

Supplementary material for manuscript:

Synthesis, X-ray characterization and regium bonding interactions of a trichloro(1-hexylcytosine)-gold(III) complex

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Table of contents:

Overview of known purine and pyrimidine(-like) Au(III) X-ray structures	Pag 2
Materials and methods	Pag 3
Single Crystal X-ray Diffraction (SC-XRD)	Pag 4
Theoretical methods	Pag 6
Details of the Cambridge Structure Database analysis	Pag 7
References	Pag 13

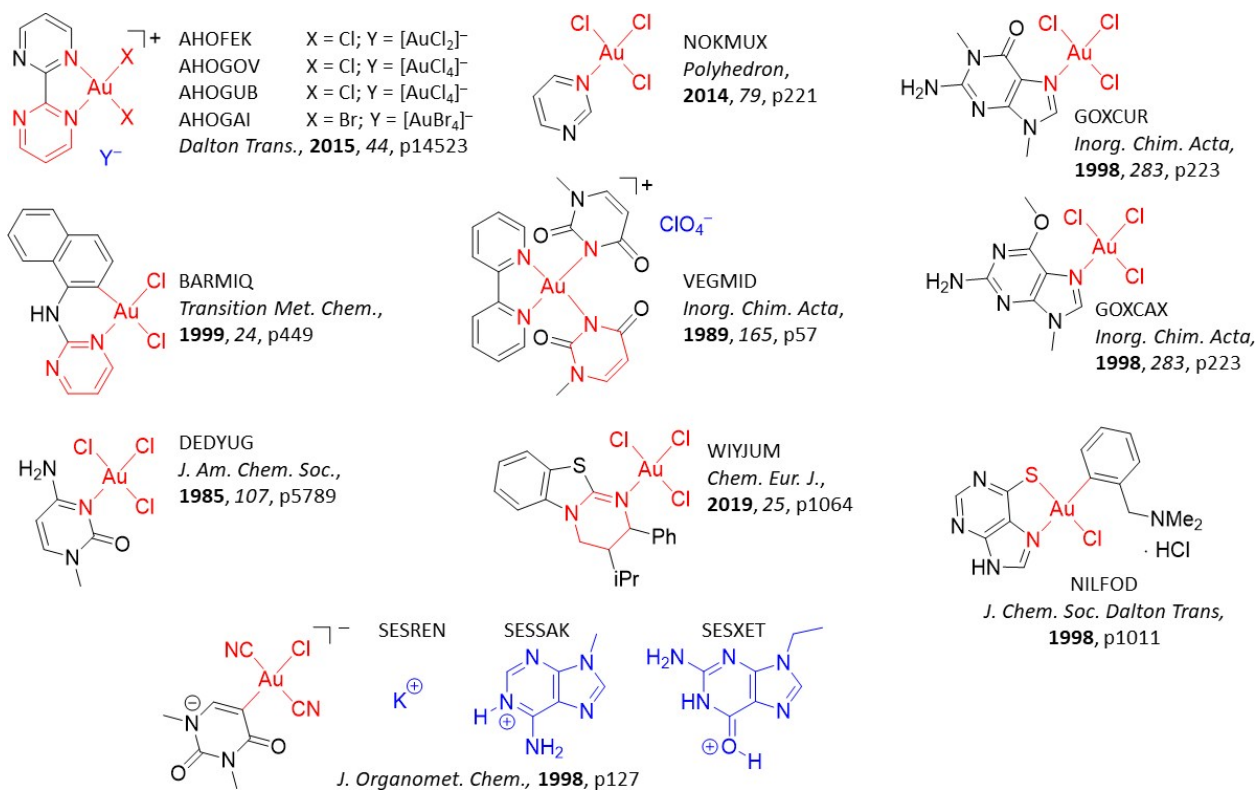


Figure S1. Overview of all twelve purine or pyrimidine(-like) X-ray structures currently present within the Cambridge Structure Database.

Materials and methods

All chemicals were obtained from commercial sources (Sigma-Aldrich) and used without further purification. N¹-hexylcytosine was obtained as previously published.¹

Elemental analysis of C, H and N was carried out using a Carlo-Erba (1106 and 1108) and Microanalyzer Thermo Finnigan Flash 1112 apparatus.

The FT-IR spectra in the solid state (KBr pellets) were recorded in the 4000-400 cm⁻¹ range on a Bruker Tensor 27 spectrometer. The ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at room temperature on a Bruker AMX 300 (300 MHz). Proton chemical shifts in DMSO-d₆ were referenced itself to the residual peak from the solvent DMSO-d₆ [¹H NMR d = 2.50 ppm].

For the ESI-HRMS, an Orbitrap mass spectrometer (ThermoFisher Scientific) operating with a heated electrospray interface (HESI) was employed and the spectra was recorded in negative mode. The temperature of ion transfer capillary was set to 320 °C, the spray voltage was set to 2.9 kV in negative mode and S-lens RF level 50 AU. Direct injection in Full scan acquisition mode over a range of 190-1000 m/z was performed with a resolution of 140000.

