

Hetaryl- and heteroarylvinyl-substituted nitrofurans identified as non-cytotoxic selective antitubercular agents

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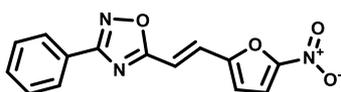
General All reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial sources and used without purification. All reactions implemented in an open flask without any protection from CO₂ and H₂O. Reactions were monitored by analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) Macherey-Nagel, TLC plates Polygram® Sil G/UV254. Visualization of the developed chromatograms was performed by fluorescence quenching at 254 nm. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured on Bruker AVANCE DPX 400 (400 MHz for ¹H and 100 MHz for ¹³C respectively). All chemical shifts (δ) are given in parts per million (ppm) with reference to solvent residues in DMSO-*d*₆ (2.50 for proton and 39.52 for carbon) and coupling constant (*J*) are reported in hertz (Hz). Multiplicities are abbreviated as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad. Melting points were determined on Electrothermal IA 9300 series Digital Melting Point Apparatus. Mass spectra were recorded on microTOF spectrometers (ESI ionization).

3-(5-Nitrofuranyl)propenoyl chloride 2 was prepared as reported [R. Pozas, J. Carballo, C. Castro and J. Rubio, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, 2005, **15**, 1417].

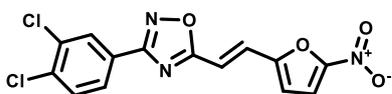
5-Nitrofuranyl carbonyl chloride 2' was obtained as described [F. Mancuso, A. Di Fiore, L. De Luca, A. Angeli, G. De Simone, C. T. Supuran and R. Gitto, *Bioorg. Med. Chem.*, 2021, **44**, 116279].

General procedure for the synthesis of 1,2,4-oxadiazoles 4a-h and 5a-f

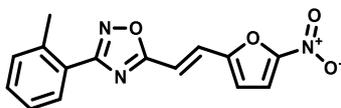
To a solution of amidoxime **3** (1 mmol) in dry dioxane (5 ml) was added acid chloride **2** or **2'** (1.05 mmol) and triethylamine (1.2 mmol) under ice-cooling, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 60 min and then refluxed for 6-12 h (TLC monitoring). Dioxane was removed *in vacuo*, and the residue was treated with water (10 ml), filtered and dried. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel using 0 → 1% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ as the eluent.



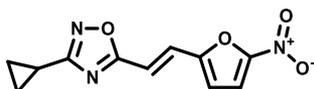
(E)-5-[2-(5-Nitrophenyl)vinyl]-3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (4a): Yield 24%, yellow powder, mp 161.1-162.5 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 8.05 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.57 (m, 3H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 174.19, 168.25, 152.31, 152.10, 131.71, 129.28 (2C), 127.71, 127.02 (2C), 125.95, 117.46, 114.73, 113.41. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for C₁₄H₉N₃O₄: [M+H]⁺ 284.0666; found *m/z* 284.0689.



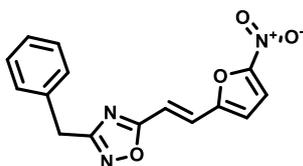
(E)-3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-5-[2-(5-nitrophenyl)vinyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (4b): Yield 48%, light brown powder, mp 170,2-171,0 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.93 – 7.84 (m, 2H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 175.35, 167.48, 153.06, 152.92, 135.29, 133.02, 132.34, 129.45, 128.81, 127.77, 127.38, 117.95, 114.98, 113.96. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for C₁₄H₇Cl₂N₃O₄: [M+H]⁺ 351.9892; found *m/z* 351.9889.



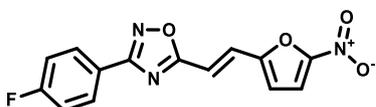
(E)-5-[2-(5-Nitrophenyl)vinyl]-3-(*o*-tolyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (4c): Yield 32%, light brown powder, mp 135.5-137.2 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 7.94 (d, *J* = 7.7, 1H), 7.85 - 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.48 - 7.34 (m, 5H), 2.58 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 173.09, 168.85, 152.33, 152.04, 137.53, 131.42, 130.93, 129.62, 127.54, 126.19, 125.27, 117.28, 114.67, 113.43, 21.51. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for C₁₅H₁₁N₃O₄: [M+H]⁺ 298.0822; found *m/z* 298.0823.



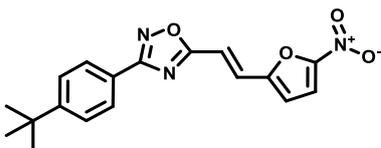
(E)-3-Cyclopropyl-5-[2-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)vinyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (4d): Yield 30%, yellow powder, mp 137.6-139.0 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 7.79 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.24 - 7.20 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 2.20 - 2.13 (m, 1H), 1.12 - 1.08 (m, 2H), 0.95 - 0.91 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 173.37, 172.54, 152.33, 152.01, 127.18, 117.21, 114.67, 113.41, 7.56 (2C), 6.32. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for C₁₁H₉N₃O₄: [M+H]⁺ 248.0666; found *m/z* 248.0673.



(E)-3-Benzyl-5-[2-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)vinyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (4e): Yield 27%, orange powder, mp 118.2-119.9 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 7.78 - 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.33 (m, 5H), 7.27 - 7.23 (m, 2H), 4.13 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 173.80, 169.95, 152.29, 152.02, 135.60, 128.89 (2C), 128.52 (2C), 127.39, 126.86, 117.28, 114.63, 113.35, 31.31. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for C₁₅H₁₁N₃O₄: [M+H]⁺ 298.0822; found *m/z* 298.0817.

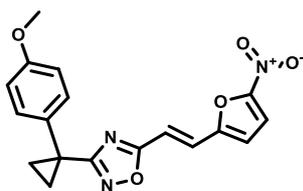


(E)-3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-5-[2-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)vinyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (4f): Yield 49%, beige powder, mp 183.8-185.5 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 8.12 - 8.08 (m, 2H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.82 - 7.81 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.48 - 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 174.19, 167.41, 163.99 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 249.51 Hz), 152.23, 152.06, 129.52 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 9.06 Hz), 127.71, 122.49 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 3.12 Hz), 117.44, 116.40 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 22.21 Hz), 114.64, 113.25. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for C₁₄H₈FN₃O₄: [M+H]⁺ 302.0572; found *m/z* 302.0575.



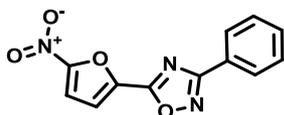
(E)-3-(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)-5-[2-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)vinyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole (4g): Yield 40%, yellow powder, mp 172.9-173.8 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 174.72, 168.85,

155.25, 153.04, 152.77, 128.28, 127.55 (2C), 126.75 (2C), 123.89, 118.11, 115.41, 114.12, 35.43, 31.54 (3C). HRMS (ESI), Calc. for C₁₈H₁₇N₃O₄: [M+H]⁺ 340.1292; found *m/z* 340.1299.

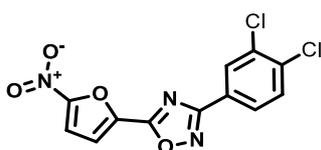


(E)-3-[1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)cyclopropyl]-5-[2-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)vinyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole

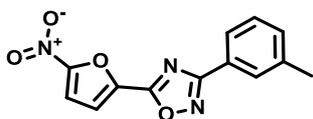
(4h): Yield 43 %, yellow powder, mp 150.0-151.2 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 7.77 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 - 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 6.92 - 6.90 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.51(m, 2H), 1.36 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 174.81, 173.44, 158.36, 152.32, 151.99, 131.45 (2C), 130.90, 127.22, 117.22, 114.65, 113.65 (2C), 113.42, 55.05 (2C), 22.11, 15.61. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for C₁₈H₁₅N₃O₅: [M+H]⁺ 354.1084; found *m/z* 354.1089.



5-(5-Nitrofuran-2-yl)-3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (5a): Yield 45%, pink powder, mp 166.2-171.0 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 8.12 – 8.09 (m, 1H), 8.09 – 8.07 (m, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 4.03 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 4.03 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.57 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 168.38, 165.89, 152.99, 139.84, 132.06, 129.36 (2C), 127.21 (2C), 125.25, 119.21, 113.81. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for C₁₂H₇N₃O₄: [M+H]⁺ 258.0509; found *m/z* 258.0515.

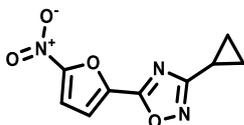


3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-5-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (5b): Yield 68%, beige powder, mp 155.8-158.6 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 8.23 (d, *J* = 1.82 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (dd, *J* = 8.38, 1.73 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (s, 2H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.38 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 166.71, 166.17, 153.04, 139.52, 134.88, 132.29, 131.79, 128.75, 127.23, 125.71, 119.55, 113.77. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for C₁₂H₅Cl₂N₃O₄: [M+H]⁺ 325.9730; found *m/z* 325.9735.



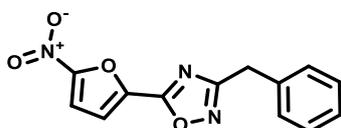
5-(5-Nitrofuran-2-yl)-3-(*m*-tolyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (5c): Yield 49%, beige powder, mp 148.1-149.4 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 8.01 - 7.94 (m, 3H), 7.54 - 7.40 (m, 3H), 2.60 (s,

3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 168.90, 164.90, 152.97, 139.88, 137.72, 131.49, 131.29, 129.81, 126.30, 124.60, 119.09, 113.77, 21.55. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 272.0668; found m/z 272.0673.

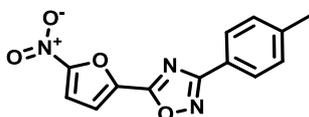


3-Cyclopropyl-5-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (5d):

Yield 39%, yellow powder, mp 65.3-66.9 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 7.92 (d, $J = 4.1$, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 4.1$, 1H), 2.25 (m, 1H), 1.17 (m, 2H), 1.00 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ : 173.53, 165.88, 153.56, 140.59, 119.50, 114.44, 8.51 (2C), 6.97. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 221.0437; found m/z 221.0444.



3-Benzyl-5-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (5e): Yield 45%, beige powder, mp 85.2-88.0 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 7.92 (d, $J = 4.01$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 4.01$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J = 4.39$ Hz, 4H), 7.32 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 4.22 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ : 170.19, 165.57, 152.90, 139.87, 135.24, 128.95 (2C), 128.60 (2C), 127.00, 118.93, 113.74, 31.14. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 272.0666; found m/z 272.0672.



5-(5-Nitrofuran-2-yl)-3-(p-tolyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (5f): Yield 37%, brown powder, mp 154.5-157.7 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 7.99 – 7.93 (m, 4H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.11$ Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 168.32, 165.69, 152.92, 142.11, 139.86, 129.85 (2C), 127.11(2C), 122.43, 119.06, 113.77, 21.05. HRMS (ESI), Calc. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 272.0666; found m/z 272.0667.

Antibacterial assay

All the synthesized compounds **4a-h** and **5a-f** were evaluated for their *in vitro* antimicrobial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 25923) and *Bacillus subtilis* (VCM V3142D) as examples of Gram-positive bacteria, and *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922) (P218) as an example of Gram-negative bacteria.

Overnight cultures were grown at 37 °C in Lysogeny broth (LB) and diluted to obtain an opacity equivalent to 0.5 on the McFarland scale. Screening vials were filled with solutions of the test compounds in 0.5% DMSO as prepared above with three replications for each treatment. API pefloxacin (0.5-256 µg/mL) and 0.5% DMSO served as positive and negative controls, respectively. The entire vial was incubated at 35 ± 2 °C for 18 h. After incubation, the antibacterial activity of the test compounds was determined by measuring the absorption of the solution with a spectrophotometer on 500 nm.

MIC measurement

The MICs of the most active compounds were measured using the twofold serial broth dilution method. The test organisms were grown in suitable broth for 18 h at 37 °C. Twofold serial dilutions of solutions of the test compounds were prepared at 256, 128, 64, 32, 16, 8, 4, 2, 1 and 0.5 µg ml⁻¹. The tubes were then inoculated with the test microbe; each 5 mL received 0.1 ml of the above inoculums and were incubated at 37 °C. The vials were subsequently observed for the presence or absence of microbial growth. The MIC values of the prepared compounds are listed in Table 1.

