

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### **Cyanine dyes: Synergistic action of hydrogen, halogen and chalcogen bonds allows discrete $I_4^{2-}$ anions in crystals**

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# 1. Materials and Methods

## 1.1. General information

The starting materials 1-ethyl-6-methyl-2-[(*E*)-(3-ethyl-5-methoxy-2(3H)-benzoselenazolylidene)methyl]quinolinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (**1a**) and 1-ethyl-6-methoxy-2-[(*E*)-(3-ethyl-5-methoxy-2(3H)-benzoselenazolylidene)methyl]quinolinium iodide (**1b**) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (product codes S137928 and S131105, respectively) and used without further purification. IR spectra were obtained using a Nicolet Nexus FT-IR spectrometer equipped with UATR unit (4000 – 400 cm<sup>-1</sup> range). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra were recorded at ambient temperature on a Bruker AV-400 spectrometer, at 400 MHz.

## 1.2. 1-Ethyl-6-methyl-2-[(*E*)-(3-ethyl-5-methoxy-2(3H)-benzoselenazolylidene)methyl]quinolinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (**1a**)

Orange plate-like crystals of **1a** were formed on slow isothermal evaporation at room temperature of a solution of the compound in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. FT-IR (ν, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2974, 2919, 1614, 1567, 1529, 1391, 1264, 1213, 1164, 1119, 1033, 1011, 798, 680, 563.

## 1.3. 1-Ethyl-6-methoxy-2-[(*E*)-(3-ethyl-5-methoxy-2(3H)-benzoselenazolylidene)methyl]quinolinium iodide (**1b**)

Red thin needle-like crystals of **1b** were formed on slow isothermal evaporation at room temperature of a solution of the compound in CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH (4:1). FT-IR (ν, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2962, 2934, 1611, 1568, 1515, 1479, 1373, 1257, 1215, 1156, 1030, 787, 698, 442. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ (ppm)): 1.38 (t, 3H), 1.49 (t, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 4.48 (q, 2H), 4.71 (q, 2H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 6.95 – 6.97 (m, 1H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 7.56 - 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.88 (d, 1H), 8.03, (d, 1H), 8.13 (d, 1H), 8.47 (d, 1H).

## 1.4. 1-Ethyl-6-methoxy-2-[(*E*)-(3-ethyl-5-methoxy-2(3H)-benzoselenazolylidene)methyl]quinolinium iodide/(diiodine)<sub>0.5</sub> (**1c**)

Dark red thin plate-like crystals of **1c** were formed after slow isothermal evaporation at room temperature of a solution of **1b** and I<sub>2</sub> (2:1 molar ratio) in a mixture of CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH (4:1). FT-IR (ν, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2969, 2933, 1611, 1568, 1515, 1481, 1374, 1258, 1213, 1159, 1125, 1056, 1031, 965, 819, 444.

## 2. Single crystal structure determination

### 2.1. General information

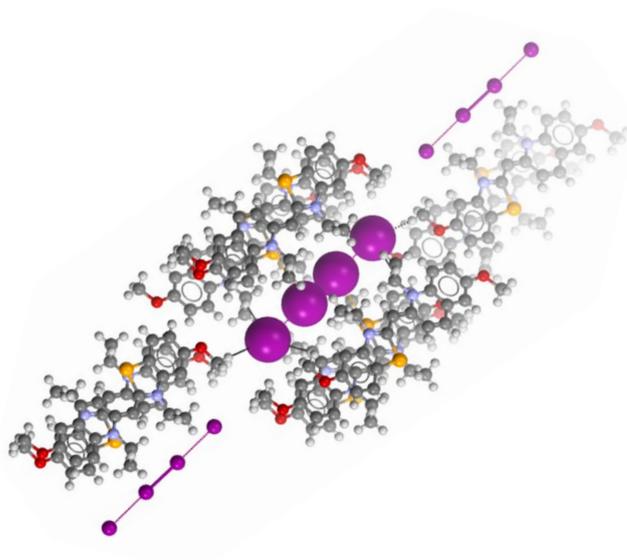
The single crystal X-ray diffraction measurement of **1a** and **1c** were conducted with a Bruker SMART APEX CCD area detector diffractometer, equipped with a Bruker *KRYOFLEX* low temperature device, graphite monochromator, MoK $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71069$  Å). Cell refinement and data reduction were done with Bruker SAINT [1]. Structure solution was performed with SHELXS [2] and refined with SHELX [2]; absorption correction was performed based on multi-scan procedure using *SADABS* [1]. Further crystallographic details of the structures are reported in Table S1.

