

## Supplementary Material

### EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

#### **Preparation of 2-Methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenylpyridin-4-yl) phenol 1**

3.0g of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxy benzaldehyde ( $1.971 \times 10^{-2}$  mmol; 1.0 equiv.) 4.97 g of acetophenone ( $4.140 \times 10^{-2}$  mmol; 2.0equiv.) and 10g of  $\text{NH}_4\text{OAc}$  are dissolved ( $4.140 \times 10^{-2}$  mmol; 1.0equiv.) in 50mL of acetic acid ( $4.140 \times 10^{-2}$  mmol; 2.0equiv.) under refluxing condition for 3 h. to give 2-methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenylpyridin-4-yl) phenol **1** in qualitative yield. Yield: 7.82g, (98%); Liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ = 3.98 (s, 3H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 7.11-7.24 (d, 2H), 7.44 (s, 2H), 7.96-8.24 (m, 10H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ = 56.1, 109.7, 115.2, 116.7, 120.5, 127.1, 128.5, 129.0, 133.1, 137.1, 146.9, 150.1, 157.4; MS: m/e: 353.14; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2$ : C: 81.55; H: 5.38; N: 3.96; Found: C: 81.48; H: 5.30; N: 3.88.

#### **General Procedure of N-Alkylation Reaction**

2-methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenylpyridin-4-yl) phenol **1** ( $7.158 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol; 1.0 equiv.) is treated with benzyl bromide/4-nitro benzyl bromide ( $7.516 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol; 1.05 equiv.) in the presence of 20 mL of dry acetonitrile under refluxing condition for 9-10 hours to give N-alkylated product of compound **2a/3a**.

#### **2-Methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenyl-1-methyl benzyl pyridiniumbromide-4-yl) phenol 2a**

Yield: 3.77g, (97%); Liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ = 3.94 (s, 3H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 6.96-7.12 (d, 2H), 7.39-7.51 (m, 5H) 7.49 (s, 2H), 7.76-8.01 (m, 10H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ = 56.0, 76.7, 110.1, 114.9, 119.8, 123.4, 127.4, 127.3, 128.4, 128.5, 129.0, 130.1, 132.5, 138.5, 139.4, 145.2, 148.4, 157.4; MS: m/e: 524.45; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{26}\text{BrNO}_2$ : C: 70.93; H: 4.95; N: 2.66; Found: C: 70.85; H: 4.87; N: 2.58.

#### **2-Methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenyl-1-methyl-4-nitrobenzylpyridiniumbromide-4-yl) phenol 3a**

Yield: 5.44 g (98%); Liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ = 3.90 (s, 3H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 7.13 (d, 2H), 7.47 (s, 2H), 7.51-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.99-8.16 (m, 10H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ = 56.1, 76.8, 109.0, 114.5, 115.0, 119.6, 127.3, 128.4, 128.5, 129.9, 132.6, 133.1, 138.4, 144.8, 145.3, 148.5, 151.9, 162.5; MS: m/e: 569.45; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{25}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_4$ : C: 65.32; H: 4.39; N: 4.91; Found: C: 65.24; H: 4.31; N: 4.83.

#### **General Procedure for Anion Exchange Reaction**

Triaryl pyridinium bromide **2a/3a** ( $1.716 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol; 1.0 equiv.) is treated with various counter anions containing inorganic salt such as  $\text{NaBF}_4$ ,  $\text{K}_4\text{PF}_6$ , and  $\text{LiCF}_3\text{SO}_3$  ( $1.801 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol; 1.05 equiv.) in the presence of 20 mL of deionized water at room temperature with stirring for 2 hours to give anion exchange product in 92-94% yield. Both metallic bromide and triaryl pyridinium salts are soluble in water. So the separation is not easier. Under these circumstances we have used Soxhlet extraction for separation with dry THF for 1 h under refluxing condition and confirmed by aqueous  $\text{AgNO}_3$ .