ILLUSTRATIVE 96-WELL PLATES FOR THE MOST ACTIVE ANTIMYCOBACTERIAL COMPOUNDS

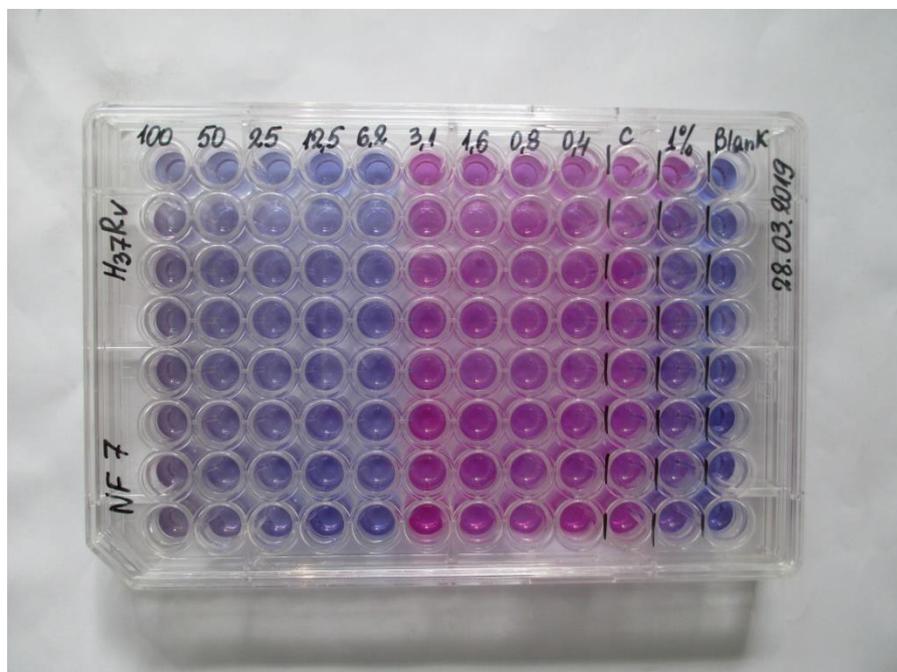
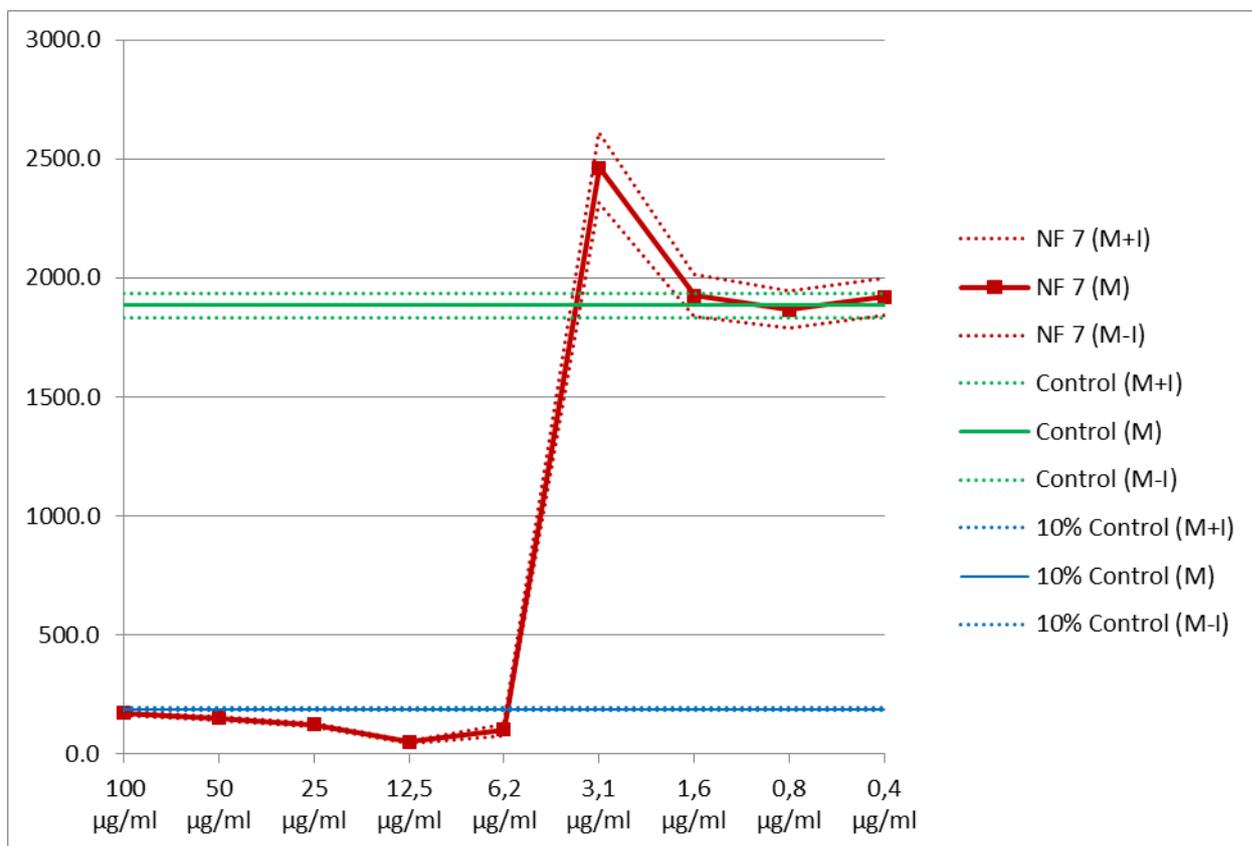


Figure S1. Compound **4e** tested for MIC against *MTb* H37Rv (MIC 6.2 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$)

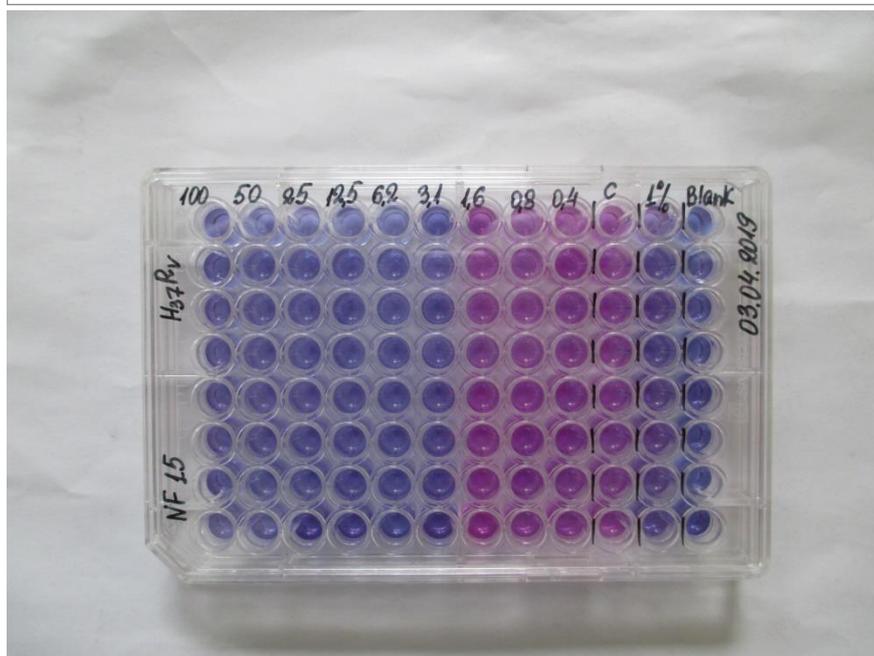
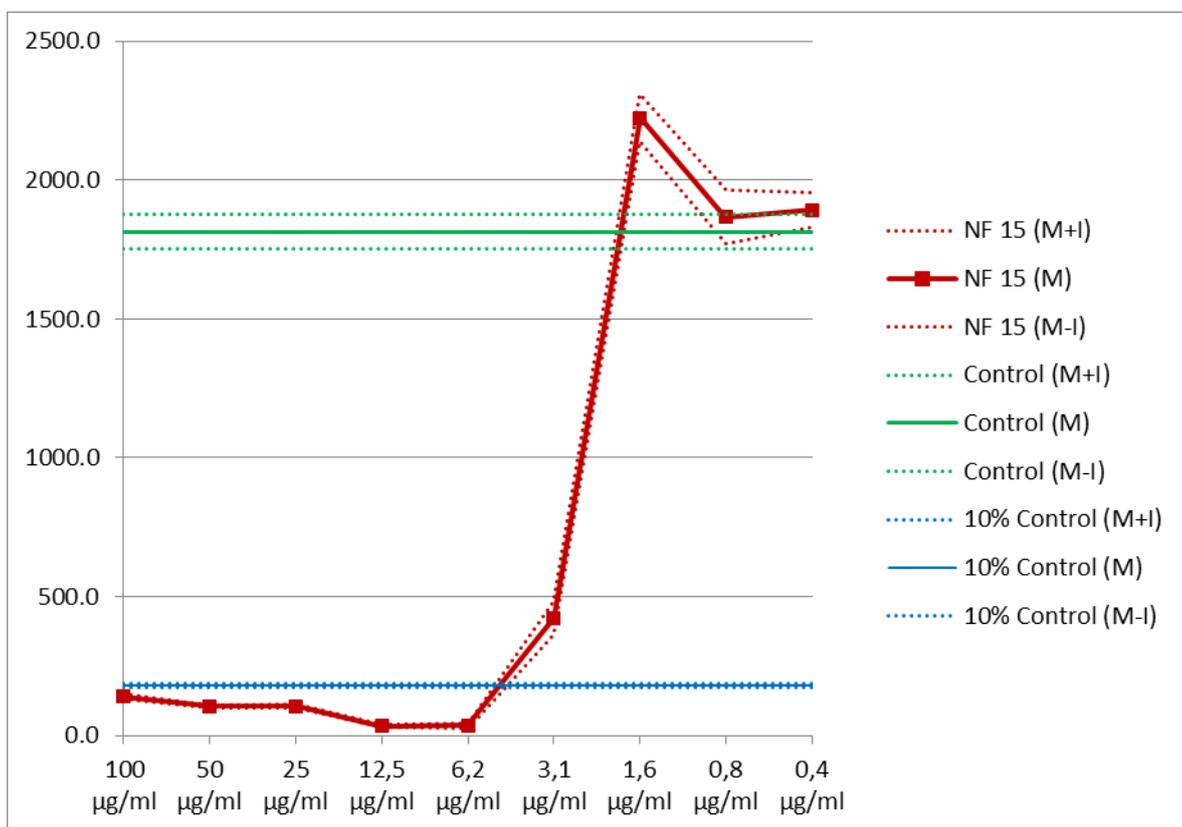


Figure S2. Compound **5d** tested for MIC against *MTb* H37Rv (MIC 6.2 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$).

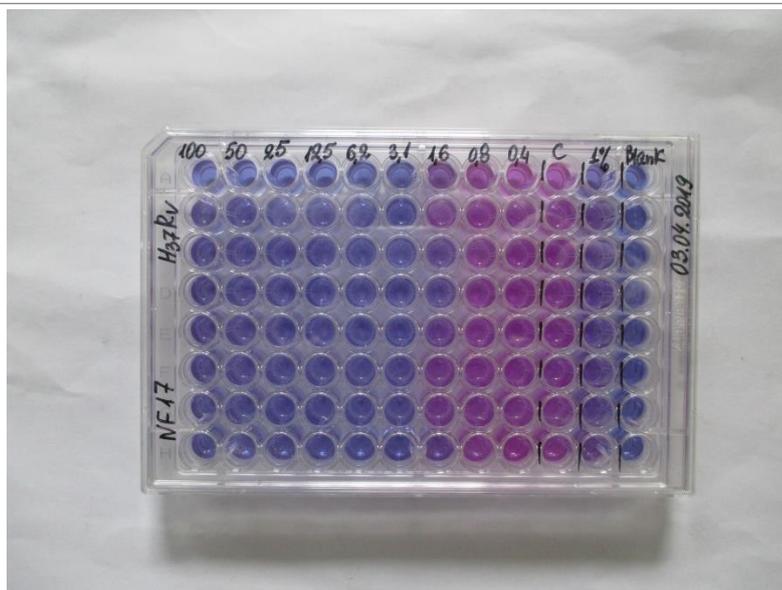
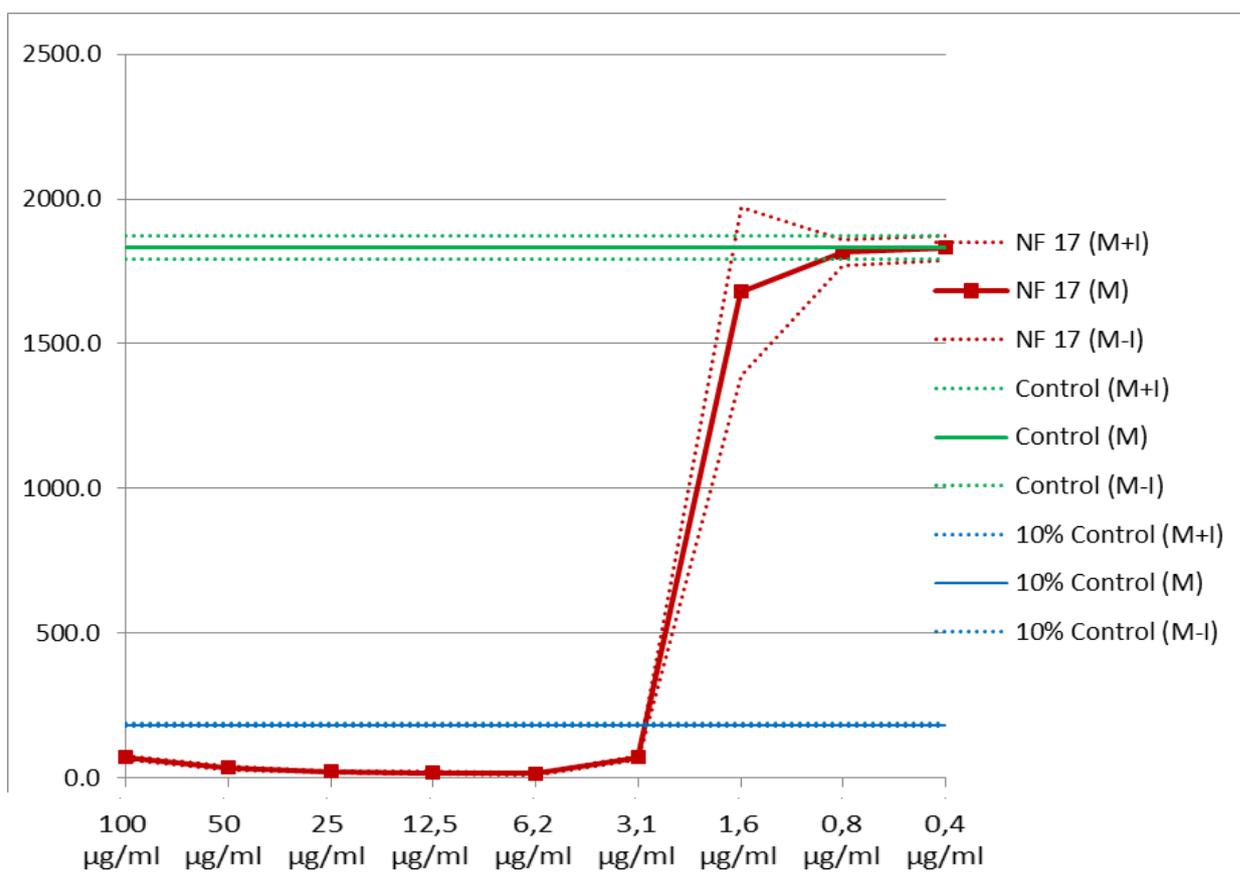
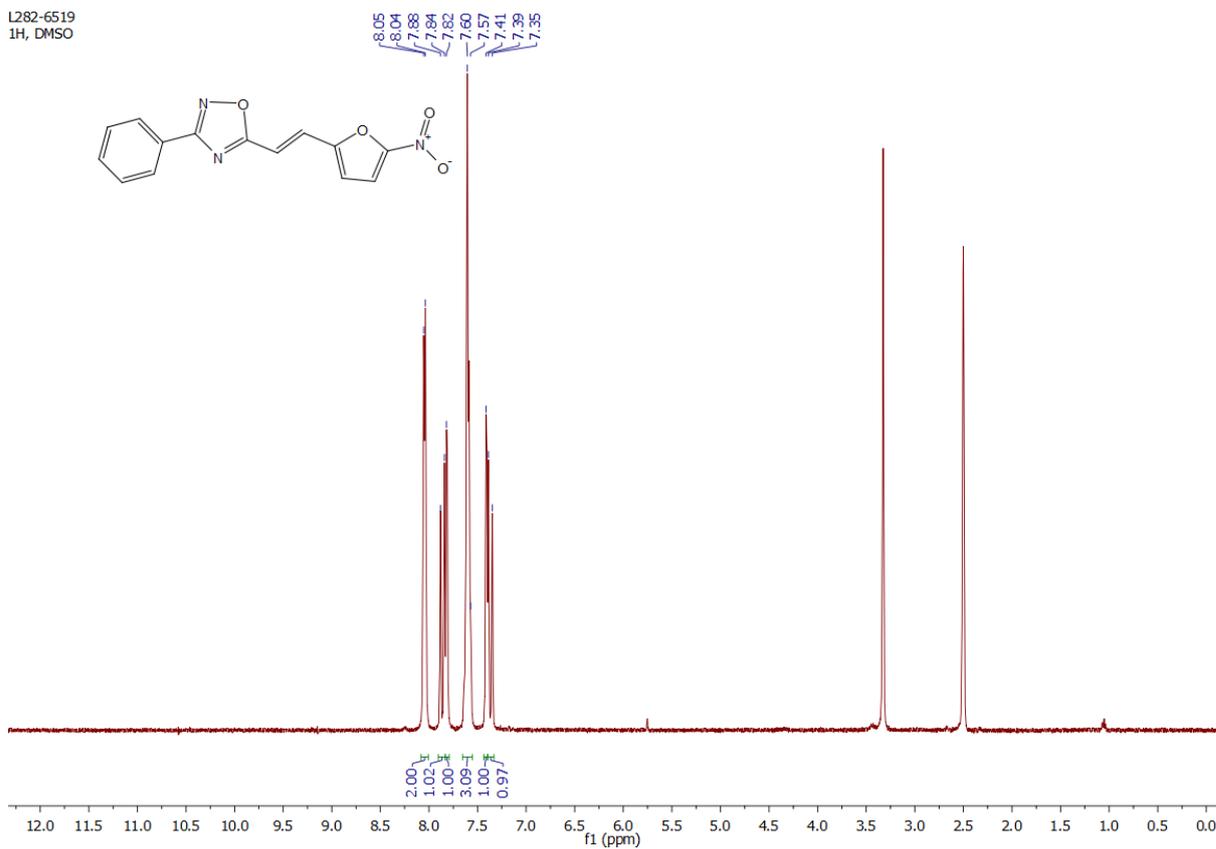


