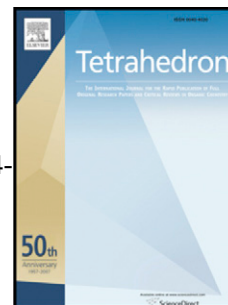


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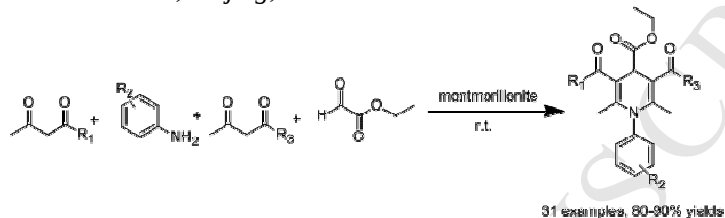
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ABSTRACT

Highly functionalized multi-substituted symmetric and asymmetric 1,4-dihydropyridines were concisely synthesized in moderate to good yields via one-pot multicomponent reactions (MCRs) of β -dicarbonyl compounds, aldehydes and amines at room temperature on montmorillonite. The merits of this method include the environmentally friendly reaction conditions, simple operation, broad substrate, satisfied yields and the reuse of the montmorillonite.

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1. Introduction

The 1,4-dihydropyridine (DHP) scaffold is not only a very useful reducing agent^{1,2} and synthetic intermediates,^{3,4} but also an important pharmacophore found in a large number of biologically active^{5,6} and potential therapeutic compounds.⁷ Their pharmacological activities include calcium channel blockers,⁸ multidrug-resistance (MDR) reversing agents,^{9,10} radioprotection,¹¹ HIV protease inhibition,¹² cocaine dependent regulator,¹³ TGF β signal inhibitors¹⁴ etc. Based on the existed experimental and SAR studies of DHP derivatives,¹⁵ most of the researches were focused on *N*-unsubstituted DHPs. However, the *N*-substituted DHPs with biological activity are attracted more attention recently. For example, *N*-acyloxy DHPs (Fig. 1, a)¹⁶ and *N*-substituted cage dimeric DHPs (Fig. 1, b)¹⁷ were synthesized as P-glycoprotein-mediated MDR-reversing agents, *N*-aryl substituted DHPs were verified as sirtuin activators and inhibitors (Fig. 1, c),¹⁸ and 1-phenyl-4-glycosyl-dihydropyridines were prepared as potent antileishmanial agents (Fig. 1, d).¹⁹

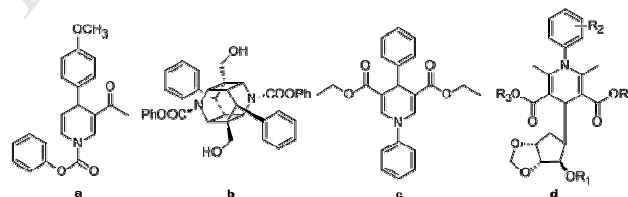


Figure 1. Representative *N*-substituted DHPs with biological activities

Hantzsch DHPs synthesis is one of the most broadly used methods for the preparation of DHPs. In order to improve the efficiency of Hantzsch DHPs synthesis, different catalysts have been explored and many of them exhibited excellent catalytic activity,²⁰⁻²³ such as L-proline,²⁴ S-Valin,²⁵ Yb(OTf)₃,²⁶ I₂,²⁷ TBAHS,²⁸ HOAc,²⁹ Et₃N,³⁰ DBU,³¹ Py³² and so on. Furthermore, along with the development of environmental consciousness in chemical research and industry, solvent-free reaction, microwave method,^{29,30,31} “grindstone chemistry” technique³³ and some efficient attempts have been used to build dihydropyridine scaffold.^{34,35} However, some drawbacks still exist, such as the use

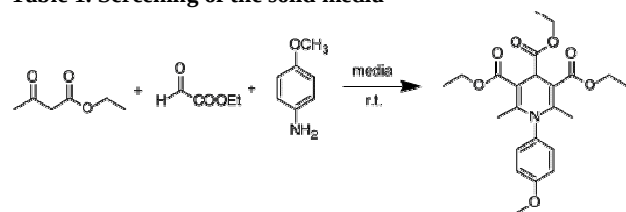
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of expensive or toxic catalyst, high reaction temperature, low yields or finite scope of substrates. Especially, the research on the synthesis of *N*-substituted DHPs is usually ignored.³⁶ Recently, Yan *et al.* reported an efficient multicomponent synthesis of *N*-substituted DHPs in EtOH.³⁷ As our continuing efforts to develop reactions in solid media,³⁸ we here report a practical synthesis of highly functionalized multi-substituted symmetric and asymmetric DHPs using montmorillonite K10 as solid-phase.

2. Results and discussion

Initially, the reaction of ethyl acetoacetate, ethyl glyoxalate and 4-methoxyaniline was chosen as a model to examine the effect of different solid media on the reaction (**Table 1**). To our delight, montmorillonite K10, as the best one among the screened six kinds of solid media, *i.e.* alkaline, acid and neutral Al₂O₃, silica gel, bentonite and montmorillonite K10, could generate the product in high yield (**Table 1**, entry 7, yield 82%) comparing to the solvent free system (**Table 1**, entry 1, yield 48%). Optimization for using amount of the montmorillonite K10 revealed that the best yield could be obtained when 0.75g montmorillonite K10 was used under the experimental scale (**Table 1**, entry 9, yield 86%).

Table 1. Screening of the solid media^a



Entry	Media	Media loading (g)	Yield (%) ^b
1	Solvent-free	--	48
2	Alkaline Al ₂ O ₃	1	41
3	Acid Al ₂ O ₃	1	28
4	Neutral Al ₂ O ₃	1	33
5	Silica gel	1	52
6	Bentonite	1	72
7	Montmorillonite K10	1	82
8	Montmorillonite K10	0.5	74
9	Montmorillonite K10	0.75	86
10	Montmorillonite K10	1.5	85

^a The reaction was conducted with ethyl acetoacetate (1 mmol), ethyl glyoxalate (0.5 mmol) and amine(0.5mmol) for 12h at r. t..

^b Isolated yields.

Having optimized the reaction conditions for the model system (**Table 1**, entry 9), the structurally diverse substrates were chosen to explore the scope and limitations of this protocol. As shown in **Table 2**, most scanned reactants afforded the corresponding DHPs in moderate to excellent yields. It was found that the steric hindrance of substrates influenced the

reaction yields significantly. For example, when para or meta position of aniline was substituted, whatever it is electron-withdrawing group or electron-donating group, the reaction were performed smoothly (**Table 2**, entries 1-4). Whereas, ortho substituted aniline wouldn't occur the reaction (**Table 2**, entry 5). Similarly, among all examined aromatic aldehydes (**Table 2**, entries 7-12), para substituted aromatic aldehydes gained higher yields compare to ortho substituted aromatic aldehydes. Also, tert-butyl 3-oxobutanoate, which owned bulky ester group, provided the lowest yield among the five tested esters (**Table 2**, entry 16, yield 65%). Moreover, when acetylacetone was used to replace β -carbonyl esters to react with ethyl glyoxalate and different aromatic aldehydes (**Table 2**, entries 18-24), the reactions were much easier to carry out, even aryl amine with strong electron-withdrawing group could achieve the moderate yield (**Table 2**, entry 24, yield 51%).

Next, based on the mechanism of DHPs synthesis, we envisaged that this protocol should be applied in the synthesis of asymmetric 1,4-dihydropyridines by choosing different β -dicarbonyl compounds and tandem multicomponent reactions (MCRs). Therefore, four-component tandem reactions of 1,3-diacetone, β -carbonyl ester, ethyl glyoxalate and 4-methoxyaniline were investigated under the optimized reaction conditions and the results are shown in **Table 3**. As expected, all asymmetric 1,4-dihydropyridine derivatives could be obtained in moderate to good yields through mixing the starting materials successively.

Finally, recyclability of montmorillonite K10 was examined through the reaction of ethyl acetoacetate, ethyl glyoxalate and 4-methoxyaniline in montmorillonite K10. As showed in **Table 4**, montmorillonite K10 can be easily recovered and reused at least 5 times without any significant loss of activity. Besides, the satisfied result was also obtained when the reaction was amplified to 5 times.

Table 4. Recycle of the montmorillonite

Entry	Recycle times	Yield (%)
1	0	86
2	1	85
3	2	85
4	3	81
5	4	78

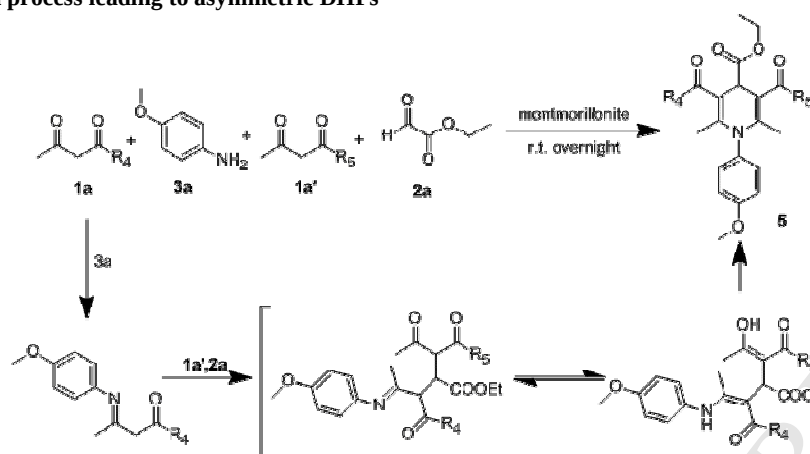
3. Conclusion

In conclusion, we have developed an efficient method for the synthesis of both symmetric and asymmetric 1, 4-dihydropyridine derivatives from the MCRs of β -dicarbonyl compounds with aldehyde and amine at room temperature by utilizing montmorillonite K10 as solid media. The advantages of this method include the environmentally friendly reaction conditions, simple operation, broad substrate scope, satisfied yields and reused montmorillonite K10. Thus, this method will be widely applied in the synthesis of diverse substituted 1, 4-dihydropyridine derivatives.

Table 2. Synthesis of the symmetric DHPs^a

Entry	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	Product	Yield(%) ^b
1	OEt	COOEt	4-CH ₃ Ph	4a	71
2	OEt	COOEt	Ph	4b	78
3	OEt	COOEt	4-ClPh	4c	77
4	OEt	COOEt	3-ClPh	4d	70
5	OEt	COOEt	2-ClPh	4e	0
6	OEt	COOEt	3,5-(CH ₃) ₂ Ph	4f	70
7	OEt	4-NO ₂ Ph	4-CH ₃ OPh	4g	82
8	OEt	4-ClPh	4-CH ₃ OPh	4h	76
9	OEt	Ph	4-CH ₃ OPh	4i	74
10	OEt	4-CH ₃ Ph	4-CH ₃ OPh	4j	75
11	OEt	2-CNPh	4-CH ₃ OPh	4k	65
12	OEt	2-thienyl	4-CH ₃ OPh	4l	85
13	OMe	COOEt	4-CH ₃ OPh	4m	89
14	OEt	COOEt	4-CH ₃ OPh	4n	86
15	i-PrO	COOEt	4-CH ₃ OPh	4o	81
16	t-BuO	COOEt	4-CH ₃ OPh	4p	65
17	OBz	COOEt	4-CH ₃ OPh	4q	76
18	Me	COOEt	4-CH ₃ OPh	4r	90
19	Me	COOEt	4-CH ₃ Ph	4s	86
20	Me	COOEt	Ph	4t	90
21	Me	COOEt	4-ClPh	4u	83
22	Me	COOEt	3-ClPh	4v	80
23	Me	COOEt	3,5-(CH ₃) ₂ Ph	4w	77
24	Me	COOEt	3-CF ₃ Ph	4x	51
25	Ph	COOEt	4-CH ₃ OPh	4y	83

^a The reaction was conducted with one pot method.^b Isolated yields.

Table 3. The tandem process leading to asymmetric DHPs^a

Entry	R ₄	R ₅	Product ^b	Yield(%) ^c
1	Me	OMe	5a	78
2	Me	OEt	5b	76
3	Me	i-PrO	5c	76
4	Me	t-BuO	5d	69
5	Ph	Me	5e	85
6	Ph	OMe	5f	78
7	Ph	OEt	5g	78

^a The reaction is conducted with tandem MCRs.^b These products are mixture of enantiomers.^c Isolated yields.

4. Experimental section

4.1. General experimental

Unless otherwise stated, all reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers (Aladdin) and were used without further purification. Melting point data were recorded on an X-4 micro-melting point instrument. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker ACF 500 (400MHz ¹H, 100MHz ¹³C), the spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ as a solvent at room temperature. HRMS was performed on a Bruker-APEX IV. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh).

4.2. General procedure for the synthesis of symmetric DHPs

A mixture of β-dicarbonyl compound **1** (1 mmol), amine **3** (0.5 mmol), aldehyde **2** (0.5 mmol) and the montmorillonite K-10 (0.75 g) was added into a small test tube and magnetically stirred at room temperature until the reaction was completed (TLC, 4-18h). The mixture was added ethyl acetate (5 mL), stirred and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was recrystallized in ethyl acetate/petroleum ether or purified by silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to give the corresponding products. The filter (montmorillonite K10) could be reused after dried and ground.

4.2.1. Triethyl 2,6-dimethyl-1-*p*-tolyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4,5-tricarboxylate(4a).

Yellow oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.22 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 7.0 Hz, 4H), 4.14 (m, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 6H), 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

173.88, 167.56, 149.01, 138.67, 137.48, 130.08, 129.97, 100.98, 60.60, 60.10, 40.06, 21.15, 18.20, 14.33, 14.25. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₃H₃₀NO₆ [M+H]⁺: 416.20676. Found: 416.20722.

4.2.2. Triethyl 2,6-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4,5-tricarboxylate(4b).

Yellow oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.23 (dt, *J* = 10.8, 3.7 Hz, 4H), 4.15 (m, 2H), 2.05 (s, 6H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.84, 167.52, 148.76, 140.21, 130.46, 129.37, 128.69, 101.20, 60.63, 60.14, 40.10, 18.21, 14.32, 14.24. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₇NO₆ [M+H]⁺: 402.19111. Found: 402.19084.

4.2.3. Triethyl 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4,5-tricarboxylate(4c).

Yellow oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 4.23 (m, 4H), 4.15 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.05 (s, 6H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.80, 167.34, 148.35, 138.76, 134.75, 131.82, 129.66, 101.81, 60.72, 60.24, 40.11, 18.14, 14.30, 14.23. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₆ClNNaO₆ [M+Na]⁺: 458.13409. Found: 458.13408.

4.2.4. Triethyl 1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4,5-tricarboxylate(4d).

Yellow oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 4.22 (m, 4H), 4.15 (m, 2H), 2.06 (s, 6H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.68, 167.32, 148.15, 141.40, 135.04, 130.77, 130.26, 129.15, 128.93, 101.92,

60.75, 60.25, 40.15, 18.14, 14.29, 14.22. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{22}H_{26}ClNNaO_6$ $[M+Na]^+$: 458.13409. Found: 458.13404.

4.2.5. Triethyl 1-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4,5-tricarboxylate(4f).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.79 (s, 2H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.23 (dd, J = 14.1, 7.1 Hz, 4H), 4.16 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 6H), 2.07 (s, 6H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 173.96, 167.64, 148.94, 139.92, 139.12, 130.26, 127.90, 100.79, 60.60, 60.08, 58.45, 40.11, 21.15, 18.26, 14.34. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{24}H_{32}NO_6$ $[M+H]^+$: 430.22241. Found: 430.22355; m/z calcd for $C_{24}H_{31}NNaO_6$ $[M+Na]^+$: 452.20436. Found: 452.20513.

4.2.6. Diethyl 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate(4g).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.18 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (dd, J = 21.9, 8.8 Hz, 4H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 4.17 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 6H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 167.60, 159.57, 154.60, 148.68, 132.54, 130.92, 129.98, 128.32, 123.45, 114.68, 104.66, 60.22, 55.55, 39.18, 18.73, 14.28. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{26}H_{29}N_2O_7$ $[M+H]^+$: 481.19693. Found: 481.19664.

4.2.7. Diethyl 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate(4h).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.17 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (dd, J = 23.5, 8.7 Hz, 4H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 6H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 167.60, 159.58, 154.63, 148.70, 146.43, 132.54, 130.94, 128.34, 123.46, 114.69, 104.66, 60.22, 55.55, 39.19, 18.74, 14.28. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{26}H_{29}ClNO_5$ $[M+H]^+$: 470.17288. Found: 470.17336.

4.2.8. Diethyl 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate(4i).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.40 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 6H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 168.18, 159.37, 147.78, 147.17, 133.03, 129.53, 128.85, 128.02, 127.51, 126.14, 114.48, 105.80, 59.94, 55.50, 38.77, 18.58, 14.26. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{26}H_{30}NO_5$ $[M+H]^+$: 436.21185. Found: 436.21189.

4.2.9. Diethyl 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-4-p-tolyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate(4j).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 6H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 168.21, 159.33, 147.69, 144.28, 135.58, 133.07, 130.98, 128.78, 127.39, 114.46, 105.87, 59.94, 55.52, 38.32, 21.10, 18.64, 14.30. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{27}H_{32}NO_5$ $[M+H]^+$: 450.22750. Found: 450.22849.

4.2.10. Diethyl 4-(2-cyanophenyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate(4k).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.60 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (m, 4H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 6H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 167.66, 159.55, 152.55, 148.53, 132.59, 131.98, 128.32, 119.24, 114.65, 109.88, 104.75,

60.17, 55.54, 39.30, 29.69, 18.70, 14.27. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{27}H_{29}N_2O_5$ $[M+H]^+$: 461.20710. Found: 461.20733.

4.2.11. Diethyl 4-(furan-2-yl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate(4l).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.28 (m, 1H), 6.04 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 4.20 (m, 4H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 6H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 167.75, 159.37, 158.68, 149.17, 140.95, 133.01, 131.31, 114.39, 110.05, 104.27, 102.86, 59.98, 55.48, 32.93, 18.29, 14.31. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{24}H_{28}NO_6$ $[M+H]^+$: 426.19111. Found: 426.19063.

4.2.12. 4-Ethyl 3,5-dimethyl 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4,5-tricarboxylate(4m).

Yellow crystal, mp: 101.6-103.1 °C, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.08 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.14 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 2.07 (s, 6H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 173.59, 167.91, 159.47, 149.68, 132.61, 131.26, 114.45, 100.70, 60.68, 55.48, 51.40, 39.91, 18.15, 14.20. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{26}NO_7$ $[M+H]^+$: 404.10738. Found: 404.17082.

4.2.13. Triethyl 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4,5-tricarboxylate(4n).

Yellow crystal, mp: 108.2-109.5 °C, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.10 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.23 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.06 (s, 6H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 173.90, 167.56, 159.42, 149.27, 132.77, 131.32, 114.41, 101.10, 60.60, 60.11, 55.49, 40.08, 18.17, 14.32, 14.24. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{25}H_{30}NO_7$ $[M+H]^+$: 432.20168. Found: 432.20124.

4.2.14. 4-Ethyl 3,5-diisopropyl 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4,5-tricarboxylate(4o).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.10 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.15 – 5.02 (m, 2H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 6H), 1.32 – 1.26 (m, 15H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 174.06, 167.12, 159.38, 148.87, 132.86, 131.37, 114.37, 101.45, 67.37, 60.55, 55.48, 40.23, 22.01, 21.87, 18.13, 14.29. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{25}H_{34}NO_7$ $[M+H]^+$: 460.23298. Found: 460.23410.

4.2.15. 3,5-Di-tert-butyl 4-ethyl 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4,5-tricarboxylate(4p).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.09 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 6H), 1.51 (s, 18H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 174.15, 166.94, 159.30, 148.28, 133.01, 131.44, 114.31, 102.42, 79.94, 60.47, 55.46, 40.86, 28.23, 17.99, 14.37. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{27}H_{38}NO_7$ $[M+H]^+$: 488.26428. Found: 488.26451.

4.2.16. 3,5-Dibenzyl 4-ethyl 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4,5-tricarboxylate(4q).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.44 – 7.38 (m, 4H), 7.37 – 7.30 (m, 6H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.22 (dd, J = 29.4, 12.8 Hz, 4H), 5.04 (s, 1H), 4.08 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 6H), 1.13 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 173.79, 167.09, 159.49, 150.16, 136.60, 132.58, 131.24, 128.38, 127.75, 127.67, 114.47, 100.72,

65.91, 60.71, 55.50, 39.90, 18.25, 14.10. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{33}H_{34}NO_7$ $[M+H]^+$: 556.23298. Found: 556.23300.

