



## Supporting Information

for

### Reactions of 3-aryl-1-(trifluoromethyl)prop-2-yn-1-iminium salts with 1,3-dienes and styrenes

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### Experimental procedures, NMR ( $^1\text{H}$ , $^{13}\text{C}$ , $^{19}\text{F}$ ) and IR spectra of synthesized compounds

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## 1. Experimental procedures

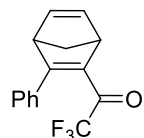
### 1.1. Methods and materials

All reactions involving the moisture-sensitive iminium salts were carried out in rigorously dried glassware under an argon atmosphere. Thick-walled Schlenk tubes with a screw cap were used for all reactions that required elevated temperatures. Solvents were dried by established procedures and stored over molecular sieves (4 Å; 3 Å for acetonitrile) under argon. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 (0.063–0.200 mm). Preparative LPLC: Merck Knauer 50 mL, Merck Lobar<sup>®</sup> packed column B (310–25), LiChroprep<sup>®</sup> Si 60 (40–63 µm). Preparative HPLC: Beckman System Gold, Varian Dynamax 250×21.4 mm, Microsorb 100–5 Si. For the LPLC and HPLC separations, the crude product mixtures were first passed through a pad of silica gel in order to remove oligomeric components and inorganic salts, the *R<sub>f</sub>* values reported in this context are those which were observed by TLC using the same eluent. Melting points were determined in open capillaries with a Büchi B-540 instrument at a heating rate of 2 °C/min.

IR spectra of solid samples prepared as KBr pellets or oils between NaCl plates were recorded on a Bruker Vector 22 FT-IR (software: Bruker, Opus NT 2.06) or a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum BX II instrument. Wavenumbers ( $\tilde{\nu}_{\max}$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>) are reported, relative intensities are given as vs (very strong), s (strong), m (medium) and w (weak). NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer (operating at 400.13 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H, 100.61 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C, 376.47 MHz for <sup>19</sup>F) and a Bruker Avance 500 spectrometer (500.14 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and 125.77 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C). NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm; for the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C spectra the solvent signal served for internal calibration [<sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$ (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.26 (s), <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$ (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 77.16 (t)], for <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra hexafluorobenzene was used ( $\delta$ (C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>6</sub>) -164.90). <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded in the proton-decoupled mode. When necessary, NMR signal assignments (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C) were taken from H,H-COSY, C,H-COSY, HMBC and NOESY spectra. Mass spectra were recorded with the following instruments: Finnigan-MAT SSQ-7000 (CI, 100 eV) and Solarix (HRMS: ESI, MALDI), Q Exactive<sup>™</sup> Hybrid Quadrupole-Orbitrap (ESI). Propyne iminium salts **1a–c** were prepared as described in lit. [1].

### 1.2. Reactions of propyn-1-iminium salts **1a,b** with 1,3-dienes

#### 2,2,2-Trifluoro-1-(3-phenylbicyclo[2.2.1]hepta-2,5-dien-2-yl)ethan-1-one (**3**)



A solution of propyn-1-iminium triflate **1a** (550 mg, 1.47 mmol) in dry acetonitrile (2 mL) was placed in a Schlenk tube flushed with argon, cooled at 0 °C, and cyclopentadiene (430 mg, 6.46 mmol) was added dropwise. The cooling bath was removed and the solution was stirred for additional 2 hours. The formed (norbornadien-2-yl)methanaminium salt **2** (90% yield based on <sup>19</sup>F NMR integration) was hydrolyzed in situ with saturated aqueous K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL). After 10 min, the mixture was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 50 mL) followed by EtOAc (50 mL), the combined organic phases were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and the solvents were evaporated. Chromatographic purification (silica gel, eluent cyclohexane/EtOAc (80:1), *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.79) furnished **3** as a yellow oil (250 mg, 0.95 mmol, 65%). The compound was prone to a slow, undefined decomposition even when stored in a freezer at -18 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 2.20–2.32 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.97 (s, 1H, CH), 4.21 (s, 1H, CH), 6.93–7.01 (m, 2H, CH), 7.41–7.43 (m, 3H), 7.62–7.64 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 101 MHz):  $\delta$  = 52.17 (q,  $^4J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 2.7 Hz, C-2), 59.29 (C-4), 70.00 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 116.78 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 292.2 Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 128.12, 128.21, 130.51, 134.79, 140.11, 140.36, 143.93, 177.42 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 34.8 Hz, C=O), 177.93.

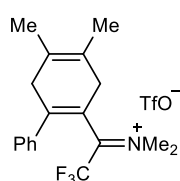
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -78.09 ppm.

The NMR data agree with the reported ones [Zenova, A. Y.; Borisenko, A. A.; Platonov, V. V.; Proskurnina, M. V.; Zefirov, N. S. *Russ. J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, 32, 951–954; *Zh. Org. Khim.* **1996**, 32, 992–995].

IR (NaCl):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1732 (m), 1691 (s), 1550 (m), 1283 (m), 1205 (vs), 1145 (vs), 1021 (m), 760 (m), 718 (m), 696 (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (CI, 100 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 265 (85)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , 195 (41)  $[\text{M}-\text{CF}_3]^+$ .  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3\text{O}$  (264.24).

***N*-(1-(4,5-Dimethyl-3,6-dihydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoroethylidene)-*N*-methylmethanaminium triflate (4-Ch)**



To propyn-1-iminium salt **1a** (551 mg, 1.47 mmol) was added dry  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (2 mL) and the suspension was cooled to  $-8^\circ\text{C}$ . 2,3-Dimethylbuta-1,3-diene (348 mg, 4.24 mmol) was added and after 3 h at this temperature the suspension had changed to a clear solution. After stirring for 20 h at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , the volatiles were removed at 0.1 mbar to give **4-Ch** (605 mg, 1.32 mmol, 90%) as a dark red powder, which was used without further purification.

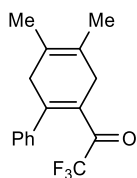
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 1.72 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.74 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.87–2.94 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.02–3.26 (m, 3H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.72 (s, 3H,  $\text{N}^+\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.78 (s, 3H,  $\text{N}^+\text{CH}_3$ ), 7.09–7.11 (m, 2H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ph}}$ ), 7.44–7.45 (m, 3H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ph}}$ ) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 101 MHz):  $\delta$  = 17.89 ( $\text{CCH}_3$ ), 18.15 ( $\text{CCH}_3$ ), 33.49 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 38.96 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 47.53 ( $\text{NCH}_3$ ), 50.18 ( $\text{NCH}_3$ ), 116.93 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 288.8 Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 120.65 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 320.0 Hz,  $\text{TfO}^-$ ), 121.5, 122.2, 122.54, 126.05, 129.88, 130.49, 138.44, 148.61, 164.47 (C=N) ppm.

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -65.71 ( $\text{CF}_3$ ), -81.48 ( $\text{TfO}^-$ ) ppm.

$\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_6\text{NO}_3\text{S}$  (457.43). A correct elemental analysis was not obtained.

**1-(4,5-Dimethyl-3,6-dihydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoroethan-1-one (5-Ch) and 2,2,2-trifluoro-1-(4-methyl-2-phenyl-4-(prop-1-en-2-yl)cyclobut-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-one (5-Cb)**



Crude cyclohexadienyliminium salt **4-Ch** (498 mg, 1.09 mmol) was dissolved in dry acetonitrile (2 mL) and cooled to  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . After addition of an aqueous  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution (8 mL), the mixture was stirred for 15 min followed by extraction with ether. The organic phase was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ) and the volatile components were removed under reduced pressure. Column chromatography of the residue (*n*-hexane/toluene (4:1),  $R_f$  = 0.63) furnished a yellowish oil, which consisted of **5-Ch** and **5-Cb** in a 7:1 mole ratio (187 mg, 0.67 mmol, 61%). The two compounds could not be separated.

Cyclohexadiene **5-Ch**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 1.70 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.73 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.02–3.09 (m, 4H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.13–7.15 (m, 2H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ph}}$ ), 7.32–7.35 (m, 3H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ph}}$ ) ppm.

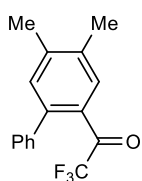
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 101 MHz):  $\delta$  = 18.03 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 18.07 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 34.59 (expanded: q,  $^4J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 1.1 Hz,  $\text{F}_3\text{C-CO-CCH}_2$ ), 40.09 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 115.63 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 293.0 Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 121.99, 122.30, 127.42, 127.87, 128.57, 128.69, 140.35, 146.73, 188.10 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 35.3 Hz,  $\text{C=O}$ ).

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -77.66 ( $\text{CF}_3$ ) ppm.

MS (CI, 100 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 281 (16)  $[M+\text{H}]^+$ , 280 (18)  $[M]^+$ , 279  $[M-\text{H}]^+$  (100).  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{O}$  (280.28 g/mol).

Cyclobutene **5-Cb**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.78 (s, 3H), 2.75/2.92 (AB spin system, 2H,  $J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 15.2 Hz), 4.87–4.89 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.52 (m, 3H), 7.99–8.02 (dd, 2H) ppm.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -78.57 ( $\text{CF}_3$ ) ppm.

### 1-(4,5-Dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoroethan-1-one (6)



To propyn-1-iminium salt **1a** (912 mg, 2.43 mmol) was added dry  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (6 mL) and the suspension was cooled to 0 °C. 2,3-Dimethylbuta-1,3-diene (454 mg, 5.54 mmol) was added and after 30 min, the mixture was warmed to rt. After stirring for 2 h, the solution was cooled to 0 °C and *o*-chloranil (599 mg, 2.44 mmol, dissolved in 1 mL of dry  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) was added and stirring was continued for 20 h. Then, a saturated aqueous  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution (10 mL) and  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (5 mL) were added and after stirring for 2 h, the mixture was extracted with ether. The organic phase was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ) and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. Filtration of the residue over silica gel (cyclohexane/EtOAc = 20:1) followed by column chromatography (cyclohexane/ $\text{CHCl}_3$  = 18:5,  $R_f$  = 0.43) gave **6** (532 mg, 1.91 mmol, 79%) as a yellow liquid.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 2.37 (s, 6 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 7.22–7.26 (m, 3 H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ph}}$ ), 7.36–7.42 (m, 3 H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ph}}$ ), 7.53 (s, 1 H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ph}}$ ).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 19.55 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 20.18 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 116.23 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 292.7 Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 127.74, 128.57, 128.86, 129.08, 130.40 (q,  $^3J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 2.4 Hz,  $\text{C}_{\text{Ph}}$ ), 133.02, 136.15, 140.09, 141.64, 142.94, 184.89 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 34.98 Hz,  $\text{C=O}$ ).

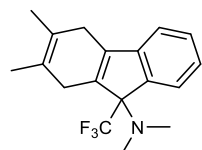
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -75.64 ( $\text{CF}_3$ ).

IR (NaCl):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1722 (s,  $\text{C=O}$ ), 1608 (m), 1549 (m), 1484 (m), 1444 (m), 1191 (s), 1145 (s), 1019 (m), 892 (m), 765 (m), 700 (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (CI, 100 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 278 (75)  $[M]^+$ , 209 (77)  $[M-\text{CF}_3]^+$ , 69 (100)  $[\text{CF}_3]^+$ .

Anal. calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{O}$  (278.27): C 69.06, H 4.71; found: C 68.92, H 4.95.

### *N,N*,2,3-Tetramethyl-9-(trifluoromethyl)-4,9-dihydro-1*H*-fluoren-9-amine (7)



Under an argon atmosphere, propyn-1-iminium salt **1a** (580 mg, 1.55 mmol) was dissolved in dry acetonitrile (2 mL) and 2,3-dimethylbutadiene (339 mg, 4.13 mmol) was added. The solution was stirred at rt for 2 hours, then at 55 °C for 28 hours, and finally allowed to assume room temperature. After addition of aqueous  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (50 mL) and extraction with EtOAc (2 × 50 mL), the combined organic phases were dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ) and the volatiles were evaporated. The residual yellow oil was purified by column

chromatography (silica gel, eluent cyclohexane/EtOAc (40:3),  $R_f$  = 0.74). Colorless solid (305 mg, 0.99 mmol, 64% yield), m.p. 83 °C.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 1.78 (s, 6H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.31 (s, 6H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.88–2.90 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.98–3.00 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.15–7.22 (m, 2H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 7.35 (dt, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 7.53 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H,  $\text{H}_{\text{Ar}}$ ) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 101 MHz):  $\delta$  = 18.91 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 19.04 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 30.53 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 31.33 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 40.25 ( $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 77.52 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 26.2 Hz), 118.76, 122.14, 123.58, 125.22, 125.72, 125.97 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 285.2 Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 129.22, 137.82, 138.22, 138.54, 145.16 ppm.

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -70.89 ppm.

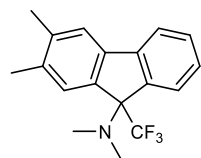
IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1472 (m), 1447 (m), 1277 (s), 1196 (m), 1186 (m), 1164 (s), 1142 (s), 1096 (m), 1083 (m), 1034 (m), 751 (m), 726 (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (CI, 100 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 308 (100) [ $M+\text{H}$ ] $^+$ , 307 (36), 306 (53), 288 (62).

HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  = 308.16197 [ $M+\text{H}$ ] $^+$ ; calcd for [ $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_3\text{N}$ ] $^+$ : 308.16261.

Anal. calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_3\text{N}$  (307.35): C 70.34, H 6.56, N 4.56; found: C 70.36, H 6.34, N 4.46.

#### ***N,N*,2,3-Tetramethyl-9-(trifluoromethyl)-9*H*-fluoren-9-amine (8)**



Under an argon atmosphere, dihydrofluorene **7** (476 mg, 1.55 mmol) was dissolved in dry  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , a solution of *ortho*-chloranil in dry  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2 mL) was added, and the mixture was stirred at rt during 22 hours. After addition of aqueous  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (50 mL) and extraction with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (50 mL), the combined organic phases were dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), the solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, eluent cyclohexane/EtOAc (20:1),  $R_f$  = 0.30). Yellow solid (400 mg, 1.31 mmol, 85% yield), m.p. 77 °C.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 2.27 (s, 6H,  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 2.34 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.35 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 7.29 (t,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 101 MHz):  $\delta$  = 20.30 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 20.46 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 40.76 (q,  $^4J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 2.0 Hz,  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 76.00 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 27.0 Hz), 119.80, 121.36, 126.32 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 282.2 Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 126.32 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 1.3 Hz), 127.20, 127.32 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 1.4 Hz), 129.72, 136.63, 137.84 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 0.8 Hz), 138.43, 139.48, 140.05 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 0.7 Hz), 142.04 ppm.

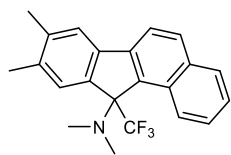
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$  MHz):  $\delta$  = -71.99 ppm.

IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1603 (w), 1451 (m), 1284 (m), 1217 (m), 1145 (vs), 1114 (m), 1039 (s), 945 (m), 742 (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (CI, 100 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 306 (57) [ $M+\text{H}$ ] $^+$ , 305 (70), 286 [ $M-\text{F}$ ] $^+$  (41), 261 [ $M-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ] $^+$  (55), 236 [ $M-\text{CF}_3$ ] (100).

Anal. calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_3\text{N}$  (305.34): C 70.80, H 5.94, N 4.59; found: C 70.65, H 5.91, N 4.60.

### ***N,N*,8,9-Tetramethyl-11-(trifluoromethyl)-11*H*-benzo[*a*]fluoren-11-amine (9)**



Under an argon atmosphere, alkyne **1b** (437 mg, 1.03 mmol) was dissolved in dry CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2 mL), 2,3-dimethylbutadiene (299 mg, 3.64 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for 1 hour at rt, then for 22 hours at 50 °C. After cooling to room temperature, addition of aqueous K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL) and extraction with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 50 mL), the combined organic phases were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and the volatiles were evaporated. The resulting orange-colored solid (314 mg) was dissolved in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL), *ortho*-chloranil (263 mg, 1.07 mmol) was added, and the mixture was stirred at r.t. for 10 hours. After addition of water (50 mL) and extraction with Et<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL), the combined organic phases were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The residue was submitted to column chromatography (silica gel, cyclohexane/EtOAc (40:1), R<sub>f</sub> = 0.55). Colorless solid (259 mg, 0.73 mmol, 71% yield), m.p. 149 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ = 2.38 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.39 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.44–7.49 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.58 (m, 3H), 7.79 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>H,H</sub> = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>H,H</sub> = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>H,H</sub> = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.85 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>H,H</sub> = 8.6 Hz, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz): δ = 20.52 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.84 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 40.71 (q, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>C,F</sub> = 2.0 Hz, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 79.14 (q, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C,F</sub> = 27.0 Hz), 118.12, 121.55, 125.69, 125.77 (q, J<sub>C,F</sub> = 4.0 Hz), 126.65 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C,F</sub> = 286.1 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 126.94, 129.00, 129.06 (q, J<sub>C,F</sub> = 1.7 Hz), 130.89, 131.37, 134.08, 135.68, 137.03 (q, J<sub>C,F</sub> = 1.0 Hz), 137.17 (q, J<sub>C,F</sub> = 0.7 Hz), 138.41, 139.82 (q, J<sub>C,F</sub> = 0.9 Hz), 140.82 ppm.

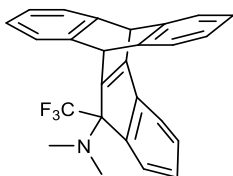
<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = -69.34 ppm.

IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1479 (w), 1454 (w), 1280 (m), 1260 (m), 1217 (m), 1170 (s), 1137 (vs), 1081 (m), 1037 (s), 1028 (s), 821 (m), 759 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>.

MS (CI, 100 eV): *m/z* = 356 (53) [*M*+H]<sup>+</sup>, 355 (100), 311 (79), 286 (34).

Anal. calcd (%) for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N (355.40): C 74.35, H 5.67, N 3.94; found: C 73.96, H 5.79, N 3.90.

### ***N,N*-Dimethyl-11-(trifluoromethyl)-10,11-dihydro-5*H*-5,10-[1,2]benzenobenzo[*b*]fluoren-11-amine (11)**



Under an argon atmosphere, anthracene (340 mg, 1.91 mmol) was added to a solution of propyn-1-iminium salt **1a** (698 mg, 1.86 mmol) in acetonitrile (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 12 h, then at 55 °C for 2 h (95% conversion into Diels–Alder adduct **10**, which due to its high hydrolytic lability was not isolated, but was identified by <sup>1</sup>H NMR; see below). The solvent was replaced by dry toluene (4 mL) and the solution was heated at reflux (105 °C) for 5 days. After cooling to rt, satd aqueous K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was added (50 mL) and the biphasic mixture was extracted with EtOAc (50 mL). The organic phases were combined and dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), then the volatiles were evaporated at reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in cyclohexane/EtOAc (20:1) and passed over silica gel (≈30 g). Further purification by HPLC (silica gel, cyclohexane/EtOAc (20:1), R<sub>f</sub> = 0.45) yielded the product, which was recrystallized from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/pentane. Colorless crystals (551 mg, 1.37 mmol, 74% yield), m.p. 120 °C.

Diels–Alder adduct **10**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz): δ = 3.09 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.75 (s, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.71 (broadened s, 1H, C<sub>sp3</sub>H), 5.91 (s, 1H, C<sub>sp3</sub>H), 7.07–7.14 (m, 4H), 7.25 (apparent d, 2H), 7.48–7.60 (m, 7H) ppm.

**11:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 2.20 (s, 6H,  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 5.43 (broadened s, 1H, CH), 5.48 (s, 1H, CH), 6.94–6.98 (m, 2H), 6.98–7.02 (m, 2H), 7.15 (dt,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.5$  Hz,  $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.42 (m, 7H) ppm.

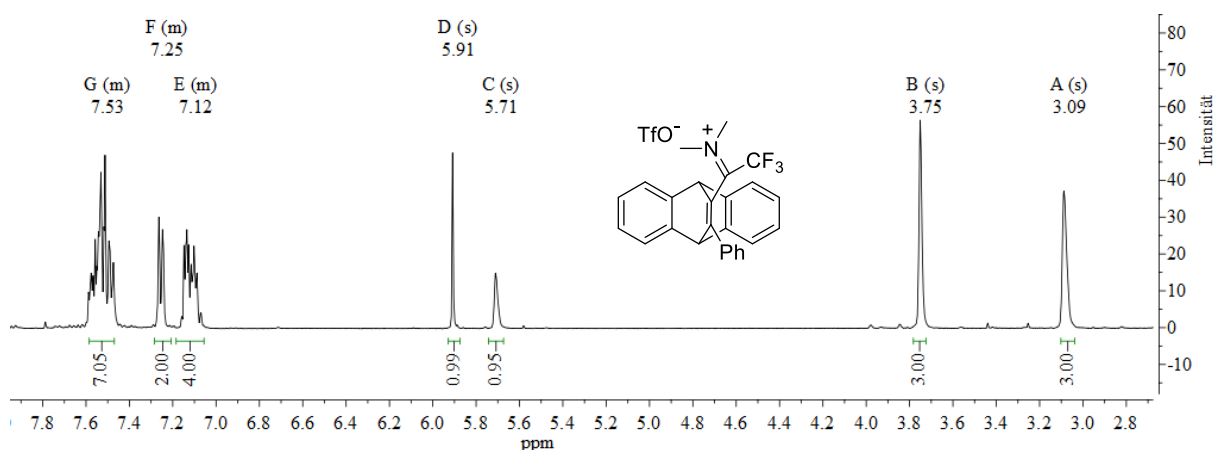
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 101 MHz):  $\delta$  = 41.39 (q,  $^4J_{\text{C,F}} = 2.0$  Hz,  $\text{NCH}_3$ ), 48.80 (CH), 52.01 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}} = 0.7$  Hz, CH), 77.53 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C,F}} = 26.9$  Hz), 119.85, 124.14, 124.44, 124.57, 124.68, 125.70, 125.78, 125.81, 125.91, 125.98 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}} = 1.0$  Hz), 126.85 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C,F}} = 284.5$  Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 126.95, 130.35, 140.94, 142.84 (d,  $J_{\text{C,F}} = 1.0$  Hz), 146.32, 146.60, 146.76, 147.41, 153.71, 158.81 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}} = 0.7$  Hz) ppm.

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -71.13 ppm.

IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1599 (w), 1456 (m), 1279 (m), 1219 (m), 1147 (s), 1071 (m), 1029 (m), 746 (m), 729 (m), 713 (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (ESI):  $m/z$  = 404.16  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ .

Anal. calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_3\text{N}$  (403.45): C 77.40, H 5.00, N 3.47; found: C 77.32, H 5.07, N 3.85.



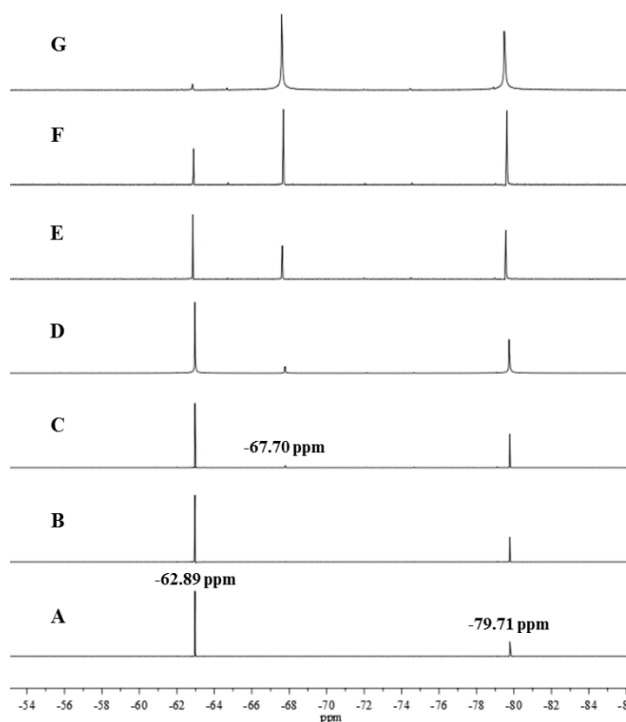
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , 400.13 MHz) of Diels–Alder adduct **10**, obtained from the reaction of **1a** and anthracene (20 °C, 12 h, then 55 °C, 2 h); the product was not purified.

**Table:** Monitoring of the isomerization **10**  $\rightarrow$  **11** by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy (see stacked plot of spectra).

| Step     | Temperature | Reaction Time | Solvent                | Signal ratio <sup>a</sup> |            |            |
|----------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|
|          |             |               |                        | -62.89 ppm                | -67.70 ppm | -79.71 ppm |
| <b>A</b> | 25 °C       | 0 h           | $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ | 1.00                      | 0.00       | 1.00       |
| <b>B</b> | 75 °C       | 7 h           | $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ | 1.00                      | 0.00       | 1.00       |
| <b>C</b> | 75 °C       | 24 h          | $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ | 0.98                      | 0.02       | 1.00       |
| <b>D</b> | 75 °C       | 4 d           | $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ | 0.94                      | 0.06       | 1.00       |
| <b>E</b> | 85 °C       | 2 d           | $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ | 0.85                      | 0.15       | 1.00       |
| <b>F</b> | 105 °C      | 20 h          | toluene                | 0.48                      | 0.52       | 1.00       |
| <b>G</b> | 105 °C      | 44 h          | toluene                | 0.23                      | 0.77       | 1.00       |
| <b>H</b> | 105 °C      | 5 d           | toluene                | 0.04                      | 0.96       | 1.00       |



<sup>a</sup> Signal ratios were obtained by integration;  $\delta$ -62.89 = **10**,  $\delta$ -67.70 = *N*-protonated **11**;  $\delta$ -79.71 = TfO<sup>-</sup>.



