

# ***N*-Heterocyclic Carbene-Promoted [3+2] Cycloaddition of Allenyl Sulfone and Arylidenemalononitriles**

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## **Supporting information**

### **Contents**

1. General.....	S2
2. Preparation of arylidenemalononitriles.....	S2
3. NHC-promoted [3+2] cyclization of allenyl sulfone and arylidenemalononitrile.....	S5
4. NMR spectra .....	S9
5. Single Crystal X-Ray Analysis of <b>4d</b> .....	S23

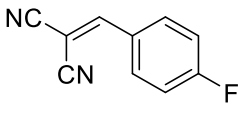
## 1. General

Dry solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on glass plates coated with 0.25 mm 230-400 mesh silica gel containing a fluorescent indicator (Merck, #1.05715.0009). Silica gel column chromatography was performed on Kanto silica gel 60 (spherical, 100-210  $\mu\text{m}$ ). IR spectra were recorded on JASCO FT/IR-4100 using ATR.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra were recorded on JEOL ECS-400 (400MHz) spectrometers. Chemical shifts of  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra were reported relative to tetramethyl silane ( $\delta$  0) or acetone- $d_6$  ( $\delta$  2.05).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectra were recorded on JEOL ECS-400 (100MHz) spectrometers. Chemical shifts of  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectra were reported relative to  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $\delta$  77.0) or acetone- $d_6$  ( $\delta$  29.84). Splitting patterns were reported as s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; m, multiplet.

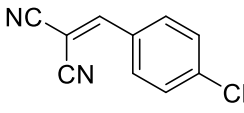
## 2. Preparation of arylidenemalononitriles

Arylidenemalononitriles **3b-n** were prepared through Knoevenagel condensation of the corresponding aldehydes with malononitrile and recrystallized from EtOH and hexane, according to the literature.<sup>1</sup>

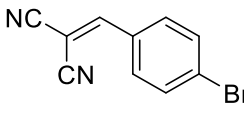
### 2-(4-Fluorobenzylidene)malononitrile (3b)

 Pale pink solids;  $R_f=0.50$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.98-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  160.1 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 264.1$  Hz), 158.3, 133.4 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 9.5$  Hz), 127.3, 117.1 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21.9$  Hz), 113.5, 112.5, 82.3; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_4\text{FN}_2$  [ $\text{M}-\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 171.0359, found:  $m/z$  171.0358; IR (neat) 2231, 1595, 1575, 1506, 1416, 1382, 1306, 1242, 1163  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

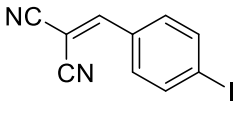
### 2-(4-Chlorobenzylidene)malononitrile (3c)

 White solids;  $R_f=0.53$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.86 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.3, 141.1, 131.8, 130.1, 129.2, 113.4, 112.3, 83.3; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_4\text{ClN}_2$  [ $\text{M}-\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 187.0063, found:  $m/z$  187.0065; IR (neat) 2227, 1587, 1276, 1103, 1088  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

### 2-(4-Bromobenzylidene)malononitrile (3d)

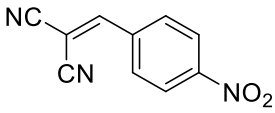
 White solids;  $R_f=0.53$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.78 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.4, 133.0, 131.8, 129.9, 129.6, 113.4, 112.3, 83.4; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_4\text{BrN}_2$  [ $\text{M}-\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 230.9558, found:  $m/z$  230.9565; IR (neat) 2229, 1578, 1276, 1259  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

### 2-(4-Iodobenzylidene)malononitrile (3e)

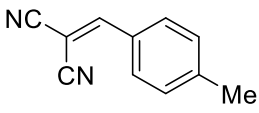
 White solids;  $R_f=0.53$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.91 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.7, 139.0, 131.4, 130.0, 113.4, 112.3, 102.8, 83.4; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_4\text{IN}_2$  [ $\text{M}-\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 278.9419, found:  $m/z$  278.9430; IR (neat) 2225, 1576, 1397, 1275  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

<sup>1</sup> J. S. Yadav, B.V.S. Reddy, A.K. Basak, B. Visali, A.V. Narsaiah, K. Nagaiah, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2004**, 546.

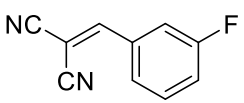
### 2-(4-Nitrobenzylidene)malononitrile (3f)

 Pale brown solids;  $R_f=0.47$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.41-8.38 (m, 2H), 8.10-8.06 (m, 2H), 7.88 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  156.9, 150.3, 135.8, 131.3, 124.6, 112.6, 111.6, 87.4; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_4\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ : 198.0304, found:  $m/z$  198.0305; IR (neat) 2230, 1579, 1521, 1343, 1213  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

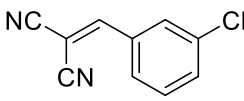
### 2-(4-Methylbenzylidene)malononitrile (3g)

 Gray solids;  $R_f=0.53$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.82 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.8, 146.4, 130.9, 130.3, 128.4, 114.0, 112.8, 81.1, 22.0; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_7\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ : 167.0609, found:  $m/z$  167.0609; IR (neat) 2224, 1605, 1587, 1509, 1412, 1375, 1302, 1221, 1191  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

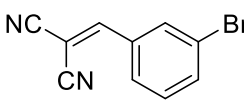
### 2-(3-Fluorobenzylidene)malononitrile (3h)

 White solids;  $R_f=0.50$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.76 (s, 1H), 7.69-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  162.7 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 253.7$  Hz), 158.3, 132.5 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 8.6$  Hz), 131.4 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 7.6$  Hz), 126.7, 121.6 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21.0$  Hz), 116.8 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 22.8$  Hz), 113.2, 112.0, 84.6; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_4\text{FN}_2$   $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ : 171.0359, found:  $m/z$  171.0358; IR (neat) 2229, 1597, 1576, 1492, 1432, 1301, 1276, 1263, 1156  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

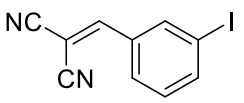
### 2-(3-Chlorobenzylidene)malononitrile (3i)

 White solids;  $R_f=0.53$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.85-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.62-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.2, 135.8, 134.3, 132.3, 130.9, 130.4, 128.3, 113.2, 112.0, 84.6; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_4\text{ClN}_2$   $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ : 187.0063, found:  $m/z$  187.0066; IR (neat) 2230, 1591, 1559, 1478, 1417, 1366, 1293, 1266, 1215, 1098, 1080  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

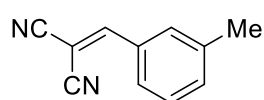
### 2-(3-Bromobenzylidene)malononitrile (3j)

 Pale gray solids;  $R_f=0.50$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.93-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.75 (m, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.1, 137.2, 133.4, 132.5, 131.1, 128.6, 123.6, 113.1, 112.0, 84.6; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_4\text{BrN}_2$   $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ : 230.9558, found:  $m/z$  230.9564; IR (neat) 2229, 1557, 1476, 1415, 1293, 1267, 1212  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

### 2-(3-Iodobenzylidene)malononitrile (3k)

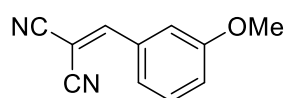
 Pale yellow solids;  $R_f=0.56$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.14-8.13 (m, 1H), 7.97-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.0, 143.1, 139.4, 132.6, 131.0, 129.0, 113.2, 112.0, 94.8, 84.3; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_4\text{IN}_2$   $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ : 278.9419, found:  $m/z$  278.9430; IR (neat) 2226, 1591, 1411, 1214  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

### 2-(3-Methylbenzylidene)malononitrile (3l)



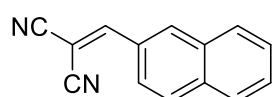
White solids;  $R_f=0.56$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.74-7.70 (m, 3H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  160.1, 139.6, 135.5, 131.2, 130.9, 129.5, 127.9, 113.8, 112.6, 82.4, 21.2; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_7\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ : 167.0609, found:  $m/z$  167.0609; IR (neat) 2226, 1574, 1303, 1267, 1251, 1180  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

### 2-(3-Methoxybenzylidene)malononitrile (3m)



Pale yellow solids;  $R_f=0.50$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.75 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  160.0, 159.9, 132.0, 130.5, 123.9, 121.3, 114.0, 113.6, 112.6, 82.8, 55.5; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_7\text{N}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ : 183.0558, found:  $m/z$  183.0560; IR (neat) 2229, 1595, 1496, 1466, 1270, 1248, 1163  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

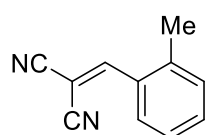
### 2-(Naphthalen-2-ylmethylene)malononitrile (3n)



Yellow solids;  $R_f=0.54$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.28 (s, 1H), 8.07 (dd,  $J = 1.6, 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.98-7.91 (m, 3H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.71-7.59 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.6, 135.7, 134.4, 132.4, 129.9, 129.56, 129.52, 128.4, 127.9,

127.6, 124.0, 113.9, 112.8, 82.0; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_7\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ : 203.0609, found:  $m/z$  203.0612; IR (neat) 2224, 1583, 1269, 1245  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

### 2-(2-Methylbenzylidene)malononitrile (3o)



White solids;  $R_f=0.64$  (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.11-8.08 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.1, 139.7, 134.1, 131.4, 129.8, 128.2, 127.0, 113.8, 112.4, 83.9; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_7\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ : 167.0609, found:  $m/z$  167.0609; IR (neat) 2226, 1578, 1482, 1372, 1304, 1269, 1231  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

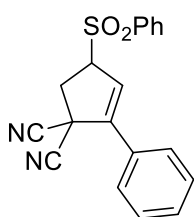
### 3. NHC-promoted [3+2] cyclization of allenyl sulfone and aryldenemalononitrile

#### a. General procedure for NHC-promoted [3+2] cyclization of allenyl sulfone and aryldenemalononitriles

A 10 mL flame-dried test tube with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with **1a** (1.2 mg, 0.003 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mg, 0.003 mmol), allenyl sulfone **2a** (18 mg, 0.1 mmol), and aryldenemalononitrile **3** (0.12 mmol). The test tube was filled with argon by the evacuation–refill process. After addition of THF (0.5 mL), the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature until TLC monitoring showed that **2a** was completely consumed. After evaporation of THF *in vacuo*, the residue was purified by silica-gel column chromatography to give product **4**.

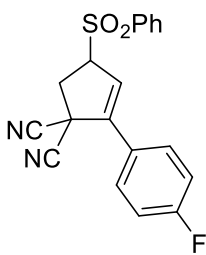
#### b. Analytical data for product **4**

##### 2-Phenyl-4-(phenylsulfonyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (**4a**)



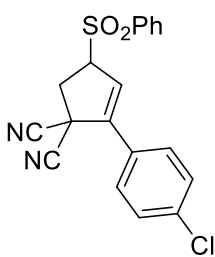
According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 24 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1 to 2:1) gave the product as pale green oil (31 mg, 92% yield). *R*<sub>f</sub>=0.30 (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.95-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.76 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.59 (m, 4H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 3H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (ddd, *J* = 2.8, 5.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 15.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 142.8, 135.9, 135.0, 130.7, 129.8, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 126.7, 125.9, 114.5, 113.4, 69.7, 40.0, 38.2; HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 352.1120, found: *m/z* 352.1118; IR (neat) 2241, 1585, 1497, 1448, 1308, 1224, 1142, 1089 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

##### 2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (**4b**)



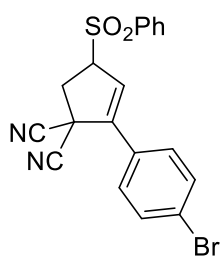
According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 30 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1 to 3:1) gave the product as pale green oil (30 mg, 84% yield). *R*<sub>f</sub>=0.30 (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.95-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.76 (tt, *J* = 1.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.59 (m, 4H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.38 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (ddd, *J* = 2.4, 5.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 15.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 163.9 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 256.5 Hz), 141.9, 135.9, 135.0, 129.9, 128.93, 128.86 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 6.7 Hz), 125.9, 125.5, 116.6 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 22.9 Hz), 114.3, 113.3, 69.7, 40.2, 38.3; HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 370.1026, found: *m/z* 370.1028; IR (neat) 2283, 1604, 1512, 1447, 1321, 1239, 1150, 1085 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

##### 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (**4c**)



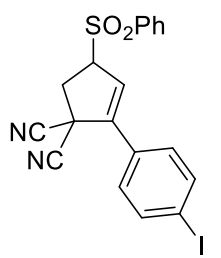
According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 24 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1 to 3:1) gave the product as pale green oil (34 mg, 92% yield). *R*<sub>f</sub>=0.33 (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.95-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.76 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.44 (m, 2H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (ddd, *J* = 2.8, 5.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 15.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.7, 136.9, 135.8, 135.0, 129.9, 129.6, 128.9, 128.0, 127.6, 126.6, 114.2, 113.2, 69.7, 40.0, 38.2; HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 386.0730, found: *m/z* 386.0736; IR (neat) 2262, 1494, 1448, 1405, 1311, 1266, 1219, 1154, 1096 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

#### 2-(4-Bromophenyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (**4d**)



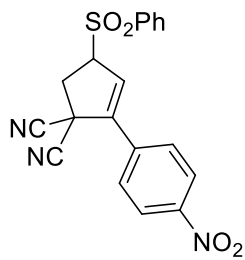
According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 8 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1 to 3:1) gave the product as pale green solids (38 mg, 92% yield).  $R_f=0.33$  (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.95-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.77 (tt,  $J = 7.6, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 2H), 6.44 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.66 (ddd,  $J = 2.8, 5.6, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd,  $J = 5.6, 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 15.6$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  141.8, 135.8, 135.0, 132.5, 129.9, 128.9, 128.1, 128.0, 126.7, 125.2, 114.2, 113.2, 69.7, 39.9, 38.2; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrN}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$ : 430.0225, found:  $m/z$  430.0226; IR (neat) 2233, 1492, 1447, 1322, 1276, 1266, 1152, 1085  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Single crystals were obtained by recrystallization from acetone and hexane.