**Table S1.** Crystallographic data and structure refinement parameters for **1a-c**.

Compound	1a	1b	1c
Formula	2(C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>25</sub> N <sub>2</sub> OSe)·2(C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>7</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S)·CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>25</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Se <sup>+</sup> ·I <sup>-</sup>	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>25</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Se <sup>+</sup> ·0.5(I <sub>2</sub> )·I <sup>-</sup>
Molecular weight	1276.11	567.31	694.21
Temperature (K)	100	296	296
Crystal system	Triclinic	Monoclinic	Triclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i>	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$
<i>a</i> (Å)	8.008 (7)	8.0417(19)	7.634 (6)
<i>b</i> (Å)	11.380 (9)	14.332(4)	11.179 (11)
<i>c</i> (Å)	17.301 (13)	19.473(5)	15.757 (13)
$\alpha$ (°)	74.32 (3)	90	75.93 (6)
$\beta$ (°)	86.43 (2)	90.228(11)	79.26 (5)
$\gamma$ (°)	70.07 (2)	90	70.09 (4)
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	1426 (2)	2244.4(10)	1218.4 (19)
<i>Z</i>	1	4	2
Crystal size (mm)	0.1 × 0.08 × 0.02	0.25 × 0.02 × 0.02	0.1 × 0.08 × 0.01
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	1.52	3.07	4.10
F(000)	658	1120	666
No. of measured, independent and observed reflections	12265, 3916, 2468	53785, 2374, 1599	8747, 4221, 2348

$\theta_{min}, \theta_{max}$ (°)	3.7, 23.1	2.9, 21.01	3.01, 25.00
$wR_{2\_obs}, wR_{2\_all}$	0.143, 0.118	0.153, 0.131	0.098, 0.117
$R_{1\_obs}, R_{1\_all}$	0.060, 0.120	0.063, 0.111	0.049, 0.104
GOOF	1.009	1.118	0.908
$\Delta\rho_{min}, \Delta\rho_{max}$ (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	-0.68, 0.59	-0.86, 0.99	-0.95, 0.87
CCDC number	1817362	n.d. <sup>a</sup>	1817361

<sup>a</sup>: The structure **1b** diffracted very poorly and several attempts to improve the quality of the data failed (Data completeness 0.979 with theta max of 21° and Rint of 0.360). For this reason the structure **1b** was not deposited (n.d.) in the CSD. However all heavy atoms were properly located and, for the sake of clarity, the Cartesian coordinate and the ADPs are listed in paragraph 2.2 in shelx res file format.



**Figure S1**

Partial representation (Mercury 3.9) of the crystal packing of **1c** evidencing how  $I_4^{2-}$  supramolecular anions are discrete units sitting in a cavity delimited by cations. An orientation different from that adopted in Fig. 4 is used. One  $I_4^{2-}$  anion is in space filling style (with reduced atom size representation with respect to standard space filling); the two  $I_4^{2-}$  anions closest to the central  $I_4^{2-}$  are also reported (in ball and stick). Depth cueing makes atoms at the front darker than those at the back. XBs are purple lines. Colour code for atoms: Grey, carbon; white, hydrogen; sky blue, nitrogen; red, oxygen; ochre, selenium; purple, iodine.

## 2.2. Crystal structure of **1b**

The poor quality of diffraction data obtained for **1b** crystals substantially lessens the value of an analyses of the details of the structure. Similar to **1a** and **1c**, the benzoselenazole and quinoline moieties are nearly coplanar (the angle between the mean square planes through the heavy atoms of the two bicyclic systems is 5.86°). The cations adopt a smectic-like organization and form layers which alternate with anionic layers (Fig. S2). Iodide anions are pinned to cations via HBs.