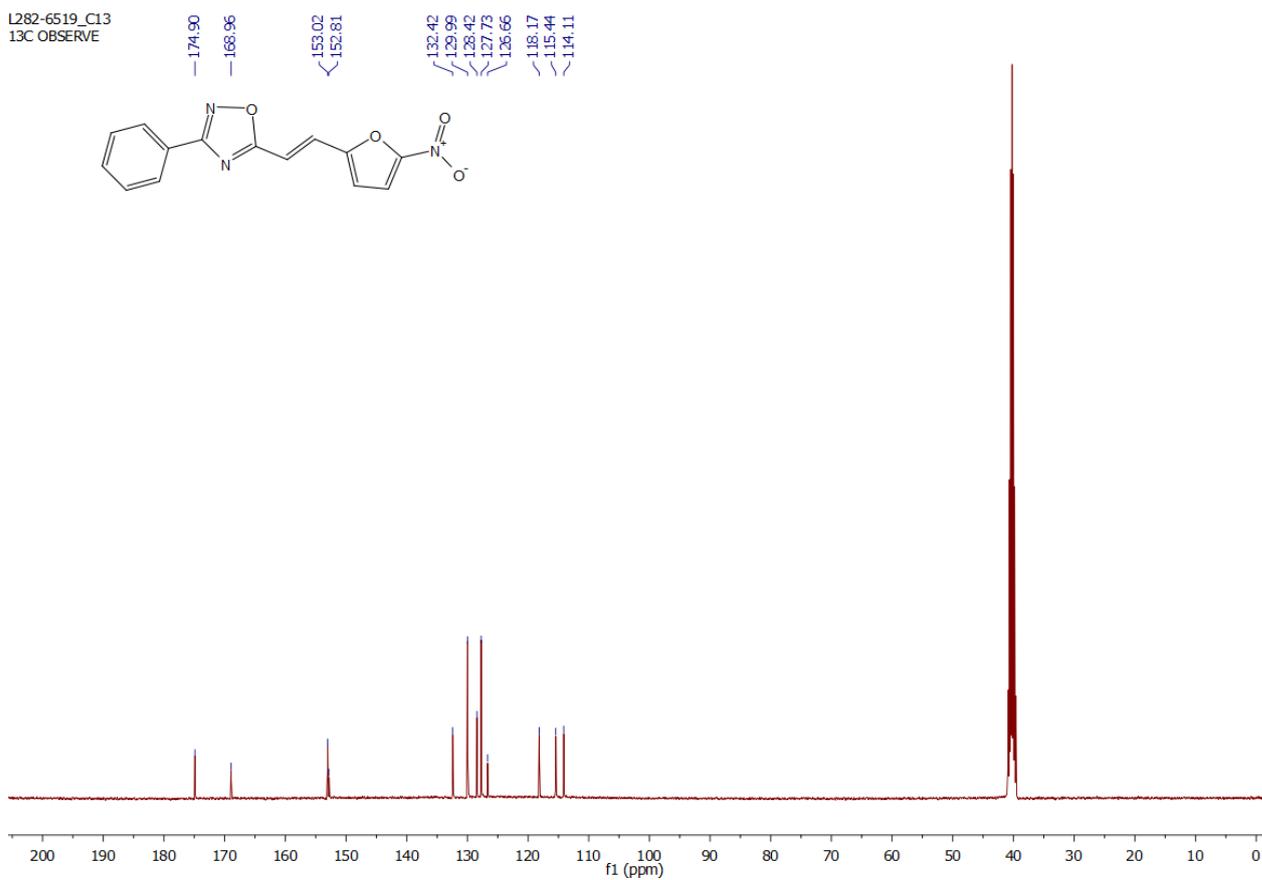
Figure S3. Compound **5e** tested for MIC against *MTb* H37Rv (MIC 3.1 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$).

(*E*)-5-(2-(5-nitrofur-2-yl)vinyl)-3-phenyl-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (Compound **4a**)

L282-6519
1H, DMSO

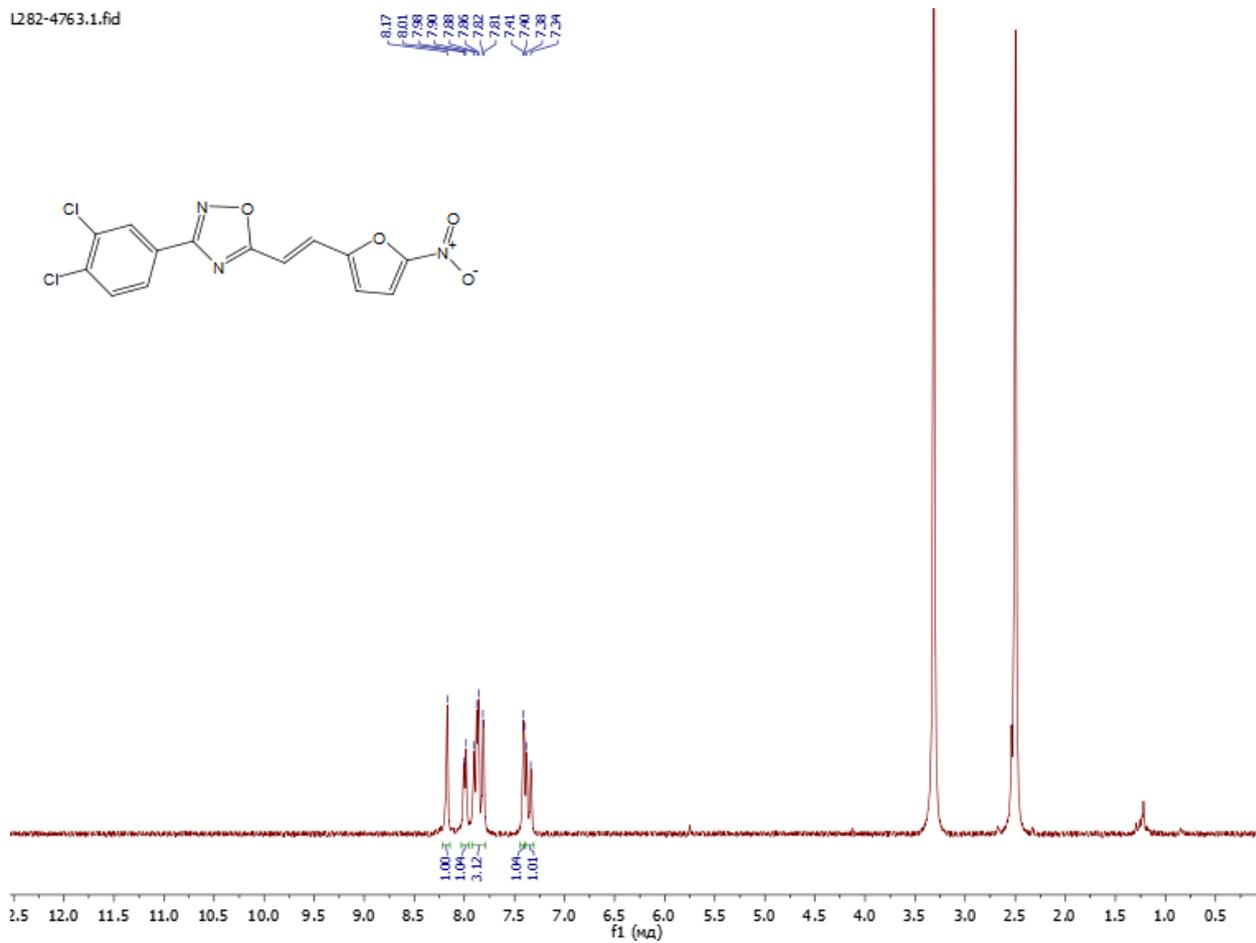


L282-6519_C13
13C OBSERVE

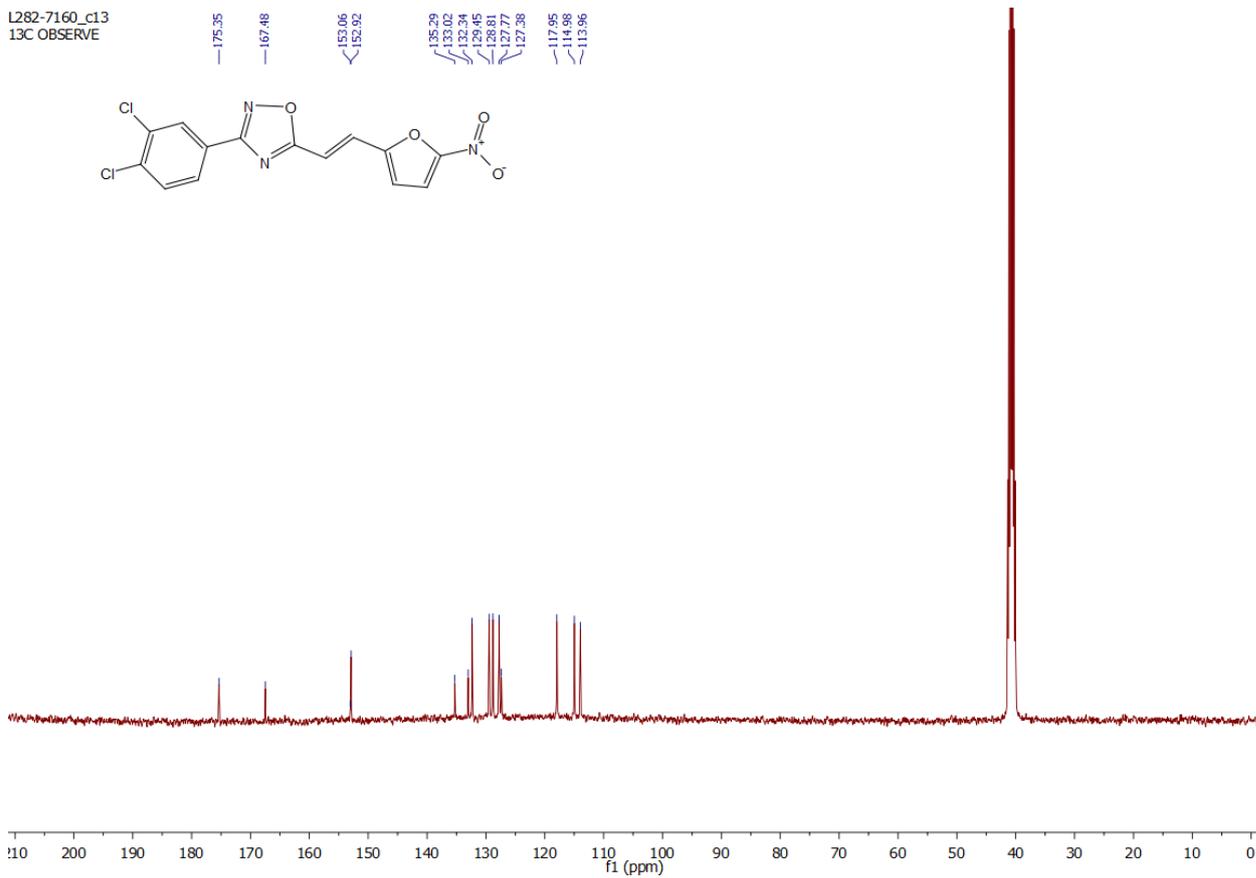


(*E*)-3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-[2-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)vinyl]-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (Compound **4b**)