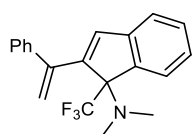
### 1.3. Reactions of salt **1a** with styrene derivatives

**General procedure:** Under an argon atmosphere, a flame-dried Schlenk tube was charged with propyniminium salt **1a** (1 equiv), dry acetonitrile (10 mL) and styrene or an  $\alpha$ - or  $\beta$ -substituted styrene (1 equiv). The stirred solution was heated at 70 °C, until <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra indicated the end of the reaction (12–48 h). After cooling at rt, the reaction mixture was neutralized with saturated aqueous K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (200 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (2 × 150 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was dissolved in cyclohexane/EtOAc (20:1) and passed over a pad of silica gel (≈30 g), then separated by column chromatography under hydrostatic pressure, LPLC or HPLC.

#### *N,N*-Dimethyl-2-(1-phenylvinyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-inden-1-amine (**12a**) and *N,N*-dimethyl-11-(trifluoromethyl)-11*H*-benzo[*a*]fluoren-11-amine (**13a**)

Prepared from **1a** (770 mg, 2.05 mmol) and styrene (214 mg, 2.05 mmol), 70 °C/48 h. Separation by LPLC (cyclohexane/EtOAc (40:1) yielded **12a** (*R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.60) and **13a** (*R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.39).

**12a:** colorless solid (459 mg, 1.40 mmol, 68% yield), m.p. 68 °C.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 2.42 (s, 6H, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 5.41 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 2.0 Hz, 1H, CH<sup>A</sup>), 6.46 (s, 1H, 3-*H*<sub>indene</sub>), 6.57 (broadened signal, 1H of CH<sup>B</sup>), 7.18 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 7.32 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35–7.39 (m, 5H), 7.61 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 1H) ppm; assignment of =CH<sub>2</sub> signals by H,H-COSY.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta$  = 40.04 (q, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 1.7 Hz, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 80.27 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 26.8 Hz, C-1), 118.46 (q, *J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 1.9 Hz), 122.20, 125.82 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 286.1 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 125.90, 126.55 (q, *J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 1.4 Hz),

127.49, 128.26, 128.85, 129.37, 135.57 (q,  $^4J_{\text{C,F}} = 1.2$  Hz, C-3), 139.09, 142.99, 143.30, 143.63, 145.96 ppm.

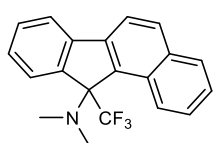
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = -69.74$  ppm.

IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu} = 1600$  (m), 1459 (m), 1278 (m), 1216 (m), 1175 (m), 1141 (s), 1043 (s), 977 (m), 779 (m), 757 (m), 717 (m), 696 (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (ESI):  $m/z = 330.14$   $[M+H]^+$ .

Anal. calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{NF}_3\text{N}$  (329.37): C 72.93, H 5.51, N 4.25; found: C 73.02, H 5.61, N 4.10.

**13a**: colorless solid (42 mg, 0.13 mmol, 6% yield), m.p. 99 °C.



$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz):  $\delta = 2.39$  (s, 6H,  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 7.34 (dt,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.6$  Hz,  $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.47–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.59 (m, 1H), 7.77–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.87 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 8.7$  Hz, 1H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 125.77 MHz):  $\delta = 40.49$  (q,  $^4J_{\text{C,F}} = 2.2$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 79.13 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C,F}} = 27.1$  Hz, C-11), 118.02, 120.15, 125.71 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}} = 4.0$  Hz), 125.83, 126.35 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C,F}} = 286.2$  Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 126.88, 126.93, 127.63 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}} = 1.5$  Hz), 128.85, 129.71, 130.68, 131.34, 134.21, 137.12 (d,  $J_{\text{C,F}} = 1.1$  Hz), 139.36, 139.50, 142.77 ppm.

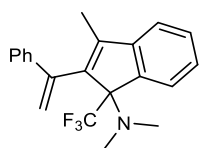
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = -69.20$  ppm.

IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu} = 1579$  (w), 1477 (m), 1464 (m), 1261 (m), 1214 (m), 1176 (m), 1144 (s), 1093 (m), 1050 (m), 1035 (m), 825 (m), 765 (m), 754 (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

HRMS (ESI):  $m/z = 328.13128$   $[M+H]^+$ ; calcd (%) for  $[\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_3\text{N}]^+$ : 328.13131; 283.07332  $[M-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2]^+$ , calcd (%) for  $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_3]^+$ : 283.07291.

Anal. calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_3\text{N}$  (327.12): C 73.38, H 4.93, N 4.28; found: C 72.88, H 5.17, N 4.26.

### *N,N*,3-Trimethyl-2-(1-phenylvinyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-inden-1-amine (12b)



Prepared from salt **1a** (880 mg, 2.35 mmol) and  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene (277 mg, 2.35 mmol); 70 °C/12 h. Purification by column chromatography (cyclohexane/EtOAc (10:1);  $R_f = 0.61$ ). Colorless oil (742 mg, 2.16 mmol, 92% yield), which slowly crystallized on standing.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz):  $\delta = 1.69$  (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.28 (s, 6H,  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 5.63 (d,  $^2J_{\text{H,H}} = 2.0$  Hz, 1H,  $=\text{CH}^{\text{A}}$ ), 6.01 (d,  $^2J_{\text{H,H}} = 2.0$  Hz, 1H,  $=\text{CH}^{\text{B}}$ ), 7.19–7.24 (m, 3H), 7.24–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.50 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.8$  Hz, 1H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 126 MHz):  $\delta = 12.71$  ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 40.14 (q,  $^4J_{\text{C,F}} = 2.1$  Hz,  $\text{NCH}_3$ ), 80.20 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C,F}} = 26.2$  Hz, C-1), 119.39, 119.73, 125.17 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}} = 1.6$  Hz), 125.93 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C,F}} = 285.8$  Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 126.21, 127.29, 127.35, 128.38, 129.20, 138.44, 138.95, 142.02 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}} = 0.8$  Hz), 142.61, 143.13, 145.66 ppm.

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = -69.11$  ppm.

IR (NaCl):  $\tilde{\nu} = 1601$  (m), 1570 (m), 1491 (m), 1470 (m), 1382 (m), 1346 (m), 1278 (s), 1216 (s), 1141 (s, broad), 1072 (m), 953 (m), 937 (m), 911 (m), 805 (m), 774 (s), 755 (s), 728 (s), 701 (s)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (ESI):  $m/z = 344.16$   $[M+H]^+$ .

Anal. calcd (%) for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NF<sub>3</sub>N (343.39): C 73.45, H 5.87, N 4.08; found: C 72.95, H 6.04, N 4.03.

***N,N*-Dimethyl-3-phenyl-2-(1-phenylvinyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-inden-1-amine (12c) and *N,N*-dimethyl-5-phenyl-11-(trifluoromethyl)-11*H*-benzo[*a*]fluoren-11-amine (13c)**

Prepared from salt **1a** (1.30 g, 3.46 mmol) and 1,1-diphenylethene (624 mg, 3.46 mmol); 70 °C/24 h. After extraction with EtOAc, the solvent was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in *n*-pentane. The major part of indene **12c** precipitated when the solution was concentrated by slow solvent evaporation at rt. The mother liquor was collected by decantation and processed further by HPLC (cyclohexane/EtOAc (40:1)) to furnish **13c** (*R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.52) and another batch of **12c** (*R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.36).

**12c**: colorless crystals (1.23 g, 3.11 mmol, 90% yield); m.p. 113–114 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ = 2.45 (s, 6H, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 5.63 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 2.0 Hz, 1H, =CH<sup>A</sup>), 6.36 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 2.2 Hz, 1H, =CH<sup>B</sup>), 6.94–7.00 (m, 3H), 7.05–7.20 (m, 8H), 7.27–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.63 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.4 Hz, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz): δ = 40.21 (q, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 2.1 Hz, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 80.45 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 26.5 Hz, C-1), 120.61, 121.49, 125.87 (q, *J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 1.6 Hz), 126.03 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 285.8 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 126.38, 126.82, 127.66, 127.77, 127.94, 127.99, 129.19, 129.26, 134.53, 138.75, 139.70, 141.99, 143.07, 145.06, 145.86 (q, *J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 1.1 Hz) ppm.

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = -68.85 ppm.

IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1598 (w), 1574 (w), 1492 (w), 1445 (m), 1280 (m), 1212 (m), 1168 (m), 1141 (s), 1073 (w), 1041 (m), 981 (m), 921 (m), 899 (m), 778 (m), 755 (m), 725 (m), 696 (s) cm<sup>-1</sup>.

MS (CI, 100 eV): *m/z* (%) = 406 (48) [*M*+H]<sup>+</sup>, 405 (100), 386 (15), 361 (33).

MS (ESI): *m/z* = 406.18 [*M*+H]<sup>+</sup>.

Anal. calcd (%) for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>22</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N (405.46): C 77.02, H 5.47, N 3.45; found: C 76.95, H 5.59, N 3.52.

**13c**: colorless solid (89 mg, 0.22 mmol, 6% yield), m.p. 67 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ = 2.43 (s, 6H, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 7.35 (dt, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.6 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.45–7.60 (m, 7H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.75–7.78 (m, 1H), 7.80 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.96 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 8.6 Hz, 1H) ppm.

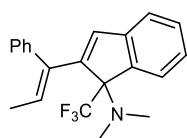
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz): δ = 40.55 (q, *J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 1.9 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 79.30 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 27.1 Hz, C-11), 119.19, 120.14, 125.85 (q, *J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 3.9 Hz), 125.84, 126.37 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 286.4 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 126.65, 127.01, 127.12, 127.63 (q, *J*<sub>C,F</sub> = 1.5 Hz), 127.69, 128.47, 129.74, 130.23, 130.99, 132.41, 136.30, 138.72, 139.60, 140.96, 142.66, 143.44 ppm.

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = -69.03 ppm.

IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1590 (w), 1472 (w), 1263 (m), 1215 (m), 1147 (s), 1034 (m), 761 (m), 701 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>.

HRMS (ESI): *m/z* = 404.16202 [*M*+H]<sup>+</sup>; calcd for [C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>: 404.16261. C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N (403.45).

**(E)-N,N-Dimethyl-2-(1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-inden-1-amine (12d)**



Prepared from salt **1a** (1.05 g, 2.80 mmol) and *trans*- $\beta$ -methylstyrene (331 mg, 2.80 mmol); 70 °C/24 h. LPLC (cyclohexane/EtOAc (40:1),  $R_f$  = 0.68)) furnished a colorless solid 560 mg, 1.63 mmol, 58%), m.p. 90 °C.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 1.63 (dd,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.1 Hz,  $^5J_{\text{H,H}}$   $\approx$  0.7 Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.41 (s, 6H,  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 6.00 (q,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}}$   $\approx$  0.8 Hz, 1H, =CH), 7.06 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12–7.19 (m, 4H), 7.25 (dt,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.5 Hz,  $^4J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.34 (m, 1H), 7.37–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.54 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 126 MHz):  $\delta$  = 15.91 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 40.12 (q,  $^4J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 1.8 Hz,  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 80.18 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 26.6 Hz, C-1), 121.66, 125.18, 125.91 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 286.1 Hz), 126.62 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 1.8 Hz), 126.87, 127.83 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 2.5 Hz), 128.36, 129.26, 129.91, 133.25 (q,  $J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 1.2 Hz), 136.74, 138.85, 140.48, 144.14, 147.77 ppm.

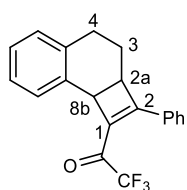
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$  MHz):  $\delta$  = -69.71 ppm.

IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1600 (w), 1462 (m), 1441 (m), 1268 (m), 1214 (m), 1149 (vs), 1054 (s), 991 (m), 932 (m), 758 (m), 703 (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (ESI):  $m/z$  = 344.16  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ .

Anal. calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_3\text{N}$  (343.39): C 73.45, H 5.87, N 4.08; found: C 73.59, H 5.92, N 4.11.

**2,2,2-Trifluoro-1-(2-phenyl-2a,3,4,8b-tetrahydrocyclobuta[*a*]naphthalen-1-yl)ethan-1-one (18)**



Prepared from salt **1a** (1.05 g, 2.80 mmol) and 1,2-dihydronaphthalene (365 mg, 2.80 mmol); 70 °C/24 h. LPLC (silica gel, cyclohexane/EtOAc (20:1),  $R_f$  = 0.60) furnished a very viscous yellow oil (763 mg, 2.32 mmol, 83% yield).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 1.60–1.70 (m, 1H of  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}$ ), 2.31–2.37 (m, 1H of  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}$ ), 2.50–2.60 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}$ ), 3.95–4.00 (apparent t, 1H, 2a-H), 4.47–4.49 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 3.8 Hz, 1H, 8b-H), 7.10 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.15–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.37 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H,H}}$  = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.55 (m, 3H), 8.03–8.08 (m, 2H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 126 MHz):  $\delta$  = 25.72 (C-3), 26.44 (C-4), 42.00 (C-2a), 43.13 (C-8b), 116.24 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 291.2 Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 126.42, 126.95, 128.45, 128.86, 129.72, 130.44 (q,  $^3J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 1.7 Hz), 130.72, 131.41, 132.11, 134.92, 139.31, 167.29, 176.13 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C,F}}$  = 36.1 Hz, C=O) ppm.

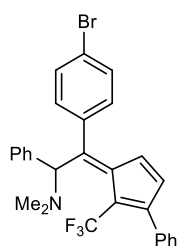
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -78.32 ppm.

IR (NaCl):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1690 (s), 1586 (s), 1564 (s), 1491 (m), 1450 (m), 1337 (m), 1265 (m), 1211 (s), 1146 (s), 1112 (m), 1014 (s), 895 (s), 773 (m), 755 (s), 692 (s)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (ESI):  $m/z$  = 329.12  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ .

Anal. calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{O}$  (328.33): C 73.16, H 4.61; found: C 72.91, H 4.61.

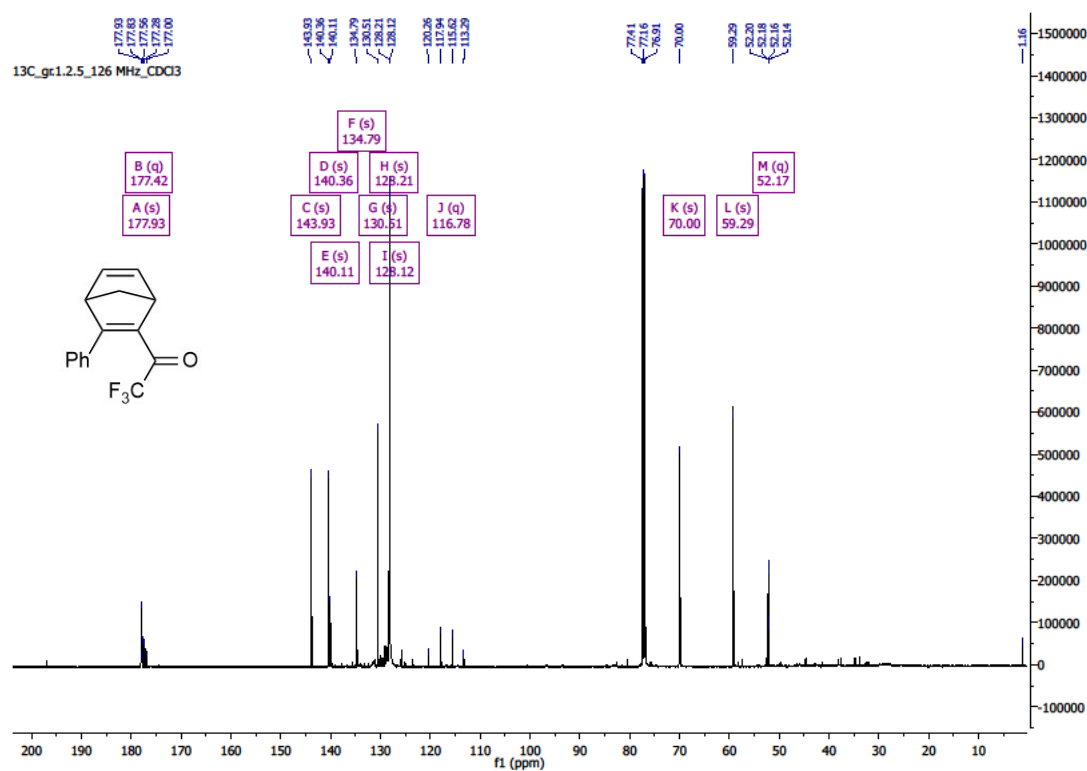
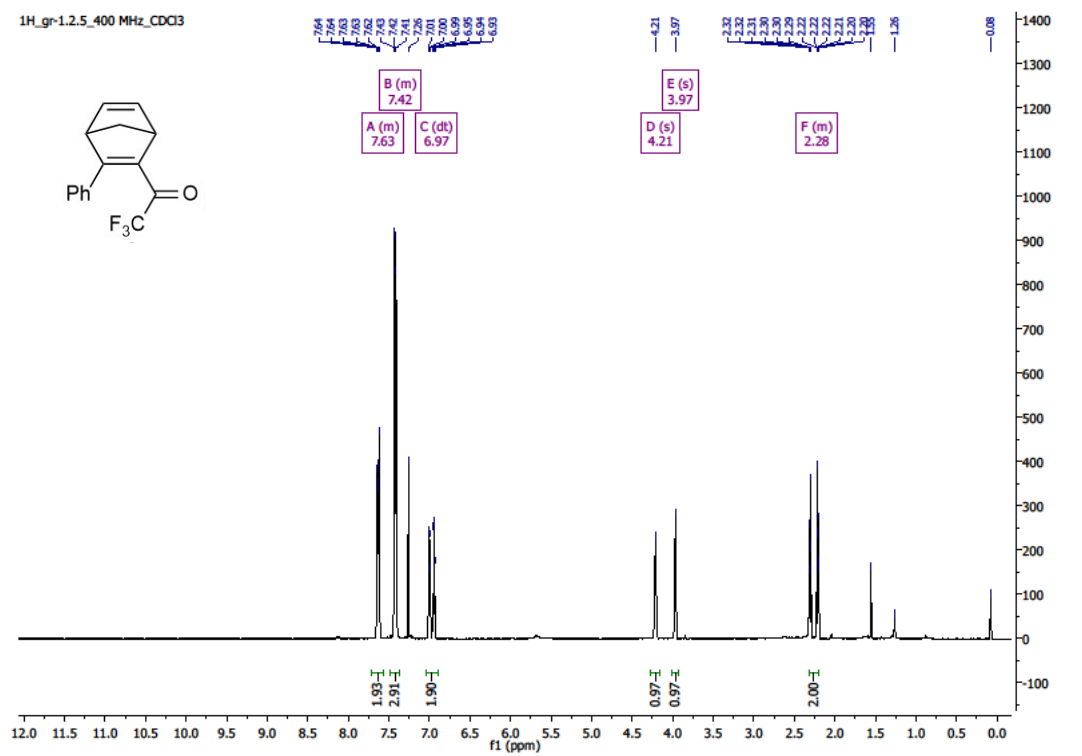
**(Z)-2-(4-Bromophenyl)-N,N-dimethyl-1-phenyl-2-(3-phenyl-2-(trifluoromethyl)cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-ylidene)ethan-1-amine (19)**



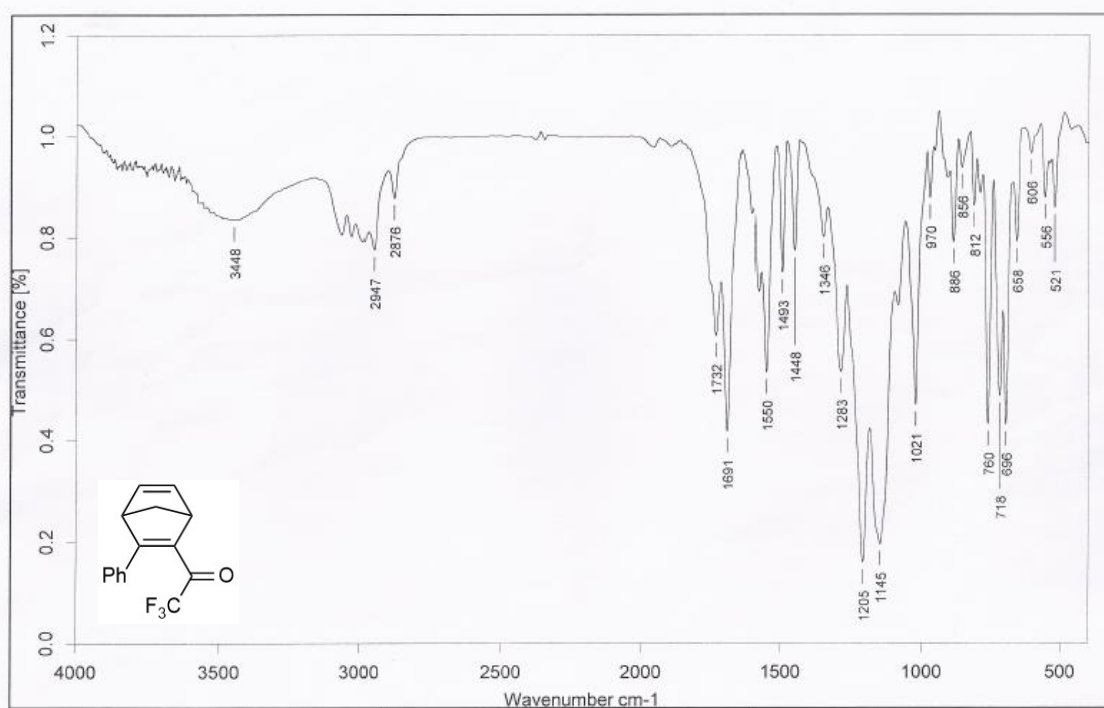
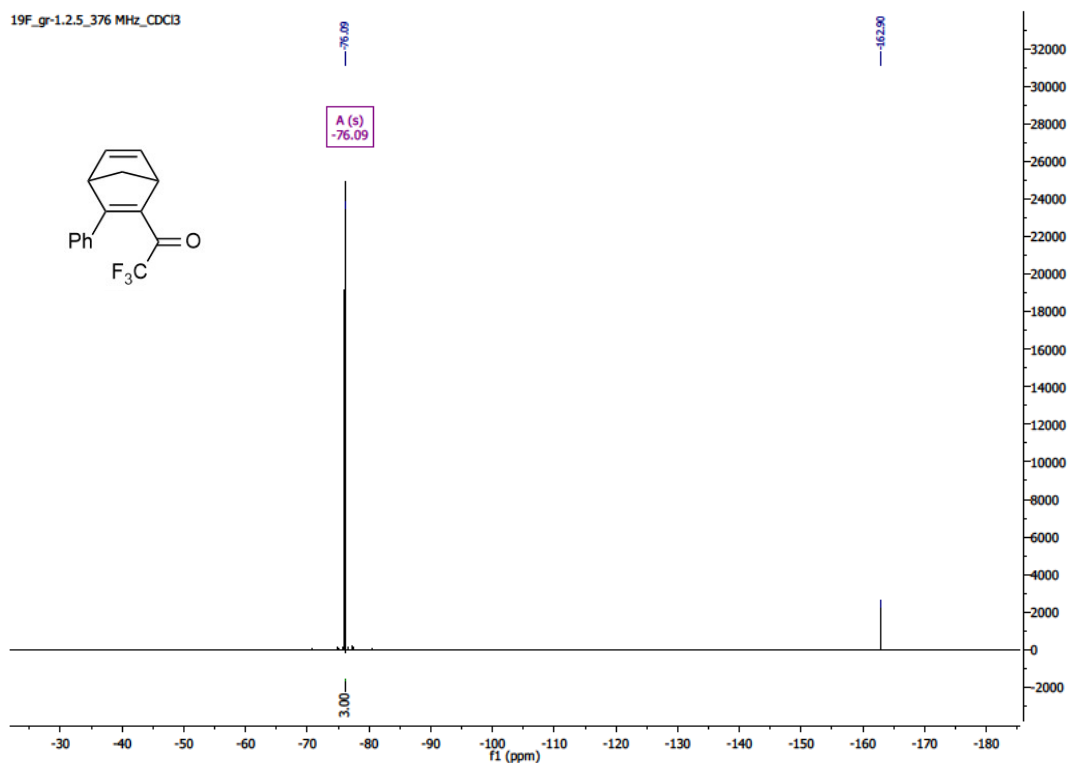
Under an argon atmosphere, (*E,E*)-1,4-diphenylbuta-1,3-diene (360 mg, 1.75 mmol) was added to a solution of iminium salt **1c** (792 mg, 1.75 mmol) in dry acetonitrile (4 mL). The diene was not dissolved completely at rt. The stirred mixture was heated at 45 °C for 2 h, then at 70 °C for 40 h. After cooling to rt, it was neutralized with satd aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (100 mL), whereby a color change from red to yellow was observed. After extraction with EtOAc (150 mL), the aqueous layer was saturated with NaCl and extracted with EtOAc (100 mL). The organic extracts were combined, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and the solvent was evaporated. The oily residue was fractionated by LPLC (eluent cyclohexane/EtOAc (40:1), *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.78) followed by HPLC (gradient elution with cyclohexane (100 → 90% v/v)/EtOAc, 25 min) to furnish **19**, which was recrystallized from EtOAc/*n*-pentane at r.t. Yellow crystals (185 mg, 0.36 mmol, 21% yield), m. p. 156–156.5 °C.

