



## Supporting Information

for

### Nickel-catalyzed cross-coupling of 2-fluorobenzofurans with arylboronic acids via aromatic C–F bond activation

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*Beilstein J. Org. Chem.* **2025**, 21, 146–154. doi:10.3762/bjoc.21.8

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## 1. General statement

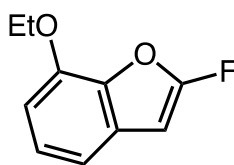
$^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR,  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR, and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR were recorded on a Bruker Avance 500 or a JEOL ECS-400 spectrometer. Chemical shift values are given in ppm relative to internal  $\text{Me}_4\text{Si}$  (for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta = 0.00$  ppm),  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (for  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta = 77.0$  ppm),  $\text{C}_6\text{F}_6$  (for  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:  $\delta = 0.0$  ppm), and  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  (for  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR:  $\delta = 0.0$  ppm). IR spectra were recorded on a Horiba FT-730 spectrometer. Mass spectra were measured on a JEOL JMS-T100GCV or a JEOL JMS-T200GC spectrometer.

Column chromatography was conducted on silica gel (Silica Gel 60 N, Kanto Chemical Co., Inc.). Toluene and *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) were purified by a solvent-purification system (GlassContour) equipped with columns of activated alumina and supported-copper catalyst (Q-5) before use. 1,4-Dioxane and methanol were distilled from sodium, and stored over molecular sieves 4 Å. Unless otherwise noted, materials were obtained from commercial sources and used directly without further purifications.

## 2. Preparation of 2-fluorobenzofurans

2-Fluorobenzofuran (**1a**) [1], 2-fluoronaphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**1b**) [1], 2-fluoro-7-methoxybenzofuran (**1c**) [1], 2-fluorobenzo[*b*]thiophene (**4**) [2], 5-bromo-2-fluorobenzofuran (**1e**) [1], 2-chlorobenzofuran (**1a-Cl**) [3], 2-bromobenzofuran (**1a-Br**) [4], and 2-iodobenzofuran (**1a-I**) [5] were prepared according to the literature procedures, and their spectral data showed good agreement with the literature data.

### 7-Ethoxy-2-benzofuran (1d)

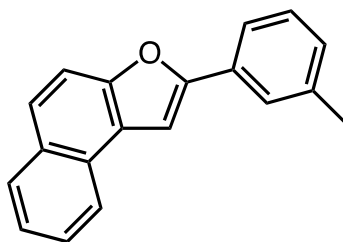


To a DMF (415 mL) solution of 2-(2,2-difluorovinyl)-6-ethoxyphenol (2.75 g, 13.7 mmol) was added DBU (2.46 mL, 16.5 mmol). After stirring at 100 °C for 2 h, water (250 mL) was added to the mixture. Organic materials were extracted with diethyl ether three times. The combined extracts were washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (pentane/diethyl ether = 10:1) to give **1d** (1.65 g, 67%) as a colorless liquid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.13 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.83 (d, *J*<sub>HF</sub> = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.50 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 160.2 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 280 Hz), 144.1, 136.8, 129.6, 124.2, 112.9 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 5 Hz), 107.3, 78.7 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 13 Hz), 64.6, 14.9. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 49.5 (d, *J*<sub>FH</sub> = 7 Hz, 1F). IR (neat): 3136, 3060, 2983, 2933, 1643, 1496, 1439, 1396, 1340, 1296, 1196, 1082, 1018, 978, 893, 783, 727, 658, 607, 555 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (EI): *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>9</sub>FO<sub>2</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 180.0587; Found: 180.0592.

### 3. Synthesis of 2-Arylnaphthofurans

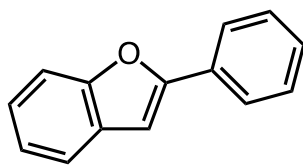
#### 2-(3-Methylphenyl)naphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**3bb**)



To the mixture of 2-fluoronaphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**1b**, 56 mg, 0.30 mmol), (3-methylphenyl)boronic acid (**2b**, 41 mg, 0.30 mmol), Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (4.2 mg, 0.015 mmol), PCy<sub>3</sub> (8.2 mg, 0.029 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1.8  $\mu$ L, 0.015 mmol), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (50 mg, 0.36 mmol) were added toluene (3.0 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.6 mL). After stirring at room temperature for 13 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O. Organic materials were extracted with diethyl ether three times. The combined extracts were washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1) to give **3bb** (76 mg, 98%) as a white solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.15 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.75–7.67 (m, 4H), 7.58 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  155.6, 152.3, 138.5, 130.5, 130.4, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 127.6, 126.2, 125.3, 125.1, 124.6, 124.5, 123.4, 121.9, 112.3, 100.3, 21.5. IR (KBr): 3051, 1606, 1487, 1387, 1280, 1255, 1163, 1053, 991, 935, 789, 690 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (EI): *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O [M]<sup>+</sup>: 258.1045; Found: 258.1035.

### 2-Phenylbenzofuran (3aa)



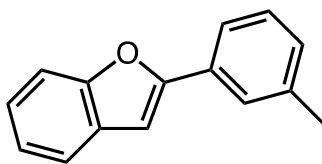
Compound **3aa** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluorobenzofuran (**1a**, 28 mg, 0.20 mmol), phenylboronic acid (**2a**, 29 mg, 0.24 mmol), Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (2.8 mg, 0.010 mmol), PCy<sub>3</sub> (5.6 mg, 0.020 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1.2  $\mu$ L, 0.010 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (55 mg, 0.40 mmol), toluene (2.0 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.4 mL).

A white solid, 31 mg, 77% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.85 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (dd,  $J$  = 7.8, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.20 (m, 2H), 7.00 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  155.9, 154.8, 130.4, 129.2, 128.8, 128.5, 124.9, 124.2, 122.9, 120.9, 111.1, 101.3.

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [6].

### 2-(3-Methylphenyl)benzofuran (3ab)



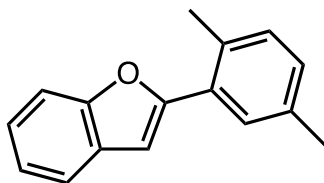
Compound **3ab** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluorobenzofuran (**1a**, 28 mg, 0.20 mmol), (3-methylphenyl)boronic acid (**2b**, 33 mg, 0.24 mmol), Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (2.8 mg, 0.010 mmol), PCy<sub>3</sub> (5.6 mg, 0.020 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1.2  $\mu$ L, 0.010 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (55 mg, 0.40 mmol), toluene (2.0 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.4 mL).

A white solid, 41 mg, 96% yield.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.69 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd,  $J$  = 7.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.21 (m, 2H), 7.16 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.1, 154.8, 138.4, 130.3, 129.3, 129.2, 128.7, 125.5, 124.1, 122.9, 122.1, 120.8, 111.1, 101.2, 21.5.

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [7].

### 2-(2,5-Dimethylphenyl)benzofuran (3ac)



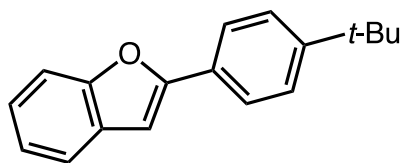
Compound **3ac** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluorobenzofuran (**1a**, 27 mg, 0.20 mmol), (2,5-dimethylphenyl)boronic acid (**2c**, 36 mg, 0.24 mmol),  $\text{Ni}(\text{cod})_2$  (2.8 mg, 0.010 mmol),  $\text{PCy}_3$  (5.6 mg, 0.020 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1.2  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.010 mmol),  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (55 mg, 0.40 mmol), toluene (2.0 mL), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.4 mL).

A white solid, 37 mg, 83% yield.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.68 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.22 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.8, 154.3, 135.5, 132.7, 131.2, 129.6, 129.3, 129.2, 128.6, 124.1, 122.7, 120.8, 111.0, 104.9, 21.4, 21.0.

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [6].

### 2-[4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl]benzofuran (**3ad**)



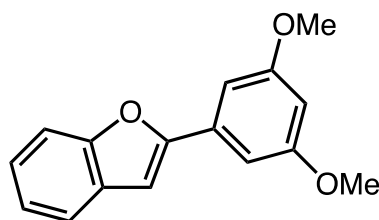
Compound **3ad** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluorobenzofuran (**1a**, 29 mg, 0.21 mmol), [4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl]boronic acid (**2d**, 43 mg, 0.24 mmol), Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (2.8 mg, 0.010 mmol), PCy<sub>3</sub> (5.6 mg, 0.020 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1.2  $\mu$ L, 0.010 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (57 mg, 0.41 mmol), toluene (2.0 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.4 mL).

A white solid, 53 mg, 99% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.79 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.27–7.19 (m, 2H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 1.35 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  156.1, 154.8, 151.8, 129.3, 127.7, 125.7, 124.7, 124.0, 122.8, 120.7, 111.1, 100.7, 34.7, 31.2.

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [8].

### 2-(3,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)benzofuran (**3ae**)



Compound **3ae** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluorobenzofuran (**1a**, 28 mg, 0.20 mmol), (3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)boronic acid (**2e**, 44 mg, 0.24 mmol), Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (5.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), PCy<sub>3</sub> (11 mg, 0.040 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (2.5  $\mu$ L, 0.020 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (55 mg, 0.40 mmol), toluene (2.0 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.4 mL).

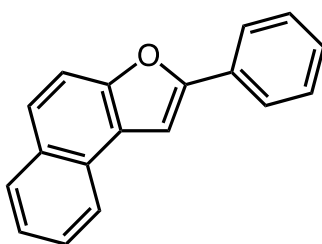
A colorless oil, 38 mg, 73% yield.



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.58 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H) 7.52 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.04–7.02 (m, 3H), 6.48 (t,  $J$  = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  161.0, 155.6, 154.7, 132.1, 129.0, 124.3, 122.9, 120.9, 111.1, 102.9, 101.8, 101.0, 55.4.

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [8].

### 2-Phenylnaphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**3ba**)

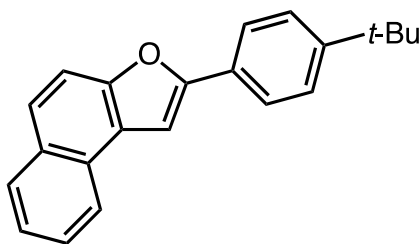


Compound **3ba** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluoronaphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**1b**, 56 mg, 0.30 mmol), phenylboronic acid (**2a**, 38 mg, 0.31 mmol),  $\text{Ni}(\text{cod})_2$  (4.2 mg, 0.015 mmol),  $\text{PCy}_3$  (8.4 mg, 0.030 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1.8  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.015 mmol),  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (50 mg, 0.36 mmol), toluene (3.0 mL), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.6 mL). A white solid, 71 mg, 96% yield.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.16 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H) 7.95–7.91 (m, 3H), 7.72 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51–7.45 (m, 4H), 7.35 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.3, 152.3, 130.6, 130.4, 128.80, 128.76, 128.2, 127.6, 126.2, 125.1, 124.6, 124.52, 124.48, 123.4, 112.2, 100.4.

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [8].

### 2-[4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl]naphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**3bd**)



Compound **3bd** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluoronaphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**1b**, 55 mg, 0.30 mmol), [4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl]boronic acid (**2d**, 54 mg, 0.30 mmol), Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (4.3 mg, 0.016 mmol), PCy<sub>3</sub> (8.2 mg, 0.029 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1.8  $\mu$ L, 0.015 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (51 mg, 0.37 mmol), toluene (3.0 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.6 mL).

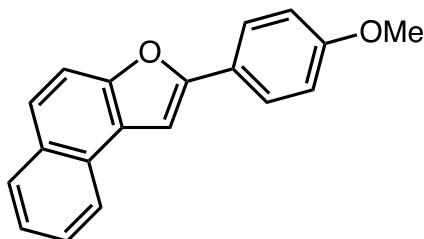
A white solid, 84 mg, 94% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.15 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.86–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.68–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.46 (m, 4H), 1.36 (s, 9H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  155.6, 152.2, 151.5, 130.4, 128.8, 127.9, 127.6, 127.4, 126.1, 125.8, 124.8, 124.6, 124.5, 123.5, 112.3, 99.8, 34.7, 31.3.

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [9].

### 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)naphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**3bf**)



Compound **3bf** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluoronaphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**1b**, 39 mg, 0.21 mmol), (4-methoxyphenyl)boronic acid (**2f**, 38 mg, 0.25 mmol), Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (2.8 mg, 0.010 mmol), PCy<sub>3</sub> (5.6 mg, 0.020 mmol), 1,5-

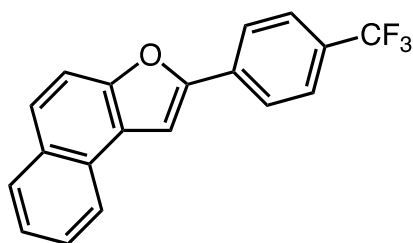
cyclooctadiene (1.2  $\mu$ L, 0.010 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (55 mg, 0.40 mmol), toluene (2.0 mL), and  $H_2O$  (0.4 mL).

A white solid, 54 mg, 94% yield.

$^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.14 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.70–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 6.99 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  159.8, 155.5, 152.0, 130.4, 128.7, 127.5, 126.12, 126.06, 124.7, 124.5, 124.4, 123.52, 123.45, 114.3, 112.2, 98.8, 55.3.

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [10].

### 2-[4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl]naphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**3bg**)



Compound **3bg** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluoronaphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**1b**, 56 mg, 0.30 mmol), [4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]boronic acid (**2g**, 57 mg, 0.30 mmol),  $Ni(cod)_2$  (17 mg, 0.060 mmol),  $PCy_3$  (34 mg, 0.12 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (7.4  $\mu$ L, 0.060 mmol),  $K_3PO_4$  (76 mg, 0.36 mmol), toluene (3.0 mL), and  $H_2O$  (0.6 mL).

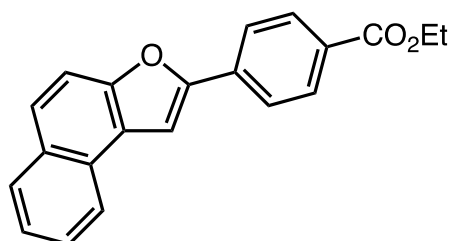
A white solid, 74 mg, 78% yield.

$^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.17 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78–7.69 (m, 4H), 7.63–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.52 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  153.6, 152.8, 133.8, 130.5, 129.8 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 32 Hz), 128.9, 127.6, 126.6, 126.2, 125.9 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 4 Hz), 124.9, 124.6, 124.3, 124.1 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 271 Hz), 123.4, 112.3, 102.4.  $^{19}F$  NMR (470 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  100.3 (s). IR (KBr): 3066,

2929, 1616, 1412, 1325, 1169, 1128, 1072, 1012, 922, 841, 802, 750, 675, 594  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

HRMS (EI):  $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3\text{O}$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 312.0762; Found: 312.0770.

#### Ethyl 4-(naphtho[2,1-*b*]furan-2-yl)benzoate (**3bh**)

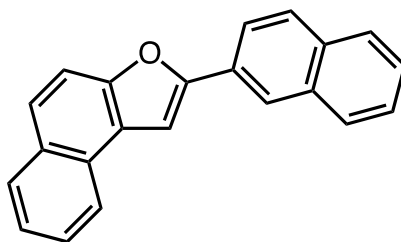


Compound **3bh** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluoronaphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**1b**, 38 mg, 0.20 mmol), [4-(ethoxycarbonyl)phenyl]boronic acid (**2h**, 47 mg, 0.24 mmol),  $\text{Ni}(\text{cod})_2$  (2.9 mg, 0.011 mmol),  $\text{PCy}_3$  (5.7 mg, 0.020 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1.2  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.010 mmol),  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (57 mg, 0.41 mmol), toluene (2.0 mL), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.4 mL).

A white solid, 35 mg, 54% yield.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.19–8.13 (m, 3H), 7.99–7.95 (m, 3H), 7.77 (d,  $J$  = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d,  $J$  = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.62 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.4, 6.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.2, 6.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.2, 154.2, 152.9, 134.5, 130.5, 130.2, 129.8, 128.9, 127.6, 126.6, 126.1, 124.8, 124.4, 124.3, 123.4, 112.3, 102.5, 61.1, 14.4. IR (KBr): 3057, 2981, 1712, 1608, 1410, 1367, 1279, 1178, 1105, 1022, 989, 856, 810, 768, 690  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (FD):  $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 316.1099; Found: 316.1105.

### 2-(Naphthalen-2-yl)naphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**3bi**)



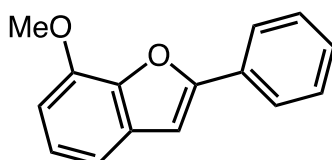
Compound **3bi** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluoronaphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**1b**, 56 mg, 0.30 mmol), 2-naphthylboronic acid (**2i**, 51 mg, 0.30 mmol), Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), PCy<sub>3</sub> (8.5 mg, 0.030 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1.8 μL, 0.015 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (50 mg, 0.36 mmol), toluene (3.0 mL), methanol (0.6 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.6 mL).

A white solid, 62 mg, 70% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.01–7.92 (m, 4H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.62 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55–7.51 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 155.4, 152.5, 133.5, 133.1, 130.5, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 126.7, 126.4, 126.3, 125.4, 124.63, 124.61, 123.5, 123.4, 122.7, 112.3, 101.1.

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [11].

### 7-Methoxy-2-phenylbenzofuran (**3ca**)



Compound **3ca** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluoro-7-methoxybenzofuran (**1c**, 56 mg, 0.33 mmol), phenylboronic acid (**2a**, 37 mg, 0.31 mmol), Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), PCy<sub>3</sub> (8.1 mg, 0.029 mmol), 1,5-

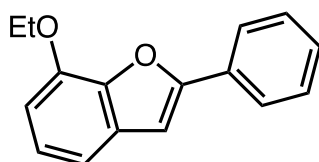
cyclooctadiene (1.8  $\mu$ L, 0.015 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (50 mg, 0.36 mmol), toluene (3.0 mL), and  $H_2O$  (0.6 mL).