L282-4763.1.fid

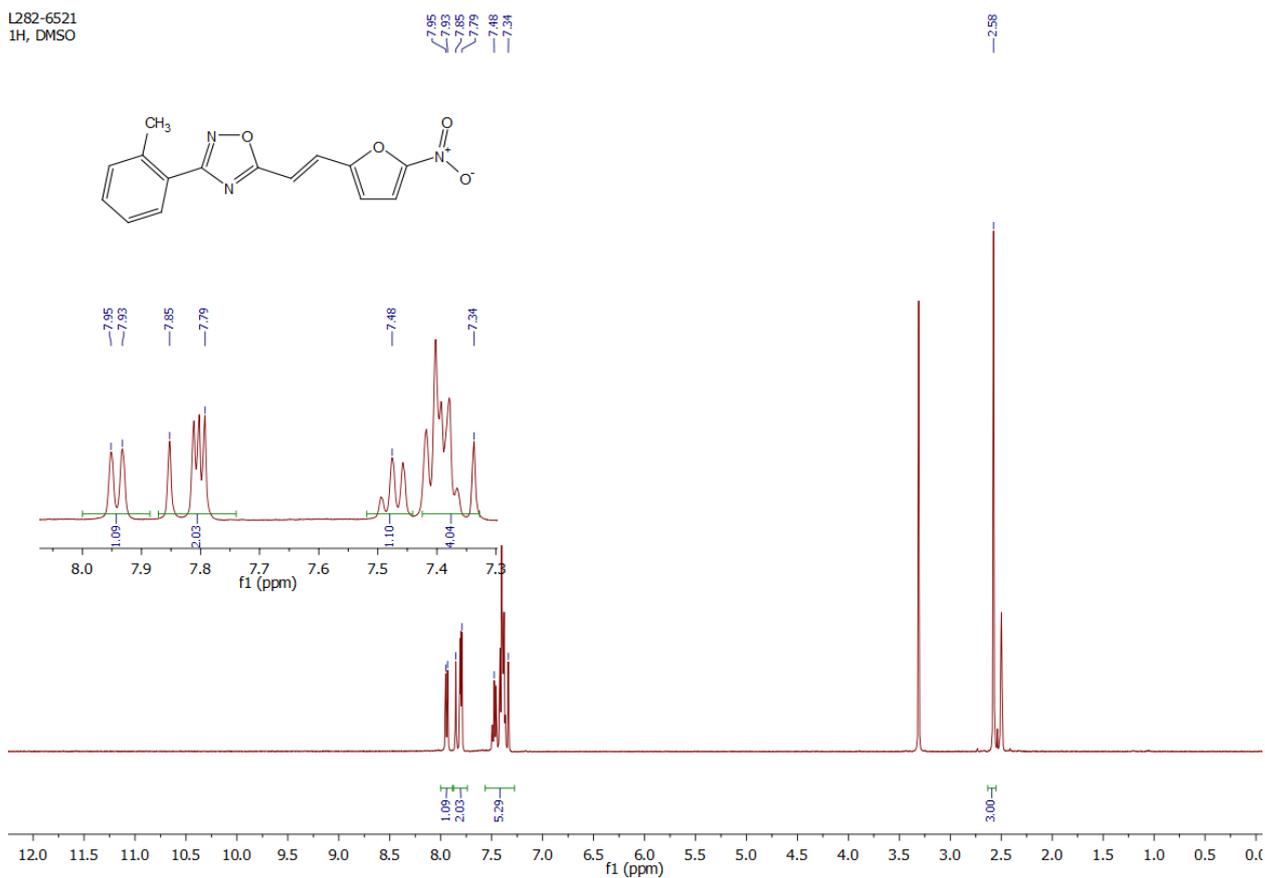


L282-7160_c13
13C OBSERVE

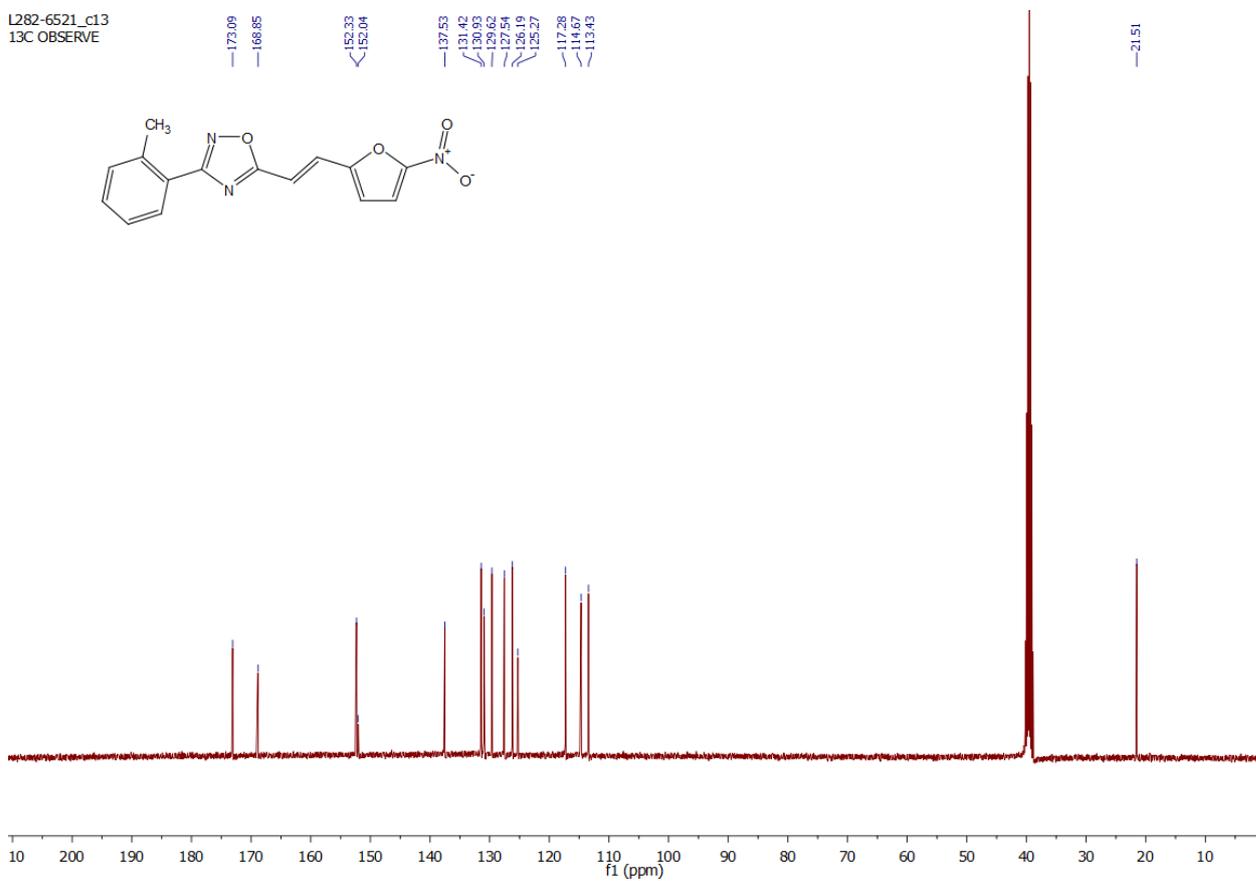


(E)-5-(2-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)vinyl)-3-(o-tolyl)-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (Compound 4c)

L282-6521
1H, DMSO

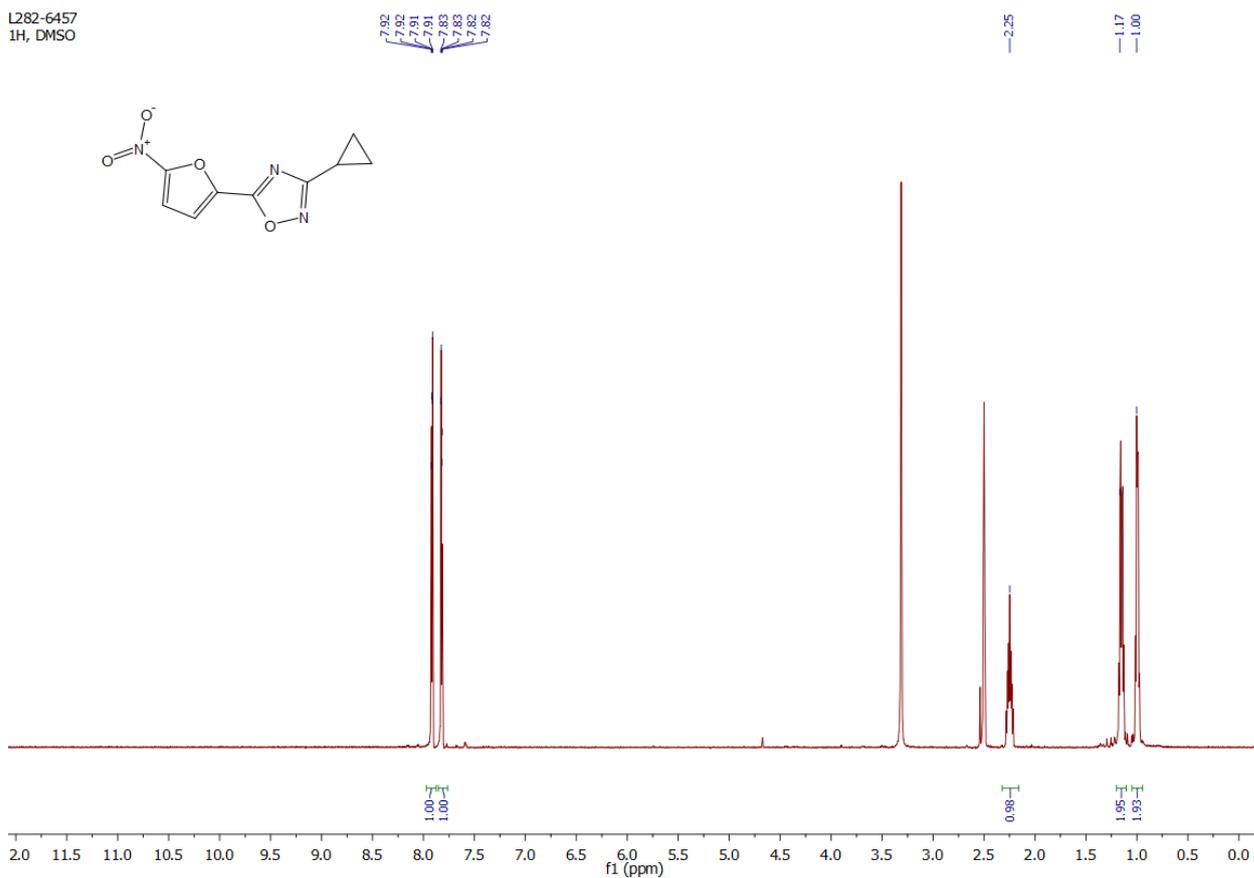


L282-6521_c13
13C OBSERVE

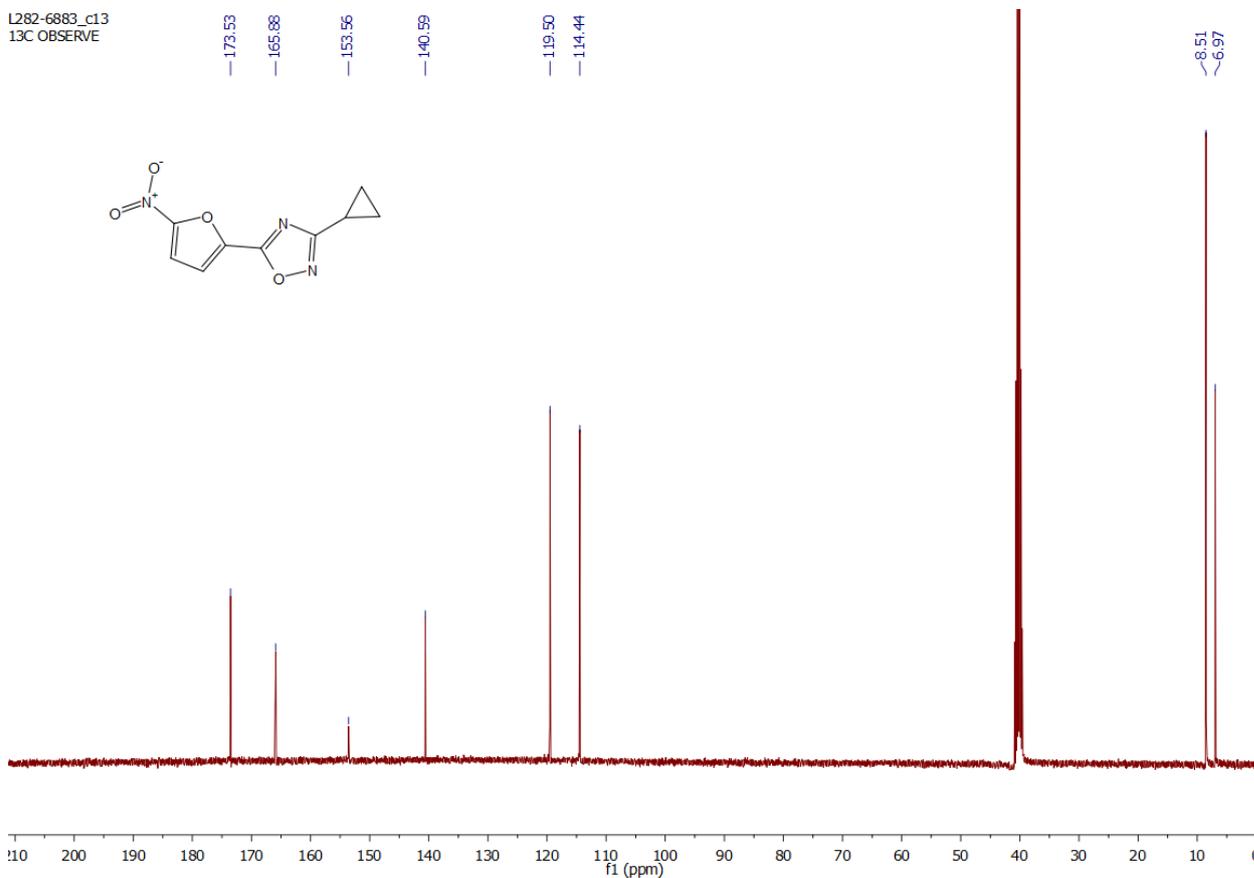


(E)-3-cyclopropyl-5-(2-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)vinyl)-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (Compound **4d**)

