

Supplementary Material

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

Adam D. O'Donnell,^a Alexander G. Gavriel,^a William Christie,^a Ann M. Chippindale,^a Ian M. German,^b and Wayne Hayes^{a*}

^aDepartment of Chemistry, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6DX, U.K.

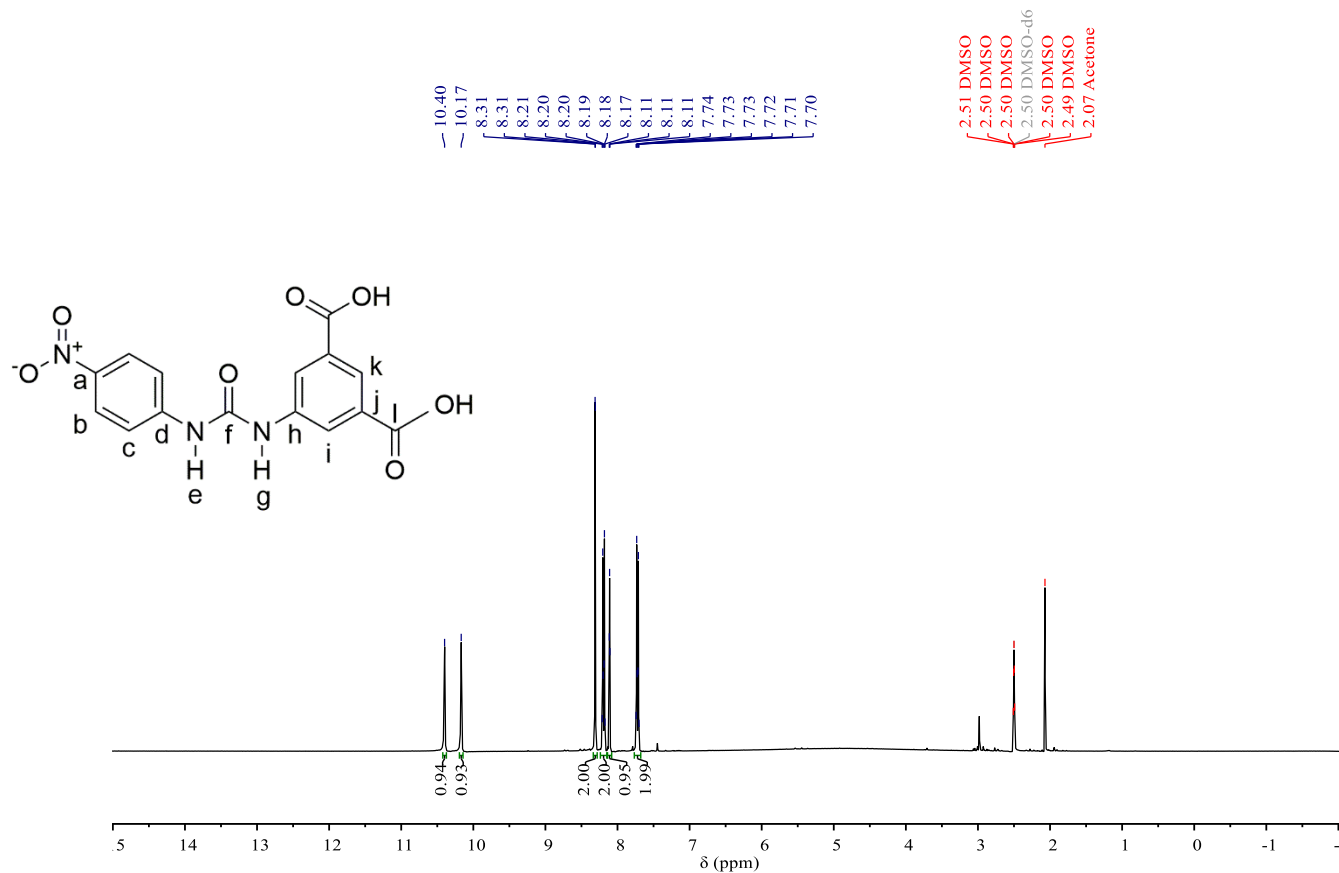
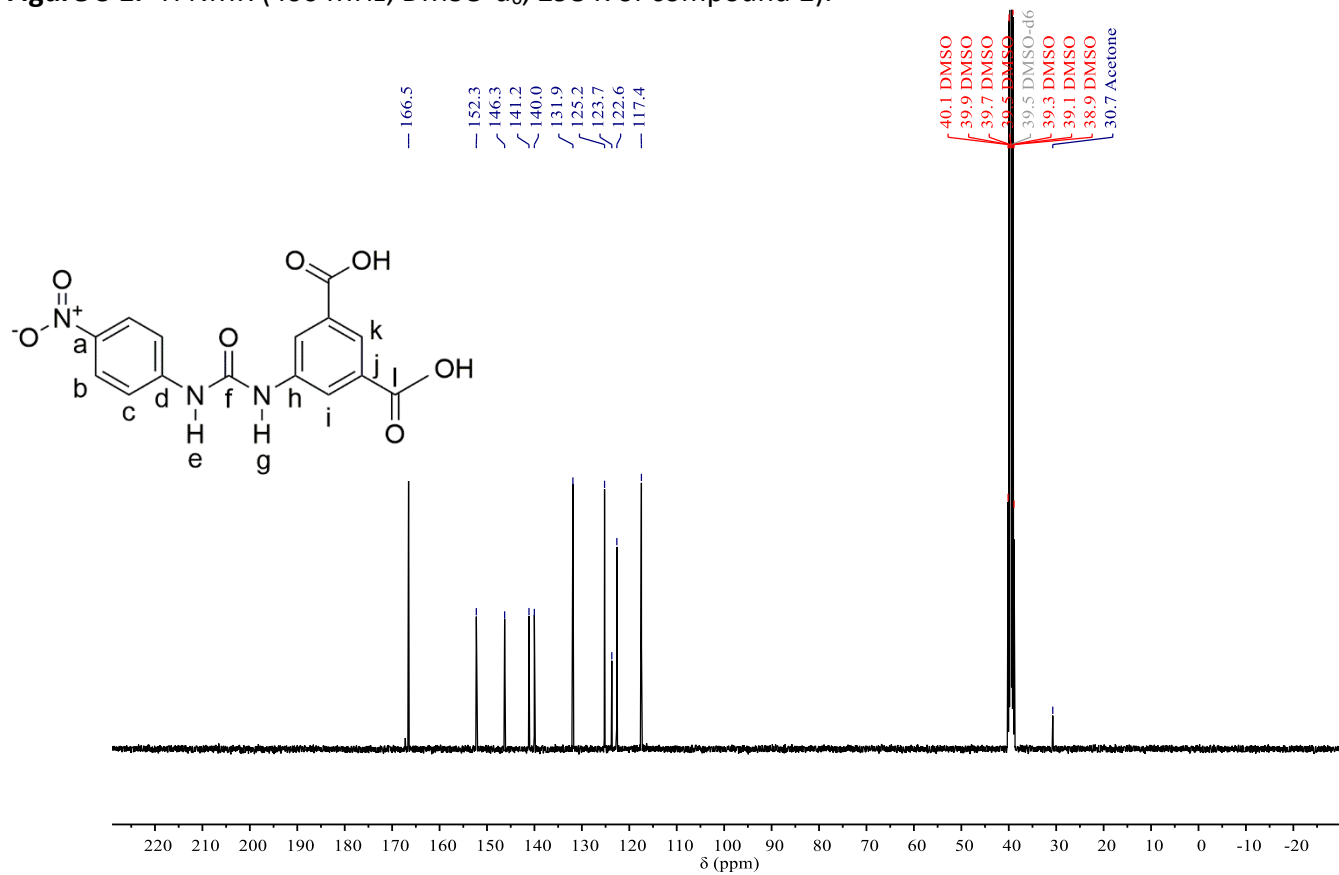
^bKinectrics Inc., 17-18 Frederick Sanger Road, The Surrey Research Park, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7YD, U.K.

Email: w.c.hayes@reading.ac.uk

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Figure S 1. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 1). | S3 |
| Figure S 2. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 1). | S3 |
| Figure S 3. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 2). | S4 |
| Figure S 4. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 2). | S4 |
| Figure S 5. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 3). | S5 |
| Figure S 6. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 3). | S5 |
| Figure S 7. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 4). | S6 |
| Figure S 8. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 4). | S6 |
| Figure S 9. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 5). | S7 |
| Figure S 10. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 5). | S7 |
| Figure S 11. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 6). | S8 |
| Figure S 12. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 6). | S8 |
| Figure S 13. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 7). | S9 |
| Figure S 14. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 7). | S9 |
| Figure S 15. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 8). | S10 |
| Figure S 16. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 8). | S10 |
| Figure S 17. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 9). | S11 |
| Figure S 18. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 9). | S11 |
| Figure S 19. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 10). | S12 |
| Figure S 20. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 10). | S12 |
| Figure S 21. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 11). | S13 |
| Figure S 22. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 11). | S13 |
| Figure S 23. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 12). | S14 |
| Figure S 24. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 12). | S14 |
| Figure S 25. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 13). | S15 |
| Figure S 26. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 13). | S15 |
| Figure S 27. ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 14). | S16 |
| Figure S 28. ¹³ C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d ₆ , 298 K of compound 14). | S16 |

| | |
|---|------|
| Figure S 29. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 15). | S17 |
| Figure S 30. $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 15). | S17 |
| Figure S 31. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 16). | S18 |
| Figure S 32. $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 16). | S18 |
| Figure S 33. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 17). | S19 |
| Figure S 34. $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 17). | S19 |
| Figure S 35. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 18). | S20 |
| Figure S 36. $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 18). | S20 |
| Figure S 37. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 19). | S21 |
| Figure S 38. $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 19). | S21 |
| Figure S 39. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 20). | S22 |
| Figure S 40. $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 20). | S22 |
| Figure S 41. Crystal structure of compound 10 , ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability. | S23 |
| Table S 1. Crystallographic details for compound 10 | S23 |
| Table S 2. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for compound 10 | S24 |
| Figure S 42. Crystal structure of compound 12 , ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability. | S244 |
| Table S 3. Crystallographic details for compound 12 | S25 |
| Table S 4. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for compound 12 | S26 |
| Figure S 43. CGC determination vial inversion of gelators 2 and 3 (20 mM). | S27 |
| Figure S 44. CGC determination vial inversion of gelator 4 . Mass of gelator in mg written below each vial..... | S27 |
| Figure S 45. CGC determination vial inversion of gelator 6 . Mass of gelator in mg written below each vial..... | S28 |
| Figure S 46. CGC determination vial inversion of gelator 7 . Mass of gelator in mg written below each vial..... | S28 |
| Figure S 47. CGC determination via vial inversion of gelator 8 . Mass of gelator in mg written below each vial. | S29 |
| Figure S 48. Continuous step-strain measurements of 6 at 25 °C..... | S30 |
| Table S 5. Rheological properties of hydrogelators..... | S30 |
| Figure S 49. Kinetics of formation of gelator networks 1 – 8 | S31 |
| Figure S 50. From left to right: methylene blue solution (3 mL, 4 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 mgL $^{-1}$). | S31 |
| Figure S 51. Absorbance maxima of methylene blue (664 nm) vs. time for hydrogelators 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 ...S32 | |

Figure S 1. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 298 K of compound 1).Figure S 2. ¹³C{H} (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 298 K of compound 1).

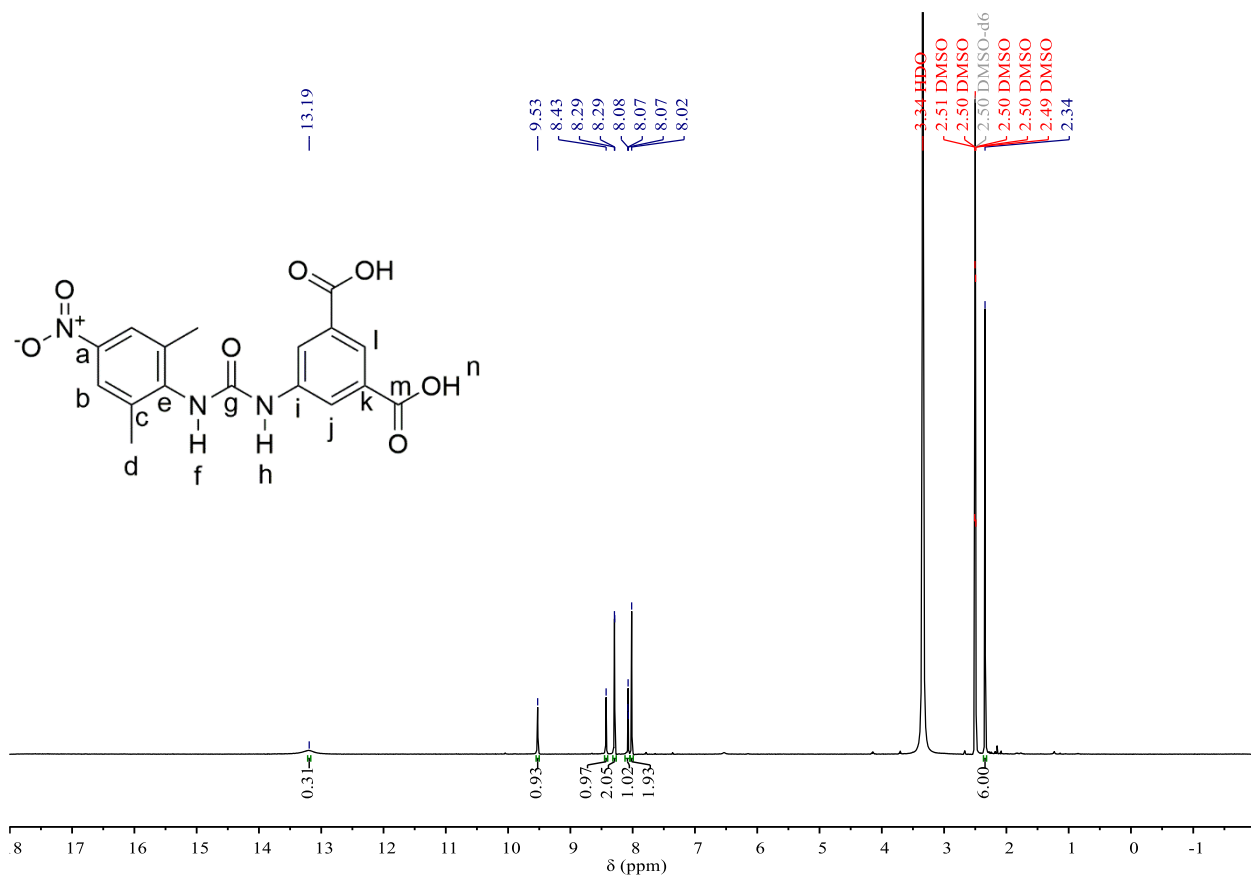


Figure S 3. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 2).

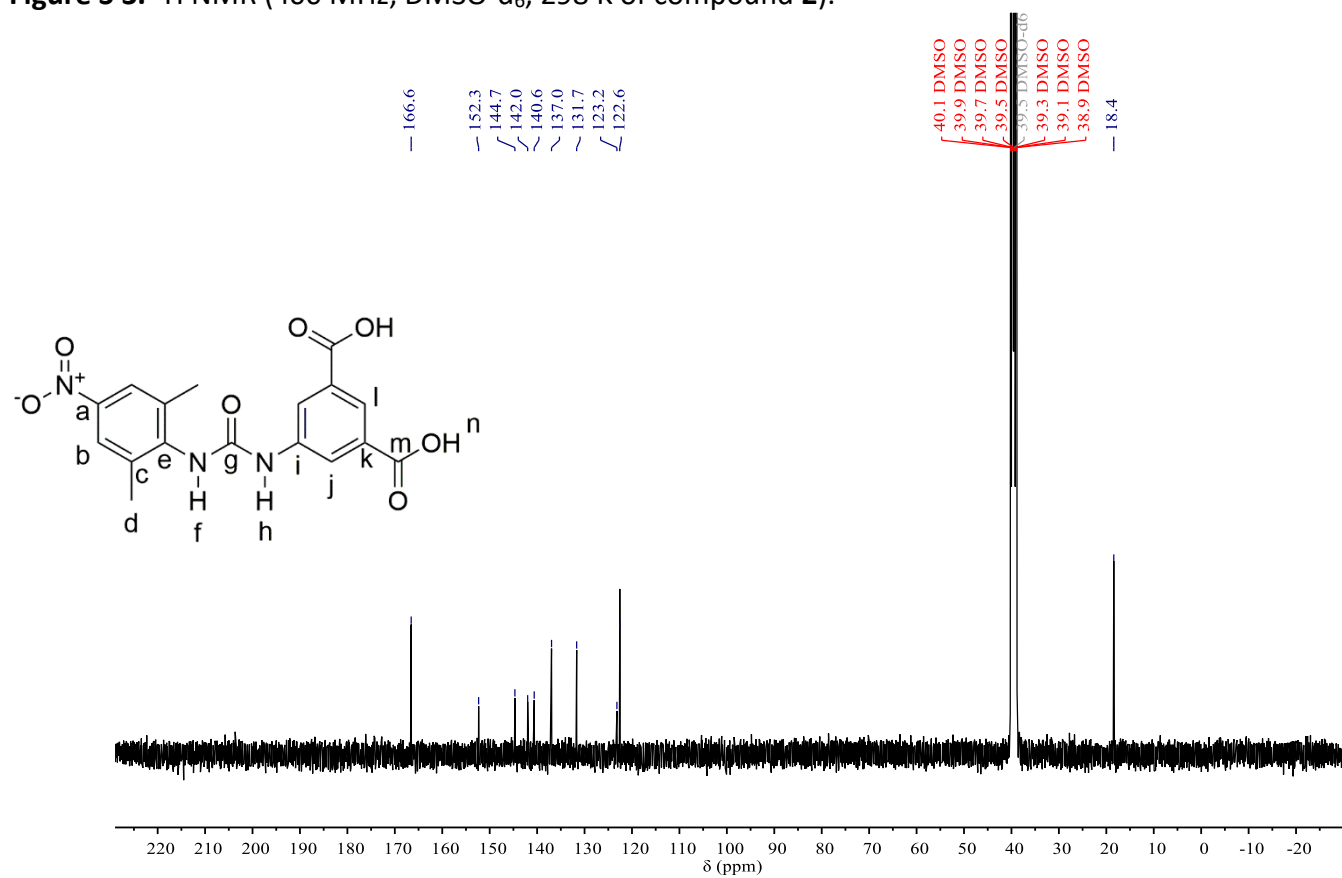


Figure S 4. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 2).

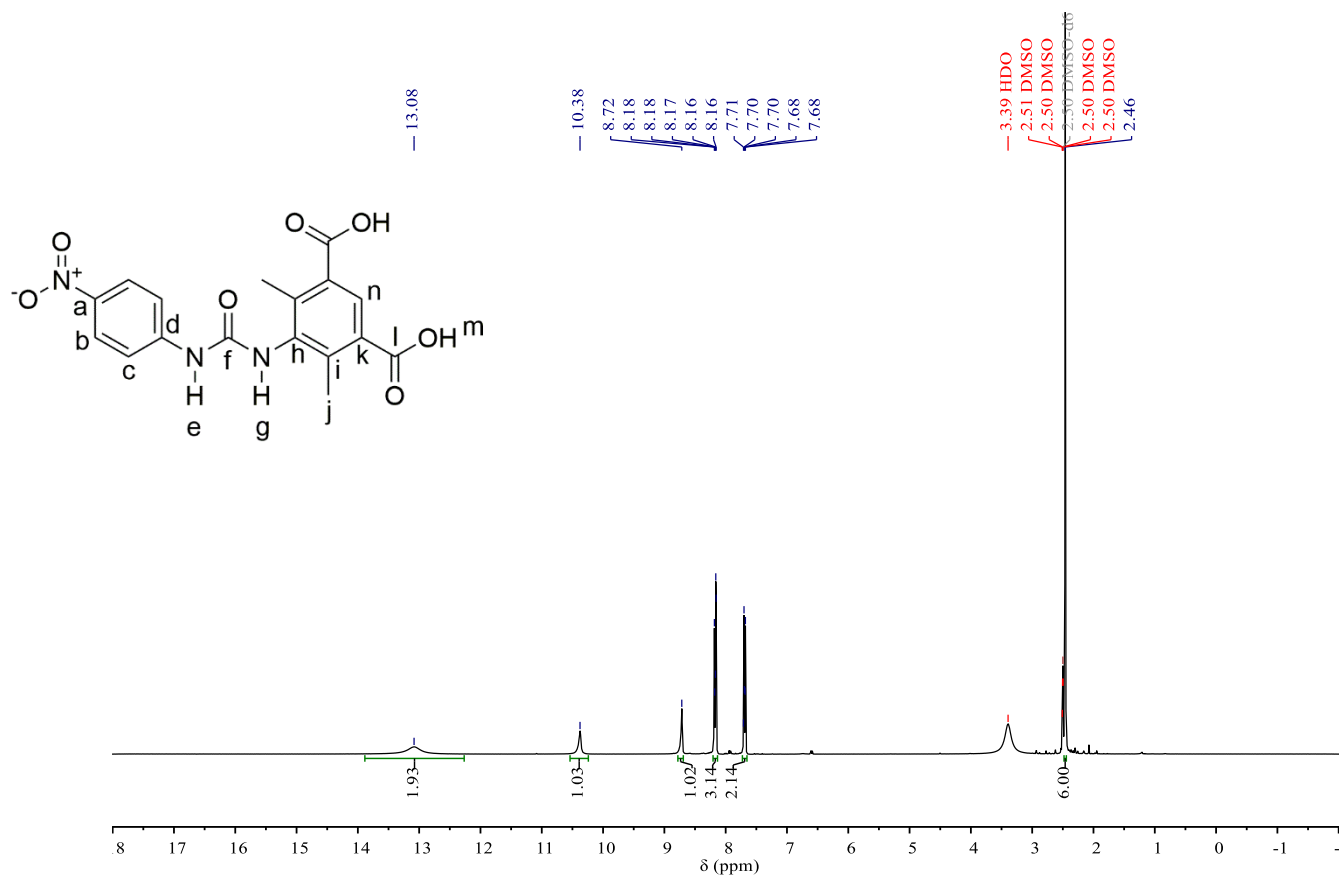


Figure S 5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 3).