Synthesis of [AuCl₃(N¹-hexylcytosine,*N*(3))], chemical formula C₁₀H₁₇AuCl₃N₃O

To a solution of 0.5 mmol Na[AuCl₄]·2H₂O in 20 ml of water quality Milli-Q, 0.5 mmol of N¹-hexylcytosine were added as a dispersion. The mixture in the absence of light was stirred for 4 days. A yellow precipitated appeared, the solid was filtered off and recrystallized in a mixture of acetonitrile (10ml) and water (0.1ml). After two days, yellow needles appeared mixed with white crystals of the ligand. The selected crystals were adequate for a monocrystal X-ray study.

The molecular unity was identified by ESI-HRMS with a good and coherent isotopical distribution. To obtain the compound with better yield and without impurities of the ligand, a different synthetic procedure was designed.

Two solutions, one containing of 0.5 mmol of Na[AuCl₄]·2H₂O solved in 2 ml of water Milli-Q and other of 0.5 mmol of N¹-hexylcytosine in 20 ml of dioxane, were mixed. The mixture was stirred for 24 hours in the absence of light. A final yellow solution is obtained. The solution was rota-evaporated to a few millilitres and dried in a desiccator. The yellow solid obtained was powdered down and cleaned with chloroform stirring for 24 hours. The yellow solid was filtered off and dried, the yield was 49%.

Elemental analysis of [AuCl₃(C₁₀H₁₇N₃O)]₂·3(CHCl₃): Experimental: C, 20.15 %, H, 2.75 % and N, 6.58 %; Calculated for C₂₃H₃₇Au₂Cl₁₅N₆O₂: C, 20.38 %, H, 2.75 % and N, 6.20 %.

ESI-HRMS: Exact mass (m/z), 496.0032 (M-H); Calculated for C₁₀H₁₆ON₃¹⁹⁷Au³⁵Cl₃, 496.0030.

IR(cm⁻¹): 3419.91 vs; 3328.60 vs; 3222.82 s; 3114.86w; 3073.83 w; 2956.23 m; 2924.91 m; 2854.20 m; 1721.86 w; 1671.57 vs; 1640.29 vs; 1620.84 vs; 1530.08 m; 1510.79 vs; 1462.04 m; 1398.33 s; 1381.30 s.

¹H-NMR: The complex dissolves with decomposition in DMSO giving free ligand and a set of resonances that are consistent with coordinated ligand (presumably complex 1). These signals were: δ (ppm) 9.40 (s(br), 1H, H(4a)), 9.12 (s(br), 1H, H(4b)), 7.90 (d, 1H, H(6), *J* = 7.50Hz), 6.00 (d, 1H, H(5), *J* = 6.30Hz), 3.78 (t, 2H, H(7), *J* = 7.20 Hz), 1.54 (m(br), 2H, H(8)), 1.25 (s(br), 6H, H(9,10,11)), 0.85 (t, 3H, H(12), *J* = 6.30 Hz).

The neutral complex is not soluble in water and chloroform, but soluble in other organic solvents like acetonitrile or 1,4-dioxane.

Single Crystal X-ray Diffraction (SC-XRD)

Suitable crystals of $[\text{AuCl}_3(\text{N}^1\text{-hexylcytosine}, \text{N}(3))]$ were selected for X-ray single crystal diffraction experiments, covered with oil (Infineum V8512, formerly known as Paratone N) and mounted at the tip of a nylon CryoLoop on a BRUKER-NONIUS X8 APEX-II KAPPA CCD diffractometer using graphite monochromated $\text{MoK}\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda = 0.7107 \text{ \AA}$). Crystallographic data were collected at 300(2) K. Data were corrected for Lorentz and polarisation effects and for absorption by SADABS.² The structural resolution procedure was made using the WinGX package.³ Solving for structure factor phases was performed by SHELXT-2014.⁴ For the full matrix refinement SHELXL-2017/1^{19,5} was used. The structures were checked for higher symmetry with help of the program PLATON.⁶ H-atoms were introduced in calculated positions and refined riding on their parent atoms. A summary of refinement parameters can also be seen in Table S1. Also, in Table S2 the bond lengths, angles and torsion angles for the coordination environment to gold(III) is described. The intermolecular distance and angles for the hydrogen bonds found within structure 1 are summarized in Table S3.

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for $[\text{AuCl}_3(\text{N}^1\text{-hexylcytosine}, \text{N}(3))]$.

Empirical formula	s	
Formula weight	498.58	
Temperature (K)	300(2)	
Wavelength (\AA)	0.71073	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	P 21/c	
Unit cell dimensions	a (\AA)	7.0041(19)
	b (\AA)	15.654(4)
	c (\AA)	16.326(4)
	β ($^\circ$)	115.405(8)
Volume (\AA^3)	1617.0(7)	
Z	4	
Density (calculated) (Mg/m^3)	2.048	
Absorption coefficient (mm^{-1})	9.586	
F(000)	944	
Crystal size (mm^3)	0.200 x 0.070 x 0.070	
Theta range for data collection ($^\circ$)	1.897 to 28.508	
Index ranges	-9 \leq h \leq 9	
	0 \leq k \leq 20	
	-21 \leq l \leq 21	
Reflections collected	7301	
Independent reflections	3861 [R(int) = 0.0687]	
Completeness to theta = 25.242 $^\circ$ (%)	100.0	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	1 and 0.628	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F2	
Data / restraints / parameters	3861 / 46 / 164	
Goodness-of-fit on F2	0.880	
Final R indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	R1	0.0516
	wR2	0.0975
R indices (all data)	R1	0.1145
	wR2	0.1136
Largest diff. peak and hole ($e \cdot \text{\AA}^{-3}$)	0.969 and -1.958	

