

Supporting Information for

Di-lacunary $[\text{In}_6\text{S}_{15}]^{12-}$ cluster: the building block of a highly negatively charged framework for superior Sr^{2+} adsorption capacities

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1. Materials and General Methods.

All reagents and solvents employed were commercially available and were used without further purification. Elemental analysis on H, C and N were performed on an Elementar Vario EL cube instrument. Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were collected in the angular range of $2\theta = 5\text{--}90^\circ$ on the Rigaku XtaLab PRO single-crystal X-ray diffractometer using the powder tool (Cu- $K\alpha$ radiation, $\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}$). Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and Energy-dispersive spectroscopy (EDS) were performed on a FEI Quanta FEG 250 scanning electron microscope. FTIR spectra (KBr pellets) were measured on a PerkinElmer Frontier Mid-IR FTIR spectrometer. Solid-state UV/vis reflectance spectra were performed in the wavelength range of 200–2000 nm using a PerkinElmer Lambda 750 UV/vis spectrophotometer, and a BaSO₄ plate was used as a standard (100% reflectance). The absorption $F(R)$ data were calculated from reflectance spectra by using the Kubelka-Munk function: $F(R) = (1-R)^2/2R$, where R is the reflectance.^[1] ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of the compound dissolved in mixed HCl (1 M)/D₂O were recorded on a Bruker Avance III 400 instrument using 5 mm tubes at room temperature. The concentrations of metal ions in the process of ion exchange were measured by a ThermoFisher iCAP RQ inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICP-MS). X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was performed on a Kratos Axis Ultra DLD X-ray photoelectron spectrometer. Elemental analysis (H, C, and N) were performed on an Elementar Vario EL cube instrument. **InS-1** was irradiated at 1.2 kGy/h for a dose of 100 kGy in the ⁶⁰Co γ irradiation experiment and at 20 kGy/h for two different doses of 100 and 200 kGy in the β irradiation experiment. β irradiation was conducted using electron beams (10 MeV) that were provided by an electron accelerator located in CGN Dasheng Electron Accelerator Co., Ltd., in Jiangsu Province, China.

2. Synthesis.

[CH₃CH₂NH₃]₆In₆S₁₂ (**InS-1**). A mixture of indium(III) chloride (0.111 g, 0.5 mmol), trithiocyanuric acid (0.221 g, 1.2 mmol), 2.5 mL ethylamine ethanol solution (30~35%) and 1 mL ethanol was sealed in a stainless steel reactor with a 20 mL Teflon liner and heated at 160 °C for 4 days. After cooling to room temperature by natural ventilation, the product was washed with distilled water and then dried in the air. A 0.0521 g portion of pure plate-like colorless crystals of **InS-1** were collected in a yield of 46.1 % based on In. Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₄₈In₆N₆S₁₂ (1350.20): C, 10.67; H, 3.58; N, 6.22. Found: C, 9.48; H, 3.39; N, 5.93.

3. Crystallography

Indexing and data collection of one **InS-1** single crystal was performed on a Rigaku XtaLab PRO diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mo $K\alpha$ radiation (λ

= 0.71073 Å) at 293 K. The absorption corrections were applied using a multi-scan technique. The In and S atoms in the structure were solved by a direct method using SHELXS-97, and successive Fourier syntheses (SHELXL2014) revealed the remaining atoms.^[2] Refinements were conducted by full matrix least squares against $|F|^2$ using all data. All of the In, S, C and N atoms were refined by anisotropic displacement parameters. The hydrogen atoms around C and N atoms were obtained with idealized geometries. SQUEEZE was used to remove the contributions of disordered ethylammonium cations. The relevant crystallographic data and structure refinement details are shown in Table S1.

4. Ion-Exchange Experiments

A typical ion exchange experiment was conducted in a batch method at a V/m ratio of 1000 mL g⁻¹ in a covered 20 mL vial. A quantity of 20 mg of **InS-1** was added to 20 mL of SrCl₂·6H₂O aqueous solution with predetermined Sr²⁺ concentrations, and the mixture was kept at room temperature with constant stirring for 24 h to reach the adsorption equilibrium. Then the exchanger was isolated by filtration (through filtration paper, Whatman 102) and washed several times with deionized water and dried in the air. Powder XRD, XPS, FTIR, UV/vis, EDS and elemental mapping measurements were performed on the solid sample obtained from 0.1 M SrCl₂·6H₂O solution (i.e. **InS-1Sr**). The filtered solutions were diluted by 2% HNO₃ into a suitable scope (below 150 ppb for metal ions) before the concentration of Sr²⁺ was determined using ICP-MS.

The Sr²⁺ ion exchange kinetics studies were conducted for various contact time (0-2880 min) in the solution containing 5.68 ppm Sr²⁺. The ion exchange isotherms were studied in solutions with initial concentrations of Sr²⁺ ranging from 2 to 658 ppm for 24 h contact time.