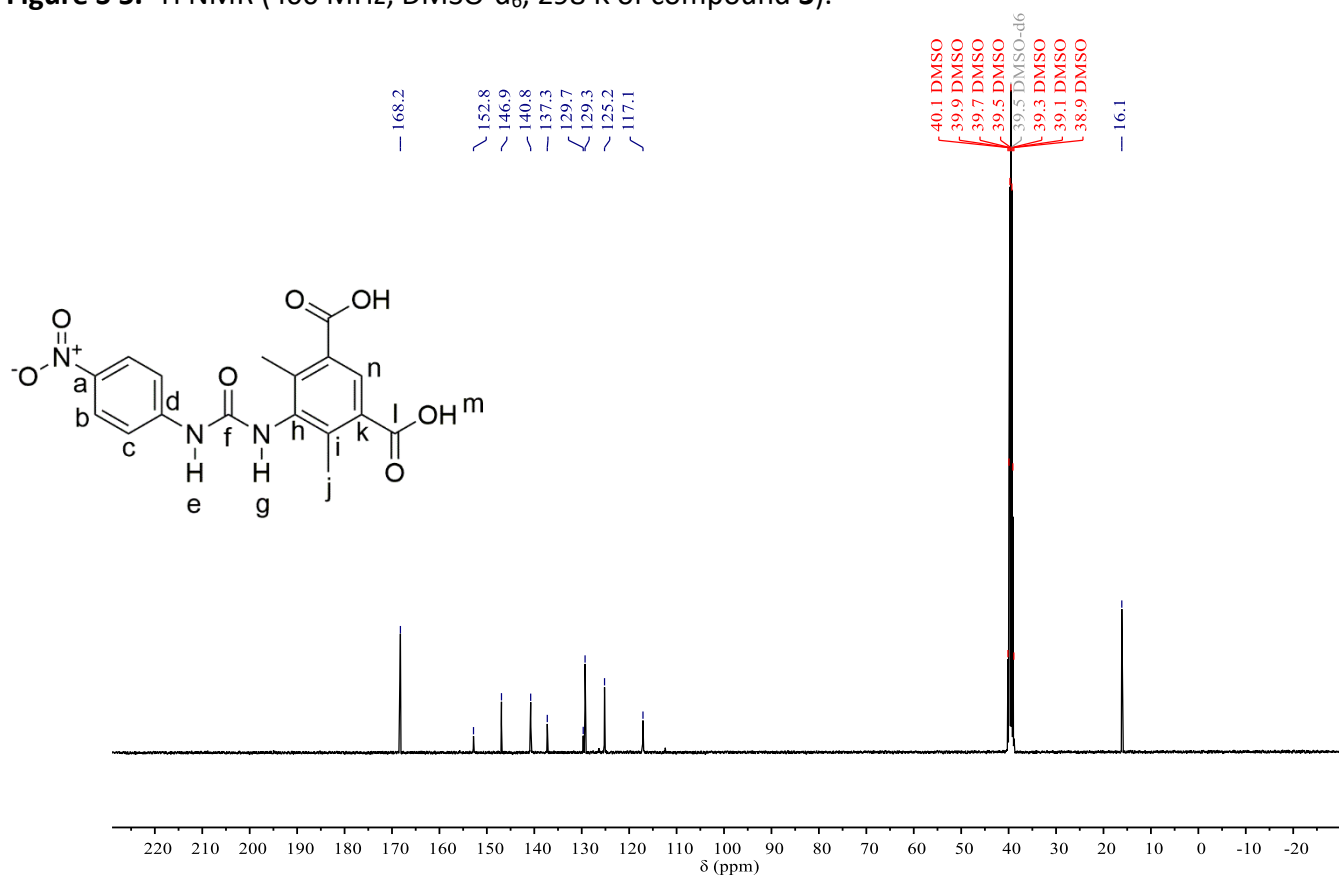
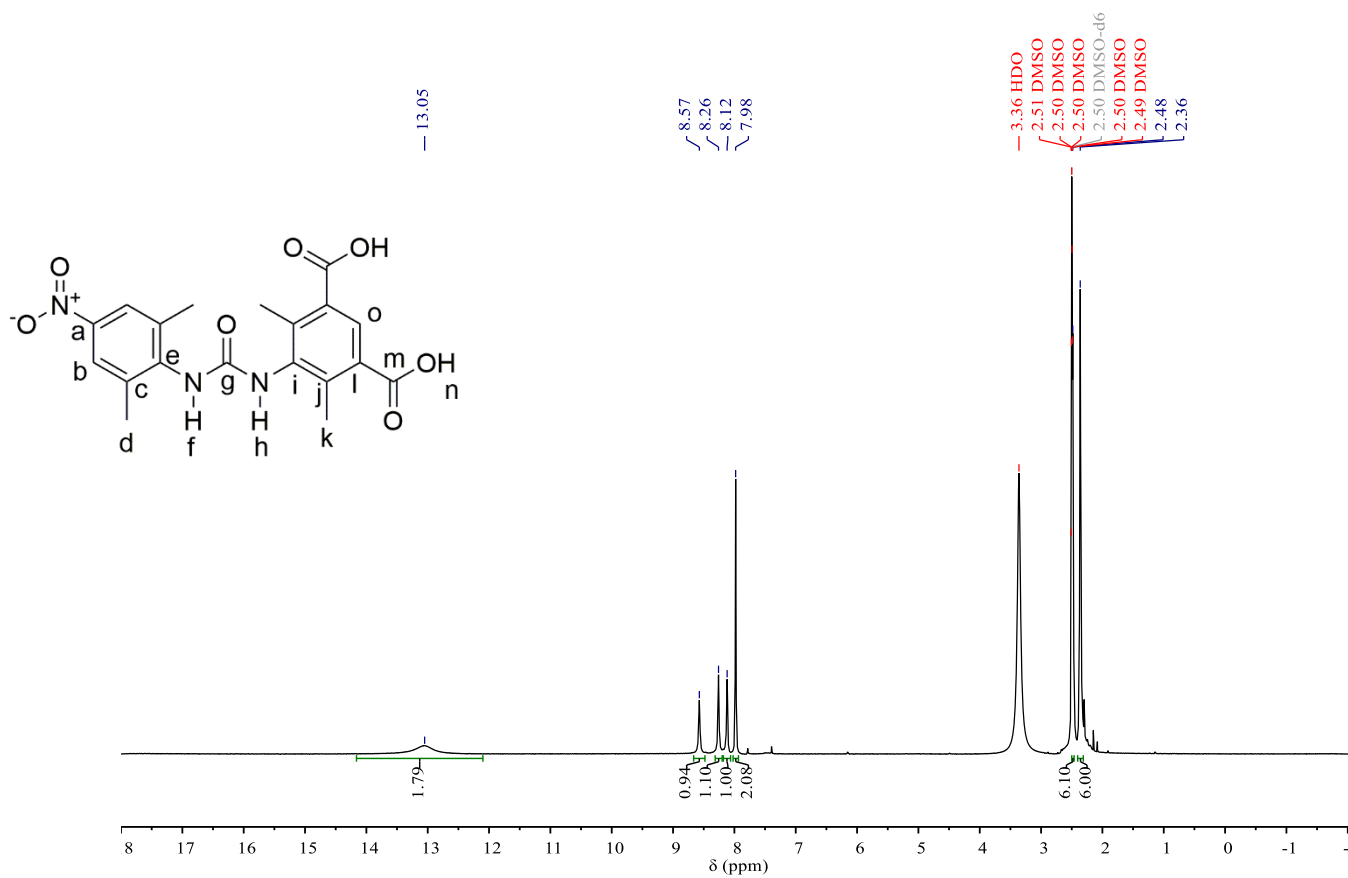
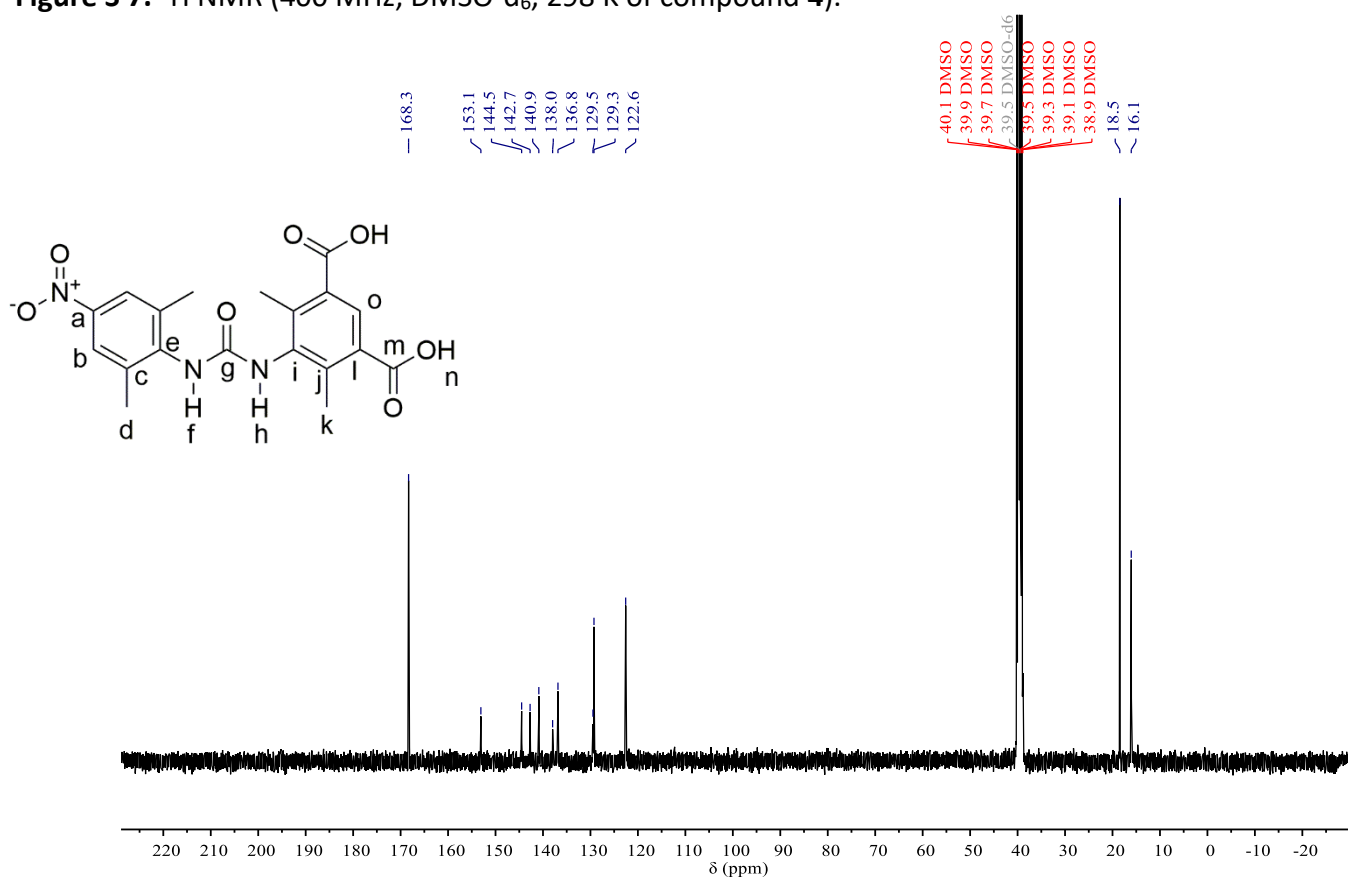


Figure S 6. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 3).

Figure S 7. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6 , 298 K of compound 4).Figure S 8. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO-d_6 , 298 K of compound 4).

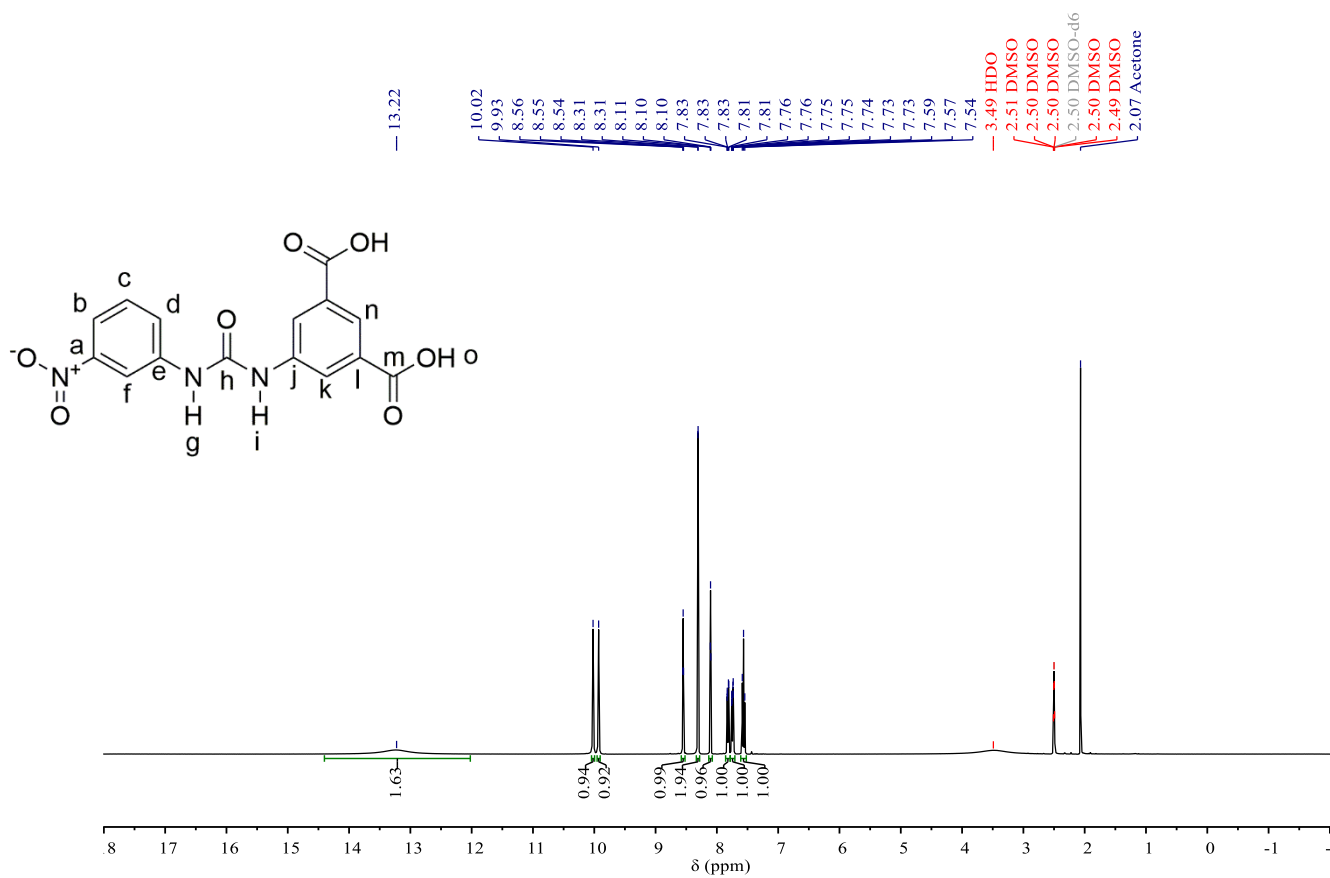


Figure S 9. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 5).

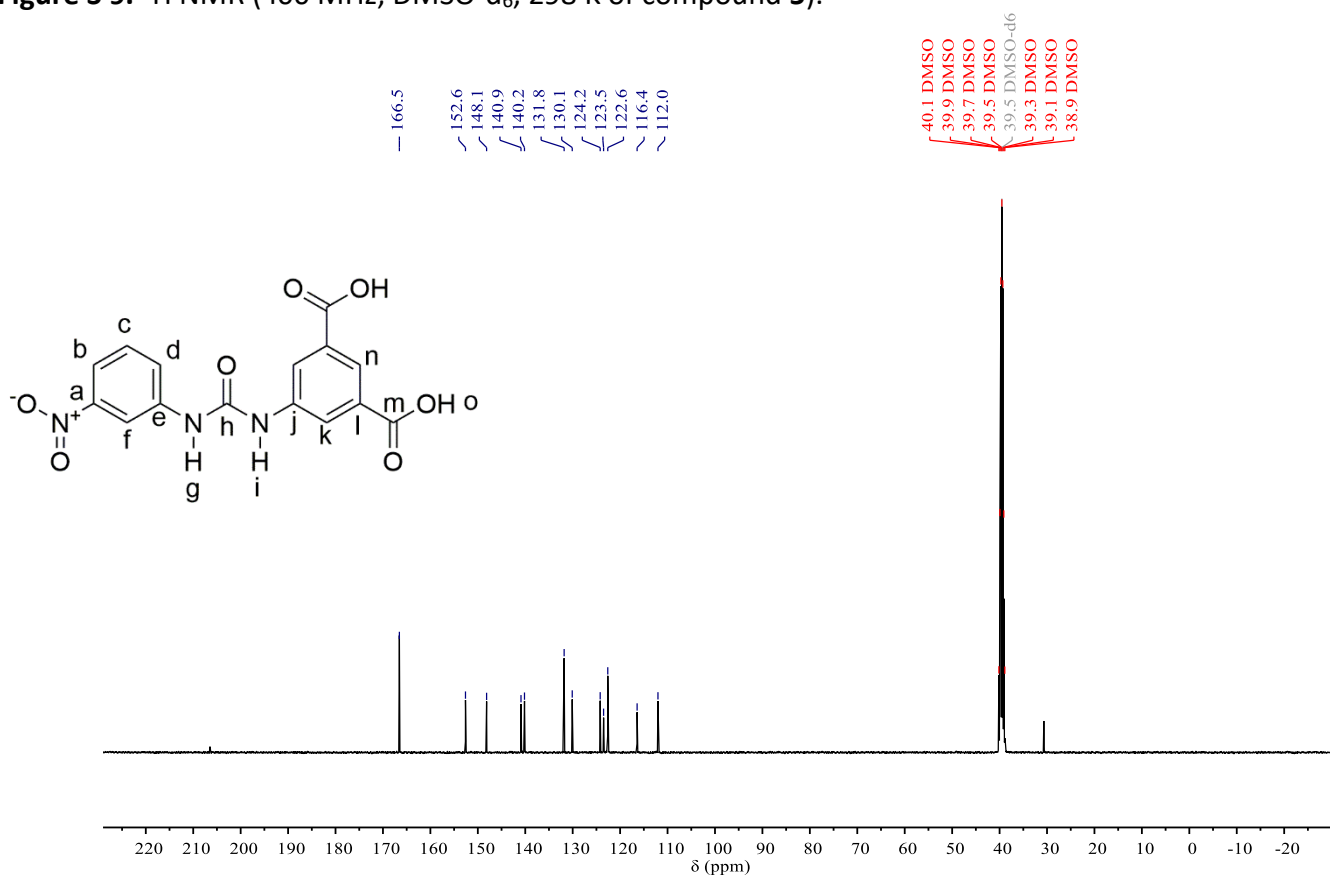


Figure S 10. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 5).

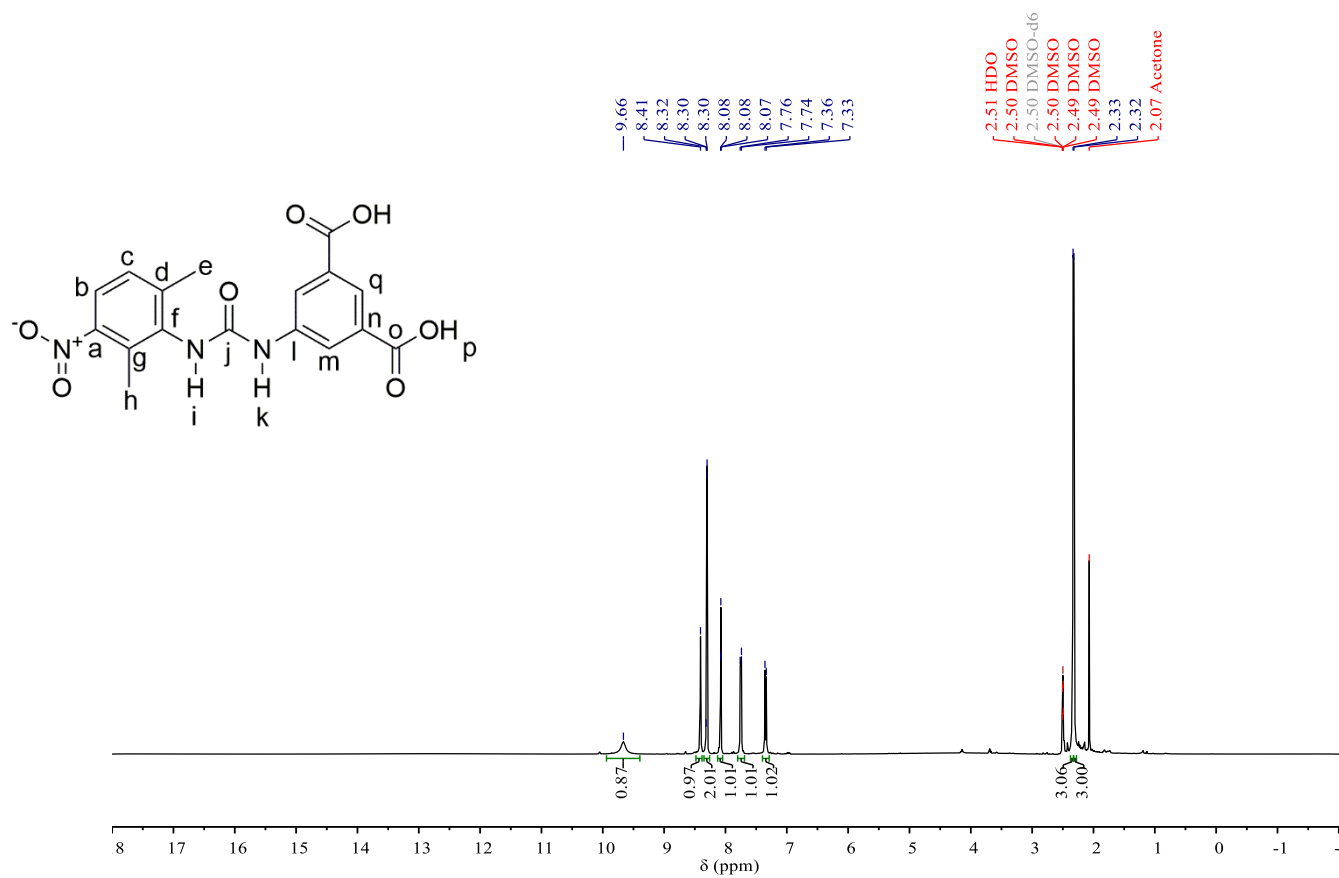


Figure S 11. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 6).

