Supplementary Materials

Structure-property relationships in hybrid: $(C_3H_5N_2)_3[Sb_2I_9]$ and $(C_3H_5N_2)_3[Bi_2I_9]$ isomorphs

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Figure S1. The numbering scheme for Table S1 and ellipsoid representation of the imidazolium A and B, respectively, in the orthorhombic phase II

Table S1. Selected hydrogen-bond parameters for ImIA and ImIB at RT. Bonds involving imidazolium A (yellow) and B (grey) are distinguished and highlighted by the colours of the background.

<i>D</i> —H…A	<i>D</i> —H (Å)	$\operatorname{H}^{\dots}A(\operatorname{\AA})$	$D \cdots A$ (Å)	D—H···A (°)	Type of cation
ImIA					
N2—H2…I2	0.86	2.72	3.30 (4)	125.7	А
$C3$ — $H3$ ··· $I1^{i}$	0.93	2.62	3.47 (3)	152.7	А
C4—H4····I3 ⁱⁱ	0.93	2.68	3.50 (3)	147.2	А
N5—H5…I3 ⁱⁱⁱ	0.86	2.83	3.52 (4)	139.1	А
N7—H7…I4	0.86	2.94	3.68 (3)	144.6	В
C8—H8…I2	0.93	3.04	3.76 (4)	135.3	В
$C8 - H8 \cdots I2^{iv}$	0.93	3.04	3.76 (4)	135.3	В
ImIB					
C1— $H1$ ···I4 ^I	0.93	2.86	3.75 (2)	160.9	А
C4— $H4$ ··· $I3$ ^{III}	0.93	2.82	3.56 (2)	137.5	А
N5—H5…I3 ^I	0.86	2.86	3.56 (3)	140.1	А
N7—H7…I4	0.86	3.03	3.77 (3)	144.4	В

Symmetry code(s): ⁱ x+1/2, y+1/2, z; ⁱⁱ -x+1/2, y+1/2, z; ⁱⁱⁱ -x+1/2, -y+1/2, -z+1; ^{iv} -x, y, -z+1/2; ^I -x+1/2, -y+1/2, -z+1; ^{III} -x+1/2, y+1/2, z; ^{IV} -x, y, -z+1/2.

In Figure S2 one can see that below 90 K a clear deviation of ε from the Cole-Cole plot at frequencies above *ca*. 0.5 MHz takes place. This seems to indicate another dispersion in the megahertz frequency region at low temperatures. Nevertheless, these two relaxators (low frequency (1) which is fundamental for this compound and expected higher frequency one (2)) are overlapped thus it was impossible to elaborate the dielectric parameters for (2).



Figure S2. Cole-Cole plots at selected temperatures in ImIB (phase III).



Figure S3 Temperature dependence of macroscopic relaxation time τ versus temperature and $ln(\tau)$ versus reciprocal temperature for low frequency relaxator (1) for ImIB.



Figure S4. (a) Temperature dependence of the imaginary part (ϵ'') of the complex dielectric permittivity; (b) Frequency dependence (135 Hz – 2 MHz) of ϵ'' at various temperatures recorded during heating cycle for polycrystalline sample of ImIA.

Figures S4 (a) and (b) and Figure 5 clearly show the divergence of the complex dielectric permittivity between 350 and 220 K which is mainly due to the conductivity phenomena. The dielectric characteristics presented in Figure S4 (b) do not indicate any relaxation process in ImIA in the analyzed frequency region.





Figure S5 Evolution of the domain structure in ImIB in one cooling cycle

The T_{1(H-H)} relaxation rate is given as a combination of spectral densities:¹⁻⁵

$$\frac{1}{T_{1(H-H)}} = C(\frac{\tau}{1+\omega_H^2\tau^2} + \frac{4\tau}{1+4\omega_H^2\tau^2}), \qquad (\text{eq. S1})$$

where $\omega_{\rm H}$ is the Larmor proton frequency and C is the relaxation constant:

$$C = (a_{HH}^{DD})^2 = (\frac{\gamma^H \gamma^H \mathbf{h}}{r_{H-H}^3})^2 .$$

The other relaxation rates can be obtained the from well-known formulas for the spin–lattice relaxation rate of two different spins:¹⁻³

$$\frac{1}{T_{1(H-X)}} = \frac{2}{3} (a_{HX}^{DD})^2 l_x (l_x + l) (\frac{\tau}{1 + (\omega_H - \omega_X)^2 \tau^2} + \frac{3\tau}{1 + \omega_H^2 \tau^2} + \frac{6\tau}{1 + (\omega_H + \omega_X)^2 \tau^2}), \quad (eq. S2)$$

