

Supporting Information

Metal-free Synthesis of Nitriles from Aldehydes and Ammonium by Visible-Light Photocatalysis

Xu He^{1,2†}, Yi-Wen Zheng^{1,3†}, Bin Chen^{1,2}, Ke Feng^{1,2}, Chen-Ho Tung^{1,2} & Li-Zhu Wu^{1,2*}*

¹Key Laboratory of Photochemical Conversion and Optoelectronic Materials, New Cornerstone Science Laboratory, Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China

² School of Future Technology, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China

³BayRay Innovation Center, Shenzhen Bay Laboratory, Shenzhen 518107, China

[†]These authors contributed equally to this work

Contents

1. General Information	2
2. Experimental Procedures	3
3. Mechanism Studies	6
4. References	9
5. Characterization of products (II-1 ~ II-35).....	10
6. NMR Spectra	20

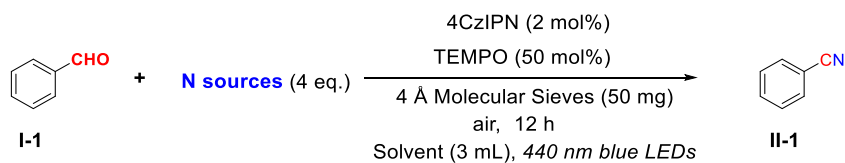
1. General Information

All reagents and solvents were commercially available unless individually noted. All the solvents used in photocatalyzed reactions were anhydrous solvents. Phenylmethanimine-BE₃ and the 4CzIPN photocatalyst were prepared as previously reported [1-3]. The 440 nm blue LEDs were used as light sources. The products were isolated by silica column chromatograph (200-300 meshes silica gel). ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker Advance DPX instrument (400, 101 and 377 MHz, respectively) with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. Data for ¹H NMR was presented as follows: chemical shift (ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, dd = doublet of doublets, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constant *J* (Hz) and integration. Data for ¹³C NMR and ¹⁹F NMR was reported in terms of chemical shift relative to different deuterium reagents. Mass spectra was recorded using a Trio-2000 GC-MS spectrometer. GC analysis was performed using He as the carrier gas with capillary column (30 m × 0.25 mm × 0.33 μm) and a flame ionization detector (FID) using *n*-tetradecane as an internal standard. Conversions and yields that were determined by ¹H NMR were obtained from the crude reaction mixture by using the diphenyl acetonitrile as an internal standard. UV-Vis absorption and luminescent quenching were performed on U-3900, F-4600 and LP-920. Cyclic voltammetry was performed on a CHI660E.

2. Experimental Procedures

2.1 The Optimization of Reaction Conditions

Table S1. The Optimization of Reaction Conditions ^{a)}



Entry	N Sources	Solvent	Yield of II-1 ^{b)}
1	NH ₄ OAc ^{c)}	CH ₃ CN	75%
2	NH ₂ COONH ₄	CH ₃ CN	39%
3	(NH ₄) ₂ CO ₃	CH ₃ CN	60%
4	NH ₃ (g)	CH ₃ CN	71%
5	NH ₄ Cl	CH ₃ CN	n.r.
6	NH ₂ OH•HCl	CH ₃ CN	n.d.
7	NH ₂ OH (50% aq. soln.)	CH ₃ CN	n.d.
8	NH ₄ OAc	CH ₃ OH	trace
9	NH ₄ OAc	EtOH	trace
10	NH ₄ OAc	DMF	trace
11	NH ₄ OAc	DCM	4%
12	NH ₄ OAc	THF	trace

a) Reactions were carried out at 0.2 mmol scale in 3 mL solvent with 2 mol% 4CzIPN, 50 mol% TEMPO, 4 equiv. nitrogen sources, 50 mg 4 Å molecular sieves under air upon 440 nm blue LEDs irradiation for 12 h. b) Yields were obtained from the crude and filtered reaction mixture by GC-FID with *n*-tetradecane as the internal standard. c) 2.5 equiv. NH₄OAc.

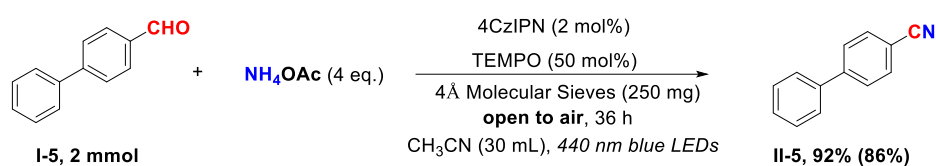
2.2 The General Procedure for Photoreaction

In an 8 mL reaction tube, 4CzIPN (4×10^{-3} mmol, 3.16 mg), NH₄OAc (0.8 mmol, 61.7 mg), TEMPO (Cocat.) (0.1 mmol, 15.6 mg) and 50 mg 4 Å molecular sieves were dissolved and blended in 3 mL CH₃CN. And then the aldehyde (0.2 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was vigorously stirred for 30 min before irradiation. After that, the mixture was exposed to air and irradiated at room temperature by use of 440 nm blue LEDs. Upon 12 h irradiation, the yield of nitrile was obtained from the filtrated crude reaction mixture by ¹H NMR or GC-FID using diphenyl acetonitrile or *n*-tetradecane as the internal standard.

2.3 Scaled-up Photoreaction

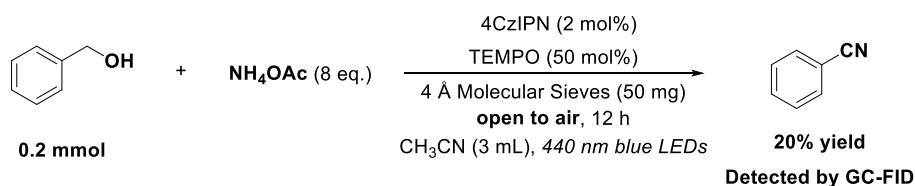
In a 100 mL round-bottom flask, 4CzIPN (4×10^{-2} mmol, 31.6 mg), NH₄OAc (8 mmol, 617 mg), TEMPO

(1 mmol, 156 mg) and 250 mg 4 Å molecular sieves were dissolved and blended in 30 mL CH₃CN. And then the 4-biphenylcarboxaldehyde **I-5** (2 mmol, 364.4 mg) was added and the reaction mixture was vigorously stirred for 30 min before irradiation. After that, the mixture was exposed to air and irradiated at room temperature by use of 440 nm blue LEDs. Upon 36 h irradiation, the yield of [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carbonitrile **II-5** was obtained from the filtrated crude reaction mixture by ¹H NMR using diphenyl acetonitrile as the internal standard. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether/DCM 5/1 to 2/1) to afford **II-5** as white solid (308.2 mg, 86% yield).



Scheme S1 The scaled-up experiment. ¹H NMR yield (isolated yield) were showed under the **II-5**.

2.4 The Oxidation of the Alcohol to Nitrile

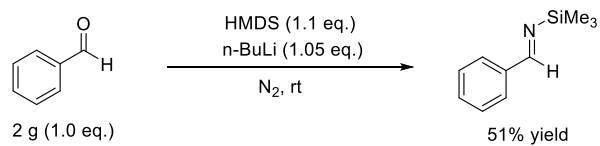


Scheme S2 The oxidation of the alcohol to nitrile.

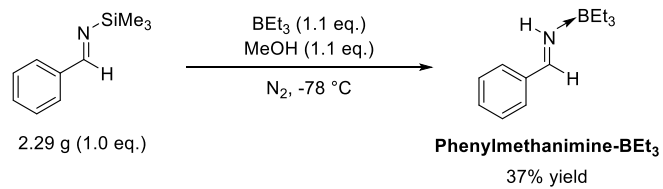
2.5 The Synthesis of Phenylmethanimine-BEt₃

The Phenylmethanimine-BEt₃ was prepared as previously reported [1-2]. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 9.34 (d, J = 21.4 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 21.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.52 (m, 5H), 0.75 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 9H), 0.34 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 6H). ¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : -2.00.

Step 1:



Step 2:



Scheme S3 The synthesis of phenylmethanimine- BEt_3 .

3. Mechanism Studies

3.1 Cyclic Voltammetry (CV) Experiments

A CH₃CN solution (3×10^{-4} M) of **I-1** and a CH₃CN solution (3×10^{-4} M) of TEMPO was prepared respectively with NBu₄PF₆ (0.1 M) as the supporting electrolyte. The cyclic voltammogram was obtained using a glassy carbon as working electrode, a Pt strip as counter electrode, and a saturated calomel electrode as reference electrode. Scan rate = 0.1 V/s, range from 0 V to 3.0 V.

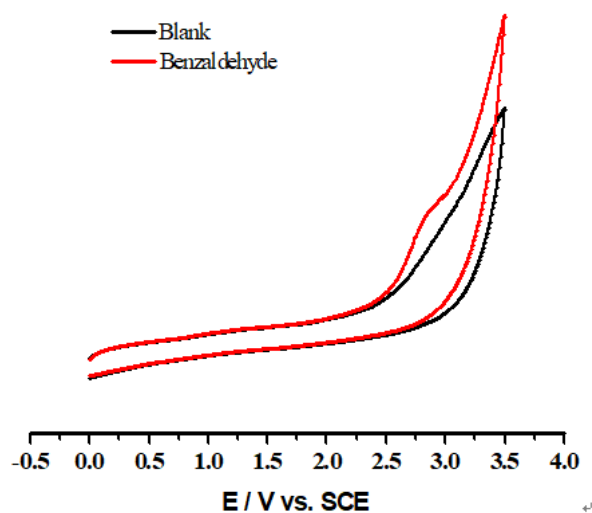


Figure S1 The cyclic voltammetry spectra of benzaldehyde **I-1** shows an oxidative potential at 2.83 V vs. SCE in CH₃CN.

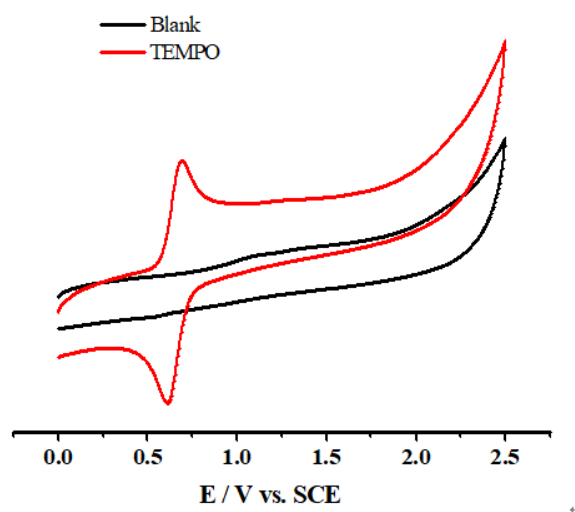


Figure S2 The cyclic voltammetry spectra of TEMPO in CH₃CN.

3.2 Spectroscopy Experiments

The mixed filtrate in **figure S3a** was prepared as follow. Benzaldehyde (0.2 mmol), NH_4OAc (0.8 mmol) and 4 Å MS (50 mg) were blended in CH_3CN (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 30 min, after that the molecular sieve was filtered out. The concentrations in **figure S3a** were calculated by the concentrations of benzaldehyde.

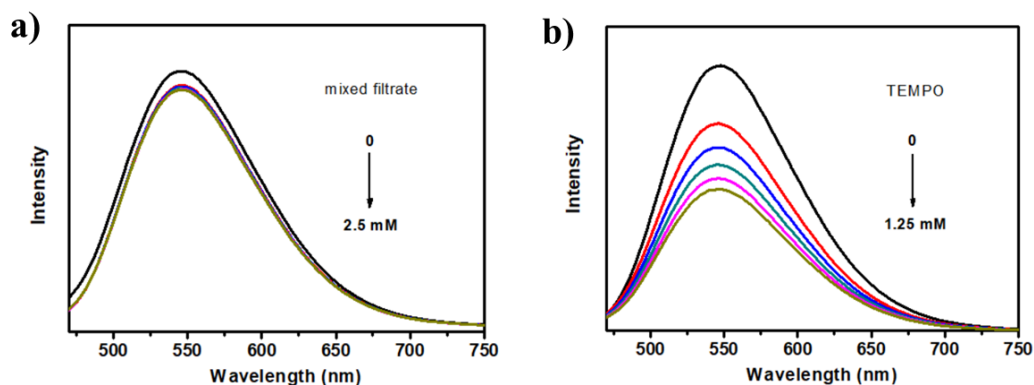


Figure S3 Luminescent quenching spectra of 4CzIPN (1×10^{-5} M) in the presence of **a)** different volume of mixed filtrate and **b)** different concentrations of TEMPO in CH_3CN with excitation at 440 nm.

3.3 The detection of H_2O_2

After the photoreaction was finished, 5 mL dichloromethane was added to the reaction mixture, and the resulting solution was filtered. Then 2 mL of saturated sodium carbonate aqueous solution was introduced into the solution to extract H_2O_2 . Then, 2.5 ml of acetic acid, 2 g of NaI and 35 ml of isopropanol were injected into the H_2O_2 aqueous solution (**Figure S4**, left). After refluxing for 20 min, the solution color turned yellow (**Figure S4**, right), indicating that the H_2O_2 was generated during the reaction [4].

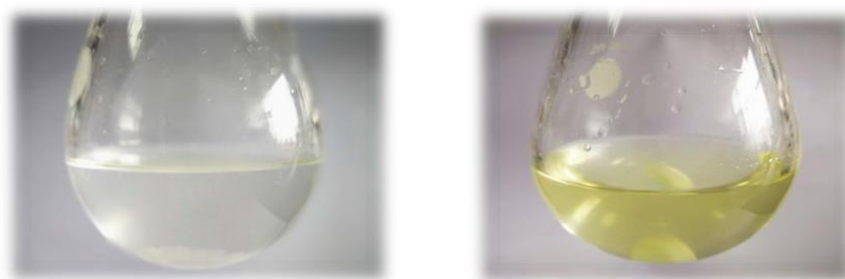


Figure S4 The detection of H_2O_2 .

3.4 The Light On-off Experiments

In order to explore whether the reaction is a chain reaction or not, the light on-off experiments were carried out. Five parallel solutions were prepared with **I-1** as the template substrate under the standard condition. The solutions were alternately irradiated for 30 min and shielded from light for 30 min. The plot of the yield of **II-1** vs the reaction time was obtained below (**Figure S5**). **II-1** was only formed during periods of constant irradiation, which suggested that a chain-propagation-type mechanism was unlikely to be involved.

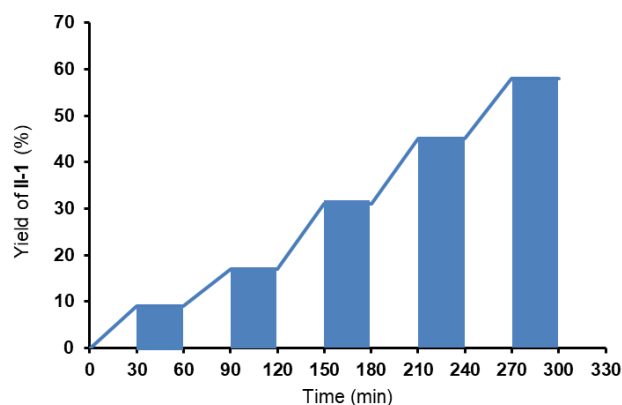


Figure S5 The light on-off experiments.

4. References

1. Lou S, Moquist PN, Schaus SE. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2007, 129: 15398-15404
2. Chen GH, Brown HC. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2000, 122: 4217-4218
3. Luo J, Zhang J. *ACS Catal.*, 2016, 6: 873-877
4. Meng QY, Gao XW, Lei T, Liu Z, Zhan F, Li ZJ, Zhong JJ, Xiao H, Feng K, Chen B, Tao Y, Tung CH, Wu LZ. *Sci. Adv.*, 2017, 3: e1700666

5. Characterization of products (II-1 ~ II-35)



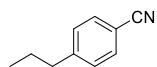
benzonitrile (II-1)

Colorless volatile liquid. Isolated yield: 33.0 mg, 80%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 = 5/1-2/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.69 – 7.41 (m, 5H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 132.80, 132.14, 129.15, 118.84, 112.46.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_5\text{N}$ m/z 103.0422, found 103.0422.



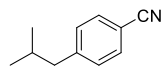
4-propylbenzonitrile (II-2)

Colorless liquid. Isolated yield: 48.2 mg, 83%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 = 5/1-2/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.54 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.85 – 1.46 (sex, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 148.44, 132.23, 129.39, 119.23, 109.86, 38.27, 24.16, 13.75.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}$ m/z 145.0891, found 145.0889.



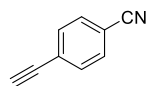
4-isobutylbenzonitrile (II-3)

Colorless liquid. Isolated yield: 55.4 mg, 87%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 = 5/1-2/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.55 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.88 (sep, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 147.47, 132.07, 129.97, 119.20, 109.87, 45.62, 30.13, 22.34.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}$ m/z 159.1048, found 159.1050.



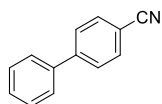
4-ethynylbenzonitrile (II-4)

White solid. Isolated yield: 48.8 mg, 96%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 = 5/1-2/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 132.81, 132.16, 127.14, 118.37, 112.49, 82.00, 81.67.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_5\text{N}$ m/z 127.0422, found 127.0418.



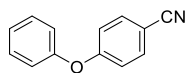
[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carbonitrile (II-5)

White solid. Isolated yield: 60.4 mg, 83%. petroleum ether/ CH₂Cl₂=5/1-2/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 7.72 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.54 – 7.40 (m, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 145.67, 139.18, 132.61, 129.16, 128.71, 127.75, 127.25, 118.96, 110.96.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₁₃H₉N m/z 179.0735, found 179.0725.



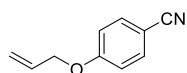
4-phenoxybenzonitrile (II-6)

Colorless oil. Isolated yield: 73.6mg, 93%. petroleum ether/ CH₂Cl₂=5/1-1/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 7.60 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 161.77, 154.95, 134.24, 130.34, 125.25, 120.51, 118.93, 118.05, 105.97.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₁₃H₉NO m/z 195.0684, found 195.0680.



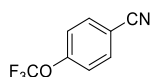
4-(allyloxy)benzonitrile (II-7)

White solid. Isolated yield: 41.4 mg, 65%. petroleum ether/ CH₂Cl₂=5/1-2/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 7.57 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.02 (m, 1H), 5.41 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 161.97, 134.07, 132.21, 119.26, 118.57, 115.59, 104.25, 69.13.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₁₀H₉NO m/z 159.0684, found 159.0679.



4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzonitrile (II-8)

Colorless liquid. Isolated yield: 48.6 mg, 65%. petroleum ether/ CH₂Cl₂=5/1-1/1.

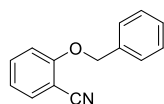
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 7.73 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 152.36 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 134.32, 121.37 (d, J = 0.9 Hz), 124.19 –

116.45 (q, $J = 133.42$ Hz), 117.77, 111.00.

^{19}F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : -57.74.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_4\text{F}_3\text{NO}$ m/z 187.0245., found 187.0240.



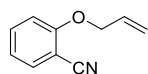
2-(benzyloxy)benzonitrile (II-9)

White solid. Isolated yield: 66.9 mg, 80%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-2/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.57 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (m, 3H), 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.01 (m, 2H), 5.21 (s, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 160.47, 135.85, 134.30, 133.94, 128.81, 128.30, 127.10, 121.21, 116.43, 113.21, 102.78, 70.84.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}$ m/z 209.0841, found 209.0837.



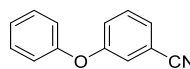
2-(allyloxy)benzonitrile (II-10)

Colorless liquid. Isolated yield: 57.3mg, 90%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-1/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.72 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 6.62 (m, 2H), 6.04 (m, 1H), 5.47 (d, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.32 (d, $J = 10.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.66 (d, $J = 4.9$ Hz, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 160.33, 134.31, 133.87, 131.98, 120.99, 118.32, 116.50, 112.76, 102.35, 69.55.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{NO}$ m/z 159.0684, found 159.0679.



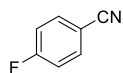
3-phenoxybenzonitrile (II-11)

Pale yellow liquid. Isolated yield: 67.9mg, 87%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-1/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.39 (m, 7.1 Hz, 4H), 7.28 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 158.31, 155.66, 130.77, 130.30, 126.51, 124.82, 122.88, 121.20, 119.88, 118.36, 113.68.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{NO}$ m/z 195.0684, found 195.0680.



4-fluorobenzonitrile (II-12)

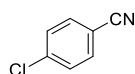
Colorless volatile liquid. Isolated yield: 29 mg, 60%. petroleum ether/ CH₂Cl₂=5/1-2/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 7.68 (dd, J = 8.0, 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 165.15 (d, J = 256.5 Hz), 134.78 (d, J = 9.3 Hz), 118.10, 116.95 (d, J = 22.7 Hz), 108.70 (d, J = 3.7 Hz).

¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : -102.45.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₇H₄FN m/z 121.0328, found 121.0323.



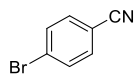
4-chlorobenzonitrile (II-13)

White solid. Isolated yield: 47.9 mg, 87%. petroleum ether/ CH₂Cl₂=5/1-2/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 7.60 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 139.68, 133.50, 129.82, 118.07, 110.95.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₇H₄ClN m/z 137.0032, found 137.0031.



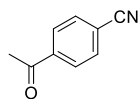
4-bromobenzonitrile (II-14)

White solid. Isolated yield: 56.1 mg, 77%. petroleum ether/ CH₂Cl₂=5/1-2/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 7.63 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 133.49, 132.73, 128.09, 118.12, 111.36.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₇H₄BrN m/z 180.9527, found 180.9525.



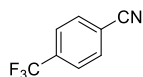
4-acetylbenzonitrile (II-15)

White solid. Isolated yield: 38.3 mg, 66%. petroleum ether/ EtOAc =10/1-5/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 8.04 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.64 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 196.63, 140.09, 132.66, 128.83, 118.04, 116.59, 26.88.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₉H₇NO m/z 145.0528, found 145.0527.



4-(trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (II-16)

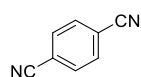
Colorless liquid. Isolated yield: 47.2 mg, 69%. petroleum ether/ CH₂Cl₂=5/1-1/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 134.75 (q, *J* = 33.4 Hz), 132.83, 126.34 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 127.27 – 119.13 (q, *J* = 273.9 Hz), 117.55, 116.27.

¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : -63.54.

HRMS (EI): *m/z* calculated for C₈H₄F₃N *m/z* 171.0296, found 171.0289.



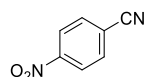
terephthalonitrile (II-17)

White solid. Isolated yield: 38.4 mg, 75%, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1-5/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 7.79 (s, 4H).

¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 132.93, 117.12, 116.90.

HRMS (EI): *m/z* calculated for C₈H₄N₂ *m/z* 128.0374, found 128.0372.



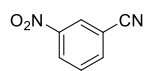
4-nitrobenzonitrile (II-18)

White solid. Isolated yield: 37.2 mg, 63%. petroleum ether/EtOAc=10/1-5/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 150.18, 133.59, 124.41, 118.47, 116.90.

HRMS (EI): *m/z* calculated for C₇H₄N₂O₂ *m/z* 148.0273, found 148.0270.

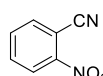


3-nitrobenzonitrile (II-19)

White solid. Isolated yield: 46.8 mg, 79%. petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1-5/1.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.48 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 148.40, 137.70, 130.78, 127.65, 127.36, 116.64, 114.32.



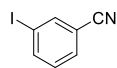
2-nitrobenzonitrile (II-20)

Yellow solid. Isolated yield: 35.0 mg, 59%. petroleum ether/ CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc = 3:2:0.5

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 8.38 – 8.29 (m, 1H), 7.96 – 7.90 (m, 1H), 7.90 – 7.78 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 148.72, 135.72, 134.42, 133.82, 125.68, 115.03, 108.24.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ m/z 148.0273, found 148.0274.



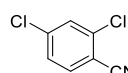
3-iodobenzonitrile (II-21)

Colorless liquid. Isolated yield: 76.0 mg, 83%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-1/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H)..

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 141.95, 140.46, 131.25, 130.61, 117.13, 114.28, 93.94.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_4\text{IN}$ m/z 228.9388, found 228.9385.



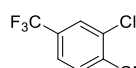
2,4-dichlorobenzonitrile (II-22)

White solid. Isolated yield: 51.6 mg, 75%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-1/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.61 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 140.22, 137.98, 134.70, 130.41, 127.98, 115.2, 112.14.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_3\text{Cl}_2\text{N}$ m/z 170.9643, found 170.9645.



2-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (II-23)

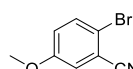
Colorless liquid. Isolated yield: 45.2 mg, 55%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-1/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 138.00, 135.90 (q, J = 34.0 Hz), 134.74, 127.30 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 124.25 (q, J = 3.6 Hz), 126.54 – 118.38 (q, J = 274.52 Hz), 117.13, 114.83.

^{19}F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : -63.61.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_3\text{ClF}_3\text{N}$ m/z 204.9906, found 204.9900.



2-bromo-5-methoxybenzonitrile (II-24)

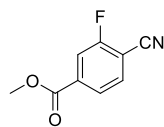
Crystal solid. Isolated yield: 67.8 mg, 80%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-1/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.52 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (dd, J = 9.0,

3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 158.82, 134.09, 120.92, 119.03, 117.16, 116.34, 115.68, 55.99.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_6\text{BrNO}$ m/z 210.9633, found 210.9630.



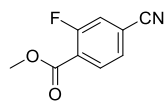
methyl 4-cyano-3-fluorobenzoate (II-25)

White solid. Isolated yield: 53.7 mg, 75%. petroleum ether/ EtOAc =10/1-5/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.93 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 164.48 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 163.03 (d, J = 260.4 Hz), 136.67 (d, J = 7.6 Hz), 133.82, 125.76 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 117.58 (d, J = 21.4 Hz), 113.26, 105.69 (d, J = 15.7 Hz), 53.16.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{FNO}_2$ m/z 179.0383, found 179.0380.