## 2. NMR ( $^1\text{H}$ , $^{13}\text{C}$ , $^{19}\text{F}$ ) and IR spectra of synthesized compounds

### 2-Trifluoroacetyl-3-phenylbicyclo[2.2.1]hepta-2,5-diene (3)

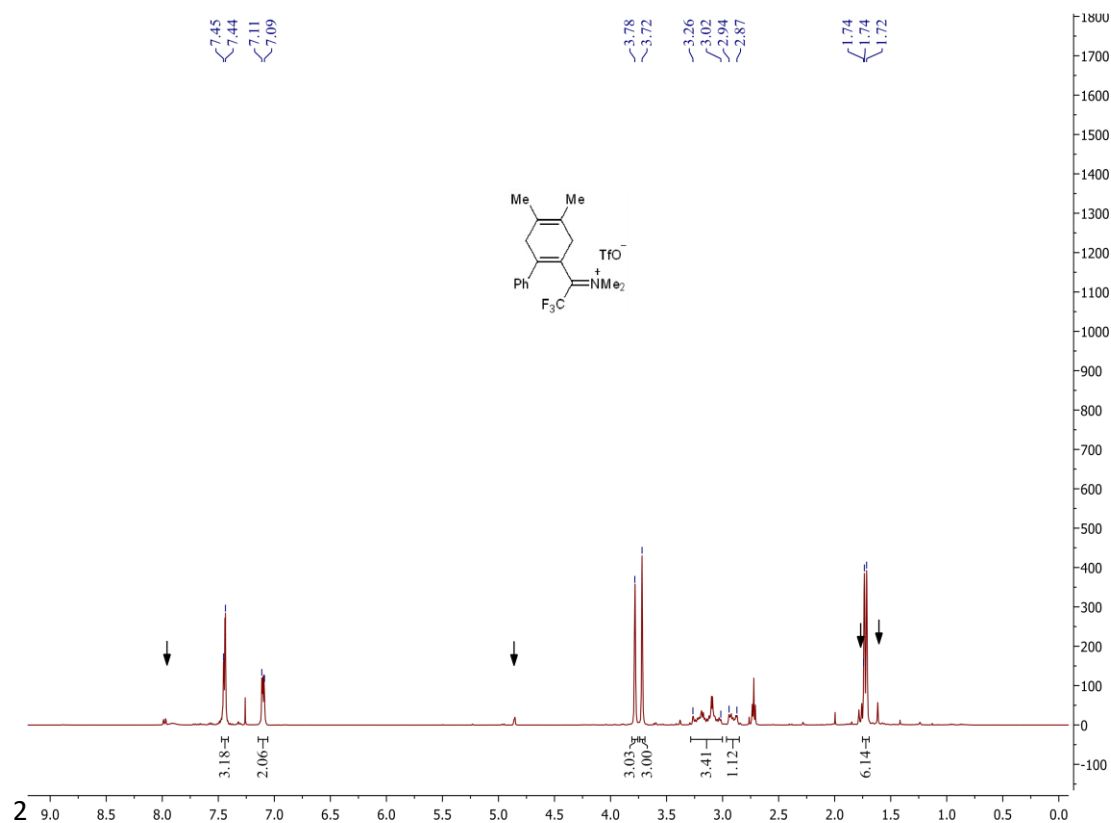


19F-gr-1.2.5\_376 MHz\_CDCl3

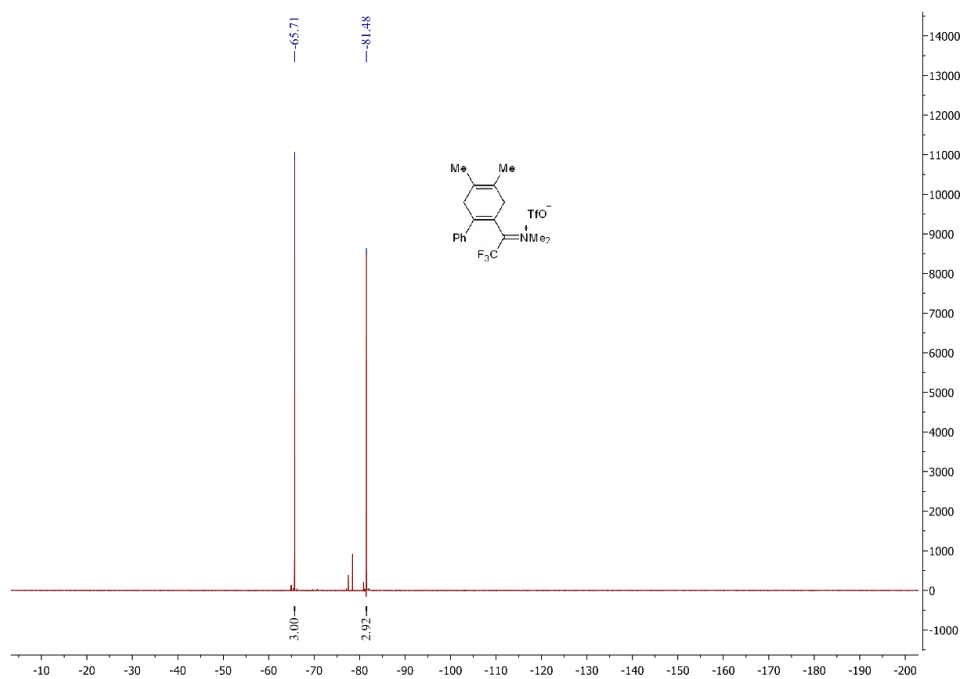


|                                            |                                         |                   |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Probenname: gr-1                           | Bereich Wellenzahlen: 4000.33 - 400.226 | Datum: 29/08/2013 |
| Probenform: KBr                            | Gerät: VECTOR22                         | Proben Scans: 8   |
| Acquisition: Double Sided Forward-Backward | Dateipfad: D:\DATEN_IR_BRUKER\SCHEIDER  | Datei: GR-1.0     |

***N*-(1-(4,5-Dimethyl-3,6-dihydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoroethylidene)-*N*-methylmethanaminium triflate (4-Ch)**



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) of crude **4-Ch**. Signals marked with an arrow are attributed to traces of **4-Cb**.

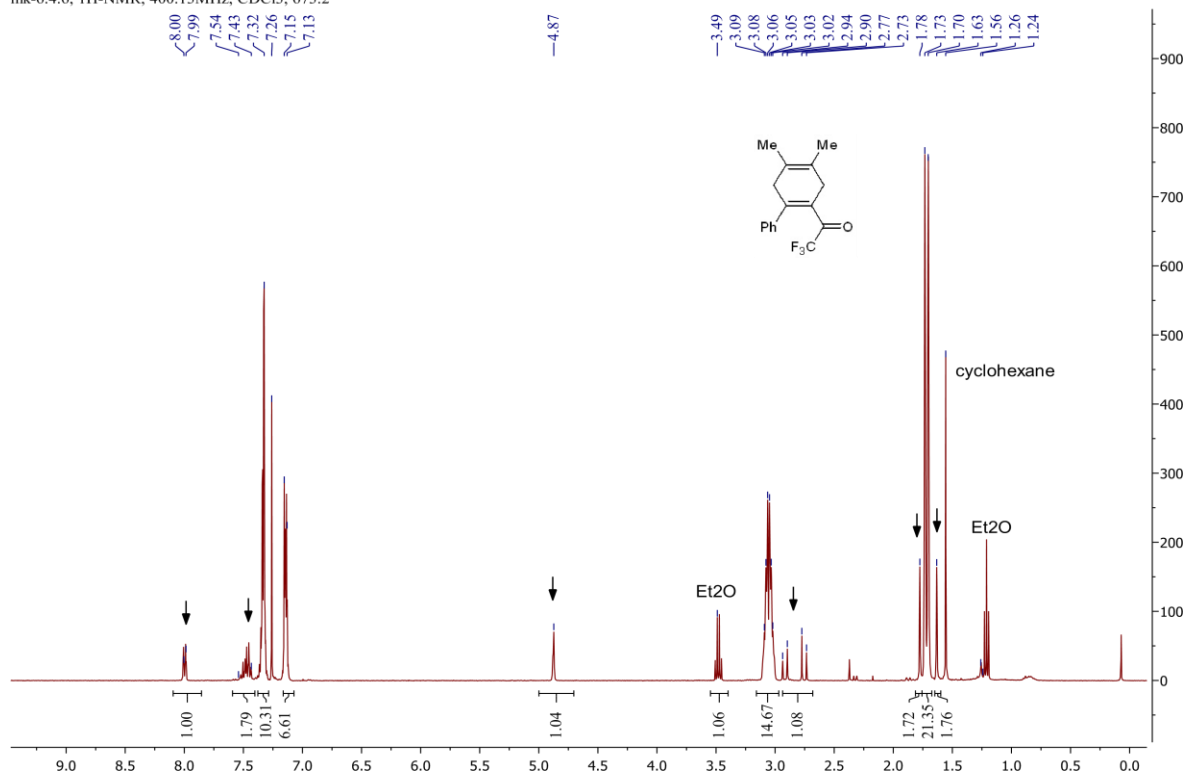


<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of crude **4-Ch**.

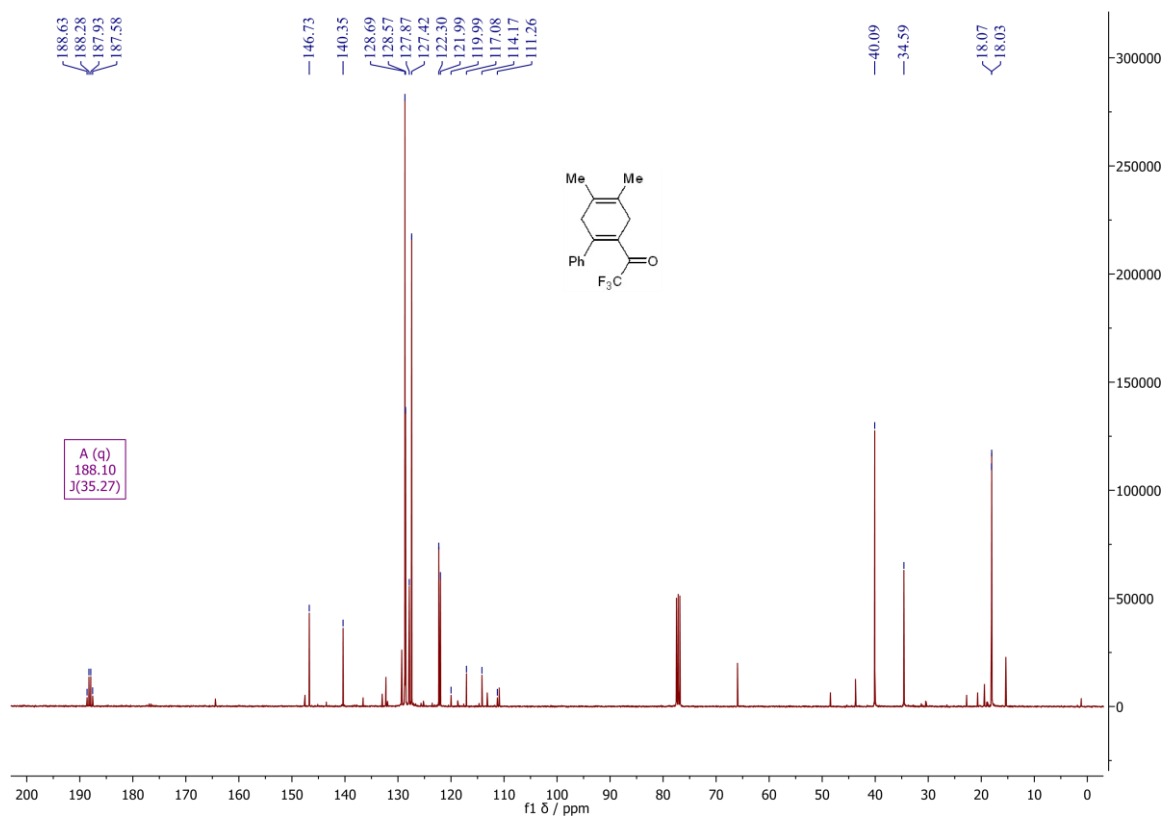


# 1-(4,5-Dimethyl-3,6-dihydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoroethan-1-one (5-Ch)

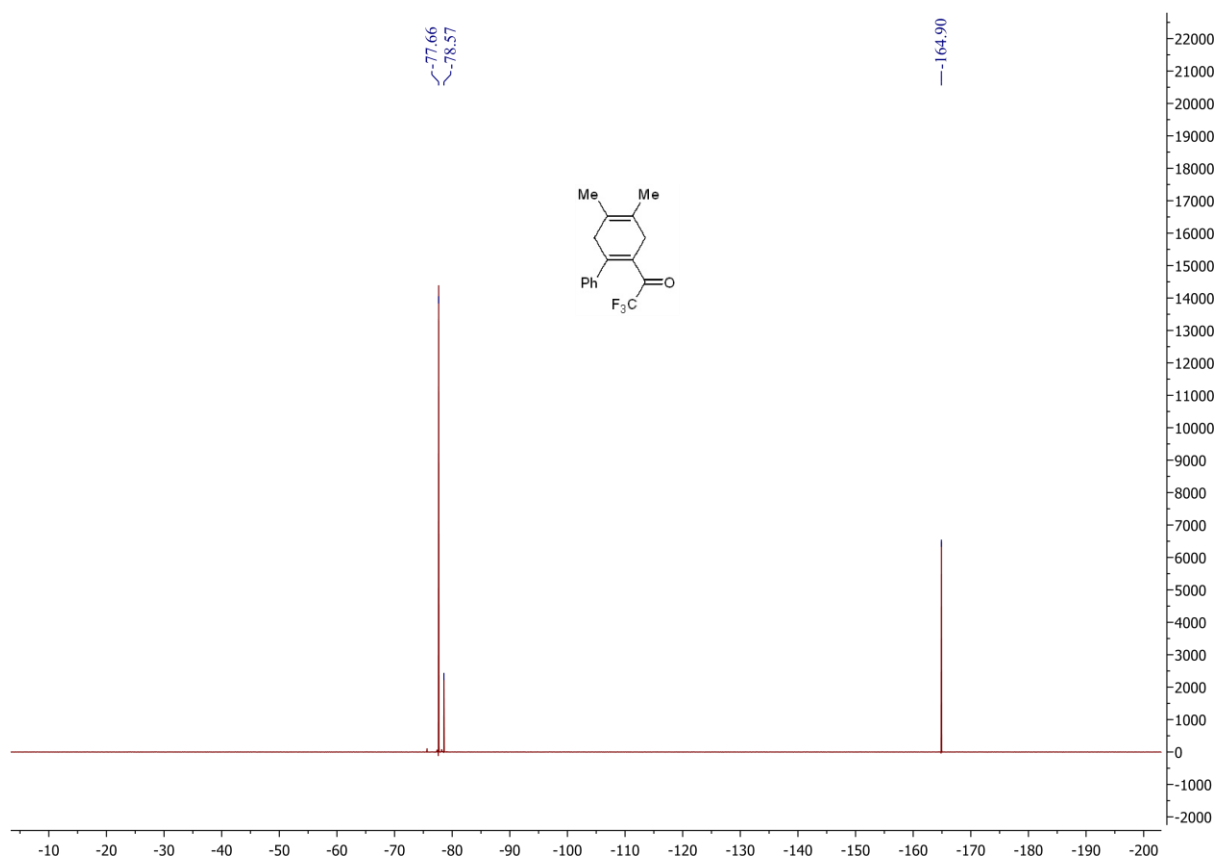
mk-6.4.6, <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, 400.13MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 673.2



Signals marked with an arrow belong to 2,2,2-trifluoro-1-(4-methyl-2-phenyl-4-(prop-1-en-2-yl)cyclobut-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-one (**5-Cb**).

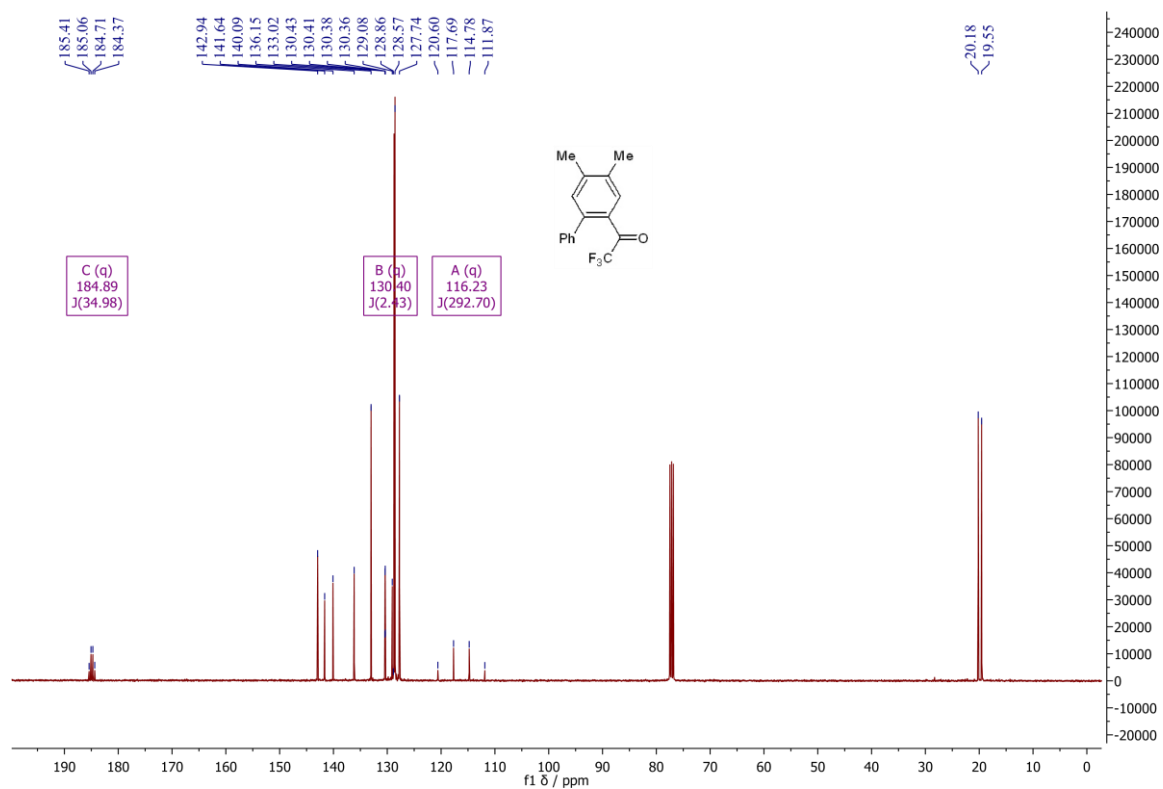
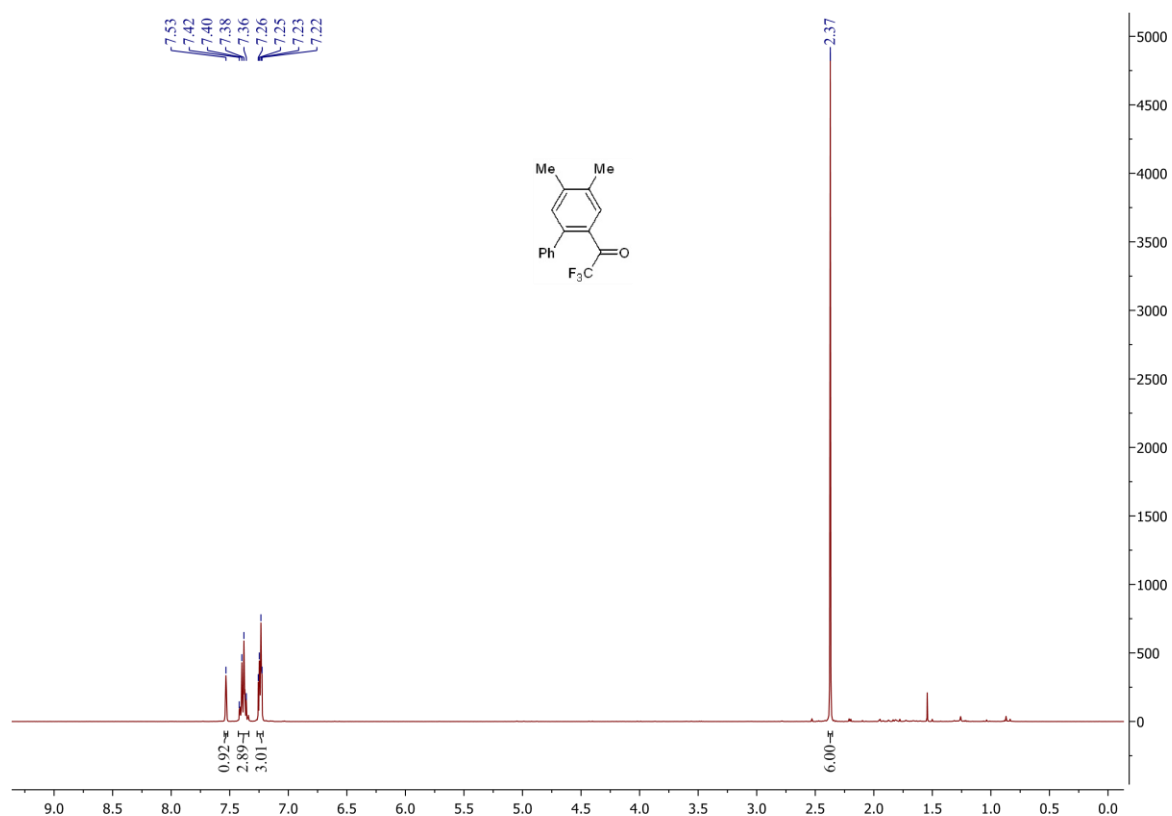


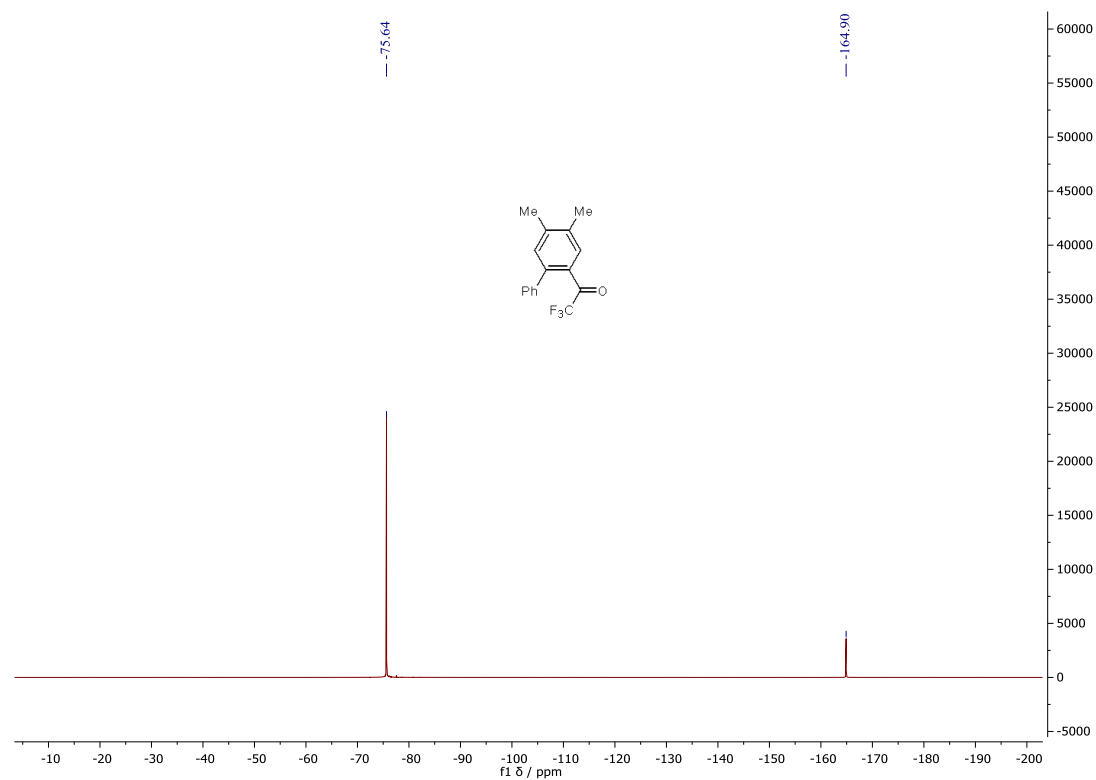
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.61 MHz) of **5-Ch** containing a small amount of **5-Cb**.



$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): The signal at  $\delta$  77.66 ppm belongs to **5-Ch**, the signal at  $\delta$  78.57 ppm to **5-Cb**.

