

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Title: Oxidative Desulfurization of Azole-2-thiones with Benzoyl Peroxide: Syntheses of Ionic Liquids and Other Azolium Salts

Author(s): Derek M. Wolfe, Peter R. Schreiner*

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EXPERIMENTAL

General. Methyl isothiocyanate (97%) was purchased from Aldrich and distilled prior to use. All other reagents were purchased at p.a. grade or higher from commercial sources and used as received. NMR spectra of compounds in the [C₄mim] series were recorded on a Varian Mercury 400 MHz instrument; compounds in the [C₁mim] series were analyzed on a Bruker AV400WB. Infrared spectra were collected in ATR mode on a BioRad Excalibur Series FTS 4000 (Harrick Split Pea accessory) or Bruker Optics IFS 48 (Specac Golden Gate Diamond device). HRMS analyses were performed on a Finnigan MAT 95. Melting points were recorded on a MelTemp apparatus or a Büchi SMP-20 and are uncorrected. All chromatographic purifications were performed with 230–400 mesh silica gel. The process of calibration, anion exchange in 2:1 EtOH/water, and chromatographic purification following (BzO)₂ oxidation is presented in detail in the text for the isolation of [C₄mim][OBz]. The process of benzoate acidification and IL purification is described in detail in the text for the preparation of [C₄mim][BF₄]. The same methods were used for the IL syntheses described below using the amounts of silica gel, eluents, and volumes specified.

1-Butyl-3-methyl-2-thiohydantoin (4). Methyl isothiocyanate (44.15 g, 604 mmol) was dissolved in 50 mL dry Et₂O and added dropwise to freshly distilled **2** (96.15 g, 604 mmol) cooled with an ice bath. The reaction was continued at 0 °C for 10 min after complete addition, then fitted with a simple distillation aperture for the removal of Et₂O. The thick orange residue was heated 3 d at 140–150 °C. The product at this stage was used for the synthesis of **5** described below, but can be distilled (bp_{0.55} = 126 °C) to 79% yield. After one distillation each, compound **4** was the same red hue as **5** made from it. The distillates had similar boiling points, which probably reflect a common codistilling impurity. Their appearance and bps were resolved by further purification. In this case, an analytical sample (4.63 g distilled **4**) was chromatographed (100 g silica gel, eluent: 2:1 Et₂O/pet. ether, *R_f* = 0.6) and redistilled (bp_{0.15} = 86 °C) to deliver 3.25 g **4** as a dull yellow oil (70% recovery, 55% yield from **2**). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.01 (s, 2H), 3.81 (t, 2H, *J* = 8 Hz), 3.24 (s, 3H), 1.65 (quintet, 2H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 1.40 (sextet, 2H, *J* = 7.4), 0.97 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.4); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.6, 19.7, 28.1, 29.0,

46.5, 51.7, 170.6, 183.0; IR (film) 3597, 3480, 2958, 2932, 2872, 1744, 1496, 1334 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{OS}$: 186.0827, found 186.0822.

1-Butyl-3-methylimidazole-2-thione (5). With DIBALH: Using glassware dried at 180 °C overnight, assembled while hot, and cooled under argon, freshly distilled **2** (2.44 g, 15.3 mmol) was treated with 1.12 g (15.3 mmol) methyl isothiocyanate as described in the preparation of **4**. After addition was complete, the reaction achieved rt over the course of 30 min, then was cooled to -78 °C for the addition of 32 mL (27.5 g) 20 wt. % DIBALH in PhMe (5.50 g DIBALH, 38.7 mmol, 2.5 eq.). The mixture was stirred for 30 min, the cold bath was removed, and the reaction was quenched and worked up as described by Markwalder and coworkers² to yield 2.68 g crude product that was chromatographed (70 g silica gel, eluent: 2:1 Et_2O /pet. ether, $R_f = 0.4$) to 1.91 g (11.2 mmol, 73%) **5**. From 4: Crude **4** prepared as described above was diluted with 200 mL EtOH and cautiously treated with 22.84 g (604 mmol) NaBH_4 in 600 mL EtOH. Any NaBH_4 residue was washed in with EtOH (2 × 100 mL portions). The mixture turned from the deep red color of crude **4** to a bright purple over the course of 7 h, and was then slowly treated with 200 mL concd aq HCl, turning an intense yellow while stirring 30 min. The slurry was poured into 750 mL water, 100 g NaCl, 500 mL DCM and shaken. The mixture slowly separated into two layers. The aq layer was extracted with more DCM (3 × 100 mL), the combined organic layers were washed with water (1 × 100 mL) and repetitively with 100 mL brine until the volume recovered was approximately equal to the volume invested (requiring at least 3 ×), then dried (MgSO_4), filtered and concentrated to 98.97 g oil that distills ($\text{bp}_{0.4} = 132$ °C) to 81.15 g **5** (477 mmol, 79% yield from **2**, 99% from **4**). After one distillation each, compound **5** was the same red hue as **4** used to make it. The distillates had similar boiling points, which probably reflect a common codistilling impurity. Their appearance and bps were resolved by further purification. In this case, an analytical sample was prepared by chromatographing 4.38 g distilled **5** (105 g silica gel, eluent: 2:1 Et_2O /pet. ether, $R_f = 0.4$) and redistilling the isolate ($\text{bp}_{0.15} = 77$ °C) to deliver 1.68 g (38% recovery, 30% from **2**) yellow oil.

1-Butyl-3-methylimidazole-2-thione methyl iodide (6). A solution of 9.56 g **5** (56.1 mmol) in 100 mL DME in an Erlenmeyer flask was treated with 5.5 mL (12.54 g, 88.3 mmol, 1.6 eq.). A precipitate formed while stirring at rt 30 min, and was dissolved by bringing the mixture to a gentle reflux by direct contact with a hot plate and adding 125 mL *t*-BuOH. The solution was cooled back to rt, frozen at -30 °C overnight, thawed, and filtered to yield 15.70 g **6** (50.3 mmol, 90%), mp 110–115 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 4.31 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 1.83 (quintet, 2H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 1.34 (sextet, 2H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.91 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O) δ 12.8, 17.2, 18.9, 31.5, 35.8, 49.3, 123.2, 124.8, 140.8.

Anion exchange to [C₄mim][ClO₃].¹ A 33.35 g portion of the calibrated solution (6.0 mmol, 8.2% of the stock solution, representing 9.6 mmol **5**) was treated with 0.64 g NaClO₃ (6.0 mmol), stirred 2.5 h, filtered, concentrated, and purified like [C₄mim][OBz] using 5 g silica gel, 1:1 Et₂O/EtOH as eluent, and 10 mL ea. loading, rinsing, and washing volumes. A second chromatographic step followed by drying in vacuo returned 1.24 g [C₄mim][ClO₃] (58% yield from **5**). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 8.81 (s, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 4.26 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2), 3.97 (s, 3H), 1.89 (quintet, 2H, *J* = 7.4), 1.38 (sextet, 2H, *J* = 7.4), 0.99 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.4); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O) δ 17.4, 23.5, 36.0, 43.6, 53.9, 126.9, 128.2, 140.5.

Acidification of [C₄mim][OBz] to [C₄mim][CF₃CO₂]. Once-chromatographed [C₄mim][OBz] (2.0 g, 7.7 mmol) was treated with 1.2 mL (1.75 g, 15.3 mmol, 2 eq.) neat TFA. Before cooling it was loaded on 5 g silica gel packed in Et₂O and washed with Et₂O until the collected wash did not respond to UV light when spotted on a TLC plate and was not acidic, requiring ca. 30 mL. [C₄mim][CF₃CO₂] (0.82 g, 3.3 mmol, 42%) was washed off with 50 mL 1:1 Et₂O-ethanol. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 8.75 (s, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 4.17 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.89 (s, 3H), 1.81 (quintet, 2H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 1.29 (sextet, 2H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 0.89 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O) δ 17.4, 23.5, 36.0, 43.6, 54.0, 119.8 (q, ¹*J*(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 290.9 Hz), 127.0, 128.3, 140.4, 166.8 (q, ²*J*(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 34.7); IR (film) 3157, 3092, 2966, 2865, 1683, 1197, 1164, 1110 cm⁻¹.

1,3-Dimethyl-2-thiohydantoin (8). Fresh NaOMe/MeOH was prepared with 4.12 g Na (179.3 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in 50 mL MeOH. Solid methyl sarcosinate hydrochloride (25.00 g, 179.1 mmol) was added to the solution and stirred 30 min, cooled to 0 °C, treated with methyl isothiocyanate (13.10 g, 179.2 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in 100 mL xylenes, stirred 10 min, and stirred 30 more min after removal of the ice bath. A simple distillation aperture was installed, MeOH was removed, then a condenser was attached and the reaction was refluxed 3 d. After a hot gravity filtration, the filtrate was cooled to rt, then to -30 °C overnight. The precipitate was recovered by filtration and crystallized thrice from 20:20:1 PhMe/*n*-C₇H₁₄/EtOH to deliver 5.17 g **8** (35.8 mmol, 20%), mp 91.5–93 °C (lit.³ 92–92.5 °C). ¹H (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.06 (s, 2H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 3.21 (s, 3H); ¹³C (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 28.3, 33.9, 53.86, 170.3, 183.4.

Anion exchange to [C₁mim][OBz]. A 614.57 g portion of the calibrated solution (166.4 mmol, 76.5% of the stock solution, representing 195.2 mmol **7**) was treated with 23.98 g NaOBz (166.4 mmol, 1.0 eq.), stirred 2.5 h, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified on 65 g silica gel by the same technique described for the purification of [C₄mim][OBz], using loading and rinsing volumes of 200 mL 1:1 Et₂O/EtOH, and 250 mL fresh eluent to wash the column. Concentration and drying in vacuo left 31.80 g [C₁mim][OBz] (145.7 mmol, 75%) of which 2 g was rechromatographed over 5 g silica gel using loading, rinsing, and washing volumes of 25 mL ea. Concentration and drying left 1.35 g (68% recovery, 51% from **7**). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 8.46 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, 2H, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 7.50 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 7.42 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 7.27 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 6H); ¹³C (100 MHz, D₂O) δ 37.1, 125.0, 129.9, 130.4, 132.9, 137.5, 137.9, 176.4; IR (film) 3381, 3147, 3062, 2960, 2935, 2873, 1596, 1553, 1368 cm⁻¹.

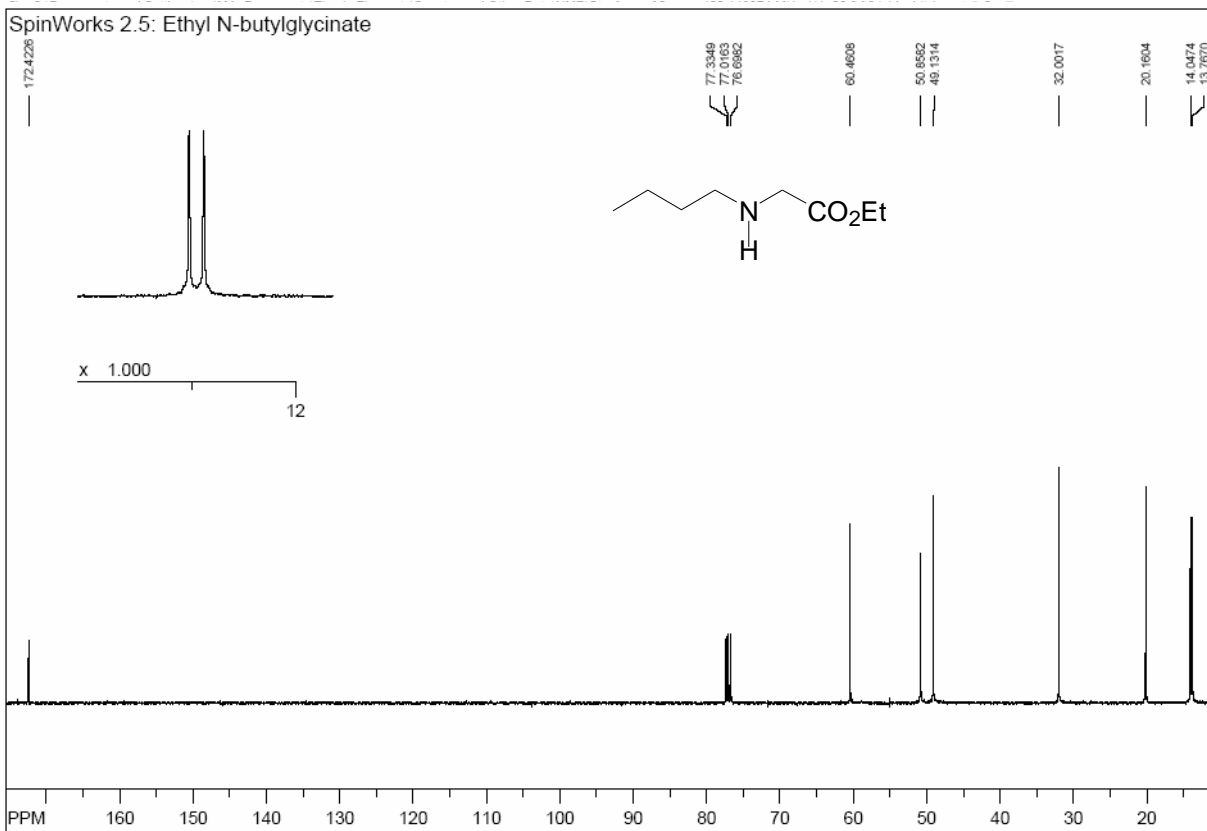
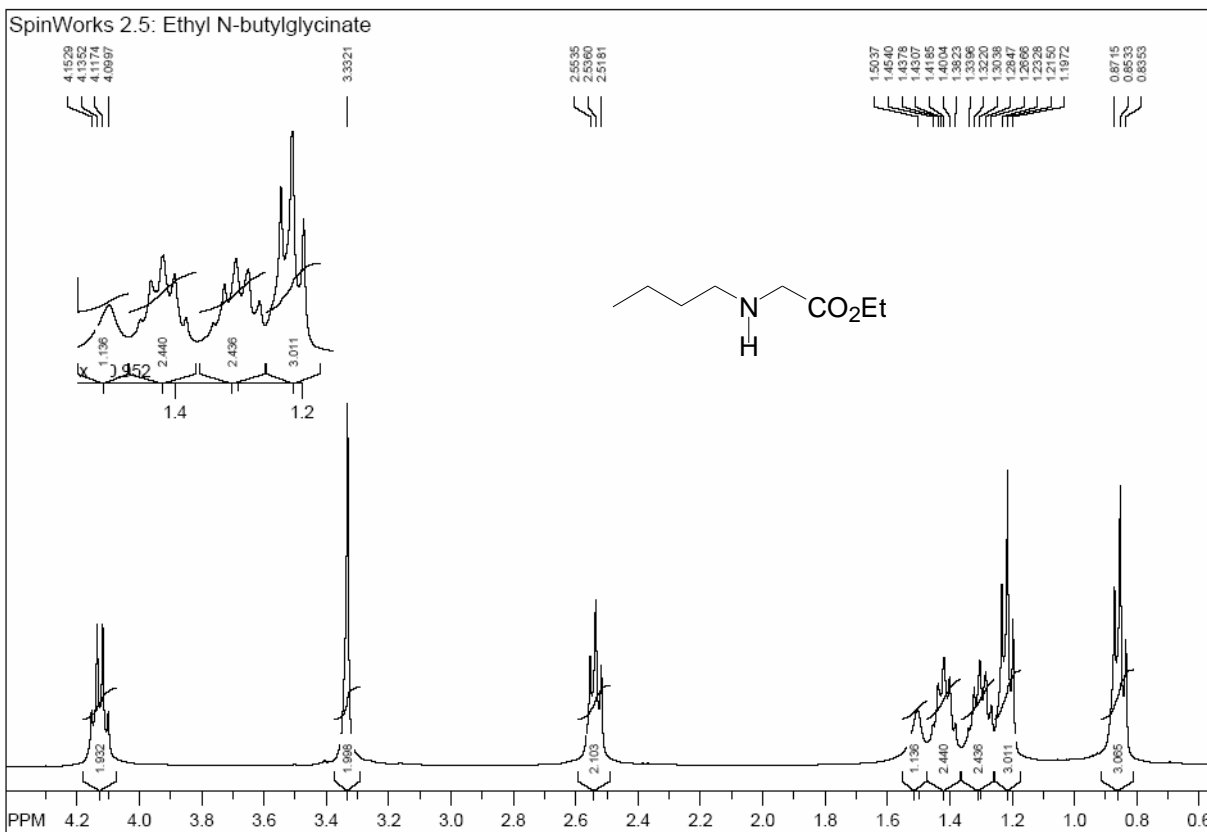
Anion exchange to [C₁mim][ClO₃].¹ A 182.73 g portion of the calibrated solution (49.5 mmol, 22.7% of the stock solution, representing 58.0 mmol **7**) was treated with 5.27 g NaClO₃ (49.5 mmol), stirred 2.5 h, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified on 20 g silica gel by the same technique described for the purification of [C₄mim][OBz], using loading and rinsing volumes of 100 mL, and 150