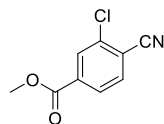
methyl 4-cyano-2-fluorobenzoate (II-26)

White solid. Isolated yield: 55.9 mg, 78%. petroleum ether/ EtOAc =10/1-5/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 8.04 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 163.44 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 161.26 (d, J = 263.8 Hz), 133.24 (d, J = 1.4 Hz), 127.82 (d, J = 4.5 Hz), 123.20 (d, J = 10.5 Hz), 121.00 (d, J = 26.1 Hz), 117.69 (d, J = 9.7 Hz), 116.70 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 53.03.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{FNO}_2$ m/z 179.0383, found 179.0380.



methyl 3-chloro-4-cyanobenzoate (II-27)

White solid. Isolated yield: 47.7 mg, 61%. petroleum ether/ EtOAc =10/1-5/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 8.16 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 164.51, 137.36, 135.34, 133.18, 130.97, 128.05, 117.28, 115.36, 53.14.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{ClNO}_2$ m/z 195.0087, found 195.0085.



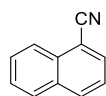
nicotinonitrile (II-28)

Pale yellow solid. Isolated yield: 34.6 mg, 83%. petroleum ether/ EtOAc=2/1-1/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 8.83 (s, 1H), 8.76 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.33 (m, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 152.95, 152.39, 139.21, 123.60, 116.46, 110.04.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{N}_2$ m/z 104.0374, found 104.0373.



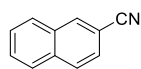
1-naphthonitrile (II-29)

Colorless liquid. Isolated yield: 49.2 mg, 79%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-2/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 8.25 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (dd, J = 7.6, 4.5 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 133.41, 133.10, 132.77, 132.54, 128.79, 128.75, 127.70, 125.33, 125.07, 117.94, 110.40.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_7\text{N}$ m/z 153.0578, found 153.0580.



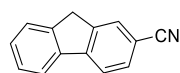
2-naphthonitrile (II-30)

White solid. Isolated yield: 36.8 mg, 60%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-2/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 8.22 (s, 1H), 7.90 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 3H), 7.62 (m, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 134.82, 134.24, 132.46, 129.31, 129.14, 128.53, 128.18, 127.77, 126.48, 119.28, 109.64.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_7\text{N}$ m/z 153.0578, found 153.0580. White solid. Isolated yield:



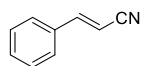
9H-fluorene-2-carbonitrile (II-31)

White solid. Isolated yield: 67.3 mg, 88%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-2/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.81 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 146.32, 144.02, 143.76, 140.03, 131.25, 128.69, 127.41, 125.40, 121.05, 120.45, 119.66, 109.89, 36.87.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{N}$ m/z 191.0735, found 191.0736.



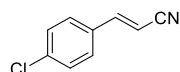
cinnamonitrile (II-32)

Colorless volatile liquid. Isolated yield: 17.1 mg, 33%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-1/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.41 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 7.28 (d, $J = 16.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.79 (d, $J = 16.7$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 150.27, 133.33, 131.00, 128.91, 127.21, 118.03, 96.15.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{N}$ m/z 129.0578, found 129.0574.



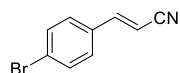
(E)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)acrylonitrile (II-33)

Colorless volatile liquid. Isolated yield: 20.9 mg, 32%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-1/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.75 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.48 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 147.41, 137.15, 132.14, 130.40, 129.40, 117.18, 95.86.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{ClN}$ m/z 163.0189, found 163.0189.



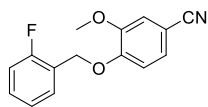
(E)-3-(4-bromophenyl)acrylonitrile (II-34)

White solid. Isolated yield: 29.1 mg, 35%. petroleum ether/ CH_2Cl_2 =5/1-1/1.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 7.67 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.49 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 147.46, 132.42, 130.51, 125.51, 117.12, 95.99.

HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{BrN}$ m/z 206.9684, found 206.9680.



4-((2-fluorobenzyl)oxy)-3-methoxybenzonitrile (II-35)

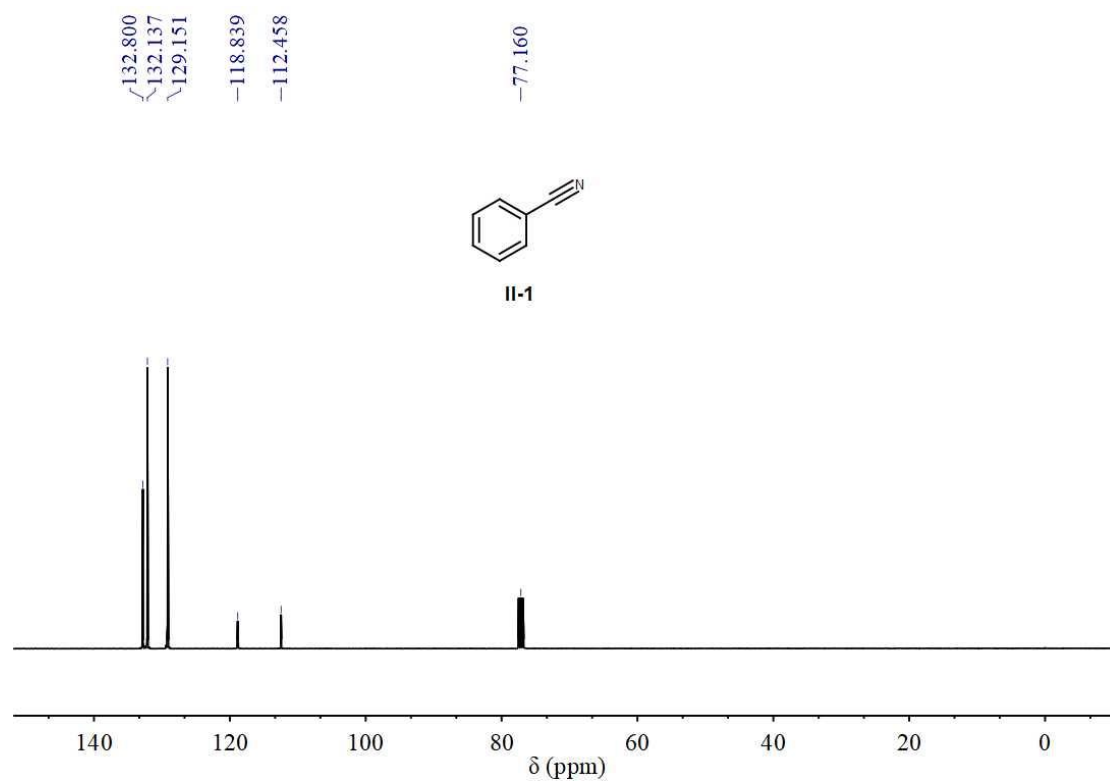
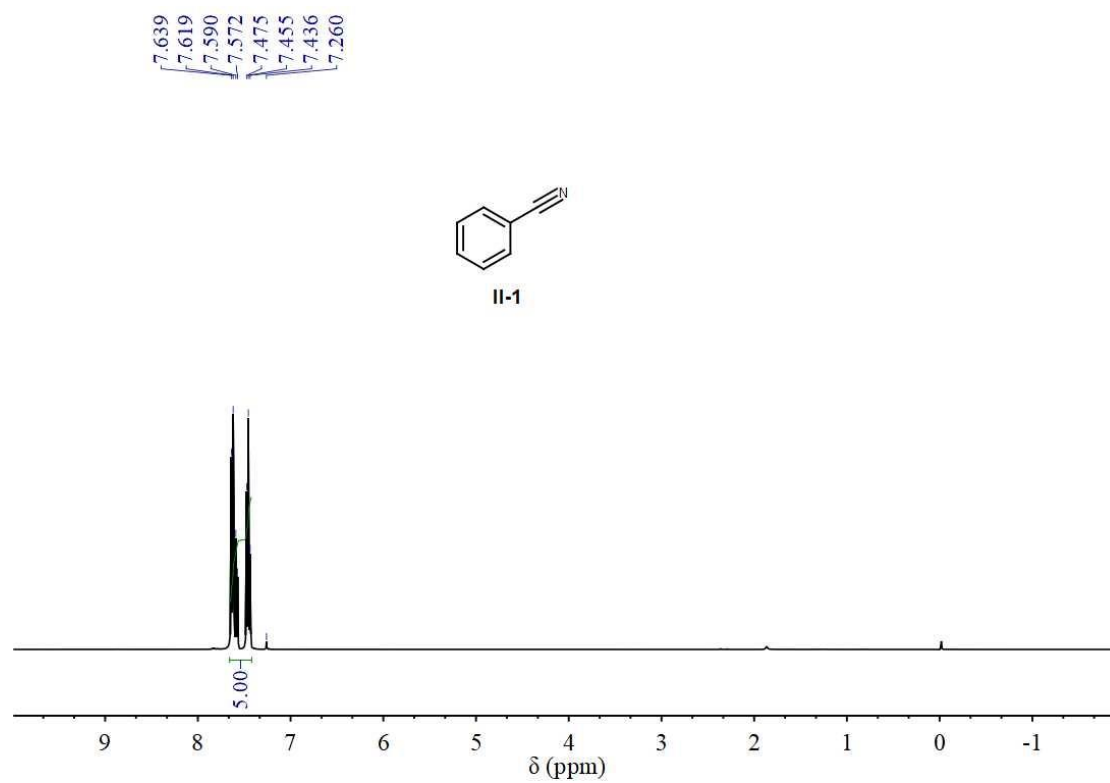
White solid. Isolated yield: 84.3 mg, 82%. petroleum ether/ EtOAc=10/1-5/1.

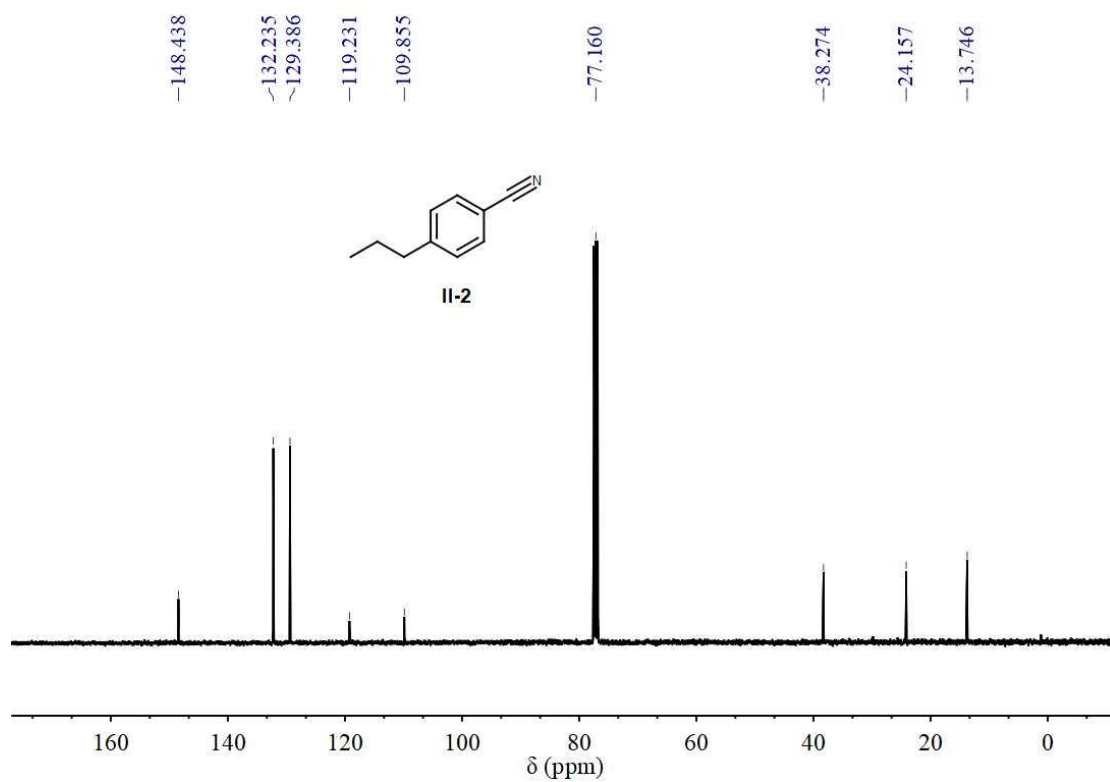
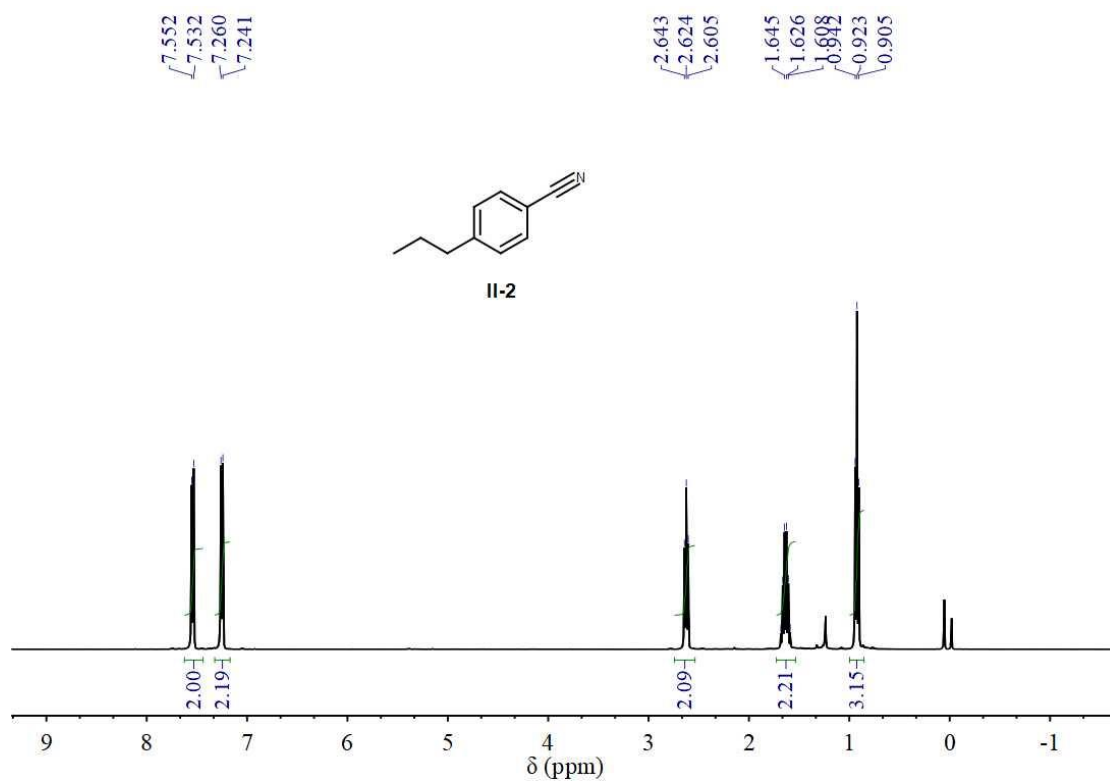
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 7.41 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 6.97 (m, 5H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H).

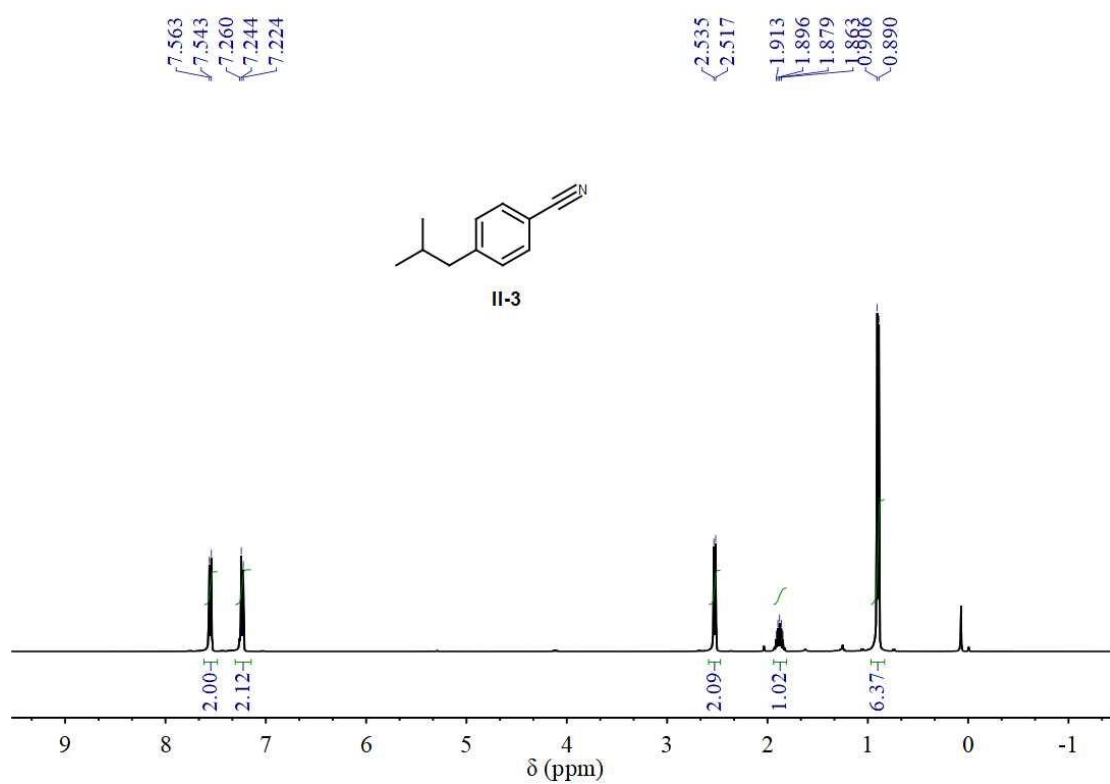
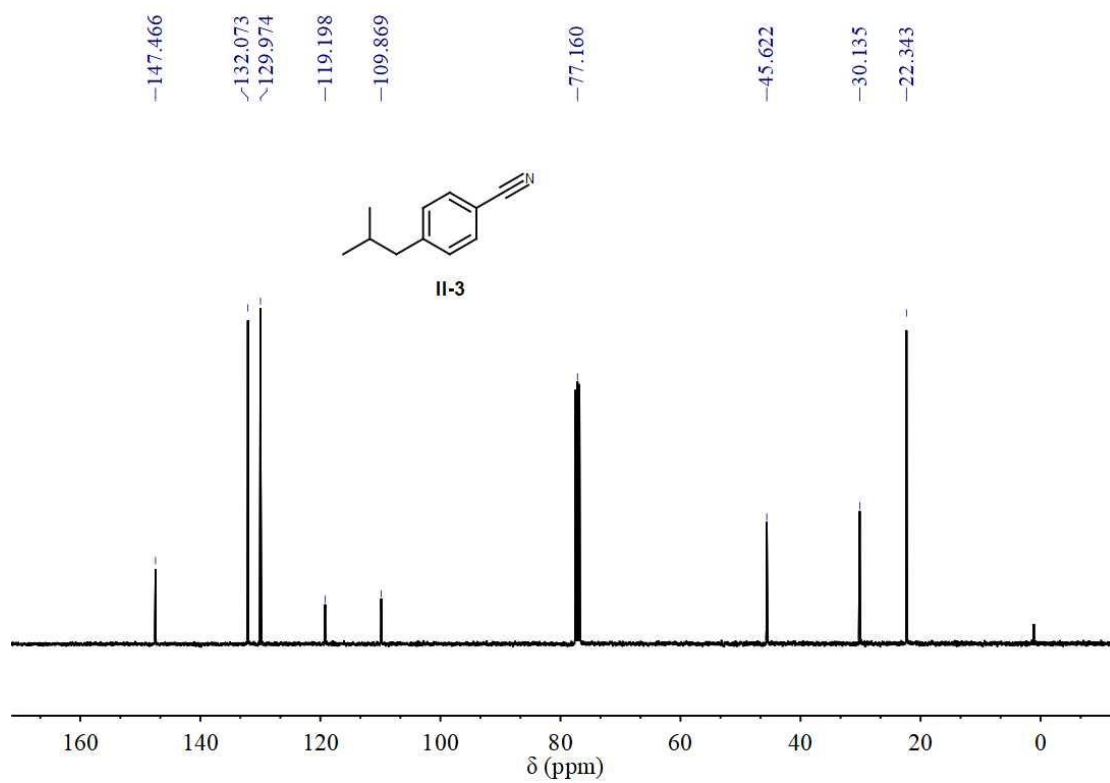
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 160.50 (d, J = 247.1 Hz), 151.91, 149.93, 130.24 (d, J = 8.2 Hz), 129.71 (d, J = 3.7 Hz), 126.40, 124.57 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 123.16 (d, J = 14.1 Hz), 119.22, 115.59 (d, J = 21.1 Hz), 114.74, 113.50, 104.71, 64.75 (d, J = 4.5 Hz), 56.35.

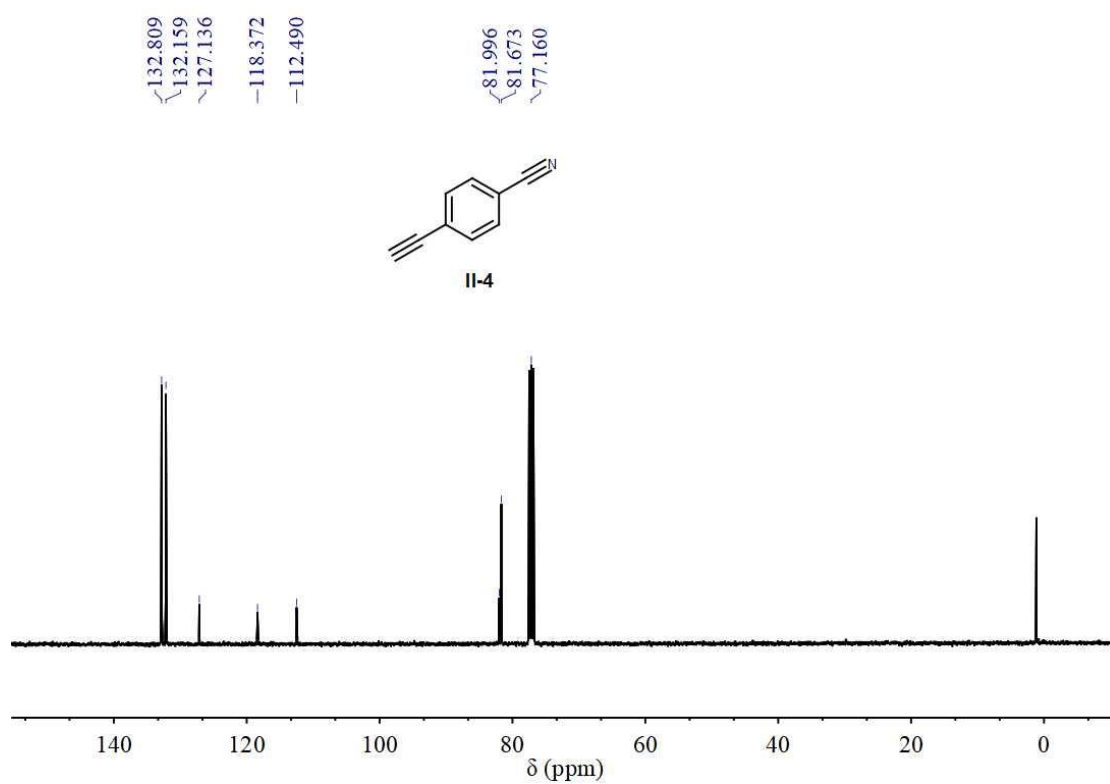
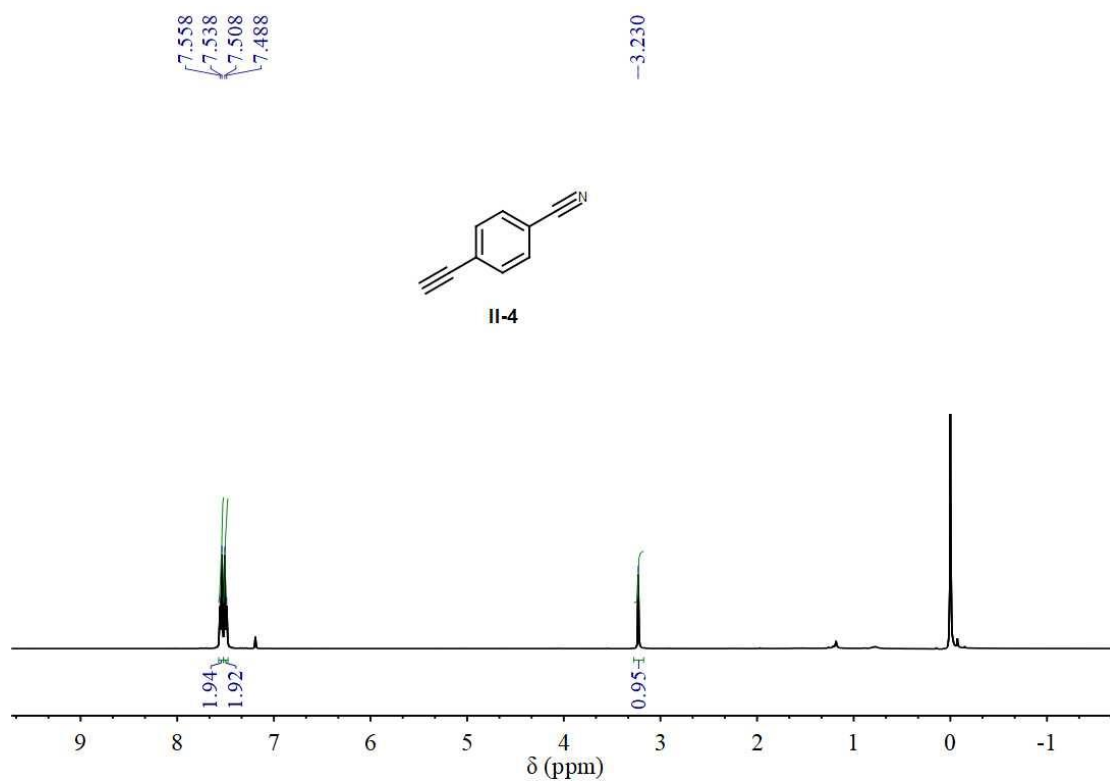
HRMS (EI): m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₂FNO₂ m/z 257.0852, found 257.0848.