The individual Sr²⁺ ion exchange experiments at different pH and salt concentrations were carried out as follows. The required pH values (range from 1 to 14) were achieved by diluting the solution of Sr²⁺ (600 ppm) with HCl and NaOH solution to 5.39-5.84 ppm. The experiments were carried out for 24 h contact time, and the pH values of the solutions after ion exchange process were also measured. The effects of coexisting cations were determined by dissolving required amount of NaCl, KCl, MgCl₂, CaCl₂ in the solution of Sr²⁺ (5.30-5.68 ppm), and these experiments were conducted at room temperature for 24 h contact time.

The Sr²⁺-exchanged product with saturated adsorption, i.e. **InS-1Sr**, was used in the elution experiment. The **InS-1Sr** (20 mg) sample was soaked in 20 mL of 0.5 M KCl solution with constant stirring for 24 h. Then the solid product (**InS-1K**) was separated by filtration (through filtration paper, Whatman 102) and washed several times with deionized water and dried in air. The product was checked by powder XRD, EDS and elemental mapping.

5. Equations for ion exchange analysis:

(1) Pseudo-second-order kinetics model:

$$\frac{t}{q_t} = \frac{1}{k_2 q_e^2} + \frac{t}{q_e} \quad (1)$$

Here, k_2 ($\text{g mg}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$) is the pseudo-second-order rate constant of the kinetics model, and the q_t and q_e (mg g^{-1}) represents the mass of a metal ion adsorbed per unit weight of adsorbent at time t (min) and at equilibrium.

(2) The amount of target ions adsorbed on ion exchangers at equilibrium (q , mg g^{-1}):

$$q = \frac{(C_0 - C_e)V}{m} \quad (2)$$

Here, C_0 (ppm) and C_e (ppm) are the initial and equilibrium concentrations of Sr^{2+} ion, V (mL) is the volume of the test solution, and m (g) is the mass of ion exchanger.

(3) Langmuir-Freundlich isotherm model^[3]:

$$q = q_m \frac{(bC_e)^{1/n}}{1 + (bC_e)^{1/n}} \quad (3)$$

Here, b (L mg^{-1}) is the Langmuir constant, q_m (mg g^{-1}) is the maximum ion exchange capacity, and n is a parameter characterizing the system heterogeneity.

(4) Distribution coefficient K_d (mL g^{-1}):

$$K_d = \frac{V(C_0 - C_f)}{m C_f} \quad (4)$$

Here, V (mL) is the volume of the test solution, and m (g) is the mass of ion exchanger, C_0 and C_f (ppm) are the initial and final concentration of the ion.

6. Tables

Table S1. Crystal data for **InS-1**.

Compound	InS-1
Empirical formula	$C_{12}H_{48}In_6N_6S_{12}$
Formula weight	1350.20
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/n$
T/K	293(2)
$\lambda/\text{\AA}$	1.54178
$a/\text{\AA}$	9.7420(2)
$b/\text{\AA}$	14.4225(3)
$c/\text{\AA}$	28.1311(5)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90
$\beta/^\circ$	93.409(2)
$\gamma/^\circ$	90
$V/\text{\AA}^3$	3945.54(14)
Z	4
$D_c/\text{Mg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$	2.273
μ/mm^{-1}	33.637
$F(000)$	2592
Measured refls.	27422
Independent refls.	8031
R_{int}	0.0771
No. of parameters	244
GOF	1.049
$R_1, [^a] wR_2[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0.0920, 0.2606
R_1, wR_2 (all data)	0.1008, 0.2691

^[a] $R_1 = \sum ||Fo| - |Fc|| / \sum |Fo|$, $wR_2 = \{\sum w[(Fo)^2 - (Fc)^2]^2 / \sum w[(Fo)^2]^2\}^{1/2}$

Table S2. Selected hydrogen-bonding data for **InS-1**.

D–H···A	d(D–H)	d(H···A)	d(D···A)	<(DHA)
N(1)–H(1A)···S(10)#4	0.89	2.43	3.291(17)	163.5
N(1)–H(1B)···S(8)	0.89	2.56	3.289(15)	139.2
N(2)–H(2A)···S(8)	0.89	2.40	3.275(14)	166.1
N(2)–H(2B)···S(11)#4	0.89	2.94	3.523(17)	125.0
N(2)–H(2B)···S(12)#1	0.89	2.87	3.337(14)	114.4
N(2)–H(2C)···S(2)#1	0.89	2.59	3.303(18)	138.1
N(3)–H(3A)···S(10)	0.89	2.93	3.379(19)	113.1
N(3)–H(3A)···S(12)	0.89	2.53	3.326(19)	149.9
N(3)–H(3B)···S(11)#5	0.89	2.72	3.496(19)	146.2
C(2)–H(2F)···S(4)	0.96	2.99	3.94(3)	174.1
C(3)–H(3D)···S(10)#4	0.97	2.95	3.73(4)	138.7
C(5)–H(5B)···S(3)#4	0.97	2.94	3.89(5)	164.7

Symmetry codes: #1 $x-1, y, z$; #2 $-x+1/2, y-1/2, -z+1/2$; #3 $x+1, y, z$; #4 $-x+1/2, y+1/2, -z+1/2$; #5 $-x+3/2, y+1/2, -z+1/2$.

