



A Publication
of Reliable Methods
for the Preparation
of Organic Compounds

Working with Hazardous Chemicals

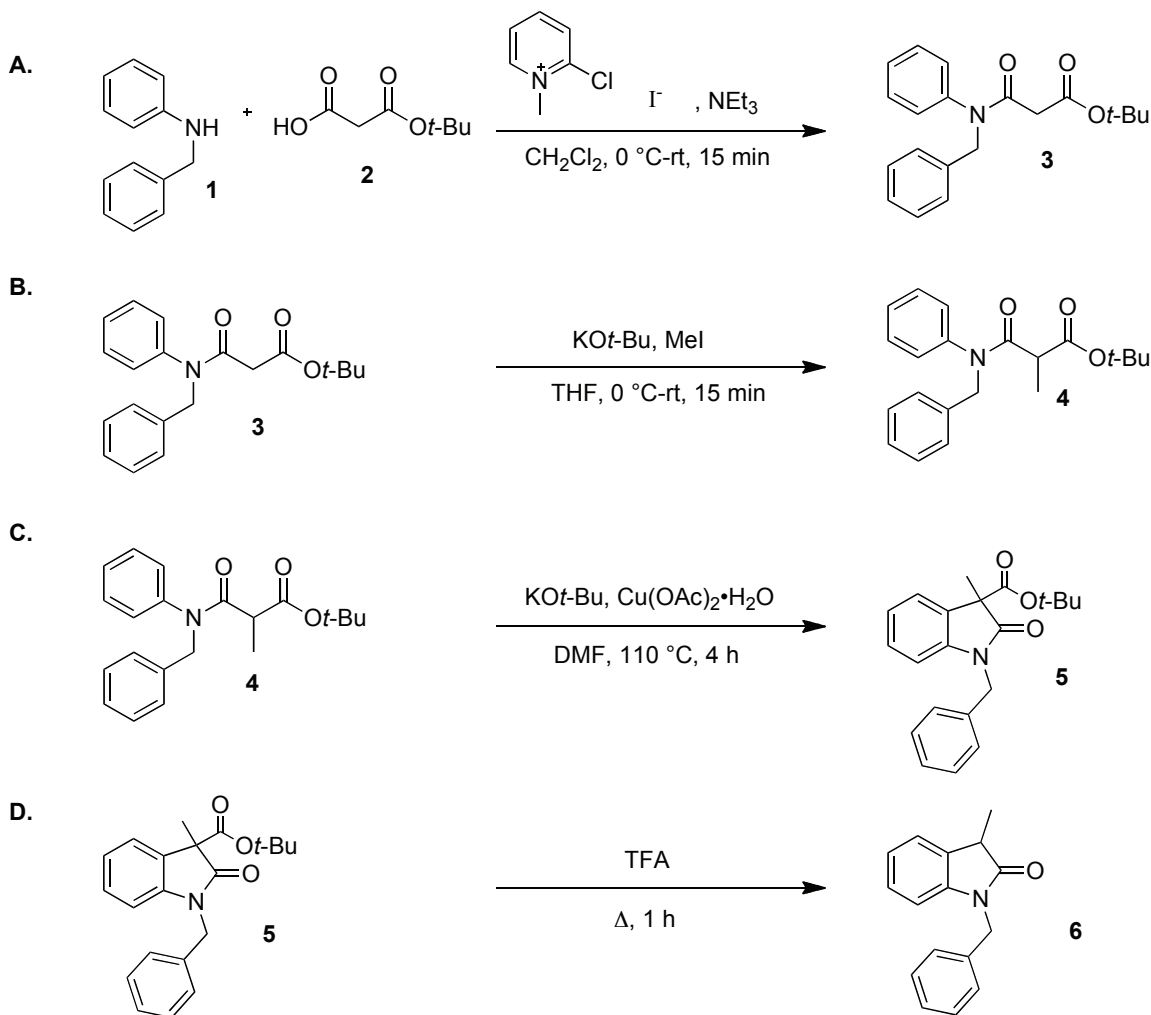
The procedures in *Organic Syntheses* are intended for use only by persons with proper training in experimental organic chemistry. All hazardous materials should be handled using the standard procedures for work with chemicals described in references such as "Prudent Practices in the Laboratory" (The National Academies Press, Washington, D.C., 2011; the full text can be accessed free of charge at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12654). All chemical waste should be disposed of in accordance with local regulations. For general guidelines for the management of chemical waste, see Chapter 8 of Prudent Practices.

In some articles in *Organic Syntheses*, chemical-specific hazards are highlighted in red "Caution Notes" within a procedure. It is important to recognize that the absence of a caution note does not imply that no significant hazards are associated with the chemicals involved in that procedure. Prior to performing a reaction, a thorough risk assessment should be carried out that includes a review of the potential hazards associated with each chemical and experimental operation on the scale that is planned for the procedure. Guidelines for carrying out a risk assessment and for analyzing the hazards associated with chemicals can be found in Chapter 4 of Prudent Practices.

The procedures described in *Organic Syntheses* are provided as published and are conducted at one's own risk. *Organic Syntheses, Inc.*, its Editors, and its Board of Directors do not warrant or guarantee the safety of individuals using these procedures and hereby disclaim any liability for any injuries or damages claimed to have resulted from or related in any way to the procedures herein.

September 2014: The paragraphs above replace the section "Handling and Disposal of Hazardous Chemicals" in the originally published version of this article. The statements above do not supersede any specific hazard caution notes and safety instructions included in the procedure.

Preparation of 3-Alkylated Oxindoles from *N*-Benzyl Aniline via a Cu(II)-Mediated Anilide Cyclization Process



Submitted by David S. Pugh¹ and Richard J. K. Taylor.¹
 Checked by Joshua S. Alford and Huw M. L. Davies.

