

Synthesis, DFT molecular geometry and anti-cancer activity of Symmetrical 2,2'-(2-oxo-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1,3(2*H*)-diyl) diacetate and its arylideneacetohydrazide derivatives

Manel Dhahri ¹, Firdos Alam Khan ², Abdul-Hamid Emwas ³, Rua B. Alnoman ⁴, Mariusz Jaremko ⁵, Nadjat Rezki ⁶, Mohamed Reda Aouad ⁶ and Mohamed Hagar ^{4,7,*}

¹ Faculty of Science Yanbu, Biology Department, Taibah University, 46423, Yanbu El-Bahr, Saudi Arabia

² Department of Stem Cell Research, Institute for Research and Medical Consultations (IRMC); Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, P.O. Box 1982, 31441 Dammam-Saudi Arabia

³ King Abdullah University of Science and Technology. Core Labs. Thuwal 23955-6900, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

⁴ Faculty of Science, Chemistry Department, Taibah University, Yanbu Branch, 46423, Yanbu, Saudi Arabia

⁵ King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Biological and Environmental Sciences & Engineering Division (BESE), Thuwal, 23955-6900, Saudi Arabia

⁶ Department of Chemistry, College of Science, Taibah University, Al-Madinah Al-Munawarah 30002, Saudi Arabia,

⁷ Faculty of Science, Chemistry Department, Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt.

* Correspondence: Mohamedhaggag@gmail.com (Mohamed Hagar)

Natural charge

The important properties of molecular structures such as molecular polarizability, dipole moment and electronic structure of a compound depend on the distribution of atomic charge. Table S2. shows the natural atomic charges calculated at different atomic sites. The O- and N-atoms of the compounds under study have electronegative nature where the O-atoms are more electronegative than N-atoms. In both compounds, the two N-atoms of the benzo[*d*]imidazole moiety are equivalent. Both compounds are polar where the calculated dipole moments of the acid and ester are 7.2003 and 3.3865 Debye, respectively; hence the acid is more polar than ester. For the acid, the most electropositive H-sites are those of the COOH groups which agree with the high acidic character of these sites.

Molecular electrostatic potential (MEP) map is an evidence to predict the electrophilic and nucleophilic reactive sites, and to study biological recognition and hydrogen bonding interactions [25,26]. Moreover, it gives an idea about the charge distribution and charge related properties of molecules. Figure 2 shows the MEP figures of both compounds that calculated by B3LYP method with 6-31G(d,p) basis set. Figure S1 indicates that the negative regions (red) are mainly localized over the O-atoms of the carbonyl groups. Hence, these atoms of the studied compounds are the most proper sites to attack the positive regions and the most reactive sites for electrophilic attack. On the other hand, the maximum positive regions (blue) are localized over the C-atom of carbonyl groups of the acid and H-atoms of the ester. these two sites are the most reactive sites for nucleophilic attack.

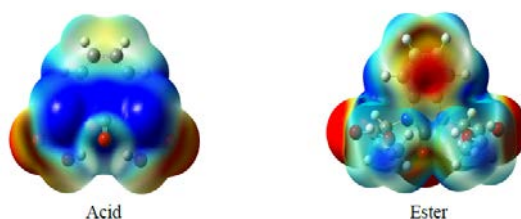


Figure S1. The molecular electrostatic potential of the studied compounds.

Frontier molecular orbitals

The energy and electron densities of the frontier molecular orbitals (FMOs) are very important features for physicists and chemists [30]. Where, the level of energy of the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) and the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) as well as the amount of the energy gap reflect the reactivity of molecule in chemical reactions. Nevertheless, the HOMO-LUMO energy gap is an indicator for the bioactivity from intramolecular charge transfer (ICT) [27,28]. The energy gap (ΔE) between HOMO-LUMO is the lowest energy ICT. The E_{HOMO} and E_{LUMO} of the acid and its ester are calculated using the B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) method. Figure S2. shows the HOMO and LUMO views of the studied compounds. The HOMO-LUMO energy gaps (ΔE) are 5.6124 (221 nm) and 5.4393 eV (228 nm) for the acid and ester, respectively. This intramolecular charge transfer belongs mainly to π - π^* excitations as the HOMO and LUMO of both compounds are delocalized over the π -system of benzo[d]imidazole moiety. Experimentally, λ_{max} in methanol as solvent at longer wave length of 279 and 280 nm for the acid and ester, respectively. This bathochromic shift in observed λ_{max} experimentally compared to the gas phase calculations could be attributed to solvent-solute interactions. Moreover, the molar absorptivity (ϵ) were $4.11 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ for the ester and $6.79 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ for the acid. The increase in ϵ of the acid is most probably due to the ability of the acid to form hydrogen bonding.

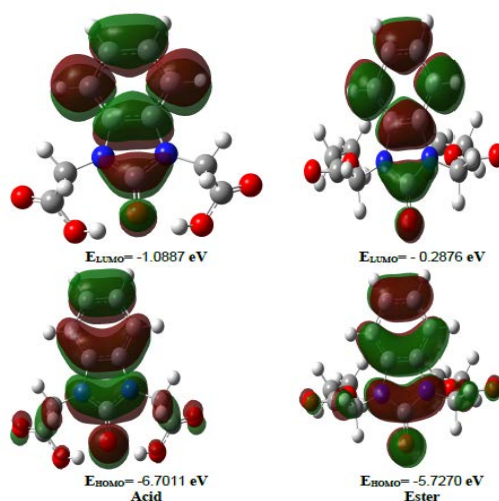


Figure S2. The ground state isodensity surface plots for the frontier molecular orbitals.

Table S1. The calculated bond distance (Å) and angles (°) of the studied compounds using B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) method.

