

Metal Chloride Hydrates as Lewis Acid Catalysts in Multicomponent Synthesis of 2,4,5-Triarylimidazoles or 2,4,5-Triaryloxazoles

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Uma série de nove hidratos de cloretos metálicos ($ZnCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$, $SnCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$, $CdCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$, $MnCl_2 \cdot 4H_2O$, $CoCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$, $SrCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$, $NiCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$, $CrCl_3 \cdot 6H_2O$ e $CeCl_3 \cdot 7H_2O$) foi investigada como catalisadores ácidos de Lewis brandos e baratos na síntese multicomponente de triarilimidazóis. O melhor catalisador para as reações com benzila foi o $SnCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$, enquanto que para as reações com benzoína, o $CeCl_3 \cdot 7H_2O$ foi mais eficiente. Todas as reações foram efetuadas em EtOH como solvente. Estes catalisadores também foram empregados igualmente com sucesso na síntese de triariloxazóis.

A series of nine metal chloride hydrates ($ZnCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$, $SnCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$, $CdCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$, $MnCl_2 \cdot 4H_2O$, $CoCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$, $SrCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$, $NiCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$, $CrCl_3 \cdot 6H_2O$ and $CeCl_3 \cdot 7H_2O$) was investigated as mild and inexpensive Lewis acid catalysts to promote the multicomponent synthesis of triarylimidazoles. Reactions starting from benzil showed the best results when $SnCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ was used, while for benzoin as the starting material, $CeCl_3 \cdot 7H_2O$ was more efficient. All reactions were performed in EtOH as solvent. These catalysts were also successfully employed in the synthesis of triaryloxazoles.

Keywords: triarylimidazoles, triaryloxazoles, multicomponent reaction, metal halide hydrates, Lewis acids, Radziszewski reaction, benzil, benzoin

Introduction

Imidazole is a five-membered ring heteroaromatic compound with two nitrogen atoms at 1 and 3 positions.¹ This type of compound is known to exhibit a broad range of pharmaceutical and industrial applications. For instance, the imidazole core unity is present in many compounds with pronounced biologic activities such as angiotensin inhibitors,² anti-inflammatory,³ glucagon antagonist,⁴ antiviral,⁵ antimicrobial,⁶ fungicidal⁷ and high cytotoxicity, which has indicated them as new candidates in cancer therapy.⁸

A particular class of triarylimidazoles, the pyridinyl arylimidazoles 1, 2 and 3 have been recognized as a potent p38 mitogen-activated protein (MAP) kinase inhibitors and emerged as possible therapeutic drugs in

the treatment of various diseases such as cancer and as anti-inflammatory agent, combating the associated pain with osteoarthritis (Figure 1).⁹ Beyond the pharmacological applications, arylimidazoles have been used in the industry as chemiluminescent¹⁰ and chromotropic materials¹¹ due to their optic and electronic properties.¹²

The synthesis of triarylimidazoles from the three-component reaction of 1,2-dicarbonyl compounds, aldehyde and ammonia was independently discovered by Japp and Robinson¹³ in 1882 and Radziszewski.¹⁴ However, long periods of time and harsh conditions were frequently associated with low yields of production. Davidson *et al.*¹⁵ showed to be possible to reduce the reaction times using acetic acid as solvent and ammonium acetate instead of ammonia. This last protocol became usual and default procedure for the synthesis of triarylimidazoles.

Recently, Kamiyo and Yamamoto¹⁶ have reviewed the progress on the synthesis of imidazoles through catalyzed

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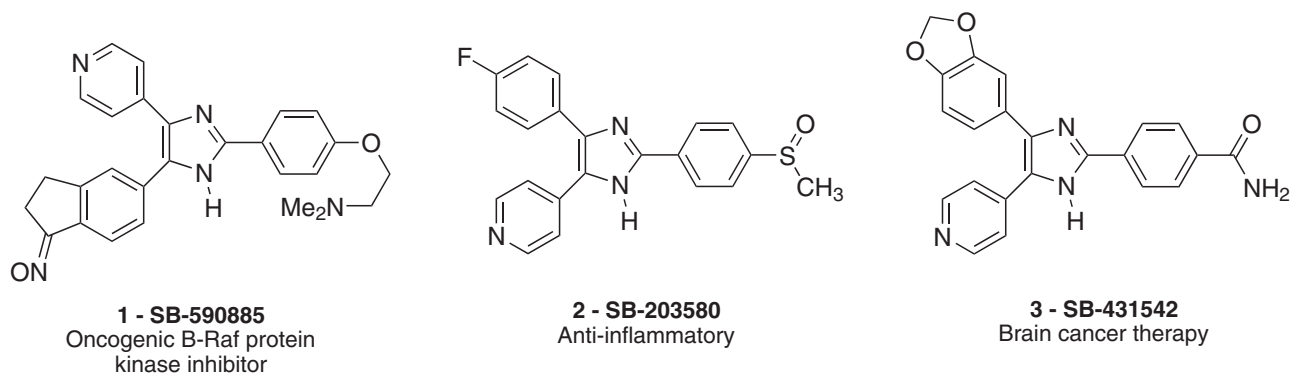


Figure 1. Structures of some biologically active pyridinyl arylimidazoles.

process. Besides other methods using Brønsted catalysis of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (*p*-TSA),¹⁷ heteropolyacids,¹⁸ oxalic acid¹⁹ and phosphomolybdic acid²⁰ were developed. Heterogeneous catalysts based on silica-supported Brønsted or Lewis acids, such as HClO₄/SiO₂,²¹ H₂SO₄/SiO₂,²² BF₃/SiO₂,²³ NaHSO₄/SiO₂²⁴ or zeolites HY-type,²⁵ were successfully employed. Microwave,²⁶ ultrasound irradiation²⁷ and ionic liquids²⁸ were also reported as efficient promoters to the synthesis of arylimidazoles. Other solid catalysts, such as NaHSO₃²⁹ or I₂³⁰ and proline³¹ or tetrabutylammonium bromide (TBAB)³² as organocatalysts, were also effective. Although many catalysts have been employed in the Radziszewski reaction, the use of Lewis acid catalysts such as metal triflates as Yb(OTf)₃,³³ metal halides as ZrCl₄,³⁴ Zn(acac)₄²⁷ or cerium ammonium nitrate³⁵ are rare. Additionally, few examples of metal halide hydrates like InCl₃·3H₂O³⁶ and NiCl₂·6H₂O/Al₂O₃³⁷ were reported for the synthesis of these compounds.

The previous experience of our research group on the use of highly moisture sensitive metal halides as Lewis acid catalysts in organic reactions³⁸ prompt us to investigate the similar ability of the metal halide hydrates, which are cheaper, easily handled and compatible moisture. Fortunately, our group discovered that SnCl₂·2H₂O was successfully employed in the Biginelli reaction,³⁹ Friedlander condensation⁴⁰ and in conjugate Friedel-Crafts reaction.⁴¹ In the present work, we explore the ability of a series of metal chloride hydrates (SnCl₂·2H₂O, ZnCl₂·2H₂O, CdCl₂·2H₂O, MnCl₂·4H₂O, CoCl₂·6H₂O, SrCl₂·6H₂O, NiCl₂·6H₂O, CrCl₃·6H₂O and CeCl₃·7H₂O) as mild and inexpensive Lewis acid catalysts in the multicomponent Radziszewski reaction. Besides the search for catalyst efficiency, variables such as protic/aprotic solvents and molar ratio of reagents and catalyst were investigated towards the optimization of a general and useful protocol.

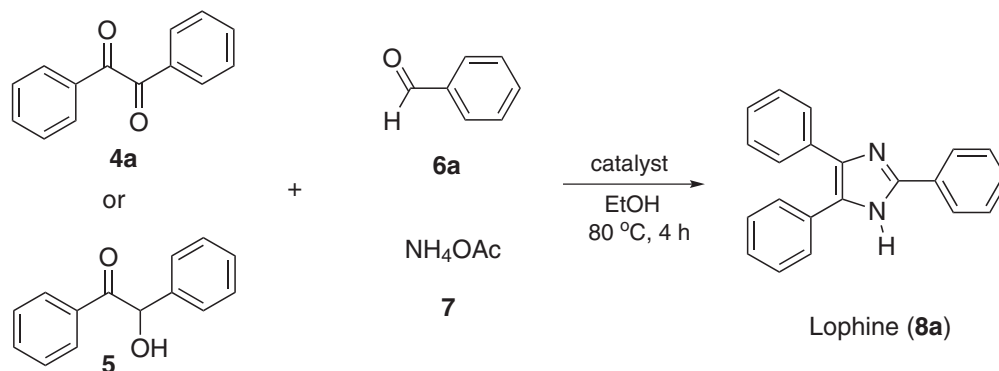
Results and Discussion

Catalysts

To investigate the abilities of metal chloride hydrates as Lewis acid catalysts, lophine (2,4,5-triphenyl-1*H*-imidazole) (**8a**) was chosen as the model compound. In a first example, the reaction of benzil (**4a**, 1.0 mmol), benzaldehyde (**6a**, 1.0 mmol), NH₄OAc (**7**, 4.0 mmol) and SnCl₂·2H₂O (0.10 mmol) was carried out in gently refluxing EtOH. The course of the reaction was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) and after a period of 4 h, the starting materials were consumed. After this time, the reaction was stopped and the crude product was isolated (Table 1, entry 2). Therefore, this time was chosen as default for comparison with other catalysts (Scheme 1).

Table 1. Different metal chloride hydrate catalysts for the synthesis of lophine (**8a**)

entry	Catalyst	Amount / mmol	time / h	8a - Yield / %	
				from 4a	from 5
1	–	–	4	57	17
2	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	0.1	4	91	67
3	MnCl ₂ ·4H ₂ O	0.1	4	83	70
4	ZnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	0.1	4	73	72
5	CdCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	0.1	4	76	61
6	CoCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O	0.1	4	79	63
7	SrCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O	0.1	4	78	63
8	NiCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O	0.1	4	76	63
9	CrCl ₃ ·6H ₂ O	0.1	4	73	65
10	CeCl ₃ ·7H ₂ O	0.1	4	77	88
11	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	0.05	4	82	–
12	CeCl ₃ ·7H ₂ O	0.05	4	–	68
13	CeCl ₃ ·7H ₂ O	0.1	2	–	55
14	CeCl ₃ ·7H ₂ O	0.1	6	–	92

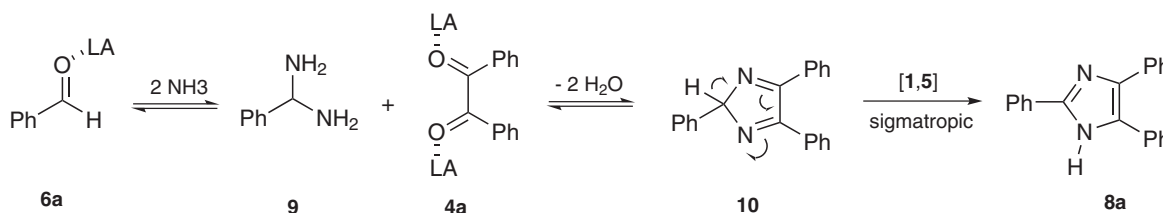


Scheme 1. The three-component Radziszewski reaction.

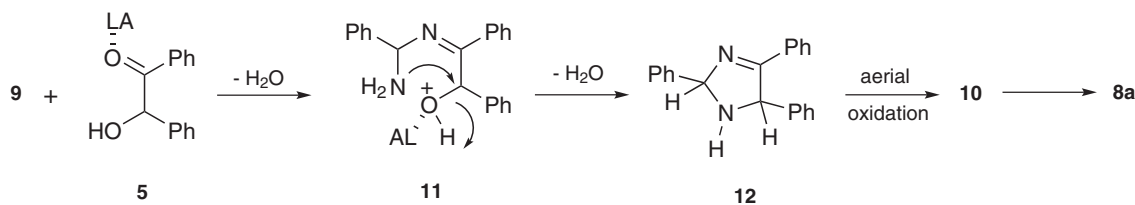
The same conditions were applied for the reactions with benzoin (**5**, 1.0 mmol) instead of benzil, and the results are shown in the Table 1. In all cases, the metal chloride hydrates showed catalytic activity affording lophine in variable yield. It should be noted that in the absence of the catalyst, the yield was drastically reduced, evidencing the metal halide activity (see Table 1, entry 1). The best results (higher than 80% yield) starting from benzil (**4**) were found in the presence of $\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (entries 2 and 3, respectively). On the other hand, the optimum result with benzoin (**5**) was achieved in the presence of $\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (entry 10). The decrease in the catalyst amount from 0.10 to 0.05 mmol afforded worse results for both starting ketones (entries 11 and 12). Finally, the reactions that were carried out for 2 h caused a decrease in the yield of the product, while an increase of 6 h in the time of the reaction led only to a small improvement (*cf.* entries 10 and 14, respectively). Therefore, it was decided to explore the use of $\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.10 mmol) as the main catalysts and the time of 4 h as default.

Different mechanistic pathways have been proposed for this multicomponent reaction having the benzil or benzoin as starting materials.^{15,28,33} The proposed rationale by Kokare *et al.*¹⁹ seems to be in accordance with the results in Table 1 (Scheme 2). The authors suggested the initial formation of *N,N*-ketal (**9**) under Brønsted acidic catalysis from benzaldehyde (**6a**) and 2 equivalents of NH_4OAc (**7**). It was assumed that the same activation occurs in the Lewis catalysis. Therefore, the condensation of **9** with benzil (**4a**) after losing 2 equivalents of water, leads to the conjugate intermediate **10** which rearranges via a [1,5]-sigmatropic proton shift to afford the corresponding lophine (**8a**).

On the other hand, starting from benzoin, the cyclization of intermediate imino-alcohol (**11**) should occur by an intramolecular attack of nitrogen in a more hindered and saturated carbon to afford the dihydroimidazole intermediate (**12**) (Scheme 3). Additionally, the needed oxidation step to produce the conjugated intermediate (**10**) could be corroborating to explain the minor reactivity that is observed in reactions starting from benzoin. The intermediate (**10**) is suggested as common specie in both mechanistic pathways.



Scheme 2. Suggested mechanistic pathway starting from benzil (**4a**).



Scheme 3. Suggested mechanistic pathway starting from benzoin (**5**).

Solvent

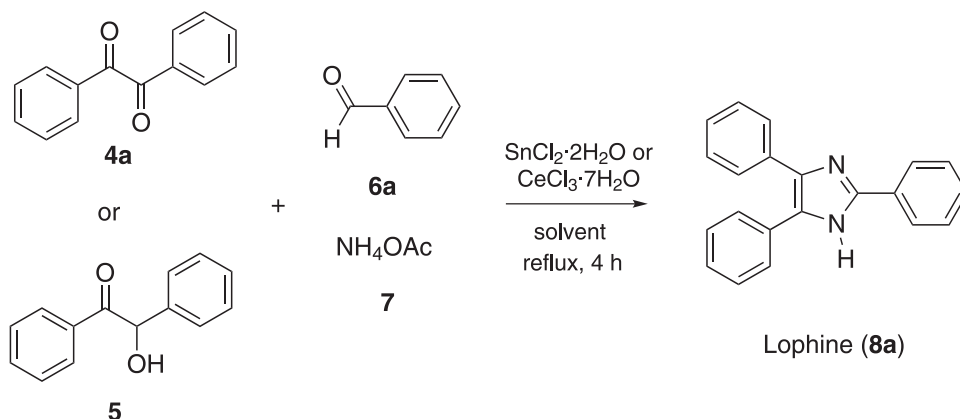
Despite the use of H₂O,⁴² MeOH, EtOH, *i*-PrOH, CH₂Cl₂, THF, 1,4-dioxane⁴³ or CH₃CN³⁴ as solvents has already been reported in presence of different catalysts, the relative influence of alcoholic solvents in the Radziszewski reaction was not well studied. For this purpose, were investigated the reactions of benzil (**4a**, 1 mmol) or benzoin (**5**, 1 mmol), benzaldehyde (**6a**, 1.0 mmol), NH₄OAc (**7**, 4.0 mmol) and the catalyst (0.10 mmol) carried out in MeOH, EtOH, *n*-PrOH, CH₃CN and THF (tetrahydrofuran) promoted by SnCl₂·2H₂O or CeCl₃·7H₂O for the synthesis of lophine (**8a**, Scheme 4). The results are shown in the Table 2, below.

Table 2 shows the solvents, their dipole moments (μ) and relative dielectric constants (ϵ_r).⁴⁴ The reaction from benzil in the presence of SnCl₂·2H₂O seems to be more influenced by the solvent (Table 2, entries 1-5). Aprotic solvents led to poorer yields. In the case of CH₃CN (the most polar between them), the solvent might be associating to the catalyst in a stronger way than the other ones do,

reducing more significantly the reaction rate (entry 4). On the other hand, from benzoin and CeCl₃·7H₂O, the yields are essentially the same for all the solvents, protic or aprotic (entries 6-10). The effect of CH₃CN is not observed, which might be attributed to the metal volume, making their association more difficult (entry 9). Besides the effects of polarity of the solvents, their ability in acting as “hydrogen bond donors” can be considered. This new principle can be evidenced in the activation process through the hydrogen bonding between the solvent and reactants on organocatalyzed reactions, as recently reviewed by Akiyama.⁴⁵ Therefore, based on the results above discussed and on economical and ambient sustainability reasons, lower toxicity and easy availability, ethanol becomes more advantageous solvent and was chosen as a default solvent in our present study.

Molar ratio of NH₄OAc

Next, it was investigated the influence of the molar ratio of NH₄OAc on the synthesis of lophine under catalysis of



Scheme 4. Synthesis of lophine (**8a**) under different solvents.

Table 2. Synthesis of lophine via Scheme 4

entry	Ketone ^a	Catalyst ^b	Solvent	μ / debye	ϵ_r	8a - Yield / %
1	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	MeOH	1.70	32.6	79
2	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	EtOH	1.69	24.3	89
3	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	<i>n</i> -PrOH	1.55	20.1	78
4	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	CH ₃ CN	3.92	37.5	65
5	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	THF	1.75	7.6	75
6	5	CeCl ₃ ·7H ₂ O	MeOH	1.70	32.6	88
7	5	CeCl ₃ ·7H ₂ O	EtOH	1.69	24.3	88
8	5	CeCl ₃ ·7H ₂ O	<i>n</i> -PrOH	1.55	20.1	85
9	5	CeCl ₃ ·7H ₂ O	CH ₃ CN	3.92	37.5	80
10	5	CeCl ₃ ·7H ₂ O	THF	1.75	7.6	81

^a1 mmol; ^b0.1 mmol.

$\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The molar ratio of benzil (**4a**, 1.0 mmol) or benzoin (**5**, 1.0 mmol), benzaldehyde (**6a**, 1.0 mmol) and catalyst (0.10 mmol) were the same for all performed assays. The results are shown in Table 3. From substrates, **4a** or **5**, the increase in the NH_4OAc amount from 2 to 4 mmol was followed by an improvement on the reaction yield (*cf.* entries 1, 2 and 4, 5, respectively).

Table 3. Synthesis of lophine (**8a**) under different molar ratio of NH_4OAc

entry	Ketone	Catalyst	NH_4OAc / mmol	8a - Yield / %
1	4a	$\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2	45
2	4a	$\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	4	91
3	4a	$\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	10	96
4	5	$\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2	38
5	5	$\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	4	88
6	5	$\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	10	64

From substrates, benzyl or benzoin, the increase in the NH_4OAc amount from 2 to 4 mmol was followed of an improvement on the reaction yield (*cf.* entries 1, 2 and 4, 5, respectively). Using 10 mmol of NH_4OAc , a little improvement from benzyl was observed (entry 3). In contrast, a poorer yield from benzoin (entry 6) was achieved. In summary, 4 mmol (2 molar equivalents) were considered the optimum amount of this reagent. This developed protocol was applied to the reaction of benzils (**4a-c**) and benzoin (**5**) with aldehydes (**6a-k**) to afford a library of triarylimidazoles (**8a-p**) (Scheme 5). The results are show in the Table 4.

Pyrazine and triaryloxazoles

The decrease in the yield when 10 mmol of NH_4OAc was employed with benzoin (**5**, see Table 3, entry 6) was

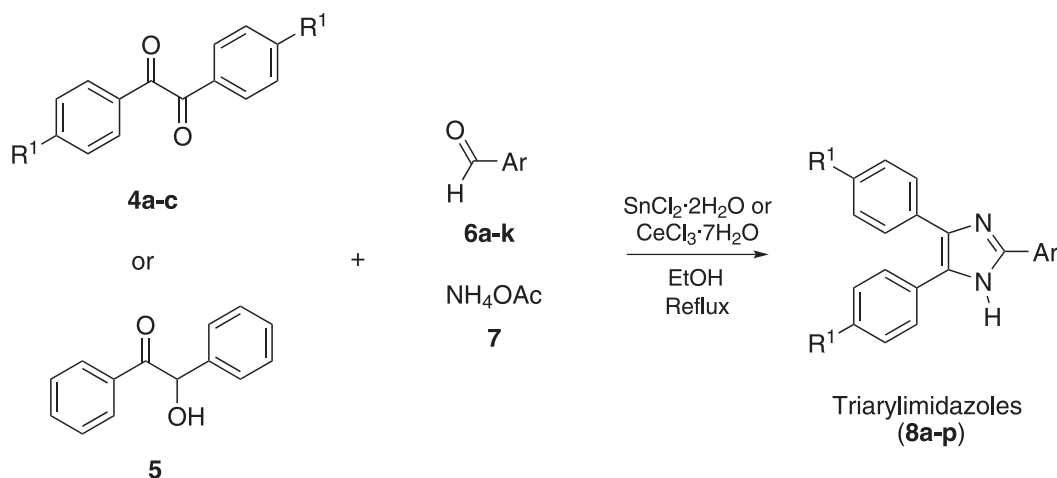
attributed to the formation of pyrazine (**13**) as a byproduct (identified by GC-MS analysis).

Similar observation was already reported in the literature.¹⁵ Intending to confirm this hypothesis, it was performed the reaction of benzoin (**5**, 2.0 mmol), NH_4OAc (**7**, 4.0 mmol) under refluxing of ethanol and $\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.10 mmol) over 4 h in absence of the aldehyde. After this time, the pyrazine (**13**) was isolated in 87% yield (Scheme 6).

On the other hand, the reaction of benzil (**4a**, 2.0 mmol) with ammonium acetate (**7**, 4.0 mmol) under refluxing of ethanol and $\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.10 mmol) over 4 h afforded the triaryloxazole (**10a**) in 74% yield (Scheme 7).

Davidson *et al.*¹⁵ early reported the formation of 2,4,5-trifenyloxazole as a lateral product in the Radziszewski reaction under acetic acid media. By the proposed mechanistic pathway suggested by Davidson *et al.*,¹⁵ it is clear the aid of acetic acid as a Brønsted acid catalyst. Triaryloxazoles are structurally similar to triarylimidazoles and also have some of their properties, but have been less studied so far. Due to their broad application (for example, in nonlinear optical devices⁴⁶ or as biologically active compounds),⁴⁷ it was decided to investigate the ability of metal chloride hydrates such as $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{ZnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ to participate as Lewis acid catalysts in the synthesis of triaryloxazoles. The results are shown in Table 5.

The reactions were carried out as described in the synthesis of lophine (see Table 1). In the absence of the catalyst (Table 5, entry 1), **10a** was only isolated in a poor yield. The same result was observed when $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ or $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was added (entries 2 and 3). Changing the catalyst to $\text{ZnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, an increase in the yield was observed. In the presence of $\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, a reasonable yield (78%) was achieved (entries 4 and 5, respectively). Other solvents were also investigated. The reactions were carried

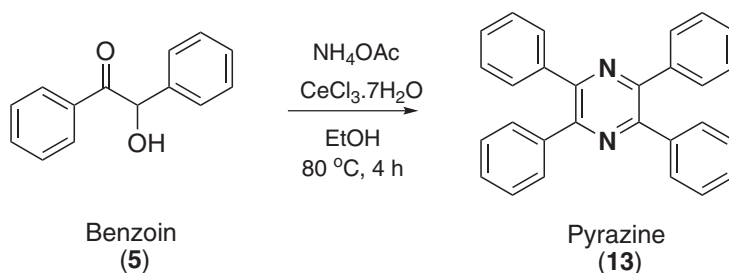
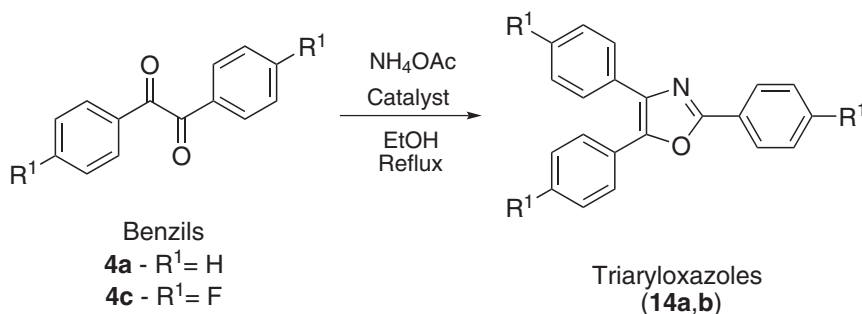


Scheme 5. Synthesis of a library of triarylimidazoles (**8a-p**).

Table 4. Triarylimidazoles from different aromatic aldehydes

entry	Ketone (4, 5)	Aldehyde (6)	Catalyst - yield / %		Imidazoles (8)
	R ¹	Ar	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O ^a	CeCl ₃ ·7H ₂ O ^b	
1	H (4a, 5)	C ₆ H ₅ (6a)	94	81	8a
2	H (4a, 5)	4-(HO)C ₆ H ₄ (6b)	96	81	8b
3	H (4a, 5)	4-(CH ₃ O)C ₆ H ₄ (6c)	95	91	8c
4	H (4a, 5)	3,4-(CH ₃ O) ₂ C ₆ H ₃ (6d)	92	62	8d
5	H (4a, 5)	1-naphthyl (6e)	61	85	8e
6	H (4a, 5)	4-(CN)C ₆ H ₄ (6f)	71	83	8f
7	H (4a, 5)	3-(NO ₂)C ₆ H ₄ (6g)	91	87	8g
8	H (4a, 5)	2-(NO ₂)C ₆ H ₄ (6h)	74	60	8h
9	H (4a, 5)	2-furyl (6i)	73	69	8i
10	H (4a, 5)	2-thienyl (6j)	75	82	8j
11	H (4a, 5)	3-thienyl (6k)	94	84	8k
12	CH ₃ O (4b)	3-thienyl (6k)	98	-	8l
13	F (4c)	C ₆ H ₅ (6a)	87	-	8m
14	F (4c)	4-(CN)C ₆ H ₄ (6f)	64	-	8n
15	F (4c)	2-furyl (6i)	71	-	8o
16	F (4c)	3-thienyl (6k)	92	-	8p

^aIn reactions from benzil (**4a**); ^bin reactions from benzoin (**5**).

**Scheme 6.** Synthesis of pyrazine (**13**) from benzoin (**5**).**Scheme 7.** Synthesis of triaryloxazoles (**14a,b**) from benzils (**4a,c**).

out under reflux. In MeOH, a decrease in the yield was observed, while the use of *n*-PrOH permitted to isolate the product in a yield of 73% (entries 6 and 7, respectively). On the other hand, in CH₃CN and THF (aprotic polar solvents), benzyl was recovered after the work up (entries 8 and 9, respectively). So, EtOH was considered to be the best solvent. After that, the amount of catalyst was diminished

from 10 to 5 mol% (*cf.* entries 5 and 10, respectively) and no significant decrease in the yield was observed, therefore, this new condition was set as default.

Finally, the increase in the reaction times also caused an increase in the yield of triaryloxazole (**14a**), 84 and 94% (entries 11 and 12, respectively). The use of benzyl (**4c**) under the optimized protocol afforded the triaryloxazole

Table 5. Synthesis of triaryloxazoles **14a** and **14b** from Scheme 7

entry	Benzil	Catalyst / load ^a	Solvent	time / h	Oxazole	Yield / %
1	4a	–	EtOH	4	14a	15
2	4a	NiCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O / 0.10	EtOH	4	14a	15
3	4a	MnCl ₂ ·4H ₂ O / 0.10	EtOH	4	14a	15
4	4a	ZnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O / 0.10	EtOH	4	14a	56
5	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O / 0.10	EtOH	4	14a	78
6	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O / 0.10	MeOH	4	14a	44
7	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O / 0.10	<i>n</i> -PrOH	4	14a	73
8	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O / 0.10	CH ₃ CN	4	14a	–
9	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O / 0.10	THF	4	14a	–
10	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O / 0.05	EtOH	4	14a	74
11	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O / 0.05	EtOH	6	14a	84
12	4a	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O / 0.05	EtOH	18	14a	94
13	4c	SnCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O / 0.05	EtOH	18	14b	93

^aThe load of catalyst in mmol.

(**14b**) in good yield, confirming the applicability of this protocol.

Conclusions

We found that the metal halide hydrates were active as Lewis acid catalyst to prepare 2,4,5-triarylimidazoles in reasonable to good yields through the Radziszewski multicomponent synthesis. These catalysts were effective starting from benzoin, as well as from benzils. The SnCl₂·2H₂O showed the best results in reactions from benzyl, while CeCl₃·7H₂O was more effective with benzoin. Additionally, we demonstrate that the molar ratio of NH₄OAc is important to improve the yields of the products and the large excess of them can lead to the formation of 1,2,4,5-tetraarylpyrazines. The SnCl₂·4H₂O was also effective to promote the reaction of benzils with NH₄OAc to afford the respective triaryloxazoles in good yields.

Experimental

General considerations

The solvents and reagents were used without previous treatment, except for benzaldehyde, anisaldehyde and furfural, which were distilled prior to use. The reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) on ALUGRAM® SIL G/UV 254 Macherey-Nagel silicagel plates. A mixture CH₂Cl₂/AcOEt in 98:2 ratios was used as eluent. The plates were visualized in alcoholic solution of 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine or under UV light (254 nm). The ¹H and ¹³C nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were

recorded in DMSO-*d*₆ using a Varian VNMRS or a Varian Mercury spectrometers at 300/400 MHz and 75/100 MHz, respectively. The chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts *per* million (ppm) relative to DMSO-*d*₆ at δ 2.50 ppm for ¹H NMR and the line at δ 39.5 ppm for ¹³C NMR. The coupling constants *J* are reported in Hz. The following abbreviations are used for the multiplicities: s (singlet), d (doublet), dd (double of doublets), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet) and br s (broad singlet). The infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum One, between 4000 and 600 cm⁻¹ (Nujol). The melting points (mp) were measured on an Uniscience Brazil fusing equipment (model 498) and are uncorrected. The mass spectra (MS) were recorded on a GC-MS QP 2010 Shimadzu (EI, 70 eV).

General procedures

Synthesis of 2,4,5-triarylimidazoles (**8a-p**) from benzyls (**4a-c**)

A 10 mL round-bottom flask equipped with magnetic stirrer was charged with benzyls (**4a-c**) (1.0 mmol), aldehydes (**6a-k**) (1.0 mmol), NH₄OAc (**7**, 4.0 mmol) and SnCl₂·2H₂O (0.10 mmol), followed by EtOH (4 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred and gently refluxed for 4 h. After the completion of the reaction with the monitoring of TLC, 4 mL of water were added. The solid was filtered under reduced pressure and washed with small portions of a mixture of cooled EtOH/H₂O (1:1, v:v). The crude product was recrystallized from acetone/water 9:1 or toluene.

Synthesis of 2,4,5-triarylimidazoles (**8a-k**) from the benzoin (**5**)

A 10 mL round-bottom flask equipped with magnetic stirrer was charged with benzoin (**5**) (1.0 mmol),

aldehydes (**6a-k**) (1.0 mmol), NH_4OAc (**7**, 4.0 mmol) and $\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.10 mmol), followed by EtOH (4 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred and gently refluxed for 4 h. After the completion of the reaction with the monitoring of TLC, 4 mL of water were added. The solid was filtered under reduced pressure and washed with small portions of a mixture of cooled EtOH/ H_2O (1:1, v:v). The crude product was recrystallized from acetone/water 9:1 or toluene.

Synthesis of 2,4,5-triaryloxazoles (**14a,b**) from benzyls (**4a,c**)

A 10 mL round-bottom flask equipped with magnetic stirrer was charged with benzyls (**4a,c**) (1.0 mmol), NH_4OAc (**7**, 5.0 mmol) and $\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.05 mmol), followed by EtOH (4 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred and gently refluxed for 4 h. After the completion of the reaction with the monitoring of TLC, 4 mL of water were added. The solid was filtered under reduced pressure and washed with small portions of a mixture of cooled EtOH/ H_2O (1:1, v:v). The crude product was recrystallized from acetone/water 9:1 or toluene.