Table S2. Coordination environment bond lengths and angles for **[AuCl₃(N¹-hexylcytosine,N(3))]**.

distances (Å)		angles (°)		torsions (°)	
Au(1)-N(3)	2.021(8)	N(3)-Au(1)-Cl(2)	176.1(2)	Cl(1)-Au(1)-N(3)-C(2)	76.4(8)
Au(1)-Cl(2)	2.256(3)	N(3)-Au(1)-Cl(3)	88.6(2)	Cl(1)-Au(1)-N(3)-C(4)	-106.6(8)
Au(1)-Cl(3)	2.257(3)	Cl(2)-Au(1)-Cl(3)	91.09(12)	Cl(2)-Au(1)-N(3)-C(2)	-19(4)
Au(1)-Cl(1)	2.287(3)	N(3)-Au(1)-Cl(1)	90.0(2)	Cl(2)-Au(1)-N(3)-C(4)	159(3)
		Cl(2)-Au(1)-Cl(1)	90.39(11)	Cl(3)-Au(1)-N(3)-C(2)	-104.5(7)
		Cl(3)-Au(1)-Cl(1)	178.34(10)	Cl(3)-Au(1)-N(3)-C(4)	72.6(8)

Table S3. Distances and angles for the hydrogen bond interactions in **[AuCl₃(N¹-hexylcytosine,N(3))]**.

D-H···A	d(D-H) (Å)	d(H···A) (Å)	d(D···A) (Å)	<(DHA) (°)
N(4)-H(4A)···Cl(1)#1	0.86	2.66	3.451(10)	153.2
N(4)-H(4B)···Cl(1)#2	0.86	2.71	3.472(8)	149.0
C(5)-H(5)···O(2)#2	0.93	2.33	3.166(11)	148.7
C(6)-H(6)···Cl(2)#3	0.93	2.95	3.790(13)	150.8
C(7)-H(7B)···Cl(3)#4	0.97	2.89	3.684(11)	139.4
C(7)-H(7A)···Cl(2)#3	0.97	2.88	3.797(12)	158.4

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

#1: -x+1,-y+1,-z+1; #2: x-1,y,z; #3: x,-y+3/2,z+1/2; #4: x+1,-y+3/2,z+1/2

Theoretical methods

The energies of the complexes included in this study were computed at the PBE1PBE -D3/def2-TZVP level of theory by using the program Gaussian-16.⁷ The interaction energy (or binding energy in this work) ΔE , is defined as the energy difference between the dimer complex and the sum of the energies of the monomers. For the calculations we have used the Weigend def2-TZVP^{8,9} basis set and the PBE1PBE DFT functional.¹⁰ The MEP (Molecular Electrostatic Potential) surfaces calculations have been computed using Gaussian-16 software at the PBE1PBE-D3/def2-TZVP level of theory. The AIM formalism elucidated bond paths via analysis of the topology of the electron density,^{11,12} using the PBE1PBE-D3/def2-TZVP wavefunction and making use of the AIMALL program.¹³