1. Procedure

A. *tert*-Butyl 3-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate (**3**). A 250-mL, 2-necked, round-bottomed flask (B24 open neck; B14 with thermometer adaptor and -10 – 60 °C thermometer fitted) with a stir bar (oval, 1.25 in x 0.625 in) is charged with *N*-benzylaniline (10.96 g, 60.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) (Note 1), dichloromethane (120 mL) (Note 2) and *tert*-butyl malonate (10.56 g, 66.0 mmol, 1.1 equiv) (Note 3) to give a pale yellow solution. The flask is placed in an ice-water bath to give an internal temperature of 4 °C. 2-

Chloro-1-methylpyridinium iodide (Mukaiyama's reagent, 16.82 g, 66.0 mmol, 1.1 equiv) (Note 4) is added in a single portion to give a yellow suspension and an exotherm to 10 °C. The mixture is stirred for 5 min until the temperature has returned to 3 °C, before addition of triethylamine (33.3 mL, 24.29 g, 240.0 mmol, 4.0 equiv) (Note 5) *via* syringe maintaining the temperature below 10 °C (ca. 10 min) to give a yellow solution. On complete addition, the ice bath is removed and the reaction allowed to warm to room temperature. The reaction progress is monitored by TLC analysis on silica gel (Note 6). After 15 min, the yellow solution is quenched by the addition of an aqueous 3 M HCl solution (60 mL) to give a biphasic solution which is stirred for 5 min before transferring to a 500-mL separating funnel, and washing the flask with an additional 50 mL dichloromethane. The combined organic layers are separated and washed with 60 mL saturated aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate and 120 mL saturated NaCl solution, dried over Na₂SO₄ (20 g), filtered (sinter, 60 mL, porosity 3) into a 500-mL round-bottomed flask and concentrated by rotary evaporation (38 °C water-bath, 15 to 10 mmHg) to afford 18.19 g of a yellow oil. Flash chromatography (SiO₂, 3:1 to 1:1 petroleum ether/Et₂O) (Note 7) gave 17.39 g (89%) of the product as a colorless oil (Note 8), which is utilized in the next step.

B. *tert*-Butyl 3-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-2-methyl-3-oxopropanoate (4). A 250-mL, two-necked, round-bottomed flask (B24 septum and argon balloon; B14 with thermometer adaptor and -10-60 °C thermometer fitted) with a stir bar (oval, 1.25 in x 0.625 in) is charged with *tert*-butyl 3-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate (16.28 g, 50.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) (Note 9) to give a pale yellow solution. The flask is placed in an ice-water bath to give an internal temperature of 3 °C. Potassium *tert*-butoxide (6.18 g, 55.0 mmol, 1.1 equiv) (Note 10) is added to give an orange suspension and an exotherm to 10 °C. The reaction is stirred until the temperature had returned to 3 °C (ca. 5 min), before addition of methyl iodide (3.4 mL, 7.61 g, 52.5 mmol, 1.05 equiv) (Note 11) *via* syringe over 30 min, maintaining the temperature below 10 °C to give a cream suspension. On complete addition, the ice bath is removed and the mixture stirred for 15 min. The reaction progress is monitored by TLC analysis on silica gel (Note 12). After this time the cream suspension is quenched by the addition of 50 mL saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution and transferred to a 250-mL separating funnel. The washings are transferred with 20 mL of water and 100 mL Et₂O (Note 13). The organic layer is separated

and washed with 100 mL saturated NaCl solution, dried over MgSO₄ (20 g), filtered (sinter, 60 mL, porosity 3) into a 250-mL round-bottomed flask and concentrated by rotary evaporation (32 °C water-bath, 15 to 10 mmHg) to afford 17.96 g of an orange oil. Flash chromatography (SiO₂, 7:3 petroleum ether/Et₂O) (Note 14) gave 15.61 g (92%) of the product as a colorless sticky oil (Note 15), which is utilized in the next step.

C. *tert*-Butyl 1-benzyl-3-methyl-2-oxoindoline-3-carboxylate (**5**). A 2-L 2-necked, round-bottomed flask (B24 septum and argon balloon; B19 with thermometer adaptor and 0-300 °C thermometer fitted) with a stir bar (oval, 1.25 in x 0.625 in) is charged with *tert*-butyl 3-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-2-methyl-3-oxopropanoate (16.55 g, 48.8 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and *N,N*-dimethylformamide (800 mL) (Note 16) to give a colorless solution. Potassium *tert*-butoxide (6.02 g, 53.7 mmol, 1.1 equiv) (Note 10) is added to give a yellow solution. The mixture is stirred for 5 min before addition of copper(II) acetate monohydrate (9.78 g, 48.8 mmol, 1.00 equiv) (Note 17) in a single portion to give a green-blue suspension, which is placed in a 110 °C oil-bath. The reaction progress is monitored by TLC analysis on silica gel (Note 18). After 4 h, the brown suspension is cooled to room temperature and concentrated by rotary evaporation (78 °C water-bath, 15 to 10 mmHg) to approximately 1/10th volume. The brown suspension is poured into a 1-L separating funnel, and washed with 400 mL of water, 100 mL of 3 M HCl and 200 mL of Et₂O to give a brown organic and green aqueous layers. The layers are separated and the aqueous layer further extracted with Et₂O (2 × 200 mL). The combined organic layers are washed with 200 mL of saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and 2 × 200 mL of a saturated NaCl solution, dried over MgSO₄ (20 g), filtered (sinter, 60 mL, porosity 3) into a 1-L round-bottomed flask and concentrated by rotary evaporation (32 °C water-bath, 15 to 10 mmHg) to afford 15.30 g of a brown oil. Flash chromatography (SiO₂, 4:1 petroleum ether/ Et₂O) (Note 19), followed by collection of the product on a sinter (60 mL, porosity 3), using portions of hexane (3 × 50 mL) (Note 20) gave 8.32 g (51%) of the product as a colorless solid (Note 21), which is utilized in the next step.

D. 1-Benzyl-3-methylindolin-2-one (**6**). A 100-mL 1-necked round-bottomed flask (B14 with condenser fitted) with a stir bar (oval, 1.25 in x 0.625 in) is charged with *tert*-butyl 1-benzyl-3-methyl-2-oxoindoline-3-carboxylate (7.42 g, 22.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and trifluoroacetic acid (11 mL) (Note 22) to give a yellow solution which is placed in an oil-bath held at 75 °C. The reaction progress is monitored by TLC analysis on silica gel (Note

23). After 1 h, the brown solution is cooled to room temperature, transferred to a 250-mL round-bottomed flask using 3×20 mL of dichloromethane and concentrated by rotary evaporation (38 °C water-bath, 15 to 10 mmHg) to yield an oil. Ethanol (50 mL) (Note 24) is added to dissolve the oil and then removed by rotary evaporation (40 °C water-bath, 12 mmHg) to give a colorless solid (4.88 g). Purification by recrystallization (ethanol) (Note 25) gave 4.14 g (80%) of the product as colorless shards (Note 26).

2. Notes

1. *N*-Benzyl aniline (99%) was purchased from Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc.

2. Dichloromethane (HPLC grade) was purchased from Fisher Scientific Company and used as received.

3. *tert*-Butyl malonate (97%) was purchased from Alfa Aesar. The supplied material contained 5–10% *tert*-butyl ethyl malonate as an impurity, but was used as received.

4. 2-Chloro-1-methylpyridinium iodide (Mukaiyama's reagent; 97%) was purchased from Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc.

