

## Supporting Information

### Oxidative Addition of Elemental Selenium to 1,4,2,5-Diazadiborinine

Gillian Kor Hwee Goh, Yongxin Li, and Rei Kinjo\*

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2. UV/Vis absorption spectroscopy for compound **3**
3. Crystallographic data for compounds **2**, **3** and **4**
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# 1. Physical and spectroscopic data for compounds 2,3 and 4

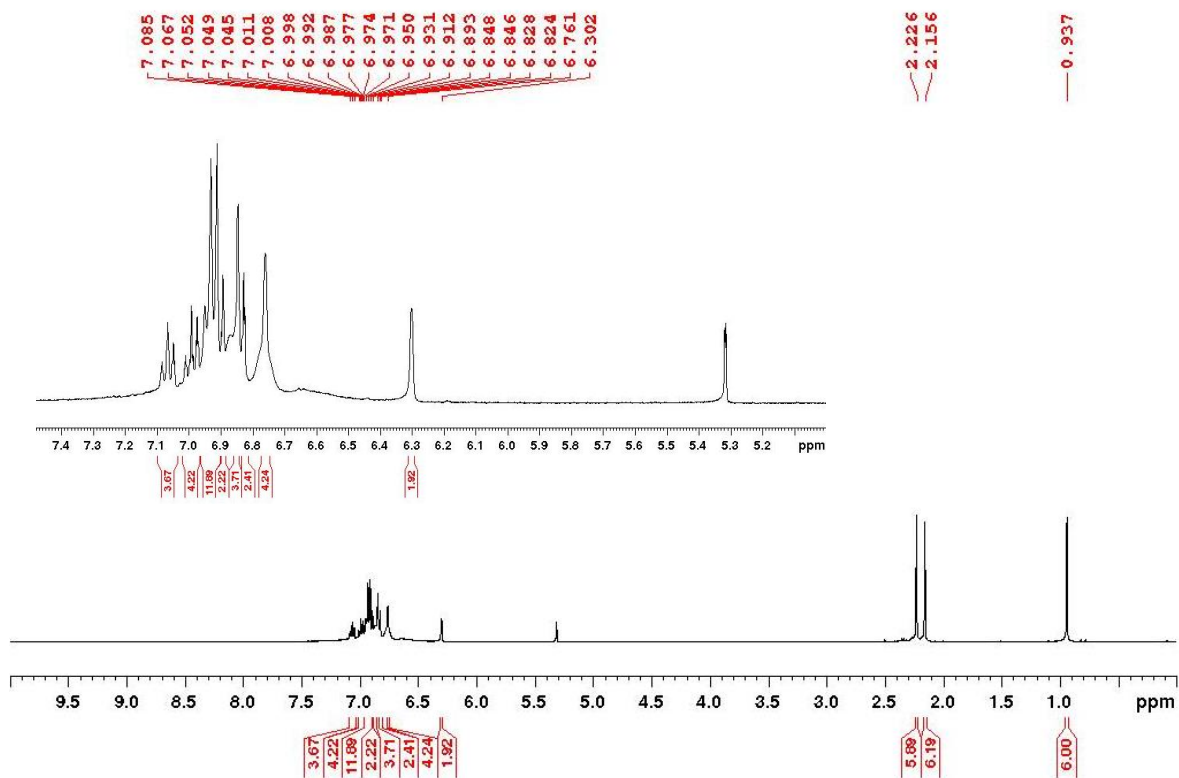


Figure S1.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of 2

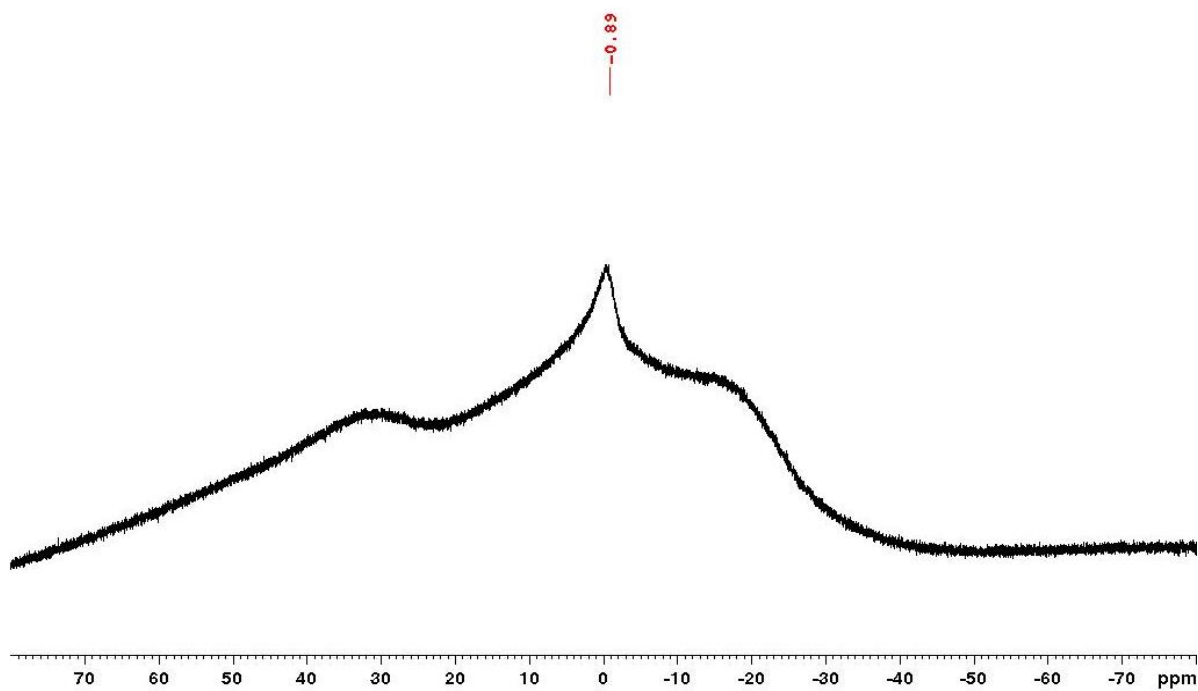


Figure S2.  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR spectrum of 2

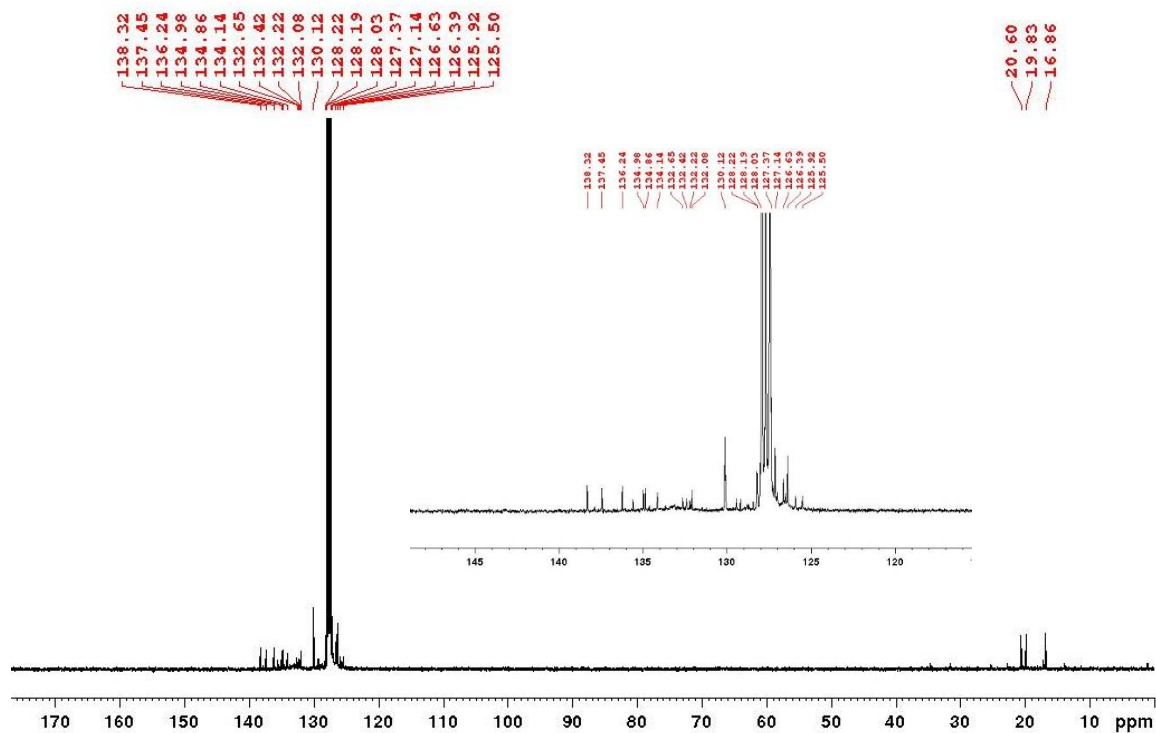


Figure S3.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **2**

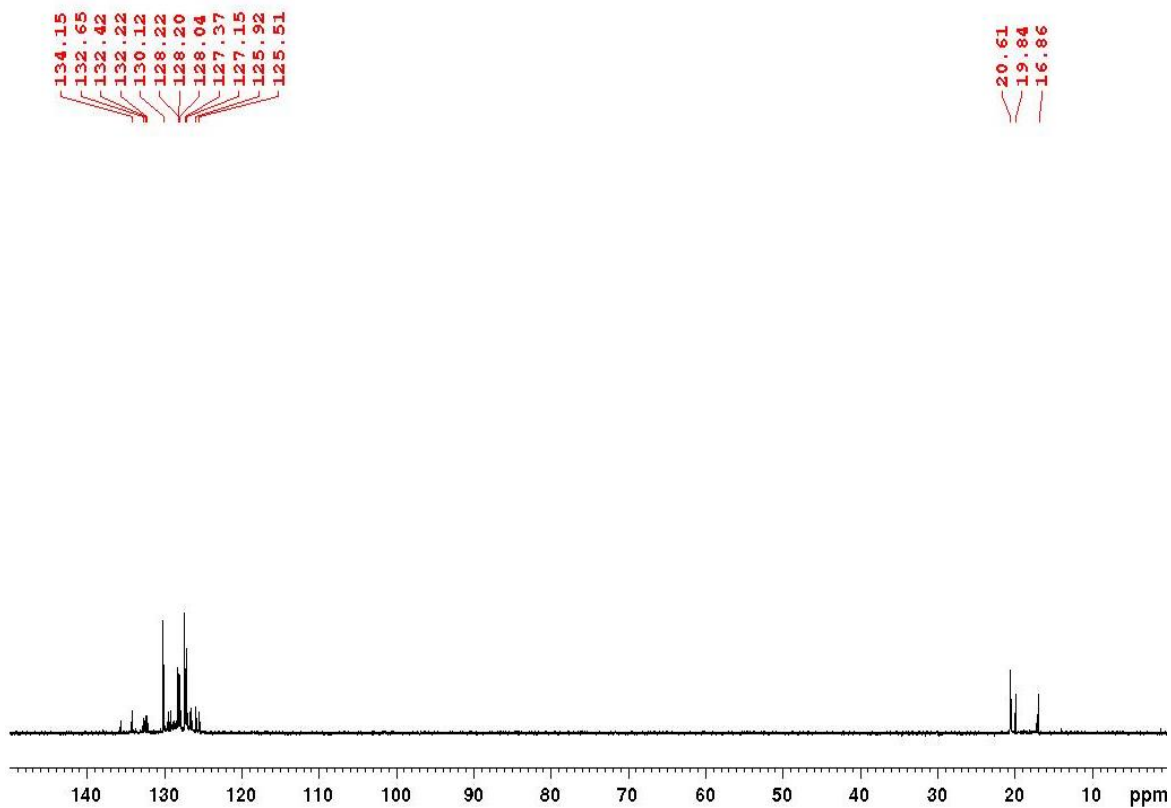


Figure S4.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DEPT 135) spectrum of **2**