#### **2-Methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenyl-1-methylbenzyl pyridinium hexafluorophosphate-4-yl) phenol 2b**

Yield: 1.16g; (94%); Liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ = 4.02 (s, 3H), 4.54 (s, 2H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.15-7.28 (d, 2H), 7.29-7.40 (m, 5H) 7.48 (s, 2H), 8.00-8.28 (m, 10H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ = 56.5, 65.0, 110.1, 115.6, 117.1, 120.9, 127.5, 127.7, 128.9, 129.0, 129.4, 130.5, 133.5, 137.5, 139.9, 147.3, 150.5, 157.8 ; MS: m/e: 563.14; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_6\text{NO}_2\text{P}$ : C: 61.79; H: 4.26; N: 2.48; Found: C: 61.71; H: 4.18; N: 2.40.

#### **2-Methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenyl-1-methylbenzyl pyridinium tetrafluoroborate-4-yl) phenol 2c**

Yield: 1.01g; (92%); Liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ = 4.01 (s, 3H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.14-7.27 (d, 2H), 7.28-7.39 (m, 5H) 7.47 (s, 2H), 7.99-8.27 (m, 10H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ = 56.4, 64.9, 110.0, 115.5, 117.0, 120.8, 127.4, 127.7, 128.8, 128.9, 129.3, 130.4, 133.5, 137.4, 139.8, 147.2, 150.4, 157.7; MS: m/e: 531.35; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{26}\text{BF}_4\text{NO}_2$ : C: 70.11; H: 4.61; N: 2.63; Found: C: 70.03; H: 4.53; N: 2.55.

**2-Methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenyl-1-methylbenzyl pyridinium trifluoromethanesulfonate-4-yl) phenol 2d**

Yield: 0.95g; (80%); Liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$ = 4.00 (s, 3H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 7.13-7.26 (d, 2H), 7.27-7.38 (m, 5H) 7.46 (s, 2H), 7.98-8.26 (m, 10H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$ = 56.3, 64.8, 109.9, 115.4, 116.9, 120.7, 127.3, 127.5, 128.7, 128.8, 129.2, 130.3, 133.3, 137.3, 139.6, 147.1, 150.3, 157.6; MS: m/e: 593.61; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{26}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_5\text{S}$ : C: 64.68; H: 4.37; N: 2.35; Found: C: 64.60; H: 4.29; N: 2.27.

**2-Methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenyl-1-methyl-4-nitrobenzyl pyridinium hexafluorophosphate-4-yl) phenol 3b**

Yield: 1.25g; (87%); Liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$ = 4.09 (s, 3H), 4.73 (s, 2H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.17 (d, 2H), 7.51 (s, 2H), 7.52-7.71 (m, 4H), 8.02-8.31 (m, 10H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$ = 56.5, 77.0, 110.3, 115.9, 117.3, 121.2, 127.7, 128.0, 129.1, 129.7, 133.7, 135.4, 137.8, 142.6, 146.4, 150.9, 158.1, 162.7; MS: m/e: 634.51; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{25}\text{F}_6\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{P}$ : C: 58.62; H: 3.94; N: 4.41; Found: C: 58.54; H: 3.86; N: 4.33.

**2-Methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenyl-1-methyl-4-nitrobenzyl pyridinium tetrafluoroborate-4-yl) phenol 3c**

Yield: 1.12 g; (93%); Liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$ = 4.08 (s, 3H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 7.30 (d, 2H), 7.50 (s, 2H), 7.51-7.70 (m, 4H), 8.01-8.30 (m, 10H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$ = 56.4, 63.4, 110.2, 115.8, 117.2, 121.2, 127.7, 127.9, 129.0, 129.7, 133.7, 135.3, 137.7, 142.5, 146.3, 150.8, 160.0, 162.6; MS: m/e: 576.35; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{25}\text{BF}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ : C: 66.54; H: 4.33; N: 4.85; Found: C: 64.46; H: 4.25; N: 4.77.

**2-Methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenyl-1-methyl-4-nitrobenzyl pyridinium trifluoromethanesulfonate -4-yl) phenol 3d**

Yield: 1.19 g; 92%; Liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$ = 4.07 (s, 3H), 4.71 (s, 2H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.29 (d, 2H), 7.49 (s, 2H), 7.50-7.69 (m, 4H), 8.00-8.29 (m, 10H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$ = 56.3, 63.3, 110.2, 115.7, 117.1, 121.0, 127.5, 127.8, 128.9, 129.5, 133.5, 135.2, 137.6, 142.4, 146.2, 150.7, 157.9, 162.5; MS: m/e: 638.61; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{25}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{S}$ : C: 60.13; H: 3.91; N: 4.28; Found: C: 60.00; H: 3.82; N: 4.30.