5. Triethylamine was purchased from Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc.

6. TLC analysis was carried out using silica gel plates (Note 28) with petroleum ether-Et₂O (1:1) as eluent and visualisation with UV (254 nm) and *p*-anisaldehyde. *N*-Benzyl aniline **1** has $R_f = 0.77$ (white) and the product **3** has $R_f = 0.42$ (purple).

7. The crude material was purified by column chromatography. A 60-mm diameter column was wet-packed with a silica gel slurry made from petroleum ether/Et₂O (3:1) (180 g) (Note 30) to give a 160-mm column depth. Sand (1 cm) was layered onto the silica and the crude oil suspended in the eluent (25 mL) and poured onto the sand. Washings are also loaded with further portions of the eluent (2 x 25 mL) and 400 mL of eluent was collected. Fractions (16 x 150 mm test tubes) are collected from 600 mL of petroleum ether/Et₂O (3:1) and 1.5 L of petroleum ether/Et₂O (1:1) to give 55 fractions. The product was identified by thin layer chromatography (petroleum ether/Et₂O (1:1); $R_f = 0.42$) and fractions 15-53 are collected and concentrated by rotary evaporation (35 °C water-bath, 15 to 10 mmHg). The material was then dried overnight under high vacuum (0.08 mmHg) with an oval stir-bar to yield the product.

8. The checkers report an 88% yield when the reaction was performed at half-scale. Compound **3** exhibits the following physical and spectroscopic properties: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.42 (s, 9 H), 3.14 (s, 2 H), 4.91 (s, 2 H), 7.01–7.03 (m, 2 H), 7.23–7.26 (m, 5 H), 7.29–7.31 (m, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 28.1, 43.1, 53.1, 81.6, 127.6, 128.5, 128.9, 129.8, 137.3, 142.1, 166.4, 167.0; IR (neat): 3063, 2978, 1731, 1660, 1495, 1392, 1367, 1326, 1142, 697 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z 326.1749 [326.1751 calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_3$ (M+H)]. Anal. Calcd for: C, 73.82, H, 7.12, N, 4.30. Found: C, 73.59, H, 7.13, N, 4.41.

9. Tetrahydrofuran (HPLC grade) was purchased from Fisher and purified using a Innovative Technology Inc. Pure SolvTM solvent purification system.

10. Potassium *tert*-butoxide was purchased from Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc.

11. Methyl iodide was purchased from Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc.

12. TLC analysis was carried out using silica gel plates (Note 28) with petroleum ether-Et₂O (1:1) as eluent and visualisation with UV (254 nm) and *p*-anisaldehyde. *tert*-Butyl 3-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate **3** has $R_f = 0.38$ (purple) and the product **4** has $R_f = 0.48$ (blue).

13. Diethyl ether (Lab reagent grade) was supplied by Fisher Scientific.

14. A 60-mm diameter column was wet-packed with silica gel (220 g) (Note 30) to give a 140 mm column depth. Sand (1 cm) was layered onto the silica and the crude oil suspended in the eluent (25 mL) and poured onto the sand. Washings are also loaded in a further portion of eluent (25 mL). Fractions (45 mL) are collected from 4 L of petroleum ether/Et₂O (7:3). The 49 fractions were analyzed by TLC (petroleum ether/Et₂O 7:3) and the product ($R_f = 0.27$) identified in fractions 11-35, which were collected and concentrated by rotary evaporation (32 °C water-bath, 15 to 10 mmHg). The residual material was dried overnight under high vacuum (0.1 mbar) with an oval stir bar to yield the product **4**.

15. The checkers report a 91% yield when the reaction was performed at half-scale. Compound **4** exhibits the following physical and spectroscopic properties: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.28 (d, $J = 7$ Hz, 3 H), 1.41 (s, 9 H), 3.27 (q, $J = 7.2$, 1 H), 4.57 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1 H), 5.22 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.01–7.04 (m, 2 H), 7.22–7.27 (m, 5 H), 7.30–7.34 (m, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 14.2, 28.1, 44.6, 53.2, 81.3, 127.6, 128.5, 128.7,

128.9, 129.8, 137.6, 142.2, 169.9, 170.5; IR (neat): 3063, 2978, 2935, 1738, 1656, 1595, 1495, 1454, 1393, 1367, 1325, 1245, 1147, 848, 735, 697 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z 340.1906 [340.1907 calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_3$ (M+H)]. Anal. Calcd for: C, 74.31; H, 7.42, N, 4.13. Found: C, 73.49; H, 7.29, N, 4.15.

16. *N,N*-Dimethylformamide (anhydrous, 99.8%) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used as received. Submitters purchased *N,N*-dimethylformamide from Fisher Scientific and purified using a Innovative Technology Inc. Pure SolvTM solvent purification system.

17. Copper(II) acetate monohydrate was purchased from Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc.

18. TLC analysis was carried out using silica gel plates (Note 28) with petroleum ether-Et₂O (1:1) as eluent and visualisation with UV (254 nm) and *p*-anisaldehyde. *tert*-Butyl 3-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-2-methyl-3-oxopropanoate **4** has $R_f = 0.50$ (blue) and the product **5** has $R_f = 0.68$ (purple).

19. A 60-mm diameter column was wet-packed with silica gel (120 g) (Note 30) to give a 110-mm column depth. Sand (1 cm) was layered onto the silica and the crude oil suspended in dichloromethane (10 mL) and poured onto the sand. Washings were also loaded in a further portion of dichloromethane (5 mL). Fractions (16 x 150 mm tubes) were collected from 1.5 L of petroleum ether/Et₂O (4:1). The 90 fractions were evaluated by thin layer chromatography (petroleum ether/Et₂O; 4:1) product $R_f = 0.26$) and fractions 37-81 were collected and concentrated (Rotary evaporation (32 °C water-bath, 15 to 10 mmHg)) to yield the product.

20. The colorless solid was suspended in hexane (50 mL) and filtered, collecting the solid on a sinter (60 mL, porosity 3) and washing with three additional portions of 100 mL portions of hexane (Note 27). The colorless solid obtained was transferred to a 50-mL round-bottomed flask and dried overnight under high vacuum (0.08 mmHg).

21. The checkers report a 50% yield when the reaction was performed at half-scale. Compound **5** exhibits the following physical and spectroscopic properties: mp 106–107 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.36 (s, 9 H), 4.66 (d, $J = 16$ Hz, 1 H), 5.22 (d, $J = 16$ Hz, 1 H), 6.68 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.02 (ddd, $J = 1.2, 7.6, 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.17 (ddd, $J = 1.2, 7.6, 7.6$ Hz), 7.23–7.33 (m, 6 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 20.1, 28.0, 43.9, 56.1, 82.6, 109.6, 122.8, 123.0, 127.3, 127.8, 128.9, 130.9, 135.9, 142.9, 168.9, 175.8; IR (film): 3061, 2979, 2932, 1732, 1713, 1609, 1488, 1466, 1368, 1252, 1152, 1115, 1108, 748, 697 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z 338.1749 [338.1751

calcd for C₂₁H₂₄NO₃ (M+H)]. Anal. Calcd for: C, 74.75, H, 6.87, N, 4.15. Found: C, 74.56, H, 6.94, N, 4.19.