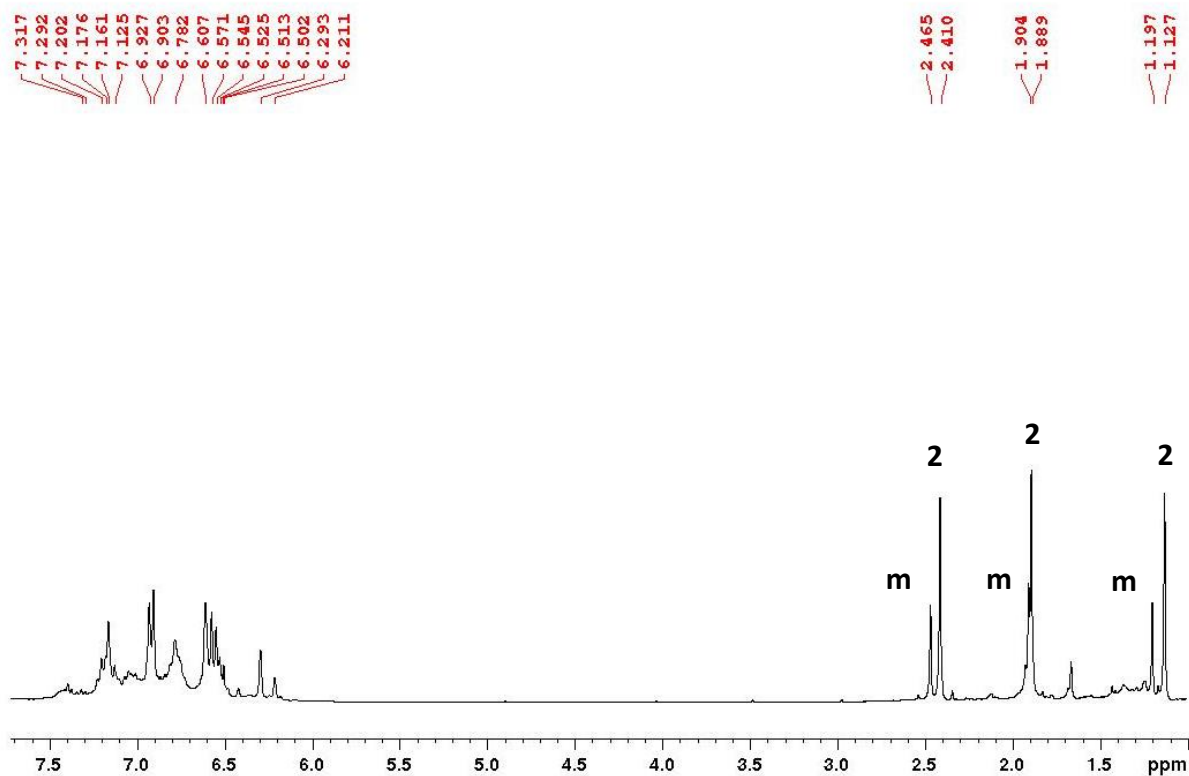


Figure S5.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of crude mixture containing of **2** and a minor product **m** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$

