

## Supplementary Material

### Conformational control of bis-urea self-assembled supramolecular pH switchable low-molecular-weight hydrogelators

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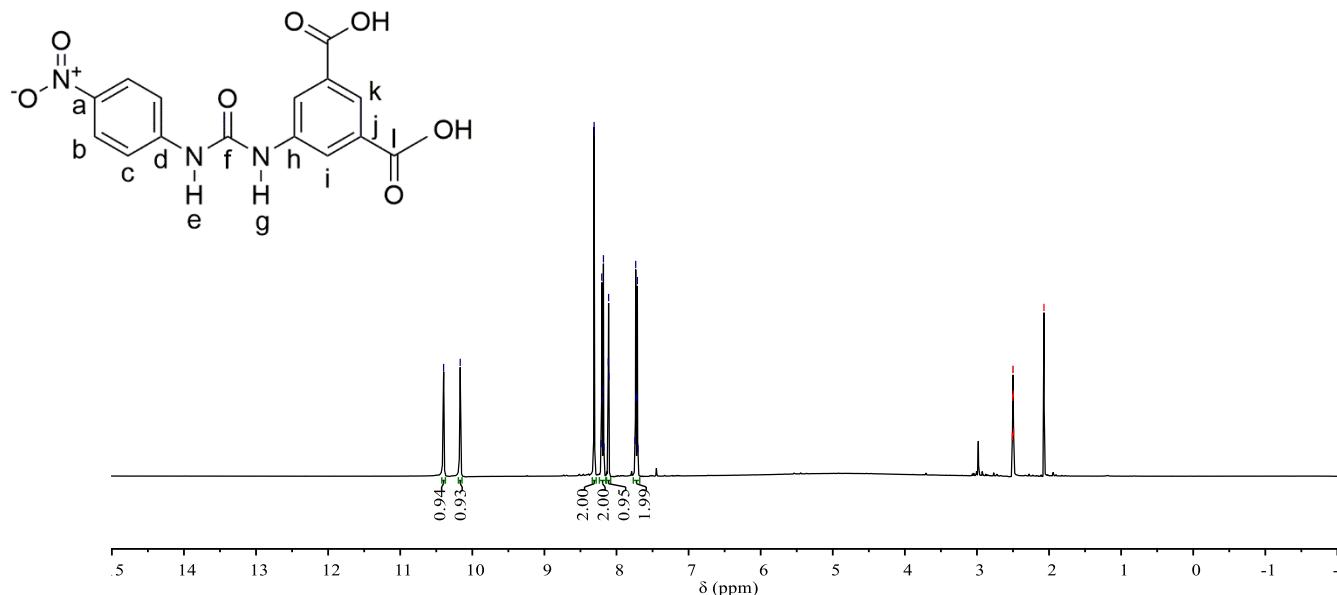
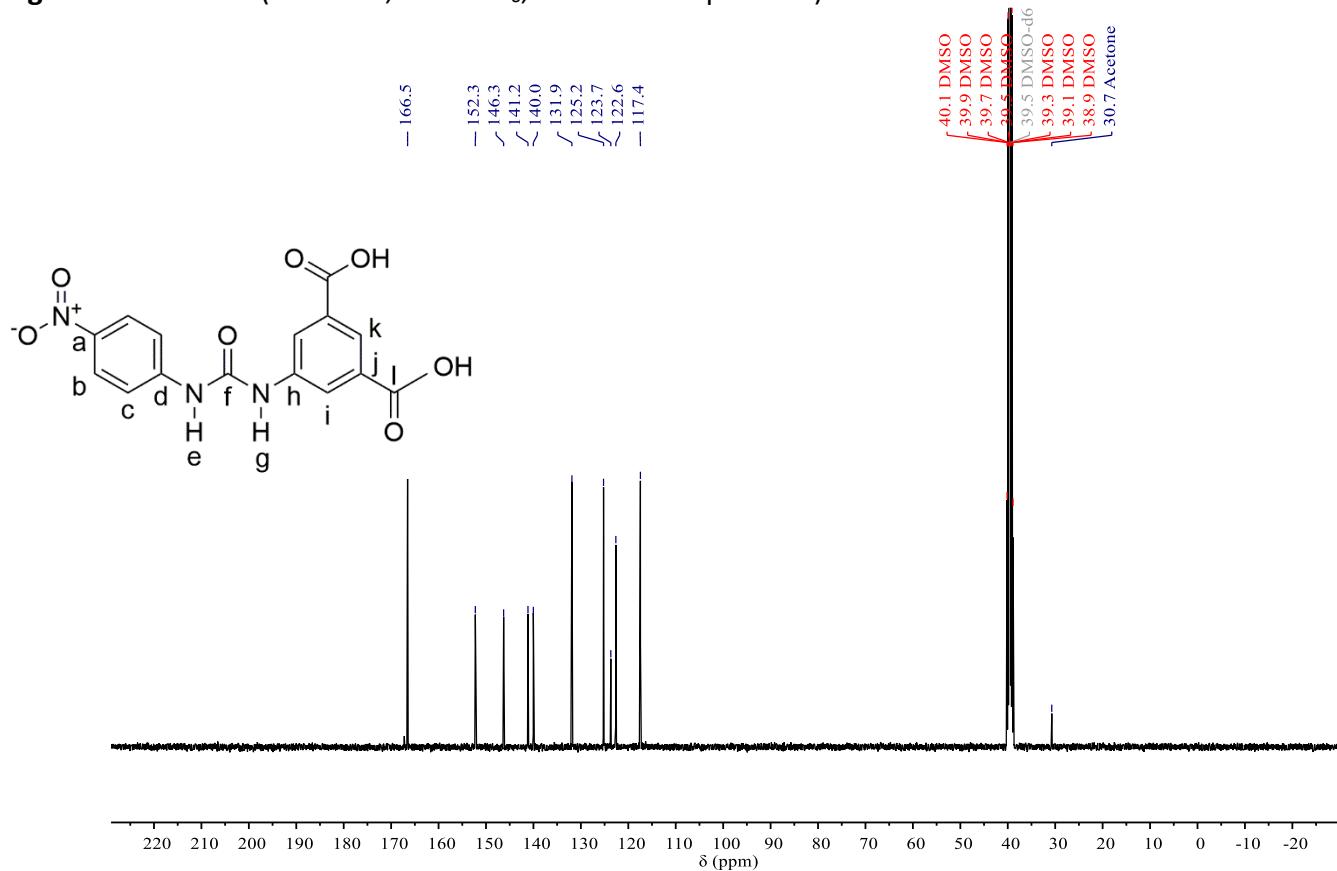
<sup>b</sup>Kinectrics Inc., 17-18 Frederick Sanger Road, The Surrey Research Park, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7YD, U.K.

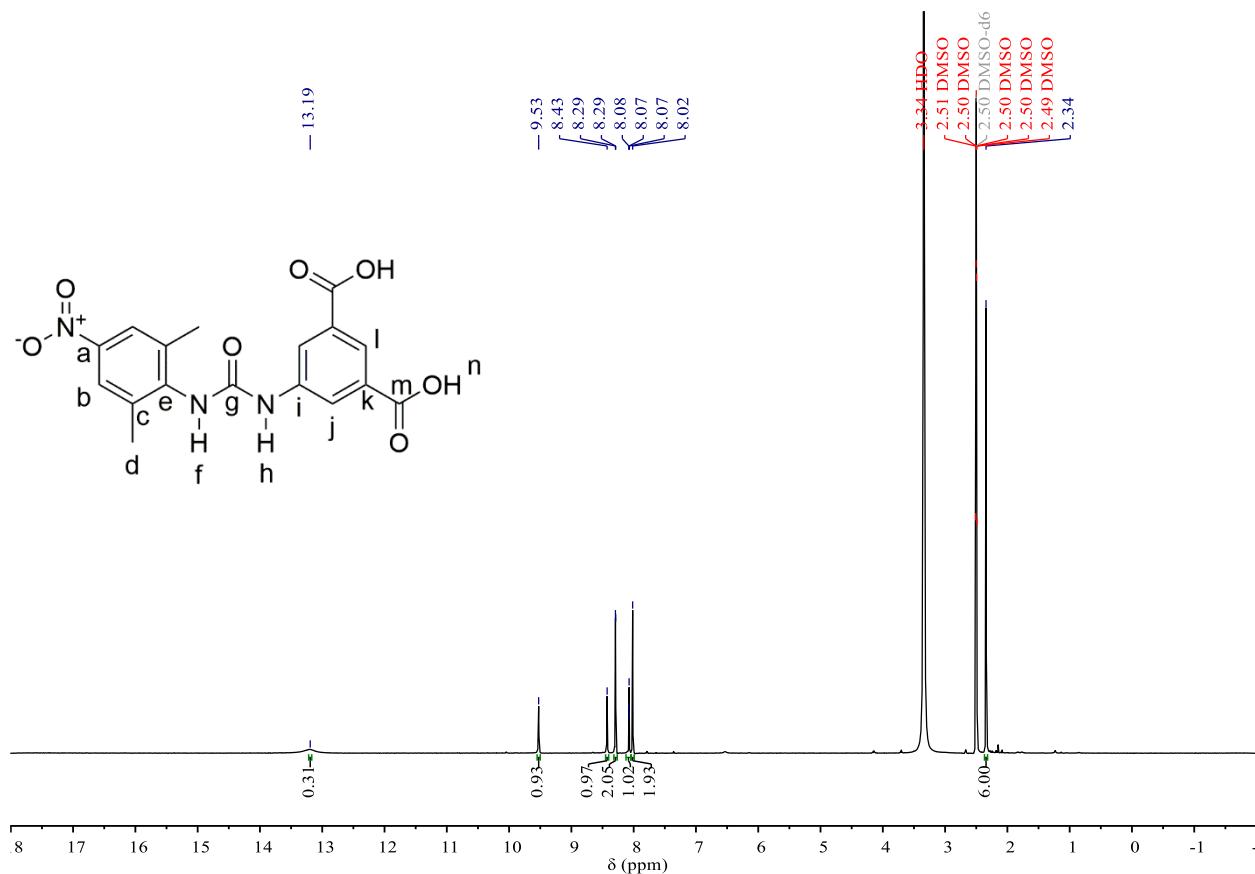
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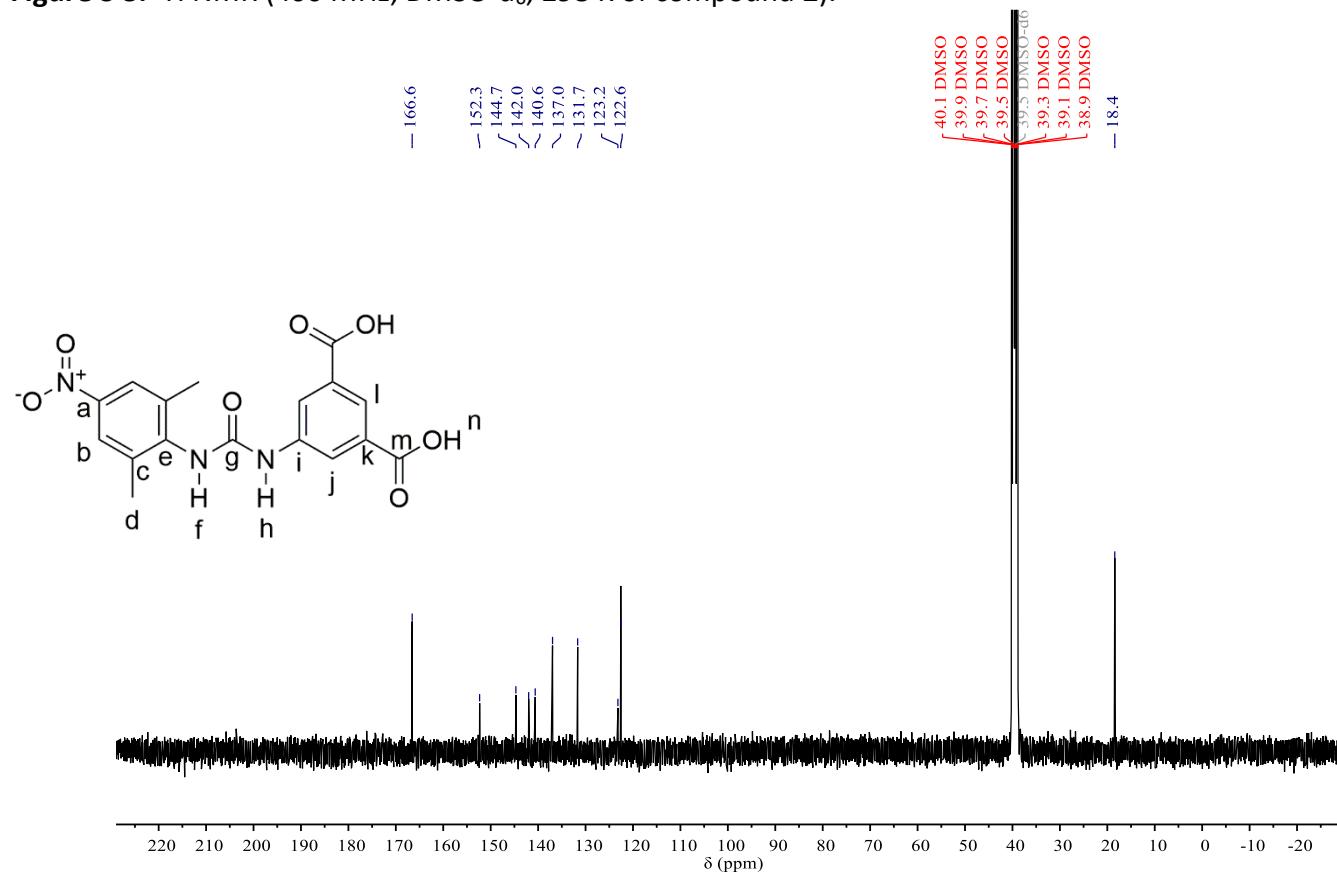
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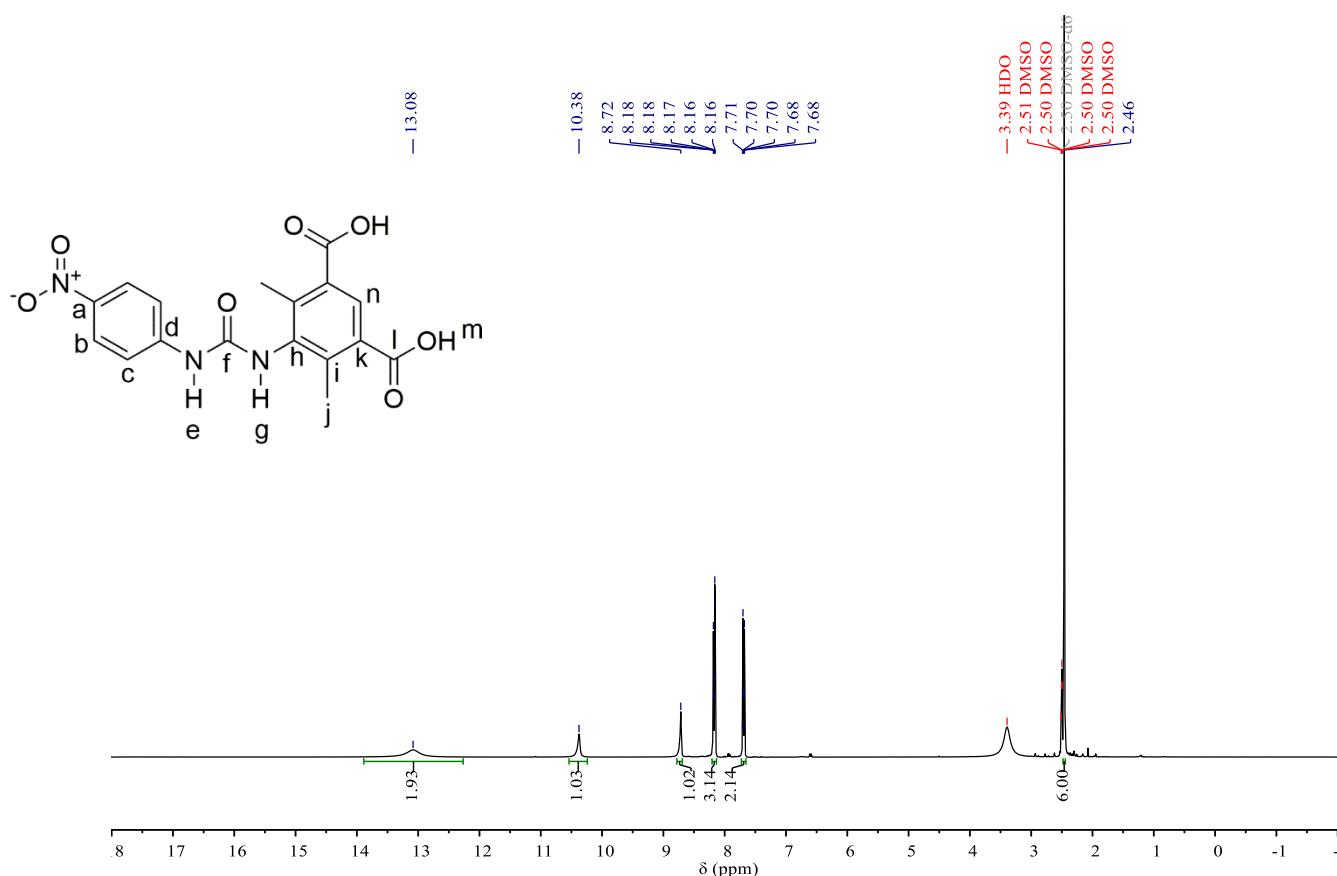
**Figure S 1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $\text{d}_6$ , 298 K of compound 1).**Figure S 2.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  (100 MHz, DMSO- $\text{d}_6$ , 298 K of compound 1).