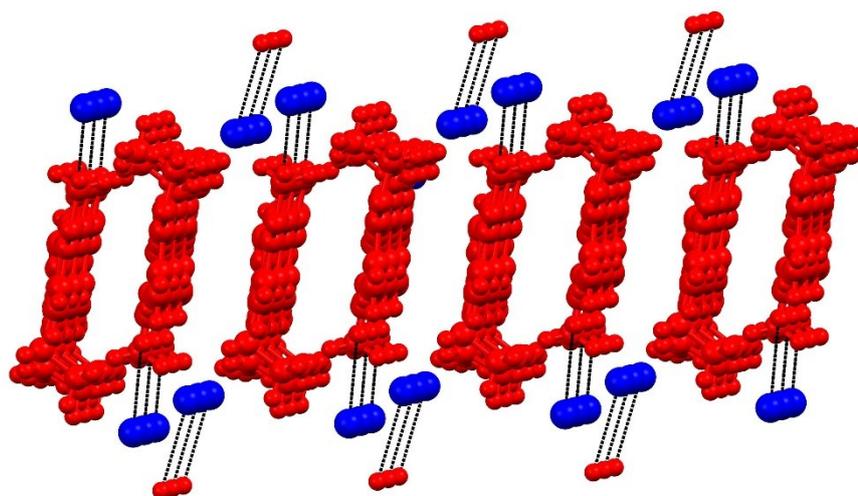
*Cartesian coordinate and ADPs of 1b in shelx res file format:*

```
TITL T3 in P2(1)/n 1B.res
CELL 0.71073 8.0417 14.3324 19.4732 90.000 90.228 90.000
ZERR 4.00 0.0019 0.0036 0.0049 0.000 0.011 0.000
LATT 1
SYMM 0.5-X, 0.5+Y, 0.5-Z
MOLE 1
I1 6 0.641955 0.762300 0.276361 11.00000 0.07473 0.07934 =
    0.05361 0.00238 -0.00752 -0.00615
Se1 5 0.384009 0.133882 0.546477 11.00000 0.04328 0.04359 =
    0.04962 -0.00241 -0.00205 -0.00807
C1 1 0.473243 0.242441 0.508344 11.00000 0.04366 0.03864 =
    0.03975 -0.00703 0.00225 0.00837
C2 1 0.551231 0.317474 0.541178 11.00000 0.04672 0.05409 =
    0.05550 -0.01802 0.00268 -0.00770
C3 1 0.607620 0.390511 0.502791 11.00000 0.03862 0.04157 =
    0.06640 -0.01495 0.00820 -0.02300
C4 1 0.588813 0.391160 0.432152 11.00000 0.04581 0.04110 =
    0.06523 -0.00032 0.00432 -0.01167
C5 1 0.510634 0.320360 0.399717 11.00000 0.04907 0.04493 =
    0.05694 0.01784 -0.00490 -0.01683
C6 1 0.455987 0.247143 0.438761 11.00000 0.03398 0.02912 =
    0.06495 -0.00975 0.00675 -0.00364
C7 1 0.322391 0.097225 0.456236 11.00000 0.04805 0.05338 =
    0.03488 0.01420 0.01513 0.01515
N1 3 0.367119 0.167060 0.412215 11.00000 0.07322 0.06626 =
    0.02645 -0.00197 -0.00723 -0.00555
C8 1 0.241522 0.018148 0.434542 11.00000 0.05080 0.03463 =
    0.05168 -0.01683 -0.00824 -0.00783
```