**General Procedure for one Pot Preparation of Quinoline Derivatives**

Equal molar concentration of 5, 5-dimethylcyclohexadienone ( $3.856 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol; 1.05 equiv.), ethylacetoacetate ( $4.049 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol; 1.05 equiv.), substituted aryl aldehyde ( $3.672 \times 10^{-3}$  mmol; 1.0 equiv.) and  $\text{NH}_4\text{OAc}$  ( $4.251 \times 10^{-2}$  mmol; 1.05 equiv.), in the presence of  $1.053 \times 10^{-4}$  mmol  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  with optimized catalyst concentration of triaryl pyridinium bromide **3a** ( $1.053 \times 10^{-4}$  mmol) for 50 minutes under reflux to give quinoline derivative **4(a-d)** in 80-96%

**Ethyl 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8-hexahydro-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2, 7, 7-trimethyl-5-oxoquinoline-3-carboxylate 4a**

Yield: 0.5g; (91%); Mp:230-232  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ):  $\delta$ = 0.94 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 3H), 1.20 (t, 3H), 2.08-2.18 (m, 3H), 2.20-2.35 (m, 4H), 4.07 (q, 2H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 5.62 (s, 1H), 6.65 (d, 2H), 7.16 (d, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ):  $\delta$ = 14.1, 18.1, 26.4, 29.1, 32.1, 34.7, 50.3, 104.0, 110.2, 114.4, 128.3, 138.4, 144.3, 144.3, 149.0, 155.1, 167.0, 194.3; MS: m/e: 355.43; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4$ : C: 70.96; H: 4.09; N: 3.94; Found: C: 70.90; H: 7.03; N: 3.93.

**Ethyl 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8-hexahydro-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2, 7, 7-trimethyl-5-oxoquinoline-3-carboxylate 4b**

Yield: 0.5g; (87%); Mp:203-205  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ):  $\delta$ = 0.86 (s, 3H), 1.14 (t, 3H), 1.97 (d, 1H), 2.16 (d, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.3 (s, 1H), 2.40 (d, 1H), 3.97 (q, 2H), 4.74 (s, 1H), 6.56 (d, 2H), 6.93 (d, 2H) 8.98 (s, 1H) 9.07 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ):  $\delta$ = 14.1, 18.1, 26.4, 29.1, 32.1, 34.7, 50.3, 104.0, 110.2, 114.4, 128.3, 138.4, 144.3, 144.3, 149.0, 155.1, 167.0, 194.3; MS: m/e: 385.42; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_5$ : C: 68.55; H: 7.06; N: 3.63; Found: C: 68.49; H: 7.00; N: 3.60.

**Ethyl 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8-hexahydro-2, 7, 7-trimethyl -5-oxo-4-phenylquinoline-3-carboxylate 4c**

Yield: 0.5 g; (90 %); Mp:220-222  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ):  $\delta$ = 0.94 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 3H), 1.19 (t, 3H), 2.14-2.33 (m, 4H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 4.05 (q, 2H), 5.05 (s, 1H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 7.08-7.31 (m, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ):  $\delta$ = 14.0, 18.0, 26.1, 29.0, 32.0, 34.3, 50.1, 104.2, 110.4, 114.2, 128.1, 138.2, 144.1, 144.6, 149.2, 155.5, 167.3, 194.1; MS: m/e: 339.43; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_3$ : C: 74.31; H: 7.42; N: 4.13; Found: C: 74.57; H: 7.51; N: 4.06.

**Ethyl 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8-hexahydro-2, 7, 7-trimethyl -4-(4-nitrophenyl) -5-oxoquinoline-3-carboxylate 4d**

Yield: 0.5g; (85%); Mp: 243-245 °C ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$ = 0.92 (s, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H), 1.24 (t, 3H), 2.13-2.37 (m, 4H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 4.07 (q, 2H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, 2H), 8.10 (d, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$ = 14.1, 18.1, 26.4, 29.1, 32.1, 34.7, 50.3, 104.0, 110.2, 114.4, 128.3, 138.4, 144.3, 144.3, 149.0, 155.1, 167.0, 194.3; MS: m/e: 384.43; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ : C: 65.61; H: 6.29; N: 7.29; Found: C: 65.55; H: 6.24; N: 7.28;

**Ethyl 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8-hexahydro-2, 7, 7-trimethyl -4-(4-nitrophenyl) -5-oxoquinoline-3-carboxylate 4e**

Yield: 0.5 g; (89 %); Mp: 175-177 °C ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$ = 0.94 (s, 3H), 1.03 (s, 3H), 1.2 (t, 3H), 2.14-2.42 (m, 4H), 4.08 (q, 2H), 5.17 (s, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 7.39 (t, 1H), 7.74 (d, 1H), 8 (d, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$ = 14.0, 18.0, 26.1, 29.0, 32.0, 34.3, 50.1, 104.2, 110.4, 114.2, 128.1, 138.2, 144.1, 144.6, 149.2, 155.5, 167.3, 194.1; MS: m/e: 384.43; Anal. Calcd for:  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ : C: 65.61; H: 6.29; N: 7.29; Found: C: 65.55; H: 6.24; N: 7.2.

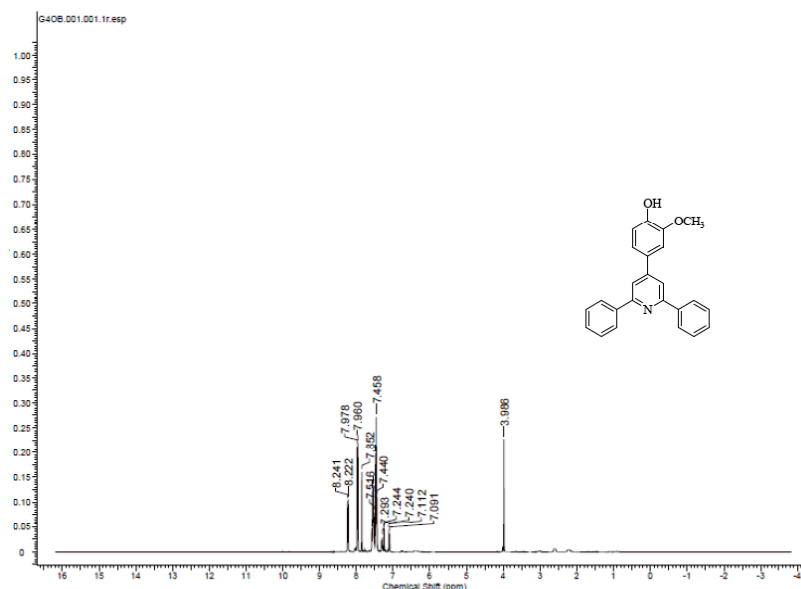


Figure 1:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR Spectrum of 2-methoxy-4-(2,6-diphenyl pyridin-4-yl) phenol 1.