#### 2-(4-Iodophenyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (**4e**)



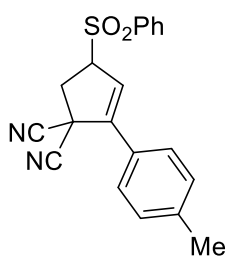
According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 48 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1 to 2:1) gave the product as gray solids (25 mg, 54% yield).  $R_f=0.33$  (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.93 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.76 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.47 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.64 (ddd,  $J = 2.4, 5.6, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.25 (dd,  $J = 5.6, 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 15.6$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  142.0, 138.5, 135.8, 135.1, 129.9, 128.9, 128.6, 128.1, 126.7, 114.2, 113.2, 97.3, 69.7, 39.9, 38.2; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$ : 478.0086, found:  $m/z$  478.0081; IR (neat) 2256, 1583, 1488, 1447, 1397, 1309, 1155, 1085, 1005  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

#### 2-(4-Nitrophenyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (**4f**)



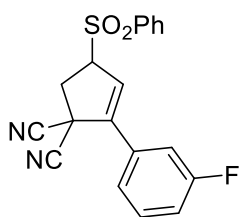
A 10 mL flame-dried test tube with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with **1a** (1.2 mg, 0.003 mmol),  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (1.0 mg, 0.003 mmol), allenyl sulfone **2a** (18 mg, 0.1 mmol), and **3f** (24 mg, 0.12 mmol). The test tube was filled with argon by the evacuation–refill process. After addition of THF (0.5 mL), the mixture was stirred at ambient for 12 h. To the suspension, additional **1a** (1.2 mg, 0.003 mmol) and  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (1.0 mg, 0.003 mmol) were added and the mixture was stirred for 5 h. After evaporation of THF *in vacuo*, the residue was purified by silica-gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1 to 1:2) to give product **4f** as white solids (20 mg, 53% yield).  $R_f=0.24$  (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.36-8.33 (m, 2H), 7.97-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.82-7.77 (m, 3H), 7.70-7.66 (m, 2H), 6.64 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.71 (ddd,  $J = 2.8, 5.6, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.32 (dd,  $J = 5.6, 15.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.21 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 15.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.6, 140.9, 135.9, 135.2, 135.1, 130.4, 130.0, 128.8, 127.8, 124.5, 113.9, 112.9, 69.7, 40.1, 38.2; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4\text{S}$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$ : 397.0971, found:  $m/z$  397.0968; IR (neat) 2249, 1598, 1516, 1447, 1352, 1155, 1084  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

#### 4-(Phenylsulfonyl)-2-(*p*-tolyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (4g)



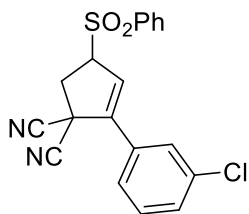
According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 20 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1 to 2:1) gave the product as pale yellow oil (31 mg, 88% yield).  $R_f=0.39$  (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.94-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.75 (tt,  $J = 1.6, 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.39 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.66 (ddd,  $J = 2.4, 5.6, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.24 (dd,  $J = 5.2, 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 15.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  142.8, 141.1, 135.8, 134.9, 129.9, 129.8, 128.9, 126.6, 126.3, 124.7, 114.6, 113.5, 69.7, 39.9, 38.2, 21.3; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$ : 366.1276, found:  $m/z$  366.1275; IR (neat) 2260, 1509, 1447, 1309, 1152, 1085  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

#### 2-(3-Fluorophenyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (4h)



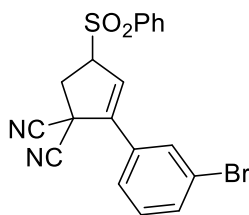
According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 31 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1) gave the product as pale green oil (30 mg, 85% yield).  $R_f=0.33$  (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.97-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.77 (tt,  $J = 1.2, 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.16 (m, 2H), 6.45 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.67 (ddd,  $J = 2.8, 5.6, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd,  $J = 5.6, 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.19 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 15.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  162.8 (d,  $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 252.8$  Hz), 141.7, 135.8, 135.0, 131.2 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 7.6$  Hz), 131.1 (d,  $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 8.6$  Hz), 129.9, 128.9, 127.6, 122.5, 117.8 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 22.0$  Hz), 114.2, 113.9 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 23.8$  Hz), 113.2, 69.6, 40.1, 38.2; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$ : 370.1026, found:  $m/z$  370.1021; IR (neat) 2225, 1446, 1322, 1266, 1153, 1085  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

#### 2-(3-Chlorophenyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (4i)



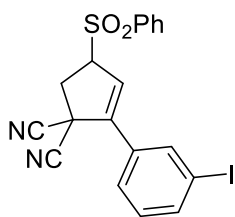
According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 20 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1 to 3:1) gave the product as pale green oil (31 mg, 84% yield).  $R_f=0.33$  (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.95-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.78 (tt,  $J = 1.2, 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.40 (m, 4H), 6.45 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.67 (ddd,  $J = 2.4, 5.2, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd,  $J = 5.2, 15.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.19 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 15.6$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  141.6, 135.9, 135.3, 135.1, 130.9, 130.8, 130.6, 129.9, 128.9, 127.7, 126.9, 124.7, 114.2, 113.2, 69.6, 40.0, 38.2; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$ : 386.0730, found:  $m/z$  386.0732; IR (neat) 2278, 1567, 1447, 1321, 1268, 1085  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

#### 2-(3-Bromophenyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (4j)



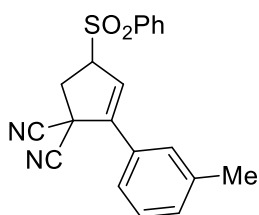
According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 20 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1 to 3:1) gave the product as pale green oil (36 mg, 87% yield).  $R_f=0.32$  (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.94 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.77 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.55 (m, 5H), 7.36 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.67 (ddd,  $J = 2.4, 5.6, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd,  $J = 5.2, 15.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.19 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 15.6$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  141.5, 135.9, 135.1, 133.7, 131.2, 130.8, 129.9, 129.8, 128.9, 127.7, 125.1, 123.3, 114.1, 113.1, 69.6, 40.0, 38.2; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrN}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$ : 430.0225, found:  $m/z$  430.0223; IR (neat) 2229, 1560, 1447, 1322, 1085  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

#### 2-(3-Iodophenyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (4k)



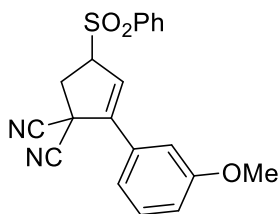
According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 46 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1 to 2:1) gave the product as pale yellow oil (42 mg, 91% yield).  $R_f=0.32$  (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.95-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.89-7.87 (m, 1H), 7.82-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.68-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.36 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.66 (ddd,  $J = 2.8, 5.2, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd,  $J = 5.6, 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 15.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  141.4, 139.6, 135.9, 135.7, 135.1, 131.2, 130.8, 129.9, 128.9, 127.5, 125.6, 114.1, 113.1, 94.9, 69.6, 40.0, 38.3; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{NH}_4$ ] $^+$ : 478.0086, found:  $m/z$  478.0087; IR (neat) 2249, 1554, 1447, 1309, 1151, 1082  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

#### 4-(Phenylsulfonyl)-2-(*m*-tolyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (4l)



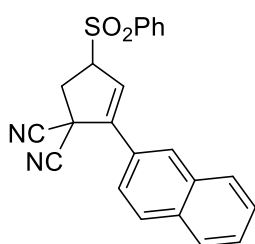
According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 19 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1 to 1:1) gave the product as pale green oil (31 mg, 88% yield).  $R_f=0.32$  (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.95-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.75 (tt,  $J = 1.2, 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.25 (m, 4H), 6.41 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.66 (ddd,  $J = 2.4, 5.6, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.24 (dd,  $J = 5.6, 15.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  143.0, 139.1, 135.9, 134.9, 131.5, 129.8, 129.10, 129.08, 128.9, 127.3, 125.6, 123.8, 114.5, 113.5, 69.7, 40.0, 38.3, 21.4; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{NH}_4$ ] $^+$ : 366.1276, found:  $m/z$  366.1272; IR (neat) 2283, 1585, 1448, 1322, 1267, 1153, 1086  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

#### 2-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (4m)



According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 19 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 3:1) gave the product as pale yellow oil (35 mg, 95% yield).  $R_f=0.26$  (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.95-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.75 (tt,  $J = 1.2, 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.08 (m, 1H), 7.02-6.99 (m, 1H), 6.42 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.66 (ddd,  $J = 2.4, 5.6, 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.25 (dd,  $J = 5.6, 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 15.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.9, 142.7, 135.8, 135.0, 130.4, 130.3, 129.8, 128.9, 126.3, 119.0, 116.2, 114.5, 113.4, 112.3, 69.6, 55.3, 40.1, 38.2; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{NH}_4$ ] $^+$ : 382.1225, found:  $m/z$  382.1223; IR (neat) 2256, 1601, 1580, 1491, 1447, 1319, 1217, 1151, 1085, 1038  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

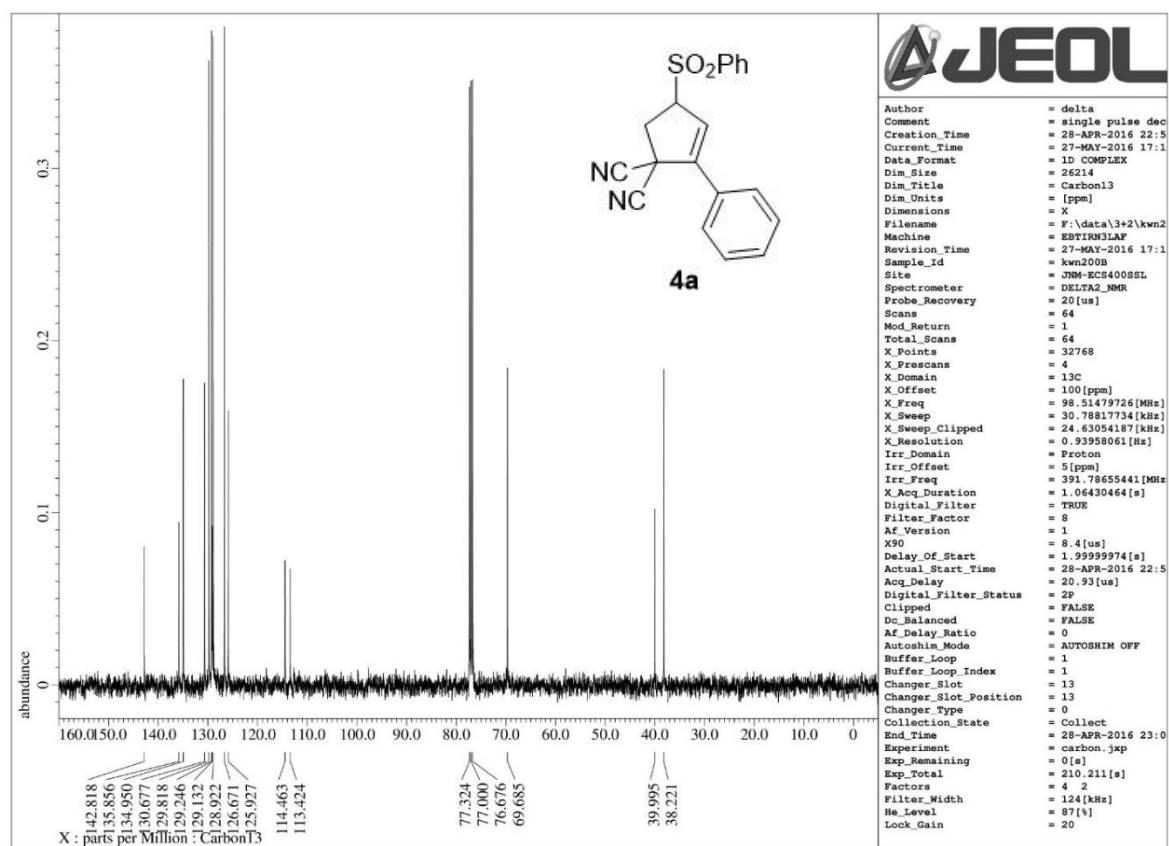
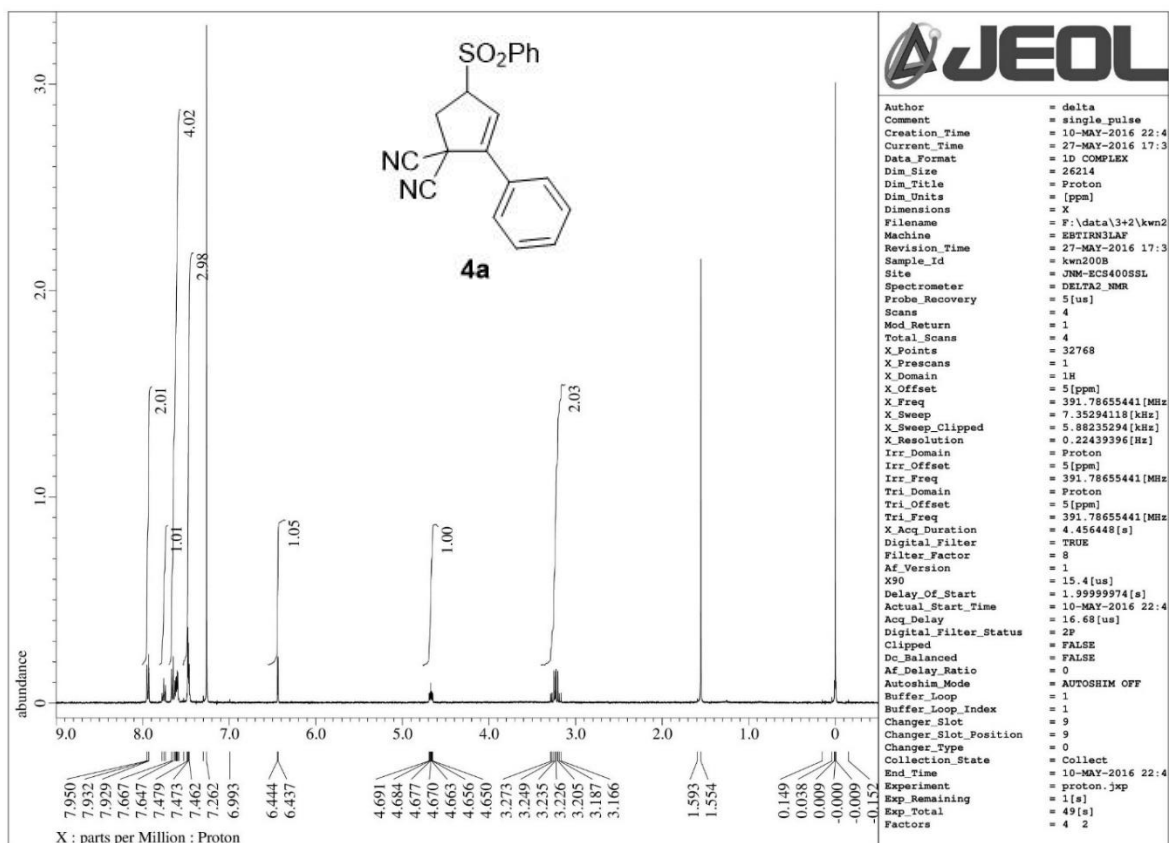
#### 2-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)cyclopent-2-ene-1,1-dicarbonitrile (4n)