Table S3. Summary of negative charge densities and ion exchange capacities for chalcogenide ion exchangers.

Ion exchangers	Anionic network	Negative charges (N)	Molecular mass of the anionic network (M)	Charge density (N/M) ($\times 10^{-3}$)	Exchanged cations and capacities (q_m , mg g $^{-1}$)	Ref.
(NH ₄) ₄ In ₁₂ Se ₂₀	[In ₁₂ Se ₂₀] _{<i>n</i>} ^{4<i>n</i>-}	4	2957.0	1.35	Cs ⁺ , Rb ⁺ , Hg ²⁺ , Pb ²⁺ , Ag ⁺	[4]
[(Me) ₂ NH ₂] _{0.75} [Ag _{1.25} SnSe ₃]	[Ag _{1.25} SnSe ₃] _{<i>n</i>} ^{0.75<i>n</i>-}	0.75	490.4	1.53	Cs ⁺ , Rb ⁺ , NH ₄ ⁺	[5]
[CH ₃ NH ₃] _{0.75} Cu _{1.25} GeSe ₃ (CuGeSe-1)	[Cu _{1.25} GeSe ₃] _{<i>n</i>} ^{0.75<i>n</i>-}	0.75	389.0	1.93	Cs ⁺ (225.3)	[6]
[H ₃ O] ₃ [Heta] _{4.2} [H ₂ dpp] _{0.3} [In ₄ Sn ₁₆ O ₁₀ S ₃₂]	[In ₄ Sn ₁₆ O ₁₀ S ₃₂] _{<i>n</i>} ^{8<i>n</i>-}	8	3544.7	2.26	Cs ⁺ , Hg ²⁺ , Pb ²⁺ , Cd ²⁺	[7]
[(CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂) ₂ NH ₂] ₅ In ₅ Sb ₆ S ₁₉ ·1.45H ₂ O	[In ₅ Sb ₆ S ₁₉] _{<i>n</i>} ^{5<i>n</i>-}	5	1913.9	2.61	Cs ⁺	[8]
[CH ₃ NH ₃] ₂₀ Ge ₁₀ Sb ₂₈ S ₇₂ ·7H ₂ O	[Ge ₁₀ Sb ₂₈ S ₇₂] _{<i>n</i>} ^{20<i>n</i>-}	20	6444.4	3.10	Cs ⁺	[9]
[(CH ₃) ₂ NH ₂] ₂ Ga ₂ Sb ₂ S ₇ ·H ₂ O (SG: <i>P</i> 2 ₁)	[Ga ₂ Sb ₂ S ₇] _{<i>n</i>} ^{2<i>n</i>-}	2	607.4	3.29	Cs ⁺ (164 ± 16 for FJSM-GaS-1)	[10]
[Me ₂ NH ₂] ₂ [Ga ₂ Sb ₂ S ₇]·H ₂ O (FJSM-GaS-1; SG: <i>P</i> 2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2 ₁)					Sr ²⁺ (80 ± 3 for FJSM-GaS-1)	[11]
[Et ₂ NH ₂] ₂ [Ga ₂ Sb ₂ S ₇]·H ₂ O (FJSM-GaS-2)					UO ₂ ²⁺ (196 ± 56 for FJSM-GaS-1; 144 ± 12 for FJSM-GaS-2)	
(Heta) _{9.5} (H ₃ O) _{2.5} [In ₈ Sn ₁₂ O ₁₀ S ₃₂]·22H ₂ O (InSnOS)	[In ₈ Sn ₁₂ O ₁₀ S ₃₂] _{<i>n</i>} ^{12<i>n</i>-}	12	3529.1	3.40	Cs ⁺ (537.7 ± 4.49)	[12]
K _{2<i>x</i>} Sn _{4-<i>x</i>} S _{8-<i>x</i>} (<i>x</i> = 0.65-1) (KTS-3)	[Sn _{4-<i>x</i>} S _{8-<i>x</i>}] _{<i>n</i>} ^{2<i>xn</i>-}	1.3-2	633.4-580.6	2.05-3.44	Cs ⁺ (280 ± 11) Sr ²⁺ (102 ± 5) UO ₂ ²⁺ (287 ± 15)	[13]
(Me ₂ NH ₂) _{1.33} (Me ₃ NH) _{0.67} Sn ₃ S ₇ ·1.25H ₂ O (FJSM-SnS)	[Sn ₃ S ₇] _{<i>n</i>} ^{2<i>n</i>-}	2	580.6	3.44	Cs ⁺ (409 ± 29) Sr ²⁺ (65 ± 5) UO ₂ ²⁺ (338.43) Eu ³⁺ (139.82 ± 3.42) Tb ³⁺ (147.05 ± 4.53) Nd ³⁺ (126.70 ± 3.90)	[14] [15] [16]

Table S3. Summary of negative charge densities and ion exchange capacities for chalcogenide ion exchangers (continued).

