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Supporting Information

Lewis acid-promoted formation of Benzoselenazole Derivatives using SeO_2 as a selenium source

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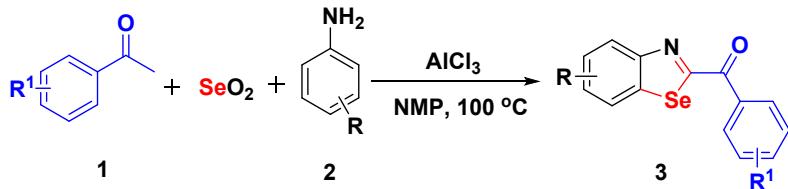
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General Information

All reactions were carried out in round-bottom flasks; stirring was achieved with an oven-dried magnetic stirring bar. Solvents were purified by standard methods unless otherwise noted. Commercially available reagents were purchased from Aladdin Company in China and used throughout without further purification other than those detailed below. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh). All reactions were monitored by TLC analysis. Deuterated solvents were purchased from Cambridge Isotope laboratories. ^1H -NMR and ^{13}C -NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX-400 spectrometer operating at 400 MHz and 100 MHz respectively. HRMS spectrometry (LC-HRMS) was recorded on a LXQ Spectrometer (Thermo Scientific) operating on ESI-TOF (MeOH as a solvent).

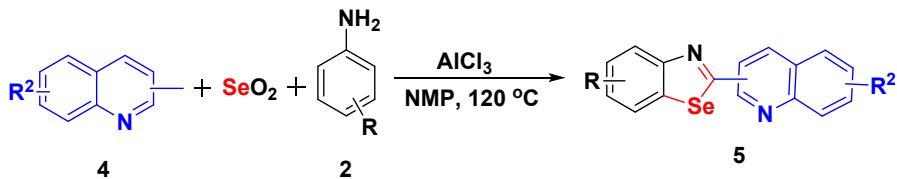
Experimental Procedure

General procedure for selenization of SeO_2 as a selenium source without metal catalyst



Aryl ketone (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), SeO_2 (1.2 equiv.), arylaniline (1.2 equiv.) and AlCl_3 (0.5 equiv.) were added to a round bottom flask with anhydrous NMP (0.5 mL). The mixture was stirred at 100 °C under reflux. After 12 hrs, the reaction was cooled to room temperature, extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography (petroleum ether : EtOAc) to give product 3.

General procedure for selenization of SeO_2 as a selenium source without metal catalyst

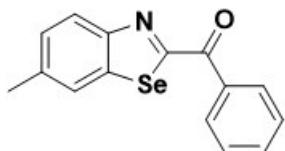


Quinoline (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), SeO_2 (1.2 equiv.), arylaniline (1.2 equiv.) and AlCl_3 (0.5 equiv.) were added to a round bottom flask with anhydrous NMP (0.5 mL). The mixture was stirred at 120 °C under reflux. After 12 hrs, the reaction was cooled to room temperature, extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and

concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography (petroleum ether : EtOAc) to give product **5**.

Characterization data of the products

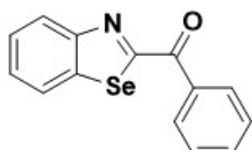
(6-methylbenzo[*d*][1,3]selenazol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3a**)



Yield 70%, yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.69 - 8.48 (m, 2H), 8.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91 - 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.73 - 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.62 - 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.40 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 186.26, 172.11, 154.11, 141.09, 138.13, 134.58, 133.75, 131.33, 128.57, 128.47, 126.96, 125.12, 21.70. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₂NOSe⁺ 302.0079 (M+H)⁺, found 302.0077.

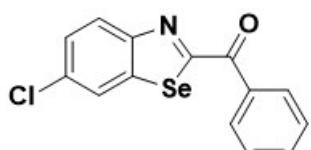
benzo[*d*][1,3]selenazol-2-yl(phenyl)methanone (**3b**)



Yield 74%, yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.66 - 8.50 (m, 2H), 8.32 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.80 - 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.66 - 7.55 (m, 3H), 7.51 - 7.48 (m, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 186.20, 173.32, 155.96, 140.84, 134.44, 133.88, 131.39, 128.51, 127.50, 127.41, 126.84, 125.36. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₁₀NOSe⁺ 287.9922 (M+H)⁺, found 287.9917.