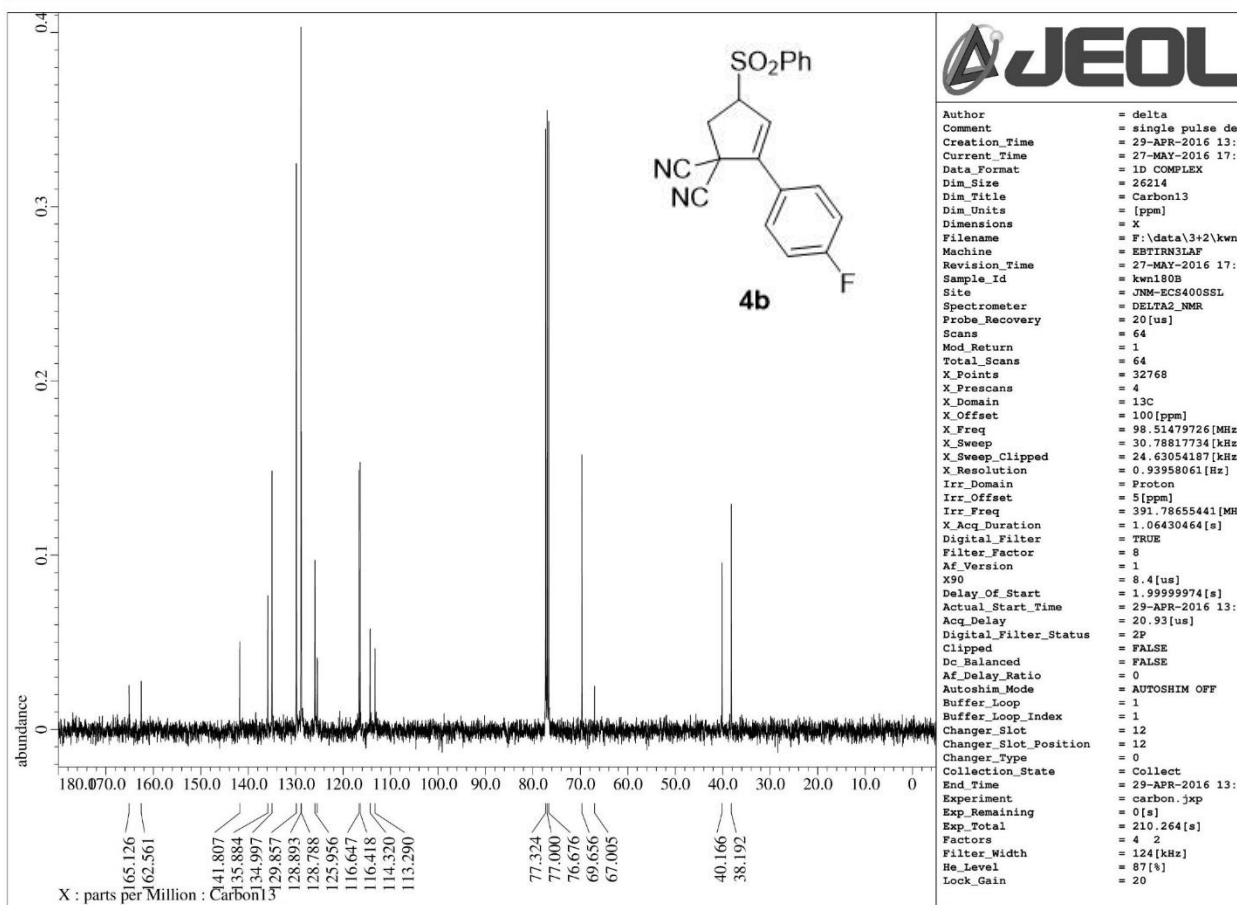
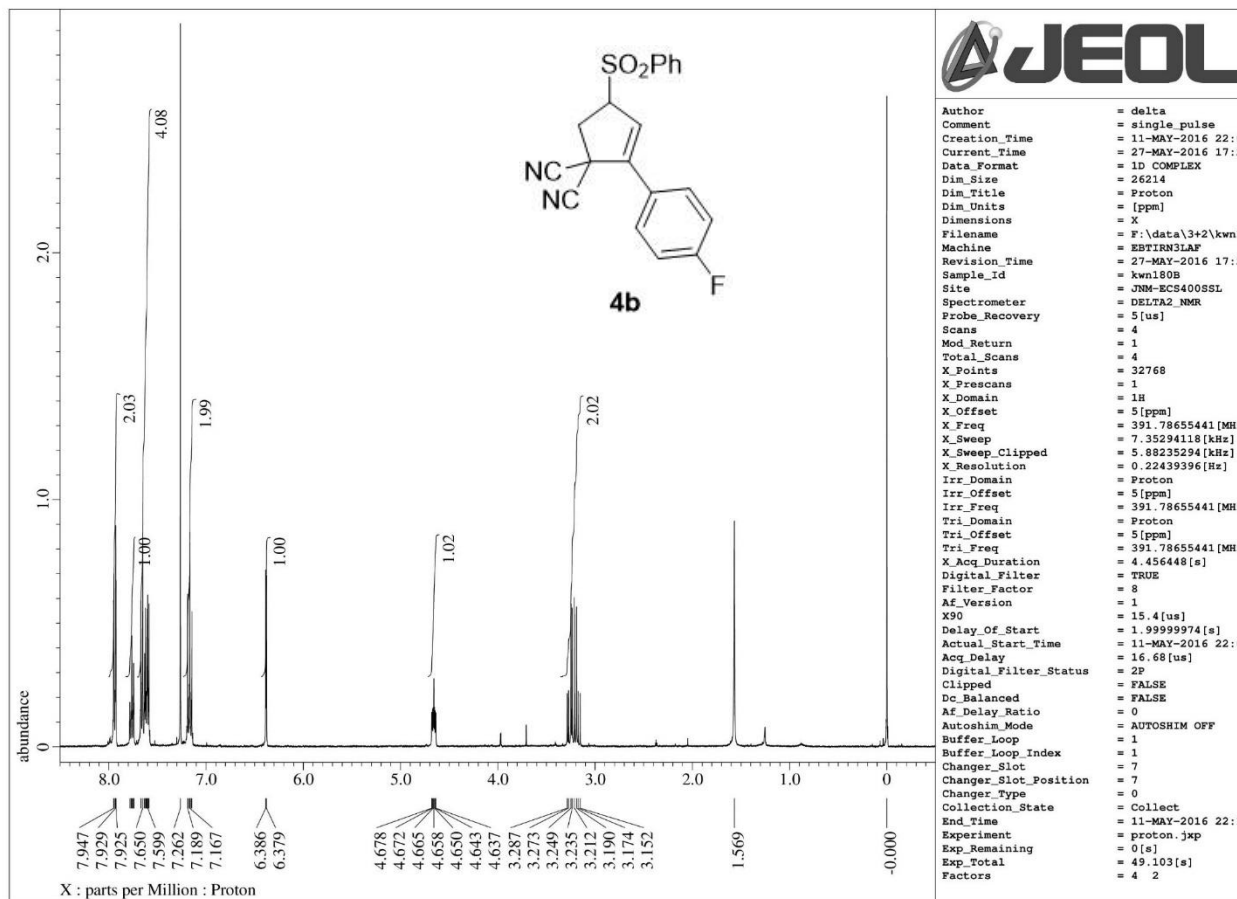


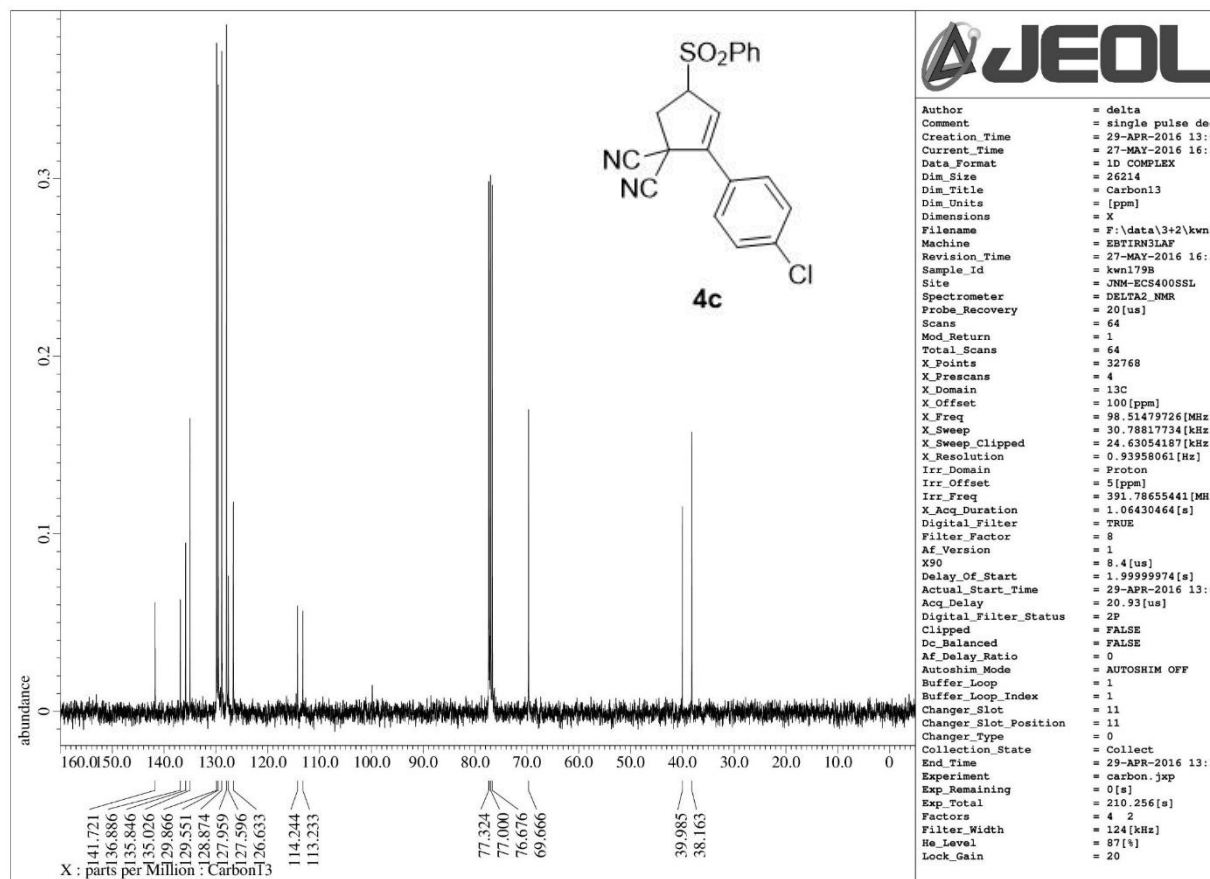
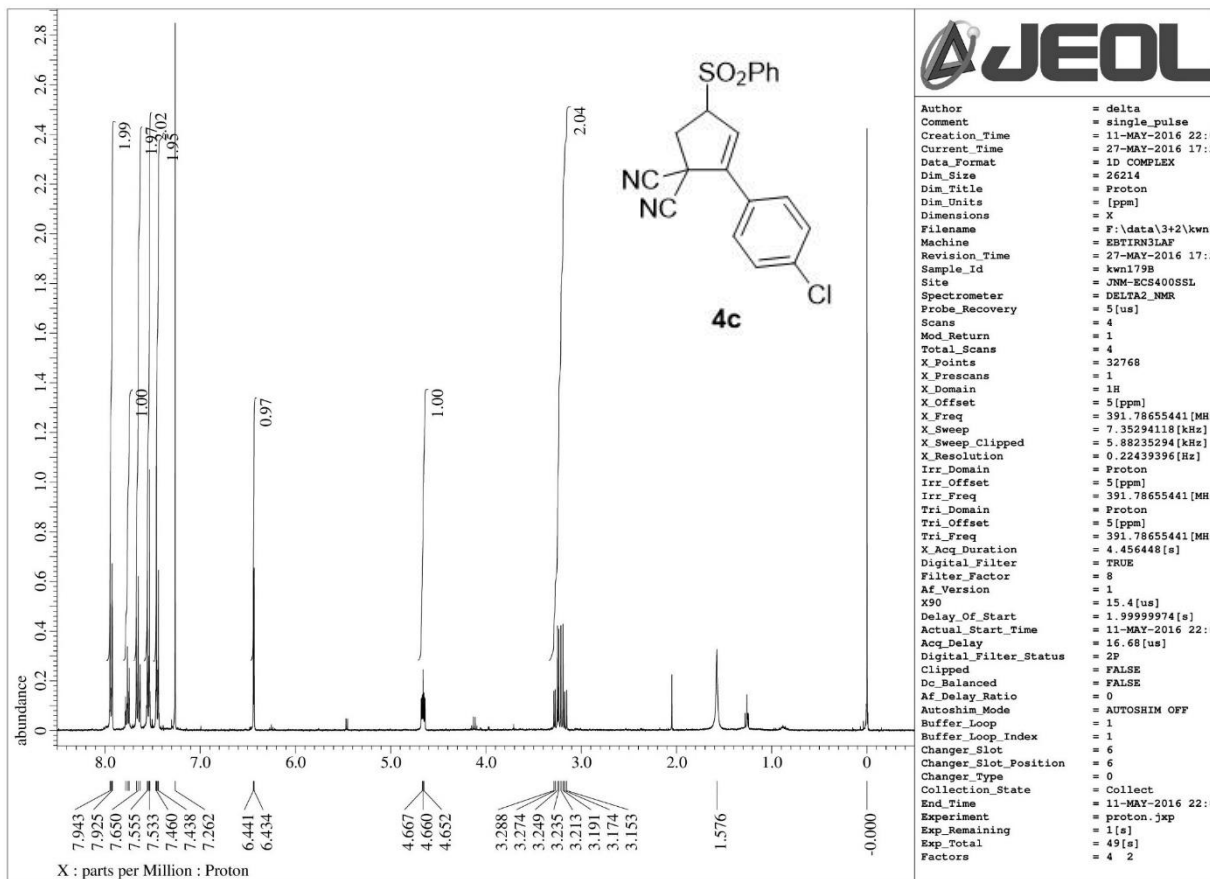
According to the General Procedure, the title compound was obtained after 45 h. Silica gel column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 4:1 to 1:3) gave the product as pale yellow solids (28 mg, 73% yield).  $R_f=0.29$  (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1);  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz, acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.29 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.06-7.90 (m, 6H), 7.83 (tt,  $J = 1.6, 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.73 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.65-7.60 (m, 2H), 6.91 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 5.15 (ddd,  $J = 2.8, 4.4, 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.57 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.43 (dd,  $J = 4.4, 15.6$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz, acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  142.8, 138.1, 135.7, 134.9, 134.0, 130.8, 130.2, 130.1, 129.7, 129.3, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 127.4, 124.9, 116.3, 115.5, 71.0, 41.2, 39.1; HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{NH}_4$ ] $^+$ : 402.1276, found:  $m/z$  402.1273; IR (neat) 2229, 1315, 1146  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