C9 1 0.184051 -0.058130 0.473384 11.00000 0.03137 0.03806 =  
0.04632 0.00407 0.00199 -0.00131  
C10 1 0.214272 -0.071350 0.543710 11.00000 0.03638 0.04512 =  
0.04285 -0.00389 -0.00028 -0.01240  
C11 1 0.162985 -0.145599 0.578967 11.00000 0.05590 0.04022 =  
0.03779 -0.00300 -0.01158 -0.01257  
C12 1 0.073755 -0.218108 0.544165 11.00000 0.01699 0.04443 =  
0.05355 -0.00784 0.00447 -0.00038  
C13 1 0.023730 -0.298479 0.578178 11.00000 0.05366 0.03932 =  
0.04553 0.00406 0.00077 -0.01172  
C14 1 -0.062273 -0.366747 0.542213 11.00000 0.03683 0.03830 =  
0.06210 0.00328 0.00280 -0.00122  
C15 1 -0.091093 -0.355831 0.472484 11.00000 0.03027 0.03593 =  
0.07295 -0.00697 -0.01094 -0.00053  
C16 1 -0.040574 -0.278314 0.437583 11.00000 0.05636 0.03023 =  
0.05786 -0.00005 -0.01171 -0.00533  
C17 1 0.040692 -0.207181 0.473257 11.00000 0.03315 0.02585 =  
0.04608 -0.00159 -0.00182 -0.00210  
N2 3 0.092938 -0.126421 0.440693 11.00000 0.05310 0.03233 =  
0.04076 -0.00385 -0.00282 -0.00338  
O1 4 0.652420 0.468173 0.401188 11.00000 0.07285 0.04834 =  
0.07243 -0.00254 -0.00087 -0.01498  
C18 1 0.608732 0.482286 0.331298 11.00000 0.11046 0.04803 =  
0.09165 0.02446 0.00003 -0.02211  
C19 1 0.307221 0.168196 0.337463 11.00000 0.13011 0.04089 =  
0.10813 0.00831 0.02868 -0.02038  
C20 1 0.428408 0.118416 0.297883 11.00000 0.13418 0.11730 =  
0.10580 0.00400 0.00482 -0.02665  
C21 1 0.041988 -0.111797 0.367875 11.00000 0.05797 0.04524 =  
0.05656 -0.00633 -0.00239 -0.01306  
O2 4 -0.120270 -0.447041 0.571259 11.00000 0.06668 0.04551 =  
0.06901 0.01038 -0.00723 -0.02010  
C22 1 0.164485 -0.148951 0.319070 11.00000 0.08644 0.07689 =  
0.06375 -0.01101 0.01139 -0.00222  
C23 1 -0.094472 -0.462192 0.640795 11.00000 0.09057 0.07584 =  
0.06037 0.01642 0.00992 -0.02364