Ion exchangers	Anionic network	Negative charges (N)	Molecular mass of the anionic network (M)	Charge density (N/M) ($\times 10^{-3}$)	Exchanged cations and capacities (q_m , mg g $^{-1}$)	Ref.
$K_{2x}Mn_xSn_{3-x}S_6$ ($x = 0.5-0.95$) (KMS-1)	$[Mn_xSn_{3-x}S_6]_n^{2xn-}$	1-1.9	516.6-488.0	1.94-3.89	Cs^+ (226 ± 2)	[17]
					Sr^{2+} (77 ± 2)	[18]
					Hg^{2+} (377 ± 15)	[19]
					Pb^{2+} (319 ± 4)	[20]
					Cd^{2+} (329)	[21]
					Ni^{2+} (29 ± 1)	[22]
					UO_2^{2+} (380 ± 20) Cu^{2+} (155)	
$[(Me)_2NH_2]_2[GeSb_2S_6]$	$[GeSb_2S_6]_n^{2n-}$	2	508.5	3.93	Cs^+	[23]
$K_6Sn[Zn_4Sn_4S_{17}]$	$[Zn_4Sn_5S_{17}]_n^{6n-}$	6	1400.3	4.28	Rb^+ , Cs^+ , NH_4^+	[24]
						[25]
$K_{2x}Mg_xSn_{3-x}S_6$ ($x = 0.5-1$) (KMS-2)	$[Mg_xSn_{3-x}S_6]_n^{2xn-}$	1-2	501.3-454.1	1.99-4.40	Cs^+ (531 ± 28)	[22]
					Sr^{2+} (87 ± 2)	
					Ni^{2+} (151 ± 8)	
$[NH_3CH_3]_4[In_4SbS_9SH]$	$[In_4SbS_9SH]_n^{4n-}$	4	902.7	4.43	Rb^+	[26]
$Na_5Zn_{3.5}Sn_{3.5}S_{13} \cdot 6H_2O$ (ZnSnS-1)	$[Zn_{3.5}Sn_{3.5}S_{13}]_n^{5n-}$	5	1061.3	4.71	Sr^{2+} (124.2 ± 21.2)	[27]
$[CH_3CH_2NH_3]_6In_6S_{12}$ (InS-1)	$[In_6S_{12}]_n^{6n-}$	6	1073.7	5.59	Sr^{2+} (105.35 ± 14.07)	This work

7. Figures



Figure S1. Photographs of the Sr²⁺-exchanged products obtained from the test solutions with pH varying from 1 to 14 ($C_0^{\text{Sr}} = 5.39\text{-}5.84$ ppm; $V/m = 1000$ mL g⁻¹).

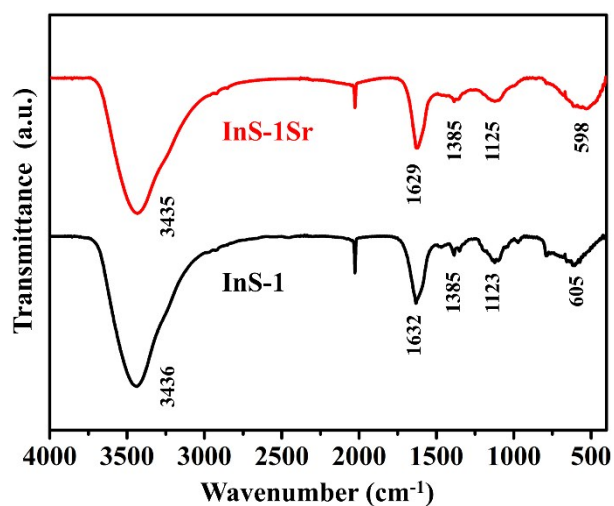


Figure S2. FTIR spectra of InS-1 and InS-1Sr measured at room temperature on KBr pellets.