A white solid, 46 mg, 67% yield.

$^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.89 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.36–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.13 (m, 2H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.80 (d,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.0, 145.3, 144.1, 130.9, 130.3, 128.7, 128.5, 125.0, 123.6, 113.3, 106.6, 101.6, 56.1.

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [12].

### 7-Ethoxy-2-phenylbenzofuran (3da)



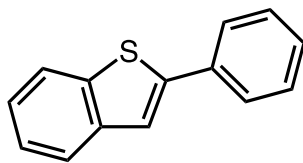
Compound **3da** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 7-ethoxy-2-fluorobenzofuran (**1d**, 54 mg, 0.30 mmol), phenylboronic acid (**2a**, 37 mg, 0.31 mmol),  $Ni(cod)_2$  (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol),  $PCy_3$  (8.1 mg, 0.029 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1.8  $\mu$ L, 0.015 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (50 mg, 0.36 mmol), toluene (3.0 mL), and  $H_2O$  (0.6 mL).

A colorless oil, 46 mg, 65% yield.

$^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.89 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd,  $J$  = 7.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.80 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (q,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.54 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.9, 144.5, 144.3, 131.0, 130.4, 128.7, 128.5, 125.0, 123.5, 113.2, 108.1, 101.6, 64.7, 15.0.

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [12].

## 2-Phenylbenzo[*b*]thiophene (**5**)



Compound **5** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluorobenzo[*b*]thiophene (**4**, 45 mg, 0.29 mmol), phenylboronic acid (**2a**, 37 mg, 0.30 mmol), Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (17 mg, 0.060 mmol), PCy<sub>3</sub> (34 mg, 0.12 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (50 mg, 0.36 mmol), toluene (3.0 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.6 mL).

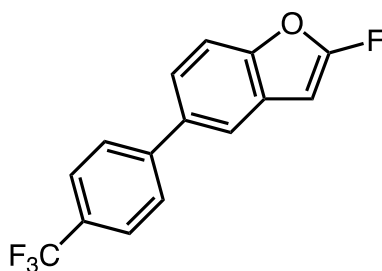
A white solid, 29 mg, 48% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.36–7.29 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 144.2, 140.7, 139.5, 134.3, 128.9, 128.2, 126.5, 124.5, 124.3, 123.5, 122.2, 119.4.

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [13].

## 4. Orthogonal coupling reactions of aromatic C–F and C–Br bonds

### 2-Fluoro-5-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]benzofuran (**1f**)

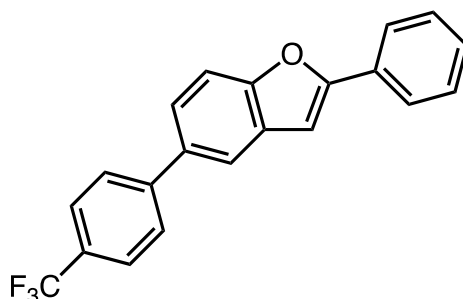


To the mixture of 5-bromo-2-fluorobenzofuran (**1e**, 357 mg, 1.66 mmol), [4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]boronic acid (**2g**, 453 mg, 2.39 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (92 mg, 0.080 mmol), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (1.27 g, 5.98 mmol), and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.18 mL, 10 mmol) was added 1,4-dioxane (5.3 mL). After stirring at 80 °C for 12 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with

H<sub>2</sub>O. Organic materials were extracted with dichloromethane three times. The combined extracts were washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane) to give **1f** (444 mg, 95%) as a white solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.73–7.65 (m, 5H), 7.47–7.43 (m, 2H), 5.91 (d, *J*<sub>HF</sub> = 6.6 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 160.9 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 281 Hz), 147.7, 144.9, 135.9, 129.2 (q, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 32 Hz), 128.6 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 3 Hz), 127.6, 125.7 (q, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 4 Hz), 124.3 (q, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 272 Hz), 123.0 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 4 Hz), 119.5 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 6 Hz), 111.3, 78.6 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 14 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 100.5 (s, 3F), 52.3 (d, *J*<sub>FH</sub> = 7 Hz, 1F). IR (KBr): 3149, 1637, 1468, 1323, 1165, 1124, 1068, 976, 843, 810, 777, 671 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (EI): *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>4</sub>O [M]<sup>+</sup>: 280.0511; Found: 280.0522.

### 2-Phenyl-5-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]benzofuran (**3fa**)



Compound **3fa** was synthesized by the method described for compound **3bb** using 2-fluoro-5-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]benzofuran (**1f**, 85 mg, 0.30 mmol), phenylboronic acid (**2a**, 38 mg, 0.31 mmol), Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (4.2 mg, 0.015 mmol), PCy<sub>3</sub> (8.2 mg, 0.029 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (1.8 μL, 0.015 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (50 mg, 0.36 mmol), toluene (3.0 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.6 mL).

A white solid, 83 mg, 81% yield.

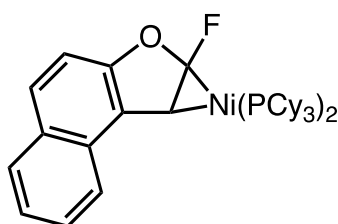
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75–7.69 (m, 4H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52–7.45 (m, 3H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08



(s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.0, 154.9, 145.2, 135.1, 130.2, 129.9, 129.0 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 32$  Hz), 128.85, 128.85, 127.6, 125.7 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 4$  Hz), 125.0, 124.5 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 270$  Hz), 123.9, 119.6, 111.5, 101.3.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  99.4 (s).

Spectral data for this compound showed good agreement with literature data [14].

## 5. Formation of nickelacyclopropane **E<sub>b</sub>**



To the mixture of 2-fluoronaphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (**1b**, 18 mg, 0.098 mmol),  $\text{Ni}(\text{cod})_2$  (28 mg, 0.10 mmol),  $\text{PCy}_3$  (56 mg, 0.20 mmol), 1,5-cyclooctadiene (12  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.098 mmol), and  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (17 mg, 0.12 mmol) were added toluene (1.0 mL) and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.2 mL). After stirring at room temperature for 13 h, the formation of nickelacyclopropane **E<sub>b</sub>** was confirmed by  $^{19}\text{F}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR measurement and HRMS analysis.

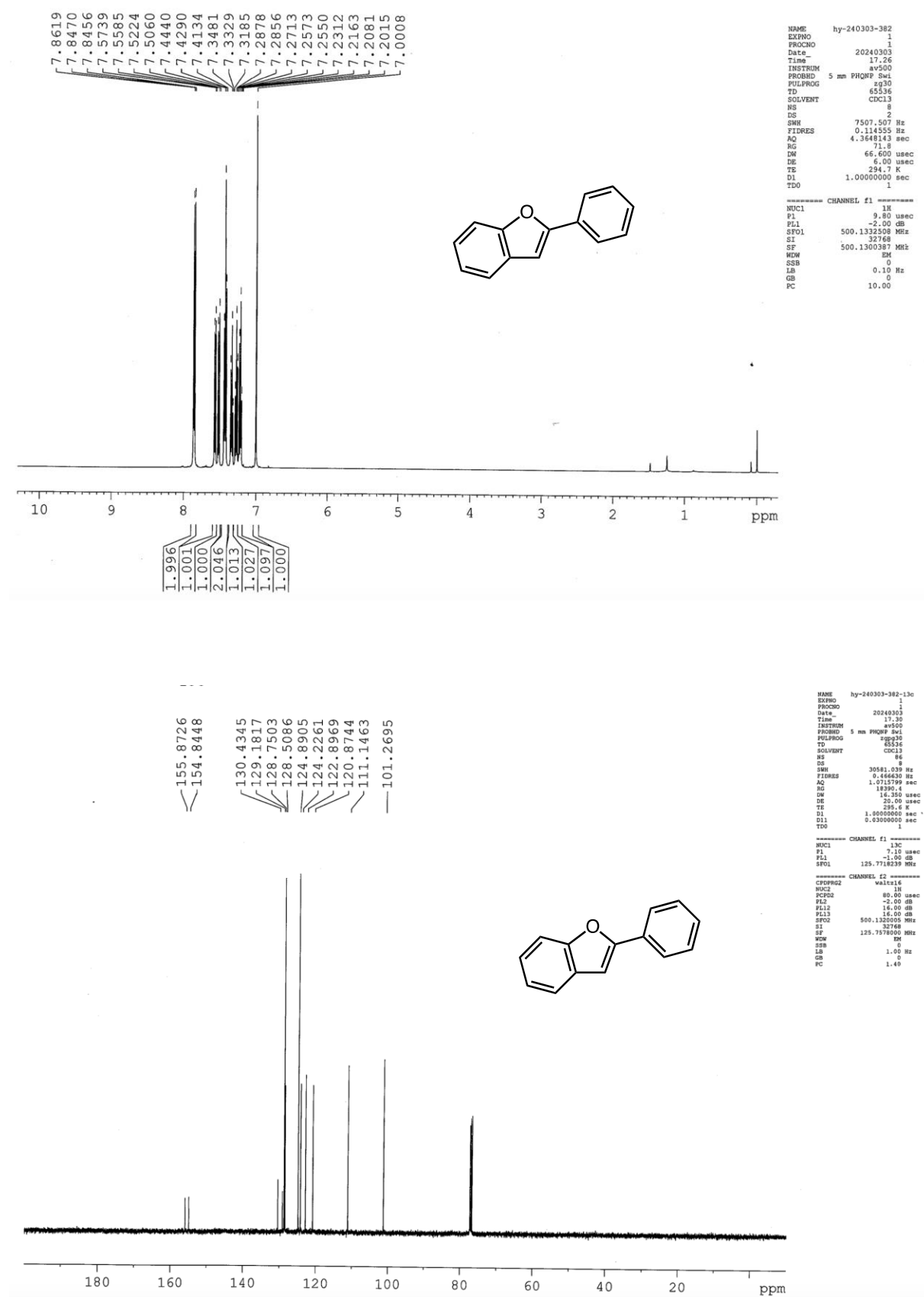
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (470 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  55.0 (br dd,  $J_{\text{FP}} = 53, 42$  Hz).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (202 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  40.5–38.6 (br s, 1P), 33.4–32.0 (br s, 1P). HRMS (FD):  $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{73}\text{FNiOP}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 804.4474; Found: 804.4449.

## 6. References

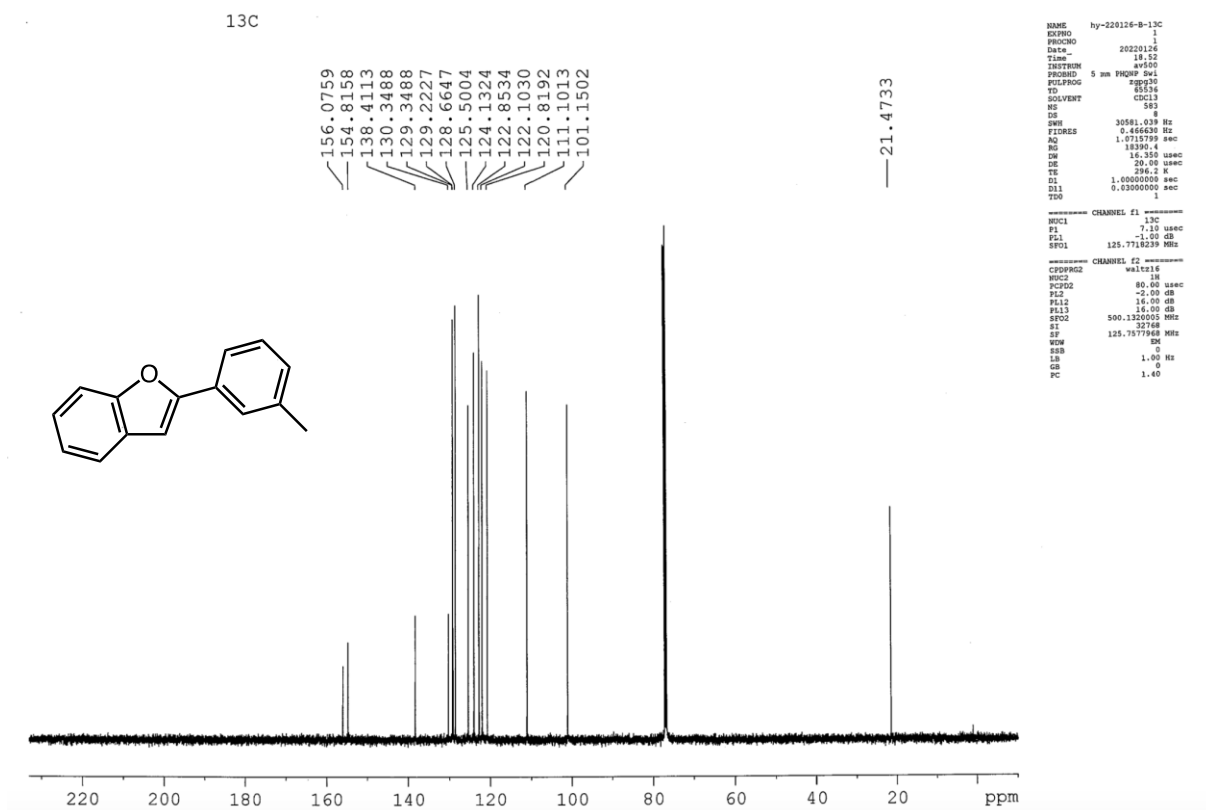
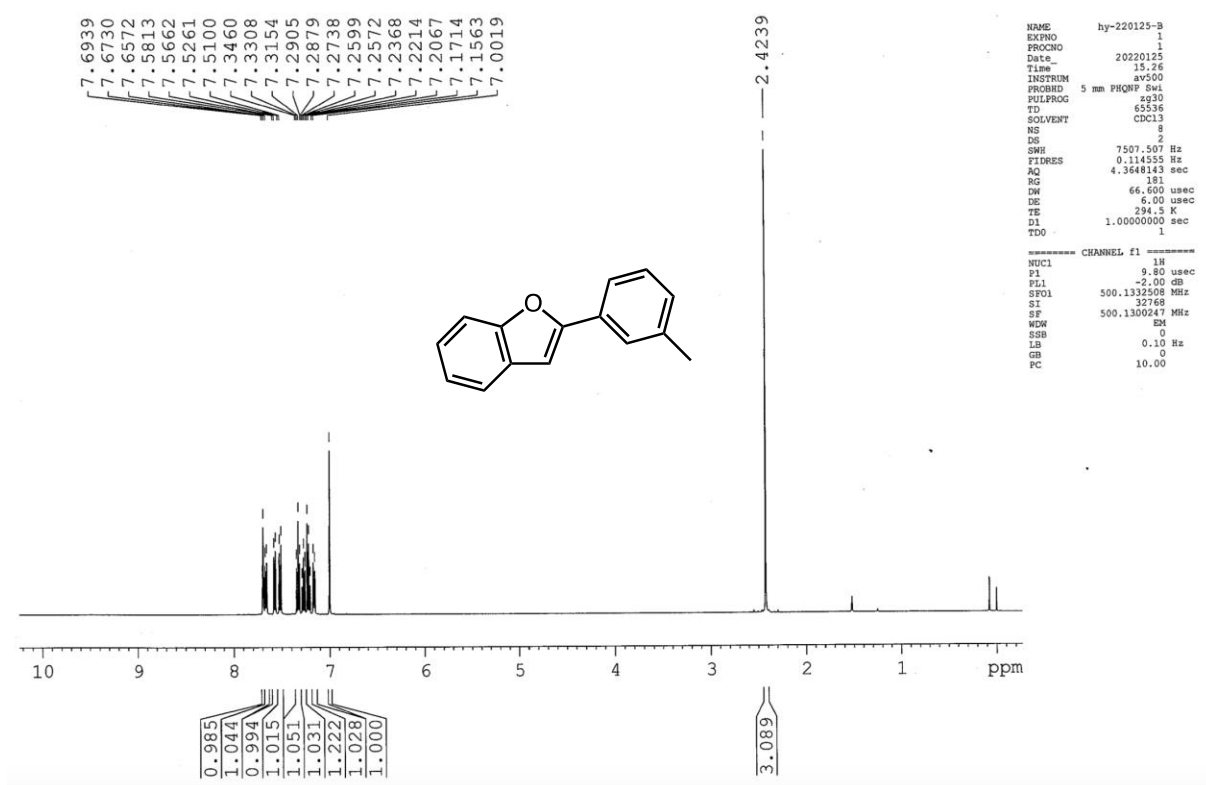
1. Morioka, R.; Fujita, T.; Ichikawa, J. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **2020**, *103*, e2000159.
2. Hofsäß, R.; Rombach, D.; Wagenknecht, H.-A. *Synlett* **2017**, *28*, 1422–1426.
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## 7. $^1\text{H}$ , $^{13}\text{C}$ , and $^{19}\text{F}$ NMR charts

