

**NH₄I-CATALYZED FORMAL [4+2] CYCLOADDITION OF
α,β-UNSATURATED O-ACETYL OXIME WITH ALKYL
PYRUVATE FOR RAPID SUBSTITUTED PYRIDINE
FORMATION**

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Typical procedure for the preparation of substituted pyridines

Ketoxime-enoates **1** (3.0 mmol), ester pyruvates **2** (6.0 mmol), NH₄I (0.22 g, 0.15 mmol) and NaHSO₃ (0.31 g, 3.0 mmol) were loaded into a 20 mL tube under a N₂ atmosphere. The solvent toluene (15 mL) was added into the tube by syringe. The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 12 h. Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was then allowed to cool down to room temperature and flushed through a short column of silica gel with EtOAc (15 mL). After rotary evaporation, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (Petroleum Ether/ EtOAc) to give the product.

Diethyl 6-phenylpyridine-2,4-dicarboxylate (3a) White solid; 72% yield; mp: 99-102 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.14–8.13 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.47 (m, 3H), 4.54–4.47 (m, 4H), 1.50–1.44 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.9, 164.7, 158.7, 149.4, 139.8, 137.7, 130.0, 129.0, 127.3, 122.7, 122.4, 62.2, 62.2, 14.4, 14.3; IR (film) 2979, 2906, 1742, 1721, 1603, 1556, 1251, 1223, 1025, 757. ESI-HRMS C₁₇H₁₈NO₄ ([M+H]⁺): calcd 300.1231, found 300.1241.

4-Ethyl 2-methyl 6-phenylpyridine-2,4-dicarboxylate (3b) White solid; 65% yield; mp: 107-110 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.12–8.11 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.47 (m, 3H), 4.48 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 1.47–1.45 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.4, 164.6, 158.8, 149.0, 139.9, 137.7, 130.0, 129.0, 127.3, 122.9, 122.5, 62.2, 53.1, 14.3; IR (film) 3072, 2946, 1746, 1716, 1597, 1566, 1339, 1232, 754; ESI-HRMS C₁₆H₁₆NO₄ ([M+H]⁺): calcd 286.1074, found 286.1077.

Diethyl 6-(p-tolyl)pyridine-2,4-dicarboxylate (3c) White solid; 62% yield; mp: 105-107 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.50 (s, 1H), 8.44 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.52–4.47 (m, 4H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.49–1.44 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.0, 164.7, 158.7, 149.2, 140.2, 139.7, 134.9, 129.7, 127.2, 122.4, 122.1, 62.2, 62.1, 21.4, 14.4, 14.3; IR (film) 2985, 2912, 1738, 1721, 1604, 1563, 1337, 1232, 759; ESI-HRMS C₁₈H₂₀NO₄ ([M+H]⁺): calcd 314.1387, found 314.1385.

Diethyl 6-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-2,4-dicarboxylate (3d) White solid; 56%

yield; mp: 76-77 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.12–8.10 (m, 2H), 7.03–7.02 (m, 2H), 4.53–4.46 (m, 4H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.49–1.44 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.0, 164.8, 161.2, 158.3, 149.2, 139.7, 130.3, 128.7, 121.9, 121.6, 114.3, 62.1, 62.1, 55.4, 14.3, 14.3; IR (film) 2991, 1836, 1740, 1719, 1605, 1514, 1337, 1263, 759; ESI-HRMS C₁₈H₂₀NO₅ ([M+H]⁺): calcd 300.1336, found 300.1339.

Diethyl 6-(2-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-2,4-dicarboxylate (3e) White solid; 47% yield; mp: 109-110 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 7.92–7.91 (m, 1H), 7.43–7.40 (m, 1H), 7.12–7.10 (m, 1H), 7.02–7.01 (m, 1H), 4.53–4.44 (m, 4H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 1.48–1.43 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.0, 164.9, 157.5, 157.3, 149.0, 138.6, 131.6, 130.9, 127.7, 127.6, 122.1, 121.3, 111.4, 62.0, 62.0, 55.7, 14.4, 14.3; IR (film) 3097, 2974, 1721, 1608, 1437, 1254, 1237, 1027, 757; ESI-HRMS C₁₈H₂₀NO₅ ([M+H]⁺): calcd 300.1336, found 300.1343.

Diethyl 6-(4-fluorophenyl)pyridine-2,4-dicarboxylate (3f) White solid; 78% yield; mp: 139-140 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.53–8.53 (m, 1H), 8.42–8.41 (m, 1H), 8.15–8.13 (m, 2H), 7.21–7.18 (m, 2H), 4.54–4.47 (m, 4H), 1.49–1.45 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.3 (*J*_{C-F} = 187.8 Hz), 164.8, 164.5, 157.6, 149.4, 139.9, 133.9 (*J*_{C-F} = 3.9 Hz), 129.3, 129.2, 122.3, 115.9 (*J*_{C-F} = 21.5 Hz), 62.3, 62.2, 14.3, 14.3; IR (film) 2982, 2906, 1743, 1725, 1604, 1511, 1231, 1163, 763; ESI-HRMS C₁₇H₁₇FNO₄ ([M+H]⁺): calcd 318.1137, found 318.1132.

Diethyl 6-(4-chlorophenyl)pyridine-2,4-dicarboxylate (3g) White solid; 74% yield; mp: 107-108 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.43 (s, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.54–4.47 (m, 4H), 1.50–1.45 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.7, 164.5, 157.4, 149.4, 140.0, 136.2, 136.1, 129.2, 128.6, 122.6, 122.4, 62.3, 62.2, 14.3, 14.3; IR (film) 2982, 2904, 1746, 1723, 1603, 1560, 1369, 1336, 1243, 762; ESI-HRMS C₁₇H₁₇ClNO₄ ([M+H]⁺): calcd 334.0841, found 334.0849.

Diethyl 6-(3-chlorophenyl)pyridine-2,4-dicarboxylate (3h) Light yellow solid; 70% yield; mp: 72-73 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.43 (s, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 8.01–8.00 (m, 1H), 7.45–7.44 (m, 2H), 4.55–4.47 (m, 4H), 1.50–1.45 (m, 6H);

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 164.7, 164.4, 157.2, 149.5, 140.1, 139.5, 135.1, 130.2, 129.9, 127.5, 125.4, 122.9, 122.7, 62.3, 62.3, 14.3, 14.3; IR (film) 2982, 2940, 1726, 1558, 1442, 1181, 1029, 760; ESI-HRMS $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClNO}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): calcd 334.0841, found 334.0843.

Diethyl 6-(naphthalen-2-yl)pyridine-2,4-dicarboxylate (3i) White solid; 64% yield; mp: 88-89 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.63–8.61 (m, 2H), 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.29–8.28 (m, 1H), 8.00–7.97 (m, 2H), 7.89–7.88 (m, 1H), 7.55–7.53 (m, 2H), 4.57–4.49 (m, 4H), 1.52–1.47 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 164.9, 164.7, 158.6, 149.5, 139.9, 135.0, 134.1, 133.4, 129.0, 128.8, 127.7, 127.1, 127.1, 126.5, 124.5, 122.9, 122.4, 62.3, 62.2, 14.4, 14.3; IR (film) 2984, 2904, 1743, 1726, 1597, 1254, 1230, 1023, 760; ESI-HRMS $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): calcd 350.1387, found 350.1383.

Ethyl 4,6-diphenylpicolinate (4a) White solid; 46% yield; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.30 (s, 1H), 8.16–8.10 (m, 3H), 7.76–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.47 (m, 6H), 4.55 (q, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.51 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.3, 150.4, 149.0, 138.7, 137.7, 129.5, 129.3, 128.9, 127.4, 127.2, 121.5, 121.5, 62.0, 14.4.

Methyl 4-phenyl-6-(p-tolyl)picolinate (4b) White solid; 42% yield; mp: 96-98°C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.32–8.32 (m, 1H), 8.11–8.10 (m, 3H), 7.76–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.46 (m, 6H), 4.06 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 166.2, 158.5, 150.5, 148.6, 138.7, 137.6, 129.5, 129.5, 129.3, 128.9, 127.4, 127.2, 121.7, 121.6, 53.0; IR (film) 2951, 1738, 1715, 1600, 1260, 1235, 1150, 768; ESI-HRMS $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): calcd 290.1176, found 290.1172.

Ethyl 6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylpicolinate (4c) White solid; 38% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.21 (s, 1H), 8.10–8.09 (m, 2H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.73–7.72 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.02–7.01 (m, 2H), 4.51 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.48 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.7, 160.9, 157.9, 150.3, 148.8, 137.9, 131.3, 129.4, 129.2, 128.7, 127.2, 120.9, 120.7, 114.2, 61.9, 55.4, 14.4.

Ethyl 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-phenylpicolinate (4d) White solid; 55% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.29 (s, 1H), 8.08–8.05 (m, 3H), 7.74–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.47

(m, 5H), 4.52 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.49 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.4, 157.1, 150.7, 149.0, 137.6, 137.1, 135.7, 129.6, 129.3, 129.1, 128.6, 127.2, 121.8, 121.2, 62.1, 14.4.

Ethyl 4-phenyl-6-(p-tolyl)picolinate (4e) White solid; 35% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.26–8.25 (m, 1H), 8.07–8.02 (m, 3H), 7.75–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 3H), 7.32–7.30 (m, 2H), 4.52 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.49 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.7, 158.3, 150.3, 148.9, 139.6, 137.9, 135.9, 129.6, 129.4, 129.2, 127.2, 127.2, 121.3, 121.2, 61.9, 21.4, 14.4.

Ethyl 6-phenyl-4-(p-tolyl)picolinate (4f) White solid; 59% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.27 (s, 1H), 8.12–8.07 (m, 3H), 7.66–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.52–7.49 (m, 3H), 7.34–7.33 (m, 2H), 4.52 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.49 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.7, 158.3, 150.3, 148.9, 139.7, 138.8, 134.8, 130.0, 129.4, 128.8, 127.4, 127.0, 121.3, 121.2, 61.9, 21.3, 14.4.

Ethyl 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-phenylpicolinate (4g) White solid; 43% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.25 (s, 1H), 8.11 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.69–7.68 (m, 2H), 7.52–7.45 (m, 5H), 4.53 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.49 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.5, 158.5, 149.2, 149.1, 138.4, 136.2, 135.8, 129.7, 129.5, 128.9, 128.5, 127.4, 121.3, 62.1, 14.4.

Ethyl (E)-4-phenyl-6-styrylpicolinate (4h) White solid; 32% yield; mp: 82–85 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.21 (s, 1H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 8.74–7.70 (m, 3H), 7.63–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.44–7.39 (m, 3H), 7.34–7.33 (m, 1H), 4.54 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.49 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.3, 156.7, 150.3, 148.6, 137.5, 136.3, 134.6, 129.6, 129.3, 128.8, 128.8, 127.5, 127.4, 127.2, 122.1, 121.6, 62.2, 14.4; IR (film) 3056, 2982, 1712, 1591, 1445, 1254, 1145, 757; ESI-HRMS $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): calcd 316.1333, found 316.1331.

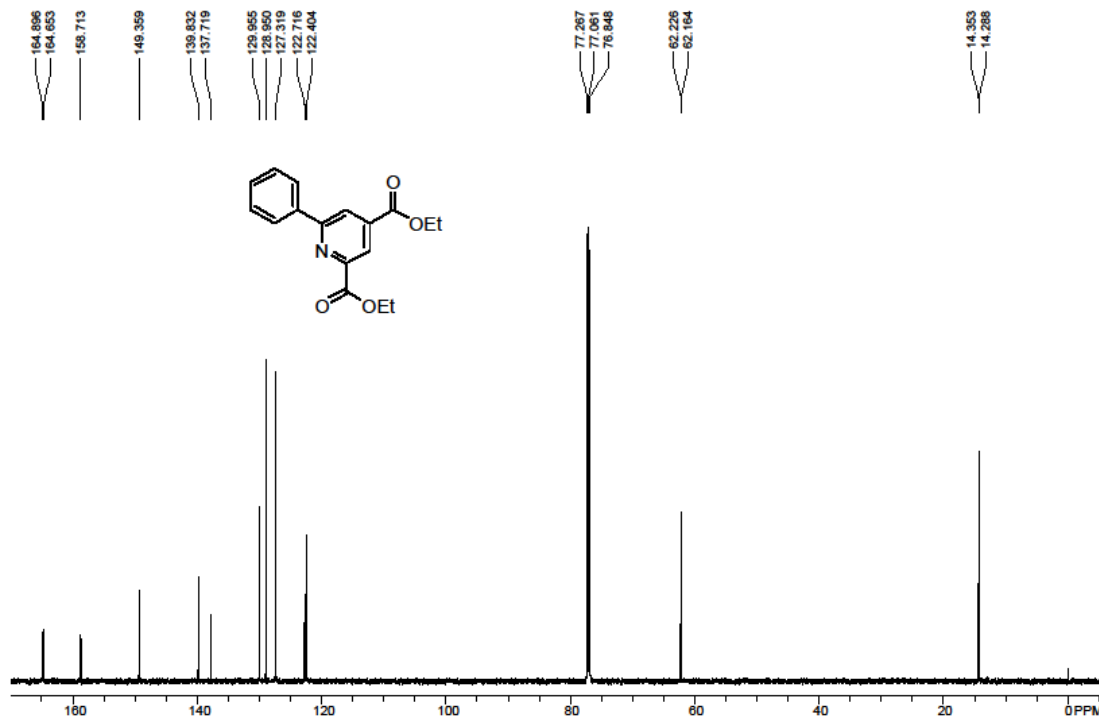
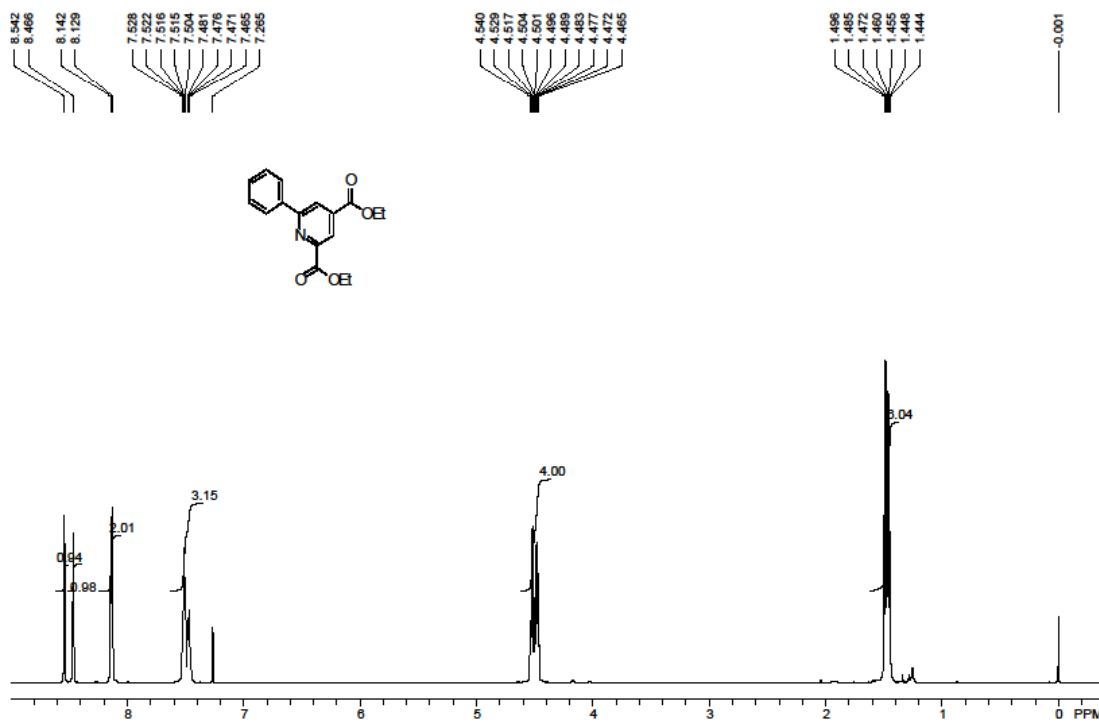
2,4,6-Triphenylpyridine (4A) White solid; 14% yield; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.21 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 4H), 7.89 (s, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.55–7.44 (m, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.5, 150.3, 139.5, 139.1, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 127.2, 127.2, 117.2.

