TOTAL SYNTHESIS OF MARINE DERIVED NATURAL PRODUCTS: KEALIIQUINONE AND AGELIFERIN

by

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ABSTRACT

TOTAL SYNTHESIS OF MARINE DERIVED NATURAL PRODUCTS: KEALIIQUINONE AND AGELIFERIN

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An intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction of vinylimidazoles has been developed and applied towards the total synthesis of benzimidazole and tetrahydrobenzimidazole natural products, namely kealiiquinone and ageliferin. A common feature of many imidazole-containing natural products including those of interest in this dissertation is the presence of a 2-amino or 2imidazolone substituent.

A novel method for achieving C2 substitutions has been developed employing chlorocontaining reagents. *N*-Chlorosuccinimide in conjunction with a base has been used to give 2imidazolones directly from imidazolium salts. This method was then optimized through the use of sodium hypochlorite. This chemistry provides the desired 2-imidazolones in yields ranging from 46-88% in benzimidazole and 37-80% in simple imidazole systems. *N*-Chlorocarbamates have been used to give 2-iminoimidazoles in yields of 72-95% in benzimidazoles and 36-71% in simple imidazoles providing an intermediate that can be easily deprotected to unmask a 2amino functionality. The major advantage of these procedures is the ease of functionalization without the need for strictly anhydrous conditions and the use of strong bases (i.e. BuLi and LDA).

An approach to the total synthesis of kealiiquinone is described involving construction of a propynoate system containing a vinyl imidazole and an aryl substituted, which then participates in the intramolecular Diels-Alder chemistry. The resulting heterocycle was oxidized to give a benzimidazole intermediate, and utilizing the sodium hypochlorite oxidation protocol efficiently gave a 2-imidazolone intermediate in 74% from which the remaining quinone ring was constructed. Among the final transformations of this synthesis was a benzyl deprotection involving triflic acid which was effective at removing the benzyl group as well as an aryl methyl ether resulting in isolation of a phenol intermediate. Methylation protocols have been investigated; however, conditions for a chemoselective *o*-methylation have yet to be identified.

The Diels-Alder chemistry of propynoates has been extended to access the core structure of ageliferin. Optimization was necessary at points leading up to and after the Diels-Alder reaction. The construction of a key ester intermediate was prepared from a propargyl alcohol directly using a cyano-mediated, tandem oxidation/substitution protocol greatly reducing the steps needed for the preparation of the propiolate derivative. Following the Diels-Alder reaction, the stereochemistry of ageliferin was set through a Pd(OAc)₂ catalyzed hydrogenation of a double bond to give an all *cis* tetrahydrobenzimidazole intermediate. Methanolysis of a lactone functionality of this intermediate provided the desired *trans* relationship as a result of epimerization of the ring opened product, intersecting a previous route.

Therefore, we have provided examples of benzimidazole and tetrahydrobenzimidazole alkaloids that can be accessed through an intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction of easily prepared propynoate systems. Continued studies are underway to achieve the final transformations of these target molecules, as well as utilizing intermediates of these syntheses to access related natural products, particularly in the case of ageliferin.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- APCI Atmospheric-pressure chemical ionization
- ATR Attenuated total reflectance
- Boc *tert*-Butoxycarbonyl
- BOM Benzyloxymethyl
- Bn Benzyl
- CDI Carbonyl diimidazole
- DCC Dicyclohexylcarbodiimide
- DBU 1,8-Diazabicycloundec-7-ene
- DIBAL Diisobutylaluminum hydride
- DMAP 4-Dimethylaminopyridine
- DMAS *N,N*-Dimethylaminosulfonyl
- DMF *N,N*-Dimethylformamide
- DMP Dess-Martin periodinane
- EDCI 1-Ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide
- ESI Electrospray ionization
- FT Fourier Transform
- GI₅₀ Concentration that yields 50% growth
- HRMS High resolution mass spectroscopy
- HSV Herpes simplex virus
- IBX 2-lodoxybenzoic acid

IC ₅₀	Half maximal inhibitory concentration		
im	Imidazole		
LC ₅₀	Median lethal dose		
LDA	Lithium diisopropylamide		
LiHMDS	Lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide		
LTMP	Lithium 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidide		
MIC	Minimum inhibitory concentration		
МОМ	Methoxymethyl		
μW	Microwave		
NBS	N-Bromosuccinimide		
NCS	N-Chlorosuccinimide		
<i>n</i> -BuLi	<i>n</i> -Butyl lithium		
NMR	Nuclear magnetic resonance		
NOE	Nuclear Overhauser effect		
PCC	Pyridinium chlorochromate		
PLE	Pig liver esterase		
РМВ	<i>p</i> -Methoxybenzyl		
PPA	Polyphosphoric acid		
SEM	2-Trimethylsilylethoxymethoxy		
<i>t</i> -BuLi	tert-Butyl lithium		
TBAF	Tetra-n-butylammonium fluoride		
TBS	tert-Butyldimethylsilyl		
TGI	Total growth inhibition		
THF	Tetrahydrofuran		

TfOH	Trifluoromethanesulfonic acid
TMS	Trimethylsilyl
Tris	2,4,6-Triisopropylbenzenesulfonyl
Ts	<i>p</i> -Toluenesulfonyl
<i>p</i> -TSA	p-toluenesulfonic acid
δ	Chemical shift (NMR)

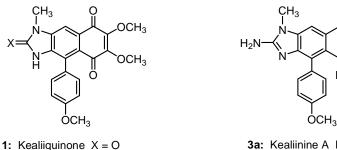
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Benzimidazole-containing natural products have been isolated from marine sponges of the *Leucetta* genus, while those containing a tetrahydrobenzimidazole belong to the oroidin family of bromopyrrole alkaloids.¹ Interesting and potentially therapeutic biological activities are often associated with these alkaloids, as well as synthetically challenging structural motifs making them ideal synthetic targets.

1.1 Benzimidazole Natural Products

A number of imidazole-containing alkaloids including those having a benzimidazole framework have been isolated from the marine sponge *Leucetta chagosensis*. In addition, an amino or imidazolone substituent is typically located at C2 of the imidazole.² The kealiiquinones (**1-2**) and kealiinines (**3a-c**) are representative of this class of natural products that have been isolated from *Leucetta* sponges (Figure 1.1).



1: Kealiiquinone X = O3a: Kealiinine $A R_1 = OH, R_2 = H$ 2: 2-Amino-2-deoxy-kealiiquinone X = NH3b: Kealiinine $B R_1 = OCH_3, R_2 = H$ 3c: Kealiinine $C R_1 = OCH_3, R_2 = OCH_3$

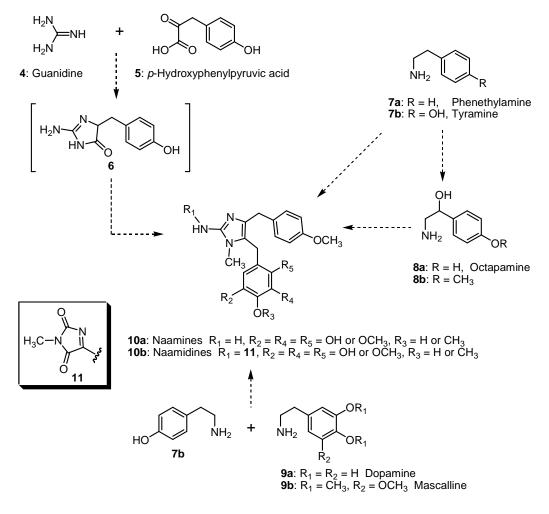
OCH₃

Figure 1.1 Benzimidazole natural products from Leucetta sponges

Kealiiquinone (1) was isolated as long, red needles in 1990 by Scheuer and co-workers from marine sponges harvested off the coast of Saipan and Guam in Micronesia.³ It was found

to be inactive against initial toxicity assays including KB cells and HSV II virus, but no broad scale evaluation was or subsequently been performed. 2-Deoxy-2-aminokealiiquinone (**2**) was isolated in 1997 by Schmitz and co-workers also from a sponge taken from Micronesia, but no biological activity has been reported for this alkaloid.⁴

Kealiinine A-C (**3a-c**) were isolated in 2004 by Proksch and co-workers from sponges collected in Indonesia.⁵ Kealiinine A (**3a**) was obtained as a yellowish brown powder and was found to give a 50% mortality rate in brine shrimp assay, *Artemia salina*, at a concentration of 20 μg/mL. No biological activity data has been reported for the other kealiinines (**3b-c**). It

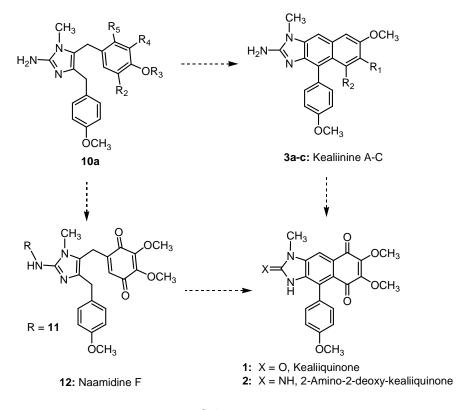


Scheme 1.1

should be noted that recent studies emerging from our lab towards their total syntheses are suggesting that their reported structures may in fact be incorrect.

Biosynthetically, the kealiiquinone (1-2) and kealiinines (3a-c) are proposed to arise through cyclization and oxidation events of *Leucetta* alkaloids having 4,5-disubstituted bisbenzyl frameworks characteristic of the naamines (10a) and naamidines (10b).² Several pathways for the biosynthesis of 10a-b have been proposed; however, no experimental evidence has been presented to support these hypotheses (Scheme 1.1).

Condensation of guanidine (4) and *p*-hydroxyphenylpyruvic acid (5) leading to intermediate **6**, followed by further substitution is one possible biosynthetic pathway that results in the general naamine (**10a**) framework.^{6, 7} Another possible pathway involves the coupling of



Scheme 1.2

two units of phenethylamine (**7a**) or tyramine (**7b**) to give **10a**.⁸ An oxidation event to give octapamine (**8a**) or **8b** prior to coupling can also lead to **10a**. It has also been proposed that tyramine (**7b**) can couple with dopamine (**9a**) or mascalline (**9b**) to give the naamine framework.⁹

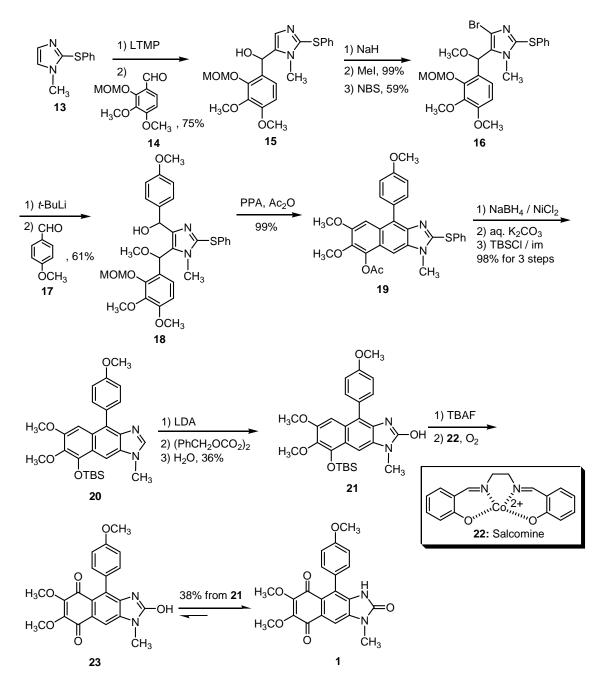
The biosynthesis of kealiinine A-C (**3a-c**) can then proceed via an oxidative cyclization of **10a**. The kealiiquinones (**1-2**) can be produced by oxidation of the kealiinines (**10a** \rightarrow **3** \rightarrow **1-2**) or by oxidation of **10a** to **12** prior to cyclization (**10a** \rightarrow **12** \rightarrow **1-2**) (Scheme 1.2).¹⁰

1.2 Total Synthesis of Kealiiquinone and a Regioisomer

A total synthesis of kealiiquinone was reported by Ohta and co-workers in 1995 starting from 2-thiophenylimidazole (**13**) (Scheme 1.3).^{11, 12} Chemoselective C5 lithiation with lithium tetramethylpiperidide (LTMP) followed by addition of aldehyde **14** resulted in the formation of alcohol **15**. This alcohol was then converted to methyl ether **16** upon treatment with NaH, followed by MeI, and C4 bromination with NBS. Metal-halogen exchange with *t*-BuLi, then addition of *p*-anisaldehyde (**17**) resulted in C4 alkylation to give alcohol **18**. Acid-mediated cyclization of **18** to give naphthimidazole **19** was achieved with polyphosphoric acid (PPA); however, the acidic conditions also caused the MOM deprotection of the phenolic hydyroxyl group which was re-protected as the acetate. Desulfurization was accomplished with a NaBH₄/NiCl₂ complex, followed by deprotection of the acetate, then re-protection of the phenol with TBSCI to give **20**. C2 functionalization was achieved by lithiation with LDA, then quenching with dibenzyl peroxydicarbonate, and finally addition of water to give **21**. TBS deprotection and oxidation with salcomine (**22**) provided kealiiquinone (**1**) in 11 steps and 2.6% overall yield.

In his synthesis, Ohta has taken advantage of the well-documented C-H acidity trends of imidazoles allowing substitutions to occur following the order of C5, then C4 of C2 substituted systems.^{13, 14} In addition, C2 functionalization was accomplished through a common, but poor

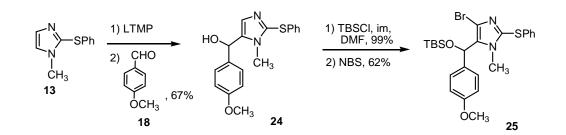
yielding metalation/electrophilic quench sequence involving a peroxide to ultimately lead to the desired imidazolone.

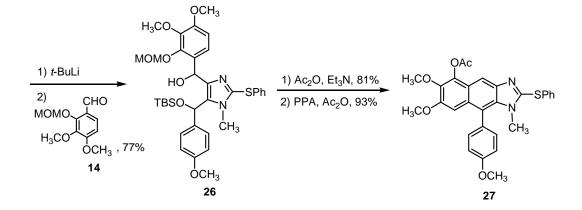


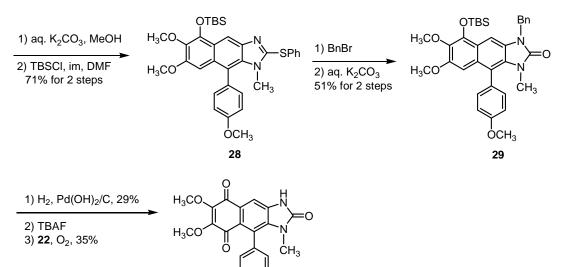
Scheme 1.3

The synthesis of a regioisomer of kealiiquinone was reported by Ohta and co-wokers in 2001.¹⁵ In this synthesis, a new method of C2 functionalization utilizing imidazolium salts was developed and applied instead of the previously reported low yielding procedure. Following a similar approach to that applied to the synthesis of kealiiquinone, 2-thiophenylimidazole (13) was treated with LTMP, followed by *p*-anisaldehyde (17) to give the C5 alcohol 24 that was converted to the silyl ether, and brominated with NBS to give 25 (Scheme 1.4). Metal-halogen exchange and addition of aldehyde 14 gave alcohol 26 which was protected as the acetate prior to cyclization with PPA and Ac_2O to give naphthimidazole 27. The acetate protecting group was exchanged for TBS providing intermediate 28. Treatment of 28 with BnBr produced an imidazolium salt that when heated in aq. K_2CO_3 resulted in substitution of the thiophenyl C2 substituent to provide the 2-imidazolone 29. Hydrogenation to remove the benzyl group, deprotection of the TBS ether, and then oxidation with salcomine (22) provided the regioisomer of kealiiquinone **30** in 12 steps and 0.62% overall yield.

Both synthetic kealiiquinone (1) and the regioisomer **30** were screened against 39 human cancer cell lines by the Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research.¹⁵ Among the 39 cell lines screened, five were breast cancers (HBC-4, BSY-1, HBC-5, MCF-7 and MDA-MB-231), six were central nervous system cancers (U251, SF-268, SF-295, SF-539, SNB-75, and SNB-78), five were colon cancers (HCC2998, KM-12, HT-29, HCT-15, and HCT-116), seven were lungs cancers (NCI-H23, NCI-H226, NCI-H522, NCI-H460, A549, DMS273, and DMS114), five were ovarian cancers (OVCAR-3, OVCAR-4, OVCAR-5, OVCAR-8, and SK-OV-3), six were stomach cancers (St-4, MKN1, MKN7, MKN28, MKN45, and MKN74), two were renal cancers (RXF-631L and ACHN), two were prostate cancers (DU-145 and PC-3), and a melanoma (LOX-IMVI). The mean concentrations to achieve GI₅₀, TGI, and LC₅₀ against the panel for kealiiquinone (1) and regioisomer **30** were 39.8, 79.4, and 97.7 μ M, and 51.3, 91.2, and 100 μ M. It was also noted by the Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research that both compounds appear to work by a unique mechanism of action presumably from the gathered reactivity profile.





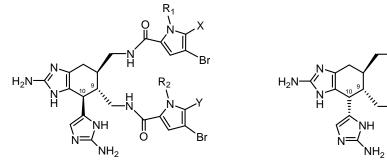




Scheme 1.4

1.3 Tetrahydrobenzimidazole Natural Products

A handful of tetrahydrobenzimidazole containing alkaloids belonging to the oriodin family of natural products have been isolated from a number of marine sponges including those of the Agelas, Axinella and Astrosclera genera.¹ Among them, the ageliferins (**31a-h**) and nagelamides E-G (32a-c) have received increasing attention in recent years. The two differ only in the stereochemistry at C10, and are characterized by the bromopyrrole side-chains and 2-aminoimidazoles.



31a: Ageliferin $R_1 = R_2 = X = Y = H$ **31b:** Bromoageliferin $R_1 = R_2 = X = H$, Y = Br**31c:** Dibromoageliferin $R_1 = R_2 = H$, X = Y = Br**31d:** N(1')-Methylageliferin $R_1 = Me$, $R_2 = X = Y = H$ **31e:** N(1), N(1')-Dimethylageliferin $R_1 = R_2 = Me$, X = Y = H**31f:** N(1')-Methyl-2-bromoageliferin $R_1 = Me$, $R_2 = X = H$, Y = Br**31g:** N(1')-Methyl-2'-bromoageliferin $R_1 = Me$, $R_2 = H$, Y = H, X = Br**31h:** N(1')-methyl-2,2'-dibromoageliferin $R_1 = Me$, $R_2 = H$, X = Y = Br

32a: Nagelamide E X = Y = H 32b: Nagelamide F X = Br, Y = H 32c: Nagelamide G X = Y = Br

Figure 1.2 Oroidin-derived tetrahydrobenzimidazole natural products

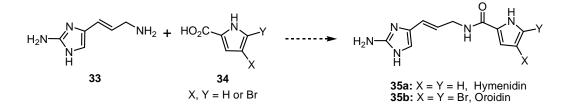
Ageliferin (31a), bromoageliferin (31b), and dibromoageliferin (31c) were isolated and their structures elucidated in 1990 by Kobayashi and co-workers from a sponge of the Agelas species harvested off the coast of Okinawa, Japan,¹⁶ and Rinehart and co-workers from a sponge taken from the Caribbean in 1991.¹⁷ These compounds were suspected of being actomyosin ATPase activators, and therefore, were tested for ATPase activity of myofibrils from rabbit skeletal muscle. It was found that compounds 31a-c elevated activity to 150, 190, and 200% of the control at concentrations of 30, 1, and 1 μ M.¹⁶ The *N*-methyl derivatives (**31d-h**) were isolated in 1996 by Williams and Faulkner.¹⁸

The nagelamides E-G (**32a-c**) were isolated in 2004 also by Kobayashi and co-workers and also from an Okinawan sponge.¹⁹ In this isolation report, nagelamides E-G (**32a-c**) and the ageliferins (**31a-c**) were found to be active against Gram-positive bacteria, *Micrococcus luteus* and *Bacillus subtillis*, and the Gram-negative bacterium *Escherichia coli* (Table 1.1). Nagelamide G (**32c**) also showed inhibitory activity against protein phosphatase type 2A with an $IC_{50} = 13 \mu M$.

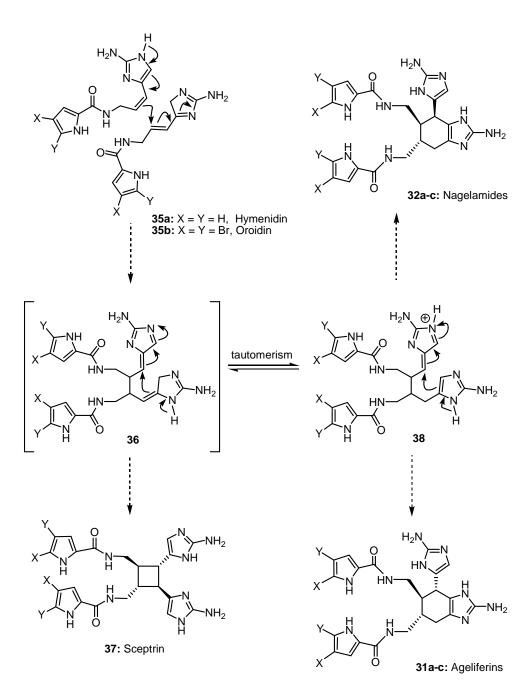
Compd	M. luteus	B. subtillis	E. coli
32a	4.17	16.7	33.3
32b	4.17	16.7	33.3
32c	2.08	16.7	33.3
31a	16.7	33.3	>33.3
31b	>33.3	>33.3	>33.3
31c	4.17	8.33	33.3

Table 1.1 Antibacterial activity of nagelamides E-G and ageliferins (MIC, µg/mL)

The biosynthesis of compounds **31a-h** and **32a-c** are proposed by Al-Mourabit to proceed through a head-to-head dimerization of two different tautomeric forms of hymenidin (**35a**) and/or oroidin (**35b**), two bromopyrrole imidazoles arising from the coupling of **33** and **34** (Scheme 1.5 and 1.6).²⁰ Cyclization of intermediate **36** can then lead to sceptrin (**37**), or intermediate **36** can tautomerize to intermediate **38**. This can then undergo a similar cyclization to give the ageliferins (**31a-c**).

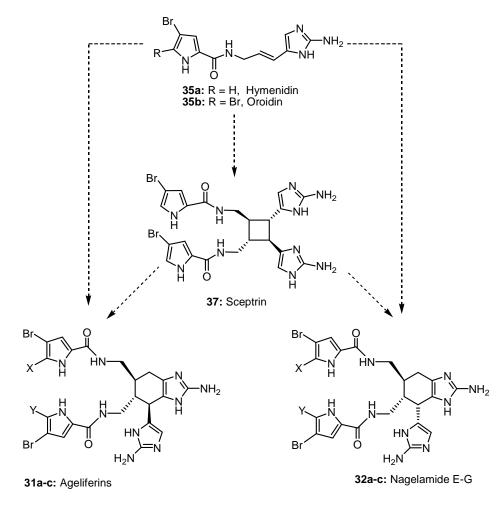


Scheme 1.5



Scheme 1.6

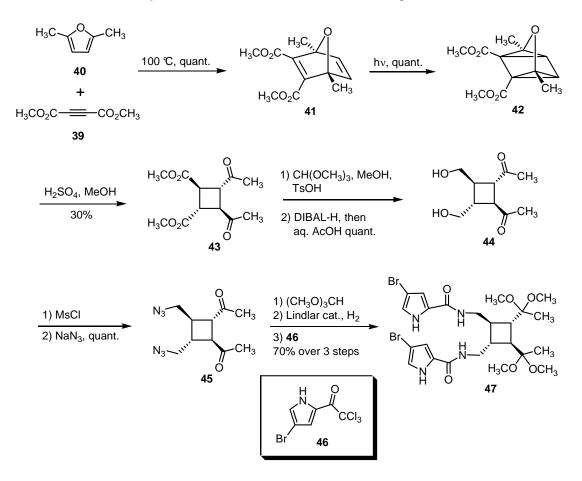
It has also been proposed that the alkaloids of interest can form via a direct, net [4+2] cycloaddition of some combination of hymenidin (**35a**) and/or oroidin (**35b**) (Scheme 1.7).^{16, 19, 21} This has been attempted by Lindel, however, cyclooroidin was produced from these studies.²² Baran has also proposed, based on the total synthesis of ageliferin (**31a**) and nagelamide E (**32a**), that the common precursor of these, and other dimeric alkaloids of this family, may actually be sceptrin (**37**) which undergoes a [1,3]-rearrangement in this case to provide **31a** and **32a**.²³ It should be pointed out that there is no evidence for any of their proposals from experimental studies.



Scheme 1.7

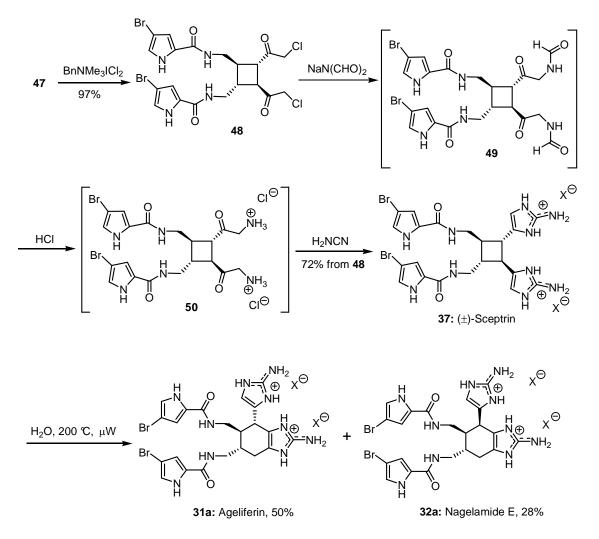
1.4 Baran's Total Synthesis of Ageliferin and Nagelamide E

The total syntheses of the oroidin alkaloids have been led in recent years by Baran and co-workers. Ageliferin (**31a**) and nagelamide E (**32a**) were reported in 2007 through a rearrangement and cyclization of sceptrin (**37**).^{21, 23} The synthesis began with a Diels-Alder reaction of 2,5-dimethylfuran (**40**) and dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD) (**39**) to yield bicycle **41** (Scheme 1.8). A [2+2] cyclization of **41** led to intermediate **42** which when treated with H₂SO₄ caused a fragmentation that resulted in the all *trans*-cyclobutane **43**. Protection of the ketones, followed by reduction of the esters with DIBAL-H gave diol **44**. The diol was



Scheme 1.8

converted to the mesylate and then displaced with NaN_3 to give azide **45**. Protection of the ketones, reduction of the azides with Lindlar catalyst, and then acylation with bromopyrrole **46** gave cyclobutane **47**.

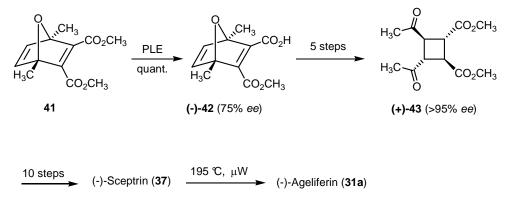




Sceptrin (**37**) was then completed by taking intermediate **47** and treating it with benzyl trimethylammonium dichloriodate to give the bis-chloroketone **48** (Scheme 1.9). The 2-aminoimidazoles were then constructed using sodium diformamide to give **49** which was then hydrolyzed with HCl giving **50**. Lastly, cyanamide was used to complete the ring construction, and the total synthesis of (±)-sceptrin (**37**). Microwave heating of the bis-acetate salt of sceptrin

(**37**) then gave a 50% yield of ageliferin (**31a**), 28% yield of nagelamide E (**32a**), and 12% recovered starting material.

In addition to the racemic total syntheses, an enantioselective synthesis of (-)-sceptrin (**37**) and (-)-ageliferin (**31a**) has been reported, also by Baran, based on the construction of an enantiopure cyclobutane intermediate (+)-43 via enzymatic resolution of 41 that led to (-)-sceptrin (Scheme 1.10).²⁴ The microwave-assisted [1,3]-rearrangement and cyclization of (-)-sceptrin then leads to (-)-agleiferin which was found to give consistent circular dichroism (CD) data as the isolated material.

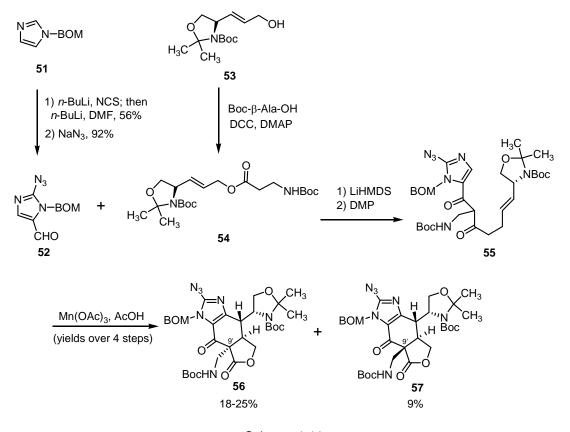




1.5 Chen's Total Synthesis of Ageliferin

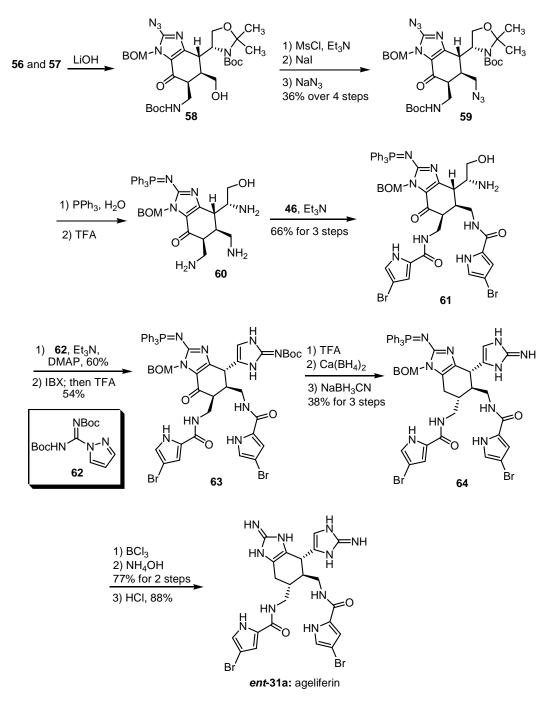
In September of 2011, Chou Chen and co-workers reported the asymmetric total synthesis of *ent*-ageliferin (**31a**) through a Mn(III)-mediated radical cyclization that allowed for the construction of the cyclic framework of ageliferin.²⁵ This synthesis supports the proposed biosynthetic net [4+2] cyclization theory through a single-electron transfer to affect the dimerization of two hymenidin (**35a**) molecules.

The synthesis began with the preparation of the 2-azidoimidazole **52** from BOMprotected imidazole **51** (Scheme 1.11). The C2 position of imidazole **51** was first chlorinated by treatment with BuLi followed by NCS. The 2-chloro intermediate was then treated with additional BuLi followed by DMF to give the formylated product in a one-pot operation. Finally, substitution with NaN₃ provided azide **52**. Separately, allylic alcohol **53** was coupled with Boc- β -Ala-OH to give **54**. The Aldol condensation of **54** and **52** was achieved with LiHMDS and the resulting alcohol was oxidized with Dess-Martin periodinane (DMP) to give **55**.



Scheme 1.11

The construction of intermediate **55** was a critical step since it set up the Mn(OAc)₃ mediated cyclization developed to provide cycloadducts **56** and **57**. Both diastereomers (**56** and **57**) isolated from the cyclization reaction result in **58** after decarboxylation due to an epimerization at C9' (Scheme 1.12). The alcohol of **58** was converted to azide **59** by first converting the alcohol to the mesylate, followed by conversion to the iodide and lastly substitution with NaN₃.



Scheme 1.12

The azido groups were then reduced by a Staudinger reaction, however, the C2 imide was more stable to hydrolysis and was left as a protecting group. Triamine **60** was obtained

following treatment of **59** with TFA, and was then coupled with pyrrole **46** to give the side-chains and intermediate **61**. The remaining imidazole ring was constructed from condensation of **61** with guanidine **62** which cyclized to provide **63** after oxidation with IBX. Acid catalyzed epimerization and reduction of the ketone resulted in **64** of which the BOM group was removed in two steps; first with BCl₃, then basic hydrolysis with NH₄OH. The imide was then hydrolyzed with HCl to give ageliferin (**31a**) which had a CD spectrum consistent with *ent*-**31a**.

1.6 2-Imidazolone Natural Products

The 2-aminoimidazole moiety has been recognized as a common feature among imidazole containing marine alkaloids and has received substantial recognition within the synthetic community;¹ however, examples of 2-imidazolone containing natural products remain scarce. To date a handful of natural products having a 2-imidazolone group have been isolated including kealiiquinone (1), spiroleucettadine (**65**),^{26, 27} dibromophakellstatin (**66**),²⁸ and agelastatin A (**67**)²⁹ (Figure 1.3).

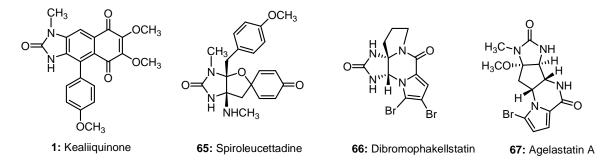
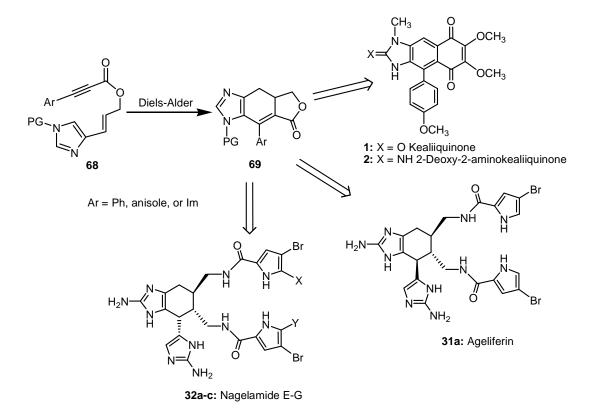


Figure 1.3 2-Imidazolone containing natural products

Synthetic routes to access 2-imidazolones have been developed and mostly involve condensation reactions to construct the functionalized ring rather than functionalization of a preexisting imidazole (see chapter 2). Ohta's total syntheses of kealiiquinone $(1)^{11, 12}$ and regioisomer 30^{15} are excellent examples of the latter.

1.7 Our Approach to Kealiiquinone and Ageliferin

Our approach to the benzimidazole and tetrahydrobenzimidazole frameworks of the introduced *Leucetta* and oroidin alkaloids is centered on an intramolecular Diels-Alder (IMDA) reaction of a propynoate system such as **68** to access heterocycles such as **69** which can be further elaborated to achieve the targeted natural products (Scheme 1.13).



Scheme 1.13

The use of a vinylic imidazole as a diene in Diels-Alder reactions has been demonstrated by us in a number of examples.³⁰ In addition, several examples of IMDA reactions involving propynoates have been described by us.³¹⁻³⁴ For example, propynoates **68a-c** were shown to successfully undergo cyclization to afford **69a-c** in yields ranging from 30-85% (Table 1.2). Bis-imidazole substrates have also been shown to participate in the Diels-Alder chemistry as seen in the cyclization of **68d-e** to give **69d-e**.³³ These examples demonstrate that the Diels-Alder reactions can directly lead to the general frameworks needed

for the target molecules, the kealiiquinones (1-2) and the ageliferin family. In addition, the lactone provides functionality that can be manipulated to construct desired ring systems or for incorporation of the pyrrole-carboxamide side-chains.

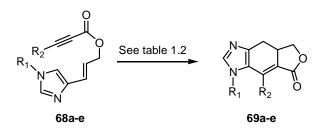


Table 1.2 Examples of Intramolecular Diels-Alder reactions of propynoates

68	R ₁	R ₂	Conditions (℃/h) ^a	69 (%)
а	DMAS	Н	180/48	30
b	DMAS	Ph	130/48	73
c	Bn	Ph	130/24	85
d	Bn	DMAS N	120/12	82
е	Bn	Bn N Sta	130/12	70

a) Benzene was the solvent used in examples a-c. Dichloromethane was the solvent used in examples d-e.

CHAPTER 2

C2-SUBSTITUTIONS OF IMIDAZOLES

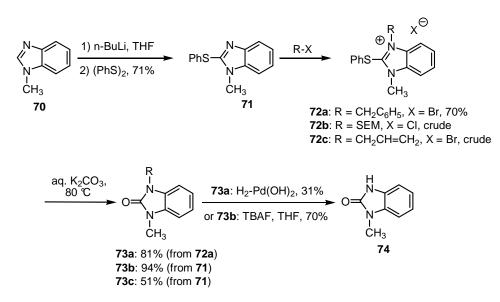
Methods for C2 functionalization of imidazoles have been evolving for some twenty years; one method involving metalation followed by quenching with an electrophile based on chemistry described by Katritzsky³⁵ and Lipshutz³⁶ has been popular in our group. However, issues associated with the use of strong and potentially nucleophilic bases, as well as functional group compatibility, limit this method's effectiveness in certain cases. More recently, substitution employing transition metal catalyzed processes based on the premise of C-H activation have been developed.³⁷⁻⁴¹ However, these employ amines of limited use for further elaboration and generally require harsh reaction conditions (>100 °C) which limit functional group compatibility. This chapter will focus on the development of a new strategy for C2-substitutions in imidazoles leading to 2-imidazolones and 2-aminoimidazoles using an approach developed to side-step the need for metalation in these transformations.

2.1 Synthesis of 2-Imidazolones

A number of natural products containing a 2-imidazolone moiety have been identified including kealiiquinone (1), spiroleucettadine (65), dibromophakellstatin (66), and agelastatin A (67) (see Fig. 1.3). Methods for preparing 2-imidazolones from imidazoles are limited and often inefficient. One such method involves lithiation of the imidazole followed by oxidation of the organometallic with a peroxide such as $(TMSO)_2^{36}$ or $(PhCO_2)_2^{.11}$ In addition, benzimidazoles have been shown to undergo C2 oxidation when treated with Ac₂O and H₂O₂ at reflux.⁴² However, both procedures suffer from low yields and relatively harsh reaction conditions. The more popular approach is to construct the functionalized ring via condensation reactions. 2-Benzimidazolones have been successfully prepared from benzene-1,2-diamines with

phosgene,⁴³⁻⁴⁷ triphosgene,^{48, 49} or carbonyl diimidazole (CDI).^{50, 51} Examples involving transition metal catalyzed methods have also been developed,³⁹⁻⁴¹ as well as base-induced cyclizations of aryl ureas.⁵²

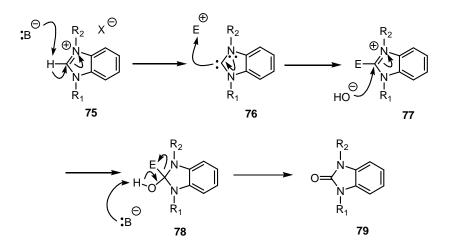
Ohta has provided the most promising example of 2-imidazolone construction from benzimidazoles during the development of his synthesis of a regioisomer of kealiiquinone.¹⁵ Benzimidazolium salts of 2-thiobenzimidazoles, **72a-c**, were hydrolyzed to give 2-imidazolones **73a-c** in moderate to good yields depending on the protecting groups employed (Scheme 2.1). While this approach proved to be effective, it required the pre-functionalization of the C2 position via a lithiation of **70**, a step we wished to avoid if at all possible, as well as heating at elevated temperatures in the presence of a relatively strong base to affect hydrolysis of **72**.



Scheme 2.1

What is demonstrated nicely in this chemistry is that nucleophilic substitution of imidazolium salts can occur at C2 if a suitable leaving group is in that position and that deprotection of at least one *N*-substituent can be accomplished leading to synthetically useful 2-imidazolones such as **74**. Taking this into consideration, we turned our attention to the benzimidazolium salts themselves with the anticipation of directly functionalizing the C2 position

by taking advantage of the increased acidity of the proton in the C2 position.⁵³⁻⁵⁵ We hypothesized that by treating benzimidazolium salt **75** with a base we could generate a stabilized carbene **76** that could then be trapped with a suitable electrophile leading to **77**. Nucleophilic attack with hydroxide providing **78**, and then elimination of the electrophile would give imidazolone **79**, thereby, inducing the transformation in one pot and without the need for pre-functionalization (Scheme 2.2).



Scheme 2.2

To test this hypothesis, benzimidazolium salts **81a-b** were prepared and treated with a variety of bases including NaH, Na₂CO₃, K₂CO₃, and NaOH in the presence of *N*-chlorosuccinimide (NCS), an electrophilic source of chlorine, in THF at room temperature, and found that the expected 2-imidazolones **82a-b** were isolated under these mild reaction conditions in yields ranging from 53-84% (Table 2.1). From this initial screen of bases, it was decided to use 2M NaOH as the standard base in the development of this methodology since it provided the best yields of **82a-b**. Analogs **81c-e** with varying protecting groups, including Bn, MOM, and SEM were prepared and found to be tolerant of the reaction conditions producing imidazolones **82c-e** in moderate yields; however, the base employed in these examples was 1M Na₂CO₃. It was found that the use of this base minimized the suspected hydrolysis and decarboxylation of the urea, and other unidentified by-products observed using NaOH.



Table 2.1 Results of benzimidazole C2 oxidations

	R ₁	R_2	Х	81 (%)	82 (%)	
					А	В
а	Bn	Me	I	92	84	85
b	PMB	Me	I	82	83	81
С	Bn	Bn	CI	54	50	88
d	Me	MOM	CI	91	46	81
е	Me	SEM	CI	96	49	79

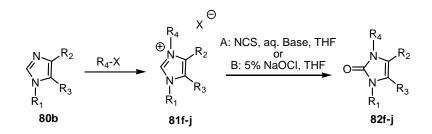


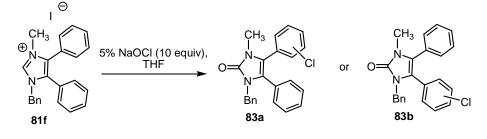
Table 2.2 Results of simple imidazole C2 oxidations

	R ₁	R ₂	R_3	R ₄	Х	81 (%)	82 (%)	
							А	В
f	Bn	Ph	Ph	Me		81	86	79
g	Me	Ph	Ph	Me	I	92	72	71
h	Me	н	н	Bn	CI	84	37	39
i	Me	н	н	SEM	CI	91	48	36
j	Bn	Ph	Н	Me	I	94	52	67

Note: 2M NaOH was the base used except in the preparation of 82c-e in which case 1M Na₂CO₃ was used

As reaction conditions were being optimized, alternative electrophilic sources of chlorine were also being investigated, and we found that household bleach (~5% aq. NaOCI) was an excellent reagent to affect this transformation. Treating the salts **81a-e** in THF with an excess of bleach (~10 equiv) resulted in oxidation to the imidazolones **82a-e** in increased yields and enhanced purities. The chemistry was then extended to successfully include simple imidazoles, **81f-j**, of varying substitution on the 4- and 5- positions (Table 2.2).

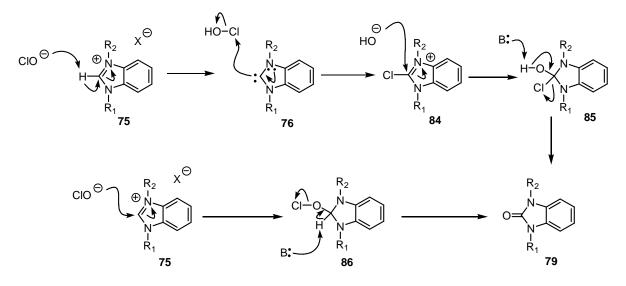
During the course of preparing derivatives **82f-j**, careful attention to the equivalents of NaOCI had to be taken. We found that treating **81f** with excess bleach resulted in the chlorination of one of the phenyl rings along with C2 oxidation leading to **83a** or **83b** as evidenced by NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry data (Scheme 2.3). Given the large numbers of aromatic protons and carbons we have been unable to unequivocally assign a structure. Inhibiting the chlorination event was achieved by treating **81f-g** with ~1 equiv of bleach in the presence of excess base (NaOH) to obtain 79% and 71% yield for the desired imidazolones **82f-g**. The same protocol was used in the preparation of **82h-j** as well.





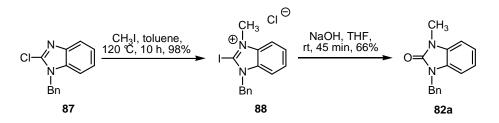
Mechanistically, the oxidation involving NaOCI can occur through at least two possible pathways (Scheme 2.5). Hypochlorite can act as a nucleophile and attack the electron deficient C2 position of **75** resulting in intermediate **86** which upon deprotonation and loss of chloride results in imidazolone **79**. The nucleophilic nature of hypochlorite has been extensively studied and is believed to be enhanced even through the alpha effect.^{56, 57} Alternatively, hypochlorite can act as a base which deprotonates the C2 position leading to **76** which can trap the

electrophilic chlorine of the hypochlorite ion leading to **84**; the proposed intermediate in the NCS method.⁵⁸⁻⁶⁰ Deprotonation and loss of chloride then gives **79**. Whether the two different oxidation methods share a common intermediate is debatable, as is what that intermediate might be. In order to narrow down the likely intermediates of this transformation, a few experiments were conducted.



Scheme 2.5

Initially, 2-chlorobenzimidazole **87** was converted to its benzimidazolium salt **88** (Scheme 2.6). However, it appears the salt obtained from the methylation was actually the 2iodo derivative as evidenced by NMR spectroscopy and particularly mass spectrometry data. Treating **88** with aqueous sodium hydroxide in THF at room temperature resulted in formation of **82a** in good yield. Therefore, a 2-halobenzimidazolium salt can undergo facile substitution in the presence of a nucleophile, in this case OH⁻, to afford C2 substituted imidazoles. Other examples of 2-haloimidazolium salts undergoing substitution reactions have also been reported in literature.⁵⁸⁻⁶⁰ It is unclear as to why the 2-iodo salt was obtained in the methylation reaction. It is possible that it is a consequence of the elevated temperature needed to effect methylation. Further detailed studies will be required to elucidate the exact mechanism of this transformation.

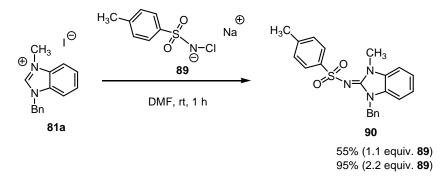


Scheme 2.6

2.2 Synthesis of 2-Iminoimidazoles

2-Aminoimidazole-containing natural products such as those highlighted in Chapter 1 pose an equally challenging synthetic issue as the imidazolone construction. A method for direct nitrogen substitution involves lithiation followed by trapping of TsN_3 or $TrisN_3$.^{61, 62} The resulting azide intermediate can then be reduced to the amine via hydrogenation with Pd/C or Lindlar catalyst, with NaBH₄, or through a Staudinger reaction.²⁵ Following this protocol has allowed for the completion of a number of total synthesis efforts in our lab.⁶³⁻⁶⁹

During the screening of electrophilic chloro-containing reagents for application toward the imidazolone chemistry, chloramine-T (89) was employed with the intent that the approach could be extended to include *N*-chloro-containing reagents. Addition of 1 equivalent of



Scheme 2.7

chloramine-T to a solution of **81a** in DMF resulted in formation of the tosyl derivative **90** in 55% yield along with sulfonamide; however, addition of 2 equivalents of **89** provided **90** in 95% yield. This shows that in the absence of an external base, the reaction will proceed to give the substitution product, however, does not definitively prove the nucleophilic attack mechanism presented in Scheme 2.5.

The successful application of chloramine-T in the substitution chemistry prompted more investigation of *N*-chloro-containing reagents. The preparation of *N*-chlorocarbamates **93** or **94** by reaction of carbamate **91** or **92** with *t*-BuOCl is known⁷⁰ and a one-pot procedure for their

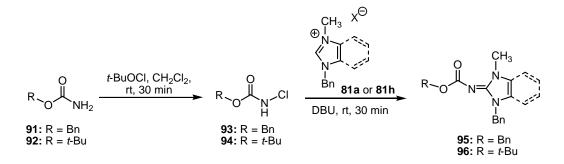
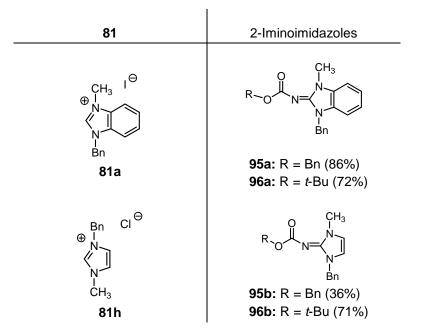
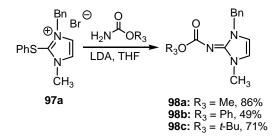


Table 2.3 Results of 2-Iminoimidazole synthesis

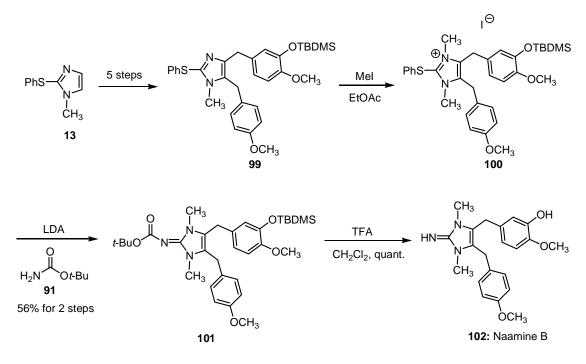


preparation and reaction with imidazolium salts was developed. The expected 2-imino derivatives **95a-b** were isolated in good yield when either *N*-chloro-*t*-butyl- (**93**) or benzylcarbamate (**94**) were reacted with **81a** in the presence of DBU (Table 2.3). Simple imidazolium salts also participate in the chemistry as illustrated by the preparation of **96a-b** from **81h** in 71% and 36% yields.





Ohta has demonstrated the effectiveness of using 2-iminoimidazoles as intermediates en route to 2-aminoimidazoles.⁷¹ Treating carbamates with LDA, followed by addition of 2-



Scheme 2.9

thioimidazolium salt **97a** resulted in formation of the desired 2-iminoimidazole derivatives **98a-c** in a similar manner as seen for the synthesis of 2-imidazolones (Scheme 2.8).

This method was applied to the total synthesis of naamine B (**102**) in which the anion of *t*-butyl carbamate (**91**) formed from deprotonation with LDA was reacted with imidazolium salt **100** to give 2-iminoimidazole **101** (Scheme 2.9).⁷¹ Treating **101** with TFA resulted in deprotection of the *N*-Boc substitutent as well as the silyl protecting group to give naamine B (**102**). Our strategy would appear to offer an advantage of this method as it circumvents the need for the introduction of the carbamate through the use of LDA and the installation of a C2-activating substituent.

2.3 Conclusions

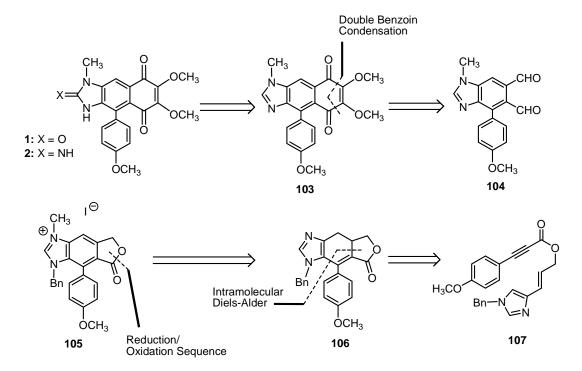
C2 functionalization of imidazoles involving chloro-containing reagents has been developed and successfully applied to a number of simple imidazole systems. NCS, NaOCI, chloramine-T, and *N*-chlorocarbamates all participate in the chemistry to provide 2-imidazolones or 2-iminoimidazoles from imidazolium salts. While the exact mechanism of this transformation is still to be determined, it is likely that a 2-haloimidazolium intermediate is involved based on literature examples and our own experiments. The application of this method toward the synthesis of kealiiquinone is described in the following chapter.

CHAPTER 3

TOTAL SYNTHESIS OF KEALIIQUINONE

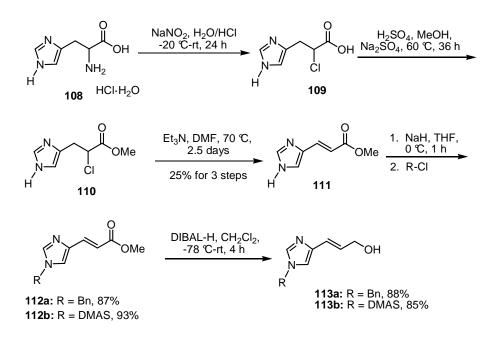
3.1 First Generation Approach

The total synthesis of kealiiquinone (1) was initially envisioned to occur through a latestage C2-functionalization of dimethoxyquinone intermediate **103** with the intention of being able to access both kealiiquinone (1) and 2-deoxy-2-aminokealiiquinone (2) from the same common intermediate (Scheme 3.1). The quinone ring of intermediate **103** would be constructed via a proposed double benzoin condensation of dialdehyde **104** which would result from debenzylation and a reduction/oxidation sequence of imidazolium salt **105**. The ring



Scheme 3.1

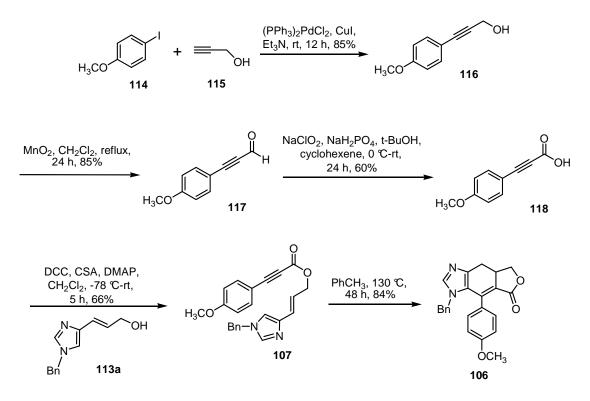
system of **105** would ultimately arise from intermediate **106**; the IMDA product from the cyclization of propynoate **107**.



Scheme 3.2

The synthesis of propynoate **107** required the preparation of two essential coupling partners, allylic alcohol **113a** and propiolic acid **118**. Alcohol **113a** is a common building block in our lab and a method to prepare it in five steps starting from histidine (**108**) has been developed (Scheme 3.2).^{33, 72}

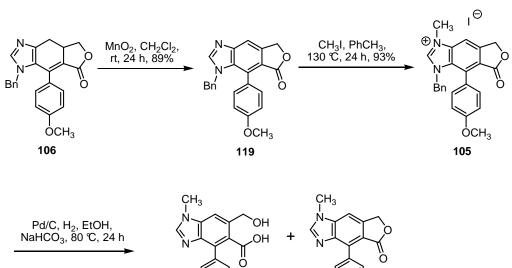
Propiolic acid **118** was prepared following literature procedures from 4-iodoanisole (**114**) and propargyl alcohol (**115**); coupled through a Sonogashira reaction (Scheme 3.3).⁷³ The resulting alcohol **116** was oxidized with MnO₂ to the aldehyde **117**,⁷⁴ and then to the acid by a Pinnick oxidation to give the desired partner **118**. Unfortunately, attempts to oxidize **116** directly to acid **118** were unsuccessful.^{75, 76} Once the two partners were prepared, they were coupled together using DCC to give propynoate **107**. Heating **107** in toluene in a re-sealable pressure vessel for 48 h provided the Diels-Alder cycloadduct **106**.

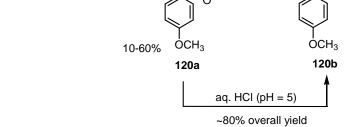


Scheme 3.3

Treating **106** with MnO_2 resulted in aromatization by a dehydrogenation event to give **119** (Scheme 3.4).⁷⁷ The resulting benzimidazole intermediate **119** was then heated in the presence of iodomethane to provide the imidazolium salt **105**. Debenzylation of **105** was achieved through hydrogenation with Pd/C in the presence of NaHCO₃.⁷⁸

The debenzylation of **105** was an interesting transformation. When attempted without base, no reaction was observed. The base is presumably acting to quench any hydroiodic acid that may be forming and thereby preventing poisoning of the catalyst. It was also observed that some reactions were low yielding, and that upon washing the catalyst with water, a white solid could be isolated from the aqueous layer. ¹H NMR spectra of the solid was strikingly similar to the expected product, and with the solubility and chromatography characteristics (the compound stays at the baseline of TLC plates), we hypothesized that the aqueous NaHCO₃ hydrolyzed the lactone leading to hydroxy acid intermediate **120a**. As further confirmation, we found that after acidifying the aqueous layer after filtration to pH 5 with dilute HCl, the desired lactone was





Scheme 3.4

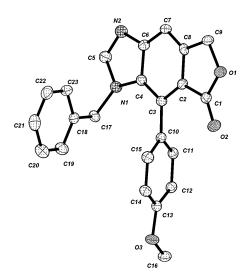
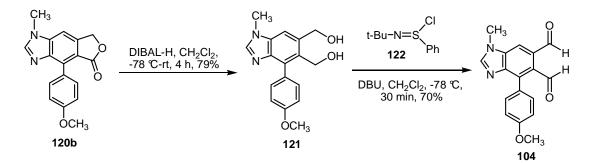
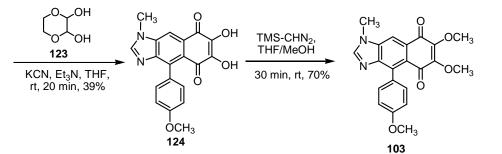


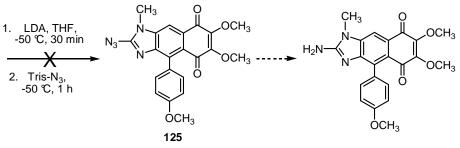
Figure 3.1 X-ray structure of benzimidazole 119

isolated by extraction. Therefore, the by-product **120a** obtained from the deprotection of **105** was converted to the desired product **120b** during work-up of the reaction to afford an overall yield of 80%.

Lactone **120b** was then reduced with DIBAL-H to afford diol **121** (Scheme 3.5). The oxidation of diol **121** to provide the dialdehyde **104** was especially problematic and required extensive screening of reagents. It was found that protocols involving more traditional and well-known oxidation methods and reagents such as MnO₂, IBX, DMP, and PCC resulted in the







2: 2-Deoxy-2-aminokealiiquinone



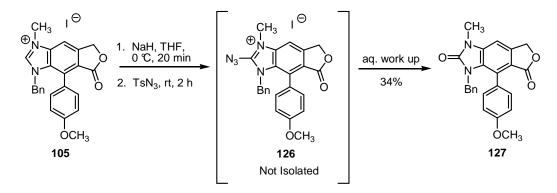
almost exclusive isolation of the lactone **120b**. Swern oxidation did provide the desired dialdehyde **104** in moderate yield on one occasion, but proved difficult to reproduce. Finally, a method involving *N*-*t*-butylbenzenesulfinimidoyl chloride $(122)^{79}$ was found to effectively and consistently oxidize diol **121** to the dialdehyde **104** in 70% yield and on sufficient scale to advance the project.

Dialdehyde **104** was such a critical intermediate because it allowed for the construction of the dihydroxyquinone **124** through a presumed double benzoin-like condensation with 2,3dihydroxy-1,4-dioxane (**123**).⁸⁰ The hydroxyl groups of **125** were then methylated with TMSdiazomethane to give dimethoxyquinone **103**.⁸¹ Quinone **103** was treated with LDA, followed by TrisN₃ in attempts to functionalize the C2 position with an azide which could then be reduced to give 2-deoxy-2-aminokealiiquinone (**2**) in an approach that has been successfully applied in a number of situations (see Chapter 2). However, the desired azide **125** was never isolated from the complex, crude reaction mixtures.

Multiple attempts to functionalize **103** in this manner were unsuccessful. Finally, an attempted deuterium labeling experiment was performed in which **103** was treated with LDA just as before and quenched with D_2O after approximately 30 minutes. Upon the addition of D_2O to the reaction, a bright red, insoluble precipitate was observed, and no unreacted starting material or the expected deuterium labeled product was identified from ¹H NMR spectroscopy. From these investigations, we concluded that C2 functionalization was not going to be successful at this stage and with this approach. Lithiation and azidation was attempted on lactone **120b**; however, the poor solubility of **120b** in most organic solvents, even in the presence of LDA, resulted in the isolation of unreacted starting material.

Azidation was then attempted on imidazolium salt **105** with the expectation that deprotonation could be achieved with a much weaker base than BuLi or LDA (Scheme 3.6). By treating **105** with NaH at 0 $^{\circ}$ C, followed by TsN₃ we anticipated obtaining azide **126**. However,

the product isolated from the reaction mixture was the imidazolone **127** presumably from nucleophilic addition of water to **126** during work up and loss of the azide.

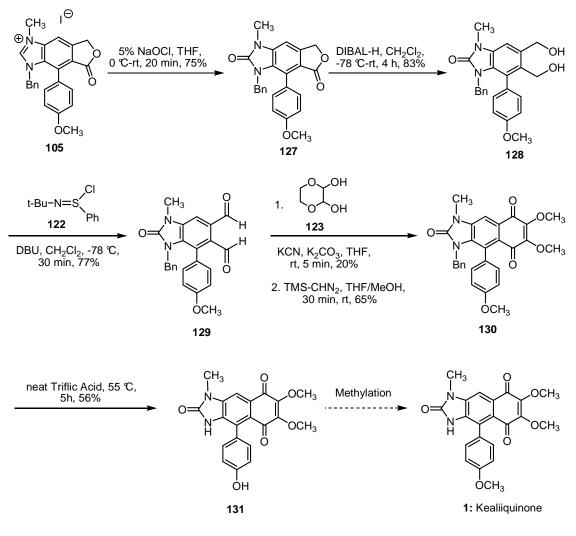


Scheme 3.6

The difficulties encountered up to this point and the unexpected formation of **127** from the imidazolium salt prompted an investigation into the functionalization of imidazolium salts and ultimately resulted in the 2-imidazolone and 2-iminoimidazole methodology described in Chapter 2. Application of this methodology resulted in the development of the second generation synthetic approach to kealiiquinone.

3.2 Second Generation Approach

The second generation approach to kealiiquinone was centered on construction of the 2-imidazolone from the developed methodology. Treating imidazolium salt **105** with sodium hypochlorite resulted in the desired oxidation and preparation of imidazolone **127** (Scheme 3.7). The lactone of **127** was functionalized in a similar manner as seen in the first generation synthesis to provide dialdehyde **129**. The dihydroxyquinone was constructed and methylated to



Scheme 3.7

give dimethoxyquinone **130** through reactions largely identical to those previously described (Scheme 3.4).

