

**One-pot synthesis of acetyl(iso)quinolines/pyridines
employing the sodium-promoted Claisen condensation
of the corresponding carboxylates**

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1. General Information

All reactions were carried out under air. Melting points were measured with the YRT-3 melting point apparatus. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance spectrometer operating at 400 MHz (¹H NMR) and 101 MHz (¹³C NMR) in CDCl₃. All ¹H NMR chemical shifts were reported in ppm and were referenced to the residual peaks of CDCl₃ at 7.26, coupling constants *J* were given in Hz. The following abbreviations are used to describe peak patterns where appropriate: singlet (s), doublet (d), doublet of doublets (dd), triplet (t), multiplet (m), and broad resonances (br). Mass spectra (MS) were obtained on a Waters Q-TOF micro TM apparatus. The thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on pre-coated, glass-backed silica gel plates. Visualization of the developed chromatogram was performed by UV absorbance (254 nm).

Chemicals

Unless noted otherwise, the materials obtained from commercial suppliers were used without further purification, substrates **1b**, **1c**, **1d**, **1e**, **1f**, **1g**, **1i**, **1j**, **1k**, **1l**, **1m** were prepared according to reference [G. P. Shen, J. J. Jiang, F. Sun, X. Shen, D. R. Zhu, and X. Q. Liu, *J. Heterocyclic Chem.*, 2013, **50**, 1152]. All solvents were analytical purity.

2. Experimental procedure

2.1 General procedure for the synthesis of 2.

To a 25 mL flask equipped with a mechanical agitator and condenser, compound **1** (5.0 mmol) and dry ethyl acetate (0.89 g, 10.0 mmol) were added. Metallic sodium (0.14 g, 6.0 mmol) was then sliced and carefully introduced into the flask. A noticeable increase in the temperature was observed, after which the reaction mixture was allowed to cool naturally to room temperature and stirred for 4 hours. Once the reaction was complete, as confirmed by TLC, 0.1 mL of absolute ethanol was added, and stirring continued for an additional 10 minutes.

Subsequently, 25% sulfuric acid (3 mL) was added to the reaction flask. The mixture was heated to reflux for 3 hours. After cooling, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was treated with 1 mL of water, and the pH was adjusted to 8-9 using a 30% sodium hydroxide solution. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×2 mL), and the combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the crude product was then purified *via* column chromatography to afford the desired product **2**.

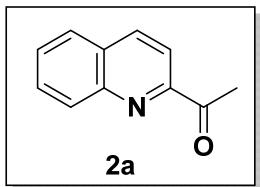
2.2 Gram-scale experiment for industrial production of 2a

To a 250 mL flask equipped with a mechanical agitator and condenser, compound **1a** (10 g, 50 mmol) and ethyl acetate after dehydration treatment (10 mL, 100 mmol) were added. Metallic sodium (1.4 g, 60 mmol) was then sliced and carefully introduced into the flask. A noticeable increase in the temperature was observed, after which the reaction mixture was allowed to cool naturally to room temperature and stirred for 4 hours. Once the reaction was complete, as confirmed by TLC, 1 mL of absolute ethanol was added, and stirring continued for an additional 10 minutes.

Subsequently, 25% sulfuric acid (30 mL) was added to the reaction flask. The mixture was heated to reflux for 3 hours. After cooling, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was treated with 10 mL of water, and the pH was adjusted to 8-9 using a 30% sodium hydroxide solution. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×20 mL), and the combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. Following solvent removal under reduced pressure, the crude product was obtained, which was further purified by recrystallization in 95% ethanol to give the desired product **2a** as a yellow needle crystal, achieving a yield of 92.3%.

3. Characterization of all products

1-(Quinolin-2-yl)ethan-1-one 2a



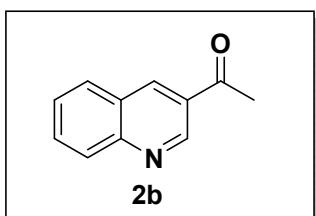
Obtained as a yellow solid (786 mg, 92%); m.p. 51.7-52.3°C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.92 – 7.87 (m, 1H), 7.81 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.65 (m, 1H), 2.90 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 200.75, 153.23, 147.24, 136.91, 130.58, 130.02, 129.59, 128.59, 127.68, 117.99, 25.63.

MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀NO, 172.1; found. 172.0.

1-(Quinolin-3-yl)ethan-1-one 2b



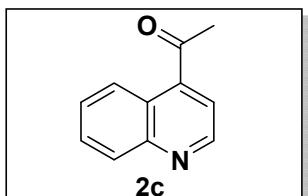
Obtained as a white solid (717 mg, 84%); m.p. 85.9-87.2°C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 9.31 (t, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dq, *J* = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.04 – 7.99 (m, 1H), 7.82 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 2.86 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 196.84, 149.85, 149.26, 137.43, 132.10, 129.52, 129.41, 129.27, 127.64, 126.86, 26.91.

MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀NO, 172.1; found. 172.5

1-(Quinolin-4-yl)ethan-1-one 2c



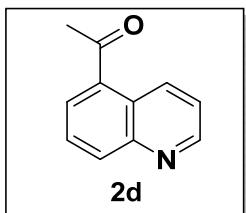
Obtained as a slight yellow oil (715 mg, 84%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 9.01 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.19 – 8.13 (m, 1H), 7.76 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.59 (m, 2H), 2.74 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 201.36, 149.84, 149.15, 142.55, 129.94, 128.38, 128.15, 125.51, 123.63, 119.91, 30.10.

MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀NO, 172.1; found. 172.0.

1-(Quinolin-5-yl)ethan-1-one 2d



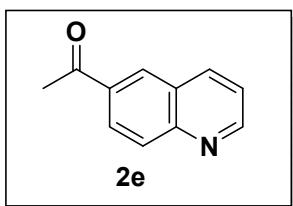
Obtained as a colorless oil (687 mg, 80%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 9.21 (ddd, *J* = 8.8, 1.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.95 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dt, *J* = 8.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.77 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 200.67, 150.80, 148.38, 134.82, 134.71, 129.70, 127.89, 125.94, 122.91, 29.63.

MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀NO, 172.1; found. 172.4.

1-(Quinolin-6-yl)ethan-1-one 2e



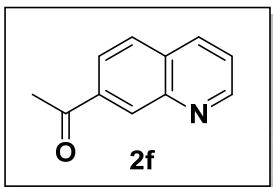
Obtained as a slight yellow solid (724 mg, 85%). m.p. 71.9-73.2°C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 9.03 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (td, *J* = 8.8, 8.3, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 8.17 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.67, 150.80, 148.38, 134.82, 134.71, 129.70, 127.89, 125.94, 122.91, 29.63.

MS (ESI): $[M+H]^+$ calcd. for $C_{11}H_{10}NO, 172.1$; found. 172.4.

1-(Quinolin-7-yl)ethan-1-one 2f



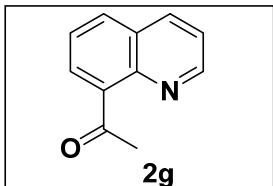
Obtained as a slight yellow solid (713 mg, 83%).

1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm): 9.01 (dd, $J = 4.2, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.70 – 8.68 (m, 1H), 8.21 (ddd, $J = 8.3, 1.7, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 8.13 (dd, $J = 8.6, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, $J = 8.3, 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.77 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.50, 152.69, 150.14, 137.60, 134.89, 130.09, 129.91, 127.75, 127.47, 122.01, 26.85.

MS (ESI): $[M+H]^+$ calcd. for $C_{11}H_{10}NO, 172.1$; found. 172.1.

1-(Quinolin-8-yl)ethan-1-one 2g



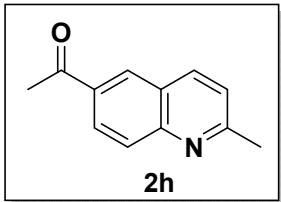
Obtained as a yellow solid (689 mg, 81%); m.p. 38.9-39.2°C.

1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm): 9.00 (dd, $J = 4.2, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.22 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, $J = 8.3, 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.97 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm): 198.00, 151.46, 147.79, 137.52, 135.88, 131.55, 130.84, 128.36, 124.40, 123.03, 26.79.

MS (ESI): $[M+H]^+$ calcd. for $C_{11}H_{10}NO, 172.1$; found. 172.6.

1-(2-Methylquinolin-6-yl)ethan-1-one 2h



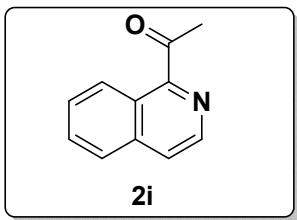
Obtained as a white solid (732 mg, 79%). m.p. 60.3-61.7°C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.42 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (s, 3H), 2.74 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 197.60, 161.85, 149.82, 137.60, 134.17, 129.63, 129.15, 127.87, 125.65, 123.01, 26.81, 25.63.

MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₂H₁₂NO, 186.1; found 186.0.

1-(Isoquinolin-1-yl)ethan-1-one 2i



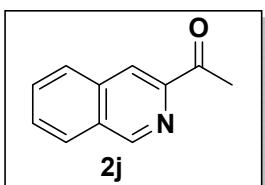
Obtained as a slightly yellow oil (745 mg, 87%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.98 (ddd, *J* = 7.7, 1.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.89 – 7.86 (m, 1H), 7.83 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 2.89 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 202.70, 152.80, 141.05, 137.05, 130.34, 129.13, 126.97, 126.87, 125.74, 124.63, 28.59.

MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀NO, 172.1; found. 172.1.

1-(Isoquinolin-3-yl)ethan-1-one 2j



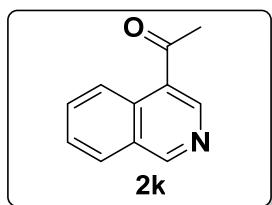
Obtained as an off-white solid (647 mg, 76%). m.p. 85.5-86.7°C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 9.31 (t, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dq, *J* = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.04 – 7.99 (m, 1H), 7.82 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 2.86 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 200.37, 151.97, 147.69, 135.50, 131.04, 130.16, 129.49, 128.67, 127.60, 120.33, 26.63.

MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀NO, 172.1; found. 172.4.

1-(Isoquinolin-4-yl)ethan-1-one 2k



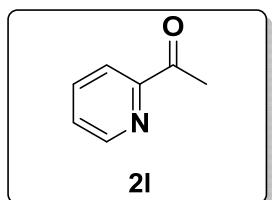
Obtained as a yellow solid (750 mg, 88%). m.p. 71.5–72.7°C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 9.34 (s, 1H), 9.04 (s, 1H), 8.87 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.86 – 7.79 (m, 1H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 200.13, 156.85, 145.86, 132.77, 132.73, 128.71, 128.20, 127.91, 127.75, 125.43, 29.59.

MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀NO, 172.1; found. 172.4.

1-(Pyridin-2-yl)ethan-1-one 2l



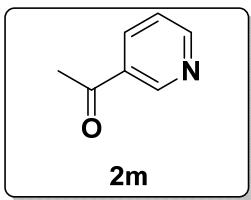
Obtained as a colorless oil (540 mg, 89%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 8.73 (ddd, *J* = 4.8, 1.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.03 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.66 (ddd, *J* = 7.3, 4.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 199.93, 153.43, 149.67, 137.93, 128.14, 121.59, 26.09.

MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₇H₈NO, 122.1; found. 122.5.

1-(Pyridin-3-yl)ethan-1-one 2m



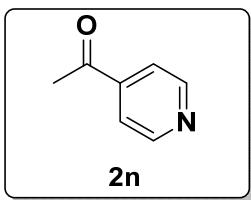
Obtained as a slightly yellow oil (558 mg, 92%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 9.11 (dd, *J* = 2.3, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.78 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 2.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 4.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 197.79, 153.82, 149.95, 135.95, 132.41, 124.25, 27.30.

MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₇H₈NO, 122.1; found. 122.3.

1-(Pyridin-4-yl)ethan-1-one 2n



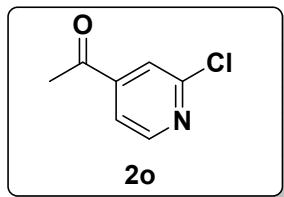
Obtained as a colorless oil (496 mg, 82%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 8.84 – 8.75 (m, 2H), 7.82 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 2.62 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 198.48, 151.23, 142.95, 121.71, 27.24.

MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₇H₈NO, 122.1; found. 122.6.

1-(2-Chloropyridin-4-yl)ethan-1-one 2o



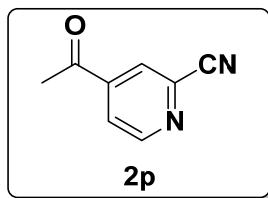
Obtained as a white solid (611 mg, 79%). m.p.36.1-36.6C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 8.98 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (dd, *J* = 1.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 197.08, 151.91, 151.56, 146.39, 122.79, 121.13, 27.48.

MS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₇H₇ClNO, 156.0; found. 155.4.