Supplementary Information

Supplementary data (spectral data of compounds **8a-p** and **10a,b** and spectra) are available free of charge at <http://jbc.org.br> as PDF file.

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Supplementary Information

Metal Chloride Hydrates as Lewis Acid Catalysts in Multicomponent Synthesis of 2,4,5-Triarylimidazoles or 2,4,5-Triaryloxazoles

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Spectral characterization of compounds **8a-p** and **10a,b**

2,4,5-Triphenyl-1H-imidazole (lophine) (8a): solid; mp 278-279 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 12.71 (br s, 1H, NH), 8.09 (d, 2H, *J* 7.0 Hz), 7.14-7.70 (m, 13H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 145.4, 137.0, 135.1, 131.0, 130.2, 128.6, 129.5, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.0, 126.4, 125.1; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1600, 1503, 1128, 966, 916; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) *m/z* (%) 296 (M⁺, 100.0), 165 (48.0), 148 (12.6), 89 (17.1), 77 (7.0), 63 (7.3), 51 (4.0).

4-(4,5-Diphenyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenol (8b): solid; mp 262-263 °C; ²¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.61 (br s, 1H, NH), 7.89 (d, 2H, *J* 8.3 Hz), 7.05-7.70 (m, 10H), 6.84 (d, 2H, *J* 8.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 157.6, 145.9, 126.6, 121.5, 115.2; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1643, 1613, 1546, 1506, 1490, 1240, 764, 698; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) *m/z* (%) 312 (M⁺, 100.0), 165 (39.0), 89 (8.9), 77 (8.9), 51 (3.0), 39 (2.9).

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (8c): solid; mp 233-234 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 12.45 (br s, 1H, NH), 8.01 (d, 2H, *J* 8.8 Hz), 7.15-7.62 (m, 10H), 7.04 (d, 2H, *J* 8.8 Hz), 3.82 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 55.1, 59.4, 145.6, 128.2, 126.6, 123.1, 114.0; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1614, 1546, 1248, 765, 696; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) *m/z* (%) 326 (M⁺, 100.0), 311 (22.4), 165 (14.0), 89 (6.3), 77 (6.3), 63 (3.0), 51 (2.9), 39 (1.8).

2-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (8d): solid; mp 250-251 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 12.46 (br s, 1H, NH), 7.16-7.77 (m, 12H), 7.06 (d, 1H, *J* 8.3 Hz), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,

DMSO-*d*₆) δ 55.4, 55.5, 149.0, 148.7, 148.1, 145.5, 137.8, 129.4, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 127.4, 126.9, 126.2, 123.1, 117.8, 111.8, 108.9; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1606, 1495, 765, 696; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) *m/z* (%) 326 (M⁺, 100.0), 165 (12.6), 89 (5.2), 77 (4.8), 63 (5.2), 51 (2.1).

2-(1-Naphtalen-1-yl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (8e): solid; mp 273-275 °C; ³¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 12.71 (br s, 1H, NH), 8.01 (d, 2H, *J* 7.8 Hz), 7.98 (dd, 1H, *J* 7.3 and 1.0 Hz), 7.50-7.65 (m, 7H), 7.20-7.47 (m, 7H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 145.4, 137.9, 137.0, 135.2, 133.5, 130.9, 130.2, 129.4, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.7, 127.5, 127.3, 127.0, 126.5, 126.4, 126.3, 125.9, 125.0; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1596, 1500, 764, 695; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) *m/z* (%) 326 (M⁺, 100.0), 165 (37.4), 139 (9.3), 89 (6.0), 77 (4.1), 63 (3.3), 51 (1.9).

4-(4,5-Diphenyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)benzotrile (8f): solid; mp 248-250 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 13.03 (br s, 1H, NH), 8.26 (d, 2H, *J* 8.2 Hz), 7.93 (d, 2H, *J* 8.2 Hz), 7.18-7.70 (m, 10 H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 143.6, 138.0, 134.6, 134.2, 132.7, 130.5, 129.5, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.0, 126.7, 125.4, 118.8, 110.0; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2227, 1610, 1490, 766, 696; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) *m/z* (%) 321 (M⁺, 100.0), 165 (47.7), 89 (12.0), 77 (5.3), 63 (7.4), 51 (4.0); HRMS (ESI, w/H⁺) calcd. 321.13387, found 322.13394.

2-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (8g): solid; mp 315-317 °C; ⁴¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 13.11 (br s, 1H, NH), 8.96 (s, 1H), 8.52 (d, 1H, *J* 7.7 Hz), 8.21 (dd, 1H, *J* 8.2 Hz), 7.77 (t, 1H, *J* 8.0 Hz), 7.22-7.64 (m, 10H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 148.3, 143.4, 137.7, 134.7, 131.8, 131.2, 130.6, 130.4, 129.2, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.1, 126.8, 122.6, 119.4; IR (Nujol)

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$\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1541, 1523, 1348, 777, 699; GS-MS (IE, 70 eV) m/z (%) 341 (M^+ , 100.0), 311 (47.8), 295 (21.1), 165 (42.6), 89 (22.0), 77 (13.2), 63 (3.3), 43 (2.2).

2-(2-Nitrophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (8h): solid; mp 224-225 °C;⁵ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.98 (sl, 1H, NH), 8.00 (d, 1H, J 7.6 Hz), 7.93 (d, 1H, J 8.2 Hz), 7.79 (t, 1H, J 7.6 Hz), 7.64 (t, 1H, J 7.6 Hz), 7.35-7.60 (m, 8H), 7.31 (t, 1H, J 7.0 Hz), 7.23 (t, 1H, J 7.0 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 148.2, 140.9, 137.4, 134.6, 132.0, 130.5, 129.7, 129.4, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 126.9, 126.6, 123.9, 123.3; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1601, 1524, 1502, 1364, 724, 694; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) m/z (%) 341 (M^+ , 59.7), 311 (100.0), 207 (15.0), 165 (40.1), 147 (14.2), 135 (21.3), 104 (79.0), 89 (46.3), 77 (25.6), 63 (13.8), 51 (11.4).

2-(Furan-2-yl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (8i): solid; mp 229-230 °C;⁶ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.85 (br s, 1H, NH), 7.81 (d, 1H, J 1.6 Hz), 7.36-7.75 (m, 10H), 6.98 (d, 1H, J 3.4 Hz), 6.65 (dd, 1H, J 3.4 and 1.8 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 148.3, 145.7, 143.1, 138.6, 138.0, 129.6, 128.5, 128.3, 127.7, 111.9, 107.5; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1602, 1500, 764, 696; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) m/z (%) 286 (M^+ , 100.0), 257 (9.4), 165 (22.0), 143 (6.1), 128 (8.6), 89 (3.7), 77 (9.0), 63 (2.8), 51 (12.1).

4,5-Diphenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (8j): solid; mp 255-256 °C;¹ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.79 (br s, 1H, NH), 7.69 (d, 1H, J 3.5 Hz), 7.25-7.51 (m, 11H), 7.15 (dd, 1H, J 4.7 and 3.5 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 124.1, 126.2, 126.5, 127.0, 127.8, 128.1, 128.6, 130.8, 133.9, 134.7, 136.6, 141.5; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1594, 1493, 765, 695; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) m/z (%) 304 (6.77), 302 (M^+ , 100.0), 165 (39.7), 151 (8.7), 95 (7.4), 89 (5.8), 77 (6.3), 69 (6.5), 63 (4.1), 51 (4.3).

4,5-Diphenyl-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1H-imidazole (8k): solid; mp 257-259 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.63 (br s, 1H, NH), 8.04 (dd, 1H, J 2.9 and 1.3), 7.71 (dd, 1H, J 5.0 and 1.2 Hz), 7.65 (dd, 1H, J 5.0 and 2.9 Hz), 7.31-7.53 (m, 10H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 142.7, 132.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.0, 125.9, 121.8; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1593, 1493, 765, 697; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) m/z (%) 304 (6.64), 302 (M^+ , 100.0), 165 (46.6), 151 (8.9), 89 (10.3), 77 (6.5), 63 (5.2), 51 (4.2); HRMS (ESI, w/ H^+) calcd. 303.09505, found 303.09518.

4,5-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1H-imidazole (8l): solid; mp 199-201 °C;⁷ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.35 (br s, 1H, NH), 7.97

(dd, 1H, J 2.9 and 1.5 Hz), 7.68 (dd, 1H, J 4.8 and 1.1 Hz), 7.62 (dd, 1H, J 5.5 and 2.9 Hz), 6.80-7.50 (m, 8H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 148.3, 143.4, 137.7, 134.7, 131.8, 131.2, 130.6, 130.4, 129.2, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.1, 126.8, 122.6, 119.4; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3391, 1655, 1600, 1573, 1508, 1259, 1163, 842, 832; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) m/z (%) 362 (M^+ , 100.0), 347 (28.4), 275 (4.1), 181 (5.7).

4,5-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (8m): solid; mp 255-257 °C;⁸ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.67 (br s, 1H, NH), 8.07 (dd, 2H, J 8.4 and 1.1 Hz), 7.50-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.48 (t, 2H, J 7.5 Hz), 7.38 (t, 1H, J 7.3 Hz), 7.29 (t, 2H, J 8.8 Hz), 7.14 (t, 2H, J 8.8 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 161.5 (d, $^1J_{CF}$ 245.7 Hz), 160.9 (d, $^1J_{CF}$ 243.4 Hz), 145.4, 136.1, 131.4 (d, $^4J_{CF}$ 3.1 Hz), 130.4 (d, $^3J_{CF}$ 8.4 Hz), 130.1, 128.7 (d, $^3J_{CF}$ 7.6 Hz), 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 127.2 (d, $^4J_{CF}$ 3.1 Hz), 126.9, 125.0, 115.5 (d, $^2J_{CF}$ 21.4 Hz), 114.9 (d, $^2J_{CF}$ 21.4 Hz); IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1606, 1590, 1537, 1514, 1595, 1226, 1156, 835; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) m/z (%) 332 (M^+ , 100.0), 201 (44.1), 89 (9.6), 77 (3.0), 63 (4.6), 51 (2.2), 39 (2.0).

4-[4,5-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]benzonitrile (8n): solid; mp 272-274 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.98 (br s, 1H, NH), 8.23 (d, 2H, J 8.3 Hz), 7.93 (d, 2H, J 8.3 Hz), 7.55 (d, 2H, J 8.8 Hz), 7.54 (d, 2H, J 8.8 Hz), 7.00-7.40 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 143.5, 134.0, 132.6, 128.7, 128.0, 125.4, 125.1, 118.6, 110.0; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2229, 1608, 1516, 1497, 1223, 1161, 847, 837; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) m/z (%) 357 (M^+ , 100.0), 201 (42.5), 107 (13.3); HRMS (ESI, w/ H^+) calcd. 358.11522, found 358.11503.

4,5-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (8o): solid; mp 223-225 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.81 (br s, 1H, NH), 7.79 (dd, 1H, J 1.8 and 0.7 Hz), 7.42-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.27 (t, 2H, J 9.0 Hz), 7.14 (t, 2H, J 9.0 Hz), 6.96 (dd, 1H, J 3.3 and 0.7 Hz), 6.64 (dd, 1H, J 3.3 and 1.8 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 161.6 (d, $^1J_{CF}$ 244.1 Hz), 161.0 (d, $^1J_{CF}$ 241.9 Hz), 145.5, 143.0, 138.4, 136.8, 136.0, 130.4 (d, $^3J_{CF}$ 8.4 Hz), 128.9 (d, $^3J_{CF}$ 8.4 Hz), 127.0 (d, $^4J_{CF}$ 3.1 Hz), 126.3, 115.6 (d, $^2J_{CF}$ 22.1 Hz), 115.0 (d, $^2J_{CF}$ 21.4 Hz), 111.7, 107.4; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1606, 1529, 1514, 1496, 1228, 1158, 836, 738; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) m/z (%) 322 (M^+ , 100.0), 293 (11.8), 201 (18.8), 107 (3.9); HRMS (ESI, w/ H^+) calcd. 323.09905, found 323.09912.

4,5-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1H-imidazole (8p): solid; mp 255-256 °C; ^1H NMR

(400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.17 (dd, 1H, J 2.9 and 1.5 Hz), 7.76 (dd, 1H, J 5.1 and 1.5 Hz), 7.69 (dd, 1H, J 5.1 and 2.9 Hz), 7.54 (dd, 4H, J 9.2 e 5.5 Hz Hz), 7.24 (t, 4H, J 8.8 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 166.6 (d, $^1J_{\text{CF}}$ 248.0 Hz), 166.0 (d, $^1J_{\text{CF}}$ 255.6 Hz), 162.6, 160.2, 141.9, 132.8, 132.7, 132.6, 129.8 (d, $^3J_{\text{CF}}$ 8.4 Hz), 128.1, 127.1, 152.7, 123.2, 116.5 (d, $^2J_{\text{CF}}$ 22.1 Hz), 115.3 (d, $^2J_{\text{CF}}$ 21.4 Hz); IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3467, 1650, 1598, 1501, 1227, 1156, 835; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) m/z (%) 338 (M^+ , 100.0), 201 (43.7), 107 (11.4), 95 (9.6); HRMS (ESI, w/ H^+) calcd. 339.07620, found 339.07639.

2,4,5-Triphenyl-1,3-oxazole (10a): solid; mp 111-113 °C; 9 ^1H NMR (200 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.4-8.0 (m, 2H), 7.3-7.15 (m, 13H); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 159.9, 145.7, 136.5, 132.3, 131.3, 129.7, 129.5, 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 128.1, 127.0, 126.6; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3060, 2000-1700, 1600, 1590, 1500, 1490, 700, 690; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) m/z (%) 297 (M^+ , 100.0), 269 (28.7), 165 (92.9), 105 (9.5), 89 (27.7), 77 (22.7), 63 (14.1), 51 (10.4)

2,4,5-Tris(4-fluorophenyl)-1,3-oxazole (10b): solid; mp 154-157°C; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.3-7.9 (m, 2H), 7.8-7.1 (m, 10H); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 164.2, 162.9, 162.6, 116.9, 116.8, 166.4, 130.4, 129.6,

129.3, 128.7, 125.1, 123.7; IR (Nujol) $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3060, 2100-1700, 1600, 1520, 1500, 1200, 820; GC-MS (IE, 70 eV) m/z (%) 351 (M^+ , 86.6), 323 (18.6), 201 (100.0), 123 (10.5), 107 (28.9), 95 (19.3), 81 (4.4), 51(1.1); HRMS (ESI, w/ H^+) calcd. 352.09922, found 352.0979.

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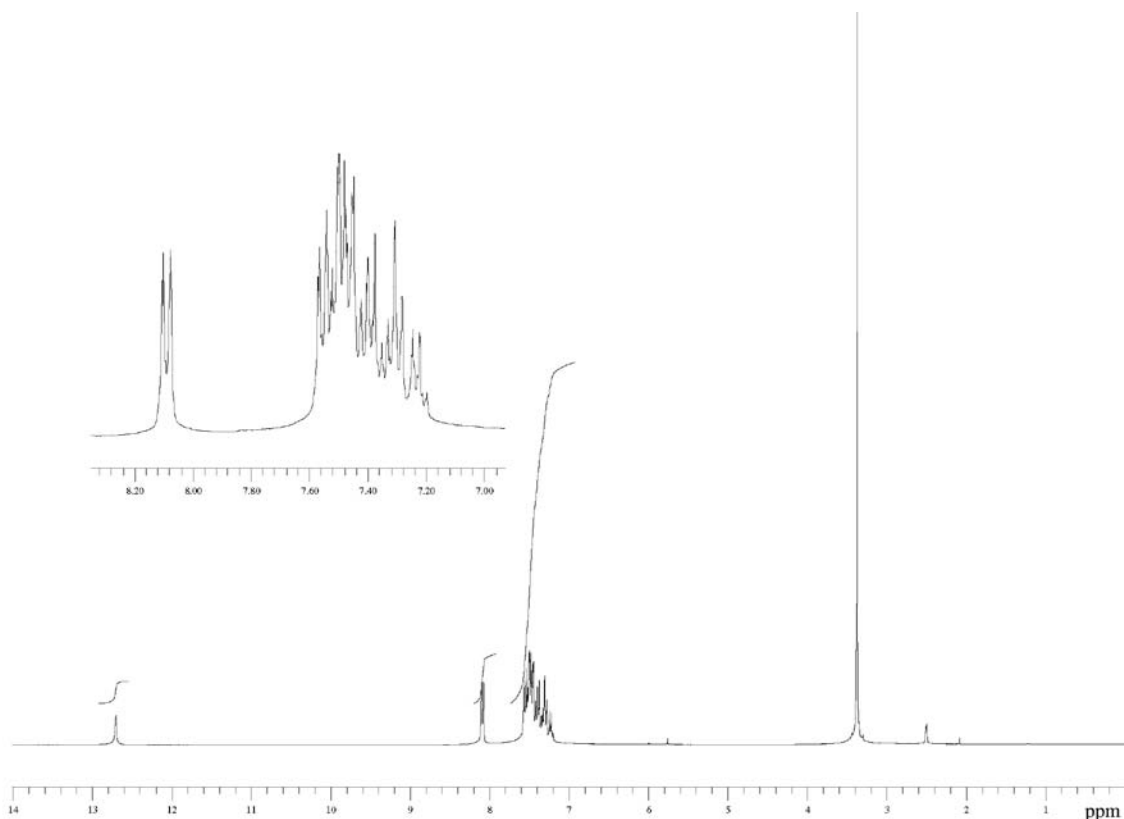


Figure S1. ^1H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, DMSO- d_6) of compound 2,4,5-triphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8a**).

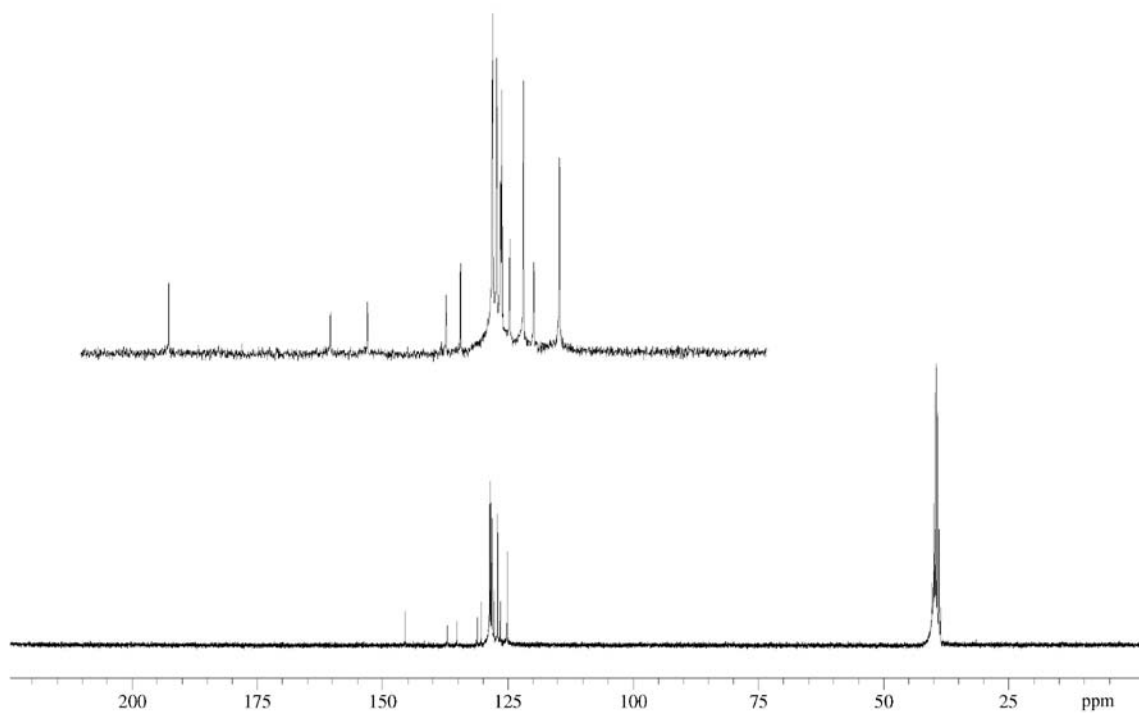


Figure S2. ^{13}C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) of compound 2,4,5-triphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8a**).

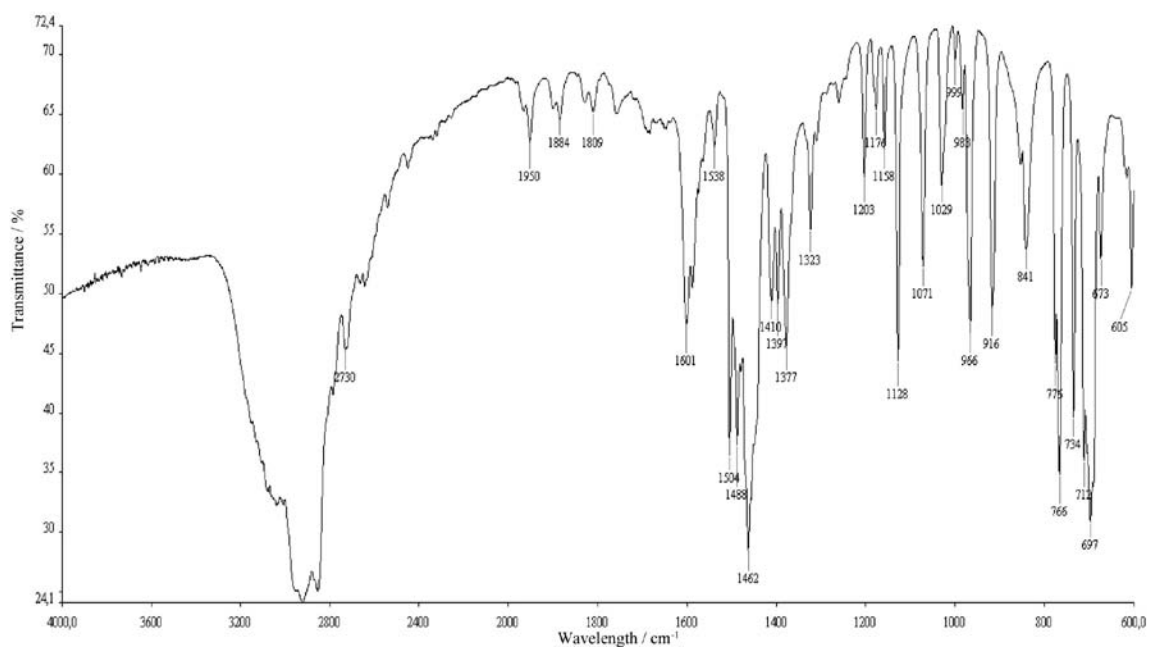


Figure S3. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 2,4,5-triphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8a**).

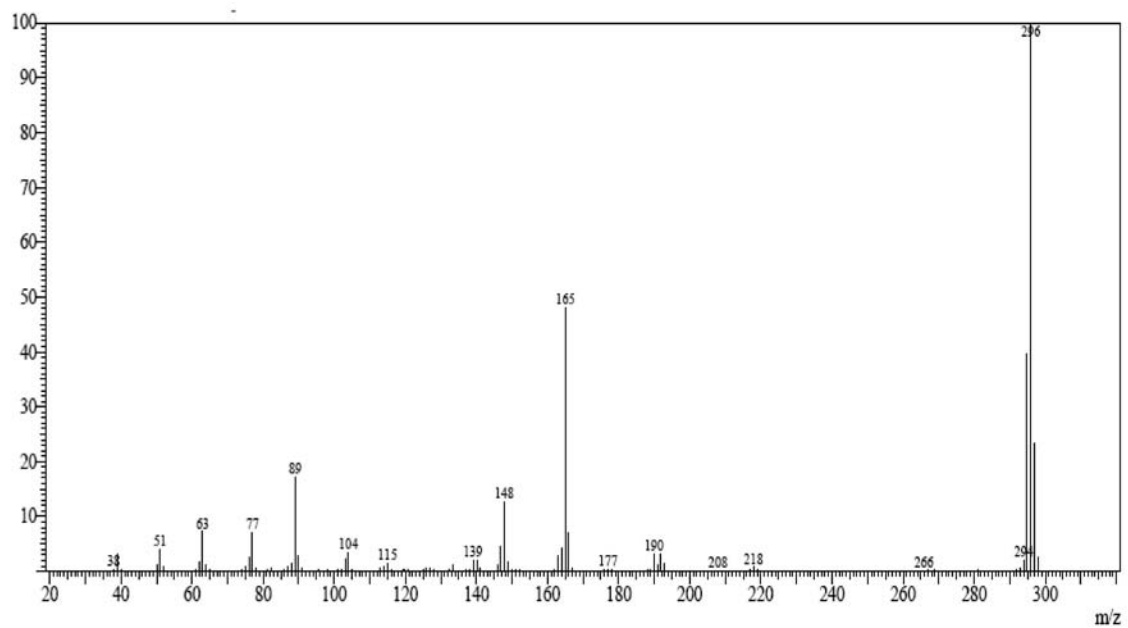


Figure S4. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 2,4,5-triphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8a**).

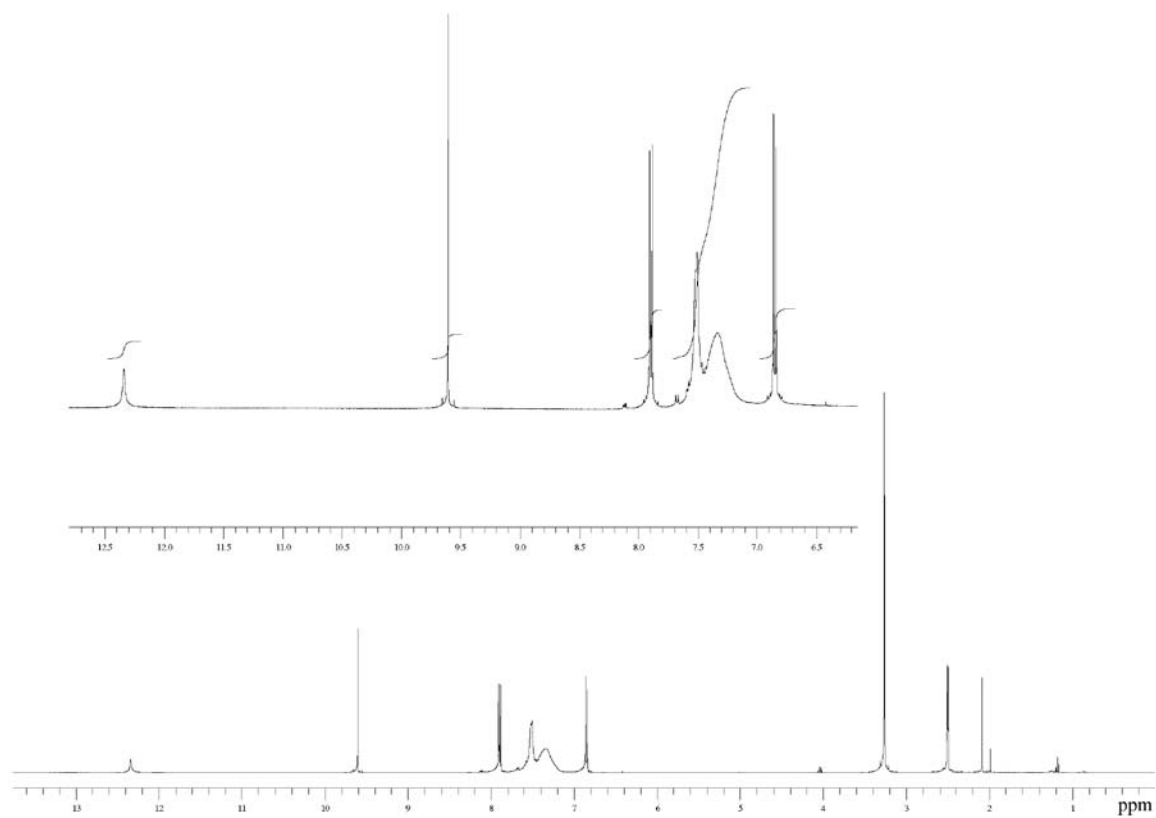


Figure S5. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) of compound 4-(4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenol (**8b**).

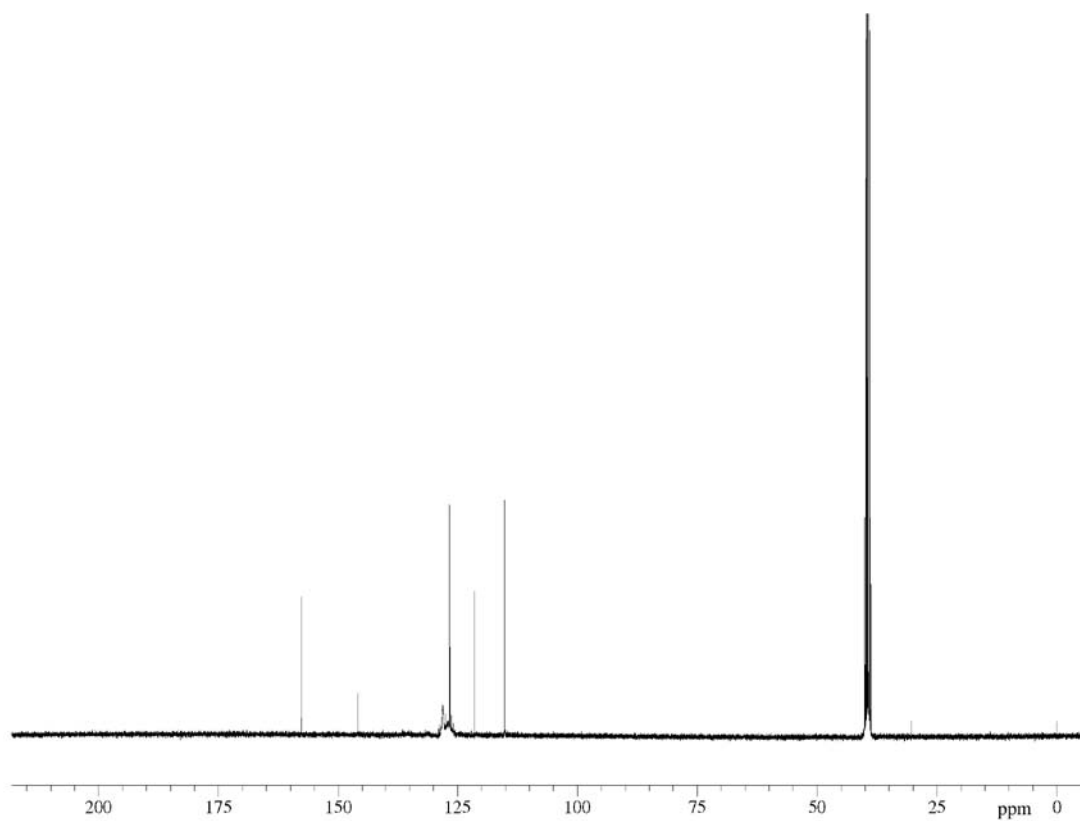


Figure S6. ^{13}C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) of compound 4-(4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)phenol (**8b**).

