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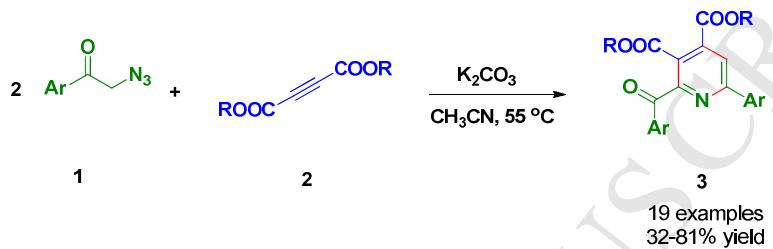
## Graphical Abstract

# A New Strategy for Facile Synthesis of Tetrasubstituted Pyridine Derivatives

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# A New Strategy for Facile Synthesis of Tetrasubstituted Pyridine Derivatives

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## ABSTRACT

A facile and efficient reaction of  $\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketones and dialkyl but-2-yne diate offers a new strategy for the synthesis of tetrasubstituted pyridines in mild condition. This method tolerates a range of functionality and a possible mechanism is proposed.

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azidoketone  
alkyne  
heterocycle  
cyclization

## 1. Introduction

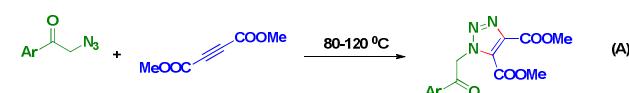
Substituted pyridines are one of the most prevalent heterocycles in natural products,<sup>[1]</sup> pharmaceuticals,<sup>[2]</sup> and various kinds of functional materials.<sup>[3]</sup> Over the past decades, a variety of synthetic strategies have been developed to obtain substituted pyridines, including copper-catalyzed coupling of oxime acetates with aldehydes,<sup>[4]</sup> rhodium-catalyzed coupling of ketoximes and alkynes,<sup>[5]</sup> microwave-assisted condensation,<sup>[6]</sup> Bohlmann-Rahtz reaction,<sup>[7]</sup> condensation of ketoximines and alkenylboronic acids<sup>[8]</sup> and so on.<sup>[9]</sup> The existing methods require transition metal catalysts and harsh reaction conditions. Therefore, versatile and efficient methods for the construction of pyridine rings which are compatible with functional groups and utilize readily available starting materials remain highly desirable.

$\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketones are a pivotal synthon for new scaffold construction. In the past decades, a plethora of reactions have been reported in the literature.<sup>[10]</sup> We have utilized the  $\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketones for the formation of substituted imidazole.<sup>[11]</sup> As part of an ongoing research program in  $\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketones, we were interested in developing a novel methodology from this simple synthon.

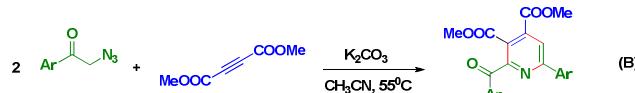
To the best of our knowledge, Cu<sup>I</sup>-catalyzed synthesis of 1,2,3-triazoles from azides and alkynes, namely “Click Chemistry”, was widely reported in the literature.<sup>[12]</sup> However,

due to the strong power of the “Click Chemistry”, there are fewer studies on the reaction of azides and alkynes under other reacion conditions. P. Shanmugavelan et al. reported the formation of 1,2,3-triazoles from  $\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketones and alkynes in metal-free condition. (**Scheme 1A**)<sup>[13]</sup> Here, we explored a different, efficient and novel reaction from  $\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketones and alkyne to afford tetrasubstituted pyridines under a relatively mild, metal-free reaction conditions. (**Scheme 1B**)

P. Shanmugavelan et al.



Our work:



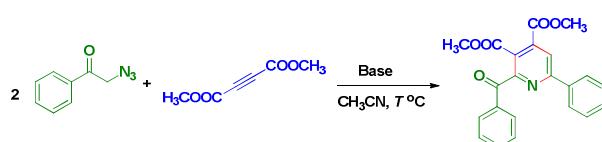
**Scheme 1** Reaction of  $\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketones with electron-deficient alkynes

## 2. Results and discussion

Initially, the reaction of  $\alpha$ -2-azido-1-phenylethanone and dimethyl but-2-yne dioate was chosen as the model reaction. No reaction was observed without any base. (**Table 1, entry 10**) The transformation occurred when the reaction was performed in the presence of a variety of bases. (**Table 1**)

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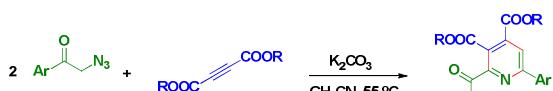
Screening of the base and solvent reveals that  $K_2CO_3$  was the most efficient base and acetonitrile was superior to other protic and aprotic solvents, (**Table 1, entries 1 to 9**) but the yield was significantly reduced when the reaction was performed at 80 °C or at room temperature. (**Table 1, entries 11, 12**) When only 1.2 equiv. of dimethyl but-2-yndioate was used, the conversion of the reaction maintained. (**Table 1, entry 13**). And the yield was less reduced when only 1 equiv. of dimethyl but-2-yndioate was used. (**Table 1 entry 14**) On the basis of this initial study, the optimal reactivity was obtained in  $CH_3CN$  at 55 °C when 1.2 equiv. of dimethyl but-2-yndioate was employed in the presence of  $K_2CO_3$ , (90%; **Table 1, entry 13**)

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

Entry	Base	Solvent	T(°C)	Conversion <sup>[d]</sup> [%]
1	$K_2CO_3$	$CH_3CN$	55	90
2	$K_2CO_3$	DMF	55	13
3	$K_2CO_3$	EtOH	55	16
4	$K_2CO_3$	Toluene	55	10
5	$K_2CO_3$	THF	55	64
6	$Cs_2CO_3$	$CH_3CN$	55	80
7	EtONa	$CH_3CN$	55	17
8	Et <sub>3</sub> N	$CH_3CN$	55	76
9	DBU	$CH_3CN$	55	80
10	/	$CH_3CN$	55	N.R.
11	$K_2CO_3$	$CH_3CN$	r.t.	61
12	$K_2CO_3$	$CH_3CN$	80	76
13 <sup>[b]</sup>	<b><math>K_2CO_3</math></b>	<b><math>CH_3CN</math></b>	<b>55</b>	<b>90</b>
14 <sup>[c]</sup>	$K_2CO_3$	$CH_3CN$	55	85

[a] Reaction conditions:  $\alpha$ -2-azido-1-phenylethanone (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), dimethyl but-2-yndioate (0.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), base (1 mmol, 2 equiv.), 2 mL of solvent, 12 h, 55 °C. [b] 0.3 mmol (1.2 equiv.) of dimethyl but-2-yndioate was used. [c] 0.25 mmol (1 equiv.) of dimethyl but-2-yndioate was used. [d] Determined by high-performance liquid chromatography, based on the starting  $\alpha$ -2-azido-1-phenylethanone. The most successful entry is highlighted in bold.

With the optimized reaction conditions in hand, the scope of the reaction was studied using a set of  $\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketones **1**, internal alkynes **2**. As shown in **Table 2**, various substituted  $\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketones worked well with internal alkynes to provide the desired products. Good yields were obtained when **1** contained an electron-donating group and electron-withdrawing group on the aromatic ring (the isolated yield > 60%). But it gave lower yields when a strong electron-withdrawing group was present on the aromatic ring of **1**. (**Table 2, 3s**) Not surprisingly, heteroaromatic  $\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketones were also able to furnish the desired products in good efficiency. (**Table 2, 3i** and **3j**) The steric effect was also examined in this scope. As expected, the steric effect on the aromatic ring did influence the reaction efficiency with a slight reduction in the isolated yield. (**Table 2, 3k** compared to **3q** and **3l** compared to **3r**)

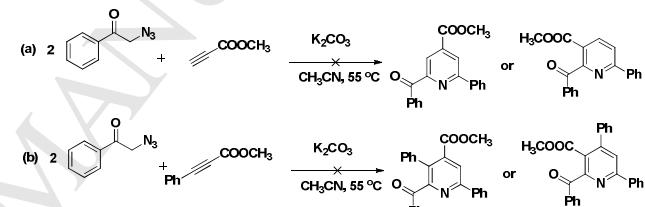
**Table 2** Scope of the reaction <sup>[a]</sup>

## Tetrahedron

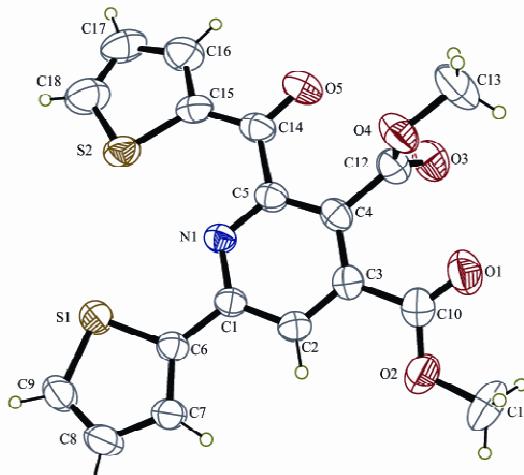
Entry	Ar	R	Product	Yield [%] <sup>[b]</sup>
1	$C_6H_5$	$CH_3$	3a	79
2	$C_6H_5$	$CH_3CH_2$	3b	74
3	4- $CH_3C_6H_4$	$CH_3$	3c	75
4	4- $CH_3C_6H_4$	$CH_3CH_2$	3d	73
5	4-Br- $C_6H_4$	$CH_3$	3e	77
6	4-Br- $C_6H_4$	$CH_3CH_2$	3f	79
7	4-OCH <sub>3</sub> - $C_6H_4$	$CH_3$	3g	75
8	4-OCH <sub>3</sub> - $C_6H_4$	$CH_3CH_2$	3h	75
9	2-Thiophene	$CH_3$	3i	72
10	2-Thiophene	$CH_3CH_2$	3j	70
11	2-Cl- $C_6H_4$	$CH_3$	3k	65
12	2-Cl- $C_6H_4$	$CH_3CH_2$	3l	60
13	3-OCH <sub>3</sub> - $C_6H_4$	$CH_3$	3m	77
14	3-OCH <sub>3</sub> - $C_6H_4$	$CH_3CH_2$	3n	76
15	3,4-diOCH <sub>3</sub> - $C_6H_3$	$CH_3$	3o	73
16	3,4-diOCH <sub>3</sub> - $C_6H_3$	$CH_3CH_2$	3p	74
17	4-Cl- $C_6H_4$	$CH_3$	3q	81
18	4-Cl- $C_6H_4$	$CH_3CH_2$	3r	81
19	4-NO <sub>2</sub> - $C_6H_4$	$CH_3$	3s	32

[a] Reaction conditions:  $\alpha$ -2-azido-1-phenylethanone (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), dimethyl but-2-yndioate (0.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.),  $K_2CO_3$  (1 mmol, 2 equiv.), 2 mL of acetonitrile, 12 h, 55 °C. [b] Isolated yield.

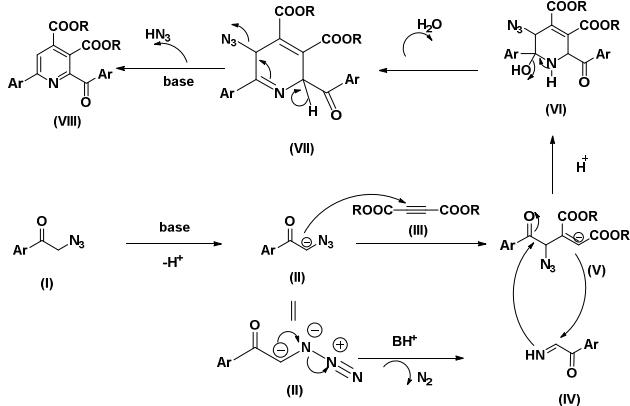
Methyl propiolate and methyl 3-phenylpropionate were also used under the standard condition in order to explore the scope of unsymmetrical alkynes. To our disappointment, no desired product were observed. (**Scheme 2**)

**Scheme 2.** Attempted reaction of unsymmetrical alkynes

The structures of the tetrasubstituted pyridines were characterized by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and HRMS. The structure of **3i** was further proved by X-ray crystal structural analysis as shown in **Fig. 1**.

**Fig.1** X-Ray crystal structure of **3i**

On the basis of the results presented above, we proposed the following possible mechanism for this reaction, as shown in **Scheme 3**. In the presence of base,  $\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketone gave the intermediate (**II**), which would condense with internal alkynes (**III**) to afford the intermediate (**V**). Another equiv. of (**II**) affords the imine intermediate (**IV**) with a loss of nitrogen,<sup>[11]</sup> and cyclization of (**IV**) and (**V**) formed intermediate (**VI**). Subsequently, (**VI**) underwent a loss of  $H_2O$  molecule to form the intermediate (**VII**). Aromatization of the resulting (**VII**) by kicking off hydrogen azide assisted by a base gave the final product (**VIII**).<sup>[14]</sup>



**Scheme 3** The proposed mechanism

### 3. Conclusions

In summary, we have developed a mild reaction to prepare tetrastubstituted pyridines from  $\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketones with dialkyl but-2-yne dioate. Mild and metal-free reaction conditions and substituent variation are all notable aspects of this methodology. Although the scope of asymmetric alkyne reaction is still limited, these results will initiate further studies towards an optimization of this new method.

### 4. Experimental section

#### 4.1 General

Purification of reaction products were carried out by chromatography using silica gel (200–300 mesh). Melting points were recorded on a BÜCHI B-540 melting point apparatus. NMR spectra were in  $CDCl_3$  or DMSO ( $^1H$  at 500 MHz and  $^{13}C$  at 125 MHz) and data are reported as follows: chemical shift, integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), and coupling constant(s) in Hz. HRMS data were obtained with using ESI ionization. Infrared spectra were recorded on FTIR spectrophotometer. Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained commercially and used without further purification. The starting material  $\alpha$ -azidomethyl aryl ketones were prepared according to literature methods.<sup>1</sup>

#### 4.2 General procedure for the synthesis of 3

To a 10 ml flask,  $\alpha$ -azido ketones (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.), dimethyl but-2-yne dioate (0.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.),  $K_2CO_3$  (1 mmol, 2 equiv.) and 2 mL acetonitrile was added successively. The reaction mixture was stirred at 55 °C for 12 h. Acetonitrile was removed by rotary evaporation under reduced pressure. And then the residue was added 20 mL  $H_2O$ , extracted with 15 mL EtOAc twice. The organic layer was washed with 20 mL  $H_2O$ , 20 mL brine and dried with  $Na_2SO_4$ . And then EtOAc with removed under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash

chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc) on silica gel to afford **3a-3s**.

**4.2.1. dimethyl 2-benzoyl-6-phenylpyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3a):** white solid, Mp: 123–125 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.31 (s, 1H), 8.06 (dd, J = 6.7, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 8.01 (dd, J = 6.7, 3.0 Hz 2H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.47 (m, 5H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  192.58, 166.74, 165.17, 157.73, 154.98, 139.54, 136.62, 135.50, 133.54, 130.87, 130.57, 129.06, 128.32, 127.28, 126.84, 120.45, 53.36, 53.06. IR (KBr) v: 2952, 1732, 1676, 1584, 1444, 1358 1261, 1100, 950, 804, 759, 691 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $C_{22}H_{17}NO_5$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 376.1179. Found: 376.1182.

**4.2.2. diethyl 2-benzoyl-6-phenylpyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3b):** white solid. Mp: 87–89 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.28 (s, 1H), 8.07 (dd, J = 6.5, 3.3 Hz, 2H), 8.03 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 5H), 4.47 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.34 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  192.70, 165.95, 165.05, 157.74, 155.49, 140.30, 136.75, 135.57, 133.52, 130.76, 130.49, 129.02, 128.33, 127.30, 126.44, 120.22, 62.64, 62.23, 14.04, 13.63. IR (KBr) v: 3065, 2985, 1729, 1673, 1577, 1454, 1371, 1259, 1171, 1110, 1018, 904, 860, 754, 691 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $C_{24}H_{21}NO_5$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 404.1492. Found: 404.1496.

**4.2.3. dimethyl 2-(4-methylbenzoyl)-6-(p-tolyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3c):** white solid. Mp: 169–171 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.27 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  192.29, 166.82, 165.37, 157.71, 155.28, 144.52, 140.92, 139.49, 133.95, 132.99, 131.03, 129.76, 129.05, 127.19, 126.26, 119.86, 53.29, 52.98, 21.82, 21.38. IR (KBr) v: 2953, 1734, 1665, 1584, 1442, 1353, 1276, 1109, 1058, 950, 827, 770, 727 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $C_{24}H_{21}NO_5$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 404.1492. Found: 404.1489.

**4.2.4. diethyl 2-(4-methylbenzoyl)-6-(p-tolyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3d):** white solid. Mp: 146–148 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.22 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 4.46 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.31 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  192.41, 166.04, 165.24, 157.70, 155.74, 144.46, 140.82, 140.22, 134.07, 133.07, 130.93, 129.72, 129.05, 127.22, 125.89, 119.64, 62.56, 62.13, 21.82, 21.38, 14.04, 13.64. IR (KBr) v: 2983, 1729, 1666, 1579, 1370, 1260, 1177, 1108, 1020, 905, 826, 769, 724 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $C_{26}H_{25}NO_5$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 432.1805. Found: 432.1812.

**4.2.5. dimethyl 2-(4-bromobenzoyl)-6-(4-bromophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3e):** pale yellow solid. Mp: 185–187 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.31 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  191.33, 166.51, 164.83, 156.58, 154.44, 139.75, 132.35, 131.71, 128.70, 125.49, 120.47, 53.45, 53.15. IR (KBr) v: 2950, 1735, 1672, 1582, 1488, 1441, 1405, 1353, 1273, 1110, 1067, 1009, 949, 906, 883, 773, 736, 687, 637 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $C_{22}H_{15}Br_2NO_5$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 531.9390. Found: 531.9396.

## Tetrahedron

**4.2.6. diethyl 2-(4-bromobenzoyl)-6-(4-bromophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3f):** pale yellow solid. Mp: 150–152 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.62 – 7.66 (m, 4H) 4.47 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.35 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.45, 165.76, 164.69, 156.54, 154.88, 140.46, 135.44, 134.24, 132.30, 132.18, 131.72, 129.01, 128.73, 127.01, 125.40, 120.26, 62.78, 62.36, 14.03, 13.67. IR (KBr) v: 2983, 1728, 1672, 1581, 1402, 1262, 1177, 1107, 1009, 905, 836, 774 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 559.9703. Found: 559.9705.

**4.2.7. dimethyl 2-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3g):** white solid. Mp: 125–127 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.21 (s, 1H), 8.05 – 8.02 (m, 4H), 7.00 – 6.97 (m, 4H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.25, 166.91, 165.48, 163.95, 161.68, 157.30, 155.52, 139.48, 133.31, 129.31, 128.80, 128.49, 125.68, 119.20, 114.39, 113.64, 55.53, 55.43, 53.27, 52.96. IR (KBr) v: 3103, 2954, 2839, 1734, 1655, 1595, 1512, 1433, 1357, 1259, 1173, 1110, 946, 835, 773, 719 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 436.1391. Found: 436.1391.

**4.2.8. diethyl 2-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3h):** colorless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.15 (s, 1H), 8.05 – 8.00 (m, 4H), 6.99 – 6.96 (m, 4H), 4.45 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.40, 166.09, 165.34, 163.92, 161.64, 157.32, 155.99, 140.25, 133.16, 129.43, 128.81, 128.61, 125.27, 118.96, 114.36, 113.64, 62.50, 62.06, 55.50, 55.40, 14.03, 13.63. IR (KBr) v: 2892, 2838, 1728, 1661, 1596, 1512, 1461, 1425, 1372, 1258, 1173, 1107, 1027, 905, 840, 775 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 464.1704. Found: 464.1709.

**4.2.9. dimethyl 6-(thiophen-2-yl)-2-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3i):** yellow solid. Mp: 143–145 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.30 – 8.29 (m, 2H), 7.84 – 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.56 (dd, J = 5.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 4.01 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 181.89, 167.30, 164.23, 152.85, 151.90, 142.20, 139.27, 138.39, 137.11, 136.96, 130.03, 128.58, 127.78, 127.74, 127.34, 120.55, 53.39, 53.10. IR (KBr) v: 3091, 2945, 1737, 1636, 1582, 1435, 1273, 1150, 1094, 745, 691 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 388.0308. Found: 388.0310.

**4.2.10. diethyl 6-(thiophen-2-yl)-2-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3j):** yellow solid. Mp: 117–119 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 8.25 (dd, J = 3.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.55 (dd, J = 5.0, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 4.49 – 4.44 (m, 4H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 182.17, 166.58, 164.05, 152.69, 152.31, 142.31, 139.64, 139.07, 136.92, 136.71, 129.93, 128.54, 127.80, 127.63, 127.23, 120.34, 62.70, 62.16, 14.05, 13.82. IR (KBr) v: 3111, 2982, 1724, 1638, 1581, 1405, 1357, 1277, 1238, 1152, 1095, 1018, 851, 718 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 416.0621. Found: 416.0621.

**4.2.11. dimethyl 2-(2-chlorobenzoyl)-6-(2-chlorophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3k):** colorless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.39 (s, 1H), 7.63 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, J =

7.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.39 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 4.00 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.44, 167.04, 164.27, 157.39, 152.63, 137.42, 136.92, 136.72, 132.87, 132.45, 132.27, 131.69, 131.17, 130.66, 130.31, 130.02, 127.86, 127.22, 126.78, 126.69, 53.40, 53.28. IR (KBr) v: 3088, 2952, 1744, 1680, 1587, 1435, 1358, 1277, 1219, 1153, 1123, 1072, 951, 745, 705, 638 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>15</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 444.0400. Found: 444.0406.

**4.2.12. diethyl 2-(2-chlorobenzoyl)-6-(2-chlorophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3l):** colorless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.36 (s, 1H), 7.63 (dd, J = 7.3, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dd, J = 7.3, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.36 (m, 3H), 4.43 – 4.52 (m 4H), 1.40 – 1.43 (m, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.43, 166.41, 163.97, 157.24, 152.91, 137.96, 136.99, 136.82, 132.86, 132.40, 132.27, 131.65, 131.17, 130.60, 130.29, 130.03, 127.94, 127.19, 126.66, 62.68, 62.37, 14.03, 13.82. IR (KBr) v: 2985, 1737, 1687, 1588, 1438, 1374, 1280, 1167, 1120, 755 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 472.0713. Found: 472.0717.

**4.2.13. dimethyl 2-(3-methoxybenzoyl)-6-(3-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3m):** white solid. Mp: 92–94 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.64 – 7.62 (m, 3H), 7.56 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.18 (dd, J=8, 2.5Hz, 1H), 7.02 (dd, J = 8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 192.26, 166.67, 165.15, 160.23, 159.56, 157.47, 154.82, 139.53, 137.99, 136.77, 130.06, 129.22, 126.89, 124.03, 120.59, 120.31, 119.56, 116.46, 114.50, 112.53, 55.45, 55.35, 53.34, 53.04. IR (KBr) v: 2979, 1732, 1671, 1587, 1458, 1268, 1221, 1099, 1040, 862, 770, 726, 684 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 436.1391. Found: 436.1389.