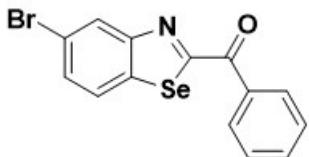
(6-chlorobenzo[*d*][1,3]selenazol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3c**)



Yield 68%, yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.64 - 8.51 (m, 2H), 8.21 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.74 - 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.65 - 7.49 (m, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 185.78, 173.84, 154.44, 141.84, 134.19, 134.05, 133.88, 131.35, 128.56, 128.07, 127.80, 124.96. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₉ClNOSe⁺ 321.9532 (M+H)⁺, found 321.9537.

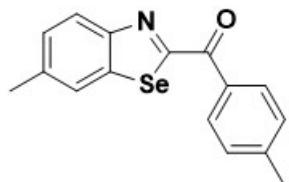
(5-bromobenzo[*d*][1,3]selenazol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3d)



Yield 66%, orange solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.60 - 8.55 (m, 2H), 8.25 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.75 - 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.60 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 185.95, 173.78, 155.05, 144.86, 134.09, 134.07, 131.41, 129.81, 128.57, 128.01, 126.16, 117.64. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₉BrNOSe⁺ 365.9027 (M+H)⁺, found 365.9026.

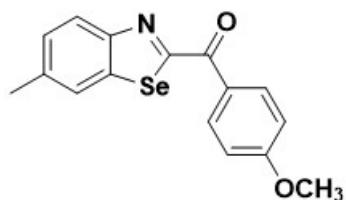
(6-methylbenzo[*d*][1,3]selenazol-2-yl)(p-tolyl)methanone (3e)



Yield 73%, yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.59 - 8.39 (m, 2H), 8.18 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 - 7.31 (m, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 185.71, 172.50, 154.13, 144.80, 141.03, 137.96, 131.98, 131.48, 129.24, 128.48, 126.89, 125.10, 21.85, 21.69. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₁₄NOSe⁺ 316.0235 (M+H)⁺, found 316.0235.

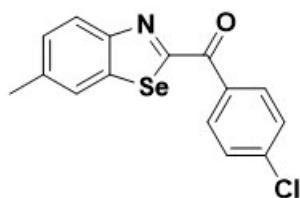
(4-methoxyphenyl)(6-methylbenzo[*d*][1,3]selenazol-2-yl)methanone (3f)



Yield 72%, yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.72 - 8.57 (m, 2H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (dt, J = 1.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.12 - 6.96 (m, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 184.29, 173.00, 164.31, 154.13, 140.92, 137.83, 133.88, 128.42, 127.32, 126.75, 125.09, 113.87, 55.56, 21.68. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₁₃NNaO₂Se⁺ 354.0004 (M+Na)⁺, found 354.0007.

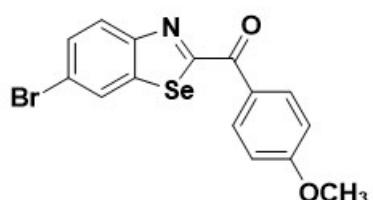
(4-chlorophenyl)(6-methylbenzo[d][1,3]selenazol-2-yl)methanone (3g)



Yield 64%, yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.65 - 8.46 (m, 2H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.93 - 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.63 - 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.40 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 184.89, 171.76, 154.02, 141.16, 140.44, 138.33, 132.84, 132.76, 128.82, 128.69, 126.98, 125.13, 21.72. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₁ClNOSe⁺ 335.9689 (M+H)⁺, found 335.9689.

(6-bromobenzo[d][1,3]selenazol-2-yl)(4-methoxyphenyl)methanone (3h)

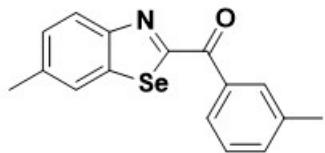


Yield 67%, yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.71 - 8.59 (m, 2H), 8.19 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 - 6.98 (m, 2H), 3.95 (s,

3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 183.74, 174.85, 164.56, 154.79, 142.17, 133.94, 130.36, 128.20, 127.88, 126.92, 121.68, 113.98, 55.60. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₁BrNO₂Se⁺ 395.9133 (M+H)⁺, found 385.9121.

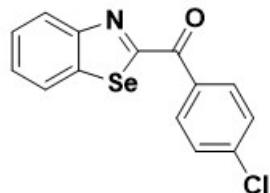
(6-methylbenzo[*d*][1,3]selenazol-2-yl)(m-tolyl)methanone (3i)



Yield 71%, yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.39 (dt, J = 6.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (p, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90 - 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.54 - 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.39 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 186.53, 172.24, 154.09, 141.06, 138.25, 138.06, 134.59, 131.52, 128.70, 128.53, 128.36, 126.96, 125.11, 21.70, 21.47. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₁₄NOSe⁺ 316.0235 (M+H)⁺, found 316.0233.

