

# One-pot three-component sulfone synthesis exploiting palladium-catalysed aryl halide aminosulfonylation

Charlotte S. Richards-Taylor,<sup>a</sup> David C. Blakemore,<sup>b</sup> and Michael C. Willis<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford, Chemistry Research Laboratory, Mansfield Road, Oxford, OX1 3TA, UK. Fax: 44 1865 285002; Tel: 44 1865 285126; E-mail: [micharl.willis@chem.ox.ac.uk](mailto:micharl.willis@chem.ox.ac.uk).*

<sup>b</sup> *Neusentis Chemistry, Pfizer Worldwide Research and Development, The Portway Building, Granta Park, Cambridge, CB216GS, UK.*

## Supporting Information

### Table of Contents

1) General considerations	S2
2) General procedures	S3
3) Preparation of substrates	S4
4) Synthesis of sulfones	S7
5) Mechanistic investigation	S29
6) <sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra	S31
7) References	S80

## 1) General considerations

All glassware was dried in an oven (>200 °C) and allowed to cool under a positive nitrogen pressure (passed through a Drierite<sup>®</sup> filled tube) prior to use. All reactions were conducted with continuous magnetic stirring under a nitrogen atmosphere with anhydrous solvents unless otherwise stated.

HPLC grade solvents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich, Fischer Scientific or Rathburn. Dichloromethane, tetrahydrofuran and toluene were obtained from an in-house solvent purification system having passed through anhydrous alumina columns. Water was purified by an Elix<sup>®</sup> UV-10 system. 1,4-Dioxane was distilled over calcium hydride and stored over 4 Å molecular sieves and degassed prior to use. Chemicals were purchased from Sigma Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, Acros or Fluorochem and used without prior purification, with the exception of 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (DABCO), which was purified by sublimation (50 °C, 1 mbar). Et<sub>2</sub>O refers to diethyl ether and petrol to 40-60 °C petroleum ether.

Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck Kieselgel 60 F254 pre-coated aluminium plates which were visualised using UV light (254 nm) and/or 1% aq. KMnO<sub>4</sub>. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (Fluka Kieselgel 60, particle size 0.040-0.063 mm) with the indicated eluents.

<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>19</sup>F Nuclear Magnetic Resonance experiments were carried out using Brüker DPX-200 (200 MHz), AVN-400 (400 MHz) or AVC-500 (500 MHz) spectrometers in the deuterated solvent stated. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) and referenced relative to the residual solvent peak(s). Assignments were made on the basis of chemical shifts, coupling constants, COSY, HSQC, NOE data and comparison with spectra of related compounds. The abbreviations s, d, dd, t, dt, td, tt, q, quin, br. s, m and app, denote singlet, doublet, doublet of doublets, triplet, doublet of triplets, triplet of doublets, triplet of triplets, quartet, quintet, broad singlet, multiplet and apparent. The coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz) and rounded to the nearest 0.5 Hz.

Melting points were recorded on a Leica Gallen III hot-stage microscope and are uncorrected. Infra-red spectra were recorded neat on a Brüker Tensor 27 FT-IR spectrometer retrofitted with a diamond attenuated total reflectance (ATR) module, with an internal range of 600-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Low-resolution mass spectra (*m/z*) were recorded on a LCT Premier Open Access spectrometer (ESI). High resolution mass measurements were run on a Brüker MicroTOF or a Micromass GCT instrument by the mass spectrometry department of the Chemistry Research Laboratory, University of Oxford, UK. Values are quoted as ratio of mass to charge in Daltons and relative intensities of assignable peaks observed are quoted as a percentage value. High resolution values are calculated to four decimal places from the molecular formula, all found within a tolerance of 5 ppm.

## 2) General procedures

### General procedure A

The electrophile (2 equiv), *N*-aminosulfonamide (1 equiv) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 equiv) were added to a round-bottomed flask. 1,4-Dioxane [0.30 M] was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for the specified length of time. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was diluted with water (5 mL) and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (5 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and then concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification *via* column chromatography yielded the corresponding sulfone.

### General procedure B

Benzyl bromide (0.95 equiv), *N*-aminosulfonamide (1 equiv) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 equiv) were added to a round-bottomed flask. 1,4-Dioxane [0.30 M] was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 1 h. The electrophile (1.5 equiv) was then added and the reaction mixture was warmed to 100 °C and stirred at this temperature for a further 15 h. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was diluted with water (5 mL) and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (5 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and then concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification *via* column chromatography yielded the corresponding sulfone.

### General procedure C

An oven-dried tube was charged with tri-*tert*-butylphosphonium tetrafluoroborate (20 mol%), palladium(II) acetate (10 mol%) and the halogenated substrate (1 equiv). Either bis(sulfur dioxide)-1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (DABSO) (1.1 eq) or (DABSO) (0.6 eq) and 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (DABCO) (0.5 equiv) were then added as specified. The solid reagents were weighed out in air. The tube was then evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub>. The hydrazine (1.2 equiv) and 1,4-dioxane [0.30 M] were added *via* microsyringe. The reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 16 h. Either Method I or Method II was then followed as stated.

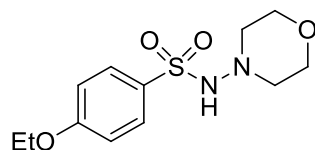
*Method I:* K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3(aq)</sub> [2.40 M, 2.5 equiv] and the electrophile (2.5 equiv) were added and the reaction mixture stirred at 90 °C for the specified length of time.

*Method II:* K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3(aq)</sub> [2.40 M, 2.5 equiv] and benzyl bromide (0.95 equiv) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 1 h. The second electrophile (2 equiv) was then added and the reaction mixture stirred at 90 °C for 19 h.

After cooling to rt, the suspension was filtered through a short pad of Celite<sup>®</sup> and washed sequentially with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) and water (5 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and then concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification *via* column chromatography yielded the corresponding sulfone.

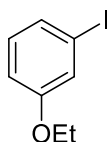
### 3) Preparation of substrates

#### 4-Ethoxy-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide, **9b**



An oven-dried tube was charged with tri-*tert*-butylphosphonium tetrafluoroborate (14 mg, 20 mol%), palladium(II) acetate (5 mg, 10 mol%), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (60 mg, 0.24 mmol), DABSO (35 mg, 0.14 mmol) and DABCO (13 mg, 0.12 mmol). The solid reagents were weighed out in air. The tube was then evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub>. 4-Aminomorpholine (35  $\mu$ L, 0.36 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.6 mL) were added *via* microsyringe. The reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 16 h. After cooling to rt, the suspension was filtered through a short pad of Celite<sup>®</sup> and the residue washed sequentially with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) and Et<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) before being concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (eluent: 50-100%, Et<sub>2</sub>O in petrol) yielded the *N*-aminosulfonamide **9b** as a white crystalline solid (63 mg, 92%); mp 144-145 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3209, 2987, 1595, 1577, 1496, 1463, 1327, 1303, 1264, 1183, 1160, 1111, 1041;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.91-7.82 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.00-6.91 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 5.86 (1H, s, NH), 4.08 (2H, q, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.58 (4H, t, *J* 4.5, N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>O), 2.61 (4H, t, *J* 4.5, N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>O), 1.43 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 162.7, 130.3, 129.8, 114.4, 66.6, 64.0, 56.6, 14.6; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 595 ([2M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%), 309 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 63%), 287 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 93%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 309.8079; found 309.8078.

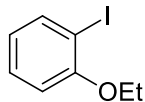
#### 1-Ethoxy-3-iodobenzene



To a suspension of 3-iodophenol (1.50 g, 6.80 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.32 g, 9.50 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was added ethyl iodide (0.5 mL, 6.10 mmol) at rt. The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for 24 h. The mixture was filtered and the filtrate concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was diluted in Et<sub>2</sub>O and the organic layer was washed sequentially with 1 M NaOH, 3 M HCl, sat. NaHCO<sub>3(aq)</sub> and brine. The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (eluent: 4:1, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded 1-ethoxy-3-iodobenzene as a colourless oil (1.30 g, 77%);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3061, 2979, 2929, 2879, 1581, 1565, 1466, 1417, 1388, 1284, 1241, 1159, 1113, 1089, 1042;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.31-7.27 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.01 (1H, app t, *J* 8.0, ArH), 6.88 (1H, ddd, *J* 8.0, 2.5, 1.0, ArH), 4.00 (2H, q, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.43 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 159.6, 130.8, 129.7, 123.6, 114.2, 94.5, 63.7, 14.9; HRMS (FI<sup>+</sup>)

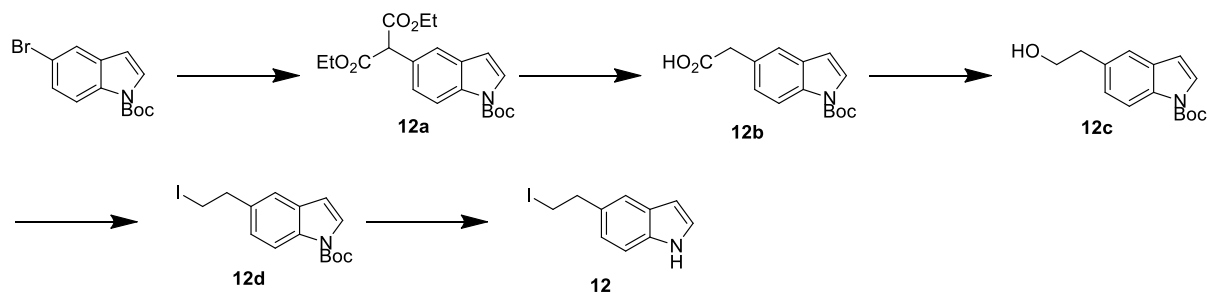
$C_8H_9IO^+$  ( $[M]^+$ ) requires 247.9698; found 247.9702.  $^1H$  NMR spectroscopy data in accordance with literature.<sup>1</sup>

### 1-Ethoxy-2-iodobenzene



To a suspension of 2-iodophenol (0.77 mL, 6.80 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (1.32 g, 9.50 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was added ethyl iodide (0.5 mL, 6.10 mmol) at rt. The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for 24 h. The mixture was filtered and the filtrate concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was diluted in  $Et_2O$  and the organic layer was washed sequentially with 1 M NaOH, 3 M HCl, sat.  $NaHCO_{3(aq)}$  and brine. The combined organic layers were dried over  $MgSO_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (eluent: 4:1, petrol: $Et_2O$ ) yielded the *1-ethoxy-2-iodobenzene* as a colourless oil (1.21 g, 72%);  $\nu_{max}$  (neat)/ $cm^{-1}$  3060, 2980, 2930, 2882, 1581, 1568, 1465, 1438, 1389, 1275, 1243, 1161, 1108, 1088, 1049, 1016;  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 7.79 (1H, dd,  $J$  7.5, 1.5, ArH), 7.35-7.27 (1H, m, ArH), 6.82 (1H, dd,  $J$  8.5, 1.5, ArH), 6.71 (1H, app td,  $J$  7.5, 1.5, ArH), 4.10 (2H, q,  $J$  7.0,  $OCH_2CH_3$ ), 1.50 (3H, t,  $J$  7.0,  $OCH_2CH_3$ );  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 157.5, 139.5, 129.4, 122.4, 112.2, 86.8, 64.9, 14.8; HRMS ( $FI^+$ )  $C_8H_9OI^+$  ( $[M]^+$ ) requires 247.9698; found 247.9702.  $^1H$  NMR spectroscopy data in accordance with literature.<sup>1</sup>

### 5-(2-Iodoethyl)-1H-indole, 12



A mixture of *tert*-butyl 5-bromo-1*H*-indole-1-carboxylate<sup>2</sup> (5.32 g, 18.0 mmol),  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (202 mg, 0.90 mmol), 2-dicyclohexylphosphino-2',4',6'-triisopropylbiphenyl (XPhos) (0.86 g, 1.80 mmol),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (17.6 g, 53.9 mmol) and diethyl malonate (2.7 mL, 18.0 mmol) in toluene (200 mL) was stirred under  $N_2$  for 16 h at 100 °C. The reaction mixture was cooled to rt and concentrated *in vacuo*, then partitioned between  $EtOAc$  (150 mL) and water (100 mL). The mixture was filtered through Celite<sup>®</sup> and the aqueous layer was extracted with  $EtOAc$  (2 × 150 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over  $MgSO_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (eluent: 15%  $Et_2O$  in petrol) yielded diethyl [1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-1*H*-indol-5-yl]propanedioate, **12a** as a white crystalline solid (4.86 g, 72%); mp 80-81 °C ( $CH_2Cl_2$ );  $\nu_{max}$  (neat)/ $cm^{-1}$  2985, 2160, 2026, 2009, 1977, 1748, 1721, 1467, 1443, 1385, 1367, 1335, 1314, 1299, 1283, 1256, 1223, 1172, 1143, 1129, 1115,

1079, 1030;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 8.12 (1H, d,  $J$  8.5, ArH), 7.67-7.63 (2H, m,  $2 \times$  ArH), 7.35 (1H, dd,  $J$  8.5, 2.0, ArH), 6.56 (1H, d,  $J$  4.0, ArH), 4.70 (1H, s,  $\text{CH}(\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 4.27-4.17 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}(\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 1.66 (9H, s,  $O^t\text{Bu}$ ), 1.26 (6H, t,  $J$  7.0,  $\text{CH}(\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$ );  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 168.5, 149.7, 134.9, 130.8, 127.2, 126.5, 125.3, 121.8, 115.3, 107.4, 83.8, 61.8, 57.8, 28.2, 14.1;  $m/z$  ( $\text{ESI}^+$ ) 774 ( $[\text{2M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 25%), 398 ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 10%), 376 ( $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ , 100%); HRMS ( $\text{ESI}^+$ )  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{25}\text{NNaO}_6^+$  ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ ) requires 398.1574; found 398.1565.

A solution of diethyl [1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-1*H*-indol-5-yl]propanedioate, **12a** (4.84 g, 12.9 mmol) in THF (25 mL) and EtOH (2.5 mL) was treated with 2 M NaOH (5.6 mL). The solution was stirred at 60 °C for 16 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the aqueous residue was acidified to pH 1 with 2 M HCl. The aqueous solution was washed with EtOAc ( $3 \times 20$  mL). The combined organic layers were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield 1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-1*H*-indol-5-yl]acetic acid, **12b** as a brown solid (2.66 g, 75%) that was used in the next step without further purification.

To a solution of [1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-1*H*-indol-5-yl]acetic acid, **12b** (1.56 g, 5.44 mmol) in THF (9 mL) was added  $\text{BH}_3 \cdot \text{THF}$  (18.8 mL, 1 M solution in THF) dropwise over 10 minutes at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for a further 90 min at 0 °C and then quenched by slow addition of MeOH. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (eluent: 3:7 to 1:1  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ :petrol) yielded *tert*-butyl 5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1*H*-indole-1-carboxylate, **12c** as a colourless oil (0.68 g, 46%);  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  3359, 2979, 2935, 1729, 1470, 1442, 1371, 1347, 1327, 1254, 1217, 1192, 1161, 1129, 1082, 1040, 1022;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 8.08 (1H, d,  $J$  8.0, ArH), 7.58 (1H, d,  $J$  4.0, ArH), 7.40 (1H, d,  $J$  1.0, ArH), 7.17 (1H, dd,  $J$  8.5, 1.5, ArH), 6.52 (1H, d,  $J$  3.5, ArH), 3.85 (2H, t,  $J$  6.5,  $\text{ArCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 2.93 (2H, t,  $J$  6.5,  $\text{ArCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 2.20 (1H, s,  $\text{ArCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 1.67 (9H, s,  $O^t\text{Bu}$ );  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 149.8, 134.0, 132.8, 131.0, 126.2, 125.4, 121.1, 115.2, 107.2, 83.7, 64.0, 39.1, 28.2;  $m/z$  ( $\text{ESI}^+$ ) 545 ( $[\text{2M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 100%), 284 ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 20%); HRMS ( $\text{ESI}^+$ )  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_3^+$  ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ ) requires 284.1257; found 284.1254.

To a solution of  $\text{PPh}_3$  (0.84 g, 3.22 mmol) and 1*H*-imidazole (0.23 g, 3.35 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (6 mL) was added iodine (0.82 g, 3.22 mmol) at 0 °C. A solution of *tert*-butyl 5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1*H*-indole-1-carboxylate, **12c** (0.68 g, 2.48 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 16 h and then washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL), sat.  $\text{NaHSO}_3(\text{aq})$  (10 mL), and brine (10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Heptane (50 mL) was added and the mixture filtered through Celite<sup>®</sup>. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (eluent: 0-10%,  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  in petrol) yielded *tert*-butyl 5-(2-iodoethyl)-1*H*-indole-1-carboxylate, **12d** as a colourless oil (0.59 g, 64%);  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  2978, 2932, 1730, 1469, 1443, 1370, 1348, 1326, 1294, 1255, 1217, 1192, 1161, 1129, 1107, 1081, 1040, 1022;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 8.07 (1H, d,  $J$  8.0, ArH), 7.59 (1H, d,  $J$  4.0, ArH), 7.38 (1H, d,  $J$  1.5, ArH), 7.14 (1H, dd,  $J$  8.5, 1.5, ArH), 6.54 (1H, d,  $J$  4.0, ArH), 3.42-3.36 (2H, m,  $\text{ArCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{I}$ ), 3.29-3.23 (2H, m,  $\text{ArCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{I}$ ), 1.67 (9H, s,  $O^t\text{Bu}$ );  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 149.7, 135.1, 134.2, 130.9,

126.4, 124.6, 120.5, 115.3, 107.1, 83.7, 40.3, 28.2, 6.5;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 394 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>INNaO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 394.0274; found 394.0263.

Trifluoroacetic acid (9.9 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of *tert*-butyl 5-(2-iodoethyl)-1*H*-indole-1-carboxylate, **12d** (0.59 g, 1.59 mmol) in chloroform (2.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at rt and then concentrated *in vacuo*. EtOAc (20 mL) was added and washed with sat. NaHCO<sub>3(aq)</sub> (20 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (eluent: 3:7, Et<sub>2</sub>O:petrol) yielded **12** as a pale yellow solid (276 mg, 64%); mp 91-92 °C (CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3412, 2958, 2922, 2852, 1474, 1454, 1416, 1342, 1280, 1260, 1235, 1222, 1166, 1137, 1089, 1064, 1019;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.10 (1H, br. s, NH), 7.48 (1H, s, ArH), 7.34 (1H, d, *J* 8.5, ArH), 7.21 (1H, app t, *J* 3.0, ArH), 7.04 (1H, dd, *J* 8.5, 1.5, ArH), 6.55-6.52 (1H, m, ArH), 3.44-3.37 (2H, m, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>I), 3.31-3.25 (2H, m, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>I);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 134.8, 132.4, 128.2, 124.7, 122.7, 120.2, 111.2, 102.5, 40.8, 7.1;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 272 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI) C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>9</sub>IN<sup>-</sup> ([M - H]<sup>-</sup>) requires 269.9785; found 269.9779.

#### 4) Synthesis of sulfones

##### Benzyl 4-methylphenyl sulfone, **10a** and *N*-[(*E*)-phenylmethylidene]morpholin-4-amine, **11**

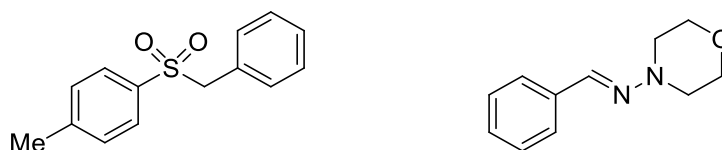


Table 2, entry 4: General procedure A was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and benzyl bromide (114  $\mu$ L, 0.96 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 1 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10a** as a white crystalline solid (109 mg, 92%) and hydrazone **11** as a white crystalline solid (79 mg, 87%).

Table 2, entry 5: General procedure A was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and benzyl chloride (110  $\mu$ L, 0.96 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 1 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10a** as a white crystalline solid (82 mg, 69%).

Table 4, entry 1: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 4-iodotoluene (105 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 5 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10a** as a white crystalline solid (108 mg, 91%).

Sulfone **10a**: mp 139-141 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) {lit.<sup>4</sup> 141-142 °C};  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.54-7.48 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.37-7.21 (5H, m, 5  $\times$  ArH), 7.14-7.06 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 4.29 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.42 (3H, s,

ArMe);  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 144.6, 135.0, 130.8, 129.5, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 62.9, 21.6;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 515 ([2M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%), 269 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 95%). Data in accordance with literature.<sup>4</sup>

Hydrazone **11**: mp 85-87 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) {lit.<sup>5</sup> 89 °C (ethanol)};  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.66-7.59 (3H, m, 3 × ArH), 7.40-7.34 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.32-7.26 (1H, m, ArHC=N), 3.90 (4H, t, *J* 5.0, N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>O), 3.19 (4H, t, *J* 5.0, N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>O);  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 136.2, 136.0, 128.6, 128.4, 126.2, 66.5, 51.9; HRMS (FI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup> ([M]<sup>+</sup>) requires 190.1106; found 190.1110. Data in accordance with literature.<sup>6</sup>

#### Methyl 4-methylphenyl sulfone, **10b**

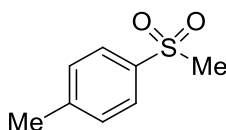


Table 2, entry 1: General procedure A was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and methyl iodide (179  $\mu$ L, 2.88 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 1 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10b** as a white crystalline solid (63 mg, 77%); mp 87-88 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) {lit.<sup>7</sup> 88 °C (ethanol)};  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.86-7.79 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.39-7.35 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 3.03 (3H, s, SMe), 2.45 (3H, s, ArMe);  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 144.6, 137.7, 129.9, 127.4, 44.6, 21.6; HRMS (FI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M]<sup>+</sup>) requires 170.0401; found 170.0402. Data in accordance with literature.<sup>8</sup>

#### 4-Methylphenyl propyl sulfone, **10c**

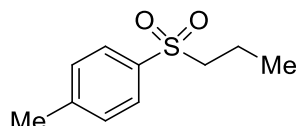


Table 2, entry 2: General procedure A was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 1-iodopropane (94  $\mu$ L, 0.96 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10c** as a white crystalline solid (58 mg, 61%); mp 50-52 °C {lit.<sup>9</sup> 53-55 °C};  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2971, 2937, 2880, 1595, 1494, 1466, 1407, 1383, 1347, 1300, 1285, 1252, 1221, 1184, 1140, 1086, 1067, 1020;  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.73-7.69 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.31-7.26 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 3.00-2.95 (2H, m, SCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.38 (3H, s, ArMe), 1.71-1.60 (2H, m, SCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.91 (3H, t, *J* 7.5, SCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 144.5, 136.2, 129.9, 128.1, 58.1, 21.6, 16.6, 13.0;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 419 ([2M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%), 221 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 67%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 221.0607; found 221.0606. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy data in accordance with literature.<sup>10</sup>



### Hexyl 4-methylphenyl sulfone, **10d** and hexyl 4-methylbenzenesulfinate, **10'd**

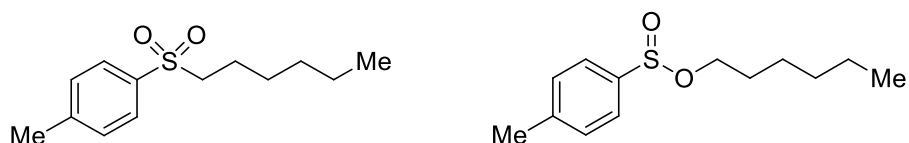


Table 2, entry 3: General procedure A was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 1-iodohexane (142  $\mu$ L, 0.96 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone* **10d** as a colourless oil (77 mg, 67%) and *sulfinate ester* **10'd** as a pale yellow oil (9 mg, 8%).

*Sulfone* **10d**:  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2957, 2928, 2855, 1597, 1457, 1285, 1141, 1087;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.79-7.75 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.37-7.32 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 3.08-3.01 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.44 (3H, s, ArMe), 1.76-1.61 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.37-1.29 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.28-1.19 (4H, m, 2  $\times$  CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.84 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 144.5, 136.2, 129.8, 128.0, 56.4, 31.1, 27.9, 22.7, 22.3, 21.6, 13.9; HRMS (FI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M]<sup>+</sup>) requires 240.1184; found 240.1181.

*Sulfinate ester* **10'd**:  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2955, 2939, 2859, 1597, 1492, 1465, 1379, 1302, 1260, 1178, 1133, 1080, 1038, 1017;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.64-7.57 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.36-7.31 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 4.02 (1H, dt, *J* 10.0, 6.5, OCH<sub>2</sub>H<sub>b</sub>), 3.61 (1H, dt, *J* 10.0, 6.5, OCH<sub>2</sub>H<sub>b</sub>), 2.43 (3H, s, ArMe), 1.66-1.58 (2H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.38-1.20 (6H, m, 3  $\times$  CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.87 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 142.6, 141.8, 129.7, 125.2, 64.6, 31.3, 29.7, 25.4, 22.5, 21.5, 14.0; HRMS (FI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M]<sup>+</sup>) requires 240.1184; found 240.1184.

### Benzyl 4-ethoxyphenyl sulfone, **10e**

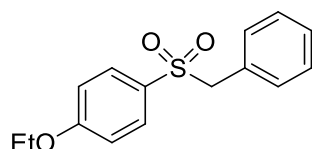


Table 2, entry 6: General procedure A was followed by the use of 4-ethoxy-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide, **9b** (137 mg, 0.48 mmol) and benzyl bromide (114  $\mu$ L, 0.96 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 1 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone* **10e** as a white crystalline solid (124 mg, 94%).

Table 4, entry 9: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 5 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone* **10e** as a white crystalline solid (119 mg, 90%).

Table 4, entry 9: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl chloride

(138  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.20 mmol) and 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10e* as a white crystalline solid (99 mg, 75%).

Table 4, entry 9: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 1-aminopiperidine (62  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.20 mmol) and 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10e* as a white crystalline solid (117 mg, 88%).

*Sulfone 10e*: mp 93-96  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO);  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2972, 2930, 2893, 1594, 1577, 1493, 1482, 1454, 1428, 1415, 1389, 1317, 1298, 1270, 1176, 1145, 1132, 1114, 1084, 1033, 1007;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO) 7.62-7.54 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.36-7.25 (3H, m, 3  $\times$  ArH), 7.21-7.15 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.06-6.99 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 4.45 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.15 (2H, q,  $J$  7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.40 (3H, t,  $J$  7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO) 163.5, 131.4, 131.0, 130.7, 130.0, 128.6(2), 128.5(7), 114.8, 64.3, 62.4, 14.4;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 575 ([2M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%), 299 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 88%);  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>-</sup>) 311 ([M + Cl]<sup>-</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 299.0712; found 299.0707.

#### Benzyl 4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl sulfone, **10f**

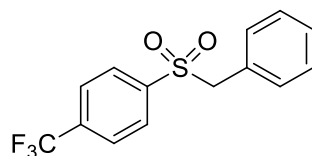


Table 2, entry 7: General procedure A was followed by the use of *N*-(morpholin-4-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzenesulfonamide<sup>3</sup> (149 mg, 0.48 mmol) and benzyl bromide (114  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.96 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 16 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10f** as a white crystalline solid (101 mg, 70%).

Table 4, entry 15: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.20 mmol) and 4-iodobenzotrifluoride (71  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10f** as a white crystalline solid (61 mg, 42%).

*Sulfone 10f*: mp 162-164  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) {lit.<sup>23</sup> 163-165  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ };  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.77-7.68 (4H, m, 4  $\times$  ArH), 7.38-7.33 (1H, m, ArH), 7.31-7.27 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.13-7.06 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 4.35 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 141.3, 135.4 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  33.0), 130.8, 129.3, 129.1, 128.8, 127.5, 126.0 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  4.0), 123.1 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  273.0), 62.8;  $\delta_{\text{F}}$  (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) -63.2 (s, CF<sub>3</sub>);  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 623 ([2M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%), 323 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 99%). Data in accordance with literature.<sup>23</sup>

#### 4-Methylphenyl propan-2-yl sulfone, **10g** and propan-2-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfinate, **10'g**



Table 2, entry 8: General procedure A was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 2-iodopropane (96  $\mu$ L, 0.96 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10g** as a white crystalline solid (45 mg, 47%) and sulfinate ester **10'g** as a colourless oil (6 mg, 7%).

Table 2, entry 8: General procedure B was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 2-iodopropane (72  $\mu$ L, 0.72 mmol). Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10g** as a white crystalline solid (42 mg, 44%) and sulfinate ester **10'g** as a colourless oil (5 mg, 5%).

Sulfone **10g**: mp 81-83 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) {lit.<sup>11</sup> 81-83 °C};  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) 7.72 (2H, d, *J* 8.0, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.47 (2H, d, *J* 8.0, 2  $\times$  ArH), 3.42-3.30 (1H, m, CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 2.42 (3H, s, ArMe), 1.13 (6H, d, *J* 7.0, CHMe<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) 145.2, 134.7, 130.7, 129.5, 55.0, 21.9, 16.1; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 419 ([2M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%), 221 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 45%). Data in accordance with literature.<sup>12</sup>

Sulfinate ester **10'g**:  $\nu_{max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2950, 2940, 2861, 1594, 1491, 1470, 1377, 1301, 1265, 1179, 1131, 1051;  $\delta_H$  (400MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) 7.48 (2H, d, *J* 7.0, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.12 (2H, d, *J* 7.0, 2  $\times$  ArH), 3.82-3.71 (1H, m, CHMe<sub>2</sub>), 2.29 (3H, s, ArMe), 1.03 (6H, d, *J* 6.5, CHMe<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) 138.6, 131.0, 129.0, 126.3, 62.9, 26.4, 21.7; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 419 ([2M + Na]<sup>+</sup>). Data in accordance with literature.<sup>13</sup>

#### Ethyl 2-methyl-2-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]propanoate, **10h**

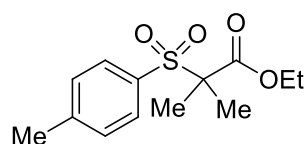


Table 2, entry 9: General procedure A was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and ethyl- $\alpha$ -bromoisobutyrate (141  $\mu$ L, 0.96 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10h** as a white crystalline solid (66 mg, 51%).

Table 2, entry 9: General procedure B was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and ethyl- $\alpha$ -bromoisobutyrate (106  $\mu$ L, 0.72 mmol). Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10h** as a white crystalline solid (75 mg, 58%).

**Sulfone 10h:** mp 73-75 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2988, 2940, 1733, 1688, 1593, 1544, 1493, 1467, 1443, 1402, 1386, 1364, 1312, 1302, 1272, 1186, 1157, 1127, 1113, 1077, 1021;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.73 (2H, d, *J* 8.0, 2 × Ar*H*), 7.34 (2H, d, *J* 8.0, 2 × Ar*H*), 4.14 (2H, q, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.45 (3H, s, Ar*Me*), 1.61 (6H, s, 2 × SC*Me*), 1.22 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 168.9, 145.1, 132.7, 130.4, 129.3, 69.0, 62.2, 21.7, 20.3, 13.8; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 564 ([2M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%), 293 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 75%), 270 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 65%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 293.0818; found 293.0810.

### Ethenyl 4-methylphenyl sulfone, 10i

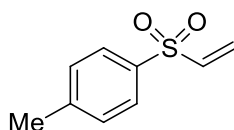


Table 2, entry 6: General procedure A was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 1,2-dibromoethane (83 μL, 0.96 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 100 °C, then triethylamine (67 μL, 0.48 mmol) was added and the reaction stirred for a further 15 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10i** as a white crystalline solid (16 mg, 18%).

Table 2, entry 6: General procedure B was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 1,2-dibromoethane (62 μL, 0.72 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 100 °C, then triethylamine (67 μL, 0.48 mmol) was added and the reaction stirred for a further 15 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10i** as a white crystalline solid (46 mg, 53%).

**Sulfone 10i:** mp 63-65 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) {lit.<sup>14</sup> 65.0-66.0 °C (2-PrOH)};  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.80-7.75 (2H, m, 2 × Ar*H*), 7.37-7.32 (2H, m, 2 × Ar*H*), 6.64 (1H, dd, *J* 16.5, 10.0, CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.42 (1H, d, *J* 16.5, CH=CH<sub>trans</sub>H), 6.00 (1H, d, *J* 10.0, CH=CH<sub>cis</sub>H), 2.44 (3H, s, Ar*Me*);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 144.7, 138.7, 136.6, 130.0, 128.0, 127.2, 21.7; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 205 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%), 183 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 10%). Data in accordance with literature.<sup>14, 15</sup>

### 2-[(4-Methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde, 10j

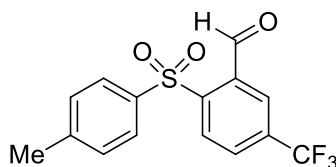


Table 2, entry 11: General procedure B was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 2-fluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (101 μL, 0.72 mmol). Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10j* as a white crystalline solid (63 mg, 40%); mp 64-66 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2930, 1692, 1598, 1494,

1323, 1297, 1251, 1157, 1125, 1078, 1046, 1020;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 10.90 (1H, s, CHO), 8.30-8.26 (2H, m,  $2 \times \text{ArH}$ ), 7.99 (1H, dd,  $J$  8.5, 2.0, ArH), 7.82-7.78 (2H, m,  $2 \times \text{ArH}$ ), 7.37 (2H, d,  $J$  8.0,  $2 \times \text{ArH}$ ), 2.45 (3H, s, ArMe);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 188.0, 146.0, 145.7, 137.4, 135.5 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  35.0), 134.4, 130.5, 130.2 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  3.5), 130.1, 127.8, 126.6 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  3.5), 122.5 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  273.5), 21.7;  $\delta_{\text{F}}$  (377 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) -63.4 (s,  $\text{CF}_3$ ); HRMS ( $\text{FI}^+$ )  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}^+$  ( $[\text{M}]^+$ ) requires 328.0381; found 328.0388.

### 1-Methyl-4-(phenylsulfonyl)benzene, **10k**

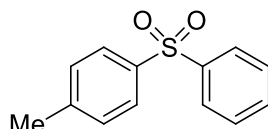


Table 2, entry 12: General procedure A was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and diphenyliodonium triflate<sup>16</sup> (413 mg, 0.96 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10k** as a white crystalline solid (22 mg, 20%).

Table 2, entry 12: General procedure B was followed by the use of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a**<sup>3</sup> (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and diphenyliodonium triflate<sup>16</sup> (320 mg, 0.72 mmol). Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10k** as a white crystalline solid (66 mg, 59%).

Sulfone **10k**: mp 124-125 °C ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) {lit.<sup>17</sup> 125-127 °C};  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.95-7.91 (2H, m, ArH), 7.85-7.81 (2H, m, ArH), 7.57-7.52 (1H, m, ArH), 7.51-7.46 (2H, m, ArH), 7.29 (2H, d,  $J$  8.0, ArH), 2.39 (3H, s, ArMe);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 144.1, 142.0, 138.6, 133.0, 129.9, 129.2, 127.7, 127.5, 21.5;  $m/z$  ( $\text{ESI}^+$ ) 255 ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 100%); HRMS ( $\text{FI}^+$ )  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2\text{S}^+$  ( $[\text{M}]^+$ ) requires 232.0558; found 232.0555. Data in accordance with literature.<sup>17</sup>

### Benzyl phenyl sulfone, **10l**

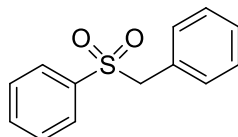


Table 4, entry 2: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.20 mmol) and iodobenzene (54  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10l** as a white crystalline solid (72 mg, 65%); mp 147-148 °C ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) {lit.<sup>18</sup> 147-148 °C (ethanol)};  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.68-7.56 (3H, m,  $3 \times \text{ArH}$ ), 7.50-7.42 (2H, m,  $2 \times \text{ArH}$ ), 7.36-7.23 (3H, m,  $3 \times \text{ArH}$ ), 7.08 (2H, d,  $J$  7.5,  $2 \times \text{ArH}$ ),

4.32 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 137.8, 133.7, 130.8, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6(2), 128.5(7), 128.1, 62.9; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 255 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). Data in accordance with literature.<sup>19</sup>

#### Benzyl 4-*tert*-butylphenyl sulfone, 10m

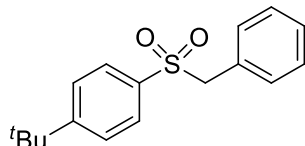


Table 4, entry 3: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55 μL, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142 μL, 1.20 mmol) and 4-*tert*-butyliodobenzene (85 μL, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 10 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10m* as a white crystalline solid (120 mg, 87%); mp 98-101 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); ν<sub>max</sub> (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3062, 3032, 2964, 2924, 2871, 1922, 1594, 1493, 1473, 1456, 1400, 1363, 1317, 1304, 1288, 1266, 1204, 1164, 1154, 1132, 1106, 1085, 1028, 1015; δ<sub>H</sub> (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.60-7.54 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.49-7.43 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.36-7.23 (3H, m, 3 × ArH), 7.11 (2H, d, *J* 8.0, 2 × ArH), 4.30 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.33 (9H, s, Ar<sup>*t*</sup>Bu); δ<sub>C</sub> (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 157.7, 135.0, 130.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 125.9, 62.9, 35.2, 31.1; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 311 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 311.1076; found 311.1074.

#### 4-(Benzylsulfonyl)biphenyl, 10n

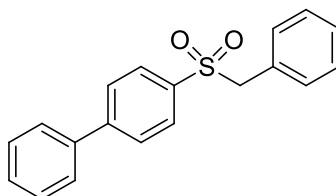


Table 4, entry 4: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55 μL, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142 μL, 1.20 mmol) and 4-iodobiphenyl (134 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10n* as a white crystalline solid (115 mg, 78%); mp 204-207 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); ν<sub>max</sub> (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2947, 1562, 1491, 1479, 1454, 1403, 1325, 1305, 1284, 1201, 1183, 1147, 1119, 1090, 1038, 1025, 1005; δ<sub>H</sub> (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.71-7.65 (4H, m, 4 × ArH), 7.63-7.59 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.51-7.47 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.46-7.42 (1H, m, ArH), 7.36-7.32 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.31-7.27 (1H, m, ArH), 7.16-7.12 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 4.36 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 146.6, 139.0, 136.4, 130.9, 129.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 127.4(1), 127.3(5), 63.0; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 331 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) 331.0763; found 331.0761.

### Benzyl 2-naphthyl sulfone, **10o**

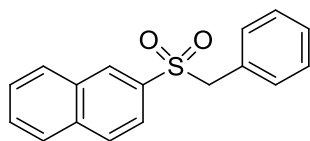


Table 4, entry 5: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 2-iodonaphthalene (70  $\mu$ L, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10o** as a white crystalline solid (98 mg, 72%); mp 190-191 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) {lit.<sup>20</sup> 192-193 °C};  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3062, 2968, 2922, 1593, 1508, 1495, 1458, 1401, 1346, 1314, 1256, 1201, 1186, 1158, 1118, 1075, 1030;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.78 (1H, d, *J* 8.5, Ar*H*), 8.09 (1H, d, *J* 8.5, Ar*H*), 8.00-7.95 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  Ar*H*), 7.70 (1H, ddd, *J* 8.5, 7.0, 1.5, Ar*H*), 7.64 (1H, ddd, *J* 8.0, 7.0, 1.0, Ar*H*), 7.44 (1H, app t, *J* 8.0, Ar*H*), 7.27-7.23 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.18-7.14 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  Ar*H*), 6.97-6.93 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  Ar*H*), 4.52 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 135.2, 134.0, 133.0, 131.5, 130.6, 129.2(3), 129.1(7), 128.6(9), 128.6(7), 128.4, 128.0, 126.9, 124.2, 124.1, 62.3; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 305 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 305.0607; found 305.0608. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy data in accordance with literature.<sup>21</sup>

### Benzyl 2,4-dimethylphenyl sulfone, **10p**

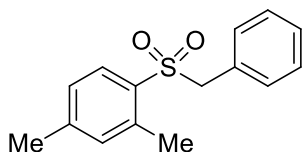


Table 4, entry 6: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 4-iodo-*m*-xylene (68  $\mu$ L, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10p** as a white crystalline solid (110 mg, 88%); mp 81-84 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2979, 2937, 2924, 2879, 1592, 1574, 1496, 1476, 1465, 1415, 1402, 1384, 1347, 1311, 1290, 1261, 1214, 1180, 1138, 1115, 1088, 1038;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.60 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, Ar*H*), 7.41-7.24 (3H, m, 3  $\times$  Ar*H*), 7.13-7.08 (3H, m, 3  $\times$  Ar*H*), 7.05 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, Ar*H*), 4.33 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.48 (3H, s, ArMe), 2.38 (3H, s, ArMe);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 144.6, 138.5, 133.1, 131.0, 130.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 127.1, 127.0, 62.3, 21.4, 20.3; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 283 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 283.0763; found 283.0751.

### Benzyl 4-methoxyphenyl sulfone, **10q**

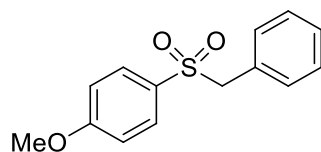


Table 4, entry 7: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 4-iodoanisole (112 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 5 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10q** as a white crystalline solid (110 mg, 87%).

Table 4, entry 8: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 4-bromoanisole (60  $\mu$ L, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 5 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10q** as a white crystalline solid (58 mg, 46%).

Sulfone **10q**: mp 82-83 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) {lit.<sup>22</sup> 83 °C};  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.53 (2H, d,  $J$  8.0, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.36-7.24 (3H, m, 3  $\times$  ArH), 7.09 (2H, d,  $J$  7.5, 2  $\times$  ArH), 6.90 (2H, d,  $J$  8.0, 2  $\times$  ArH), 4.29 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.86 (3H, s, OMe);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 163.7, 130.8(3), 130.8(2), 129.4, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 114.0, 63.1, 55.7;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 285 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). Data in accordance with literature.<sup>23</sup>

### Benzyl 3-ethoxyphenyl sulfone **10r**

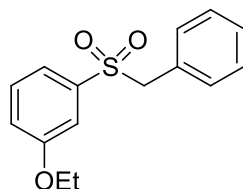


Table 4, entry 10: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 1-ethoxy-3-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 5 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10r** as a white crystalline solid (115 mg, 87%); mp 103-105 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2987, 2922, 2878, 1594, 1580, 1492, 1480, 1467, 1456, 1437, 1390, 1307, 1286, 1239, 1200, 1181, 1164, 1151, 1126, 1096, 1072, 1048;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.37-7.30 (2H, m, ArH), 7.30-7.22 (3H, m, 3  $\times$  ArH), 7.13-7.09 (3H, m, 3  $\times$  ArH), 7.05 (1H, app t,  $J$  2.0, ArH), 4.30 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.92 (2H, q,  $J$  7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.38 (3H, t,  $J$  7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 159.0, 138.8, 130.8, 129.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 121.1, 120.6, 113.2, 63.9, 62.9, 14.5;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 299 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%);  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>-</sup>) 311 ([M + Cl]<sup>-</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 299.0712; found 299.0717.



### Benzyl 2-ethoxyphenyl sulfone, 10s

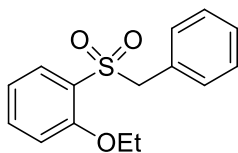


Table 4, entry 11: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 1-ethoxy-2-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}$ C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10s* as a white crystalline solid (99 mg, 75%); mp 78-80  $^{\circ}$ C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3064, 3030, 2987, 2934, 2885, 1592, 1577, 1483, 1469, 1445, 1401, 1391, 1308, 1281, 1245, 1198, 1153, 1138, 1118, 1061, 1037;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.68 (1H, dd, *J* 8.0, 1.5, *ArH*), 7.53 (1H, app t, *J* 8.0, *ArH*), 7.29-7.19 (5H, m, 5  $\times$  *ArH*), 7.04 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, *ArH*), 6.95 (1H, app t, *J* 8.0, *ArH*), 4.63 (2H, s, *SCH*<sub>2</sub>), 4.29 (2H, q, *J* 7.0, *OCH*<sub>2</sub>*CH*<sub>3</sub>), 1.61 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, *OCH*<sub>2</sub>*CH*<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 156.7, 135.5, 130.9, 130.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 126.3, 120.6, 113.0, 65.2, 60.4, 14.8; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 299 ([*M* + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([*M* + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 299.0712; found 299.0709.