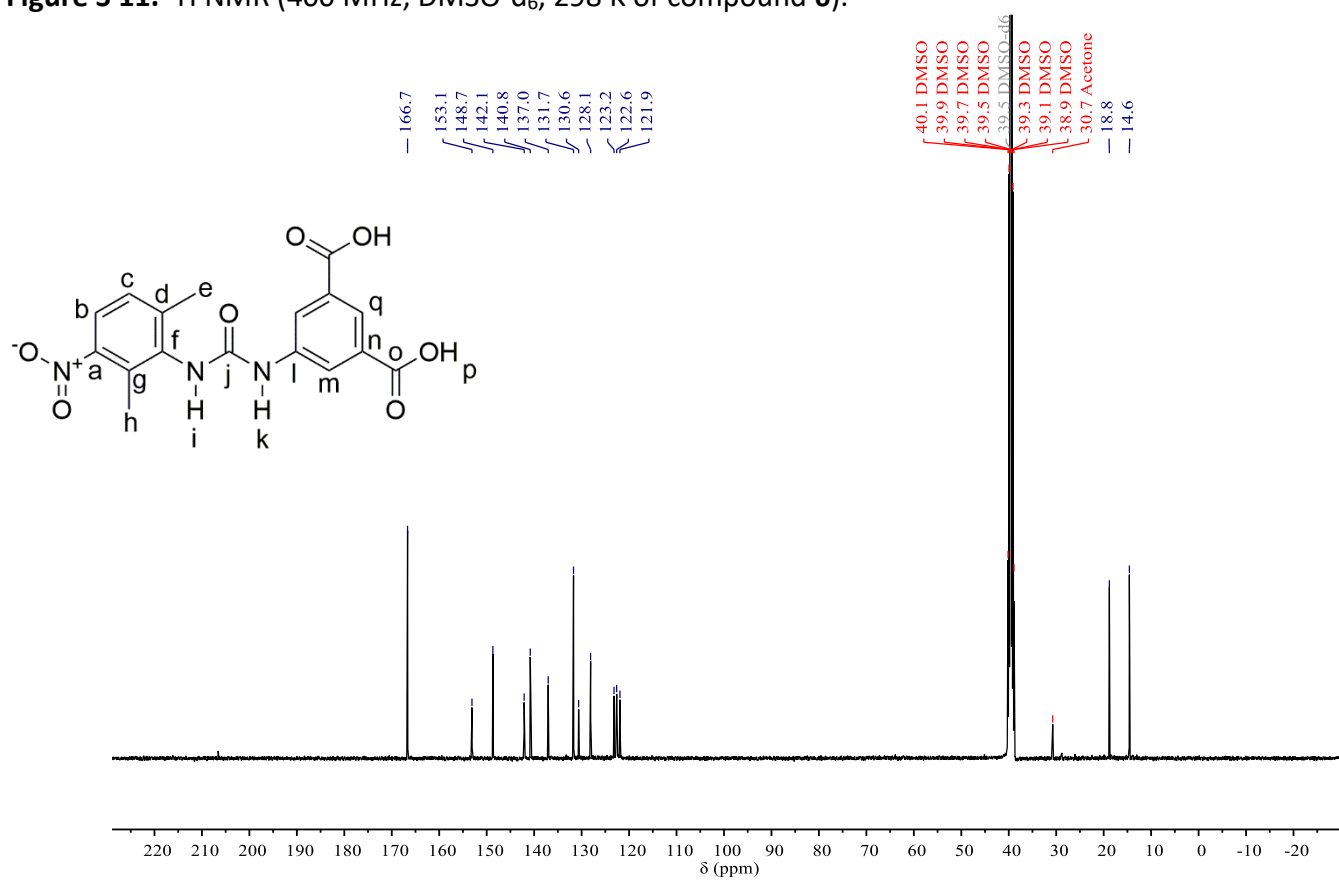
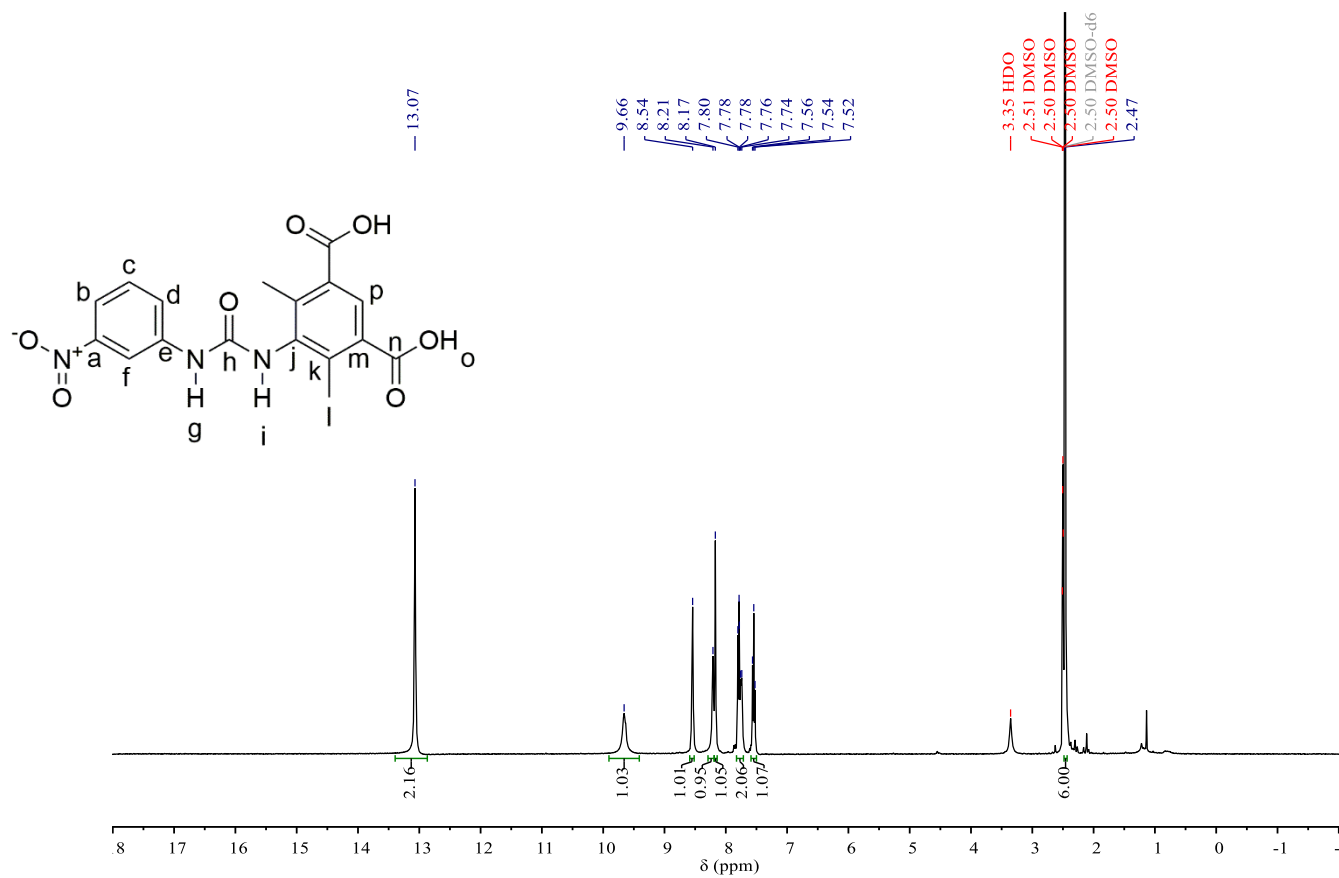
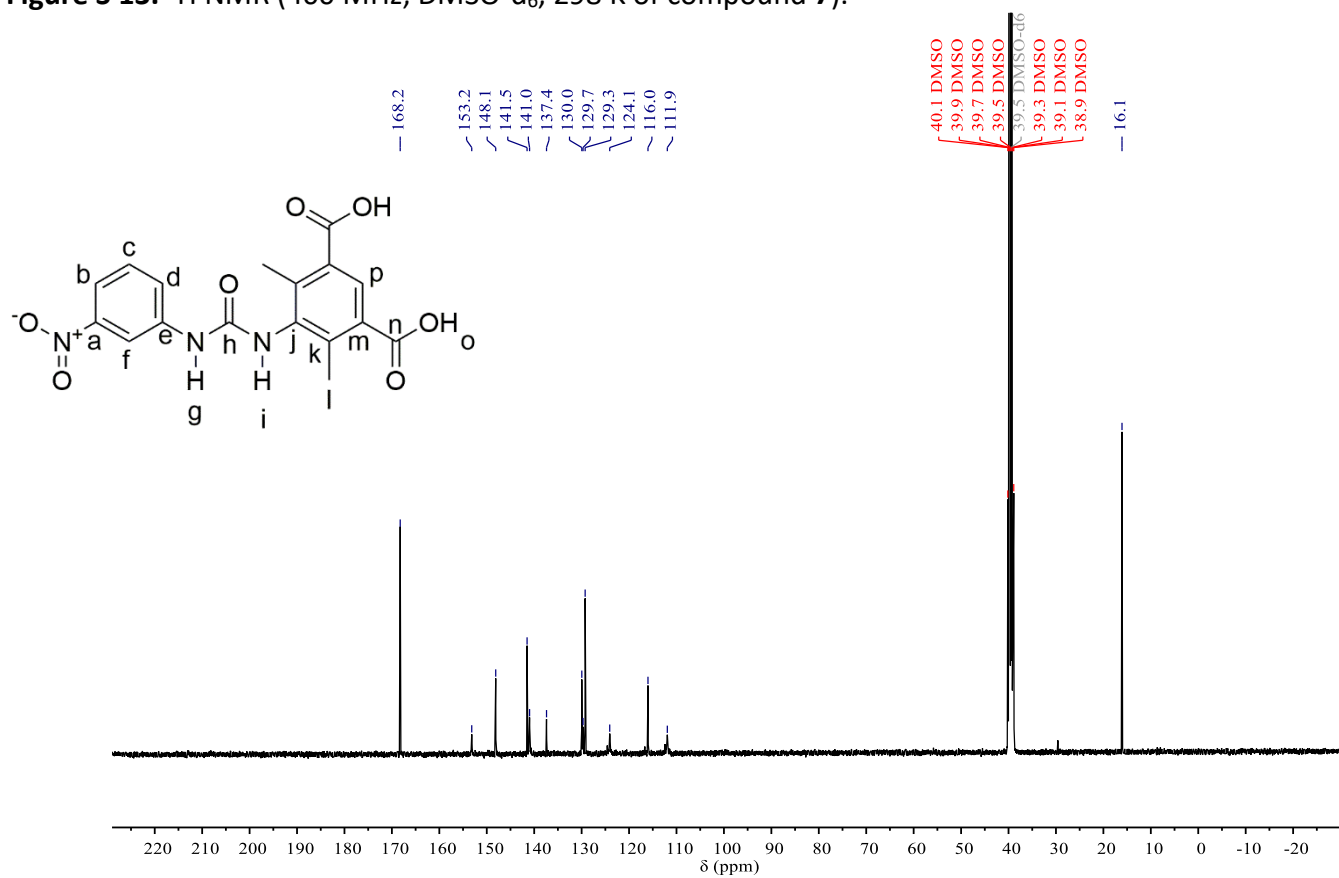
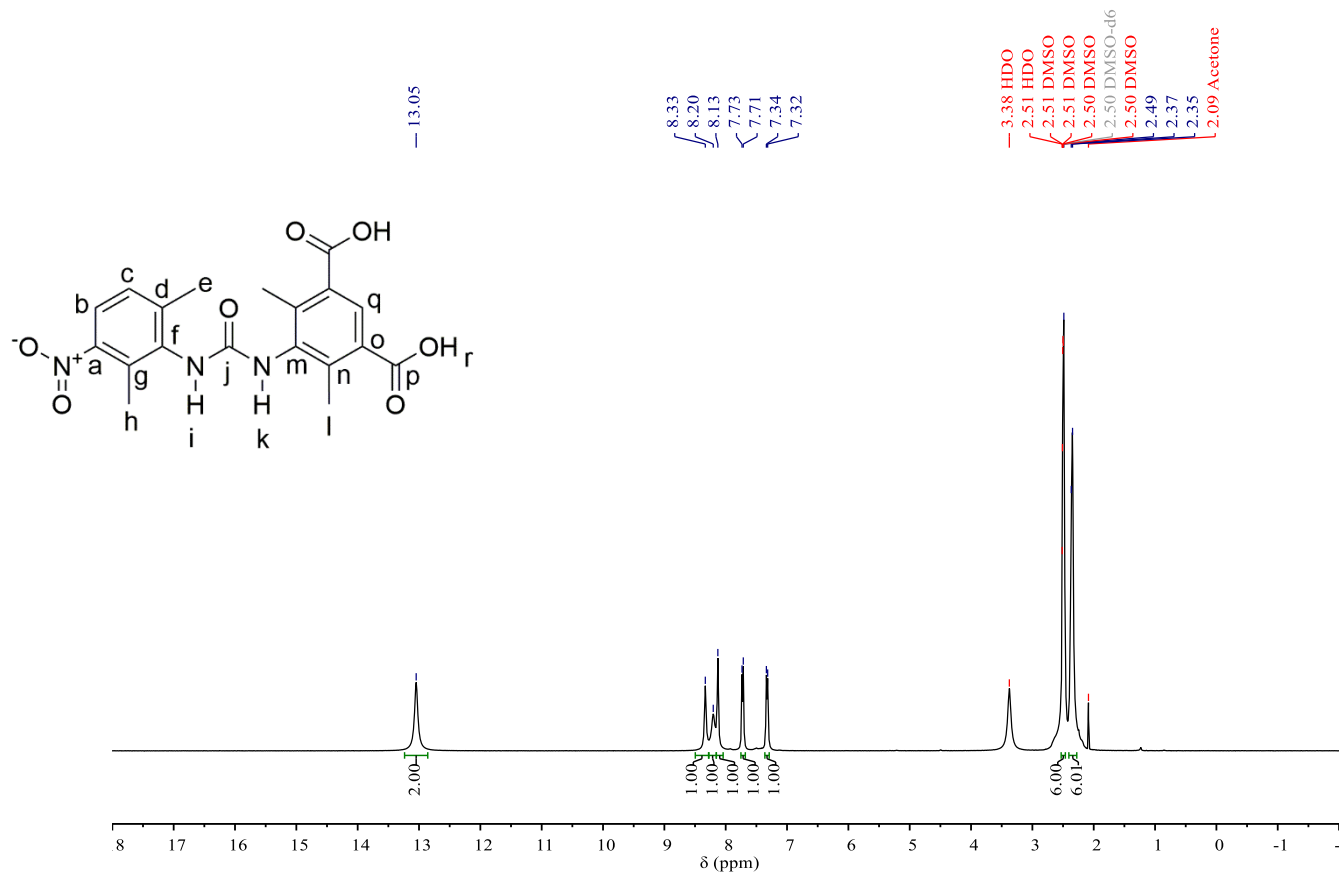
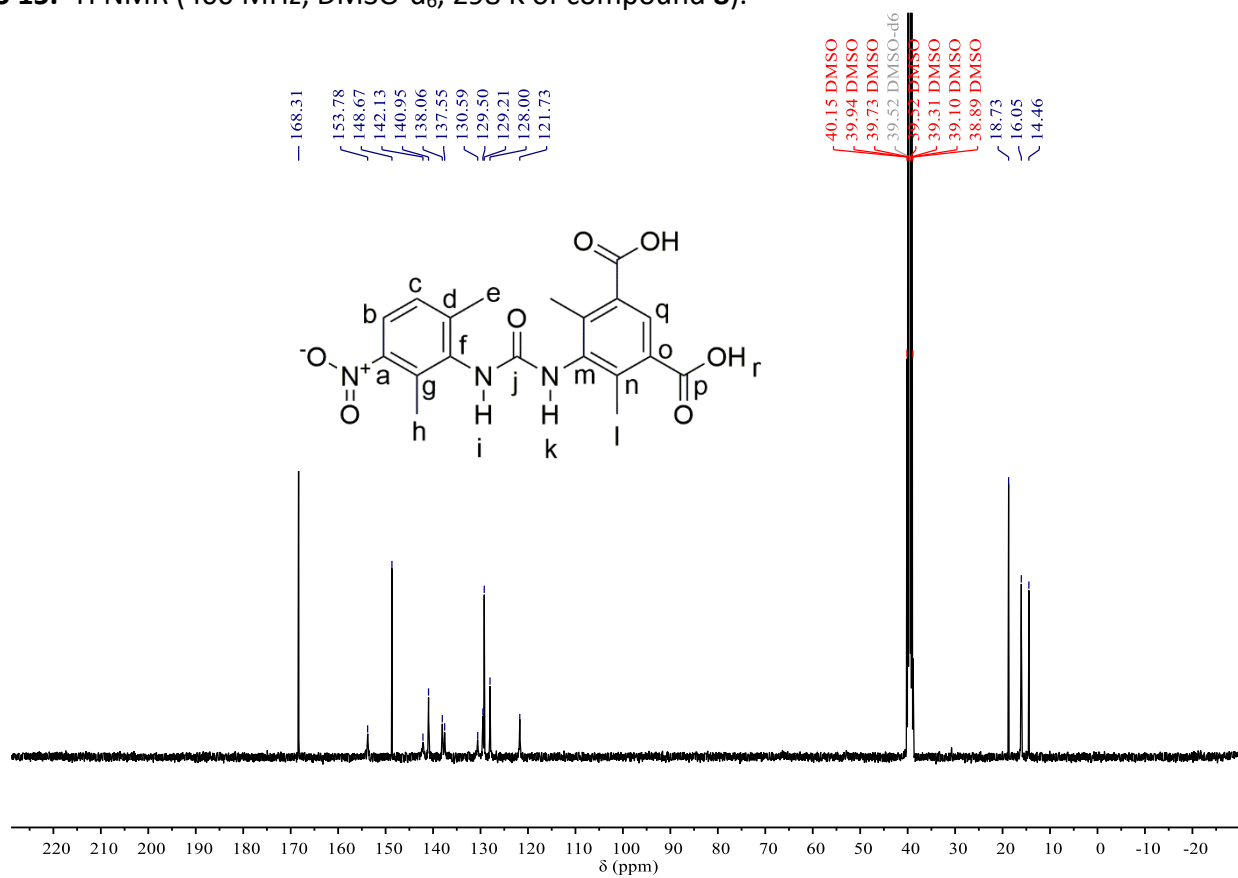


Figure S 12. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 6).

Figure S 13. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 7).Figure S 14. $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 7).

Figure S 15. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **8**).Figure S 16. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **8**).

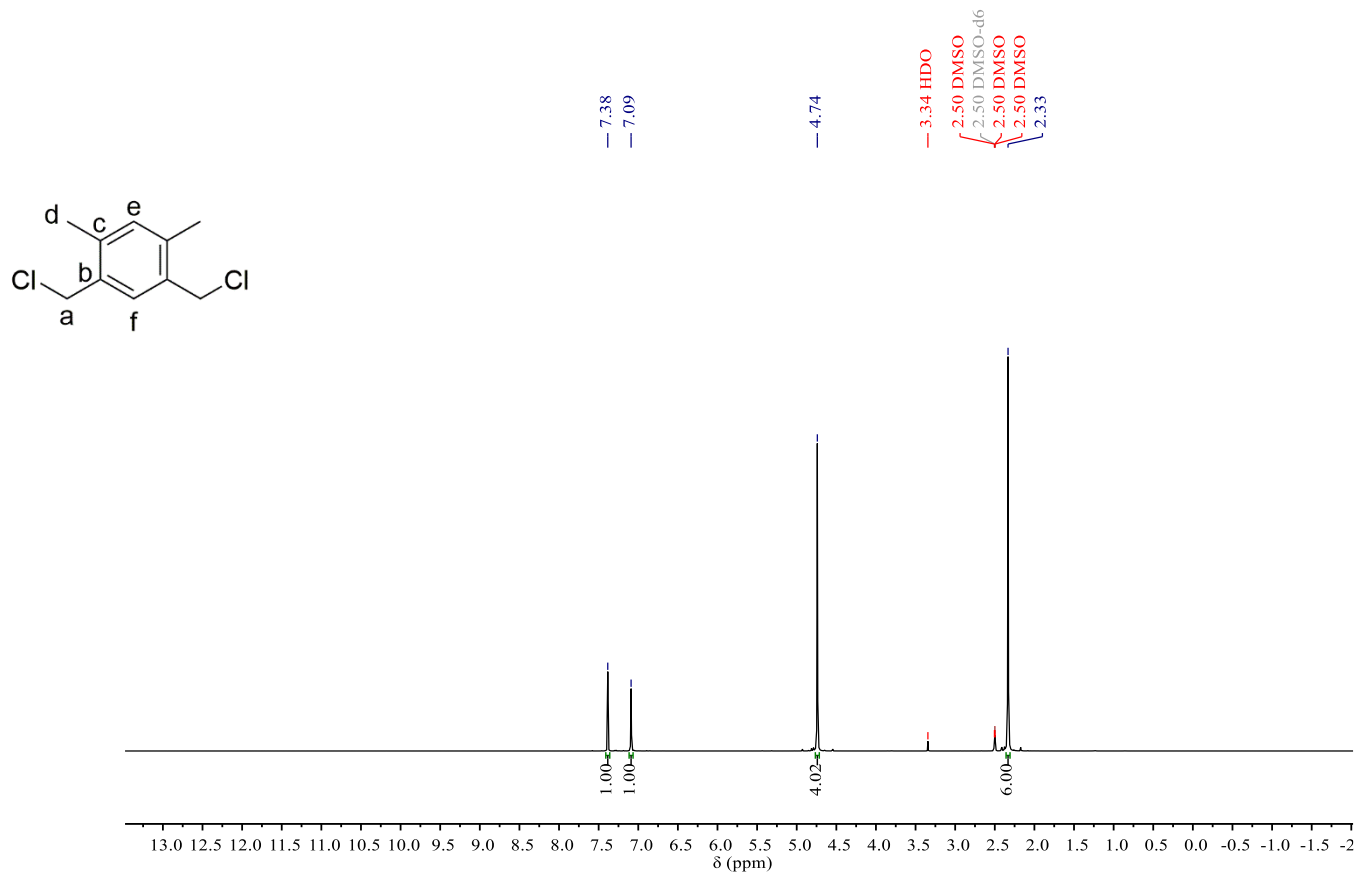


Figure S 17. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **9**).