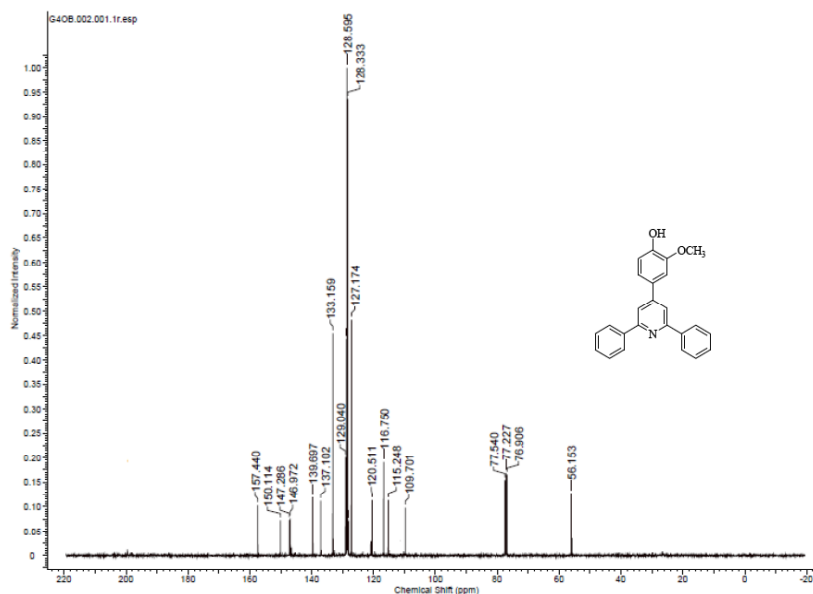
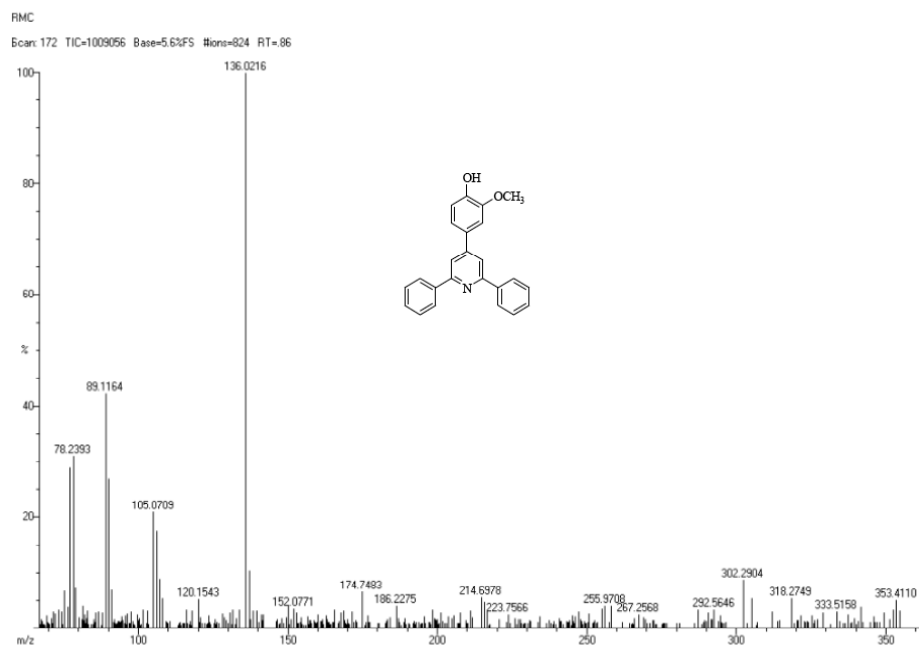
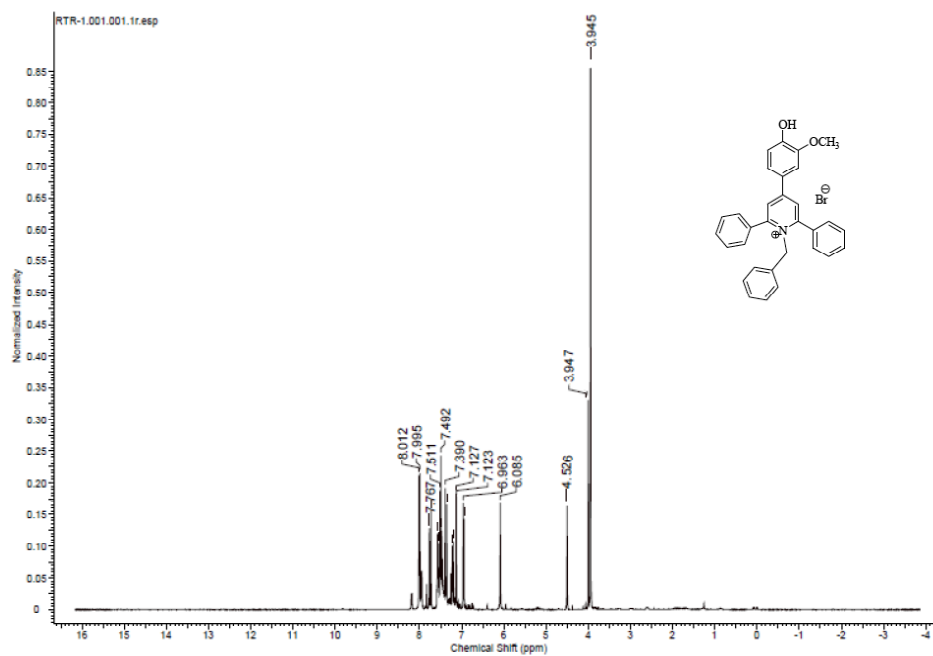


Figure 2:  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR Spectrum of 2-methoxy-4-(2,6-diphenyl pyridin-4-yl) phenol 1.