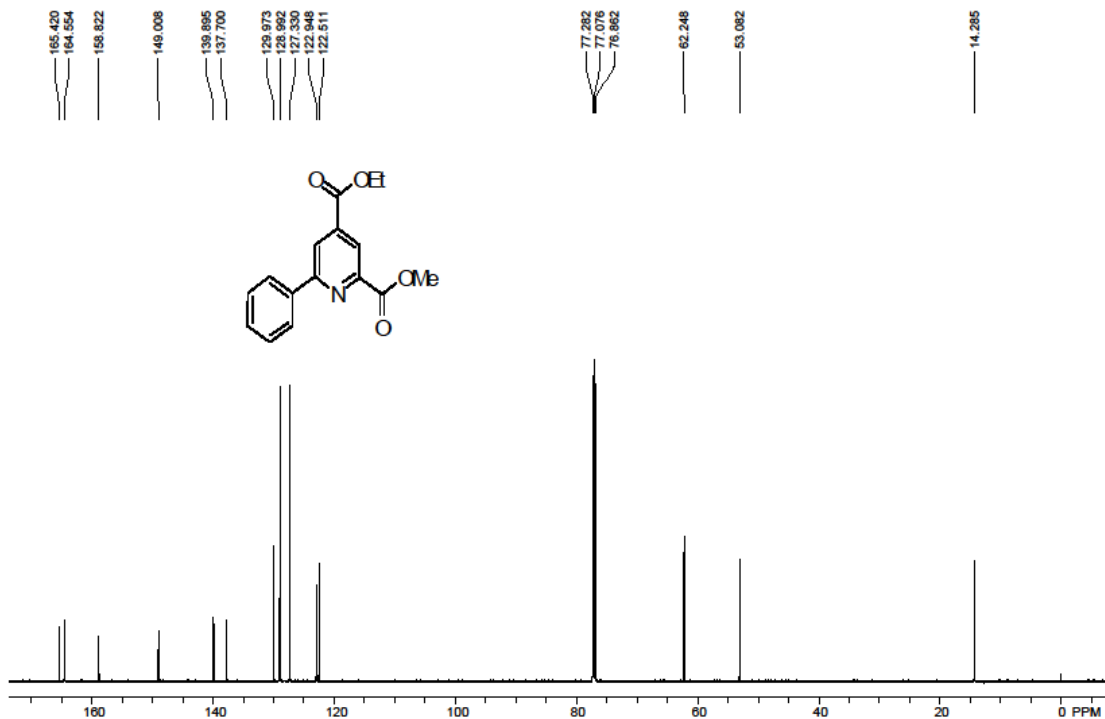
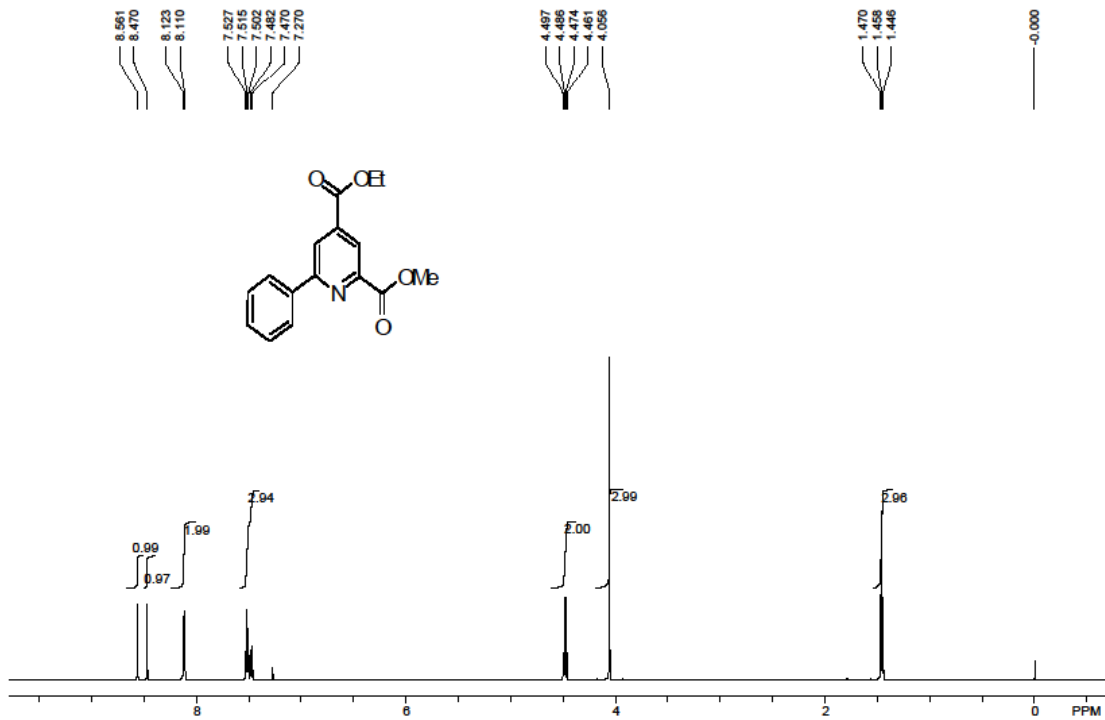
2,6-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (4B) White solid; 15% yield; ^1H NMR

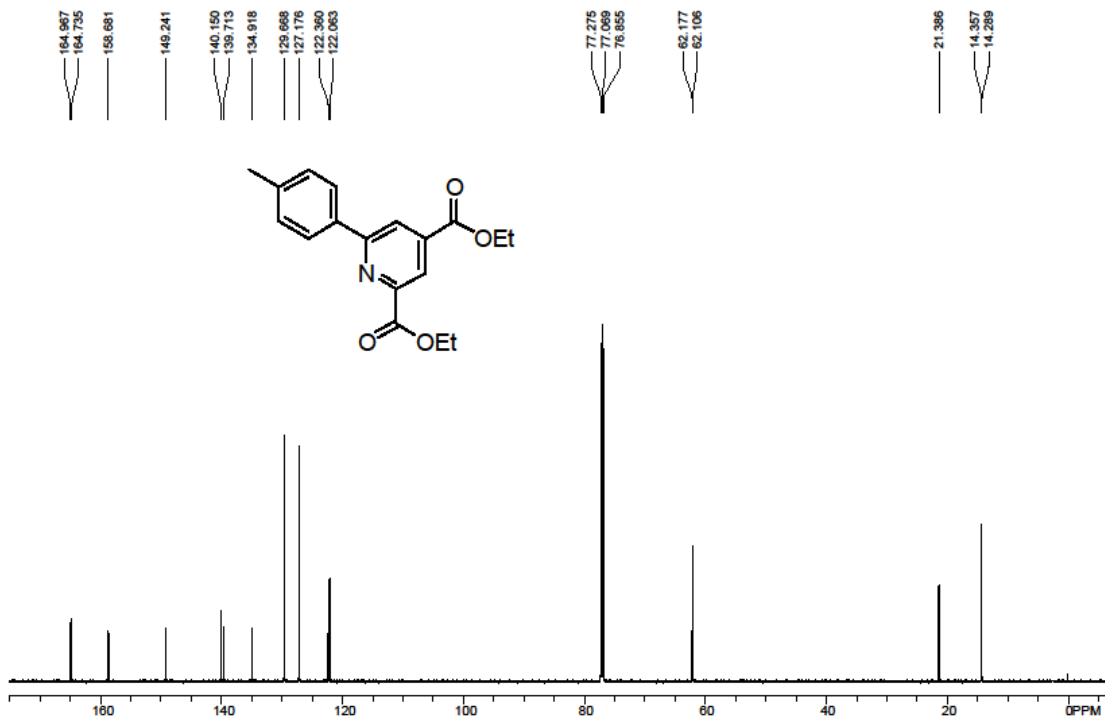
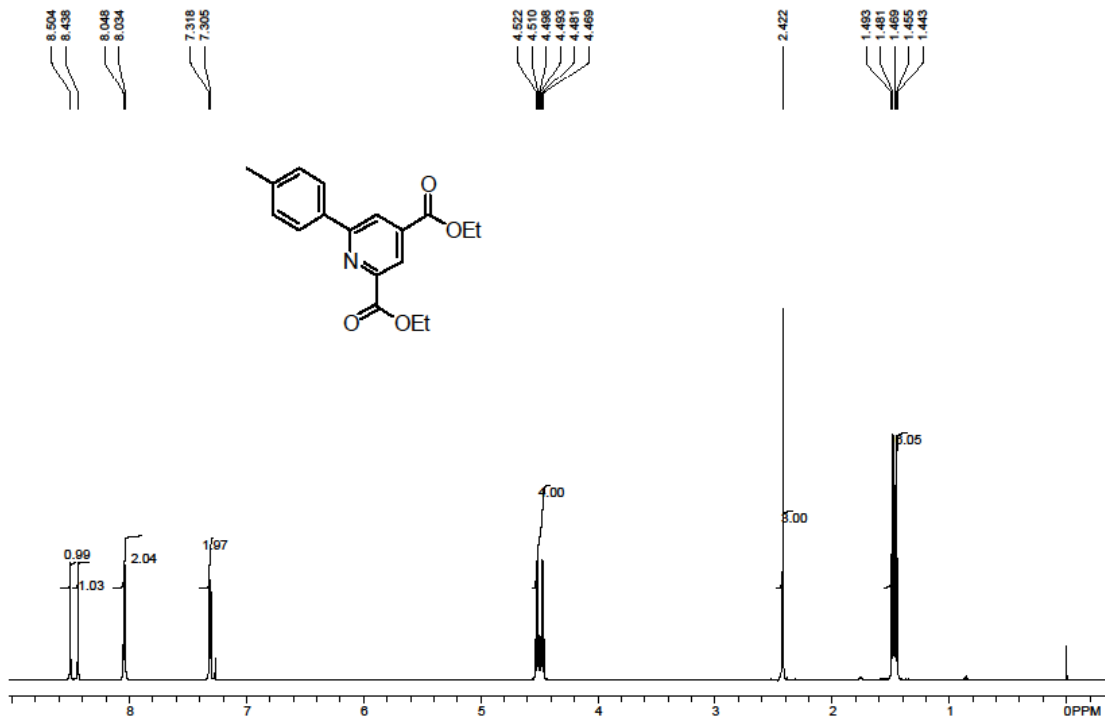
(600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.77 (s, 2H), 7.73–7.72 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.45 (m, 1H), 7.04–7.02 (m, 4H), 3.88 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5, 156.9, 150.1, 139.3, 132.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.4, 127.2, 115.8, 114.0, 55.4.