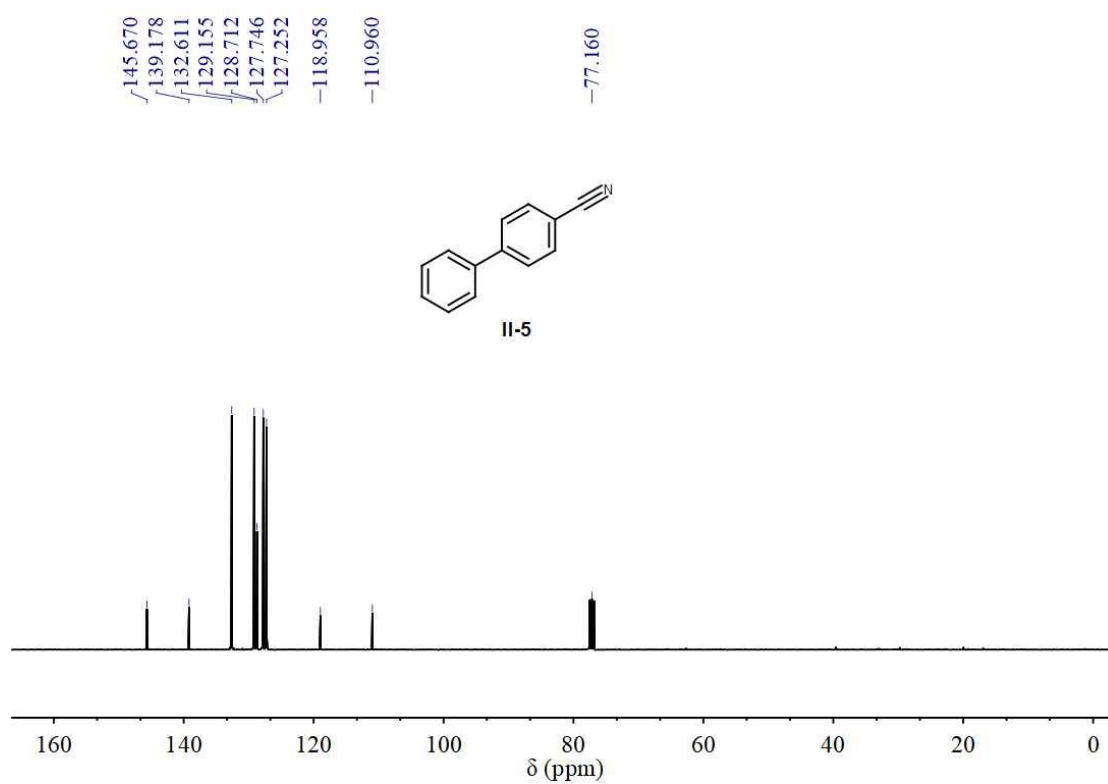
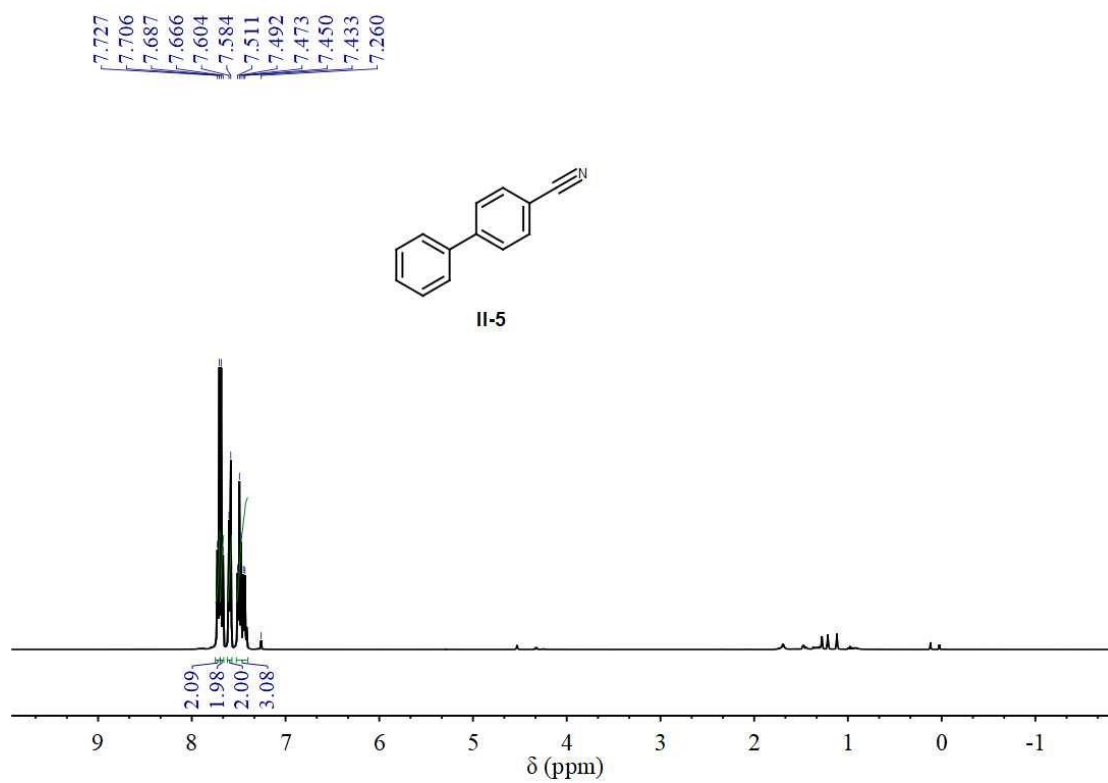
6. NMR Spectra

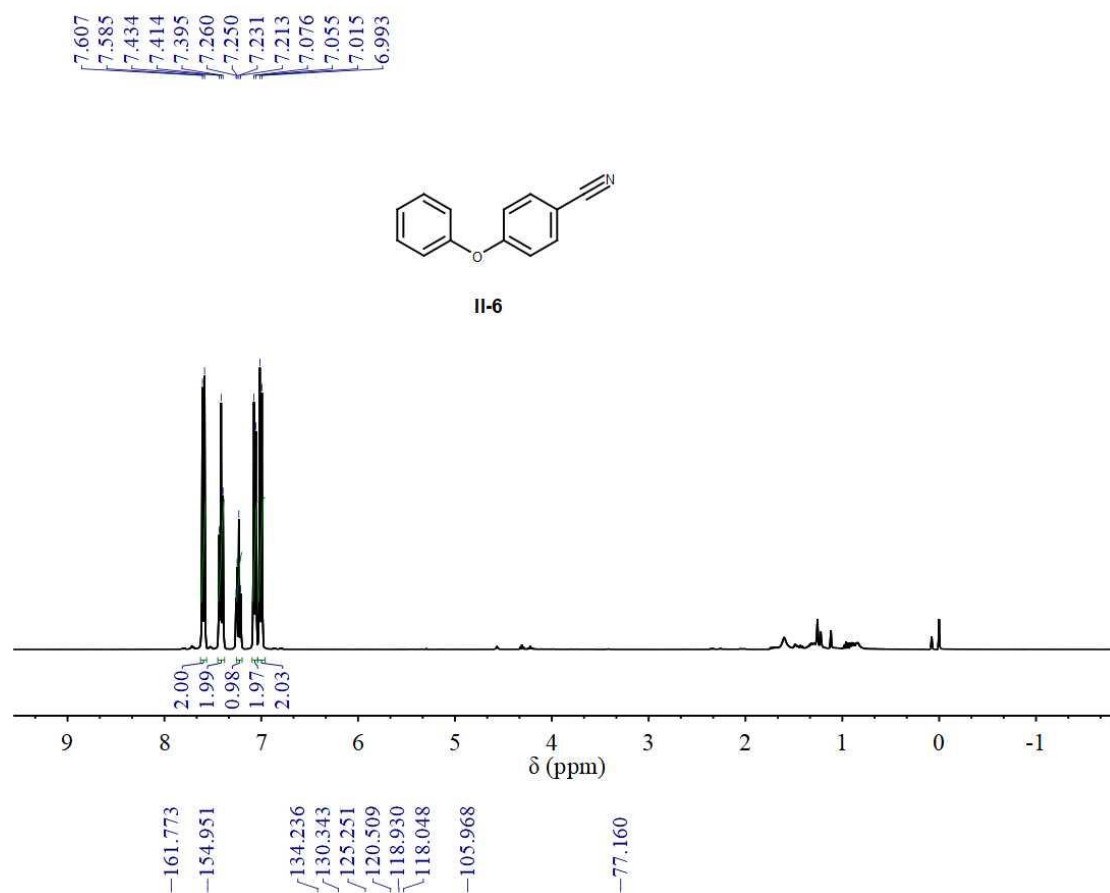


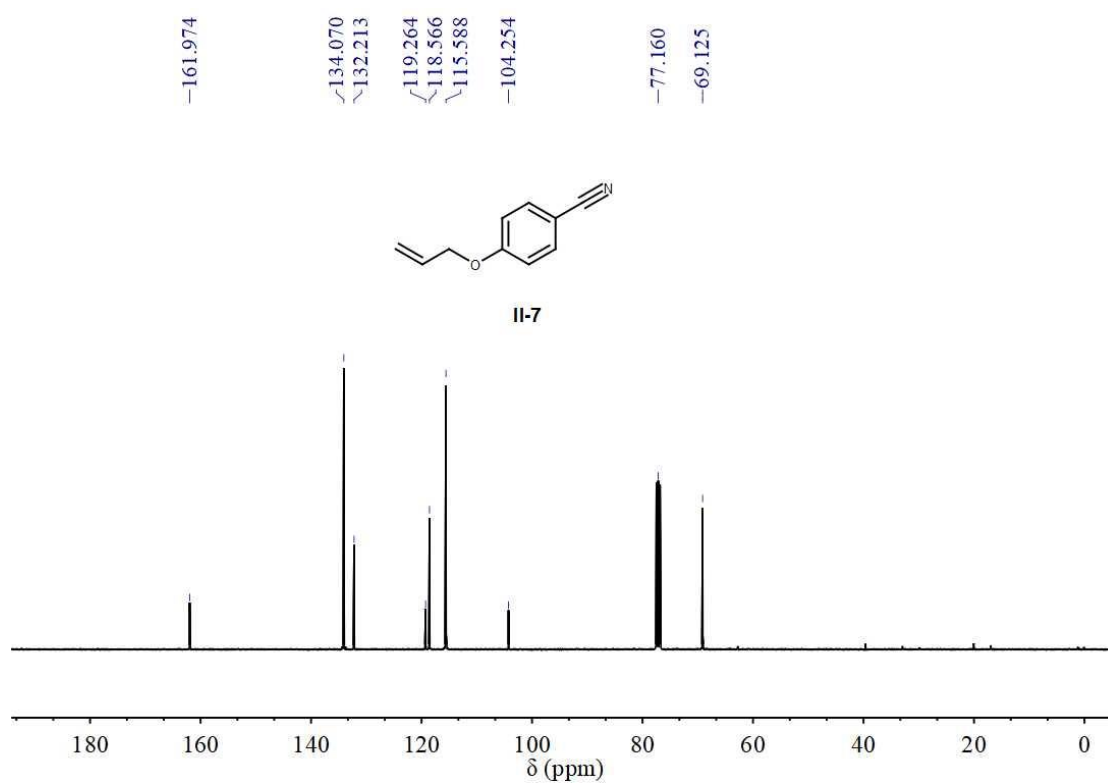
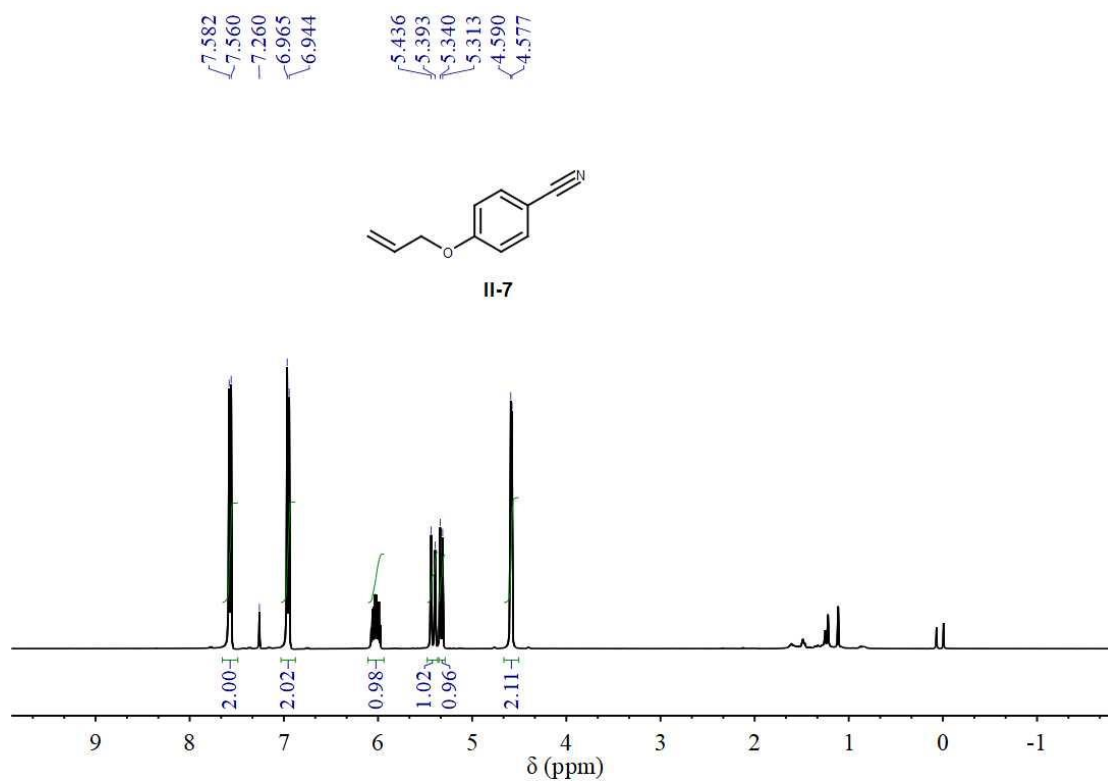




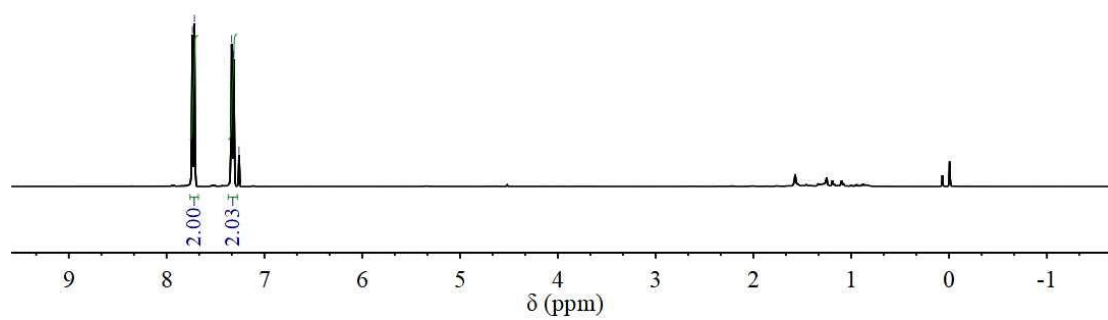
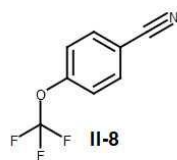




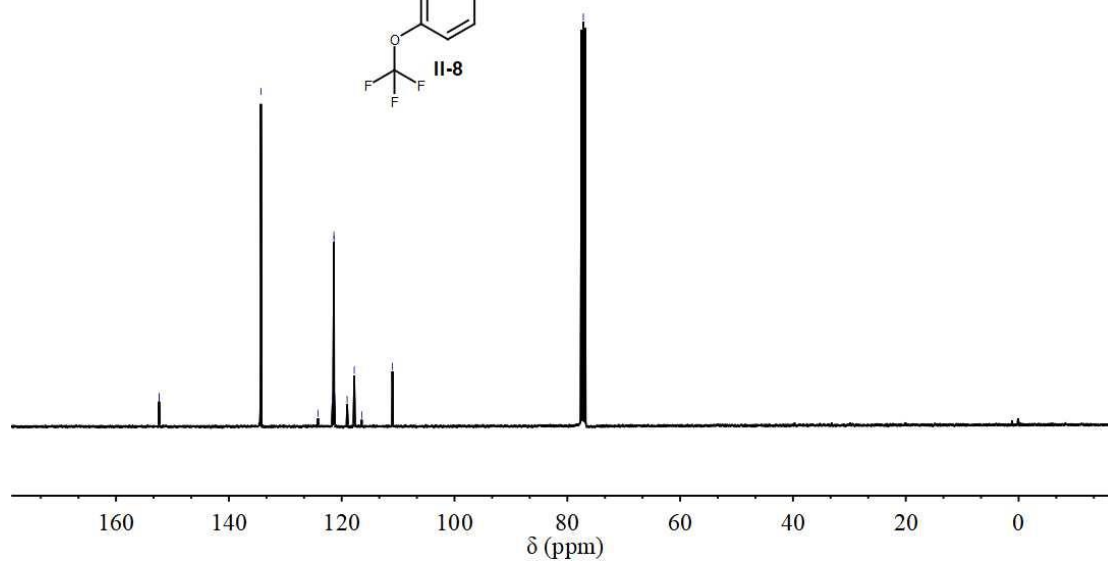
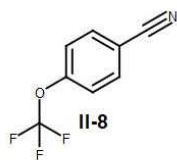


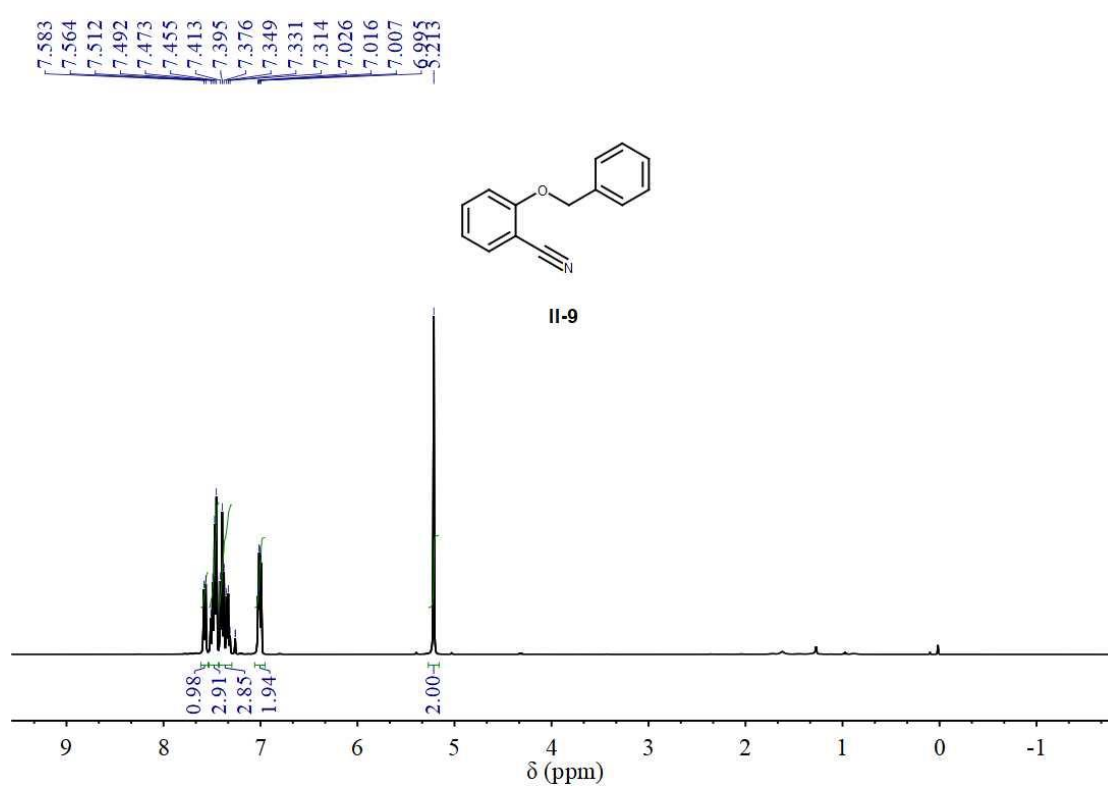
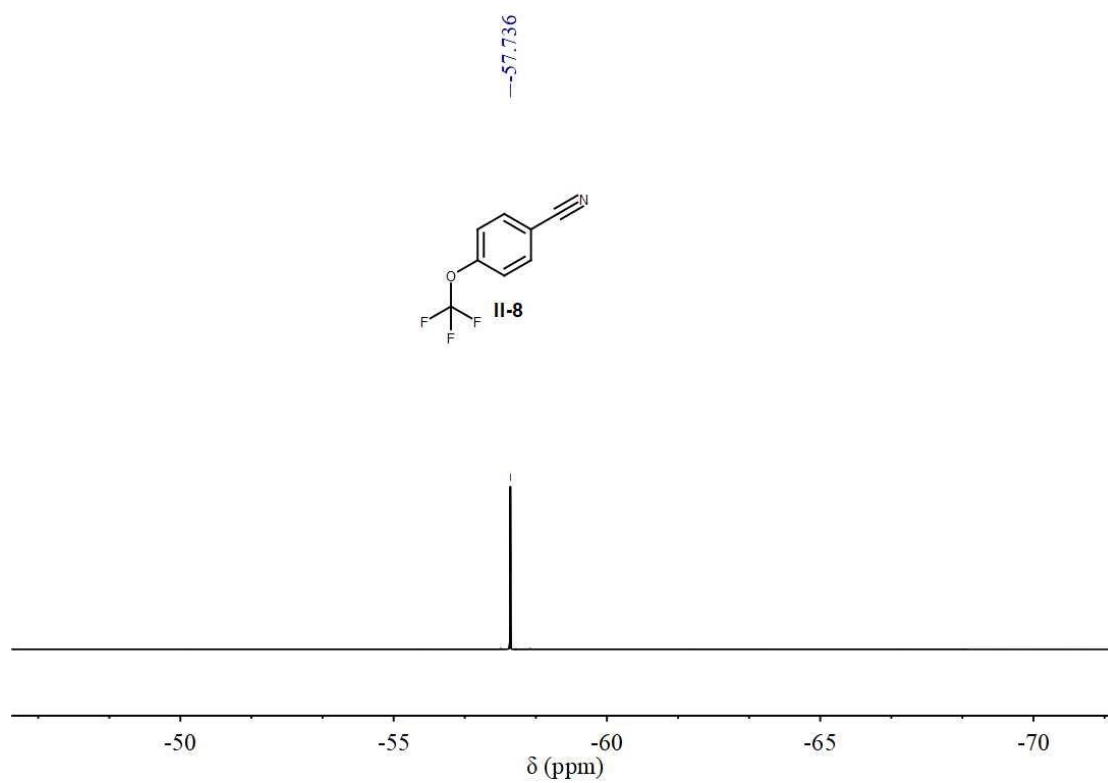


