#### **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

#### Delocalized relativistic effects, from the viewpoint of halogen bonding

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## **Figures**



**Fig. S1** Optimized structures and calculated Boltzmann populations at the 2c-B3LYP/TZVPD level of theory for the different conformers of the At–R–I dihalogenated alkanes derived from methane (a), ethane (b-c), propane (d-g) and butane (h-s). Atom's color code: purple for At, pink for I, grey for C and white for H.



**Fig. S2** Difference between electron densities obtained from 2c- and sr-B3LYP/TZVPD calculations, on the 2c-B3LYP/TZVPD optimized geometries of At–CH<sub>2</sub>–I (top), *E*-At–CH=CH–I (middle) and At–O–I (bottom) species. The surfaces (isovalue = 0.00115 a.u.) in red color show the regions with a significant increase of electron density and in blue color the regions with a significant decrease.



**Fig. S3** 2c-B3LYP/TZVPD calculated electrostatic potential at the At–CH<sub>2</sub>–I (top), *E*-At–CH=CH–I (middle) and At–C=C–I (bottom) molecular surfaces (defined by 0.001 a.u. density isosurfaces). The maximum values,  $V_{S,max}$ , at the astatine and iodine  $\sigma$ -holes are in kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> (SOC effects are given in parenthesis). Color code: from red (lowest values) to blue (highest values).



**Fig. S4** Interaction energies (kJ/mol) for the XB complexes formed between NH<sub>3</sub> and At–AH<sub>n</sub>–I species (A = Be, B, C, N, O, Mg, Al, Si, P, S and n = 0, 1, 2), calculated at the 2c-B3LYP/TZVPD (a) and sr-B3LYP/TZVPD (b) levels of theory.



**Fig. S5** 2c-B3LYP/TZVPD calculated local electrophilicity at the At–S–I molecular surface (defined by the 0.001 a.u. density isosurface). The most positive electrophilicity values,  $\omega^+_{S,max}$ , at the astatine and iodine  $\sigma$ -holes are in a.u (SOC effects are given in parenthesis). Color code: from red (lowest values) to blue (highest values).



**Fig. S6** Spin-orbit coupling effects ( $\Delta$ SO) in kJ/mol (a) and in relative value (b) on the computed interaction energies at the B3LYP/TZVPD level of theory for the XB complexes formed between ammonia and At–AH<sub>n</sub>–I species, with the atom A of increasing electronegativity.

# Tables

**Table S1** Boltzmann populations (in %) of the XB complexes formed by the conformers stemmed

 from ethane, propane and butane, according to BSSE corrected energies at the 2c-B3LYP/TZVPD

 level of theory.

	eth	ane		prop	oane		but	ane
conformer <sup>a</sup>	b	с	d	e	f	g	h	i
I-XB	0.2	99.8	33.6	19.7	21.0	25.7	53.1	46.9
At-XB	0.1	99.9	44.1	19.6	17.2	19.1	59.3	40.7

<sup>*a*</sup> Same notation as in Fig. S1.

and the trimethylamine N-oxide.  $\Delta E$  $d_{\rm int}$  (Å)  $d_{C-X}$  (Å)  $\Delta d_{\mathrm{C-X}}$  (Å)  $r_{\rm XB}^{a}$ (kJ/mol) I–XB -22.2 2.824 0.806 2.156 0.010 At-CH2-I -31.9 2.786 0.787 2.273 0.017 At-XB I–XB -15.9 2.901 0.829 2.209 0.006 At–(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>–I<sup>b</sup> -24.8 2.849 0.805 2.312 0.013 At–XB -13.5 I–XB 2.957 0.845 2.189 0.006 At–(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>–I<sup>b</sup> At-XB -21.5 2.899 0.819 2.295 0.011 I–XB -11.9 2.988 0.854 2.191 0.004 At–(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>– $I^b$ -19.3 2.927 0.827 2.295 At-XB 0.009 I–XB -21.1 2.841 0.812 2.128 0.015 E-At-CH=CH-I 0.790 At-XB -31.3 2.797 2.23519 0.025 -17.3 I–XB 2.903 0.829 2.112 0.018 At-(CH=CH)2-I -26.1 2.851 0.805 2.222 0.027 At-XB I–XB -17.5 2.894 0.827 2.103 0.009 At-(CH=CH)3-I -26.4 2.845 0.804 2.211 0.018 At-XB I–XB -34.5 0.776 2.715 2.033 0.038 At-C≡C-I -49.3 2.674 0.755 2.151 0.056 At–XB -37.3 I–XB 2.700 0.771 2.024 0.038 At–(C≡C)<sub>2</sub>–I At-XB -51.9 2.664 0.753 2.143 0.056 -39.5 I–XB 2.685 0.767 2.022 0.324 At–(C≡C)<sub>3</sub>–I