### Benzyl 4-(methylsulfanyl)phenyl sulfone, 10t

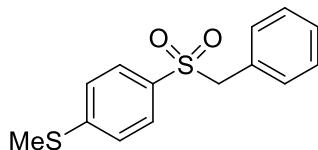


Table 4, entry 12: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 4-iodothioanisole (120 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}$ C for 5 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10t* as a white crystalline solid (119 mg, 89%); mp 150-153  $^{\circ}$ C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3060, 3030, 2998, 2947, 2921, 1579, 1477, 1455, 1428, 1404, 1394, 1310, 1295, 1284, 1274, 1190, 1150, 1094, 1074, 1026, 1012;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.50-7.46 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  *ArH*), 7.35-7.31 (1H, m, *ArH*), 7.30-7.26 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  *ArH*), 7.23-7.20 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  *ArH*), 7.12-7.09 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  *ArH*), 4.30 (2H, s, *SCH*<sub>2</sub>), 2.51 (3H, s, *SMe*);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 147.2, 133.4, 130.8, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 124.9, 63.0, 14.7; HRMS (FI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> ([*M*]<sup>+</sup>) requires 278.0435; found 278.0448.

### 4-(Benzyloxy)aniline, 10u

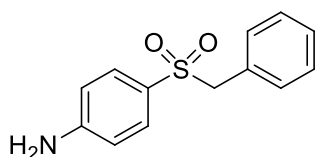


Table 4, entry 13: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 4-iodoaniline (105 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}$ C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10u** as a white crystalline solid (68 mg, 57%); mp 218-220  $^{\circ}$ C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) {lit.<sup>24</sup> 218  $^{\circ}$ C (butan-2-one, ethanol, 1:1)};  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3471, 3377, 3033, 2971, 2918, 1638, 1591, 1504, 1456, 1436, 1401, 1327, 1303, 1280, 1253, 1200, 1184, 1163, 1144, 1121, 1081, 1031, 1002;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) 7.29-7.21 (5H, m, 5  $\times$  ArH), 7.12-7.08 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 6.55-6.52 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 6.08 (2H, s, NH<sub>2</sub>), 4.41 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) 153.5, 130.9, 129.9, 129.6, 128.0(5), 128.0(1), 123.0, 112.4, 61.5;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 517 ([2M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 25%), 270 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 270.0559; found 270.0568. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy data in accordance with literature.<sup>24</sup>

#### 4-(Benzylsulfonyl)-*N,N*-dimethylaniline, 10v

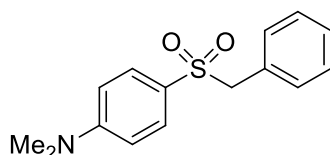


Table 4, entry 14: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 4-iodo-*N,N*-dimethylaniline<sup>25</sup> (119 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}$ C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10v** as a white crystalline solid (97 mg, 74%); mp 147-149  $^{\circ}$ C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2926, 1592, 1550, 1561, 1493, 1455, 1442, 1403, 1374, 1331, 1300, 1285, 1229, 1201, 1159, 1135, 1086, 1062, 1029;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.43-7.38 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.33-7.25 (3H, m, 3  $\times$  ArH), 7.13-7.10 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 6.60-6.56 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 4.26 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.04 (6H, s, NMe<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 153.3, 130.9, 130.3, 129.1, 128.4, 123.0, 110.5, 63.3, 40.0;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 298 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 298.0872; found 298.0864.

#### Benzy 4-chlorophenyl sulfone, 10w

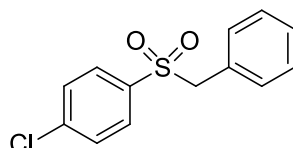


Table 4, entry 16: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 1-chloro-4-iodobenzene (114 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}$ C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10w** as a white crystalline solid

(86 mg, 67%); mp 139-142 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) {lit.<sup>26</sup> 142.5-143.0 °C (methanol)};  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.54 (2H, d,  $J$  8.5, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.41 (2H, d,  $J$  8.5, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.37-7.25 (3H, m, 3  $\times$  ArH), 7.09 (2H, d,  $J$  7.5, 2  $\times$  ArH), 4.32 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 140.5, 136.2, 130.8, 130.1, 129.2, 129.0, 128.7, 127.8, 62.9;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 291 ([M(<sup>37</sup>Cl) + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 40%), 289 ([M(<sup>35</sup>Cl) + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%). Data in accordance with literature.<sup>27</sup>

### Benzyl thiophen-3-yl sulfone, **10x**

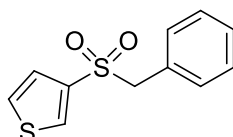


Table 4, entry 17: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 3-iodothiophene (49  $\mu$ L, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone* **10x** as a white crystalline solid (71 mg, 62%); mp 123-125 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3117, 3093, 3032, 2973, 2920, 1603, 1496, 1457, 1405, 1363, 1295, 1259, 1207, 1186, 1165, 1150, 1120, 1094, 1073, 1030;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.75 (1H, d,  $J$  2.0, ArH), 7.40-7.25 (4H, m, 4  $\times$  ArH), 7.18-7.06 (3H, m, 3  $\times$  ArH), 4.34 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 138.2, 133.4, 130.7, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 127.7, 126.4, 63.1;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 261 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 261.0014; found 261.0012.

### 2-(Benzyloxy)dibenzo[*b,d*]furan, **10y**

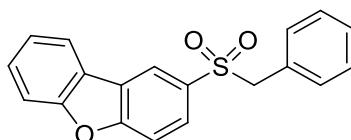


Table 4, entry 18: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 2-iododibenzofuran (141 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone* **10y** as white needles (99 mg, 64%); mp 205-208 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2960, 2927, 2852, 1584, 1442, 1422, 1406, 1346, 1327, 1307, 1295, 1260, 1244, 1199, 1184, 1164, 1154, 1118, 1104, 1071, 1021;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.25 (1H, d,  $J$  2.0, ArH), 7.92 (1H, d,  $J$  8.0, ArH), 7.73-7.51 (5H, m, 5  $\times$  ArH), 7.47-7.38 (1H, m, ArH), 7.34-7.19 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.15-7.03 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 4.40 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 158.7, 157.0, 132.3, 130.8, 128.8, 128.6(2), 128.6(0), 128.3, 127.6, 124.8, 123.7, 122.9, 122.3, 121.1, 112.1, 112.0, 63.3;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 345 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 345.0556; found 345.0552.

### 5-(Benzylsulfonyl)-2-methoxypyridine, **10z**

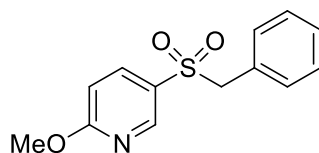


Table 4, entry 19: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 5-iodo-2-methoxypyridine (113 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}$ C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone* **10z** as a white crystalline solid (88 mg, 70%); mp 114-116  $^{\circ}$ C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2977, 2950, 2930, 1589, 1559, 1484, 1454, 1431, 1408, 1375, 1310, 1286, 1272, 1257, 1200, 1163, 1126, 1098, 1071, 1029, 1006;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.39 (1H, dd, *J* 2.5, 0.5, *ArH*), 7.60 (1H, dd, *J* 9.0, 2.5, *ArH*), 7.37-7.33 (1H, m, *ArH*), 7.32-7.28 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  *ArH*), 7.14-7.12 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  *ArH*), 6.71 (1H, dd, *J* 9.0, 0.5, *ArH*), 4.33 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.99 (3H, s, OMe);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 167.1, 149.2, 138.5, 130.9, 129.0, 128.7, 128.0, 127.0, 111.0, 63.4, 54.4; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 286 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%), 264 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 60%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NNaO<sub>3</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 286.0508; found 286.0509.

### 5-(Benzylsulfonyl)-1*H*-indole, **10aa**

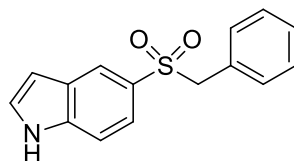


Table 4, entry 20: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 5-iodoindole (117 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}$ C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone* **10aa** as a white crystalline solid (47 mg, 36%); mp 229-231  $^{\circ}$ C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3366, 3142, 3082, 3031, 2916, 1606, 1503, 1467, 1455, 1424, 1407, 1348, 1327, 1291, 1254, 1204, 1162, 1150, 1133, 1112, 1095, 1060, 1030;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO) 10.80 (1H, br. s, NH), 8.00-7.99 (1H, m, *ArH*), 7.59-7.55 (2H, m, *ArH*), 7.44 (1H, dd, *J* 8.5, 2.0, *ArH*), 7.33-7.23 (3H, m, 3  $\times$  *ArH*), 7.18-7.15 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  *ArH*), 6.66-6.64 (1H, m, *ArH*), 4.47 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO) 139.4, 131.9, 130.7, 130.5, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 123.2, 121.7, 112.4, 104.0, 79.2, 63.2; *m/z* (ESI<sup>-</sup>) 270 ([M - H]<sup>-</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 294.0559; found 294.0558.

### Benzyl (1*E*)-oct-1-en-1-yl sulfone **10ab**

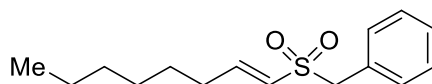


Table 4, entry 21: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and *trans*-1-iodo-1-octene (114 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}$ C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10ab* as a white crystalline solid (59 mg, 46%); mp 28-29  $^{\circ}$ C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2928, 2870, 2858, 1496, 1456, 1376, 1303, 1285, 1256, 1221, 1202, 1161, 1151, 1113, 1072, 1030;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.39-7.33 (5H, m, 5  $\times$  ArH), 6.71 (1H, dt, *J* 15.0, 7.0, CH=CHS), 6.13 (1H, d, *J* 15.0, CH=CHS), 4.21 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.21-2.15 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.37 (2H, app quin, *J* 6.5, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.28 (2H, app quin, *J* 6.5, CH<sub>2</sub>) overlapping 1.26-1.15 (4H, m, 2  $\times$  CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.95-0.81 (3H, m, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 151.3, 131.3, 129.2(4), 129.2(0), 128.8, 127.2, 61.9, 32.0, 31.9, 29.1, 27.9, 22.9, 14.5; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 289 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 289.1233; found 289.1223.

**{{(Cyclohexyldenemethyl)sulfonyl}methyl}benzene benzyl cyclohexyldenemethyl sulfone, 10ac**

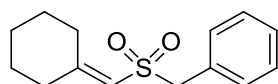


Table 4, entry 22: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and (iodomethylidene)cyclohexane<sup>28</sup> (106 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}$ C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10ac* as a white crystalline solid (104 mg, 87%); mp 74-76  $^{\circ}$ C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2922, 2855, 1495, 1450, 1439, 1407, 1357, 1339, 1317, 1298, 1251, 1234, 1202, 1179, 1159, 1150, 1115, 1073, 1029;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.39-7.33 (5H, m, 5  $\times$  ArH), 5.85 (1H, s, C=CHS), 4.20 (2H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.37 (2H, t, *J* 6.0, CH<sub>2</sub>C=CH), 2.15 (2H, t, *J* 6.0, CH<sub>2</sub>C=CH), 1.66-1.59 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.54-1.47 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.43-1.35 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 164.6, 131.1, 128.7(1), 128.6(8), 128.6(5), 119.4, 62.4, 37.7, 29.0, 28.3, 27.3, 25.7; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 523 ([2M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%), 273 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 50%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 273.0920; found 273.0922.

**Benzyl cyclohept-1-en-1-yl sulfone, 10ad**

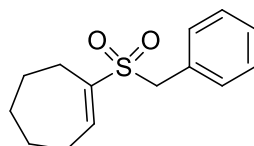


Table 4, entry 23: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (127 mg, 0.53 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), benzyl bromide (142  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol) and 1-iodocycloheptene<sup>29</sup> (107 mg, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}$ C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10ad* as a white crystalline solid (97 mg, 81%); mp 57-58  $^{\circ}$ C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3063, 2922, 2849, 1602, 1494, 1445, 1415,

1360, 1297, 1284, 1224, 1147, 1128, 1114, 1077, 1044, 1031;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.38-7.30 (5H, m,  $5 \times \text{ArH}$ ), 6.85 (1H, t,  $J$  6.5,  $\text{SC}=\text{CH}$ ), 4.16 (2H, s,  $\text{SCH}_2$ ), 2.48-2.43 (2H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.26-2.20 (2H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.78-1.71 (2H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.61-1.54 (2H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.54-1.47 (2H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ );  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 146.2, 142.1, 130.7, 128.7(3), 128.6(7), 128.4, 59.5, 31.1, 28.7, 28.2, 26.1, 25.3;  $m/z$  ( $\text{ESI}^+$ ) 523 ( $[\text{2M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 50%), 273 ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 100%); HRMS ( $\text{ESI}^+$ )  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{S}^+$  ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ ) requires 273.0920; found 273.0925.

#### 4-Ethoxyphenyl 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl sulfone, 10ae

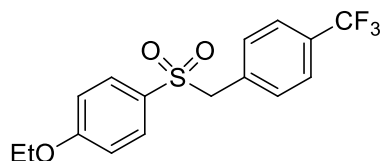


Table 5, entry 1: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.58 mmol), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl bromide (186  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.20 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone* **10ae** as a white crystalline solid (150 mg, 91%); mp 226-228  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ );  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  2989, 2952, 2916, 1596, 1577, 1497, 1477, 1446, 1411, 1396, 1331, 1312, 1295, 1286, 1261, 1205, 1176, 1146, 1131, 1117, 1089, 1067, 1040, 1019;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.56-7.52 (4H, m,  $4 \times \text{ArH}$ ), 7.26-7.22 (2H, m,  $2 \times \text{ArH}$ ), 6.95-6.84 (2H, m,  $2 \times \text{ArH}$ ), 4.33 (2H, s,  $\text{SCH}_2$ ), 4.09 (2H, q,  $J$  7.0,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.45 (3H, t,  $J$  7.0,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ );  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 163.4, 132.5, 131.2, 131.1 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  32.0), 130.7, 128.8, 125.4 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  4.0), 123.8 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  272.5), 114.6, 64.1, 62.6, 14.5;  $\delta_{\text{F}}$  (470 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) -62.9 (s,  $\text{CF}_3$ );  $m/z$  ( $\text{ESI}^+$ ) 343 ( $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^-$ , 100%); HRMS ( $\text{ESI}^+$ )  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{NaO}_3\text{S}^+$  ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ ) requires 367.0586; found 367.0588.

#### 2-Bromobenzyl 4-ethoxyphenyl sulfone, 10af

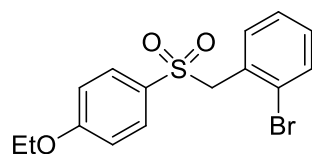


Table 5, entry 2: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.58 mmol), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 2-bromobenzyl bromide (300 mg, 1.20 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone* **10af** as a white crystalline solid (153 mg, 90%); mp 136-138  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ );  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  2987, 2922, 1592, 1575, 1493, 1477, 1443, 1412, 1394, 1313, 1301, 1292, 1281, 1262, 1244, 1202, 1178, 1152, 1132, 1114, 1083, 1045, 1024;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.55-7.51 (2H, m,  $2 \times \text{ArH}$ ), 7.49 (1H, dd,  $J$  8.0, 1.5,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.46 (1H, dd,  $J$  8.0, 1.5,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.32 (1H, app td,  $J$  7.5, 1.5,  $\text{ArH}$ ), 7.18 (1H,

app td,  $J$  7.5, 1.5,  $ArH$ ), 6.90-6.86 (2H, m,  $2 \times ArH$ ), 4.57 (2H, s,  $SCH_2$ ), 4.09 (2H, q,  $J$  7.0,  $OCH_2CH_3$ ), 1.44 (3H, t,  $J$  7.0,  $OCH_2CH_3$ );  $\delta_C$  (126 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 163.4, 132.9(3), 132.9(0), 131.0, 130.3, 129.4, 128.7, 127.7, 126.0, 114.5, 64.0, 61.8, 14.6; HRMS ( $FI^+$ )  $C_{15}H_{15}^{79}BrO_3S^+$  ( $[M(^{79}Br)]^+$ ) requires 355.9905; found 355.9903.

#### 4-Ethoxyphenyl naphthalen-2-ylmethyl sulfone, **10ag**

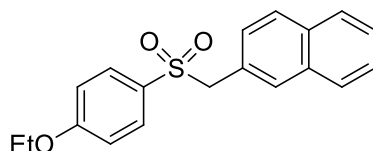


Table 5, entry 3: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 2-(bromomethyl)naphthalene (265 mg, 1.20 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 5 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone* **10ag** as a white crystalline solid (146 mg, 93%); mp 128-130 °C ( $CH_2Cl_2$ );  $\nu_{max}$  (neat)/ $cm^{-1}$  3052, 2977, 2938, 1596, 1579, 1498, 1477, 1442, 1210, 1393, 1365, 1313, 1295, 1256, 1211, 1179, 1146, 1114, 1089, 1044;  $\delta_H$  (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 7.84-7.81 (1H, m,  $ArH$ ), 7.75 (1H, d,  $J$  8.0,  $ArH$ ) overlapping 7.75-7.73 (1H, m,  $ArH$ ), 7.56 (1H, app br. s,  $ArH$ ), 7.54-7.46 (4H, m,  $4 \times ArH$ ), 7.20 (1H, dd,  $J$  8.5, 2.0,  $ArH$ ), 6.87-6.83 (2H, m,  $2 \times ArH$ ), 4.45 (2H, s,  $SCH_2$ ), 4.06 (2H, q,  $J$  7.0,  $OCH_2CH_3$ ), 1.43 (3H, t,  $J$  7.0,  $OCH_2CH_3$ );  $\delta_C$  (126 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 163.1, 133.0, 130.8, 130.5, 129.2, 128.2, 128.0, 127.9, 127.6, 126.6, 126.3, 126.0, 114.5, 64.0, 63.3, 14.5;  $m/z$  ( $ESI^+$ ) 349 ( $[M + Na]^+$ , 100%); HRMS ( $ESI^+$ )  $C_{19}H_{18}NaO_3S^+$  ( $[M + Na]^+$ ) requires 349.0869; found 349.0879.

#### 4-Ethoxyphenyl (2E)-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-yl sulfone, **10ah**

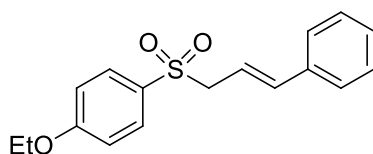


Table 5, entry 4: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1-propene (178  $\mu$ L, 1.20 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone* **10ah** as a white crystalline solid (75 mg, 51%).

Table 5, entry 4: General procedure C (Method II) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55  $\mu$ L, 0.58 mmol), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1-propene (142  $\mu$ L, 0.96 mmol). Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone* **10ah** as a white crystalline solid (120 mg, 83%).

**Sulfone 10ah**: mp 102-104 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2938, 1595, 1574, 1494, 1471, 1453, 1414, 1390, 1315, 1296, 1262, 1178, 1141, 1117, 1087, 1039;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.80-7.76 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.32-7.28 (5H, m, 5 × ArH), 6.98-6.94 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 6.38 (1H, app d, *J* 16.0, SCH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH), 6.11 (1H, dt, *J* 16.0, 7.5, SCH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH), 4.09 (2H, q, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.92 (2H, dd, *J* 7.5, 1.0, SCH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH), 1.44 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 163.6, 139.4, 136.3, 131.1, 130.2, 129.1, 128.9, 127.1, 116.0, 115.1, 64.5, 61.2, 15.0; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 325 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 325.0869; found 325.0866.

### Cyclohex-2-en-1-yl 4-ethoxyphenyl sulfone, 10ai

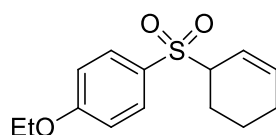


Table 5, entry 5: General procedure C (Method II) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55 μL, 0.58 mmol), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 3-bromocyclohexene (110 μL, 0.96 mmol). Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10ai* as a white crystalline solid (70 mg, 55%); mp 128-130 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2962, 2933, 2863, 1591, 1575, 1491, 1471, 1456, 1428, 1410, 1392, 1312, 1285, 1261, 1238, 1216, 1188, 1173, 1137, 1124, 1113, 1105, 1083, 1040, 1018;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.80-7.75 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.01-6.96 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 6.06 (1H, app dtd, *J* 10.0, 4.0, 2.5, CH=CH), 5.78 (1H, app dq, *J* 10.0, 2.5, CH=CH), 4.10 (2H, q, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.75-3.68 (1H, m, SCH), 2.03-1.93 (3H, m), 1.89-1.70 (2H, m), 1.54-1.46 (1H, m) overlapping 1.45 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 163.1, 135.0, 131.3, 128.6, 118.9, 114.5, 64.0, 62.0, 24.4, 22.8, 19.6, 14.6; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 289 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 289.0869; found 289.0874.

### 2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]cyclohexanol, 10aj

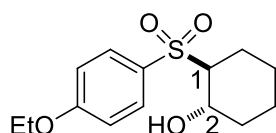


Table 5, entry 6: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55 μL, 0.58 mmol), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol) and cyclohexene oxide (121 μL, 1.20 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3 to 1:1, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10aj* as a white crystalline solid (48 mg, 35%, >20:1 dr by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy).

Table 5, entry 6: General procedure C (Method II) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55 μL, 0.58 mmol), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol) and cyclohexene oxide (97 μL, 0.96 mmol). Column



chromatography (eluent: 7:3 to 1:1, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10aj* as a white crystalline solid (102 mg, 75%, >20:1 dr by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy).

*Sulfone 10aj*: mp 69-72 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3511, 2985, 2943, 2861, 1592, 1574, 1494, 1468, 1449, 1394, 1357, 1333, 1312, 1262, 1211, 1177, 1131, 1113, 1086, 1062, 1040;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.83-7.77 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.08-6.99 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 4.40 (1H, br. s, OH), 4.12 (2H, q, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.86 (1H, td, *J* 10.0, 5.0, C(2)HOH), 2.98-2.90 (1H, m, SC(1)H), 2.16-2.08 (1H, m), 1.96-1.89 (1H, m), 1.77-1.67 (2H, m), 1.46 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.40-1.13 (4H, m);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 163.5, 131.2, 127.6, 114.8, 69.0, 68.3, 64.2, 34.1, 25.8, 24.6, 23.6, 14.6; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 307 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 307.0975; found 307.0980.

#### 4-Ethoxyphenyl propyl sulfone 10ak

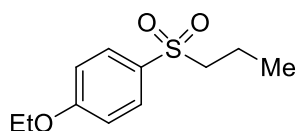


Table 5, entry 7: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55 μL, 0.58 mmol), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 1-iodopropane (117 μL, 1.20 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10ak* as a white crystalline solid (60 mg, 55%); mp 39-40 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2979, 2937, 2879, 1593, 1574, 1496, 1476, 1465, 1402, 1384, 1348, 1311, 1290, 1261, 1214, 1180, 1138, 1115, 1089, 1038;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.85-7.78 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.04-6.96 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 4.11 (2H, q, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.07-3.02 (2H, m, SCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.80-1.66 (2H, m, SCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.46 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.99 (3H, t, *J* 7.5, SCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 163.1, 130.4, 130.2, 114.8, 64.0, 58.3, 16.7, 14.6, 12.9; *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 251 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 251.0712; found 251.0707.

#### 4-Ethoxyphenyl hexyl sulfone, 10al

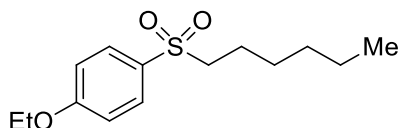


Table 5, entry 8: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55 μL, 0.58 mmol), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 1-iodohexane (177 μL, 1.20 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10al* as a colourless oil (82 mg, 63%);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2931, 2871, 1595, 1578, 1496, 1475, 1395, 1314, 1296, 1257, 1216, 1138, 1115, 1089, 1039;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.84-7.70 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.03-6.95

(2H, m, 2 × ArH), 4.10 (2H, q,  $J$  7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.10-2.99 (2H, m, SCH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.75-1.61 (2H, m, SCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.44 (3H, t,  $J$  7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.33 (2H, app quin,  $J$  7.0, CH<sub>2</sub>) overlapping 1.29-1.18 (4H, m, 2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.84 (3H, t,  $J$  7.0, S(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 163.0, 130.5, 130.2, 114.8, 64.0, 56.6, 31.2, 27.9, 22.8, 22.3, 14.6, 13.9;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 293 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%), 271 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 70%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 293.1182; found 293.1178.

### Ethyl 2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methylpropanoate, 10am

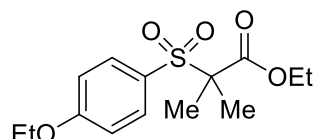


Table 5, entry 9: General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55 μL, 0.58 mmol), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol) and ethyl- $\alpha$ -bromoisobutyrate (176 μL, 1.20 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10am* as a white crystalline solid (82 mg, 57%); mp 86-89 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2983, 2941, 1731, 1594, 1577, 1497, 1473, 1415, 1394, 1367, 1316, 1298, 1259, 1153, 1128, 1079, 1038, 1023; δ<sub>H</sub> (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.78-7.74 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.02-6.92 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 4.15 (2H, q,  $J$  7.0, COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) overlapping 4.12 (2H, q,  $J$  7.0, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.61 (6H, s, 2 × SCMe), 1.46 (3H, t,  $J$  7.0, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.24 (3H, t,  $J$  7.0, COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 169.5, 164.0, 133.0, 127.2, 114.7, 69.4, 64.5, 62.7, 20.8, 15.0, 14.3;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 323 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub>S<sup>+</sup> ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>) requires 323.0924; found 323.0913.

### 2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde, 10an

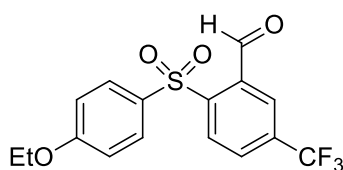
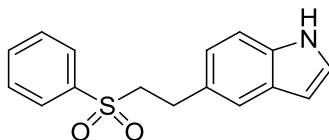


Table 5, entry 10: General procedure C (Method II) was followed by the use of DABSO (69 mg, 0.29 mmol), DABCO (27 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (55 μL, 0.58 mmol), 1-ethoxy-4-iodobenzene (119 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 2-fluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (136 μL, 0.96 mmol). Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded *sulfone 10an* as a pale yellow crystalline solid (60 mg, 35%); mp 88-90 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2987, 2920, 1705, 1593, 1579, 1496, 1473, 1446, 1417, 1397, 1328, 1256, 1178, 1166, 1151, 1128, 1077, 1039; δ<sub>H</sub> (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 10.92 (1H, s, ArCHO), 8.26 (1H, dd,  $J$  1.5, 0.5, ArH), 8.24 (1H, d,  $J$  8.0, ArH), 7.97 (1H, dd,  $J$  8.0, 1.5, ArH), 7.85-7.81 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.05-6.98 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 4.10 (2H, q,  $J$  7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.44 (3H, t,  $J$  7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 188.1, 163.7, 146.5, 135.3 (q,  $J_{CF}$  34.0), 134.3, 131.2, 130.1(3) (q,  $J_{CF}$  3.5), 130.1(0), 129.8, 126.6 (q,  $J_{CF}$  3.5), 122.6 (q,  $J_{CF}$  273.0),

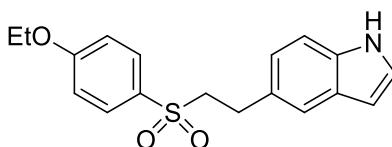
115.5, 64.3, 14.5;  $\delta_F$  (470 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $-63.4$  (s,  $CF_3$ );  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 413 ( $[M + Na + MeOH]^+$ , 100%);  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>-</sup>) 425 ( $[M + Cl + MeOH]^-$ , 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>)  $C_{16}H_{13}F_3NaO_4S^+$  ( $[M + Na]^+$ ) 381.0379; found 381.0367.

### 5-[2-(Phenylsulfonyl)ethyl]-1H-indole, **13**



General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (53 mg, 0.22 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (25  $\mu$ L, 0.24 mmol), iodobenzene (22  $\mu$ L, 0.20 mmol) and 5-(2-iodoethyl)-1H-indole, **12** (136 mg, 0.50 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3 to 3:7, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **13** as an off-white crystalline solid (25 mg, 43%);  $\nu_{max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3394, 2920, 2851, 1447, 1304, 1149, 1085;  $\delta_H$  (200 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.14 (1H, br. s, NH), 8.01-7.92 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.69-7.53 (3H, m, 3  $\times$  ArH), 7.40-7.36 (1H, m, ArH), 7.31 (1H, d,  $J$  8.5, ArH), 7.23-7.19 (1H, m, ArH), 6.94 (1H, dd,  $J$  8.5, 1.5, ArH), 6.47 (1H, ddd,  $J$  3.0, 2.0, 1.0, ArH), 3.48-3.37 (2H, m,  $SCH_2CH_2Ar$ ), 3.19-3.08 (2H, m,  $SCH_2CH_2Ar$ );  $\delta_C$  (126 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 139.1, 134.7, 133.7, 129.3, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1, 124.8, 122.4, 120.1, 111.3, 102.3, 58.4, 28.9; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>)  $C_{16}H_{15}NNaO_2S^+$  ( $[M + Na]^+$ ) requires 308.0716; found 308.0718. Data in accordance to literature.<sup>30</sup>

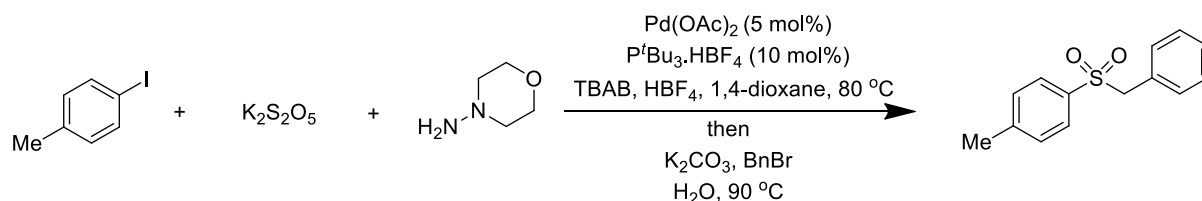
### 5-{2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]ethyl}-1H-indole, **14**



General procedure C (Method I) was followed by the use of DABSO (29 mg, 0.12 mmol), DABCO (11 mg, 0.10 mmol), 4-aminomorpholine (25  $\mu$ L, 0.24 mmol), 4-ethoxy-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide (56 mg, 0.20 mmol) and 5-(2-iodoethyl)-1H-indole, **12** (136 mg, 0.50 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 20 h. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3 to 3:7, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **14** as an off-white crystalline solid (41 mg, 63%); mp 89-91 °C ( $CH_2Cl_2$ );  $\nu_{max}$  (neat)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3400, 2981, 2929, 1594, 1578, 1496, 1475, 1454, 1416, 1395, 1342, 1313, 1260, 1180, 1137, 1087, 1039;  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.13 (1H, br. s, NH), 7.88-7.83 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 7.38-7.35 (1H, m, ArH), 7.29 (1H, d,  $J$  8.5, ArH), 7.21-7.18 (1H, m, ArH), 7.03-6.98 (2H, m, 2  $\times$  ArH), 6.94 (1H, dd,  $J$  8.5, 1.5, ArH), 6.46 (1H, ddd,  $J$  3.0, 2.0, 1.0, ArH), 4.11 (2H, q,  $J$  7.0,  $ArOCH_2CH_3$ ), 3.41-3.35 (2H, m,  $SCH_2CH_2Ar$ ), 3.14-3.07 (2H, m,  $SCH_2CH_2Ar$ ), 1.46 (3H, t,  $J$  7.0,  $ArOCH_2CH_3$ );  $\delta_C$  (126 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 163.1, 134.7, 130.4, 130.2, 128.9, 128.2, 124.7, 122.5, 120.1, 114.8, 111.3, 102.3, 64.0, 58.6, 29.1, 14.6;  $m/z$  (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 681 ( $[2M + Na]^+$ , 40%), 352 ( $[M + Na]^+$ ,

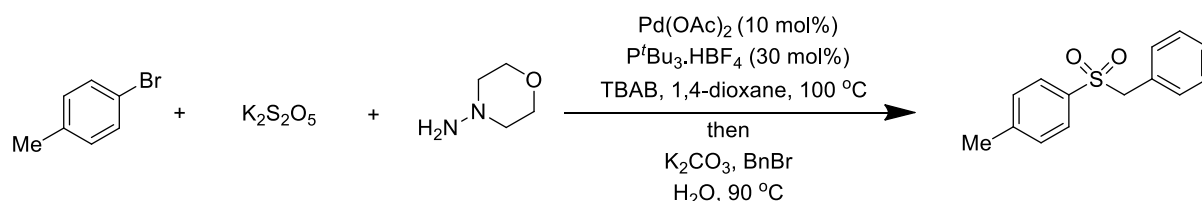
100%);  $m/z$  (ESI) 278 ( $[M - H]^-$ , 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>)  $C_{18}H_{19}NNaO_3S^+$  ( $[M + Na]^+$ ) requires 352.0978; found 352.0964.

**Synthesis of benzyl 4-methylphenyl sulfone, 10a using potassium metabisulfite/TBAB and 4-iodotoluene.**



An oven-dried tube was charged with tri-*tert*-butylphosphonium tetrafluoroborate (15 mg, 10 mol%), palladium(II) acetate (5 mg, 5 mol%), 4-iodotoluene (109 mg, 0.50 mmol), potassium metabisulfite (111 mg, 0.50 mmol),  $\text{HBF}_4$  (14  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.10 mmol,  $\text{HBF}_4$  54 wt.% in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ), and tetrabutylammonium bromide (242 mg, 0.75 mmol). 4-Aminomorpholine (58  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.60 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 21 h (reaction completion by TLC was not observed after 21 h).<sup>31</sup>  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_{3(\text{aq})}$  (0.52 mL, 2.40 M) and benzyl bromide (149  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.25 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture stirred at 90 °C for 5 h. After cooling to rt, the suspension was filtered through a short pad of Celite<sup>®</sup> and washed sequentially with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5 mL) and water (5 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2  $\times$  5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and then concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol: $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ) yielded sulfone **10a** as a white crystalline solid (125 mg, 72%).

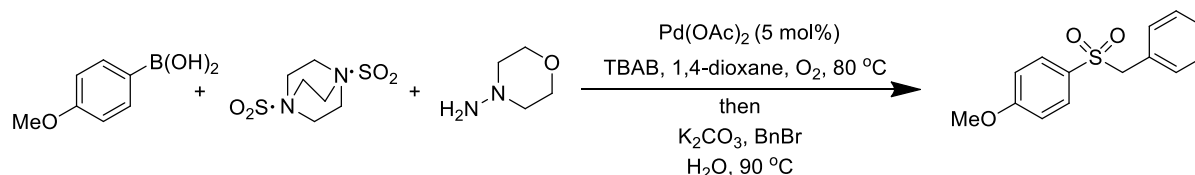
**Synthesis of benzyl 4-methylphenyl sulfone, 10a using potassium metabisulfite/TBAB and 4-bromotoluene.**



An oven-dried tube was charged with tri-*tert*-butylphosphonium tetrafluoroborate (44 mg, 30 mol%), palladium(II) acetate (11 mg, 10 mol%), 4-bromotoluene (62  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.50 mmol), potassium metabisulfite (222 mg, 1.00 mmol), and tetrabutylammonium bromide (242 mg, 0.75 mmol). 4-Aminomorpholine (72  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.00 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 21 h (reaction completion by TLC was not observed after 21 h).<sup>31</sup>  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_{3(\text{aq})}$  (0.52 mL, 2.40 M) and benzyl bromide (149  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.24 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture stirred at 90 °C for 5 h. After cooling to rt, the suspension was filtered through a short pad of Celite<sup>®</sup> and washed sequentially

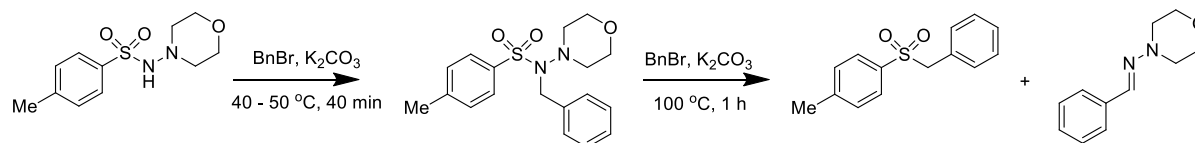
with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) and water (5 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and then concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10a** as a white crystalline solid (83 mg, 68%).

### Synthesis of benzyl 4-methoxyphenyl sulfone, **10q** using DABSO and 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid.



An oven-dried tube was charged with 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid (152 mg, 1.00 mmol), palladium(II) acetate (5 mg, 5 mol%), DABSO (240 mg, 1.00 mmol), and tetrabutylammonium bromide (242 mg, 0.75 mmol). 4-Aminomorpholine (48  $\mu$ L, 0.50 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 16 h under a balloon of O<sub>2</sub>.<sup>32</sup> K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3(aq)</sub> (0.52 mL, 2.40 M) and benzyl bromide (149  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture stirred at 90 °C for 5 h. After this time, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (69 mg, 0.50 mmol) and benzyl bromide (59  $\mu$ L, 0.50 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture stirred at 90 °C for a further 16 h. After cooling to rt, the suspension was filtered through a short pad of Celite<sup>®</sup> and washed sequentially with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) and water (5 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and then concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10q** as a white crystalline solid (113 mg, 86%).

### 5) Mechanistic investigation



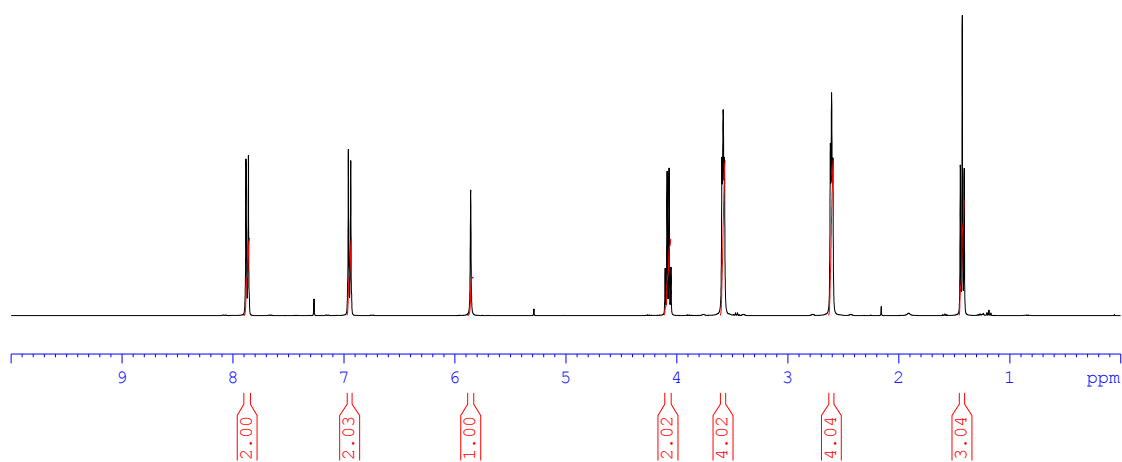
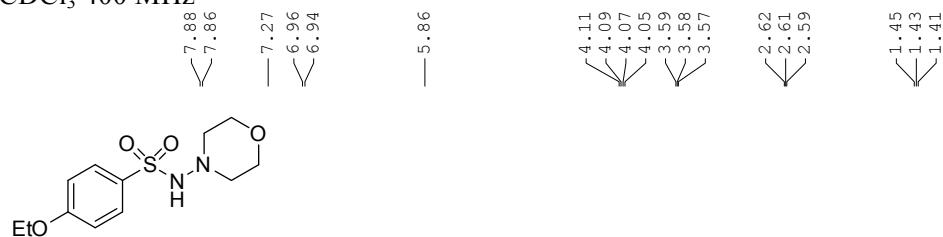
To a round-bottomed flask, benzyl bromide (114  $\mu$ L, 0.96 mmol) was added to a solution of 4-methyl-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide **9a** (123 mg, 0.48 mmol) and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (313 mg, 0.96 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (1.6 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 20 min and then stirred at 50 °C for 20 min. After cooling to rt, the suspension was filtered through filter paper and the residue washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL). The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a thick pale yellow oil that was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy to be a mixture of the presumed trialkylaminosulfonamide intermediate, *N*-benzyl-4-methyl-*N*-morpholinobenzene sulfonamide and unreacted benzyl bromide. To this oil was added benzyl bromide (57  $\mu$ L, 0.48 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (150 mg, 0.48 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.6 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 1 h and then cooled to rt. The

reaction mixture was diluted with water (5 mL) and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (5 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and then concentrated *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (eluent: 7:3, petrol:Et<sub>2</sub>O) yielded sulfone **10a** as a white crystalline solid (108 mg, 91%) and hydrazone **11** (77 mg, 85%) as a white crystalline solid.