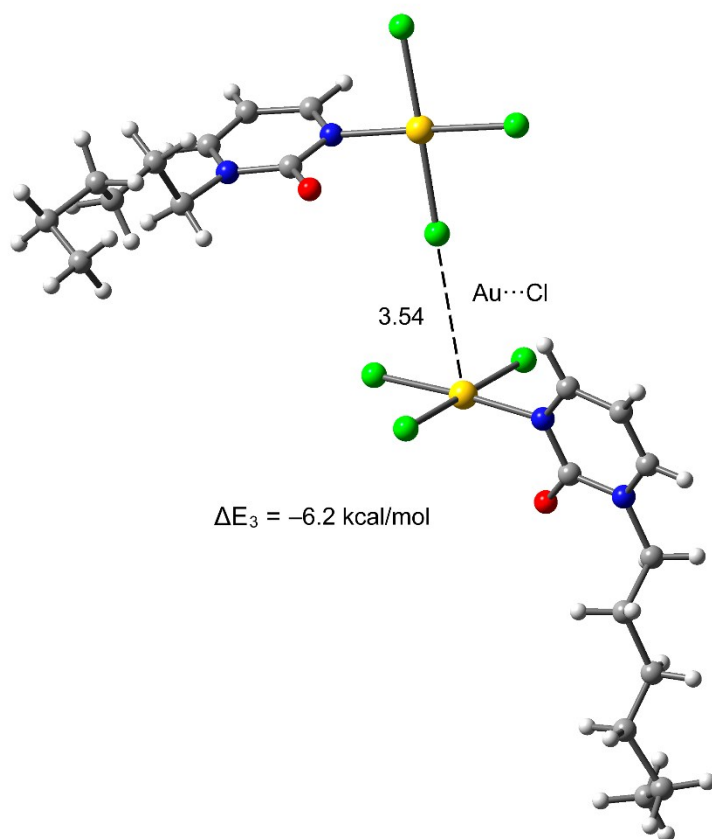


Figure S2. Structure (PBE0-D3/def2-TZVP) of an alternative arrangement of a dimeric structure of **1** (without the amine, see also Figure 4, right) held together with only one regium bonding interaction; one complex was forced to rotate 90° around one intermolecular Cl···Au bond to give a single Au–Cl···Au angle near 180° (geometry optimization led to the original dimer). The interaction energy (ΔE_3) of –6.2 kcal/mol is less than half the stabilization energy of a dimer with two Cl···Au interactions ($\Delta E_2 = -15.9$; Figure 4, right). This might be due to the diminished electron density at the extension of the Au–Cl bonds, as can also be seen in Figure 3. Alternatively, or concomitantly, the extra stabilization energy of ΔE_2 might be due to a synergistic effect because both monomers can act as an electron donor with a Cl-atom as well as an electron acceptor with their Au atoms.

CSD search

The Cambridge Structure Database (CSD) version 5.41 with updates until November 2019 was inspected using ConQuest version 2.0.4 (build 270014). All queries were limited to single crystal structures that contained 3D coordinates and had an R-factor of ≤ 0.1 .

It appeared that the CSD contains 4,445 CIFs with an AuX_4 structure where X can be any atom and the Au–X bonds were set as ‘any bond’. These CIFs were further inspected for instances where any electron rich atom (EIR = N, P, As, O, S, Se, Te, F, Cl, Br, I, At) has a maximum *intermolecular* Au \cdots EIR distance (d) of $2 \text{ \AA} +$ the Bondi van der Waals radii of Au (1.66 \AA) and EIR (see also the inset figure on the left-hand side of Figure 6). The four X–Au \cdots EIR angles (α) were measured as well and the shortest was used in the analysis. This query resulted in 24,868 distance-angle pairs contained within 2,781 CIFs, which were binned and plotted as the heat plot shown in the left-hand side of Figure 6 (using Origin 2018). A plot of a similar dataset limited to EIR = any halogen atom is shown in Figure S4 (13,139 [d' ; α] pairs within 1,654 CIFs).

A plot of a similar dataset limited to $[\text{AuHlg}_3\text{N}]$ complexes is shown in the left-hand side of Figure S5 (508 [d' ; α] pairs within 86 CIFs). 93% of these data (i.e. 472 [d' ; α] pairs in 77 CIFs) involve a $[\text{AuCl}_3\text{N}]$ complex and the accompanying heat plot is shown in the right-hand side of Figure S5. All the 77 CIFs used for Figure S5 (right) are listed in Table S4, together with the electron rich atom (EIR), the van der Waals corrected Au \cdots EIR distance (d') according to Bondi and Batsanov, and the smallest N/Cl–Au \cdots EIR angle (α) that are associated with the shortest intermolecular Au \cdots EIR distance measured for each CIF. In this table, the data characterized by van der Waals overlap has been highlighted in green, which is 14% using Bondi’s van der Waals radius of Au (1.66 \AA) and 43% using Batsanov’s van der Waals radius of Au (1.86 \AA).

A similar search revealed that the CSD contains a total of 1,556 CIFs with an X_3AuHlg complex where Hlg can be any halogen atom. Within these structures, 523 CIFs were identified where two X_3AuHlg complexes are characterized by two $d' \leq 2 \text{ \AA}$ intermolecular (Bondi) van der Waals corrected Au \cdots Hlg distances (see also the inset figure on the right-hand side of Figure 6). Both Au–Hlg \cdots Au angles (β) were measured as well, which resulted in 1,636 distance-angle [d' ; β] pairs within 818 CIFs. The pairs with the shortest d' (and accompanying β) were used to generate the heat plot shown on the right-hand side of Figure 6 (i.e., using 818 [d' ; β] pairs). Plotting all 1,636 [d' ; β] pairs gave a nearly identical heat plot, as is shown in Figure S6.