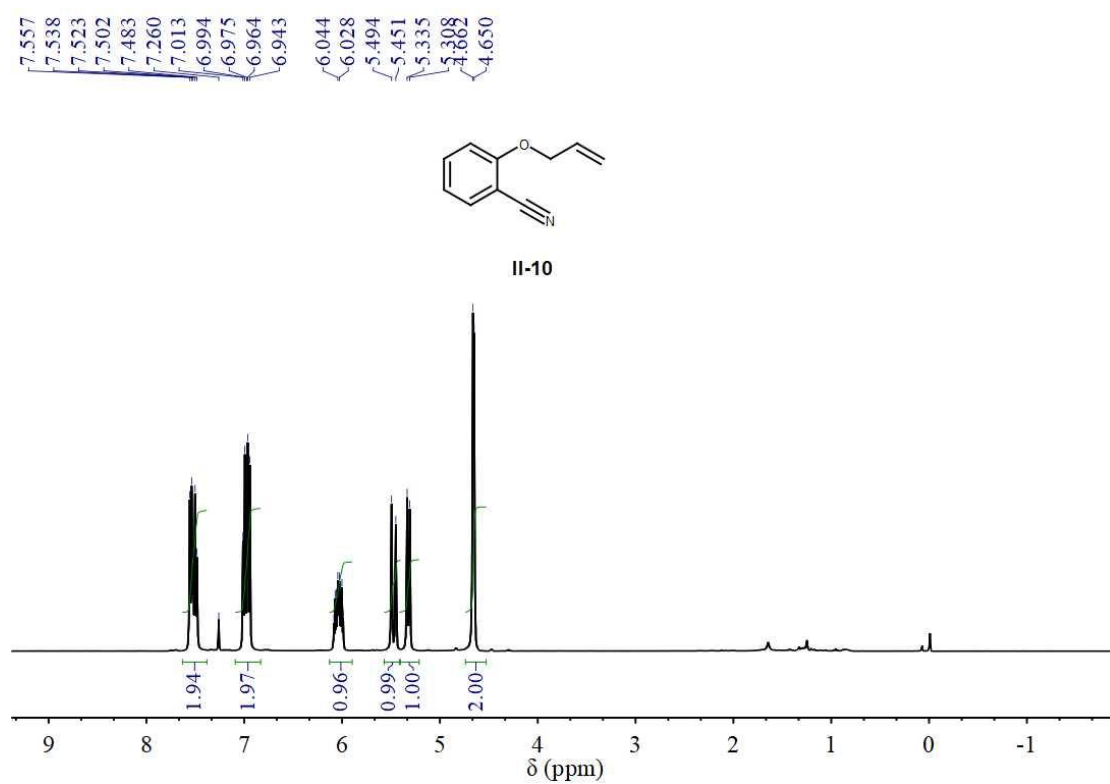
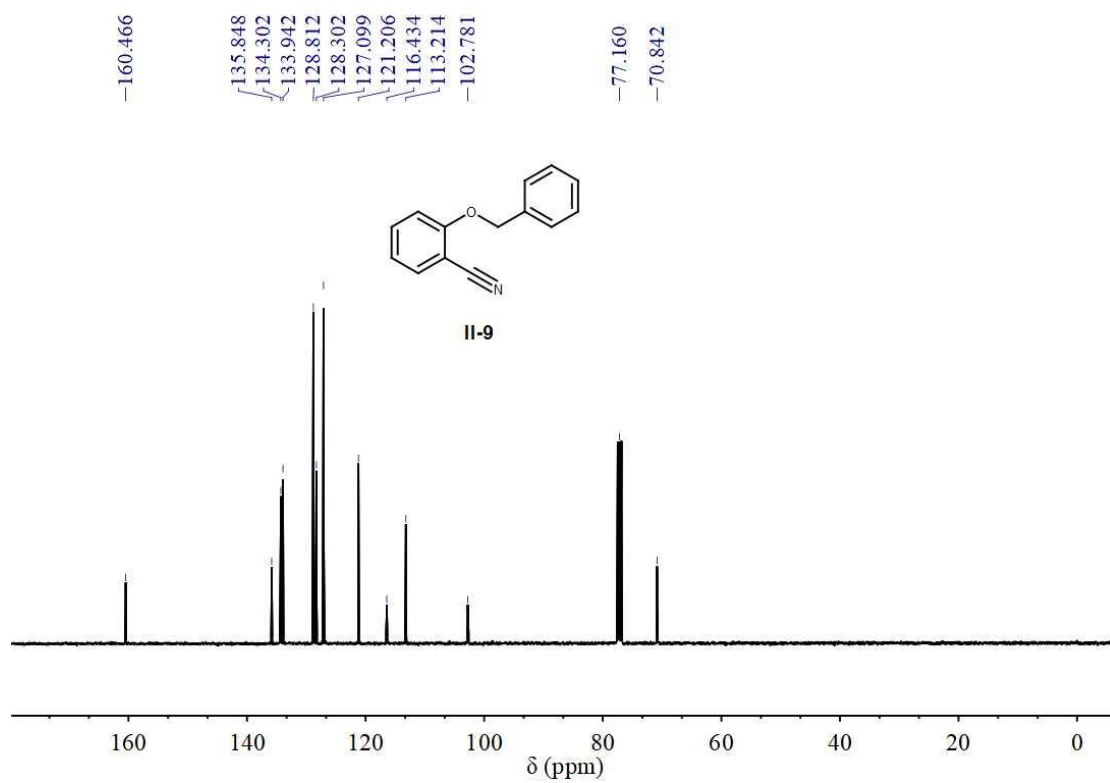
7.736
7.715
7.335
7.314
7.260

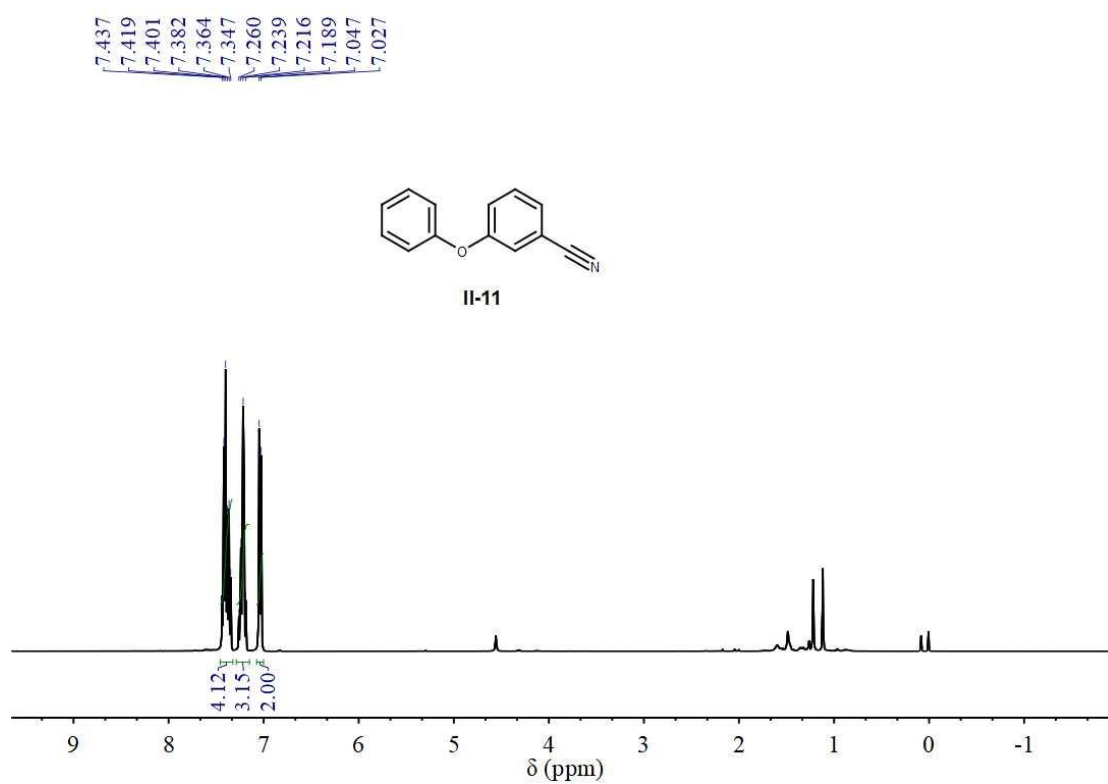
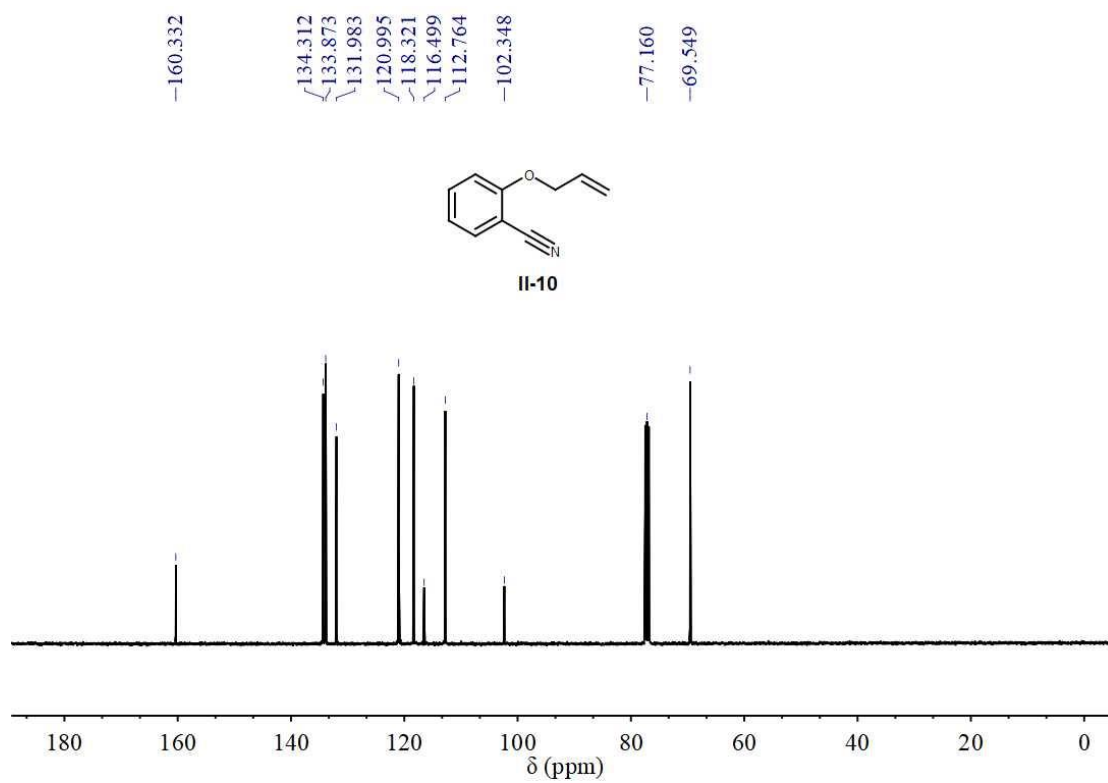


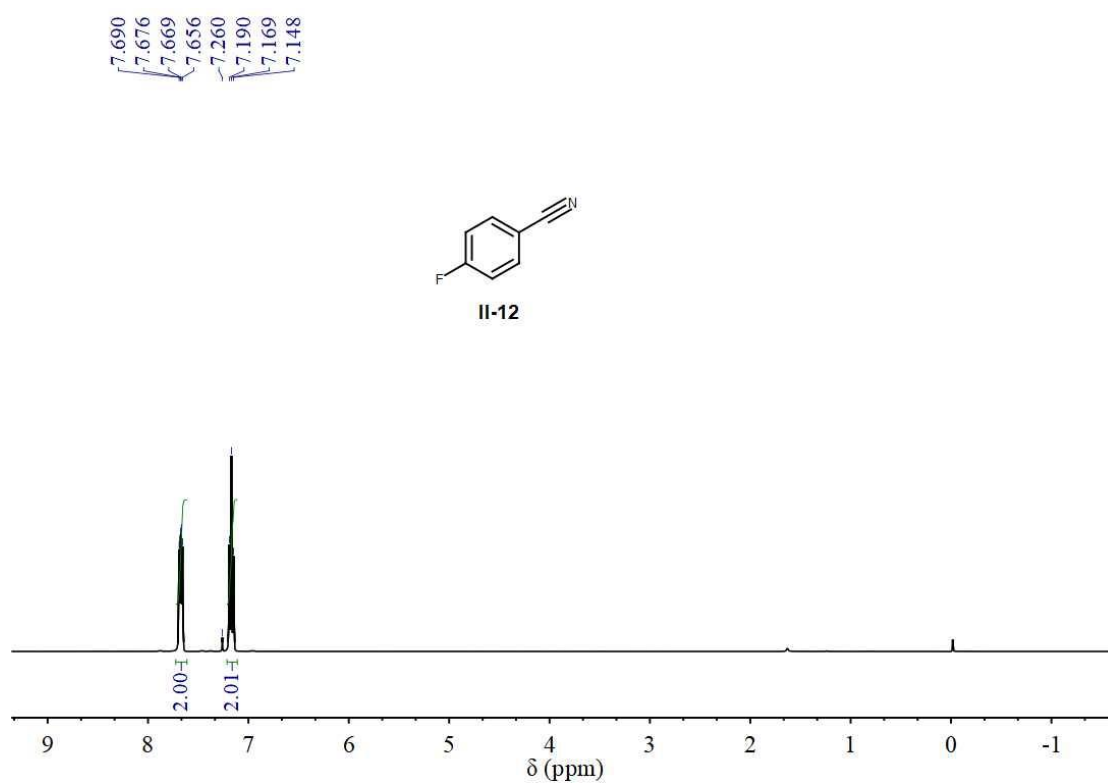
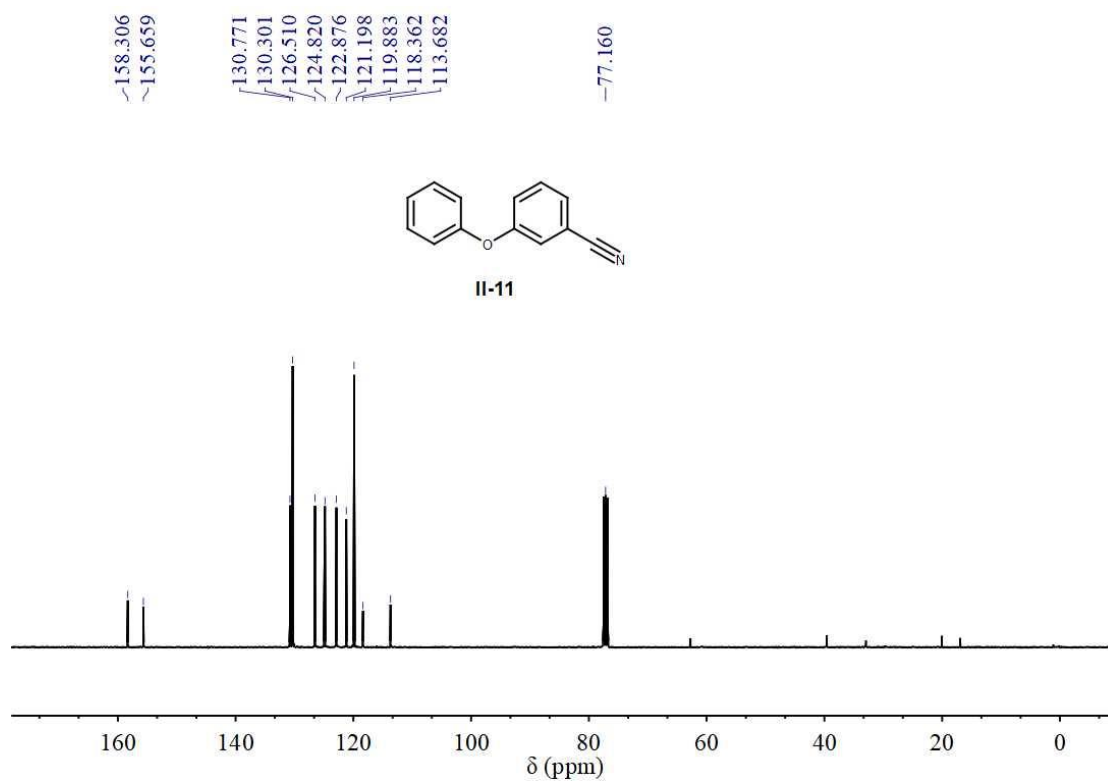
152.371
152.353
134.319
124.191
121.610
121.371
121.362
119.029
117.769
116.448
111.001
-77.160

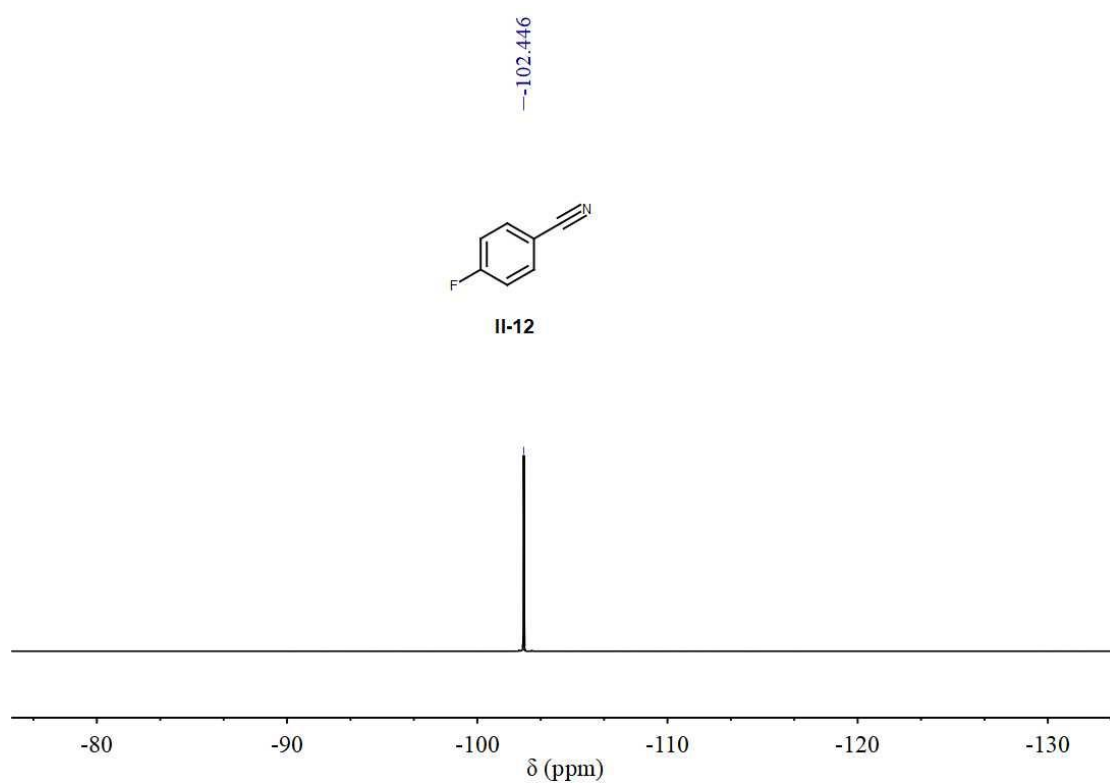
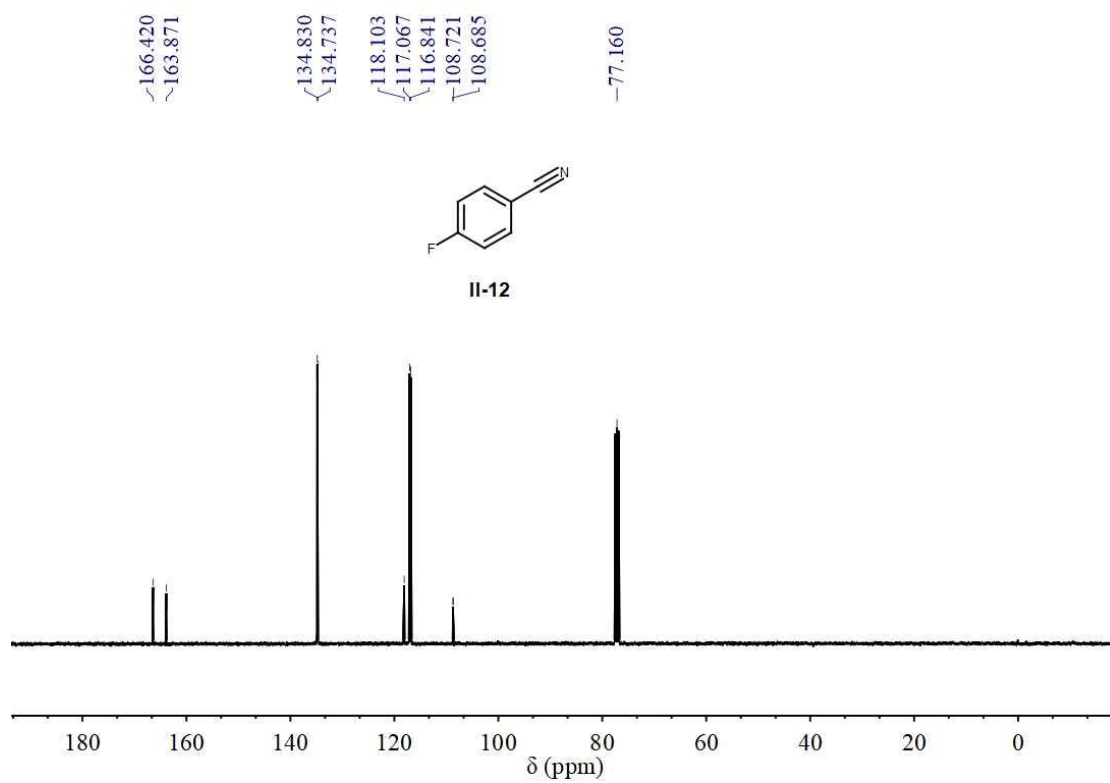




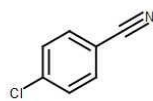




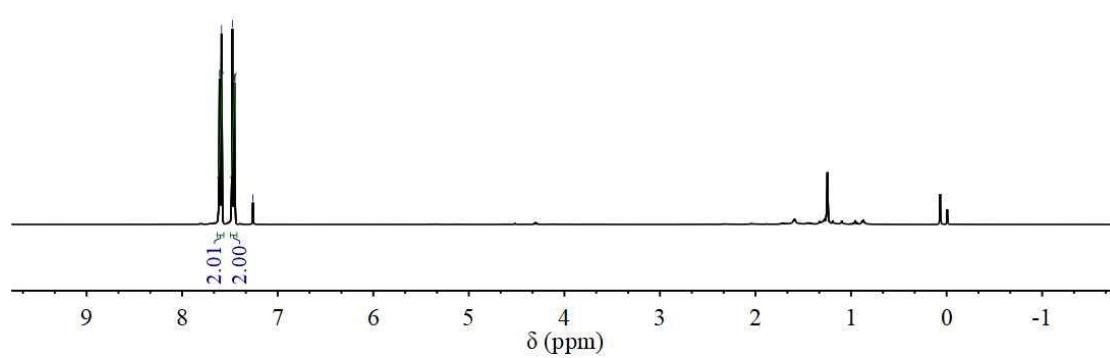




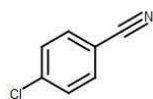
7.609
7.588
7.474
7.453
7.260



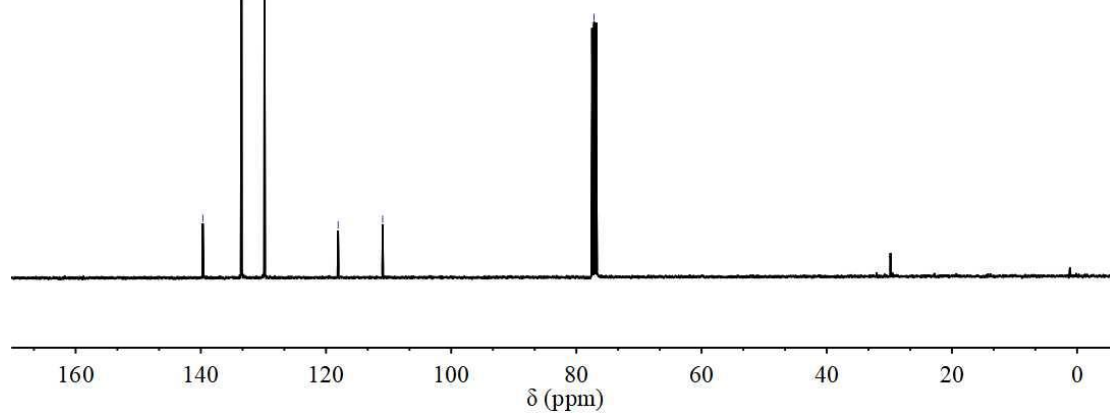
II-13

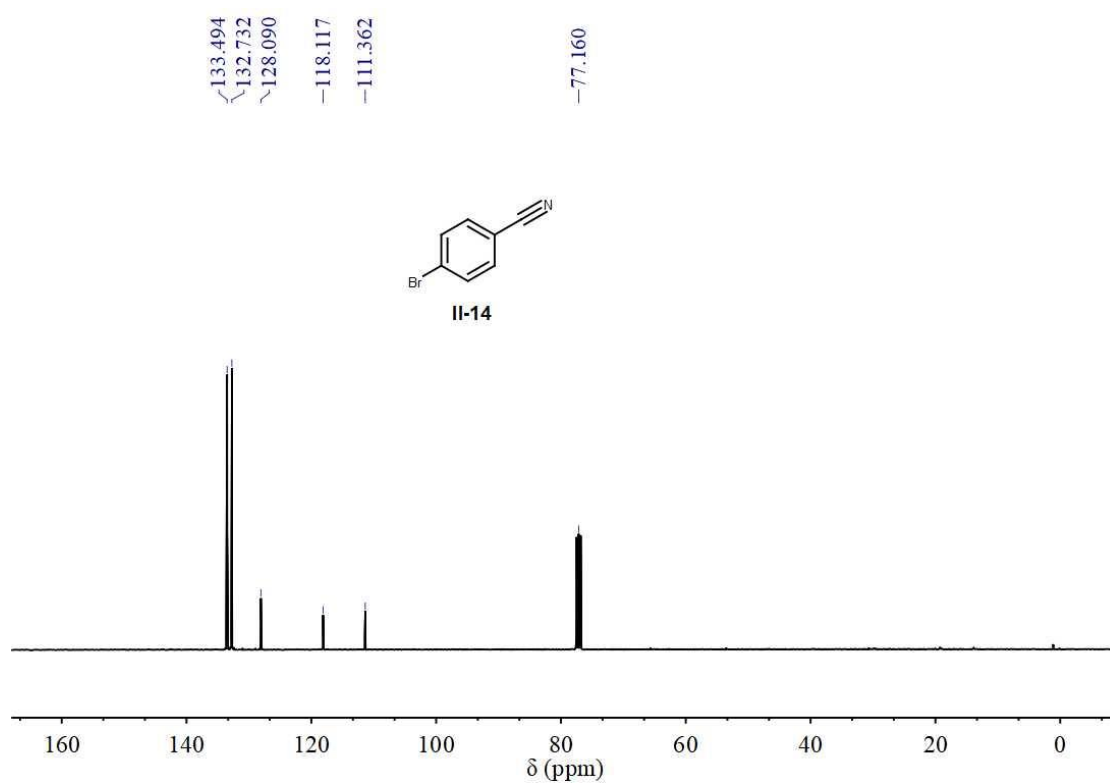
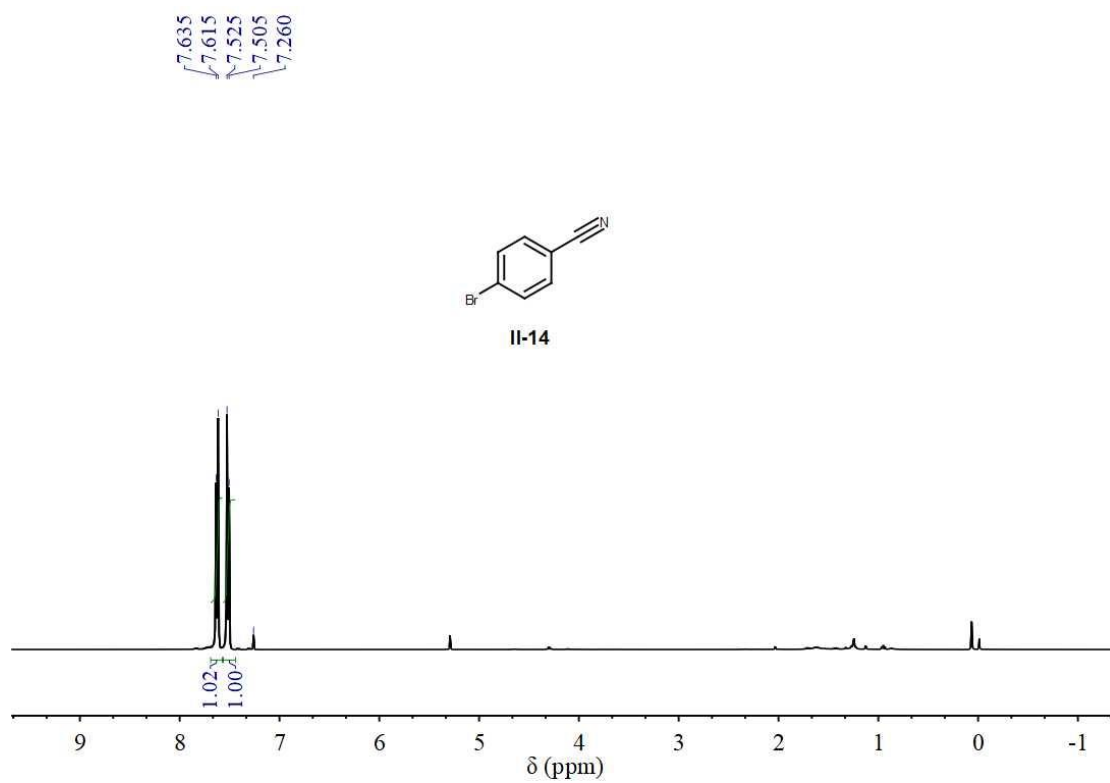