mL fresh eluent to wash the column. Concentration and drying in vacuo left 7.32 g [C₁mim][ClO₃] (40.5 mmol, 70% from **7**), of which 2.042 g was rechromatographed over 5 g silica gel using loading, rinsing, and washing volumes of 20 mL ea. Concentration and drying in vacuo left 1.38 g (68% recovery, 47% from **7**). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 8.68 (s, 1H), 7.45 (s, 2H), 3.92 (s, 6H); ¹³C (100 MHz, D₂O): δ 37.2, 125.0, 138.1.

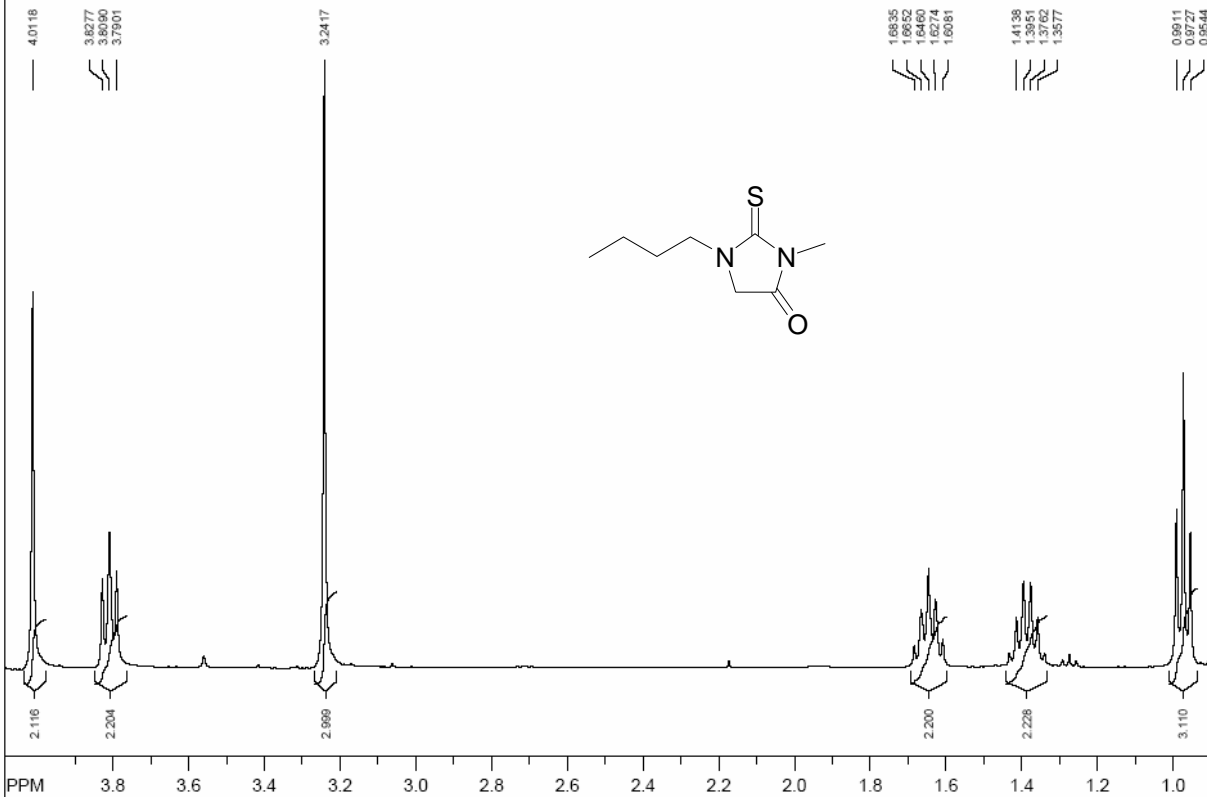
Acidification of [C₁mim][OBz] to [C₁mim][CF₃CO₂]. One-pass [C₁mim][OBz] (2 g, 9.2 mmol) was treated with 2.3 g neat TFA (20.2 mmol, 2.2 eq.), loaded on 5 g silica gel packed in Et₂O before cooling, and required 130 mL Et₂O to wash off BzOH and excess TFA. The product was washed off with 60 mL 1:1 Et₂O/EtOH. Concentration and drying in vacuo left 1.31 g [C₁mim][CF₃CO₂] (6.2 mmol, 68%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 8.64 (s, 1H), 7.41 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 6H); ¹³C (100 MHz, D₂O) δ 37.2, 119.5, (q, ¹J(¹³C-¹⁹F) = 290.4 Hz), 125.0, 163.8 (q, ¹J(¹³C-¹⁹F) = 35.0 Hz); IR (film) 3424, 3150, 3095, 2965, 2939, 2878, 1683, 1198, 1166, 1119 cm⁻¹.

Synthesis of [C₄mim][BF₄] from 1-methylimidazole. Distilled 1-methylimidazole (230 mL, 236.9 g, 2.88 mol) was treated with 360 mL distilled *n*-BuCl (316.8 g, 3.42 mol, 1.2 eq.) and refluxed for 40 h, then excess *n*-BuCl was removed by distillation. Unable to secure crystals of [C₄mim][Cl],⁴ we diluted the mixture with 160 mL water and added 50% aq HBF₄ (365 mL, 514.7 g, 2.93 mol, 1.0 eq.). The solution was stirred 24 h, then aq HCl was removed by distillation. The residue was taken up in 2.2 L DCM, the ca. 2.8 L solution was split in half, and each half was repeatedly washed with 15 mL water. The separatory funnel was rinsed with fresh water between each wash. After ca. 20 washes per half, the water wash had the same pH as the water invested, and no precipitate formed when AgNO₃ was added. Each cloudy and yellow half was washed twice more with water,⁵ then dried and decolorized by the addition of 20 g Celite-521. Celite was removed by gravity filtration, the halves were recombined, DCM was removed, and the product was dried in vacuo 8 h at 100 °C to leave 494.05 g [C₄mim][BF₄] (2.19 mol, 76%). The concentrated product was slightly yellow en masse, but samples up to ca. 20 mL were colorless.

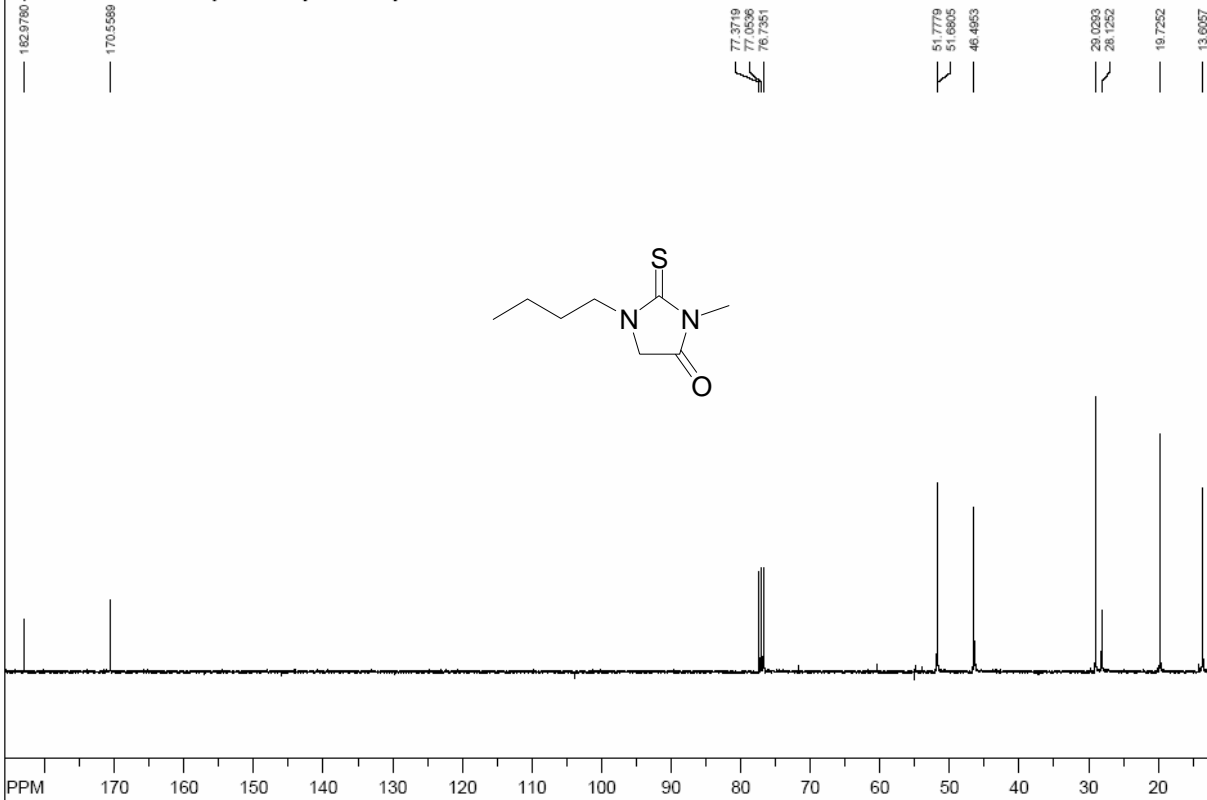
¹H AND ¹³C NMR SPECTRA

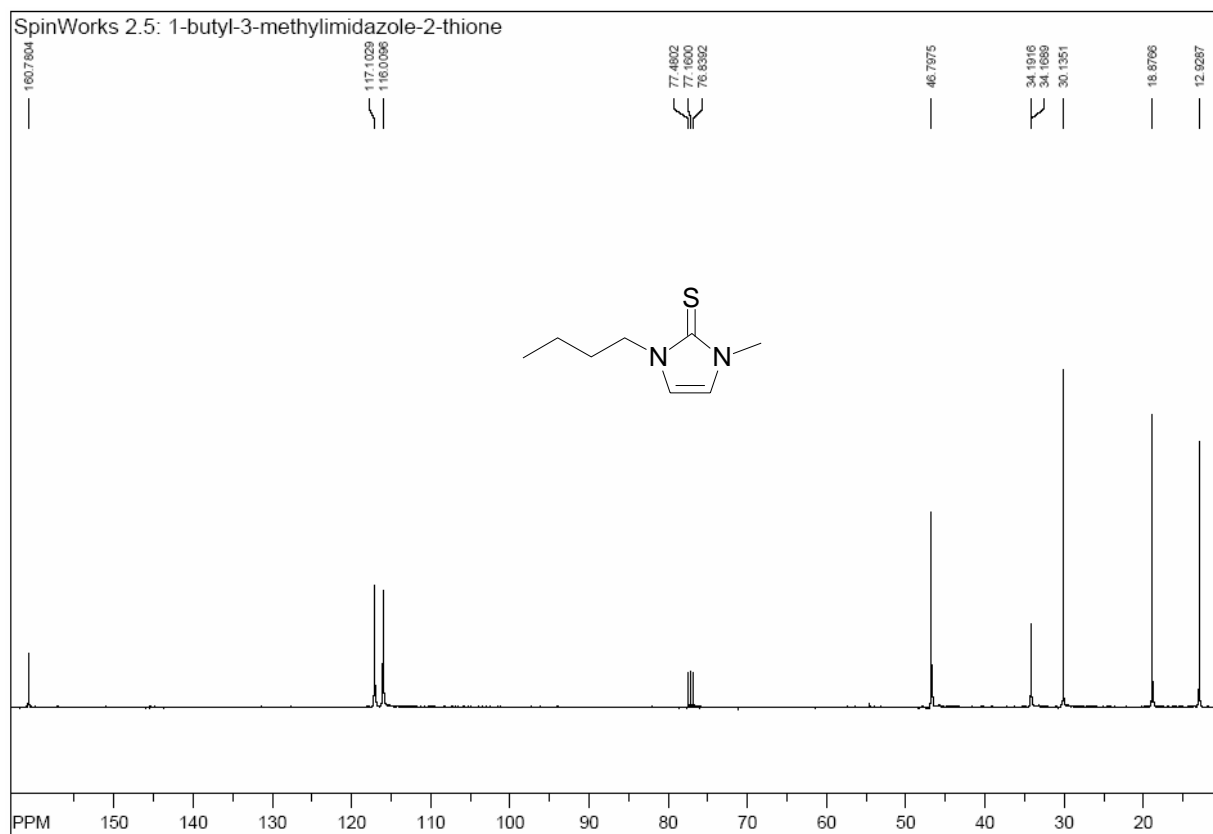
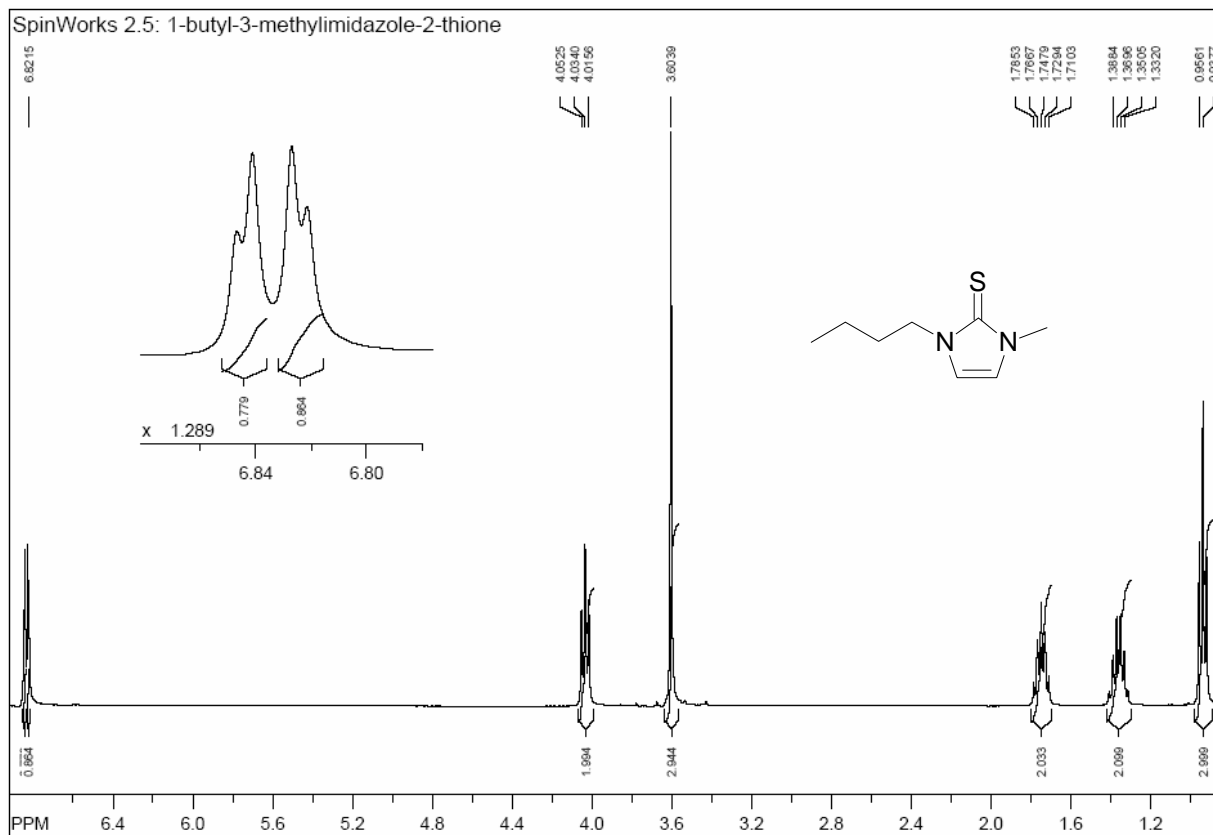