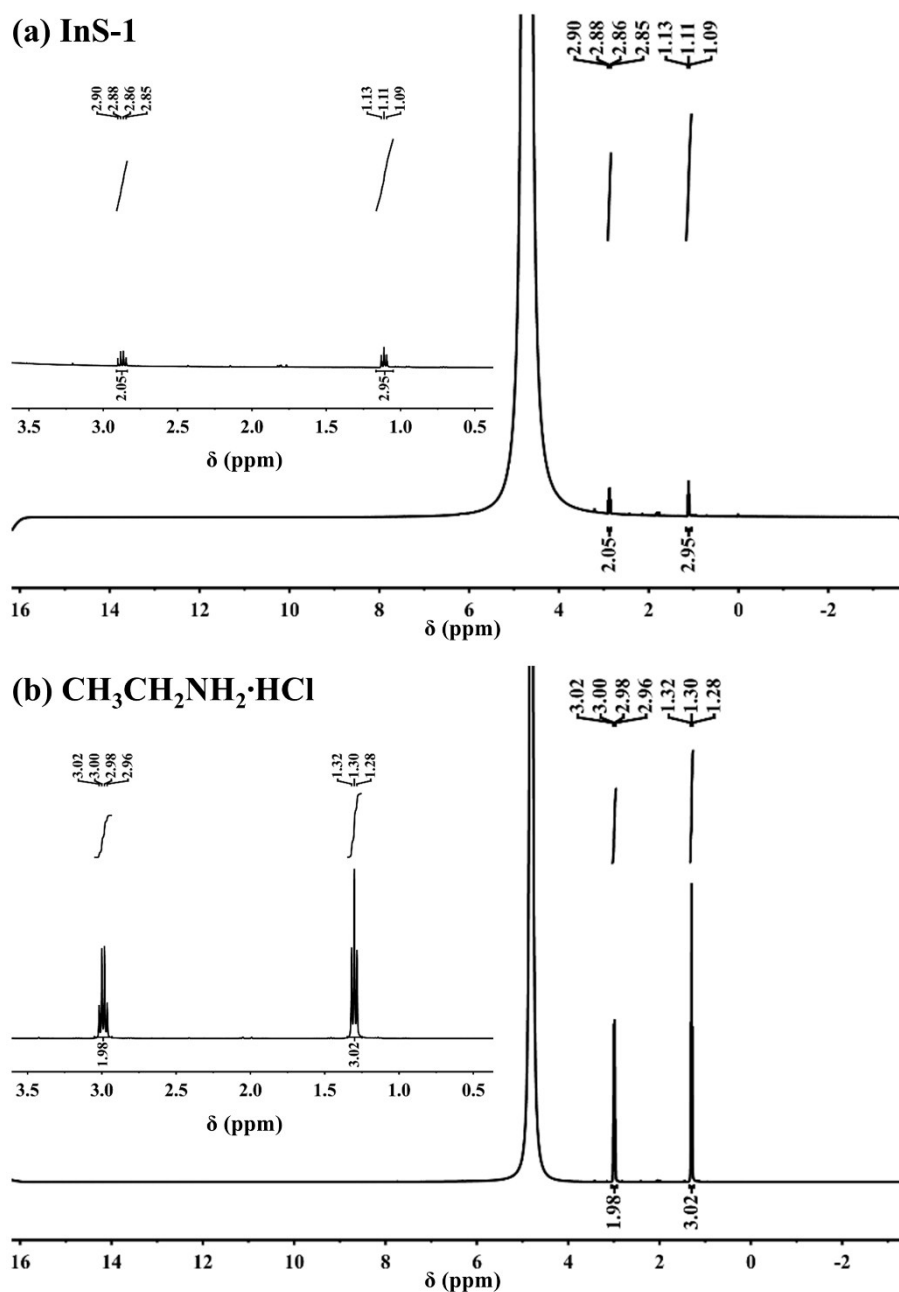


Figure S3. ^1H NMR spectra of (a) **InS-1** and (b) ethylamine hydrochloride dissolved in mixed HCl (1 M)/ D_2O recorded at room temperature.