**4.2.14. diethyl 2-(3-methoxybenzoyl)-6-(3-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3n):** colorless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.64 – 7.61 (m, 3H), 7.54 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.17 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.5Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.5Hz, 1H), 4.46 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.34 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 192.39, 165.91, 165.02, 160.21, 159.57, 157.47, 155.31, 140.26, 138.14, 136.84, 130.03, 129.25, 126.52, 123.98, 120.38, 120.30, 119.61, 116.33, 114.35, 112.62, 62.63, 62.23, 55.46, 55.36, 14.03, 13.66. IR (KBr) v: 3018, 2948, 2839, 1730, 1665, 1580, 1490, 1436, 1291, 1224, 1150, 1099, 1043, 955, 878, 768, 728, 668 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>9</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 464.1704. Found: 464.1707.

**4.2.15. dimethyl 2-(3,4-dimethoxybenzoyl)-6-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3o):** white solid. Mp: 86–88 °C . <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.21 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.59 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.19, 165.80, 165.54, 157.26, 155.41, 153.85, 151.37, 149.48, 148.94, 139.62, 129.52, 128.59, 126.85, 125.64, 120.36, 119.26, 112.06, 111.16, 110.06, 109.80, 56.12, 56.02, 53.29, 52.96. IR (KBr) v: 3003, 2951, 2838, 1733, 1657, 1587, 1515, 1457, 1423, 1346, 1269, 1153, 1021, 807, 768, 721 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>9</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 496.1602. Found: 496.1606.

**4.2.16. diethyl 2-(3,4-dimethoxybenzoyl)-6-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3p):** colorless liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.15 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d,  $J = 1.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.54 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.9$  Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.45 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.29 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 1.41 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.24 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  191.37, 166.01, 165.41, 157.28, 155.83, 153.80, 151.30, 149.44, 148.95, 140.34, 129.64, 128.68, 126.78, 125.25, 120.37, 119.07, 111.85, 111.13, 110.12, 109.82, 62.56, 62.10, 56.10, 56.03, 56.01, 14.02, 13.67. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 3083, 2974, 2840, 1729, 1662, 1591, 1518, 1460, 1425, 1378, 1343, 1268, 1175, 1146, 1106, 1017, 861, 768, 721  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_9$  [M+H] $^+$ : 524.1915. Found: 524.1916.

**4.2.17. dimethyl 2-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3q):** pale yellow solid. Mp: 171–173  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.31 (s, 1H), 8.00 – 7.96 (m, 4H), 7.49 – 7.46 (m, 4H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  191.15, 166.52, 164.85, 156.49, 154.48, 140.22, 139.72, 137.05, 134.87, 133.76, 132.21, 129.37, 128.73, 128.48, 127.29, 120.48, 53.45, 53.15. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 3092, 2951, 1735, 1672, 1585, 1492, 1441, 1411, 1410, 1354, 1270, 1169, 1104, 1013, 951, 836, 773  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_5$  [M+H] $^+$ : 444.0400. Found: 444.0409.

**4.2.18. diethyl 2-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3r):** pale yellow solid. Mp: 132–134  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.25 (s, 1H), 8.00 – 7.95 (m, 4H), 7.51 – 7.45 (m, 4H), 4.47 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 4.35 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.28 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  191.28, 165.77, 164.72, 156.47, 154.93, 140.45, 140.18, 136.96, 134.99, 133.83, 132.11, 129.33, 128.74, 128.51, 126.95, 120.26, 62.78, 62.35, 14.04, 13.67. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 3088, 2984, 1729, 1671, 1583, 1405, 1370, 1262, 1177, 1103, 1013, 838, 775  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_5$  [M+H] $^+$ : 472.0713. Found: 472.0719.

**4.2.19. dimethyl 2-(4-nitrobenzoyl)-6-(4-nitrophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3s):** yellow solid. Mp: 70–72  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.49 (s, 1H), 8.38 – 8.34 (m, 4H), 8.20 – 8.16 (m, 4H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  190.48, 166.12, 164.17, 155.30, 153.56, 150.51, 149.15, 141.77, 140.13, 140.00, 131.68, 128.96, 128.10, 124.37, 123.52, 122.24, 53.70, 53.40. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 1730, 1636, 1596, 1514, 1397, 1342, 1109, 844, 738, 687  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}_9$  [M+H] $^+$ : 466.0881. Found: 466.0877.

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### Supplementary Material

Copies of NMR spectra for all products and single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis of 3i.

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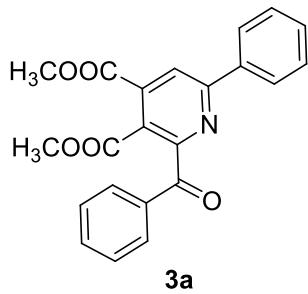
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4161.

**Supporting information****General Information:**

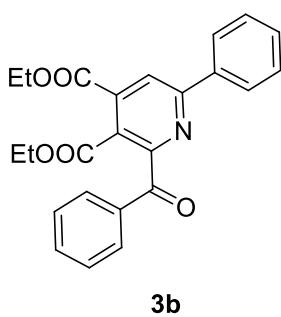
Purification of reaction products were carried out by chromatography using silica gel (200-300mesh). Melting points were recorded on a BÜCHI B-540 melting point apparatus. NMR spectra were in CDCl<sub>3</sub> or DMSO (<sup>1</sup>H at 500 MHz and <sup>13</sup>C at 125 MHz) and data are reported as follows: chemical shift, integration, multiplicity ( s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), and coupling constant(s) in Hz. Infrared spectra were recorded on FTIR spectrophotometer. HRMS data were obtained with using ESI ionization. Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained commercially and used without further purification. The starting material  $\alpha$ -azido ketones were prepared according to literature methods.<sup>1</sup>

**General Procedure for the Synthesis of 3a-3s**

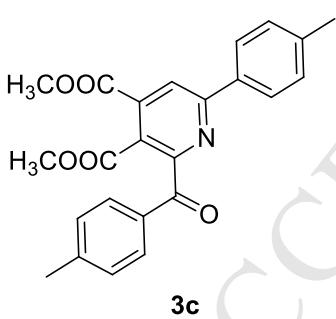
To a 10 ml flask,  $\alpha$ -azido ketones (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.), dimethyl but-2-ynedioate (0.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 mmol, 2 equiv.) and 2 mL acetonitrile was added successively. The reaction mixture was stirred at 55 °C for 12 h. Acetonitrile was removed by rotary evaporation under reduced pressure. And then the residue was added 20 mL H<sub>2</sub>O, extracted with 15 mL EtOAc twice. The organic layer was washed with 20 mL H<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mL brine and dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. And then EtOAc with removed under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc) on silica gel to afford **3a-3s**.

**Characterization Data:**

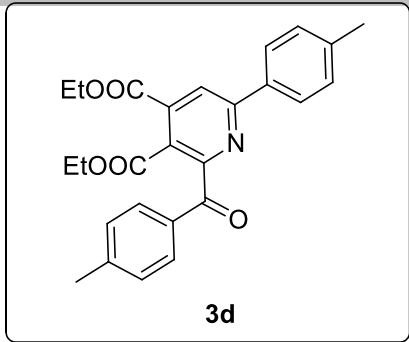
**dimethyl 2-benzoyl-6-phenylpyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3a):** white solid, Mp: 123-125 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.31 (s, 1H), 8.06 (dd,  $J = 6.7, 3.0$  Hz, 2H), 8.01 (dd,  $J = 6.7, 3.0$  Hz 2H), 7.63 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.47 (m, 5H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  192.58, 166.74, 165.17, 157.73, 154.98, 139.54, 136.62, 135.50, 133.54, 130.87, 130.57, 129.06, 128.32, 127.28, 126.84, 120.45, 53.36, 53.06. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 2952, 1732, 1676, 1584, 1444, 1358 1261, 1100, 950, 804, 759, 691  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_5$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 376.1179. Found: 376.1182.



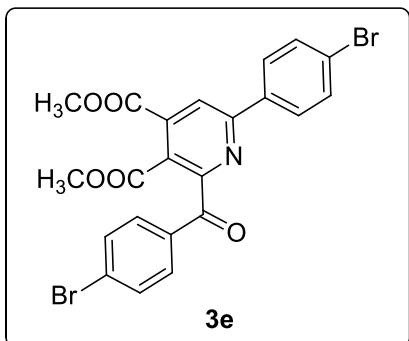
**diethyl 2-benzoyl-6-phenylpyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3b):** white solid. Mp: 87-89 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.28 (s, 1H), 8.07 (dd,  $J = 6.5, 3.3$  Hz, 2H), 8.03 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.64 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 5H), 4.47 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 4.34 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.26 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  192.70, 165.95, 165.05, 157.74, 155.49, 140.30, 136.75, 135.57, 133.52, 130.76, 130.49, 129.02, 128.33, 127.30, 126.44, 120.22, 62.64, 62.23, 14.04, 13.63. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 3065, 2985, 1729, 1673, 1577, 1454, 1371, 1259, 1171, 1110, 1018, 904, 860, 754, 691  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_5$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 404.1492. Found: 404.1496.



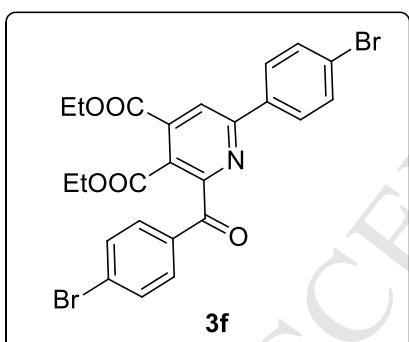
**dimethyl 2-(4-methylbenzoyl)-6-(p-tolyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3c):** white solid. Mp: 169-171 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.27 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d,  $J = 4.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 2H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  192.29, 166.82, 165.37, 157.71, 155.28, 144.52, 140.92, 139.49, 133.95, 132.99, 131.03, 129.76, 129.05, 127.19, 126.26, 119.86, 53.29, 52.98, 21.82, 21.38. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 2953, 1734, 1665, 1584, 1442, 1353, 1276, 1109, 1058, 950, 827, 770, 727  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_5$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 404.1492. Found: 404.1489.



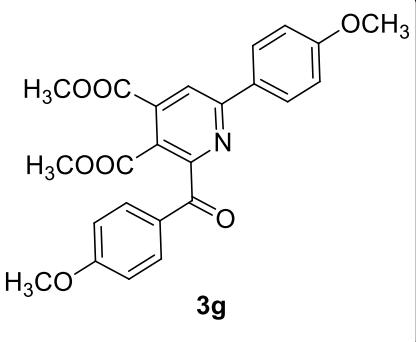
**diethyl 2-(4-methylbenzoyl)-6-(p-tolyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3d):** white solid. Mp: 146-148 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.22 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.30 - 7.27 (m, 4H), 4.46 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.31 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 192.41, 166.04, 165.24, 157.70, 155.74, 144.46, 140.82, 140.22, 134.07, 133.07, 130.93, 129.72, 129.05, 127.22, 125.89, 119.64, 62.56, 62.13, 21.82, 21.38, 14.04, 13.64. IR (KBr) v: 2983, 1729, 1666, 1579, 1370, 1260, 1177, 1108, 1020, 905, 826, 769, 724 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 432.1805. Found: 432.1812.



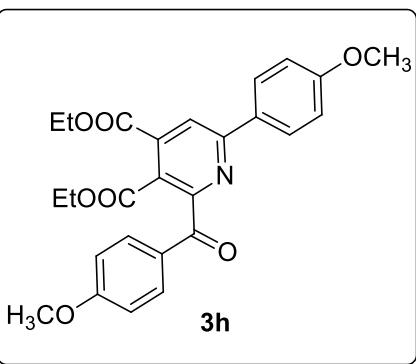
**dimethyl 2-(4-bromobenzoyl)-6-(4-bromophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3e):** pale yellow solid. Mp: 185 - 187 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.33, 166.51, 164.83, 156.58, 154.44, 139.75, 132.35, 131.71, 128.70, 125.49, 120.47, 53.45, 53.15. IR (KBr) v: 2950, 1735, 1672, 1582, 1488, 1441, 1405, 1353, 1273, 1110, 1067, 1009, 949, 906, 883, 773, 736, 687, 637 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>15</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 531.9390. Found: 531.9396.



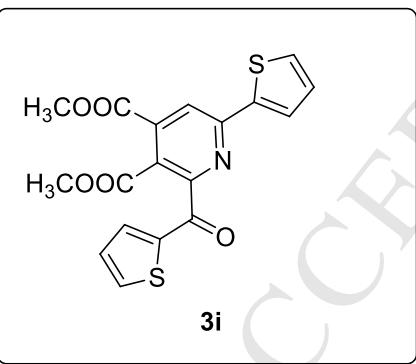
**diethyl 2-(4-bromobenzoyl)-6-(4-bromophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3f):** pale yellow solid. Mp: 150-152 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.62 - 7.66 (m, 4H) 4.47 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.35 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.45, 165.76, 164.69, 156.54, 154.88, 140.46, 135.44, 134.24, 132.30, 132.18, 131.72, 129.01, 128.73, 127.01, 125.40, 120.26, 62.78, 62.36, 14.03, 13.67. IR (KBr) v: 2983, 1728, 1672, 1581, 1402, 1262, 1177, 1107, 1009, 905, 836, 774 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 559.9703. Found: 559.9705.



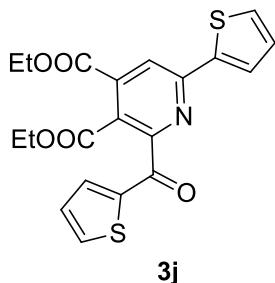
**dimethyl 2-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3g):** white solid. Mp: 125-127 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.21 (s, 1H), 8.05 - 8.02 (m, 4H), 7.00 - 6.97 (m, 4H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  191.25, 166.91, 165.48, 163.95, 161.68, 157.30, 155.52, 139.48, 133.31, 129.31, 128.80, 128.49, 125.68, 119.20, 114.39, 113.64, 55.53, 55.43, 53.27, 52.96. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 3103, 2954, 2839, 1734, 1655, 1595, 1512, 1433, 1357, 1259, 1173, 1110, 946, 835, 773, 719  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_7$  [M+H] $^+$  :436.1391. Found: 436.1391.



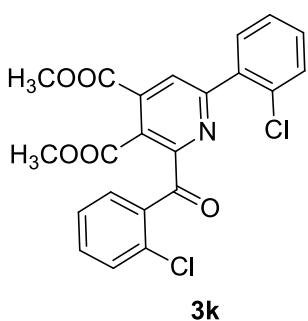
**diethyl 2-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate(3h):** colorless liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.15 (s, 1H), 8.05 - 8.00 (m, 4H), 6.99 - 6.96 (m, 4H), 4.45 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.30 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.24 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  191.40, 166.09, 165.34, 163.92, 161.64, 157.32, 155.99, 140.25, 133.16, 129.43, 128.81, 128.61, 125.27, 118.96, 114.36, 113.64, 62.50, 62.06, 55.50, 55.40, 14.03, 13.63. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 2892, 2838, 1728, 1661, 1596, 1512, 1461, 1425, 1372, 1258, 1173, 1107, 1027, 905, 840, 775  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_7$  [M+H] $^+$  :464.1704. Found:464.1709.



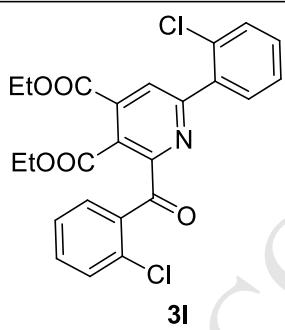
**dimethyl 6-(thiophen-2-yl)-2-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3i):** yellow solid. Mp: 143-145 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.30 - 8.29 (m, 2H), 7.84 - 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.56 (dd,  $J = 5.0, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.23 - 7.20 (m, 2H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 4.01 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  181.89, 167.30, 164.23, 152.85, 151.90, 142.20, 139.27, 138.39, 137.11, 136.96, 130.03, 128.58, 127.78, 127.74, 127.34, 120.55, 53.39, 53.10. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 3091, 2945, 1737, 1636, 1582, 1435, 1273, 1150, 1094, 745, 691  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_5\text{S}_2$  [M+H] $^+$  :388.0308. Found: 388.0310.



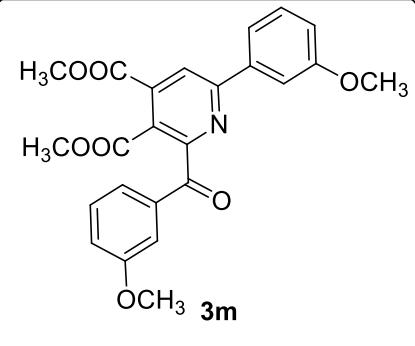
**diethyl 6-(thiophen-2-yl)-2-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3j):** yellow solid. Mp: 117–119 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 8.25 (dd, J = 3.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.55 (dd, J = 5.0, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 4.49 – 4.44 (m, 4H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 182.17, 166.58, 164.05, 152.69, 152.31, 142.31, 139.64, 139.07, 136.92, 136.71, 129.93, 128.54, 127.80, 127.63, 127.23, 120.34, 62.70, 62.16, 14.05, 13.82. IR (KBr) ν: 3111, 2982, 1724, 1638, 1581, 1405, 1357, 1277, 1238, 1152, 1095, 1018, 851, 718 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 416.0621. Found: 416.0621.



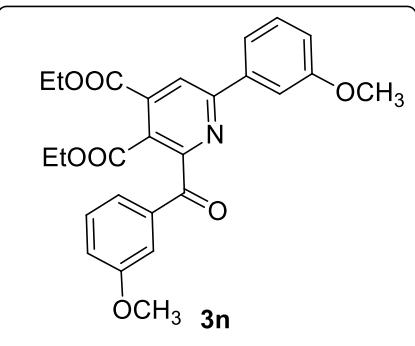
**dimethyl 2-(2-chlorobenzoyl)-6-(2-chlorophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3k):** colorless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.39 (s, 1H), 7.63 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, J = 7.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.39 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 4.00 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.44, 167.04, 164.27, 157.39, 152.63, 137.42, 136.92, 136.72, 132.87, 132.45, 132.27, 131.69, 131.17, 130.66, 130.31, 130.02, 127.86, 127.22, 126.78, 126.69, 53.40, 53.28. IR (KBr) ν: 3088, 2952, 1744, 1680, 1587, 1435, 1358, 1277, 1219, 1153, 1123, 1072, 951, 745, 705, 638 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>15</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 444.0400. Found: 444.0406.



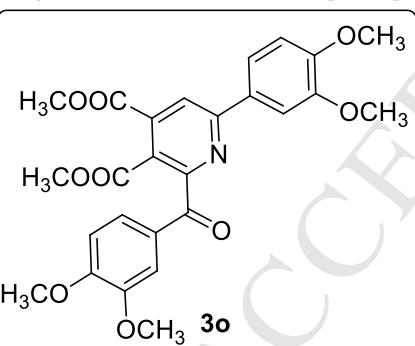
**diethyl 2-(2-chlorobenzoyl)-6-(2-chlorophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3l):** colorless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.36 (s, 1H), 7.63 (dd, J = 7.3, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dd, J = 7.3, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.36 (m, 3H), 4.43 – 4.52 (m, 4H), 1.40 – 1.43 (m, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.43, 166.41, 163.97, 157.24, 152.91, 137.96, 136.99, 136.82, 132.86, 132.40, 132.27, 131.65, 131.17, 130.60, 130.29, 130.03, 127.94, 127.19, 126.66, 62.68, 62.37, 14.03, 13.82. IR (KBr) ν: 2985, 1737, 1687, 1588, 1438, 1374, 1280, 1167, 1120, 755 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 472.0713. Found: 472.0717.



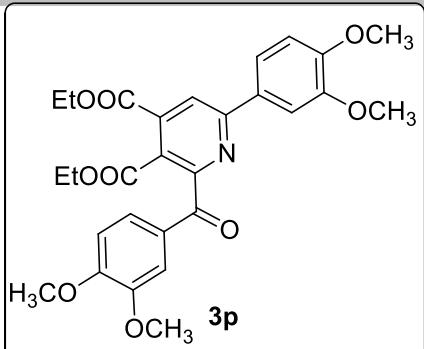
**dimethyl 2-(3-methoxybenzoyl)-6-(3-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3m):** white solid. Mp: 92-94 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.30 (s, 1H), 7.64 – 7.62 (m, 3H), 7.56 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.18 (dd,  $J=8$ , 2.5Hz, 1H), 7.02 (dd,  $J = 8$ , 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  192.26, 166.67, 165.15, 160.23, 159.56, 157.47, 154.82, 139.53, 137.99, 136.77, 130.06, 129.22, 126.89, 124.03, 120.59, 120.31, 119.56, 116.46, 114.50, 112.53, 55.45, 55.35, 53.34, 53.04. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 2979, 1732, 1671, 1587, 1458, 1268, 1221, 1099, 1040, 862, 770, 726, 684  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_7$  [M+H] $^+$  :436.1391. Found: 436.1389.



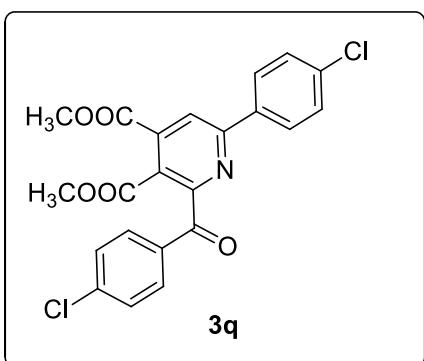
**diethyl 2-(3-methoxybenzoyl)-6-(3-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3n):** colorless liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.25 (s, 1H), 7.64 – 7.61 (m, 3H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.17 (dd,  $J = 8.0$ , 2.5Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dd,  $J = 8.0$ , 2.5Hz, 1H), 4.46 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.34 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.27 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  192.39, 165.91, 165.02, 160.21, 159.57, 157.47, 155.31, 140.26, 138.14, 136.84, 130.03, 129.25, 126.52, 123.98, 120.38, 120.30, 119.61, 116.33, 114.35, 112.62, 62.63, 62.23, 55.46, 55.36, 14.03, 13.66. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 3018, 2948, 2839, 1730, 1665, 1580, 1490, 1436, 1291, 1224, 1150, 1099, 1043, 955, 878, 768, 728, 668  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_9$  [M+H] $^+$  :464.1704. Found: 464.1707.



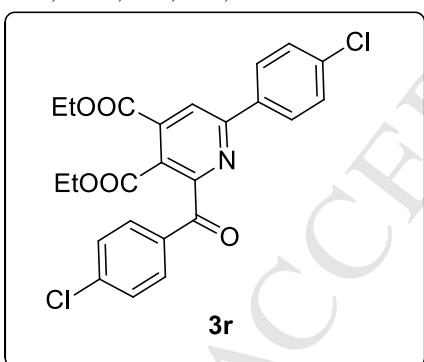
**dimethyl 2-(3,4-dimethoxybenzoyl)-6-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3o):** white solid. Mp: 86-88 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.21 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d,  $J = 1.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.59 (dd,  $J = 8.4$ , 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  191.19, 165.80, 165.54, 157.26, 155.41, 153.85, 151.37, 149.48, 148.94, 139.62, 129.52, 128.59, 126.85, 125.64, 120.36, 119.26, 112.06, 111.16, 110.06, 109.80, 56.12, 56.02, 53.29, 52.96. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 3003, 2951, 2838, 1733, 1657, 1587, 1515, 1457, 1423, 1346, 1269, 1153, 1021, 807, 768, 721  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_9$  [M+H] $^+$  :496.1602. Found: 496.1606.