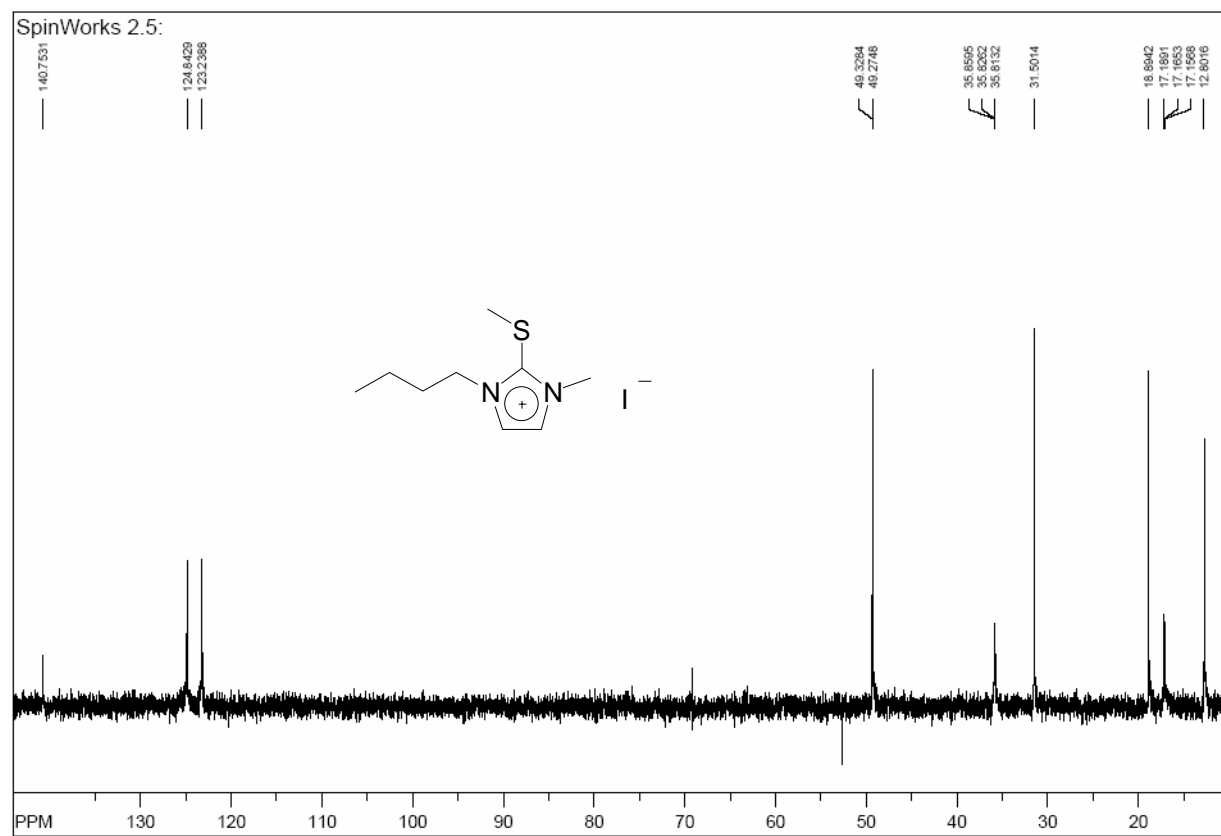
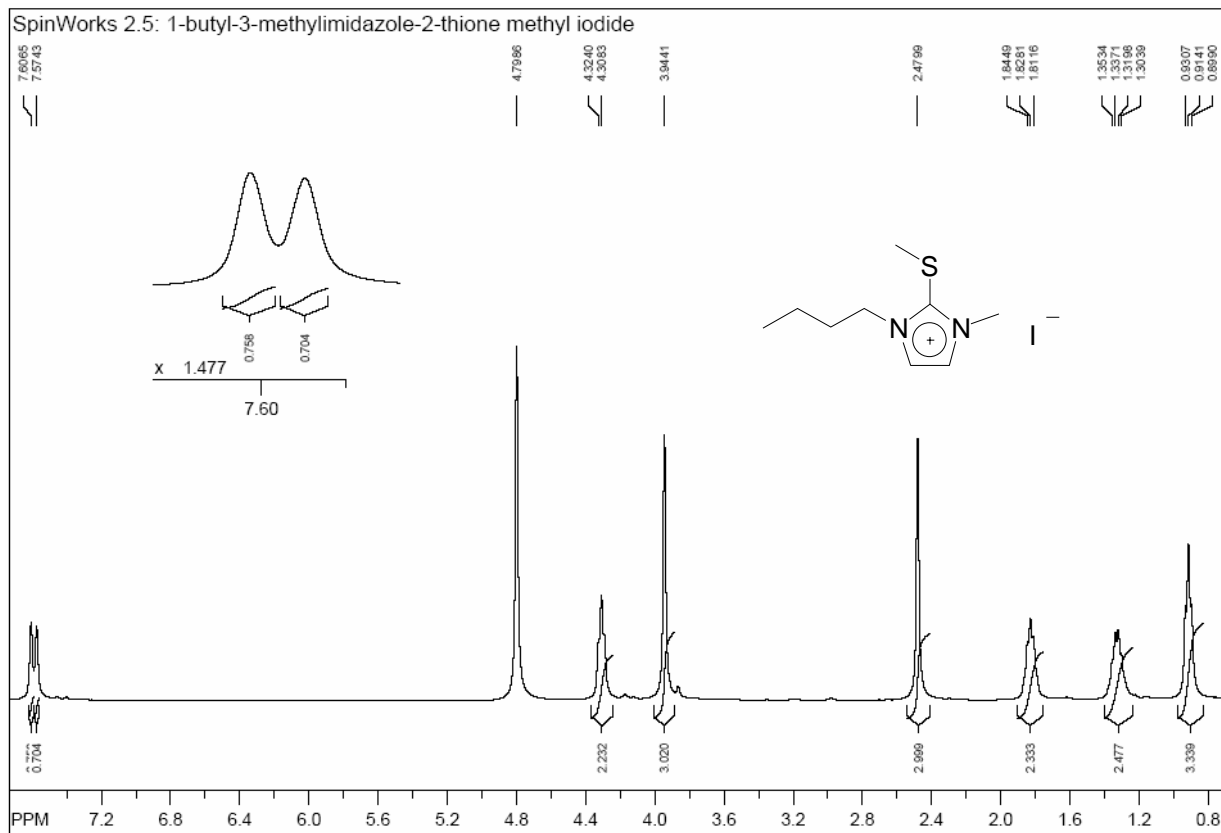
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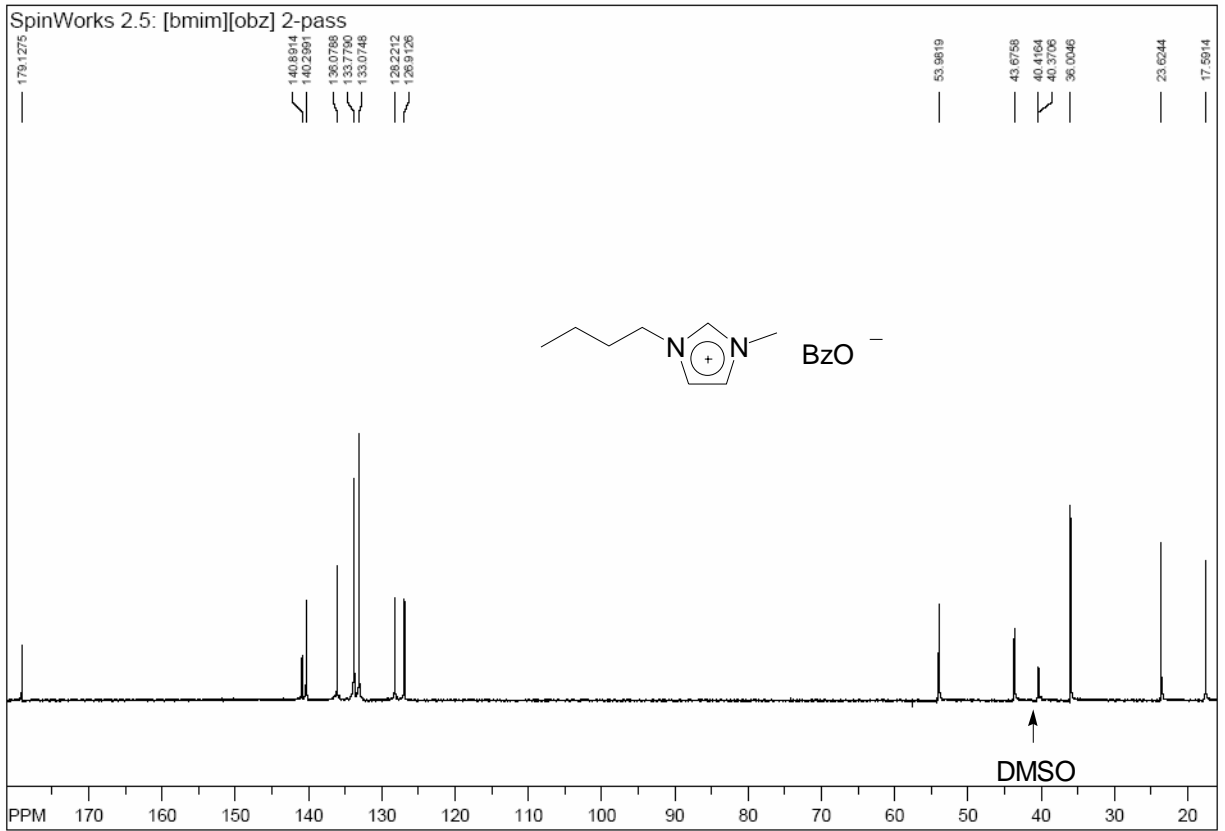
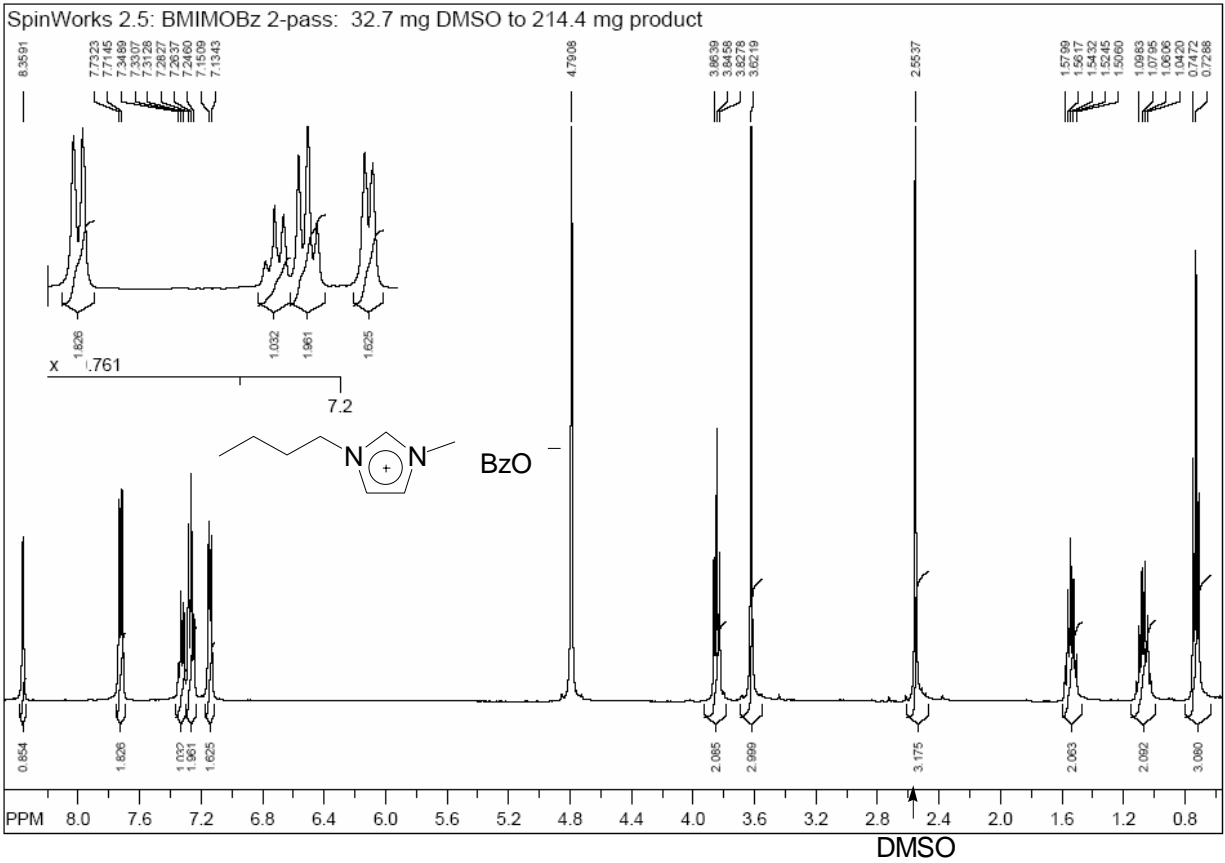