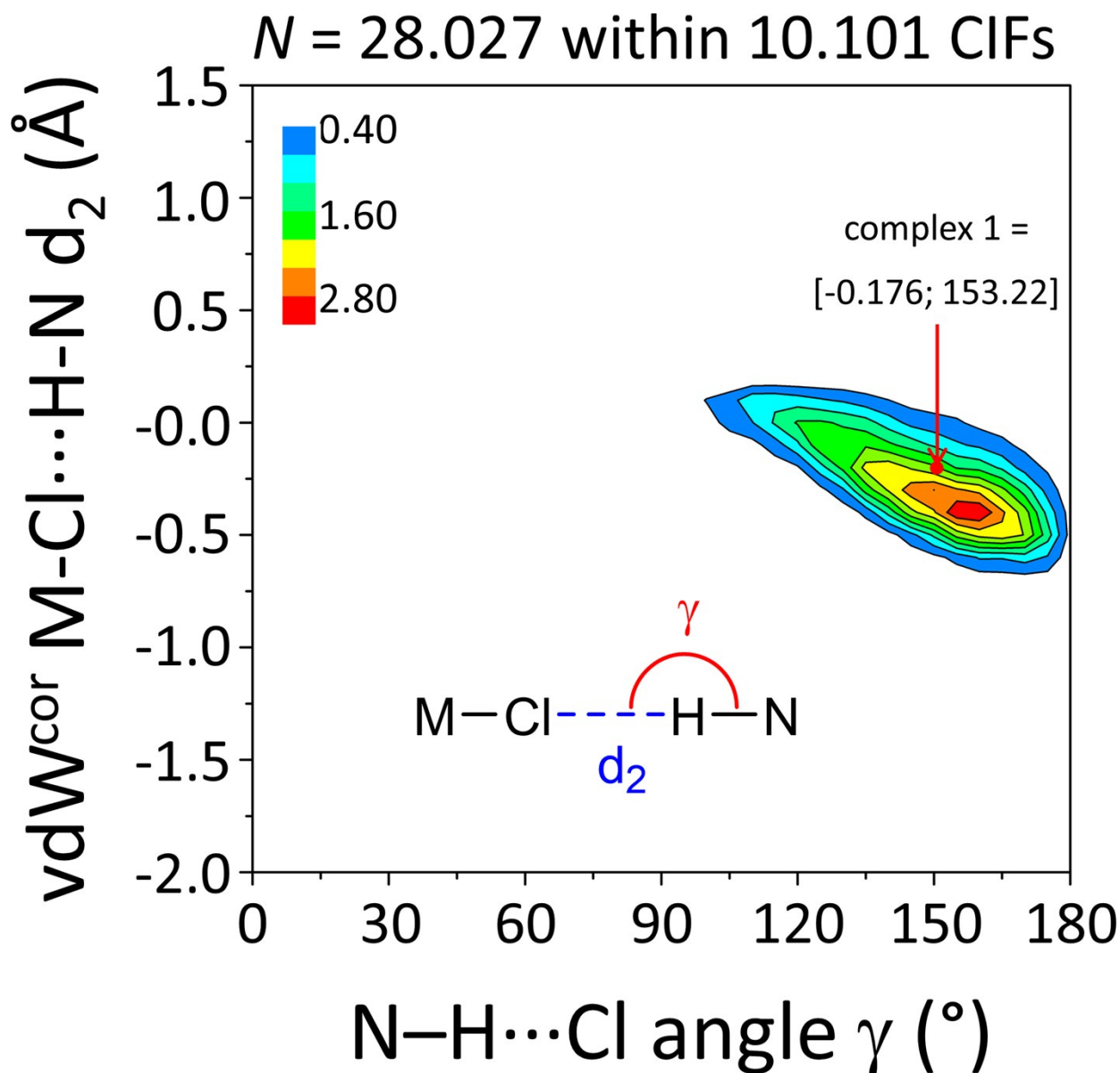


Figure S3. Heat plots of van der Waals corrected intermolecular M-Cl \cdots H-N distances (d_2 , derived from d and the Bondi van der Waals radii of Cl (1.75) and H (1.09)) as a function of N-H \cdots Cl angle γ (see inset Figure). M can be any metal and the M-Cl bond was set to any bond. The 28.027 unique data points (N) are data are contained within 10.101 CIFs (searching only structures with 3D coordinates, an R-factor of 0.1 or below and excluding powder XRD structures). The geometric information of complex 1 is indicated in the figure and can be seen as moderate (in between the clear peak at [-0.5; 160] and the tail around [0; 120]).