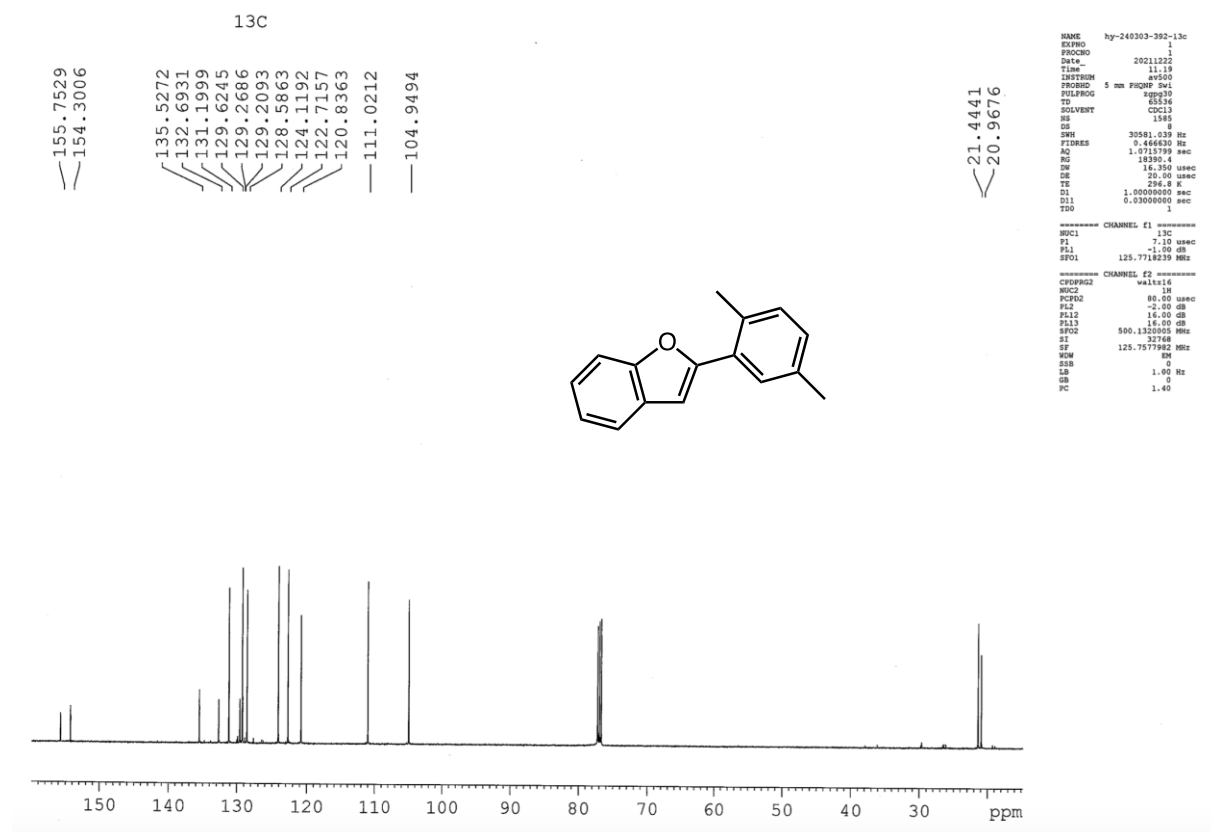
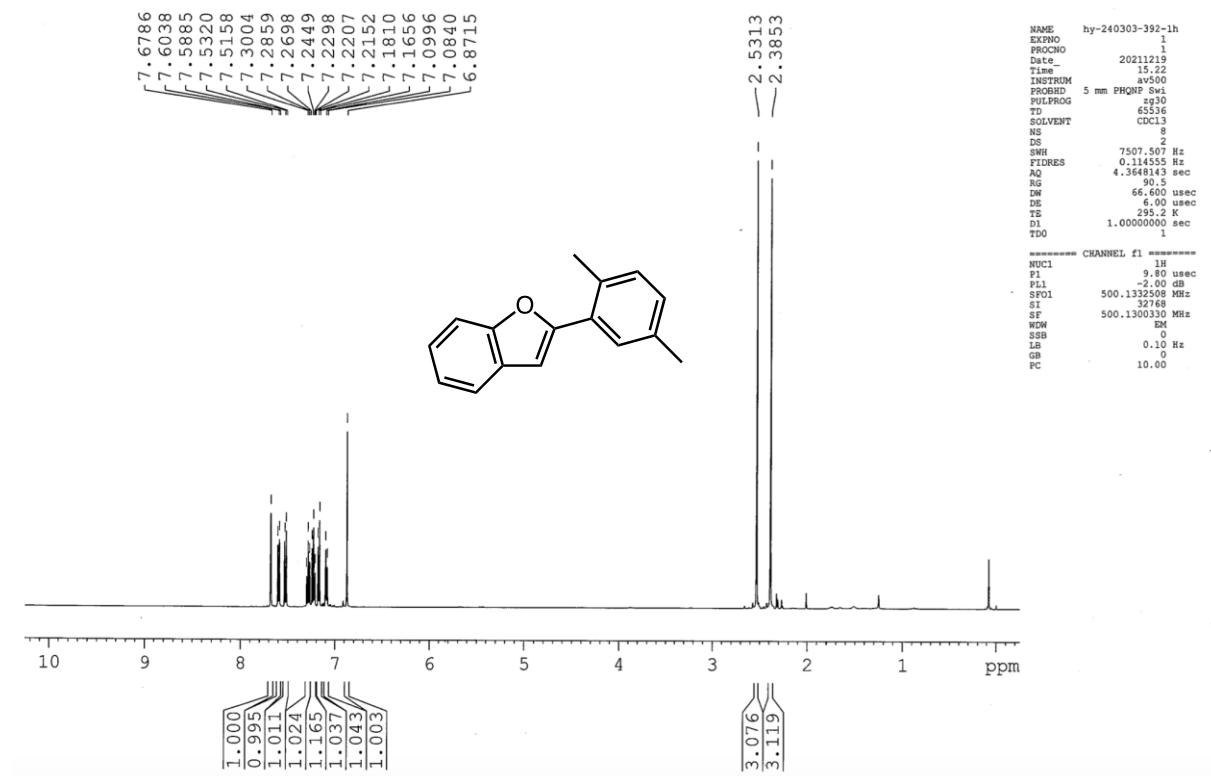
### 2-Phenylbenzofuran (3aa)



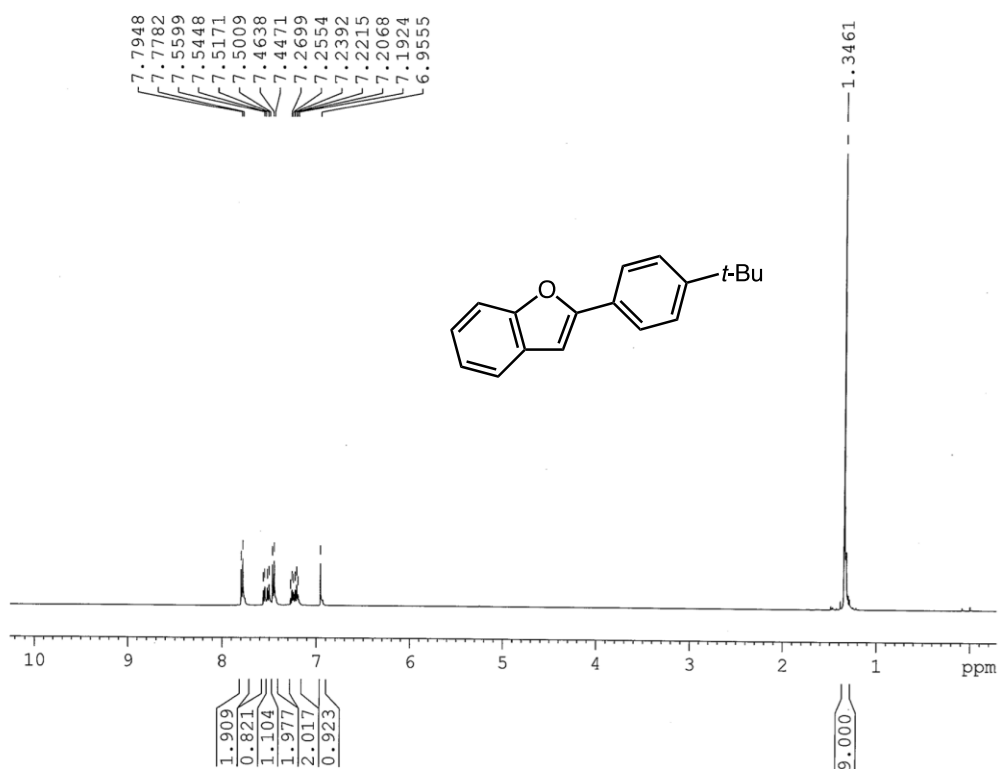
## 2-(3-Methylphenyl)benzofuran (3ab)



# 2-(2,5-Dimethylphenyl)benzofuran (3ac)



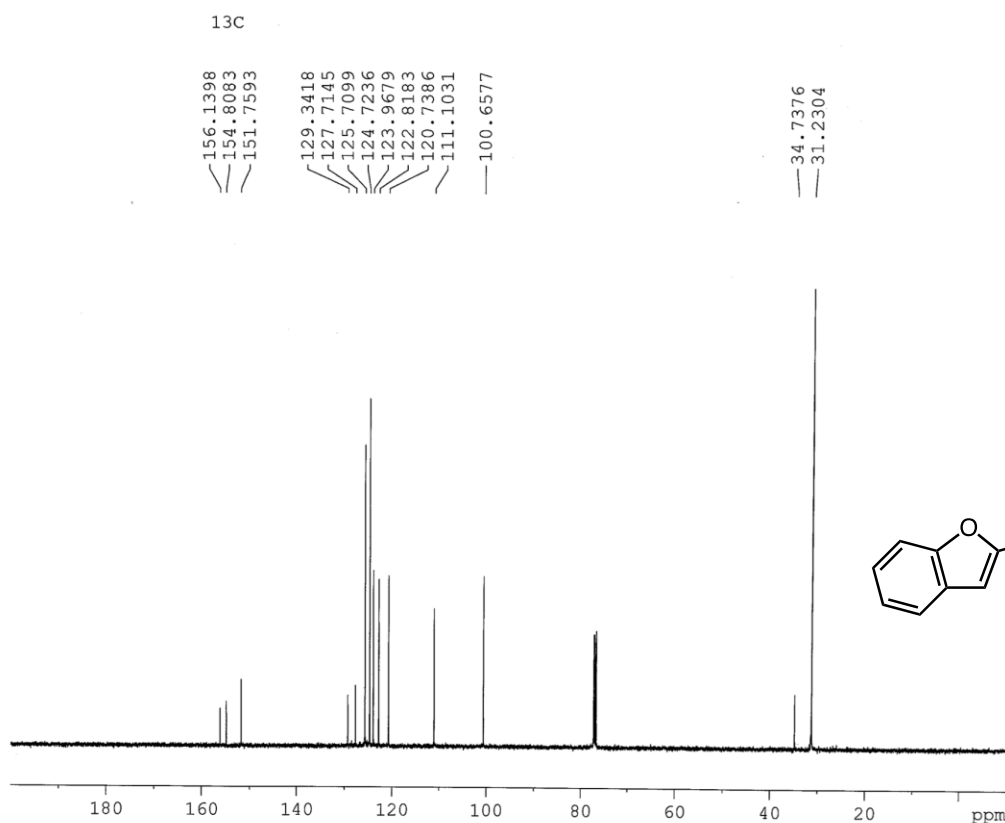
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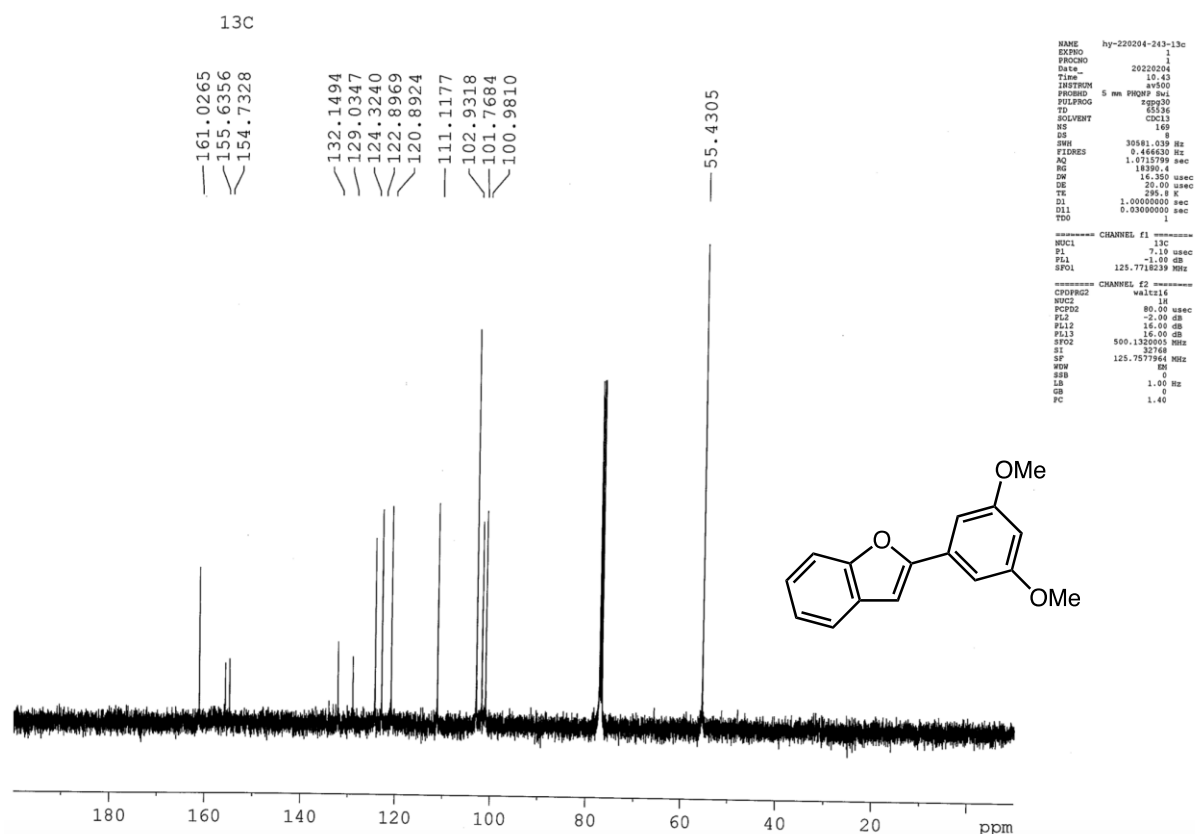
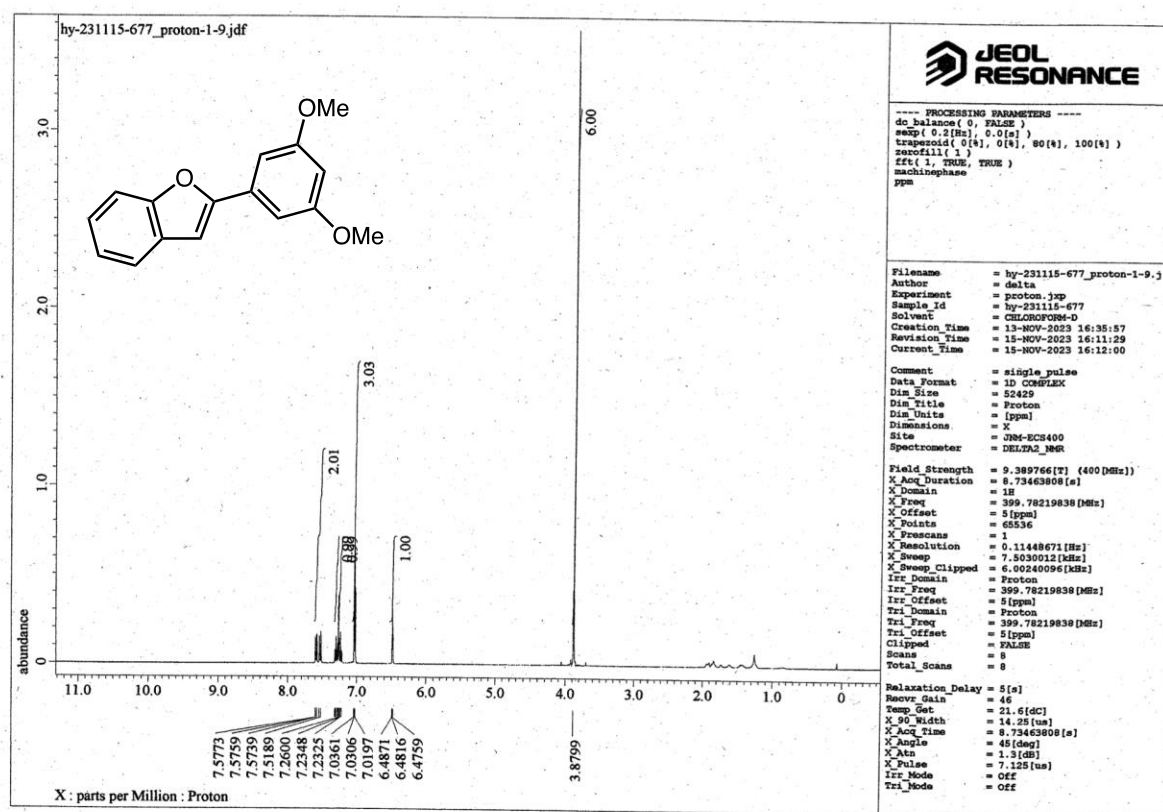
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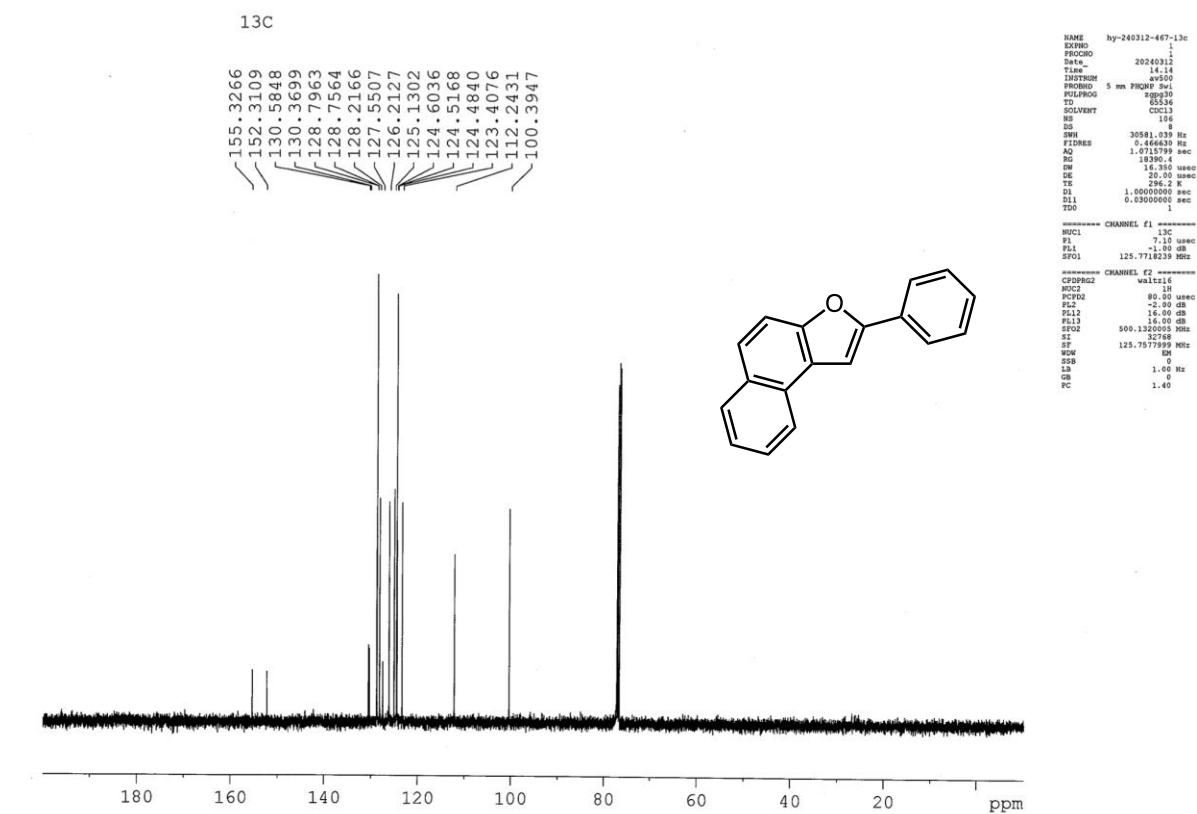
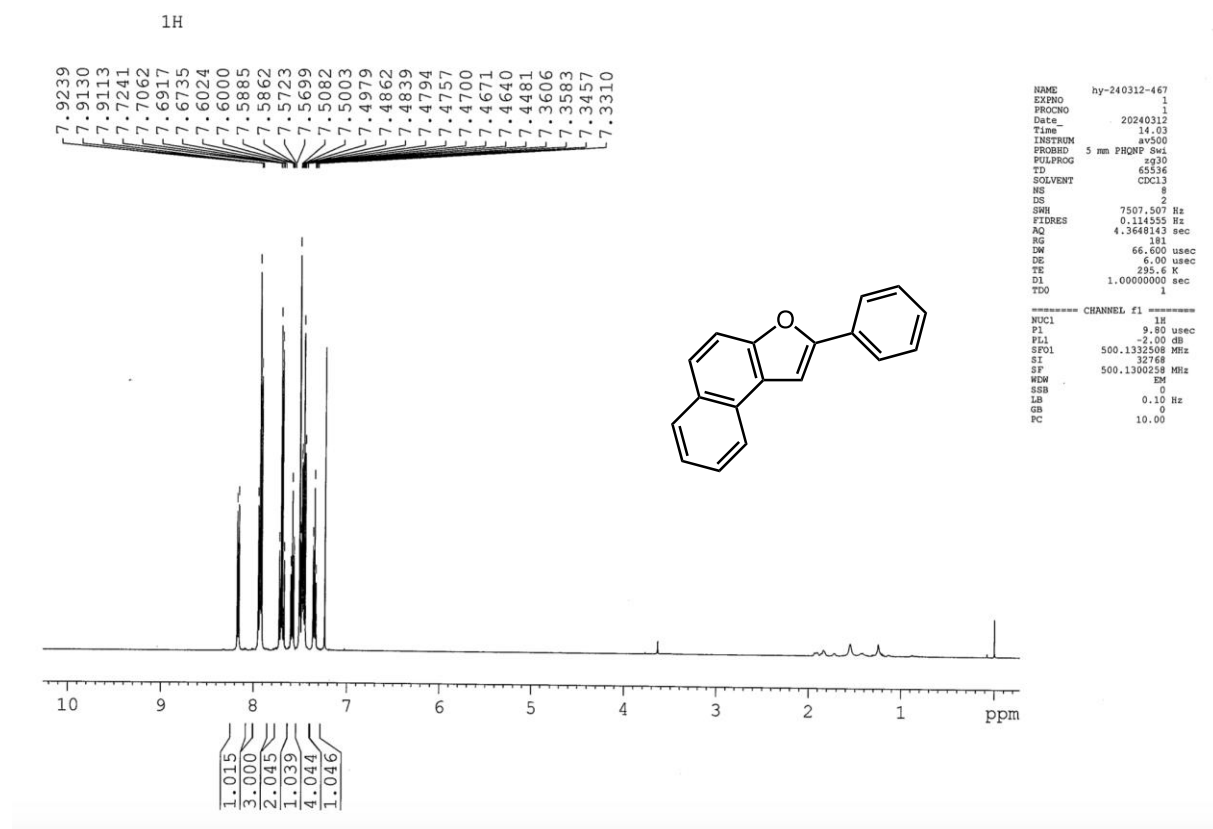
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# 2-(3,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)benzofuran (3ae)