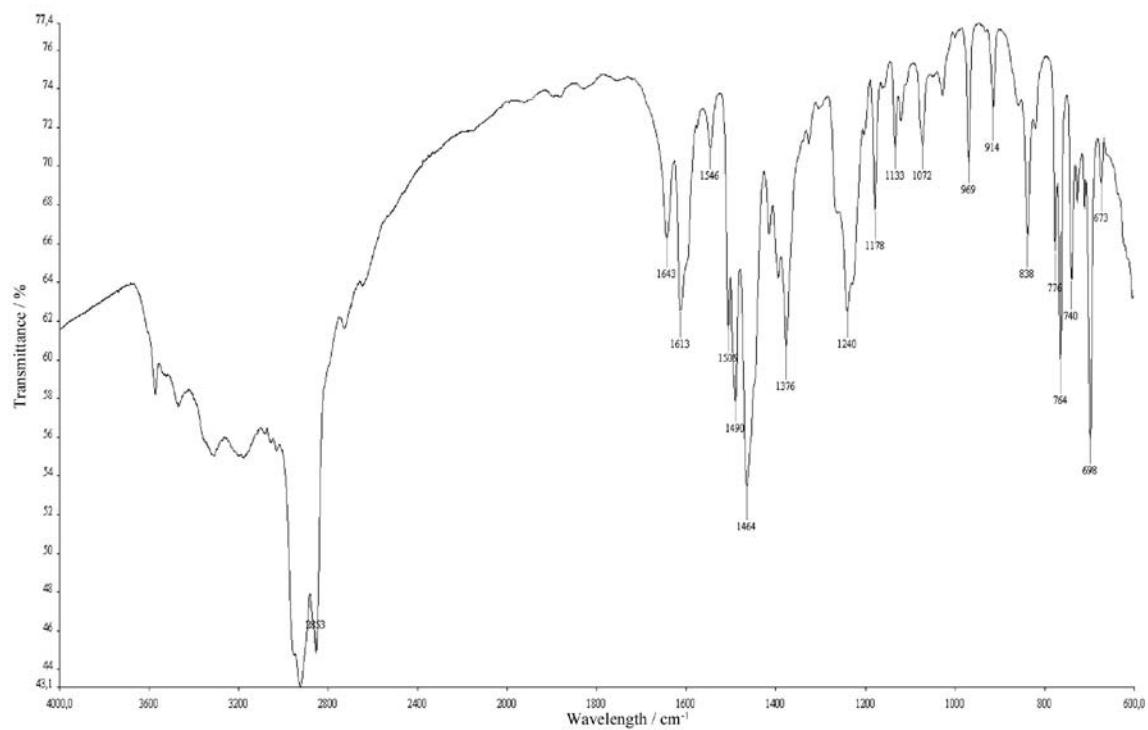


Figure S7. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 4-(4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)phenol (**8b**).

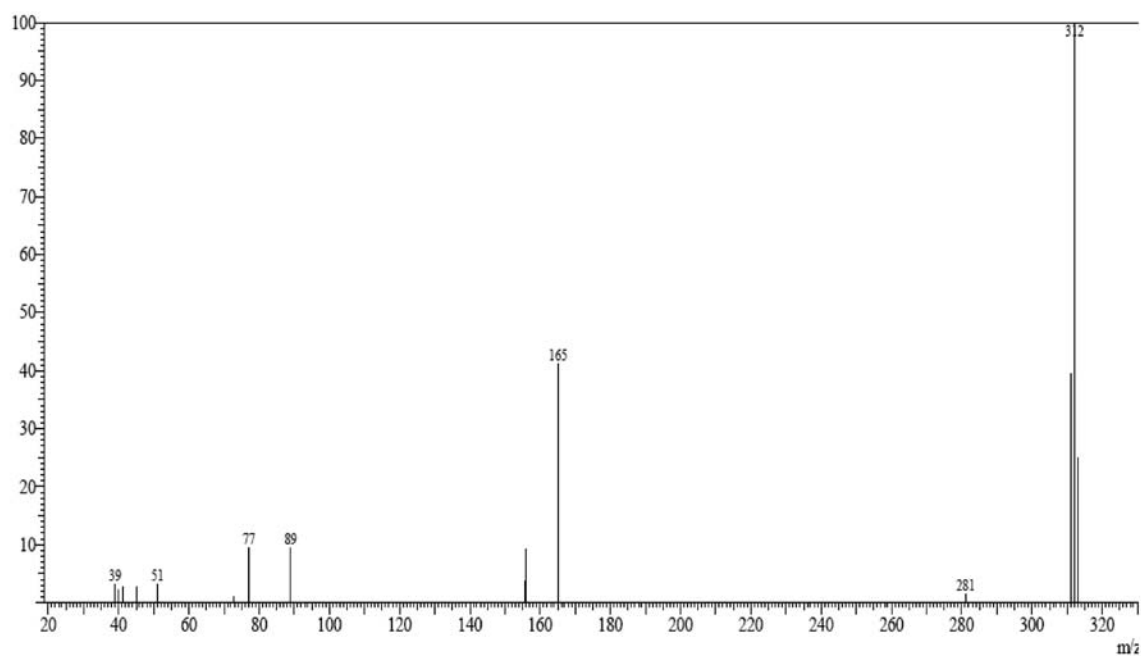


Figure S8. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 4-(4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenol (**8b**).

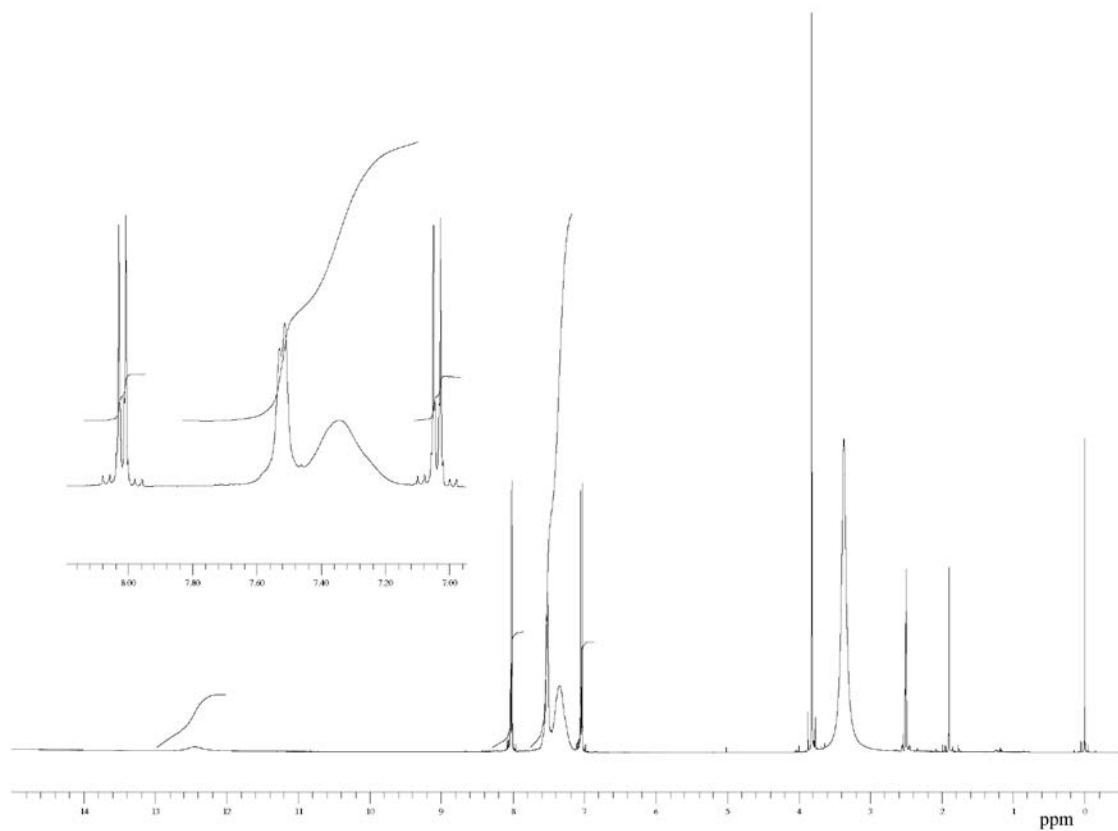


Figure S9. ^1H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) of compound 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8c**).

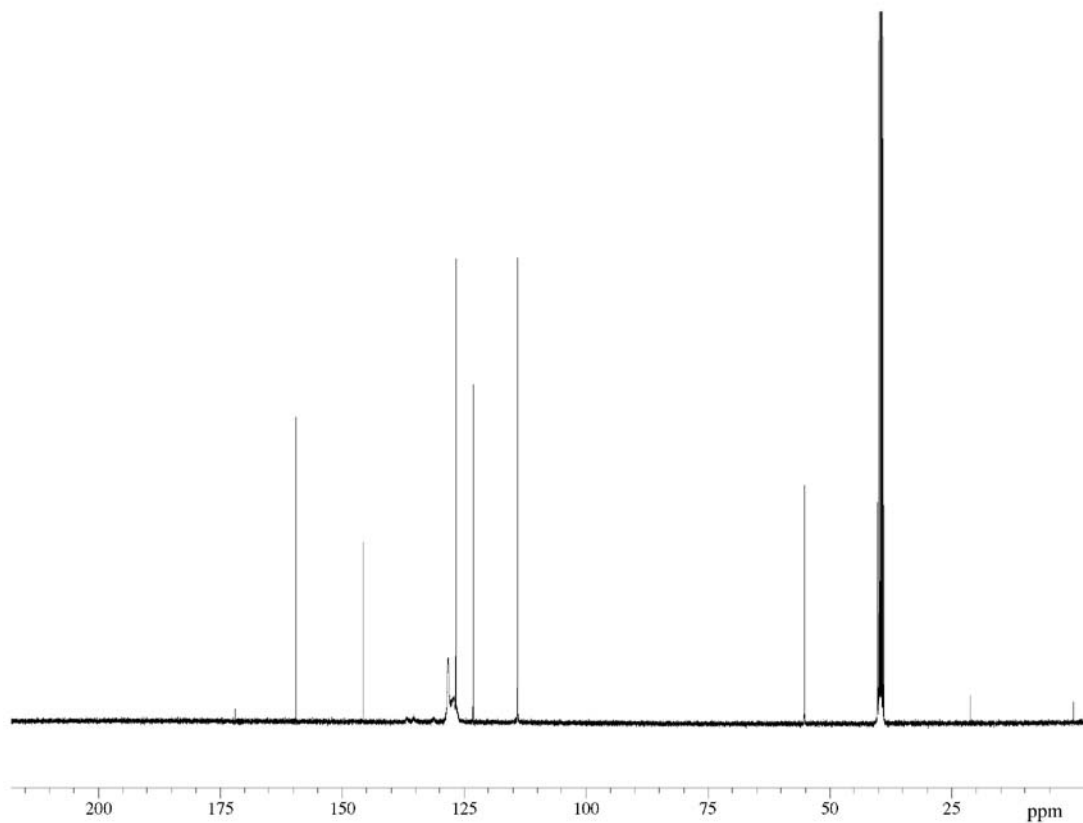


Figure S10. ¹³C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazole (**8c**).

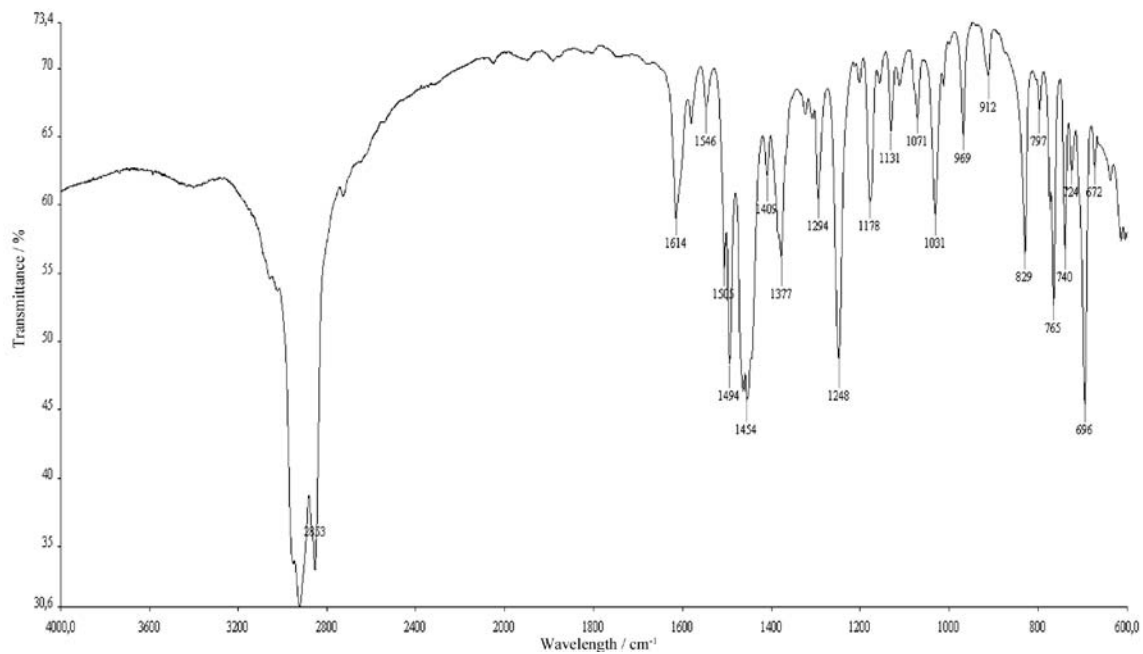


Figure S11. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazole (**8c**).

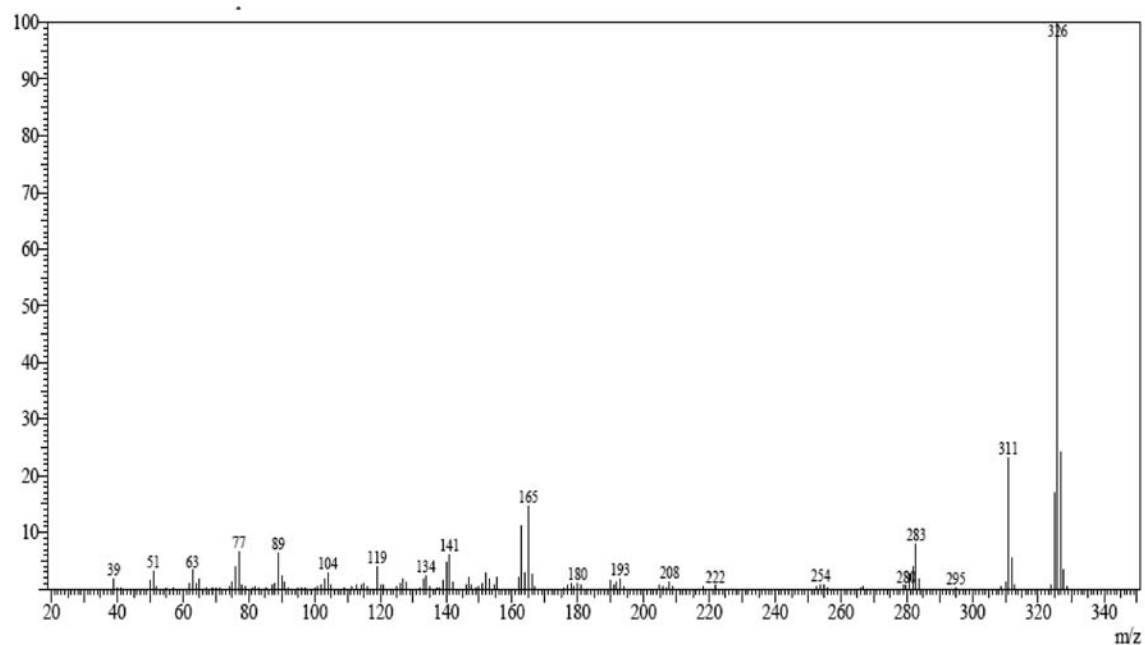


Figure S12. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8c**).

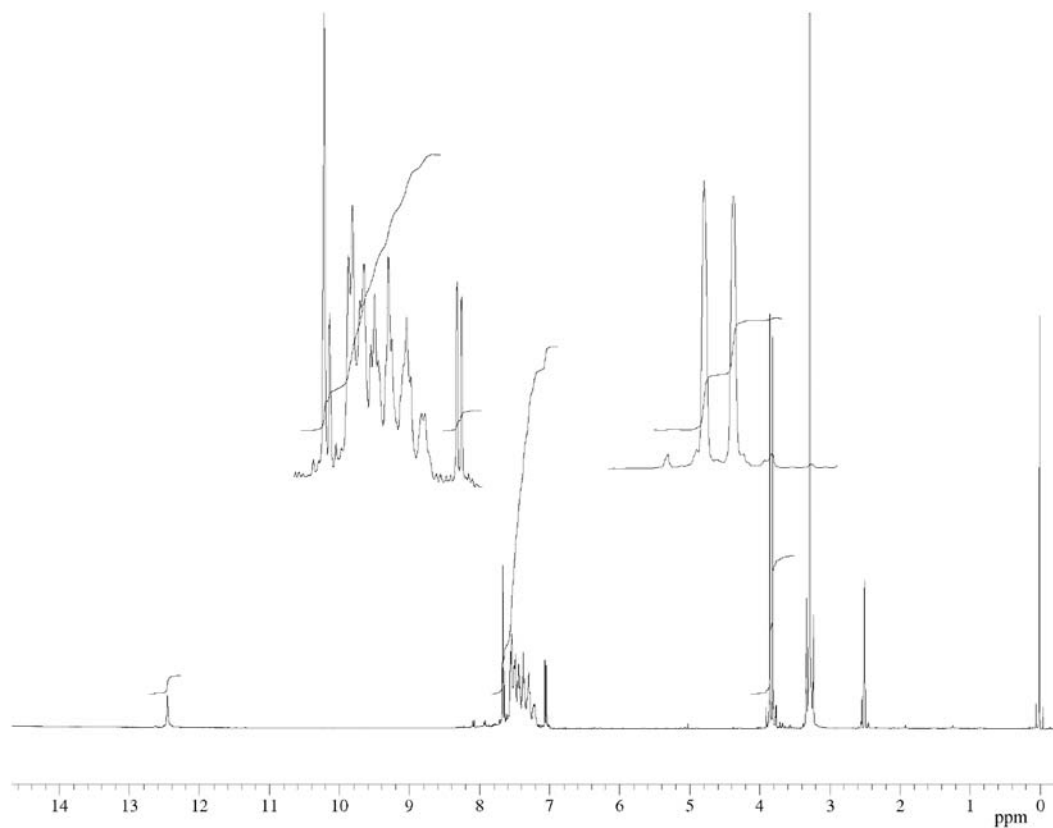


Figure S13. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8d**).

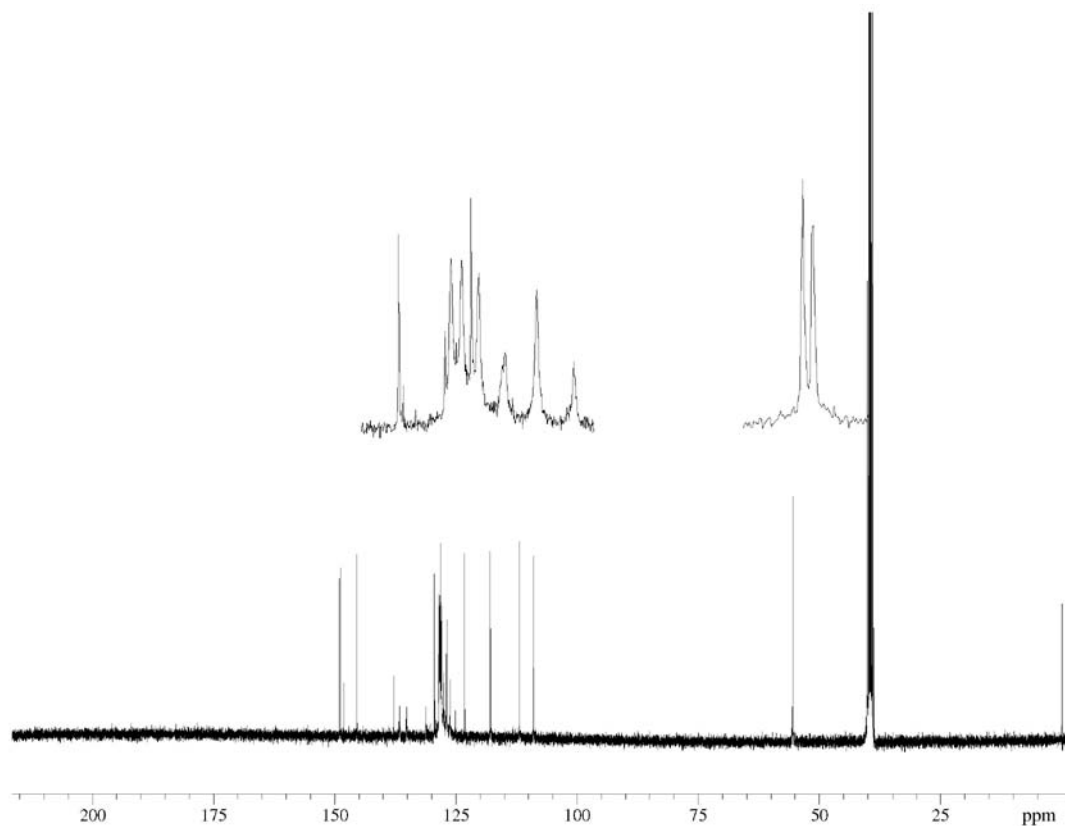


Figure S14. ¹³C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8d**).

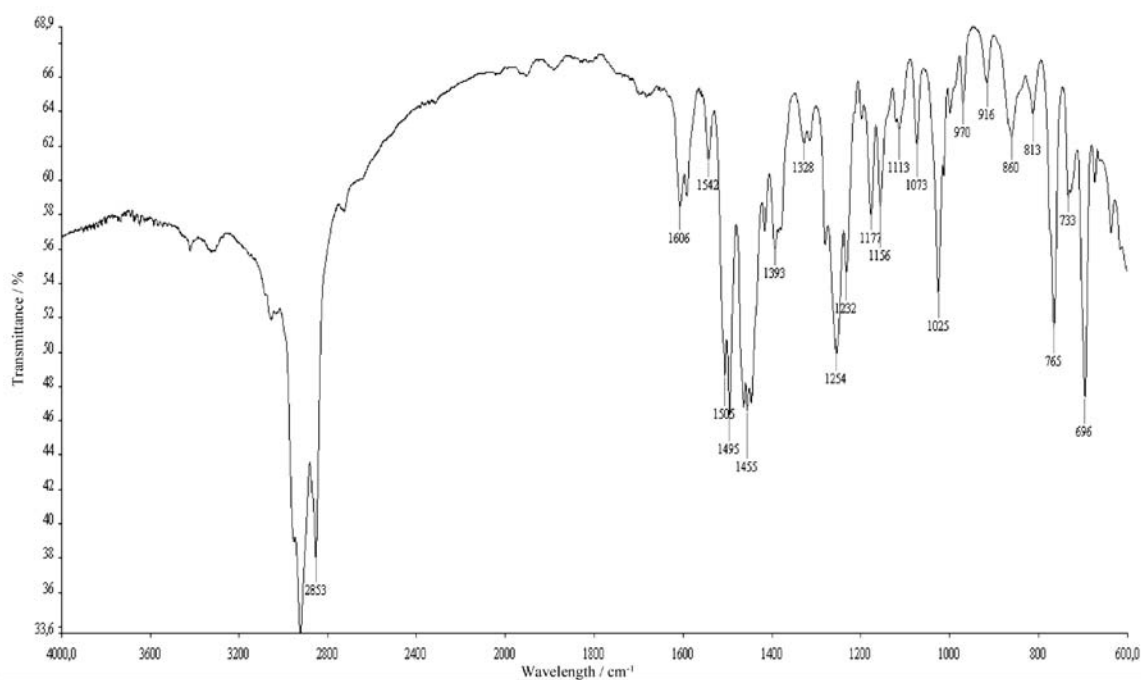


Figure S15. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8d**).

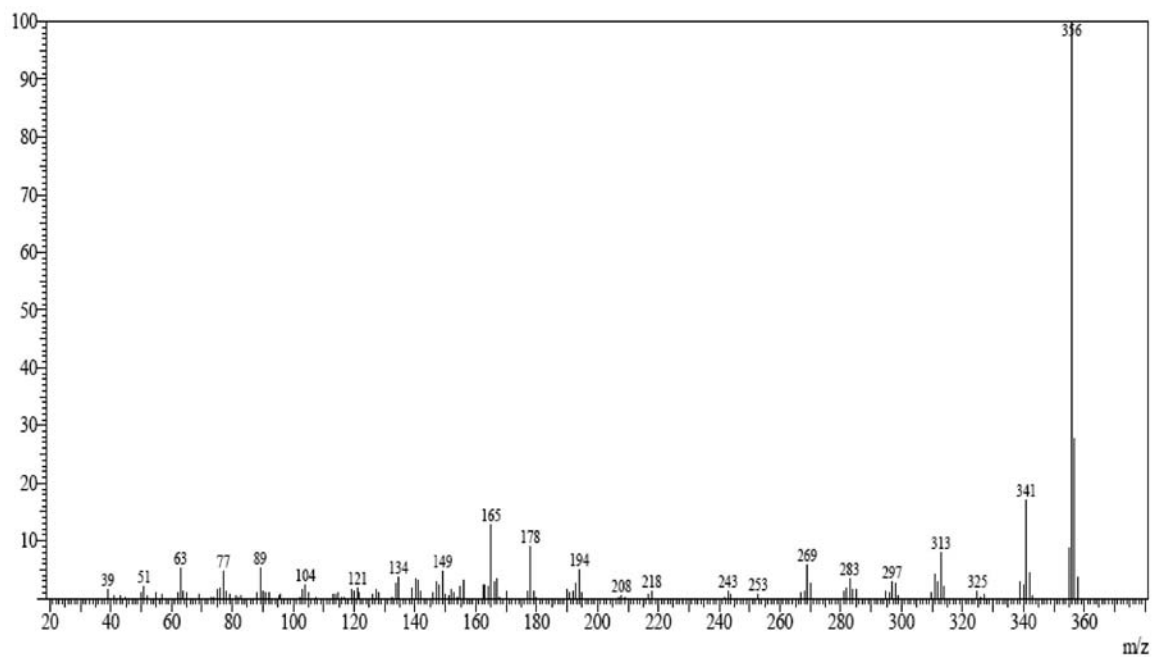


Figure S16. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8d**).

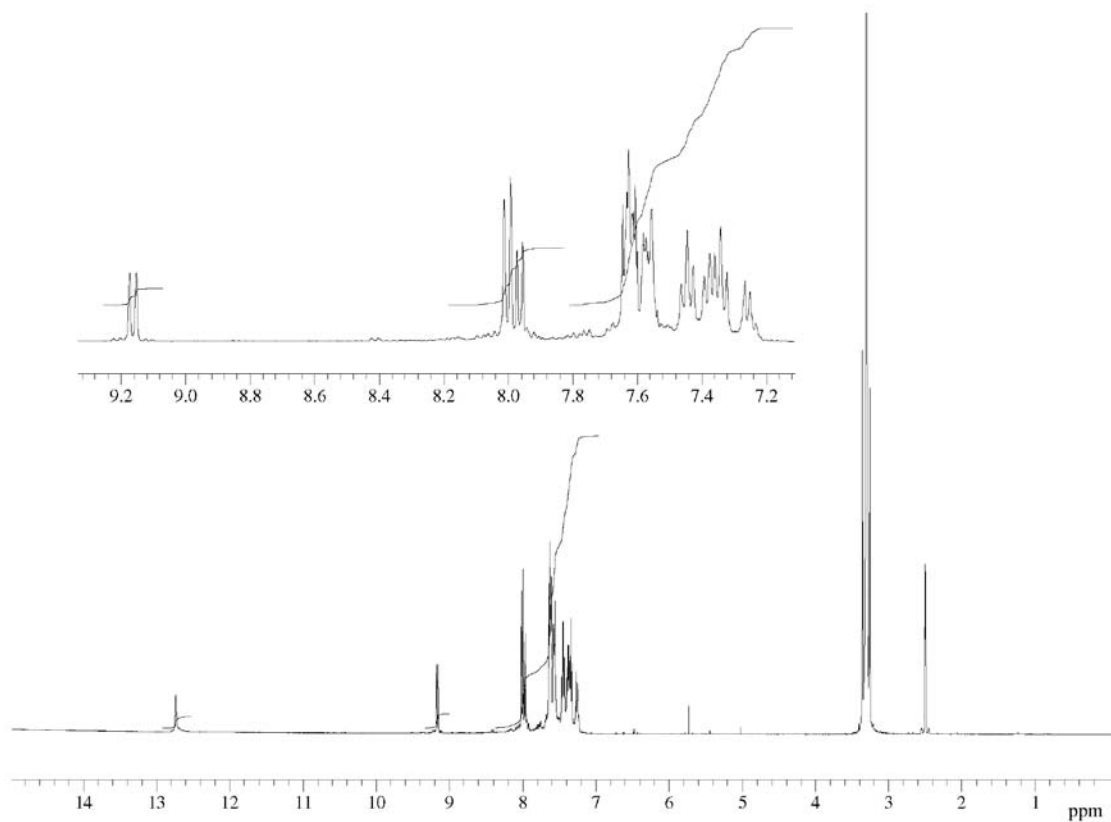


Figure S17. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8e**).

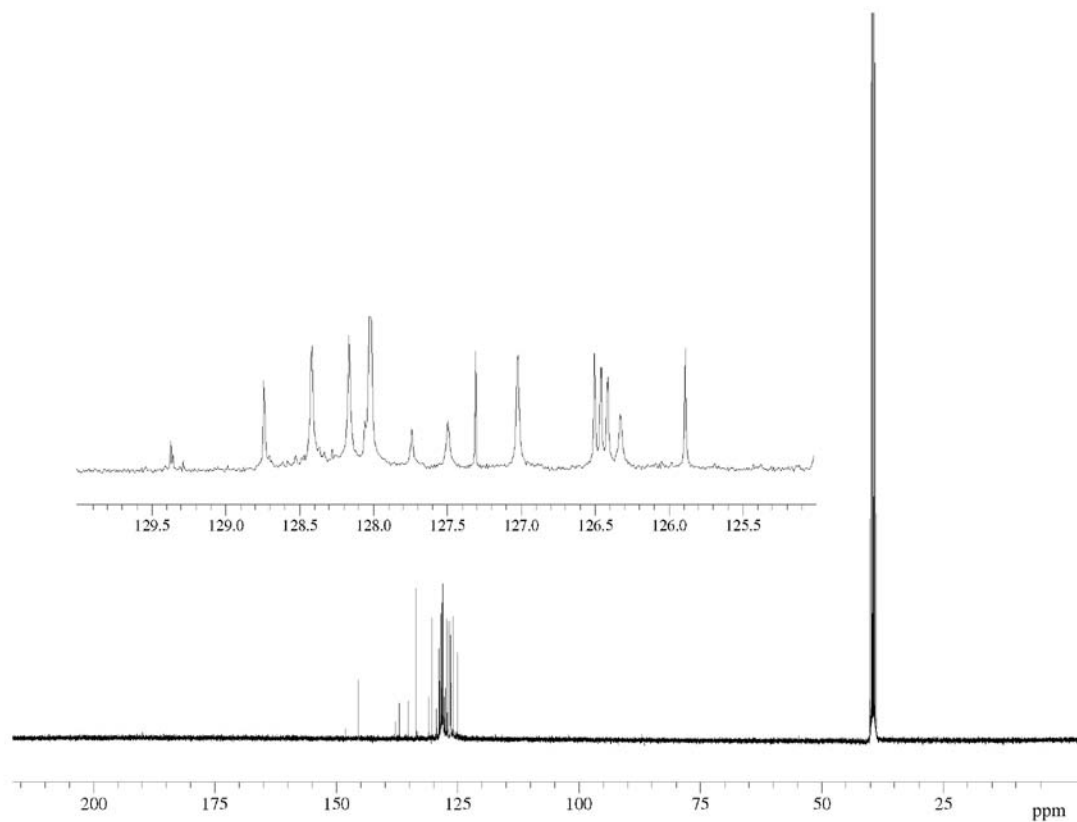


Figure S18. ^{13}C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) of compound 2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8e**).

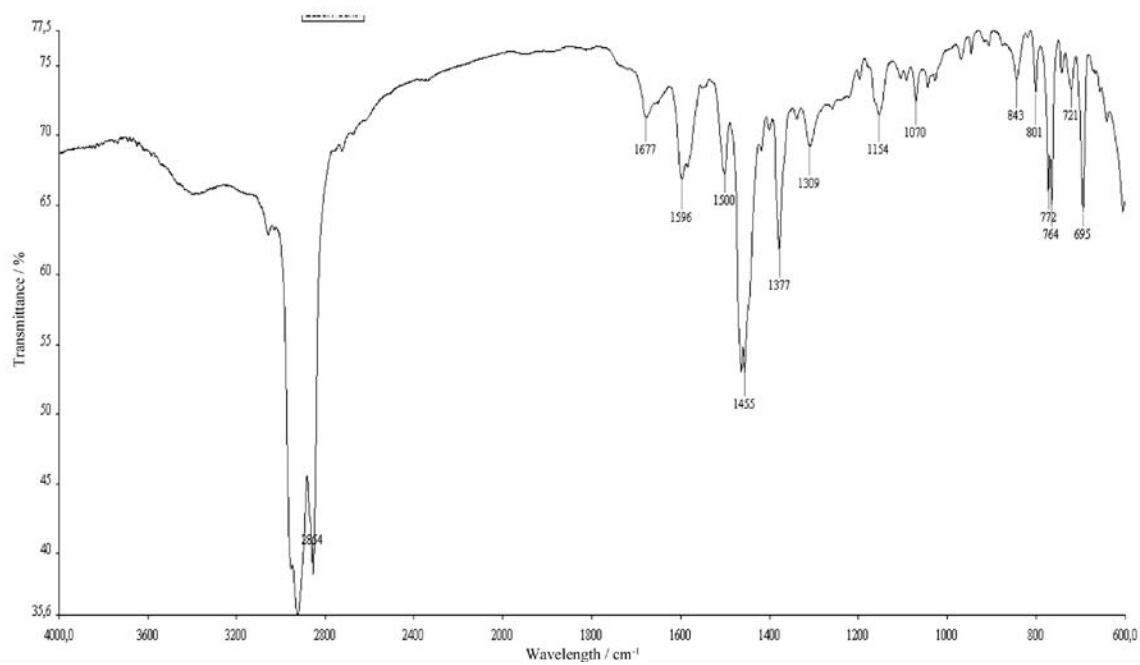


Figure S19. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8e**).