22. Trifluoroacetic acid, 98% was purchased from Aldrich Chemical Company Inc.

23. TLC analysis was carried out using silica gel plates (Note 28) with petroleum ether-Et₂O (1:1) as eluent and visualisation with UV (254 nm) and *p*-anisaldehyde. *tert*-Butyl 1-benzyl-3-methyl-2-oxindoline-3-carboxylate **5** has R_f = 0.68 (purple) and the product **6** has R_f = 0.46 (pink).

24. Ethanol (analytical reagent grade) was purchased from Fisher Scientific and used as received.

25. The colorless solid was dissolved in the minimum amount of boiling ethanol (ca. 15 mL) and allowed to cool to room temperature. The crystals were broken up with a spatula and collected *via* filtration in a sinter (60 mL, porosity 3) washing with three 50 mL portions of hexane (Note 27). The crystals were transferred to a 50-mL round-bottomed flask and dried overnight under high vacuum (0.08 mmHg).

26. The checkers report an 81% yield when the reaction was performed at half-scale. Compound **6** exhibits the following physical and spectroscopic properties: mp 119–120 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.54 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 3 H), 3.54 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.92 (s, 2 H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1 H), 7.02 (ddd, *J* = 1.2, 7.6, 7.6 Hz), 7.16 (dt, *J* = 1.2, 2, 8 Hz, 1 H), 7.24–7.34 (m, 6 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 15.9, 40.8, 43.9, 109.2, 122.7, 123.8, 127.5, 127.8, 128.0, 129.0, 130.9, 136.2, 143.3, 179.0 ppm; IR (film): 3057, 3031, 2930, 1704, 1613, 1487, 1466, 1454, 1348, 1202, 1169, 972, 749, 687 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* 238.1224 [238.1226 calcd. for C₁₆H₁₆NO (M+H)]. Anal. Calcd. for: C, 80.98; H, 6.37, N, 5.90. Found: C, 80.70; H, 6.24, N, 5.91. The physical and spectroscopic data matches those previously reported.²

27. *n*-Hexane (HPLC grade) was purchased from Fisher Scientific and used as received.

28. TLC plates were supplied by Merck, aluminium backed silica gel 60 (F₂₅₄).

29. Petroleum ether (lab reagent grade) supplied by Fisher Scientific. Diethyl ether (anhydrous) was supplied by Fisher Scientific.

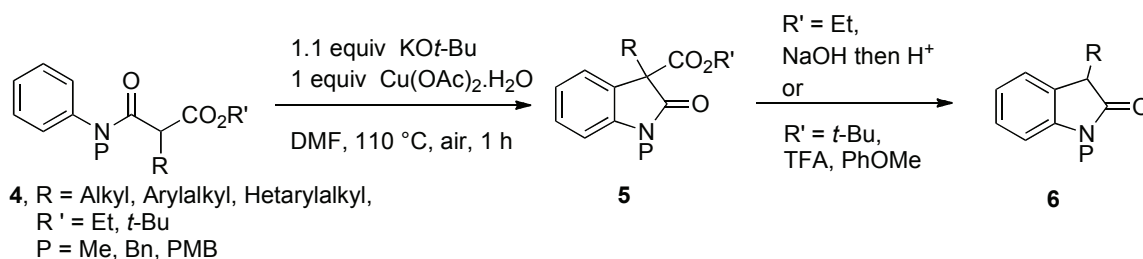
30. Silica Gel (60) was purchased from Sorbent Technologies. Submitters purchased silica gel (60) from Fluka.

Safety and Waste Disposal Information

All hazardous materials should be handled and disposed of in accordance with “Prudent Practices in the Laboratory”; National Academies Press; Washington, DC, 2011.

3. Discussion

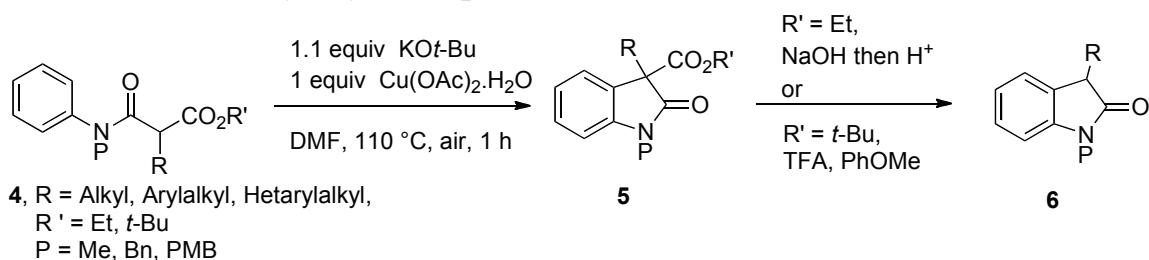
3-Substituted oxindoles form the cornerstone of numerous natural products and bioactive lead compounds.³ We recently reported an efficient new route to 3,3-disubstituted oxindoles such as esters **5** from anilides **4** using potassium *tert*-butoxide as base and stoichiometric $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ in DMF (Scheme 1).^{4,5} This procedure is operationally straightforward, employs inexpensive reagents and does not require anhydrous conditions or the use of an inert atmosphere (other electron-withdrawing groups, such as nitrile and phosphonate, could also be employed).^{4,6} Cyclization to generate the quaternary all-carbon-center occurs *via* a formal C-H, Ar-H coupling, but preliminary mechanistic studies are consistent with a sequence involving deprotonation, copper(II)-mediated radical generation and then homolytic aromatic substitution.^{4,6} A related procedure was developed which utilizes catalytic $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, but this has yet to be applied to multi-gram transformations.⁷



The stoichiometric $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ methodology was also extended to prepare 3-monosubstituted oxindoles **6** by subsequent decarboxyalkylation (Scheme 1). 3-Alkylated oxindoles are valuable as synthetic building blocks⁸ and as drug candidates.⁹ A base-mediated saponification/decarboxylation sequence using ethyl esters (**5**, R' = Et) was not widely applicable, but the use of neat TFA (with anisole as a cation trap) at room temperature on the corresponding *t*-butyl esters (**5**, R' = *t*-Bu) proved extremely efficient and versatile.⁵ The scope of this process is shown in Table 1. As can be seen, this decarboxyalkylation sequence was used to prepare a range of 3-substituted oxindoles including those with

saturated alkyl substituents, allyl, benzyl, phenethyl and naphthylmethyl substituents, as well as the benzyloxypropyl and 4-pyridylmethyl examples. The *N*-protecting group could be benzyl, methyl or *p*-methoxybenzyl (PMB). With *N*-PMB protection, the use of a higher temperature and a longer reaction time gave both decarboxyalkylation and *N*-deprotection.