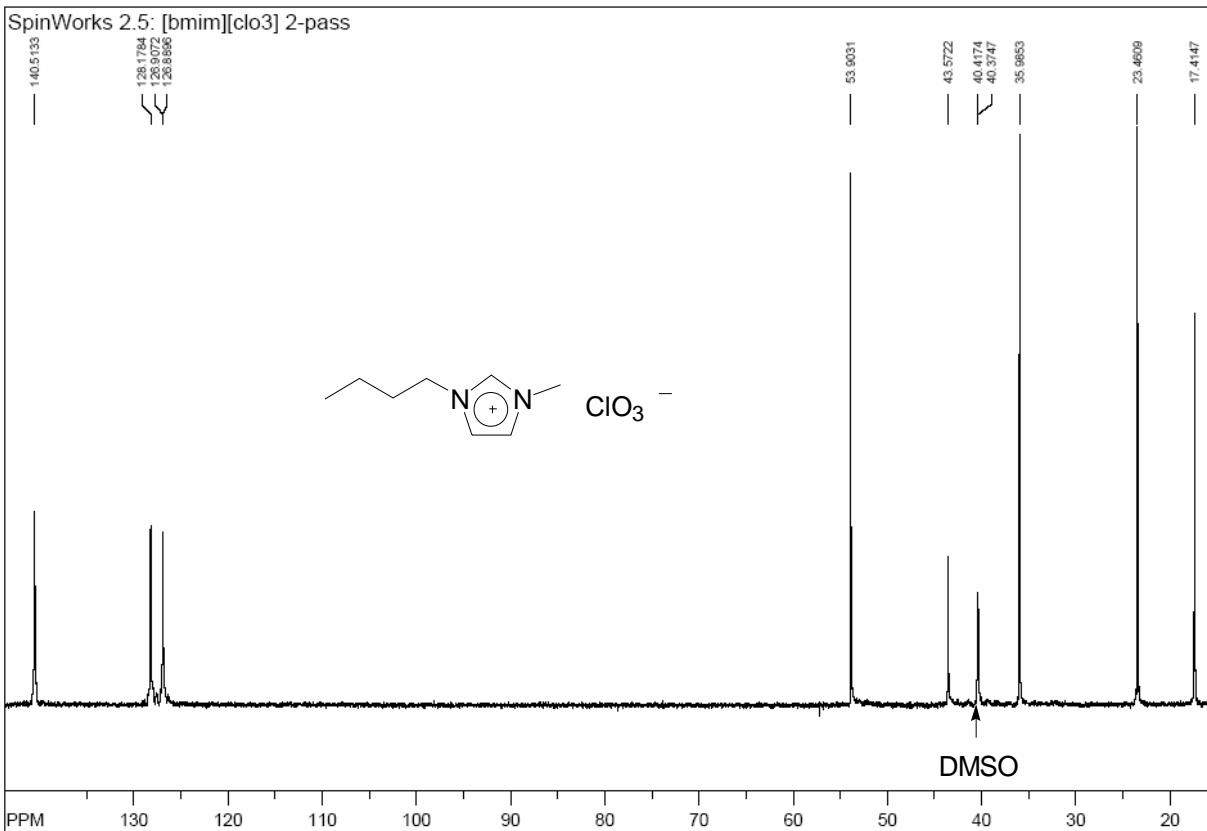
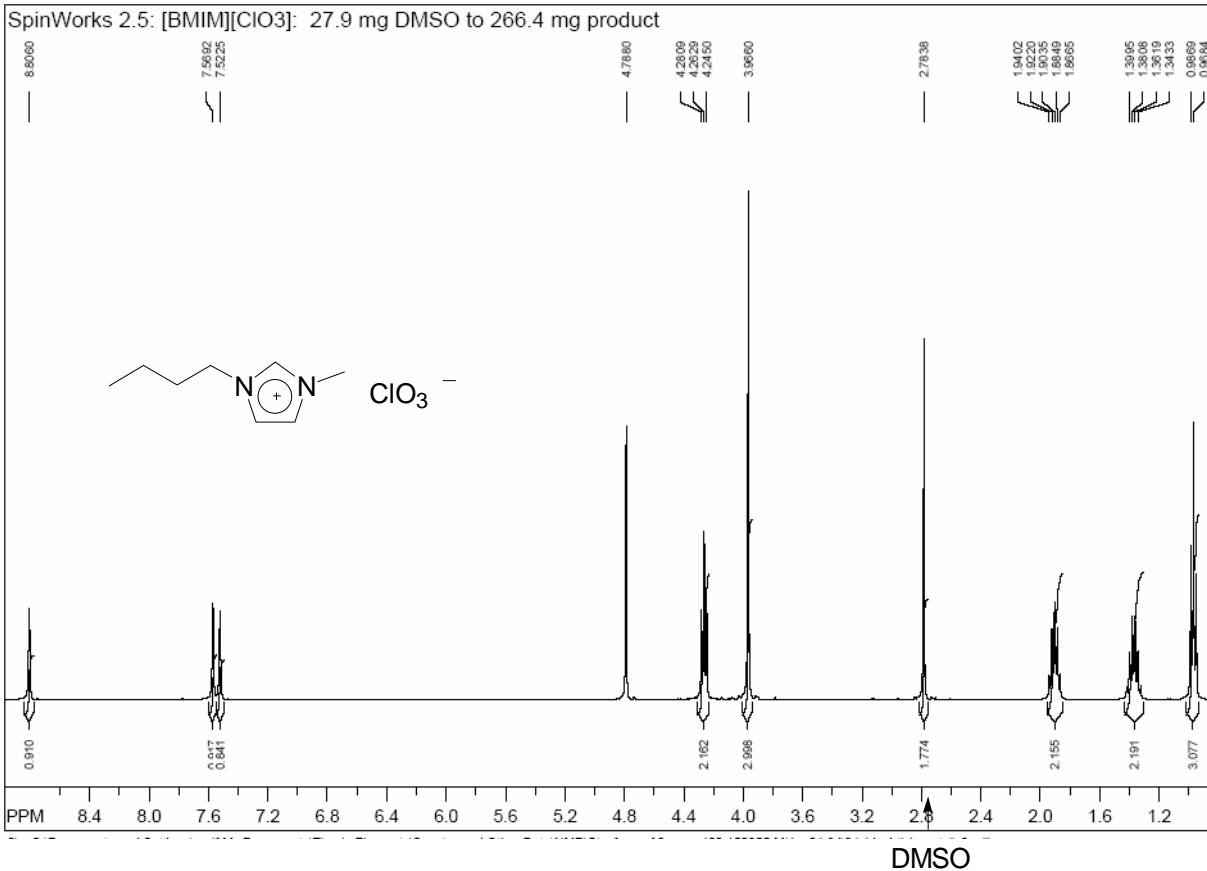
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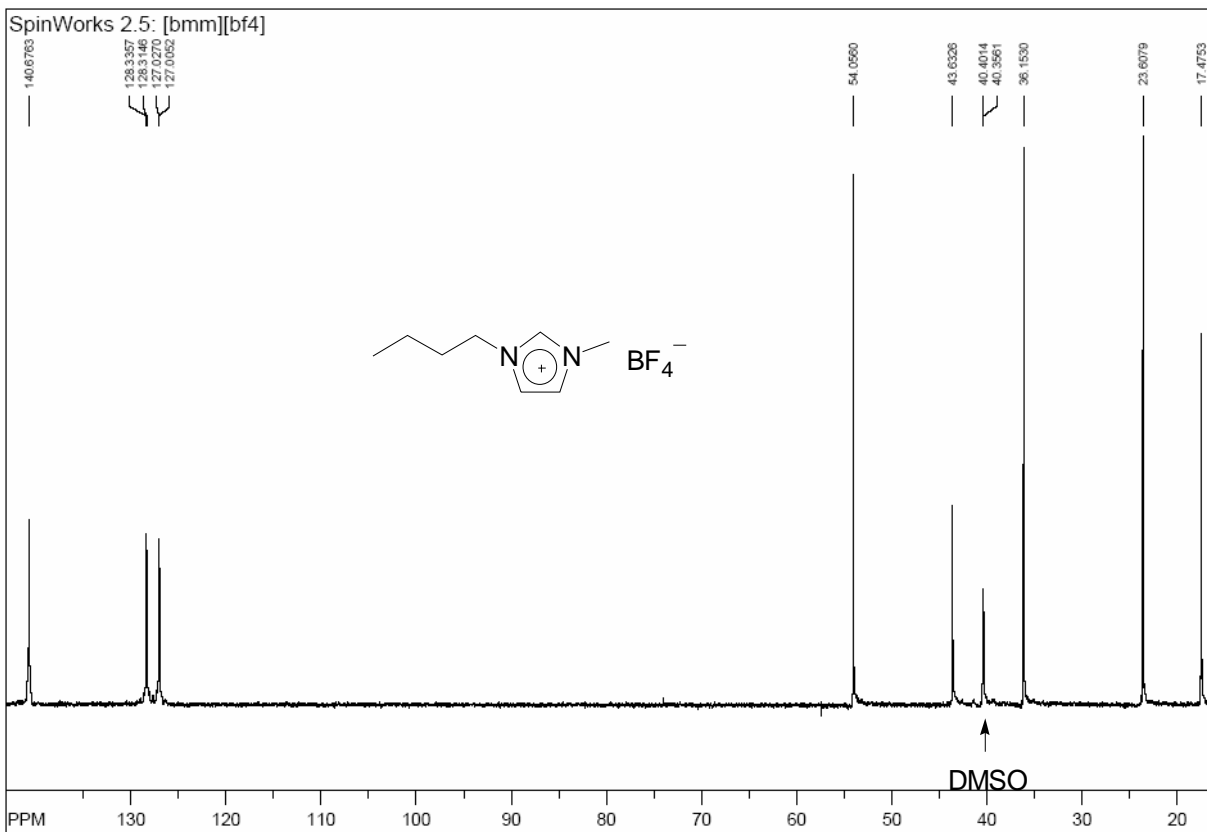
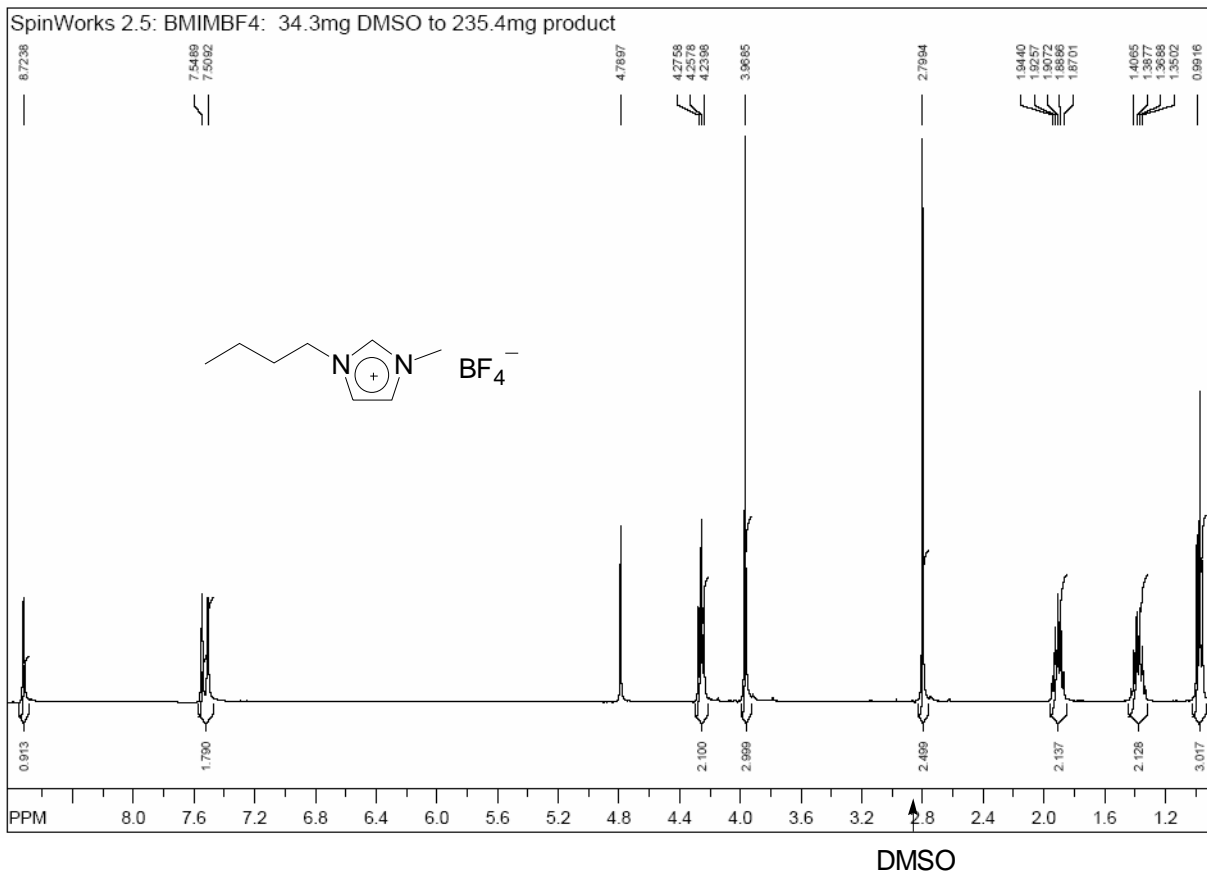


