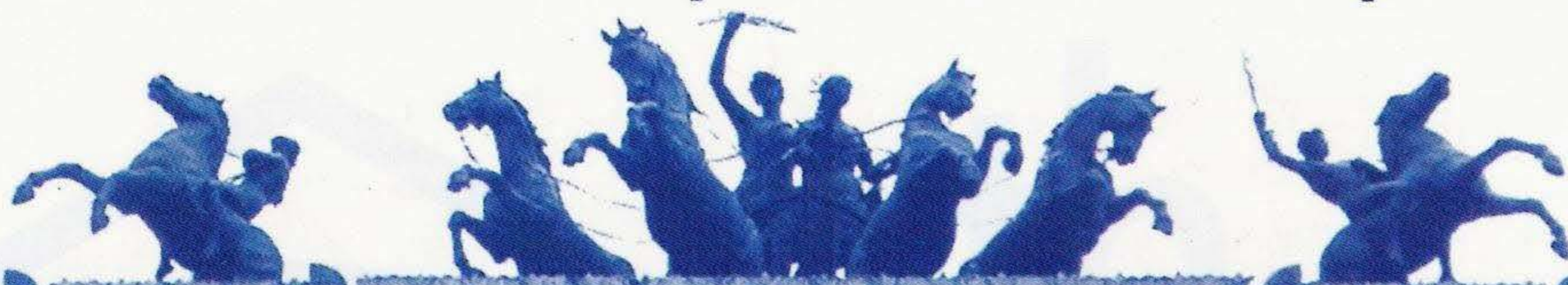


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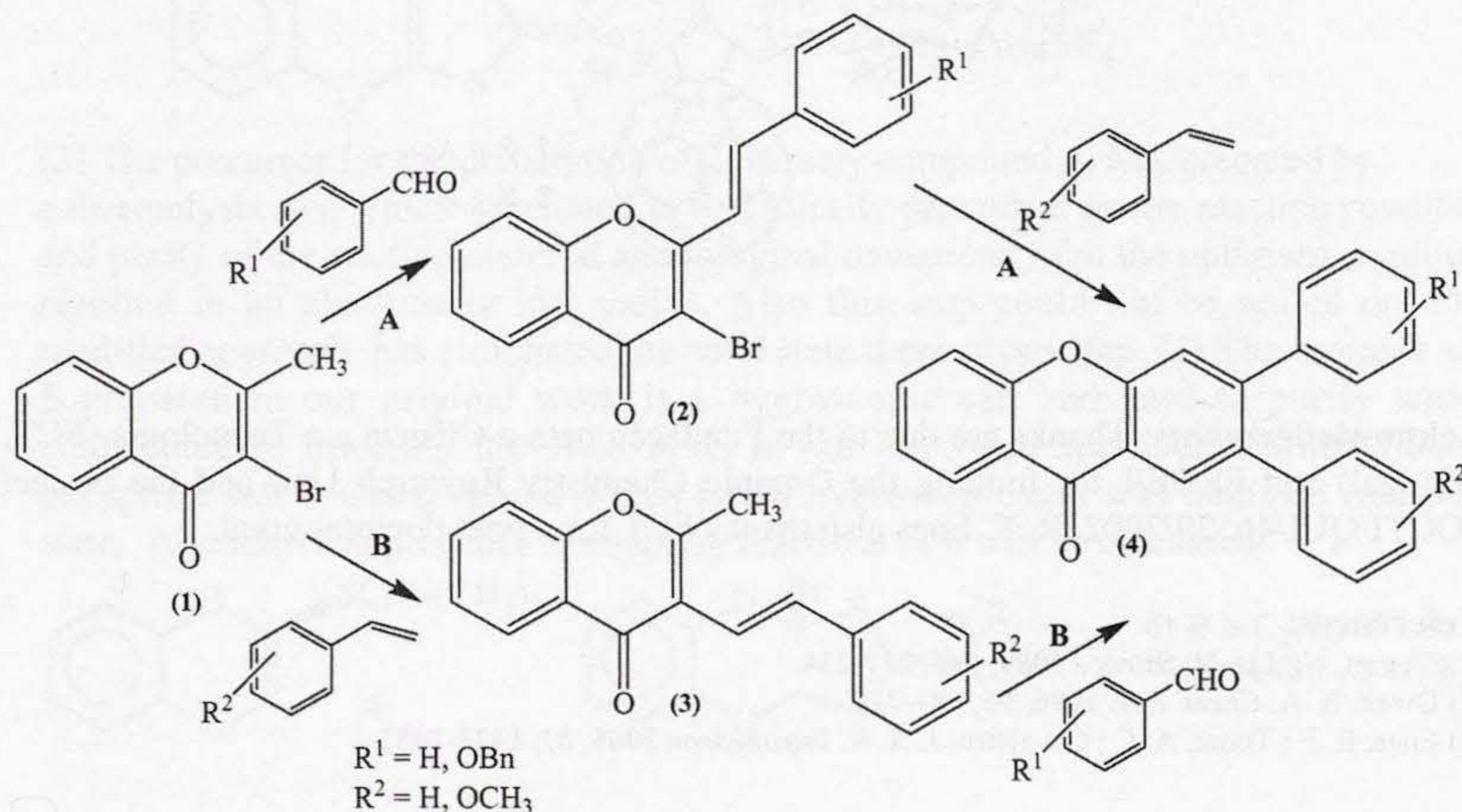


Syntheses of new xanthone derivatives

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Xanthenes are a class of heterocyclic compounds widely distributed in the plant kingdom (1). Since a long time ago, compounds with the xanthone core are of great interest for chemists, biologists and pharmacologists due to their potential biological properties. Certain natural and synthetic derivatives have shown important anti-fungal, anti-tumour, anti-inflammatory as well as antioxidant activities (1,2).

We report here the synthesis of new xanthenes **4** starting from the 3-bromo-2-methylchromone **1** with two different routes: **A**: Aldol condensation of **1** with benzaldehydes leading to the formation of 3-bromo-2-styrylchromones **2** followed of Heck reaction with styrenes, and **B**: Heck reaction of **1** with styrenes leading to the formation of 2-methyl-3-styrylchromones **3** followed of Aldol condensation with benzaldehydes. Experimental procedures and spectroscopic characterization of xanthenes **4** and of all the intermediates will be presented and discussed.



Acknowledgements: Thanks are due to the University of Aveiro, FCT and FEDER for funding the Organic Chemistry Research Unit and the project POCTI/QUI/38394/2001. One of us (C.M.M. Santos) is also grateful to PRODEP 5.3 for financial support.

(1) Hostettman, K.; Hostettman, M. in *Methods in Plant Biochemistry*, Vol. 1 – Plant Phenolics, Ed. P. M. Dey, J. B. Harbone, Academic Press, **1989**, pp. 493.

(2) (e.g.) Bennett, G. J.; Lee, H.-H. *Phytochemistry* **1989**, *28*, 967-998; Minami, H.; Kinoshita, M.; Fukuyama, Y.; Komoda, M.; Yoshizawa, T.; Sugiura, M.; Nakagawa, K.; Tago, H. *Phytochemistry* **1994**, *36*, 501-511; Abdel-Lateff, A.; Klemke, C.; König, G. M.; Wright, A. D. *J. Nat. Prod.* **2003**, *66*, 706-708; Chiang, Y.-M.; Kuo, Y.-H.; Oota, S.; Fukuyama, Y. *J. Nat. Prod.* **2003**, *66*, 1070-1073.