4-Acetylpicolinonitrile 2p



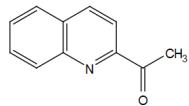
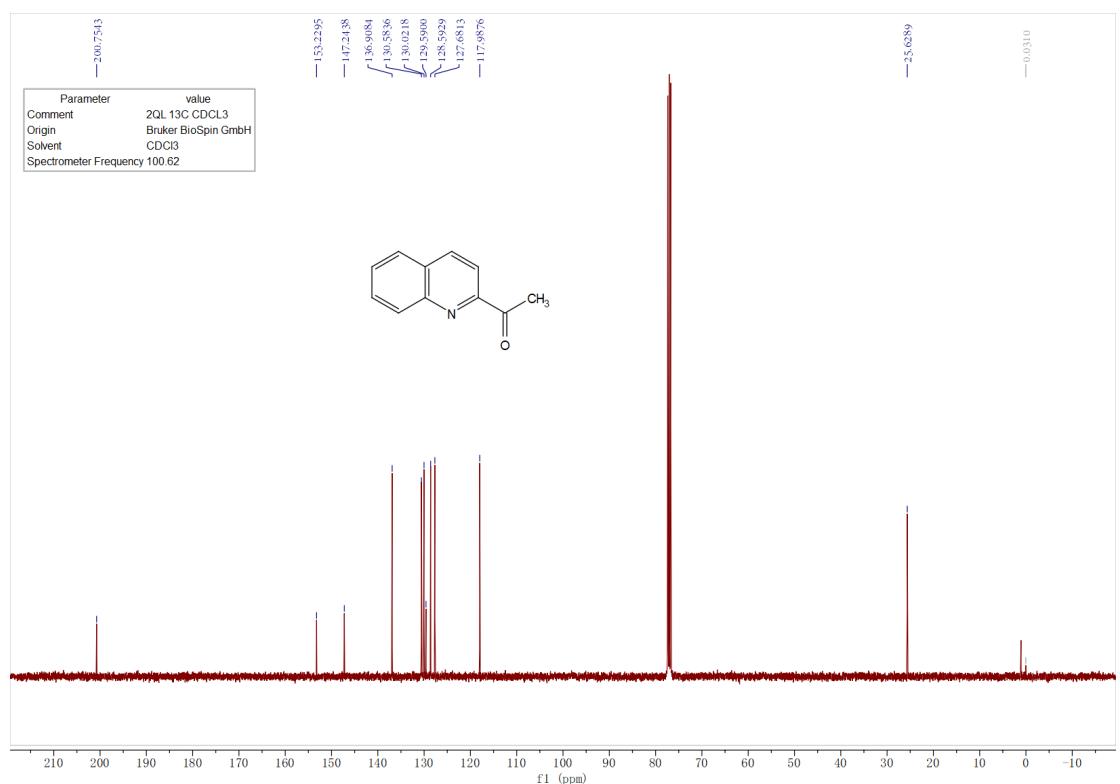
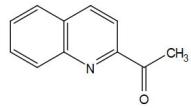
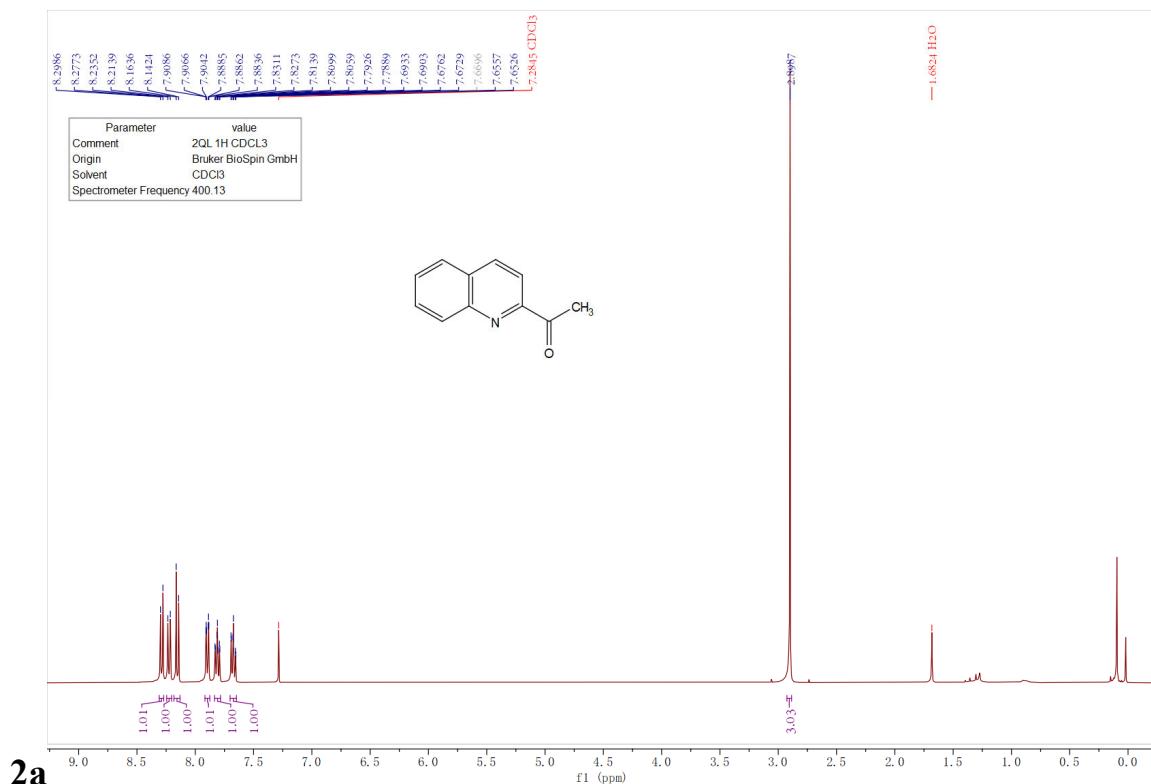
Obtained as a white solid (585 mg, 80%). m.p.100.9-101.1C.

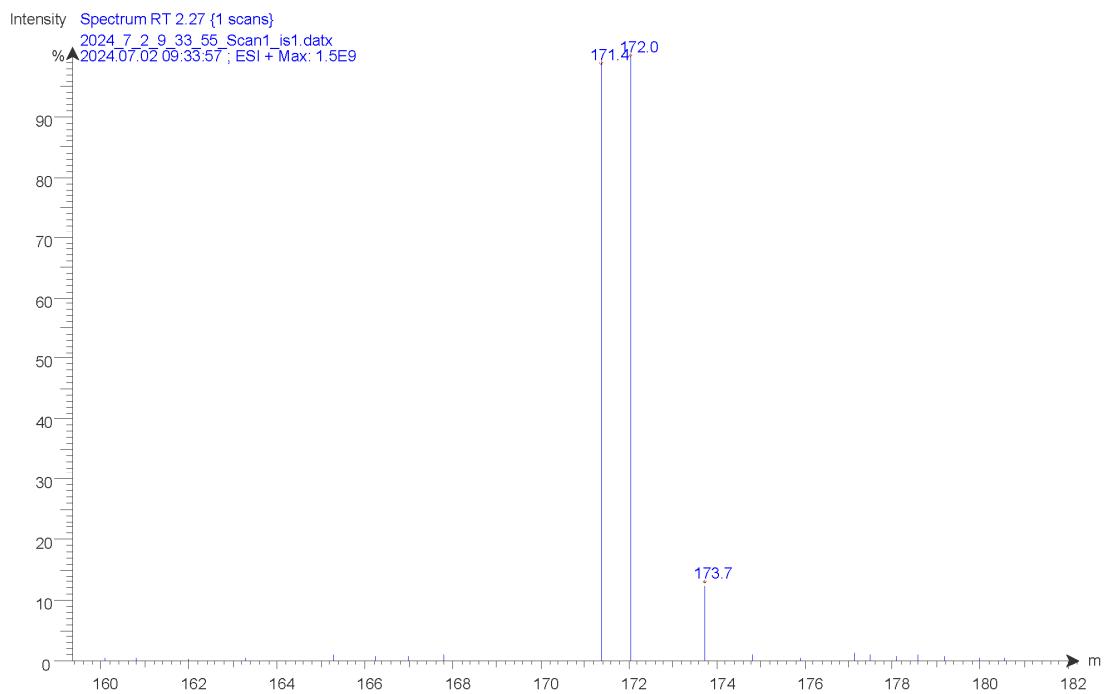
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 9.00-8.96 (m, 1H), 8.46 (dt, *J* = 1.6, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 196.90, 152.94, 144.27, 134.19, 127.27, 125.63, 117.57, 27.43.

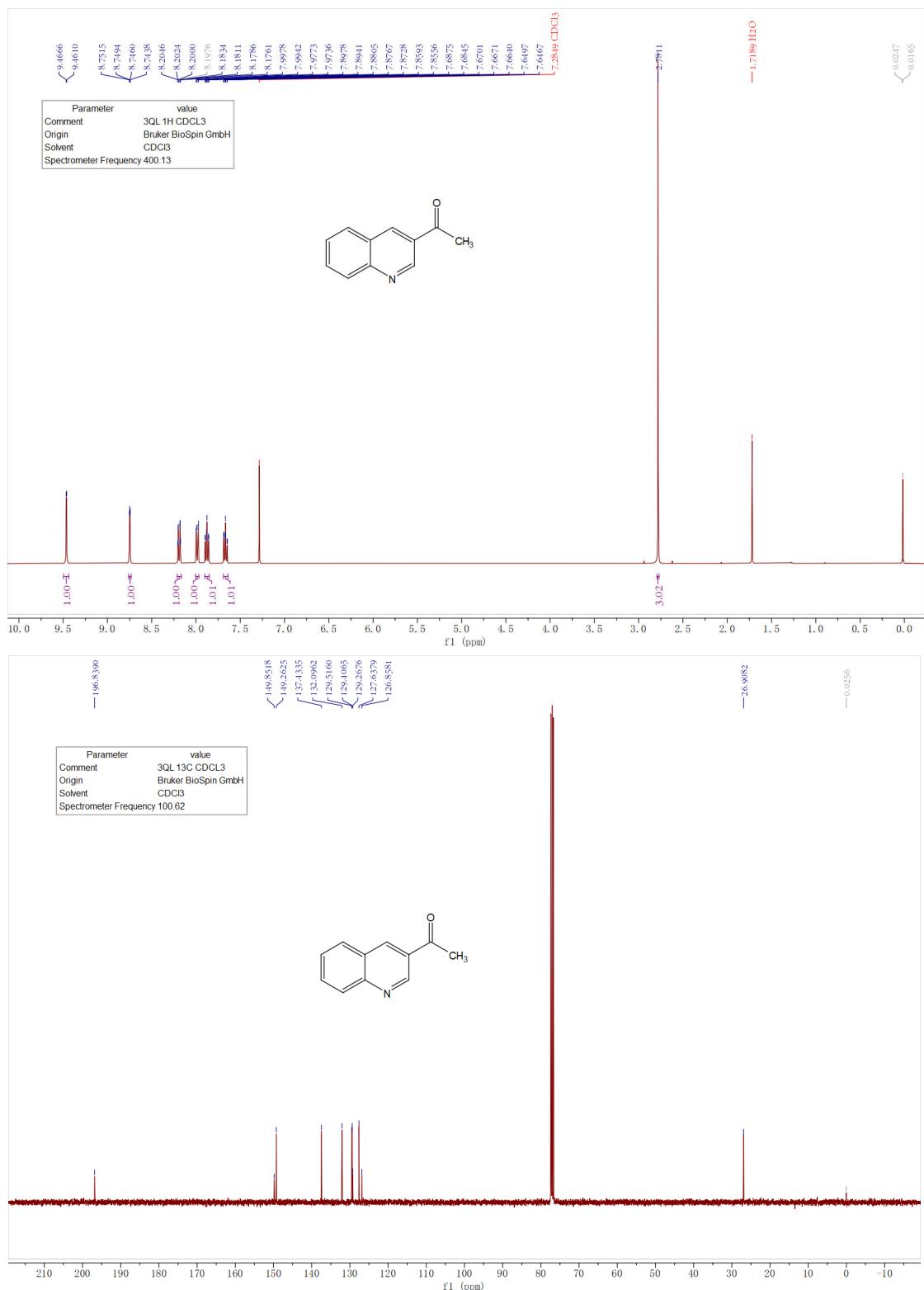
MS (ESI): [M+NH₄]⁺ calcd. for C₈H₉N₃O, 164.1; found. 164.4.

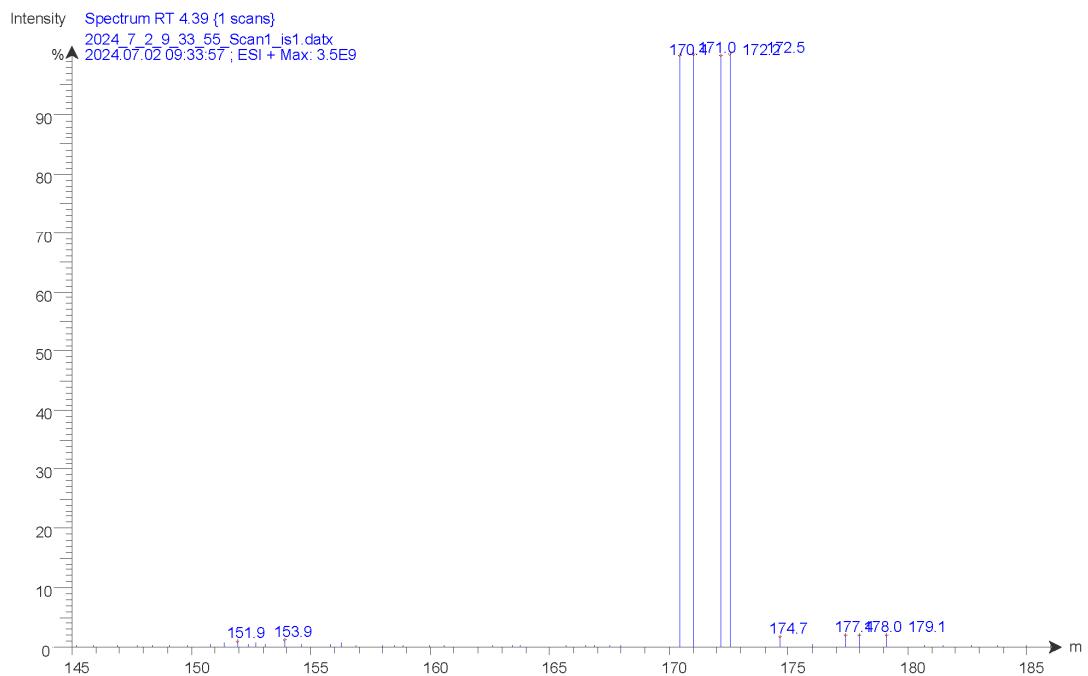
4. ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and MS spectra of all products