4.2.17. Ethyl 3,5-diacetyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-4-carboxylate (4r).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.06 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 4.14 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 6H), 2.01 (s, 6H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.97, 172.98, 159.57, 148.49, 132.29, 131.08, 114.55, 110.25, 61.09, 55.50, 40.97, 30.14, 18.88, 14.18. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{26}NO_5$ $[M+H]^+$: 372.18055. Found: 372.18063.

4.2.18. Ethyl 3,5-diacetyl-2,6-dimethyl-1-*p*-tolyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-4-carboxylate (4s).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.22 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 4.14 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 6H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 6H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.96, 172.95, 148.21, 138.95, 137.06, 130.09, 129.81, 110.15, 61.07, 40.97, 30.15, 21.14, 18.92, 14.18. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{26}NO_4$ $[M+H]^+$: 356.18563. Found: 356.18629.

4.2.19. Ethyl 3,5-diacetyl-2,6-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-4-carboxylate (4t).

Yellow solid, mp: 77.2-79.9°C, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.43 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.74 (s, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 6H), 2.01 (s, 6H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.95, 172.92, 147.95, 139.79, 130.20, 129.51, 128.93, 110.27, 61.12, 41.00, 30.16, 18.92, 14.19. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{24}NO_4$ $[M+H]^+$: 342.16998. Found: 342.17043.

4.2.20. Ethyl 3,5-diacetyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-4-carboxylate (4u).

Yellow solid, mp: 79.5-81.1°C, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.41 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.70 (s, 1H), 4.14 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 6H), 1.99 (s, 6H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.88, 172.81, 147.49, 138.31, 134.96, 131.59, 129.76, 110.64, 61.20, 40.99, 30.11, 18.81, 14.17. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{23}ClNO_4$ $[M+H]^+$: 376.13101. Found: 376.13125.

4.2.21. Ethyl 3,5-diacetyl-1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-4-carboxylate (4v).

Yellow oil. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.12 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 4.17 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 6H), 2.02 (s, 6H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.96, 172.77, 147.31, 140.98, 135.19, 130.55, 130.40, 129.38, 128.71, 110.75, 61.27, 41.04, 30.15, 18.85, 14.18. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{23}ClNO_4$ $[M+H]^+$: 376.13101. Found: 376.13143.

4.2.22. Ethyl 3,5-diacetyl-1-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-4-carboxylate (4w).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.05 (s, 1H), 6.77 (s, 2H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 4.18 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 6H), 2.35 (s, 6H), 2.04 (s, 6H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 198.06, 173.04, 148.16, 139.54, 139.32, 130.51, 127.65, 110.01, 61.10, 41.01, 30.18, 21.17, 19.03, 14.20. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{22}H_{28}NO_4$ $[M+H]^+$: 370.20128. Found: 370.20193.

4.2.23. Ethyl 3,5-diacetyl-2,6-dimethyl-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1,4-dihydropyridine-4-carboxylate (4x).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.72 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (s, 1H), 4.19 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 6H), 2.00 (s, 6H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 198.00, 172.73, 147.07, 140.54, 133.92, 132.41, 130.29, 127.34, 127.30, 127.27, 127.23, 125.96, 125.92, 125.89, 125.85, 111.03, 61.34, 41.12, 30.13, 18.87, 14.15. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{23}F_3NO_4$ $[M+H]^+$: 410.15737. Found: 410.15811.

4.2.24. Ethyl 3,5-dibenzoyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-4-carboxylate (4y).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.83 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.67 (s, 1H), 4.08 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 6H), 1.14 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.06, 172.66, 159.50, 145.46, 139.82, 132.50, 131.95, 131.17, 128.82, 128.53, 114.48, 109.29, 60.96, 55.50, 44.03, 19.69, 14.02. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{31}H_{30}NO_5$ $[M+H]^+$: 496.21185. Found: 496.21119.

4.3. General procedure for the synthesis of asymmetric DHPs

A mixture of β -dicarbonyl compound **1a** (0.5mmol), amine **3a** (0.5mmol) and the montmorillonite K-10 (0.75g) was added into a small test tube and magnetically stirred at room temperature for 6h, then the other β -dicarbonyl compound **1a'** (0.5mmol) and aldehyde **2a** (0.5mmol) was added and stirred overnight. The mixture was added ethyl acetate (5 mL), stirred and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was recrystallized in ethyl acetate/petroleum ether or purified by silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to give the corresponding product. The filter (montmorillonite K10) could be reused after dried and ground.

4.3.1. 4-Ethyl 3-methyl 5-acetyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (5a).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.05 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.76 (s, 1H), 4.14 (qd, J = 7.1, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 198.89, 173.18, 167.66, 159.48, 150.14, 148.03, 132.38, 131.16, 114.47, 109.42, 100.59, 60.94, 55.48, 51.53, 40.71, 29.87, 18.68, 18.18, 14.19. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{26}NO_6$ $[M+H]^+$: 388.17546. Found: 388.17661.

4.3.2. Diethyl 5-acetyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (5b).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.06 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.78 (s, 1H), 4.17 (m, 4H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.98 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.24 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 198.88, 173.29, 167.23, 159.48, 149.71, 148.12, 132.47, 131.18, 114.46, 109.38, 101.06, 60.88, 60.23, 55.47, 40.81, 29.81, 18.67, 18.14, 14.32, 14.20. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{22}H_{28}NO_6$ $[M+H]^+$: 402.19111. Found: 402.19233.

4.3.3. 4-Ethyl 3-isopropyl 5-acetyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (5c).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.07 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 5.08 (m, 1H), 4.76 (s, 1H), 4.14 (qd, J = 7.1, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.98 (s, 3H), 1.26 (m, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 198.88, 173.37, 166.78, 159.45, 149.29, 148.25, 132.50, 131.20, 114.43, 109.27, 101.51, 67.58, 60.86, 55.48, 40.87, 29.84, 22.03, 21.91,

18.72, 18.14, 14.24. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{23}H_{30}NO_6$ $[M+H]^+$: 416.20676. Found: 416.20738.

4.3.4. 3-tert-Butyl 4-ethyl 5-acetyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate(5d).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.08 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 4.17 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.52 (s, 9H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 198.85, 173.45, 166.66, 159.43, 148.50, 148.40, 132.62, 131.26, 114.42, 109.03, 102.86, 80.42, 60.84, 55.48, 41.22, 29.80, 28.28, 18.74, 18.09, 14.27. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{24}H_{32}NO_6$ $[M+H]^+$: 430.22241. Found: 430.22320.

4.3.5. Ethyl 3-acetyl-5-benzoyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-4-carboxylate(5e).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.80 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.67 (s, 1H), 4.16 (qd, J = 7.1, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 198.47, 196.79, 172.87, 159.55, 149.20, 145.78, 139.79, 132.35, 132.08, 131.10, 128.89, 128.56, 114.52, 110.25, 108.46, 61.10, 55.51, 42.59, 29.97, 29.69, 19.81, 18.88, 14.15. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{26}H_{28}NO_5$ $[M+H]^+$: 434.19620. Found: 434.19650.

4.3.6. 4-Ethyl 3-methyl 5-benzoyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate(5f).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.82 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.74 (s, 1H), 4.09 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.58 (s, 3H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.33, 173.01, 167.88, 159.47, 150.72, 143.67, 139.16, 132.58, 132.18, 131.22, 128.97, 128.53, 114.47, 110.14, 99.10, 60.82, 55.49, 51.42, 51.34, 42.33, 29.69, 19.24, 18.30, 18.17, 14.09. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{26}H_{28}NO_6$ $[M+H]^+$: 450.19111. Found: 450.19231.

4.3.7. Diethyl 5-benzoyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (5g).

Yellow oil, 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.82 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 4.17 (qd, J = 7.1, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (q, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.31, 173.17, 167.40, 159.44, 150.38, 143.78, 139.19, 132.63, 132.16, 131.23, 128.98, 128.50, 114.45, 109.99, 99.53, 77.40, 77.08, 76.76, 60.76, 60.01, 55.48, 42.37, 19.32, 18.26, 14.30, 14.10. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{27}H_{30}NO_6$ $[M+H]^+$: 463.20676. Found: 464.20783.

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Supplementary Material

The original data of 1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR of all products are supplied. The supplementary data files are to be used as an aid for the refereeing of the paper only.

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Supporting Information

Multicomponent reaction leading to symmetric and asymmetric highly functionalized multi-substituted 1, 4-dihydropyridines on montmorillonite

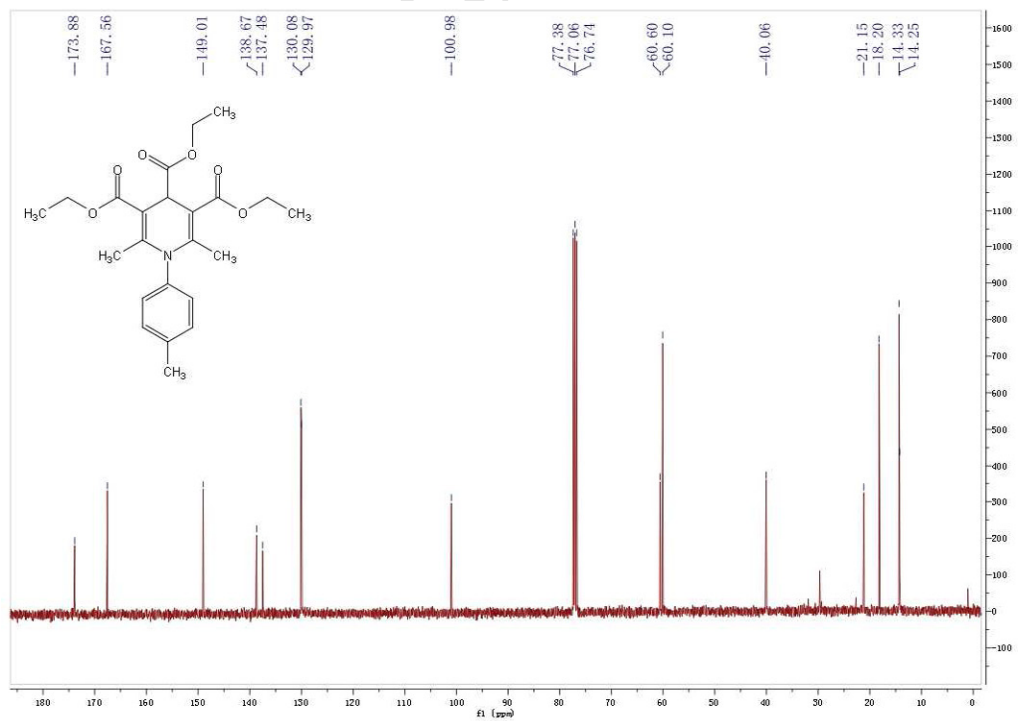
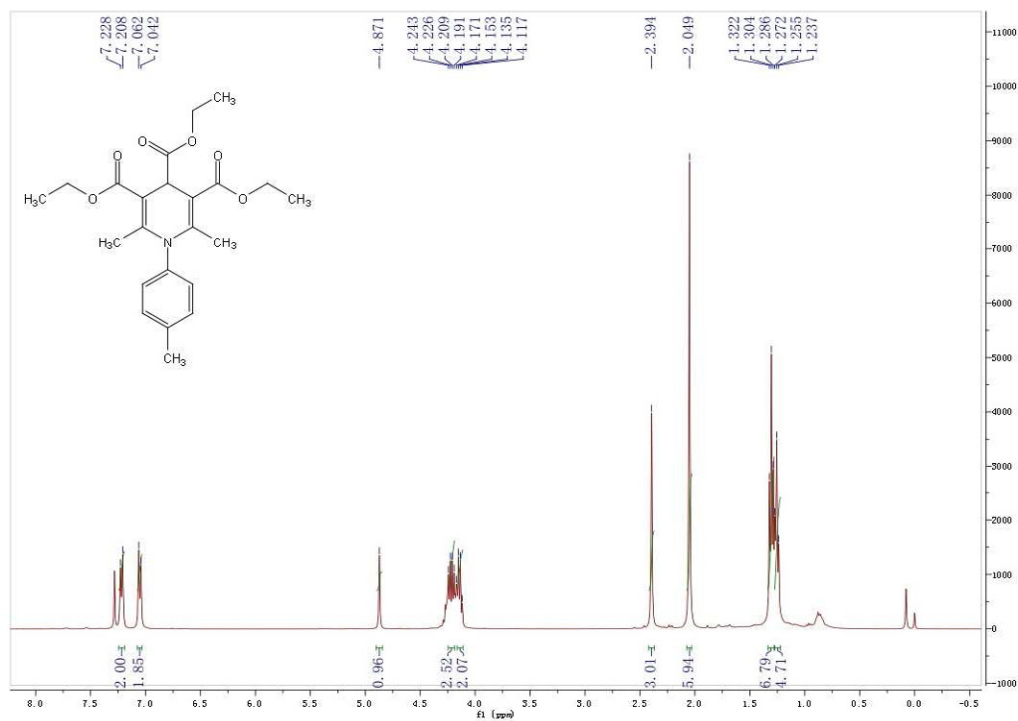
Yu-peng Liu, Jin-ming Liu, Xin Wang^{*}, Tieming Cheng, Run-tao Li^{*}

State Key Laboratory of Natural and Biomimetic Drugs, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Peking University, Beijing 100191, PR China

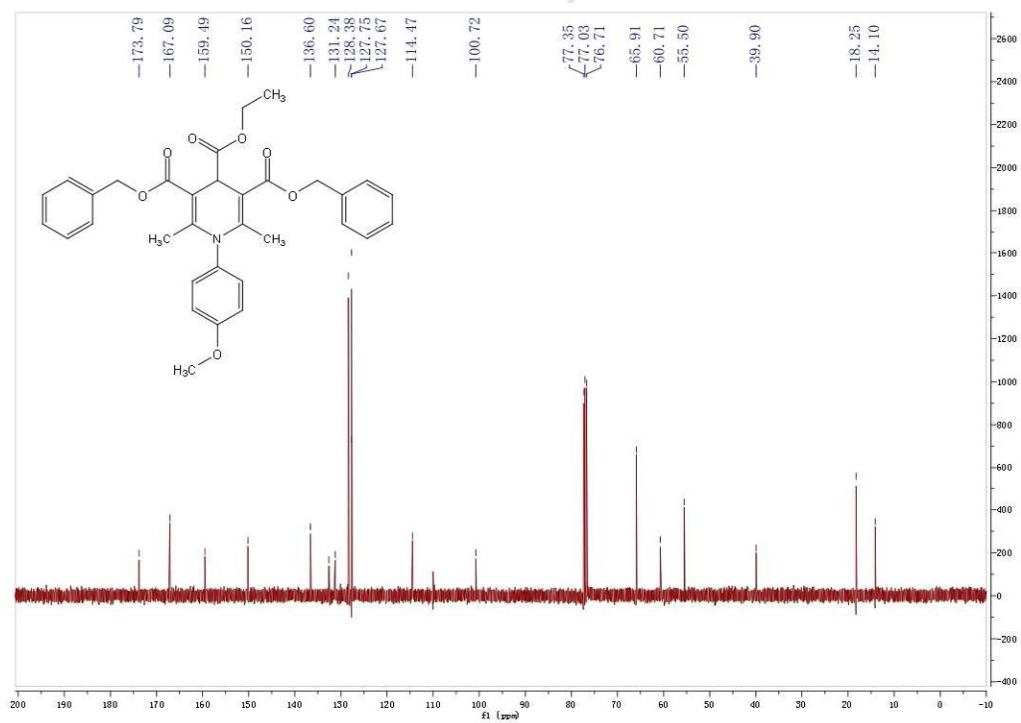
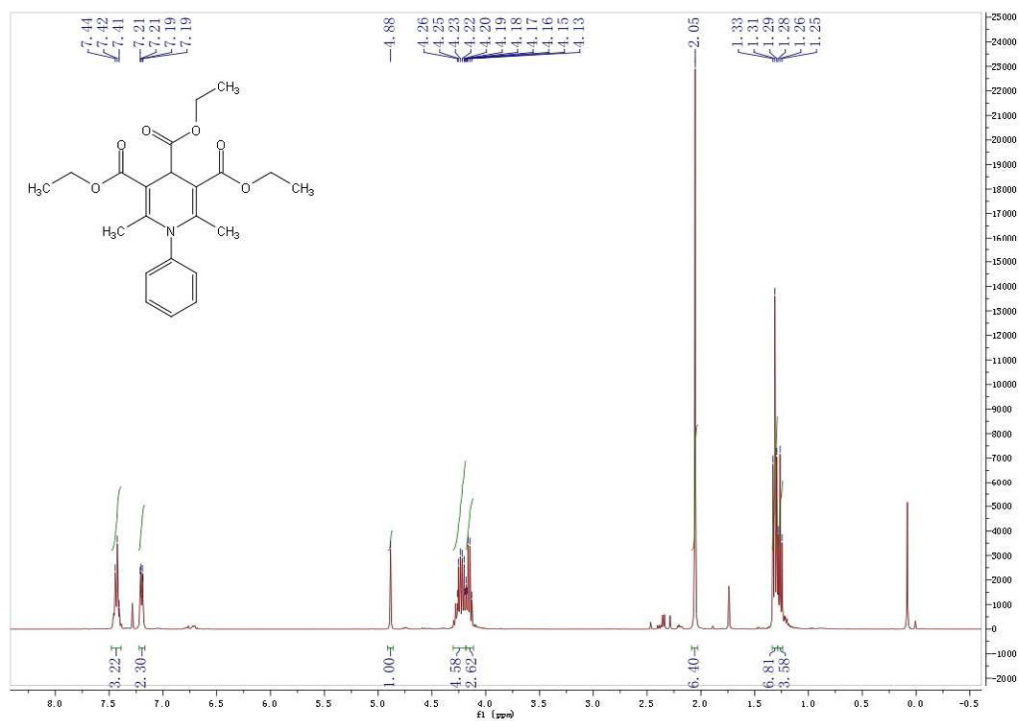
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NMR spectra for all compounds