where: ω_{X_1} (X = N, Sb or Bi, I) are Larmor frequencies of the nuclei in the given compound, a_{HX}^{DD} are the dipole–dipole constants, while $l_N = 1$, $l_{Sb(121)} = 5/2$, $l_{Sb(123)} = 7/2$, $l_{Br} = 3/2$. $l_J = 5/2$. For simplicity, we assumed the simplest possible form of spectral densities functions with a single exponential dependence of the correlation time versus temperature according to Arrhenius law: $\tau = \tau_0 \exp(E_a/RT)$, where E_a is activation energy.

Cation	parameter	ImIB	ImIA
	Ea	1.79 kcal/mol	1.25 kcal/mol
1	$ au_0$	4.27 10 ⁻¹³ s	9.65 10 ⁻¹² s
	C ₁	5.98 10 ⁷ s ⁻²	7.13 10 ⁷ s ⁻²
	E _a	2.82 kcal/mol	3.22 kcal/mol
2	$ au_0$	6.07 10 ⁻¹⁴ s	3.77 10 ⁻¹⁴ s
	C ₂	5.38 10 ⁸ s ⁻²	$5.32 \ 10^8 s^{-2}$
	Ea	5.21 kcal/mol	5.4 kcal/mol
3	$ au_0$	9.91 10 ⁻¹⁴ s	9.94 10 ⁻¹⁴ s
	C ₃	$1.05 \ 10^8 s^{-2}$	$1.17 \ 10^8 s^{-2}$

Table S2 Selected parameters (obtained from eqs. 6 and S1) of three different types of imidazolium cations. Labeling of the cations concerns the lowest temperature phase (III).



Figure S6. Temperature dependence of second moment of ¹H NMR line of ImIA (blue) and ImIB (red).

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The infrared spectra of polycrystalline $(C_3H_5N_2)_3[M_2I_9]$, (M = Sb, Bi) in the wavenumbers range between 4000 and 500 cm⁻¹ at 300 K (phase II) and 413 K (phase I), and Raman spectra (300 K) are presented in Figures S7-S10. The IR spectra in the frequency range 3000–2800, 1500–1350, 750–700 cm⁻¹ are shown as dotted lines as Nujol bands appear in these regions. To cover these areas infrared spectrum in Fluorolube mull at 300 K was measured. Tentative assignments of the observed bands (Table S3) were based on the comparison with imidazole amine.⁶⁻¹¹



Figure S7. (a) Infrared spectra of powdered ImIA (blue) and ImIB (red) samples in Nujol and Fluorolube (at 300 and 11 K (only for ImIB)); (b) Raman spectra at 300 K.

Experimental details: Powder FT-Raman spectra were recorded with FRA-106 attachment to the Bruker IFS-88 using Nd:YAG diode pump laser. The measurements were performed over the wavenumber range 3500–80 cm⁻¹ at room temperature with a resolution better than 2 cm⁻¹.

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Formal classifications of the fundamental modes for ImIA and ImIB

These two crystals posses two phases; hexagonal (phase I) ($P6_3/mmc = D_{2h}^4$, Z = 2) and orthorhombic (phase II) ($Cmcm = D_{2h}^{17}$, Z = 4). According to the x-ray data, the [Sb₂I₉]³⁻ anions occupy the D_{3h} sites in the case of phase I and C_{2v} site in the phase II. In both phases, there are two independent types, A and B, of the imidaziolum cations. In the high –temperature phase (I), the A type cations occupy the positions close to C_{3v}(4) sites, whereas the B type cations occupy the positions close to the D_{3h}(2) sites. However, in each case, for both cations there exists a 3-fold disorder, and only one of these positions is occupied by each cation, respectively. Thus, for the A –type cations each of them may occupy one position with the approximate symmetry C_s (the plane symmetry is perpendicular to the plane of heavy atoms), whereas, the B-type cations occupy one of the three possible positions of C_s symmetry, however in this case all atoms lie in the symmetry plane (C_s).

