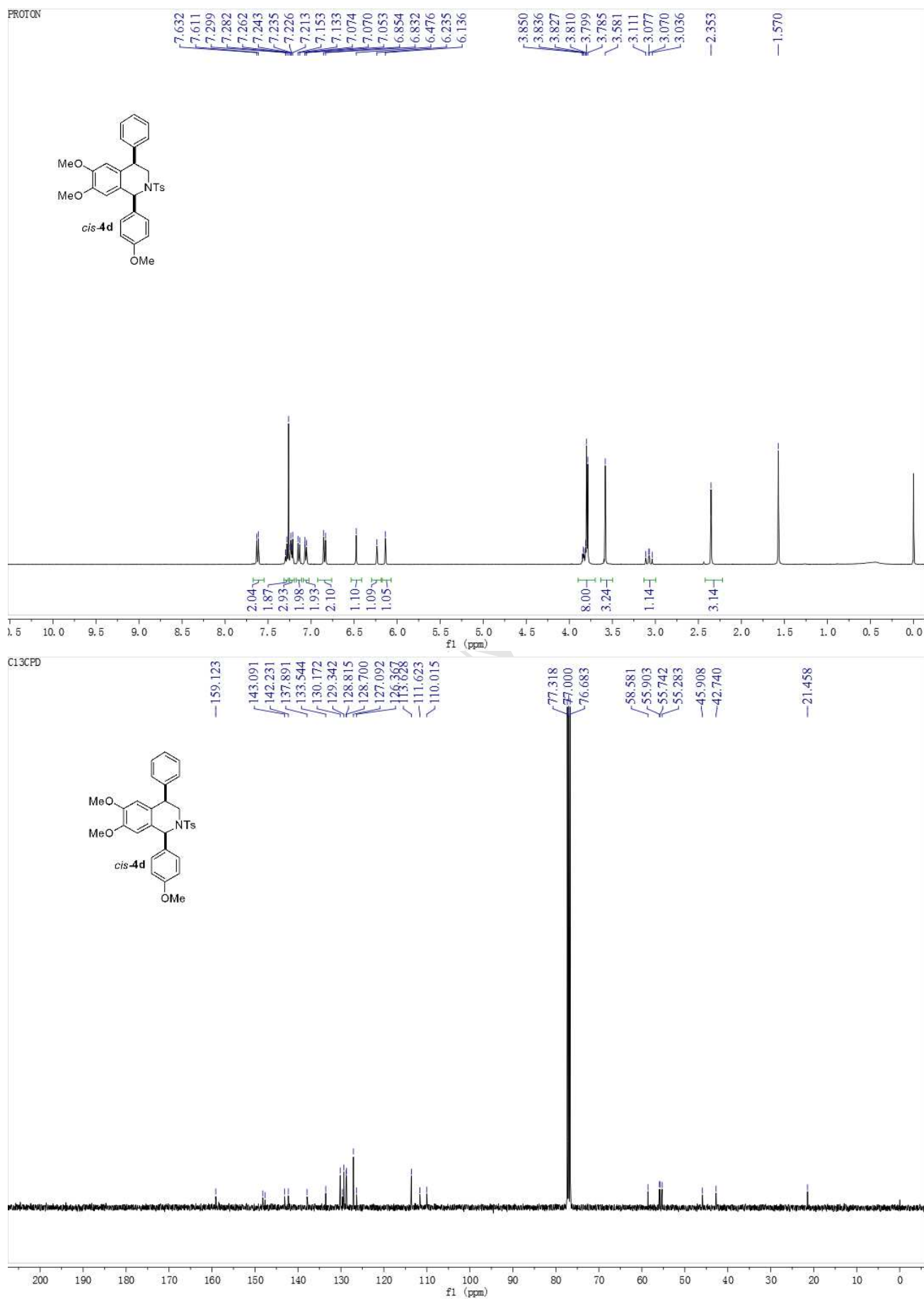


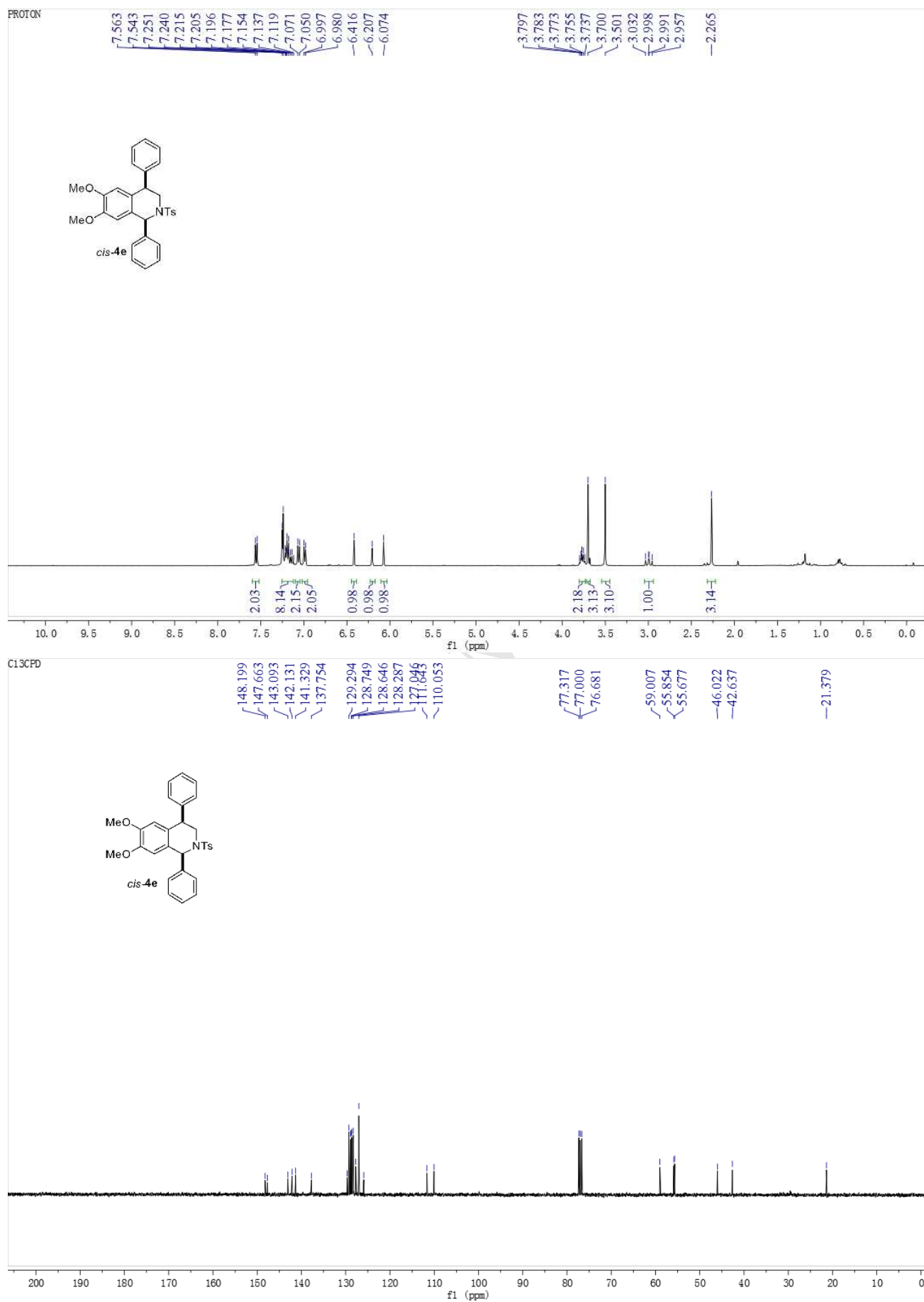
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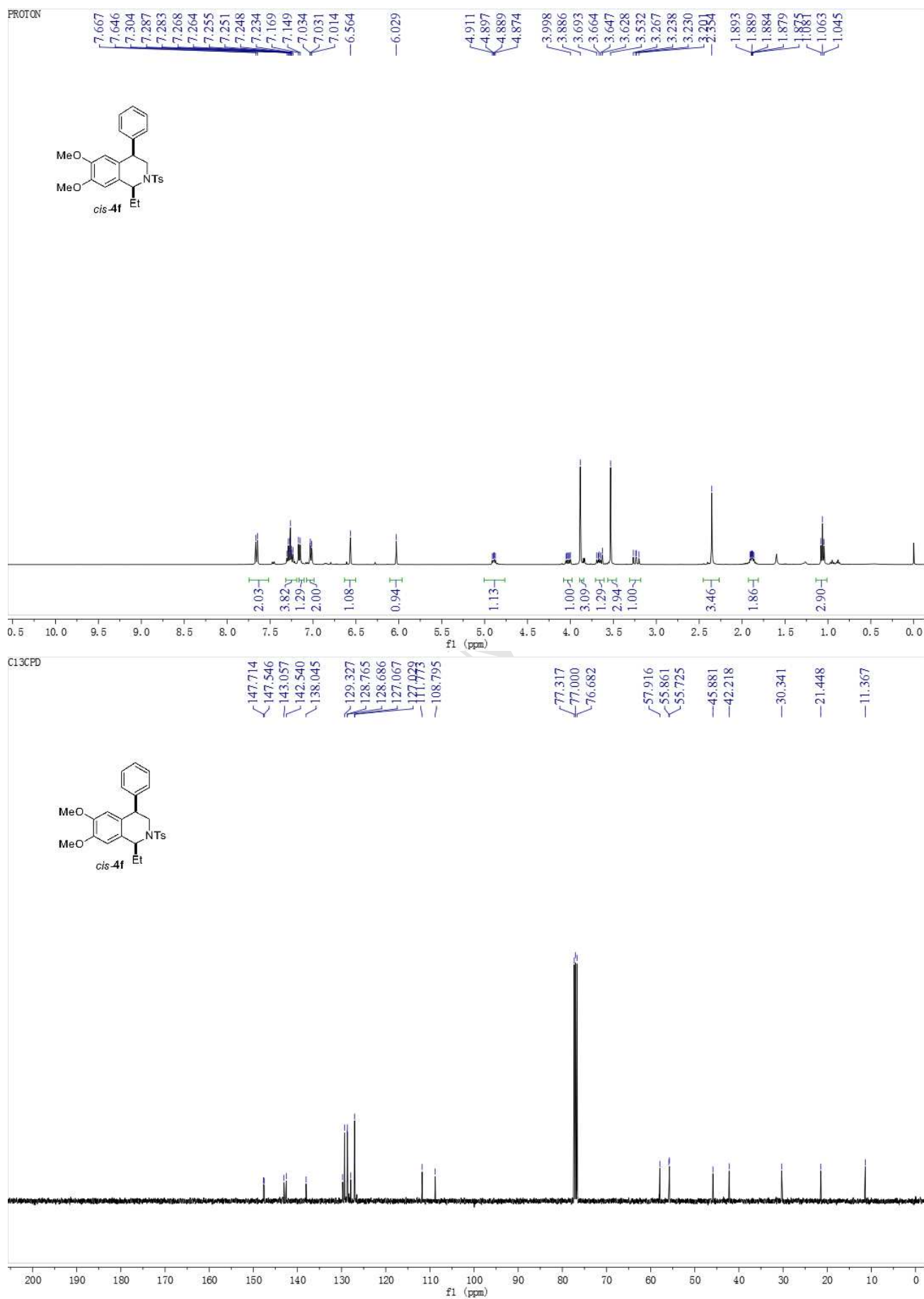


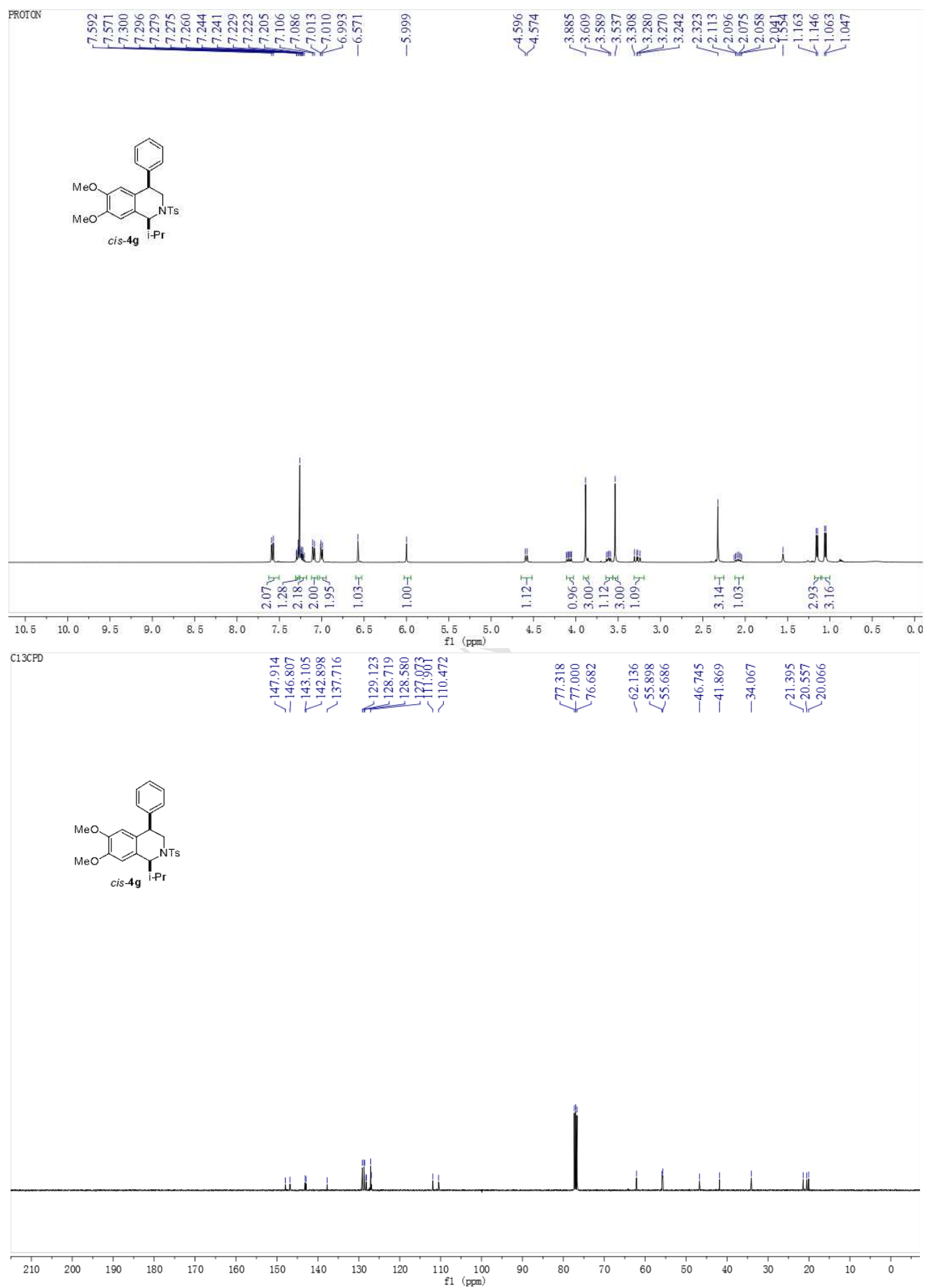


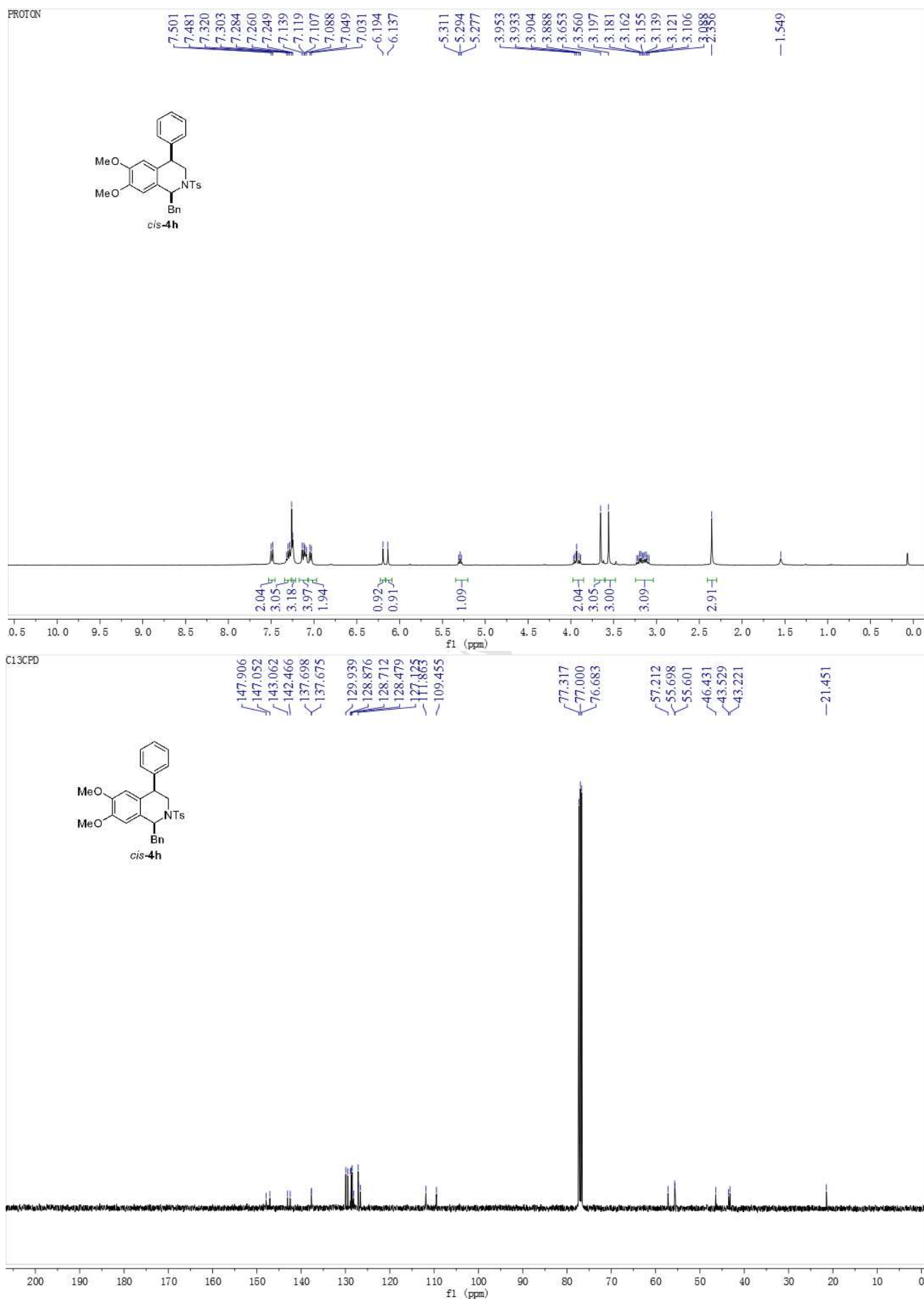




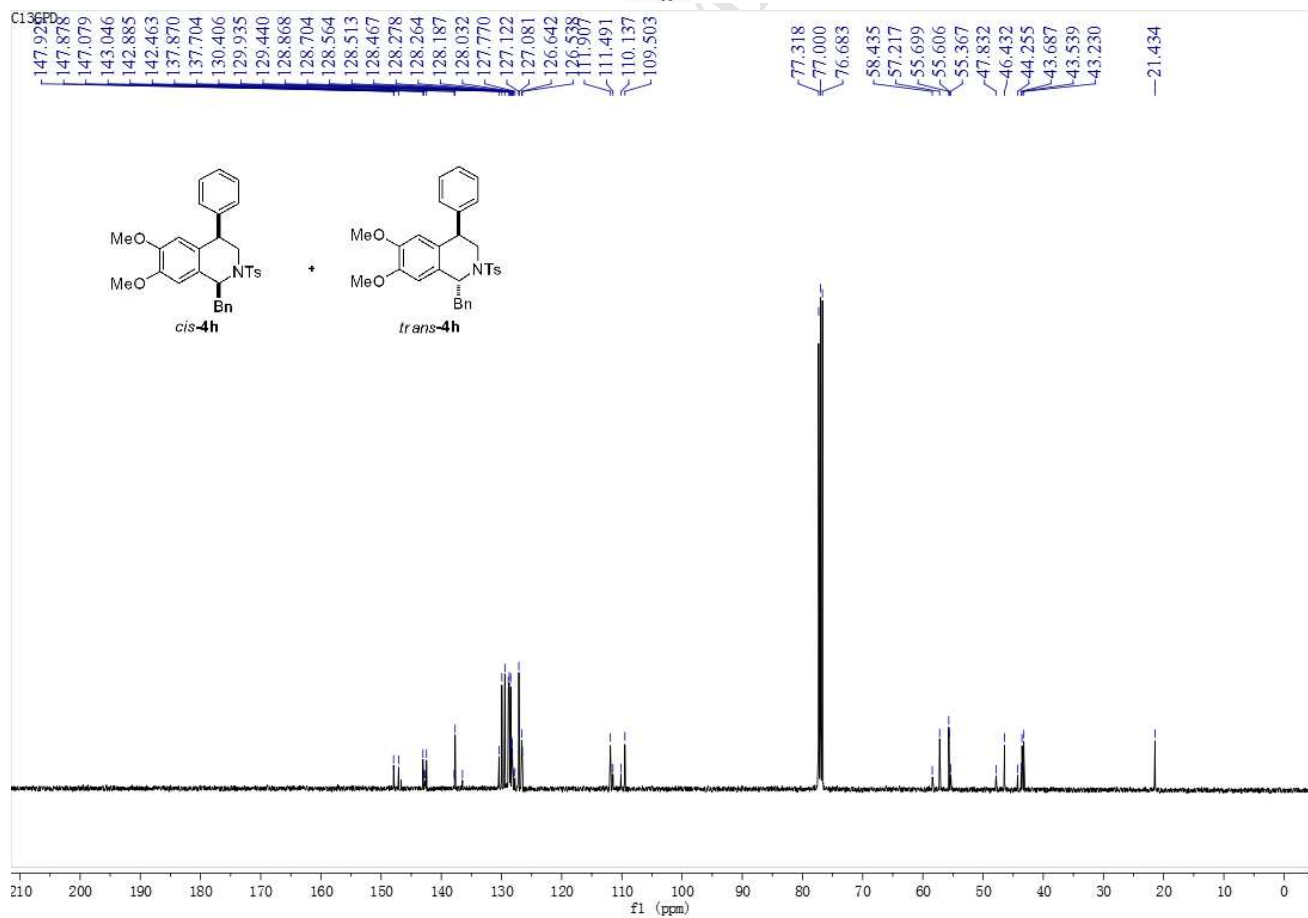
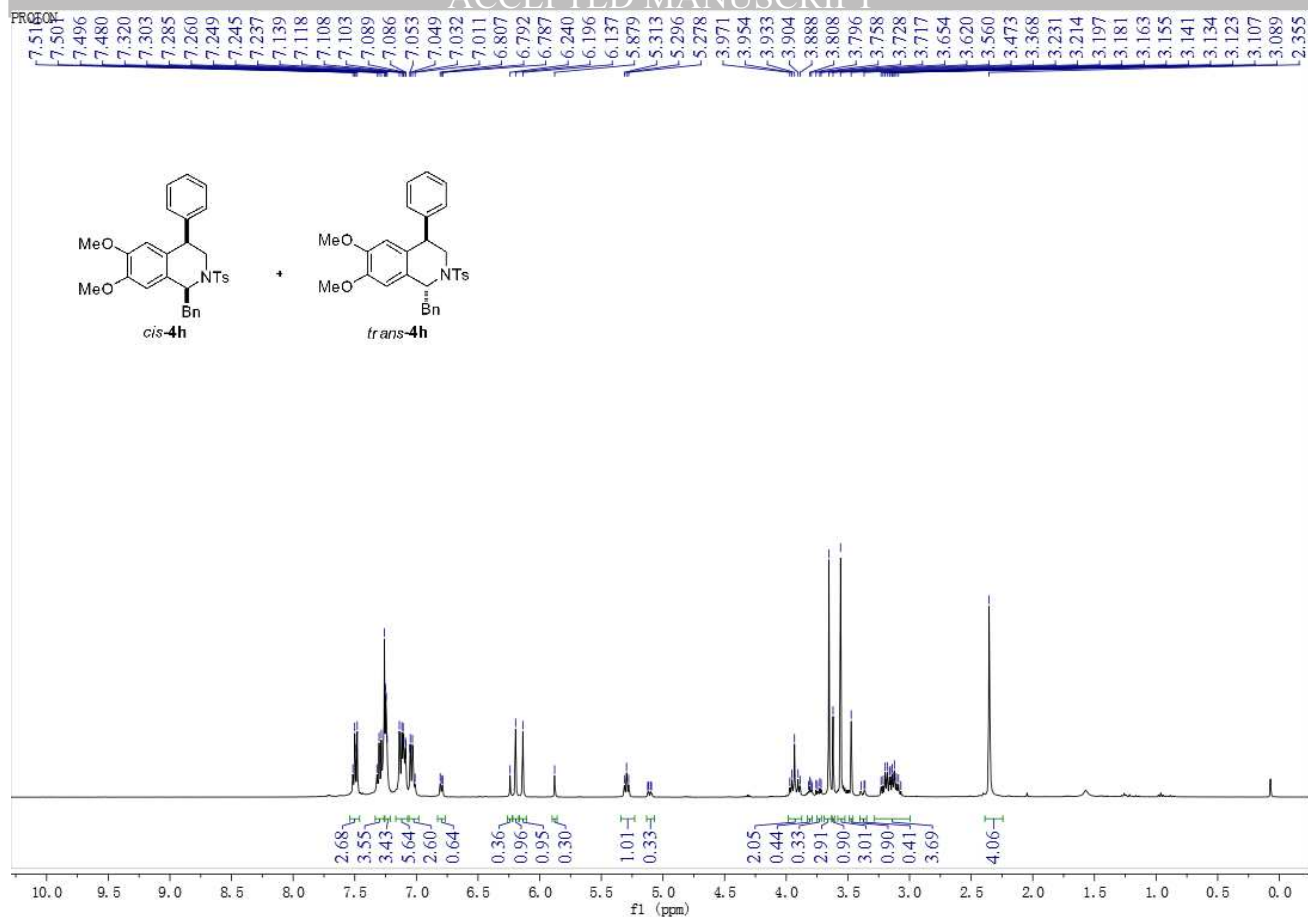