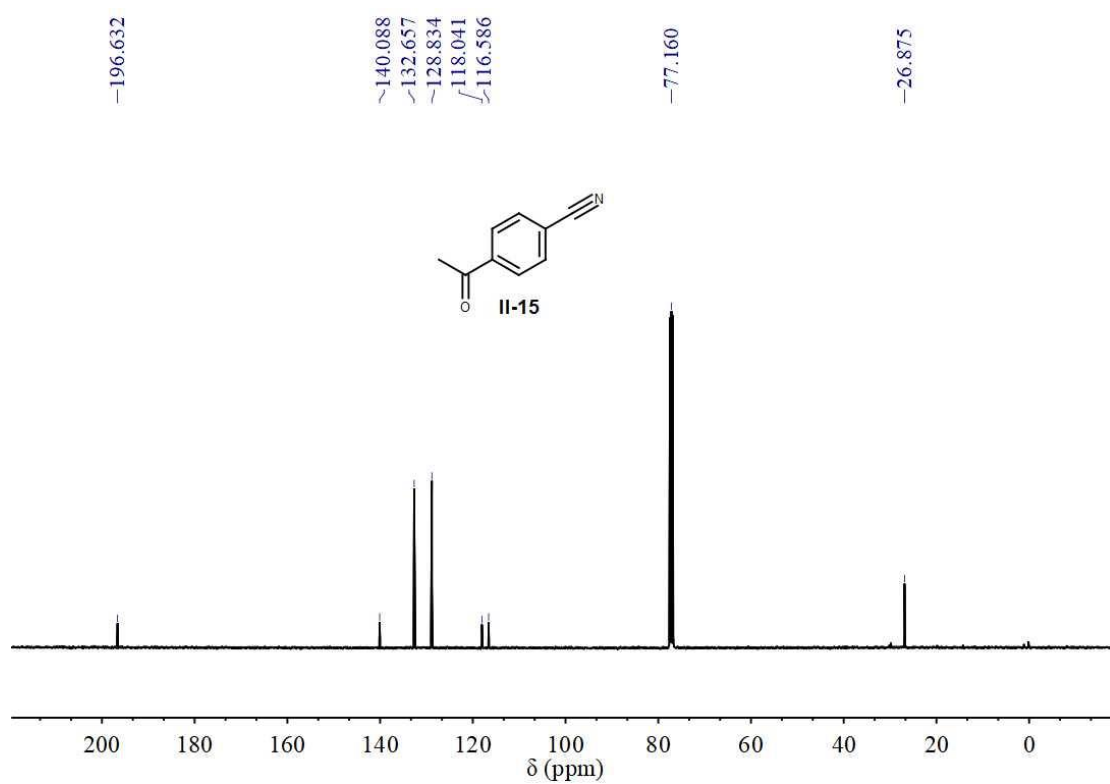
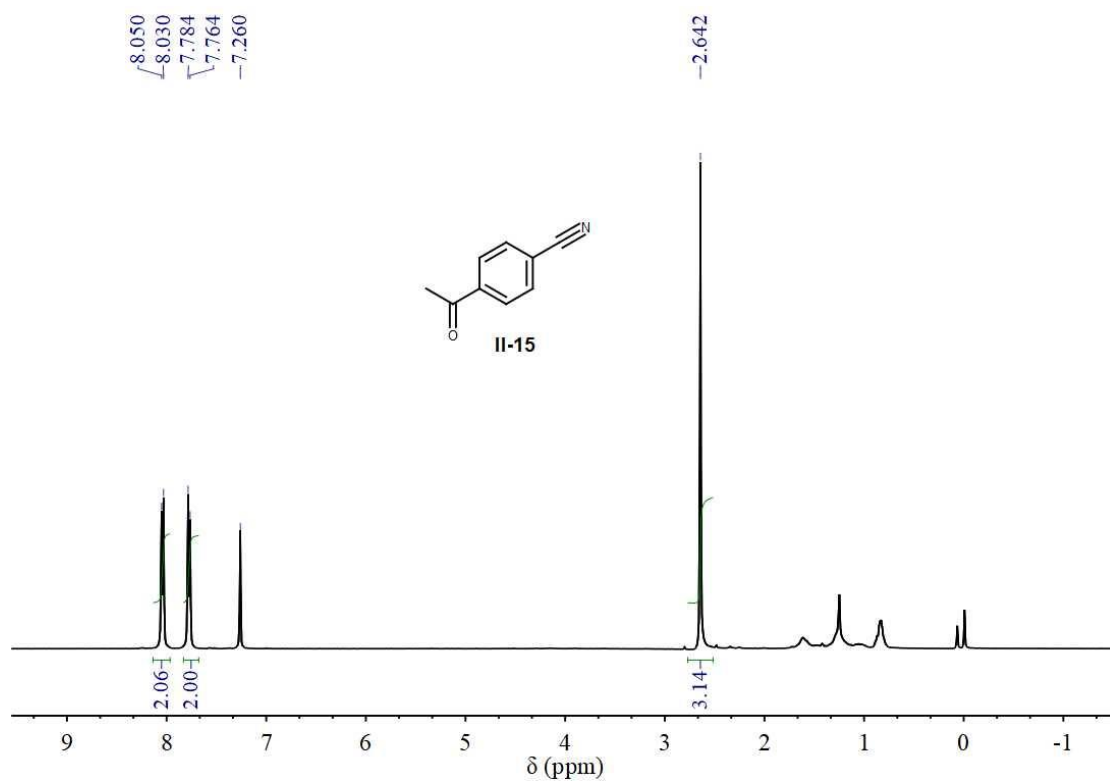
139.684
133.501
129.822
118.065
110.946
77.160



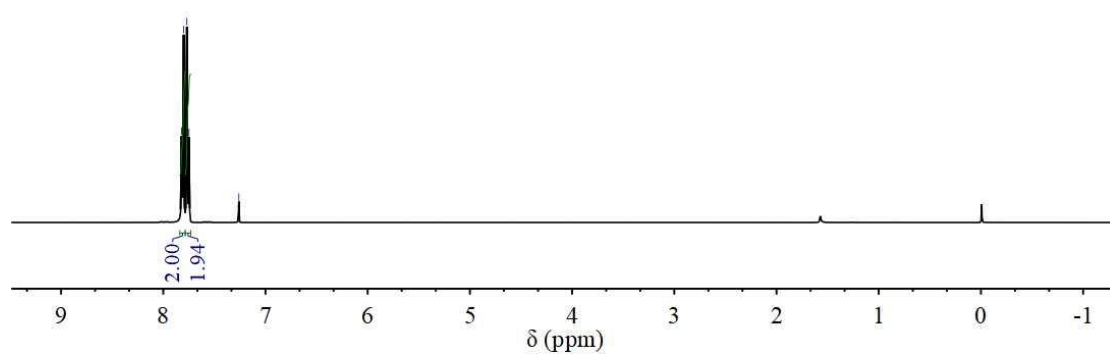
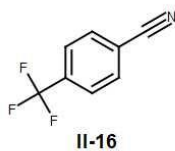
II-13





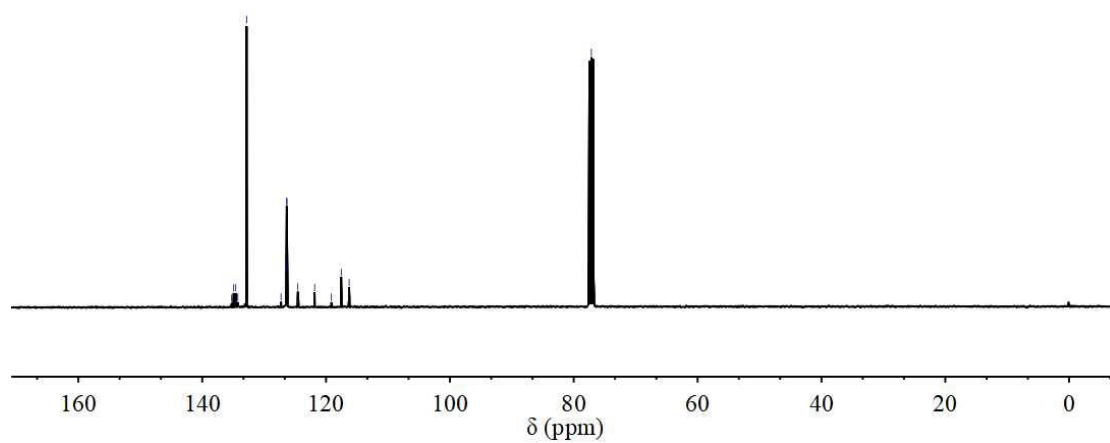
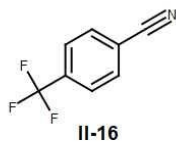


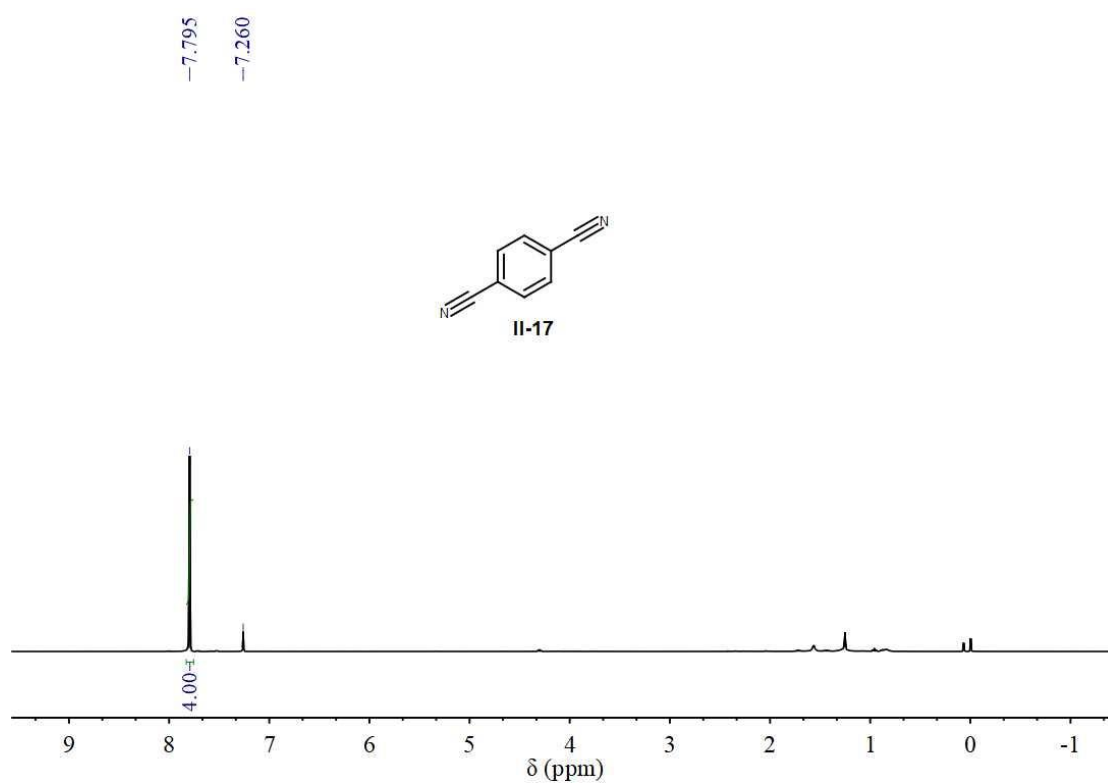
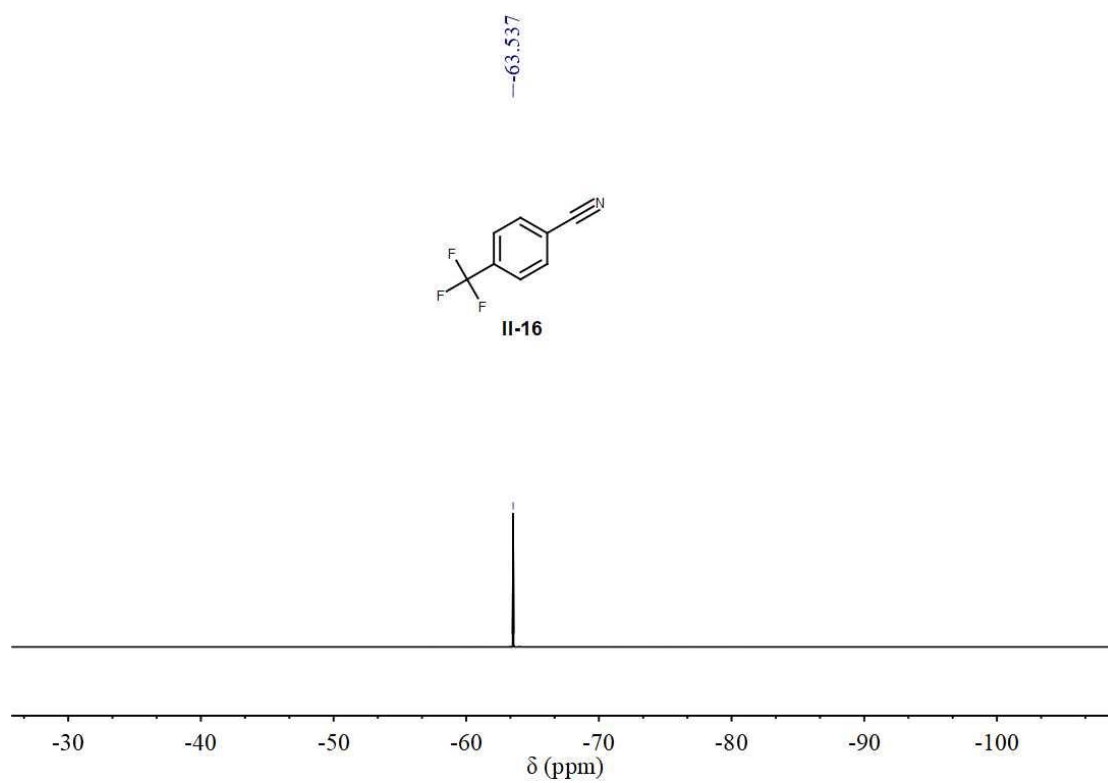
7.820
7.800
7.769
7.748
7.260

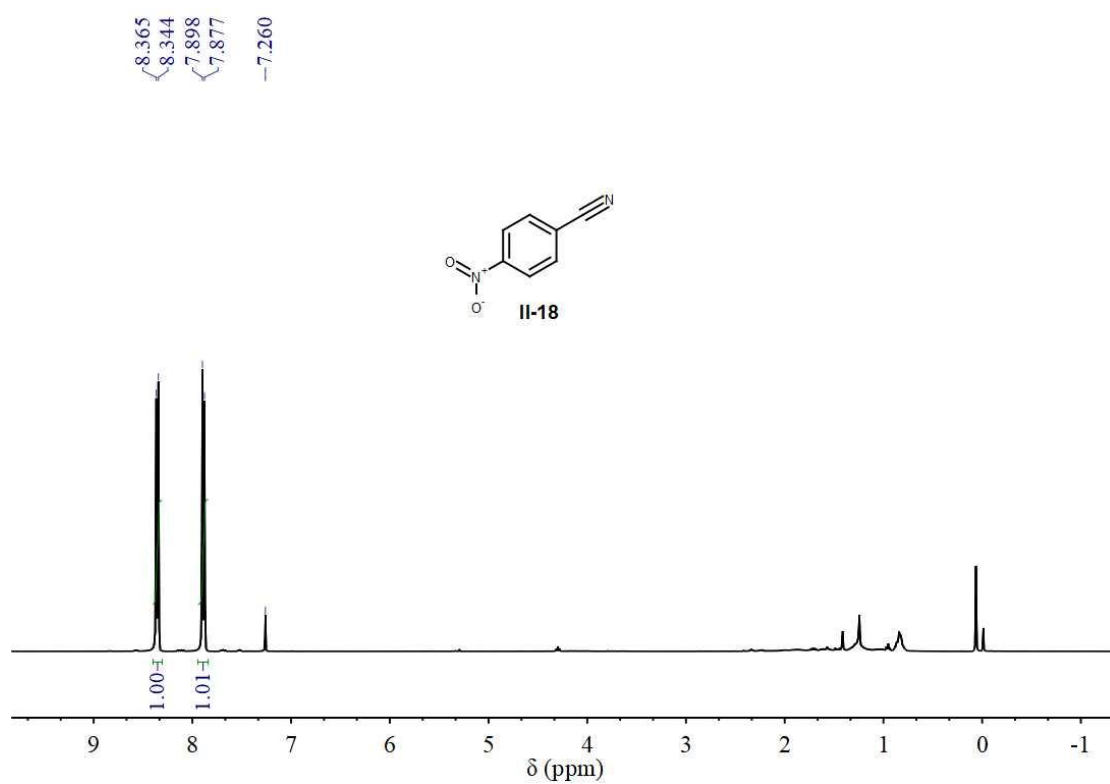
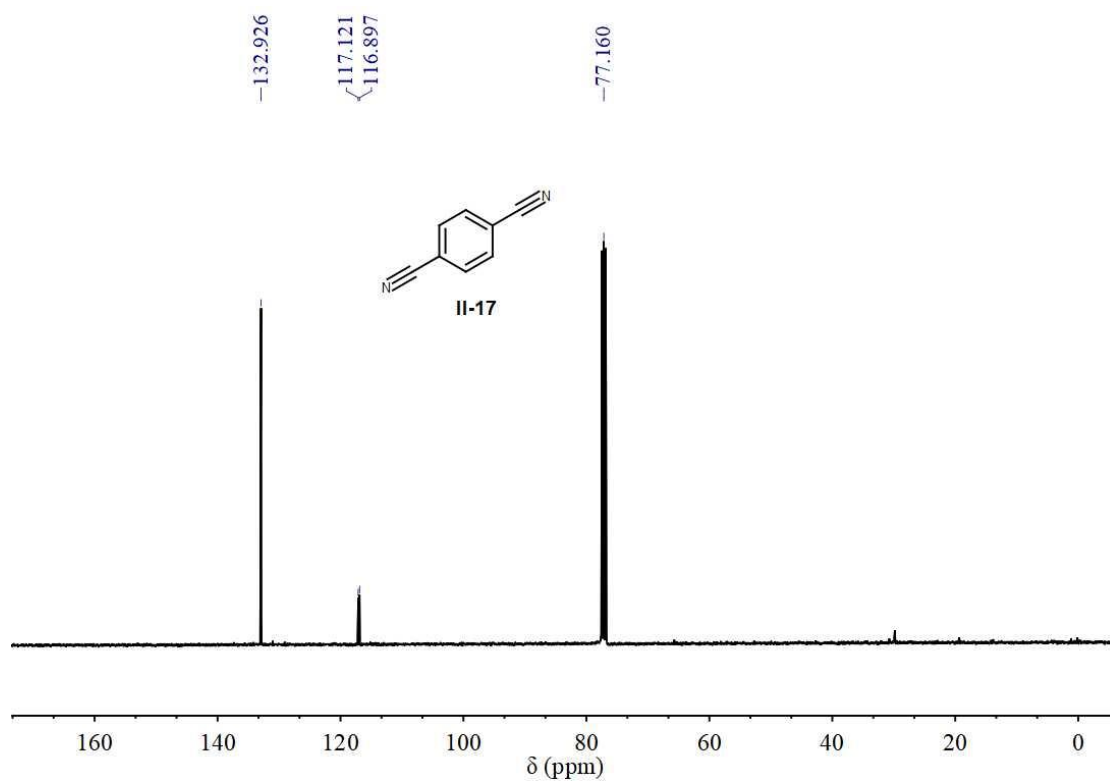


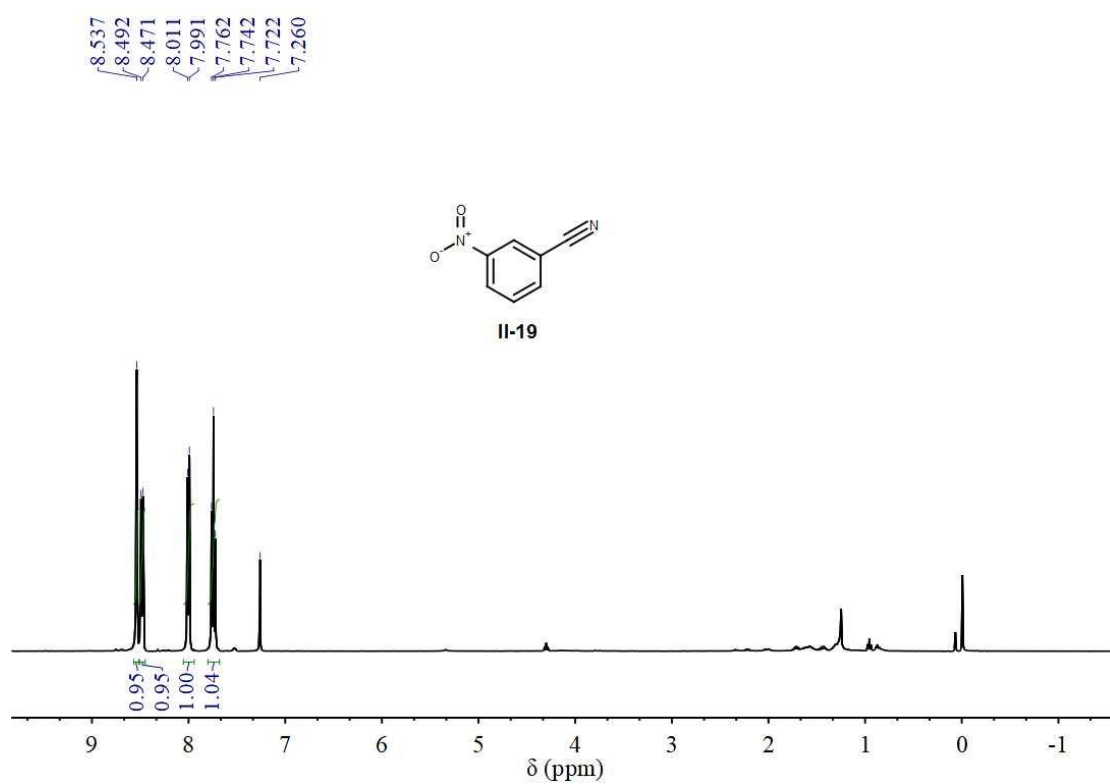
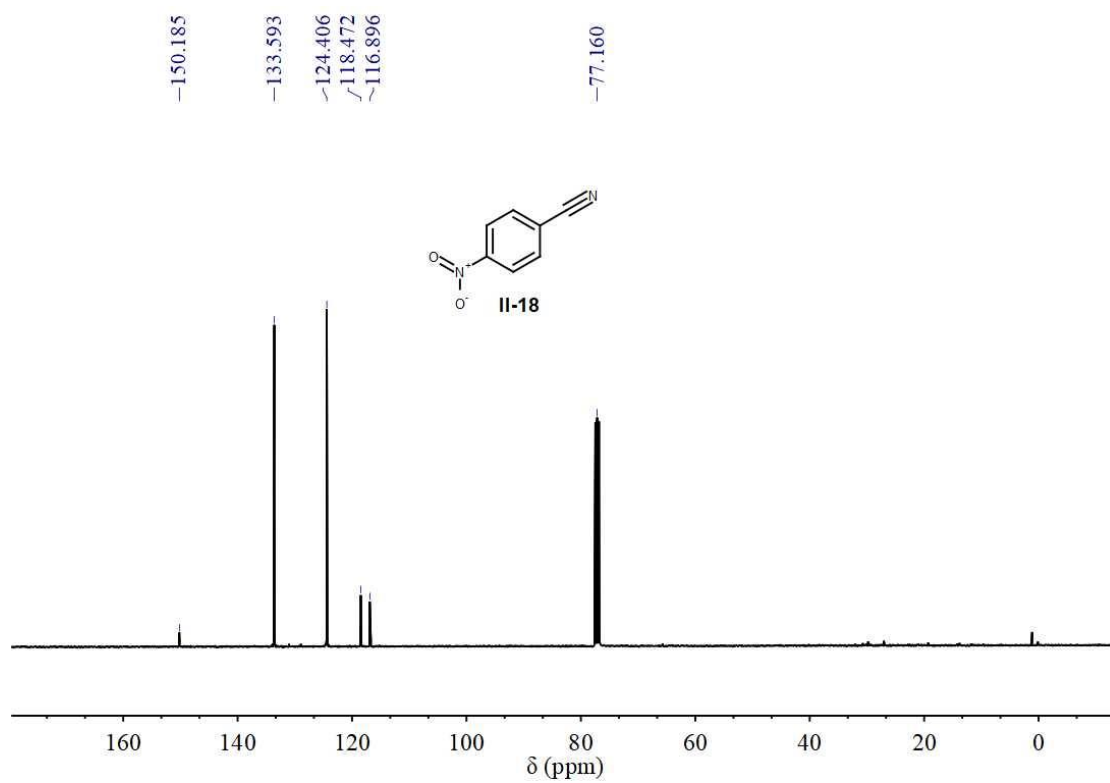
135.243
134.911
134.580
134.248
132.831
127.271
126.392
126.355
126.318
126.281
124.558
121.846
119.134
117.552
116.270