In phase II, the B cations become ordered and occupy the C_{2v} site symmetry. The A type cations still remain disordered and occupy one of two possible positions related by the C_s plane being perpendicular to the a-axis. The highest symmetry of the imidazolium cation is C_{2v} and their normal modes may transform as follows: (9 A₁ (//z, xx,yy,zz) + 3A₂ (i, xy) +8B₁ (//x, zx) + 4 B₂ (//y, yz)). For the Cs symmetry its modes are either 17 A' (//x, //y, xx, yy, zz, xy) + 7 A''(//z, yz, zx), for all atoms lying the symmetry plane, or 13 A' (//x,//y, xx,yy,zz, xy) + 11A'' (//z, yz, zx) for only two atoms (C-H) lying in that plane. Of course, it is also possible that both type of these cations are of C₁ symmetry and all their internal modes (24) are of A type only.

As it follows from the X-ray data, the iodoantimonate(III) anions ($[Sb_2I_9]^3$) are ordered in both phases. They have a face-sharing biooctahedra shape. They occupy the D_{3h} (3m.) site in the high-temperature phase I. They conserve the face-sharing bioctahedral shape in phase II, although their symmetry changes to C_{2v} symmetry. The σ_h plane remains and it is perpendicular to the c-axis; it contains I(1) and two I(2) atoms. The twofold axis is parallel to the b axis and only one atom I(1) lies on it, The second mirror plane is perpendicular to the aaxis and it contains two Sb atoms, I1 and two I4 atoms. The internal modes of the iodoantimonate(III) anions of D_{3h} site symmetry can be classified as $4A_1(xx+yy,zz) + A_2' + 5E'$ (X,Y; xx-yy,xy) + $A_1'' + 3A_2''(Z) + 4E''(yz,zx)$, among which 8 modes (5E' + 3A₂) are IR active and 13 ($4A_1 + 5E' + 4E''$) are Raman active. The internal modes for the iodoantimonate(III) anions of C_{2v} site symmetry can be classified as: $9A_1(Z; xx,yy, zz) + 5A_2(xy) + 6B_1(X, zx) + 7 B_2(Y; yz)$; all of them are allowed in Raman (27 modes) and only 22 are allowed in the IR spectra. Thus, one can expect significant differences between the vibrational spectra (IR and Raman) of the title crystal measured in these two phases.



Figure S8. (a) Infrared spectra between 895 and 925 cm⁻¹ of the ImIB as functions of temperature, (b) plot of the wavenumber $\beta(R)$, $\beta(CH)$ mode frequencies of ImIB as a function of temperature (R-ring).



Figure S9. (a) The infrared spectra between 1030 and 1110 cm⁻¹ of the ImIB as functions of temperature, (b) plot of the $v(R) \delta(CH)$ mode frequencies of ImIB as a function of temperature.



Figure S10. (a) The infrared spectra between 1140 and 1310 cm⁻¹ of the ImIB as a function of temperature, (b) plot of the Ring breathing, v(R), $\beta(CH)$ mode frequencies of ImIB as a function of temperature.



Figure S11. (a) The infrared spectra between 3000 and 3400 cm⁻¹ of the ImIB as functions of temperature, (b) plot of the v(NH) mode frequencies of ImIB as a function of temperature.

Table S4.

Wavenumbers (cm⁻¹) and relative intensities of the bands observed in the Infrared and Raman spectra of ImIB and Raman at 293 K) and ImIA (IR and Raman at 293 K). IR spectra as functions of temperature were measured for the emulsion in Nujol in between CsI windows.

IR			Raman		
ImIB		ImIA	ImIB	ImIA	Assignments ¹¹
11 K	293 K	293 K	293 K	11 K	
	3492 vw				
3382 sh m					
3374 w					
3369 sh m					
3345 sh m					
3332 s	2207.00				
3313 s sh	5267 VS				
3310 s			3305 vw	3308 vw	
3298 m					v(NH)
3283 m					
3263 m		3262 s			
		3241 vw			
3214 m					
3235 m sh					
3207 s sh					
3195 s sh		3202 vw			
3176 sh m	3173 w	3172 w	3178vw	3178 vw	
3171 m					
3158 m					
			3146 vw	3145 vw	
3149 m	3150 vw				
3142 m	3142 m				
3132 s	3139 vw				
3124 m	3138 vw	3136 m	3136 vw		
3116 m				3134 vw	
3100 m	3100 m sh	3108 vw			
3081 w					
3030 vw sh					
3029 m	3029 vw				
	2964 w	2964 vw			
	2902 vw				
	2872 vw				
		2861 vw			Overtones
	2854 m				
		2853 m			
		2730 vw			
		2592 vw			
	2457 vw				
	2403 vw				
	2383 w	2380 vw			
	2349 vw				