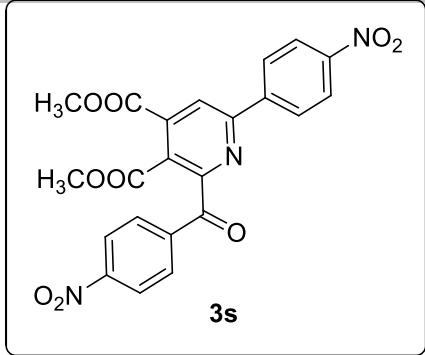
**diethyl 2-(3,4-dimethoxybenzoyl)-6-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3p):** colorless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.54 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 1.41 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.37, 166.01, 165.41, 157.28, 155.83, 153.80, 151.30, 149.44, 148.95, 140.34, 129.64, 128.68, 126.78, 125.25, 120.37, 119.07, 111.85, 111.13, 110.12, 109.82, 62.56, 62.10, 56.10, 56.03, 56.01, 14.02, 13.67. IR (KBr) ν: 3083, 2974, 2840, 1729, 1662, 1591, 1518, 1460, 1425, 1378, 1343, 1268, 1175, 1146, 1106, 1017, 861, 768, 721 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>9</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> : 524.1915. Found: 524.1916.



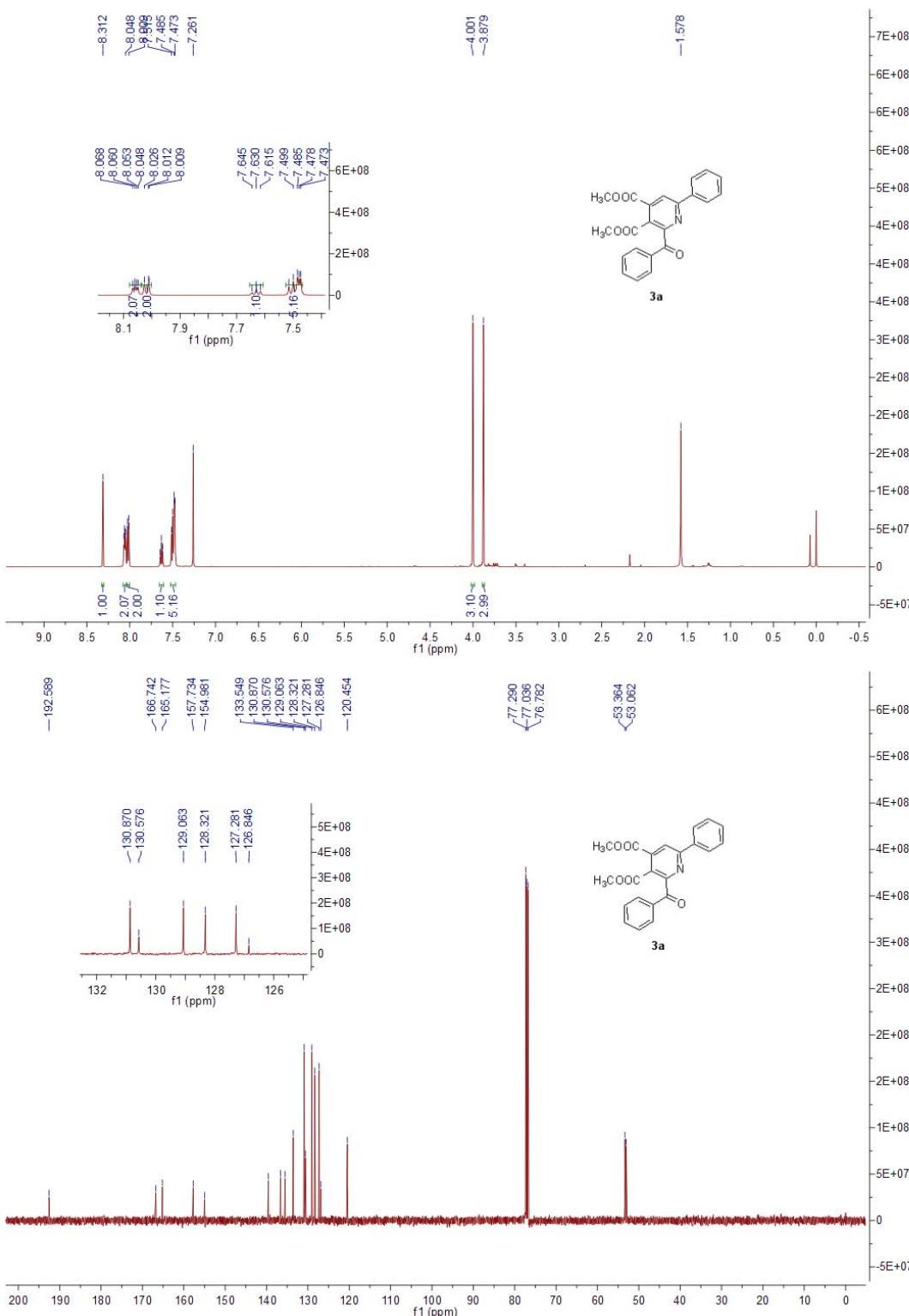
**dimethyl 2-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3q):** pale yellow solid. Mp: 171–173 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.31 (s, 1H), 8.00 – 7.96 (m, 4H), 7.49 – 7.46 (m, 4H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.15, 166.52, 164.85, 156.49, 154.48, 140.22, 139.72, 137.05, 134.87, 133.76, 132.21, 129.37, 128.73, 128.48, 127.29, 120.48, 53.45, 53.15. IR (KBr) ν: 3092, 2951, 1735, 1672, 1585, 1492, 1441, 1411, 1410, 1354, 1270, 1169, 1104, 1013, 951, 836, 773 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>15</sub>C<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> : 444.0400. Found: 444.0409.

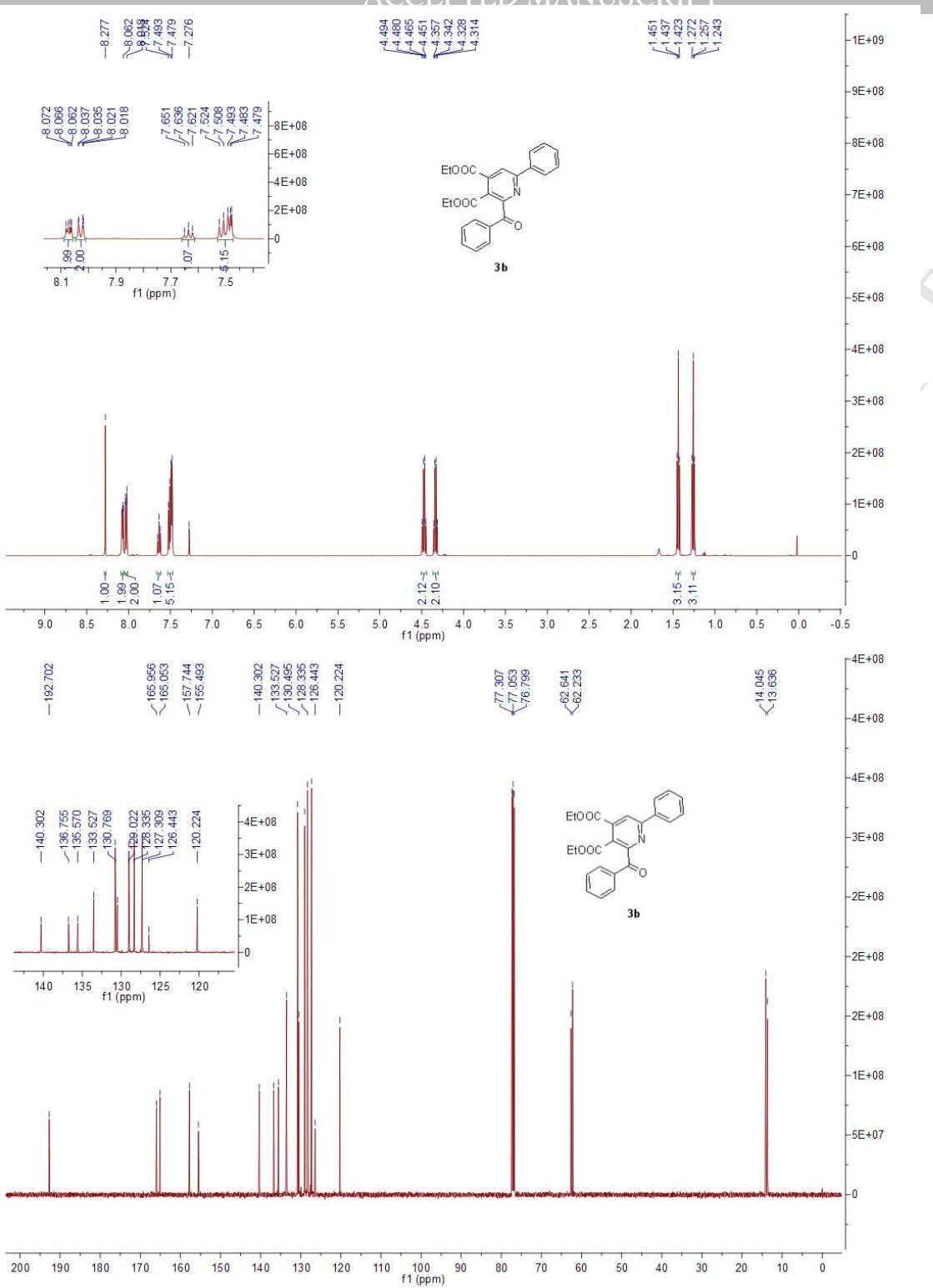


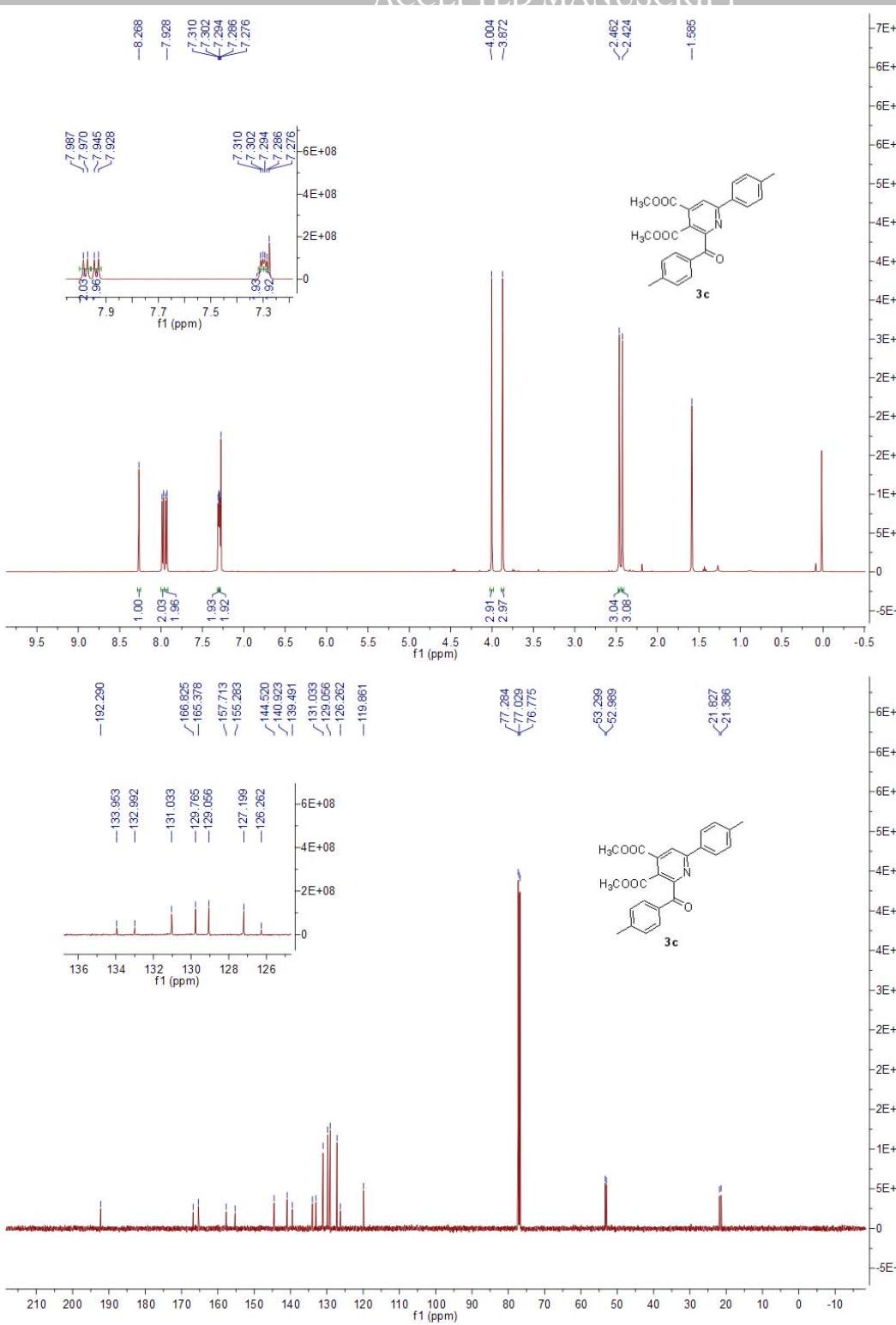
**diethyl 2-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-6-(4-chlorophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3r):** pale yellow solid. Mp: 132–134 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.25 (s, 1H), 8.00 – 7.95 (m, 4H), 7.51 – 7.45 (m, 4H), 4.47 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.35 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.28, 165.77, 164.72, 156.47, 154.93, 140.45, 140.18, 136.96, 134.99, 133.83, 132.11, 129.33, 128.74, 128.51, 126.95, 120.26, 62.78, 62.35, 14.04, 13.67. IR (KBr) ν: 3088, 2984, 1729, 1671, 1583, 1405, 1370, 1262, 1177, 1103, 1013, 838, 775 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> : 472.0713. Found: 472.0719.

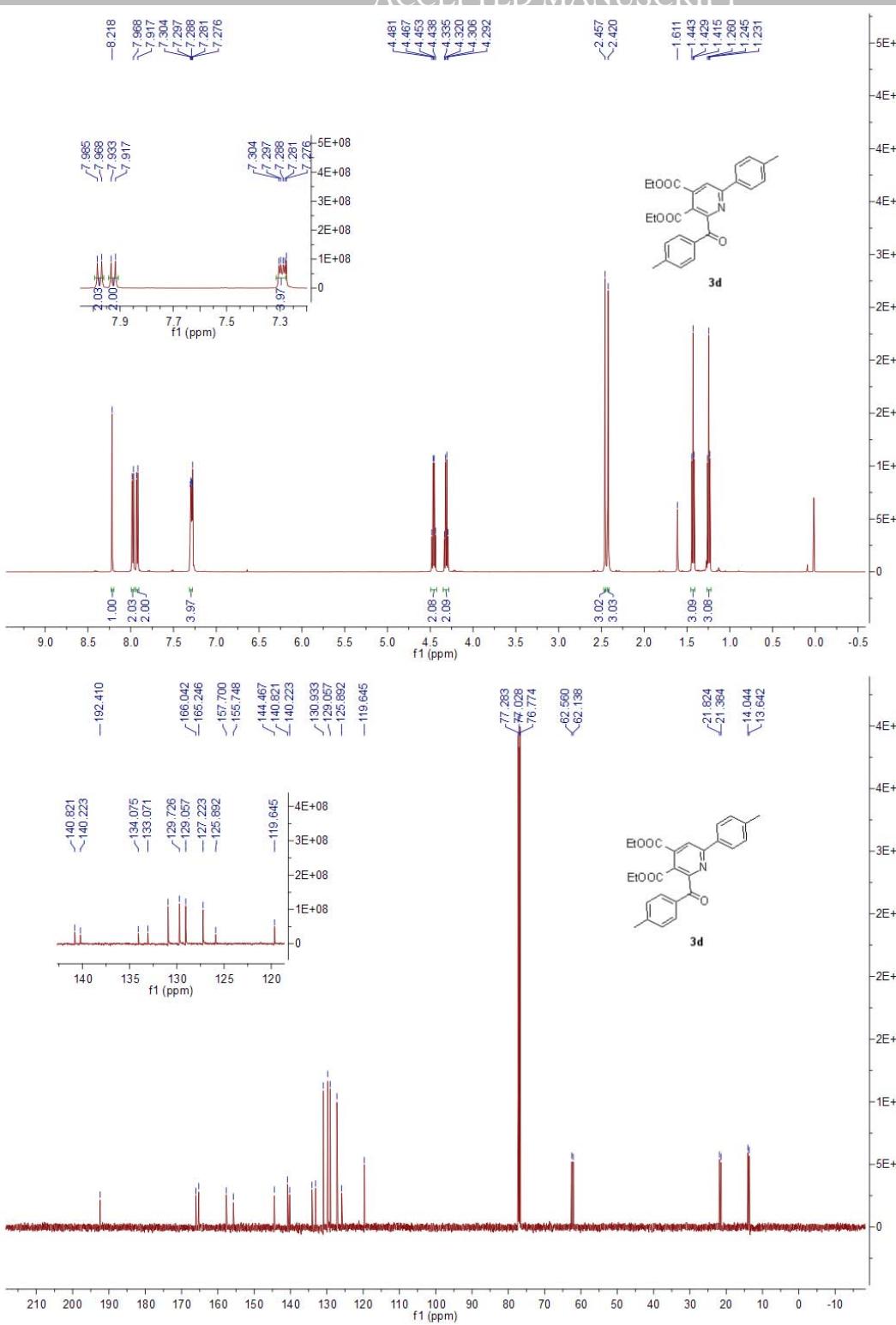


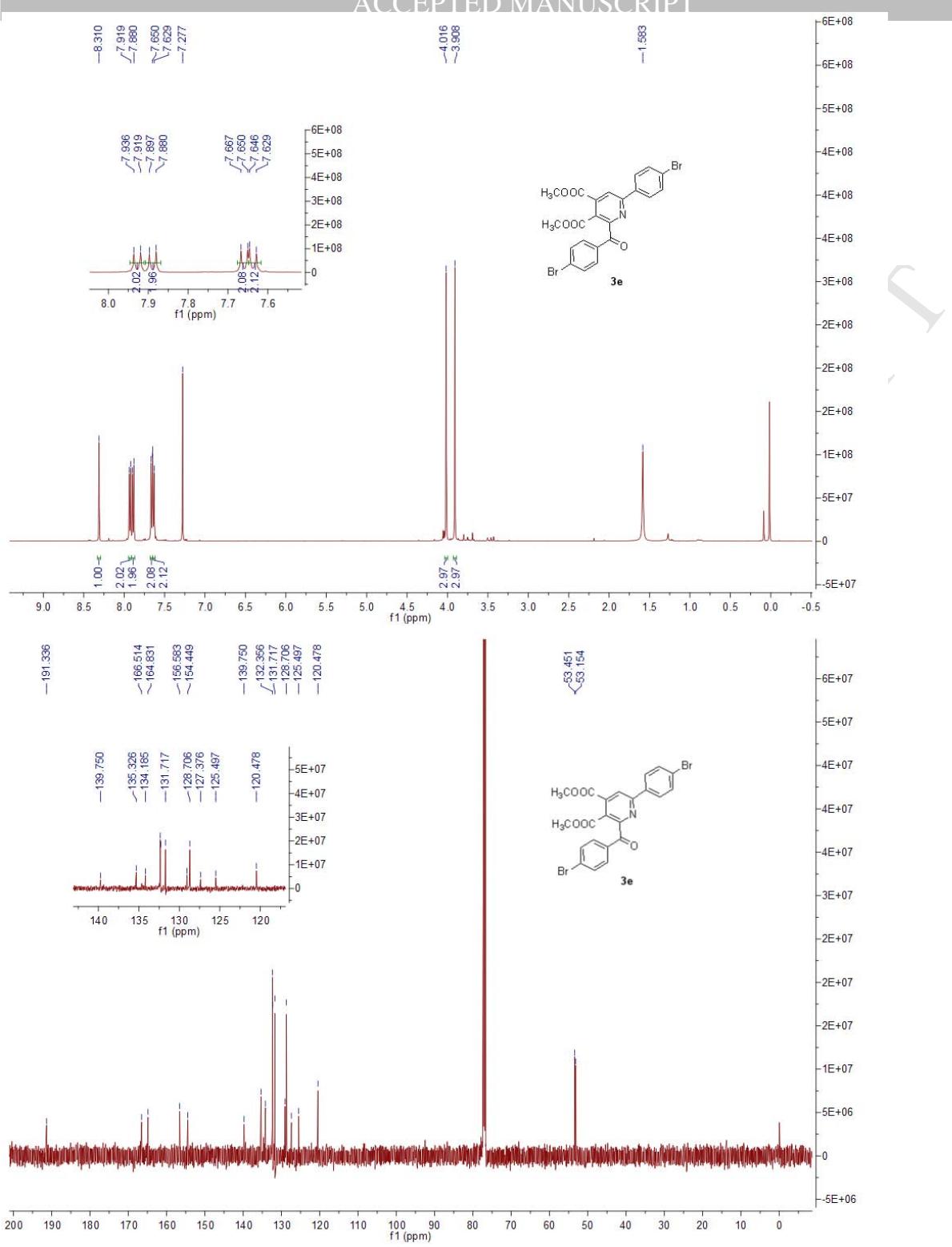
**dimethyl 2-(4-nitrobenzoyl)-6-(4-nitrophenyl)pyridine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3s):** yellow solid. Mp: 70-72 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.49 (s, 1H), 8.38 – 8.34 (m, 4H), 8.20 – 8.16 (m, 4H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  190.48, 166.12, 164.17, 155.30, 153.56, 150.51, 149.15, 141.77, 140.13, 140.00, 131.68, 128.96, 128.10, 124.37, 123.52, 122.24, 53.70, 53.40. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 1730, 1636, 1596, 1514, 1397, 1342, 1109, 844, 738, 687  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}_9$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  : 466.0881. Found: 466.0877.