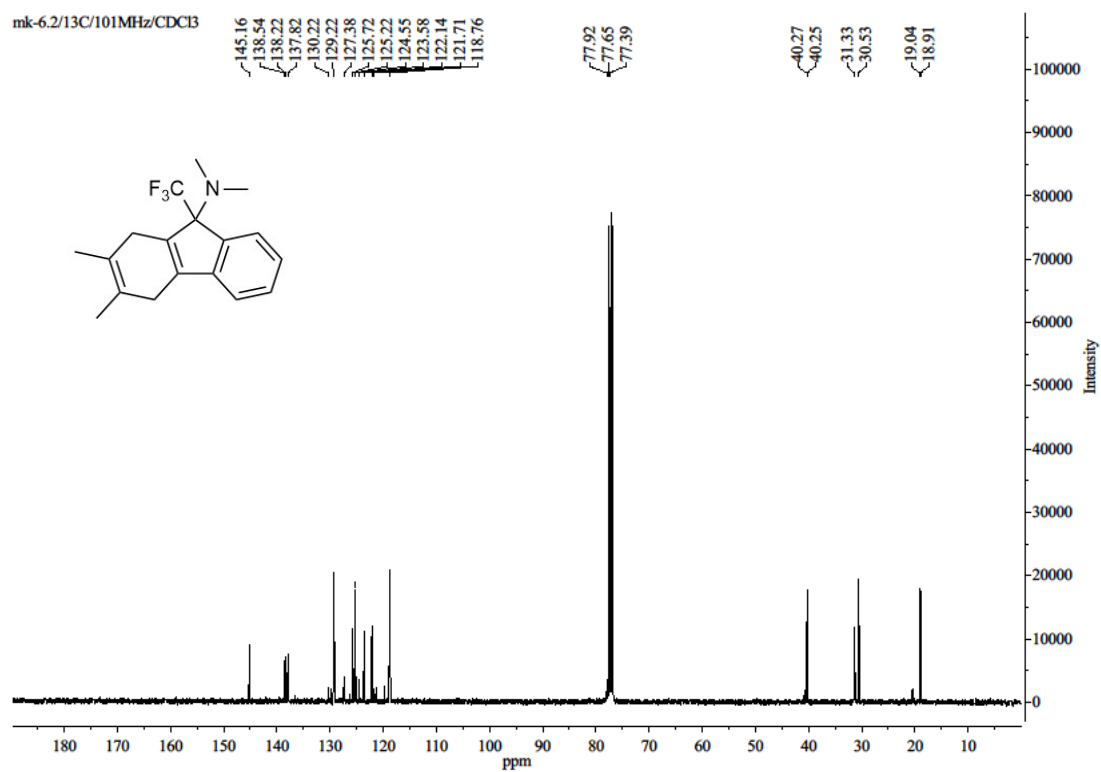
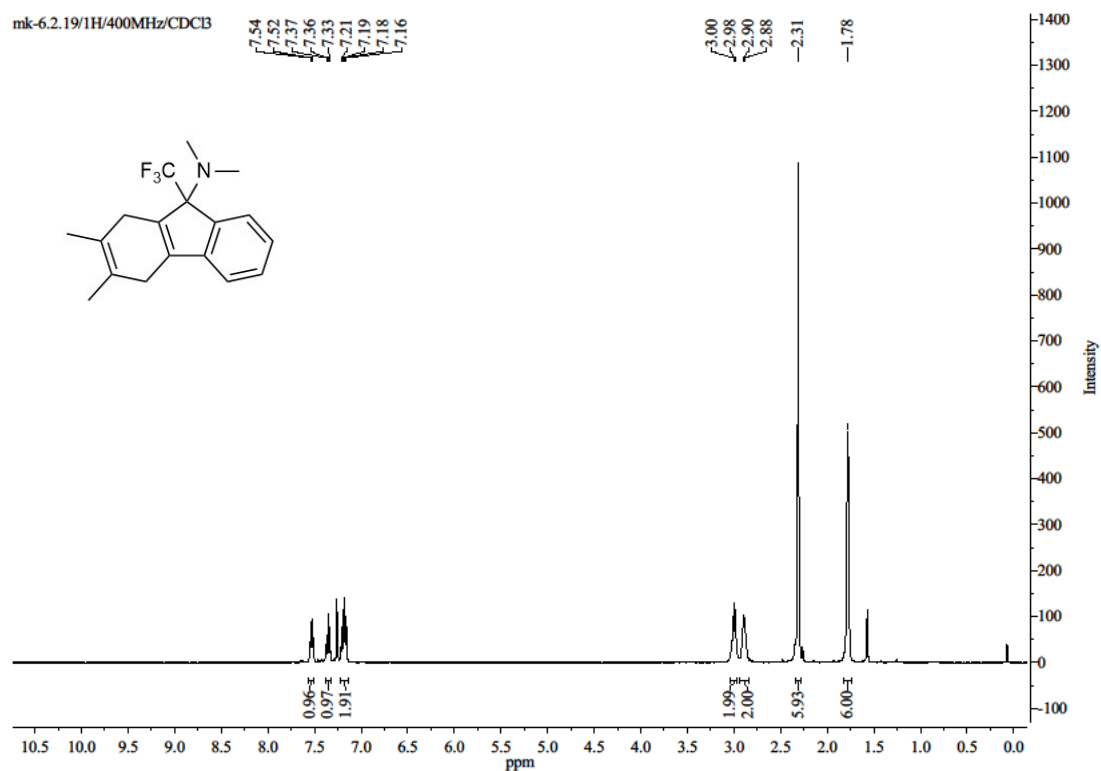
**1-(4,5-Dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoroethan-1-one (6)**



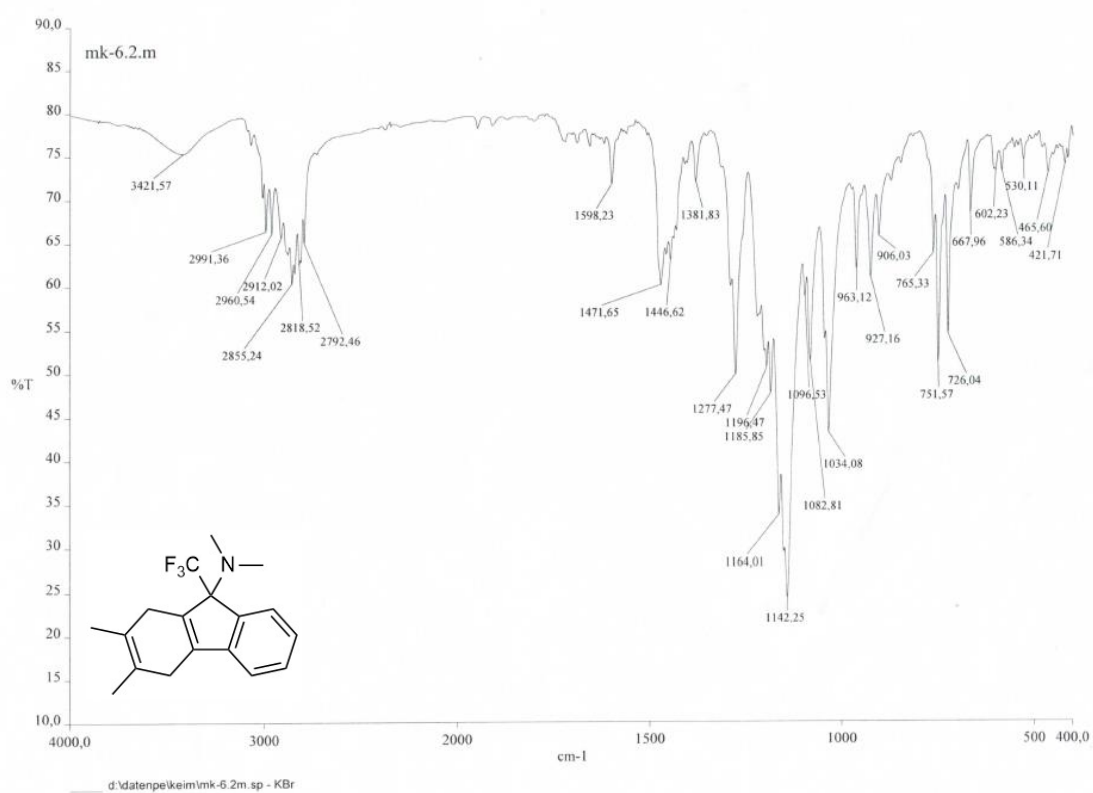
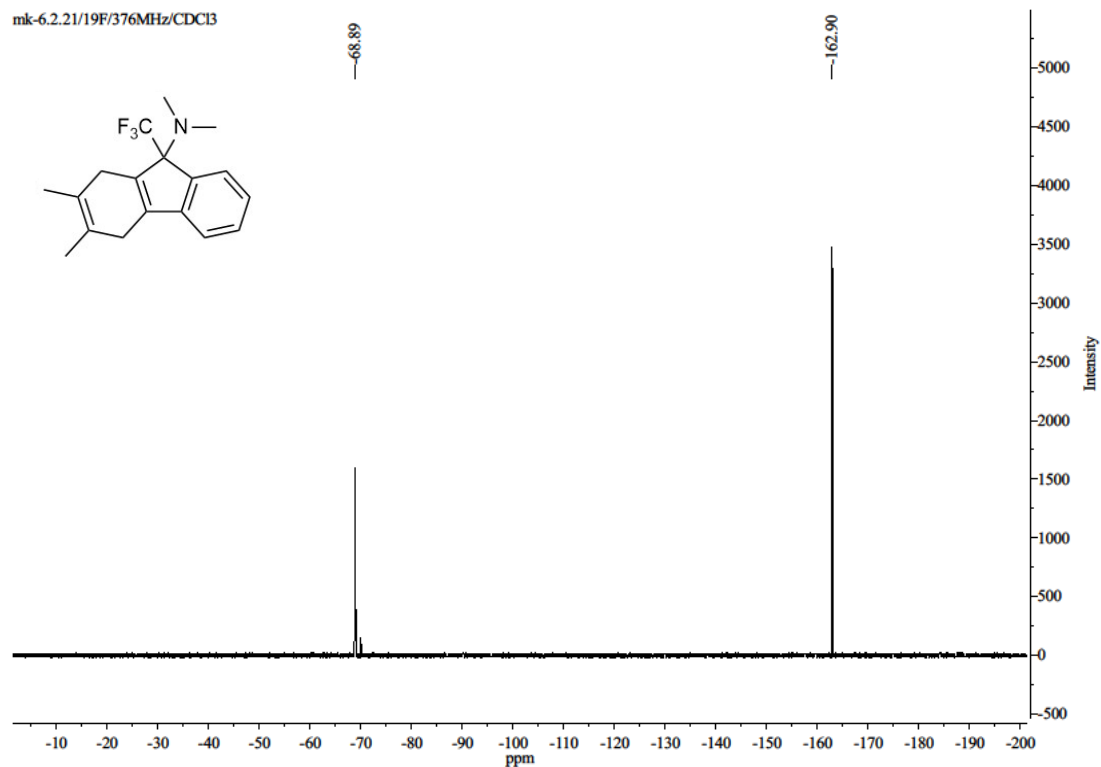


$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **6**.

***N,N*,2,3-Tetramethyl-9-(trifluoromethyl)-4,9-dihydro-1*H*-fluoren-9-amine (7)**

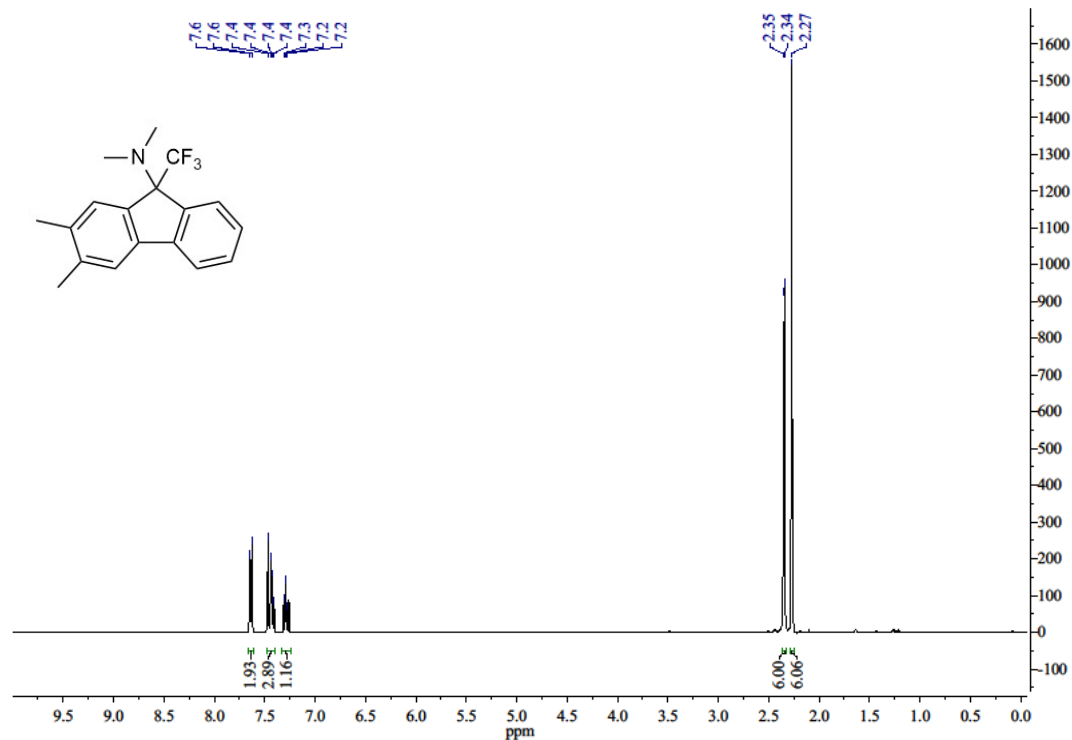


mk-6.2.21/19F/376MHz/CDCl3

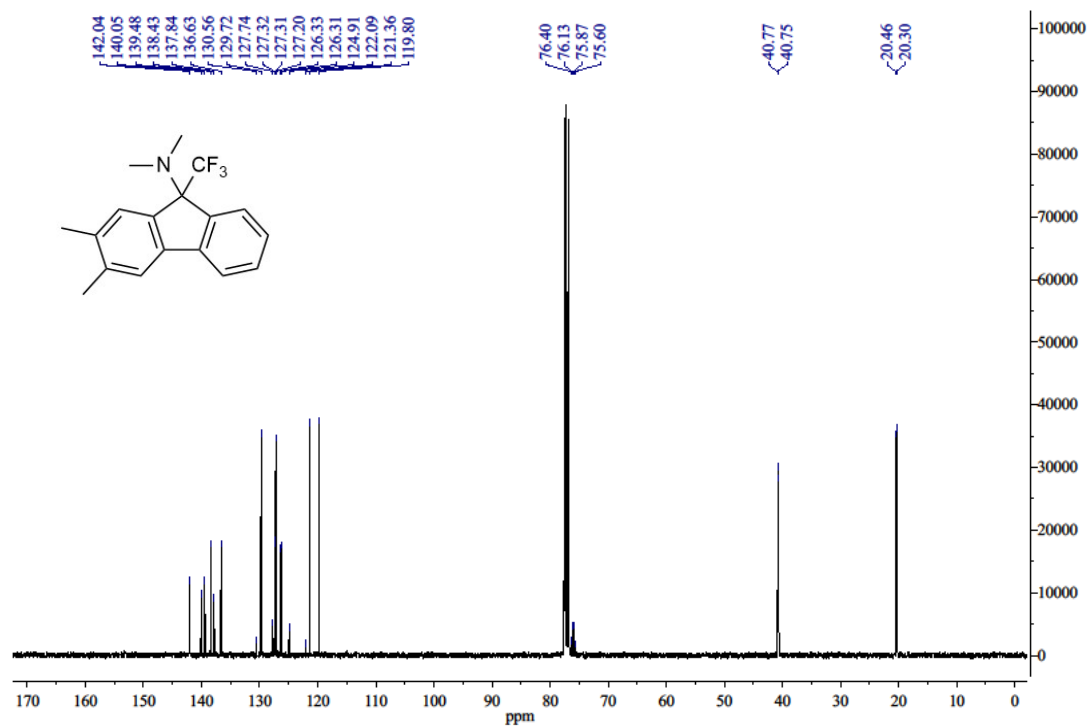


***N,N*,2,3-Tetramethyl-9-(trifluoromethyl)-9*H*-fluoren-9-amine (8)**

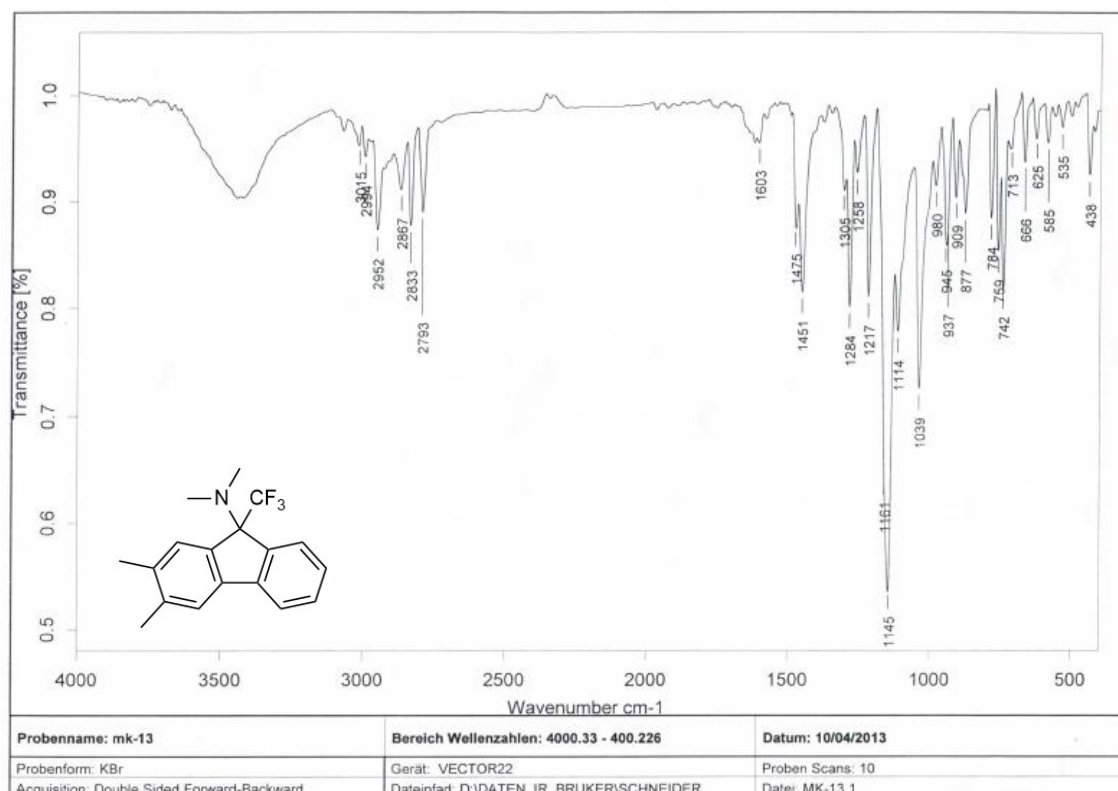
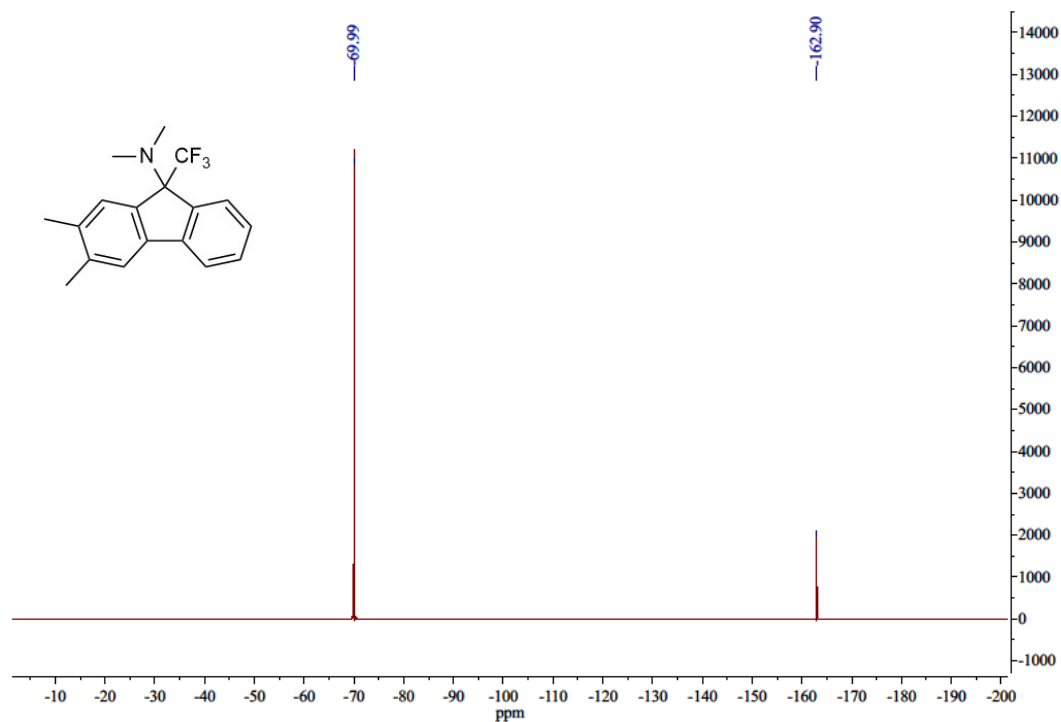
mk-13/1H/400MHz/CDCl<sub>3</sub>



mk-13/13C/101MHz/CDCl<sub>3</sub>

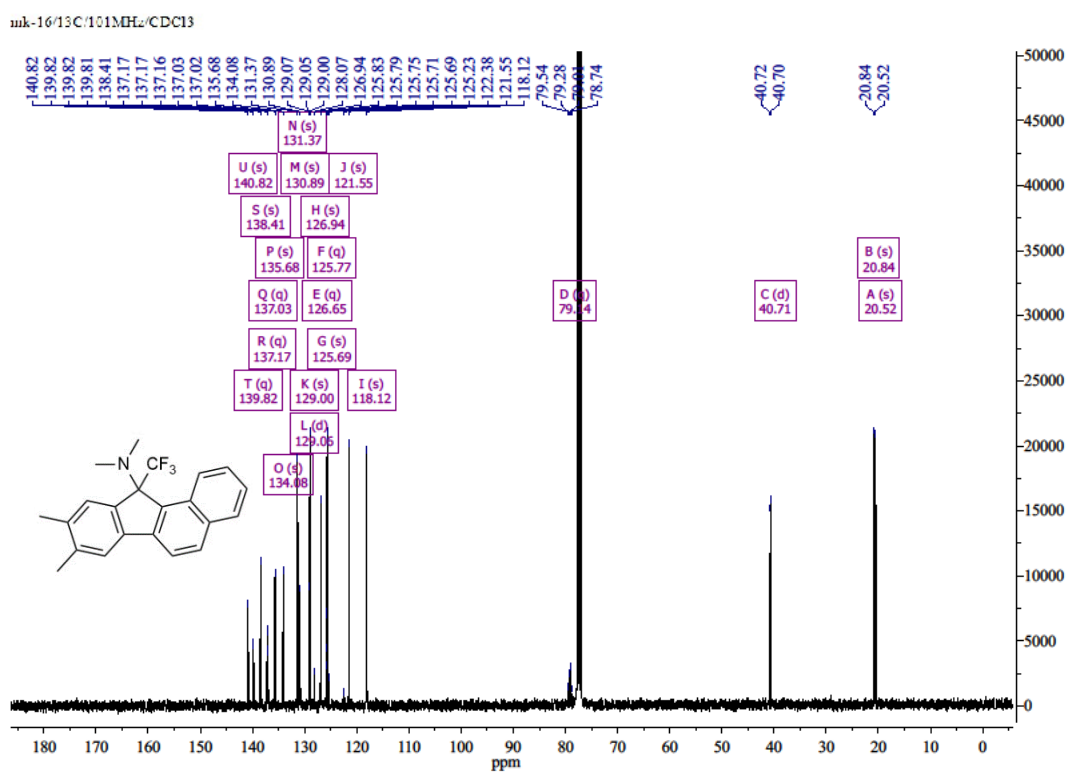
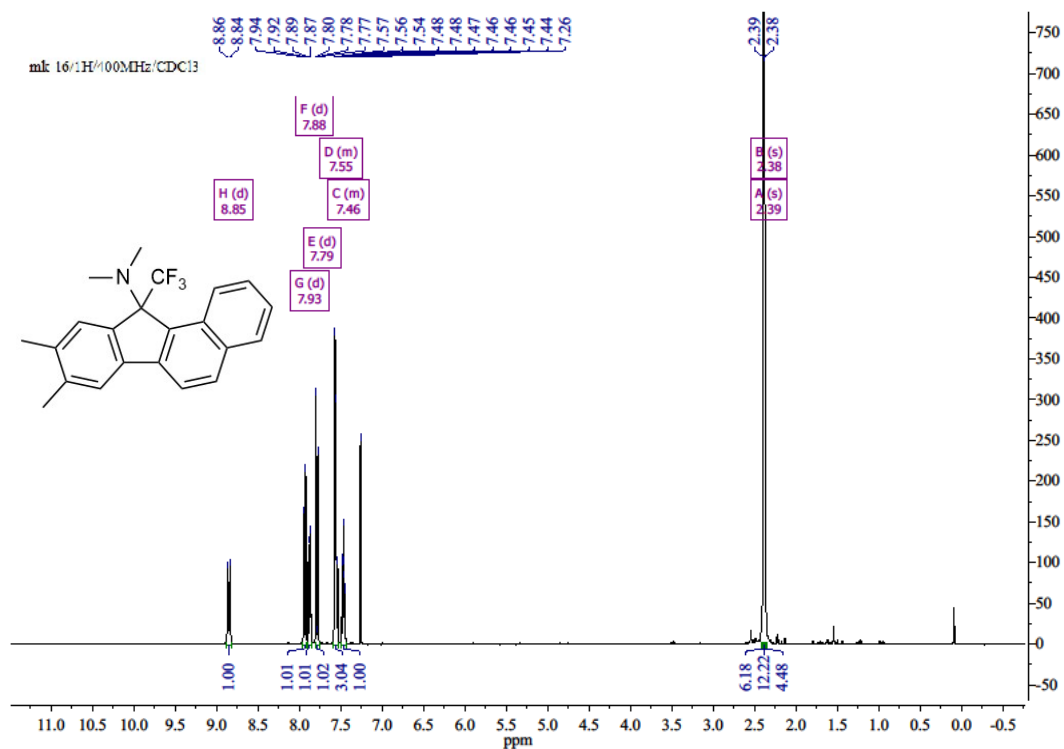