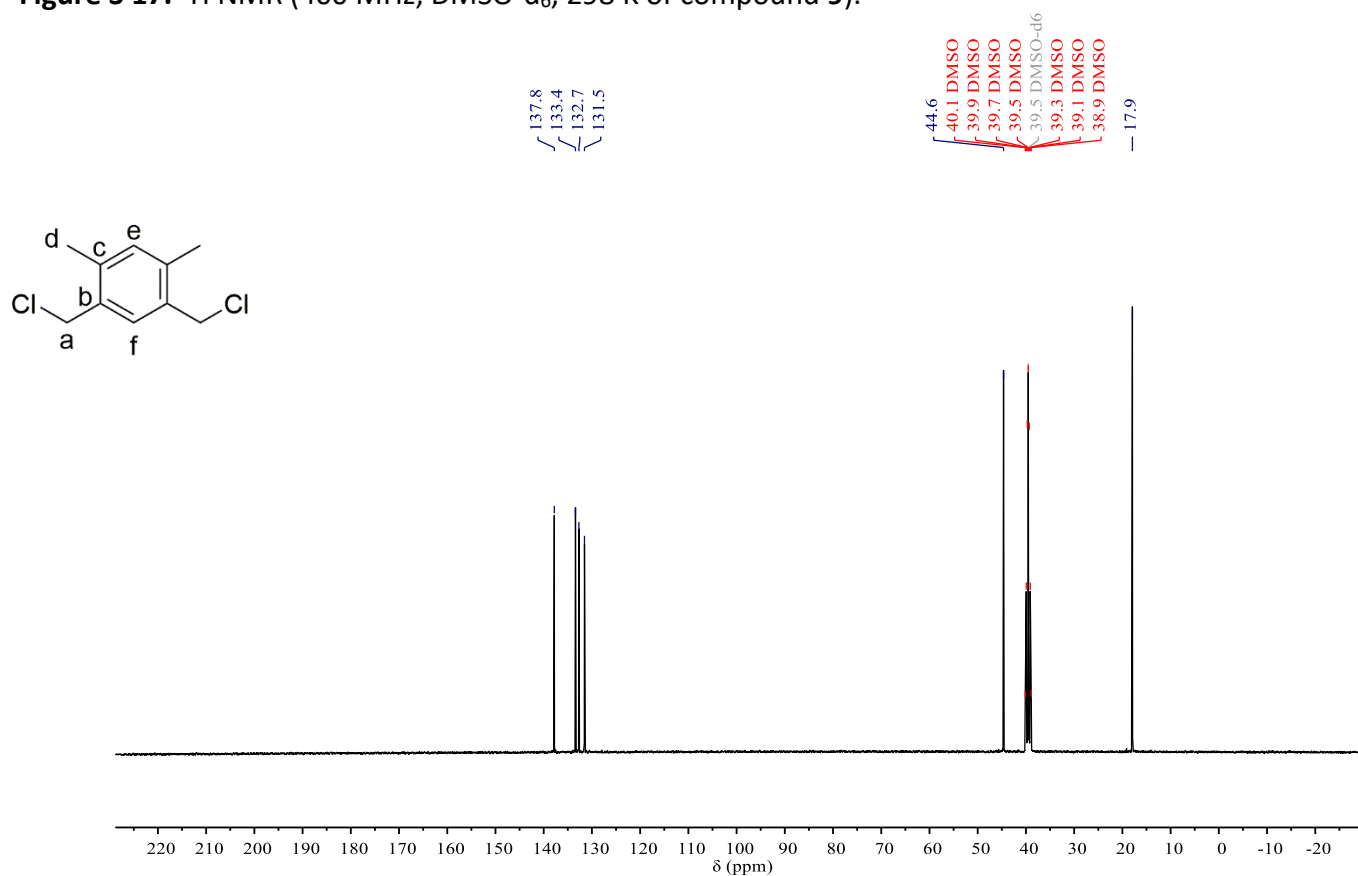


Figure S 18. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **9**).

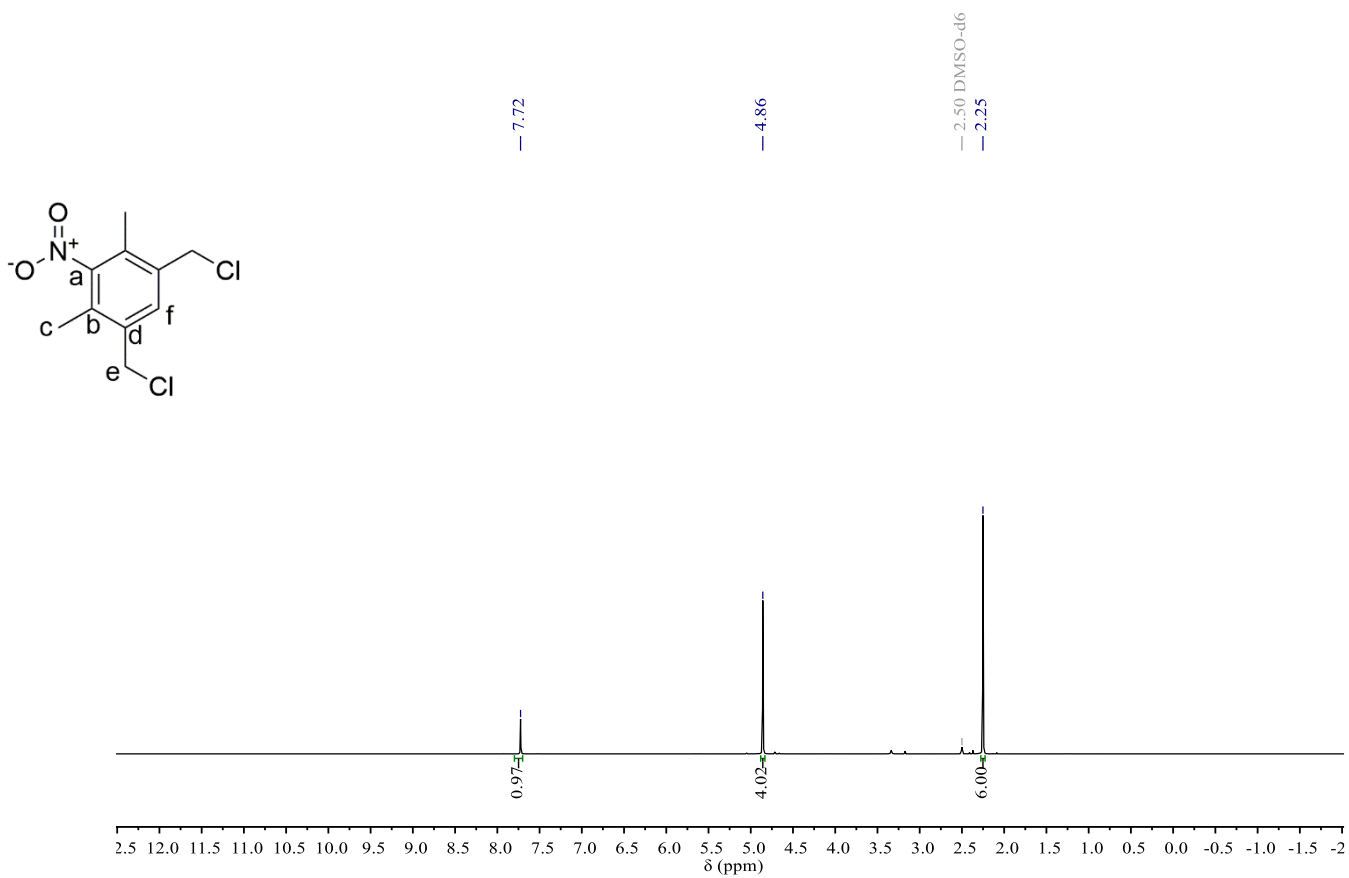


Figure S 19. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **10**).

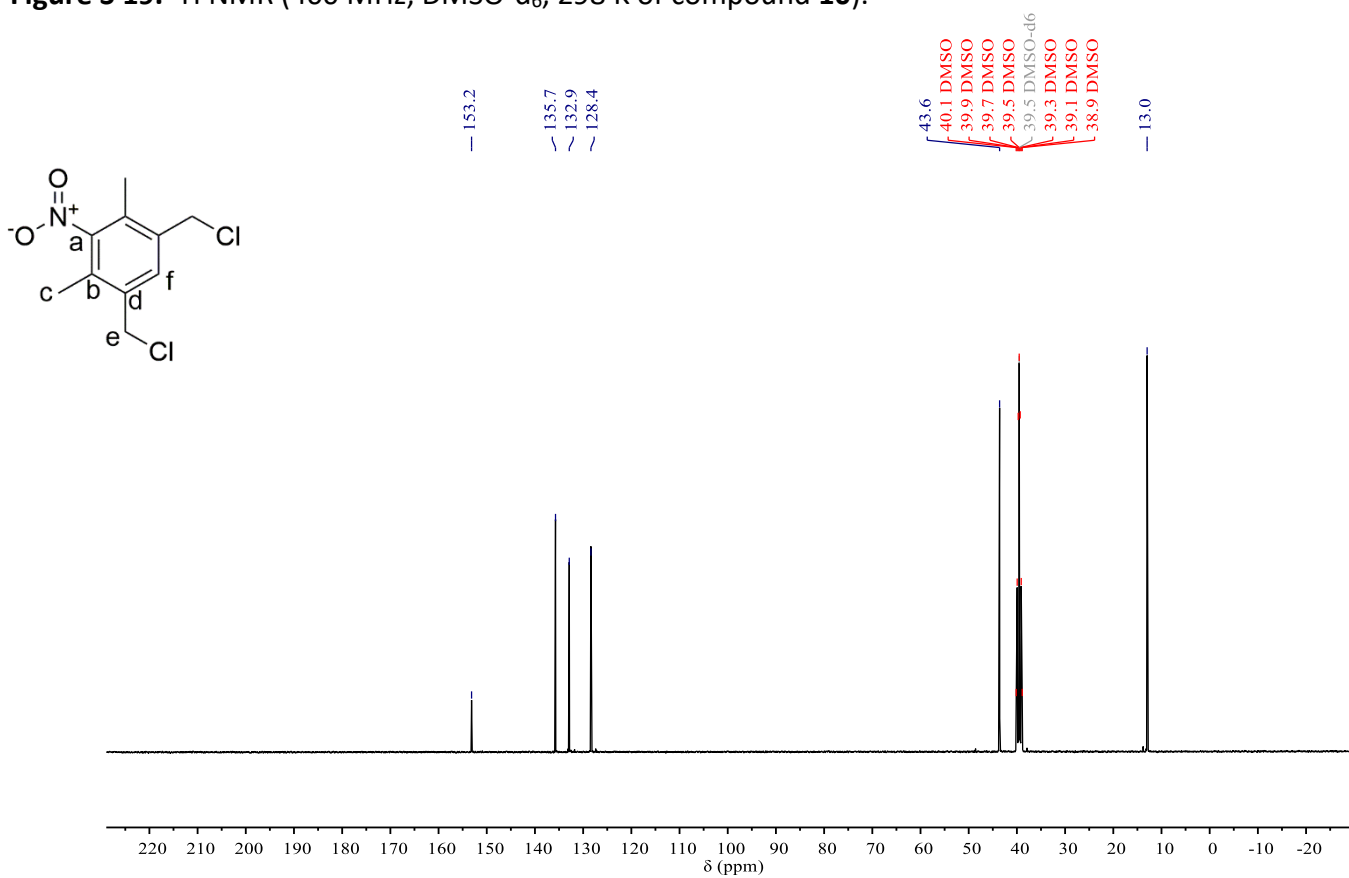
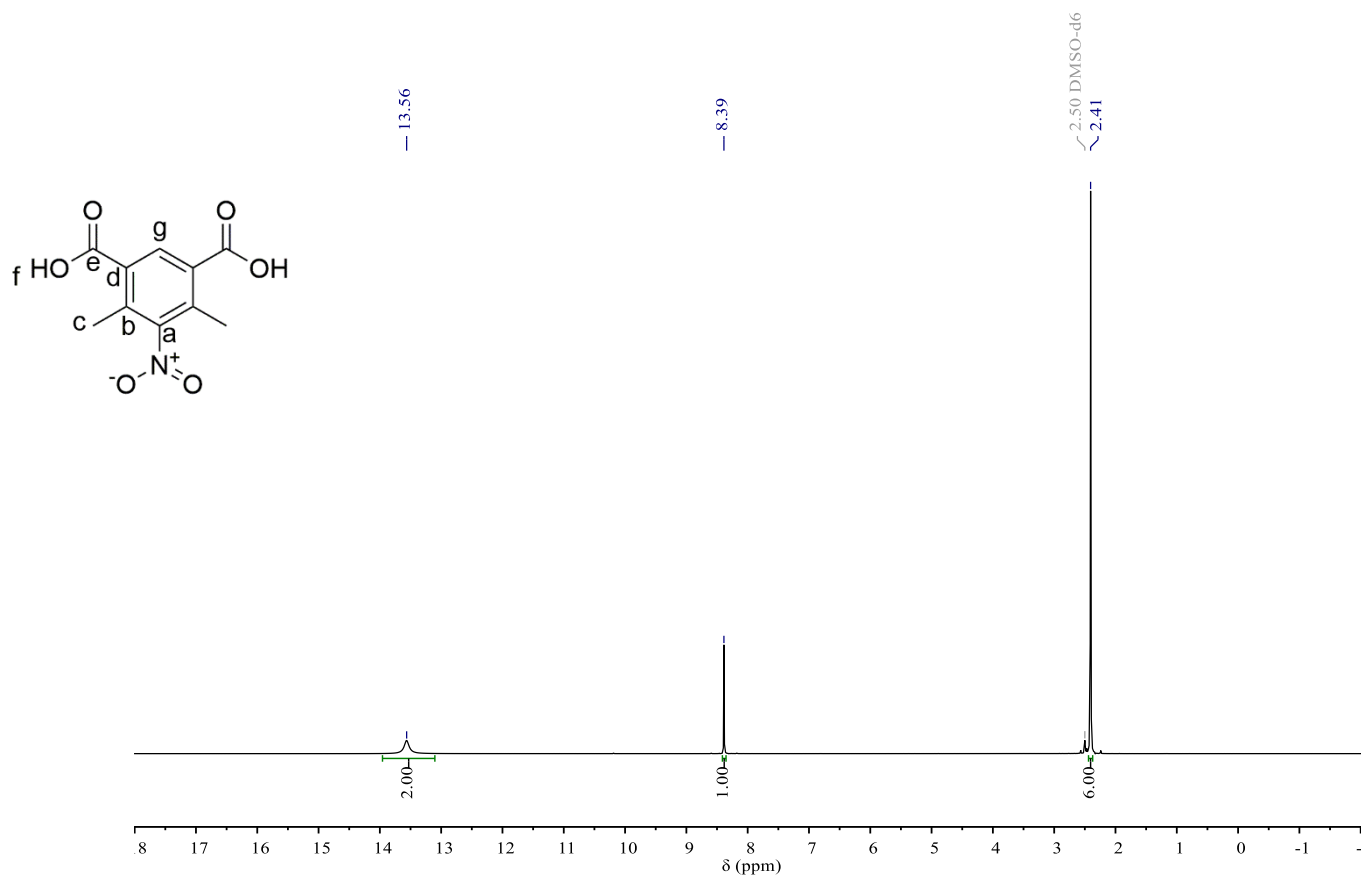
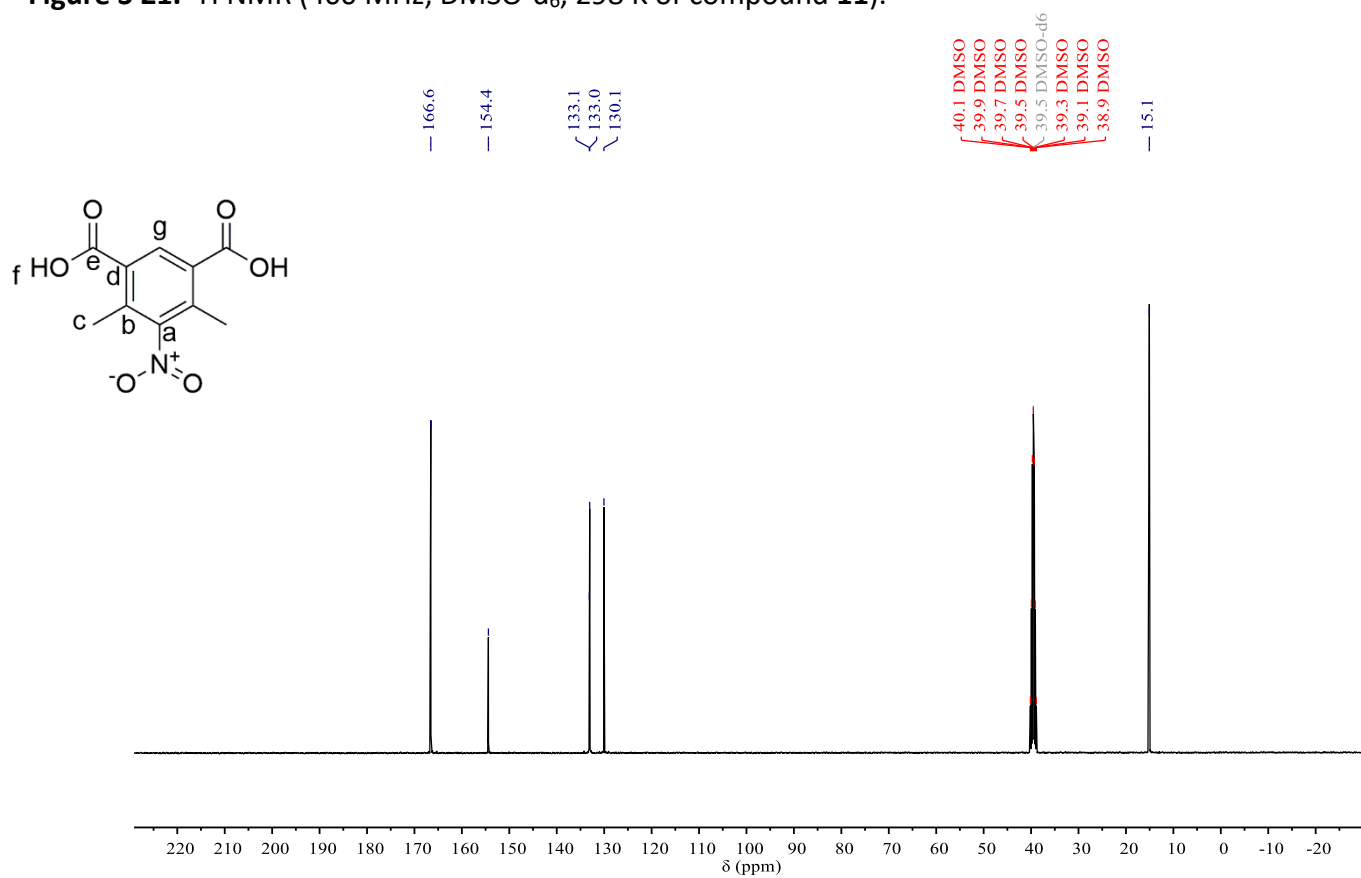


Figure S 20. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **10**).

Figure S 21. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **11**).Figure S 22. $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **11**).

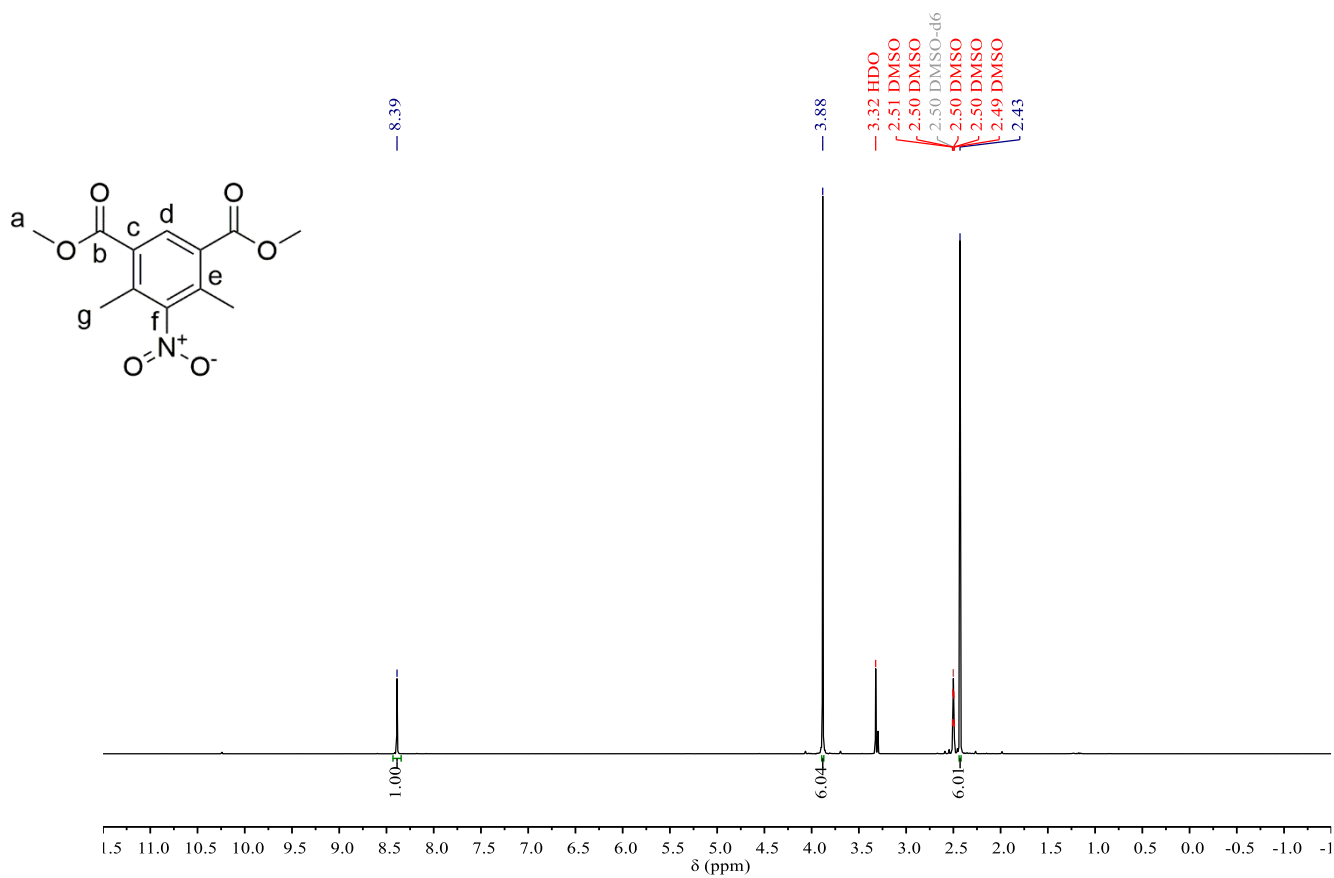


Figure S 23. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **12**).