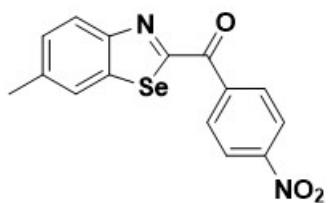
benzo[*d*][1,3]selenazol-2-yl(4-chlorophenyl)methanone (3j)



Yield 69%, yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.62 - 8.54 (m, 2H), 8.31 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.10 - 8.03 (m, 1H), 7.65 - 7.53 (m, 3H), 7.49 (ddd, J = 8.3, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 184.87, 172.98, 155.88, 140.90, 140.61, 132.81, 132.72, 128.88, 127.57, 127.53, 126.95, 125.38. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₉ClNOSe⁺ 321.9532 (M+H)⁺, found 321.9534.

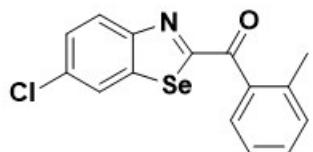
(6-methylbenzo[*d*][1,3]selenazol-2-yl)(4-nitrophenyl)methanone (3k)



Yield 47%, yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.87 - 8.62 (m, 2H), 8.51 - 8.30 (m, 2H), 8.20 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (dt, J = 1.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 184.82, 170.67, 153.98, 150.53, 141.42, 139.45, 138.92, 132.31, 129.01, 127.20, 125.20, 123.44, 21.77. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₀N₂NaO₃Se⁺ 368.9749 (M+H)⁺, found 368.9742.

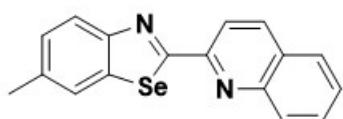
(6-chlorobenzo[d][1,3]selenazol-2-yl)(o-tolyl)methanone (3l)



Yield 57%, yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.15 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.10 - 7.99 (m, 2H), 7.57 - 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.38 (ddd, J = 8.8, 5.9, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 189.67, 174.33, 154.34, 142.00, 139.31, 134.37, 133.90, 132.16, 131.62, 131.48, 128.16, 127.81, 125.35, 125.02, 20.79. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₁ClNOSe⁺ 335.9689 (M+H)⁺, found 335.9686.

6-methyl-2-(quinolin-2-yl)benzo[d][1,3]selenazole (5a)

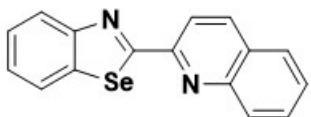


Yield 55%, white solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.44 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.33 - 8.26 (m, 1H), 8.22 - 8.16 (m, 1H), 8.07 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.93 - 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.78 (ddd, J = 8.4, 6.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 174.33, 154.48, 153.12, 148.11, 139.54, 136.89, 136.12, 130.03, 129.66, 129.05, 127.81, 127.72, 127.46, 125.16,

124.87, 117.58, 21.53. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for $C_{17}H_{13}N_2Se^+$ 325.0238 ($M+H$)⁺, found 325.0237.

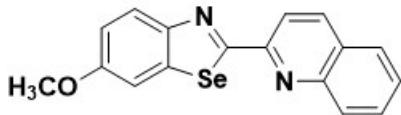
2-(quinolin-2-yl)benzo[d][1,3]selenazole (5b)



Yield 52%, white solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.44 (dd, $J = 19.2, 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.20 (dd, $J = 8.4, 4.7$ Hz, 2H), 8.04 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (ddd, $J = 8.5, 6.8, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 - 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 175.56, 156.41, 152.99, 148.12, 139.43, 136.96, 130.07, 129.70, 129.13, 127.73, 127.57, 126.25, 125.79, 125.42, 125.25, 117.61. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for $C_{16}H_{10}N_2NaSe^+$ 332.9901 ($M+H$)⁺, found 332.9899.

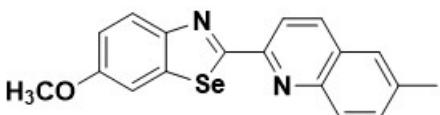
6-methoxy-2-(quinolin-2-yl)benzo[d][1,3]selenazole (5c)



Yield 58%, white solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.41 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd, $J = 8.6, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.18 (dq, $J = 8.5, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.92 - 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.77 (ddd, $J = 8.5, 6.9, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 6.8, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, $J = 8.9, 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 172.51, 158.14, 153.11, 150.92, 148.11, 140.90, 136.84, 130.00, 129.58, 128.94, 127.72, 127.35, 125.79, 117.47, 115.25, 108.00, 55.78. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for $C_{17}H_{13}N_2OSe^+$ 341.0188 ($M+H$)⁺, found 341.0188.