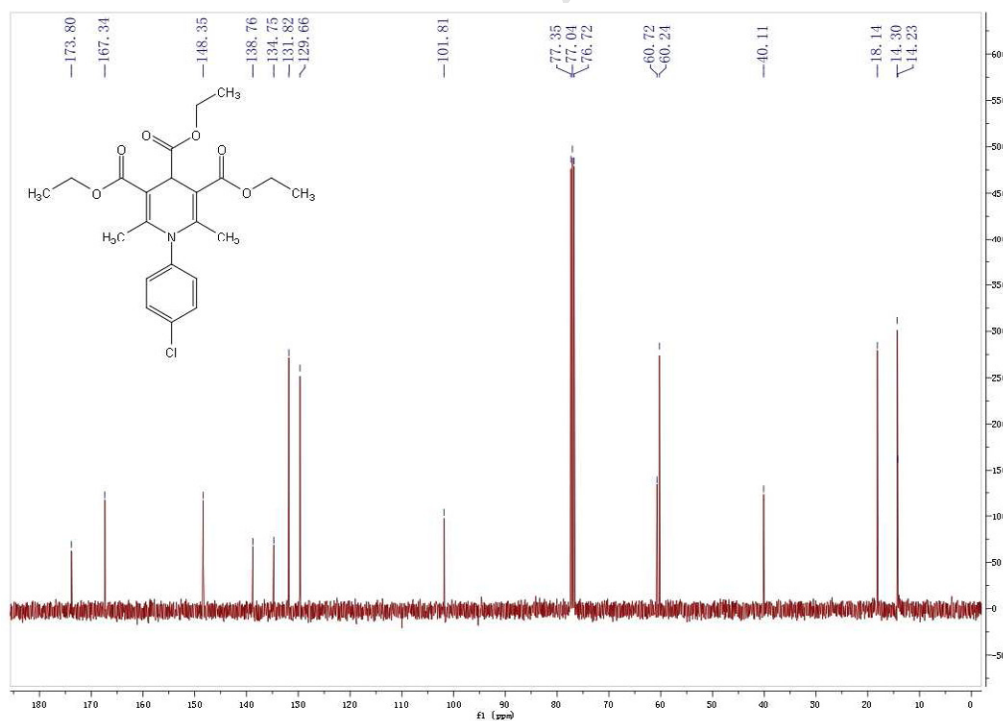
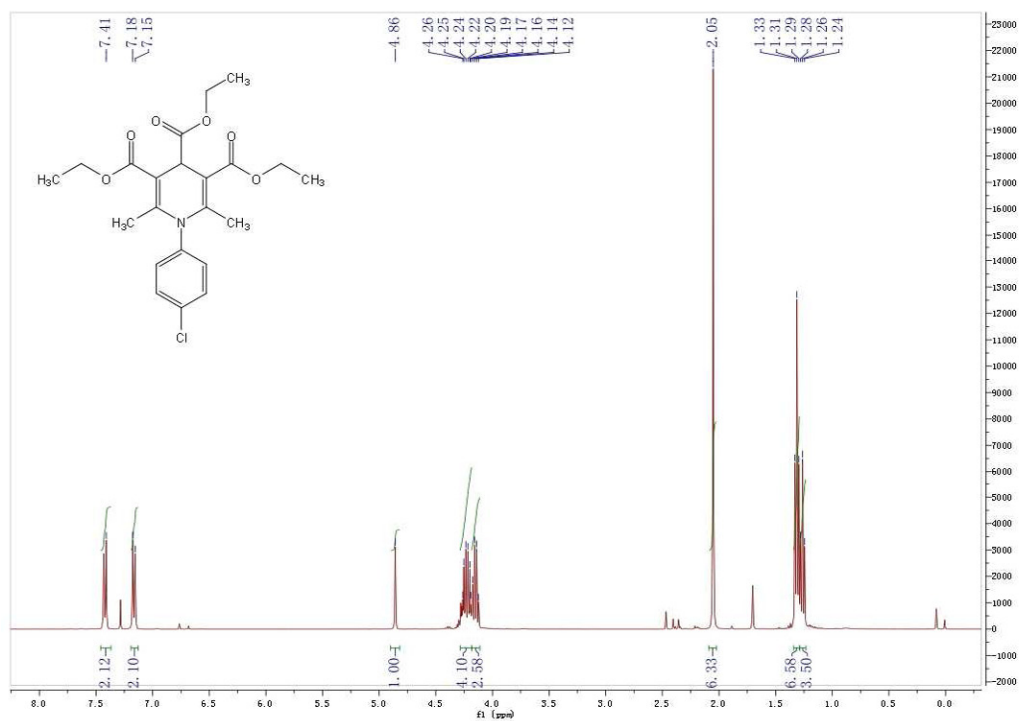
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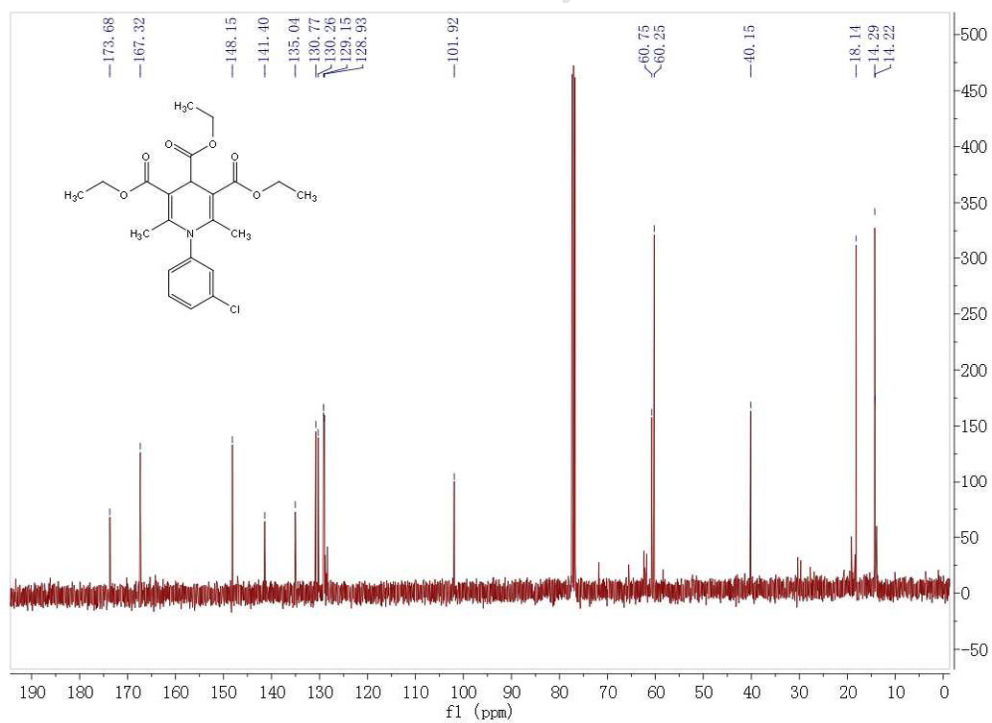
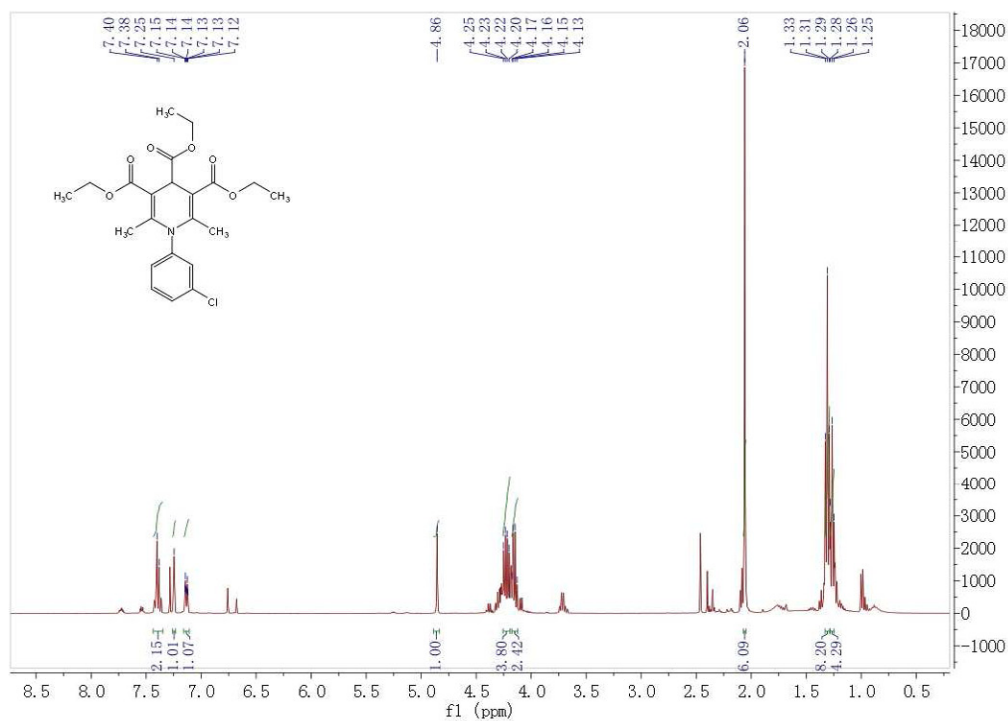
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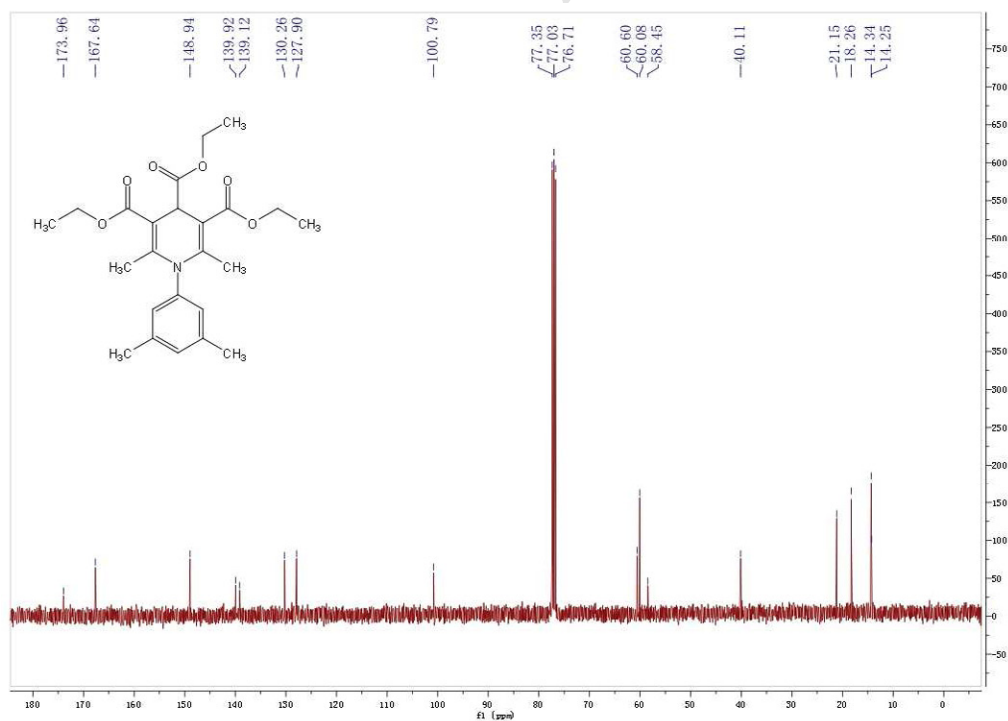
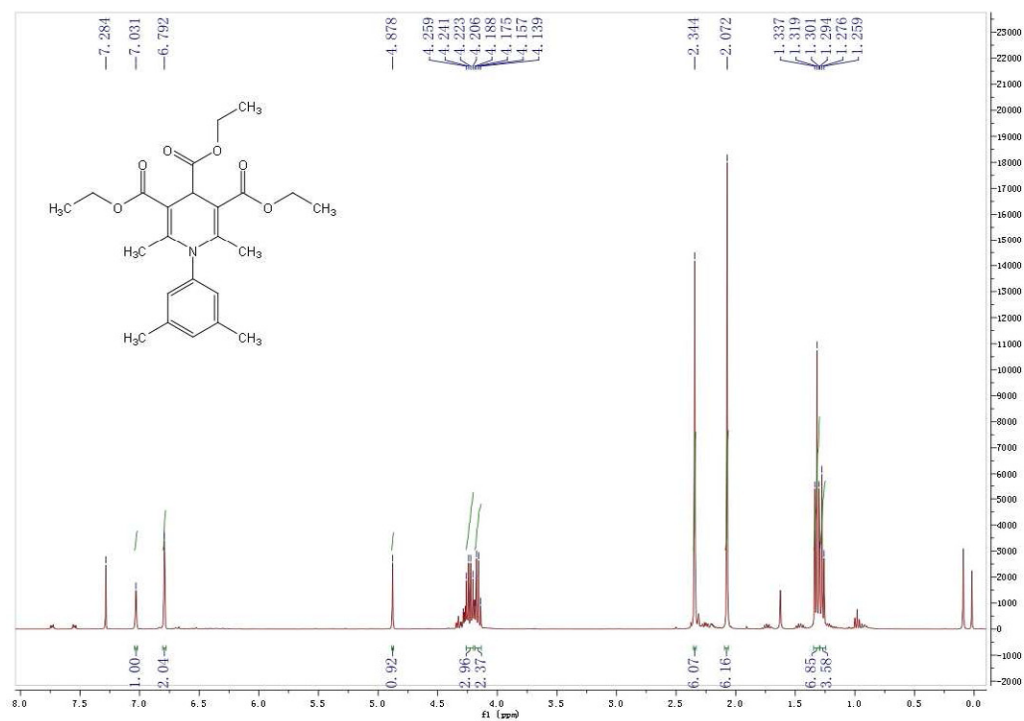
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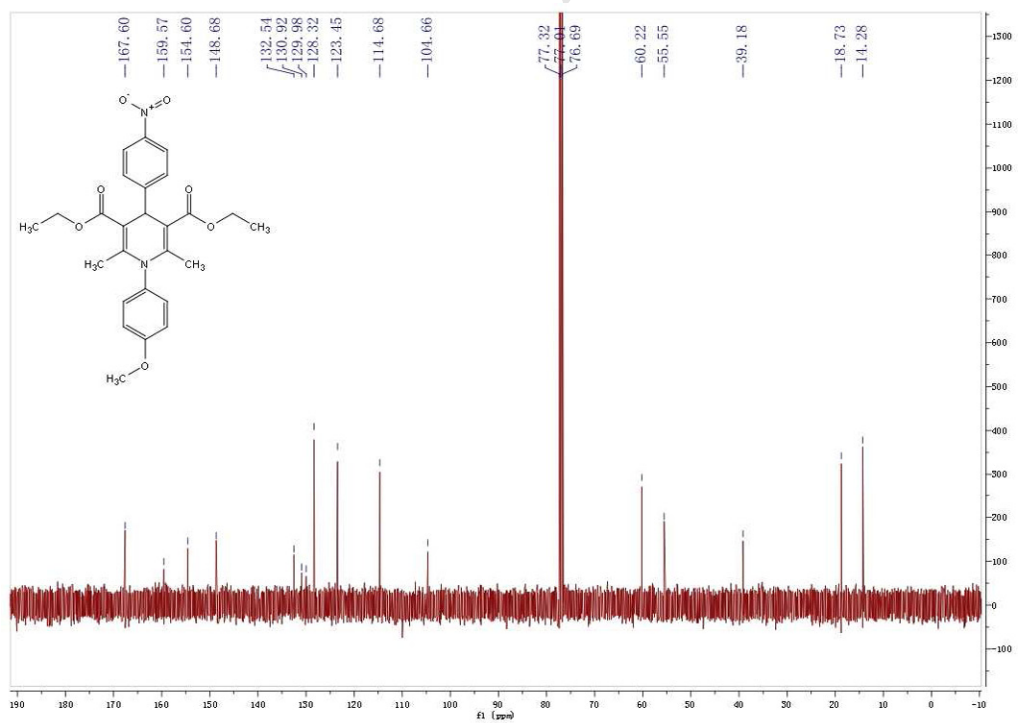
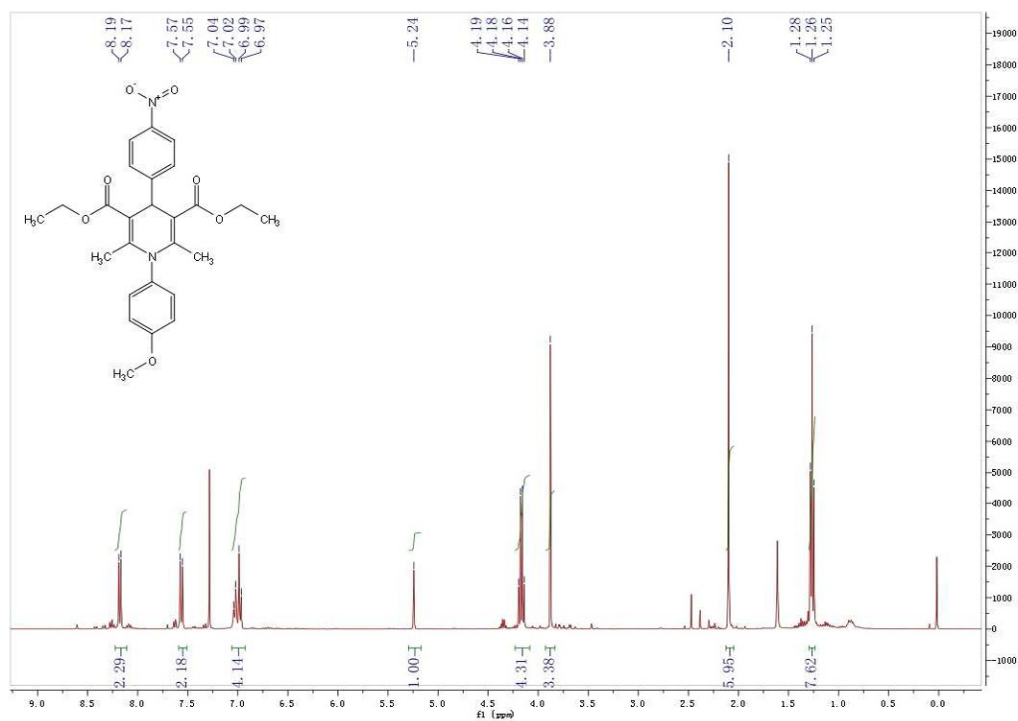
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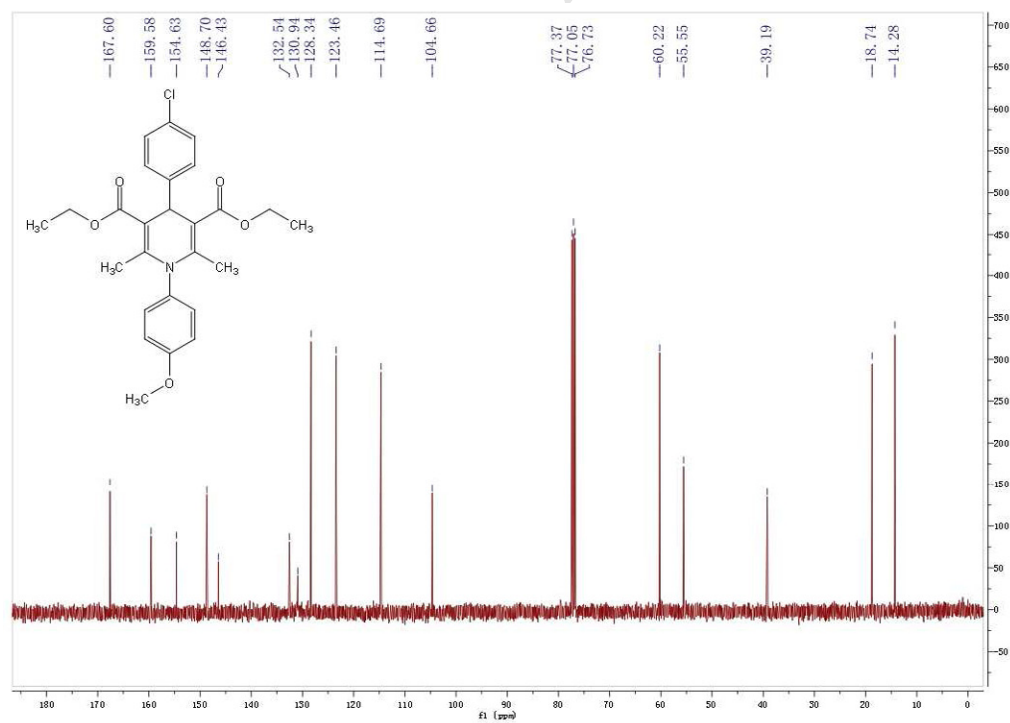
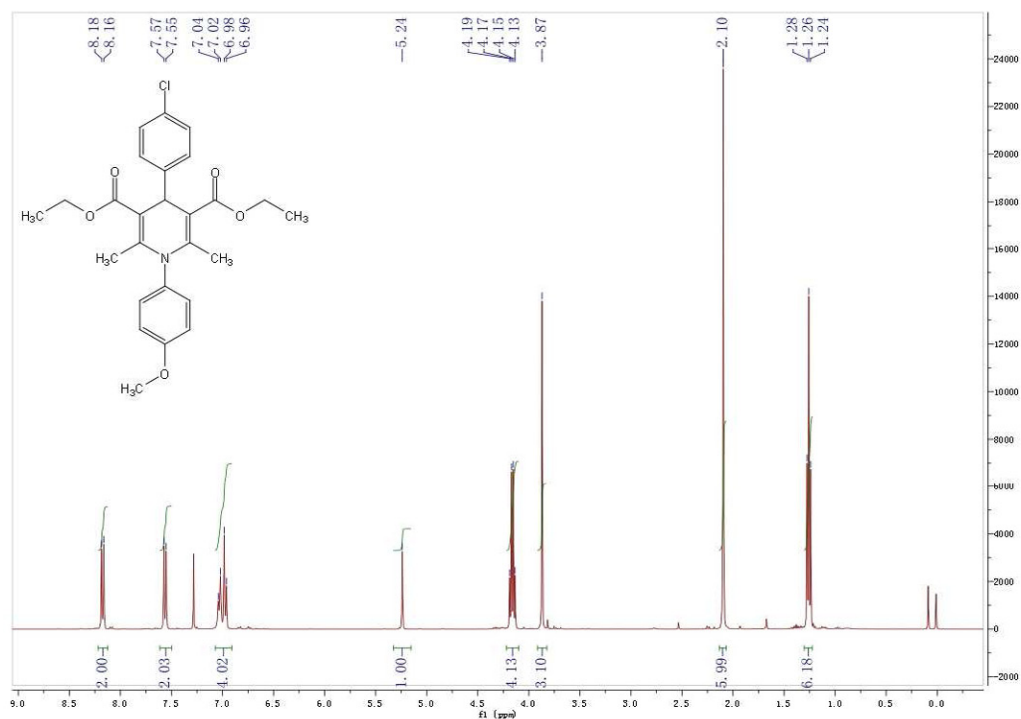
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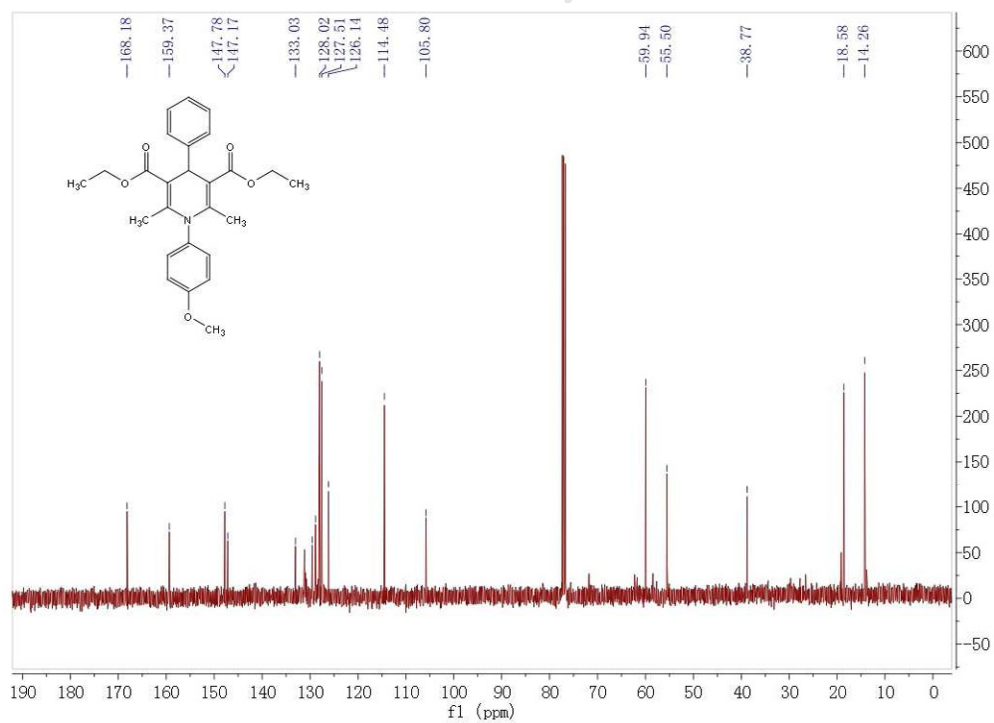