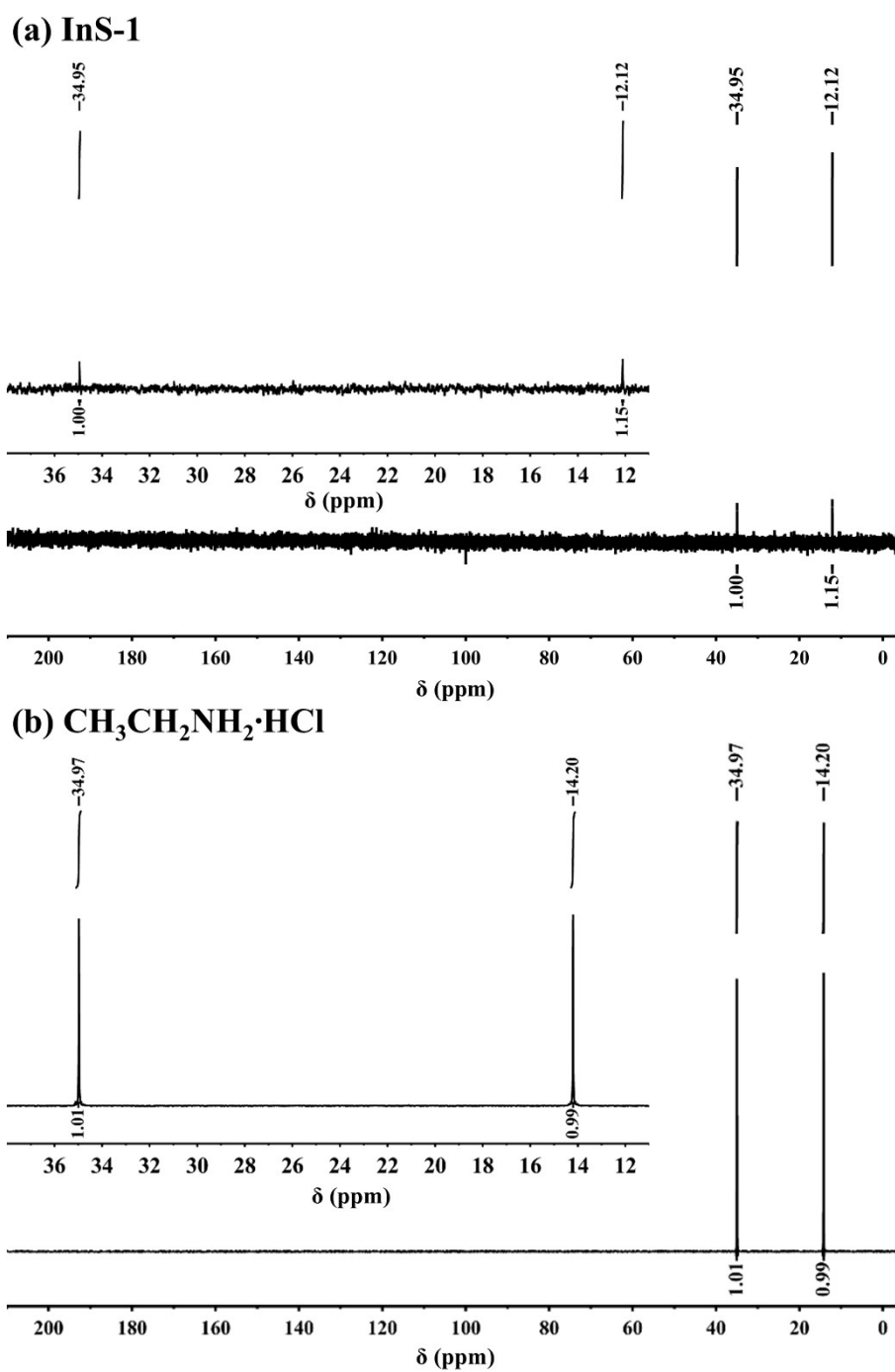


Figure S4. ^{13}C NMR spectra of (a) **InS-1** and (b) ethylamine hydrochloride dissolved in mixed HCl (1 M)/ D_2O recorded at room temperature.

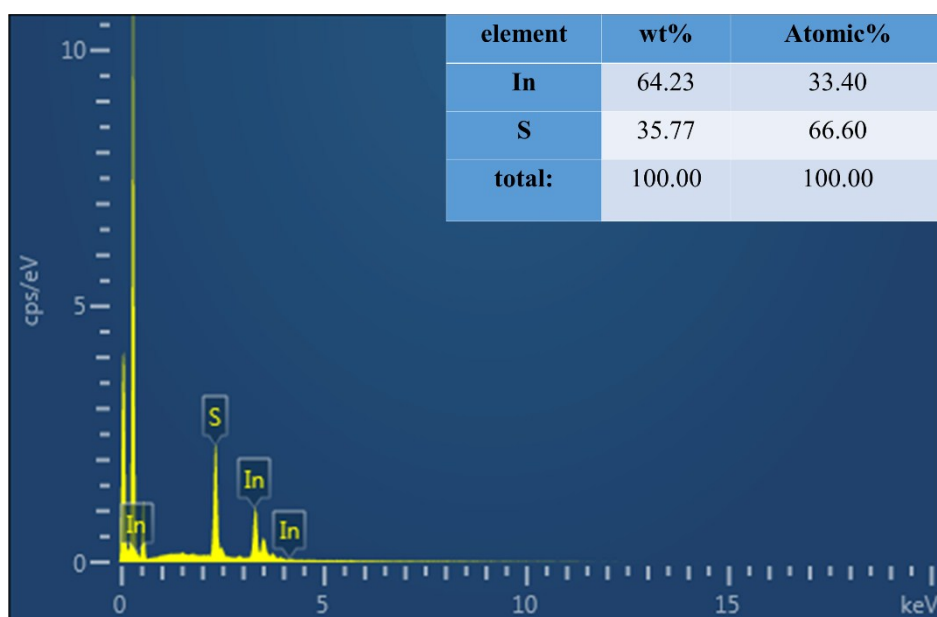


Figure S5. EDS analysis on **InS-1**.

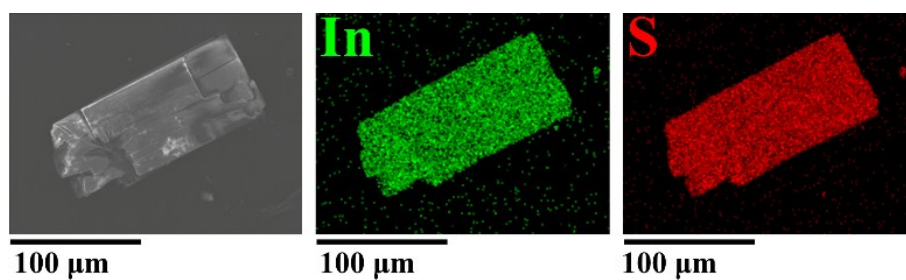


Figure S6. SEM image of **InS-1** and EDS elemental distribution maps of In and S.