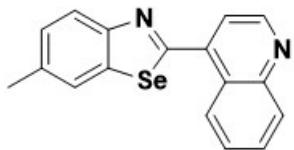
6-methoxy-2-(6-methylquinolin-2-yl)benzo[d][1,3]selenazole (5d)



Yield 60%, white solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.36 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.25 - 8.11 (m, 1H), 8.06 (dd, J = 8.8, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.67 - 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.57 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 172.71, 158.06, 152.31, 150.94, 146.71, 140.77, 137.48, 136.08, 132.28, 129.25, 128.99, 126.60, 125.68, 117.47, 115.14, 108.03, 55.77, 21.72. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₅N₂OSe⁺ 355.0344 (M+H)⁺, found 355.0342.

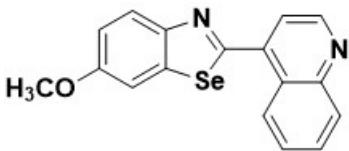
6-methyl-2-(quinolin-4-yl)benzo[d][1,3]selenazole (5e)



Yield 90%, white solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 9.09 - 8.94 (m, 2H), 8.22 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.87 - 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.76 - 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.39 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 167.72, 153.92, 149.84, 149.26, 140.75, 139.40, 136.53, 129.92, 129.88, 128.26, 128.04, 126.13, 125.17, 124.60, 124.45, 122.49, 21.54. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₇H₁₃N₂Se⁺ 325.0238 (M+H)⁺, found 325.0234.

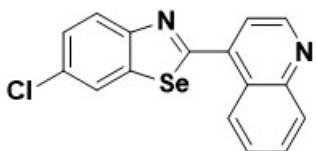
6-methoxy-2-(quinolin-4-yl)benzo[d][1,3]selenazole (5f)



Yield 96%, white solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 9.15 - 8.95 (m, 2H), 8.29 - 8.10 (m, 2H), 7.80 (ddd, J = 8.4, 6.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.77 - 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 165.85, 158.31, 150.36, 149.85, 149.27, 140.66, 140.61, 129.90, 129.87, 128.01, 126.17, 126.07, 124.41, 122.43, 115.62, 107.55, 55.85. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₇H₁₃N₂OSe⁺ 341.0188 (M+H)⁺, found 341.0185.

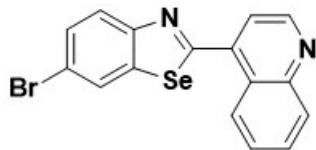
6-chloro-2-(quinolin-4-yl)benzo[d][1,3]selenazole (5g)



Yield 85%, white solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 9.05 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 8.97 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.33 - 8.11 (m, 2H), 8.02 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (ddd, J = 8.4, 6.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.79 - 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.56 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 169.47, 154.28, 149.83, 149.27, 140.23, 140.19, 132.30, 130.09, 129.98, 128.25, 127.56, 126.28, 125.89, 124.40, 124.23, 122.57. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₁₀ClN₂Se⁺ 344.9692 (M+H)⁺, found 344.9692.

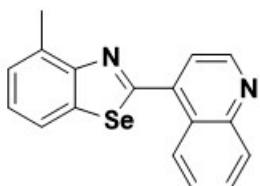
6-bromo-2-(quinolin-4-yl)benzo[d][1,3]selenazole (5h)



Yield 87%, pale yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 9.05 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 8.96 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.31 - 7.96 (m, 3H), 7.83 (ddd, J = 8.4, 6.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.79 - 7.50 (m, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 169.58, 154.58, 149.83, 149.28, 140.71, 140.15, 130.29, 130.09, 129.99, 128.26, 127.30, 126.66, 125.89, 124.22, 122.56, 120.18. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₁₀BrN₂Se⁺ 388.9187(M+H)⁺, found 388.9185.

4-methyl-2-(quinolin-4-yl)benzo[d][1,3]selenazole (5i)



Yield 88%, white solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 9.16 - 8.98 (m, 2H), 8.23 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.94 - 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.80 - 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.46 - 7.29 (m, 2H), 2.92 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 167.53, 155.15, 149.87, 149.34, 140.81, 139.25, 135.80, 129.90, 129.89, 128.05, 127.36, 126.25, 126.21, 124.45, 122.64, 122.15, 19.44. **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₇H₁₃N₂Se⁺ 325.0238 (M+H)⁺, found 325.0241.

Copies of ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra