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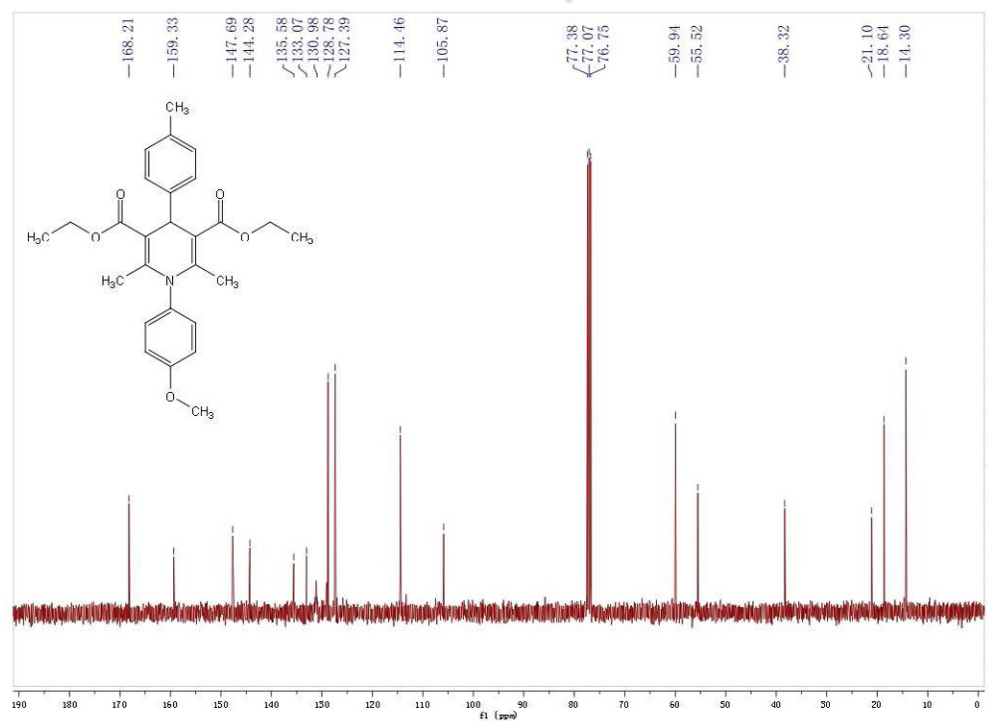
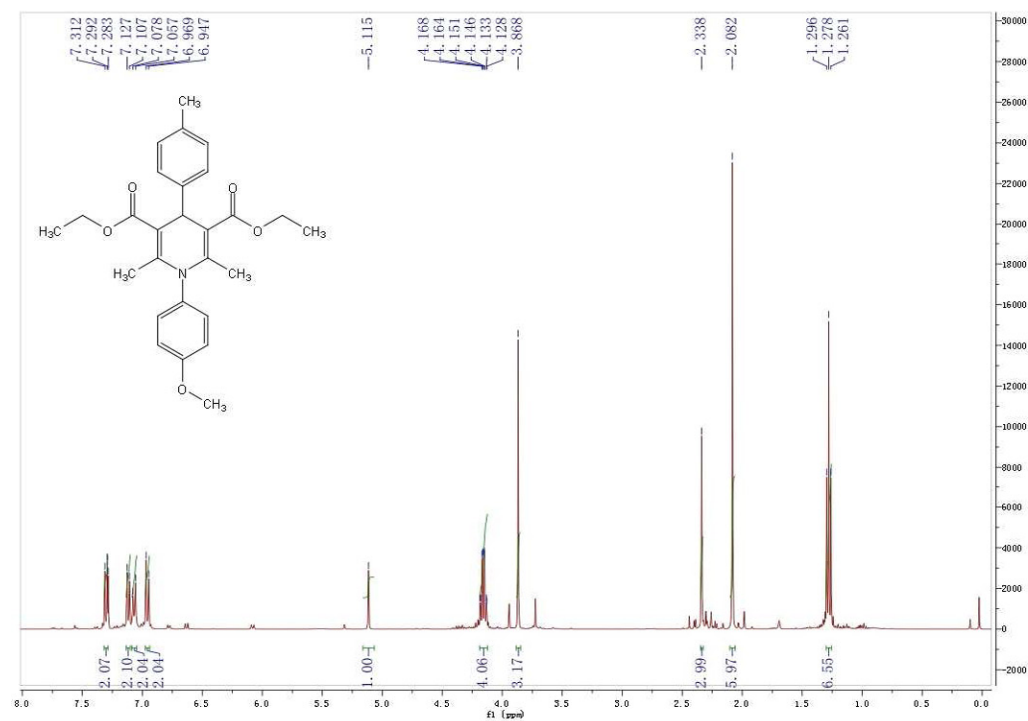


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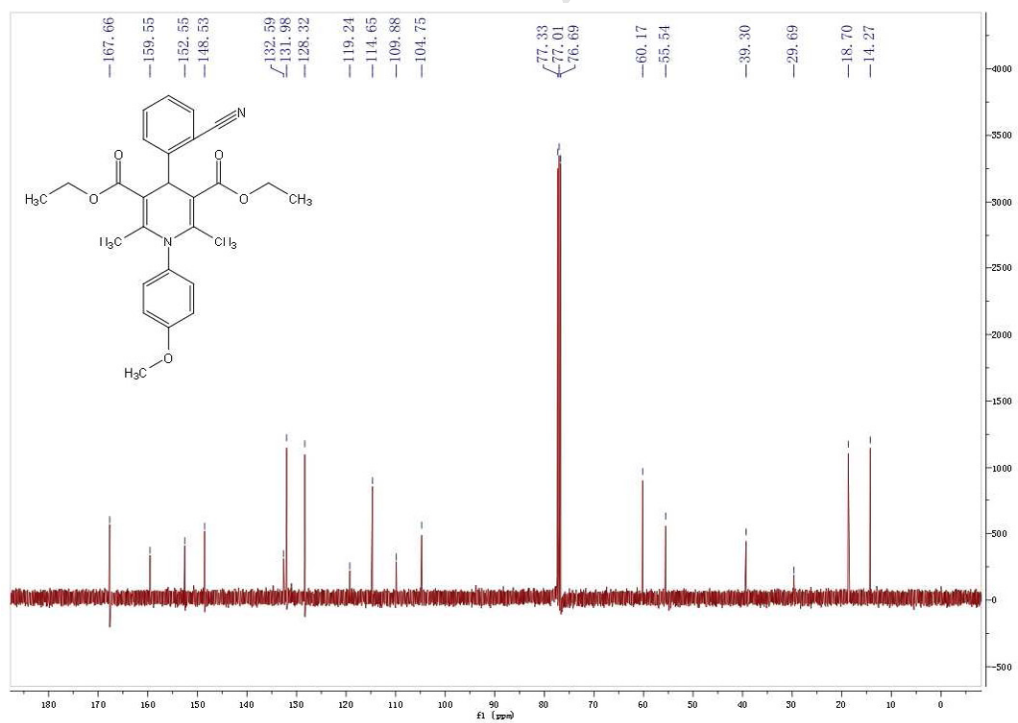
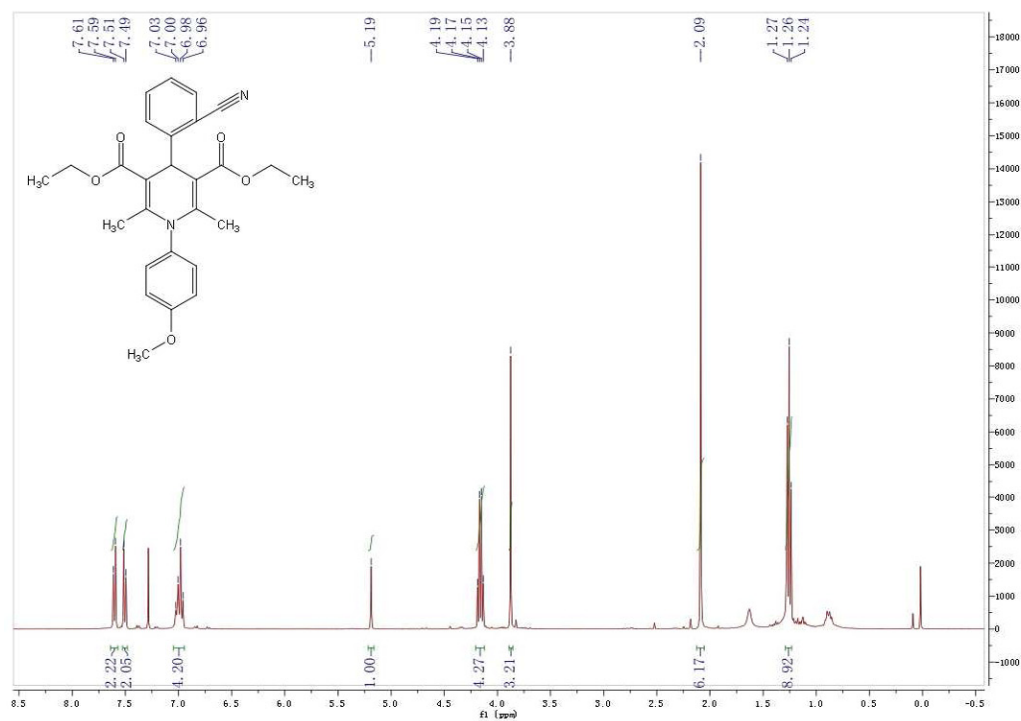