Syntheses of new xan

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thones derivatives

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Introduction

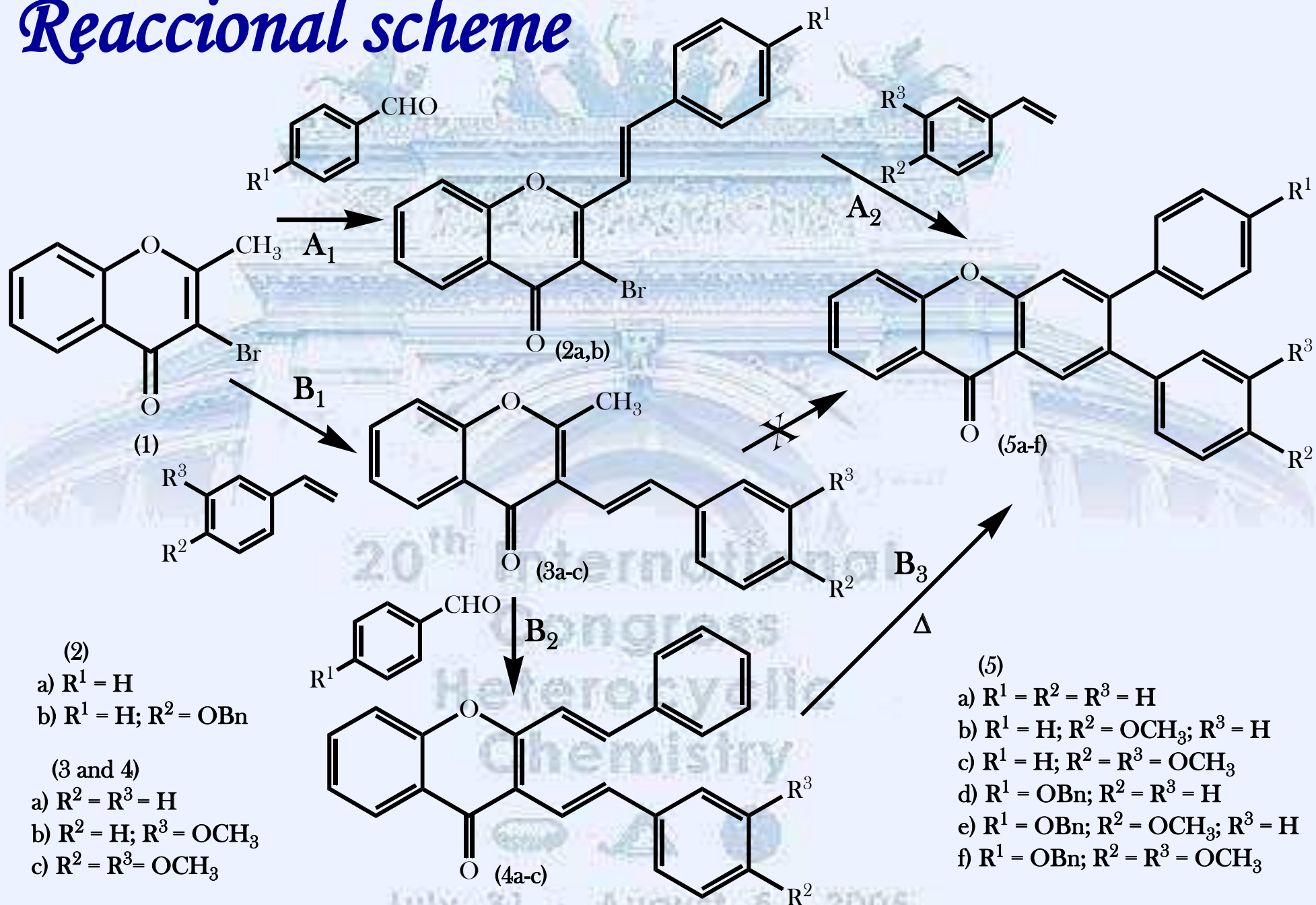
* Xanthones are a class of heterocyclic compounds widely distributed in the plant kingdom (1). Since a long time ago, compounds with the xanthone core are of great interest for chemists, biologists and pharmacologists due to their potential biological properties.

* Certain natural and synthetic derivatives have shown important anti-fungal, anti-tumour, anti-inflammatory as well as antioxidant activities (1,2).

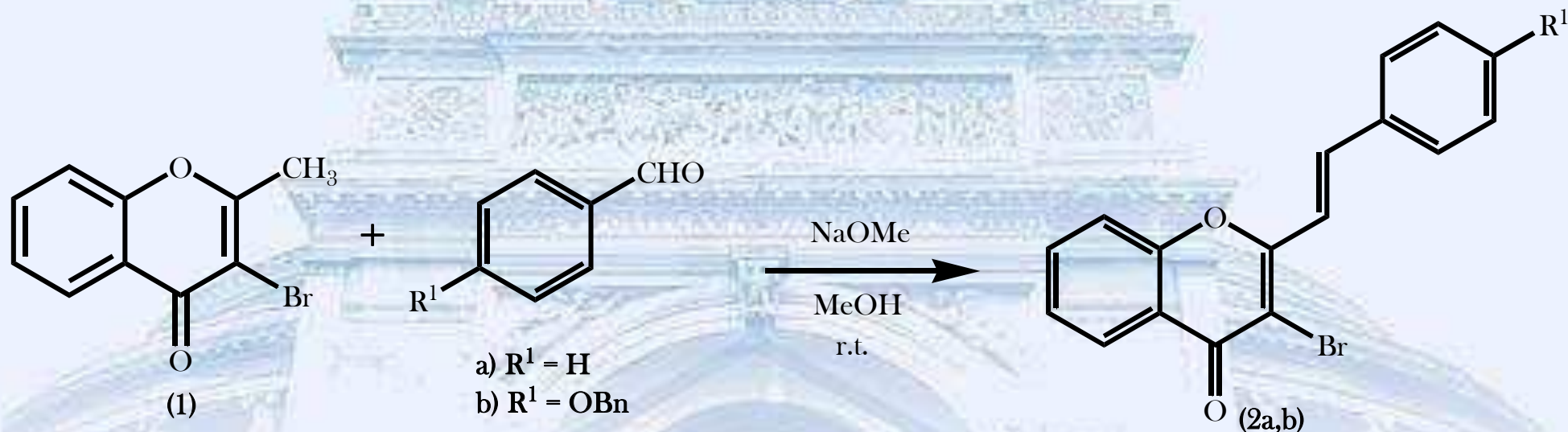
* We report the synthesis of new xanthones **5** starting from the 3-bromo-2-methylchromone **1** with two different routes (A and B).

* Experimental procedures and spectroscopic characterization of xanthones **5** and of all the intermediates are presented and discussed.

Reaccional scheme



\mathcal{A}_1 – Synthesis of 3-bromo-2-styrylchromones (3a-c)



The 3-bromo-2-methylchromone is synthesized according to the literature and involves 3 steps:

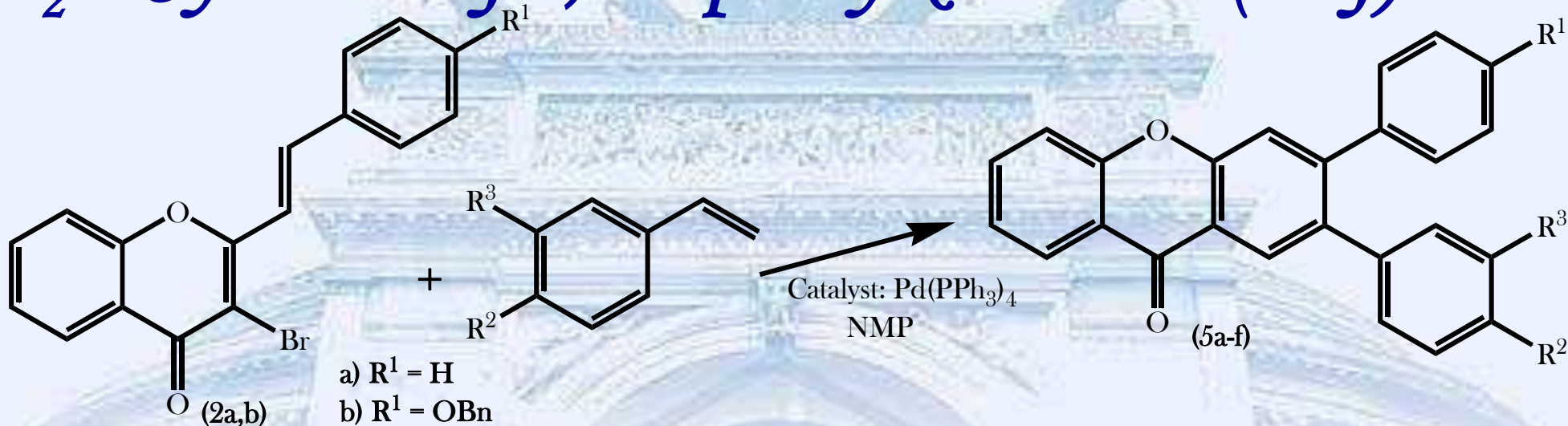
1. Acetylation of 2'-hydroxy-acetophenone
2. Transposition of the acetyl group
3. Bromination and cyclization

*The hydroxyl group of 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde must be protected. In this case, we used benzyl chloride, K₂CO₃, DMF.

Base (eq.)	Time (h)	2a (%)	2b (%)
4	2	54.8	51.7
4	12	55.8	52.2
4	24	61.2	52.7
4	48	87.3	68.2
4	72	49.0	48.9

*Ind. Eng. Chem. Res., 2001, 40, 37-39.

A_2 – Synthesis of 2,3-diphenylxanthenes (5a-f)

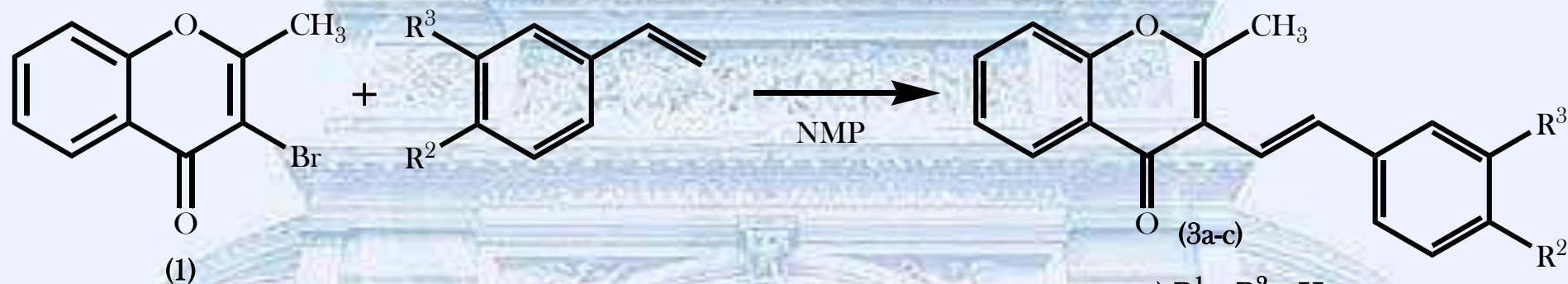


After an extensive study of the reaction conditions (base, phosphine, catalyst, solvent) we describe only the best conditions/yields in the Heck reaction:

Compound	Et_3N (eq.)	PPh_3 (eq.)	Catalyst (eq.)	Styrene (eq.)	Conditions	Yield (%)
5a	4	0.1	0.05	5	160°C; 6h	55.6
5b	4	0.1	0.05	5	reflux; 3h	49.1
5c	1	0.1	0.05	2	160°C; 12h	45.2
5d	1	0.1	0.05	5	reflux; 6h	50.7
5e	4	0.1	0.05	5	reflux; 6h	65.8
5f	1	0.1	0.05	5	reflux; 3h	19.5

- (5)
- a) $R^1 = R^2 = R^3 = H$
 b) $R^1 = H; R^2 = OCH_3; R^3 = H$
 c) $R^1 = H; R^2 = R^3 = OCH_3$
 d) $R^1 = OBn; R^2 = R^3 = H$
 e) $R^1 = OBn; R^2 = OCH_3; R^3 = H$
 f) $R^1 = OBn; R^2 = R^3 = OCH_3$

B_1 – Synthesis of 2-methyl-3-styrylchromones (2a, b)



- a) R¹ = R² = H
 b) R¹ = OCH₃; R² = H
 c) R¹ = R² = OCH₃

In this reaction, we also tried several conditions do obtain the 2-methyl-3-styrylchromones (3a-c).

We describe below an interesting study of the catalyst effect in the reaction of (1) with styrene.

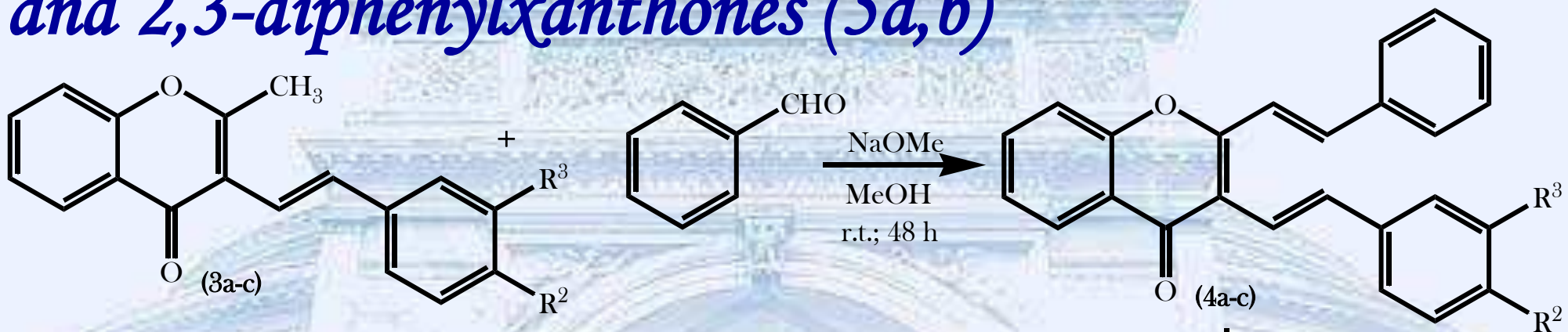
Applying the conditions described for the Pd(PPh₃)₄ catalyst in the reaction of (1) with the other styrenes, we have the following results.

Catalyst (0.05 eq.)	Et ₃ N (eq.)	PPh ₃ (eq.)	Styrene (eq.)	Conditions	Yield (%)
Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	1	0.1	5	160°C; 9h	47.9
Pd(PPh ₃)Cl ₂	1	0.1	5	160°C; 9h	38.8
PdCl₂	1	0.1	5	160°C; 9h	48.4
Pd(OAc) ₂	1	0.1	5	160°C; 9h	46.2

Compound	Yield (%)
3a	48.4
3b	49.1
3c	51.5

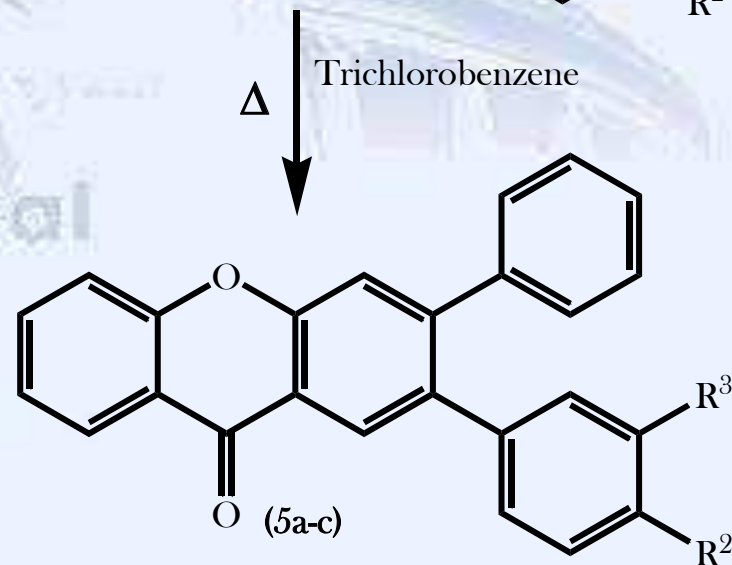


$B_{2 \text{ and } 3}$ – Synthesis of 2,3-distyrylchromones (4a-c) and 2,3-diphenylxanthenes (5a,b)



In this method, the synthesis of 2,3-diphenylxanthenes involves the formation of 2,3-distyrylchromones followed by cyclization of (4a-c) with high temperature.