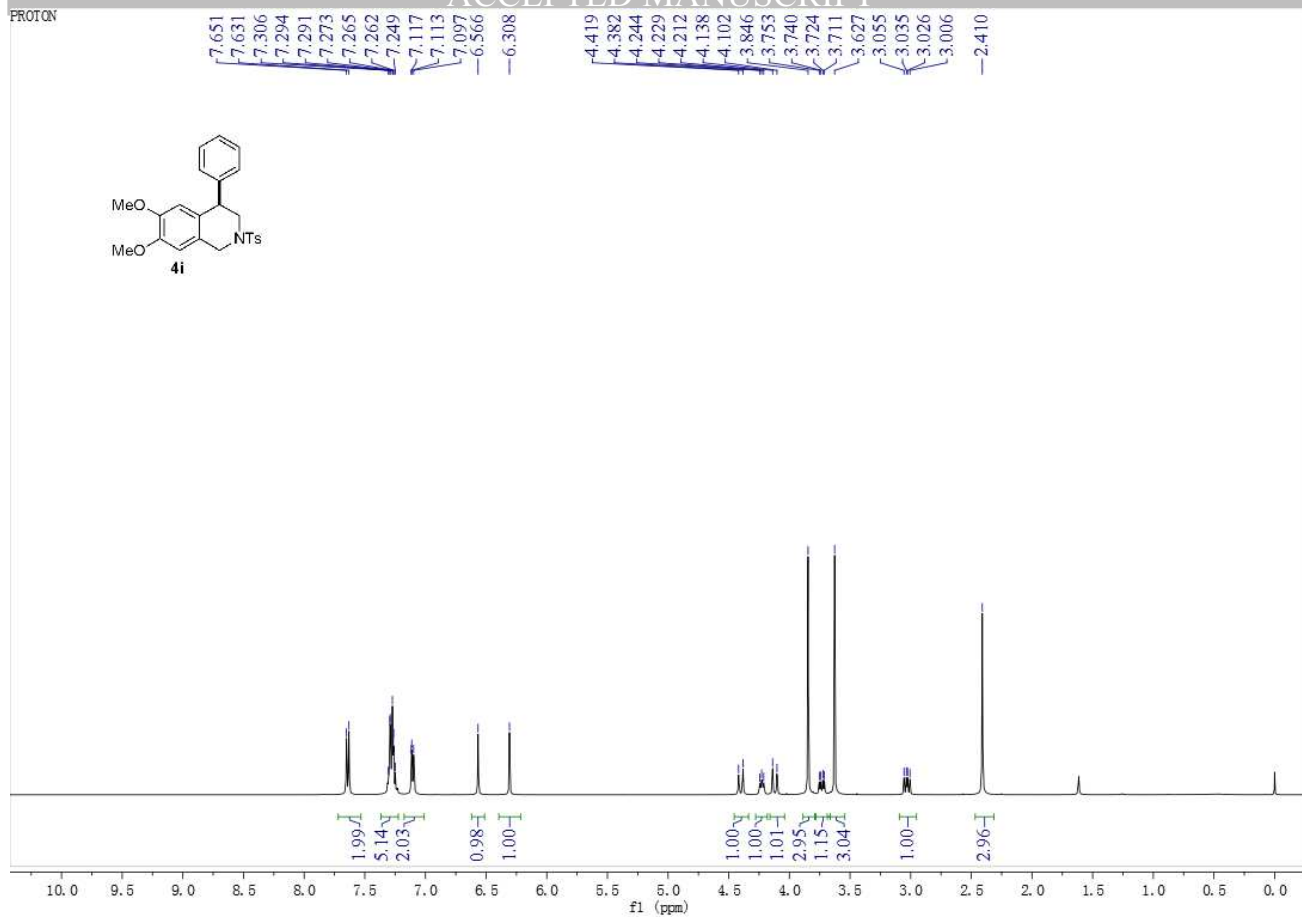




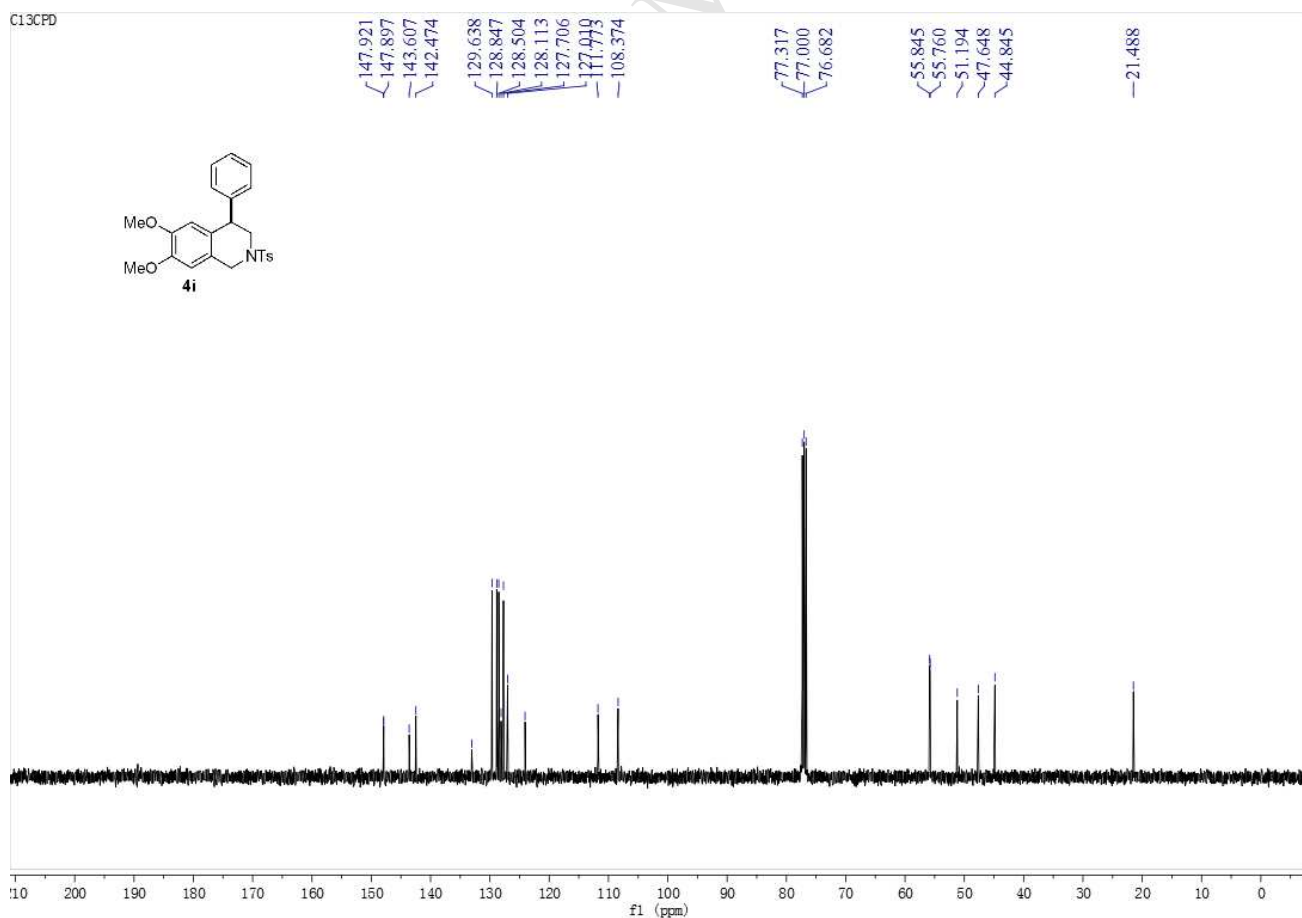




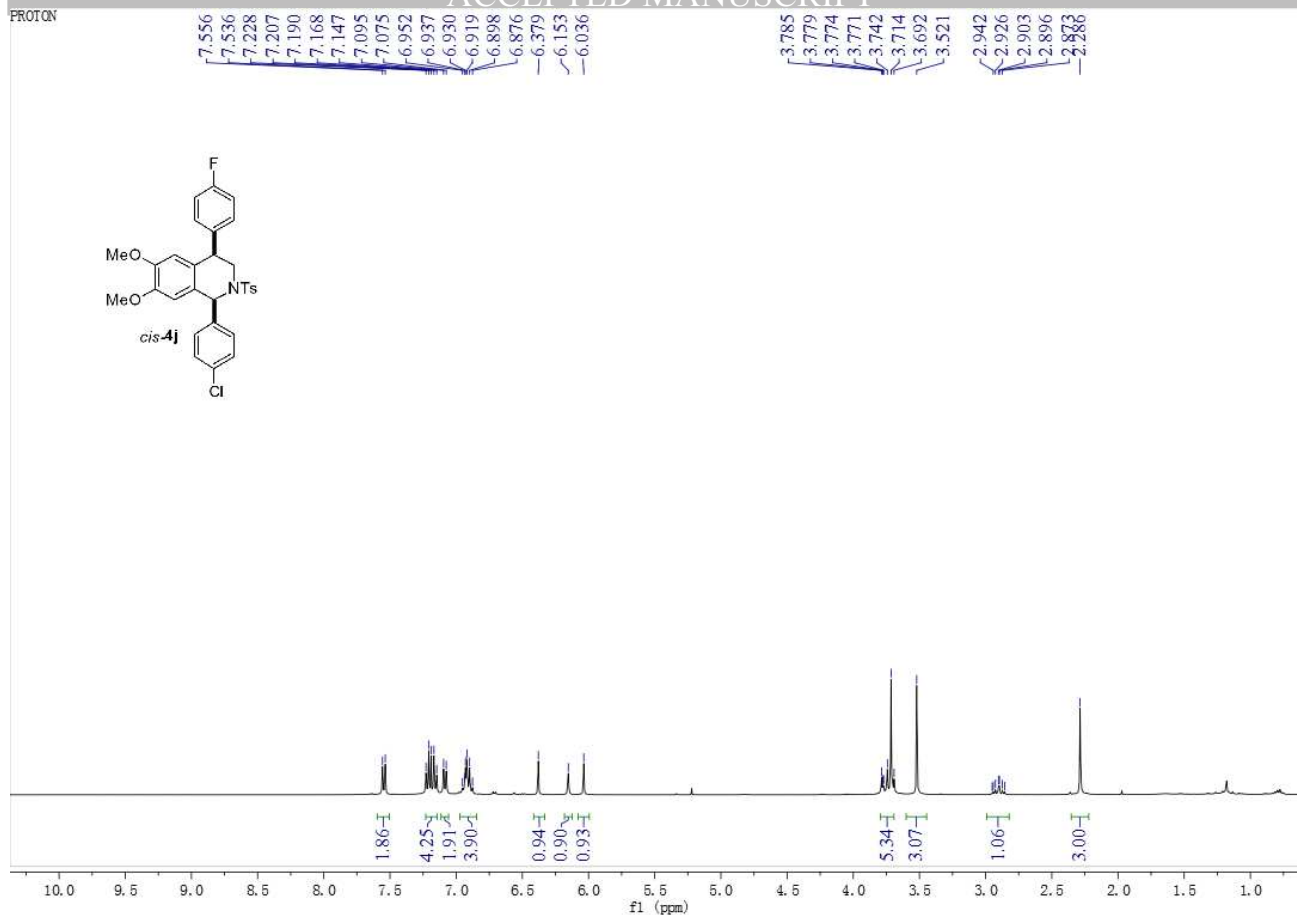
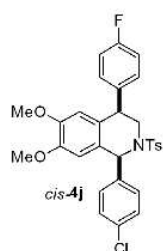
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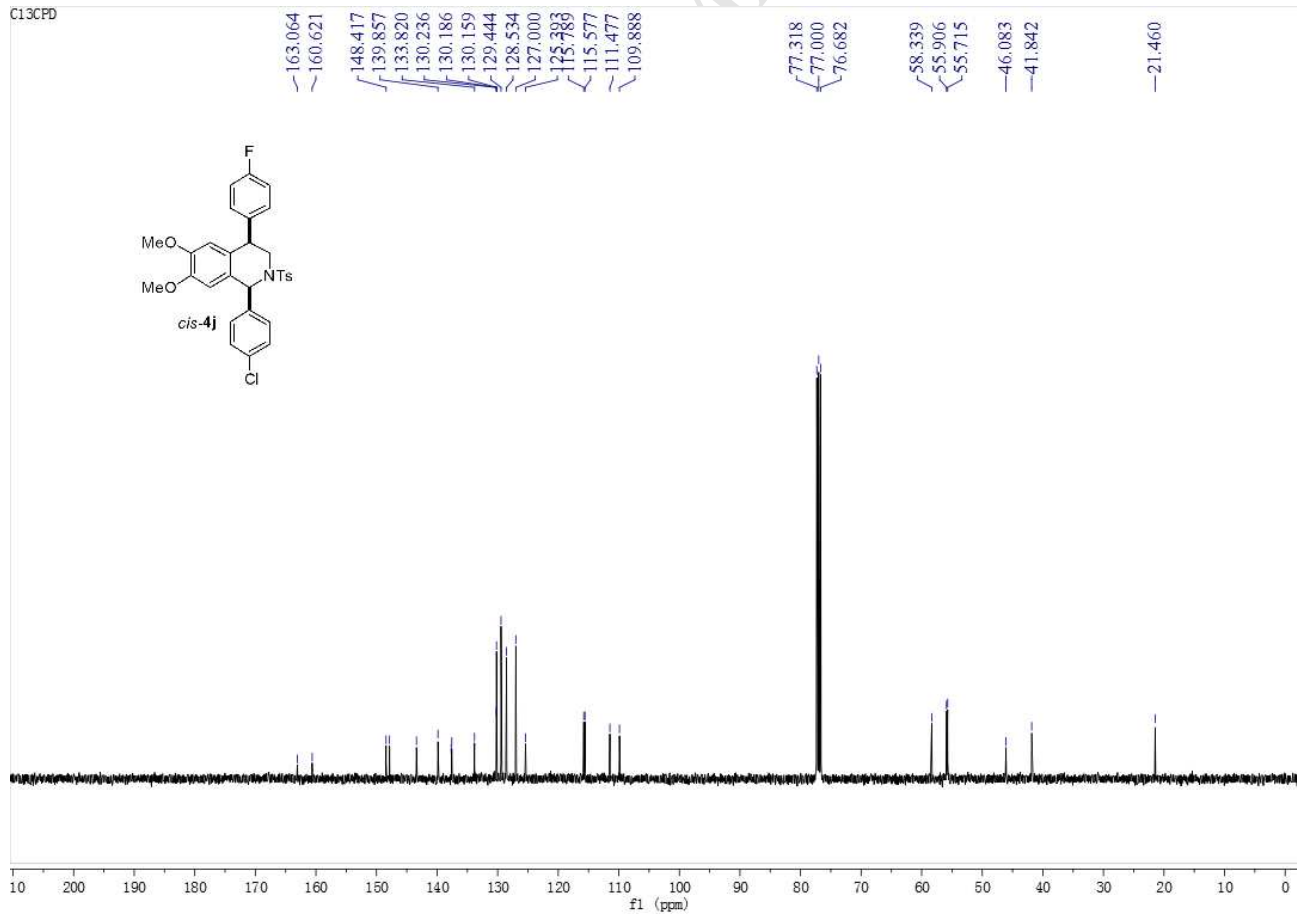
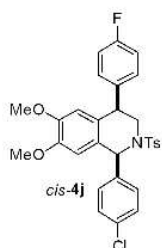
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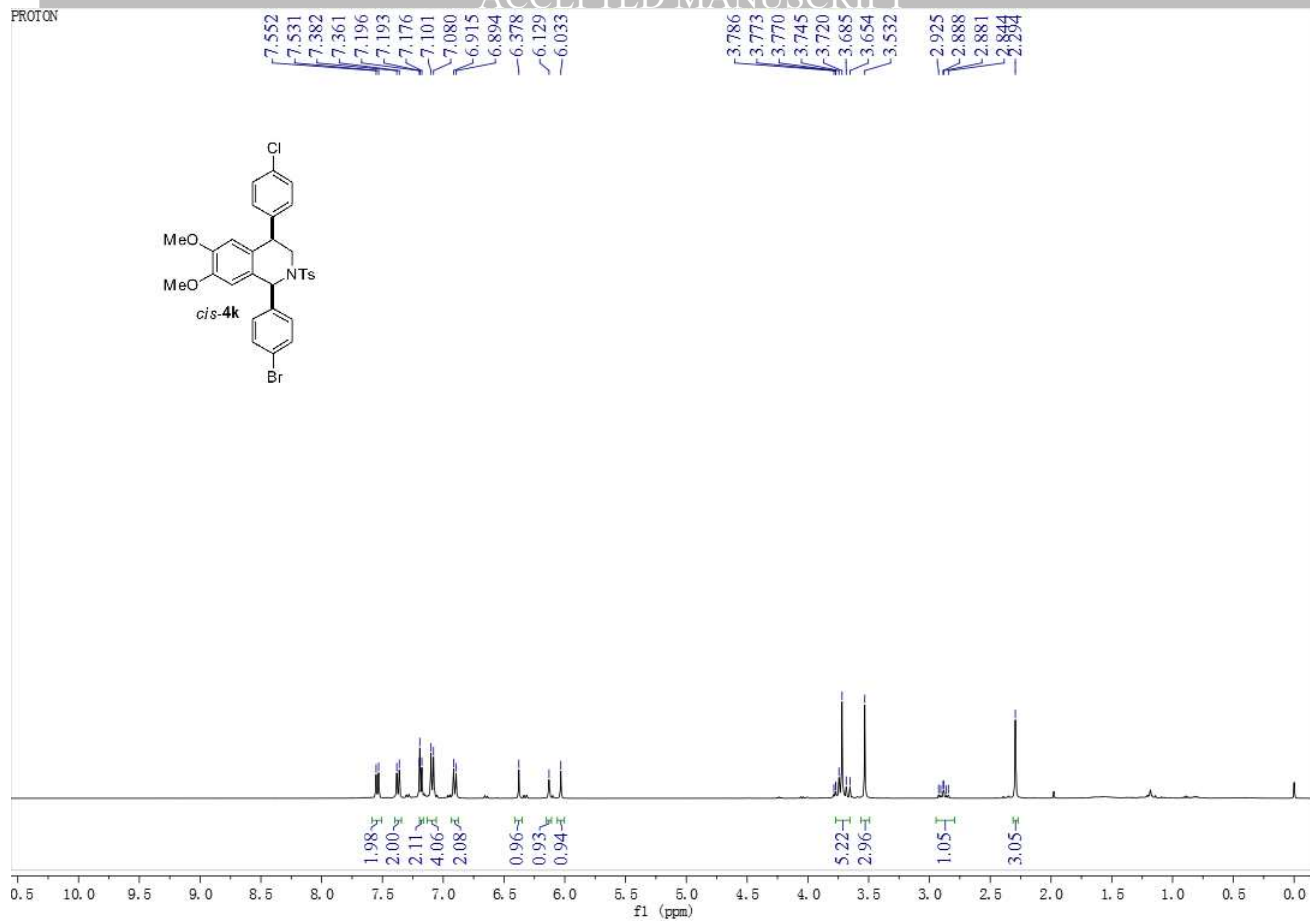
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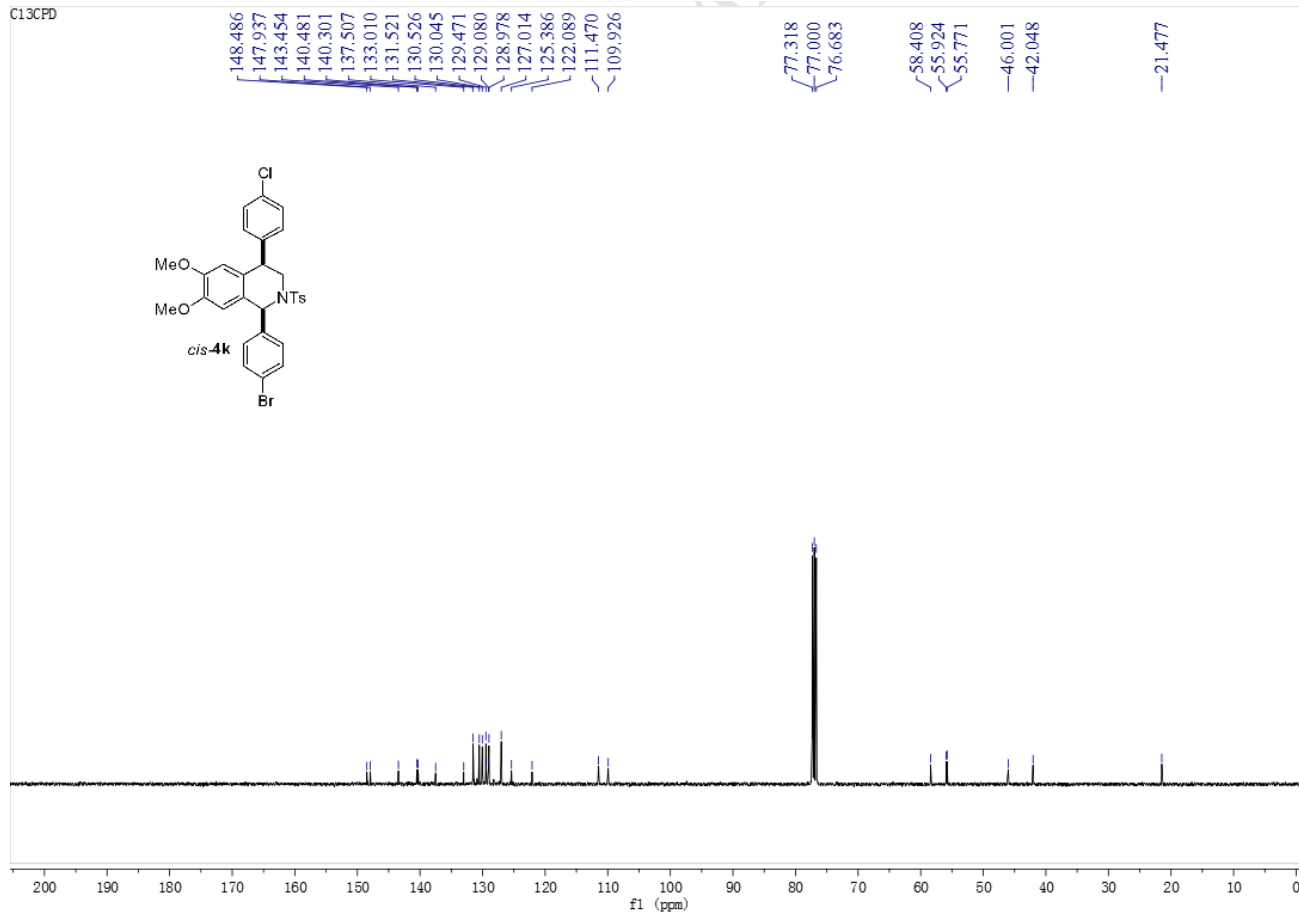
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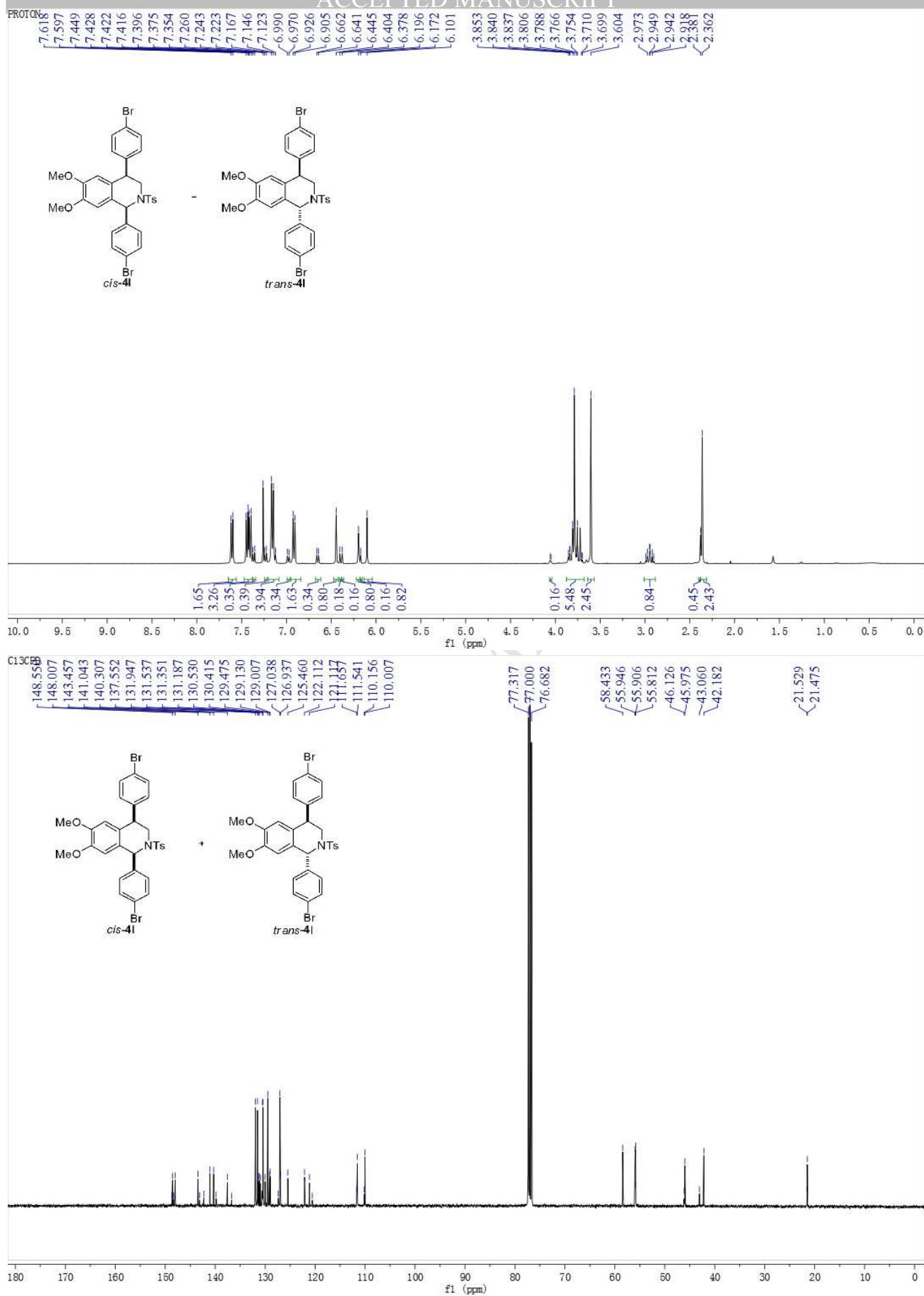


