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## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Glutathione peroxidase mimics based on conformationallyrestricted, *peri*-like 4,5-disubstituted fluorene dichalcogenides

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## Contents

General experimental	S2
Overall stoichiometries in the reaction of 5a and 6a with thiols	S3
Experimental procedures and analytical data	S4
X-ray crystallography	S16
Copies of NMR spectra	S25
References	S64

### **General experimental**

All reagents were bought commercially from either Sigma-Aldrich (Merck), Alfa Aesar, Acros Organics, Fisher Scientific, VWR, or Fluorochem, and were used as sold unless stated. nBuLi was bought as a 2.5 M solution in hexanes and titrated with menthol and 'blue'. MCPBA was purified by washing with a pH 7 phosphate buffer which was prepared from 0.1 M NaOH(aq) (154 mL) and 0.2 M KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4(ao)</sub> (94 mL), distilled water was added up to 376 mL. A solution of mCPBA (77% w/w, 10 g) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) was washed with the buffer solution; the combined organic layers were then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, evaporated under reduced pressure to yield pure mCPBA (7.3 g, 73%). All reactions were performed under an atmosphere of argon in oven or flame dried flasks. All solvents were bought from one of the above suppliers, and used without further drying or purification unless stated. N, N, N', N'-Tetramethylethylenediamine (TMEDA) was distilled from CaH<sub>2</sub> and stored over KOH. Silica gel on aluminium-backed TLC plates were used for reaction monitoring, supplied from Merck. The plates were visualised in UV (254 nm) and standard laboratory visualizing agents: KMnO<sub>4</sub>, anisaldehyde, vanillin, curcumin, iodine powder. Purification by flash column chromatography was performed on Sigma-Aldrich or Fluorochem silica gel, pore size 60 Å, 230-400 mesh particle size, 40-63 µm particle size. Infra-red spectra were recorded neat (oil) or with the aid of an ATR-attachment (solid) on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum 100 FT-IR spectrometer, only selected absorbances (vmax, cm<sup>-1</sup>) are reported. Melting points were recorded using open glass capillaries on a Gallenkamp melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. MS data are reported as m/z (%) (relative intensity except in cases where only the parent ion is observed). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVIII300, Bruker AVIII400, Bruker NEO400 and Bruker AV4-500 in the solvents indicated. The solvent signals were used as references: <sup>1</sup>H NMR: residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> (7.26 ppm) and CD<sub>3</sub>OD (3.31 ppm); <sup>13</sup>C NMR; CDCl<sub>3</sub> (77.16 ppm) and CD<sub>3</sub>OD (49.00 ppm). <sup>77</sup>Se NMR data was recorded on a Bruker AVIII400 (76 MHz <sup>77</sup>Se, T = 293 K) with diphenyl diselenide (463 ppm) as the external standard.<sup>2</sup> Coupling constants (J) are reported in Hz, and are reported as observed, not averaged between the two environments that share them. The following abbreviations are used to describe multiplicity in <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: m (multiplet), s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), hept (heptet), ap. (apparent). The distinction between multiplet and stack is as follows: a multiplet is a single environment that is too convoluted to establish its multiplicity correctly, a stack is where multiple environments overlap and their fidelity is lost. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C assignments were made based on HMBC and HSQC NMR data.