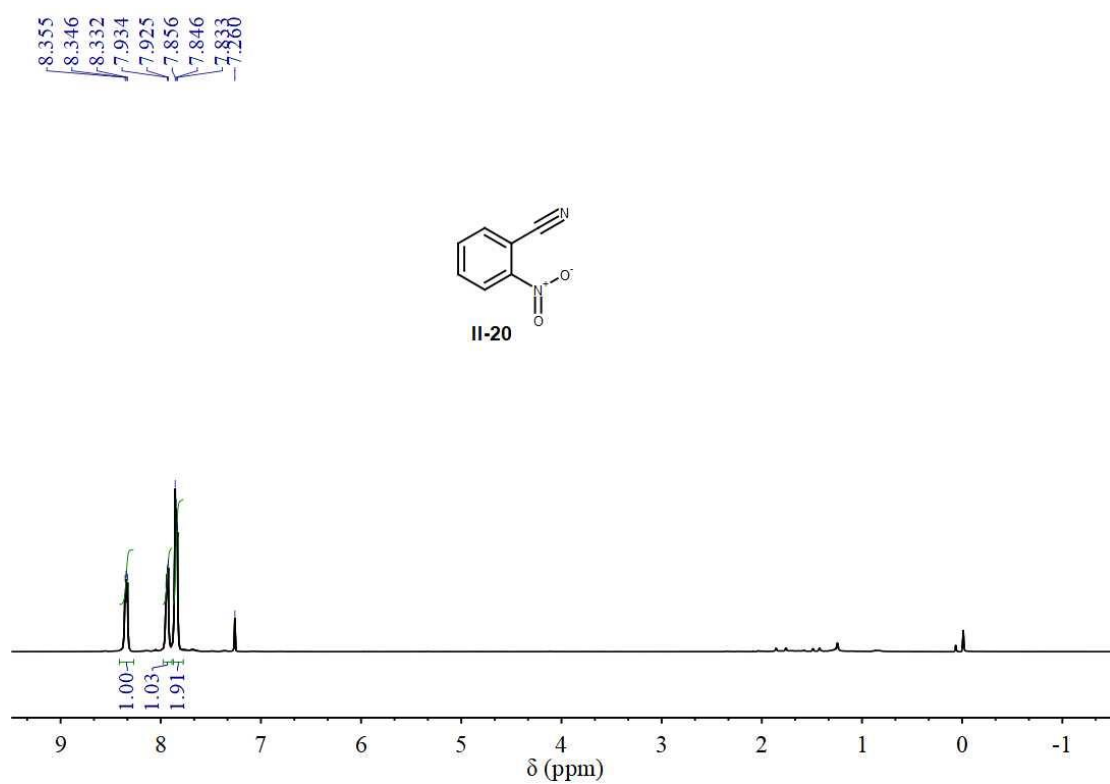
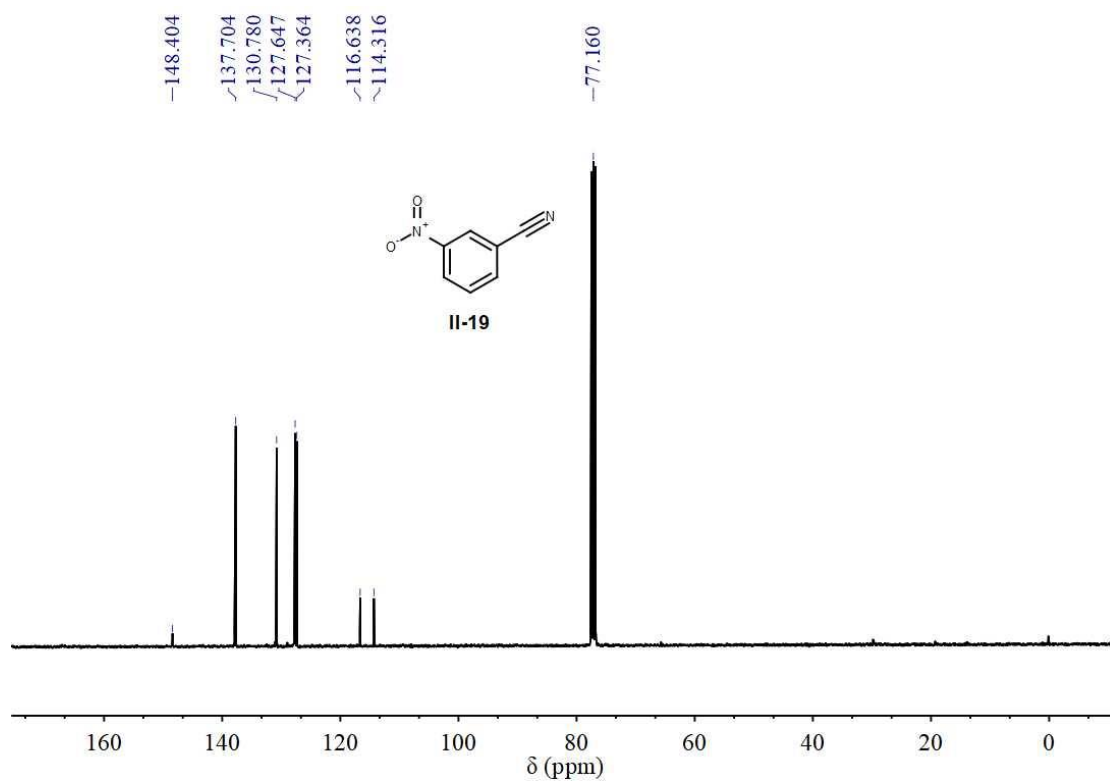
77.160

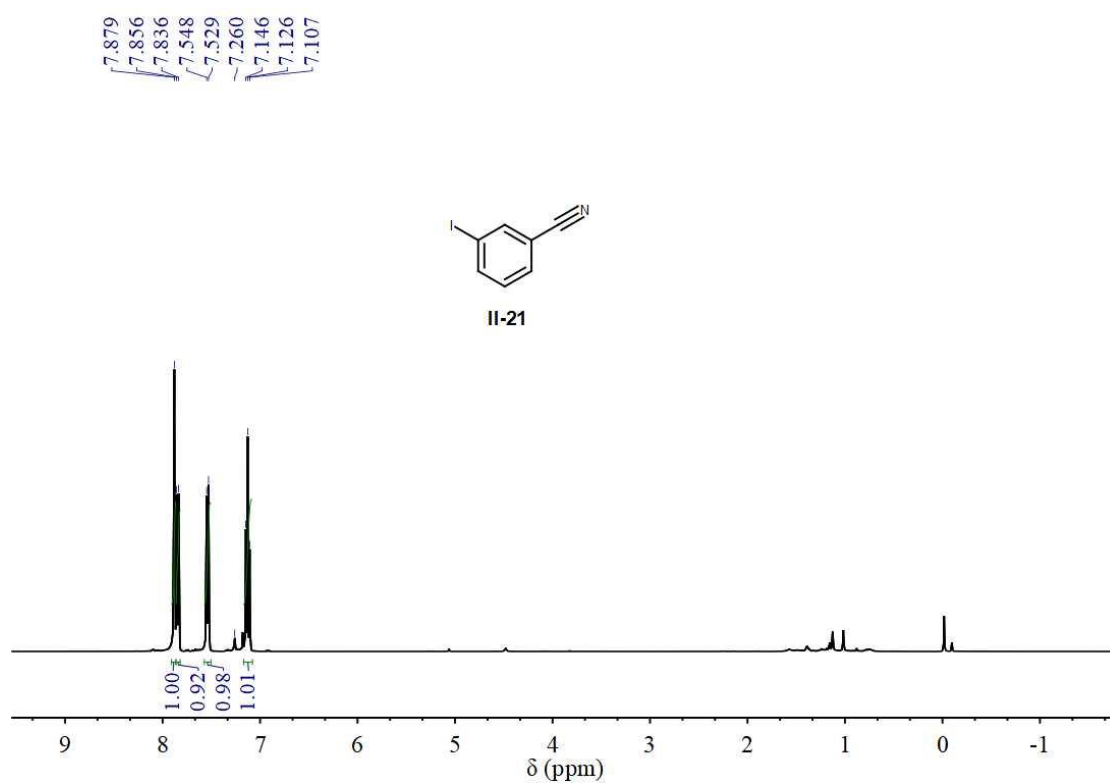
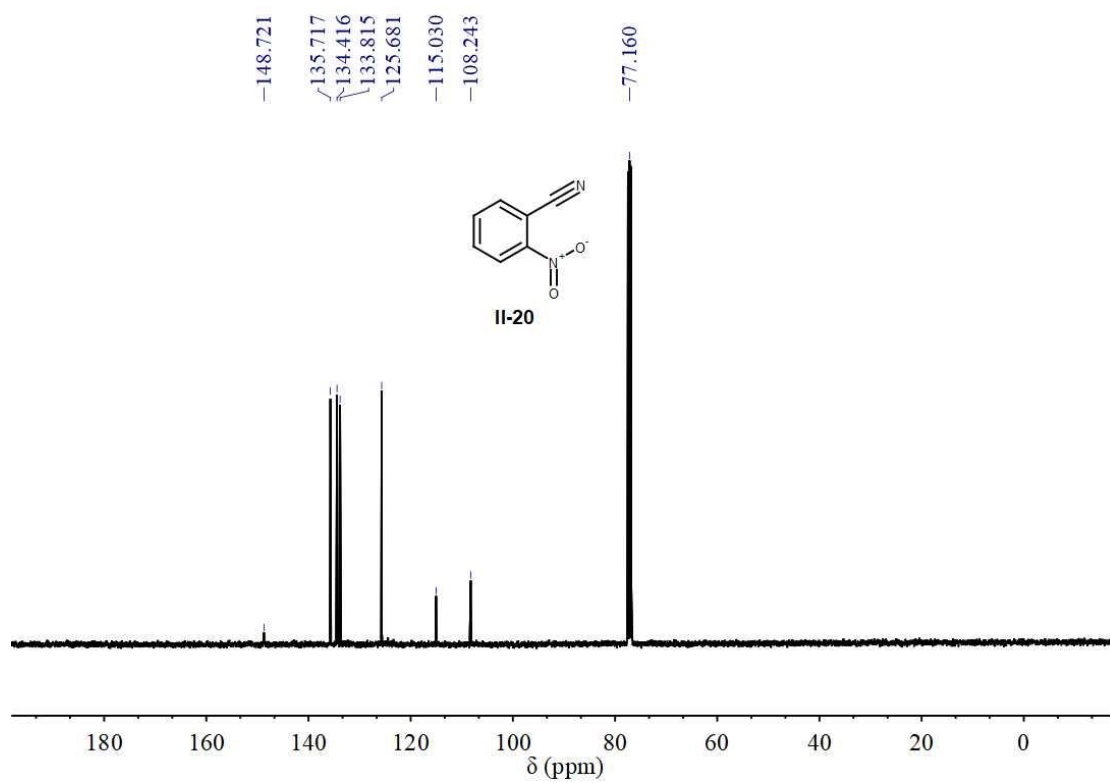




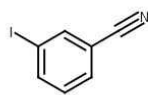




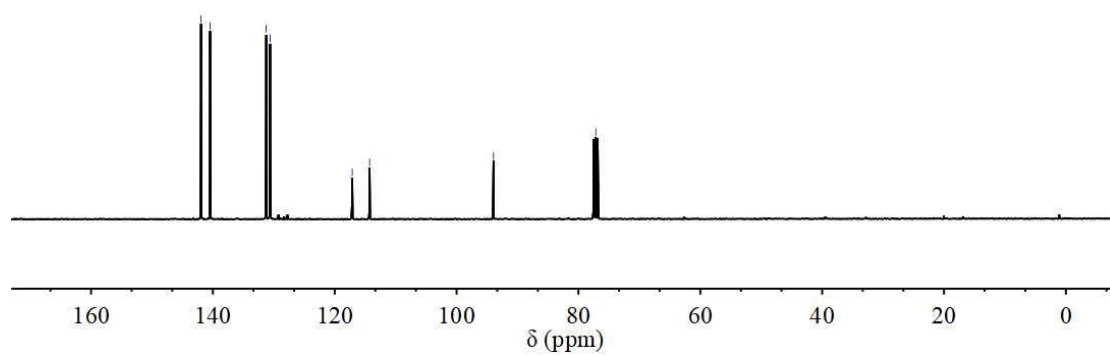




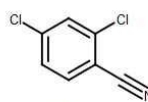
141.945
 140.462
 131.249
 130.610
 117.126
 114.279
 93.944
 77.160



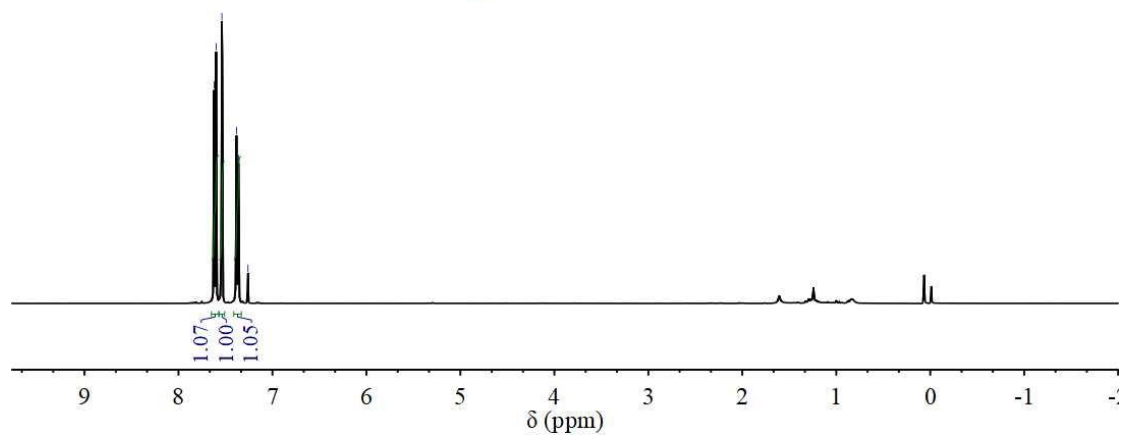
II-21

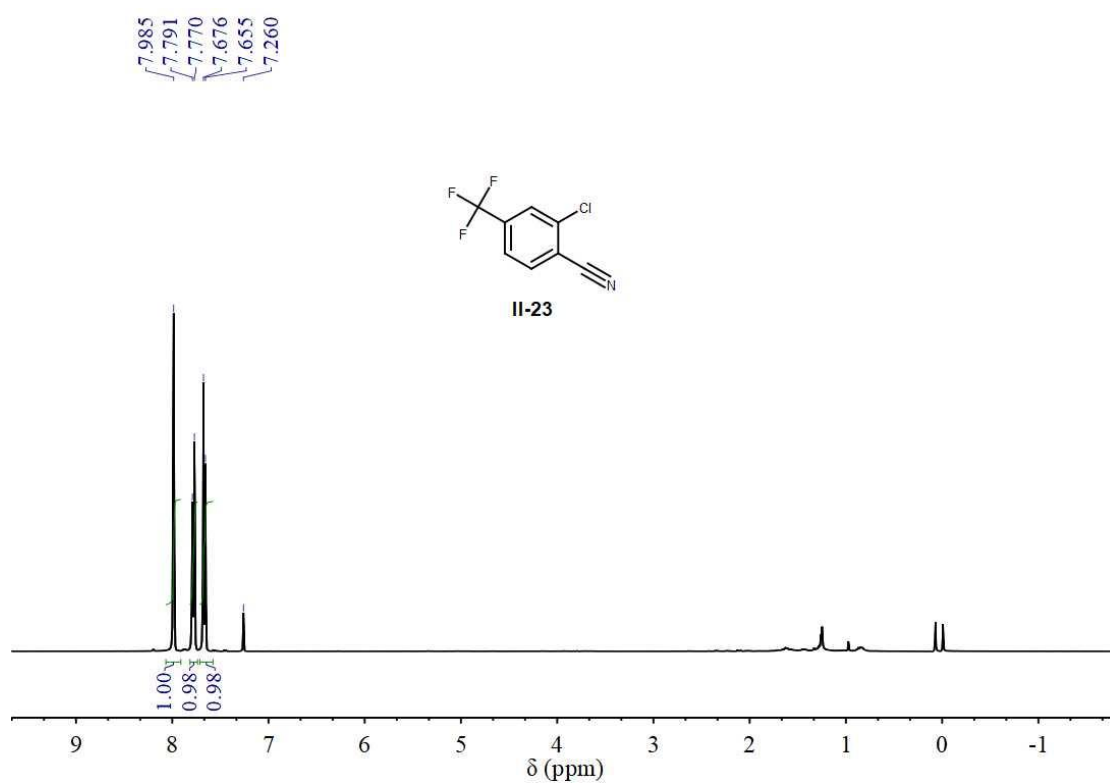
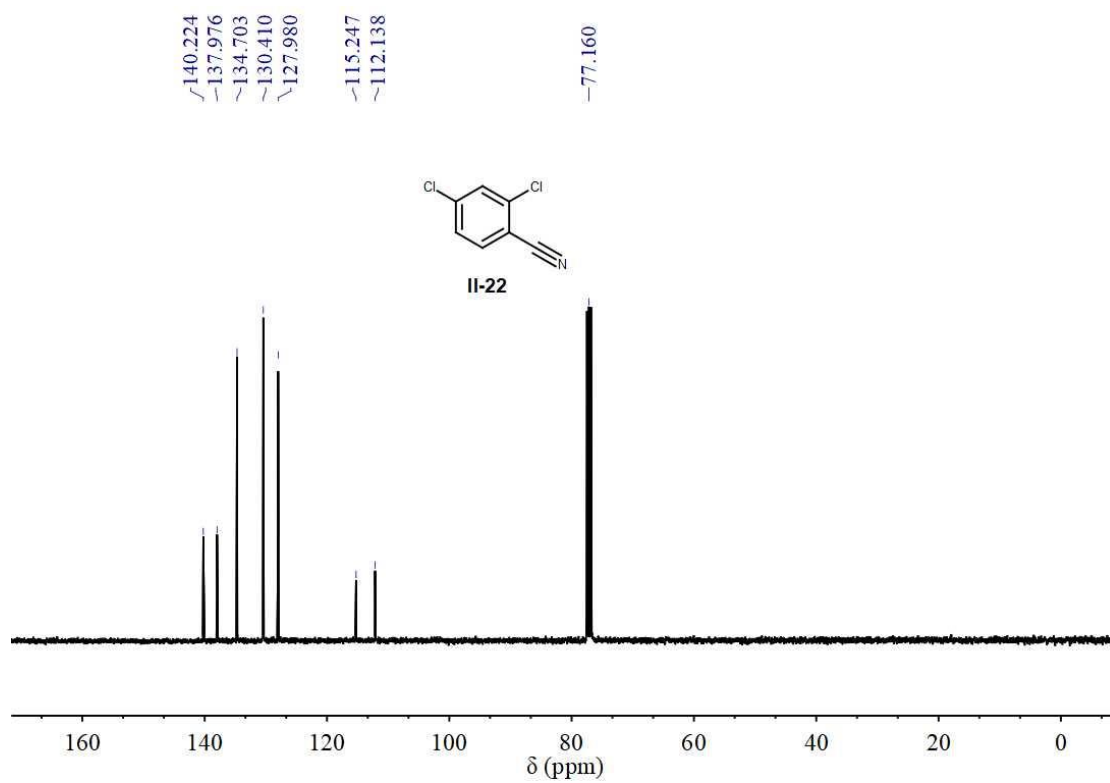


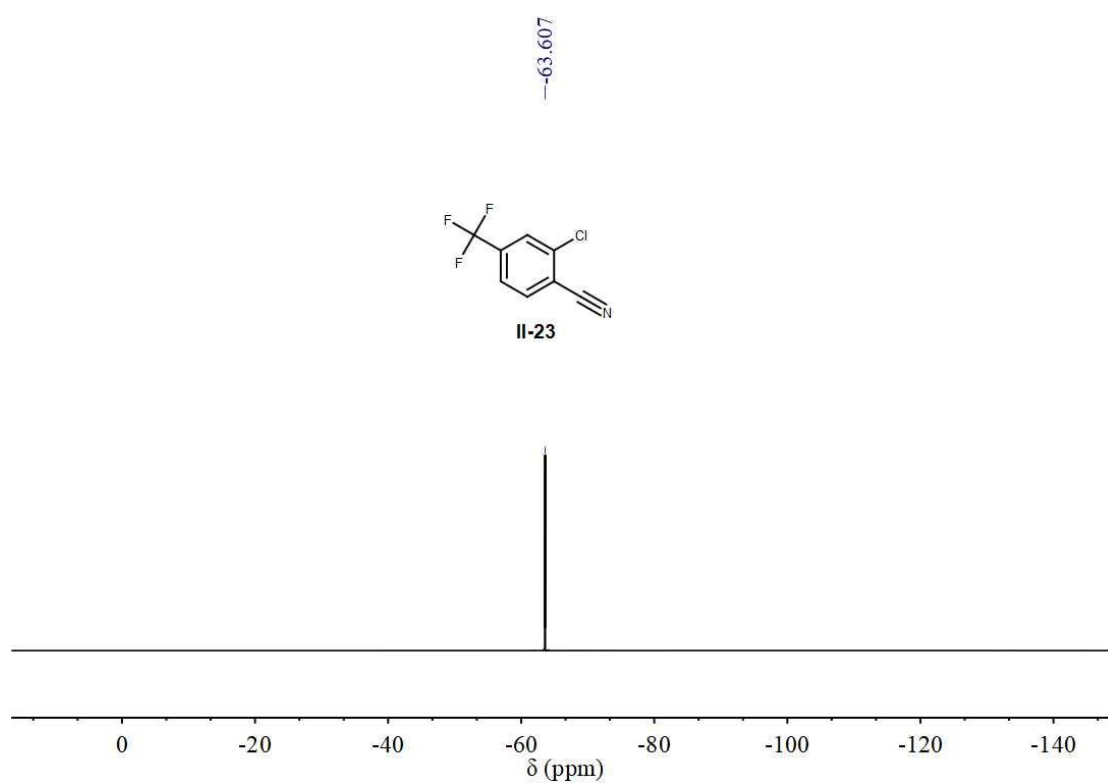
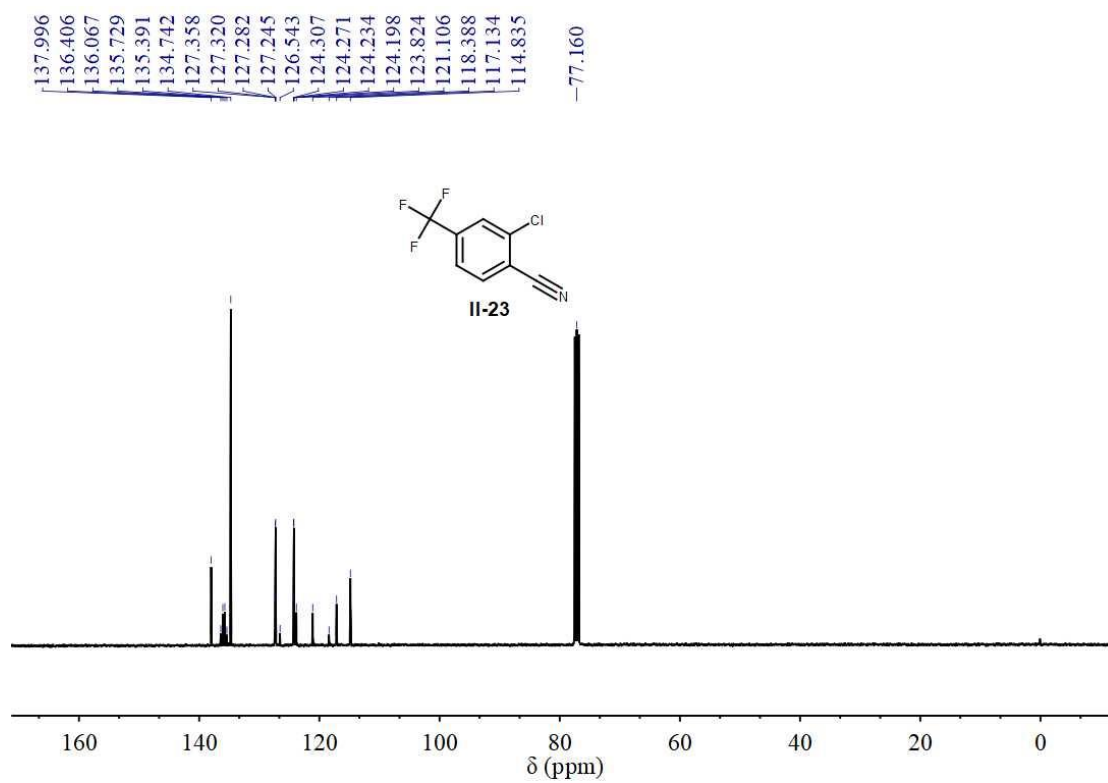
7.620
 7.599
 7.538
 7.383
 7.362
 7.260