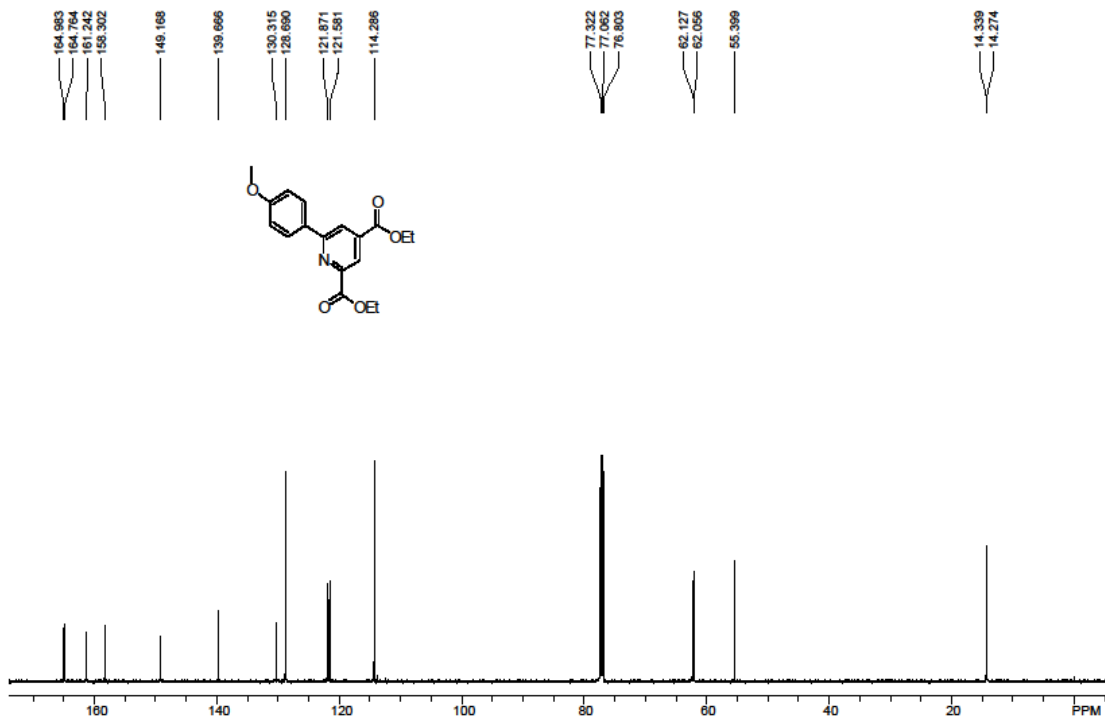
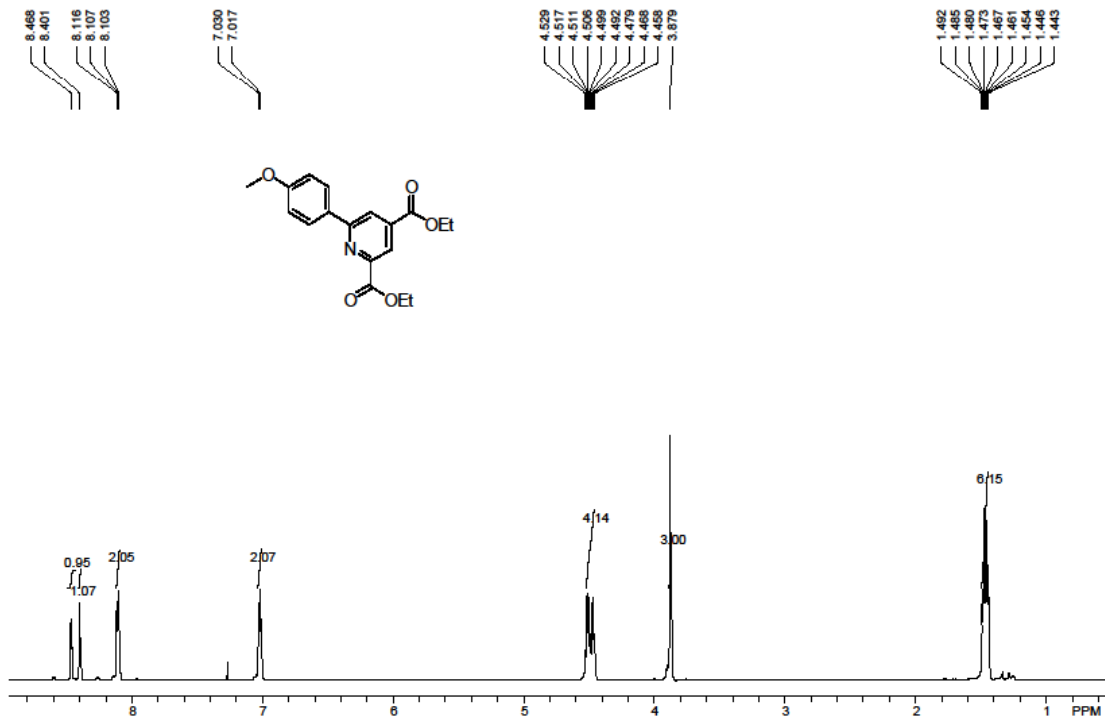
2,6-Diphenyl-4-(p-tolyl)pyridine (4C) White solid; 18% yield; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.88 (s, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.53–7.50 (m, 4H), 7.46–7.44 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.5, 150.2, 139.6, 139.2, 136.1, 129.9, 129.1, 128.7, 127.2, 127.1, 117.0, 21.3.

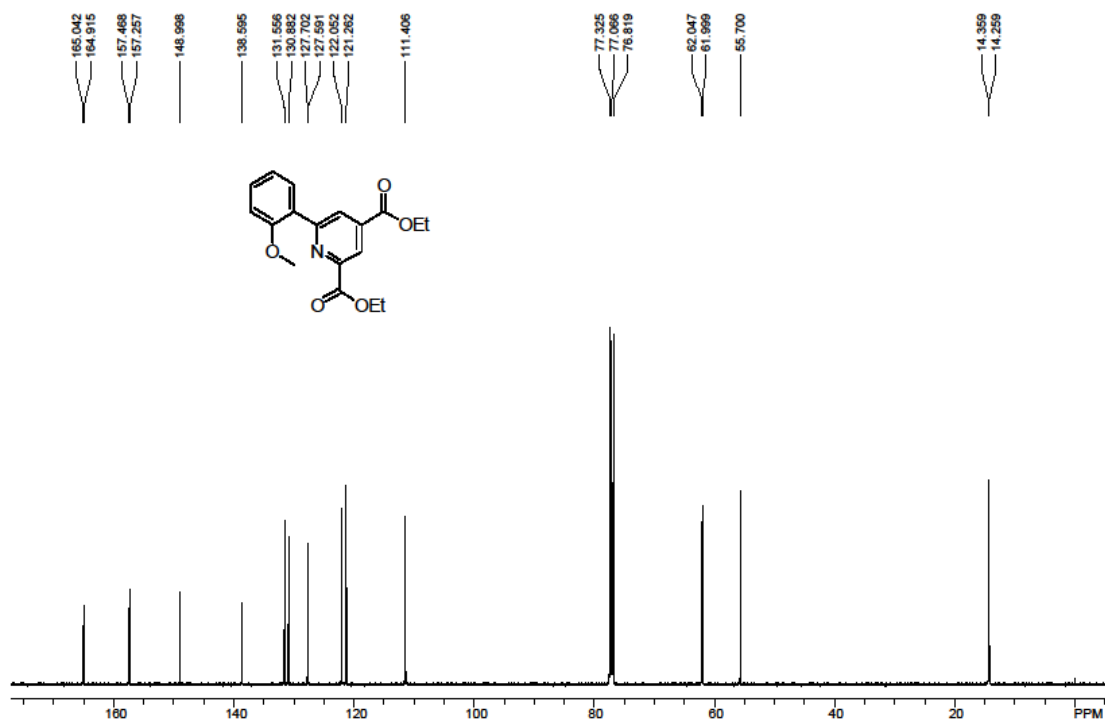
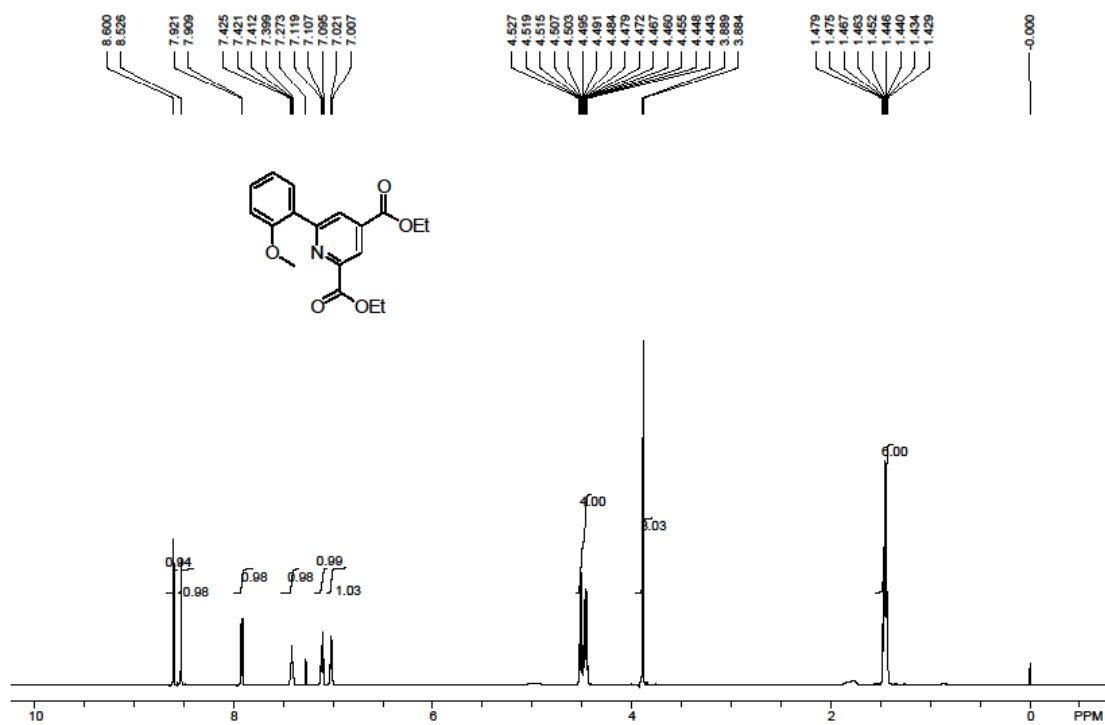
4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2,6-diphenylpyridine (4D) White solid; 12% yield; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.83 (s, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53–7.44 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.7, 149.0, 139.3, 137.5, 135.3, 129.4, 129.2, 128.8, 128.5, 127.2, 116.9.

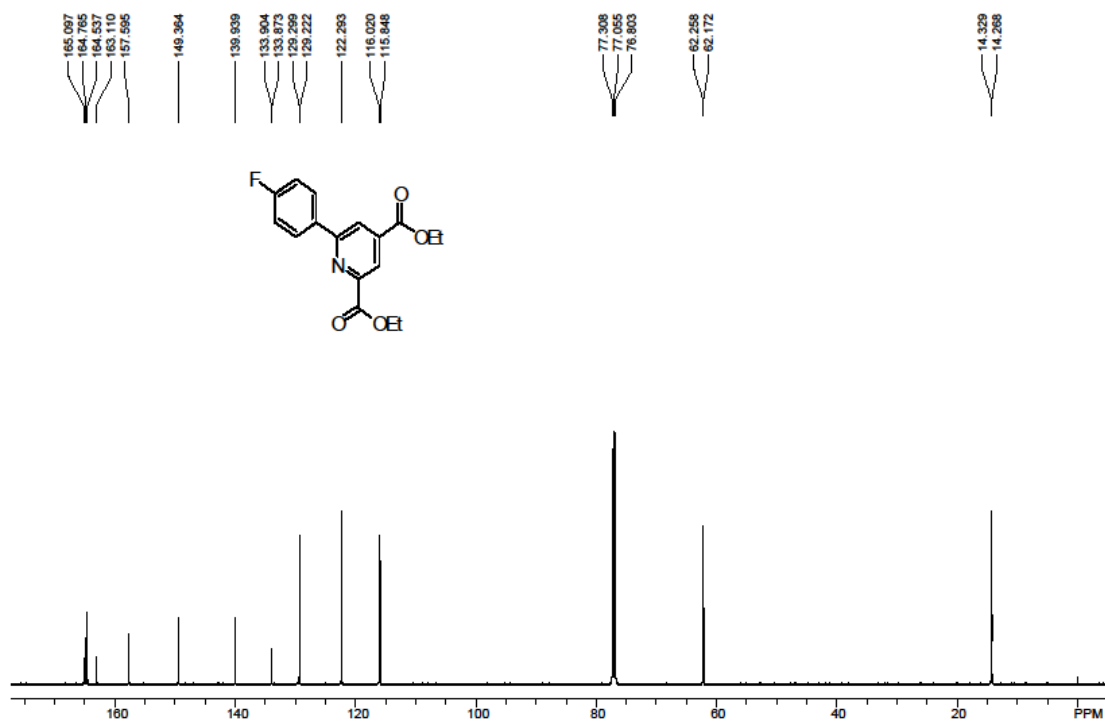
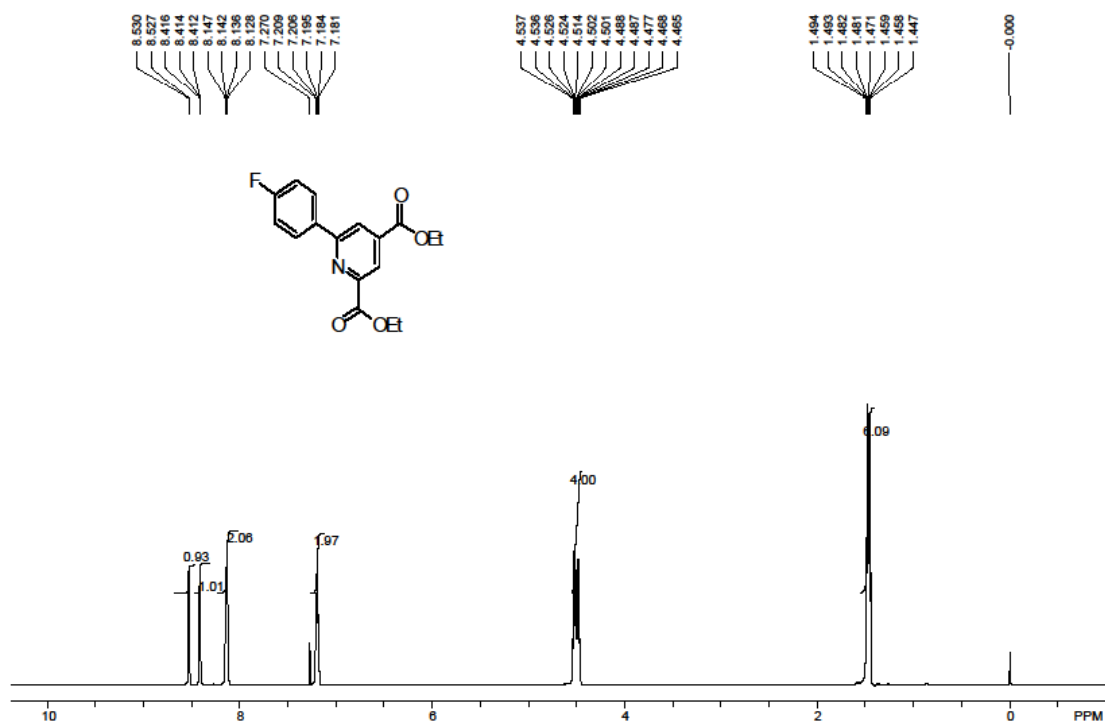