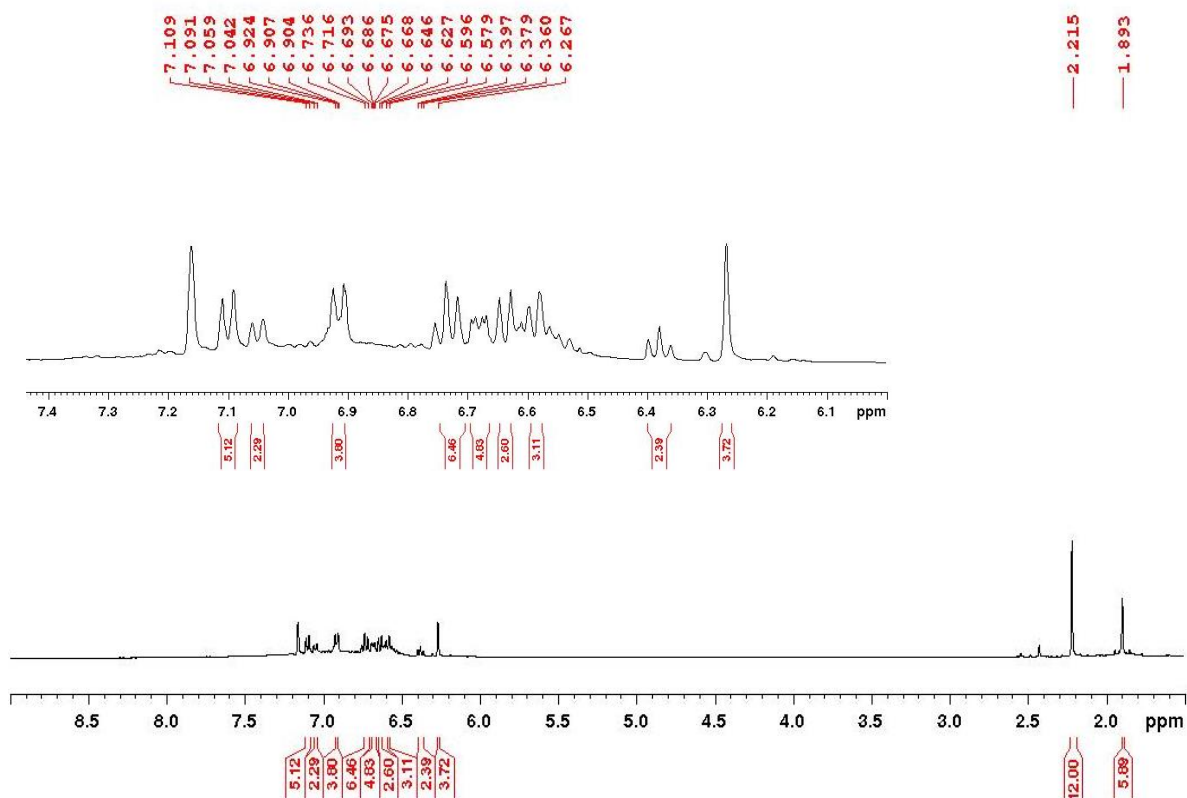


Figure S6.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3**

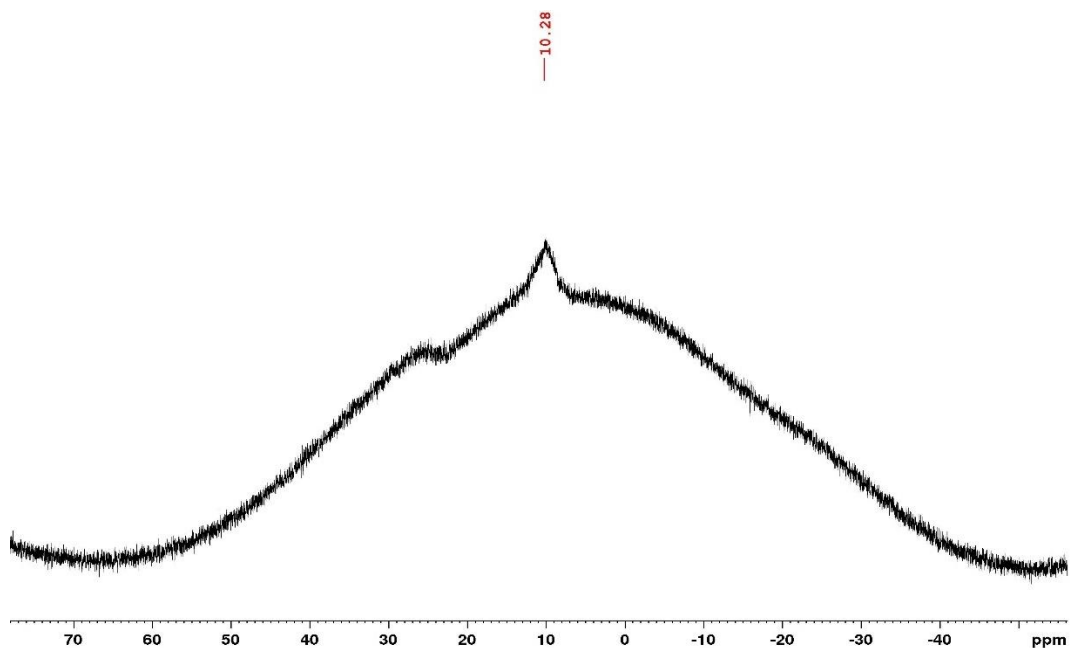


Figure S7. <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectrum of 3

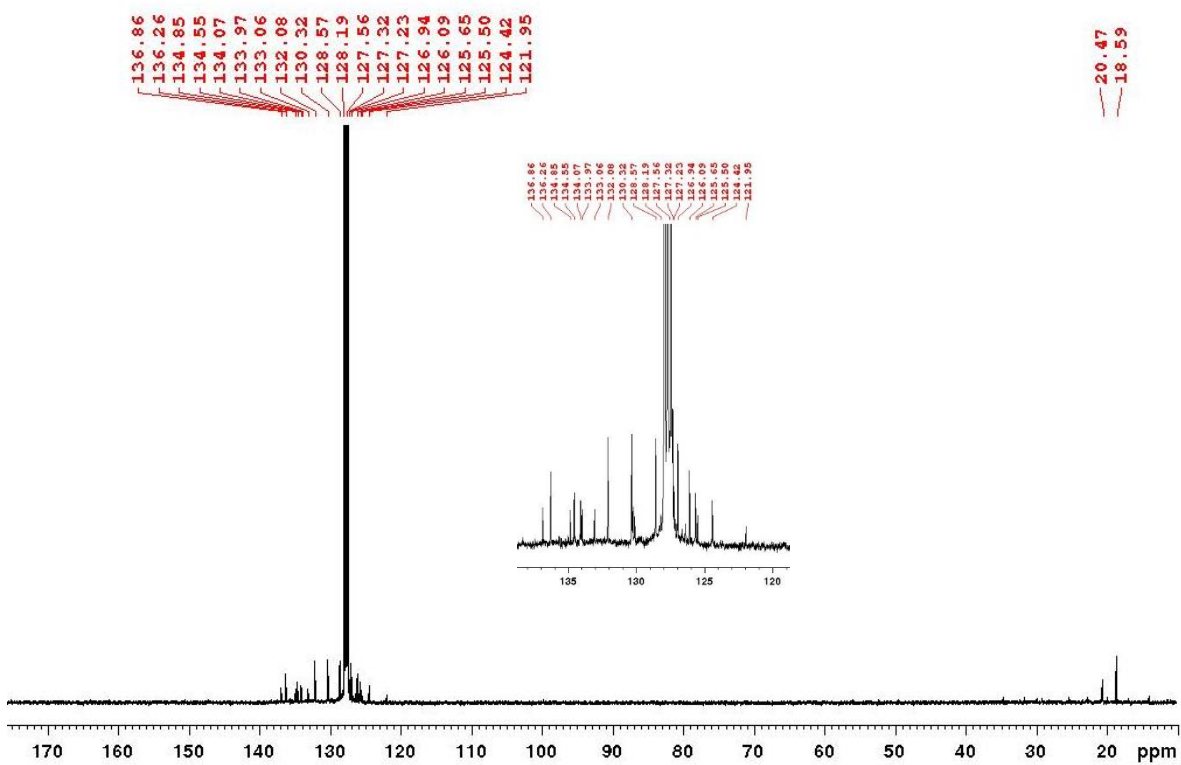


Figure S8. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 3

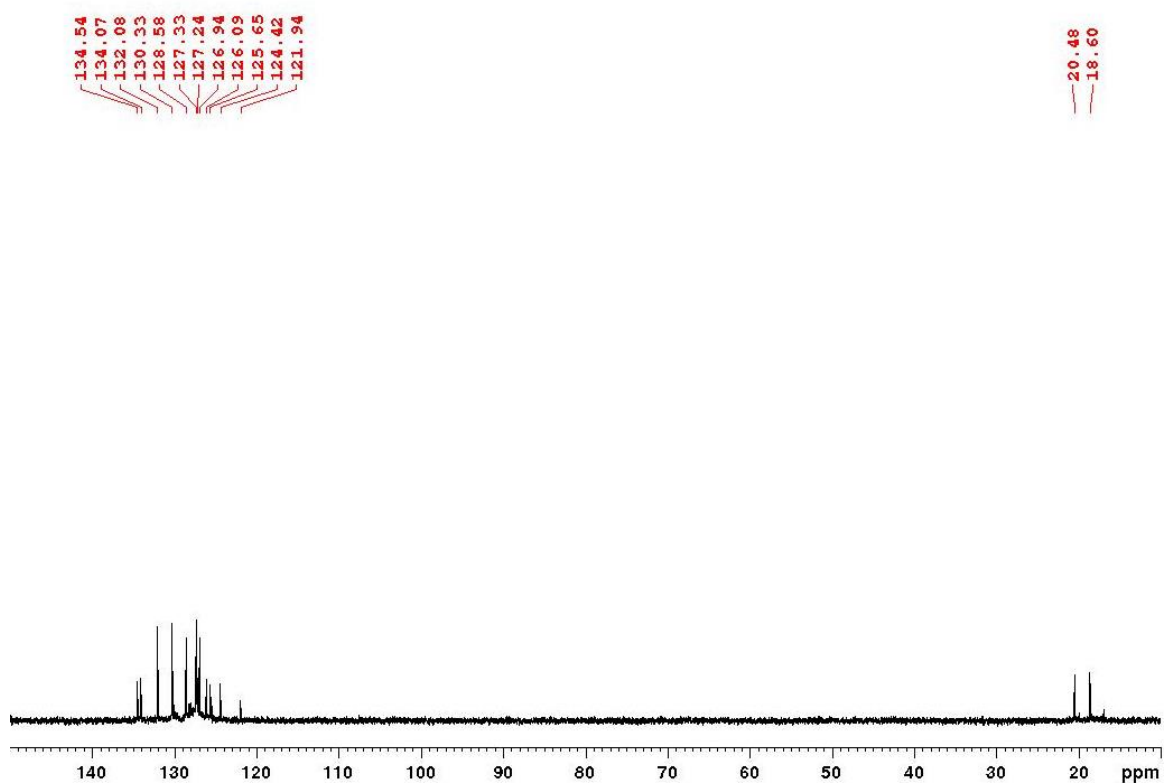


Figure S9.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DEPT 135) spectrum of **3**

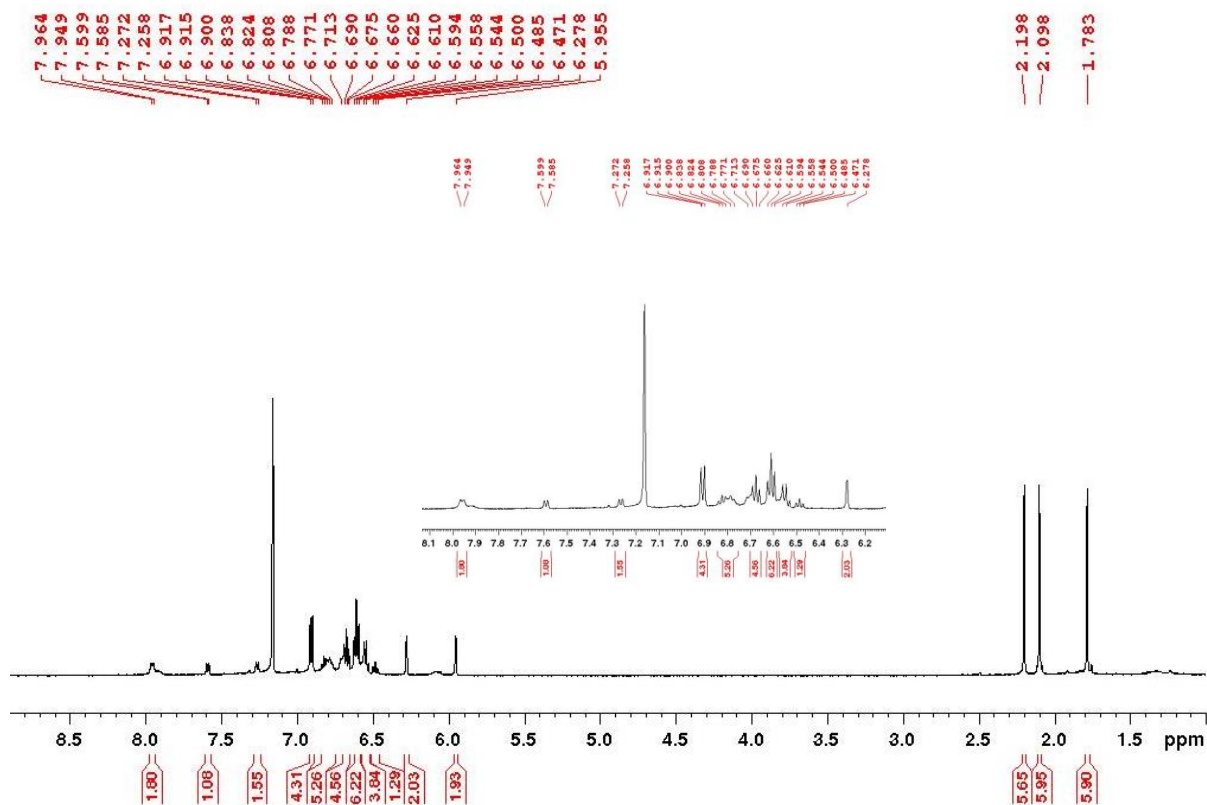


Figure S10.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **4**

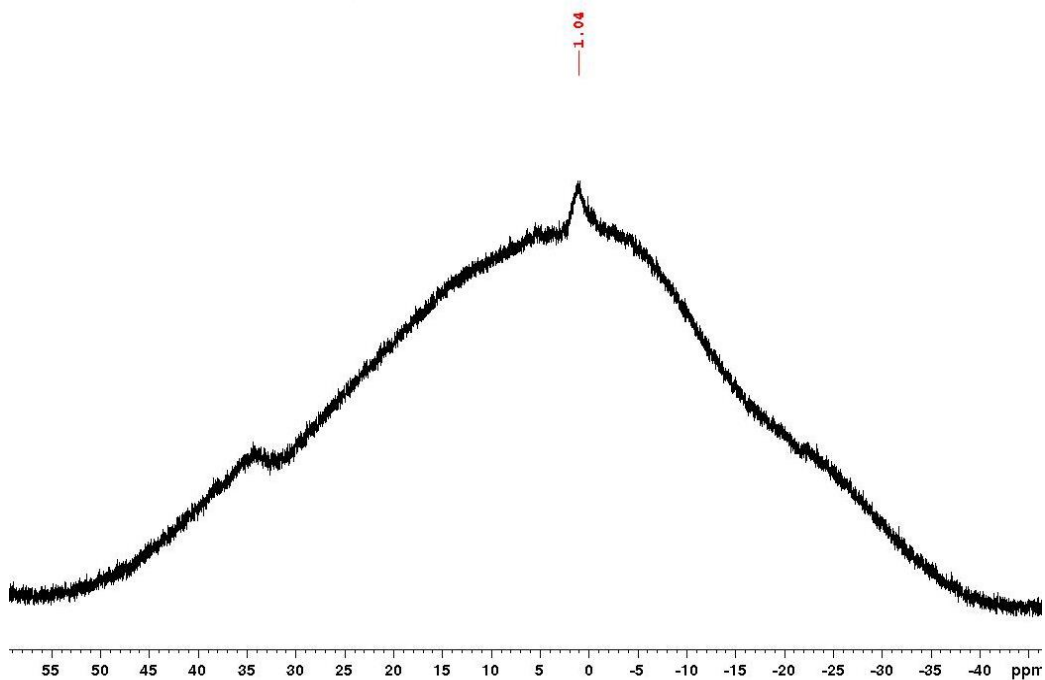


Figure S11.  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR spectrum of **4**