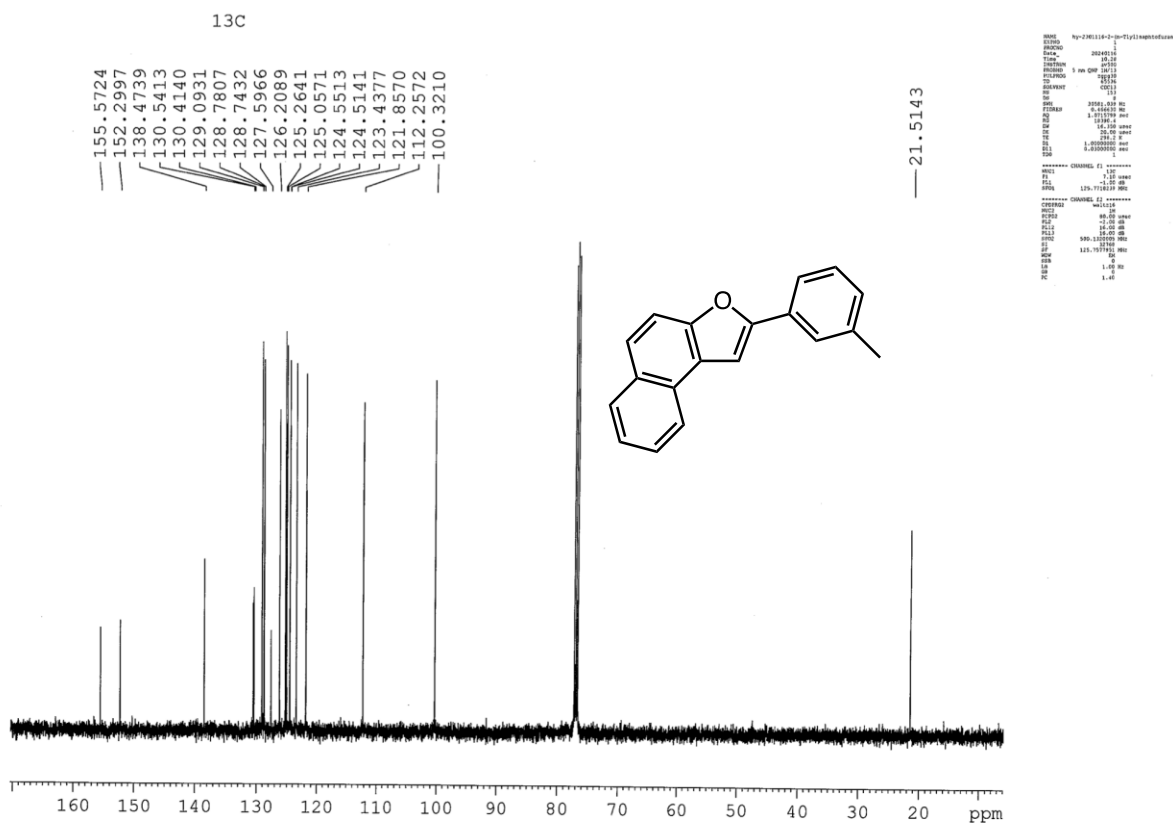
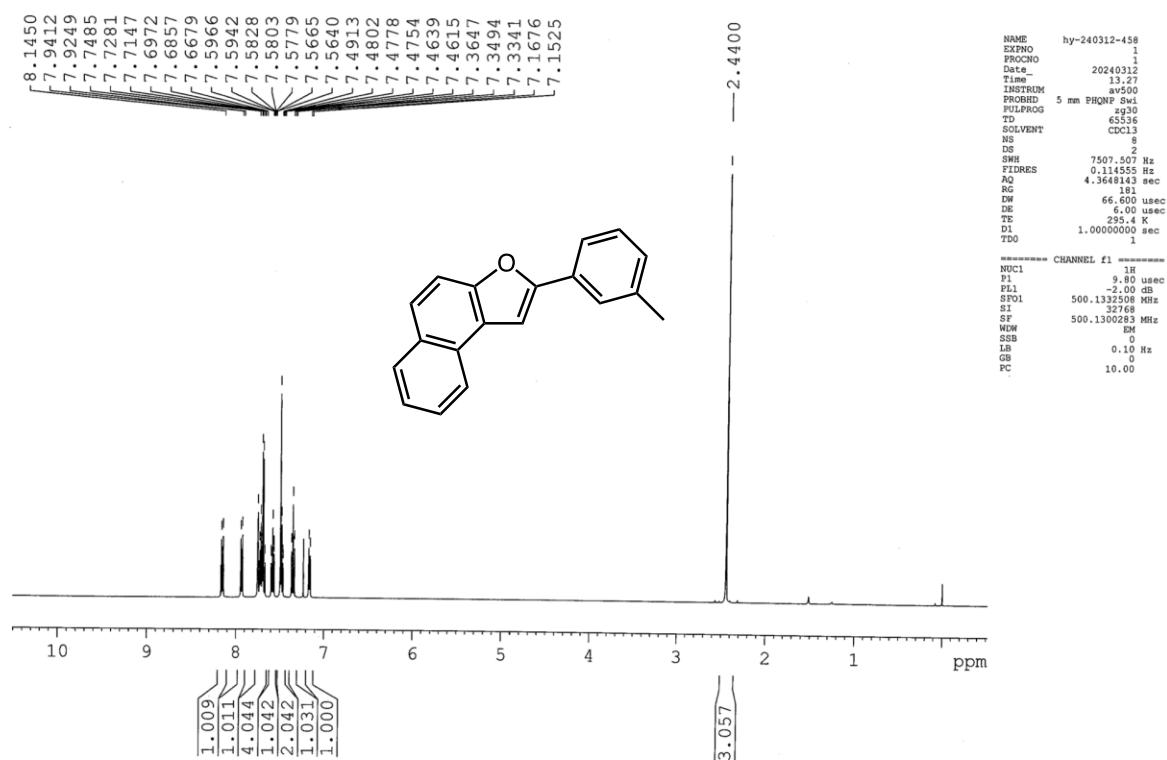


## 2-Phenyl-naphtho[2,1-b]furan (3ba)

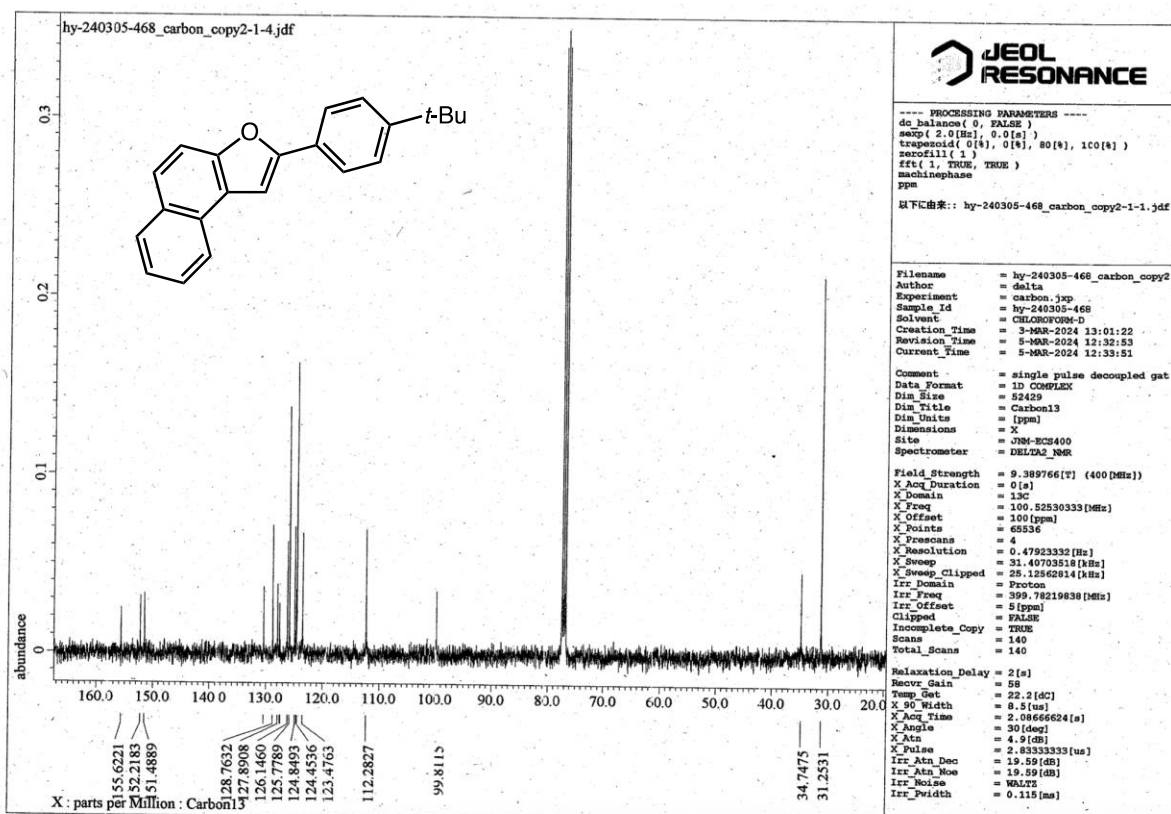
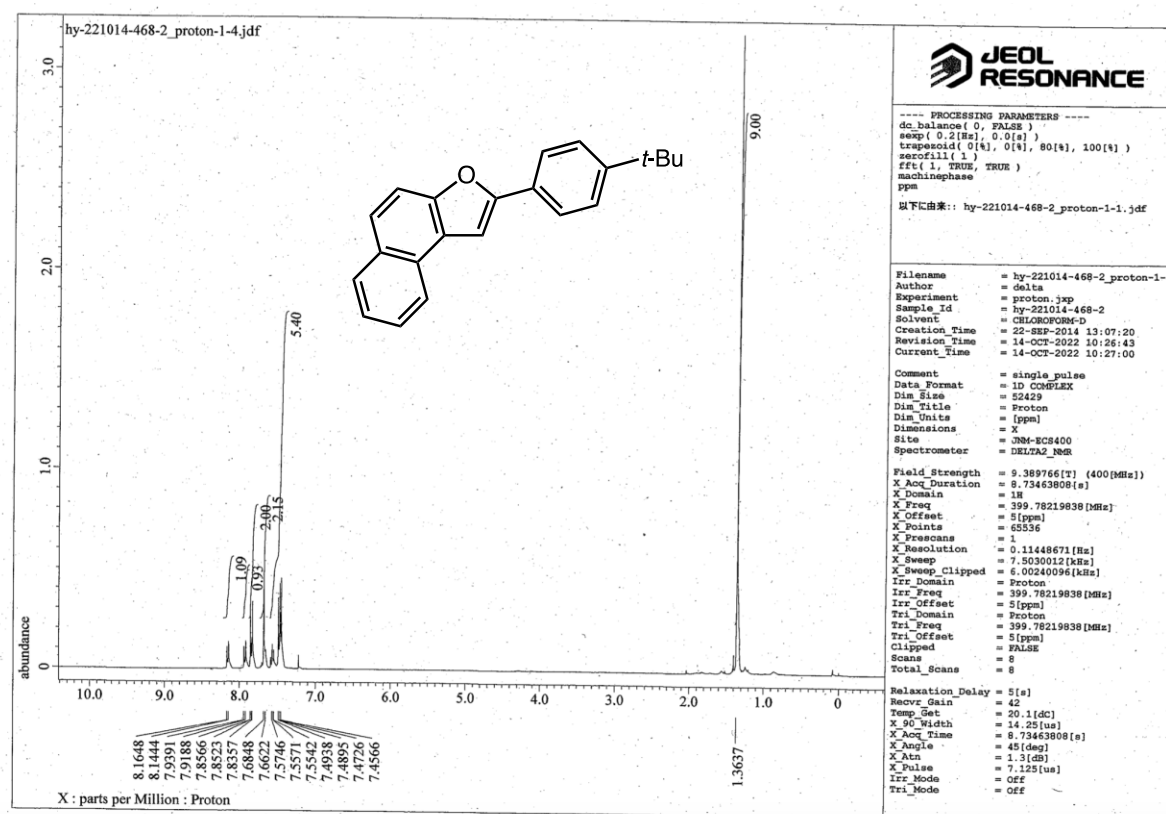