L282-6457
1H, DMSO

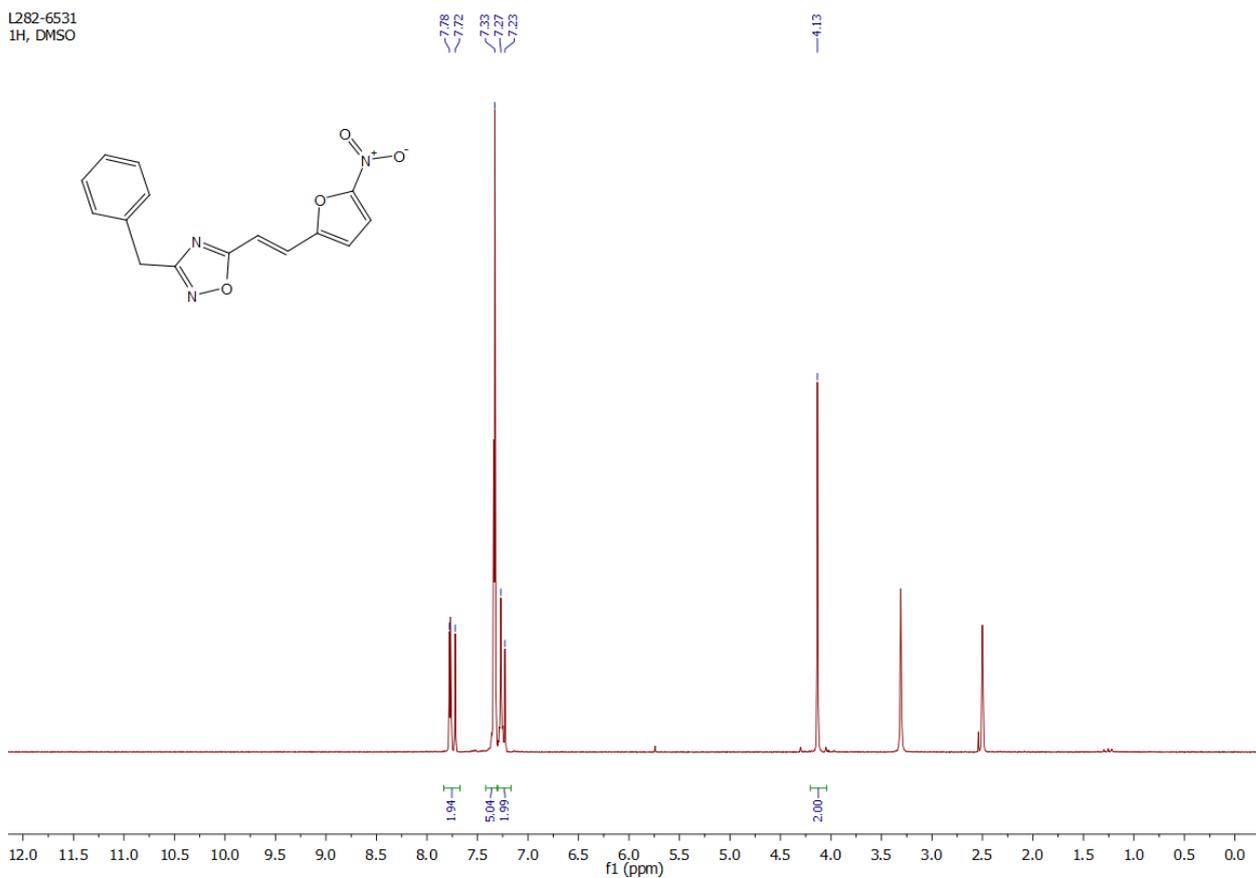


L282-6883_c13
13C OBSERVE

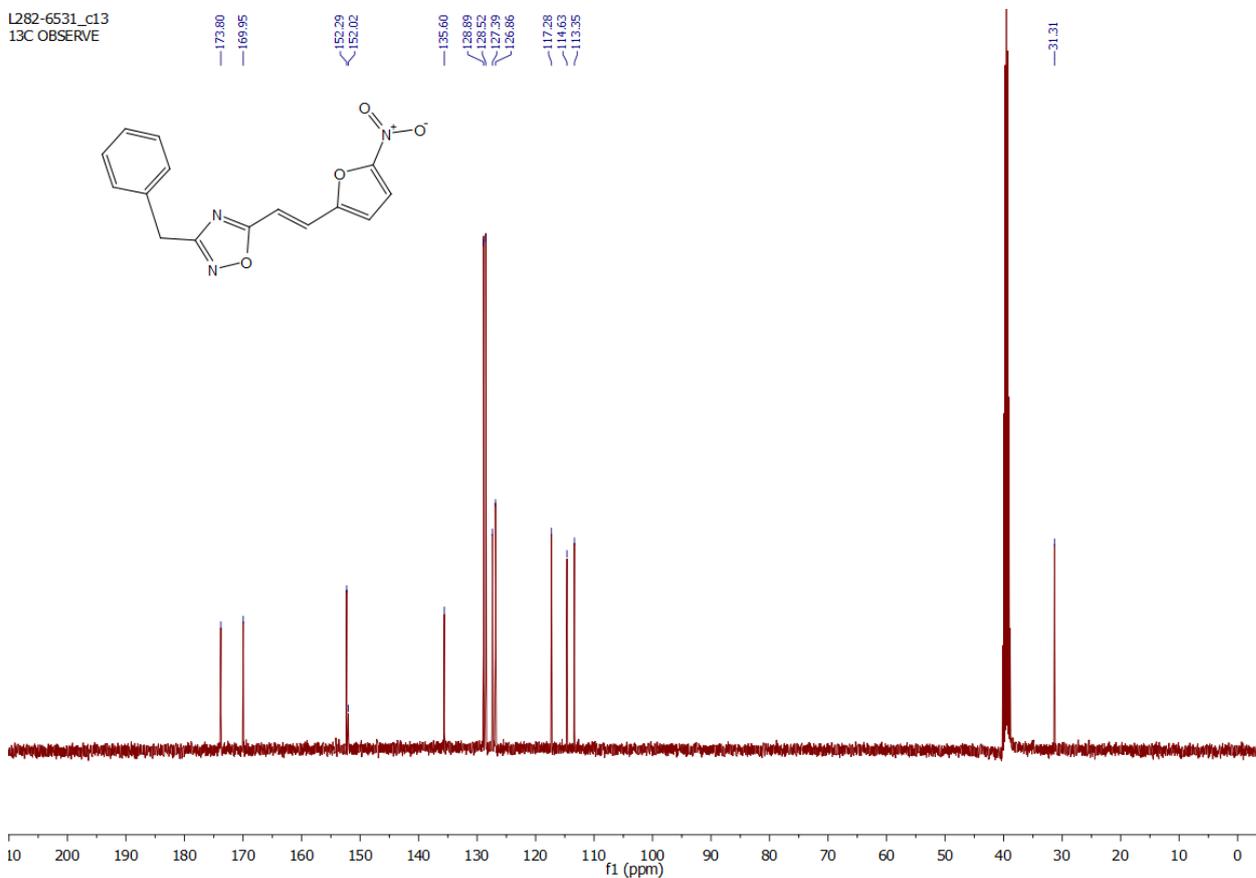


(E)-3-benzyl-5-(2-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)vinyl)-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (Compound 4e)

L282-6531
1H, DMSO

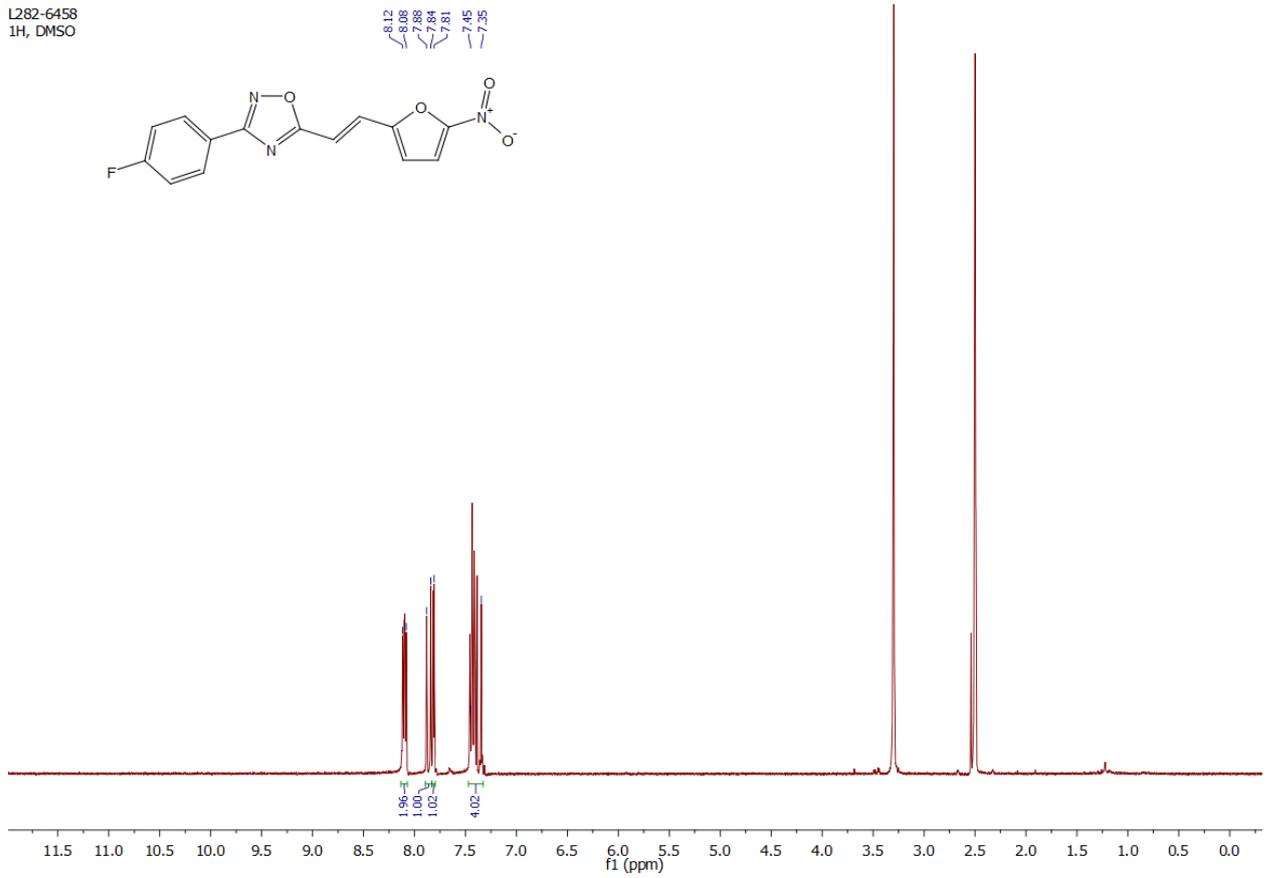


L282-6531_c13
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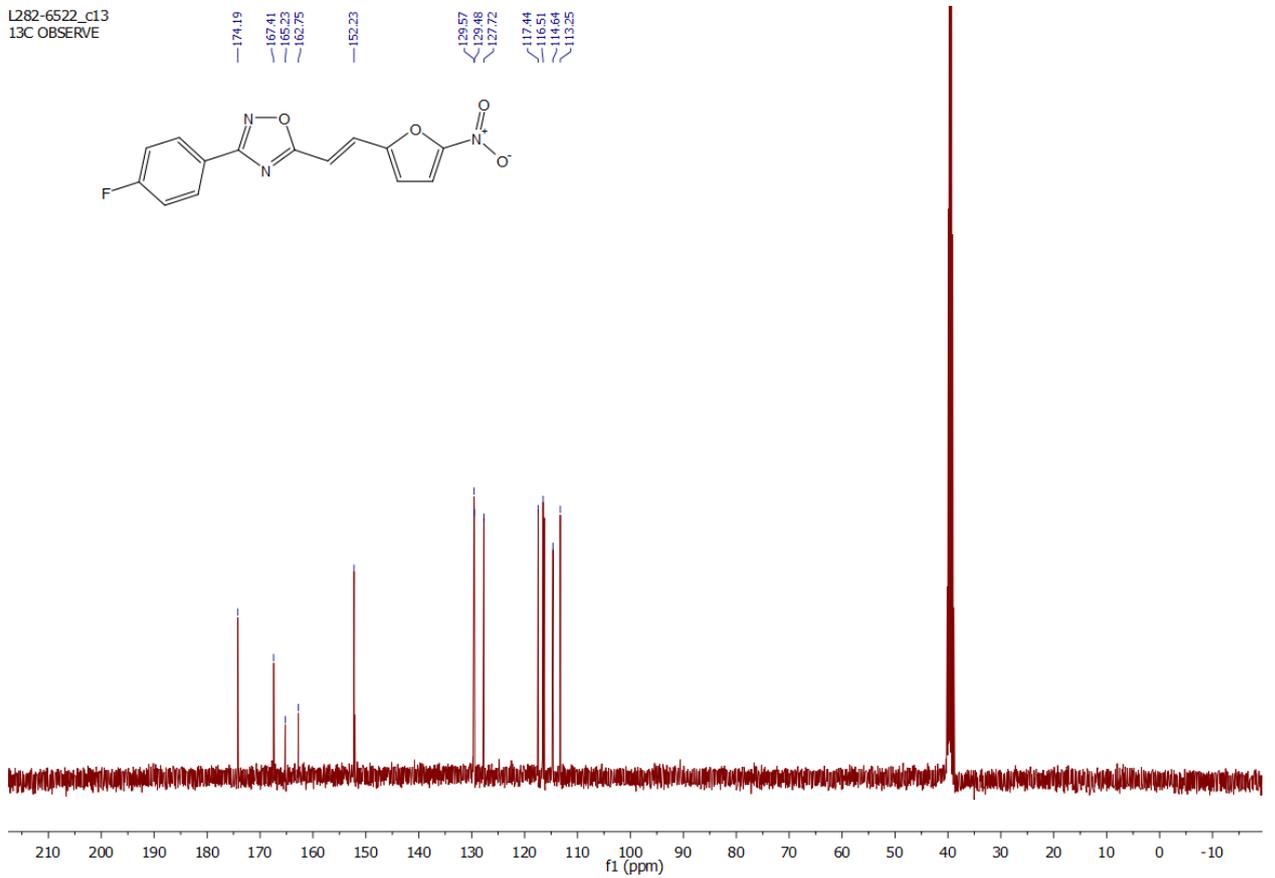


(E)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-[2-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)vinyl]-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (Compound 4f)

