# **Supporting Information**

# Cobalt-Catalyzed Carbon-Sulfur/Selenium Bond Formation: Synthesis of Benzo[b]thio/selenophene-fused Imidazo[1,2*a*]pyridines

Tianyu Wang, Jichao Chen, Jia Wang, Shengtao Xu,\* Aijun Lin, Hequan

Yao, Sheng Jiang,\* Jinyi Xu\*

State Key Laboratory of Natural Medicines and Department of Medicinal Chemistry, China Pharmaceutical University, 24 Tong Jia Xiang, Nanjing 210009, P. R. China.

E-mail: jinyixu@china.com

#### Contents

Materials and Methods	2
Preparation of Substrates	2
Table S1 Optimization of Reaction Conditions <sup>a</sup>	2
General Procedure for benzo[b]-thiophene/imidazo[1,2-a]pyridines	3
References	3
Analytical Data for the Products	3
Copies of <sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectra for the title compounds	9

### **Materials and Methods**

#### General

All reactions were carried out in oven-dried glassware. Melting point (m.p.) was measured on a microscopic melting point apparatus. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker-300 spectrometers, and were referenced to the residual peaks of CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 7.26 ppm (<sup>1</sup>H NMR) and CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 77.23 ppm (<sup>13</sup>C NMR). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm ( $\delta$ ), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, brs = broad singlet, m = multiplet), coupling constant (Hz), and integration. High Resolution Mass measurement was performed on Agilent QTOF 6520 mass spectrometer with electron spray ionization (ESI) as the ion source. Flash column chromatography was carried out using commercially available 200-300 mesh under pressure.

#### Materials

Unless otherwise indicated, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers used without further purification. PE refers to petroleum ether (b.p. 60-90 °C) and EA refers to ethyl acetate, and all reaction solvents were freshly distilled prior to use.

#### **Preparation of Substrates**

All substrates were synthesized according to the literature procedures and the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum data for them showed good agreement with the literature data.<sup>1</sup>

#### Table S1 Optimization of Reaction Conditions<sup>a</sup>

	Br +	NaSCN - 2a	CoC <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (40mol% Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> ,NCS Solvent,Temp. Addition,Time		N N S 3a
Entry	Addition	Solvent	Temp.(°C)	Time(h)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1	/	CH₃CN	120	5	70
2	/	H <sub>2</sub> O	120	5	12
3	/	THF	120	5	trace
4	/	DMF	120	5	0
5	/	EtOH	120	5	22
6	/	DCE	120	5	0
7	/	CH₃CN	80	5	0
8	/	CH₃CN	100	5	trace
9	/	CH₃CN	130	5	76

10	/	CH₃CN	140	5	72
11	/	CH₃CN	130	1	42
12	/	CH₃CN	130	3	62
13	/	CH₃CN	130	10	72
14	1,10-phen	CH₃CN	130	5	82
15	EDTA	CH₃CN	130	5	trace
16	TBAI	CH₃CN	130	5	0
17	glycine	CH₃CN	130	5	34

<sup>*a*</sup>Reaction conditions: 1a (0.1 mmol), 2a (0.15 mmol),  $CoC_2O_4$  (20 %mol), NCS (0.15 mmol),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (0.15 mmol),  $CH_3CN$  (1.5 ml) at 130 °C for 5h. <sup>*b*</sup>Isolated yield.

#### General Procedure for benzo[b]-thiophene/imidazo[1,2-a]pyridines

To a 15 mL sealed tube with a magnetic stirring bar were added 2-(2-iodophenyl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine derivatives (**1**, 0.3 mmol), NaSCN/KSeCN (**2**, 0.45 mmol), CoC<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (20 mol %), NCS (0.45 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>(0.45 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (10 mol %) and CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was placed in an oil bath at 130 °C and vigorously stirred for 5 h. Afterward it was cooled to ambient temperature, the solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using *PE/EA* = 15:1 ~ 4:1 as an eluent to obtain the desired product.

#### References

(a) C. Granchi, F. Rizzolio, S. Palazzolo, S. Carmignani, M. Macchia, G. Saccomanni, C. Manera, A. Martinelli, F. Minutolo and T. Tuccinardi, *J Med Chem*, 2016, **59**, 10299-10314; (b) K. Pericherla, P. Khedar, B. Khungar and A. Kumar, *Chem Commun (Camb)*, 2013, **49**, 2924-2926; (c) *WO Pat.*, 2016173557, 2016.