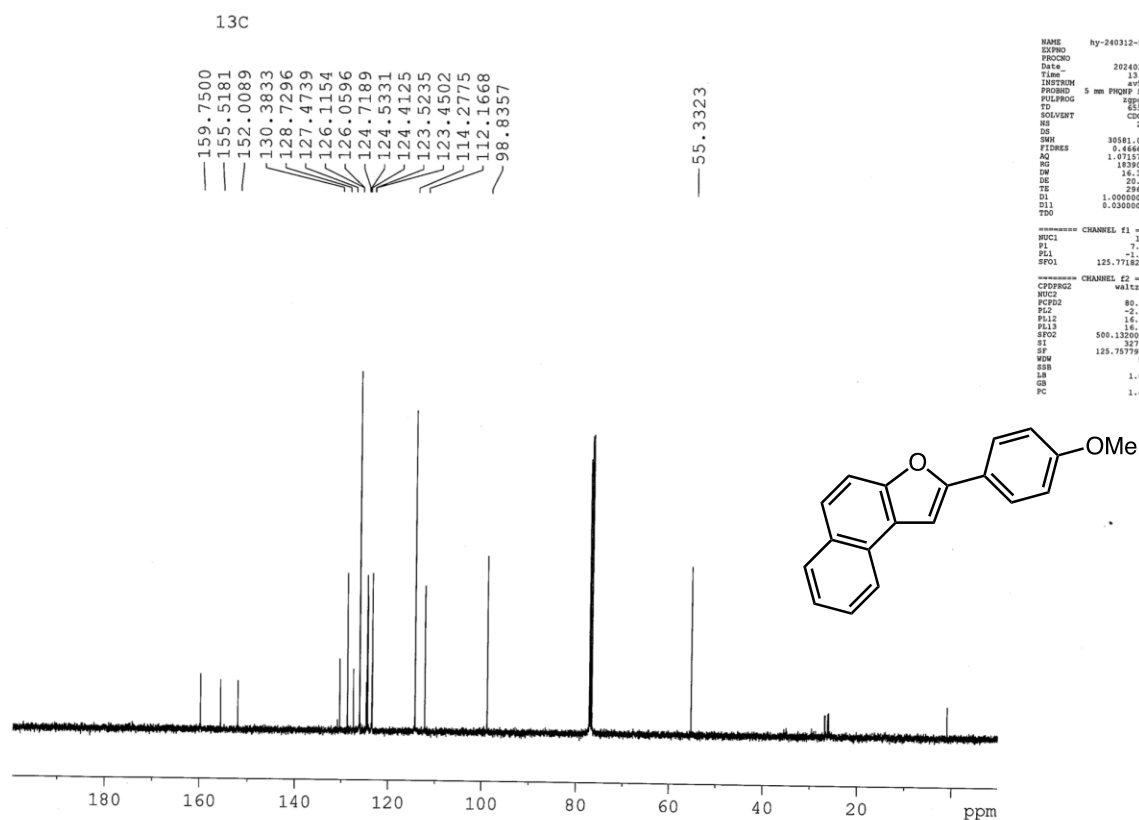
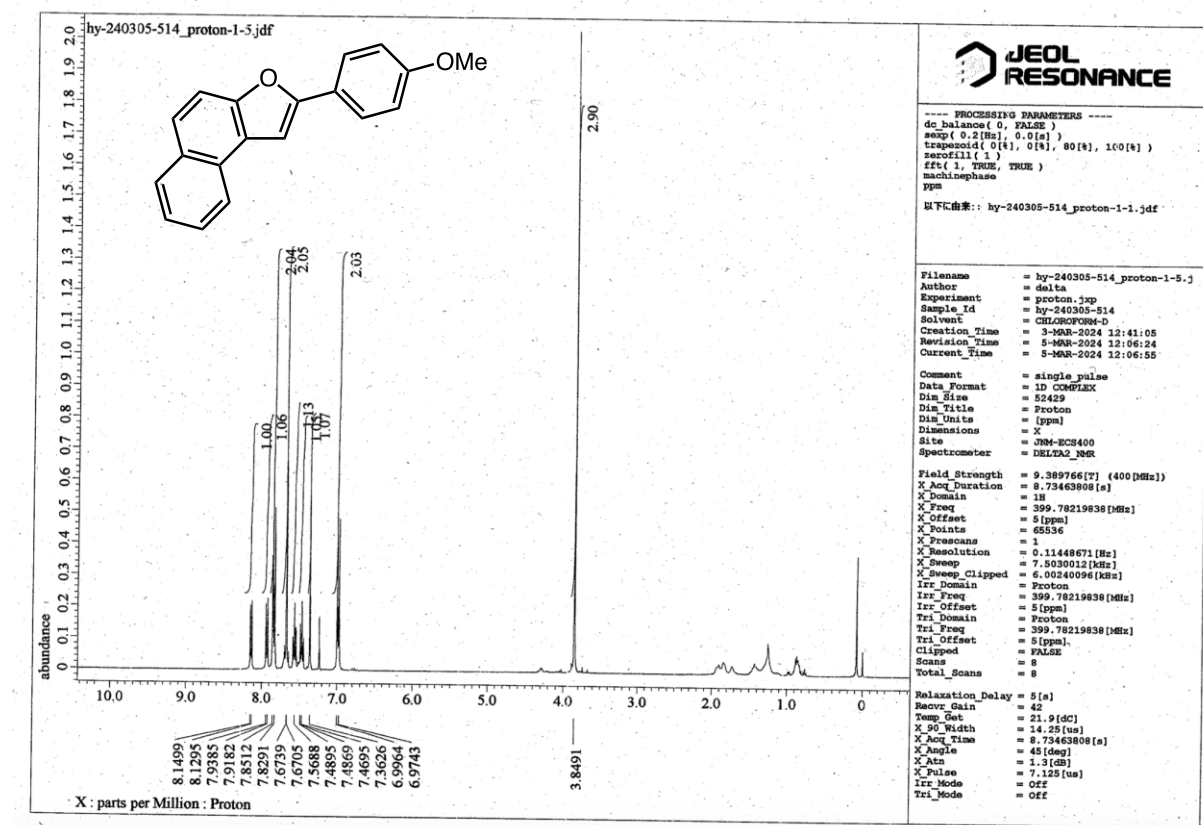
# 2-(3-Methylphenyl)naphtho[2,1-b]furan (3bb)



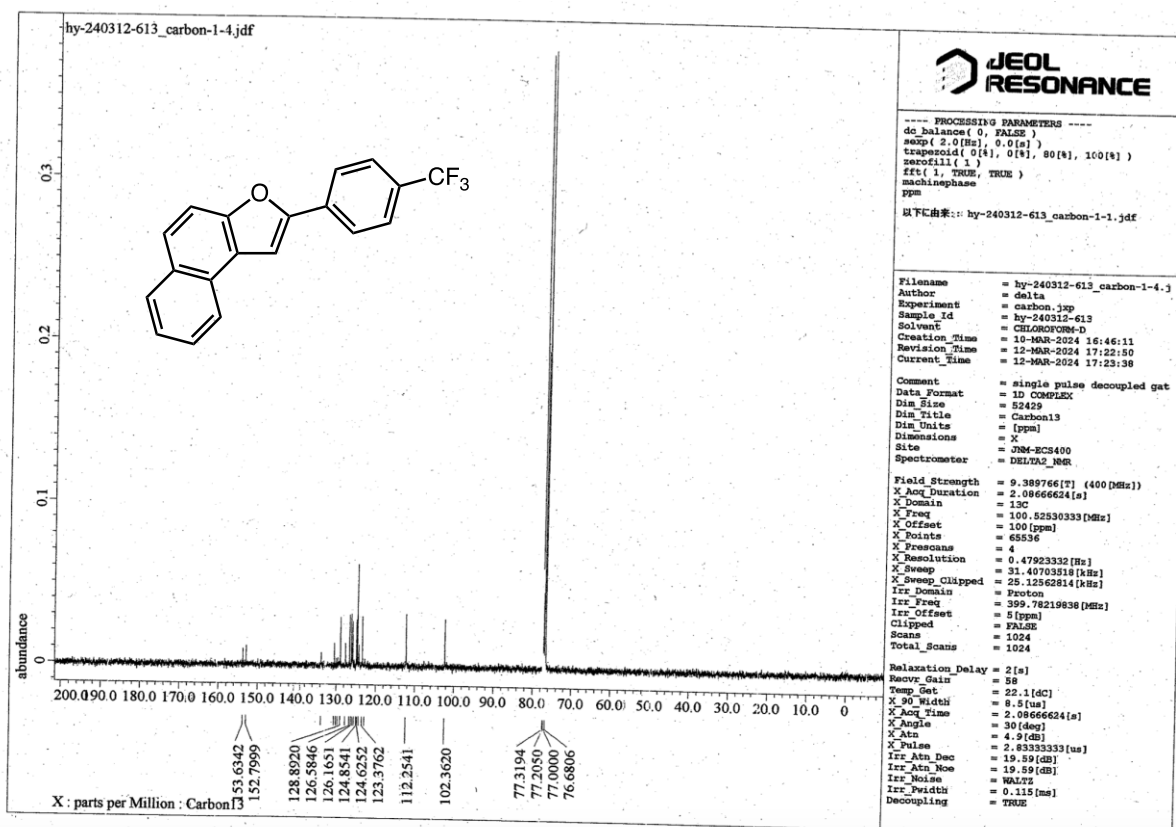
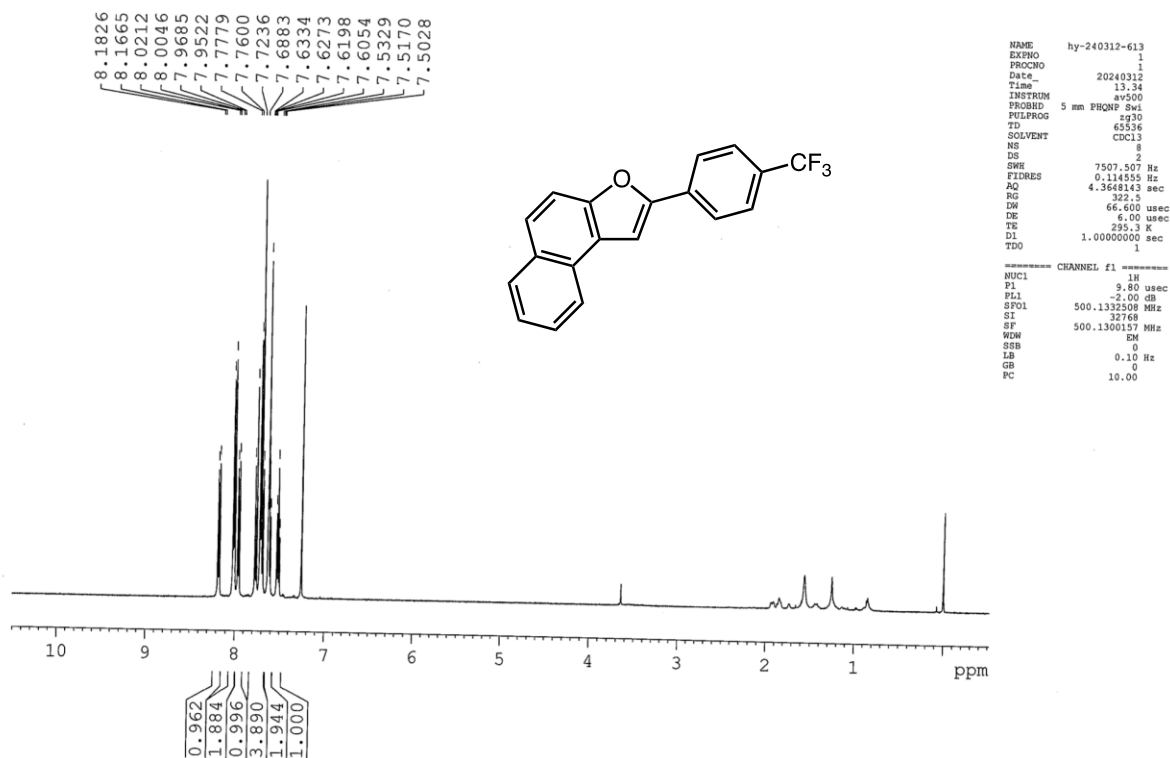
## 2-[4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl]naphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (3bd)

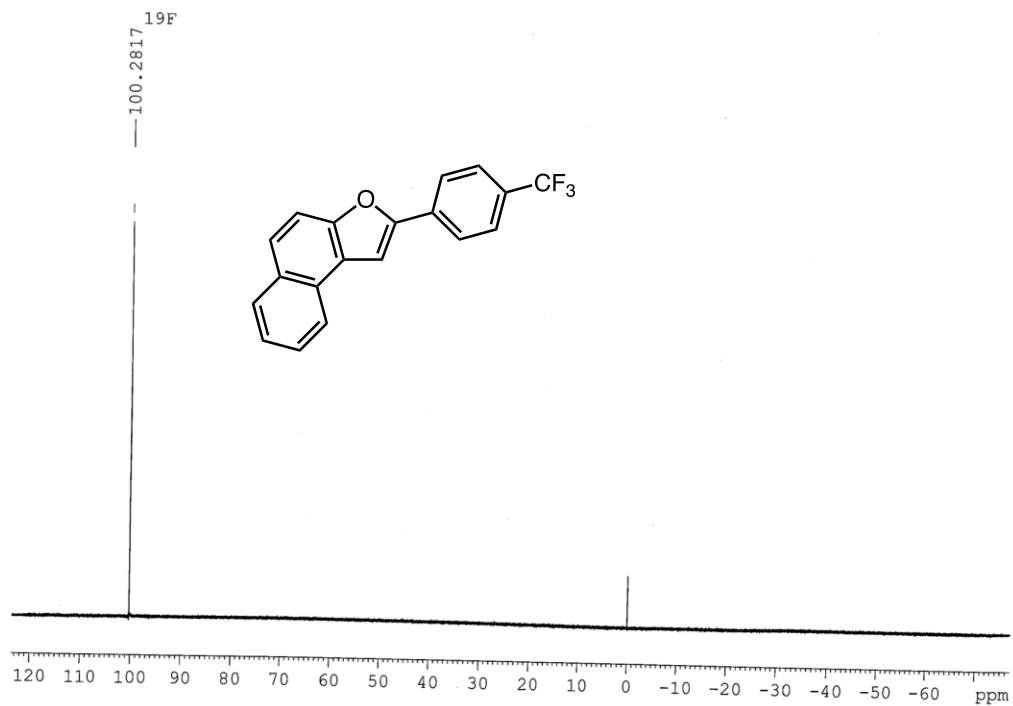


# 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)naphtho[2,1-b]furan (3bf)



### 2-[4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl]naphtho[2,1-*b*]furan (3bg)



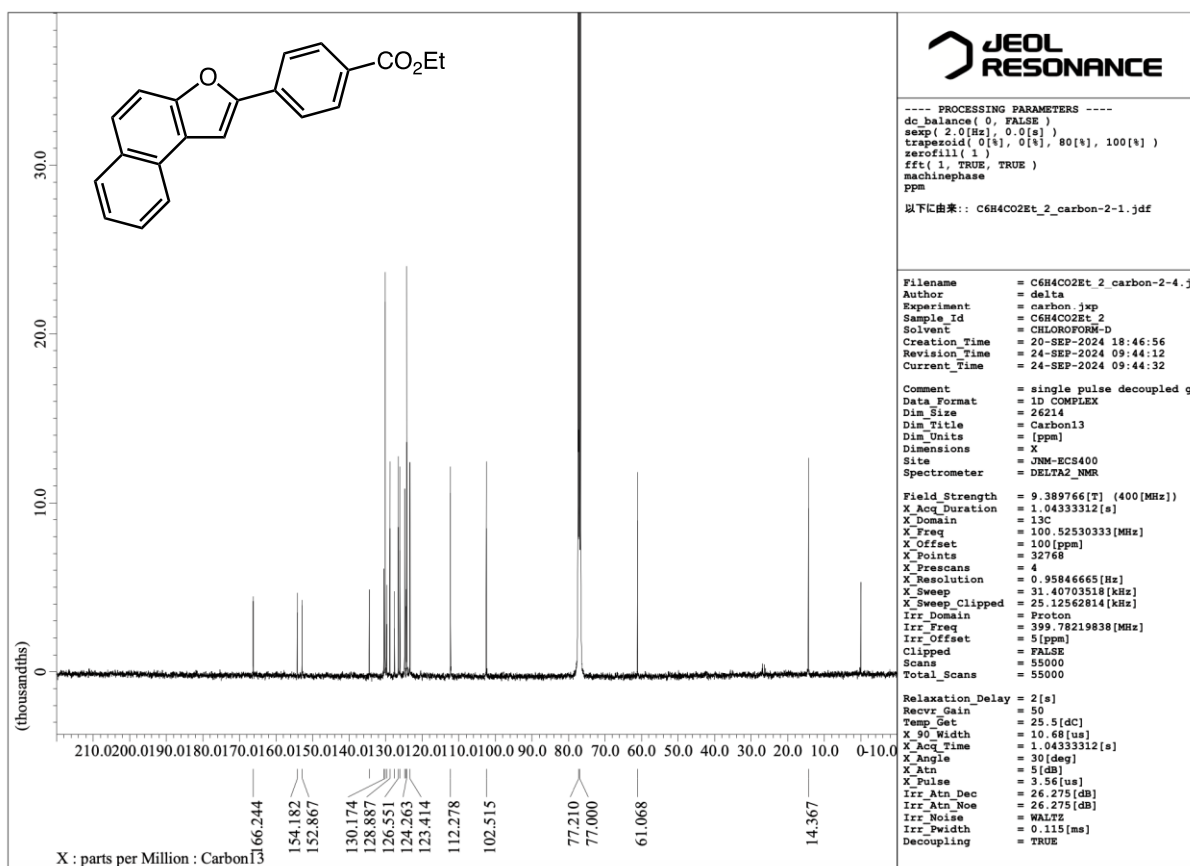
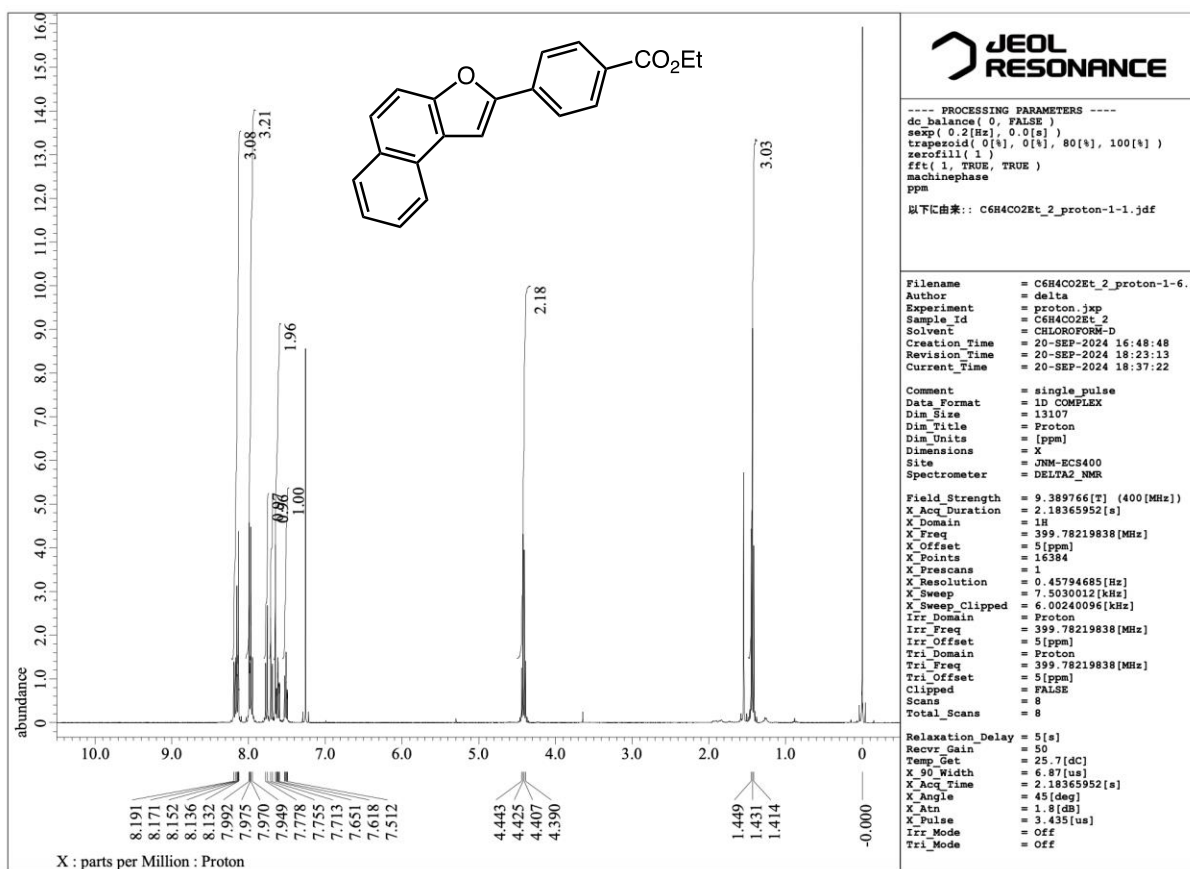