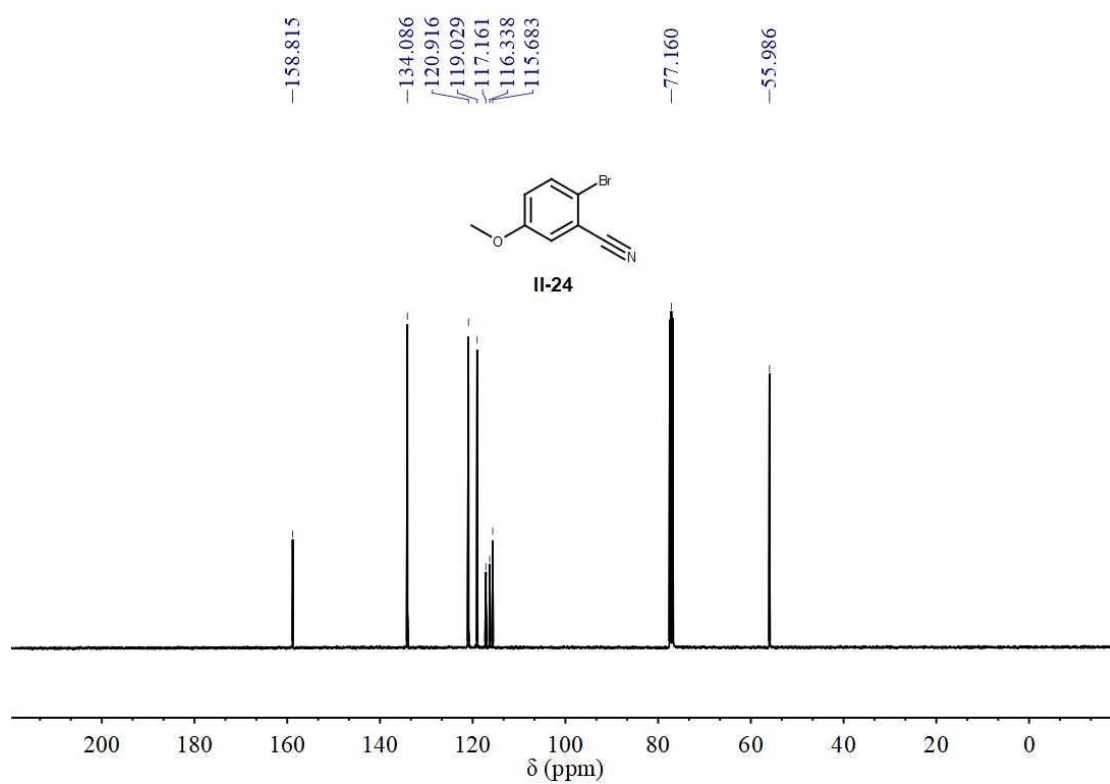
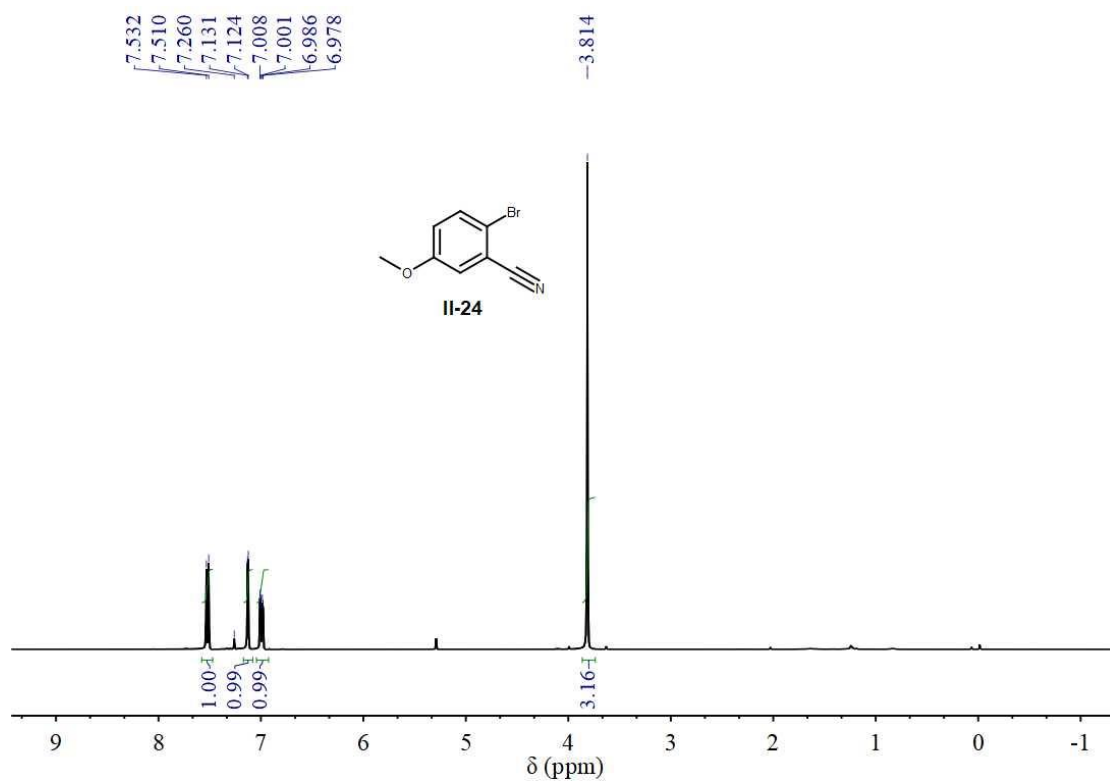


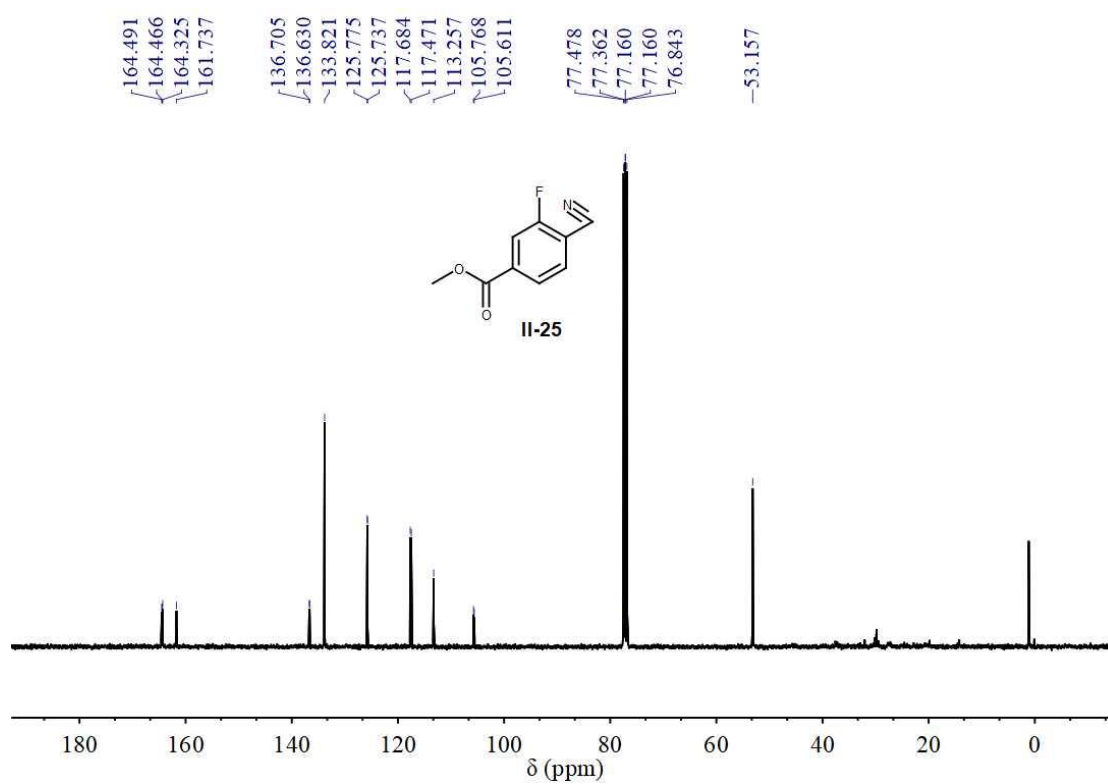
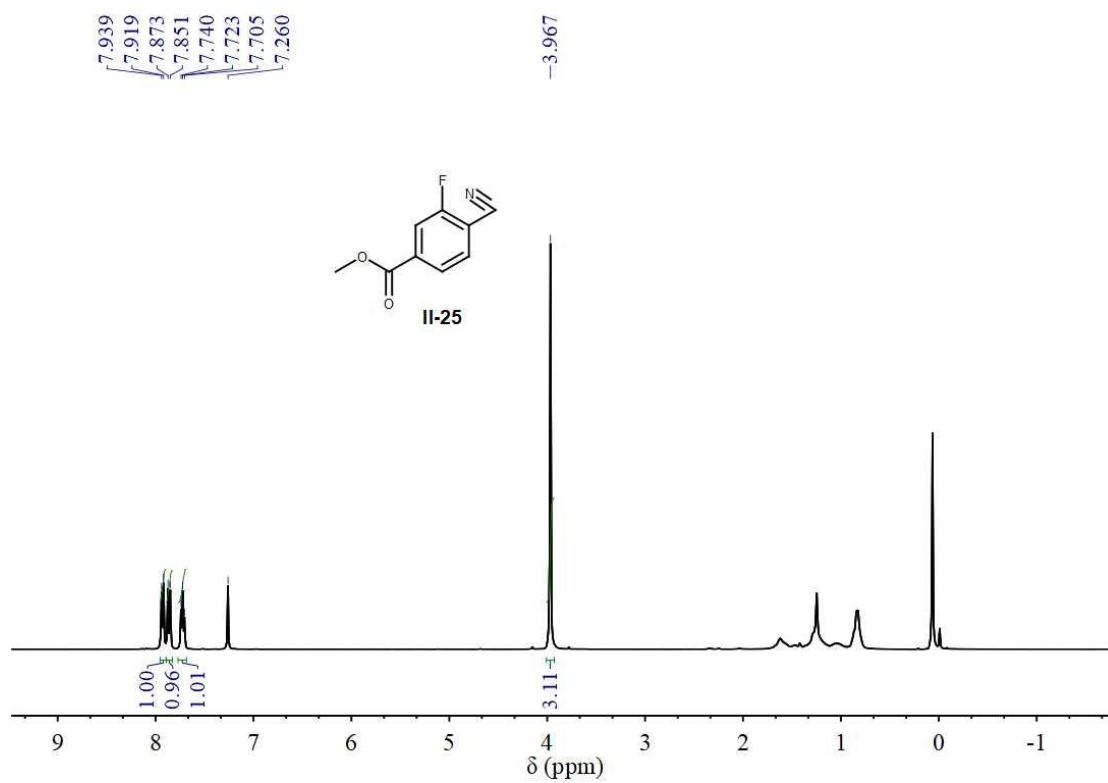
II-22

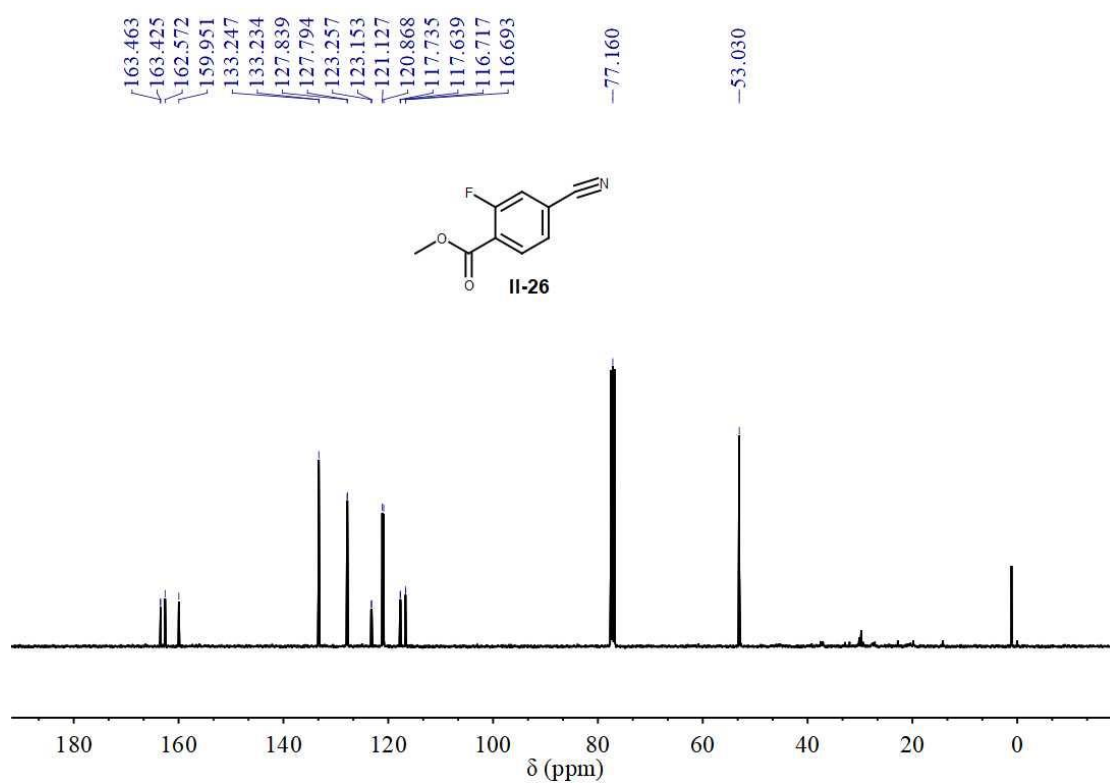
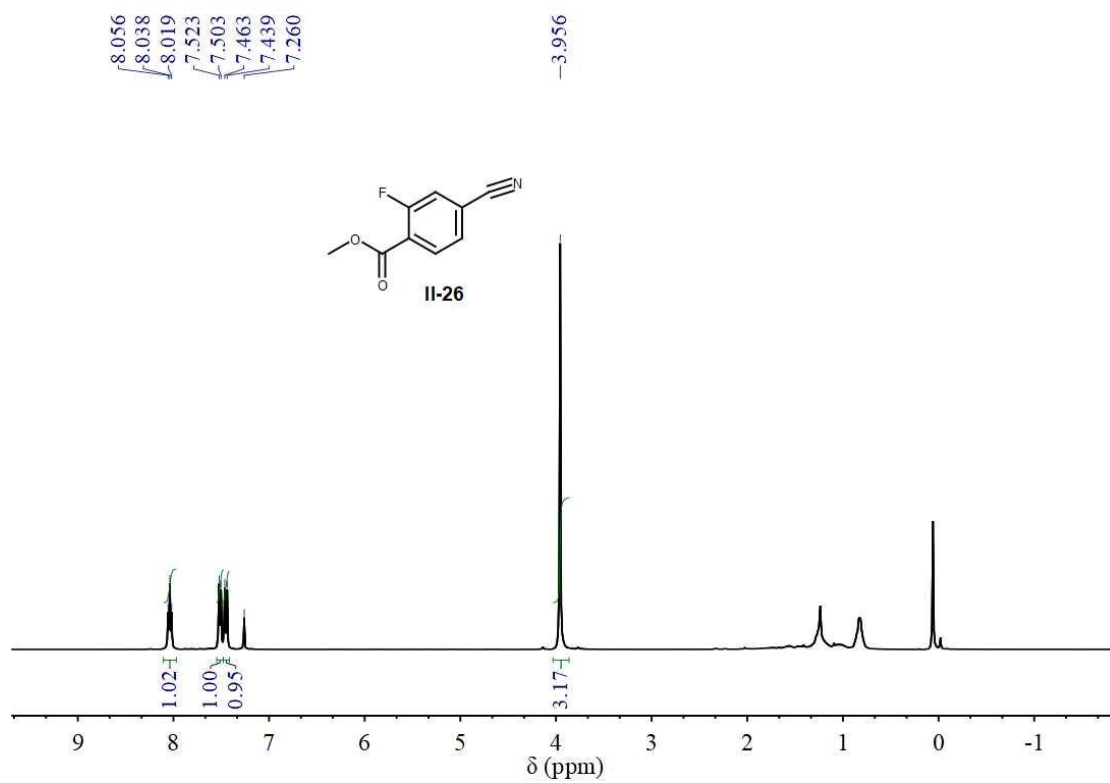


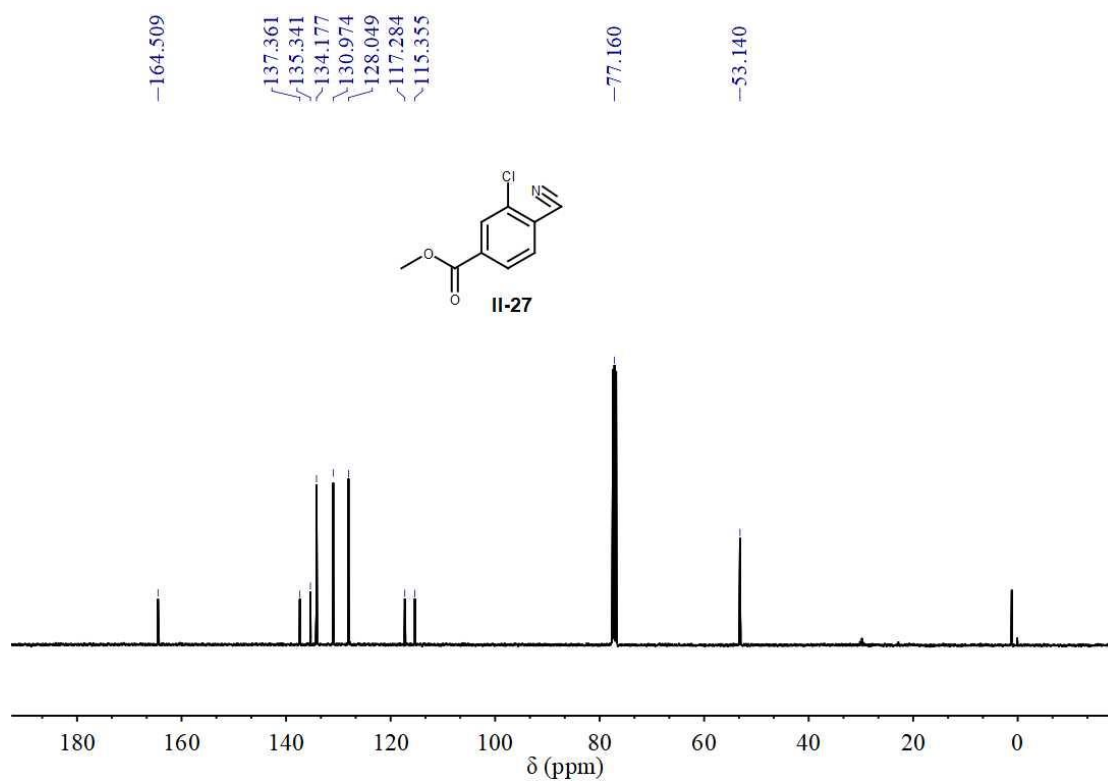
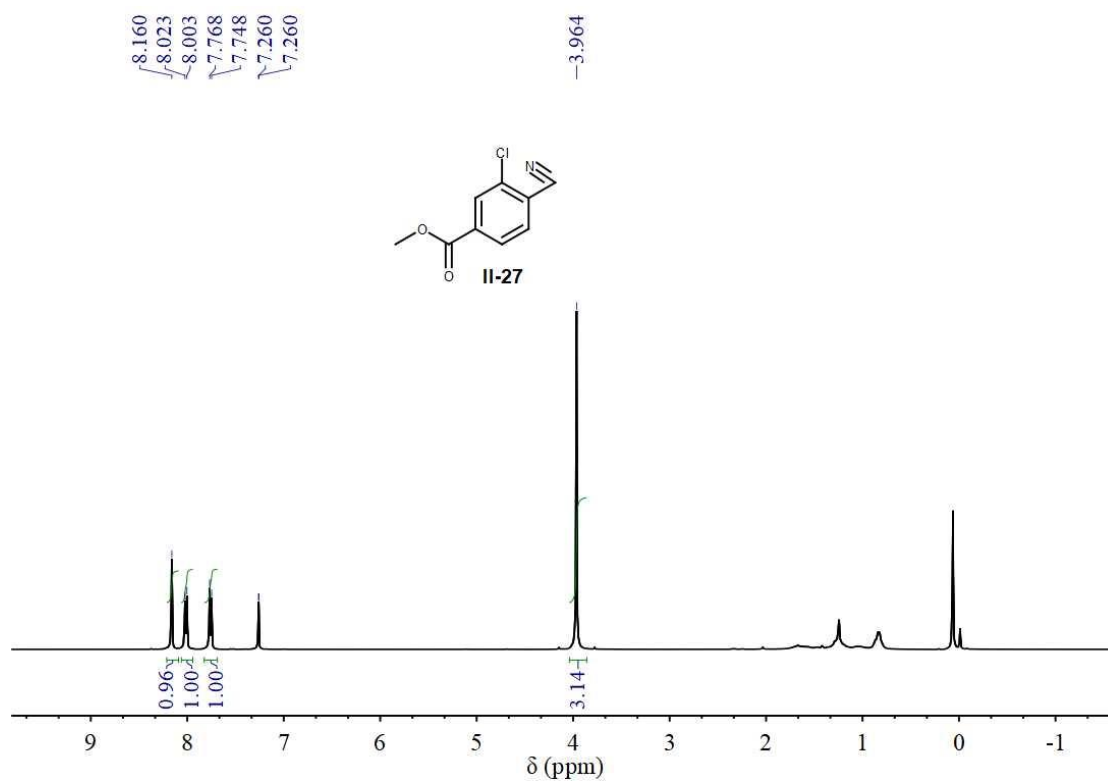




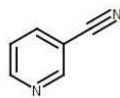




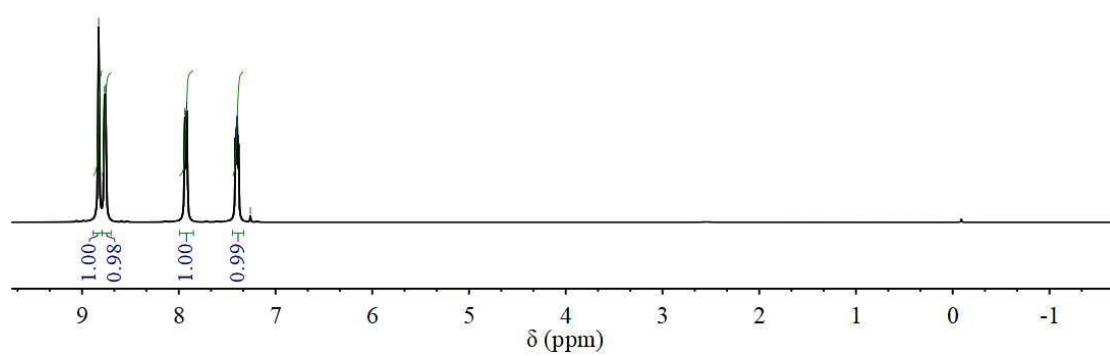




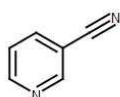
8.828
8.768
8.756
7.937
7.917
7.415
7.401
7.398
7.395
7.383
7.260



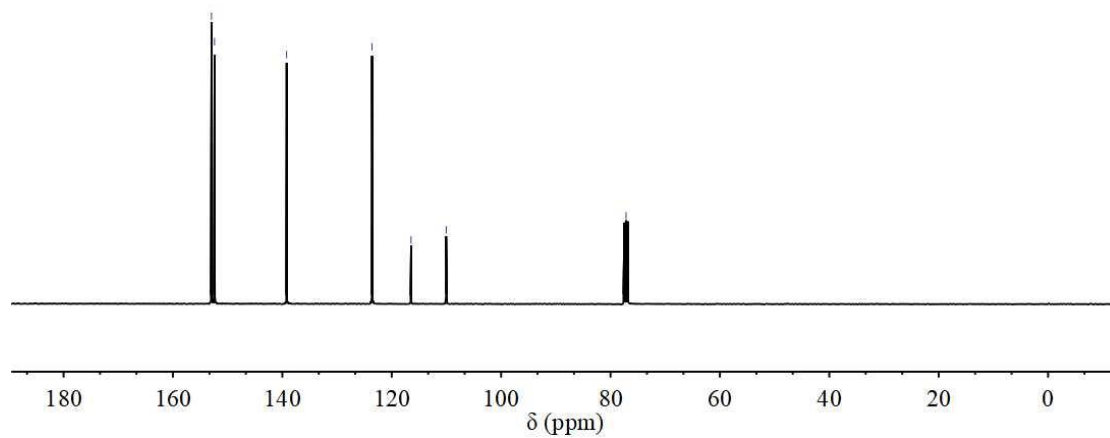
II-28



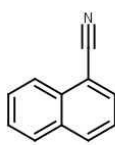
152.948
152.391
139.207
123.598
116.461
110.044
77.160



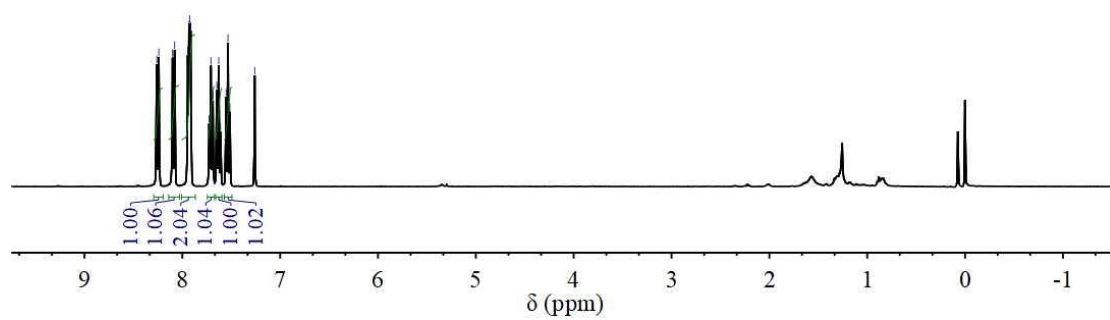
II-28



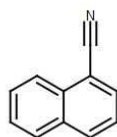
8.261
8.240
8.099
8.079
7.944
7.932
7.924
7.915
7.726
7.708
7.688
7.648
7.628
7.610
7.553
7.533
7.514
7.260