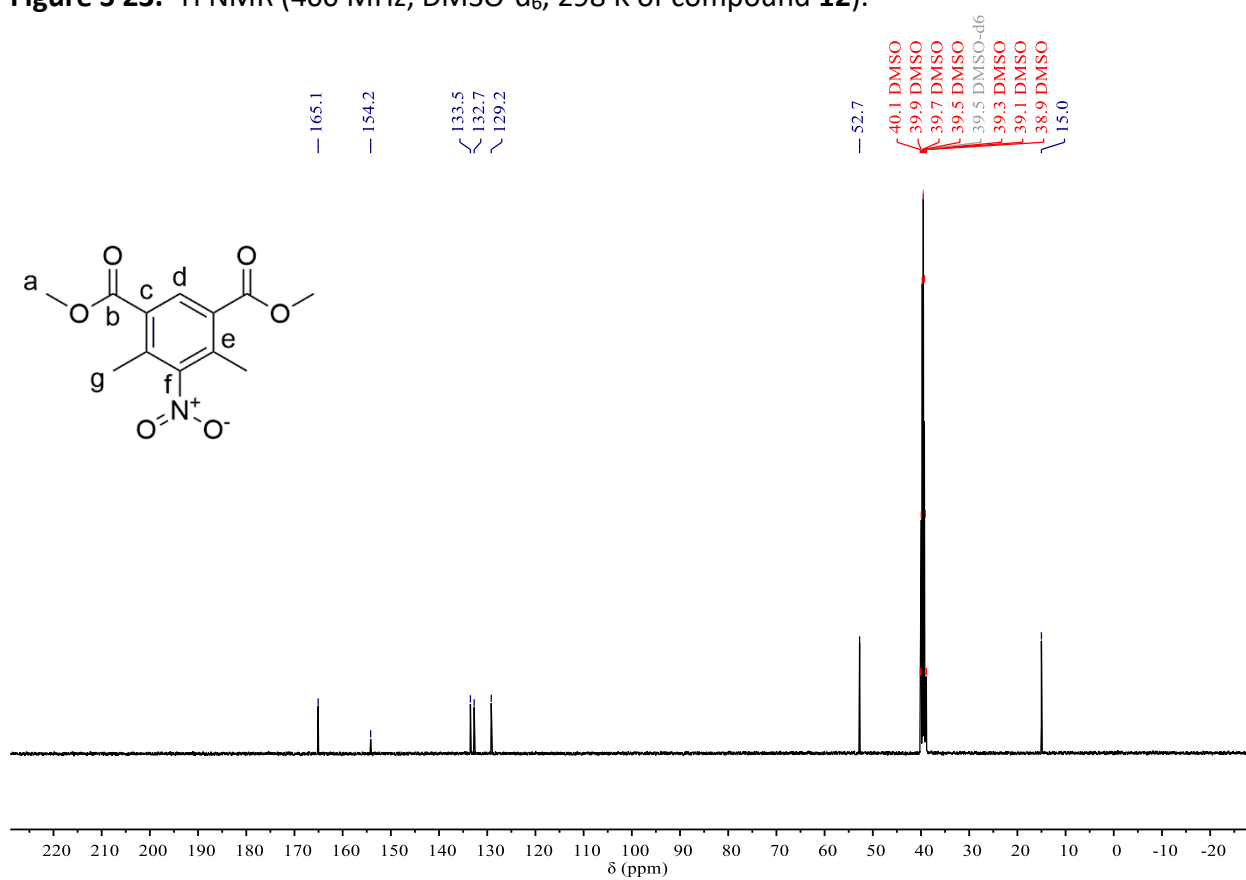
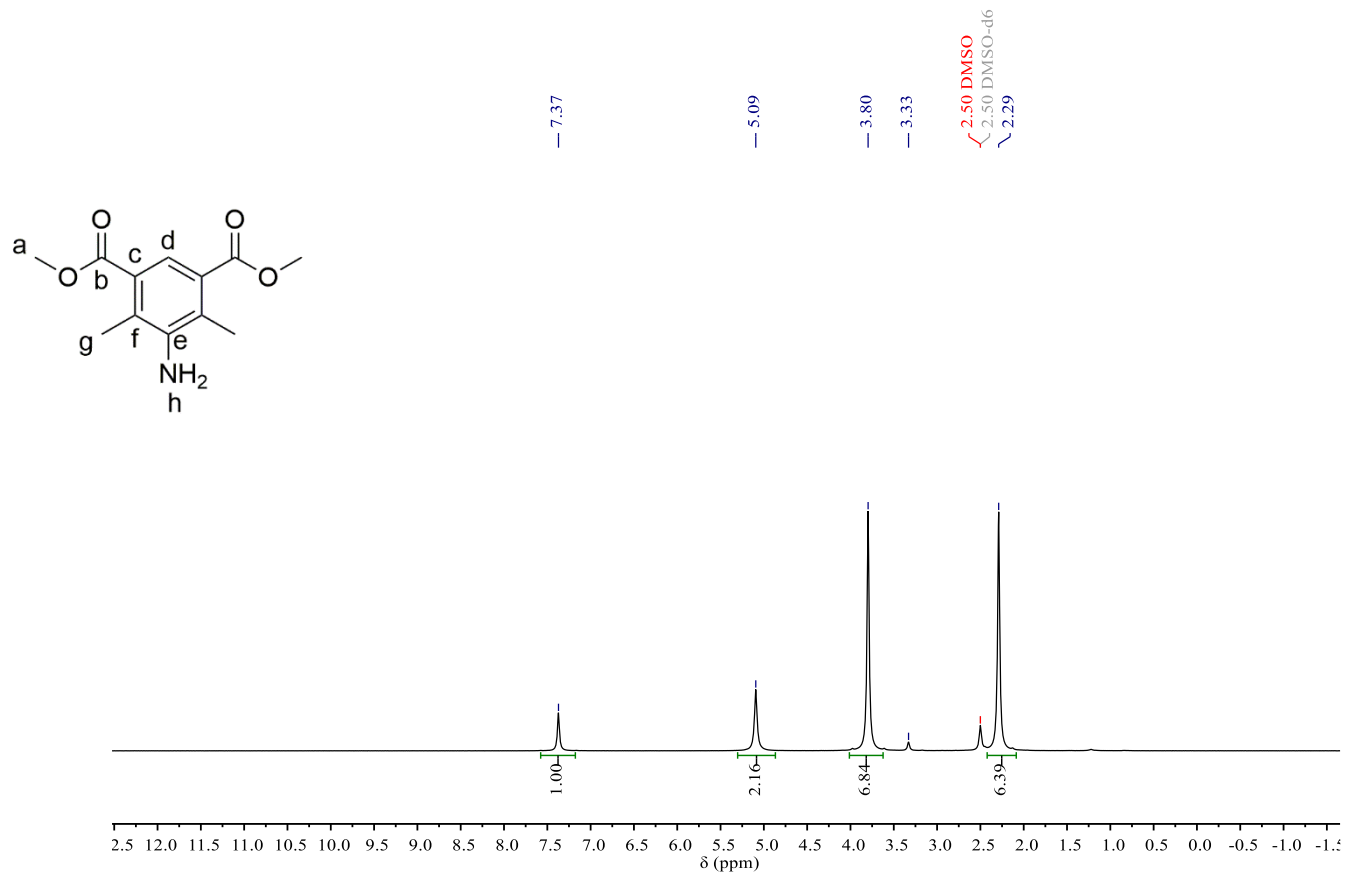
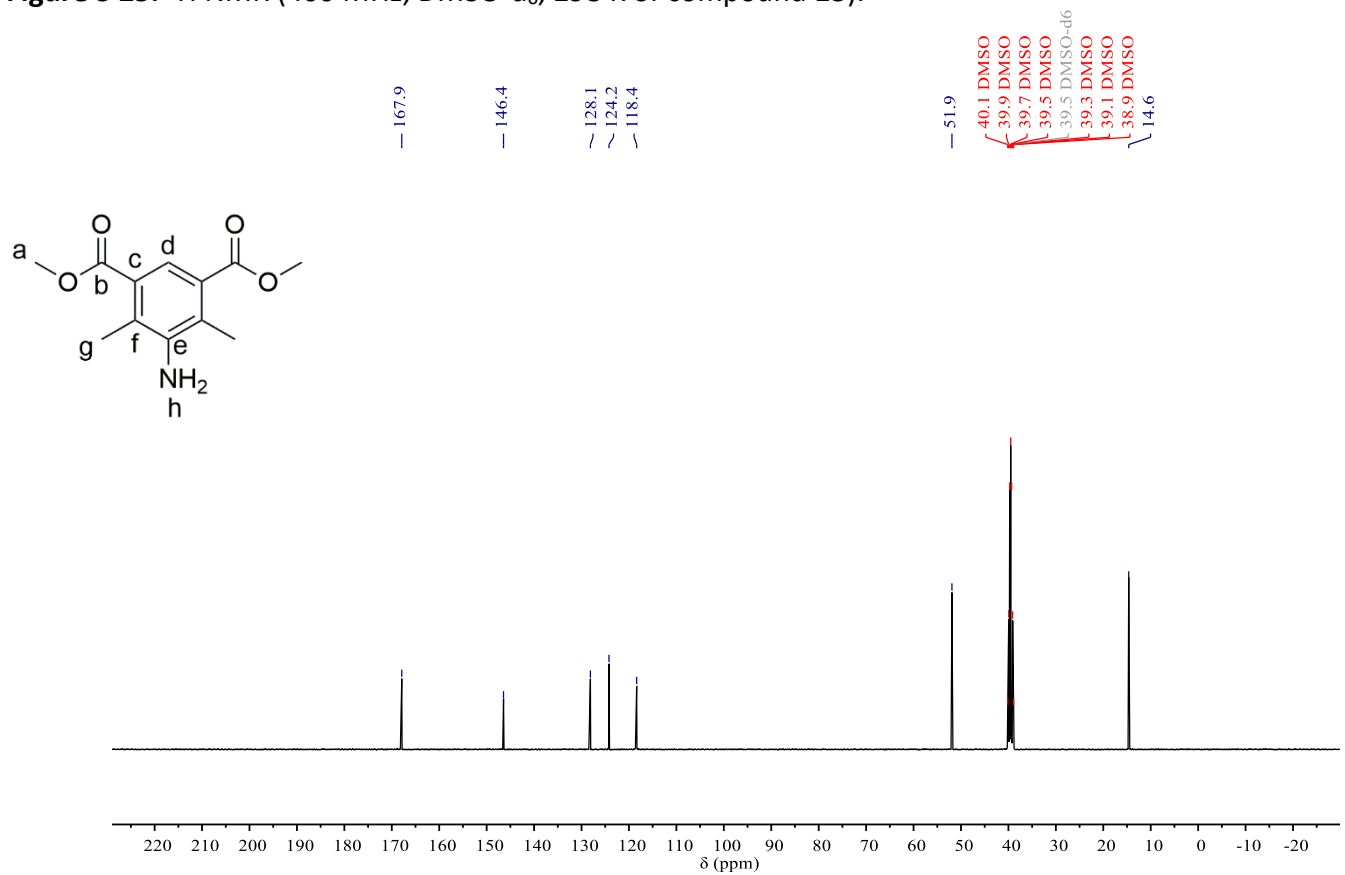
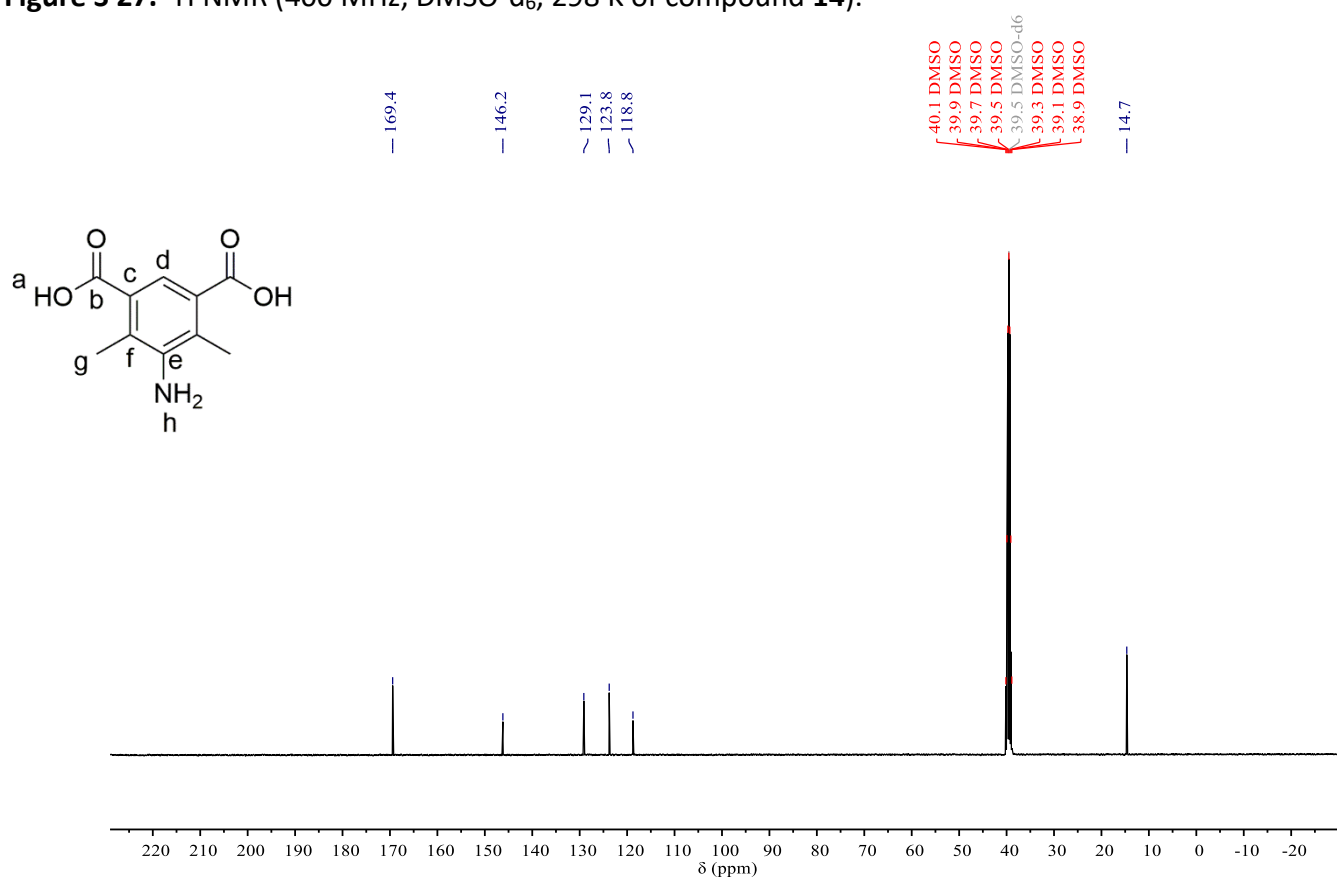
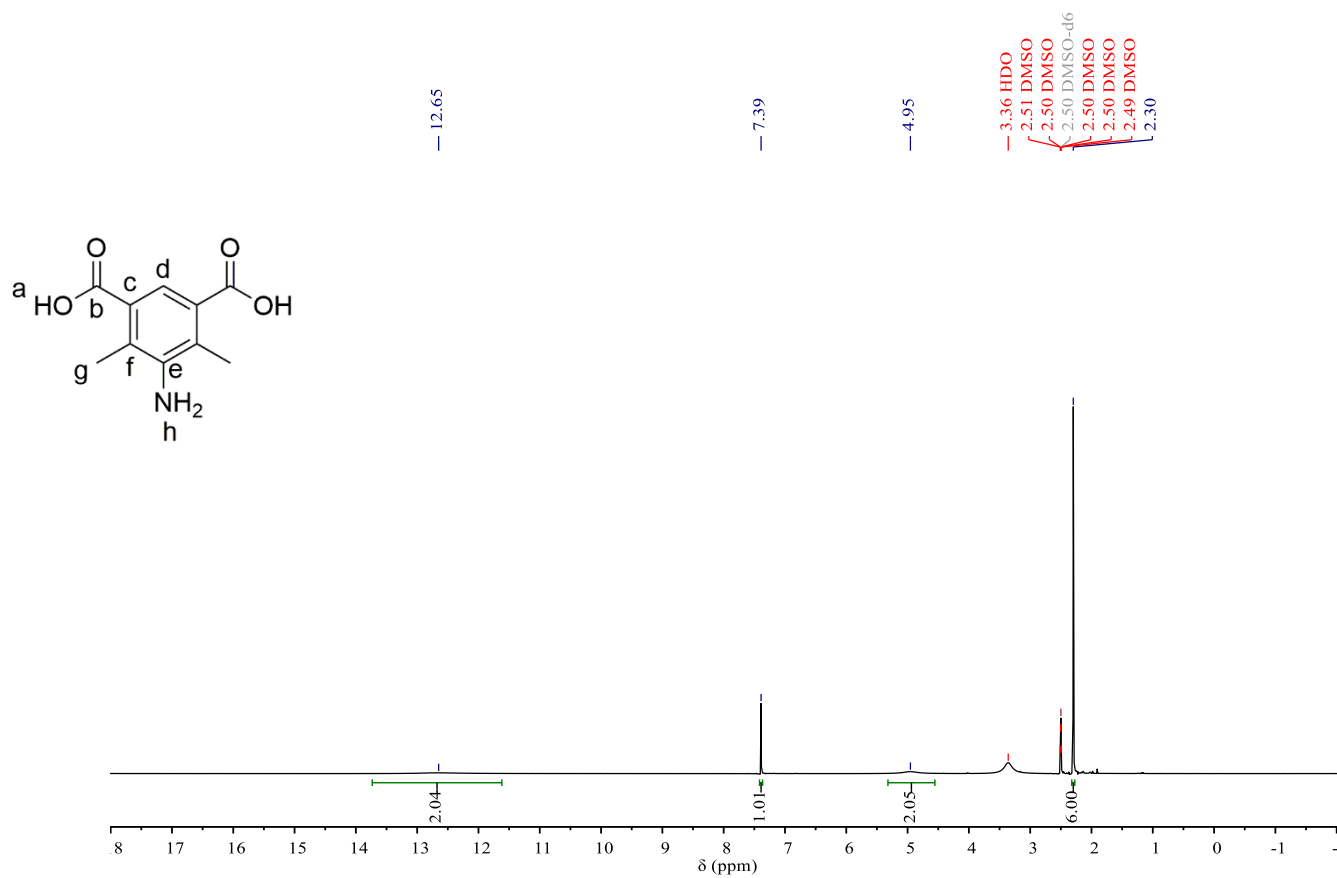
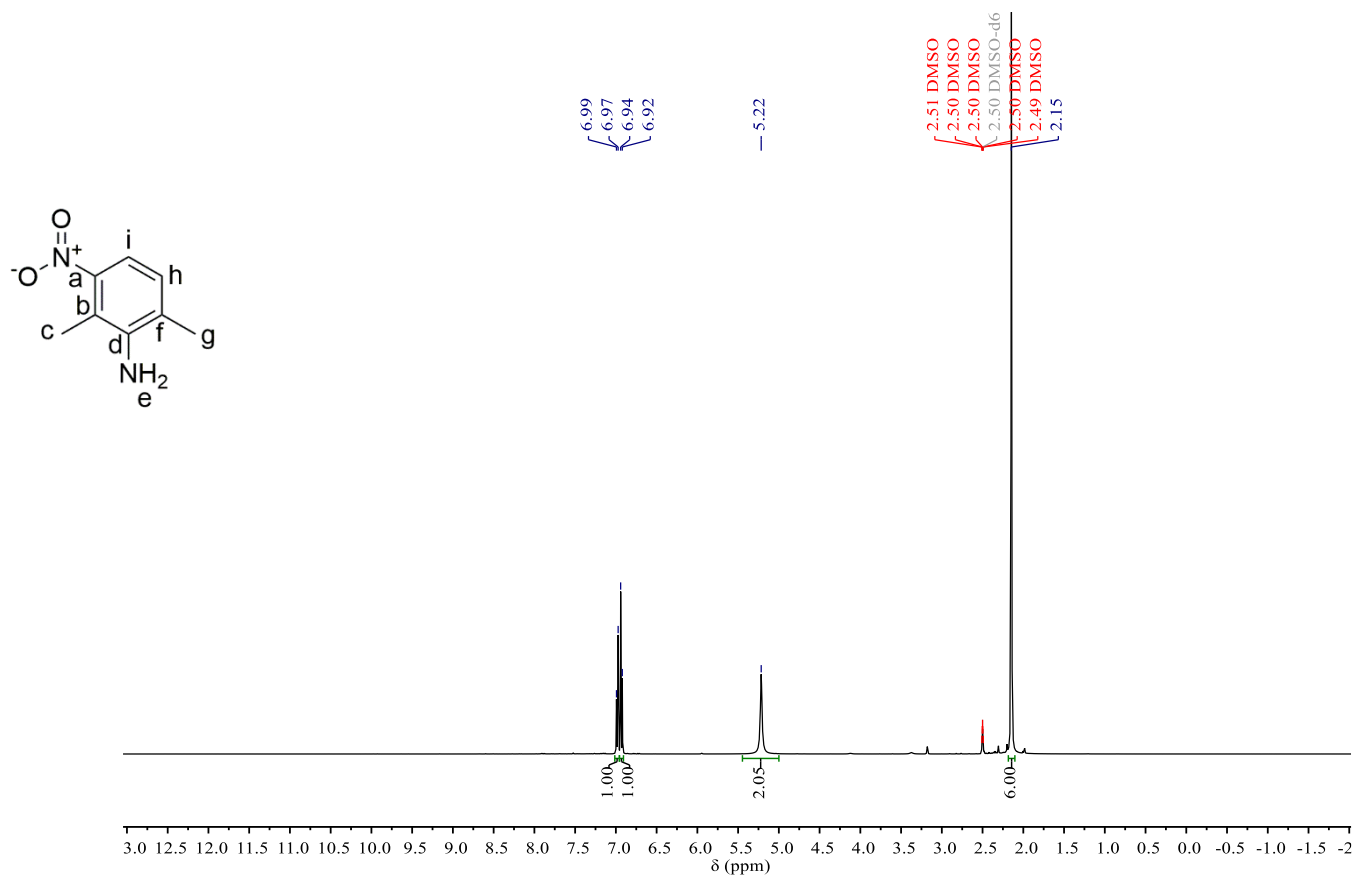
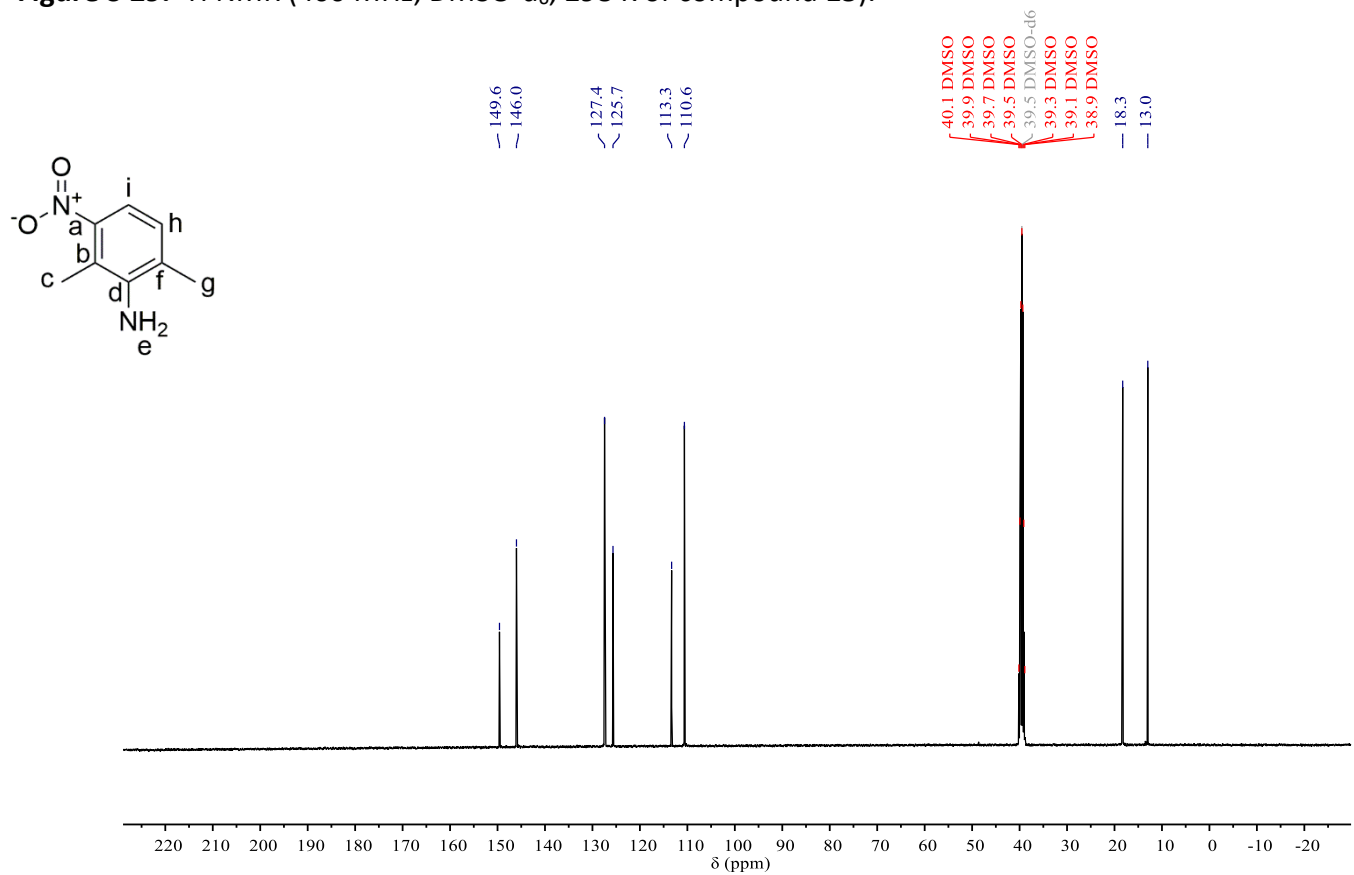