Diselenide 2b was prepared according to the literature procedure.3

## Overall stoichiometries in the reaction of 5a and 6a with thiols

Scheme S1 Overall stoichiometries in the reaction of 5a and 6a with thiols

### **Experimental procedures and analytical data**

### 9,9-Dimethyl-9H-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (3a)

Diselenide 3a is a novel compound, prepared according to a modified literature procedure.<sup>4</sup> nBuLi (2.39 M in hexanes, 8.6 mL, 20.6 mmol) was added dropwise over 10 min at rt to a solution of 9,9-dimethyl-9H-fluorene (4a) (1.00 g, 5.14 mmol) in TMEDA (3.1 mL, 20.6 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to -78 °C and THF (20 mL) was added followed by the addition of selenium (3.25 g, 41.13 mmol) as a single portion. The cooling bath was removed and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 16 h.  $H_2O$  (150 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with  $Et_2O$  (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (100% *n*-hexane). Diselenide 3a was obtained as a dark burgundy crystalline solid (938 mg, 52%). R<sub>f</sub> 0.54 (nhexane); mp 135–136 °C;  $v_{\text{max}}$ (solid neat, ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3052, 2956, 2895, 2859, 1561, 1403, 1188, 937, 782, 727;  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.23–7.19 (6 H, stack, H-1, H-2, H-3, H-6, H-7 and H-8), 1.45 (6 H, s, H-14 and H-15);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 154.1 (C, C-10 and C-13), 137.7 (C, C-11 and C-12), 129.5 (CH, C-1 and C-8 or C-2 and C-7 or C-3 and 6), 126.3 (CH, C-1 and C-8 or C-2 and C-7 or C-3 and C-6), 121.6 (CH, C-1 and C-8 or C-2 and C-7 or C-3 and C-6), 117.8 (C, C-4 and C-5), 47.2 (C, C-9), 26.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-14 and C-15); <sup>77</sup>Se NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 236.2; *m/z* (ASAP+) found 351.9285 (M++, C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub><sup>80</sup>Se<sub>2</sub> requires 351.9272).

## 9,9-Dibutyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (3b)

Compound 3b was prepared according a modified literature procedure.4 nBuLi (2.00 M in hexanes, 7.19 mL, 14.38 mmol) was added dropwise over 10 min to a solution of 9,9-dibutyl-9H-fluorene (4b) (1.00 g, 3.59 mmol) in TMEDA (2.15 mL, 14.38 mmol). The reaction mixture was then stirred at 60 °C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to -78 °C and THF (20 mL) was added followed by addition of selenium (2.21 g, 27.98 mmol) as a single portion. The cooling bath was removed and the reaction was allowed to stir for 16 h. H<sub>2</sub>O (150 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (100% n-hexane). Diselenide 3b was obtained as a dark burgundy crystalline solid (747 mg, 48%). R<sub>f</sub> 0.54 (n-hexane); mp 129-133 °C;  $V_{\text{max}}$ (solid neat, ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3038, 2953, 2924, 2851, 1561, 1405, 1106, 999, 789, 733; δ<sub>H</sub> (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.27–7.23 (2 H, m, H-2 and H-7), 7.18–7.16 (4 H, stack, H-1, H-3, H-6 and H-8), 1.98–1.94 (4 H, m, H-14 and H-15), 1.00 (4 H, sext, J = 8.0, H-16 and H-17), 0.75 (6 H, t, J = 8.0, H-20 and H-21), 0.71–0.66 (4 H, m, H-18 and H-19);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 151.5 (C, C-10 and C-13), 139.6 (C, C-11 and C-12), 129.3 (CH, C-3 and C-6), 126.3 (CH, C-2 and C-7), 122.0 (CH, C-1 and C-8), 117.8 (C, C-4 and C-5), 55.5 (C, C-9), 39.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-14 and 15), 26.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-16 and 17), 23.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-18 and 19), 13.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-20 and 21); <sup>77</sup>Se NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 235.2; *m/z* (EI<sup>+</sup>) found 436.0208 (M<sup>++</sup>, C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub><sup>80</sup>Se<sub>2</sub> requires 436.0208).

#### 9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluorene (4a)

Known compound **4a** was prepared according to the literature procedure.<sup>5</sup> *t*BuOK (11.80 g, 105.00 mmol) was added as a single portion at rt to a solution of fluorene (5.00 g, 30.00 mmol) in THF (50 mL). Iodomethane (10.00 g, 75.00 mmol) was added dropwise over a period of 10 min. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 16 h. The mixture was filtered and the filtrate was treated with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (250 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 100 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane 100%) giving compound **4a** (1.08 g, 45%) as a white crystalline solid. R<sub>f</sub> 0.42 (*n*-hexane); mp 96–98 °C;  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (solid neat, ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2927, 2927, 2856, 1465, 1447, 1376, 1332, 1299, 1221, 1128;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.86 – 7.83 (2 H, m, H-1 and H-8), 7.56 – 7.54 (2 H, m, H-4 and H-5), 7.48 – 7.40 (4 H, stack, H-2, H-3, H-6 and H-7), 1.65 (6 H, s, H-14 and H-

15);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 153.7 (C, C-10 and C-13), 139.3 (C, C-11 and C-12), 127.4 (CH, C-2 and C-7), 127.1 (CH, C-3 and C-6), 122.7 (CH, C-4 and C-5), 120.1 (CH, C-1 and C-8), 46.9 (C, C-9), 27.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-14 and C-15); m/z (ASAP<sup>+</sup>) found 195.1178 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>, C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub> requires 195.1174).