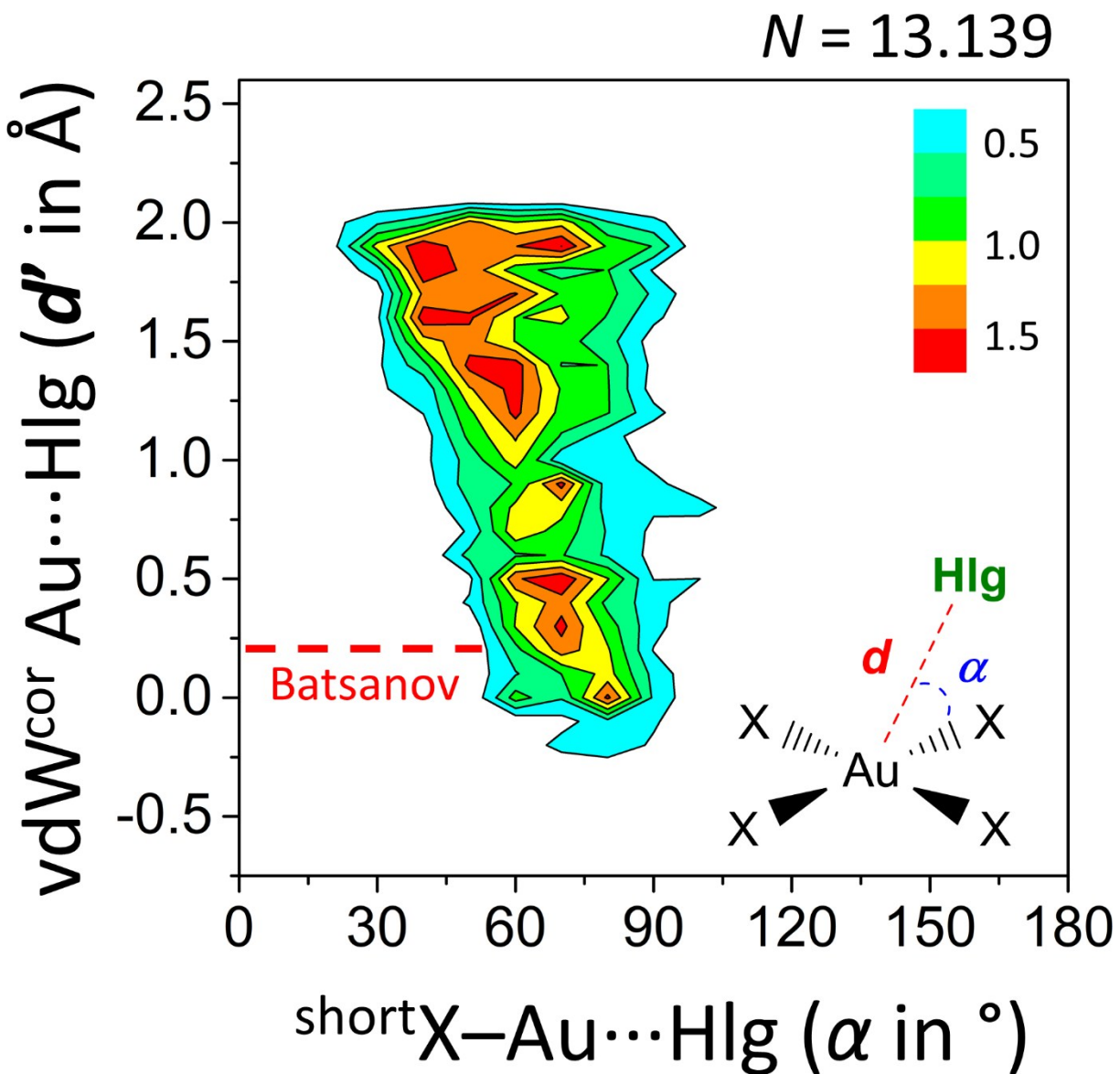


Figure S4. Heat plots of van der Waals corrected intermolecular Au...Y distances (d' , derived from d and the Bondi van der Waals radii of Au and Hlg) as a function of angle α (see inset Fig., the shortest angle was used). The plot involves 13.139 hits contained within 1.654 CIFs. Hlg = any halogen atom, X = any atom, and data involves Au...Y distances $d' \leq 2 \text{ Å}$). The red dashed line represents van der Waals overlap using Batsanov's van der Waals radius for Au (1.86 Å). See Figure 6 (left) for the plot of a similar dataset involving any electron rich atom instead of only halogens (EIR = N, P, As, O, S, Se, Te, F, Cl, Br, I, At).