L282-6458
1H, DMSO

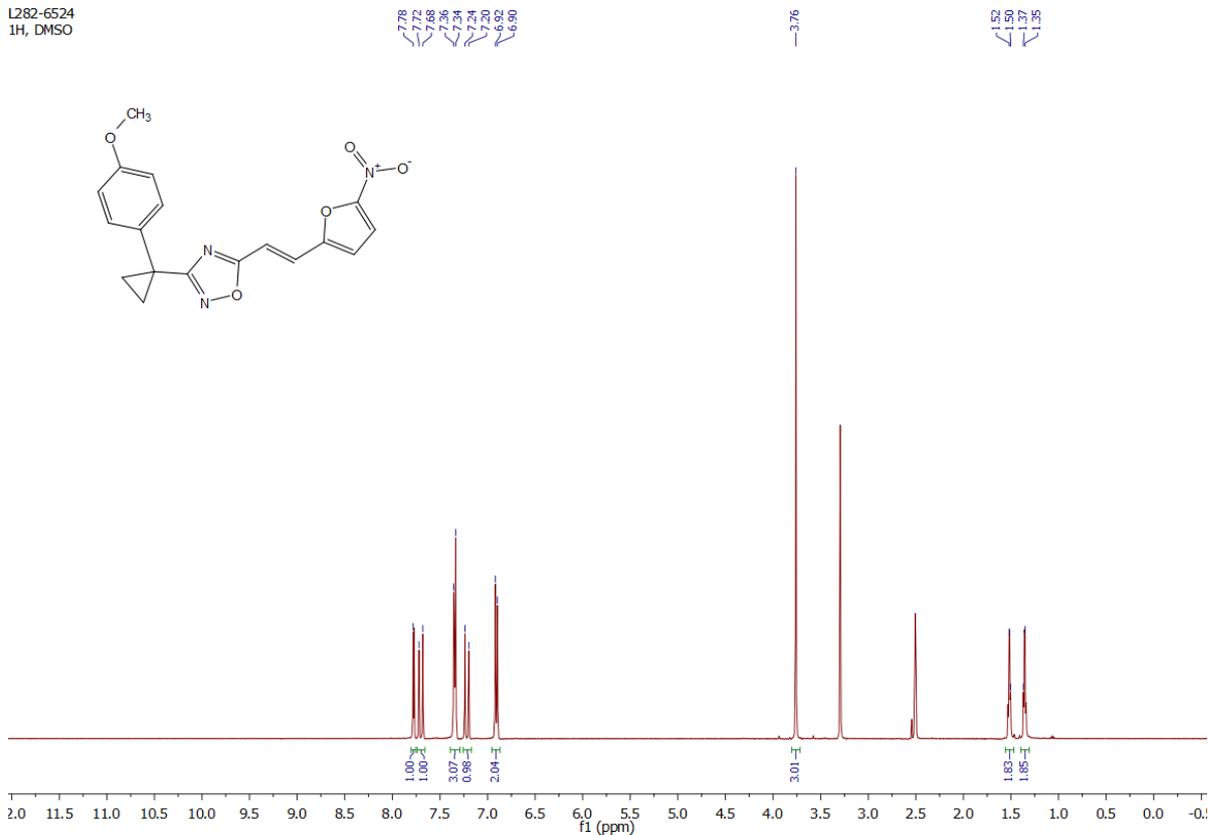


L282-6522_c13
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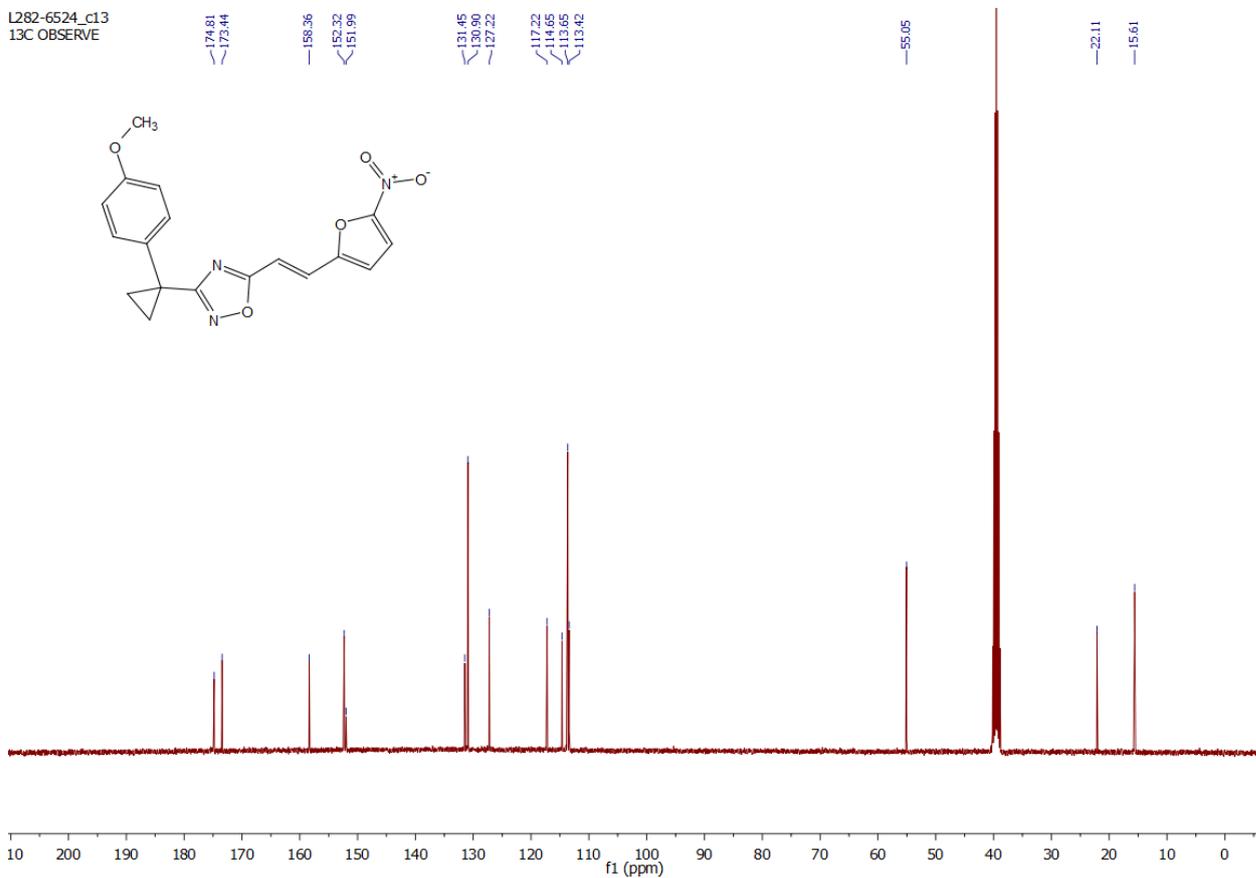


(*E*)-3-(1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)cyclopropyl)-5-[2-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)vinyl]-4,5-dihydro-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (Compound **4g**)

L282-6524
1H, DMSO

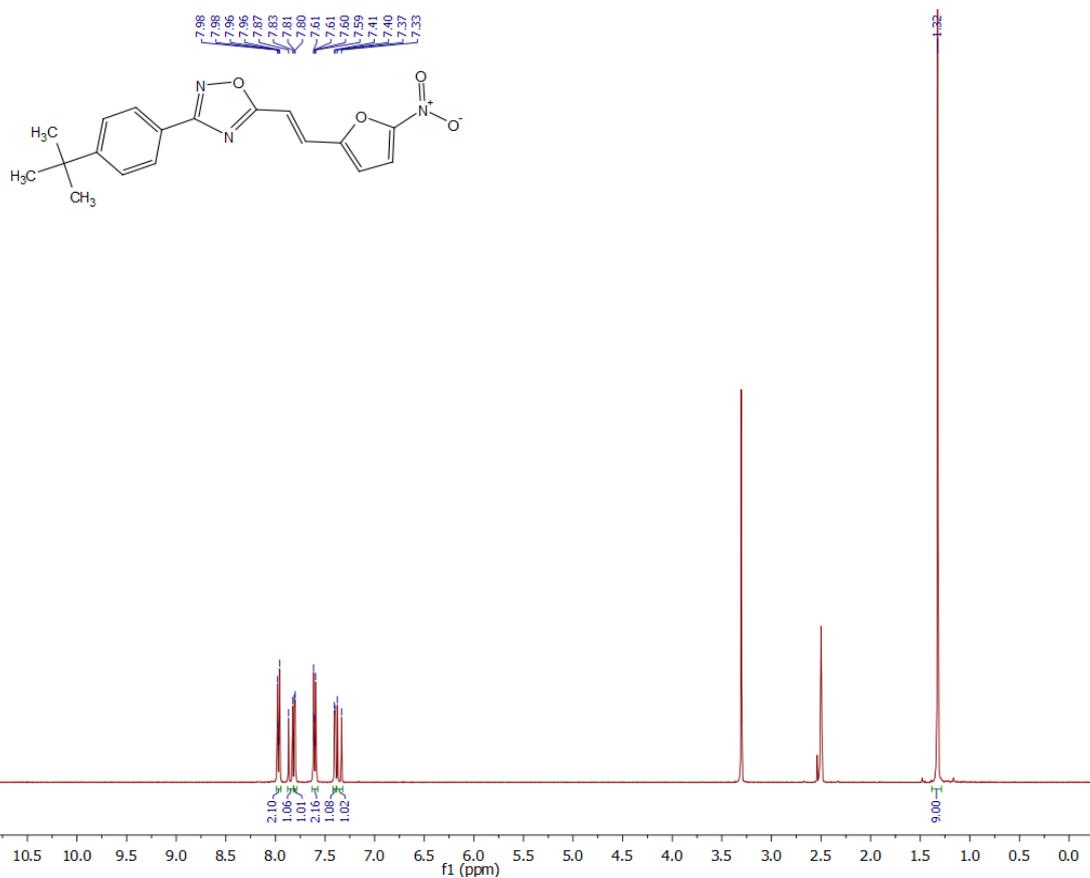


L282-6524_c13
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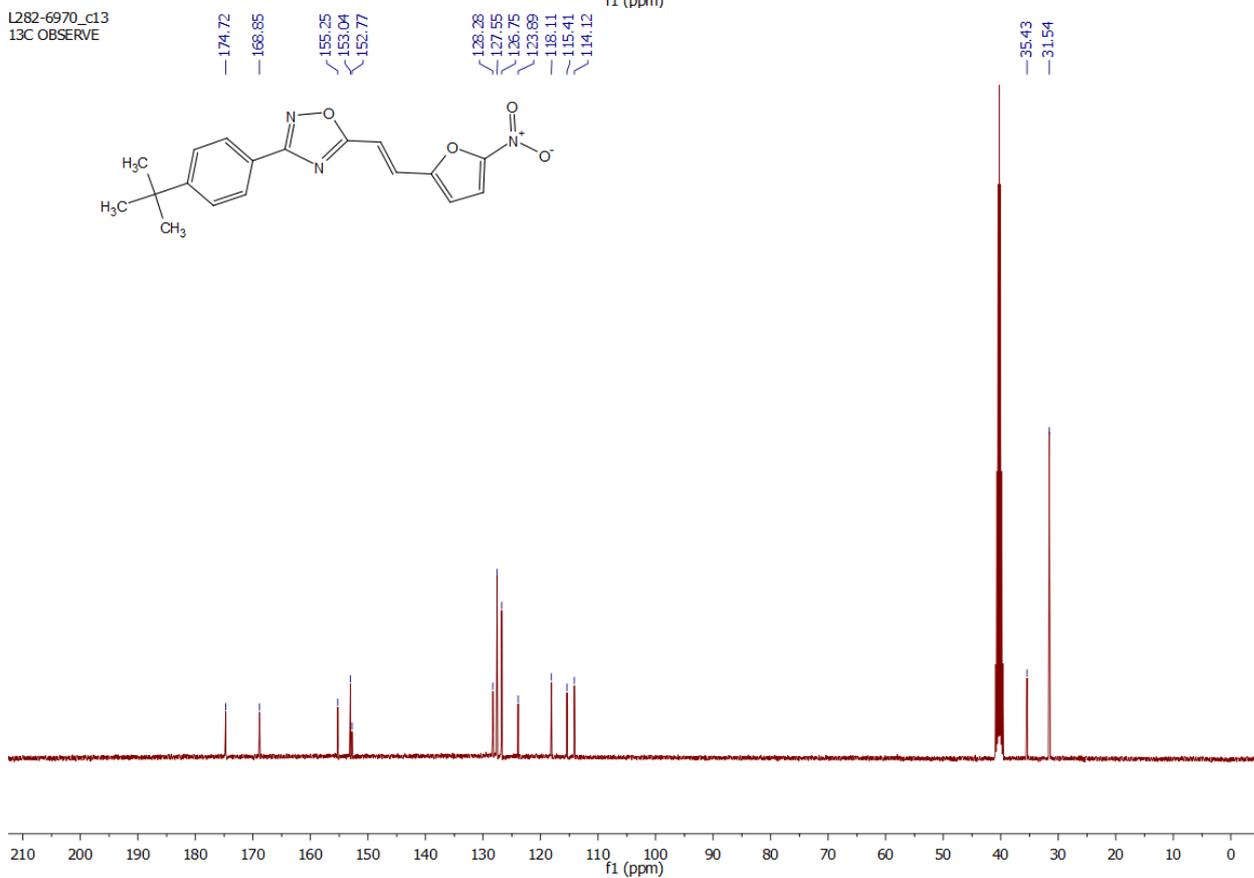


(E)-3-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)-5-[2-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)vinyl]-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (Compound **4h**)