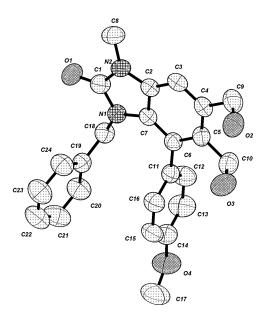


Figure 3.2 X-ray structure of 2-imidazolone 128

In contrast to amines, few general methods exist for the debenzylation of amides, and the somewhat sensitive quinone ring served to complicate and narrow the selection of potential processes. Accordingly, the debenzylation of intermediate **130** was identified as potentially problematic early on, but given we were already committed to the route we continued. Imidazolones **82a** and **127** were used as models to test some of these methods including hydrogenation with Pd/C,¹⁵ oxidation with potassium *t*-butoxide/O₂,⁸² radical bromination with NBS,^{83, 84} and acidic hydrolysis using *p*-TSA⁸⁵ all without success.

Triflic acid has been used to successfully debenzylate a variety of amides including some relatively elaborate examples.^{86, 87} Treatment of **130** with neat triflic acid at 55 °C resulted in the desired debenzylation, and an undesired demethylation of the 4-methoxy group of the phenyl substituent resulting in phenol **131**.⁸⁶ Attempts to affect chemoselective *O*-methylation were unsuccessful and resulted in either both *N*- and *O*-methylation when Me₂SO₄ was used

with K_2CO_3 or selective *N*-methylation with 0.5 equivalents of Me_2SO_4 and $LiOH^{88}$ or TMS-CHN₂ with DIPEA (Table 3.1).⁸⁹

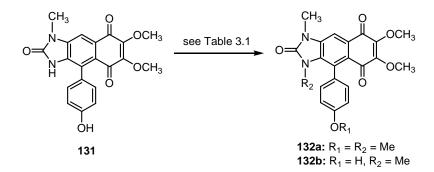


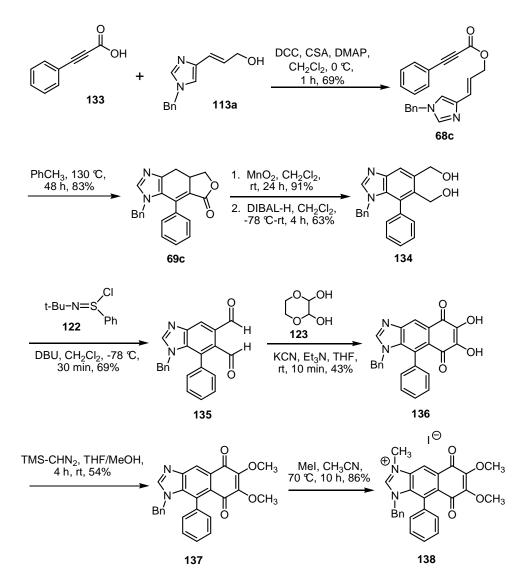
Table 3.1 Conditions screened for O-methylation

Conditions	R_1	R_2
1) Me_2SO_4 , K_2CO_3 , acetone, rt	Me	Me
2) Me_2SO_4 (0.5 equiv.), LiOH, THF, rt	Н	Me
3) TMS-CHN ₂ , DIPEA, CH ₃ CN, rt	Н	Me

Chemoselectivity becomes an increasing issue in systems containing reactive heteroatoms of similar pK_a resulting in mixtures of methylated products.⁹⁰ In addition, the rate of *N*-methylation of heterocycles has been shown to be faster than *O*-methylation of phenols under certain conditions most likely due to the greater nucleophilicity of nitrogen.⁹¹ These two factors can be used to explain what has been observed in our methylation attempts. The pK_a of the phenolic –OH must not be sufficiently different from that of the imidazol-2-one -NH to impart any selectivity, and the rate of *N*-methylation must be significantly faster than that of *O*-methylation. Further studies are being conducted to screen alternative reaction conditions to achieve the desired methylation.

3.3 Synthesis of Analogs

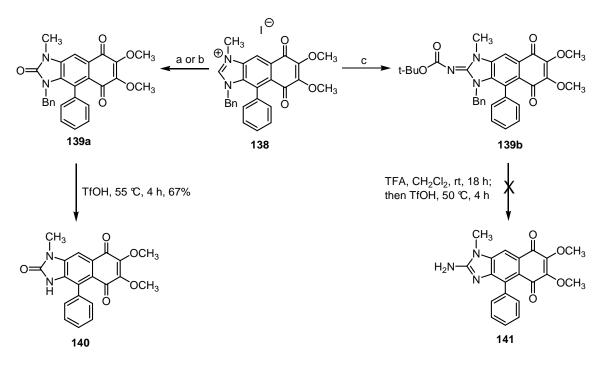
Several analogs of kealiiquinone were also prepared based on the routes designed to access the late stage intermediates in the first and second generation approaches. Compound **68c** prepared from phenyl propiolic acid (**133**) and alcohol **113a** was studied early on as a model system to develop the Diels-Alder reaction to give **69c** (Scheme 3.8). Applying the same



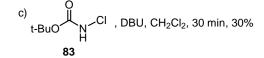
Scheme 3.8

transformations as previously described in sections 3.1 and 3.2 permitted the preparation of dimethoxyquinone **137**. The sequence in this route was changed somewhat in that methylation to form the imidazolium salt **138** was delayed until after the construction of the quinone ring.

The motivation for delaying formation of the imidazolium salt **138** until the end of the synthesis was to have an intermediate that could be functionalized at the C2 position leading to both a 2-imidazolone and 2-amino substituent much like the first generation approach. Treating **138** with sodium hypochlorite (NaOCI) at 0 °C or NCS and 1M K₂CO₃ resulted in oxidation to the 2-imidazolone **139a** (Scheme 3.9). Additionally, treating **138** with *N*-chloro *t*-butylcarbamate (**83**) and DBU, the 2-iminoimidazole intermediate **139b** was prepared.



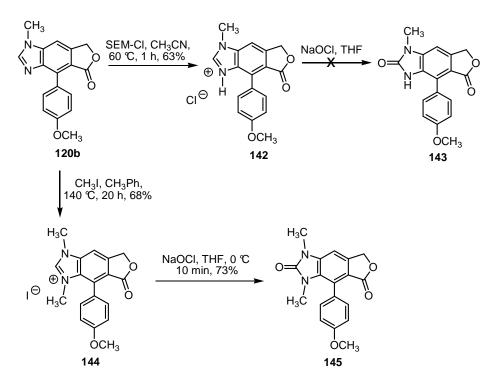
a) 5% NaOCI, THF, 0 °C, 10 min, 26% b) NCS, 1M K₂CO₃, THF, rt, 30 min, 60%



Scheme 3.9

Deprotection of **139a** was accomplished with TfOH to give **140**, while an attempt to deprotect **139b** stepwise with TFA then TfOH to give **141** was unsuccessful. Therefore, a desmethoxy analog **140** of kealiiquinone (**1**) was constructed through a late stage C2 functionalization of **138**.

In addition to the synthesis of analog **140** which is interesting in itself from the standpoint of biological activity, we have demonstrated that the quinone ring is tolerant to both *N*-alkylation leading to imidazolium salts and C2-substitution chemistry employing *N*-chloro-containing reagents. This has led to functionalization attempts on other late stage intermediates in the kealiiquinone sequences.



3.4 Alternative Functionalization Attempts

Scheme 3.10

As the chemistry towards kealiiquinone developed, some of the late stage intermediates from the first generation approach were re-examined as potential intermediates to access the natural products. For example, lactone **120b** was treated with SEM-CI in an attempt to produce the SEM imidazolium salt (Scheme 3.10). However, the compound isolated from that reaction was what we propose from spectroscopic data was the HCI salt **142**; a consequence perhaps of HCI produced from the decomposition of SEM-CI or the initially formed imidazolium intermediate. Salt **142** failed to provide the imidazolone **143** when treated with NaOCI. An Xray crystal structure of **142** was obtained (Figure 3.3).

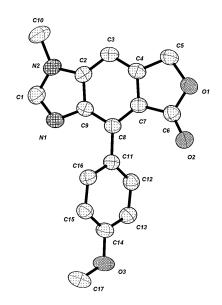
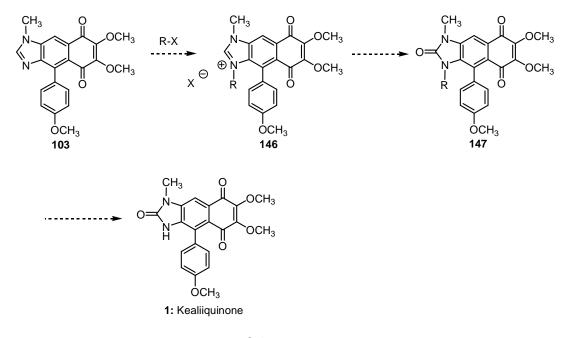


Figure 3.3 X-ray structure of lactone 142

N3 is in a relatively hindered environment being in such close proximity to the phenyl ring; therefore, a smaller methyl group was used to test whether substitution could occur in that position. When **120b** was heated with iodomethane, the dimethyl salt **144** was formed and this was oxidized to imidazolone **145**. Lactone **120b** has very limited solubility in a number of organic solvents as previously mentioned. As a result, elevated temperatures are needed in order to dissolve **120b** to get it to react, and this can be problematic with certain reagents. Dimethoxyquinone **103** is readily soluble in organic solvents and based on the synthesis of the

kealiiquinone analogs **140** and **141**, C2 functionalization is possible if an imidazolium salt can be formed with a suitable substituent (Scheme 3.11).



Scheme 3.11

3.5 Conclusions

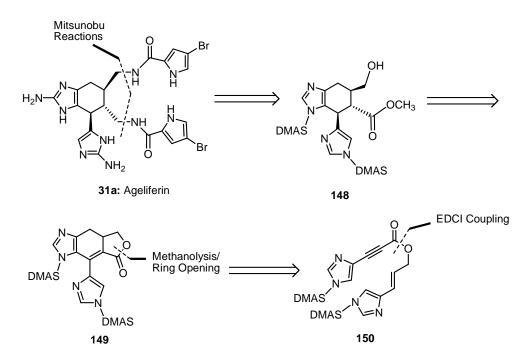
Considerable progress towards kealiiquinone has been made utilizing an intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction to prepare polysubstituted benzimidazole intermediates. Successful functionalization to construct the quinone ring as well as C2 functionalization utilizing a method developed to specifically address issues with this transformation in these systems has allowed for preparation of both 7'-desmethyl (131) and 4'-desmethoxy (140) derivatives of kealiiquinone (1). Ultimately, if the problems associated with benzyl deprotection of imidazolone 130 can be avoided with the use of another protecting group, then this will provide a concise and flexible strategy for the assembly of this family of natural products. This is currently being investigated for future approaches.

CHAPTER 4

STUDIES TOWARD THE TOTAL SYNTHESIS OF AGELIFERIN

4.1 Current Approach to Ageliferin

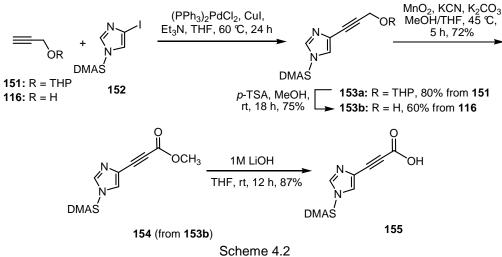
The general approach to ageliferin (**31a**) adopted from previous synthetic attempts and strategies toward other oroidin alkaloids has involved construction of the amide bonds containing the pyrrole rings through a series of Mitsonubu reactions, C2 amination and deprotection (not necessarily in that order) of a hydroxy ester intermediate **148** (Scheme 4.1). Intermediate **148** would be obtained from the cycloadduct **149** through reduction of the double bond and methanolysis to open the lactone ring. Propynoate **150** would serve as the precursor in the Diels-Alder reaction leading to **149**.



Scheme 4.1

Just as in the construction of other propynoates, the coupling partners necessary for intermediate **150** are allylic alcohol **113b** and propiolic acid **155**. The preparation of the acid has undergone a series of optimizations since the original lengthy procedure involving an ortho ester intermediate.³³ Conditions for a Sonogashira reaction of THP-protected propargyl alcohol **151** and 4-iodoimidazole **152** were developed allowing access to **153a** (Scheme 4.2). Deprotection of the THP ether was accomplished with *p*-TSA giving the propargyl alcohol **153b**. This route was eventually streamlined to omit the THP-protection/deprotection steps by developing conditions to achieve the Sonogashira coupling of propargyl alcohol **(116)** and 4-iodoimidazole **152** directly.⁹²

The oxidation of alcohol **153b** was found to be more difficult than initially expected. Attempts to oxidize **153b** to the aldehyde with MnO₂ similar to that of the anisole system were unsuccessful, as were attempts to oxidize directly to the acid. Ultimately, a method involving the tandem oxidation and cyano-mediated substitution of propargyl alcohols to methyl esters was utilized to give ester **154**.⁹³ This reaction required some optimization to make it applicable to the imidazole-containing system, in particular, reduction of the amount of cyanide ion used. Hydrolysis of ester **154** to the desired acid **155** was achieved with aqueous LiOH in THF.



scheme 4.

The oxidation conditions were initially screened on alcohol **118** having the anisole ring. A promising 63% yield of the expected methyl ester **156** was isolated from the reaction mixture with no further purification necessary (Table 4.1). However, when alcohol **153b** was subjected to the reaction conditions, the reaction proved to be low to moderate yielding (35-51%), and the resulting ester was highly colored and difficult to purify. The stoichiometric amount of NaCN and the possible evolution of HCN during the course of the reaction were concerning from the standpoint of scale-up and possible reaction with the acid-labile DMAS protecting group. In an attempt to neutralize the evolution of HCN and use only a catalytic amount of cyanide, 1 equivalent of NaCN was replaced with 0.2 equivalents of KCN and an excess of K_2CO_3 . Gratifyingly, this modification provided **154** in increased yield and purity.

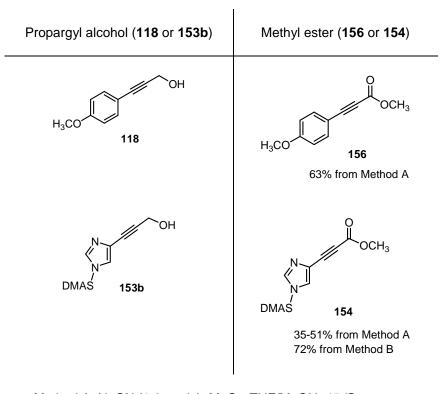
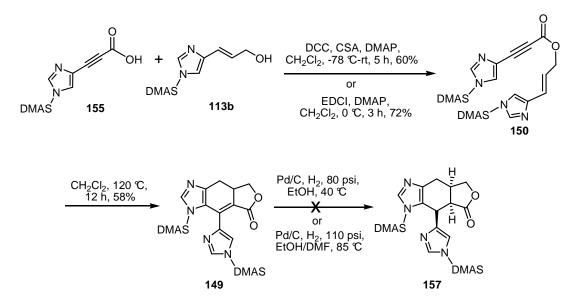


Table 4.1 Oxidation of propargyl alcohols to methyl esters

Method A: NaCN (1.0 equiv), MnO₂, THF/MeOH, 45 °C Method B: KCN (0.20 equiv), K₂CO₃ (2.0 equiv), MnO₂, THF/MeOH, 45 °C



Scheme 4.3

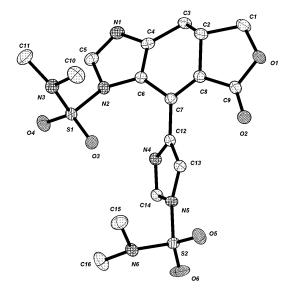
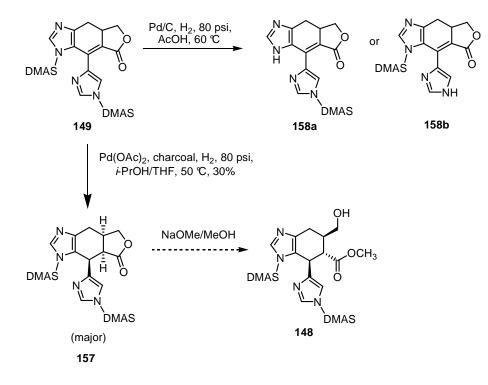


Figure 4.1 X-ray structure of cycloadduct 149

Acid **155** and alcohol **113b** were initially coupled together using DCC to give propynoate **150** as a sticky, tan solid (Scheme 4.3). When **150** from the DCC coupling was heated in CH_2Cl_2 , the reaction was observed to turn dark brown over the course of several hours and a polar precipitate was observed to form on the walls of the flask. Previous

experiences in our lab indicated that this was a poor omen for an effective cycloaddition. The desired Diels-Alder product **149** was never obtained from these attempts. When the coupling was repeated with EDCI, **150** was obtained as a white, crystalline solid, and the Diels-Alder reaction provided cycloadduct **149** in almost 60% yield. We concluded that an impurity associated with the DCC coupling must have been accelerating decomposition of **150** during the Diels-Alder reaction.

Reduction of the double bond resulting from the Diels-Alder reaction of propynoate systems has been previously accomplished by hydrogenation with Pd/C to give an all *cis*-product such as **157** (Scheme 4.3).³³ However, attempts to reduce **149** in this manner were unsuccessful. We found intermediate **149** to be completely insoluble in warm EtOH resulting in the isolation of starting material when the hydrogenation conditions in Scheme 4.3 were applied. Using a mixture of EtOH and DMF as solvents dissolved **149**, but the desired reduction was not achieved with 110 psi of hydrogen at 85 °C; unreact ed **149** was recovered. When the solvent



Scheme 4.4

was changed from EtOH to AcOH, the Diels-Alder product **149** was soluble, however, instead of reduction, deprotection of a DMAS group occurred to give **158a** or **158b** (Scheme 4.4). The desired reduction was ultimately achieved using Pd(OAc)₂ and charcoal as the catalyst in a mixture of *i*-PrOH and THF for the hydrogenation to give **157**.⁹⁴ While the expected all *cis* product **157** was isolated, it became apparent that the acetate present in the reaction was catalyzing epimerization events as evidenced by what is believed to be a mixture of diastereomers that was also recovered. However, these diastereomers may be useful intermediates toward the synthesis of other oroidin-derived natural products such as the nagelamides (**32a-c**).

The lactone of **157** can be treated with NaOMe to open the ring and provide **148** (Scheme 4.4). It has been demonstrated that similar systems undergo an epimerization to relieve steric strain upon opening of the lactone resulting in the desired *trans* stereochemistry of **148**.³³ At this point, the desired stereochemistry would be set, and this route intercepts intermediates prepared from other approaches to ageliferin (**31a**).

4.2 Conclusions

An intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction of propynoate **150** was used in a similar manner as the approach to kealiiquinone to obtain an intermediate which can be functionalized to access ageliferin. Tetrahydrobenzimidazole **148** provides an advanced intermediate with the appropriate stereochemistry as well as the hydroxyl and methyl ester handles that can be further functionalized to ultimately install the bromopyrrole side chains. This approach offers a substantially simplified route to intermediate **148** which has been constructed through other routes developed to access the oroidin alkaloids.

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CHAPTER 5

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

5.1 General methods

All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without purification unless otherwise specified. All reactions involving moisture sensitive reagents were conducted in oven-dried glassware under a dry nitrogen atmosphere. All solvents used in moisture sensitive reactions were purified by Innovative Technology's Pure-Solve solvent purification system.

NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL ECX 300 MHz and Eclipse+ 500 MHz spectrometers. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ (unless otherwise indicated) at a spectrometer frequency of 300.53 MHz or 500.13 MHz using residual CHCl₃ (δ = 7.26 ppm) as an internal reference. For spectra recorded in other solvents, residual MeOH (δ = 3.31 ppm) or DMSO (δ = 2.50 ppm) were used as internal references. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ (unless otherwise indicated) at a spectrometer frequency of 75.57 MHz or 125.76 MHz using residual CHCl₃ (δ = 77.2 ppm) as an internal reference. For spectra recorded in other solvents, residual CHCl₃ (δ = 39.5 ppm) or DMSO (δ = 49.0 ppm) were used as internal references.

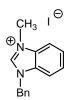
Melting points were recorded on a Laboratory Devices Inc. Mel Temp apparatus and are uncorrected. Infrared (IR) spectra were obtained on a Bruker ALPHA FT-IR Spectrometer using neat samples (ATR spectroscopy), or a Bruker Vector 22 spectrometer using either KBr pellets for solids or neat films on NaCl plates for liquids; all absorptions are reported in cm⁻¹. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded by the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Florida, Gainsville by electrospray ionization (ESI) or atmospheric-

pressure chemical ionization (APCI) unless otherwise indicated. All mass spectral data are reported as m/z (relative intensity).

Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Sorbent Technologies Silica G TLC aluminum backed plates (200 µm thickness). Liquid chromatography was performed using Sorbent Technologies Standard Grade Silica Gel (230 x 400 mesh).

5.2 Synthesis

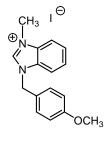
1-Benzyl-3-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-3-ium iodide (81a):



To 1-Benzyl-1*H*-benzimidazole (1.00 g, 4.80 mmol) in toluene (30 mL) was added Mel (1.50 mL, 24.0 mmol) and heated at 110 °C for 1.8 h at which time additional aliquots of Mel (0.5 equiv) were added until starting material was no longer detected by TLC. The resulting precipitated solids were filtered and washed with

EtOAc to give **81a** as a pale, yellow solid (1.55 g, 92%). mp: 157-159 °C (lit. 138 °C); ⁹⁵ ¹H NMR: δ = 11.01 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 3H), 5.81 (s, 2H), 4.24 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 142.3, 132.5, 132.2, 131.1, 129.5, 129.4, 128.6, 127.5, 113.9, 113.2, 51.6, 34.4; IR (cm⁻¹): 3005, 1561, 1462, 1432, 1344, 1191, 749, 702; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M]⁺ C₁₅H₁₅N₂ is 223.1230 found 223.1236.

1-(4-methoxybenzyl)-3-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-3-ium iodide (81b):



To 1-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole (1.00 g, 4.20 mmol) in toluene (60 mL) was added MeI (0.50 mL, 8.4 mmol) and heated at 110 $^{\circ}$ for 18 h at which time additional aliquots of MeI (0.50 equiv) were added until starting material was no longer detected by TLC. The precipitated solids were filtered and washed with EtOAc and then Et₂O to give **81b** as a beige

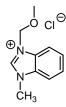
solid (1.30 g, 82%). mp: 197-200 °C; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): δ = 9.45 (s, 1H), 7.95-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.73-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 5.64 (s, 2H), 4.13 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD); δ = 160.6, 142.0, 132.6, 131.3, 130.0, 126.9, 126.8, 124.9, 114.4, 113.5, 113.1, 54.5, 50.1, 32.7; IR (cm⁻¹): 2974, 1610, 1567, 1516, 1451, 1248, 1185, 1020, 783, 761; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M]⁺ C₁₆H₁₇N₂O is 253.1335 found 253.1329.

1,3-Dibenzyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-3-ium chloride (81c):



cı⊖ To 1-Benzyl-1H-benzimidazole (0.75 g, 3.6 mmol) in toluene (30 mL) was added benzyl chloride (0.50 mL, 4.3 mmol) and the mixture was heated at reflux for 18 h. The precipitated solids were filtered and washed with Et₂O to give 81c as an offwhite solid (0.65 g, 54%). mp: 211-212 °C (lit. 21 0-211 °C); ^{96 1}H NMR (CD₃OD): δ = 9.73 (s, 1H), 7.85 (dd, J = 6.2 Hz, J = 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (dd, J = 6.2 Hz, J = 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.38 (m, 10H), 4.87 (s, 4H); 13 C NMR (CD₃OD); \bar{o} = 142.0, 133.3, 131.7, 129.1, 129.0, 128.1, 127.1, 113.7, 50.7; IR (cm⁻¹): 3419, 3355, 3036, 2954, 1557, 1460, 1426, 1374, 1189, 1016, 756, 740, 701.

3-Methoxymethyl-1-methyl-1H-benzimidazol-3-ium chloride (81d):

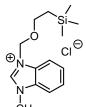


To 1-Methyl-1H-benzimidazole (0.50 g, 3.8 mmol) in THF was added MOM-CI (0.34 mL, 4.5 mmol) and stirred at rt for 18 h. The solvent was removed by rotary evaporation and the resulting solids were suspended in Et₂O, filtered and washed

with Et₂O to give **81d** as a white, hygroscopic solid (0.73 g, 91%) that was stored at rt under N₂. mp: 115-118 \mathcal{C} (lit. 88-90 \mathcal{C}); ^{55 1}H NMR (CD₃OD): δ = 9.67 (s, 1H), 8.01-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.76-7.71 (m, 2H), 5.87 (s, 2H), 4.18 (s, 3H), 3.44 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR (CD₃OD): δ =

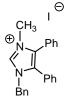
142.7, 132.7, 131.0, 127.3, 127.2, 113.6, 113.2, 78.5, 56.4, 32.7; IR (cm⁻¹): 3351, 3048, 1563, 1467, 1099, 1060, 1005, 765.

1-Methyl-3-trimethylsilylethoxymethyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-3-ium chloride (81e):



To 1-Methyl-1H-benzimidazole (0.50 g, 3.8 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added SEM-CI (0.80 mL, 4.5 mmol) and stirred at rt for 18 h. The solvent was removed by rotary evaporation and the resulting white solid was suspended in Et_2O , filtered and washed with Et_2O to give **81e** as a white solid (1.09 g, 96%). mp: 114-115 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 11.47 (s, 1H), 7.87-7.84 (m, 1H), 7.74-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.62 (m, 2H), 6.04 (s, 2H), 4.29 (s, 3H), 3.69 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 0.90 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), -0.08 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 143.8, 132.4, 130.8, 127.5, 114.3, 112.9, 68.3, 34.0, 17.9, -1.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 3442, 3367, 3027, 2954, 1569, 1420, 1250, 1113, 834, 763; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M]⁺ C₁₄H₂₃N₂OSi is 263.1574 found 263.1573.

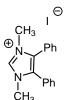
1-Benzyl-3-methyl-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium iodide (81f):



To 1-Benzyl-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (0.15 g, 0.48 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added MeI (0.10 mL, 1.4 mmol) and stirred at 70 °C for 18 h. An additional aliquot of MeI (3 equiv) was added and heating resumed for a further 3 h. The solids were filtered and washed with EtOAc to give 81f as a white solid (0.18 g, 81%).

mp: 223-225 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 10.36 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.34 (m, 6H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 5H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 4H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR: δ = 136.7, 133.0, 132.8, 132.0, 131.1, 130.6, 130.5, 129.3, 128.9, 124.9, 124.5, 51.5, 35.5; IR (cm⁻¹): 3033, 1561, 1497, 1438, 1076, 766, 728, 702; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M]⁺ C₂₃H₂₁N₂ is 325.1749 found 325.1695.

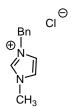
1,3-Dimethyl-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium iodide (81g):



To 1-Methyl-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (0.15 g, 0.64 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) was added MeI (0.20 mL, 3.2 mmol) and stirred at 125 °C for 3 h. The solution was cooled to rt and the solids were filtered and washed with EtOAc to give 81g as a pale yellow solid (0.22 g, 92%). mp: 214-216 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 10.37 (s, 1H), 7.44-7.37 (m, 6H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 4H), 3.91 (s, 6H); 13 C NMR: δ = 137.3, 132.4, 130.7, 130.5, 129.3, 124.7, 35.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 3067, 1577, 1468, 1218, 849, 766, 706; HR-APCIMS (*m/z*): Calcd.

for [M]⁺ C₁₇H₁₇N₂ is 249.1386 found 249.1392.

3-Benzyl-1-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium chloride (81h):



To 1-Methylimidazole (1.00 mL, 12.5 mmol) in THF (50 mL) was added BnCl (7.20 mL, 62.7 mmol) and heated at reflux overnight. The solvent was decanted and the resulting oil was triturated with Et₂O and dried under vacuum to give 81h as an off-white semi-solid (2.20 g, 84%).⁹⁷ ¹H NMR: δ = 10.65 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 4H), 5.54 (s, 2H), 4.02 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR: δ = 138.0, 133.3, 129.5, 129.5, 129.0, 123.6, 121.8, 53.4, 36.7.

1-Methyl-3-trimethylsilylethoxymethyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium chloride (81i):

To 1-Methylimidazole (0.25 mL, 3.1 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added SEM-CI cı⊖ (0.66 mL, 3.7 mmol) and stirred at rt. Within minutes a second layer was observed, and after 30 minutes the layers were allowed to separate. The top layer was drawn off with a pipet, and the resulting oil was dried under vacuum to give **81i** as a clear, colorless oil (0.71 g, 91%). ¹H NMR: δ = 10.81 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 5.73 (s, 2H), 4.12 (s,3H), 3.65 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 8.0 Hz), -0.02 (s, 9H); ¹³C

NMR: δ = 138.5, 123.7, 120.7, 78.9, 68.6, 36.9, 18.0, -1.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 2953, 1575, 1557, 1248, 1157, 1096, 857, 833, 739; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M]⁺ C₁₀H₂₁N₂OSi is 231.1418 found 213.1424.

1-Benzyl-3-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium iodide (81j):

CH₃

To 1-Benzyl-4-phenyl-imidazole (0.20 g, 0.85 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added Mel (0.16 mL, 2.6 mmol) and heated at reflux overnight. The solvent was removed and the resulting residue was triturated with EtOAc, then Et₂O to give 81j as a yellow semi-solid (0.30 g, 94%). ¹H NMR: δ = 10.31 (s, 1H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.30-7.29 (m, 1H), 5.62 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 137.3, 136.0, 132.8, 130.8, 129.7, 129.6, 129.5, 129.5, 124.6, 119.1, 53.6, 35.4; IR (cm⁻¹): 3027, 1556, 1495, 1443, 1146, 762, 741, 697; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M]⁺ C₁₇H₁₇N₂ is 249.1386 found 249.1395.

General procedure for oxidation of 1-Benzyl-3-methyl-1H-benzimidazol-3-ium iodide (81a):

Method A: A benzimidazolium salt (0.29 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was cooled to 0 °C and NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 0.017 g, 0.43 mmol) was added and stirred under N₂ at 0 °C for 10 min. NCS (0.050 g, 0.37 mmol) was added and stirred for 20 min. 2M NaOH (5 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to come to room temp and stir for 10 min. The reaction was diluted with water (10 mL) and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (2x15 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (10 mL), followed by brine (10 mL), dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄), and concentrated.

- Method B: To a benzimidazolium salt (0.29 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added 1M K₂CO₃/Na₂CO₃ or 2M NaOH (1.1 mmol) followed by NCS (0.050 g, 0.37 mmol) and stirred at room temp for 1 h (except in the case of Na₂CO₃ which required stirring for 18 h). The reaction was diluted with water (10 mL) and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (2x15 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (10 mL), followed by brine (10 mL), dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄), and concentrated.
- Method C: Benzimidazolium salt (0.34 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was cooled to 0 °C and 5% NaOCI (5 mL) was added. The reaction was allowed to come to room temp and stir for 10 min. The reaction was diluted with water (10 mL) and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (2 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (10 mL), followed by brine (10 mL), dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄), and concentrated.

General procedure for the oxidation of 1-Benzyl-3-methyl-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium iodide (81f):

Method D: To an imidazolium salt (0.10 g, 0.22 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added 1M NaOH (1.0 mL, 0.88 mmol) followed by slow, dropwise addition of 5% NaOCI (0.40 mL) over about 10 minutes at room temp. The reaction was diluted with water and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (10 mL), followed by brine (10 mL), dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄), and concentrated.

1-Benzyl-3-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazol-2-one (82a):

1003, 731.

Bn

Β'n

From **81a** (0.12 g, 0.34 mmol) following Method C and purification by column chromatography (4:6 EtOAc/Hexane), **82a** was obtained as a white solid (0.070 g, 85%). mp: 87-89 °C (lit. 87-88 °C); ¹⁵ ¹H NMR: δ = 7.34-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.06 (m, 1H), 7.02-6.97 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (s, 2H), 3.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 154.7, 136.5, 130.2, 129.3, 128.8, 127.8, 127.6, 121.4, 121.3, 108.3, 107.5, 45.0, 27.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 3043, 2946, 1705, 1494, 1435, 1398, 1246, 1121,

1-(4-methoxybenzyl)-3-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazol-2-one (82b):

From **81b** (0.12 g, 0.31 mmol) following Method C and purification by column chromatography (6:4 EtOAc/Hexane), **82b** was obtained as a white solid (0.069 g, 81%). mp: 102-104 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (td, *J* = 8.0 Hz, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.01 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 159.2, 154.6, 130.2, 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 121.3, 114.2, 108.3, 107.5, 55.3, 44.5, 27.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 2972, 1699, 1609, 1513, 1499, 1245, 1170, 1023, 740, 724; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₁₆H₁₆N₂O₂Na is 291.1104 found 291.1115, Calcd. for [2M+Na]⁺ is 559.2316 found 559.2346.

1,3-Dibenzyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazol-2-one (82c):

From **81c** (0.15 g, 0.45 mmol) following Method C and purification by column chromatography (3:7 EtOAc/Hexane), **82c** was obtained as an off-white solid (0.12 g, 88%). mp: 110-112 $^{\circ}$ (lit. 110 $^{\circ}$ C); ⁹⁸ ¹H NMR: δ = 7.35-7.26 (m, 10H),

6.97 (dd, J = 5.5 Hz, J = 3.4 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (dd, J = 5.5 Hz, J = 3.4 Hz, 2H), 5.12 (s, 4H); ¹³C NMR: $\delta = 154.7$, 136.4, 129.4, 128.9, 127.8, 127.6, 121.5, 108.4, 45.1; IR (cm⁻¹): 3025, 2926, 1691, 1489, 1436, 1407, 1356, 1164, 750, 696, 659.

3-Methoxymethyl-1-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazol-2-one (82d):

From **81d** (0.10 g, 0.47 mmol) following Method C and purification by column chromatography (1:1 EtOAc/Hexane), **82d** was obtained as a white solid (0.073 g, 81%). mp: 68-70 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.18-7.10 (m, 3H), 7.01-6.98 (m, 1H), 5.30 (s, 2H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.36 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 154.6, 130.2, 128.7, 122.1, 121.7, 108.7, 107.7, 72.6, 56.4, 27.2; IR (cm⁻¹): 2937, 1689, 1622, 1501, 1380, 1031, 907, 750, 721, 636; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₁₀H₁₂N₂O₂Na is 215.0791 found 215.0782; Calcd. for [2M+Na]⁺ C₂₀H₂₄N₄O₄Na is 407.1690 found 407.1708.

1-Methyl-3-trimethylsilylethoxymethyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazol-2-one (82e):

From **81e** (0.036 g, 0.12 mmol) following Method C and purification by column chromatography (2:8 EtOAc/Hexane), **82e** was obtained as a colorless oil¹⁵ (0.026 g, 79%). ¹H NMR: δ = 7.18-7.15 (m,1H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.96 (m, 1H), 5.31 (s, 2H), 3.60 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), -0.04 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 154.5, 130.2, 128.8, 122.0, 121.6, 108.8, 107.5, 70.8, 66.2, 27.2, 17.9, -1.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 2951, 1694, 1449, 1374, 1247, 1072, 832, 695.

1-Benzyl-3-methyl-4,5-diphenyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-imidazol-2-one (82f):

From **81f** (0.10 g, 0.22 mmol) following Method D and purification by column chromatography (4:6 EtOAc/Hexane), **82f** was obtained as a white solid (0.059 g, 79%). mp: 122-124 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.25-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.06 (m, 2H), 7.03-7.01 (m, 2H), 4.85 (s, 2H), 3.29 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 154.0, 138.0, 130.7, 130.1, 129.1, 129.1, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 127.6, 127.3, 121.6, 121.1, 45.4, 29.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 3060, 2948, 1674, 1600, 1498, 1450, 1387, 748, 703; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₂₃H₂₁N₂O is 341.1648 found 341.1633; Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₃H₂₀N₂ONa is 363.1468 found 363.1472; Calcd. for [2M+Na]⁺ C₄₆H₄₀N₄O₂Na is 703.3043 found 703.3056.

1,3-Dimethyl-4,5-diphenyl-1,3-dihydro-2H-imidazol-2-one (82g):

From **81g** (0.060 g, 0.16 mmol) following Method D and purification by column chromatography (silica gel was neutralized with Et₃N prior to purification) (8:2 EtOAc/Hexane to EtOAc), **82g** was obtained as a white, crystalline solid (0.030 g, 71%). mp: 186-189 °C (lit. 203 °C; ⁹⁹ 183-184 °C); ¹⁰⁰ ¹H NMR: δ = 7.29-7.26 (m, 6H), 7.16-7.14 (m, 4H), 3.24 (2, 6H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 154.0, 130.2, 129.2, 128.6, 128.0, 121.3, 29.1; IR (cm⁻¹): 2873, 1680, 1458, 1418, 1379, 1021, 778, 767, 746, 709; HR-APCIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₁₇H₁₆N₂O is 265.1335 found 265.1331.

3-Benzyl-1-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2H-imidazol-2-one (82h):

Bn From **81h** (0.20 g, 0.96 mmol) following Method D and purification by column chromatography (EtOAc), **82h** was obtained as a white solid (0.070 g, 39%). mp: 60- $\stackrel{\text{N}}{\underset{\text{CH}_3}{}}$ 62 °C (lit. 63-64 °C); ^{15 1}H NMR: δ = 7.34-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 2H), 6.15 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 3.26 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: $\delta = 153.3$, 137.0, 128.8, 127.9, 127.8, 111.8, 110.0, 47.3, 30.6; IR (cm⁻¹): 3118, 2944, 1659, 1643, 1477, 1450, 1408, 1373, 1241, 810, 739.

1-Methyl-3-trimethylsilylethoxymethyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-imidazol-2-one (82i):

From **81i** (0.15 g, 0.60 mmol) following Method D and purification by column chromatography (1:1 EtOAc/Hexane), **82i** was obtained as a colorless oil¹⁵ (0.050 g, 36%). ¹H NMR: $\delta = 6.31$ (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (s, 2H), 3.55 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 0.89 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), -0.02 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR: $\delta = 153.3$, 112.5, 109.7, 72.7, 66.1, 30.4, 17.9, -1.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 2951, 1675, 1467, 1412, 1246, 1080, 917, 857, 833, 761.

1-Benzyl-3-methyl-4-phenyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-imidazol-2-one (82j):

From **81j** (0.30 g, 0.80 mmol) following Method D and purification by column chromatography (6:4 EtOAc/Hexane), **82j** was obtained as a yellow oil (0.14 g, 67%). ¹H NMR: δ = 7.40-7.30 (m, 10H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 4.85 (s, 2H), 3.33 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 154.0, 137.0, 128.9, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.7, 125.2, 107.7, 107.5, 47.3, 29.4; IR (cm⁻¹): 3031, 2929, 1668, 1453, 1403, 1174, 724, 695; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd for [M+Na]⁺ is C₁₇H₁₆N₂ONa is 287.1155 found 287.1168.

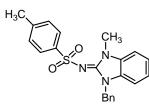
1-Benzyl-2-iodo-3-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-3-ium chloride (88):

To 1-Benzyl-2-chloro-1*H*-benzimidazole $(87)^{101}$ (0.50 g, 2.1 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was added MeI (0.64 mL, 10 mmol) and heated at 125 °C for 18 h. The solids were filtered and

cı [⊖] Rn

washed with EtOAc to give 88 as a pale yellow solid (0.78 g, 98%). mp: 222-223 °C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 8.05 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.28 (m, 5H), 5.81 (s, 2H), 4.08 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 134.6, 134.2, 133.1, 129.4, 128.9, 127.7, 126.9, 126.8, 121.7, 114.2, 113.8, 52.2, 39.7; IR (cm⁻¹): 2906, 1455, 1385, 1309, 1171, 1029, 744, 700; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M]⁺ C₁₅H₁₄IN₂ is 349.0196 found 349.0205.

N-[(2E)-1-benzyl-3-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene]-4-methylbenzene sulfonamide (90):



To 81a (0.075 g, 0.21 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added chloramine-T trihydrate (89) (0.13 g, 0.47 mmol) and stirred at rt for 1 h. The reaction was diluted with water (5 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with 2M

NaOH (5 mL), water (5 mL), and then brine (5 mL). The organics were dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The resulting solids were recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂/hexane to provide 90 as pale yellow crystals (0.080 g, 95%). mp: 165-167 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.82 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.24 (m, 5H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 5H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (s, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR: δ = 148.6, 142.7, 141.5, 135.1, 131.3, 129.7, 129.2, 128.9, 128.0, 127.5, 125.9, 123.7, 123.4, 110.3, 109.9, 47.0, 32.4, 21.5; IR (cm⁻¹): 1579, 1567, 1445, 1245, 1132, 1088; HR-ESIMS (m/z): Calcd. for $[M+H]^+ C_{22}H_{22}N_3O_2S$ is 392.1427 found 392.1420.

1-Benzyl-2-benzyloxycarbonylimino-3-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazole (95a):

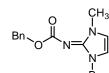
To benzyl carbamate (92) (0.095 g, 0.63 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added t-BuOCI (0.080 mL, 0.71 mmol) and stirred at rt for 30 min. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C and DBU (0.13

stirred at rt for 30 min. The reaction was guenched with water (10 mL), the layers were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with CH₂Cl₂

mL, 0.86 mmol) was added followed by 81a (0.10 g, 0.29 mmol) and

(5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with 2M NaOH (5 mL), water (5 mL) and brine (5 mL). The organic layer was dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and purified by column chromatograpy (7:3 EtOAc/Hexane) to give 95a as a white solid (0.090 g, 85%). mp: 76-77 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.44 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.18 (m, 5H), 7.14 (td, J = 2.3 Hz, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (s, 2H), 5.20 (s, 2H), 3.57 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR: δ = 159.0, 153.4, 137.9, 135.3, 131.5, 130.2, 128.9, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.6, 127.5, 123.1, 123.0, 110.1, 109.3, 67.2, 47.0, 31.0; IR (cm⁻¹): 3031, 2947, 1651, 1575, 1493, 1427, 1376, 1308, 1261, 1222, 1174; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ $C_{23}H_{22}N_3O_2$ is 372.1707 found 372.1709.

1-Benzyl-2-benzyloxycarbonylimino-3-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-imidazole (95b):



Prepared following the same procedure as 95a from 81h (0.15 g 0.72 Bn = 0 N = 1 mmol) and purified by column chromatography (8% MeOH in EtOAc) to give **95b** as a white solid (0.082 g, 36%). mp: 93-95 $^{\circ}$ (li t. 93-95 $^{\circ}$); ^{71 1}H

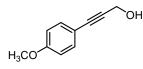
NMR: δ = 7.43 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 13H), 6.49 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 4.98 (s, 2H), 3.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: $\delta = 159.4$, 150.8, 138.4, 135.2, 129.0, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 127.4, 116.5, 114.1, 66.8, 50.0, 34.0; IR (cm⁻¹): 3031, 2944, 1631, 1549, 1486, 1454, 1381, 1313, 1233, 1165, 1066.

1-Benzyl-2-tert-butylcarbonylimino-3-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazole (96a):

1-Benzyl-2-tert-butylcarbonylimino-3-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-imidazole (96b):

Prepared following the same procedure as **95a** from **81h** (0.15 g, 0.72 mmol) and purified by column chromatography (8% MeOH in EtOAc) to give **96b** as a clear, colorless oil (0.15 g, 71%). (lit. mp: 88-91 °C); ^{71 1}H NMR: $\delta = 7.33-7.29$ (m, 3H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 2H); 6.46 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (s, 2H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 1.50 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR: $\delta = 159.5$, 150.9, 135.5, 129.0, 128.5, 128.3, 116.2, 114.0, 77.0, 49.9, 34.2, 28.7; IR (cm⁻¹): 2973, 1626, 1548, 1483, 1453, 1361, 1318, 1240, 1153, 1066.

3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)prop-2-yn-1-ol (116):



To 4-lodoanisole (**114**) (20.0 g, 0.0854 mol) in THF (400 mL) was added propargyl alcohol (**115**) (7.5 mL, 0.13 mol) and Et_3N (24.0 mL, 0.172 mol). (PPh₃)₂PdCl₂ (0.60 g, 0.85 mmol) and Cul (0.81 g, 4.2

mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt under N₂ for 20 h. Water (10 mL) was added and the solvent reduced. EtOAc (100 mL) was added and the solids filtered through Celite and washed with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with water (2x), followed by brine, dried and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by column chromatography (3:7 EtOAc/Hexane) to give **116** as an orange solid (11.7 g, 85%). mp: 65-68 °C (l it. 52 °C); ⁷³ ¹H NMR: δ = 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 159.8, 133.3, 114.7, 114.0, 85.9, 85.7, 55.4, 51.8.

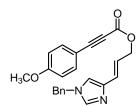
3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-ynal (117):

To **116** (1.0 g, 6.2 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) was added MnO₂ (~85% act.) (5.0 g) and stirred at 45 °C for 18-48 h until the reaction was deemed complete by TLC. The solids were filtered through Celite and washed with CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was reduced to give **117** as a light brown solid (0.83 g, 85%). mp: 48-50 °C (lit. 47-48.5 °C); ¹⁰² ¹H NMR: δ = 9.39 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 176.8, 162.2, 135.5, 114.6, 111.2, 96.7, 88.8, 55.5.

3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)prop-2-ynoic acid (118):

To **117** (4.4 g, 0.028 mol) in *t*-BuOH (100 mL) was added cylcohexene (8.9 mL, 0.084 mol) and cooled to 0 °C. A solution of NaOCl₂ (6.2 g, 0.069 mol) and NaH₂PO₄•H₂O (16 g, 0.12 mol) in H₂O (100 mL) was added slowly in several portions. The reaction was allowed to come to rt and stirred for 10 h. The aqueous layer was made basic (pH~9) with the addition of solid Na₂CO₃ and extracted with EtOAc (3x). These organic extracts were later discarded. The aqueous layer was then acidified (pH~5) with the addition of solid citric acid and extracted with EtOAc (3x). The combined organic extracts were dried and concentrated to give **118** as a yellow solid (2.9 g, 60%). mp: 130-132 $^{\circ}$ (lit. 144-145 $^{\circ}$); ¹⁰³ ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): δ = 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.40 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD): δ = 161.9, 155.7, 134.5, 114.2, 111.2, 86.3, 79.9, 54.6.

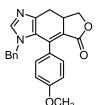
(2E)-3-(1-Benzyl-1H-imidazol-4-yl)prop-2-enyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propynoate (107):



118 (2.00 g, 11.4 mmol), alcohol **133a** (2.94 g, 13.7 mmol), DMAP (0.14 g, 1.2 mmol) and CSA (0.16 g, 0.70 mmol) were dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) and cooled to -78 °C under N₂. DCC (3.50 g, 17.1 mmol) dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) was added dropwise. The mixture

was allowed to come to rt and stir for 2 h. The solids were filtered through Celite and washed with CH_2CI_2 . The filtrate was reduced and the resulting brown residue was purified by column chromatography (8:2 EtOAc/Hexane) to afford **107** as an off-white solid (2.53 g, 56%). mp: 65-67 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.86 (m, 3H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.47-6.38 (dt, *J* = 15.5 Hz, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (s, 2H), 4.82 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 161.6, 154.2, 139.8, 137.9, 135.9, 135.0, 129.1, 128.5, 127.4, 127.0, 120.6, 117.9, 114.4, 111.5, 87.3, 80.1, 66.5, 55.5, 51.0; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3105, 2195, 1899, 1697, 1602, 1567, 1541; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₂₃H₂₁N₂O₃ is 373.1547 found 373.1564; Cald. for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₃H₂₀N₂O₃Na is 395.1366 found 395.1368; Calcd. for [2M+H]⁺ C₄₆H₄₂N₄O₆ is 745.3021 found 745.3024; Calcd. for [2M+Na]⁺ C₄₆H₄₀N₄O₆Na is 767.2840 found 767.2844.

3-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,7,7a,8-tetrahydro-5H-furo[3,4-f]benzimidazol-5-one (106):



107 (2.54 g, 6.84 mmol) was dissolved in toluene (200 mL) and purged with N_2 for 15 minutes. The solution was then heated at 130 °C in a sealed tube for 48 h. The solvent was removed and the resulting solids washed with diethyl ether to afford **106** as an off-white solid (2.14 g, 84%). mp: 199-201

 $^{\circ}$ C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.24-7.10 (m, 5H), 6.85 (dd, *J* = 5.7 Hz, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 6.64 (dd, *J* = 5.1, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 4.68 (dd, *J* = 16.5, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.67-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.06 (dd, *J* = 15.0, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (dd, *J* = 17.1, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 168.1, 160.3, 144.4, 141.2, 139.4, 135.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.1, 126.6, 123.9, 117.2, 70.6, 55.4, 50.3, 38.1, 28.0; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3465, 2946, 1737, 1621, 1512, 1252; HR-ESIMS (*m*/*z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₂₃H₂₁N₂O₃ is 373.1547 found 373.1571; Calcd. for [2M+H]⁺ C₄₆H₄₂N₄O₆ is 745.3021 found 745.3045.

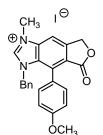
3-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,7-dihydro-5H-furo[3,4-f]benzimidazole-5-one (119):



106 (7.0 g, 19 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (500 mL) and MnO_2 (18.0 g, 188 mmol) was added. The mixture stirred at rt for 24 h. The solids were filtered and washed with CH_2Cl_2 followed by MeOH. The filtrate was

 \dot{O} CH₃ concentrated to give **119** as an off-white solid (6.24 g, 89%). mp: 176-178 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.21-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 5.35 (s, 2H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 170.0, 159.8, 149.4, 148.9, 140.5, 135.8, 132.7, 131.0, 128.7, 128.0, 127.6, 126.2, 124.2, 118.5, 113.3, 112.4, 68.0, 55.3, 50.3; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2947, 1739, 1614, 1500, 1347, 1253; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₃H₁₈N₂O₃Na is 393.1210 found 393.1210; Calcd. for [2M+Na]⁺ C₄₆H₃₆N₄O₆Na is 763.2527 found 763.2521.

3-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-5-oxo-5,7-dihydro-3*H*-furo[3,4-f]benzimidazol-1ium iodide (105):

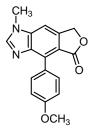


119 (0.37 g, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in toluene (20 mL) and MeI (0.20 mL, 3.2 mmol) was added. The mixture was heated at 120 °C for 24 h during which additional aliquots of methyl iodide (0.5 equiv) were added until no starting material could be detected by TLC. The solids were filtered and

washed with EtOAc to afford 105 as a pale yellow solid (0.48 g, 93%). mp:

198-200 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 10.50 (s, 1H), 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.25-7.12 (m, 5H), 6.94-6.87 (m, 4H), 5.43 (s, 2H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 4.32 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 167.7, 160.8, 146.4, 144.8, 136.8, 132.2, 131.4, 131.1, 130.1, 129.2, 127.7, 122.8, 121.0, 113.9, 106.7, 68.0, 55.5, 53.2, 35.4; IR (cm⁻¹): 2939, 1775, 1612, 1575, 1501, 1451, 1378, 1337; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M]⁺ C₂₄H₂₁N₂O₃ is 385.1547 found 385.1548.

4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1,7-dihydro-furo[3,4-f]benzimidazol-5-one (120b):

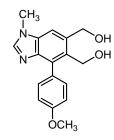


To **105** (0.44 g, 0.86 mmol) was added EtOH (50 mL) and sat. NaHCO₃ (5 mL), followed by 10% Pd/C (0.10 g). The reaction mixture was heated at 80 $\$ under H₂ (1 atm) for 24 h. The solids were filtered and washed with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH followed by water. The aqueous layer was then acidified to pH = 5 with 3M HCl and stirred for 2 h. The aqueous layer was extracted multiple

times with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The resulting solid was recrystallized from MeOH to afford **120b** as a white solid (0.19 g, 76%). mp: >250 °C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 8.32 (s, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 5.39 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 170.5, 159.7, 147.9, 143.1, 142.6, 139.8, 133.4, 133.2, 125.4, 114.6, 113.2, 102.9, 68.4, 55.7, 31.6; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3044, 2957, 2835, 1739, 1603, 1501, 1453; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺

 $C_{17}H_{15}N_2O_3$ is 295.1077 found 295.1092; Calcd. for $[M+Na]^+ C_{17}H_{14}N_2O_3Na$ is 317.0897 found 317.0910.

[4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzimidazole-5,6-diyl]dimethanol (121):

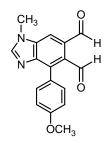


120b (0.19 g, 0.65 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL) and cooled to -78 °C under N₂. DIBAL-H (1M in Hexane) (1.5 mL, 1.5 mmol) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 3 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and water was added slowly followed by MeOH. The solids were filtered and washed

with CH₂Cl₂ and MeOH. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted multiple times with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic extracts were dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The resulting white solid was triturated with Et₂O to afford **121** as a white solid (0.15 g, 79%). mp: 245-247 °C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.25 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 4.79 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 158.8, 144.7, 141.6, 137.6, 134.2, 133.3, 132.5, 129.9, 129.8, 113.5, 108.4, 62.4, 58.5, 55.6, 31.2; IR (cm⁻¹): 3074, 2889, 1608, 1574, 1340, 1237, 1174, 1015; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₁₇H₁₉N₂O₃ is 299.1390 found 299.1411; Calcd. for [M+H-H₂O]⁺ C₁₇H₂₁N₂O₄ is 281.1285 found 281.1291.

4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5,6-dicarbaldehyde (104):

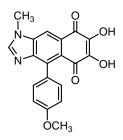
121 (0.10 g, 0.34 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2CI_2 and DBU (0.2 mL, 1.34 mmol) was added. The solution was cooled to -78 °C under N₂ and *N-tert*-butylbenzenesulfinimidoyl chloride (**122**) (0.22 g, 1.02 mmol) dissolved in CH_2CI_2 (5 mL) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at



-78 °C for 30 min. The reaction was quenched with sat. NaHCO₃ and the organic layer separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2CI_2 (2x). The combined organic extracts were dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (the silica gel was neutralized with 5% Et₃N prior to purification) (EtOAc to

2% MeOH in EtOAc) to afford **104** as an off-white solid (0.069 g, 70%). ¹H NMR: δ = 10.61 (s, 1H), 10.16 (s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.08 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 193.5, 192.9, 160.2, 147.7, 145.3, 139.8, 136.7, 133.1, 132.7, 129.5, 125.1, 114.1, 109.7, 55.5, 31.7; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3105, 2928, 2881, 1777, 1751, 1682, 1663, 1566; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₁₇H₁₅N₂O₃ is 295.1077 found 295.1110; Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₁₇H₁₄N₂O₃Na is 317.0897 found 317.0938.

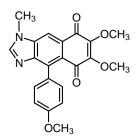
6,7-Dihydroxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*]imidazole-5,8-dione (124):



To **104** (0.074 g, 0.27 mmol) in EtOH (1.5 mL) was added **123** (0.050 g, 0.81 mmol) followed by the simultaneous addition of KCN (0.021 g, 0.33 mmol) in H₂O (0.5 mL) and Et₃N (0.040 mL, 0.27 mmol). The reaction was stirred at rt for 15 min and then quenched with 10% HCl until a pH=5 was reached. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3x) and

discarded. The aqueous layer was reduced and the resulting solids filtered and washed with acetone to give **124** as a red-orange solid (0.035 g, 39%). ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 9.73$ (brs, 2H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 181.8$, 181.3, 158.9, 148.8, 146.8, 141.9, 139.4, 137.1, 135.8, 131.1, 129.9, 127.5, 121.5, 113.4, 109.6, 55.6, 31.9; IR (cm⁻¹): 2981, 1642, 1627, 1608, 1337, 1243, 1211, 1021; HR-ESIMS (negative mode) (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M-H]⁻ C₁₉H₁₃N₂O₅ is 349.0830 found 349.0832.

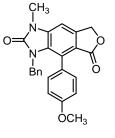
6,7-Dimethoxyoxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*]imidazole-5,8-dione (103):



To **124** (0.023 g, 0.066 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added MeOH (1 mL) and TMS-CHN₂ (2.0M in Et₂O) (0.080 mL, 0.16 mmol) and stirred at rt for 1 h. The reaction was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and washed with sat. NaHCO₃ (1x), dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (2:8 acetone/Hexane to

1:1 acetone/Hexane) to give **103** as an orange residue (0.016 g, 64%). ¹H NMR: δ = 8.24 (s, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.10 (s, 3H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 182.3, 182.0, 159.1, 148.9, 147.4, 146.5, 136.8, 130.6, 130.2, 128.8, 128.3, 122.8, 114.5, 113.8, 108.8, 61.4, 61.3, 55.3, 31.7; IR (cm⁻¹): 2924, 2852, 1658, 1618, 1515, 1456, 1341, 1307, 1245, 1215, 1054; HR-APCIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₅ is 379.1288 found 379.1296.

3-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-3,7-dihydro-1*H*-furo[3,4-*f*]benzimidazole-2,5dione (127):

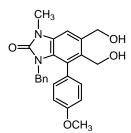


105 (1.0 g, 1.9 mmol) in THF (40 mL) was cooled to 0 °C and 5% NaOCI (30 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to come to rt and stir for 30 min. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (2x). The combined organic extracts were washed with H₂0, then brine, dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The

resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (7:3 EtOAc/Hexane) to give **127** as an off-white solid (0.58 g, 75%). mp: 185-187 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.12-7.09 (m, 3H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 8.9, 2H), 6.58-6.56 (m, 2H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 4.79 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 169.8, 159.7, 155.6, 141.8, 136.4, 136.2, 131.3, 128.2,

127.8, 127.2, 126.0, 124.0, 123.6, 117.1, 113.1, 99.5, 67.7, 55.3, 45.8, 27.8; IR (cm⁻¹): 1748, 1705, 1609, 1517, 1496, 1352, 1244, 1028; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for $[M+Na]^+ C_{24}H_{20}N_2O_4Na$ is 423.1315 found 423.1316.

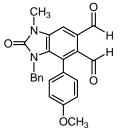
[3-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5,6-diyl]dimethanol-2-one (128):



127 (1.4 g, 3.5 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2CI_2 (25 mL) and cooled to -78 °C under N₂. DIBAL-H (1M in hexanes) (9.8 mL, 9.8 mmol) was added dropwise, then allowed to come to rt and stirred for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and water was added slowly followed by MeOH. The solids were filtered through Celite and washed

with CH₂Cl₂. Water was added to the filtrate and the organic layer separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2x). The combined organic extracts were dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The resulting solids were washed with hexane, then Et₂O to give **128** as an off-white solid (1.17g, 83%). mp: 205-206 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.11-7.09 (m, 3H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.59-6.57 (m, 2H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 4.64 (s, 2H), 4.38 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 159.4, 155.5, 137.1, 134.0, 132.5, 131.5, 130.1, 128.1, 127.2, 126.9, 125.8, 125.6, 113.4, 108.5, 65.1, 59.5, 55.4, 45.4, 27.4; IR (cm⁻¹): 3313, 2930, 1669, 1611, 1515, 1398, 1244, 1181; HR-APCIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₂₄H₂₅N₂O₄ is 405.1809 found 405.1826; Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₄Na is 427.1628 found 427.1643.

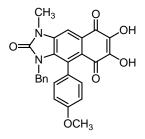
3-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5,6-dicarbaldehyde-2-one (129):



128 (0.22 g, 0.54 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) and cooled to -78 °C under N₂. DBU (0.32 mL, 2.2 mmol) was added followed by **122** (0.38 g, 1.7 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL) and the reaction was stirred at -78 °C for 30 min. Sat. NaHCO₃ was added and the solution was allowed to

come to rt. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2x). The combined organic extracts were dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (the silica gel was neutralized with Et₃N prior to purification) (4:6 EtOAc/Hexane) to give **129** as an off-white solid (0.17 g, 77%). mp: 152-155 °C ; ¹H NMR: δ = 10.40 (s, 1H), 9.67 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.14-7.08 (m, 3H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 192.6, 192.0, 160.1, 155.6, 136.1, 133.7, 132.2, 131.9, 131.8, 130.2, 128.3, 128.0, 127.3, 125.6, 123.6, 113.7, 106.5, 55.5, 45.8, 27.9; IR (cm⁻¹): 2934, 1701, 1675, 1606, 1513, 1357, 1243, 1076; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₄H₂₀N₂O₄Na is 423.1315 found 423.1309.

3-Benzyl-6,7-dihydroxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*]imidazole-2,5,8trione:

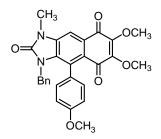


To **129** (0.10 g, 0.25 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added **123** (0.042 g, 0.75 mmol) followed by addition of KCN (0.029 g, 0.44 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (0.17 g, 1.3 mmol) in H_2O (1 mL). The reaction was stirred at rt for 5 min., then quenched with 6M HCl and diluted with H_2O (5 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2x). The combined

organic extracts were washed wth H₂O, then brine, dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated.

An orange-red residue was recovered and cold MeOH was added. The resulting solids were filtered to give the dihydroxyquinone as an orange solid (0.022 g, 20%). mp: 204-206 °C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 9.65 (s, 1H), 9.60 (s,1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.13-7.11 (m, 3H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.56-6.54 (m, 2H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.50 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 181.6, 181.1, 159.1, 155.1, 141.0, 138.4, 137.3, 134.0, 131.2, 130.5, 128.5, 127.7, 127.3, 127.0, 125.7, 125.0, 122.6, 113.5, 106.0, 55.6, 45.5, 28.1; IR (cm⁻¹): 3240, 1697, 1654, 1597, 1514, 1400, 1283, 1243

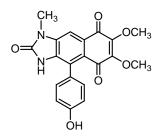
3-Benzyl-6,7-dimethoxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*]imidazole-2,5,8trione (130):



The dihydroxyquinone prepared above (0.022 g, 0.048 mmol) was dissolved in THF (3 mL) and MeOH (0.5 mL) was added followed by TMS-CHN₂ (2.0M in Et₂O) (0.07 mL, 0.15 mmol) and stirred at rt for 30 min. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc and washed with 2M Na₂CO₃ (2x), then brine. The organic extracts were dried (anhyd.

Na₂SO₄), and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (1:1 EtOAc/Hexane) to give **130** as an orange solid (0.015 g, 65%). mp: 176-178 °C ; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.13-7.11 (m, 3H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.58-6.56 (m, 2H), 4.60 (s, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 182.0, 181.5, 159.2, 155.4, 148.1, 145.2, 136.6, 134.0, 130.1, 128.2, 127.1, 127.0, 125.5, 124.0, 113.5, 105.4, 61.4, 61.3, 55.3, 45.8, 27.9; IR (cm⁻¹): 2950, 1716, 1651, 1619, 1601, 1455, 1241, 1211; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₈H₂₄N₂O₆Na is 507.1527 found 507.1533.