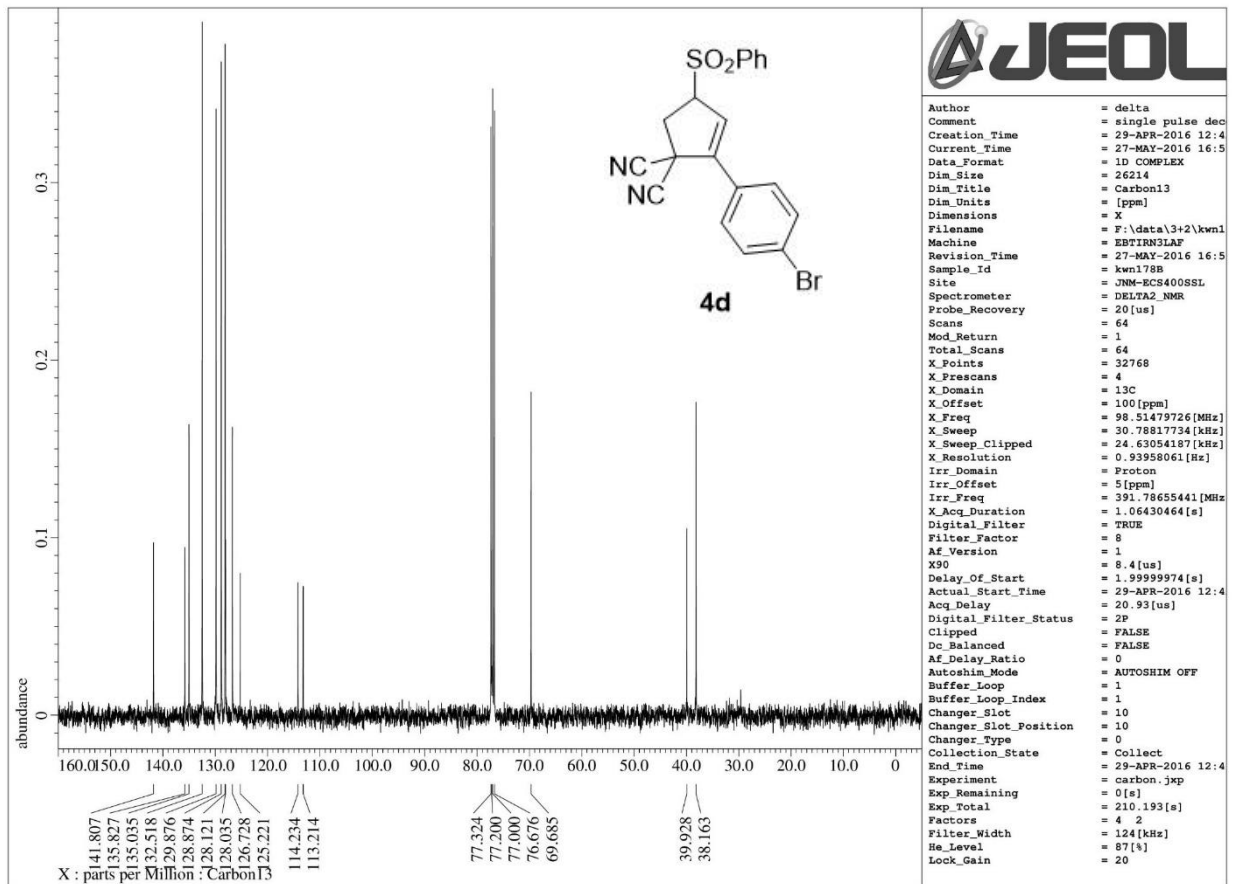
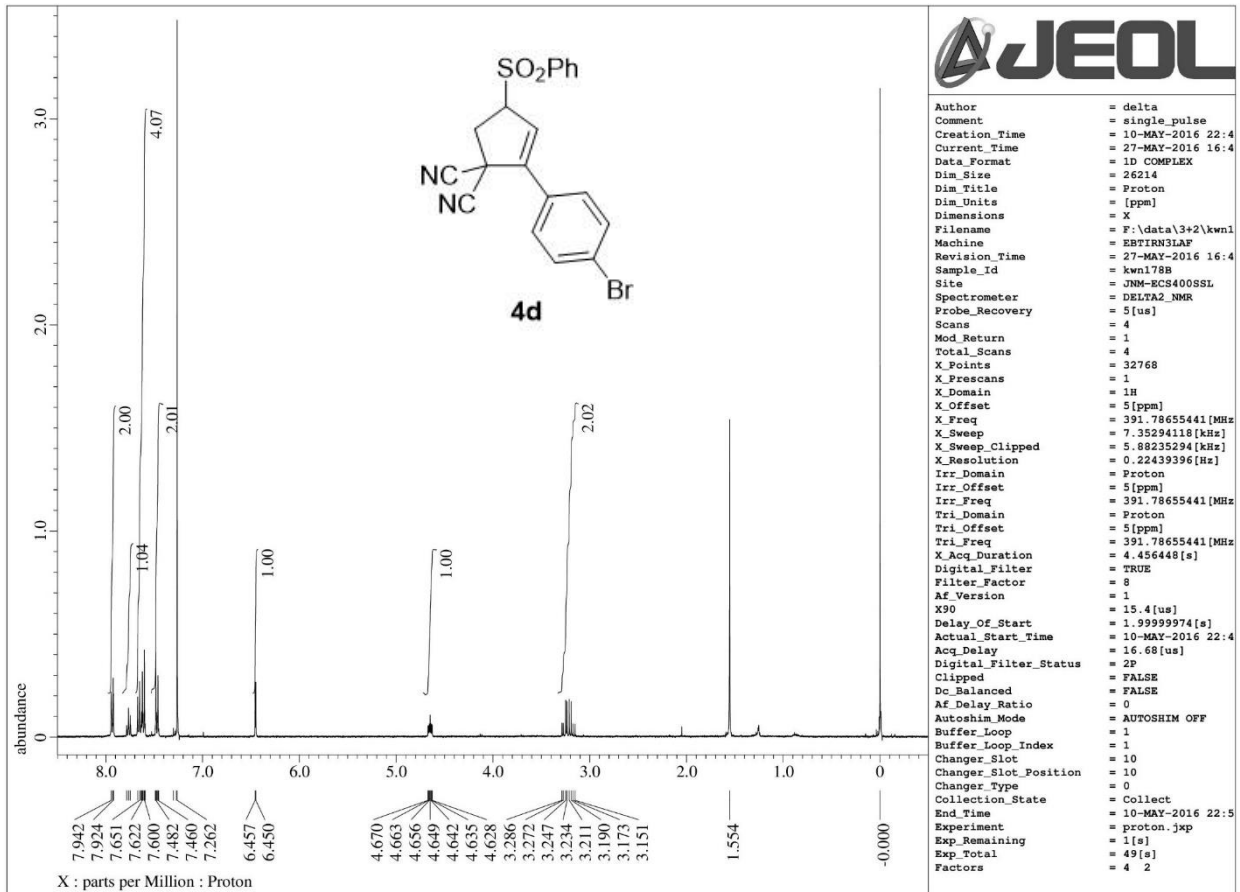


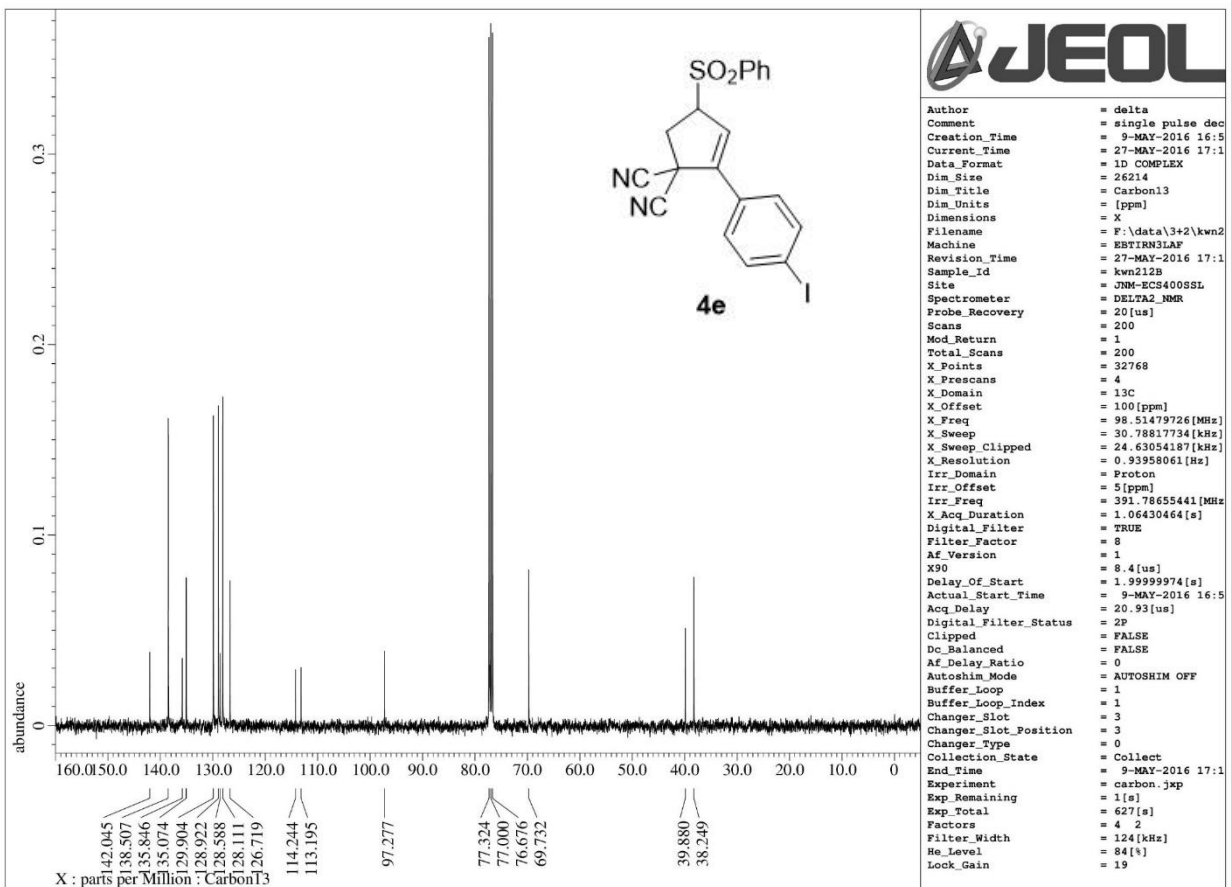
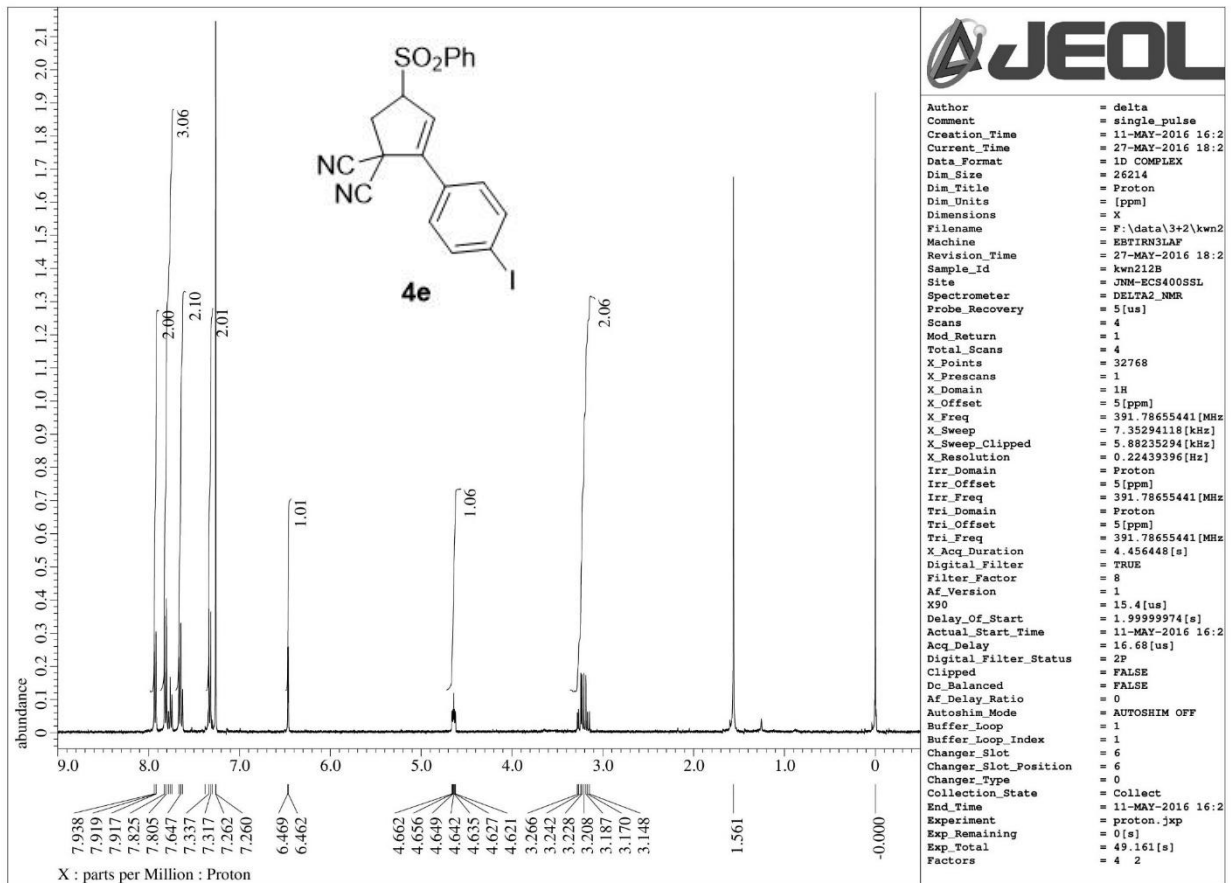
## 4. NMR spectra

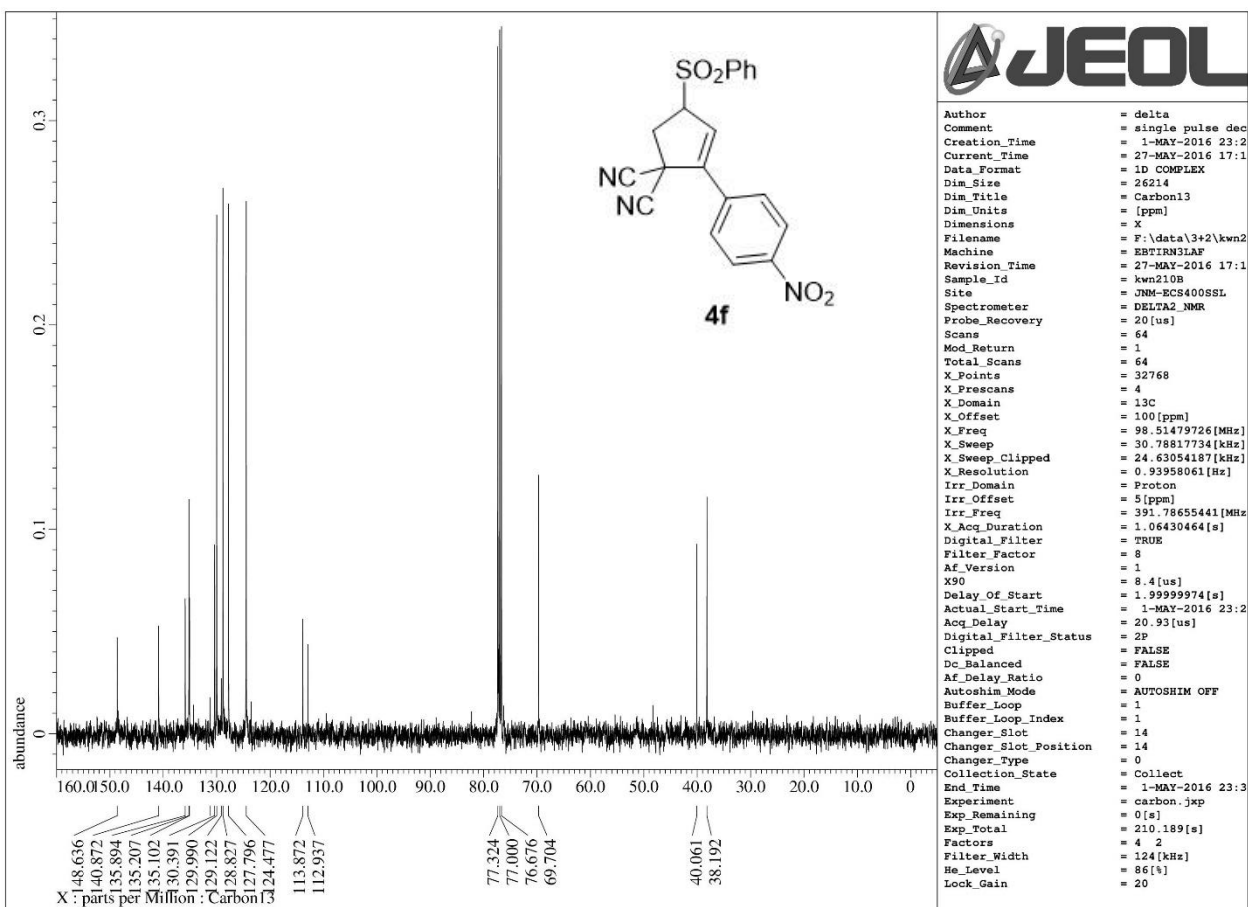
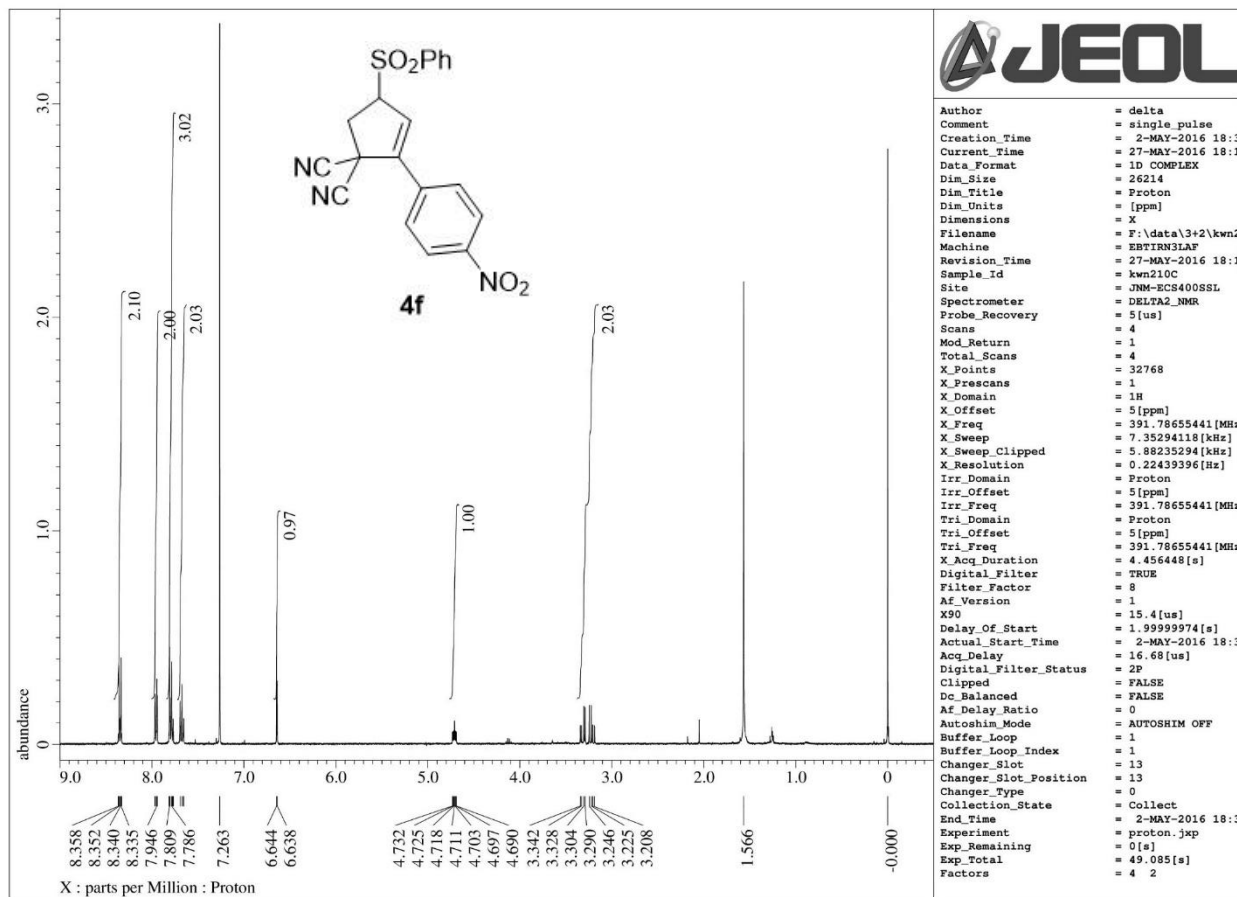