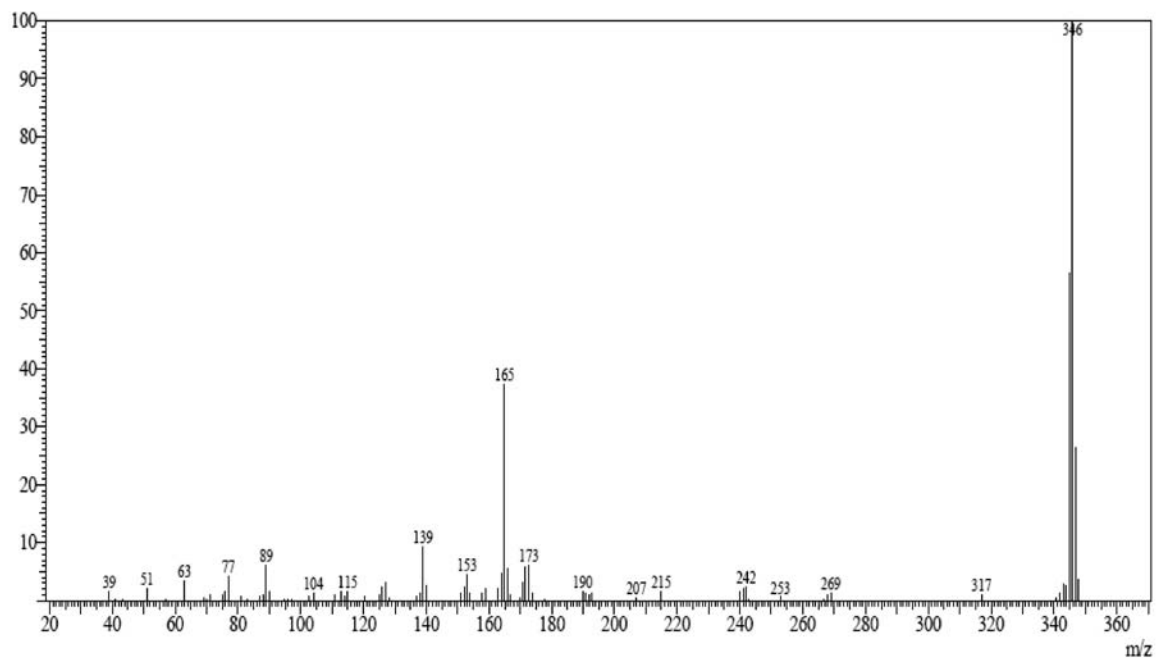


Figure S20. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8e**).

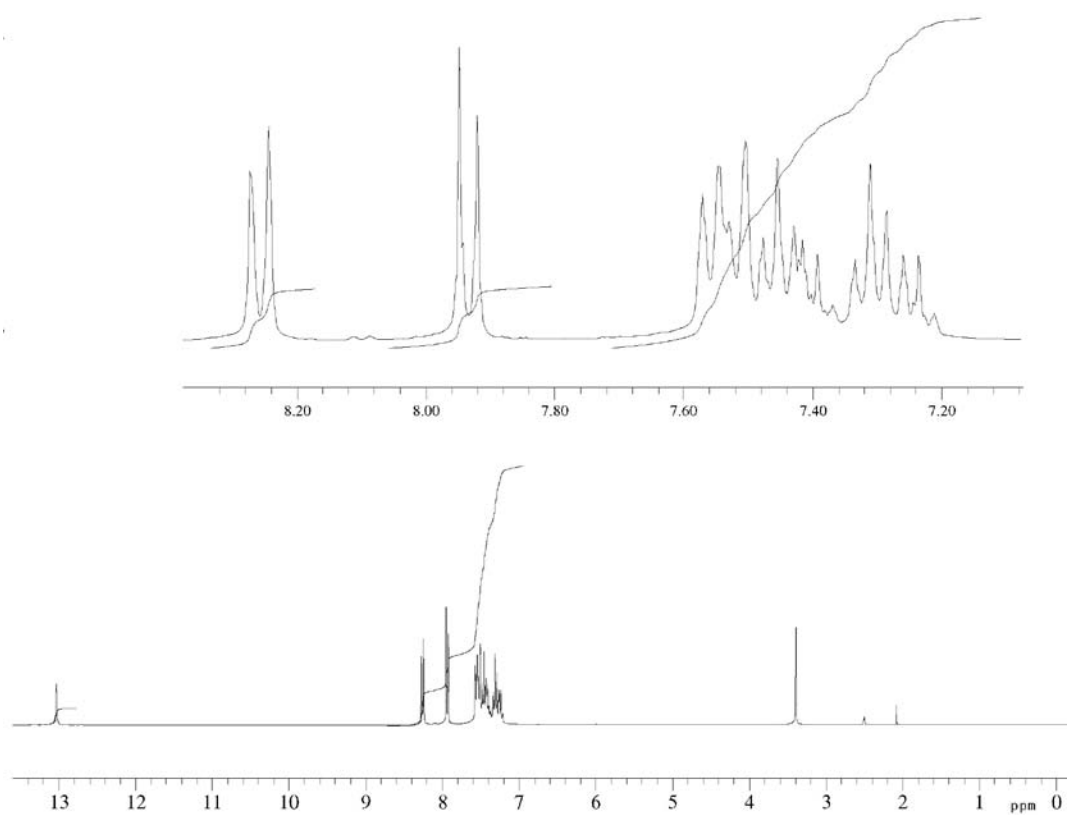


Figure S21. ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4-(4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)benzotrile (**8f**).

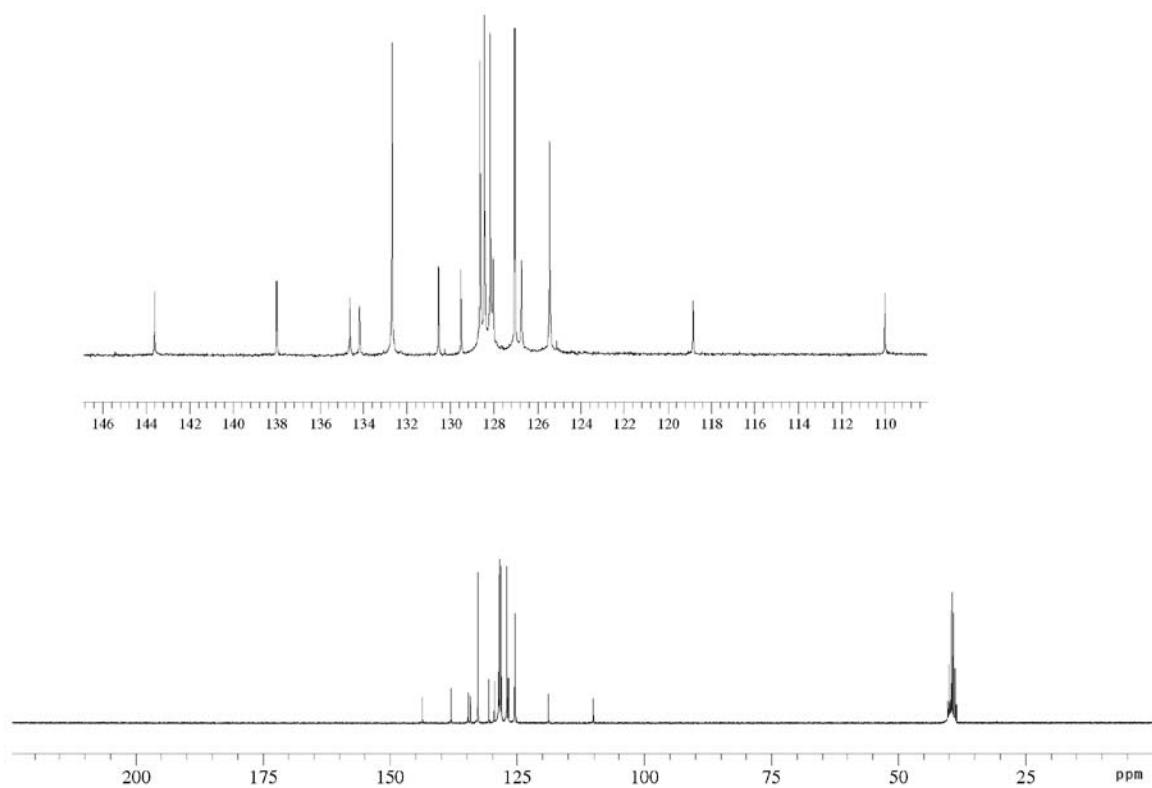


Figure S22. ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4-(4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)benzotrile (**8f**).

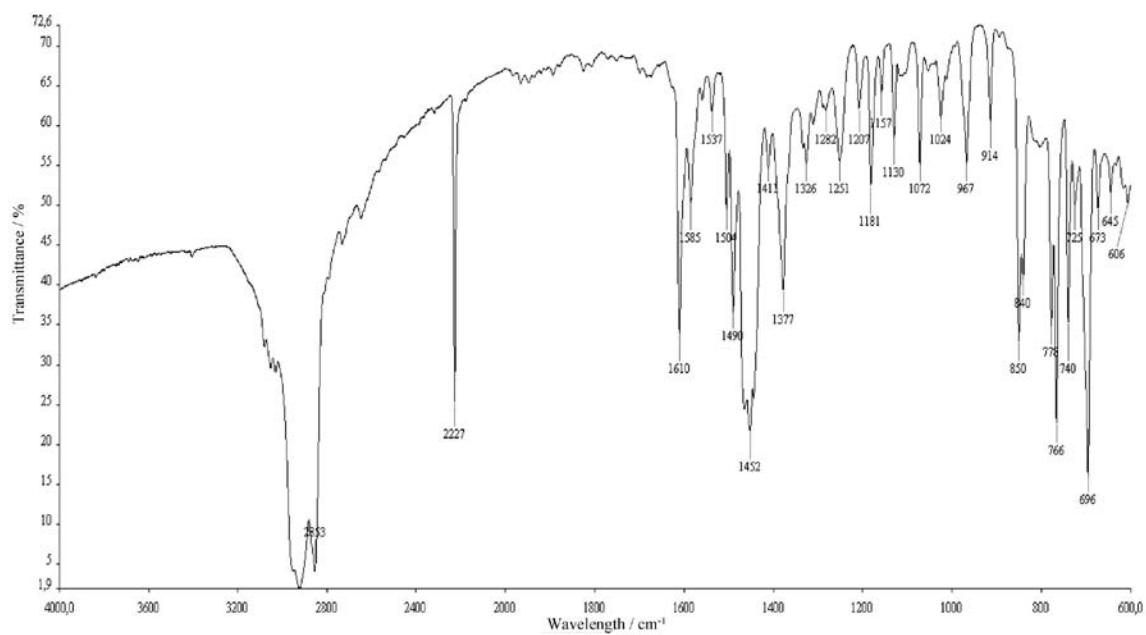


Figure S23. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 4-(4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)benzotrile (**8f**).

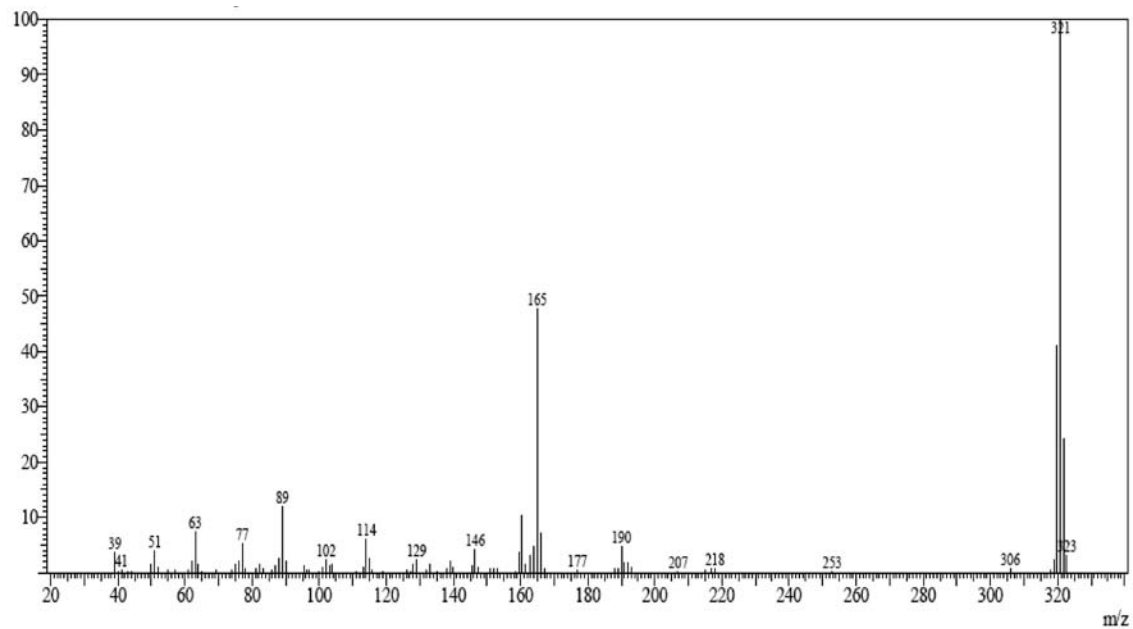


Figure S24. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 4-(4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)benzotrile (**8f**).

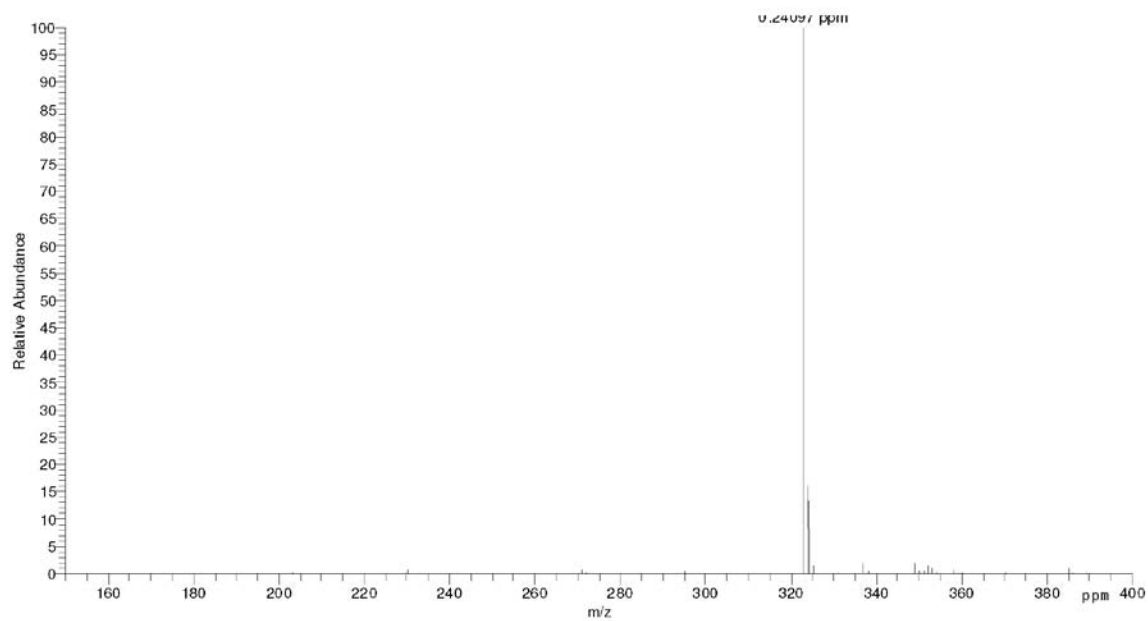


Figure S25. HRMS (ESI+) of compound 4-(4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)benzotrile (**8f**).

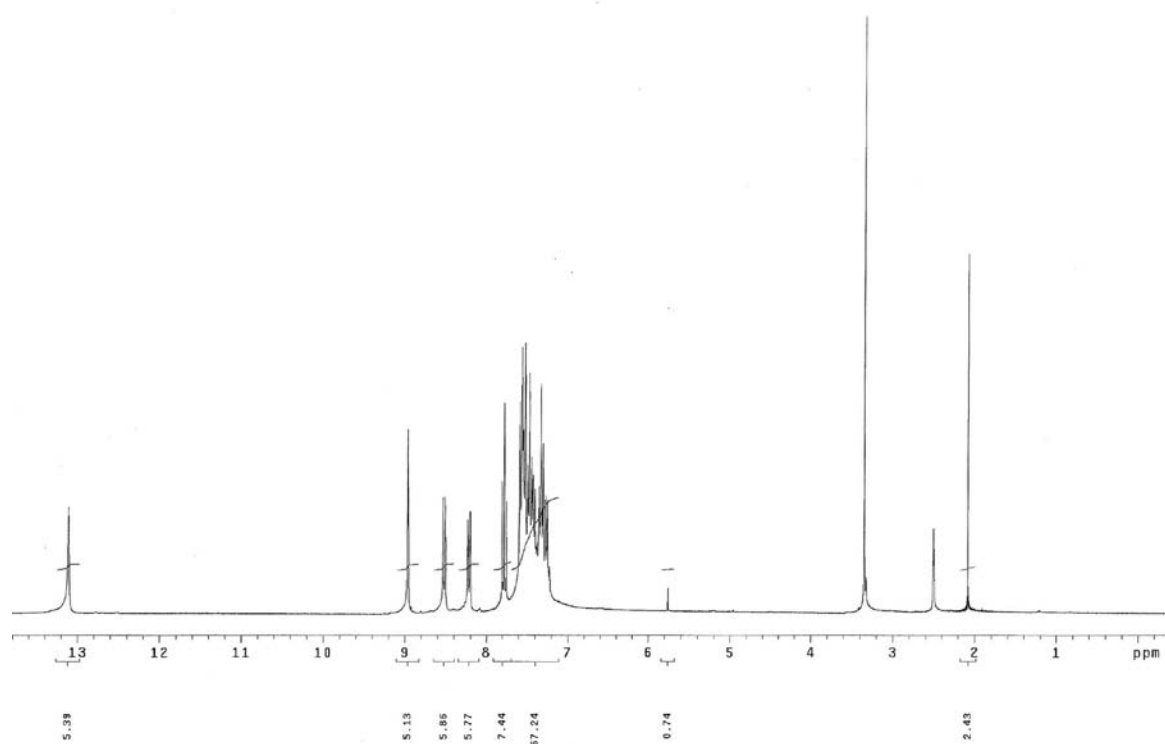


Figure S26. ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2-(3-nitrophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8g**).

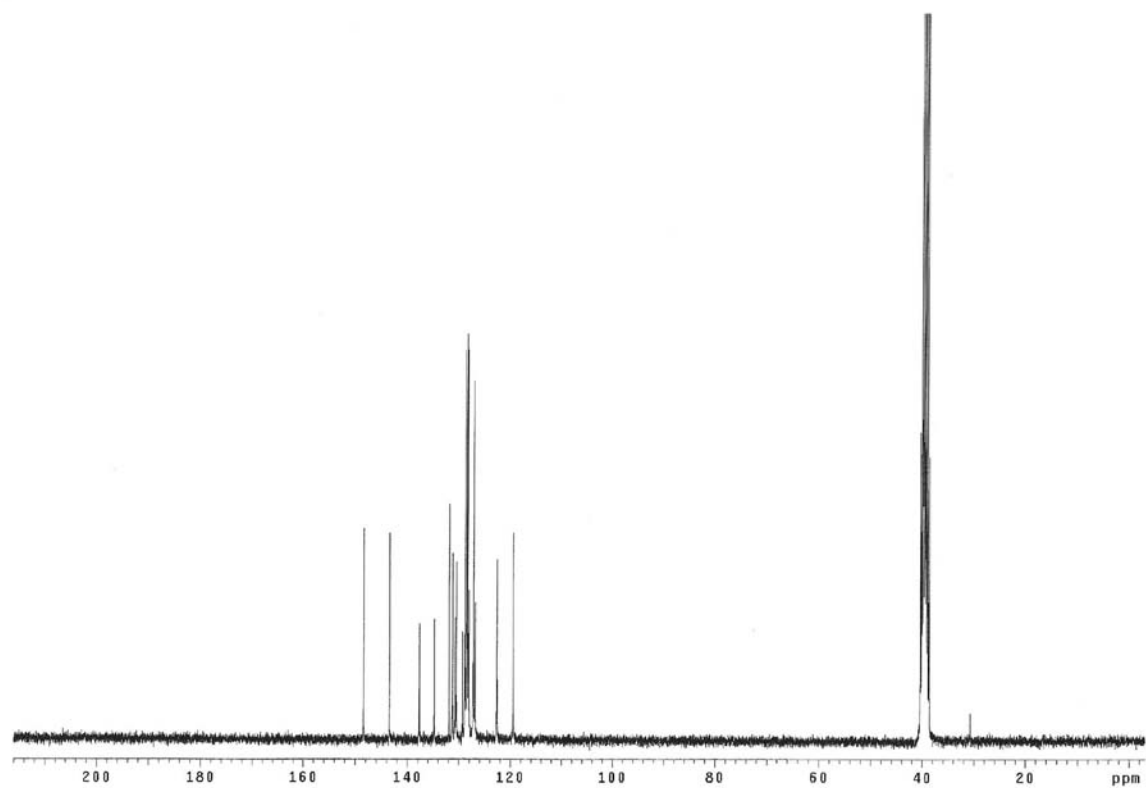


Figure S27. ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2-(3-nitrophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8g**).

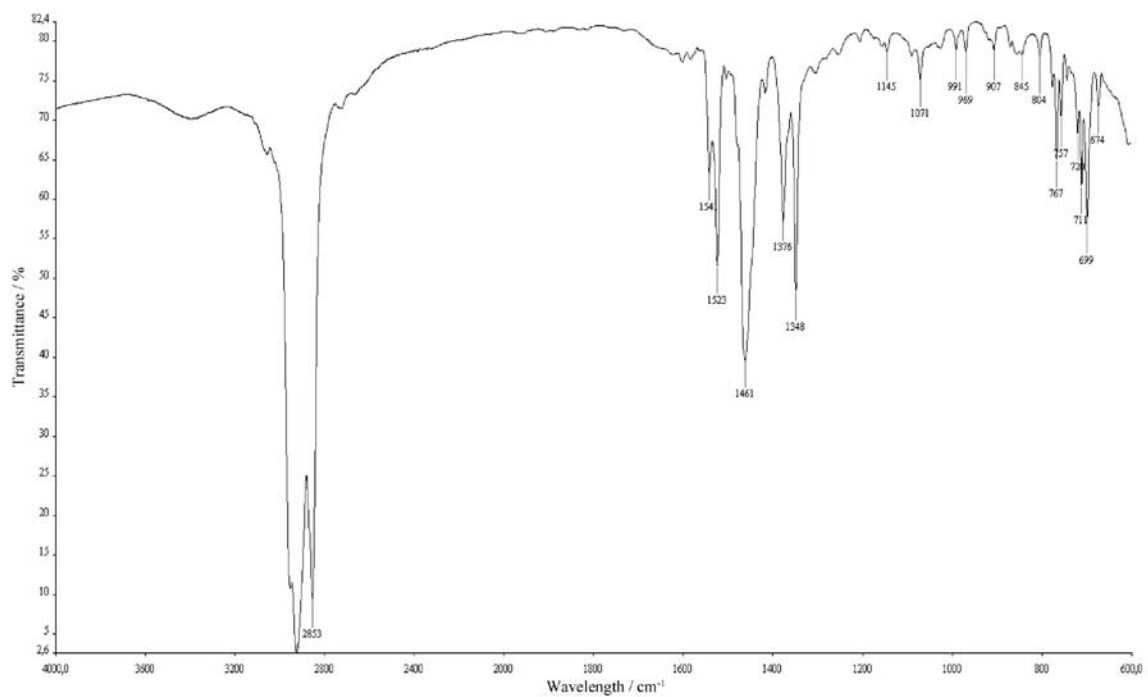


Figure S28. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 2-(3-nitrophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8g**).

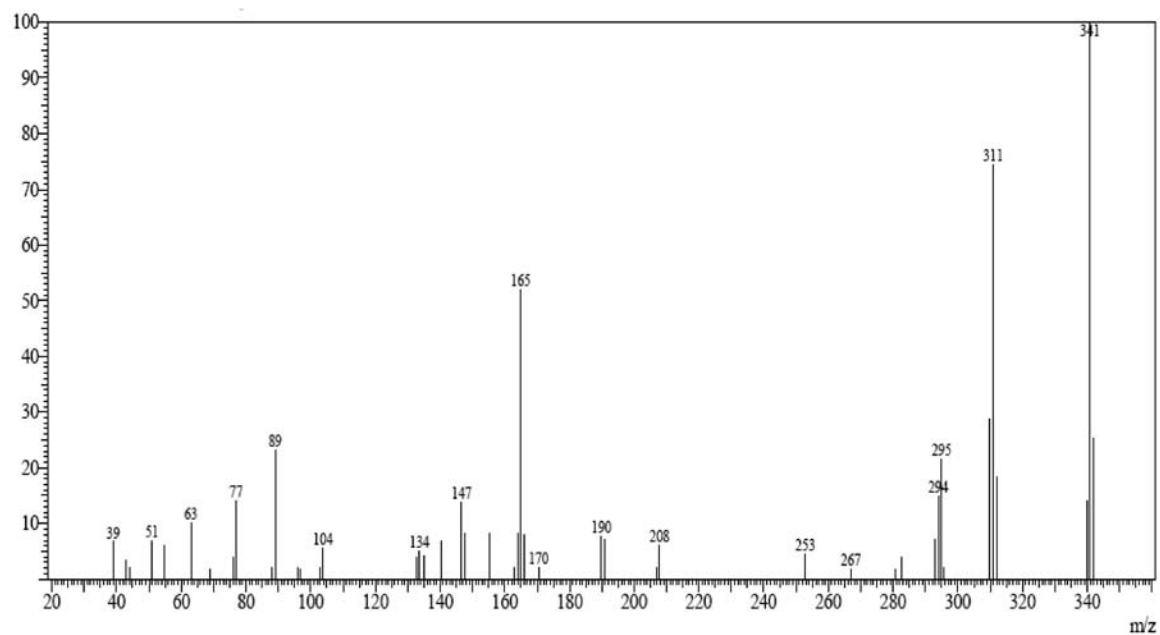


Figure S29. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 2-(3-nitrophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8g**).

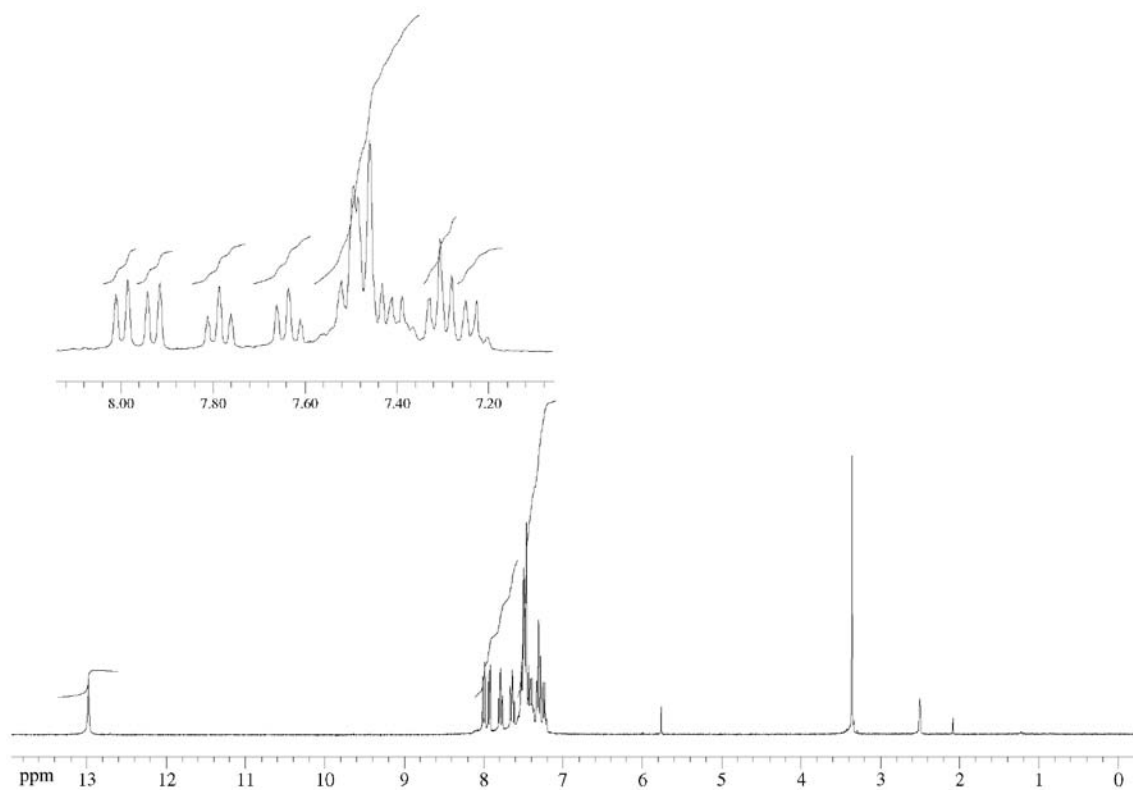


Figure S30. ^1H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) of compound 2-(2-nitrophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8h**).

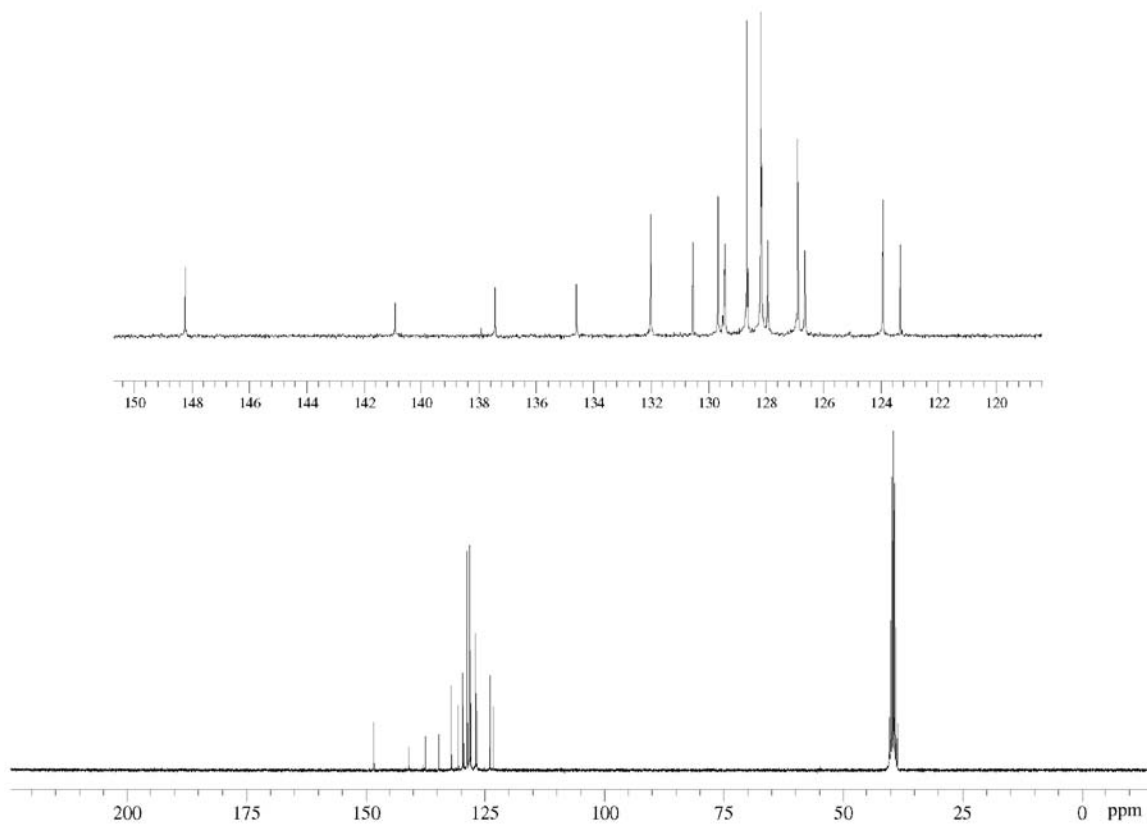


Figure S31. ^{13}C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) of compound 2-(2-nitrophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8h**).

