

## Electronic Supporting Information

### Shape and size control of Ag<sub>2</sub>Se nanocrystals from single precursor [(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>3</sub>Ag<sub>2</sub>(SeC{O}Ph)<sub>2</sub>]

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**Synthesis of [(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Ag<sub>2</sub>(SeC{O}Ph)<sub>2</sub>]:** [(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Ag(NO<sub>3</sub>)]<sup>1</sup> and sodium monoseleno-carboxylate,<sup>2</sup> Na<sup>+</sup>PhC{O}Se<sup>-</sup> were prepared using methods reported in the literature. To the Na<sup>+</sup>PhC{O}Se<sup>-</sup> (3.02 mmole) solution in 15 mL of MeCN was cooled to 0 °C, an ice-cold solution of (PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Ag(NO<sub>3</sub>) (2.09 g, 3.02 mmole) in 5 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added very close to the surface using a syringe, to produce a yellow solution. This solution was stirred for 1 h and the insoluble NaCl was filtered off. The solvent from the filtrate was removed and then the yellow solid was dissolved in 10 mL of acetone, layered with ca. 20 mL of hexane and left at 5 °C overnight to obtain a yellow microcrystalline product. The crystals were filtered and washed with MeOH and a small amount of Et<sub>2</sub>O, and dried under nitrogen. Yield: 1.68 g (40 %). Elemental Anal: Calcd. for Ag<sub>2</sub>P<sub>3</sub>Se<sub>2</sub>C<sub>68</sub>H<sub>55</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (mol wt 1370.76): C, 59.58; H, 4.04 %. Found C, 60.76; H, 4.03 %. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (*d*<sub>6</sub>-Acetone) δ<sub>H</sub>: 7.72 – 7.74 (4H, d, *J* = 6 Hz, *ortho*-proton), 7.08 – 7.13 (4H, t, *J* = 15 Hz, *meta*-proton), 7.24 – 7.42 (47H, m, *para*-proton and PPh<sub>3</sub>). δ<sub>c</sub> (*d*<sub>6</sub>-Acetone): For selenobenzoate ligand: 127.12 (C<sub>2/6</sub> or C<sub>3/5</sub>), 128.61 (C<sub>2/6</sub> or C<sub>3/5</sub>), 131.05 (C<sub>4</sub>), 142.94 (C<sub>1</sub>), 201.50 (C=OSe). For PPh<sub>3</sub>: 128.15 (C<sub>3</sub>), 129.30 (C<sub>4</sub>), 133.14 (C<sub>1</sub>), 133.95 (C<sub>2</sub>). δ<sub>p</sub> (*d*<sub>6</sub>-Acetone): 5.49.

#### References:

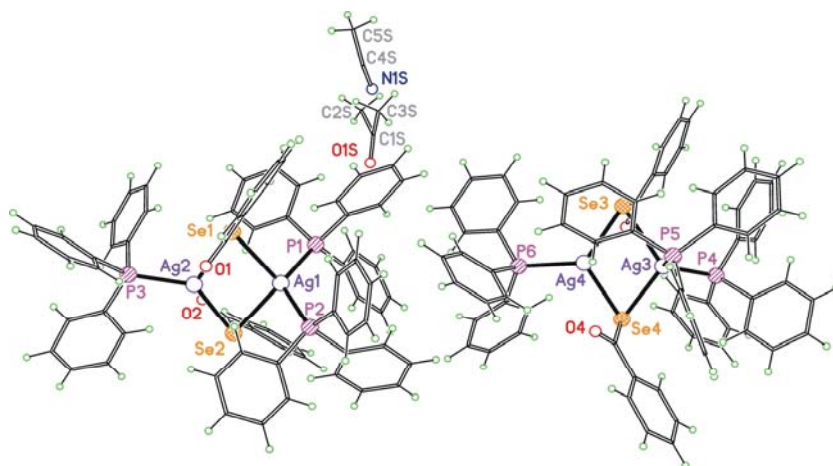
1. Bowmaker, G. A.; A. Effendy, H. J.; Healy, P. C.; Skelton, B. W.; White, A. H. *J. Chem. Soc. Dalton Trans.* 1993, 1387.
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**X-Ray Crystallography:** Intensity data for  $[(PPh_3)_3Ag_2(SeC\{O\}Ph)_2]$  were collected on a Bruker APEX diffractometer attached with a CCD detector and graphite-monochromated MoK $\alpha$  radiation using a sealed tube (2.4 kW) at 223(2) K.<sup>1</sup> Absorption corrections were made with the program SADABS<sup>2</sup> and the crystallographic package SHELXTL<sup>3</sup> was used for all calculations. **Cell Data:** Triclinic space group P $\bar{1}$ , a = 12.8425(5) Å, b = 22.6356(9) Å, c = 23.9270(9) Å  $\alpha$  = 109.3830(10)°,  $\beta$  = 96.1830(10)°,  $\gamma$  = 104.8590(10)°, Volume, 6198.5(4) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z, 4,  $D_{calc}$ , 1.495 Mg/m<sup>3</sup>,  $\mu$ , 1.928 mm<sup>-1</sup>. Final R indices [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ], R1 = 0.0533, wR2 = 0.1201, R indices (all data), R1 = 0.1067, wR2 = 0.1388 GooF on F<sup>2</sup>, 0.985. CCDC 265722 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html) (or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB21EZ, UK; fax: (+44)1223-336-033; or [deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk)).