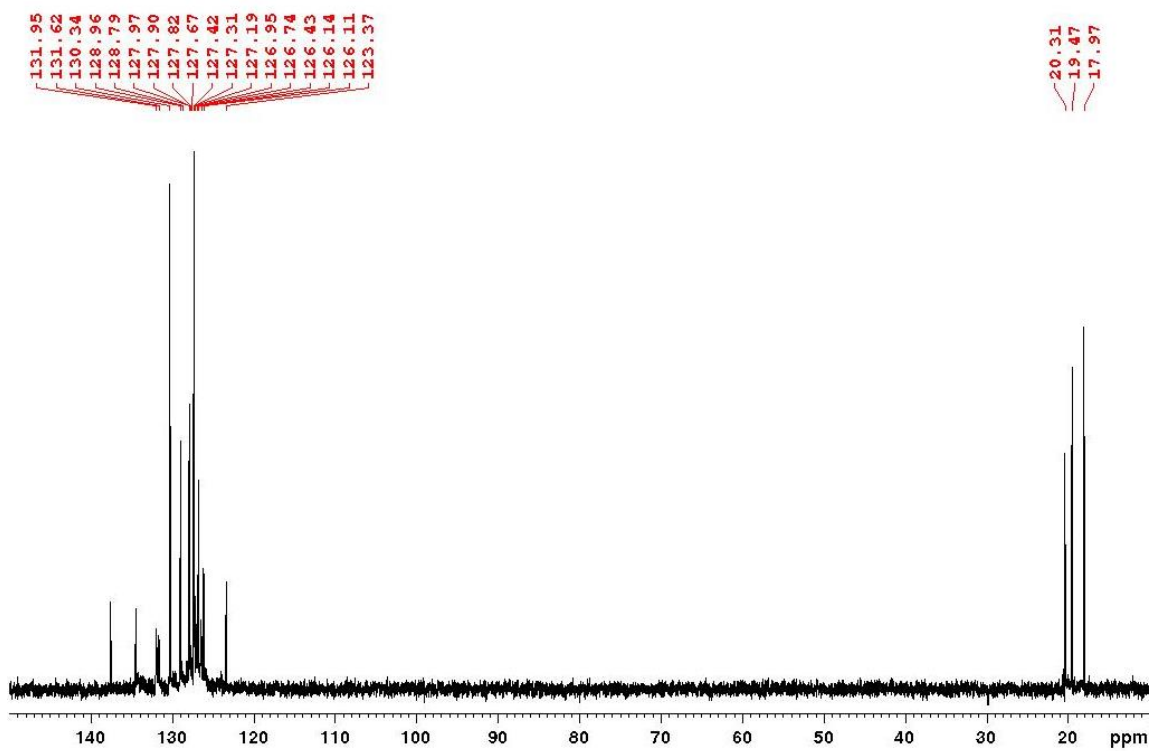


Figure S12.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **4**

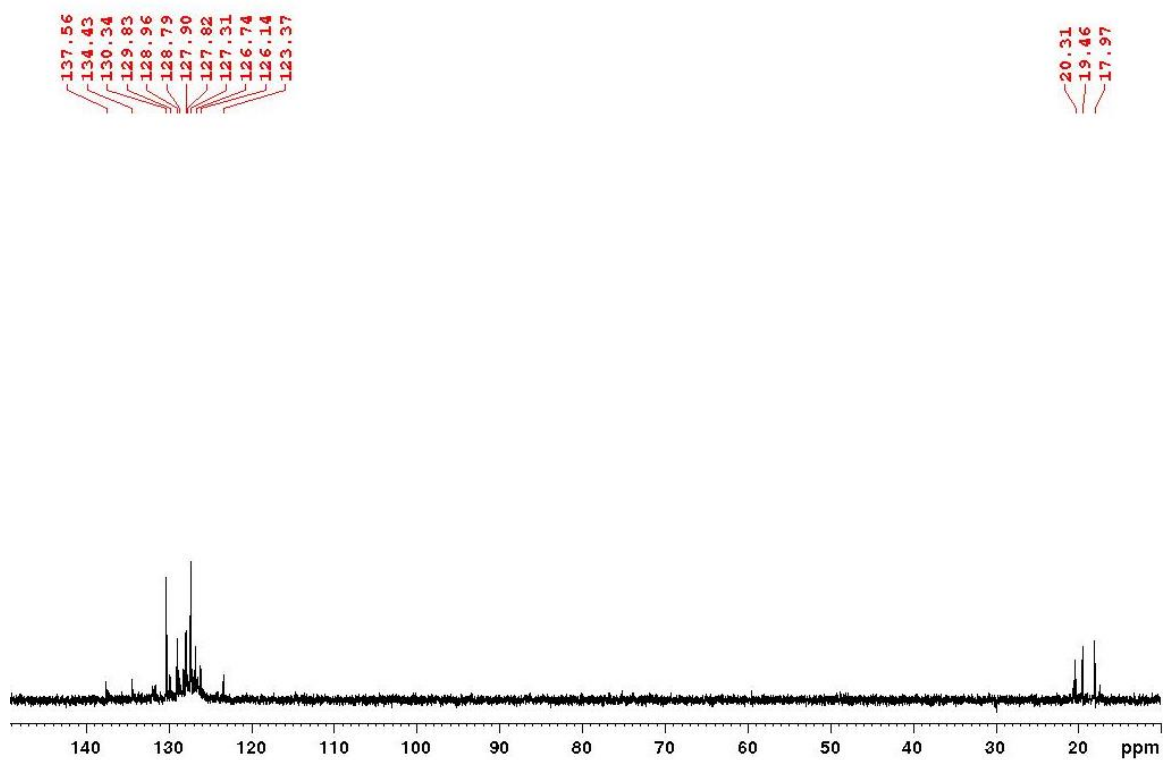


Figure S13.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DEPT 135) spectrum of **4**

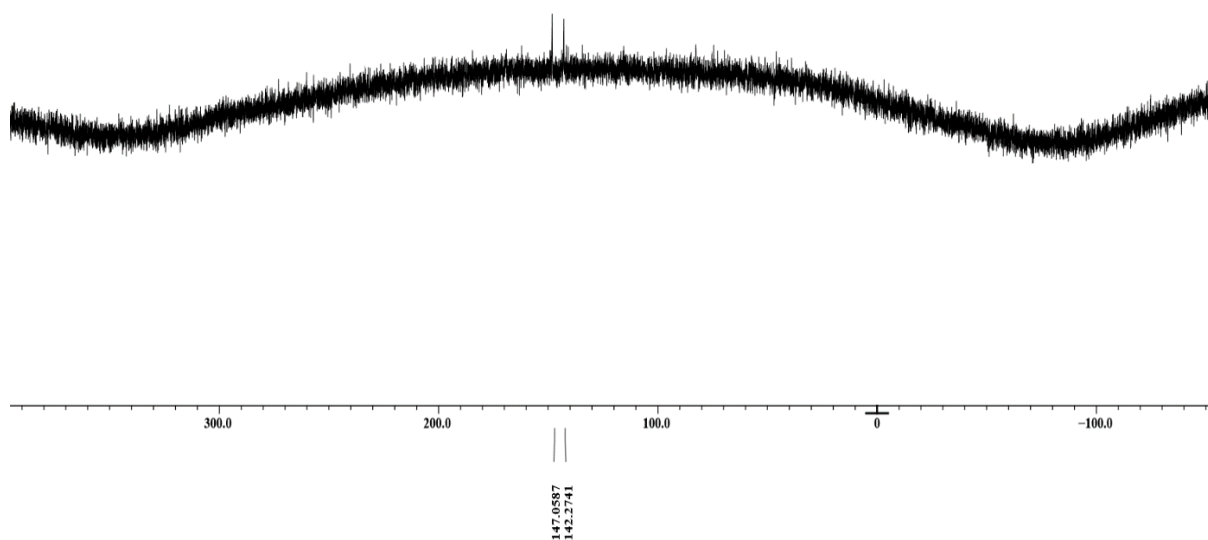
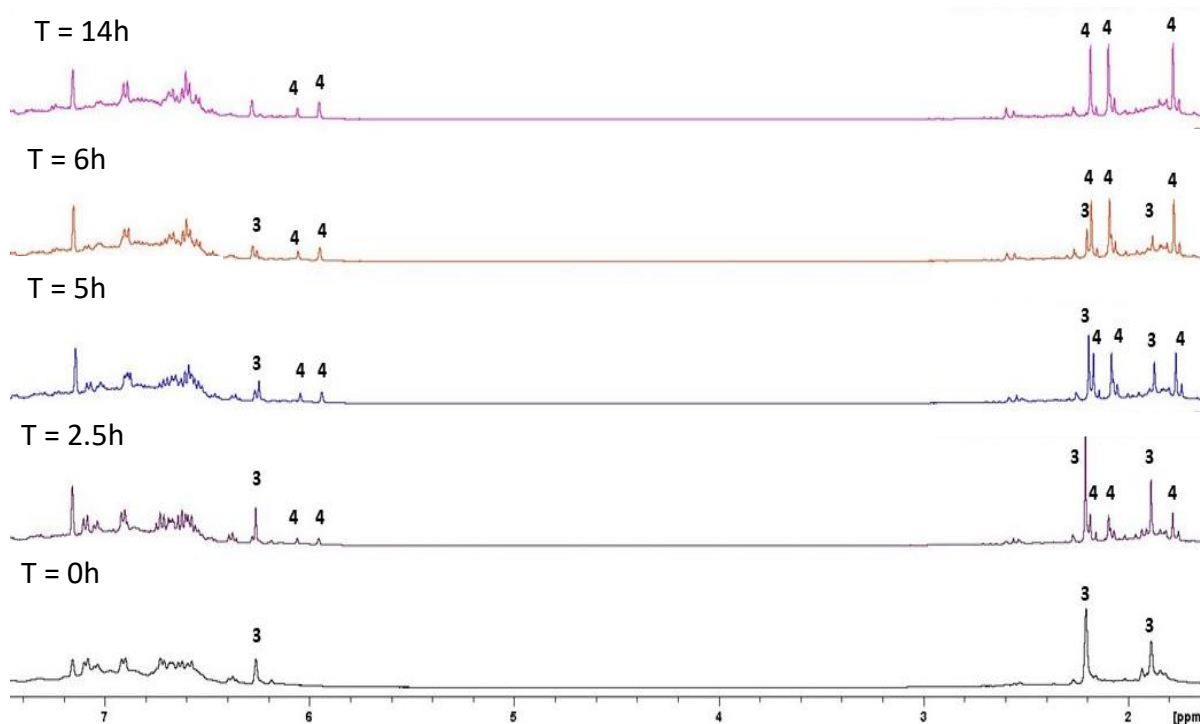
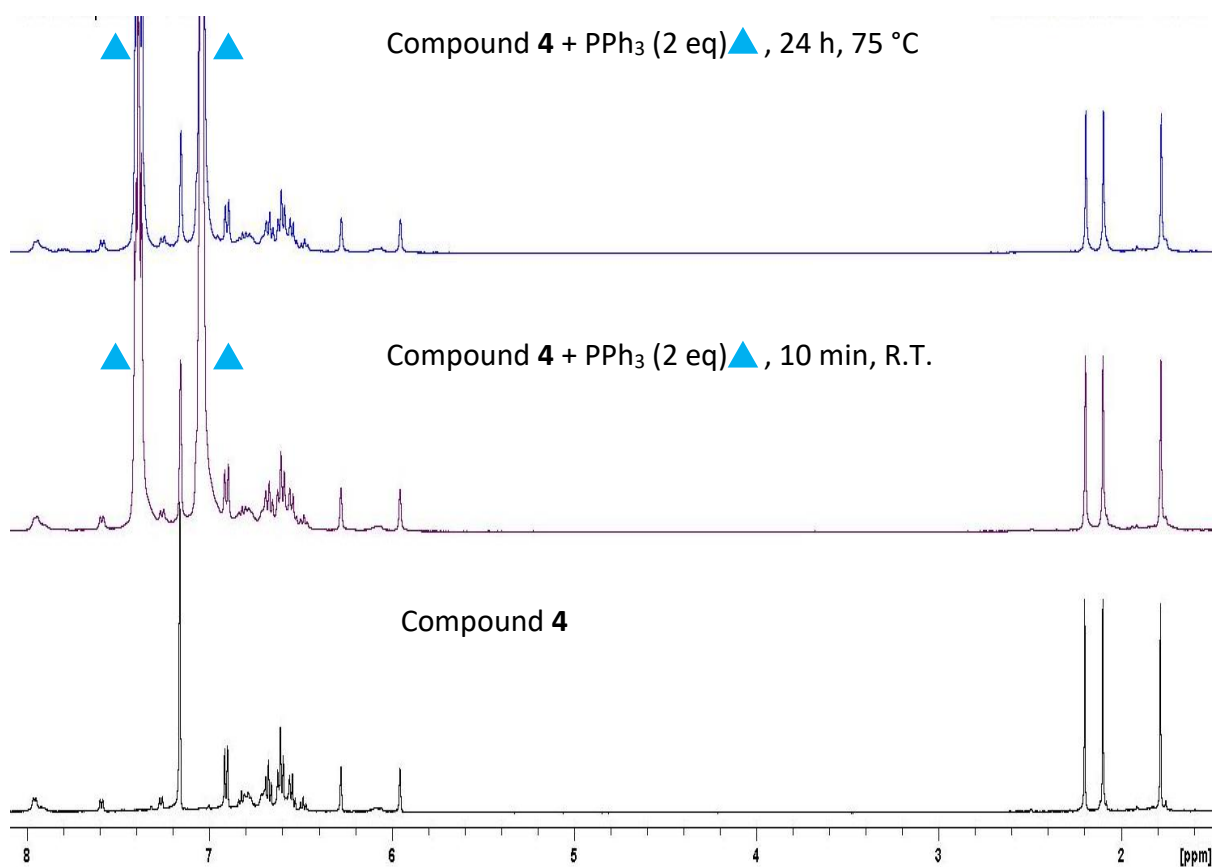