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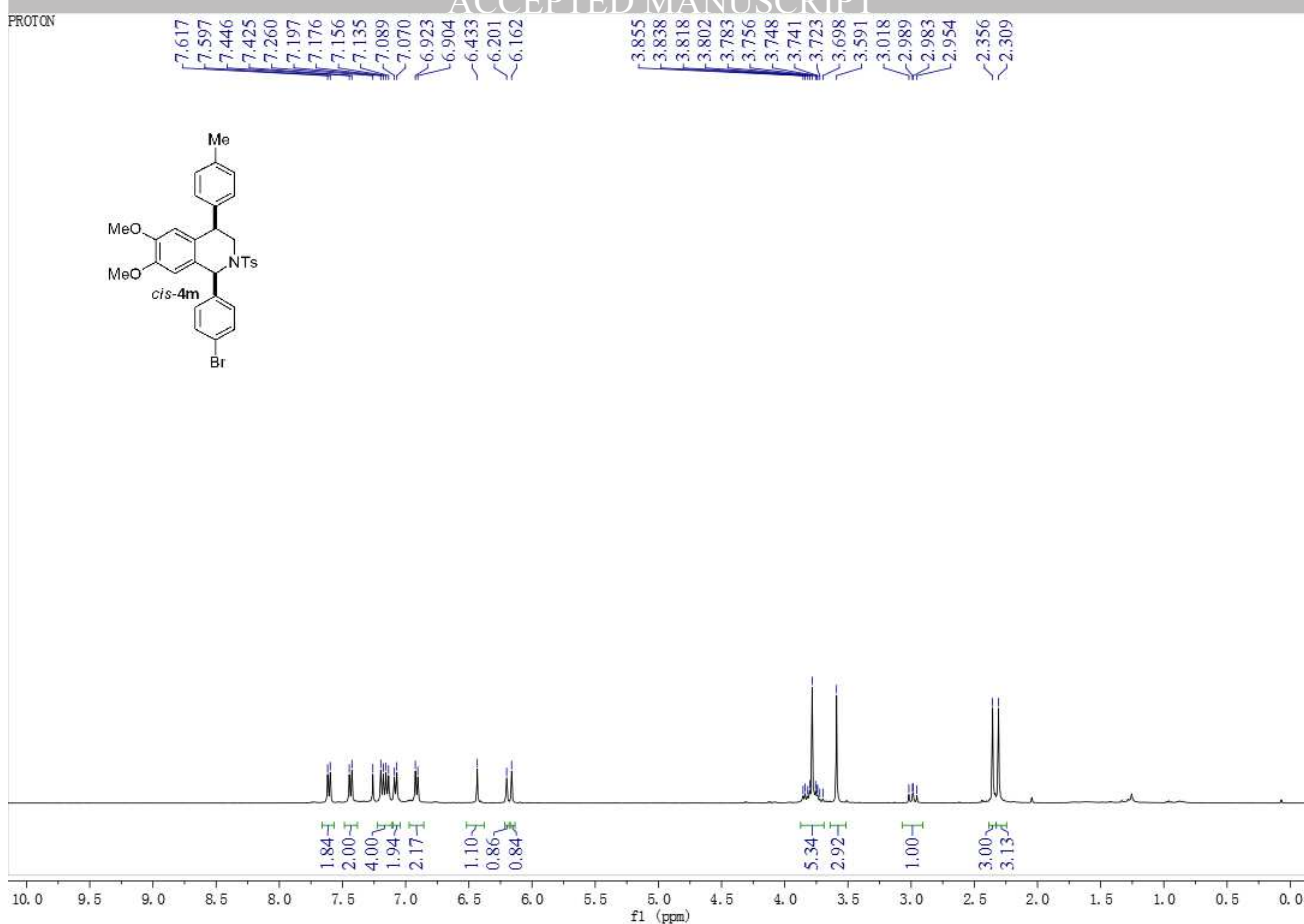
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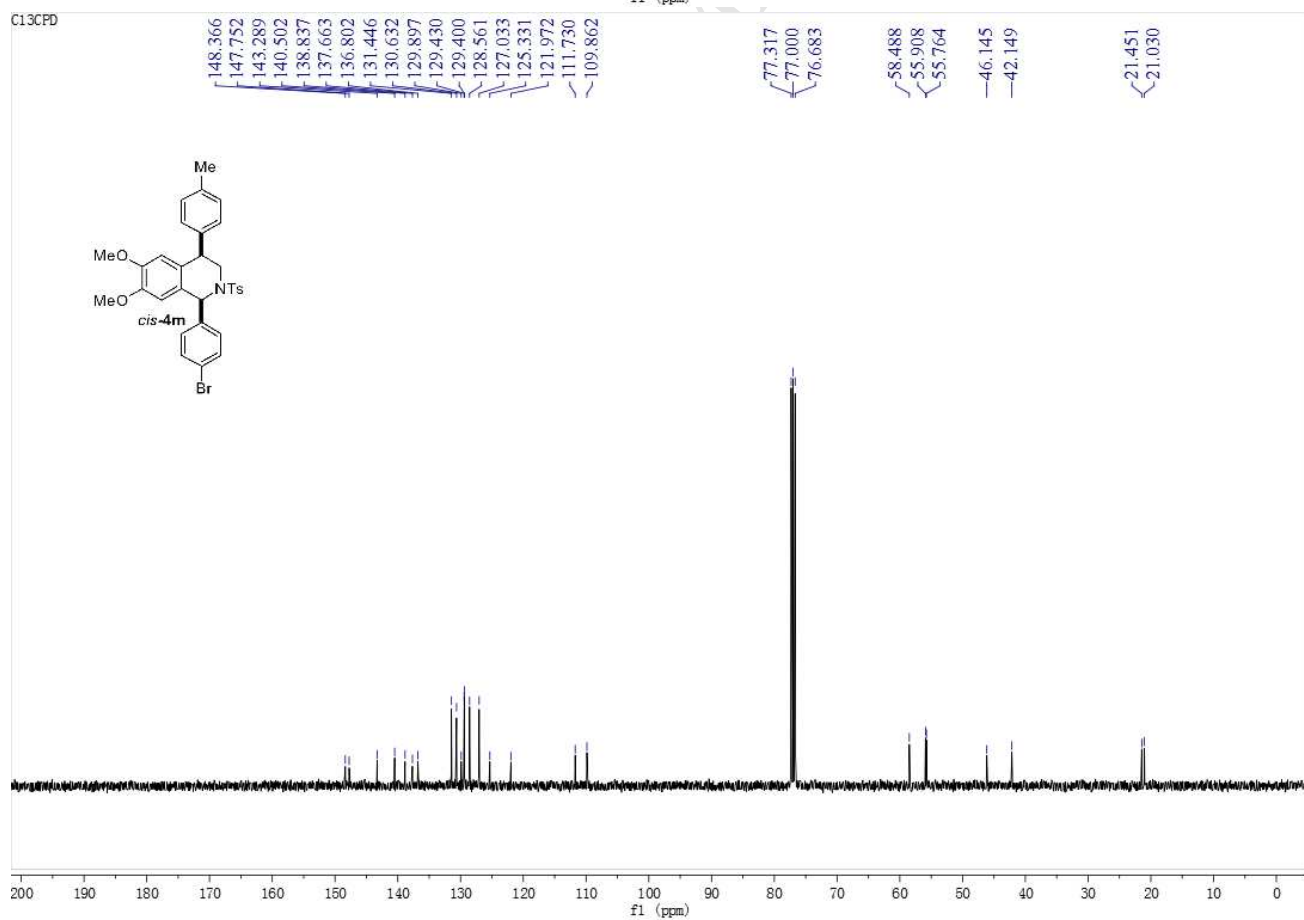