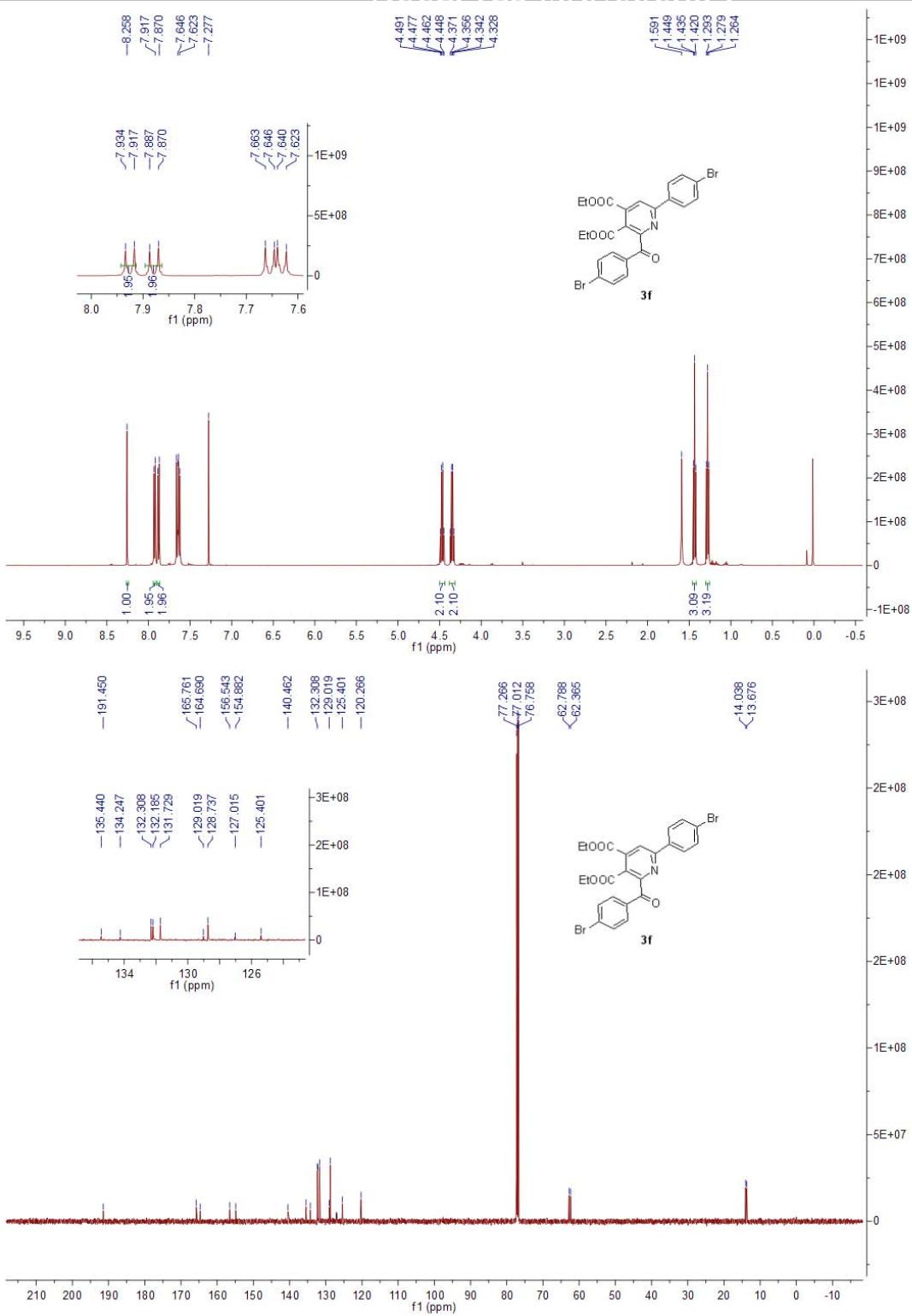
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra :**