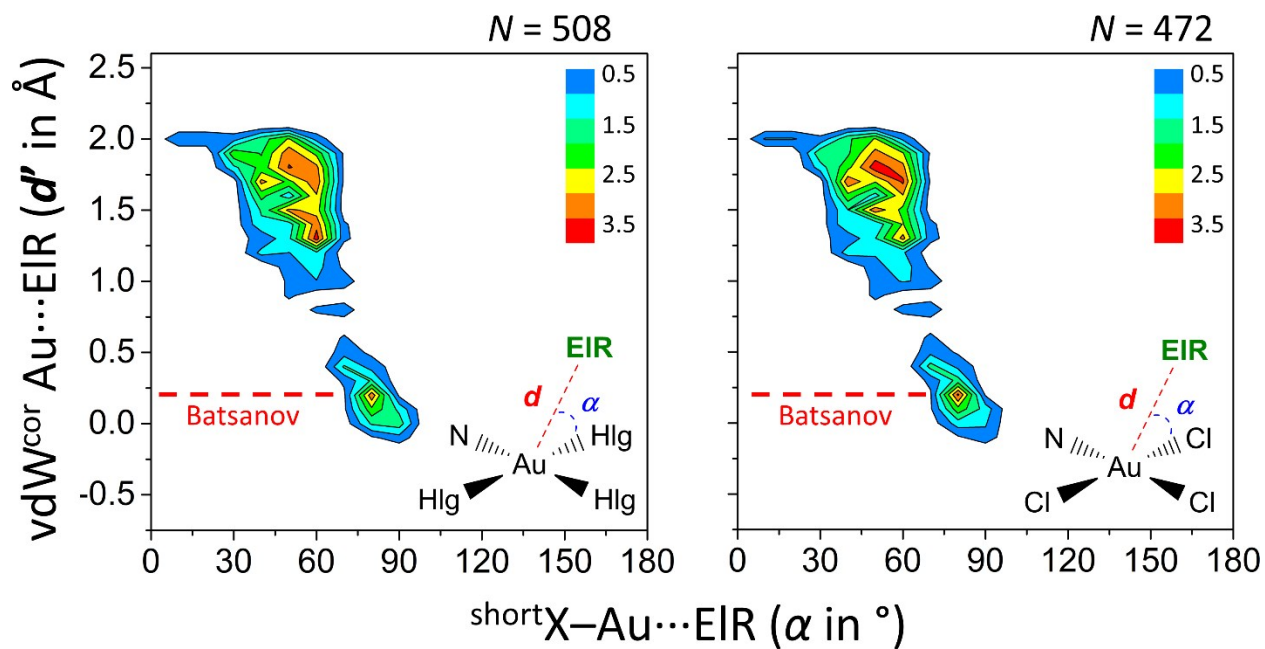


Figure S5. Heat plots of van der Waals corrected intermolecular Au...EIR distances (d' , derived from d and the Bondi van der Waals radii of Au and Hlg) as a function of angle α (see inset Fig.s, the shortest angle was used). Left: 508 hits contained within 86 CIFs involving [AuHlg₃N] complexes. Right: 4728 hits contained within 77 CIFs involving [AuCl₃N] complexes. EIR = N, P, As, O, S, Se, Te, F, Cl, Br, I, At; Hlg = any halogen atom; data involves Au...EIRY distances $d' \leq 2$ Å. The red dashed line represents van der Waals overlap using Batsanov's van der Waals radius for Au (1.86 Å).

Table S4. Overview the 77 CIFs used for Figure S3 (right) together with relevant (geometric) data of the shortest intermolecular Au...EIR distance found for each CIF. Data characterized by van der Waals overlap has been highlighted in green.

CIF:	EIR	<i>d'</i> (shortest) in Å			CIF:	EIR	<i>d'</i> (shortest) in Å		
		Bondi	Batsanov	α (°)			Bondi	Batsanov	α (°)
WIRGAH	CI	-0.124	-0.324	85.9	BUVVIY	CI	0.248	0.048	84.6
RIMFIF	CI	-0.097	-0.297	75.8	YIDMAA	CI	0.249	0.049	85.0
SEVXID	CI	-0.073	-0.273	80.9	ELUVAK	CI	0.263	0.063	80.2
NOKMUX	CI	-0.057	-0.257	87.8	VOYNUU	CI	0.263	0.063	83.4
ZUHNIB	CI	-0.054	-0.254	85.1	XIMWOI	CI	0.281	0.081	79.7
VANPUY	CI	-0.052	-0.252	85.4	KUFNAB	CI	0.286	0.086	71.8
NOKMOR	CI	-0.047	-0.247	86.7	SASRIQ	CI	0.308	0.108	76.6
FEYTEI	CI	-0.017	-0.217	80.7	EHEXOG	CI	0.349	0.149	78.4
HAFFIE	CI	-0.010	-0.210	73.2	MIYZAY	CI	0.376	0.176	79.7
SASREM	CI	-0.003	-0.203	87.4	HOSHII	CI	0.377	0.177	85.5
BUWVUM	CI	-0.002	-0.202	84.1	KOXQEV	CI	0.406	0.206	73.8
SASREM01	CI	0.005	-0.195	87.3	DEDYUG	CI	0.436	0.236	80.4
KILFIV	CI	0.015	-0.185	85.7	QIHVOS	CI	0.445	0.245	72.2
HOSHUU	CI	0.032	-0.168	84.5	DIWYIU	CI	0.460	0.260	69.9
SOVROM	CI	0.042	-0.158	80.7	HAFFEA	CI	0.474	0.274	84.6
NOKNAE	CI	0.050	-0.150	86.4	TIGMIH	S	0.499	0.299	65.9
EHEXIA	CI	0.060	-0.140	85.6	BUVVAQ	CI	0.609	0.409	85.2
ZUHN0H	CI	0.064	-0.136	75.2	KOXQAR	CI	0.798	0.598	65.9
BIRCUA	CI	0.069	-0.131	79.4	SUYXER	N	0.914	0.714	62.0
AVATUN	CI	0.070	-0.130	76.3	MUPHIP	N	0.951	0.751	58.2
GOXCAX	CI	0.090	-0.110	86.7	BIXBOZ10	N	0.982	0.782	59.7
ZUHNAT	CI	0.102	-0.098	74.7	TIRMEP	CI	1.124	0.924	75.9
MOCFER	CI	0.109	-0.091	82.4	CDMPAU01	CI	1.221	1.021	40.5
WONZUX	CI	0.114	-0.086	86.2	DODXID	CI	1.251	1.051	30.4
MOCFUH	CI	0.118	-0.082	81.0	CDMPAU	CI	1.318	1.118	39.5
FEDTUF	CI	0.129	-0.071	82.9	SUYXIV	CI	1.326	1.126	81.2
UQIBEC	CI	0.142	-0.058	87.8	CPYQAU	CI	1.345	1.145	59.2
MAJDAC	CI	0.153	-0.047	83.4	DIWXAL	CI	1.350	1.150	41.3
DOYPOY	CI	0.172	-0.028	80.7	DIWWUE	CI	1.455	1.255	39.3
GOXCUR	CI	0.184	-0.016	80.3	NIYTIA	CI	1.662	1.462	47.5
VEGMEZ	CI	0.185	-0.015	65.8	OJELIA	N	1.672	1.472	57.6
MIYYOL	CI	0.193	-0.007	87.5	AUBQNL01	CI	1.711	1.511	38.6
RADLAJ	CI	0.200	0.000	76.3	VUFXIE	CI	1.770	1.570	50.8
QAWDEA	CI	0.220	0.020	76.8	ZUHNUN	CI	1.903	1.703	42.2
VOYPAC	CI	0.220	0.020	85.2	HORVIV	N	1.953	1.753	22.5
PYAUCL10	CI	0.226	0.026	79.5	LUVRIF	CI	1.955	1.755	47.3
MIYZEC	CI	0.230	0.030	82.4	AZTLAW	N	1.957	1.757	40.6
SUYXAN	CI	0.230	0.030	68.6	LAYPUY	CI	1.969	1.769	61.2
HIHCIK	CI	0.246	0.046	82.3					