Table 1 Scope of the copper(II)-mediated cyclisation and TFA-mediated decarboxyalkylation procedure



Entry	Oxindole 5	Yield 5 (%)	Alkyloxindole 6	Yield 6 (%)
i		55		77
ii		82		78
iii		76		90
iv		46 ^a		68
v		59		92
vi		93		98

^a Heat for 3 days

Table 1 (continued)

Entry	Oxindole 5	Yield 5 (%)	Alkyloxindole 6	Yield 6 (%)
vii		71		62
viii		73		93
ix		65		86
x		66		92
xi		69		84
xii		69		87

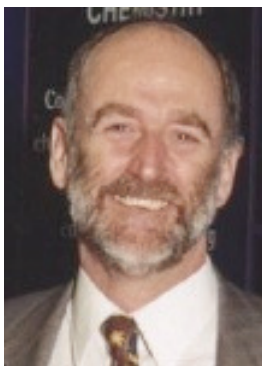
1. Department of Chemistry, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD, UK. E-mail: richard.taylor@york.ac.uk. We thank the EPSRC for postgraduate support (D.S.P., EP/E041302/1). We also thank Dr. Alexis Perry and Mr. Johannes Klein for helpful discussions.
2. Thomson, J. E.; Kyle, A. F.; Gallagher, K. A.; Lenden, P.; Concellón, C.; Morrill, L. C.; Miller, A. J.; Joannesse, C.; Slawin, A. M. Z.; Smith, A. D. *Synthesis* **2008**, 2805.
3. For relevant reviews see: (a) Marti, C.; Carreira, E. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, 2209. (b) Cerchiaro, G.; Ferreira, A. M. d. C. *J. Braz. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *17*, 1473. (c) Galliford, C.; Scheidt, K. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*

- 2007, 46, 8748. (d) Trost, B. M.; Brennan, M. K. *Synthesis* **2009**, 3003.
 (e) Millemaggi, A.; Taylor, R. J. K. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2010**, 4527.
4. Perry, A.; Taylor, R. J. K. *Chem. Commun.* **2009**, 3249.
 5. Pugh, D. S.; Klein, J. E. M. N.; Perry, A.; Taylor, R. J. K. *Synlett* **2010**, 934.
 6. Jia and Kundig prepared 3-aryl-3-alkyl oxindoles by a related CuCl₂-mediated process: Jia, Y. X.; Kundig, E. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, 48, 1636.
 7. (a) Klein, J. E. M. N.; Perry, A.; Pugh, D. S.; Taylor, R. J. K. *Org. Lett.* **2010**, 12, 3446. (b) Moody, C. L.; Franckevičius, V.; Drouhin, P.; Klein, J. E. M. N.; Taylor, R. J. K. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2012**, 53, 1897.
 8. (a) Bui, T.; Borregan, M.; Barbas, C. F. *J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, 74, 8935. (b) Qian, Z.-Q.; Zhou, F.; Du, T.-P.; Wang, B.-L.; Ding, M.; Zhao, X.-L.; Zhou, J. *Chem. Commun.* **2009**, 6753. (c) Jiang, K.; Peng, J.; Cui, H.-L.; Chen, Y.-C. *Chem. Commun.* **2009**, 3955. (d) Kato, Y.; Furutachi, M.; Chen, Z.; Mitsunuma, H.; Matsunaga, S.; Shibasaki, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 9168. (e) Sano, D.; Nagata, K.; Itoh, T., *Org. Lett.* **2008**, 10, 1593.
 9. (a) Shimazawa, R.; Kuriyama, M.; Shirai, R. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2008**, 18, 3350. (b) Rizzi, E.; Cassinelli, G.; Dallavalle, S.; Lanzi, C.; Cincinelli, R.; Nannei, R.; Cuccuru, G.; Zunino, F. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2007**, 17, 3962.

Appendix

Chemical Abstracts Nomenclature; (Registry Number)

tert-Butyl 3-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate;
N-Benzylaniline; (103-32-2)
 2-Chloro-1-methylpyridinium iodide; (14338-32-0)
tert-Butyl malonate; (40052-13-9)
tert-Butyl 3-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-2-methyl-3-oxopropanoate;
 Methyl iodide; (74-88-4)
 Potassium *tert*-butoxide; (865-47-4)
 Copper(II) acetate monohydrate; (6046-93-1)
 Trifluoroacetic acid; (76-05-1)
tert-Butyl 1-benzyl-3-methyl-2-oxoindoline-3-carboxylate;
 1-Benzyl-3-methylindolin-2-one; (34943-91-4)