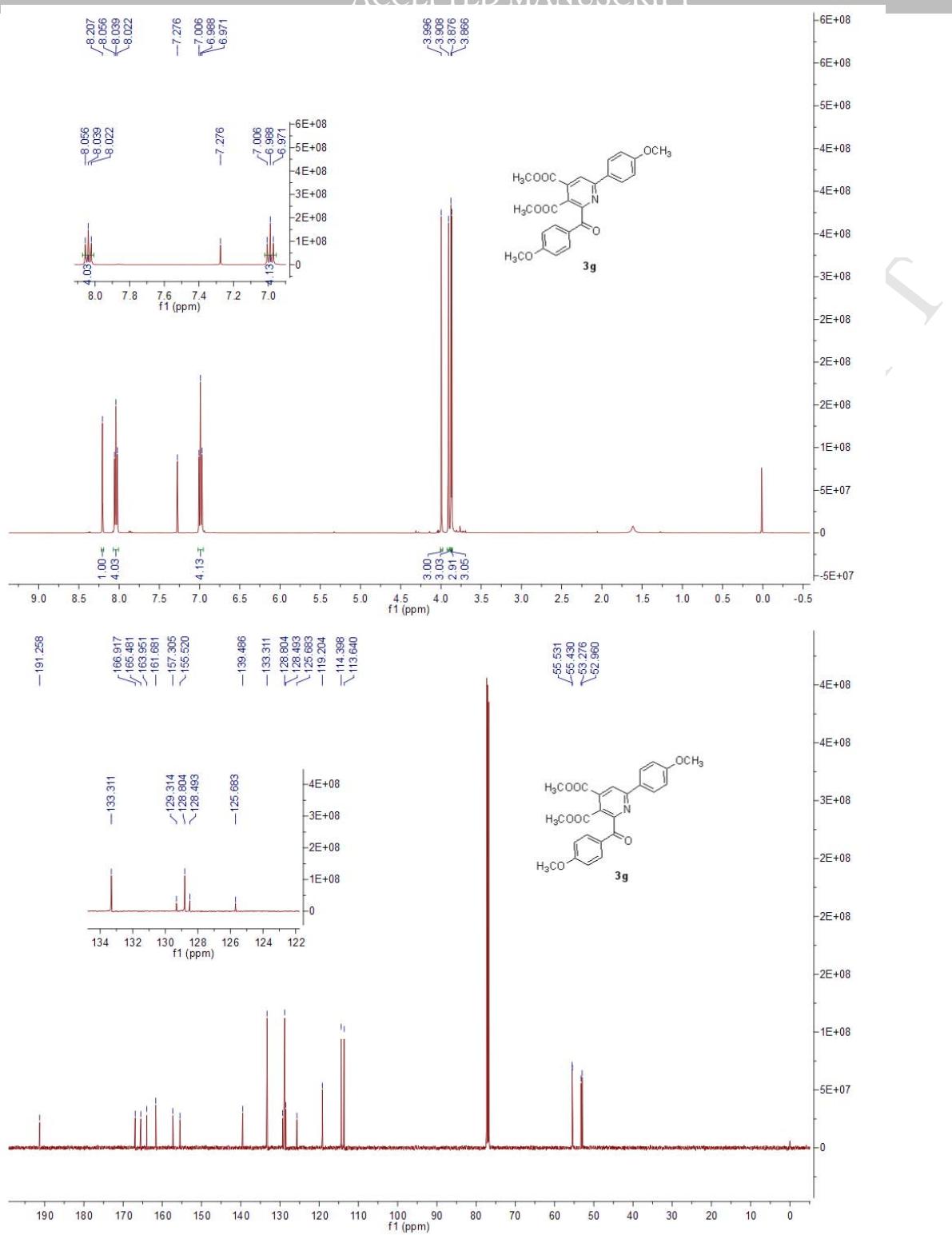


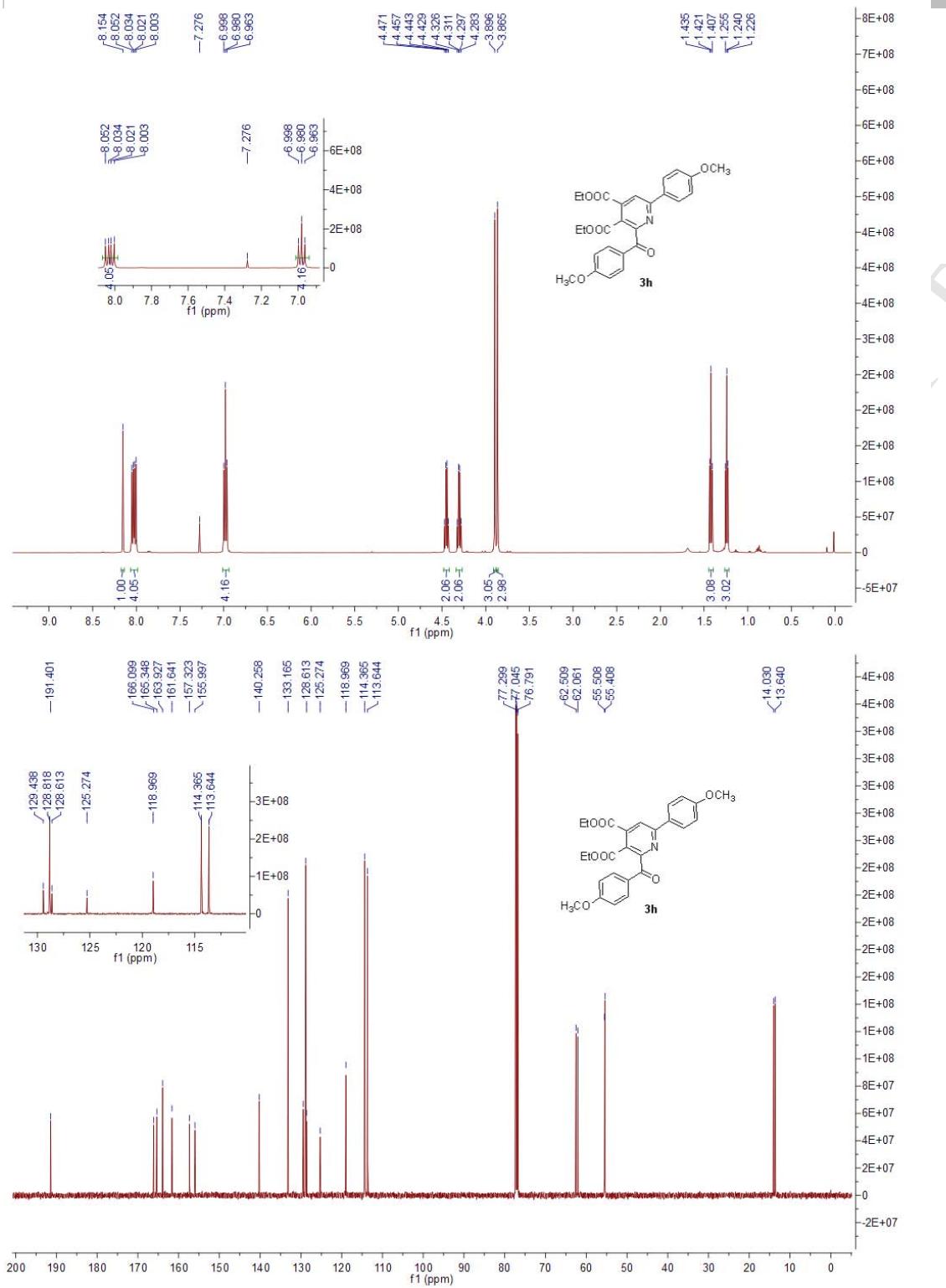


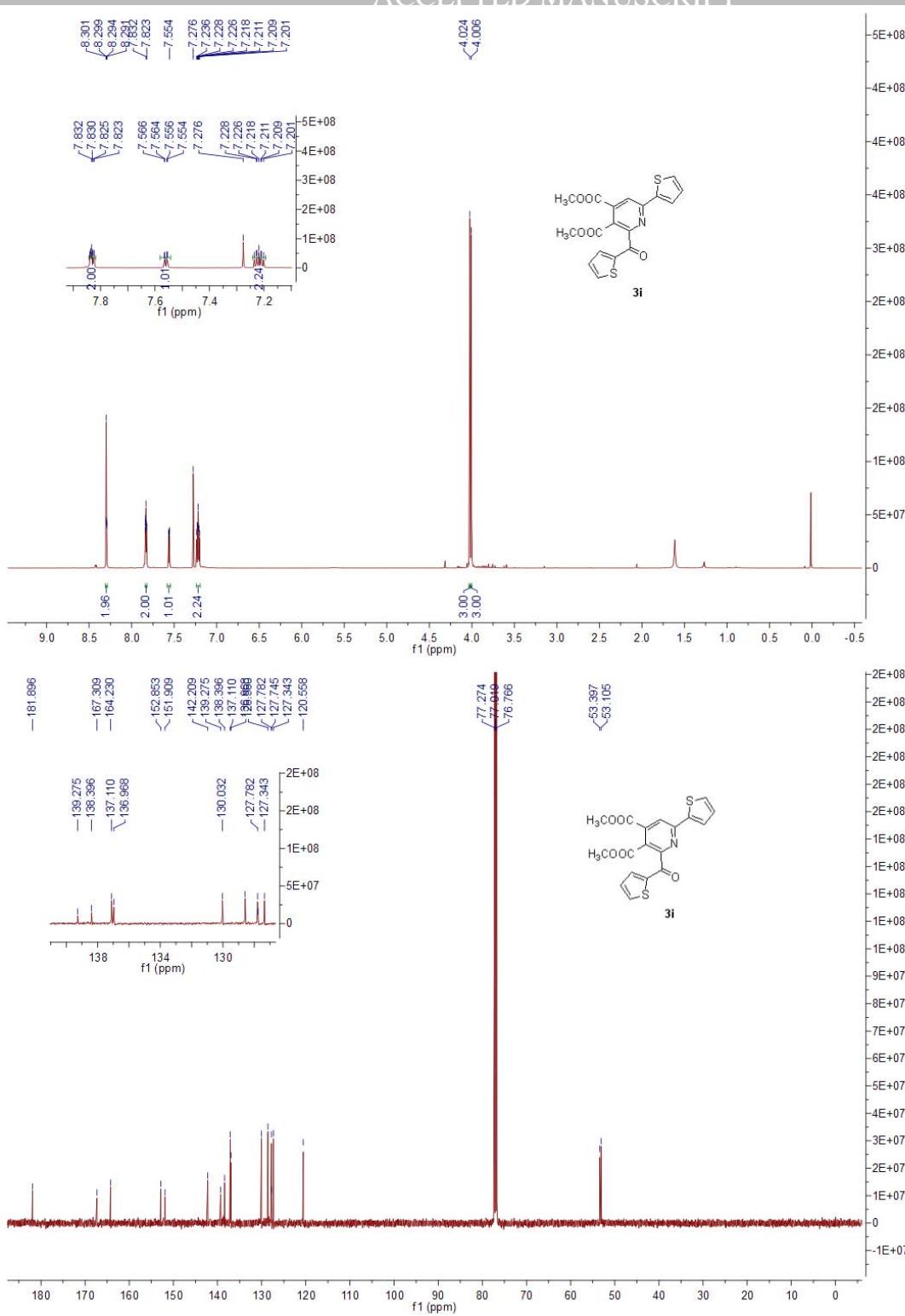


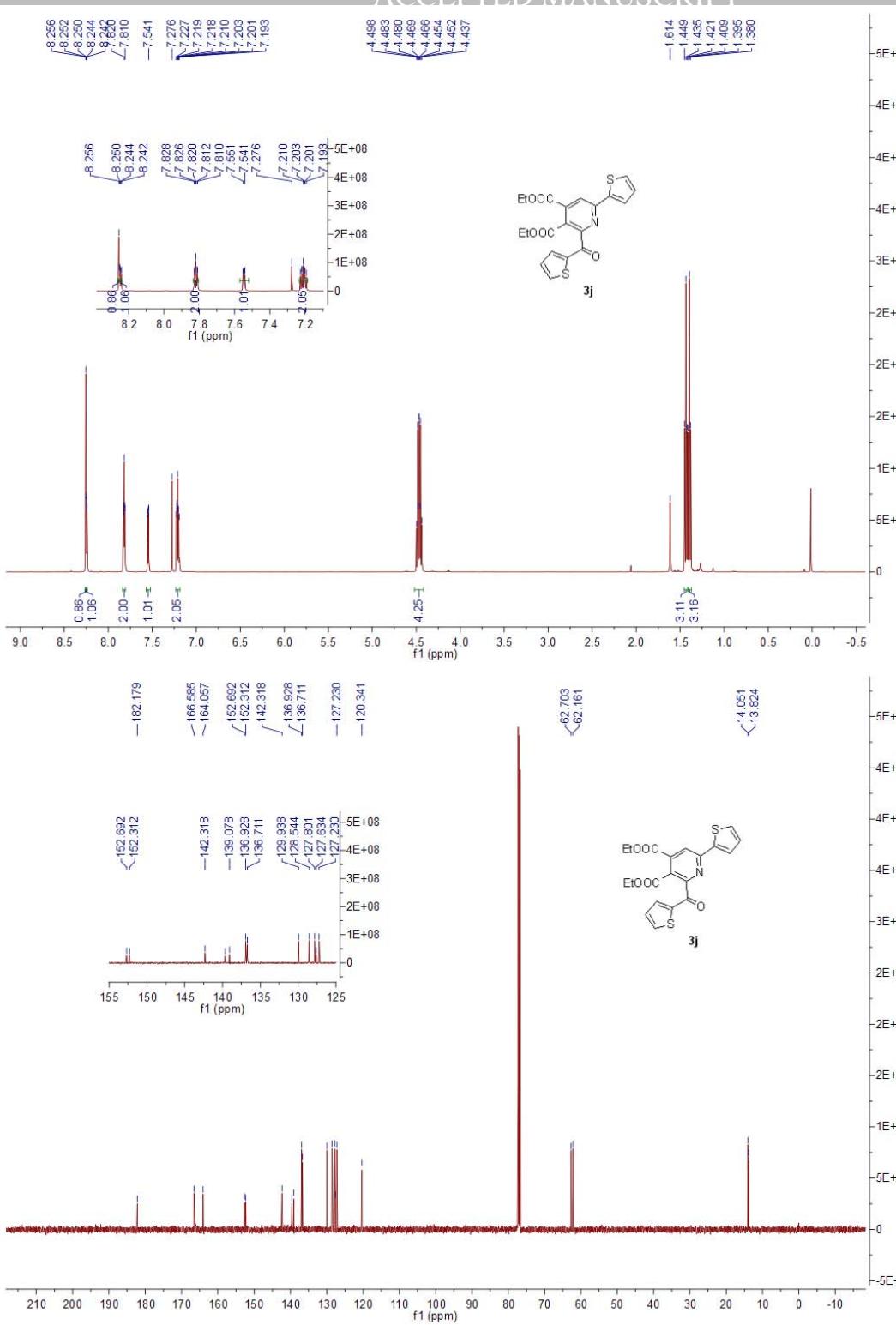


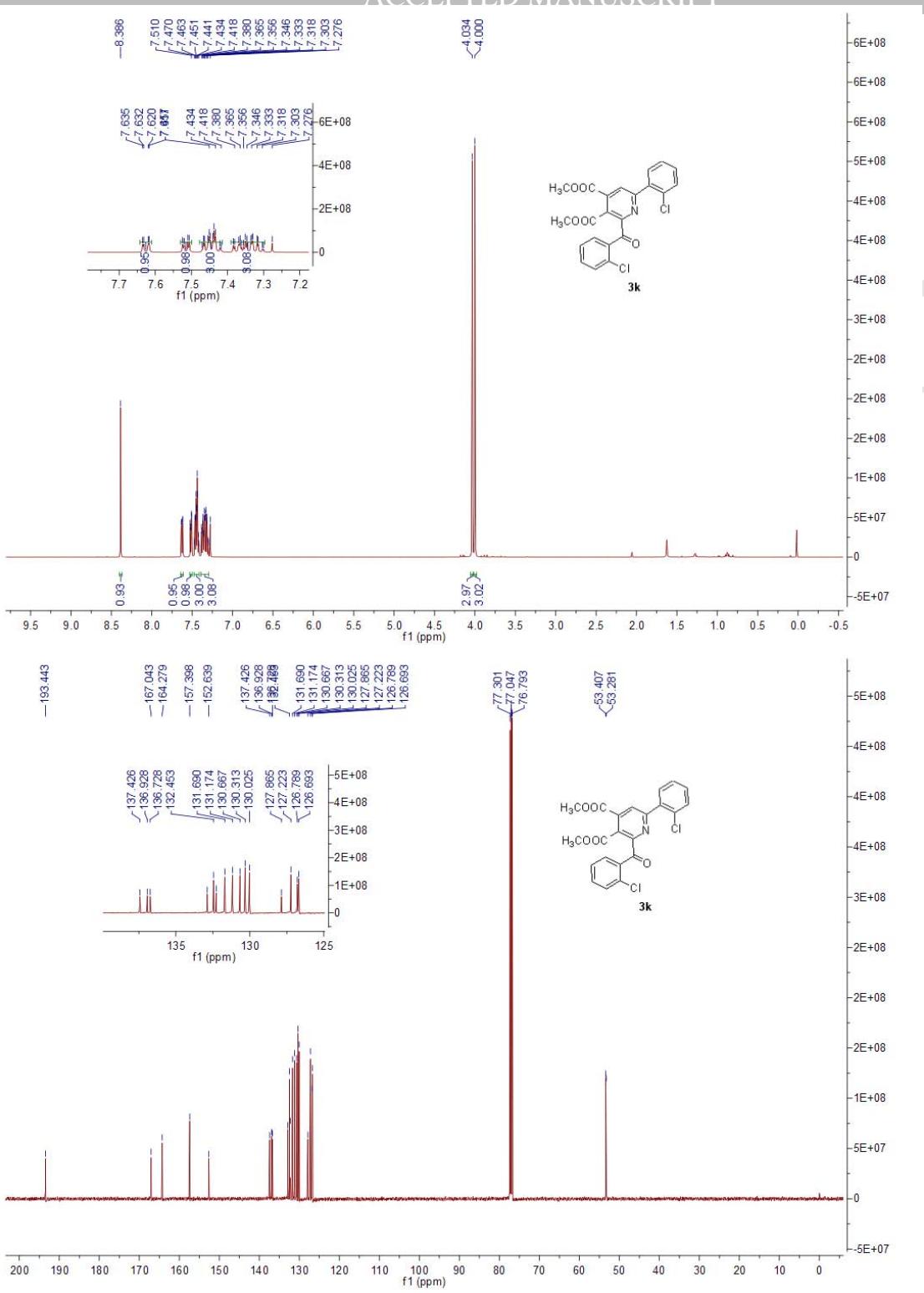


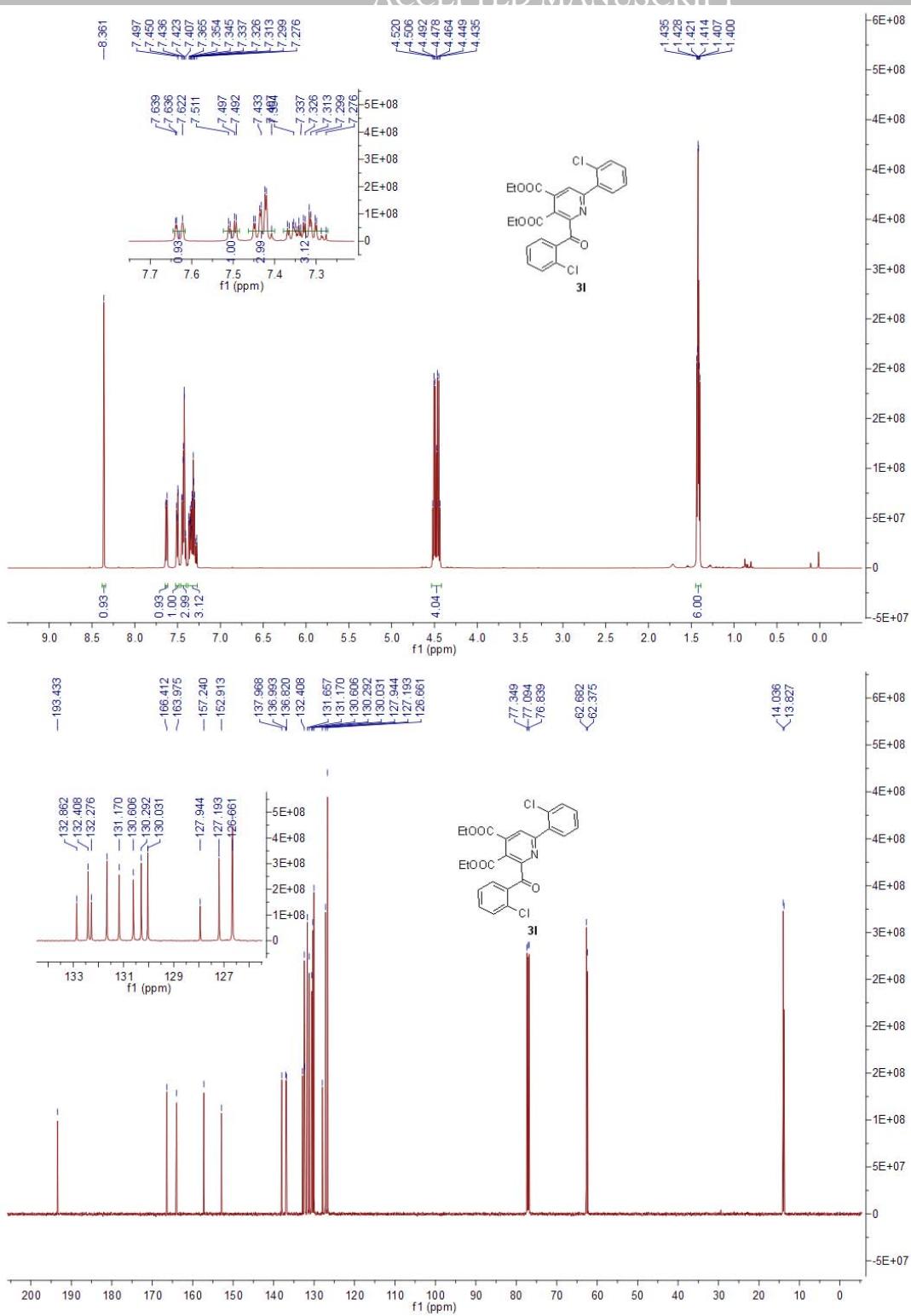


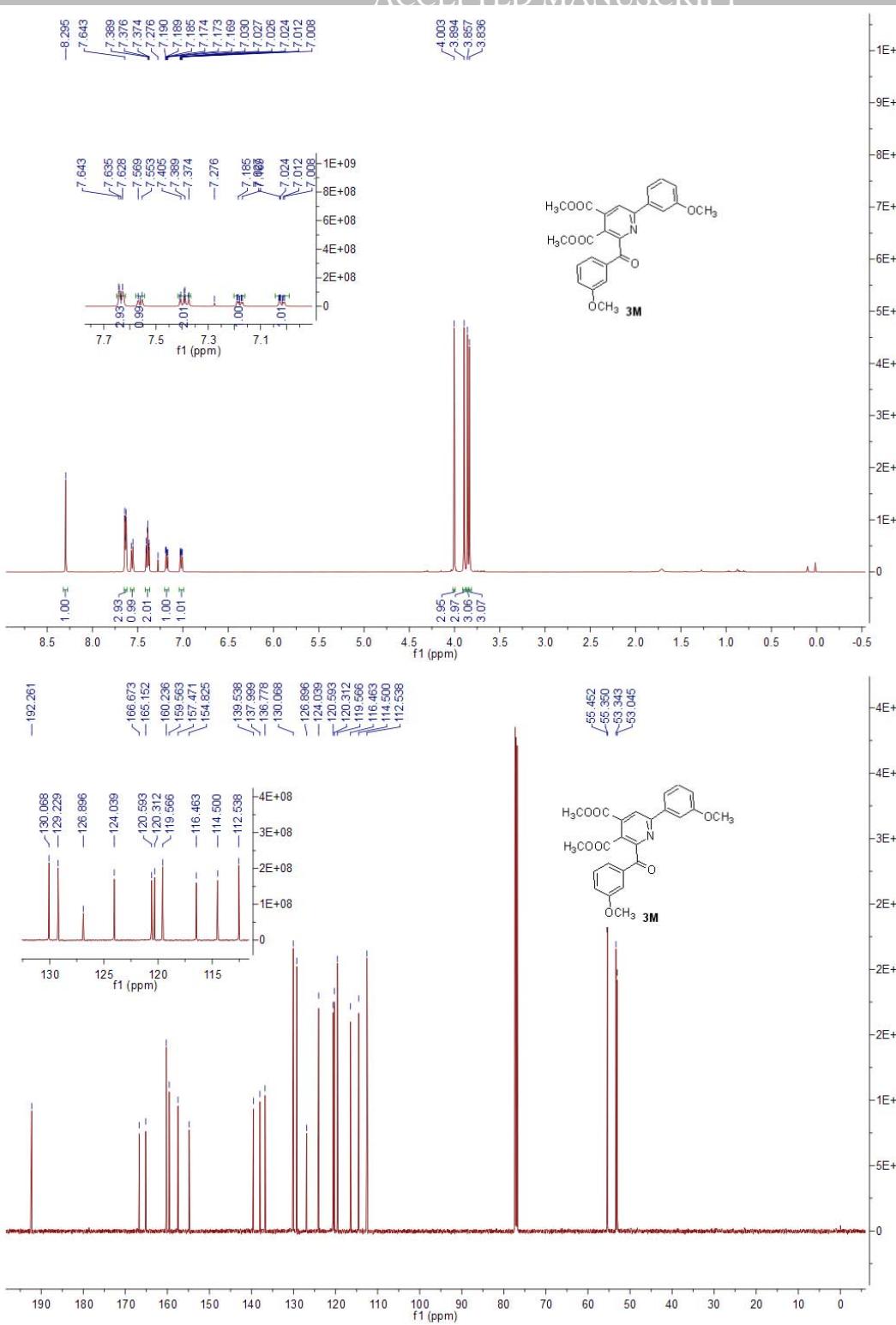


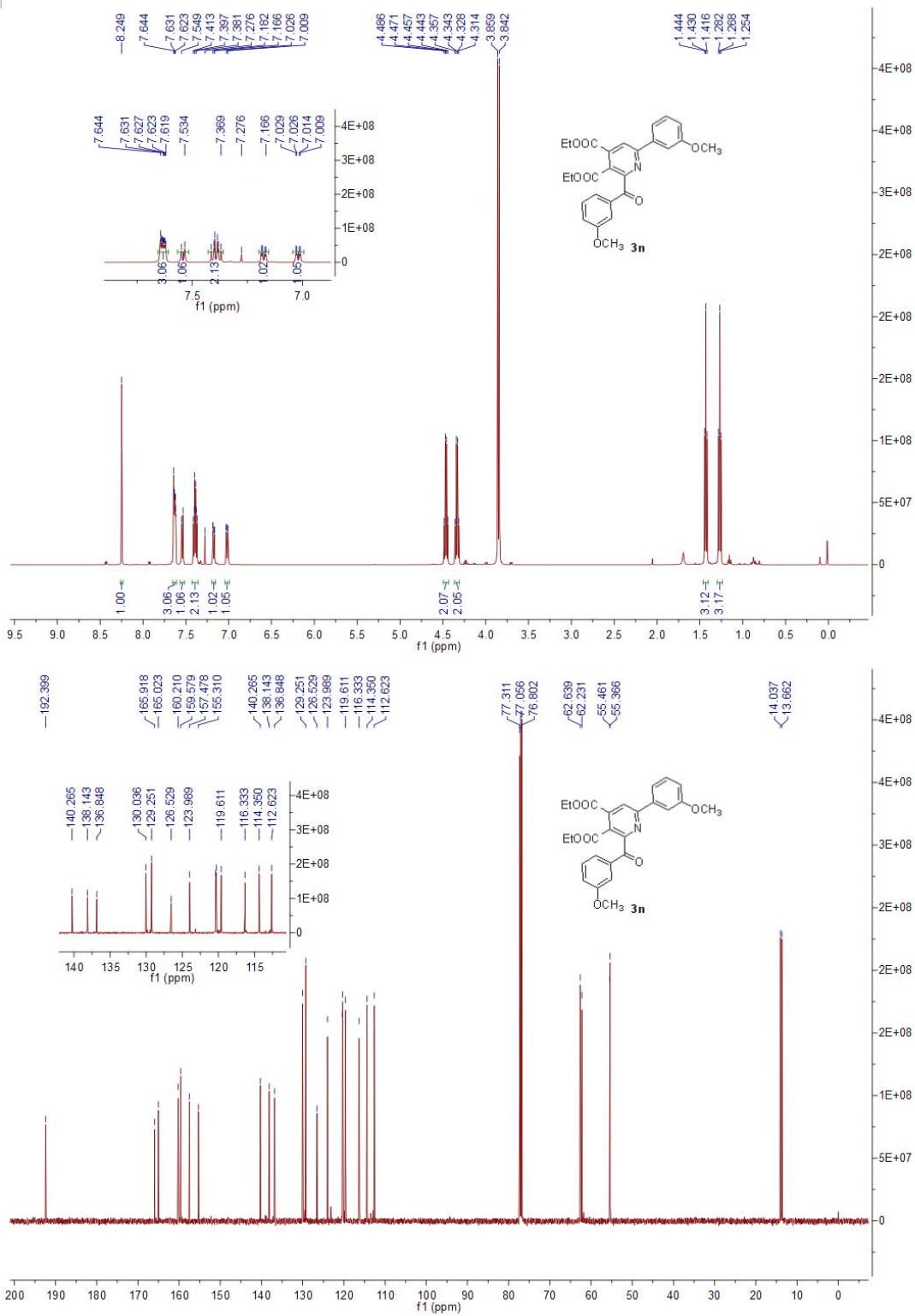


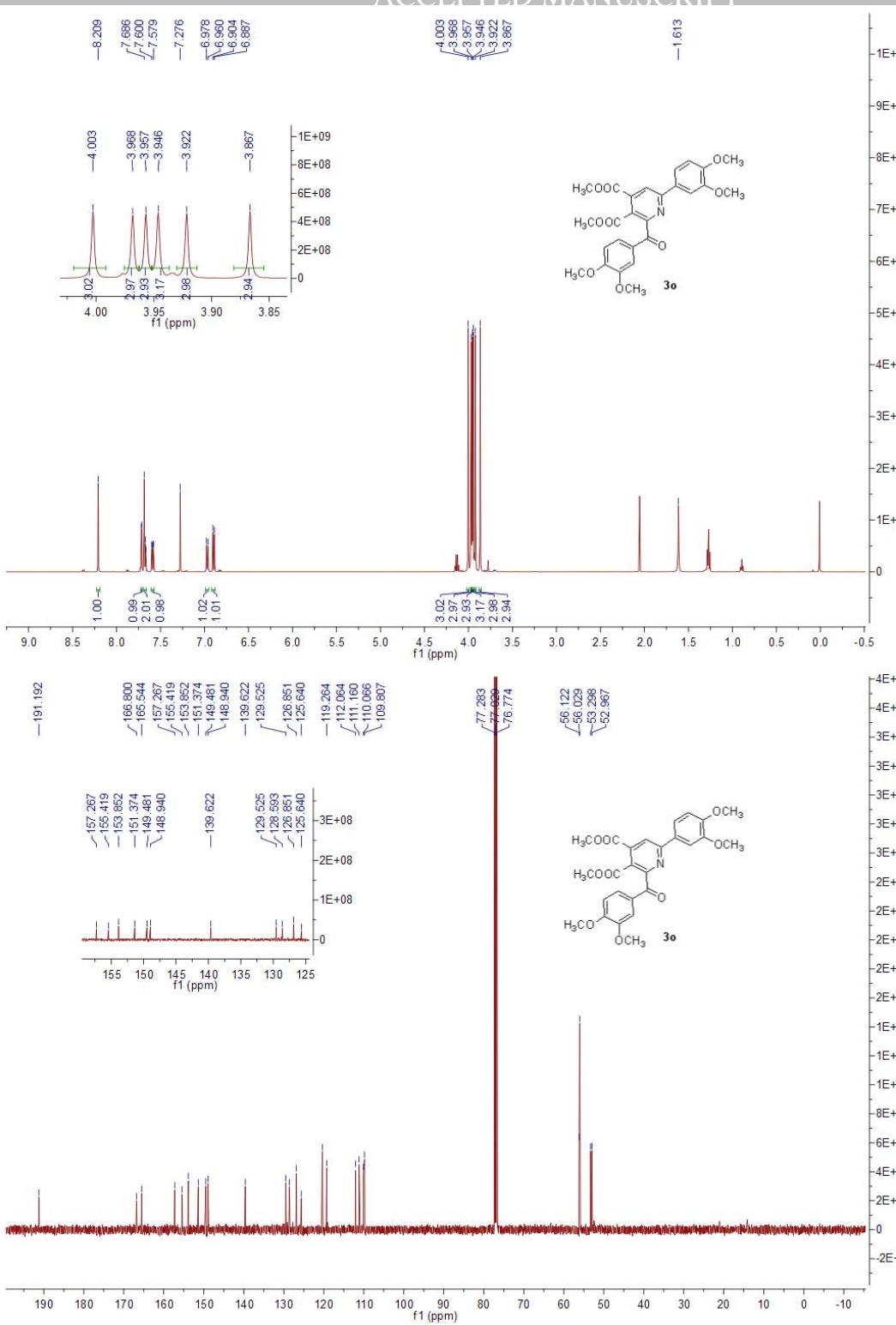