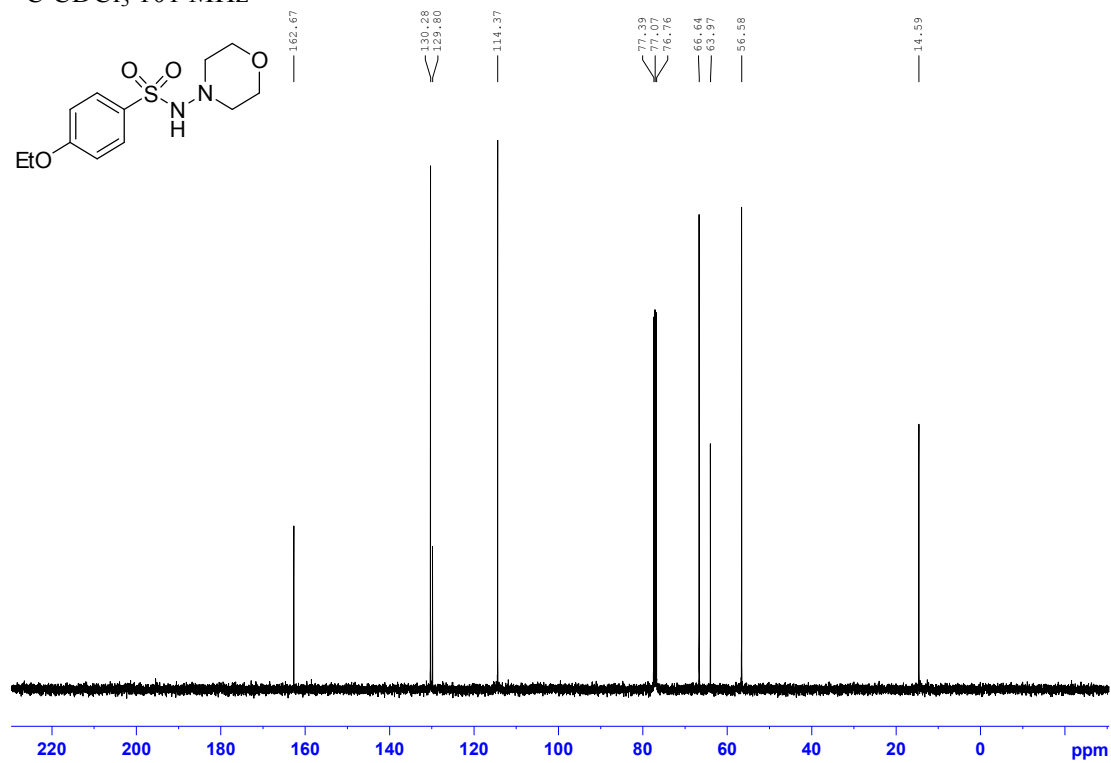
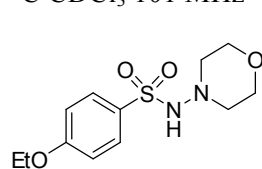
## 6) $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR Spectra

### 4-Ethoxy-*N*-(morpholin-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide, **9b**

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz

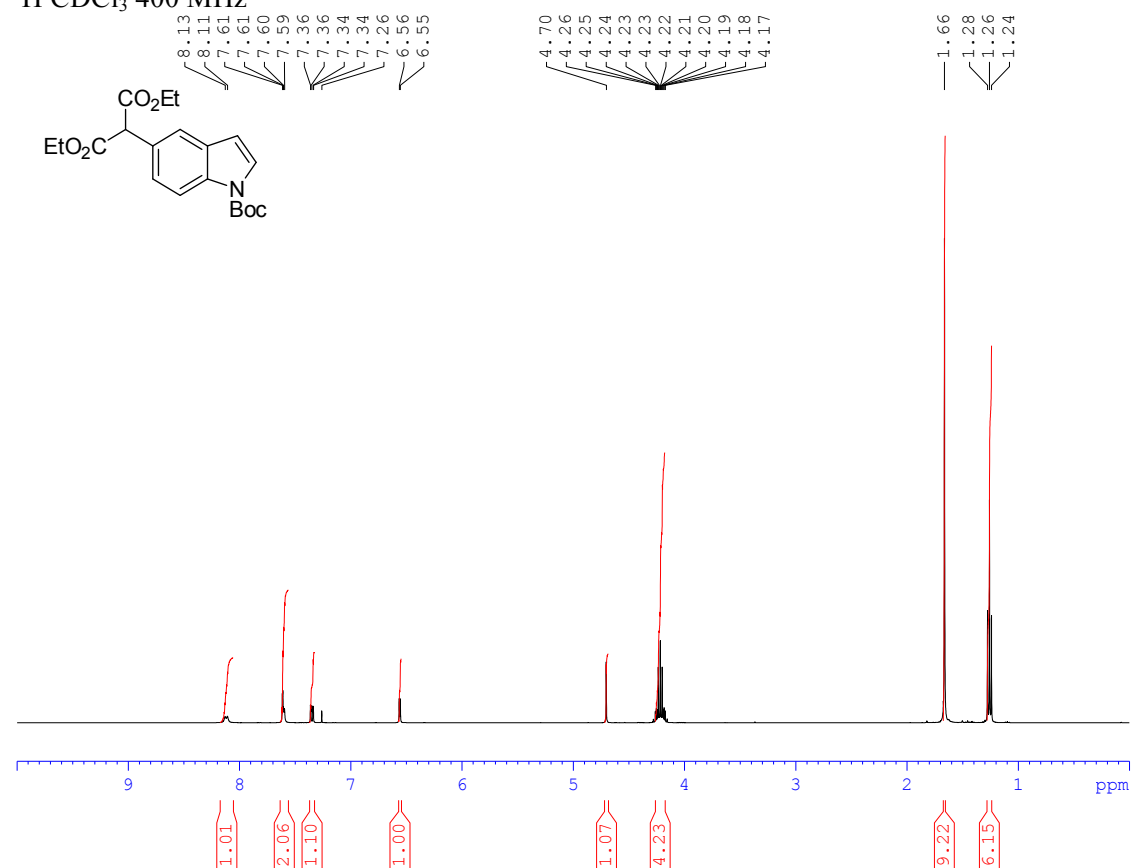


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz

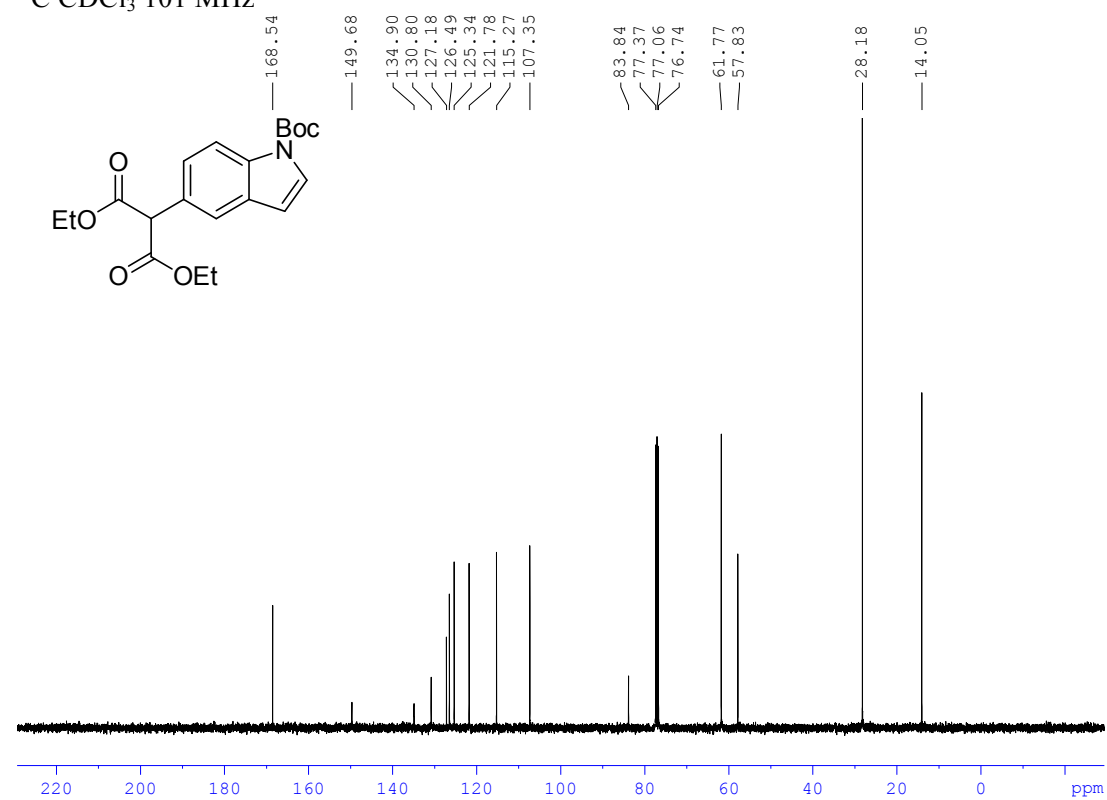


Diethyl [1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-1*H*-indol-5-yl]propanedioate, 12a

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz



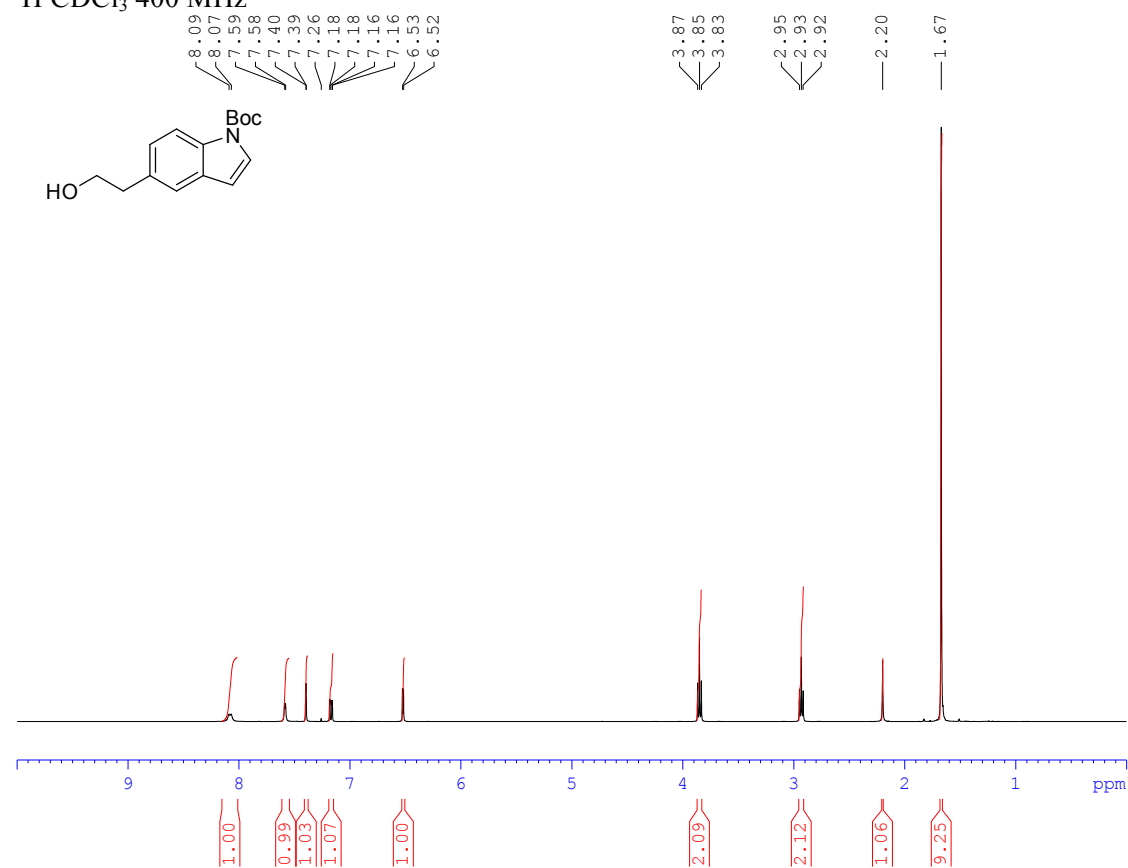
$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz



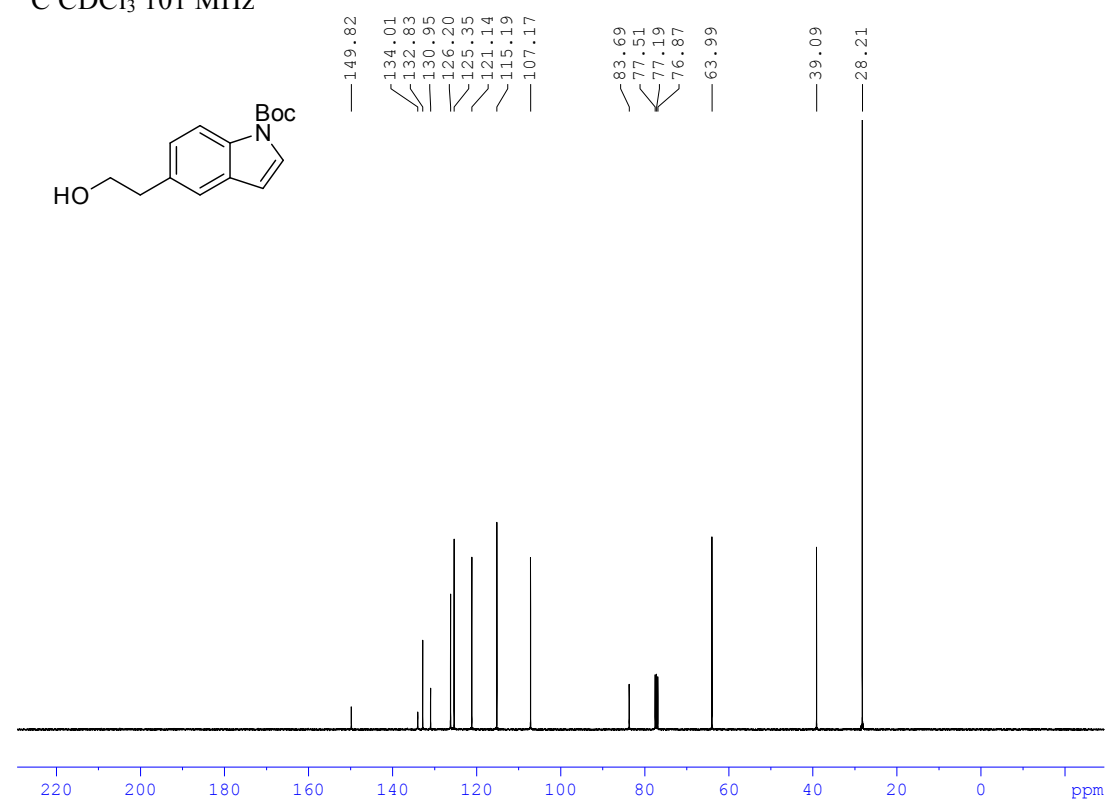


***tert*-Butyl 5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1*H*-indole-1-carboxylate, 12c**

<sup>1</sup>H CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz

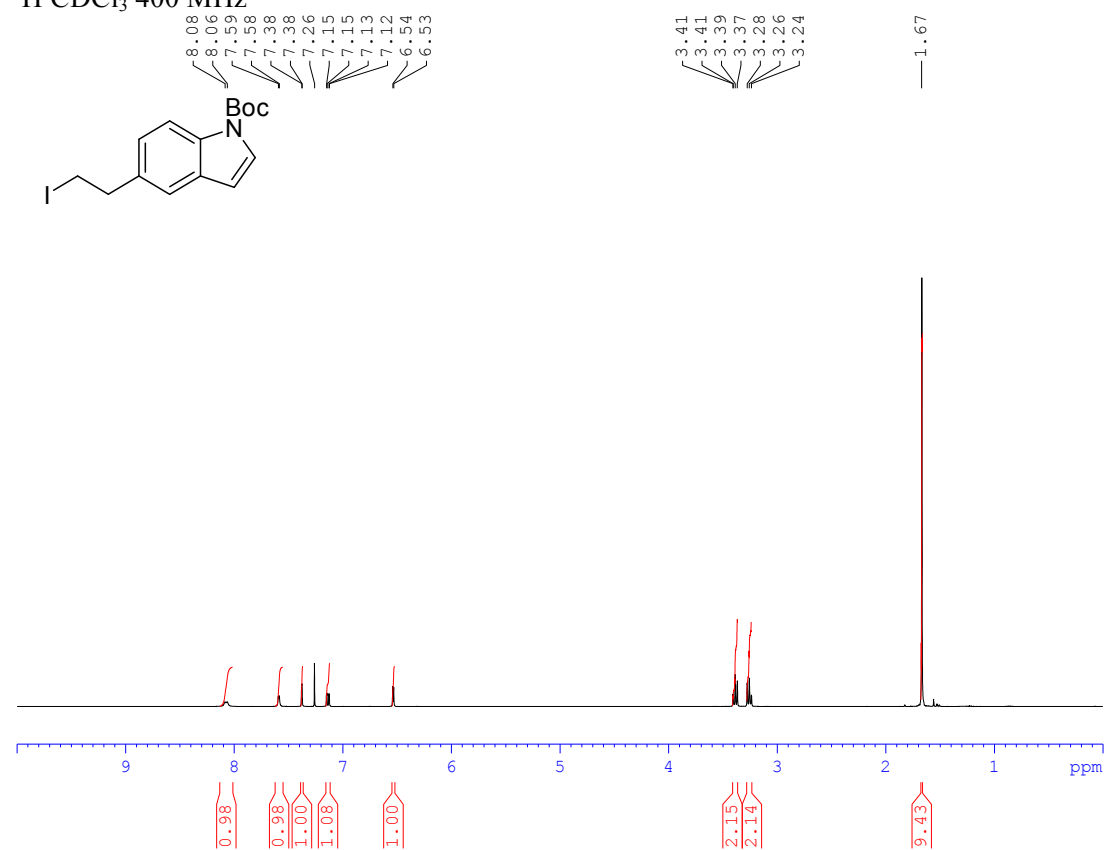


<sup>13</sup>C CDCl<sub>3</sub> 101 MHz

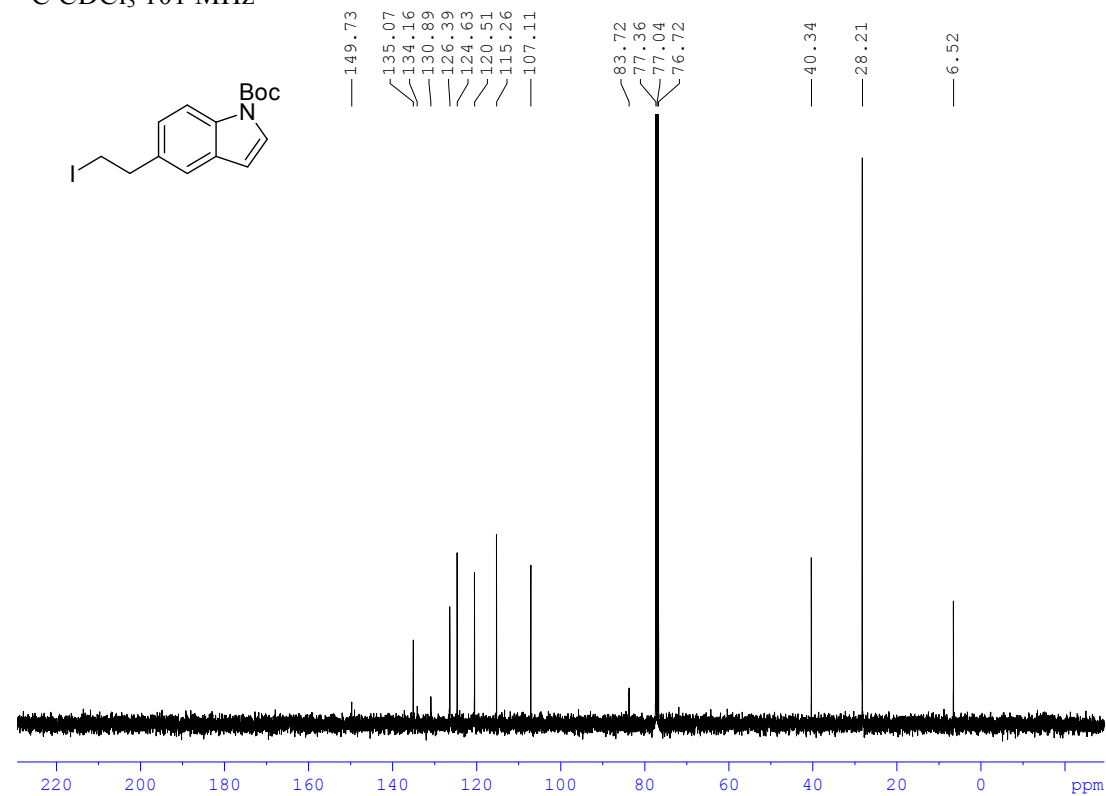


***tert*-Butyl 5-(2-iodoethyl)-1*H*-indole-1-carboxylate, 12d**

<sup>1</sup>H CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz

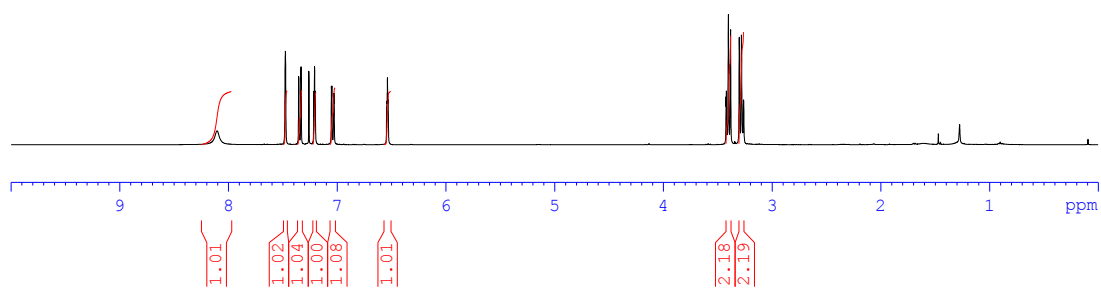
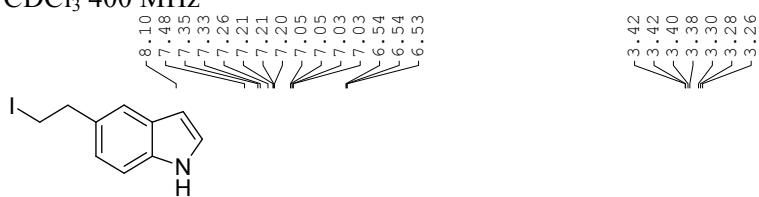


<sup>13</sup>C CDCl<sub>3</sub> 101 MHz

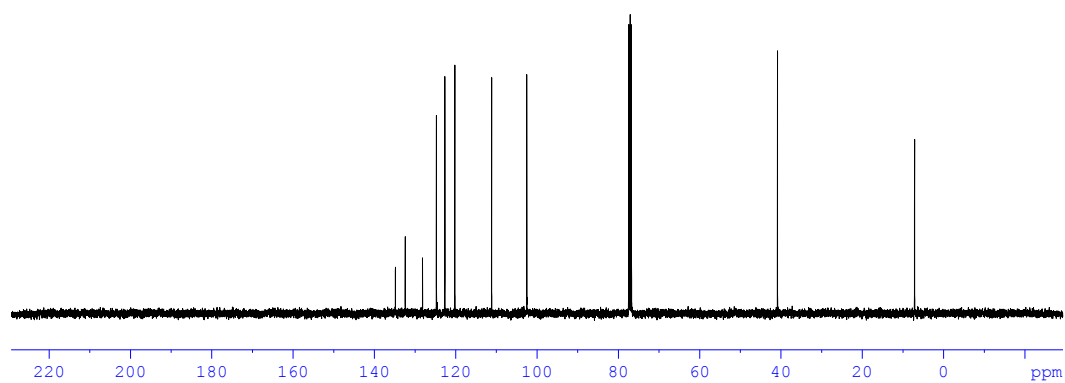
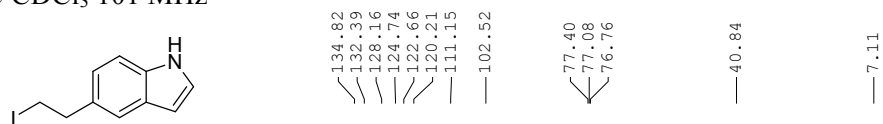


### 5-(2-Iodoethyl)-1H-indole, 12

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz

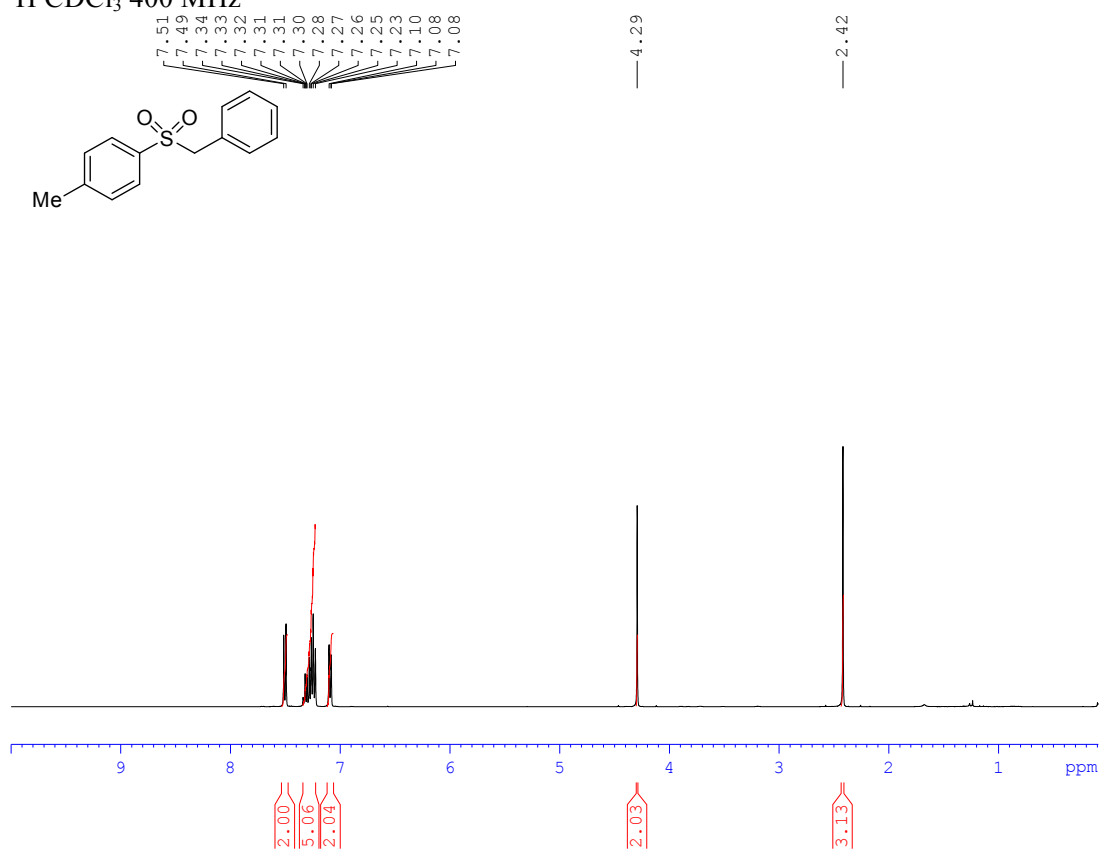
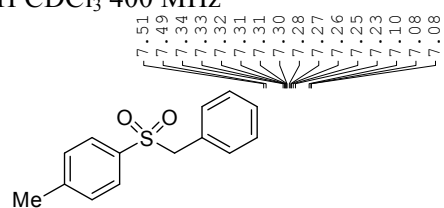


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz

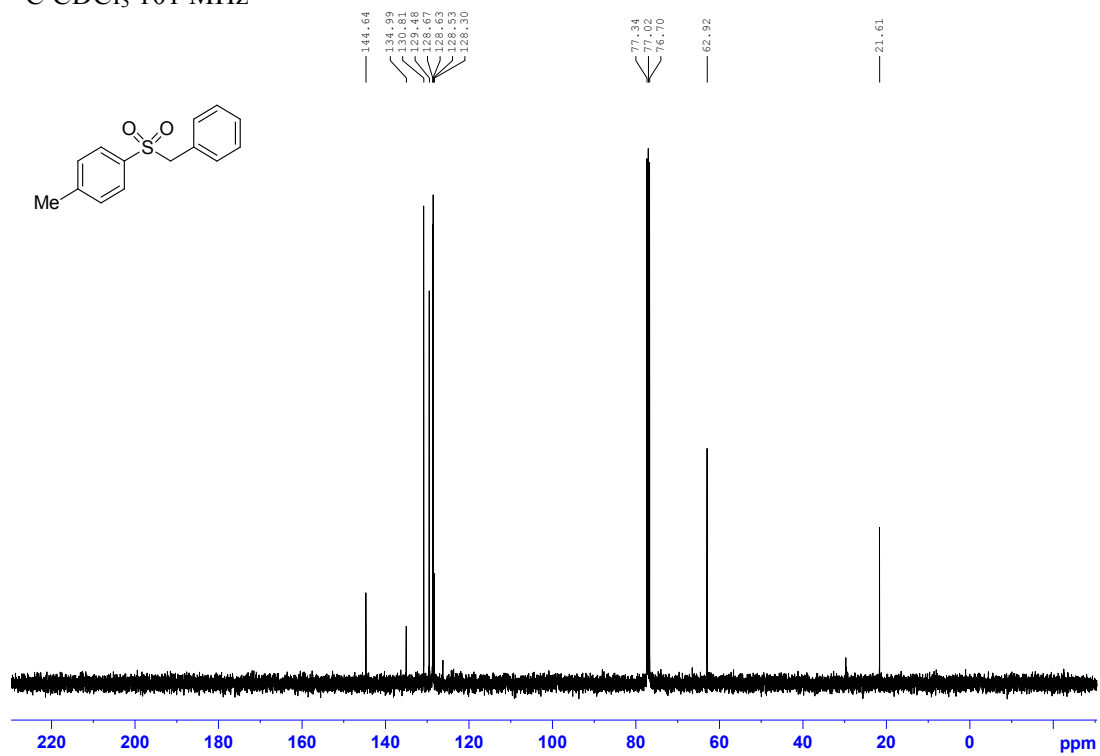
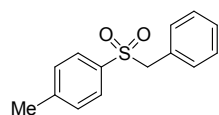


# Benzyl 4-methylphenyl sulfone, 10a

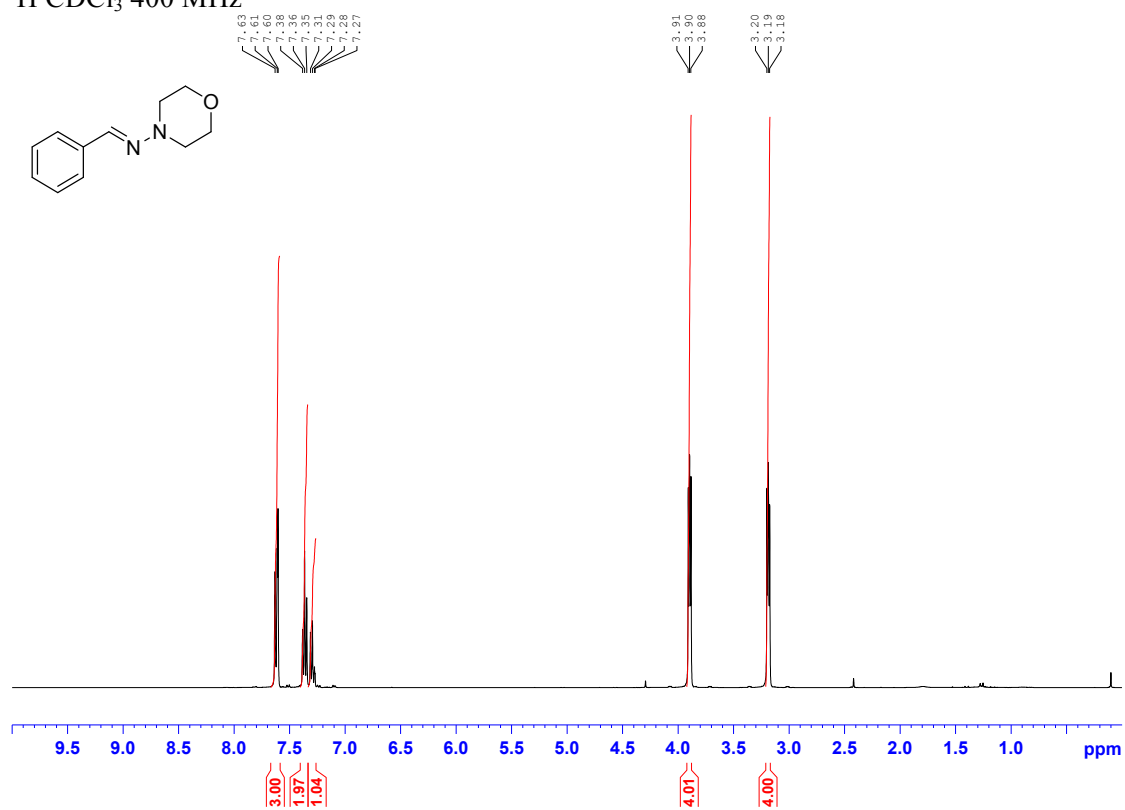
$^1\text{H}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz



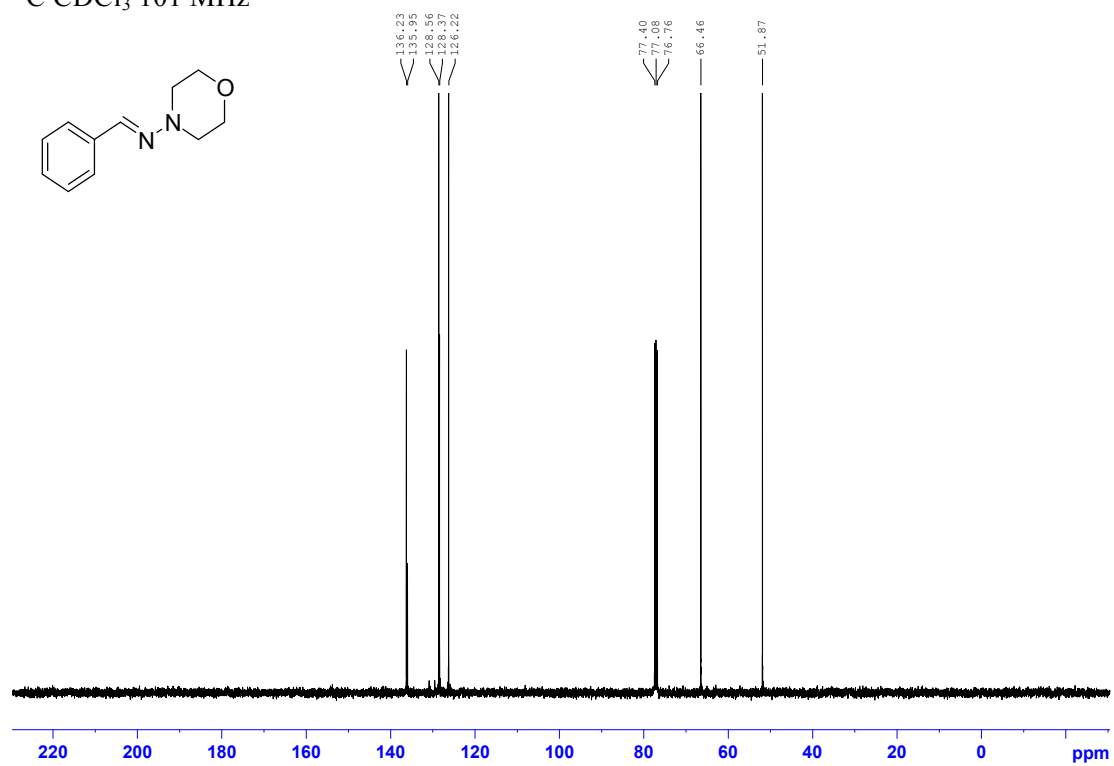
$^{13}\text{C}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 101 MHz



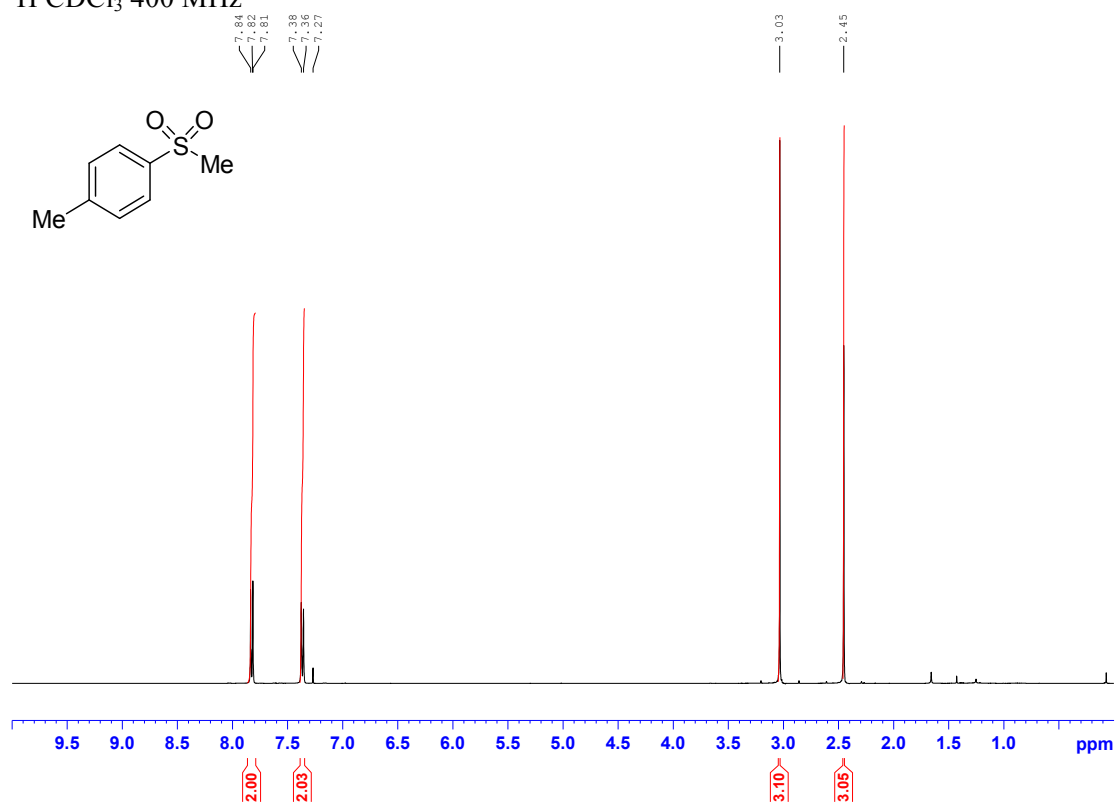
***N*-[(*E*)-Phenylmethylidene]morpholin-4-amine, 11**  
<sup>1</sup>H CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz



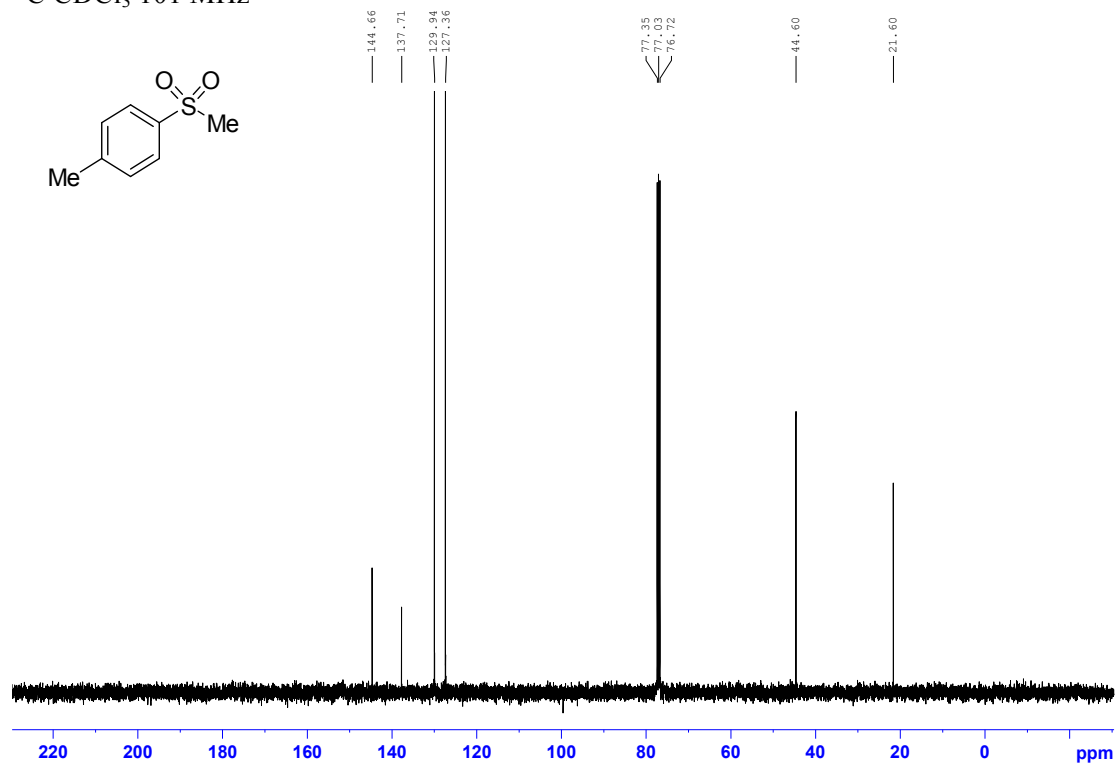
<sup>13</sup>C CDCl<sub>3</sub> 101 MHz



**Methyl 4-methylphenyl sulfone, 10b**  
 $^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz

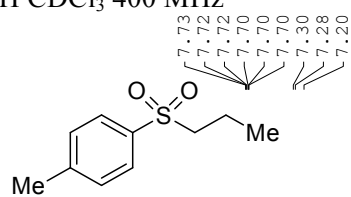


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz

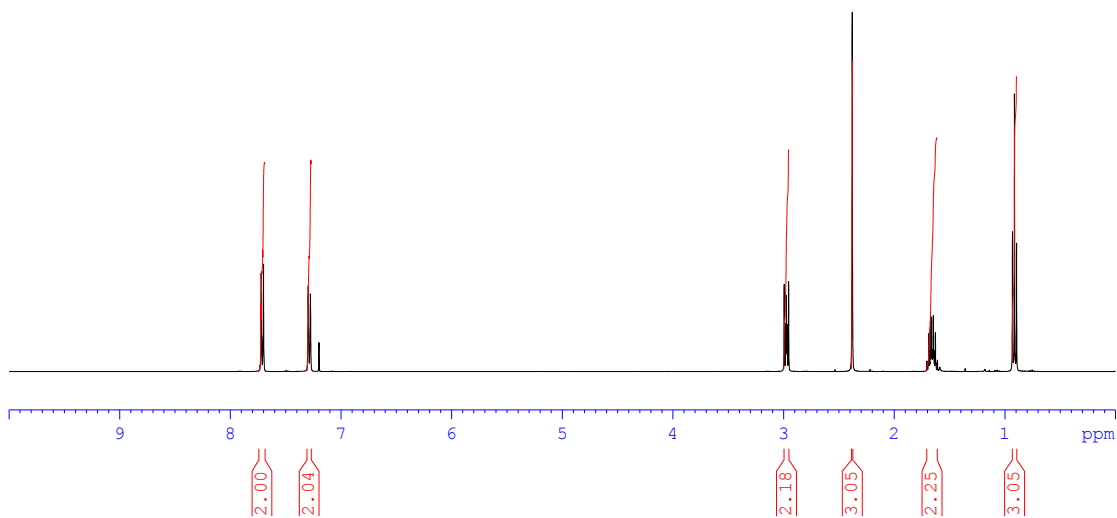


### 4-Methylphenyl propyl sulfone, 10c

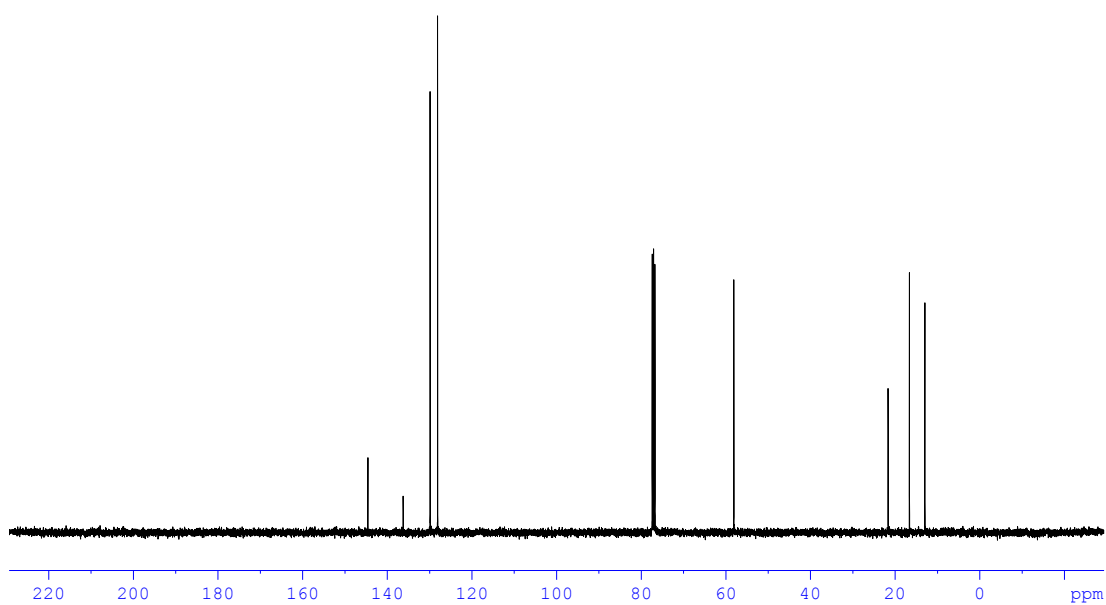
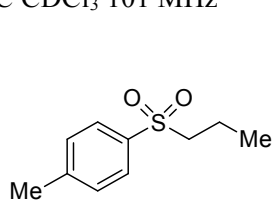
$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz



2.99, 2.98, 2.97, 2.97, 2.95, 2.38, 1.71, 1.69, 1.69, 1.68, 1.67, 1.67, 1.66, 1.66, 1.65, 1.64, 1.64, 1.63, 1.62, 1.61, 0.93