The oxidative electrocyclization gave the desired 2,3-diphenylxanthenes (5a-c).



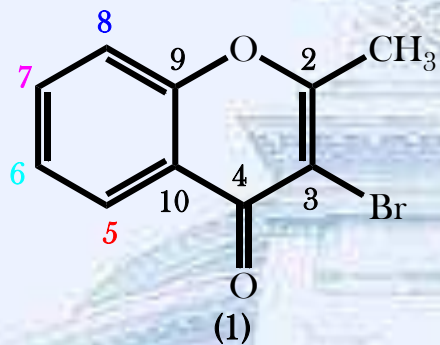
- a) $R^1 = R^2 = H$
- b) $R^1 = OCH_3; R^2 = H$
- c) $R^1 = R^2 = OCH_3$

Compound	Yield (%)
4a	52.9
4b	57.6
4c	67.1

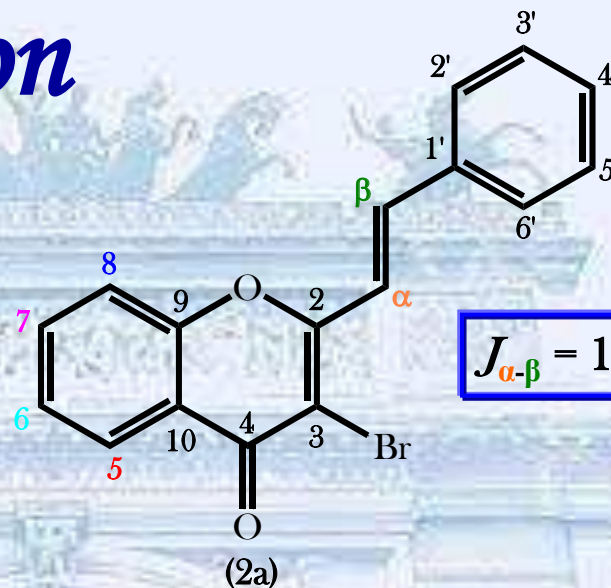
Compound	Yield (%)
5a	65.8
5b	54.5
5c	36.8

Structural elucidation

$^1\text{H NMR}$



(1)



$$J_{\alpha-\beta} = 16 \text{ Hz}$$

H-6 and H-3',4',5'

H- α

H- β

H-7

H-2',6'

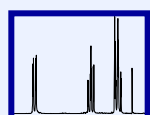
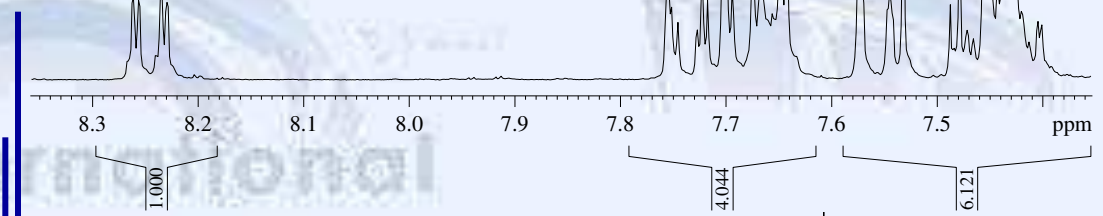
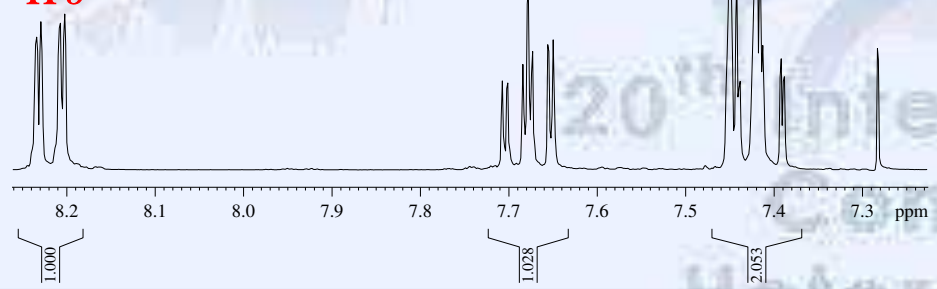
H-8

H-5

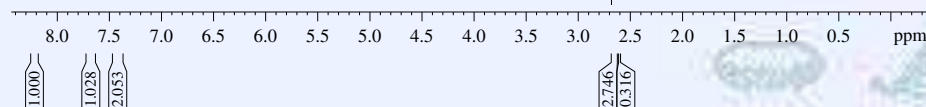
H-7

H-6,8

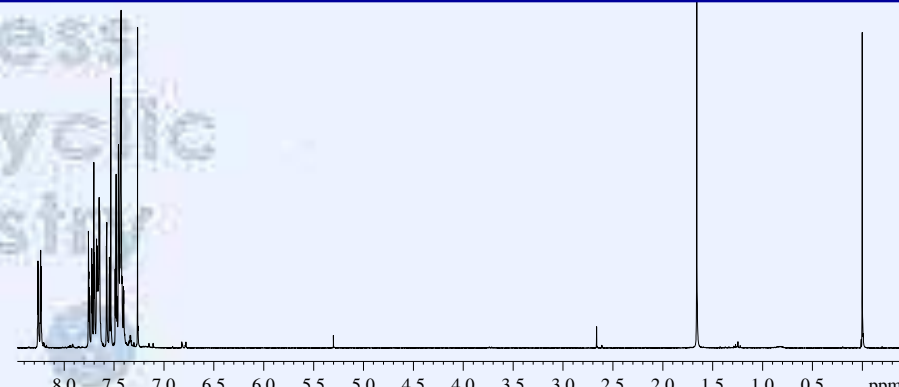
H-5



2- CH_3

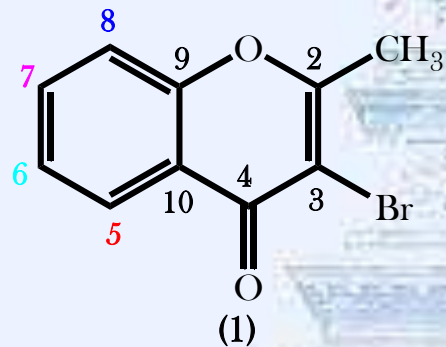


3-methyl-2-bromochromone (1)