Figure S14.  $^{77}\text{Se}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **4** (\*presence of two peaks is putatively due to inequivalent selenium atoms in Se NMR time scale, as predicted by X-ray diffractometry and DFT studies: see Table S3)

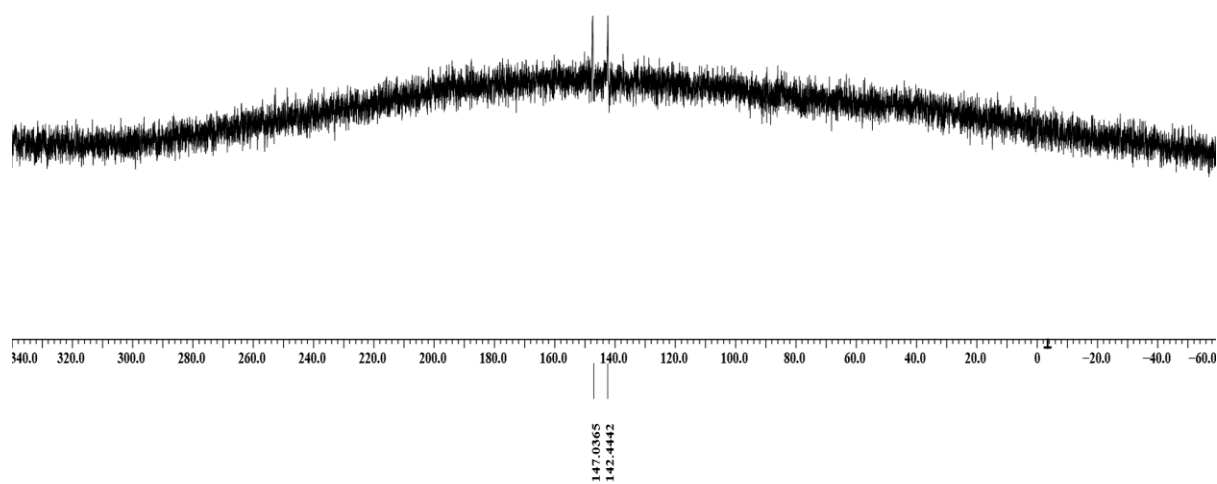




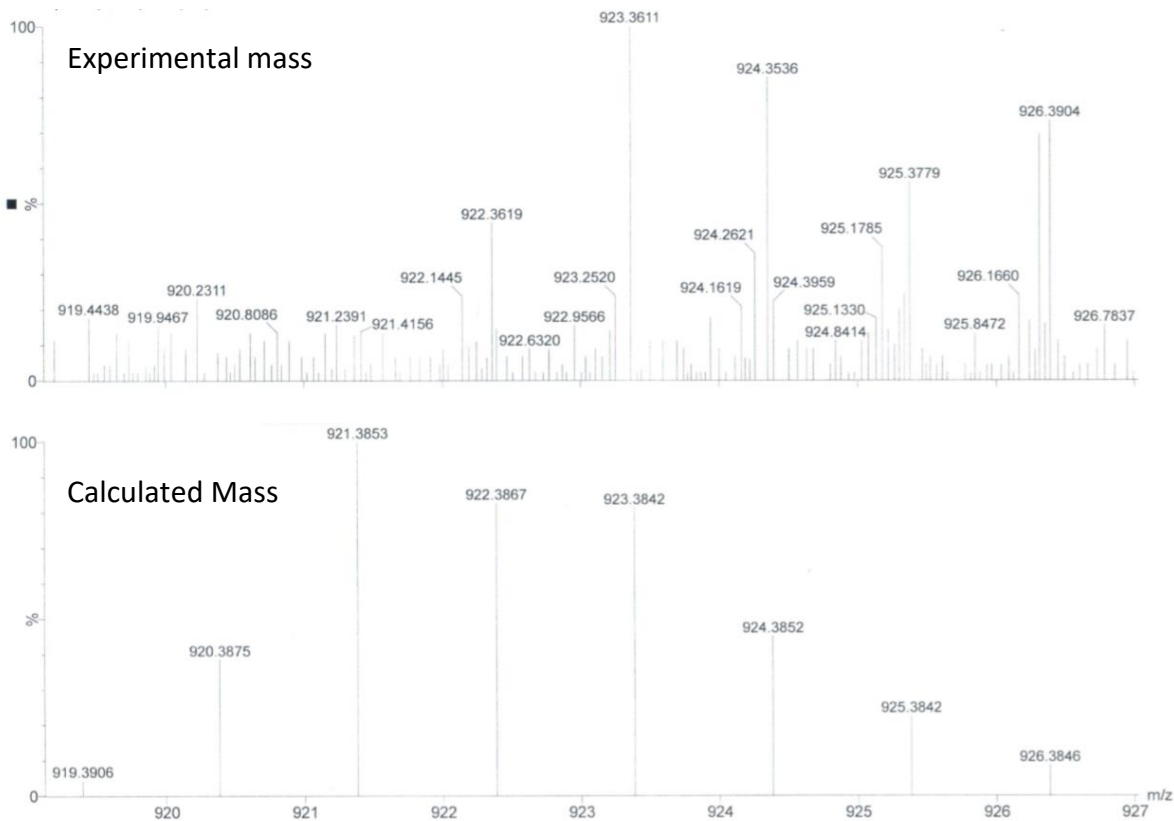
**Figure S15.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum in monitoring the formation of **4** during the reaction of **3** with Se at  $80\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .



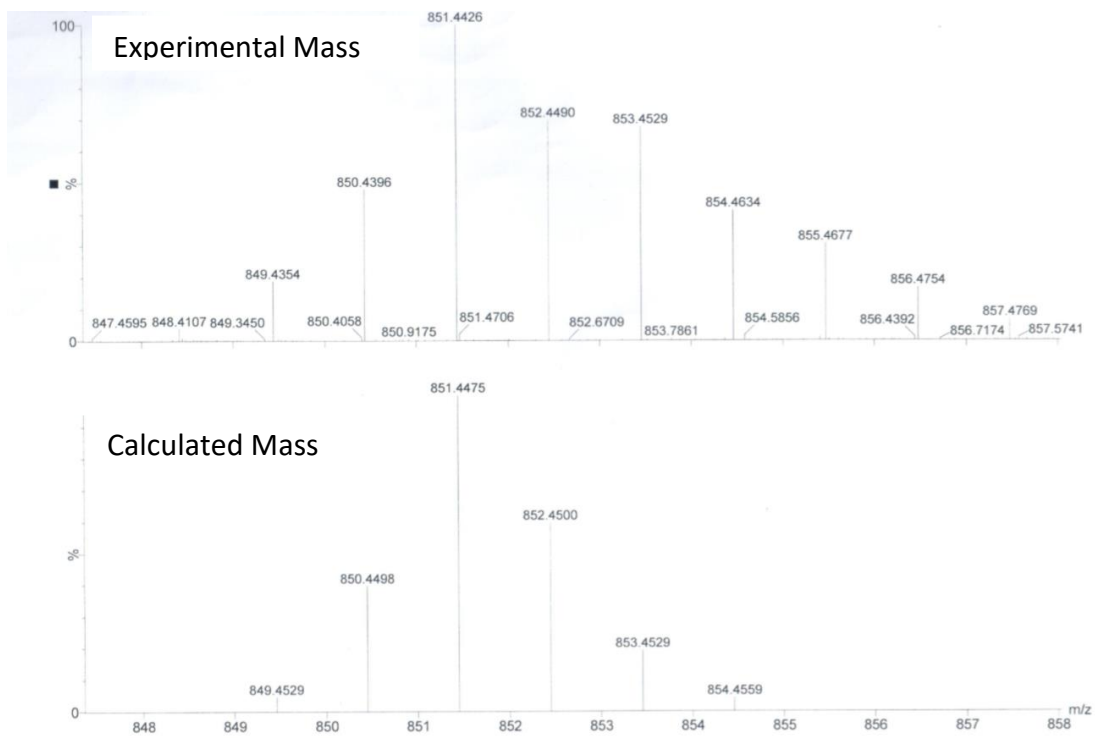
**Figure S16.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum in monitoring of reaction of **4** and  $\text{PPh}_3$  (2 eq)