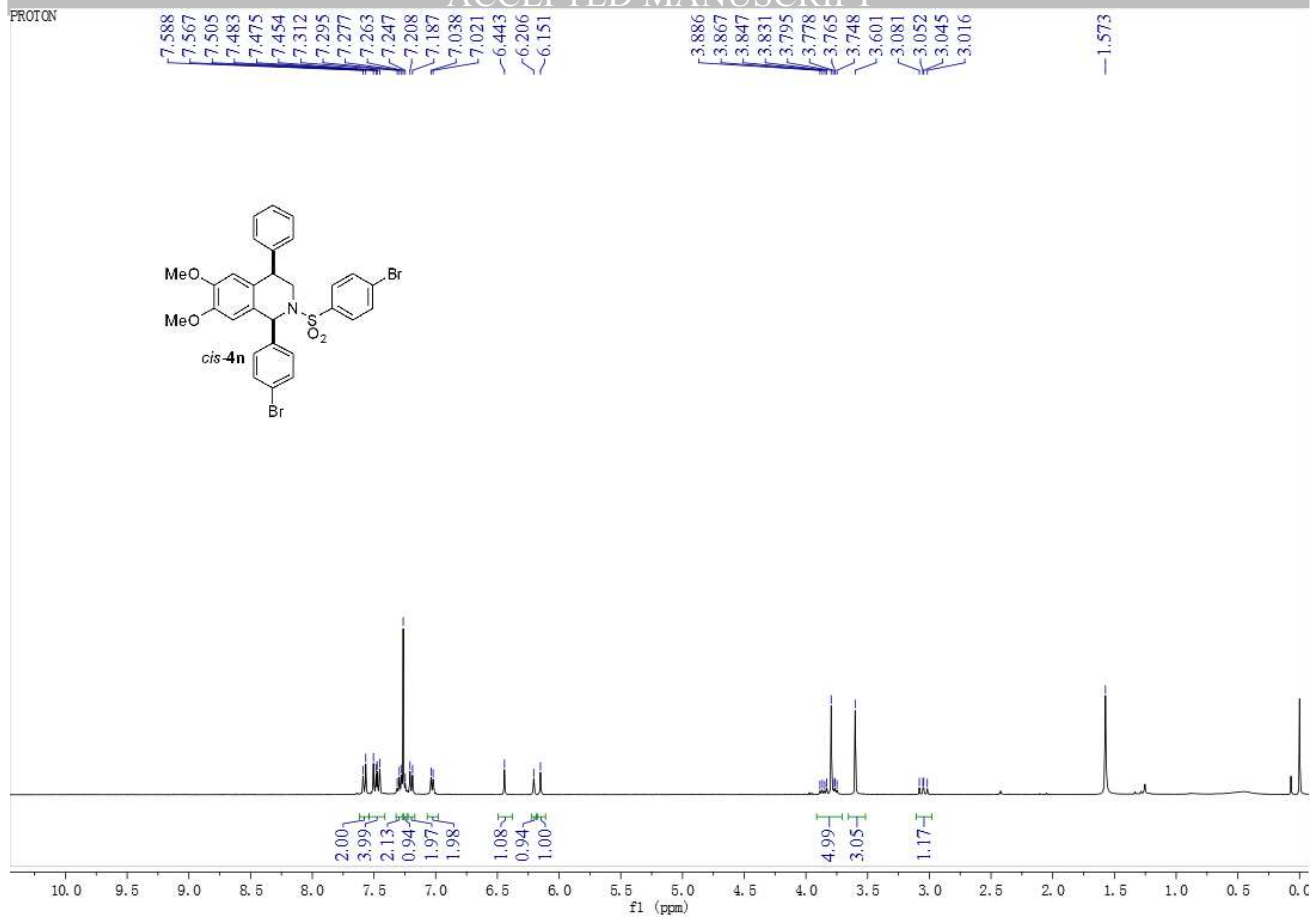
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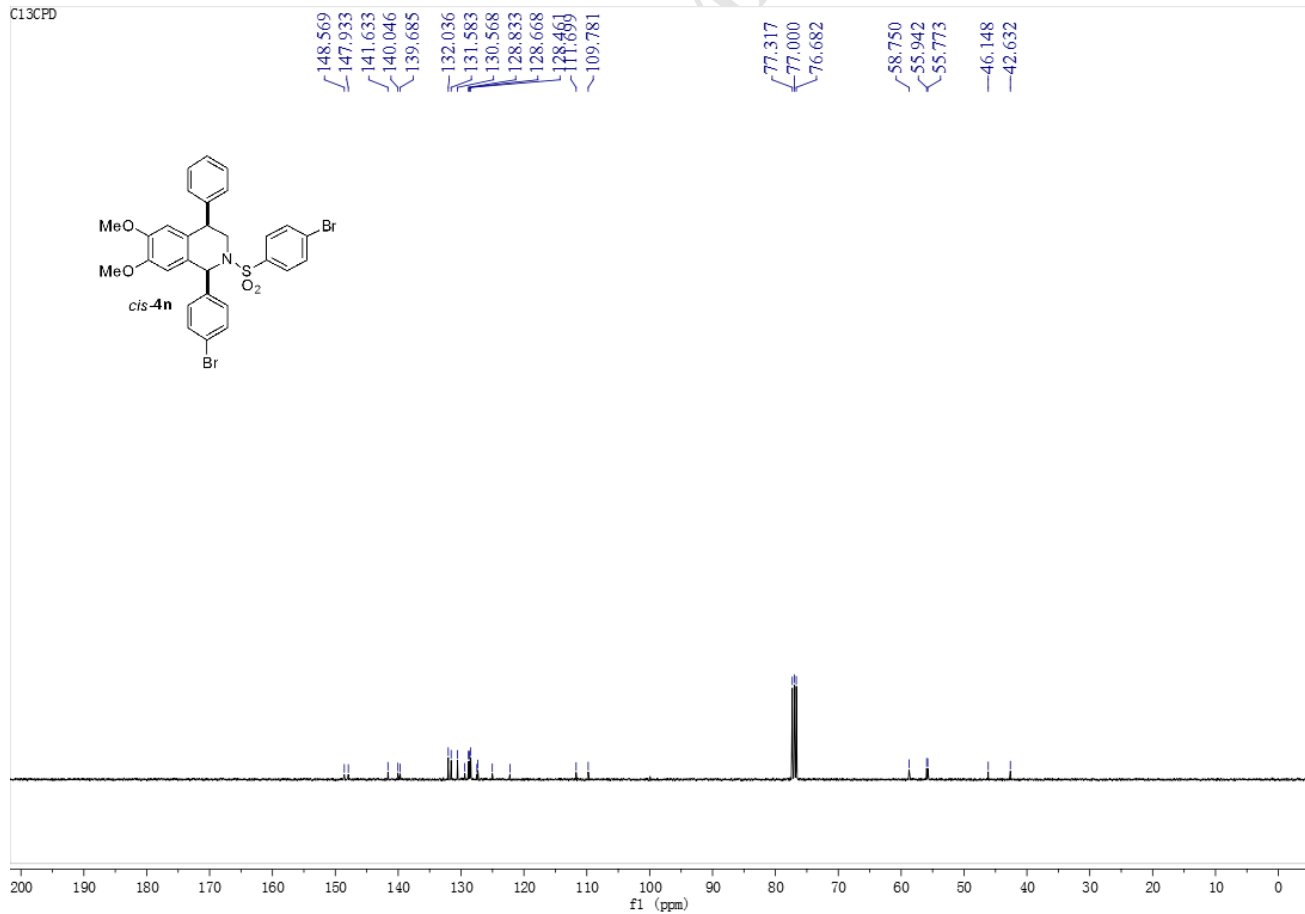
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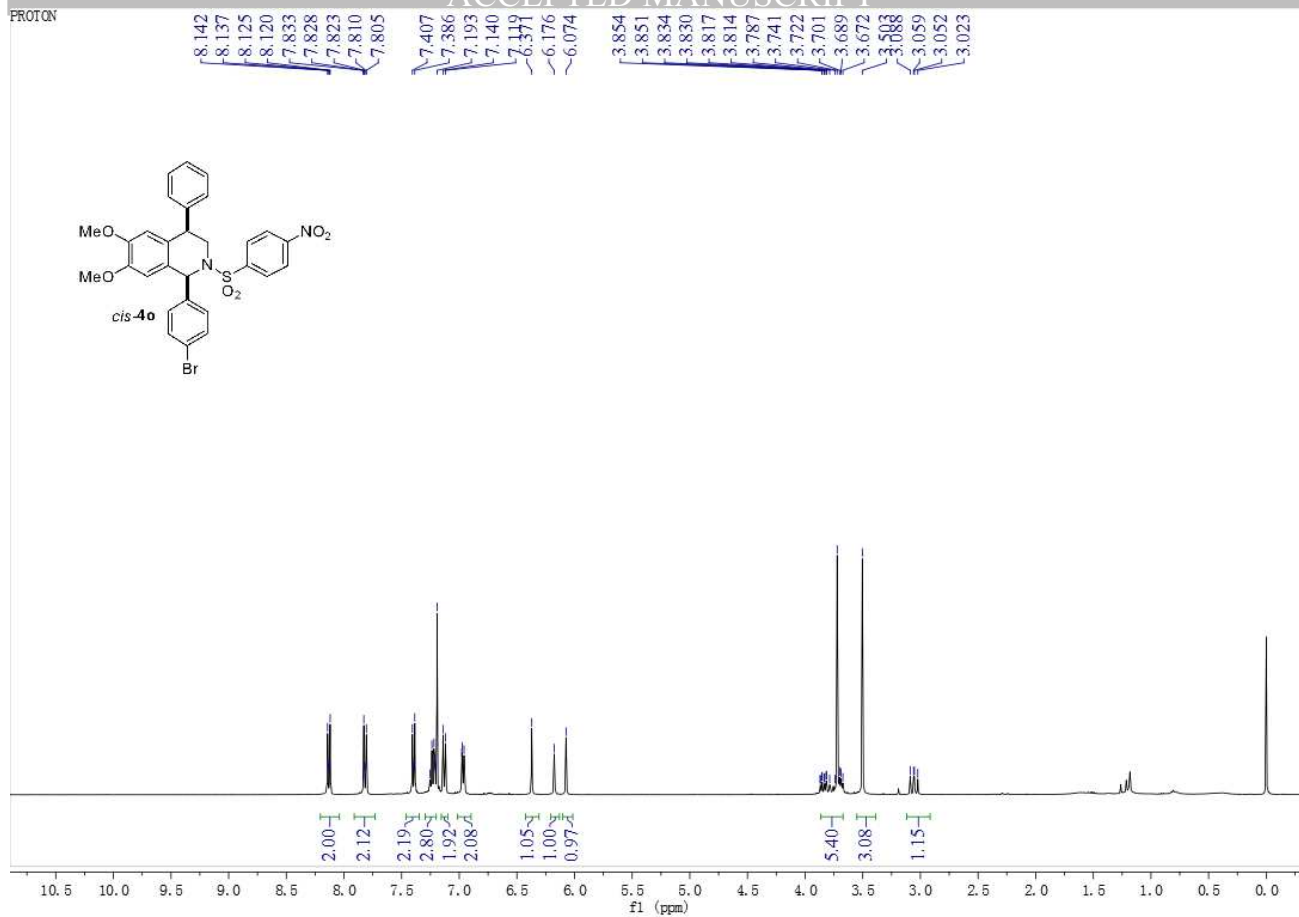
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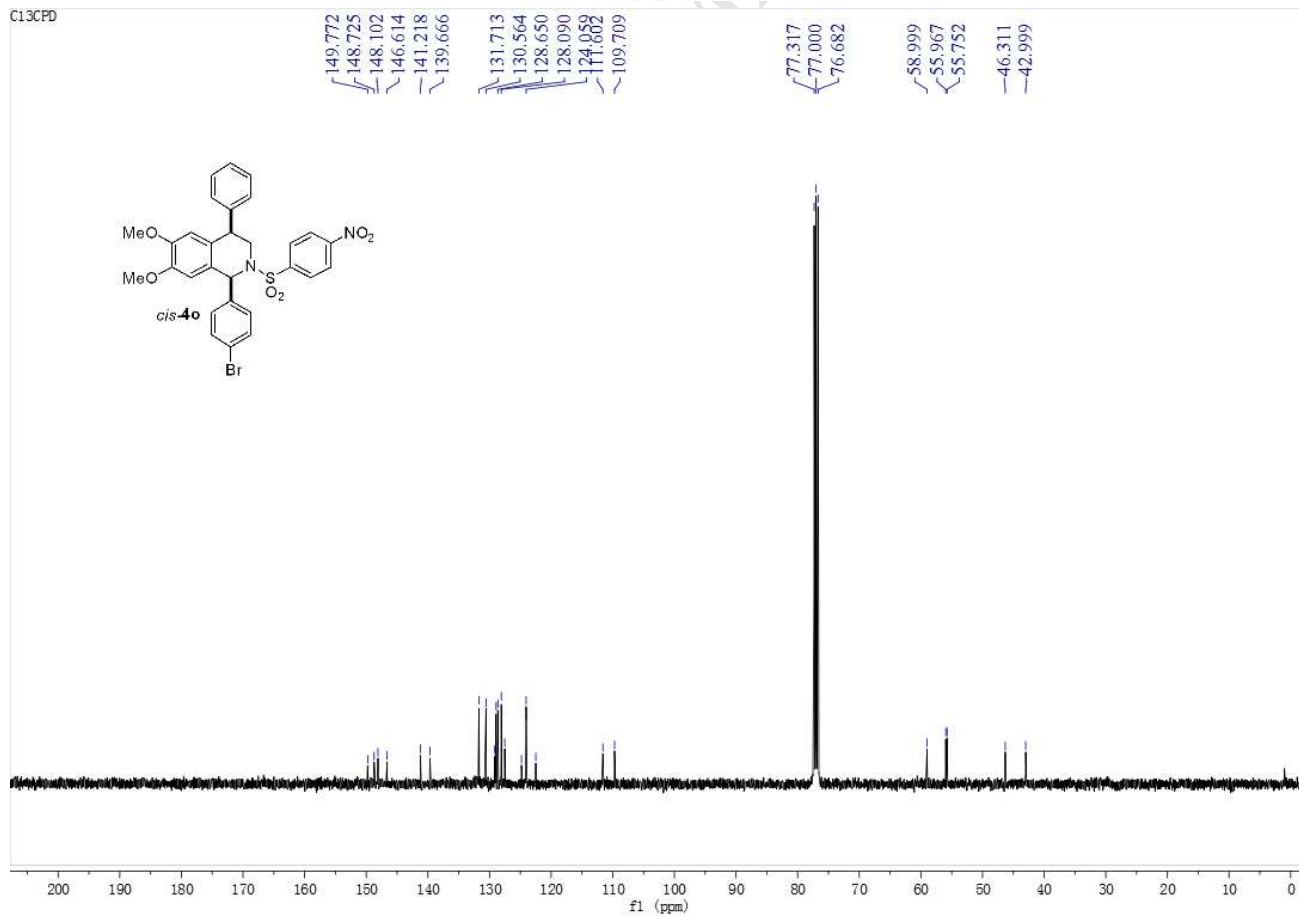
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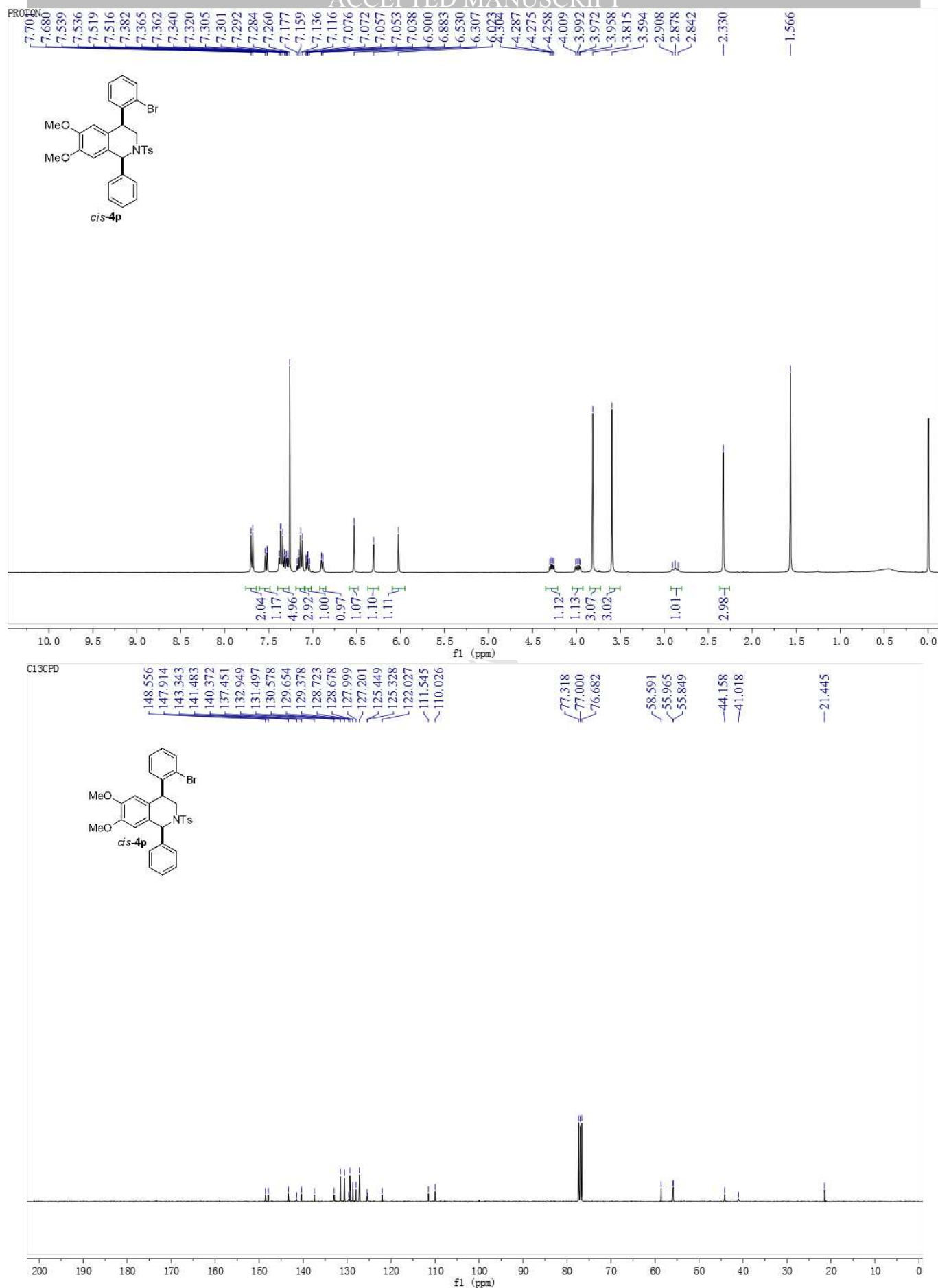


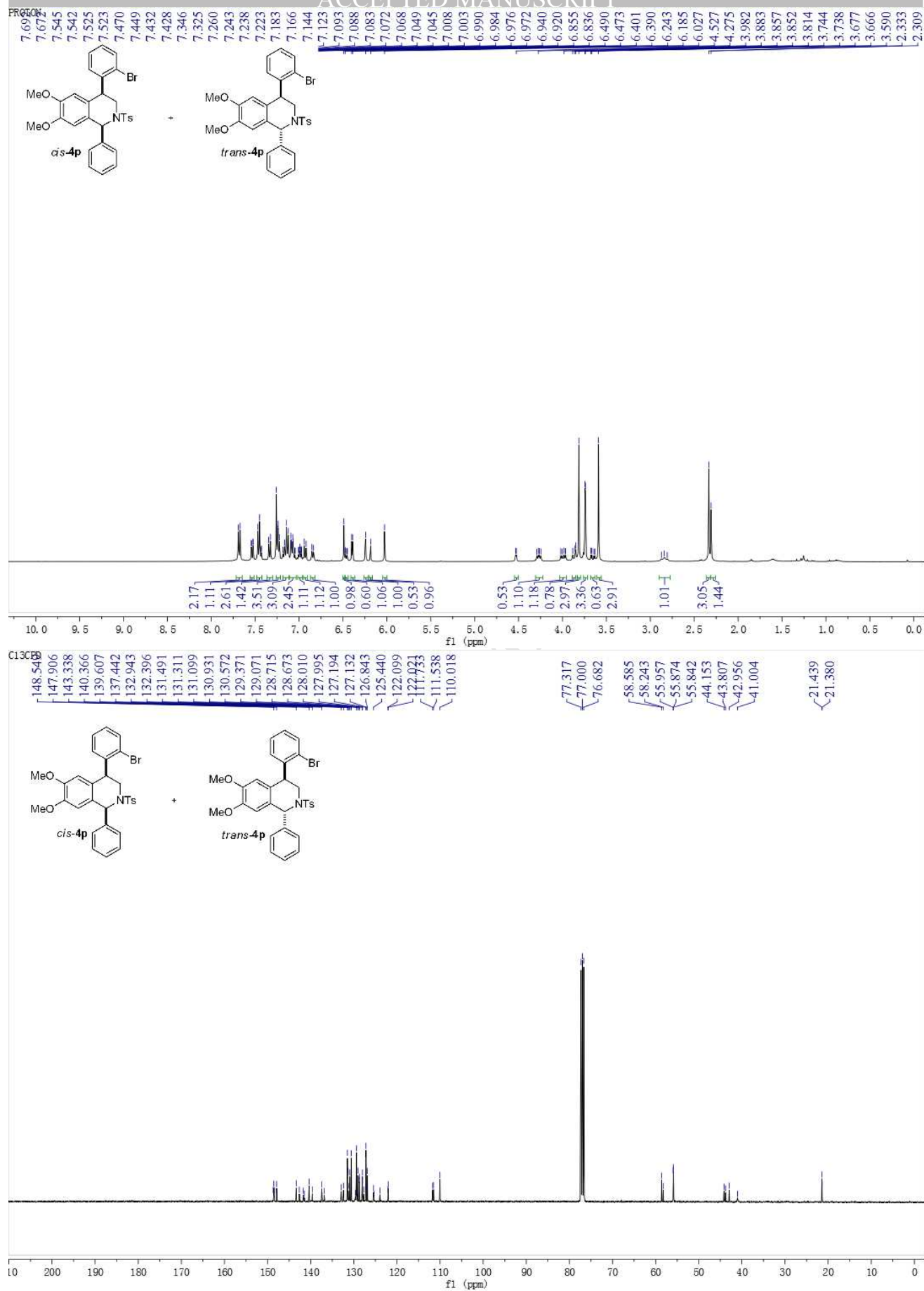
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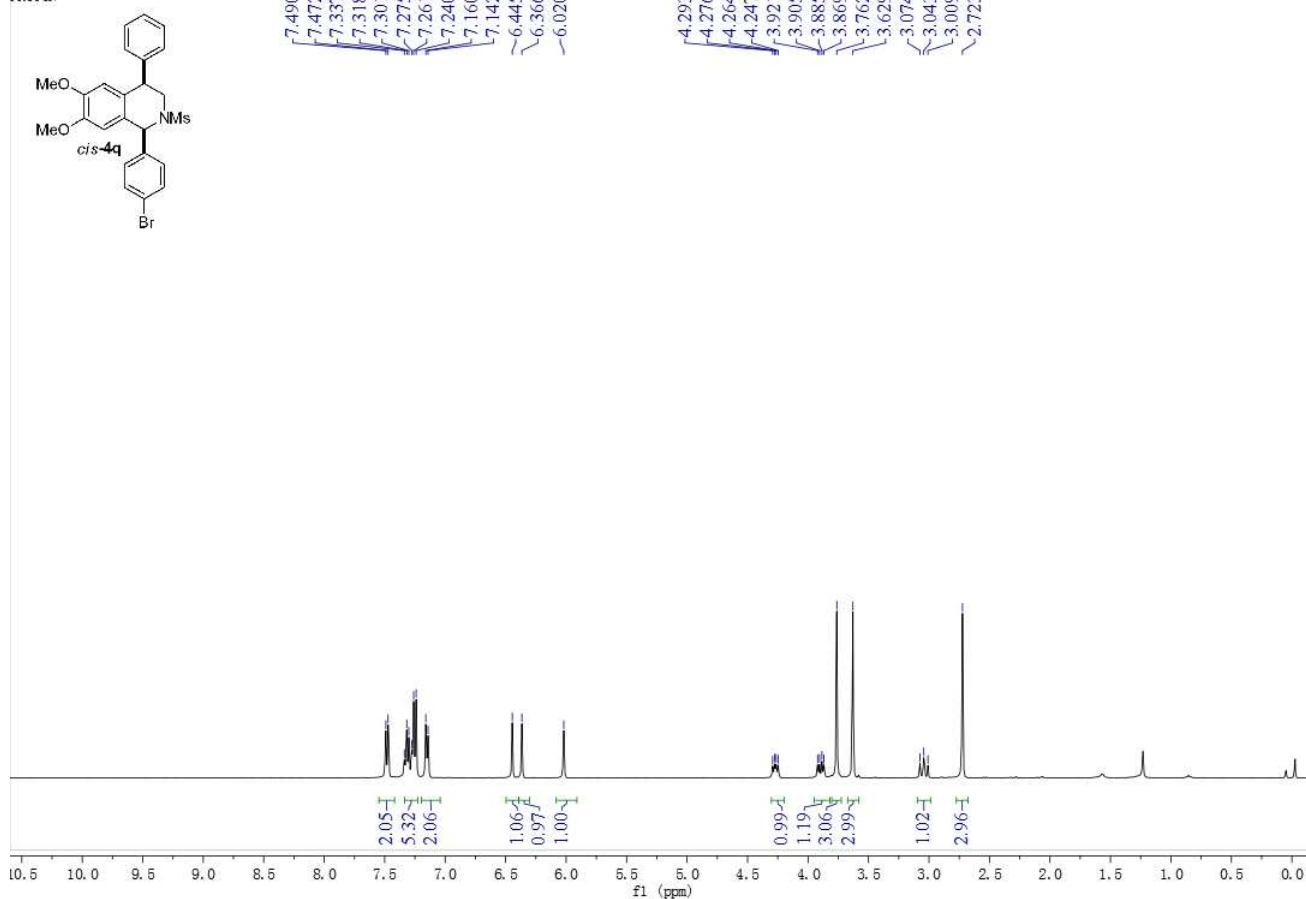