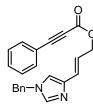
4-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-1-methyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*]imidazole-2,5,8-trione (131):



To **130** (0.030 g, 0.062 mmol) was added TfOH (2.5 mL) and heated at 55 °C in a vial for 4 h. The reaction was allow ed to cool to rt and poured into EtOAc. Water was added and the solution neutralized with sat. NaHCO₃. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2x). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried

(anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (8:2 EtOAc/Hexane) to give **131** as an orange solid (0.010 g, 56%). mp: >290 °C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 10.95 (s, 1H), 9.41 (s, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.35 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 181.9, 181.7, 157.2, 155.3, 148.4, 145.6, 134.4, 133.1, 130.3, 127.0, 126.4, 124.5, 123.2, 115.8, 104.9, 61.2 (2C), 27.3; IR (cm⁻¹)= 3200, 2921, 2851, 1702, 1656, 1609, 1515, 1105, 1059, 1033; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₀H₁₆N₂O₆Na is 403.0901 found 403.0911; Calcd. for [2M+Na]⁺ C₅₆H₄₈N₄O₁₂Na is 783.1909 found 783.1914.

(2E)-3-(1-Benzyl-1H-imidazol-4-yl)prop-2-enyl 3-phenylpropynoate (68c):



To alcohol **113a** (6.0 g, 28 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (200 mL) was added acid **133** (4.9 g, 33 mmol), DMAP (0.34 g, 2.8 mmol), and CSA (0.39 g, 1.7 mmol). The solution was then cooled to 0 $^{\circ}$ under N₂ and DCC (8.7 g, 42 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction was stirred at 0 $^{\circ}$ for 2

h. The solids were filtered through Celite and washed with CH_2CI_2 . The filtrate was reduced and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (6:4 EtOAc/Hexane) to give **68c** as a pale yellow solid (6.6 g, 69%). mp: 57-61 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.11-7.53 (m, 11H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 6.36-6.59 (m, 2H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 4.81 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 153.9, 139.8, 138.0, 136.0, 133.1, 130.7, 129.1, 128.7, 128.4, 127.4, 127.3, 120.3, 119.7, 118.0, 86.4, 80.7, 66.7, 50.9; IR (NaCl disk, cm⁻¹): 3068, 2936, 2219, 1705, 1491, 1444, 1285, 1186, 1170, 966; HR-ESIMS (m/z): Calcd for C₂₂H₁₉N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ is 343.1441 found 343.1453; Calcd for $C_{44}H_{35}N_4O_4Na [2M+Na]^+$ is 707.2629 found 707.2639.

3-Benzyl-3,7,7a,8-tetrahydro-4-phenyl-5*H*-furo[3,4-f]benzimidazol-5-one (69c):

68c (6.6 g, 19 mmol) in toluene (600 mL) was degassed with N_2 for 20 min. Βń

The solution was then heated to 130 ℃ in a re-seal able pressure vessel for 48 h. The reaction was allowed to cool to rt at which point the product precipitated from the toluene. The solids were filtered and washed with Et₂O. The filtrate was reduced and the resulting solids washed with Et₂O and filtered to recover a second crop to give **69c** as an off-white solid (5.5 g, 83%). mp: 228-231 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ + DMSO-d₆): δ = 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.14-7.34 (m, 8H), 6.50-6.52 (m, 2H), 4.88 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.52-3.61 (m, 1H), 2.91, (dd, J = 15.9, 15.6, Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd, J = 17.4, 15.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ + DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 167.9$, 144.7, 142.6, 139.1, 137.3, 132.6, 129.2, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3, 128.0, 127.6, 126.4, 117.6, 70.7, 49.4, 37.9, 27.5,; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3048, 2936, 1734, 1609, 1525, 1350, 1255, 1214, 1188, 1098, 1074, 1018; HR-ESIMS (m/z): Calcd for C₂₂H₁₉N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ is 343.1441 found 343.1439; Calcd for $C_{22}H_{18}N_2O_2Na$ [M+Na]⁺ is 365.1260 found 365.1265; Calcd for $C_{44}H_{36}N_4O_4Na$ [2M+Na]⁺ is 707.2629 found 707.2627.

3-benzyl-4-phenyl-3,7-dihydro-5*H*-furo[3,4-f]benzimidazol-5-one:

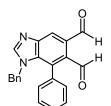
To 69c (5.5 g, 16 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (250 mL) was added MnO₂ (~85% act.) (15 g) and heated at 40 ℃ for 48 h. The solids were filtered through C elite and washed with CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate

was reduced to give the product as a white solid (5.0 g, 91%). mp: 185-186 $C; {}^{1}H NMR; \bar{\delta} = 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18-7.13 (m, 4H), 6.54 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 5.37 (s, 2H), 4.93 (s, 2H); {}^{13}C NMR; \bar{\delta} = 169.8, 148.9, 140.5, 135.7, 132.3, 129.8, 128.8, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 127.6, 126.2, 118.4, 112.6, 68.1, 50.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 3005, 2923, 1752, 1497, 1363, 1251, 1130, 1018; HR-ESIMS ($ *m/z*): Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₂H₁₆N₂O₂Na is 363.1104 found 363.1114; Calcd. for [2M+Na]⁺ C₄₄H₃₂N₄O₄Na is 703.2316 found 703.2327.

[3-Benzyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5,6-diyl]dimethanol (134):

The benzimidazole prepared above (5.0 g, 15 mmol) was dissolved in 'nн CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL) and cooled to -78 ℃ under N₂. DIBAL-H (1M in hexanes) Βń (41 mL, 41 mmol) was added dropwise, then allowed to come to rt and stir overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 ${\mathfrak C}$ and water was added slowly followed by MeOH. The solids were filtered through Celite and washed with CH₂Cl₂. Water was added to the filtrate and the organic layer separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2x). The combined organic extracts were dried (anhyd. Na_2SO_4) and concentrated. The resulting solids were washed with Et₂O to give **134** as a white solid (3.2 g, 63%). mp: 191-193 $^{\circ}$ C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.18-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.08 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.50 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 4.49 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 146.0, 143.4, 136.5, 135.9, 135.1, 134.1, 131.5, 130.4, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 127.7, 127.7, 126.0, 121.2, 65.4, 59.6, 49.6; IR (cm⁻¹): 3056, 2856, 1504, 1441, 1311, 1175, 1018, 1000; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₂₂H₂₁N₂O₂ is 345.1598 found 345.1604; Calcd. for $[M+Na]^+ C_{28}H_{24}N_2O_6Na$ is 507.1527 found 507.1533.

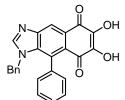
3-Benzyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5,6-dicarbaldehyde (135):



134 (3.0 g, 8.7 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2CI_2 (75 mL) and cooled to -78 °C under N₂. DBU (4.8 mL, 35 mmol) was added followed by **122** (4.7 g, 22 mmol) in CH_2CI_2 (3 mL) and the reaction was stirred at -78 °C for 30 min. Sat. NaHCO₃ was added and the solution was allowed to come to rt. The

organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2x). The combined organic extracts were dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (the silica gel was neutralized with Et₃N prior to purification) (6:4 EtOAc/Hexane) to give **135** as a white solid (2.0 g, 68%). mp: 167-169 °C; ¹H NMR: $\delta = 10.49$ (s, 1H), 9.88 (s, 1H), 8.43 (s,1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.14 (m, 4H), 6.51 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.86 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR: $\delta = 192.8$, 192.4, 149.7, 146.8, 135.4, 134.0, 132.9, 132.4, 132.0, 131.4, 130.5, 129.2, 128.9, 128.4, 128.2, 125.9, 121.8, 50.2; IR (cm⁻¹): 3070, 2871, 1756, 1678, 1595, 1488, 1455, 1303, 1213; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₂H₁₆N₂O₂Na is 363.1104 found 363.1108.

3-Benzyl-6,7-dihydroxy-4-phenyl-1H-naphtho[2,3-d]imidazole-5,8-dione (136):

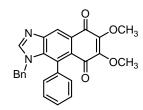


To **135** (0.15 g, 0.44 mmol) in THF was added **123** (0.037 g, 0.66 mmol) followed by the simultaneous addition of KCN (0.029 g, 0.44 mmol) in H_2O (1 mL) and Et_3N (0.060 mL, 0.44 mmol). The reaction was stirred at rt for 15 min., then quenched with H_2O (5 mL). 1M HCl was added until

pH = 5 and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2x). The combined organic extracts were dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. An orange-red residue was recovered and recrystallized from MeOH to give **136** as an orange-red solid (0.074 g, 43%). mp: 280 °C (decomp.); ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 9.71 (brs, 2H), 8.46 (s, 1H), 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.32-7.29 (m,

1H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 5H), 7.01-7.00 (m, 2H), 6.45 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 4.75 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 181.6$, 181.1, 151.2, 146.6, 141.8, 139.6, 137.6, 136.5, 135.5, 129.3, 129.1, 128.8, 128.2, 127.8, 127.8, 127.1, 125.9, 122.9, 118.7, 49.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 2831, 1662, 1615, 1595, 1569, 1343, 1315, 1206, 1189, 905; HR-APCIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₂₄H₁₇N₂O₄ is 397.1183 found 397.1196.

3-Benzyl-6,7-dimethoxy-4-phenyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*]imidazole-5,8-dione (137):

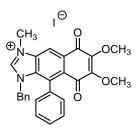


136 (0.084 g, 0.21 mmol) was suspended in THF (5 mL) and MeOH (2.0 mL) was added followed by TMS-CHN₂ (2.0M in Et₂O) (0.37 mL, 0.74 mmol) and stirred at rt for 4 hr. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc and washed with sat. NaHCO₃ (2x), dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄),

and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (1:1 EtOAc/Hexane) to give**137** as a yellow solid (0.045 g, 54%). mp: 189-191 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 8.65 (s, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 182.1, 181.9, 149.5, 148.7, 147.0, 146.4, 136.1, 135.9, 135.8, 129.2, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 126.1, 124.0, 120.2, 61.4, 61.3, 50.0; IR (cm⁻¹): 3009, 2940, 1649, 1596, 1441, 1348, 1291, 1027; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₂₆H₂₁N₂O₄ is 425.1496 found 425.1490; Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₆H₂₀N₂O₄Na is 447.1315 found 447.1325.

3-Benzyl-6,7-dimethoxy-1-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*]imidazolium-5,8-dione iodide (138):

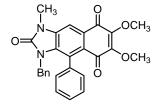
To **137** (0.045 g, 0.11 mmol) in CH₃CN (8 mL) was added MeI (0.20 mL) and heated at 70 $^{\circ}$ C for 15 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the resulting residue was triturated with



132.9, 132.3, 132.2, 131.1, 129.4, 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.0, 127.0, 111.8, 61.6 (2C), 53.0, 34.9; IR (cm⁻¹): 3031, 2945, 1718, 1660, 1609, 1452, 1314, 1209, 1052, 916; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for $[M]^+ C_{27}H_{23}N_2O_4$ is 439.1652 found 439.1634.

3-Benzyl-6,7-dimethoxy-1-methyl-4-phenyl-1H-naphtho[2,3-d]imidazole-2,5,8-trione

(139a):



Condition A: **138** (0.052 g, 0.092 mmol) was suspended in THF (3 mL) and cooled to 0 \degree . 5% NaOCI (0.55 mL) was add ed dropwise and stirred at 0 \degree for 10 min. The reaction mixtu re was diluted with water (5 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (2x). The combined organic

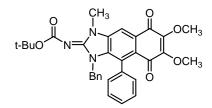
extracts were washed with sat. NaCl, dried (anhyd. Na_2SO_4) and concentrated. The resulting yellow residue was purified by column chromatography (1:1 EtOAc/Hexane) to give **139a** as a yellow solid (0.011 g, 26%).

Condition B: To **138** (0.031 g, 0.055 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added 1M K₂CO₃ (0.27 mL) and NCS (0.008 g, 0.060 mmol) and stirred at rt for 30 min. The reaction was diluted with water (4 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (1:1 EtOAc/Hexane) to give **139a** as a yellow solid (0.015 g, 60%). mp: 160-162 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 3H), 6.89 (d, *J* =

6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.53 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 181.9, 181.4, 155.4, 148.1, 145.3, 136.5, 135.2, 134.0, 131.4, 129.0, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 127.5, 127.1, 125.6, 125.5, 123.7, 105.5, 61.4, 61.3, 45.7, 27.9; IR (cm⁻¹): 2927, 1709, 1651, 1620, 1601, 1452, 1344, 1209, 1059; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₂₇H₂₂N₂O₅Na is 477.1421 found 447.1438; Calcd. for [2M+Na]⁺ C₅₄H₄₄N₄O₁₀Na is 931.2950 found 931.2965.

3-Benzyl-2-tert-butylcarbonylimino-6,7-dimethoxy-1-methyl-4-phenyl-1H-naphtho

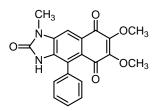
[2,3-*d*]imidazole-2,5,8-trione (139b):



To **92** (0.019 g, 0.16 mmol) in CH_2CI_2 (2 mL) was added *t*-BuOCI (0.020 mL, 0.17 mmol) and stirred at rt for 20 min. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C and DBU (0.033 mL, 0.22 mmol) was added followed by **138** in CH_2CI_2 (3 mL). The

reaction was stirred at rt for 30 min, then diluted with water. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2x) and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by column chromatography (1:1 EtOAc/Hexane) to give **139b** as a yellow-orange residue (0.010 g, 30%). ¹H NMR: δ = 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.12-7.07 (m, 3H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.70 (s, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 181.6, 181.1, 158.3, 153.9, 148.3, 145.5, 135.8, 135.4, 134.6, 132.3, 128.9, 128.2, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.1, 127.1, 125.4, 124.5, 106.6, 78.9, 61.4, 61.3, 47.3, 31.8, 28.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 2929, 1655, 1581, 1443, 1308, 1207, 1147, 1047, 1026; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₃₂H₃₂N₃O₆ is 554.2286 found 554.2290; Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₃₂H₃₁N₃O₆Na is 576.2105 found 576.2116.

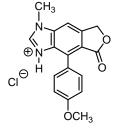
6,7-Dimethoxy-1-methyl-4-phenyl-1H-naphtho[2,3-d]imidazole-2,5,8-trione (140):



To **139a** (0.025 g, 0.055 mmol) was added TfOH (2 mL) and heated at 55 °C for 4 h. The reaction was quenched with water and neutralized with sat. NaHCO₃. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2x) and the combined organic extracts were washed with

brine, dried and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (6:4 EtOAc/Hexane) to give **140** as a yellow waxy solid (0.010 g, 67%). ¹H NMR: δ = 8.11 (brs, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.49-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.21 (m, 2H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.47 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 181.9, 181.5, 154.2, 147.6, 146.0, 135.3, 134.1, 131.6, 129.1, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 124.3, 123.0, 105.5, 61.5, 61.4, 27.4; IR (cm⁻¹): 2919, 1708, 1648, 1623, 1443, 1332, 1245, 1194, 1056, 1026; HR-APCIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₂₀H₁₇N₂O₅ is 365.1132 found 365.1144.

4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-5-oxo-5,7-dihydro-1*H*-furo[3,4-*f*][3,1]benzimidazol-3-ium chloride (142)



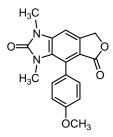
To **120b** (0.072 g, 0.24 mmol) in acetonitrile (10 mL) was added SEM-CI and stirred at 60 °C for 1 h. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C and the precipitated solids were filtered and washed with Et₂O to give **142** as a white solid (0.051 g, 63%). mp: 255-258 °C; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): δ = 9.56 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.6

Hz, 2H), 5.52 (s, 2H), 4.19 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD): δ = 169.3, 161.1, 145.7, 145.1, 136.4, 131.3, 130.5, 122.0, 119.9, 113.8, 105.2, 68.5, 54.6, 32.7; IR (cm⁻¹): 3155, 2942, 1728, 1623, 1506, 1392, 1243, 1142, 1110, 1012; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₁₈H₁₇N₂O₃ is 317.0897 found 317.0903.

4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dimethyl-5-oxo-5,7-dihydro-3*H*-furo[3,4-f]benzimidazol-1-ium iodide (144):

To **120b** (0.025 g, 0.085 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was added MeI (0.030 mL, 0.42 mmol) and heated to 140 °C for 20 h. The solv ent was reduced to give **144** (0.025 g, 68%) as an off-white solid. mp: 253-256 °C; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): $\delta = 8.13$ (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.51 (s, 2H), 4.18 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD): $\delta = 168.9$, 160.9, 145.2, 136.7, 131.1, 130.8, 130.5, 121.8, 113.3, 106.3, 68.4, 54.6, 36.2, 32.9; IR (cm⁻¹): 2960, 1772, 1612, 1577, 1378, 1241, 1065, 1018, 823; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M]⁺ C₁₈H₁₇N₂O₃ is 309.1234 found 309.1229.

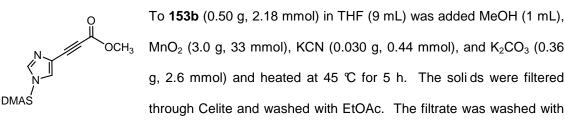
4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dimethyl-3,7-dihydro-1*H*-furo[3,4-*f*]benzimidazole-2,5-dione (145):



144 (0.010 g, 0.023 mmol) in THF was cooled to 0 \C and 5% NaOCI was added and stirred for 10 min. The reaction was diluted with water and extracted with EtOAc (2x). The combined organic extracts were dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The resulting solids were purified by

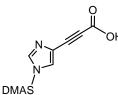
PTLC (EtOAc) to give **145** as a white solid (0.006 g, 73%). mp: 239-240 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 5.25 (s, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 2.92 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 170.0, 159.9, 155.4, 141.5, 135.8, 131.3, 128.9, 124.1, 123.4, 116.8, 113.3, 99.3, 67.9, 55.3, 30.3, 27.7; IR (cm⁻¹): 2930, 2838, 1761, 1700, 1609, 1520, 1482, 1357, 1287, 1248, 1196, 1179, 1139, 1078; HR-APCIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₁₈H₁₇N₂O₄ is 325.1183 found 325.1191.

Methyl 3-[1-(N,N-dimethylsulfamoyl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]prop-2-ynoate (154):



H₂O, then brine, dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄) and concentrated to give **154** as a tan solid (0.40 g, 71%). mp: 124-127 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.87 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.90 (s, 6 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 154.0, 137.1, 124.7, 123.3, 82.1, 78.6, 53.0, 38.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 3138, 3123, 2222, 1700, 1386, 1333, 1291, 1172, 1080, 1013; HR-APCIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for [M+H]⁺ C₉H₁₂N₃O₄S is 258.0543 found 258.0543.

3-[1-(N,N-dimethylsulfamoyl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl]prop-2-ynoic acid (155):



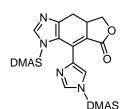
To **154** (6.5 g, 0.025 mol) in THF (150 mL) was added LiOH•H₂O (5.3 g, 0.13 mol) in water (130 mL) and stirred at rt for 18 h. The reaction was diluted with water and acidified with 6M HCl until pH = 4. The

precipitated solids were filtered and washed with cold water. The filtrate was extracted with EtOAc (2x). The combined organic extracts were concentrated and the resulting solids were washed with cold water. The two crops were combined to give **155** as a white solid (5.7 g, 92%). mp: 150 °C (decomp) (lit . 138-140 °C); ³³ ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 8.34 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ = 154.6, 138.7, 126.7, 122.3, 83.4, 78.6, 39.7.

(2*E*)-3-[1-(*N*,*N*-dimethylsulfamoyl)-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl]prop-2-en-1-yl 3-[1-(*N*,*N*-dimethyl sulfamoyl)-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl]prop-2-ynoate (150):

155 (2.61 g, 10.7 mmol), **113b** (1.77 g, 7.66 mmol), and DMAP (0.23 g, 1.91 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) was cooled to 0 °C and EDCI (1.80 g, 9.19 mmol) was added and stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. The organic layer was washed with H₂O (2x), followed by brine, dried (anhyd. Na₂SO₄), and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (8:2 EtOAc/Hexane) to give **150** as a white solid (2.52 g, 72%). mp: 119-121 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.86 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.59-4.87 (m, 2H), 4.87 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 2.89 (s, 6H), 2.86 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 153.3, 140.5, 137.2, 137.1, 124.7, 124.7, 123.8, 123.4, 115.1, 82.2, 78.8, 66.0, 38.3, 38.3; IR (cm⁻¹): 3141, 3100, 2221, 1684, 1392, 1292, 1172, 1067, 963; HR-ESIMS (*m*/*z*): Calcd. for [M+Na]⁺ C₁₆H₂₀N₆O₆S₂Na is 479.0778 found 479.0795; Calcd. for [2M+Na]⁺ C₃₂H₄₀N₁₂O₁₂S₄Na is 935.1664 found 935.1687.

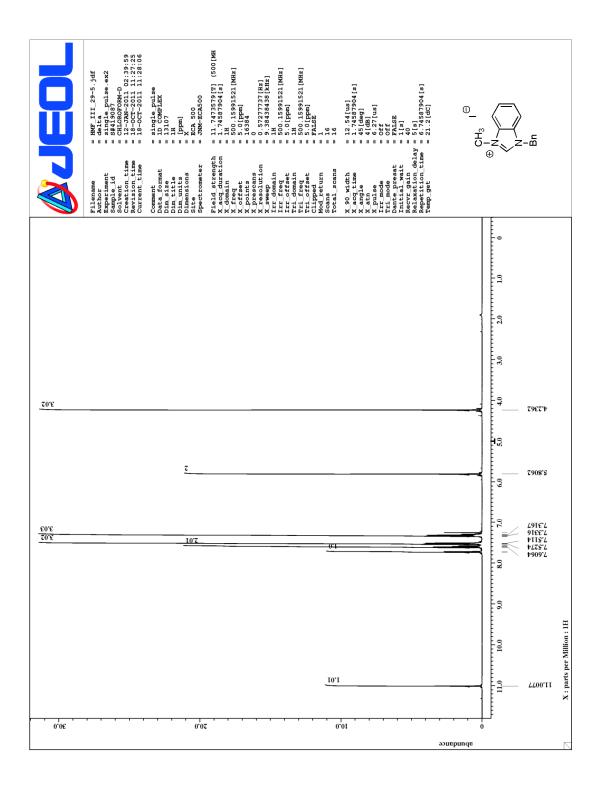
3-[1-(*N*,*N*-dimethylsulfamoyl)-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl]-3,7,7a,8-tetrahydro-4-[1-(*N*,*N*-dimethylsulfamoyl)-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl]-5*H*-furo[3,4-*f*]benzimidazole-5-one (149):

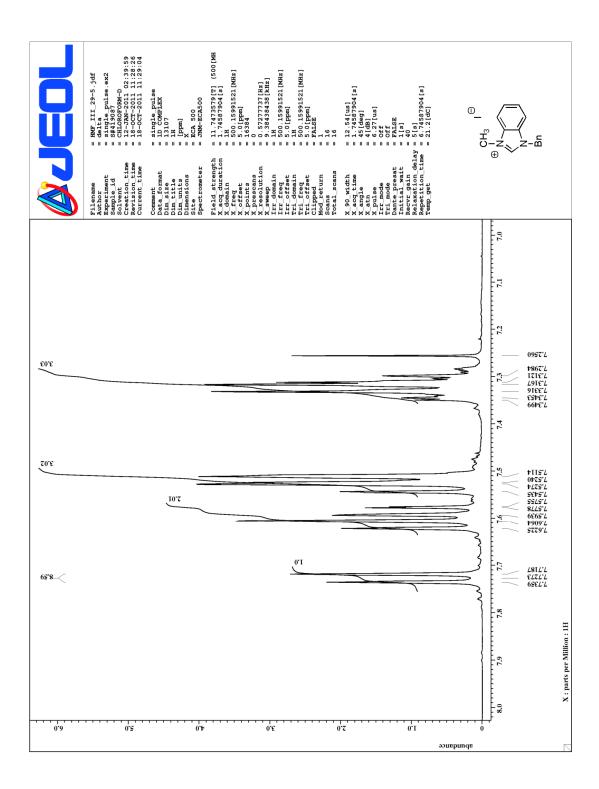


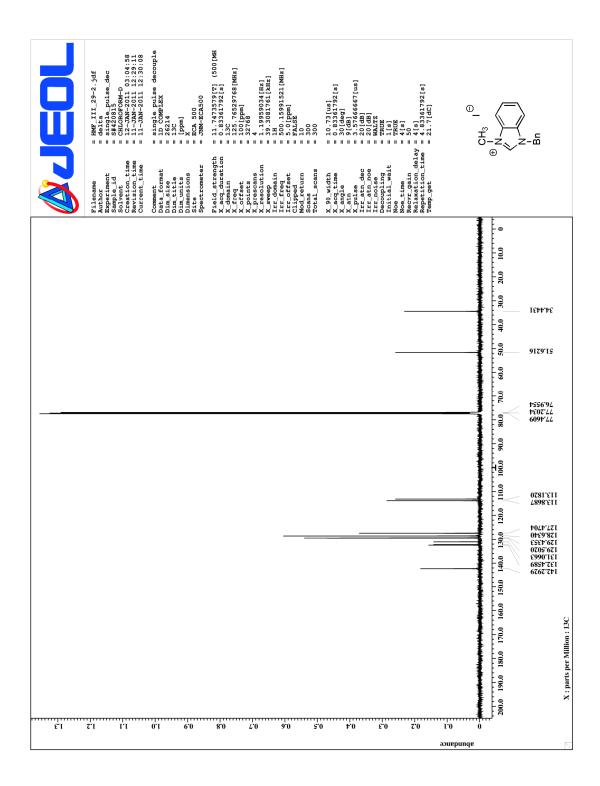
150 (1.0 g, 2.2 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (150 mL) and purged with N_2 for 10 minutes. The solution was then heated to 130 °C in a sealed tube for 20 h. The solvent was removed and the resulting solids washed with ethanol to afford **149** as a pale yellow solid (0.58 g, 58%).

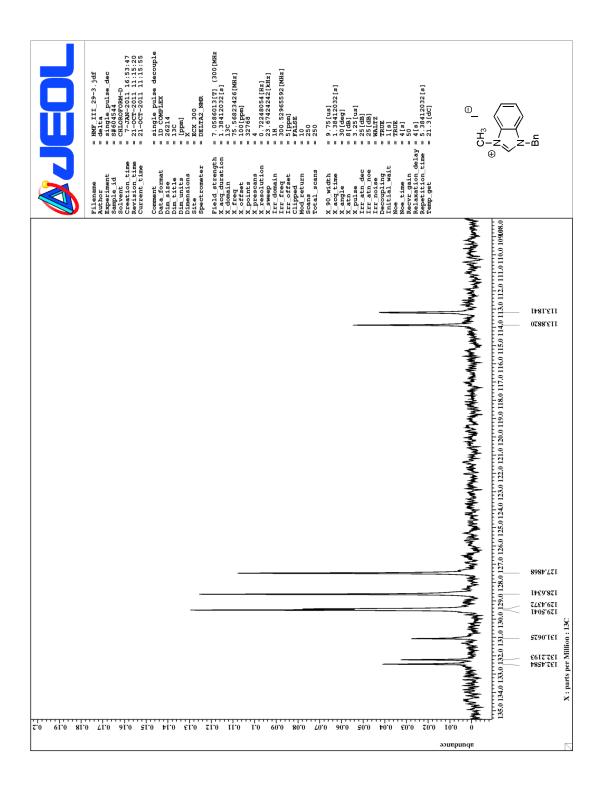
mp: 169-172 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.63-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.07 (dd, *J* = 8.6 Hz, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (s, 6H), 2.76-2.73 (m, 1H), 2.72 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 167.5, 146.1, 142.1, 135.8, 133.7, 131.3, 128.5, 121.9, 120.4, 70.7, 38.3, 38.1, 37.5, 27.9; IR (cm⁻¹): 1732, 1386, 1172, 1081, 963, 723; HR-ESIMS (*m/z*): Calcd. for $[M+Na]^+ C_{16}H_{20}N_6O_6S_2Na$ is 479.0778 found 479.0764.

APPENDIX 1 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-3-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-3-ium iodide (**81a**)

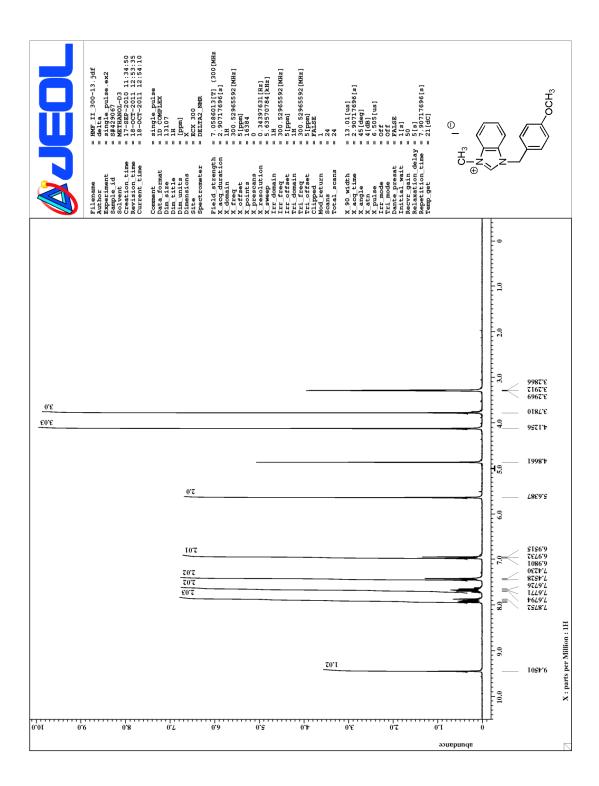


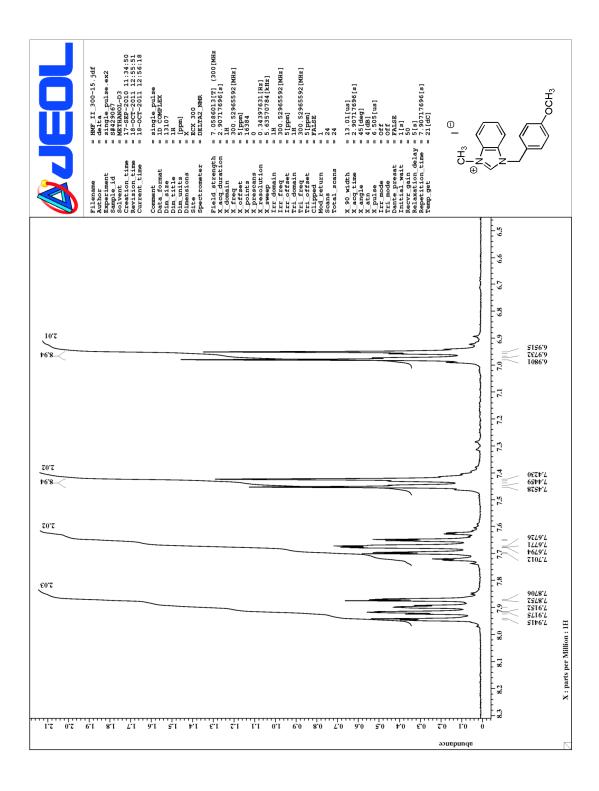


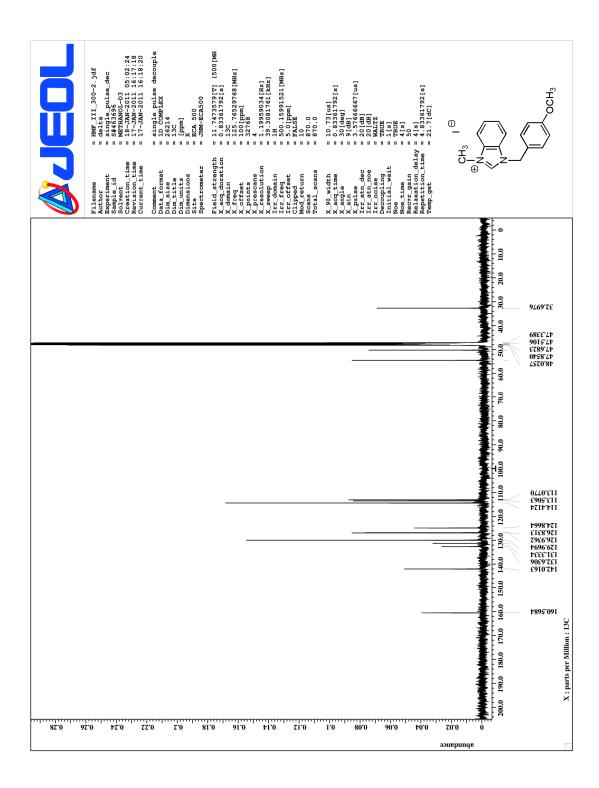


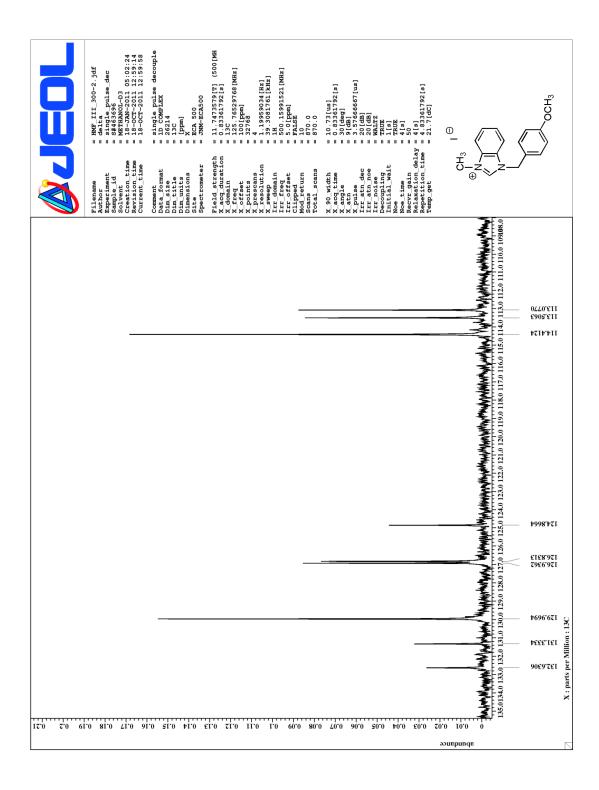


APPENDIX 2 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-(4-methoxybenzyl)-3-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-3-ium iodide (**81b**)

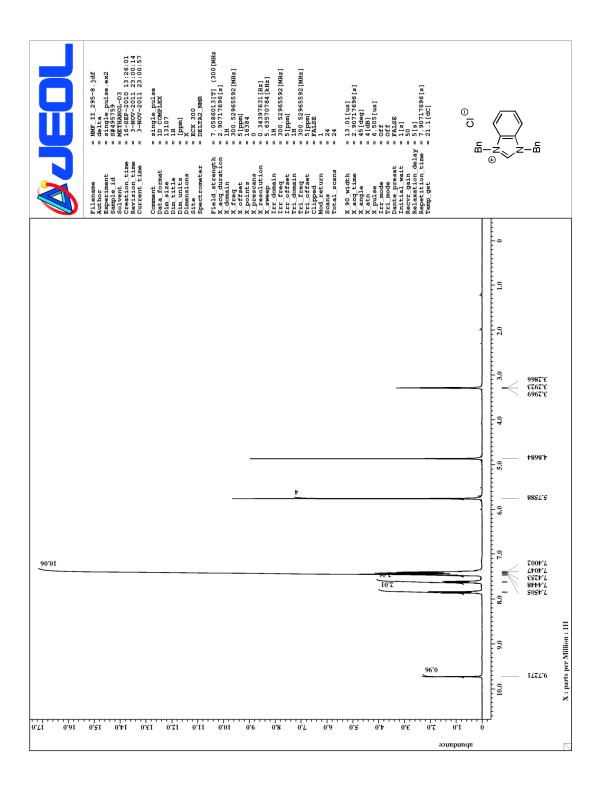


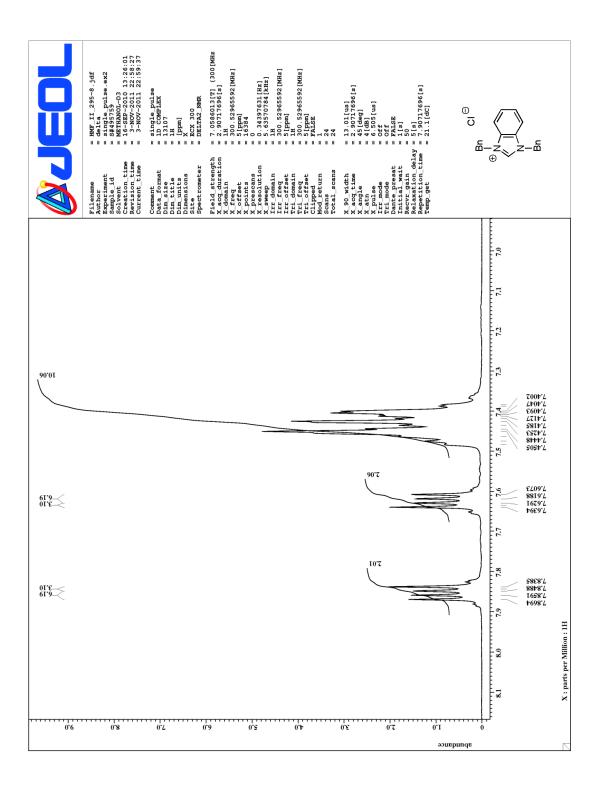


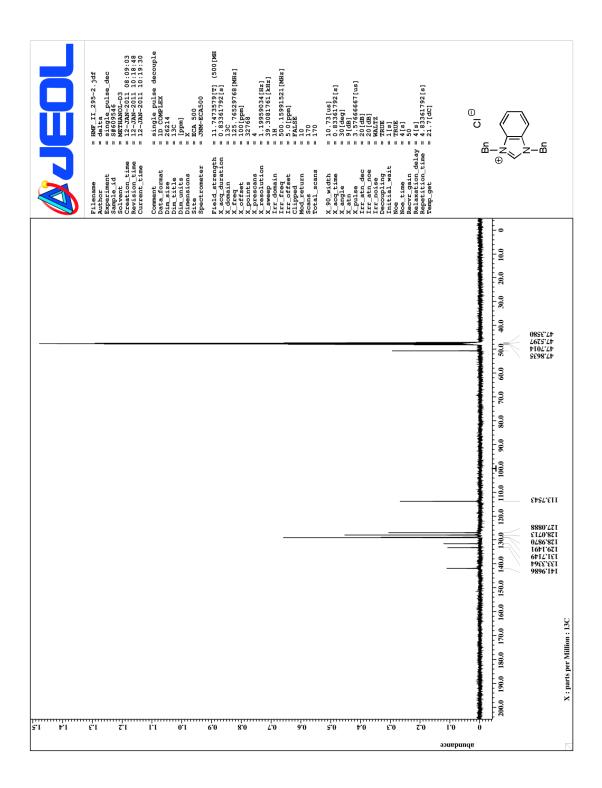


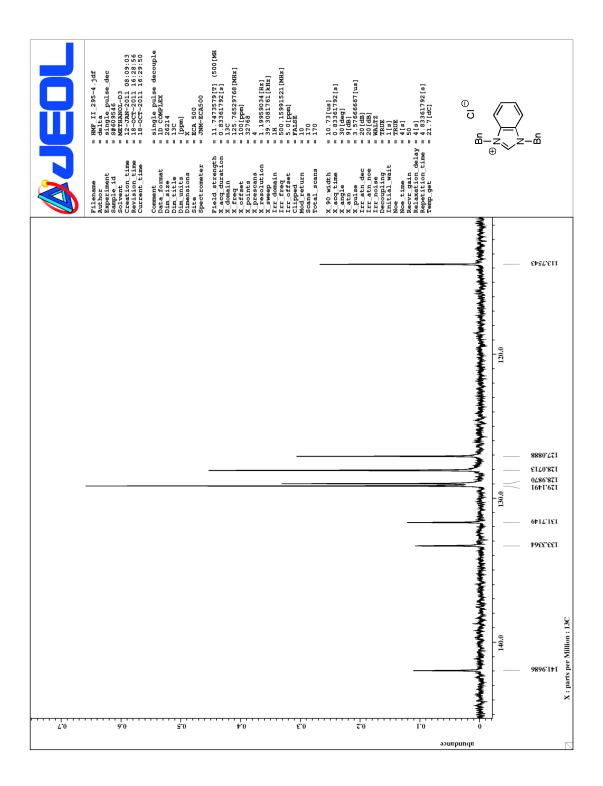


APPENDIX 3 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1,3-Dibenzyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-3-ium chloride (**81c**)

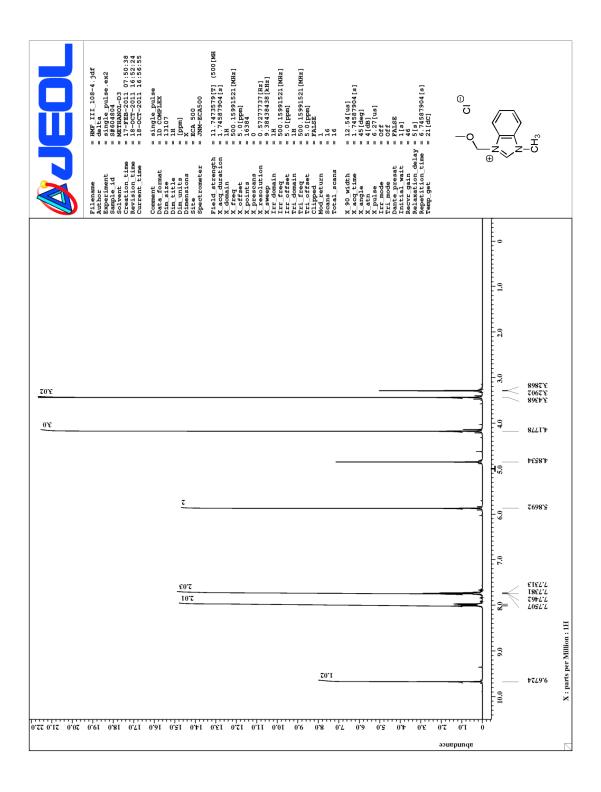


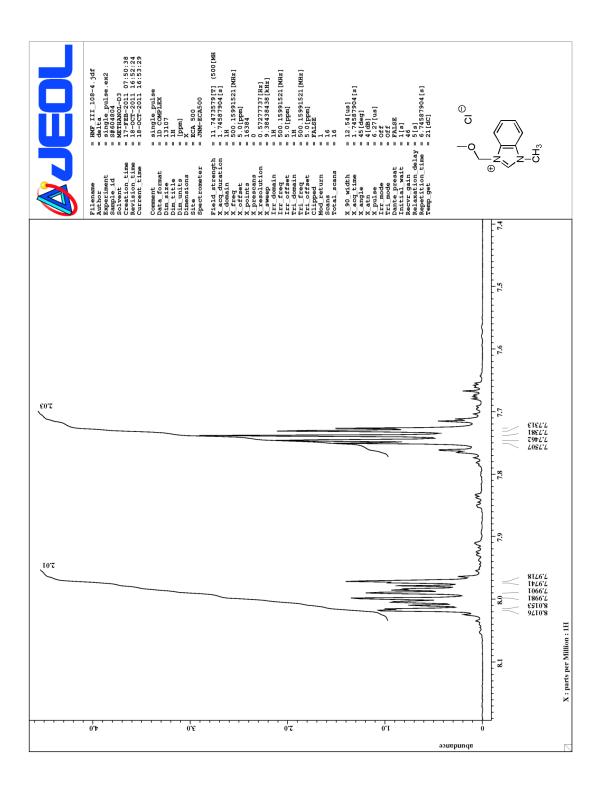


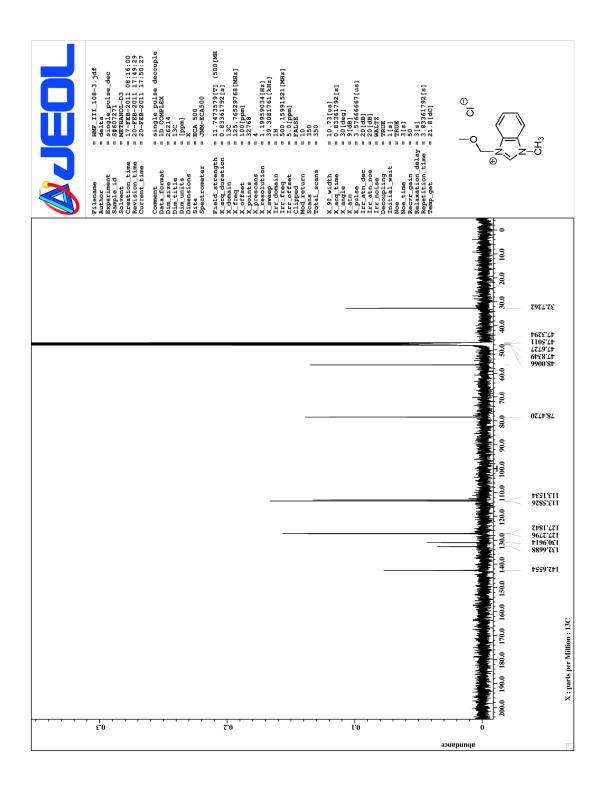


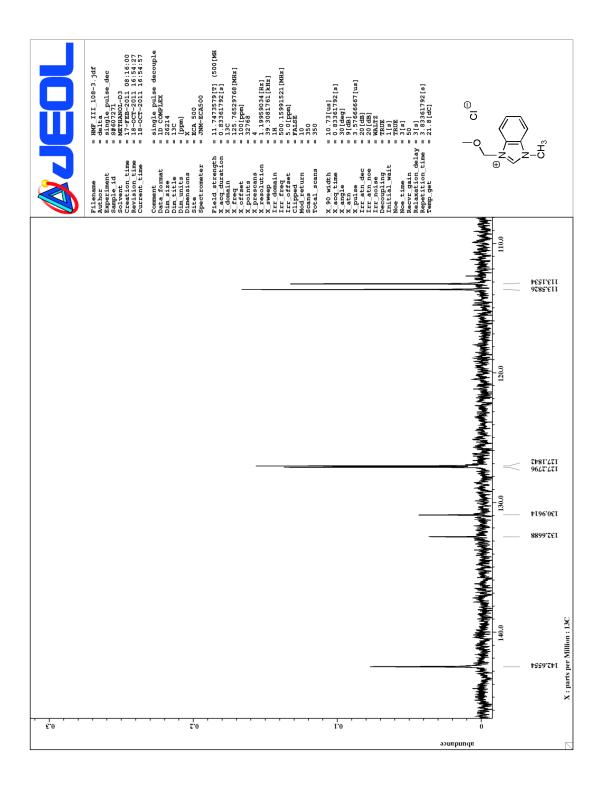


APPENDIX 4 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Methoxymethyl-1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-3-ium chloride (**81d**)

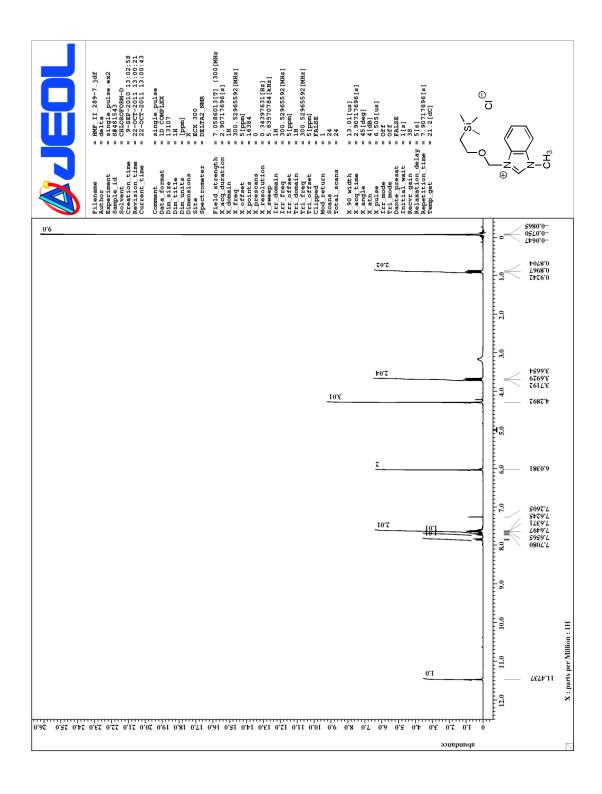


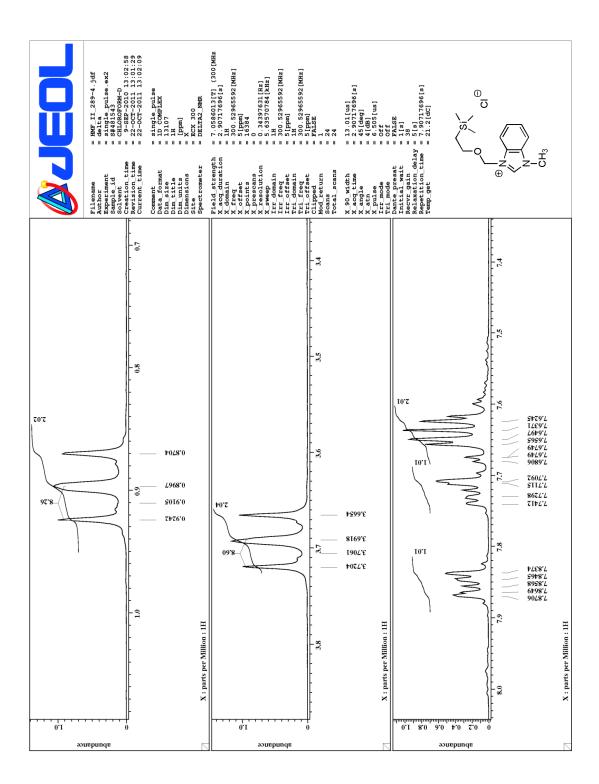


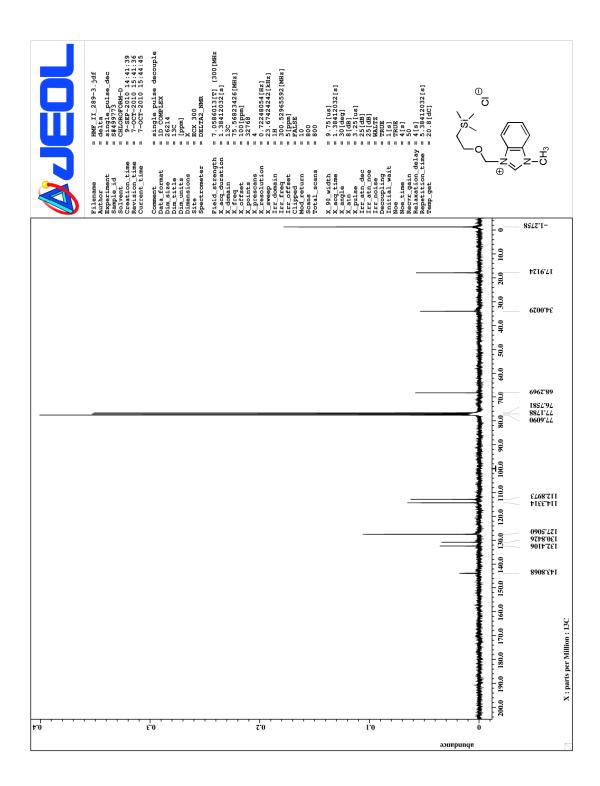




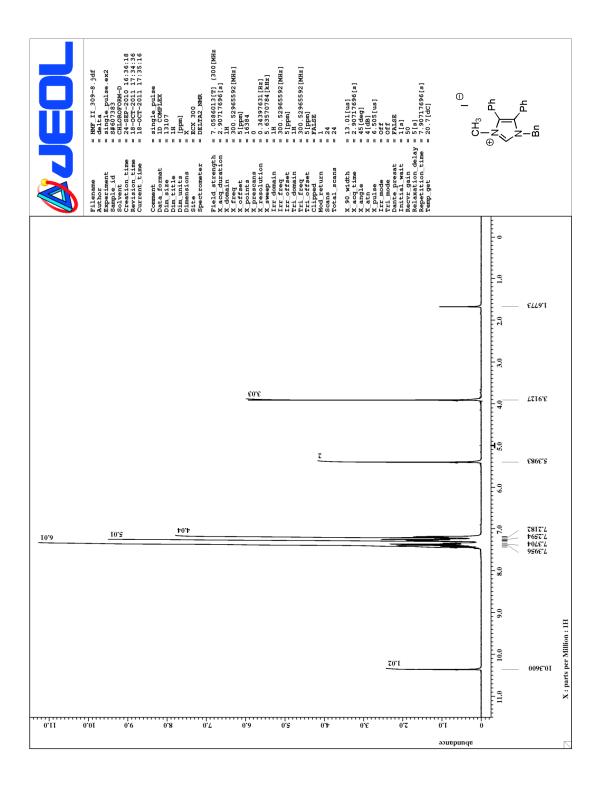
APPENDIX 5 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Methyl-3-trimethylsilylethoxymethyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-3-ium chloride (**81e**)

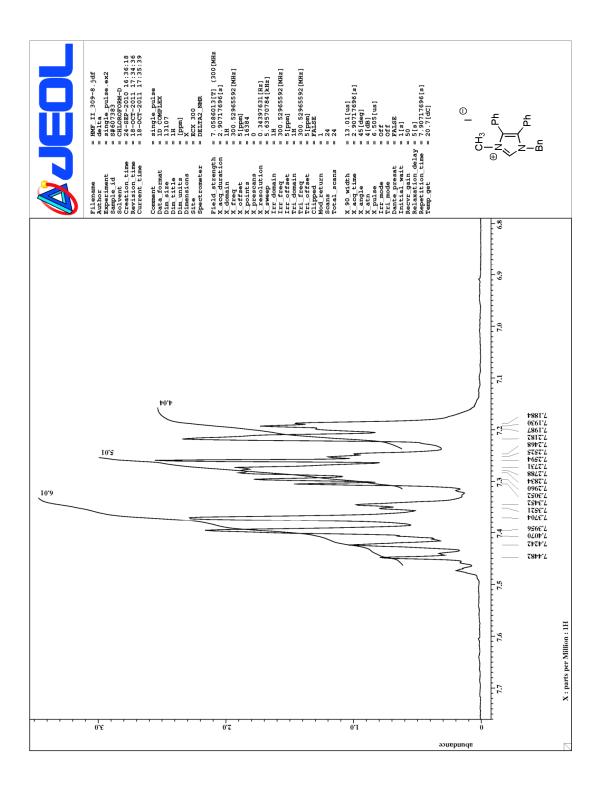


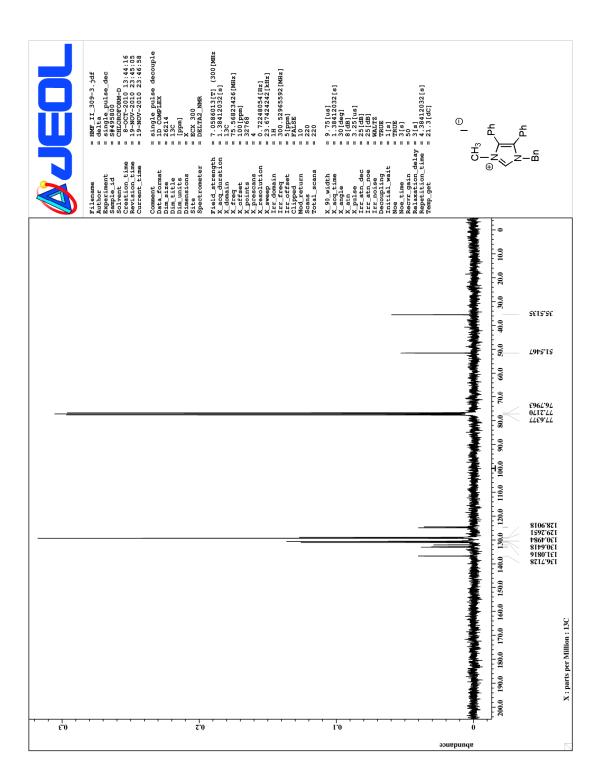


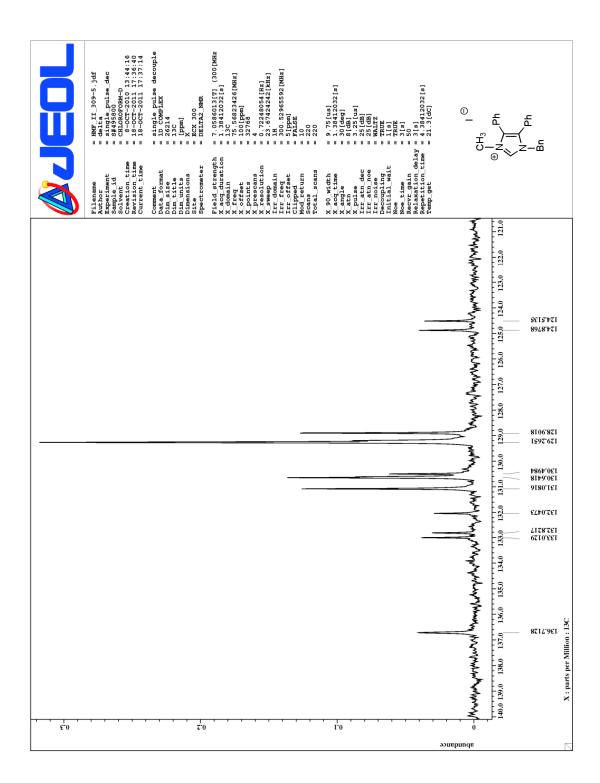


APPENDIX 6 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-3-methyl-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium iodide (**81f**)

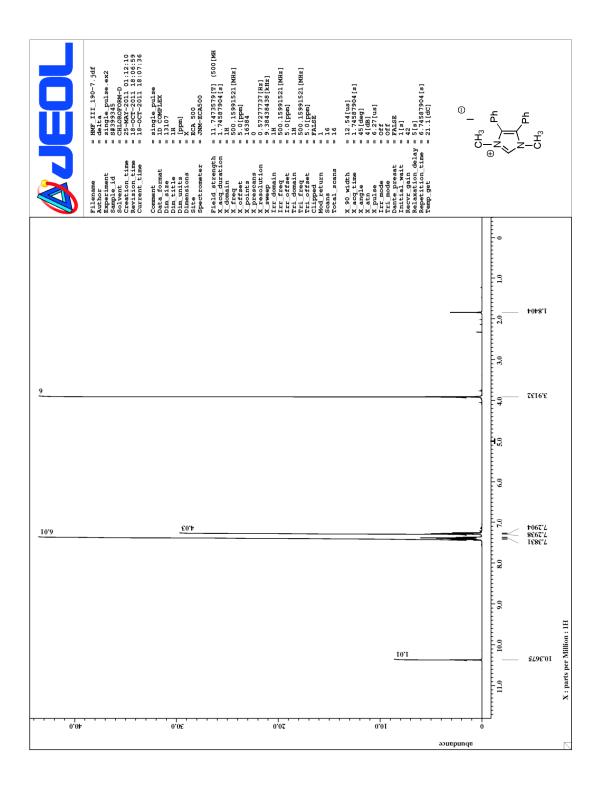


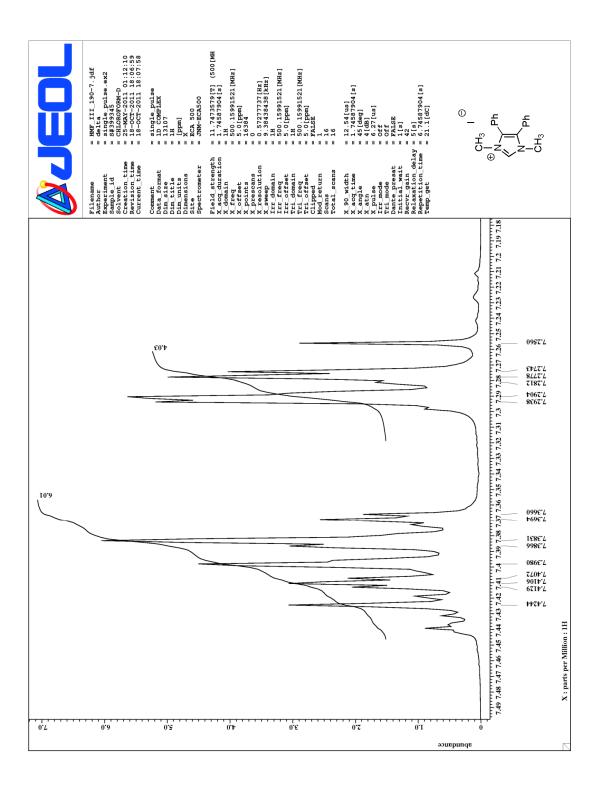


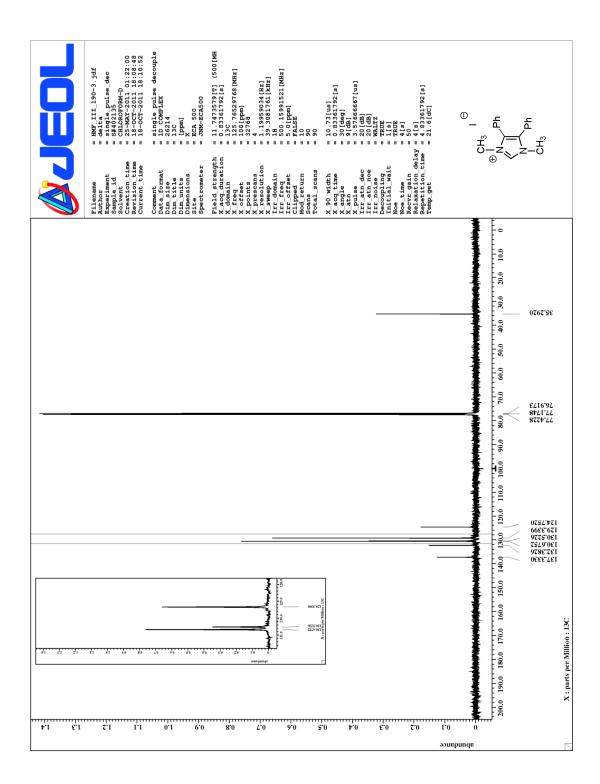




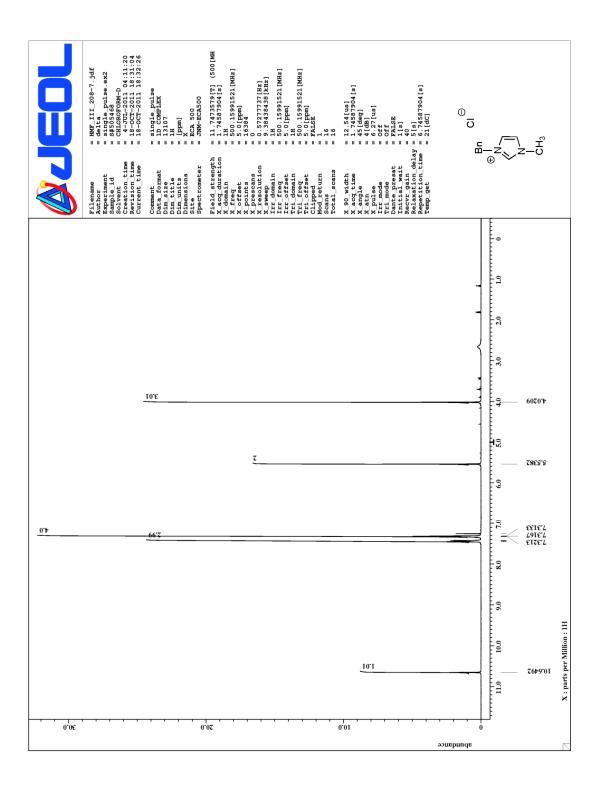
APPENDIX 7 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1,3-Dimethyl-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium iodide (**81g**)