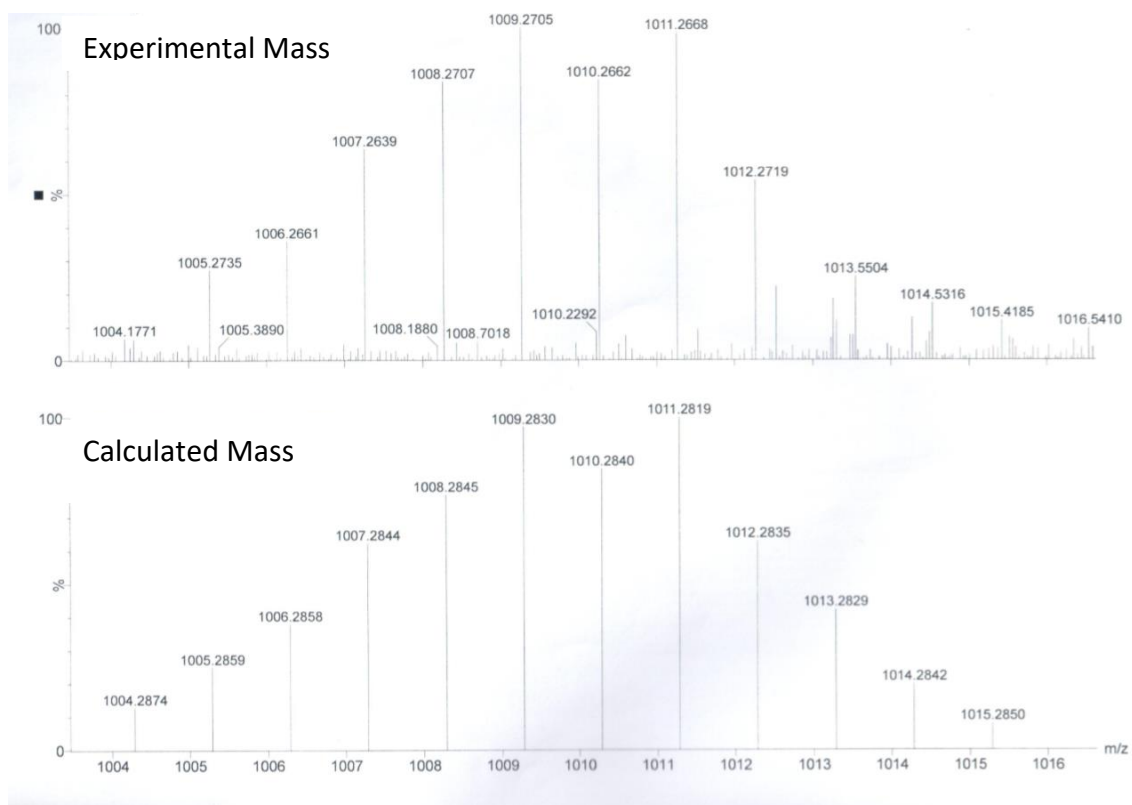
**Figure S17.**  $^{77}\text{Se}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of a mixture of **4** and  $\text{PPh}_3$  after heating at 75 °C for 24 h



**Figure S18.** Electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectra of compound **2** with isotopic distributions.



**Figure S19.** Electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectra of compound **3** with isotopic distributions.



**Figure S20.** Electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectra of compound **4** with isotopic distributions.

## 2. UV/Vis absorption spectroscopy

The UV/Vis absorption spectroscopy for compound **3** was computed with the time dependent DFT (TD-DFT) method at the B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) level.

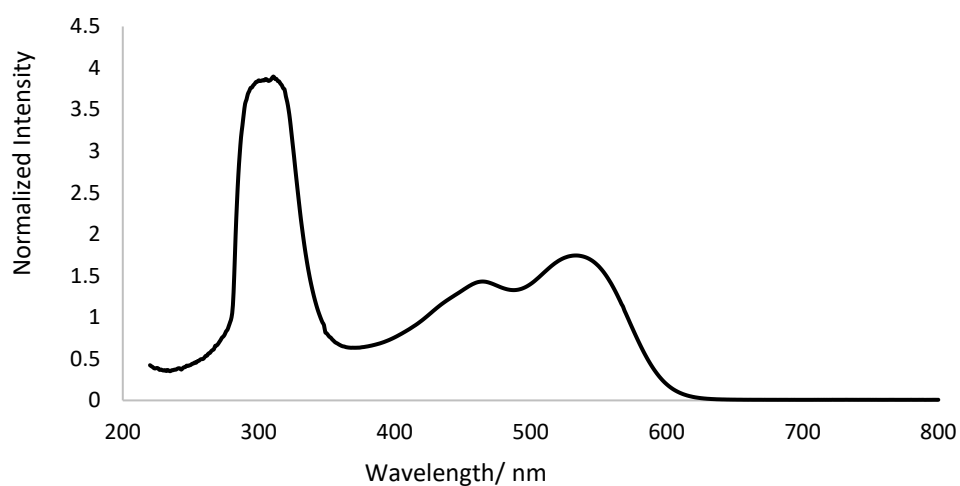


Figure S21. UV Vis absorption spectra of **3** in toluene

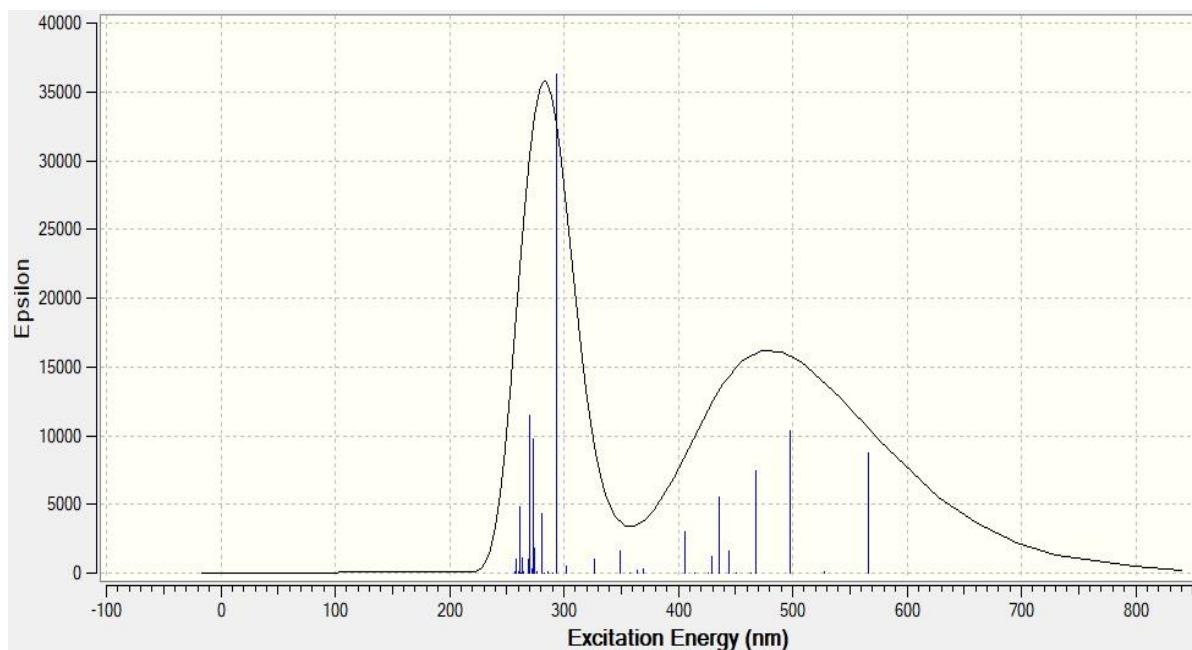


Figure S22. Calculated UV Vis absorption spectra of **3** by TD-DFT at B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) level of theory

### 3. Crystallographic data

X-ray data collection and structural refinement. Intensity data for compounds **2**, **3** and **4** were collected at 100 K using a Bruker D8 Quest diffractometer. The structure was solved by Intrinsic Phasing (SHELXTL XT-2014)<sup>[1]</sup> and refined for all data by full-matrix least squares methods on  $F^2$ .<sup>[2]</sup> All non-hydrogen atoms were subjected to anisotropic refinement. The hydrogen atoms were generated geometrically and allowed to ride in their respective parent atoms; they were assigned appropriate isotropic thermal parameters and included in the structure-factor calculations. The restraint RIGU for the whole molecule was used in the refinement of rei1167m cif. CCDC: 1902297-1902299 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. The data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallography Data Center via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif)

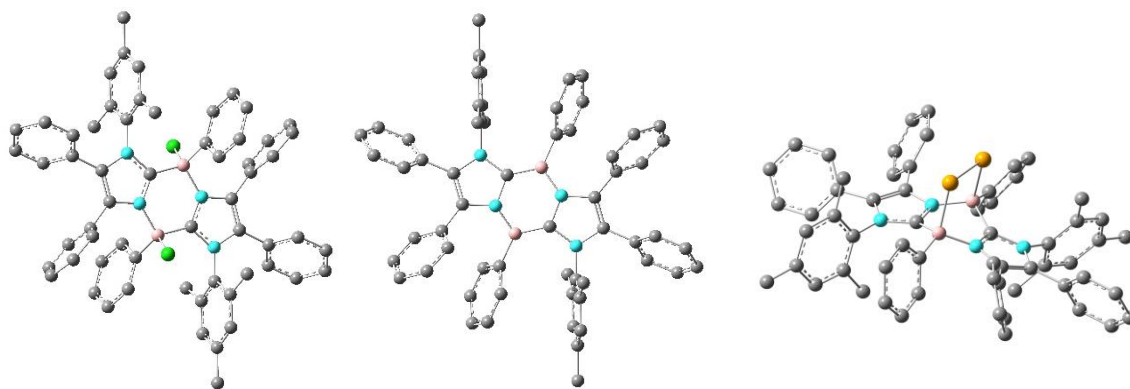
**Table S1.** Summary of Data collection and structure refinement for compounds **2,3** and **4**.