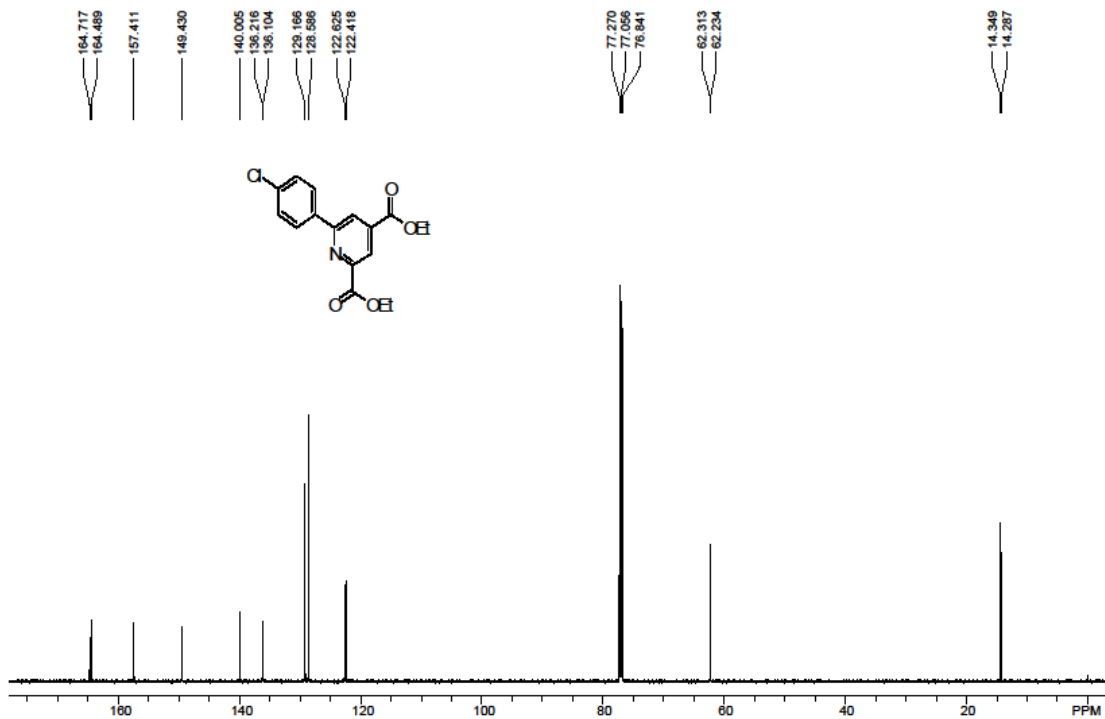
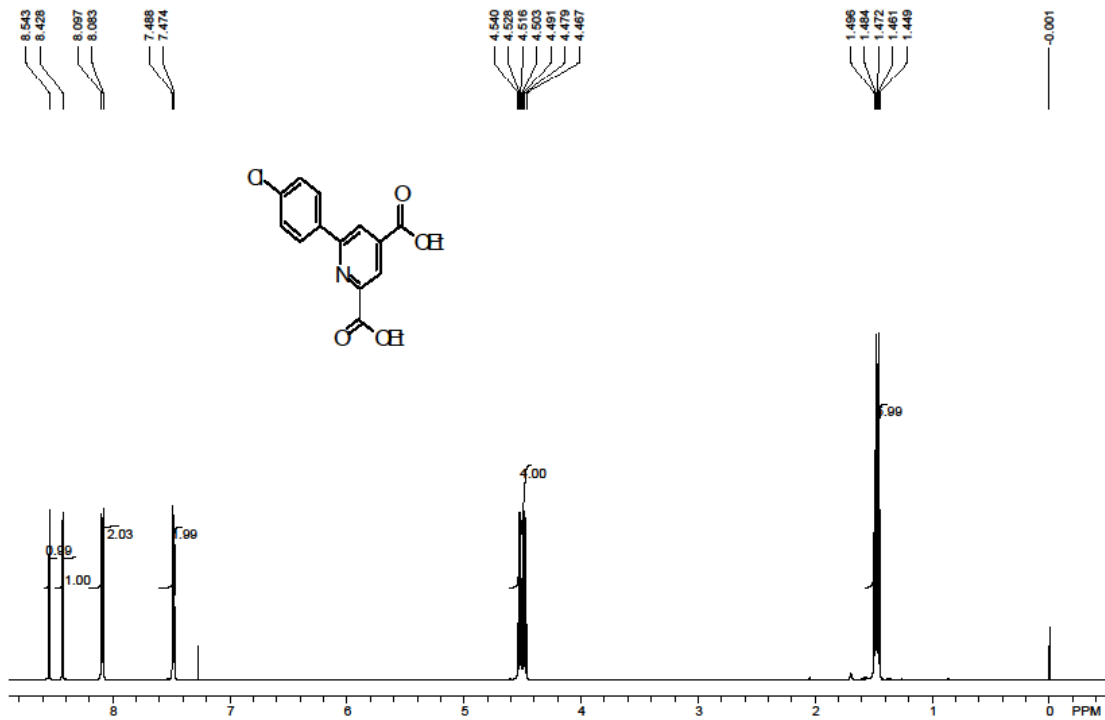


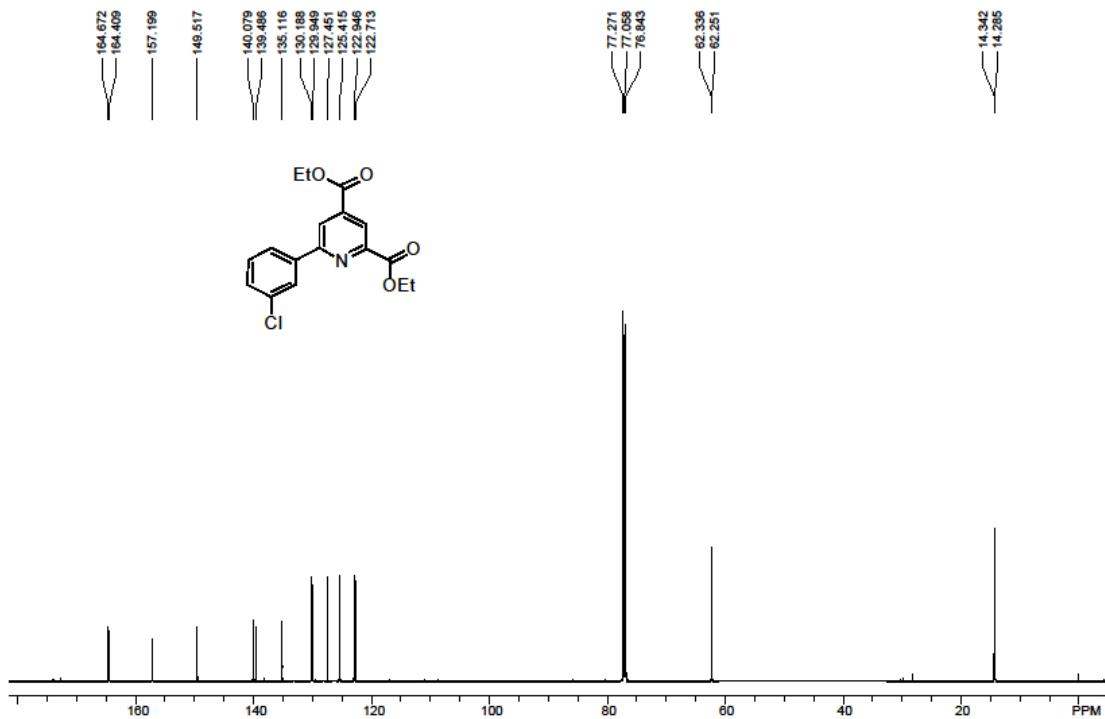
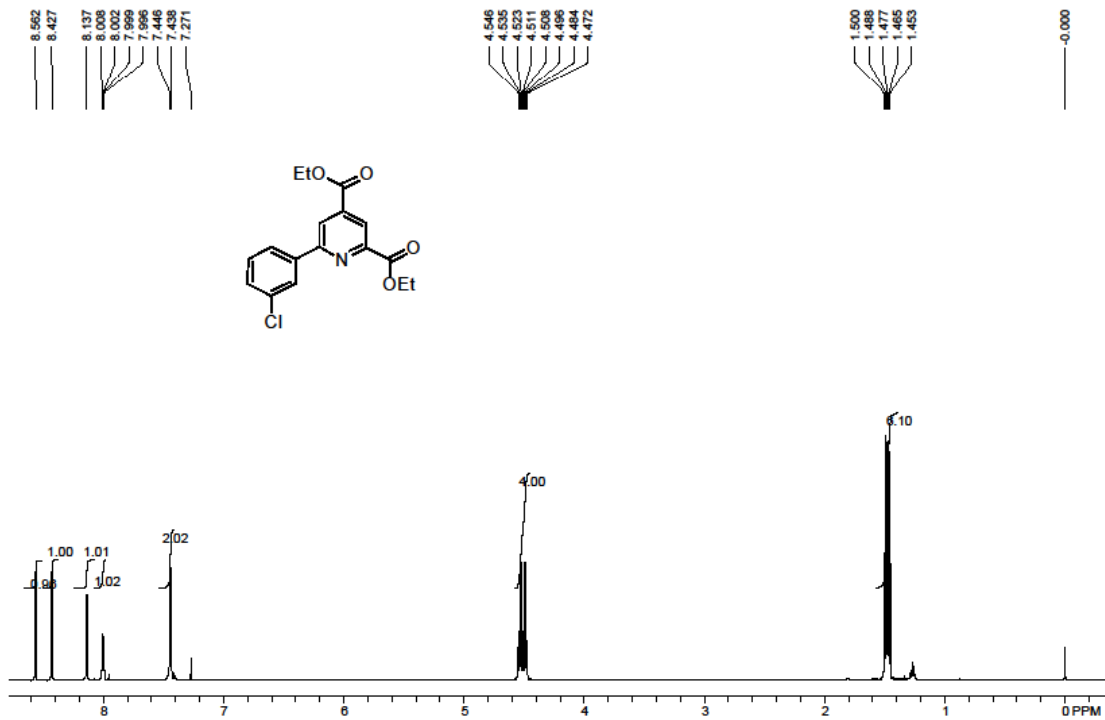


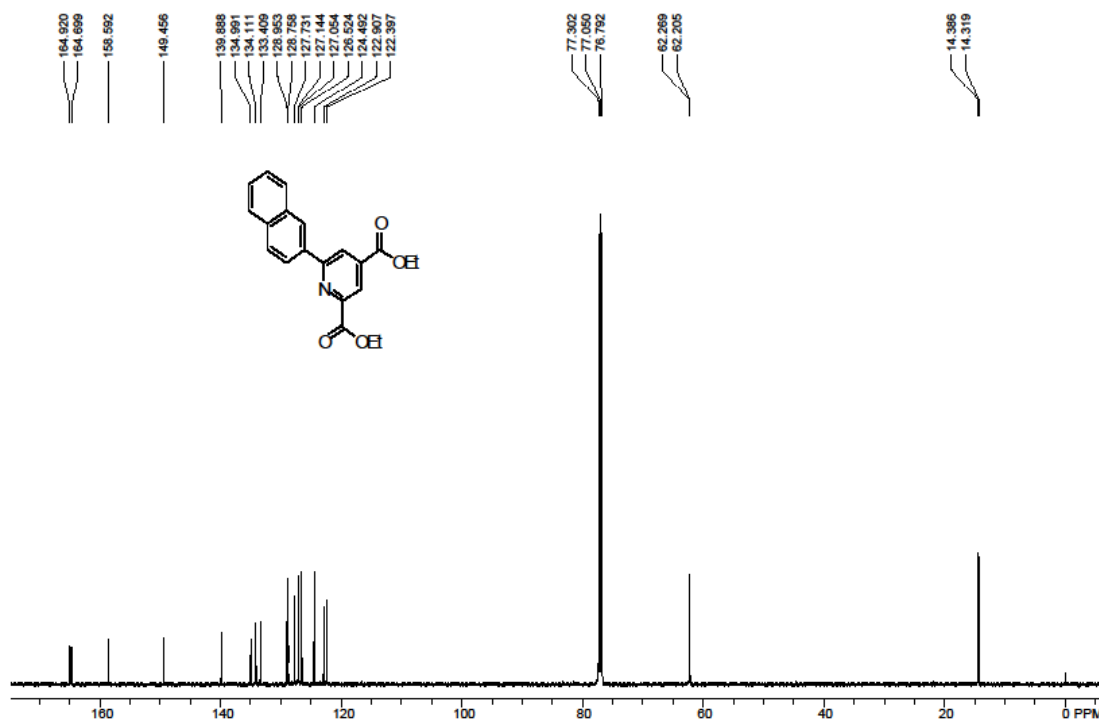
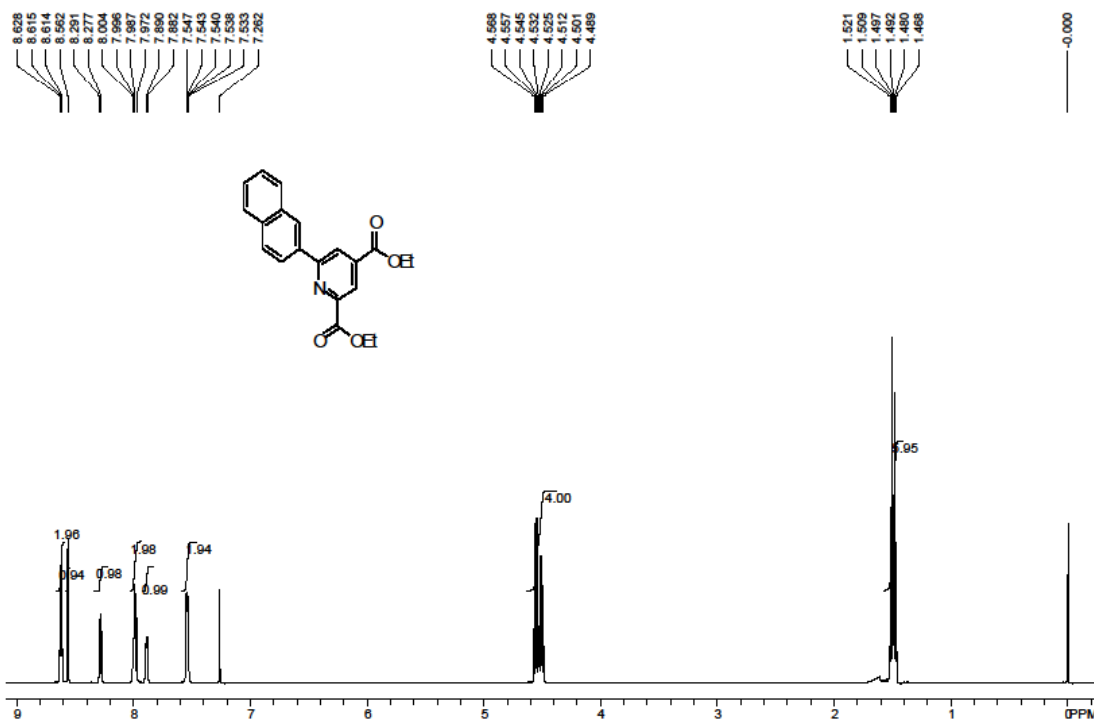