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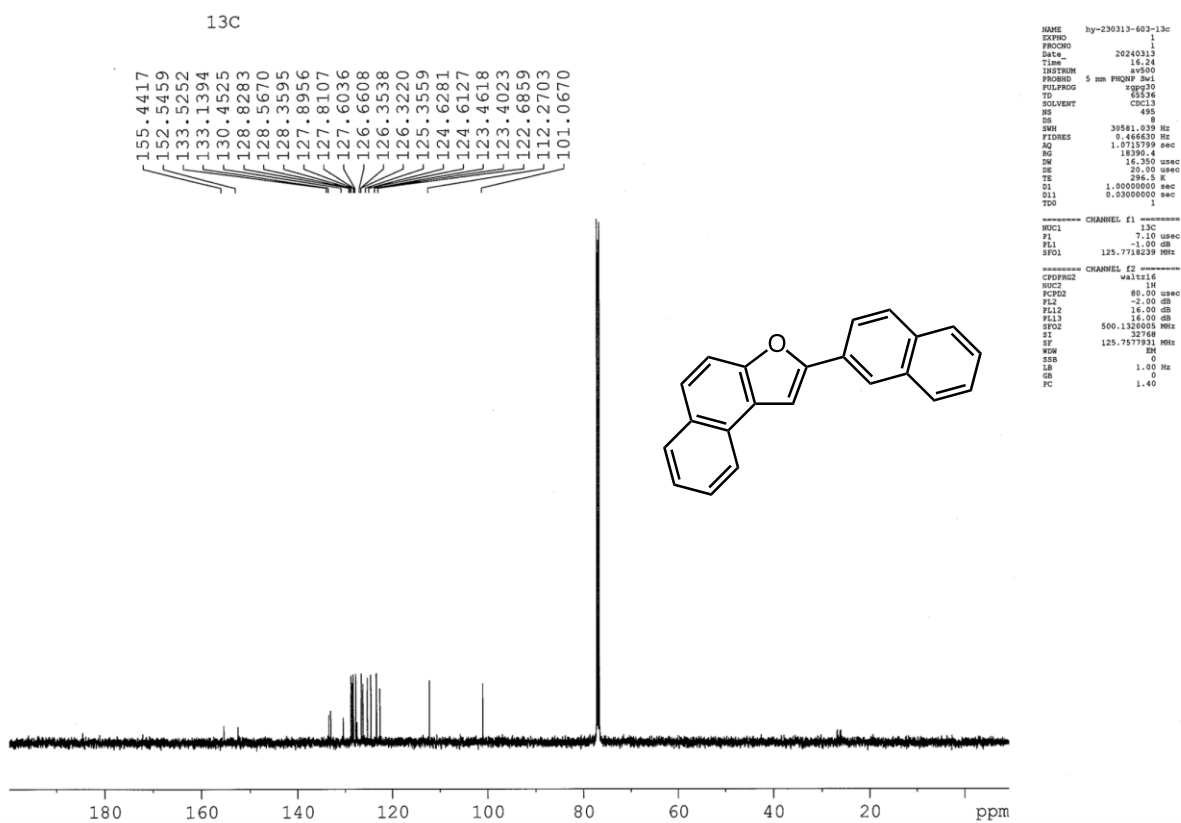
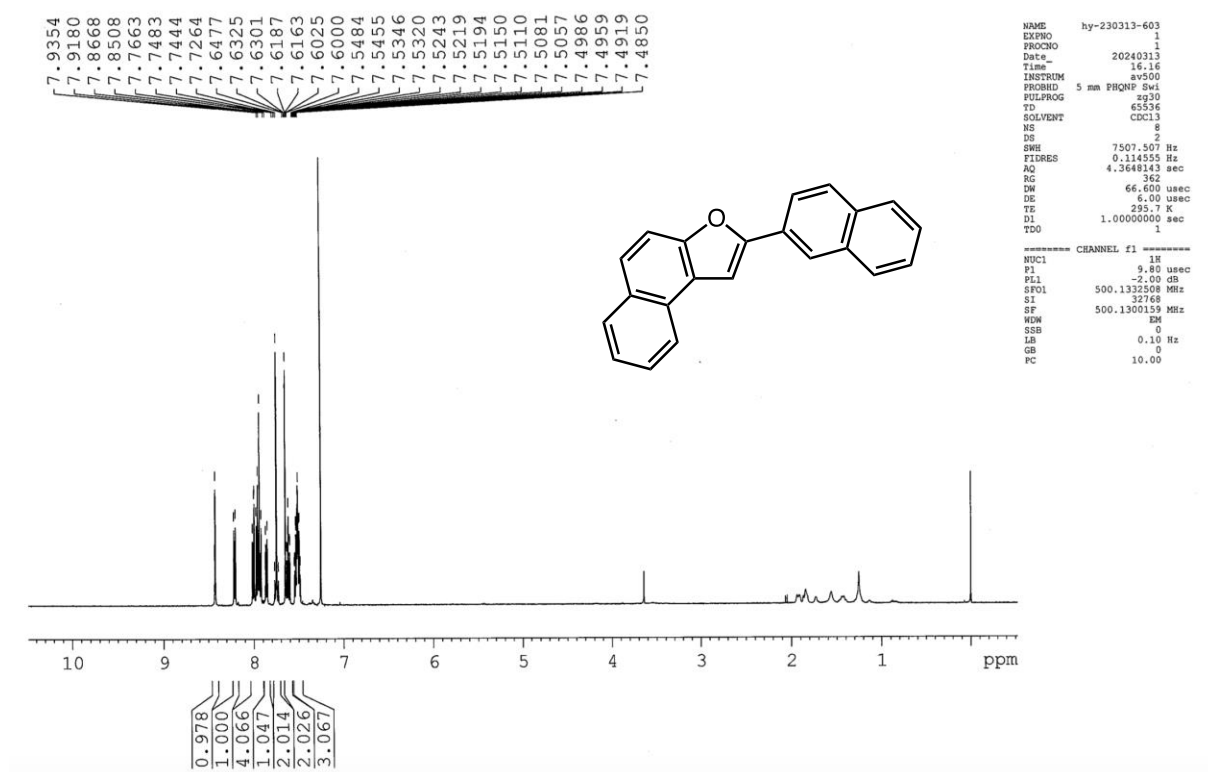
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Time      10.41
INSTRUM   av500
PROBHD    5 mm QNP 1H/13
PULPROG   zgpg30
TD         262144
SOLVENT   CDCl3
NS         8
DS         4
SWH        94339.625 Hz
FIDRES     0.471695 Hz
AQ         1.0600553 sec
RG         1280.2
DW         5.300 usec
DE         6.00 usec
TE         298.0 K
DL         10.00000000 sec
TDO        1
===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1       19F
P1         4.60 usec
PL1        -1.00 dB
SFO1       470.527040 MHz
SI         131072
SF         470.5157541 MHz
WDW        EM
SSB        0
LB         1.00 Hz
GB         0
PC         3.00

```

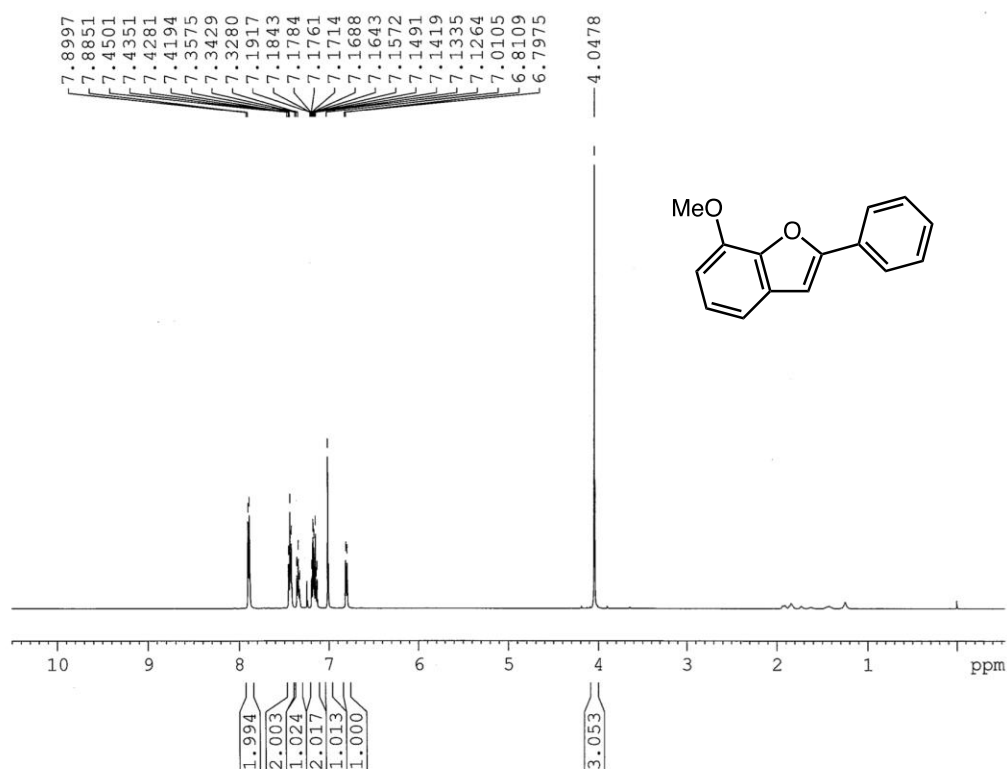
# Ethyl 4-(naphtho[2,1-b]furan-2-yl)benzoate (3bh)



## 2-(Naphthalen-2-yl)naphtho[2,1-b]furan (3bi)



# 7-Methoxy-2-phenylbenzofuran (3ca)



```

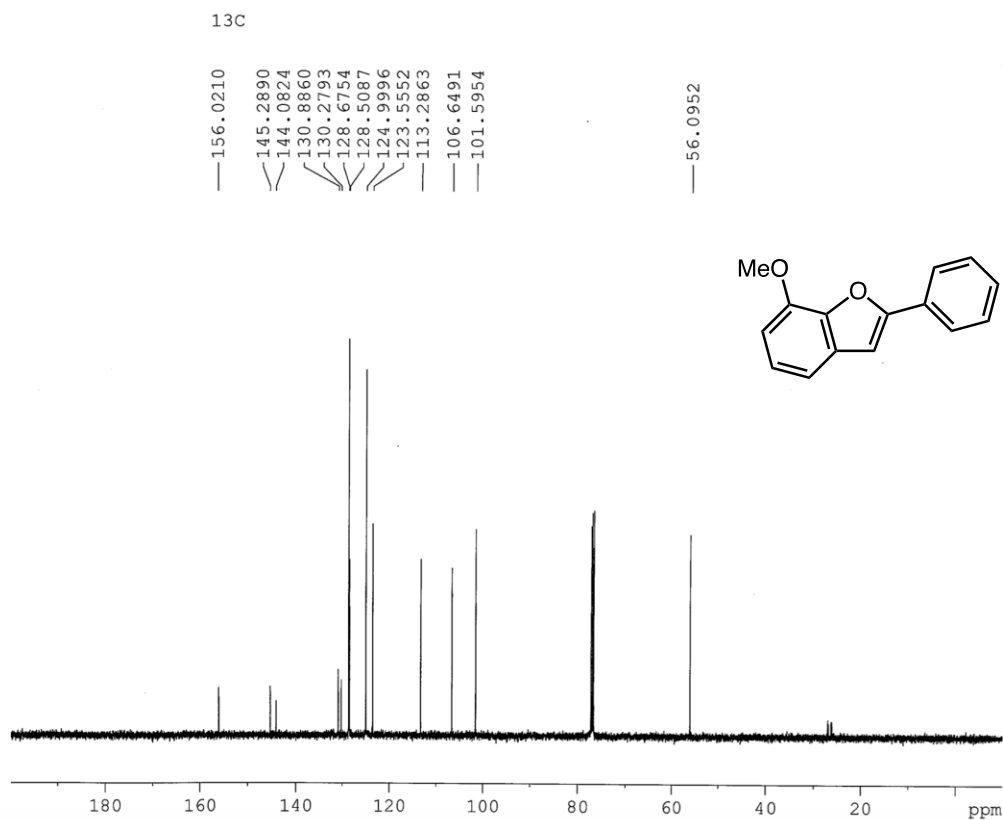
NAME hy-230313-512
EXPNO 1
PROCNO 1
Date_ 20240313
Time 16.04
INSTRUM av500
PROBHD 5 mm PBOHF S41
PULPROG zg30
TD 65536
SOLVENT CDCl3
NS 8
DS 2
SWE 7507.507 Hz
FIDRES 0.114555 Hz
AQ 4.364813 sec
RG 114
DM 66.600 usec
DE 6.00 usec
TE 295.6 K
D1 1.00000000 sec
TD0 1

```

```

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1 1H
P1 9.80 usec
PL1 -2.00 dB
SFO1 500.1332508 MHz
SI 32768
SF 500.1300208 MHz
WDW EM
SSB 0
LB 0.10 Hz
GB 0
PC 10.00

```



```

NAME hy-230313-512-13c
EXPNO 1
PROCNO 1
Date_ 20240313
Time 18.09
INSTRUM av500
PROBHD 5 mm PBOHF S41
PULPROG zgpg30
TD 65536
SOLVENT CDCl3
NS 8
DS 8
SWE 30581.039 Hz
FIDRES 0.466620 Hz
AQ 1.0713799 sec
RG 18390.4
DM 16.350 usec
DE 20.00 usec
TE 296.2 K
D1 1.00000000 sec
D11 0.03000000 sec
TD0 1

```