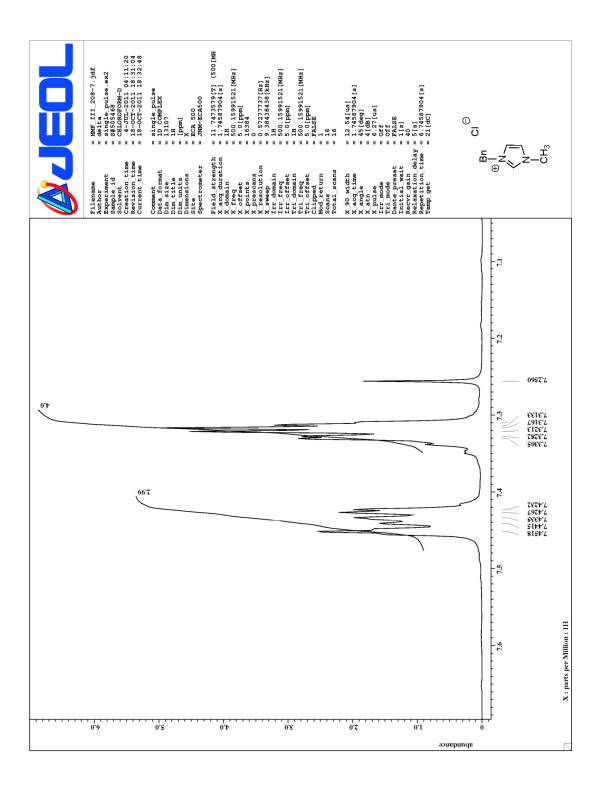


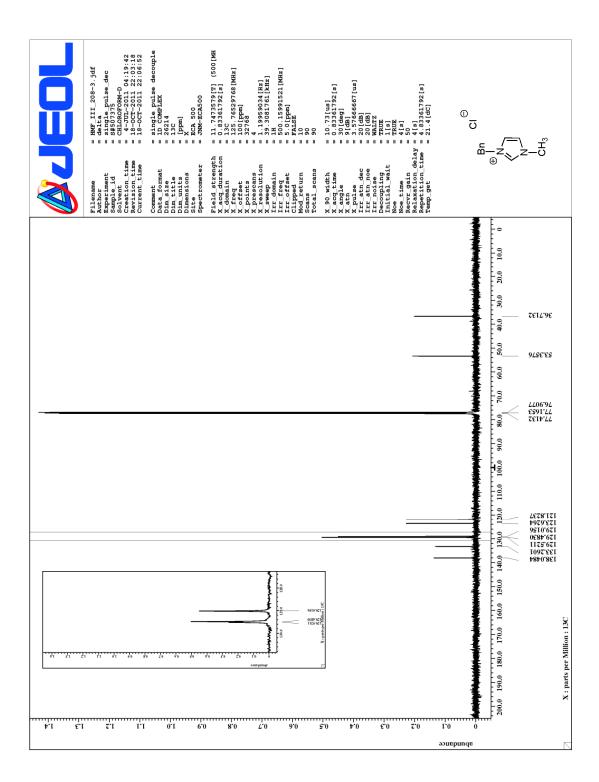




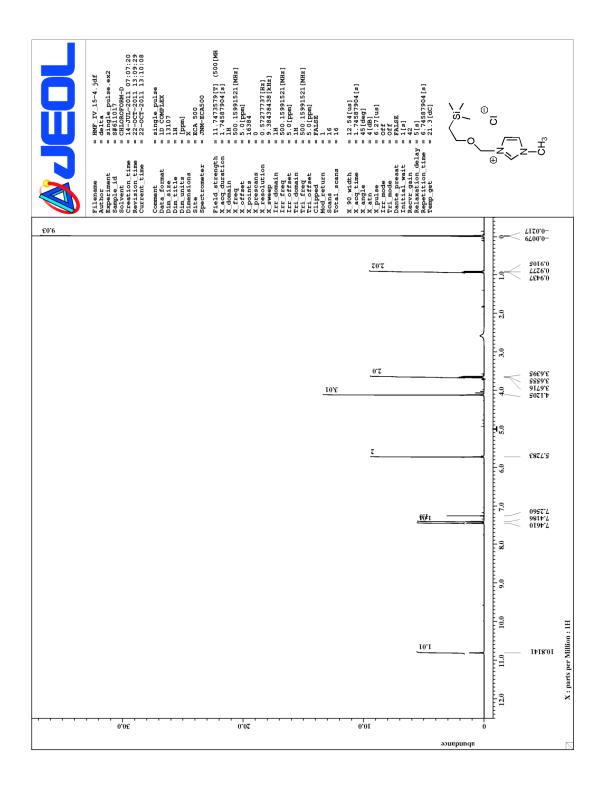
APPENDIX 8 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-1-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium chloride (**81h**)

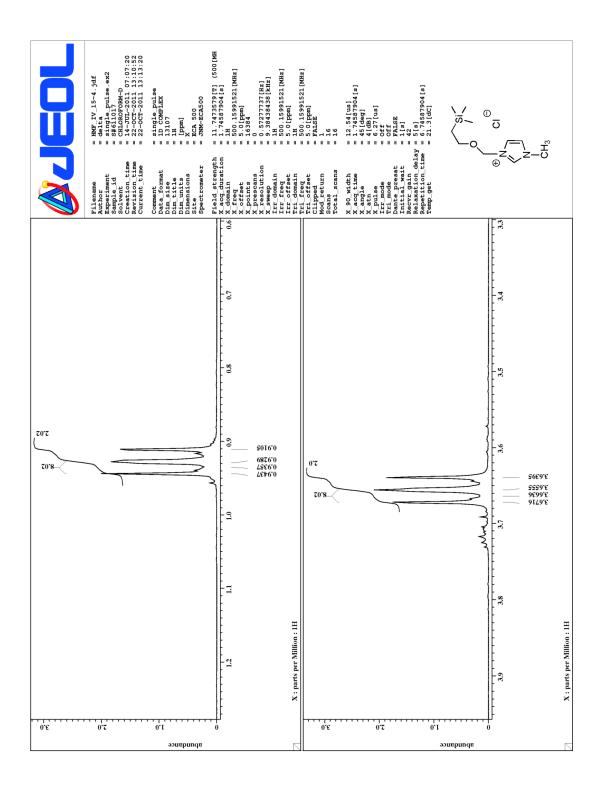


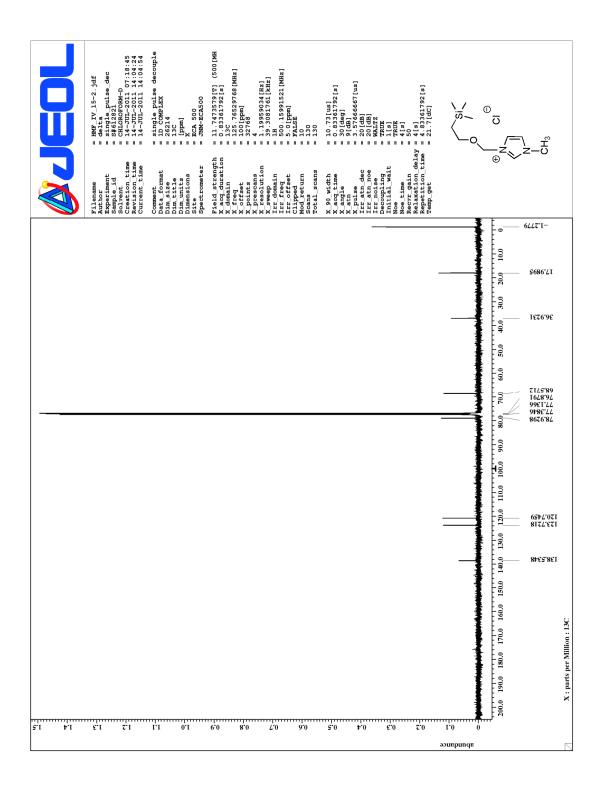




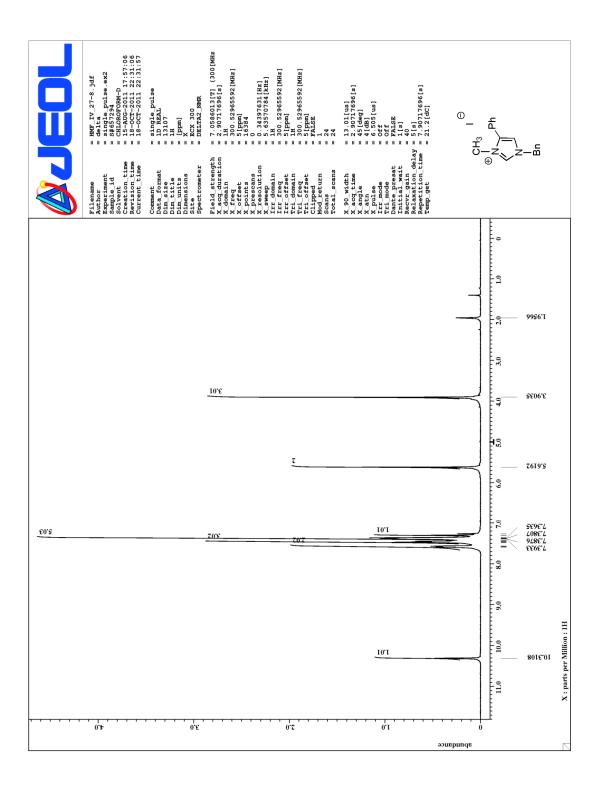
APPENDIX 9 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Methyl-3-trimethylsilylethoxymethyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium chloride (**81i**)

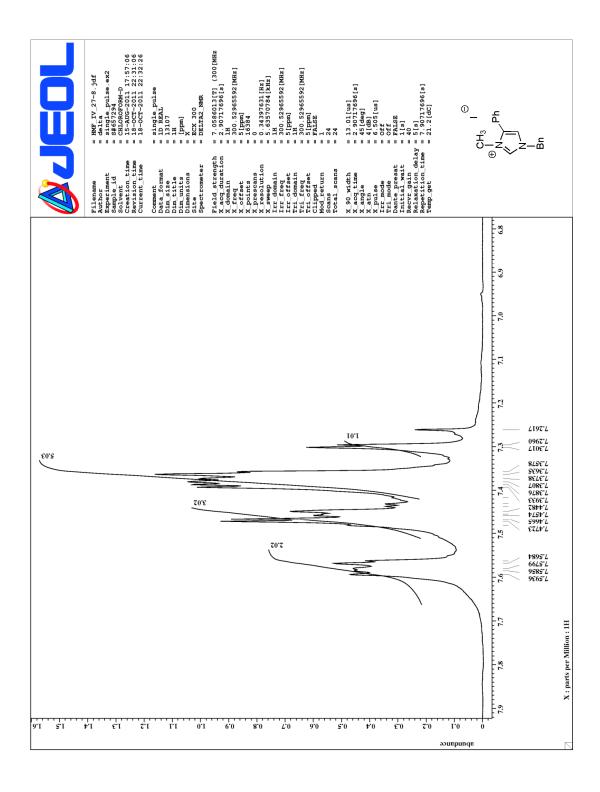


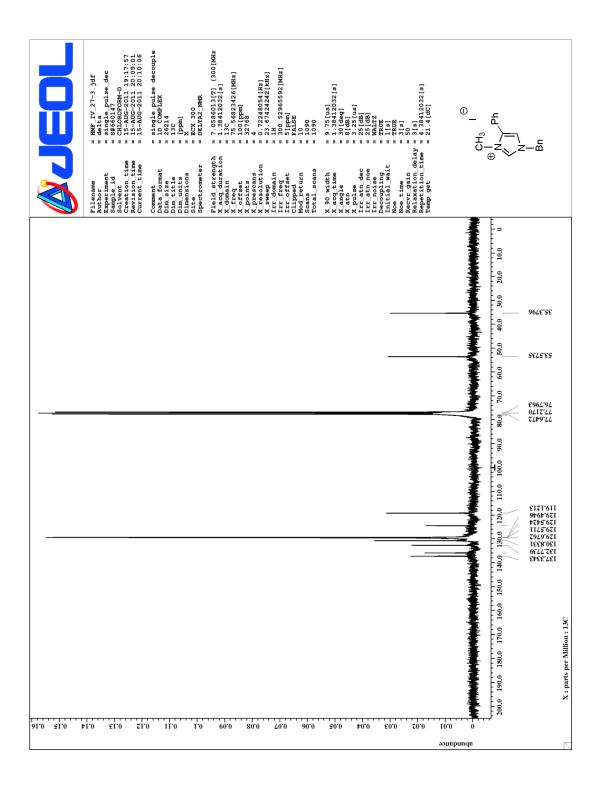


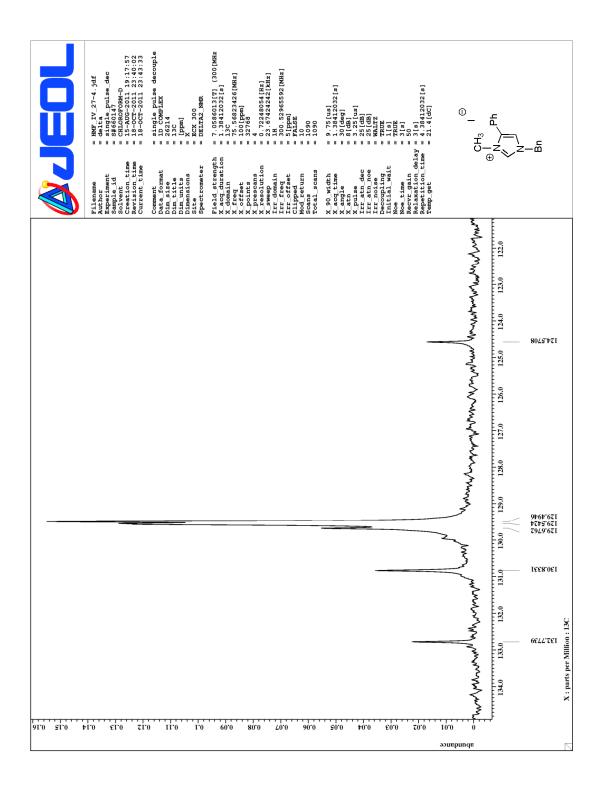


APPENDIX 10 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-3-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium iodide (**81j**)

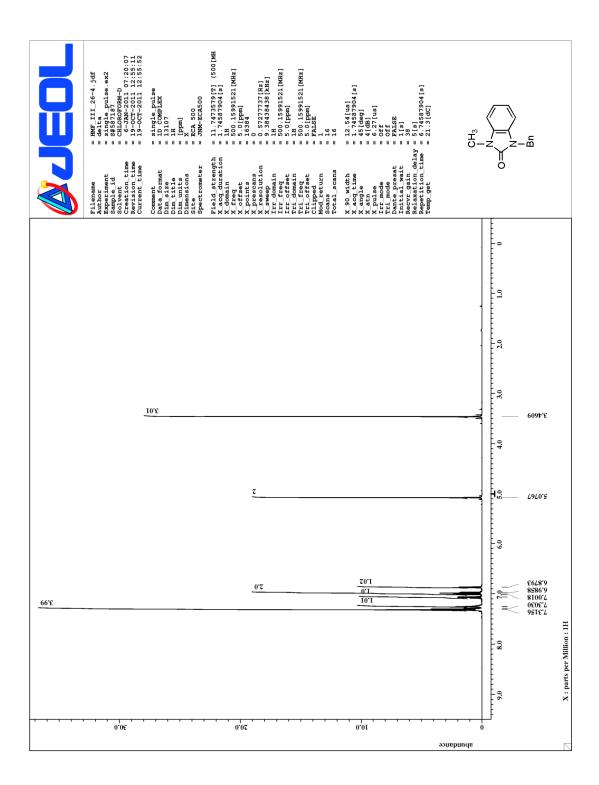


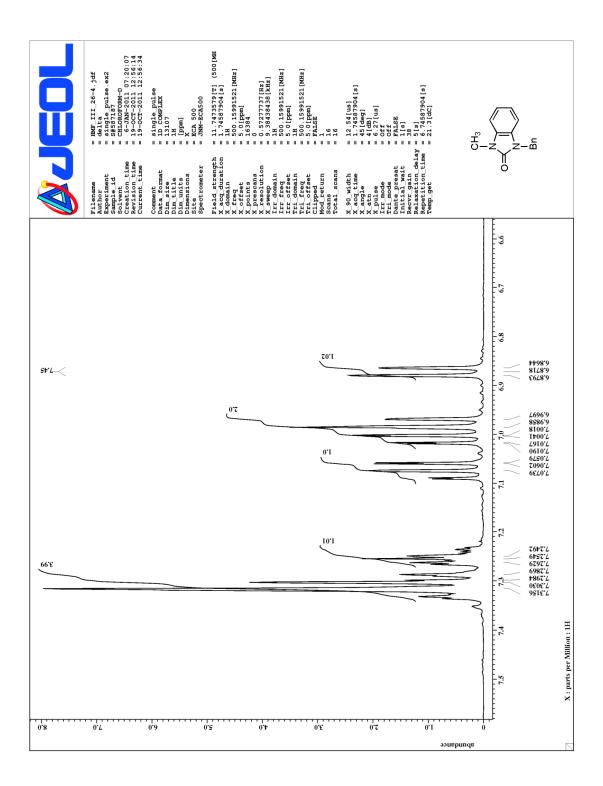


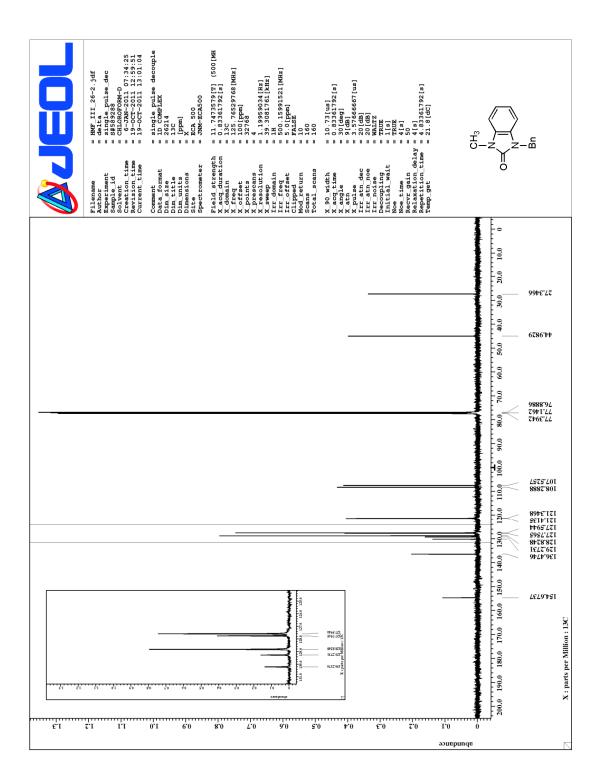




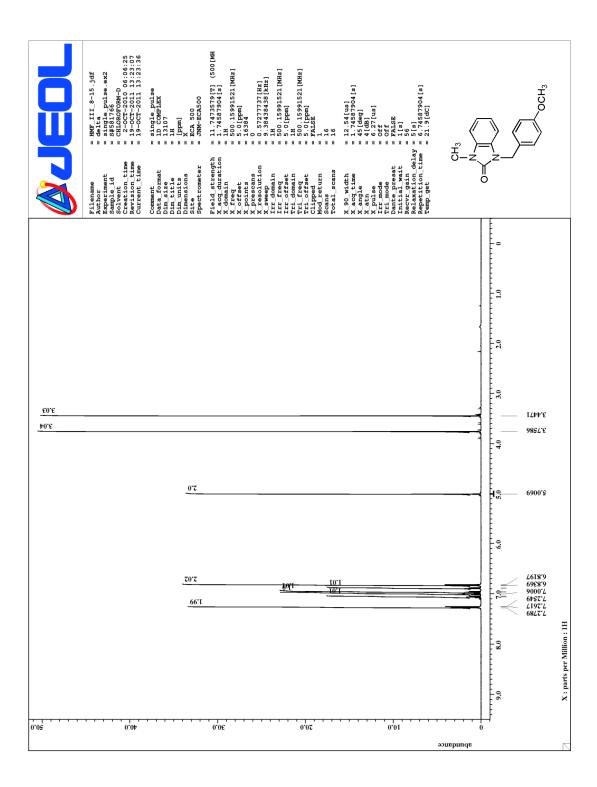
APPENDIX 11 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-3-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazol-2-one (**82a**)

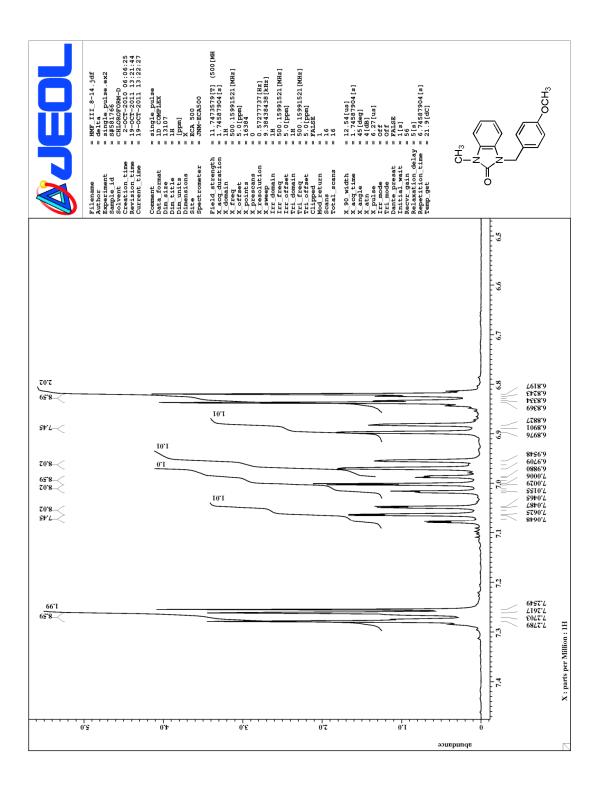


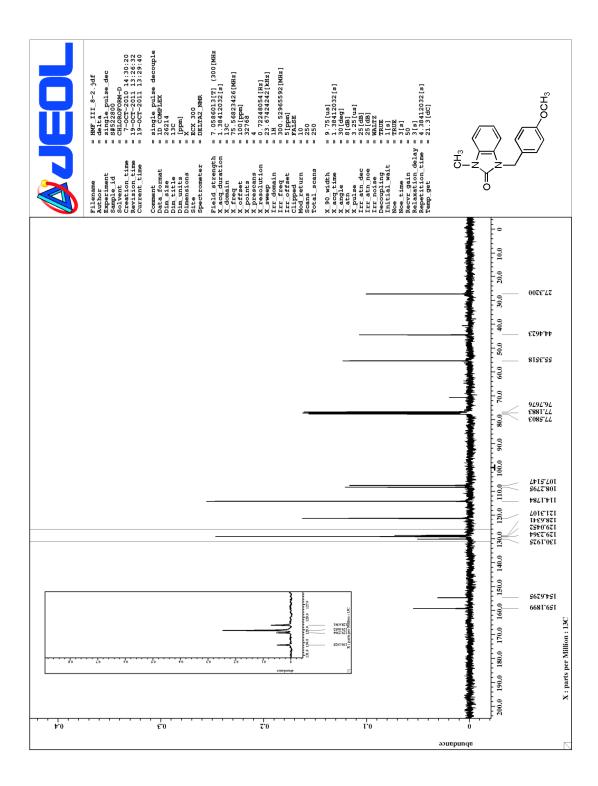




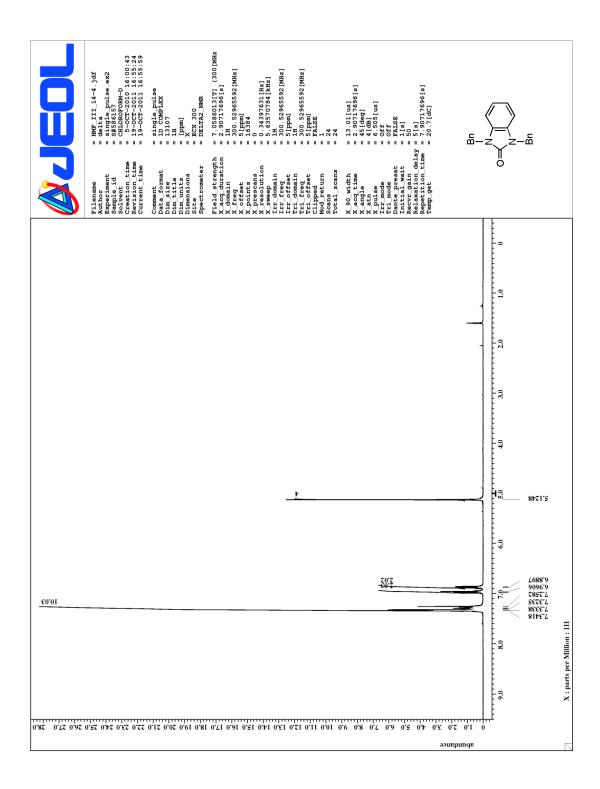
APPENDIX 12 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-(4-methoxybenzyl)-3-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazol-2-one (**82b**)

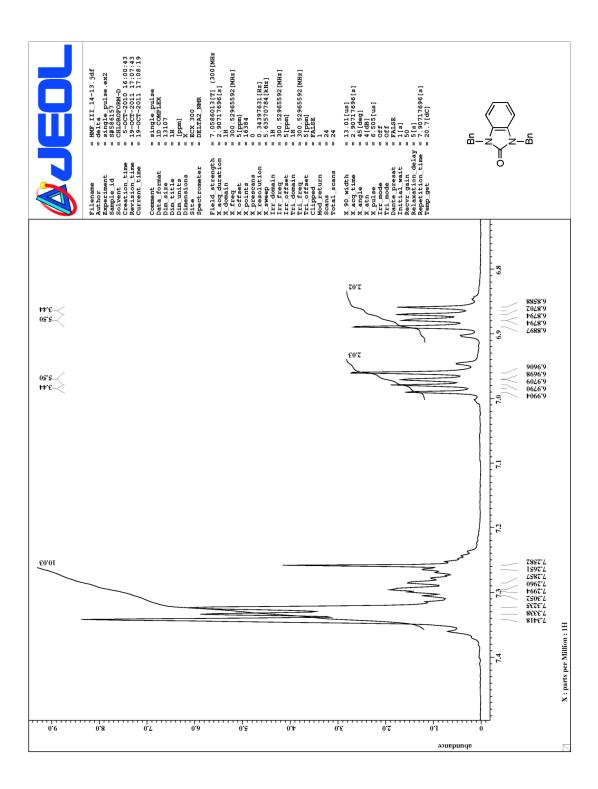


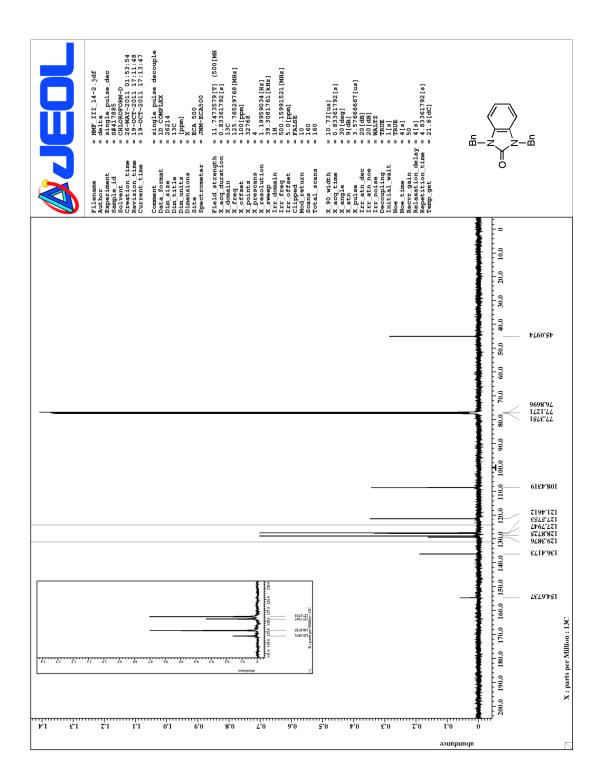




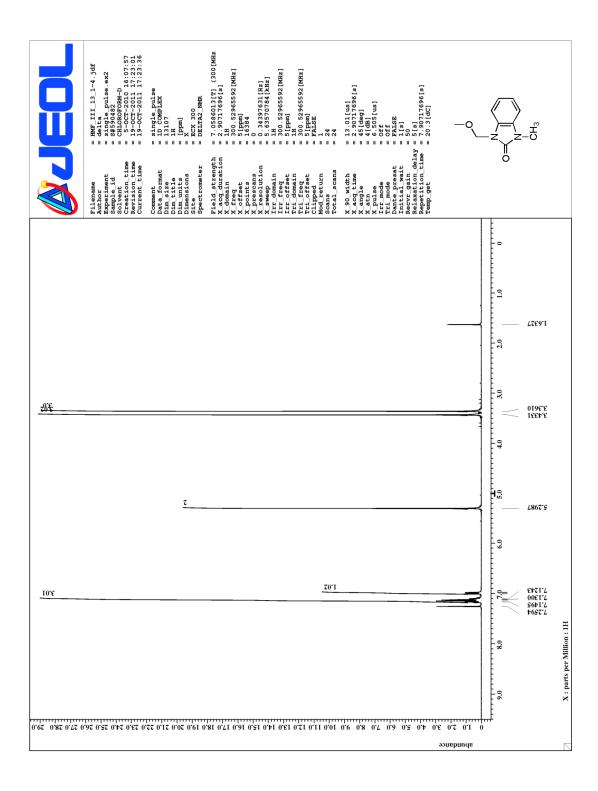
APPENDIX 13 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1,3-Dibenzyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazol-2-one (**82c**)

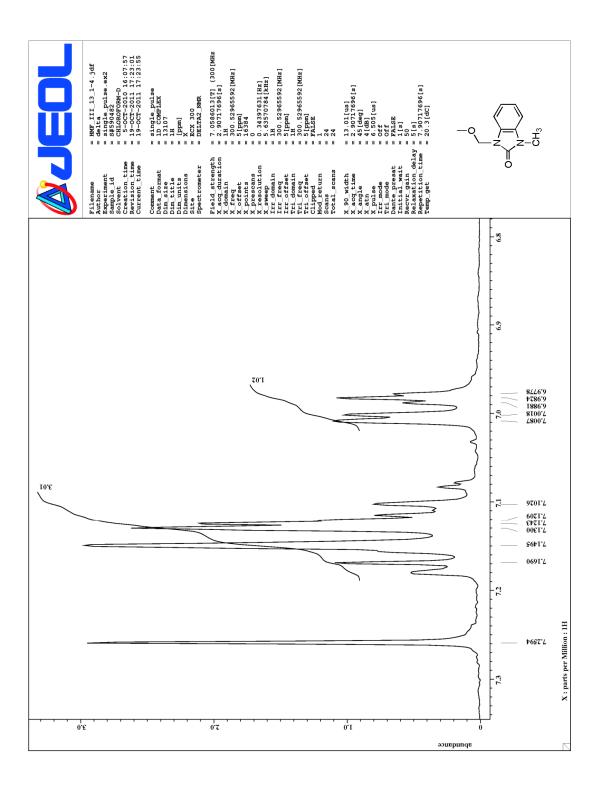


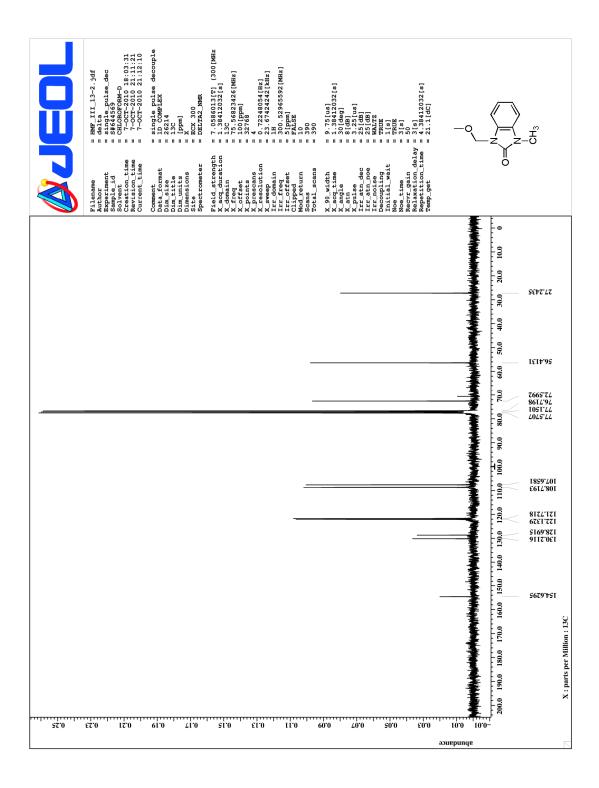




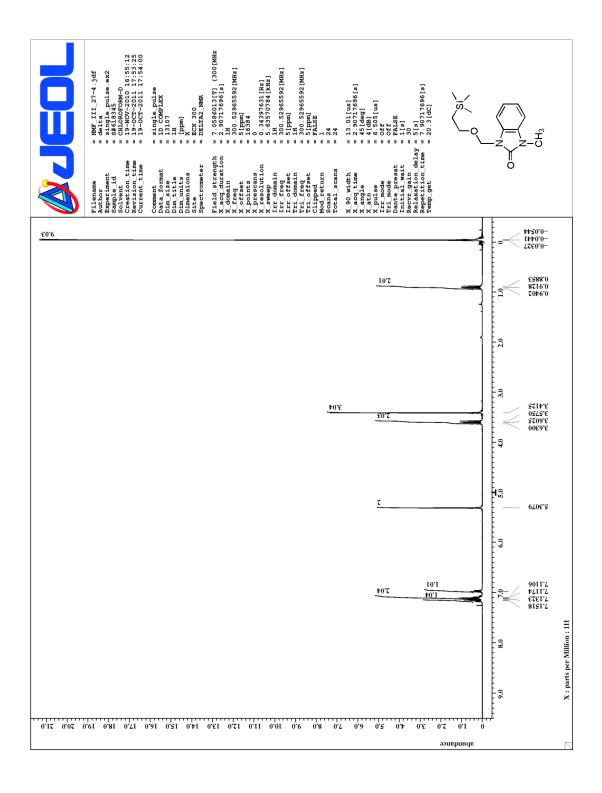
APPENDIX 14 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Methoxymethyl-1-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazol-2-one (**82d**)

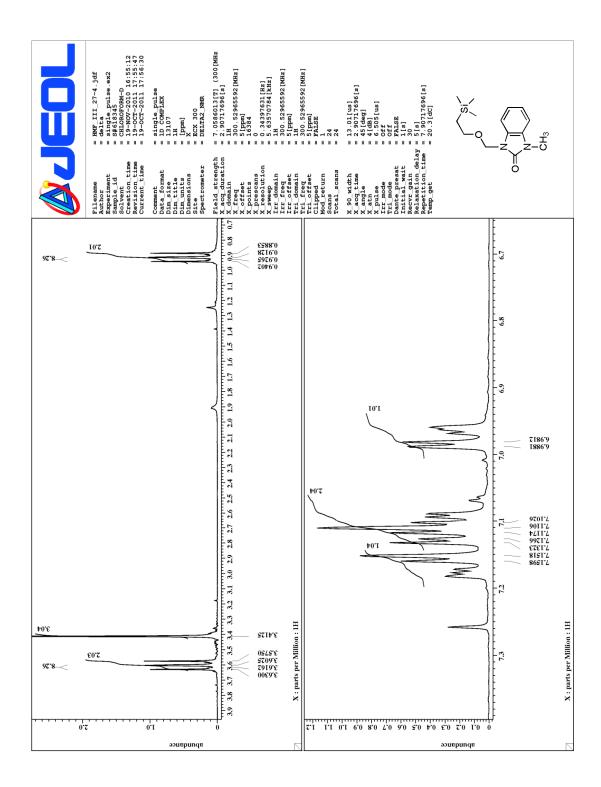


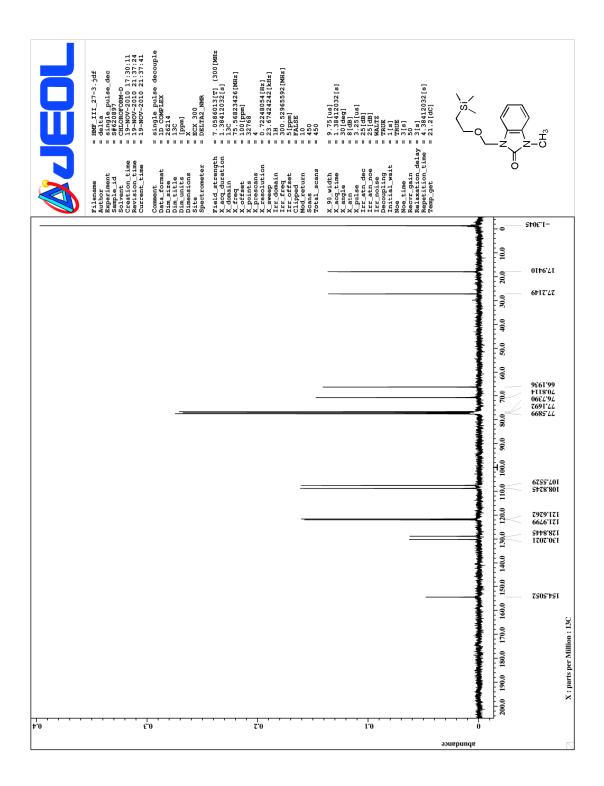




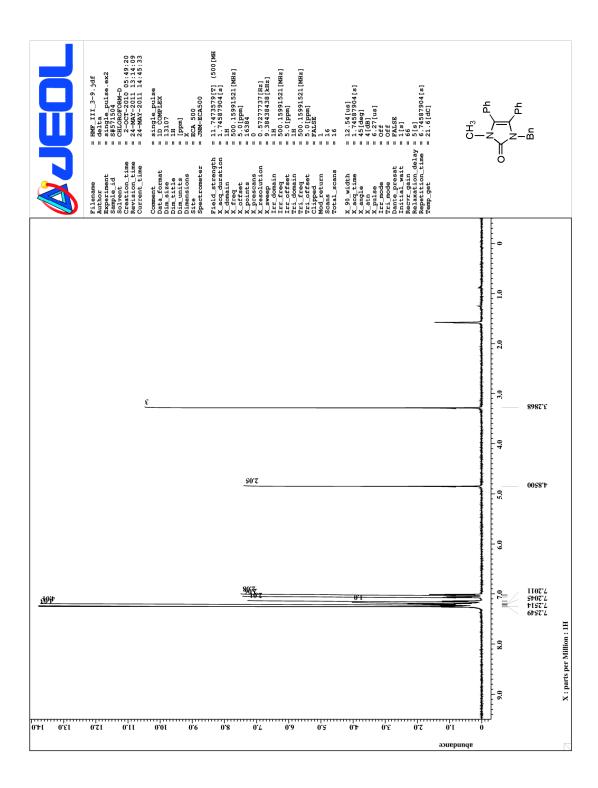
APPENDIX 15 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Methyl-3-trimethylsilylethoxymethyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazol-2-one (**82e**)

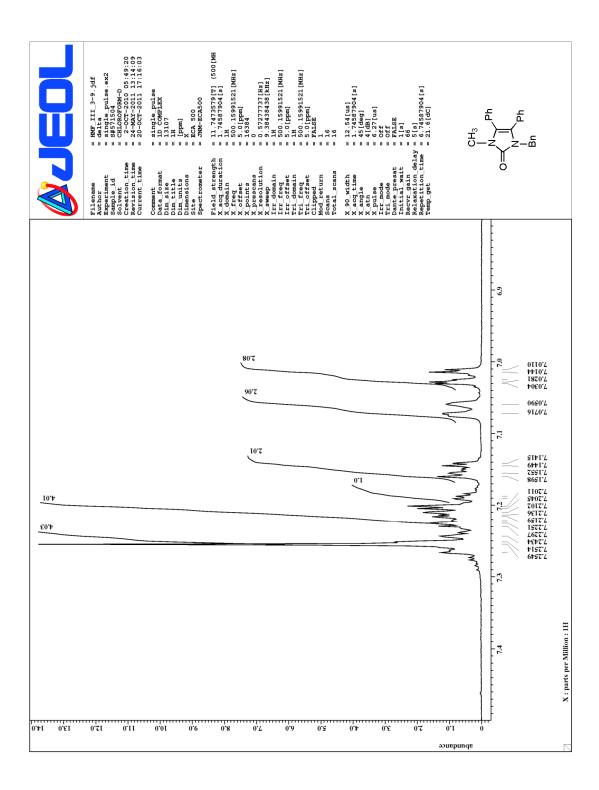


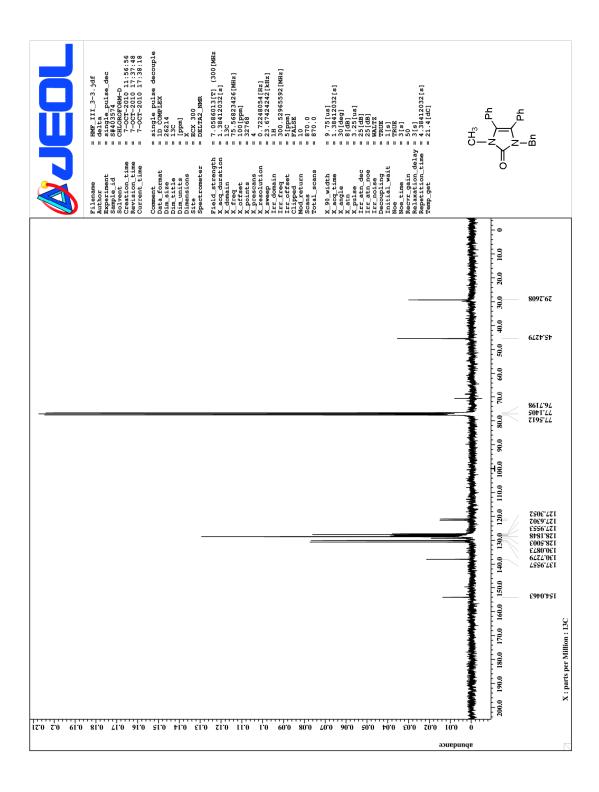


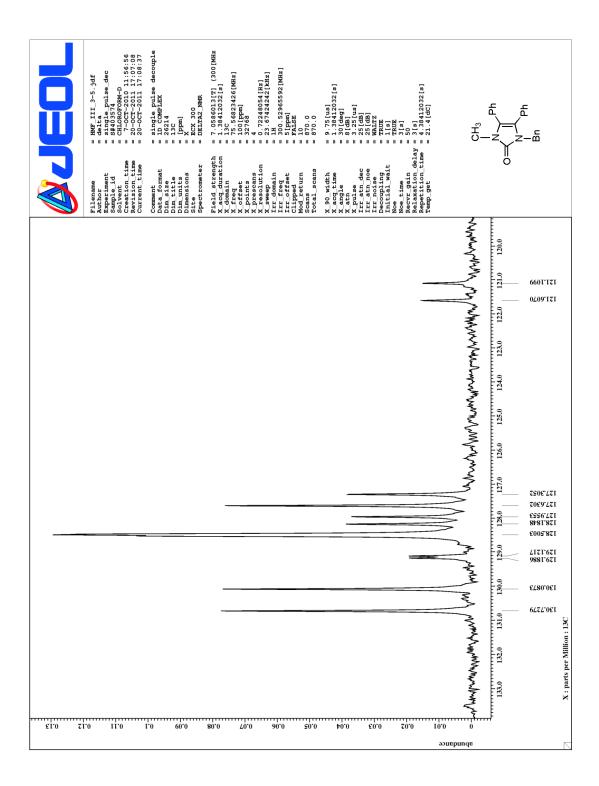


APPENDIX 16 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-3-methyl-4,5-diphenyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-imidazol-2-one (**82f**)

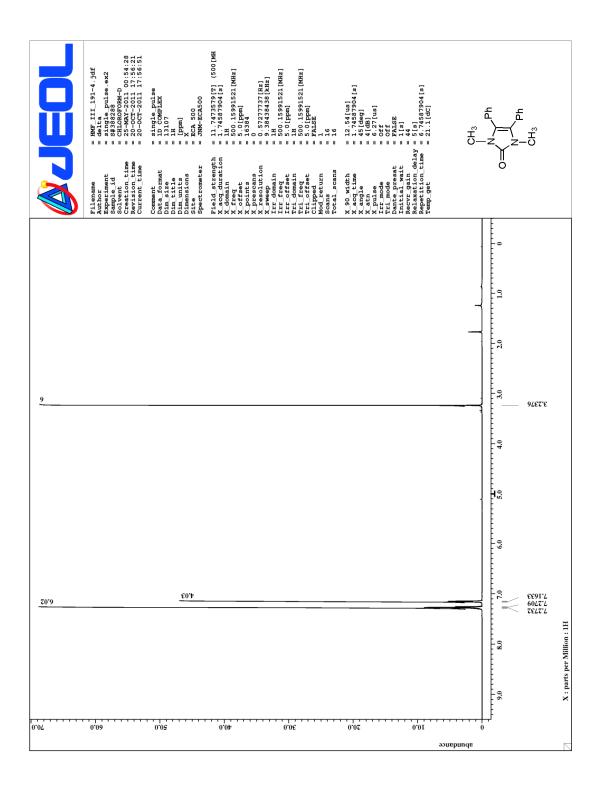


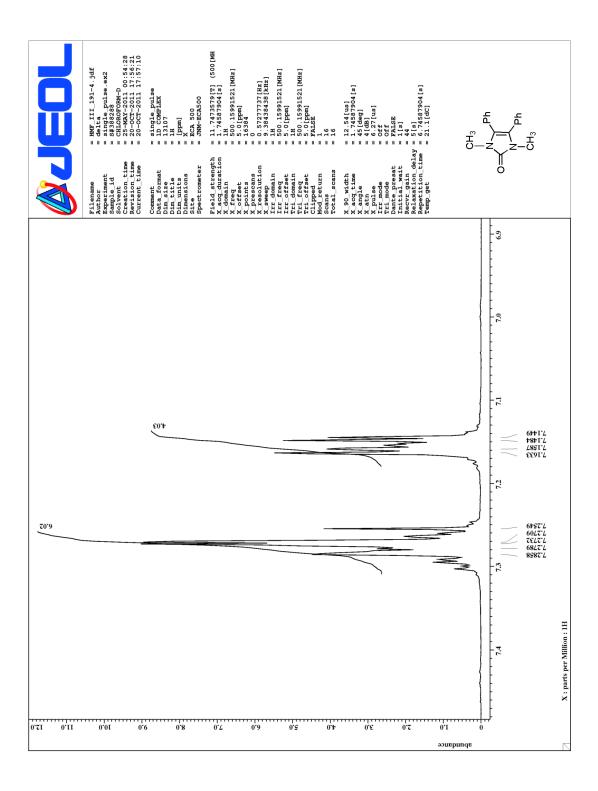


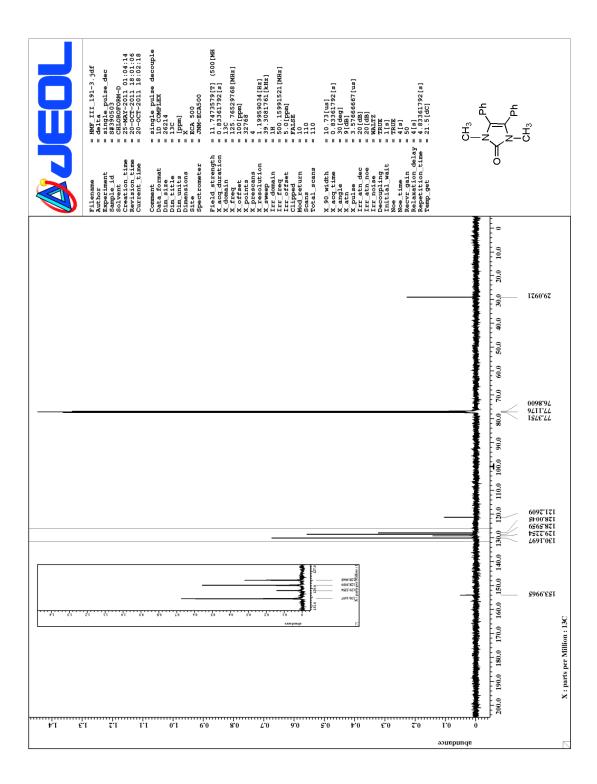




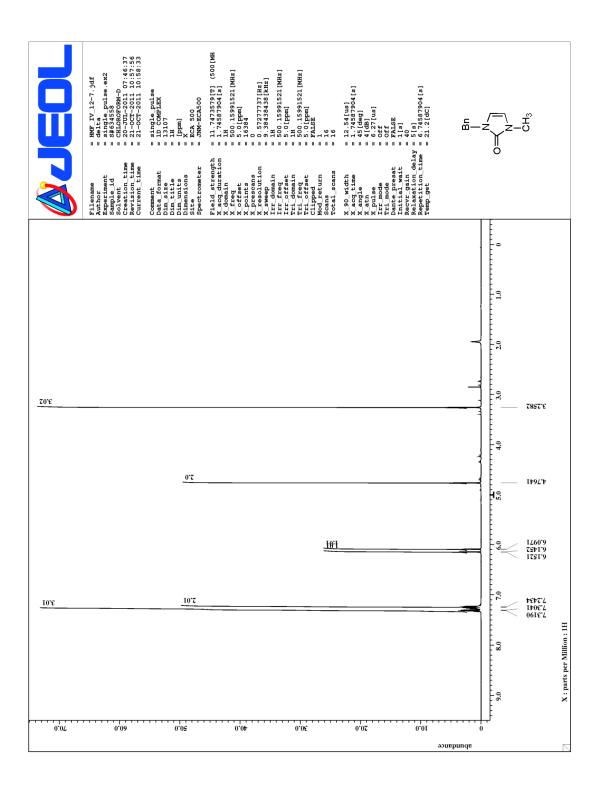
APPENDIX 17 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1,3-Dimethyl-4,5-diphenyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-imidazol-2-one (**82g**)

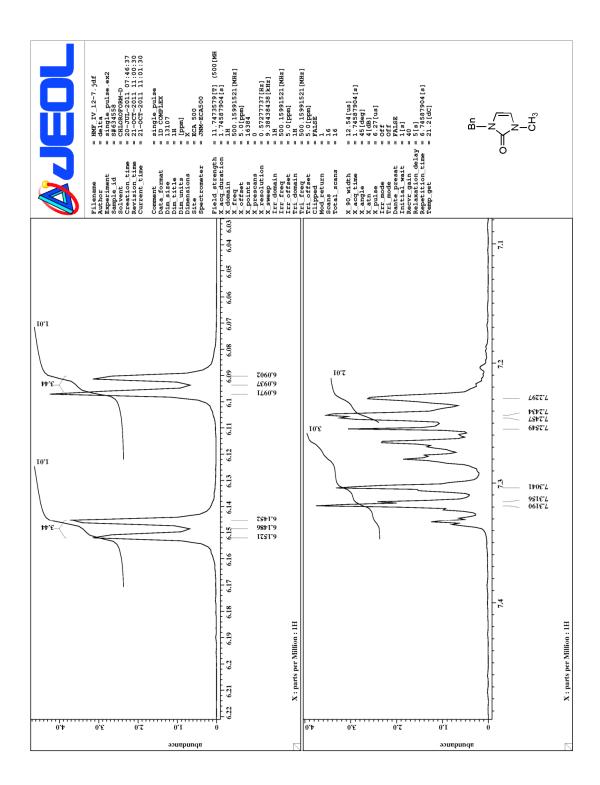


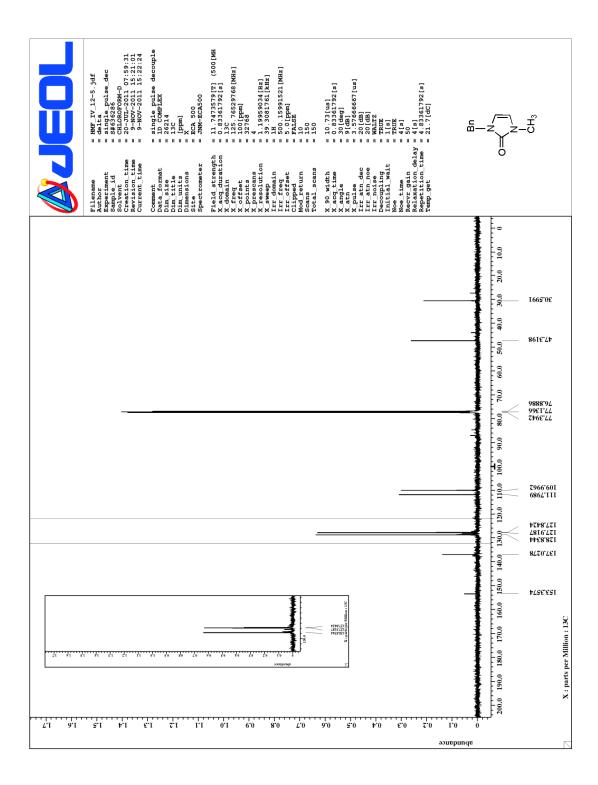




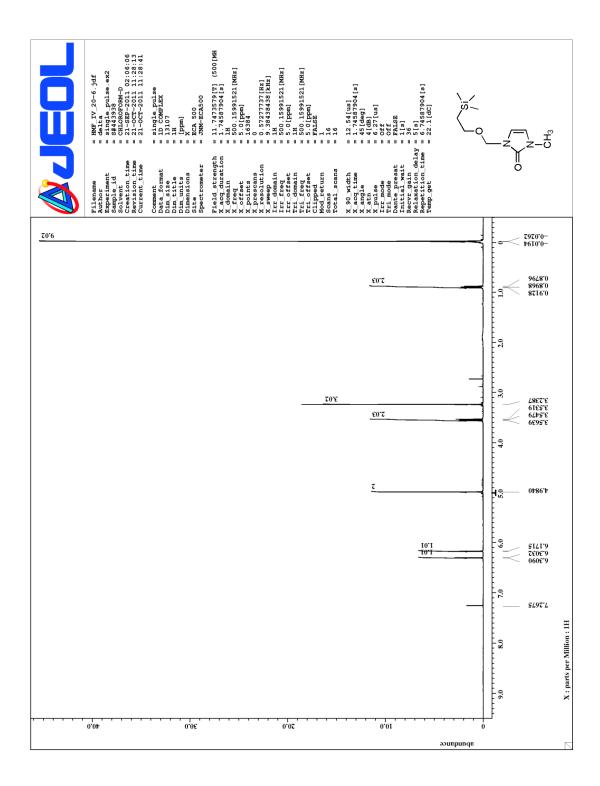
APPENDIX 18 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-1-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-imidazol-2-one (**82h**)

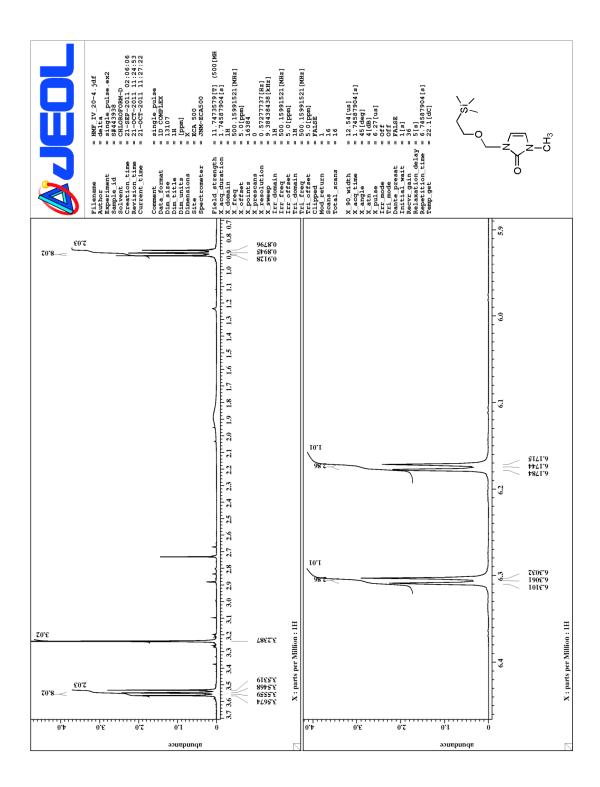


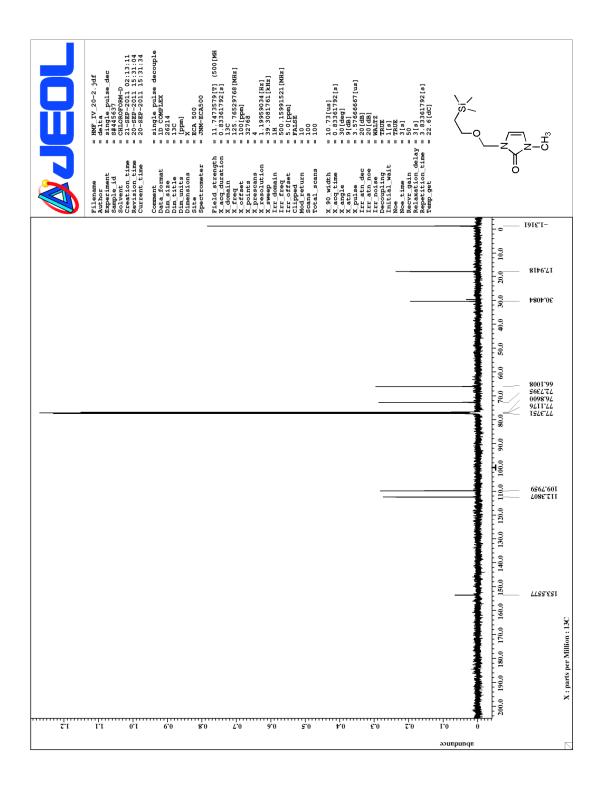




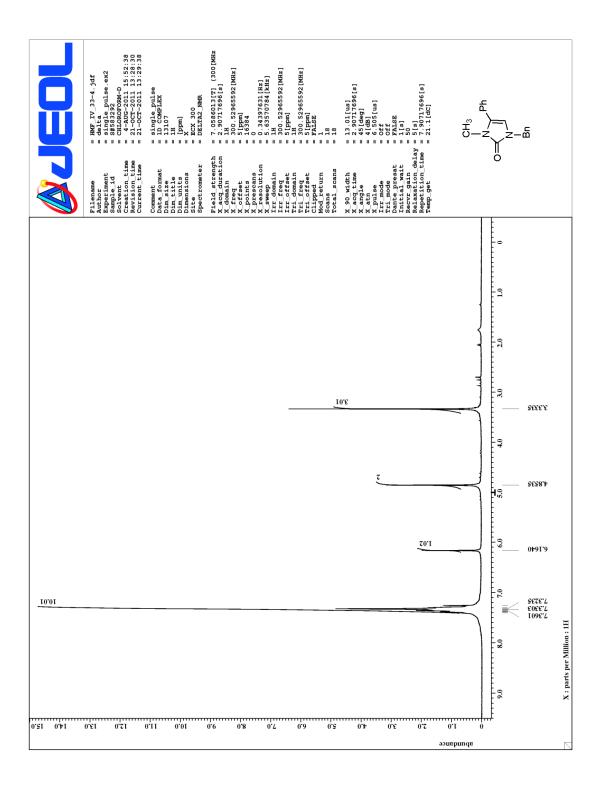
APPENDIX 19 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Methyl-3-trimethylsilylethoxymethyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-imidazol-2-one (**82i**)