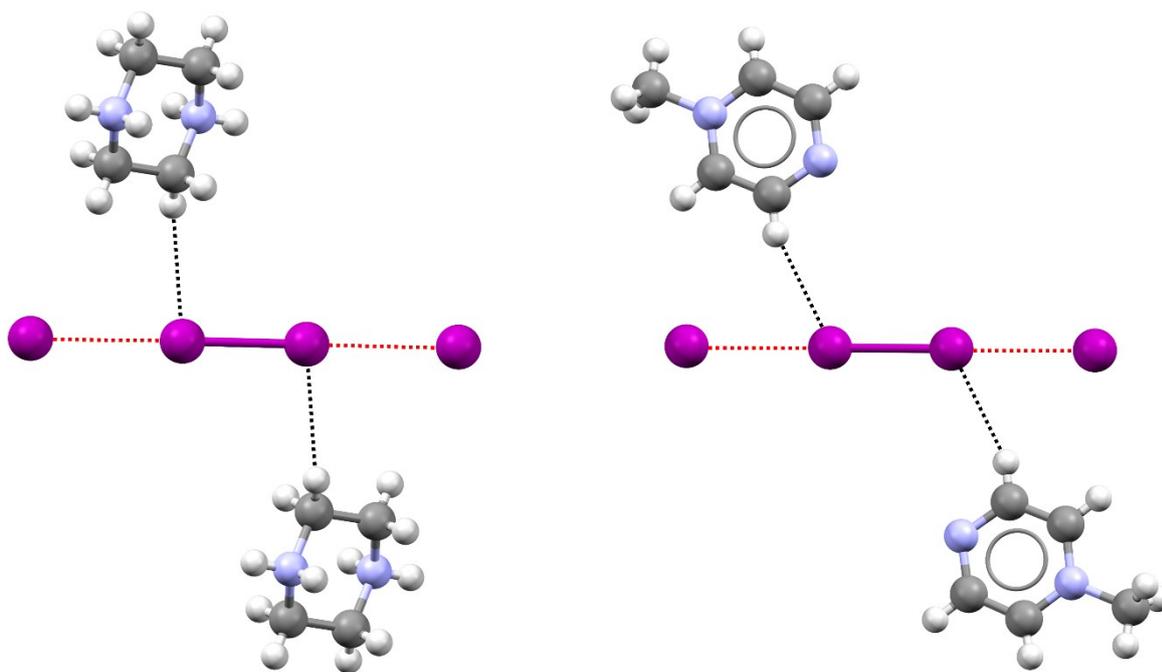
HKLF 4

END



**Figure S2**

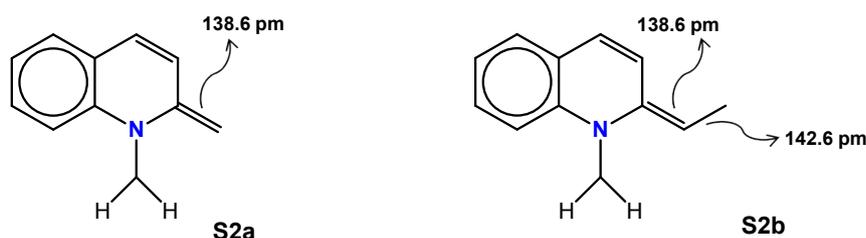
Ball and stick partial representation (Mercury 3.9) of the crystal packing of **1b** evidencing the segregation and layers formation. Cations are in red; iodide anions are in blue. HBs are black dotted lines.



**Figure S3**

Ball and stick representation (Mercury 3.9) of piperazine-1,4-dium bis-iodide-/iodine (Refcode MOYLJ01, left, [3]) and 1-methylpyrazin-1-ium iodide/iodine<sub>0.5</sub> (Refcode YUSYUH, right, [4]) evidencing the I...I<sup>-</sup> XBs (red dotted lines) and C-H...I HBs (black dotted lines) that hold the iodine molecules in their position.

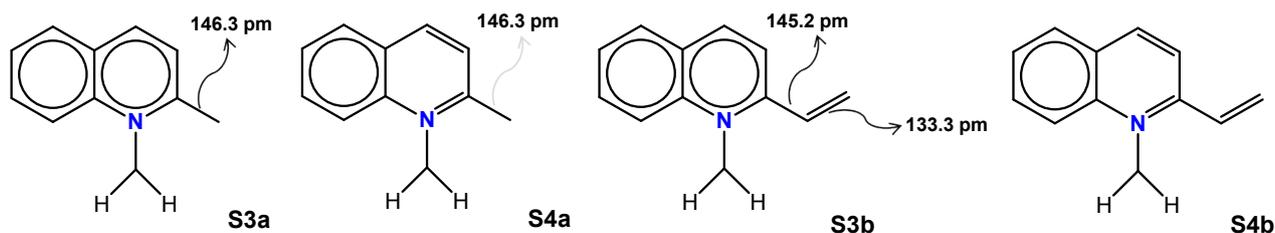
### 3. Cambridge Structural Database statistics



#### Scheme S1

A search in the Cambridge Structural Database (CSD) (ConQuest 1.19, CSD version 5.38, updates November 2016, February 2017, May 2017) afforded 17 hits for the bond pattern reported in formula **S2a**. Eight of the hits (Refcodes: DAQYEZ, DECYNI, DEPICY, KEVLED, NABVOB, PEZJUB, PUDMIK, XEVSAU) were not uniquely related to the bond pattern of formula **S2a** (e.g. they corresponded to one of the likely resonance structures of the compound). The mean value of the ylidene bond length (C=C bond) in the remaining nine hits (Refcodes: HOHVUV, LULPUD, LULQAK, MEZFUU, PMTPYQ, SAKHIX, OYEMUC, OYENAJ, OYENEN) is given in formula **S2a**. The respective bond length is 139.2 pm in **1a** and 141.0 pm in **1c**.