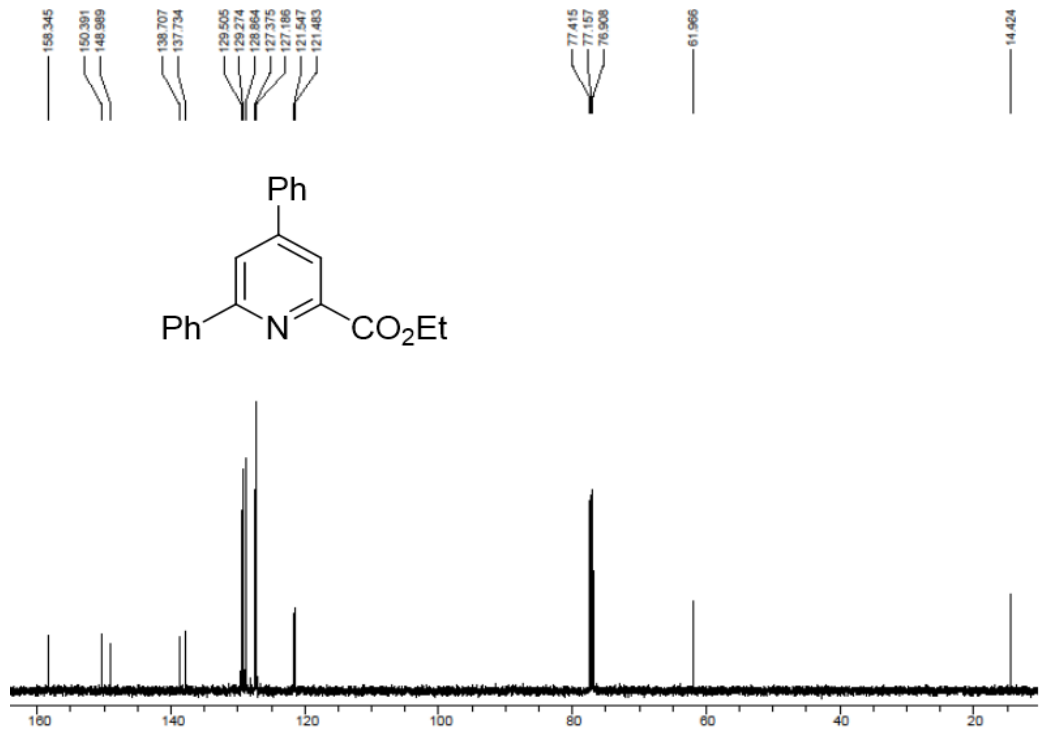
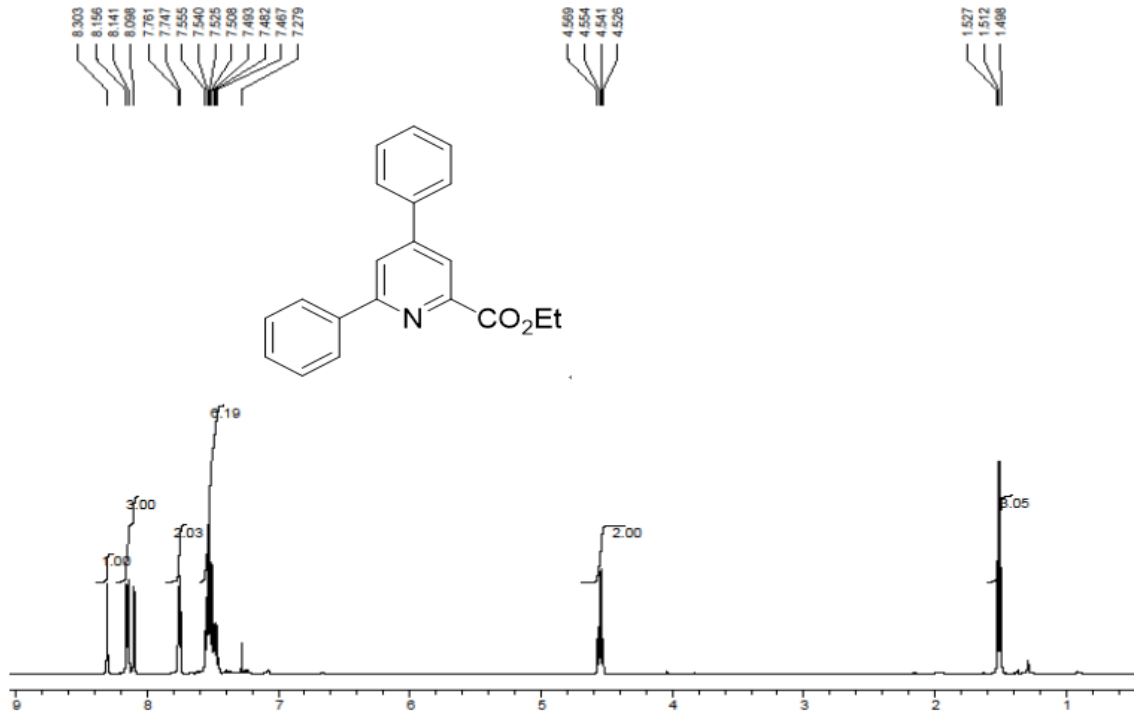








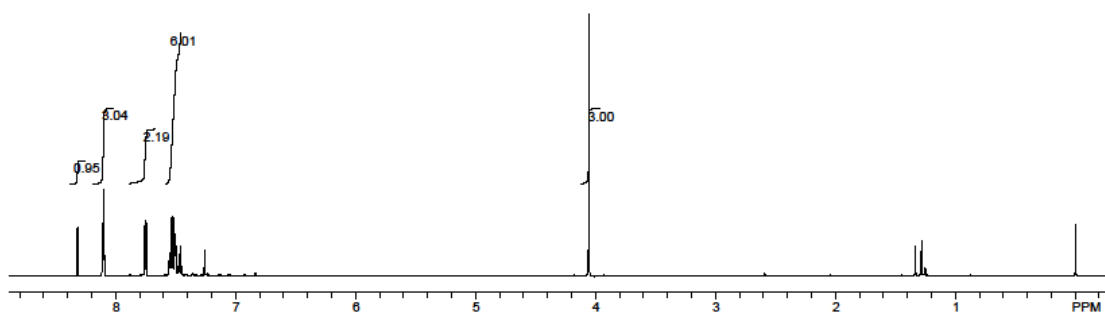
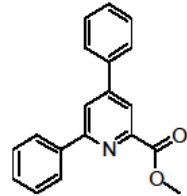




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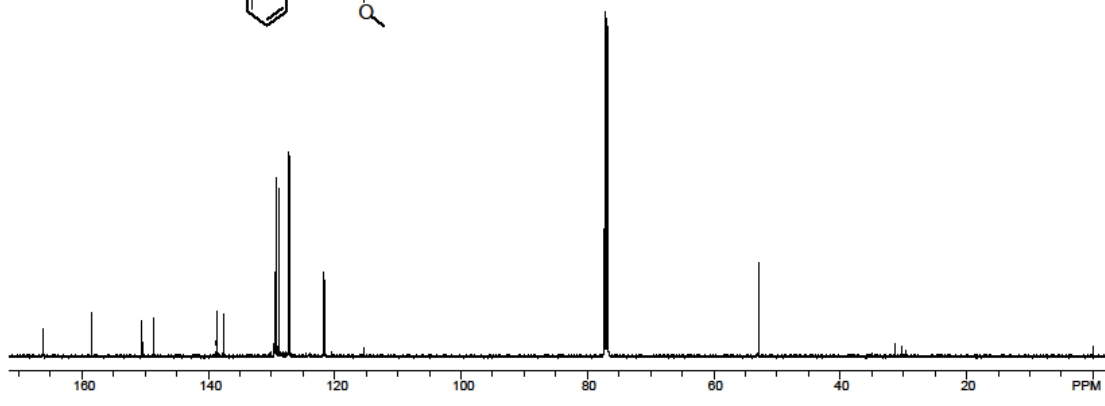
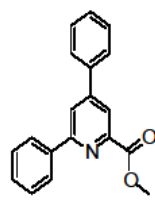
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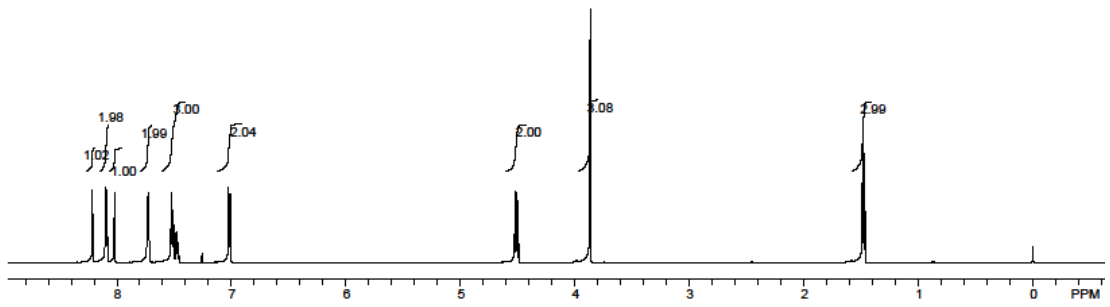
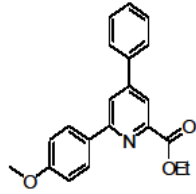
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4.517
4.505
4.493
3.867

1.483
1.481
1.469

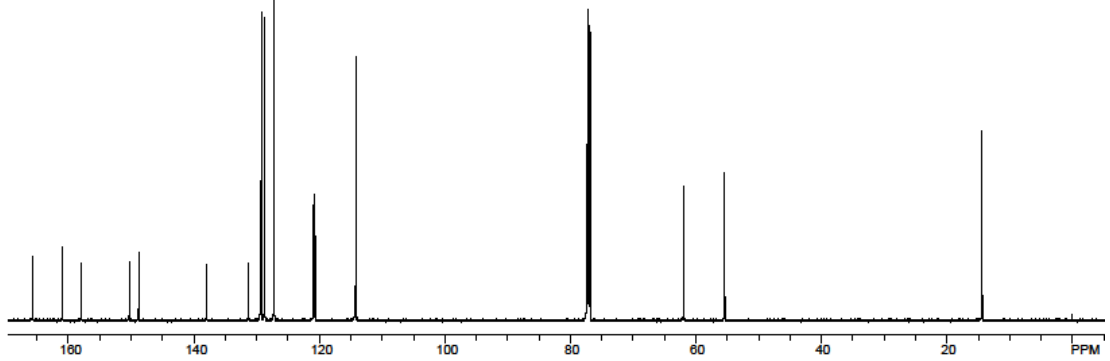
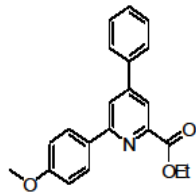