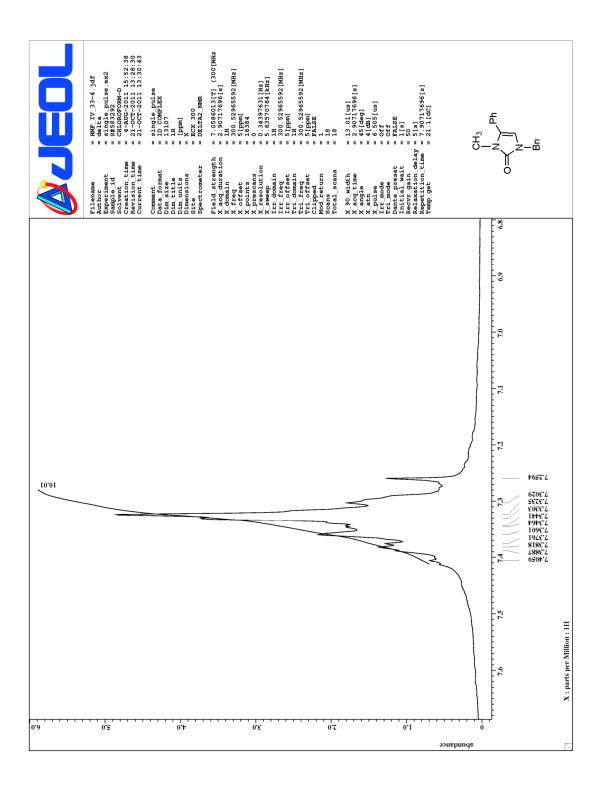


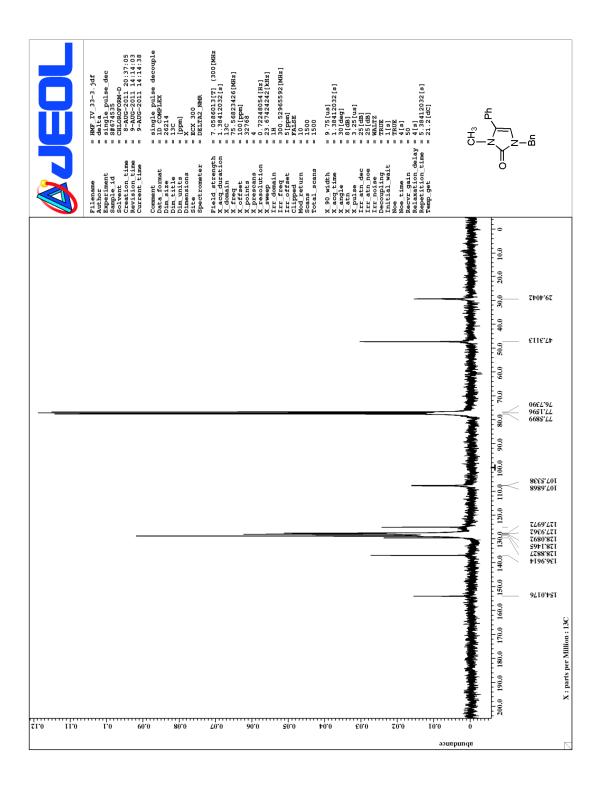


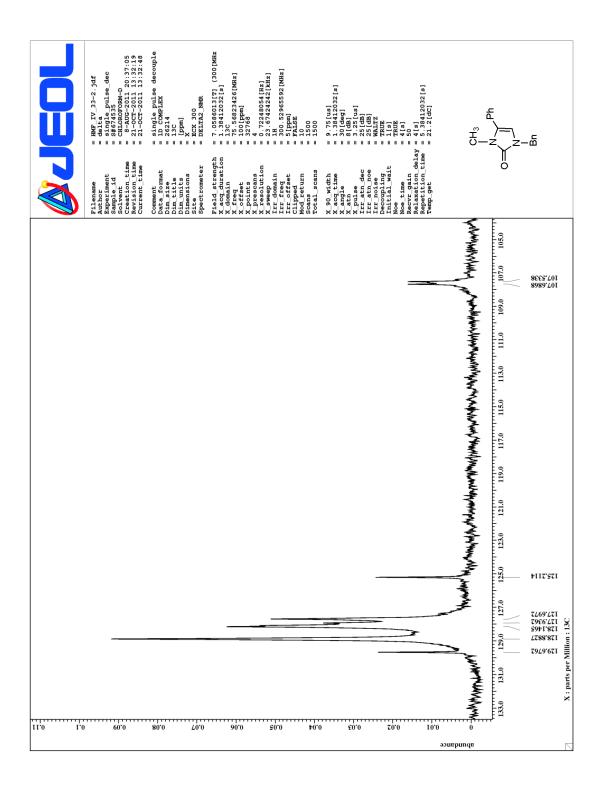


APPENDIX 20 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-3-methyl-4-phenyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-imidazol-2-one (**82j**)

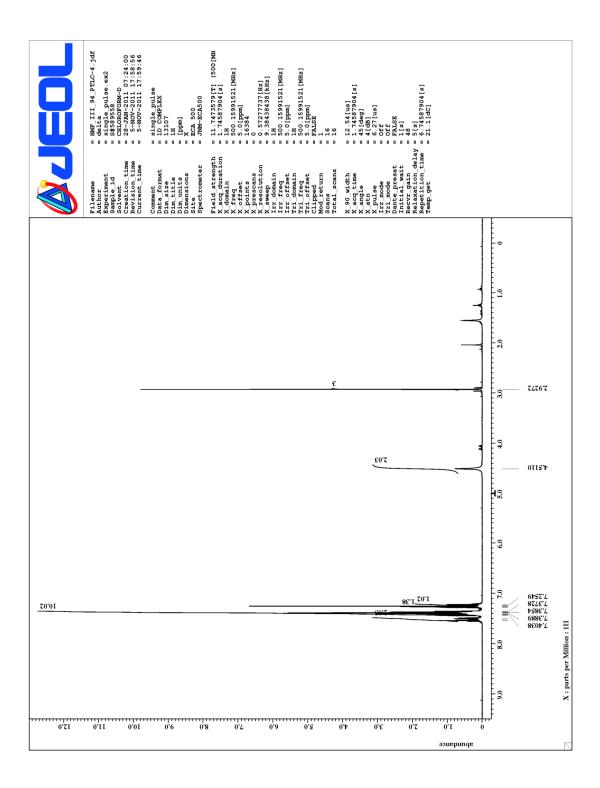


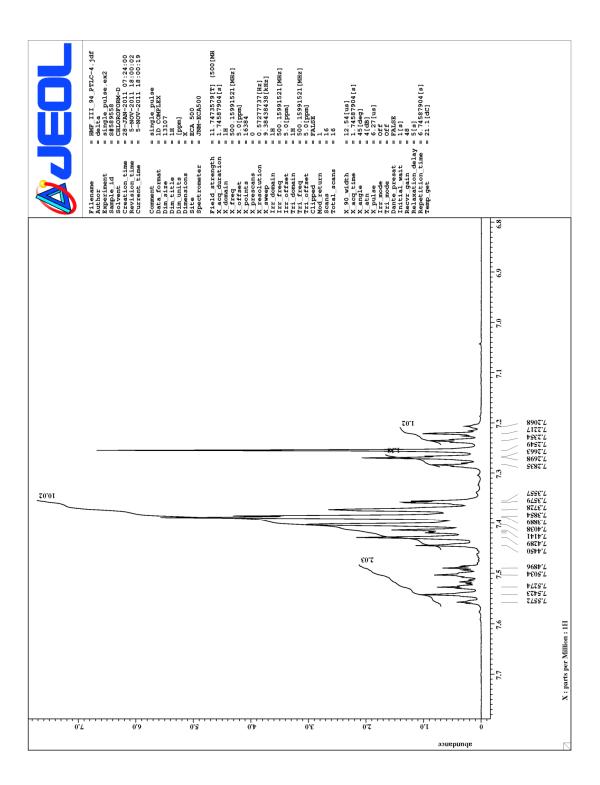


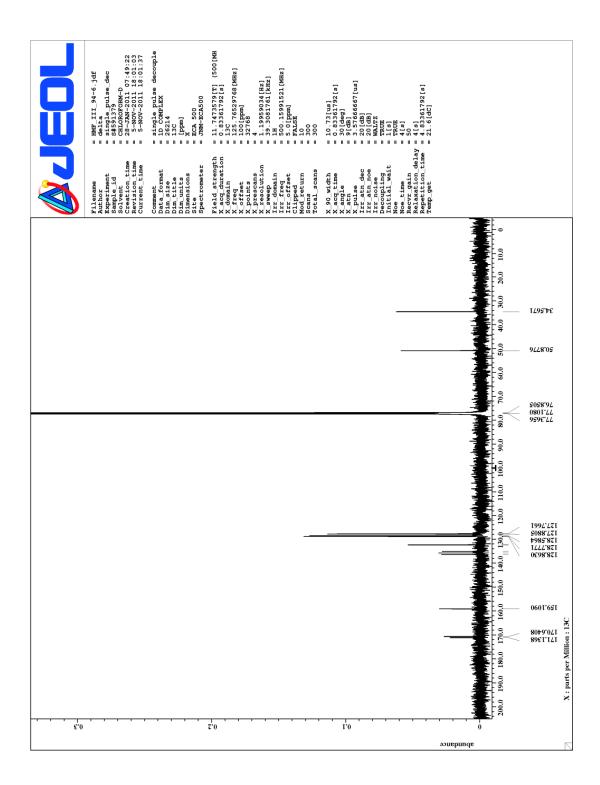


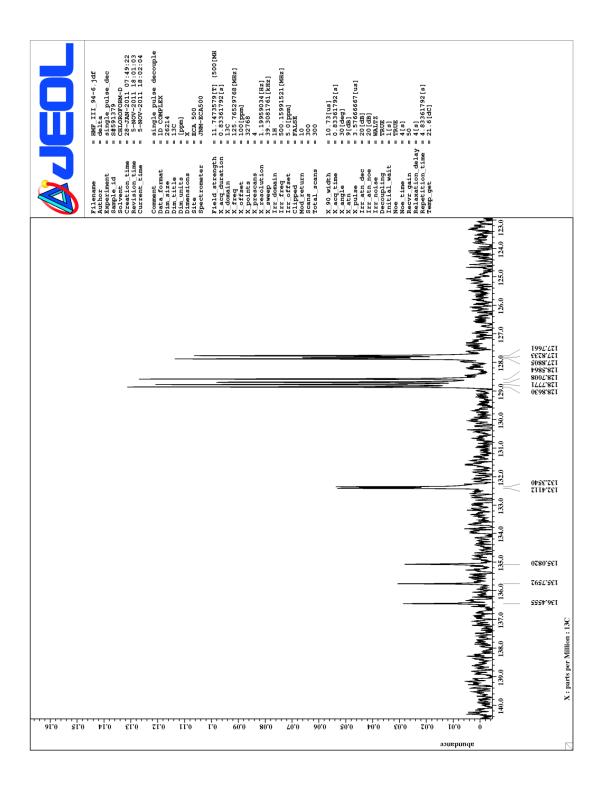


APPENDIX 21 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of unidentified oxidation product (**83**)

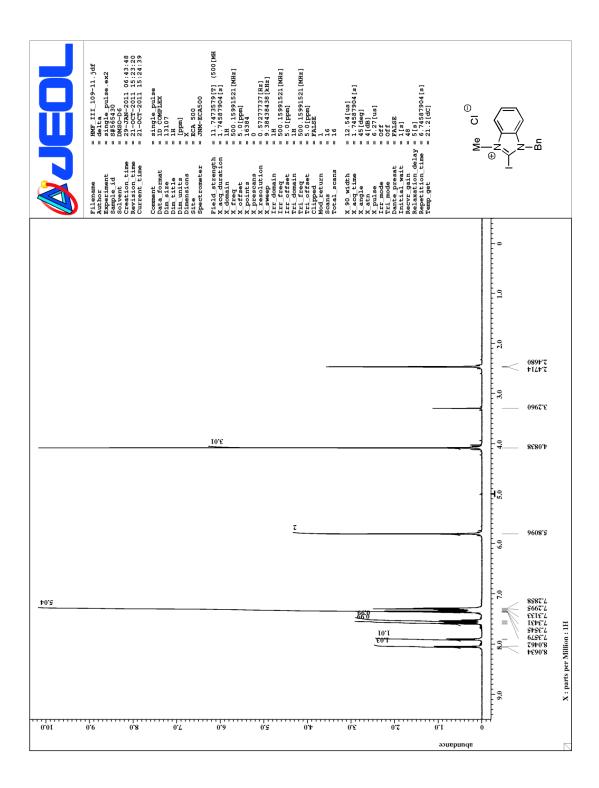


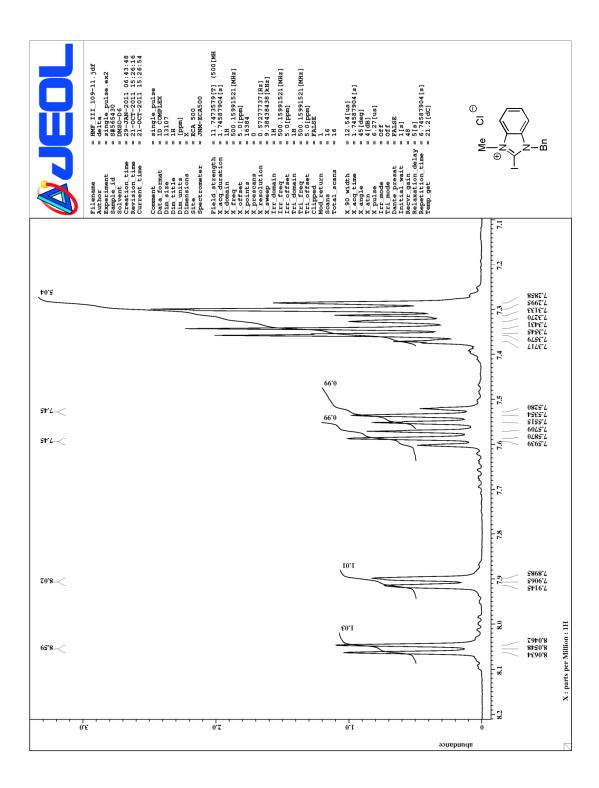


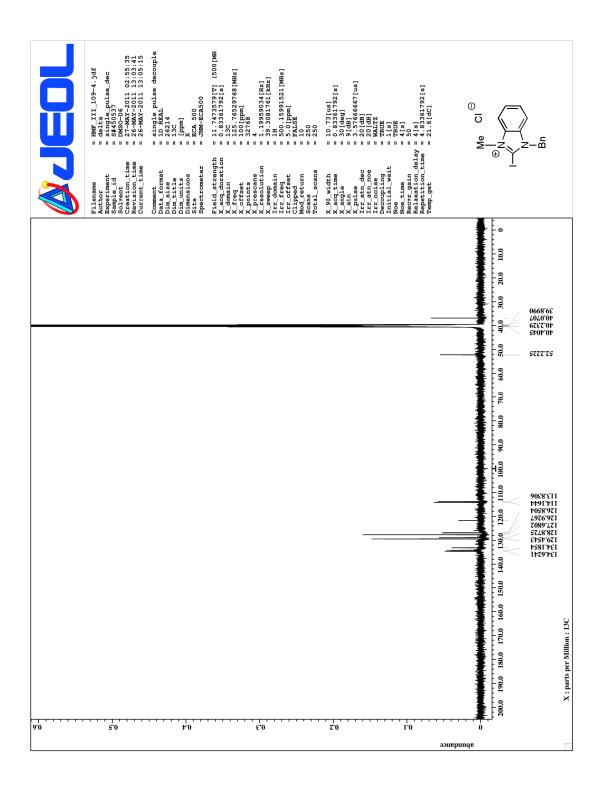


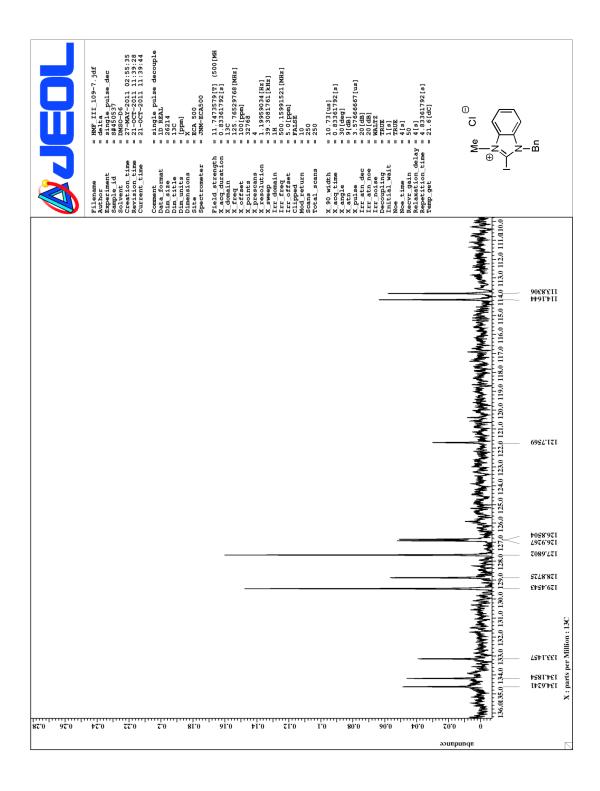


APPENDIX 22 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-2-iodo-3-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-3-ium chloride (**88**)

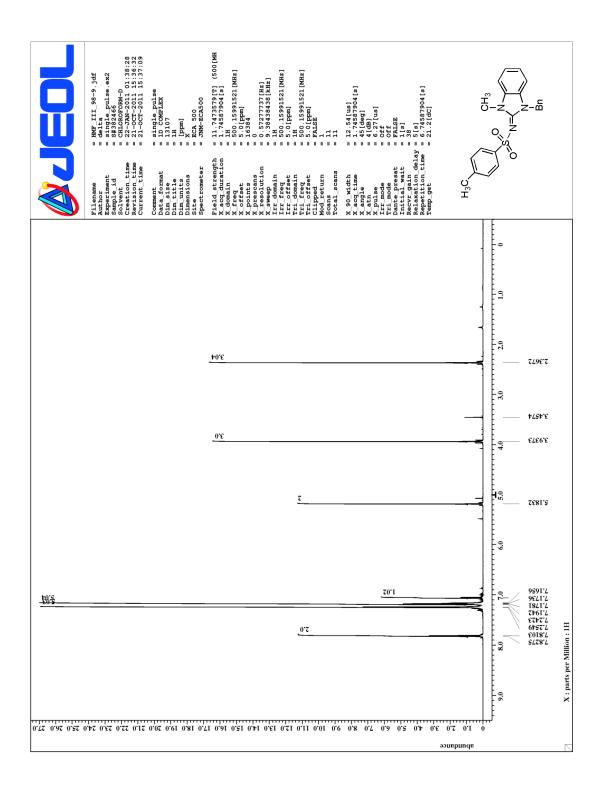


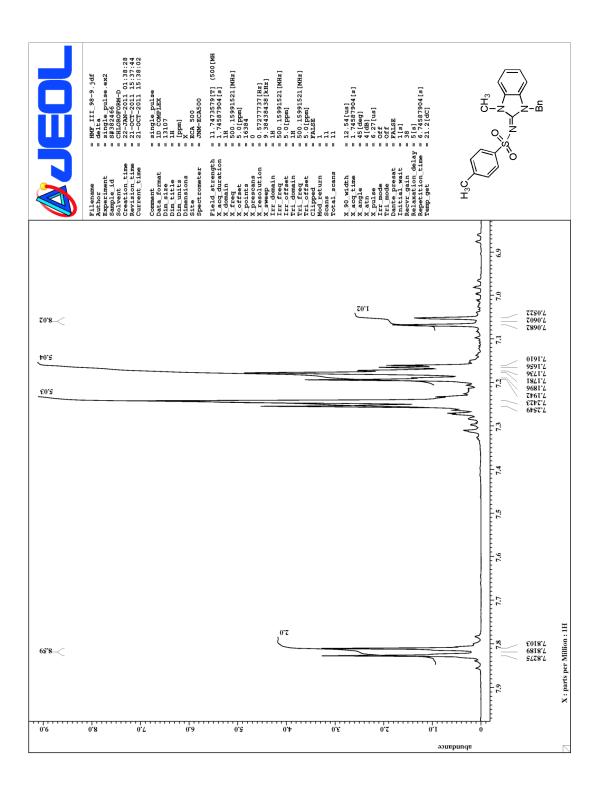


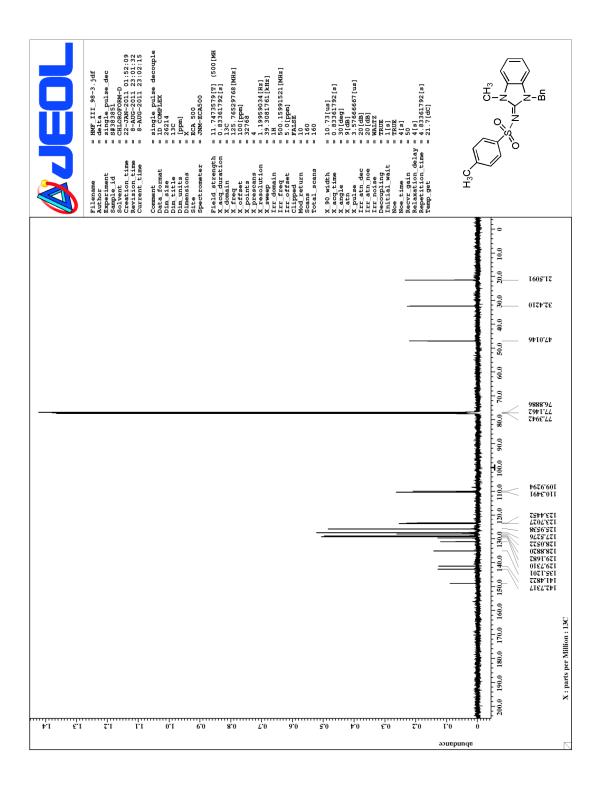


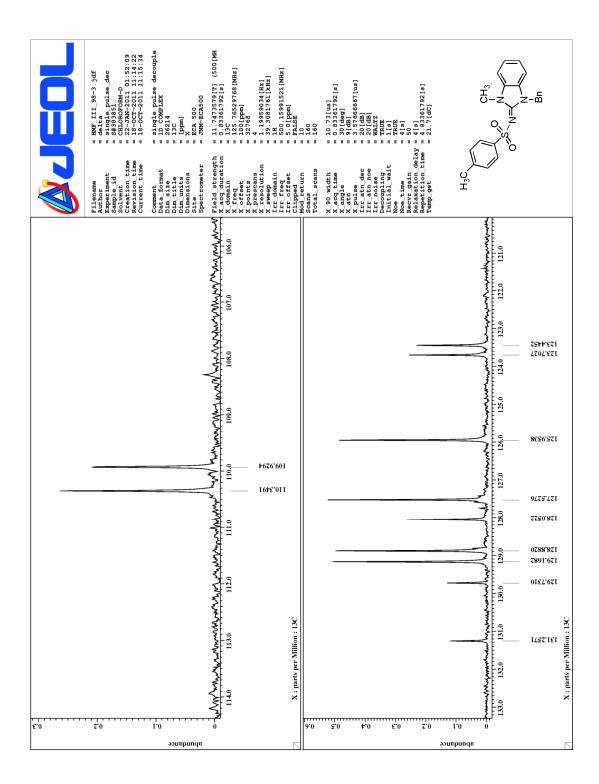


APPENDIX 23 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of *N*-[(2*E*)-1-benzyl-3-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazol-2-ylidene]-4methylbenzenesulfonamide (**90**)

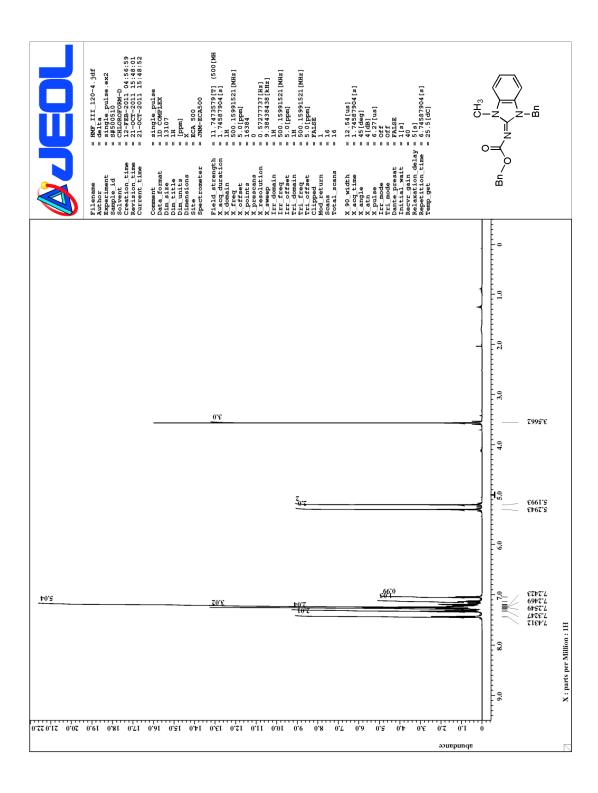


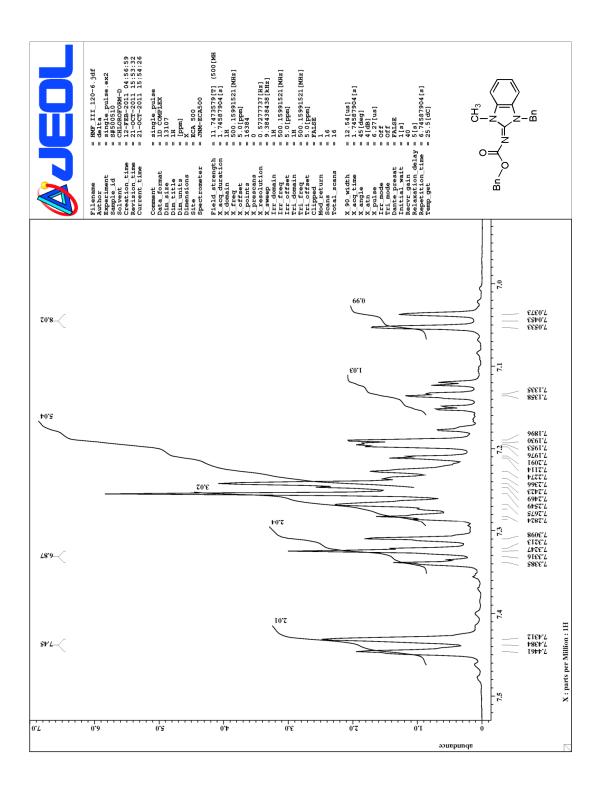


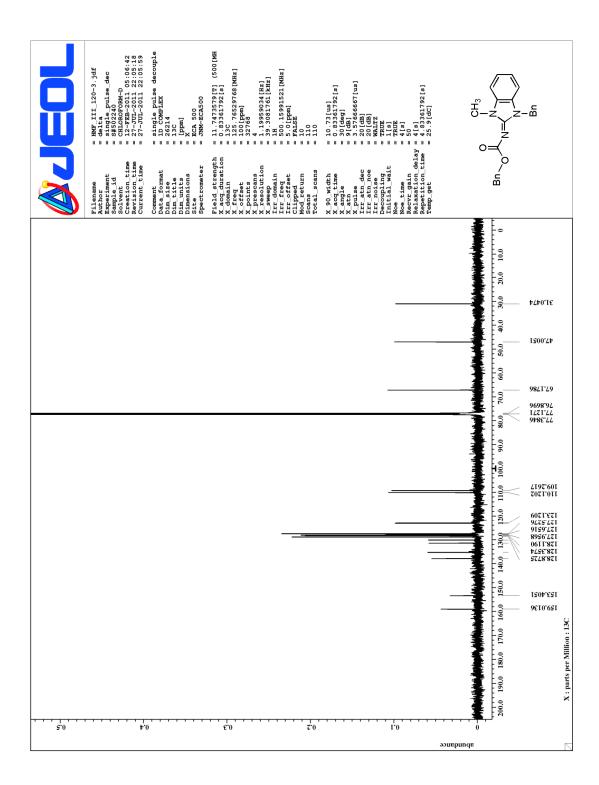


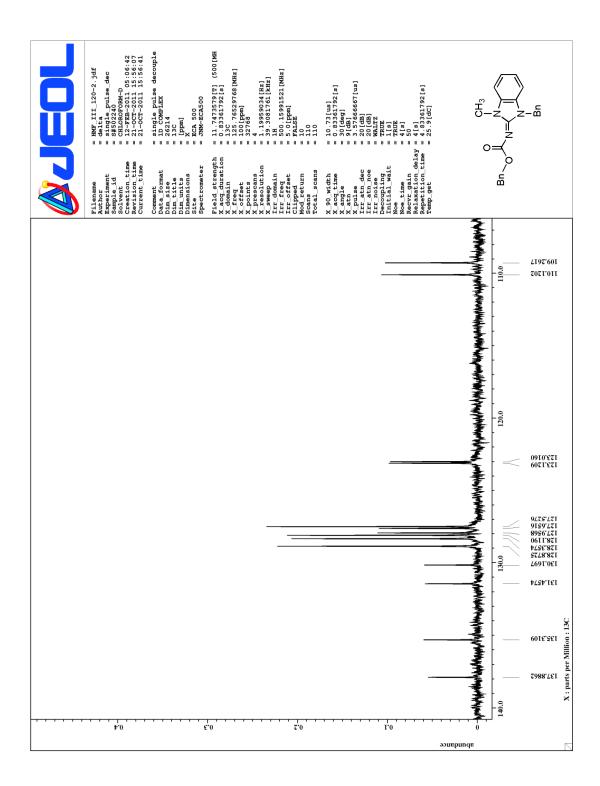


APPENDIX 24 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-2-benzyloxycarbonylimino-3-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazole (**95a**)

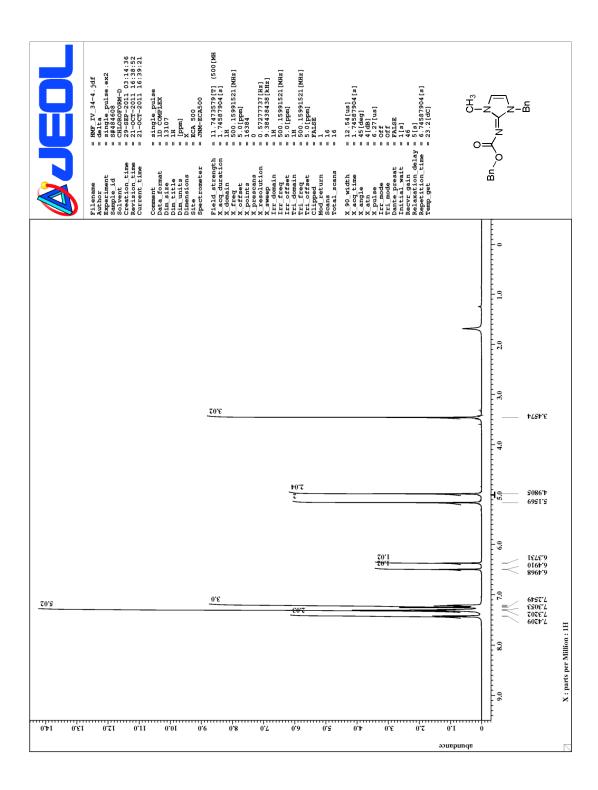


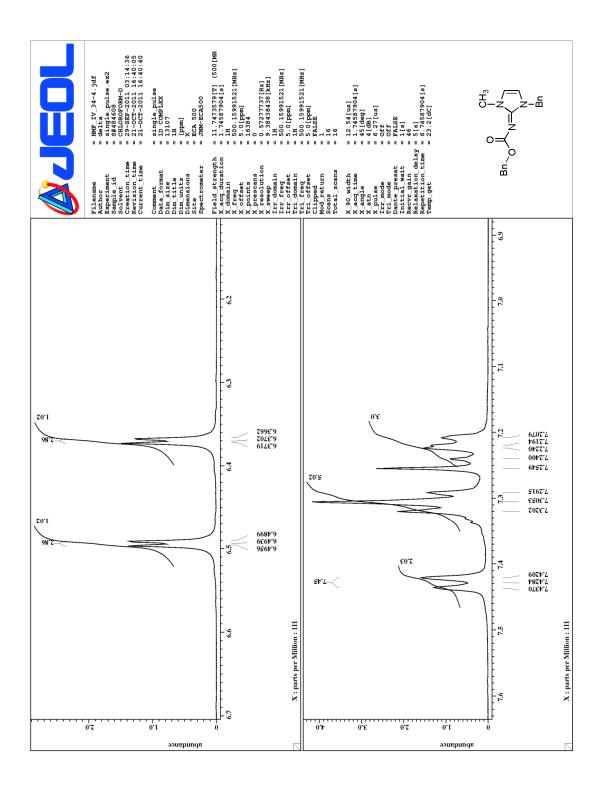


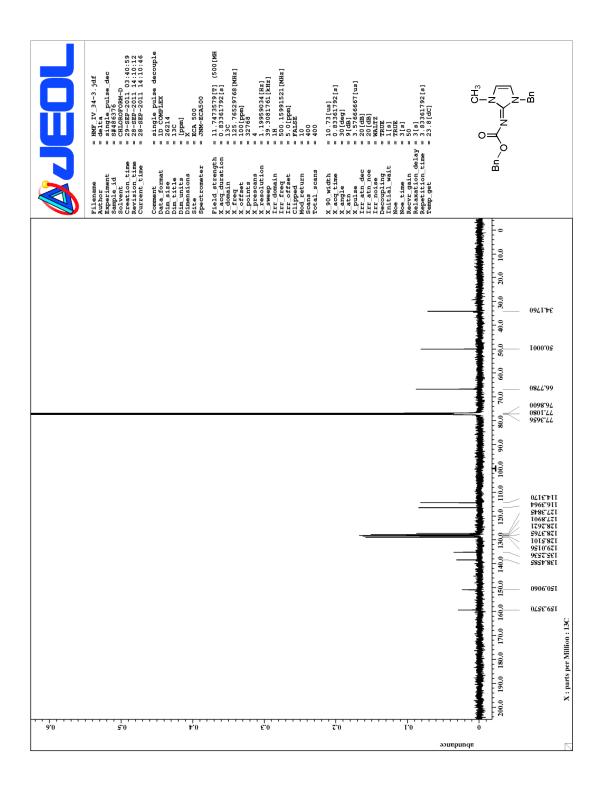


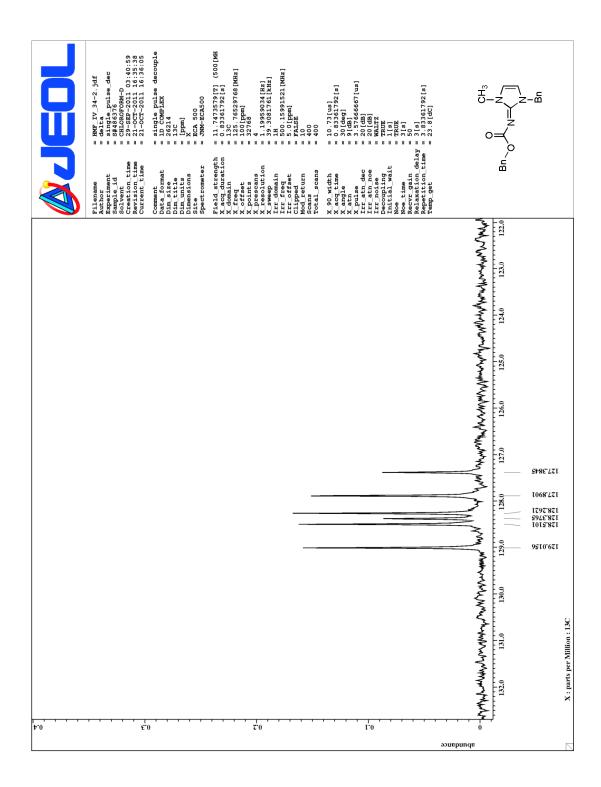


APPENDIX 25 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-2-benzyloxycarbonylimino-3-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-imidazole (**95b**)

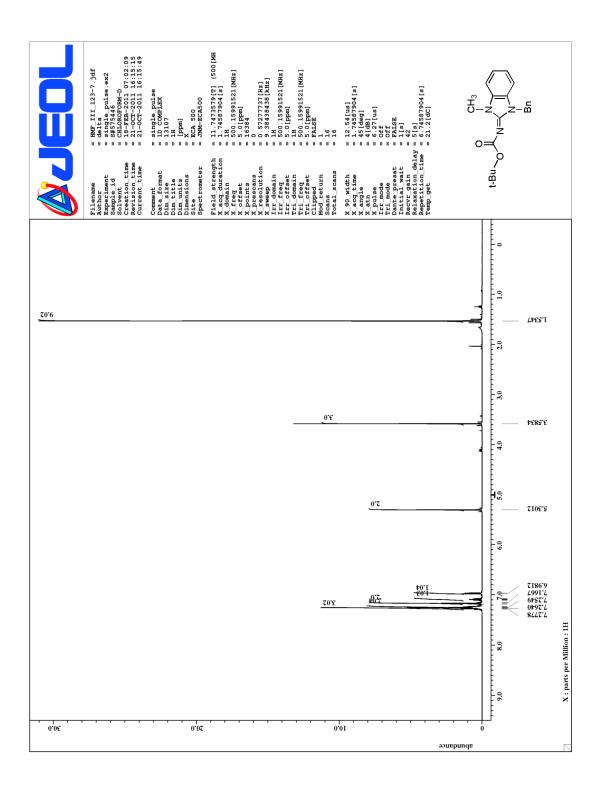


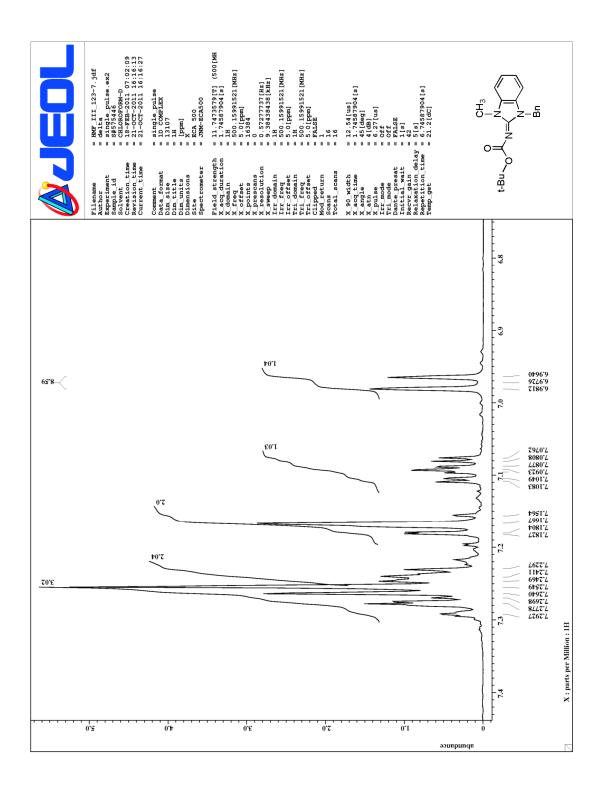


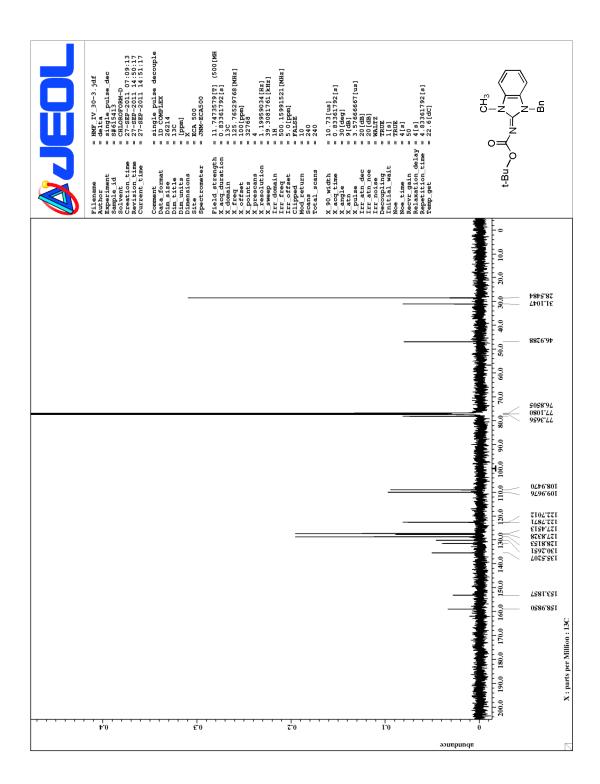


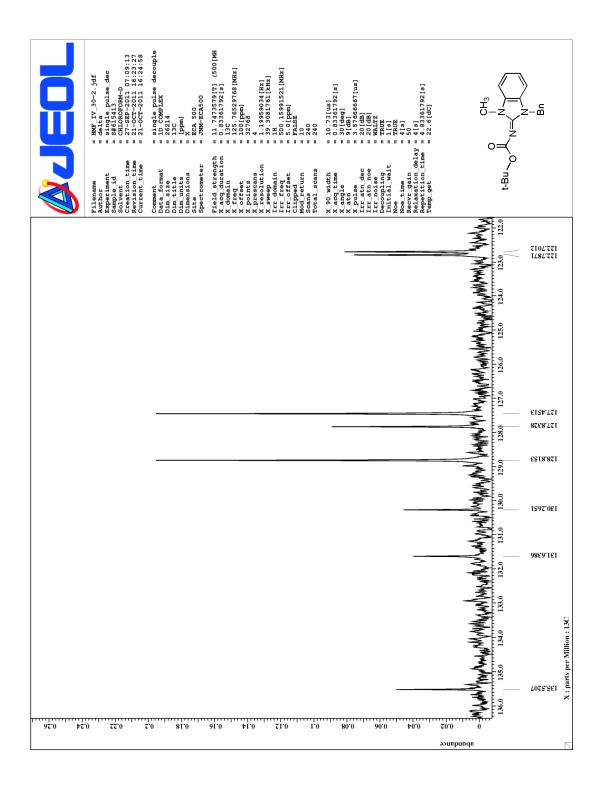


APPENDIX 26 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-2-*tert*-butylcarbonylimino-3-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazole (**96a**)

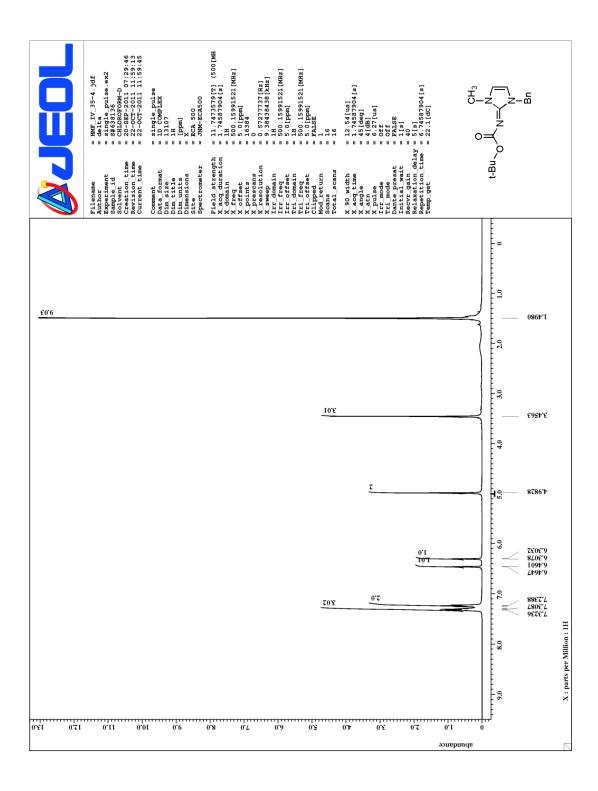


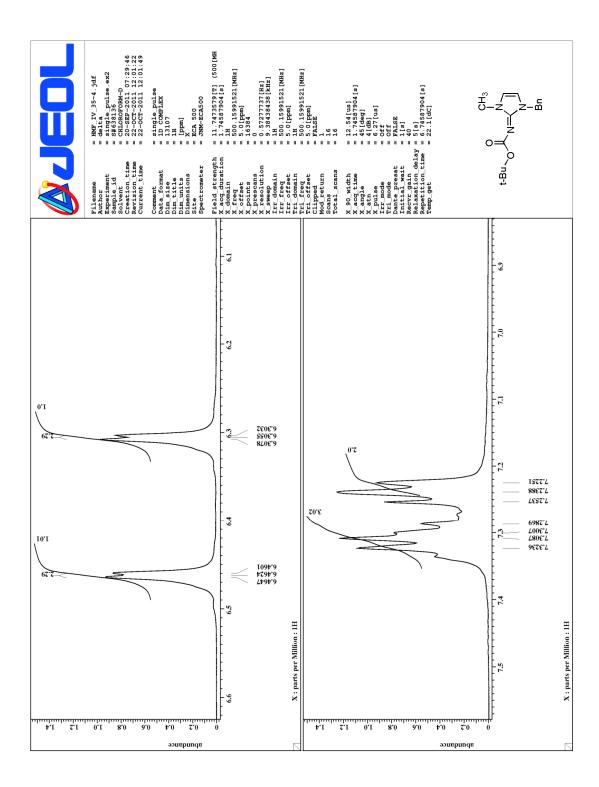


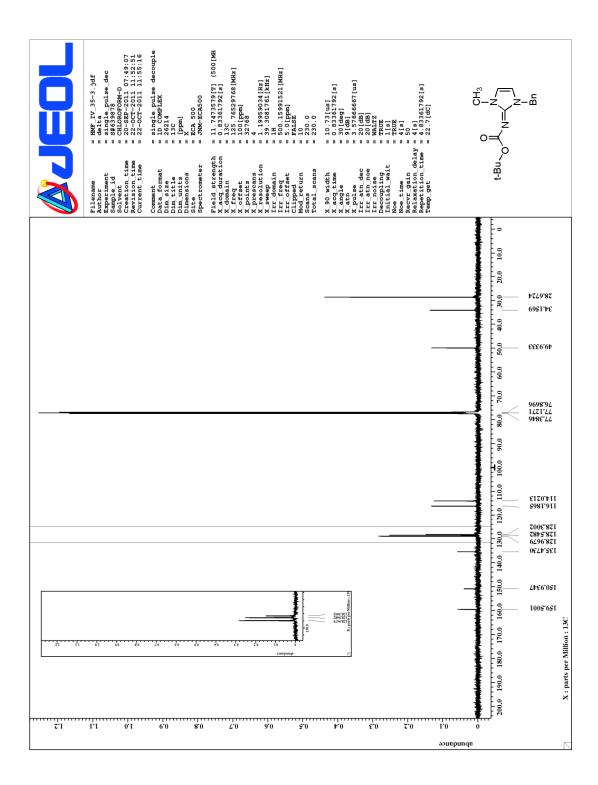




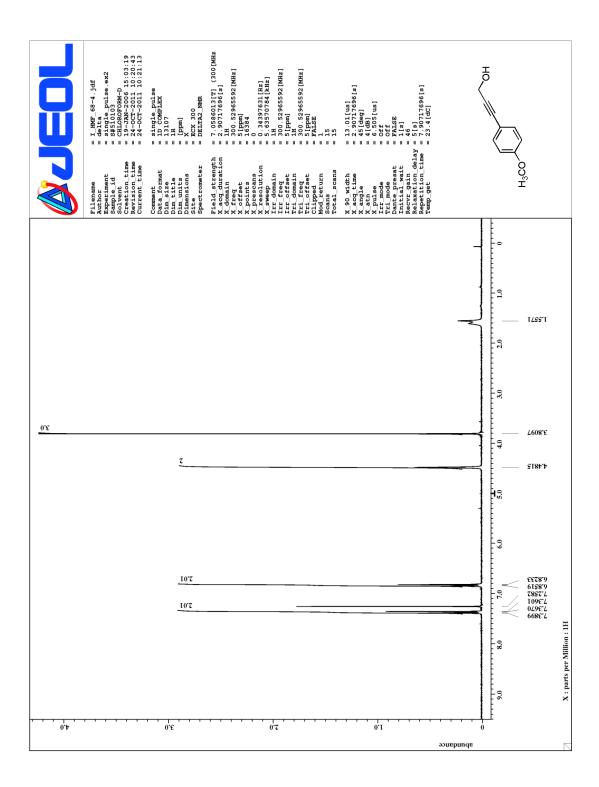
APPENDIX 27 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-2-*tert*-butylcarbonylimino-3-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-imidazole (**96b**)

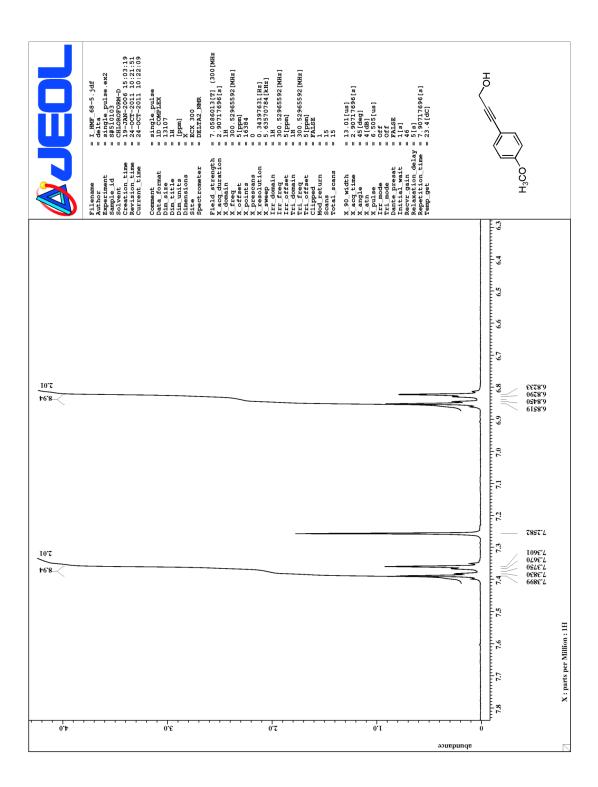


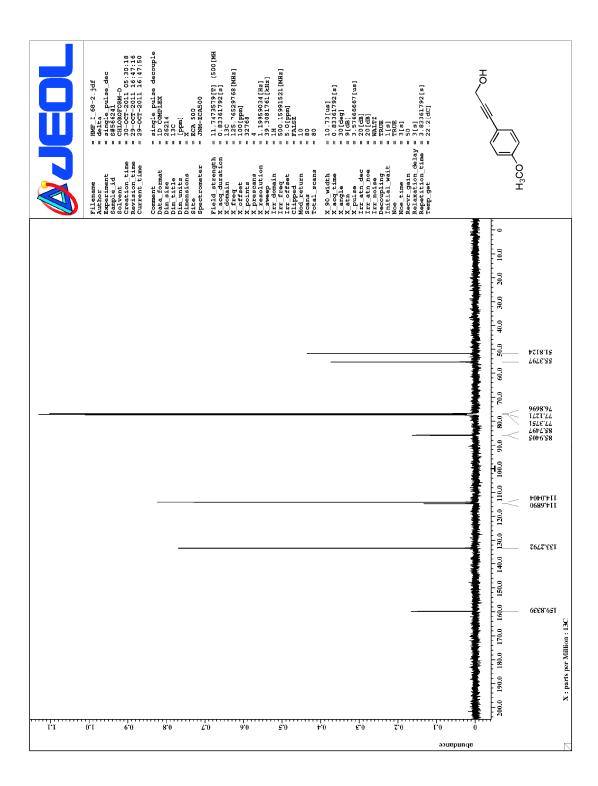




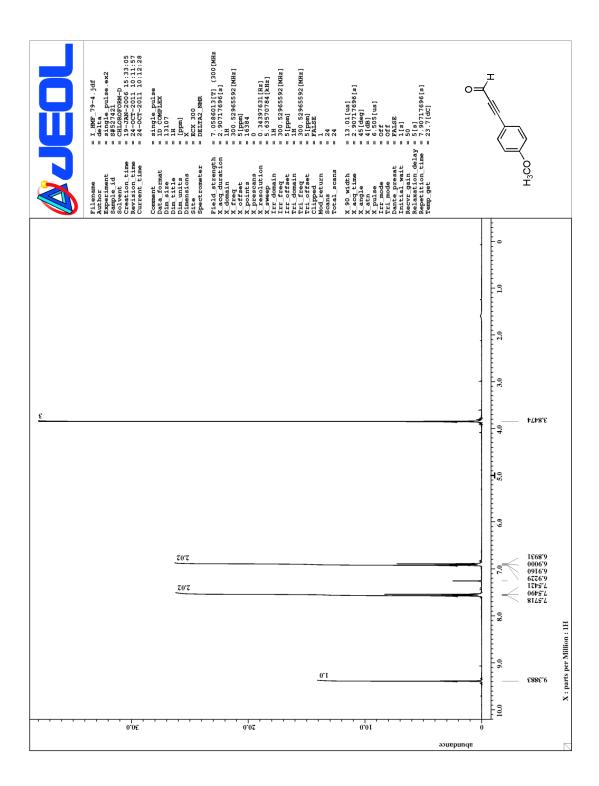
APPENDIX 28 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-yn-1-ol (**116**)

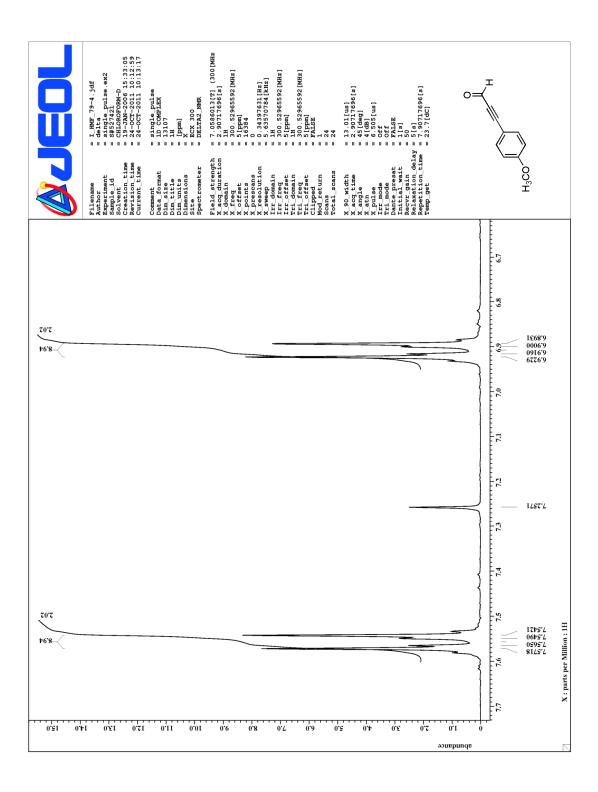


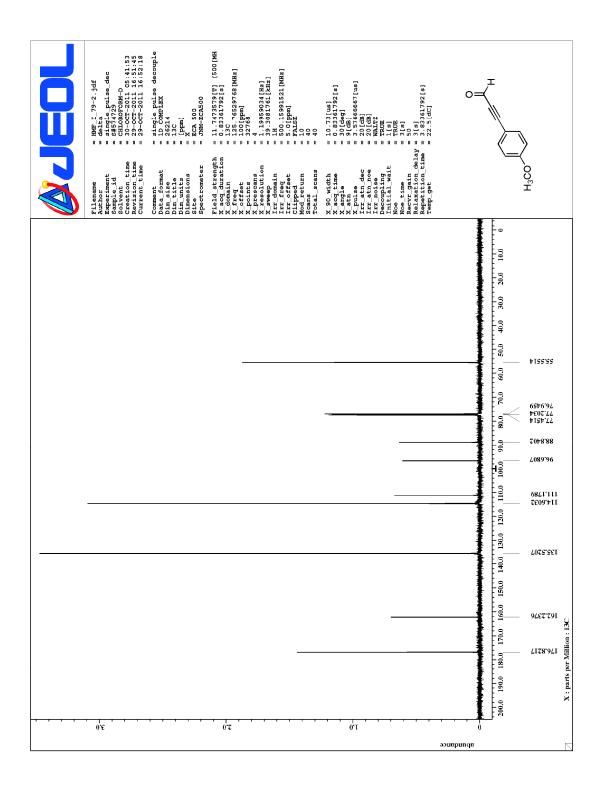




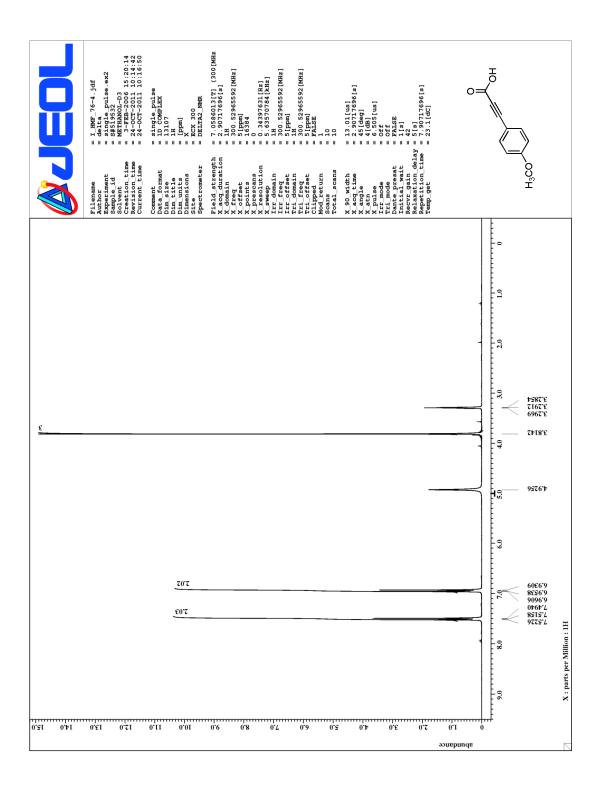
APPENDIX 29 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-ynal (**117**)

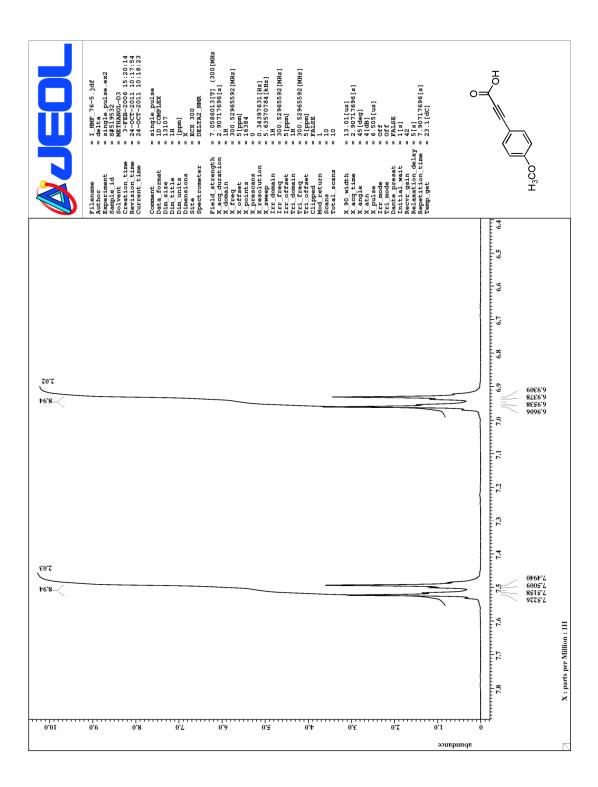


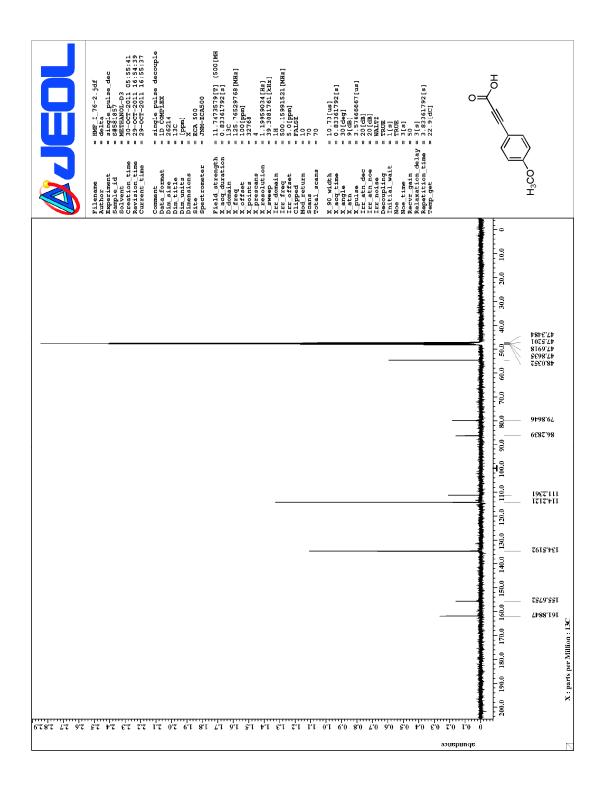




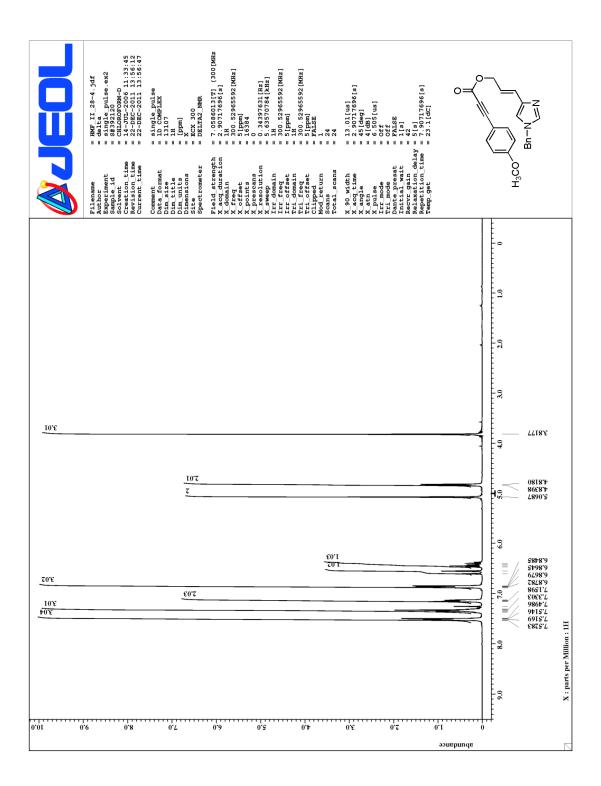
APPENDIX 30 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-ynoic acid (**118**)