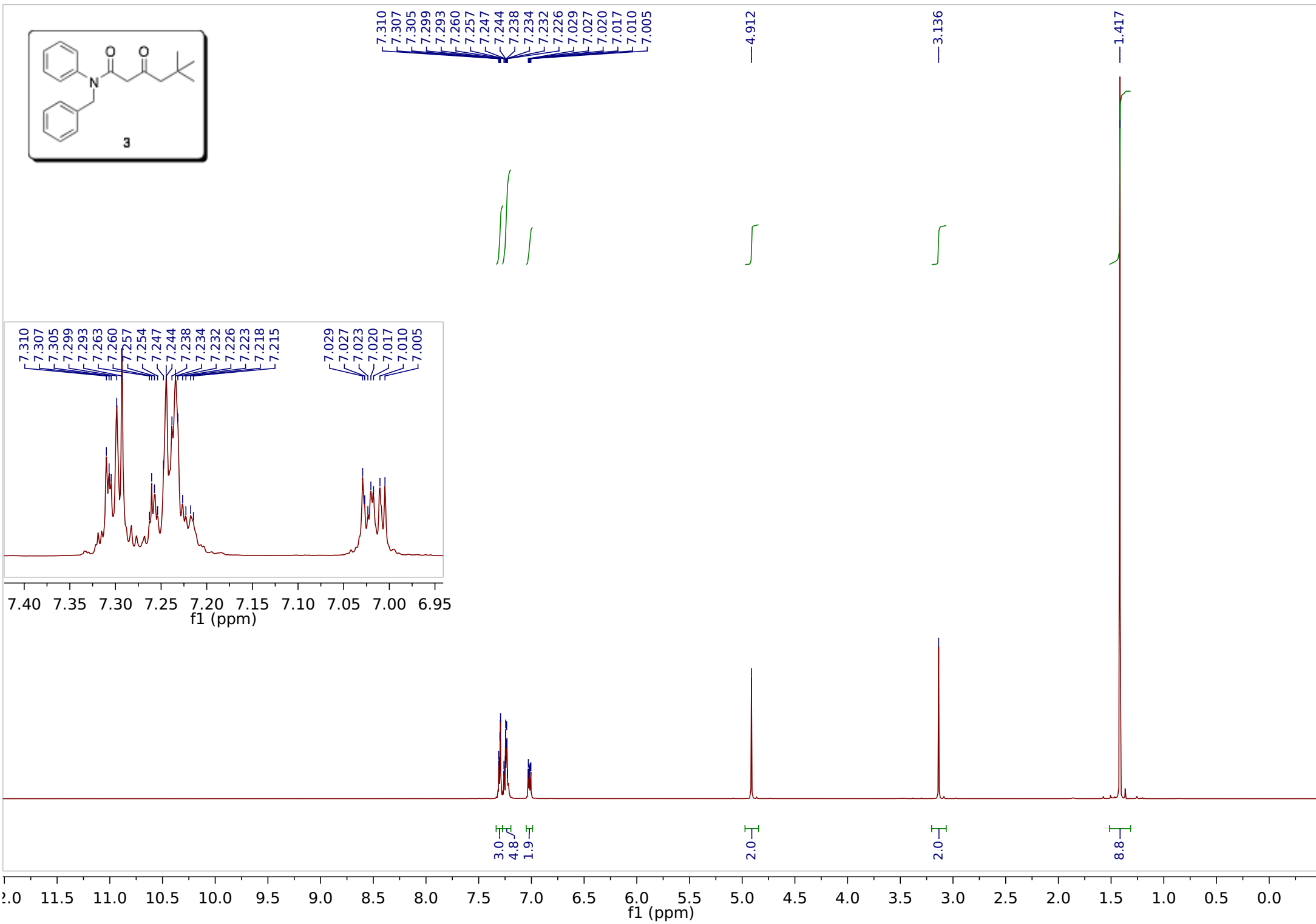
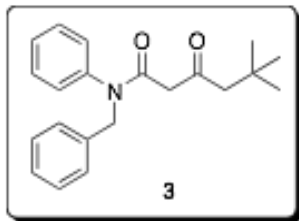
Richard Taylor obtained his B.Sc. and Ph.D. (Dr. D. Neville Jones) from the University of Sheffield. Postdoctoral periods with Dr. Ian Harrison and Professor Franz Sondheimer were followed by lectureships at the Open University and then UEA, Norwich. In 1993 he moved to the Chair of Organic Chemistry at the University of York. Taylor's research interests centre on the synthesis of bioactive natural products and the development of new synthetic methodology. His awards include the Royal Society of Chemistry's Pedler Lectureship (2007). Taylor is the current President of the International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry, a past-President of the RSC Organic Division and an Editor of *Tetrahedron*.

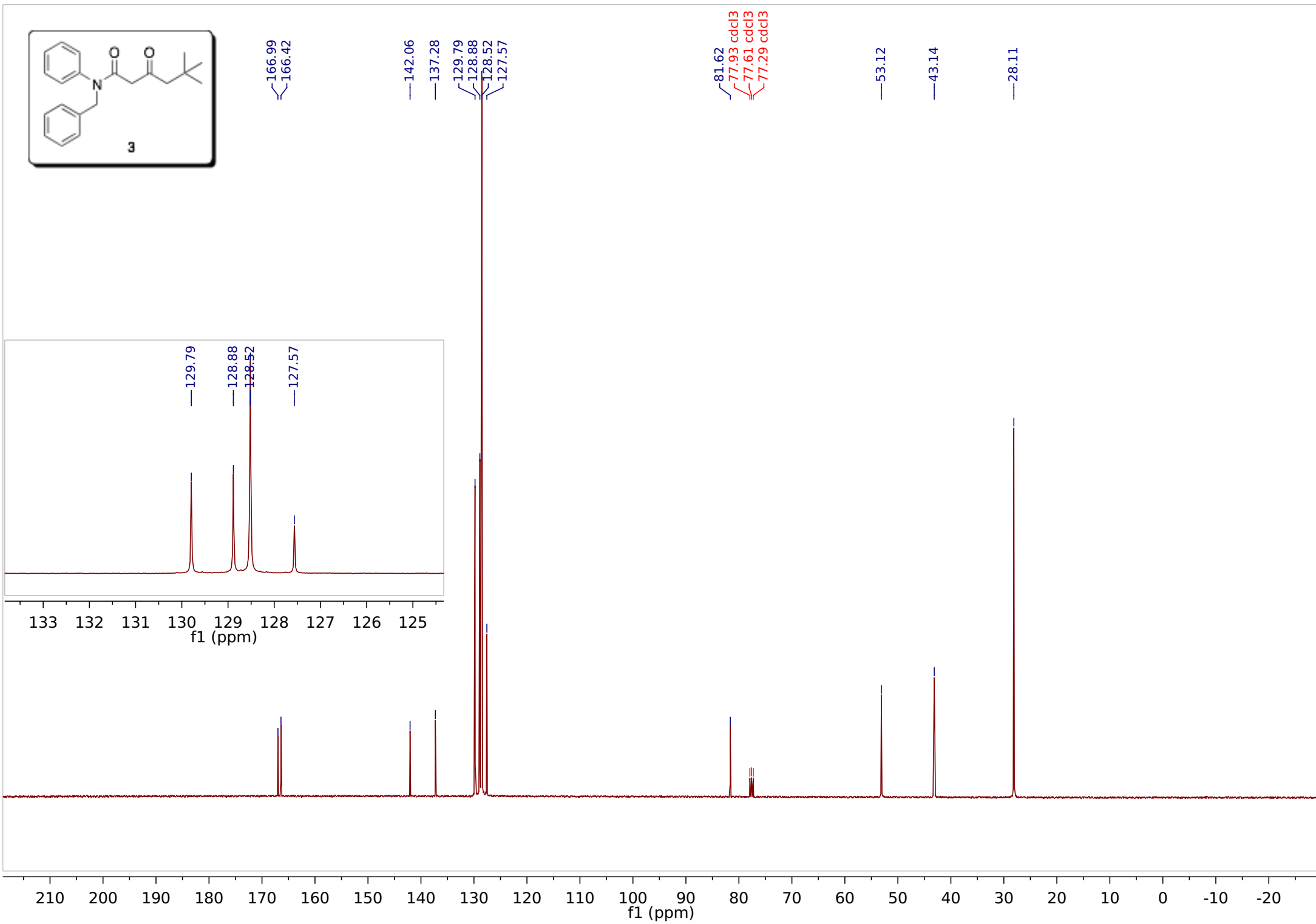
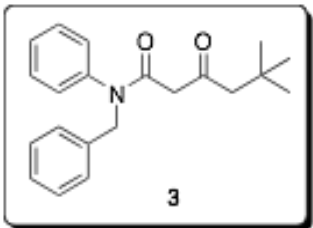