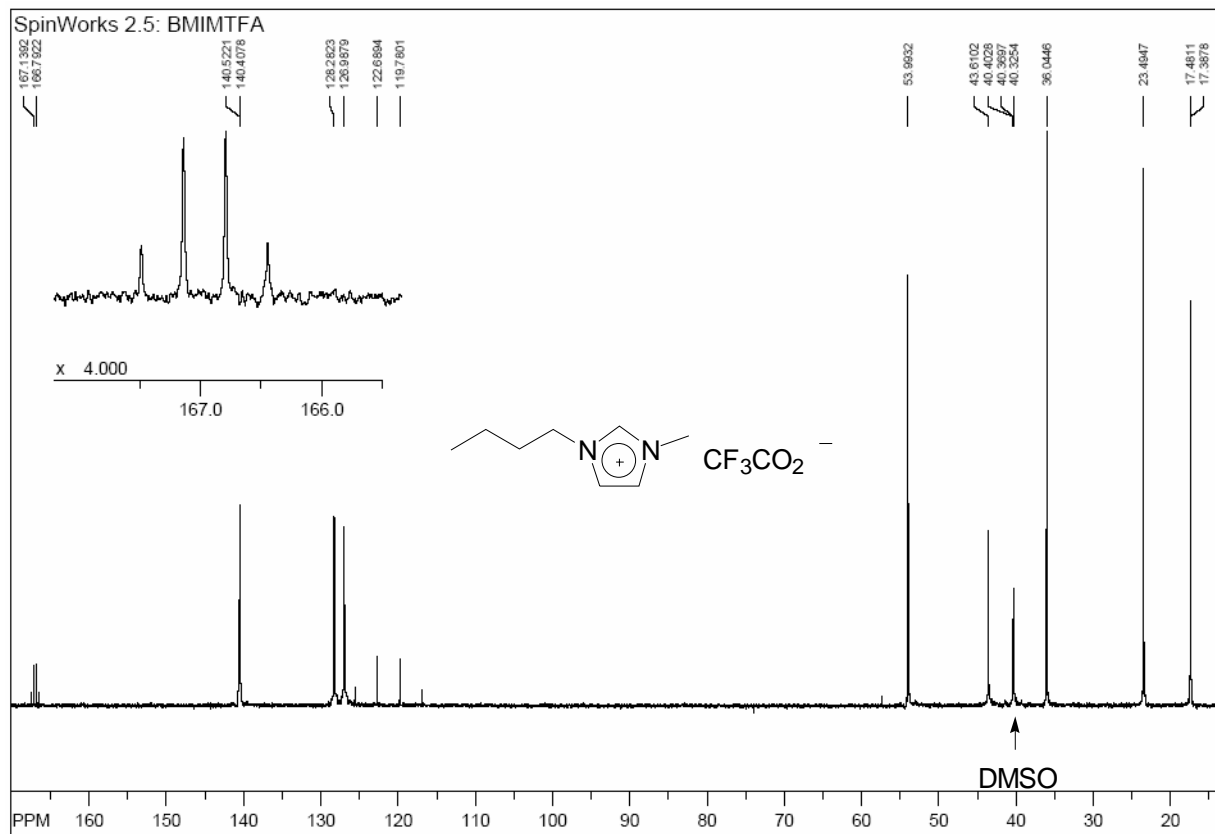
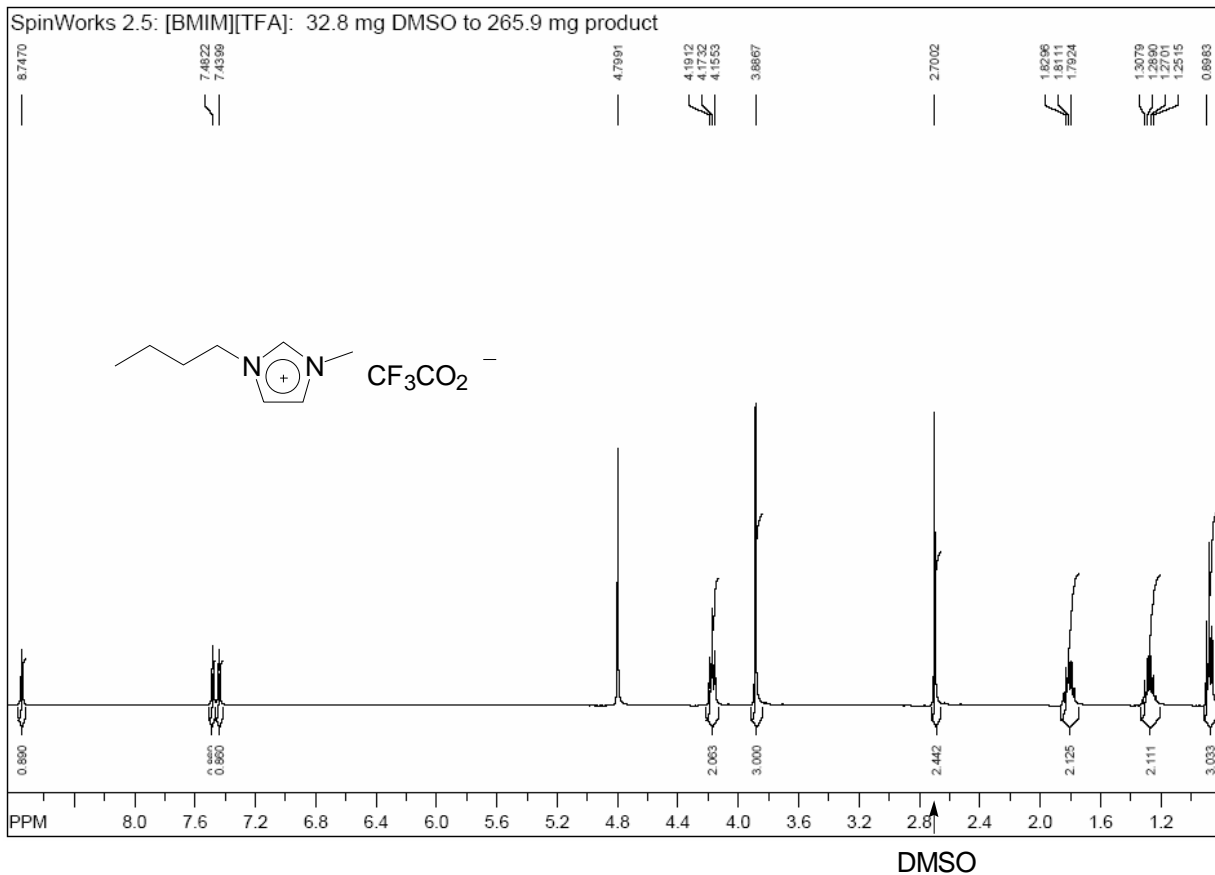


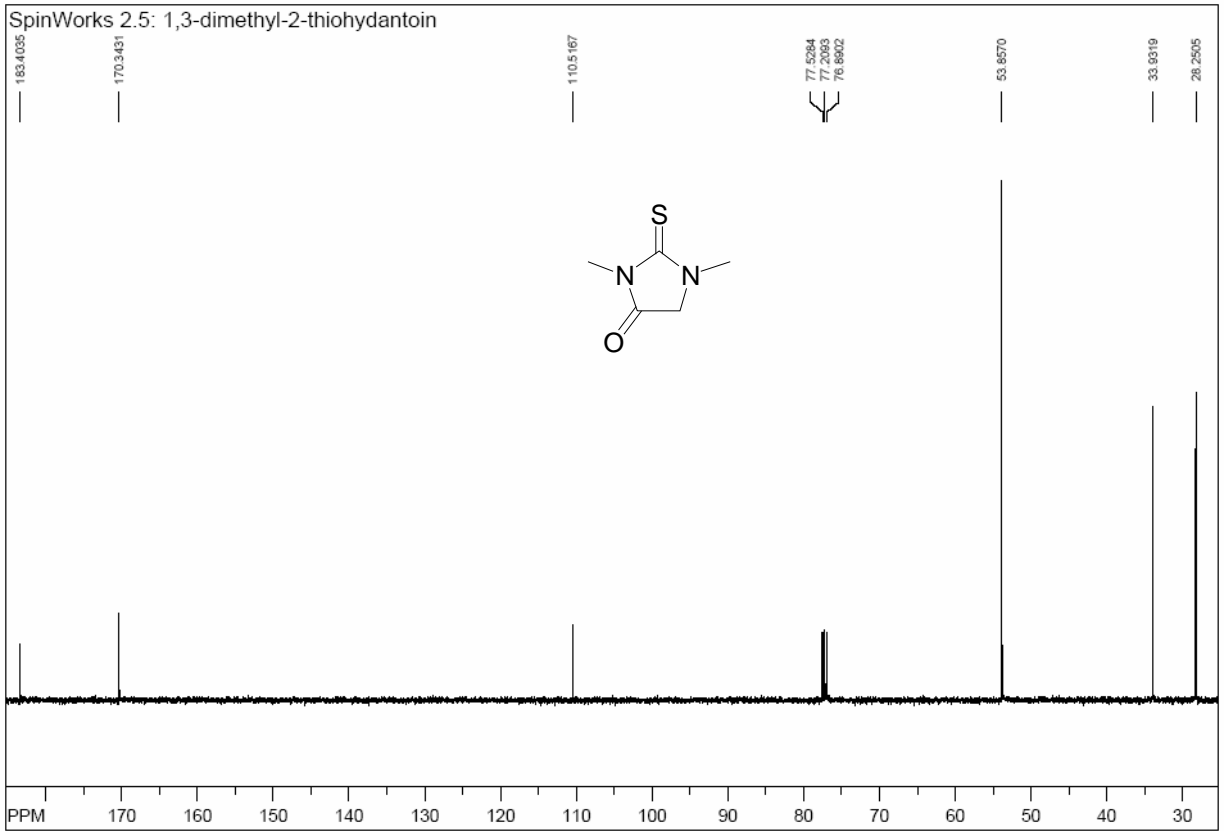
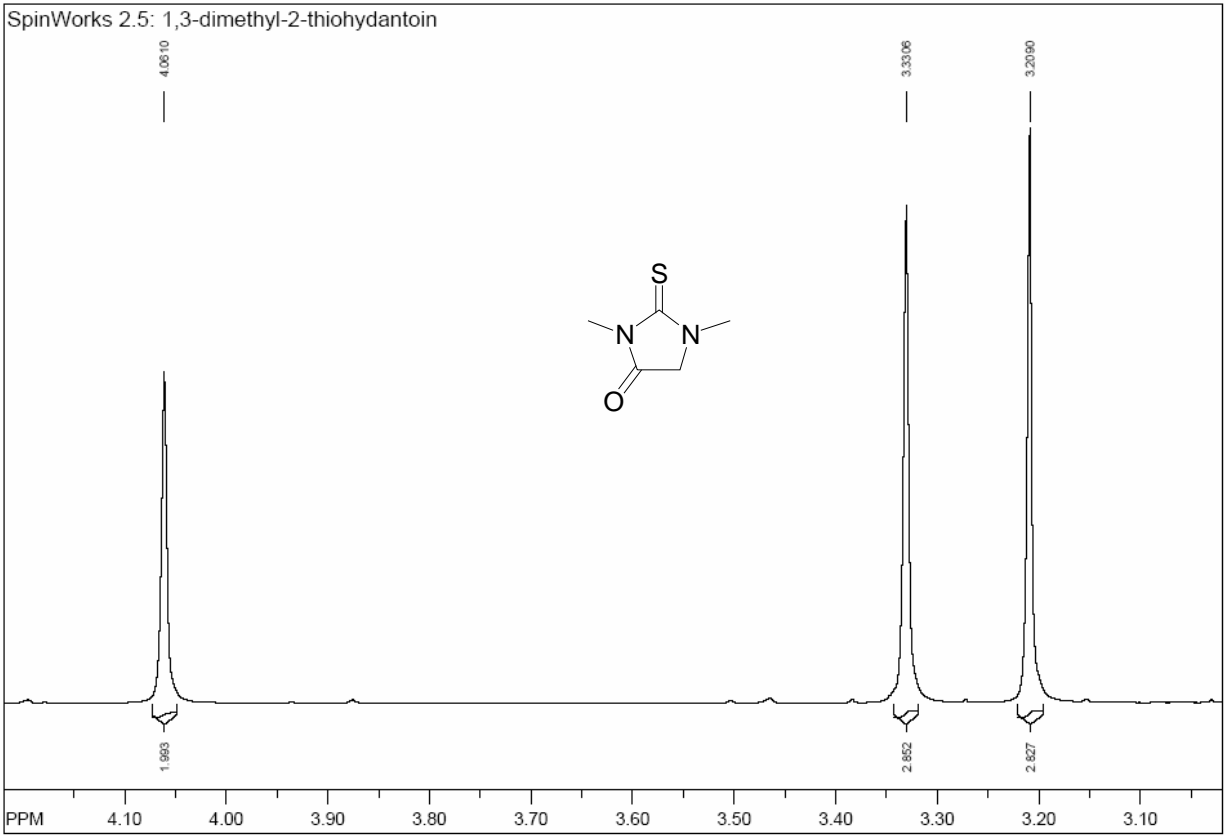




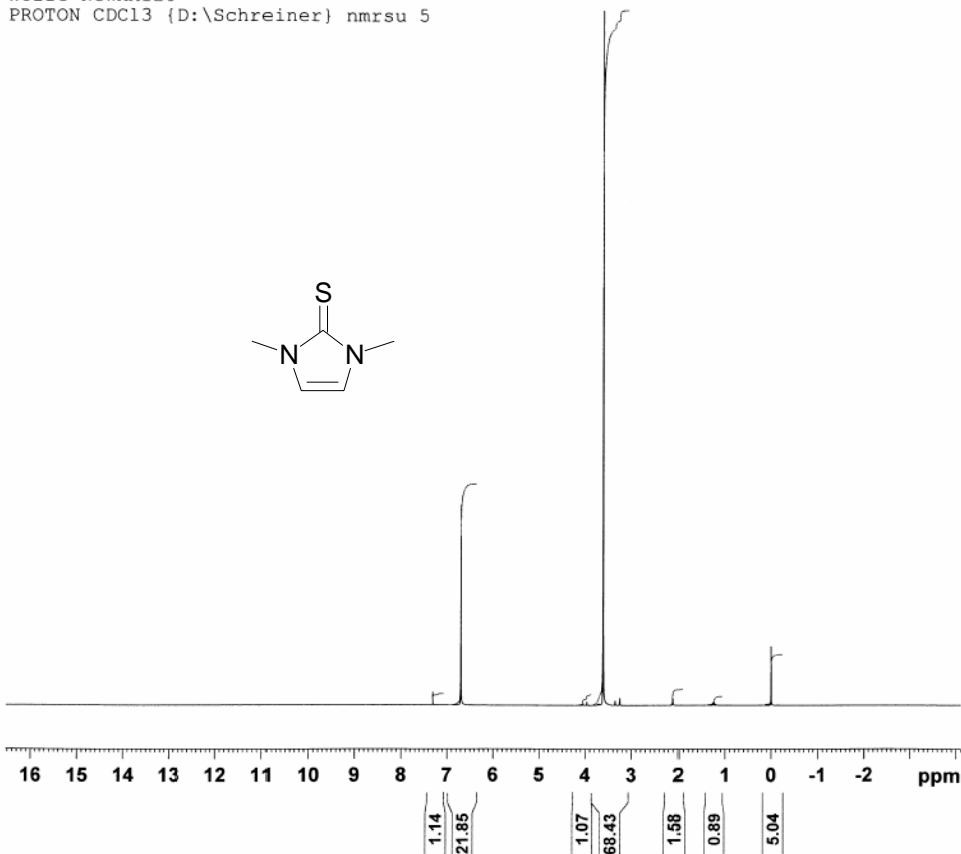
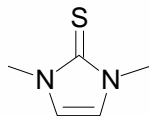