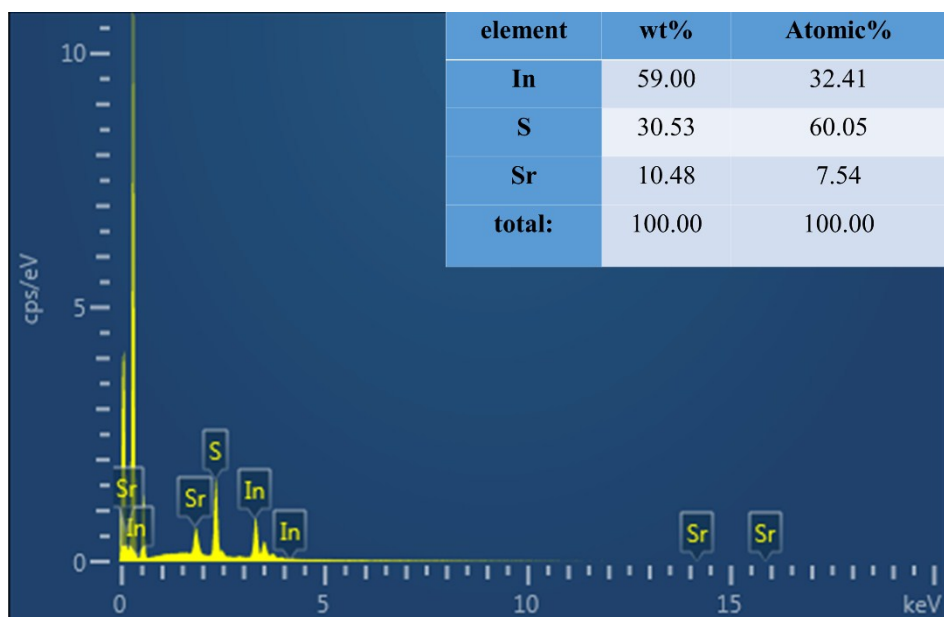


Figure S7. EDS analysis on **InS-1Sr**.

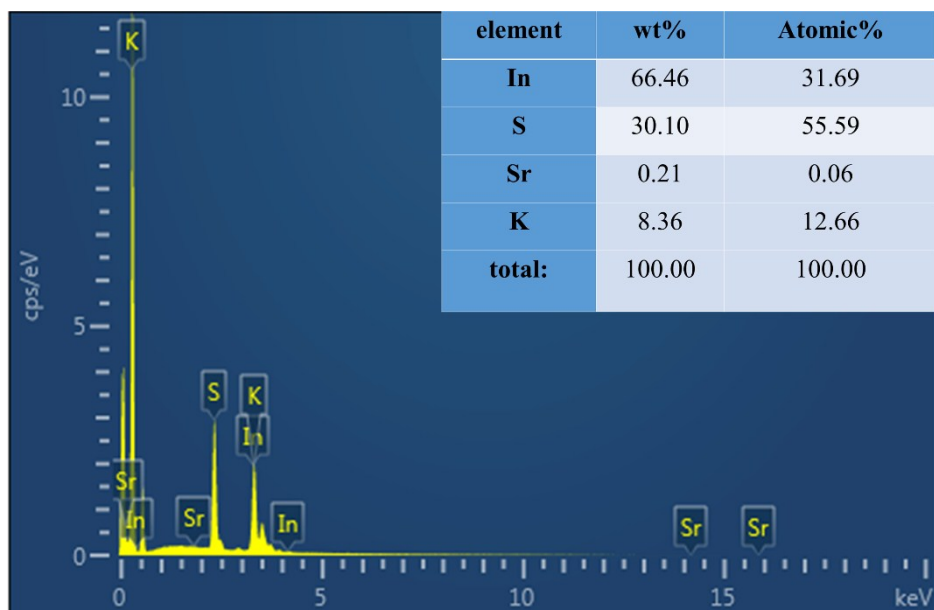


Figure S8. EDS analysis on the eluted product **InS-1K**.

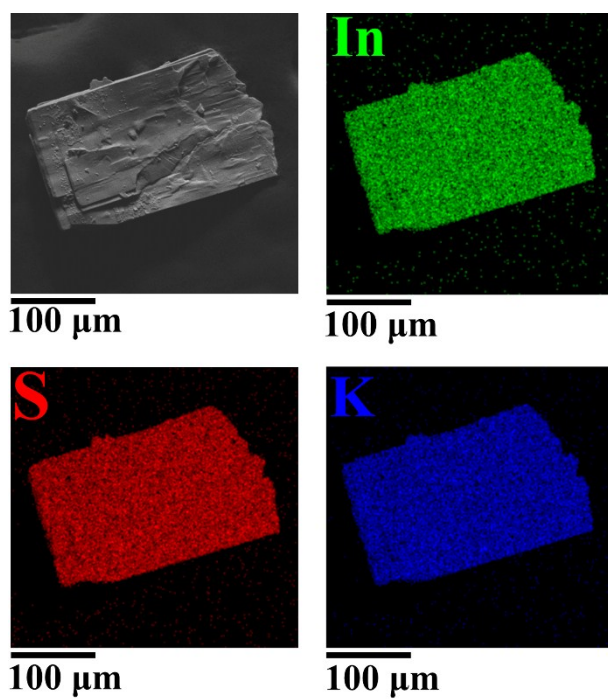


Figure S9. SEM image of the eluted product **InS-1K** and EDS elemental distribution maps for K, In and S. There is only trace Sr detected in the mapping measurement.