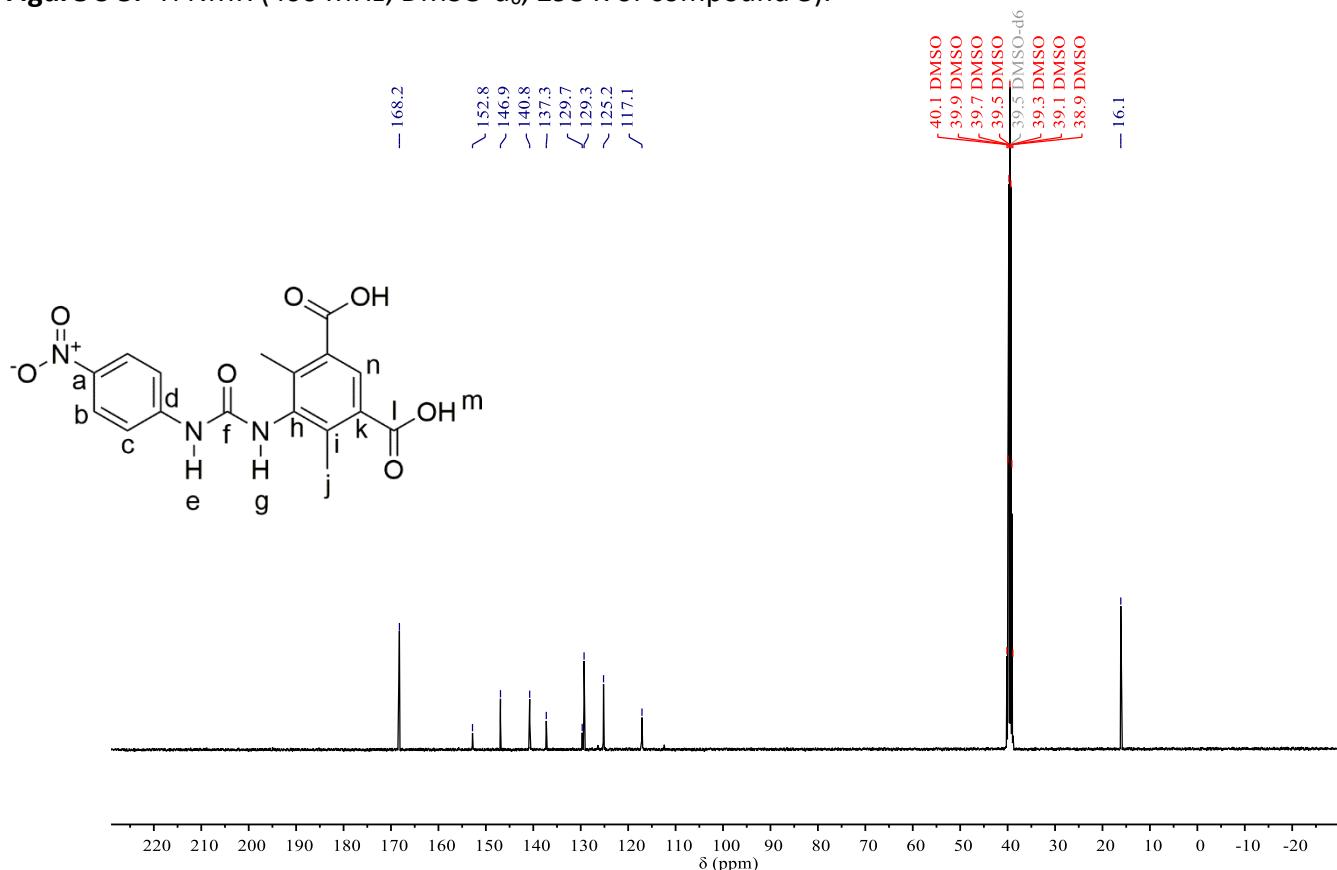
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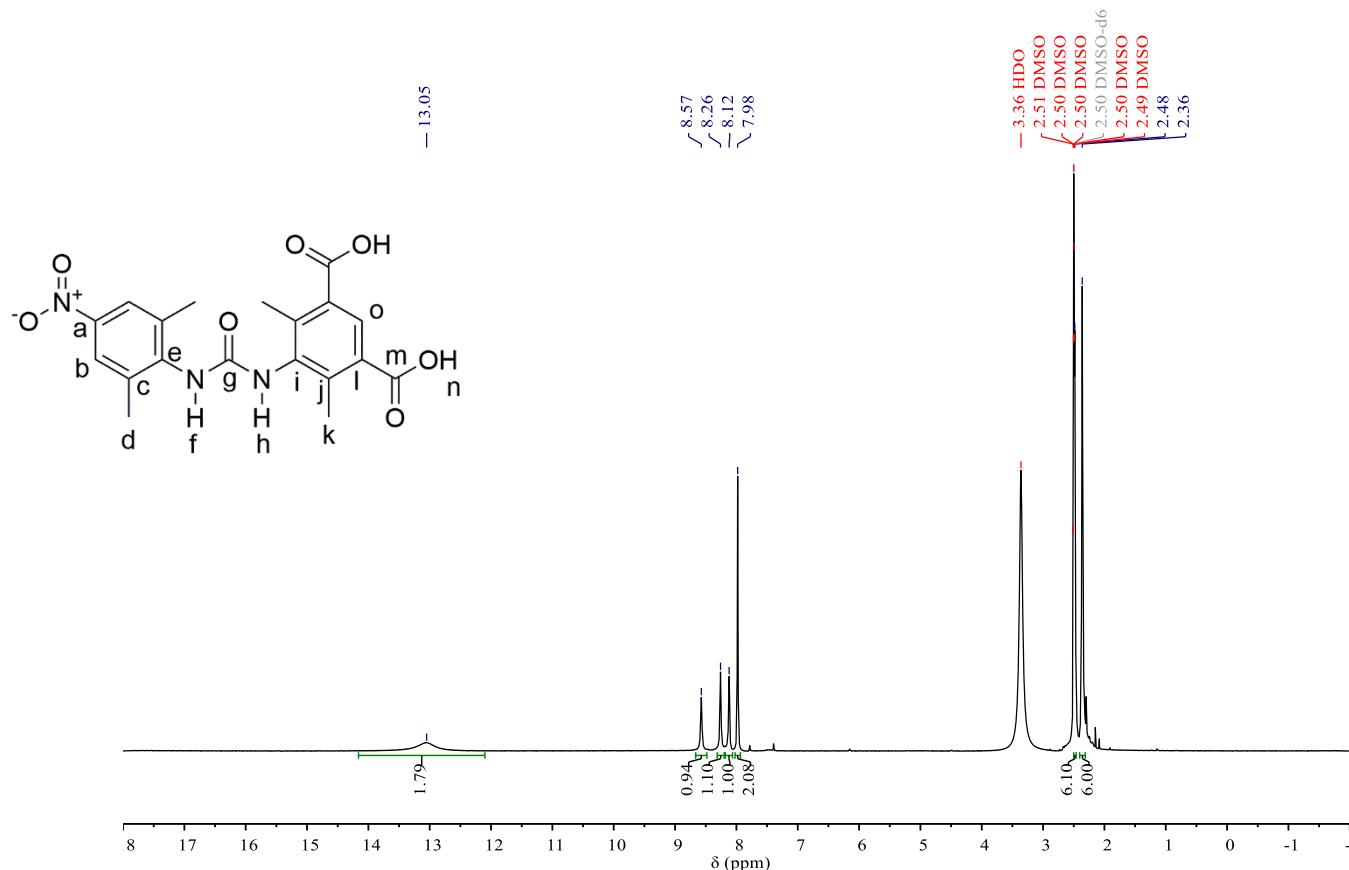
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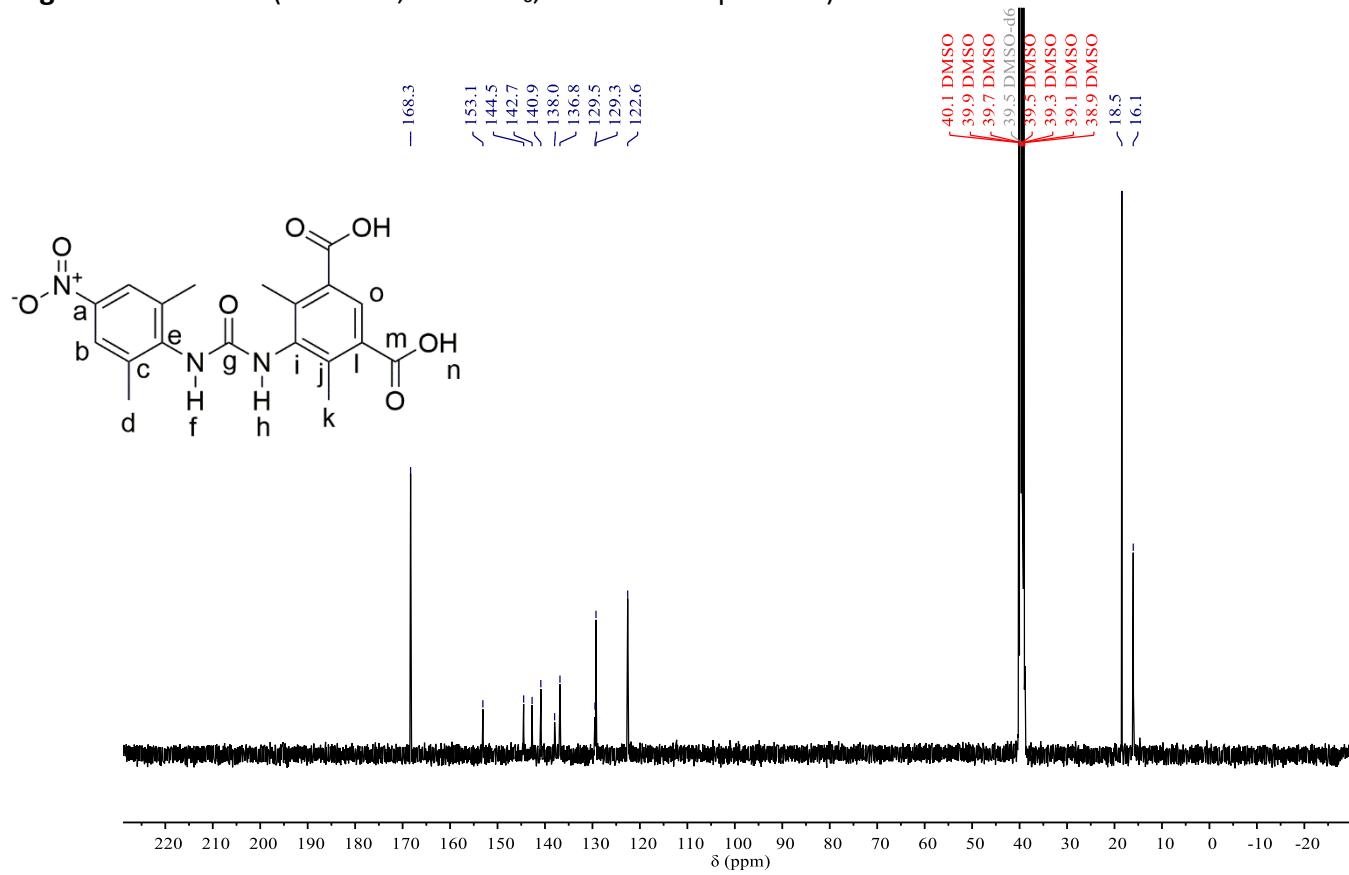
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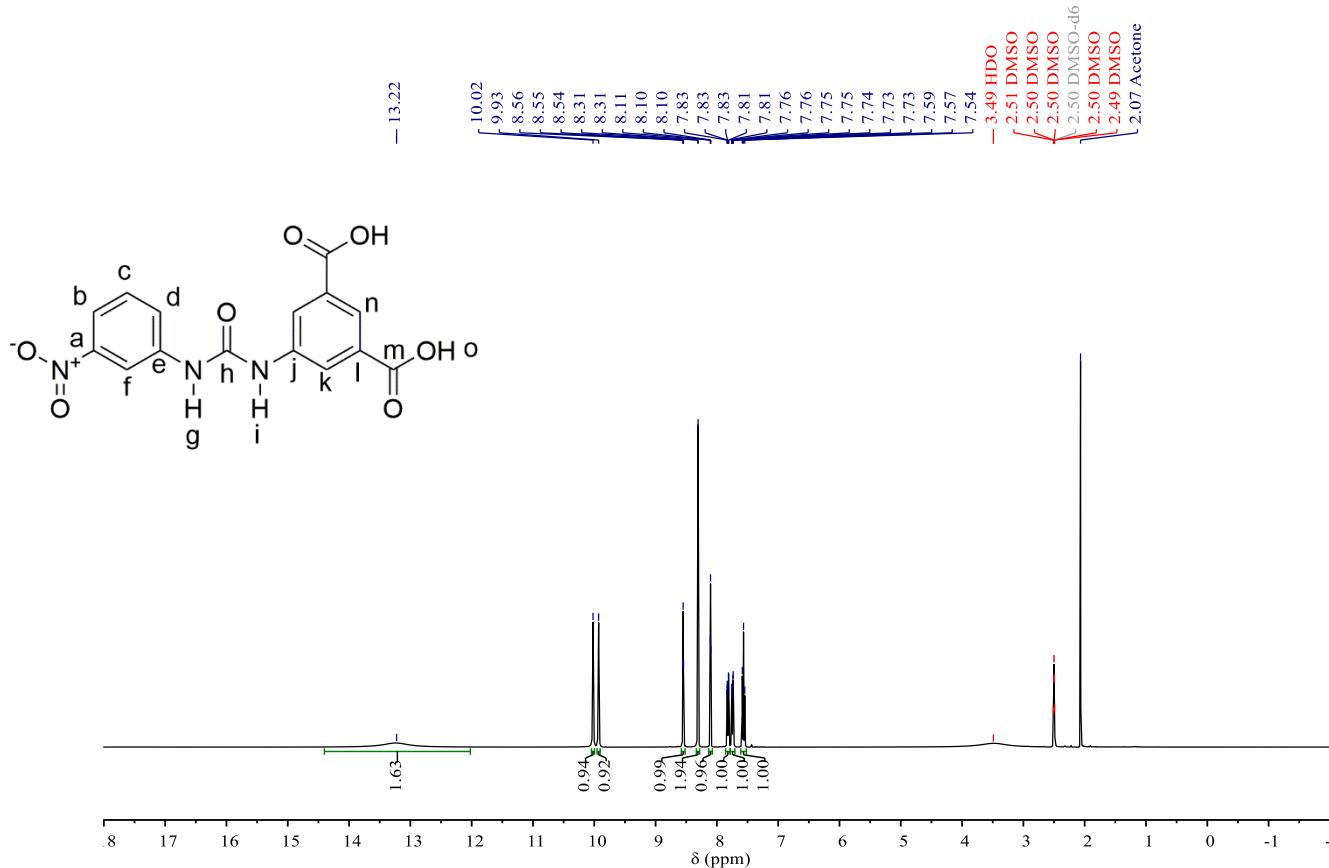
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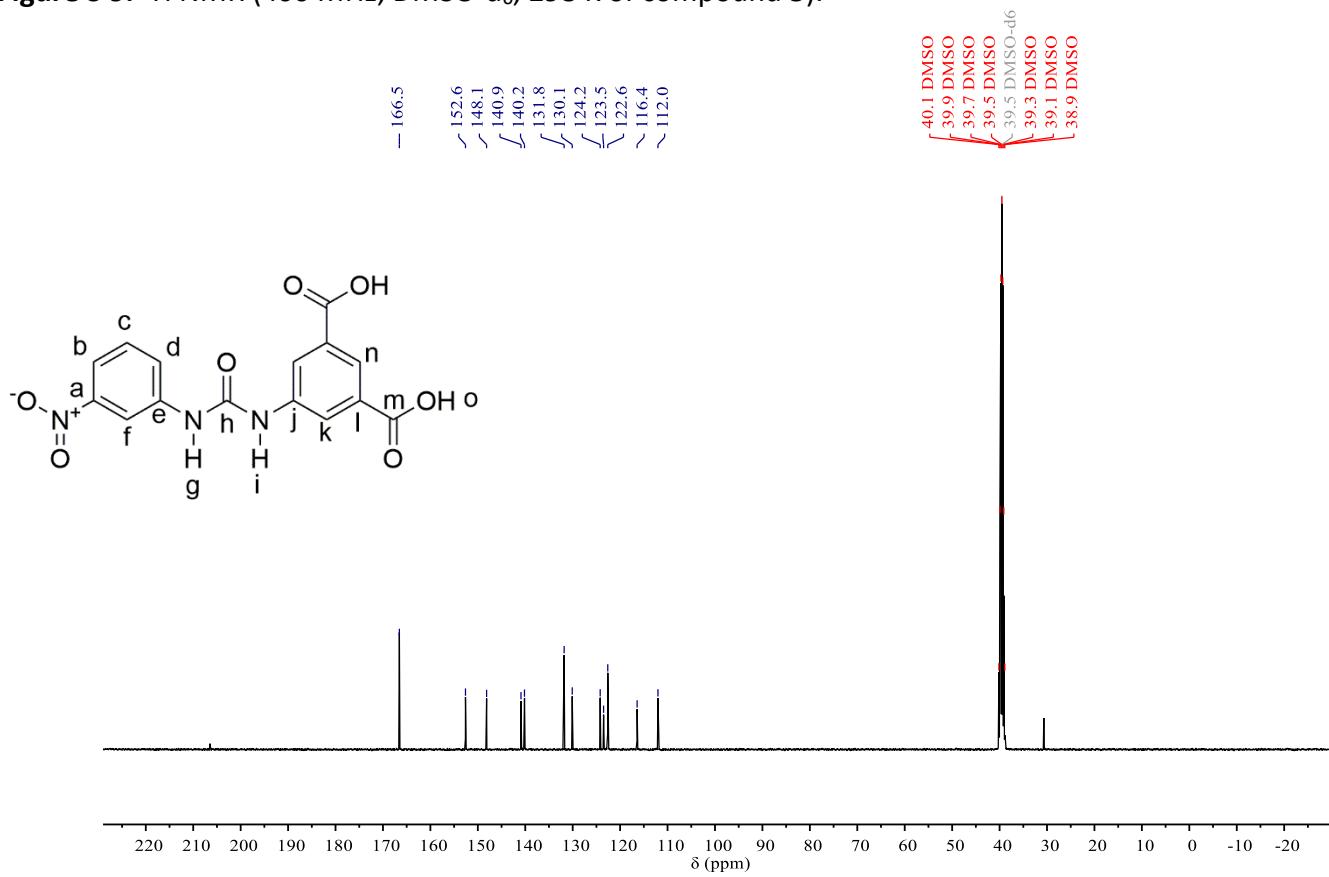
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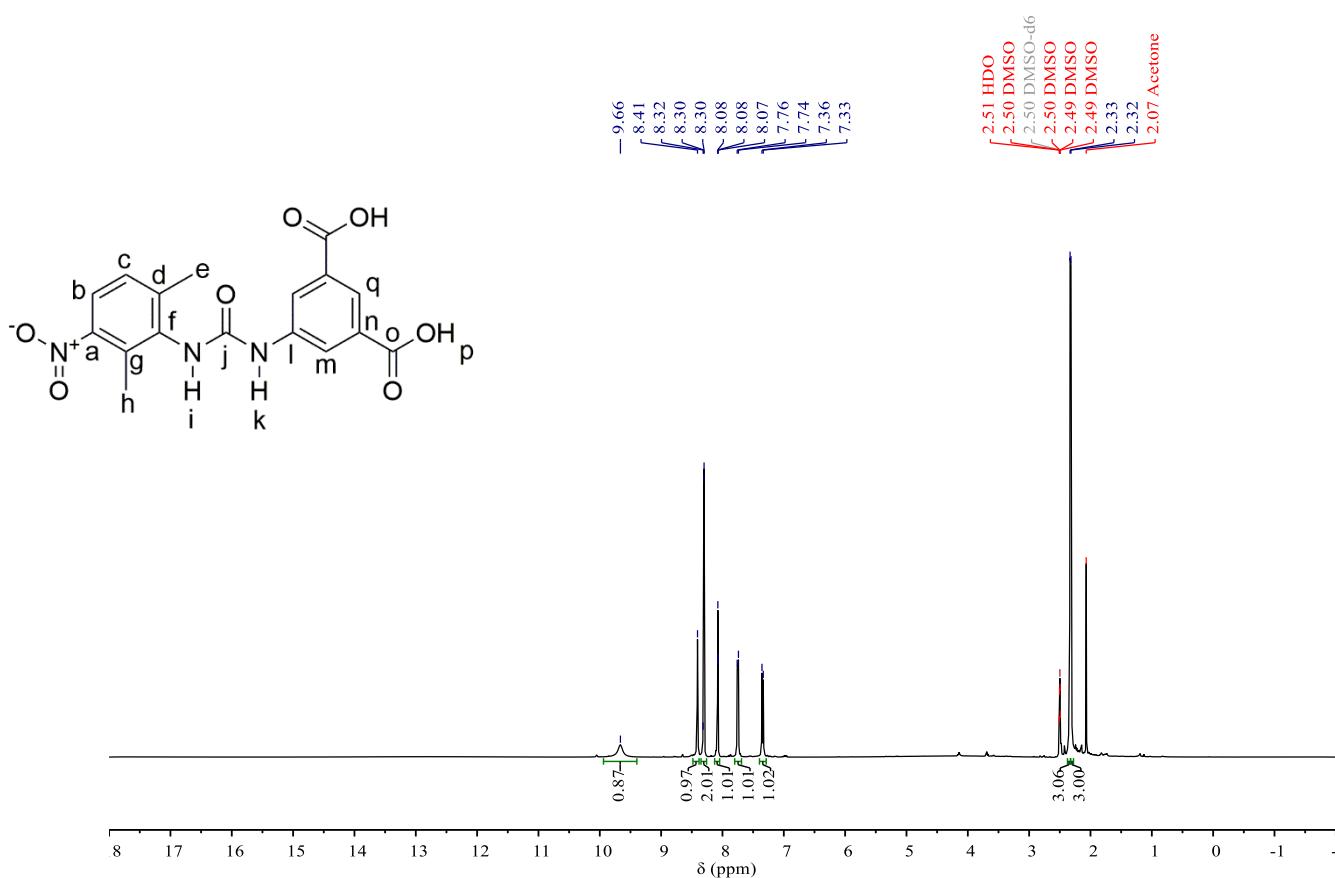
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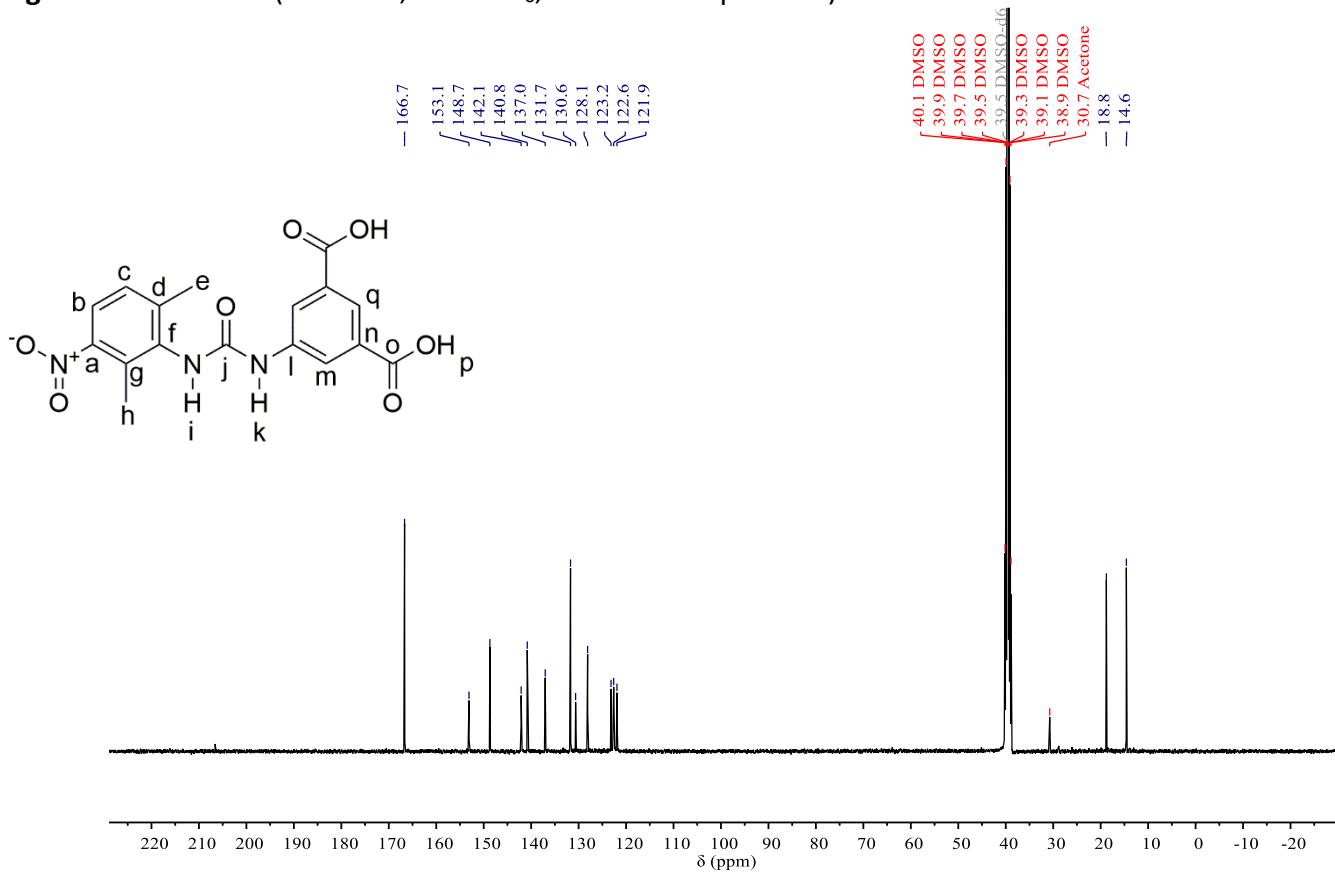
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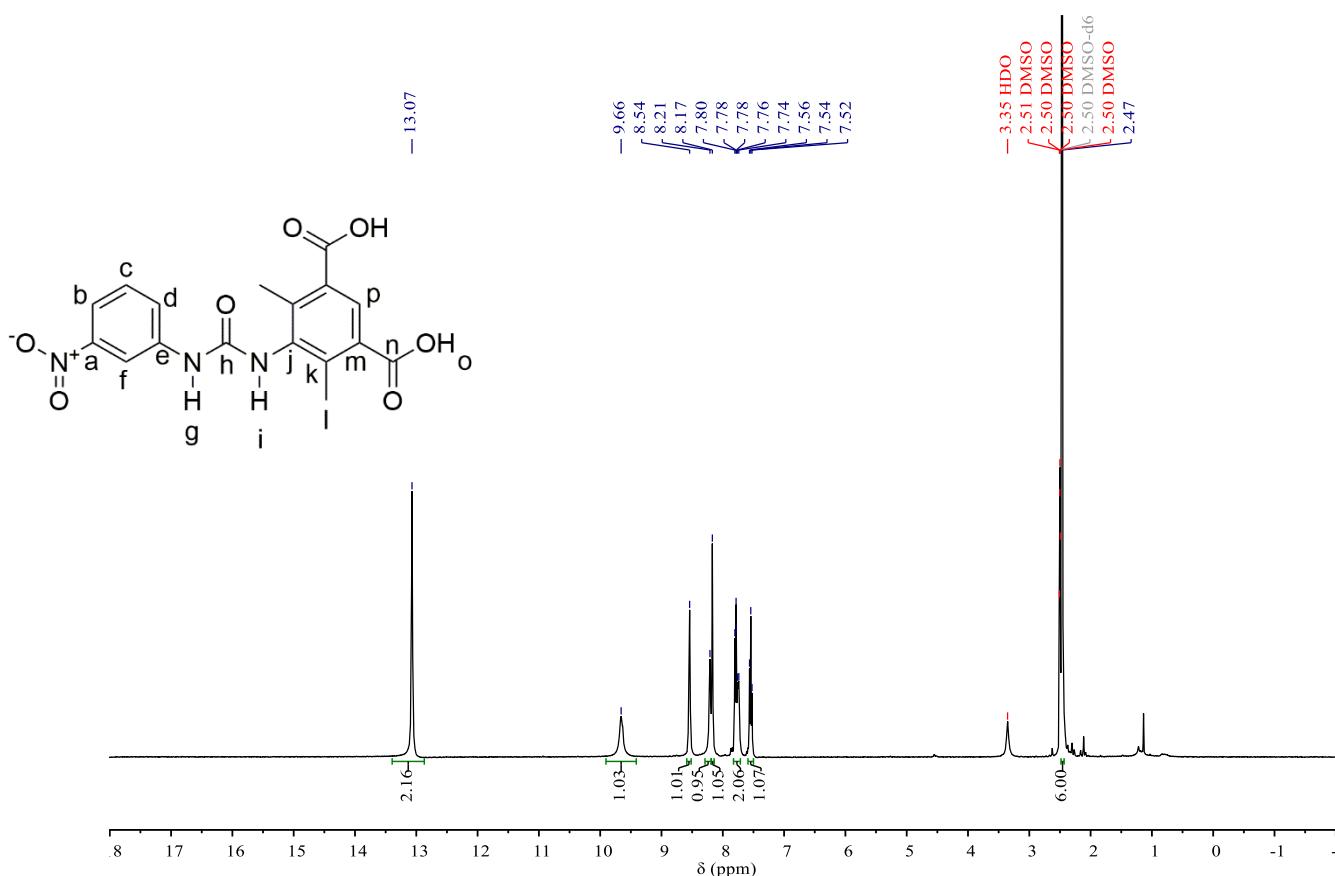
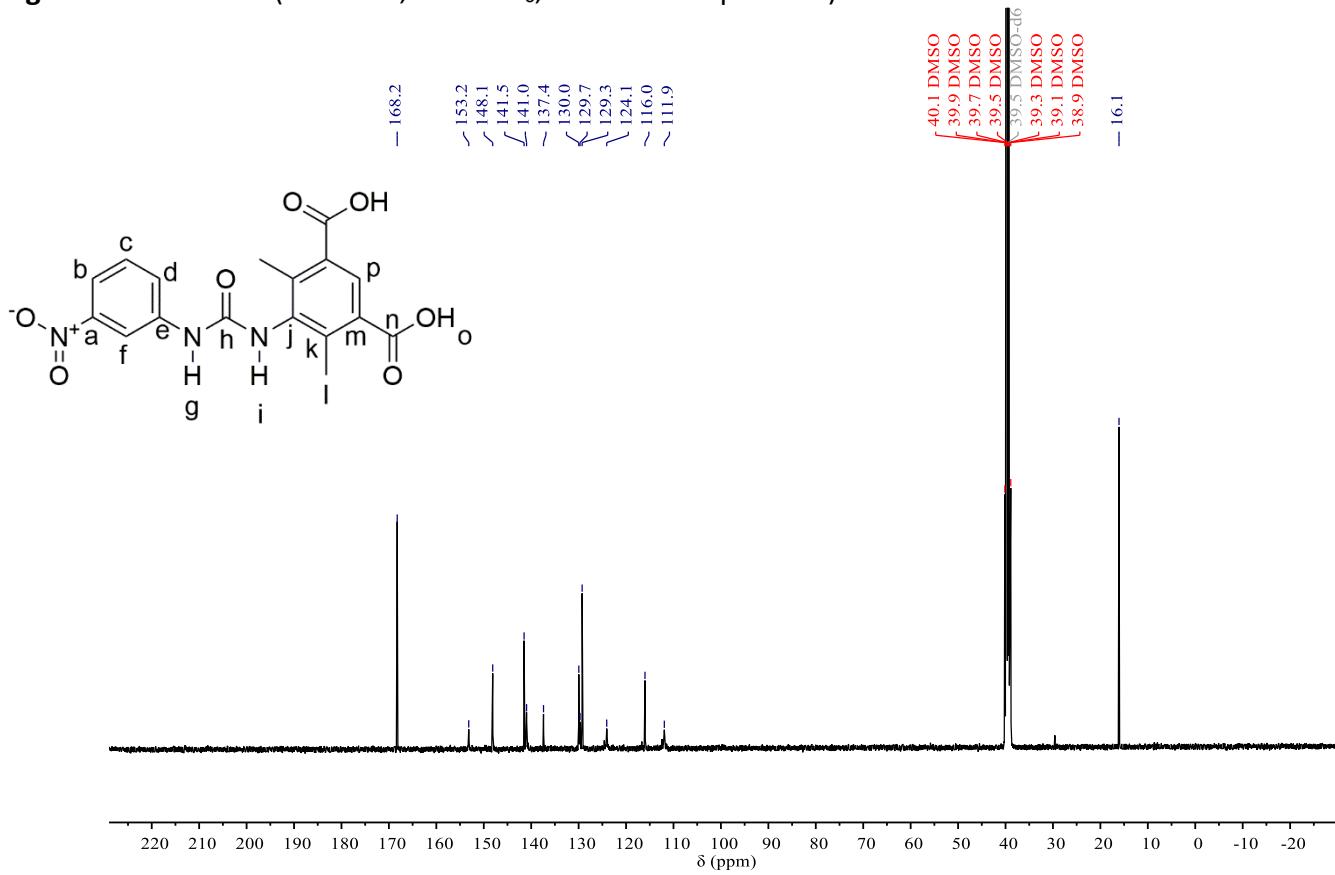
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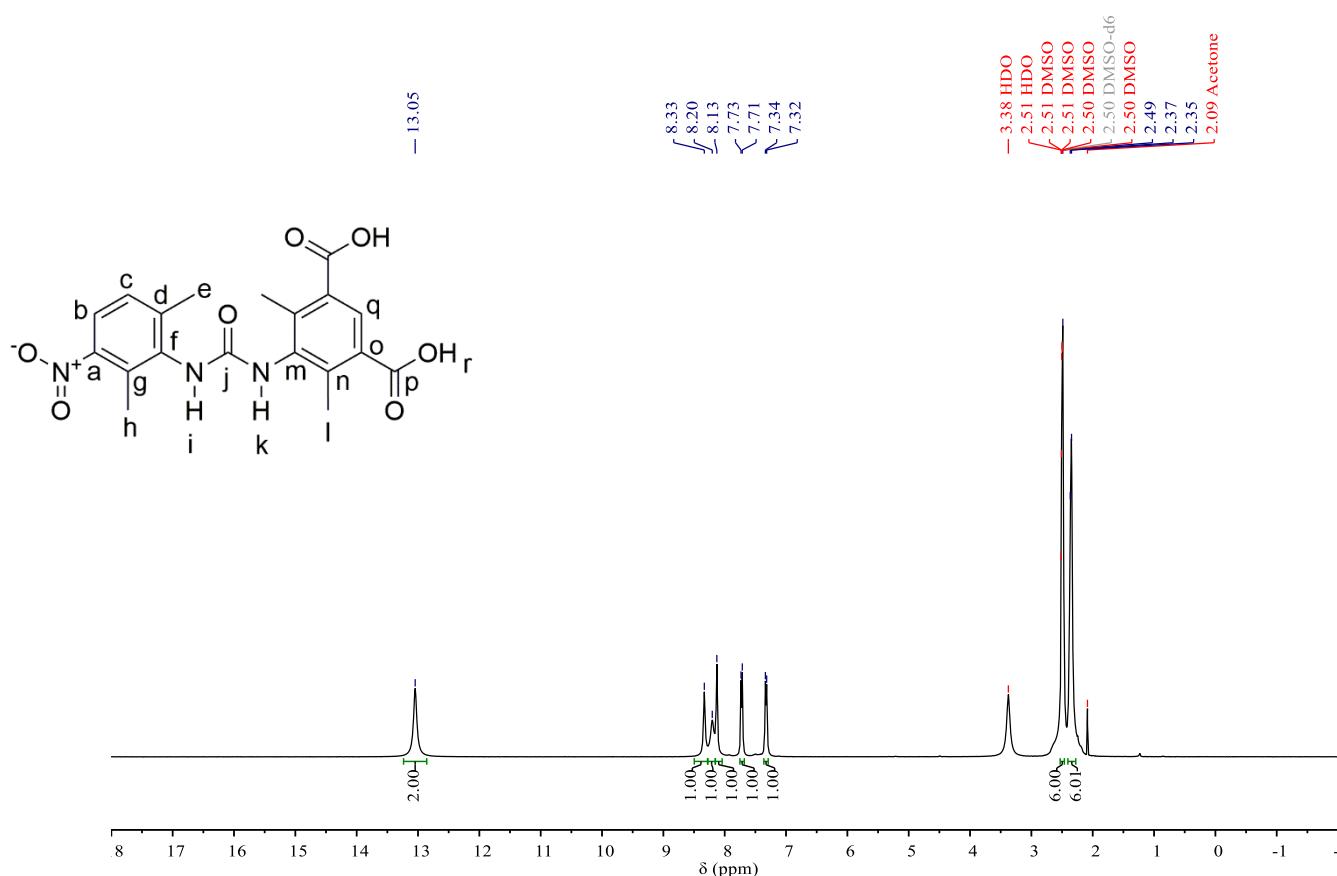