| Acid | | | | Ester | | | |
|---------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|------------|-------|
| R(1-2) | 1.400 | A(4-3-21) | 121.7 | R(1-2) | 1.397 | A(4-5-9) | 107.0 |
| R(1-6) | 1.398 | A(3-4-5) | 121.4 | R(1-6) | 1.402 | A(4-7-8) | 110.2 |
| R(1-19) | 1.085 | A(3-4-7) | 131.8 | R(1-23) | 1.085 | A(4-7-11) | 127.5 |
| R(2-3) | 1.398 | A(5-4-7) | 106.8 | R(2-3) | 1.402 | A(6-5-9) | 131.8 |
| R(2-20) | 1.085 | A(4-5-6) | 121.4 | R(2-24) | 1.085 | A(5-6-26) | 121.4 |
| R(3-4) | 1.390 | A(4-5-9) | 106.8 | R(3-4) | 1.388 | A(5-9-8) | 110.2 |
| R(3-21) | 1.084 | A(4-7-8) | 109.2 | R(3-25) | 1.085 | A(5-9-17) | 127.5 |
| R(4-5) | 1.408 | A(4-7-11) | 127.9 | R(4-5) | 1.410 | A(8-7-11) | 122.3 |
| R(4-7) | 1.402 | A(6-5-9) | 131.8 | R(4-7) | 1.393 | A(7-8-9) | 105.6 |
| R(5-6) | 1.390 | A(5-6-22) | 121.7 | R(5-6) | 1.388 | A(7-8-10) | 127.2 |
| R(5-9) | 1.402 | A(5-9-8) | 109.2 | R(5-9) | 1.393 | A(7-11-12) | 115.8 |
| R(6-22) | 1.084 | A(5-9-15) | 127.9 | R(6-26) | 1.085 | A(7-11-27) | 111.3 |
| R(7-8) | 1.372 | A(8-7-11) | 122.8 | R(7-8) | 1.395 | A(7-11-28) | 106.4 |
| R(7-11) | 1.460 | A(7-8-9) | 107.9 | R(7-11) | 1.440 | A(9-8-10) | 127.2 |
| R(8-9) | 1.372 | A(7-8-10) | 126.0 | R(8-9) | 1.395 | A(8-9-17) | 122.3 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------------|-------|
| R(8-10) | 1.252 | A(7-11-12) | 114.4 | R(8-10) | 1.221 | A(9-17-18) | 115.7 |
| R(9-15) | 1.460 | A(7-11-23) | 108.6 | R(9-17) | 1.440 | A(9-17-34) | 106.4 |
| R(11-12) | 1.542 | A(7-11-24) | 108.5 | R(11-12) | 1.528 | A(9-17-35) | 111.3 |
| R(11-23) | 1.088 | A(9-8-10) | 126.0 | R(11-27) | 1.094 | A(12-11-27) | 107.1 |
| R(11-24) | 1.096 | A(8-9-15) | 122.8 | R(11-28) | 1.095 | A(12-11-28) | 107.8 |
| R(12-13) | 1.206 | A(8-10-25) | 100.8 | R(12-13) | 1.212 | A(11-12-13) | 122.5 |
| R(12-14) | 1.339 | A(8-10-28) | 100.8 | R(12-14) | 1.341 | A(11-12-14) | 112.5 |
| R(14-25) | 0.985 | A(9-15-16) | 114.5 | R(14-16) | 1.450 | A(27-11-28) | 108.1 |
| R(15-16) | 1.542 | A(9-15-26) | 108.5 | R(15-16) | 1.515 | A(13-12-14) | 124.9 |
| R(15-26) | 1.096 | A(9-15-27) | 108.6 | R(15-29) | 1.094 | A(12-14-16) | 115.7 |
| R(15-27) | 1.088 | A(12-11-23) | 107.7 | R(15-30) | 1.093 | A(14-16-15) | 107.5 |
| R(16-17) | 1.206 | A(12-11-24) | 108.9 | R(15-31) | 1.094 | A(14-16-32) | 108.6 |
| R(16-18) | 1.339 | A(11-12-13) | 121.4 | R(16-32) | 1.094 | A(14-16-33) | 108.6 |
| R(18-28) | 0.985 | A(11-12-14) | 115.8 | R(16-33) | 1.094 | A(16-15-29) | 109.7 |
| R(10-25) | 1.806 | A(23-11-24) | 108.6 | R(17-18) | 1.528 | A(16-15-30) | 110.9 |
| R(10-28) | 1.806 | A(13-12-14) | 122.7 | R(17-34) | 1.095 | A(16-15-31) | 110.9 |
| A(2-1-6) | 121.4 | A(12-14-25) | 111.4 | R(17-35) | 1.094 | A(15-16-32) | 112.3 |
| A(2-1-19) | 119.5 | A(14-25-10) | 161.0 | R(18-19) | 1.212 | A(15-16-33) | 112.3 |
| A(1-2-3) | 121.4 | A(16-15-26) | 108.9 | R(18-20) | 1.341 | A(29-15-30) | 108.4 |
| A(1-2-20) | 119.5 | A(16-15-27) | 107.7 | R(20-22) | 1.450 | A(29-15-31) | 108.4 |
| A(6-1-19) | 119.1 | A(15-16-17) | 121.4 | R(21-22) | 1.515 | A(30-15-31) | 108.4 |
| A(1-6-5) | 117.3 | A(15-16-18) | 115.8 | R(21-36) | 1.094 | A(32-16-33) | 107.6 |
| A(1-6-22) | 121.1 | A(26-15-27) | 108.6 | R(21-37) | 1.094 | A(18-17-34) | 107.8 |
| A(3-2-20) | 119.1 | A(17-16-18) | 122.7 | R(21-38) | 1.093 | A(18-17-35) | 107.1 |
| A(2-3-4) | 117.3 | A(16-18-28) | 111.4 | R(22-39) | 1.094 | A(17-18-19) | 122.5 |
| A(2-3-21) | 121.1 | A(18-28-10) | 161.0 | R(22-40) | 1.094 | A(17-18-20) | 112.5 |
| | | A(25-10-28) | 106.2 | A(2-1-6) | 121.2 | A(34-17-35) | 108.1 |
| | | | | A(2-1-23) | 119.6 | A(19-18-20) | 124.9 |
| | | | | A(1-2-3) | 121.2 | A(18-20-22) | 115.7 |
| | | | | A(1-2-24) | 119.6 | A(20-22-21) | 107.5 |
| | | | | A(6-1-23) | 119.1 | A(20-22-39) | 108.6 |
| | | | | A(1-6-5) | 117.5 | A(20-22-40) | 108.6 |
| | | | | A(1-6-26) | 121.1 | A(22-21-36) | 109.7 |
| | | | | A(3-2-24) | 119.1 | A(22-21-37) | 110.9 |
| | | | | A(2-3-4) | 117.5 | A(22-21-38) | 110.9 |
| | | | | A(2-3-25) | 121.1 | A(21-22-39) | 112.3 |
| | | | | A(4-3-25) | 121.4 | A(21-22-40) | 112.3 |
| | | | | A(3-4-5) | 121.3 | A(36-21-37) | 108.4 |
| | | | | A(3-4-7) | 131.8 | A(36-21-38) | 108.4 |
| | | | | A(5-4-7) | 107.0 | A(37-21-38) | 108.4 |
| | | | | A(4-5-6) | 121.3 | A(39-22-40) | 107.6 |

Table S2. The natural atomic charges calculated at the B3LYP/6-31G(d,p).

| Acid | | | | Ester | | | |
|------|---------|-----|---------|-------|---------|-----|---------|
| C1 | -0.2345 | C15 | -0.3757 | C1 | -0.2457 | C21 | -0.7121 |
| C2 | -0.2345 | C16 | 0.8124 | C2 | -0.2457 | C22 | -0.1209 |
| C3 | -0.2577 | O17 | -0.5683 | C3 | -0.2716 | H23 | 0.2437 |
| C4 | 0.1466 | O18 | -0.7109 | C4 | 0.1518 | H24 | 0.2437 |
| C5 | 0.1466 | H19 | 0.2513 | C5 | 0.1518 | H25 | 0.2483 |
| C6 | -0.2577 | H20 | 0.2513 | C6 | -0.2716 | H26 | 0.2483 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------|-----|--------|-----|---------|-----|--------|
| N7 | -0.4293 | H21 | 0.2545 | N7 | -0.4487 | H27 | 0.2642 |
| C8 | 0.8297 | H22 | 0.2545 | C8 | 0.8362 | H28 | 0.2960 |
| N9 | -0.4293 | H23 | 0.2743 | N9 | -0.4487 | H29 | 0.2440 |
| O10 | -0.7252 | H24 | 0.2692 | O10 | -0.6444 | H30 | 0.2430 |
| C11 | -0.3757 | H25 | 0.5158 | C11 | -0.3616 | H31 | 0.2417 |
| C12 | 0.8124 | H26 | 0.2692 | C12 | 0.8192 | H32 | 0.2296 |
| O13 | -0.5683 | H27 | 0.2743 | O13 | -0.5973 | H33 | 0.2305 |
| O14 | -0.7109 | H28 | 0.5158 | O14 | -0.5500 | H34 | 0.2959 |
| | | | | C15 | -0.7121 | H35 | 0.2642 |
| | | | | C16 | -0.1210 | H36 | 0.2440 |
| | | | | C17 | -0.3615 | H37 | 0.2418 |
| | | | | C18 | 0.8192 | H38 | 0.2430 |
| | | | | O19 | -0.5973 | H39 | 0.2306 |
| | | | | O20 | -0.5500 | H40 | 0.2296 |

NMR Spectra

The values of isotropic magnetic shielding (IMS) are calculated by the GIAO approach at the 6-31G(d,p) level that were used to predict the ^{13}C - and ^1H -NMR chemical shifts (δ_{calc}) for the studied compound, and the results were correlated with the experimental NMR data (δ_{exp}) in DMSO solvent. Table S3. shows the experimental and theoretical ^1H -NMR chemical shifts of the acid and ester. According to the results, the calculated chemical shifts were in agreement with the experimental findings. As shown in Figure 4, there is compliance between the experimental and calculated chemical shifts ($R^2 = 0.977\text{--}0.996$) (Figure S3).

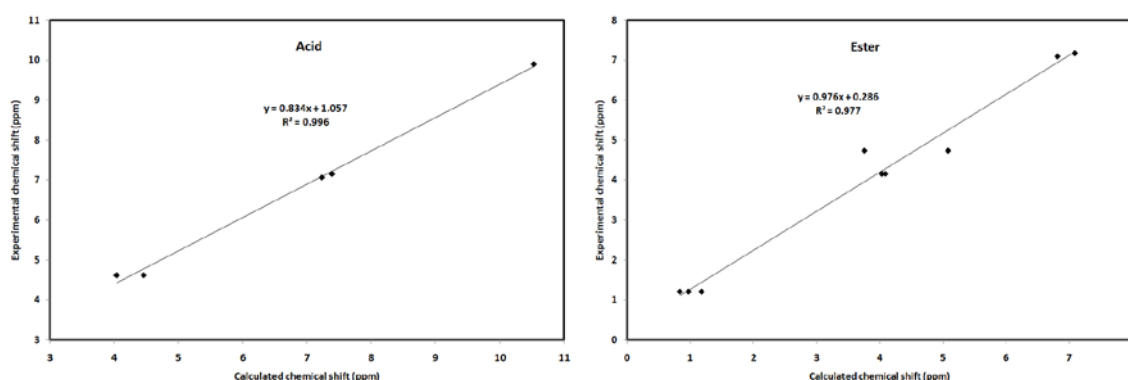


Figure S3. The correlation graphs between the calculated and experimental chemical shifts of the studied compounds.

Table S3. Calculated and experimental ^1H -NMR chemical shifts of the studied compounds

| <u>Acid</u> | | | <u>Ester</u> | | |
|-------------|----------|------|--------------|---------|------|
| Atom | Calc | Exp | Atom | Calc | Exp |
| H 19 | 7.38911 | 7.16 | H 23 | 7.08991 | 7.17 |
| H 20 | 7.38921 | 7.16 | H 24 | 7.08951 | 7.17 |
| H 21 | 7.23021 | 7.07 | H 25 | 6.81231 | 7.09 |
| H 22 | 7.23011 | 7.07 | H 26 | 6.81451 | 7.09 |
| H 23 | 4.03701 | 4.62 | H 27 | 3.75651 | 4.73 |
| H 24 | 4.45621 | 4.62 | H 28 | 5.08221 | 4.73 |
| H 25 | 10.52241 | 9.90 | H 29 | 0.83381 | 1.20 |
| H 26 | 4.45581 | 4.62 | H 30 | 1.17611 | 1.20 |
| H 27 | 4.03741 | 4.62 | H 31 | 0.96831 | 1.20 |
| H 28 | 10.52441 | 9.90 | H 32 | 4.03711 | 4.15 |
| | | | H 33 | 4.08691 | 4.15 |
| | | | H 34 | 5.08051 | 4.73 |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|------|---------|------|
| | | | H 35 | 3.75541 | 4.73 |
| | | | H 36 | 0.83421 | 1.20 |
| | | | H 37 | 0.97131 | 1.20 |
| | | | H 38 | 1.17911 | 1.20 |
| | | | H 39 | 4.09171 | 4.15 |
| | | | H 40 | 4.03081 | 4.15 |

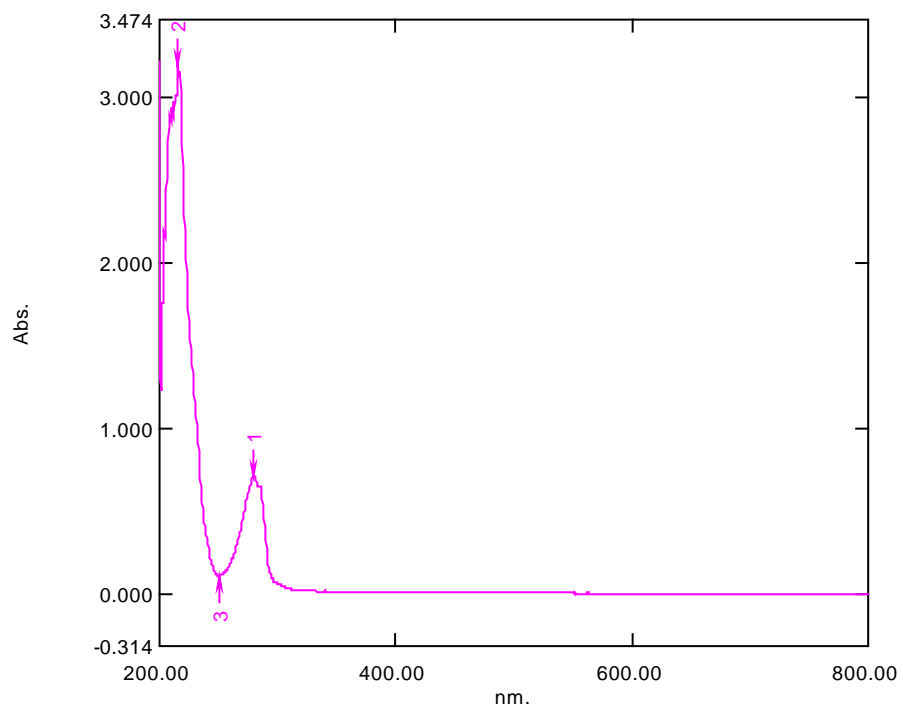


Figure S4. UV spectra diethyl *N,N*-2,2'-(2-oxo-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1,3(2*H*)-diyl)diacetate in methanol.

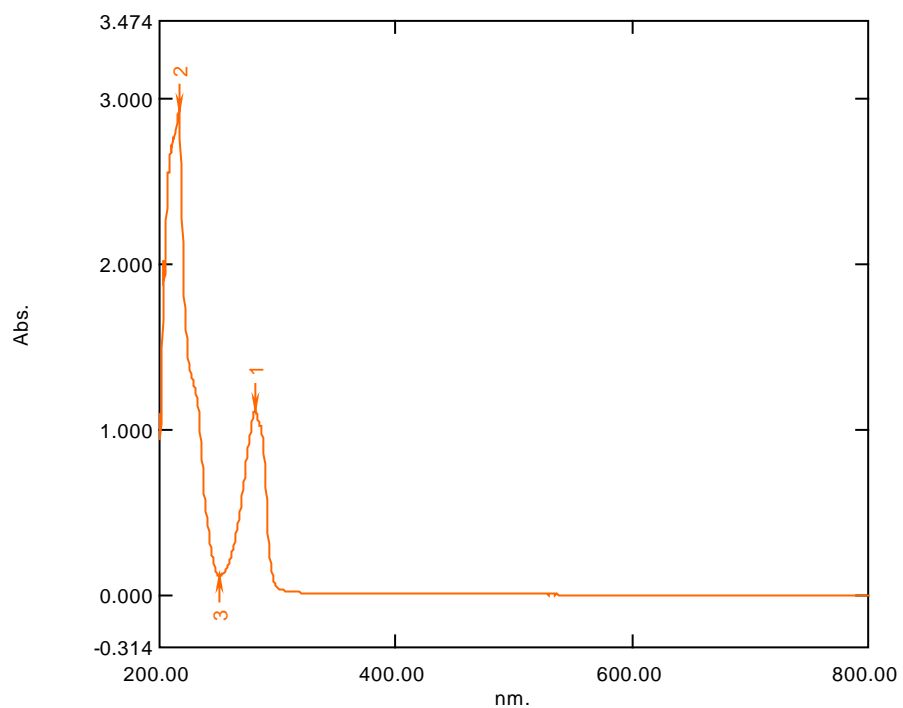


Figure S5. UV spectra of *N,N*-2,2'-(2-oxo-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1,3(2*H*)-diyl)diacetic acid in methanol.

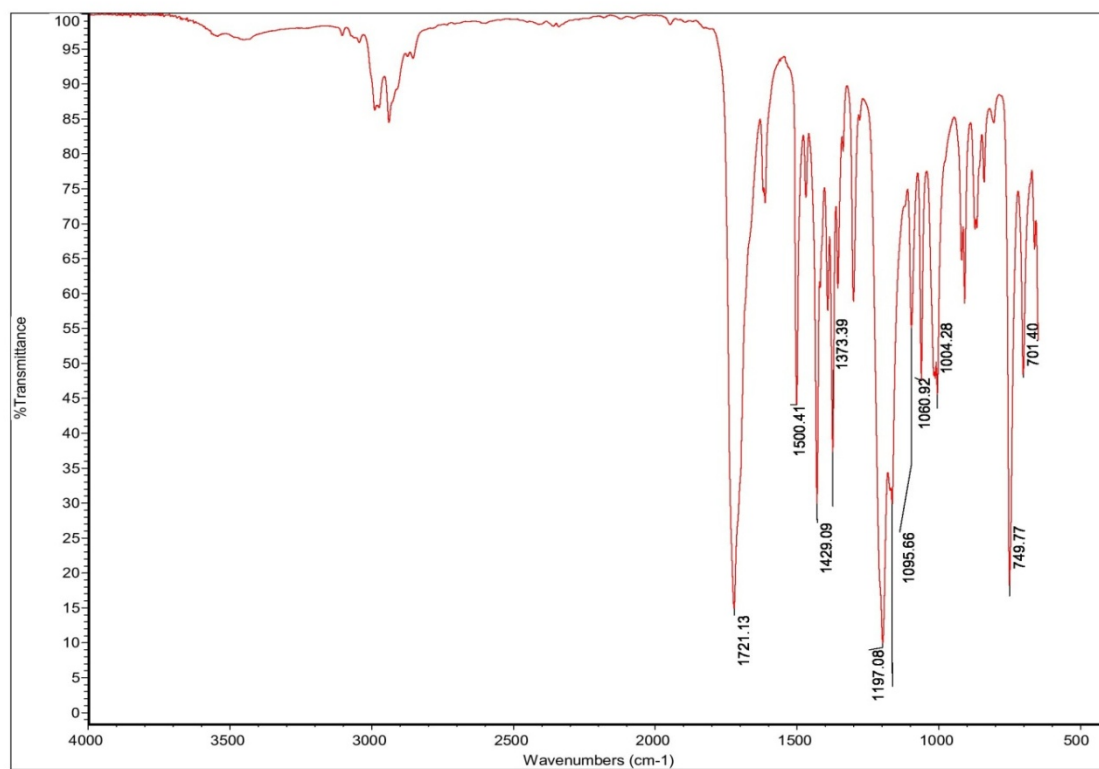


Figure S6. IR spectra of diethyl N,N-2,2'-(2-oxo-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1,3(2H)-diyl)diacetate.

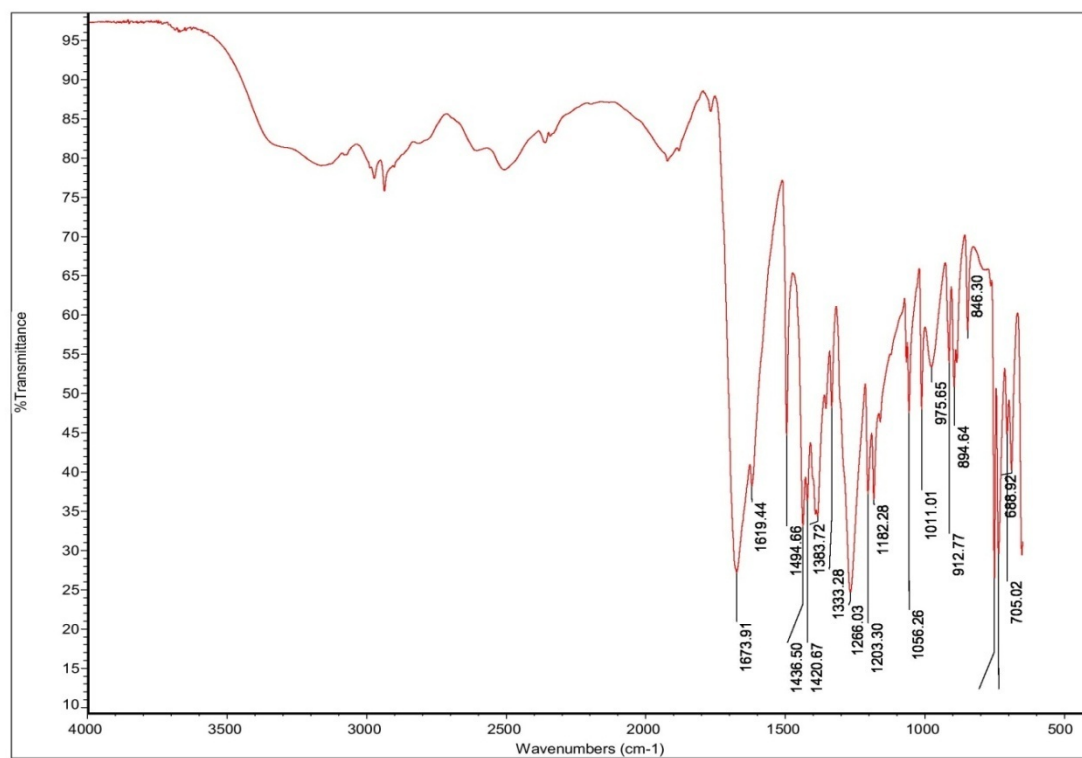


Figure S7. IR spectra of N,N-2,2'-(2-oxo-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1,3(2H)-diyl)diacetic acid.

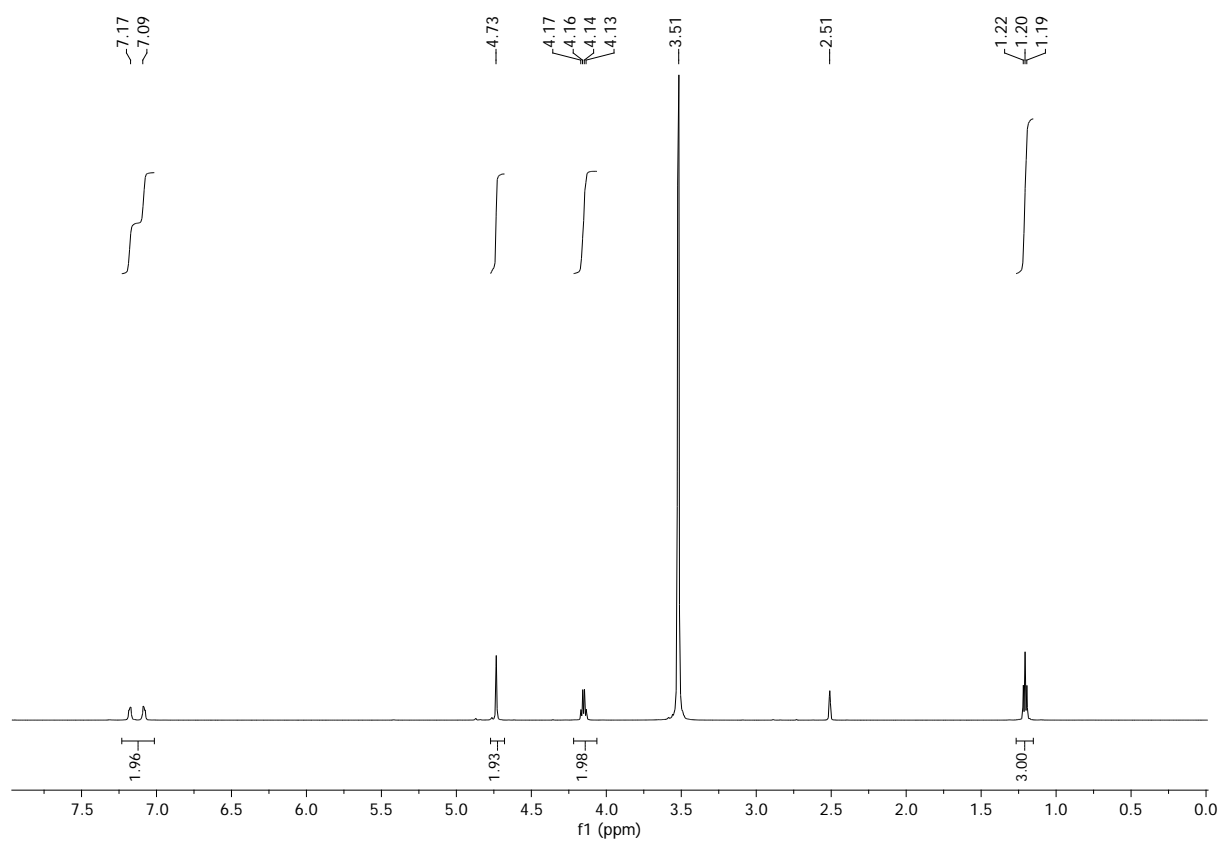


Figure S8. ¹H NMR of diethyl N,N-2,2'-(2-oxo-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1,3(2H)-diyl)diacetate.

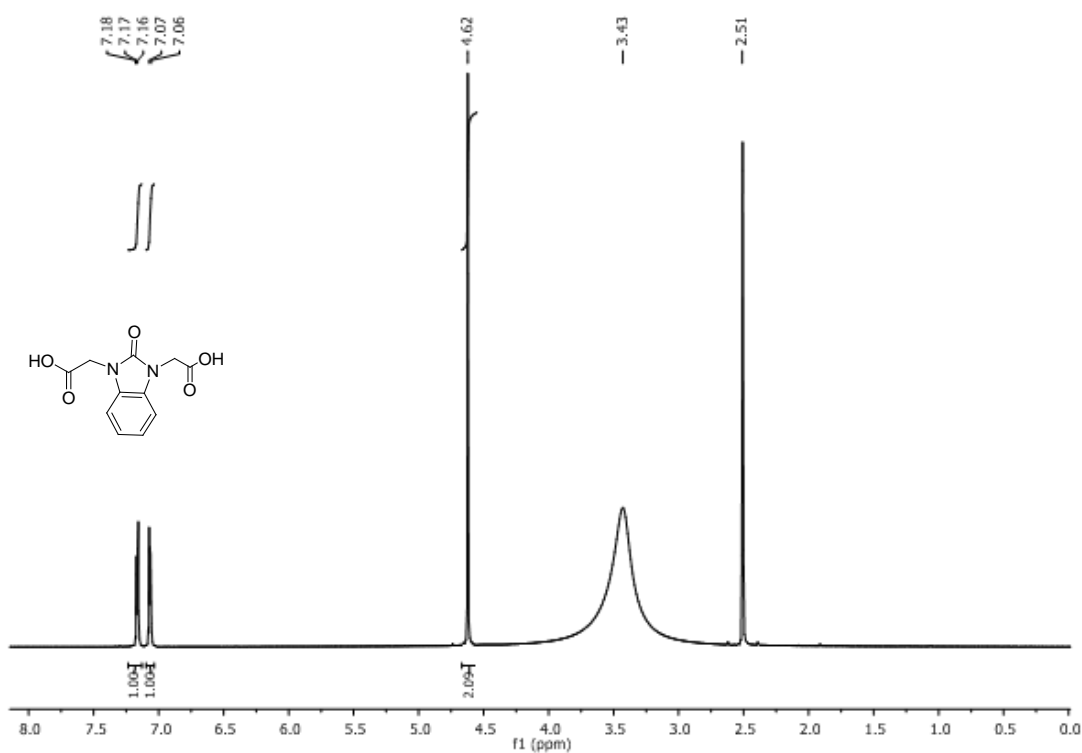


Figure S9. ¹H NMR of N,N-2,2'-(2-oxo-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-1,3(2H)-diyl)diacetic acid.

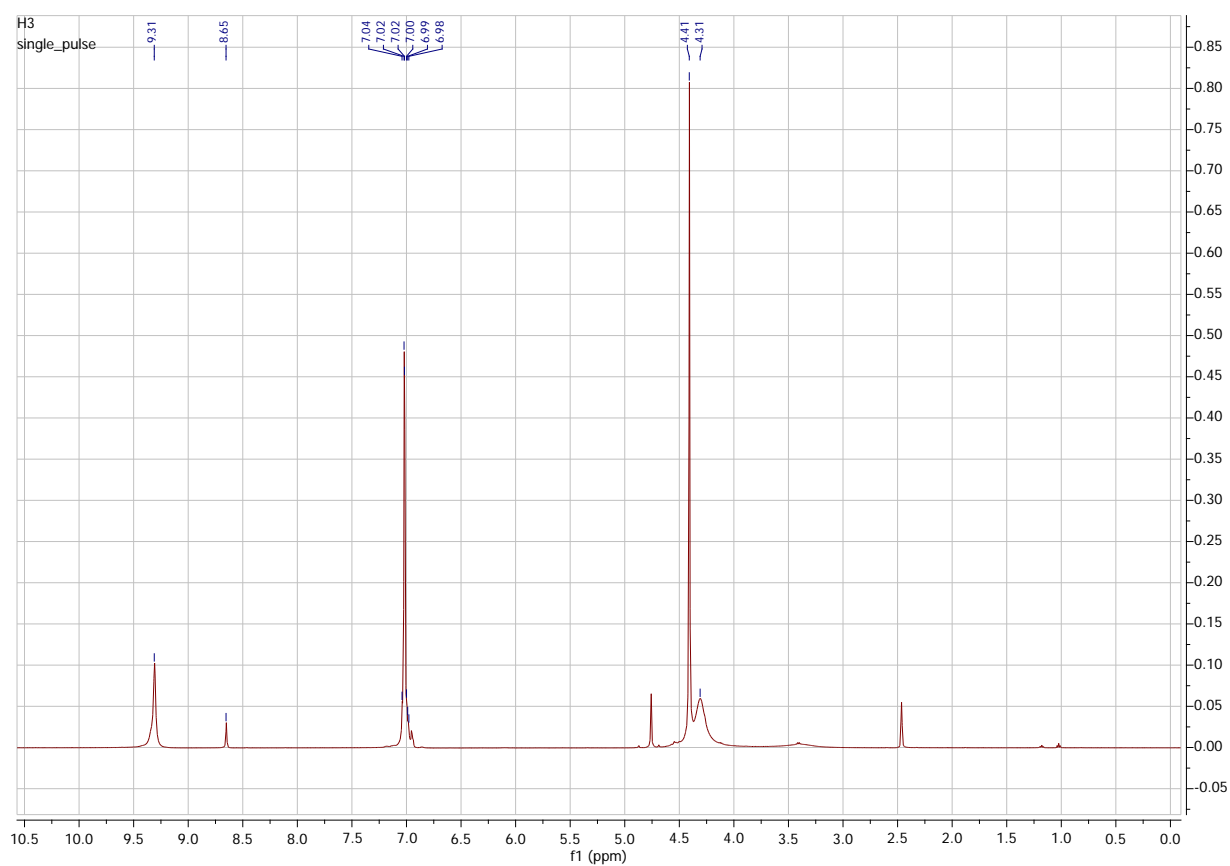


Figure S10. ¹H NMR of 2,2'-(2-oxo-1H-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1,3(2H)-diyl)diacetohydrazide.

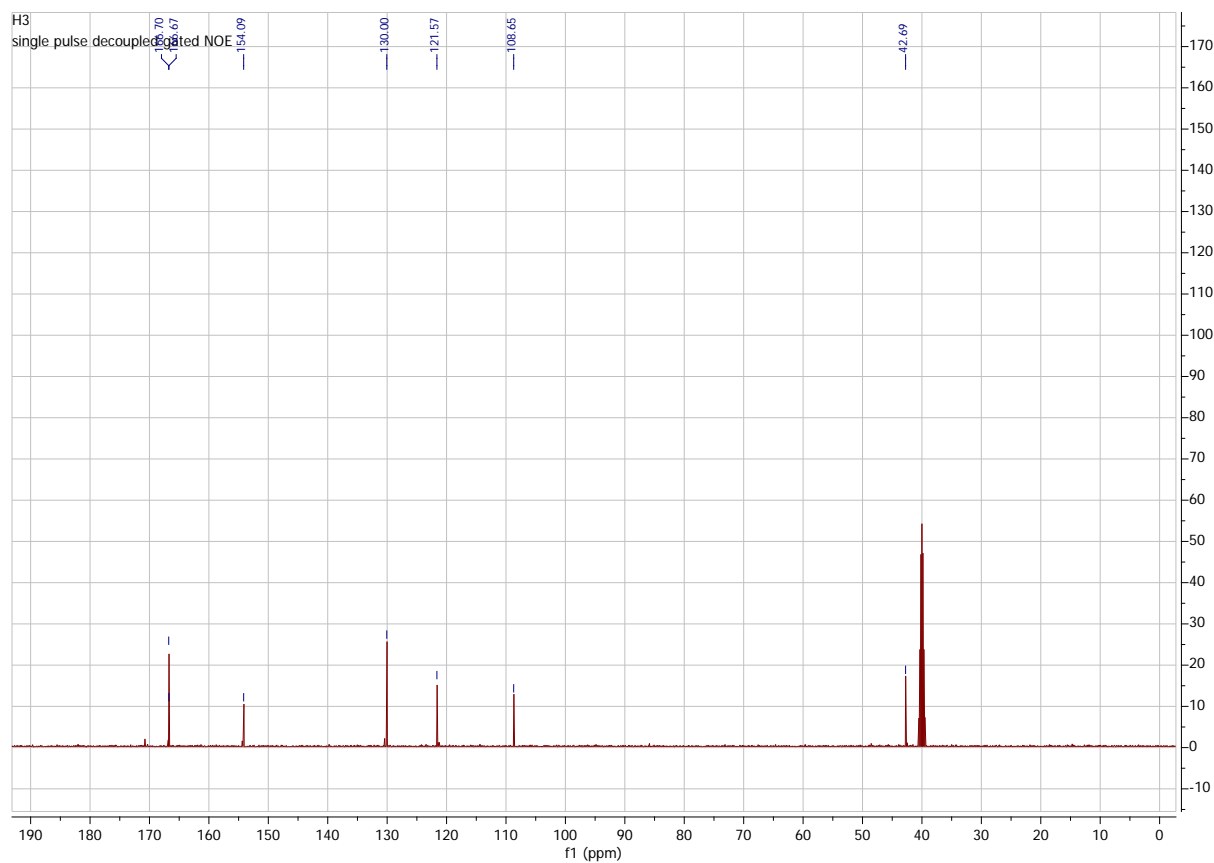


Figure S11. ¹³C NMR of 2,2'-(2-oxo-1H-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1,3(2H)-diyl)diacetohydrazide.

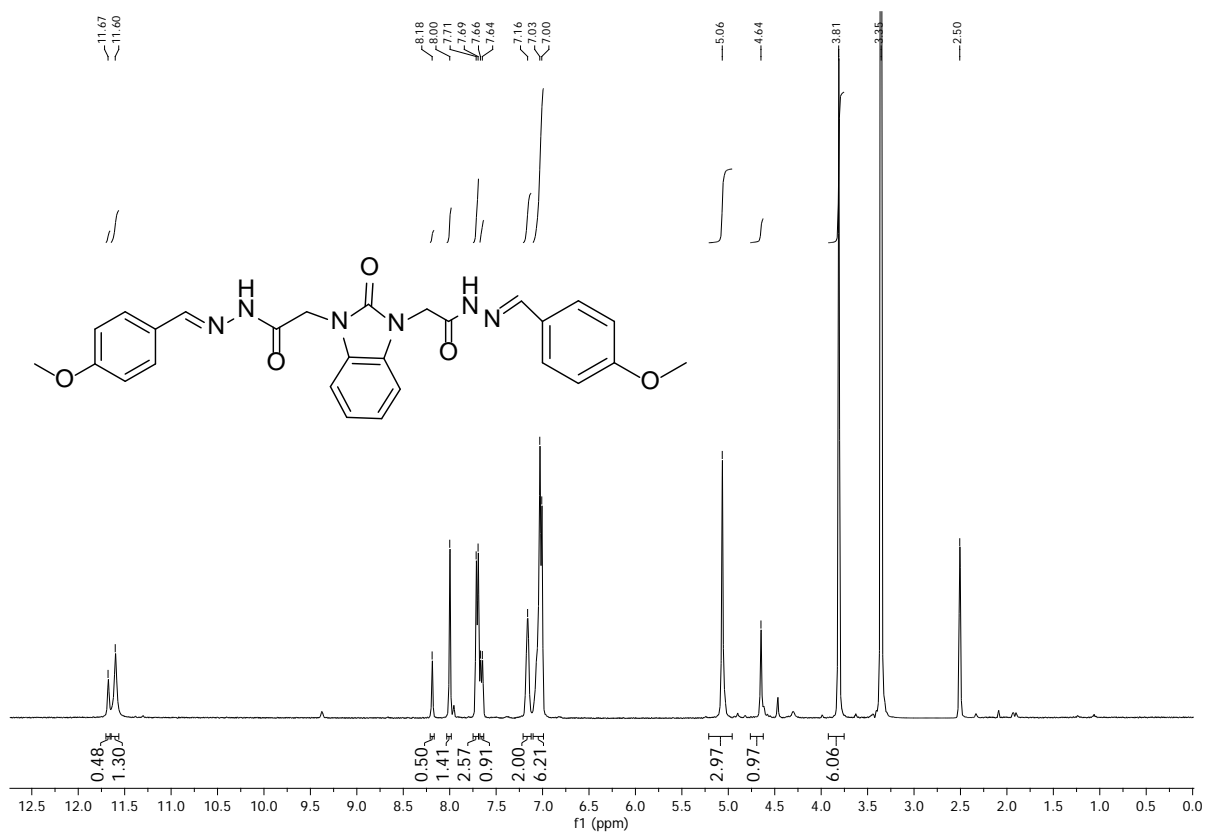


Figure S12. ¹H NMR of *N,N*-2,2'-(2-oxo-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1,3(2*H*)-diyl)bis(4-methoxybenzylidene)acetohydrazide).

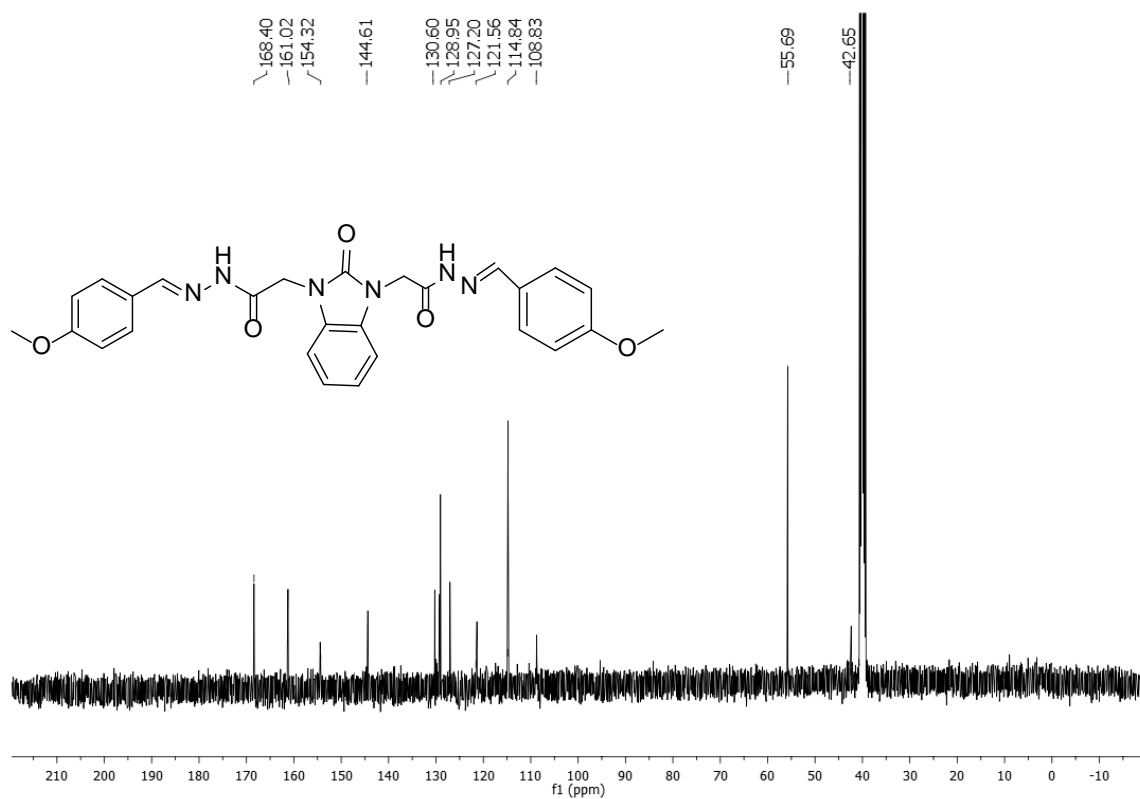


Figure S13. ¹³C NMR of *N,N*-2,2'-(2-oxo-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1,3(2*H*)-diyl)bis(4-methoxybenzylidene)acetohydrazide).

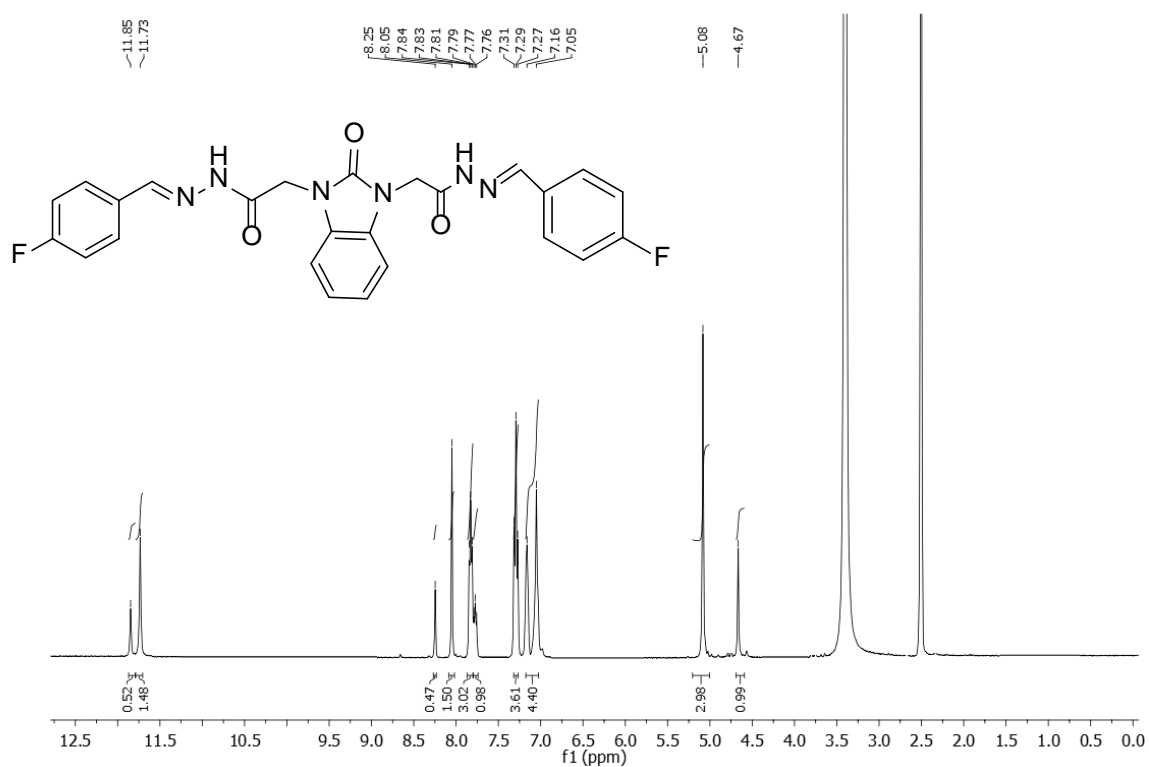


Figure S14. ¹H NMR of N,N-2,2'-(2-oxo-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1,3(2*H*)-diyl)bis(4-fluorobenzylidene)acetohydrazide).

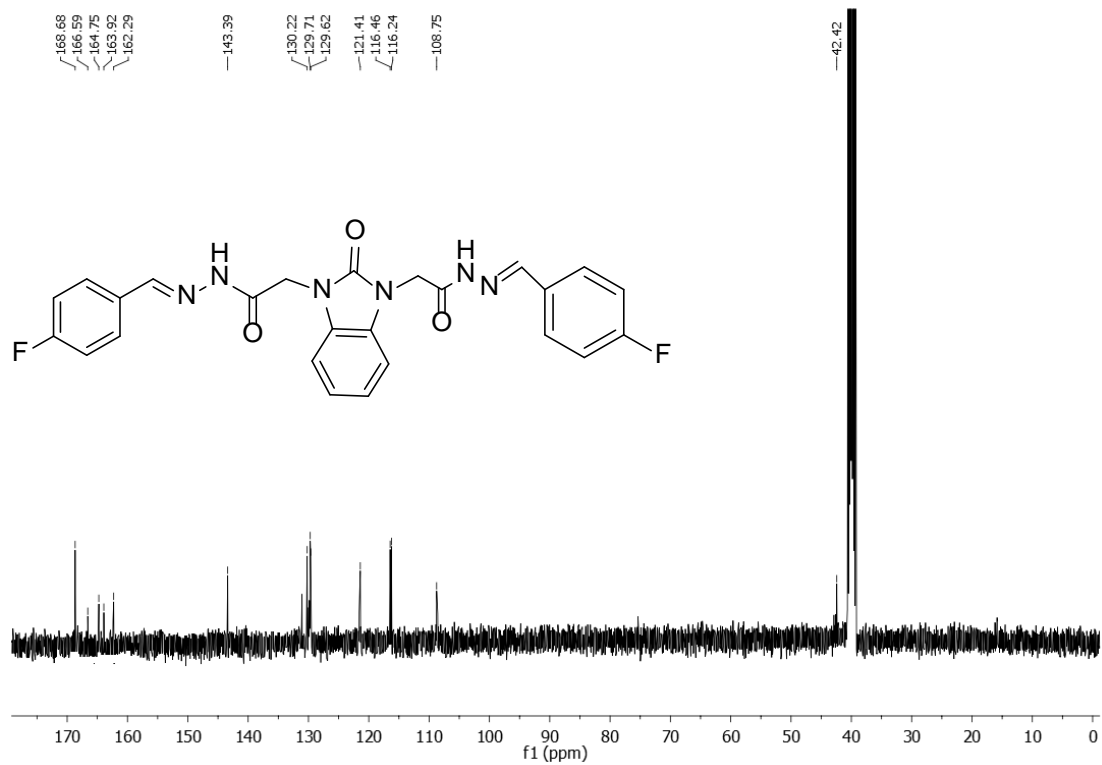


Figure S15. ¹³C NMR of N,N-2,2'-(2-oxo-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1,3(2*H*)-diyl)bis(4-fluorobenzylidene)acetohydrazide).

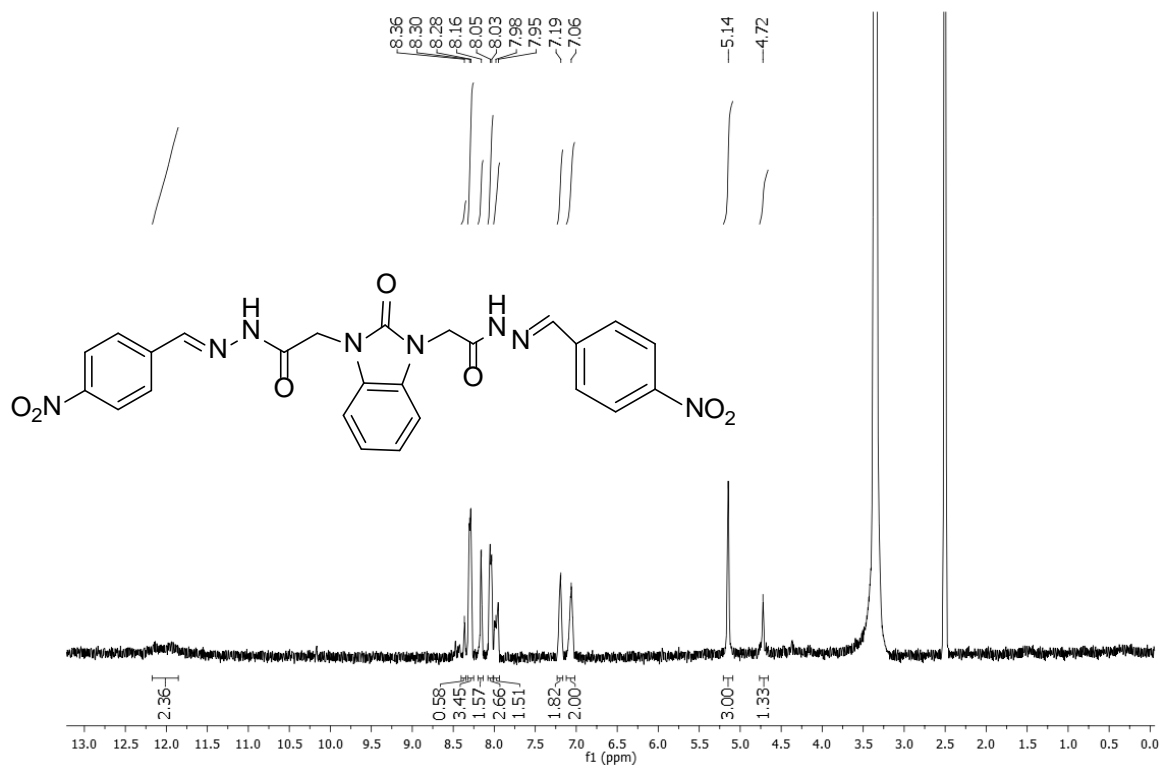


Figure S16. ¹H NMR of *N,N*-2,2'-(2-oxo-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1,3(2*H*)-diyl)bis(4-nitrobenzylidene)acetohydrazide).