**Figure 3:** Mass Spectrum of 2-methoxy-4-(2,6-diphenyl pyridin-4-yl) phenol 1.



**Figure 4:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR Spectrum of 2-methoxy-4-(2,6-diphenyl-1-methyl benzyl pyridiniumbromide-4-yl) phenol 2a.

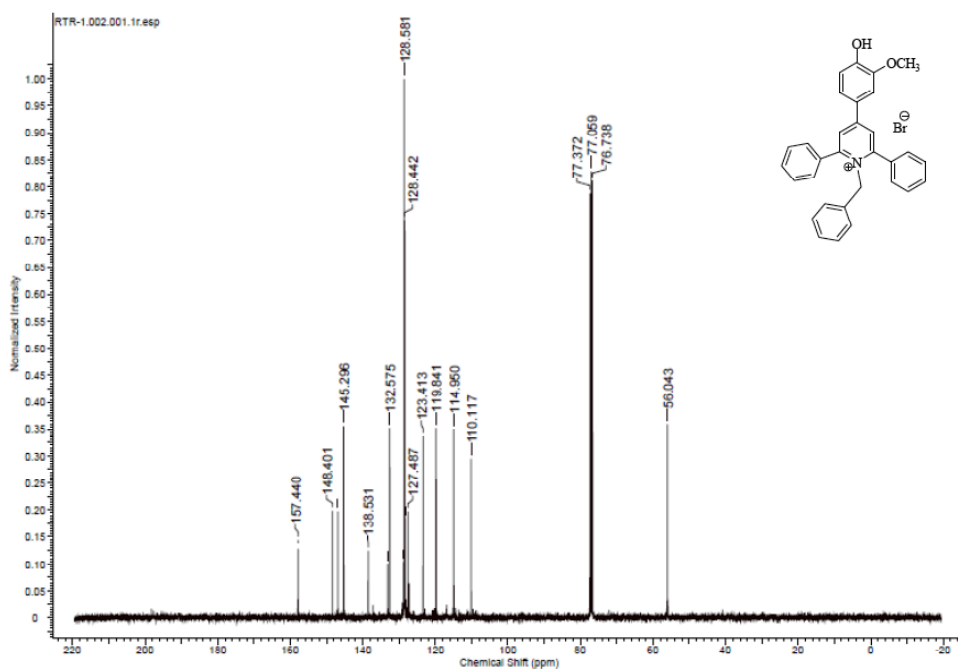


Figure 5: <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of 2-methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenylbenzyl pyridiniumbromide-4-yl) phenol **2a**.

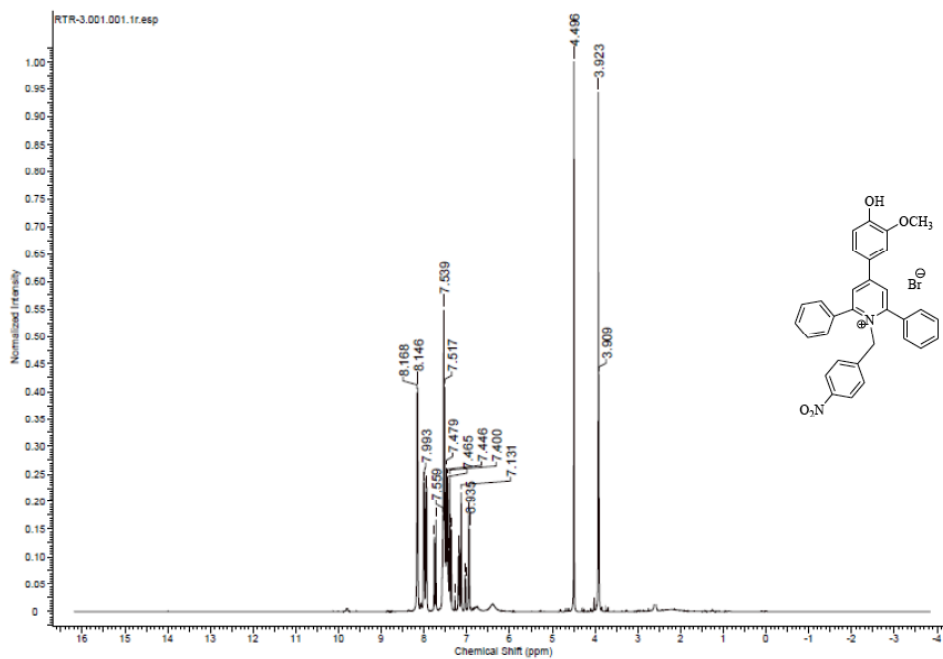


Figure 6: <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of 2-methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenyl-1-methyl-4-nitrobenzylpyridiniumbromide-4-yl) phenol **3a**.