**Figure S 11.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $\text{d}_6$ , 298 K of compound 6).

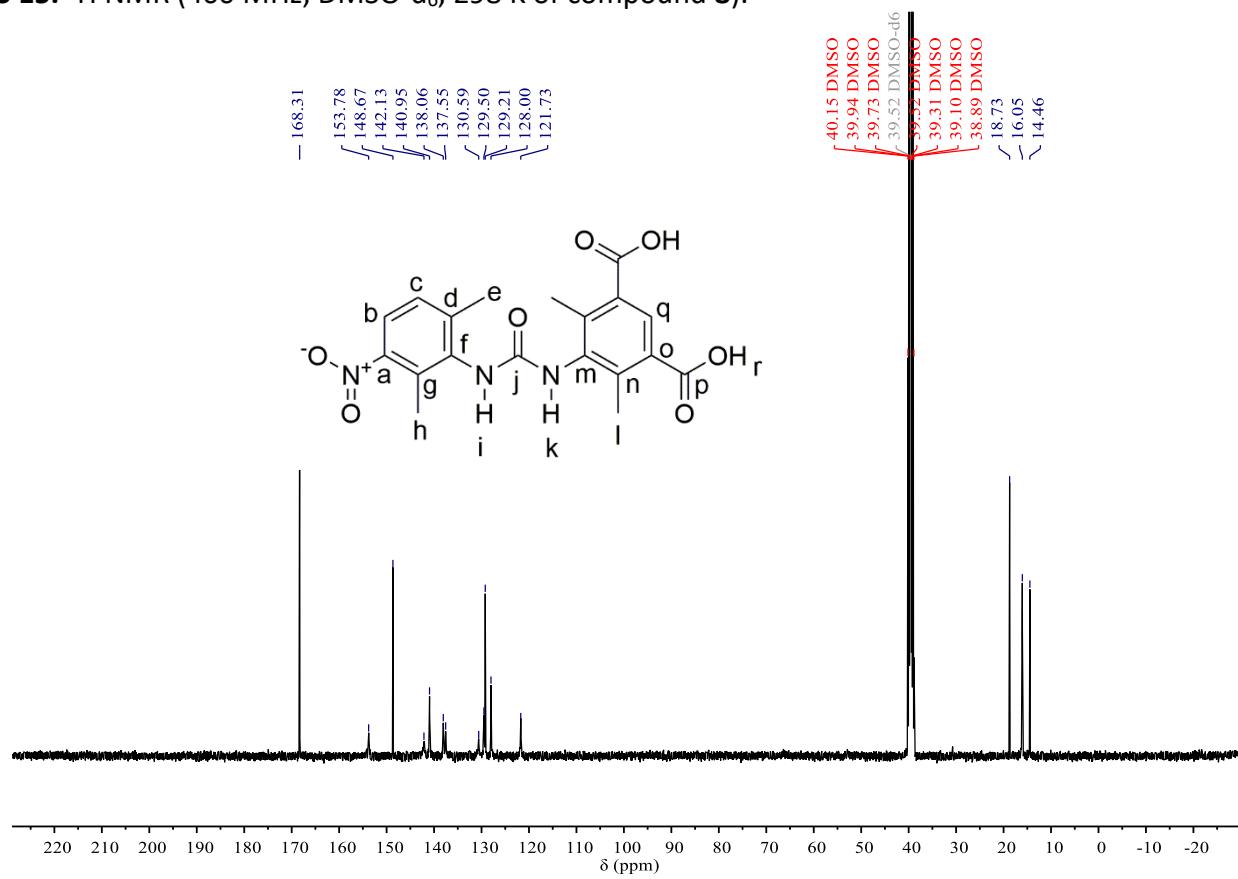


**Figure S 12.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  (100 MHz, DMSO- $\text{d}_6$ , 298 K of compound 6).

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**Figure S 15.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 8).



**Figure S 16.** <sup>13</sup>C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 8).

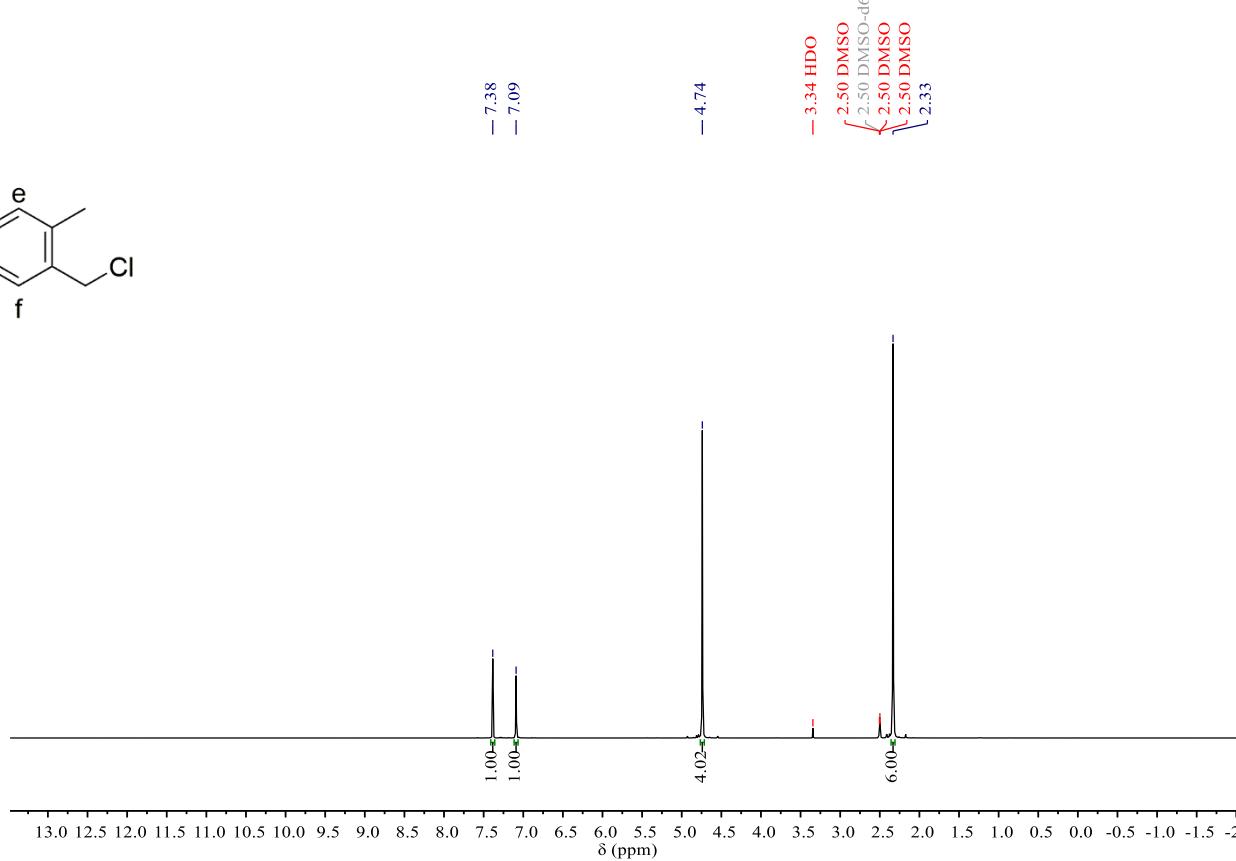
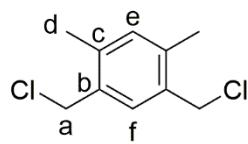


Figure S 17. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 9).

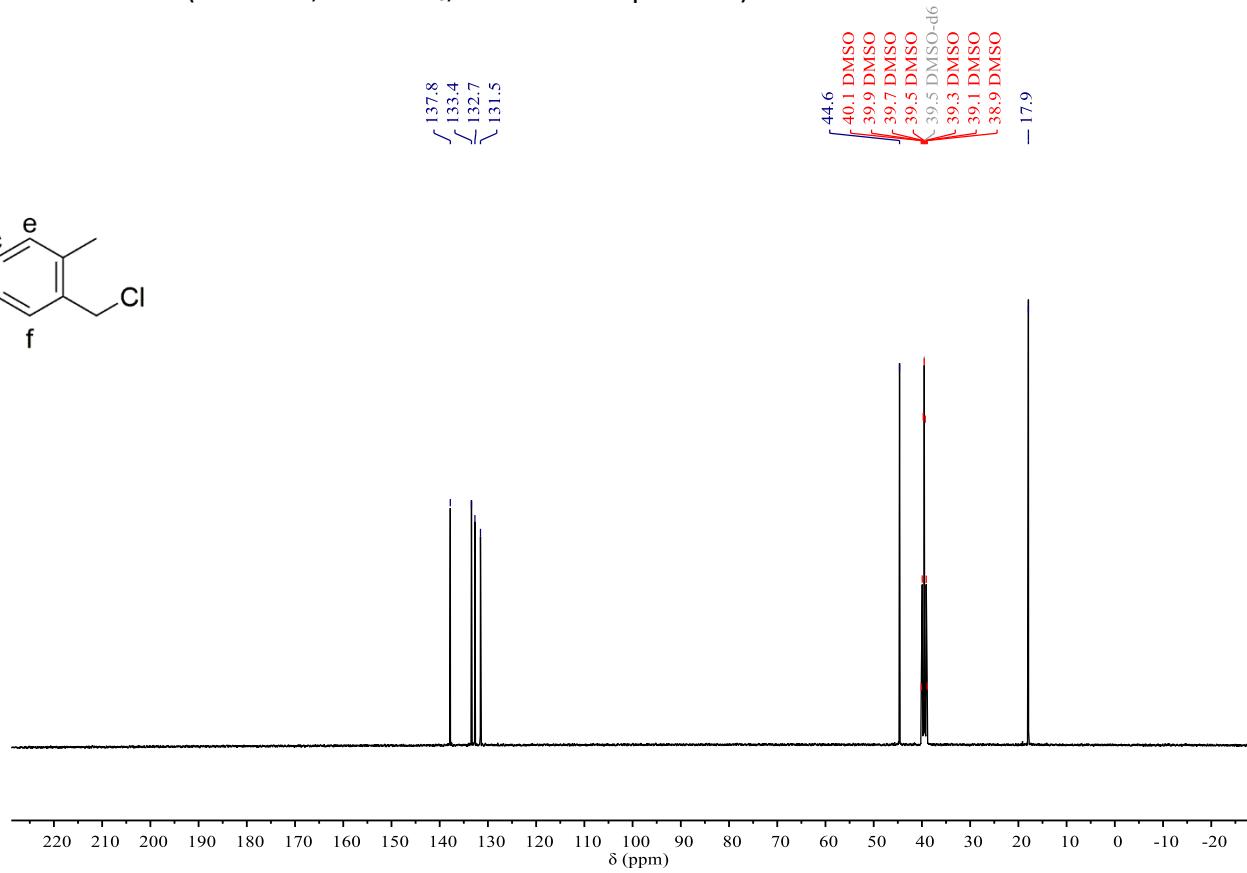
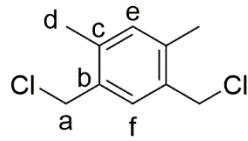


Figure S 18. <sup>13</sup>C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 9).