Figure S 24. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **12**).

Figure S 25. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **13**).Figure S 26. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **13**).



Figure S 29. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **15**).Figure S 30. $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **15**).

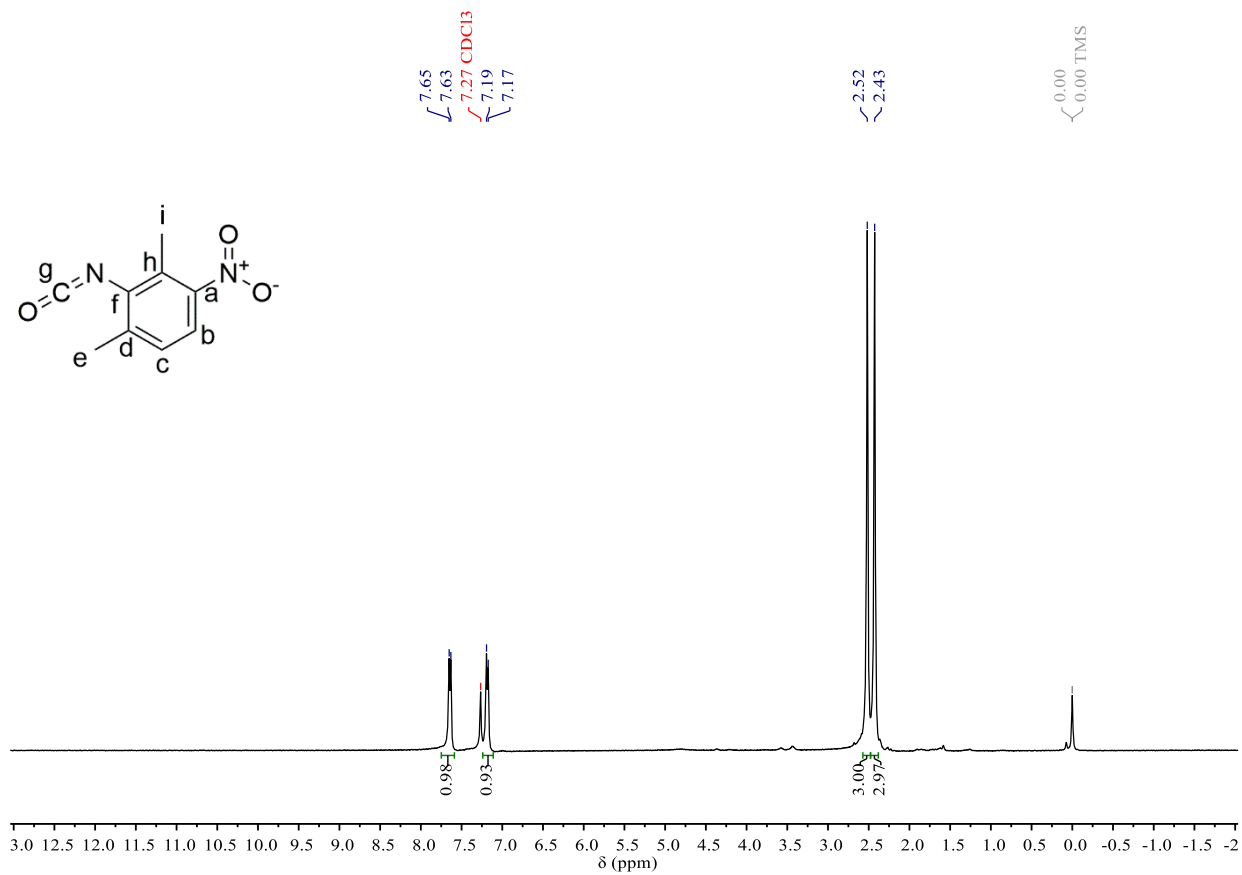


Figure S 31. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 16).

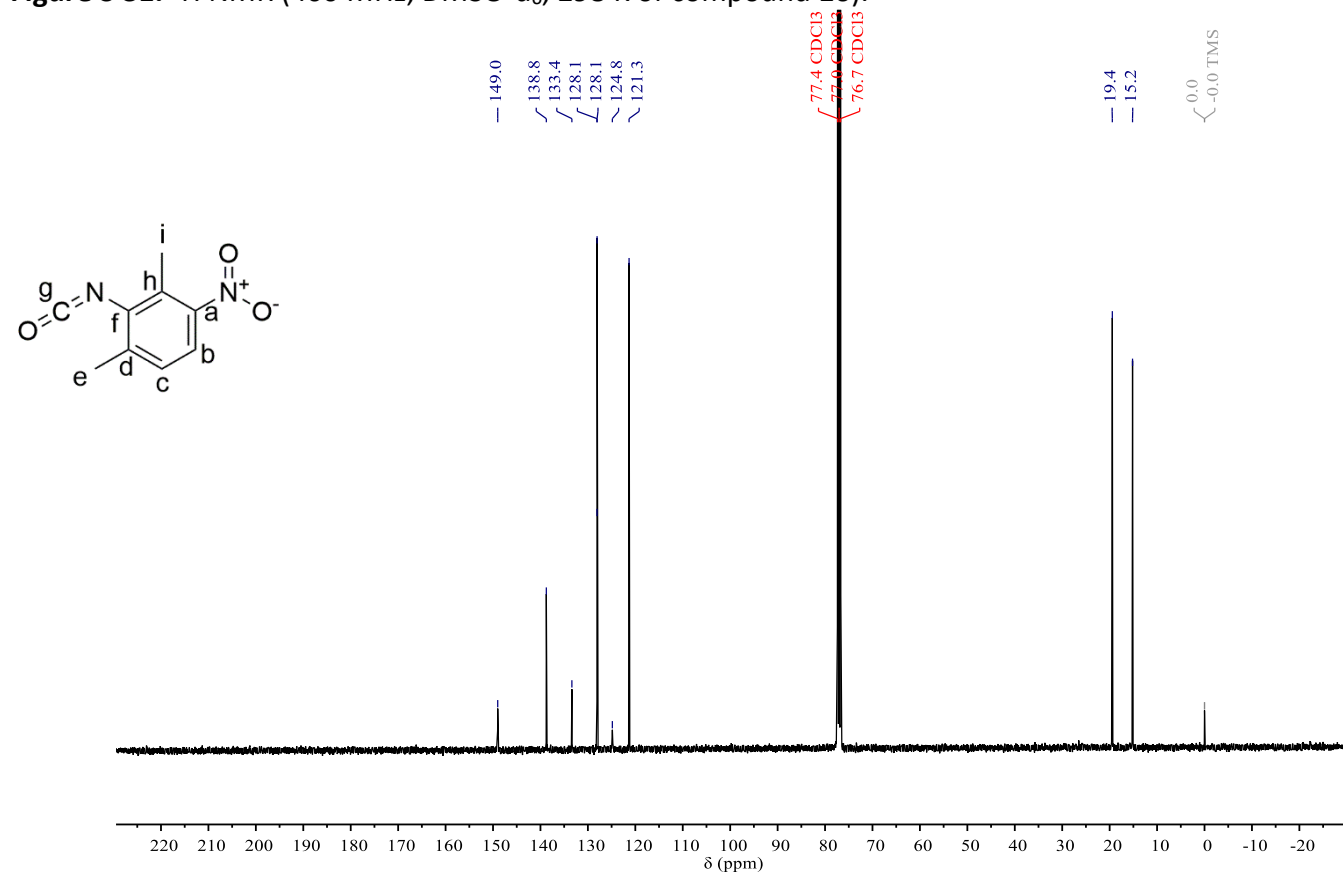


Figure S 32. $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound 16).

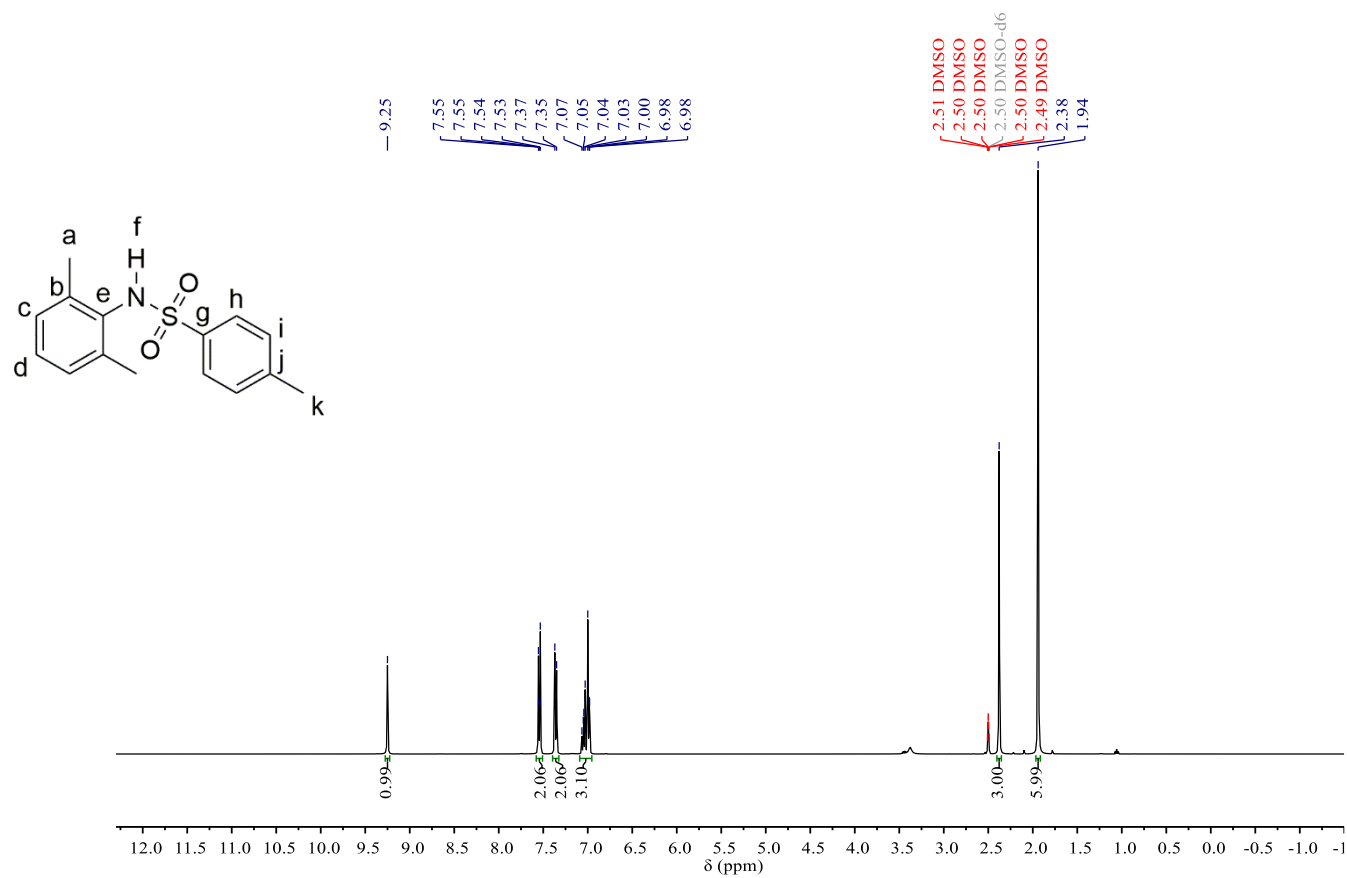


Figure S 33. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **17**).

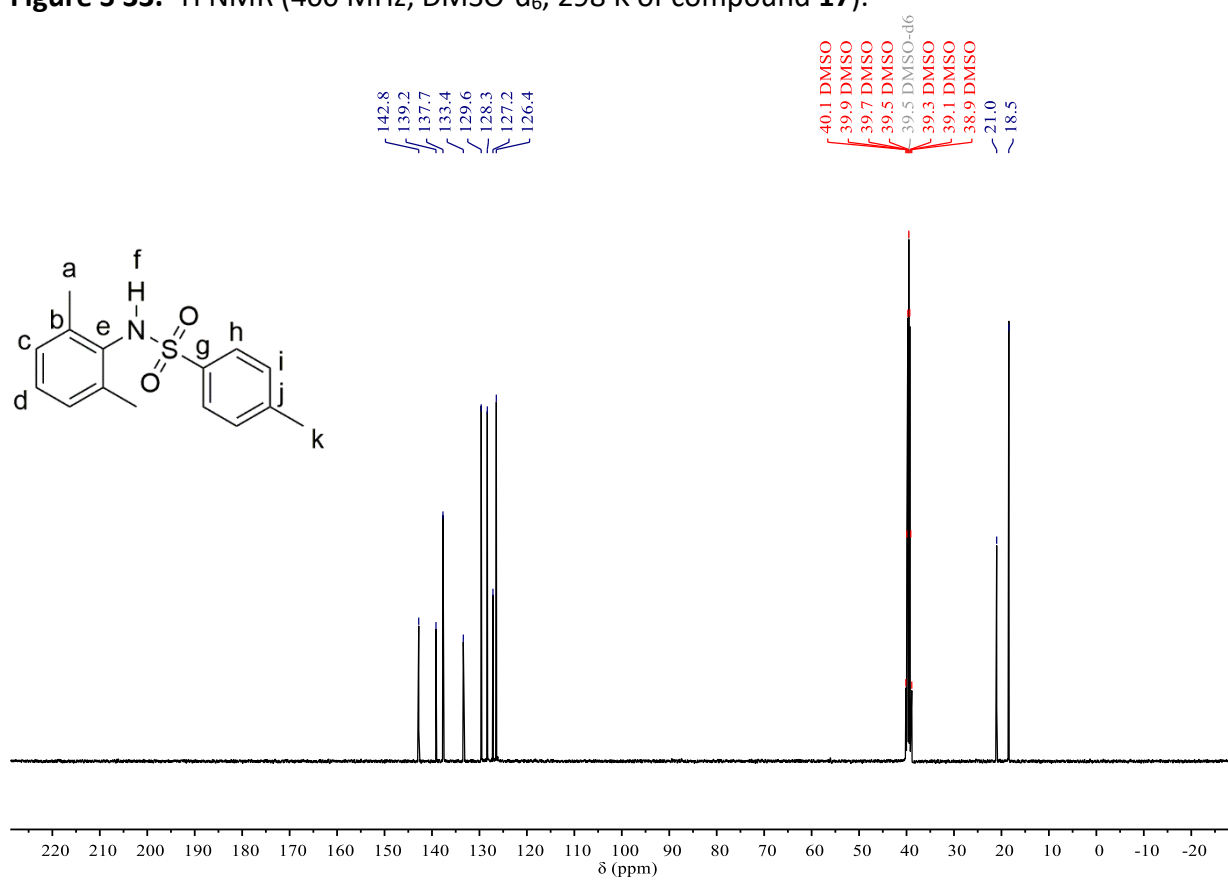


Figure S 34. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **17**).