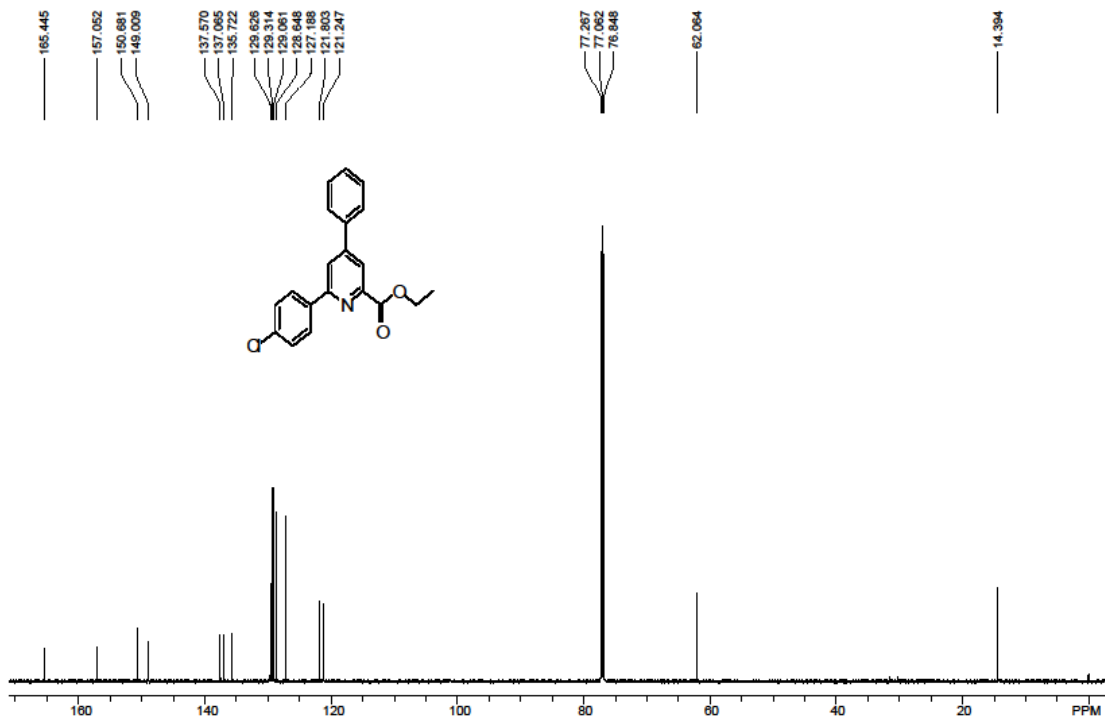
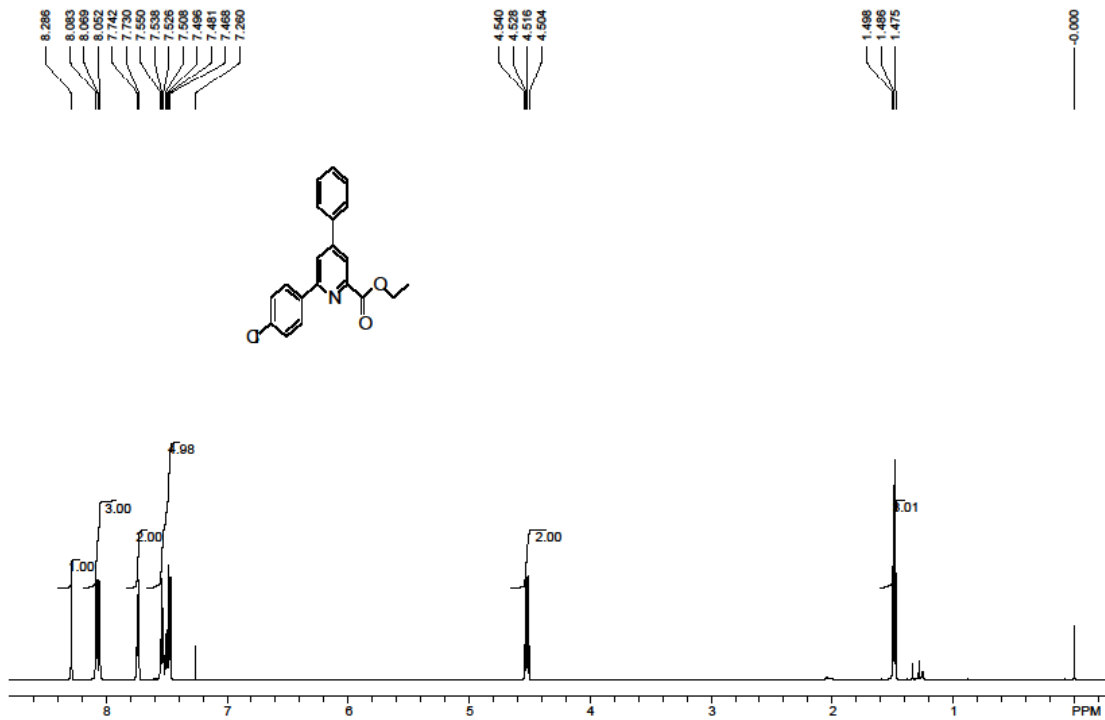
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160.913
157.913
150.293
148.803
137.905
131.255
129.408
128.228
128.088
127.172
120.913
120.692
114.211

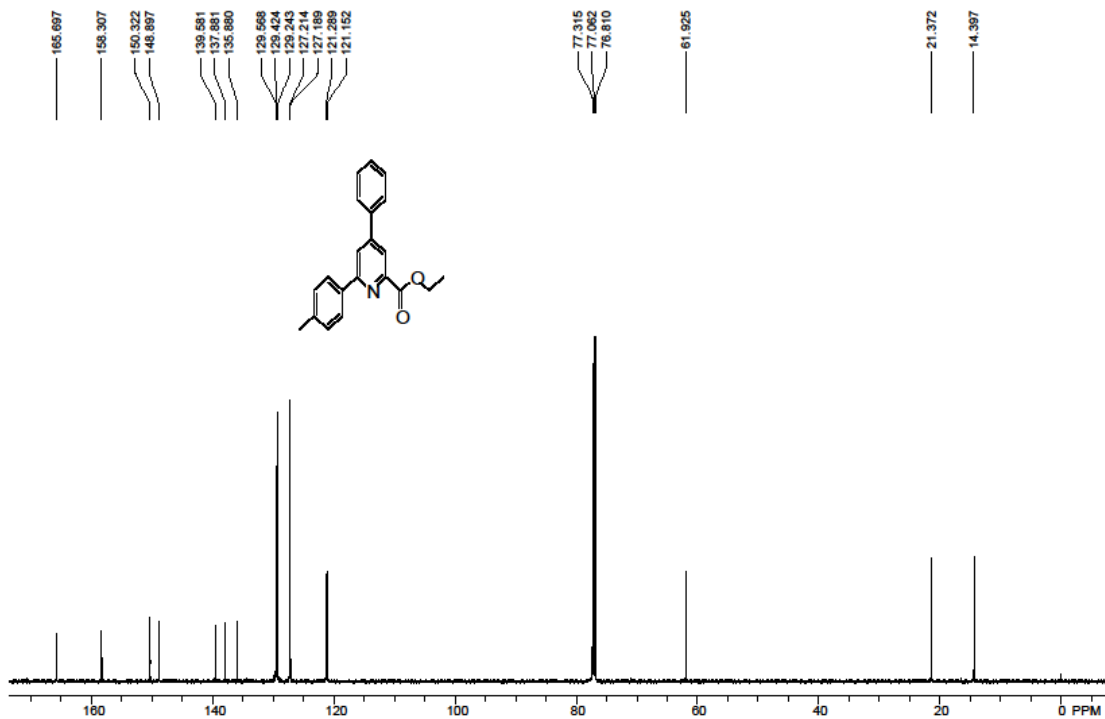
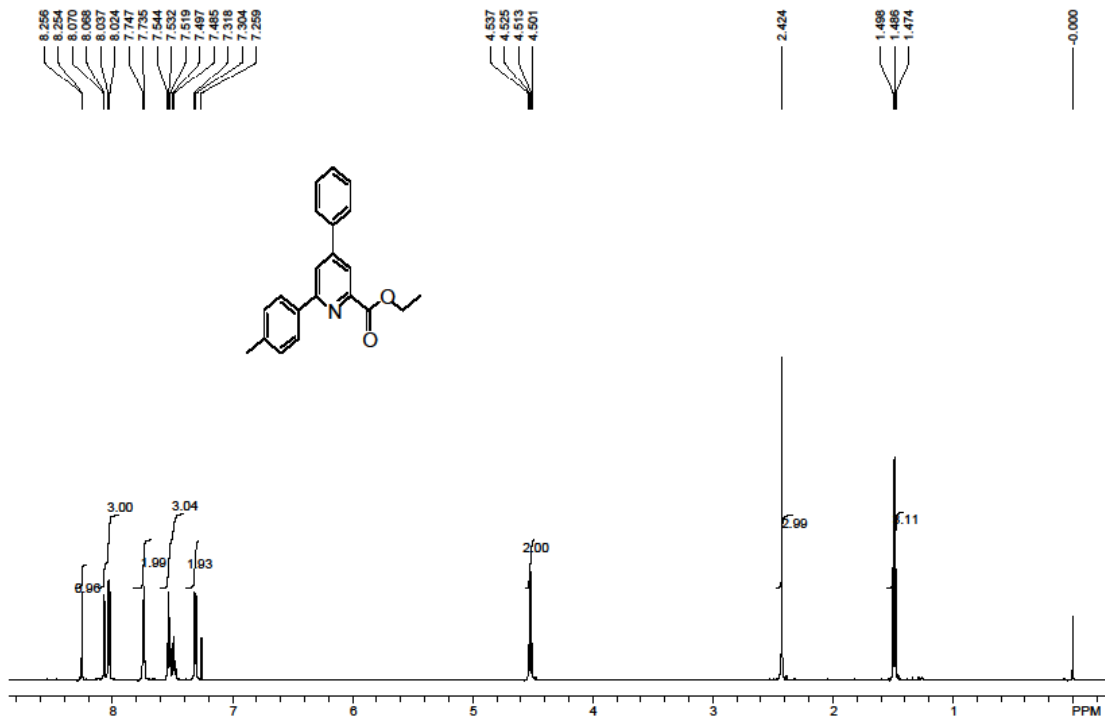
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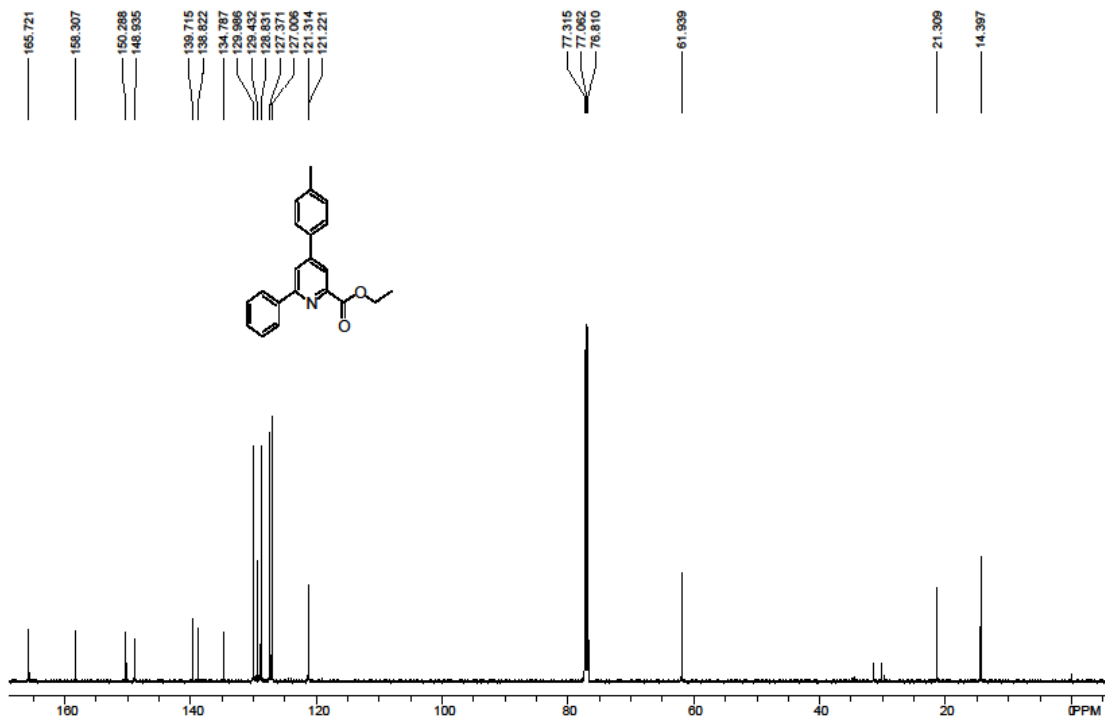
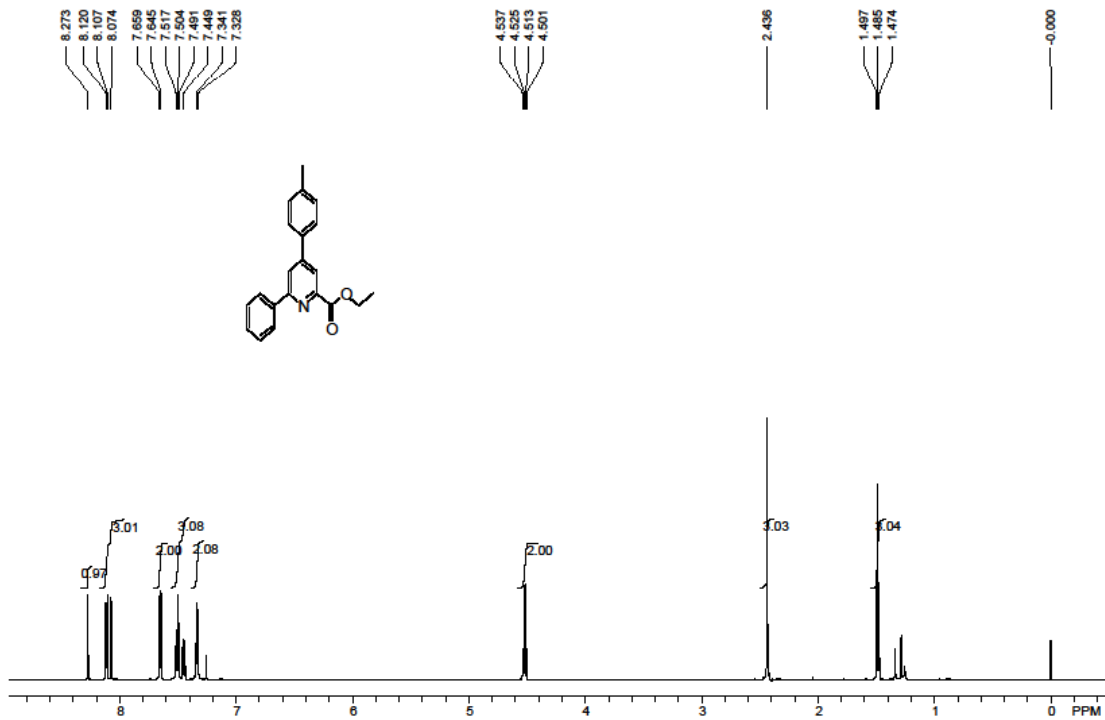
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55.405