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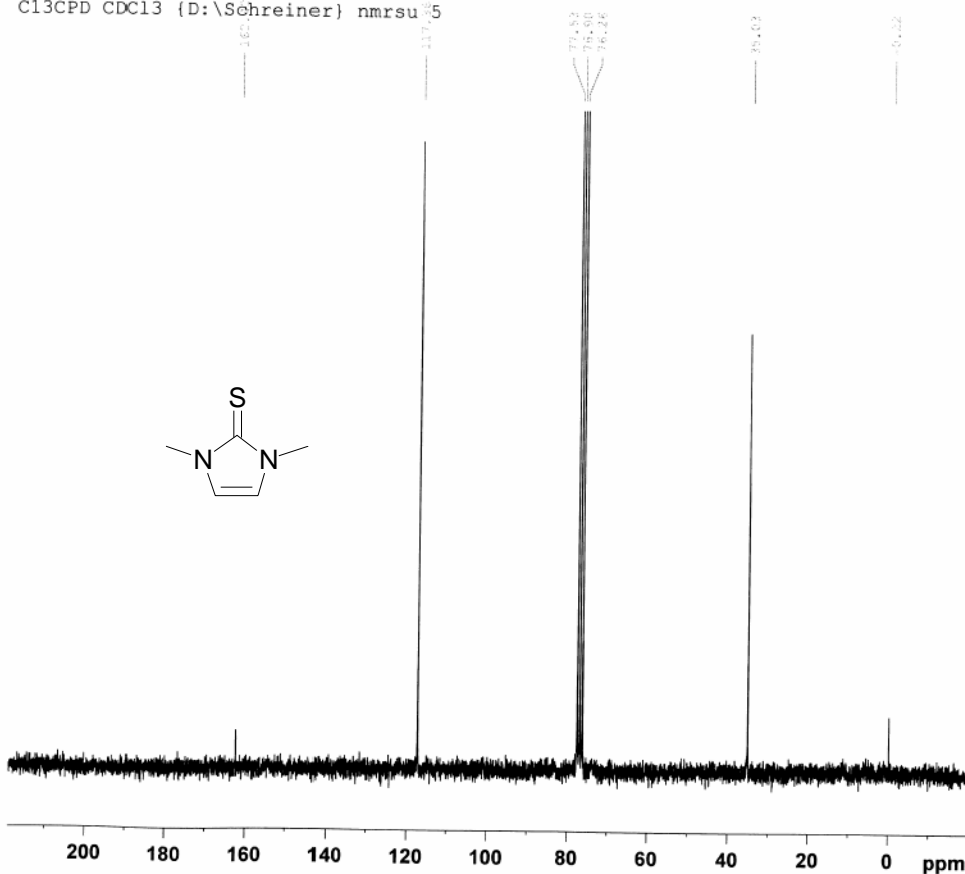
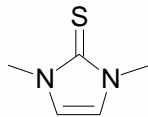
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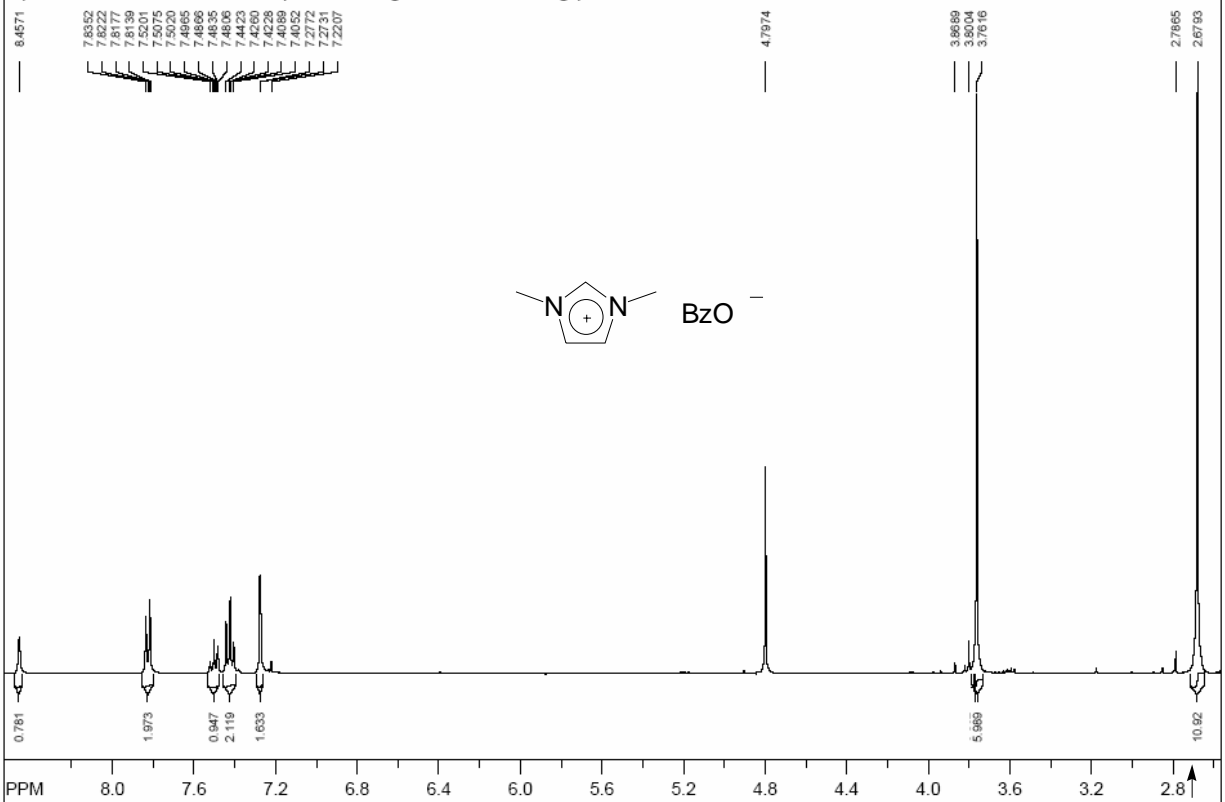
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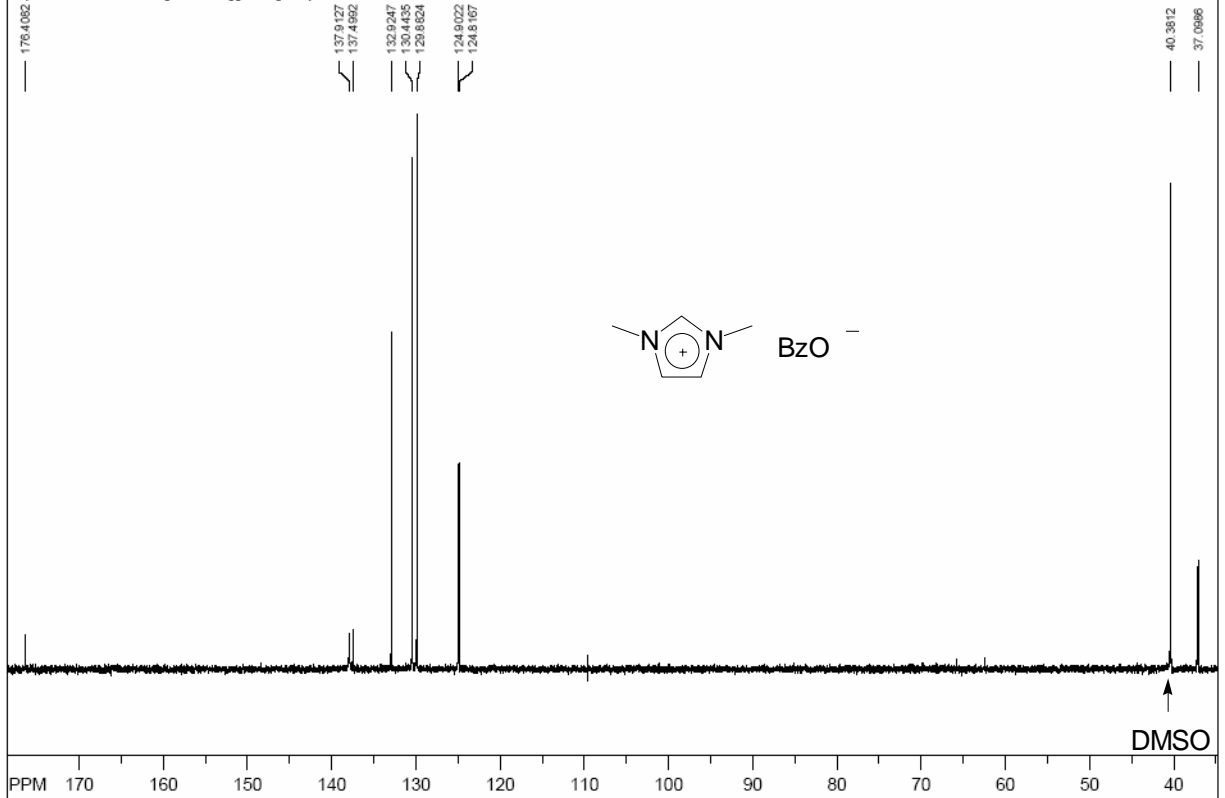
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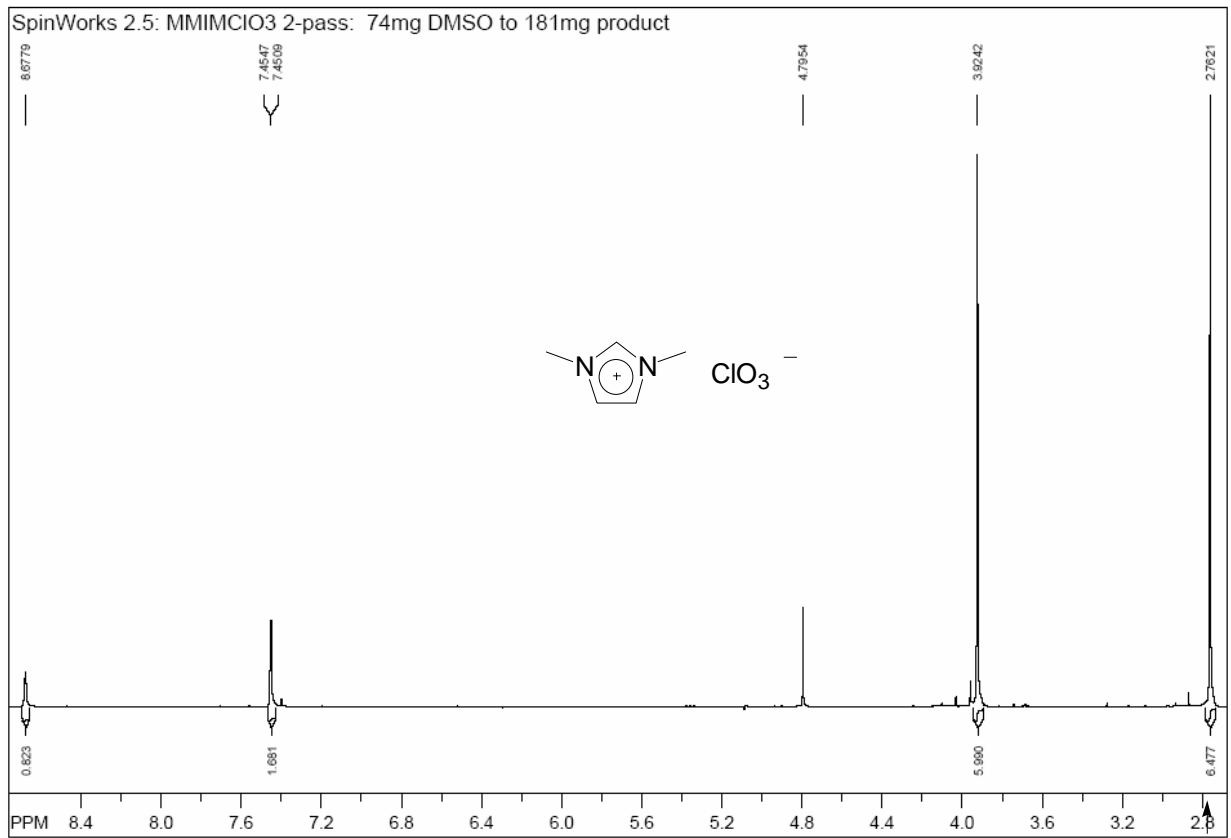