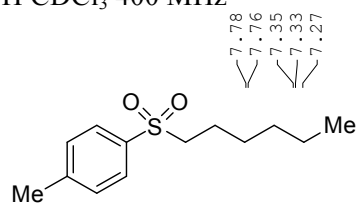


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz



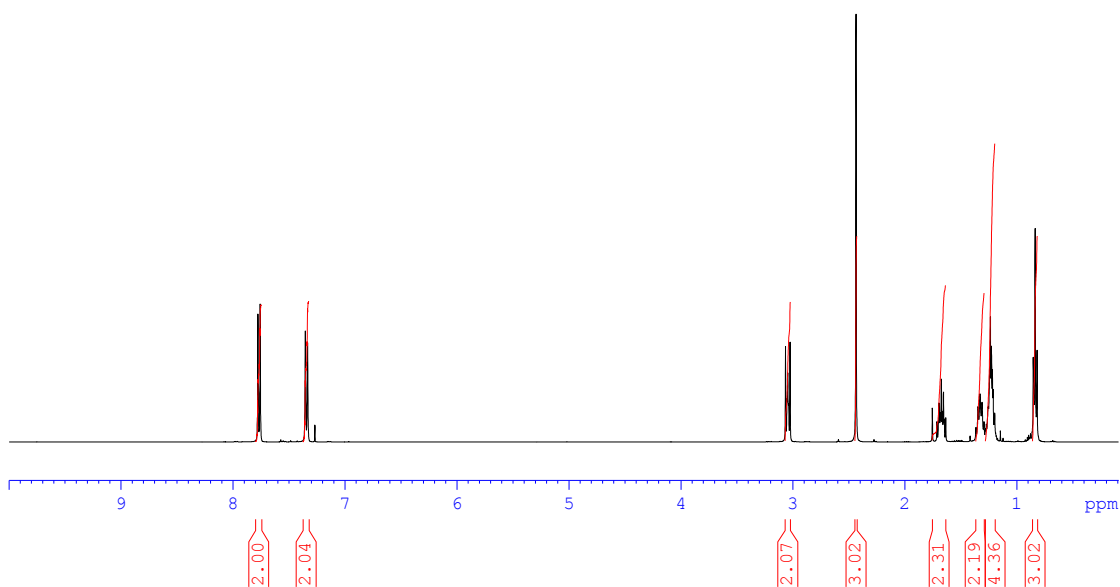
# Hexyl 4-methylphenyl sulfone, 10d

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz

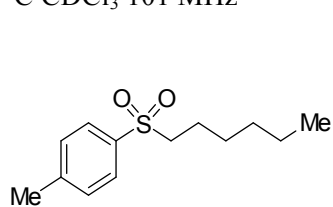


7.78  
7.76  
7.35  
7.33  
7.27

3.07  
3.05  
3.05  
3.04  
3.04  
3.03  
2.44  
1.75  
1.71  
1.70  
1.68  
1.67  
1.66  
1.66  
1.65  
1.64  
1.37  
1.35  
1.33  
1.31  
1.29  
1.27  
1.26  
1.25



$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz

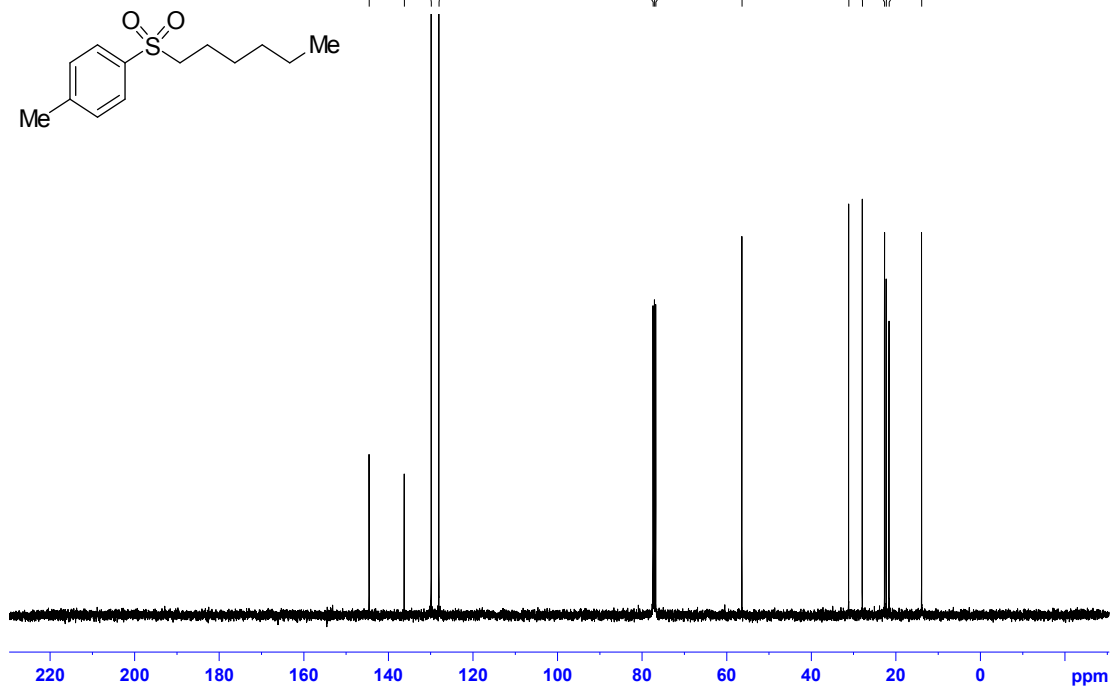


144.53  
136.23  
129.83  
128.03

77.38  
77.07  
76.75

56.38

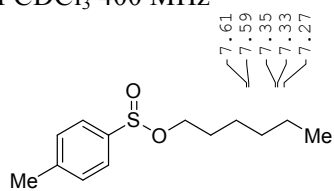
31.14  
27.91  
22.25  
21.59  
13.88





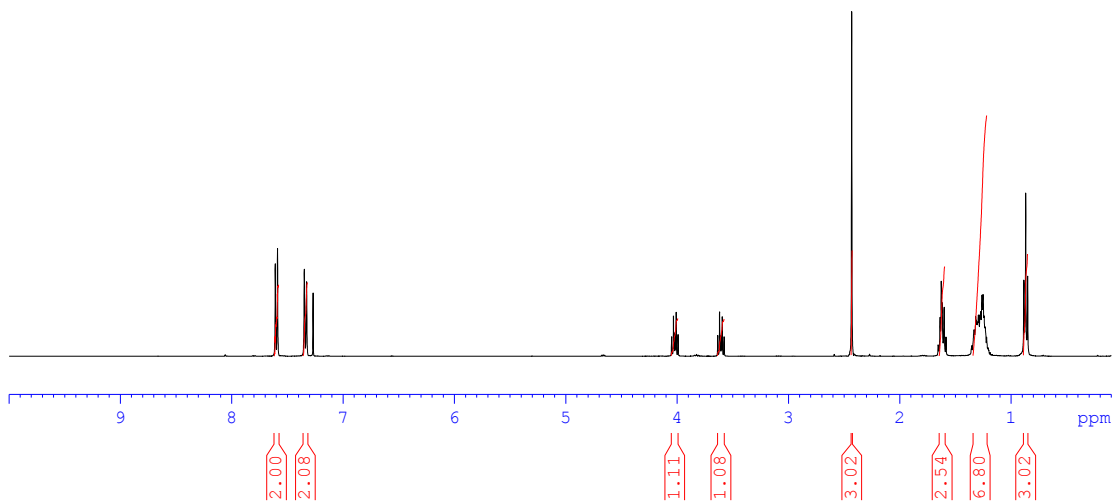
# Hexyl 4-methylbenzenesulfinate, 10'd

$^1\text{H}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz

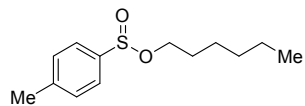


7.61  
7.59  
7.35  
7.33  
7.27

4.05  
4.03  
4.03  
4.02  
4.01  
3.99  
3.64  
3.62  
3.61  
3.60  
3.59  
3.58  
2.43  
1.66  
1.64  
1.63  
1.62  
1.60  
1.58  
1.35  
1.33  
1.32  
1.31  
1.30  
1.30  
1.29  
1.28



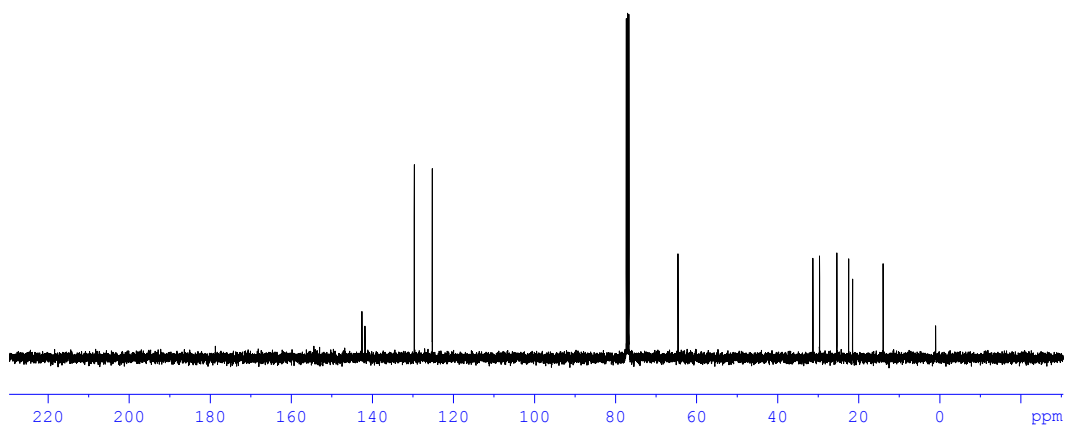
$^{13}\text{C}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 101 MHz



142.58  
141.82  
129.65  
125.21

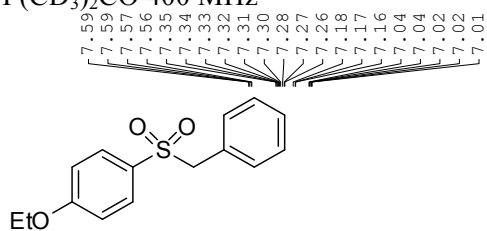
77.33  
77.01  
76.69  
64.58

31.29  
29.65  
25.37  
22.47  
21.49  
13.95  
1.04



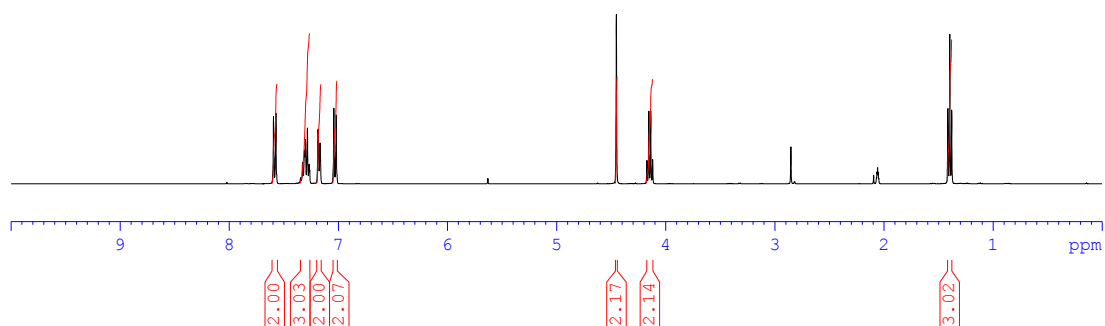
**Benzyl 4-ethoxyphenyl sulfone, 10e**

$^1\text{H}$  ( $\text{CD}_3$ ) $_2\text{CO}$  400 MHz

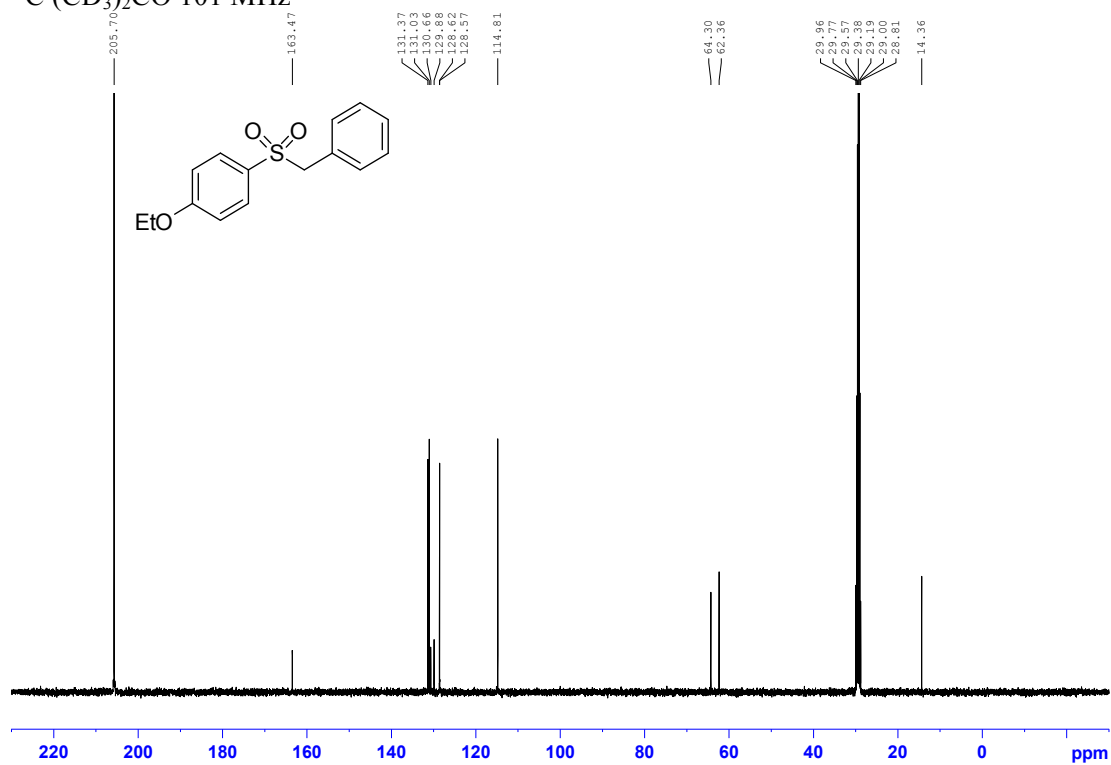
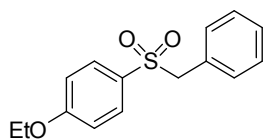


4.17  
4.15  
4.14  
4.12

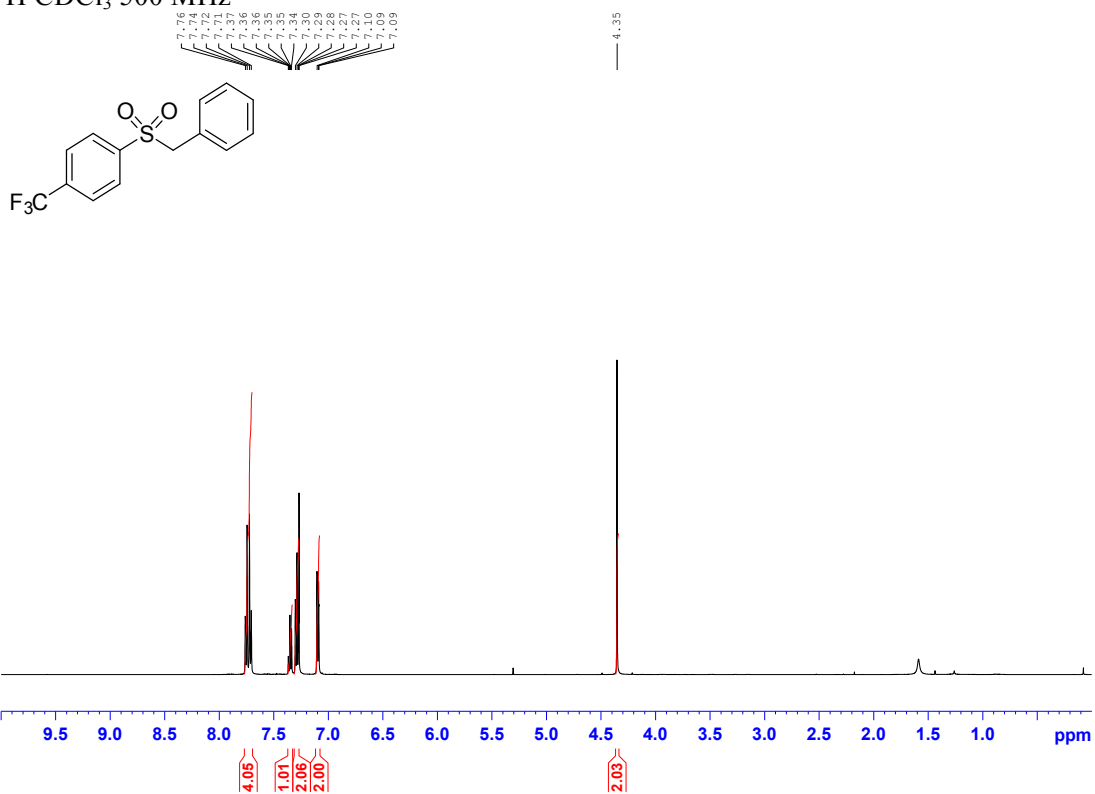
2.85  
2.10  
2.07  
2.06  
2.05  
2.05  
1.42  
1.40  
1.38



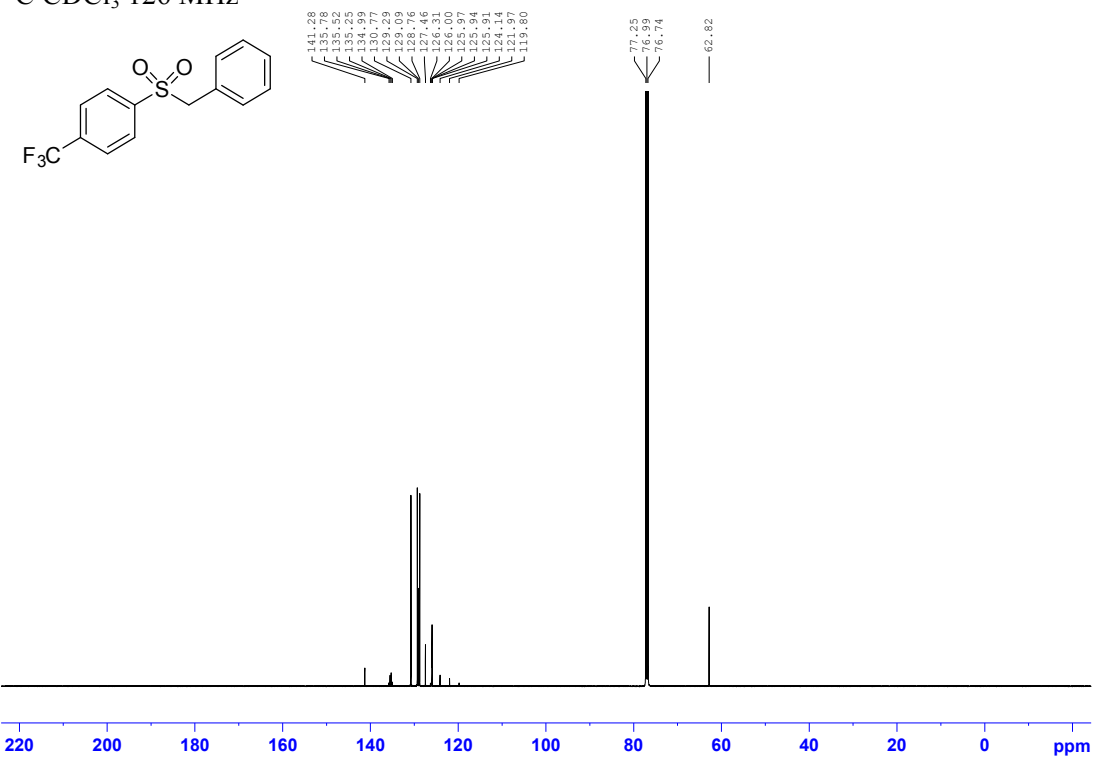
$^{13}\text{C}$  ( $\text{CD}_3$ ) $_2\text{CO}$  101 MHz



**Benzyl 4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl sulfone, 10f**  
<sup>1</sup>H CDCl<sub>3</sub> 500 MHz

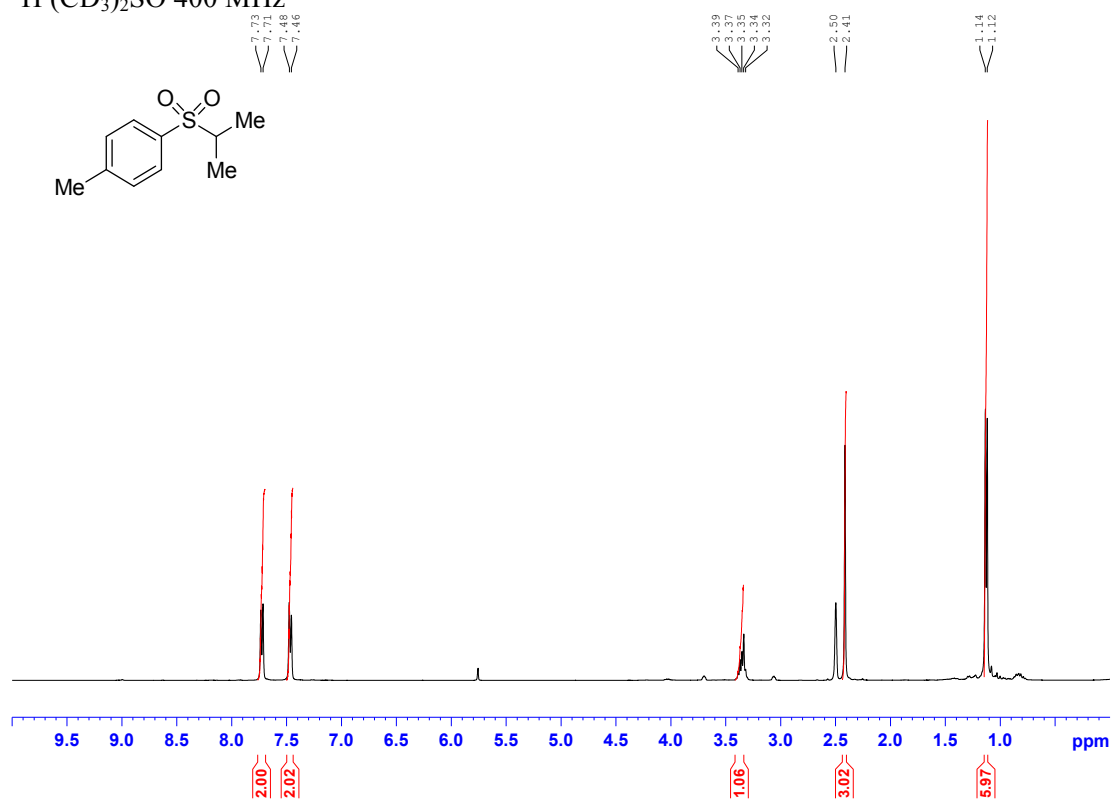
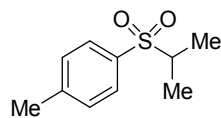


<sup>13</sup>C CDCl<sub>3</sub> 126 MHz

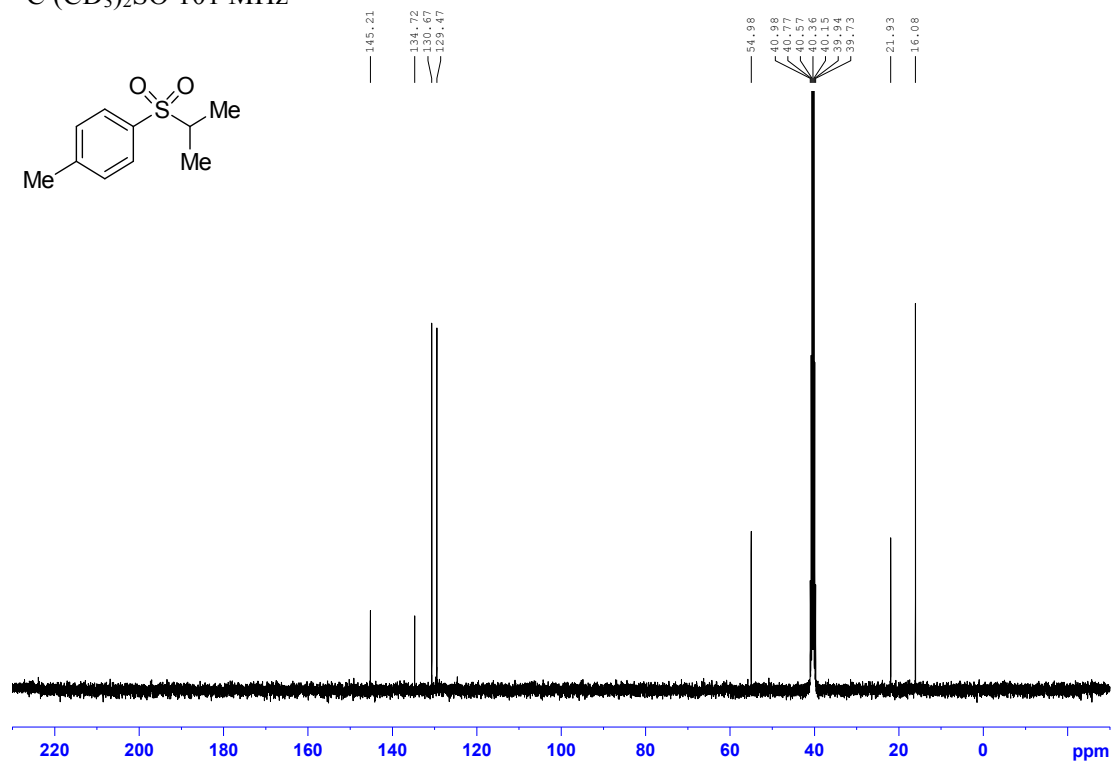
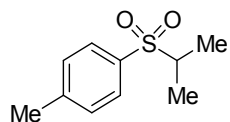


# 4-Methylphenyl propan-2-yl sulfone, 10g

$^1\text{H}$  ( $\text{CD}_3$ ) $_2\text{SO}$  400 MHz

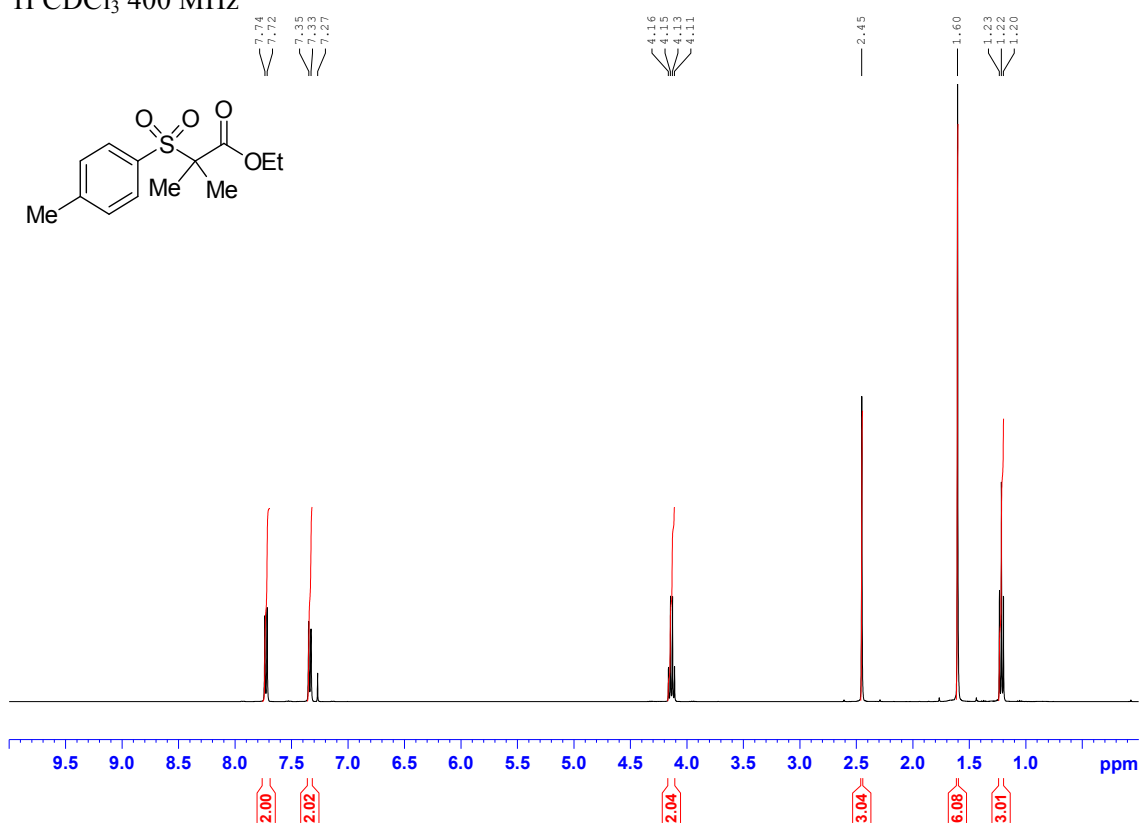


$^{13}\text{C}$  ( $\text{CD}_3$ ) $_2\text{SO}$  101 MHz

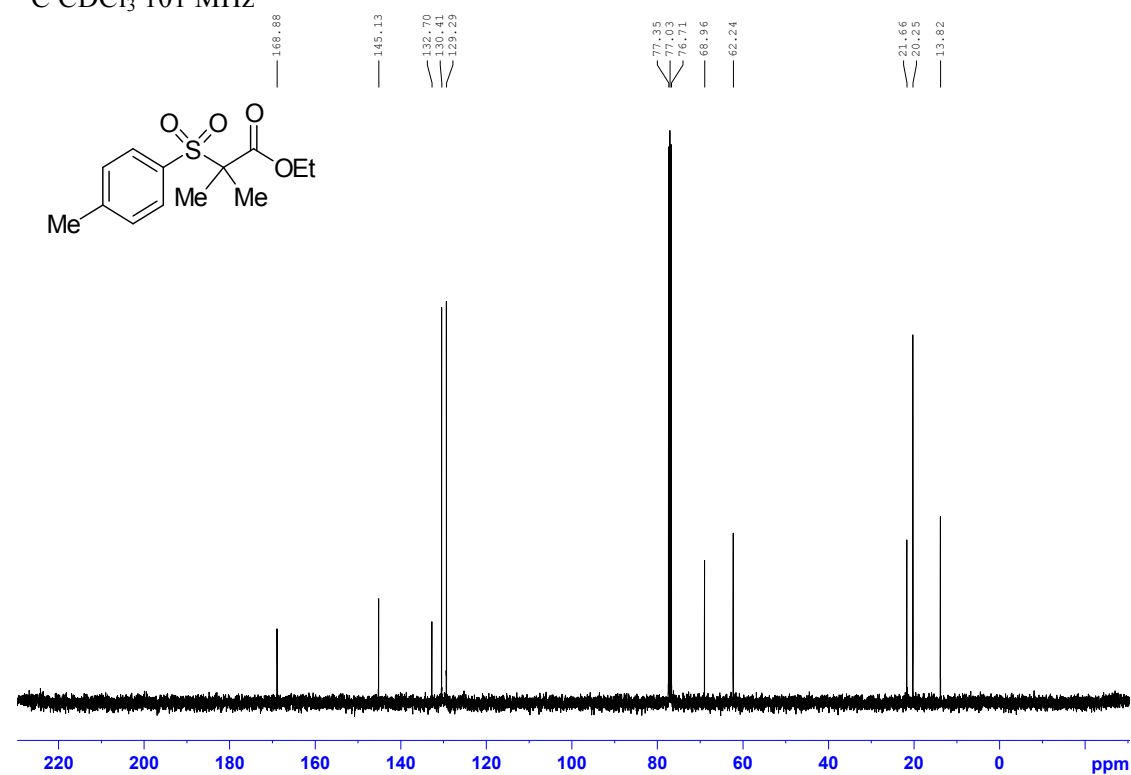


# Ethyl 2-methyl-2-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]propanoate, 10h

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz

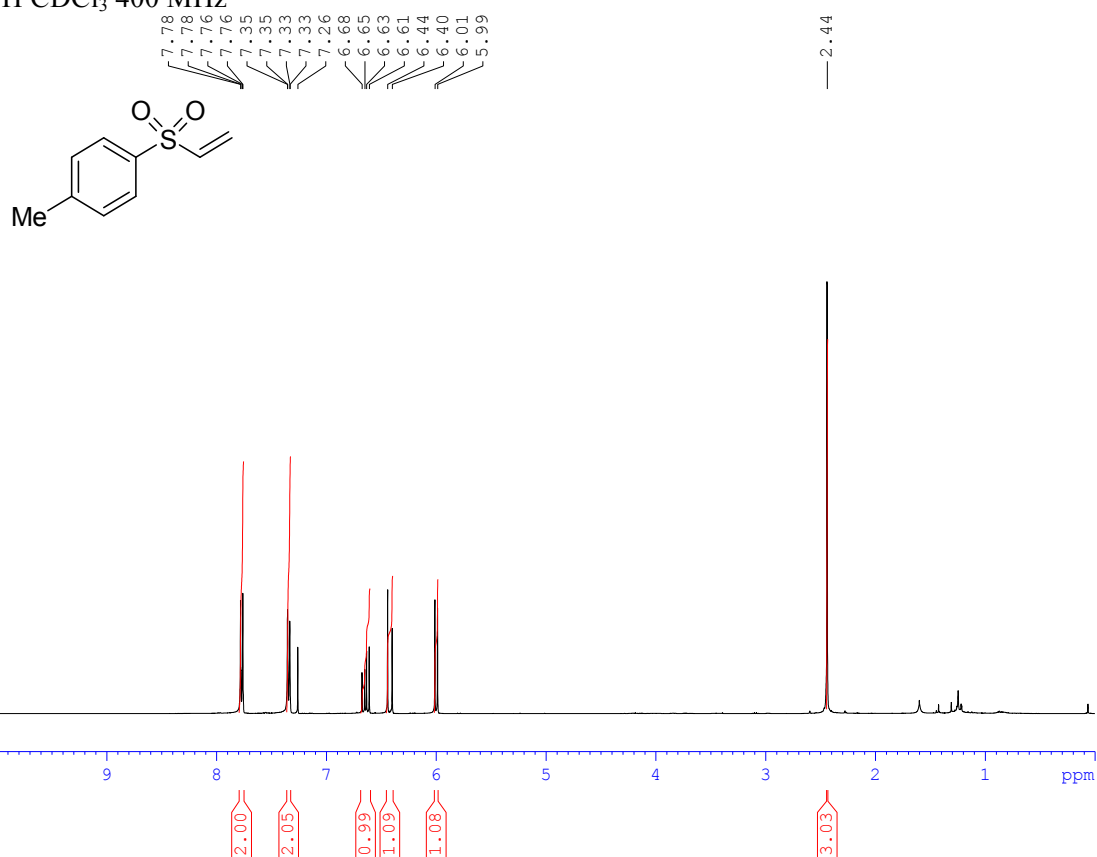


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz

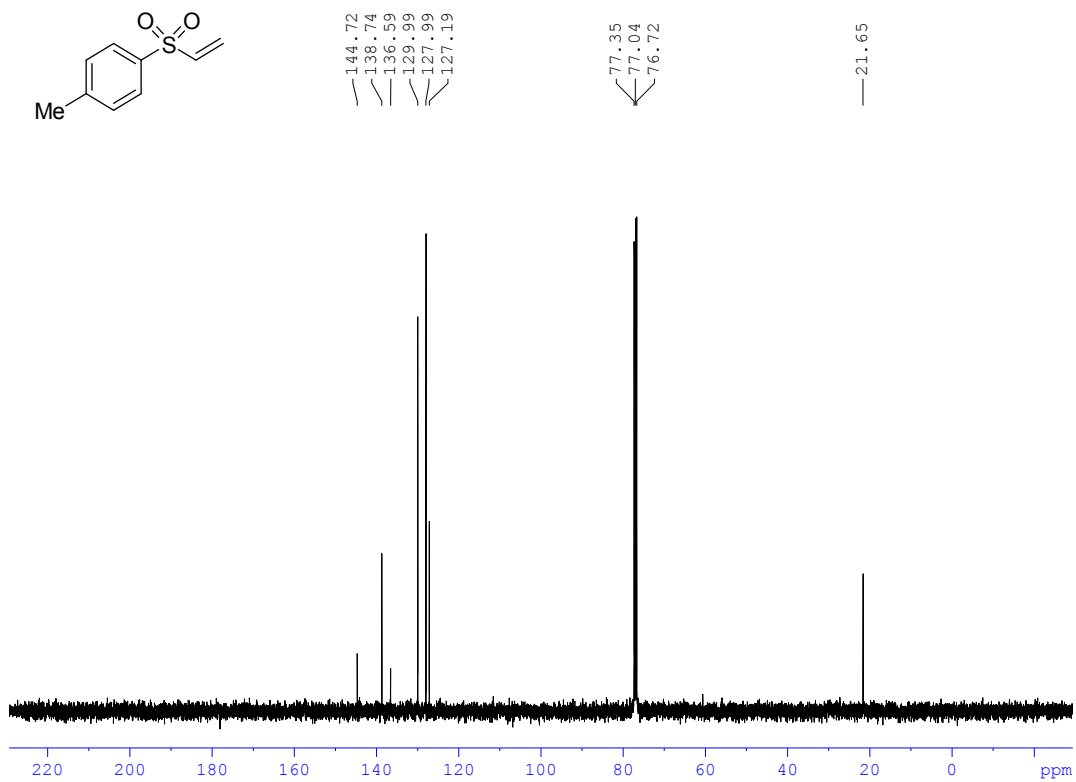


### Ethenyl 4-methylphenyl sulfone, 10i

$^1\text{H}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz

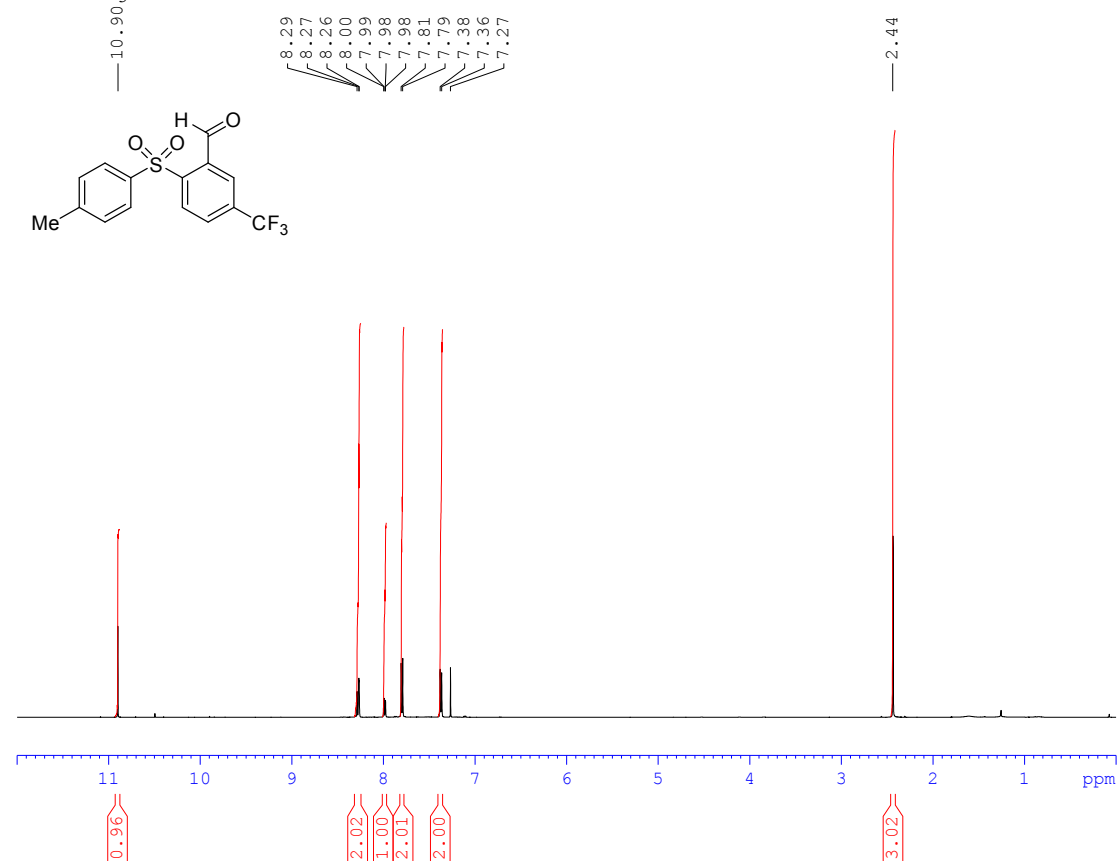


$^{13}\text{C}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 101 MHz

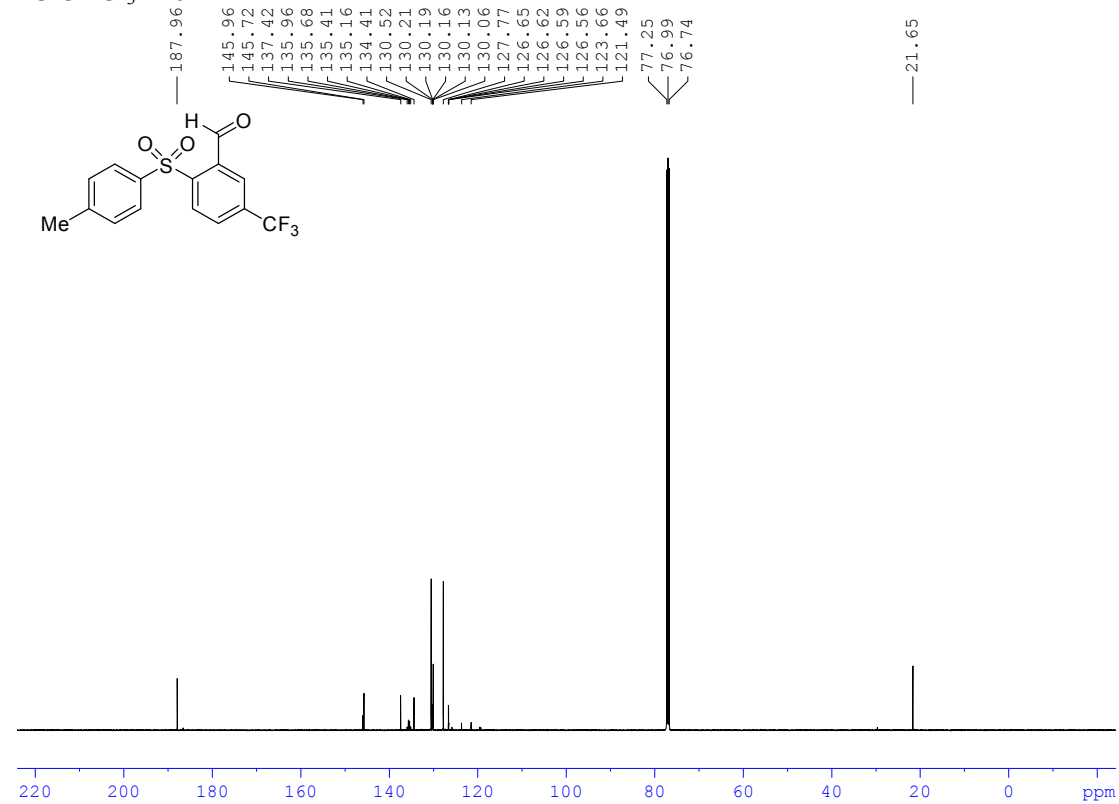


# 2-[4-Methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde, 10j

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  500 MHz



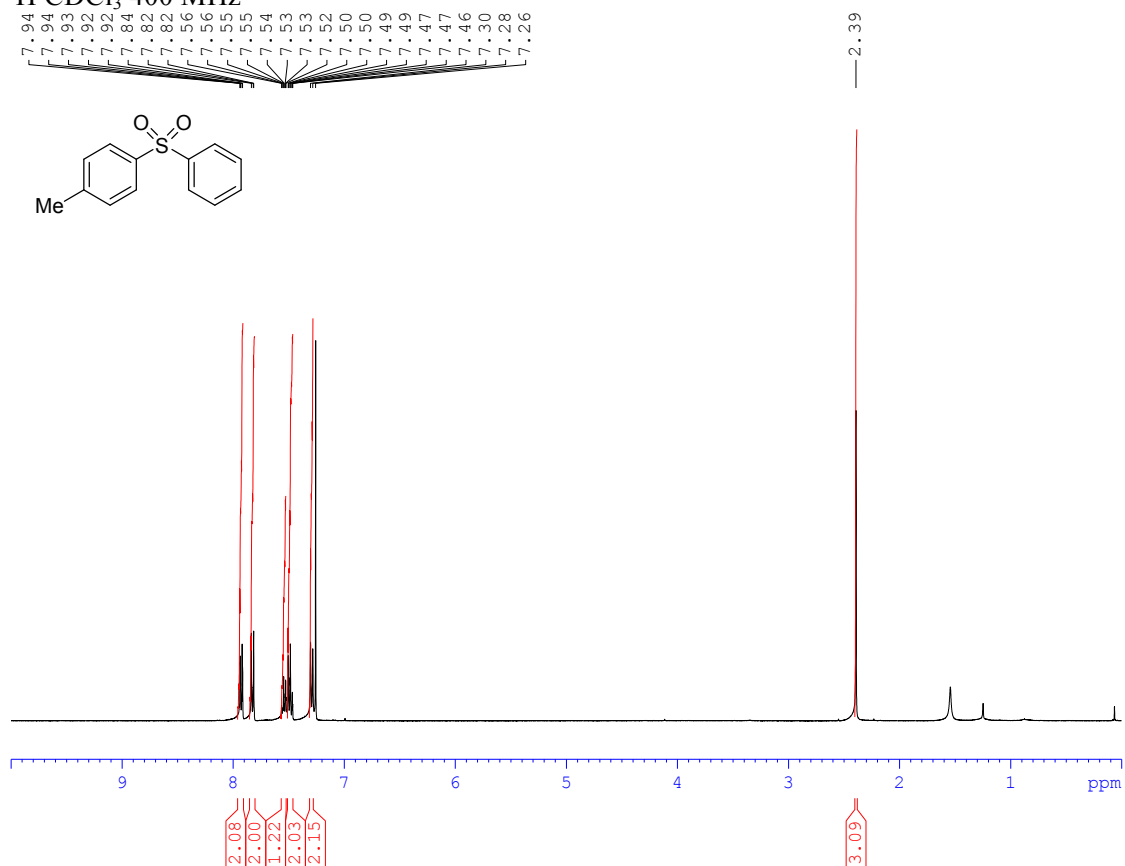
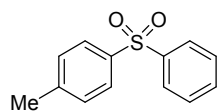
$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  126 MHz