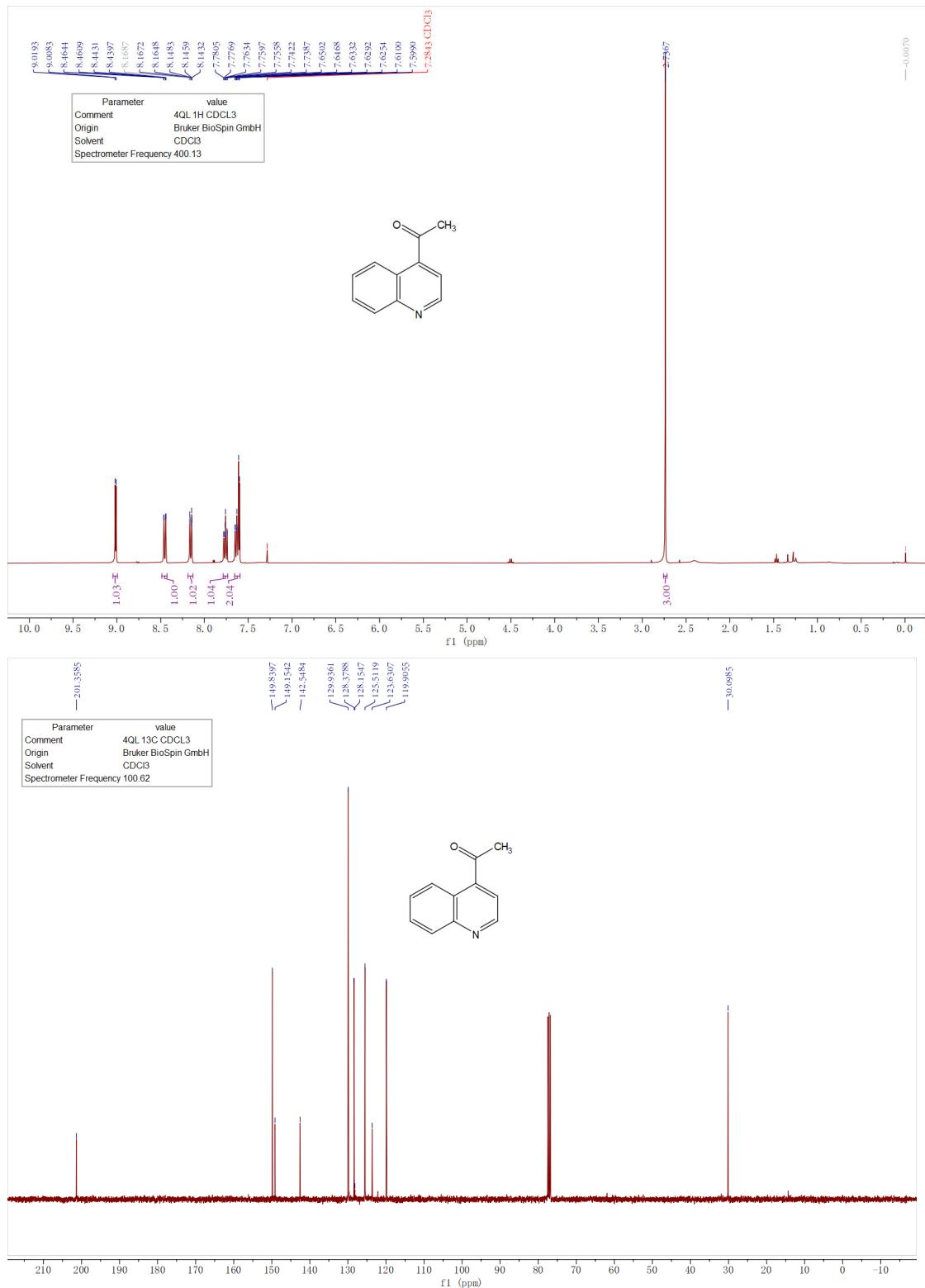


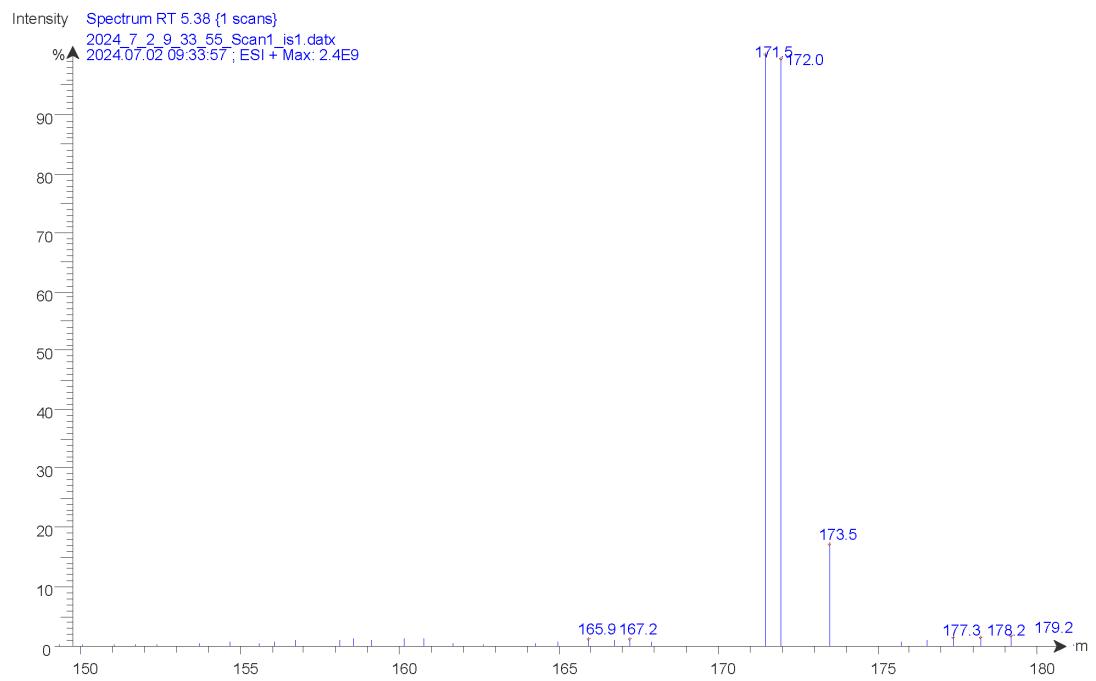
2b



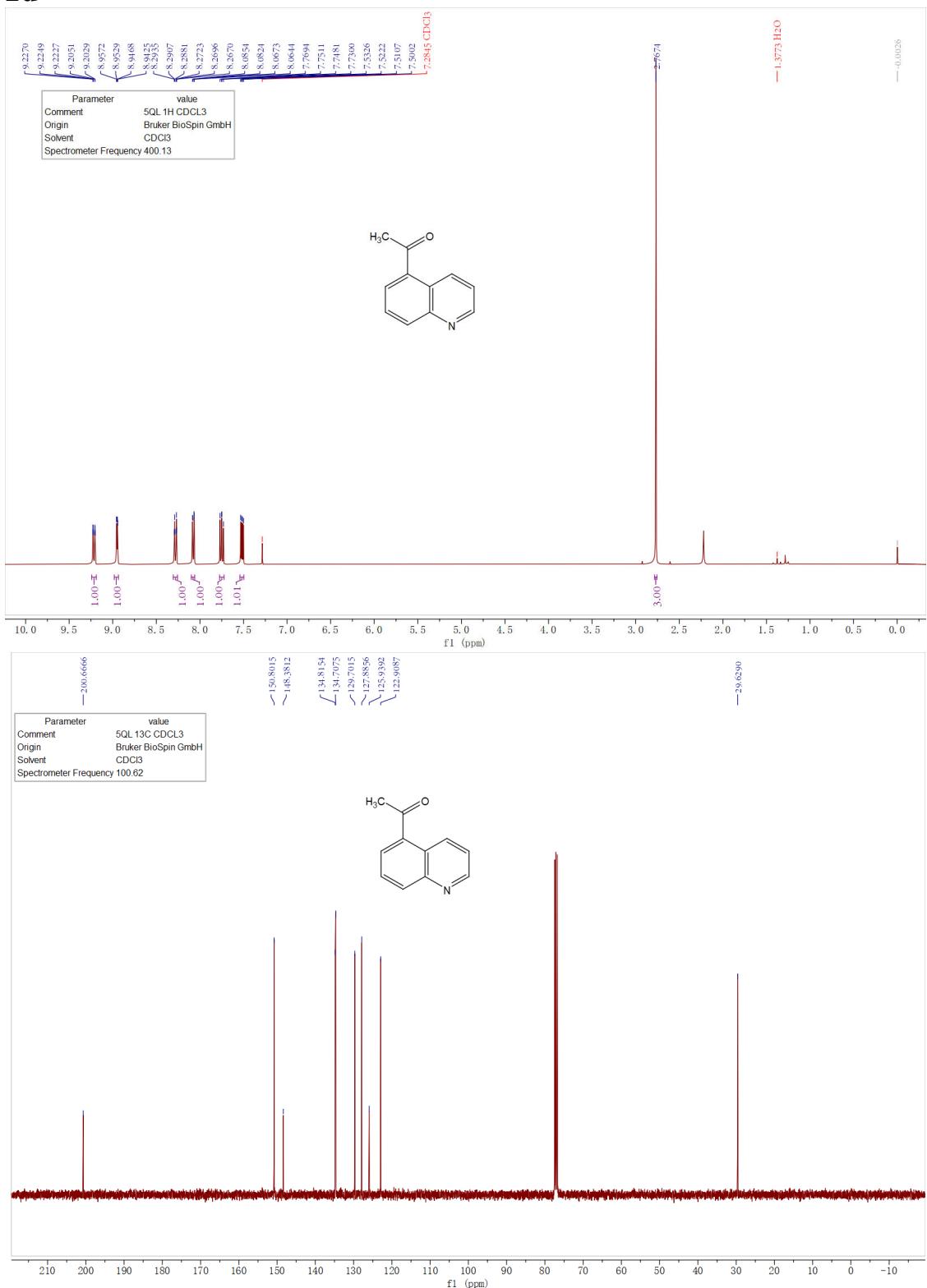


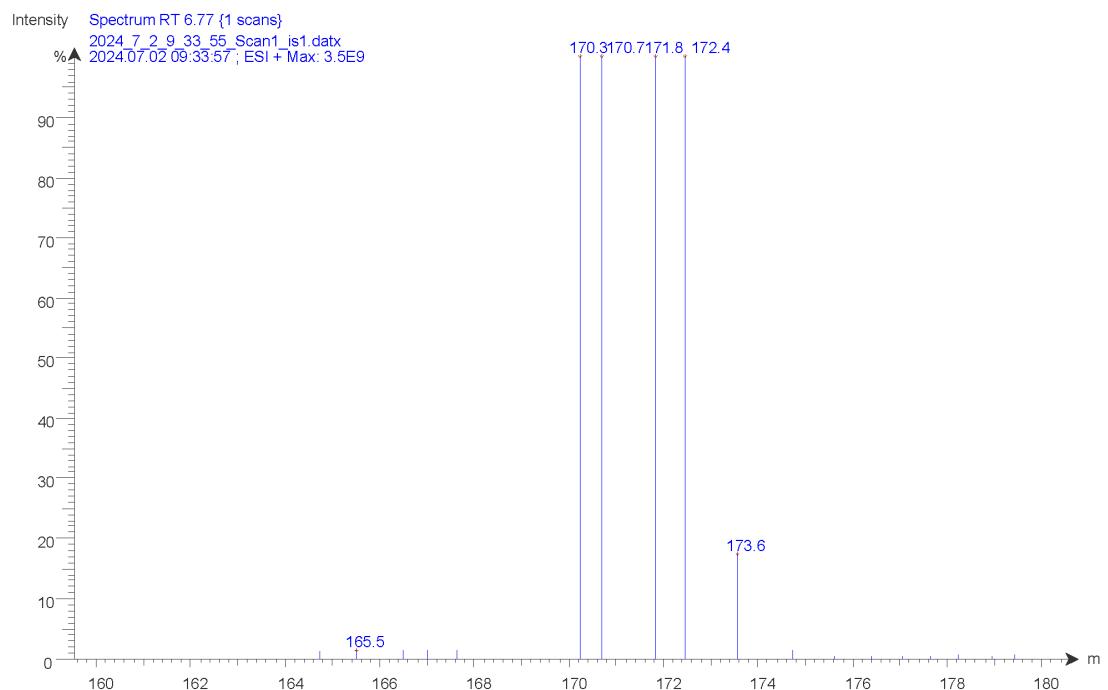
2c





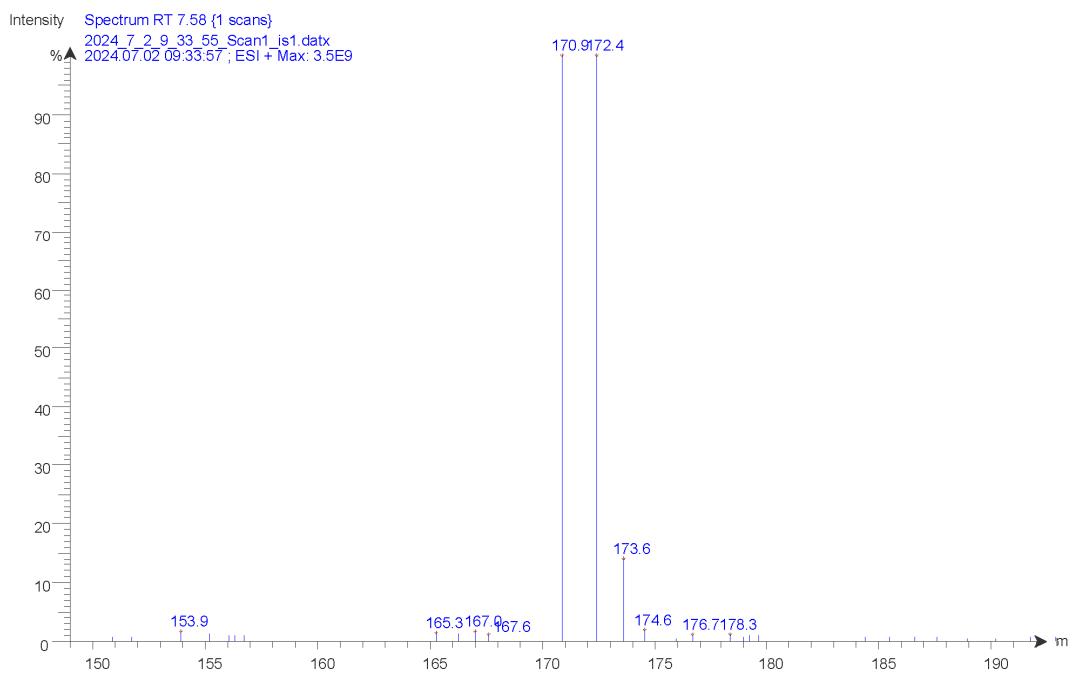