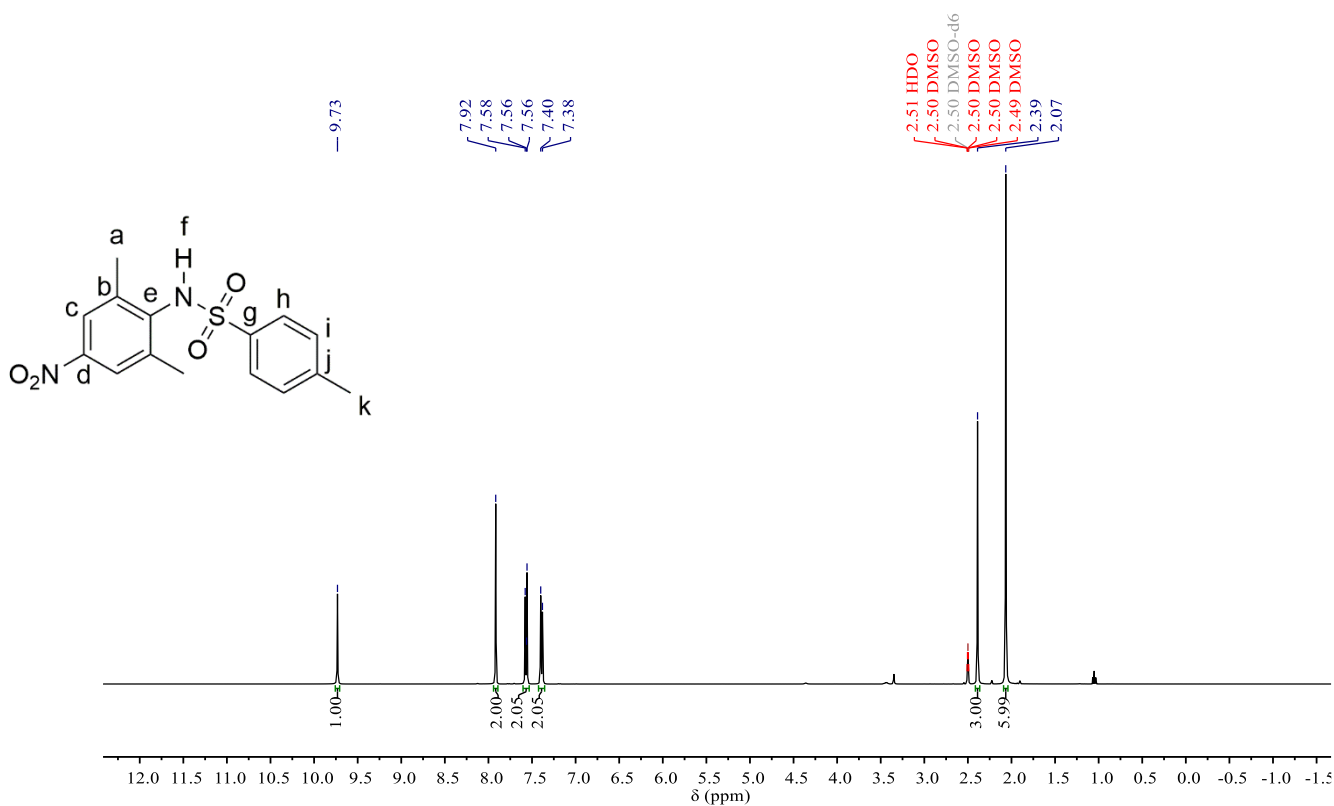


Figure S 35. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **18**).

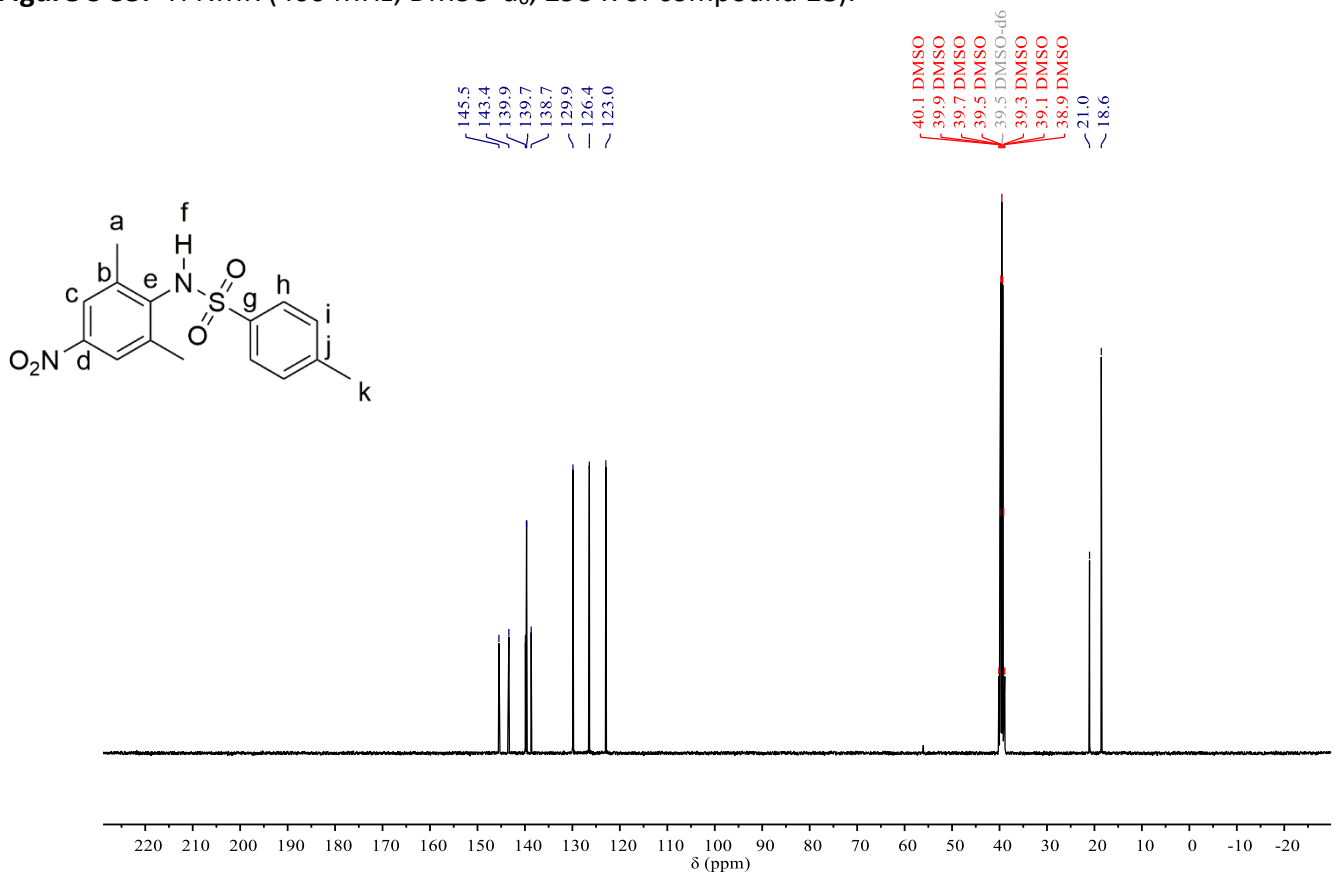


Figure S 36. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K of compound **18**).

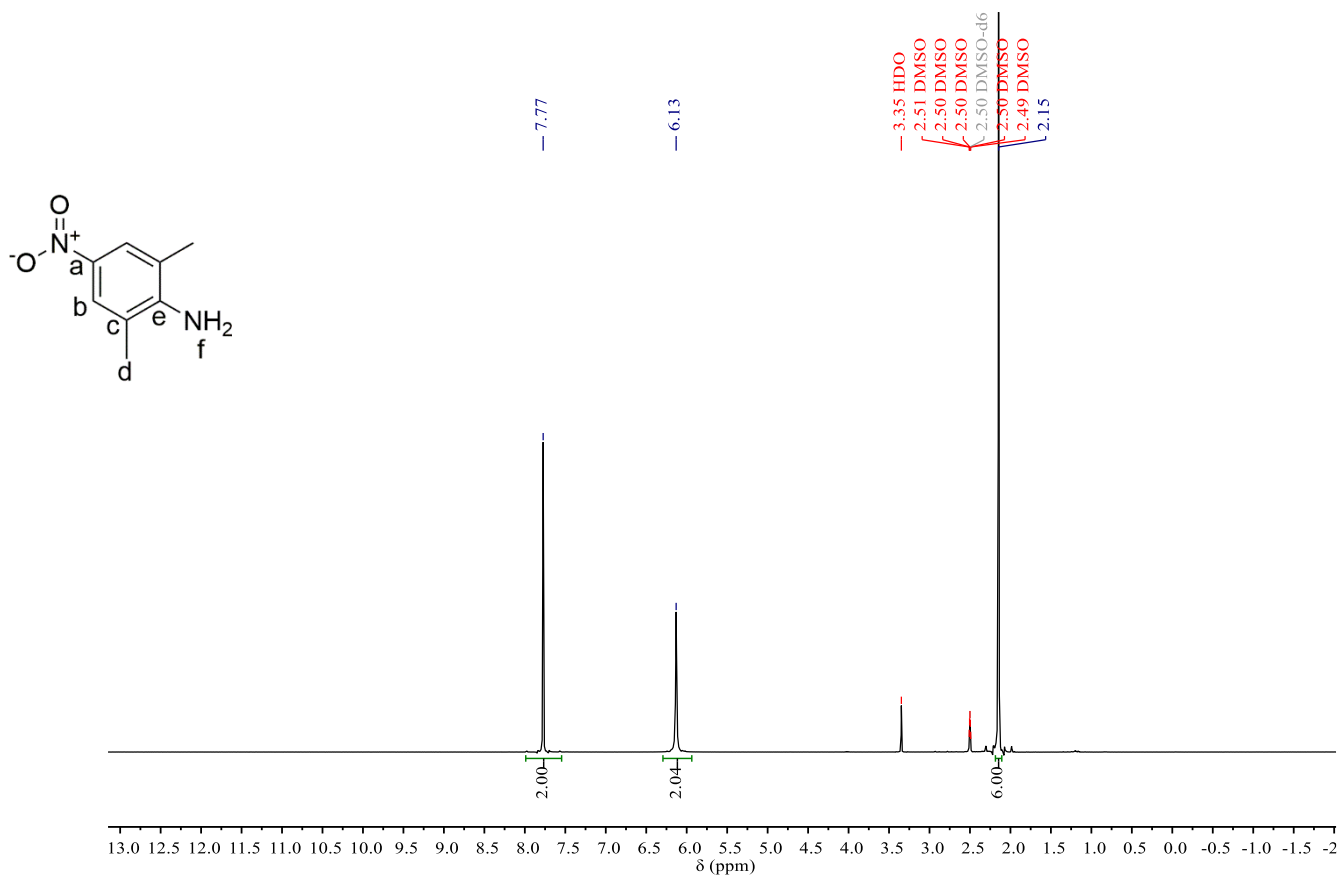


Figure S 37. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6 , 298 K of compound **19**).

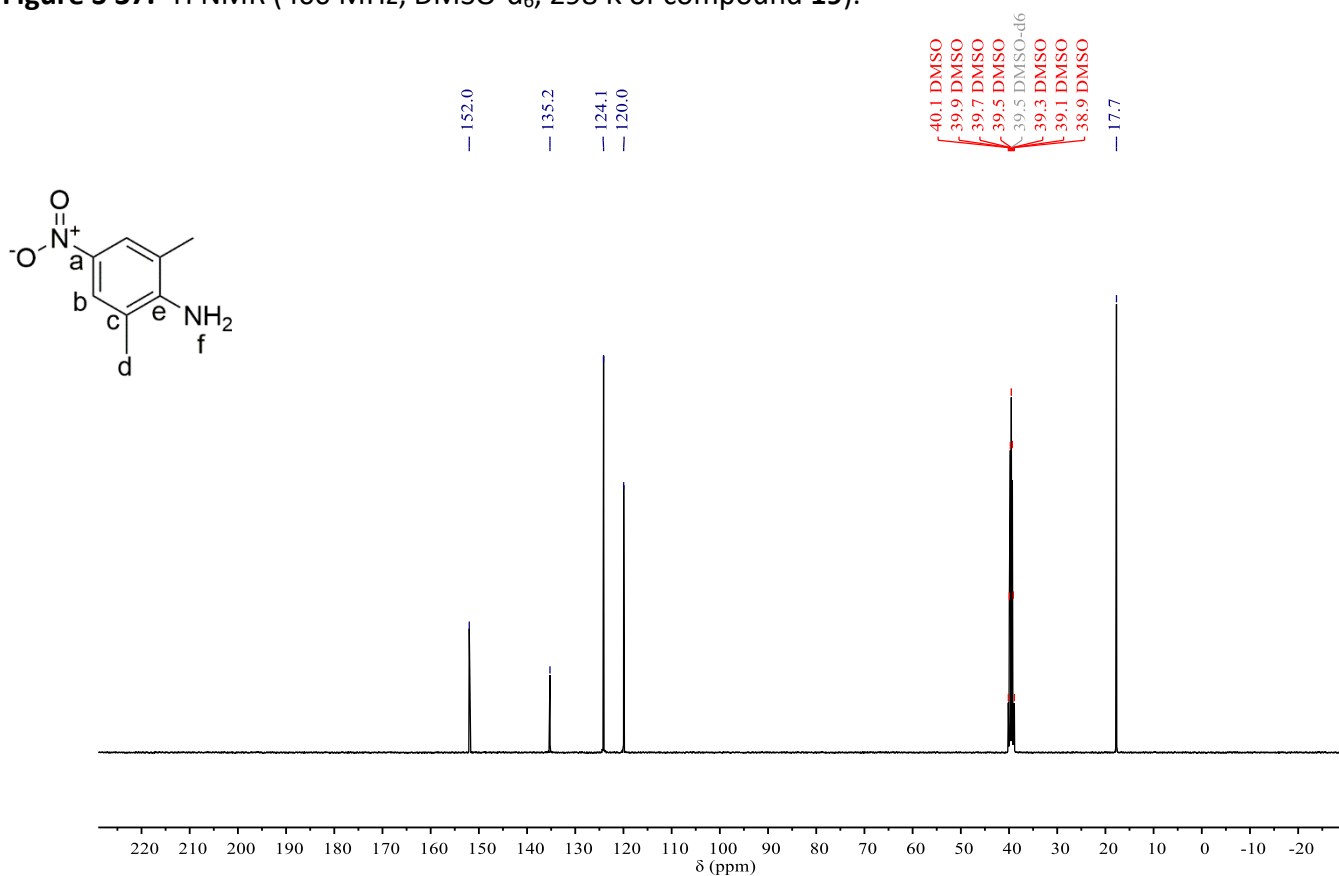


Figure S 38. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO-d_6 , 298 K of compound **19**).

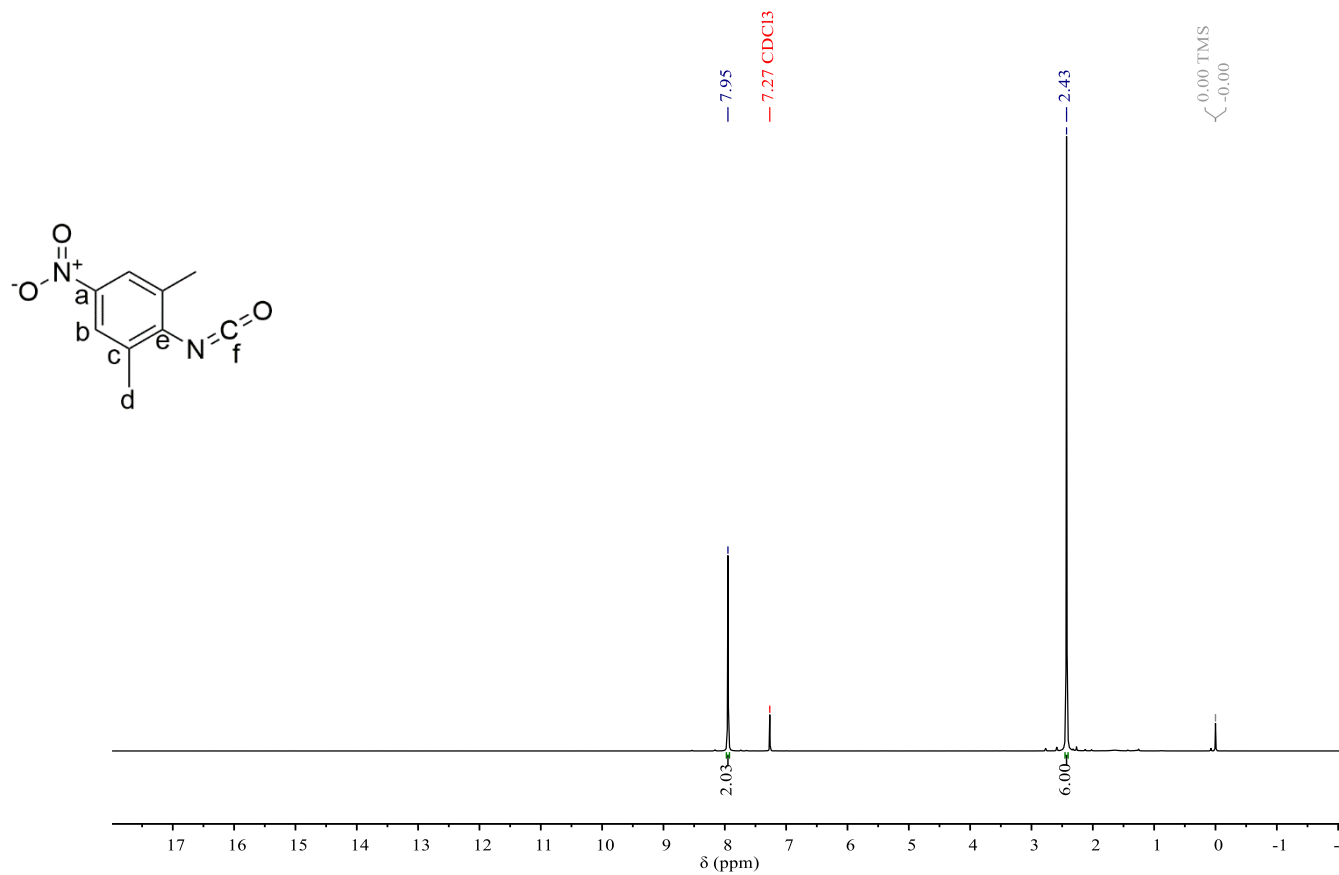


Figure S 39. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K) of compound **20**.

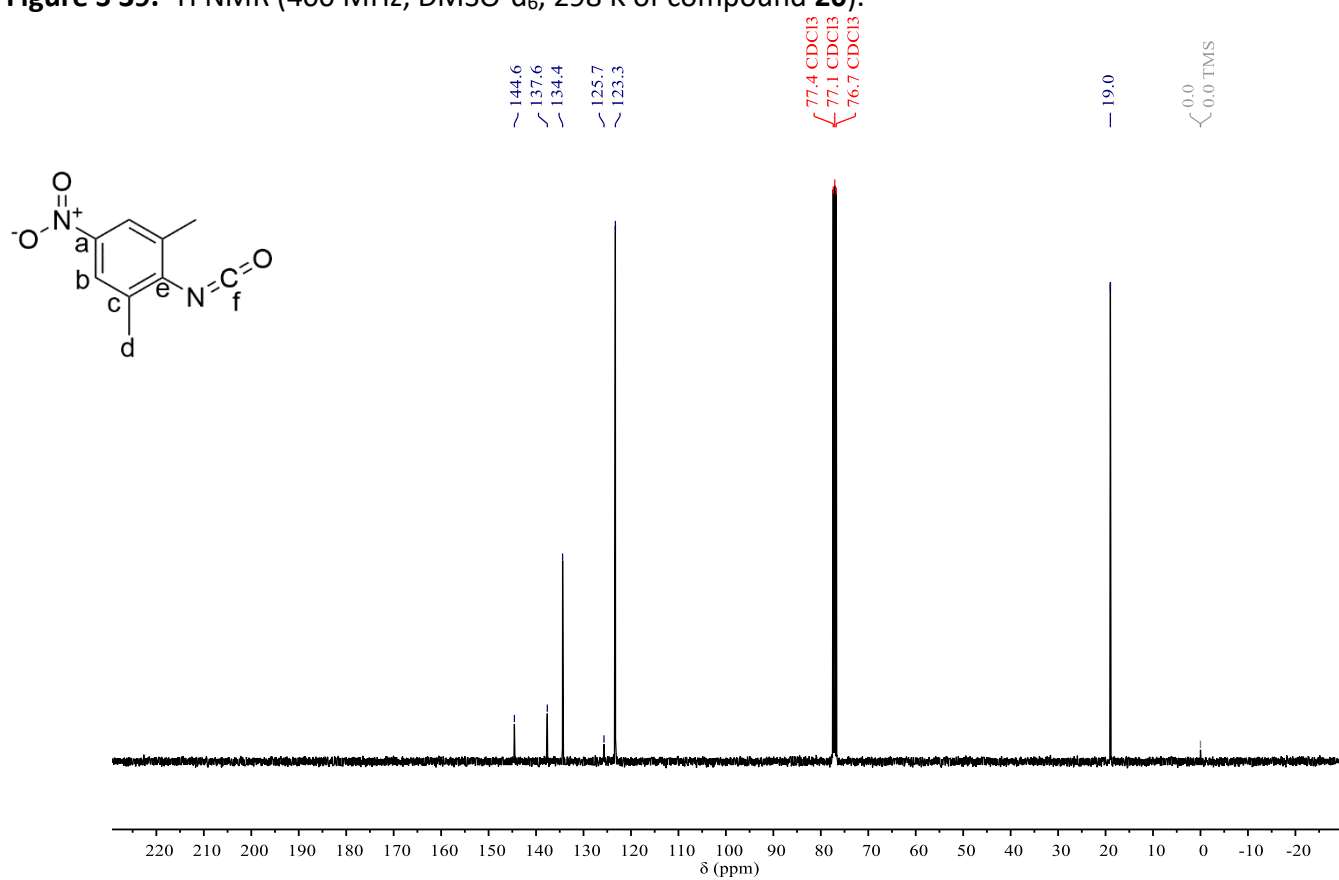


Figure S 40. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 298 K) of compound **20**.