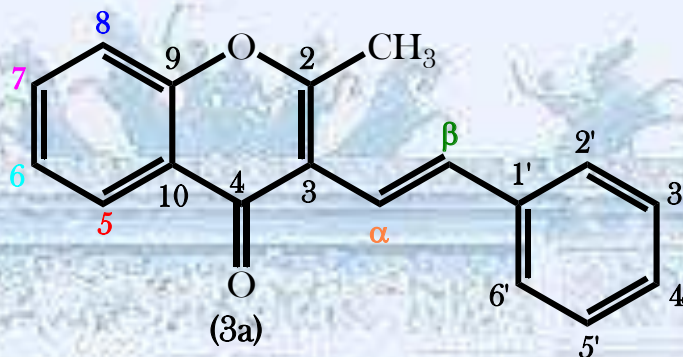


3-bromo-2-styrylchromone (2a)

$^1\text{H NMR}$

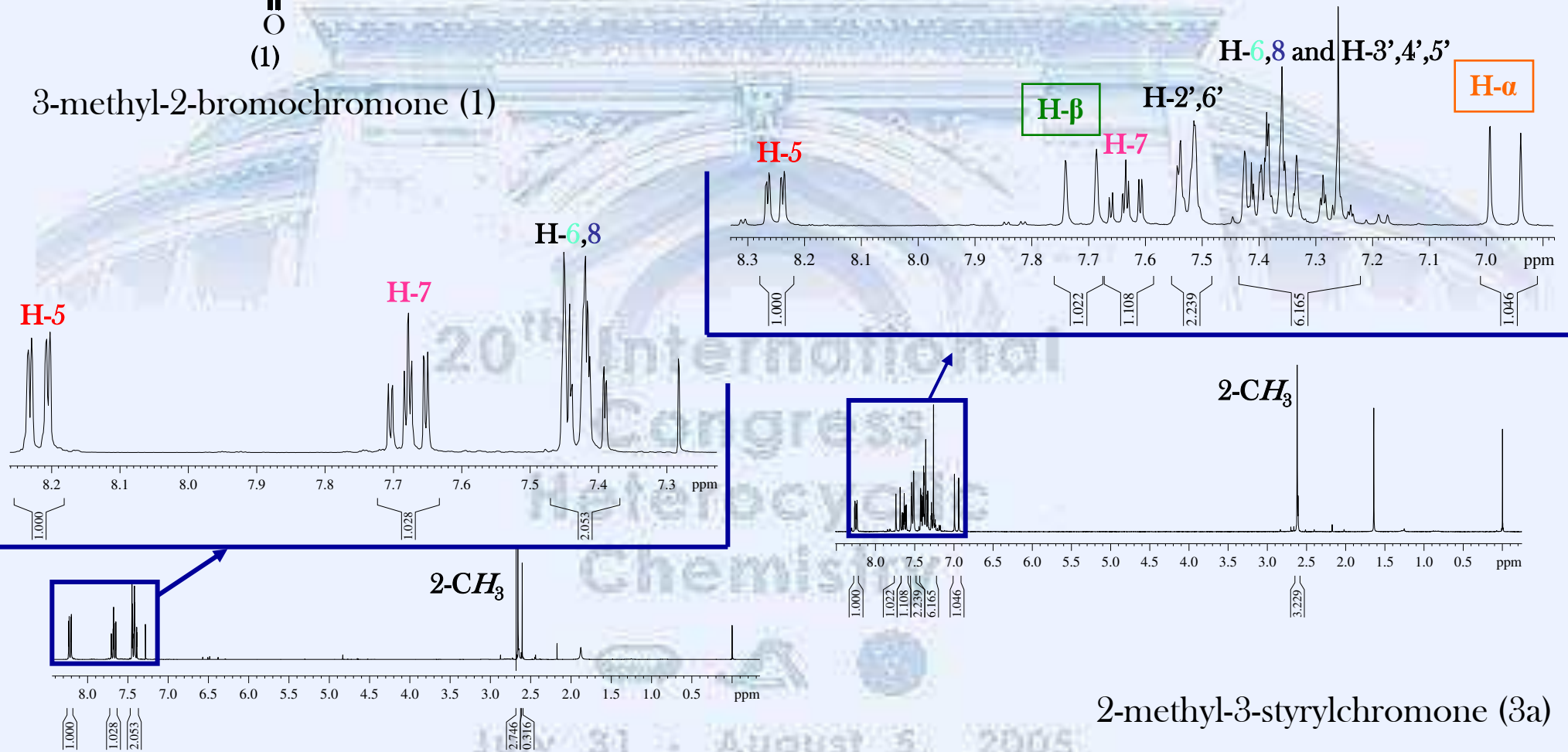


3-methyl-2-bromochromone (1)



E Configuration

$J_{\alpha-\beta} = 16 \text{ Hz}$

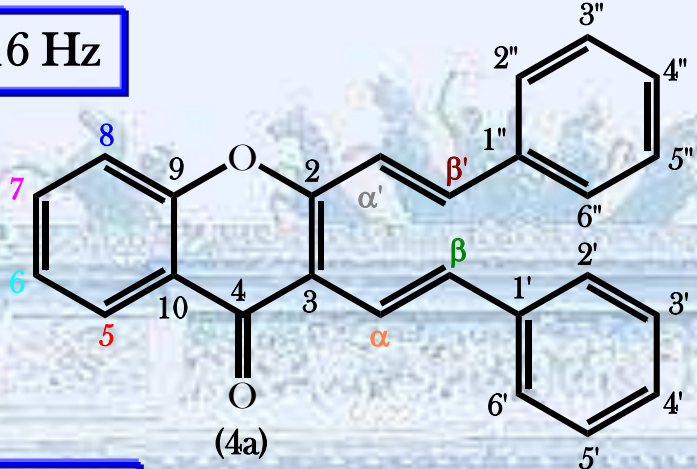


2-methyl-3-styrylchromone (3a)