L282-6456
1H, DMSO

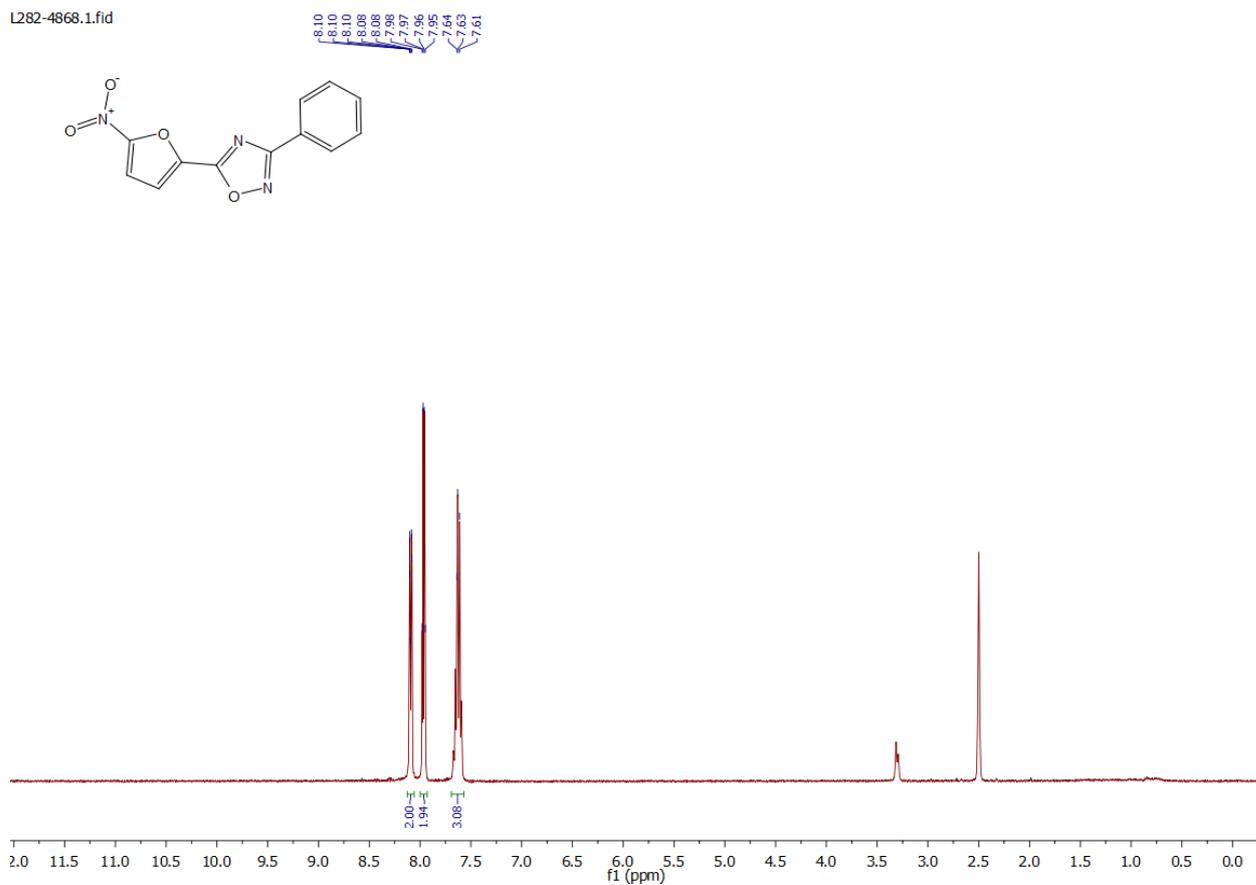


L282-6970_c13
13C OBSERVE

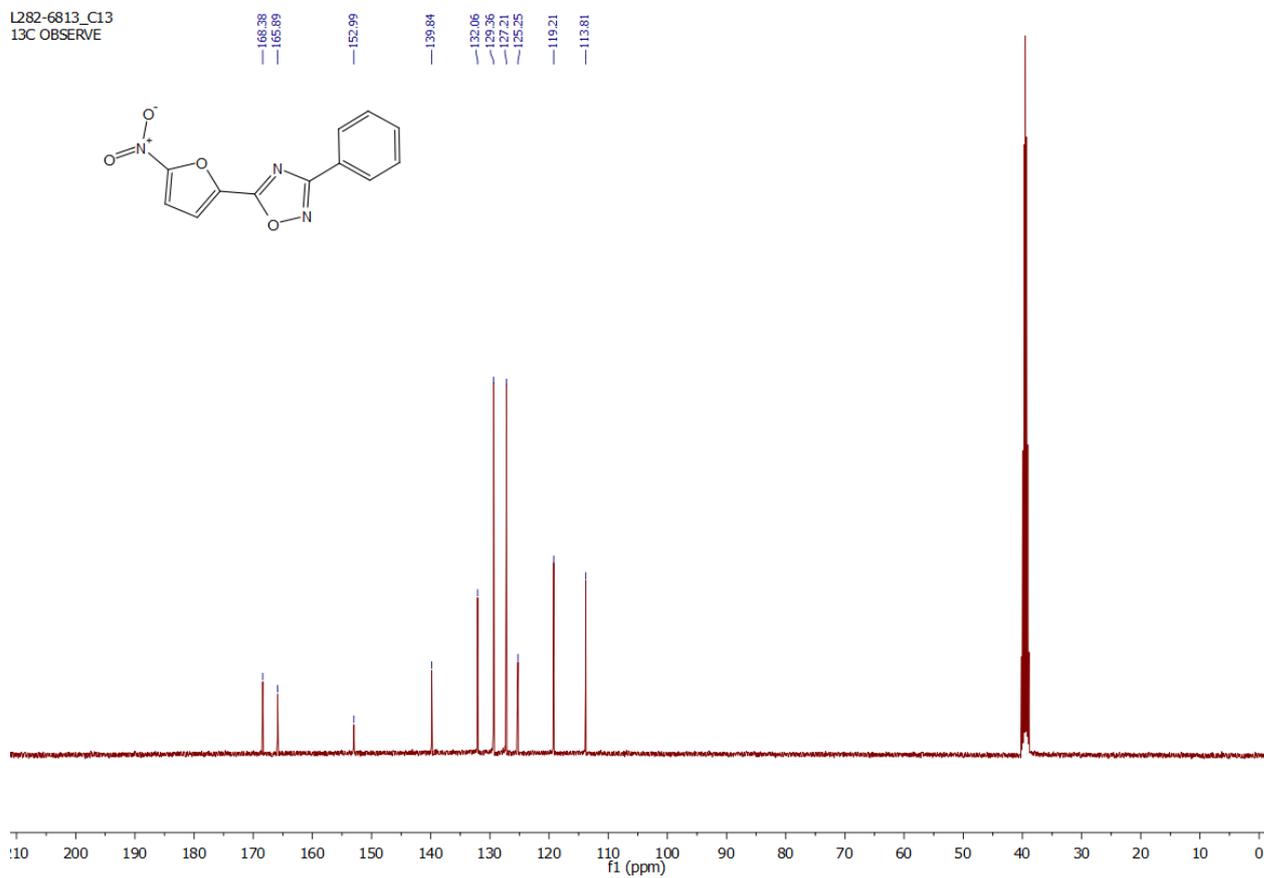


5-(5-Nitrofuran-2-yl)-3-phenyl-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (Compound 5a)

L282-4868.1.fid

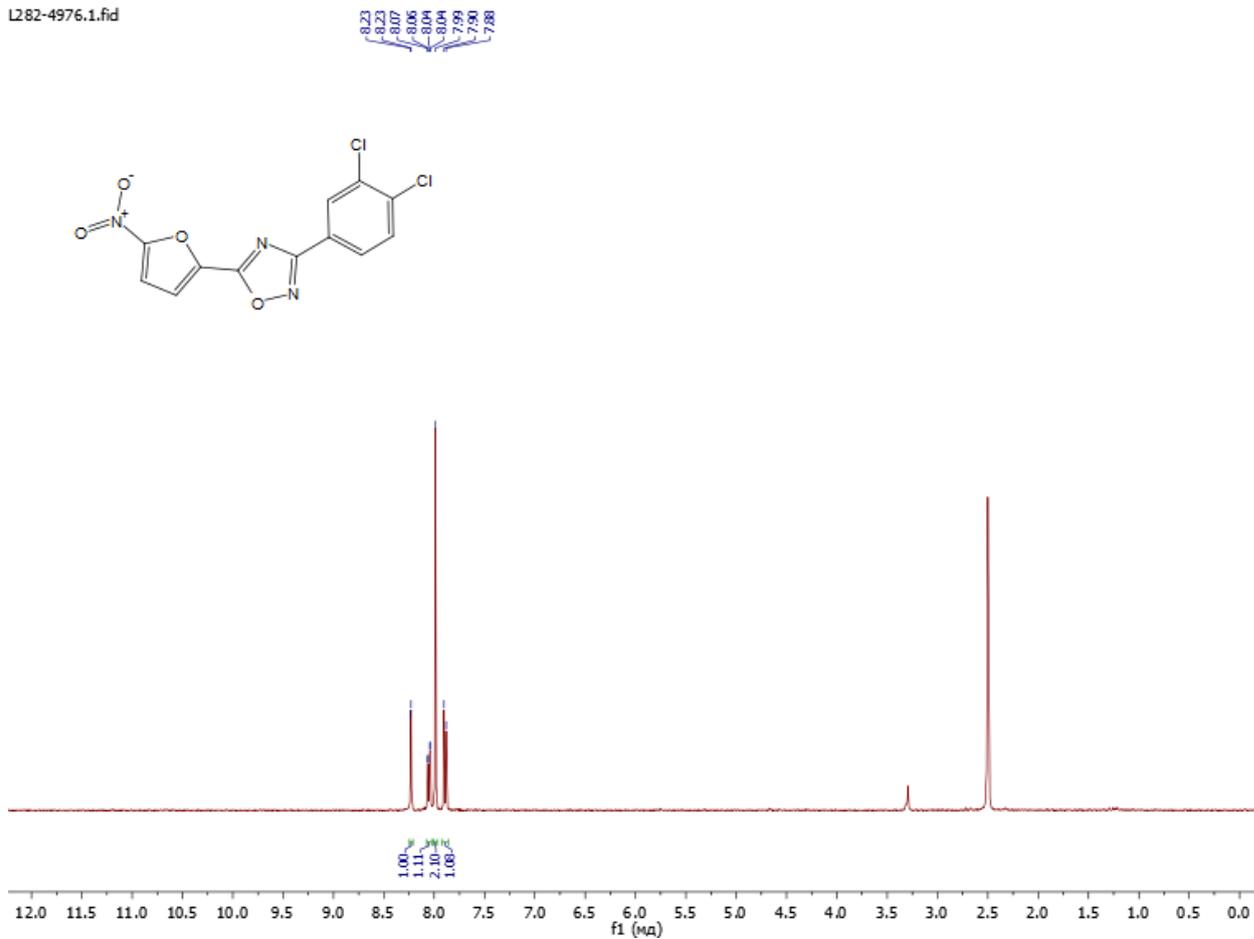


L282-6813_C13
13C OBSERVE

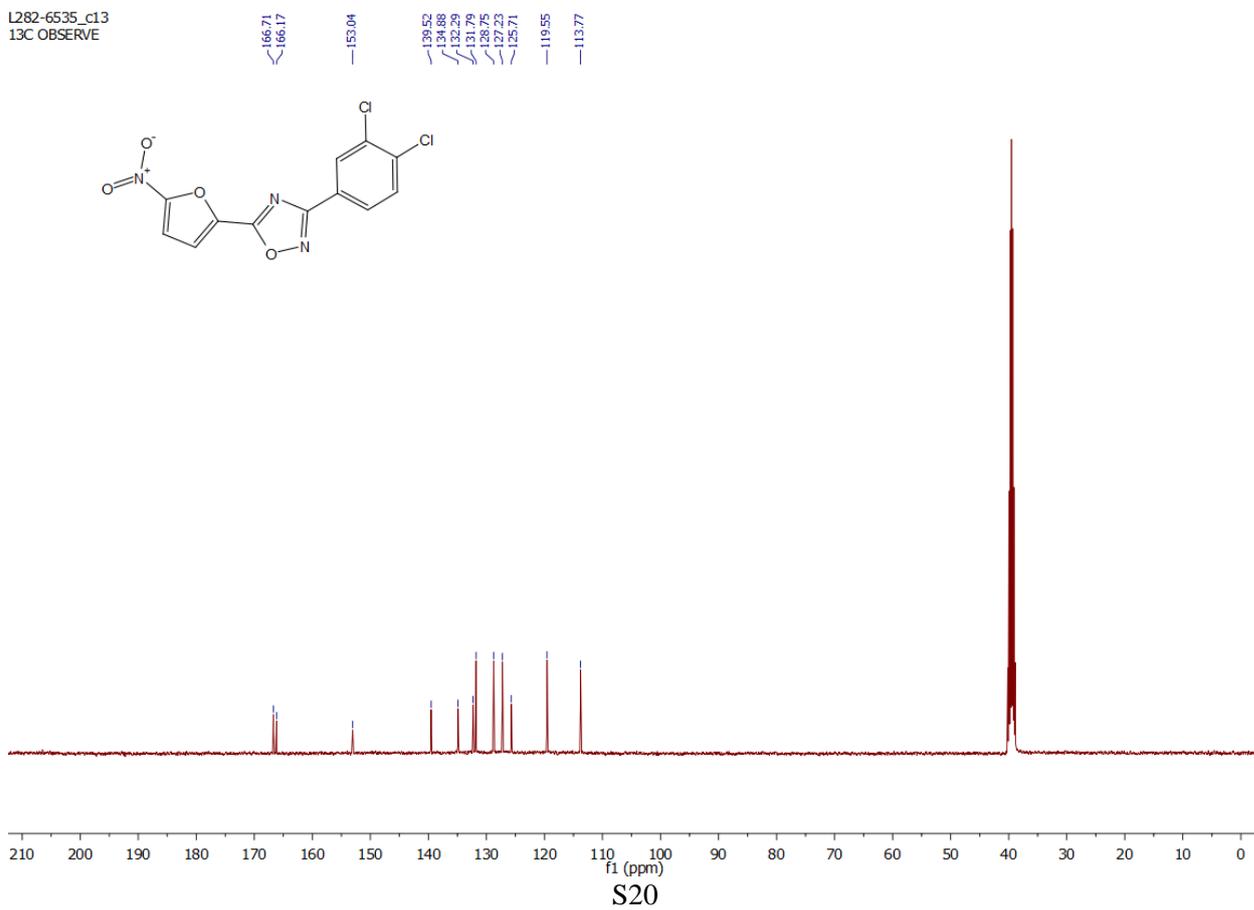


3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-5-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (compound **5b**)