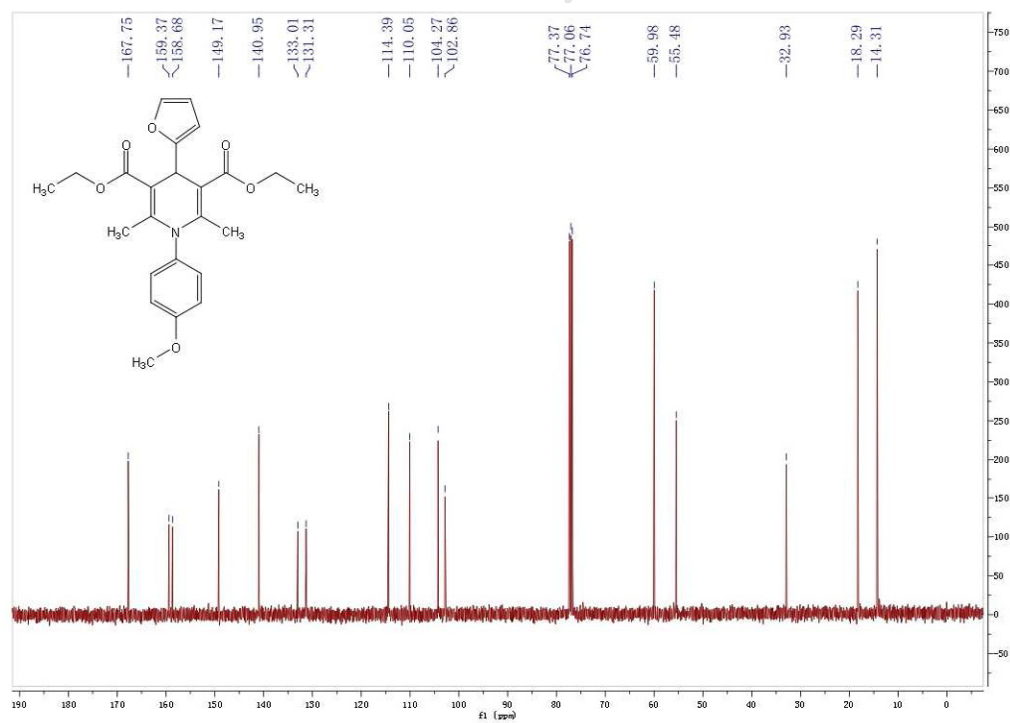
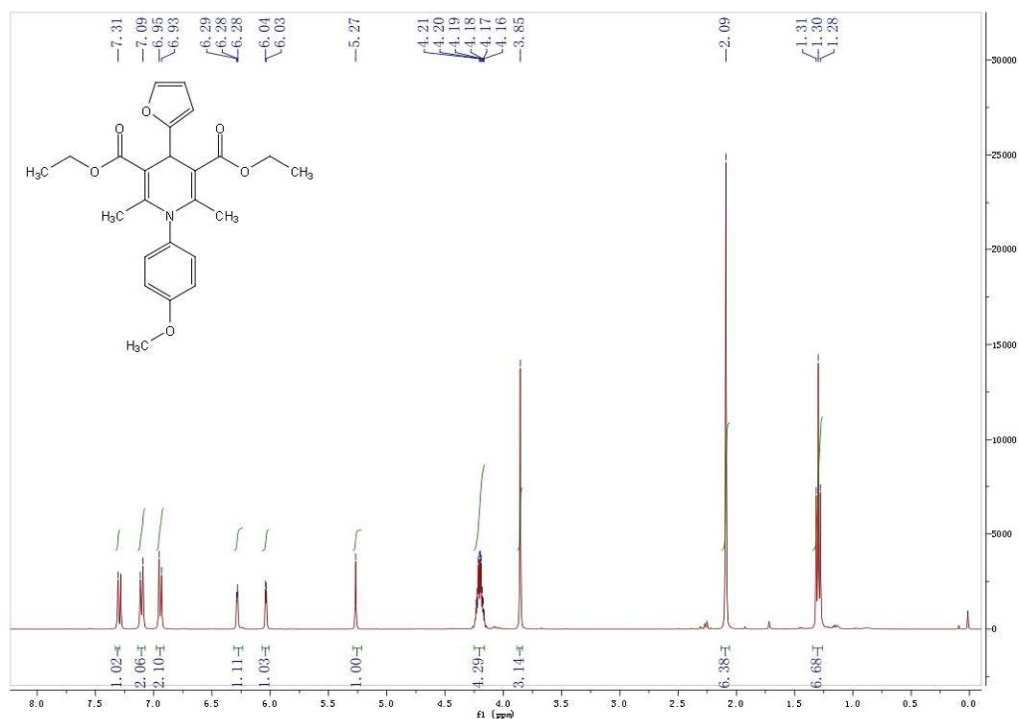
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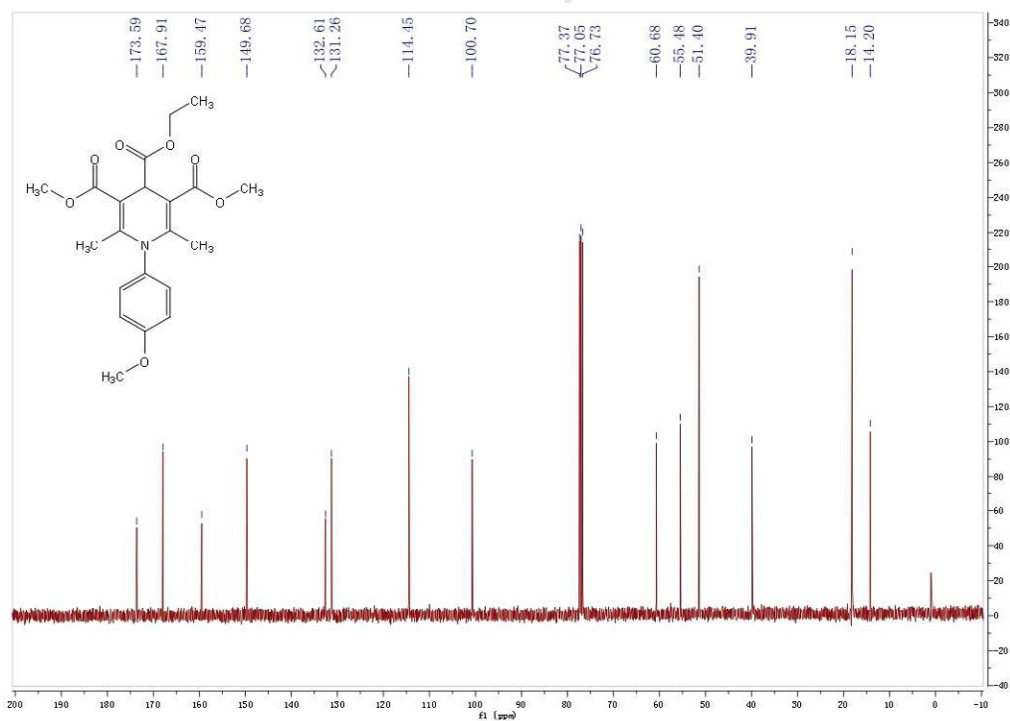
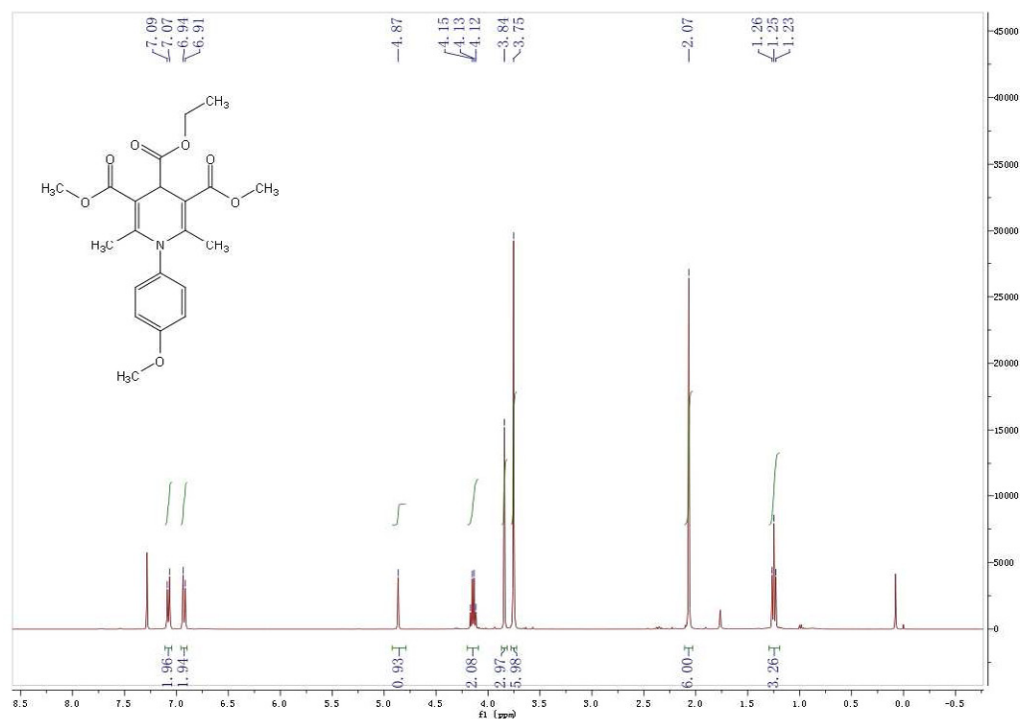
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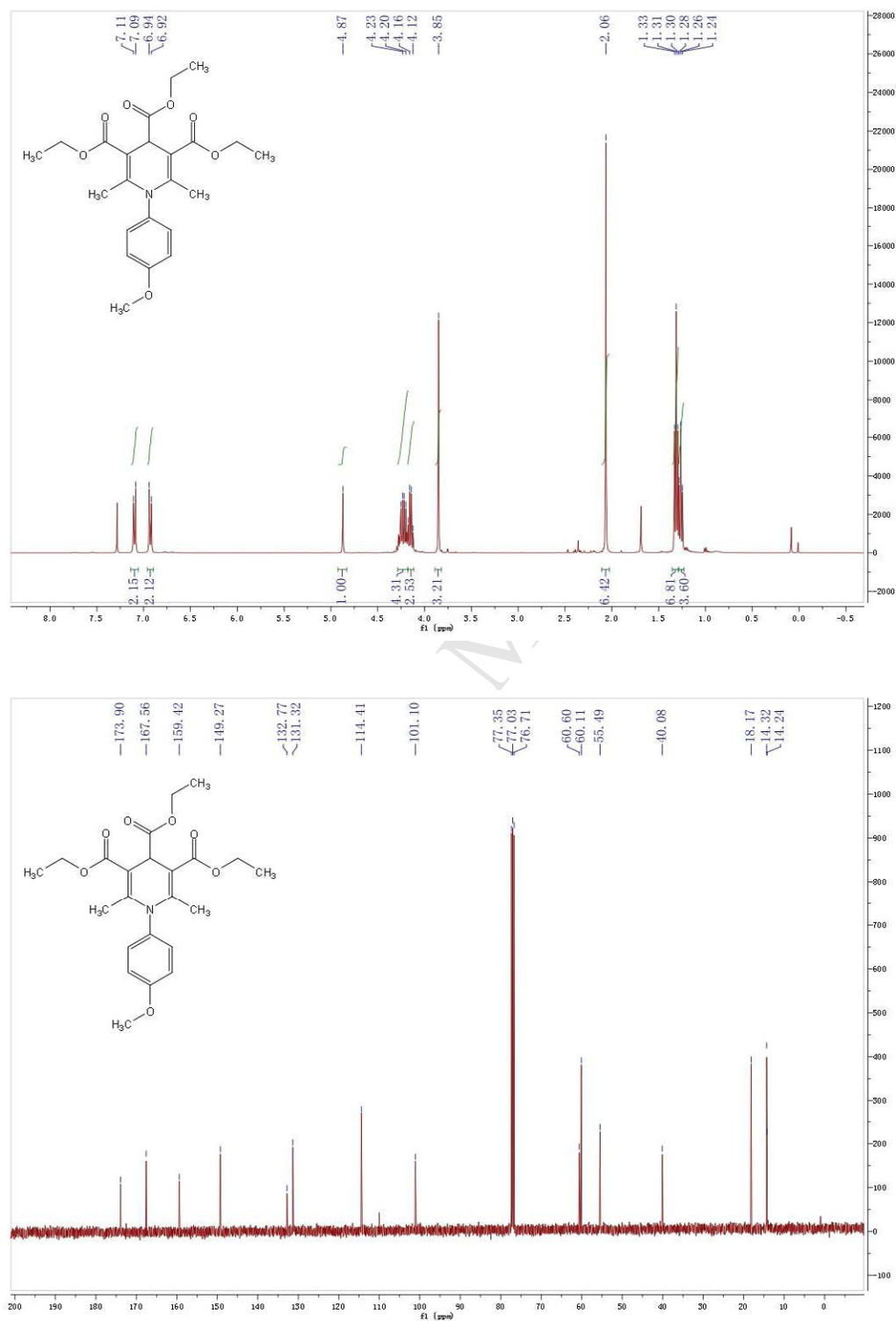
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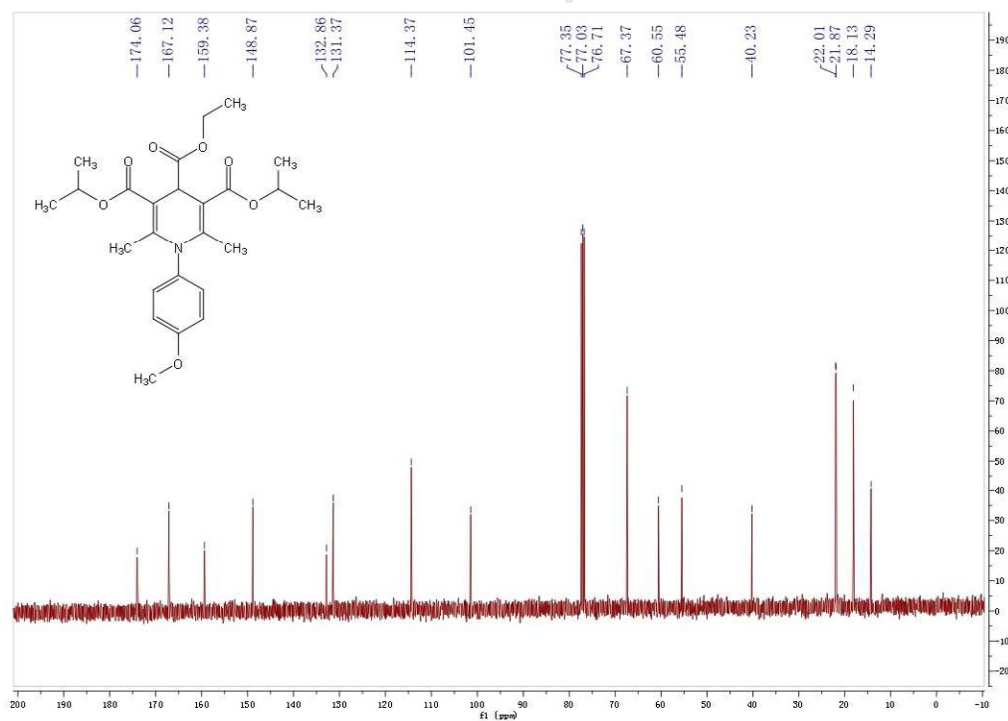
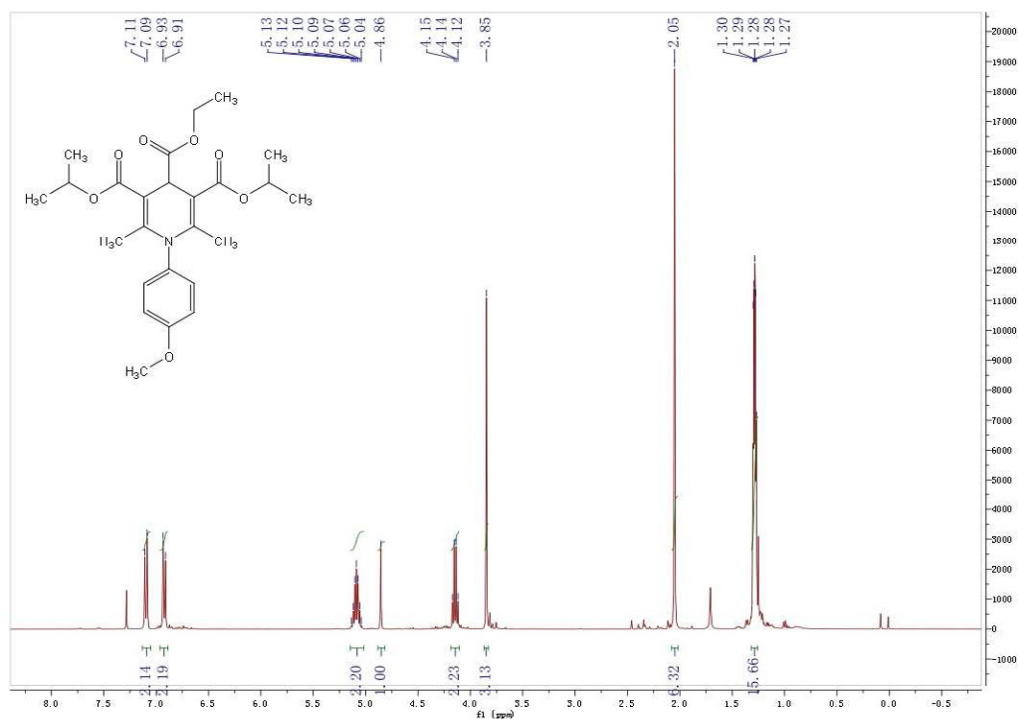
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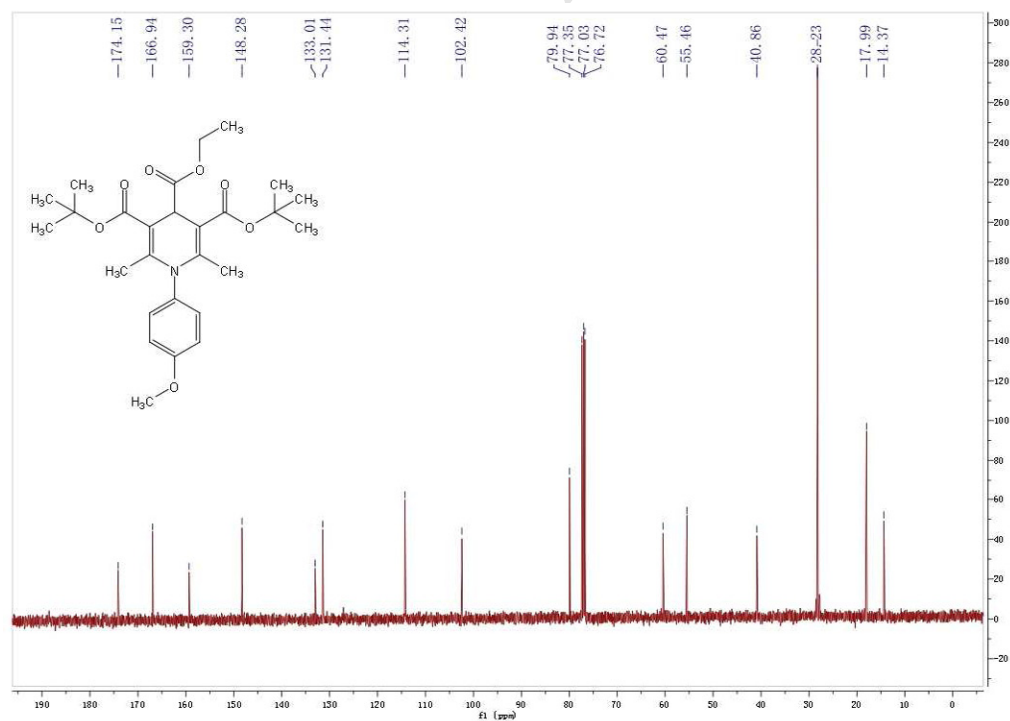
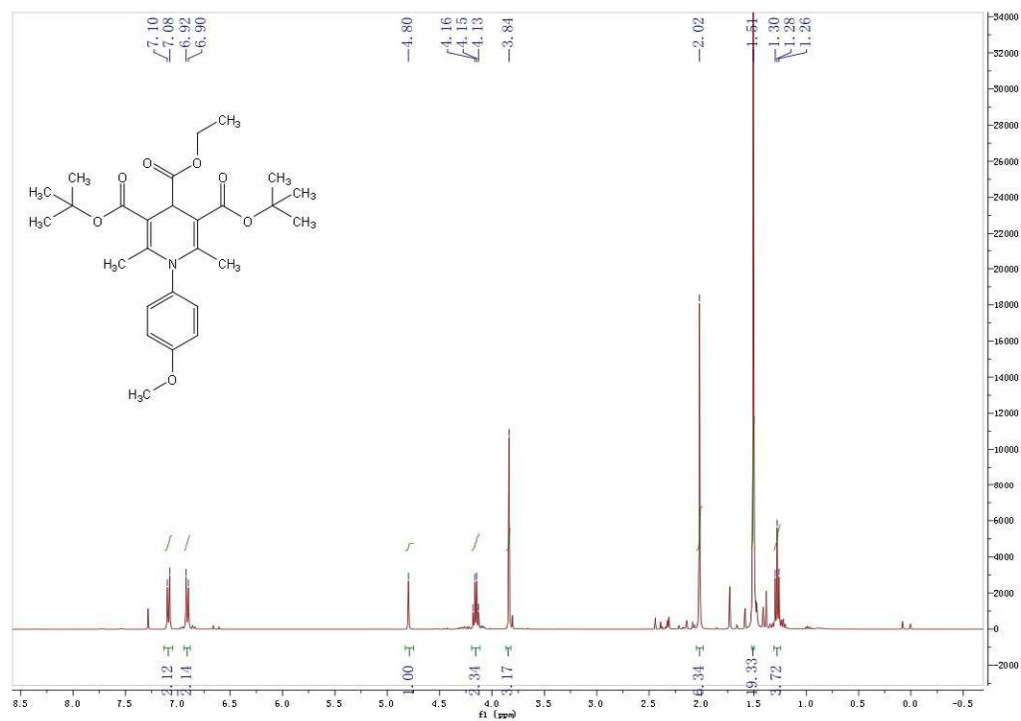
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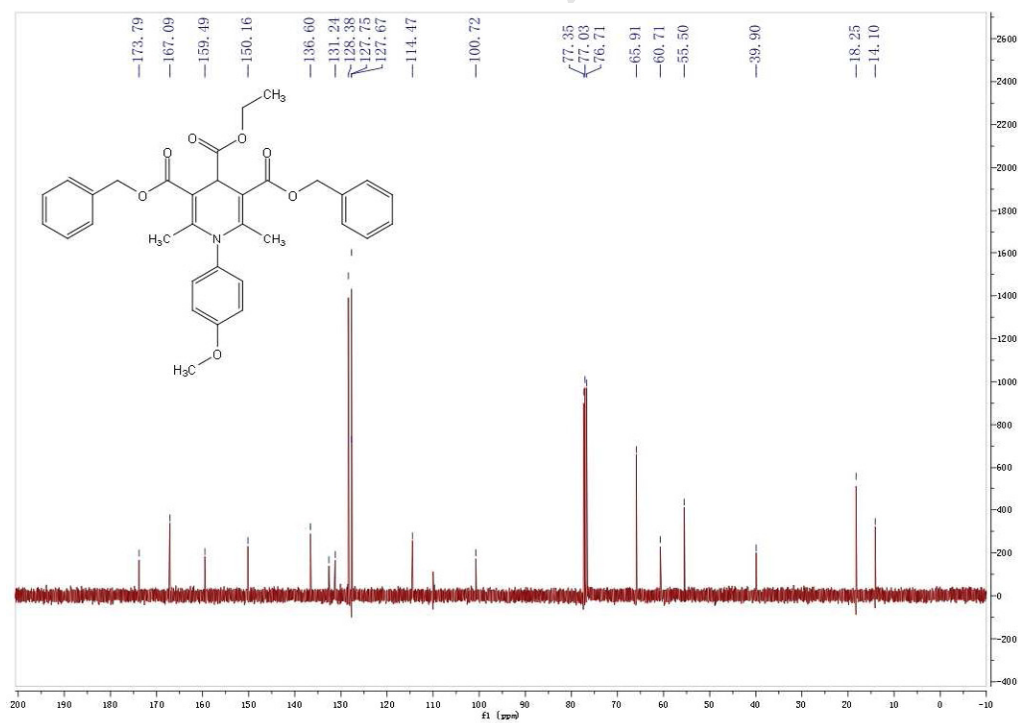