2d

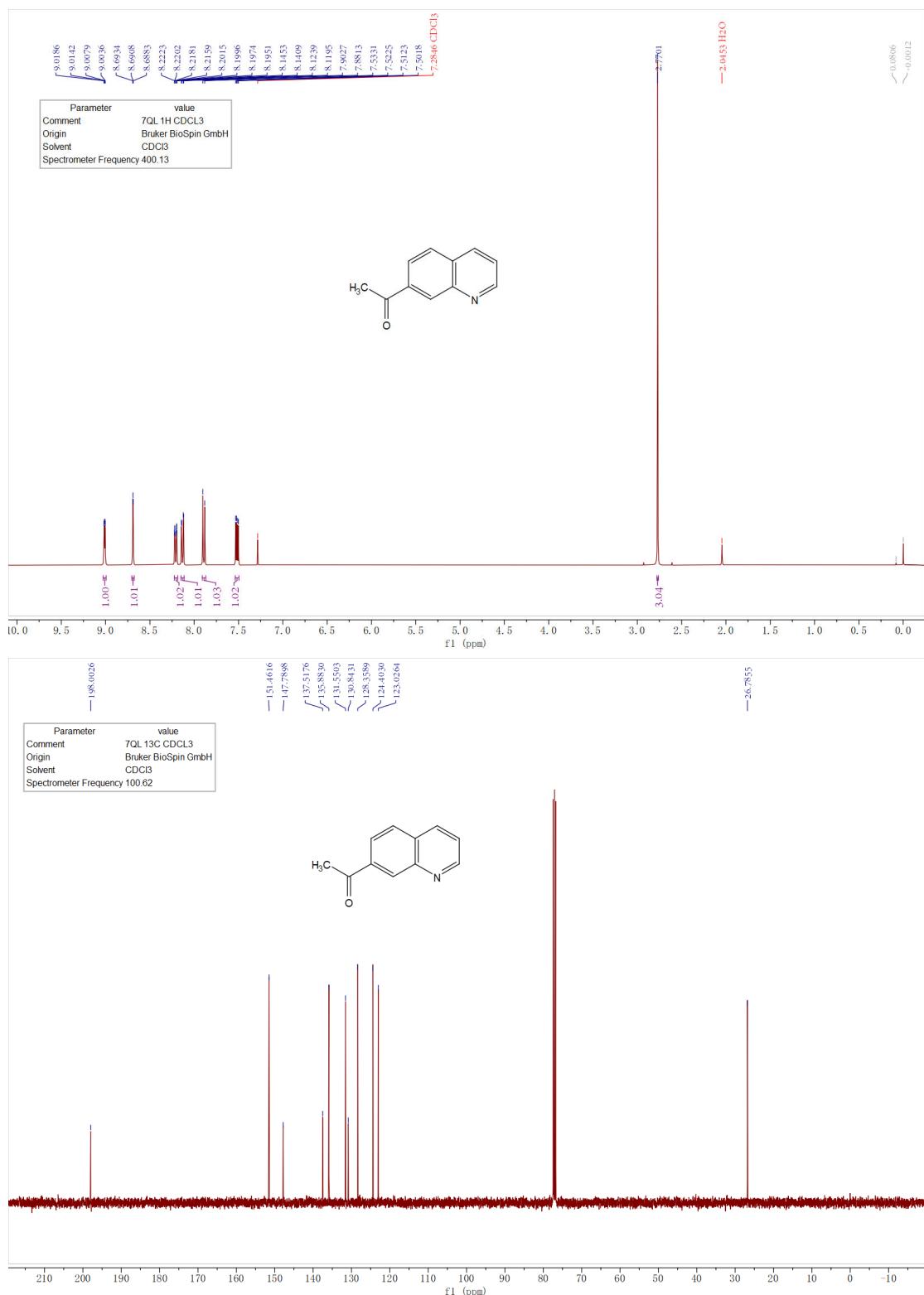


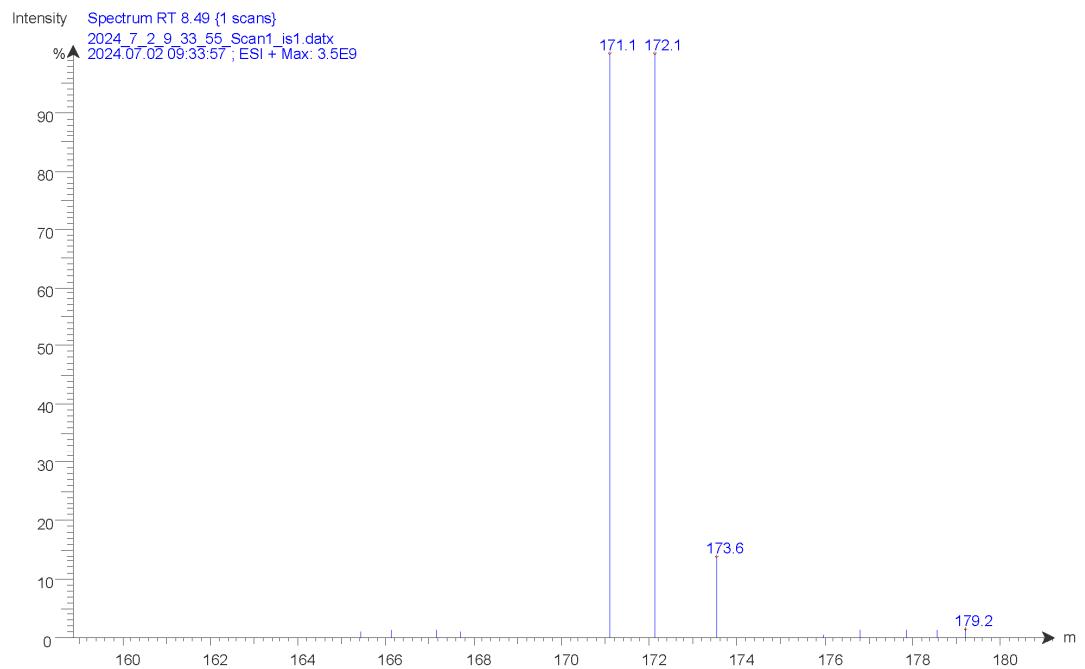


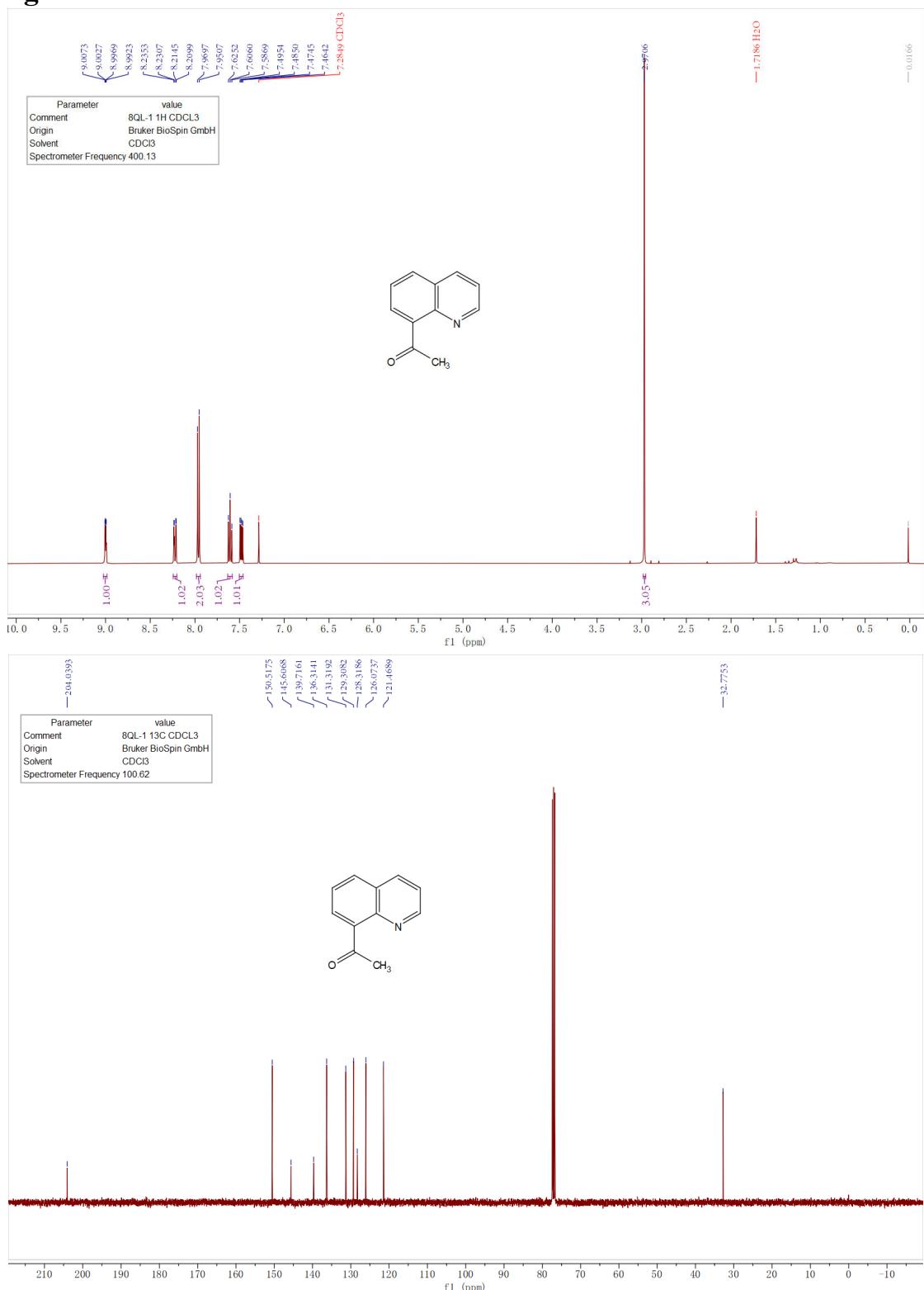
2e

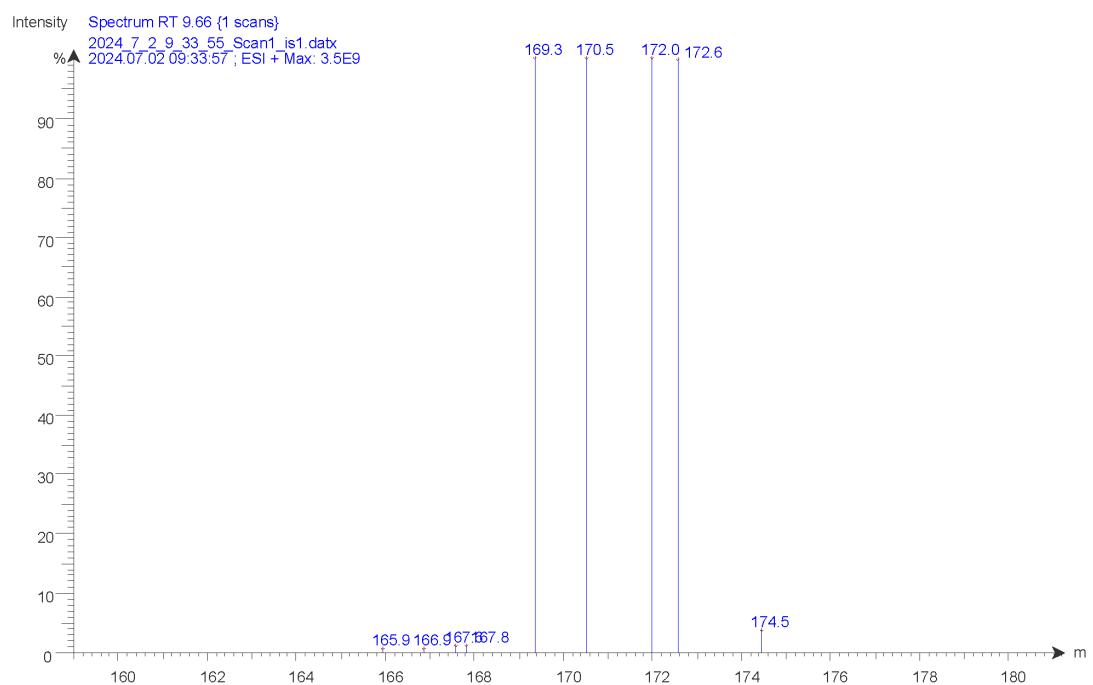


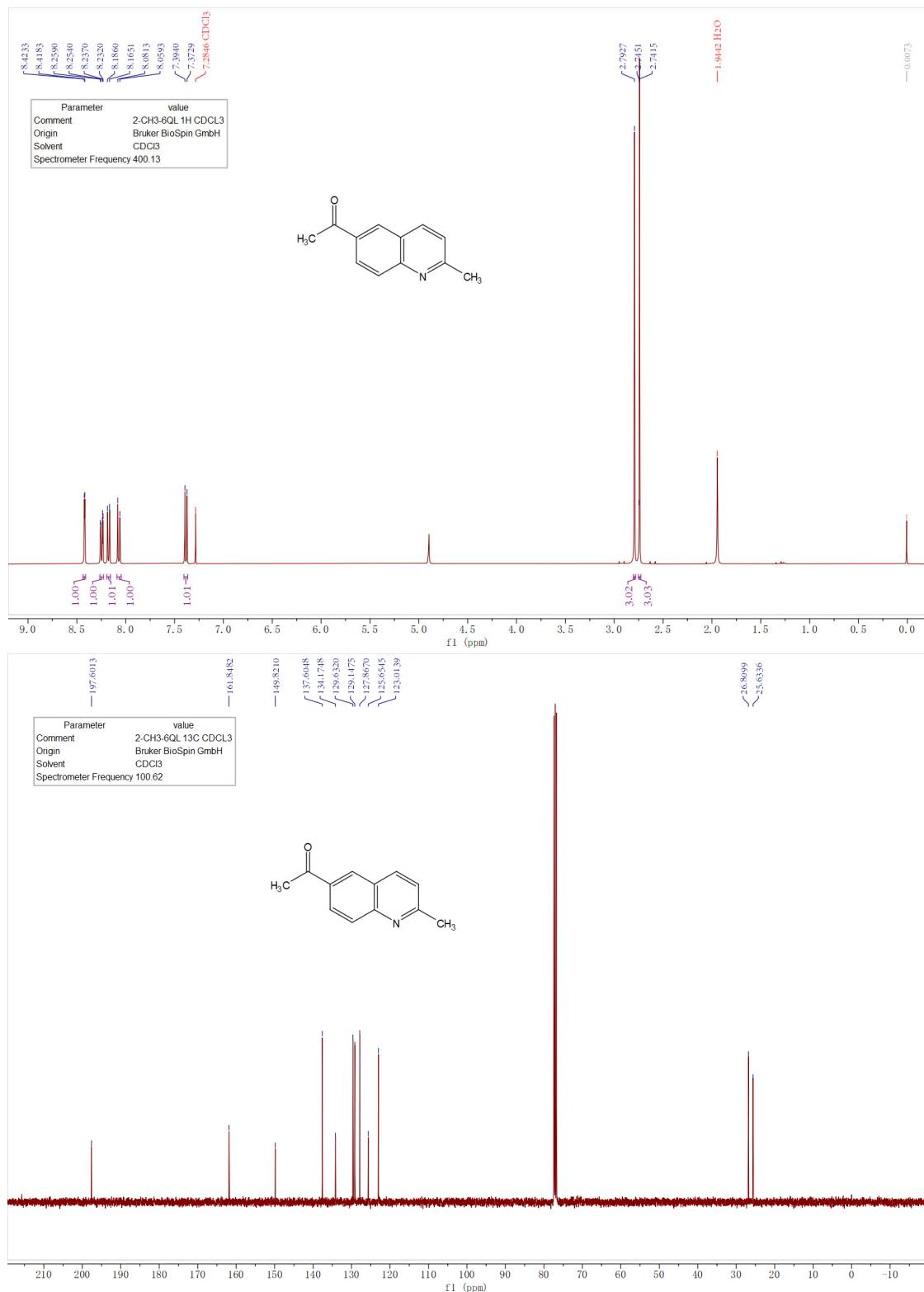