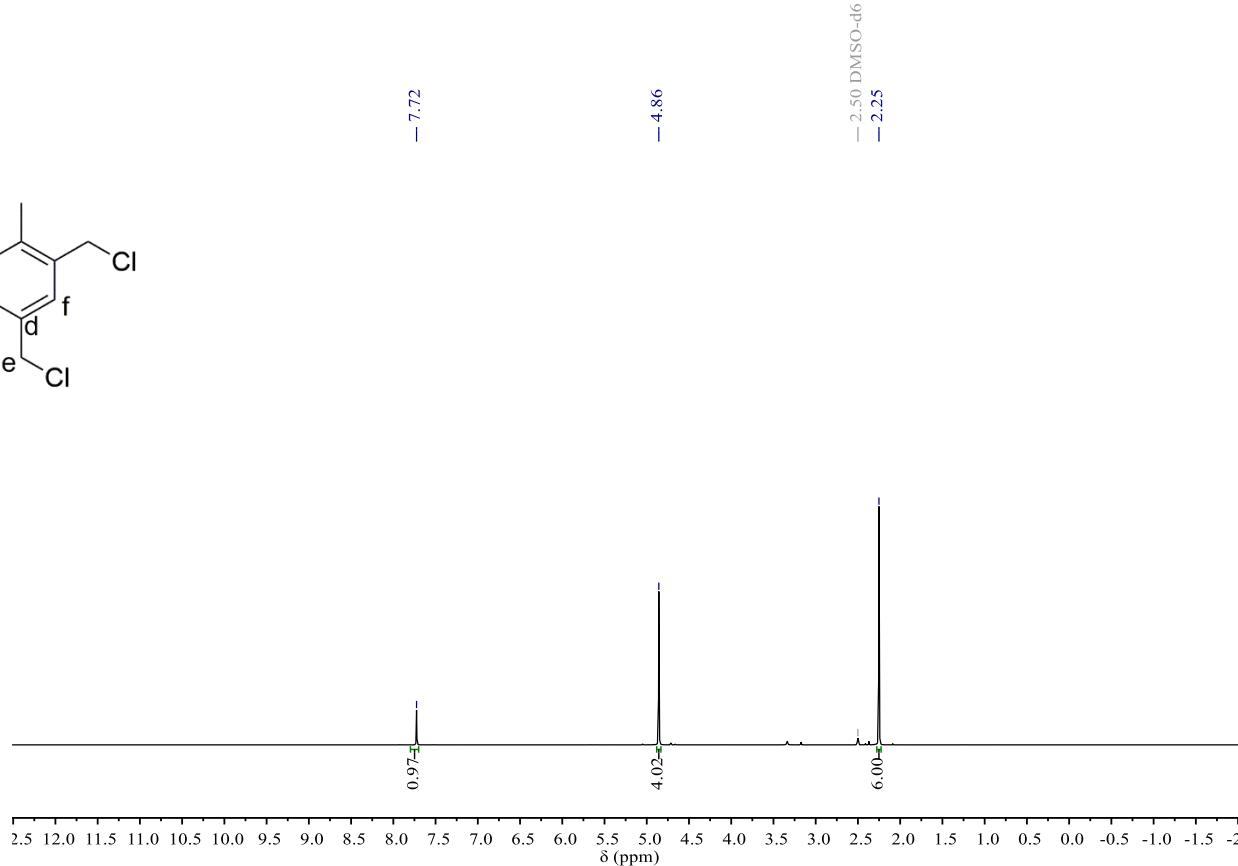
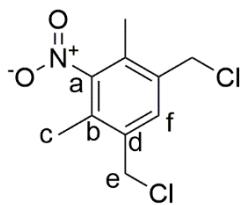


Figure S 19.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , 298 K of compound 10).

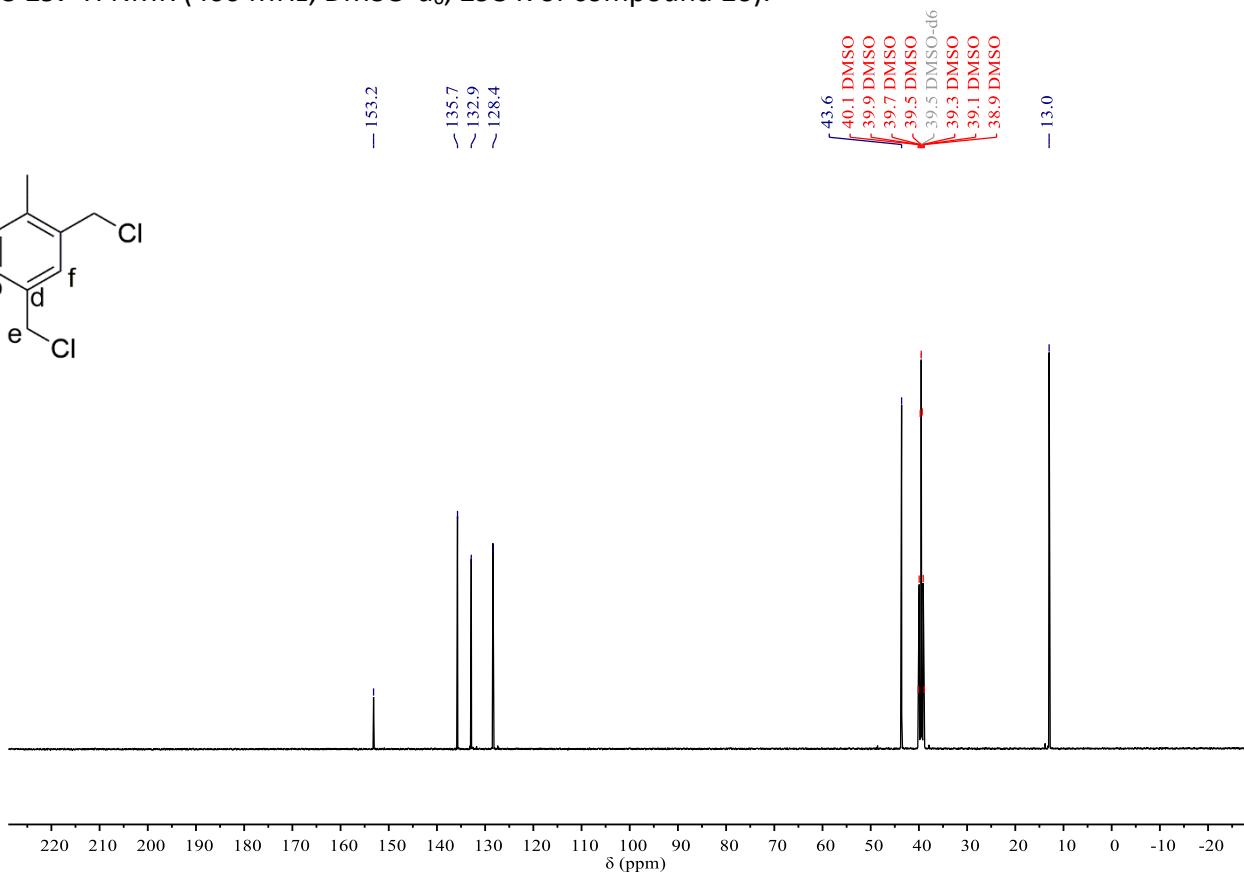
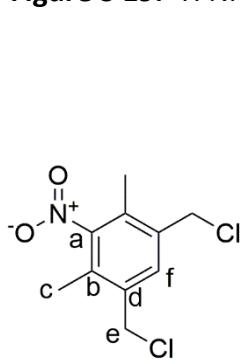
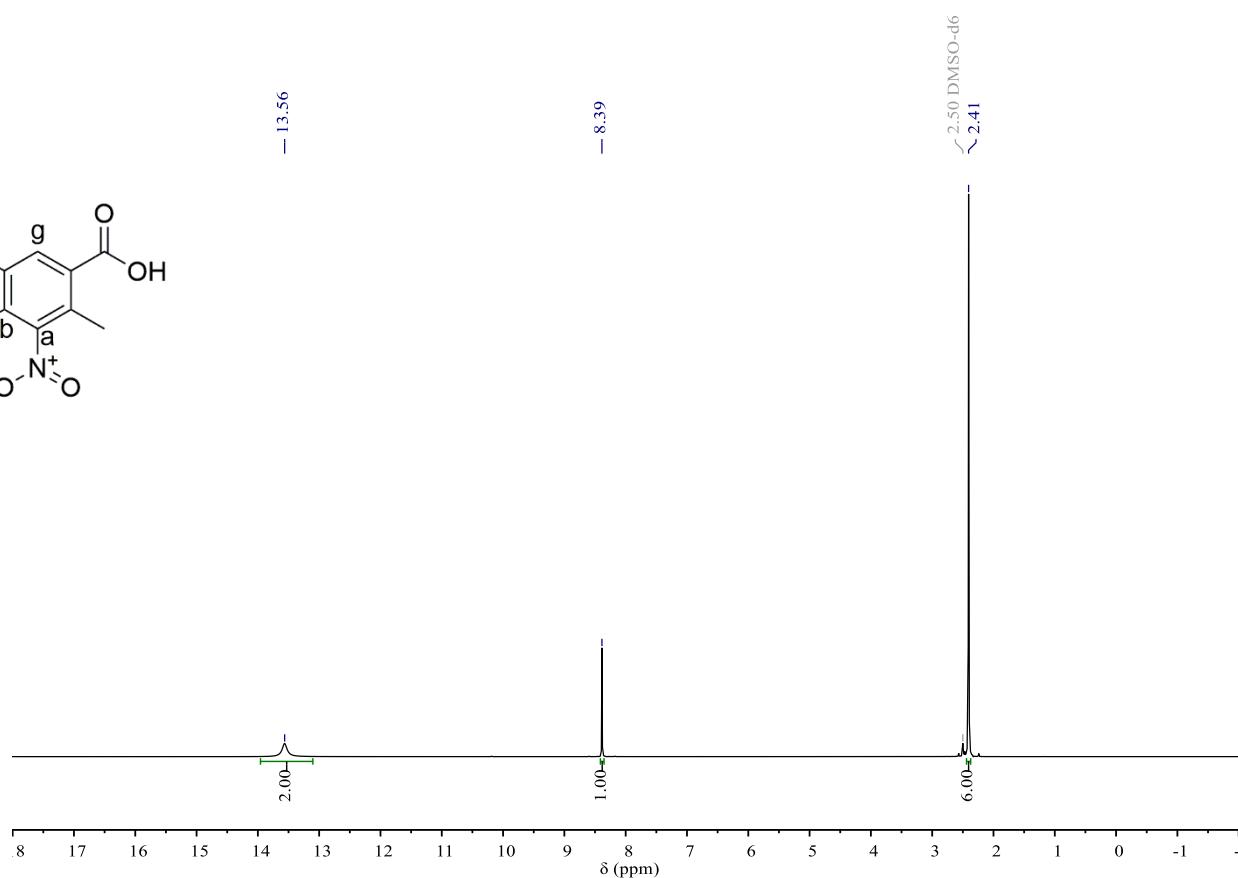
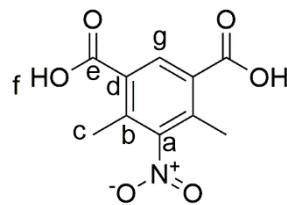
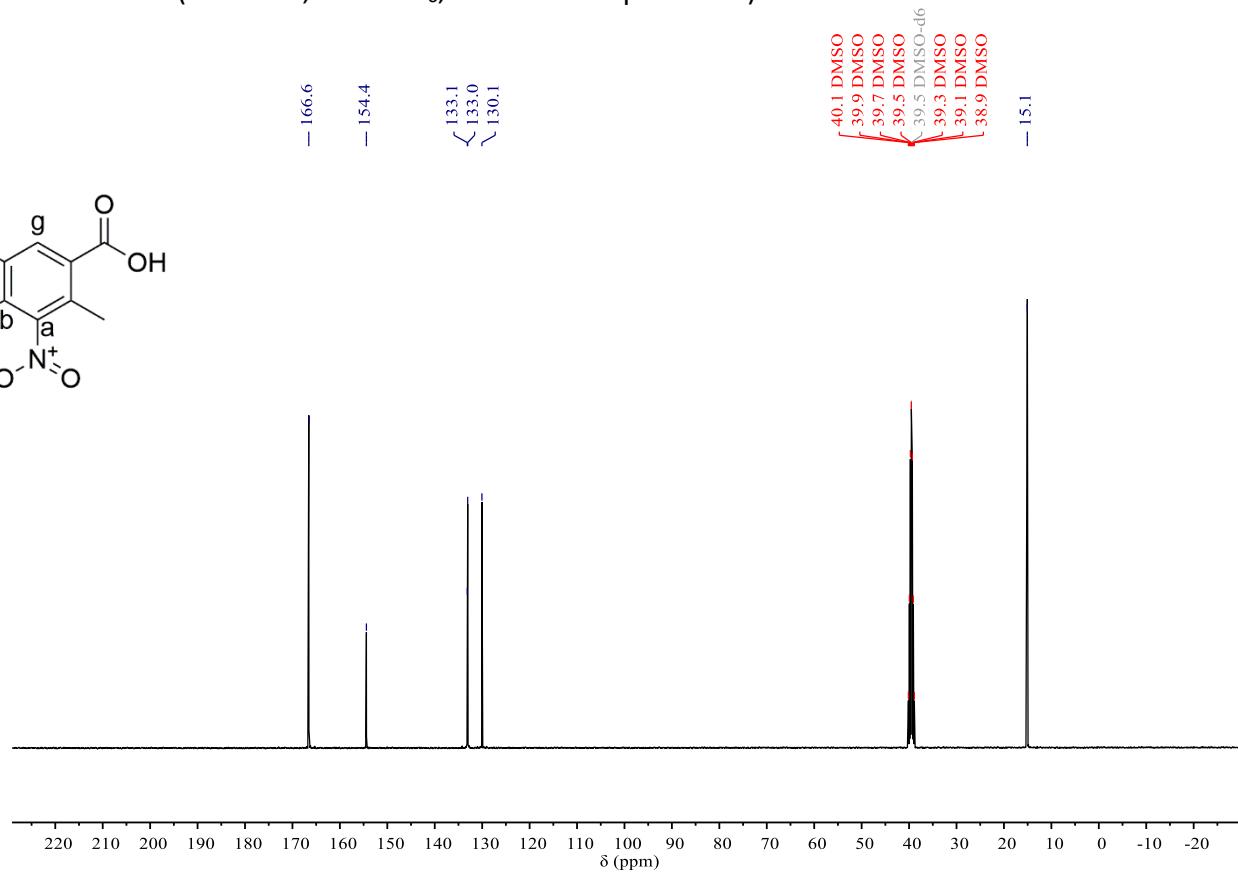
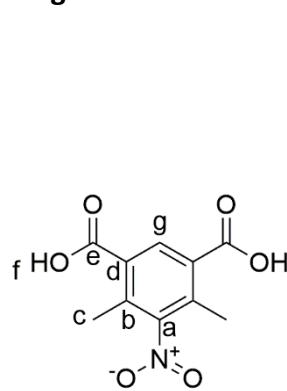


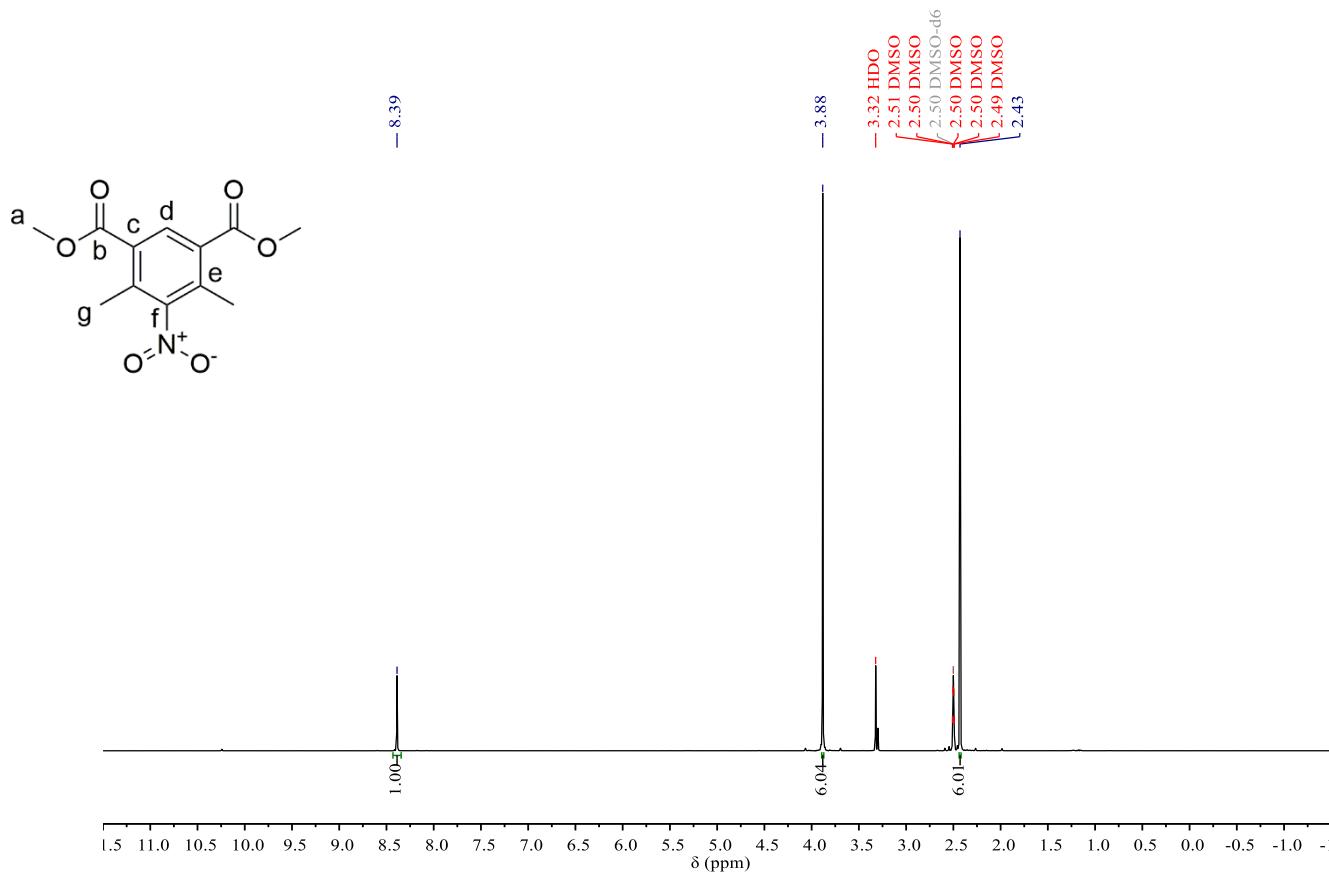
Figure S 20.  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , 298 K of compound 10).



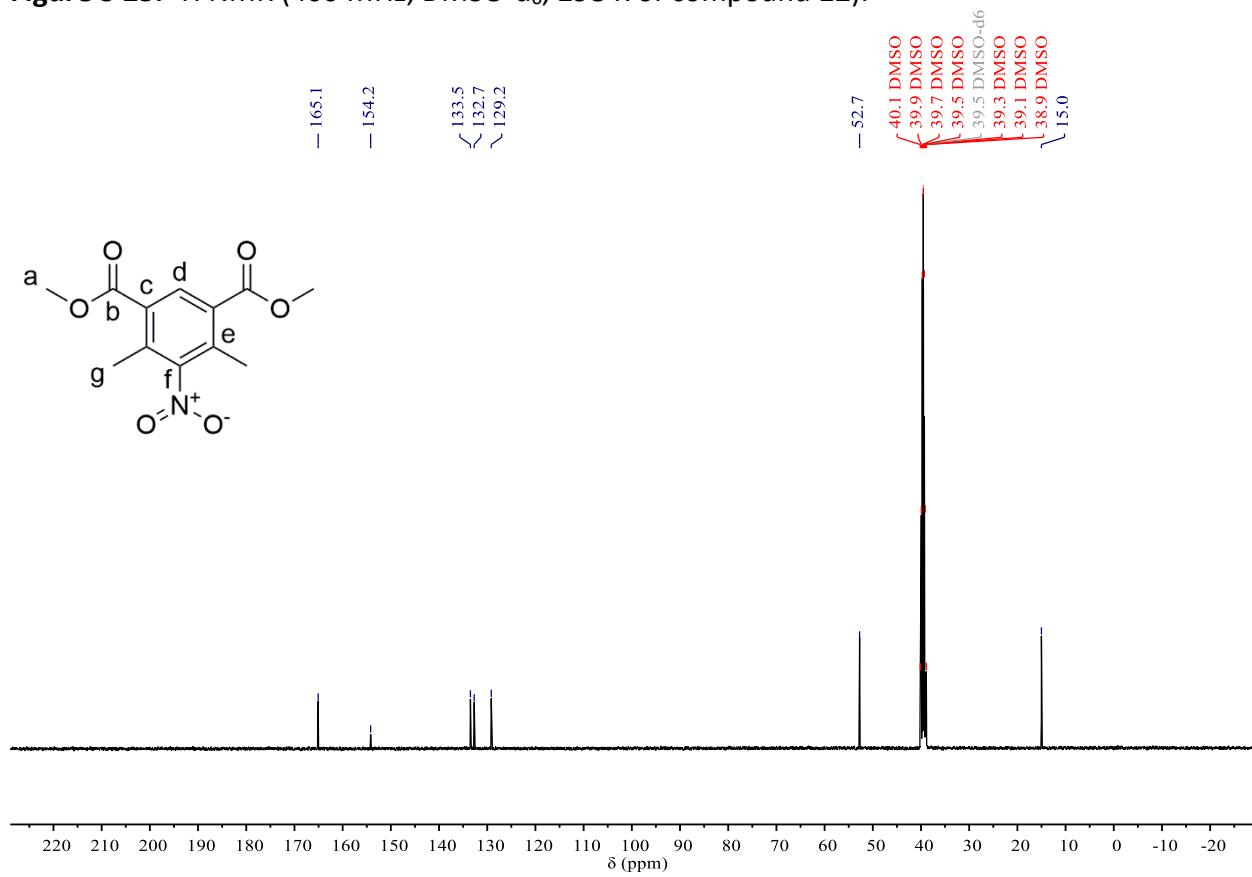
**Figure S 21.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 11).