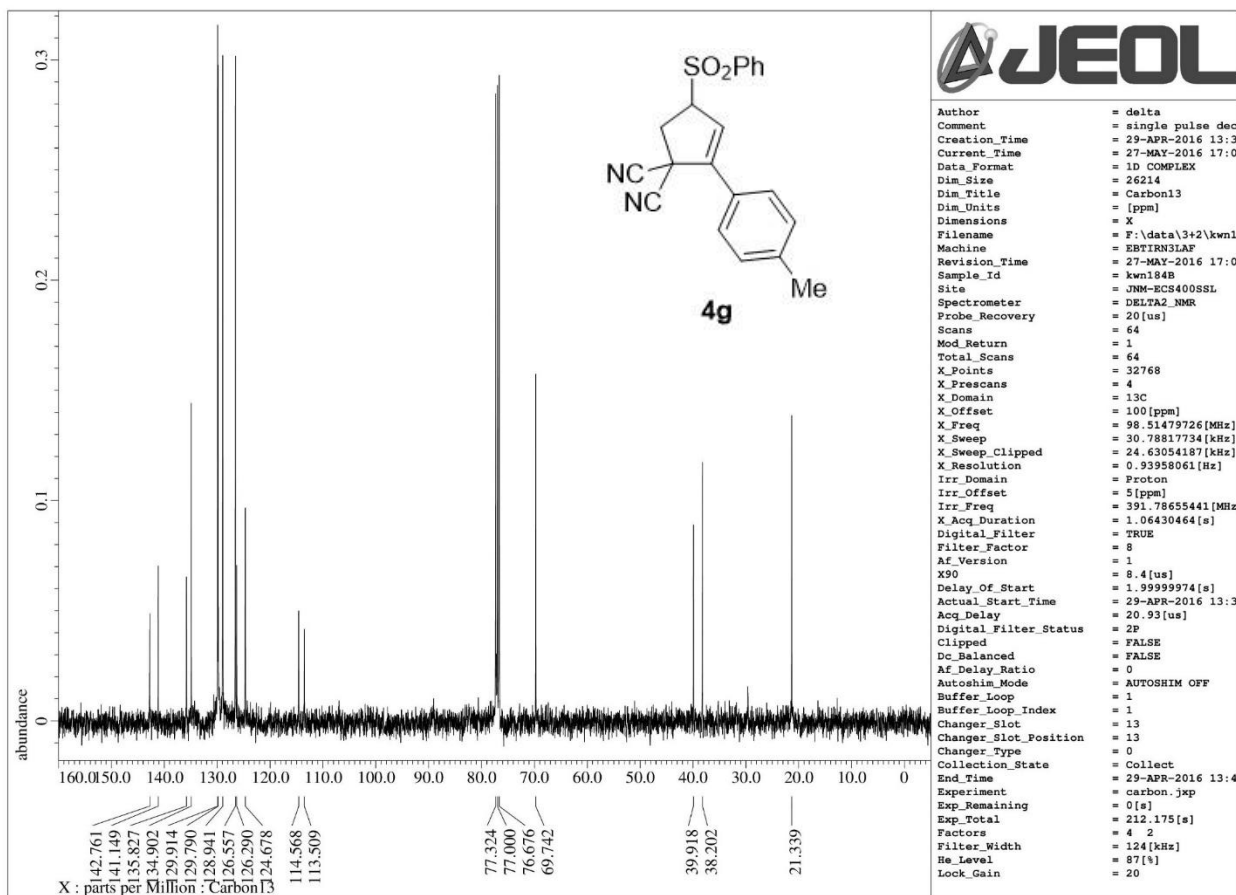
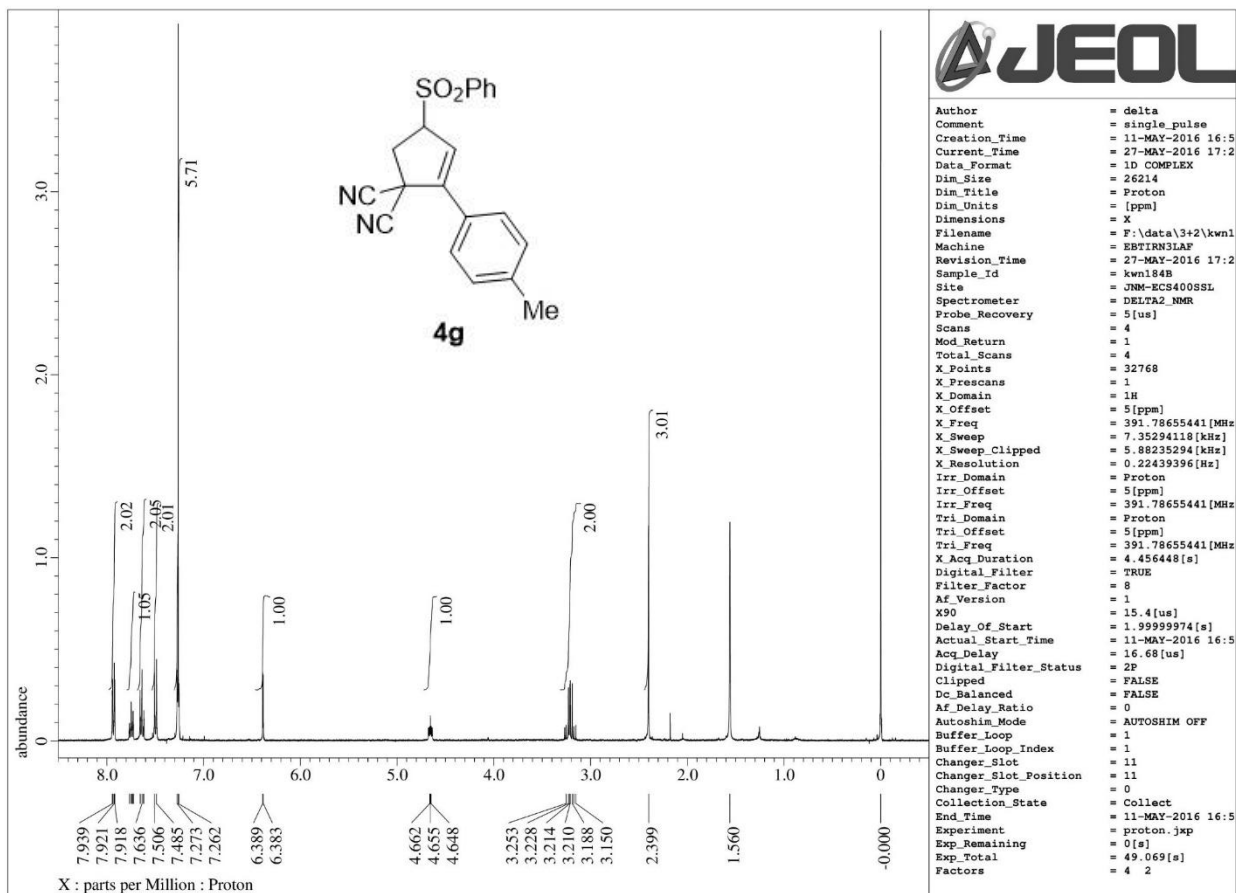


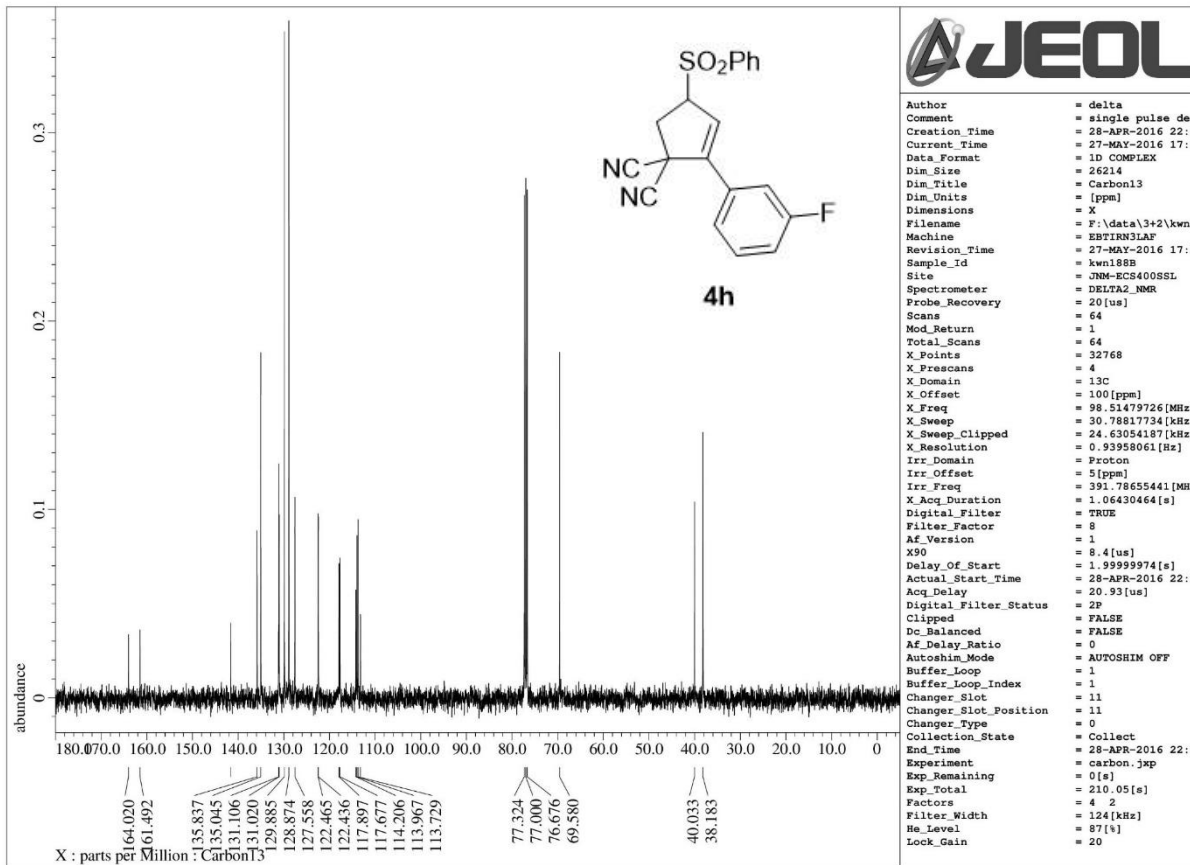
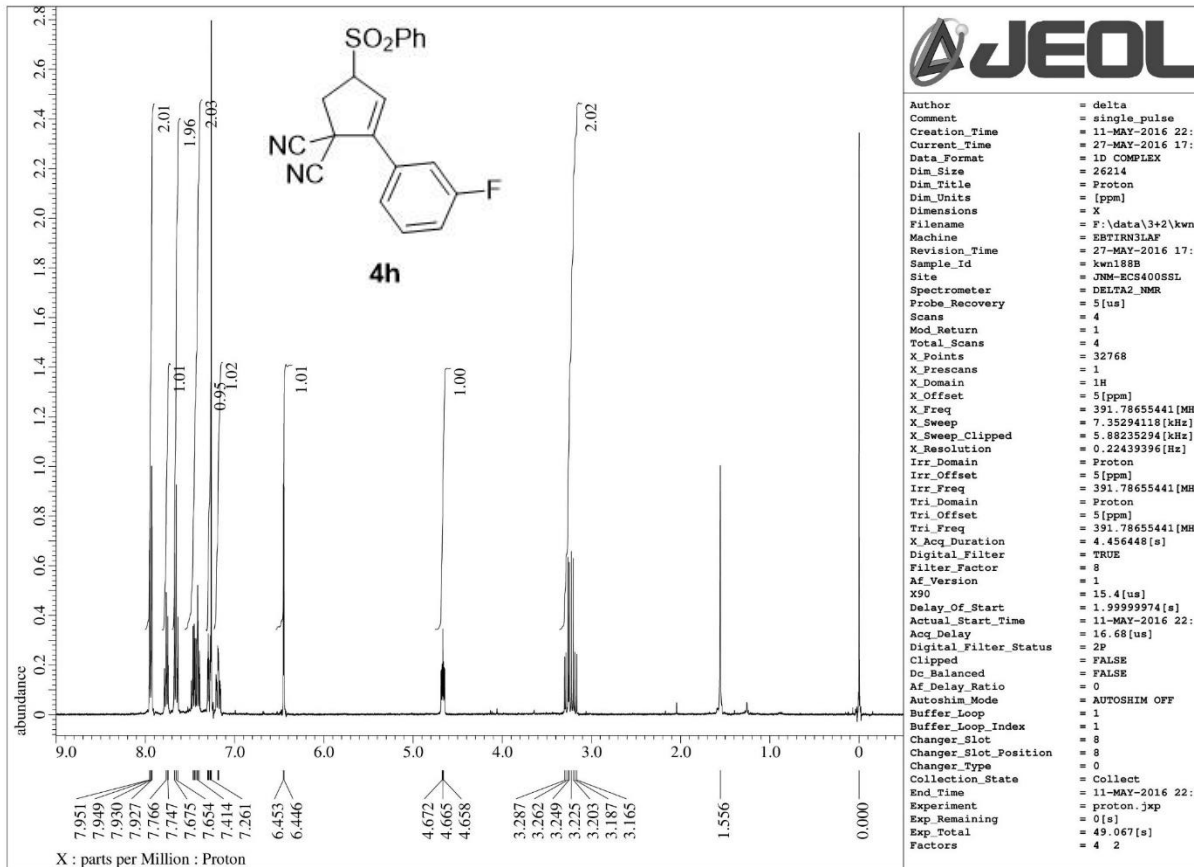