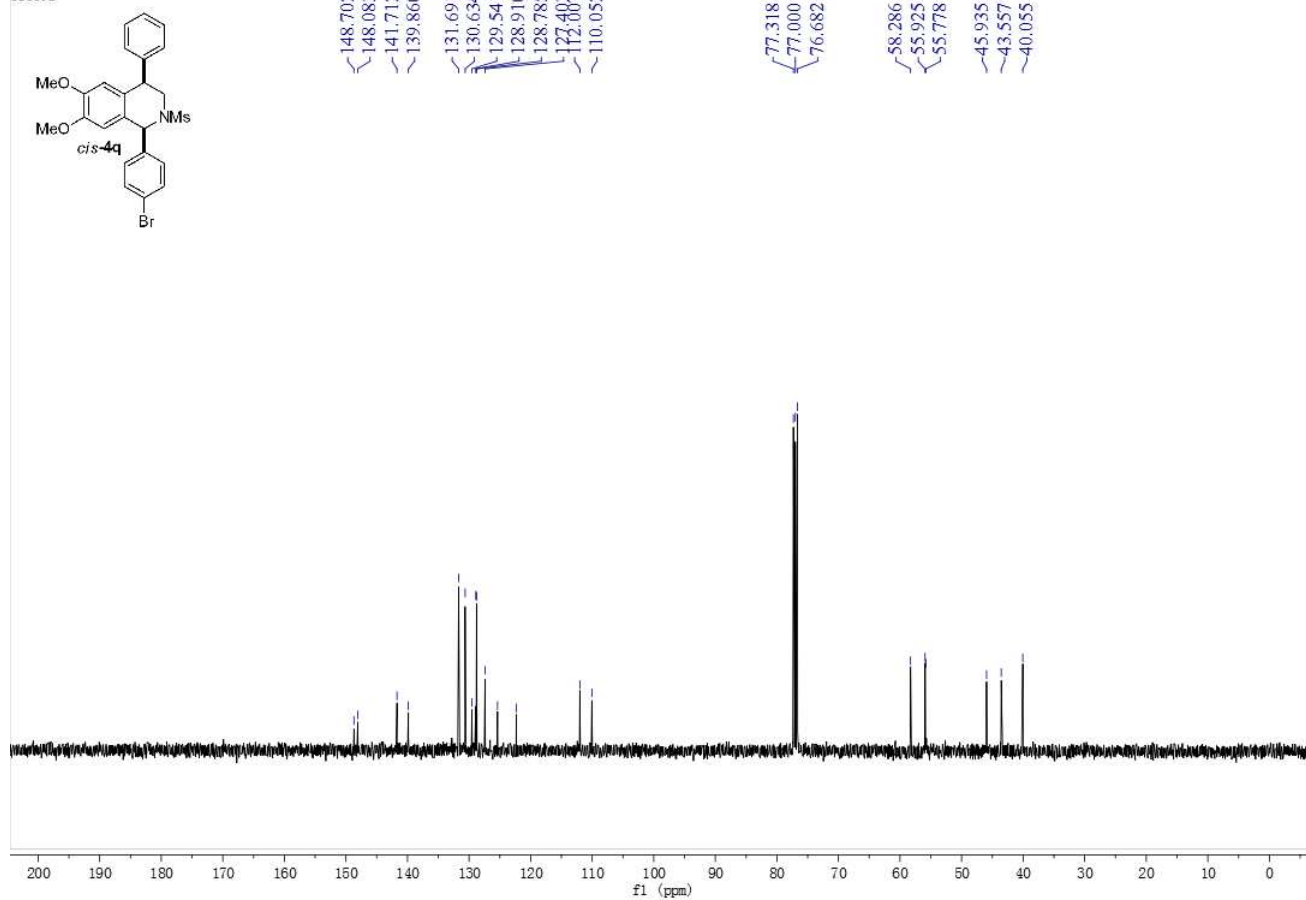




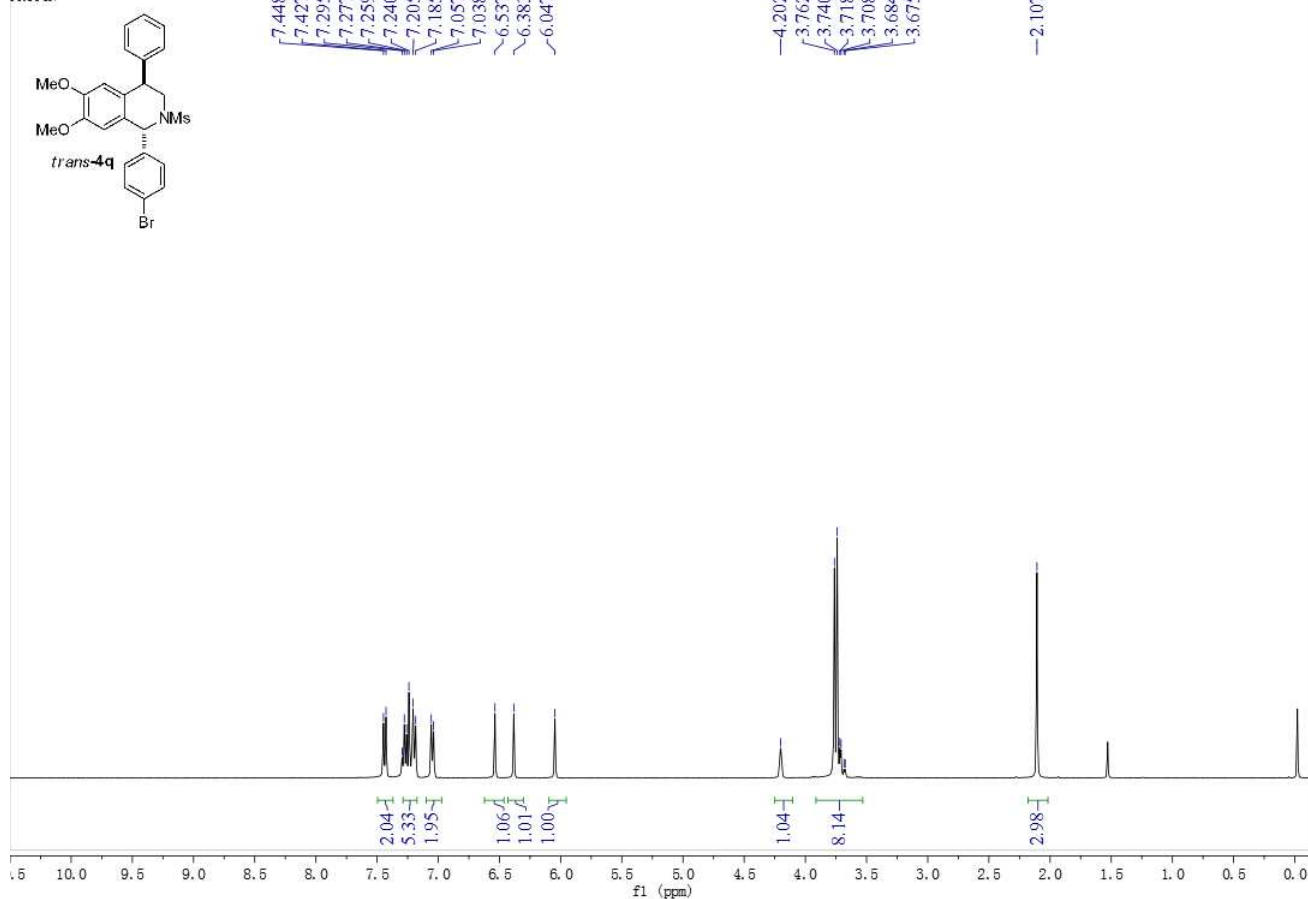
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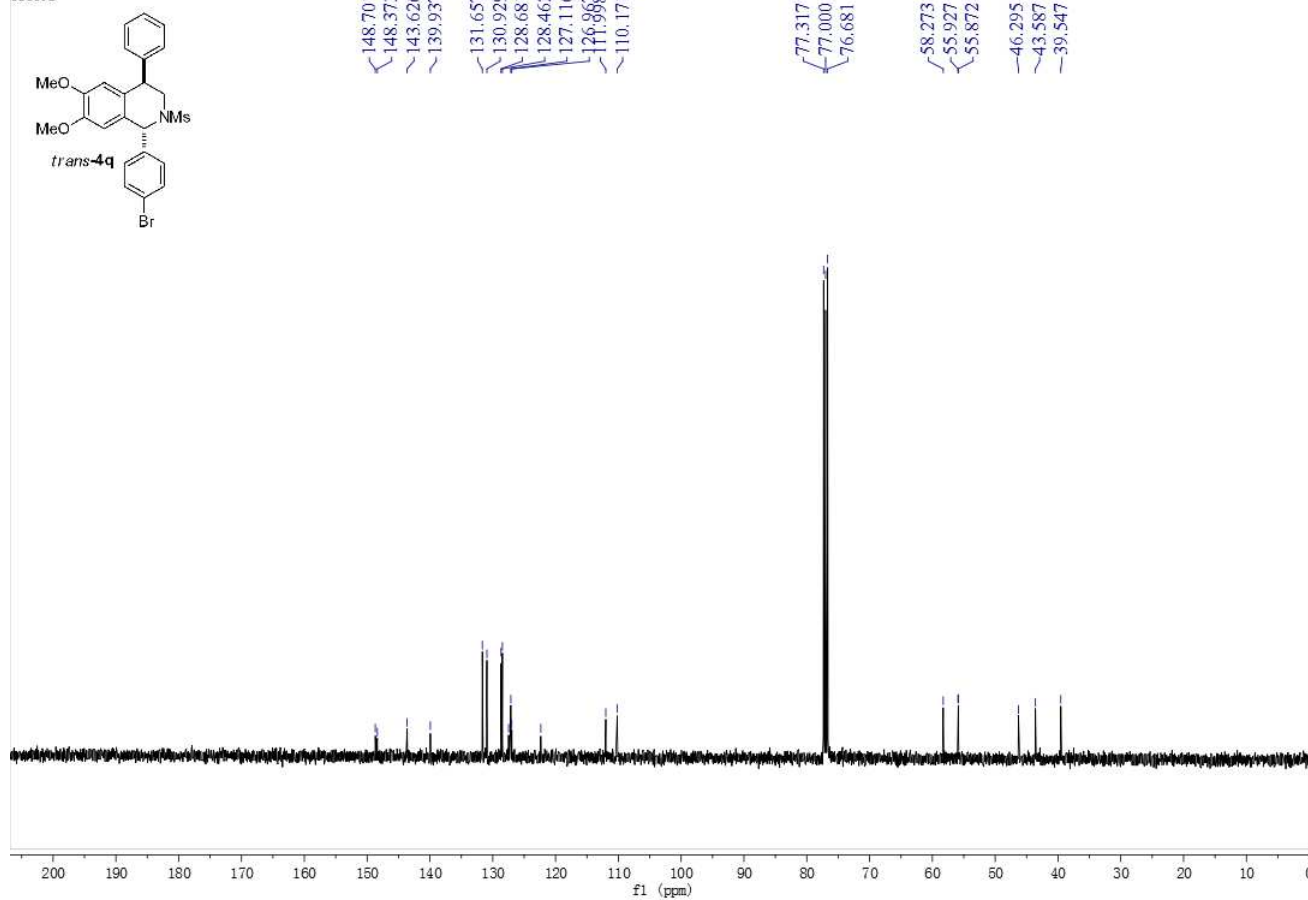
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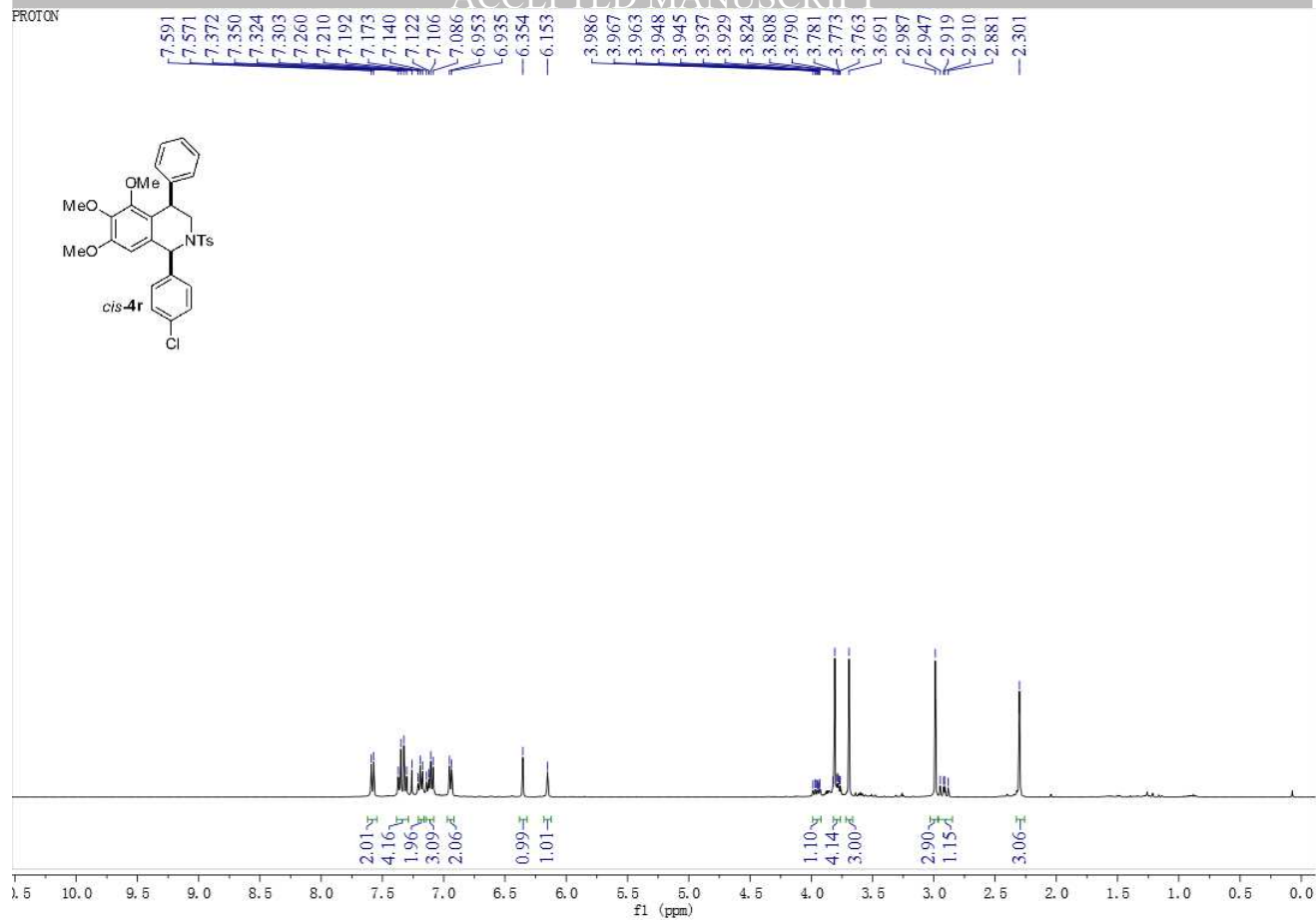
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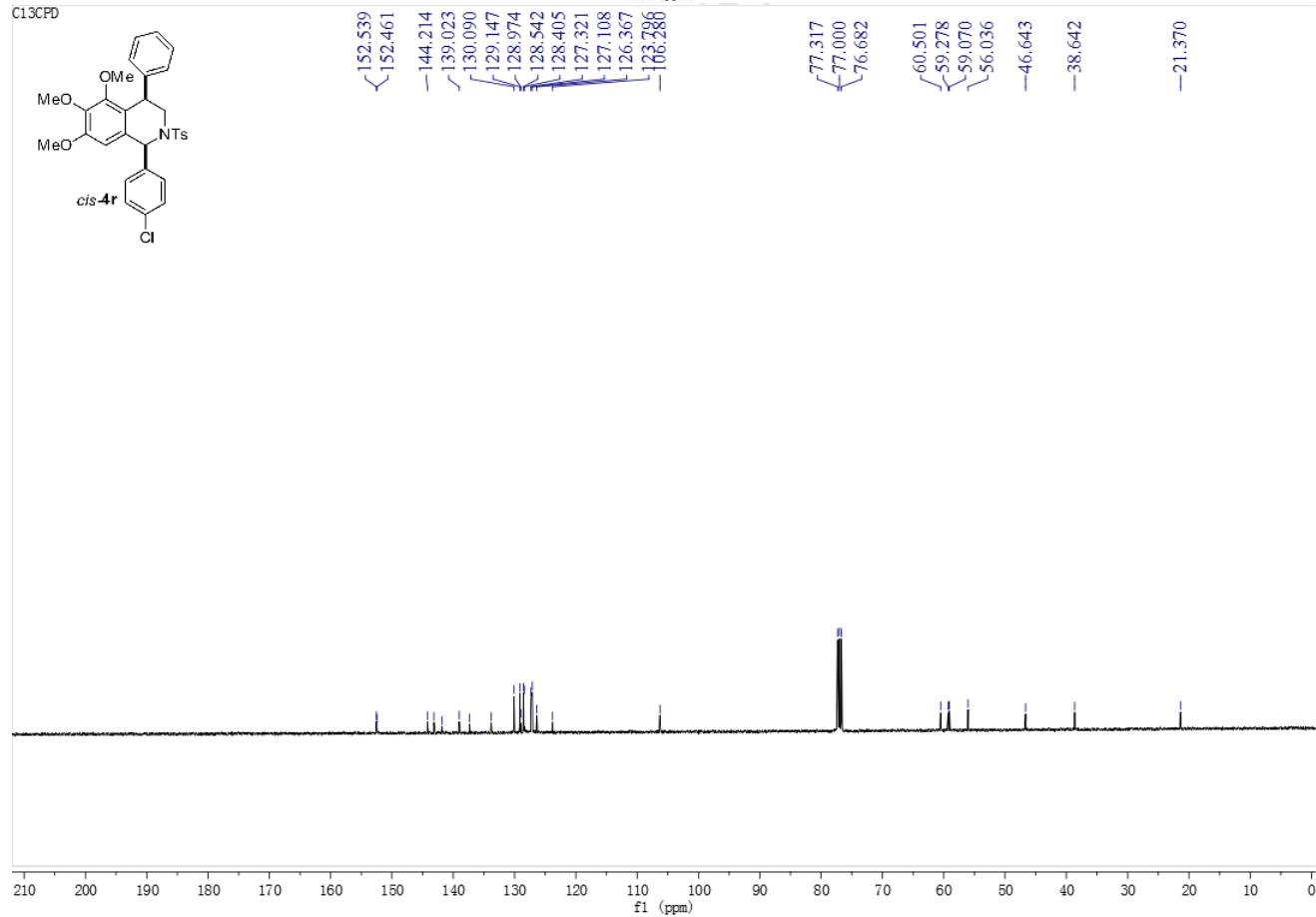
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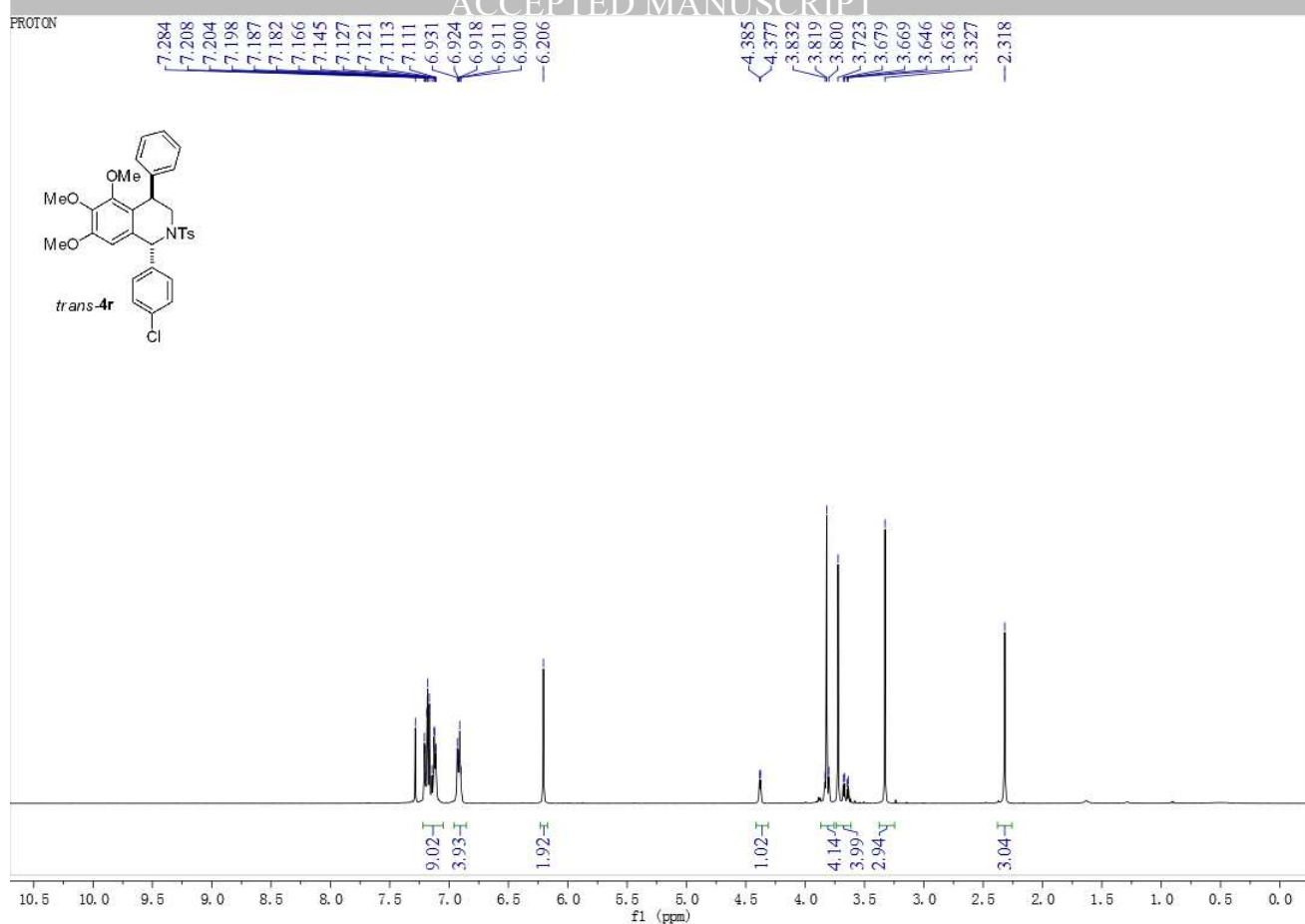
PROTON



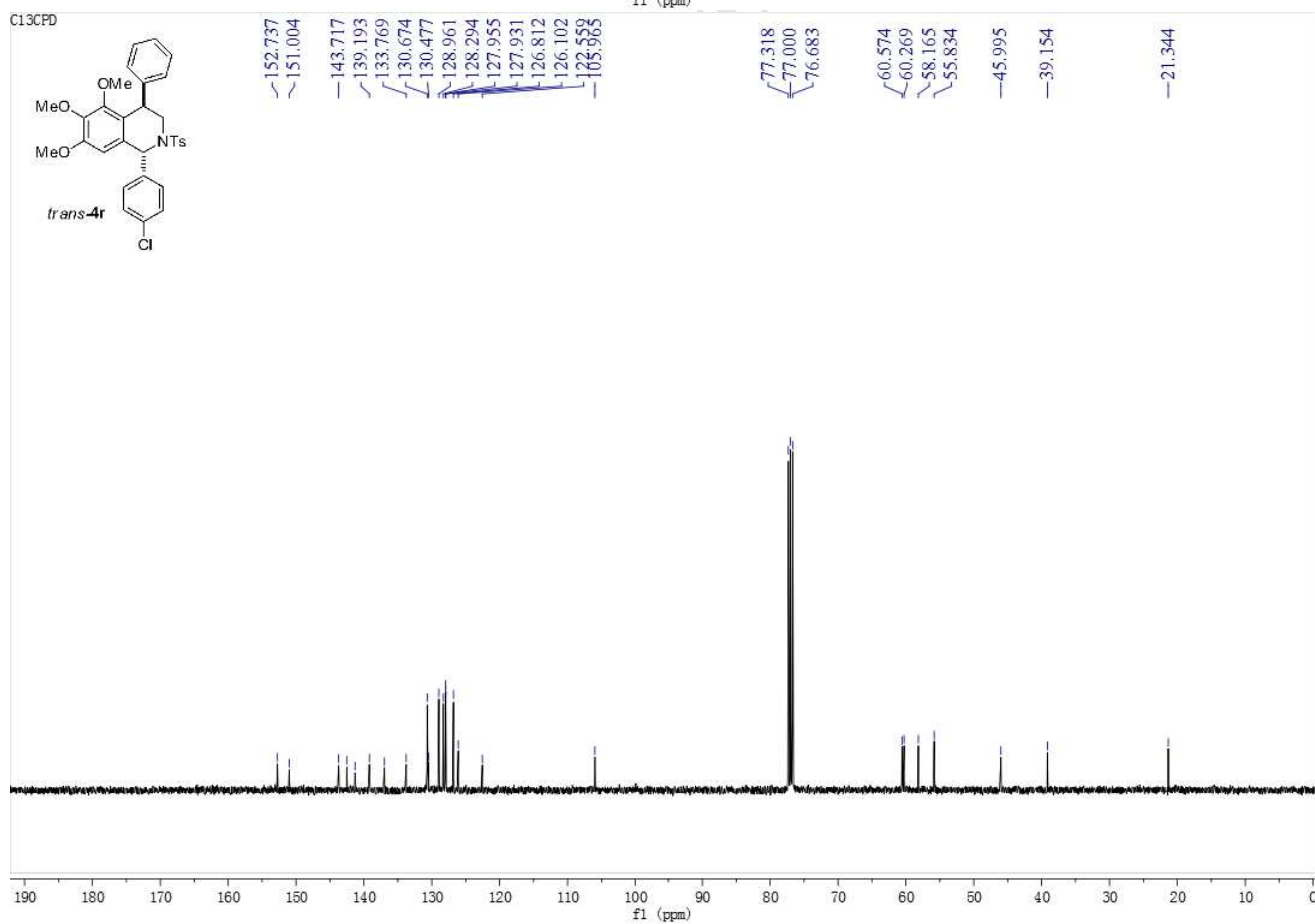
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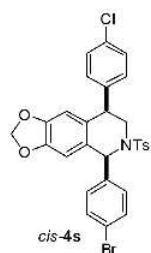
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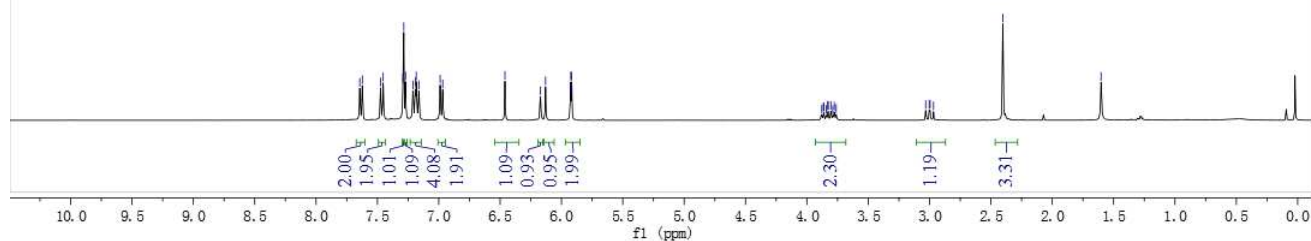
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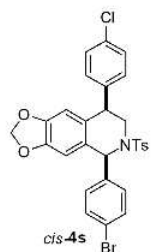
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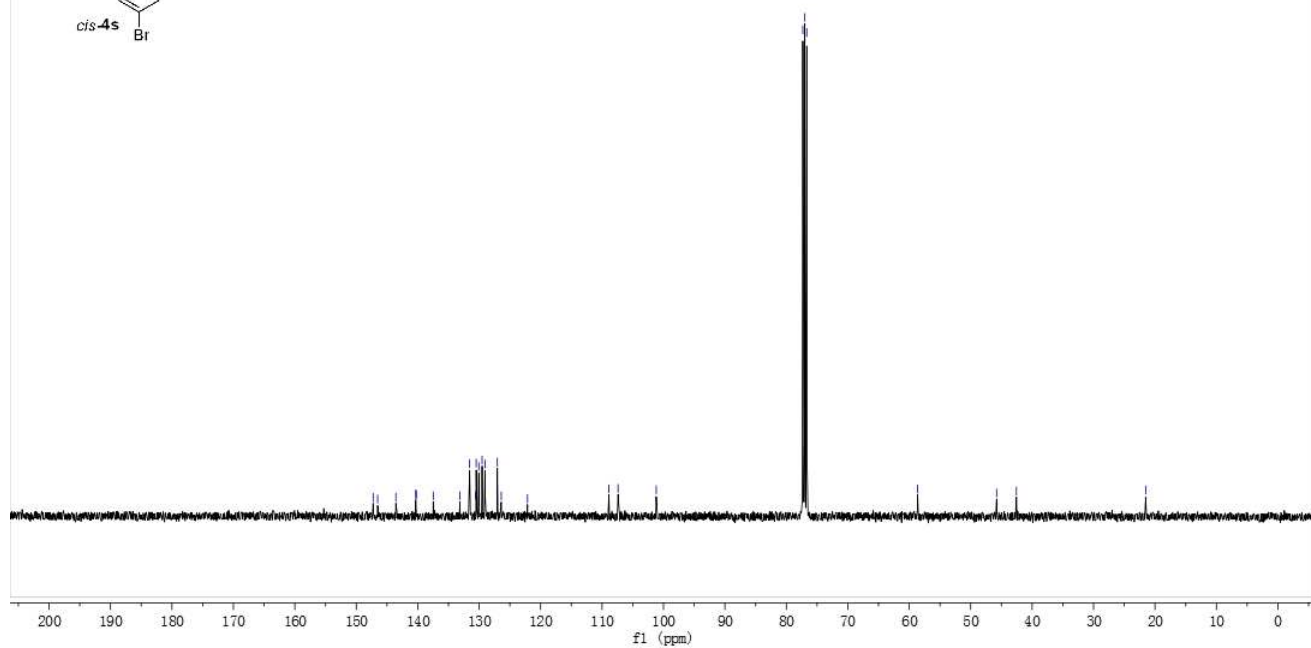
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7.162  
6.989  
6.968  
6.461  
6.171  
6.129  
5.927  
5.924  
5.918  
5.915  
3.878  
3.865  
3.862  
3.842  
3.829  
3.827  
3.805  
3.789  
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3.761  
3.032  
3.003  
2.996  
2.968  
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— 1.602