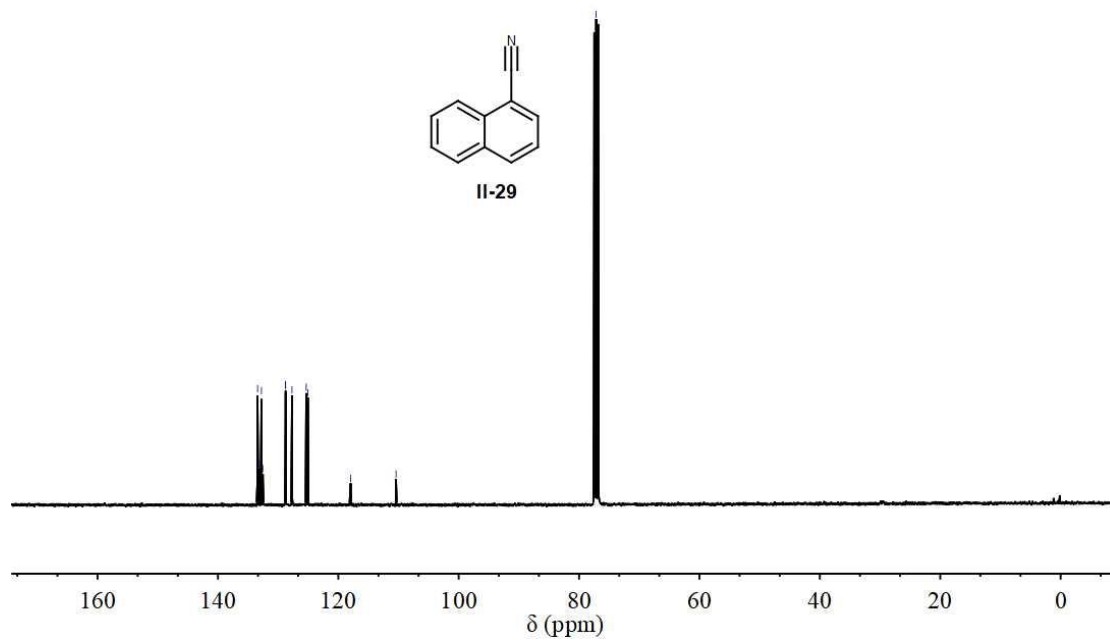
II-29

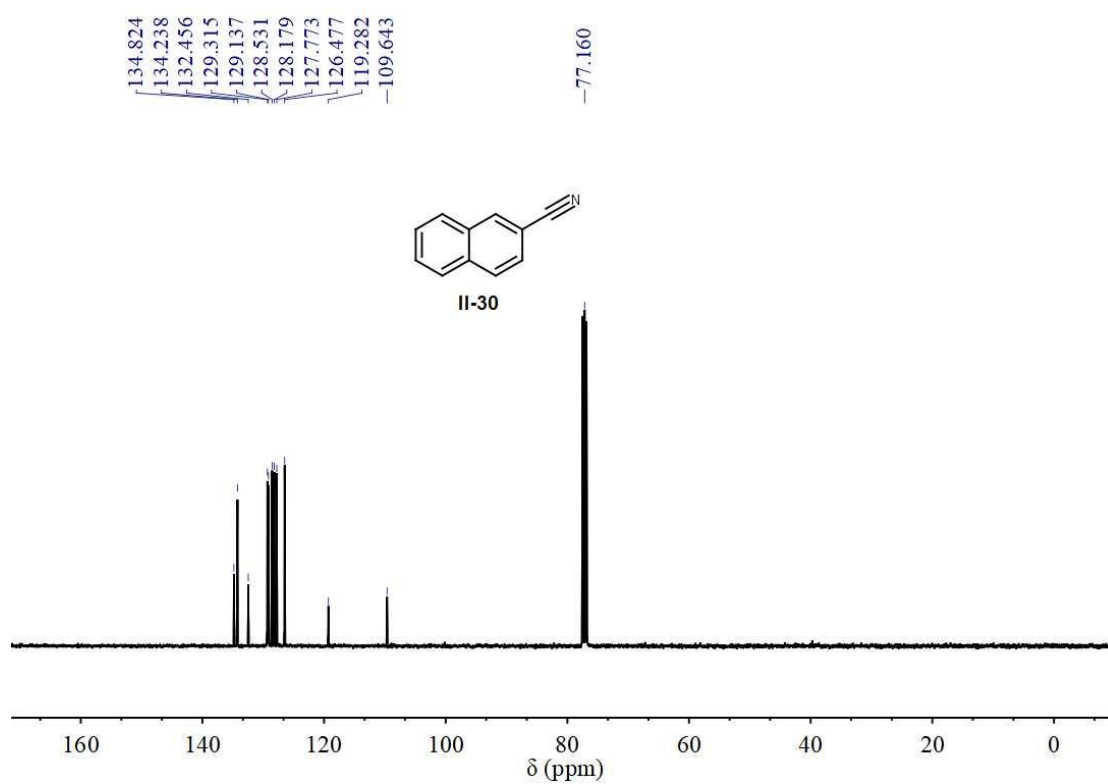
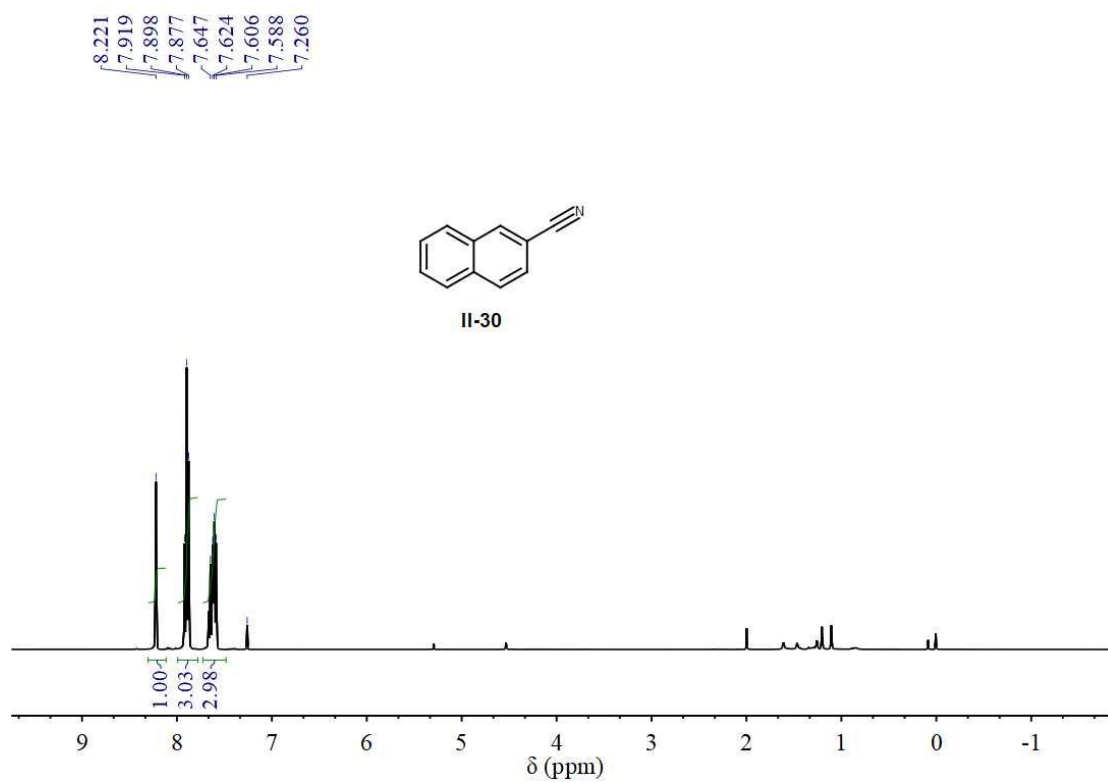


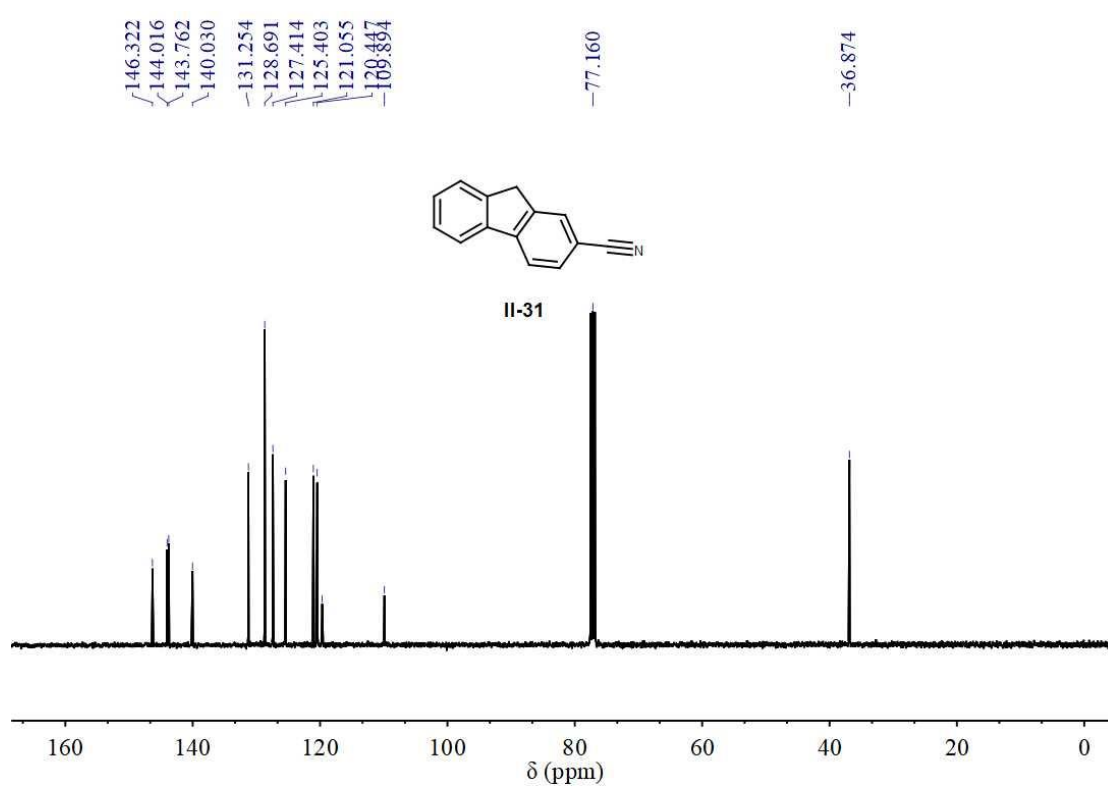
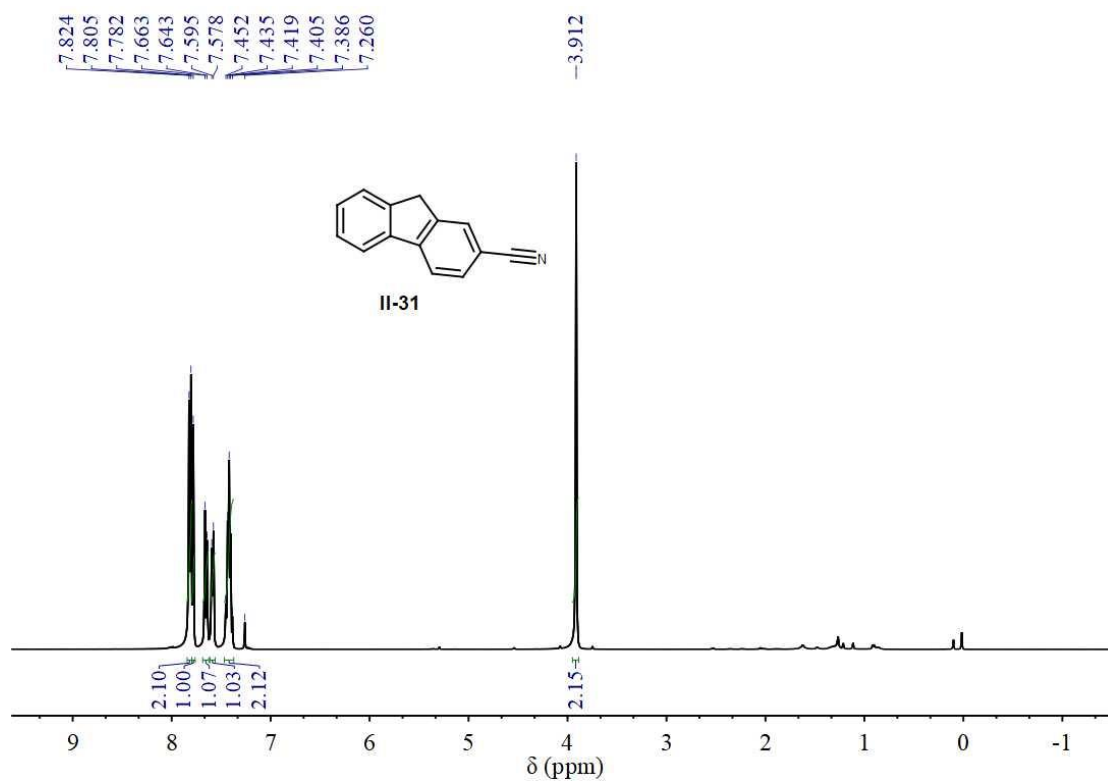
133.412
133.104
132.774
132.545
128.797
128.752
127.701
125.336
125.071
117.942
110.405
-77.160

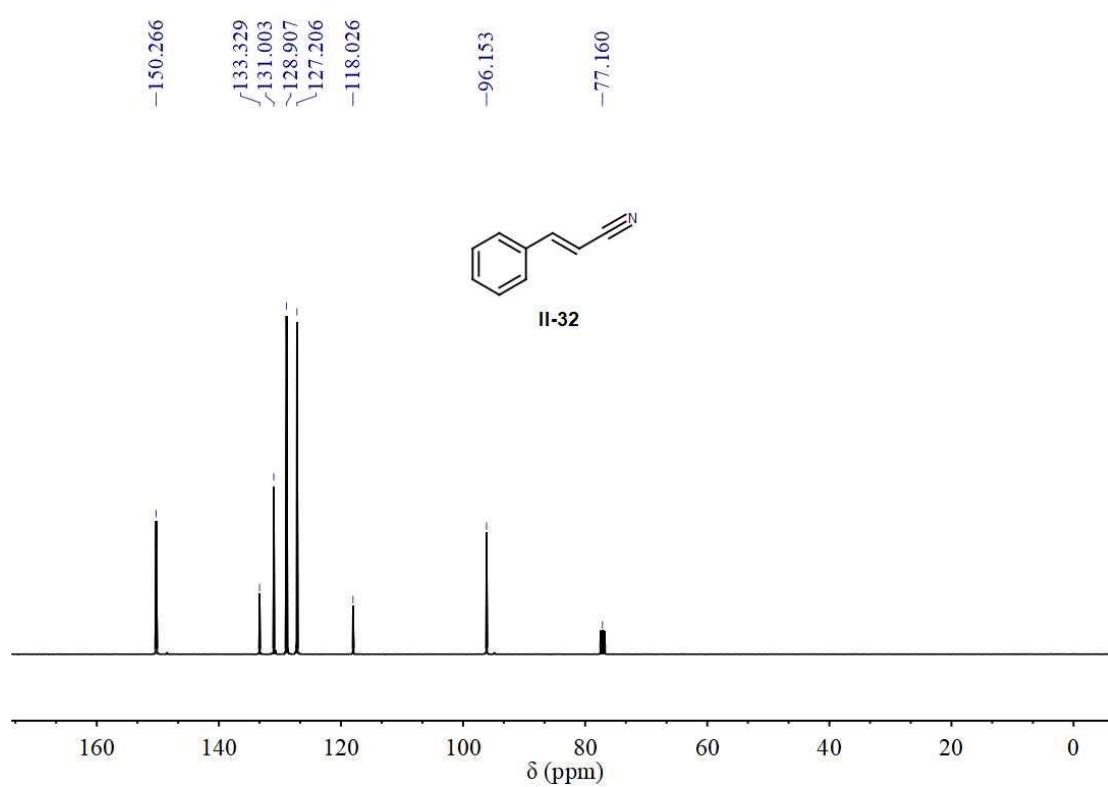
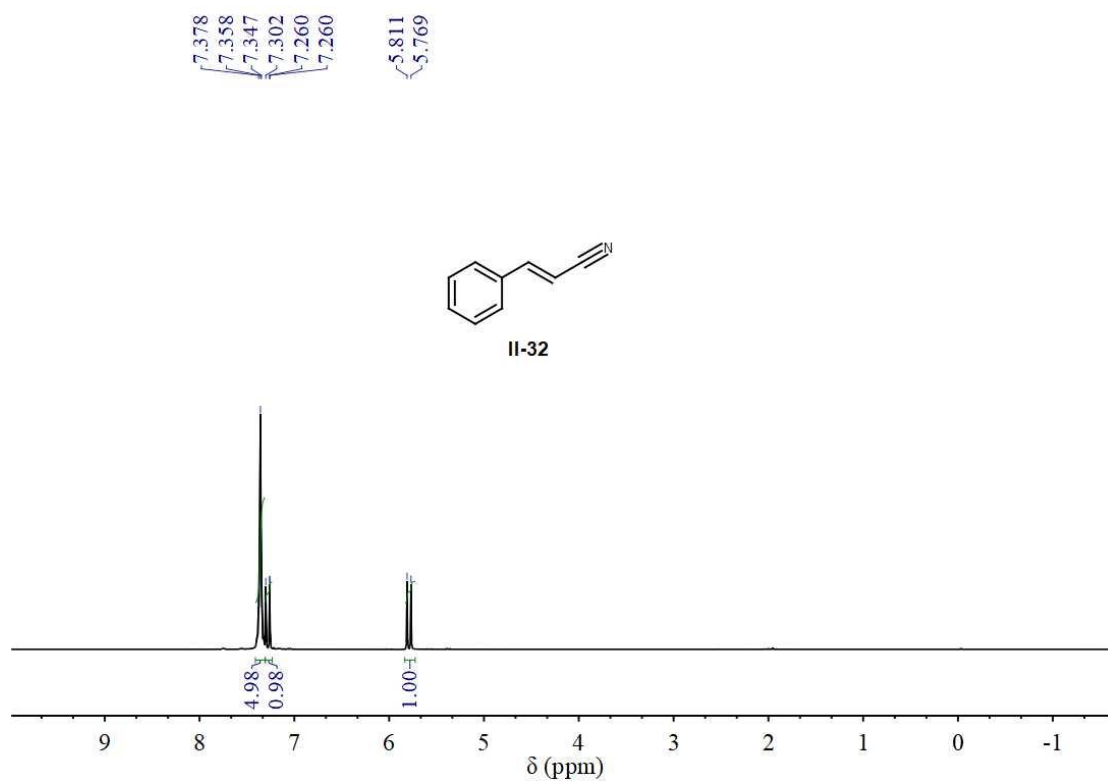


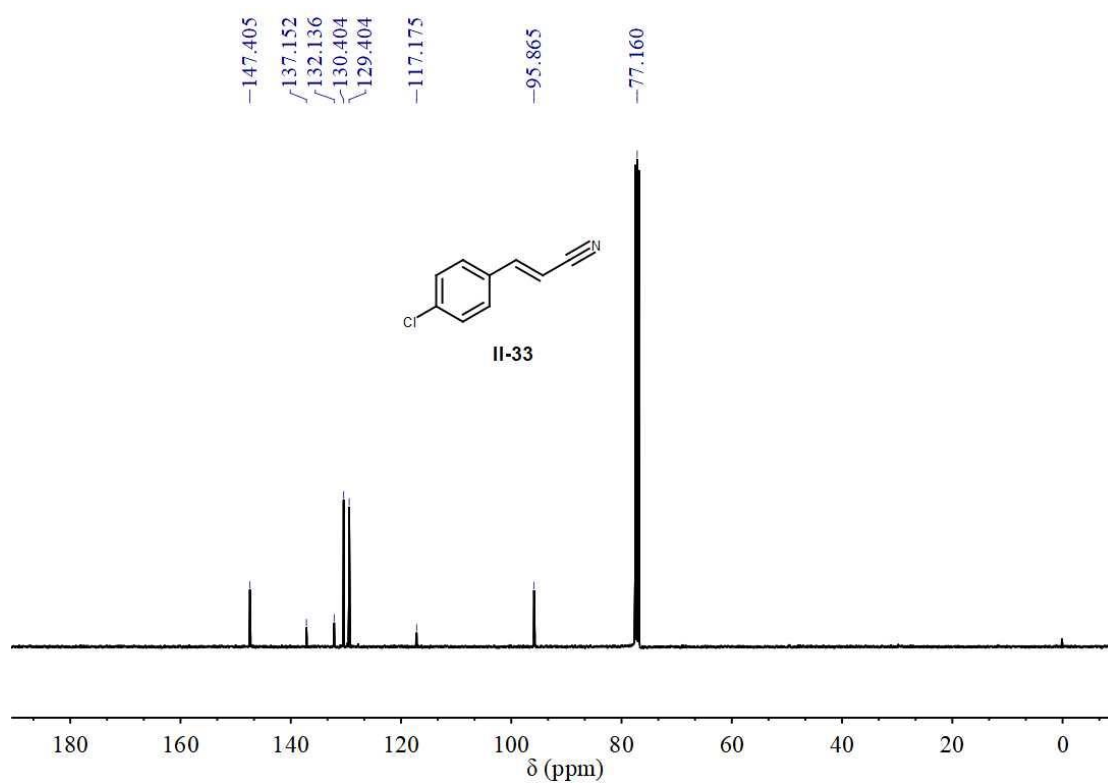
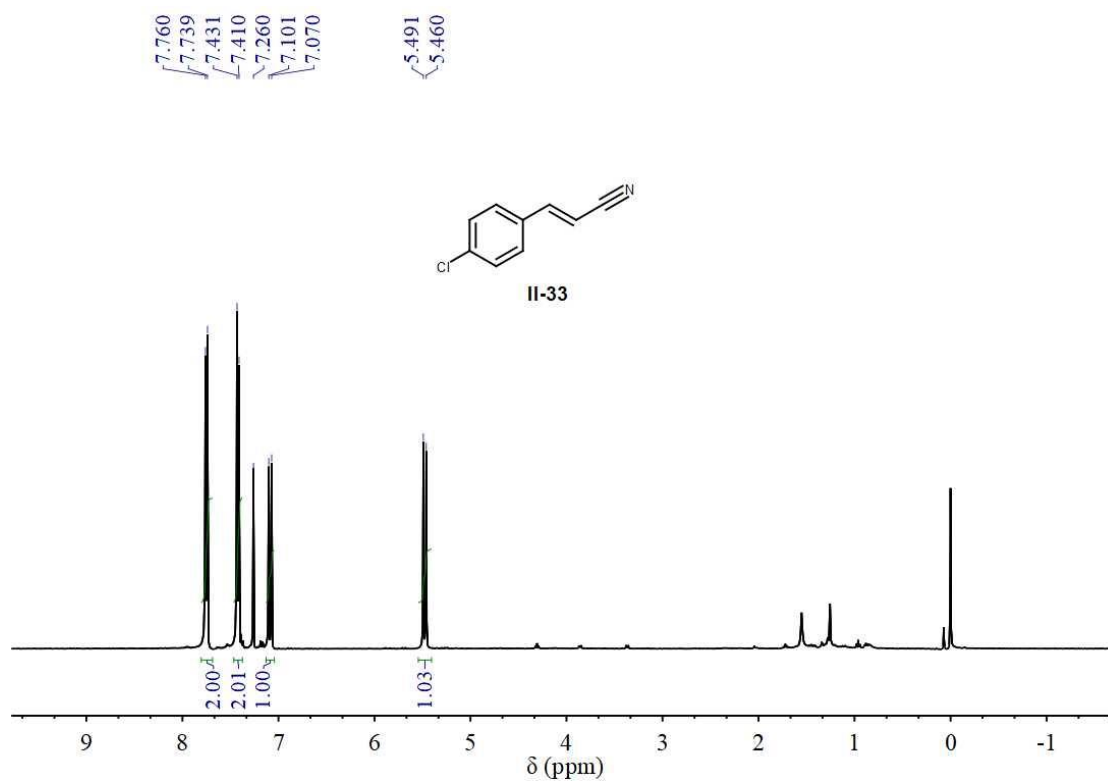
II-29





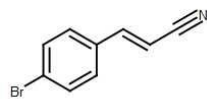




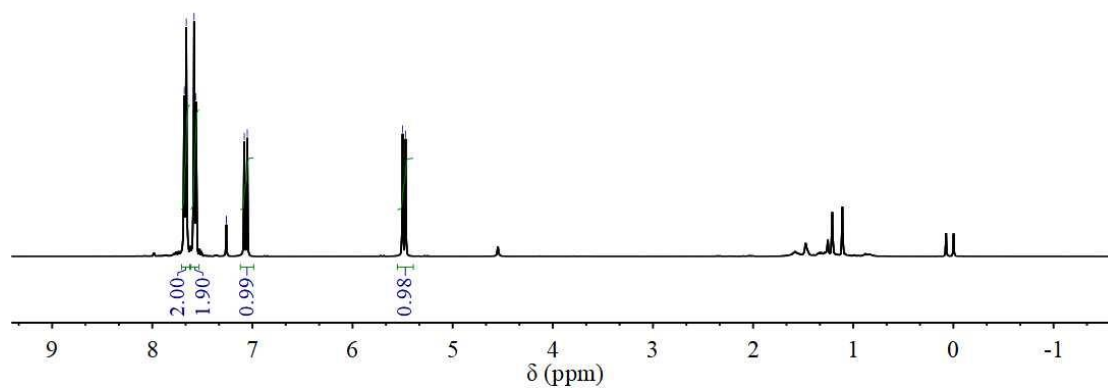


7.680
7.660
7.583
7.563
7.260
7.260
7.082
7.051

5.500
5.470



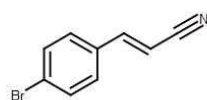
II-34



147.456
132.511
132.338
130.513
125.514
117.118

95.989

77.160



II-34