	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Formula	C <sub>66</sub> H <sub>58</sub> B <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>60</sub> H <sub>52</sub> B <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>60</sub> H <sub>52</sub> B <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub> Se <sub>2</sub>
Fw	999.68	850.67	1008.59
Cryst syst	triclinic	triclinic	triclinic
Space group	P -1	P -1	P -1
Size (mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.100 x 0.140 x 0.160	0.040 x 0.220 x 0.240	0.020 x 0.100 x 0.120
T/K	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)
<i>a</i> , Å	8.0320(2)	12.2084(6)	13.734(6)
<i>b</i> , Å	12.9483(3)	14.2682(8)	14.180(5)
<i>c</i> , Å	13.2734(3)	15.0075(8)	15.375(6)
$\alpha$ , deg	93.7410(9)	114.4228(17)	65.974(7)
$\beta$ , deg	92.4577(8)	98.0538(17)	75.771(9)
$\gamma$ , deg	104.6101(9)	90.2251(18)	62.708(8)
<i>V</i> , Å <sup>3</sup>	1330.44(5)	2351.2(2)	2423.9(17)
<i>Z</i>	1	2	2
<i>d</i> calcd g.cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.248	1.202	2423.9(17)
$\mu$ , mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.169	0.069	1.571
Refl collected	55990	26578	18578
T <sub>max</sub> /T <sub>min</sub>	0.9830/0.9740	0.9970/0.984	0.9690/0.8340
N <sub>measd</sub>	8530	10210	8527
[R int]	0.0564	0.1030	0.1418
R [ <i>I</i> >2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )]	0.0468	0.0665	0.0959
Rw [ <i>I</i> >2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )]	0.0702	0.1403	0.2213
GOF	1.026	1.035	1.026
Largest diff peak/hole[e·Å <sup>-3</sup> ]	0.363/-0.260	0.258/-0.301	0.812/-0.873

#### 4. Computational details

Gaussian 09E was used for the density functional theory (DFT) calculations.<sup>3</sup> Geometry optimization and frequency calculations of compounds **2**, **3** and **4** were performed at the B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) level of theory. NBO calculations for compounds **2**, **3** and **4** were performed at B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) level.<sup>4</sup> NMR shielding tensors for compounds **2**, **3** and **4** were computed with the Gauge-Independent Atomic Orbital (GIAO) method at the B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) level. The calculated boron chemical shifts were derived with reference to that of BF<sub>3</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O.





**Figure S23.** The optimized structures of **2** (left), **3** (center) and **4** (right).

**Table S2.** Selected Bond Lengths and Wiberg Bond Index (WBI) for the optimized geometries of compound **3**.

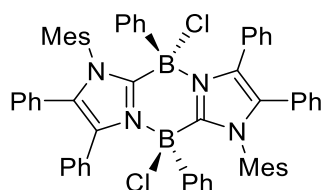
Bond (Å)	X-ray data	Optimized structure	WBI Value
B1-N1	1.457(4)	1.4574	0.9144
B1-C1	1.496(4)	1.4960	1.1868
B2-N3	1.462(4)	1.4624	0.9144
B2-C2	1.494(4)	1.4942	1.1867
N3-C1	1.407(3)	1.4073	1.1223
N1-C2	1.406(3)	1.4058	1.1223

**Table S3.** Selected Bond Lengths and Wilberg Bond Index (WBI) for the optimized geometries of compound **4**.

Bond (Å)	X-ray data	Optimized structure	WBI Value
B1-N3	1.577(13)	1.5775	0.6503
B1-C2	1.588(15)	1.5876	0.8489
B2-N1	1.566(13)	1.5656	0.6503
B2-C1	1.600(15)	1.6004	0.8489
N1-C2	1.334(11)	1.3342	1.2873
N3-C1	1.357(12)	1.3573	1.2873
B1-Se1	2.114(12)	2.1139	0.8674
B2-Se2	2.114(13)	2.1144	0.8674
Se1-Se2	2.3543(18)	2.3543	0.5955

**Table S4:** Optimized structures of a) **2** b) **3** and c) **4**. (atom, x-, y-, z- positions in Å).

a) **2**



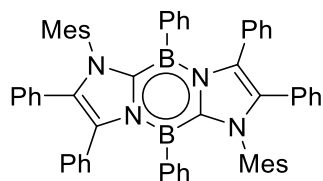
C	-2.44374100	6.04444400	-1.14257100
H	-2.53937300	7.10123400	-1.36643100
H	-2.27895100	6.34159600	0.98311400
C	-2.46303300	5.10678900	-2.17278600
C	-2.29998500	5.61883700	0.17545600
C	-2.34090500	3.75110600	-1.88486500
H	-2.57250300	5.42964300	-3.20195900
C	-2.17546000	4.26243100	0.46350600
C	-2.19263400	3.31391200	-0.56372700
H	-2.34943500	3.02319400	-2.68651400
H	-2.04818500	3.93893900	1.48902200
C	-2.16885400	1.85585100	-0.27363600
C	-3.27018500	1.05869600	-0.14790400
N	-1.04265500	1.02883000	-0.16347300
C	-4.69902700	1.44113300	-0.16496800
N	-2.80352400	-0.24927700	0.02528400
B	0.45315700	1.52314600	-0.21161300
C	-1.43873400	-0.24310500	0.02002600
C	-5.19107400	2.33126900	0.79894300
C	-5.57717900	0.96409300	-1.14613900
C	-3.68489400	-1.37413600	0.27035900
C	1.43873500	0.24313000	-0.02002200
C	0.67095800	2.65435200	0.92349400
Cl	0.73421500	2.17858500	-1.99610100
B	-0.45315600	-1.52312000	0.21161900

H	-4.52195400	2.71397900	1.55922700
C	-6.52539700	2.72742200	0.78628300
C	-6.91156800	1.35832500	-1.15607800
H	-5.21193600	0.29686400	-1.91485100
C	-4.11958200	-2.16421500	-0.79951200
C	-4.15258100	-1.58438200	1.58099300
N	1.04265000	-1.02880100	0.16348600
N	2.80352600	0.24928400	-0.02529700
C	0.27329400	2.36775500	2.24151500
C	1.20859500	3.92338400	0.67877800
H	2.74086800	0.39332100	-2.71164200
H	1.51820700	4.18006100	-0.32702200
C	-0.67092900	-2.65433200	-0.92348600
Cl	-0.73421000	-2.17856100	1.99610600
H	-6.88708300	3.41781500	1.53983800
C	-7.39084700	2.23917400	-0.18927200
H	-7.57585500	0.98059200	-1.92511800
C	-3.72243300	-1.91972500	-2.23414000
C	-4.98922900	-3.22412700	-0.51939400
C	-5.01285100	-2.65578700	1.80343200
C	-3.79640200	-0.66175000	2.71895500
C	2.16883600	-1.85582900	0.27368500
C	3.27017400	-1.05869400	0.14788600
C	3.68490900	1.37412500	-0.27039800
H	-0.14221200	1.39160400	2.47663500
C	0.38944000	3.30722500	3.26409900
C	1.33334300	4.86920500	1.69584600
C	3.79637400	0.66168400	-2.71898000
C	-0.27320900	-2.36775100	-2.24149300
C	-1.20857400	-3.92336300	-0.67877700
H	-2.74088100	-0.39344200	2.71168900
H	-1.51822500	-4.18002900	0.32701300

H	-8.43046900	2.54655300	-0.19925000
H	-3.13664800	-1.01122300	-2.36271600
H	-4.61598800	-1.84408900	-2.86176700
H	-3.12623800	-2.75098400	-2.61422100
H	-5.32497000	-3.84792000	-1.34225900
C	-5.43426700	-3.49611500	0.76942500
H	-5.36942100	-2.83427100	2.81307500
H	-4.38469400	0.25977400	2.66373600
H	-4.01425500	-1.13866100	3.67582900
C	2.19257800	-3.31387800	0.56383500
C	4.69901400	-1.44114000	0.16491900
C	4.11963600	2.16420900	0.79945400
C	4.15258400	1.58433400	-1.58104200
H	0.06962500	3.05565000	4.27010900
C	0.91999500	4.56824900	2.99224900
H	1.74584700	5.84750900	1.47205400
H	4.38471900	-0.25980900	-2.66380100
H	4.01413500	1.13860500	-3.67586800
H	0.14231200	-1.39160300	-2.47660400
C	-0.38931500	-3.30723100	-3.26407300
C	-1.33328000	-4.86919300	-1.69584100
C	-6.34377000	-4.66673200	1.05331800
C	2.34076500	-3.75103000	1.88499700
C	2.17540200	-4.26243400	-0.46336400
C	5.19105500	-2.33123500	-0.79903200
C	5.57717300	-0.96413800	1.14610200
C	3.72252500	1.91974300	2.23409700
C	4.98930200	3.22409700	0.51930300
C	5.01287800	2.65571200	-1.80351300
H	1.01098500	5.30604500	3.78244100
H	-0.06945800	-3.05566600	-4.27007200
C	-0.91988200	-4.56825100	-2.99223000