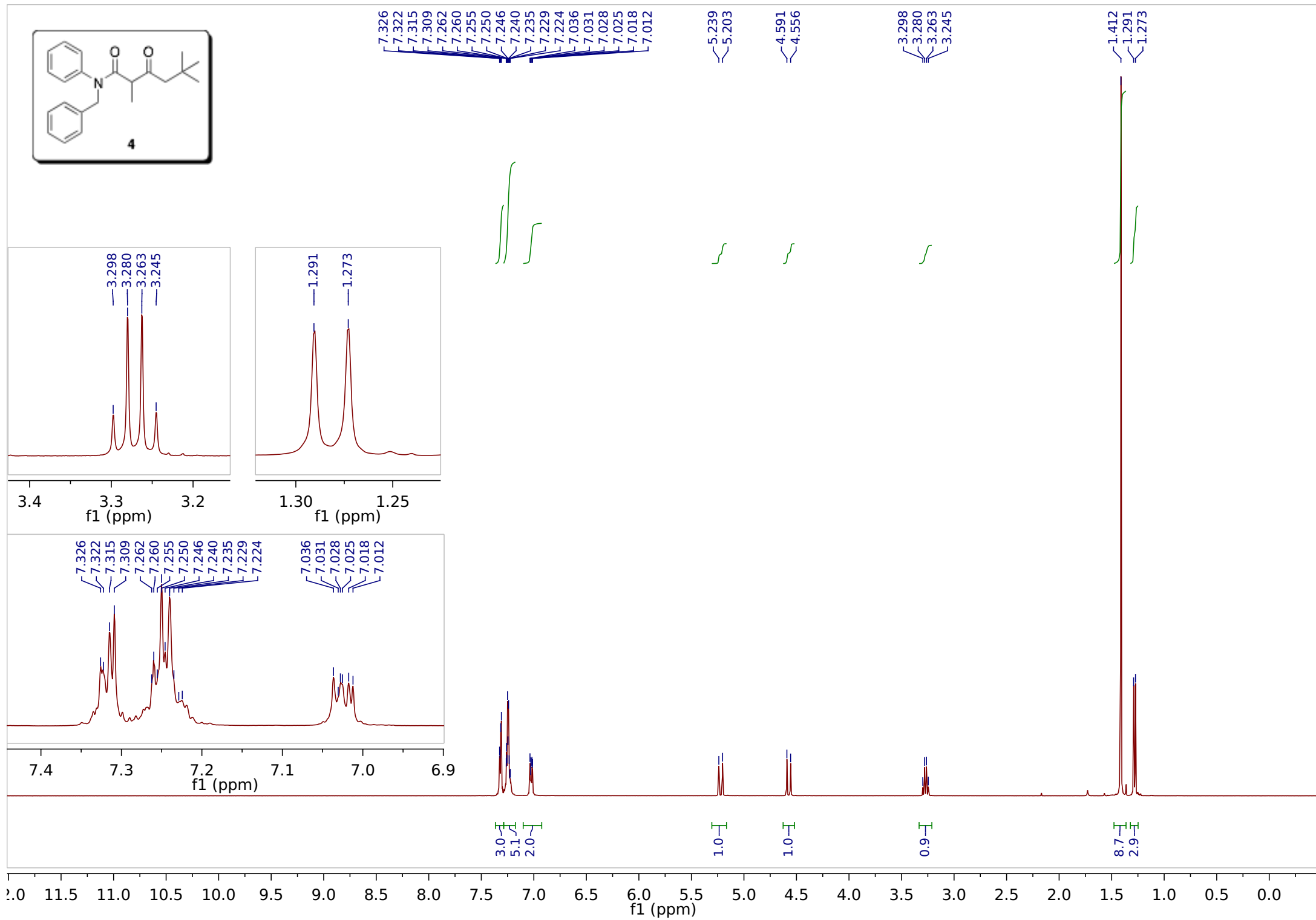
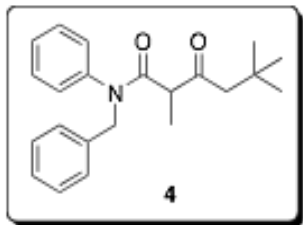
David Pugh was born in Harrogate, North Yorkshire in 1985. He carried out his undergraduate studies and obtained an M. Chem. (Hons) at the University of York in 2007, carrying out a final year project under the supervision of Prof. Richard Taylor. He remained in the group to undertake a Ph.D. and is investigating new methodology for the synthesis of cyclopropanes and oxindoles.

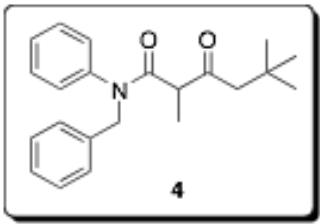


Joshua S. Alford received both his B.S. and M.S. in chemistry from Missouri State University under the supervision of Dr. Chad Stearman. He later joined the Davies research group at Emory University to pursue a PhD degree. His current projects include the synthesis of pharmaceutical agents utilizing rhodium carbenoid chemistry and the development of a new type of donor/acceptor carbenoid.