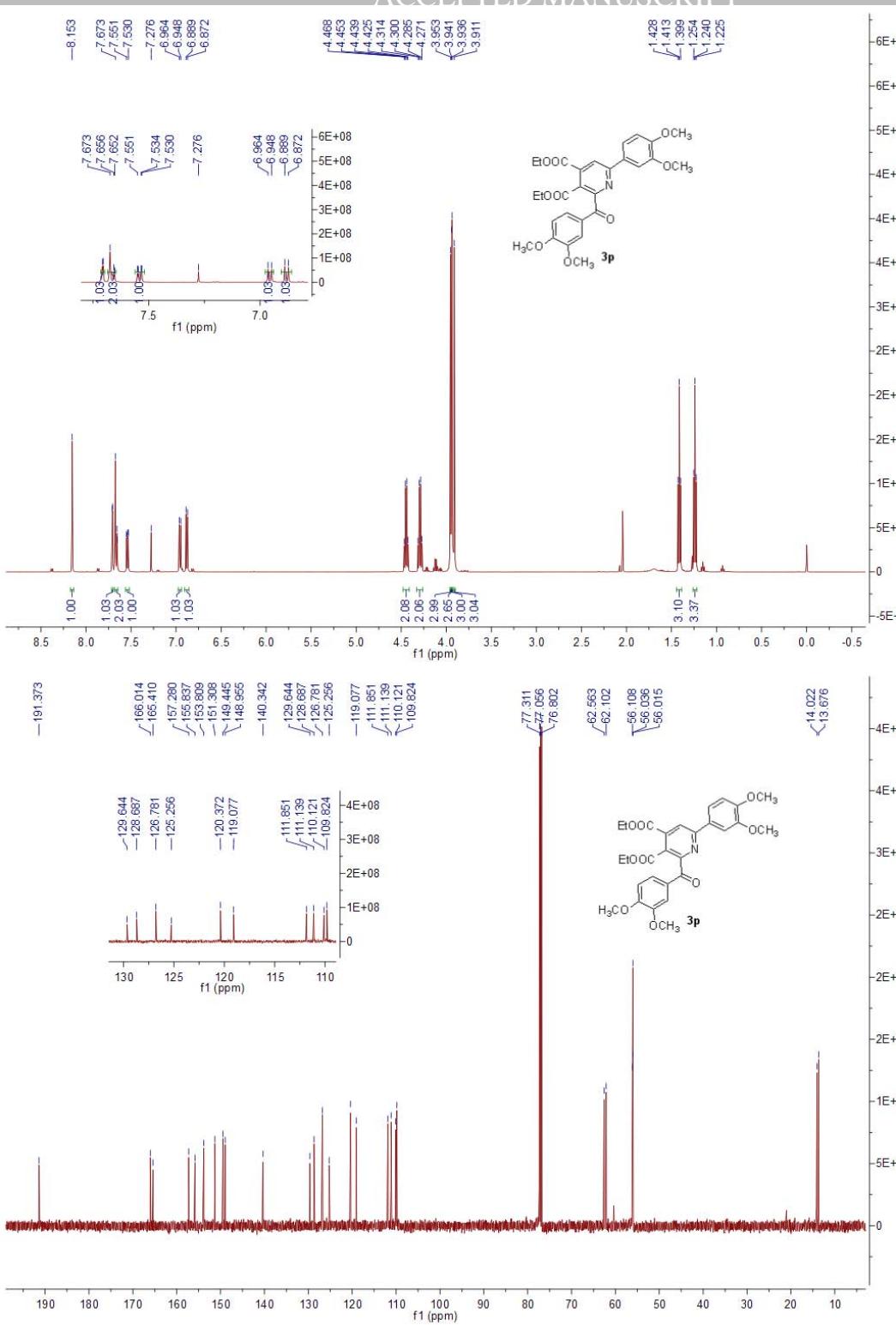


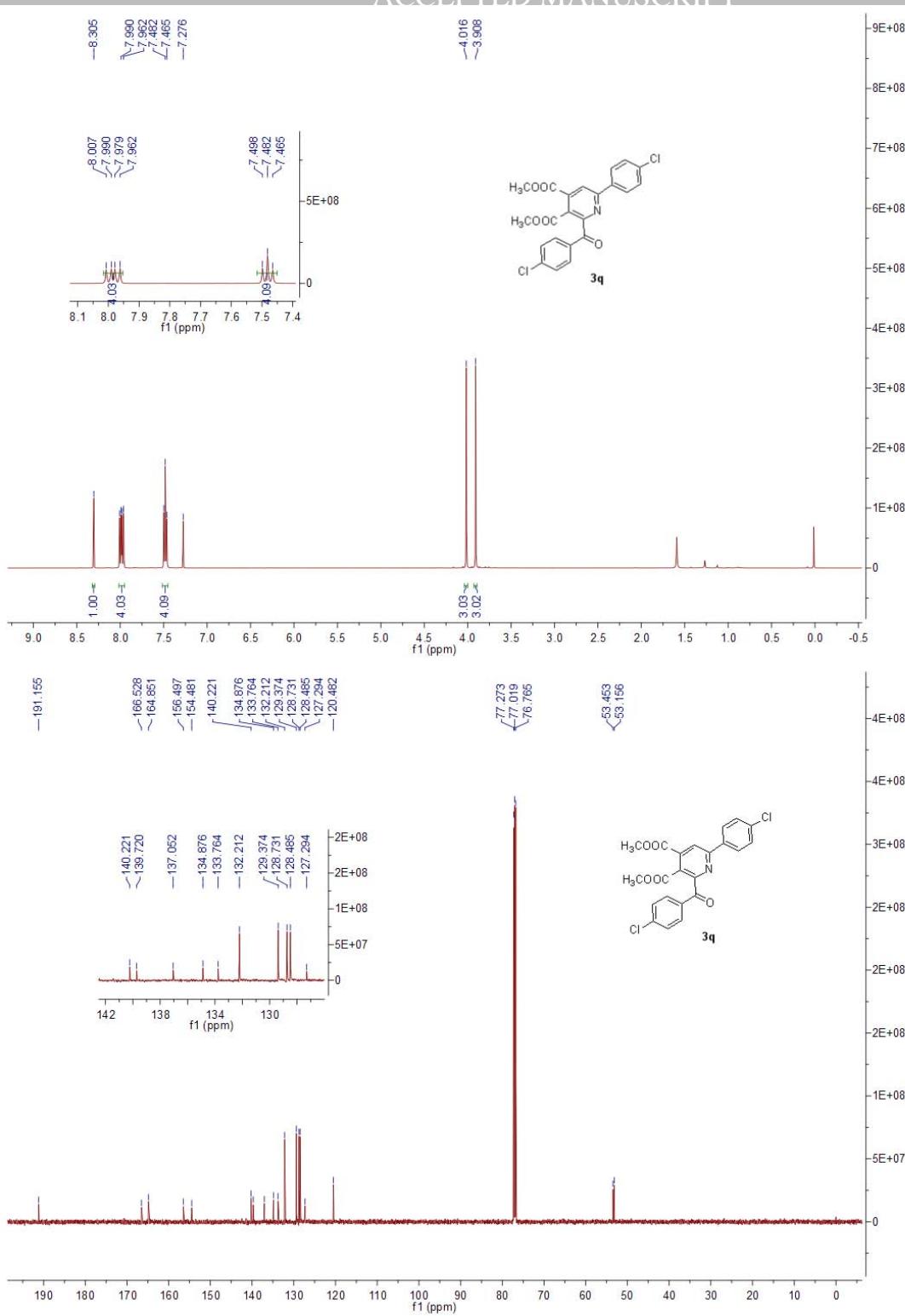


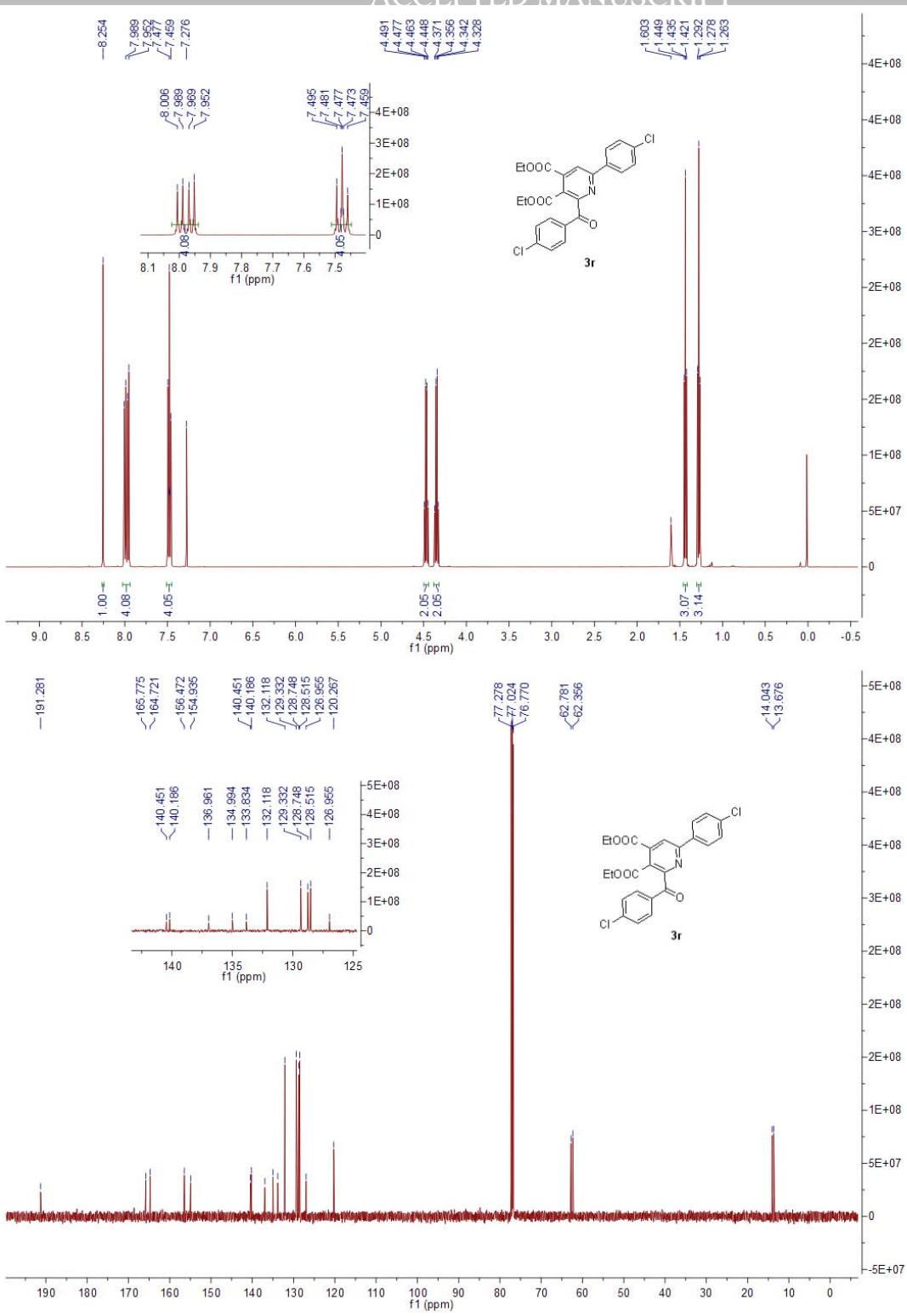


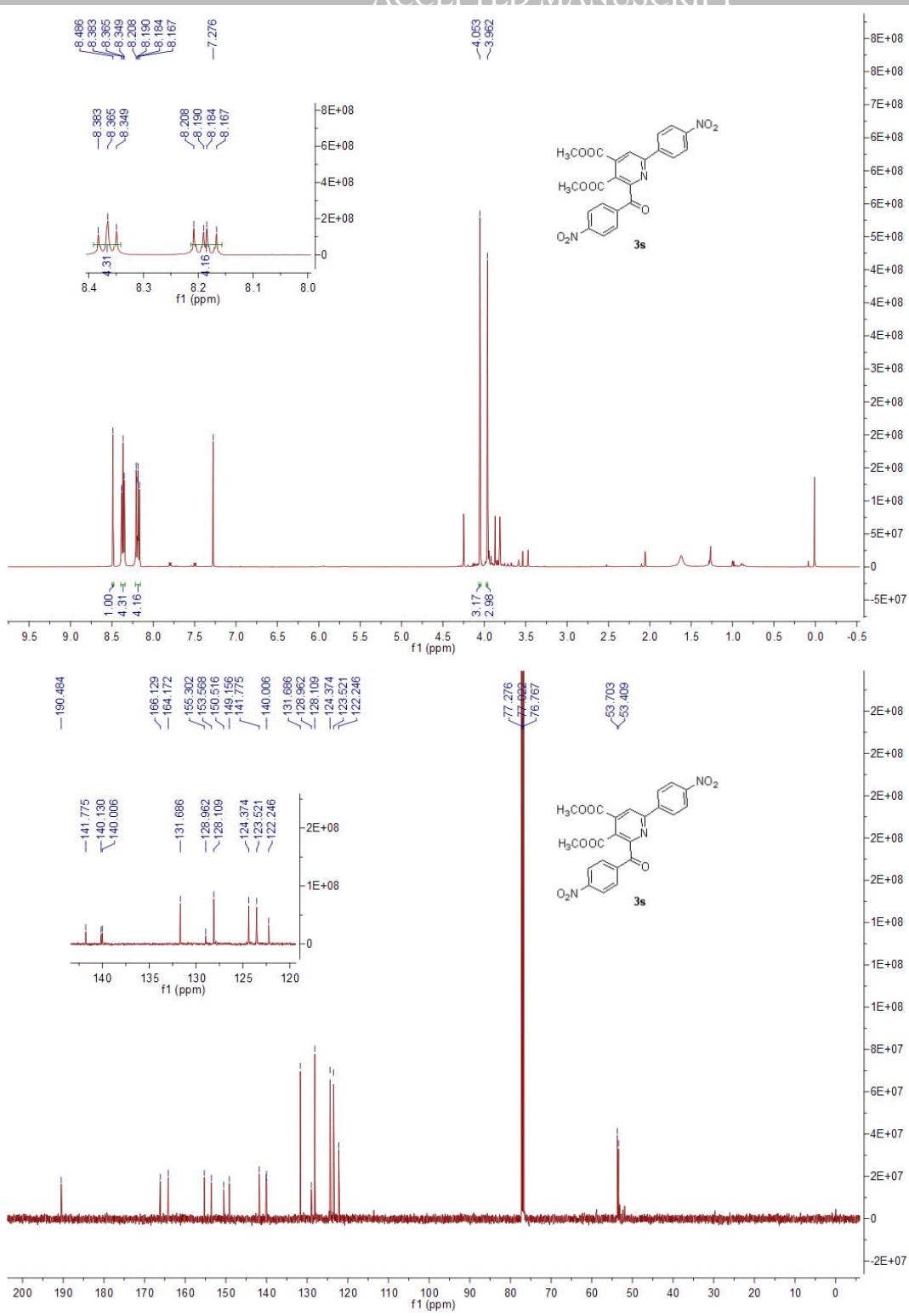


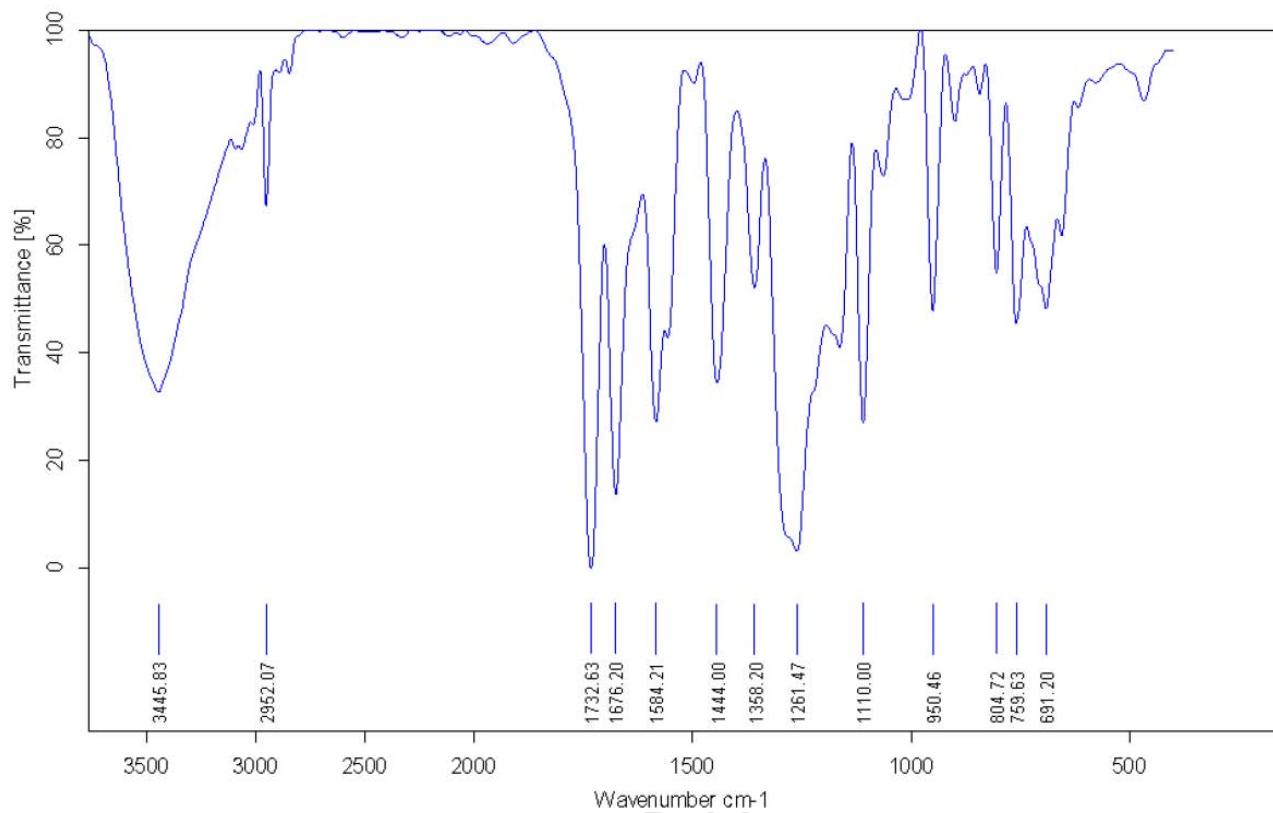
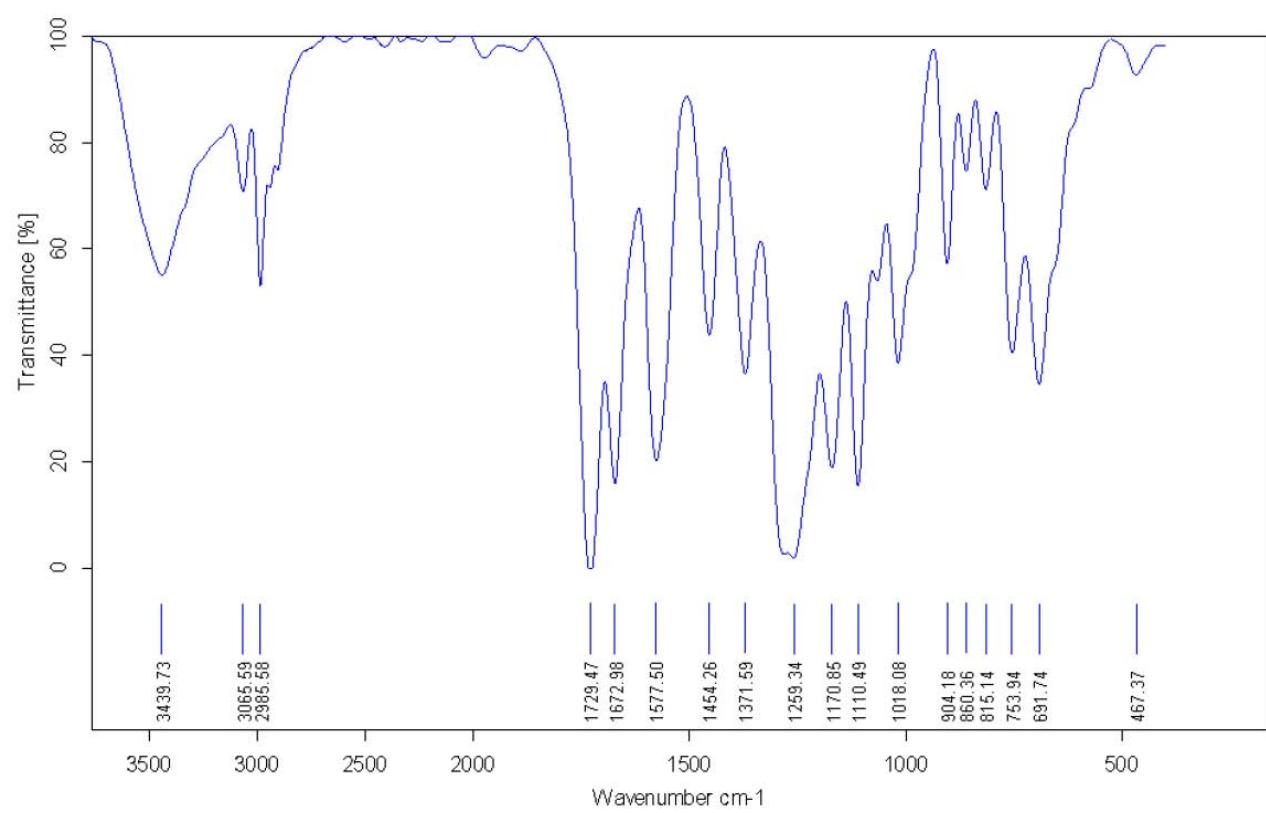


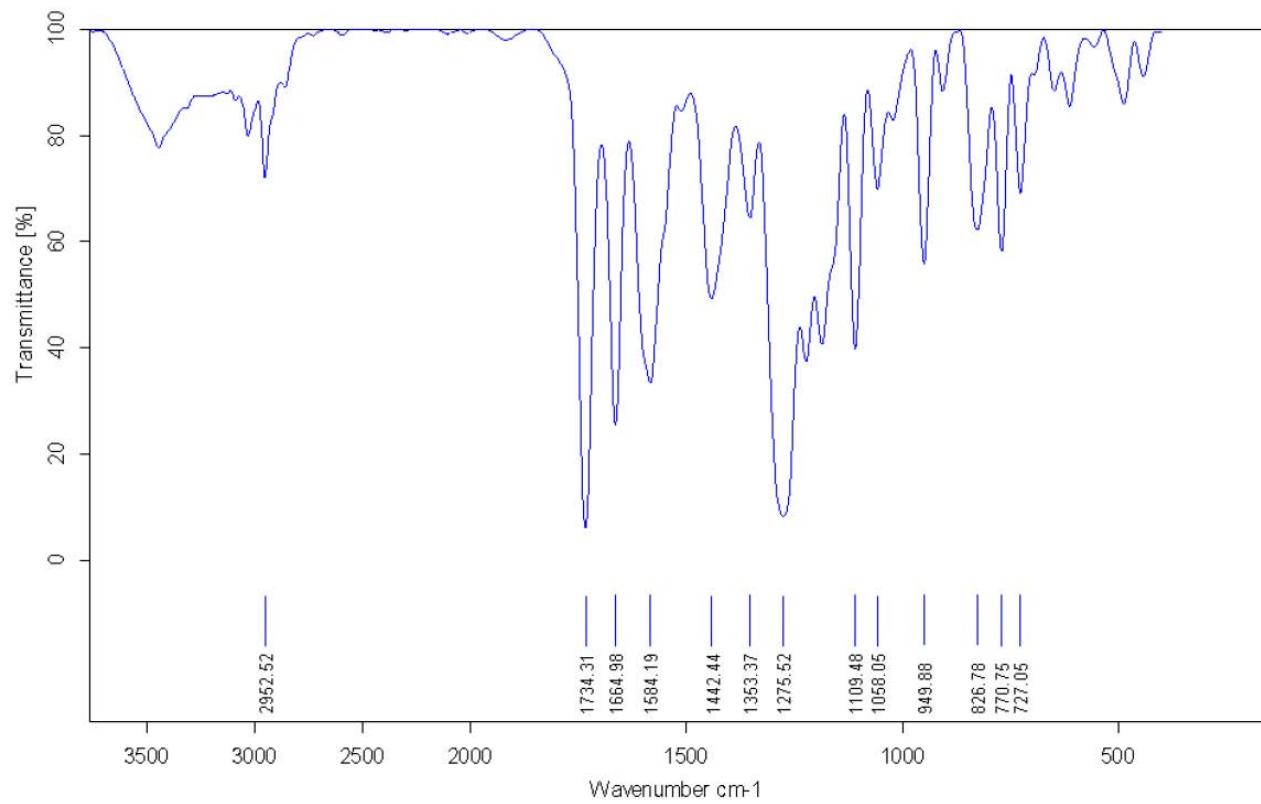
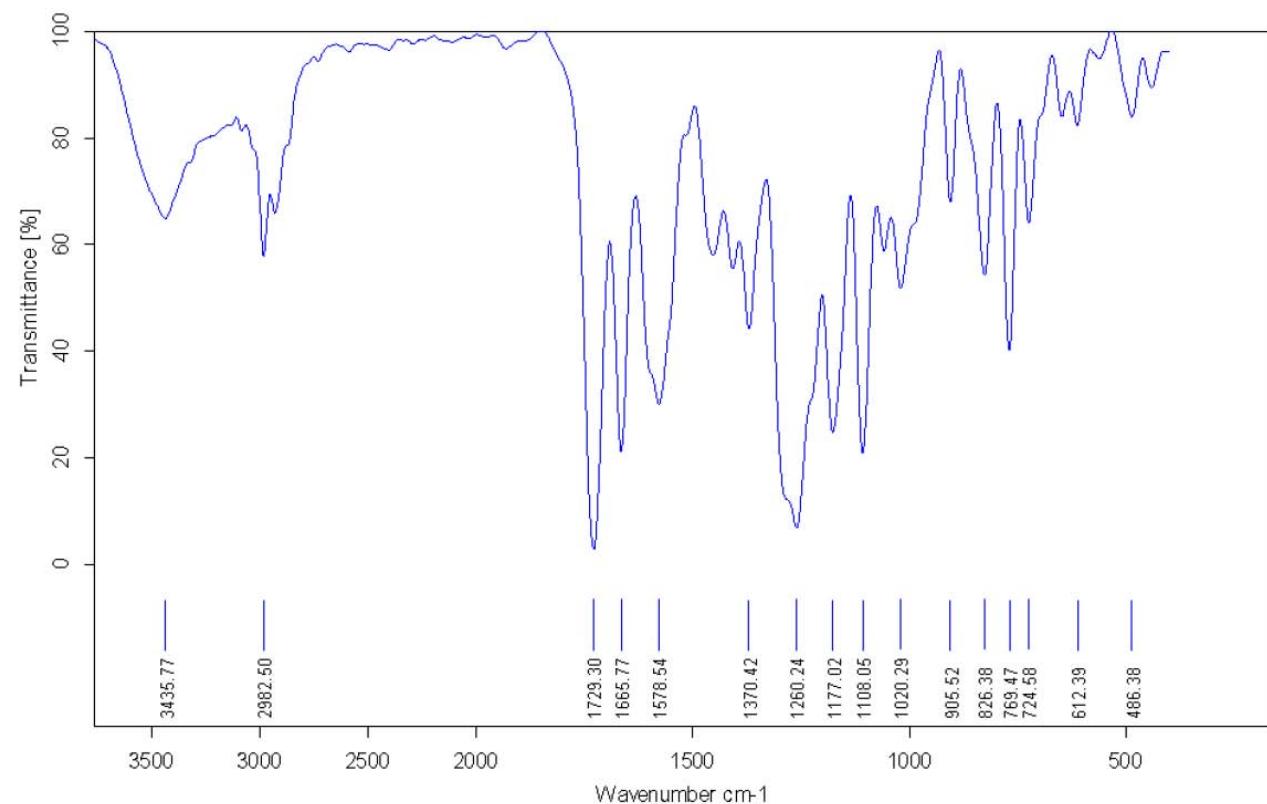


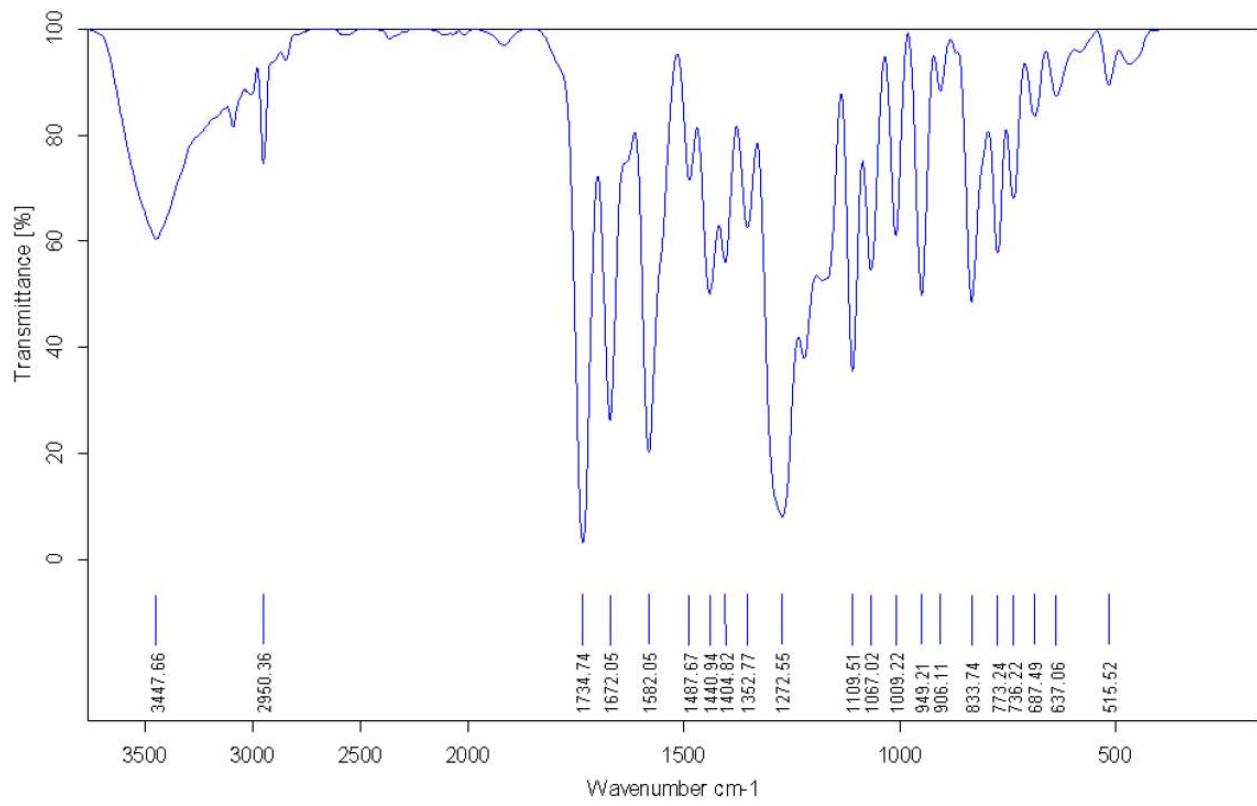
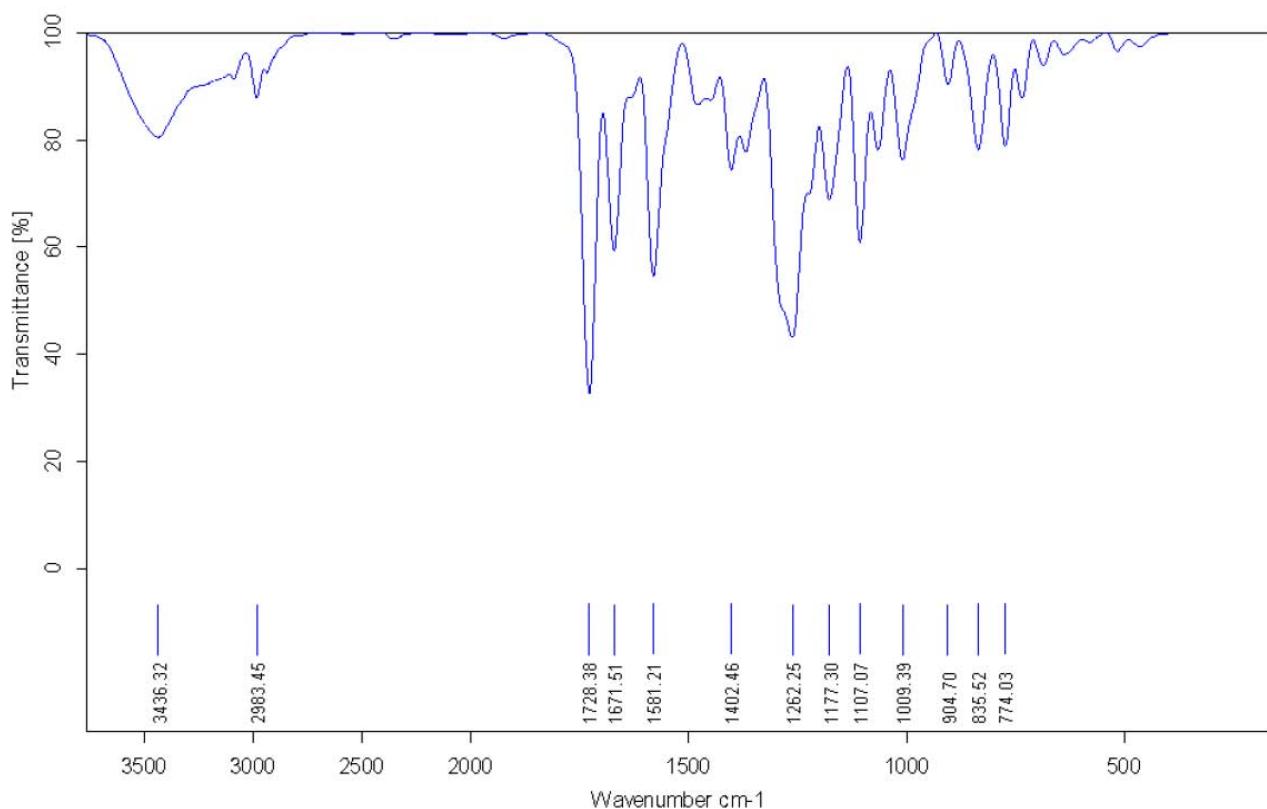