C13CPD

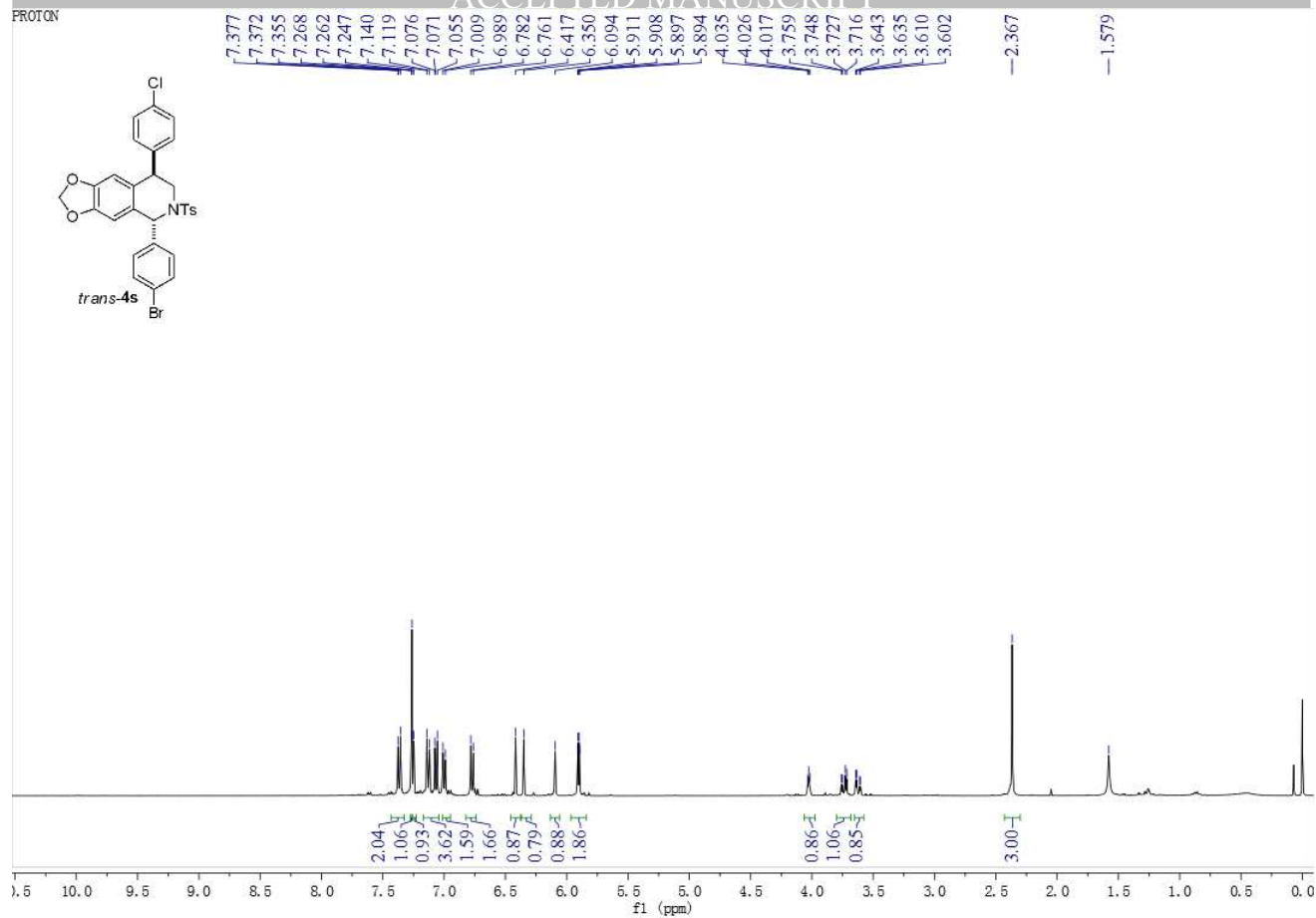
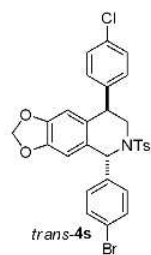


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140.231  
137.473  
133.123  
131.547  
130.569  
130.478  
130.055  
129.517  
129.045  
127.043  
126.401  
122.134  
108.880  
107.391  
101.176  
77.318  
77.000  
76.682  
— 58.639  
— 45.781  
— 42.559  
— 21.523

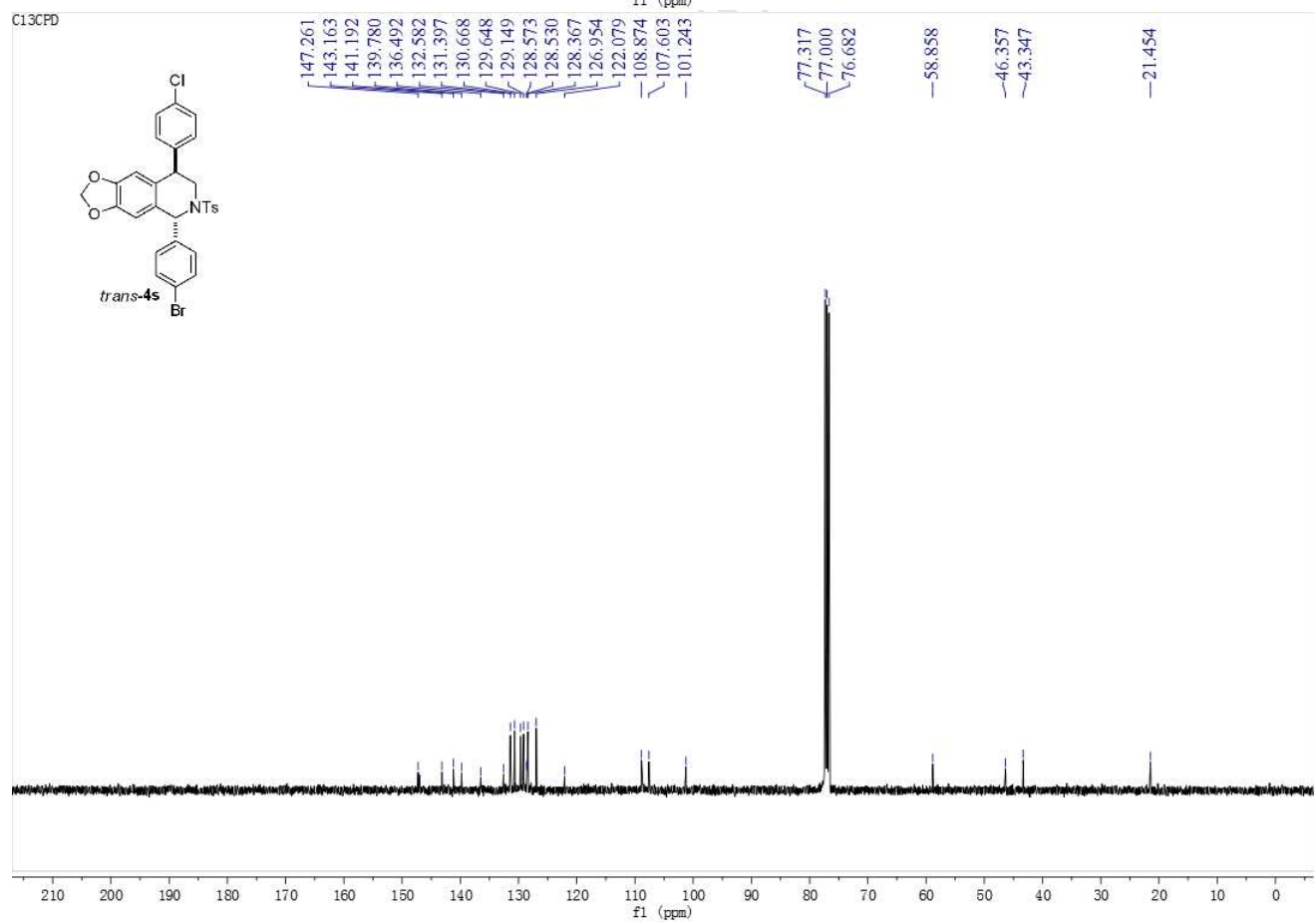
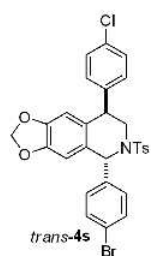


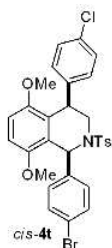
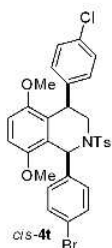


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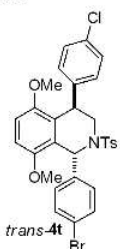


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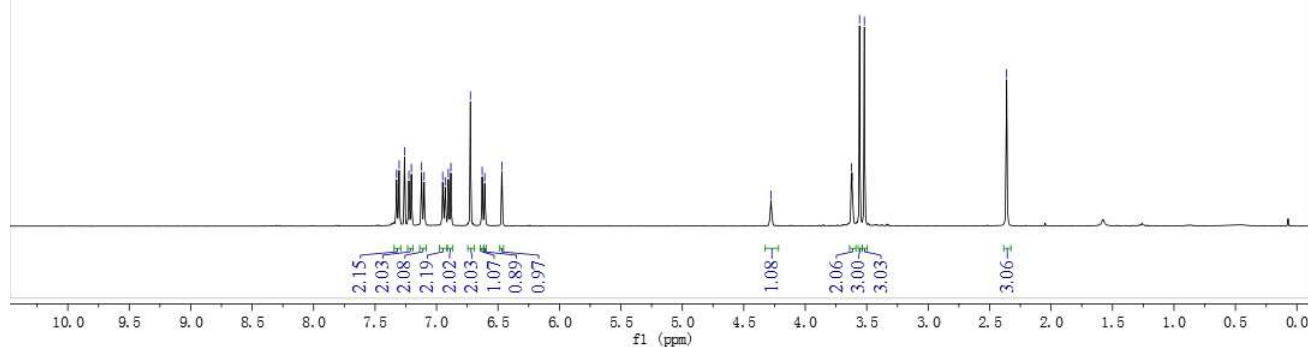




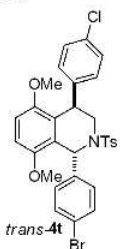
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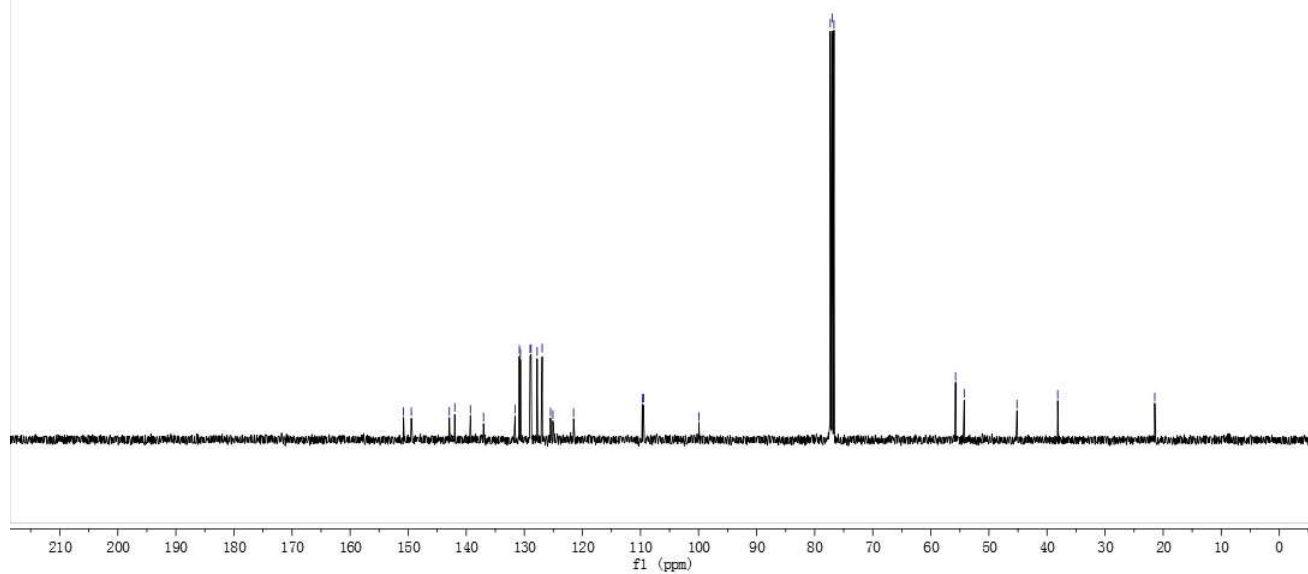
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7.225  
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7.101  
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6.929  
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6.883  
6.725  
6.629  
6.608  
6.468  
—4.279  
3.624  
3.618  
3.558  
3.519  
—2.362



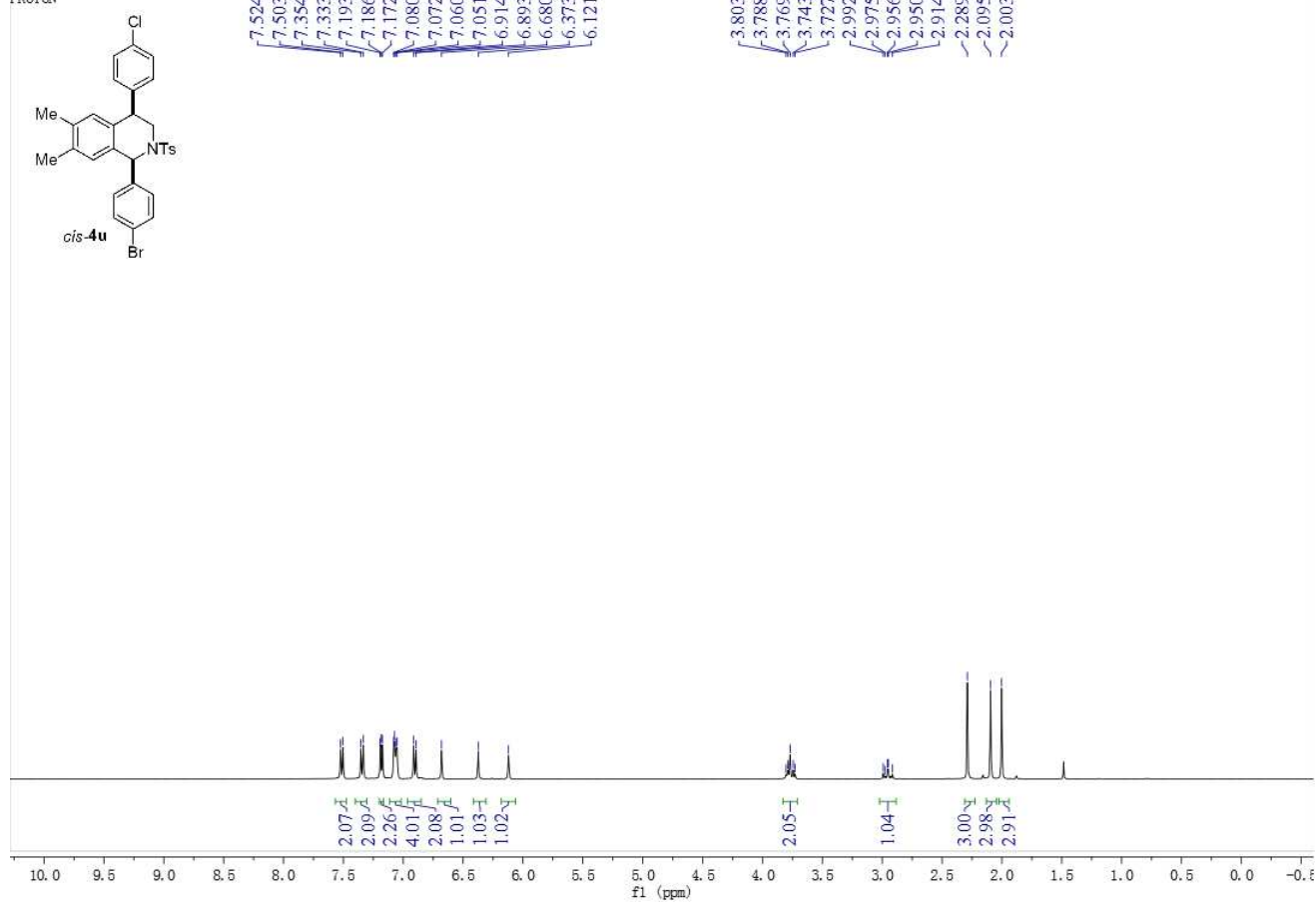
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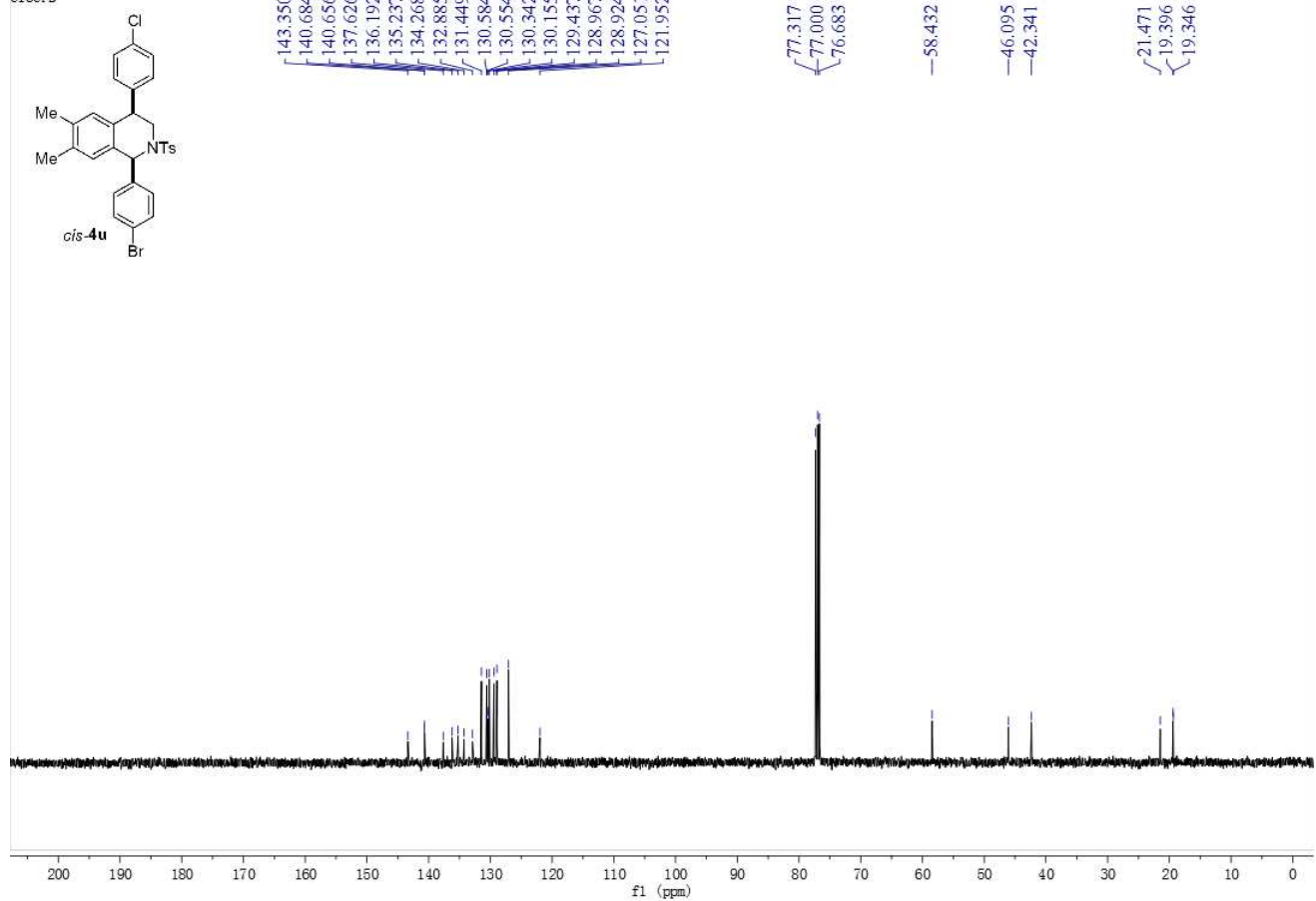
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127.790  
126.927  
125.490  
125.081  
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21.445