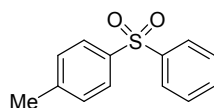
# 1-Methyl-4-(phenylsulfonyl)benzene, 10k

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz

7.94  
7.94  
7.93  
7.92  
7.84  
7.82  
7.56  
7.56  
7.55  
7.55  
7.54  
7.53  
7.53  
7.52  
7.50  
7.50  
7.49  
7.49  
7.47  
7.47  
7.46  
7.30  
7.28  
7.26



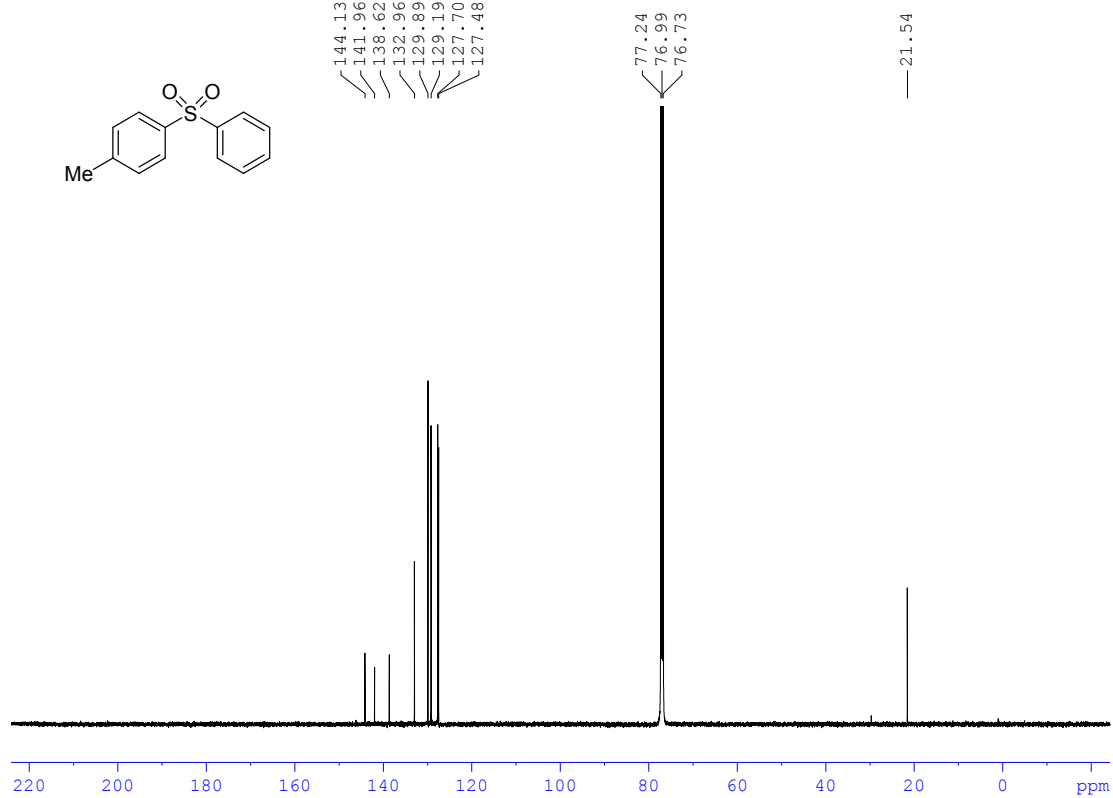
$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  126 MHz



144.13  
141.96  
138.62  
132.96  
129.89  
129.19  
127.70  
127.48

77.24  
76.99  
76.73

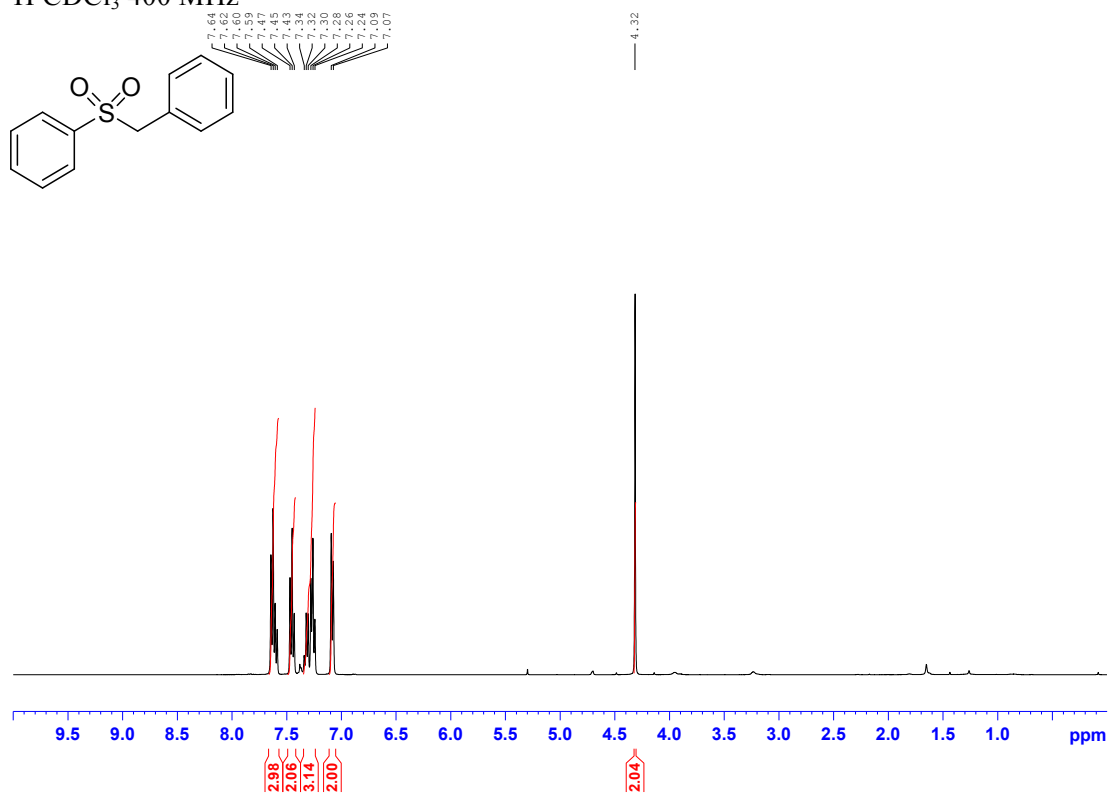
21.54



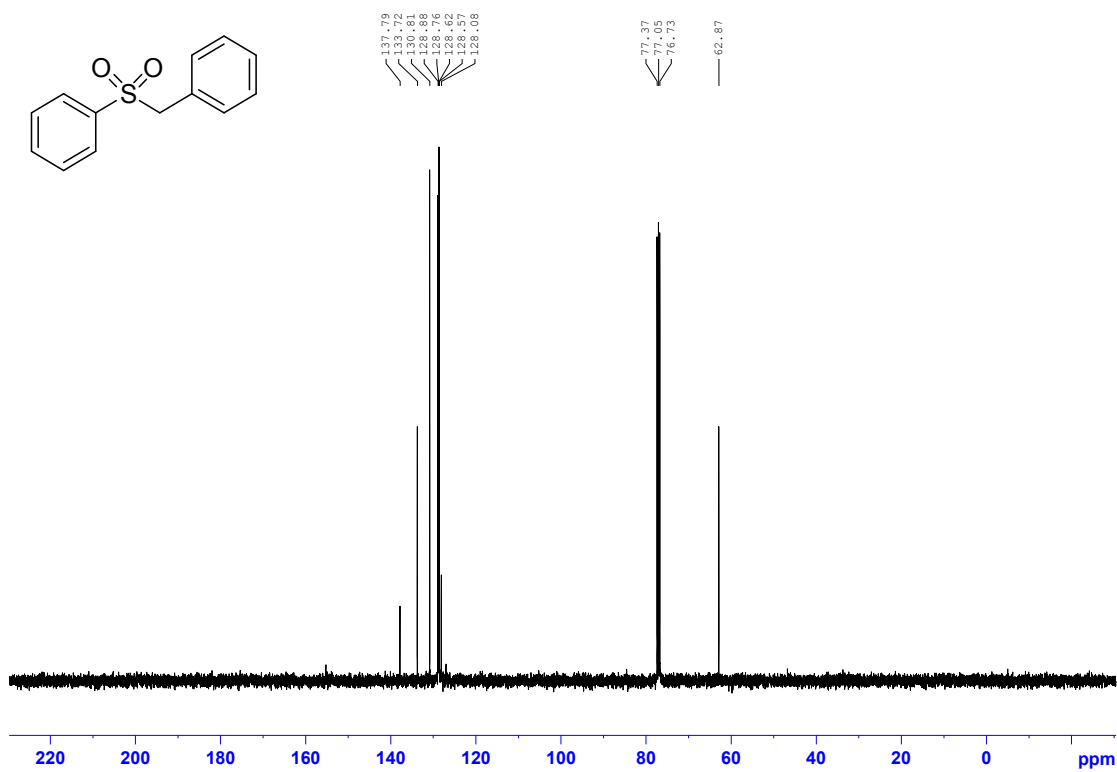


**Benzyl phenyl sulfone, 10l**

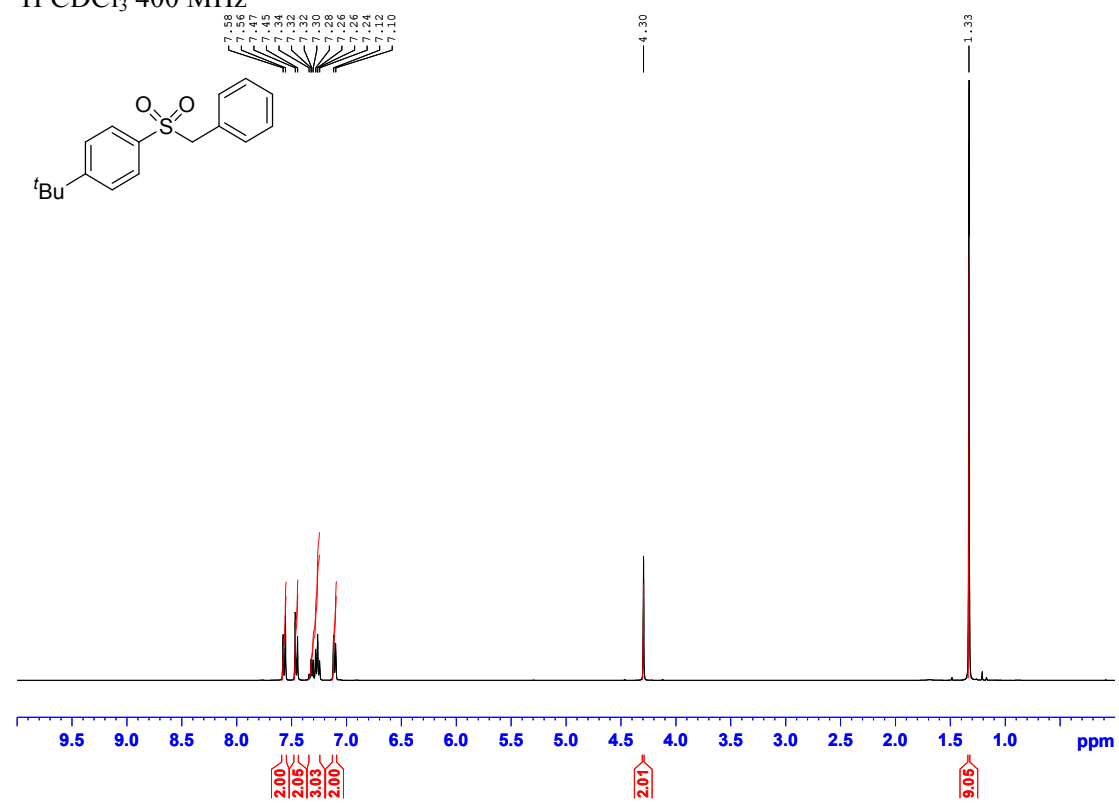
<sup>1</sup>H CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz



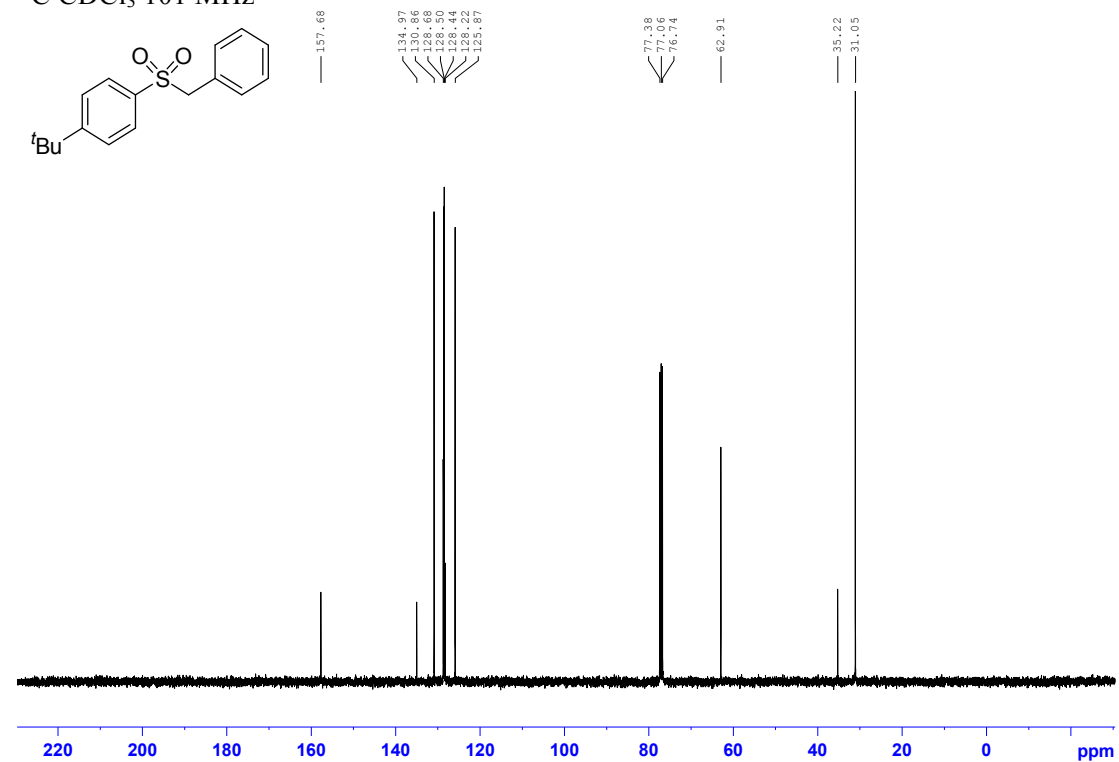
<sup>13</sup>C CDCl<sub>3</sub> 101 MHz



**Benzyl 4-*tert*-butylphenyl sulfone, 10m**  
<sup>1</sup>H CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz

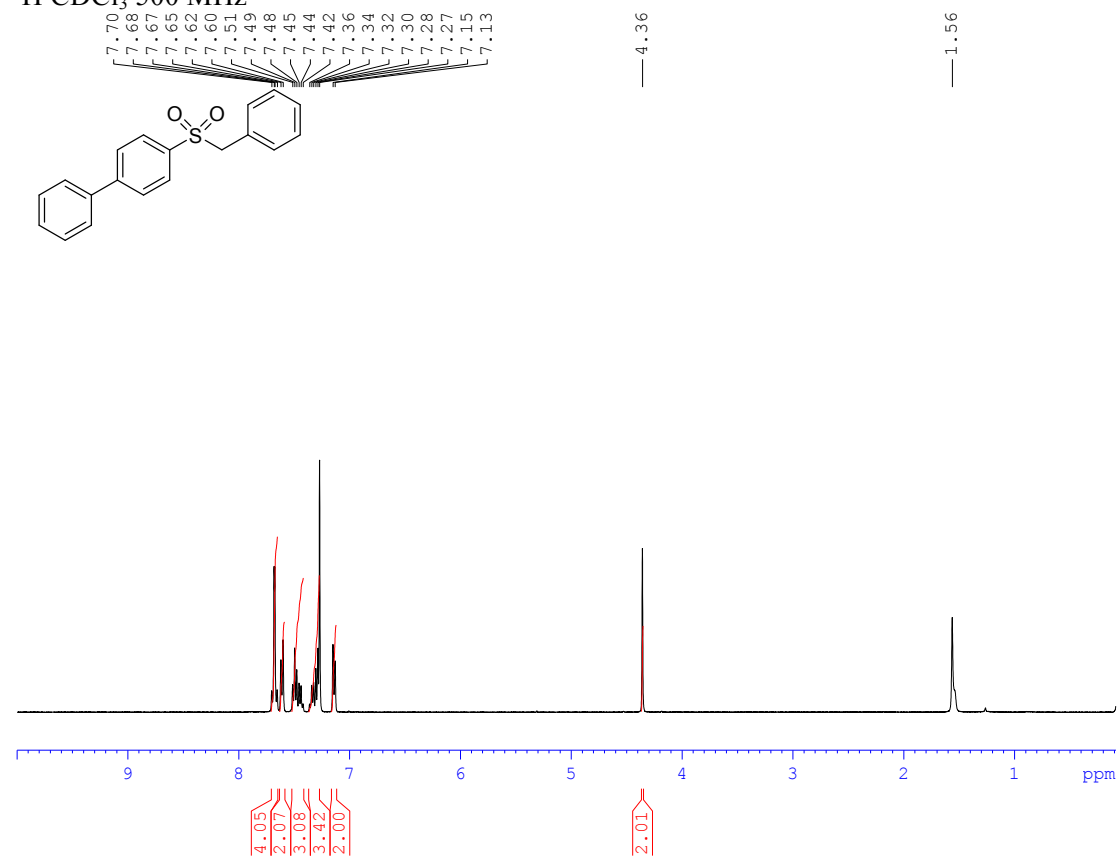


<sup>13</sup>C CDCl<sub>3</sub> 101 MHz

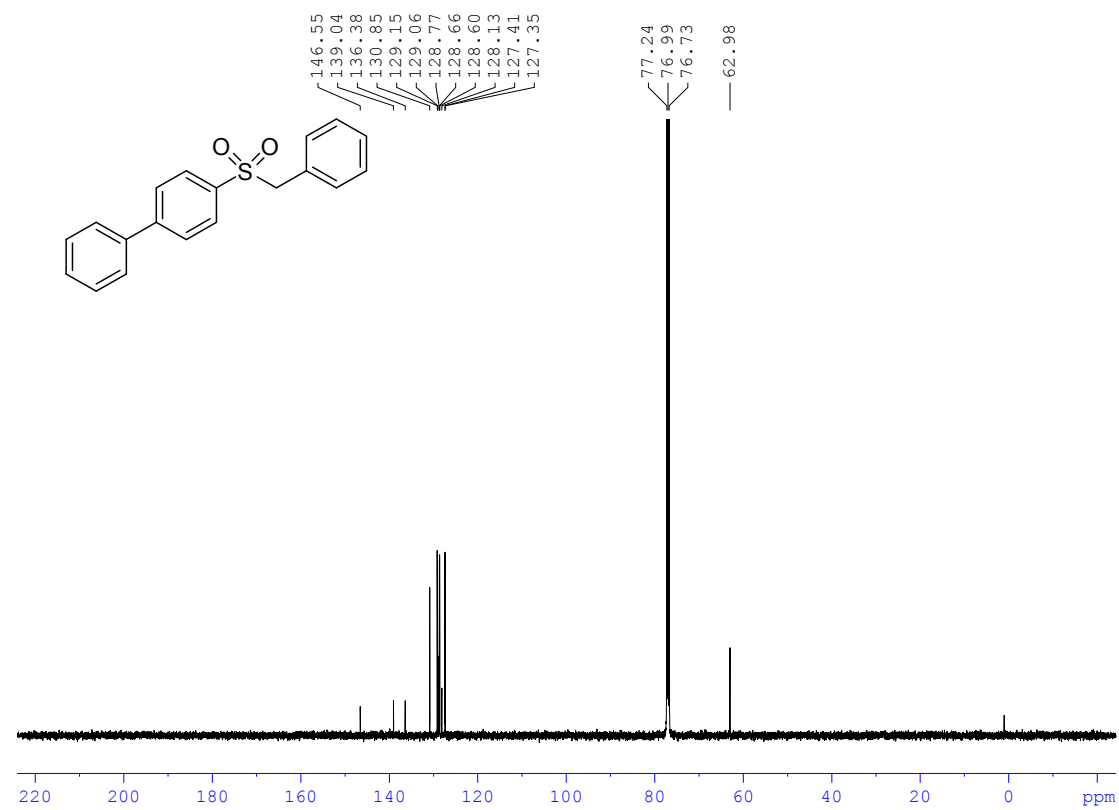


### 4-(Benzylsulfonyl)biphenyl, 10n

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  500 MHz

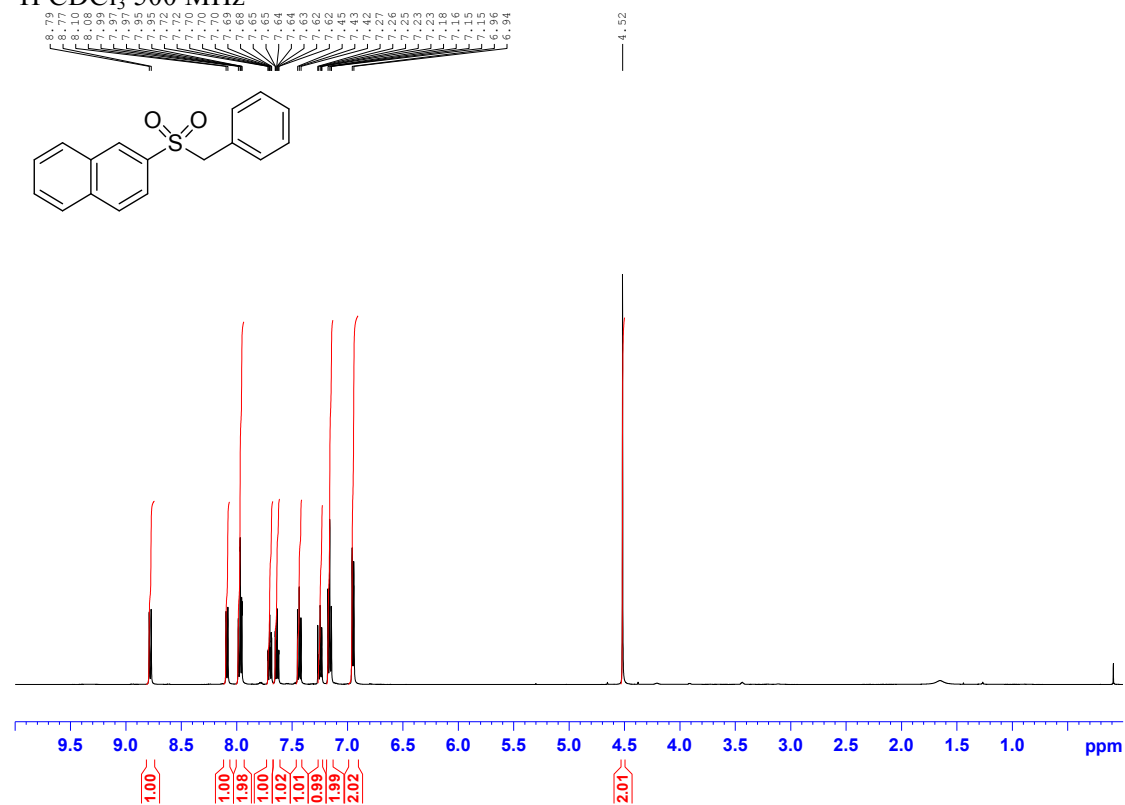


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  126 MHz

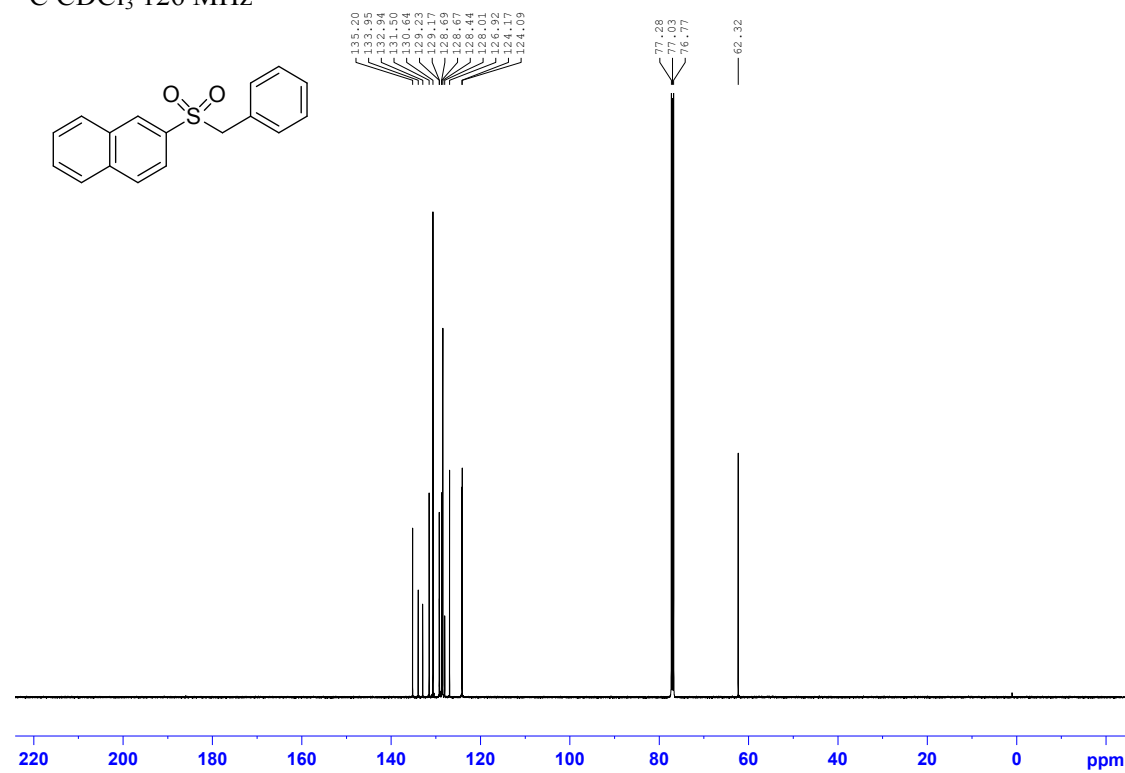


# Benzyl 2-naphthyl sulfone, 10o

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  500 MHz

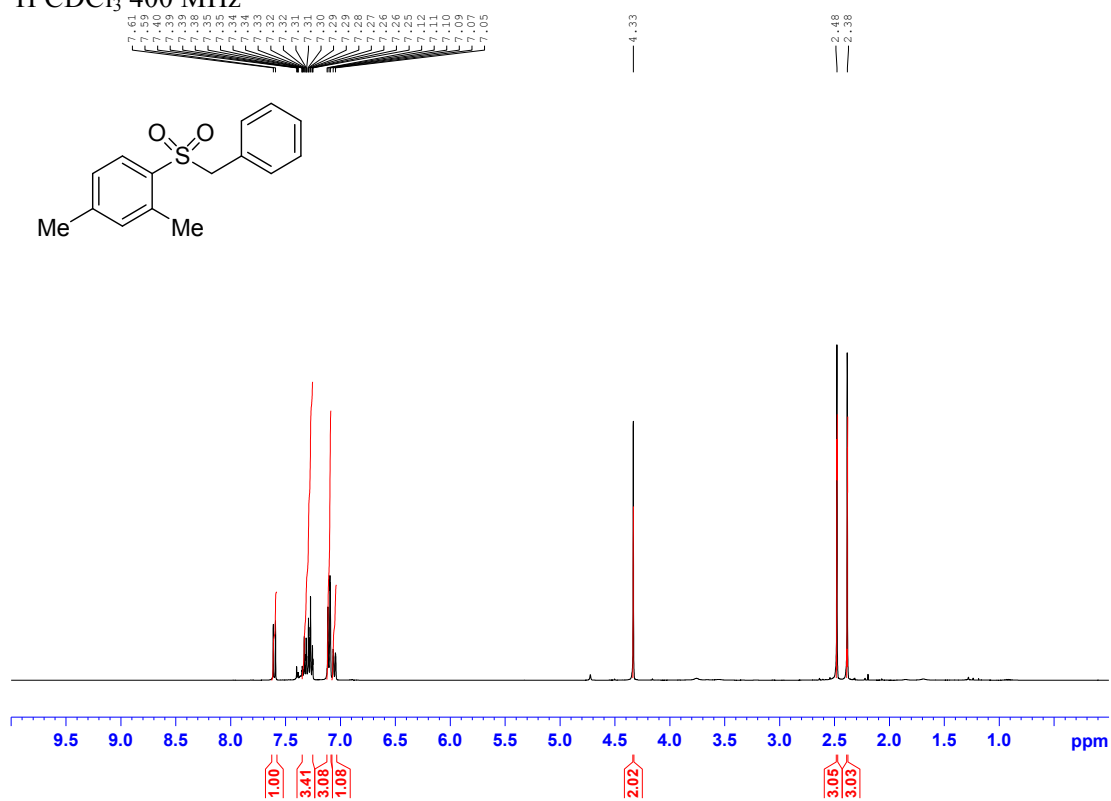
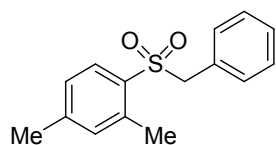


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  126 MHz

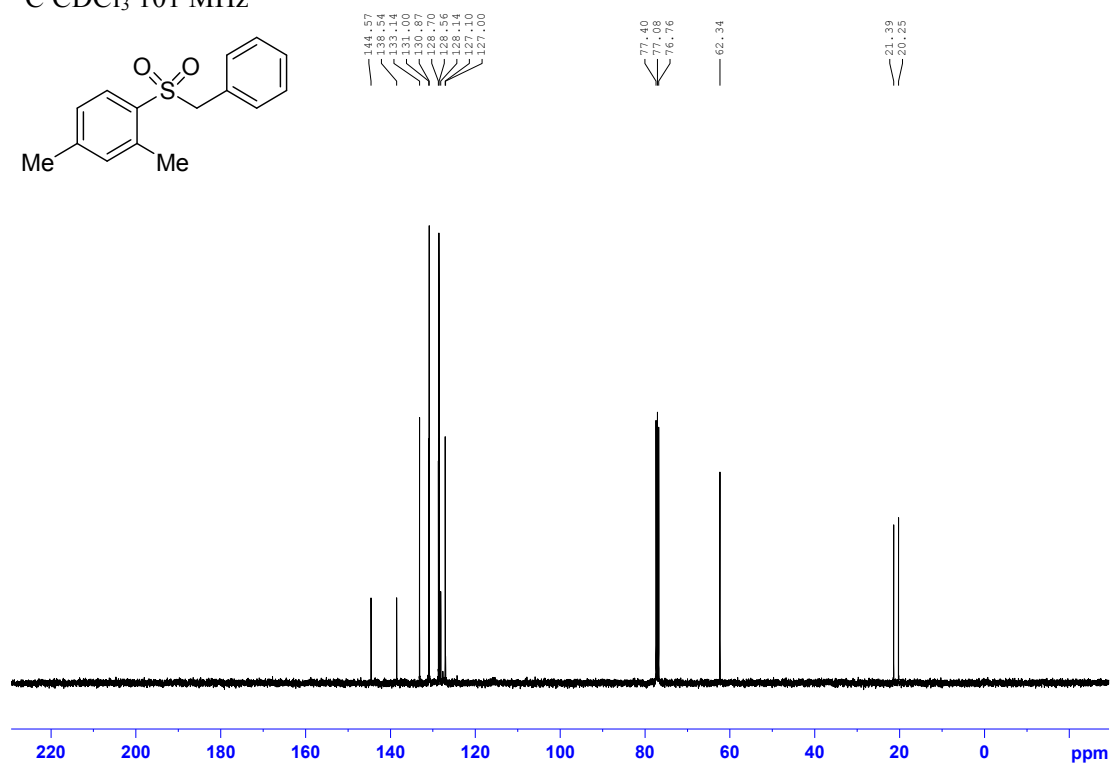
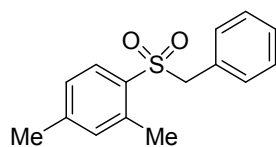