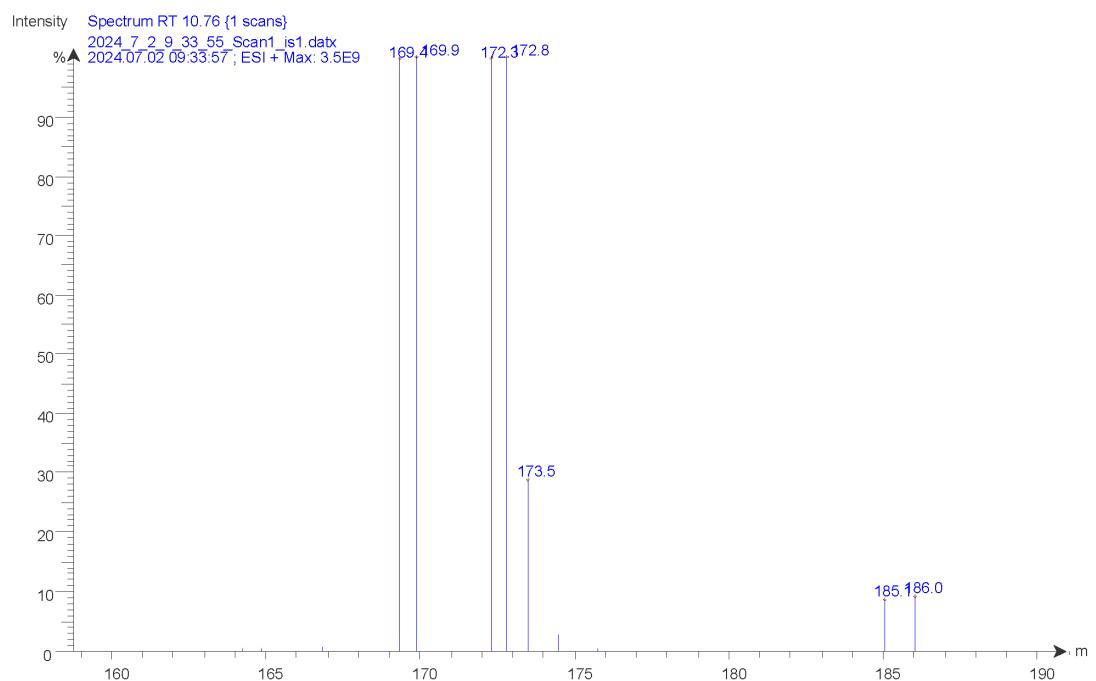
2f



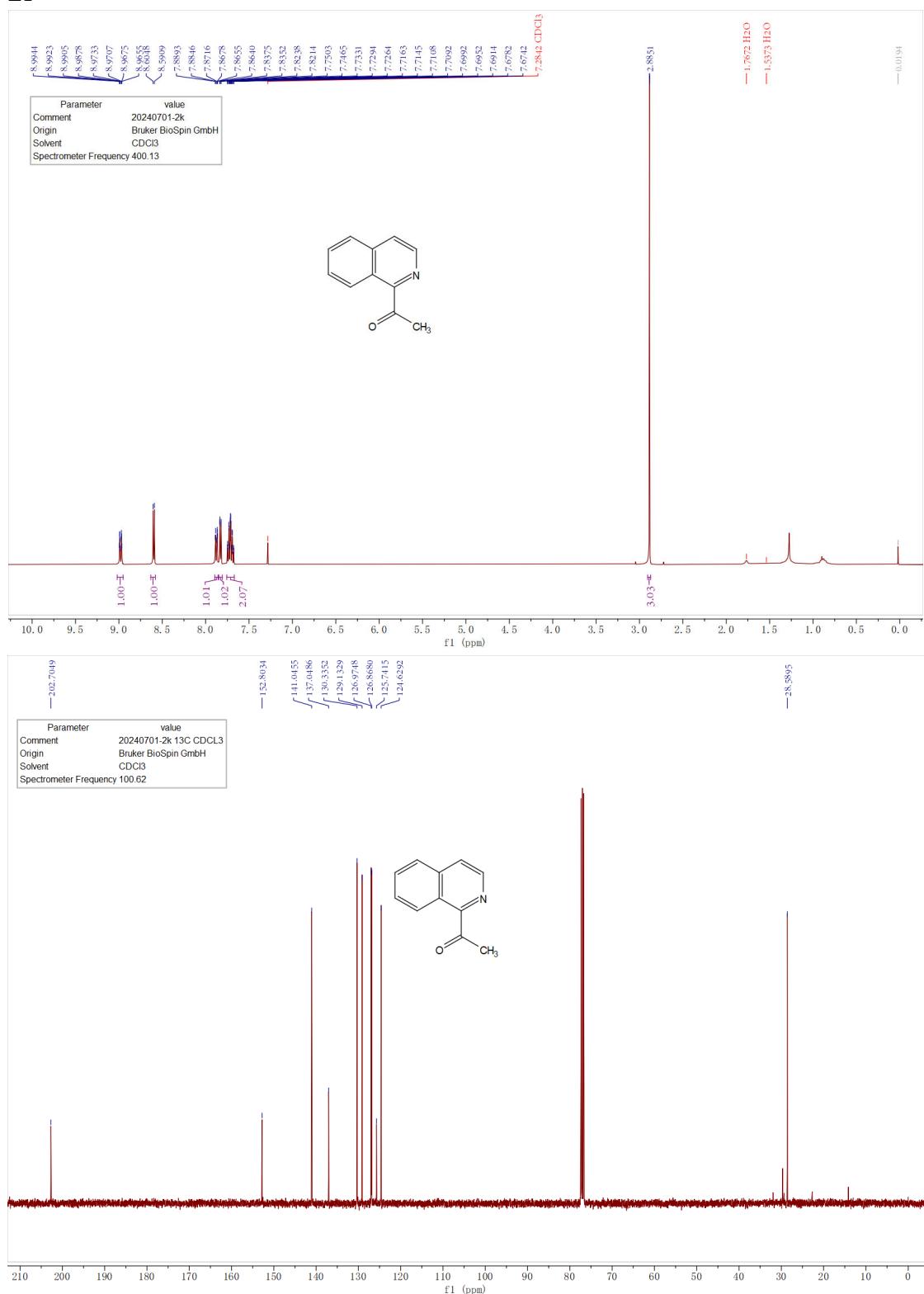
2g

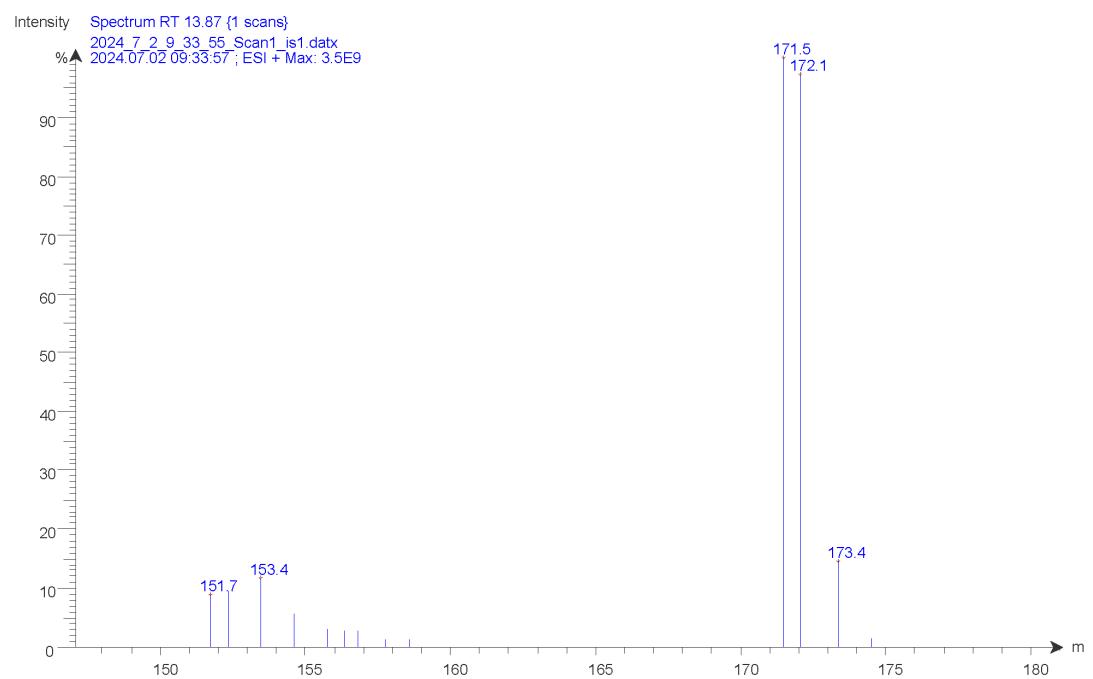


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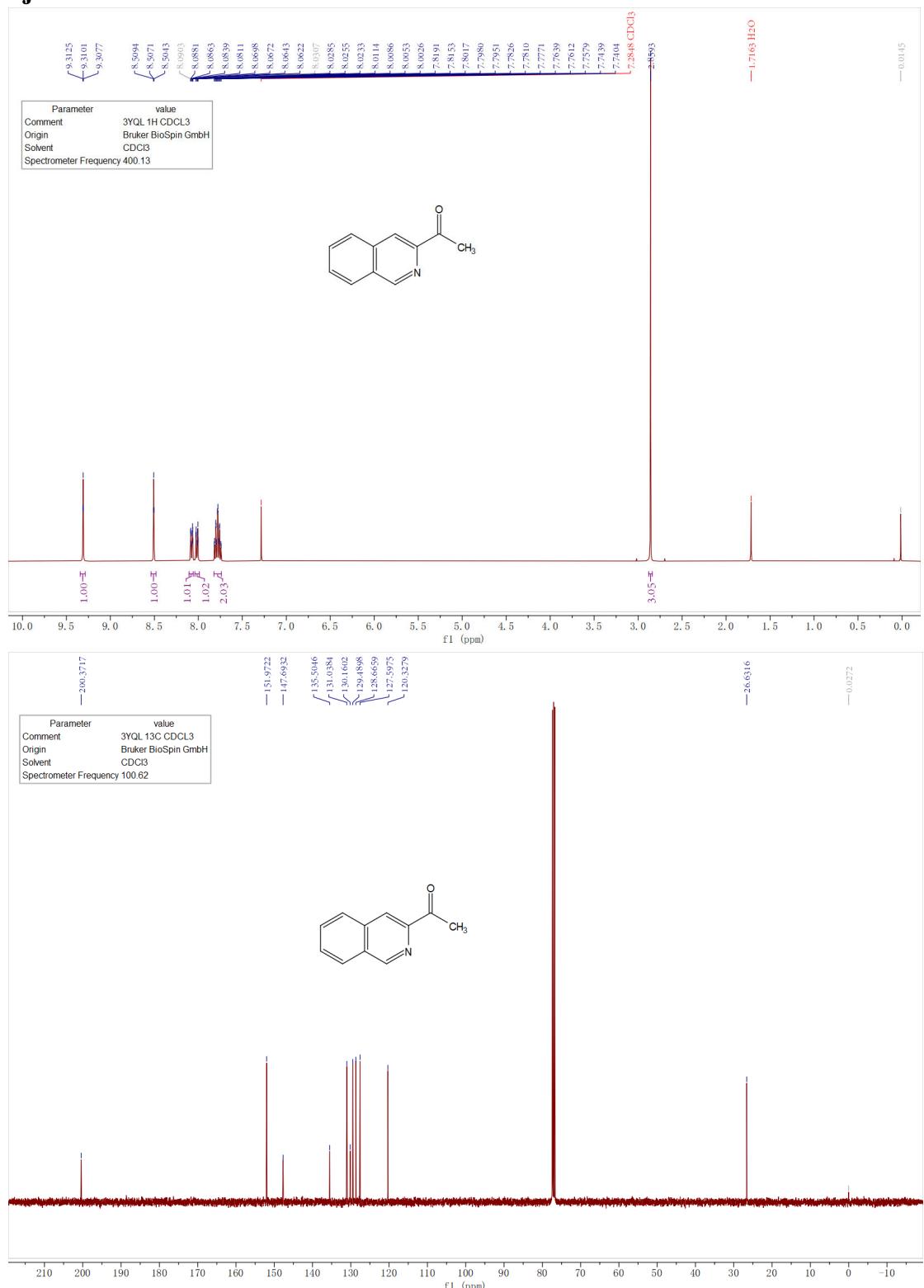