L282-4976.1.fid

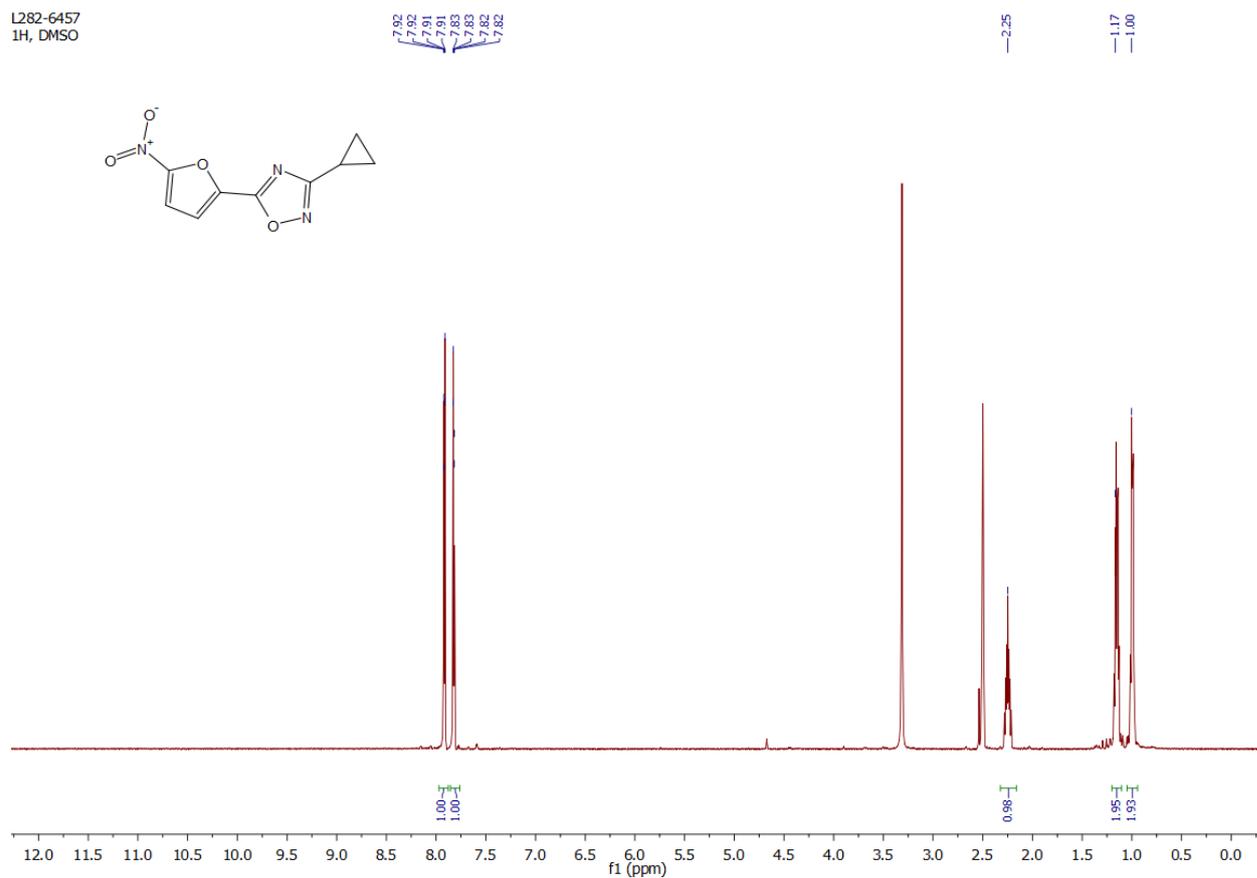


L282-6535_c13
13C OBSERVE

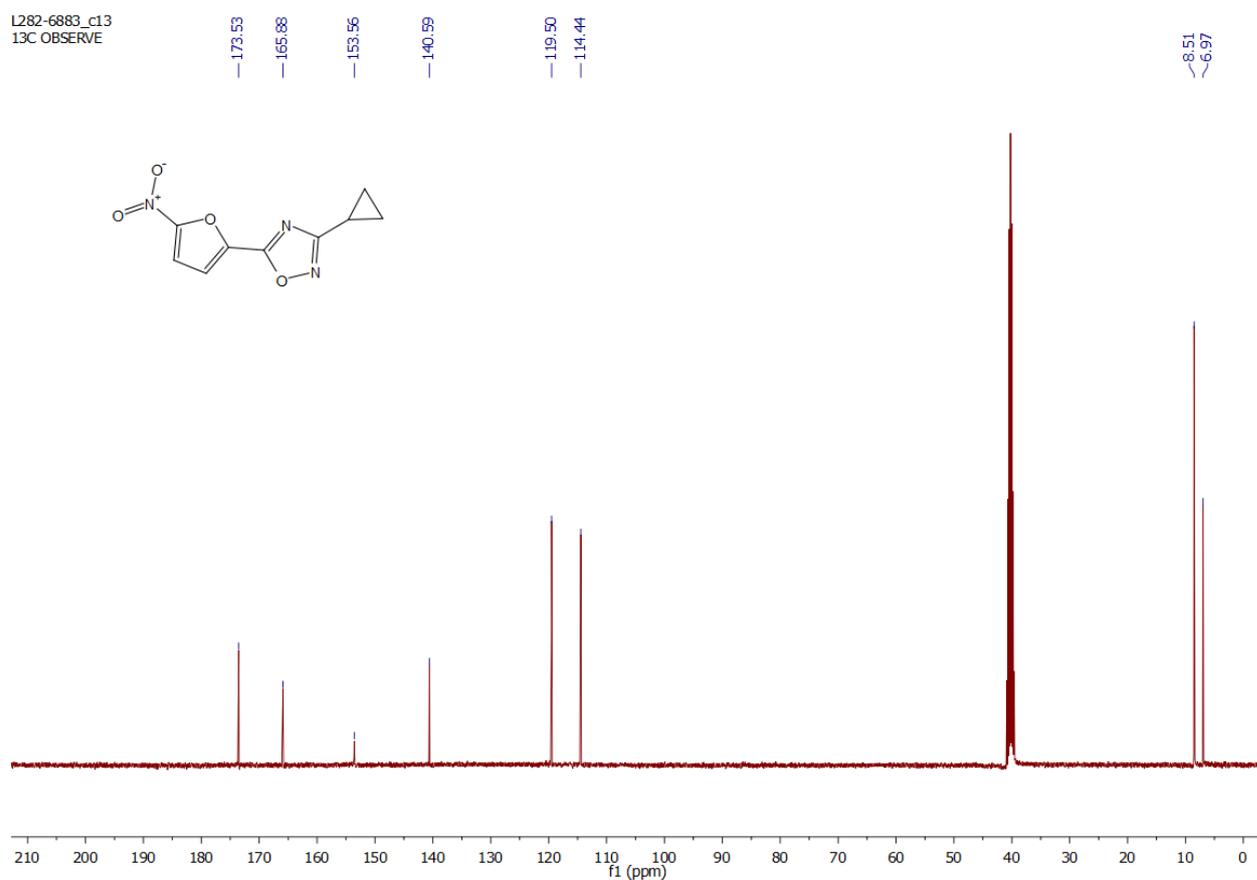


3-Cyclopropyl-5-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (Compound **5d**)

L282-6457
1H, DMSO

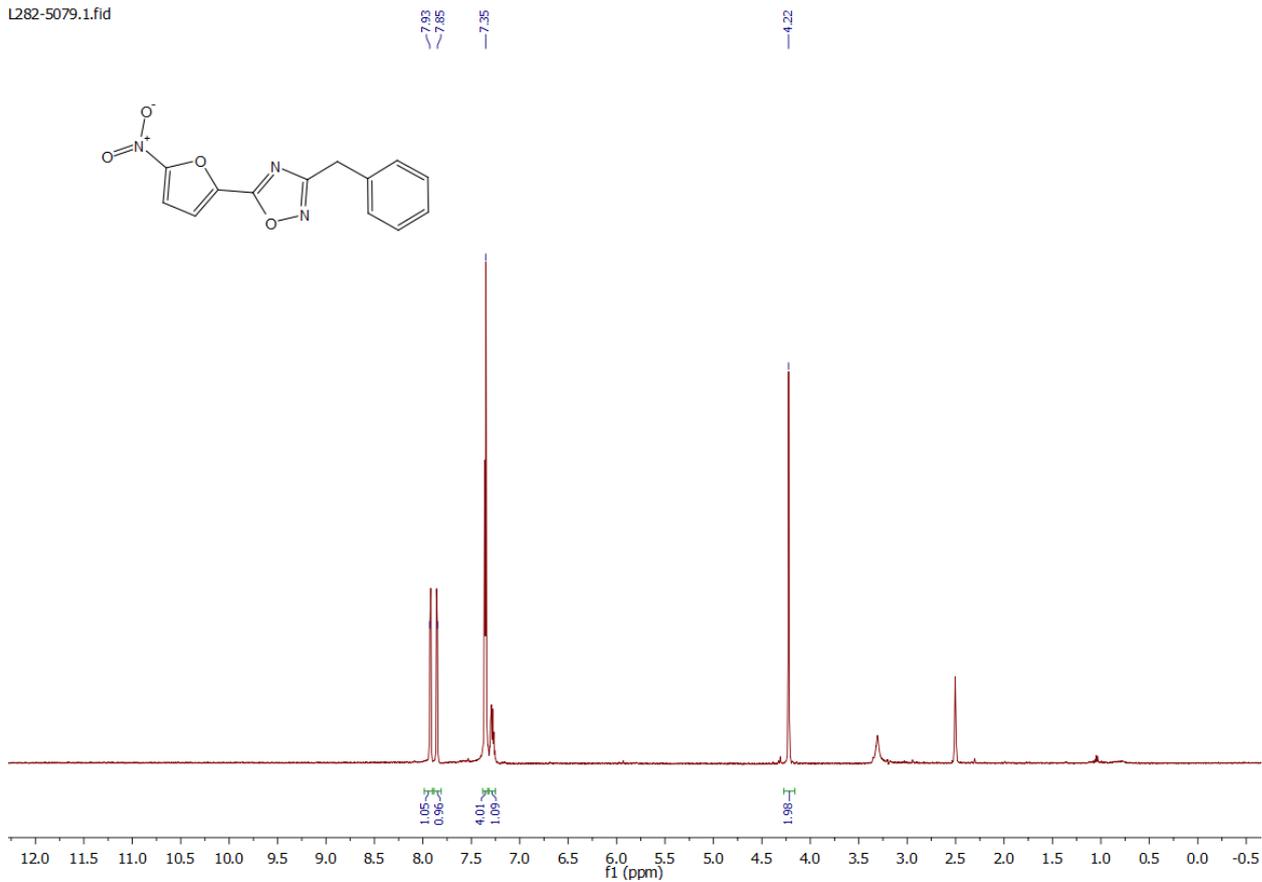


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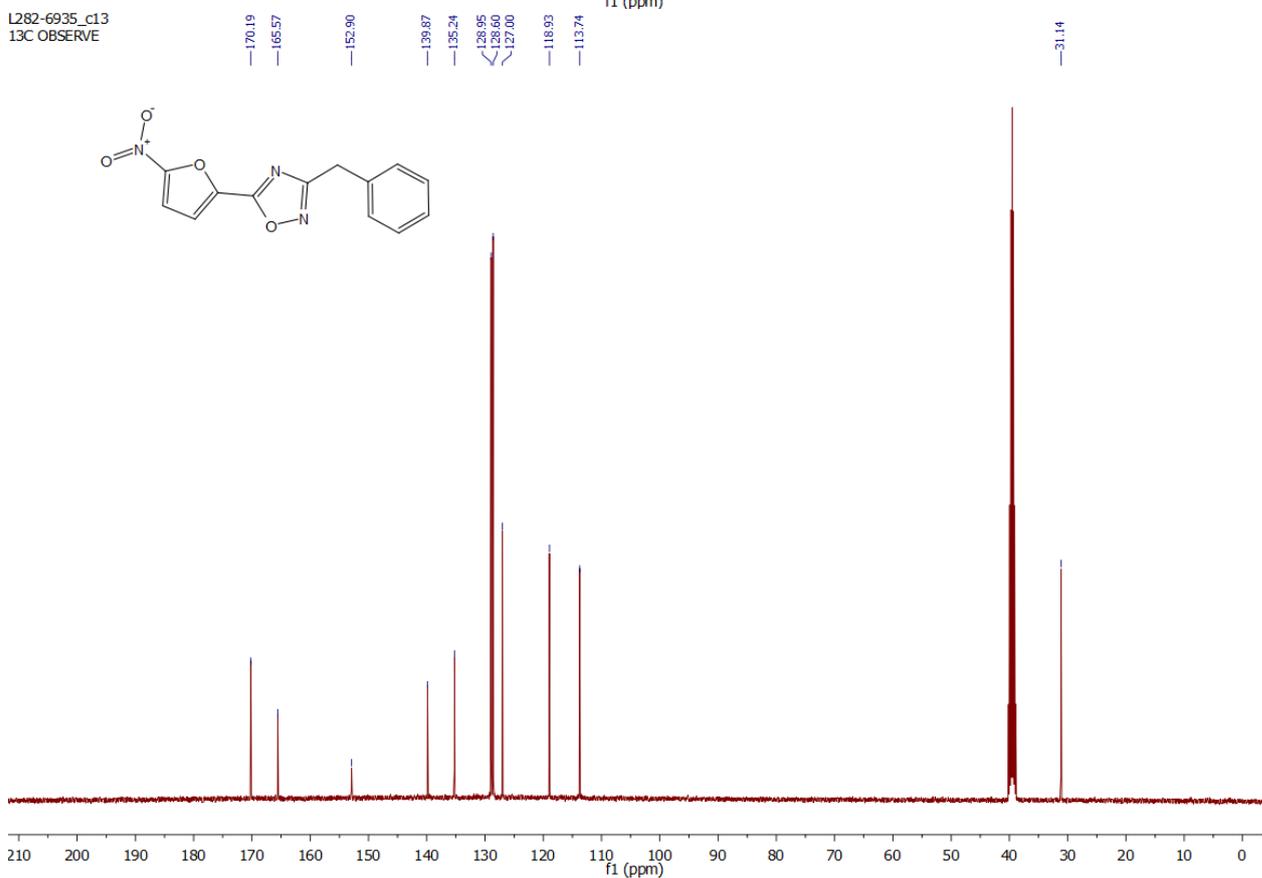


3-Benzyl-5-(5-nitrofuran-2-yl)-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (compound 5e)

L282-5079.1.fid

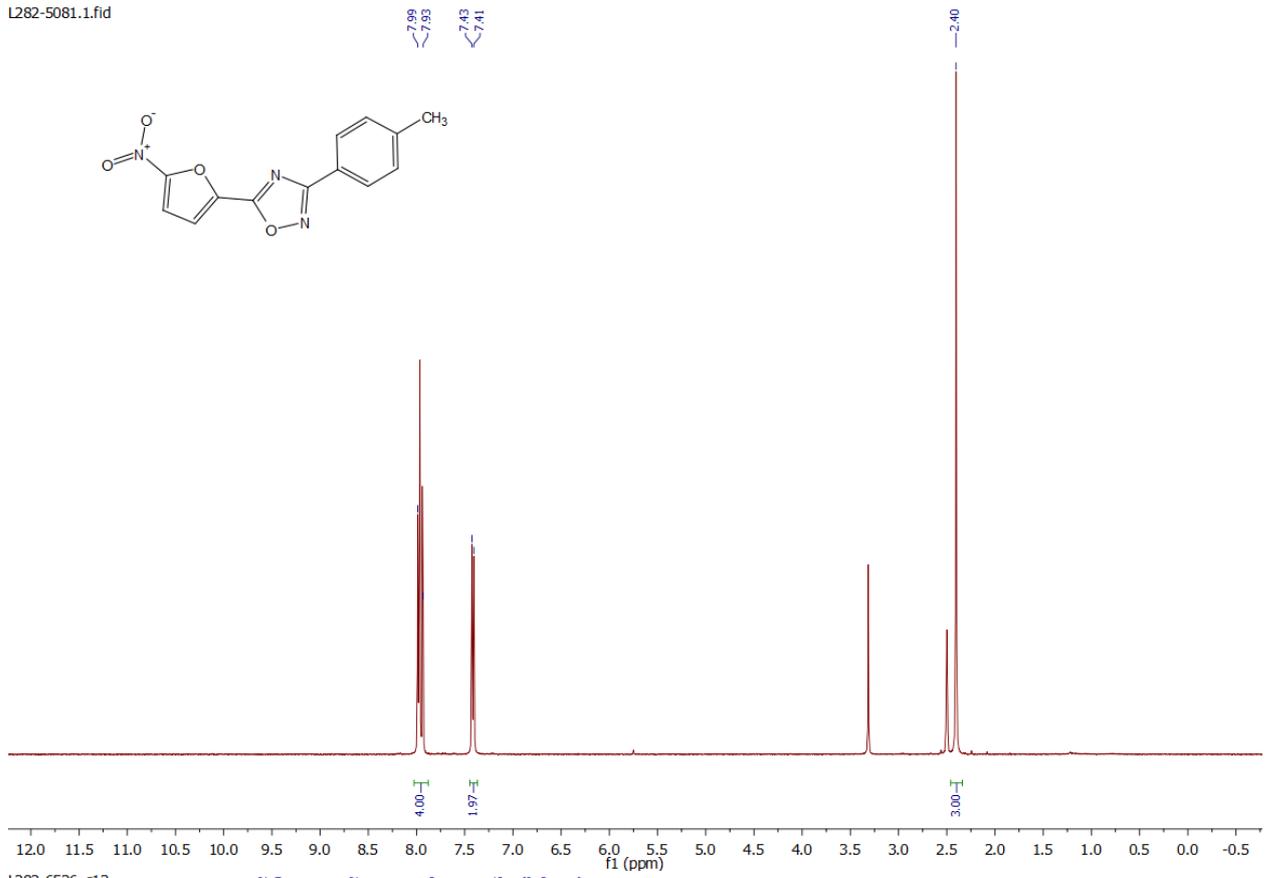


L282-6935_c13
13C OBSERVE



5-(5-Nitrofuran-2-yl)-3-(p-tolyl)-[1,2,4]-oxadiazole (Compound **5f**)

L282-5081.1.fid



L282-6536_c13
13C OBSERVE