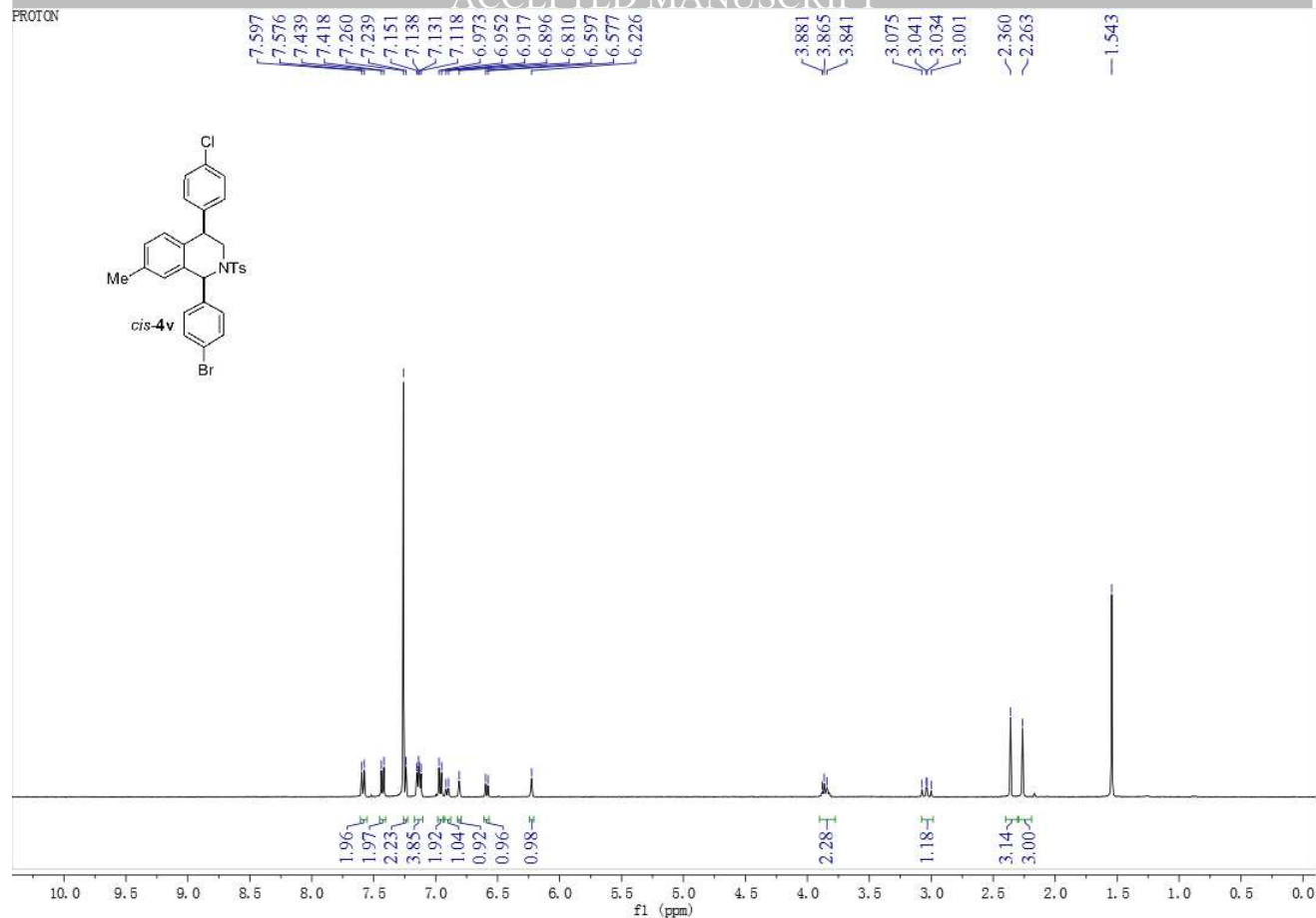
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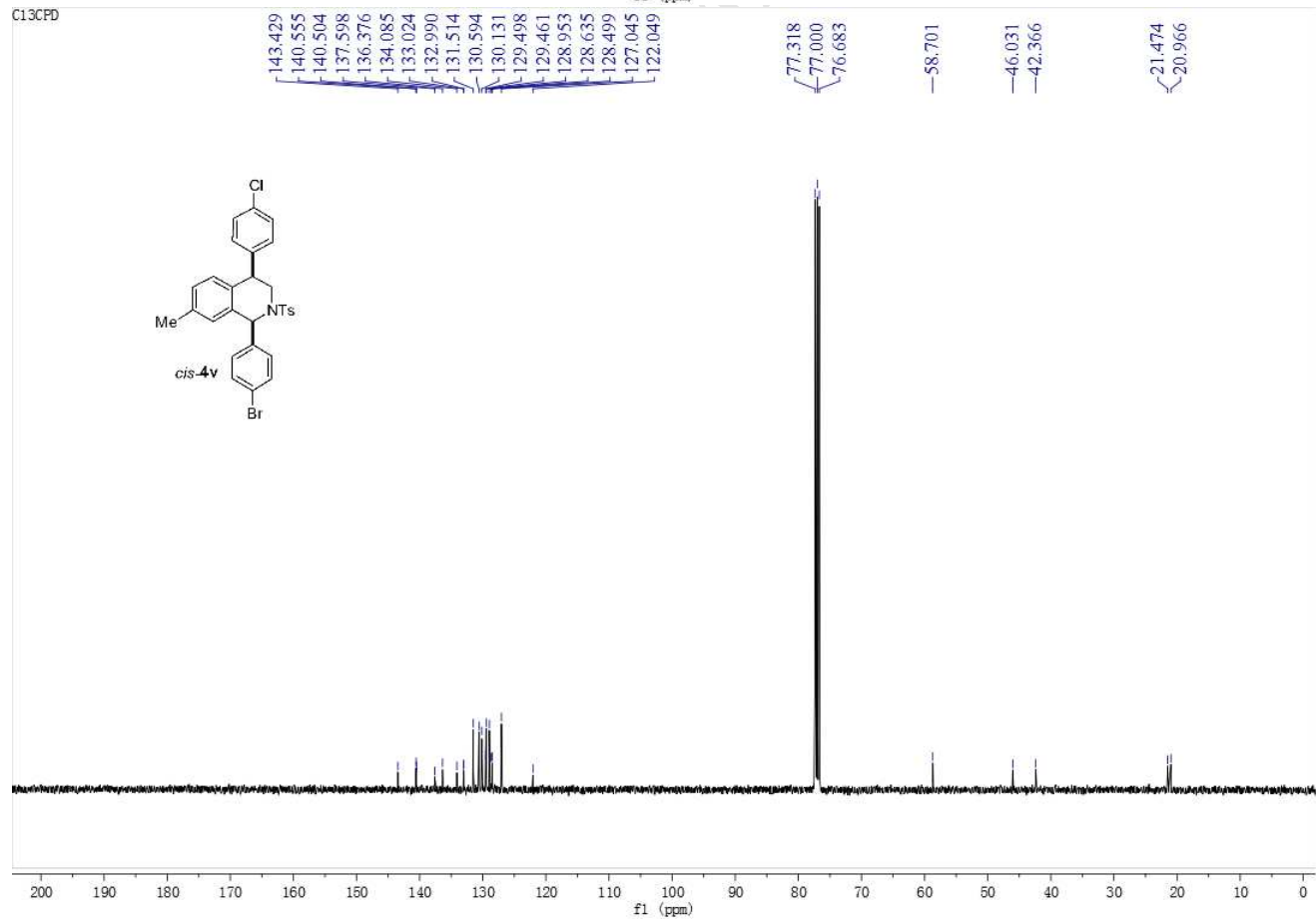
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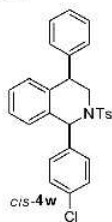
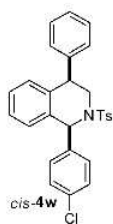
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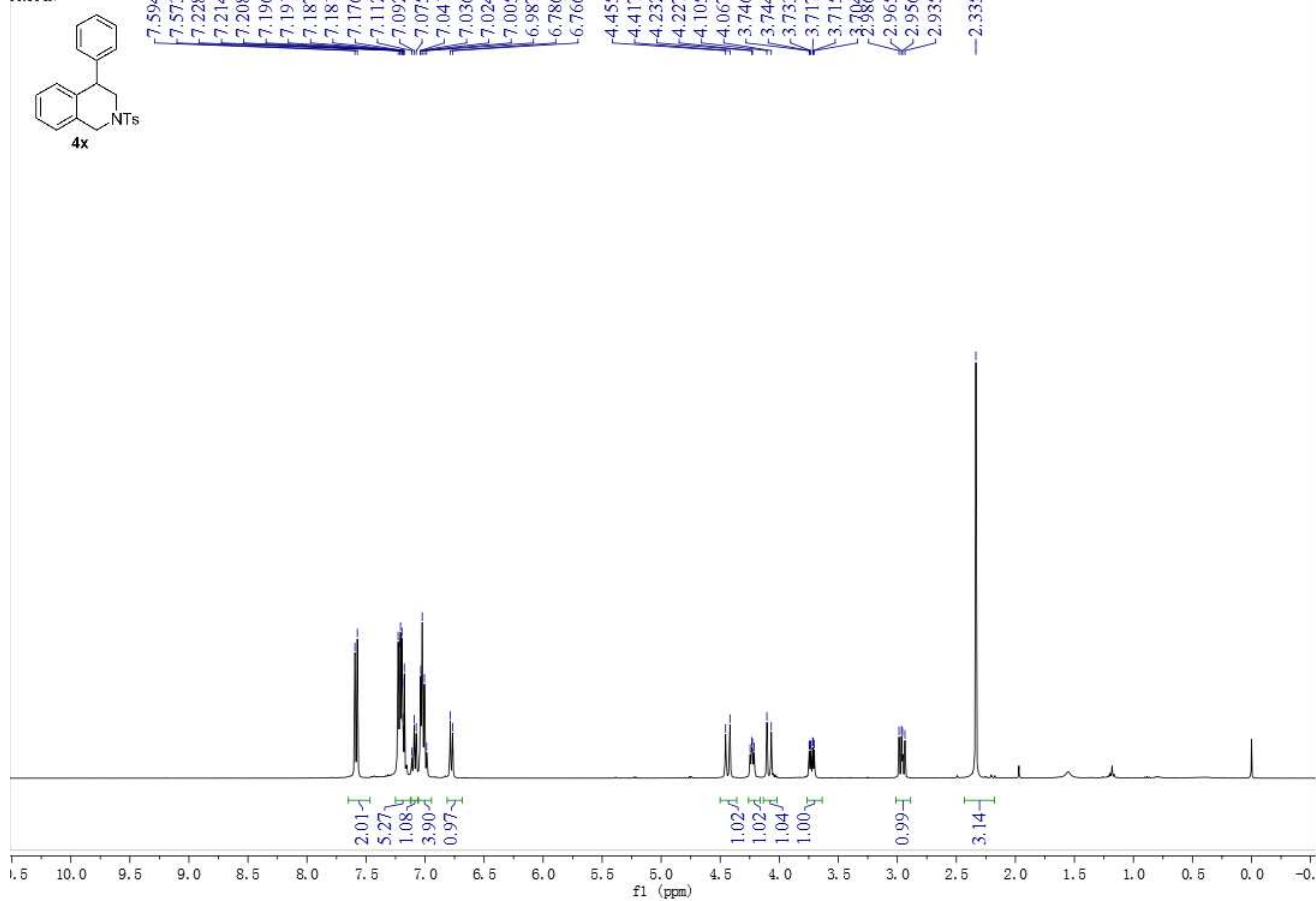
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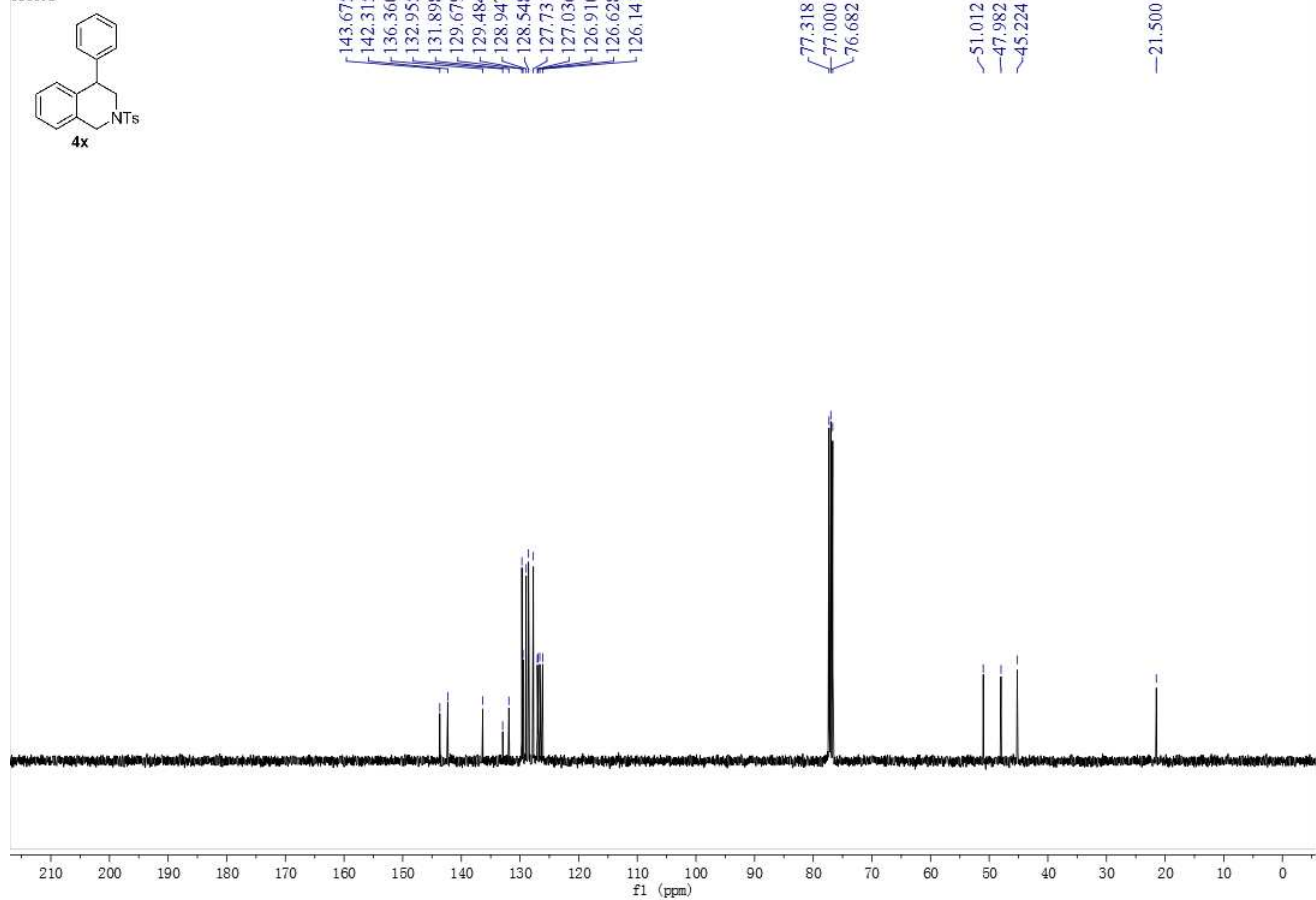


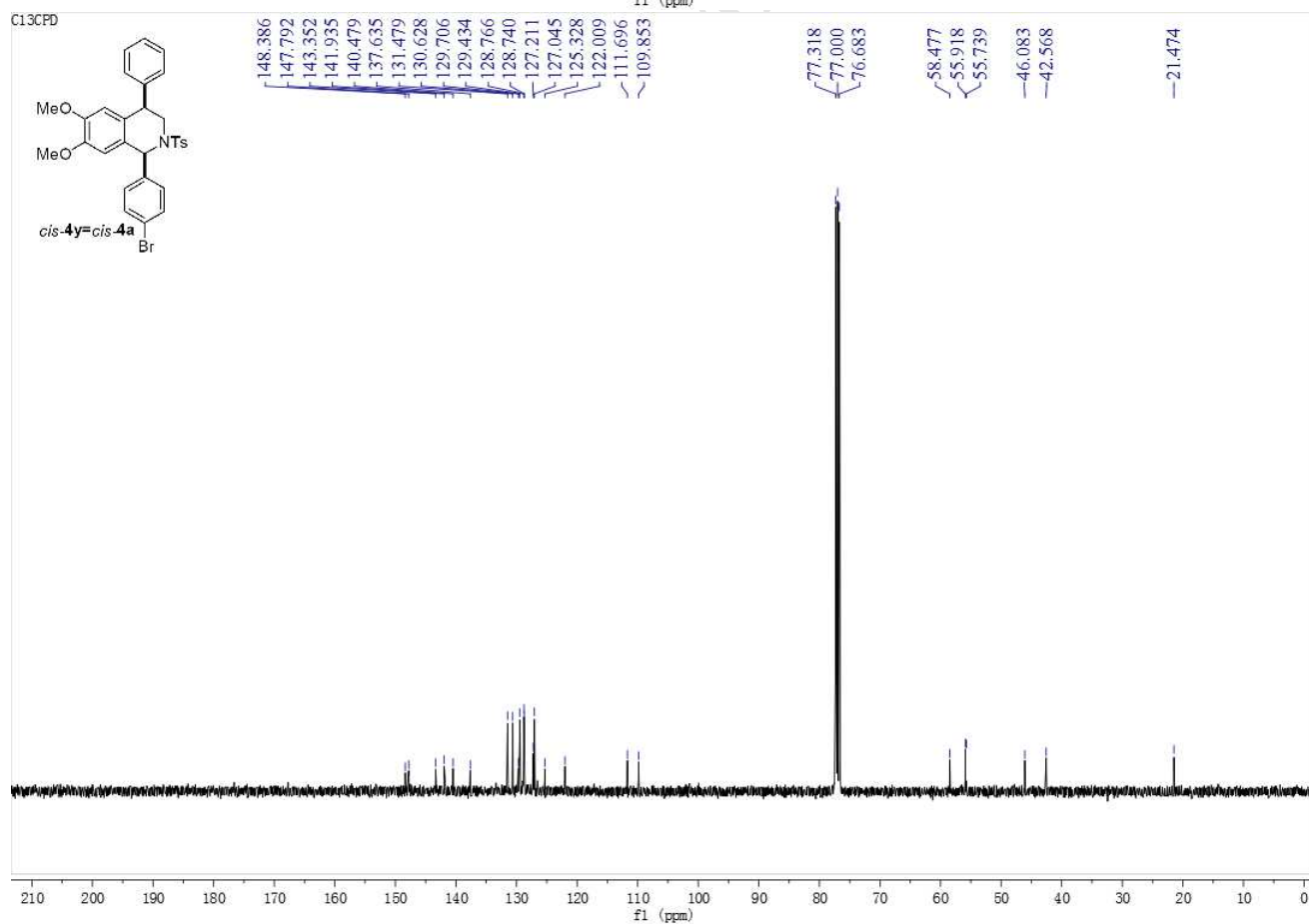
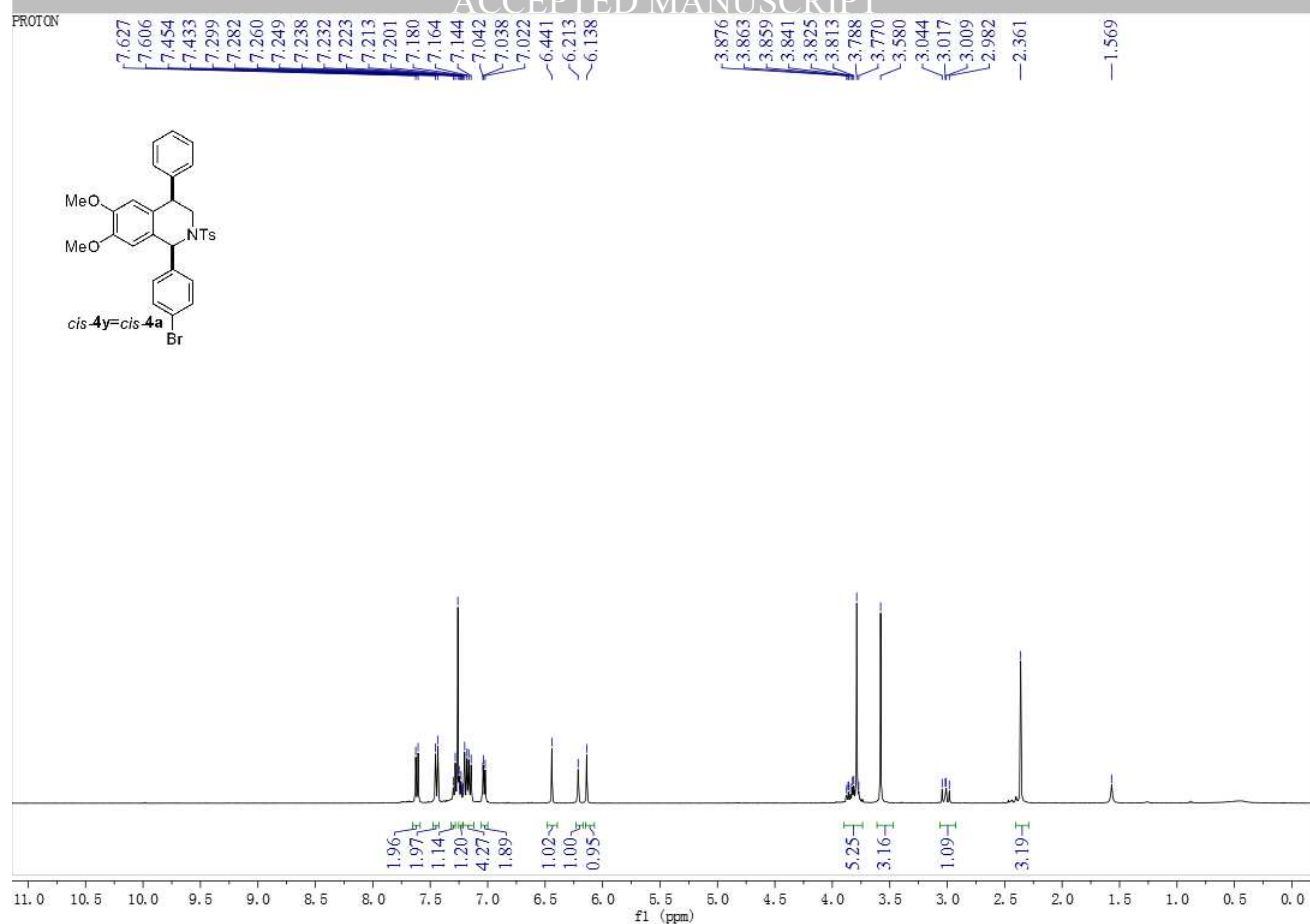