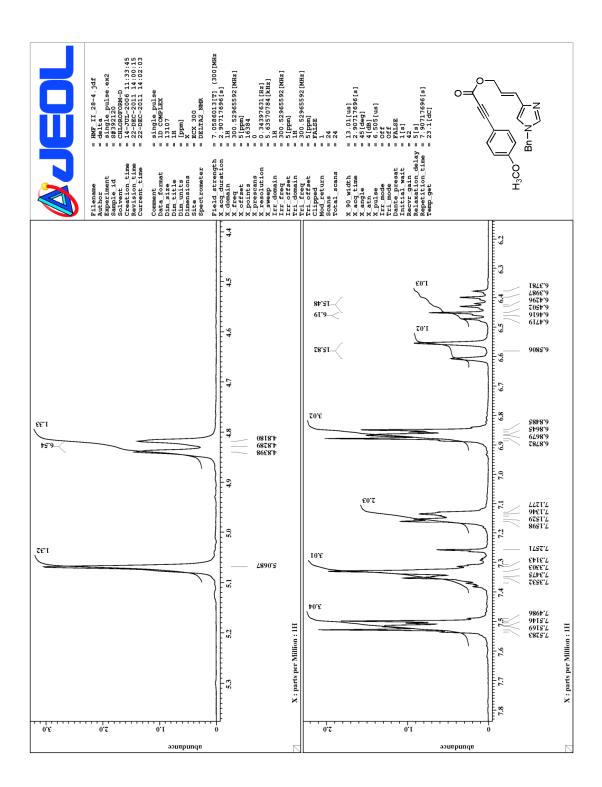


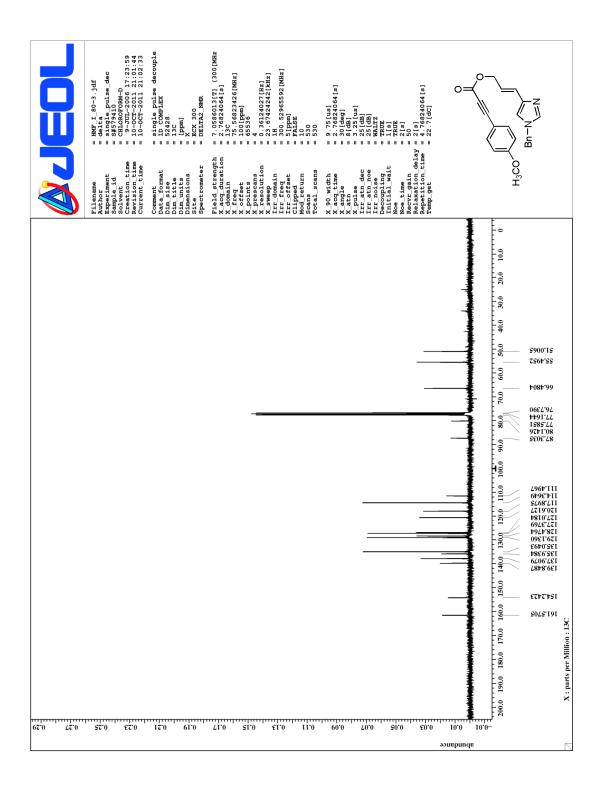


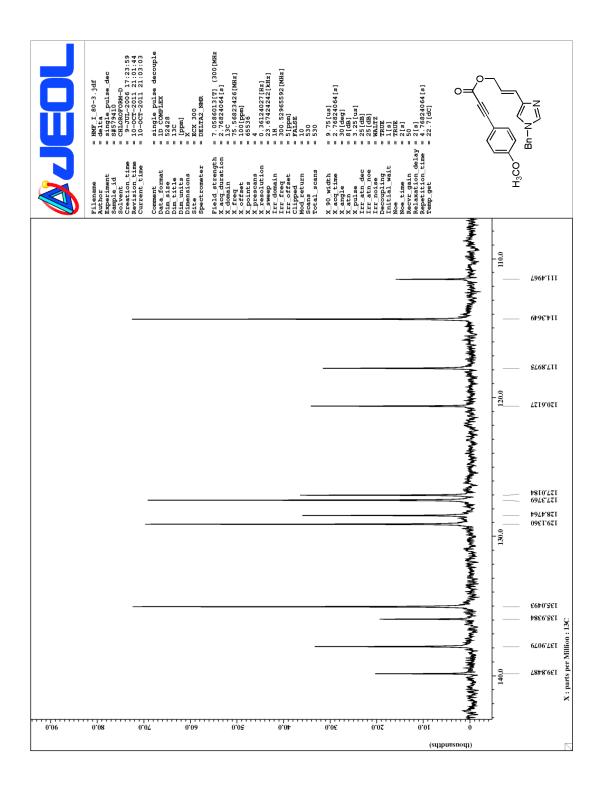


APPENDIX 31 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of (2*E*)-3-(1-Benzyl-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)prop-2-enyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propynoate (**107**)

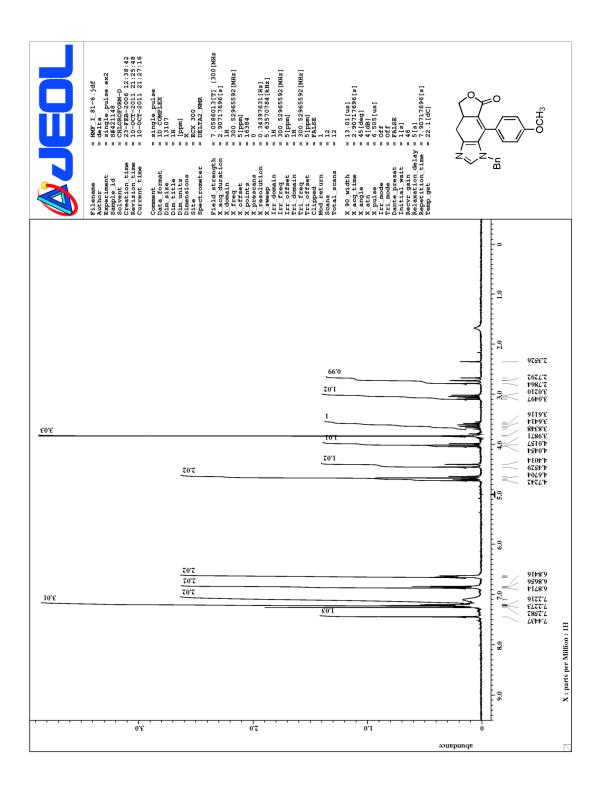


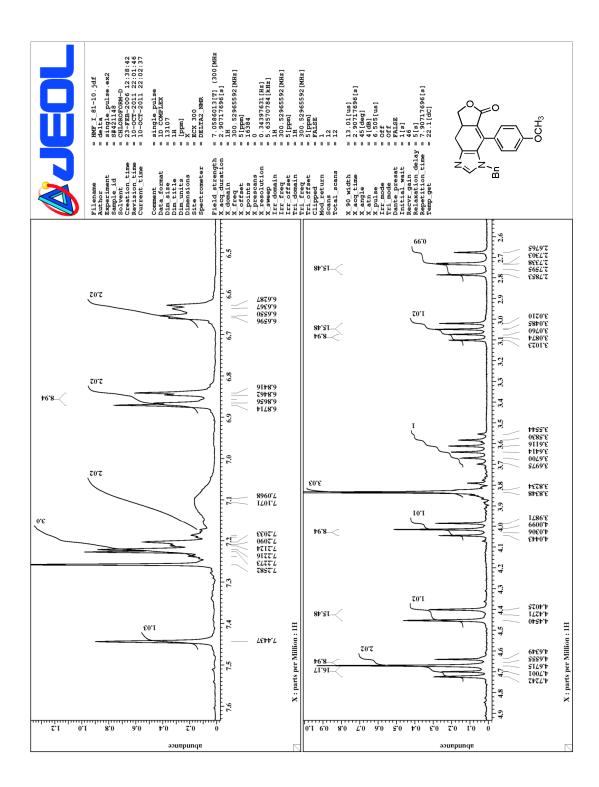


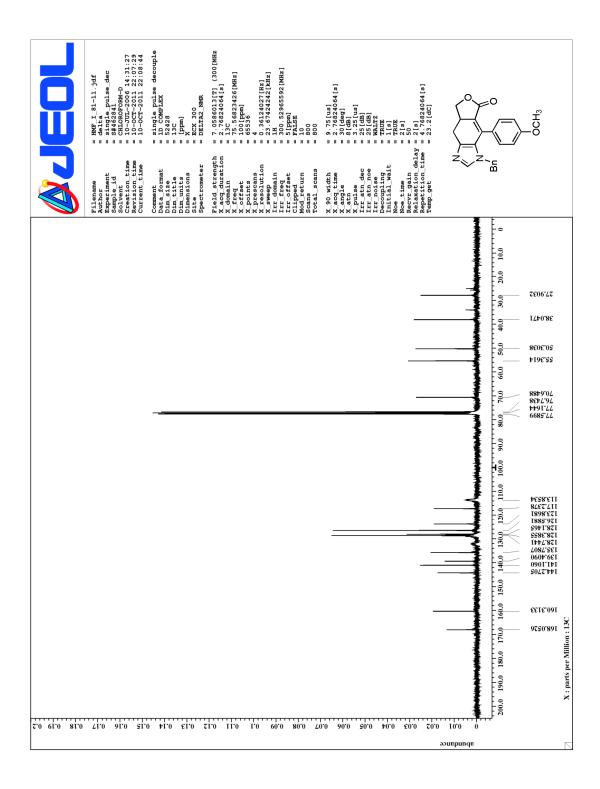


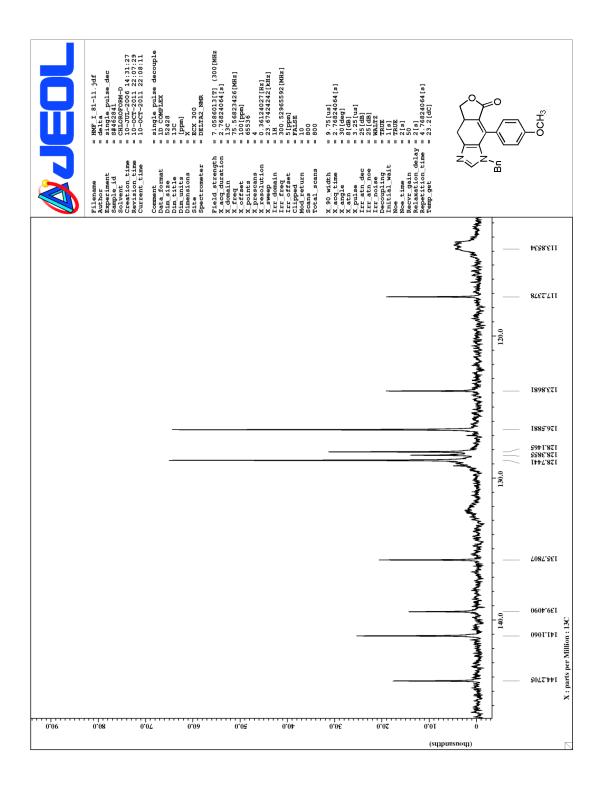


APPENDIX 32 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,7,7a,8-tetrahydro-5*H*-furo[3,4-*f*]benzimidazol-5-one (**106**)

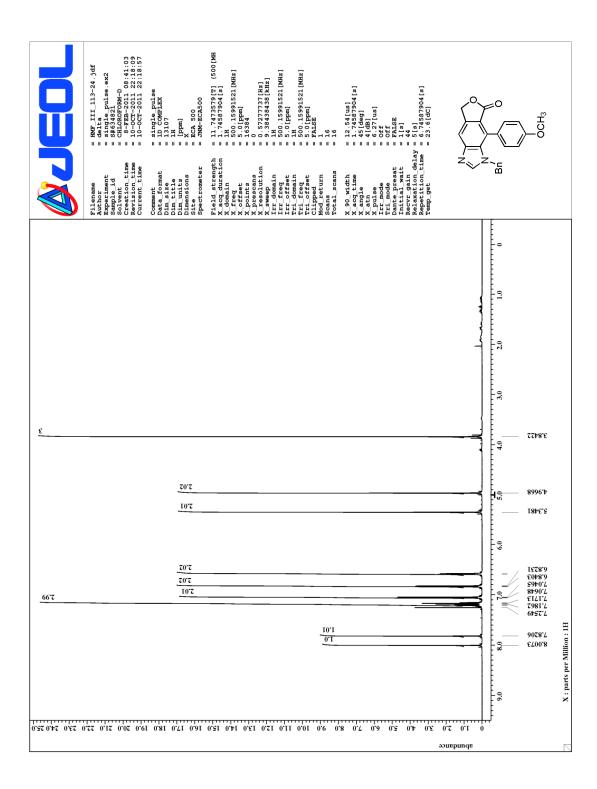


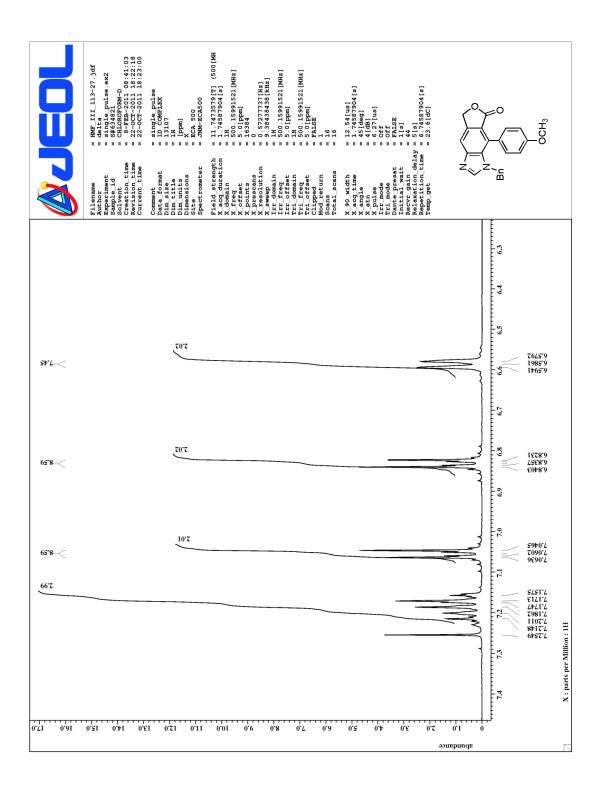


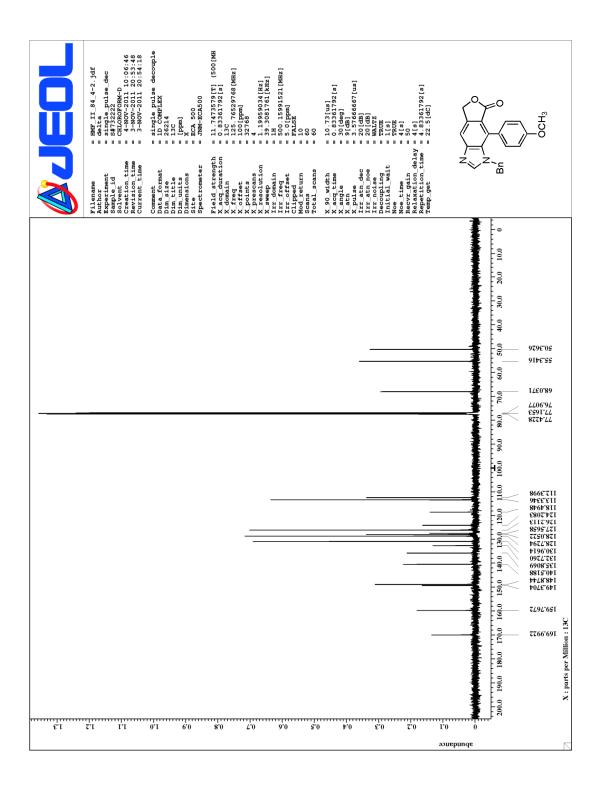


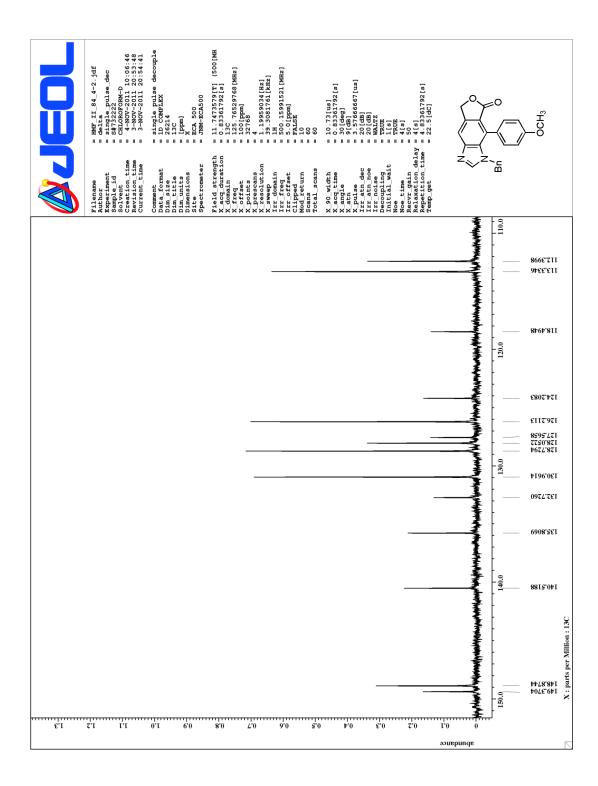


APPENDIX 33 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,7-dihydro-5*H*-furo[3,4-*f*]benzimidazol-5-one (**119**)

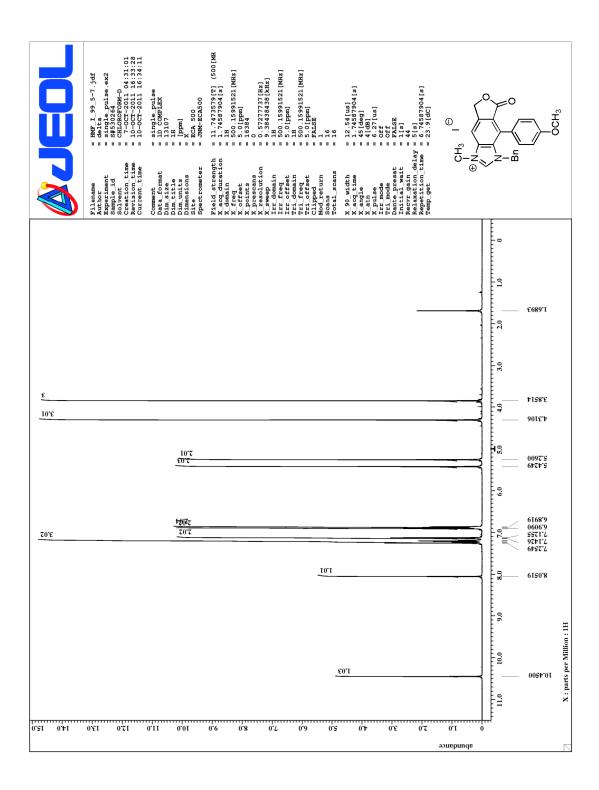


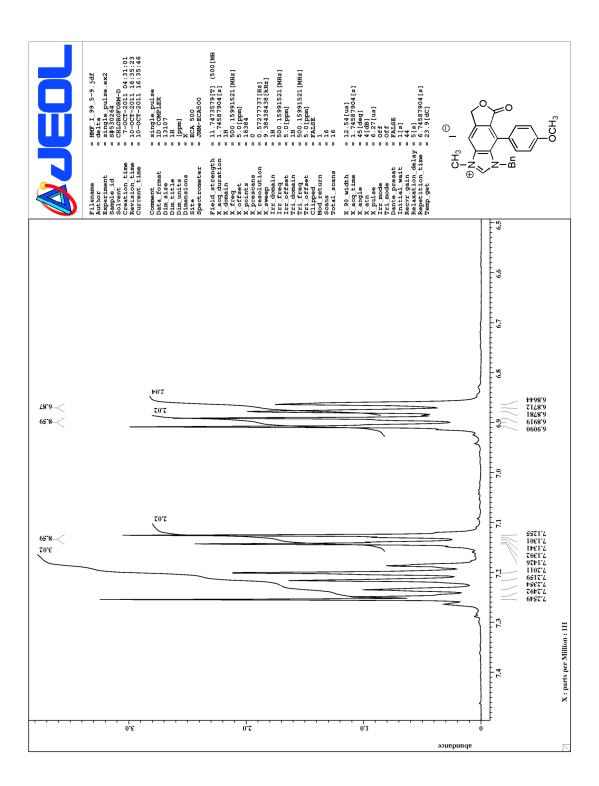


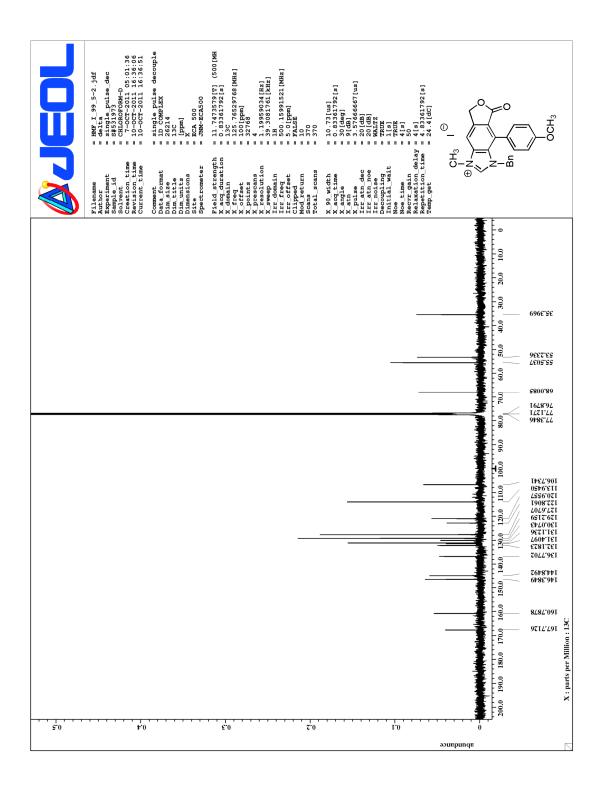


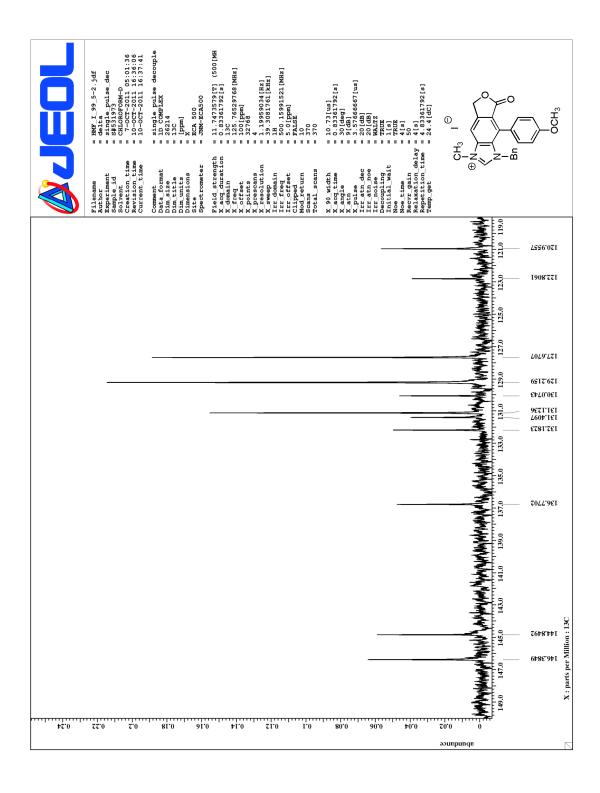


APPENDIX 34 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-5-oxo-5,7-dihydro-3*H*-furo[3,4-*f*]benzimidazol-1-ium iodide (**105**)

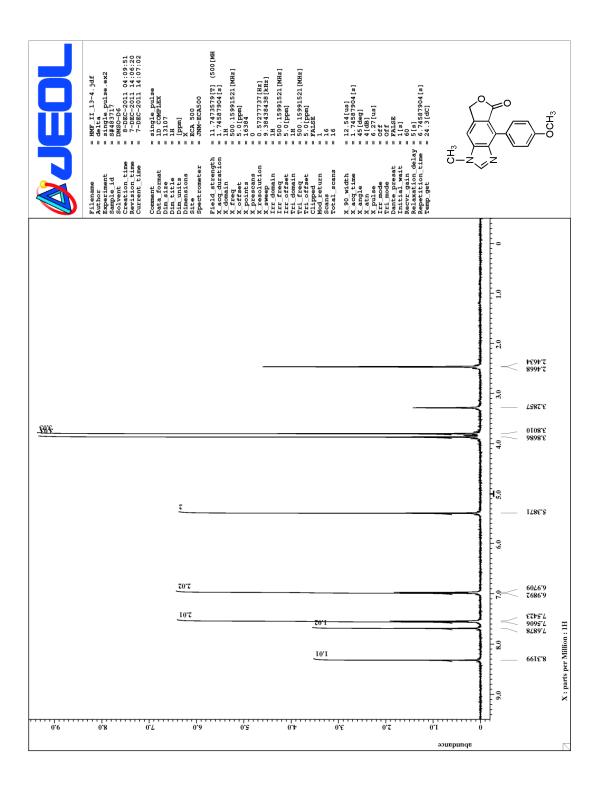


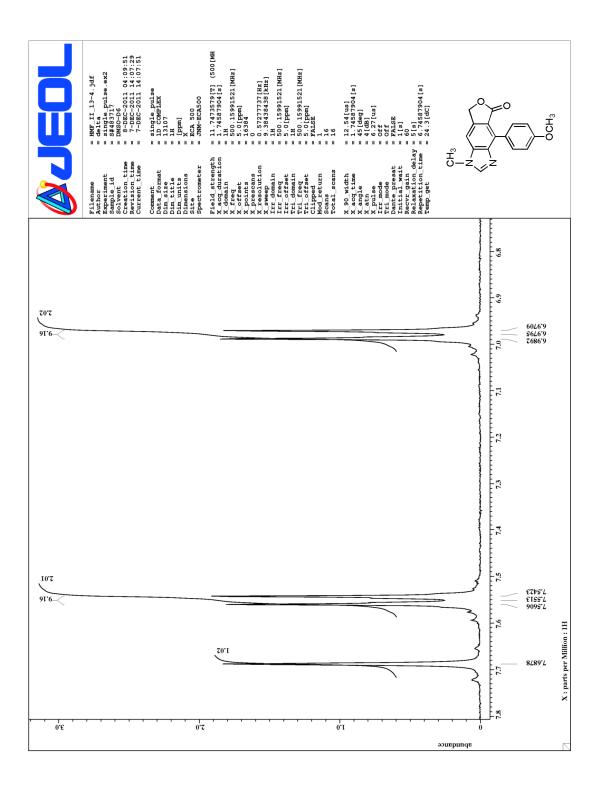


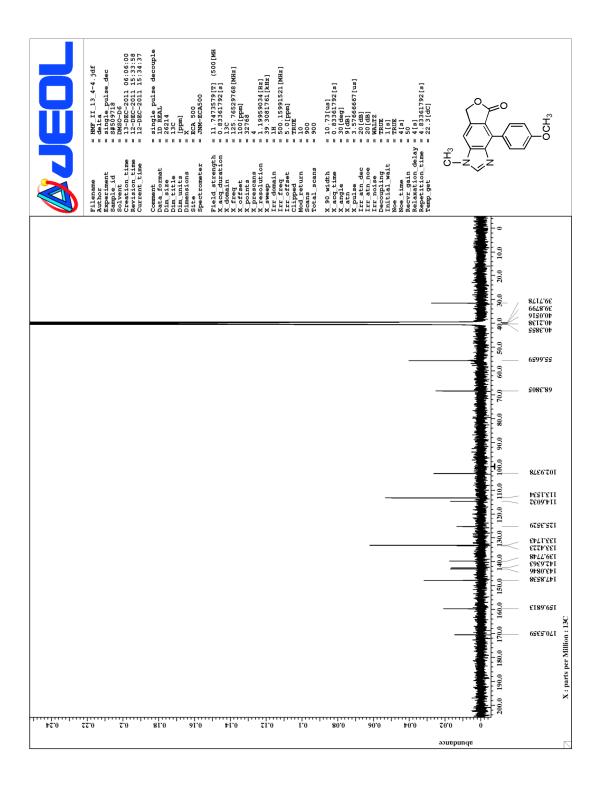




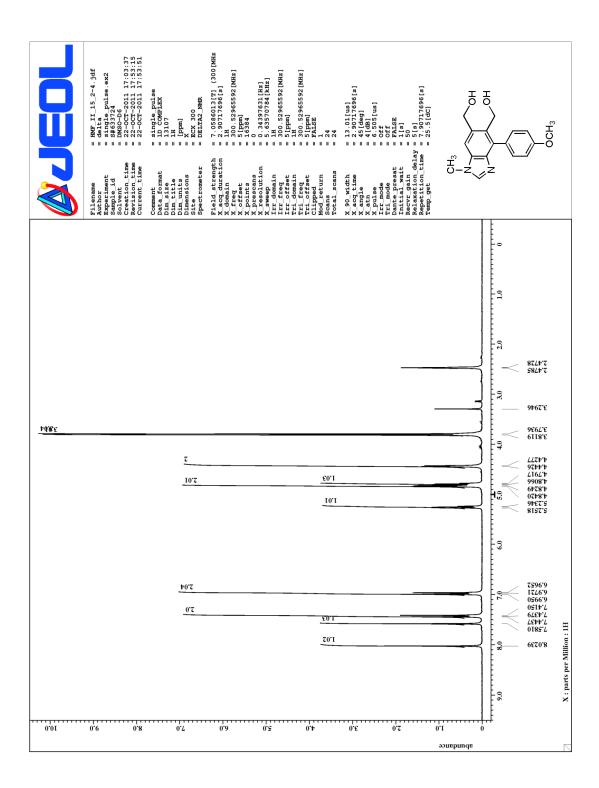
APPENDIX 35 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1,7-dihydro-furo[3,4-f]benzimidazol-5-one (**120b**)

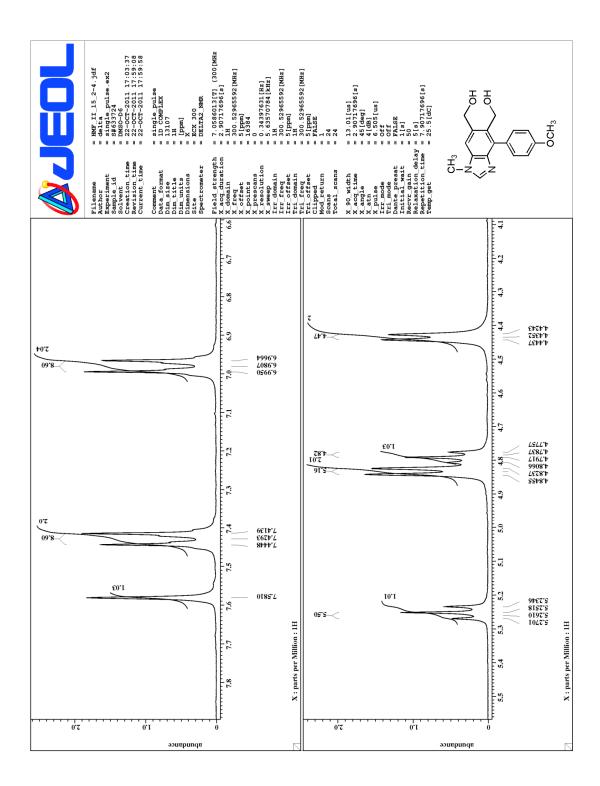


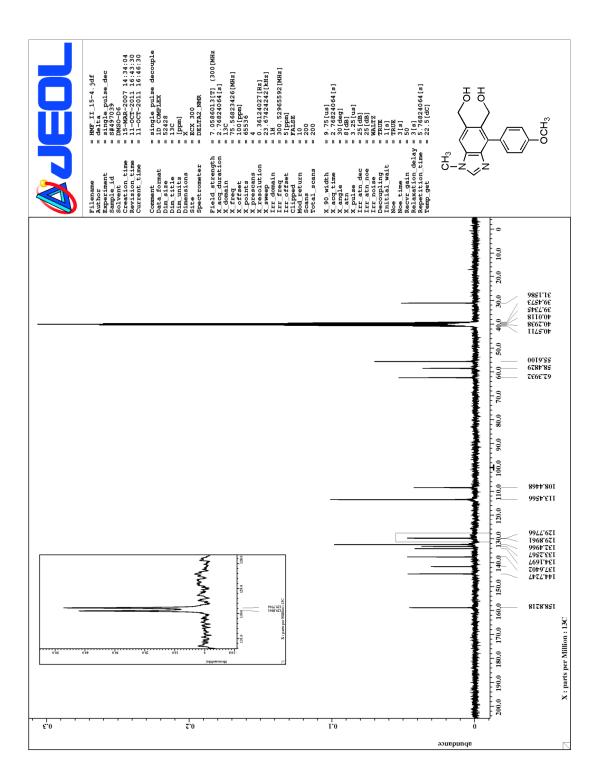


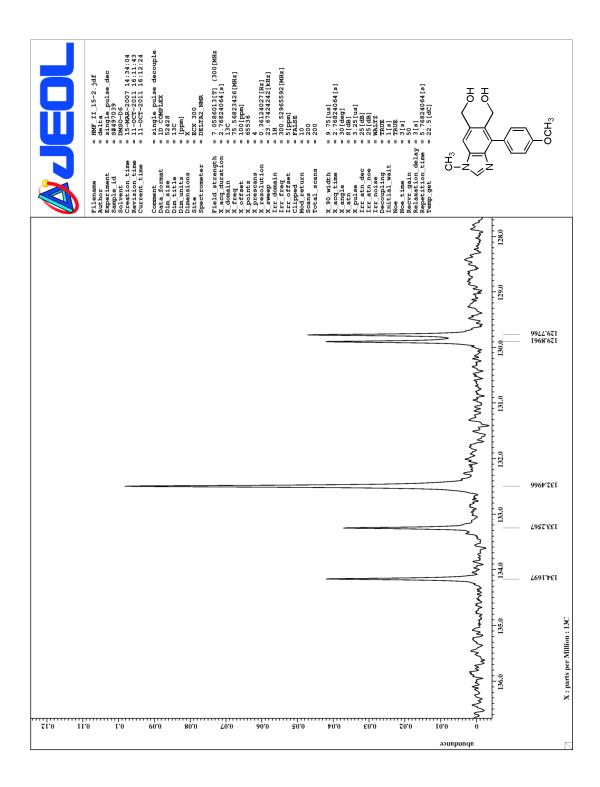


APPENDIX 36 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of [4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5,6-diyl]dimethanol (**121**)

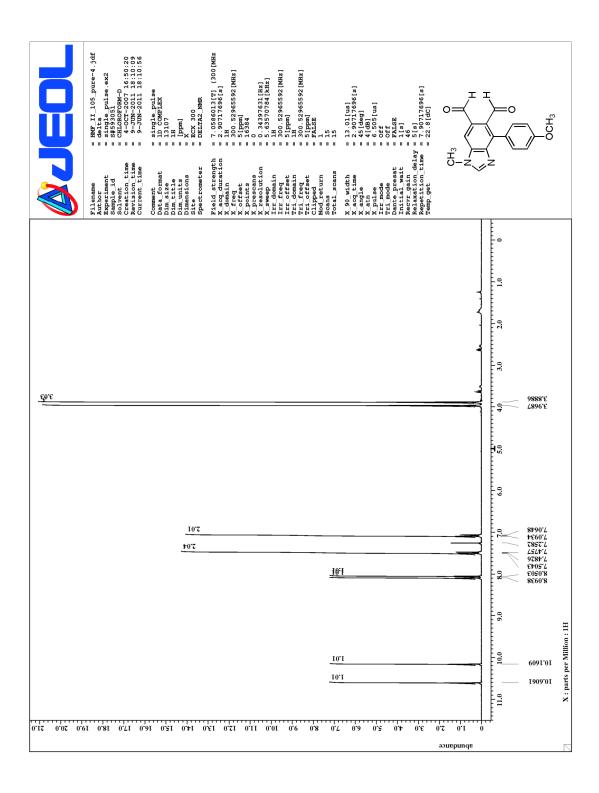


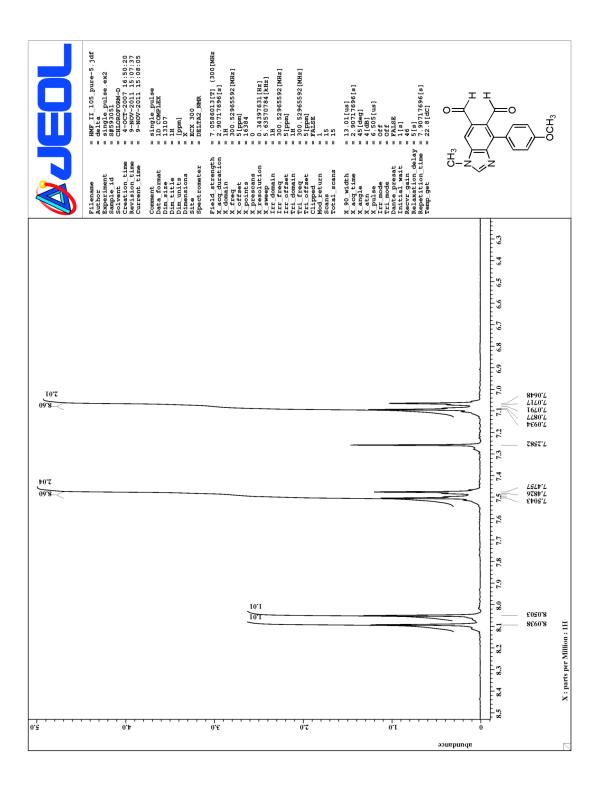


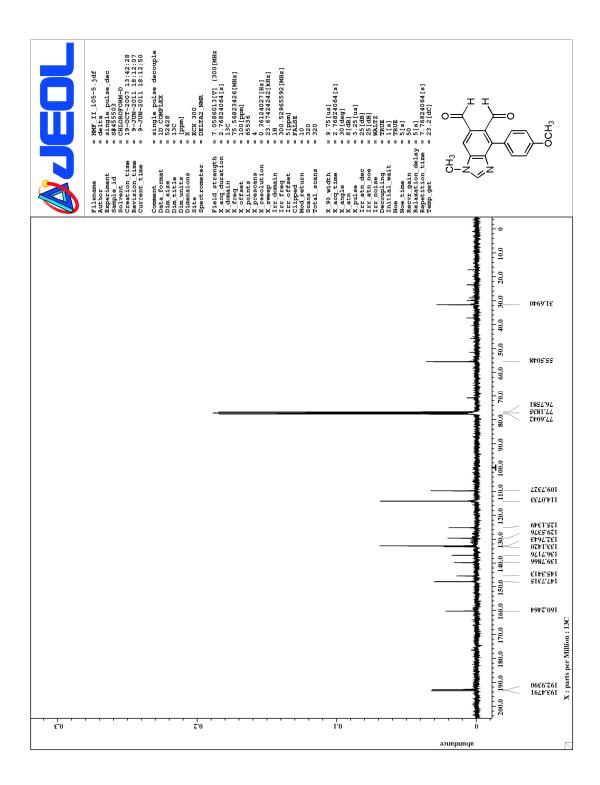




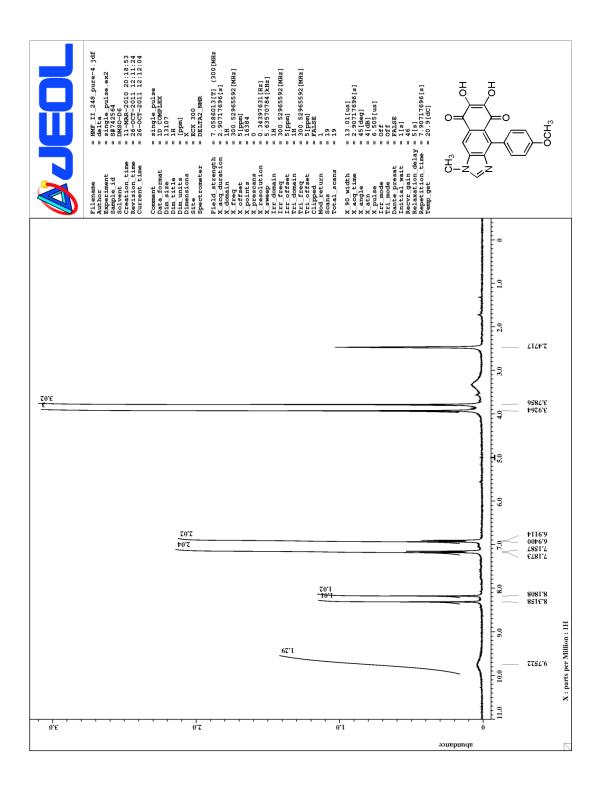
APPENDIX 37 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5,6-dicarbaldehyde (**104**)

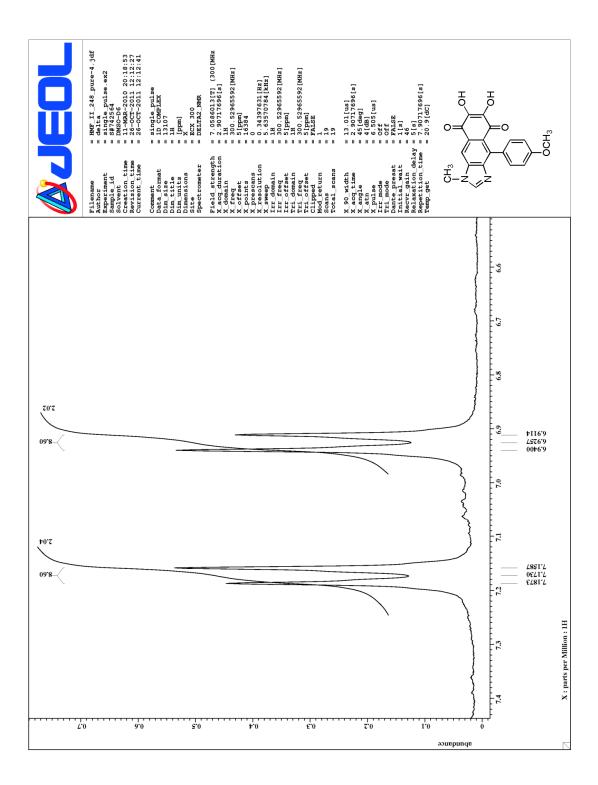


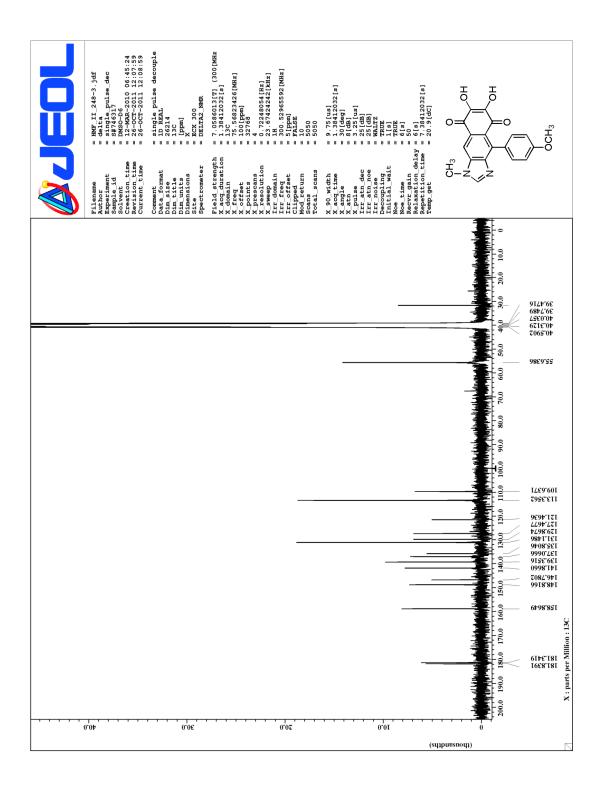




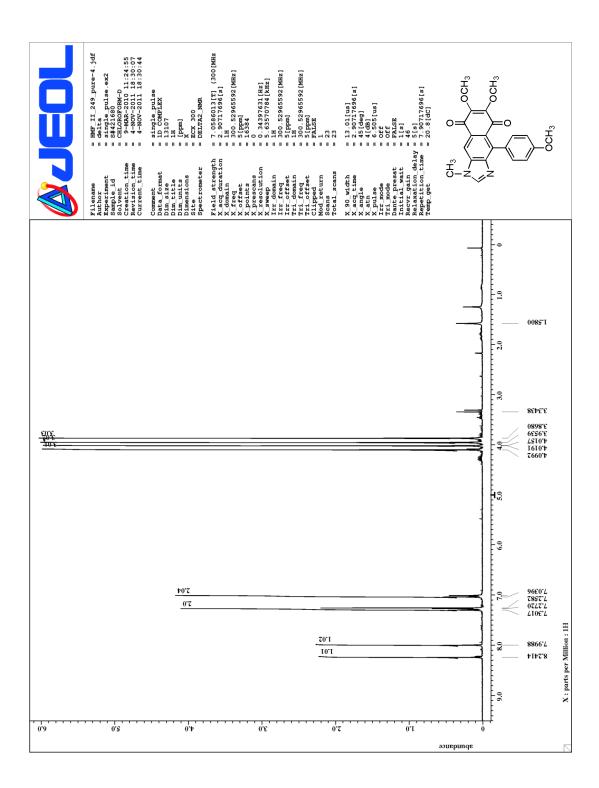
APPENDIX 38 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 6,7-Dihydroxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*] imidazole-5,8-dione (**124**)

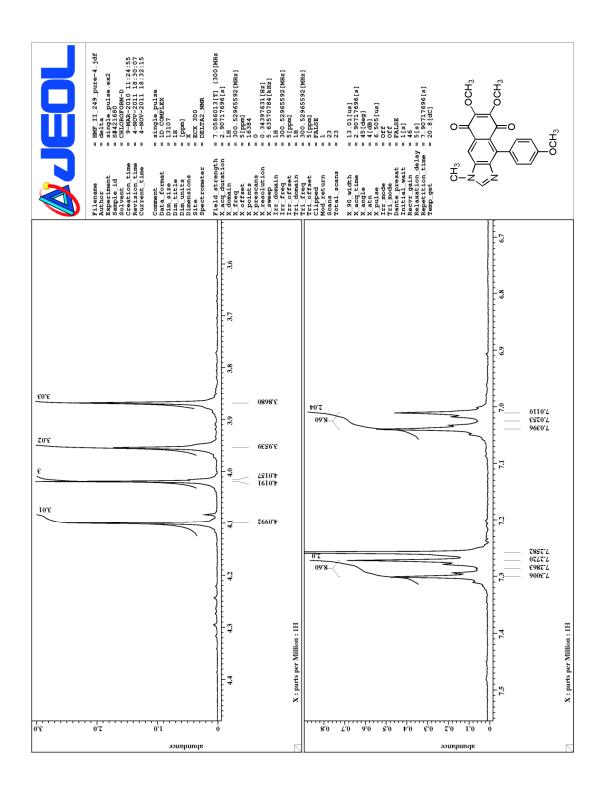


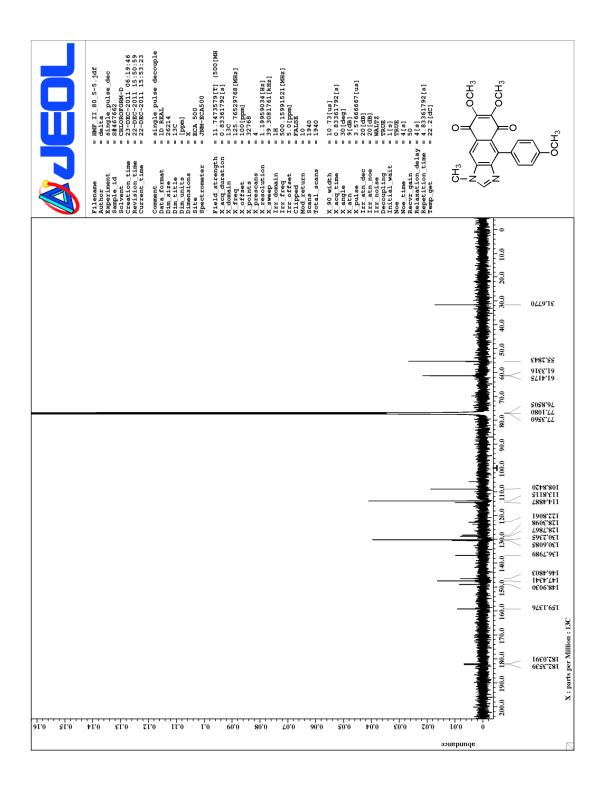




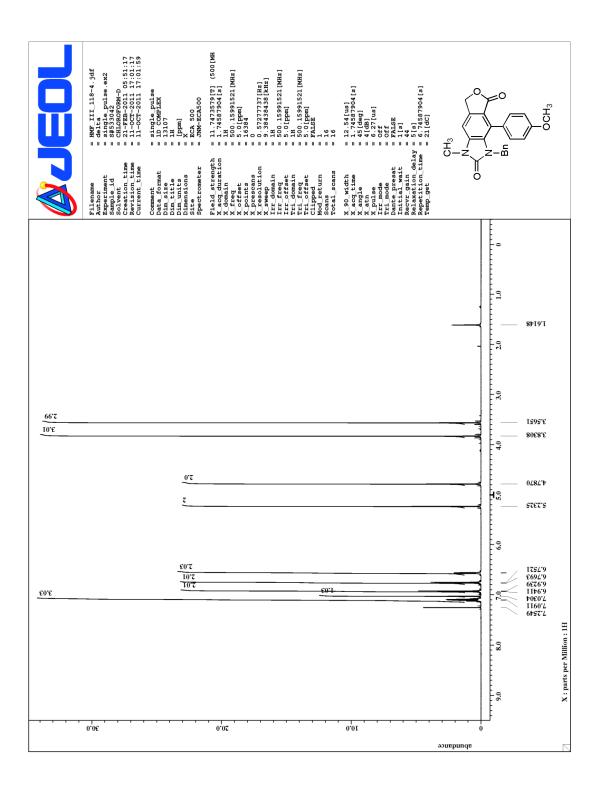
APPENDIX 39 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 6,7-Dimethoxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*] imidazole-5,8-dione (**103**)

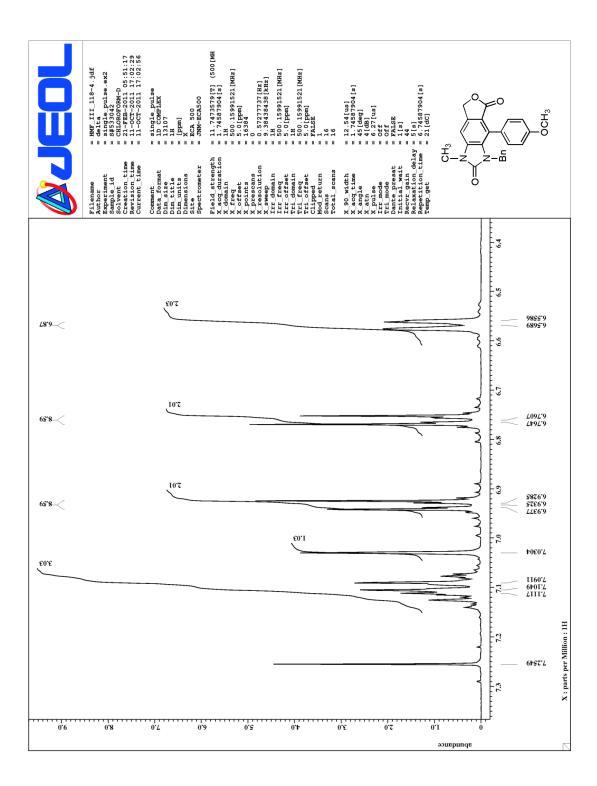


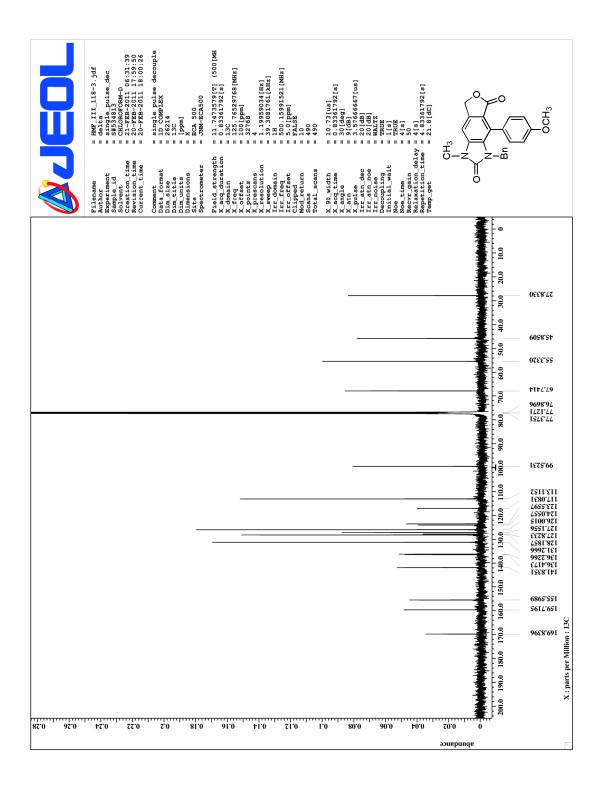


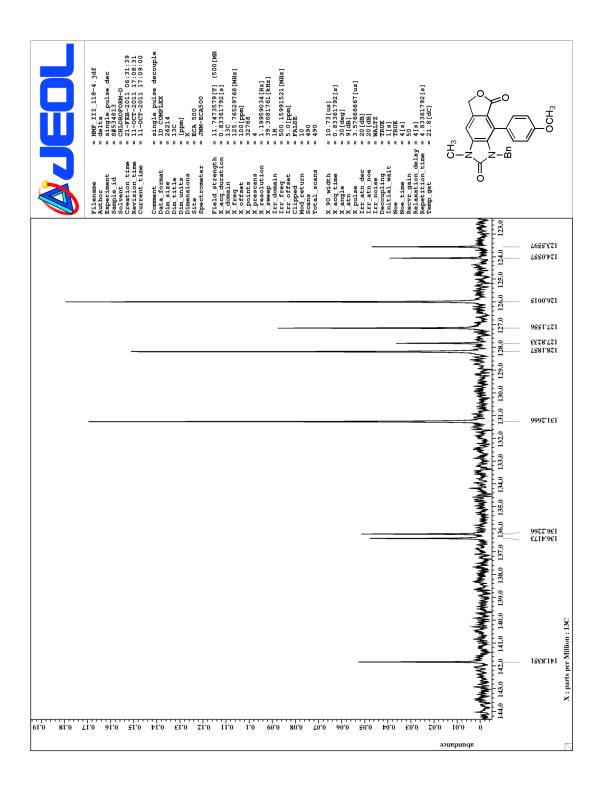


APPENDIX 40 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-3,7dihydro-1*H*-furo[3,4-*f*]benzimidazole-2,5-dione (**127**)

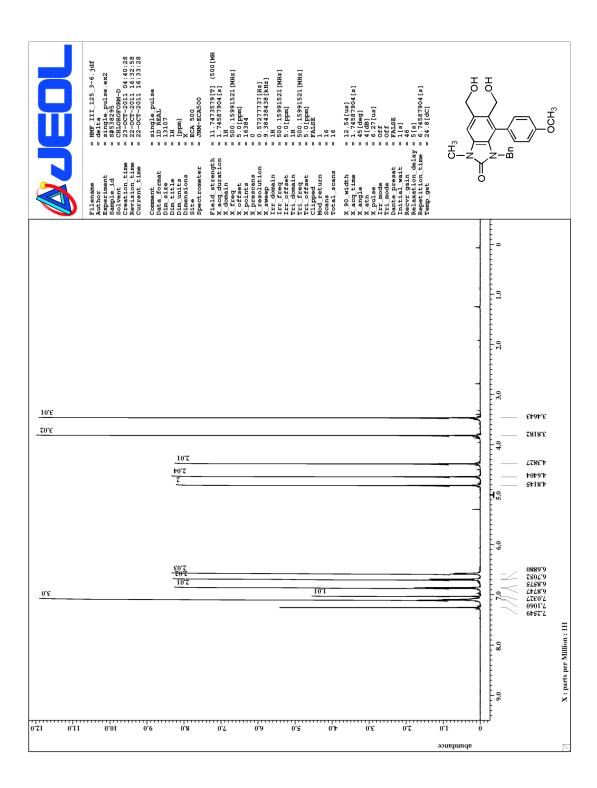


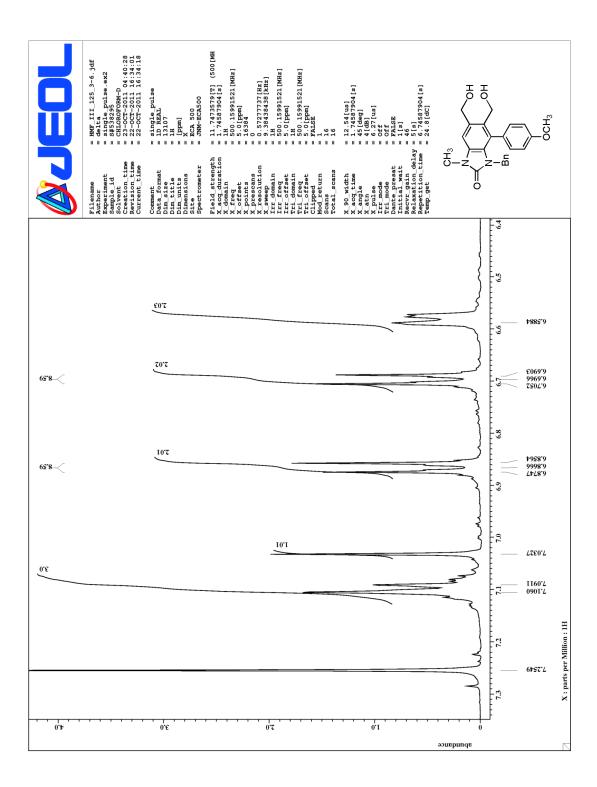


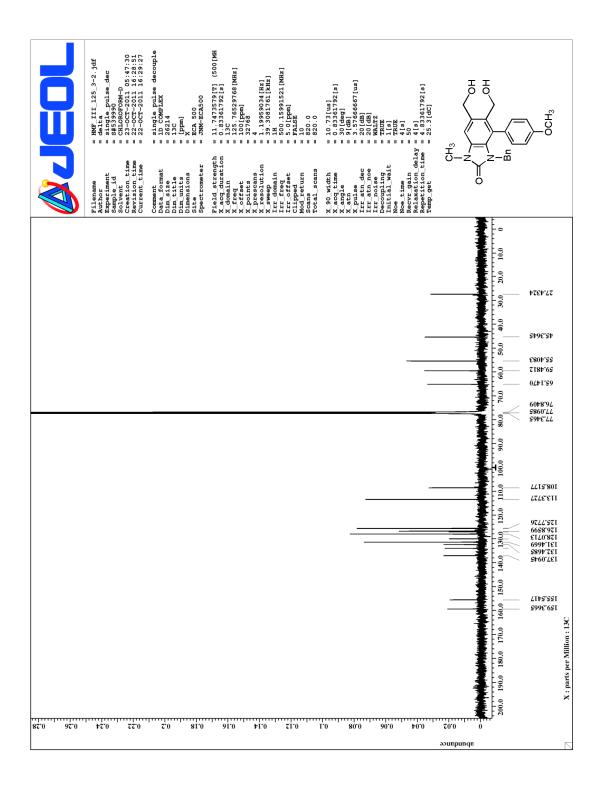


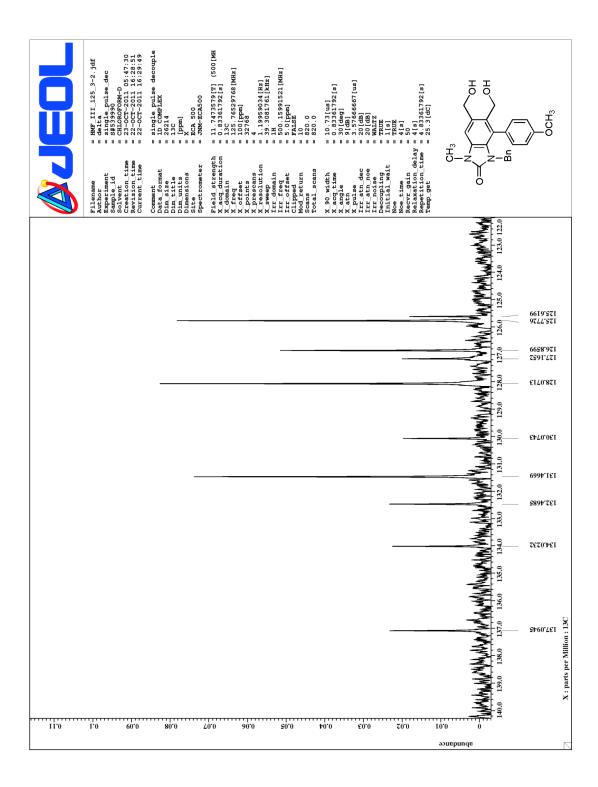


APPENDIX 41 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of [3-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5,6-diyl]dimethanol-2-dione (**128**)

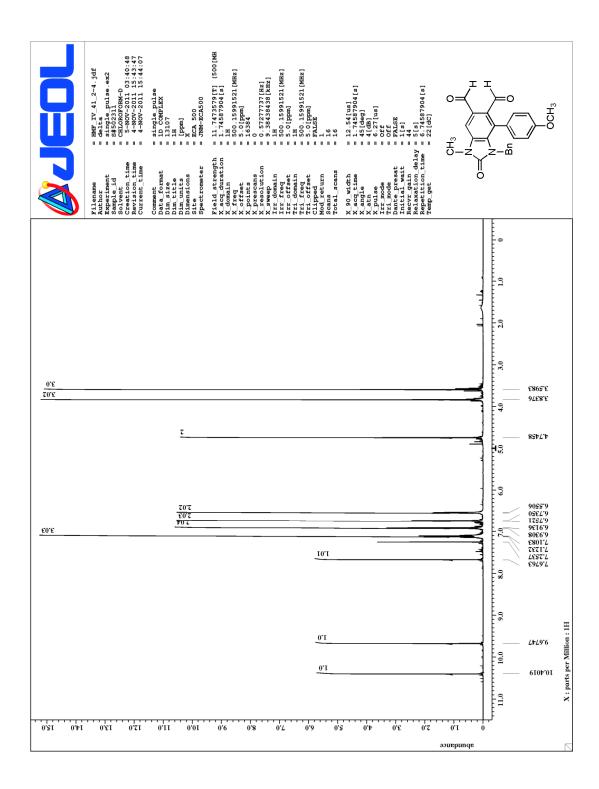


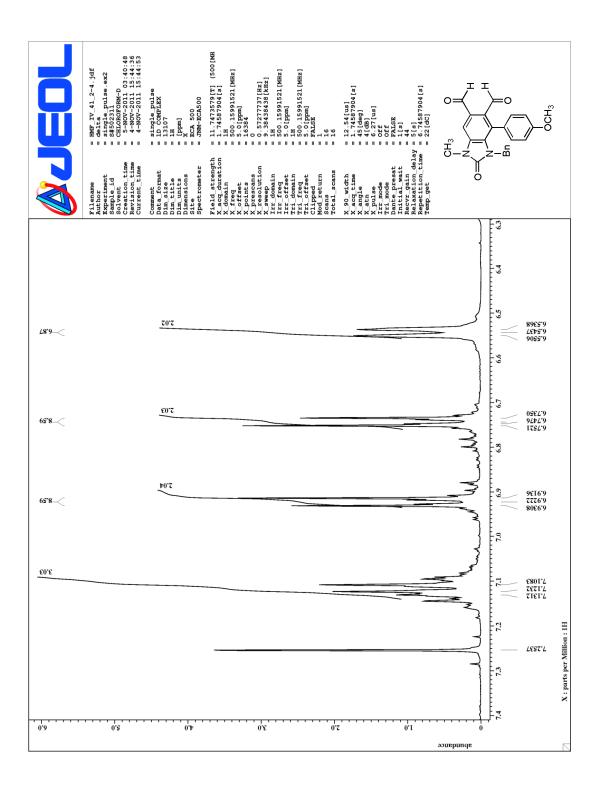


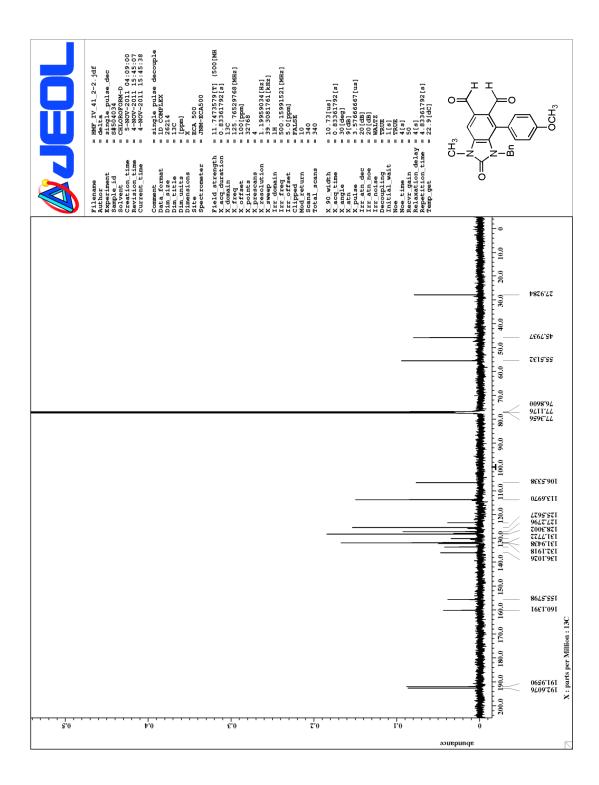


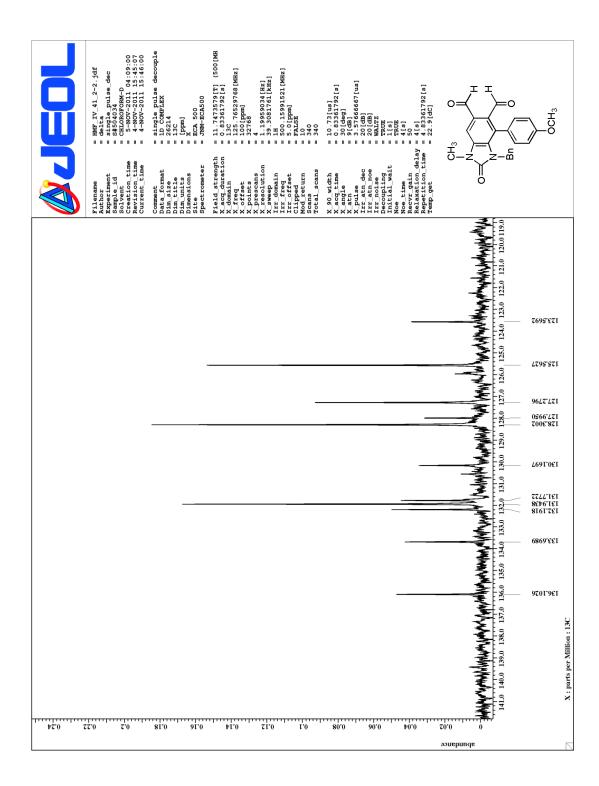


APPENDIX 42 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5,6-dicarbaldehyde-2-one (**129**)