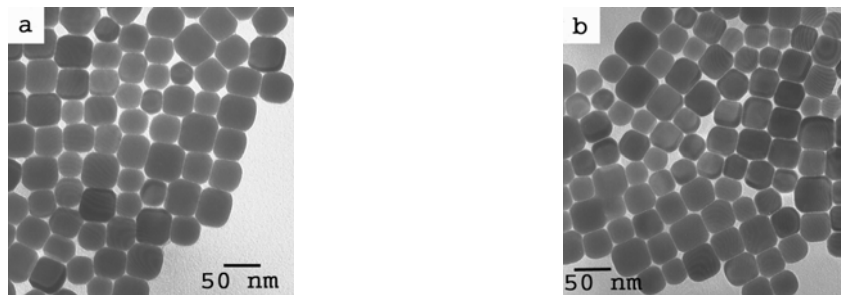
References:

1. SMART & SAINT Software Reference Manuals, Version 6.22, Bruker AXS Analytic X-ray Systems, Inc., Madison, WI, 2000.
2. G. M. Sheldrick, SADABS, Software for Empirical Absorption Correction, University of Gottingen, Germany, 2000.
3. SHELXTL Reference Manual, Version 5.1, Bruker AXS, Analytic X-Ray Systems, Inc., Madison, WI, 1997.

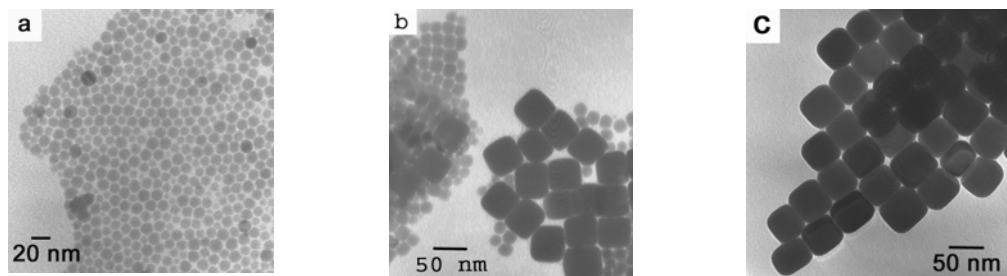
## Figures



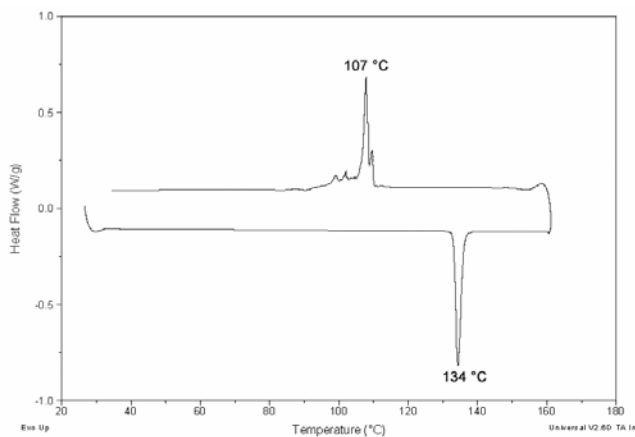
**Figure S1.** Crystal structure of  $[(PPh_3)_3Ag_2(SeC\{O\}Ph)_2]$



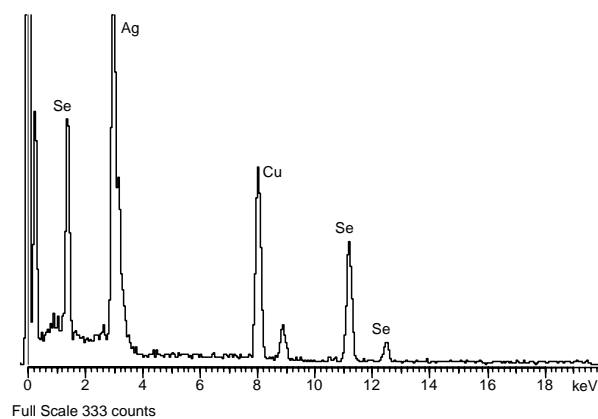
**Figure S2.** TEM images of  $\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$  nanocrystals prepared at  $165^\circ\text{C}$  for 15 min with a)  $[\text{HDA}] / [\text{precursor}] = 25$ ; b)  $[\text{HDA}] / [\text{precursor}] = 50$ .



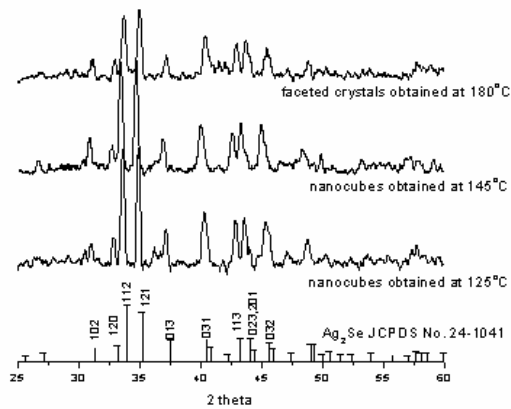
**Figure S3.** TEM images of silver selenide nanoparticles synthesized using an amine-to-precursor ratio of 50 after 15 min of heating at (a)  $95^\circ\text{C}$ , (b)  $125^\circ\text{C}$  and (c)  $145^\circ\text{C}$ .



**Figure S4.** DSC curve of the prepared  $\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$  nanoparticles.



**Figure S5.** Energy-dispersive X-ray spectrum of Silver Selenide nanocubes prepared at 145 °C (amine-to-precursor ratio = 25). The Cu peak is from the Cu support grid.



**Figure S6.** X-ray powder diffraction patterns obtained at room temperature from  $\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$  nanoparticles synthesized at different temperatures.