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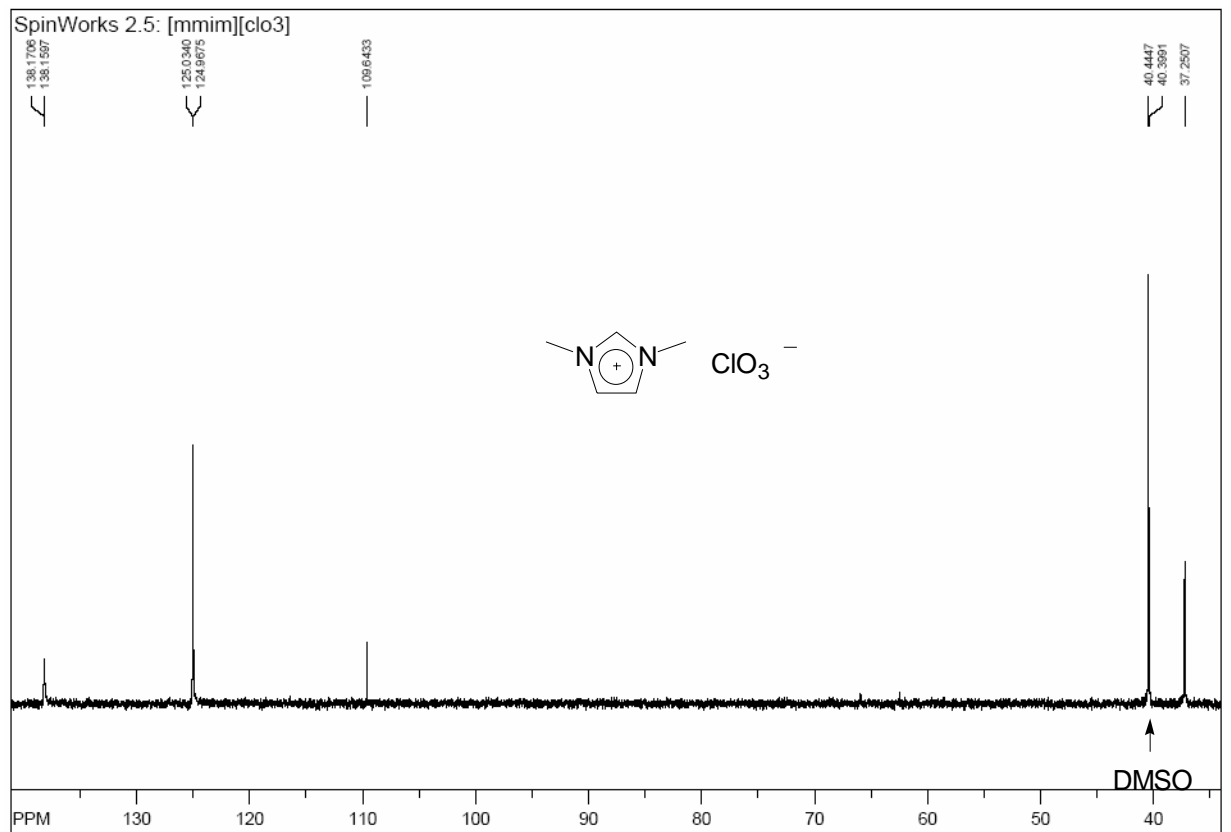
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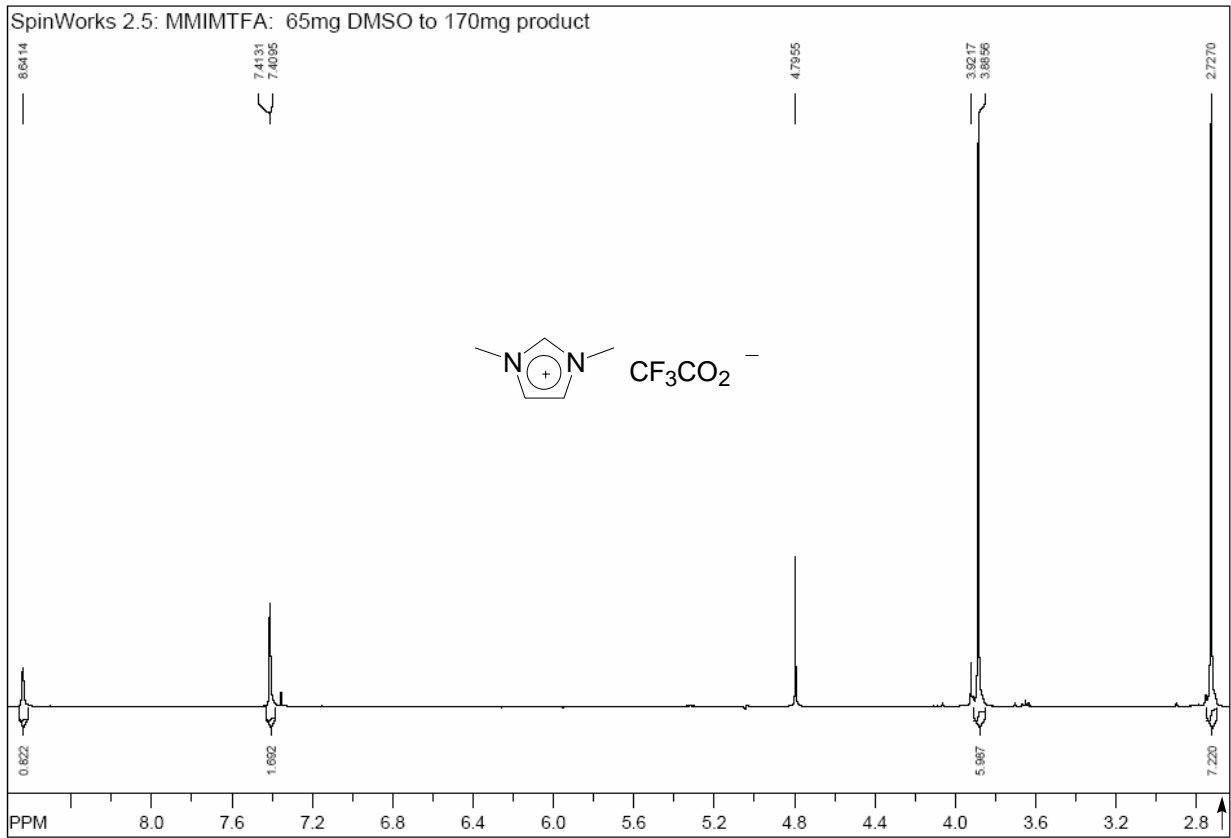
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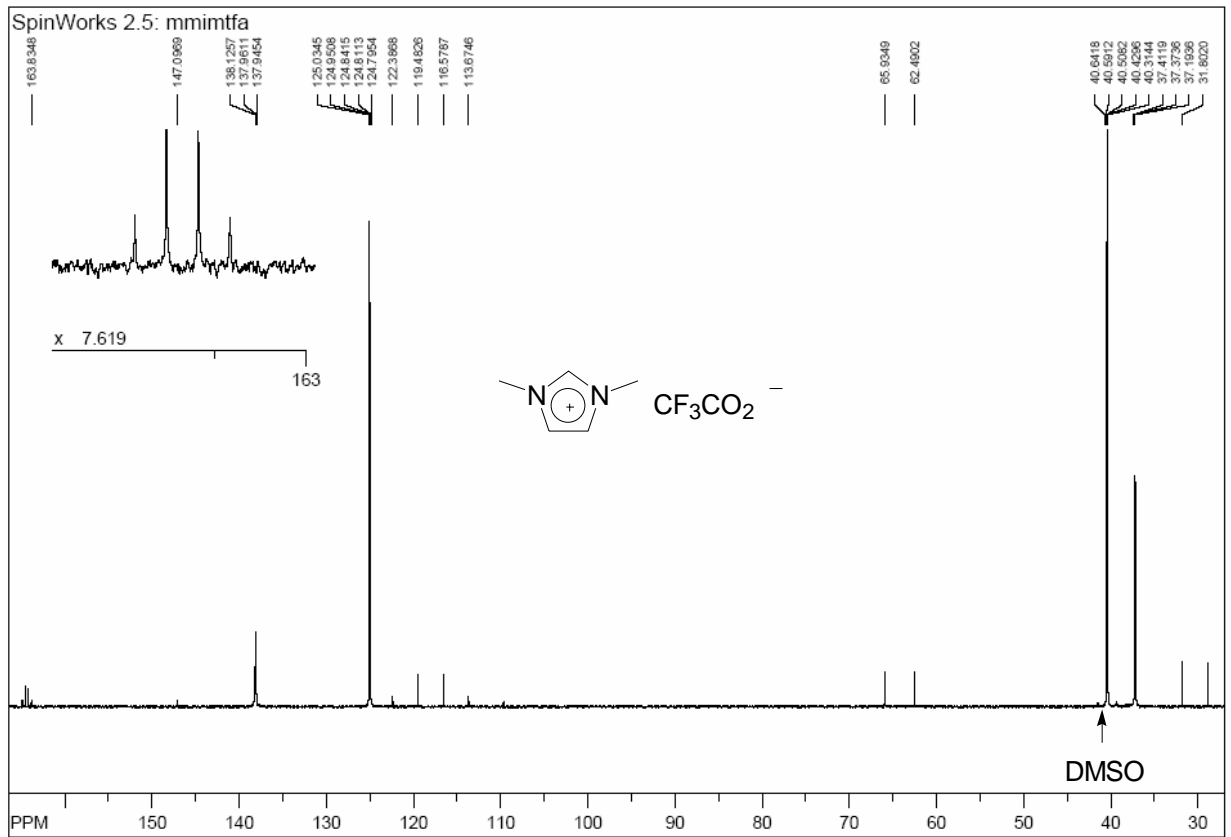
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DMSO

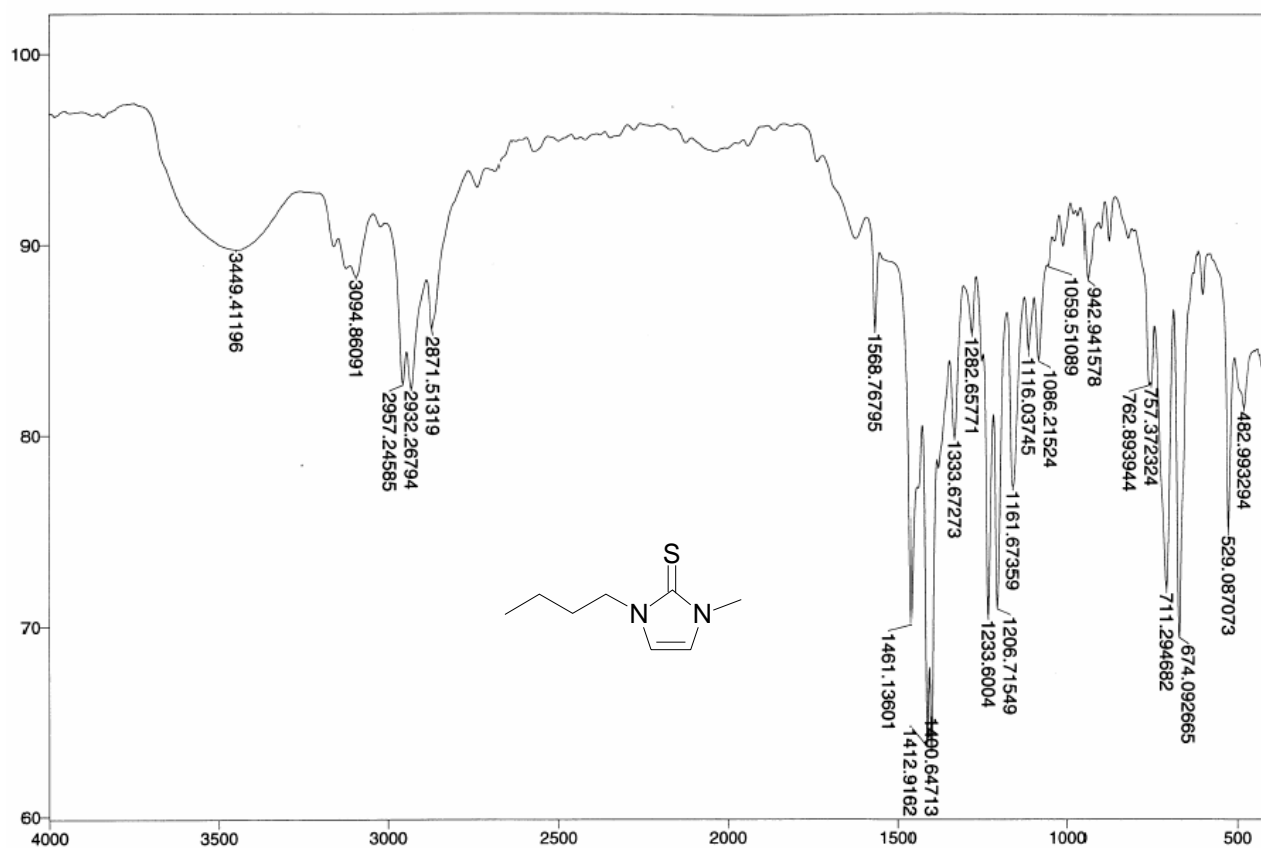
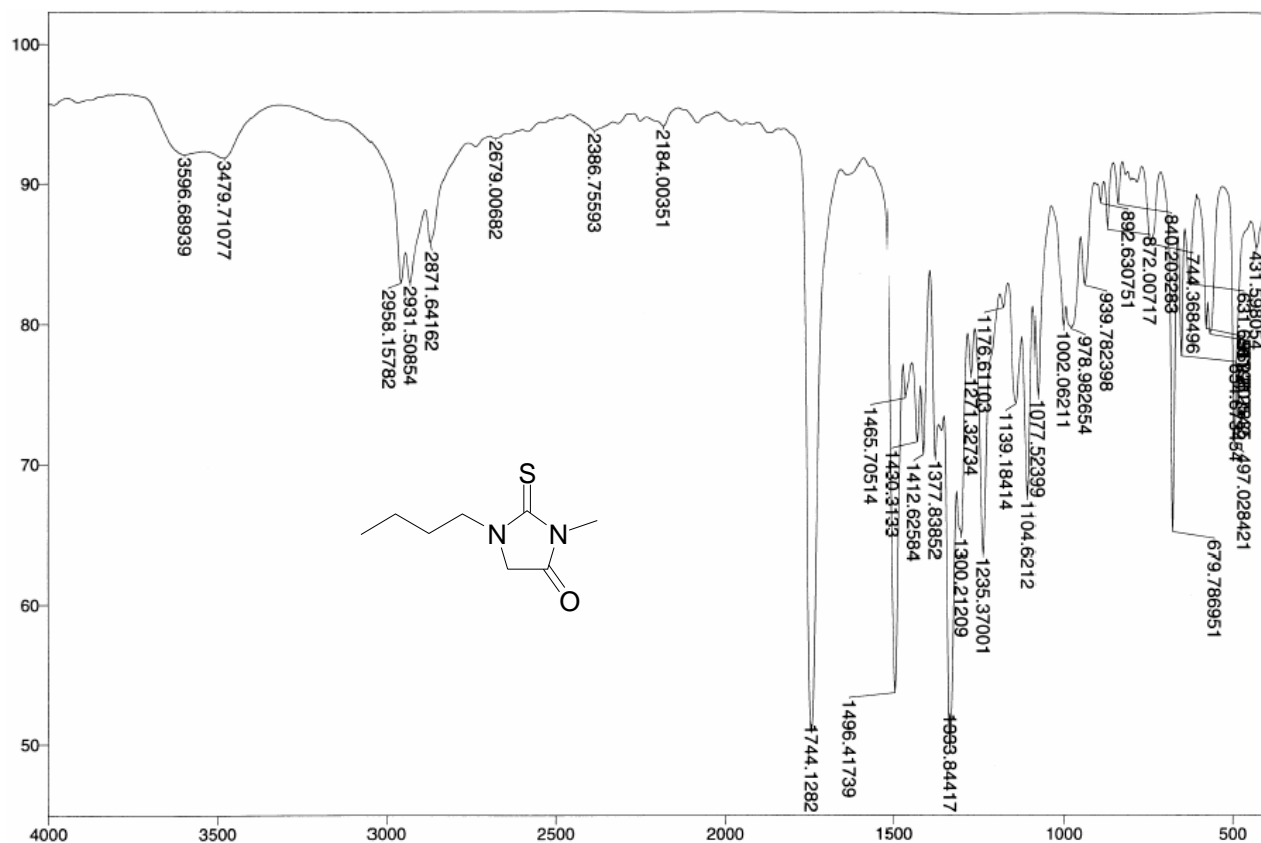