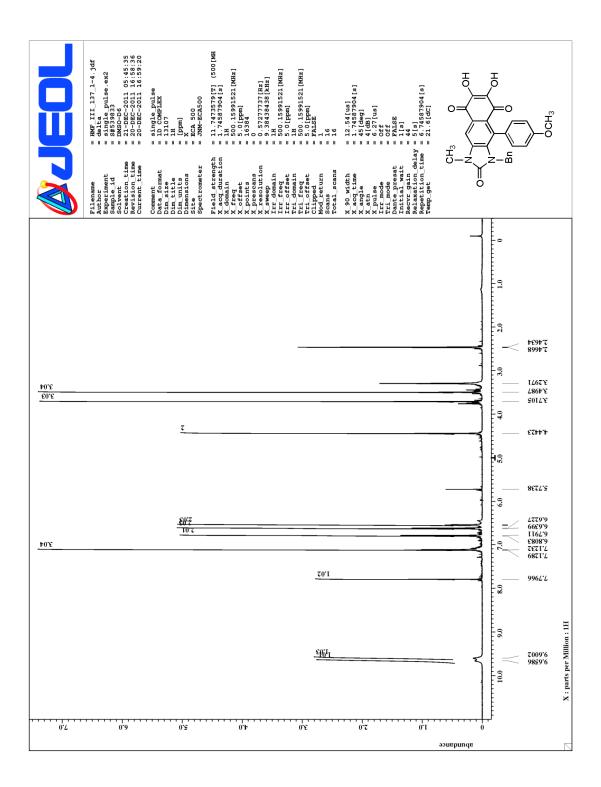


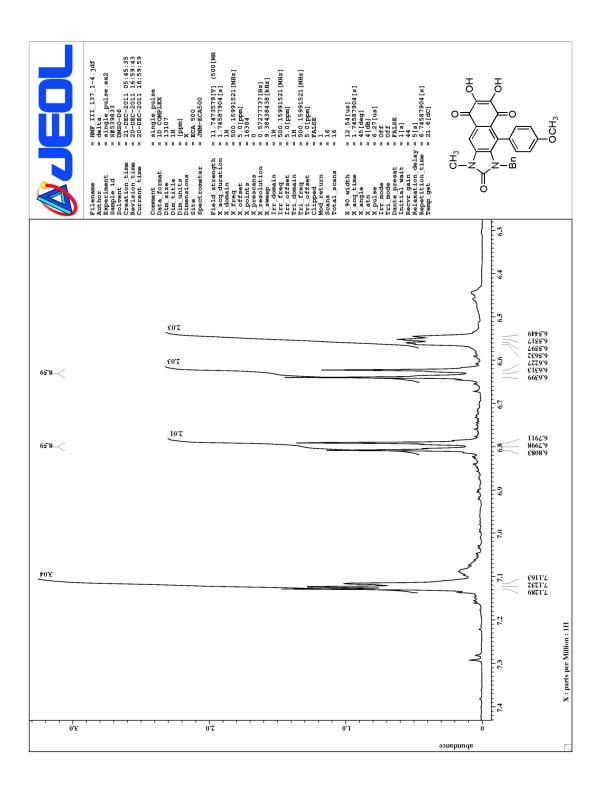


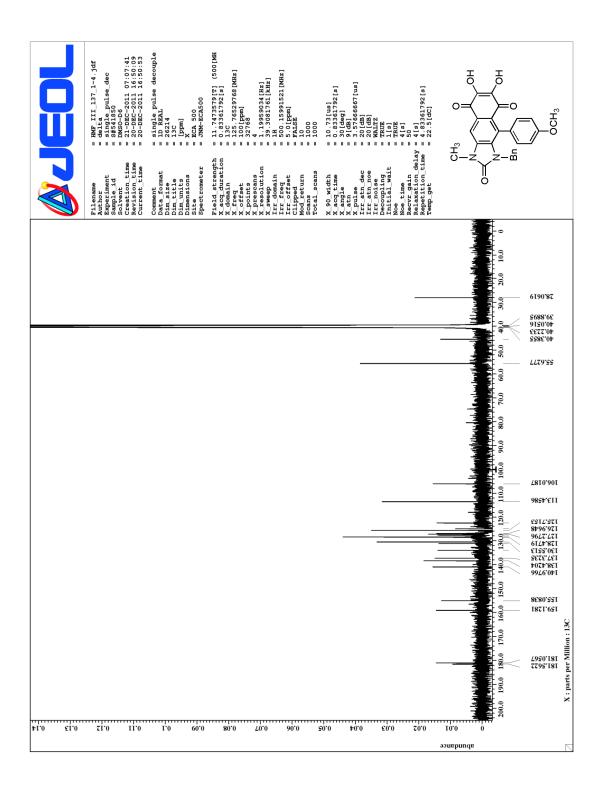


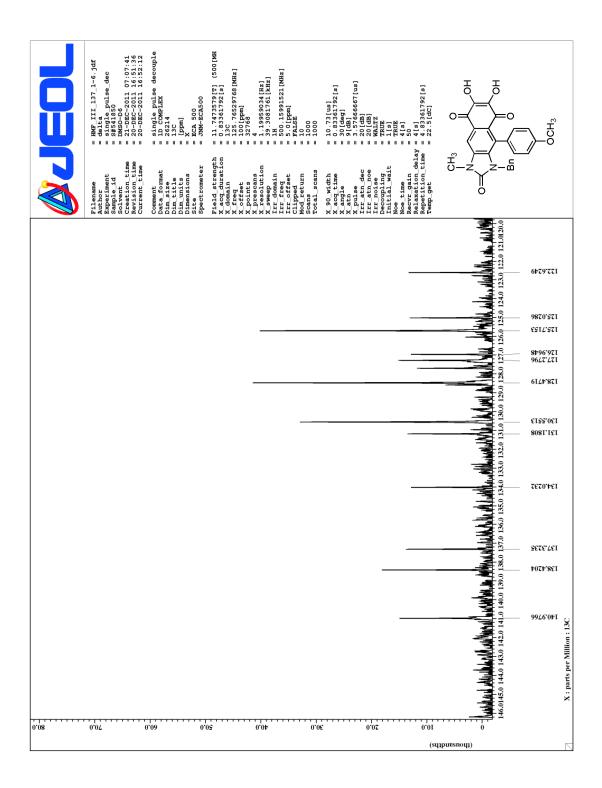


APPENDIX 43 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-6,7-dihydroxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-naphtho [2,3-*d*]imidazole-2,5,8-dione

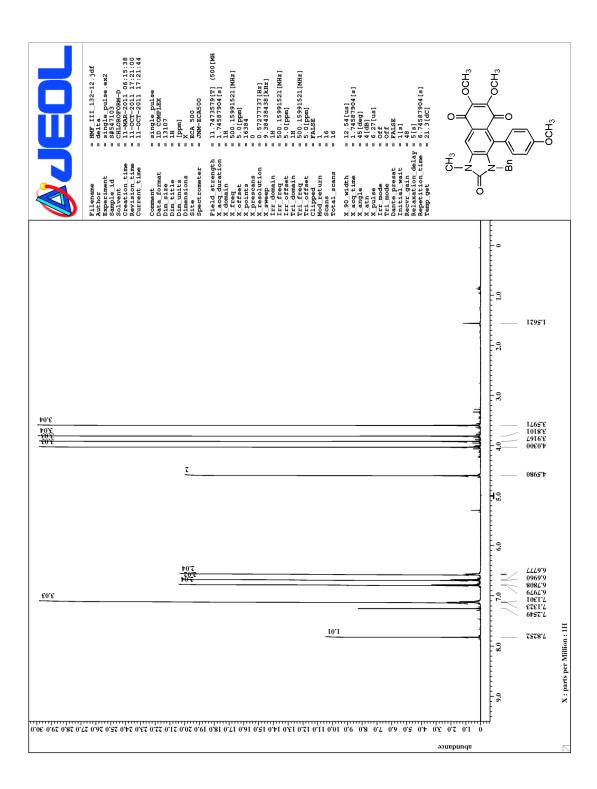


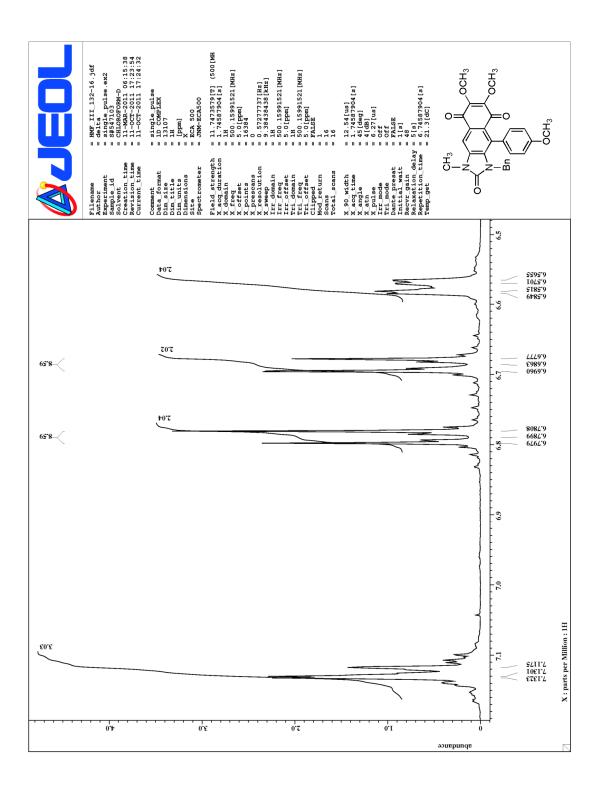


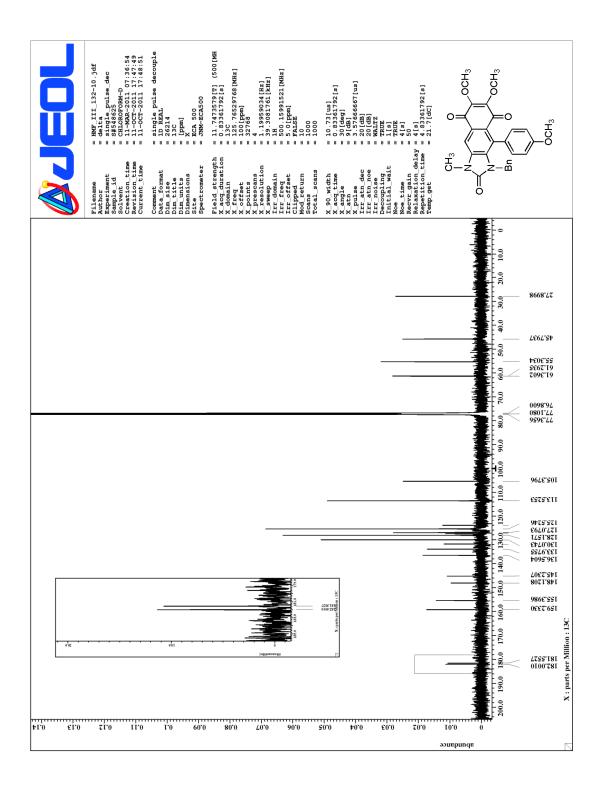


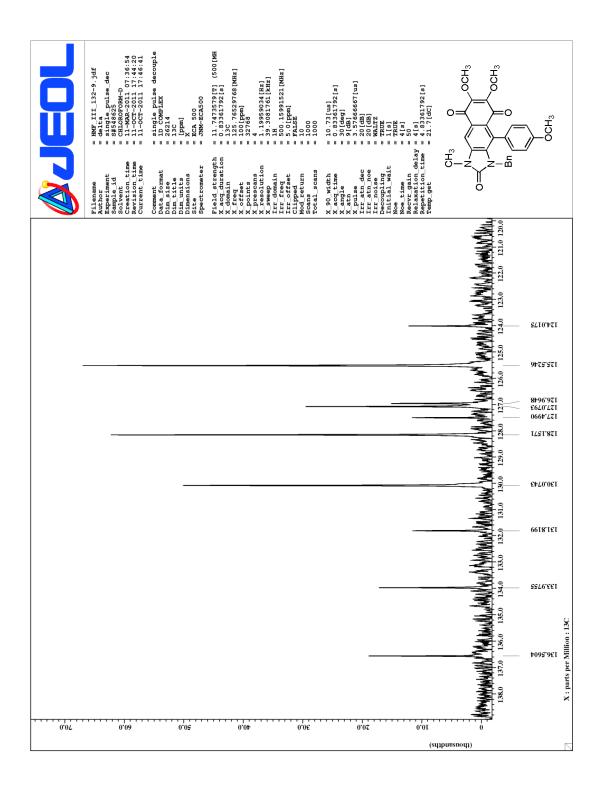


APPENDIX 44 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-6,7-dimethoxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*] imidazole-2,5,8-trione (**130**)

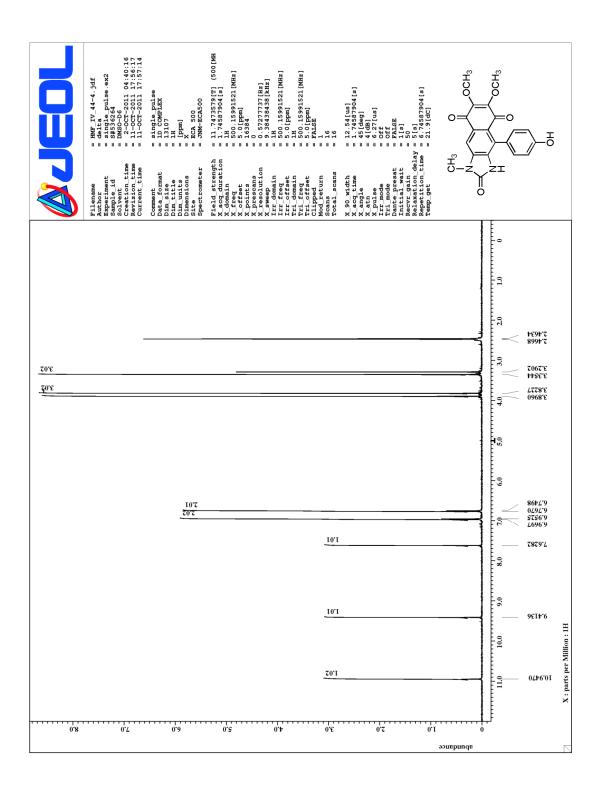


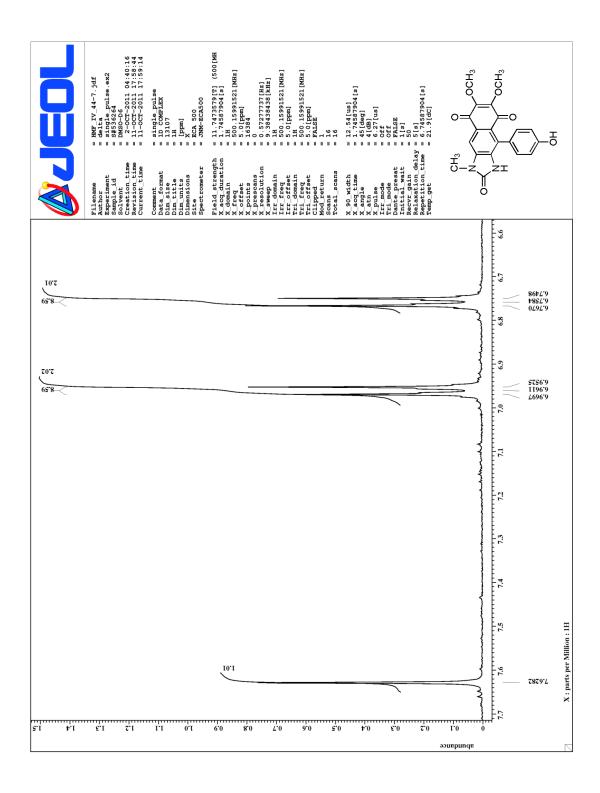


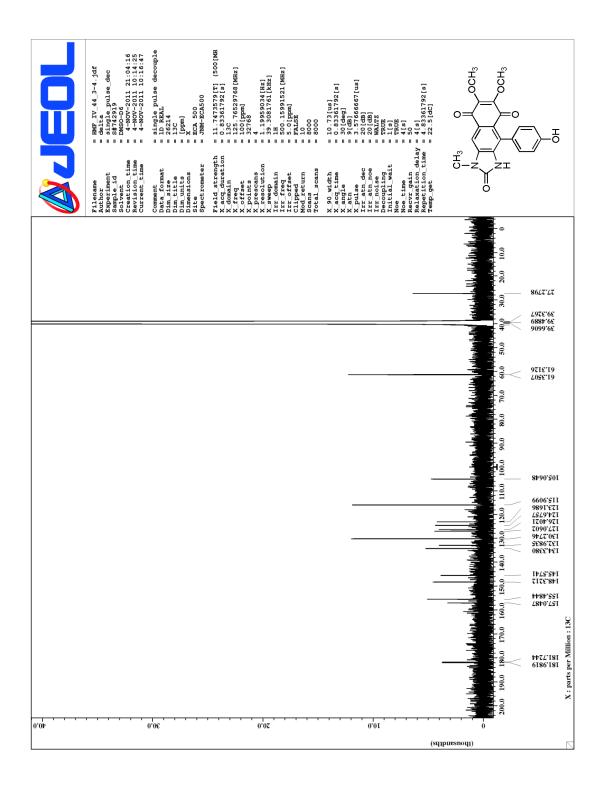


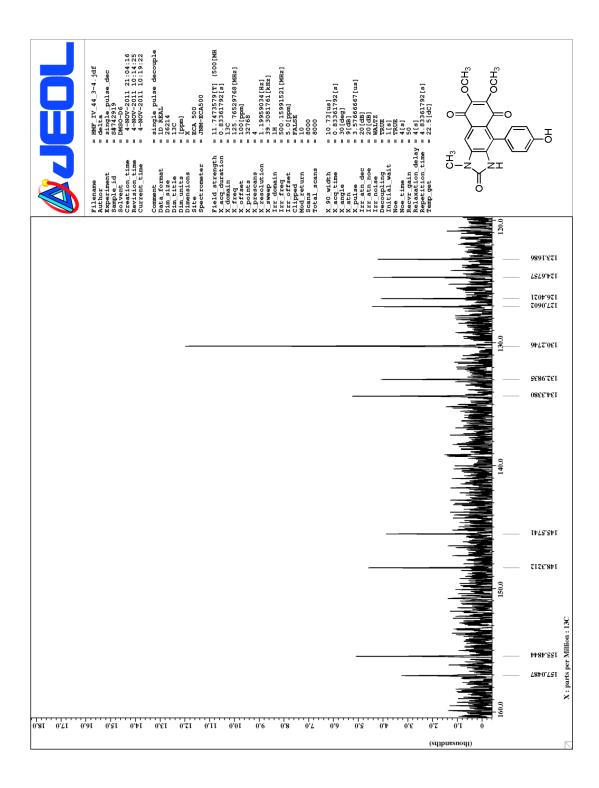


APPENDIX 45 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-1-methyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*] imidazole-2,5,8-trione (**131**)

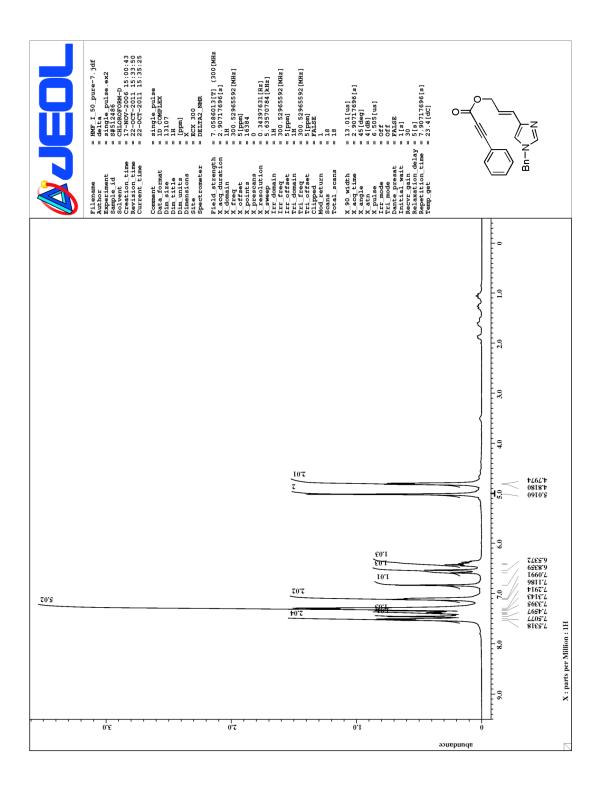


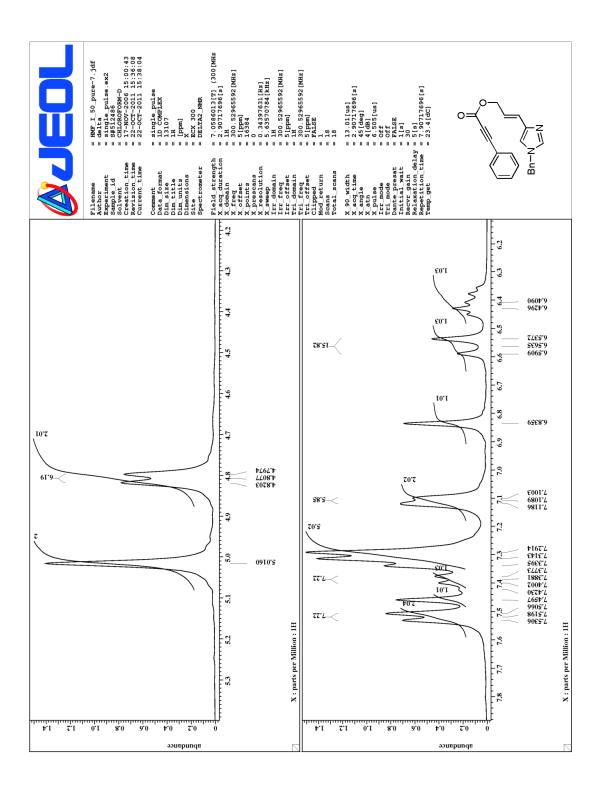


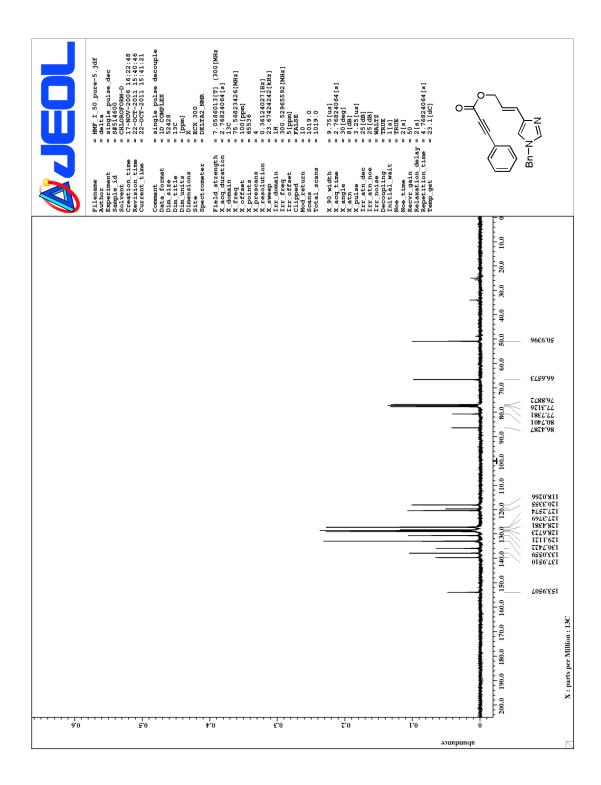


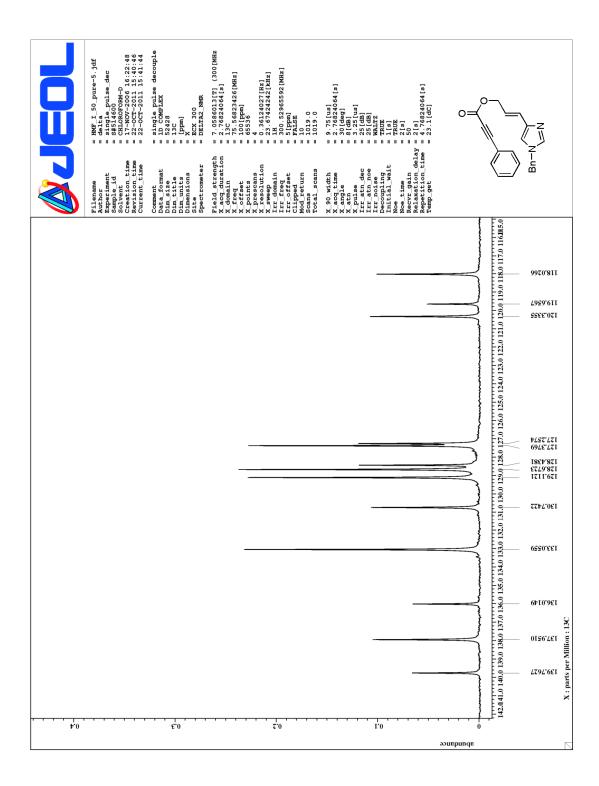


APPENDIX 46 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of (2*E*)-3-(1-Benzyl-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)prop-2-enyl 3-phenylpropynoate (**68c**)

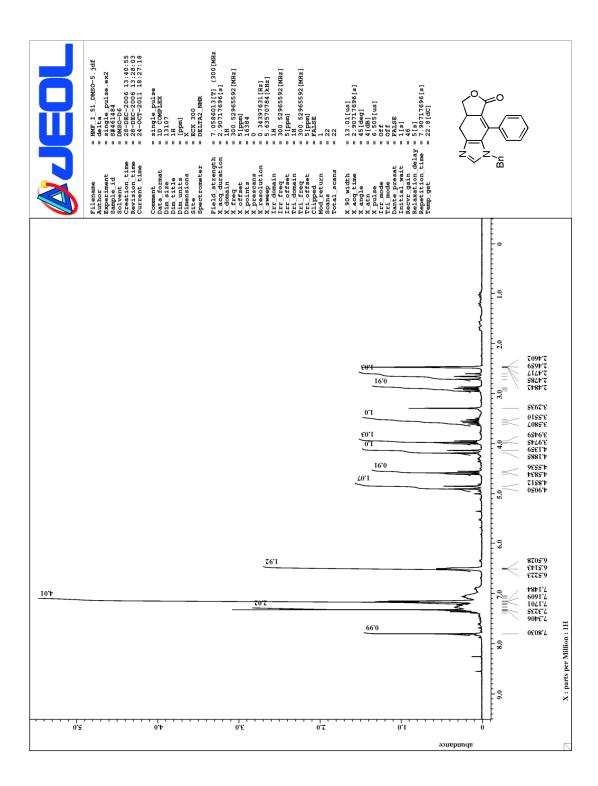


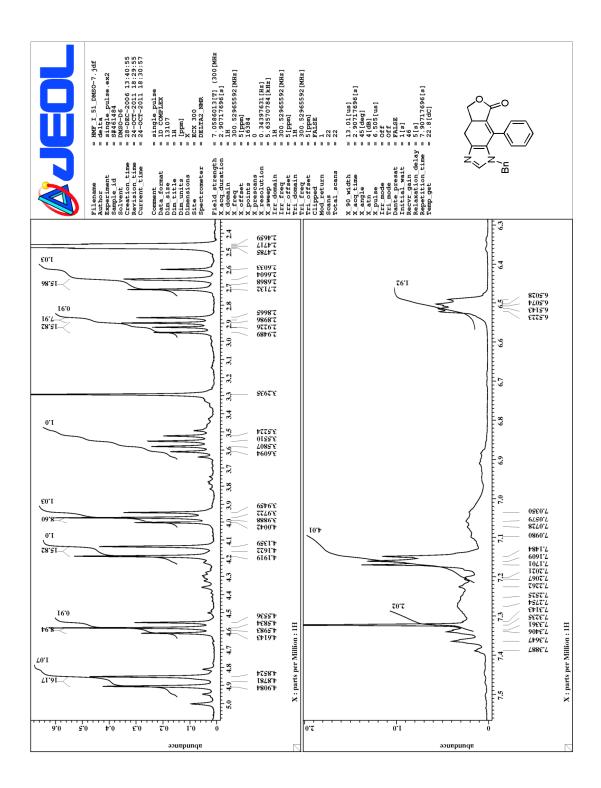


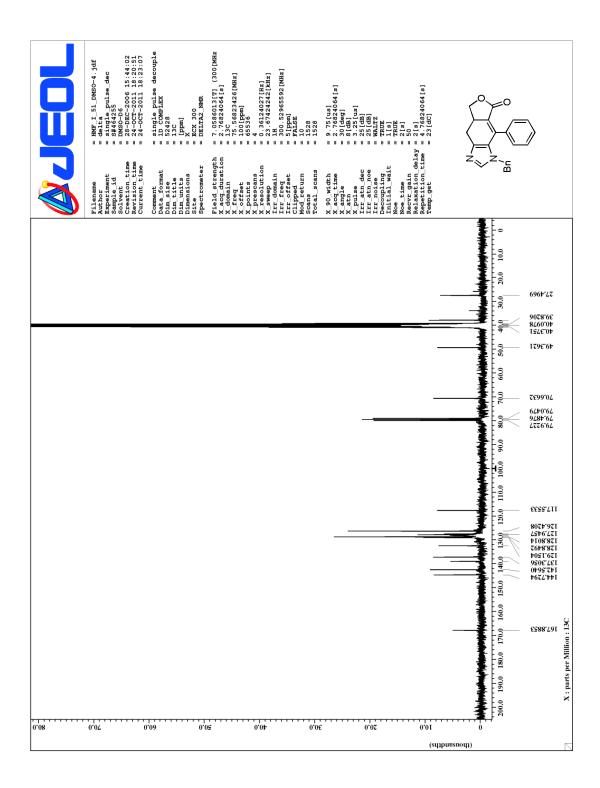


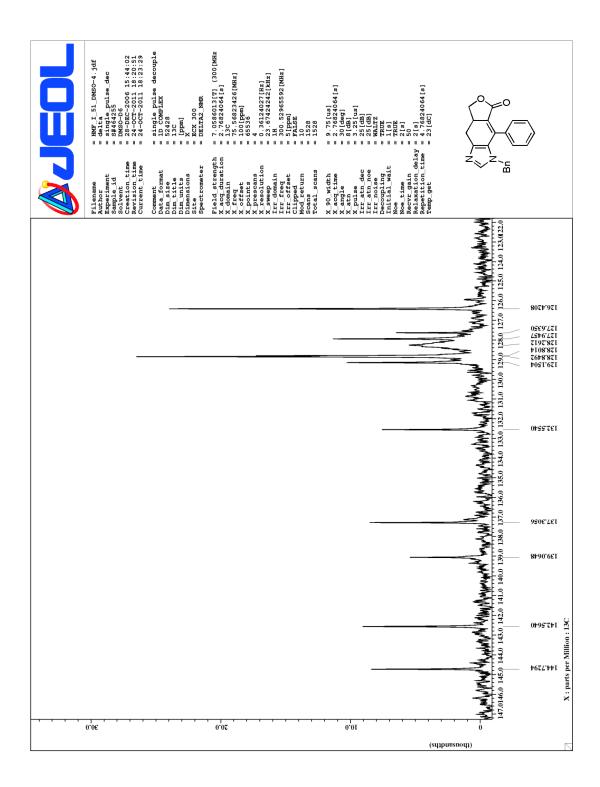


APPENDIX 47 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-3,7,7a,8-tetrahydro-4-phenyl-5*H*-furo[3,4-*f*]benzimidazol-5-one (**69c**)

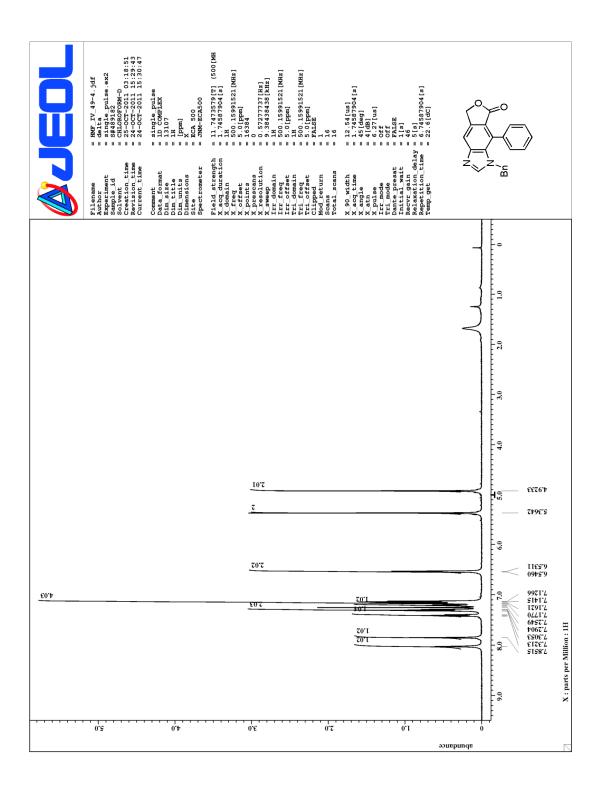


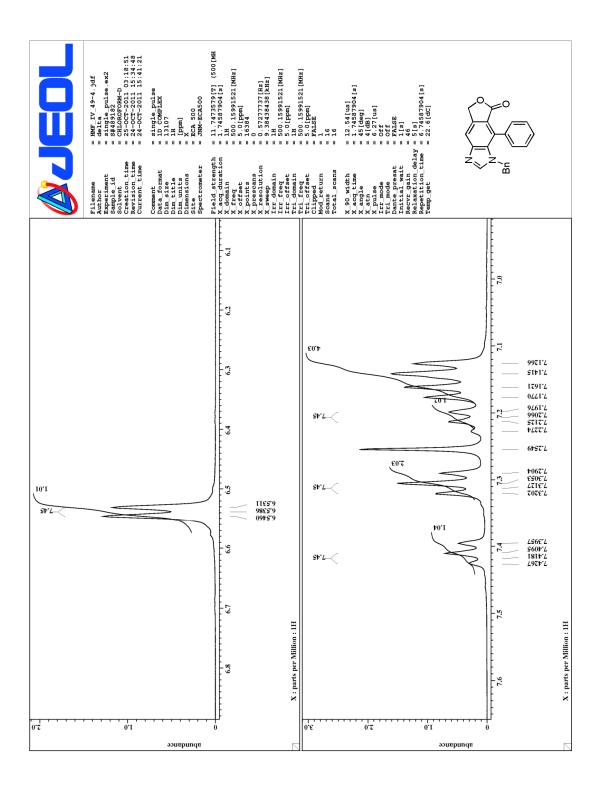


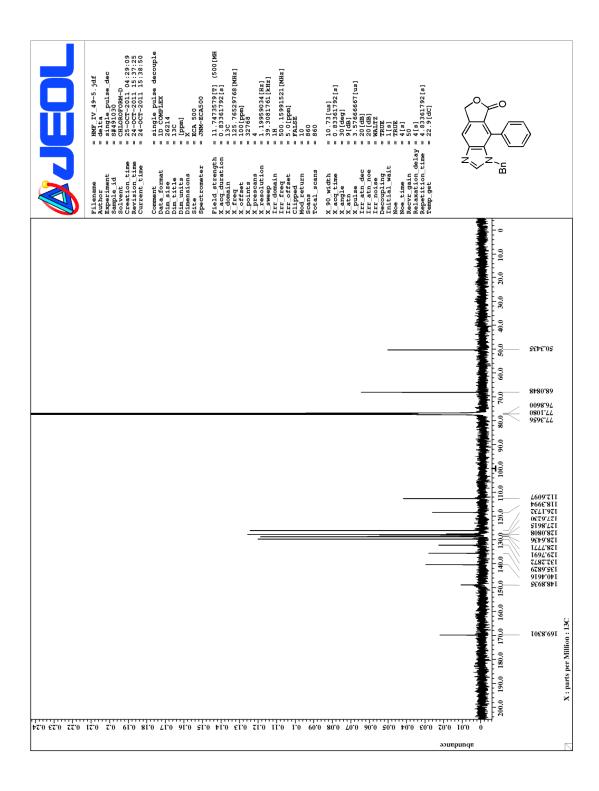


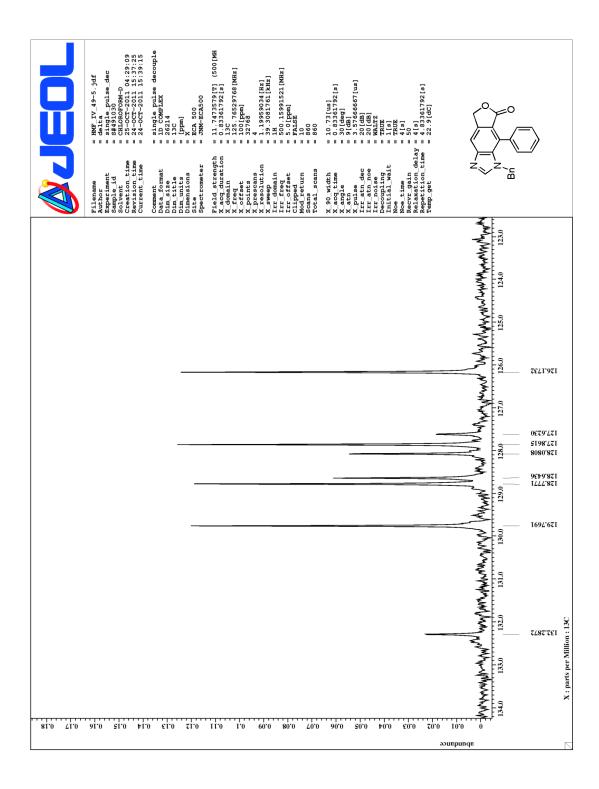


APPENDIX 48 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-benzyl-4-phenyl-3,7-dihydro-5*H*-furo[3,4-*f*]benzimidazol-5-one

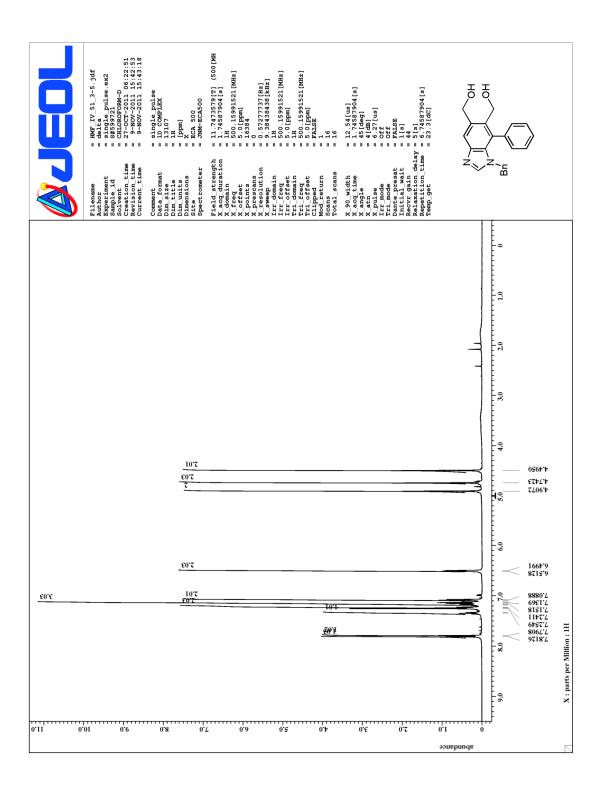


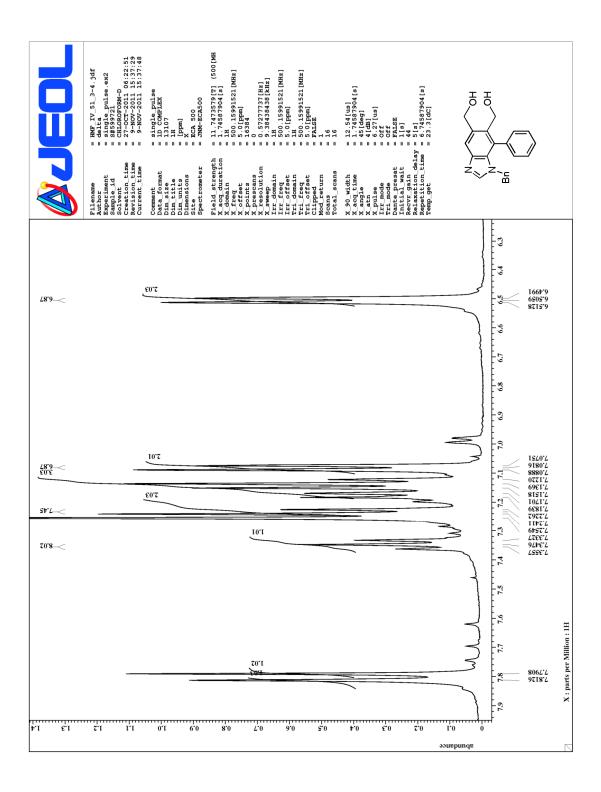


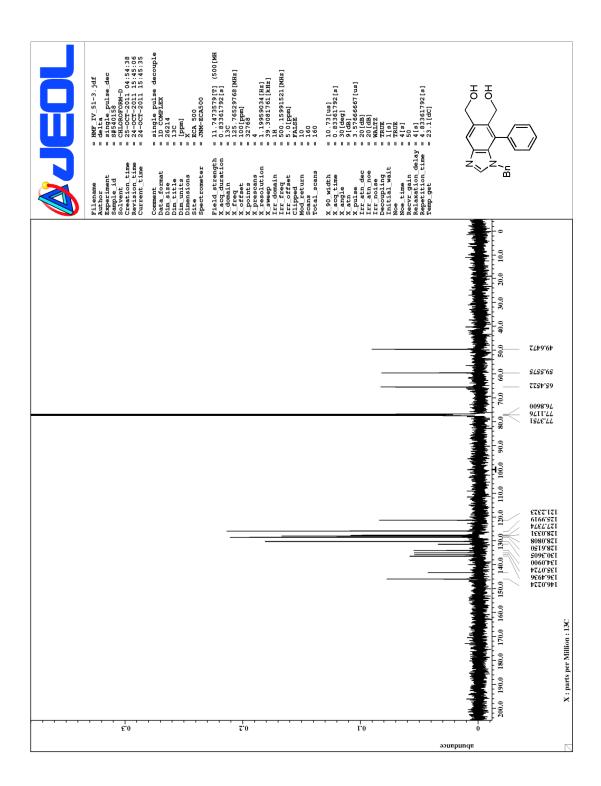


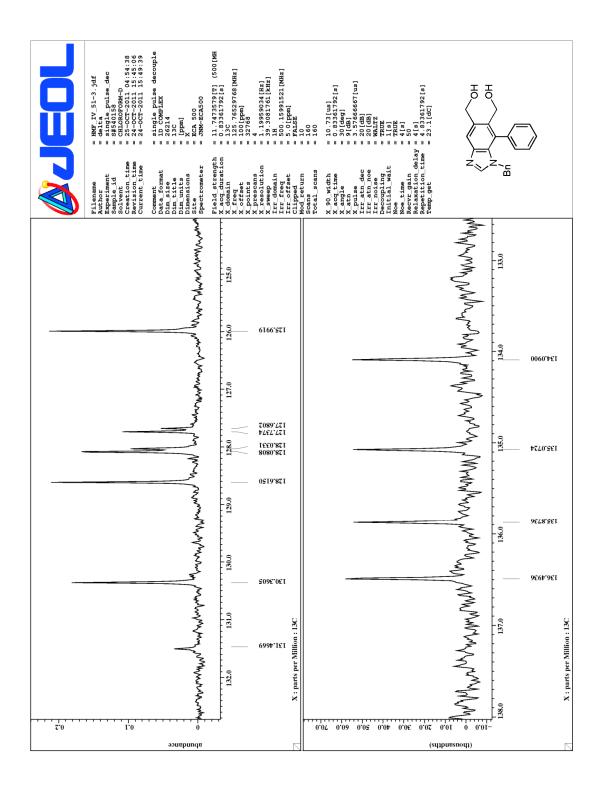


APPENDIX 49 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of [3-Benzyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5,6-diyl]dimethanol (**134**)

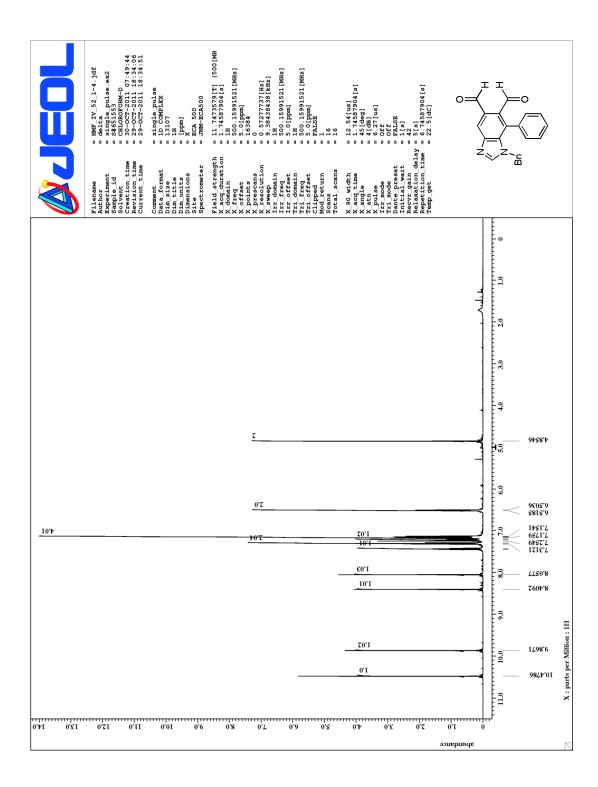


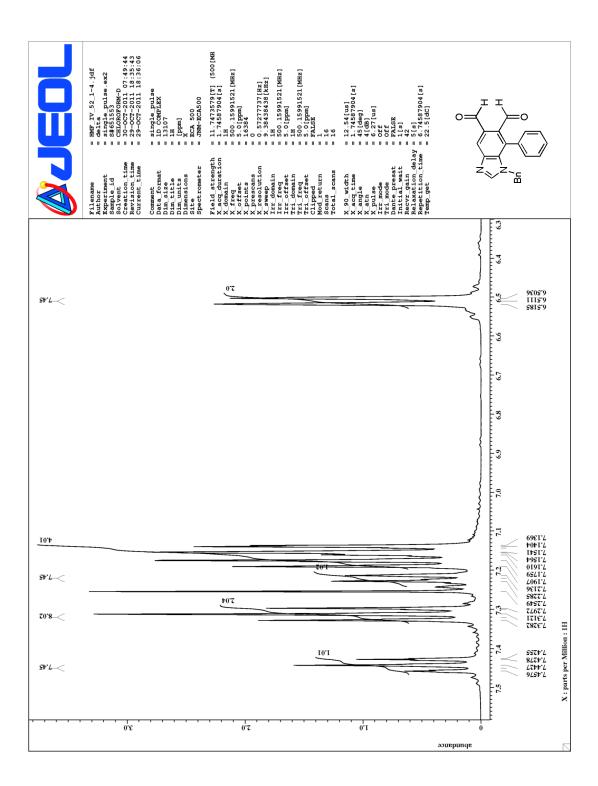


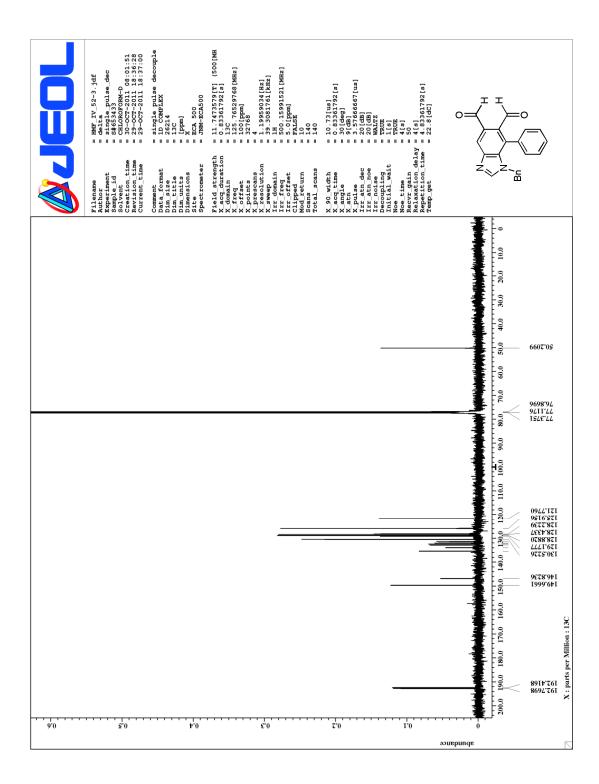


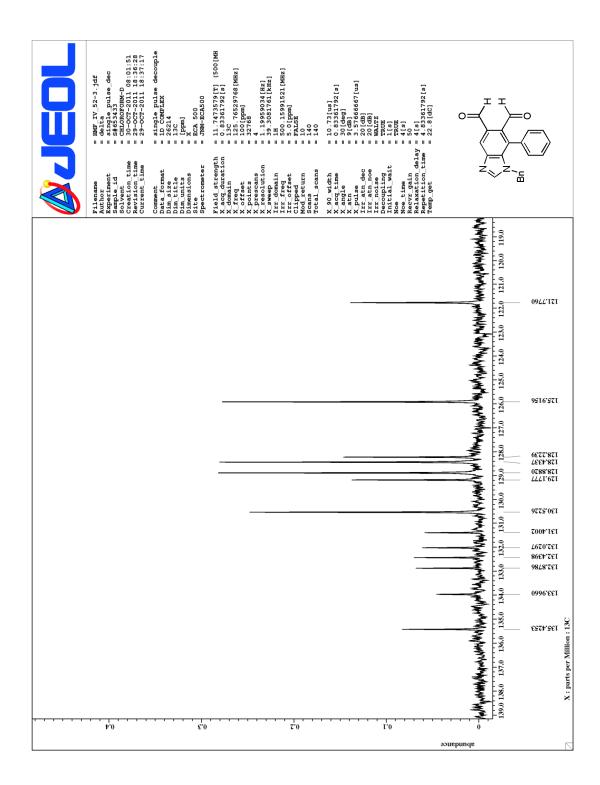


APPENDIX 50 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-benzimidazole-5,6-dicarbaldehyde (**135**)

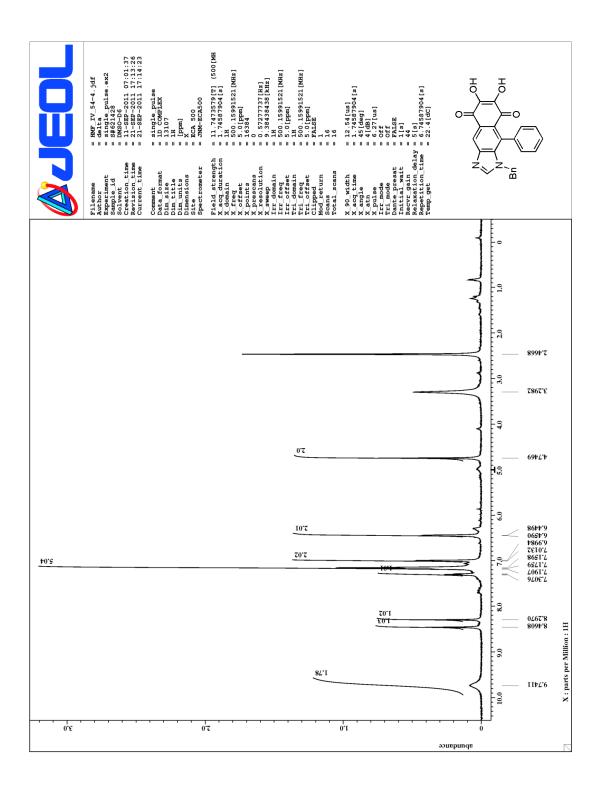


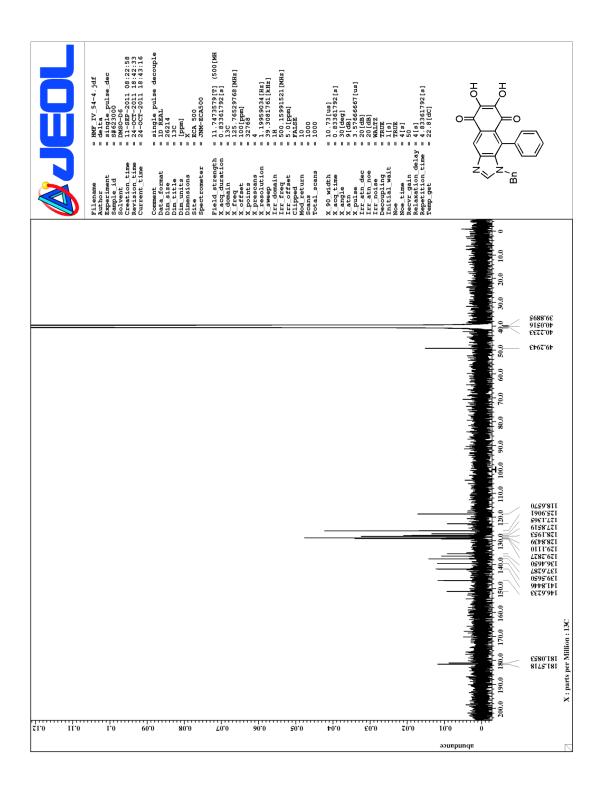


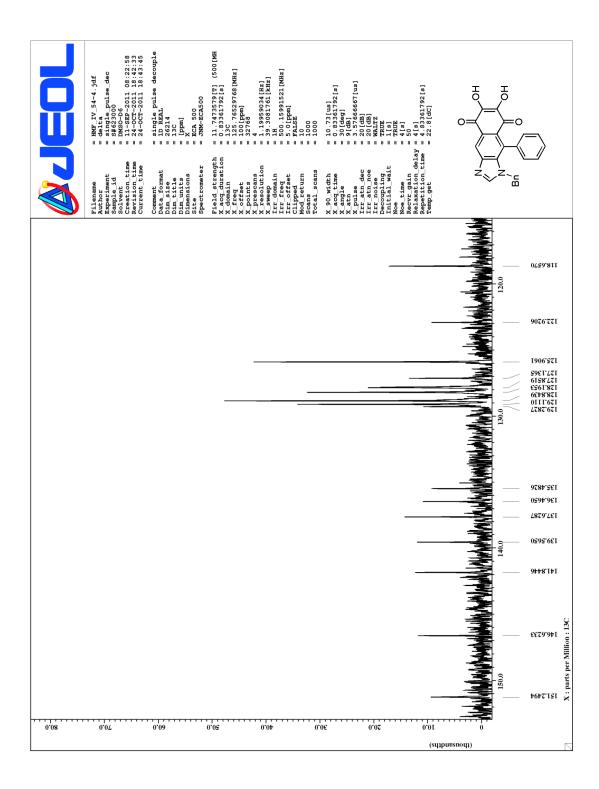




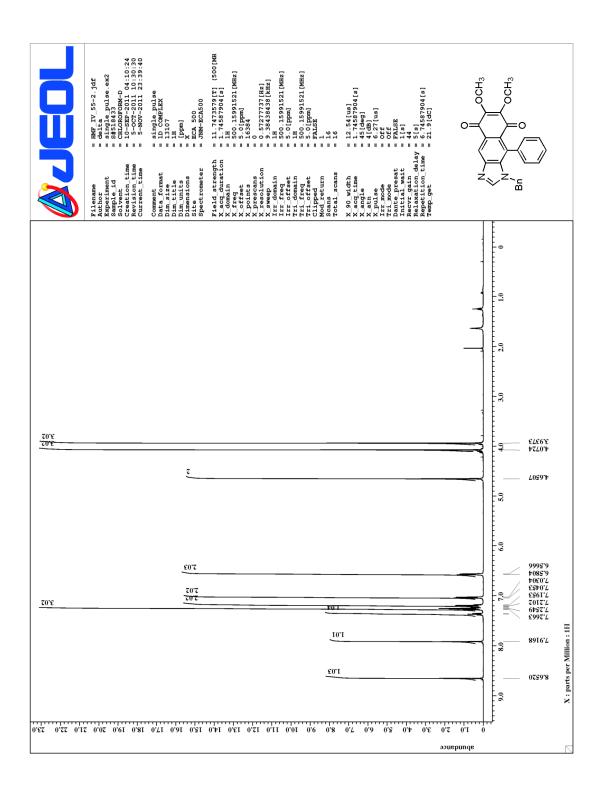
APPENDIX 51 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-6,7-dihydroxy-4-phenyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*]imidazole-5,8-dione (**136**)

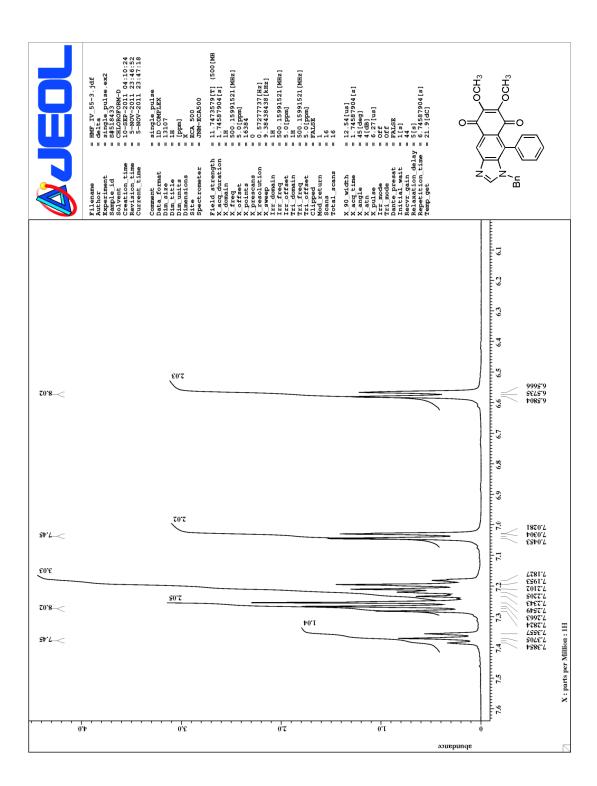


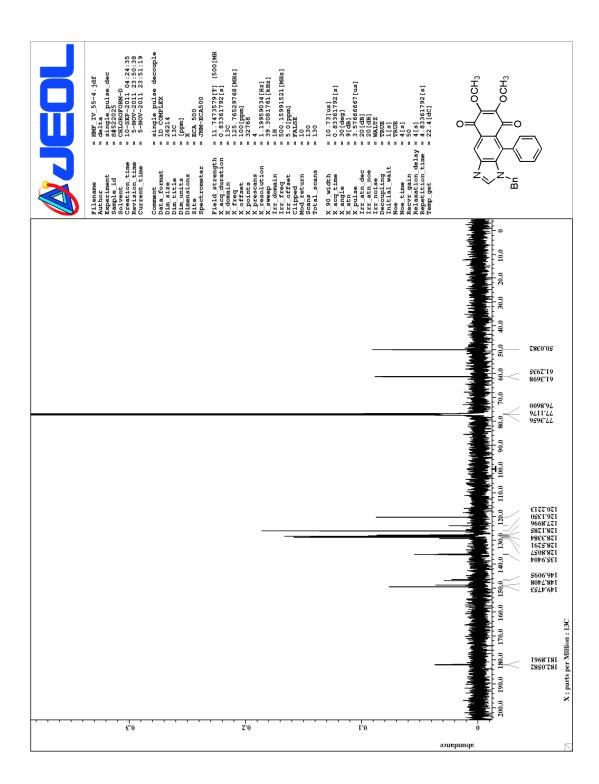


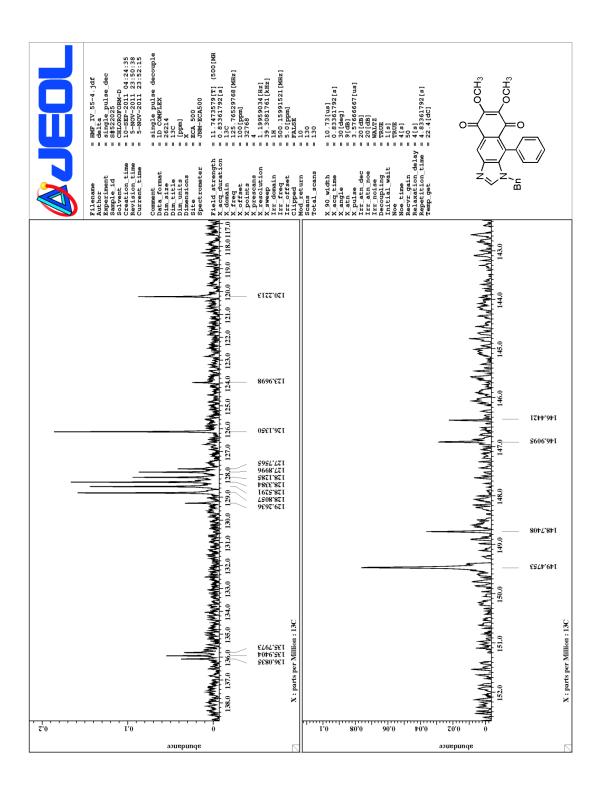


APPENDIX 52 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-6,7-dimethoxy-4-phenyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*]imidazole-2,5,8-trione (**137**)