14.400







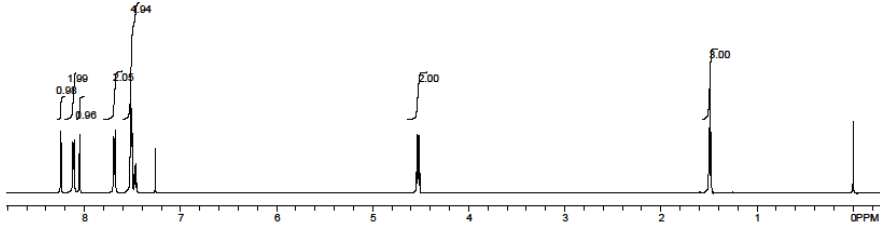
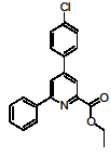


8.245
8.120
8.050
7.684
7.519
7.478
7.466
7.384
7.281

4.545
4.533
4.521
4.510

1.503
1.479

0.000



165.459

158.517

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138.444

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135.839

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128.491

127.408

121.288

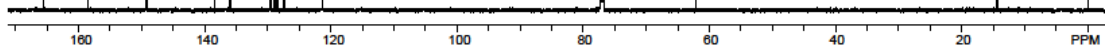
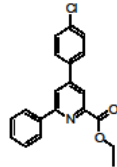
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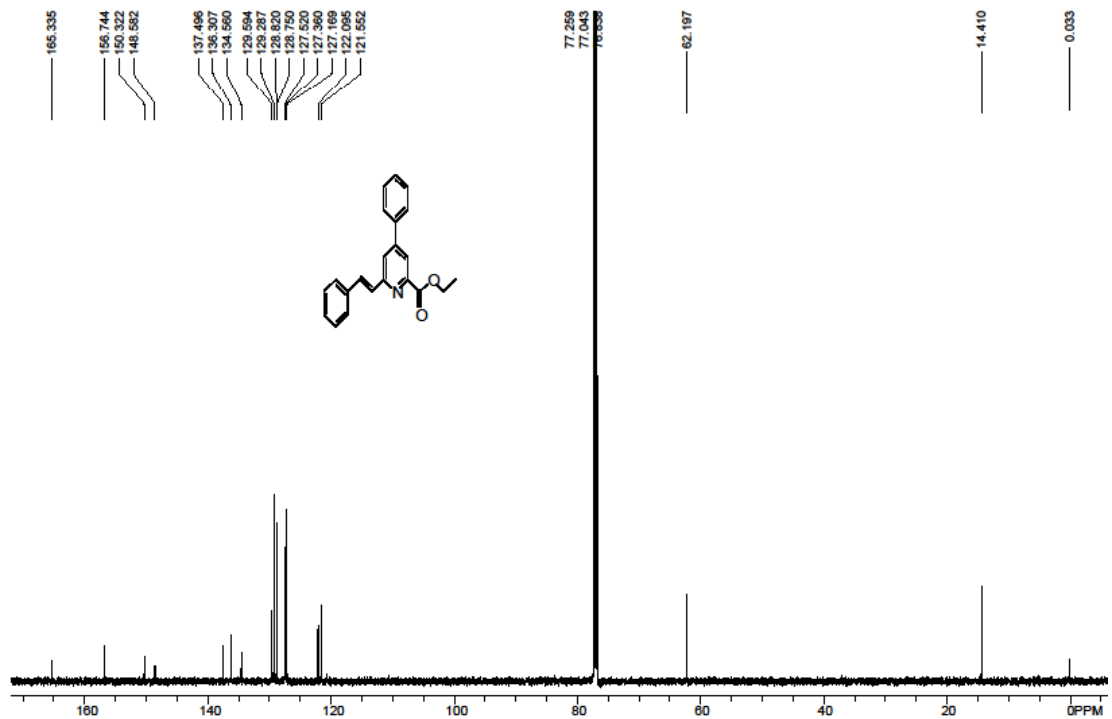
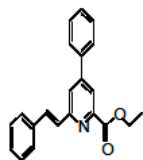
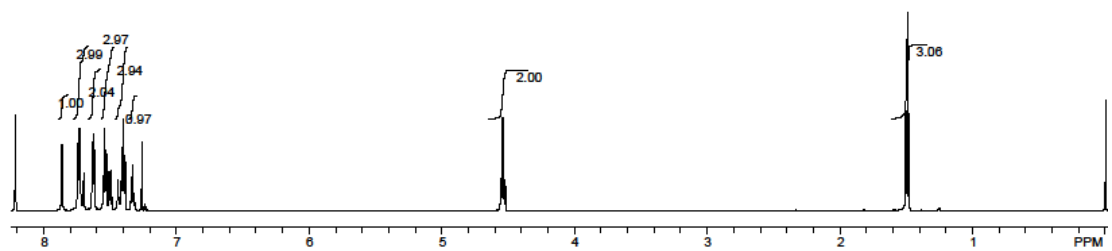
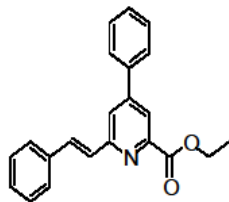
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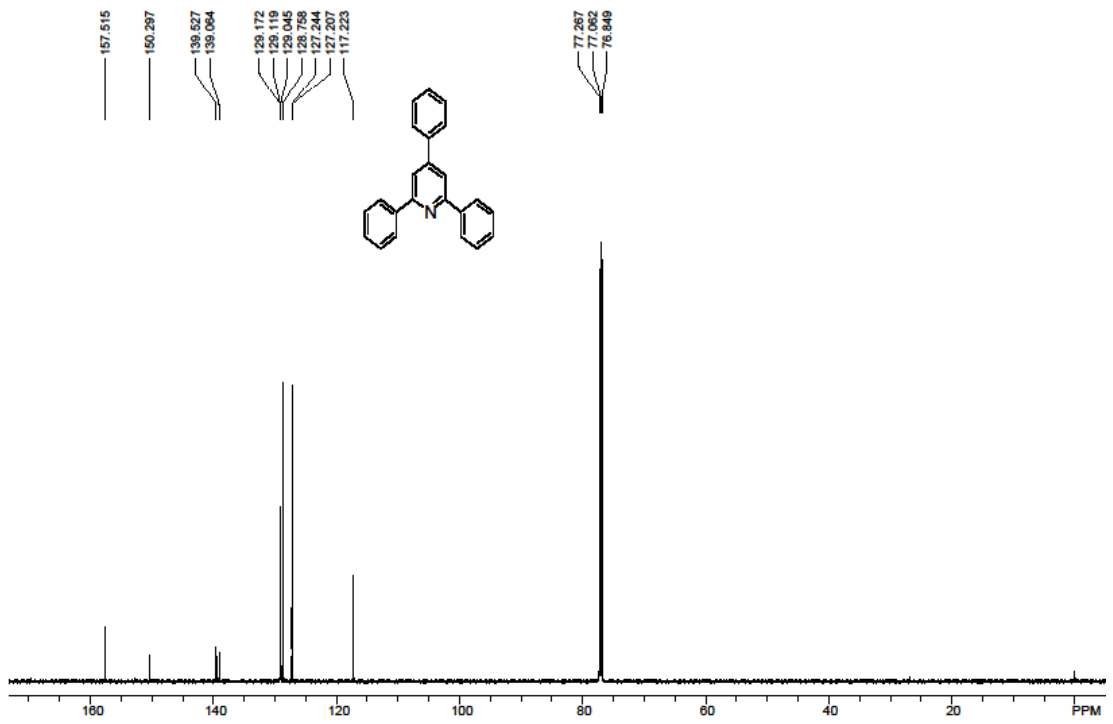
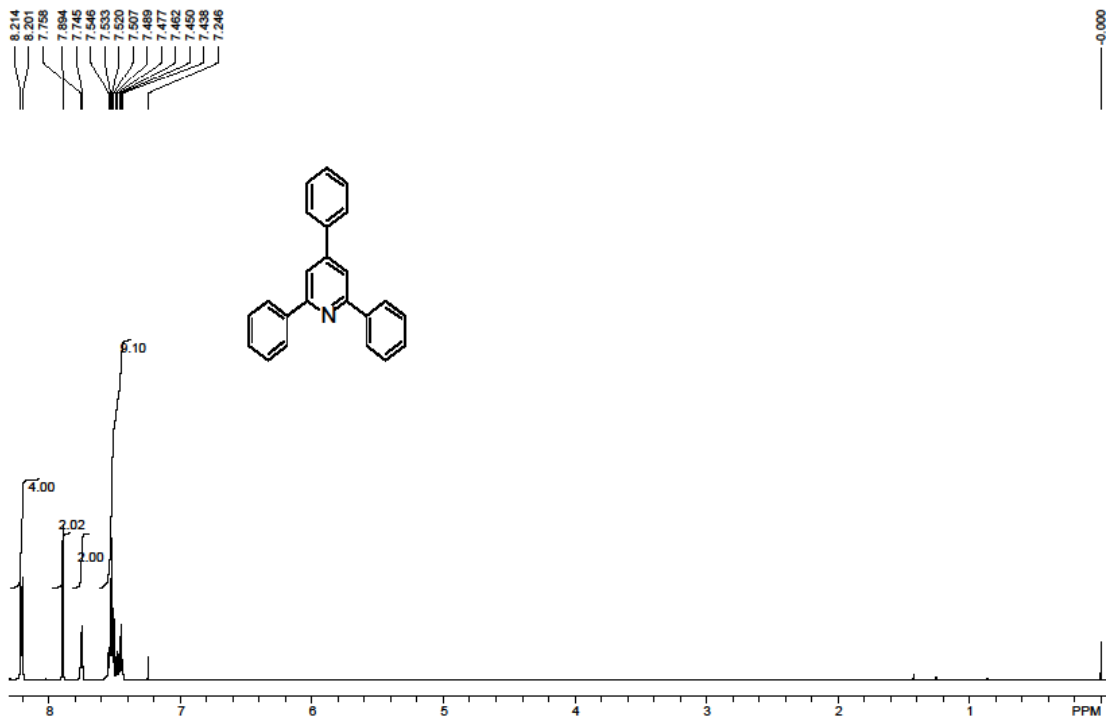
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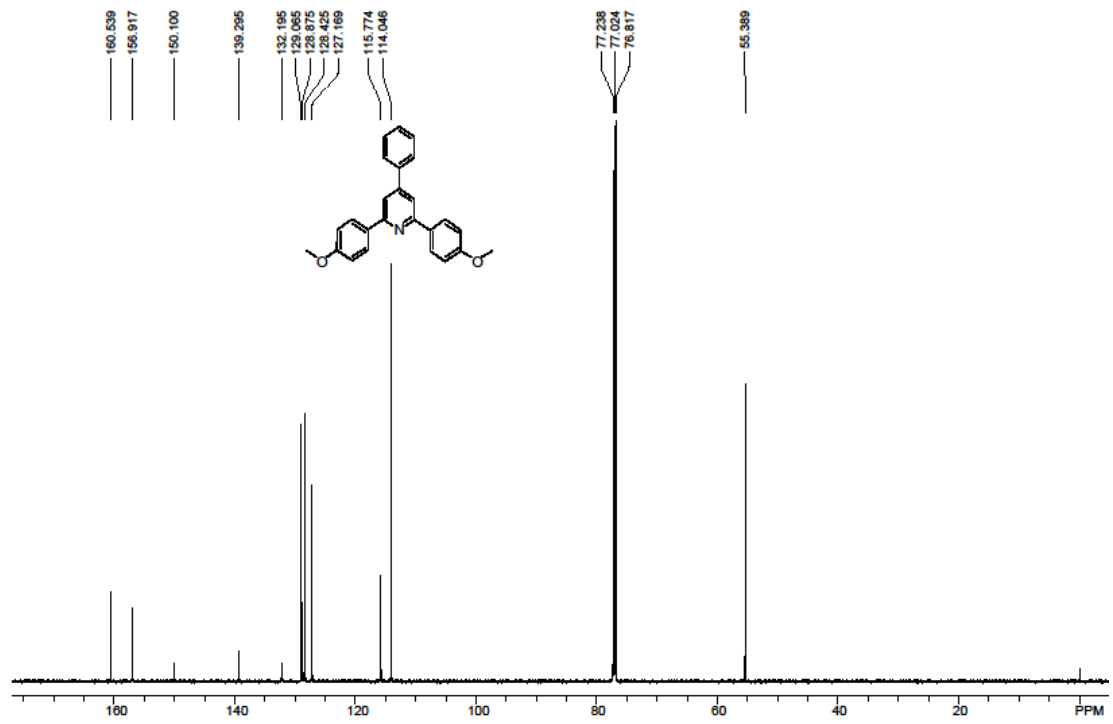
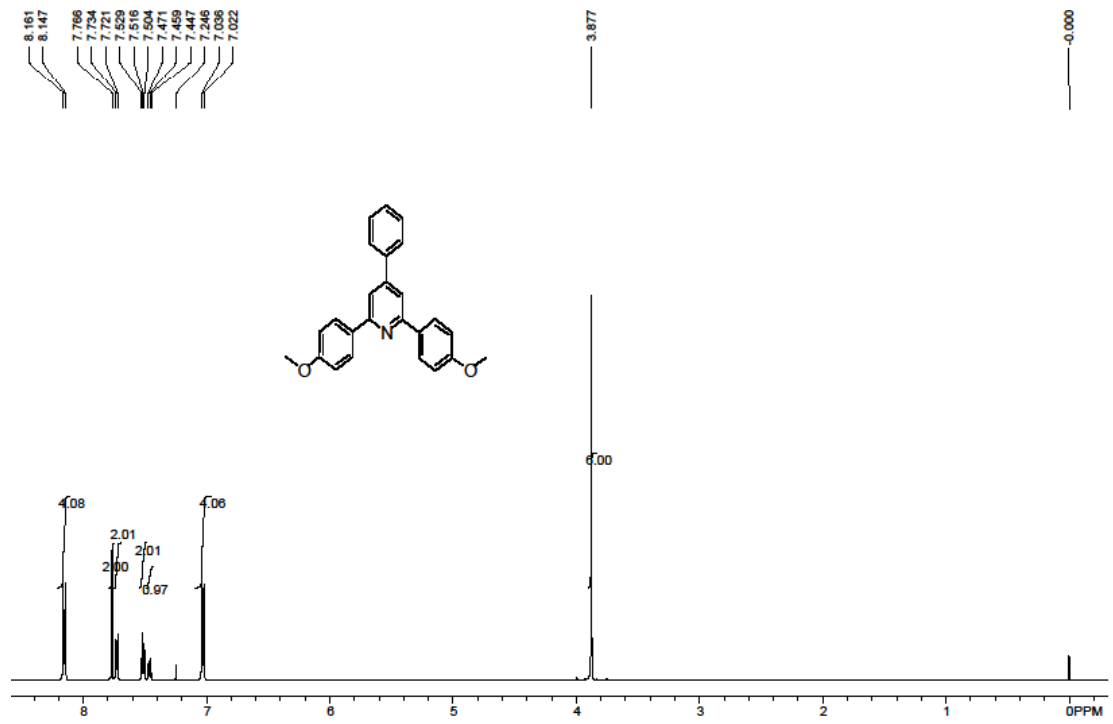
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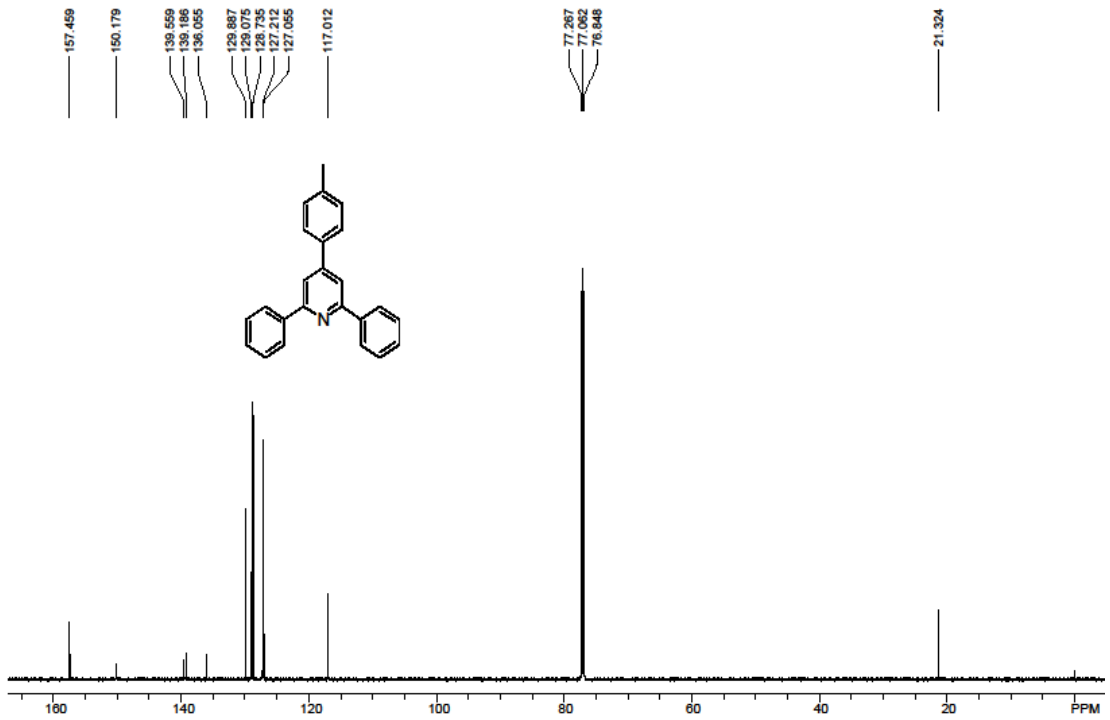
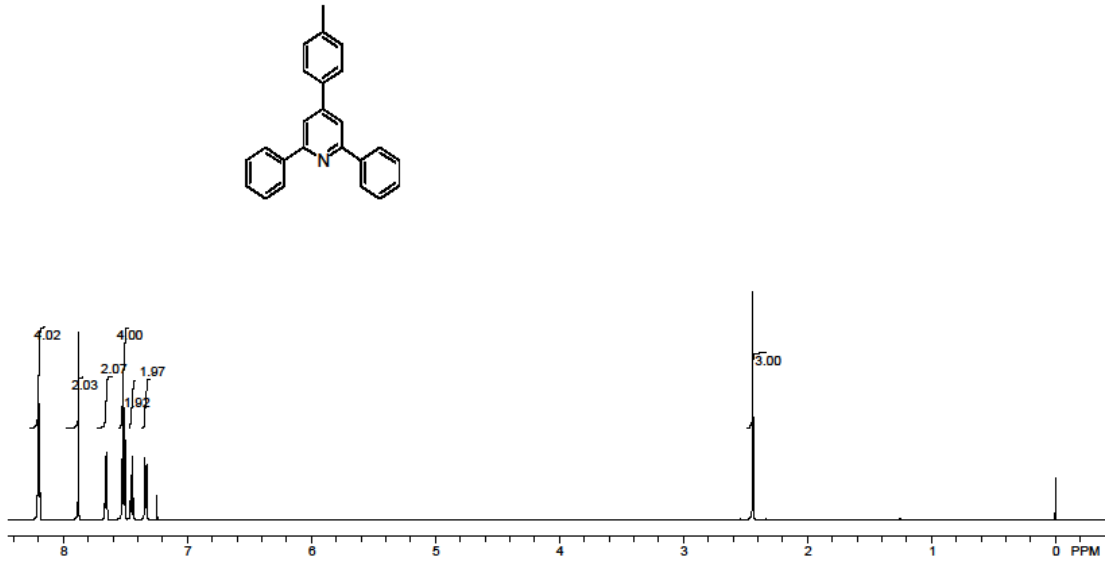
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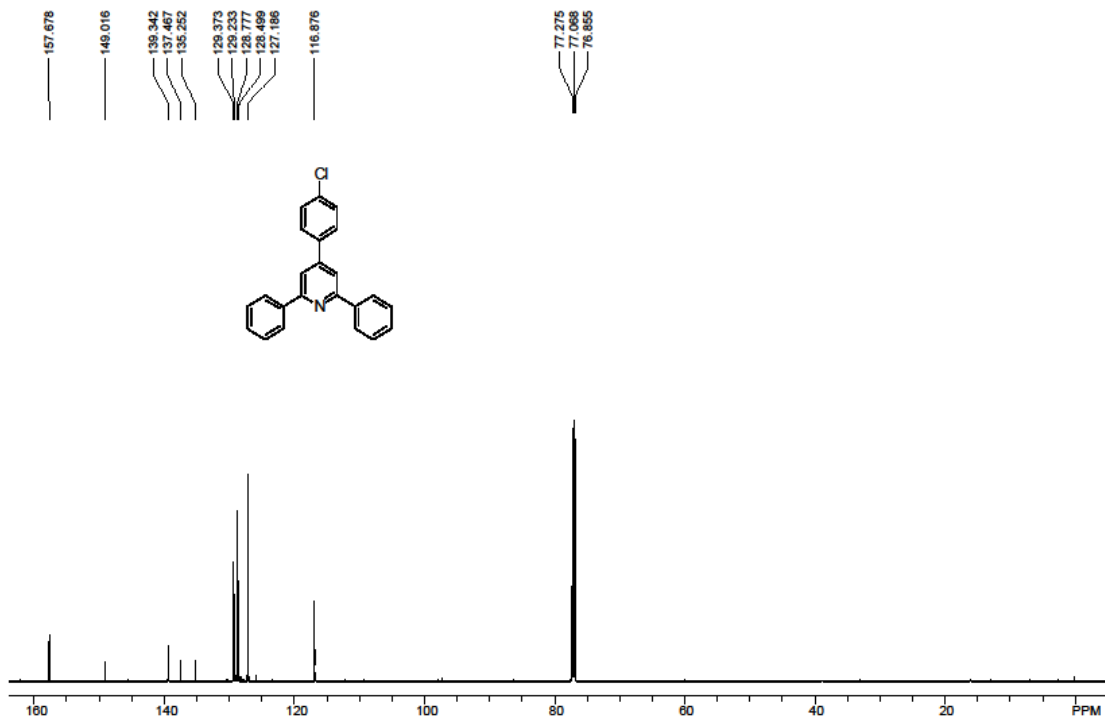
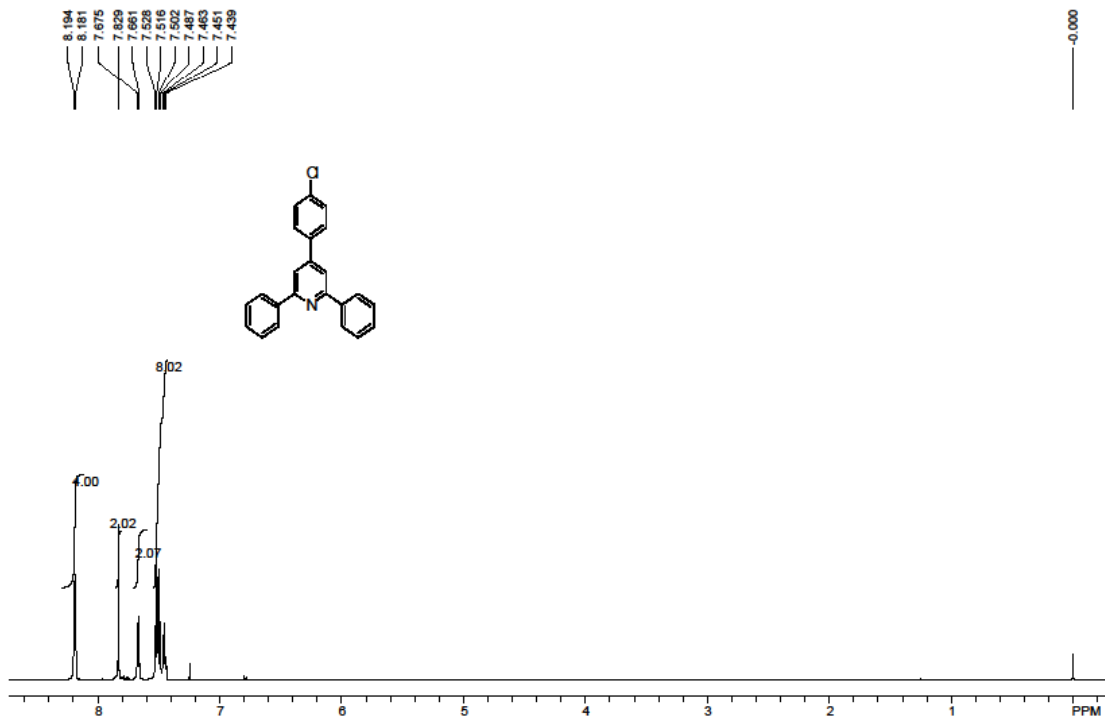