```

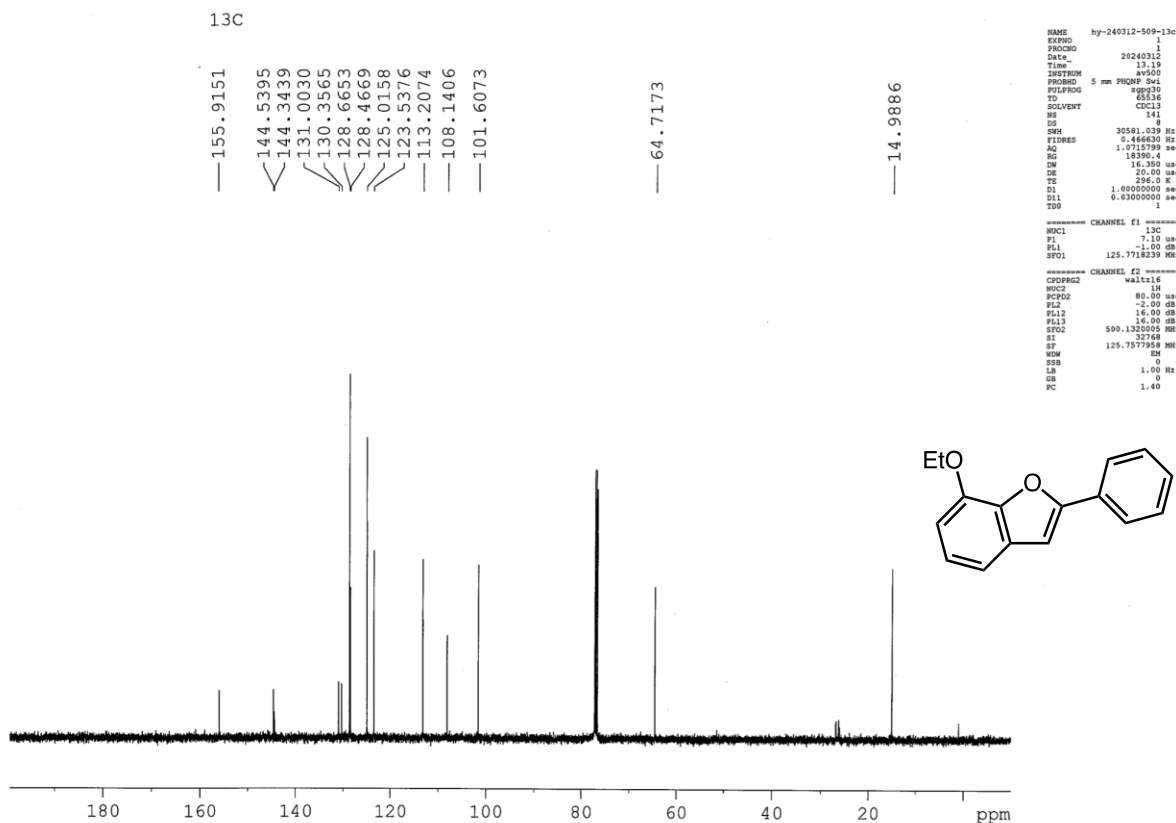
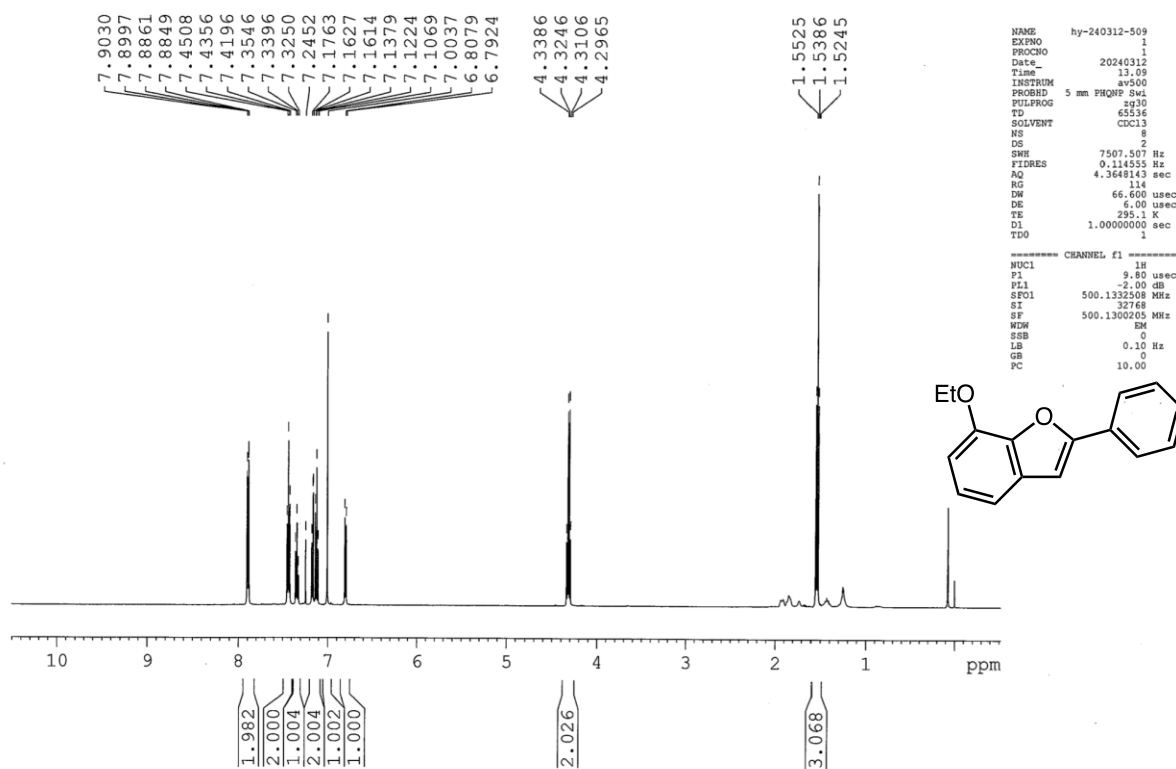
===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1 13C
P1 7.10 usec
PL1 -1.00 dB
SFO1 125.7718230 MHz

===== CHANNEL f2 =====
wait116
NUC2 1H
PCPD2 80.00 usec
PL2 -2.00 dB
PL12 16.00 dB
PL13 16.00 dB
SFO2 500.1320858 MHz
SI 32768
SF 125.7577974 MHz
WDW EM
SSB 0
LB 1.00 Hz
GB 0
PC 1.40