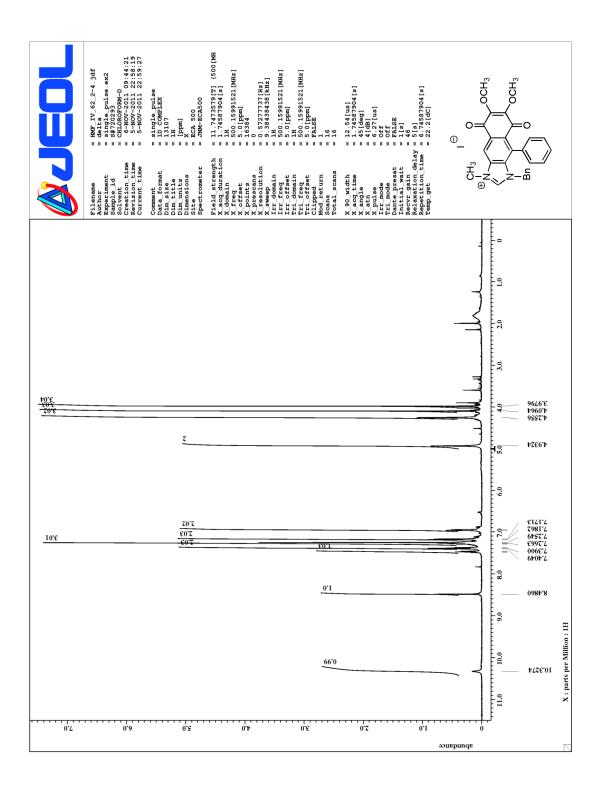


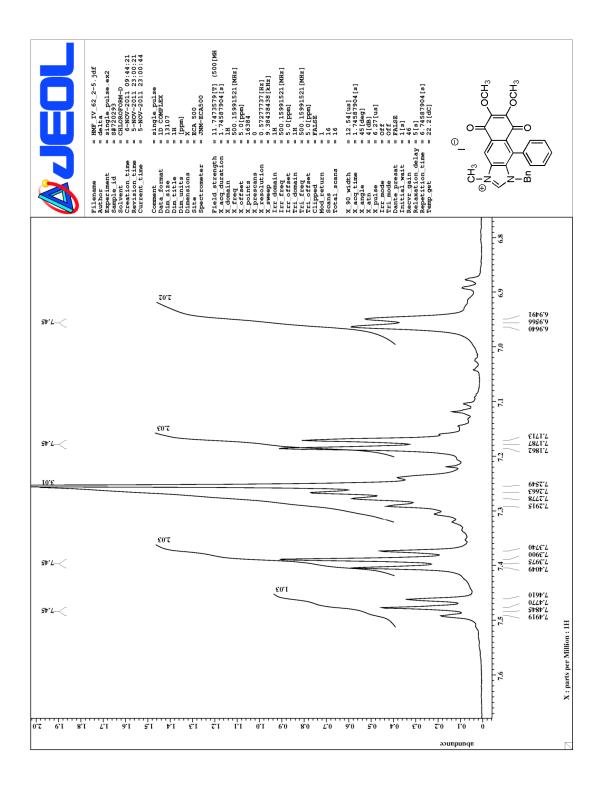


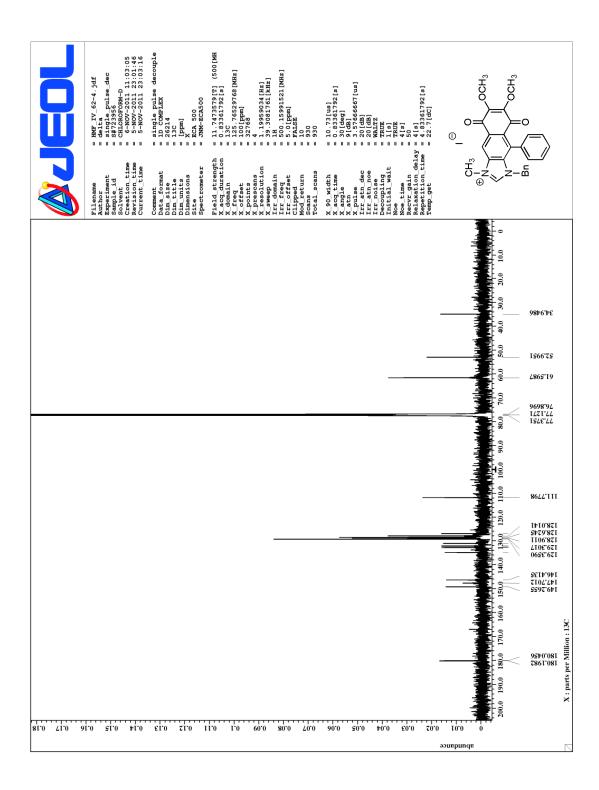


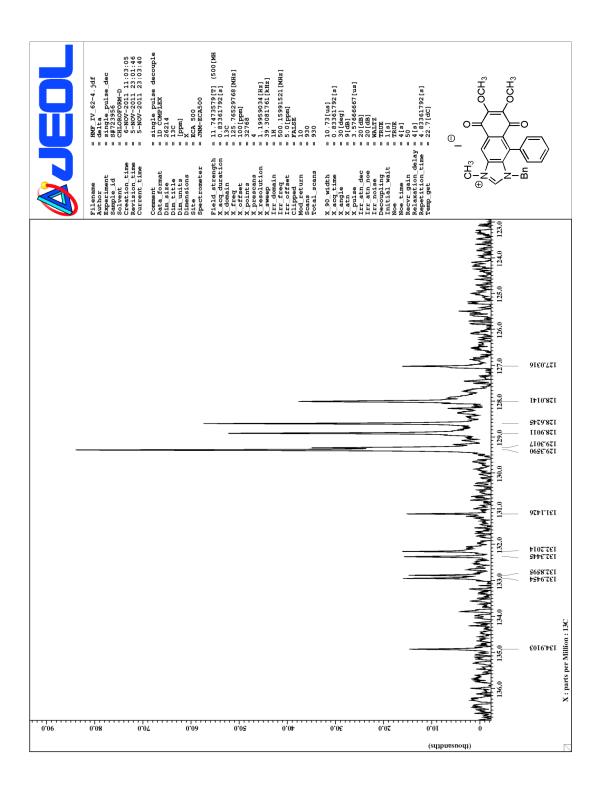


APPENDIX 53 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-6,7-dimethoxy-1-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*]imidazolium-5,8-dione iodide (**138**)

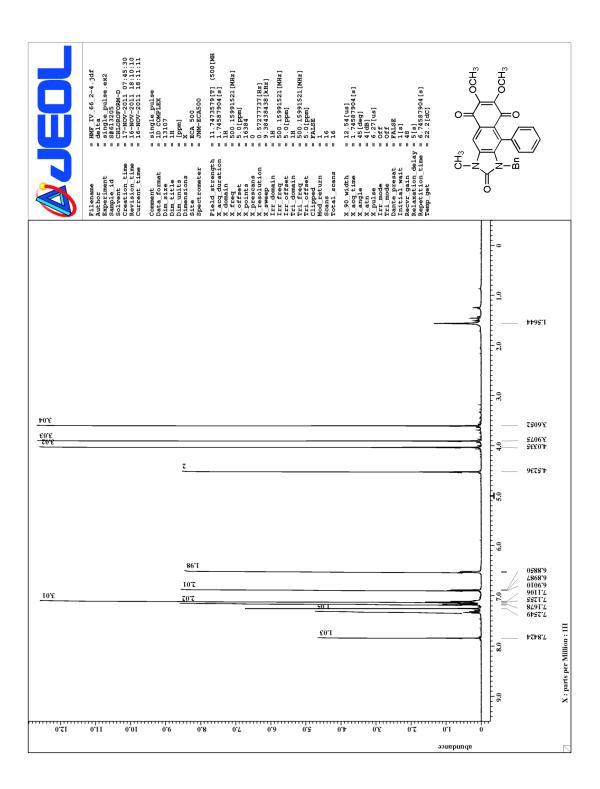


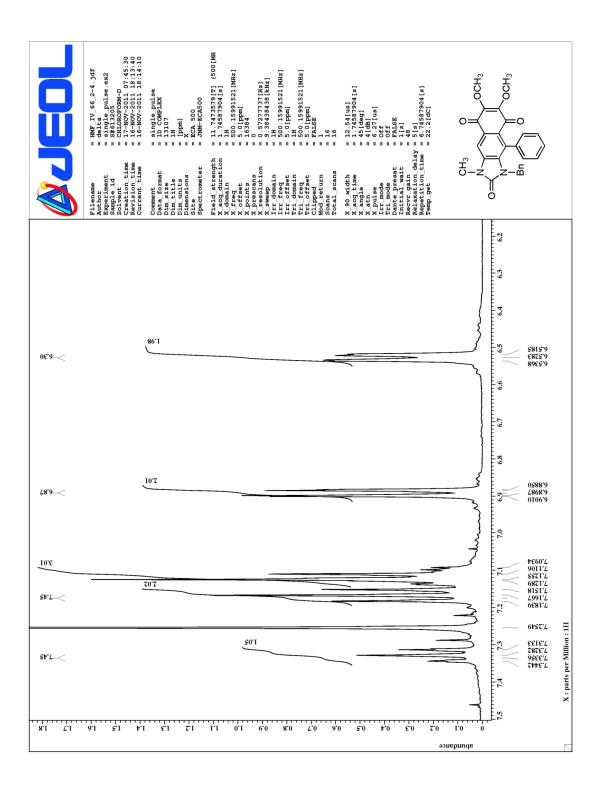


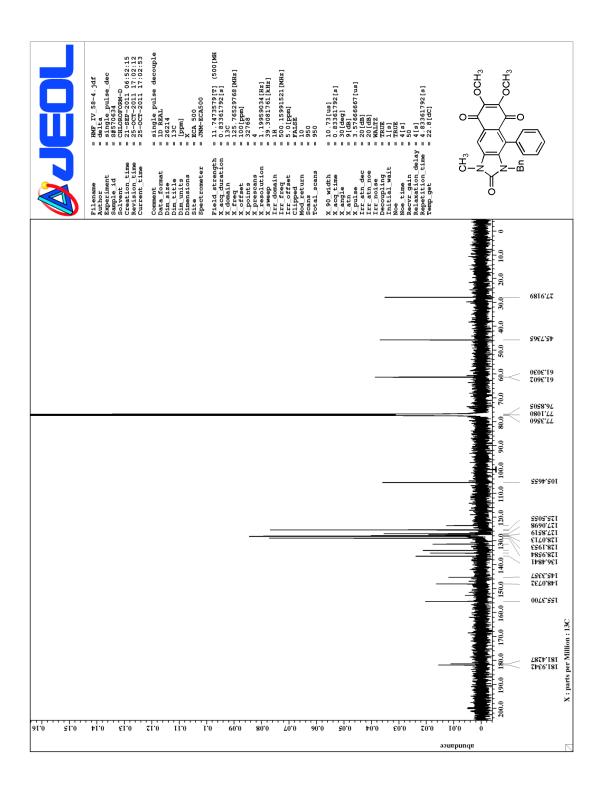


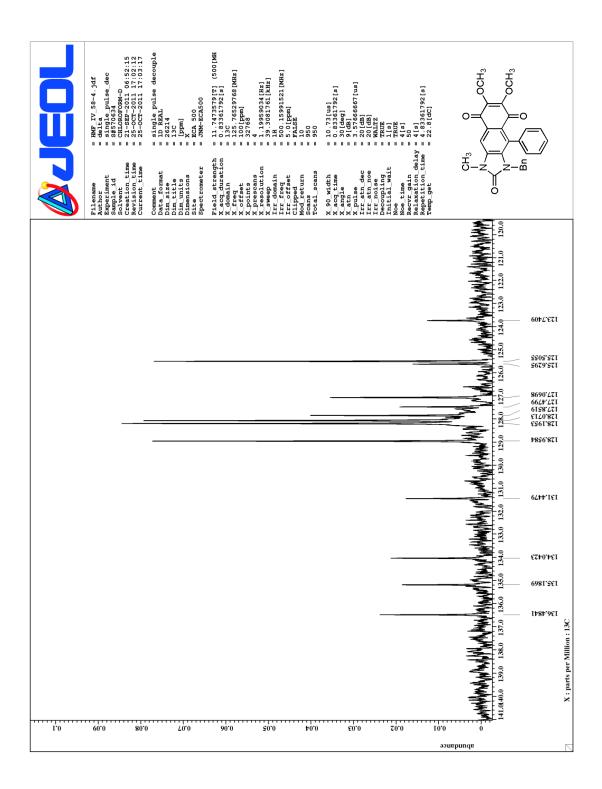


APPENDIX 54 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-6,7-dimethoxy-1-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*]imidazole-2,5,8-trione (**139a**)

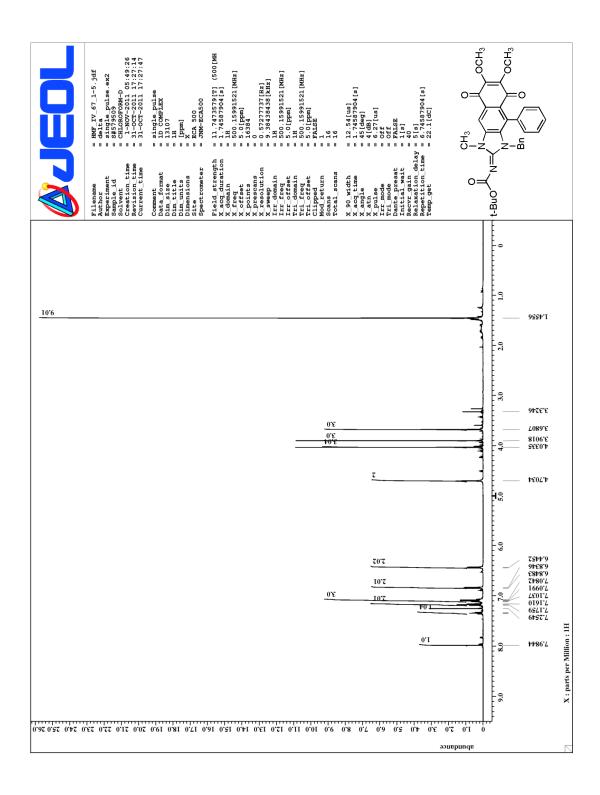


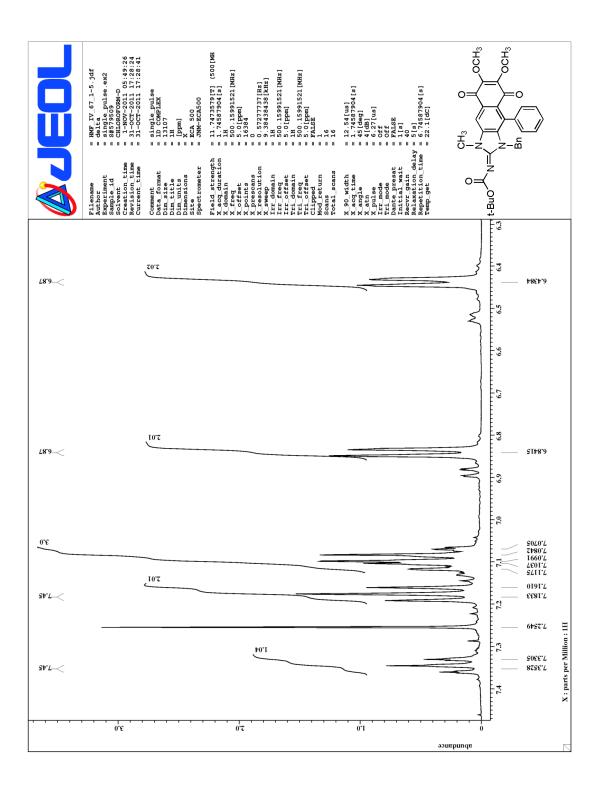


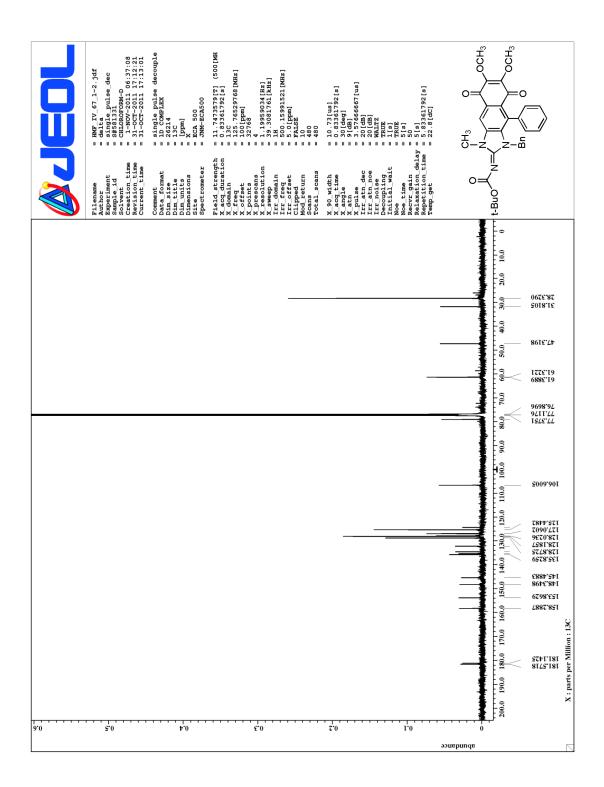


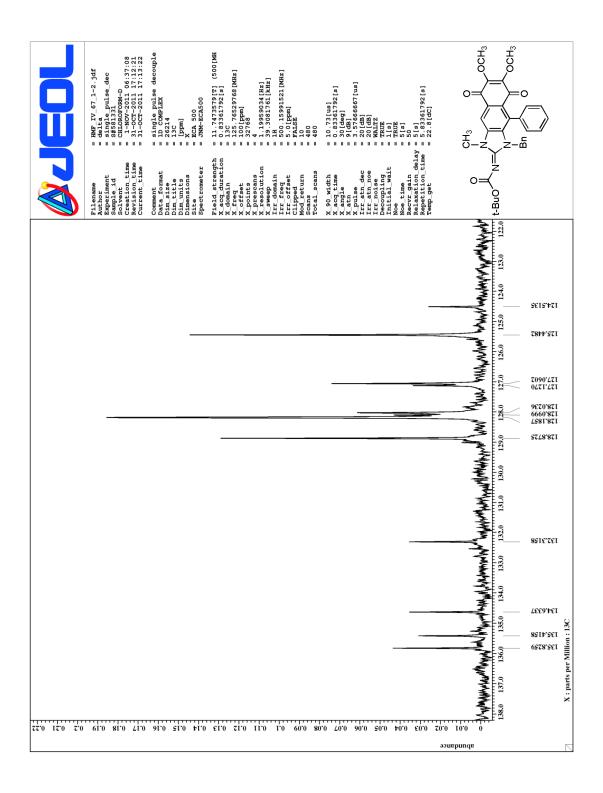


APPENDIX 55 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-Benzyl-2-*tert*-butylcarbonylimino-6,7-dimethoxy-1-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3*d*]imidazole-2,5,8-trione (**139b**)

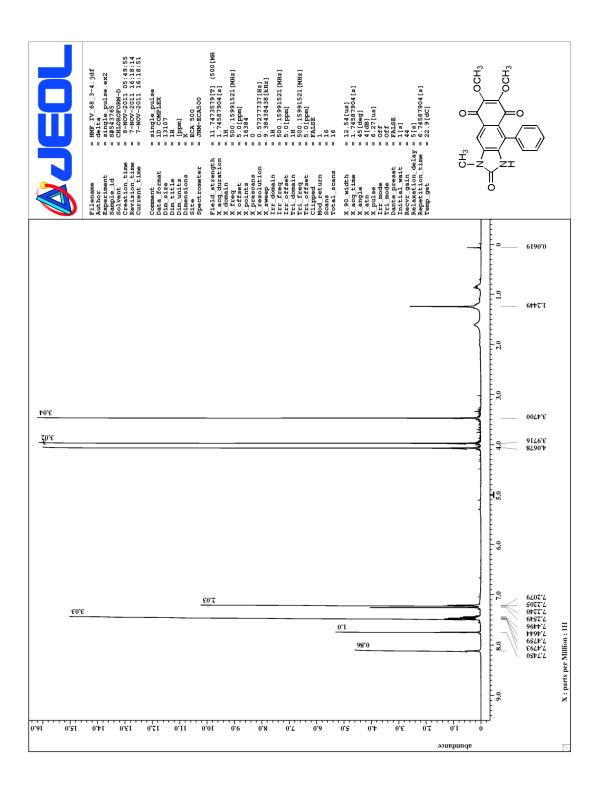


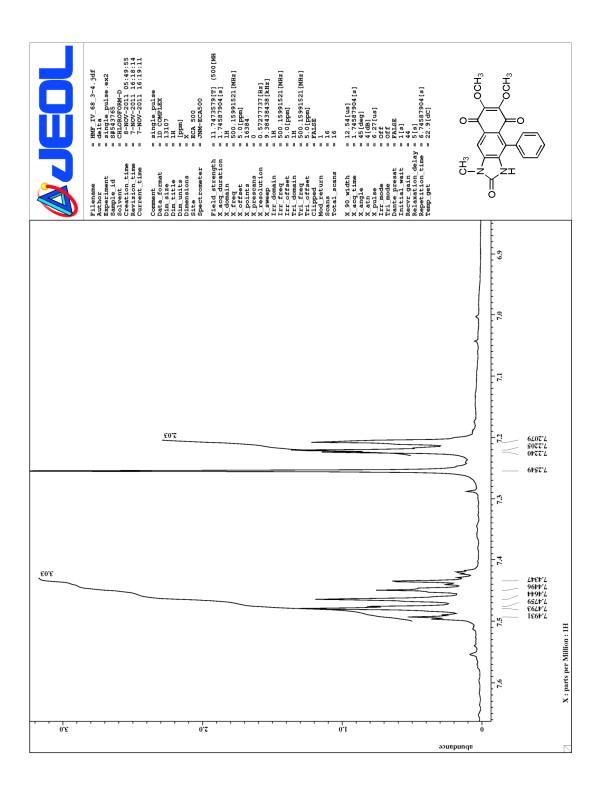


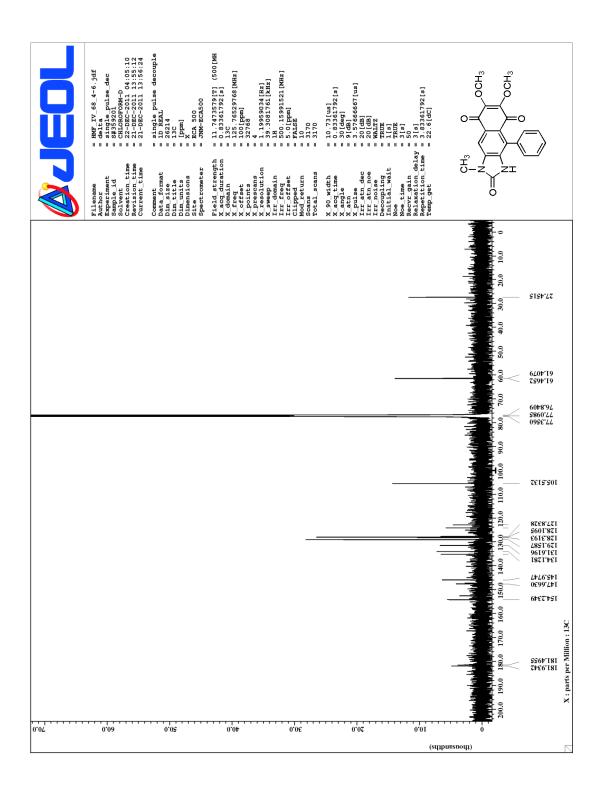


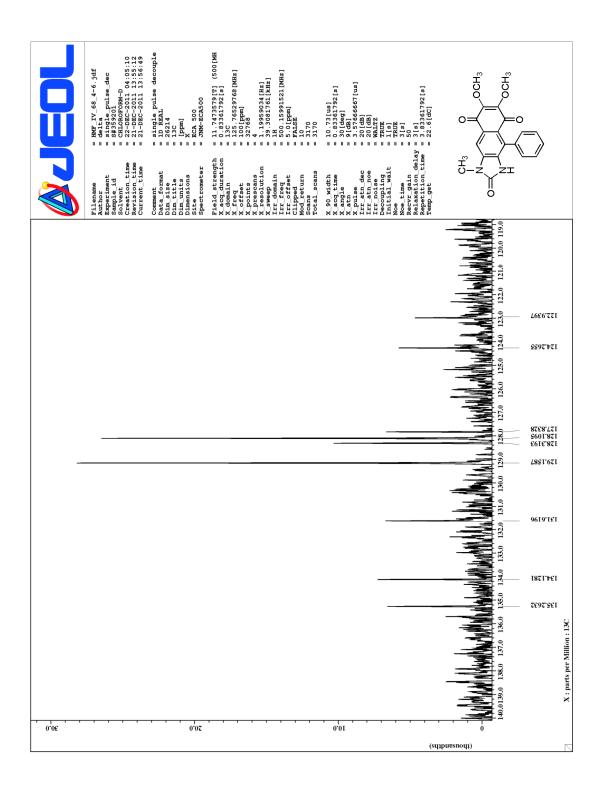


APPENDIX 56 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 6,7-dimethoxy-1-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*d*]imidazole-2,5,8-trione (**140**)

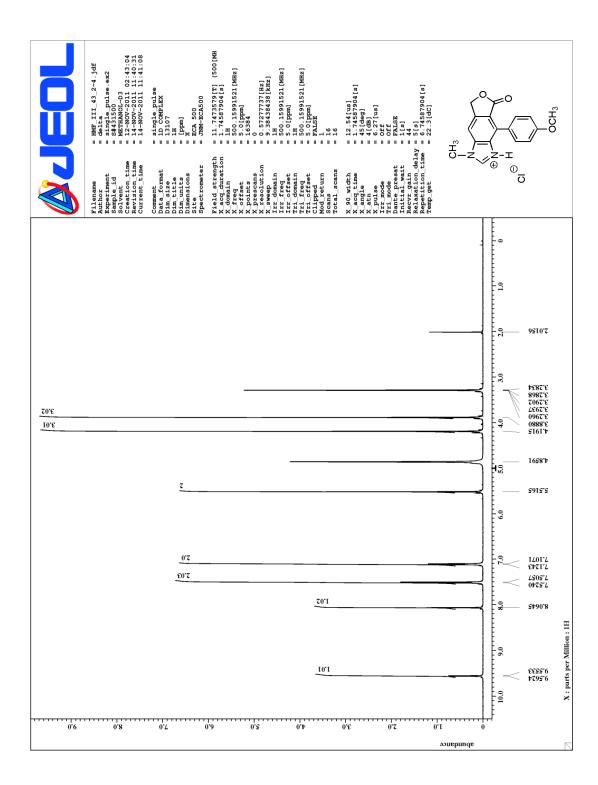


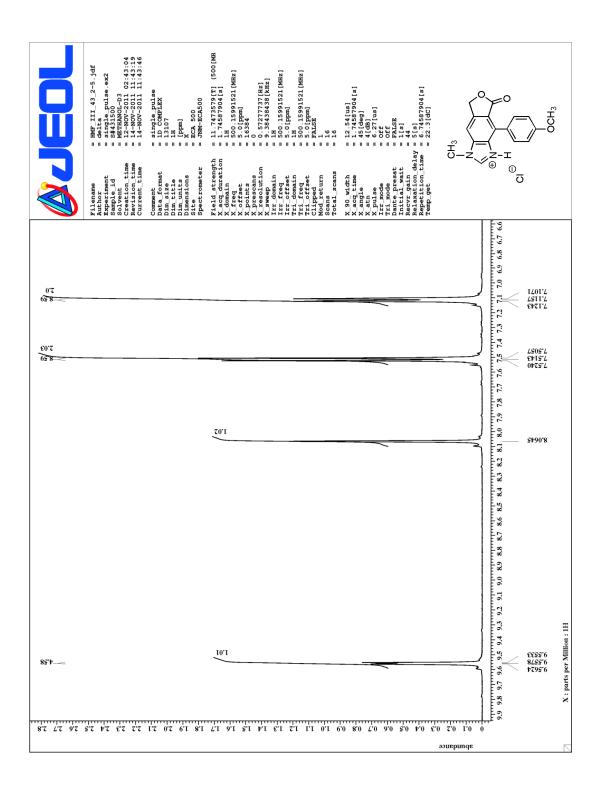


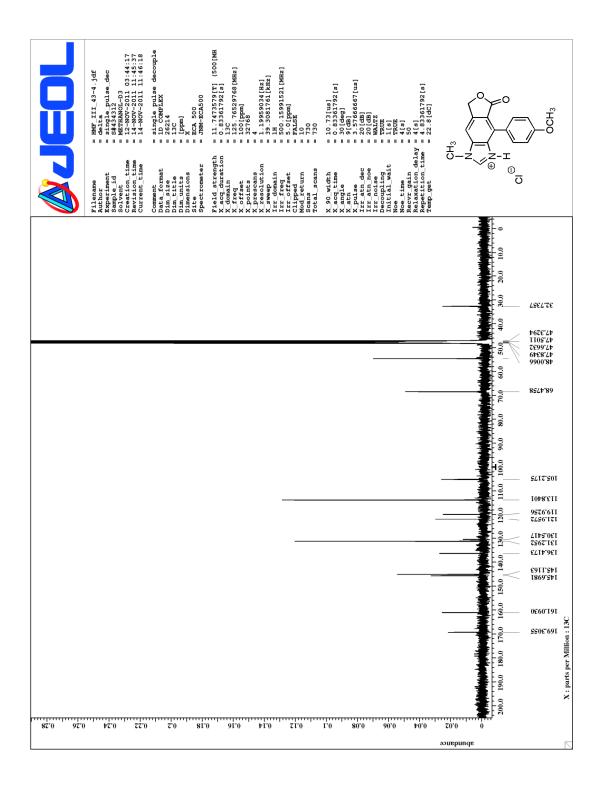




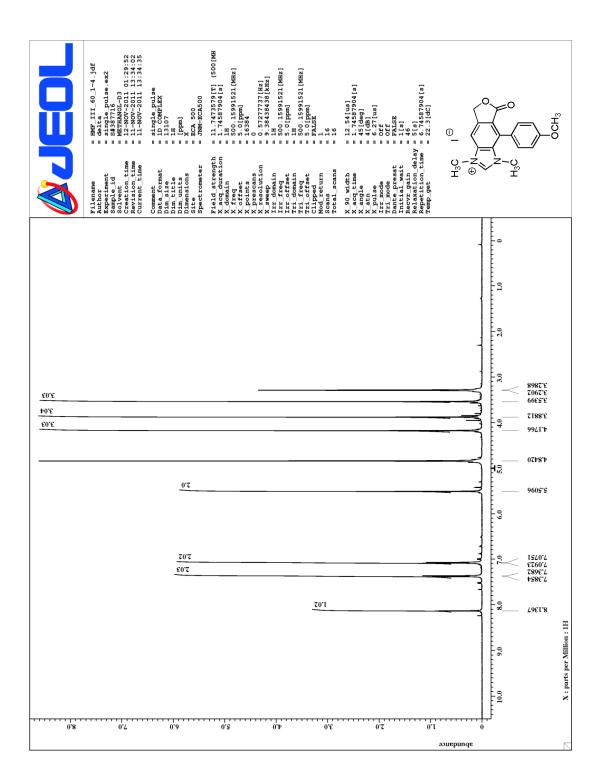
APPENDIX 57 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-5-oxo-5,7-dihydro-1*H*-furo[3,4-*f*] [3,1]benzimidazol-3-ium chloride (**142**)

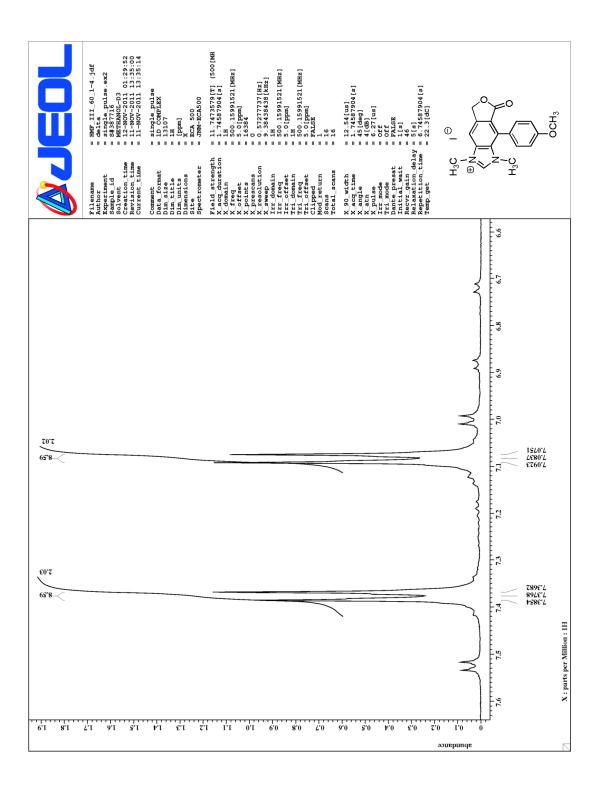


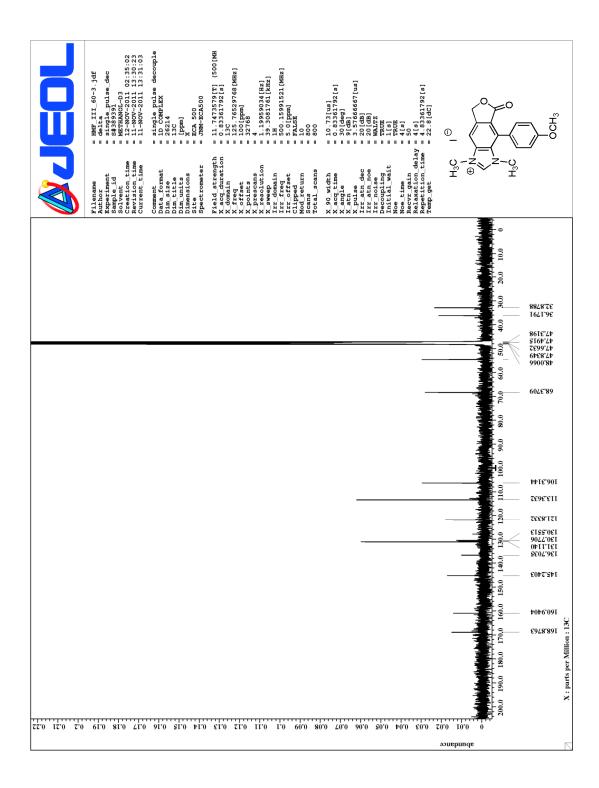




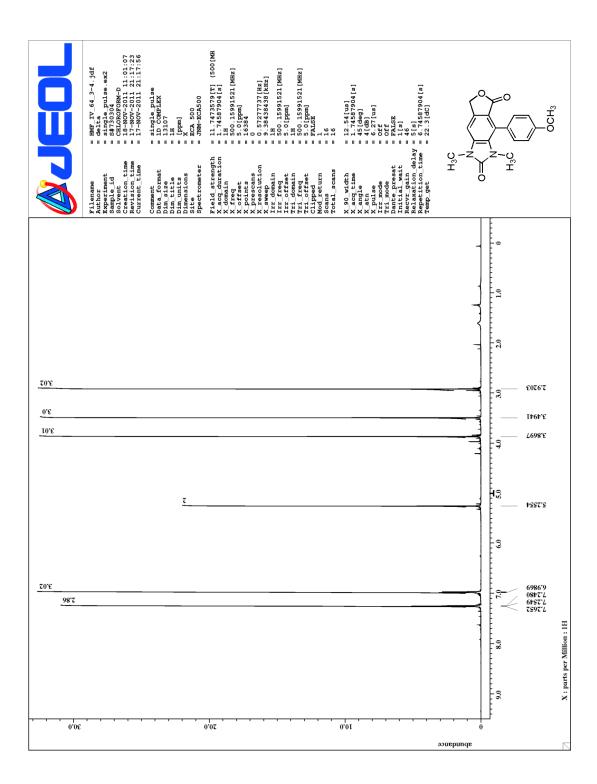
APPENDIX 58 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dimethyl-5-oxo-5,7-dihydro-3*H*-furo[3,4-f] benzimidazol-1-ium iodide (**144**)

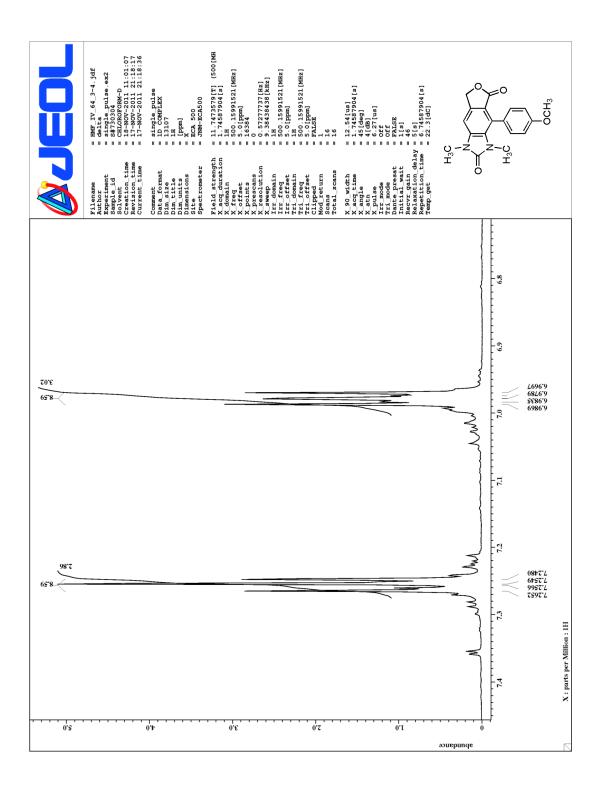


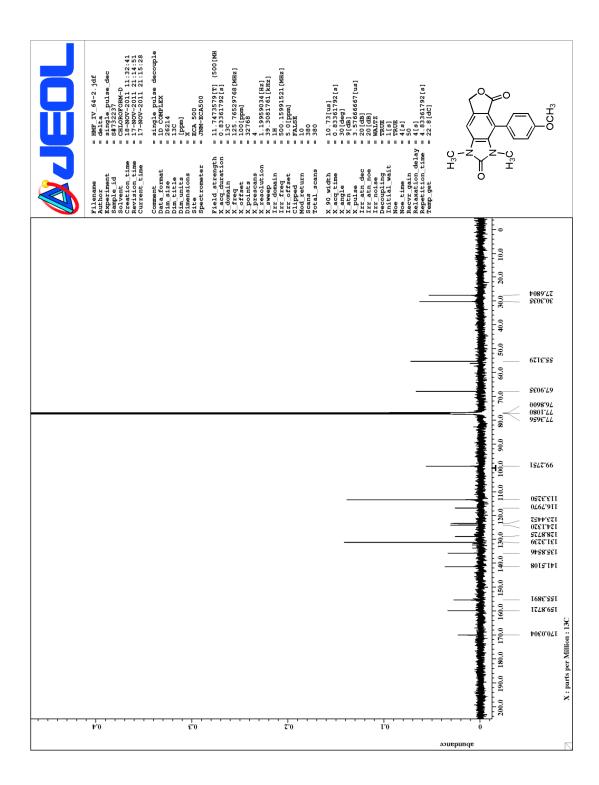




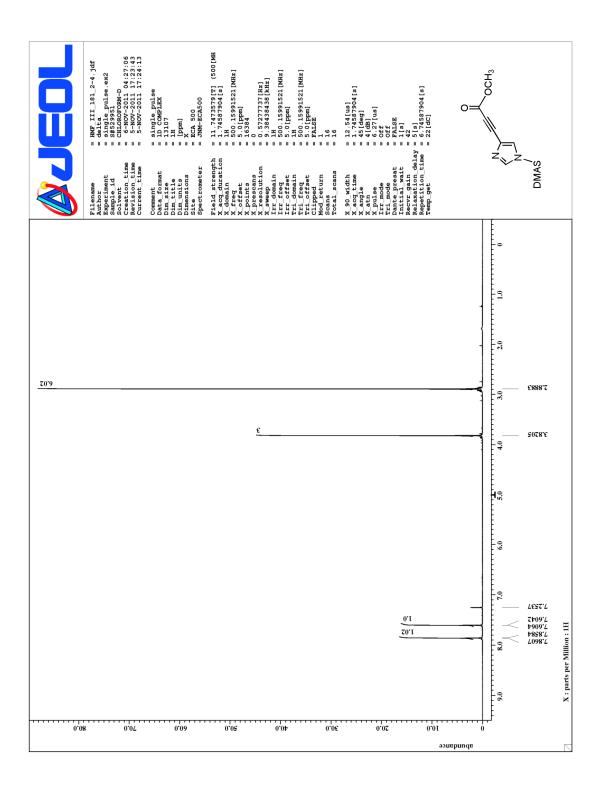
APPENDIX 59 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dimethyl-3,7-dihydro-1*H*-furo[3,4-*f*]benzimidazole-2,5-dione (**145**)

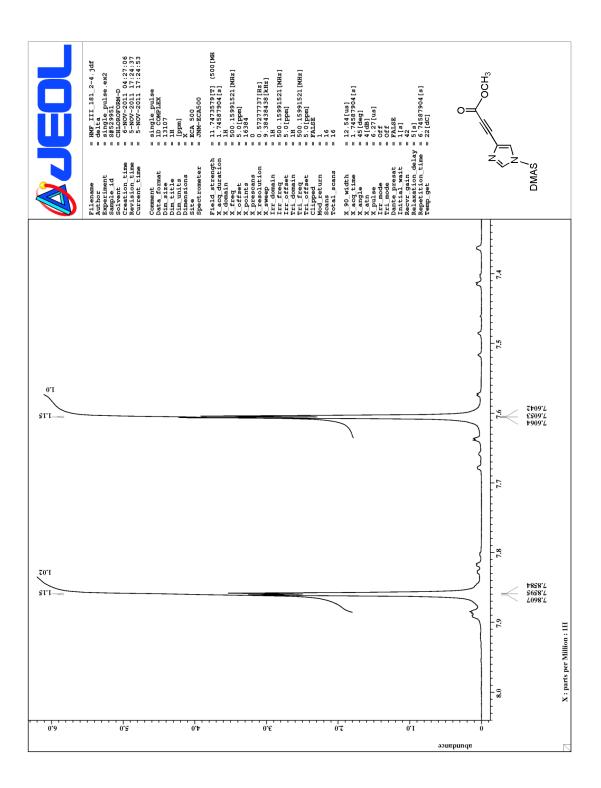


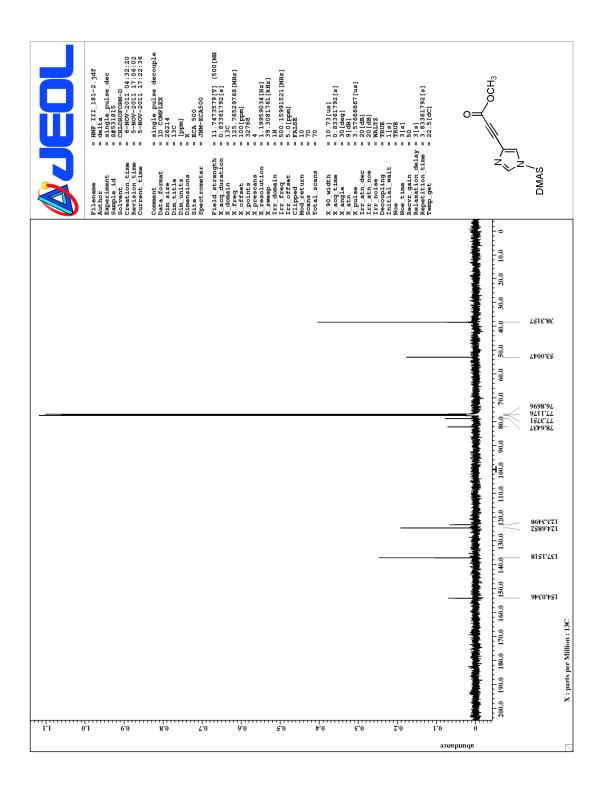




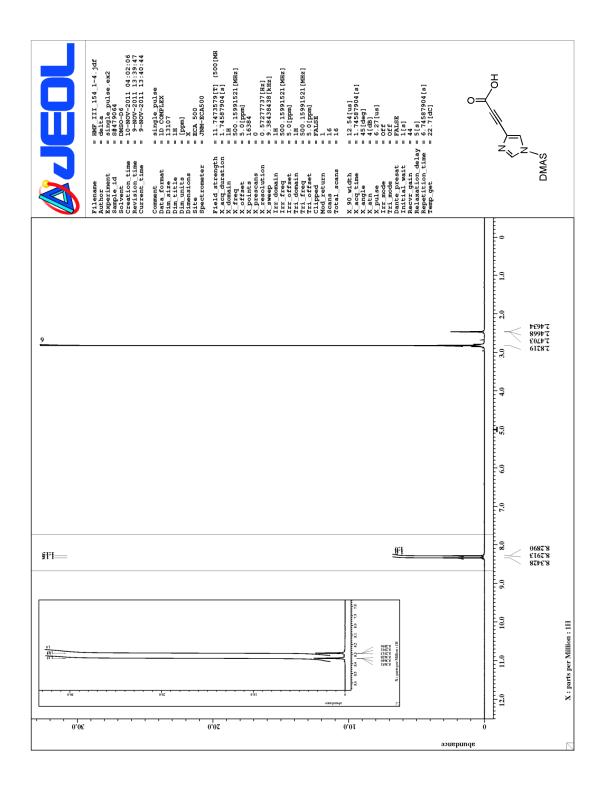
APPENDIX 60 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of Methyl 3-[1-(*N,N*-dimethylsulfamoyl)1H-imidazol-4-yl]prop-2-ynoate (**154**)

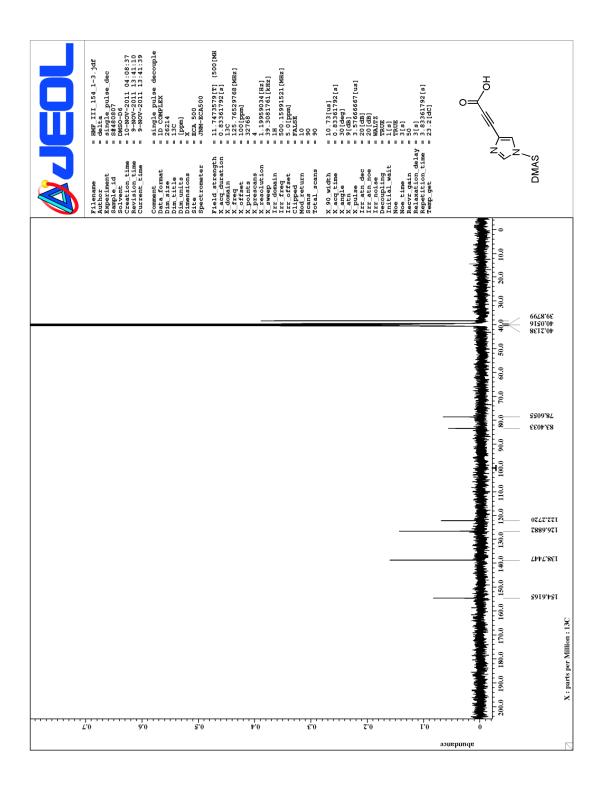




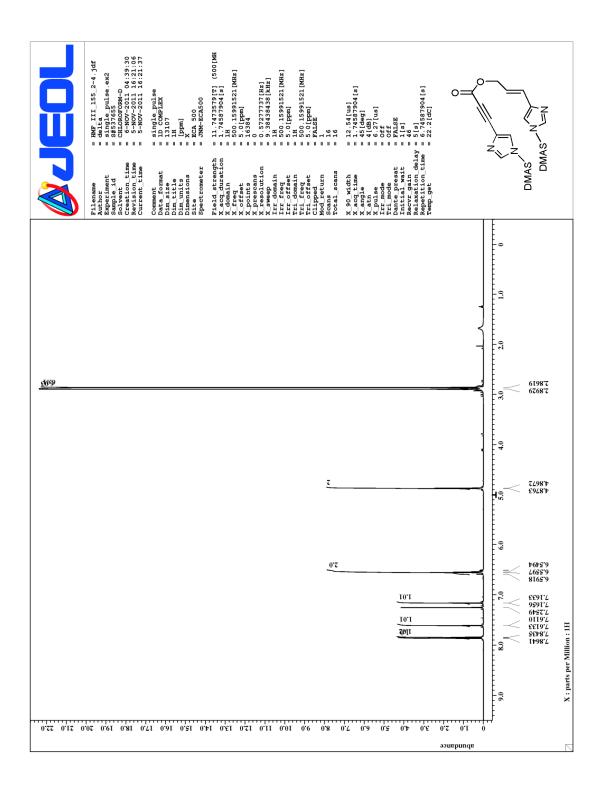


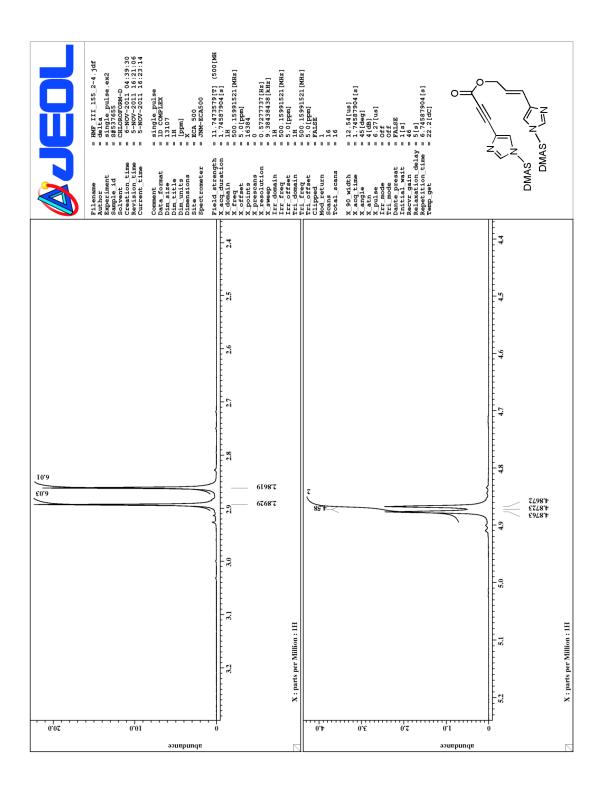
APPENDIX 61 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-[1-(*N*,*N*-dimethylsulfamoyl)-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl]prop-2-ynoic acid (**155**)

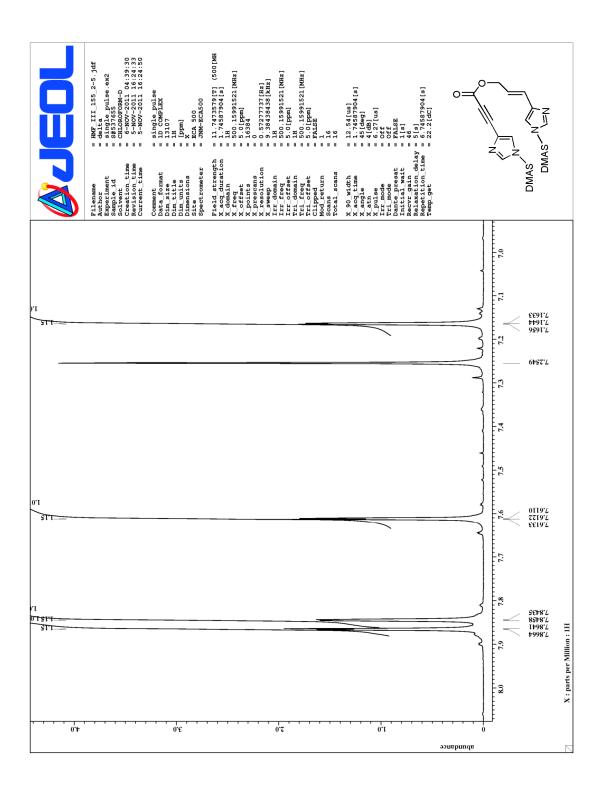


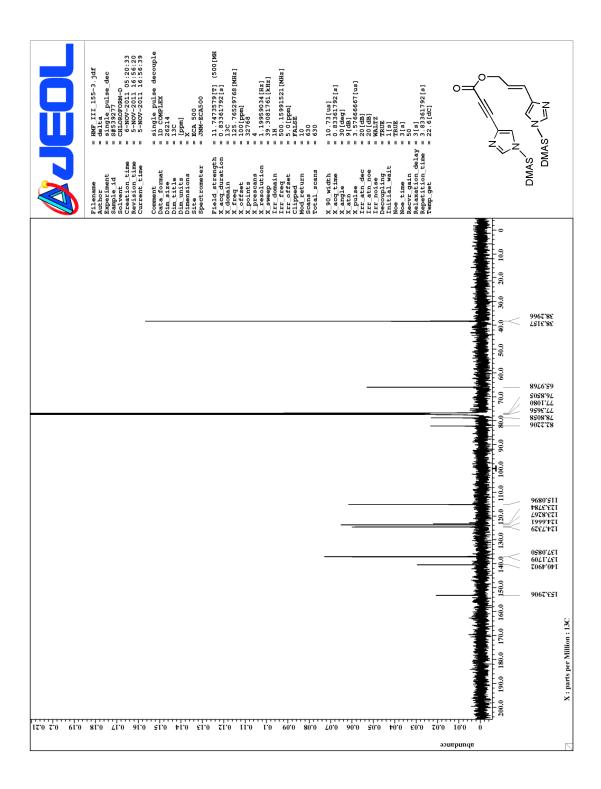


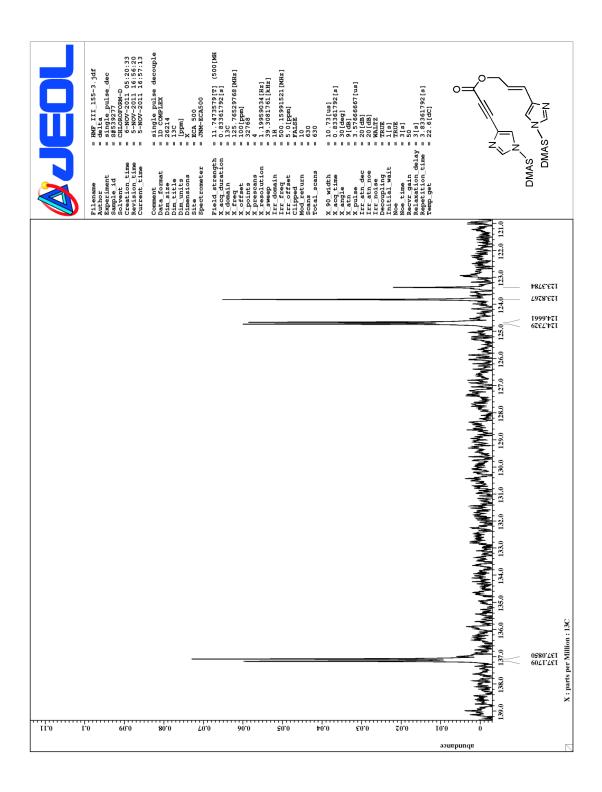
APPENDIX 62 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of (2*E*)-3-[1-(*N*,*N*-dimethylsulfamoyl)-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl]prop-2-en-1-yl 3-[1-(*N*,*N*-dimethylsulfamoyl)-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl]prop-2-ynoate (**150**)



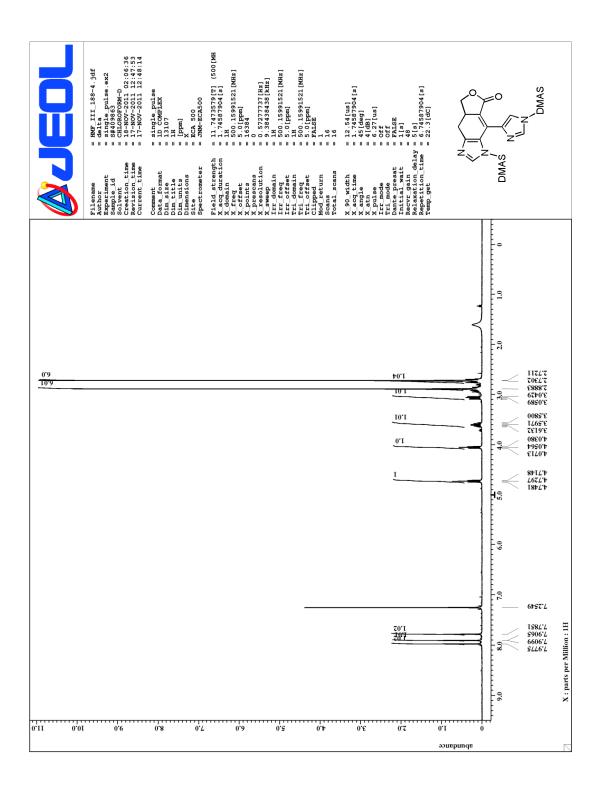


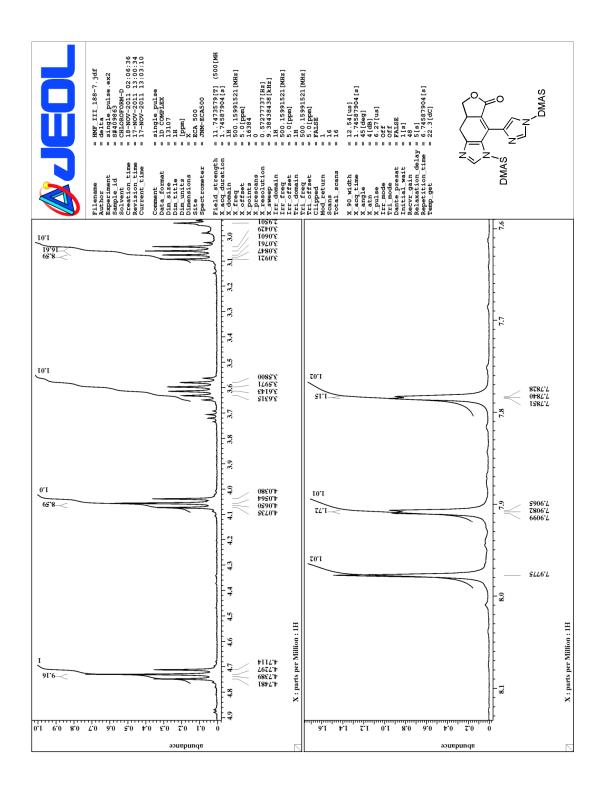


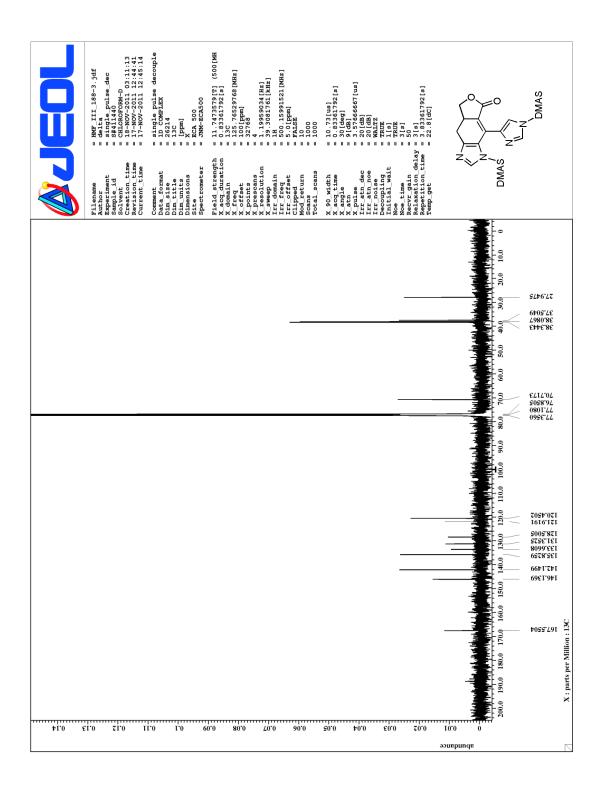




APPENDIX 63 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of 3-[1-(*N*,*N*-dimethylsulfamoyl)-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl]-3,7,7a,8-tetrahydro-4-[1-(*N*,*N*dimethylsulfamoyl)-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl]-5*H*-furo[3,4-*f*]benzimidazole-5-one (**149**)







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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Heather Lima was born in Houston, TX and was raised in El Paso, TX. She obtained a B.S. in biochemistry from The University of Texas at Arlington in 2005. During her undergraduate studies, she began working with Dr. Carl Lovely in the field of organic chemistry and total synthesis. She continued her work with Dr. Lovely as a graduate student at which time the work she had done as an undergraduate was applied toward the total synthesis of natural products including kealiiquinone and ageliferin. She obtained her Ph.D. in chemistry in 2011, and subsequently joined the synthesis group of Cerilliant Corporation, a company located in Round Rock, TX that produces and markets high quality certified reference standards.