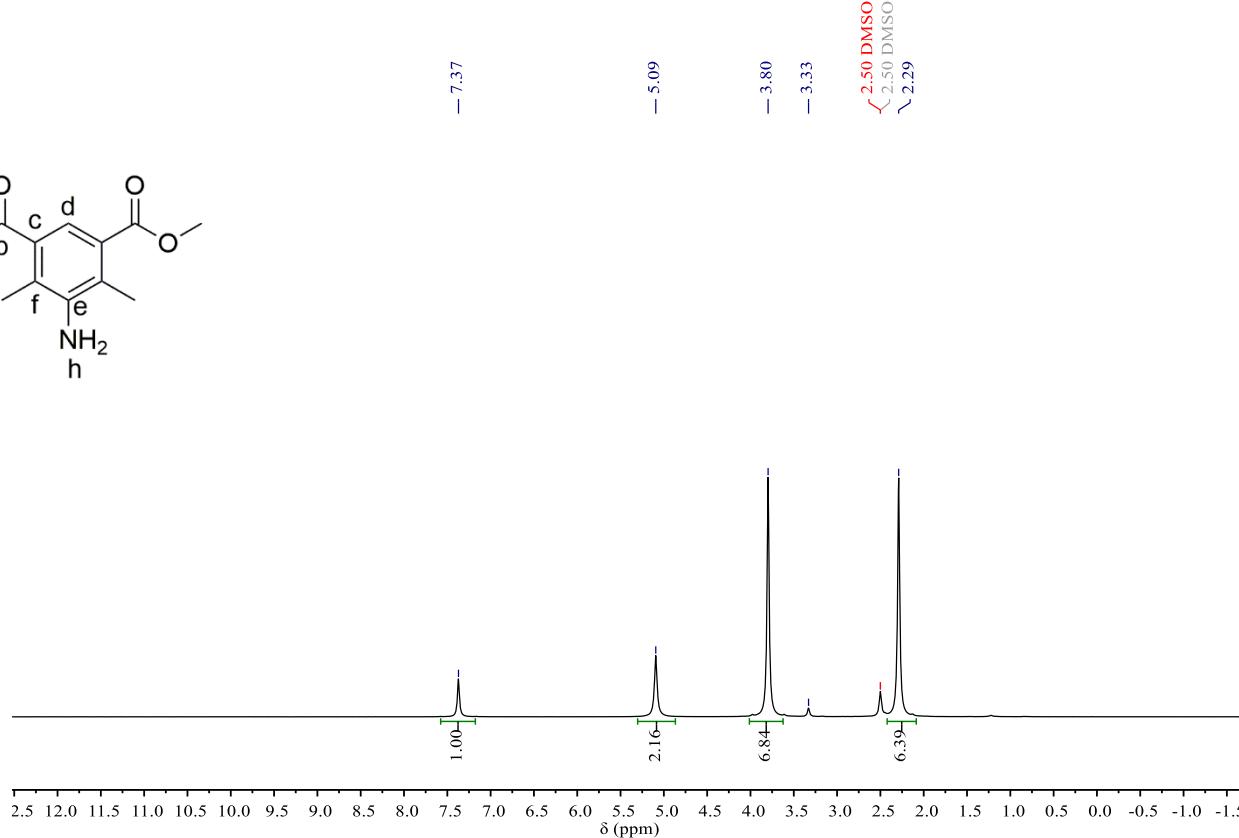
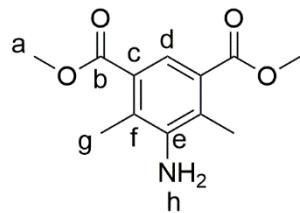
**Figure S 22.** <sup>13</sup>C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 11).



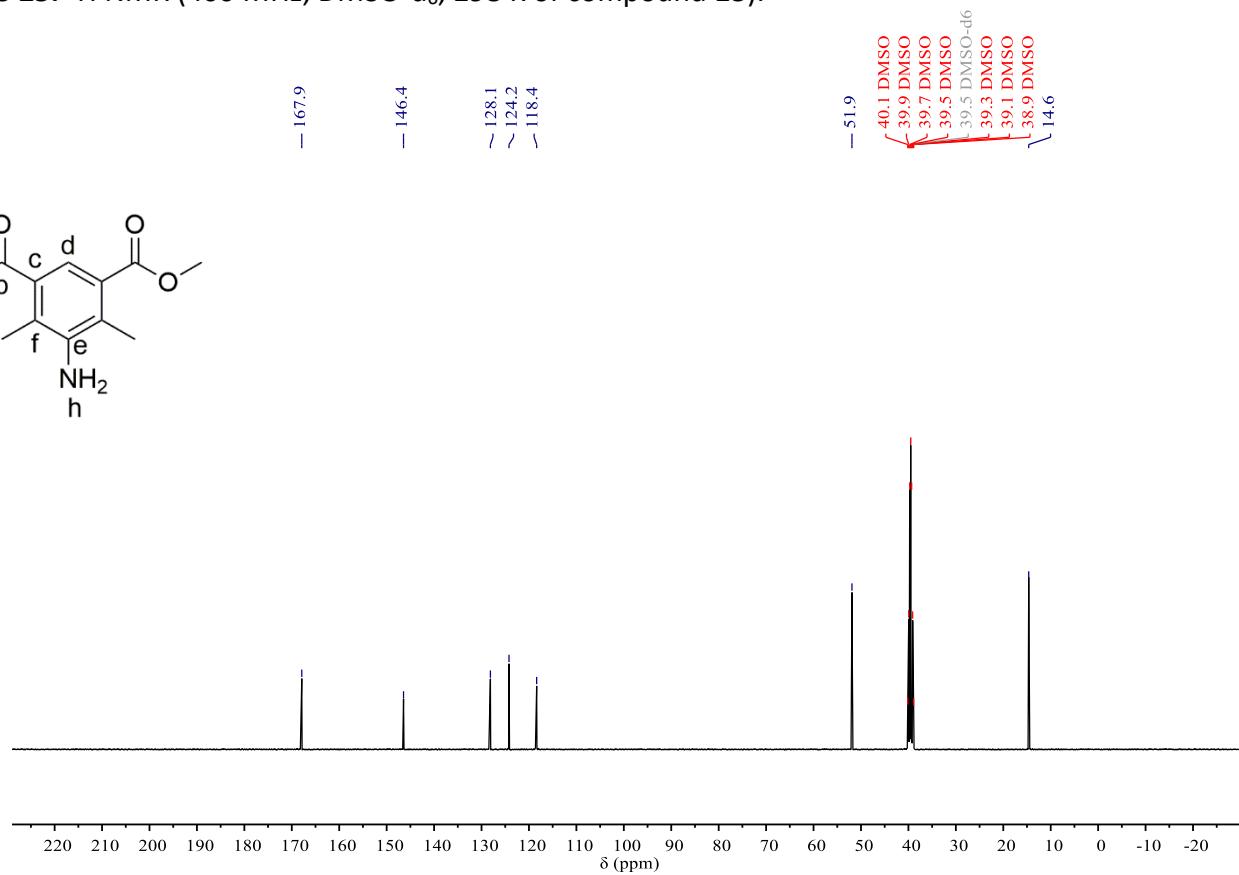
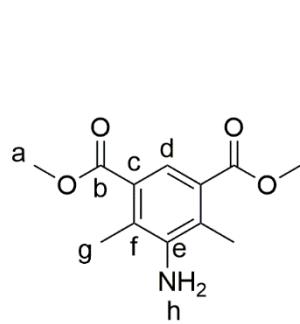
**Figure S 23.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $\text{d}_6$ , 298 K of compound **12**).



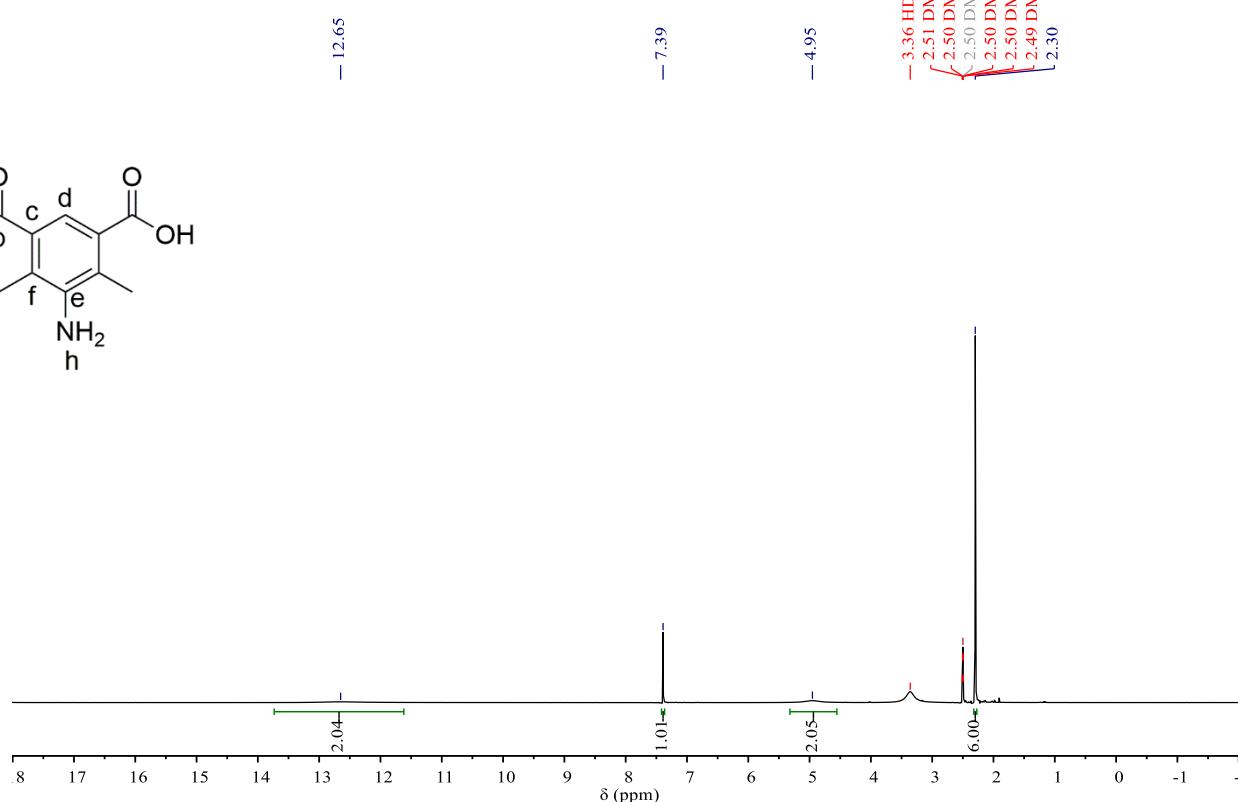
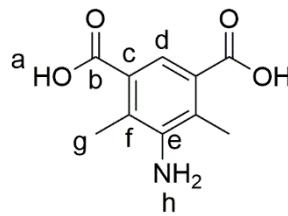
**Figure S 24.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  (100 MHz, DMSO- $\text{d}_6$ , 298 K of compound **12**).



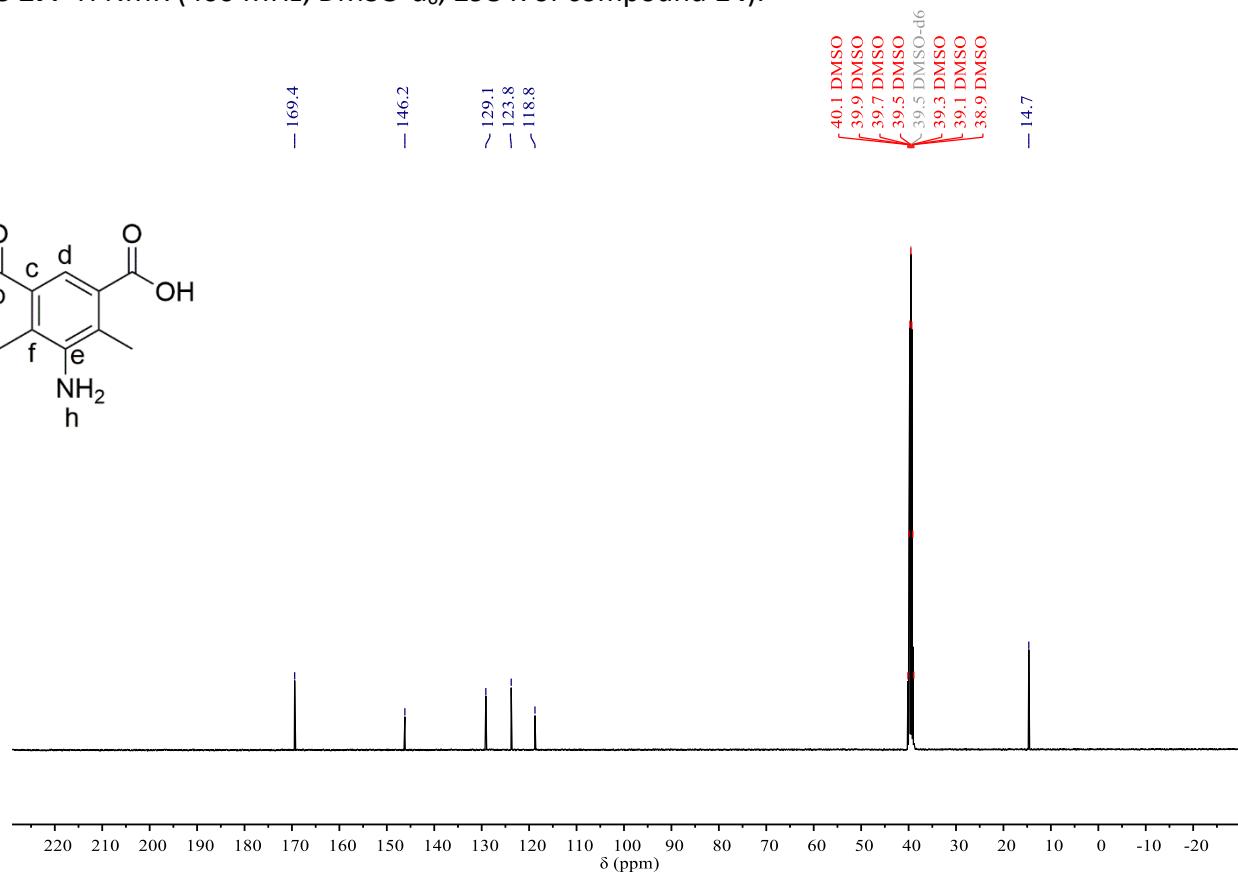
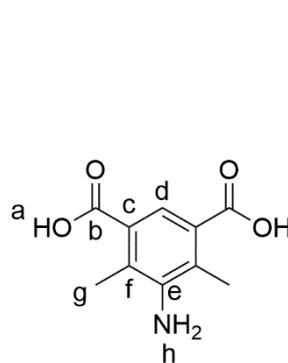
**Figure S 25.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 13).



**Figure S 26.** <sup>13</sup>C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 13).



**Figure S 27.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 14).



**Figure S 28.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 14).

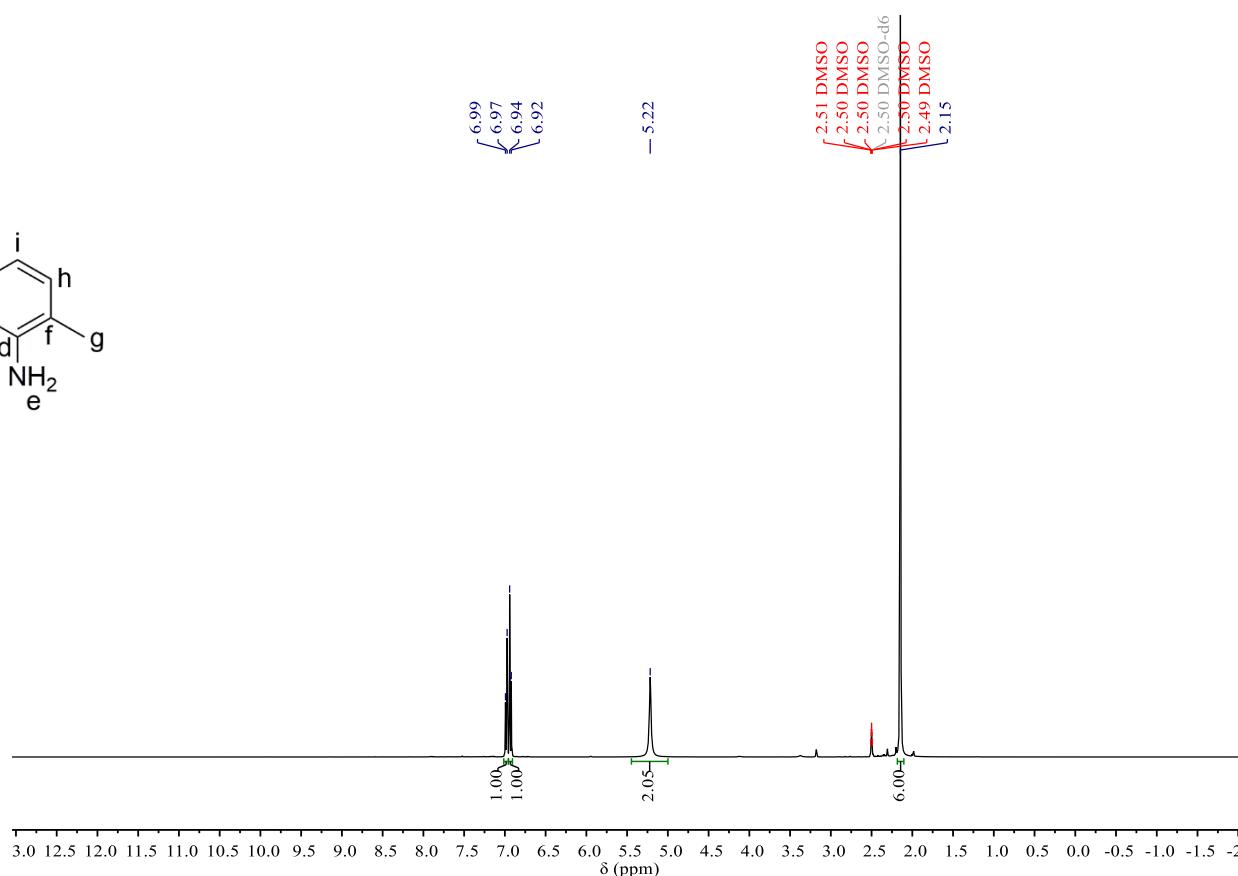
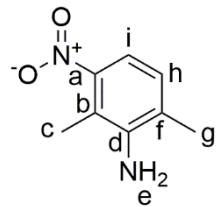


Figure S 29. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 15).