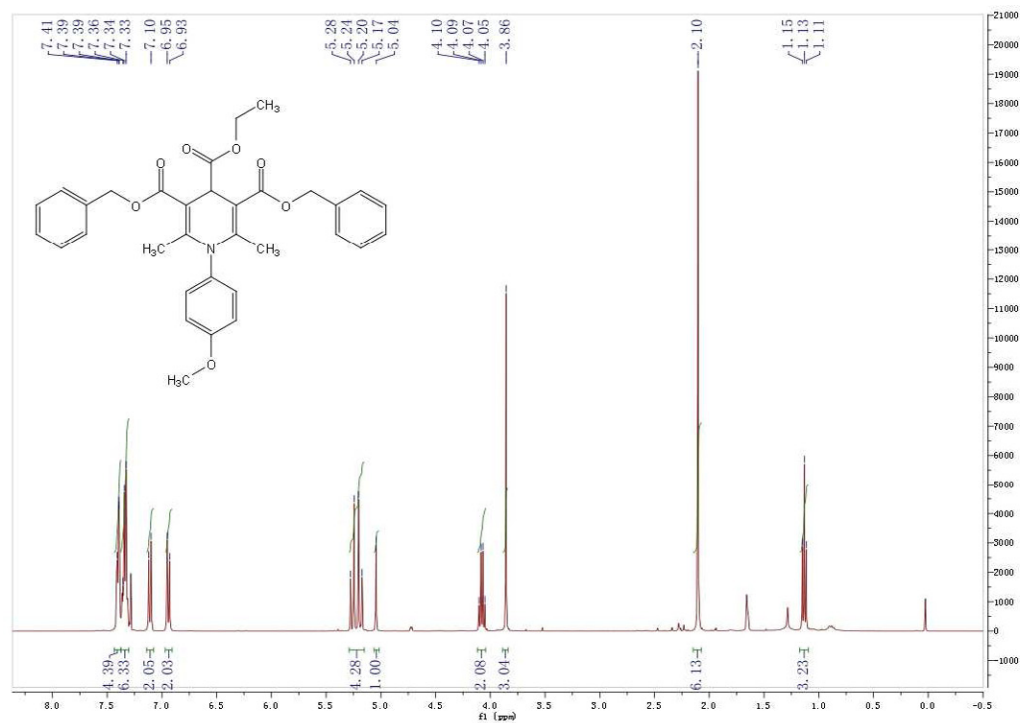
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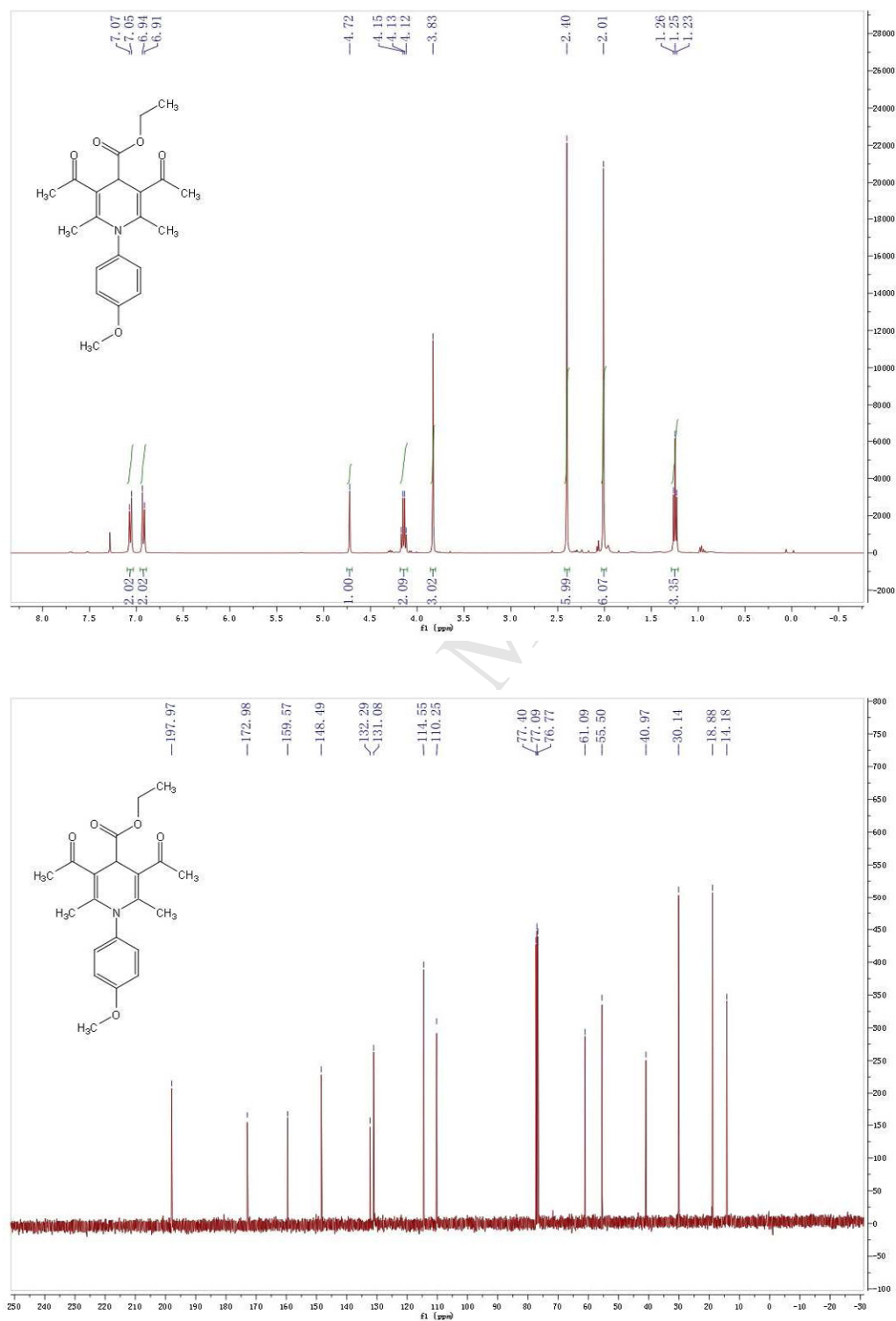
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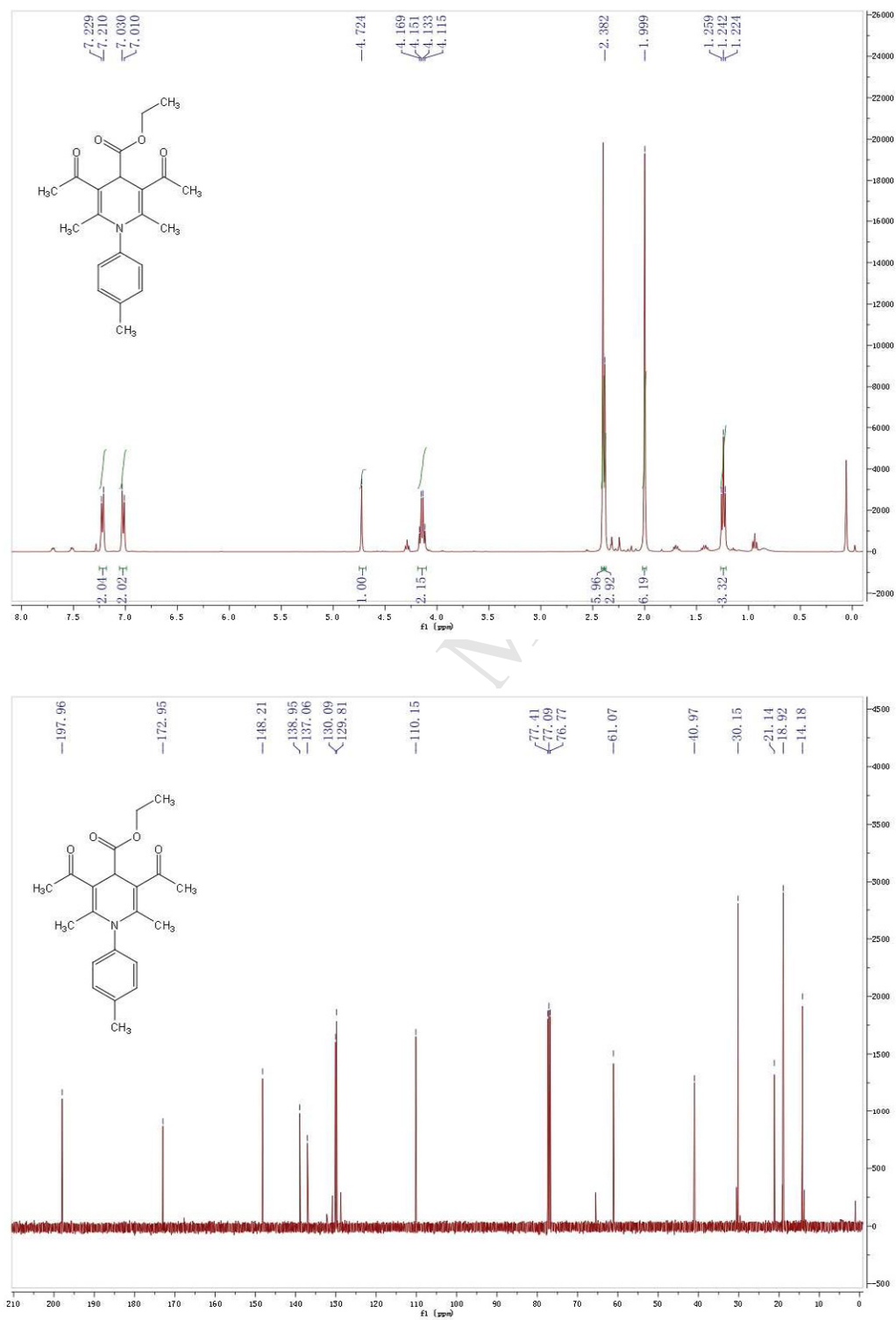
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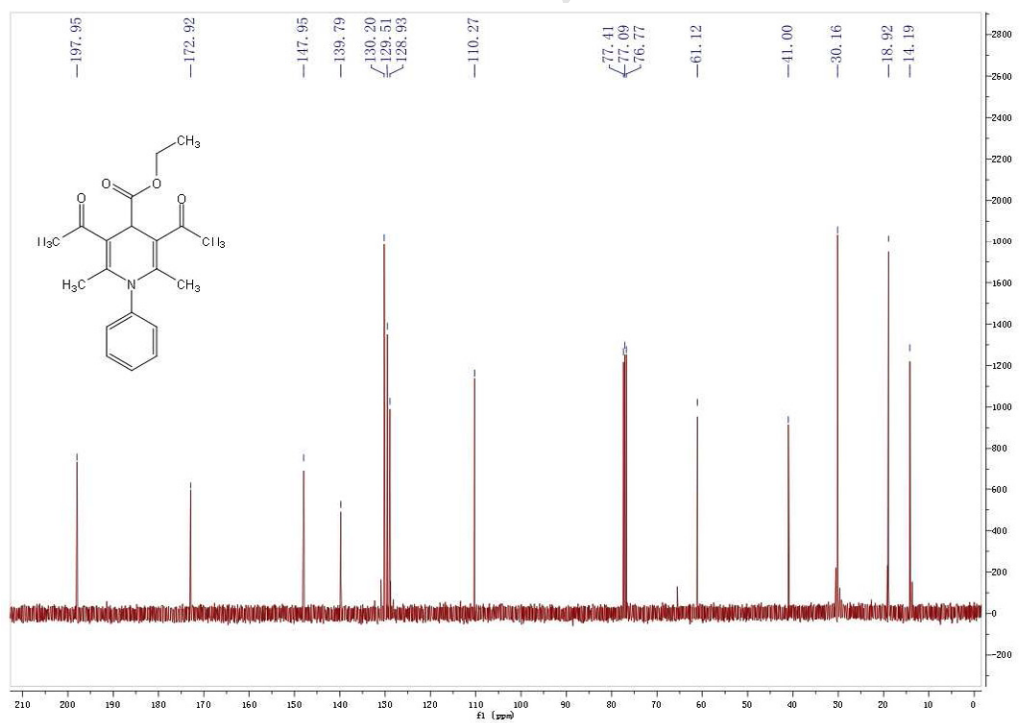
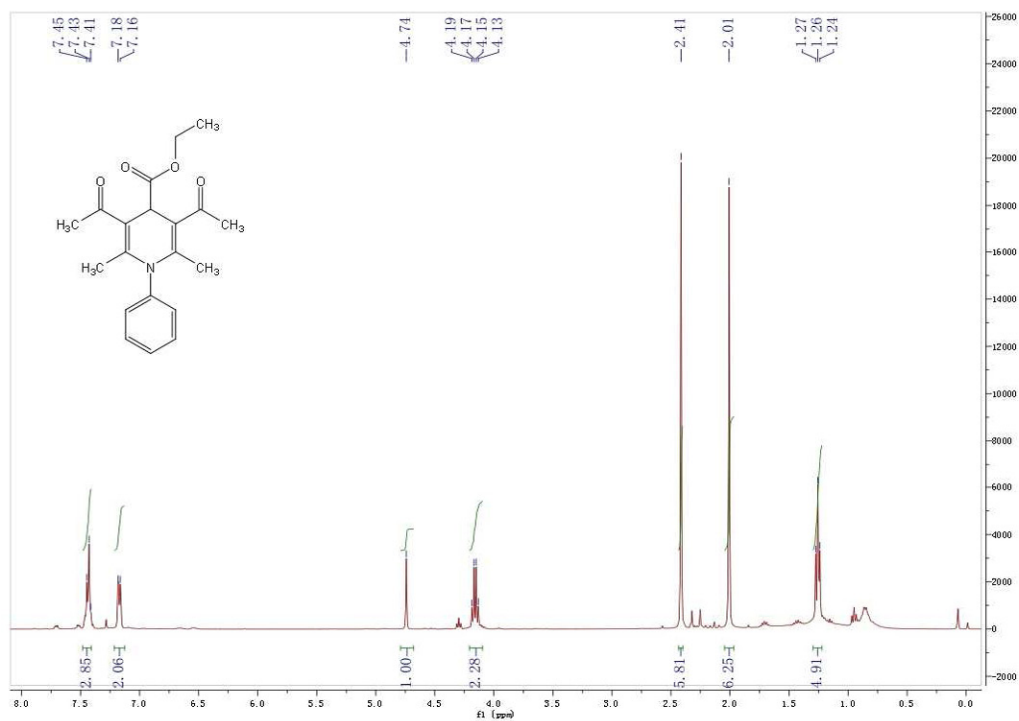
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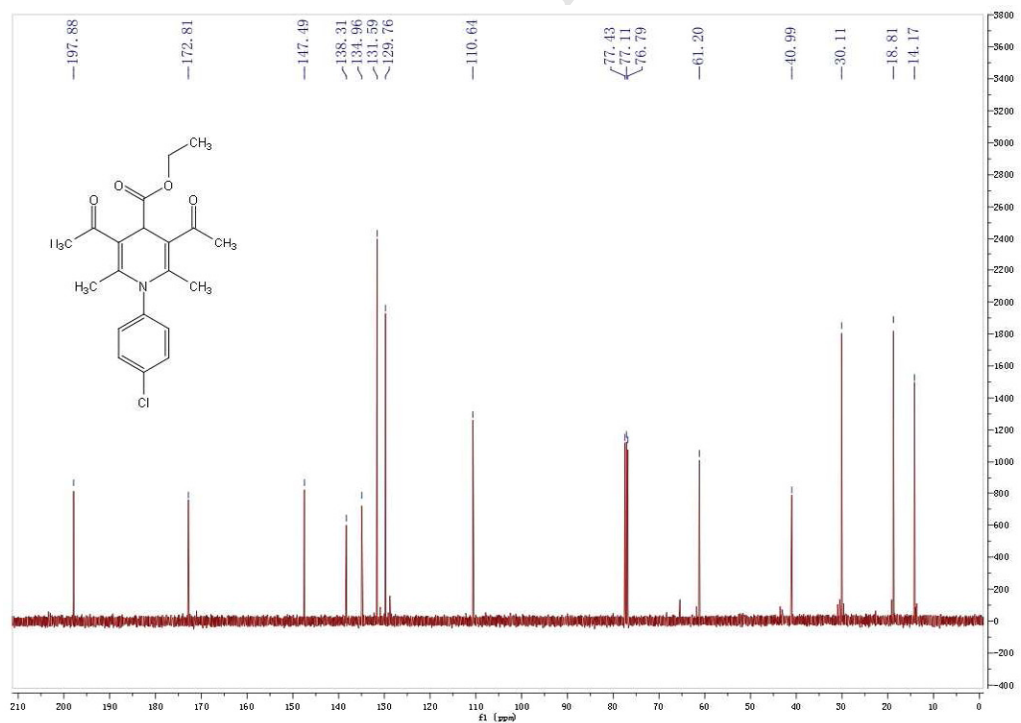
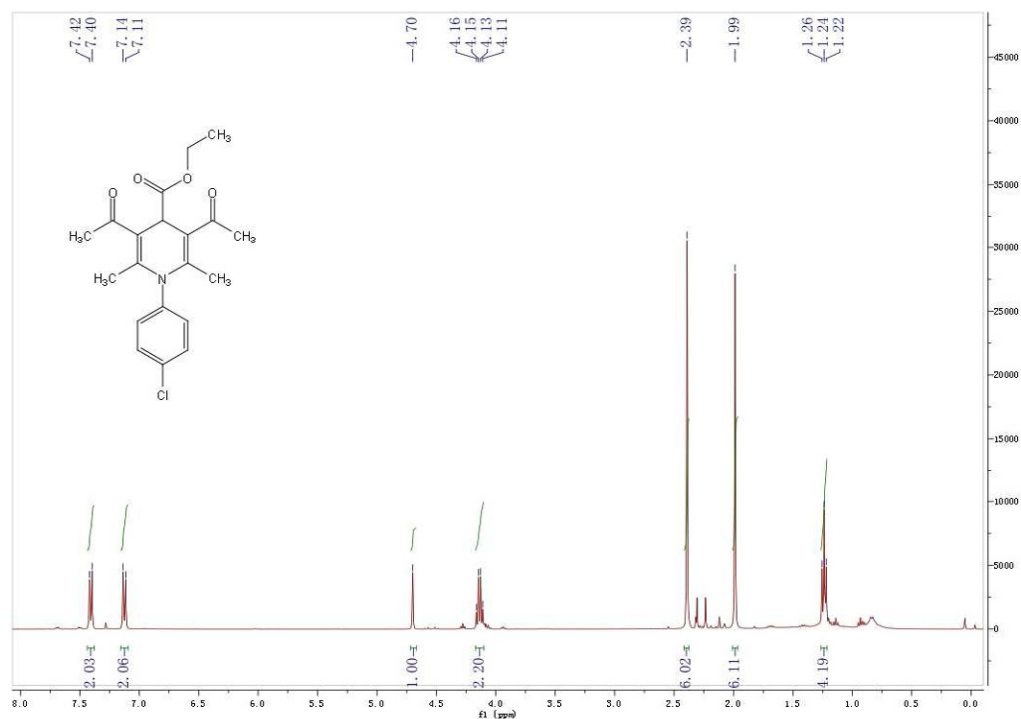
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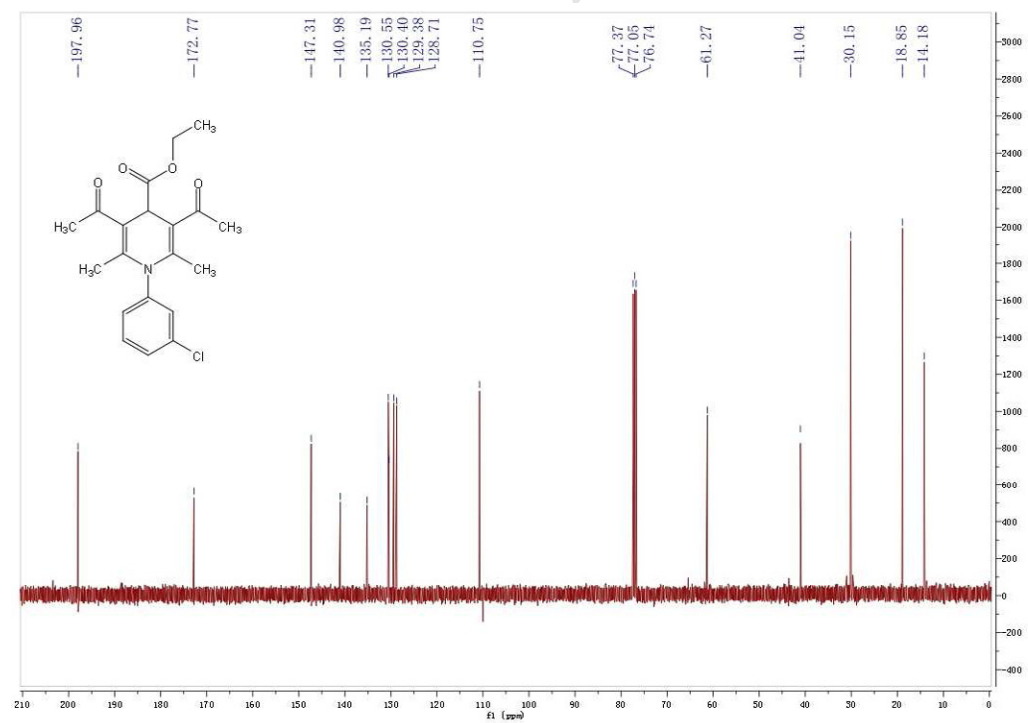
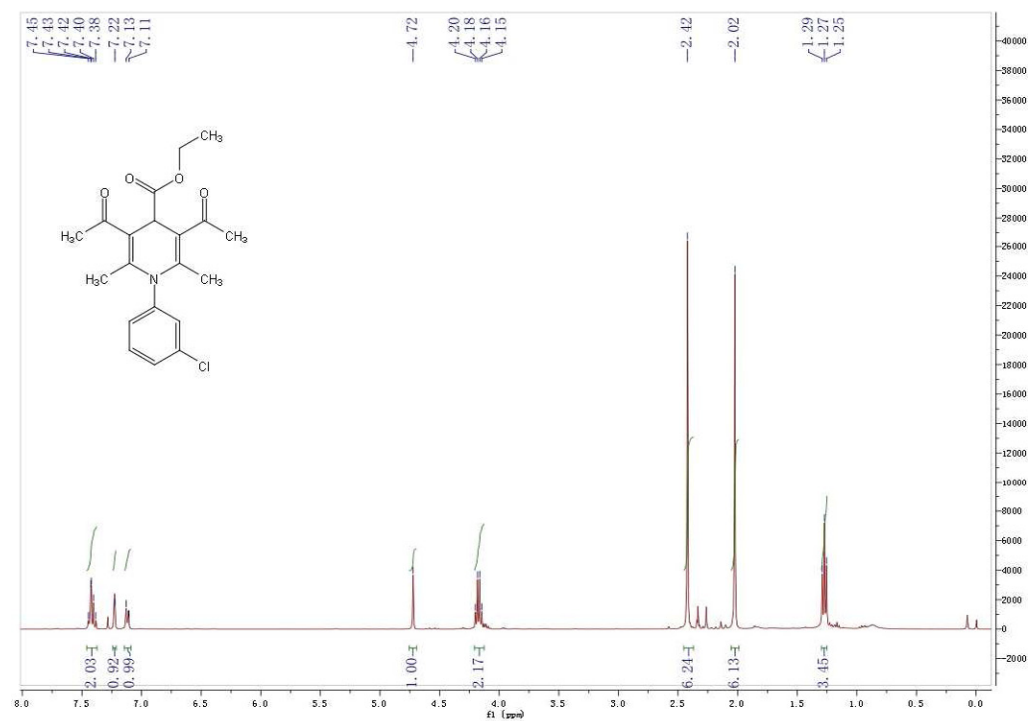