Table S2 sr-B3LYP/TZVPD interaction energies and distances, C-X distances and their respective variations upon complexation (X = I, At), for the complexes formed between the dihalogenated alkanes

<sup>*a*</sup> Normalized interaction distance  $r_{XB} = \frac{d_{int}}{r_0 + r_X}$ ;  $r_0$  and  $r_X$  are the van der Waals radii of the O and X atoms, respectively. A radius of 2.02 Å is assumed for astatine according to sr calculations. <sup>b</sup> Weighted values based on the calculated Boltzmann populations for each set of XB complexes.

2.652

0.749

2.142

At-XB

-54.2

0.057

**Table S3** B3LYP/TZVPD interaction energies and distances, C–I distances and their respective variations upon complexation, for the complexes formed between R–I species and trimethylamine N-oxide.

		$\Delta E$	1 (Å)			
		(kJ/mol)	<i>a</i> <sub>int</sub> (A)	r <sub>XB</sub> "	<i>a</i> <sub>C-I</sub> (A)	$\Delta a_{\mathrm{C-I}}(\mathrm{A})$
	2c	-12.7	2.966	0.848	2.177	0.011
H–CH <sub>2</sub> –I	sr	-12.5	2.968	0.848	2.172	0.011
	$\Delta SO$	-0.2 (-1%)	-0.002	0.000	0.005	0.000
	2c	-9.4	3.027	0.865	2.196	0.003
$H-(CH_2)_4-I^b$	sr	-9.3	3.030	0.866	2.191	0.003
	$\Delta SO$	-0.1 (-2%)	-0.003	-0.001	0.005	0.000
	2c	-15.6	2.930	0.837	2.120	0.009
H <sub>2</sub> C=CH–I	sr	-15.4	2.932	0.838	2.116	0.009
	$\Delta SO$	-0.2 (-1%)	-0.002	-0.001	0.004	0.000
	2c	-16.5	2.908	83.1	2.108	0.009
H–(CH=CH)3–I	sr	-16.3	2.910	0.831	2.104	0.009
	$\Delta SO$	-0.2 (-1%)	-0.002	0.000	0.004	0.000
	2c	-34.5	2.724	0.778	2.038	0.037
H–C≡C–I	sr	-34.3	2.725	0.779	2.033	0.037
	$\Delta SO$	-0.2 (-1%)	-0.002	-0.001	0.005	0.000
	2c	-41.1	2.677	0.765	2.028	0.039
H–(C≡C) <sub>3</sub> –I	sr	-40.8	2.678	0.765	2.023	0.039
	$\Delta SO$	-0.3 (-1%)	-0.002	0.000	0.005	0.000

<sup>*a*</sup> Normalized interaction distance  $r_{XB} = \frac{d_{int}}{r_0 + r_X}$ ;  $r_0$  and  $r_X$  are the van der Waals radii of the O and X atoms, respectively. A radius of 2.02 Å is assumed for astatine according to sr calculations. <sup>*b*</sup> Weighted values based on the calculated Boltzmann populations for each set of XB complexes.