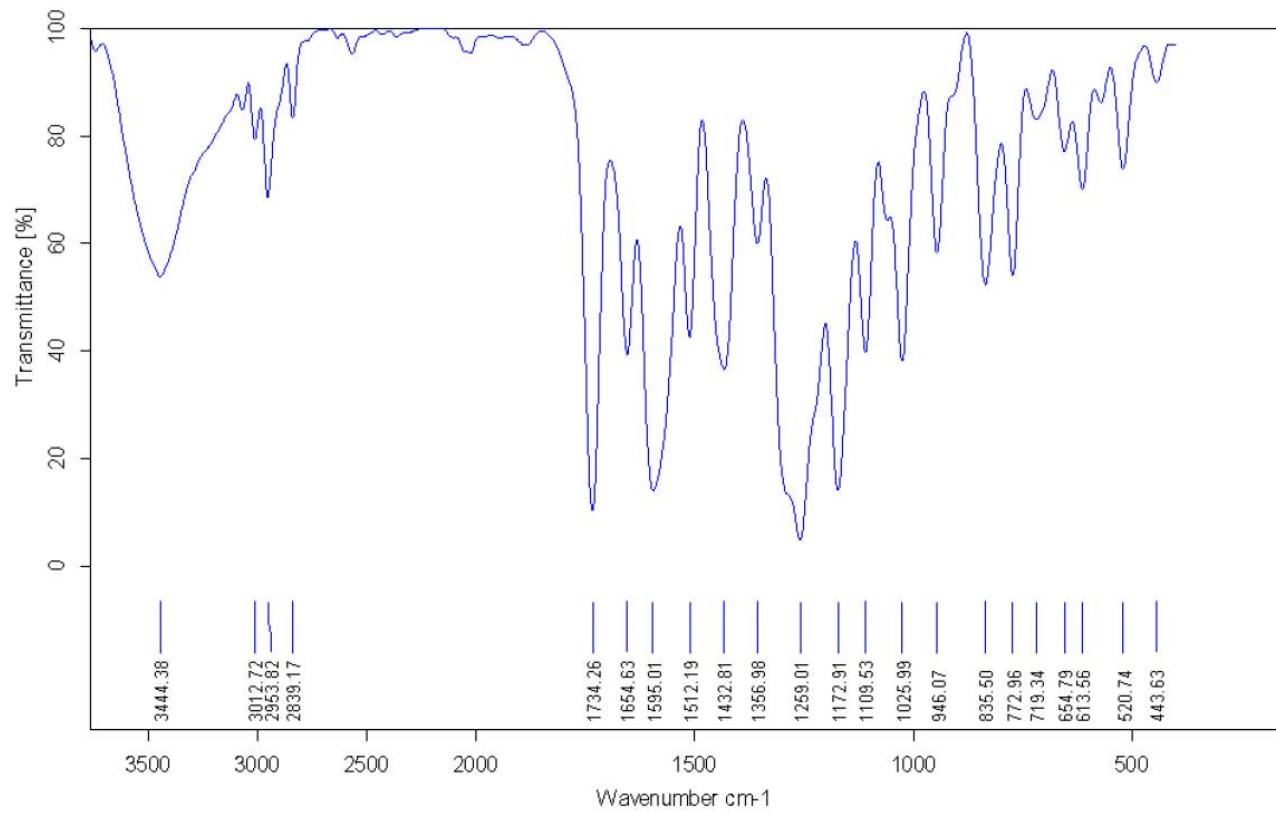
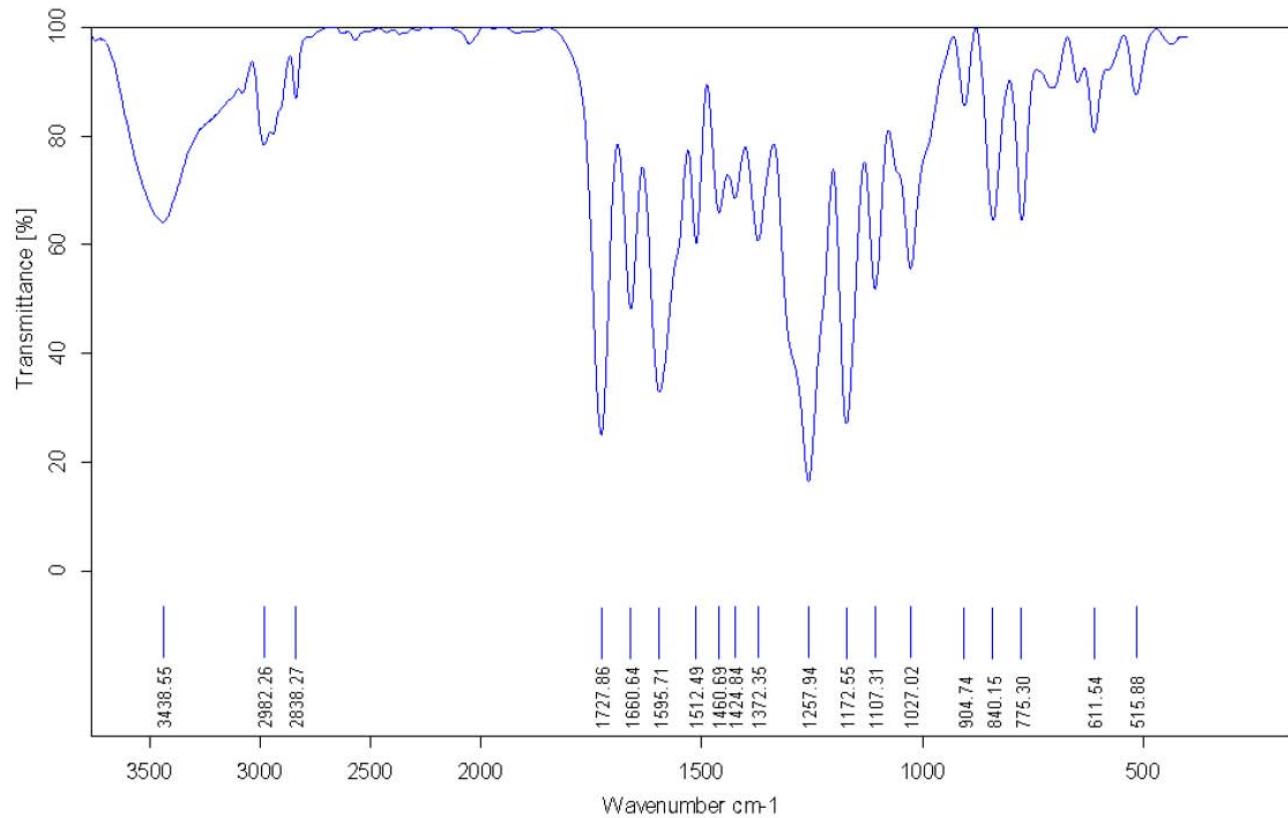


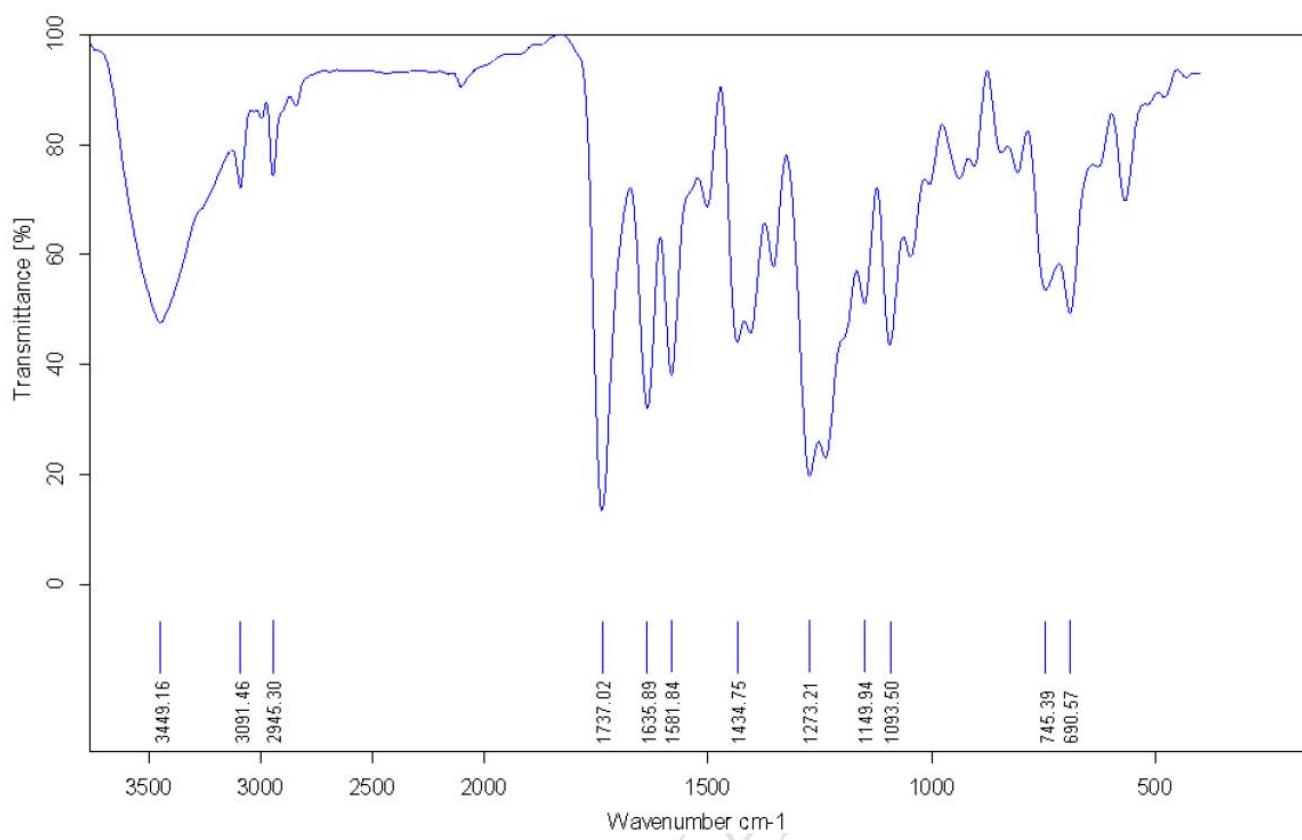
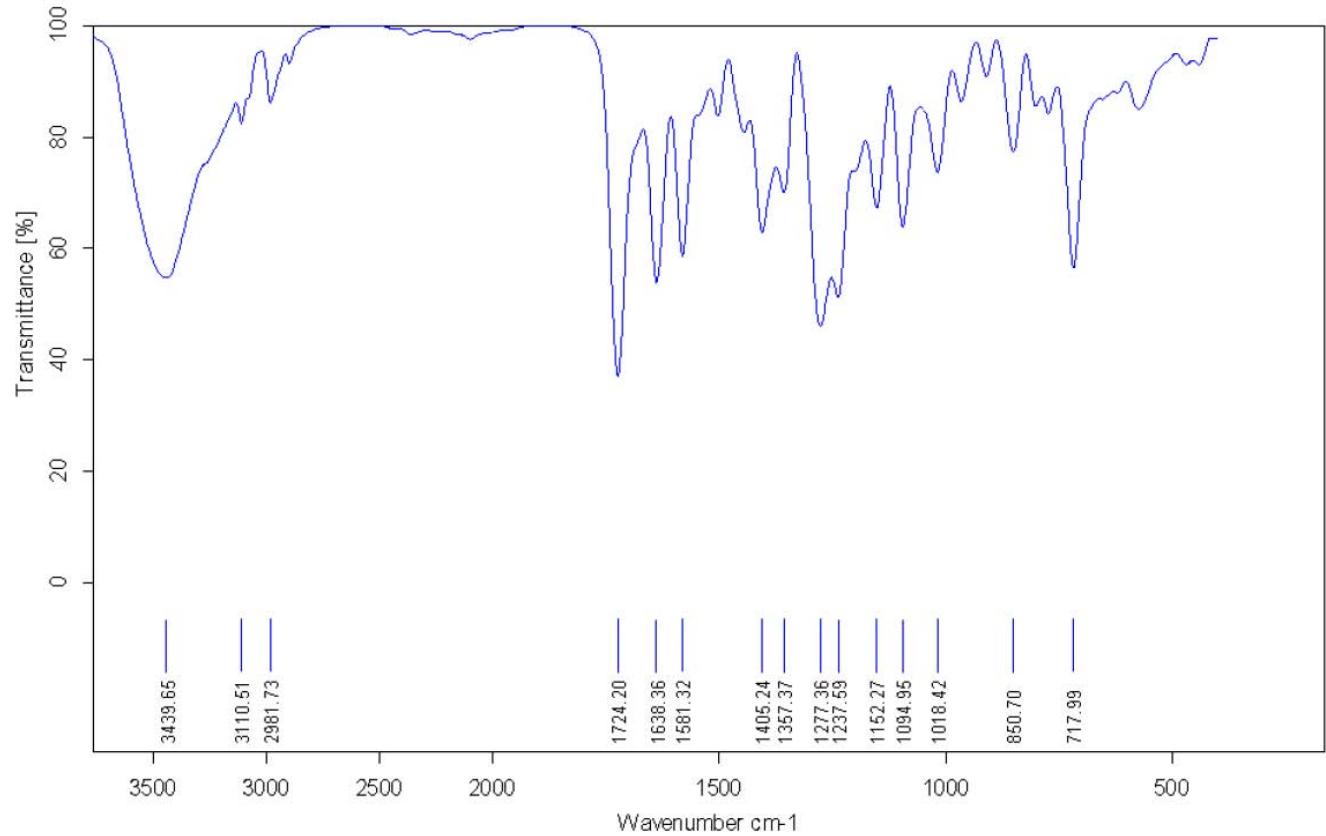


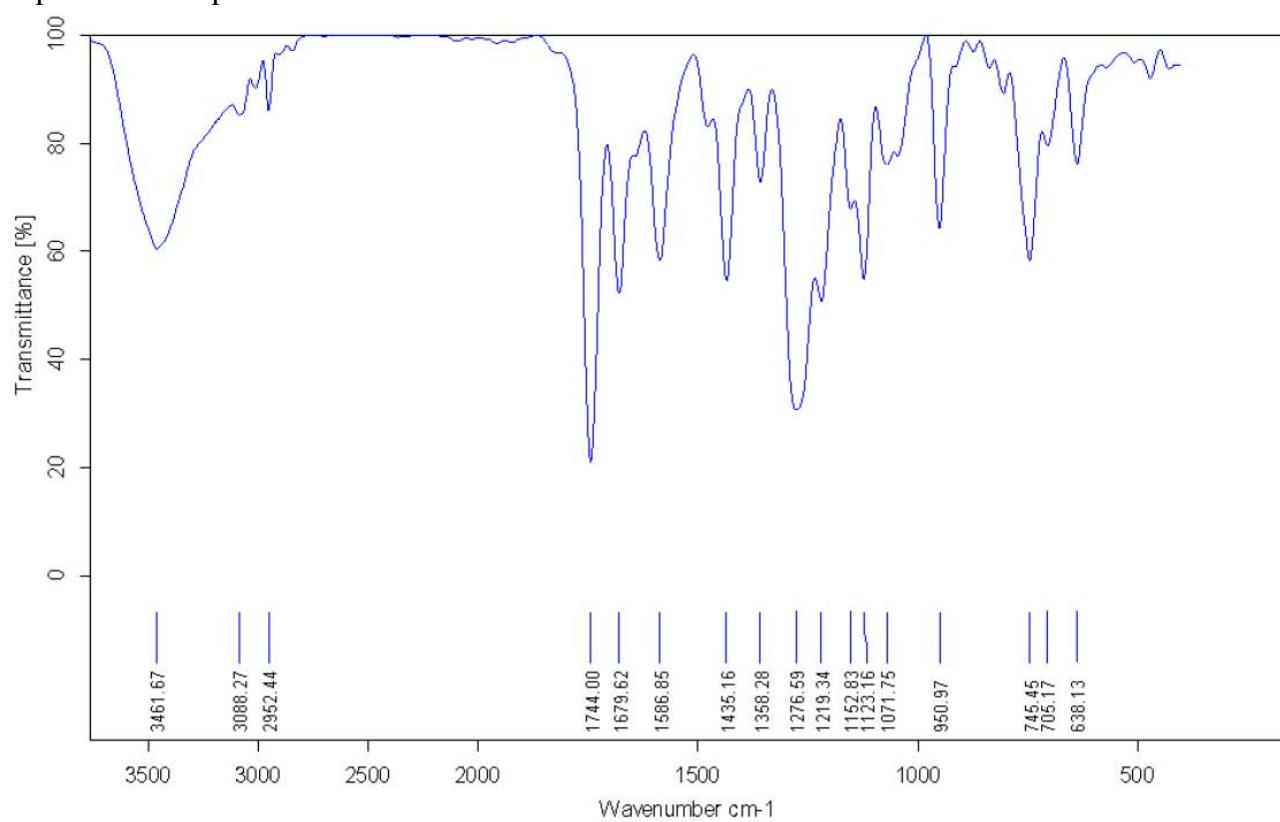
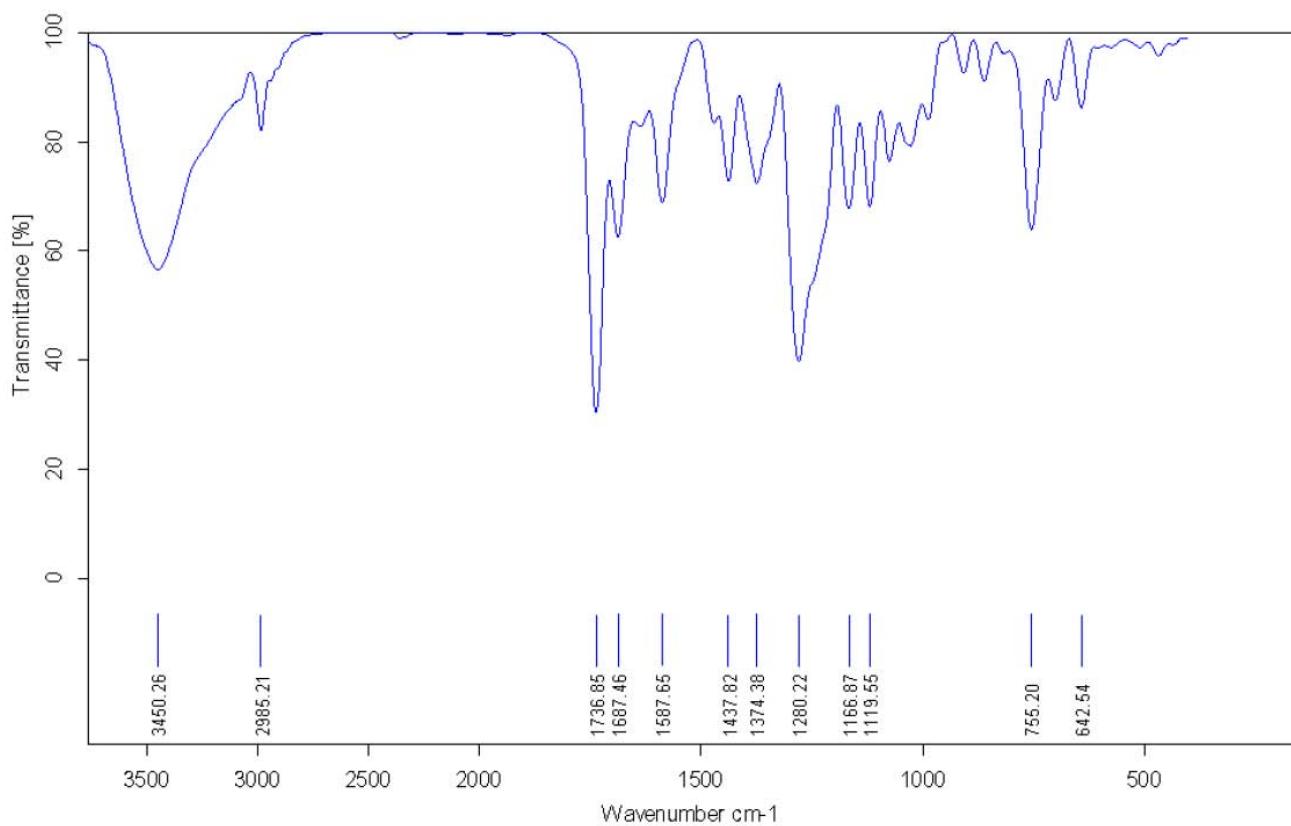
**IR spectra:**IR spectra of compound **3a**IR spectra of compound **3b**

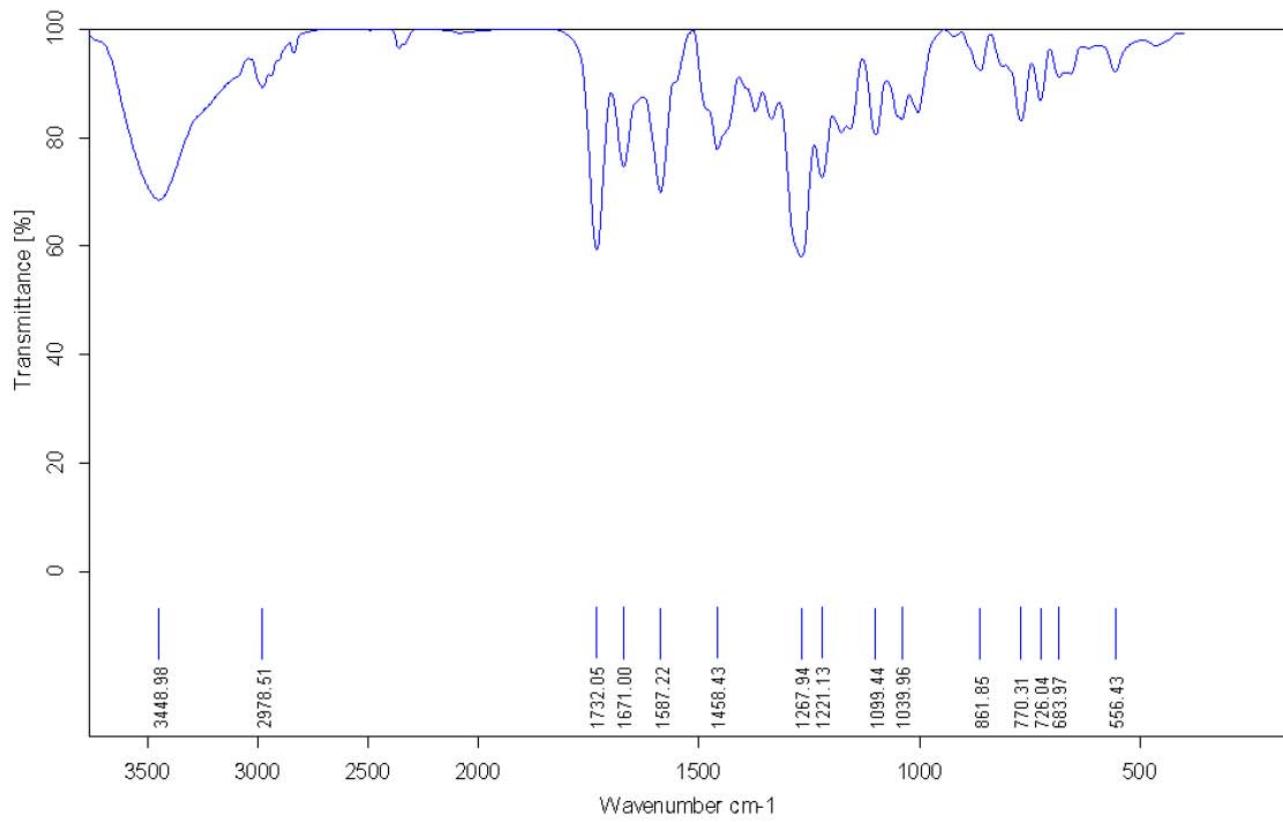
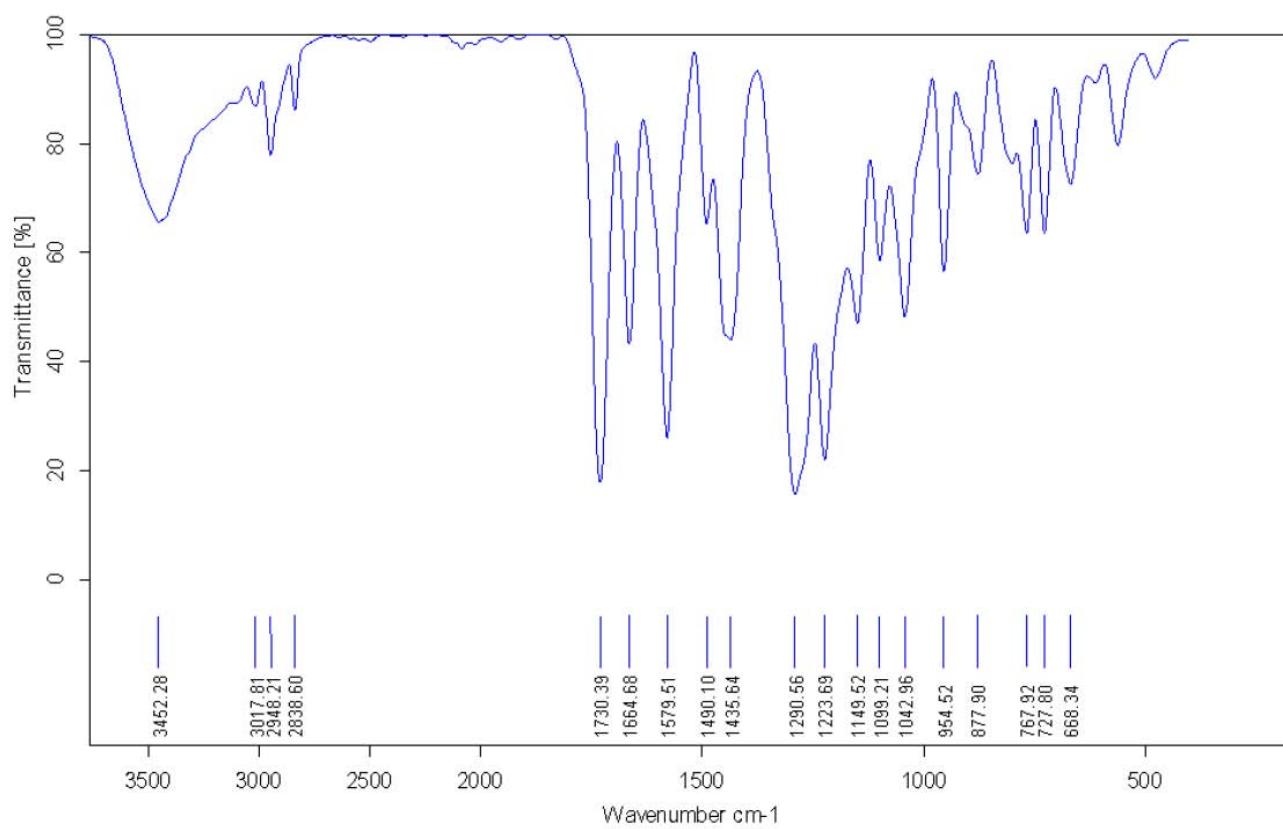
IR spectra of compound **3c**IR spectra of compound **3d**