mk-13/13F/376MHz/CDCl3

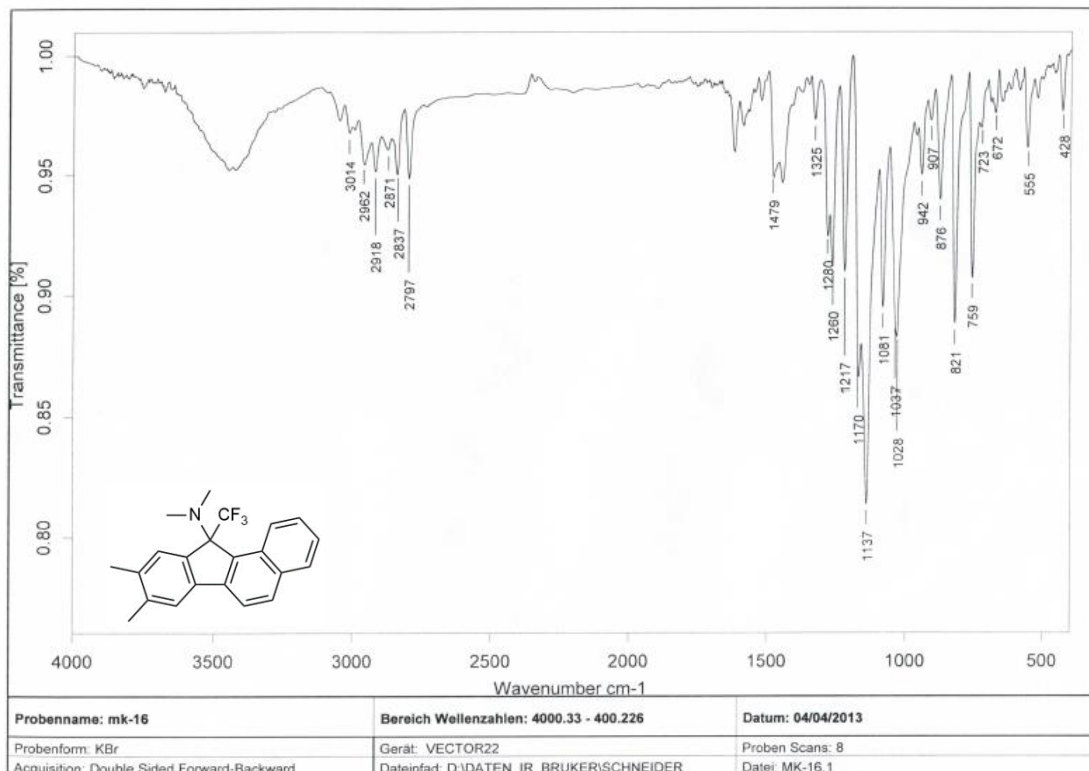
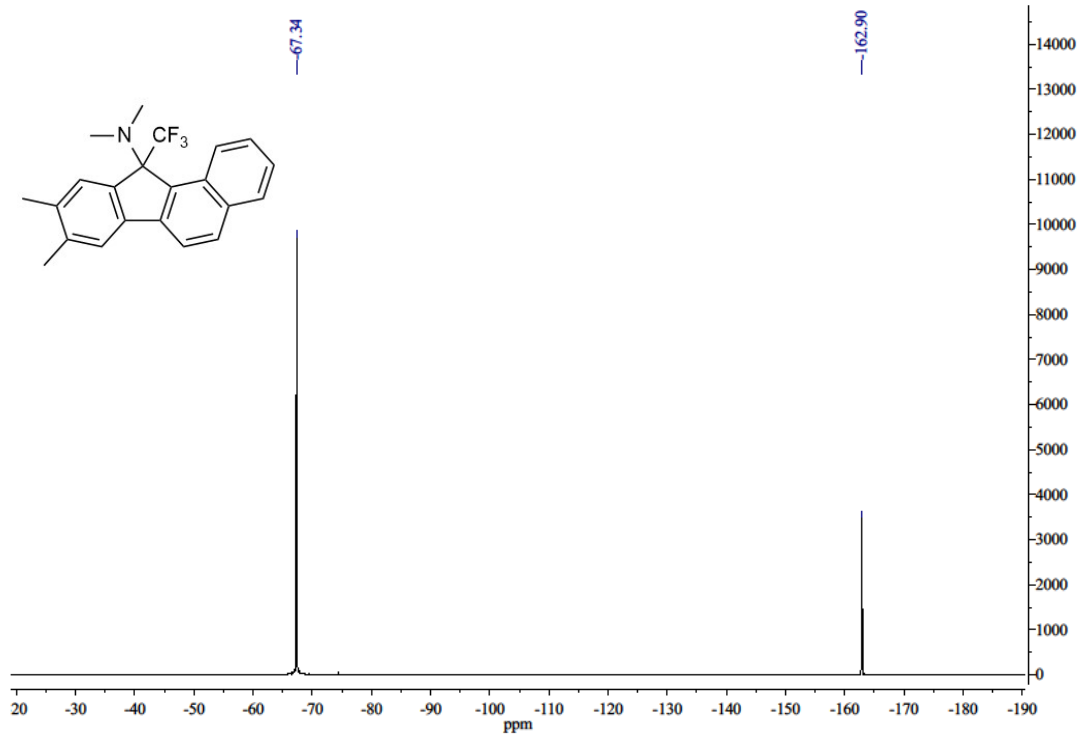




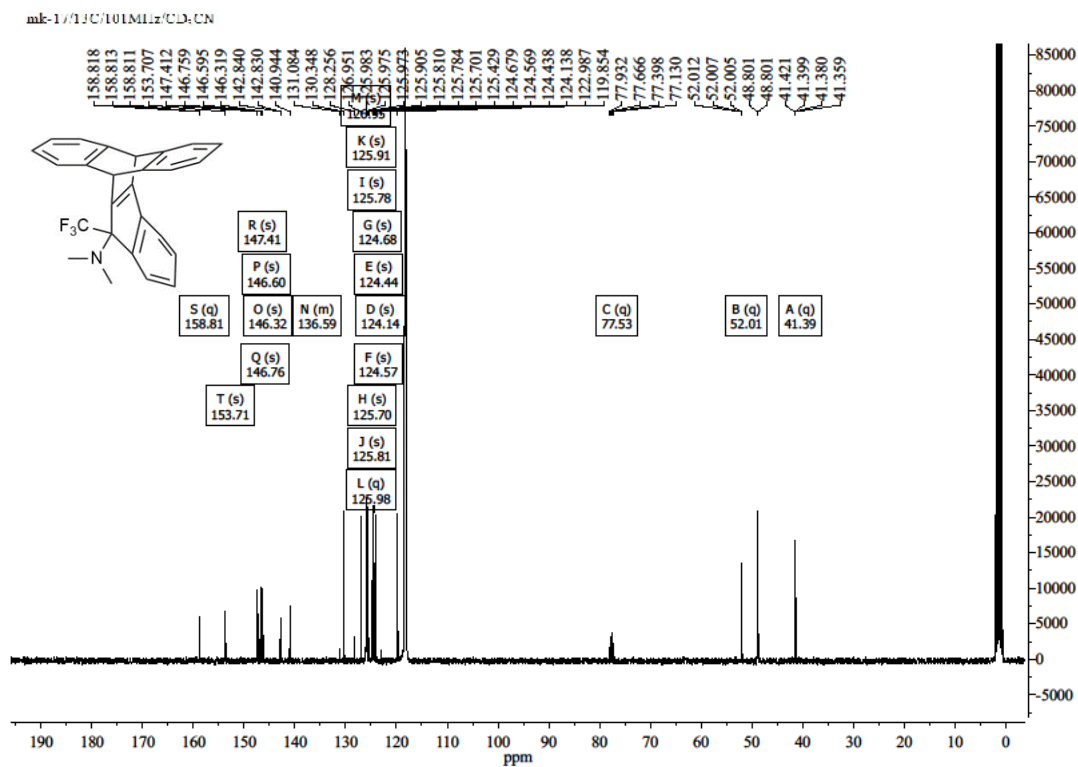
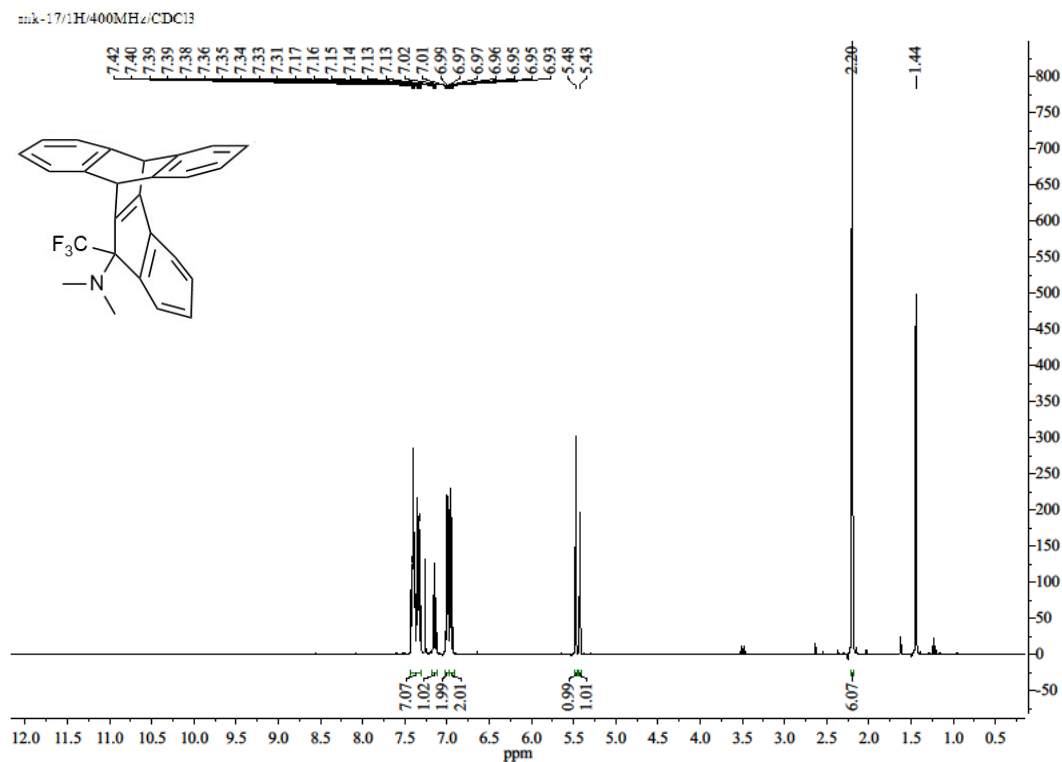
***N,N*,8,9-Tetramethyl-11-(trifluoromethyl)-11*H*-benzo[*a*]fluoren-11-amine (9)**



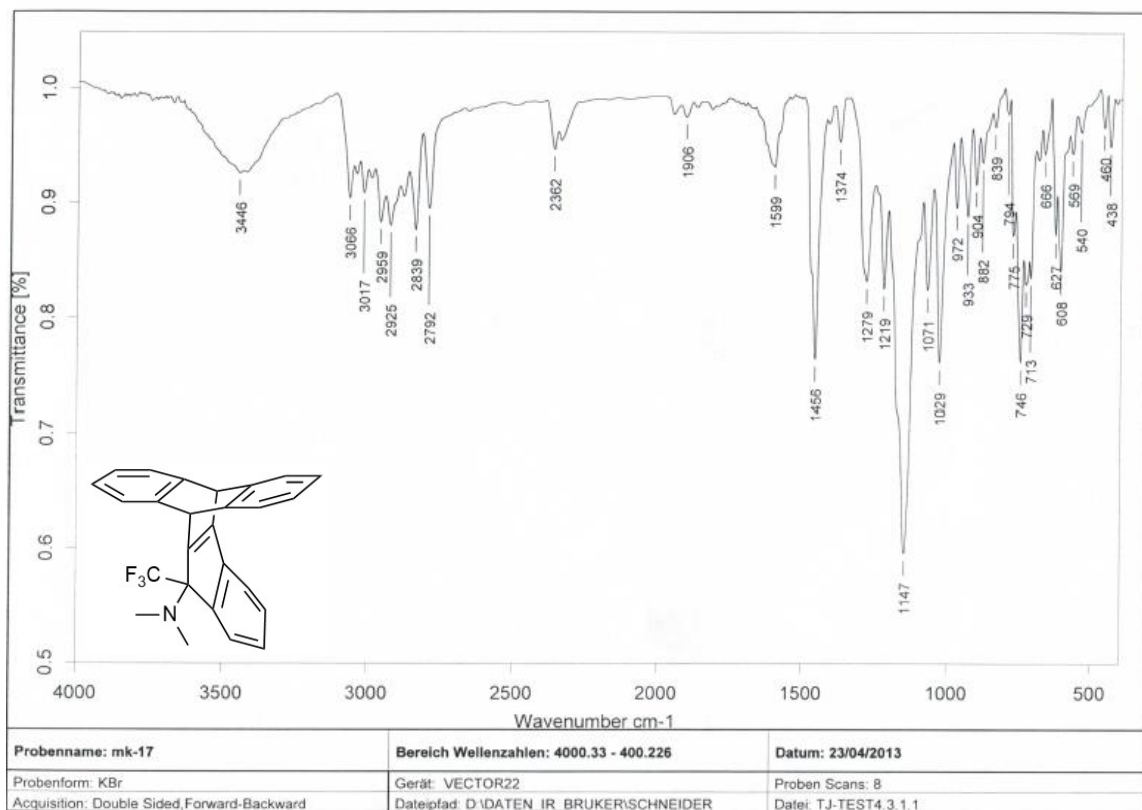
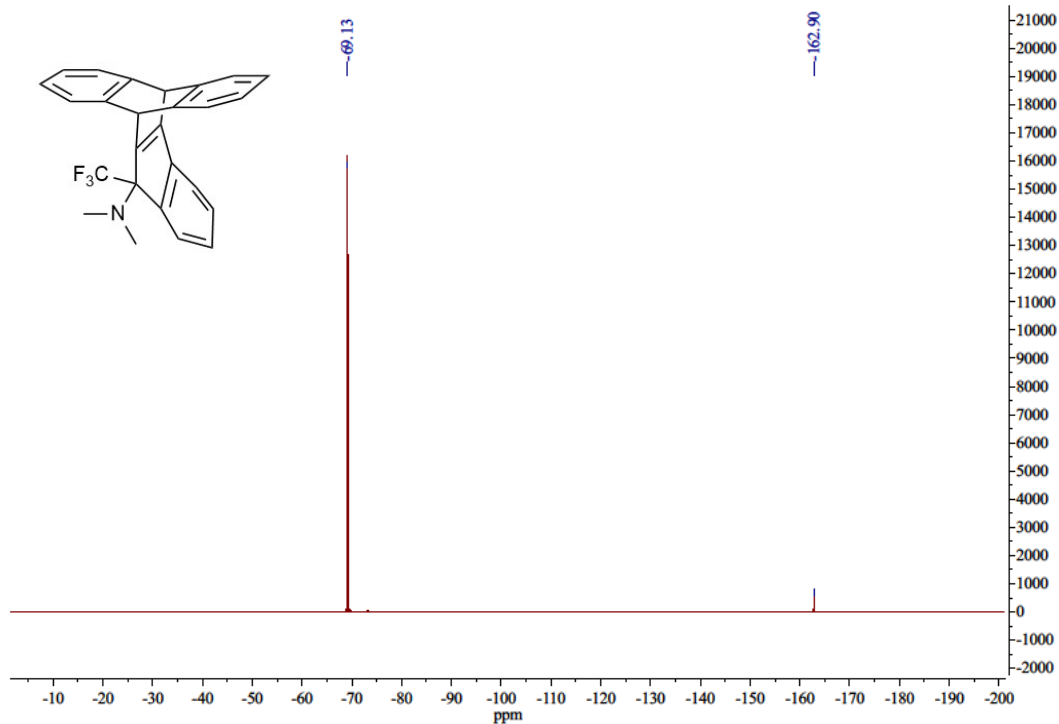
mk-16/19F/376MHz/CDCl3



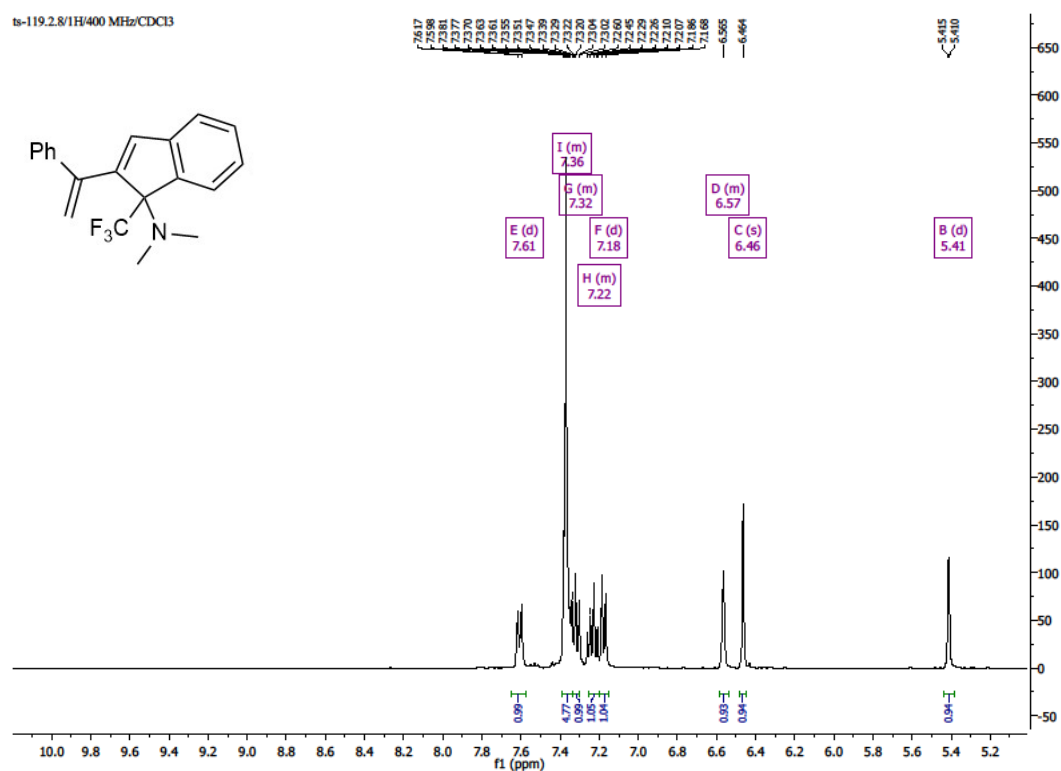
***N,N*-Dimethyl-11-(trifluoromethyl)-10,11-dihydro-5*H*-5,10-[1,2]benzenobenzo[*b*]fluoren-11-amine (11)**



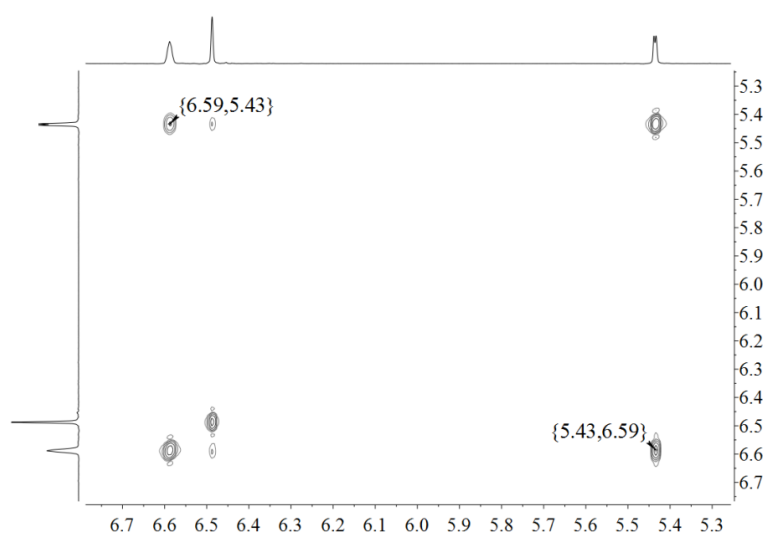
mk-17/19F/376MHz/CDCl3

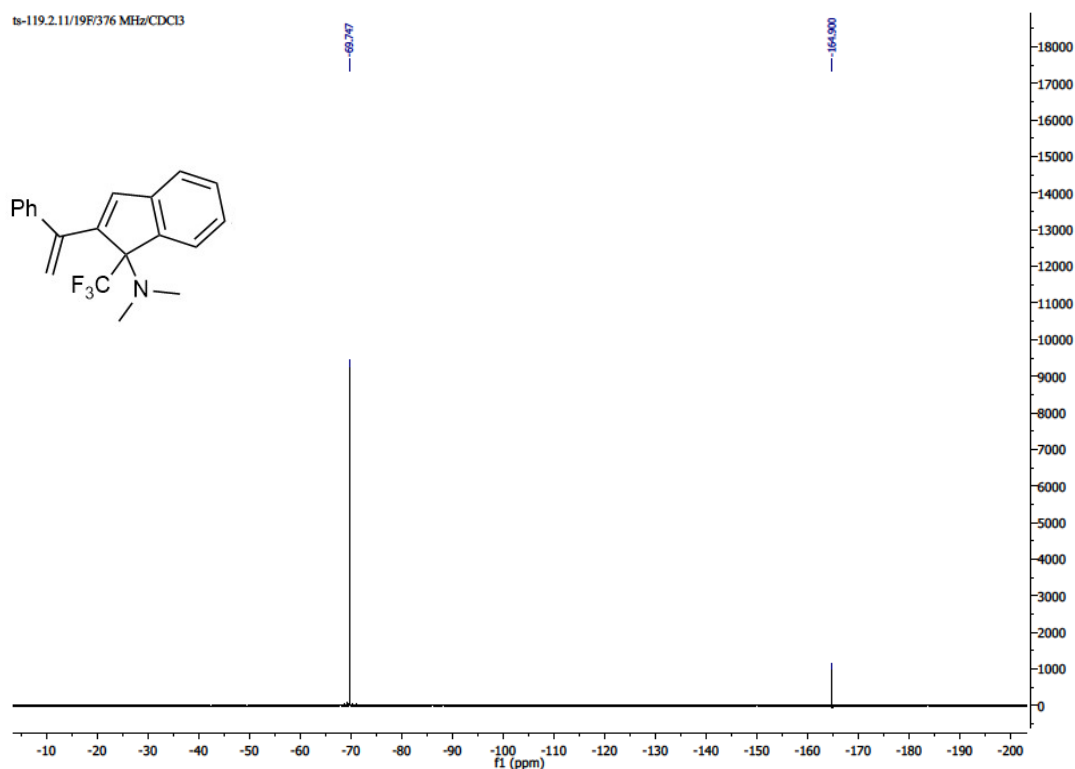
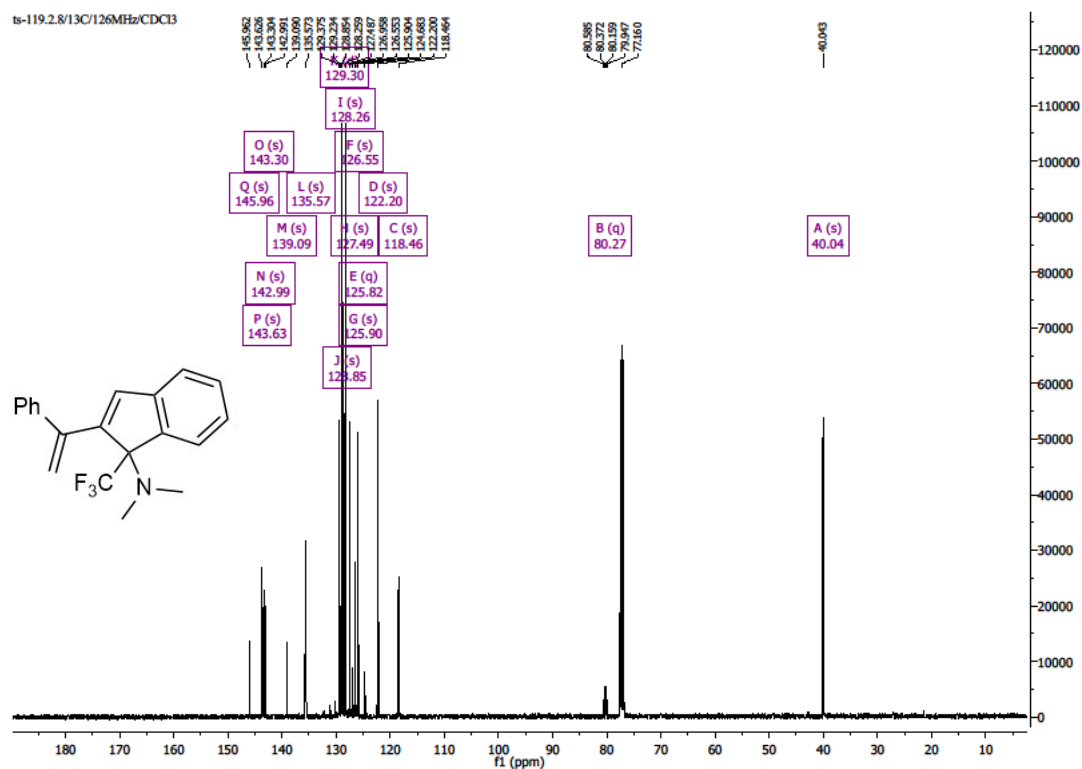