		2246			
	2202	2340 VW			
	2303 m				
	2266 VW				
	2205 vw				
		2188 vw			
	2146 vw				
	1779 vw				
	1745 m	1744 w			
	1708 vw	1703 vw			
		1654 vw			
	1607 vw sh	1606 vw			
1595cvw	1596 sh vw				
1582 vs sh	1580 m		1582 vw	1582 vw	
1578 vs	1578 m	1578 s			
1574 w sh					$ \nu(R)+\beta(CH)+\beta(NH)$
1566 vw	1567 vw sh				
		1549 vw	1534 vw	1534 vw	_
1526 vw					
1522 vw		1522 w			
		1499 vw			
		1491 vw			
1465 s sh		1480 vw			
1/61 vs		1400 VW	1/60 ywy sh	1460 ywy sh	— ν(R)+β(CH)
1401 V3			1400 VW 311	1400 000 311	
1457 5 511					
1455 5 511	1441		1110 \	1440	
	1441 W		1440 W	1440 W	— ν(R)+β(CH)+β(NH)
1410.00	1414 VW	1410			_
1410 11	1400.000	1410 VW			
1406 m	1406 VW	1400			_
		1400 VW			_
		1378 s			- ν(R)+β(CH)
		1365 w			
		1352 vw	1358 vw	1358 vw	_
		1342 vw			_
		1315 vw			
1304 w sh	- 1301 vw		-		Ring breathing
1301 m	1301 11	1302 vw			ν(R)+β(CH)
1298 m					
1260 vw	1262 vw				
1234 vw sh	1228 vw		1228 vw	1228 vw	
1216 vw					
1190 w	1107				
1185 w sh	1107 W	1187 w	1189 w	1189 w	
1181 s					
1167 w	1167 vw				ν(R)+δ(CH)
1155 m	4455		1156 vw	1155 vw	
1151 m	- 1155 W	1154 w			
1150 w sh					
1107 m			1105 vw	1106 vw	
1105 m	1104 vw	1105 vw			7
1103 w sh	1	7			7

1086 m sh					
1084 s			1086 vw	1086 vw	
1083 m sh	— 1084 m —	1084 m			
1080 vs					
1000 13					
	1050 vw sh		1043 vw	1042 vw	
1042 vs	2000 111 011				
1039 vs	1041 vs	1040 vs	1039 vw	1039 vw	
1035 s sh		101013	10000 111	1000 11	
1055 5 511		1030 vw			
		1016 vw			$(R) + \beta(CH) + \beta(NH)$
	965 vw	978 vw			
922 w	921 vw	920 vw			
919 vw	521 000	520 000			
917 vw			911 \v\w	911 \vvv	
903 w	904 \vw		511 000	511 000	
899 vw sh	504 11				
893 \/\/					
890 vw sh					β(R)+β(CH)
888 vw					ß(B)
871 w					
866 yw sh					
862 w					
860 w			855 1/14/	855 \/\/	 у(СН)
854 w			0000	000 000	
852 w					
8/9 \/					
045 000	851 yw				
843 \v\w	0.011				
794 vw					
780 vw					
765 m					— ω(CH)
757 s sh					
750 s					
740 s	744 vs	756 w	743 vw	742 vw	
733 w					
689 s					
686 s					τ(R)
680 m sh					
668 vw		668 vw	674 vw		
654 vw					
650 vw					
641 w		642 vw			τ(R)
639 w	1				—
634 vw sh					
625 w sh					
623 vw	1				
617 s	1				 τ(R)+ω(NH)
614 s	1				
611 s	615 vs	612 vs	615 vw	614 vw	
608 vs	-	-			

606 s sh						
	326 vw					
		218 vw			V(BI/SD-I)terminal	
	203 vw					
		160 vw				
		156 vs		162 vs s		
		137 w			u/Di/Ch I)bridged	
	133 vs		137 vs		V(BI/SD-I)bridged	
				129 s		
	122 s					
			115 s	103 s		
		112 w	103 s sh			
	99 s				δ(I-Bi/Sb-I)	
				98 m		
		96 s				
	90 s				Lattice vibrations	
		72 w				
Legend: vs – in-plane bend bending: B –	very strong; s – ding (scissoring); ring	strong; m – med ω - out-of-plane	ium, w – weak, vy bending (wagging	w – very weak, s); τ - out-of-plan	h – shoulder; v - stretching; δ - e bending (twisting); β in-plane	