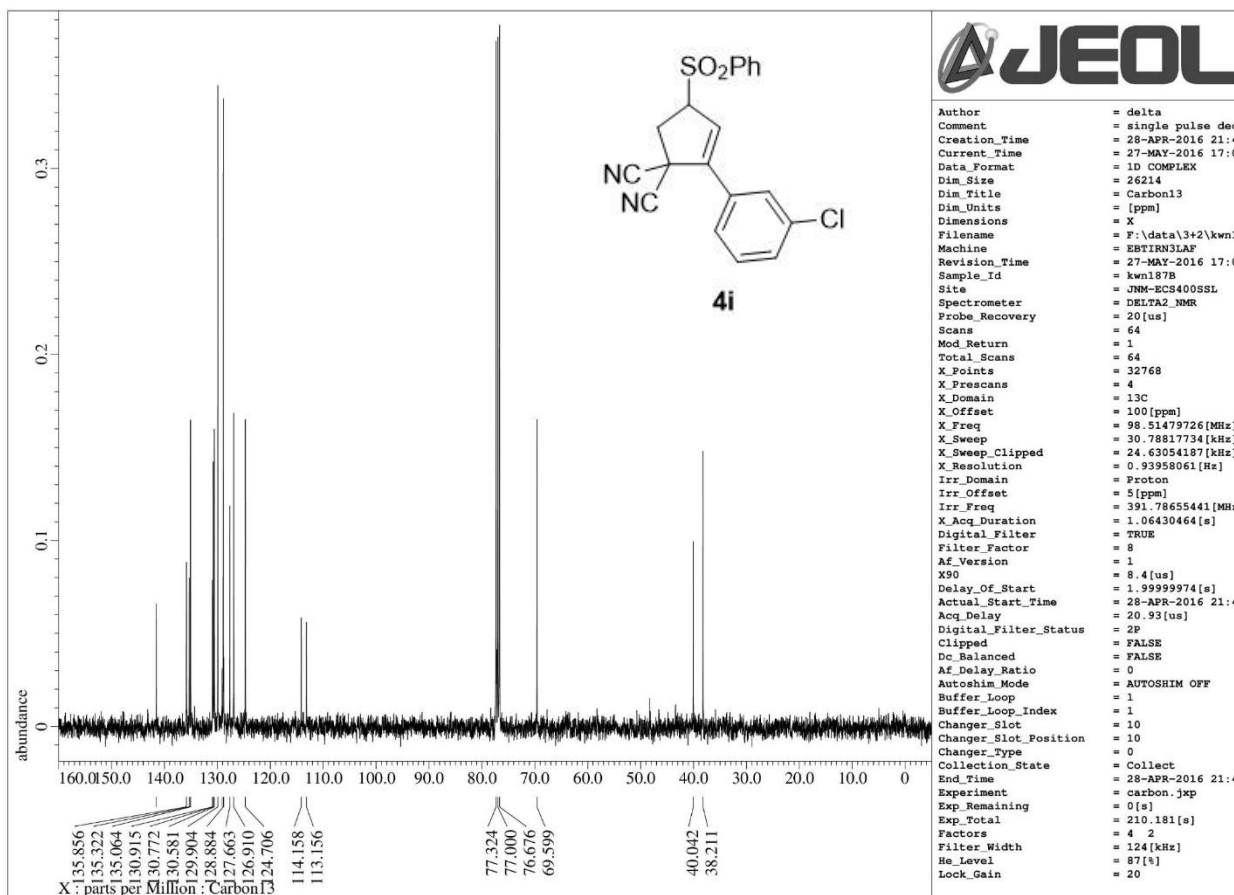
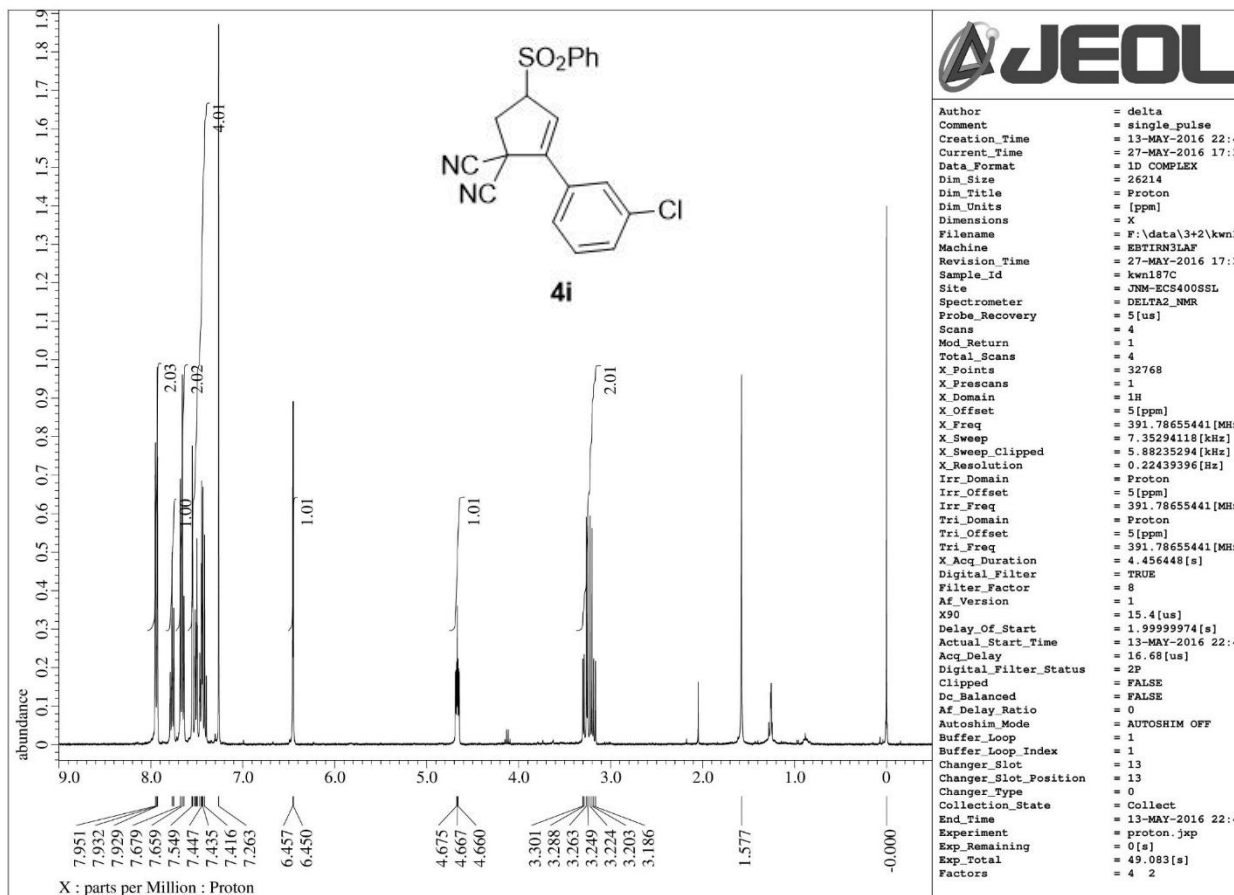


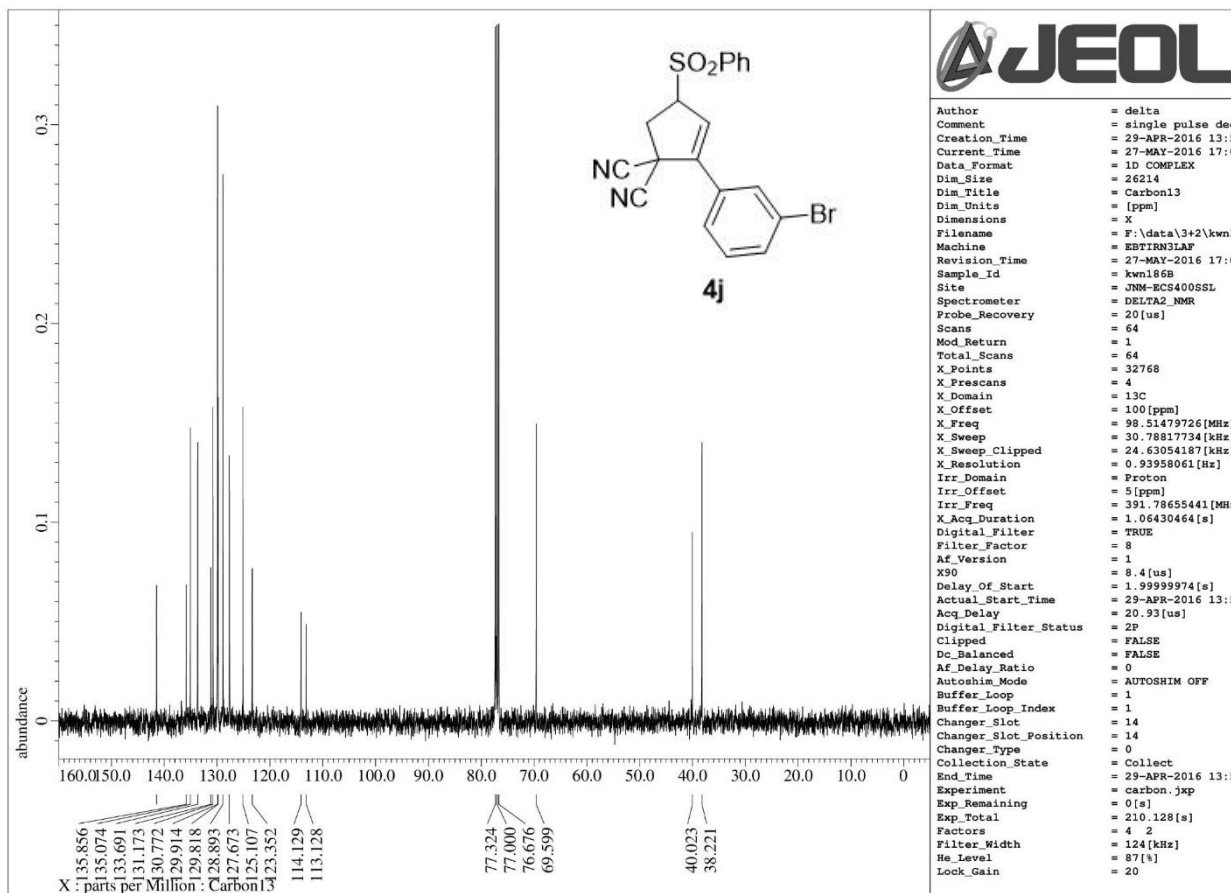
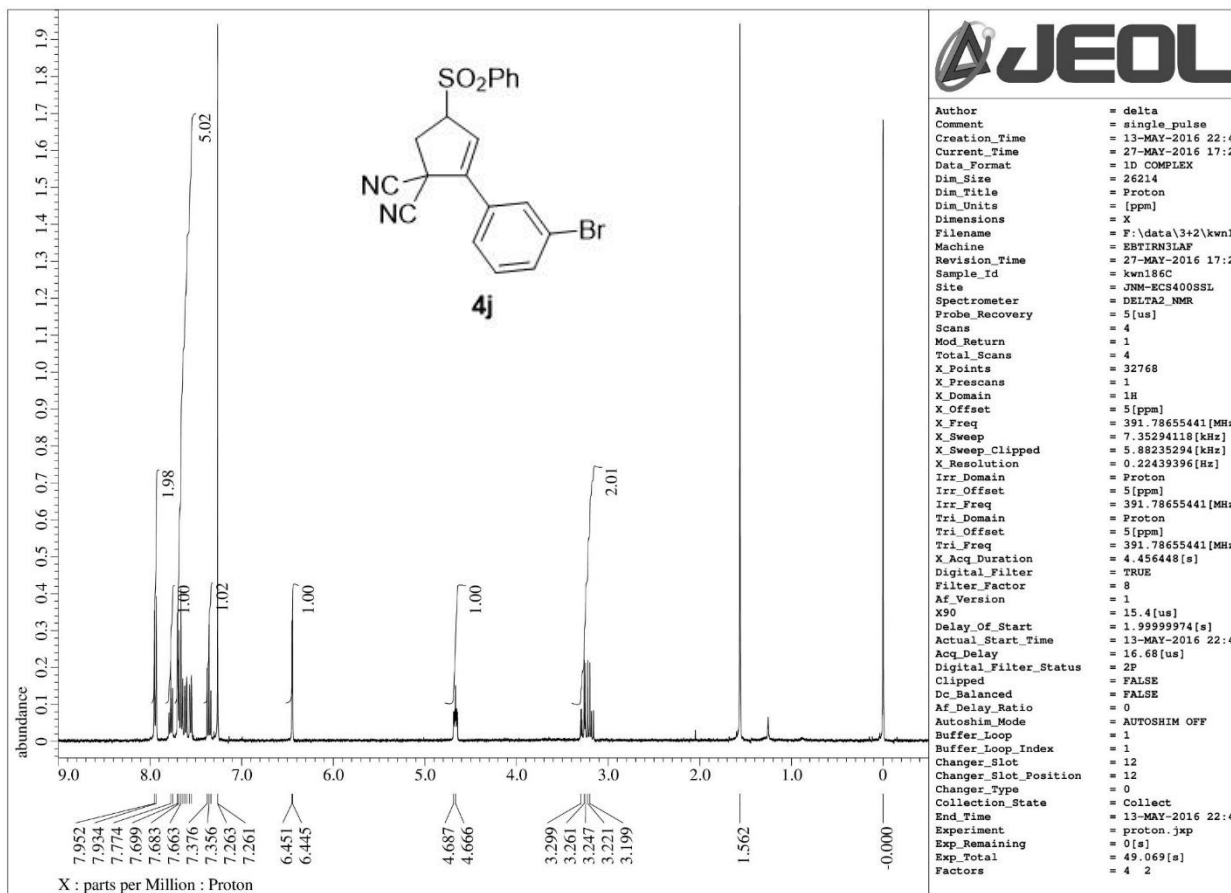