$J_{\alpha'-\beta'} = 16 \text{ Hz}$

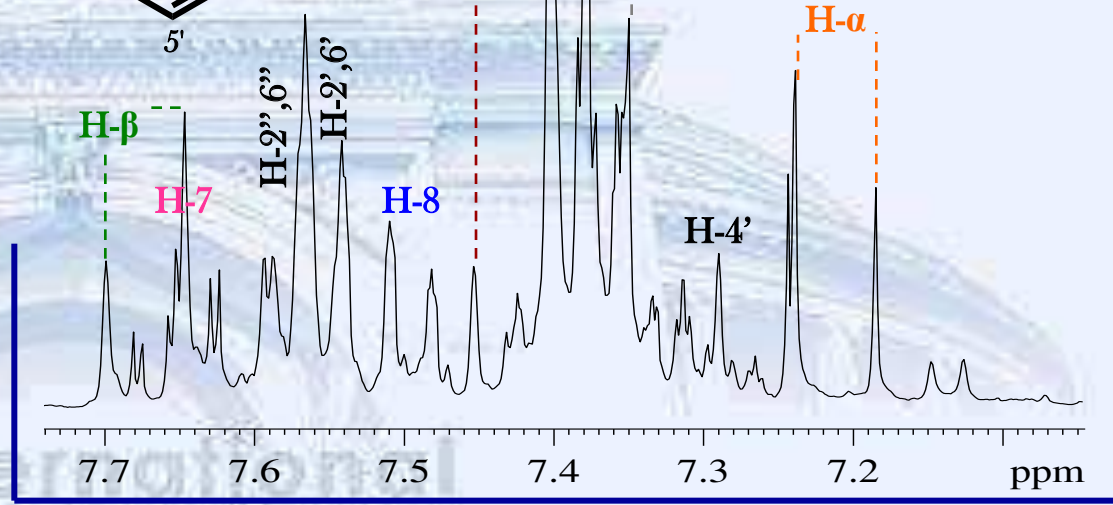
E Configuration

$J_{\alpha-\beta} = 16 \text{ Hz}$

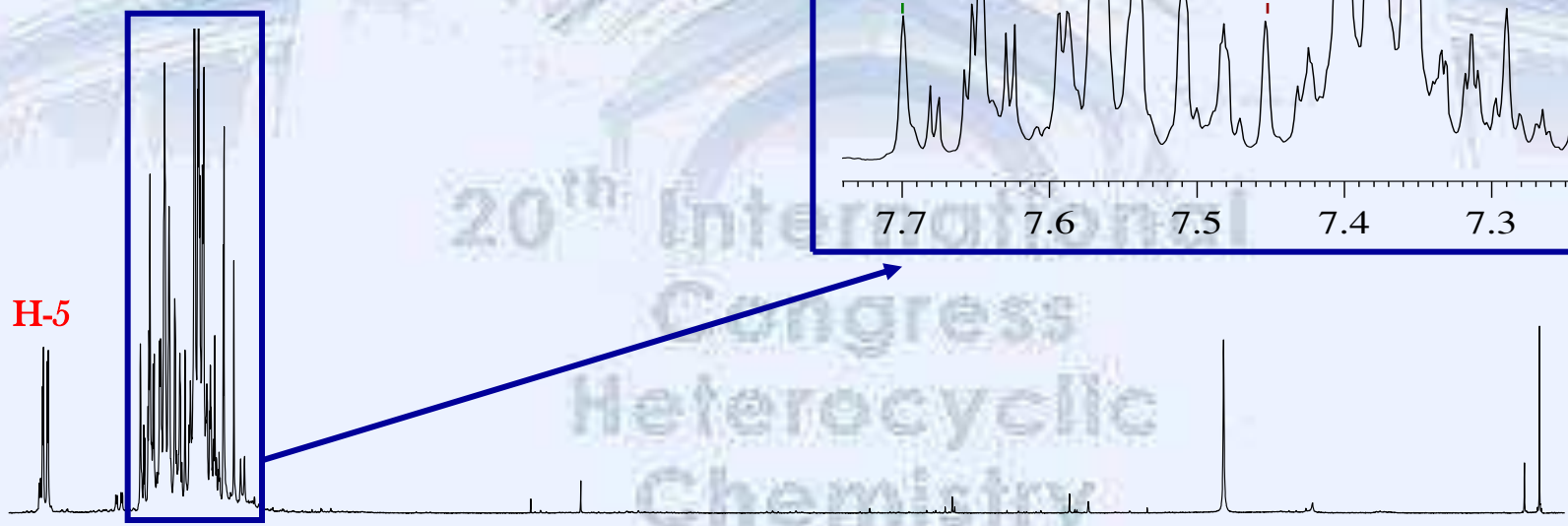


H-6,3',5',3'',4'',5''

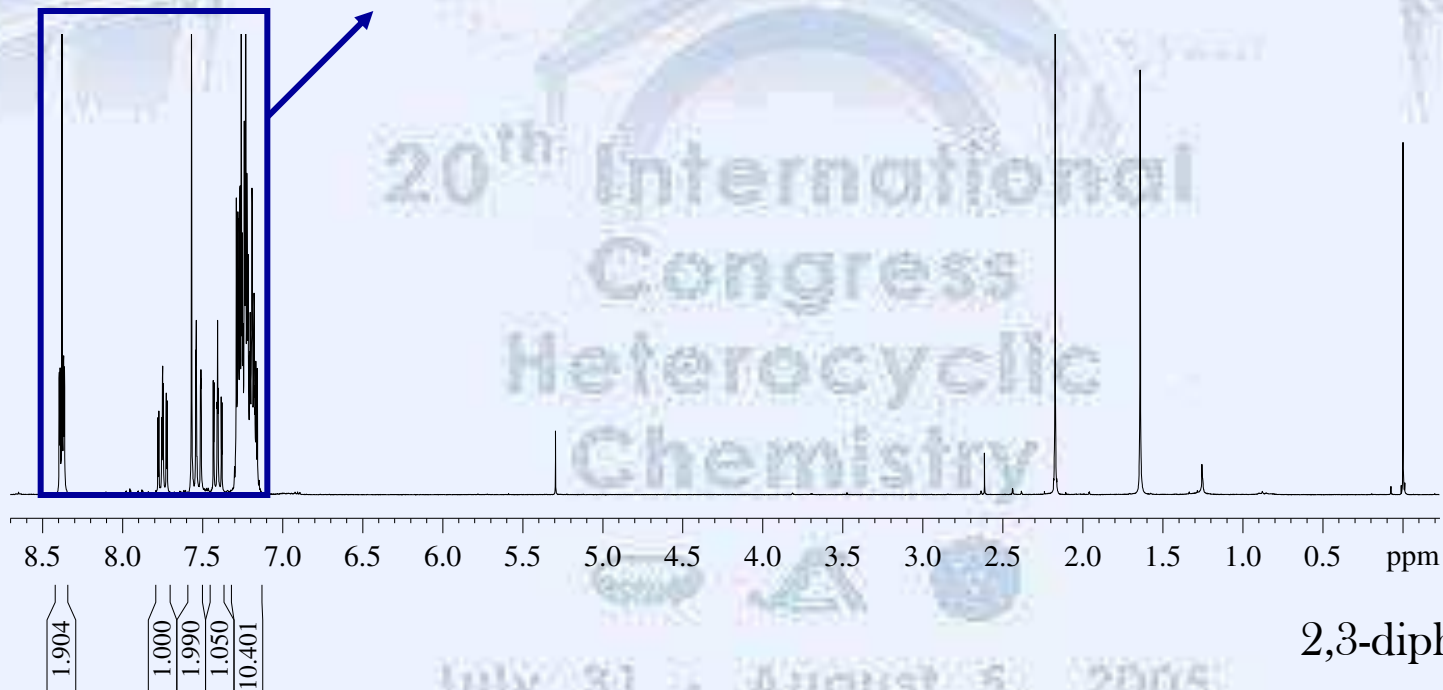
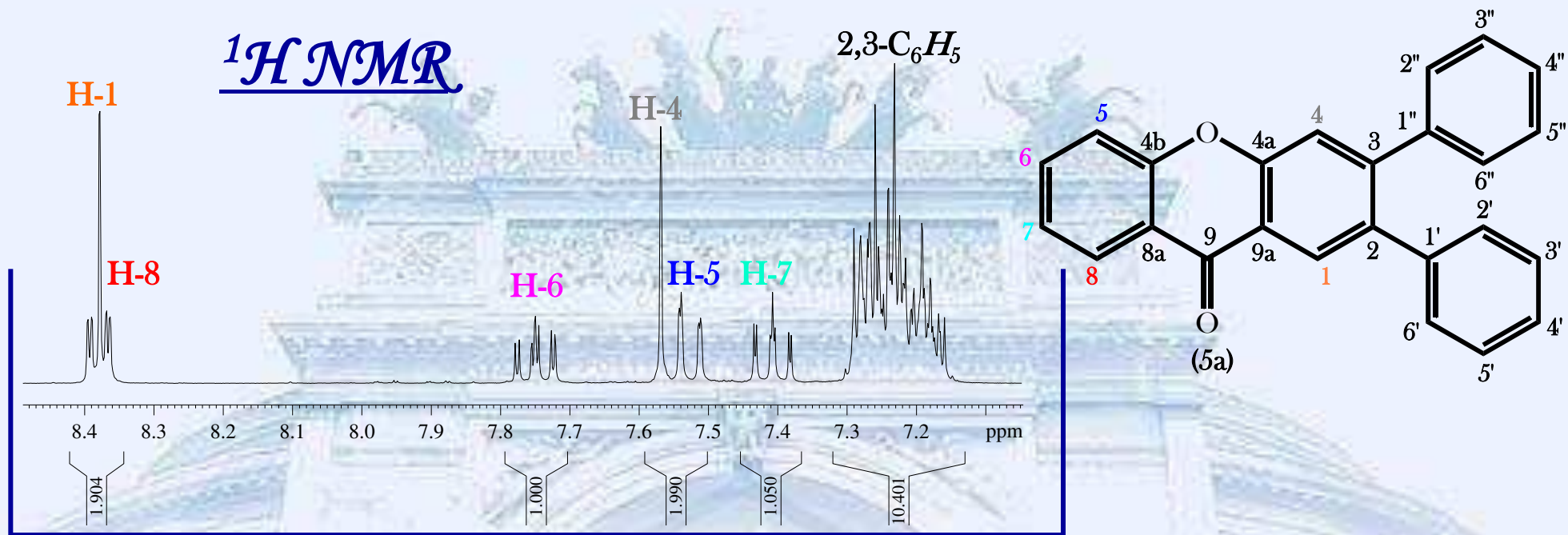
$^1\text{H NMR}$