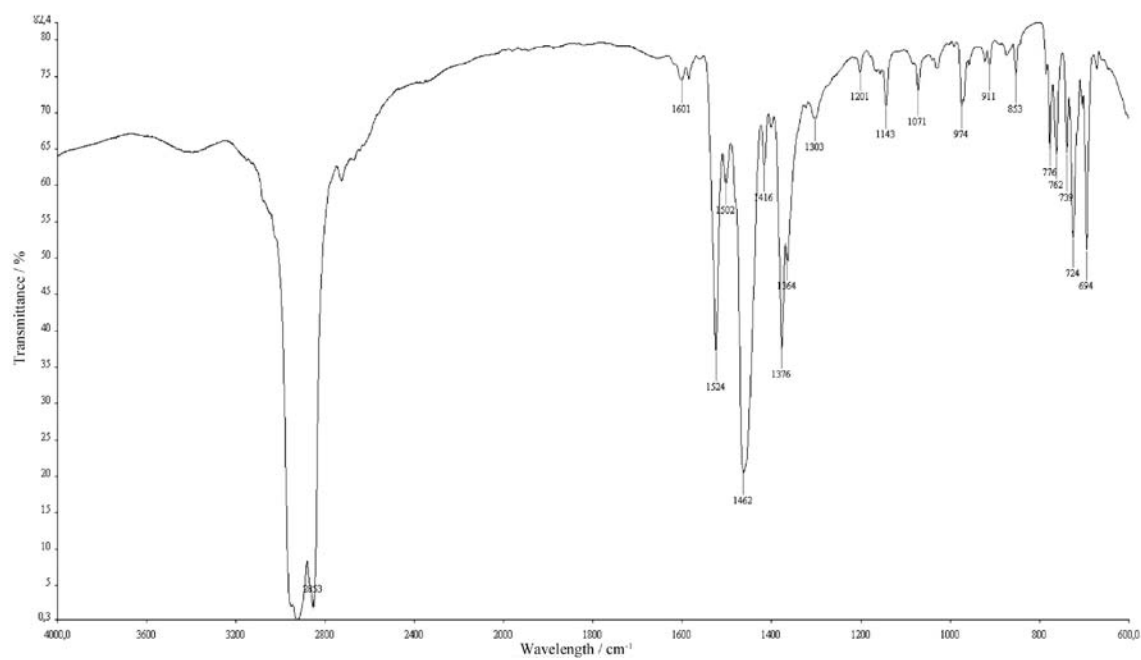


Figure S32. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 2-(2-nitrophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8h**).

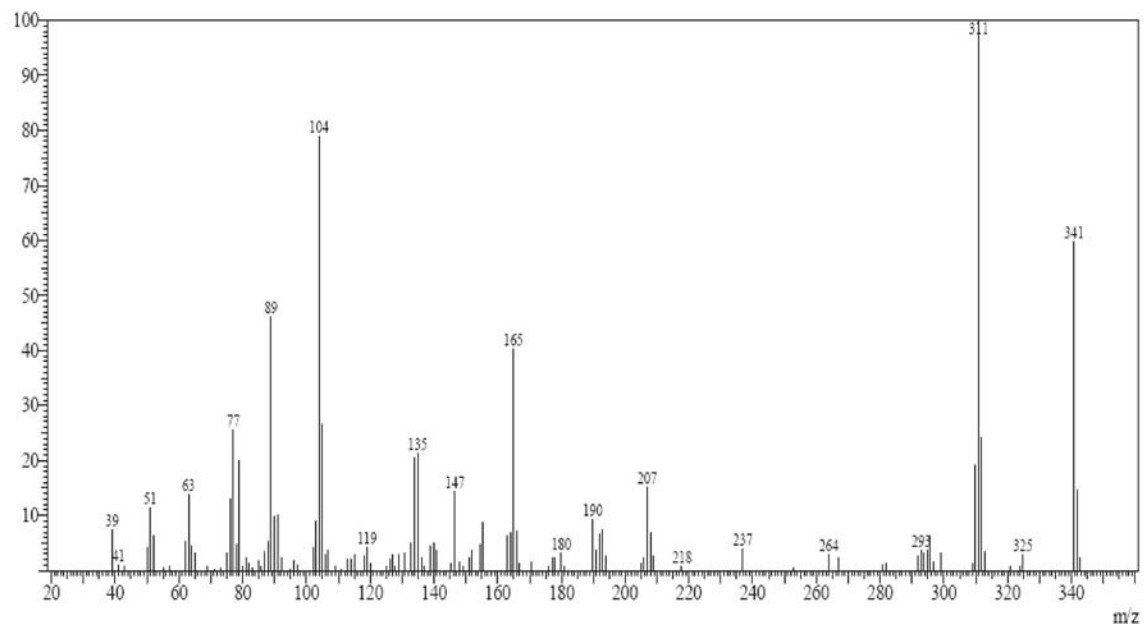


Figure S33. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 2-(2-nitrophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8h**).

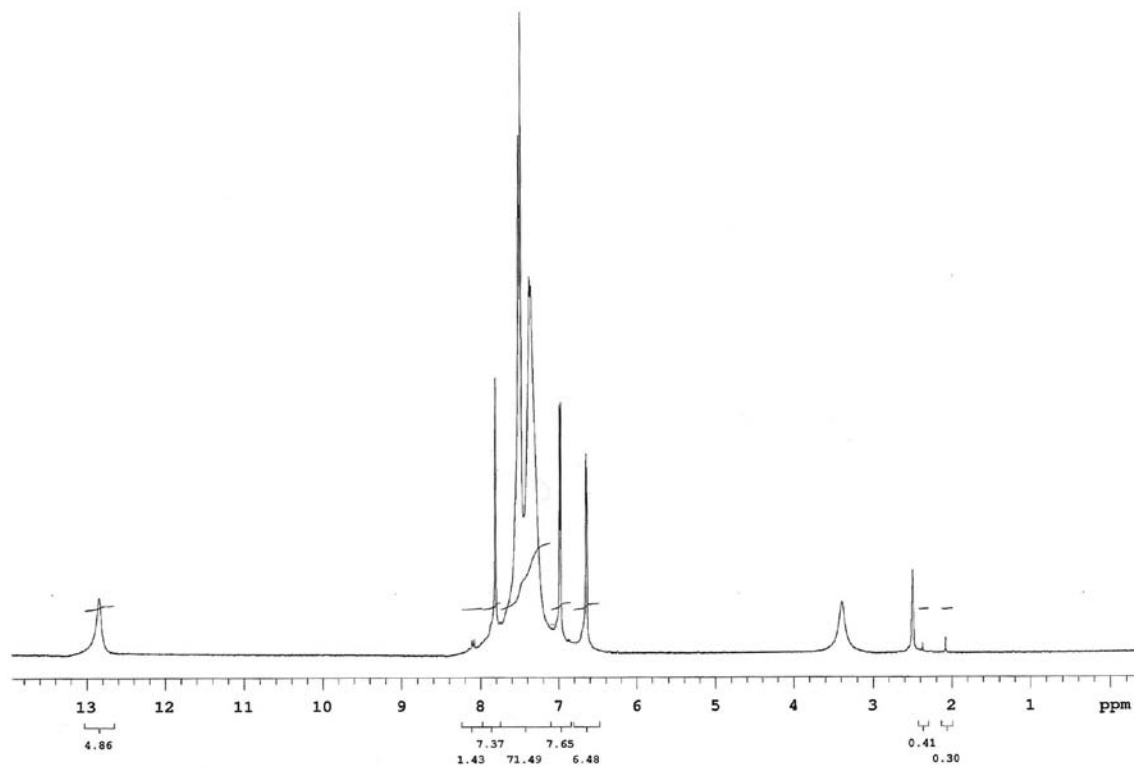


Figure S34. ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2-(furan-2-yl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (8i).

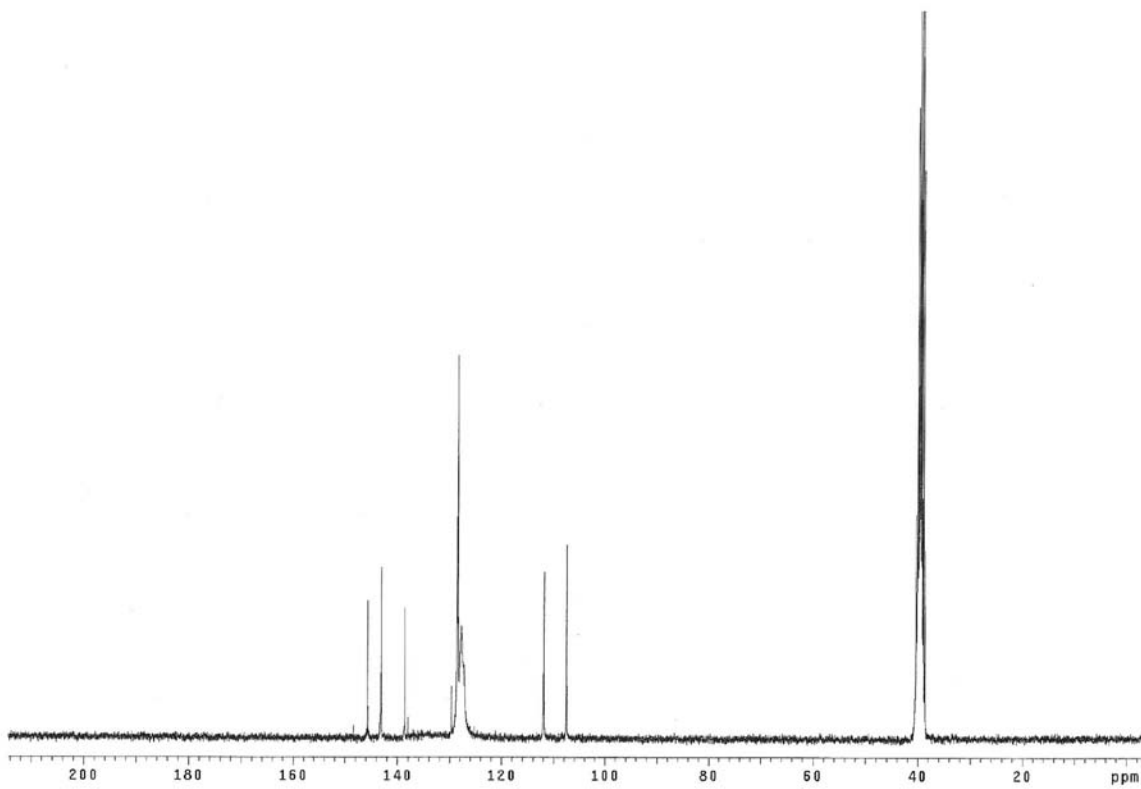


Figure S35. ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2-(furan-2-yl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (8i).

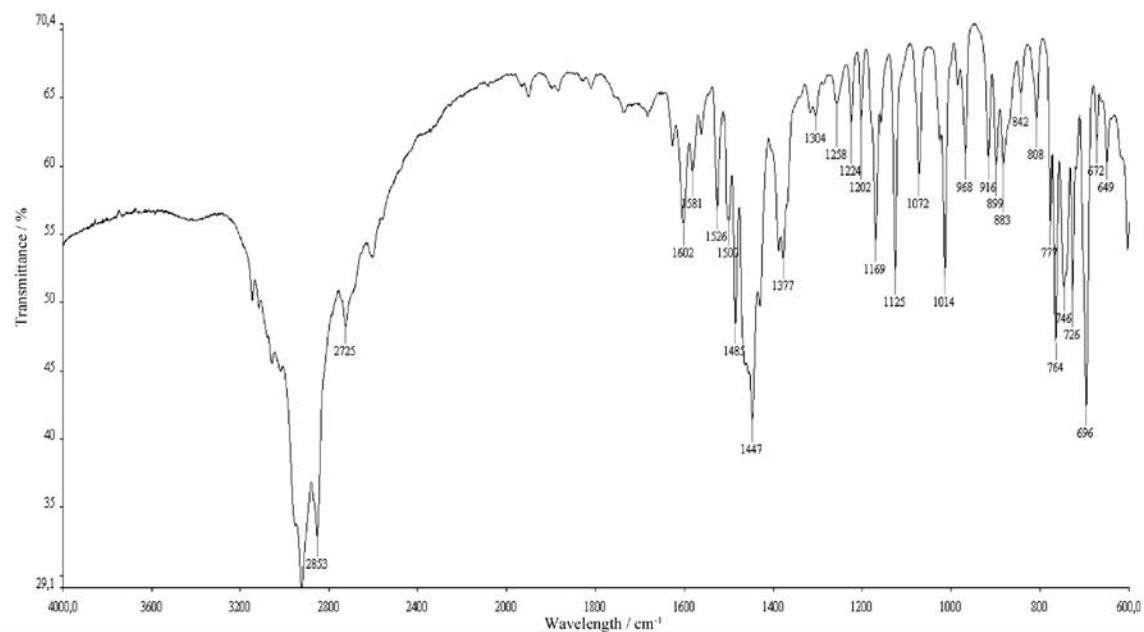


Figure S36. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 2-(furan-2-yl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8i**).

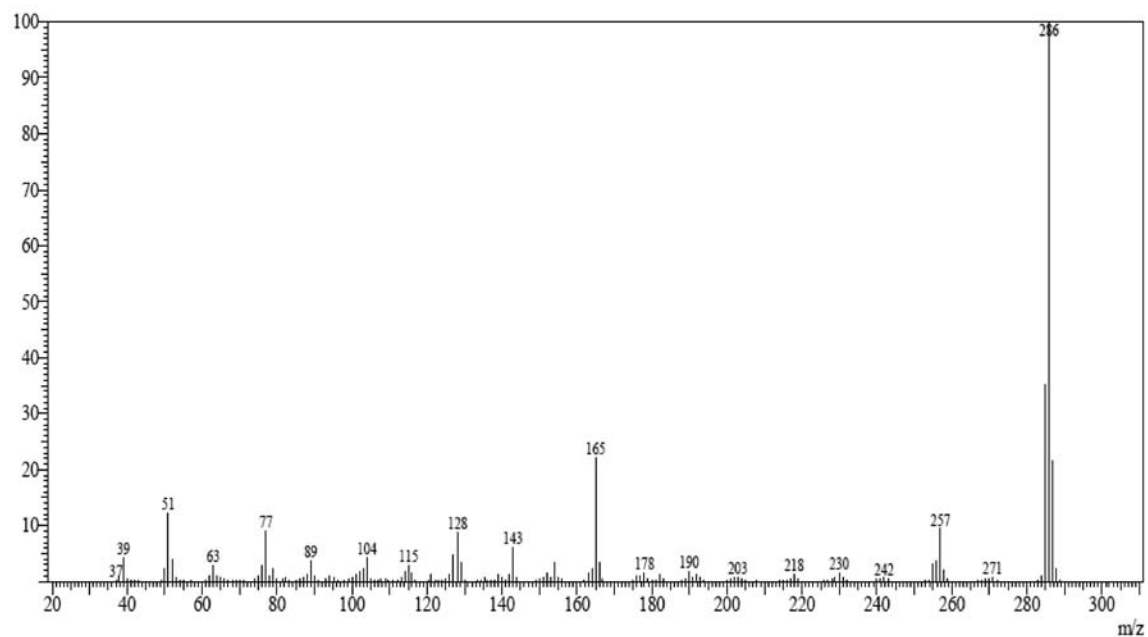


Figure S37. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 2-(furan-2-yl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**8i**).

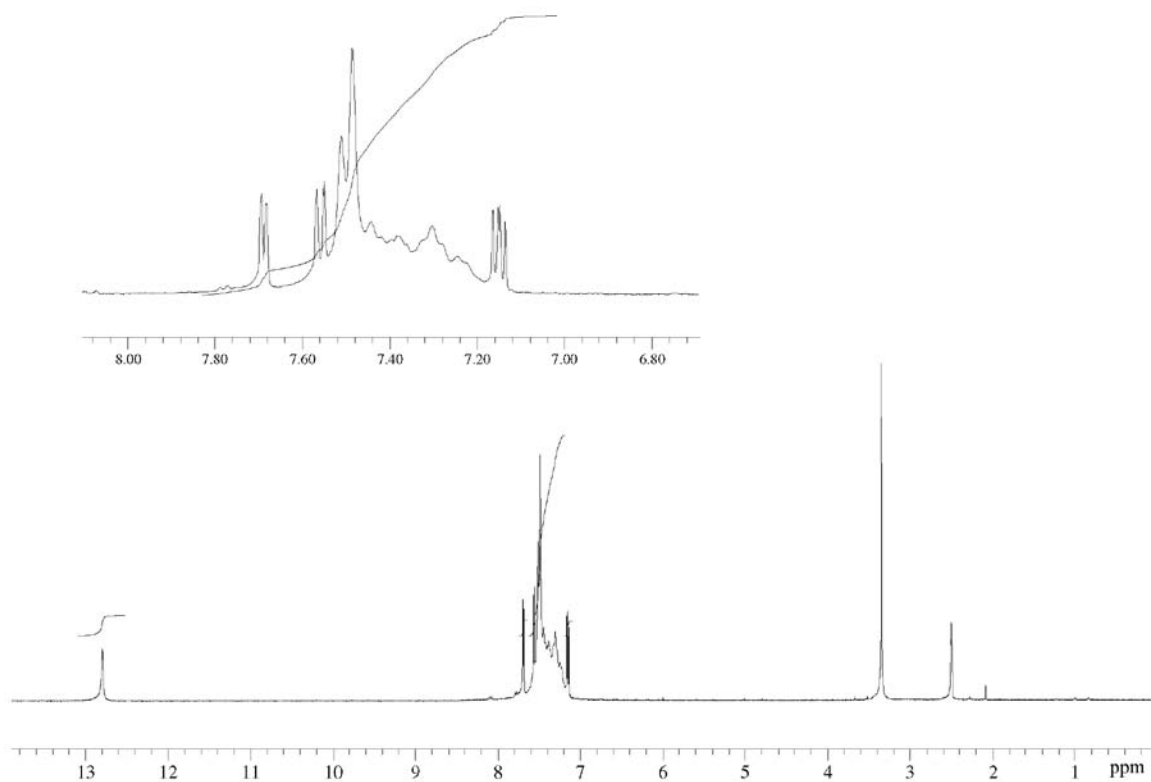


Figure S38. ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4,5-diphenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (**8j**).

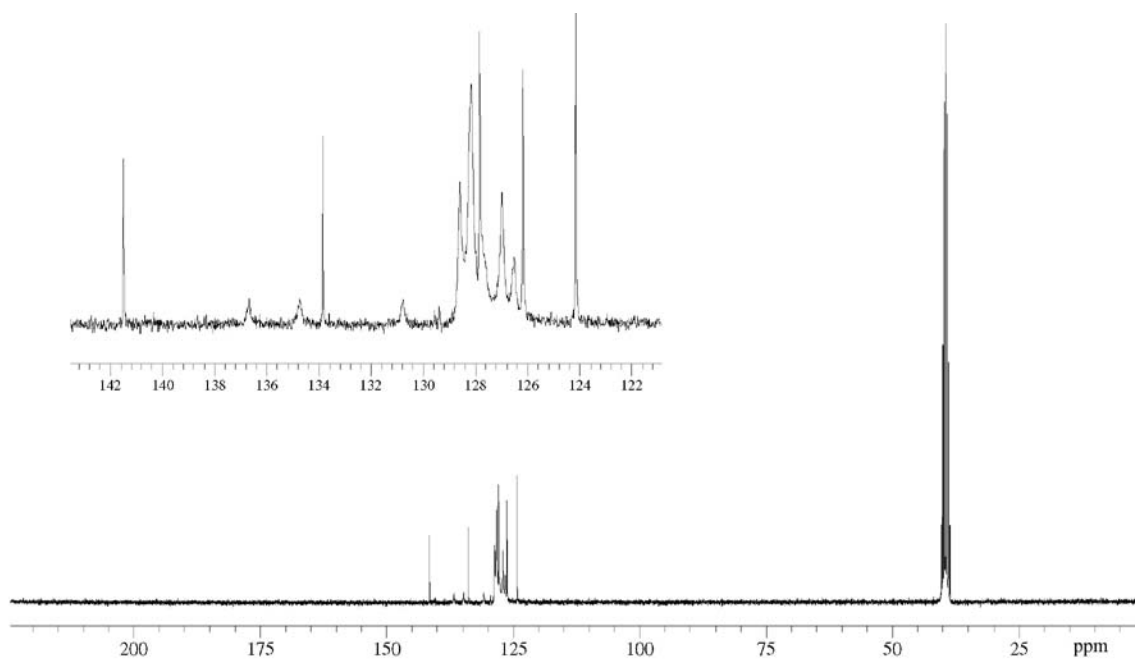


Figure S39. ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4,5-diphenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (**8j**).

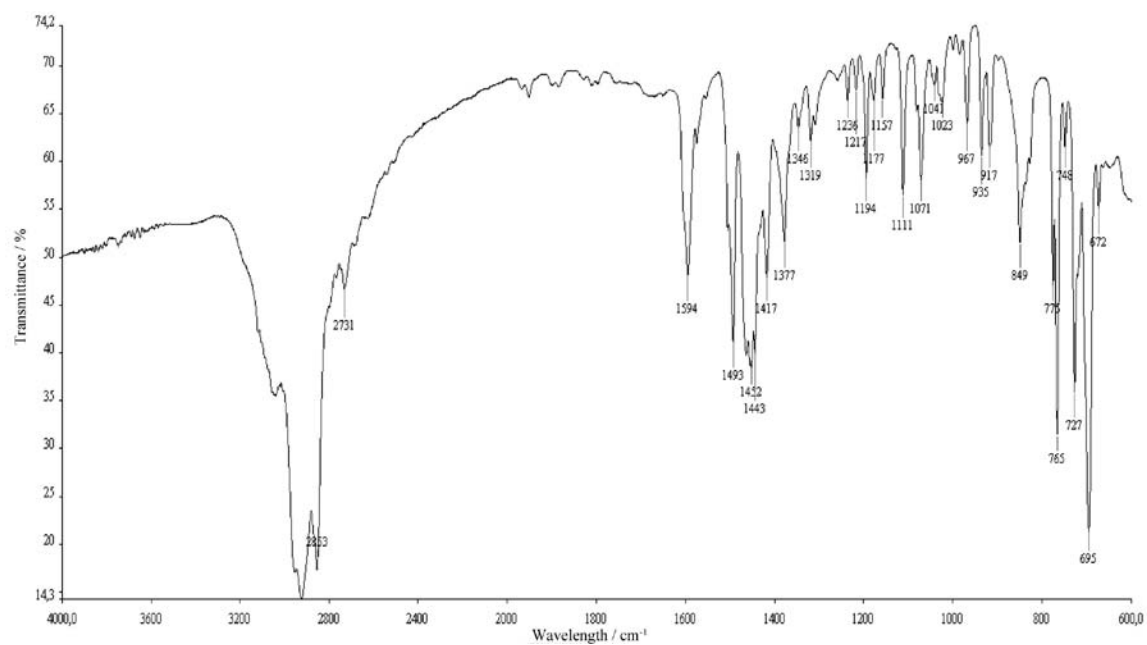


Figure S40. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 4,5-diphenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (**8j**).

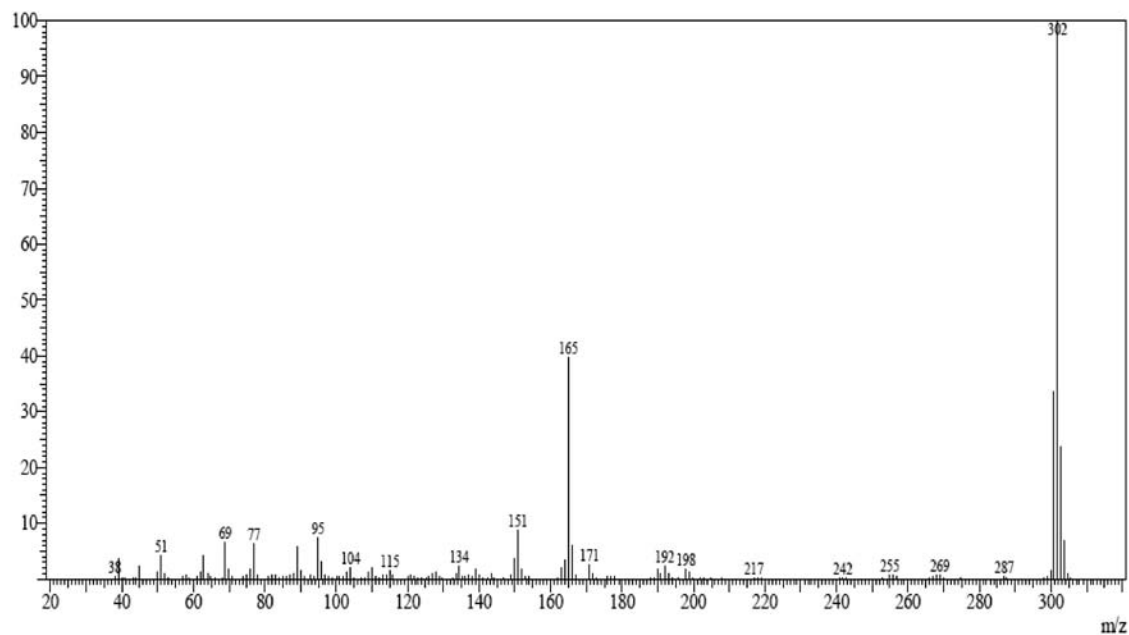


Figure S41. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 4,5-diphenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (**8j**).

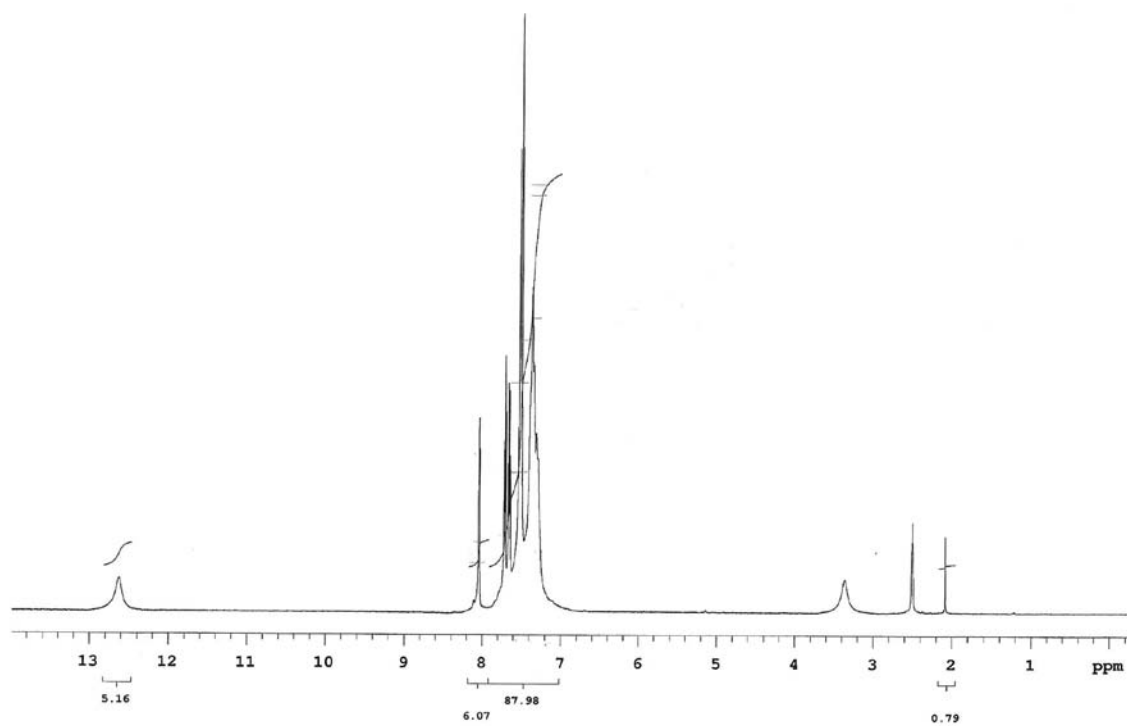


Figure S42. ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4,5-diphenyl-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (**8k**).

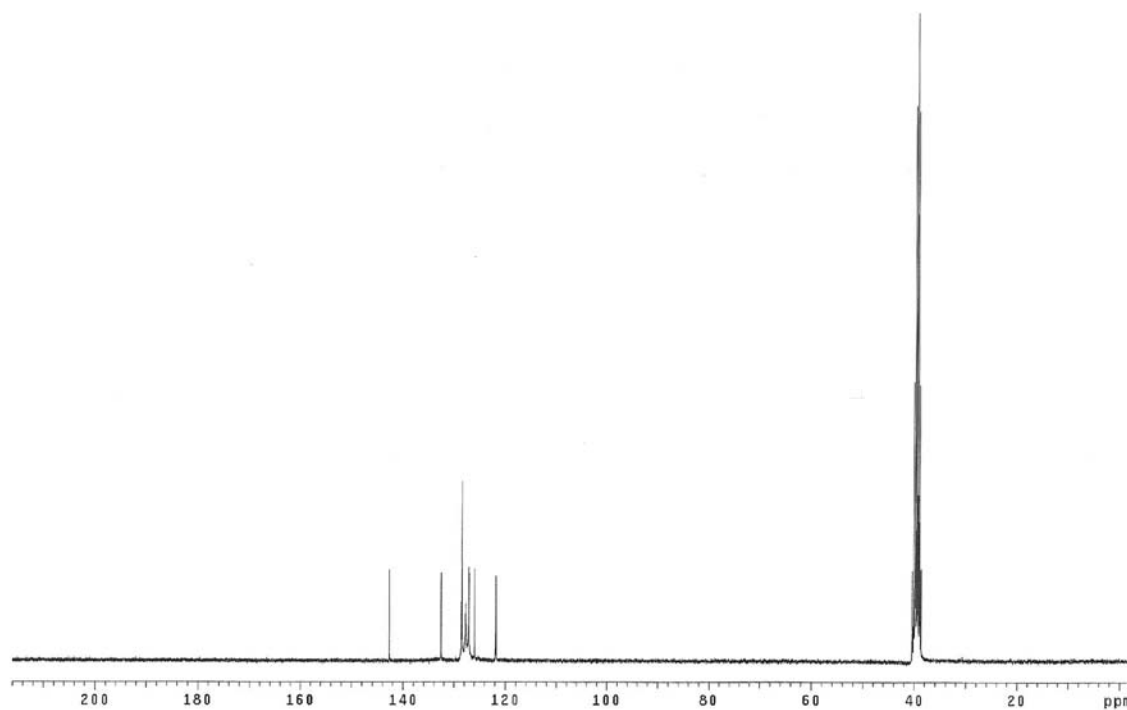


Figure S43. ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4,5-diphenyl-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (**8k**).