***N,N*-Dimethyl-2-(1-phenylvinyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-inden-1-amine (12a)**



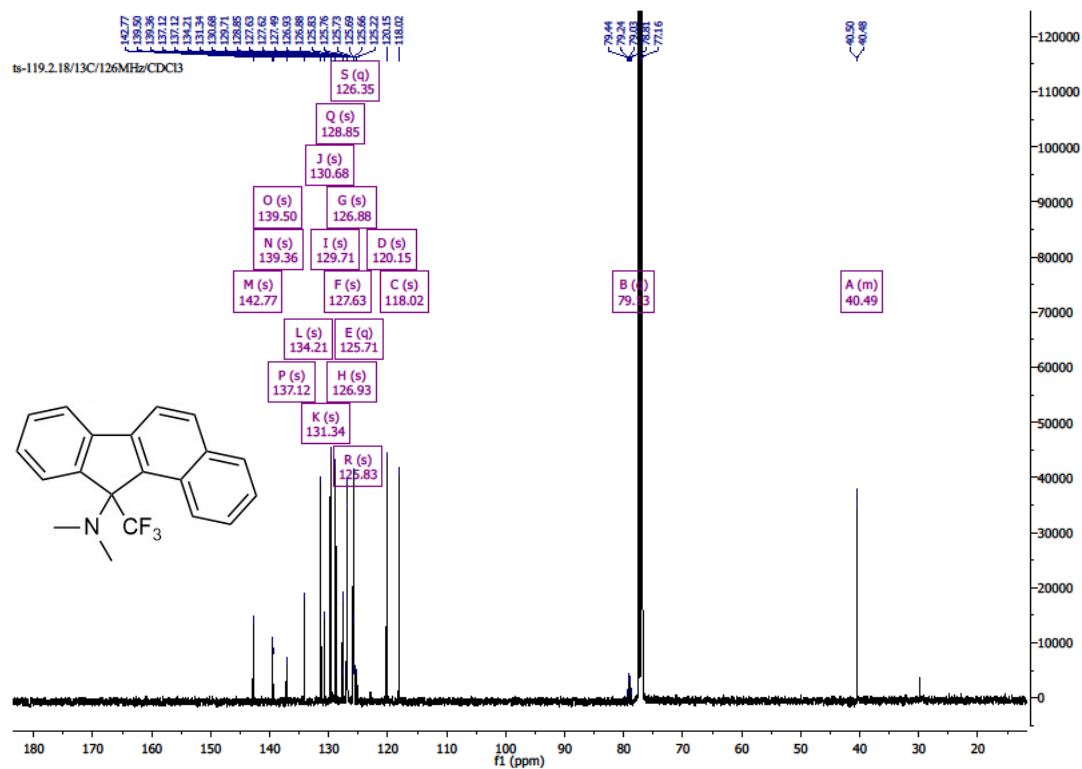
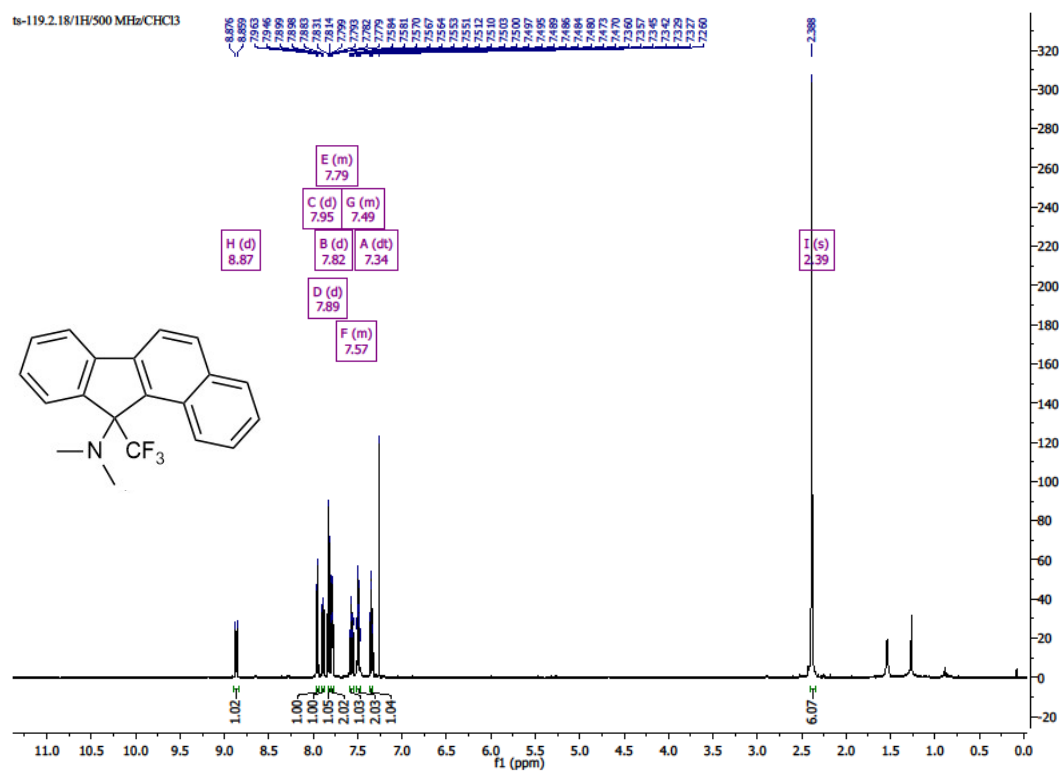
H,H-COSY NMR of **12a**, showing cross-peaks for the =CH<sup>a</sup>H<sup>b</sup> protons:





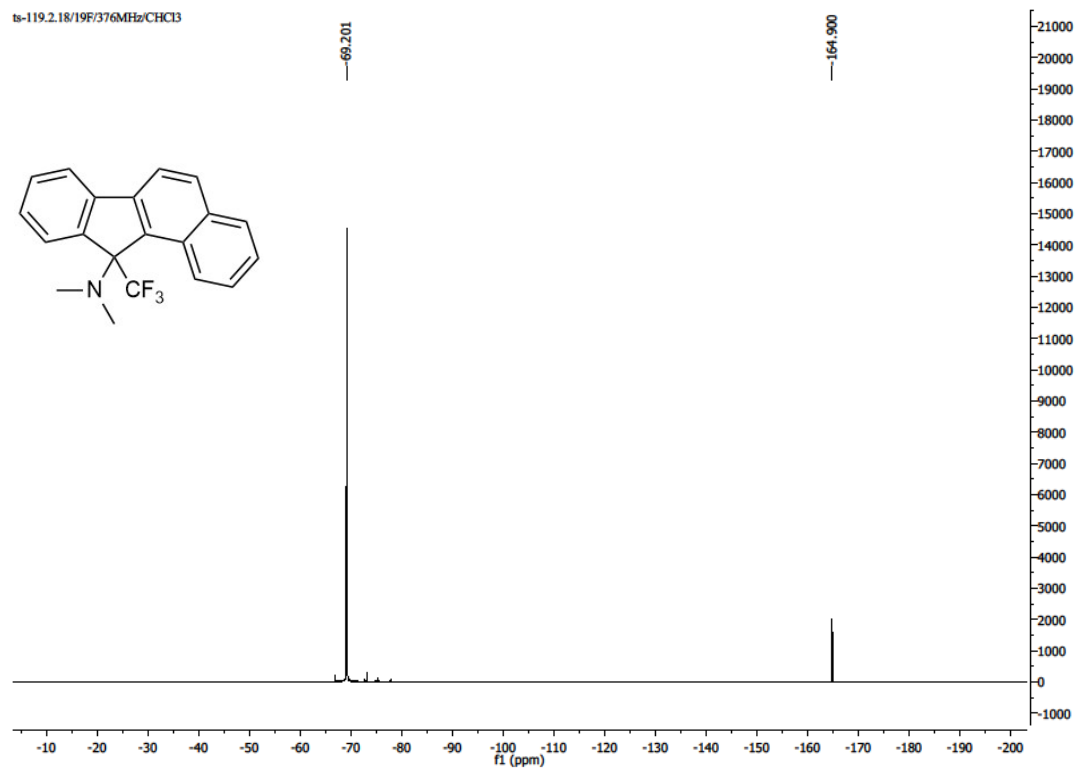


***N,N*-Dimethyl-11-(trifluoromethyl)-11*H*-benzo[*a*]fluoren-11-amine (13a)**

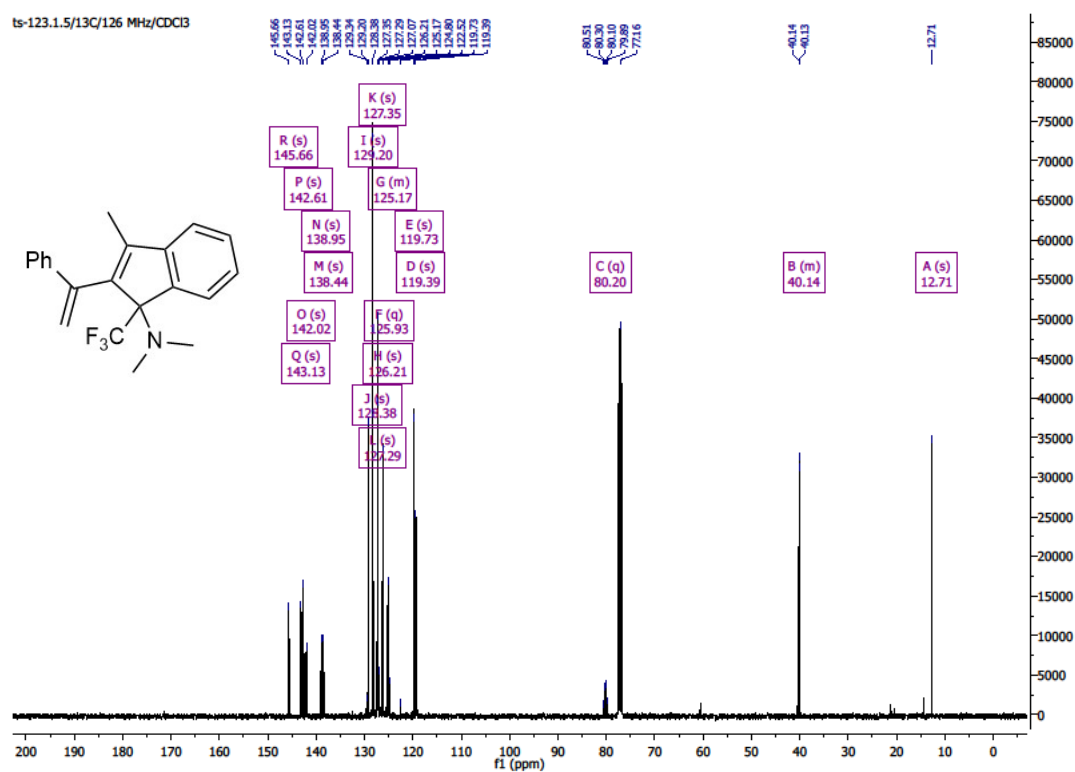
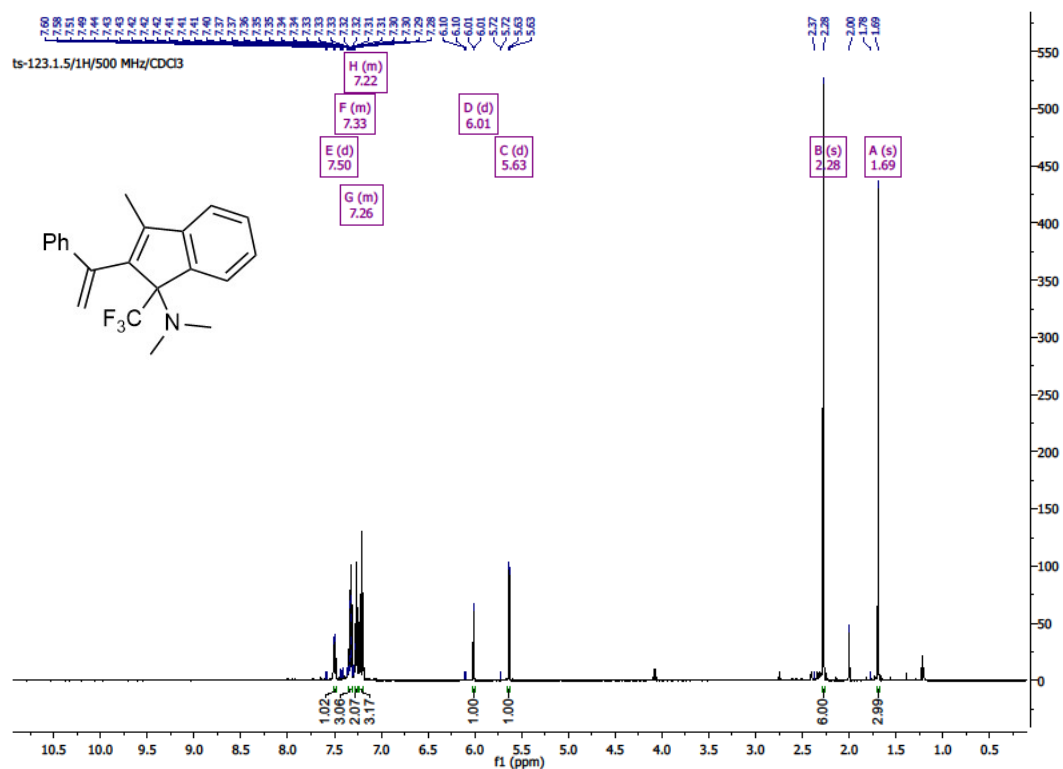


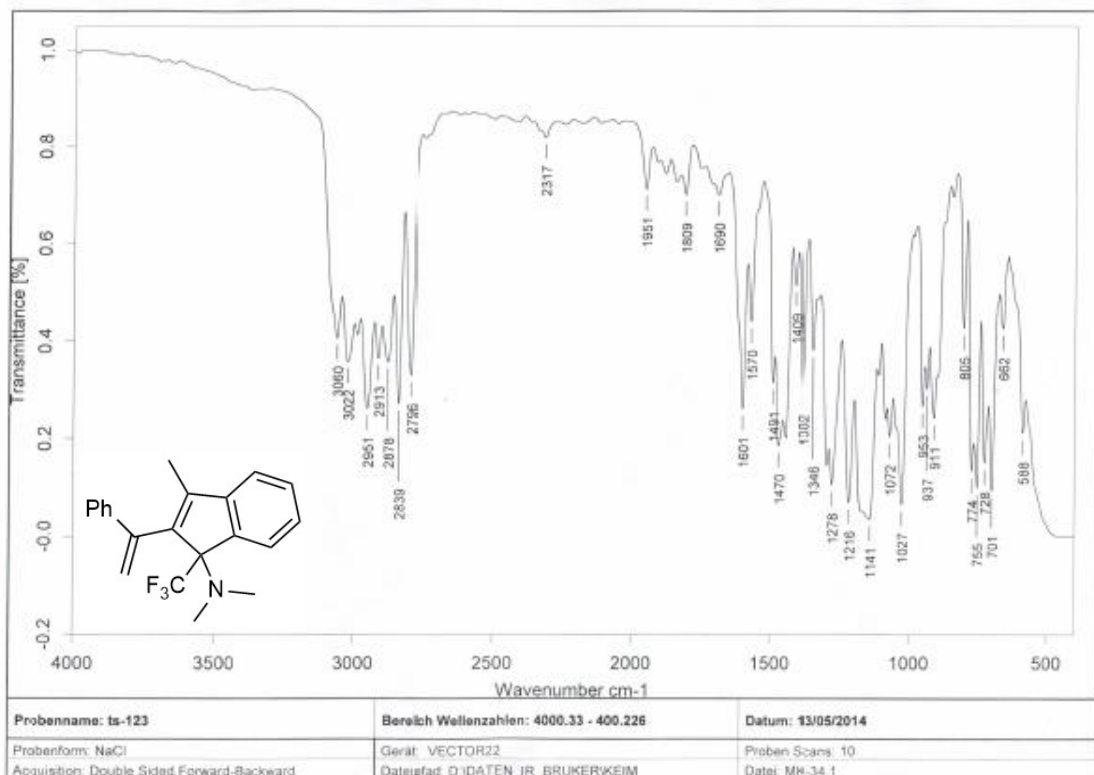
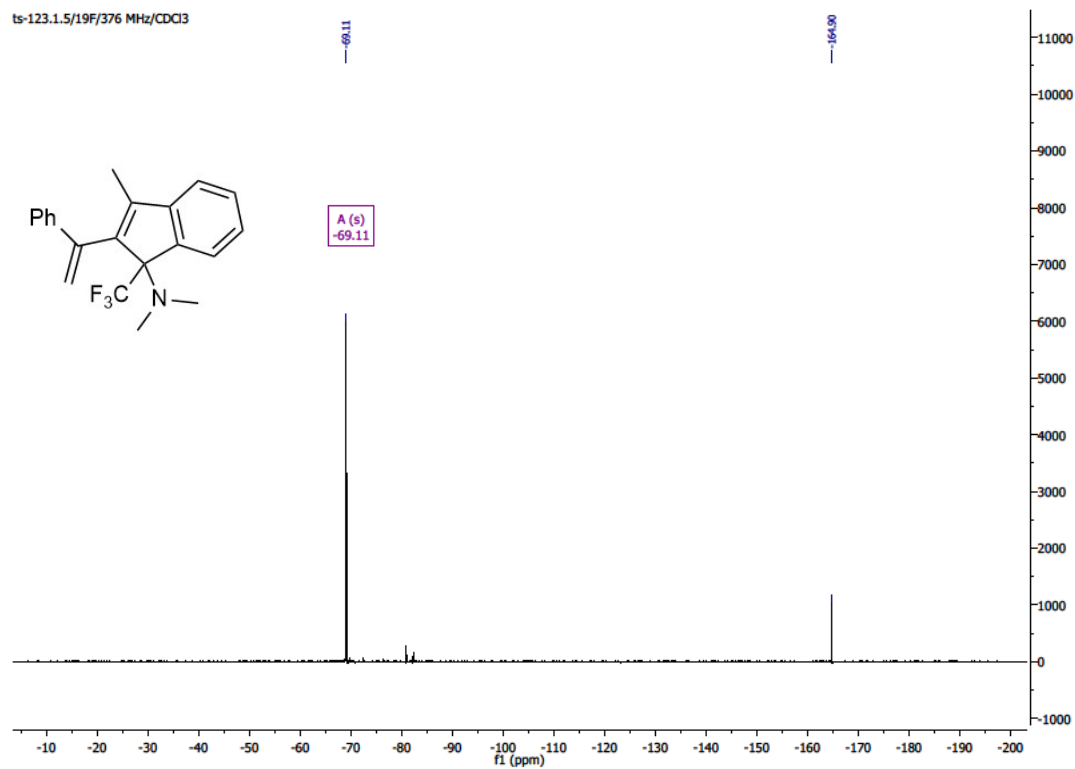


ts-119.2.18/19F/376MHz/CHCl3

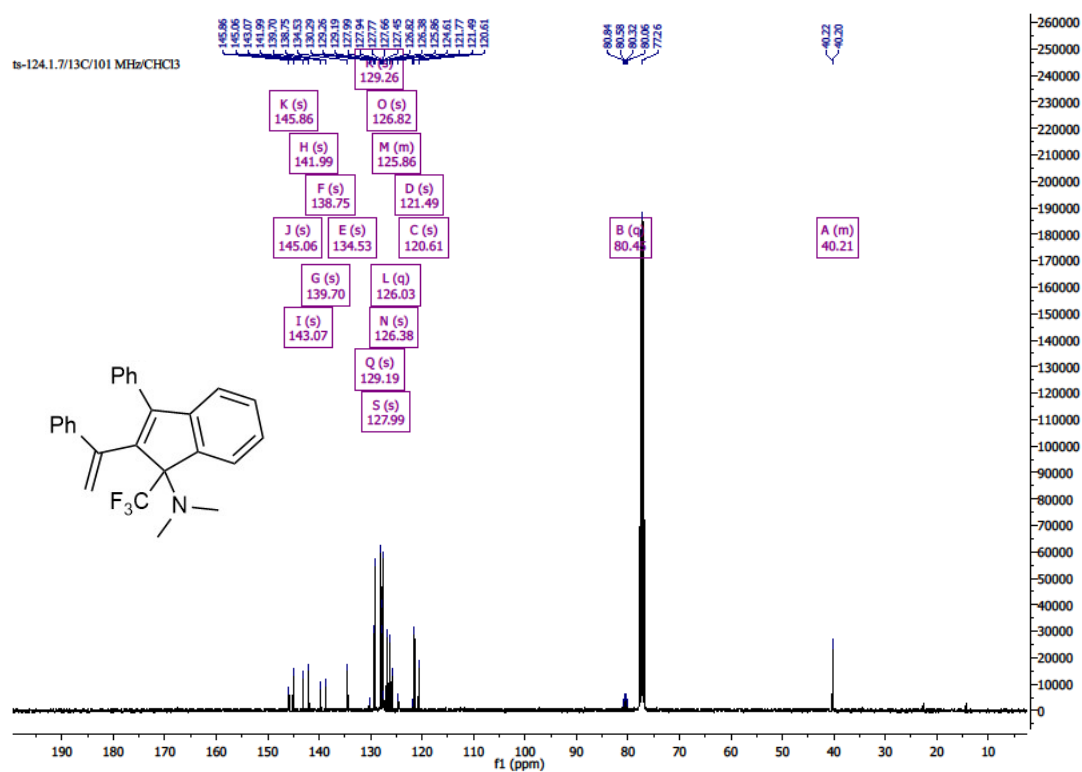
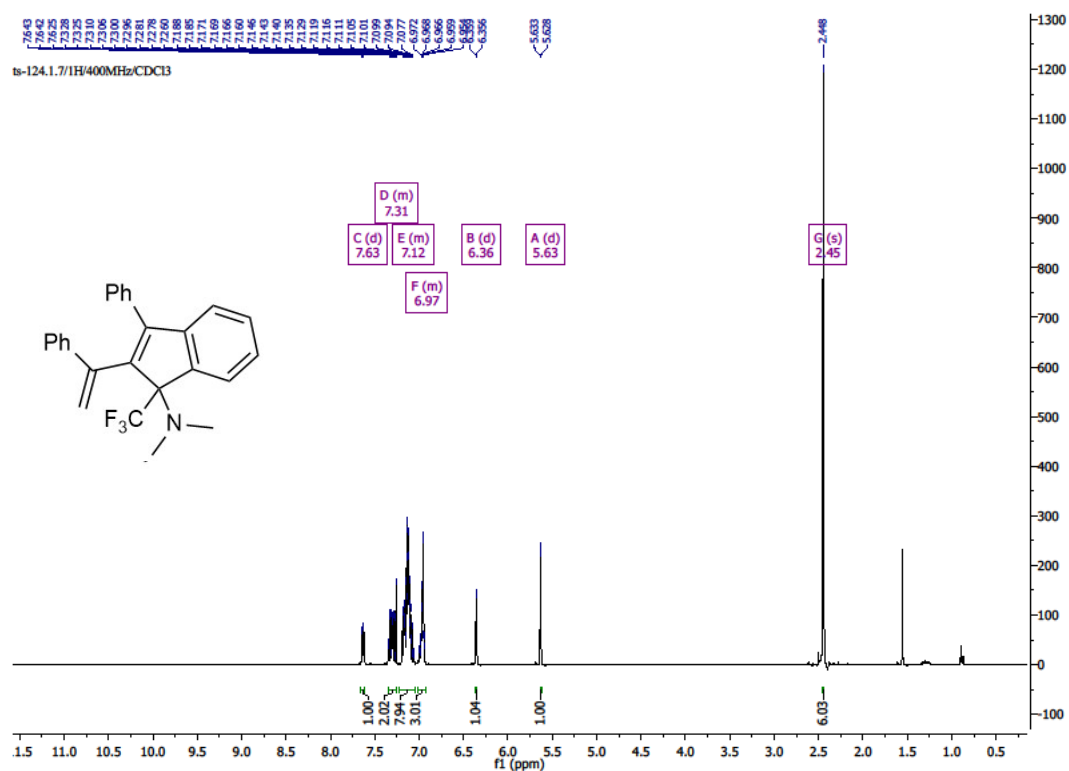