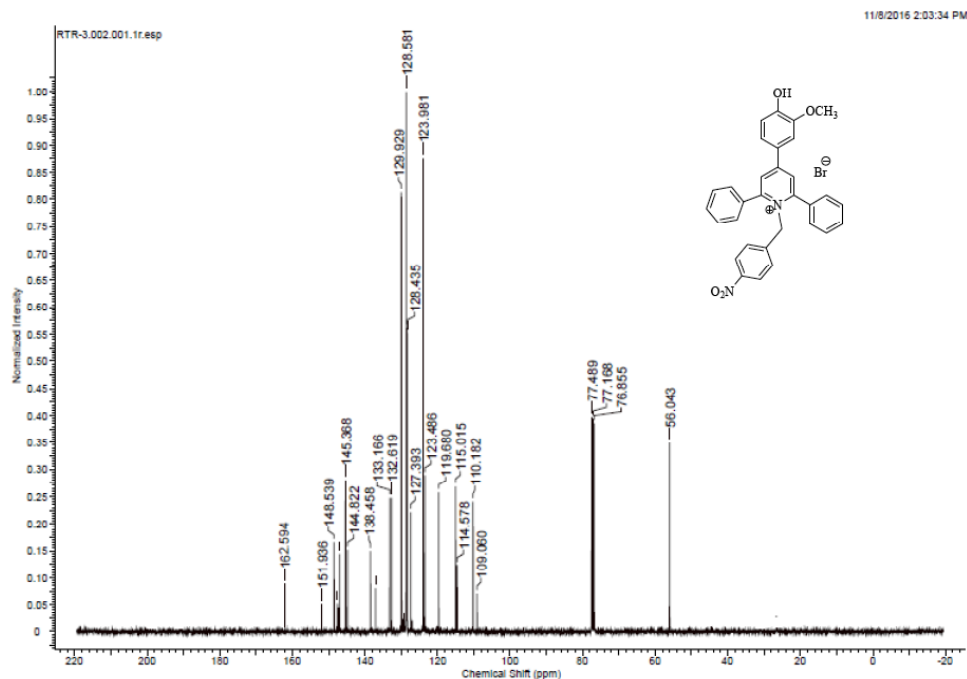


Figure 7:  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR Spectrum of 2-methoxy-4-(2, 6-diphenyl-1-methyl-4-nitrobenzylpyridiniumbromide-4-yl) phenol **3a**.

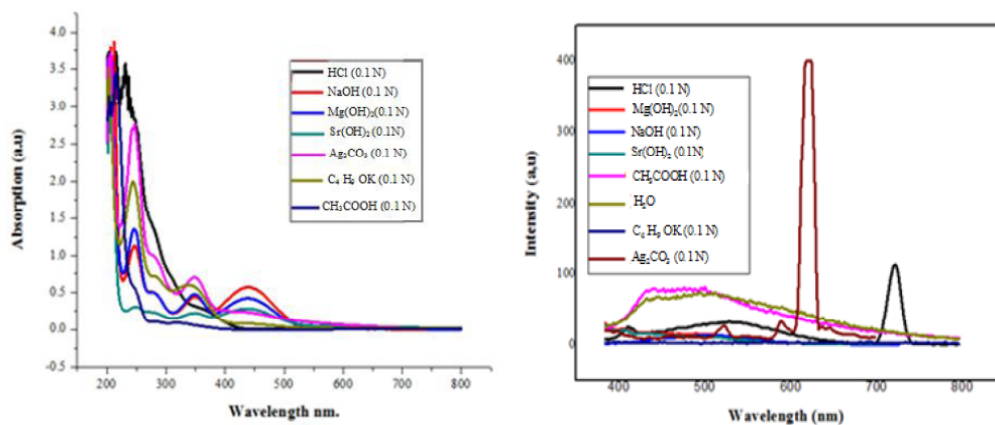


Figure 8: Absorption and emission spectrum of triaryl pyridine **3a** with different medium.