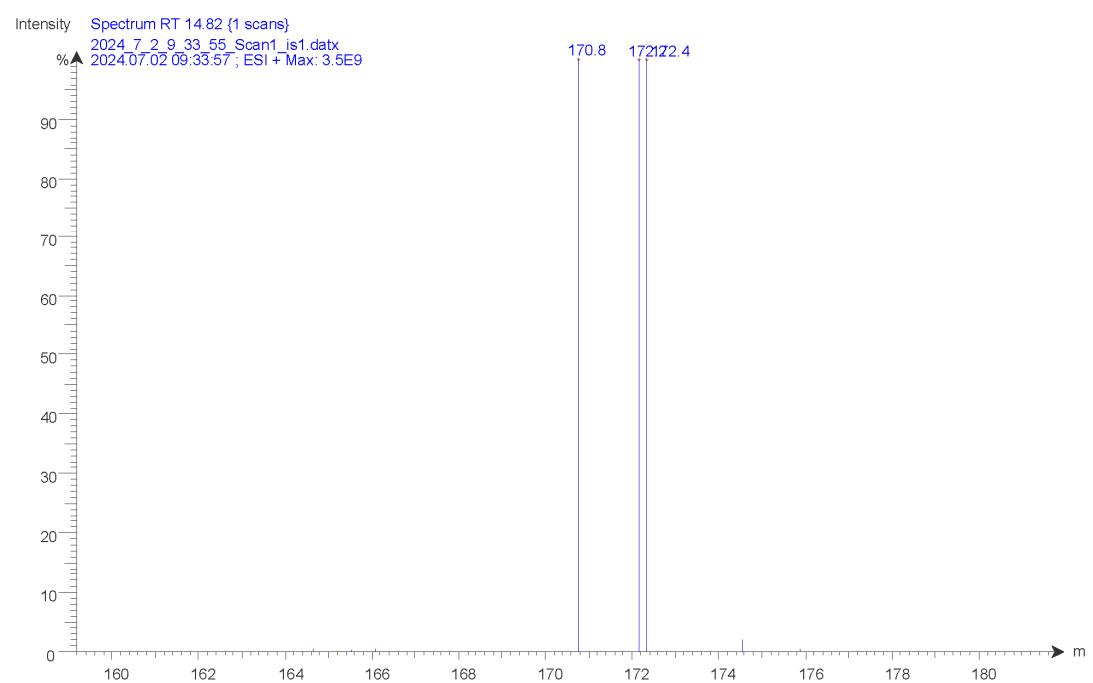
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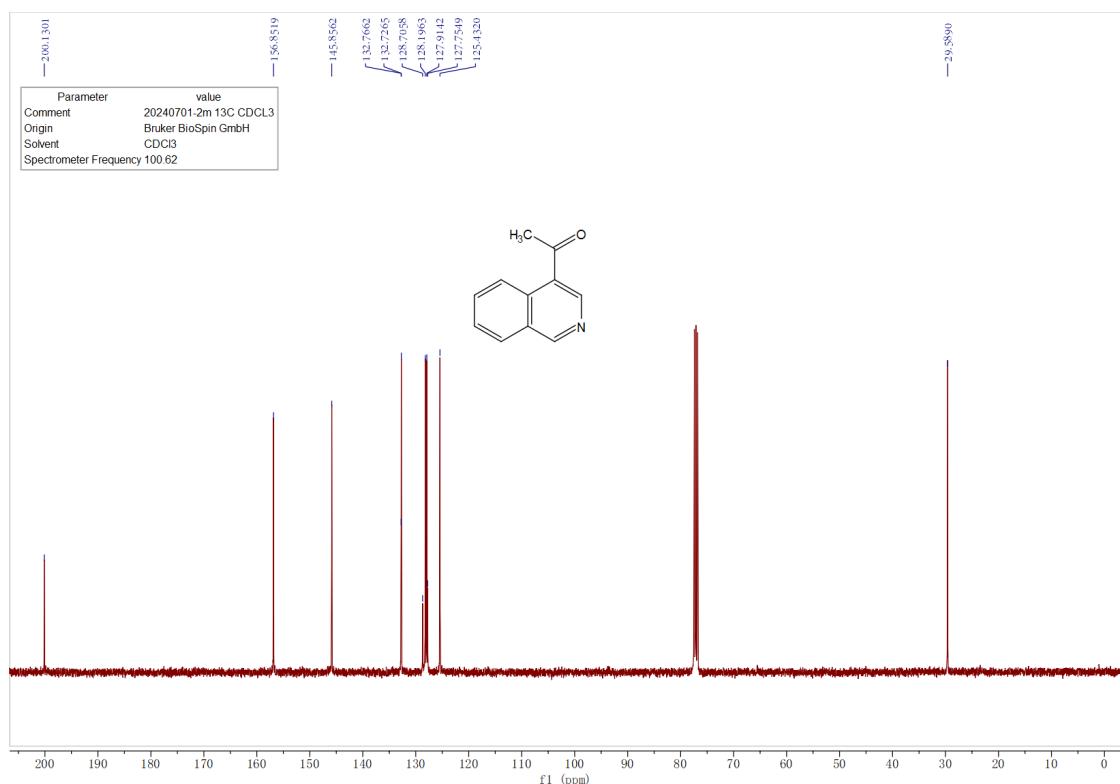
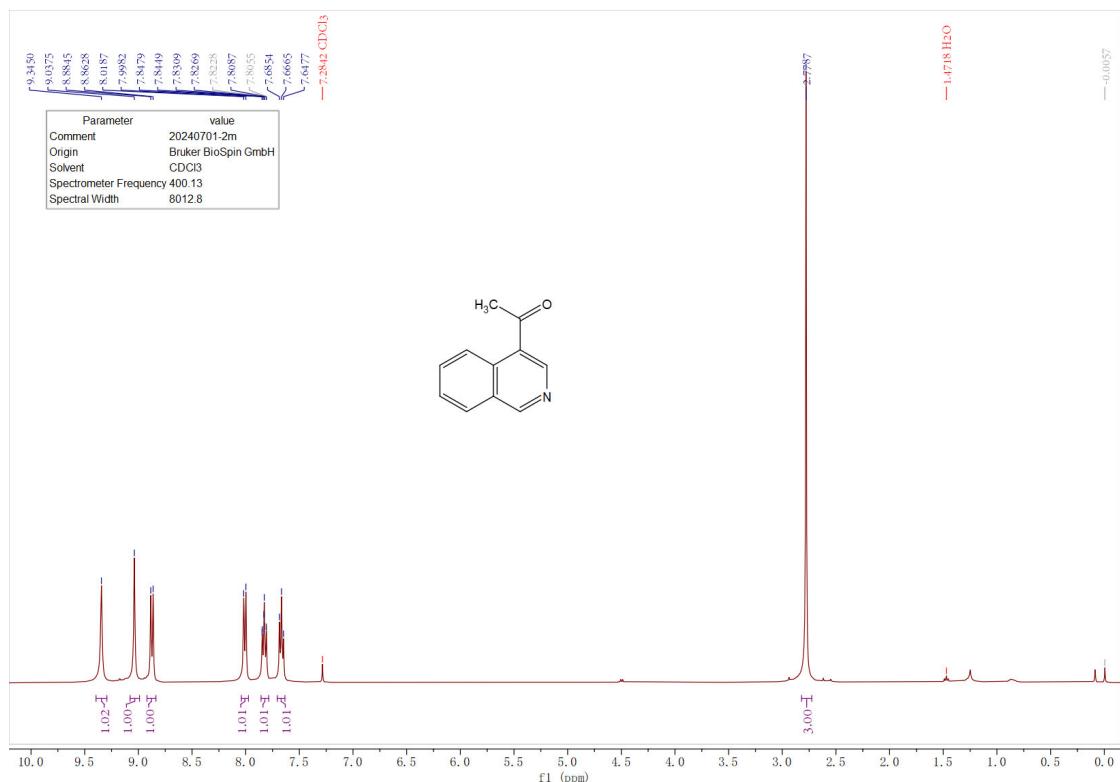