H-5

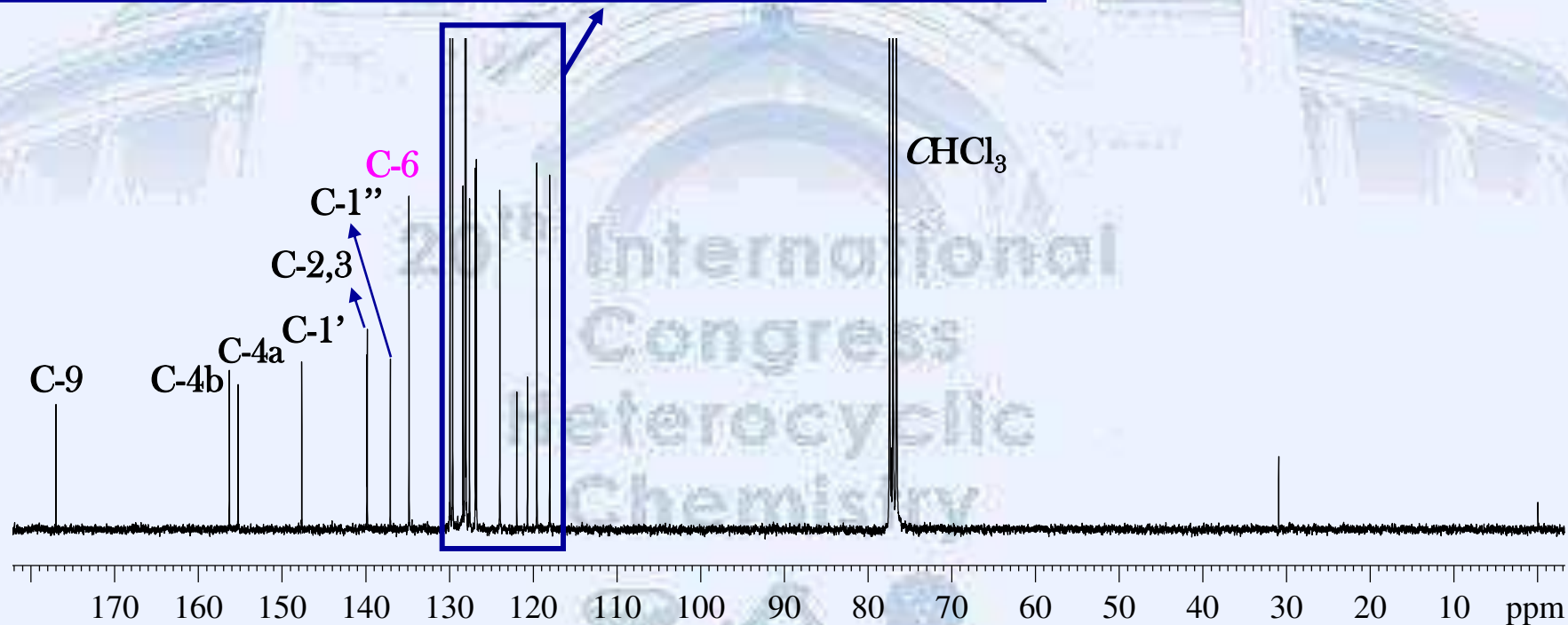
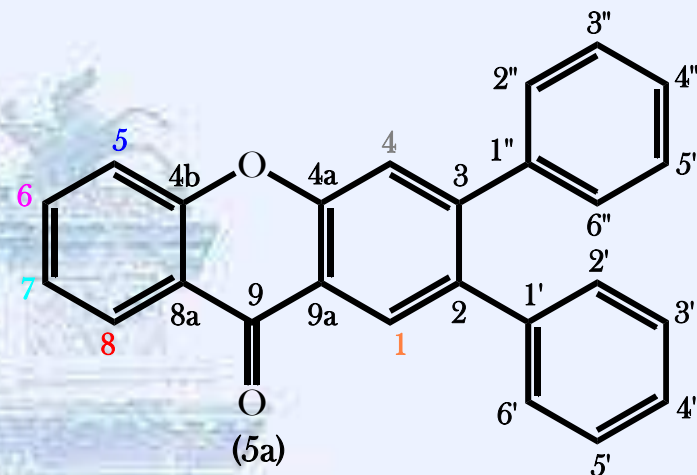
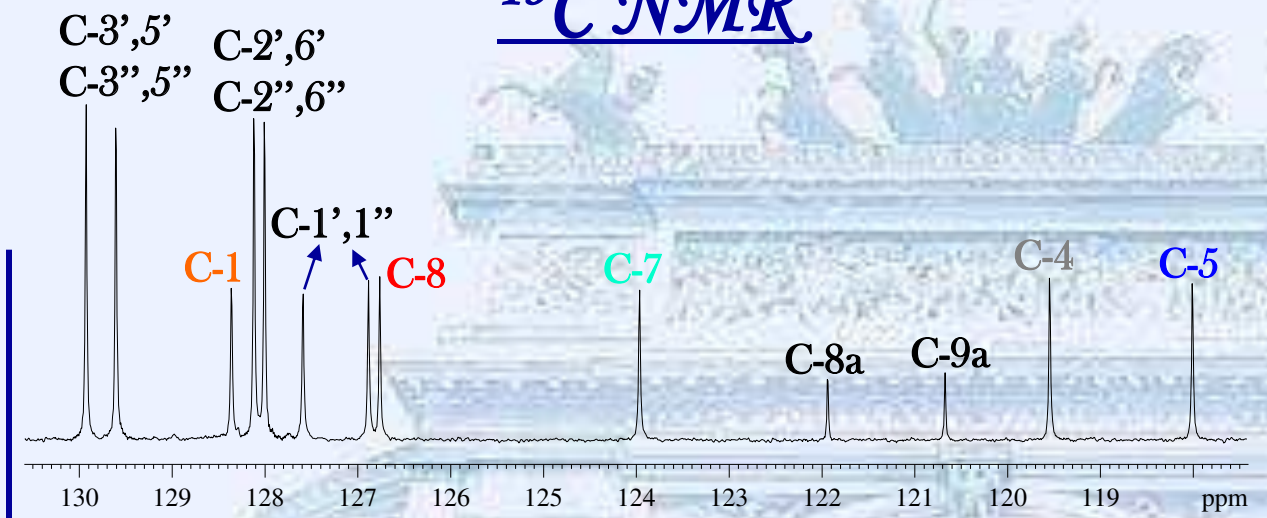


2,3-distyrylchromone (4a)