#### Analytical Data for the Products



Compound **3a**: m.p.118-120; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.20 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.28

-7.17 (m, 1H), 6.86 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 148.96, 145.32, 139.67, 128.48, 124.97, 124.84, 123.88, 123.72, 123.66, 121.12, 117.79, 111.57. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 225.0486, found 225.0483.



Compound **3b**: m.p.170-171; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.33 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz,

CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 149.53, 144.85, 139.56, 128.75, 127.83, 124.73, 124.71, 123.69, 122.76,

122.58, 121.53, 121.19, 111.53, 17.03. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 239.0643, found 239.0641.



Compound **3c**: m.p.159-160; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.23 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.79 –

6.67 (m, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.48, 145.14, 139.53, 135.02, 129.54, 124.75, 124.65, 123.69, 122.80, 121.46, 120.95, 116.13, 114.19, 21.08. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 239.0643, found 239.0640.



Compound **3d**: m.p.194-195; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.26 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 

147.99, 144.92, 139.58, 128.52, 127.34, 124.87, 123.73, 123.44, 122.89, 121.57, 121.42, 121.09, 117.05, 17.76. HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $C_{14}H_{10}N_2S$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 239.0643, found 239.0641.



Compound **3e**: m.p.115-117; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.28 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.13 (m, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 

150.62, 145.90, 140.95, 134.60, 130.69, 128.80, 125.45, 125.38, 125.16, 123.88, 121.70, 115.93, 111.09, 19.22. HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $C_{14}H_{10}N_2S$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 239.0643, found 239.0641.

Compound **3f**: m.p.121-122; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.19 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.31 (m, 1H),

7.02 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.76 – 6.55 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  157.48, 150.70, 139.16, 128.53, 124.87, 124.46, 124.08, 123.57, 121.20, 107.10, 95.14, 55.19. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 255.0592, found 255.0590.



Compound **3g**: m.p.181-182; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.29 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

δ 147.36, 146.11, 139.70, 128.16, 127.17, 125.41, 125.04, 123.76, 123.61, 122.31, 121.28, 118.32, 106.15. HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $C_{13}H_7BrN_2S$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 302.9592, found 302.9590.



Compound **3h**: m.p.156-158; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.84 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.78 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ

165.09, 149.82, 147.36, 140.34, 128.65, 128.27, 125.99, 125.55, 124.26, 123.84,

123.61, 121.82, 117.41, 116.03, 52.53. HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $C_{15}H_{10}N_2O_2S$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 283.0541, found 283.0539.



Compound **3i**: m.p.167-169; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 8.23 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (t, J = 6.8

Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.82 (d, *J* =252 Hz, 1C), 140.06, 133.04, 132.24, 130.23, 128.95, 127.08, 125.56, 125.46, 125.34, 124.20, 121.63, 104.68 (d, *J* = 33.75 Hz, 1C), 102.15 (d, *J* = 24 Hz, 1C). HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>7</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 243.0387, found 243.0384.

Compound **3j**: m.p.225-227; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3 8.26 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* =

7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  147.96, 147.47, 140.47, 133.00, 128.54 (q, J = 315 Hz, 1C), 128.53, 126.39, 125.74, 124.76 (q, J = 180 Hz, 1C), 124.73, 124.35, 122.06, 116.31 (q, J = 10 Hz, 1C), 108.05 (q, J = 5.25 Hz, 1C). HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>7</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 293.0355, found 293.0355.



Compound **3k**: m.p.181-183. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 8.24 – 8.15 (m, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 10.7 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.94 (t, *J* 

= 7.3 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  162.42, 159.16, 149.59, 141.07 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1C), 125.50, 125.47, 125.50, 124.45, 124.07, 122.38 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 1C), 118.39, 113.79 (d, *J* = 23.25 Hz, 1C), 112.21, 110.84 (d, *J* = 25.5 Hz, 1C). HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>7</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 243.0387, found 243.0384.

Compound **3I**: m.p.200-201; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.18 - 8.05 (m, 2H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (t, J =

6.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.77, 145.25, 141.44, 128.76, 127.87, 127.56, 126.75, 124.78, 124.22, 122.59, 118.60, 118.53, 112.37. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 302.9592, found 302.9588.