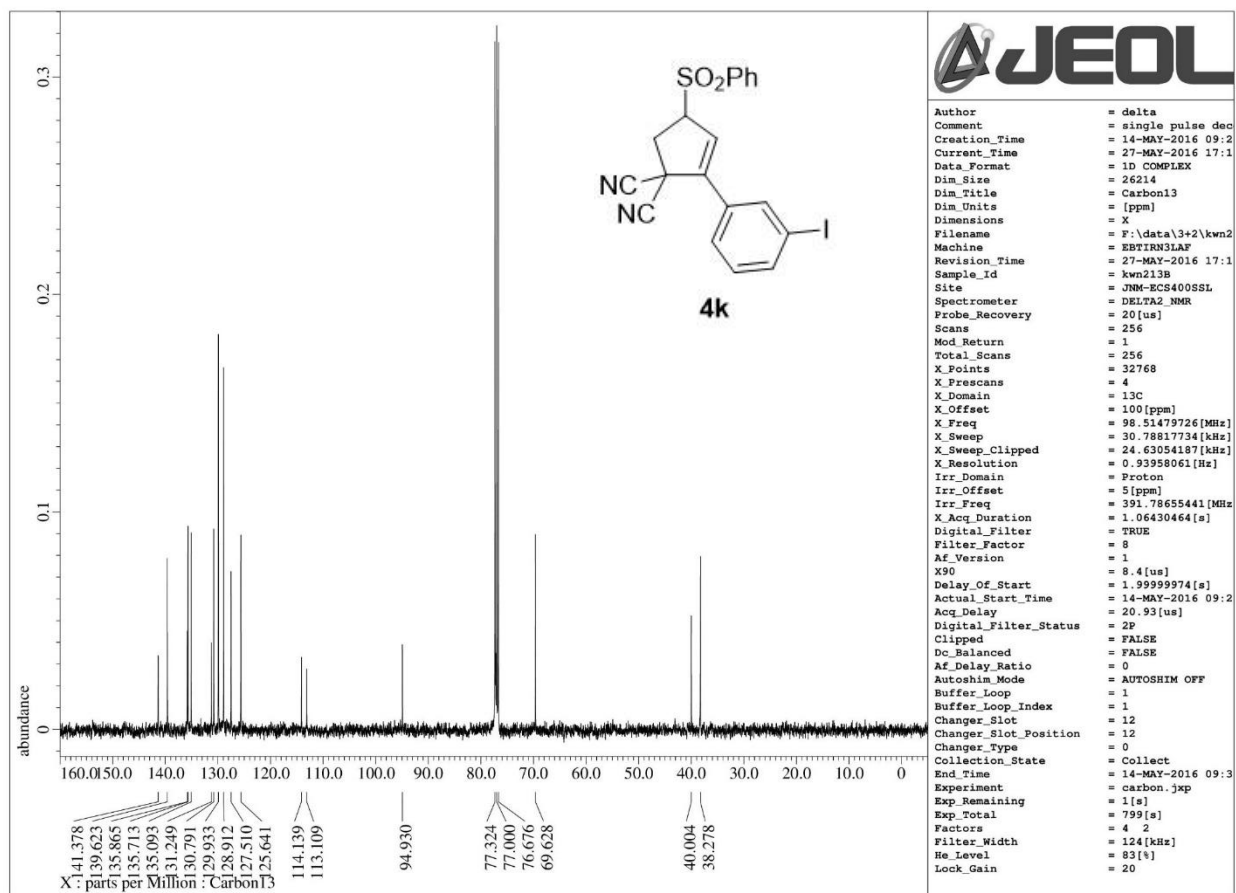
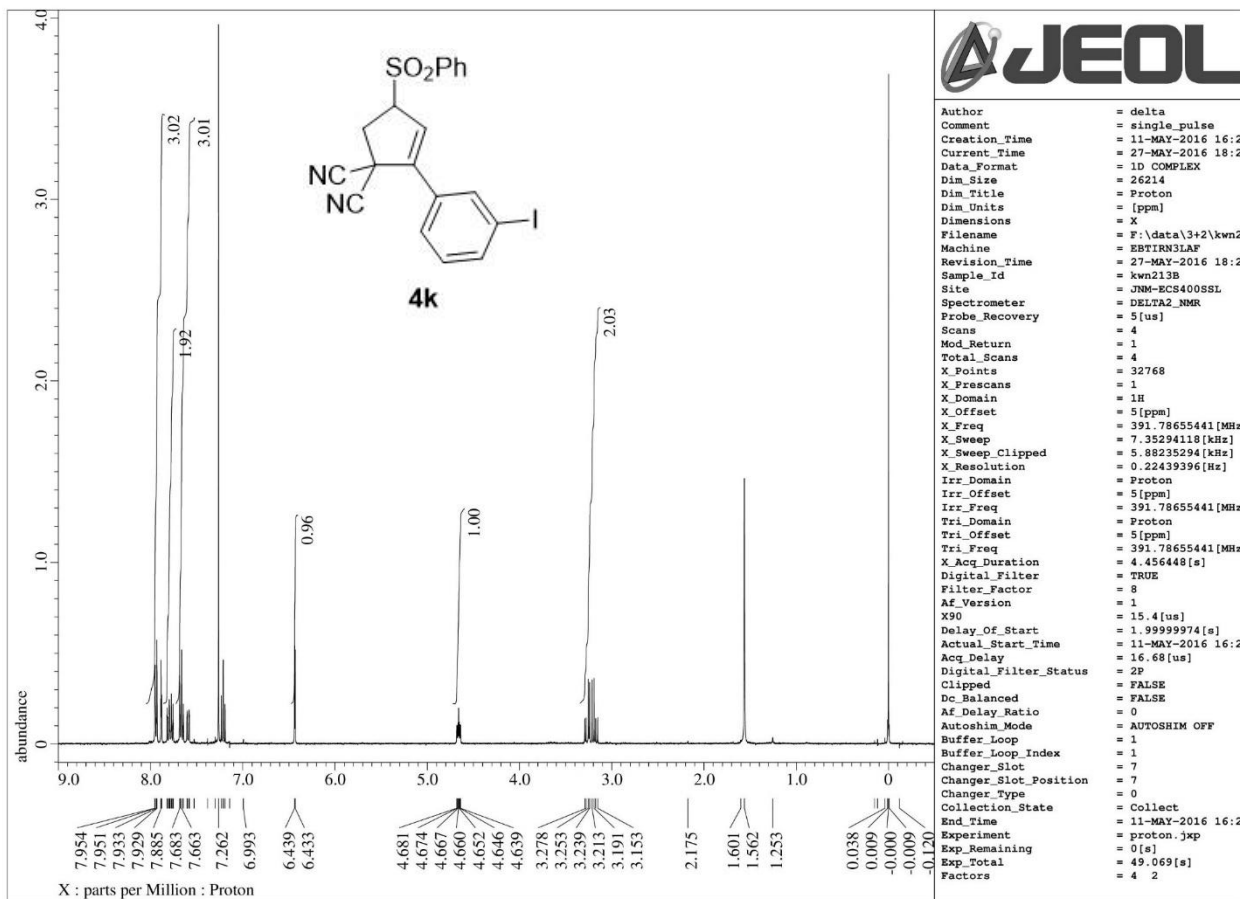


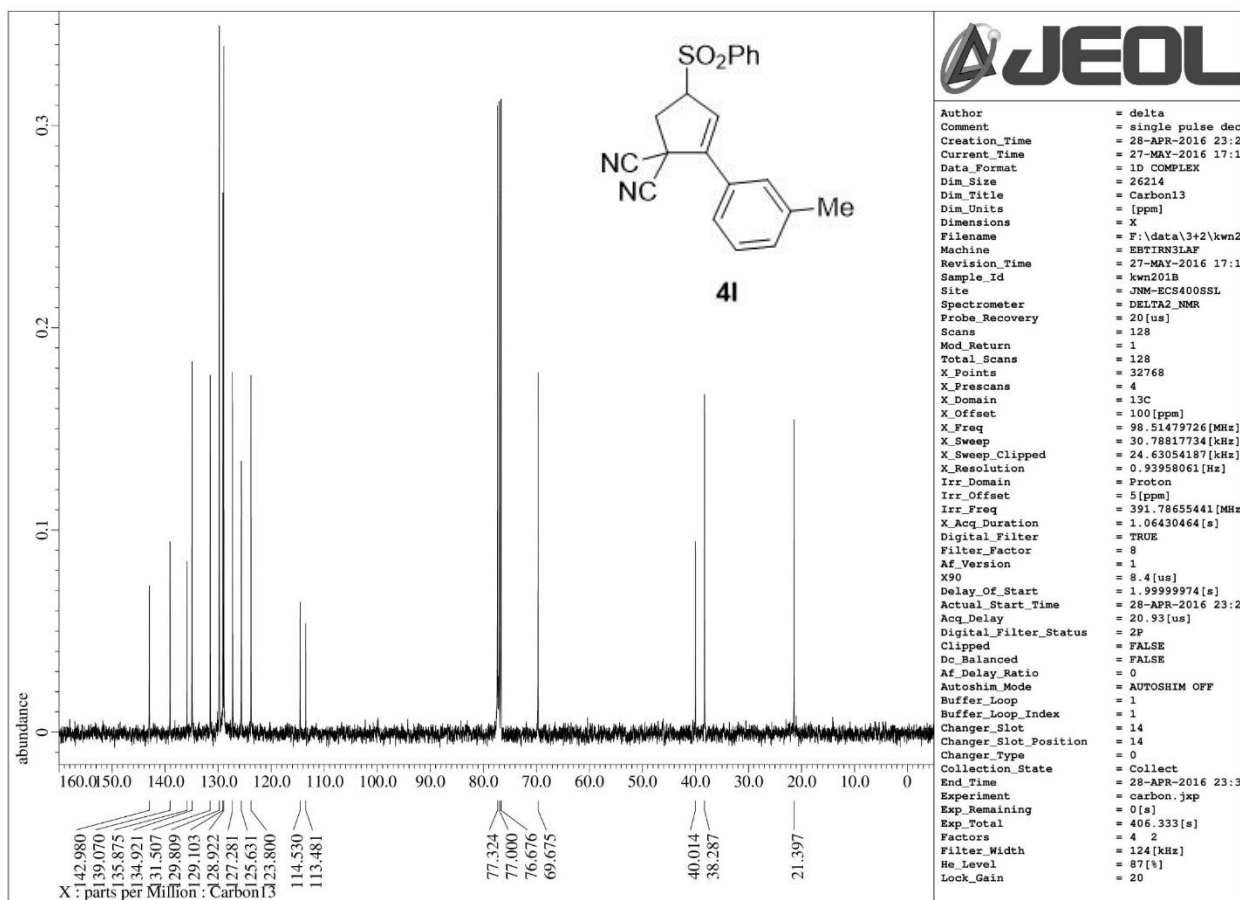
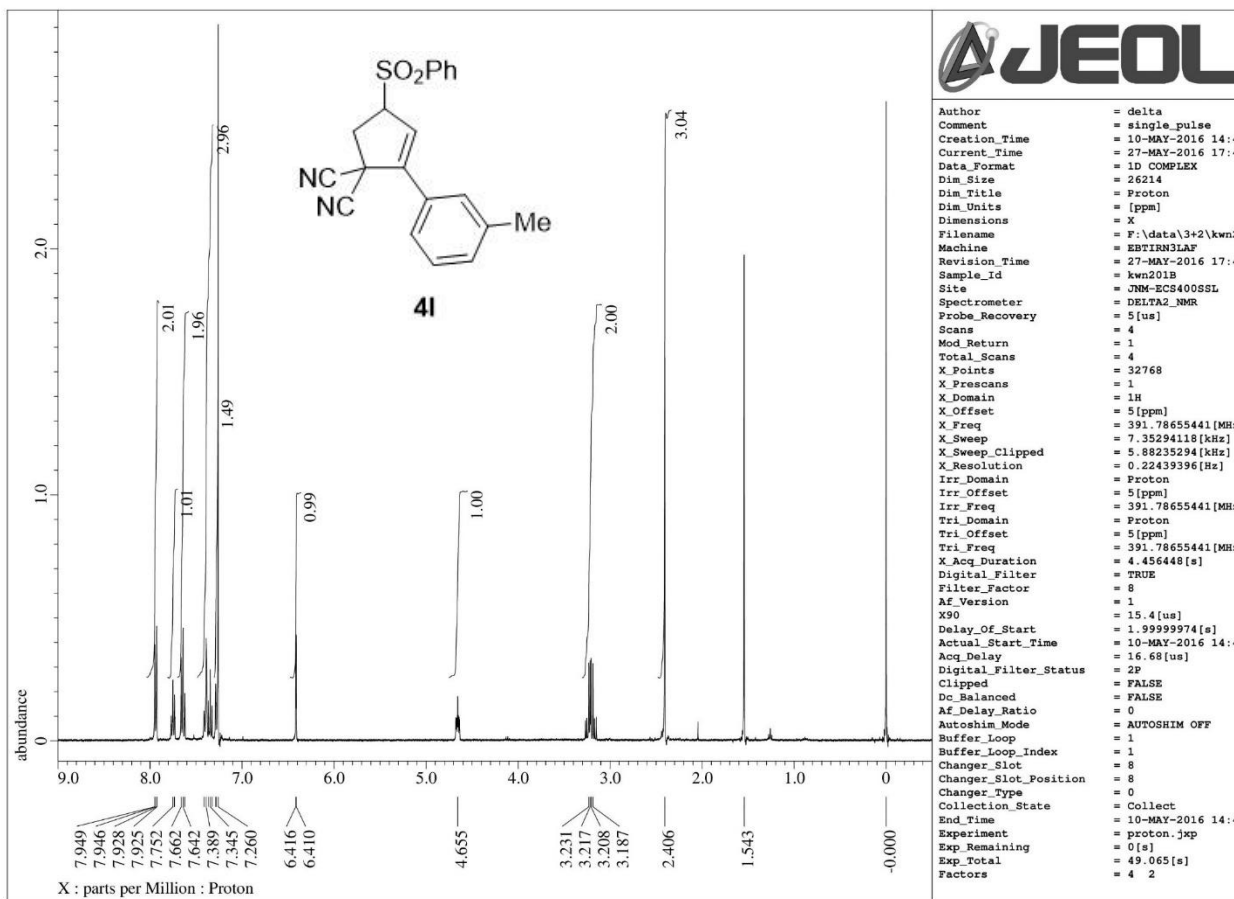