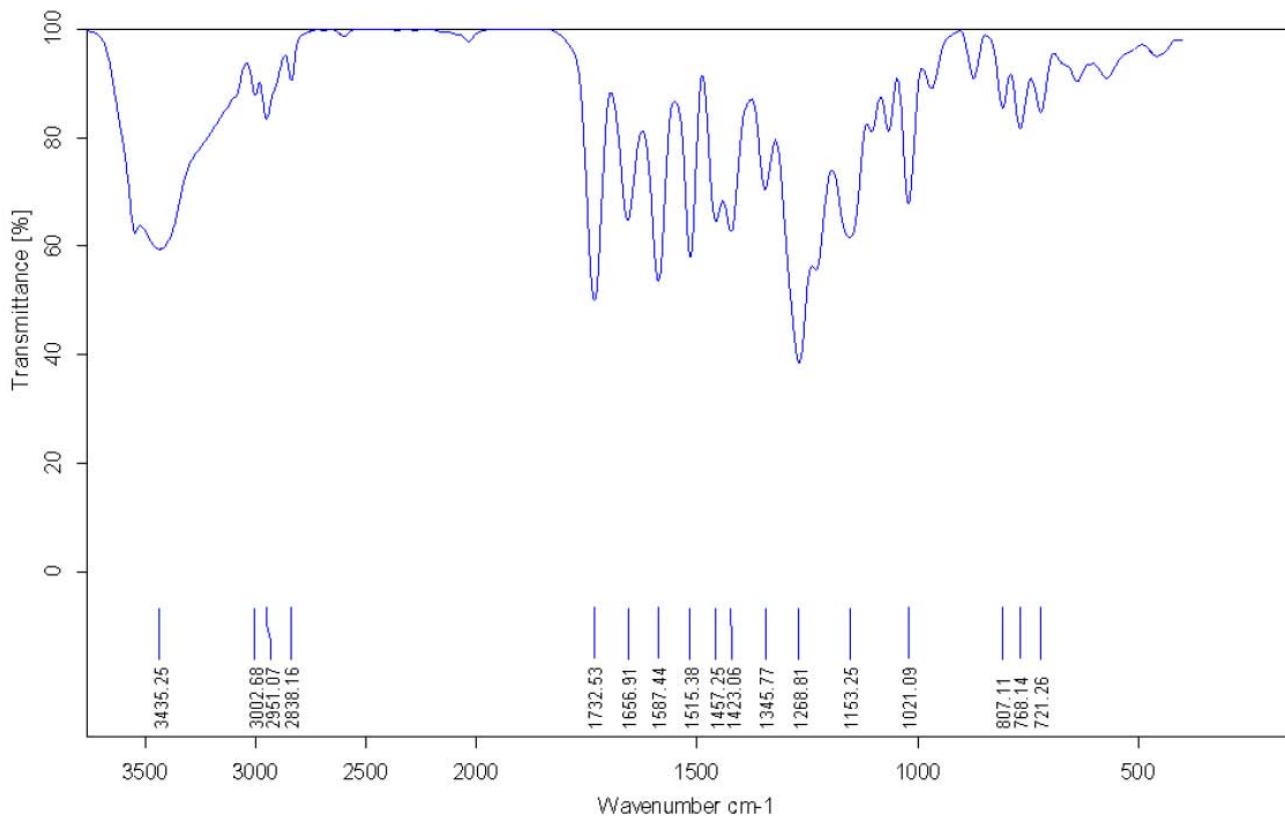
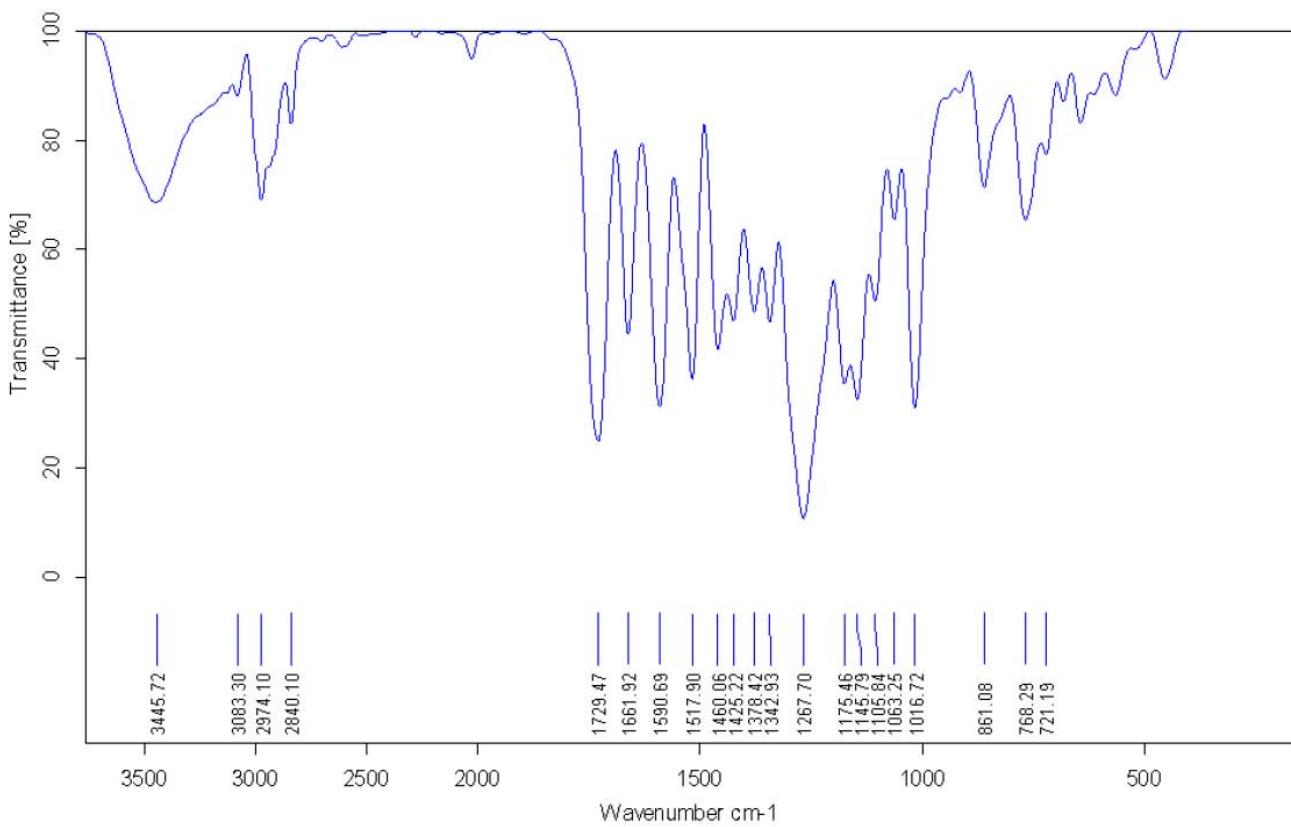
IR spectra of compound **3e**IR spectra of compound **3f**

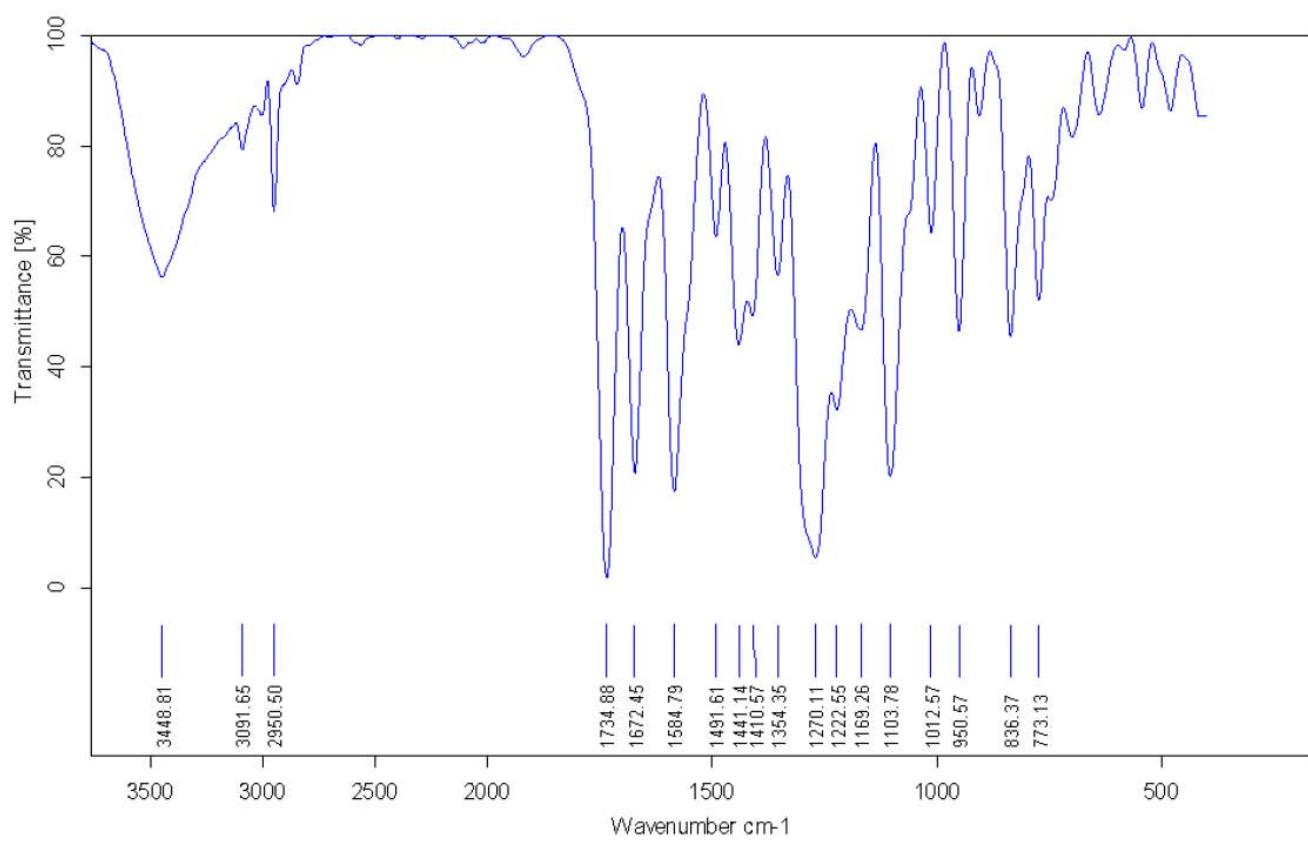
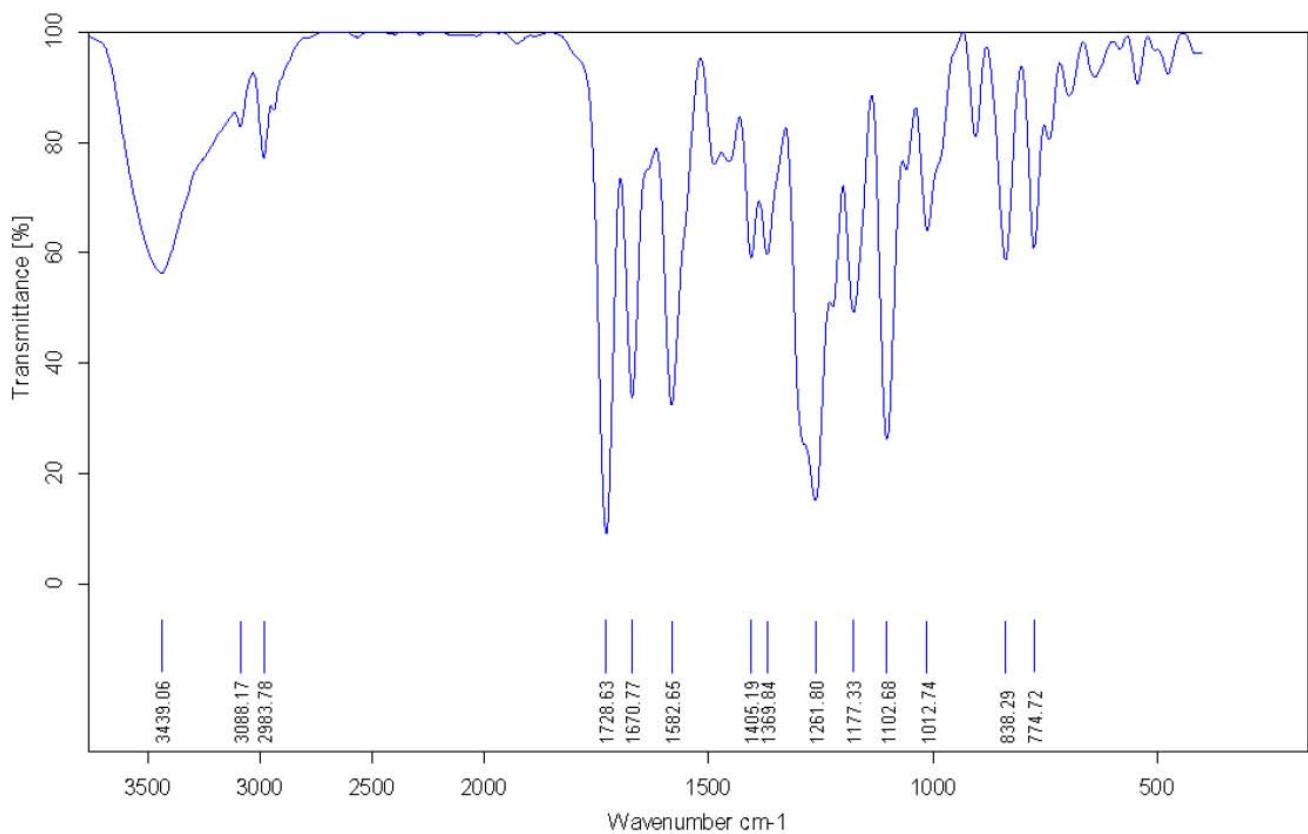
IR spectra of compound **3g**IR spectra of compound **3h**

IR spectra of compound **3i**IR spectra of compound **3j**

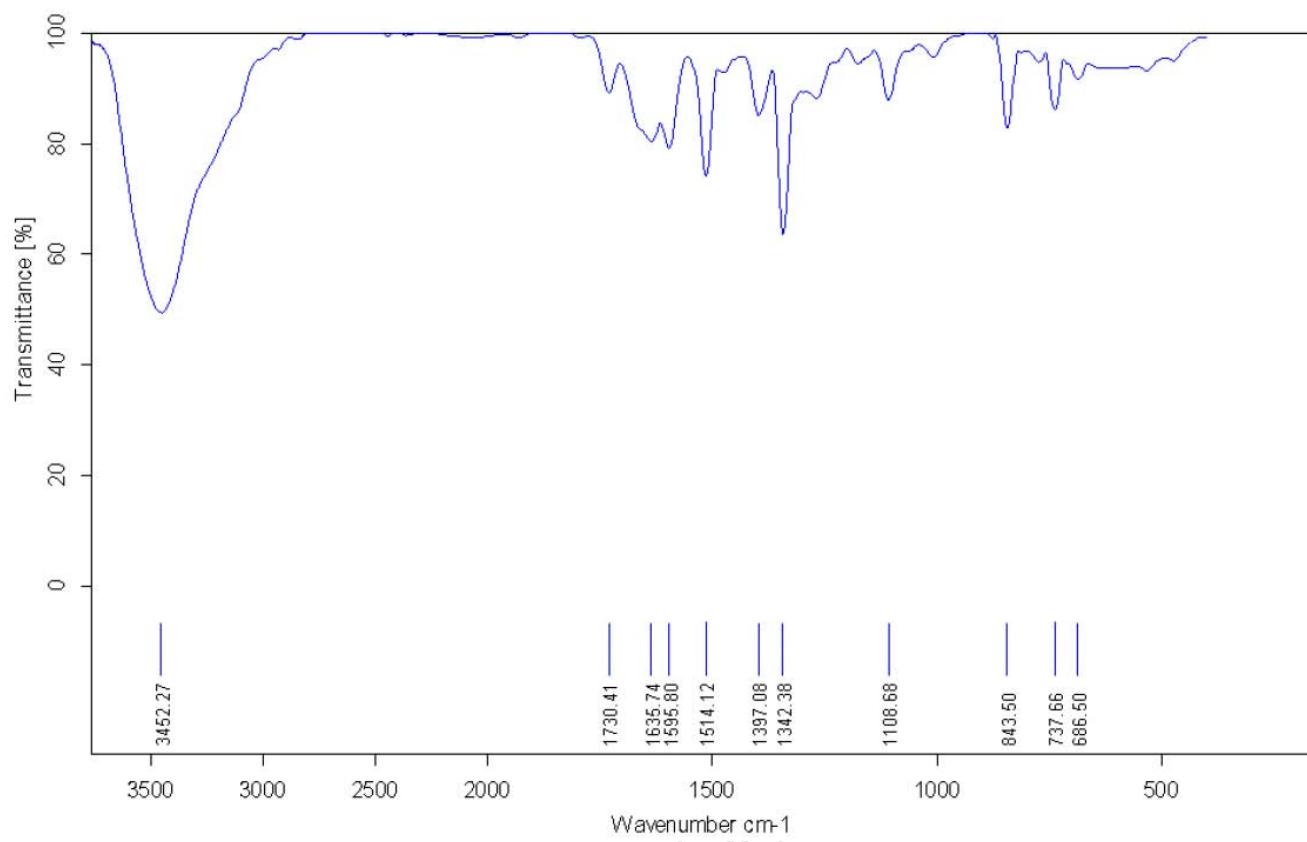
IR spectra of compound **3k**IR spectra of compound **3l**

IR spectra of compound **3m**IR spectra of compound **3n**

IR spectra of compound **3o**IR spectra of compound **3p**

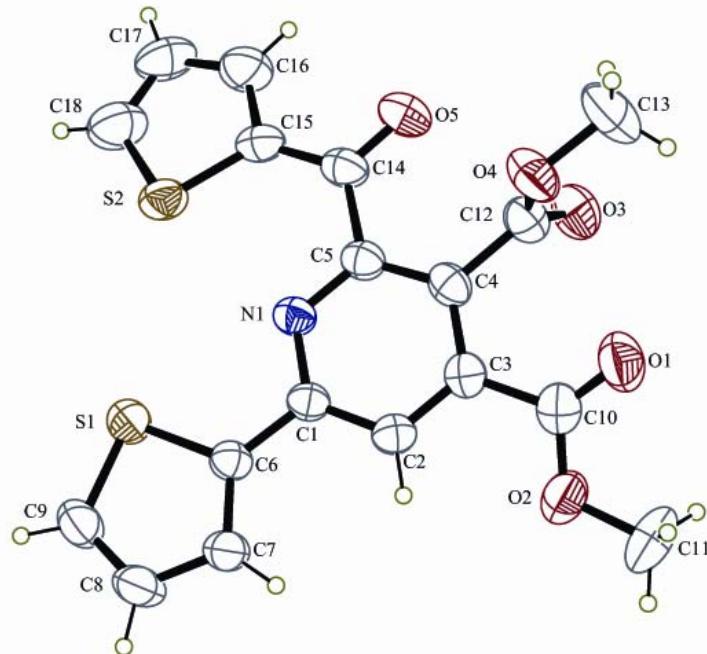
IR spectra of compound **3q**IR spectra of compound **3r**

## IR spectra of compound 3s



**X-ray crystallography Data of 3i**

Single crystals of compound **3i** were measured on a Rigaku RAXIS-RAPID single-crystal diffractometer. The recrystallization solvent of **3i** was methanol.

**Fig. S1 X-ray crystal structure of 3i****Table S1 X-ray crystallography data of 3i**

Formula moiety	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>13</sub> NO <sub>5</sub> S <sub>2</sub>
Formula sum	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>13</sub> NO <sub>5</sub> S <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	387.41
Temperature	296(2)K
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	C 2/c
Unit cell dimensions	a=25.3709(8) Å b=11.4204(4) Å c=13.8513(4) Å alfa=90.00deg. beta=119.1470 (10) deg. Gamma=90.00 deg.
Volume	3505.16 (19) Å <sup>3</sup>
Z	4
Calculated density	1.468 Mg/M <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	0.334 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	1600
Crystal size	0.47×0.41×0.32 mm
Theta range for data collection	3.0 to 27.4 deg.
Reflections collected/unique	13487/3096 [R(int) = 0.0281]
Data/restraints/parameters	3096/10/255
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.074
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1=0.0404, wR2=0.1025

**Reference:**

- (1) Myers, L. E.; Raines, T. R. *Angew. Chem, Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 2359.