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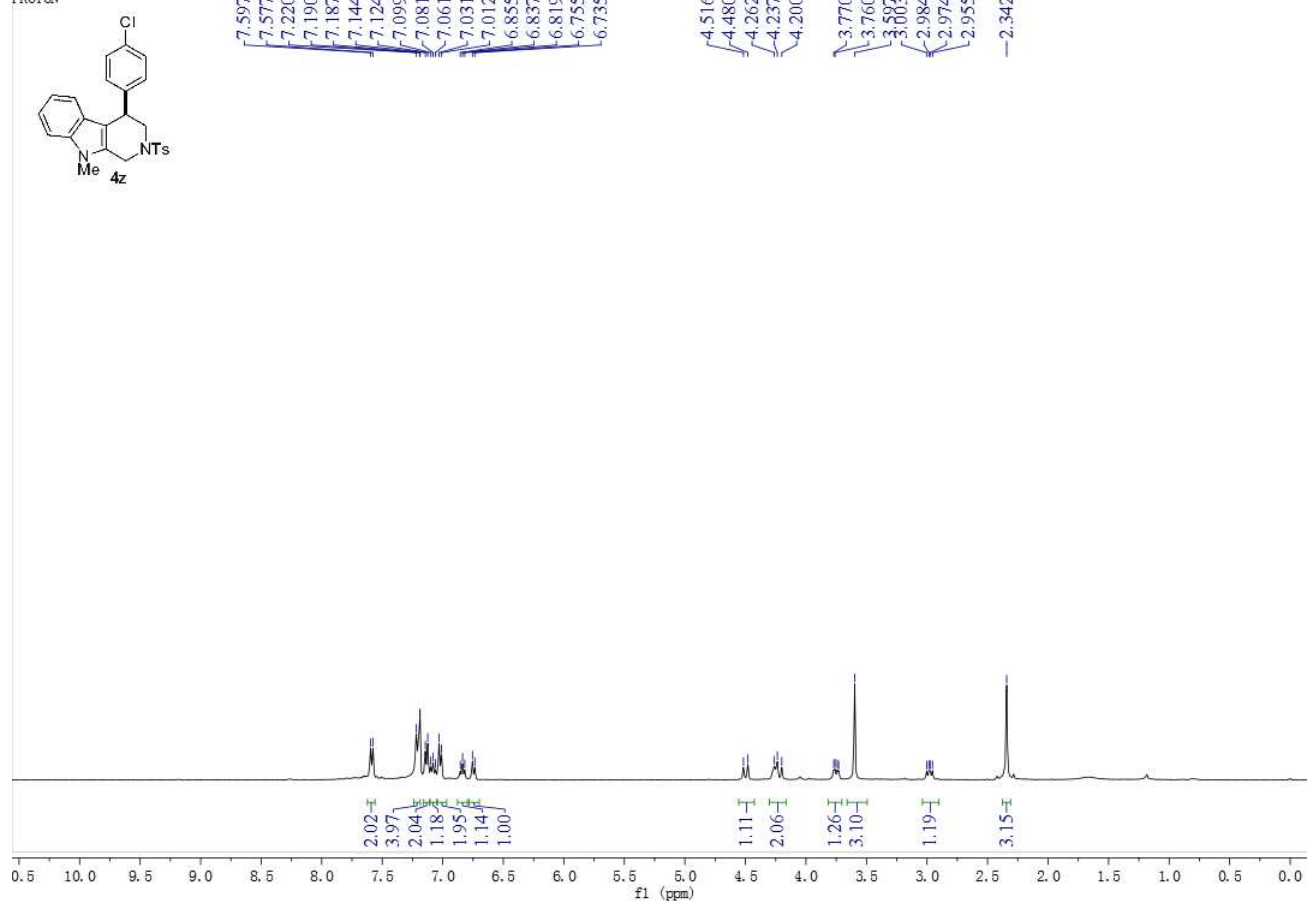


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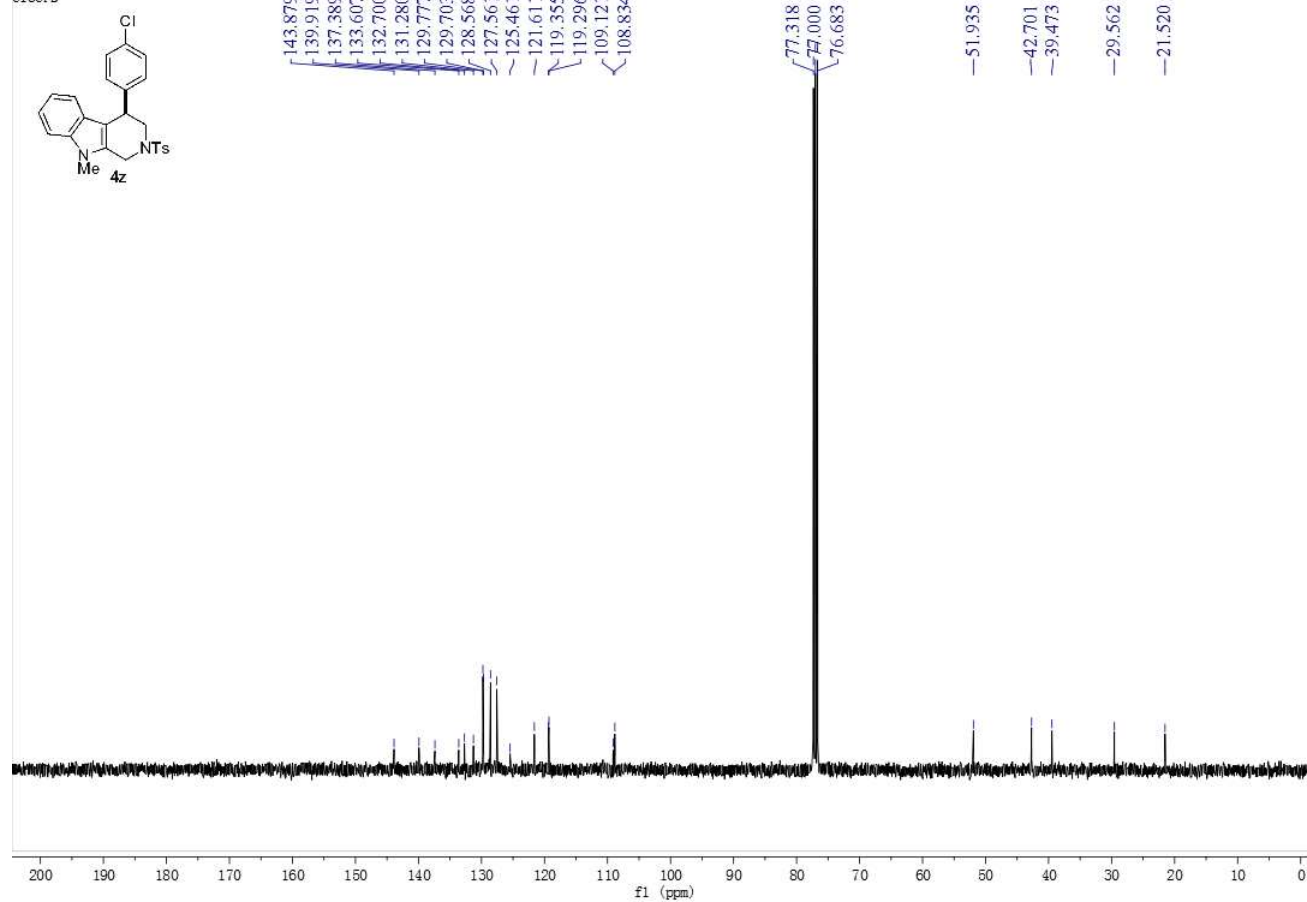


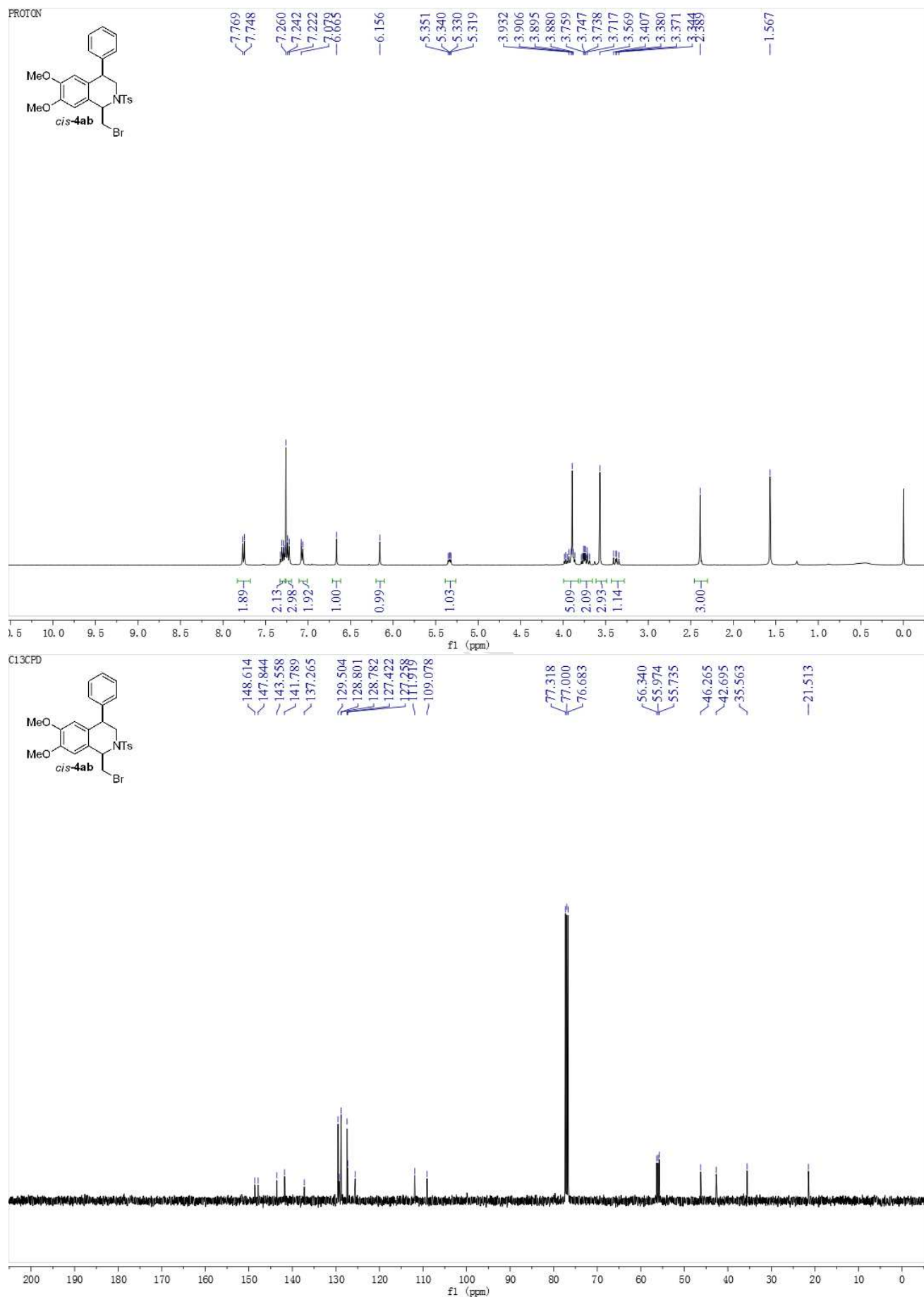


PROTON

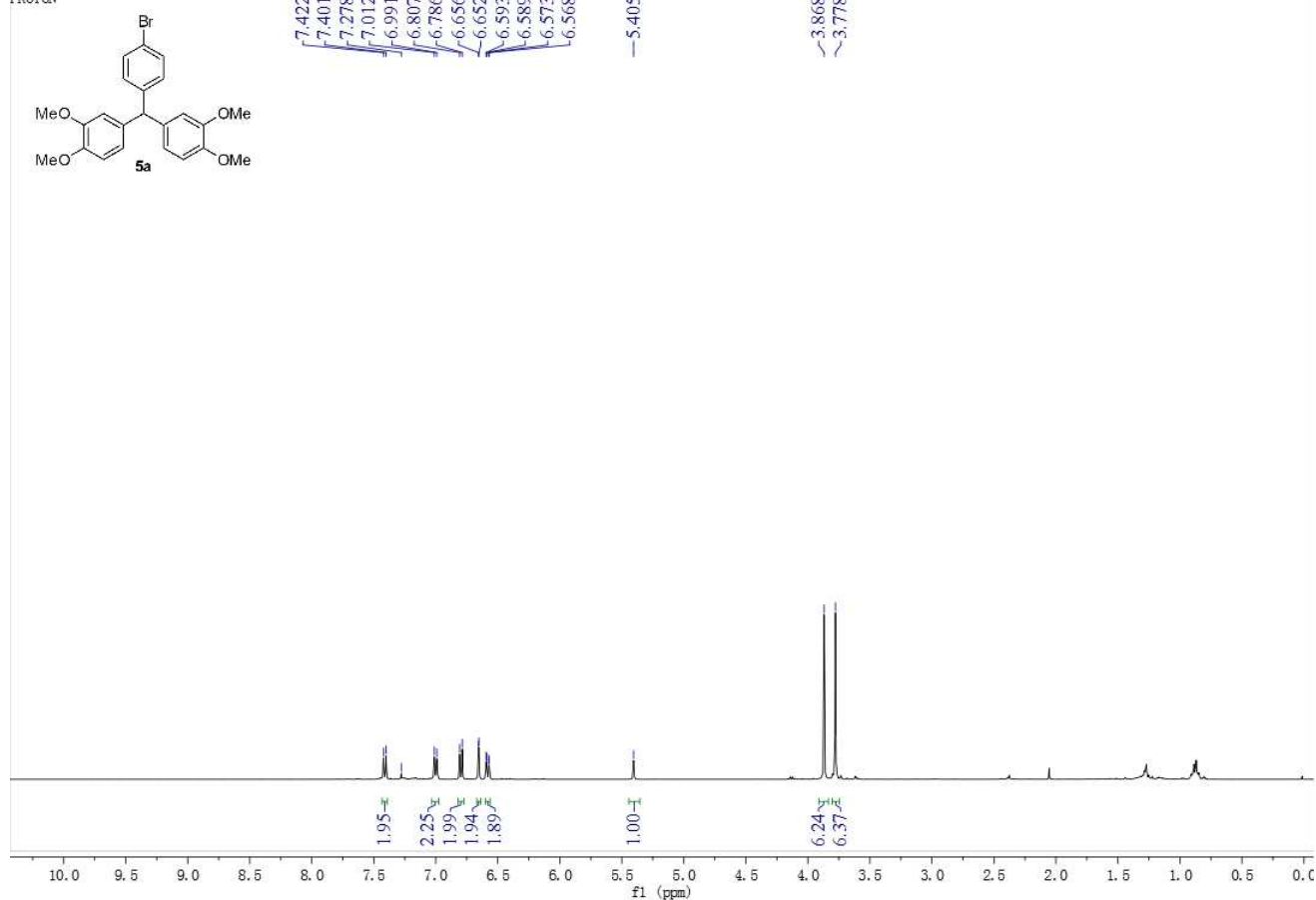


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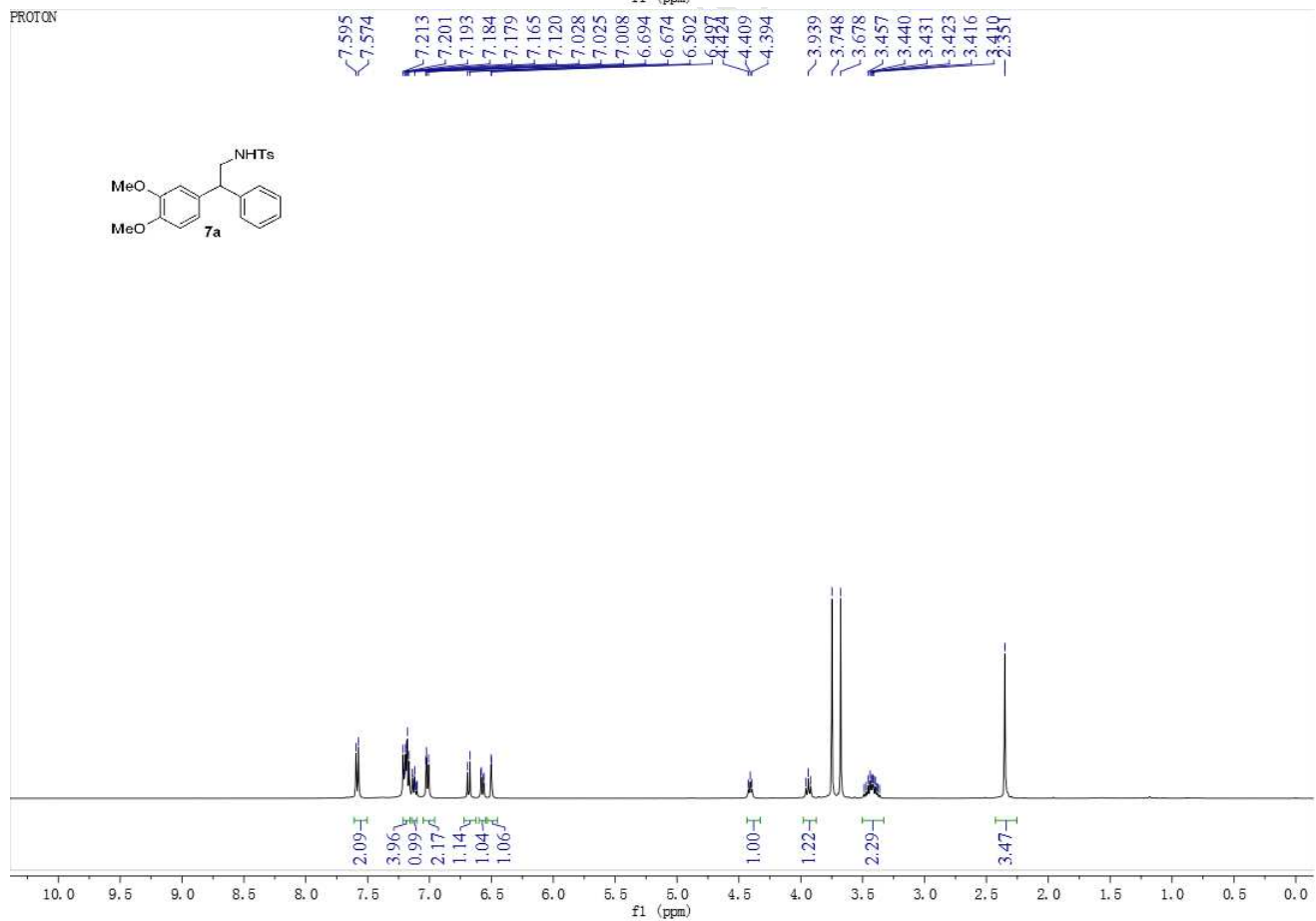




PROTON

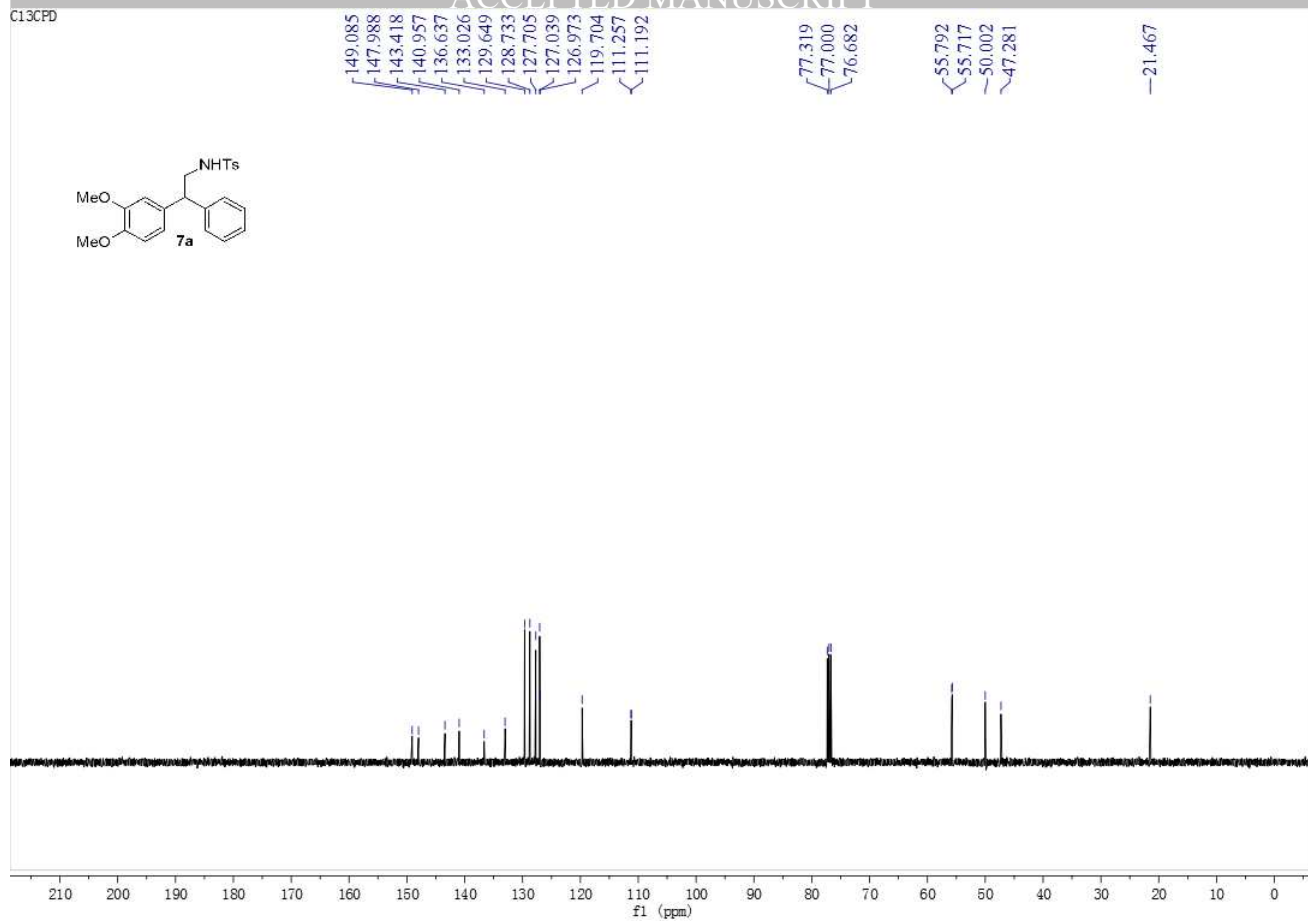


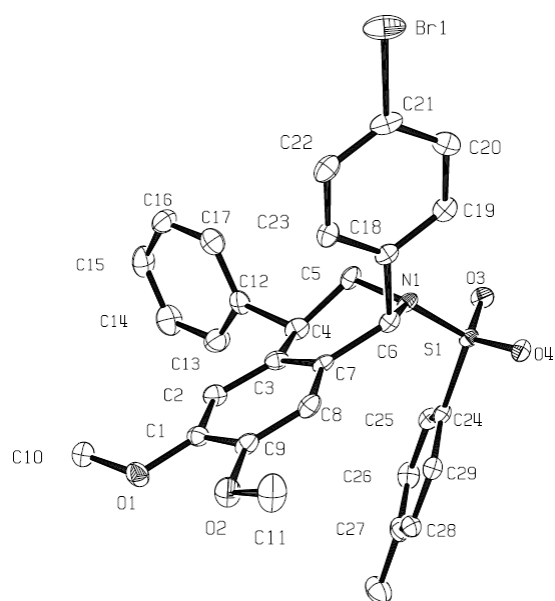
PROTON





C13CPD



ORTEP drawing of *cis-4a*ORTEP drawing of *cis-4f*