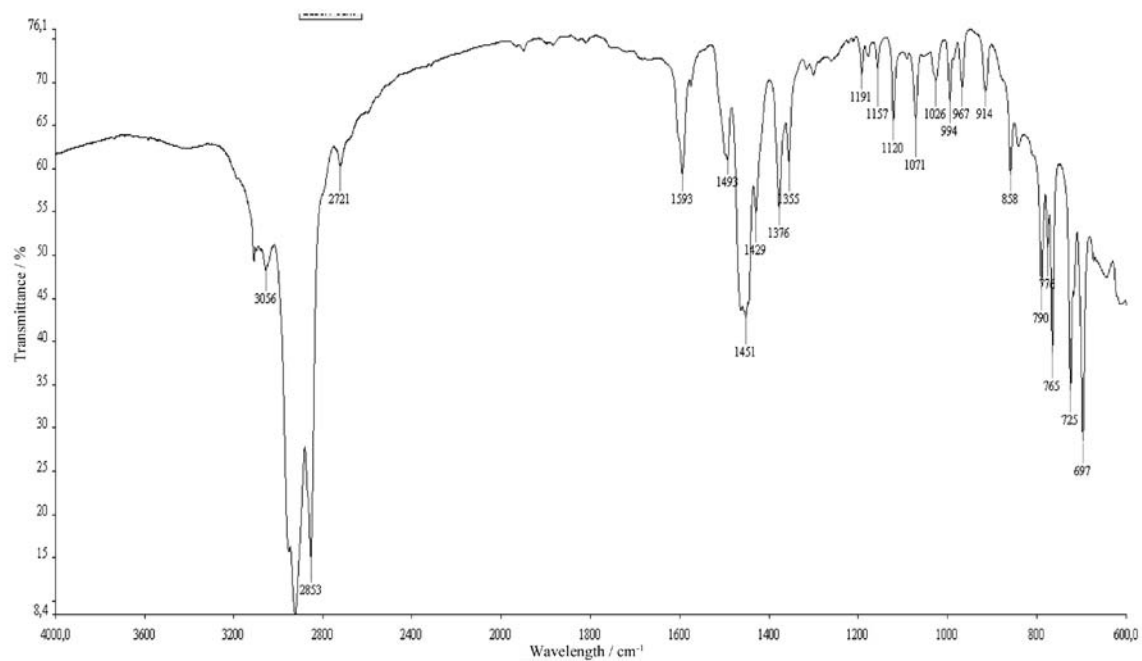


Figure S44. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 4,5-diphenyl-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (**8k**).

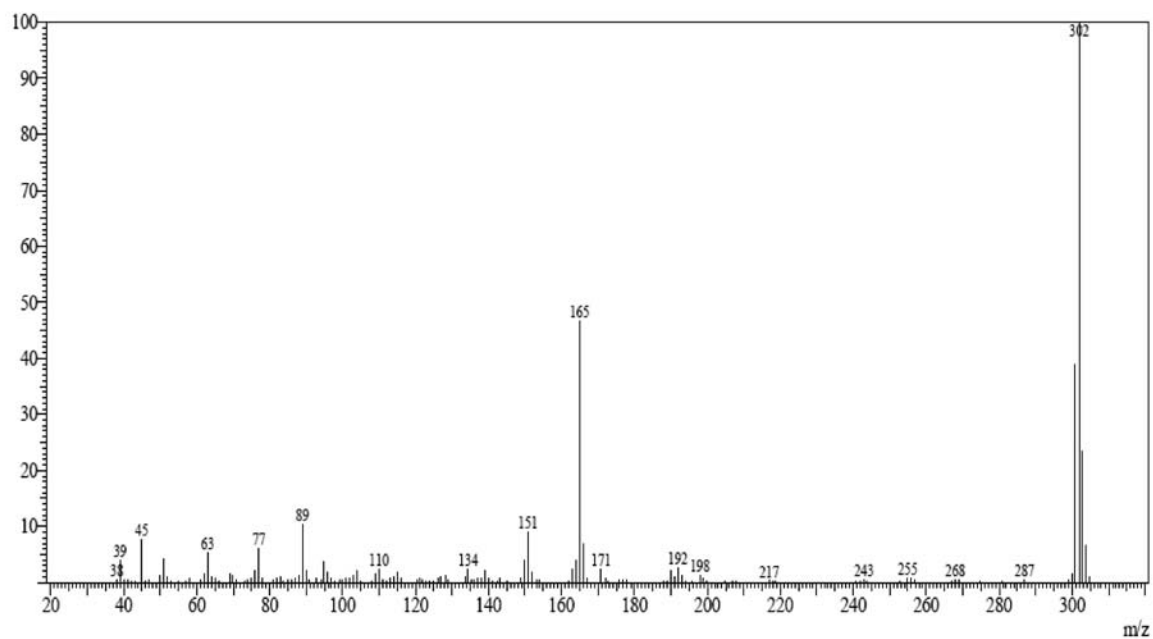


Figure S45. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 4,5-diphenyl-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (**8k**).

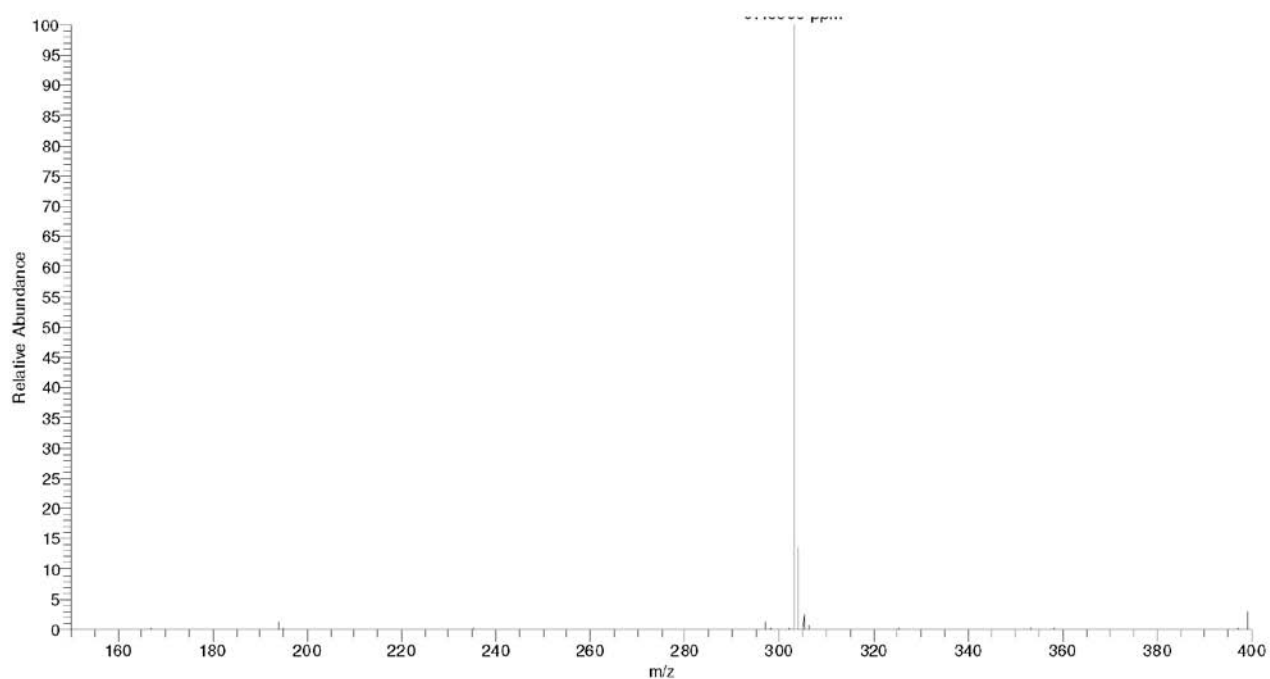


Figure S46. HRMS (ESI +) of compound 4,5-diphenyl-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (**8k**).

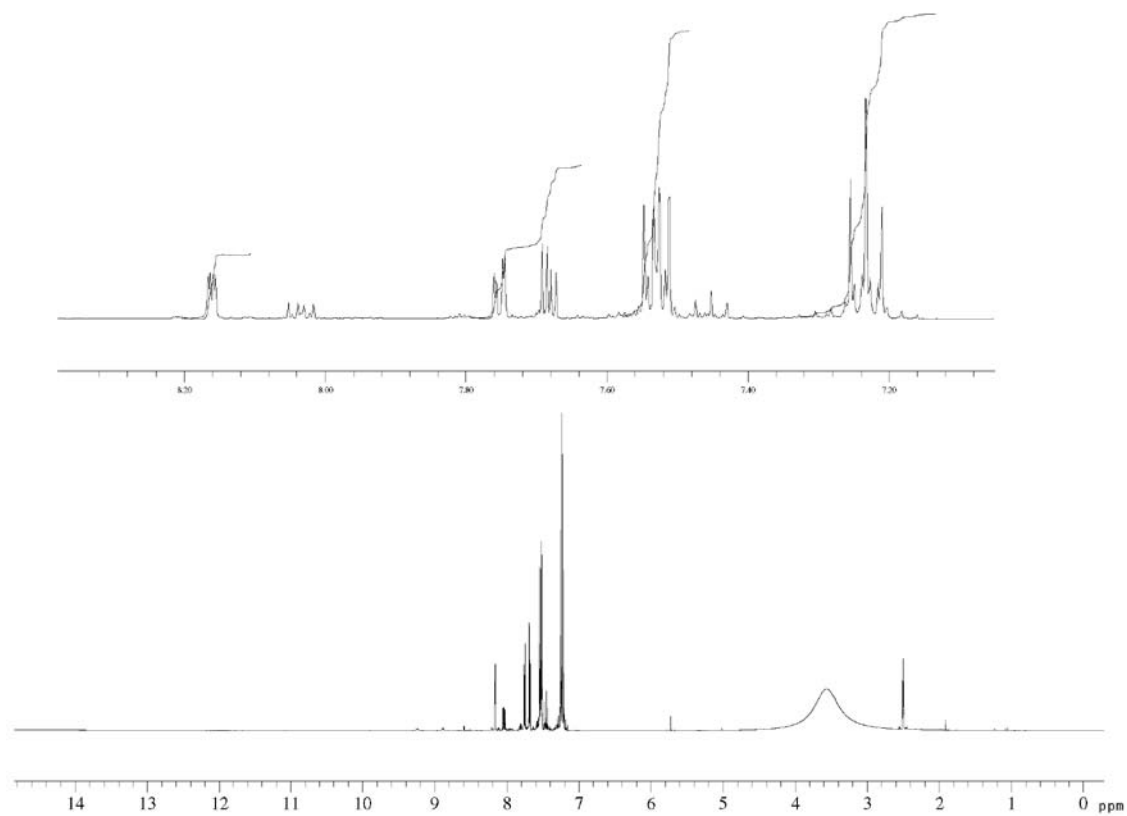


Figure S47. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4,5-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (**8l**).

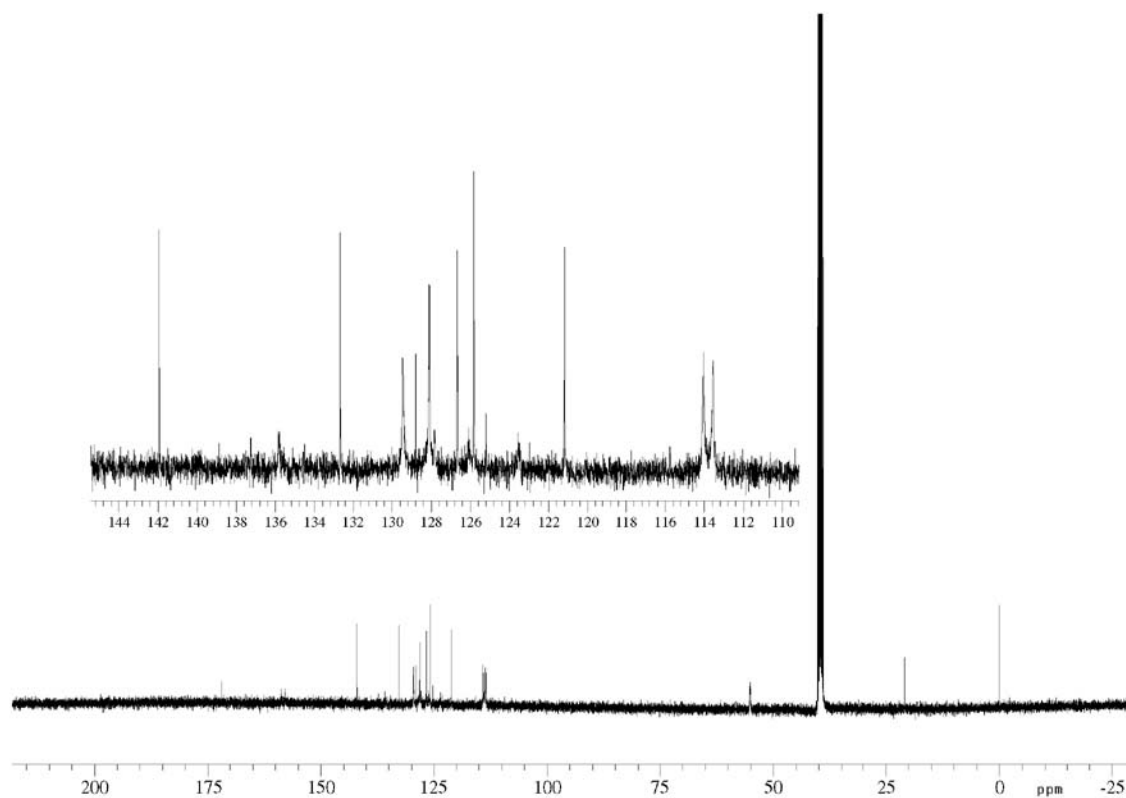


Figure S48. ^{13}C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) of compound 4,5-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (**81**).

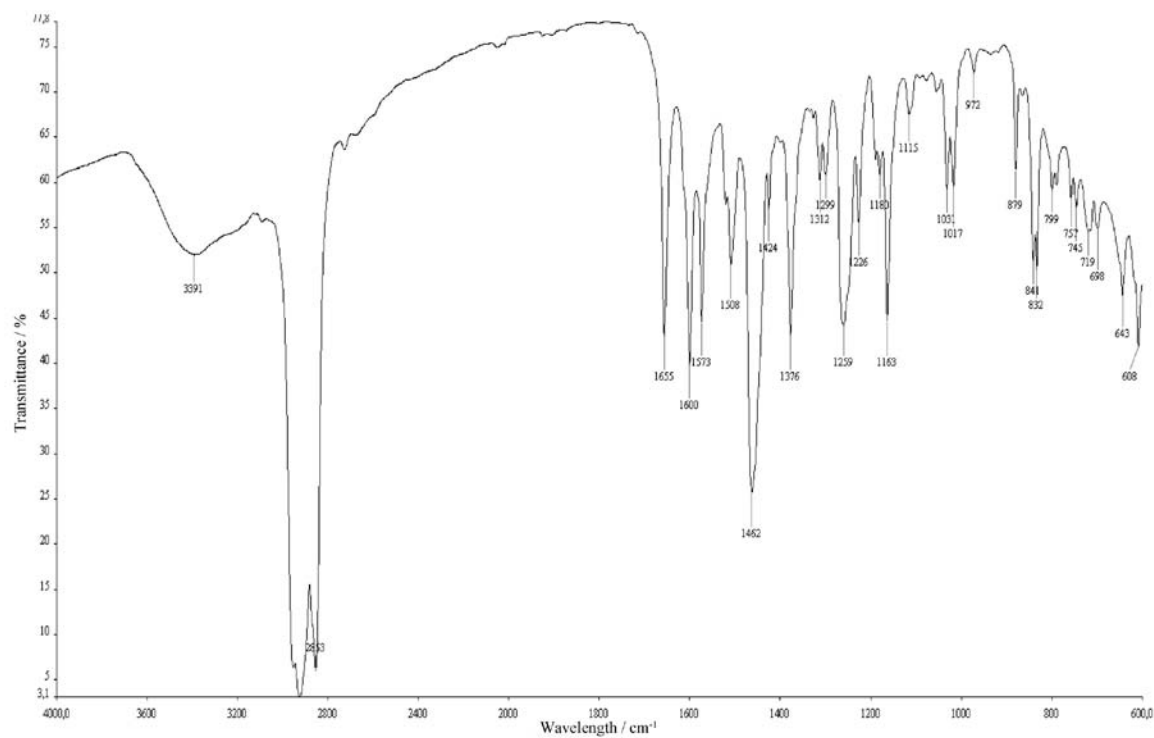


Figure S49. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 4,5-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (**81**).

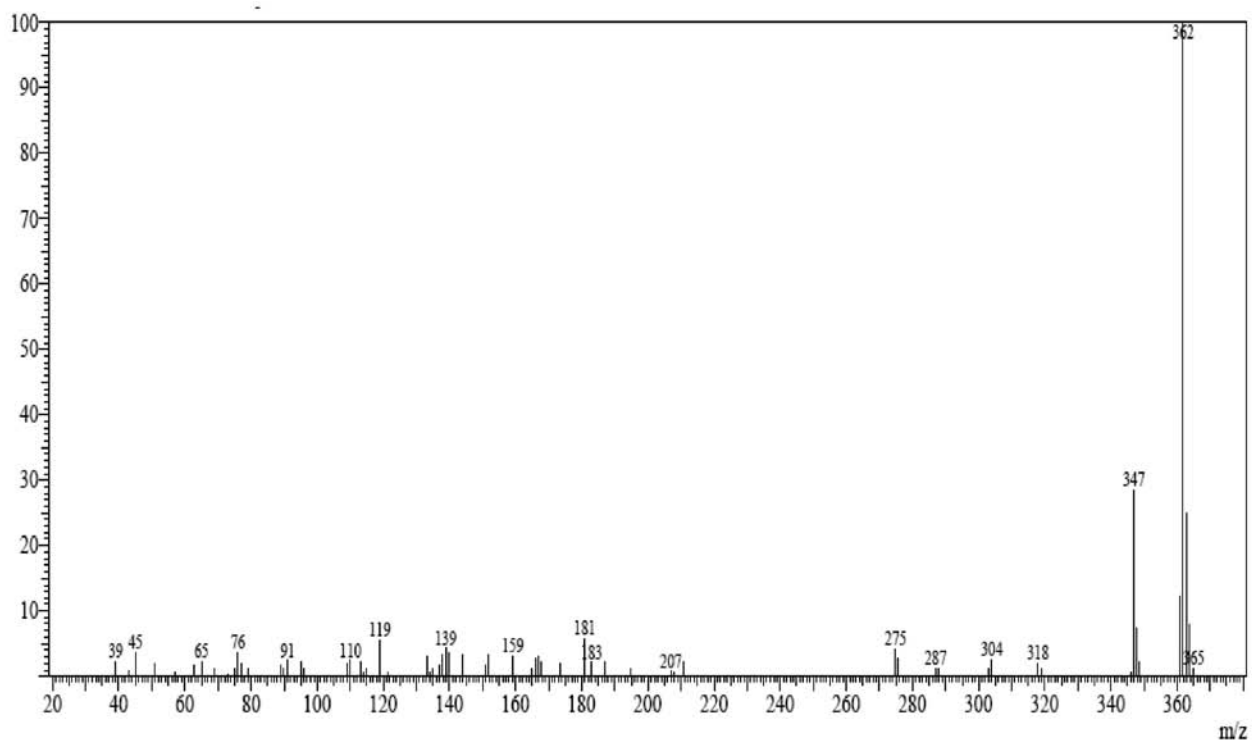


Figure S50. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 4,5-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1H-imidazole (81).

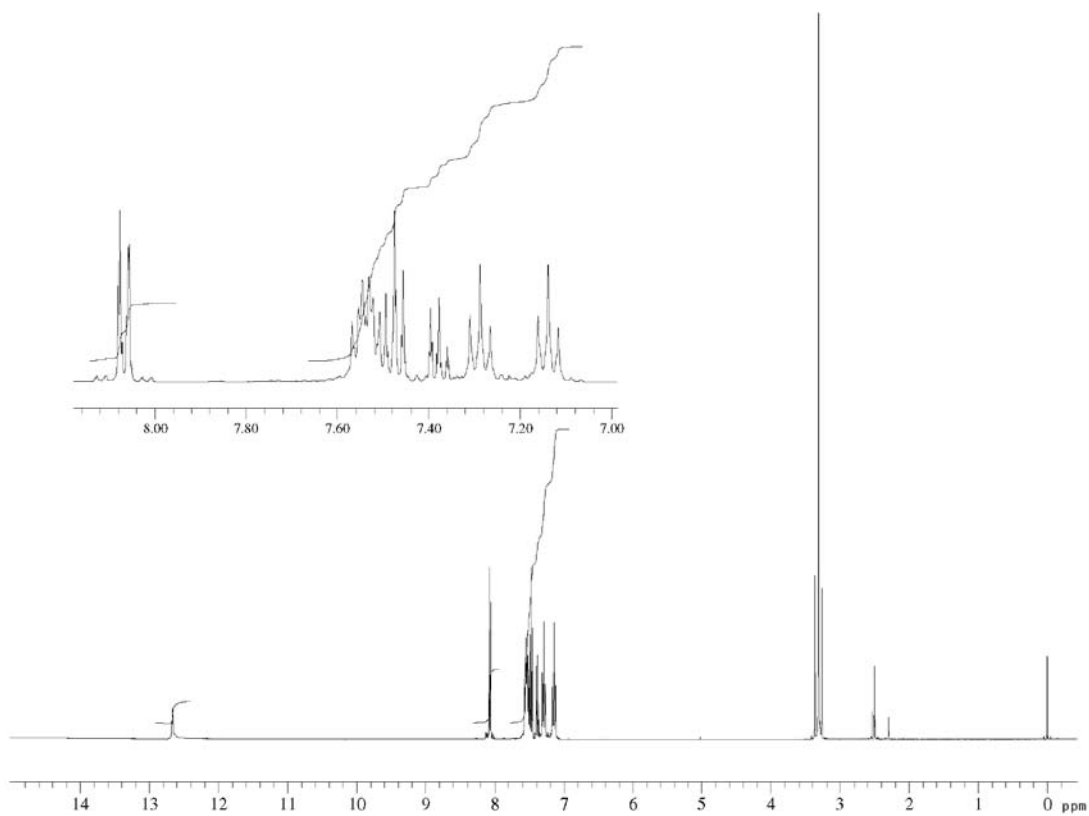


Figure S51. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (8m).

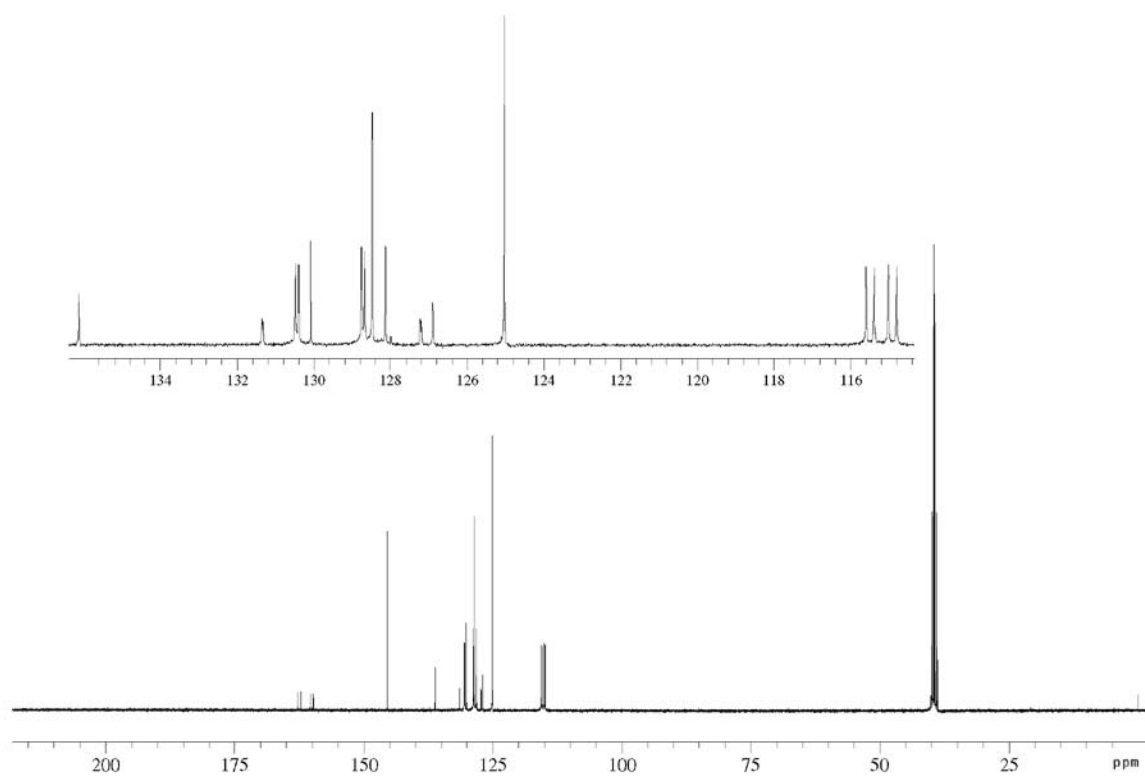


Figure S52. ¹³C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole (**8m**).

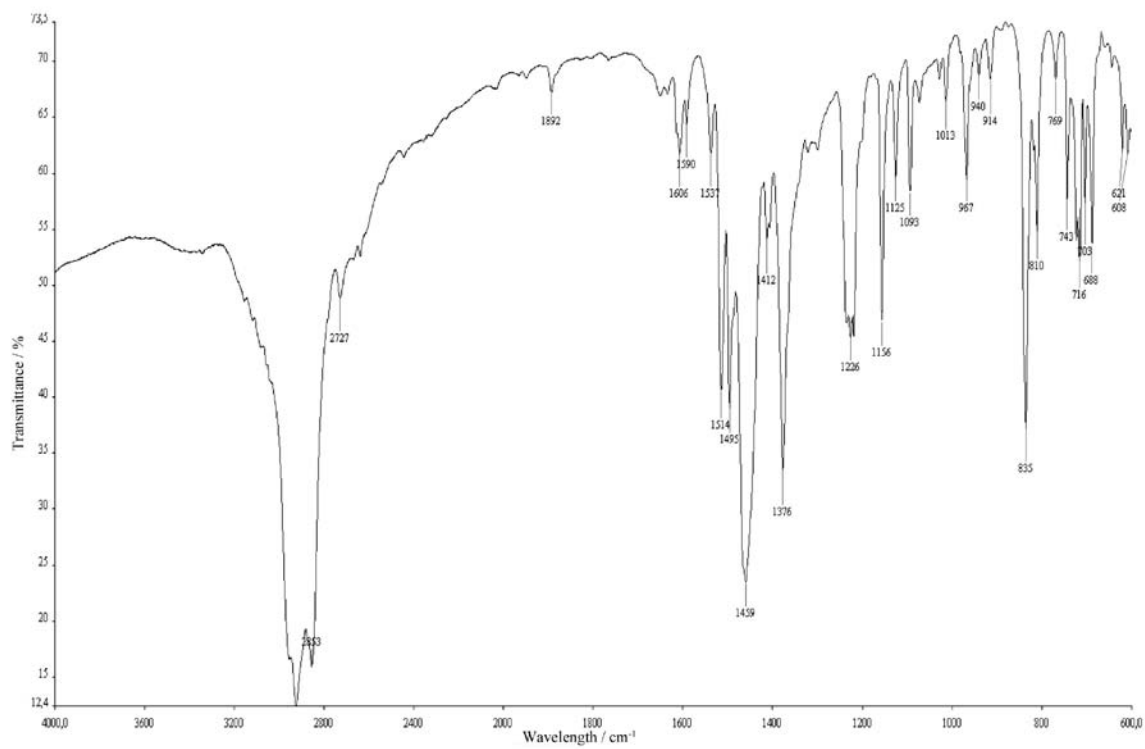


Figure S53. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole (**8m**).

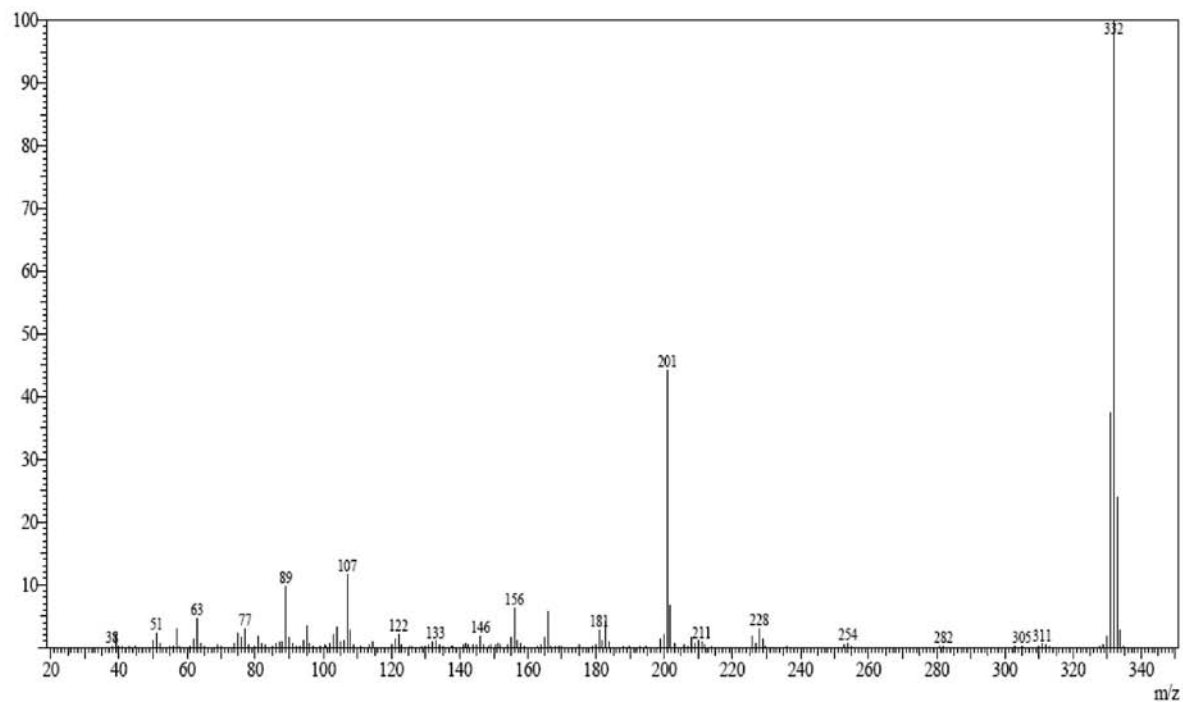


Figure S54. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (**8m**).

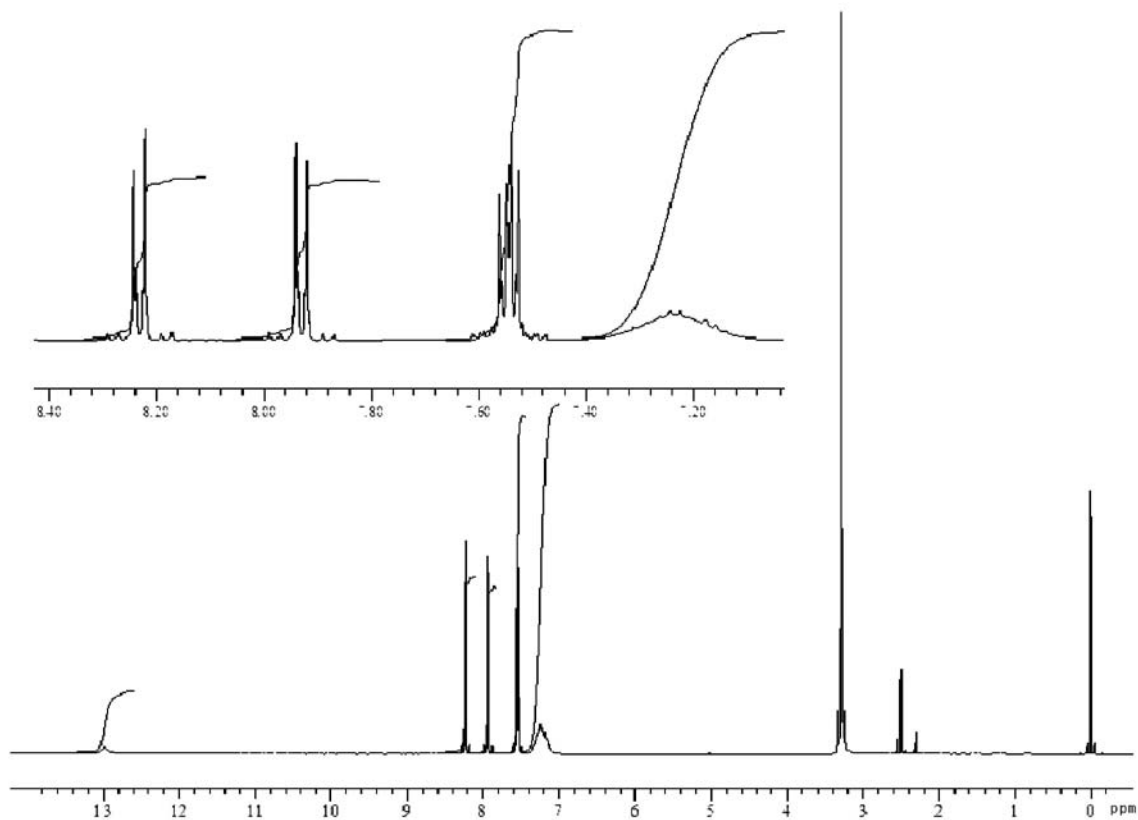


Figure S55. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4-[4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]benzotrile (**8n**).