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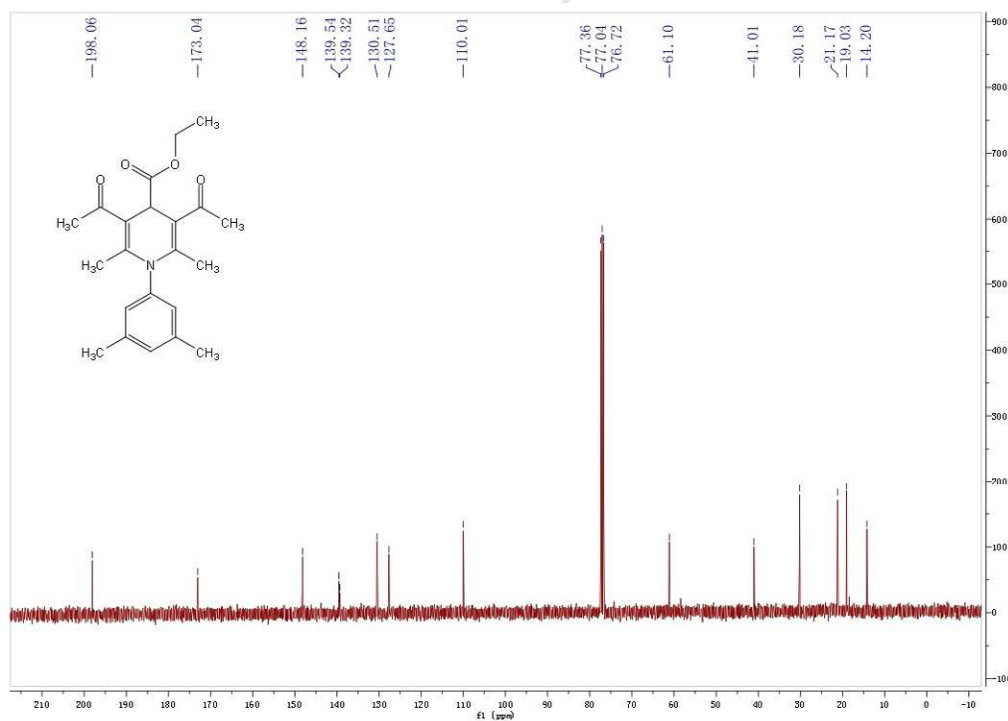
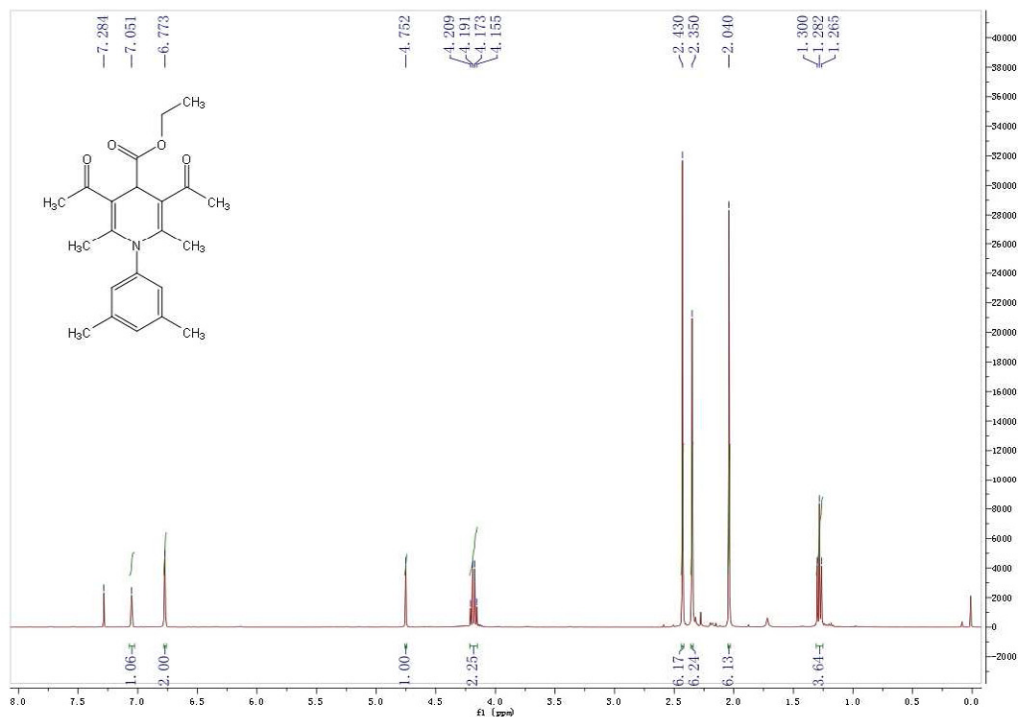
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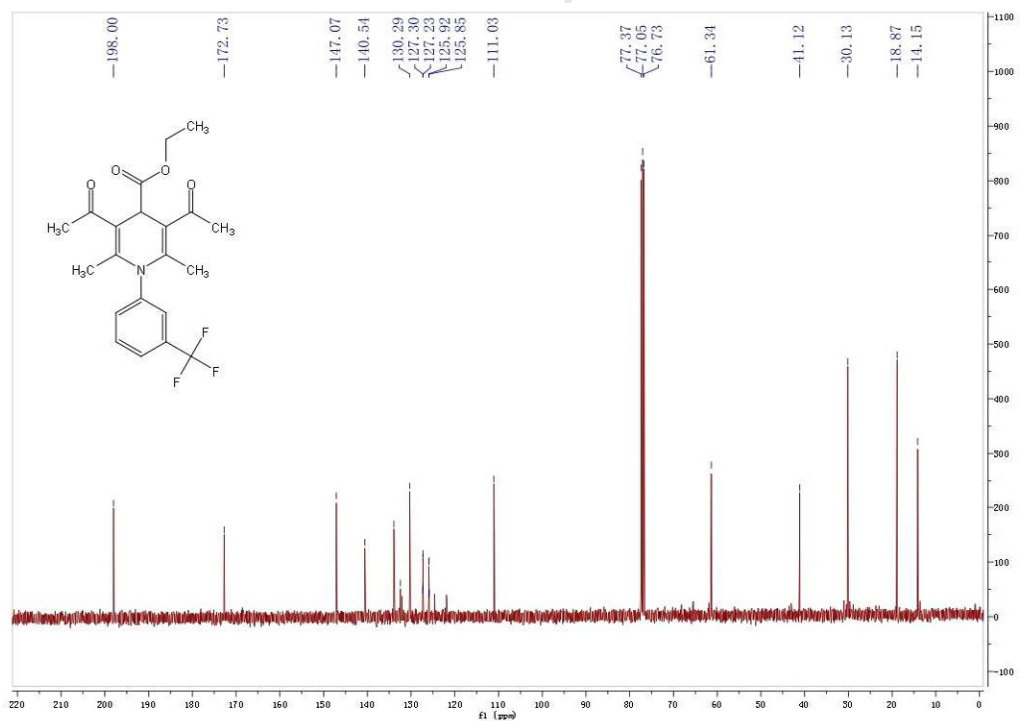
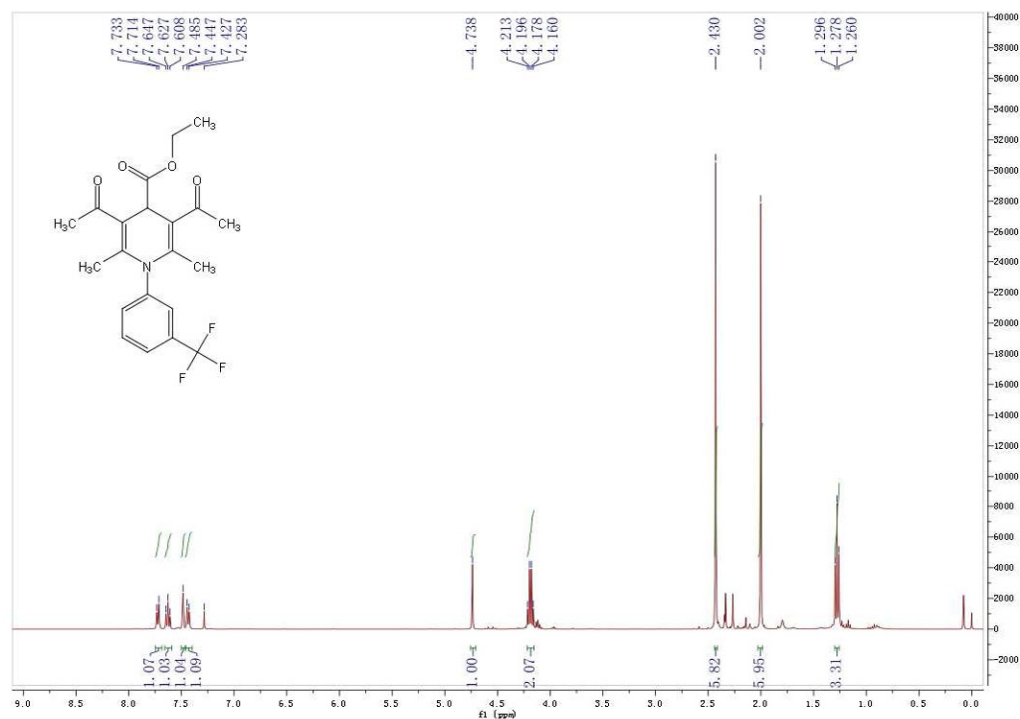
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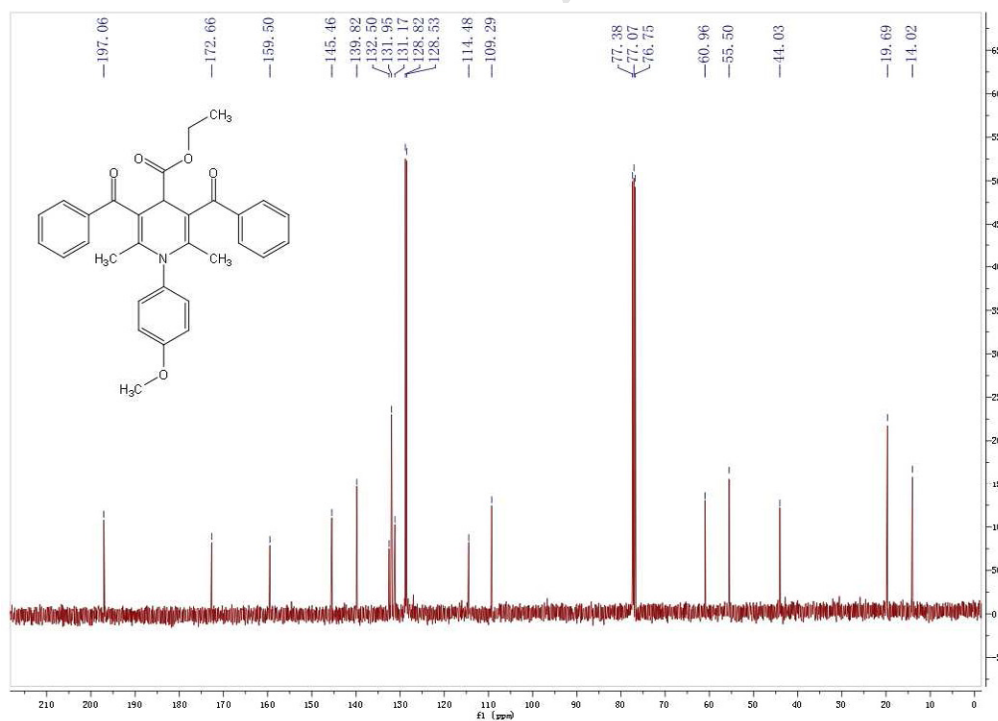
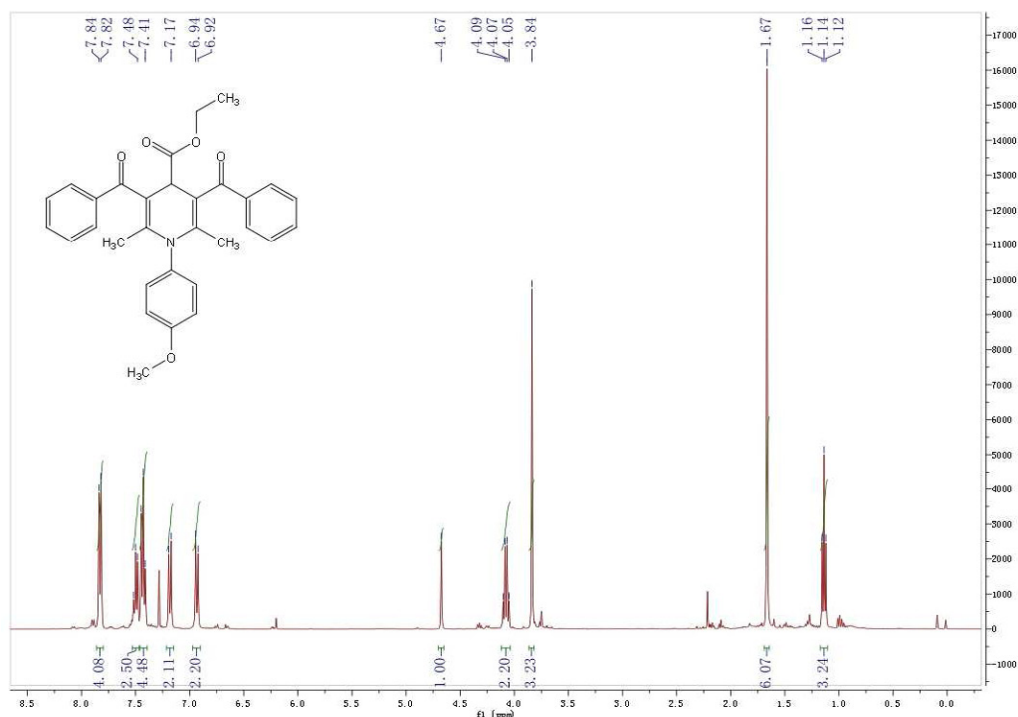
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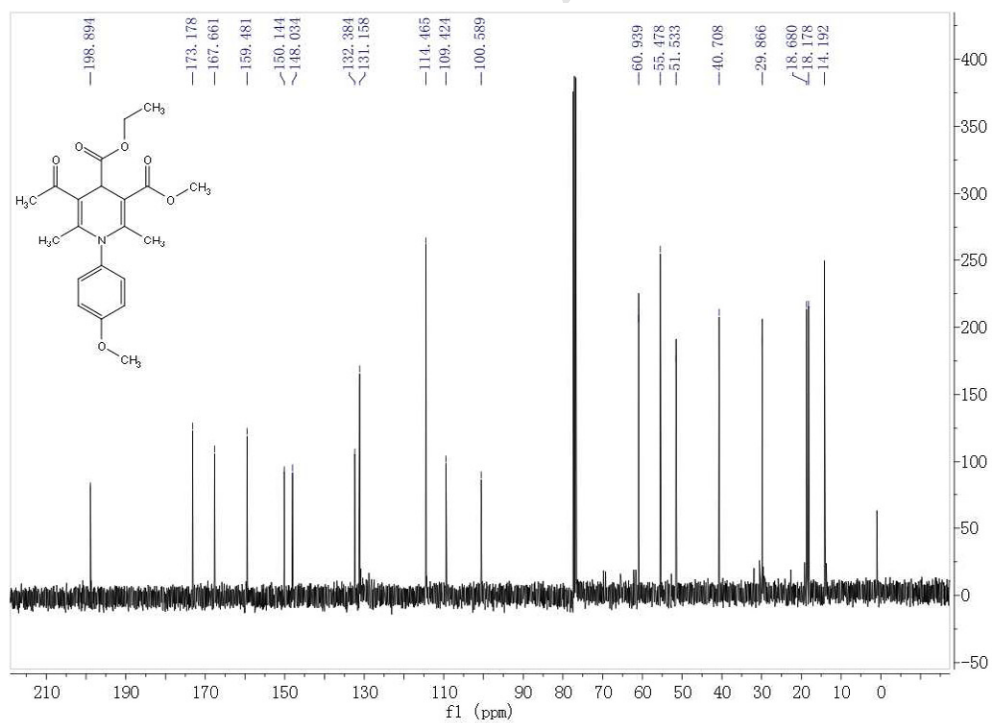
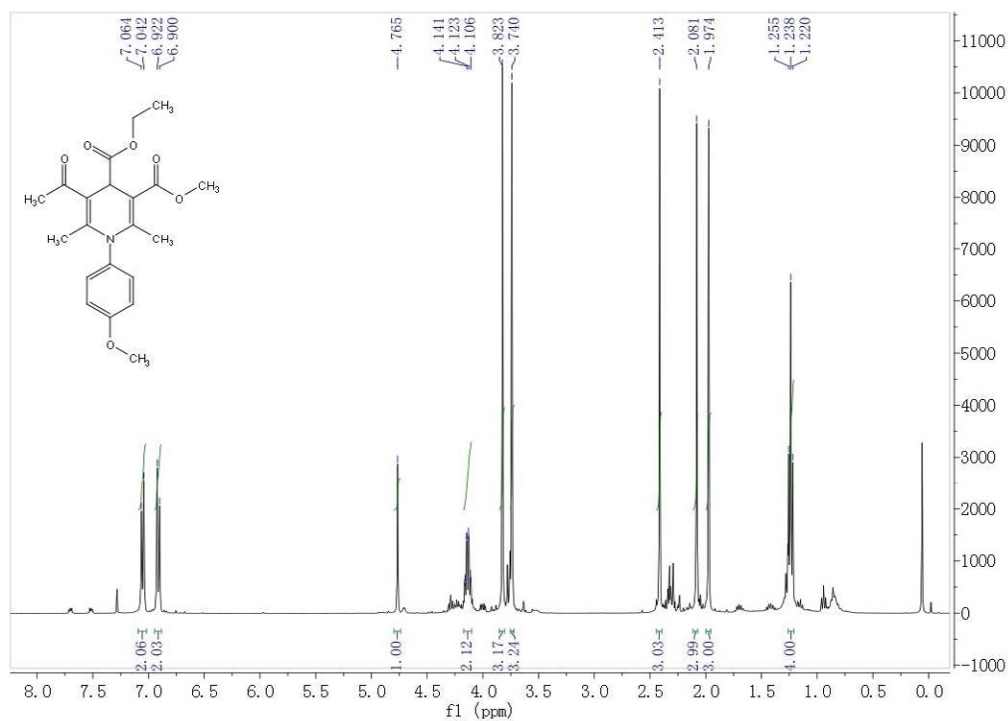
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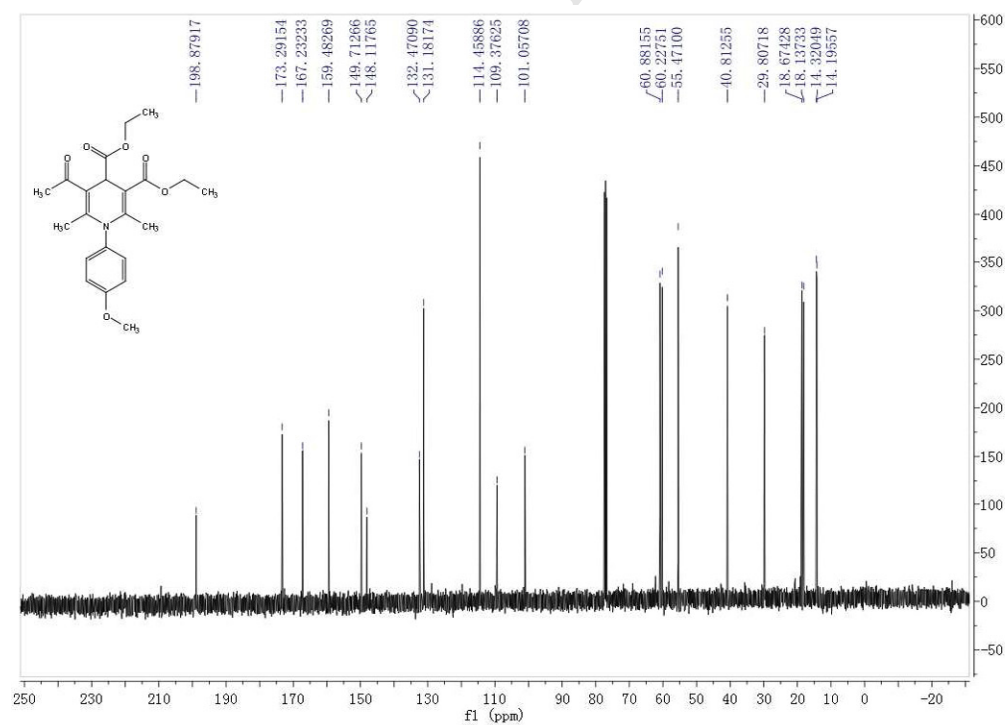