# Benzyl 2,4-dimethylphenyl sulfone, 10p

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz

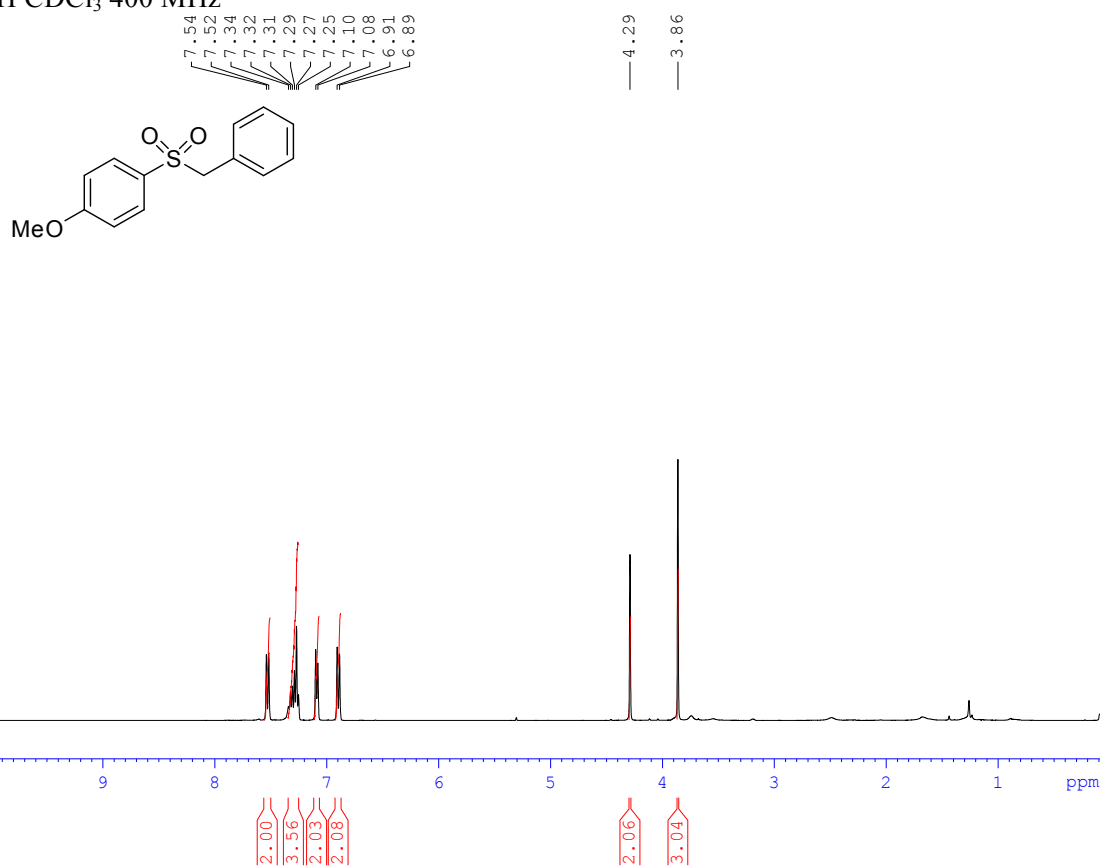


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz

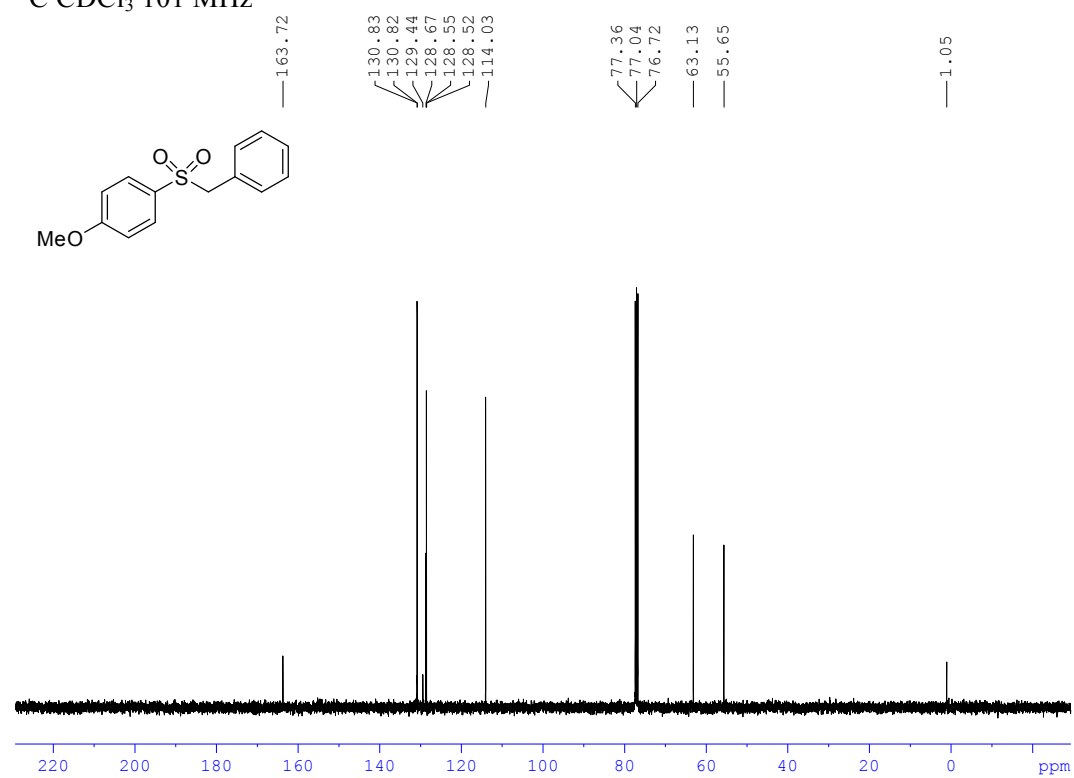


### Benzyl 4-methoxyphenyl sulfone, 10q

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz

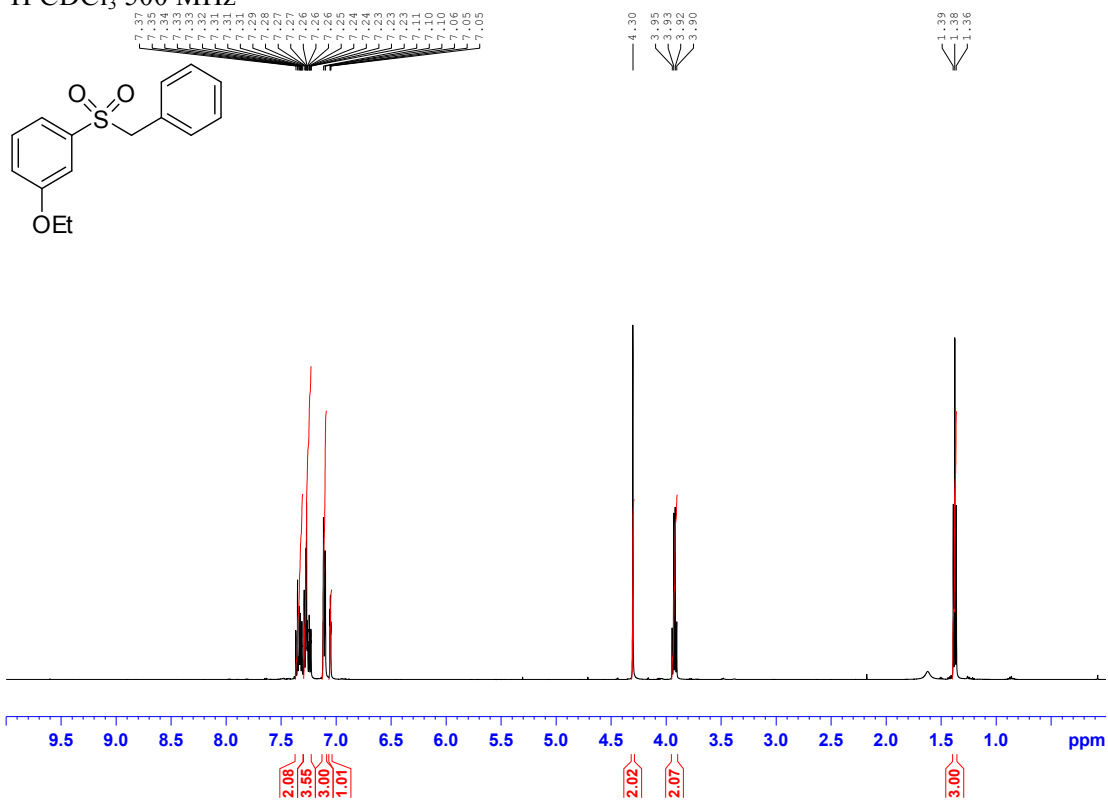


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz

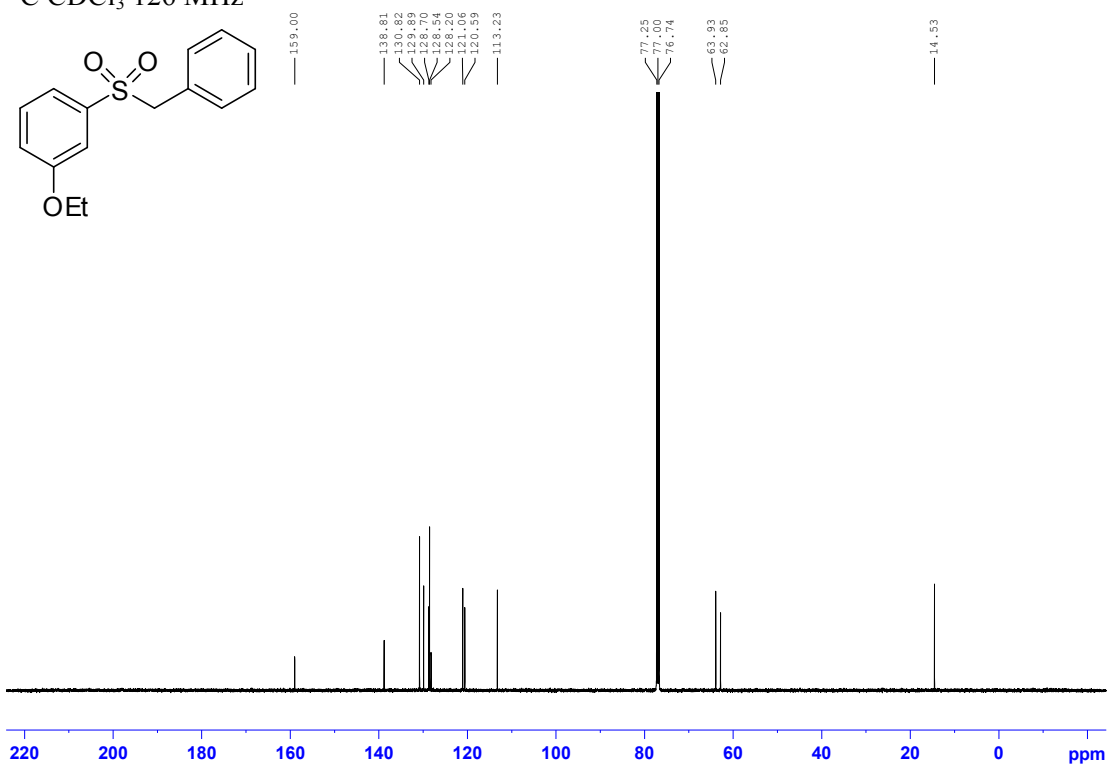


# Benzyl 3-ethoxyphenyl sulfone, 10r

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  500 MHz

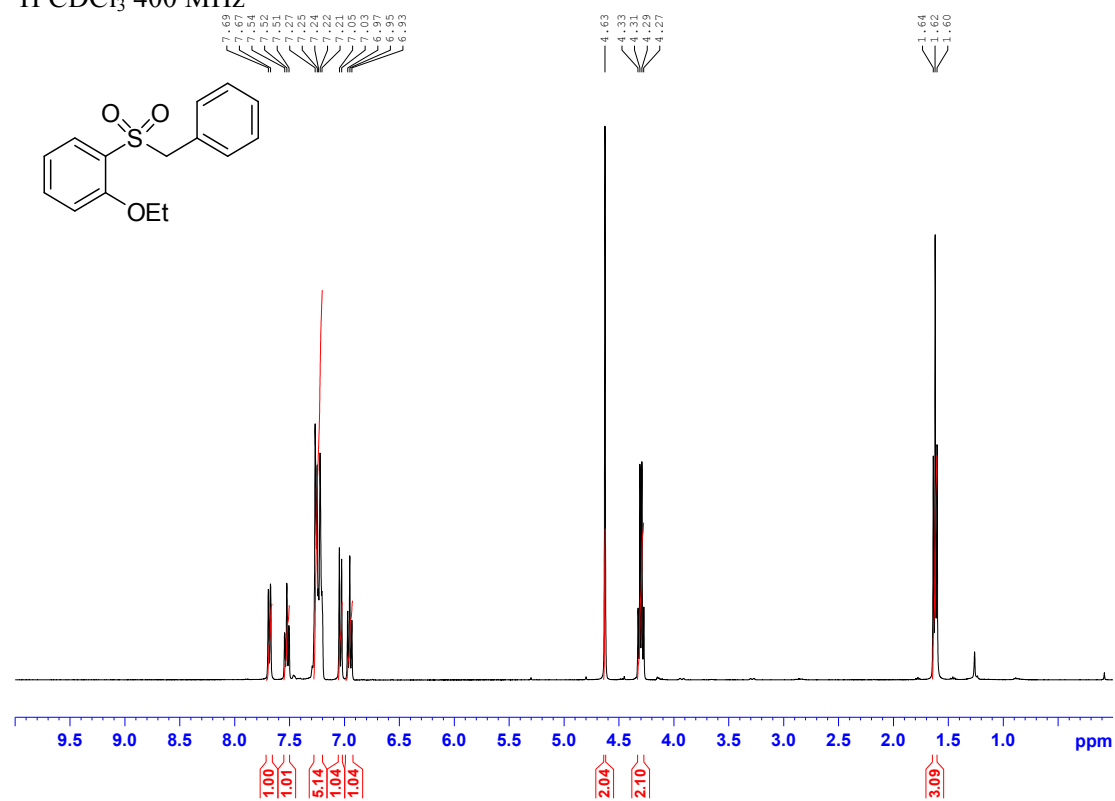


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  126 MHz

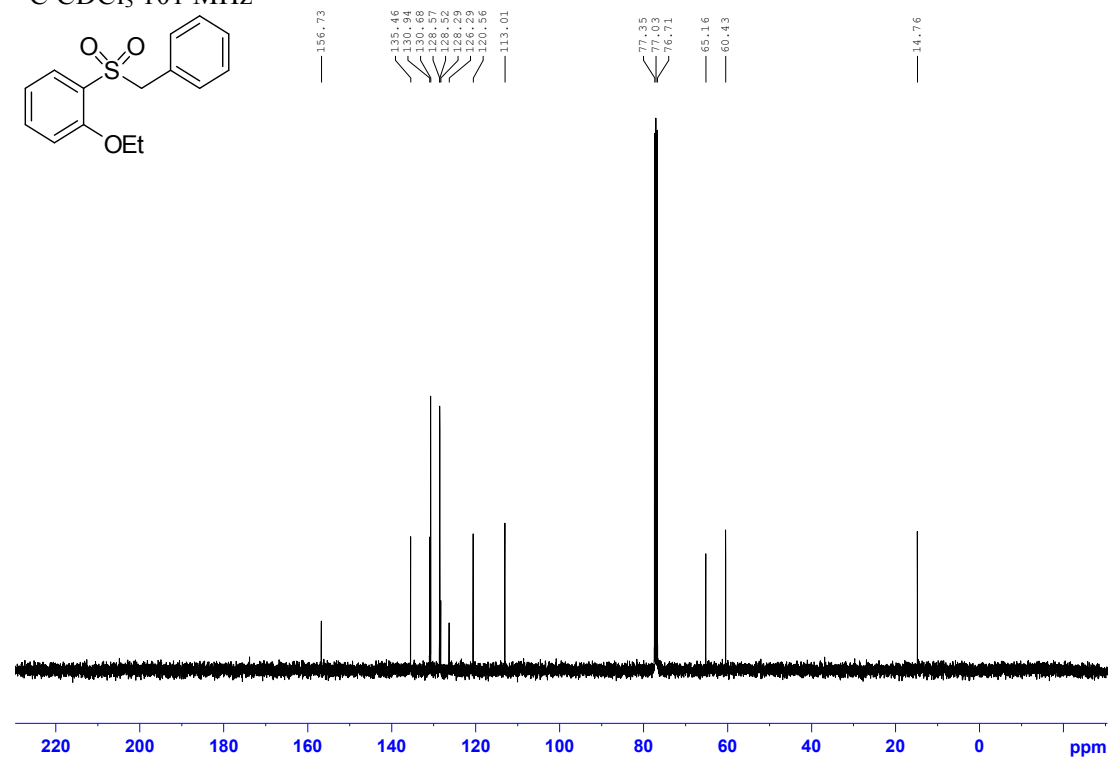


# Benzyl 2-ethoxyphenyl sulfone, 10s

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz



$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz

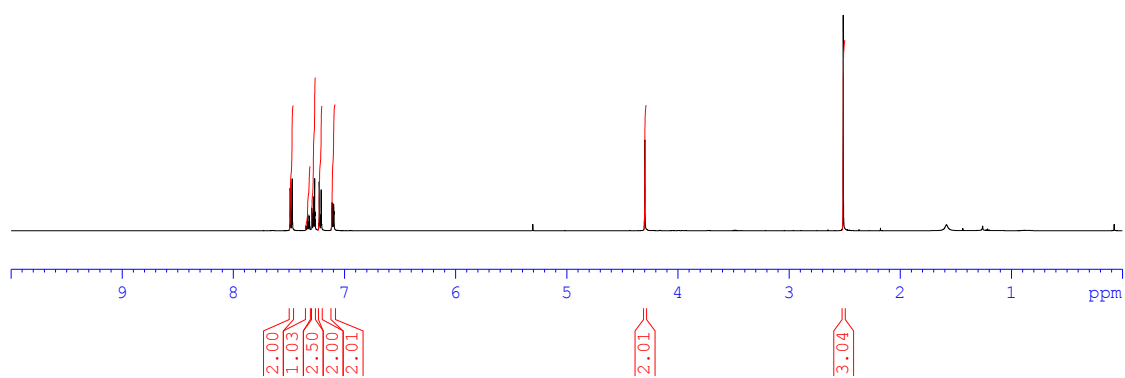
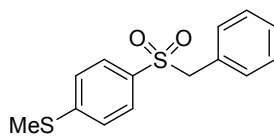




# Benzyl 4-(methylsulfanyl)phenyl sulfone, 10t

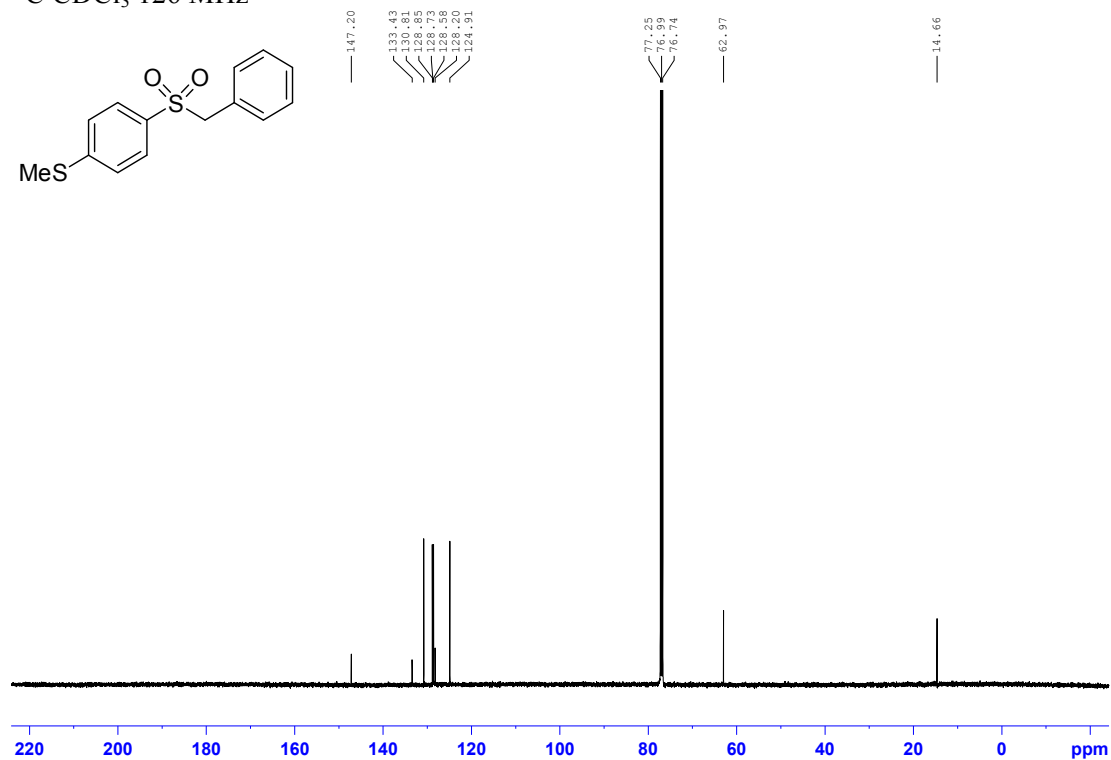
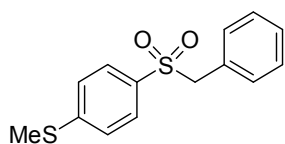
$^1\text{H}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 500 MHz

7.49  
7.48  
7.47  
7.47  
7.47  
7.35  
7.34  
7.34  
7.33  
7.33  
7.32  
7.32  
7.31  
7.29  
7.29  
7.28  
7.28  
7.27  
7.26  
7.26  
7.23  
7.23  
7.22  
7.21  
7.21  
7.20  
7.20  
7.11  
7.10  
7.10  
7.09  
— 4.30  
— 2.51



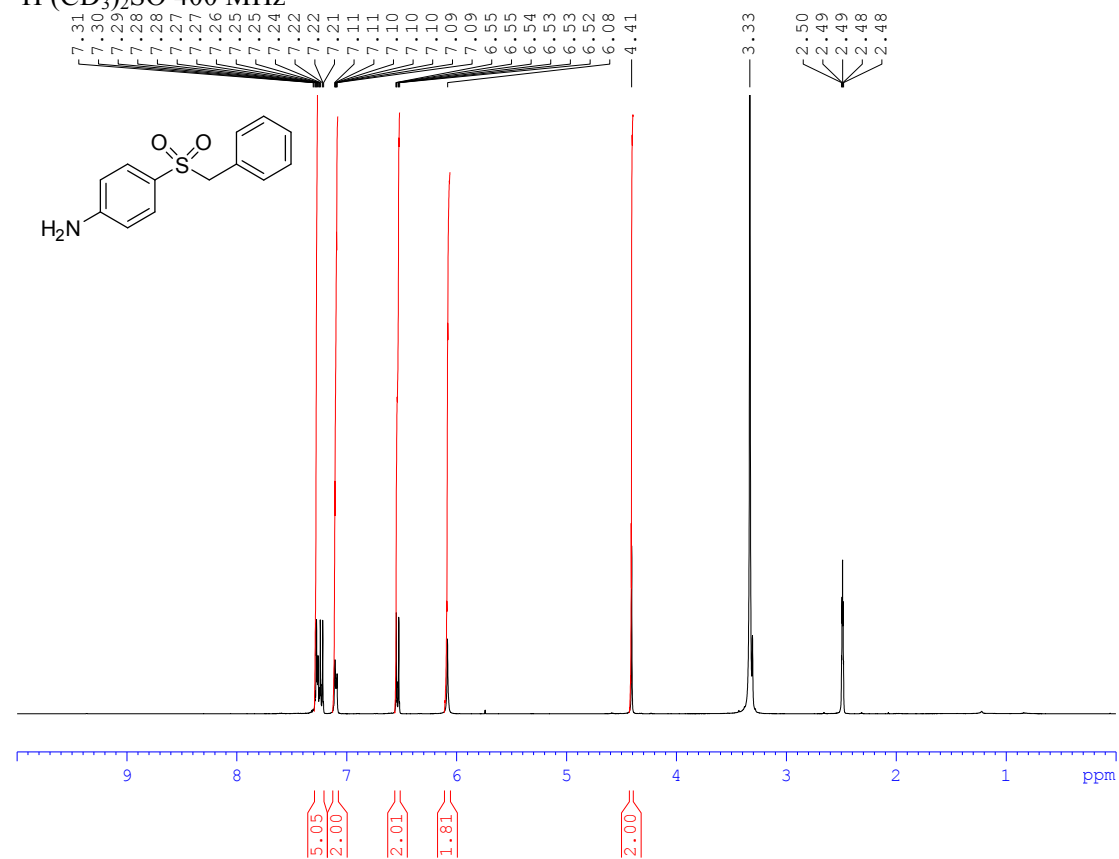
$^{13}\text{C}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 126 MHz

147.20  
133.43  
130.81  
128.95  
128.58  
128.20  
124.91  
77.25  
76.99  
76.74  
62.97  
14.66

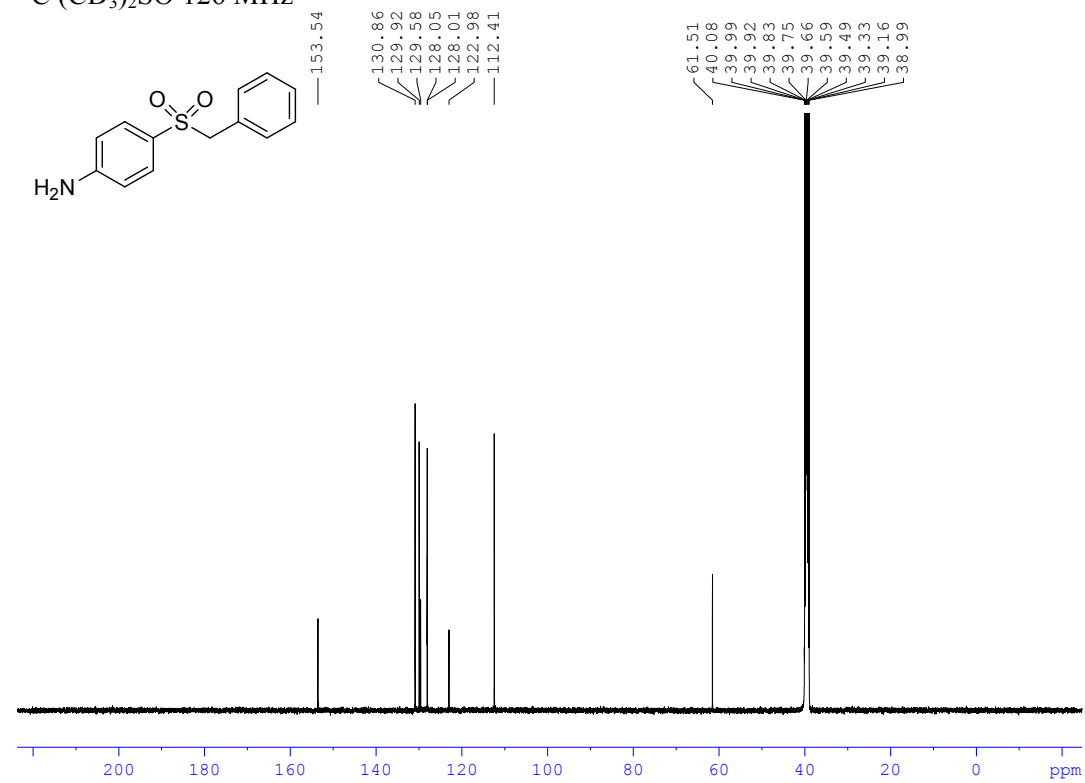


### 4-(Benzylsulfonyl)aniline, 10u

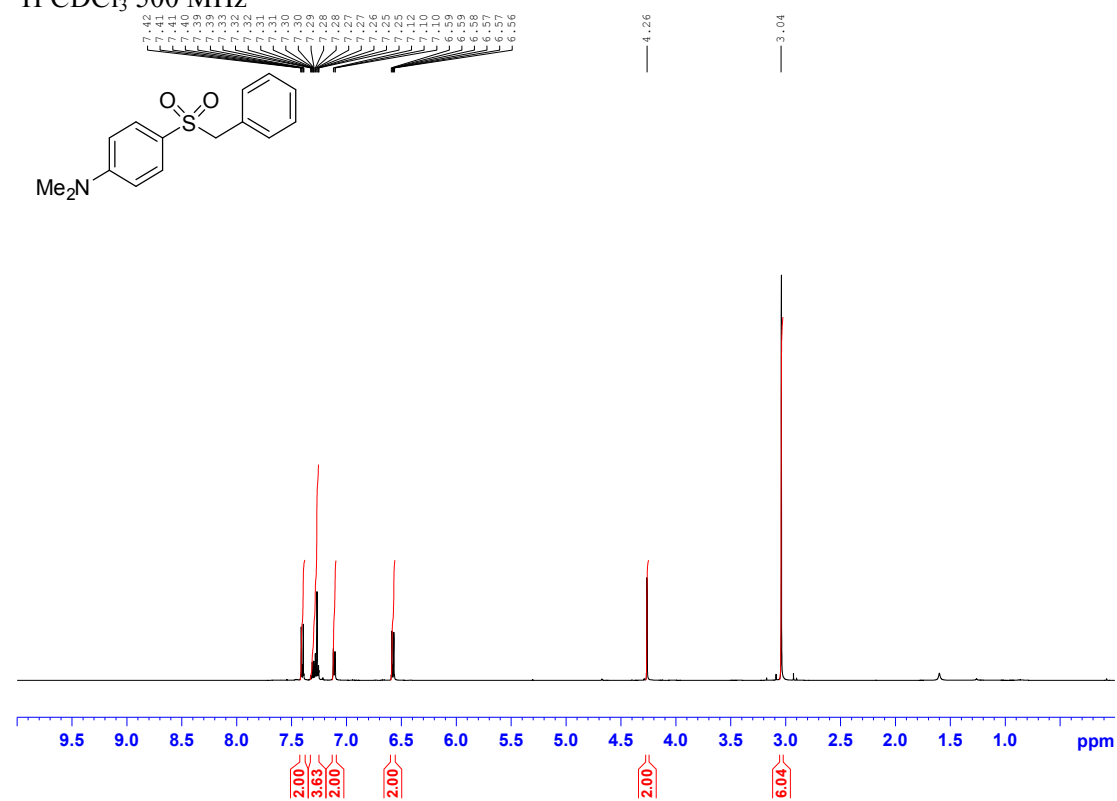
$^1\text{H}$  ( $\text{CD}_3$ ) $_2\text{SO}$  400 MHz



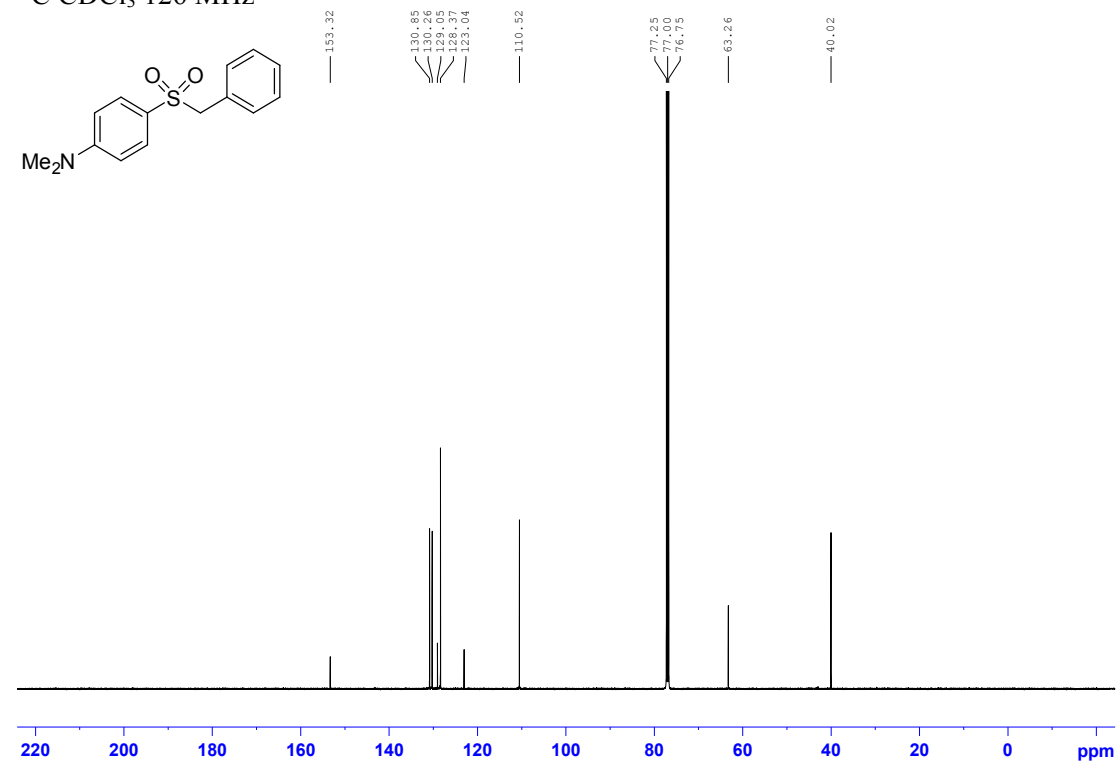
$^{13}\text{C}$  ( $\text{CD}_3$ ) $_2\text{SO}$  126 MHz



**4-(Benzylsulfonyl)-*N,N*-dimethylaniline, 10v**  
<sup>1</sup>H CDCl<sub>3</sub> 500 MHz

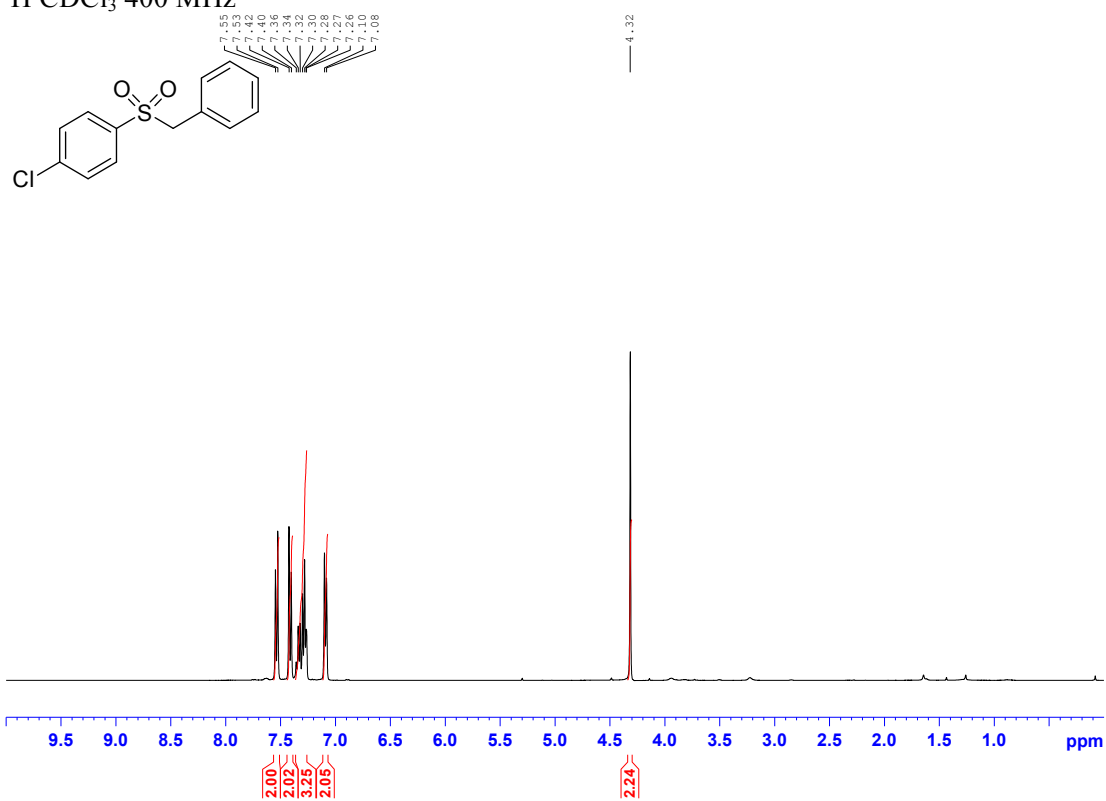


<sup>13</sup>C CDCl<sub>3</sub> 126 MHz

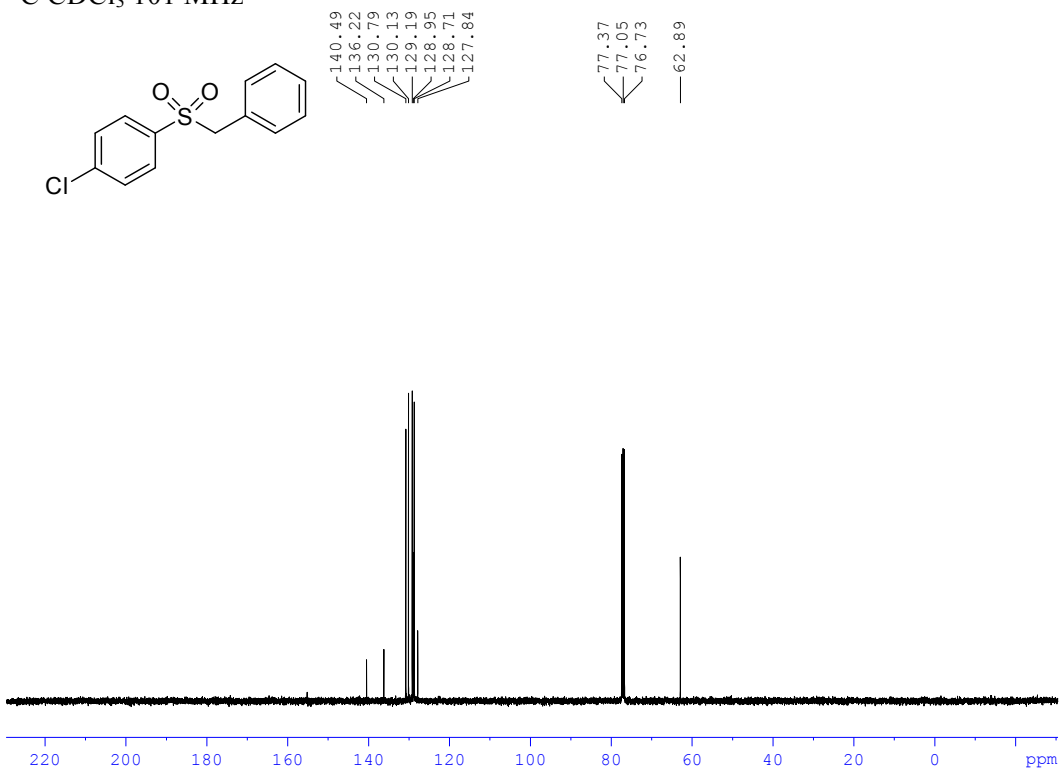


# Benzyl 4-chlorophenyl sulfone, 10w

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz



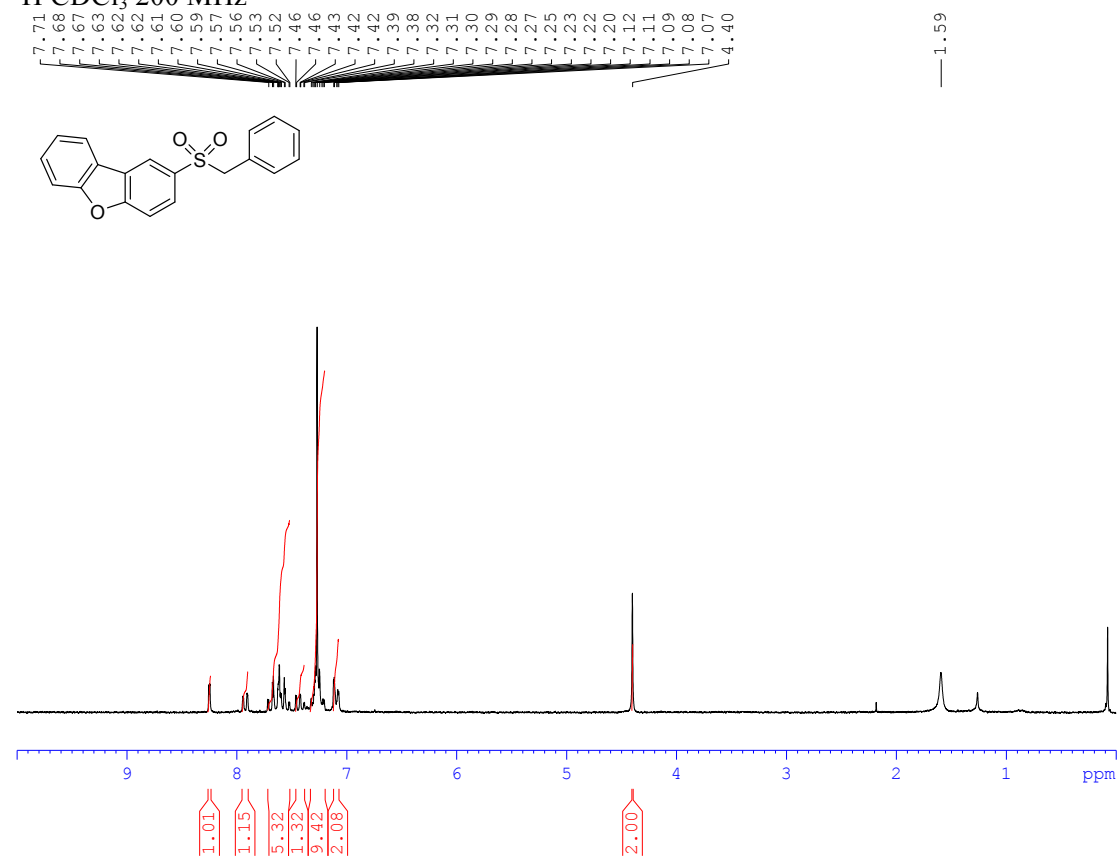
$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz



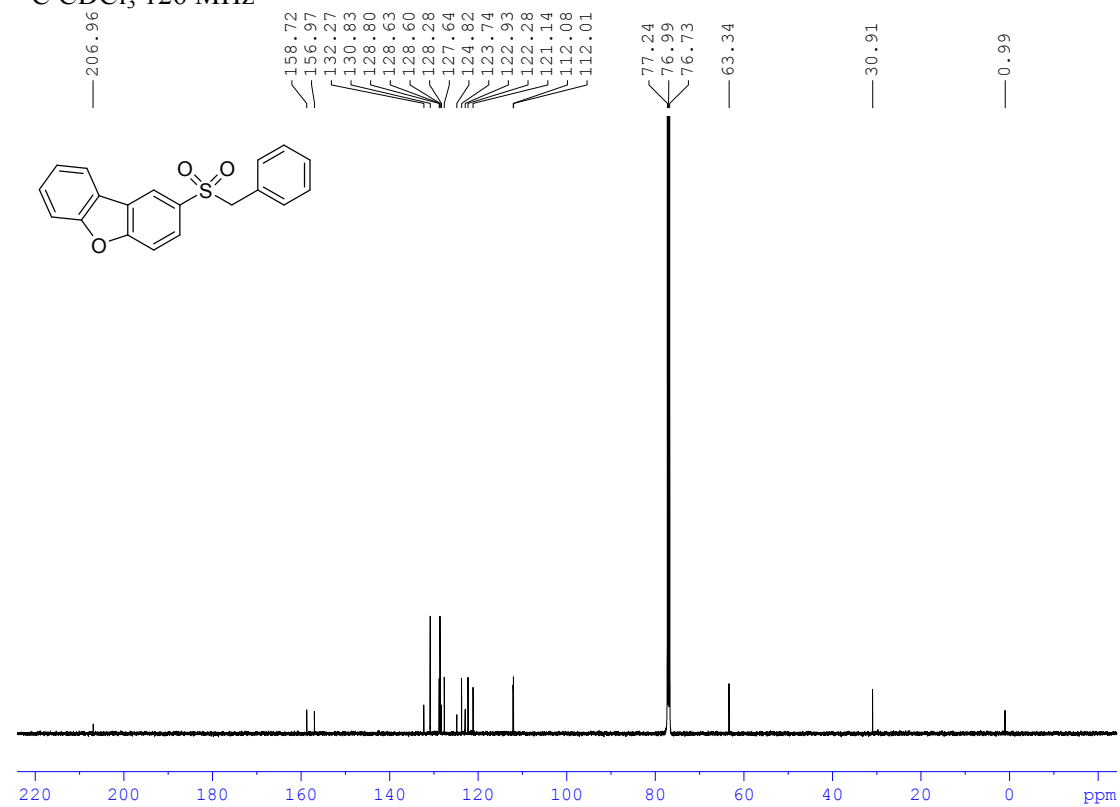


# 2-(Benzylsulfonyl)dibenzo[b,d]furan, 10y

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  200 MHz

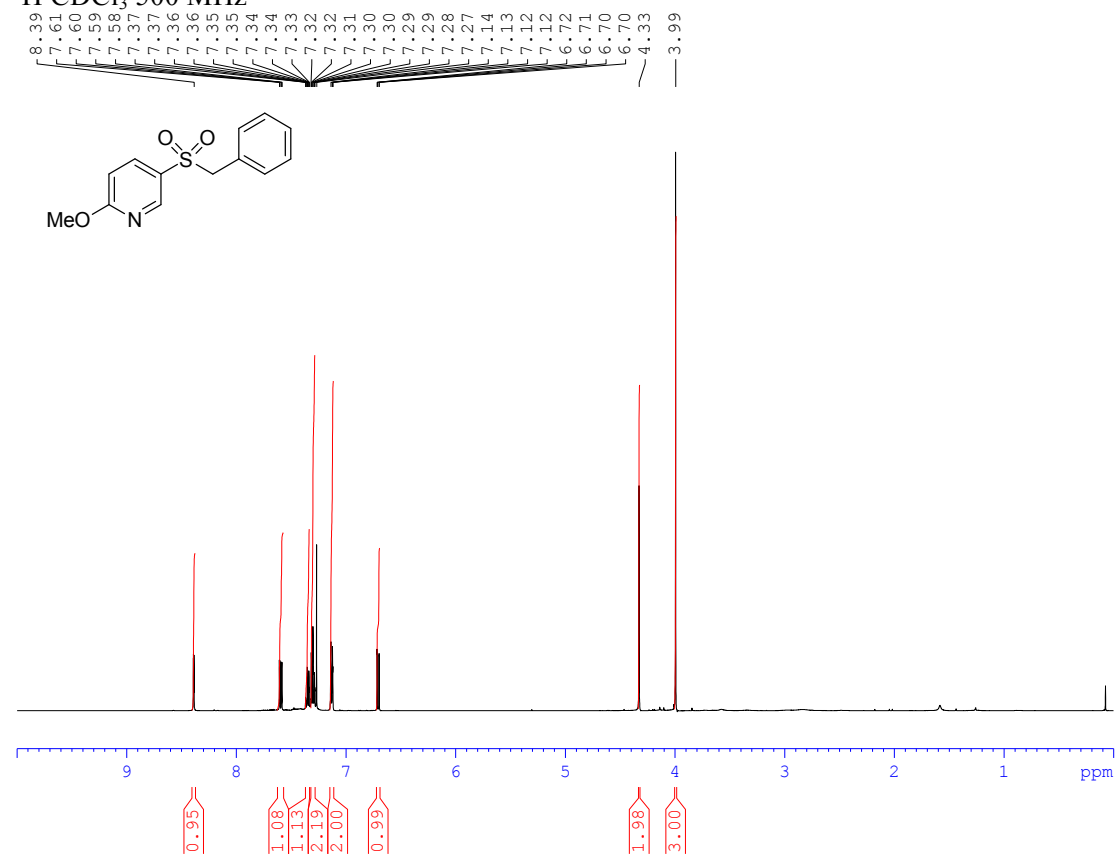


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  126 MHz

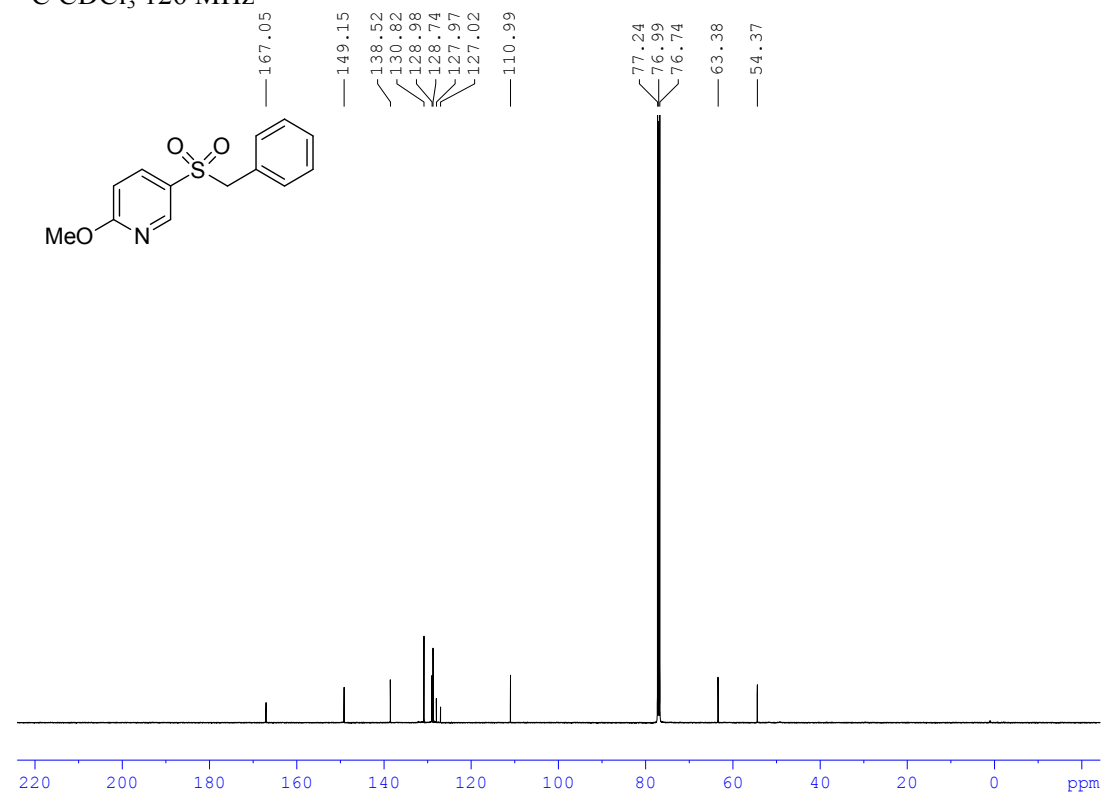


### 5-(Benzylsulfonyl)-2-methoxypyridine, 10z

$^1\text{H}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 500 MHz

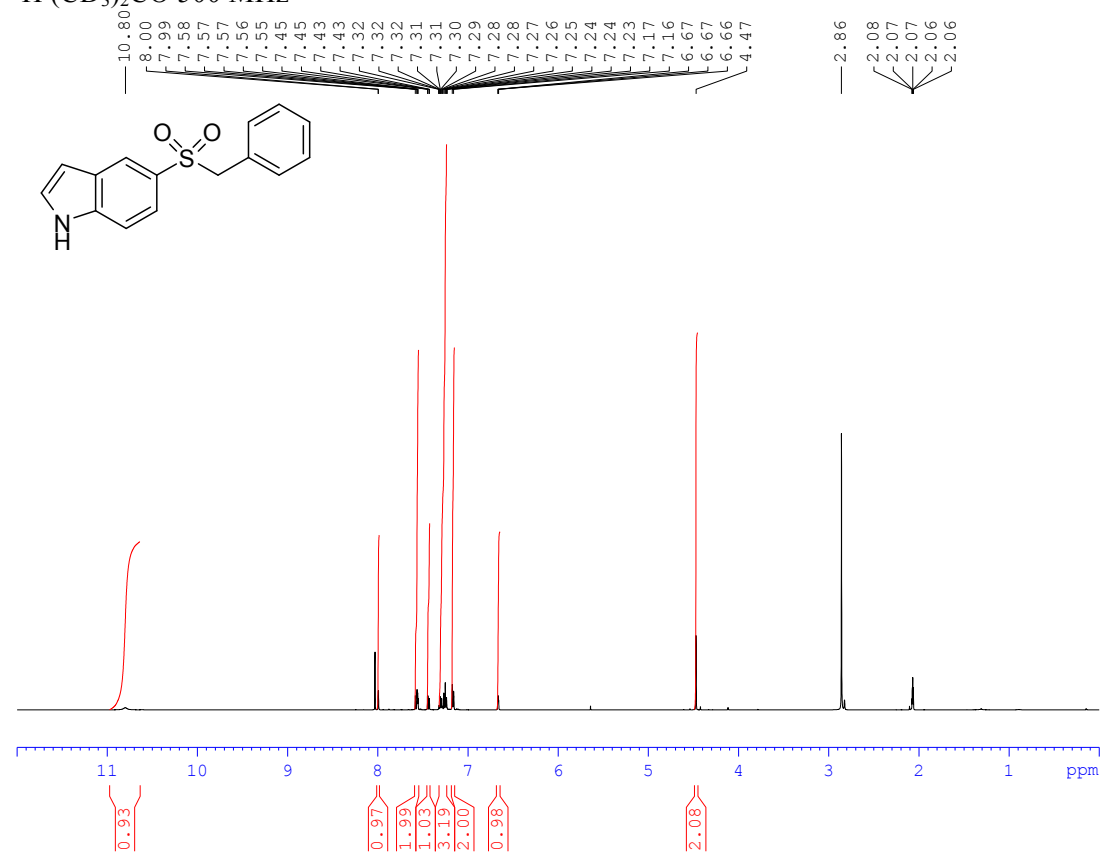


$^{13}\text{C}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 126 MHz

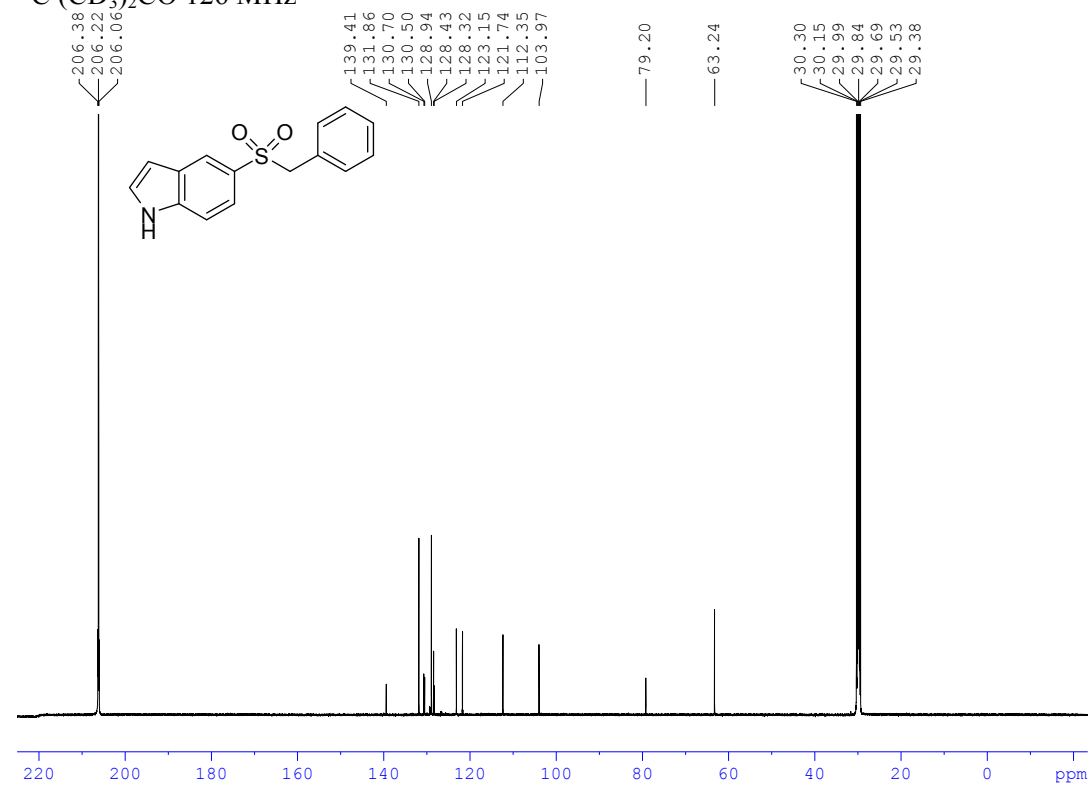


### 5-(Benzylsulfonyl)-1H-indole, 10aa

$^1\text{H}$  ( $\text{CD}_3$ ) $_2\text{CO}$  500 MHz



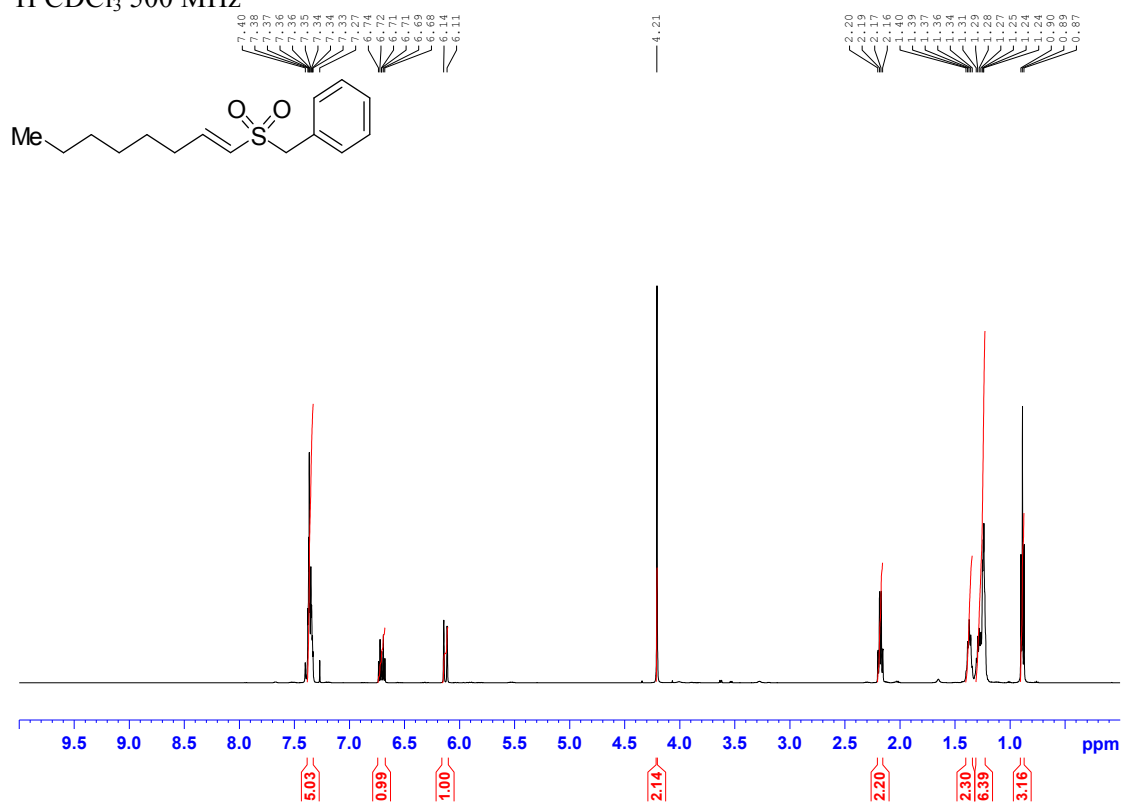
$^{13}\text{C}$  ( $\text{CD}_3$ ) $_2\text{CO}$  126 MHz