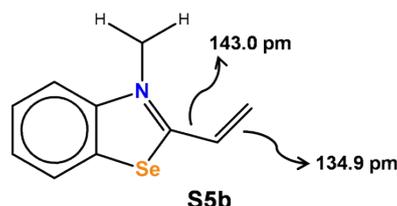
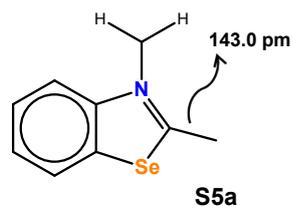
A CSD search afforded a smaller set of hits (16 hits) for the bond pattern reported in formula **S2b**. Seven of them (Refcodes: DAQYEZ, DECYNI, DEPICY, NABVOB, PEZJUB, PUDMIK, XEVSAU) were not uniquely related to the bond pattern of formula **S2b** (e.g. they corresponded to one of the likely resonance structures of the compound). The mean values of the two ylidene bond lengths (C=C and C-C bonds) in the remaining nine hits (Refcodes: HOHVUV, LULPUD, LULQAK, MEZFUU, PMTPYQ, SAKHIX, OYEMUC, OYENAJ, OYENEN) are given in formula **S2b**. The respective bond lengths are 139.2 (N<sub>quinoline</sub>-C-C) and 139.3 (Se-C-C) pm in **1a** and 141.0 (N<sub>quinoline</sub>-C-C) and 134.7 (Se-C-C) pm in **1c**.



### Scheme S2

A CSD search afforded 77 hits for the bond pattern reported in formula **S3a** and 8 hits for the bond pattern reported in formula **S4a**. Thirty one of the hits for formula **S3a** (Refcodes: UTEXAU, UTEXEY, UTEXUO, ABUPEU, DAVLOB, DEPICY, DOKSOM, EJIXIF, EJIXOL, EJIXUR, EJIYAY, ETHIDB, IQIFUL, KAGLUZ, LEFROD, LEFRUJ, LIWCAW, LOFDAN, MUJGAB, OMAHUG, PUDMIK, QINWER, QOHDEX, SAKHET, TURJIB, WINYOJ, WINYUP, WINZAW, WIPBEE, XEVSAU, XIYZUB) and seven of the hits for formula **S4a** (Refcodes: DAQYEZ, DECYNI, MACAZC10, PEZJUB, VAJNOJ, VAJNUP, VAJPAX) were not uniquely related to the bond pattern of formulas **S3a** and **S4a** (e.g. they corresponded to one of the likely resonance structures of the compound). The mean value of the bond length of the quinoline C–C pendant in the remaining forty six hits of formula **S3a** (Refcodes: UTAJOQ, ADAQIG, BUTTER, BUTTIV, BUVXOH, BUZSAR, CERSAU, CIMCOS, GOLDUI, HISHIB, HISHIB01, IFABIB, IKAPER, JAXSAD, JUTBEH, KUTYAA, LEDBOL, LEZRIS, LEZRIS01, LIBXOK, MODQUS, NENMID, NENXOV, NERYUF, NUPTAU, PEMRUU, RIPQOY, RITKUB, RUMGAJ, SAPWIQ, SIFGOE, SIFGOE02, TEJTEH, TIDFOB, VIXMAS, WIBKOJ, WUTPOR, WUTPUX, XICMUS, XICNED, XICWEL, ZAWPOE, ZUGTEC, GOLDUI01, KAMCAF, NAWPOT) and the remaining hit of formula **S4a** (Refcode: KIYYIB) is given in formulas **S3a** and **4a**. The respective bond length is 139.2 pm in **1a** and 141.0 pm in **1c**.

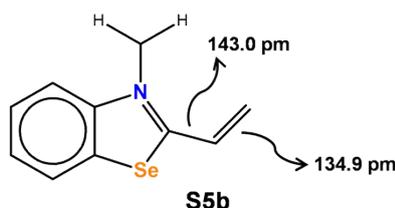
A CSD search afforded 53 hits for the bond pattern reported in formula **S3b** and 7 hits for the bond pattern reported in formula **S4b**. Twenty tree of the hits for formula **S3b** (Refcodes: UTEXAU, UTEXEY, UTEXUO, DEPICY, DOKSOM, EJIXIF, EJIXOL, EJIXUR, EJIYAY, IQIFUL, LIWCAW, LOFDAN, OMAHUG, PUDMIK, QINWER, SAKHET, TURJIB, WINYOJ, WINYUP, WINZAW, WIPBEE, XEVSAU, XIYZUB) and the all seven hits for formula **S4b** (Refcodes: DAQYEZ, DECYNI, MACAZC10, PEZJUB, VAJNOJ, VAJNUP, VAJPAX) were not uniquely related to the bond pattern of formulas **S3b** and **S4b** (e.g. they corresponded to one of the likely resonance structures of the compound). The mean values of the ylidene bond lengths in the remaining thirty hits of formula **S3b** (Refcodes: UTAJOQ, ADAQIG, BUZSAR, CIMCOS, HISHIB, HISHIB01, IFABIB, IKAPER, JAXSAD, JUTBEH, KUTYAA, LEZRIS, LEZRIS01, LIBXOK, MODQUS, NENMID, NERYUF, NUPTAU, RIPQOY, RITKUB, RUMGAJ, SAPWIQ, SIFGOE, SIFGOE02, VIXMAS, XICMUS, XICNED, ZAWPOE, ZUGTEC KAMCAF) are given in formula **S3b**. The respective bond lengths are 139.2 ( $N_{\text{quinoline}}\text{--C--C}$ ) and 139.3 (Se–C–C) pm in **1a** and 141.0 ( $N_{\text{quinoline}}\text{--C--C}$ ) and 134.7 (Se–C–C) pm in **1c**.