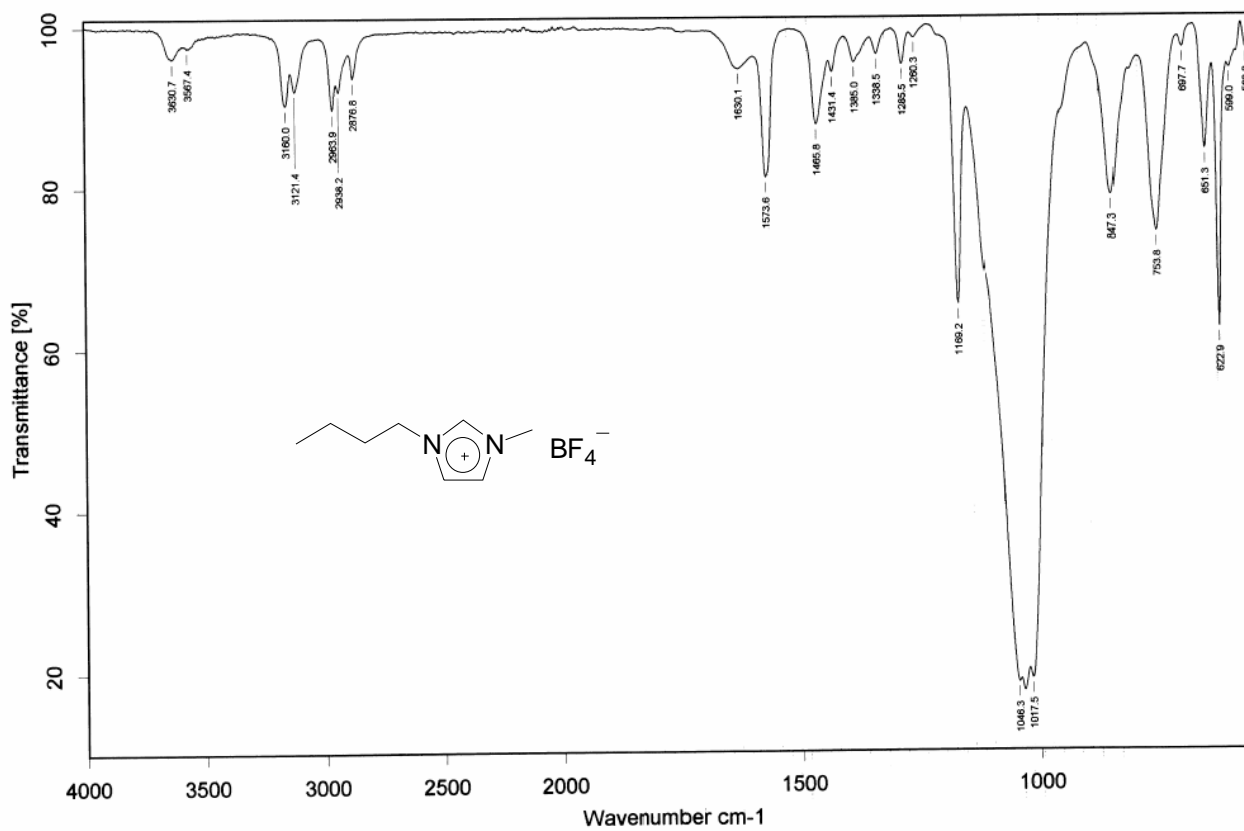
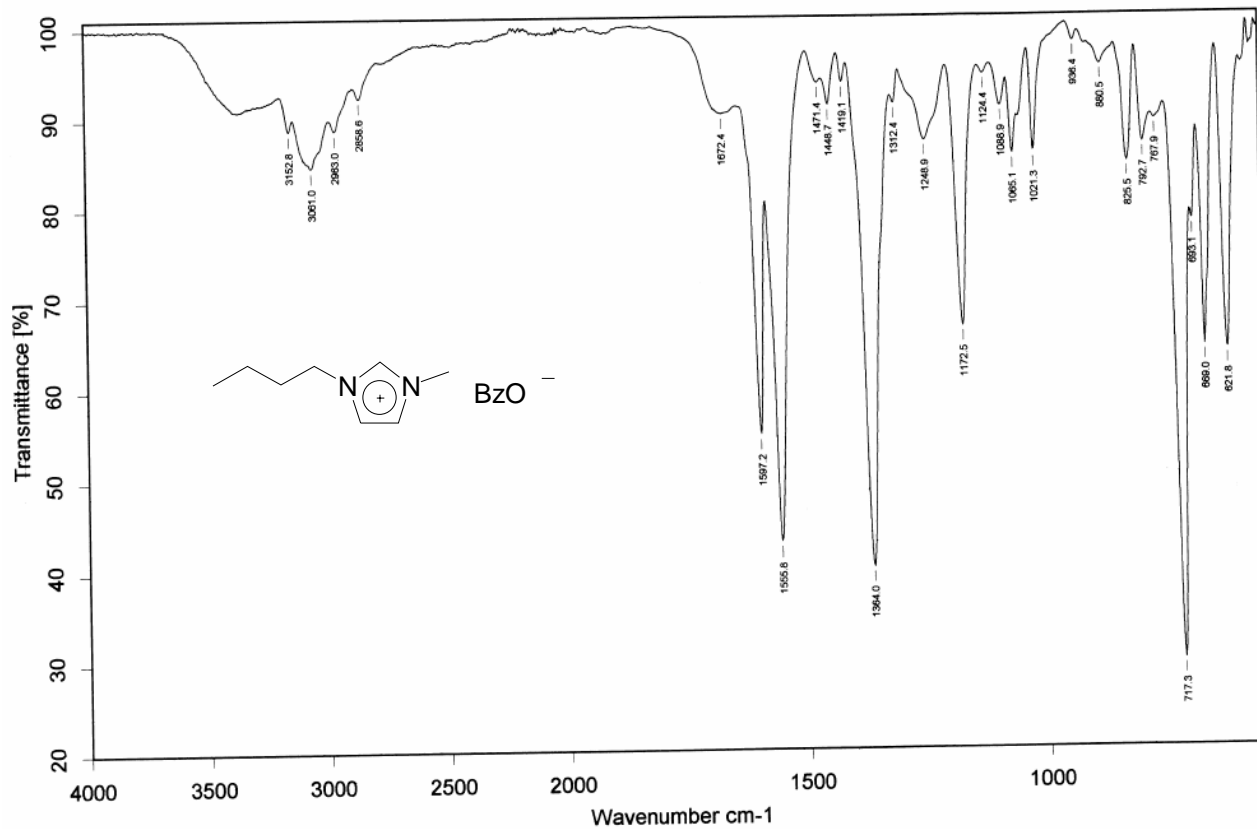
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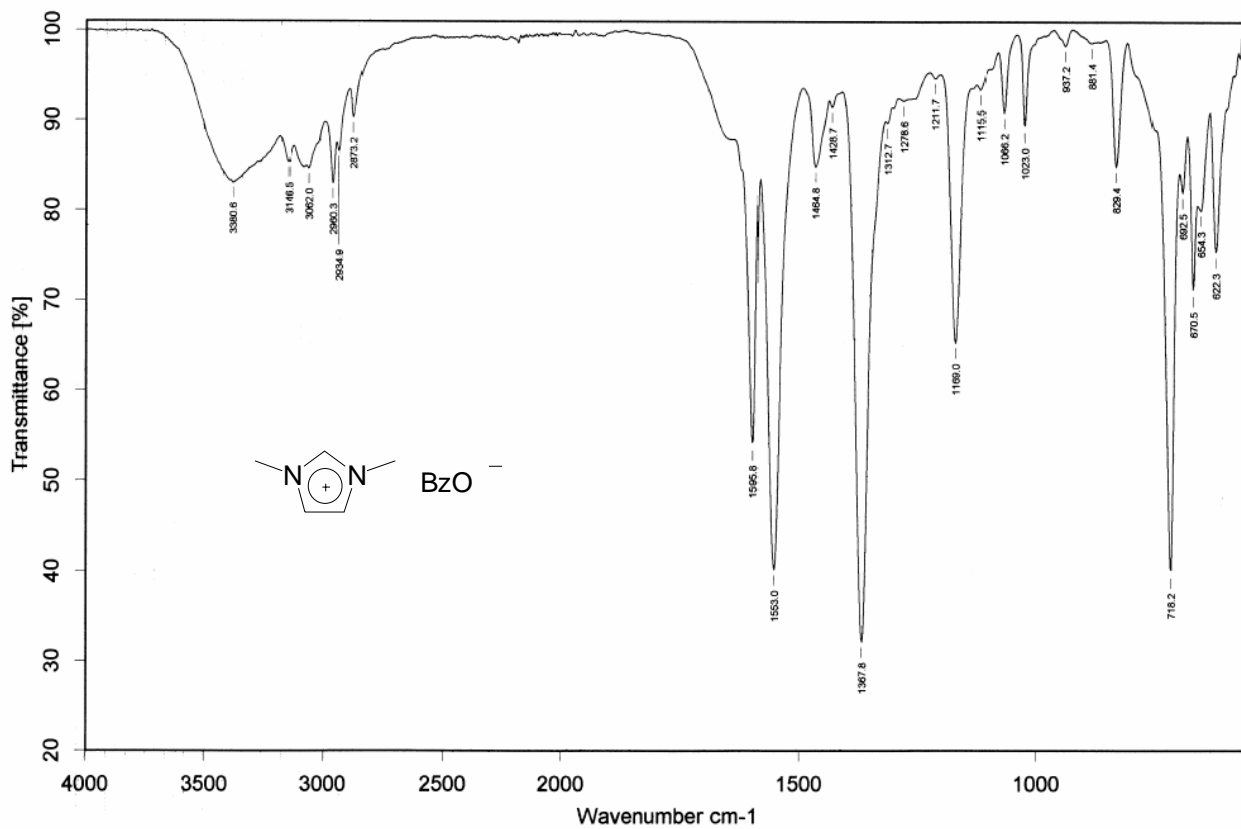
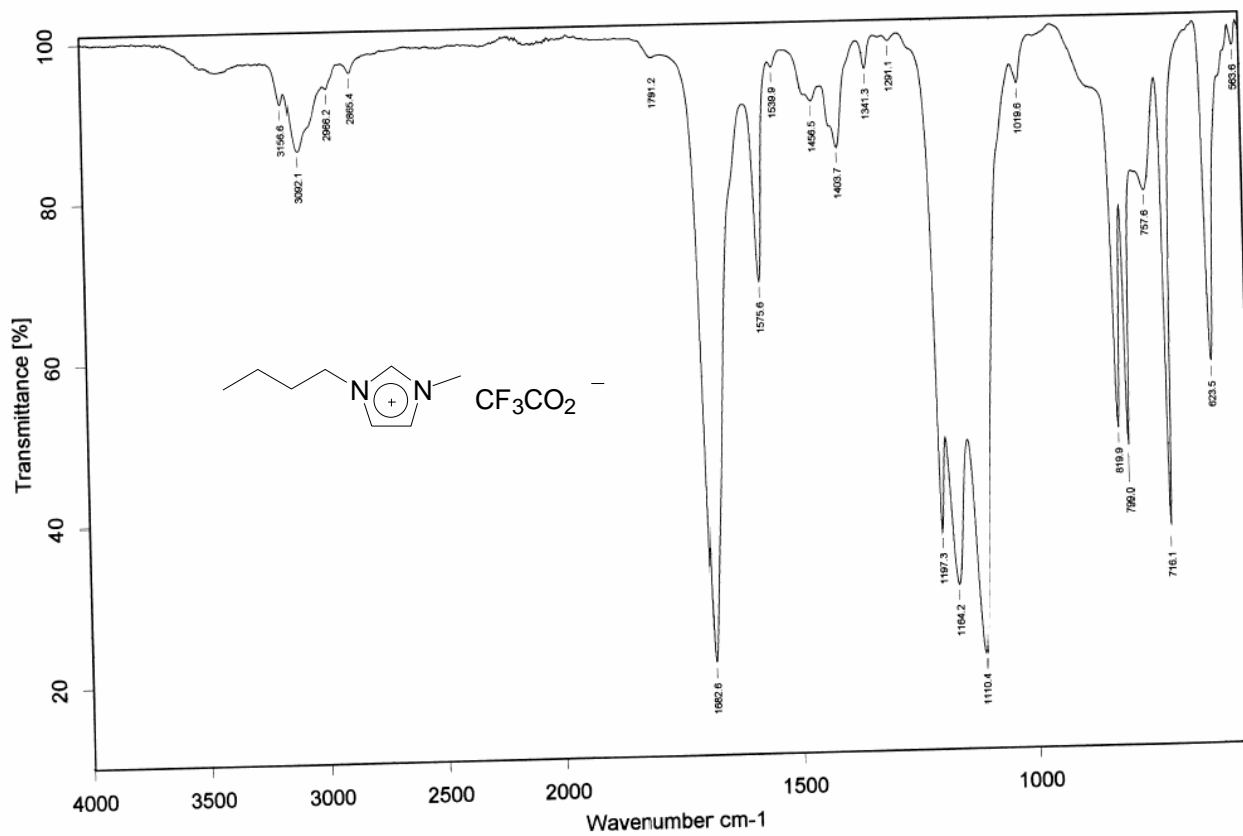


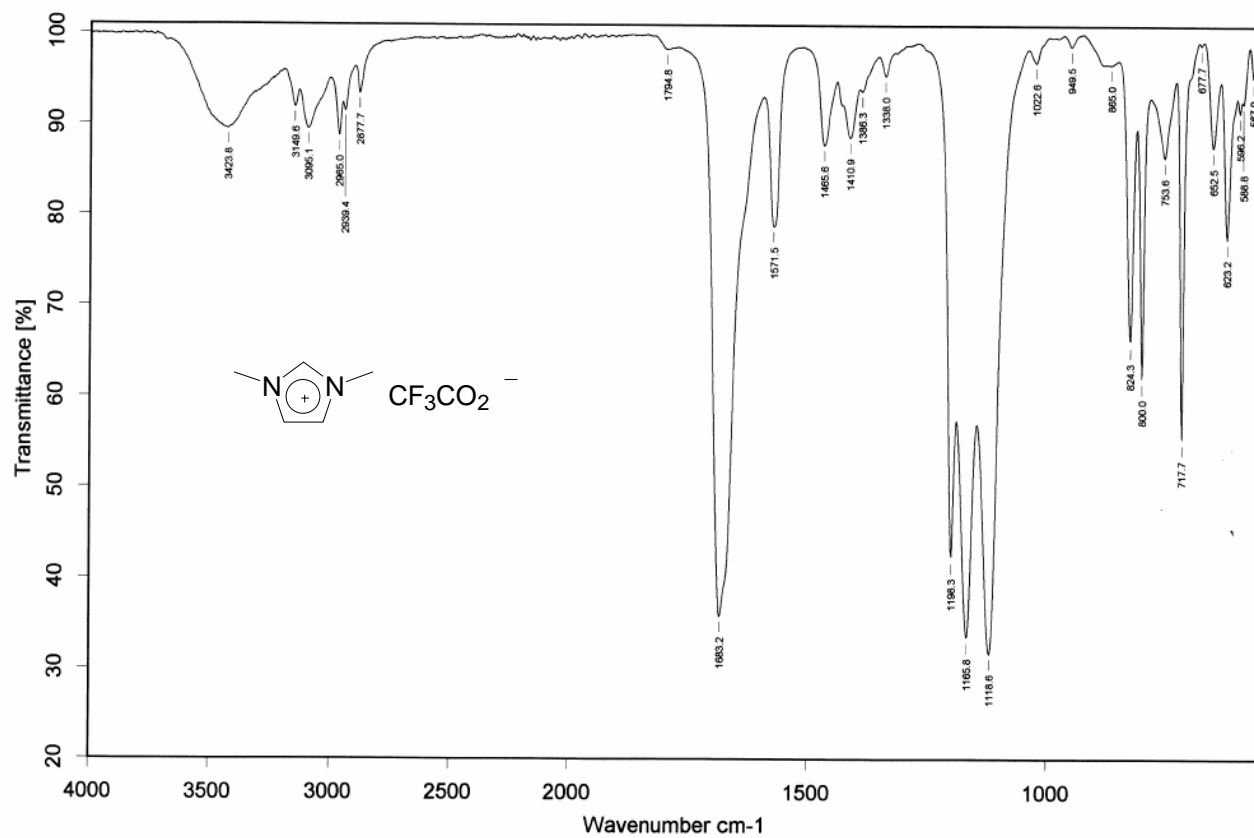
DMSO

IR SPECTRA









REFERENCES

(1) **CAUTION:** Although [C₁mim][ClO₃] was formed, concentrated at 60 °C, chromatographed, concentrated again at 60 °C, and seemingly unremarkable, there was an explosion in an unoccupied lab several weeks later which we have every reason to believe was caused by a 5 g sample of the once chromatographed chlorate. A 1 g sample from the same batch of offending chlorate and a 1 g sample of twice chromatographed material were unchanged, and a 1 g sample of [C₄mim][ClO₃] was stable for several months, but we must insist no one else attempt the synthesis of these (or any other) imidazolium chlorates by this (or any other) method.

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