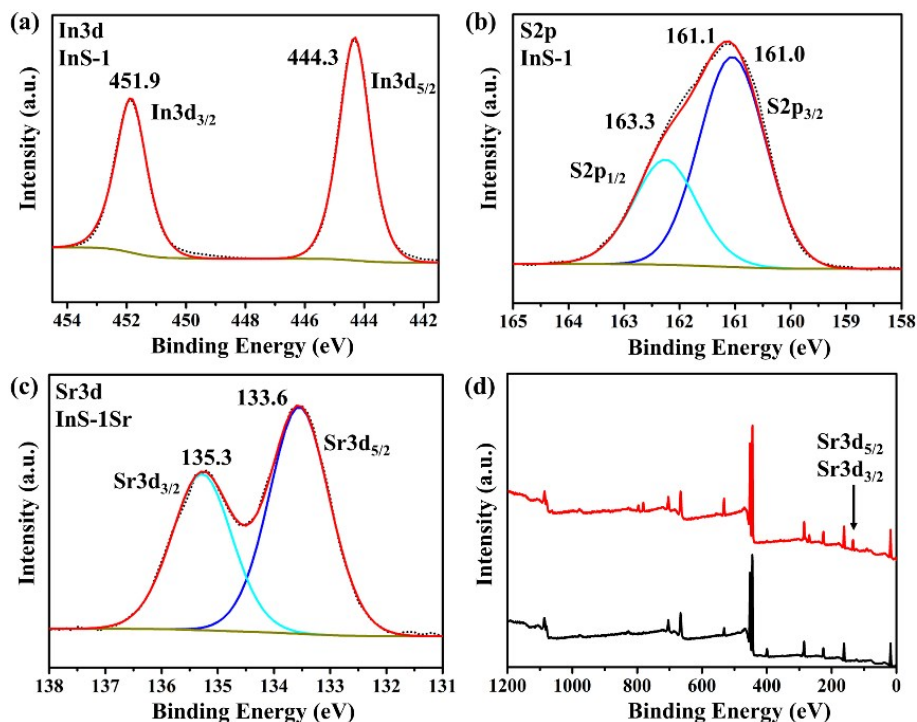


Figure S10. X-ray photoelectron spectra of (a) In, (b) S, for **InS-1** and (c) Sr for **InS-1Sr**. (d) Comparison of experimental survey spectra of the product before (black line) and after (red line) ion exchange. Black dotted and red solid lines represent experimental and overall fitting curves, respectively.

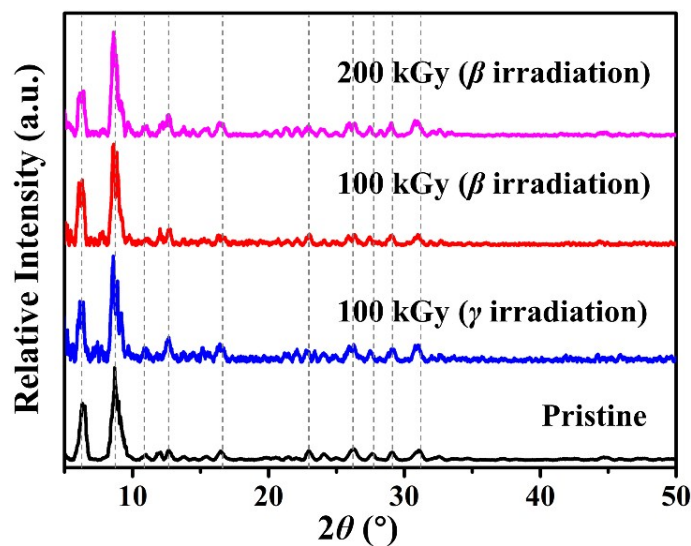


Figure S11. Powder XRD patterns of pristine **InS-1** and the corresponding samples after β and γ irradiation.

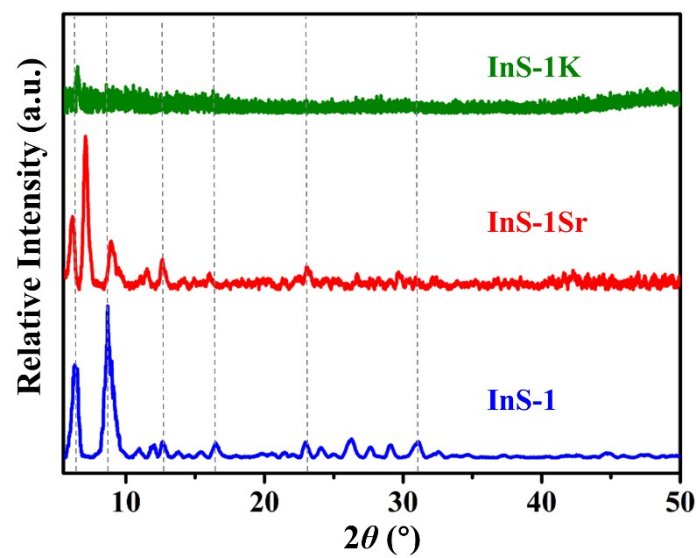


Figure S12. Powder XRD patterns of **InS-1**, **InS-1Sr** and the eluted product **InS-1K**.

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