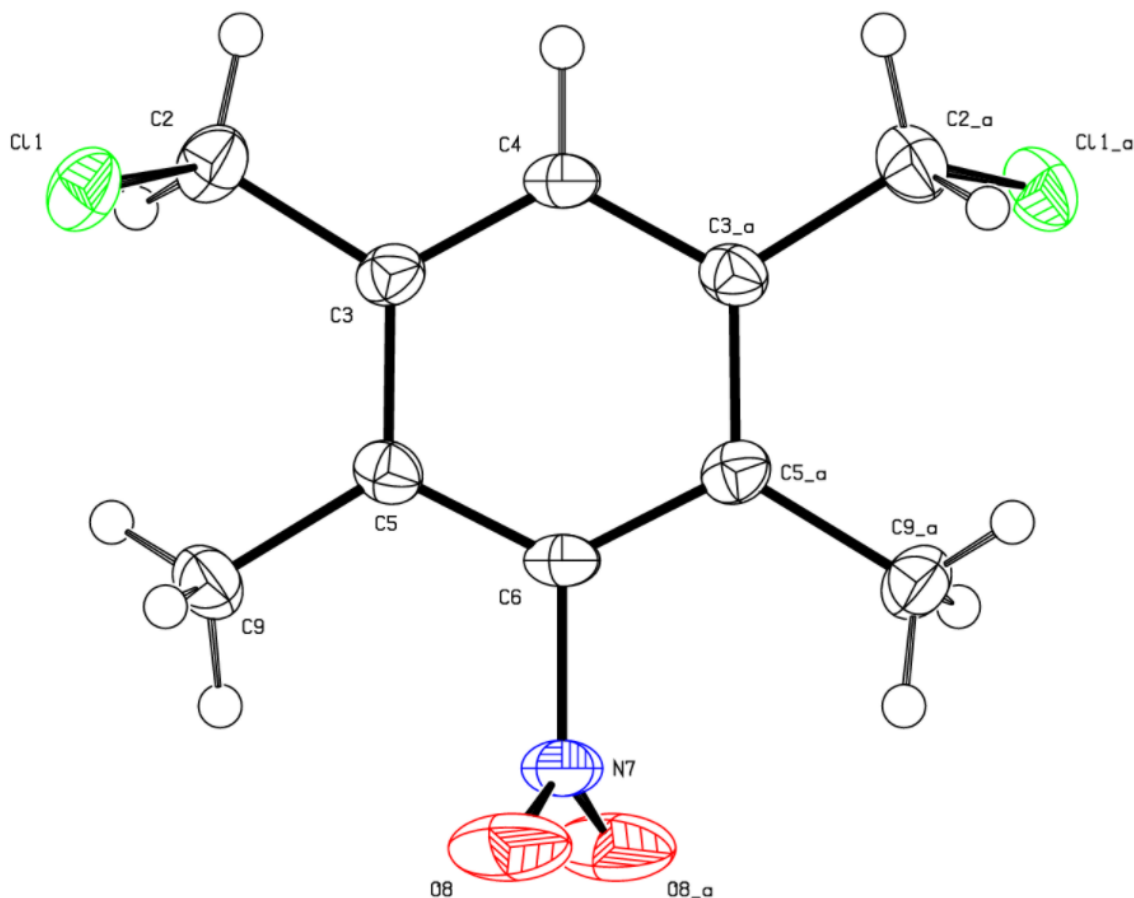


Figure S 41. Crystal structure of compound **10**, ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability.

Symmetry code: (a) $1 - x, y, 1.5 - z$.

Table S 1. Crystallographic details for compound **10**

| | |
|---|---|
| Formula | $C_{10}H_{11}Cl_2NO_2$ |
| M_r | 248.11 |
| Crystal system | monoclinic |
| Space group | $C2/c$ |
| 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 | $\text{Cu K}\alpha$ (1.54180 \AA) |
| T /K | 100 |
| μ / 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 (Å) and angles (°) for compound **10**

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------------------------|------------|
| O(8) – N(7) | 1.213(2) | O(8) – N(7) – O(8) ^a | 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) ^a | 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) ^a | 126.3(3) |

Symmetry code: (a) 1 – x, y, 1.5 – z.

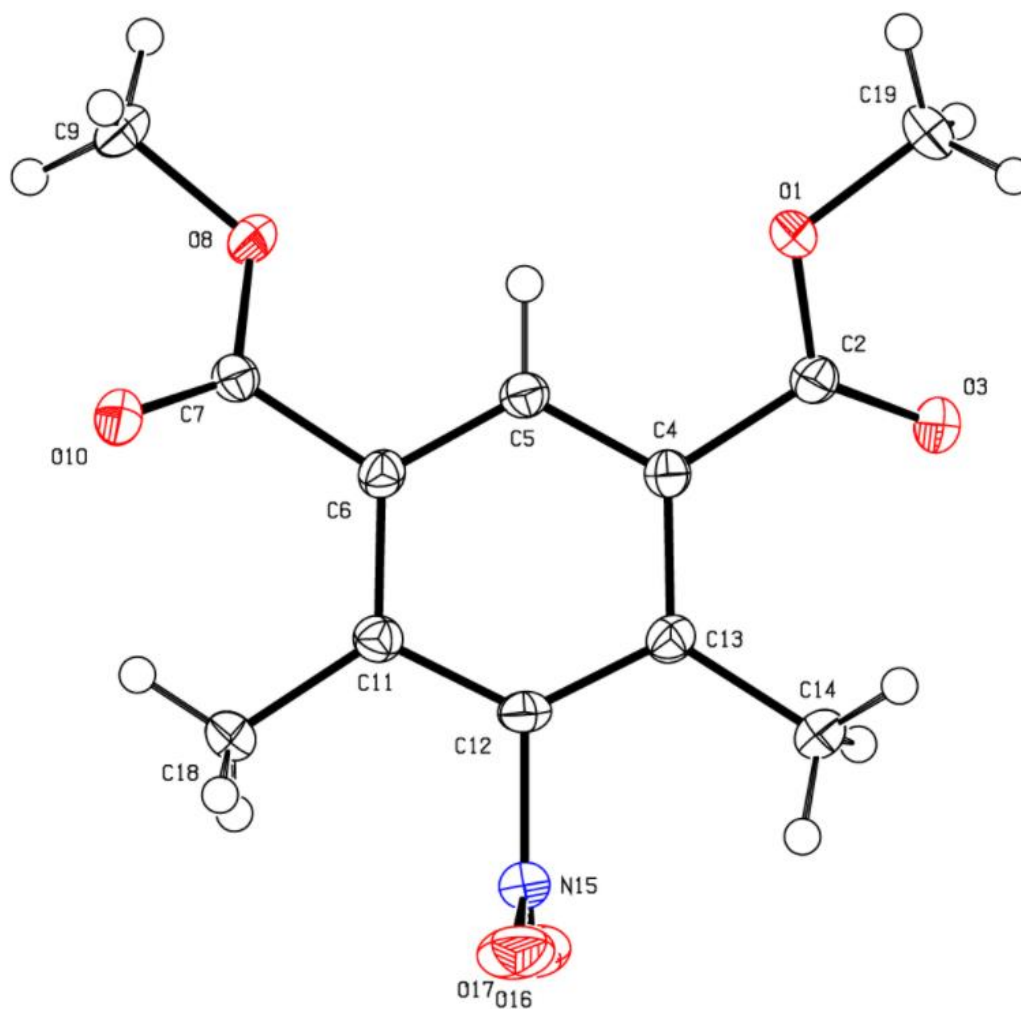
**Figure S 42.** Crystal structure of compound **12**, ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability.

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

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

Table S 4. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) 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).

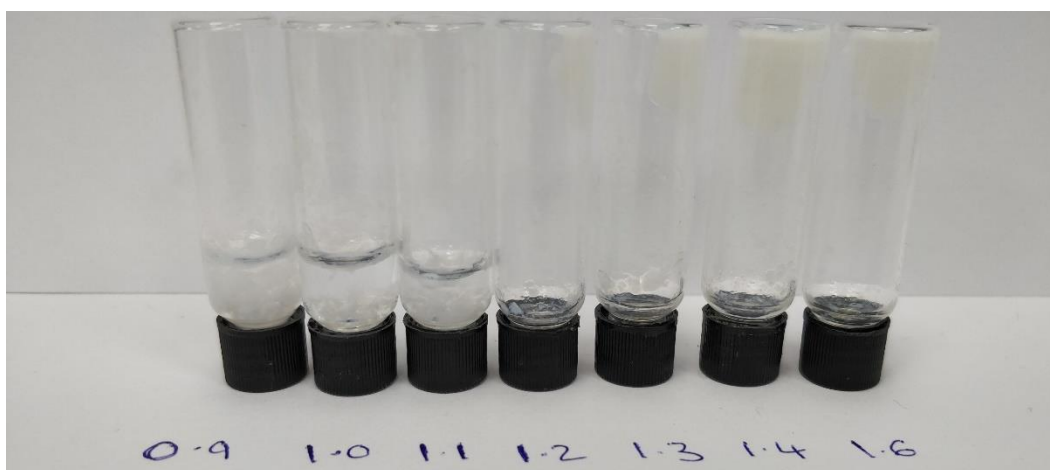


Figure S 44. CGC determination vial inversion of gelator **4**. Mass of gelator in mg written below each vial.

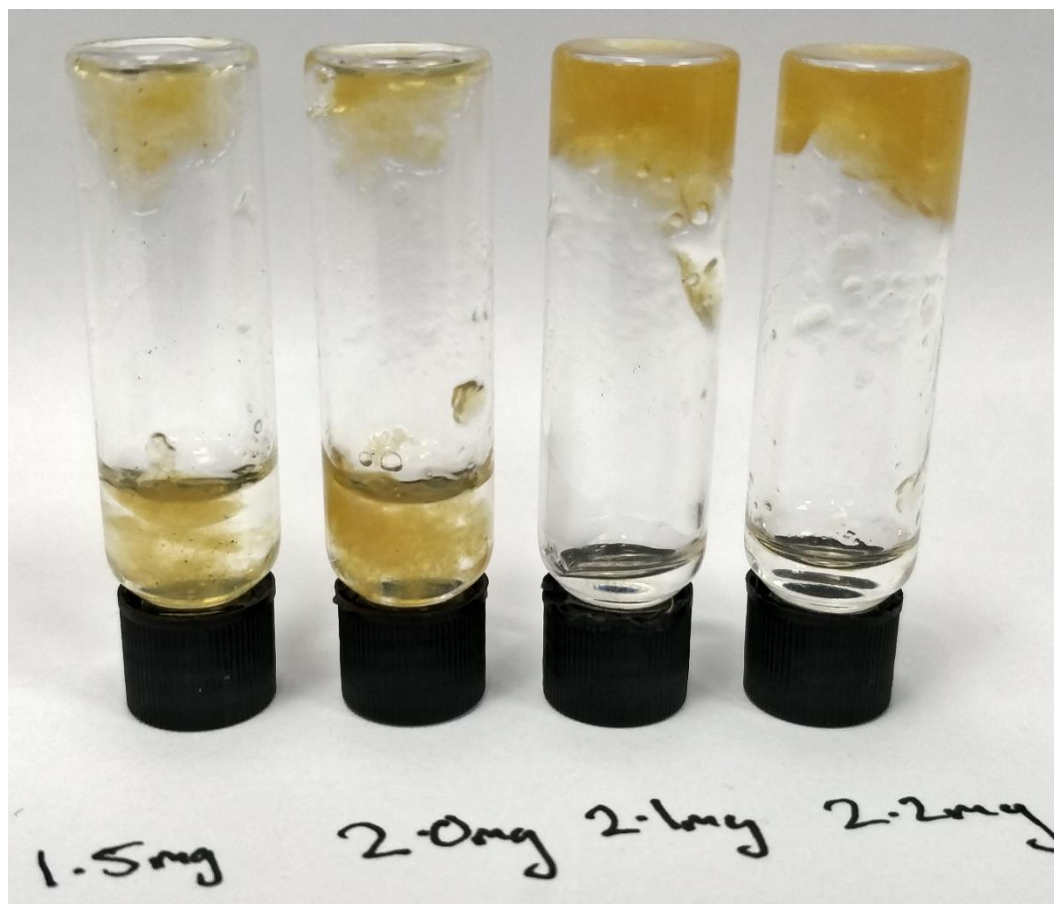


Figure S 45. CGC determination vial inversion of gelator 6. Mass of gelator in mg written below each vial.



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

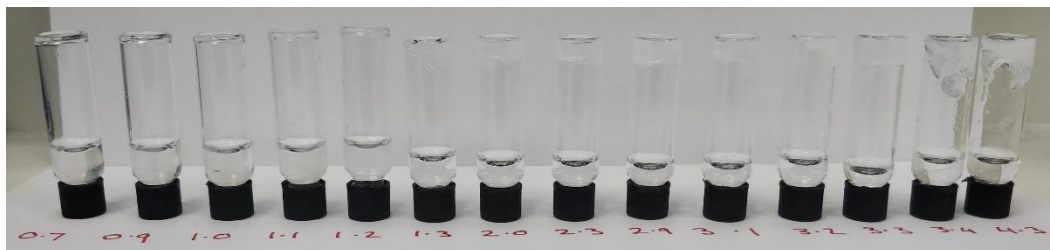


Figure S 47. CGC determination via vial inversion of gelator **8**. Mass of gelator in mg written below each vial.

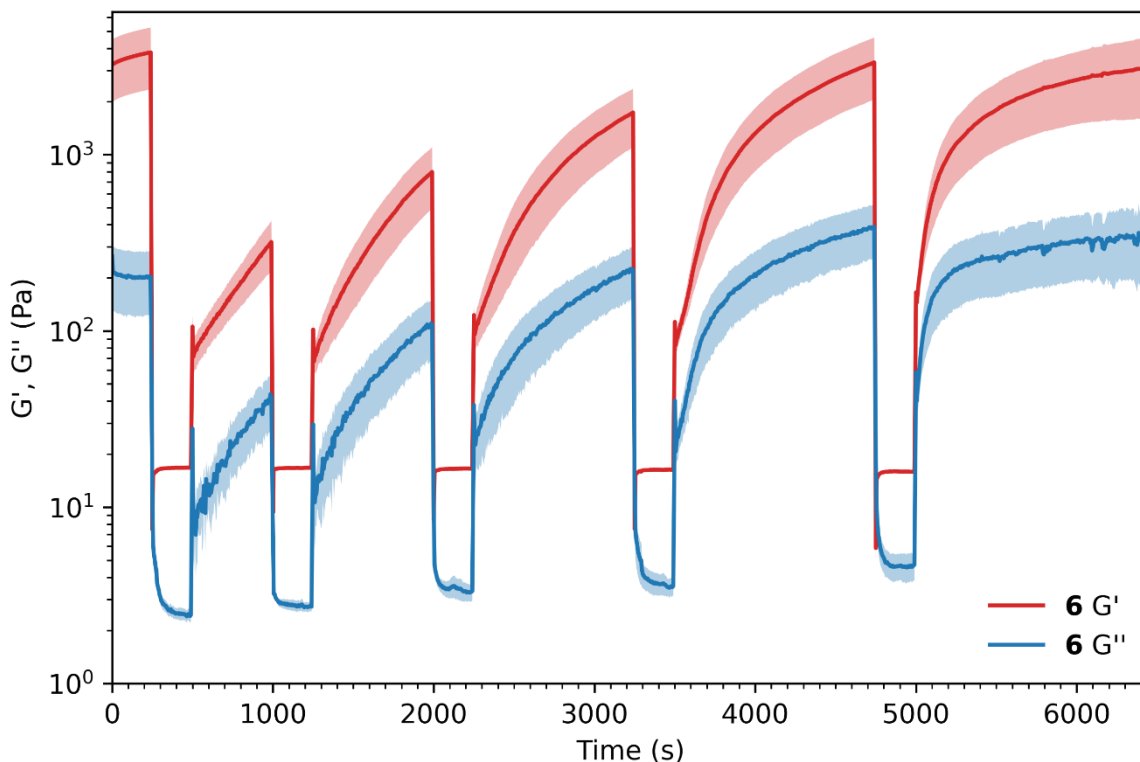


Figure S 48. Continuous step-strain measurements of **6** at 25 °C (high-amplitude oscillatory parameters: strain $\gamma = 250\%$, frequency = 1 Hz, low-amplitude oscillatory parameters: strain $\gamma = 0.1\%$, frequency = 1 Hz) with increasing low shear interval until complete network recovery.

Table S 5. Rheological properties of hydrogelators

| | (1) | (4) | (6) | (7) |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| G'^a (Pa) | 1.780E+004 | 2.135E+003 | 4.653E+003 | 4.935E+003 |
| G''^a (Pa) | 2.085E+003 | 211.9 | 206.8 | 228.5 |
| $\gamma_y\%^b$ | 6.77±1.48 | 77.14±2.60 | 41.02±11.15 | 22.56±6.88 |
| σ_y (Pa) ^c | 373.40±28.17 | 72.65±4.87 | 118.35±57.60 | 92.21±32.69 |
| $\gamma_y\%^c$ | 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.

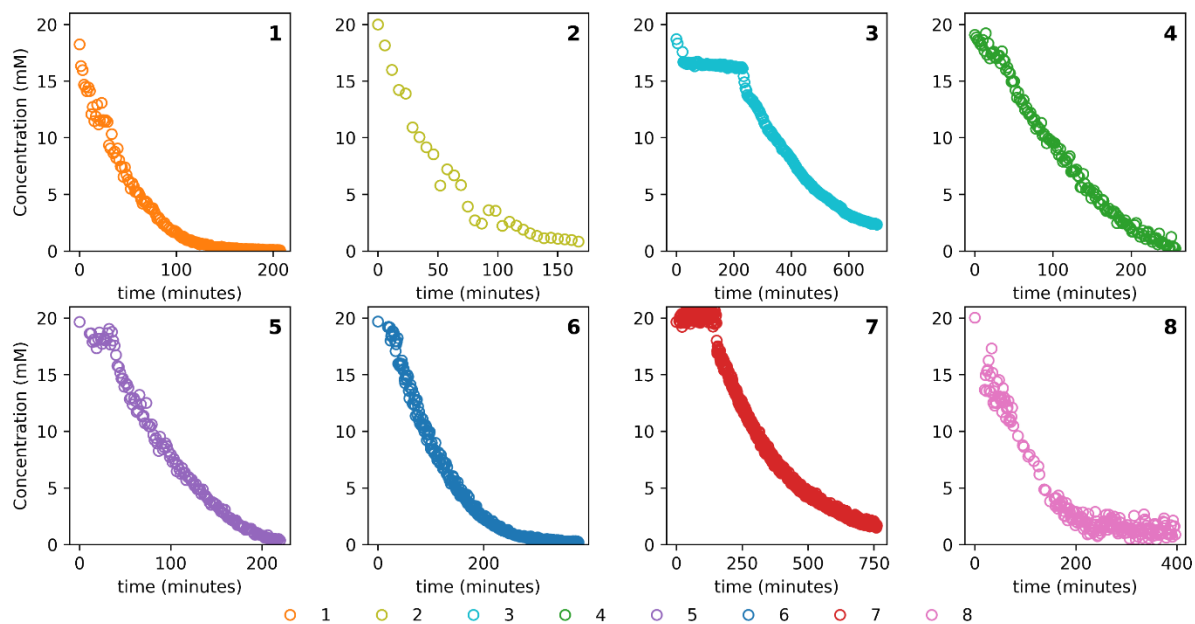


Figure S 49. Kinetics of formation of gelator networks **1 – 8** as monitored by ^1H NMR spectroscopy.



Figure S 50. From left to right: methylene blue solution (3 mL, 4 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 mgL^{-1}).

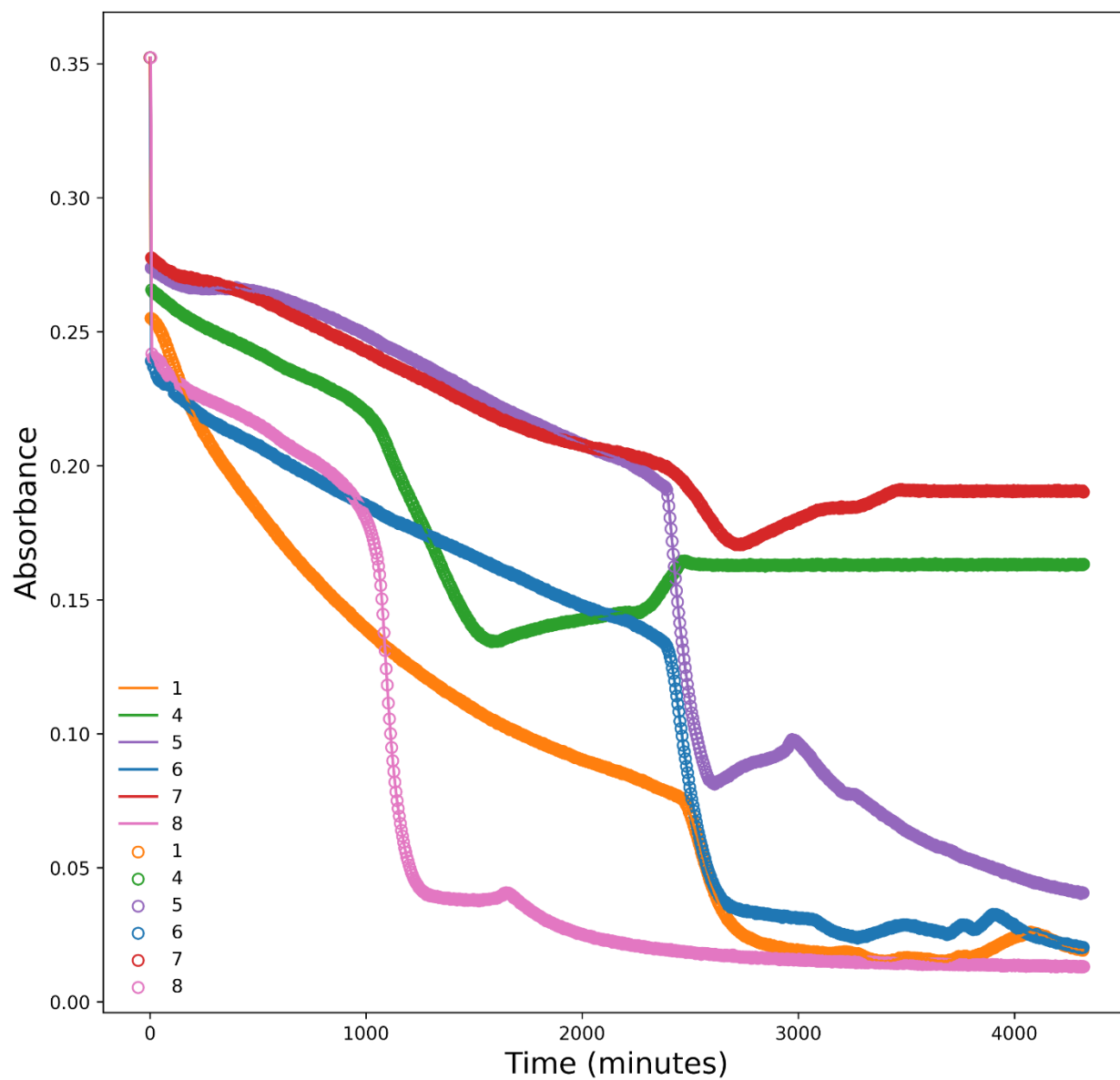


Figure S 51. Absorbance maxima of methylene blue (664 nm) vs. time for hydrogelators 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.