### Scheme S3

A CSD search afforded 13 hits for the bond pattern reported in formula **S5a**. Five of them (Refcodes: ANEQUG, ANERAN, ANERER, ANERIV, MULHIK) were not uniquely related to the bond pattern of formula **S5a** (e.g. they corresponded to one of the likely resonance structures of the compound). The mean value of the bond length of the benzoselenazole pendant (Se–C–C bond) in the remaining eight hits (Refcodes: UTUQIL, UTUQOR, UTUQUX, UTURAE, UTUREI, UTURIM, UTUROS, UTUROS01) is given in formula **S5a**. The respective bond length is 139.3 pm in **1a** and 134.7 pm in **1c**.

A CSD search afforded 12 hits for the bond pattern reported in formula **S5b**. Five of them (Refcodes: ANEQUG, ANERAN, ANERER, ANERIV, MULHIK) were not uniquely related to the bond pattern of formula **S5b** (e.g. they corresponded to one of the likely resonance structures of the compound). The mean values of the ylidene bond lengths in the remaining seven hits (Refcodes: UTUQIL, UTUQOR, UTUQUX, UTURAE, UTUREI, UTUROS, UTUROS01) are given in formula **S5b**. The respective bond lengths are 139.2 ( $N_{\text{quinoline}}\text{-C-C}$ ) and 139.3 (Se–C–C) pm in **1a** and 141.0 ( $N_{\text{quinoline}}\text{-C-C}$ ) and 134.7 (S–C–C) pm in **1c**.



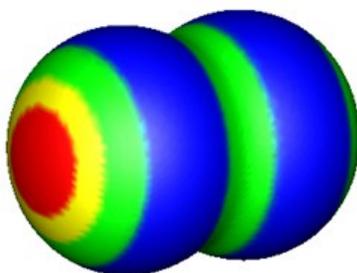
### Scheme S4

A CSD search afforded 5 hits for the bond pattern reported in formula **S6** (Refcodes: ANEQUG, ANERAN, ANERER, ANERIV, BUXXUP). Four of them (Refcodes: ANEQUG, ANERAN, ANERER, ANERIV) were not uniquely related to the bond pattern of formula **S6** (e.g. they corresponded to one of the likely resonance structures of the compound). No statistics on bond lengths could be made by using the single remaining hit (Refcode: BUXXUP).

## 4. Molecular electrostatic potential

### 3.1. Computational method

Geometry optimizations were carried out using Gaussian 09, with the hybrid meta density functional M06-2X and the 6-311G(d) basis [5]. The WFA-SAS code was used to compute the electrostatic potential on 0.001 au cationic surfaces [6].



**Figure S4**

Computed electrostatic potential on the 0.001 au molecular surface of diiodine. Color ranges, in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>: red, more positive than 20; yellow, between 20 and 10; green, between 10 and 0; blue, less than 0 (negative). The most positive potentials ( $V_{s,max}$ ) are 32 (red) at the ends of the molecule; the most negative ( $V_{s,min}$ ) are -4 (blue) on the sides.

## 5. References

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- [6] F. A. Bulat; A. Toro-Labbé; T. Brinck; J. S. Murray; P. Politzer *J. Mol. Model.* 2014, **16**, 1679–1691.