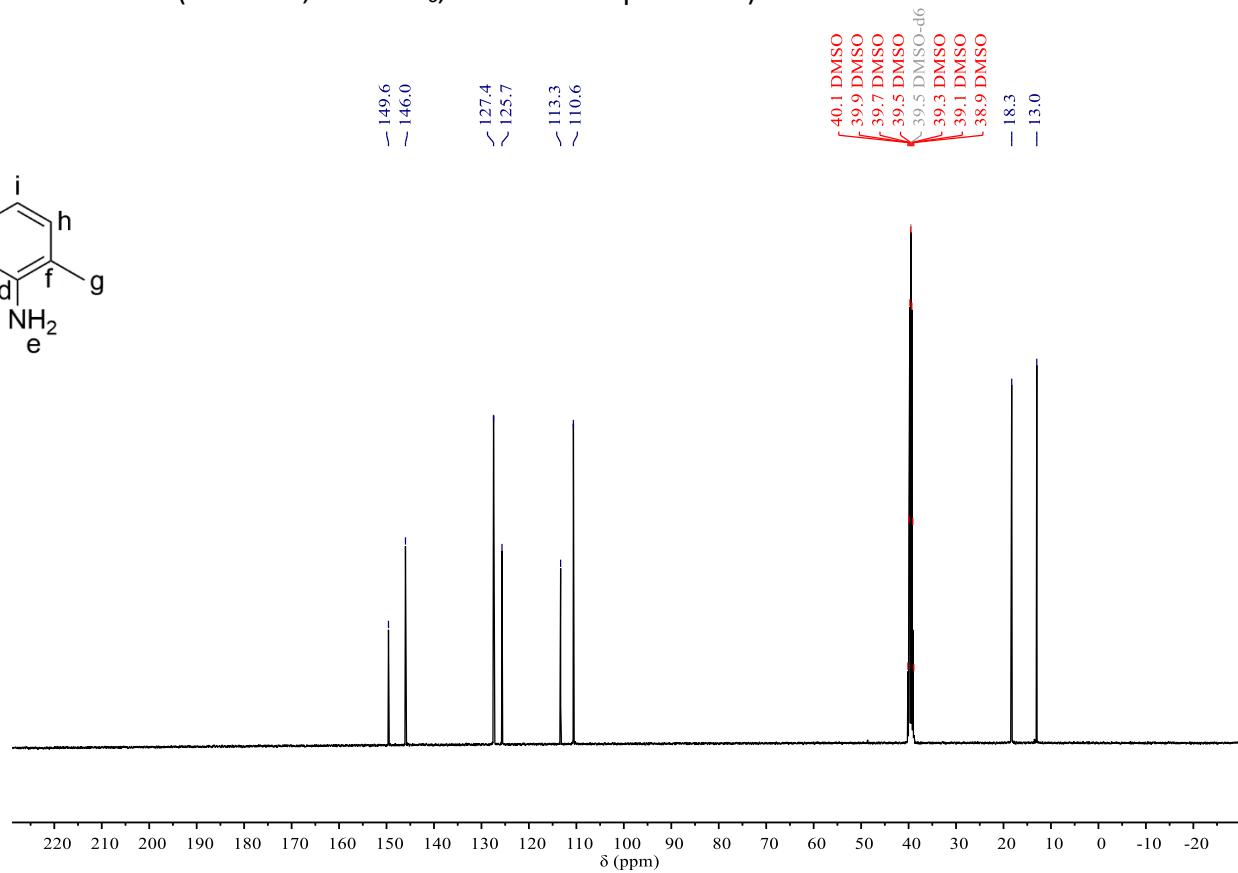
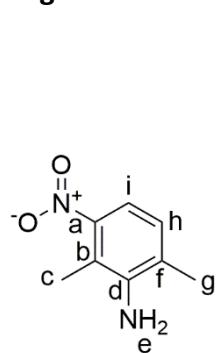
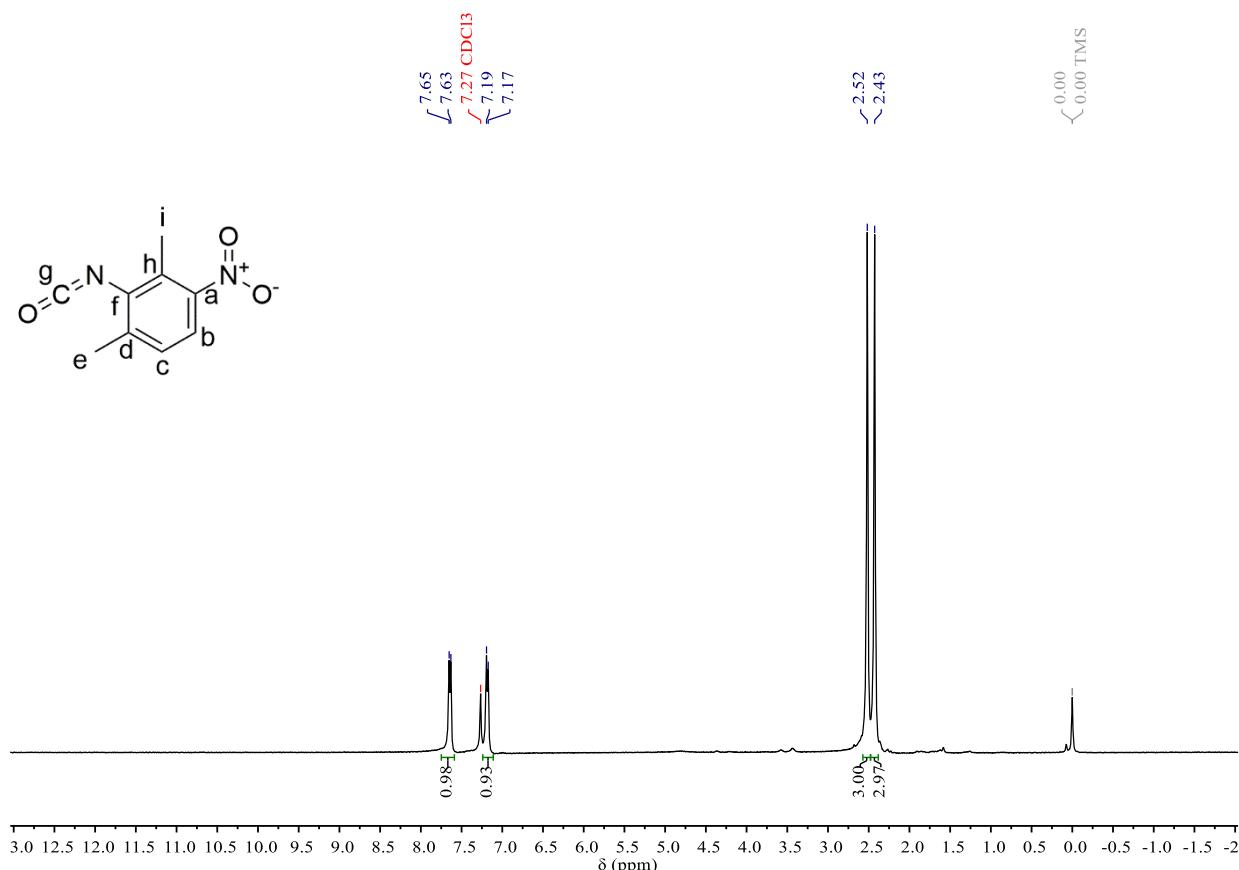
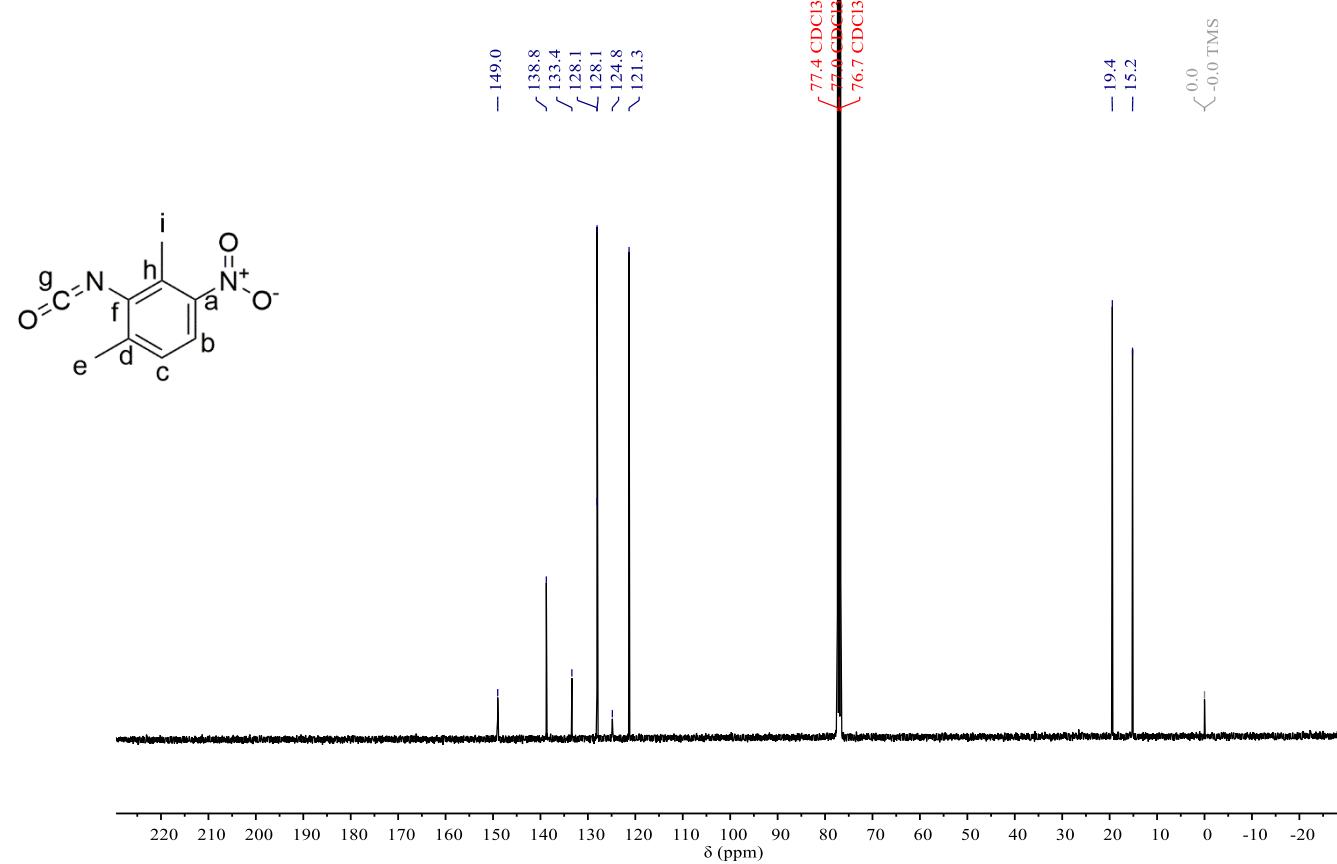


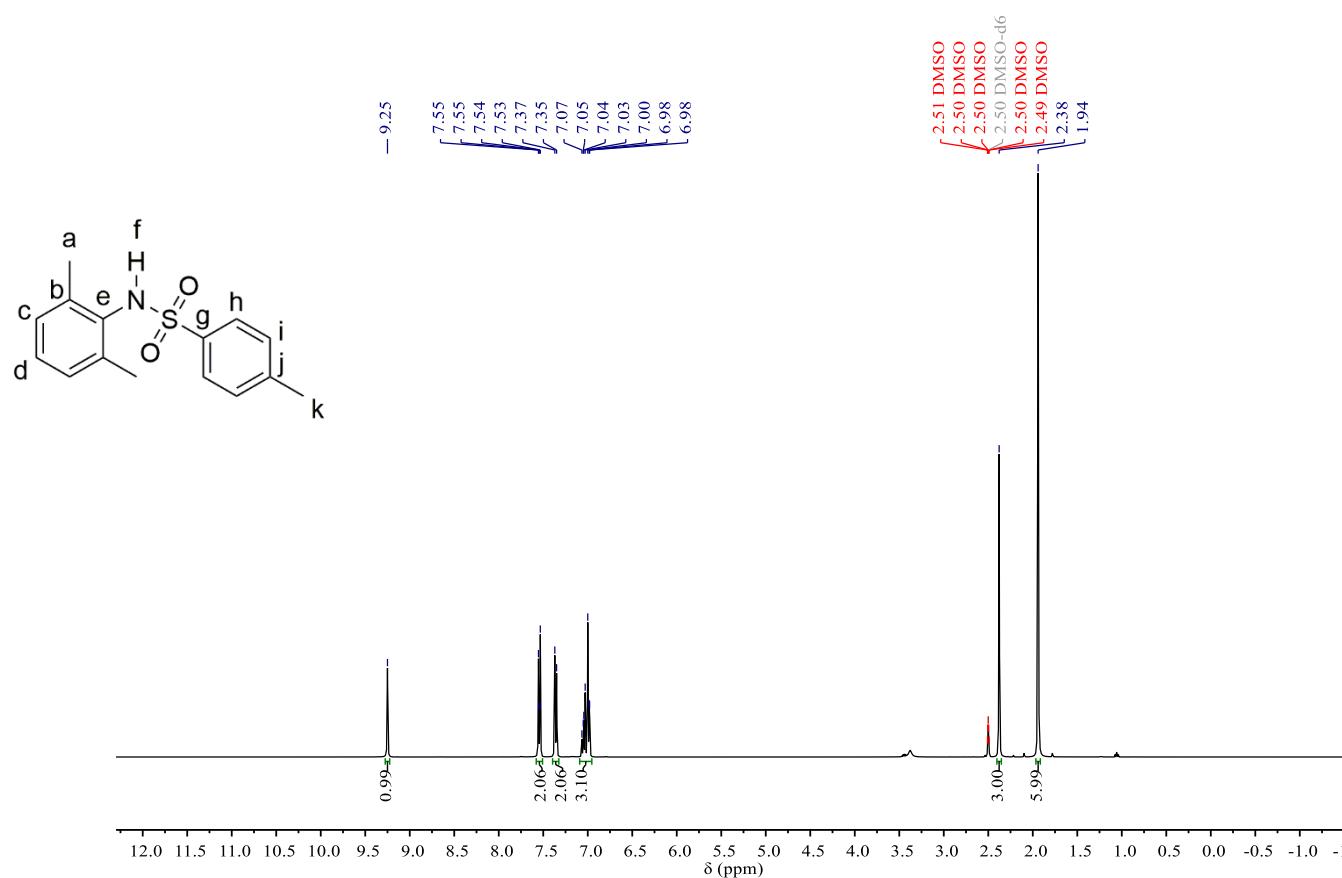
Figure S 30. <sup>13</sup>C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 15).



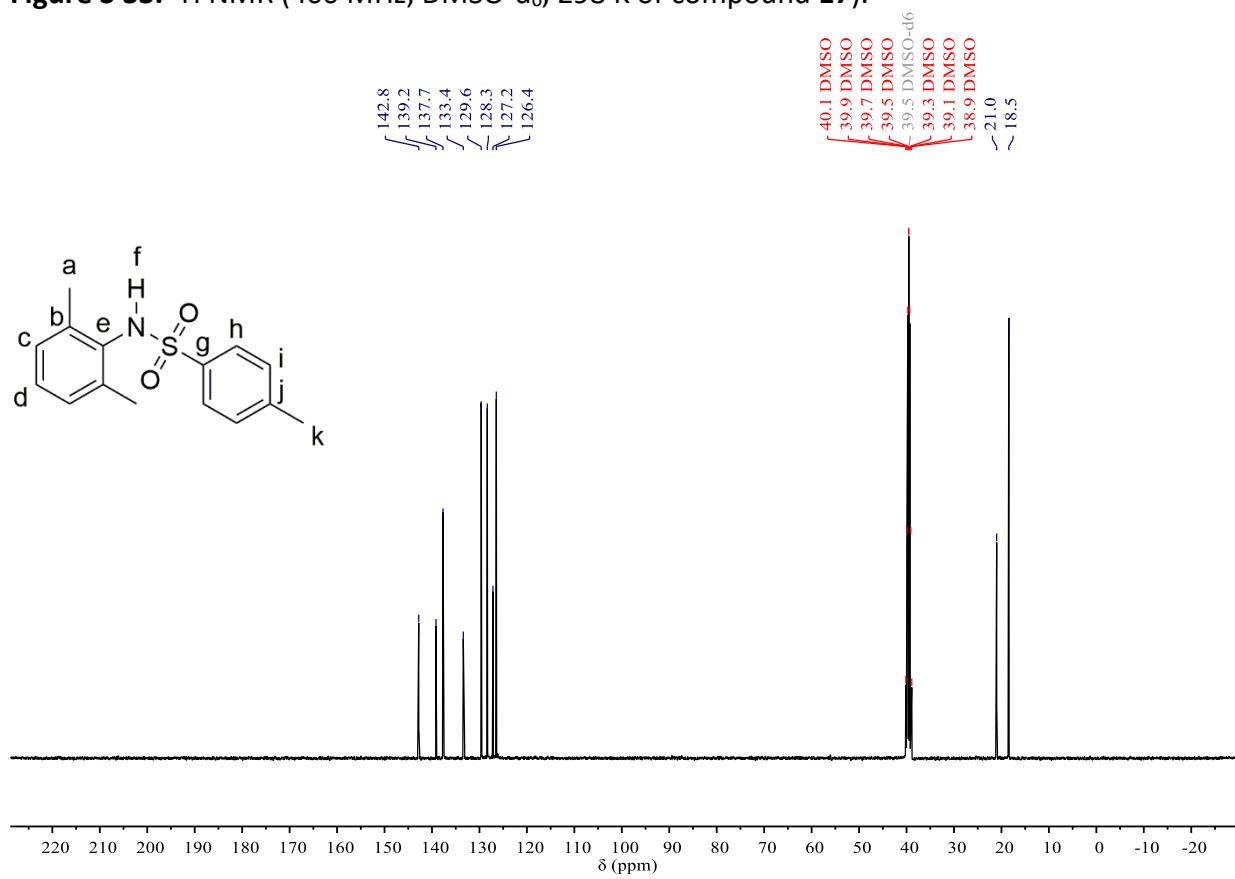
**Figure S 31.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 16).



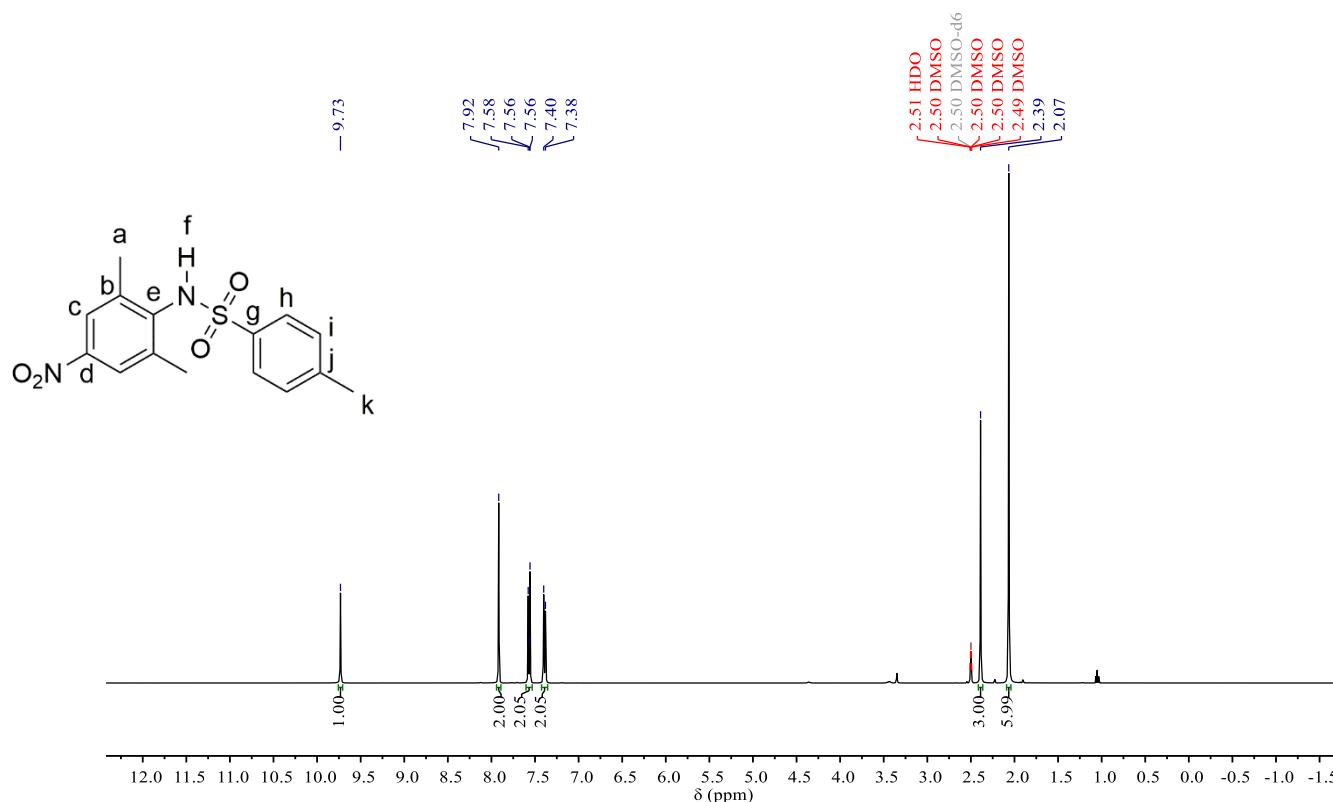
**Figure S 32.** <sup>13</sup>C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 16).



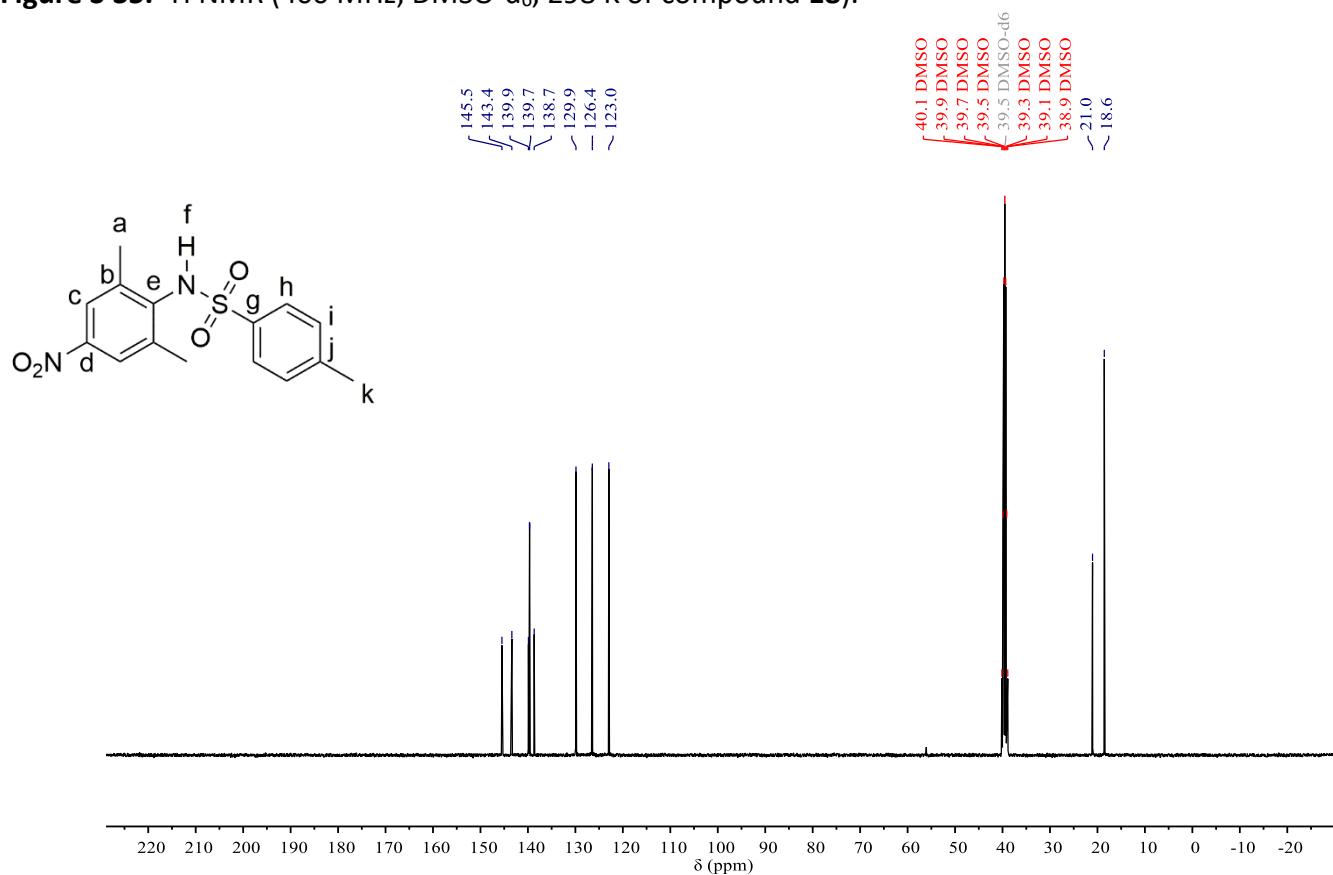
**Figure S 33.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 17).