Compound **3m**: m.p.178-180; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCI_3$ )  $\delta$  8.13 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.4Hz, 1H), 7.32 – 7.23

(m, 1H), 6.94 – 6.89 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.73, 145.28, 141.10, 131.04, 127.40, 126.27, 126.09, 124.74, 124.20, 123.90, 122.25, 118.50, 112.35. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>7</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 259.0097, found 259.0095.



Compound **3n**: m.p.122-124; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCI_3$ )  $\delta$  8.14 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.20 (m, 1H),

7.16 – 7.08 (m, 1H), 6.95 – 6.87 (m, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.12, 149.40, 145.85, 141.78, 127.28, 123.89, 122.73, 122.14, 118.16, 114.12, 113.83, 111.98, 108.09, 55.70. HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $C_{14}H_{10}\text{BrN}_2\text{S}$  [M + H]+ 255.0592, found 255.0590.



Compound **3o**: m.p.120-122; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  153.12, 145.65, 144.60, 136.34,

135.26, 132.37, 131.51, 130.81, 127.35, 124.74, 123.51, 118.77, 108.74. HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $C_{13}H_6BrClN_2S$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 336.9196, found 336.9199.



Compound **3p**: m.p.187-188; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.77

(d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  150.19, 144.95, 140.92, 135.85, 130.62, 127.63, 125.90, 123.78, 123.26, 122.04, 121.87, 116.74, 114.91, 21.60. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 273.0248, found 273.0252.



Compound **3q**: m.p.144-146; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.10 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.16 - 7.03 (m, 1H), 6.74 -

6.62 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.16, 150.07, 145.73, 141.81, 135.29, 133.17, 123.30, 123.11, 122.24, 116.75, 114.83, 113.97, 108.31, 55.91, 21.74. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OS [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 269.0738, found 269.0749.

Compound **3r**: m.p.185-186; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.12 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 4.6 Hz,

1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  152.91, 147.19, 138.09, 131.83, 128.73, 124.80, 123.94, 123.52, 120.17, 116.73, 111.63. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 231.0045, found 231.0048.



Compound **3s**: m.p.186-188; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  150.48, 146.41,

138.32, 130.59, 128.68, 128.23, 125.91, 124.88, 124.33, 123.78, 123.76, 123.53, 121.90, 120.03, 112.09. HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $C_{15}H_8N_2S_2$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 281.0202, found 281.0207.



Compound **4a**: m.p.176-177; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.28 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, J =

1H), 7.29 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 6.91 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.01, 147.56, 139.78, 130.52, 126.53, 125.40, 125.37, 124.18, 123.90, 122.57, 117.82, 111.74. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>8</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>Se [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 272.9931, found 272.9934.



Compound **4b**: m.p.188-190; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.40 – 8.27 (m, 1H), 7.90 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  150.02, 147.51, 140.18, 131.26, 128.26,

126.98, 125.71, 125.60, 123.22, 123.16, 122.52, 118.92, 112.14, 17.44. HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $C_{14}H_{10}N_2$ Se [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 287.0082, found 287.0090.



Compound **4c**: m.p.184-186; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.23 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.90 - 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.52 - 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s,

3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.31, 147.11, 139.71, 134.86, 130.64, 126.43, 125.19, 124.93, 123.14, 122.34, 121.35, 115.92, 114.17, 20.96. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Se [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 287.0082, found 287.0085.



Compound **4d**: m.p.118-119; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 8.20 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.58 (d, *J* =

4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  157.74, 150.99, 147.63, 140.08, 131.21, 126.93, 125.73, 125.21, 125.01, 122.70, 117.01, 107.35, 95.50, 55.50. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OSe [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 303.0031, found 303.0038.



Compound **4e**: m.p.180-182; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.25 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.29,

147.33, 139.78, 130.06, 127.08, 126.46, 125.73, 125.49, 124.02, 122.72, 118.16, 118.09, 106.21. HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $C_{13}H_7BrN_2Se~[M + H]^+$  350.9031, found 350.9032.



Compound **4f**: m.p.181-182. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.25 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.07 – 7.99 (m, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 6.85 –

6.76 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.92 (d, *J* =250.5 Hz, 1C), 140.29, 133.10, 132.29, 130.88, 130.32, 127.85 (d, *J* = 12.75 Hz, 1C), 125.98, 125.94, 125.79, 123.08, 104.81 (d, *J* = 29.25 Hz, 1C), 102.07 (d, *J* = 24 Hz, 1C). HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>7</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>Se [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 290.9831, found 290.9832.