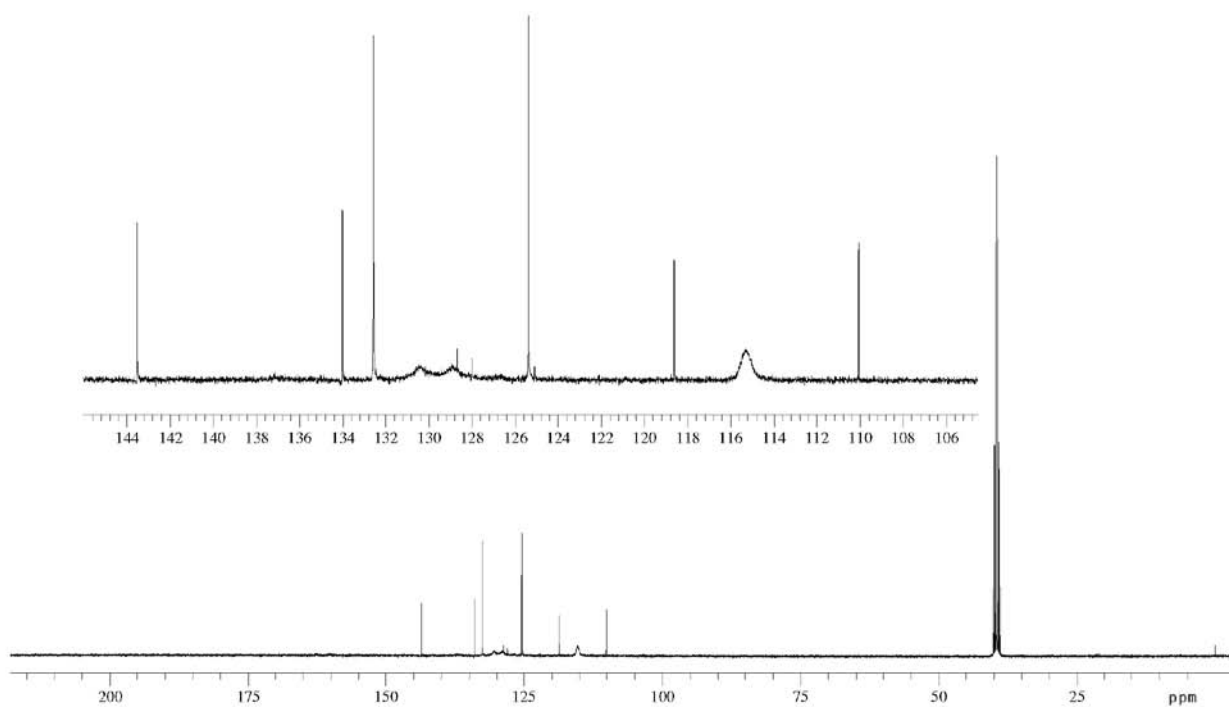


Figure S56. ¹³C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4-[4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl]benzotrile (**8n**).

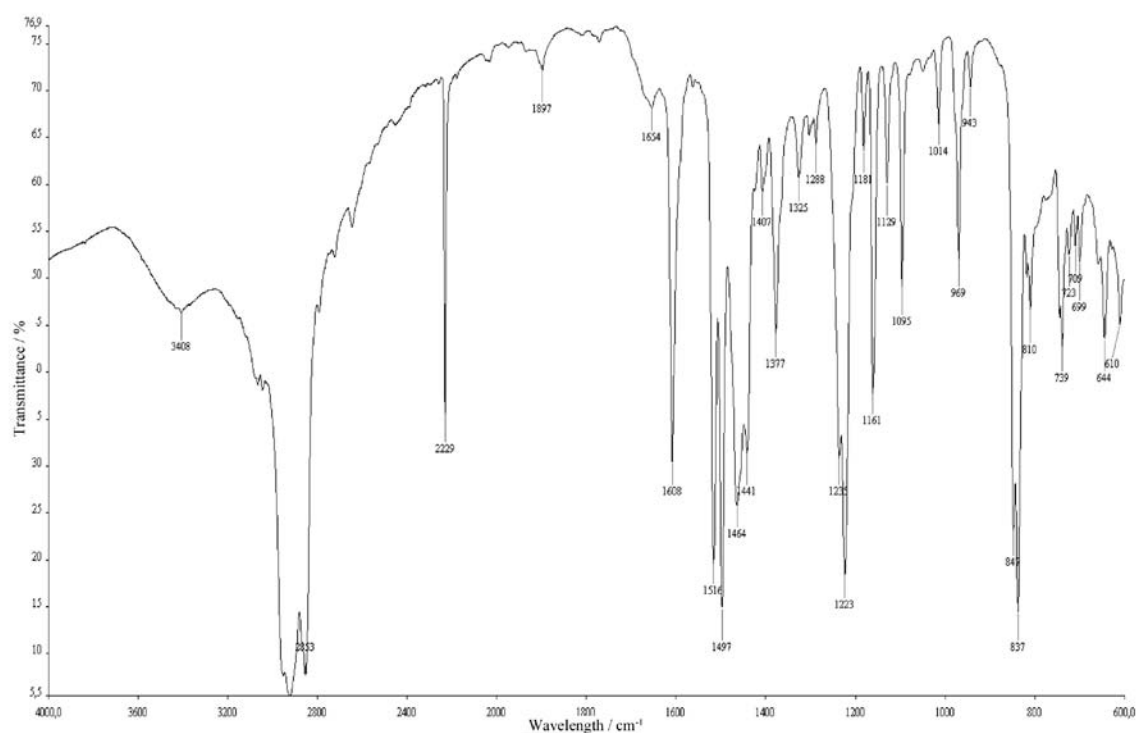


Figure S57. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 4-[4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl]benzotrile (**8n**).

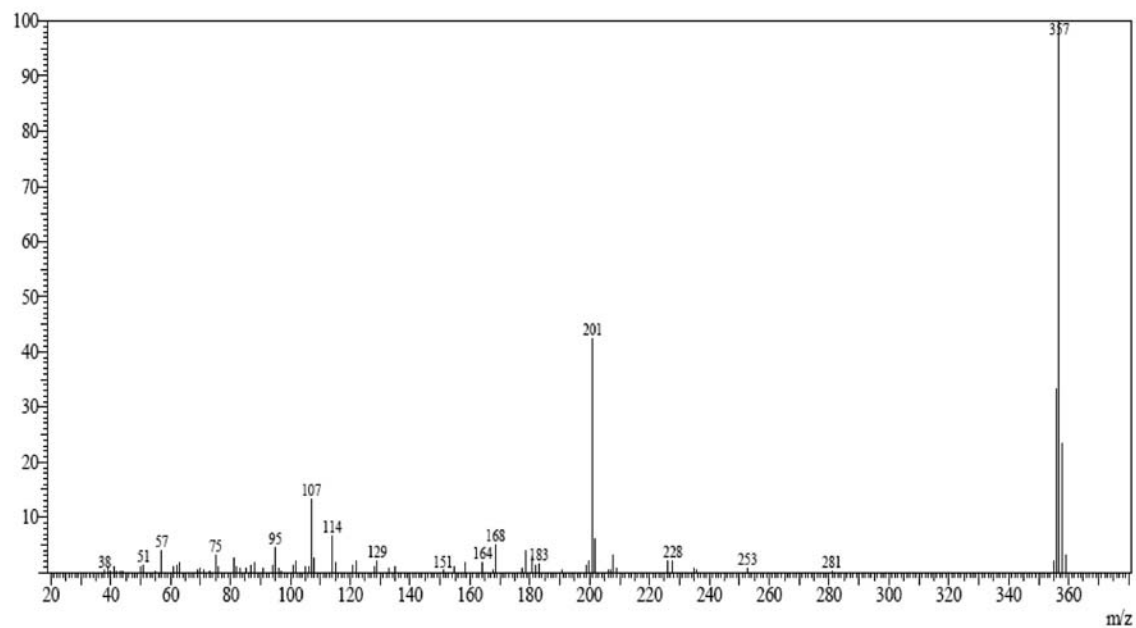


Figure S58. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 4-[4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]benzonitrile (**8n**).

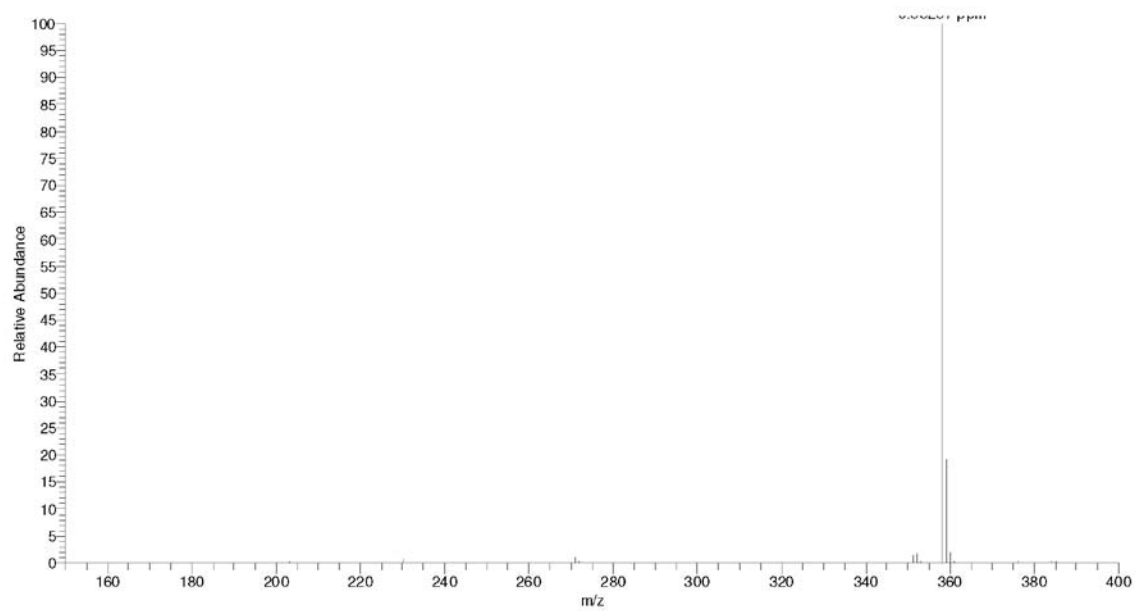


Figure S59. HRMS (ESI +) of compound 4-[4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]benzonitrile (**8n**).

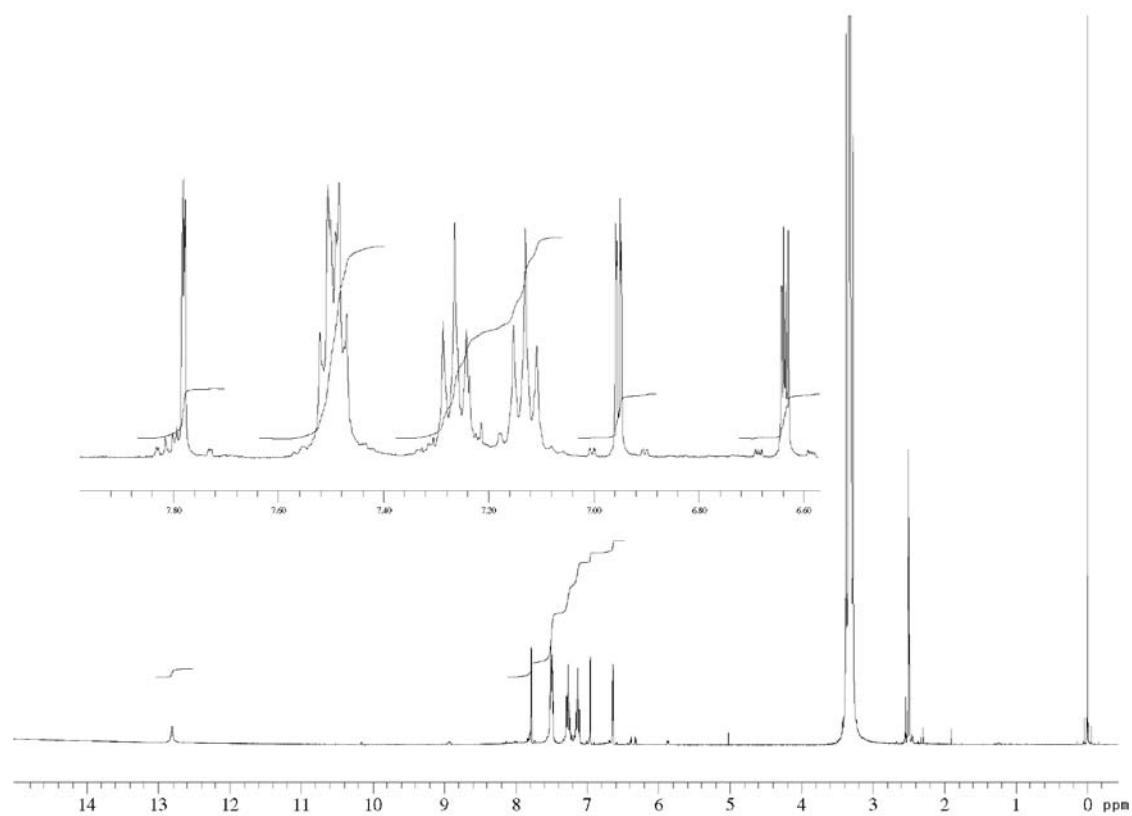


Figure S60. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (**8o**).

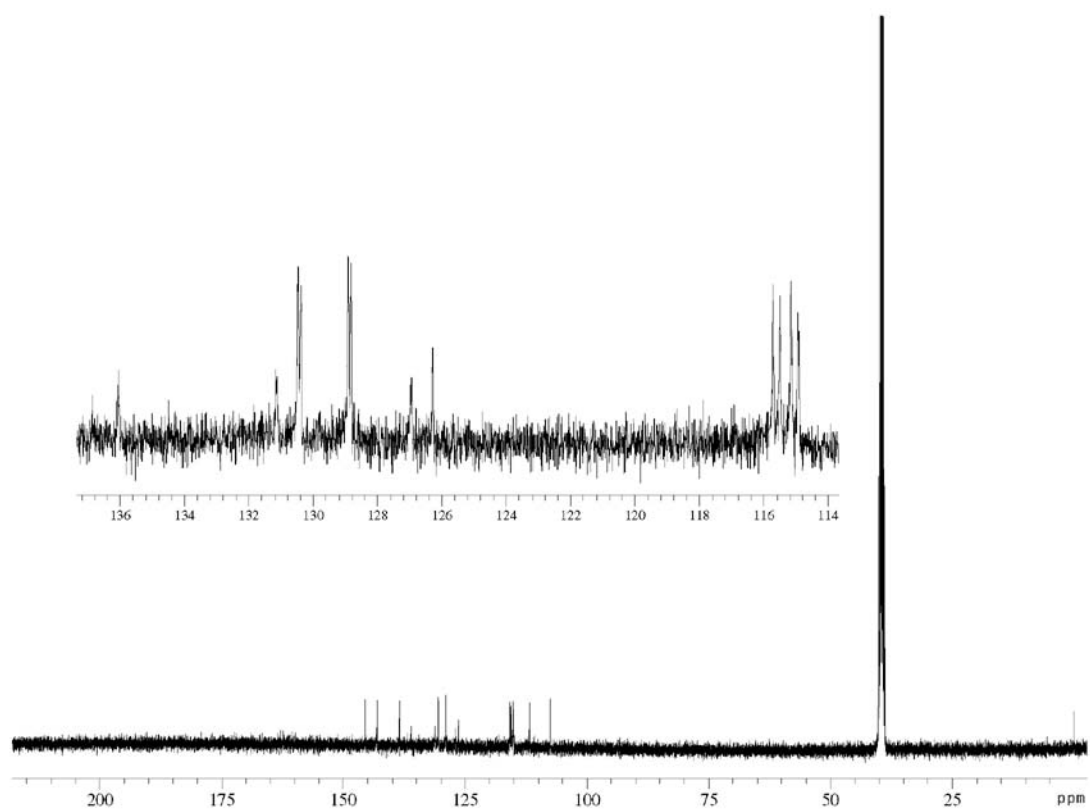


Figure S61. ¹³C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (**8o**).

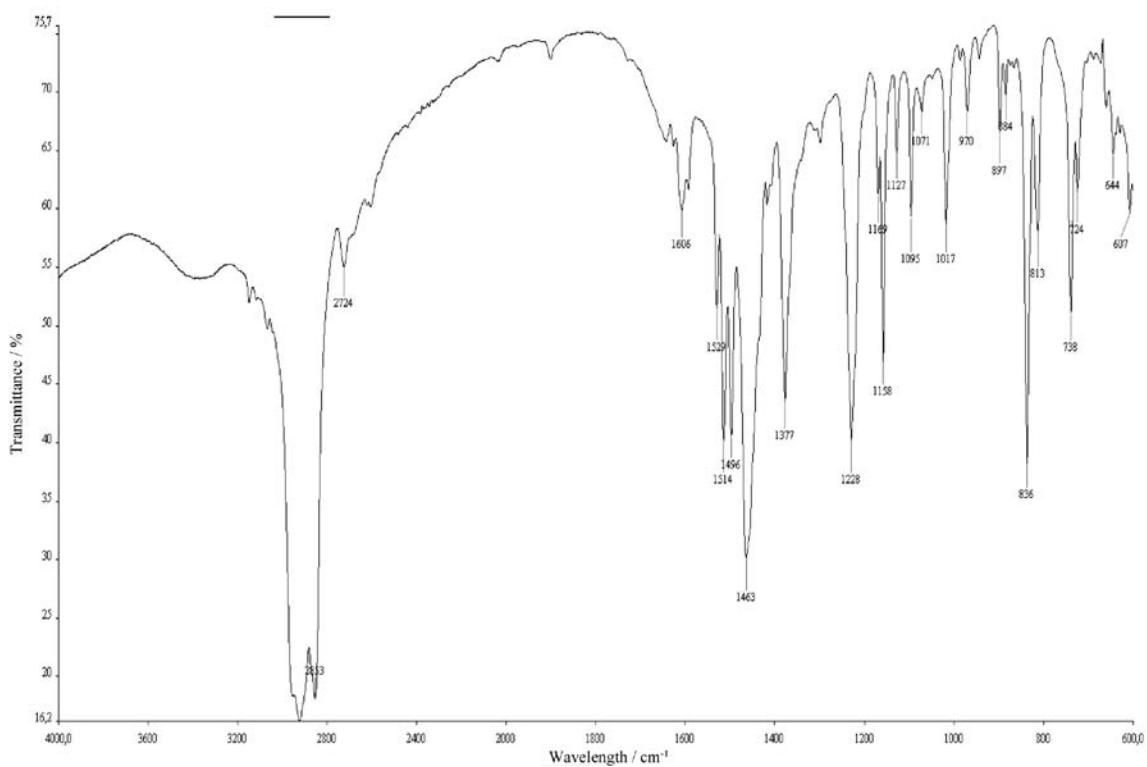


Figure S62. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (**80**).

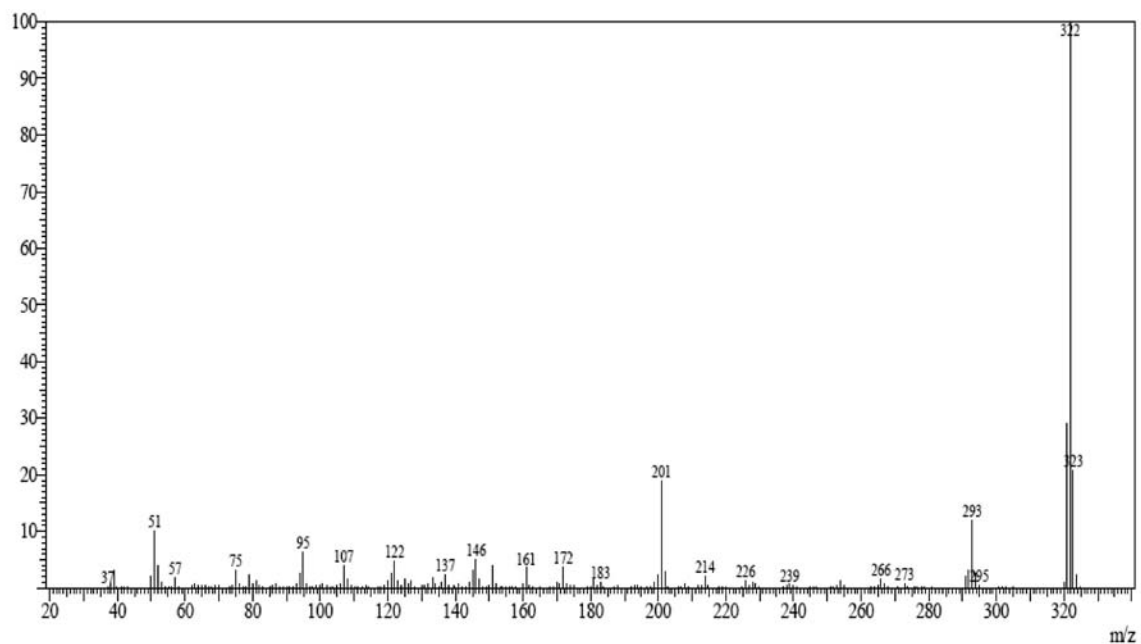


Figure S63. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (**80**).

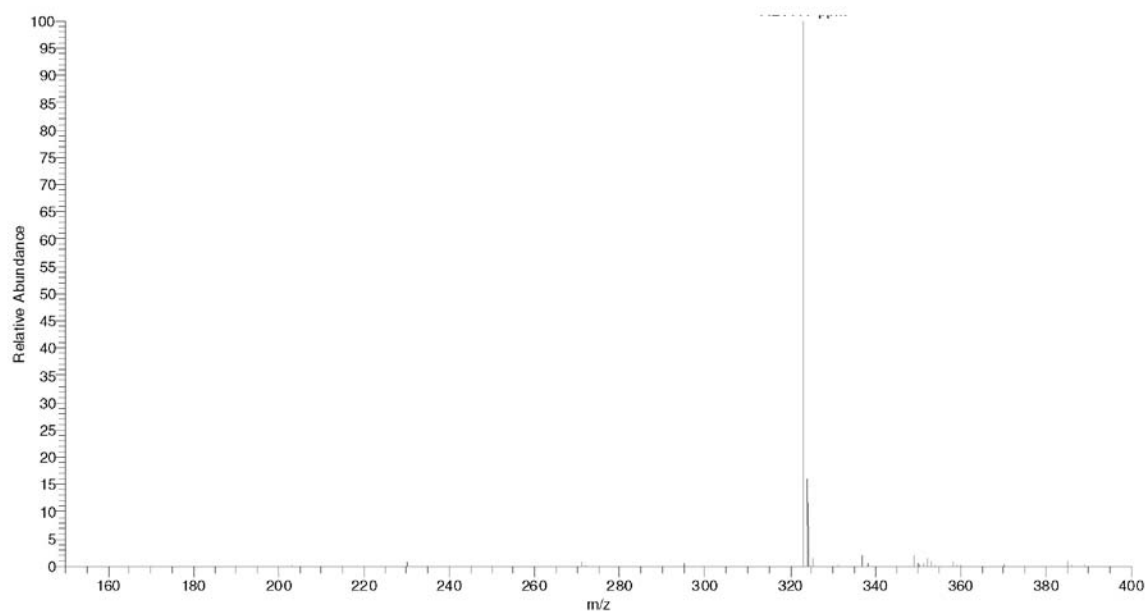


Figure S64. HRMS (ESI +) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (**8o**).

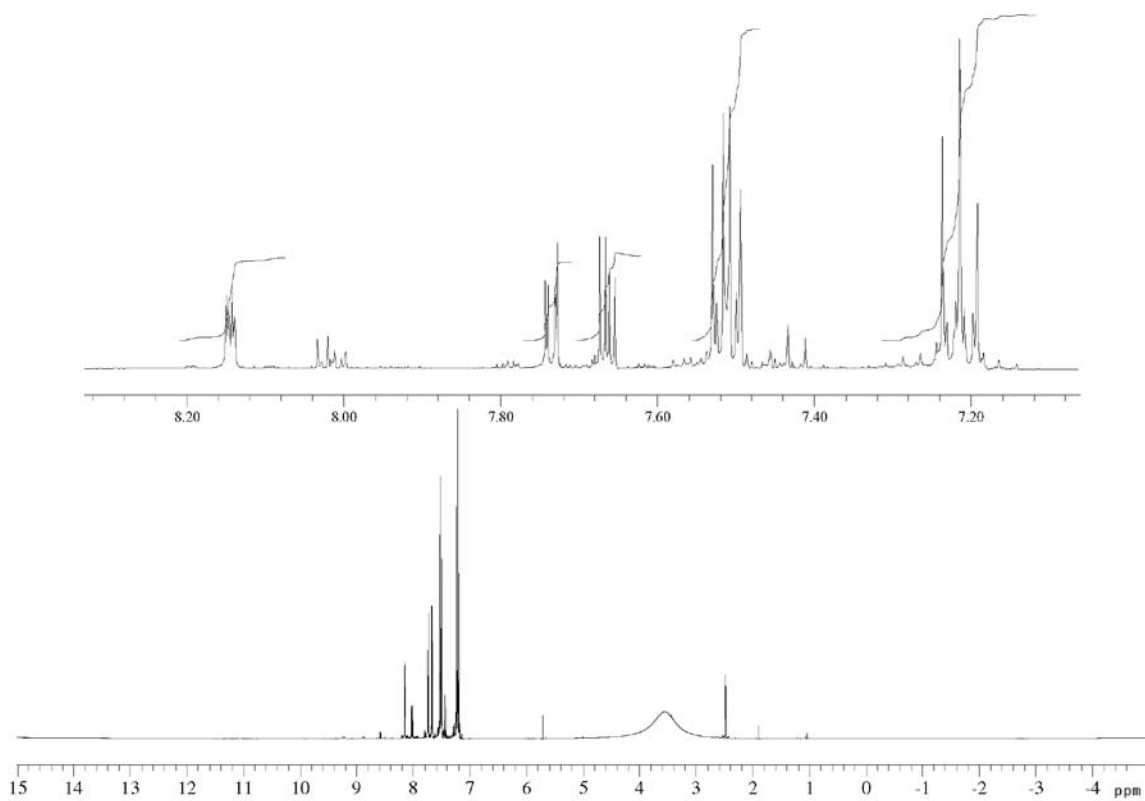


Figure S65. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (**8p**).

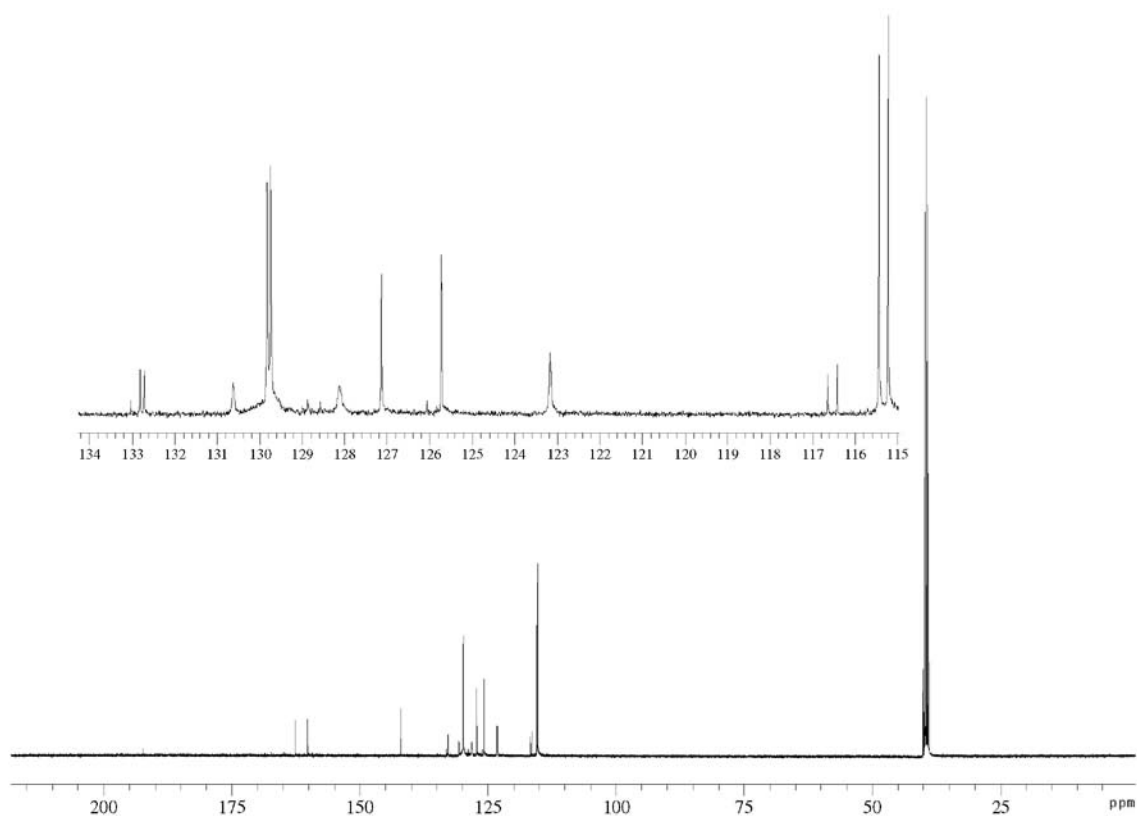


Figure S66. ¹³C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (**8p**).

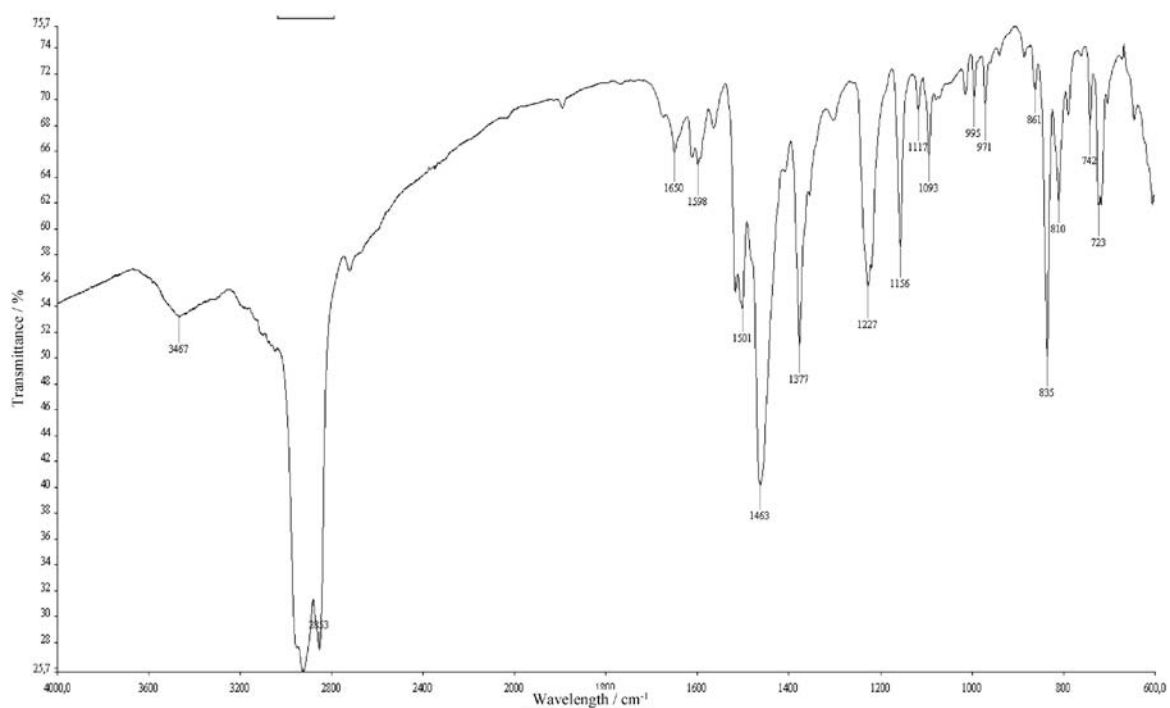


Figure S67. IR spectrum (Nujol) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (**8p**).