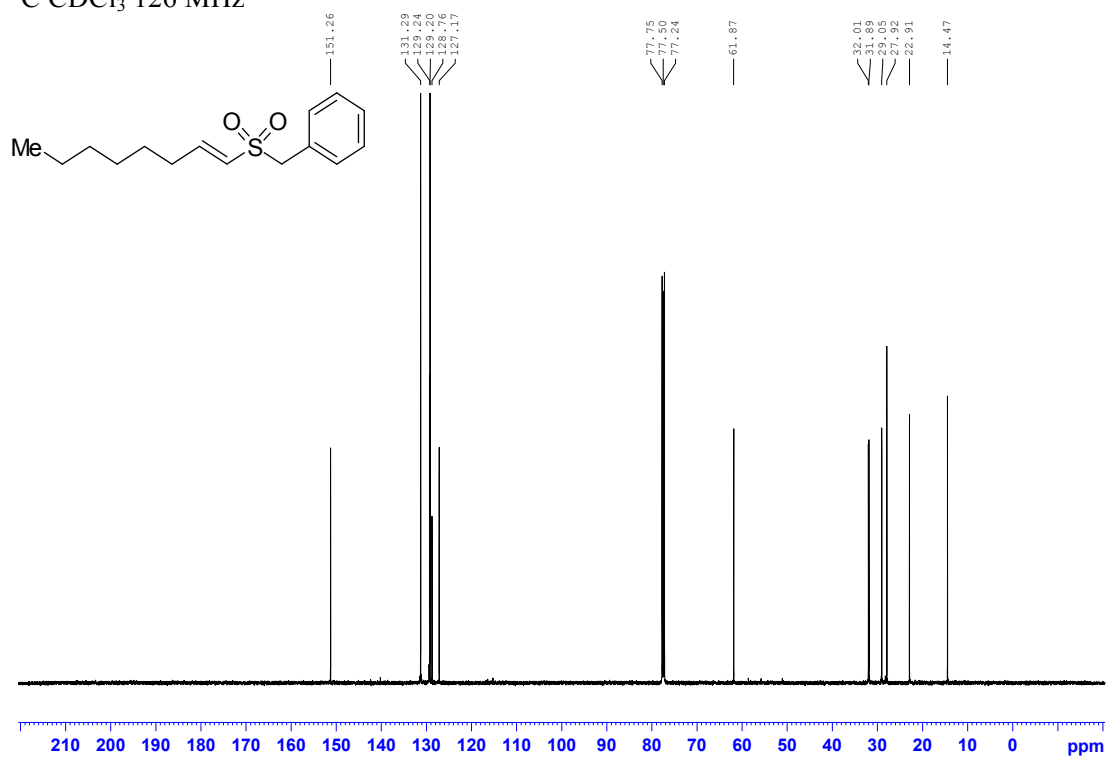


# Benzyl (1E)-oct-1-en-1-yl sulfone, 10ab

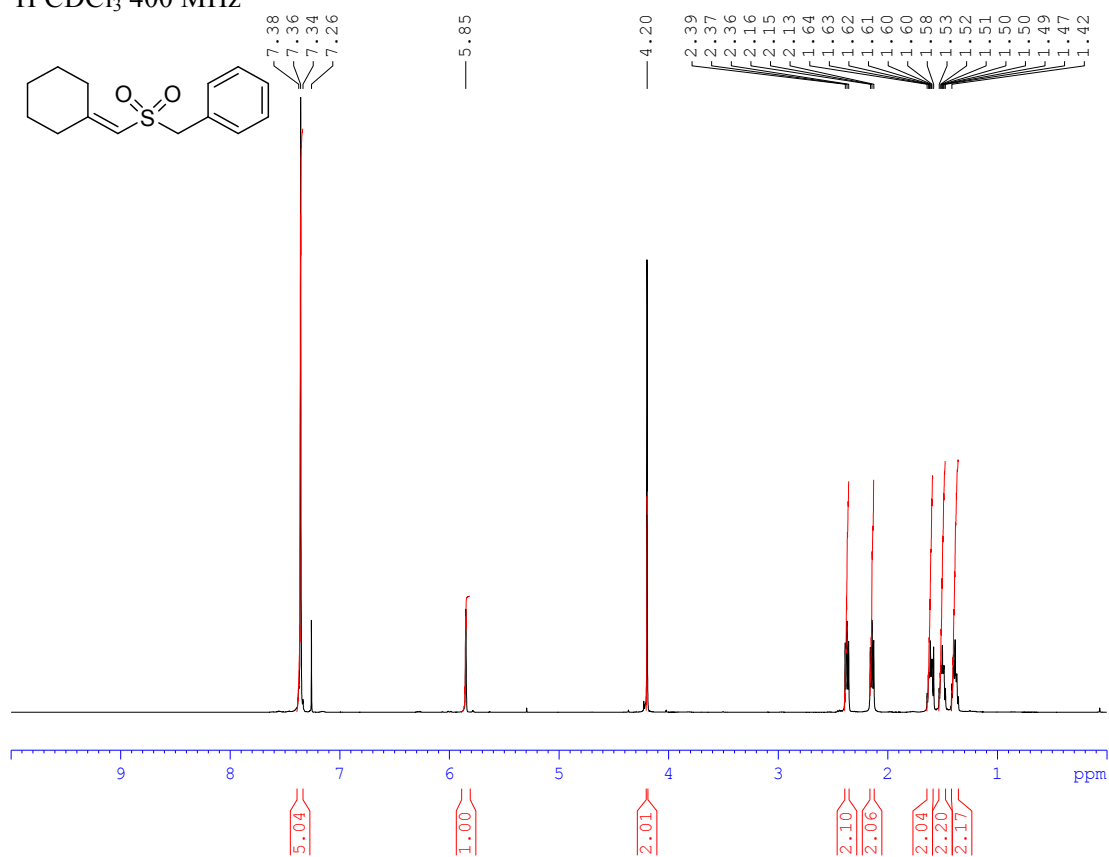
$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  500 MHz



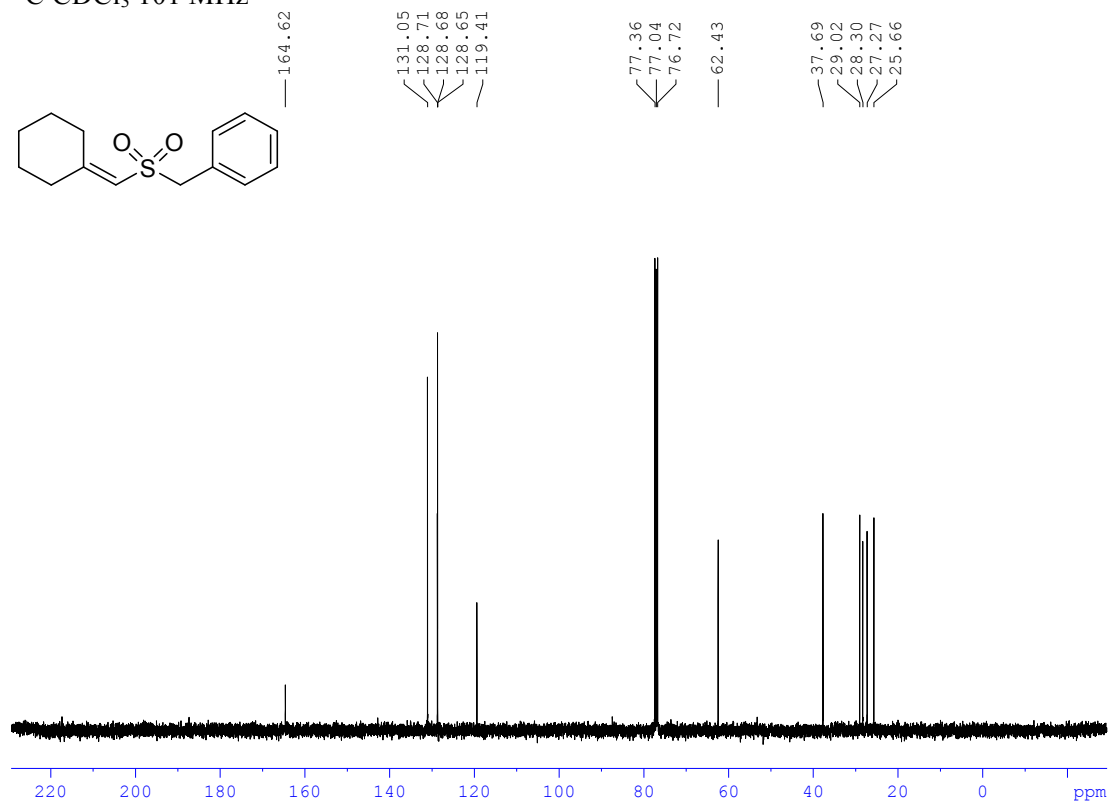
$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  126 MHz



**{{(Cyclohexyldenemethyl)sulfonyl}methyl}benzene benzyl cyclohexyldenemethyl sulfone, 10ac**  
<sup>1</sup>H CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz

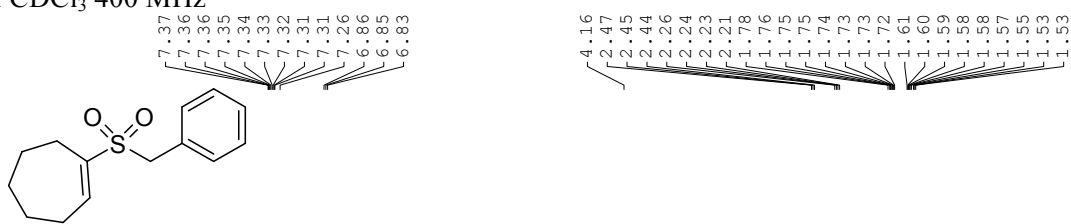


<sup>13</sup>C CDCl<sub>3</sub> 101 MHz



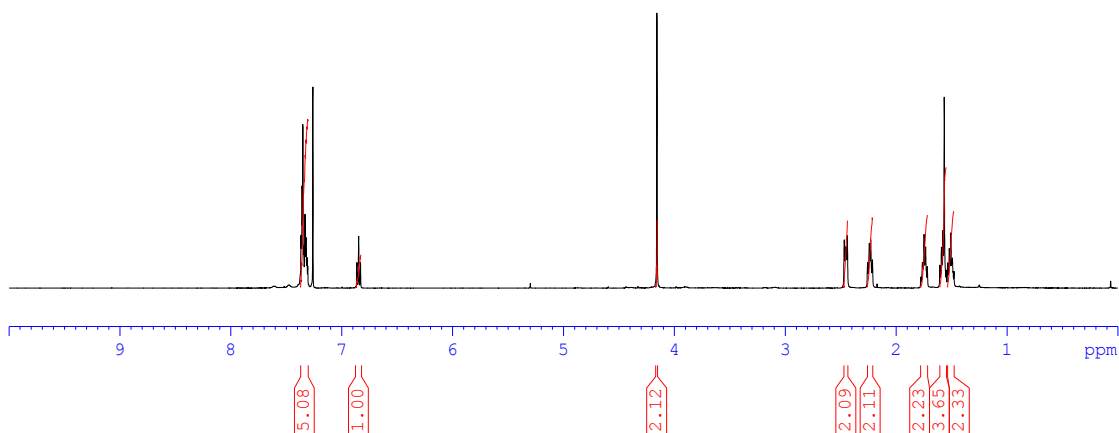
# Benzyl cyclohept-1-en-1-yl sulfone, 10ad

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz

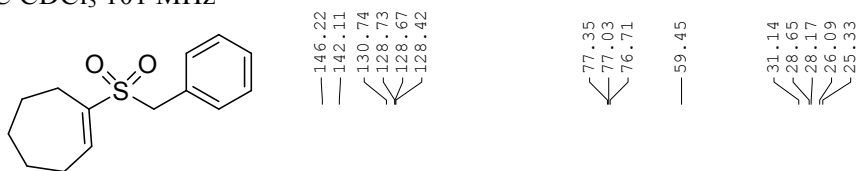


7.37  
7.36  
7.36  
7.35  
7.34  
7.33  
7.32  
7.31  
7.31  
7.26  
6.86  
6.85  
6.83

4.16  
2.47  
2.45  
2.44  
2.26  
2.24  
2.23  
2.21  
1.78  
1.76  
1.75  
1.74  
1.74  
1.73  
1.72  
1.61  
1.60  
1.59  
1.58  
1.58  
1.57  
1.55  
1.53



$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz

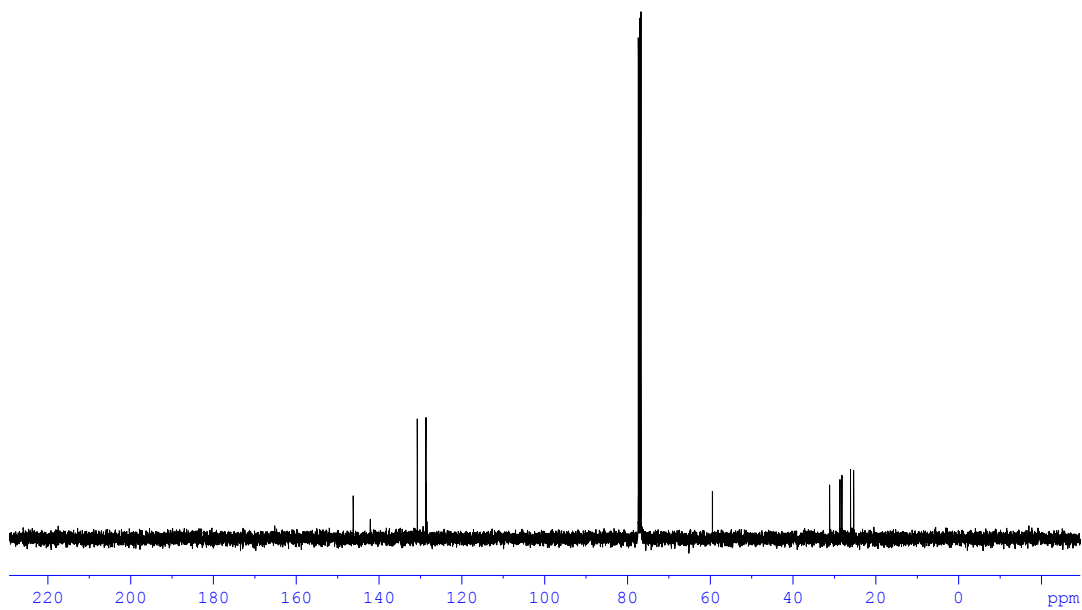


146.22  
142.11  
130.74  
128.73  
128.67  
128.42

77.35  
77.03  
76.71

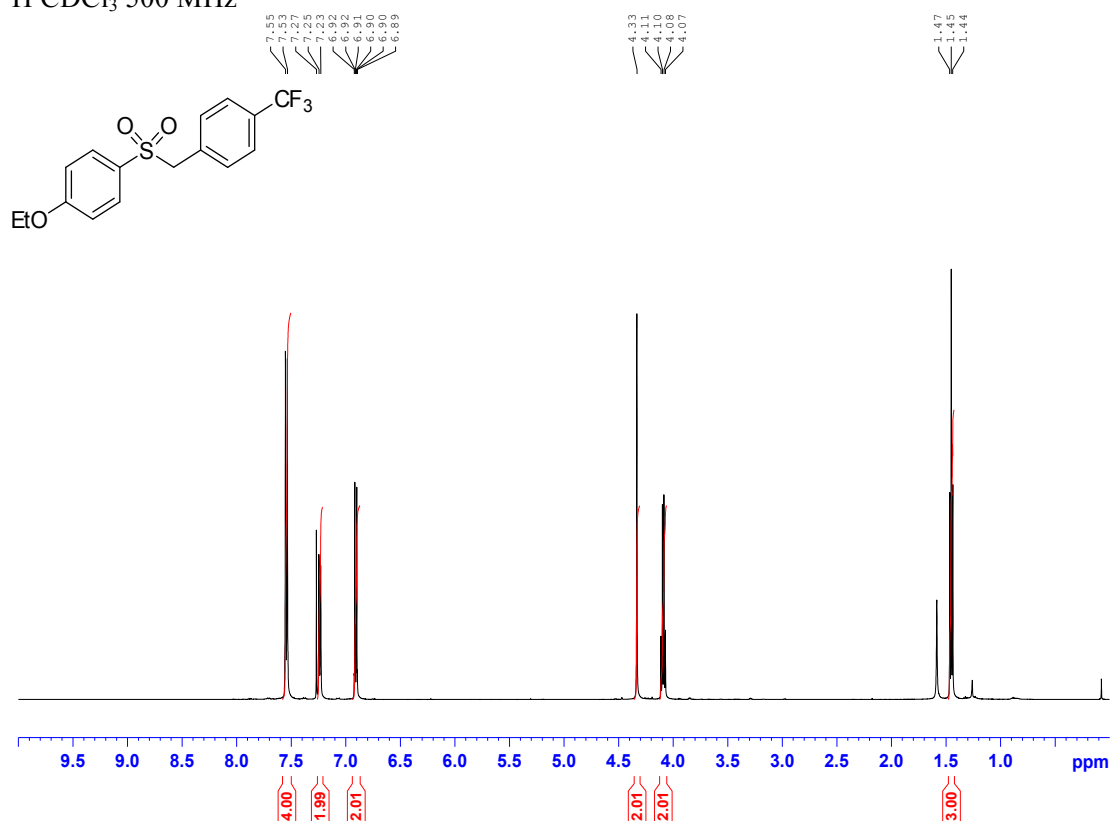
59.45

31.14  
28.65  
28.17  
26.09  
25.33

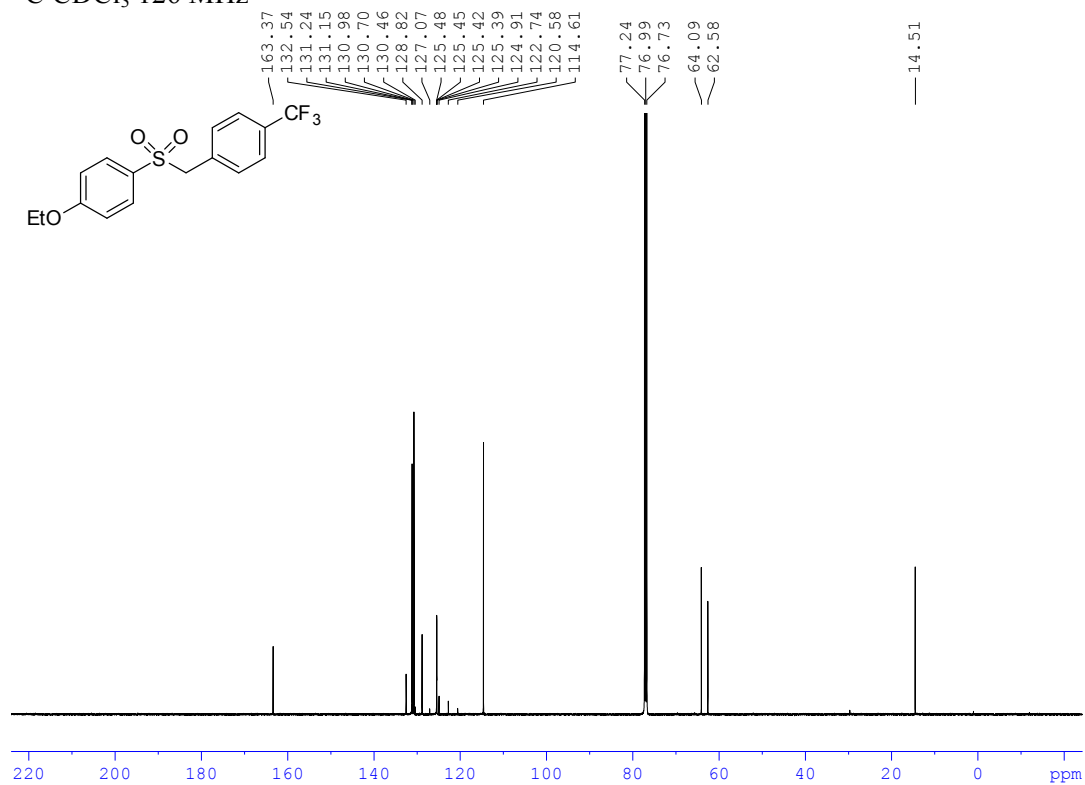


### 4-Ethoxyphenyl 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl sulfone, 10ae

$^1\text{H}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 500 MHz



$^{13}\text{C}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 126 MHz

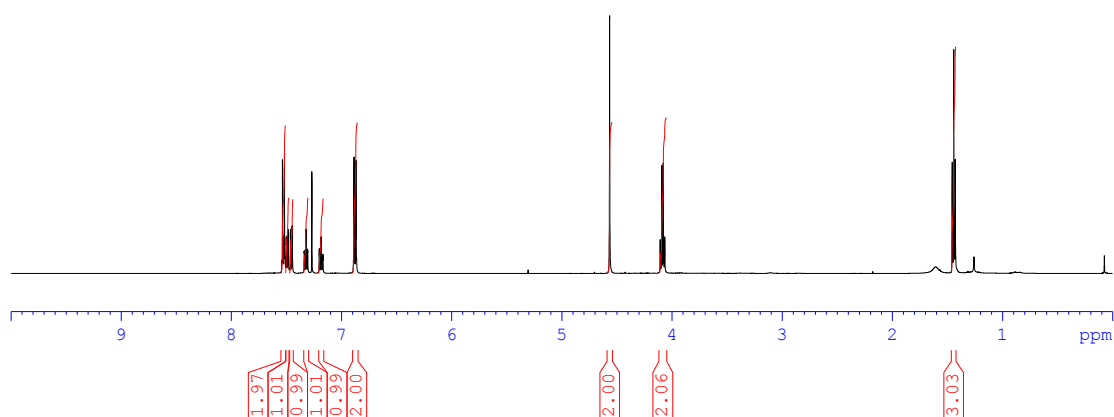
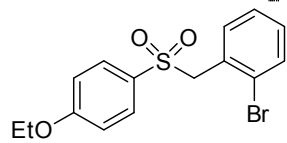


### 2-Bromobenzyl 4-ethoxyphenyl sulfone, 10af

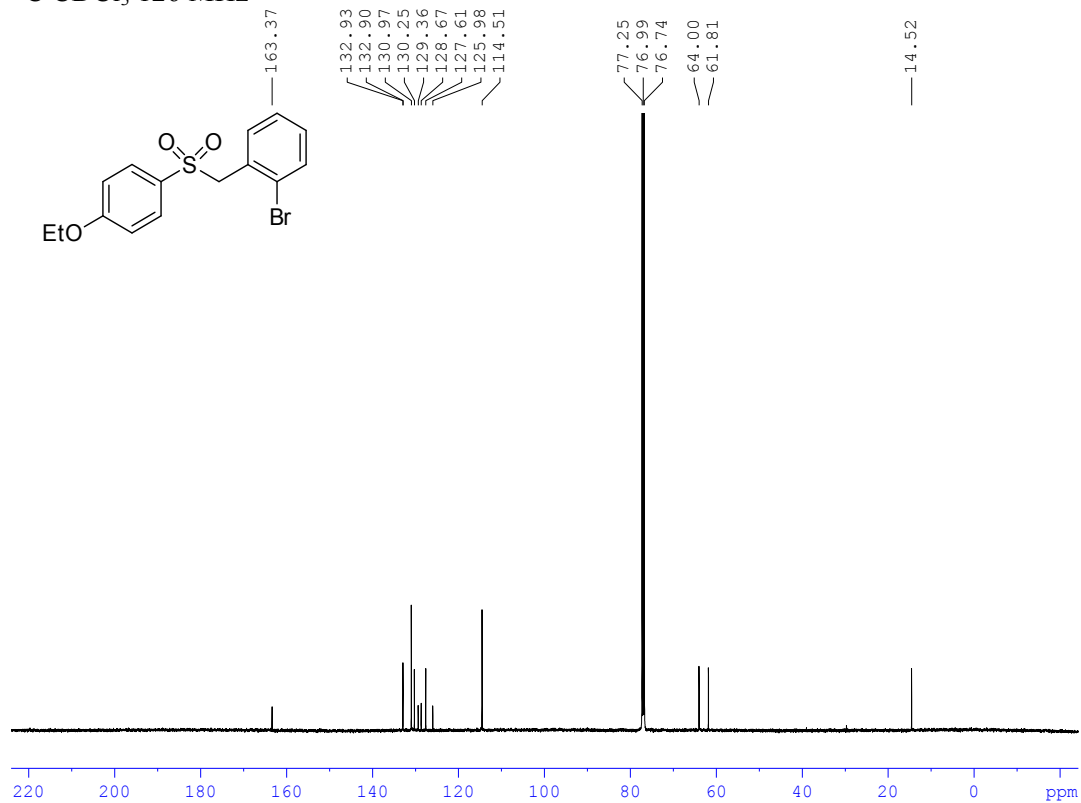
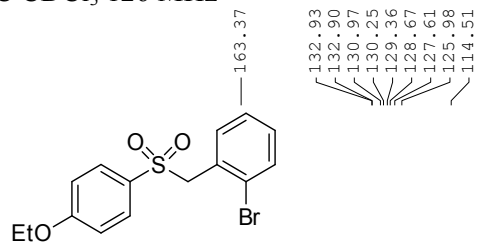
$^1\text{H}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 500 MHz

7.53  
7.52  
7.52  
7.51  
7.50  
7.49  
7.48  
7.46  
7.46  
7.45  
7.34  
7.34  
7.32  
7.32  
7.31  
7.27  
7.20  
7.20  
7.19  
7.18  
7.17  
7.17  
6.89  
6.89  
6.88  
6.87  
6.87  
4.57  
4.11  
4.09  
4.08  
4.06