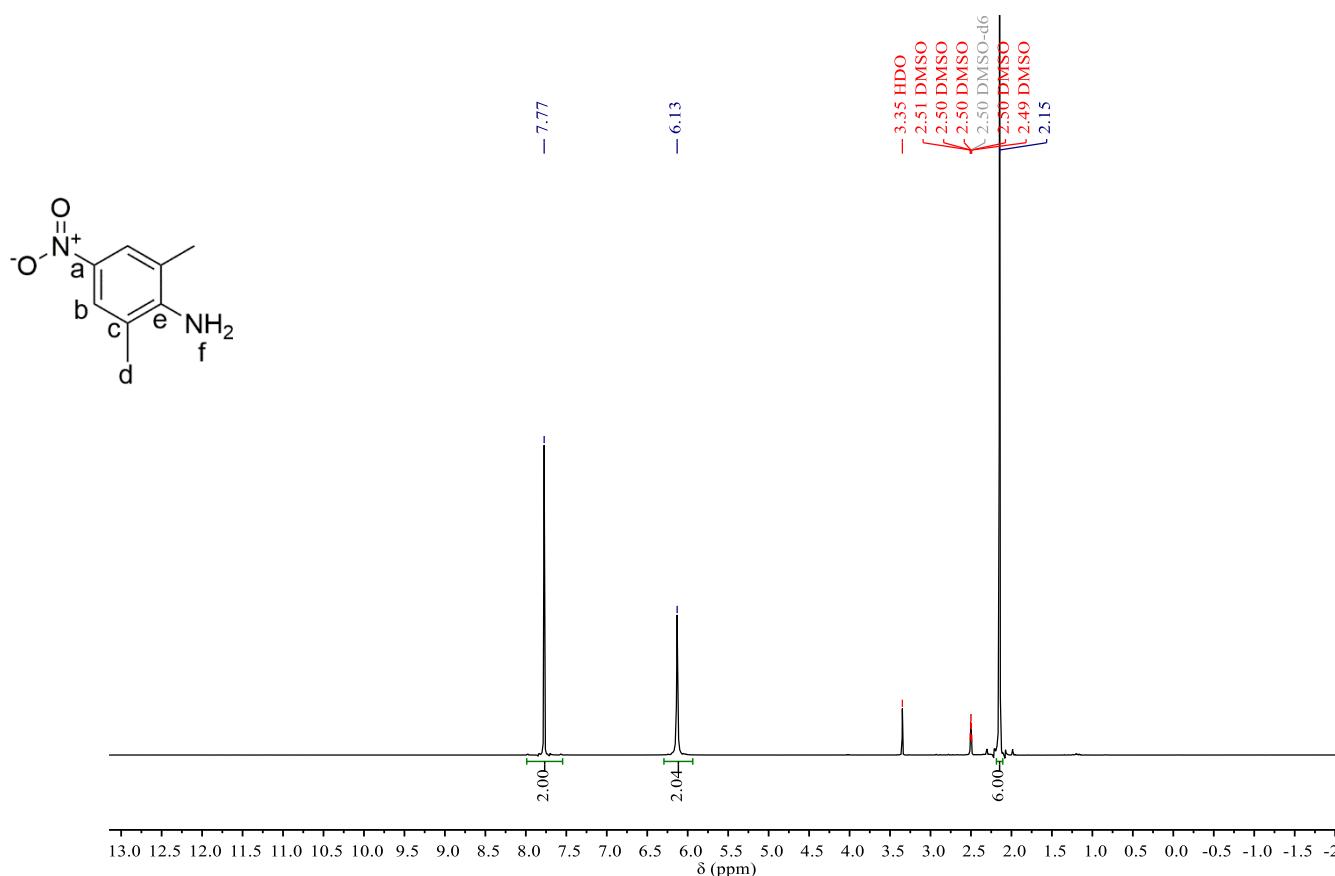
**Figure S 34.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 17).



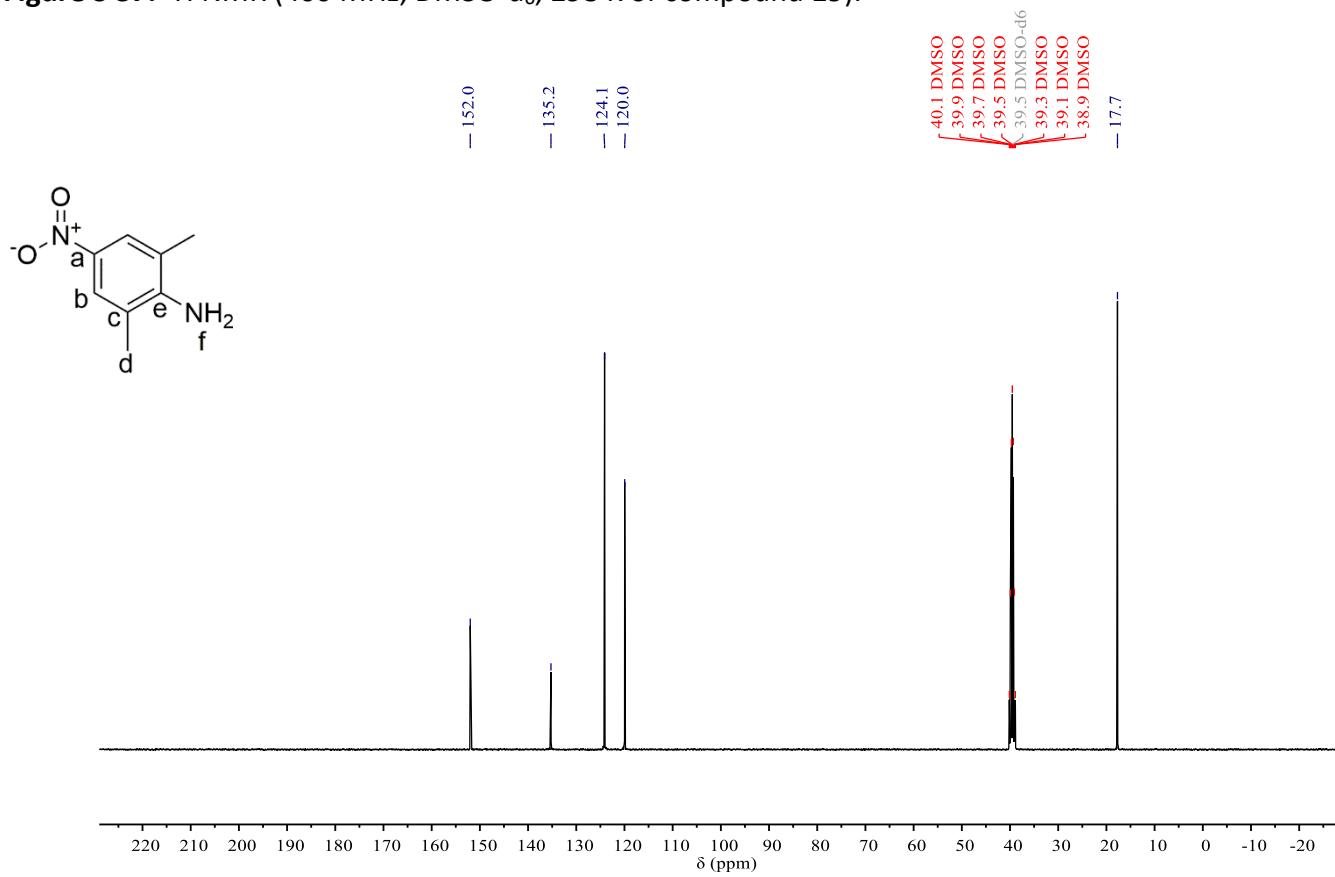
**Figure S 35.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $\text{d}_6$ , 298 K of compound **18**).



**Figure S 36.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  (100 MHz, DMSO- $\text{d}_6$ , 298 K of compound **18**).



**Figure S 37.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound **19**).



**Figure S 38.** <sup>13</sup>C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound **19**).

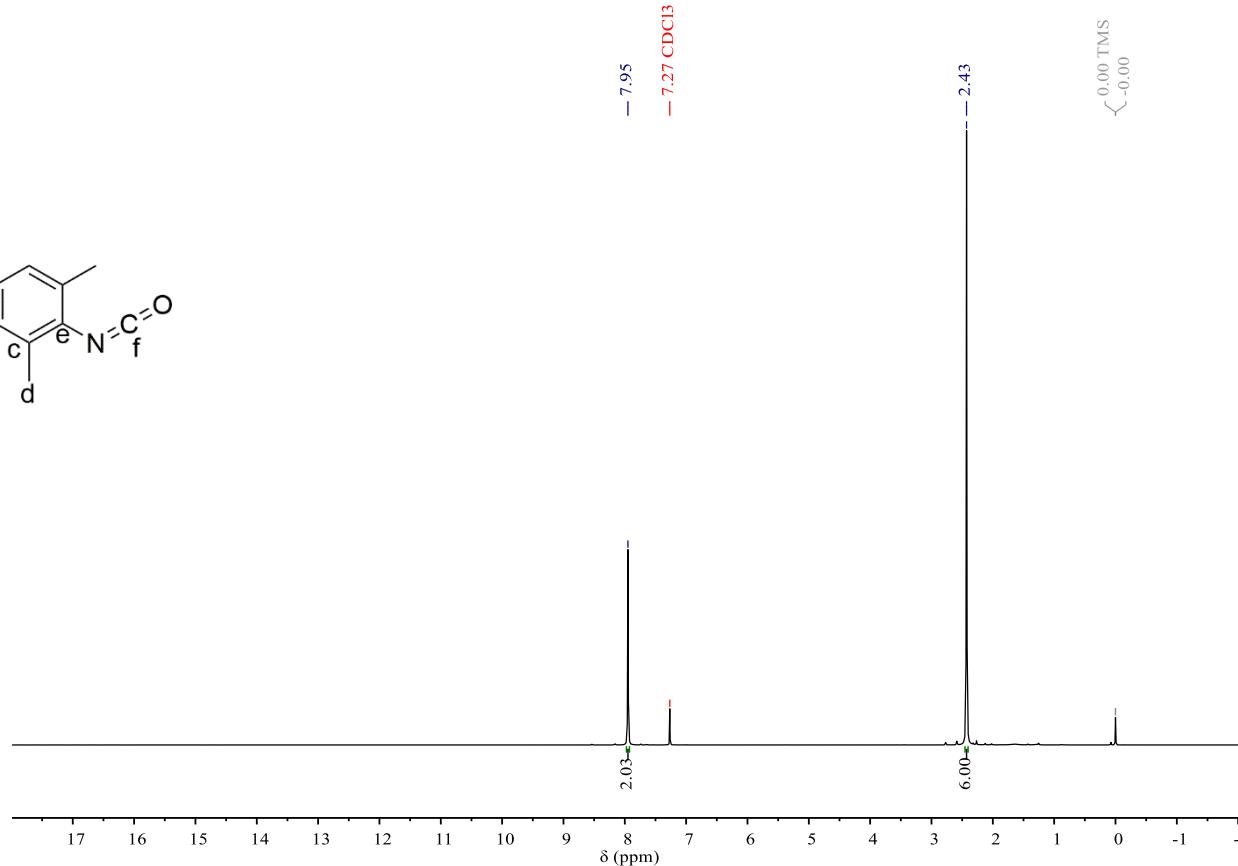
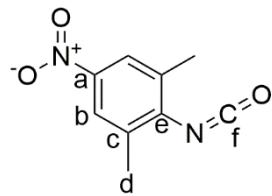


Figure S 39. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 20).

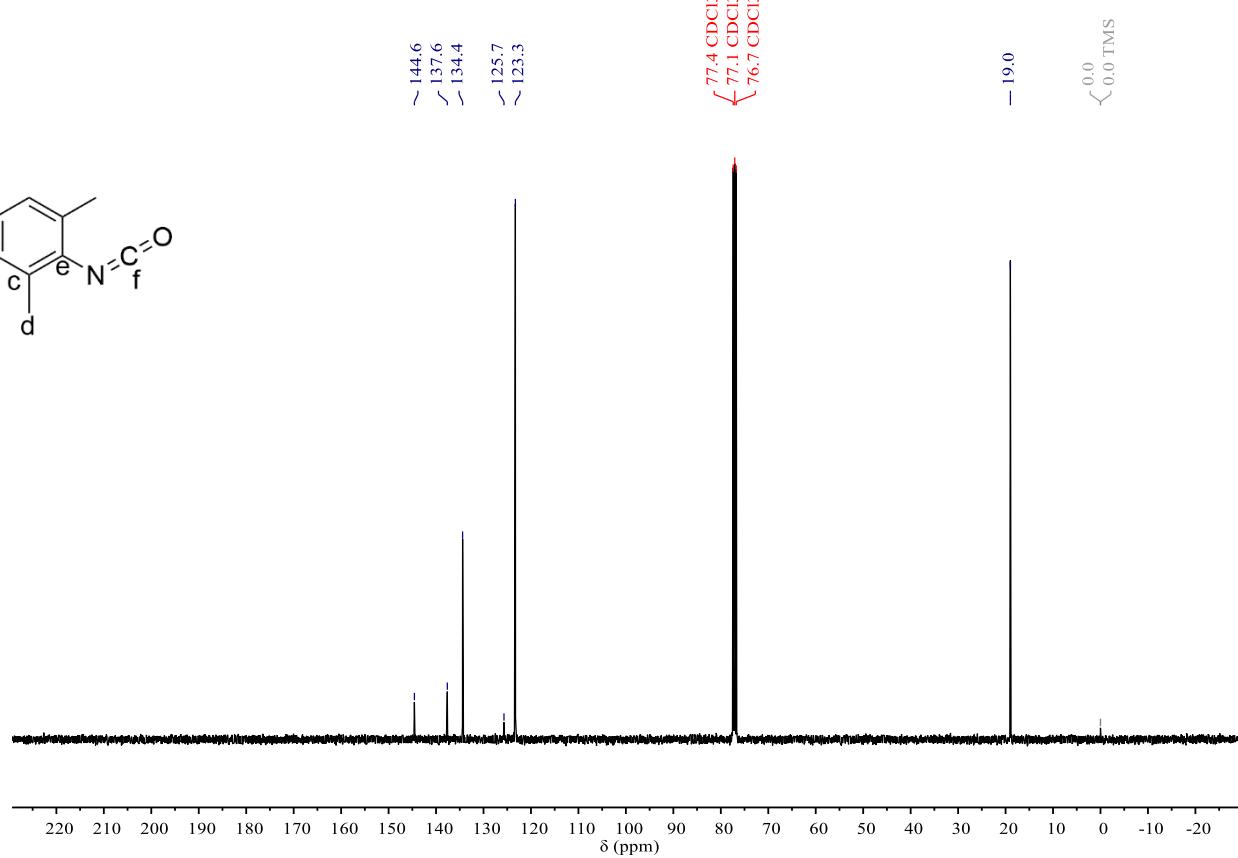
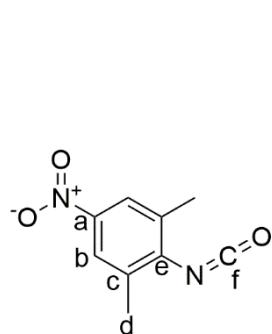
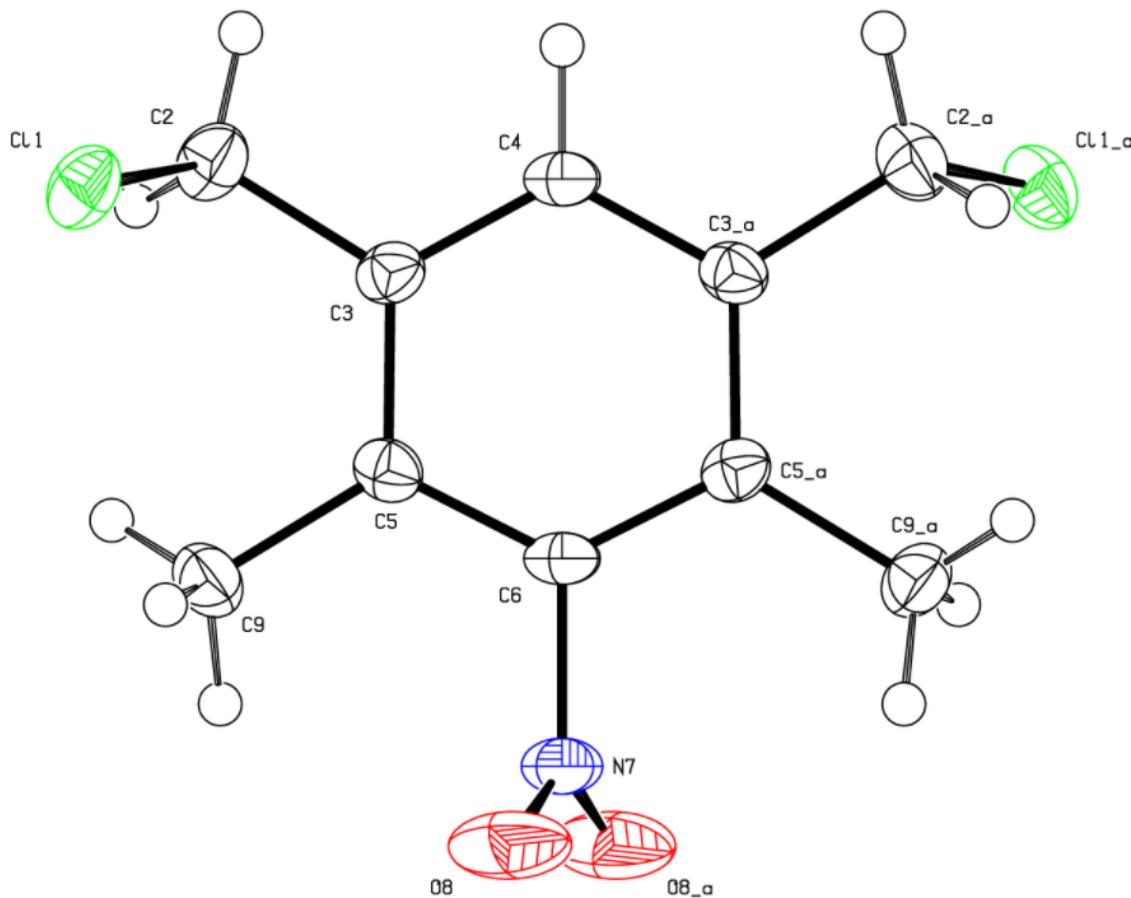


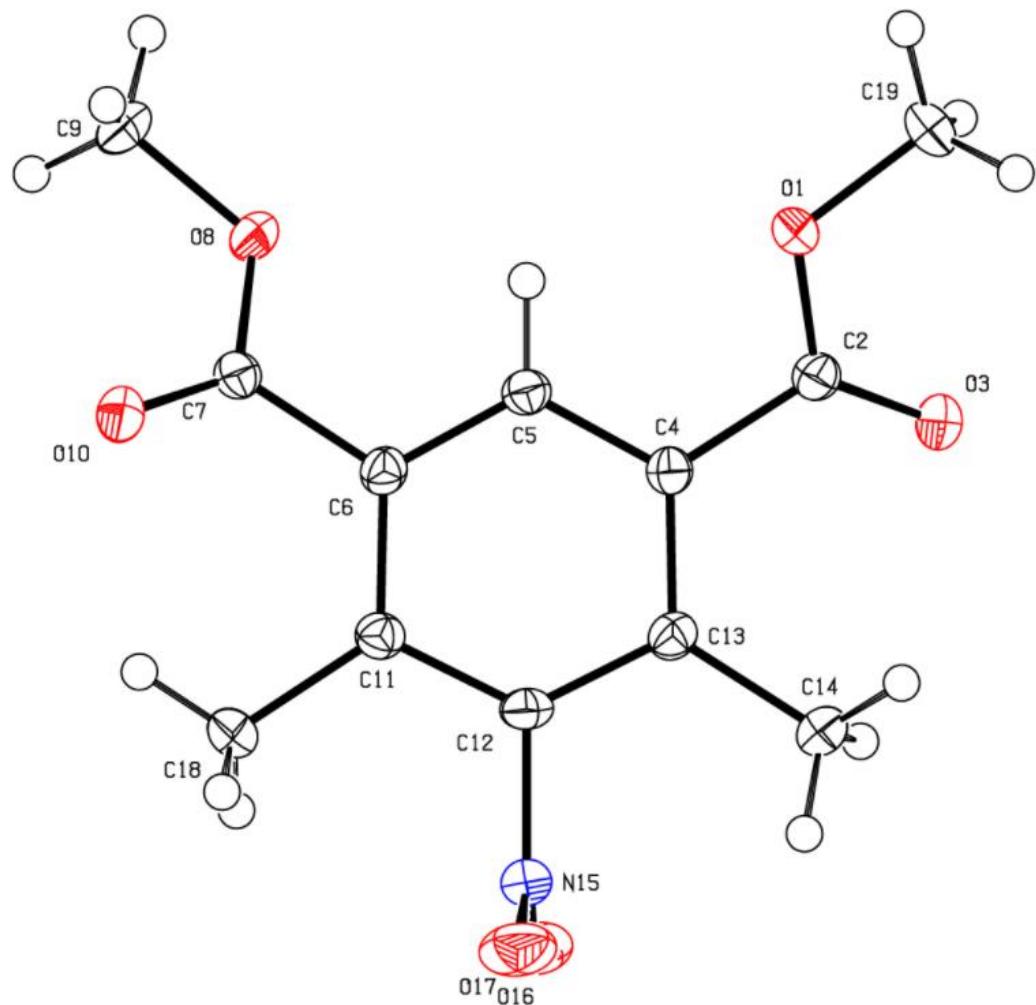
Figure S 40. <sup>13</sup>C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K of compound 20).

**Figure S 41.** Crystal structure of compound **10**, ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability.Symmetry code: (a)  $1 - x, y, 1.5 - z$ .**Table S 1.** Crystallographic details for compound **10**

Formula	$C_{10} H_{11} Cl_2 N O_2$
$M_r$	248.11
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	$C 2/c$
Z	4
$a/\text{\AA}$	15.72720(2)
$b/\text{\AA}$	8.273769(15)
$c/\text{\AA}$	8.583140(18)
$\beta / {}^\circ$	95.913(3)
$V/\text{\AA}^3$	1110.923(7)
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{g cm}^{-3}$	1.483
Crystal habit	Colourless block
Crystal dimensions /mm	$0.017 \times 0.031 \times 0.136$
Radiation	$Cu K_\alpha$ (1.54180 $\text{\AA}$ )
T /K	100
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	5.101
$R(F), R_w(F) / \%$	4.50, 6.89
CCDC cif deposition number	CCDC 2085509

**Table S 2.** Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ) for compound **10**

O(8) – N(7)	1.213(2)	O(8) – N(7) – O(8) <sup>a</sup>	124.7(3)
N(7) – C(6)	1.477(3)	O(8) – N(7) – C(6)	117.65(14)
C(2) – C(3)	1.497(3)	Cl(1) – C(2) – C(3)	110.70(16)
C(3) – C(4)	1.393(2)	C(2) – C(3) – C(4)	119.42(19)
C(3) – C(5)	1.404(3)	C(2) – C(3) – C(5)	121.17(18)
C(5) – C(6)	1.390(2)	C(4) – C(3) – C(5)	119.41(18)
C(5) – C(9)	1.507(3)	C(3) – C(4) – C(3) <sup>a</sup>	122.6(3)
		C(3) – C(5) – C(6)	116.12(18)
		C(3) – C(5) – C(9)	122.03(18)
		C(6) – C(5) – C(9)	121.85(19)
		N(7) – C(6) – C(5)	116.86(13)
		C(5) – C(6) – C(5) <sup>a</sup>	126.3(3)

Symmetry code: (a)  $1 - x, y, 1.5 - z$ .**Figure S 42.** Crystal structure of compound **12**, ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability.