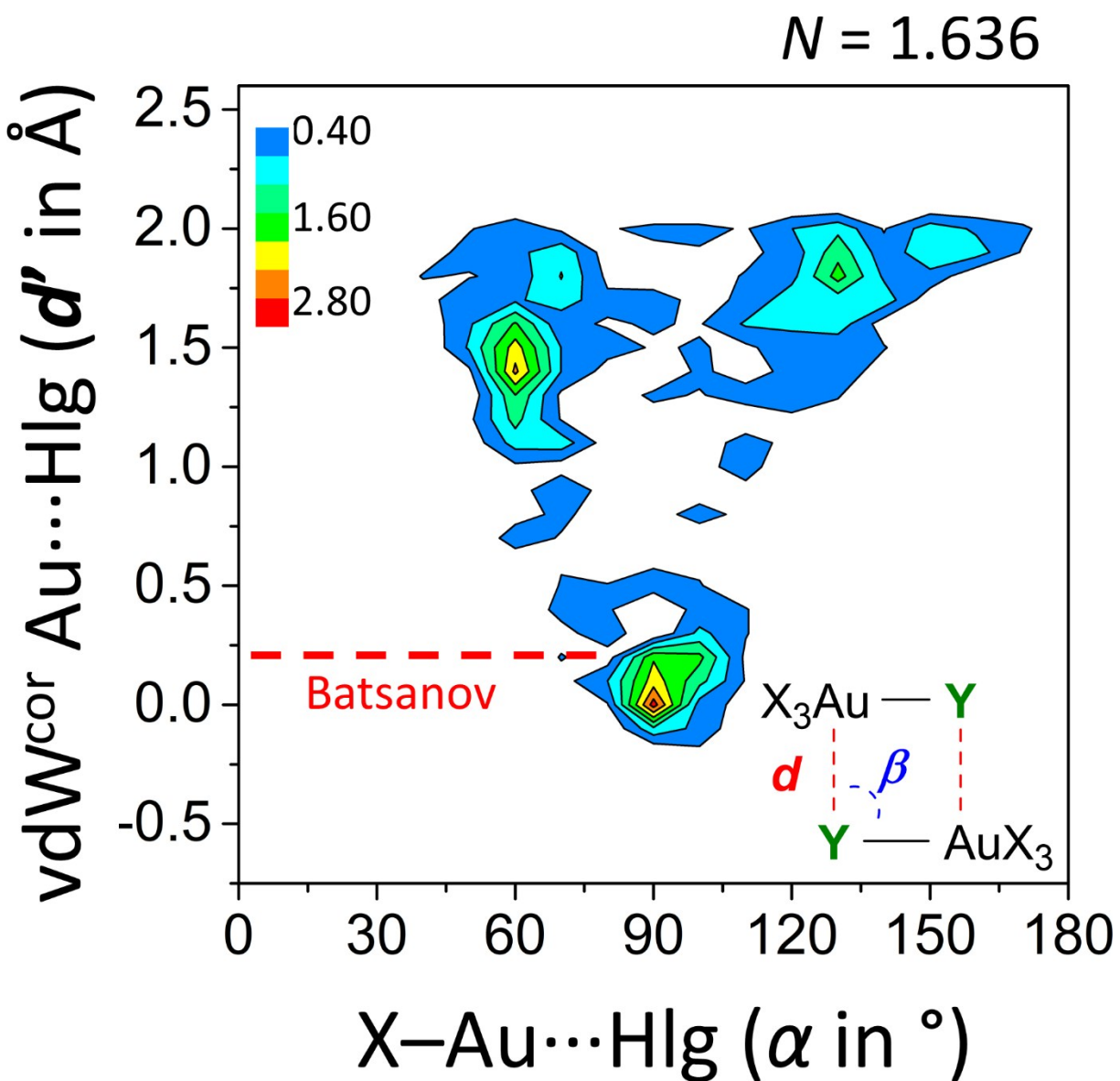


Figure S6. Heat plots of van der Waals corrected intermolecular Au \cdots Hlg distances (d' , derived from d and the Bondi van der Waals radii of Au and Hlg) as a function of X–Au \cdots Hlg angle β . Both distance-angle pairs (1.636 within 532 CIFs) of the dimer (see inset Fig.) were used to generate this plot, as opposed to only the shortest distance (and related angle) used in Fig. 6. Hlg = any halogen (F, Cl, Br, I, At), X can be any atom and the queries (illustrated in the inset Figures) involved data with Au \cdots Y distances d of \leq the Bondi van der Waals radii of Au and Hlg + 2 Å. The red dashed line represents van der Waals overlap using Batsanov's van der Waals radius for Au (1.86 Å).

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