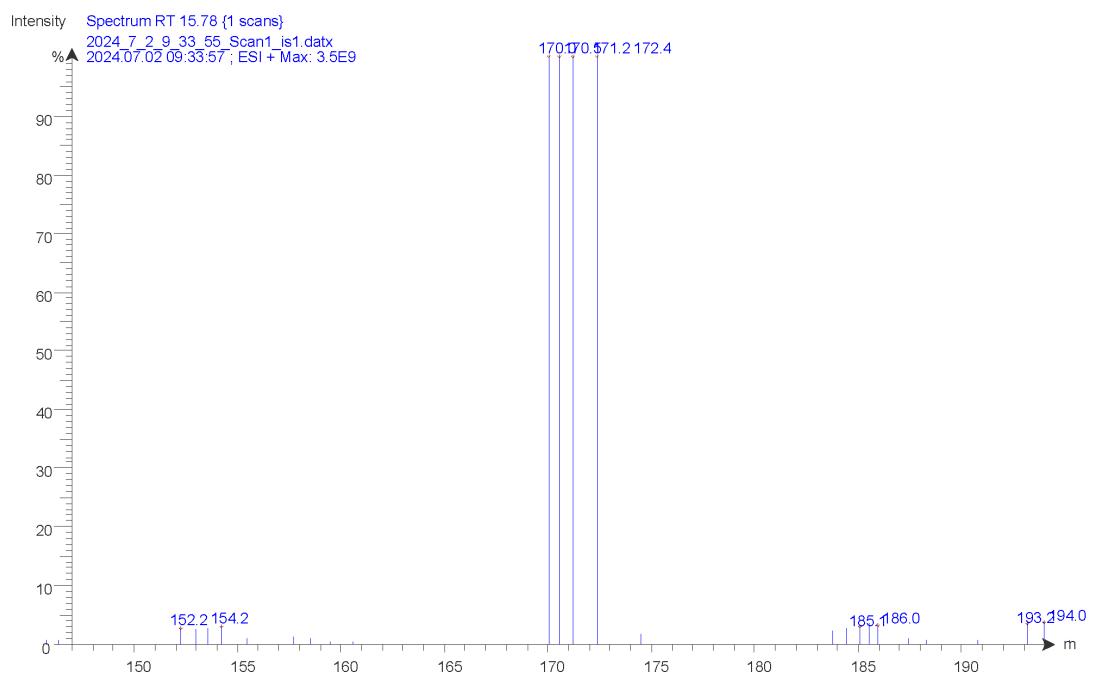


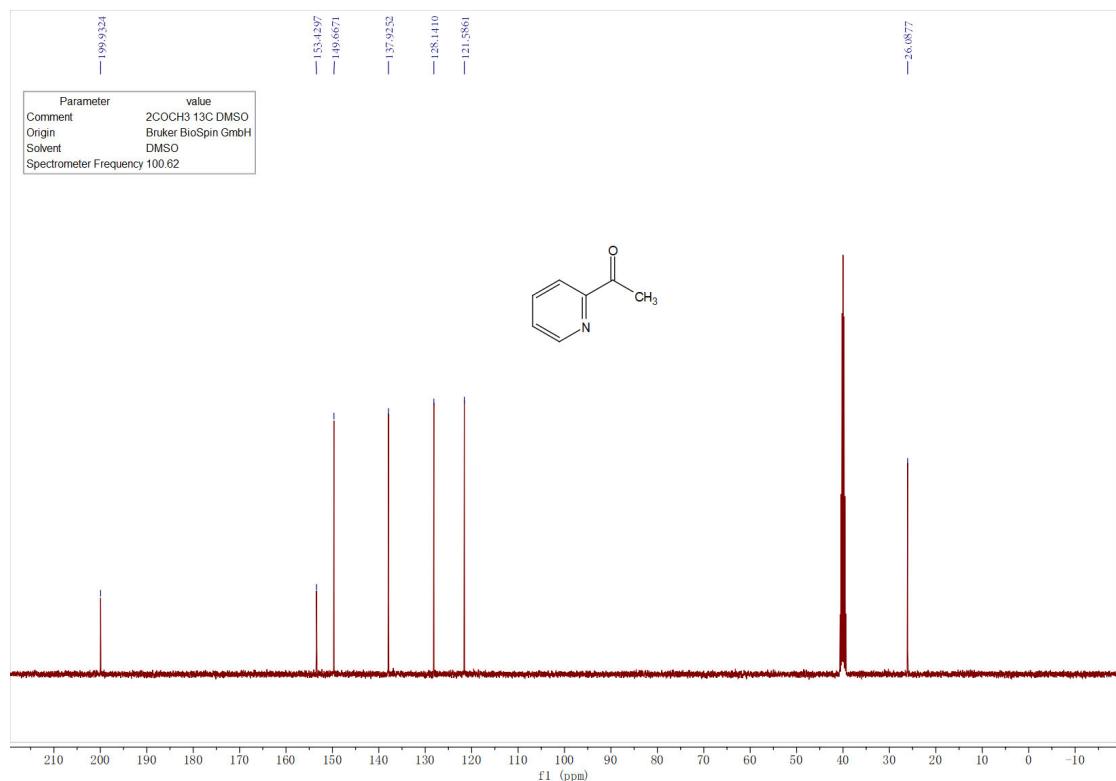
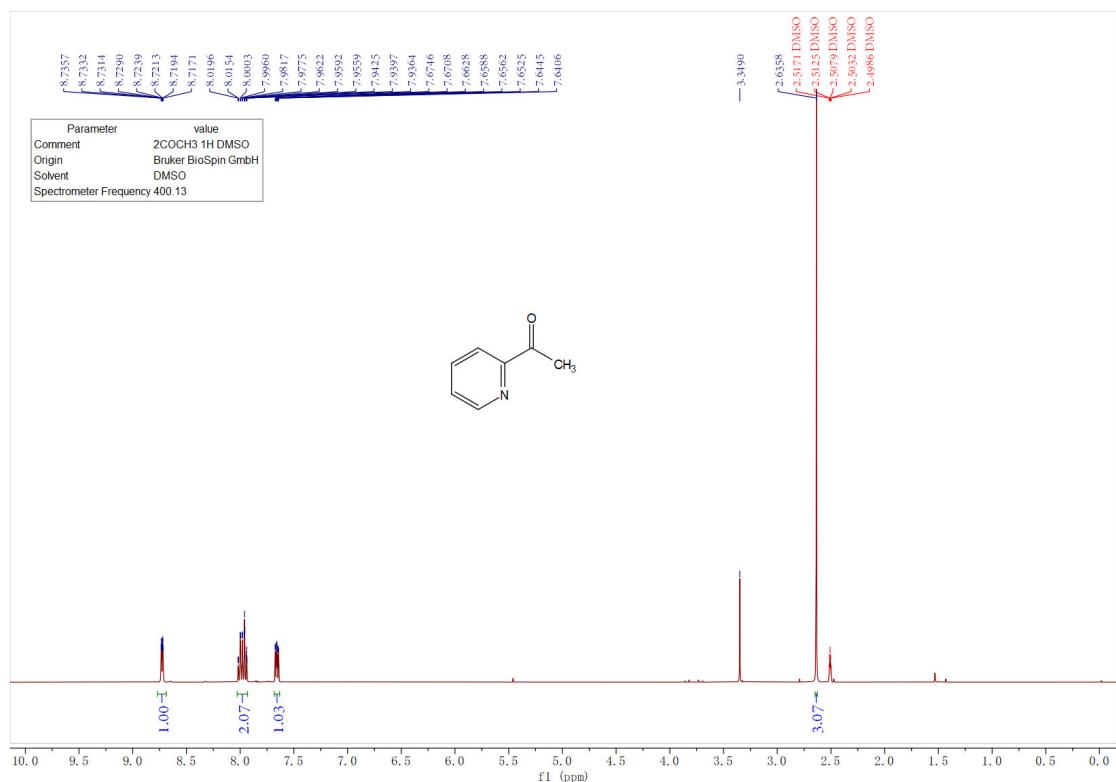
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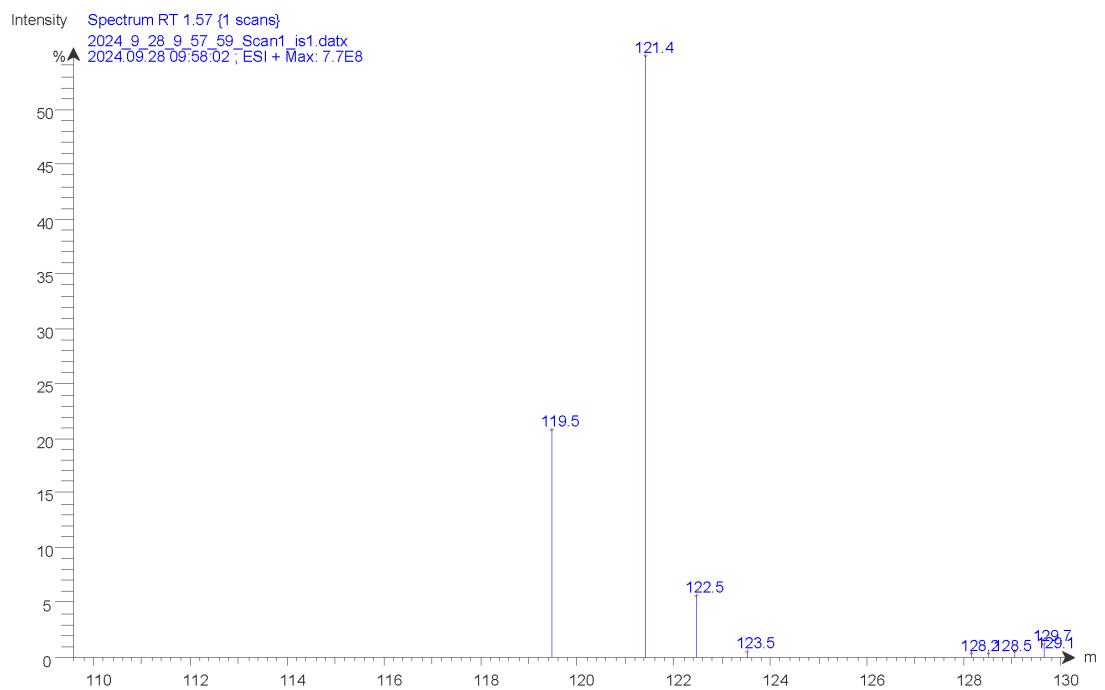




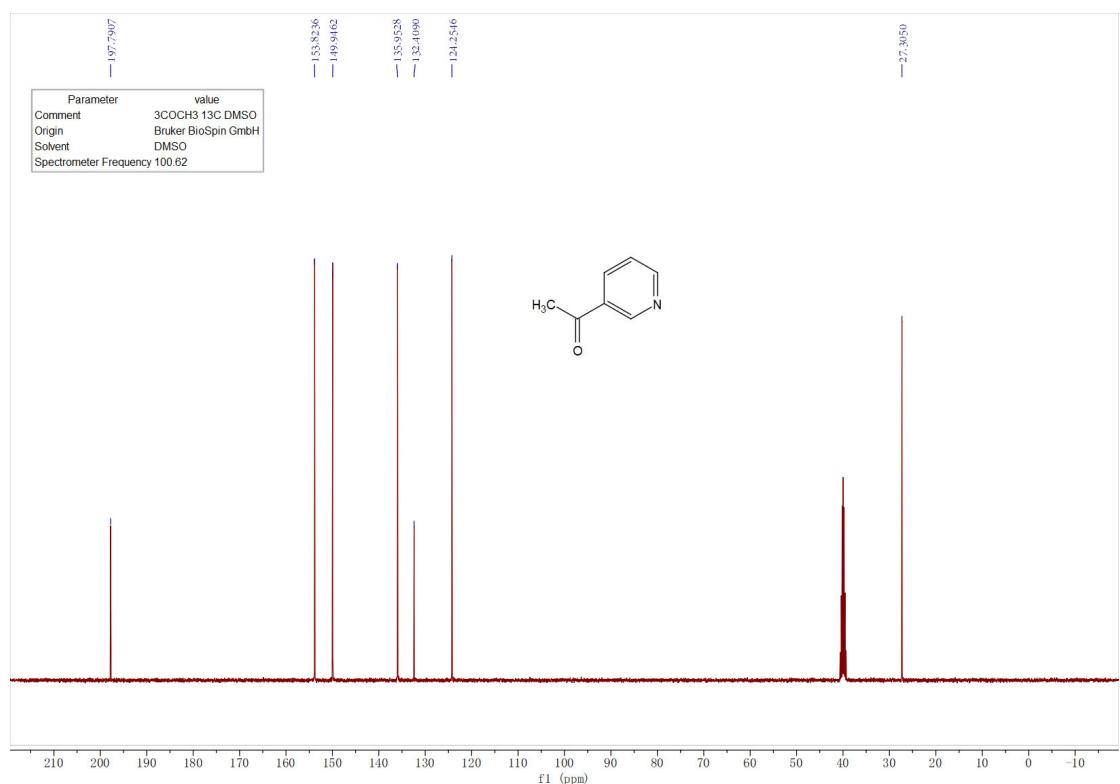
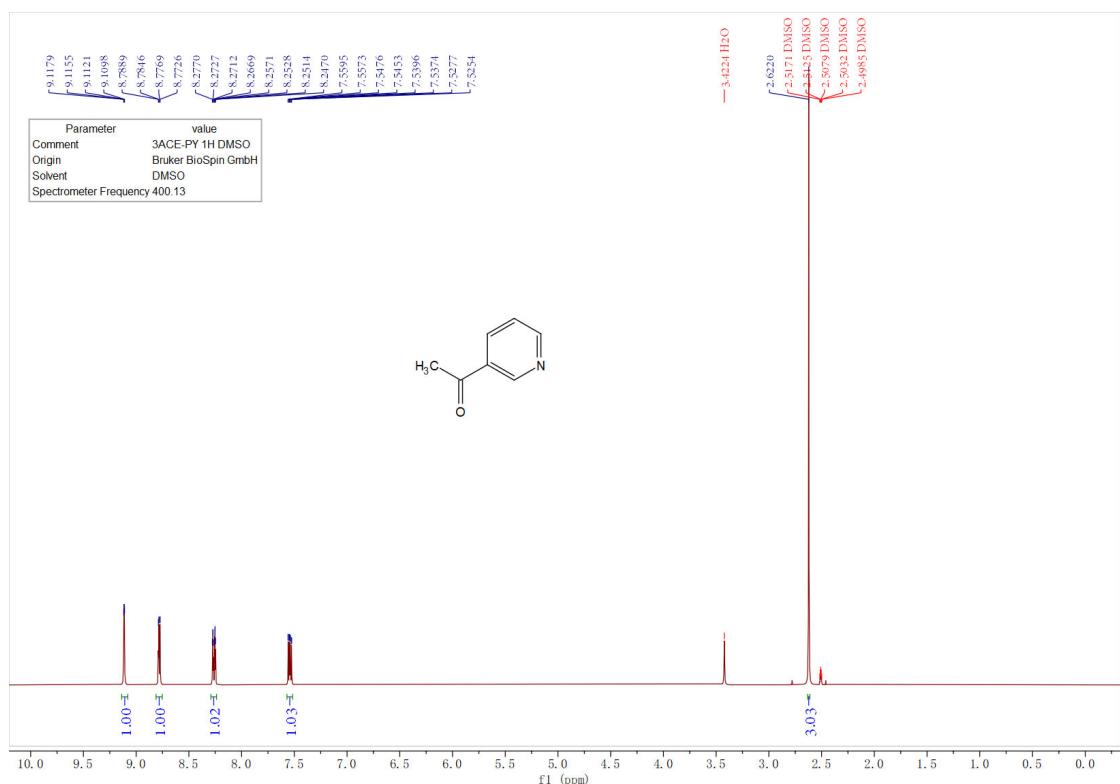
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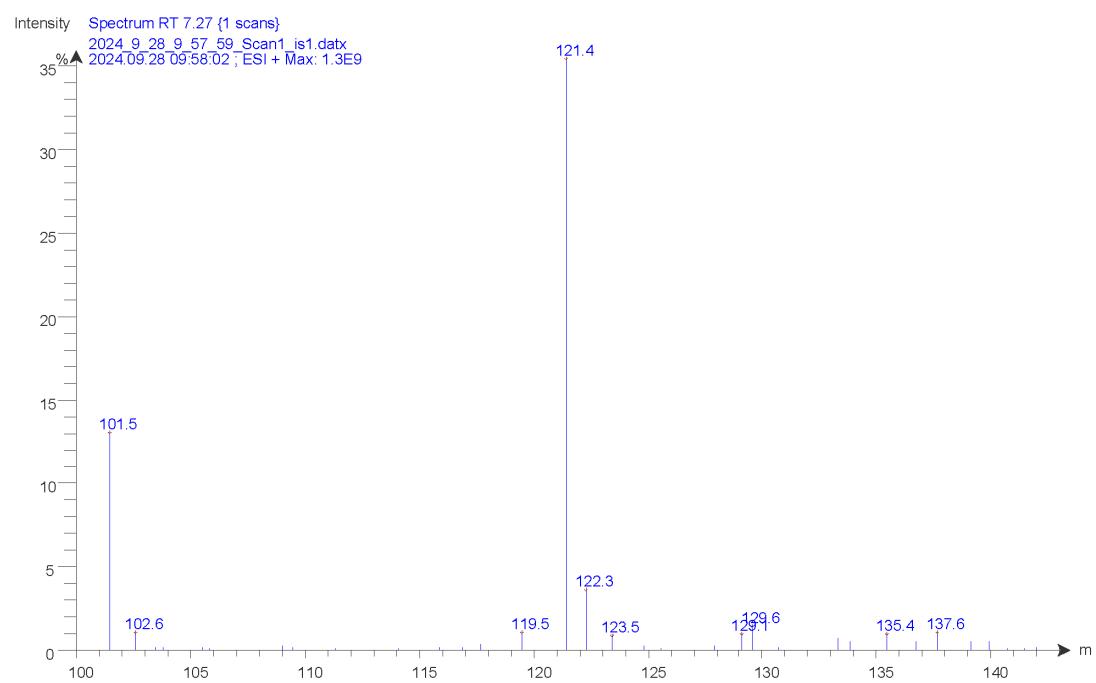