			$\Delta E$				
			(kJ/mol)	d <sub>int</sub> (A)	<b>r</b> <sub>XB</sub> <sup>a</sup>	<i>d</i> <sub>C-X</sub> (A)	$\Delta d_{\mathrm{C-X}}(\mathbf{A})$
		2c	-20.3	2.851	0.815	2.117	0.011
	I-XB	sr	-21.6	2.839	0.811	2.108	0.013
		$\Delta SO$	1.3 (6%)	0.012	0.003	0.009	-0.002
Z-At-CH=CH-I							
	At-XB	2c	-33.2	2.796	0.790	2.260	0.025
		sr	-31.9	2.795	0.790	2.217	0.024
		$\Delta SO$	-1.4 (-4%)	0.001	0.000	0.043	0.001
		2c	-19.7	2.855	0.816	2.138	0.012
	I-XB	sr	-21.1	2.841	0.812	2.128	0.015
		$\Delta SO$	1.4 (7%)	0.013	0.004	0.010	-0.003
E-At-CH=CH-I							
	At-XB	2c	-32.6	2.799	0.791	2.280	0.025
		sr	-31.3	2.797	0.790	2.235	0.025
		$\Delta SO$	-1.3 (-4%)	0.002	0.001	0.045	0.001

**Table S4** B3LYP/TZVPD interaction energies and distances, C–X distances and their respective variations upon complexation (X = I, At), for the complexes formed between the At–CH=CH–I isomers and the trimethylamine N-oxide.

<sup>*a*</sup> Normalized interaction distance  $r_{XB} = \frac{d_{int}}{r_0 + r_X}$ ;  $r_0$  and  $r_X$  are the van der Waals radii of the O and X atoms, respectively. A radius of 2.02 Å is assumed for astatine according to sr calculations.

			PW6B95/TZVPD	MP2/TZVPPD <sup>a</sup>
		2c	-26.7	-31.6
	I-XB	sr	-28.5	-33.0
		$\Delta SO$	1.8 (6%)	1.4 (4%)
At-CH <sub>2</sub> -I				
		2c	-40.0	-44.0
	At-XB	sr	-39.3	-44.0
		$\Delta SO$	-0.7 (-2%)	0.0 (0%)
		2c	-25.6	-30.2
	I-XB	sr	-26.9	-31.3
		$\Delta SO$	1.3 (5%)	1.1 (3%)
E-AtCH=CH-I				
		2c	-39.2	-42.9
	At-XB	sr	-38.0	-42.4
		$\Delta SO$	-1.2 (-3%)	-0.5 (-1%)
		2c	-39.4	-43.6
	I-XB	sr	-40.6	-44.6
		$\Delta SO$	1.2 (3%)	1.0 (2%)
At–C≡C–I				
		2c	-57.7	-60.5
	At-XB	sr	-56.3	-60.1
		$\Delta SO$	-1.4 (-2%)	-0.4 (-1%)

**Table S5** Interaction energies (kJ/mol) of the XB complexes formed by At–CH<sub>2</sub>–I, *E*-At–CH=CH–I and At–C=C–I XB-donors with Me<sub>3</sub>NO at the PW6B95/TZVPD and MP2/TZVPPD levels of theory.

<sup>*a*</sup> Single point calculations performed on PW6B95/TZVPD optimized geometries.

		d <sub>int</sub> (Å)	$r_{\rm XB}{}^a$	$\boldsymbol{ heta}_{\mathrm{AXN}}$ (°)
At–O–I	I-XB	2.693	0.769	176.1
	At-XB	2.732	0.772	176.8
	I-XB	2.877	0.822	175.7
At-INII-I	At-XB	2.865	0.809	176.3
At CH <sub>2</sub> I	I-XB	3.141	0.897	178.3
At-C112-1	At-XB	3.060	0.864	179.5
	I-XB	2.895	0.827	177.1
At-5-1	At-XB	2.874	0.812	177.9
At–PH–I	I-XB	3.224	0.921	176.5
	At-XB	3.111	0.879	177.8
At BH I	I-XB	3.513	1.004	178.8
At-DII-I	At-XB	3.405	0.962	178.9
At SiHe I	I-XB	3.466	0.990	179.1
At-51112-1	At-XB	3.299	0.932	179.3
At Ba I	I-XB	3.804	1.087	180.0
At-Dt-I	At-XB	3.619	1.022	180.0
	I-XB	3.743	1.069	179.6
At-AIII-I	At-XB	3.541	1.000	179.6
At_Ma_I	I-XB	4.120	1.177	180.0
At-Mg-1	At-XB	3.715	1.050	180.0

**Table S6** 2c-B3LYP/TZVPD interaction distances and angles ( $\Theta_{AXN}$  with X = I or At) for the complexes formed between the At–AH<sub>n</sub>–I species and the NH<sub>3</sub> Lewis base.

<sup>*a*</sup> Normalized interaction distance  $r_{XB} = \frac{d_{int}}{r_N + r_X}$ ;  $r_N$  and  $r_X$  are the van der Waals radii of the N and X atoms, respectively. A radius of 2.02 Å is assumed for astatine according to sr calculations.

			PW6B95/TZVPD	MP2/TZVPPD <sup>a</sup>
		2c	-7.1	-8.3
	I-XB	sr	-7.3	-8.5
		ΔSO	0.2 (3%)	0.2 (2%)
At–BH–I				
		2c	-11.3	-12.2
	At-XB	sr	-10.2	-11.5
		$\Delta SO$	-1.1 (-11%)	-0.7 (-6%)
		2c	-13.2	-13.7
	I-XB	sr	-14.2	-14.5
		$\Delta SO$	1.0 (7%)	0.8 (5%)
At-CH2-I				
		2c	-21.8	-21.6
	At-XB	sr	-21.5	-21.6
		$\Delta SO$	-0.3 (-1%)	0.0 (0%)
		2c	-24.7	-24.6
	I-XB	sr	-28.4	-27.3
		$\Delta SO$	3.7 (13%)	2.7 (10%)
At–NH–I				
		2c	-36.5	-34.2
	At-XB	sr	-38.2	-37.3
		ΔSO	1.7 (5%)	3.1 (8%)
		2c	-40.3	-40.2
	I-XB	sr	-48.8	-46.9
		$\Delta SO$	8.5 (17%)	6.7 (14%)
At-O-I				
		2c	-53.6	-50.6
	At-XB	sr	-63.6	-60.7
		$\Delta SO$	10.0 (16%)	10.1 (17%)

**Table S7** Interaction energies (kJ/mol) of the XB complexes formed by At–BH–I, At–CH<sub>2</sub>–I, At–NH–I and At–O–I with the NH<sub>3</sub> Lewis base at the PW6B95/TZVPD and MP2/TZVPPD levels of theory.

<sup>*a*</sup> Single point calculations performed on PW6B95/TZVPD optimized geometries.

### Structures

Cartesian coordinates (Å) of the XB complexes formed between the At–AH<sub>n</sub>–I species and ammonia at the 2c-B3LYP/TZVPD level of theory.

At–BH–I…NH <sub>3</sub>					
N	5.238011	-0.987390	0.000000		
Н	5.230869	-2.001649	0.000001		
Н	5.763272	-0.692158	0.815905		
Н	5.763271	-0.692159	-0.815905		
Ι	1.967107	0.293873	0.000000		
At	-1.854174	-0.153937	-0.000000		
В	0.012865	1.105798	0.000001		
Н	-0.139720	2.278066	0.000001		

## At-CH<sub>2</sub>-I···NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	-4.804331	-1.057468	0.000001
Η	-5.542484	-0.362375	0.001722
Η	-4.934382	-1.643620	0.817067
Η	-4.935667	-1.640935	-0.818778
С	-0.036642	1.236575	0.000003
Η	0.057635	1.833942	0.897702
Η	0.057636	1.833947	- 0.897693
At	1.798582	-0.168508	0.000000
Ι	-1.957207	0.269530	-0.000001

#### I-BH-At···NH3

N	4.386146	-0.979607	0.000033
Н	4.407274	-1.992803	0.043278
Н	4.915485	-0.634904	0.793671
Н	4.889481	-0.705119	-0.836745
At	1.186503	0.185293	-0.000011
Ι	-2.644580	-0.239450	0.000002
В	-0.907026	0.993288	0.000059
Н	-1.070123	2.164573	0.000131

## I-CH<sub>2</sub>-At···NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	-4.001333	-1.055006	0.000000
Η	-4.731549	-0.351520	- 0.000001
Н	-4.137260	-1.638366	0.818189
Н	-4.137259	-1.638367	-0.818188
С	0.906590	1.123227	0.000000
Η	0.999200	1.723586	0.896305
Η	0.999200	1.723587	-0.896304
At	-1.199999	0.176684	0.000000
Ι	2.558063	-0.267762	-0.000000

## I–NH–At…NH<sub>3</sub>

N	3.749934	-1.045194	0.022844
Η	4.013591	-1.267387	0.976212
Η	4.434532	-0.396140	-0.348506
Η	3.799023	-1.898284	-0.522825
At	1.108994	0.061368	-0.085735
N	-0.966024	0.986285	-0.308374
Η	-0.920367	1.772248	0.343894
Ι	-2.509911	-0.167123	0.541190

## I-O-At···NH3

Ν	3.712397	-0.822199	0.000000
Н	3.713050	-1.836097	0.000000
Н	4.214134	-0.504259	0.821641
Н	4.214134	-0.504259	-0.821641
0	-0.862106	1.016801	0.000000
Ι	-2.437863	-0.204469	-0.000000
At	1.152653	0.132970	0.000000

#### I-O-At···NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	3.712397	-0.822199	0.000000
Н	3.713050	-1.836097	0.000000
Н	4.214134	-0.504259	0.821641
Н	4.214134	-0.504259	-0.821641
0	-0.862106	1.016801	0.000000
Ι	-2.437863	-0.204469	-0.000000
At	1.152653	0.132970	0.000000

## At-NH-I…NH3

N	-3.728363	0.917093	0.042810
Η	-3.878320	1.435199	0.900921
Η	-4.409848	0.167859	0.003768
Η	-3.901620	1.541159	-0.736874
N	0.890363	-0.947872	-0.322691
Н	0.866055	-1.753155	0.307225
Ι	-1.048658	-0.122657	-0.084891
At	2.535799	0.272716	0.638246

## At-O-I···NH<sub>3</sub>

N	-4.372990	0.830028	0.000000
Н	-4.338158	1.842841	-0.000000
Н	-4.879280	0.524422	0.822929
Н	-4.879280	0.524422	-0.822929
0	-0.057973	-1.103984	-0.000000
Ι	-1.884109	-0.198574	-0.000000
At	1.706226	0.125346	0.000000

#### At-O-I···NH<sub>3</sub>

N	-4.372990	0.830028	0.000000
Н	-4.338158	1.842841	-0.000000
Н	-4.879280	0.524422	0.822929
Н	-4.879280	0.524422	-0.822929
0	-0.057973	-1.103984	-0.000000
Ι	-1.884109	-0.198574	-0.000000
At	1.706226	0.125346	0.000000

## I-Mg-At···NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	-4.705294	0.058007	0.000696
Н	-5.074854	1.002227	0.026246
Н	-5.084754	-0.432230	0.803463
Н	-5.084684	-0.388092	- 0.827453
Mg	1.665079	0.014357	-0.001030
At	-0.989904	0.032598	-0.000066
Ι	4.225532	-0.003372	-0.001856

## I-AIH-At…NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	-4.720444	1.167895	-0.000001
Н	-4.694400	2.181879	-0.000004
Η	-5.251122	0.882646	0.815979
Н	-5.251124	0.882641	-0.815977
At	-1.437650	-0.159373	-0.000001
Al	0.964272	-1.148594	-0.000001
Н	1.224168	-2.698431	-0.000003
Ι	2.956233	0.359518	0.000002

## At-Mg-I···NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	-4.861703	0.058320	-0.000151
Η	-5.232422	1.002400	0.000593
Η	-5.241773	-0.410350	0.815088
Η	-5.242466	-0.409334	-0.815650
Mg	1.807044	0.014178	0.000098
Ι	-0.741928	0.031001	0.000126
At	4.464555	-0.003443	-0.000104

#### At–AlH–I…NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	5.707945	-1.240858	0.000000
Н	5.639867	-2.252816	0.000000
Н	6.250496	-0.978475	0.815755
Н	6.250496	-0.978475	-0.815755
Ι	2.280498	0.262623	0.000000
Al	0.012856	1.274804	0.000000
Н	-0.161106	2.835498	0.000000
At	-2.105516	-0.240367	0.000000

## I-PH-At…NH3

Ν	4.143445	-1.240125	0.023654	
Н	4.616237	-1.114358	0.911835	
Н	4.749878	-0.872908	-0.701363	
Н	4.046997	-2.237290	-0.133488	
At	1.358575	0.146201	-0.005232	
Р	-0.973609	1.401988	-0.081793	
Н	-1.001357	1.621667	1.320347	
Ι	-2.684728	-0.418362	0.002051	

## At-PH-I···NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	4.958760	-1.325414	0.016617
Η	4.896734	-2.208944	-0.477100
Н	5.273514	-1.525042	0.959607
Н	5.680077	-0.774221	-0.435153
Р	0.015931	1.534459	-0.086629
Н	-0.031634	1.754631	1.314908
At	-1.925631	-0.267883	0.001118
Ι	2.130371	0.222351	-0.005173

#### I-SiH<sub>2</sub>-At···NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	-4.404482	-1.212471	0.000001	
Н	-4.542154	-1.797901	0.816720	
Η	-5.142706	-0.517001	-0.000003	
Η	-4.542152	-1.797905	-0.816716	
At	-1.399049	0.146873	0.000001	
Ι	2.799796	-0.405807	-0.000001	
Si	0.953443	1.247551	0.000001	
Η	1.120071	2.078962	-1.210777	
Н	1.120072	2.078960	1.210780	

# At-SiH<sub>2</sub>-I···NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	-5.288248	-1.317644	-0.000026
Н	-5.414550	-1.879226	0.835025
Н	-6.059876	-0.660636	-0.039051
Н	-5.382826	-1.938846	-0.796143
Si	-0.010530	1.381870	-0.000026
Н	0.094533	2.218399	-1.213179
Н	0.094550	2.218457	1.213085
Ι	-2.192242	0.240513	0.000016
At	2.000260	-0.268565	-0.000000

#### At–S–I···NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	4.632419	1.230466	0.000001
Н	5.177025	0.991869	0.820879
Н	4.484962	2.233323	0.000003
Н	5.177022	0.991873	-0.820880
S	0.036684	-1.484404	0.000004
Ι	2.106375	-0.183931	0.000002
At	-1.876362	0.243159	-0.000002

#### At-Be-I···NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	-4.567106	0.052880	-0.000002
Н	-4.939064	0.996514	0.000001
Н	-4.946454	-0.415977	0.815514
Η	-4.946465	-0.415977	-0.815512
Be	1.412861	0.021733	-0.000001
Ι	-0.762956	0.033036	-0.000005
At	3.701043	0.009848	0.000004

#### I–S–At···NH<sub>3</sub>

N	3.921700	1.146116	-0.000000
Н	4.456383	0.884563	0.820774
Н	3.821613	2.155112	-0.000528
Н	4.456790	0.883745	-0.820248
S	-0.951108	-1.362708	-0.000000
Ι	-2.627118	0.387522	0.000000
At	1.344333	-0.125665	0.000000

#### I-Be-At···NH<sub>3</sub>

Ν	-4.504755	0.055529	-0.000024
Н	-4.874993	0.999895	0.000045
Н	-4.884094	-0.412956	0.815775
Н	-4.884399	-0.412957	-0.815681
Be	1.400437	0.017412	-0.000035
At	-0.885736	0.032042	-0.000264
Ι	3.585121	0.003429	0.000182