***N,N*,3-Trimethyl-2-(1-phenylvinyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-inden-1-amine (12b)**

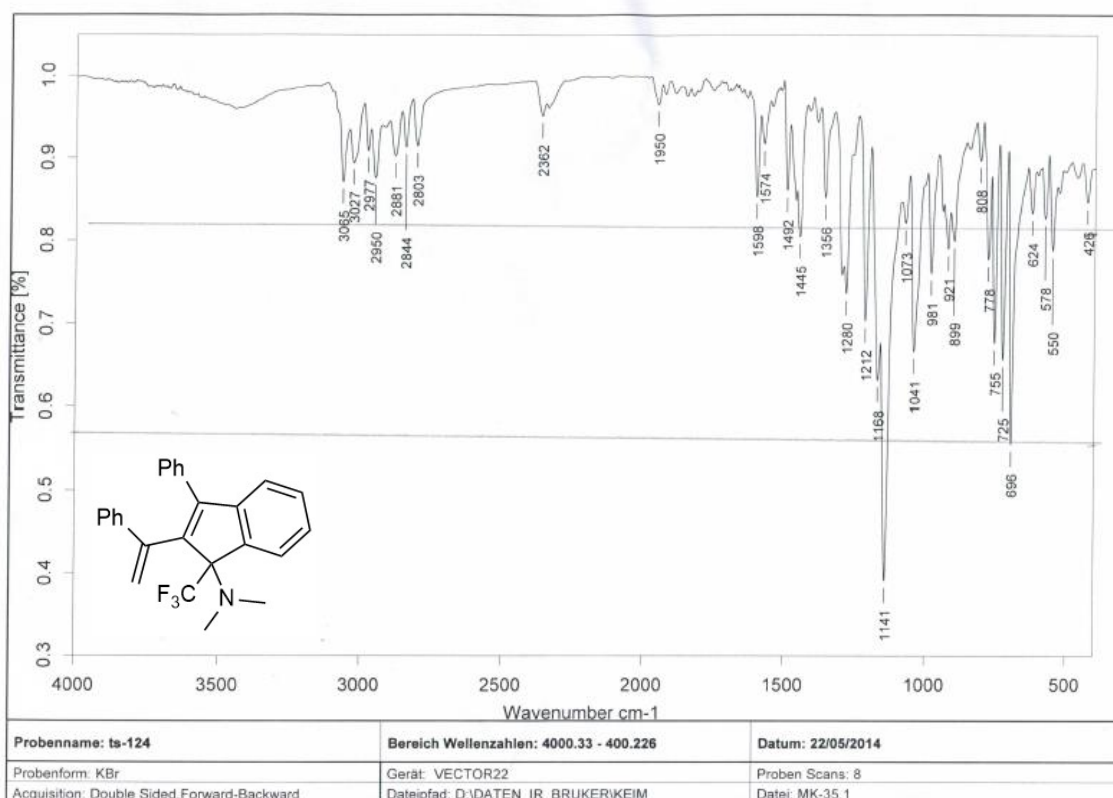
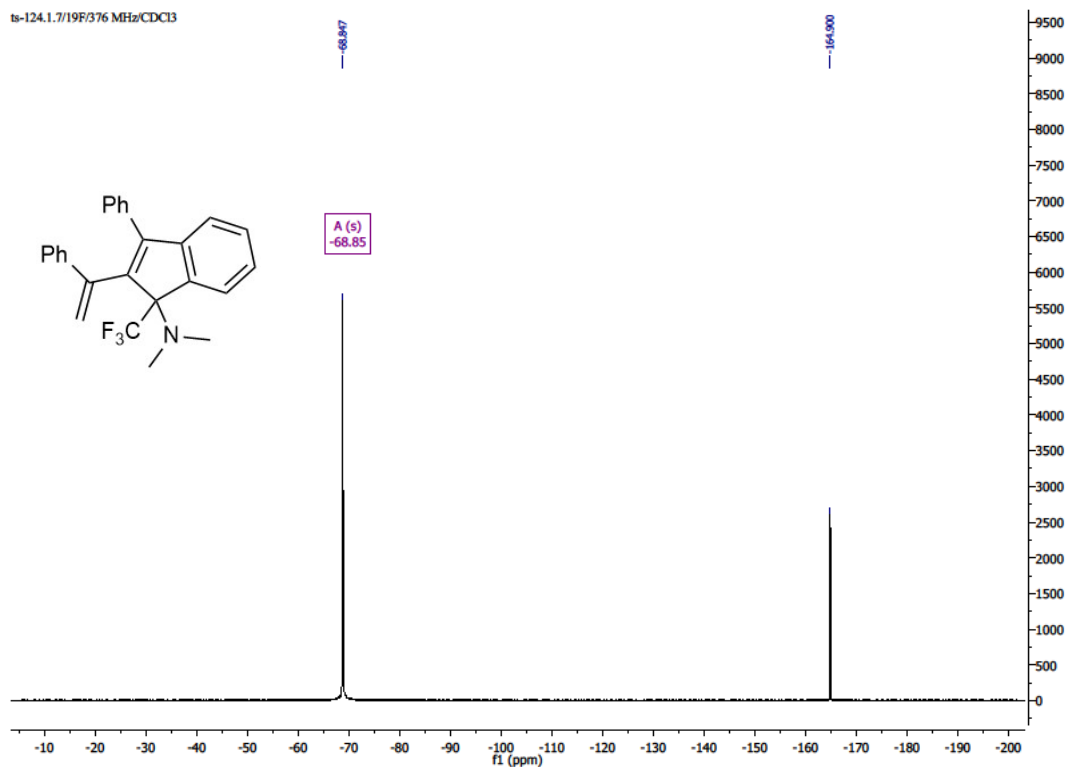




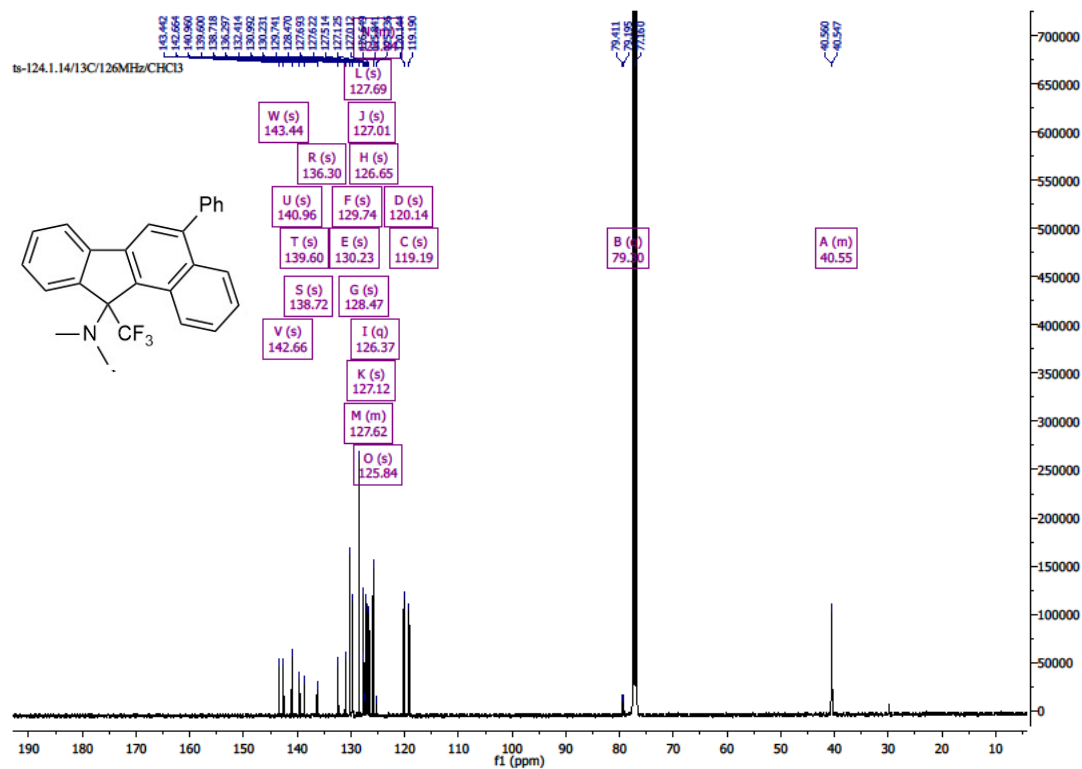
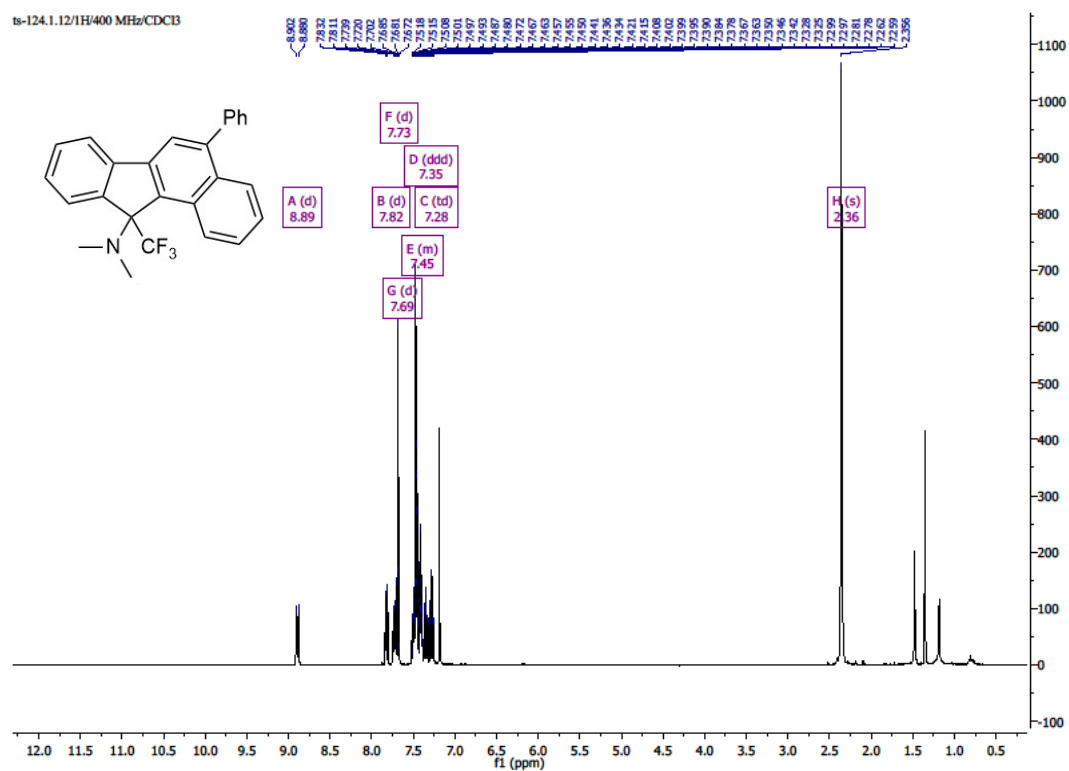
***N,N*-Dimethyl-3-phenyl-2-(1-phenylvinyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-inden-1-amine (12c)**



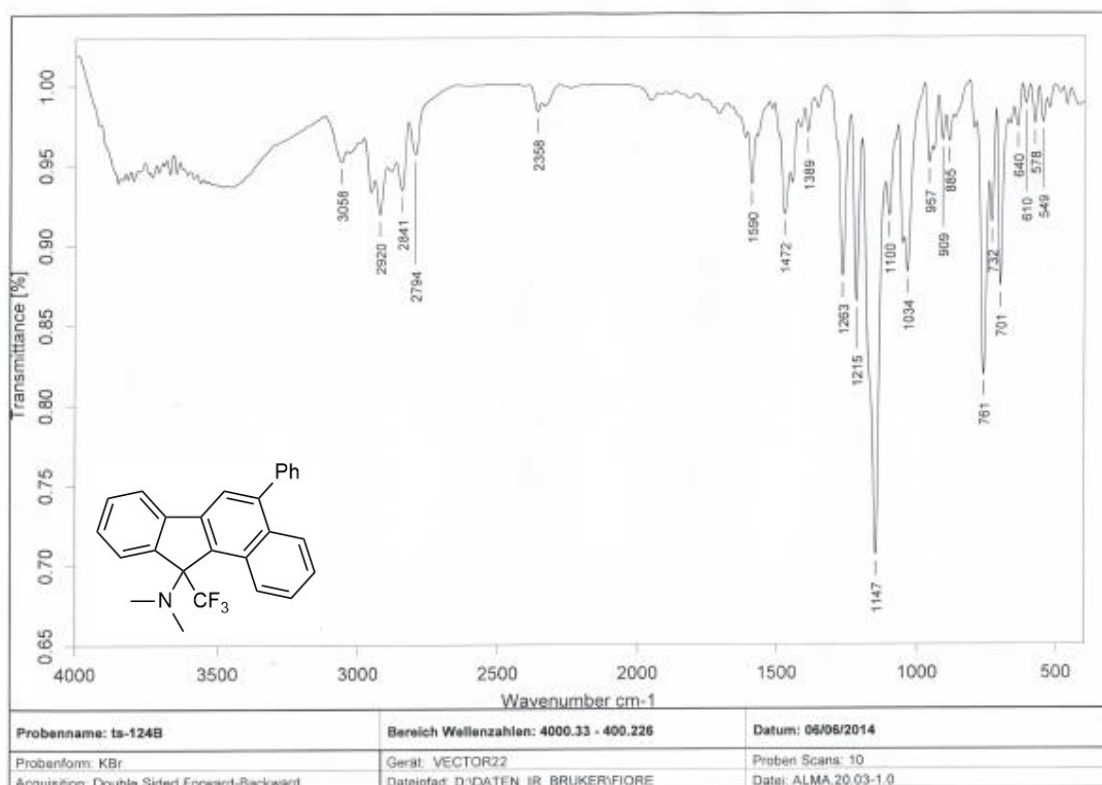
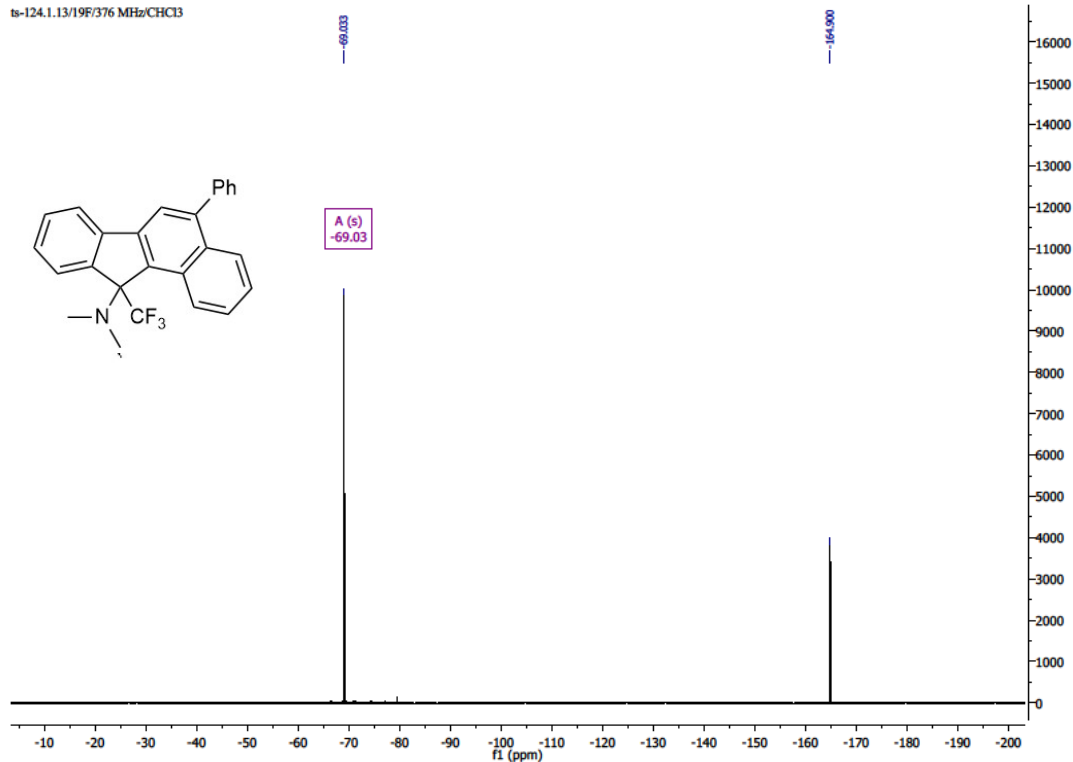
ts-124.1.7/19F/376 MHz/CDCl3



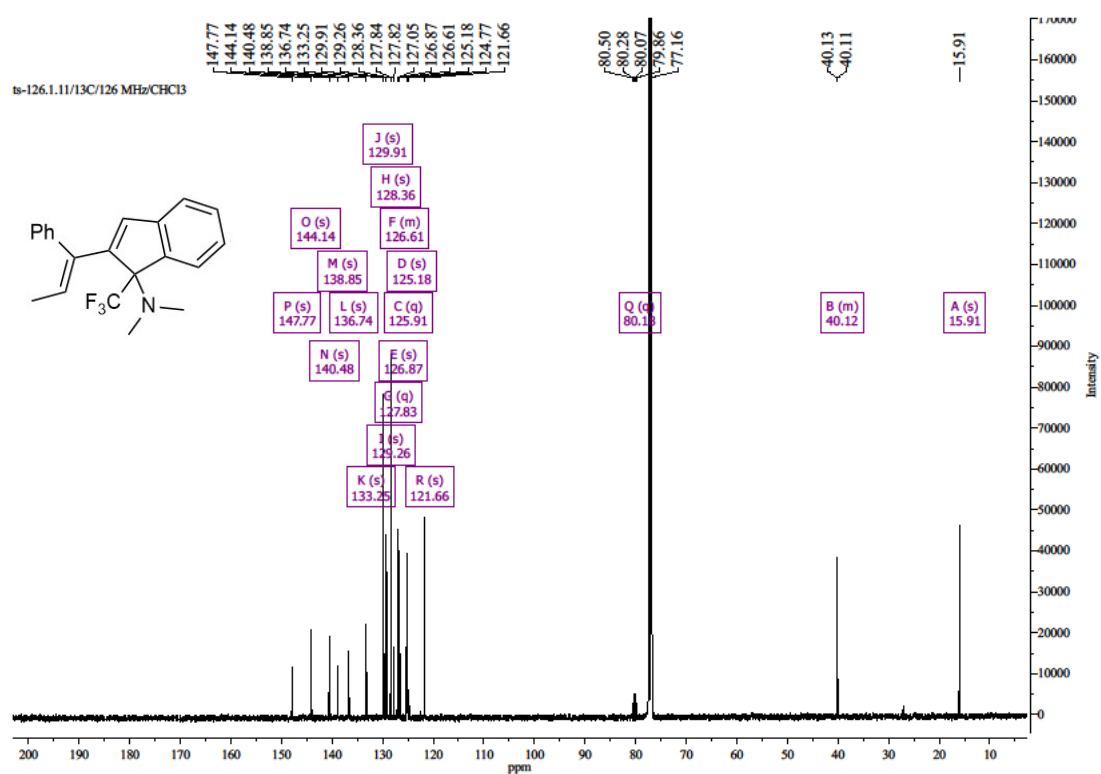
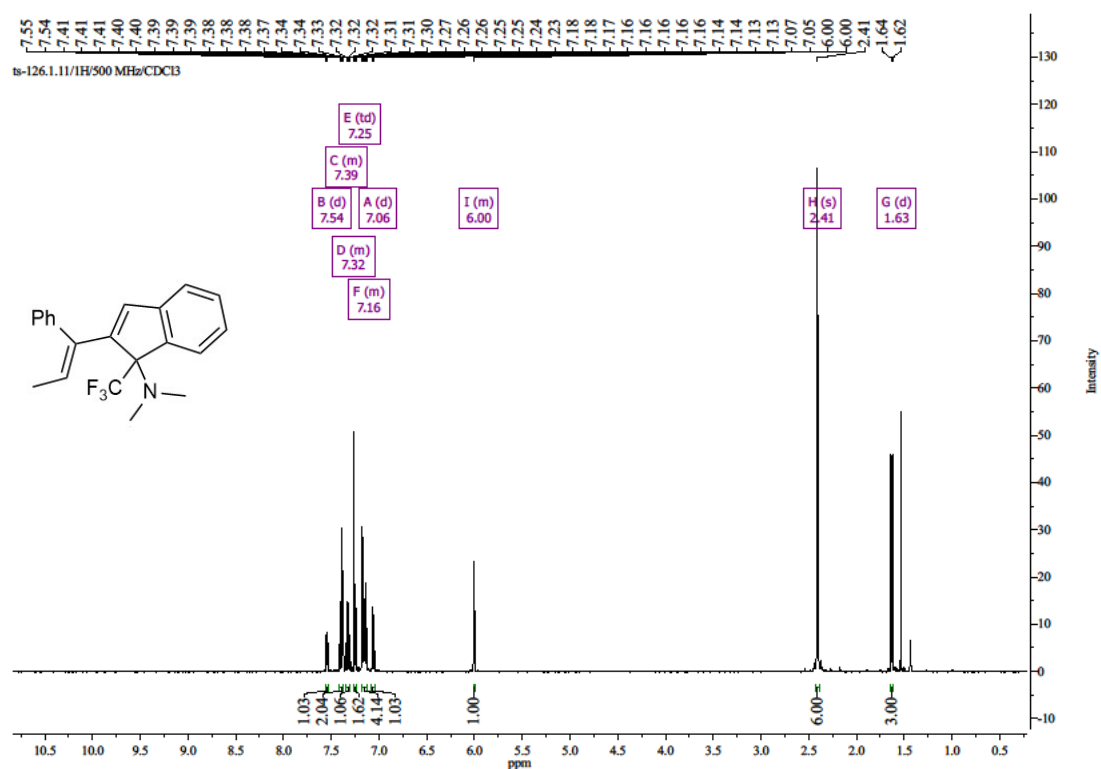
***N,N*-dimethyl-5-phenyl-11-(trifluoromethyl)-11*H*-benzo[*a*]fluoren-11-amine (13c)**



ts-124.1.13/19F/376 MHz/CHCl3

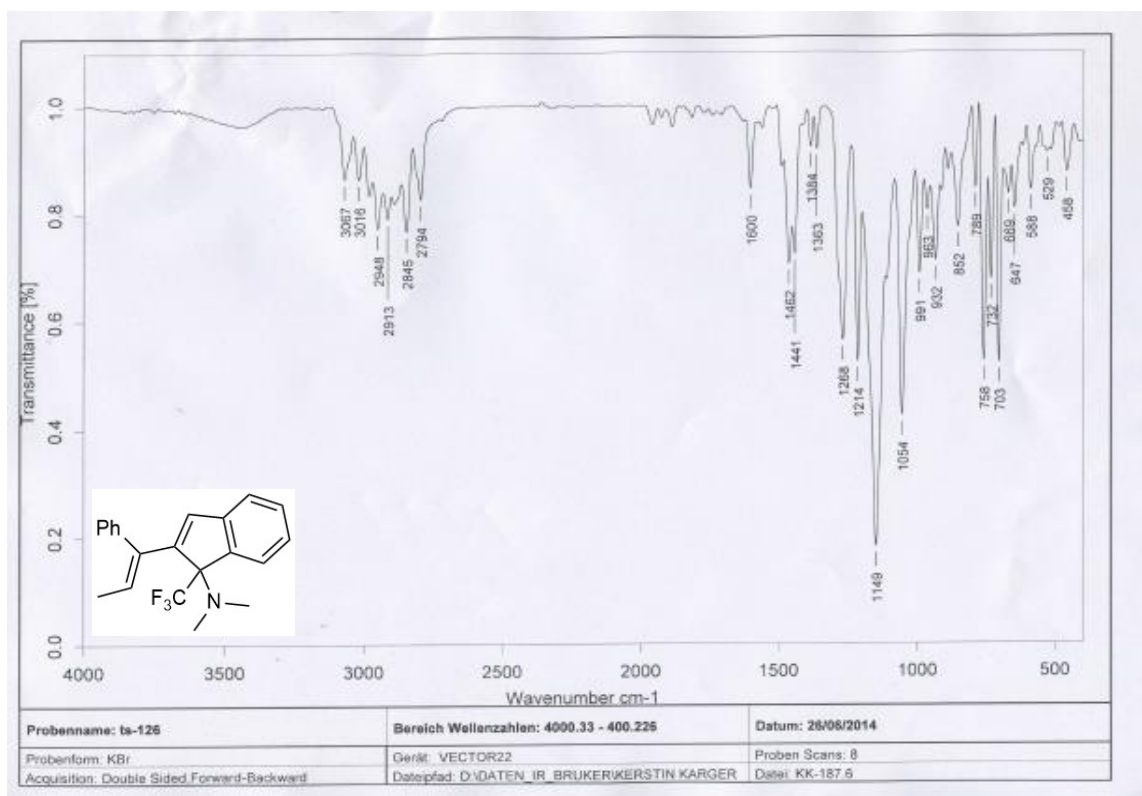
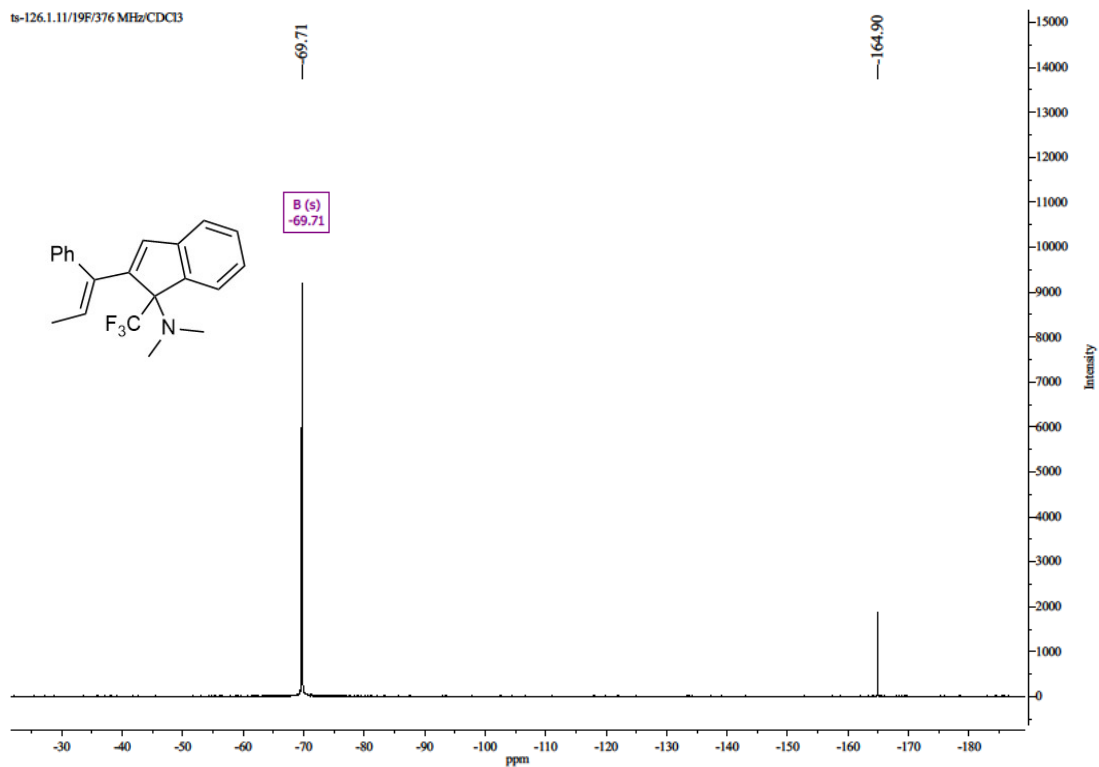


**(*E*)-*N,N*-Dimethyl-2-(1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-inden-1-amine (12d)**

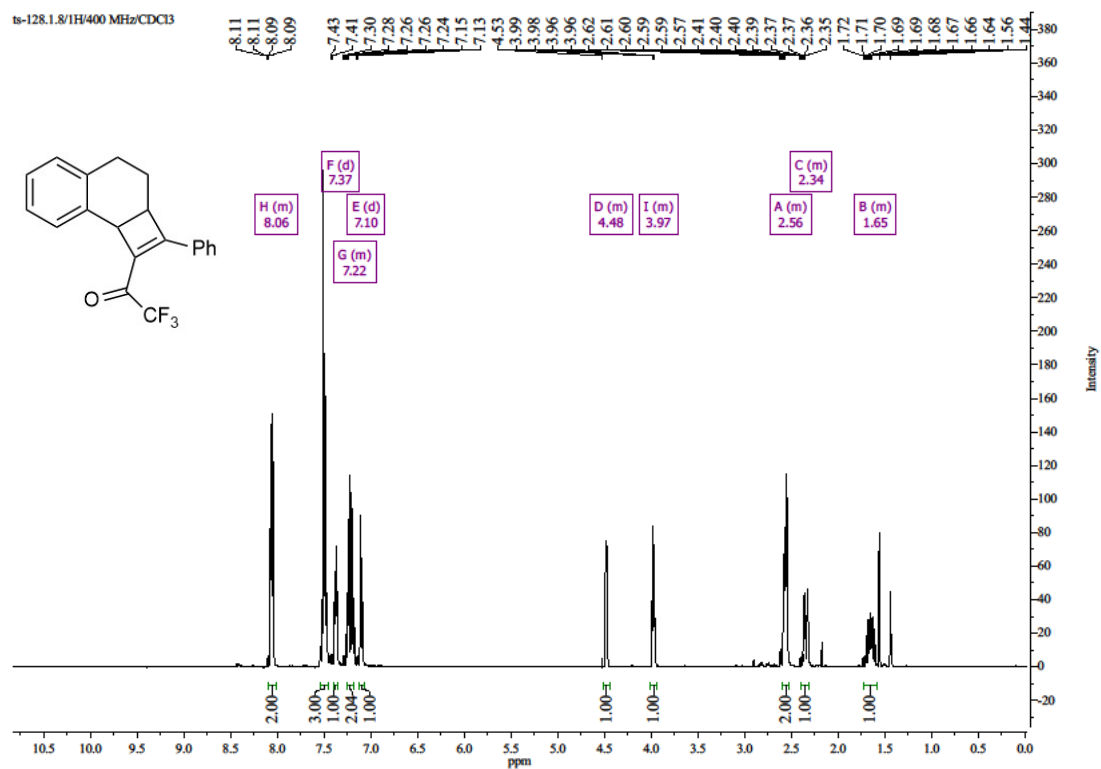
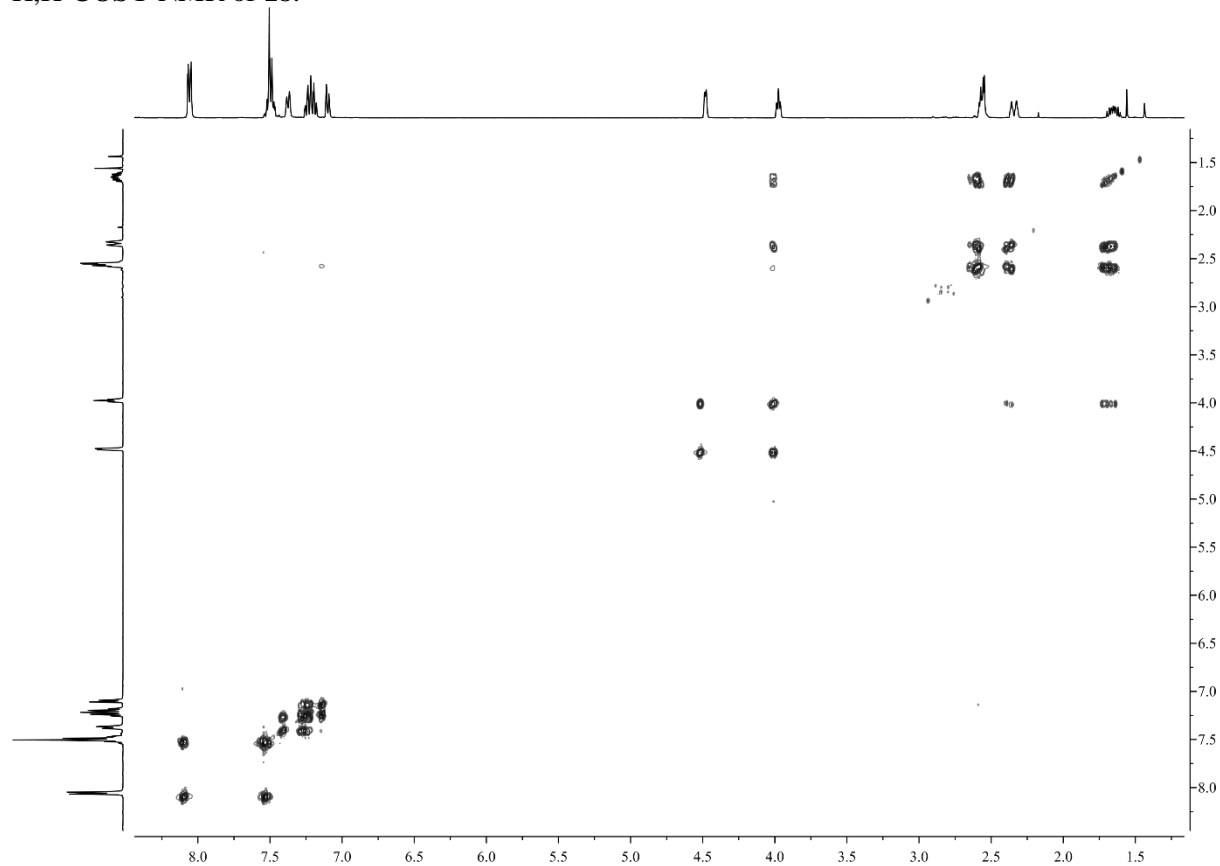


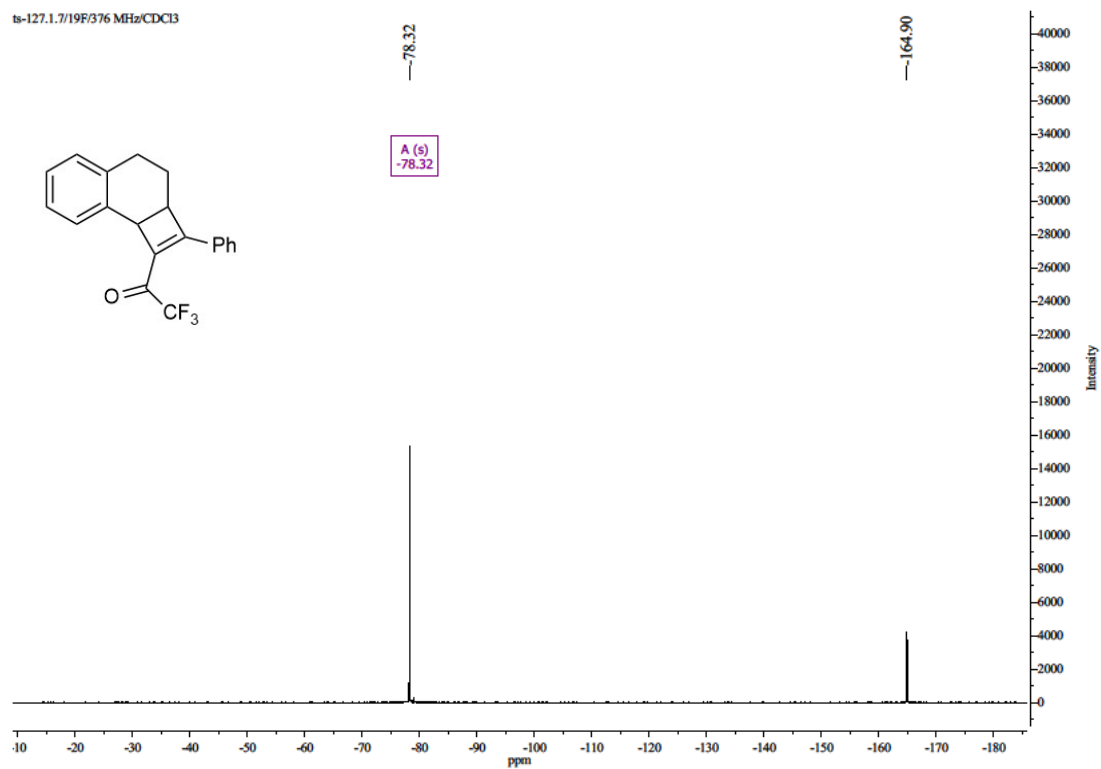
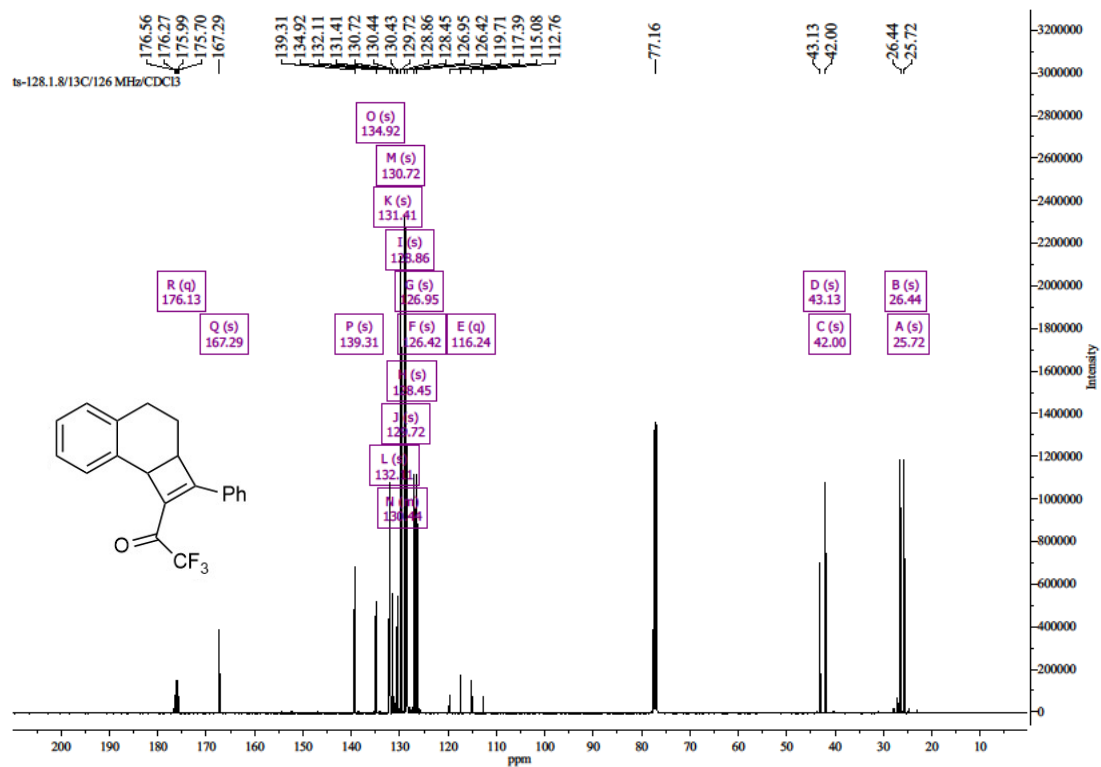


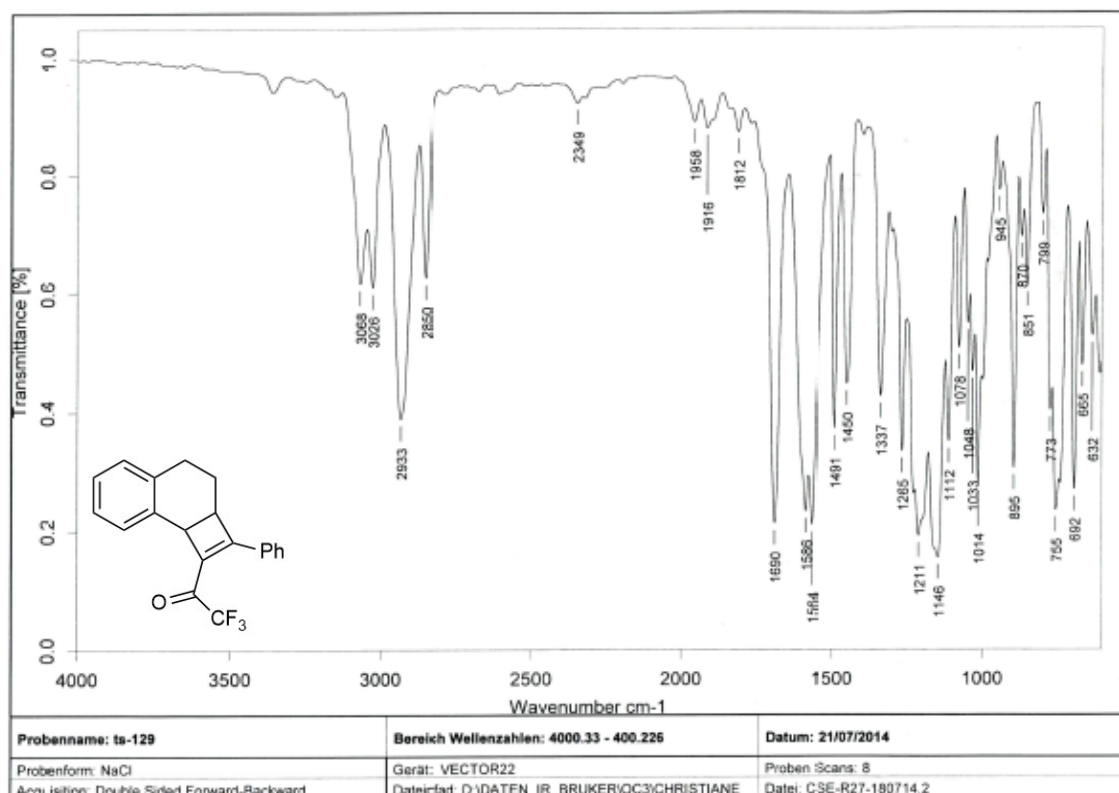
ts-126.1.11/19F/376 MHz/CDCl3



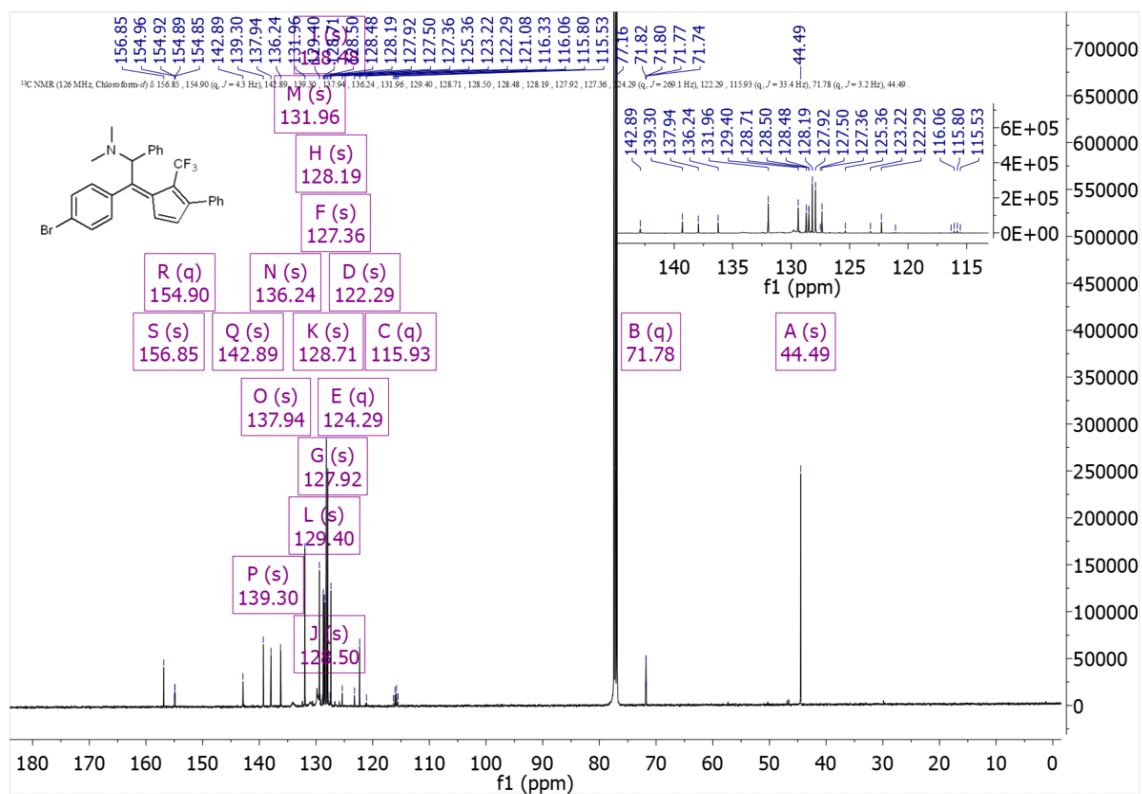
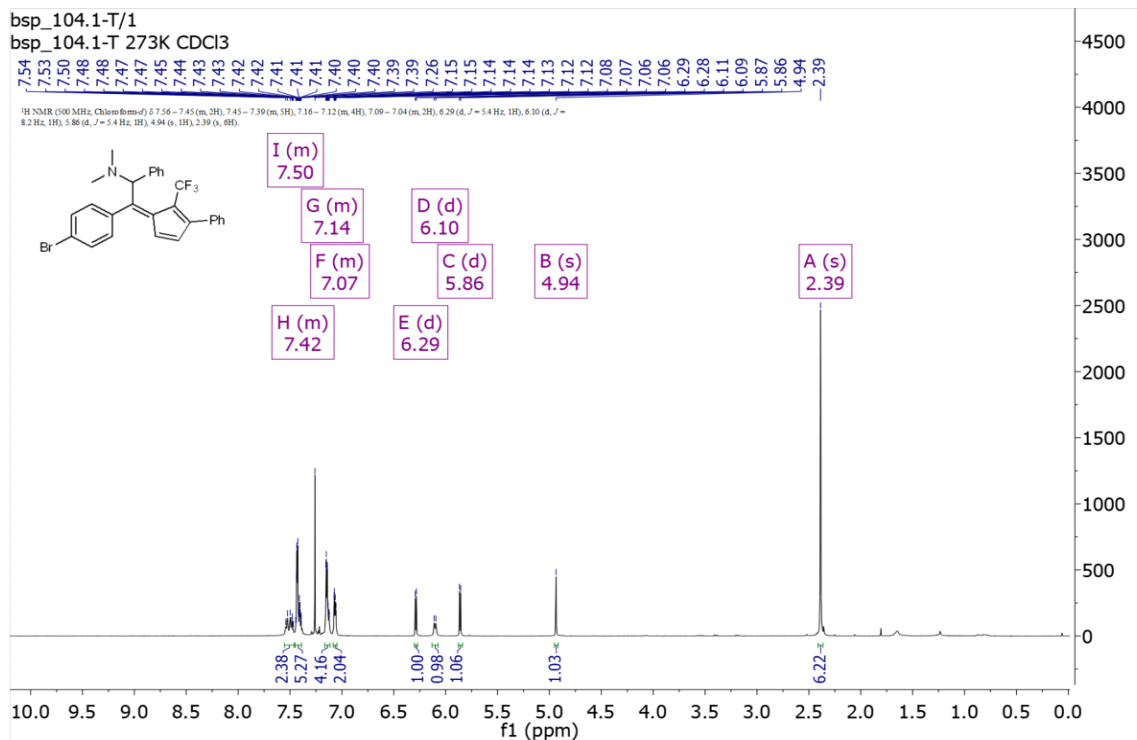
**2,2,2-Trifluoro-1-(2-phenyl-2a,3,4,8b-tetrahydrocyclobuta[*a*]naphthalen-1-yl)ethan-1-one 18**

H,H-COSY NMR of **18**:





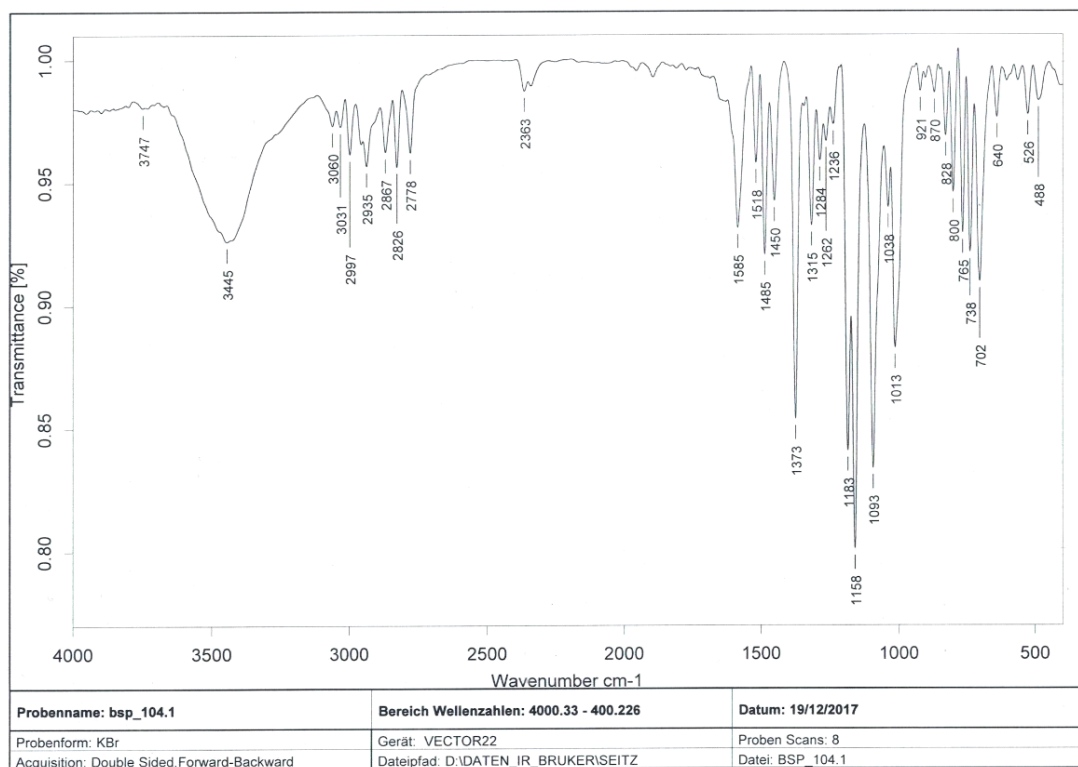
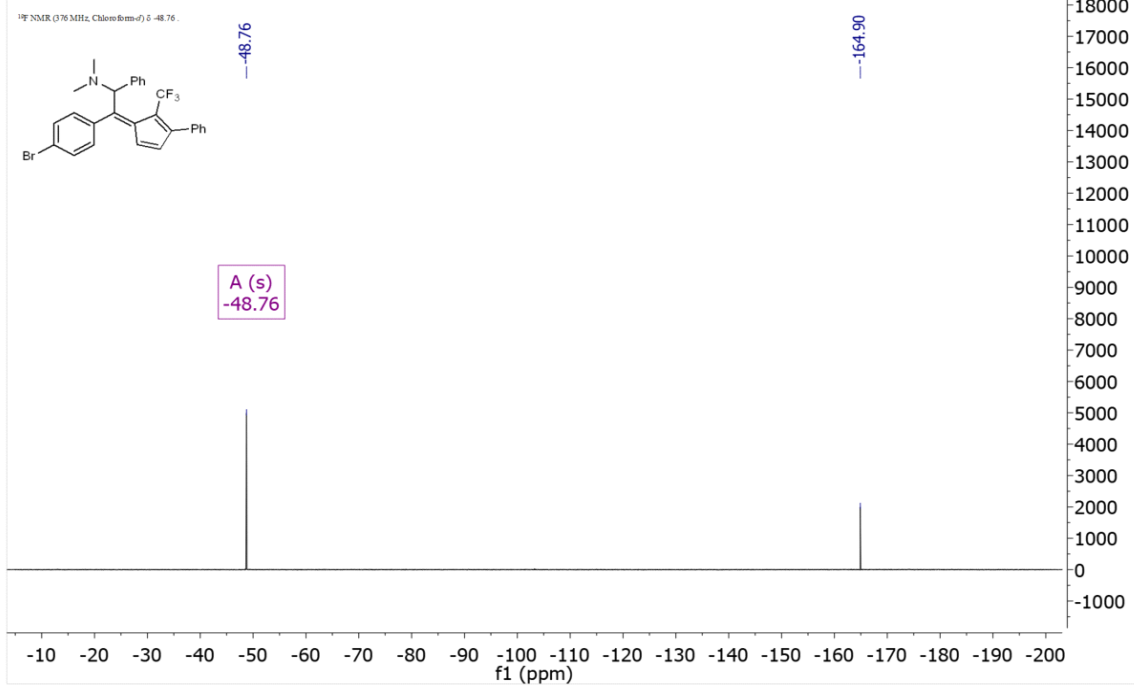
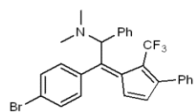
**(Z)-2-(4-Bromophenyl)-N,N-dimethyl-1-phenyl-2-(3-phenyl-2-(trifluoromethyl)cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-ylidene)ethan-1-amine (19)**



bsp\_104.1-test1902-1/2

F19CPD\_3 CDCl<sub>3</sub> /opt/topspin akmaas 9

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ -48.76



|                                             |                                         |                   |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Probenname: bsp_104.1                       | Bereich Wellenzahlen: 4000.33 - 400.226 | Datum: 19/12/2017 |
| Probenform: KBr                             | Gerät: VECTOR22                         | Proben Scans: 8   |
| Acquisition: Double Sided, Forward-Backward | Dateipfad: D:\DATEN_IR_BRUKER\SEITZ     | Datei: BSP_104.1  |

### 3. References

- [1] T. Schneider, M. Keim, M. Schiwiek, G. Maas, *J. Fluorine Chem.* **2020**, 235, 109567; DOI: 10.1016/j.fluchem.2020.109567.