1.46  
1.44  
1.43

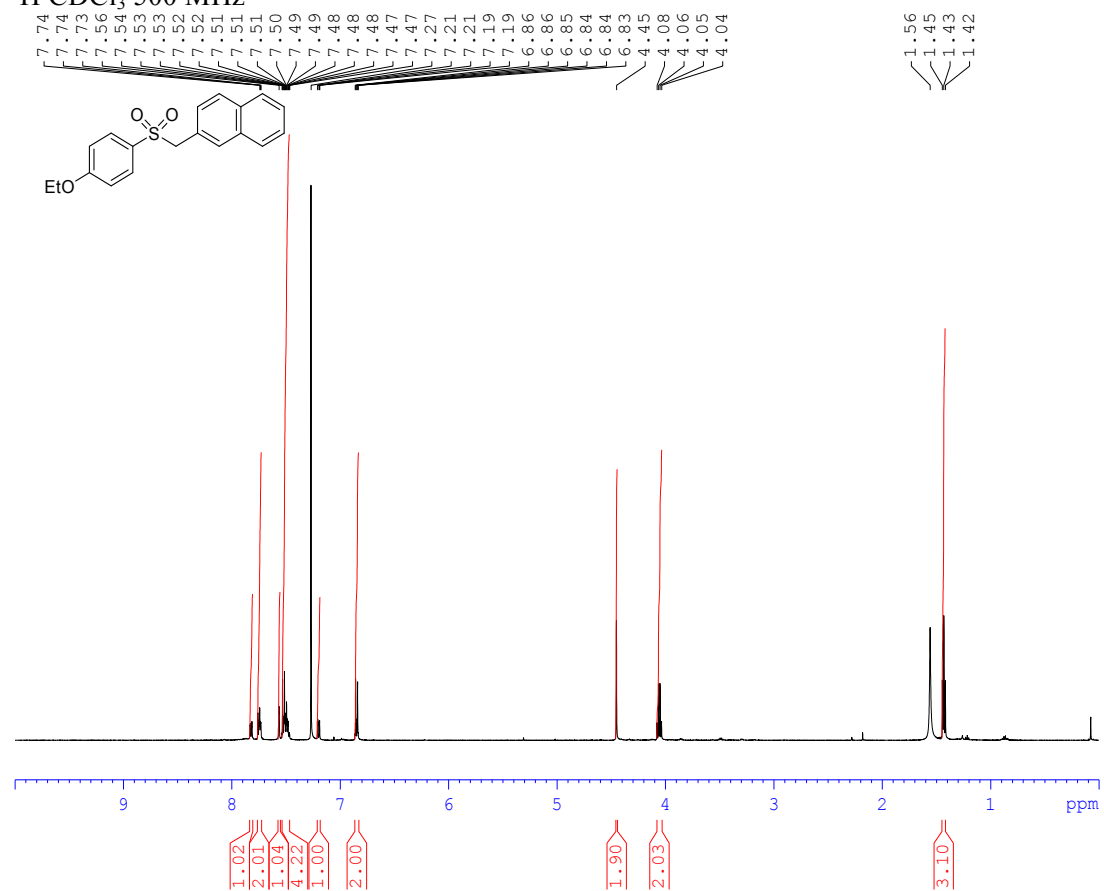


$^{13}\text{C}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 126 MHz

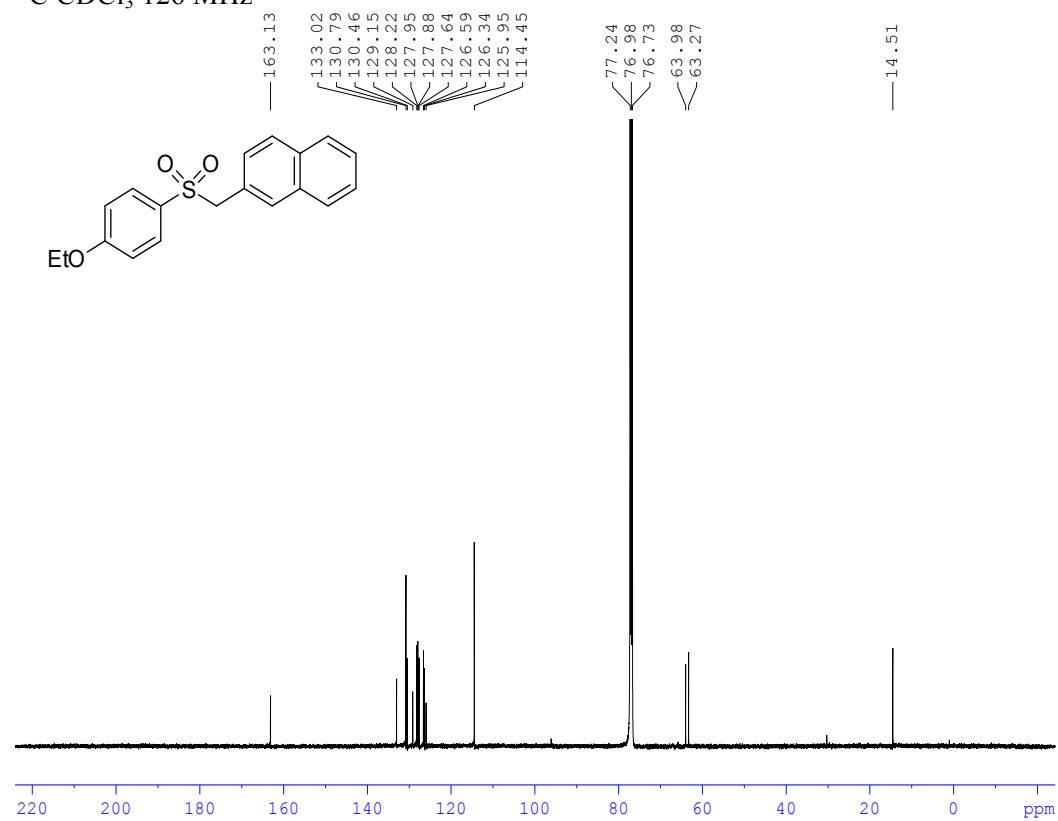


### 4-Ethoxyphenyl naphthalen-2-ylmethyl sulfone, 10ag

$^1\text{H}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 500 MHz

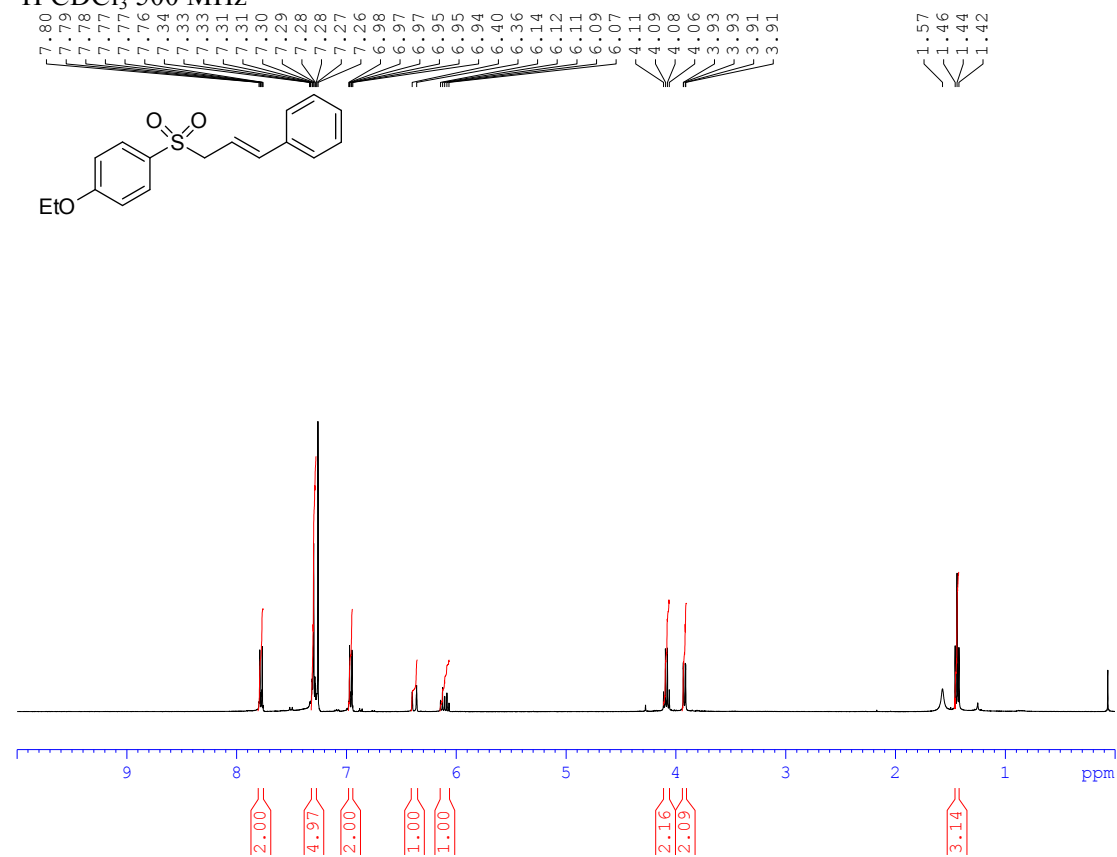


$^{13}\text{C}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 126 MHz

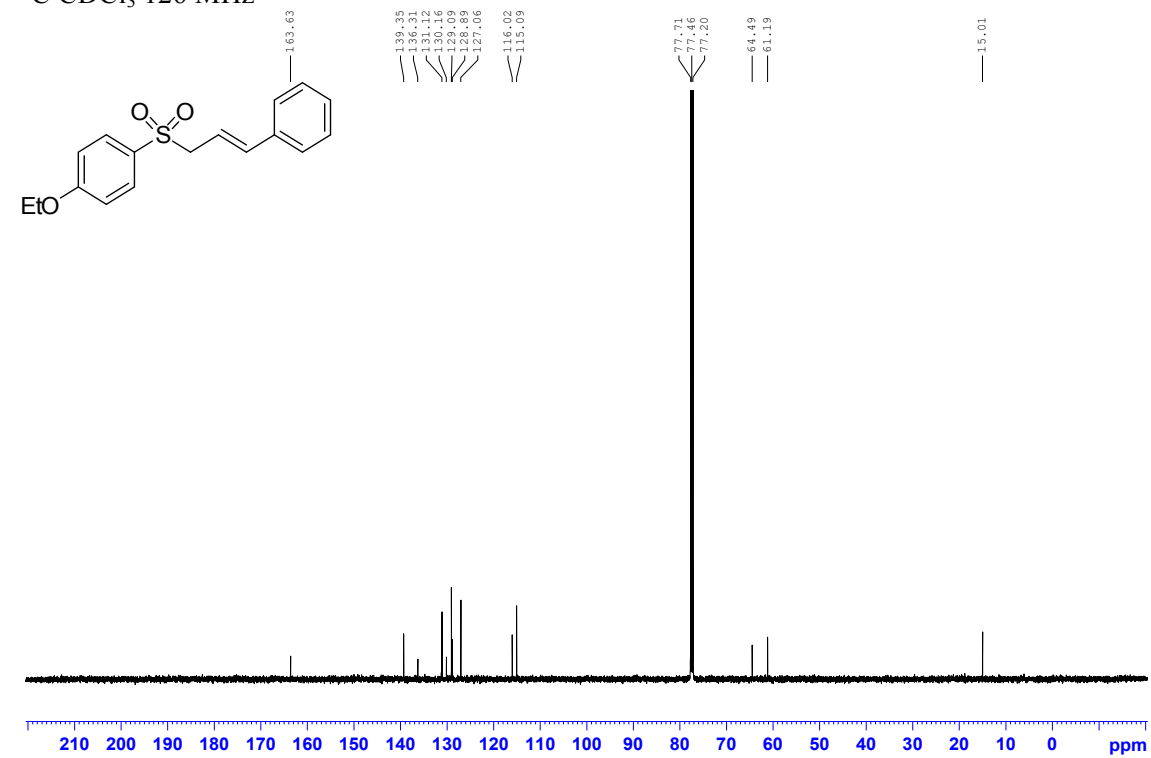


### 4-Ethoxyphenyl (2E)-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-yl sulfone, 10ah

$^1\text{H}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 500 MHz

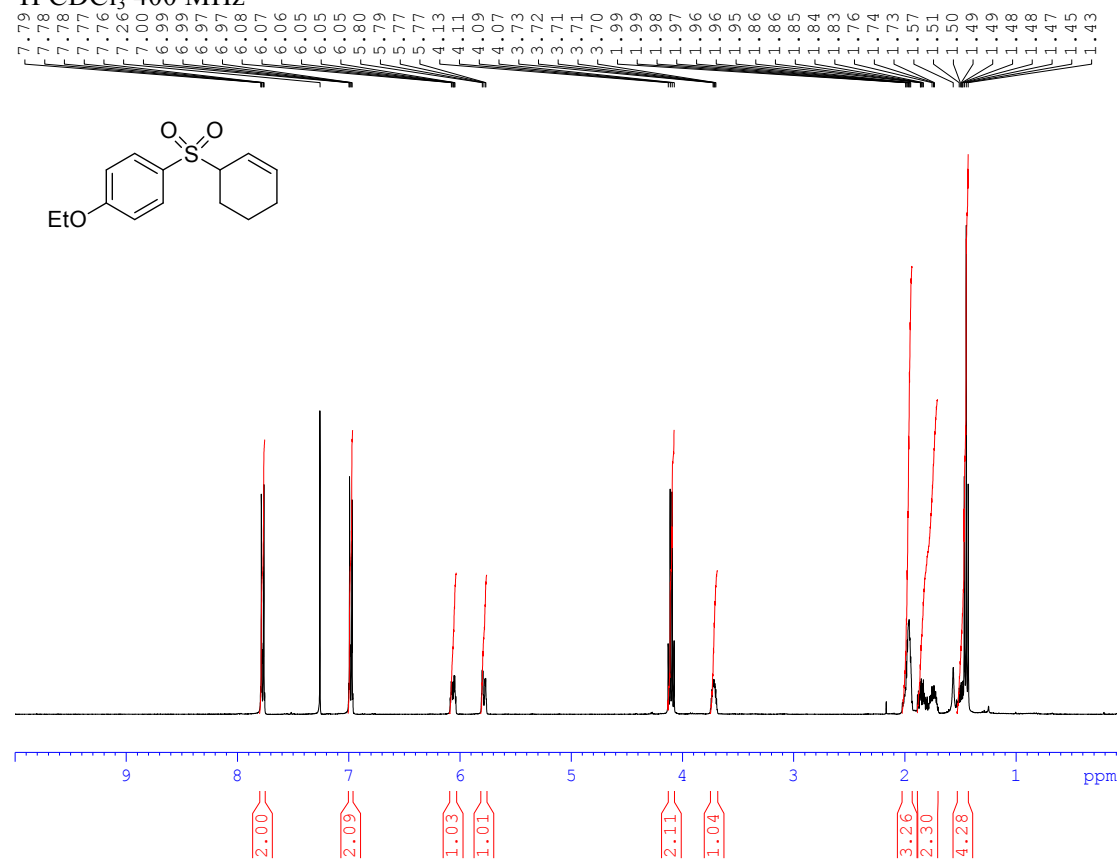


$^{13}\text{C}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 126 MHz

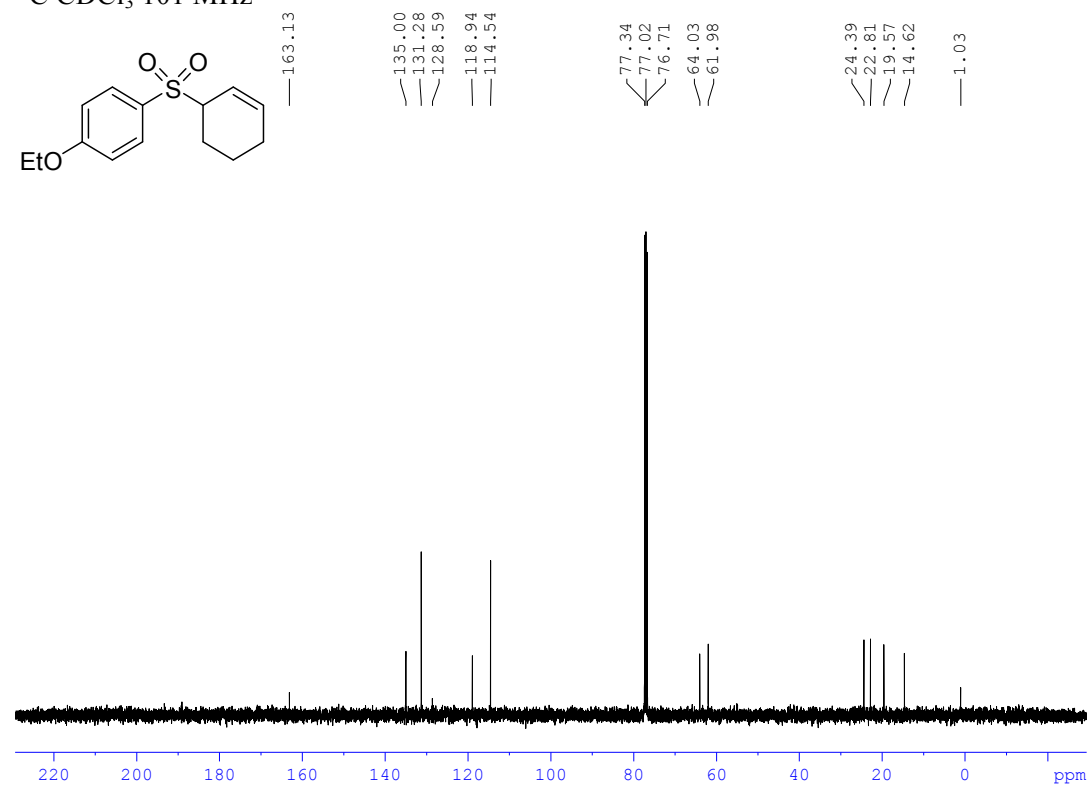


**Cyclohex-2-en-1-yl 4-ethoxyphenyl sulfone, 10ai**

<sup>1</sup>H CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz



<sup>13</sup>C CDCl<sub>3</sub> 101 MHz

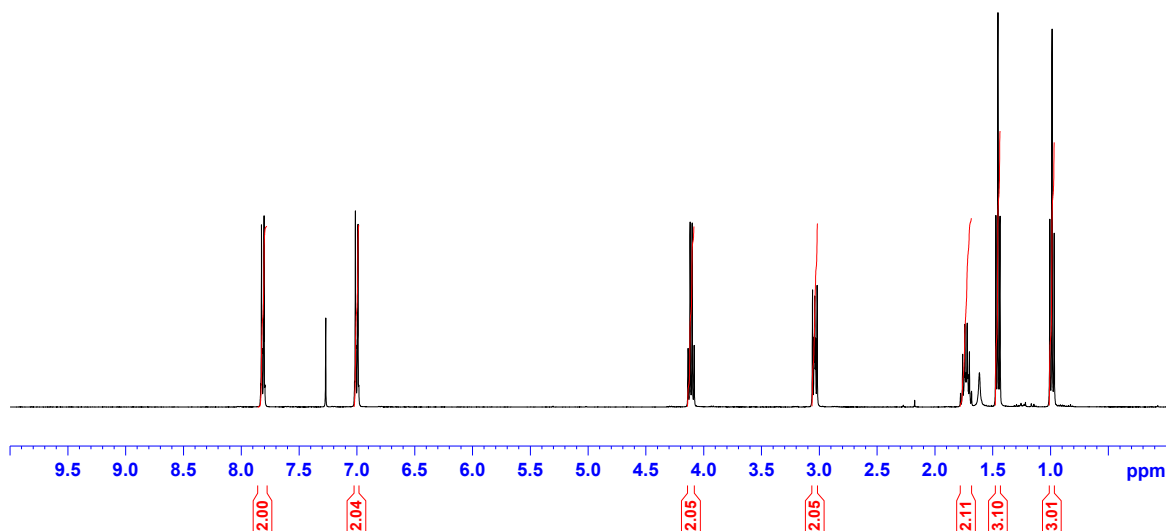




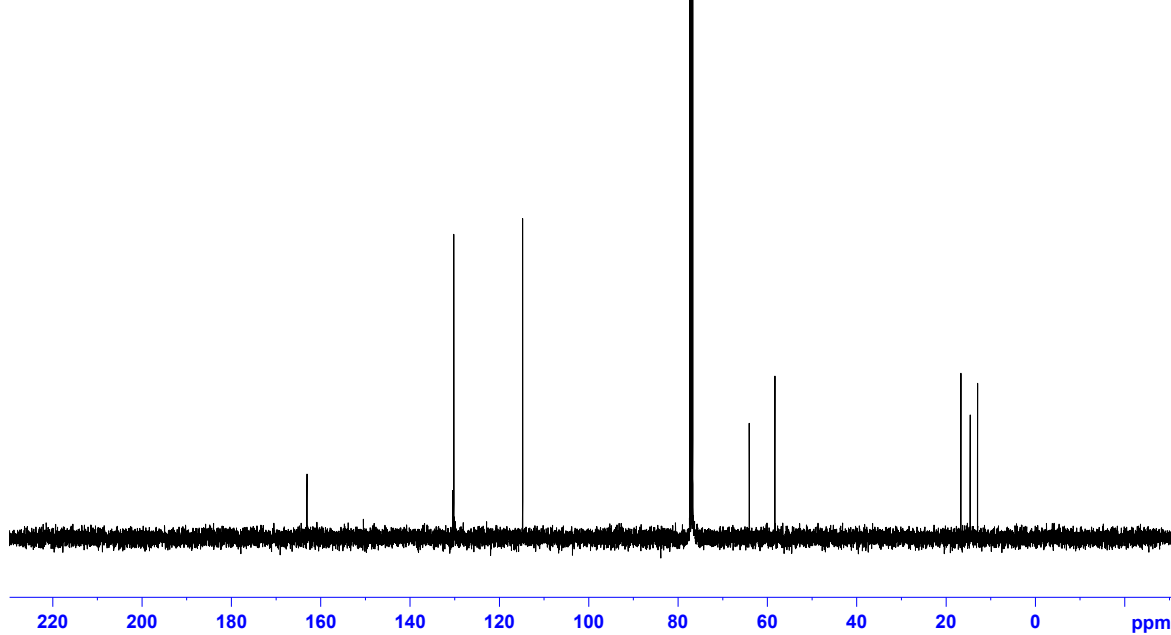


# 4-Ethoxyphenyl propyl sulfone, 10ak

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  400 MHz

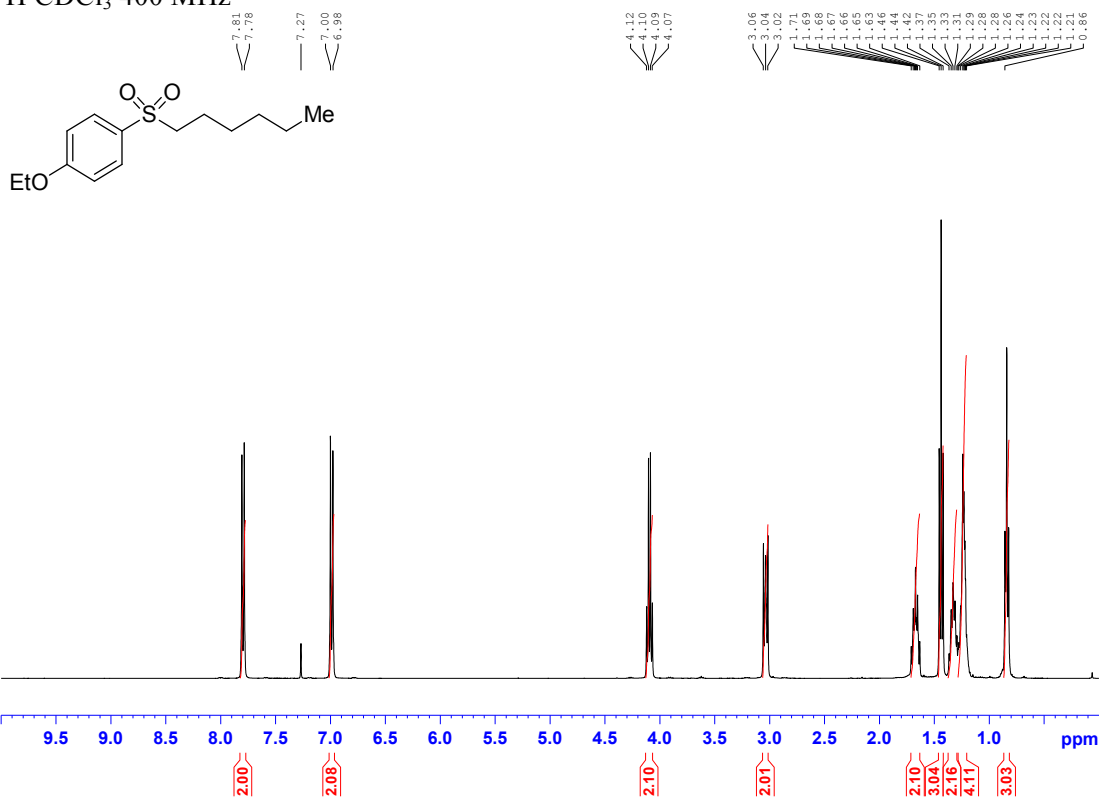


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  101 MHz

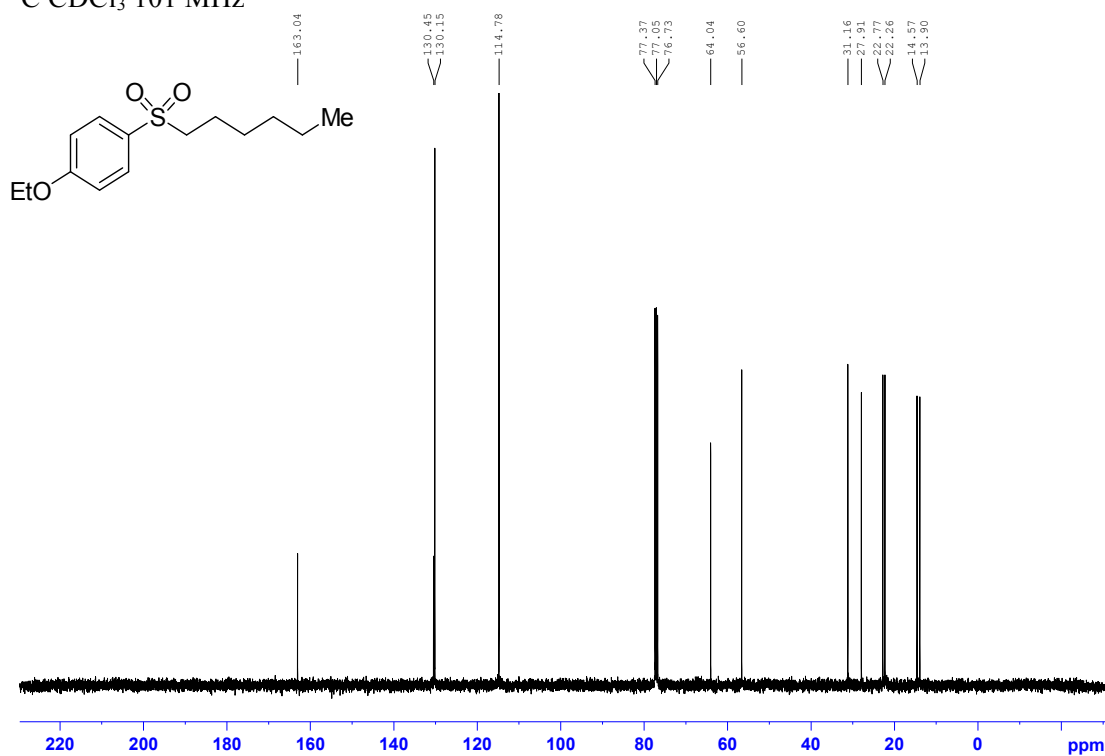


# 4-Ethoxyphenyl hexyl sulfone, 10aI

$^1\text{H}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz

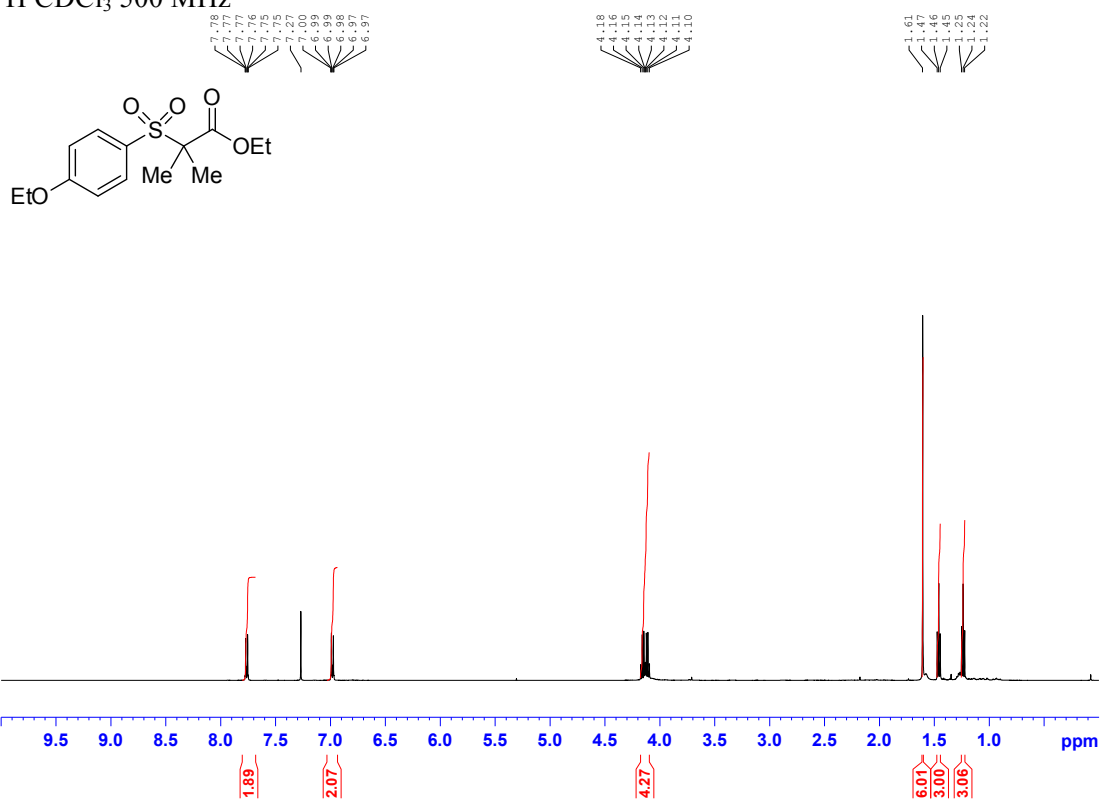


$^{13}\text{C}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 101 MHz

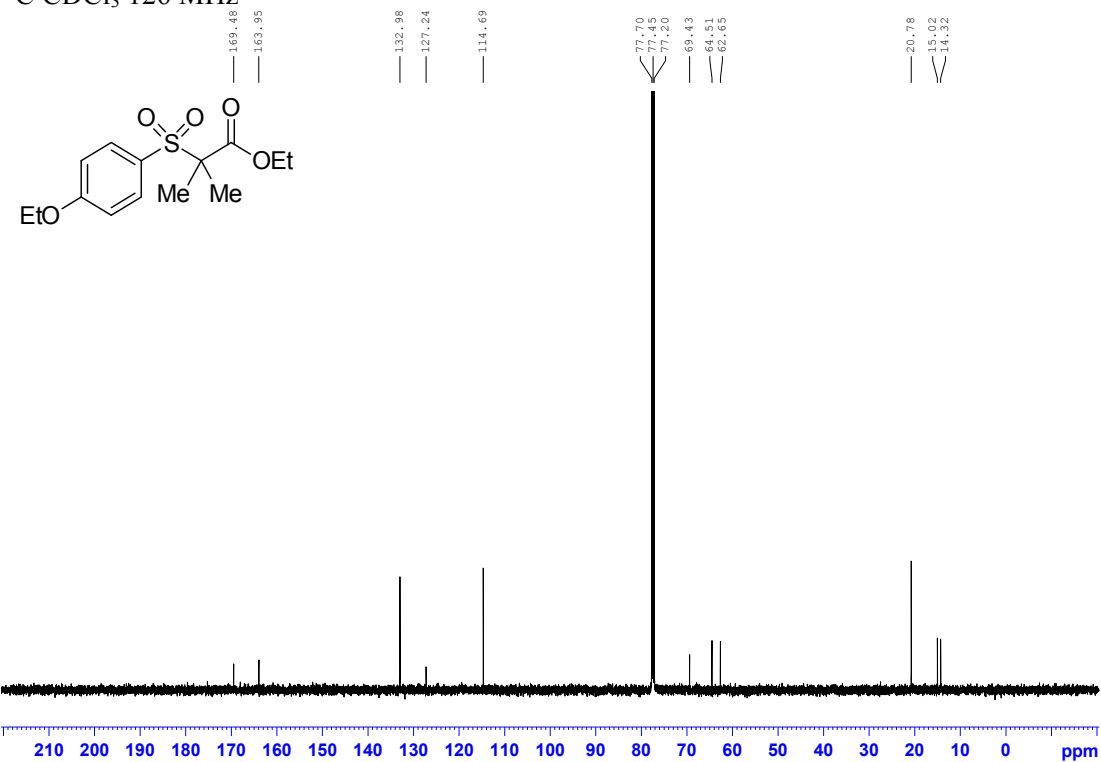


# Ethyl 2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methylpropanoate, 10am

$^1\text{H}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  500 MHz

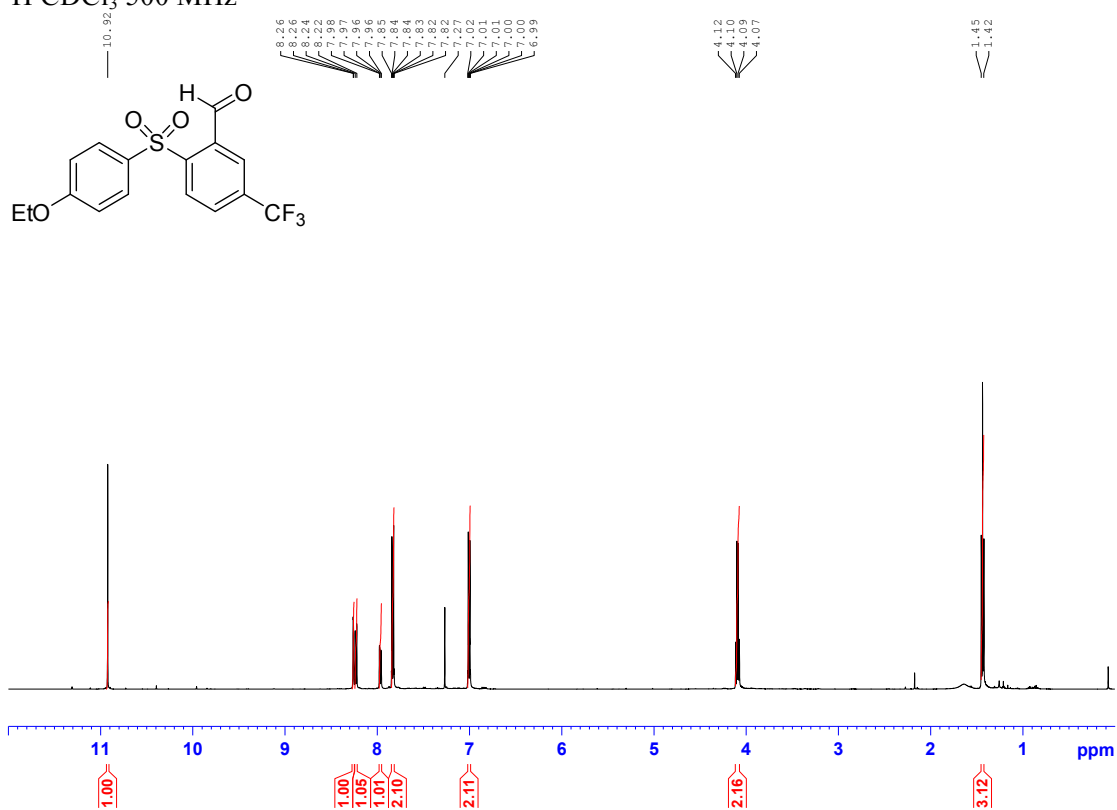


$^{13}\text{C}$   $\text{CDCl}_3$  126 MHz

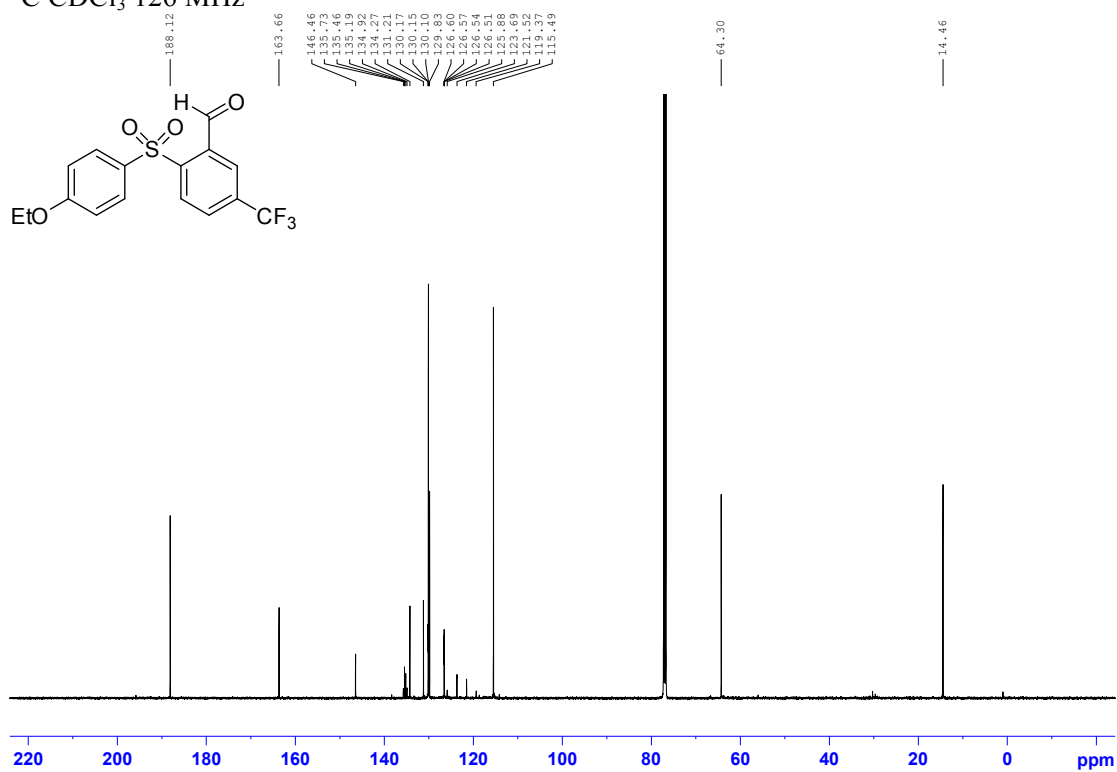


# 2-[4-Ethoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde, 10an

$^1\text{H}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 500 MHz

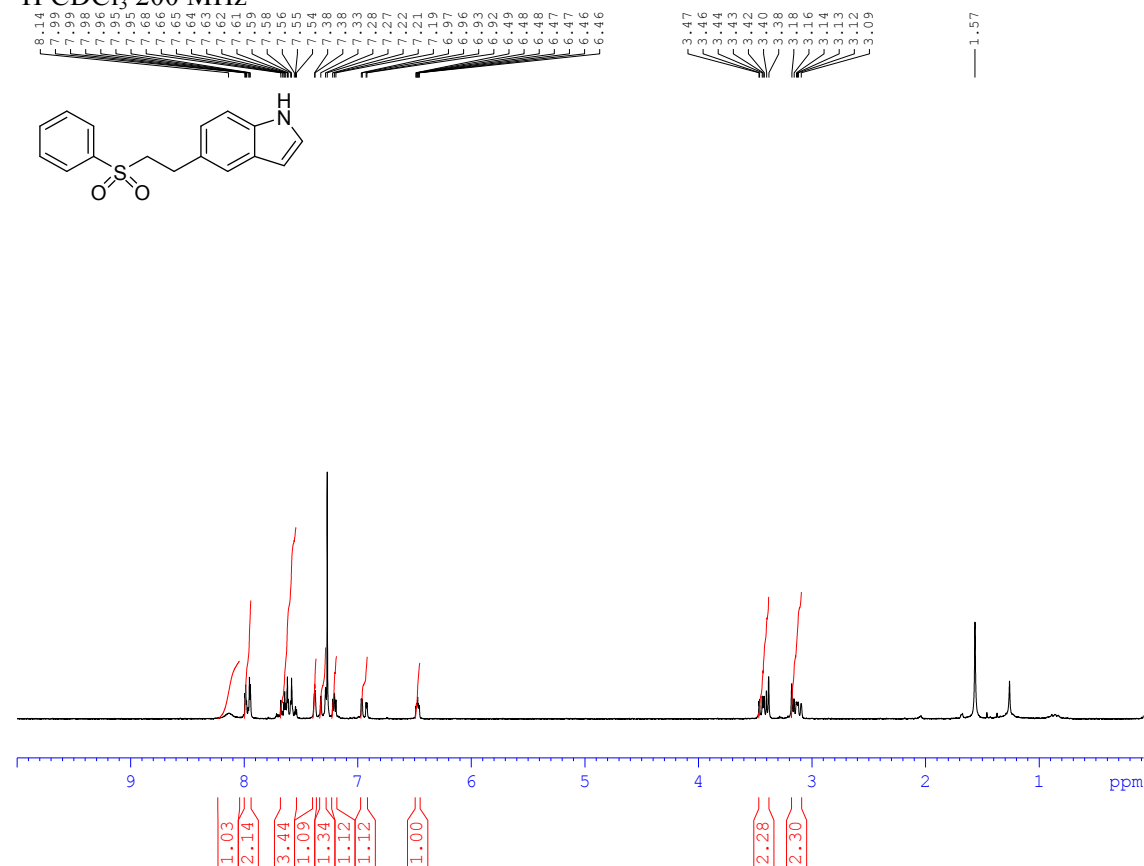


$^{13}\text{C}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 126 MHz

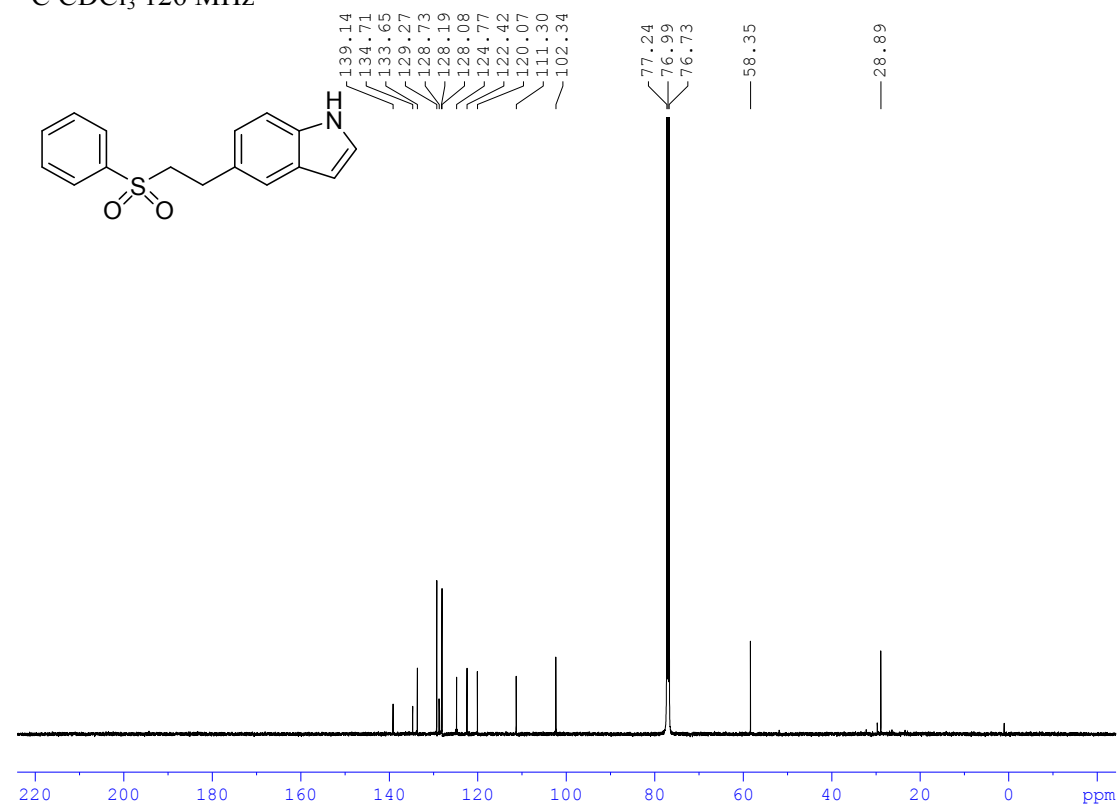


### 5-[2-(Phenylsulfonyl)ethyl]-1H-indole, 13

$^1\text{H}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 200 MHz

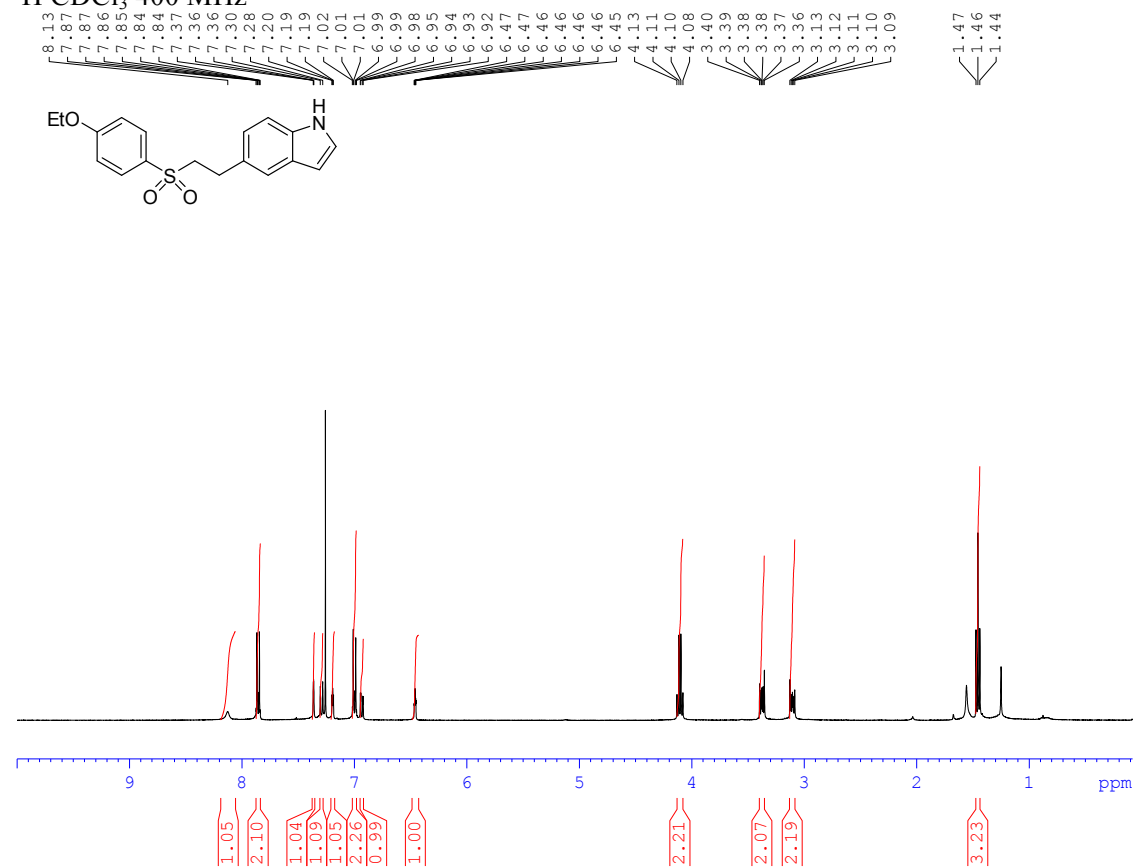


$^{13}\text{C}$  CDCl<sub>3</sub> 126 MHz

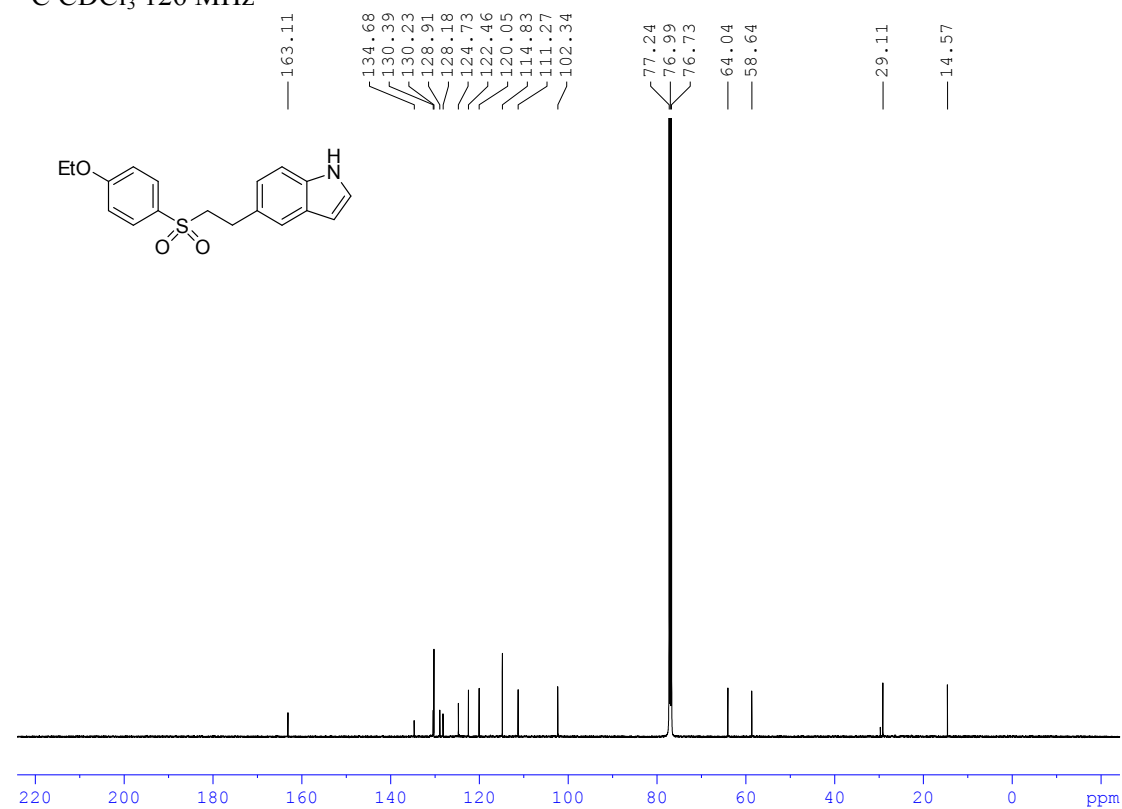


**5-{2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]ethyl}-1H-indole, 14**

<sup>1</sup>H CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz



<sup>13</sup>C CDCl<sub>3</sub> 126 MHz



## 7) References

- <sup>1</sup> G. B. Deacon, D. Tunaley and R. N. M. Smith, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 1978, **144**, 111.
- <sup>2</sup> T. Furuya, A. E. Strom and T. Ritter, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2009, **131**, 1662.
- <sup>3</sup> (a) B. Nguyen, E. J. Emmett and M. C. Willis, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2010, **132**, 16372; (b) E. J. Emmett, C. S. Richards-Taylor, B. Nguyen, A. Garcia-Rubia, B. R. Hayter and M. C. Willis, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2012, **10**, 4007.
- <sup>4</sup> J. L. Treece, J. R. Goodell, D. V. Velde, J. A. Porco Jr. and J. Aubé, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2010, **75**, 2028.
- <sup>5</sup> L. Knorr and H. W. Brownsdon, *Chem. Ber.*, 1902, **35**, 4474.
- <sup>6</sup> (a) D. Perdicchia, E. Licandro, S. Maiorana, C. Baldoli and C. Giannini, *Tetrahedron*, 2003, **59**, 7733; (b) E. Gruendemann, R. Brehme and H. E. Nikolajewski, *J. Prakt. Chem.*, 1982, **324**, 575.
- <sup>7</sup> S. Rozen and Y. Bareket, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1997, **62**, 1457.
- <sup>8</sup> N. J. Findlay, S. R. Park, F. Schoenebeck, E. Cahard, S.- Z. Berlouis, E. A. Leonard, M. A. Spicer, T. Tuttle and J. A. Murphy, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2010, **132**, 15462.
- <sup>9</sup> P. Oxley, M. W. Partridge, T. D. Robson and W. F. Short, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1946, 763.
- <sup>10</sup> P. J. Stevenson, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2011, **9**, 2078.
- <sup>11</sup> M. Tiecco, L. Testaferri, M. Tingoli and E. Wenkert, *Tetrahedron*, 1983, **39**, 2289.
- <sup>12</sup> D. Y. Yang, O. Han, and H. W. Liu, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1989, **54**, 5402.
- <sup>13</sup> A. R. Hajipour, S. E. Mallakpour and A. Afrousheh, *Phosphorus, Sulfur, Silicon Relat. Elem.*, 2000, **160**, 67.
- <sup>14</sup> K. Kohori, M. Hashimoto, H. Kinoshita and K. Inomata, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.*, 1994, **67**, 3088.
- <sup>15</sup> D. A. Alonso, A. Arques, C. Najera and J. M. Sansano, *An. Quim.*, 1995, **91**, 449.
- <sup>16</sup> M. Bielawski, M. Zhu and B. Olofsson, *Adv. Synth. Cat.*, 2007, **349**, 2610.
- <sup>17</sup> W. Zhu and D. Ma, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2005, **70**, 2696.
- <sup>18</sup> F. G. Bordwell and B. B. Jarvis, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1968, **33**, 1182.
- <sup>19</sup> (a) G. Zhou, P. C. Ting and R. G. Aslanian, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2010, **51**, 939; (b) P. J. Kropp, G. W. Breton, J. D. Fields, J. C. Tung and B. R. Loomis, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2000, **122**, 4280.
- <sup>20</sup> B. Lamm and K. Anker, *Acta Chem. Scand., Ser. B.*, 1978, **32**, 264.
- <sup>21</sup> K. P. Bryliakov and E. P. Talsi, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2011, **24**, 4693.
- <sup>22</sup> B. Dass Gupta, M. Roy, S. Roy, M. Kumar and I. Das, *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin. T. 2*, 1990, **4**, 537.
- <sup>23</sup> T. Niwa, H. Yorimitsu and K. Oshima *Tetrahedron*, 2009, **65**, 1971.
- <sup>24</sup> A. Courtin, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, 1983, **66**, 1046.
- <sup>25</sup> H. Umezawa, S. Okada, H. Oikawa, H. Matsuda, and H. Nakanishi, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.*, 2005, **78**, 344.
- <sup>26</sup> K. Schank, and F. Werner, *Liebigs Ann. Chem.*, 1979, **12**, 1977.
- <sup>27</sup> B. M. Choudary, B. Bharathi, Ch. V. Reddy and M. L. Kantam, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1*, 2002, **18**, 2069.
- <sup>28</sup> G. Stork and K. Zhao, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1989, **30**, 2173.
- <sup>29</sup> (a) T. Calogeropoulou, G. B. Hammond and D. F. Wiemer, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1987, **52**, 4185; (b) K. Lee and D. F. Wiemer, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1993, **34**, 2433.
- <sup>30</sup> M. R. Pullagurla, J. B. Rangisetty, N. Naidu, N. Maddela, R. Nagarapu and P. R. Polagani, *PCT Int. Appl.*, 2010049952, 2010.
- <sup>31</sup> S. Ye and J. Wu, *Chem. Commun.*, 2012, **48**, 10037.
- <sup>32</sup> S. Ye and J. Wu, *Chem. Commun.*, 2012, **48**, 7753.