**Table S 3.** Crystallographic details for compound **12**

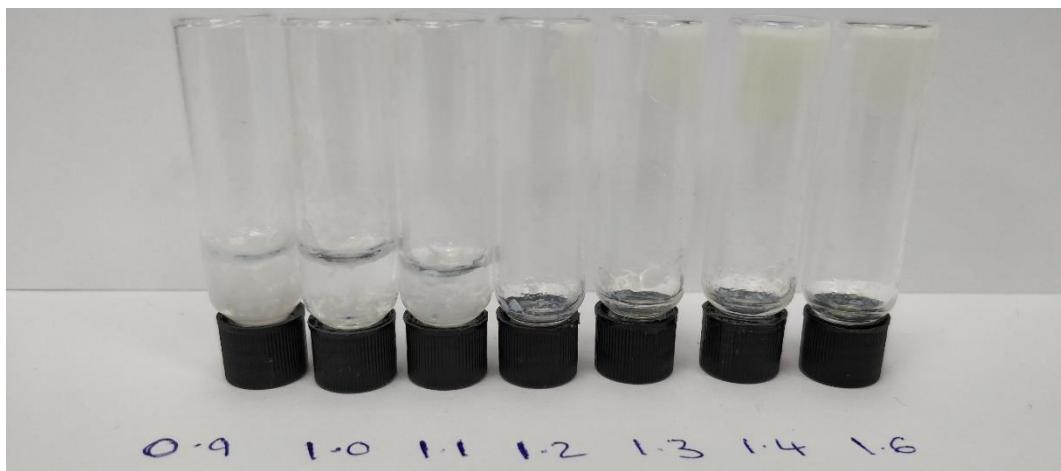
Formula	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N O <sub>6</sub>
M <sub>r</sub>	267.24
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P 2 <sub>1</sub> /n
Z	4
a /Å	7.94120(1)
b/Å	17.09118(2)
c /Å	9.16055(1)
β / °	102.051(2)
V / Å <sup>3</sup>	1215.910(11)
ρ <sub>calc</sub> / g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.460
Crystal habit	Colourless block
Crystal dimensions /mm	0.030 × 0.066 × 0.098
Radiation	Cu K <sub>α</sub> (1.54180 Å)
T /K	100
μ /mm <sup>-1</sup>	1.015
R(F), R <sub>w</sub> (F) /%	3.86, 5.32
CCDC cif deposition number	CCDC 2089501

**Table S 4.** Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ) for compound **12**

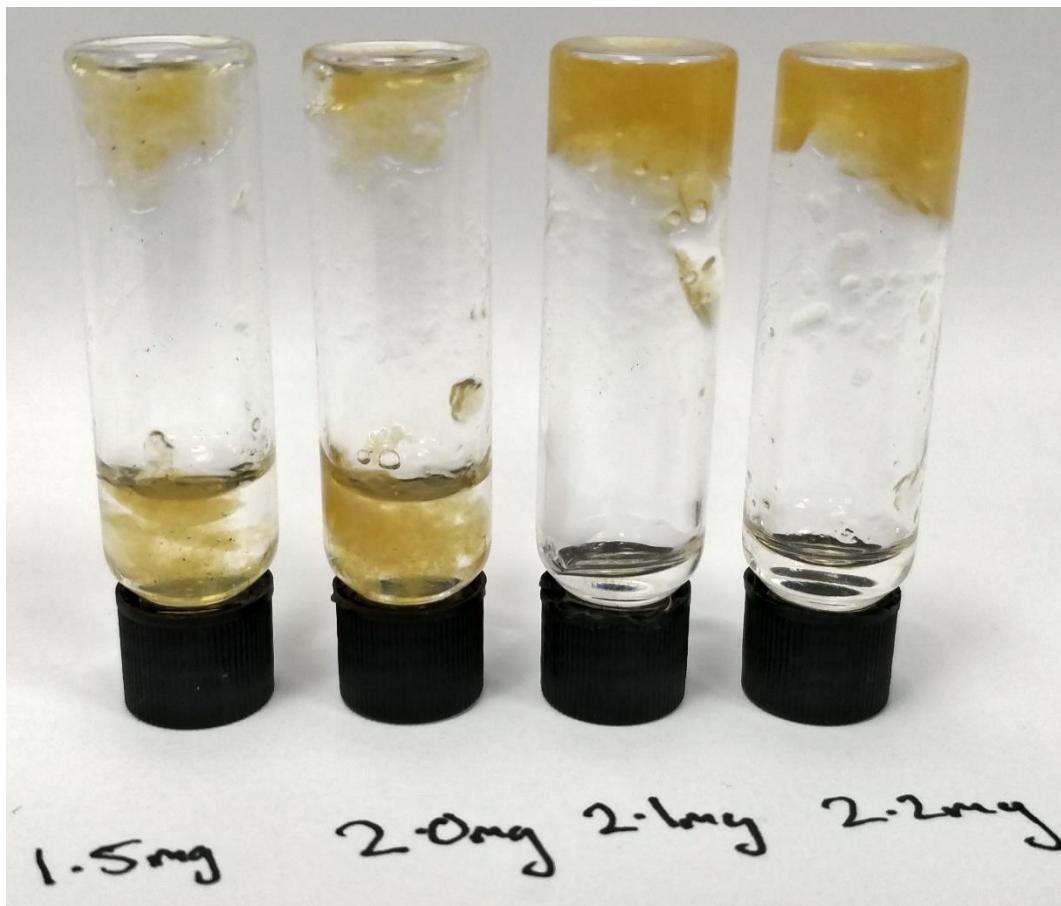
O(1) – C(2)	1.3375(18)	C(2) – O(1) – C(19)	114.98(11)
O(1) – C(19)	1.4461(17)	O(1) – C(2) – O(3)	123.55(13)
C(2) – O(3)	1.2121(18)	O(1) – C(2) – C(4)	111.14(12)
C(2) – C(4)	1.4912(19)	O(3) – C(2) – C(4)	125.28(13)
C(4) – C(5)	1.392(2)	C(2) – C(4) – C(5)	118.75(12)
C(4) – C(13)	1.4070(19)	C(2) – C(4) – C(13)	121.47(13)
C(5) – C(6)	1.390(2)	C(5) – C(4) – C(13)	119.77(13)
C(6) – C(7)	1.4959(19)	C(4) – C(5) – C(6)	122.56(13)
C(6) – C(11)	1.4058(19)	C(5) – C(6) – C(7)	118.11(12)
C(7) – O(8)	1.3400(18)	C(5) – C(6) – C(11)	120.03(13)
C(7) – O(10)	1.2075(18)	C(7) – C(6) – C(11)	121.83(13)
C(8) – C(9)	1.4504(18)	C(6) – C(7) – O(8)	110.58(12)
C(11) – C(12)	1.397(2)	C(6) – C(7) – O(10)	125.55(13)
C(11) – C(18)	1.5043(19)	O(8) – C(7) – O(10)	123.86(13)
C(12) – C(13)	1.393(2)	C(7) – O(8) – C(9)	116.11(12)
C(12) – N(15)	1.4783(18)	C(6) – C(11) – C(12)	115.18(13)
C(13) – C(14)	1.5109(19)	C(6) – C(11) – C(18)	124.66(13)
N(15) – O(16)	1.2215(19)	C(12) – C(11) – C(18)	120.09(13)
N(15) – O(17)	1.2214(19)	C(11) – C(12) – C(13)	127.03(13)
		C(11) – C(12) – N(15)	116.40(12)
		C(13) – C(12) – N(15)	116.57(12)
		C(4) – C(13) – C(12)	115.42(12)
		C(4) – C(13) – C(14)	123.62(13)
		C(12) – C(13) – C(14)	120.96(12)
		C(12) – N(15) – O(16)	117.58(13)
		C(12) – N(15) – O(17)	117.75(13)
		O(16) – N(15) – O(17)	124.67(13)



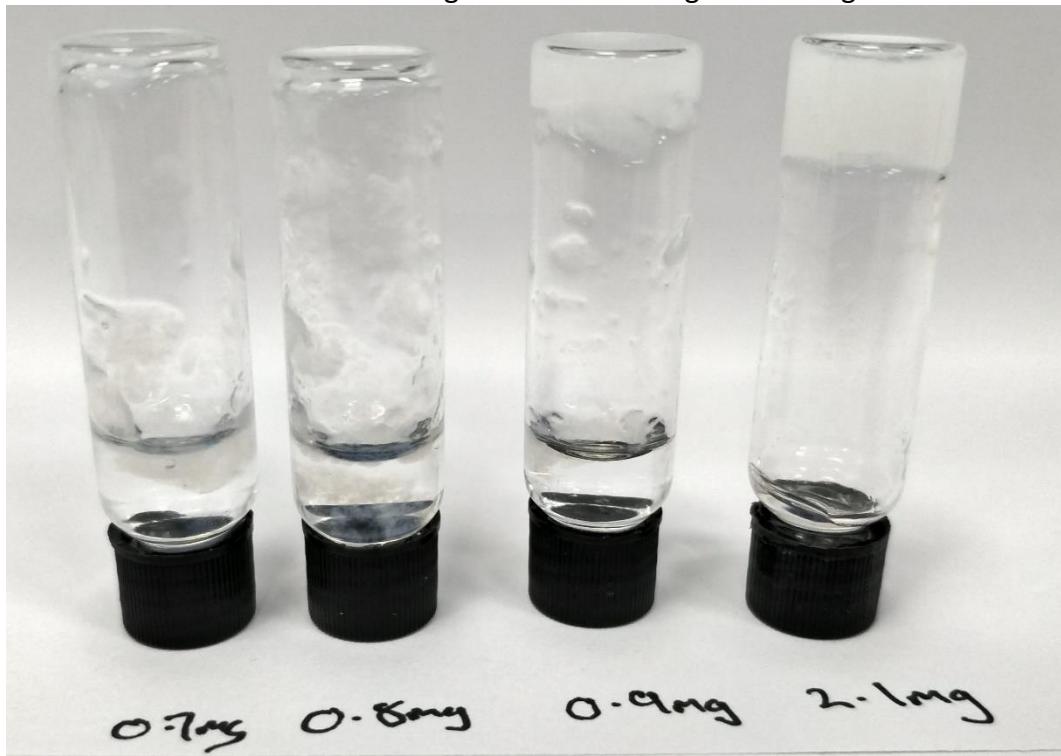
**Figure S 43.** CGC determination vial inversion of gelators **2** and **3** (20 mM).



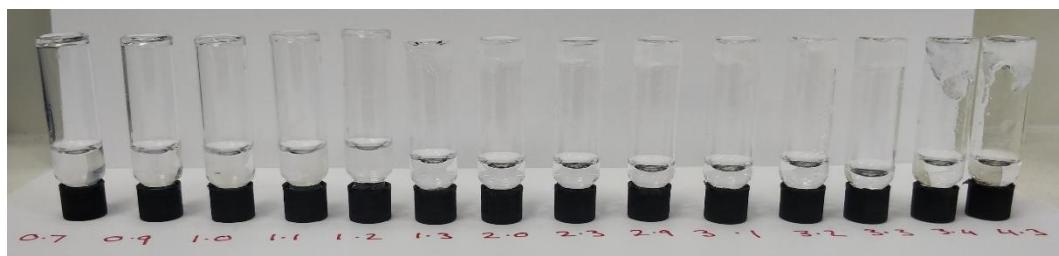
**Figure S 44.** CGC determination vial inversion of gelator **4**. Mass of gelator in mg written below each vial.



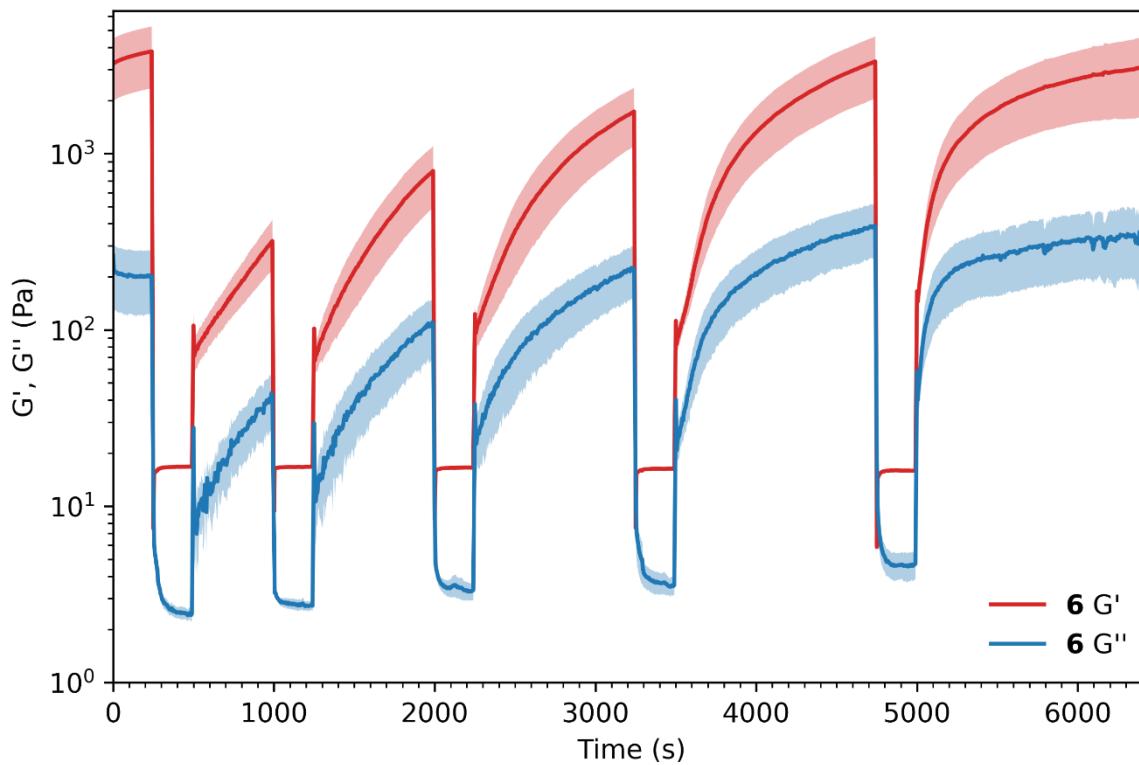
**Figure S 45.** CGC determination vial inversion of gelator **6**. Mass of gelator in mg written below each vial.



**Figure S 46.** CGC determination vial inversion of gelator **7**. Mass of gelator in mg written below each vial.



**Figure S 47.** CGC determination via vial inversion of gelator **8**. Mass of gelator in mg written below each vial.

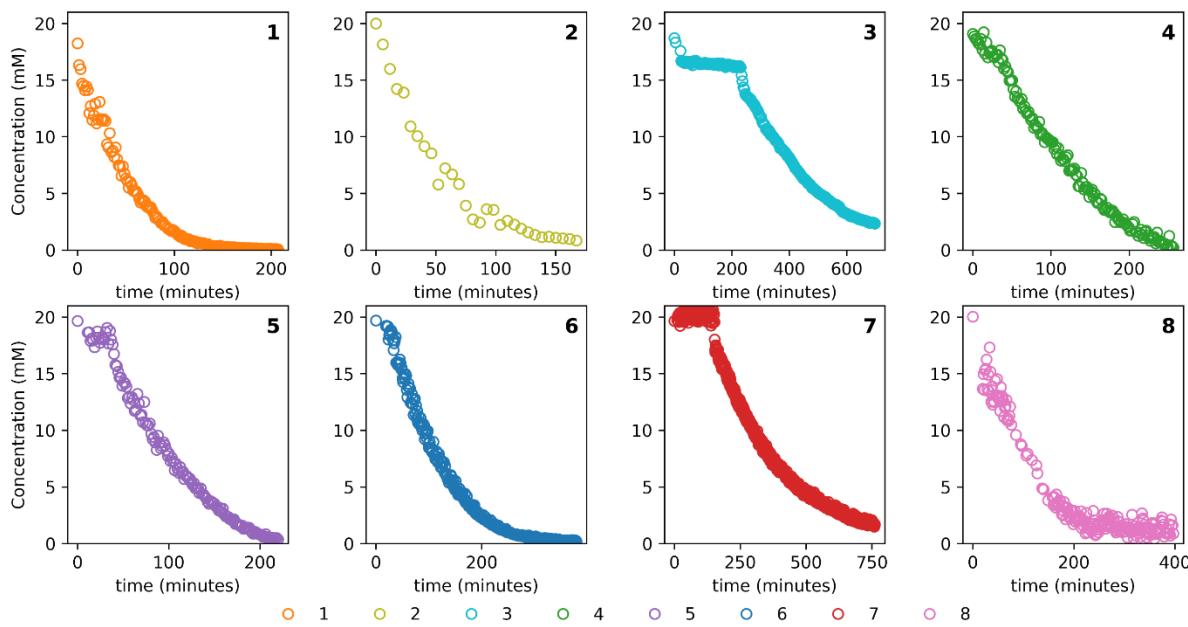


**Figure S 48.** Continuous step-strain measurements of **6** at 25 °C (high-amplitude oscillatory parameters: strain  $\gamma = 250\%$ , frequency = 1 Hz, low-amplitude oscillatory parameters: strain  $\gamma = 0.1\%$ , frequency = 1 Hz) with increasing low shear interval until complete network recovery.

**Table S 5.** Rheological properties of hydrogelators

	(1)	(4)	(6)	(7)
<b>G'<sup>a</sup> (Pa)</b>	1.780E+004	2.135E+003	4.653E+003	4.935E+003
<b>G''<sup>a</sup> (Pa)</b>	2.085E+003	211.9	206.8	228.5
<b>γ<sub>y</sub>%<sup>b</sup></b>	6.77±1.48	77.14±2.60	41.02±11.15	22.56±6.88
<b>σ<sub>y</sub> (Pa)<sup>c</sup></b>	373.40±28.17	72.65±4.87	118.35±57.60	92.21±32.69
<b>γ<sub>y</sub>%<sup>c</sup></b>	3.71±0.70	40.61±1.63	11.36±2.96	9.85±2.17

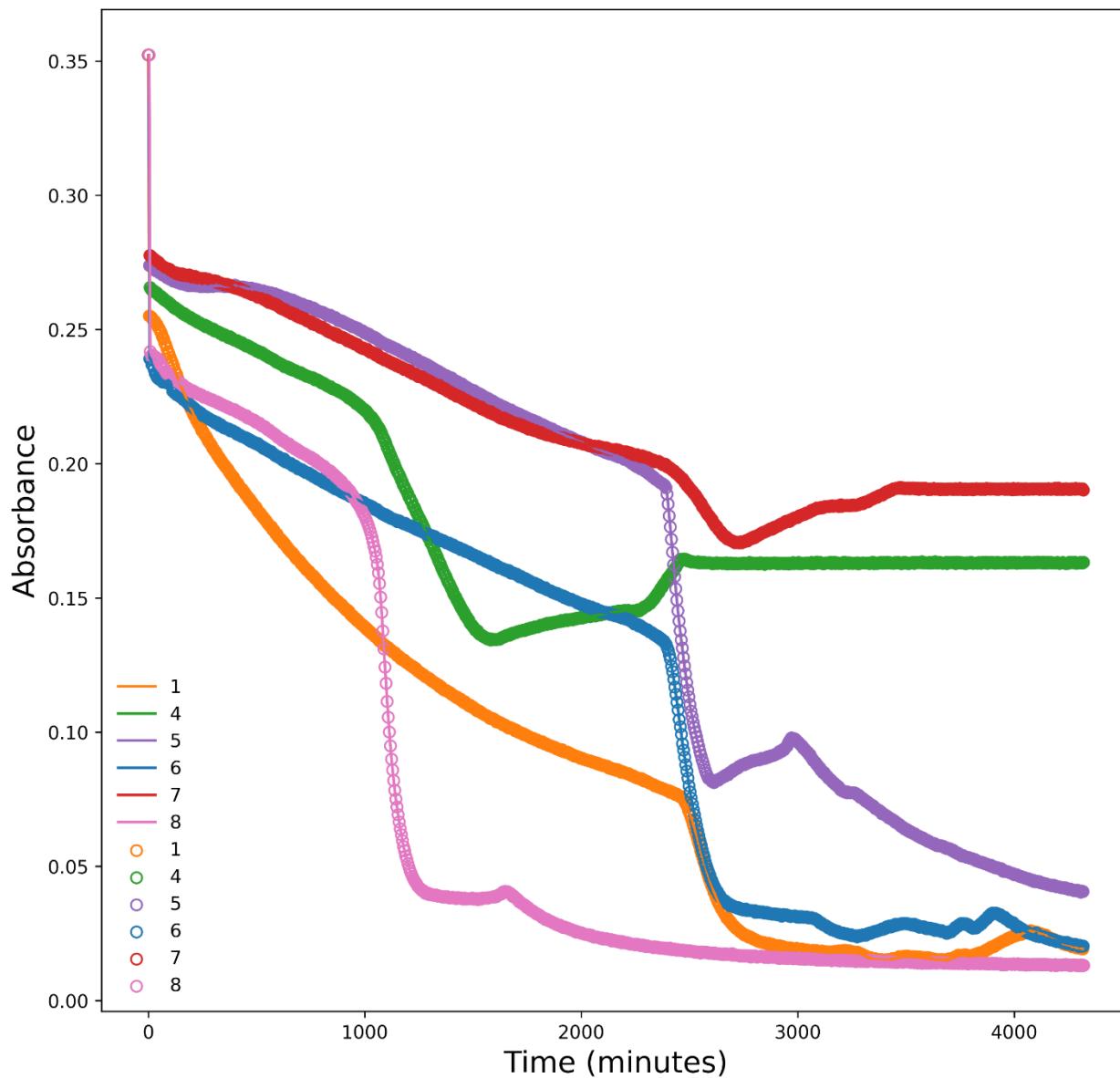
a = observed after equilibrating for 12 hours, measured at 1Hz and 0.1% shear strain,  
b = determined as the % strain at the inversion of G' and G'', c = determined from peak analysis of elastic stress vs. shear strain data.



**Figure S 49.** Kinetics of formation of gelator networks **1 – 8** as monitored by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy.



**Figure S 50.** From left to right: methylene blue solution (3 mL,  $4 \text{ mgL}^{-1}$ ) without gelator, gelators **1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8** (10 mM), gelled with HCl, within 12 hours after addition of methylene blue solution (3 mL,  $4 \text{ mgL}^{-1}$ ).



**Figure S 51.** Absorbance maxima of methylene blue (664 nm) vs. time for hydrogelators **1, 4, 5, 6, 7** and **8**.