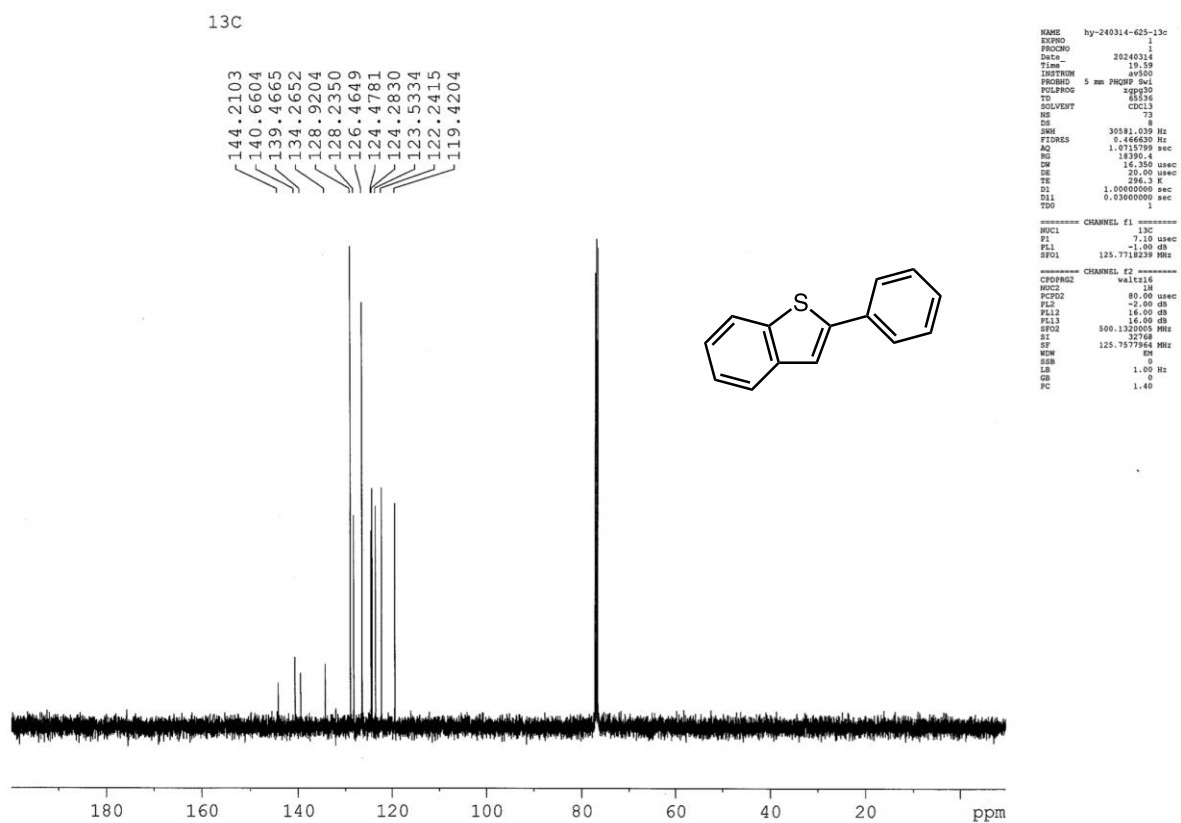
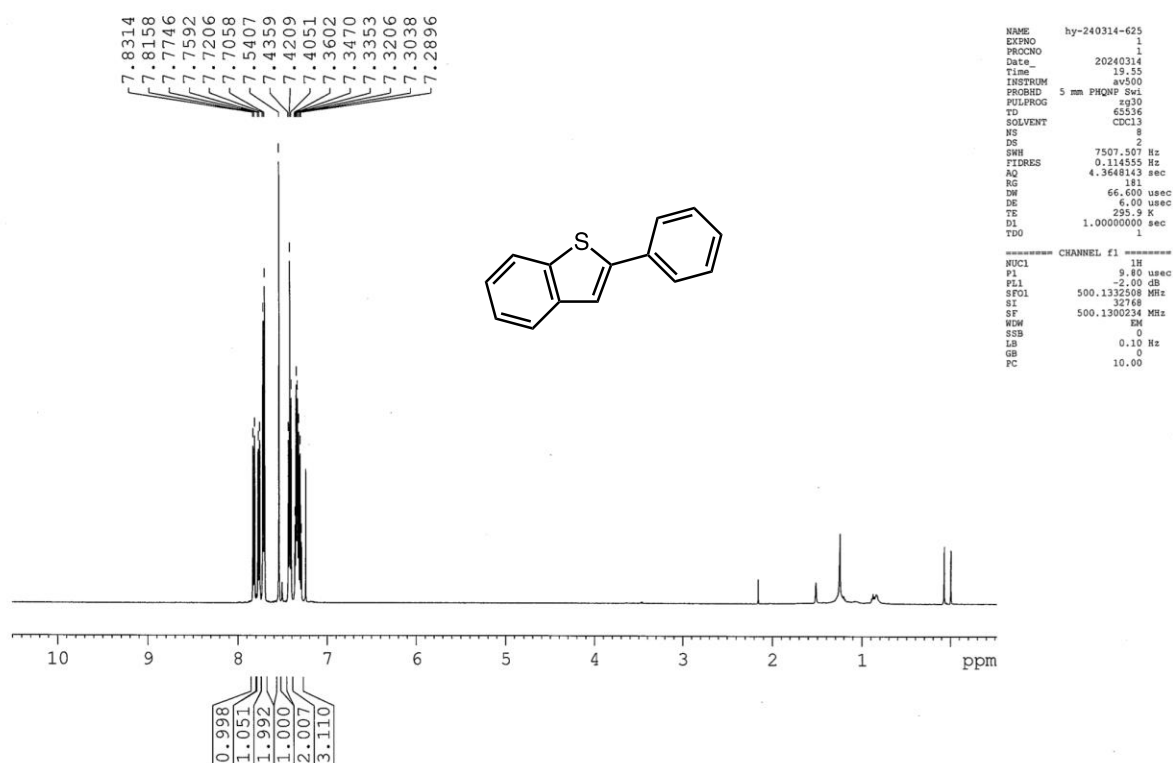
```



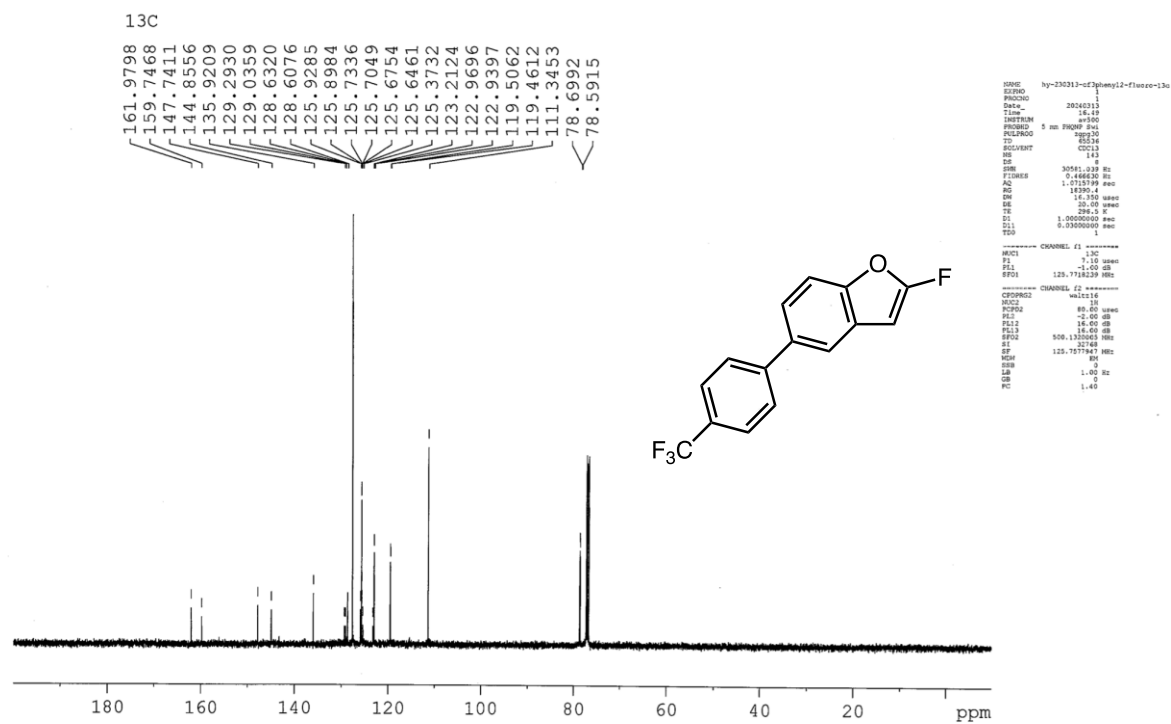
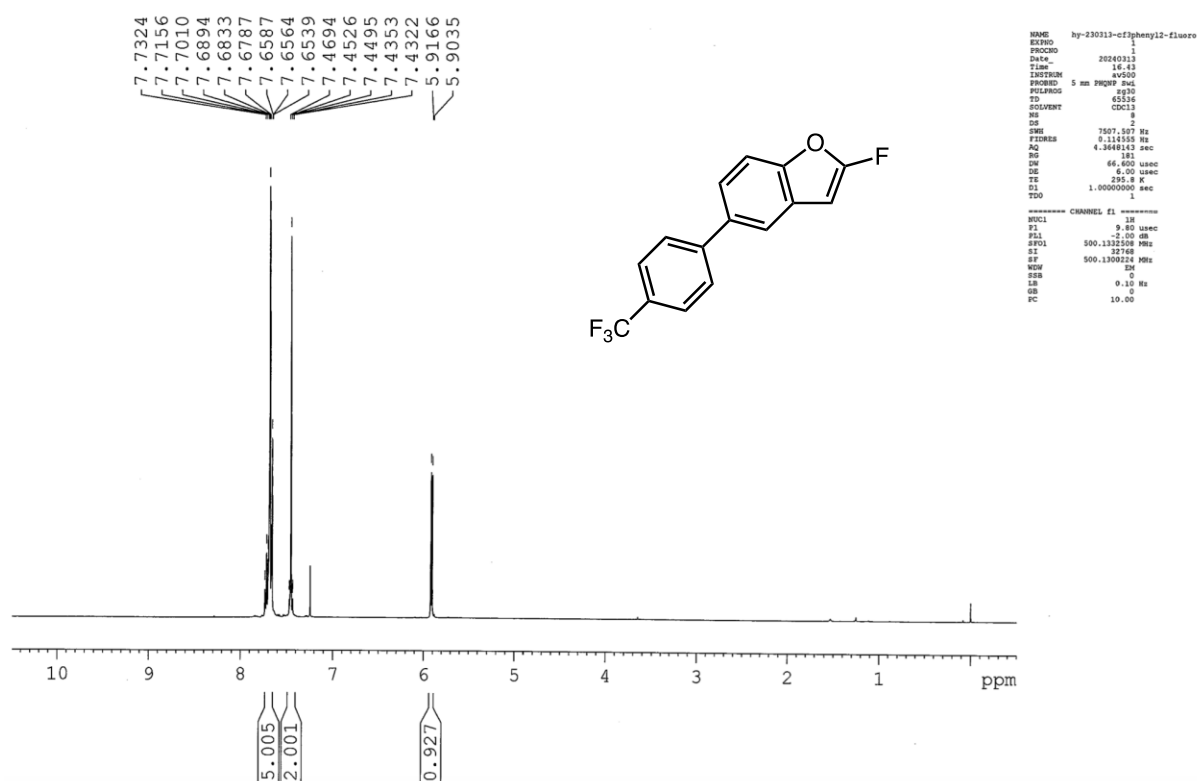
# 7-Ethoxy-2-phenylbenzofuran (3da)

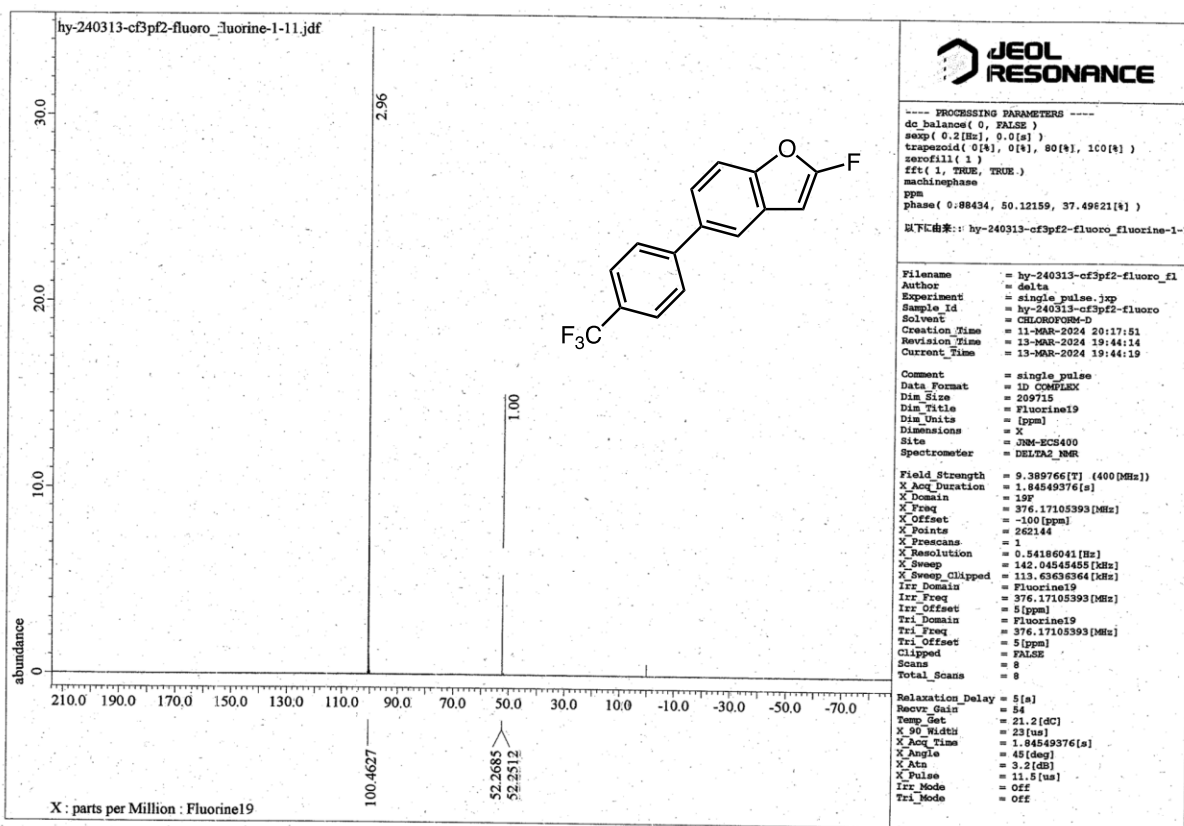


## 2-Phenylbenzo[*b*]thiophene (5)

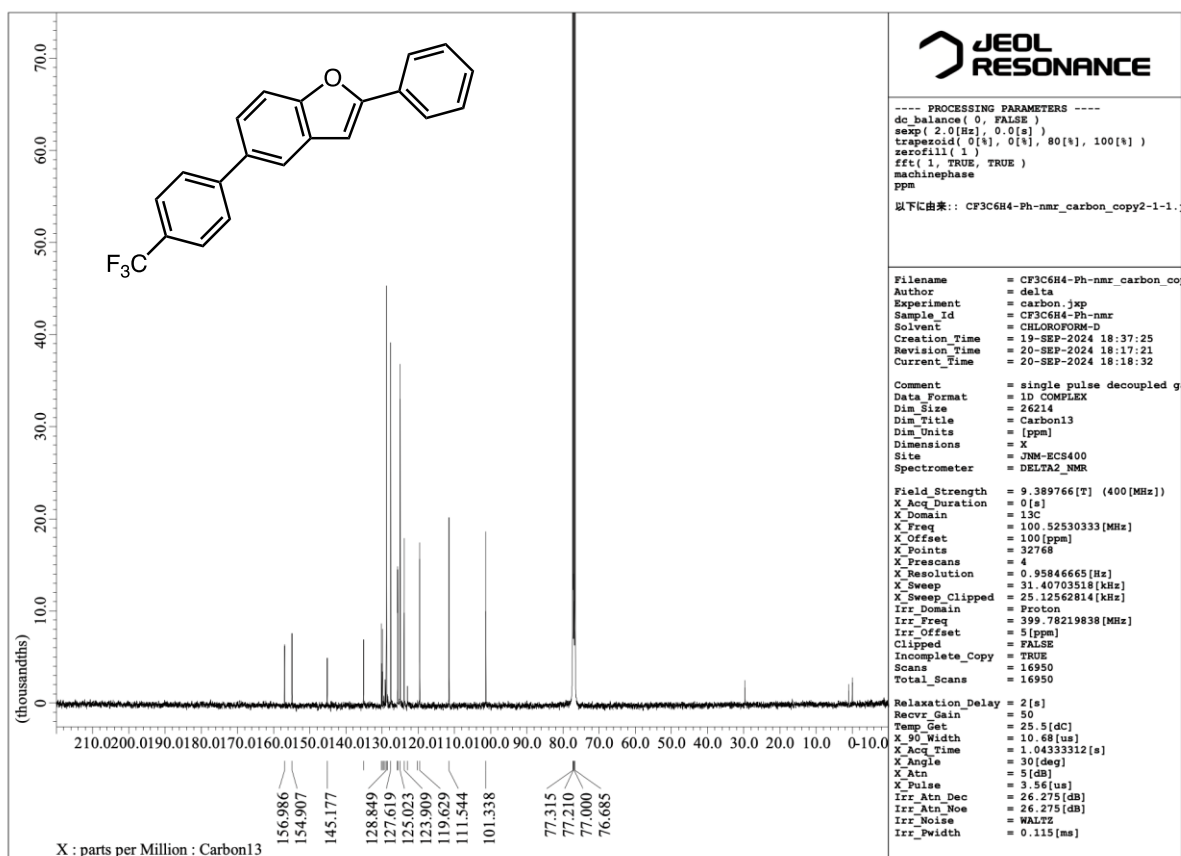
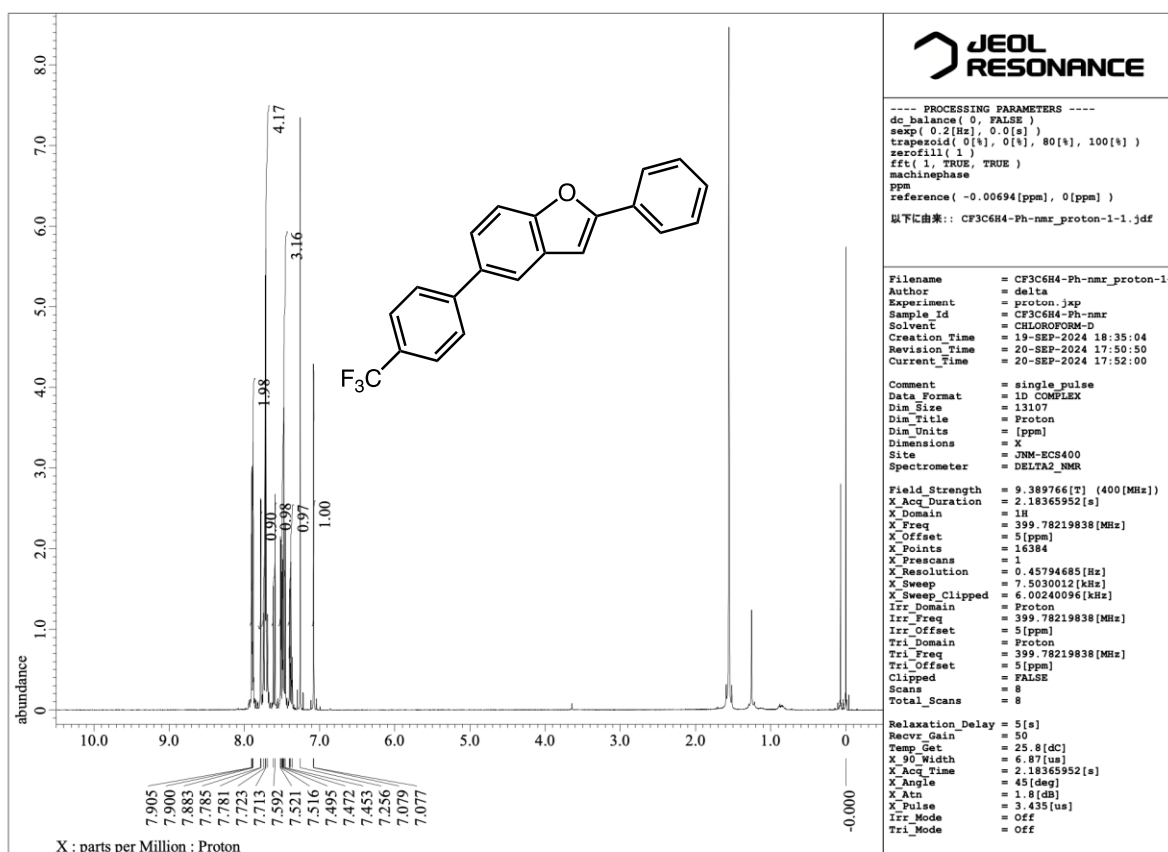


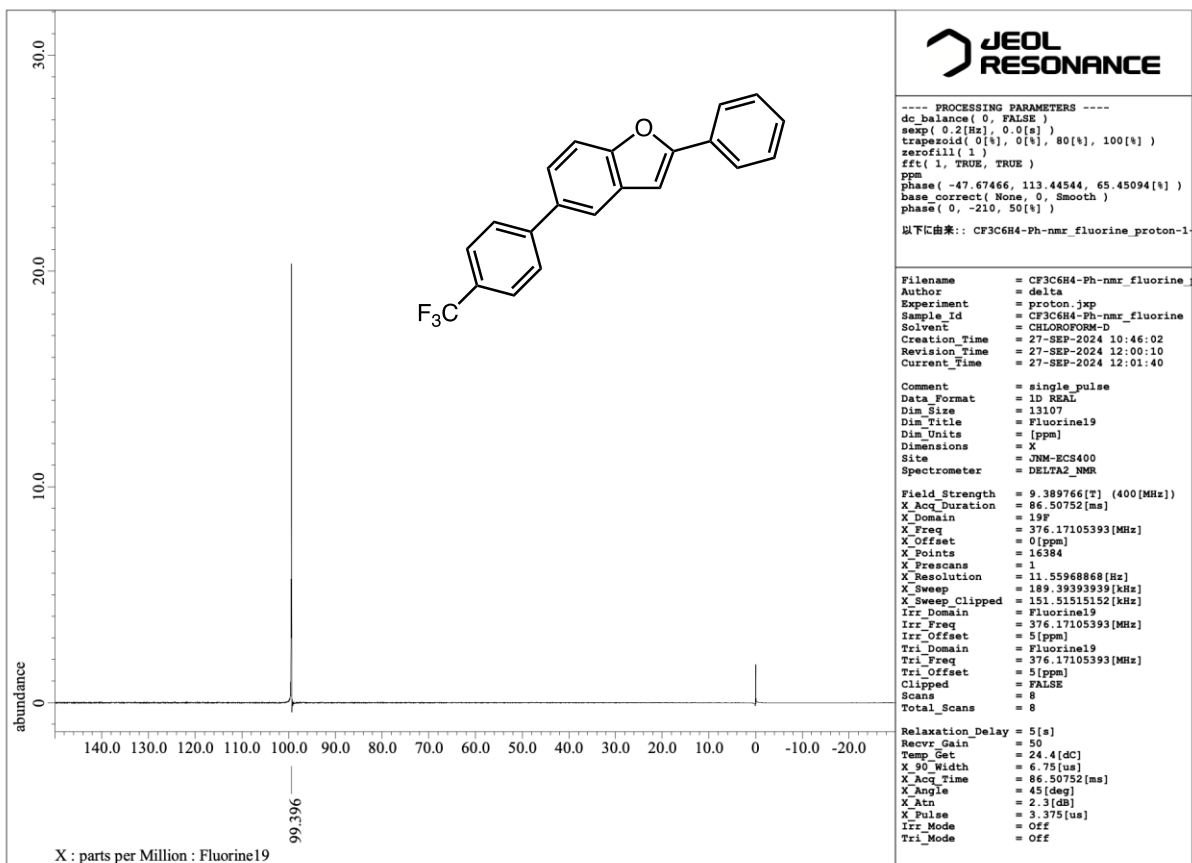
### 2-Fluoro-5-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]benzofuran (1f)





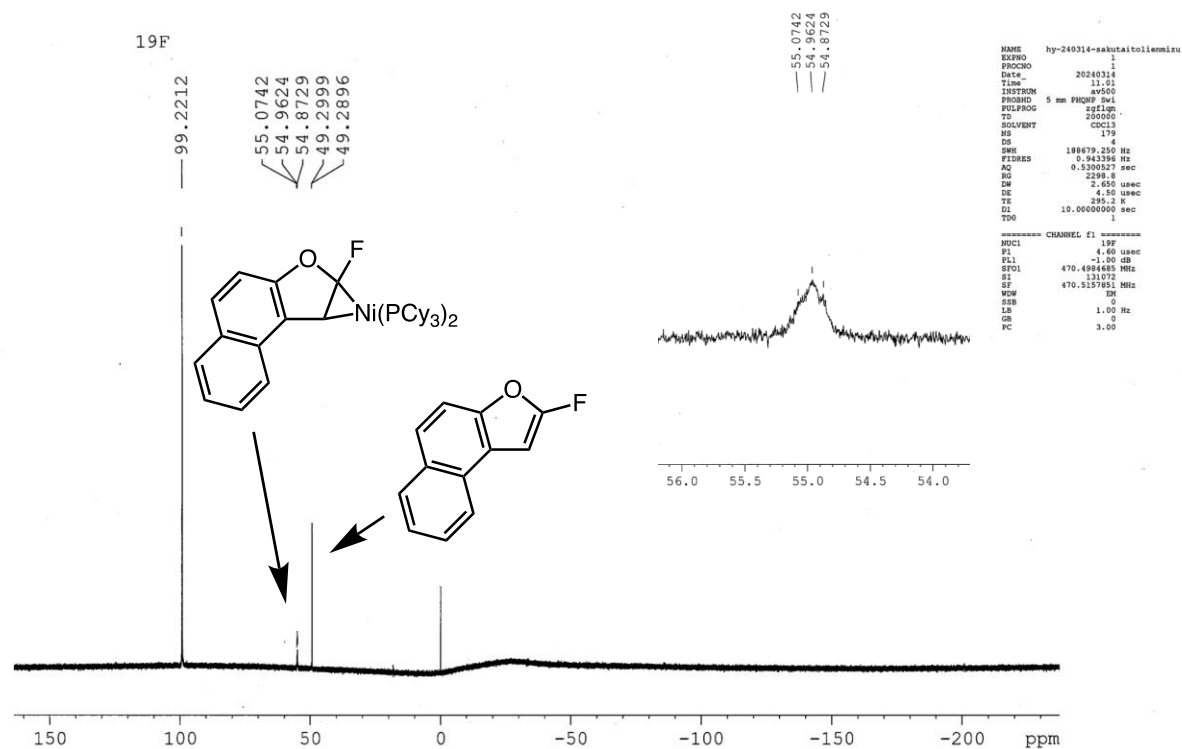
## 2-Phenyl-5-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]benzofuran (3fa)



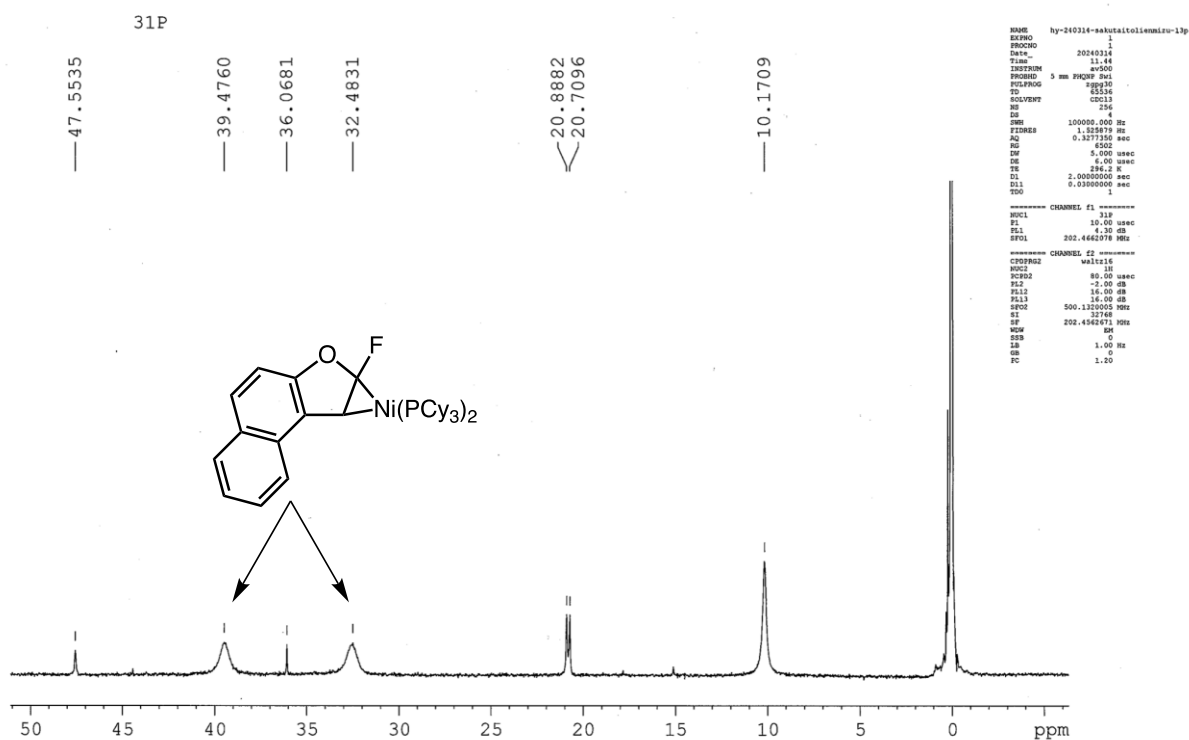


## 8. NMR and HRMS charts of nickelacyclopropane E<sub>b</sub>

### <sup>19</sup>F NMR



### <sup>31</sup>P NMR



# HRMS