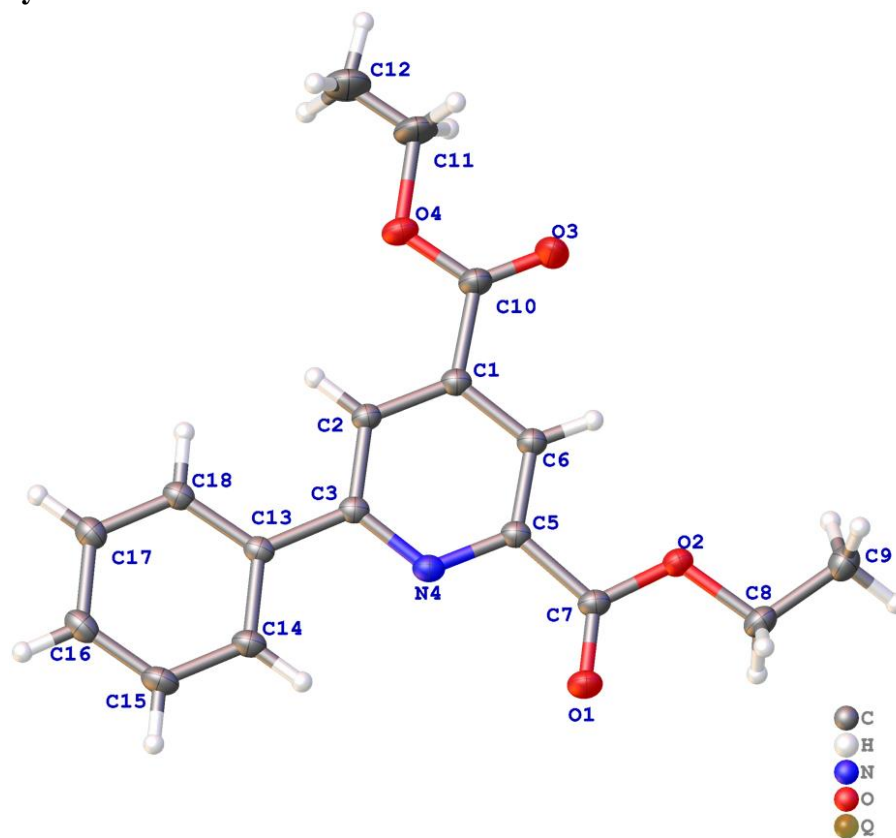








3a X-Ray:



3a X-Ray:

