

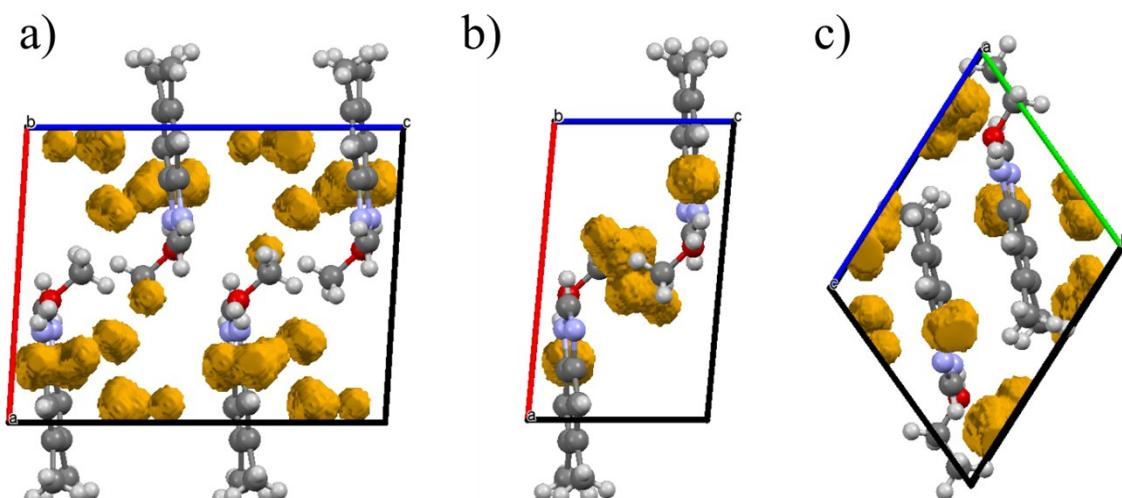
## Supporting Information

### Pressure-induced preference for solvation of 5,6-dimethylbenzimidazole

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**Figure S1.** Molecular voids calculated with Mercury program (Probe Radius: 0.6 Å; Approx. Grid Spacing: 0.1 Å) for (a) dMBzIm·MeOH phase  $\alpha$  at 0.92 GPa, void volume: 44.07 Å<sup>3</sup> (4.8% of the unit-cell volume); (b) dMBzIm·MeOH phase  $\beta$  at 1.53 GPa, void volume: 14.98 Å<sup>3</sup> (3.4% of the unit-cell volume); (c) dMBzIm·EtOH at 0.84 GPa, void volume 32.88 Å<sup>3</sup> (6.5% of the unit-cell volume).

**Table S1.** The crystal data and experimental details of 5,6-dimethylbenzimidazole methanol (dMBzIm·MeOH) solvate.

	dMBzIm·MeOH phase $\alpha$	dMBzIm·MeOH phase $\alpha$	dMBzIm·MeOH phase $\beta$	dMBzIm·MeOH phase $\beta$	dMBzIm·MeOH phase $\beta$	dMBzIm·MeOH phase $\beta$
Pressure (GPa)	0.92(2)	1.24(2)	1.53(2)	1.90(2)	2.19(2)	2.31(2)
Temperature (K)	296(2)	296(2)	296(2)	296(2)	296(2)	296(2)
Formula weight	178.23	178.23	178.23	178.23	178.23	178.23
Crystal colour	colourless	colourless	colourless	colourless	colourless	colourless
Crystal size (mm)	0.35x0.35x0.25	0.35x0.30x0.20	0.40x0.30x0.20	0.30x0.35x0.16	0.25x0.25x0.30	0.25x0.25x0.15
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic	triclinic	triclinic
Space group	$P2_1/c$	$P2_1/c$	$P-1$	$P-1$	$P-1$	$P-1$
Unit cell ( $\text{\AA}$ )	$a$ 9.977(7) $b$ 7.1746(3) $c$ 12.7576(6) $\alpha$ 90 $\beta$ 93.545(13) $\gamma$ 90	$a$ 9.960(12) $b$ 7.1574(10) $c$ 12.5790(8) $\alpha$ 90 $\beta$ 93.71(2) $\gamma$ 90	$a$ 10.110(6) $b$ 7.1000(7) $c$ 6.6984(10) $\alpha$ 114.720(12) $\beta$ 94.61(2) $\gamma$ 90.202(19)	$a$ 10.037(2) $b$ 7.0477(10) $c$ 6.6292(10) $\alpha$ 115.381(14) $\beta$ 94.711(14) $\gamma$ 90.103(14)	$a$ 10.007(3) $b$ 7.0202(14) $c$ 6.5889(12) $\alpha$ 115.903(19) $\beta$ 94.821(18) $\gamma$ 90.068(19)	$a$ 10.027(10) $b$ 7.0054(13) $c$ 6.5581(12) $\alpha$ 116.173(19) $\beta$ 94.86(3) $\gamma$ 90.02(4)
Volume ( $\text{\AA}^3$ )	911.4(6)	894.8(11)	435.0(3)	421.88(13)	414.53(17)	411.6(4)
Z	4	4	2	2	2	2
$D_x$ (g cm $^{-3}$ )	1.299	1.323	1.361	1.403	1.428	1.438
Wavelength MoK $\alpha$ , $\lambda$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073
Absorption (mm $^{-1}$ )	0.086	0.087	0.090	0.093	0.094	0.095
$F(000)$ (e)	384	384	192	192	192.0	192
$2\Theta$ range ( $^\circ$ )	6.4/56.306	8.638/54.346	7.944/53.754	6.404/56.478	6.458/55	6.486/55.736
Min./Max. indices h,k,l	-3/3,-9/9,-17/16	-3/3,-5/8,-16/16	-5/5,-8/8,-8/8	-8/8,-8/8,-7/7	-8/7,-8/7,-7/7	-3/3,-9/9,-8/8
Reflections collected	6238	2386	2321	2970	2025	1828
R <sub>int</sub>	0.0520	0.0403	0.0329	0.1170	0.0389	0.1078
Independent reflections	617	451	437	520	451	419
Data/restraints/parameters	617/108/122	451/72/110	437/186/110	520/78/114	451/79/125	419/186/110
Goodness of fit on $F^2$	1.034	1.060	1.121	1.059	1.065	1.126
Final R indexes [ $ I  \geq 2\sigma_{(I)}$ ]	$R_I=0.0501$ , $wR_2=0.1296$	$R_I=0.0644$ , $wR_2=0.1532$	$R_I=0.0631$ , $wR_2=0.1619$	$R_I=0.0612$ , $wR_2=0.1529$	$R_I=0.0525$ , $wR_2=0.1324$	$R_I=0.0757$ , $wR_2=0.1960$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_I=0.1064$ , $wR_2=0.1788$	$R_I=0.1198$ , $wR_2=0.2050$	$R_I=0.0834$ , $wR_2=0.1812$	$R_I=0.0925$ , $wR_2=0.1813$	$R_I=0.0896$ , $wR_2=0.1587$	$R_I=0.1133$ , $wR_2=0.2366$
$\Delta\sigma_{\max}, \Delta\sigma_{\min}$ (e $\text{\AA}^{-3}$ )	0.12/-0.12	0.17/-0.14	0.18/-0.13	0.19/-0.16	0.16/-0.15	0.19/-0.22
Weighting scheme: x/y <sup>a</sup>	0.091/0.262	0.083/1.330	0.123/0.051	0.090/0.296	0.091/0.210	0.160/0.000
Extinction coefficient	—	—	—	—	—	—

<sup>a</sup>  $w = 1/(\sigma^2(Fo^2) + x^2P^2 + yP)$ , where  $P=(\text{Max}(Fo^2, 0) + 2Fc^2)/3$ .

**Table S1 - continued.** The crystal data and experimental details of 5,6-dimethylbenzimidazole ethanol (dMBzIm·EtOH) solvate.

	dMBzIm·EtOH	dMBzIm·EtOH	dMBzIm·EtOH	dMBzIm·EtOH
Pressure (GPa)	0.84(2)	1.20(2)	1.50(2)	2.17(2)
Temperature (K)	296(2)	296(2)	296(2)	296(2)
Formula weight	192.26	192.26	192.26	192.26
Crystal colour	colourless	colourless	colourless	colourless
Crystal size (mm)	0.35x0.35x0.20	0.30x0.25x0.20	0.25x0.20x0.15	0.20x0.20x0.18
Crystal system	triclinic	triclinic	triclinic	triclinic
Space group	P-1	P-1	P-1	P-1
Unit cell (Å)	<i>a</i> 7.081(2)  <i>b</i> 8.559(2)  <i>c</i> 9.604(3)  $\alpha$ 67.00(2)  $\beta$ 81.82(2)  $\gamma$ 71.19(2)	7.0242(16)  8.496(2)  9.475(2)  66.75(2)  81.96(2)  71.38(2)	7.0048(7)  8.453(3)  9.3834(12)  66.49(2)  81.840(9)  71.705(18)	6.926(3)  8.343(4)  9.223(4)  66.57(5)  81.99(4)  72.07(5)
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	507.1(3)	492.3(2)	483.6(2)	465.2(4)
Z	2	2	2	2
<i>D</i> <sub>x</sub> (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.259	1.297	1.320	1.373
Wavelength MoKα, λ (Å)	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	0.56085
Absorption (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.082	0.085	0.086	0.057
<i>F</i> (000) (e)	208	208	208	208
2Θ range (°)	5.408/58.8 -6/6,-11/11,- 10/10	6.918/56.344 -6/6,-11/11,- 10/10	7.818/54.43 -8/8,-6/6,-11/11	7.202/60.322 -12/12,-8/8,- 16/16
Min./Max. indices h,k,l				
Reflections collected	3791	3470	2897	7509
R <sub>int</sub>	0.1837	0.1240	0.0513	0.1460
Independent reflections	620	582	575	1350
Data/restraints/parameters	620/197/120	582/168/119	575/84/132	1350/84/120
Goodness of fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.089	1.119	1.155	1.081
Final R indexes [ <i>I</i> >=2σ <sub>(I)</sub> ]	R <sub>1</sub> =0.0905, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.2311	R <sub>1</sub> =0.0957, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.2530	R <sub>1</sub> =0.0571, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.1414	R <sub>1</sub> =0.1112, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.2820
Final R indexes [all data]	R <sub>1</sub> =0.1535, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.3014	R <sub>1</sub> =0.1410, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.3100	R <sub>1</sub> =0.0833, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.1608	R <sub>1</sub> =0.2012, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.3637
Δσ <sub>max</sub> , Δσ <sub>min</sub> (eÅ <sup>-3</sup> )	0.18/-0.14	0.21/-0.17	0.16/-0.17	0.31/-0.32
Weighting scheme: x/y <sup>a</sup>	0.153/0.277	0.188/0.236	0.077/0.286	0.20/-
Extinction coefficient	—	—	0.104135	0.386845

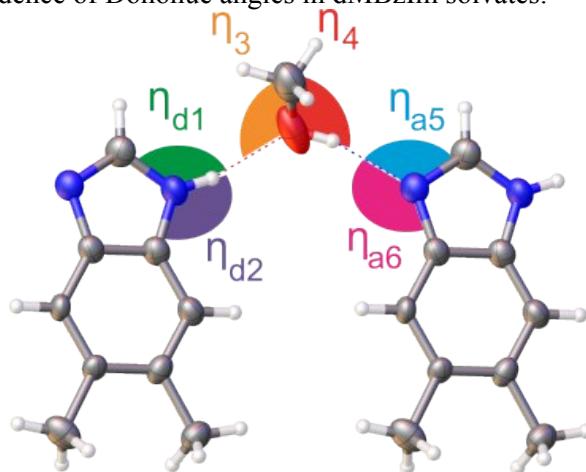
<sup>a</sup> *w* = 1/(σ<sup>2</sup>(*F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup>)+x<sup>2</sup>*P*<sup>2</sup>+y*P*), where *P*=(Max(*F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup>, 0)+2*F*<sub>c</sub><sup>2</sup>)/3.

**Table S2.** Pressure dependence of unit-cell volume ( $V$ ), molecular volume ( $V/Z$ ) of dMBzIm solvates and the volume of solvate molecules, estimated from compressibility of the solvents (Bridgman, P. W. *Proc. Am. Acad. Arts Sci.* **1942**, 74, 399).

	Pressure (GPa)	$V(\text{\AA}^3)$	$V/Z(\text{\AA}^3)$	$V_{\text{MeOH}}/V_{\text{EtOH}}^*$
dMBzIm·MeOH phase $\alpha$	0.92(2)	911.4(6)	227.85(7)	50.86
	1.24(2)	894.8(11)	223.71(2)	49.38
dMBzIm·MeOH phase $\beta$	1.53(2)	435.0(3)	217.5(4)	48.38
	1.90(2)	421.88(13)	210.9(4)	46.63
	2.19(2)	414.53(17)	207.26(5)	45.90
	2.31(2)	411.6(4)	205.87(5)	45.28
dMBzIm·EtOH	0.84(2)	507.1(3)	253.5(5)	74.02
	1.20(2)	492.3(2)	246.1(5)	70.45
	1.50(2)	483.6(2)	241.8(4)	69.45
	2.17(2)	465.2(4)	232.6(8)	66.74

\*Volume of MeOH and EtOH subtracted from solvates volume in order to calculate pure dMBzIM volumes (see Fig. 6).

**Table S3.** Pressure dependence of Donohue angles in dMBzIm solvates.



	Pressure (GPa)	$\eta_{d1}$	$\eta_{d2}$	$\eta_3$	$\eta_4$	$\eta_{a5}$	$\eta_{a6}$
dMBzIm·MeOH phase $\alpha$	0.92(2)	123.7(10)	128.2(8)	107.0(3)	106.2(3)	122.5(10)	126.4(8)
	1.24(2)	121.5(13)	132.1(8)	108.4(5)	105.2(5)	123.6(13)	127.0(7)
dMBzIm·MeOH phase $\beta$	1.53(2)	120.5(15)	128.7(7)	99.0(6)	113.2(4)	119.1(6)	131.5(15)
	1.90(2)	118.2(8)	134.1(7)	99.3(7)	113.2(7)	119.6(9)	133.9(3)
	2.19(2)	118.1(9)	130.6(8)	96.6(6)	114.5(6)	119.1(1)	134.6(4)
	2.31(2)	118.7(16)	132.2(7)	96.8(7)	115.3(6)	118.2(11)	135.0(8)
dMBzIm·EtOH	0.84(2)	127.2(10)	126.809(17)	112.43(2)	101.33(3)	113.7(8)	139.5(10)
	1.20(2)	127.6(8)	127.3(7)	109.8(7)	103.4(10)	114.4(6)	141.1(9)
	1.50(2)	127.6(5)	127.6(5)	111.0(4)	101.3(4)	112.5(6)	142.0(3)
	2.17(2)	127.2(4)	125.8(3)	109.7(3)	102.0(4)	112.5(5)	142.5(2)

**Table S4.** Pressure dependence of voids volume in dMBzIm solvates. All voids were calculated with

Mercury program with Grid Spacing of 0.6 Å and Approx. Grid Spacing of 0.1 Å.

	Pressure (GPa)	$V$ (Å <sup>3</sup> )	% of the unit-cell volume
dMBzIm	0.11(2)	499.62	20.2
	0.22(2)	432.16	18.0
	0.33(2)	426.59	17.4
	0.64(2)	363.28	15.6
dMBzIm·MeOH phase $\alpha$	0.92(2)	44.07	4.8
	1.24(2)	34.00	3.8
dMBzIm·MeOH phase $\beta$	1.53(2)	14.98	3.4
	1.90(2)	11.96	2.8
	2.19(2)	10.10	2.4
	2.31(2)	4.00	1.0
dMBzIm·EtOH	0.84(2)	32.88	6.5
	1.20(2)	20.42	4.1
	1.50(2)	12.62	2.6
	2.17(2)	8.74	1.9