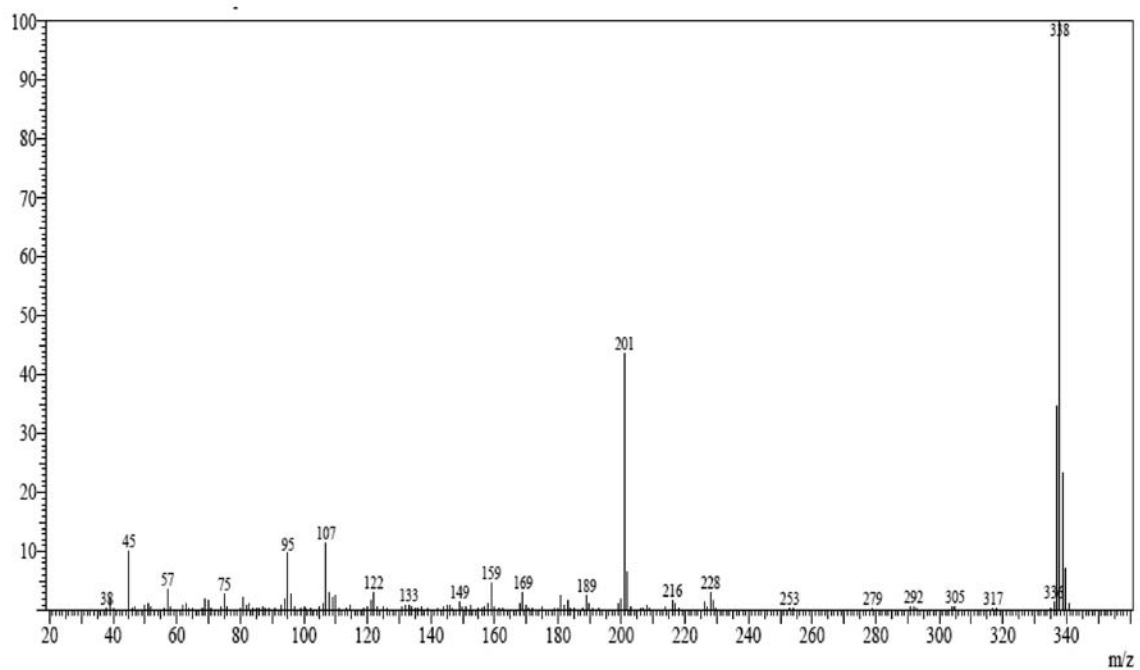


Figure S68. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1H-imidazole (**8p**).

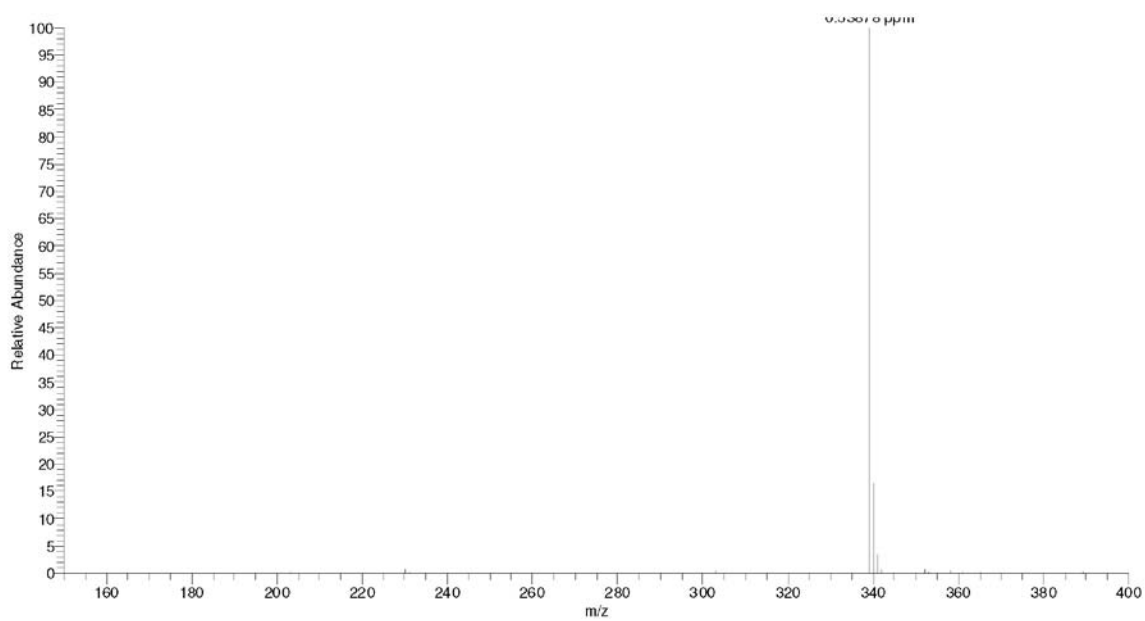


Figure S69. HRMS (ESI+) of compound 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-1H-imidazole (**8p**).

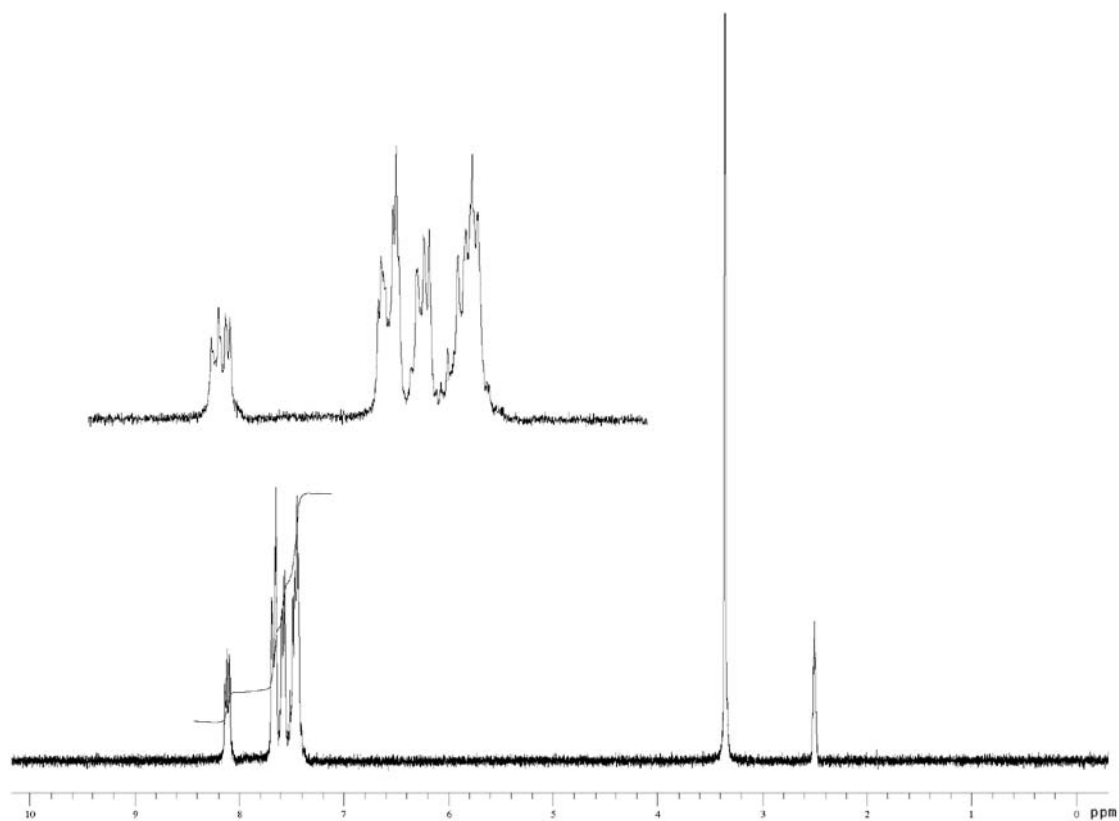


Figure S70. ¹H NMR spectrum (200 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2,4,5-triphenyl-1,3-oxazole (**10a**).

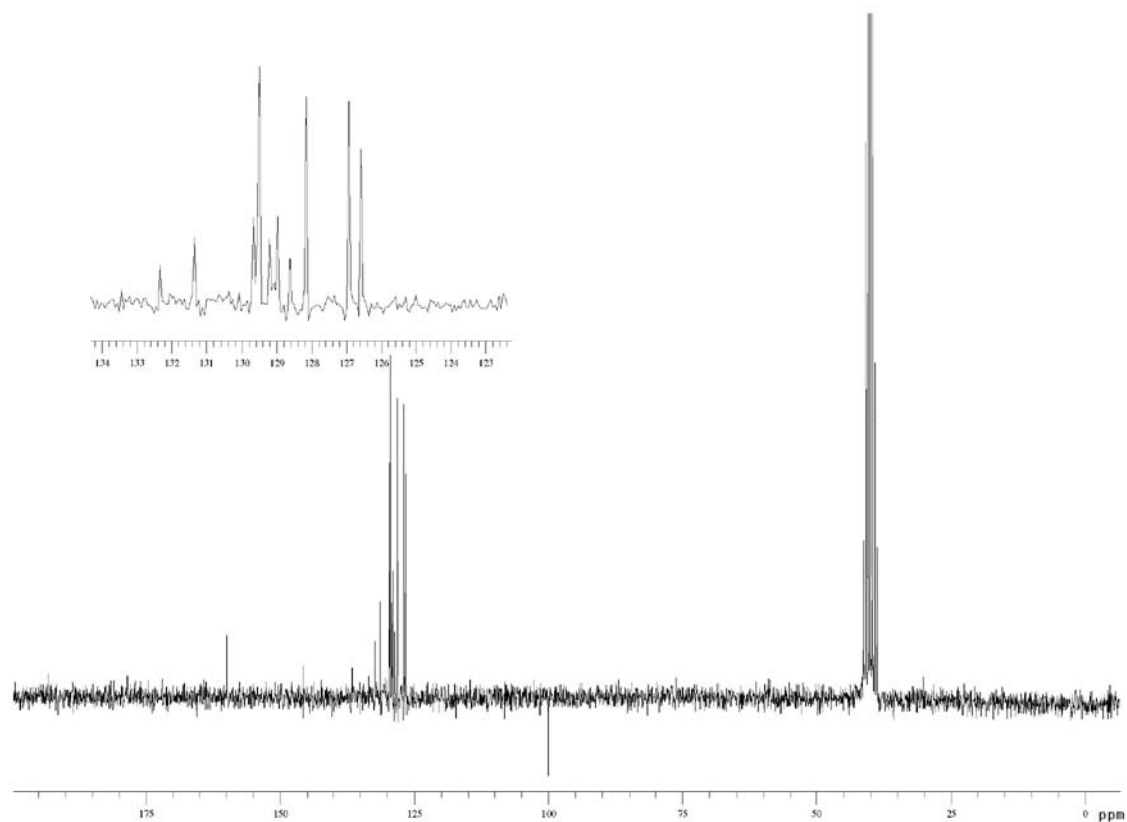


Figure S71. ¹³C NMR spectrum (50 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2,4,5-triphenyl-1,3-oxazole (**10a**).

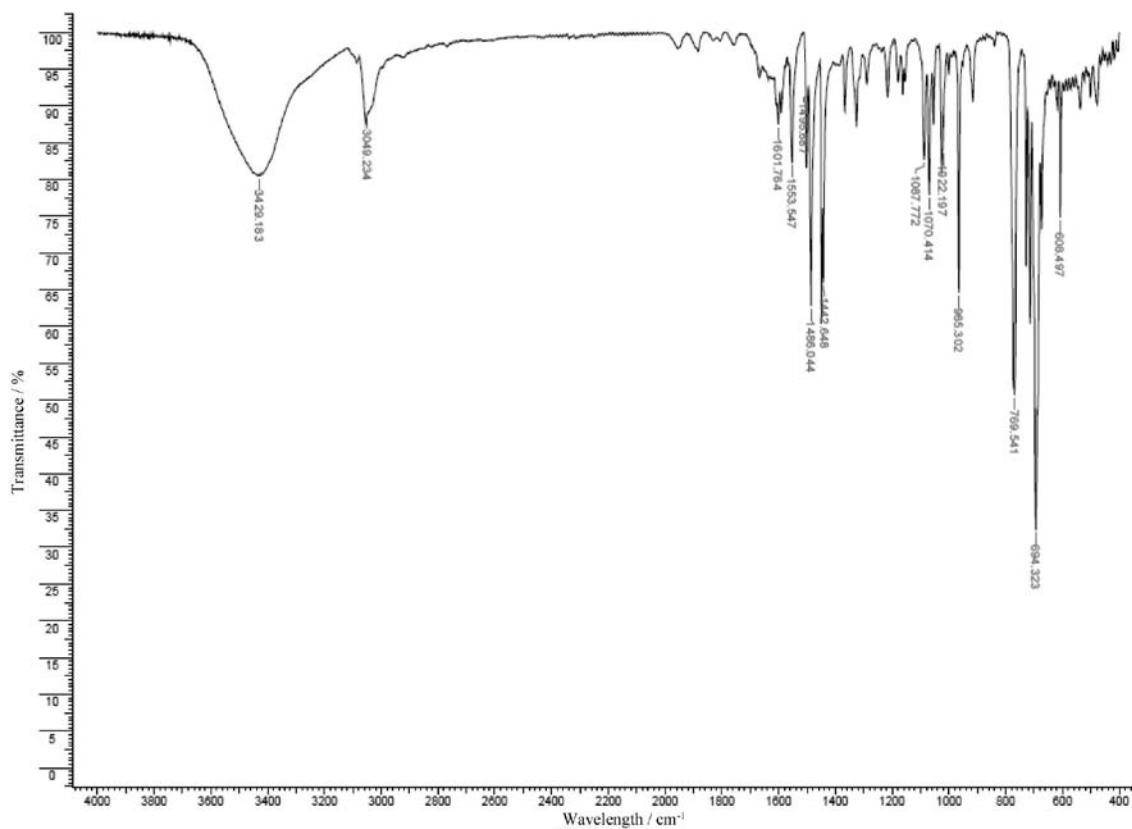


Figure S72. IR spectrum (KBr) of compound 2,4,5-triphenyl-1,3-oxazole (**10a**).

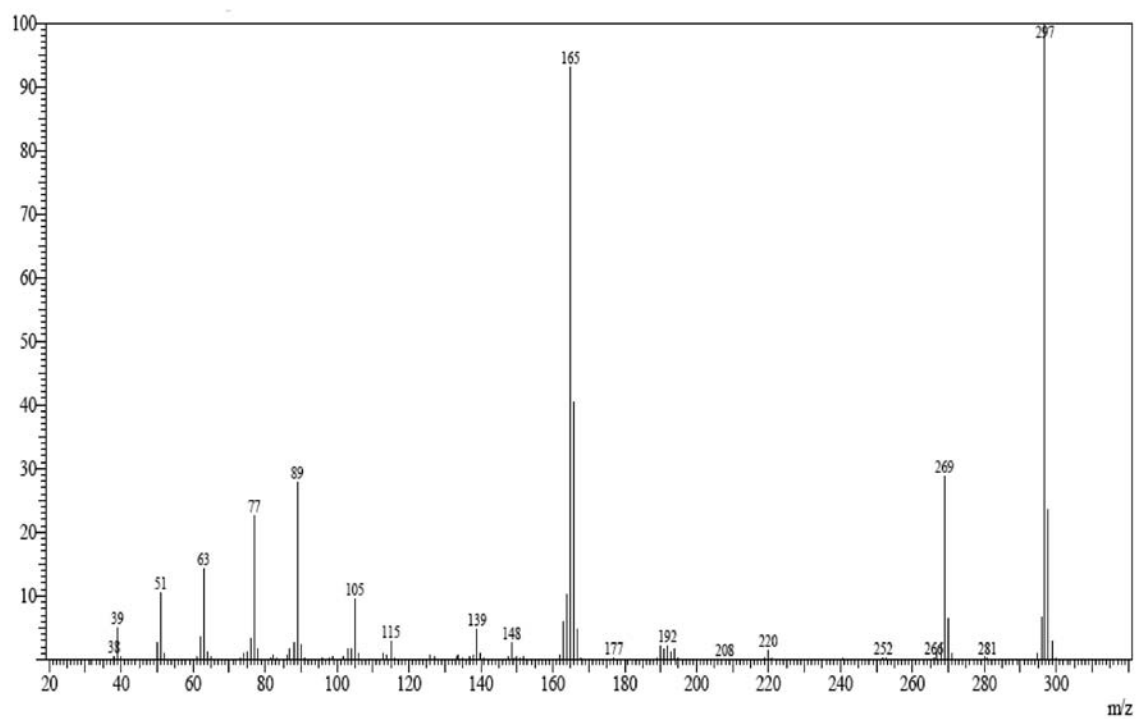


Figure S73. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 2,4,5-triphenyl-1,3-oxazole (**10a**).

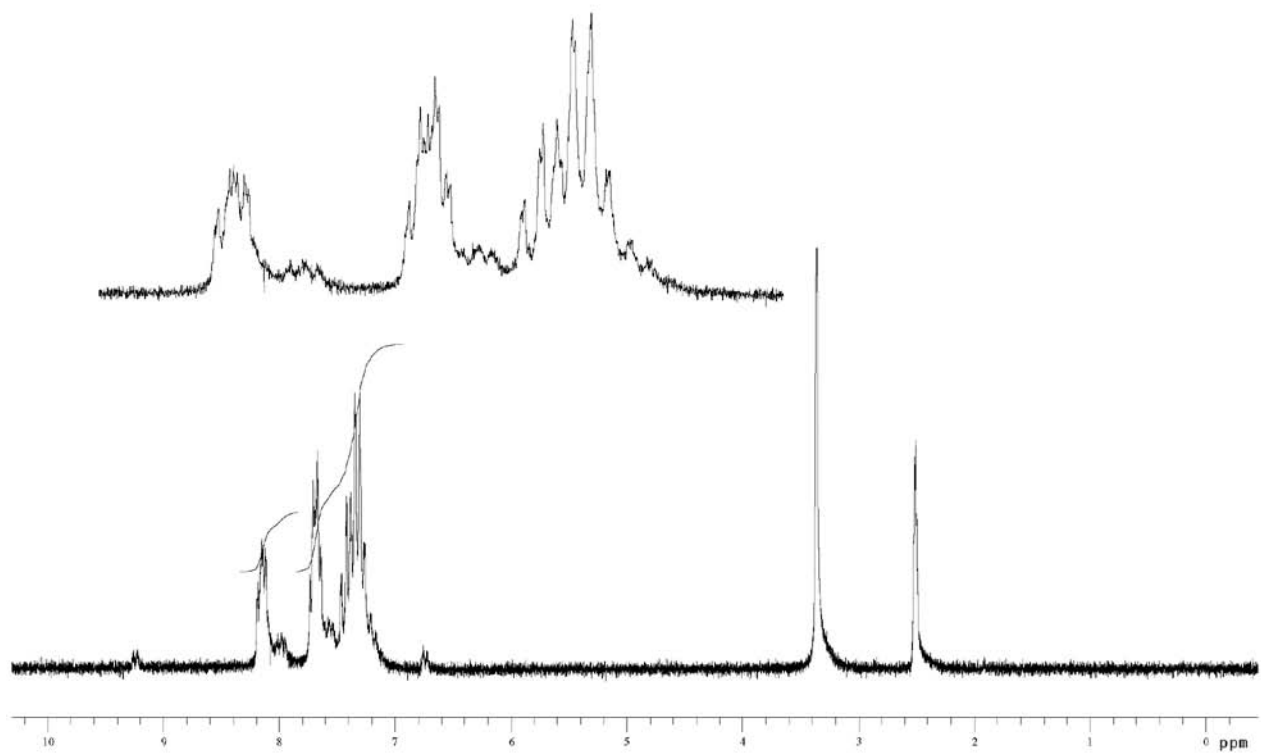


Figure S74. ¹H NMR spectrum (200 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2,4,5-tris(4-fluorophenyl)-1,3-oxazole (**10b**).

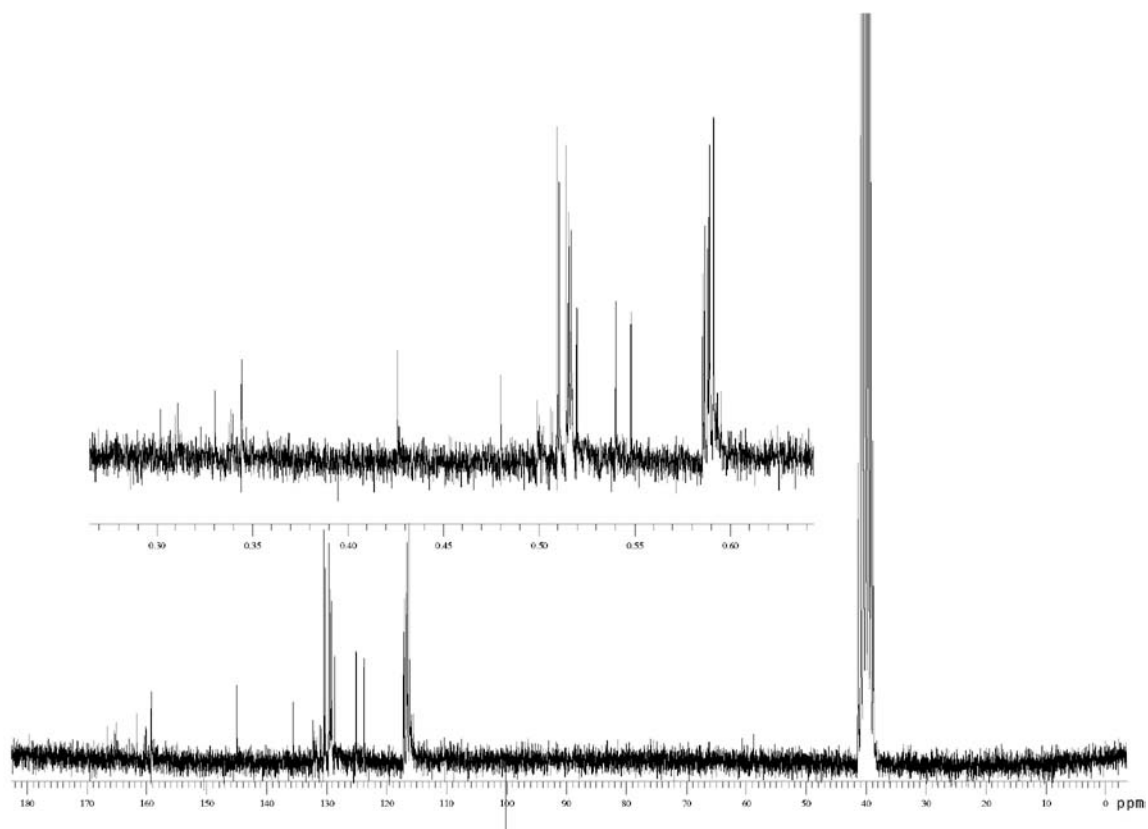


Figure S75. ¹³C NMR spectrum (50 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) of compound 2,4,5-tris(4-fluorophenyl)-1,3-oxazole (**10b**).

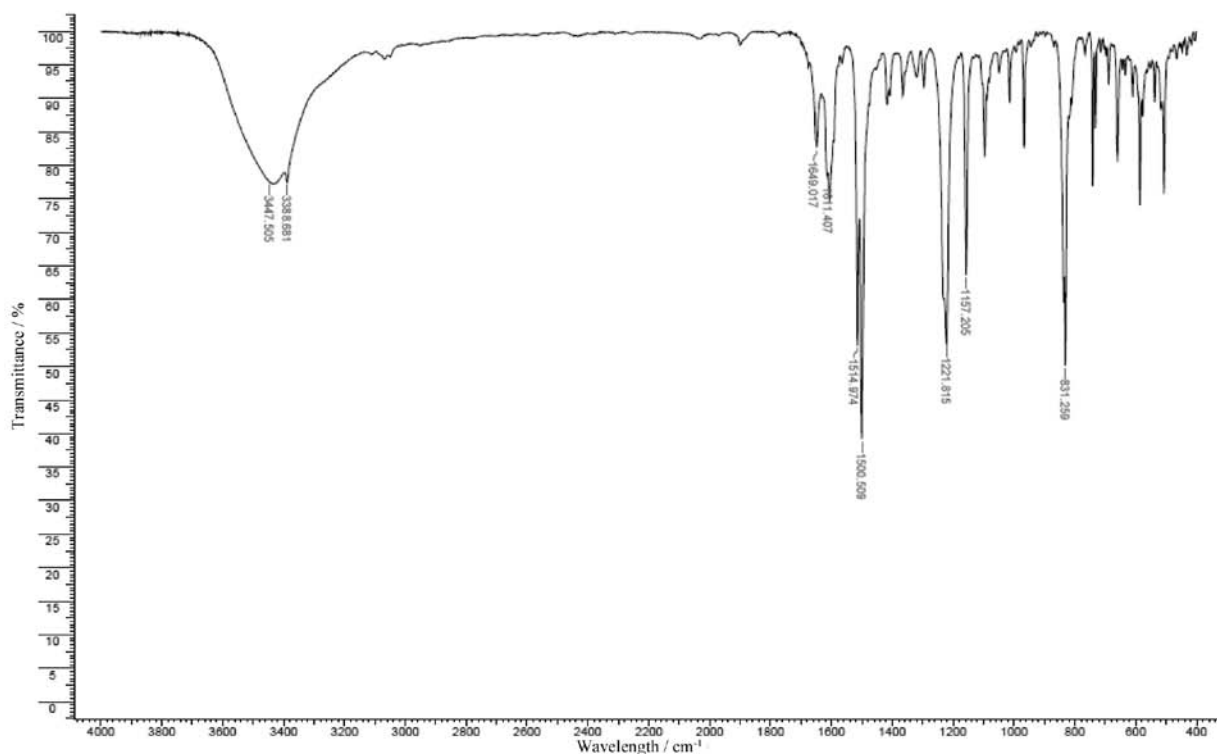


Figure S76. IR spectrum (KBr) of compound 2,4,5-tris(4-fluorophenyl)-1,3-oxazole (**10b**).

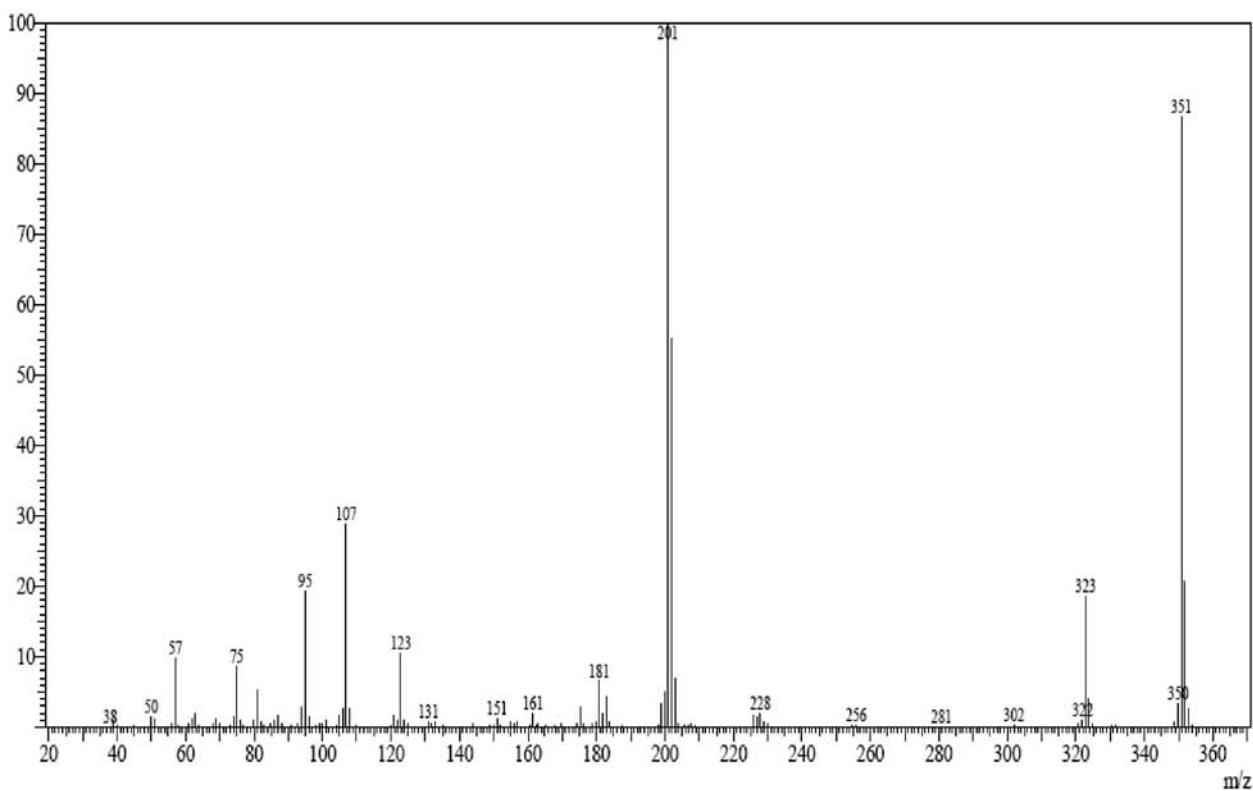


Figure S77. Mass spectrum (70 eV) of compound 2,4,5-tris(4-fluorophenyl)-1,3-oxazole (**10b**).

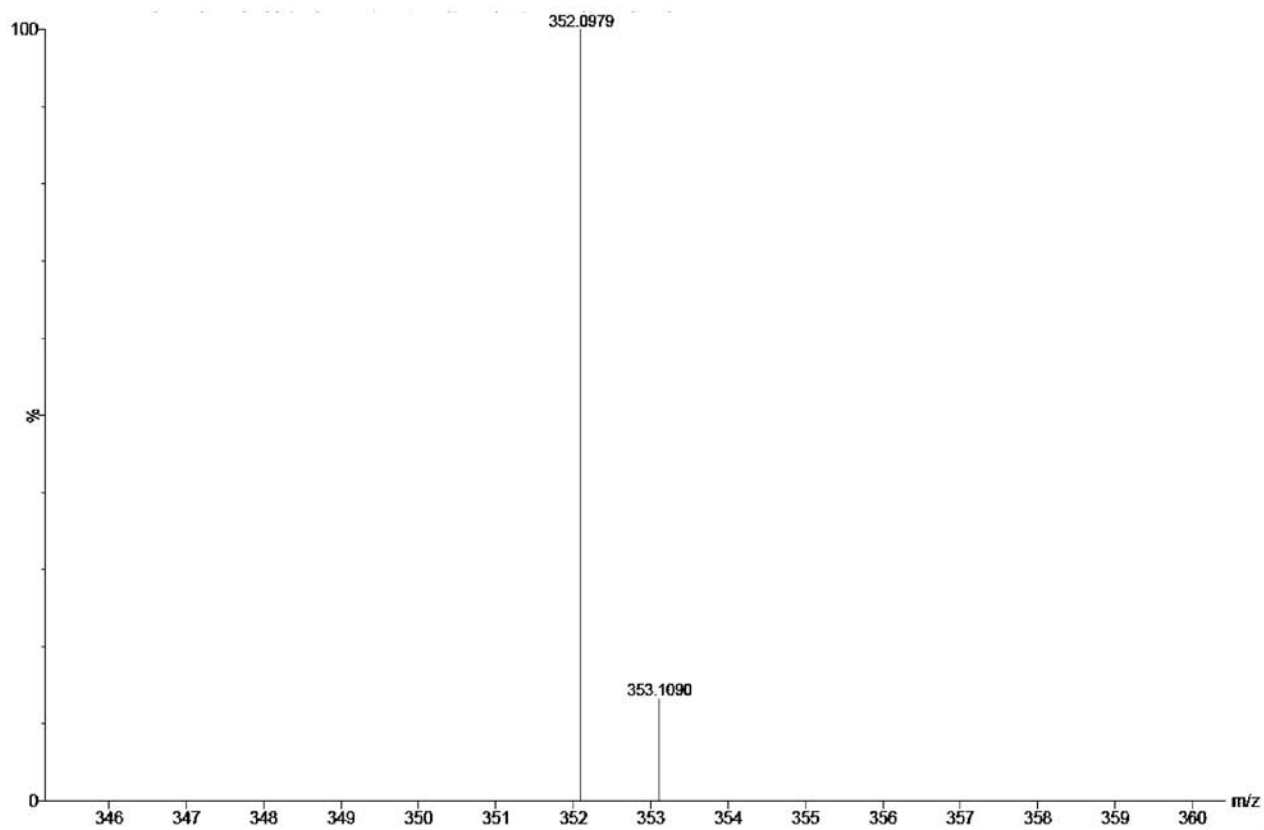


Figure S78. HRMS (ESI +) of compound 2,4,5-tris(4-fluorophenyl)-1,3-oxazole (**10b**).