Compound **4g**: m.p.158-160; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23 - 7.16 (m, 1H),

7.13 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 6.91 – 6.82 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H).  $^{13}$ C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.17, 149.32, 147.79, 141.62, 124.42, 124.31, 123.92, 123.41, 117.96, 116.36, 113.67, 112.08, 111.30, 55.65. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OSe [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 303.0031, found 303.0038.



Compound **4h**: m.p.172-174; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.06 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, *J* =

8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.17, 146.68, 140.51, 130.87, 128.98, 126.13, 126.03, 124.22, 124.15, 123.47, 123.08, 117.92, 111.98. C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>7</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>Se [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 306.9541, found 306.9542.



Compound **4i**: m.p.185-187; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 8.18 (q, *J* = 8.6, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (q, *J* = 9.5, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.88 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  160.81 (d,

J = 245.25 Hz, 1C), 149.53, 147.13, 141.00, 140.88, 127.38 (d, J = 2.25 Hz, 1C), 124.48 (d, J = 5.25 Hz, 1C), 123.64 (d, J = 9 Hz, 1C), 118.27, 114.21, 113.91 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1C), 113.58, 112.32. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>7</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>Se [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 290.9831, found 290.9833.



Compound **4j**: m.p.169-171; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 7.07 (m, 1H), 6.72 (d,

 $J = 8.5 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}, 3.90 \text{ (s, 3H)}, 2.45 \text{ (s, 3H)}. {}^{13}\text{C NMR} (75 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta 178.52, 157.97, 149.76, 147.24, 141.45, 135.23, 124.55, 123.59, 123.49, 116.34, 114.79, 113.58, 111.29, 55.64, 21.45. HRMS (ESI) calculated for <math>C_{15}H_{12}N_2OSe [M + H]^+ 317.0188, \text{found } 317.0196.$ 



Compound **4k**: m.p.213-215; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.13 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 

152.61, 149.26, 138.53, 130.72, 126.30, 125.29, 124.30, 121.68, 117.11, 116.57, 111.74. HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $C_{11}H_6N_2SSe$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 278.9490, found 278.9494.



Compound **5a**: m.p.132-135; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.45 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  152.66, 147.26, 132.89, 132.53, 131.75, 130.39, 127.37, 127.02, 123.95, 122.93, 118.11, 114.23,

107.25; HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>8</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>S [M + H]+ 329.9701, found 329.9700.

Ultraviolet absorption and fluorescence emission spectra of compounds 3a and 4d.





Figure S1. a) The Ultraviolet absorption spectra of compound **3a** (1 $\mu$ M,  $\lambda_{abs}$  = 344nm) and **4d** (1 $\mu$ M,  $\lambda_{abs}$  = 288nm, 340nm) in methanol. b) The fluorescence spectra of compound **3a** (1nM) in methanol. c) The fluorescence spectra of compound **4d** (1 $\mu$ M) in methanol.

## Copies of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra for the title compounds



-2.74







-2.44

-0.07







-0.07

3d F96.2 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 f1 (ppm) 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 1. 0 76.99 76.56 76.14 -17.76 3d

90 80 f1 (ppm) 0 160 150 130 120 110 100 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 140





























# -8.06 -7.59 7.55 7.744 7.741 7.726 7.00 7.00 7.00 7.00 7.00





-0.00





---0.00

-2.47









#### 812 812 7382 77.80 77.80 77.80 77.80 77.80 77.55 77.58 77.57 77.58 77.57 77.58 77.57 77.58 77.57 77.58 77.57 77.58 77.757 77.58 77.757 77.58



-0.00



-2.70





-2.40

---0.01

Se 4c 2.03 3.164 1.00-1.96--66'0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 fl (ppm) 0.0 -0.5 --149.31 --147.11 -139.71 -139.71 134.86 130.64 126.43 126.43 126.43 123.14 121.35 -115.92 77.14 76.72 76.29 -20.96 4c 155 150 145 140 135 130 125 120 115 110 105 100 95 90 85 80 75 70 65 60 55 50 45 40 35 30 25 20 15 10 fl (ppm)

-3.87



























-0.00