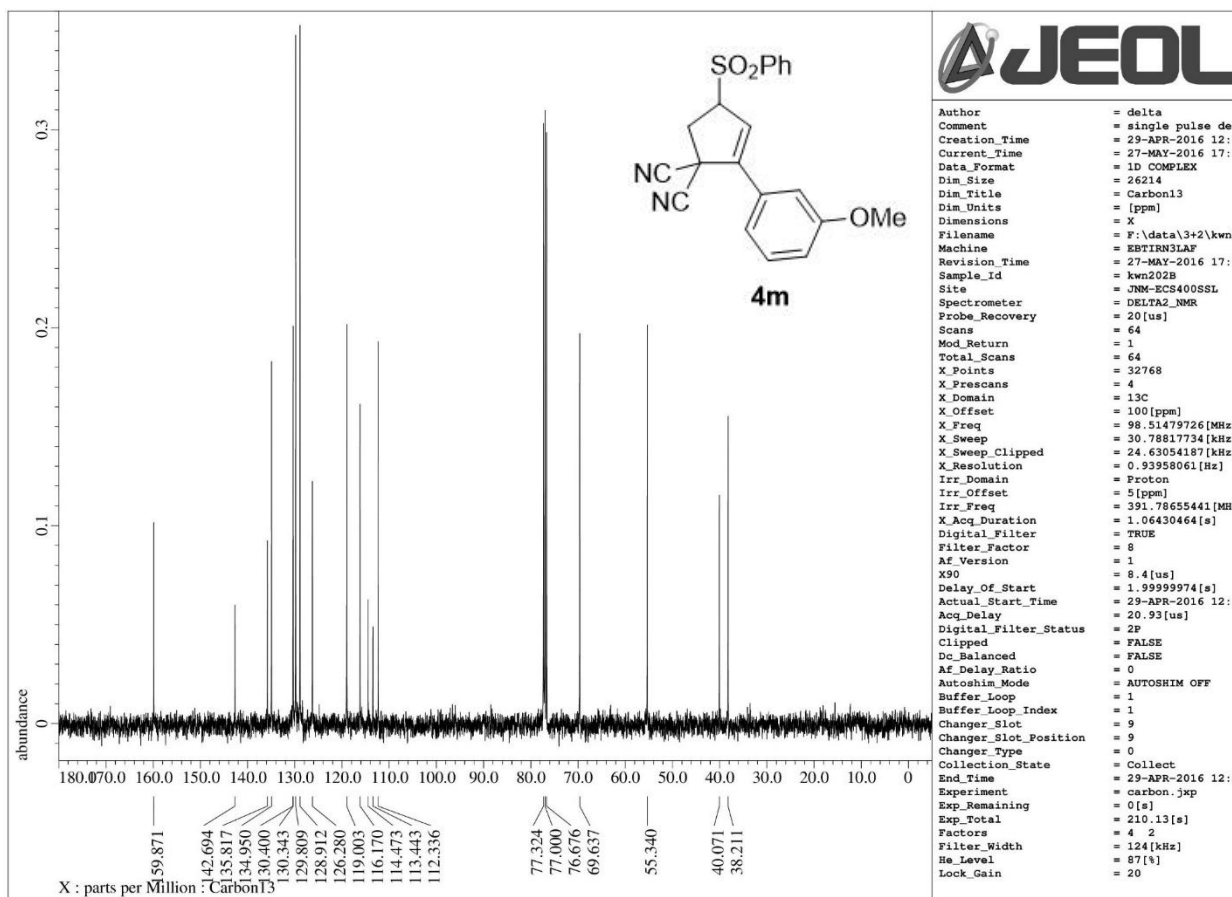
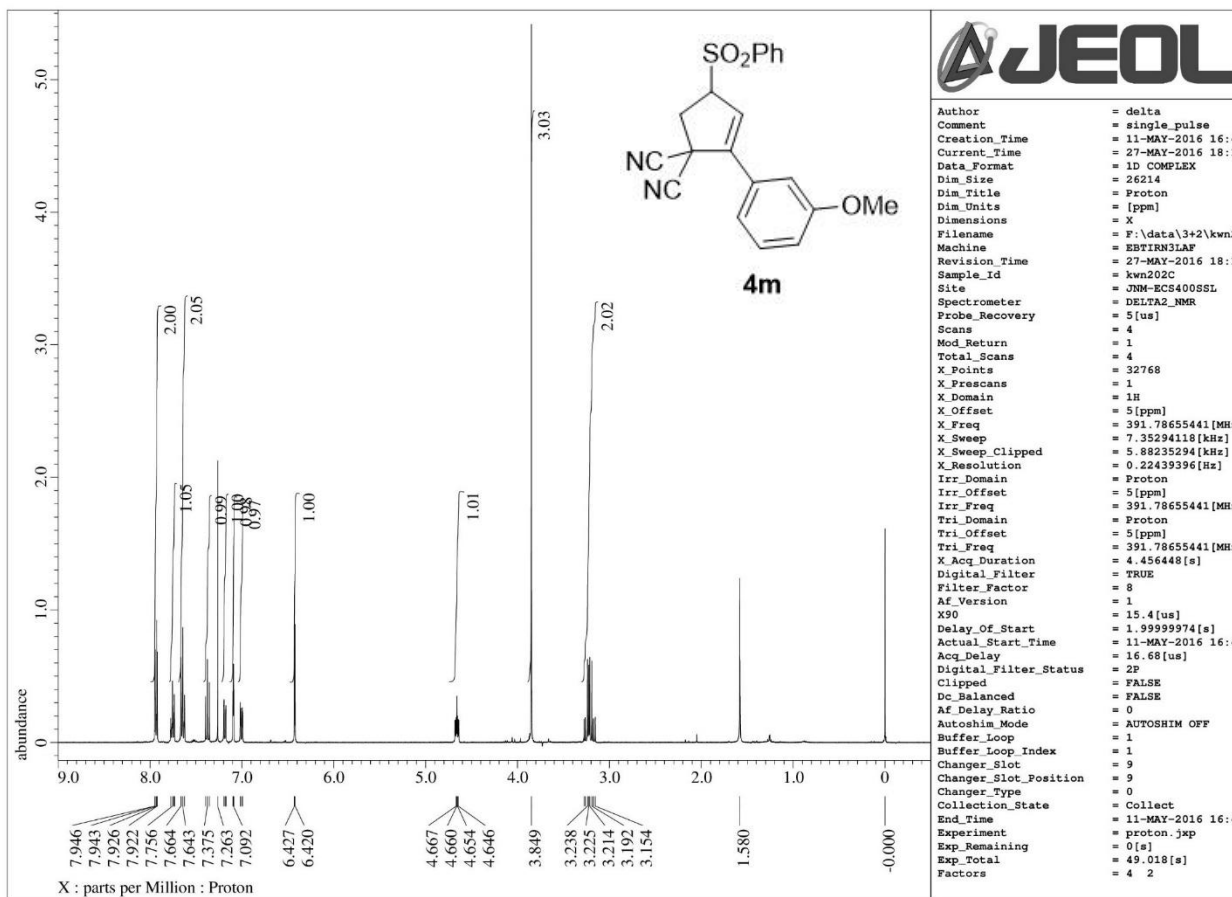


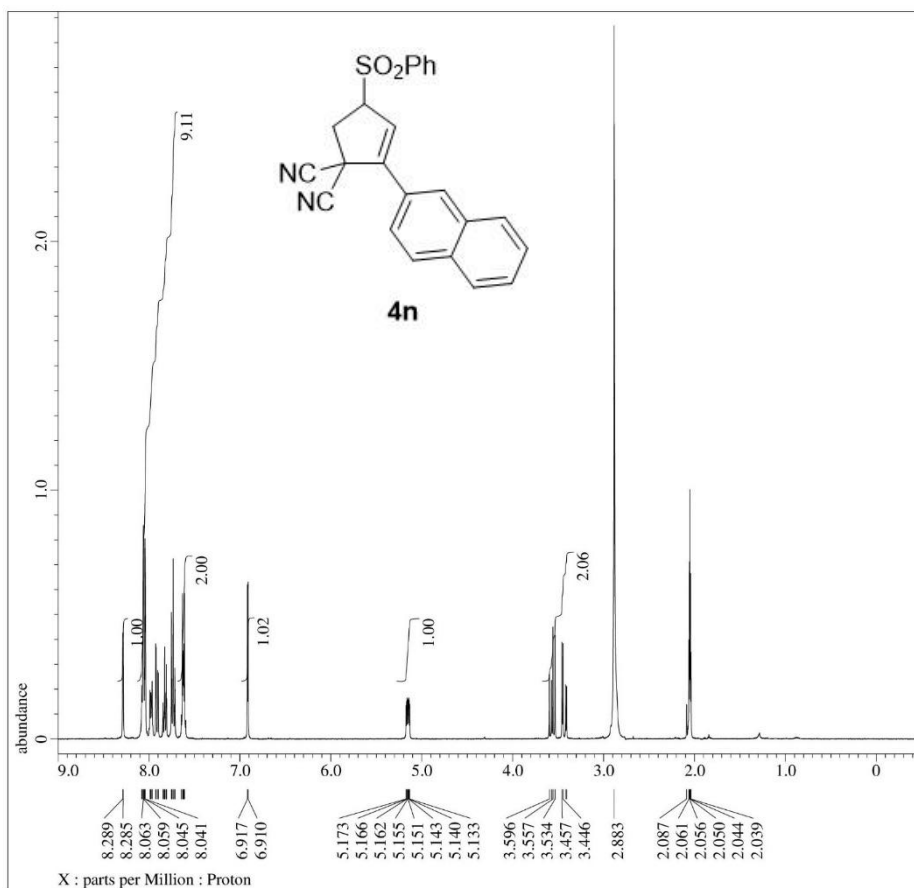






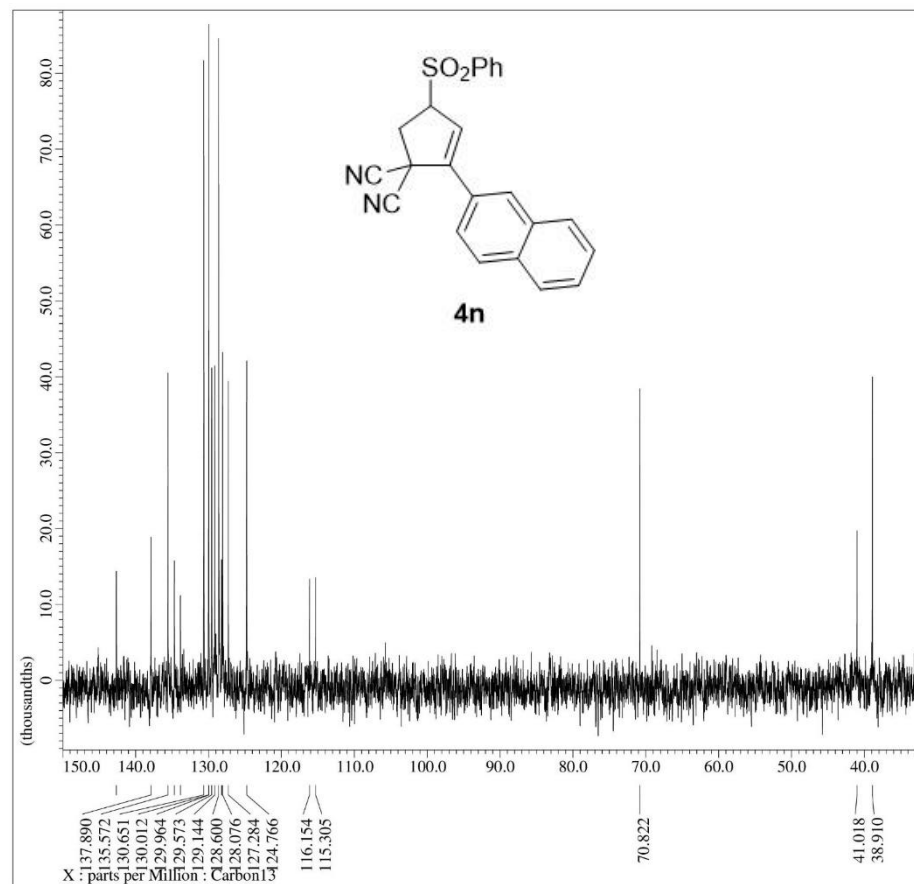






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Data_Format = 1D_COMPLEX
Dim_Size = 26214
Dim_Title = Proton
Dim_Units = [ppm]
Dimensions = X
Filename = F:\data\3+2\kwn1
Machine = EBTRN3LAF
Revision_Time = 27-MAY-2016 17:3
Sample_Id = kwn1918
Site = JNM-ECS400SSL
Spectrometer = DELTA2_NMR
Probe_Recovery = 5[us]
Scans = 4
Mod_Return = 1
Total_Scans = 4
X_Points = 32768
X_Prescans = 1
X_Domain = 1H
X_Offset = 5[ppm]
X_Freq = 391.78655441[MHz]
X_Sweep = 7.35294118[kHz]
X_Sweep_Clipped = 5.88235294[kHz]
X_Resolution = 0.22439396[Hz]
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Irr_Offset = 5[ppm]
Irr_Freq = 391.78655441[MHz]
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Tri_Offset = 5[ppm]
Tri_Freq = 391.78655441[MHz]
X_Acq_Duration = 4.456448[s]
Digital_Filter = TRUE
Filter_Factor = 8
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X90 = 15.4[us]
Delay_Of_Start = 1.99999974[s]
Actual_Start_Time = 9-MAY-2016 17:2
Acq_Delay = 16.68[us]
Digital_Filter_Status = 2P
Clipped = FALSE
Dc_Balanced = FALSE
Af_Delay_Ratio = 0
Autoshim_Mode = AUTOSHIM_OFF
Buffer_Loop = 1
Buffer_Loop_Index = 1
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Changer_Slot_Position = 5
Changer_Type = 0
Collection_State = Collect
End_Time = 9-MAY-2016 17:2
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Factors = 4 2
  
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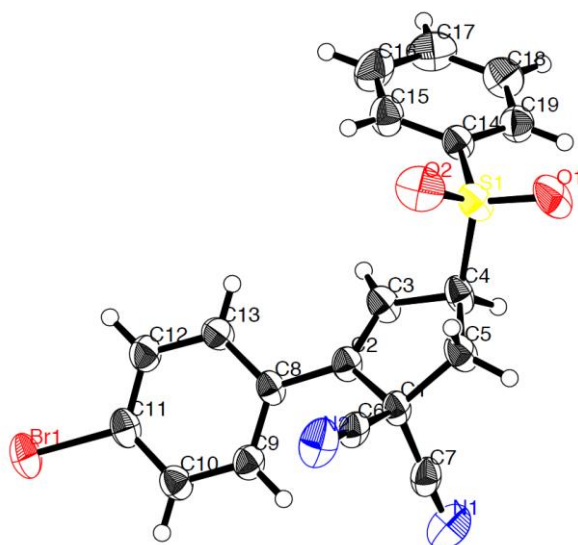
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Dim_Title = Carbon13
Dim_Units = [ppm]
Dimensions = X
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Machine = EBTRN3LAF
Revision_Time = 27-MAY-2016 17:0
Sample_Id = kwn1918
Site = JNM-ECS400SSL
Spectrometer = DELTA2_NMR
Probe_Recovery = 20[us]
Scans = 200
Mod_Return = 1
Total_Scans = 200
X_Points = 32768
X_Prescans = 4
X_Domain = 13C
X_Offset = 100[ppm]
X_Freq = 98.51479726[MHz]
X_Sweep = 30.78817734[kHz]
X_Sweep_Clipped = 24.63054187[kHz]
X_Resolution = 0.93958061[Hz]
Irr_Domain = Proton
Irr_Offset = 5[ppm]
Irr_Freq = 391.78655441[MHz]
X_Acq_Duration = 1.06430464[s]
Digital_Filter = TRUE
Filter_Factor = 8
Af_Version = 1
X90 = 8.4[us]
Delay_Of_Start = 1.99999974[s]
Actual_Start_Time = 9-MAY-2016 17:2
Acq_Delay = 20.93[us]
Digital_Filter_Status = 2P
Clipped = FALSE
Dc_Balanced = FALSE
Af_Delay_Ratio = 0
Autoshim_Mode = AUTOSHIM_OFF
Buffer_Loop = 1
Buffer_Loop_Index = 1
Changer_Slot = 5
Changer_Slot_Position = 5
Changer_Type = 0
Collection_State = Collect
End_Time = 9-MAY-2016 17:3
Experiment = carbon_jxp
Exp_Remaining = 1[s]
Exp_Total = 627[s]
Factors = 4 2
Filter_Width = 124[kHz]
Hs_Level = 84[1]
Lock_Gain = 18
  
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## 5. Single Crystal X-Ray Analysis of 4d

A colorless prism crystal having approximate dimensions of 0.500 x 0.500 x 0.300 mm was mounted on a glass fiber. All measurements were made on a Rigaku RAXIS RAPID imaging plate area detector with graphite monochromated Mo- $K\alpha$  radiation. The data were collected at a temperature of 23 + 1 °C to a maximum 2 $\theta$  value of 54.9°. The structures were solved by direct method (SIR-92)<sup>2</sup>, and hydrogen atoms were placed at the calculation. A full-matrix least-squares technique was using with anisotropic thermal parameters for non-hydrogen atoms and riding model for hydrogen atoms. All calculations were performed using the Crystal Structure<sup>3,4</sup> crystallographic software package.

**4d**; C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S,  $M=413.29$ , monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/n$  (#14),  $a=10.2777(8)$ ,  $b=10.2776(10)$ ,  $c=16.4290(12)$  Å,  $V=1732.3(2)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $D_c=1.585$  gcm<sup>-3</sup>,  $Z=4$ ,  $R=0.0514$  for 2543 observed reflections ( $I > 2.00\sigma(I)$ ),  $R_w=0.0644$ .



Deposition number CCDC-1485660 for compound **4d**. Free copies of the data can be obtained via <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html> (or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1EZ, UK; Fax: +44 1223 336033; e-mail: [deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk)).

<sup>2</sup> SIR92: A. Altomare, G. Casciarano, C. Giacovazzo, and A. Guagliardi, *J. Appl. Cryst.*, 1993, **26**, 343.

<sup>3</sup> CrystalStructure 4.2.1: Crystal Structure Analysis Package, Rigaku Corporation (2000-2016). Tokyo 196-8666, Japan.

<sup>4</sup> CRYSTALS Issue 11: J. R. Carruthers, J. S. Rollett, P. W. Betteridge, D. Kinna, L. Pearce, A. Larsen, and E. Gabe, Chemical Crystallography Laboratory, Oxford, UK. (1999)