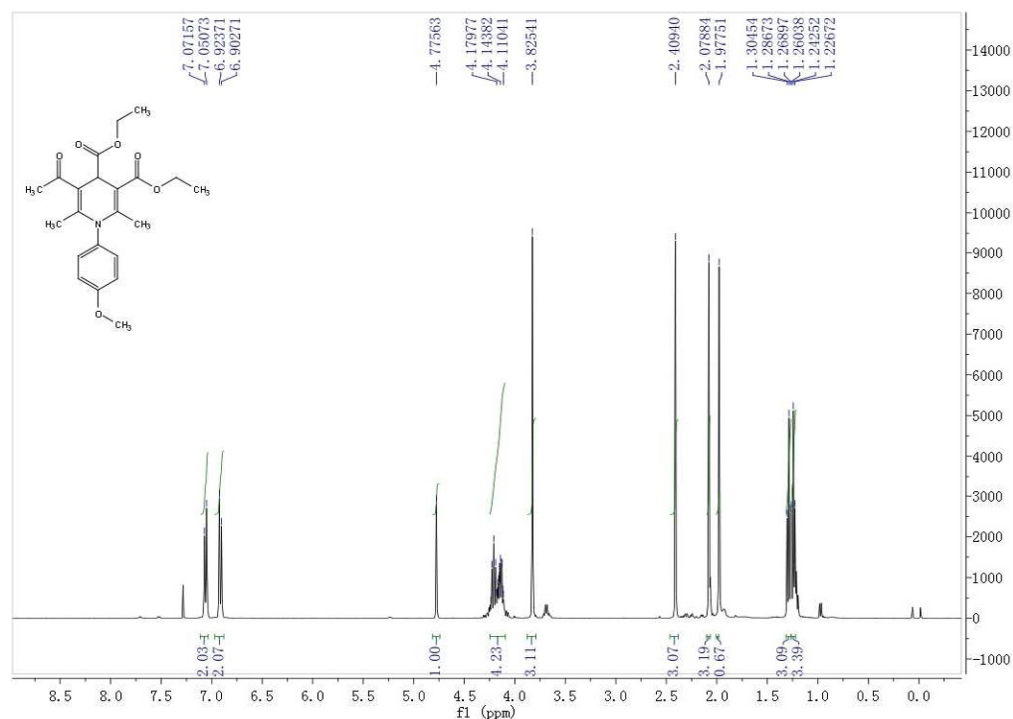
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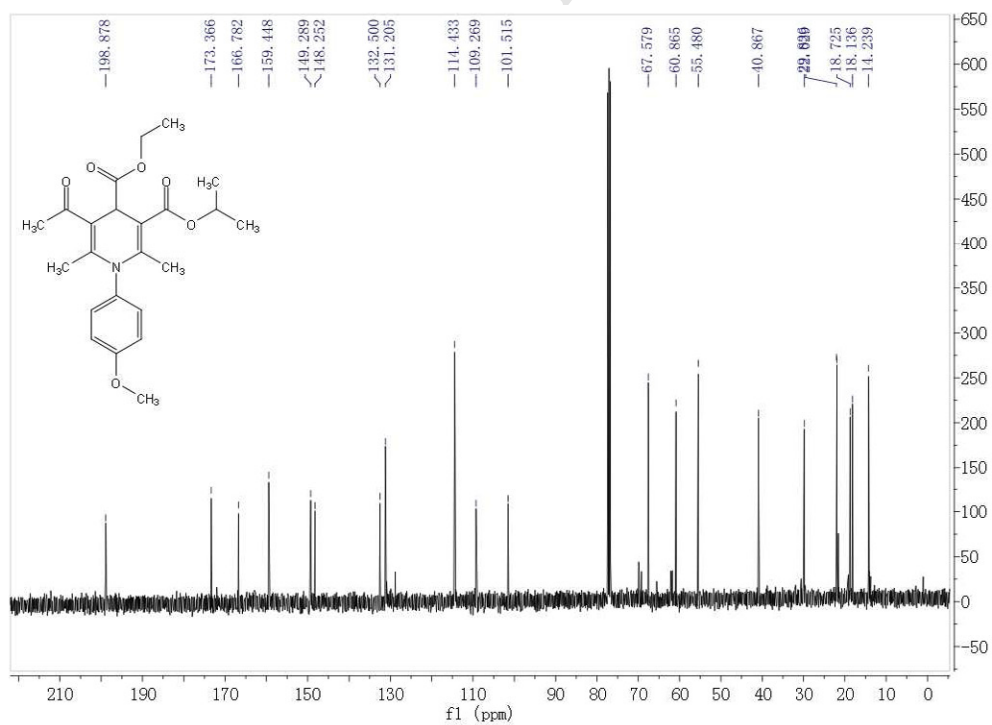
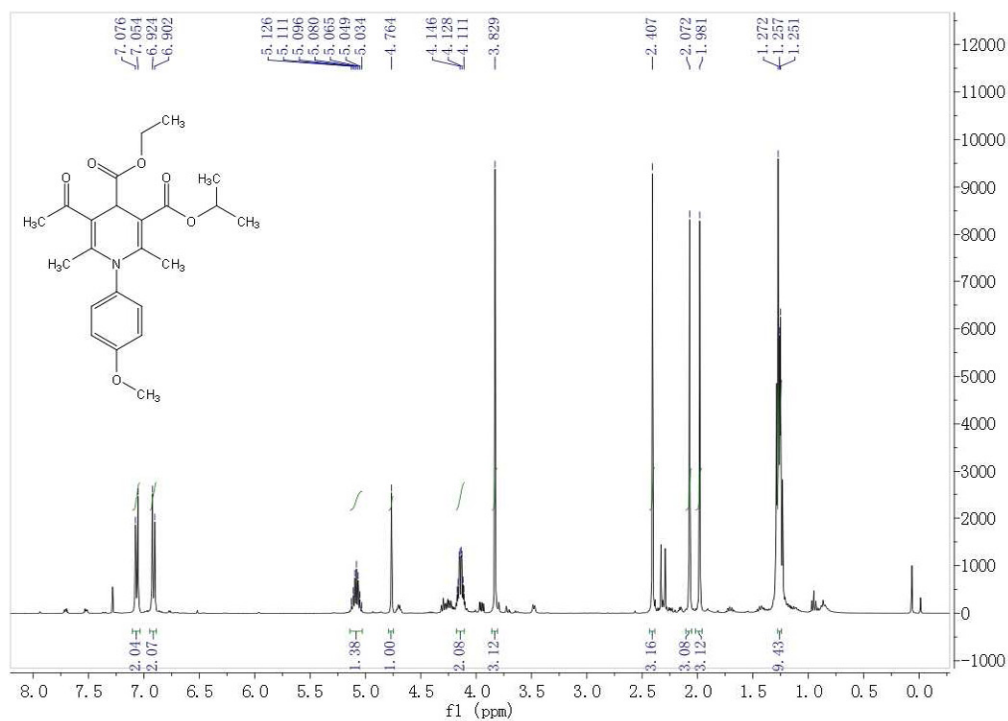
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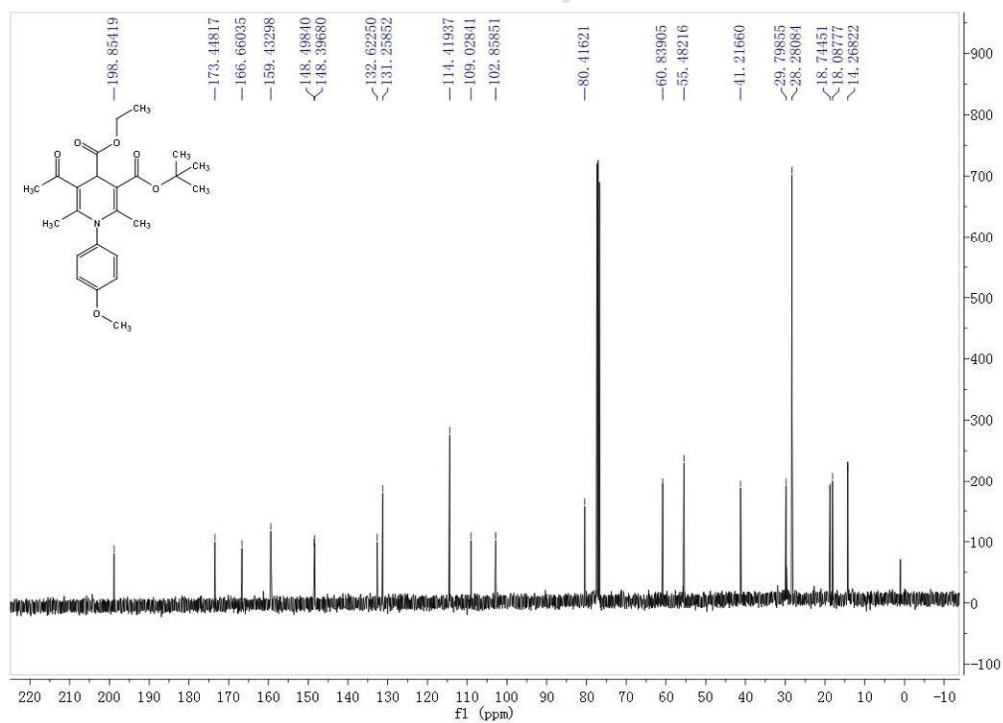
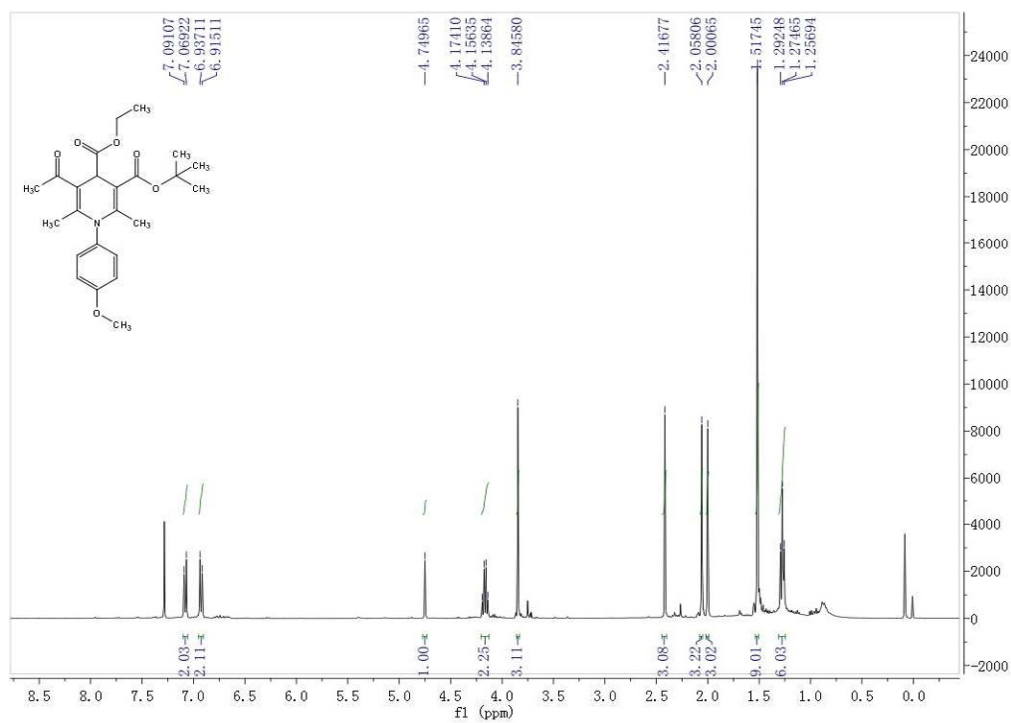
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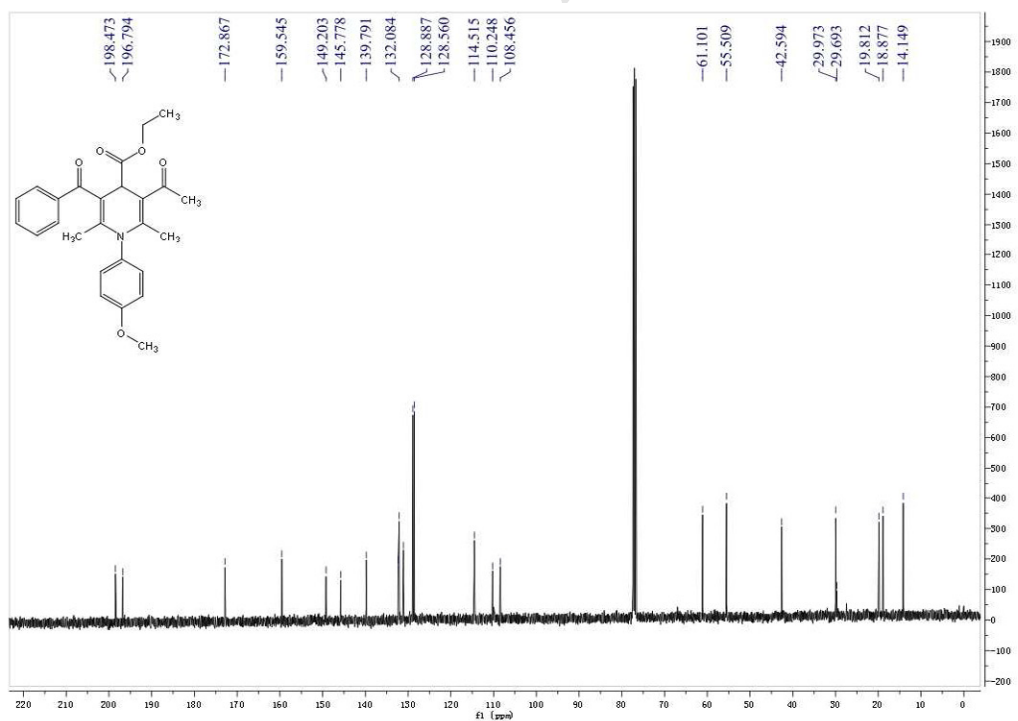
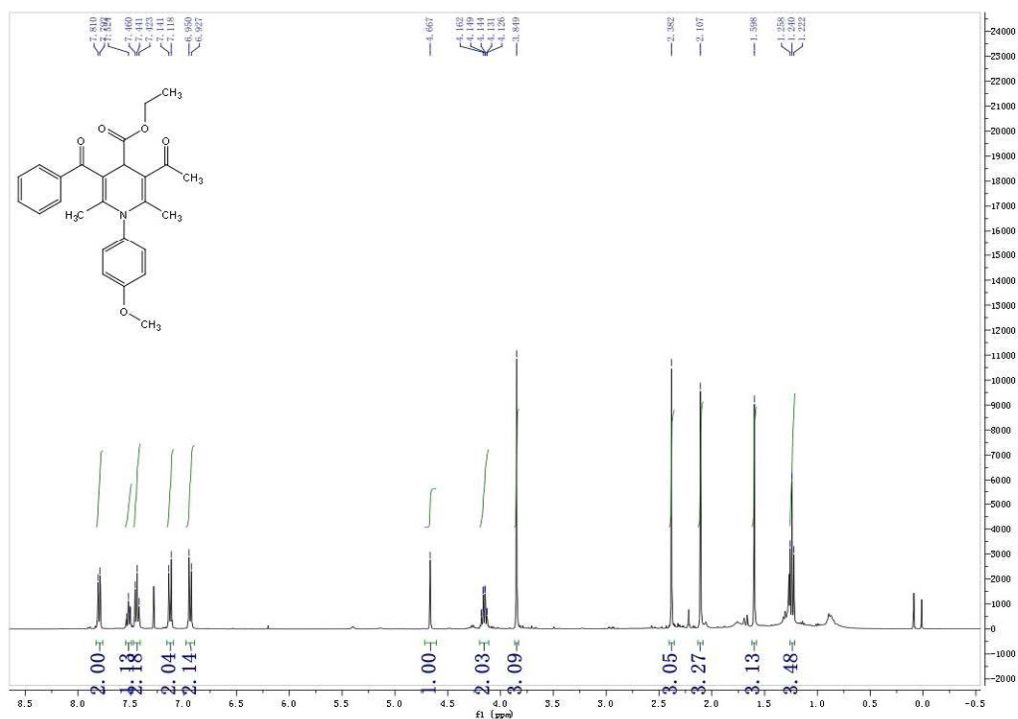
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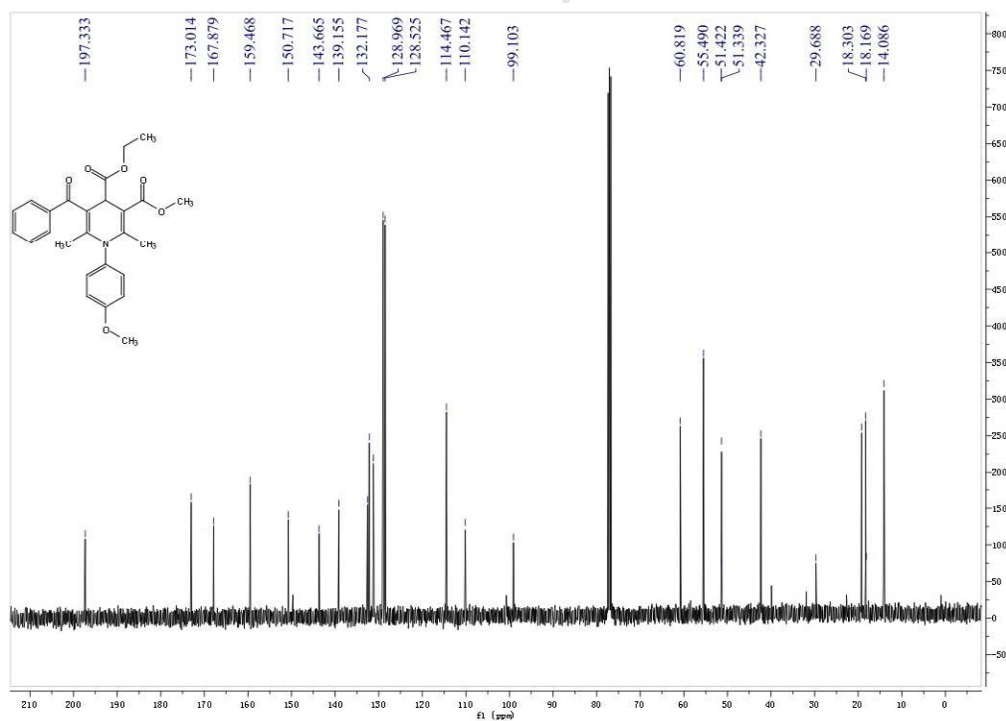
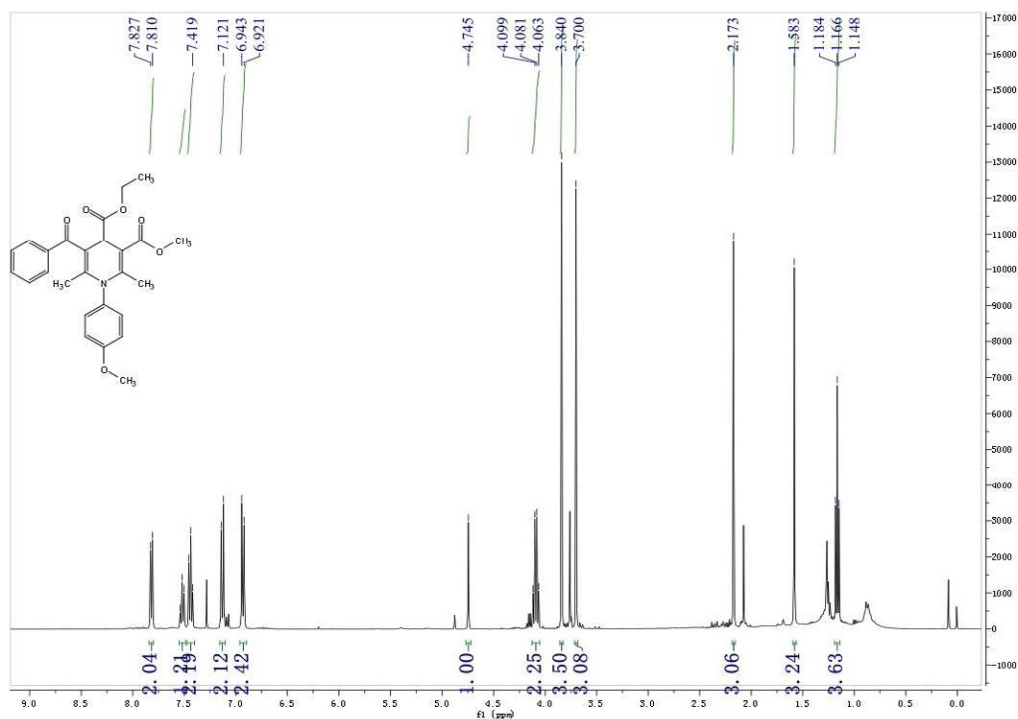
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4e



4f



4g