170.51
169.93

142.19
137.57
129.80
128.92
128.89
128.68
128.47
127.54

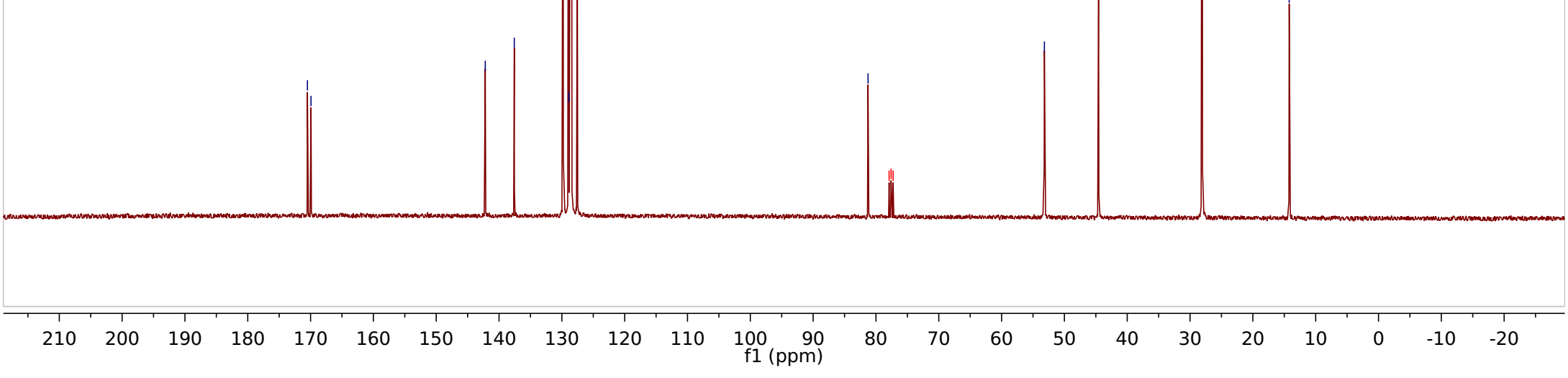
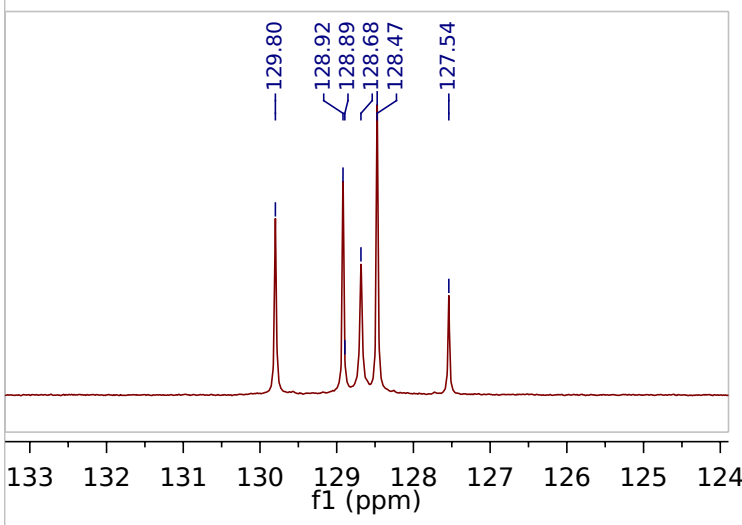
81.26
77.91 cdc13
77.59 cdc13
77.27 cdc13

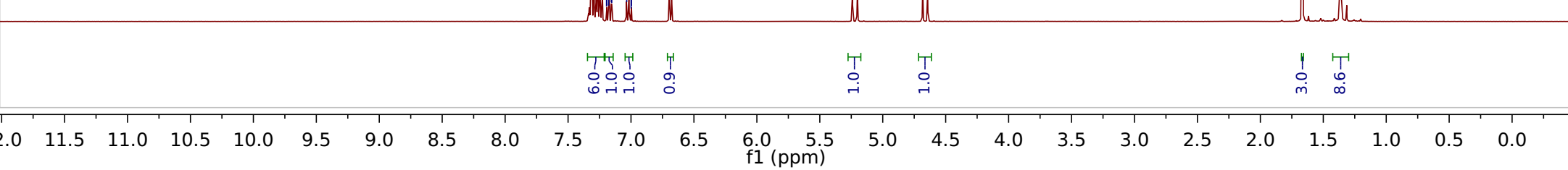
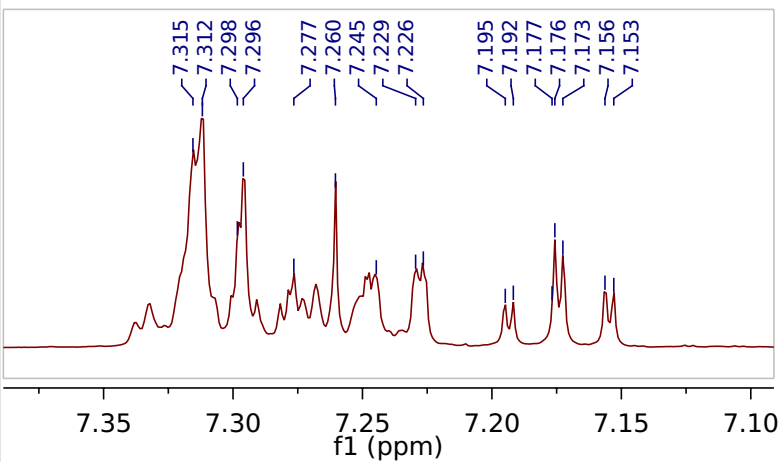
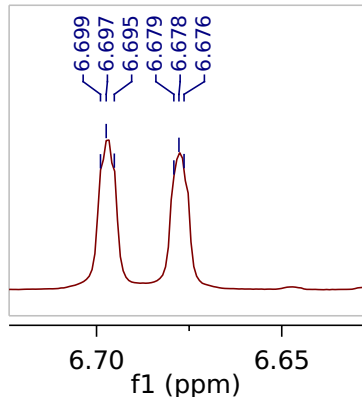
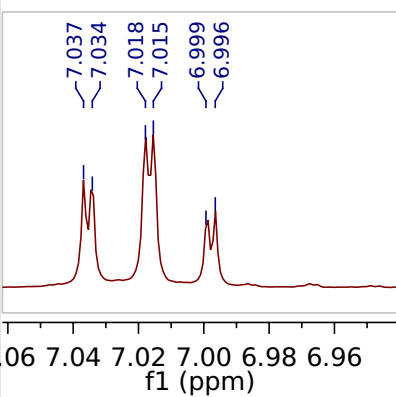
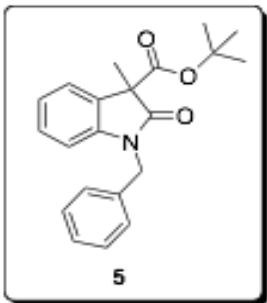
53.19

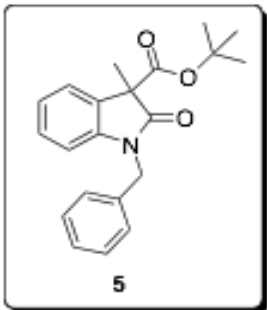
44.56

28.07

14.22







—175.83

—168.93

—142.90

—135.86

—130.92

—128.89

—127.77

—127.30

—122.98

—122.80

—109.57

—82.61

77.66 cdcl3

77.34 cdcl3

77.03 cdcl3

—56.12

—43.87

—27.97

—20.11

—130.92

—128.89

—127.77

—127.30

132 131 130 129 128 127 126 125
f1 (ppm)

210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -20
f1 (ppm)