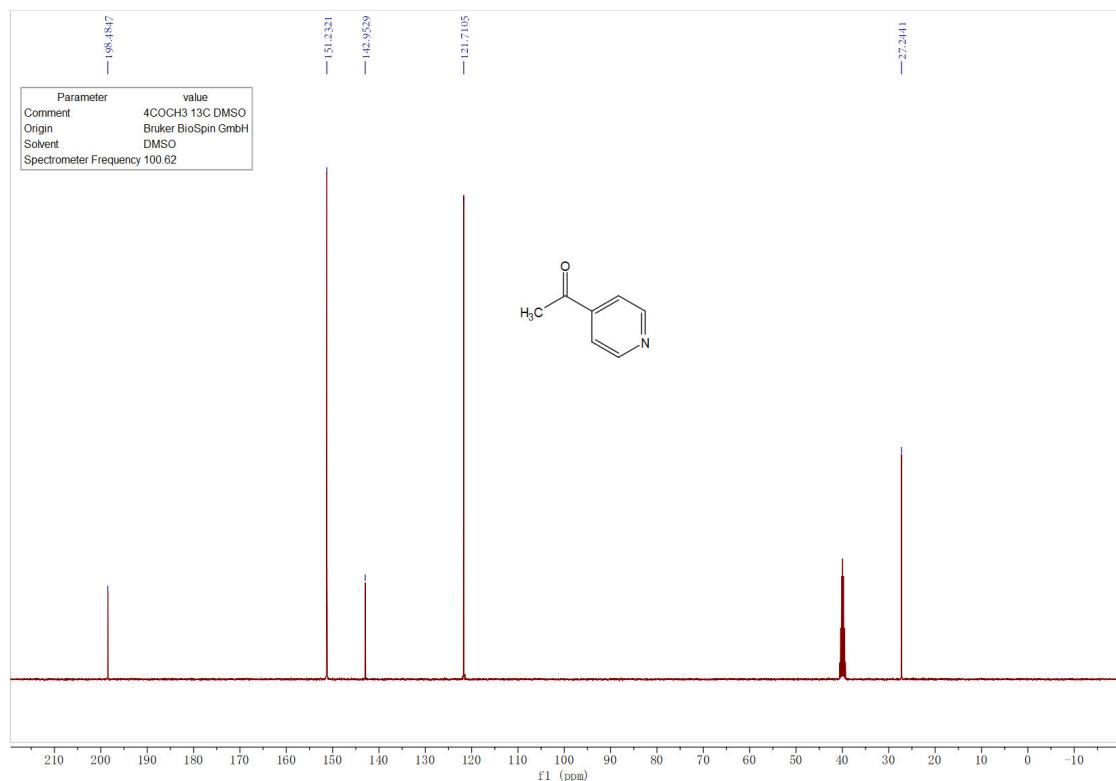
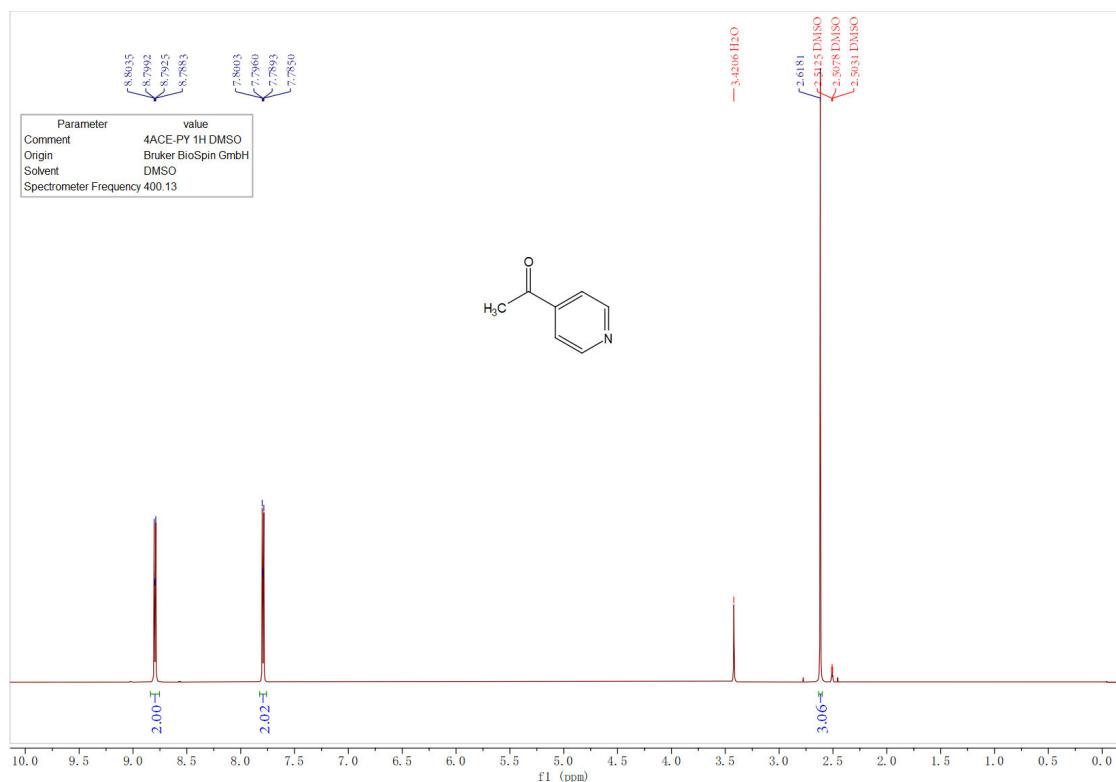


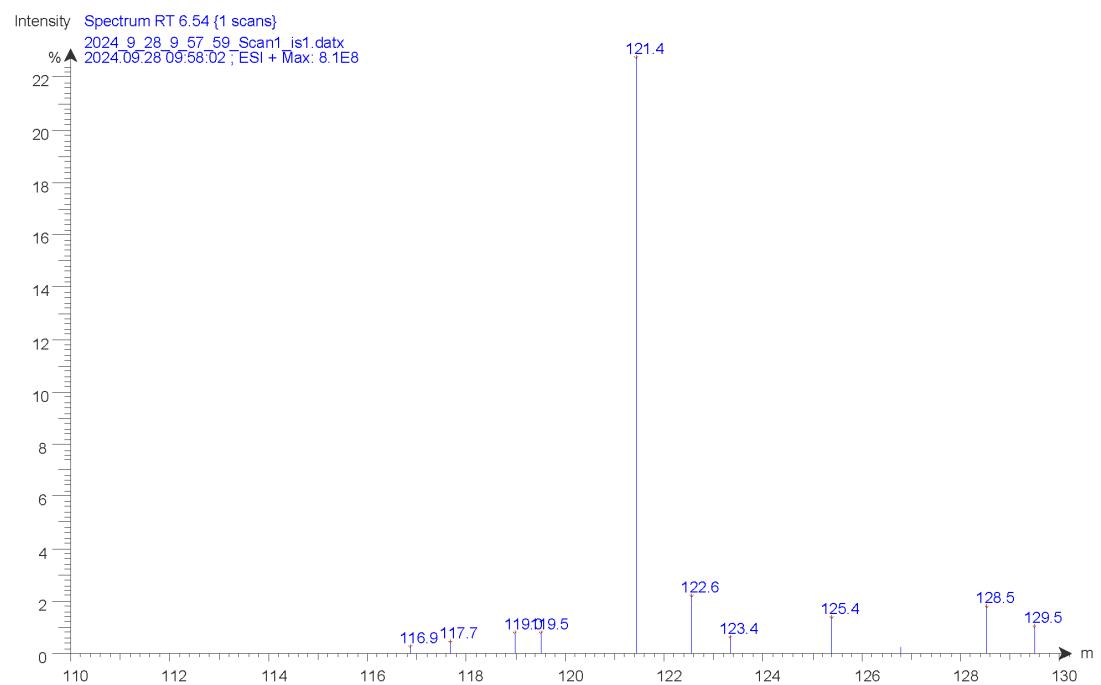


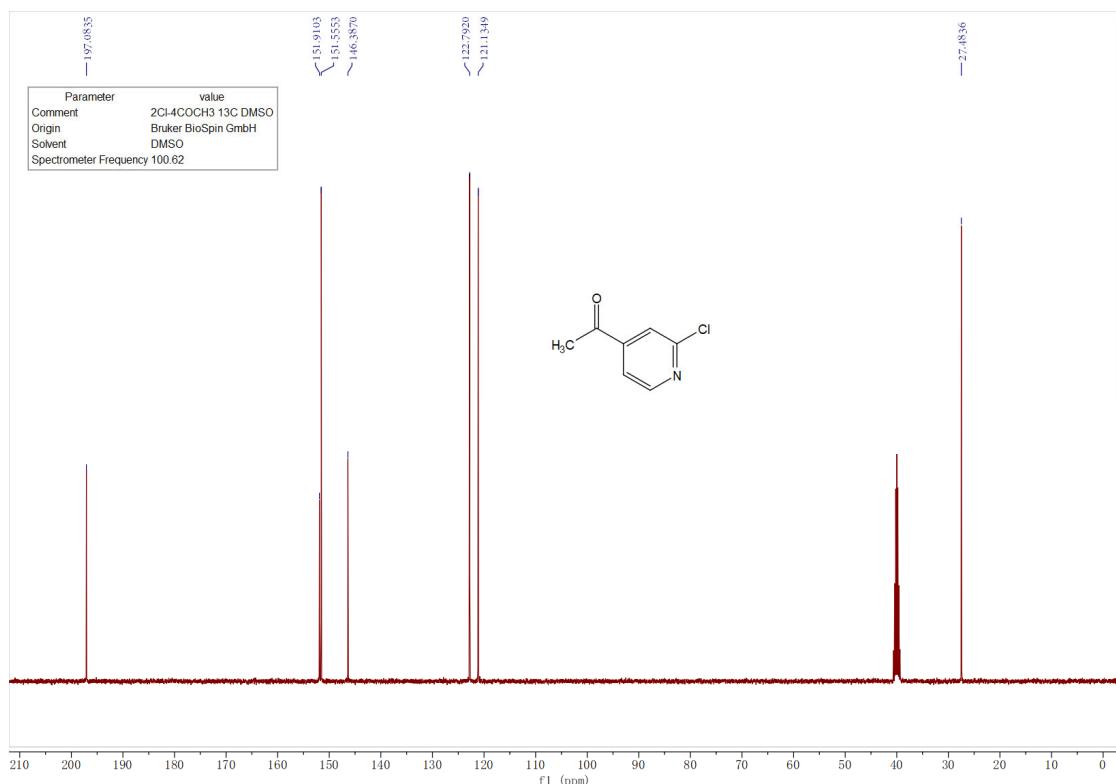
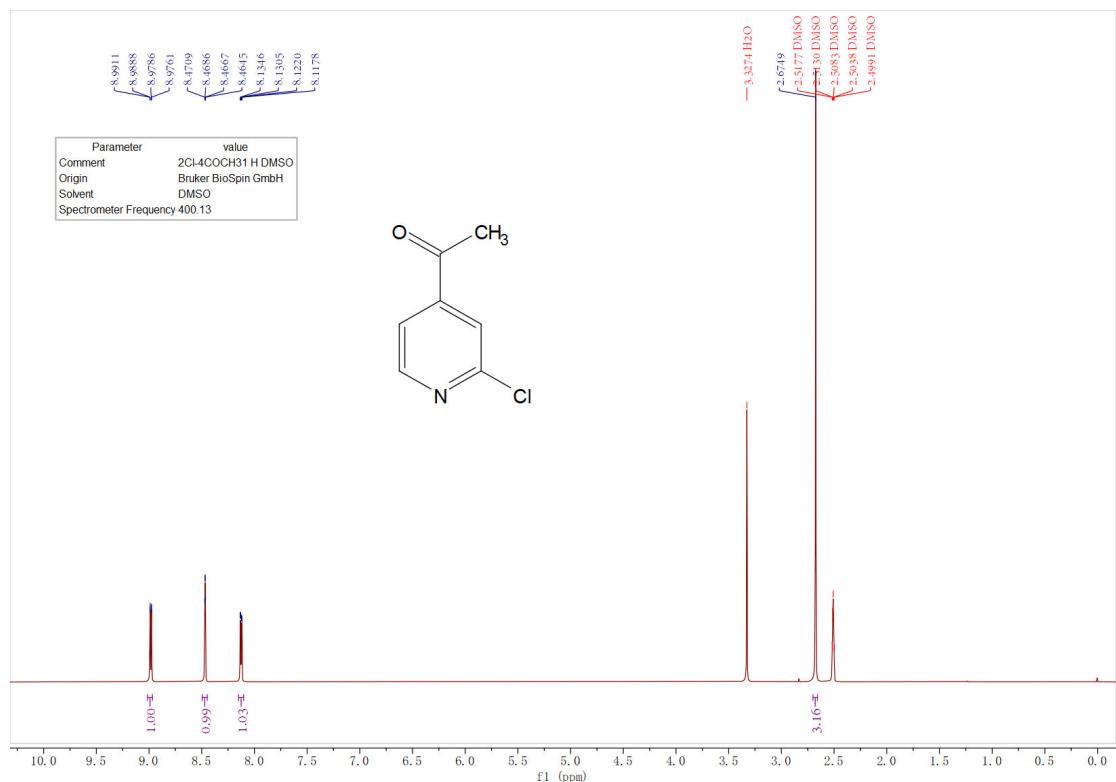
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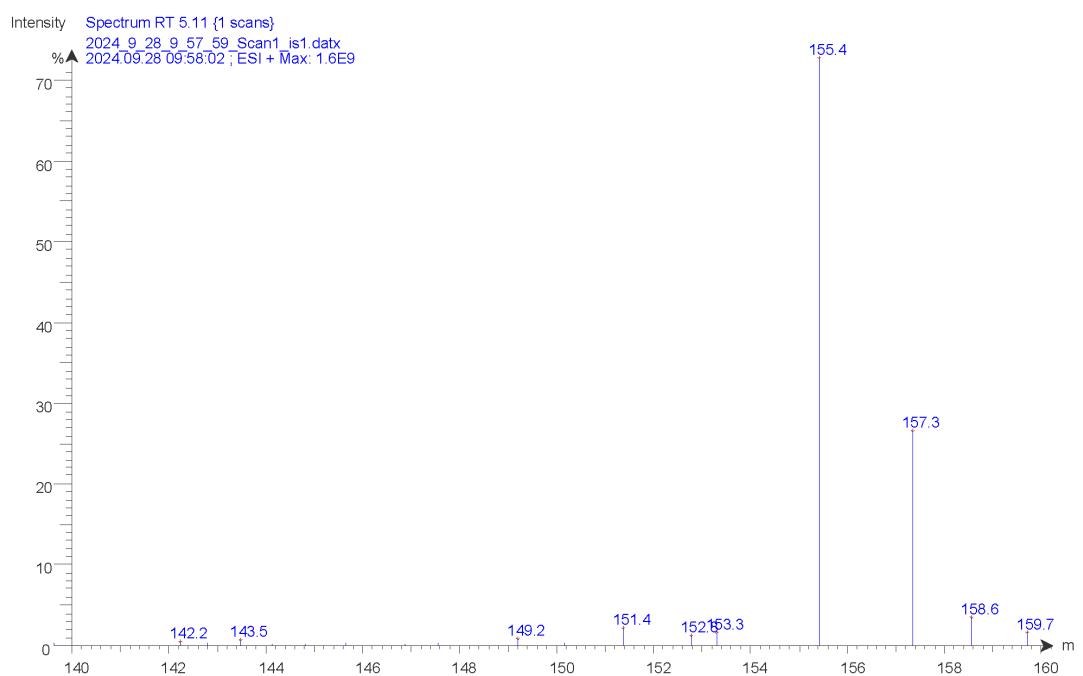




2n







2p