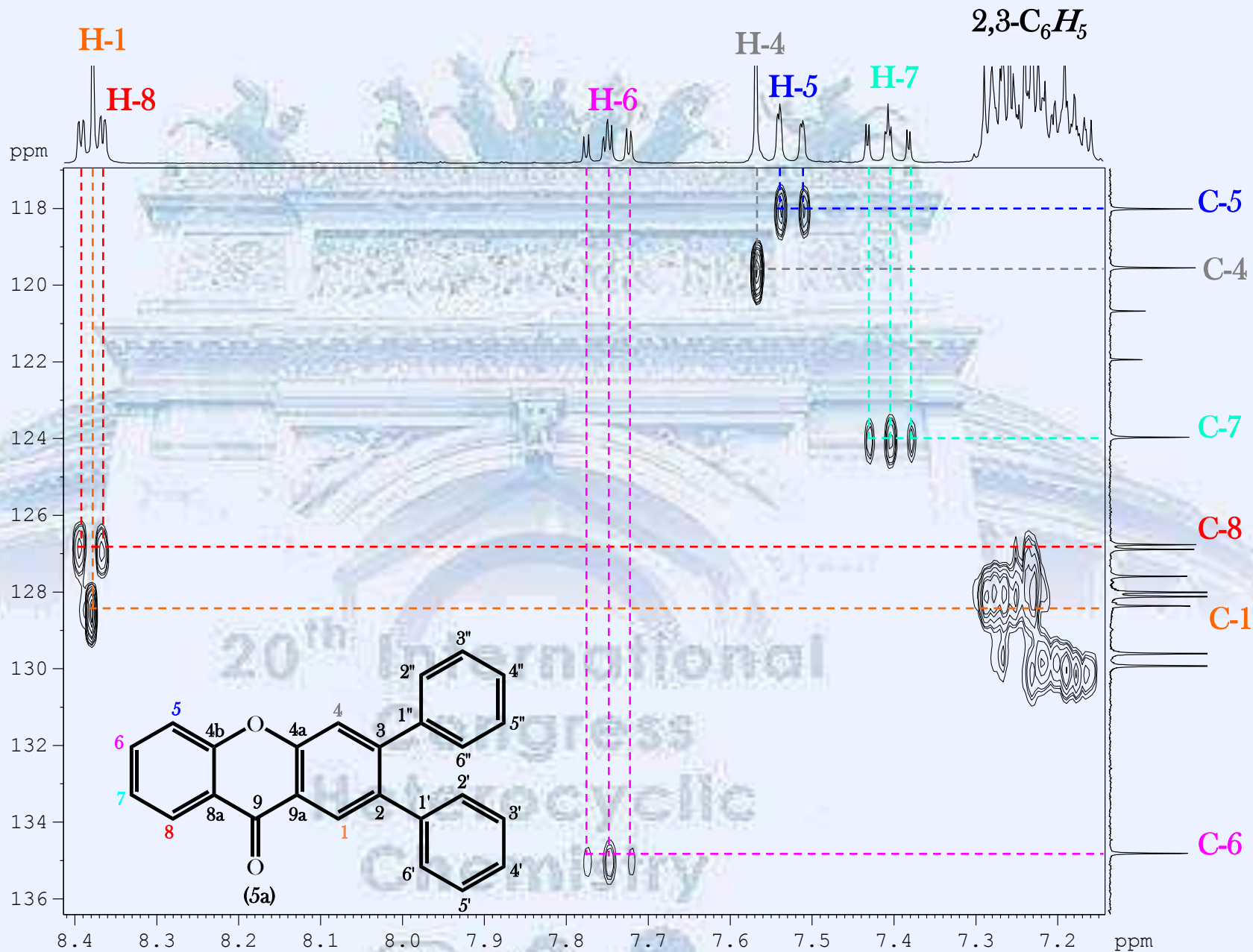
2,3-diphenylxanthone (5a)

^{13}C NMR

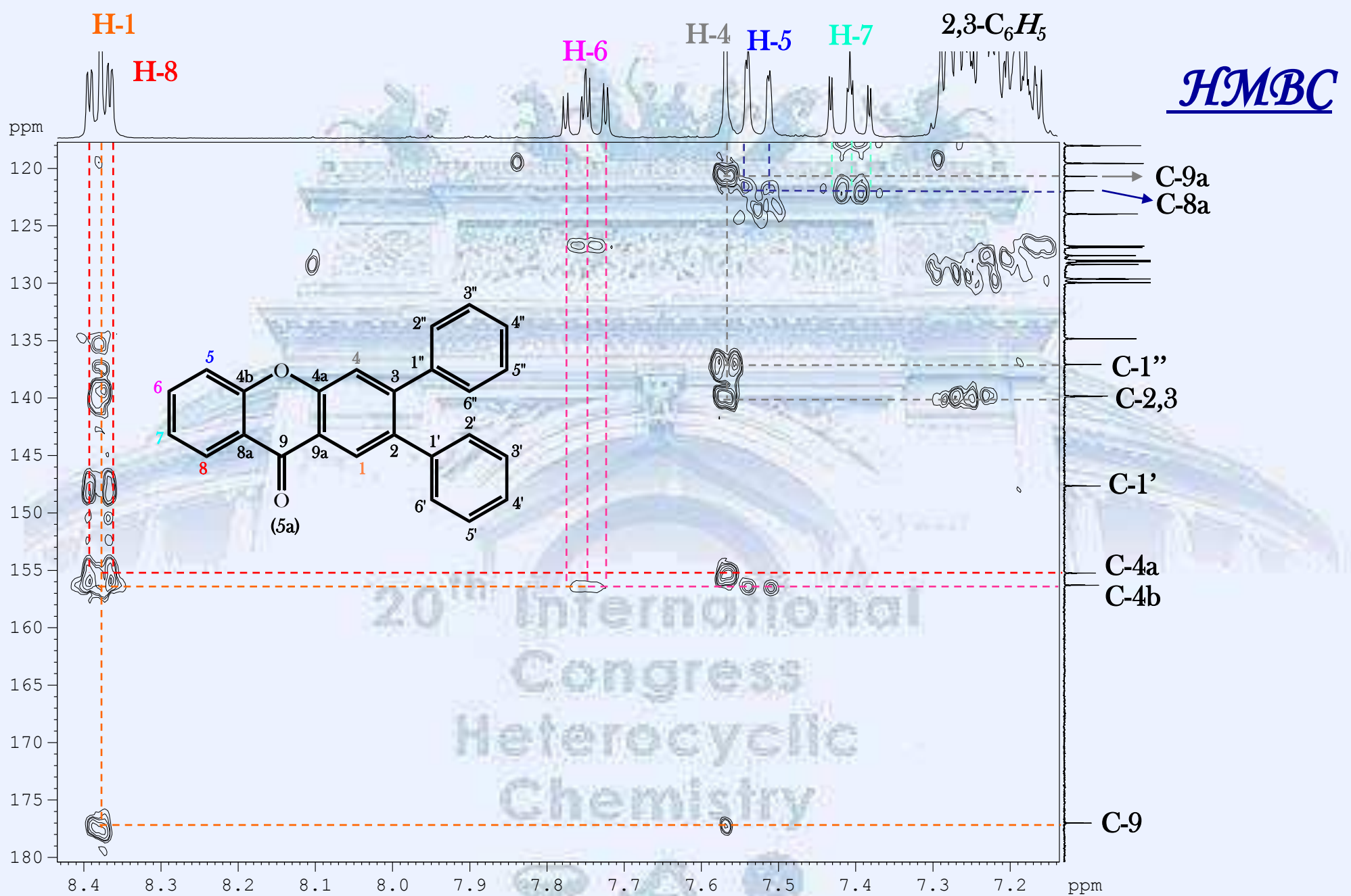


2,3-diphenylxanthone (5a)

HSQC



2,3-diphenylxanthone (5a)



2,3-diphenylxanthone (5a)

References

- (1) Hostettman, K.; Hostettman, M. in *Methods in Plant Biochemistry*, Vol. 1 - Plant Phenolics, Ed. P. M. Dey, J. B. Harbone, Academic Press, 1989, pp. 493.
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