H	-1.74579400	-5.84749500	-1.47205500
H	-6.79691100	-5.05147400	0.13748100
H	-7.14783400	-4.38851000	1.73978700
H	-5.78851700	-5.48770100	1.51928100
H	2.34928200	-3.02308900	2.68662000
C	2.46283400	-5.10670700	2.17297100
C	2.29986600	-5.61883300	-0.17526000
H	2.04816500	-3.93897400	-1.48889400
H	4.52193100	-2.71391200	-1.55933000
C	6.52537900	-2.72738800	-0.78639900
C	6.91156300	-1.35837000	1.15601700
H	5.21193400	-0.29694100	1.91484400
H	3.13662800	1.01131600	2.36268500
H	4.61610000	1.84397900	2.86168100
H	3.12645800	2.75107500	2.61422100
H	5.32507000	3.84789700	1.34215300
C	5.43432600	3.49605100	-0.76952800
H	5.36944000	2.83416900	-2.81316400
H	-1.01084000	-5.30605500	-3.78241700
H	2.57224500	-5.42952900	3.20216100
C	2.44355500	-6.04439800	1.14278800
H	2.27883300	-6.34162200	-0.98289200
H	6.88706100	-3.41774800	-1.53998400
C	7.39083500	-2.23918000	0.18917100
H	7.57585500	-0.98066800	1.92506700
C	6.34385800	4.66663900	-1.05345500
H	2.53913600	-7.10118300	1.36669100
H	8.43045700	-2.54655900	0.19912900
H	6.79700700	5.05139700	-0.13762900
H	7.14791600	4.38837600	-1.73991400
H	5.78862400	5.48760600	-1.51944400

b) 3



B	-0.56492000	-1.40582300	0.10668500
B	0.56495500	1.40598200	0.10654600
C	-1.05816300	-2.86091100	0.48839300
C	-1.87079000	-3.67491000	-0.31590100
H	-2.16702600	-3.32608700	-1.29863200
C	-2.30600400	-4.92787500	0.10890900
H	-2.93106200	-5.53003700	-0.54218700
C	-1.93826900	-5.41043400	1.36291200
H	-2.27571500	-6.38623200	1.69566100
C	-1.12568400	-4.62978600	2.18198500
H	-0.82638400	-4.99530500	3.15903200
C	-0.69318100	-3.37957600	1.74494900
H	-0.05435900	-2.78943900	2.39607900
C	1.41046400	0.16602500	0.06857500
C	3.10528900	-1.34656800	-0.06299700
C	1.93136400	-2.04083400	-0.17410900
C	1.80371200	-3.46115400	-0.55837000
C	1.19286300	-3.81151500	-1.77108400
H	0.73723000	-3.03777700	-2.37879900
C	1.17628300	-5.13253700	-2.20303900
H	0.70180900	-5.38409200	-3.14525000
C	1.76942300	-6.13097900	-1.43096300
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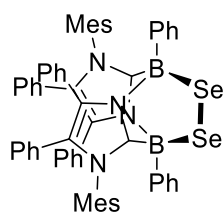
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H	5.82953200	2.81324500	-1.86391900
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C	3.97177300	0.91918400	-2.36432000
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H	4.28884400	1.58390400	-3.17022100
H	2.88966800	0.78652400	-2.43224600
C	6.81034200	4.09986200	0.33347300
H	7.39277500	4.14658400	-0.58905100
H	7.50286400	3.93937300	1.16398800
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C	1.05833900	2.86109900	0.48792300
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c) **4**



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C	1.95306700	5.46477200	-0.59940000
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C	2.23220800	4.93291900	0.65645600
H	2.79577800	5.51310400	1.37958000
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C	5.50826800	3.19578800	-1.21639800
C	5.43247400	2.65417600	0.06500600
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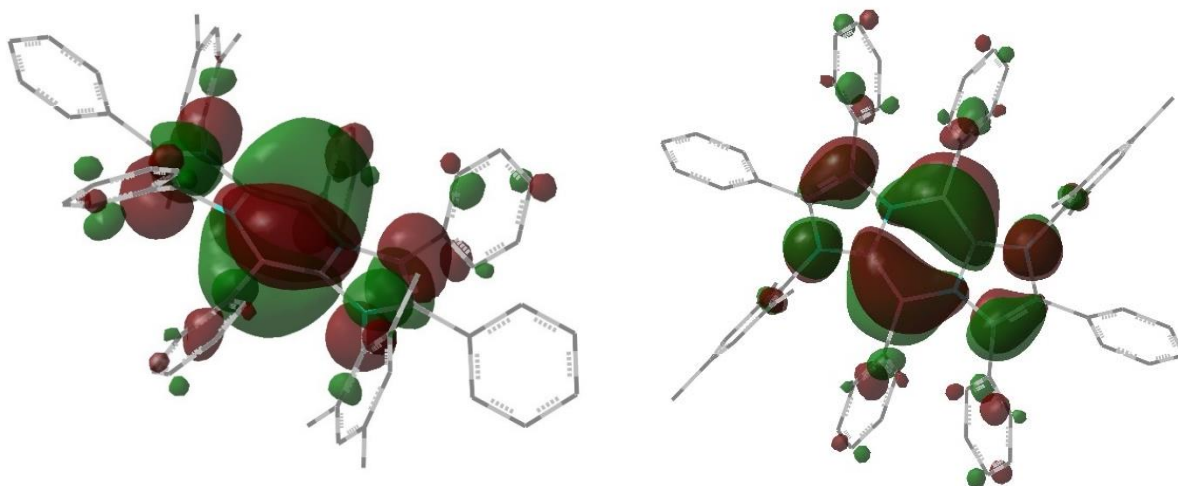
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H	6.86528200	4.22361900	-2.55102200
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C	2.35861200	-6.23165500	0.45930100
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C	-1.04332100	-2.87094200	0.09882400
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C	-1.78259500	-3.65797000	0.99336900
H	-2.01329800	-3.27520400	1.98224000
C	-1.41680200	-0.15448400	-0.04490400
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C	-6.47504300	-4.30993800	-1.53368400
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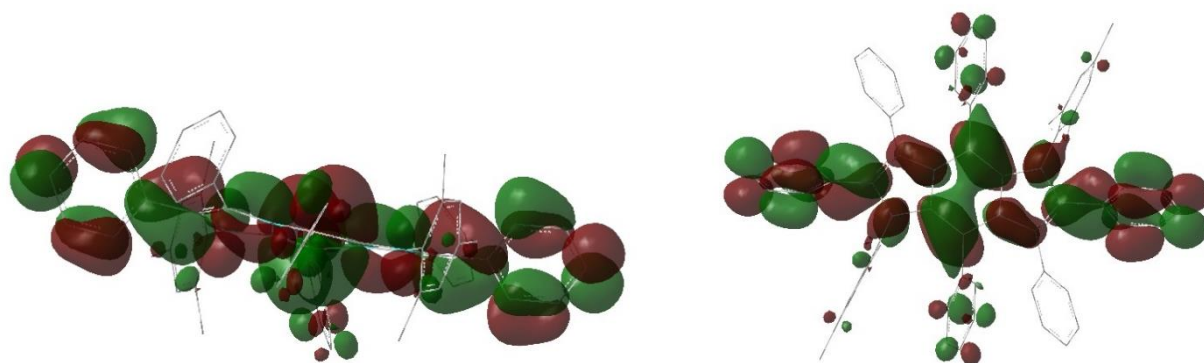
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H	-1.55846300	5.87726000	2.42615300
C	-1.71941600	4.05841500	1.30257800
H	-1.33106900	3.43745500	2.10129900
N	0.97791000	-1.12348400	0.05203600
N	2.75164400	0.10548500	-0.32920200
N	-0.97784400	1.12343900	0.05214400
N	-2.75159900	-0.10551400	-0.32907100
Se	0.52031400	1.07565100	2.60622500
Se	-0.52000700	-1.07573900	2.60624500

**Table S5.** Experimental and calculated  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR chemical shifts of compounds **2**, **3** and **4**.

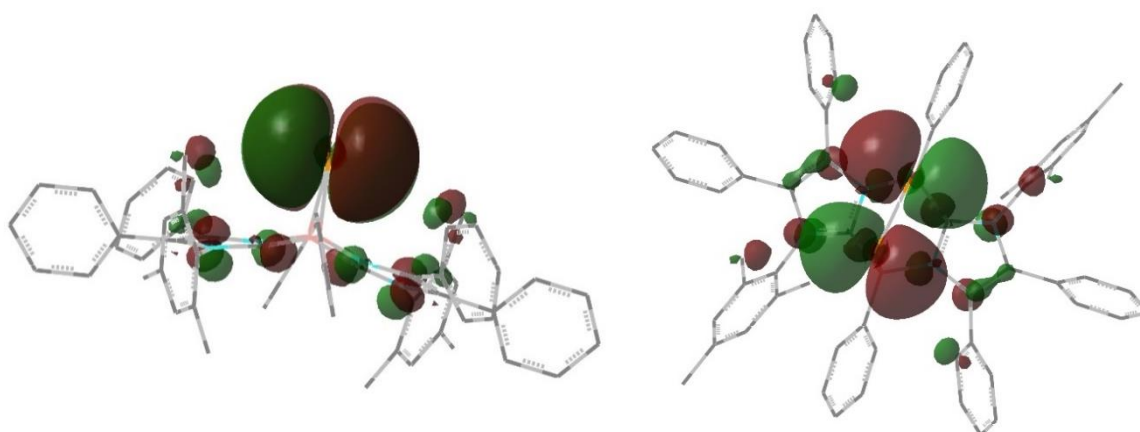
	Isotropic Values	Calculated $\delta (^{11}\text{B})[\text{ppm}]$	Experimental $\delta (^{11}\text{B})[\text{ppm}]$
<b>2</b>	104.0800	-0.6621	-0.89
	104.0803	-0.6624	
<b>3</b>	83.4751	19.9	10.28
	83.4775	19.9	
<b>4</b>	104.8418	-1.4239	1.04
	104.8409	-1.4230	
<b>BF<sub>3</sub>.Et<sub>2</sub>O</b> (Reference)	103.4179	-	-



**Figure S24.** Side view (left) and front view (right) of the HOMO of **3**.



**Figure S25.** Side view (left) and front view (right) of the LUMO of **3**.



**Figure S26.** Side view (left) and top view (right) of the HOMO of **4**.

## 5. References

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3. Gaussian 09, Revision B.01, Frisch, M. J.; Trucks, G. W.; Schlegel, H. B.; Scuseria, G. E.; Robb, M. A.; Cheeseman, J. R.; Scalmani, G.; Barone, V.; Mennucci, B.; Petersson, G. A.; Nakatsuji, H.; Caricato, M.; Li, X.; Hratchian, H. P.; Izmaylov, A. F.; Bloino, J.; Zheng, G.; Sonnenberg, J. L.; Hada, M.; Ehara, M.; Toyota, K.; Fukuda, R.; Hasegawa, J.; Ishida, M.; Nakajima, T.; Honda, Y.; Kitao, O.; Nakai, H.; Vreven, T.; Montgomery, J. A., Jr.; Peralta, J. E.; Ogliaro, F.; Bearpark, M.; Heyd, J. J.; Brothers, E.; Kudin, K. N.; Staroverov, V. N.; Kobayashi, R.; Normand, J.; Raghavachari, K.; Rendell, A.; Burant, J. C.; Iyengar, S. S.; Tomasi, J.; Cossi, M.; Rega, N.; Millam, J. M.; Klene, M.; Knox, J. E.; Cross, J. B.; Bakken, V.; Adamo, C.; Jaramillo, J.; Gomperts, R.; Stratmann, R. E.; Yazyev, O.; Austin, A. J.; Cammi, R.; Pomelli, C.; Ochterski, J. W.; Martin, R. L.; Morokuma, K.; Zakrzewski, V. G.; Voth, G. A.; Salvador, P.; Dannenberg, J. J.; Dapprich, S.; Daniels, A. D.; Farkas, Ö.; Foresman, J. B.; Ortiz, J. V.; Cioslowski, J.; Fox, D. J. Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, 2013.
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