Analytical data in agreement with literature values.6

### 9,9-Dibutyl-9*H*-fluorene (4b)

Known compound 4b was prepared according a modified literature procedure.4 tBuOK (3.55 g, 29.1 mmol) was added in one portion at rt to a solution of fluorene (967 mg, 5.82 mmol) in THF (40 mL). 1-Bromobutane (1.9 mL, 17.5 mmol) was added dropwise to the solution over 1 min. The reaction mixture was then allowed to stir at rt for 16 h. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (50 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (n-hexane 100%). Compound 4b (990 mg, 61%) was obtained as a white crystalline solid.  $R_f$  0.60 (n-hexane); mp 49–50 °C;  $v_{\text{max}}$ (solid neat, ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2927, 2927, 2856, 1465, 1447, 1376, 1332, 1299, 1221, 1128;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.73-7.17 (2 H, m, H-4 and H-5), 7.37-7.29 (6 H, stack, H-1, H-2, H-3, H-6, H-7 and H-8), 2.01–1.96 (4 H, m, H-14 and H-15), 1.07 (4 H, sext, J = 8.0, H-16 and H-17), 0.67 (6 H, t, J = 7.0, H-20 and H-21), 0.54–0.64 (4 H, m, H-18 and H-19);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 150.8 (C, C-10 and C-13), 141.2 (C, C-11 and C-12), 127.1, 126.8, 123.0 and 119.8 (CH, C-1 – C-8), 55.1 (C, C-9), 40.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-14 and C-15), 26.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-16 and C-17), 23.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-18 and C-19), 13.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-20 and C-21); *m/z* (AP+) 279 ([M+H]+ 279.1, 11%), 221.2 (12), 179.1 (53), 167.1 (100).

Analytical data in agreement with literature values.<sup>7</sup>

### 9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide (5a) via mCPBA oxidation

Se—Se

MCPBA (1.2 eq)

$$tag{5} = 5e^{tag{5}}$$
 $tag{6} = 5f^{tag{7}}$ 
 $tag{6} = 5f^{tag{7}}$ 
 $tag{7} = 5a^{tag{7}}$ 
 $tag{8} = 13 - 9 + 10 - 10$ 
 $tag{10} = 1$ 
 $tag{13} = 9 + 10 - 10$ 
 $tag{14} = 15$ 
 $tag{13} = 5a$ 

mCPBA (59 mg, 0.34 mmol) was added as a single portion at rt to a solution of 9,9-dimethyl-9H-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (**3a**) (98 mg, 0.28 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) and allowed to stir at rt for 15 min. Compound **5a** precipitated during this time. The solid was filtered under vacuum and washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 15 mL). Compound **5a** was obtained as a yellow powder (43 mg, 42%). Evaporation of the filtrate gave recovered diselenide **3a** (56 mg, 57%). R<sub>f</sub> 0.15 (Et<sub>2</sub>O); mp 191–192 °C;  $v_{max}$ (solid neat, ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2957, 2919, 2858, 1567, 1427, 1407, 830, 782;  $\delta_{H}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.73 (1 H, dd, J = 7.6, 1.0, H-3), 7.67 (1 H, dd, J = 7.5, 1.0, H-1), 7.60 (1 H, t, J = 7.6, H-2), 7.49 (1 H, dd, J = 7.6, 1.5, H-6), 7.45 (1 H, t, J = 7.6, H-7), 7.39 (1 H, dd, J = 7.1, 1.4, H-8), 1.57 (3 H, s, H-14 or H-15), 1.55 (3H, s, H-14 or H-15);  $\delta_{C}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 156.0 (C, C-10), 155.3 (C, C-13), 134.1 (C, C-11), 133.4 (C, C-12), 130.7 (C, C-4), 130.2 (CH, C-7), 129.5 (CH, C-2), 127.0 (CH, C-6), 126.2 (CH, C-1), 125.5 (CH, C-3), 121.3 (CH, C-8), 116.7 (C, C-5), 47.6 (C, C-9), 27.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-14 or C-15), 26.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-14 or C-15); <sup>77</sup>Se NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1047.3, 709.0; m/z (ASAP+) found 368.9302 (M++, C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sup>80</sup>Se<sub>2</sub> requires 368.9300)

### 9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide (5a) via H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> oxidation

Se—Se
$$\frac{H_2O_2}{(2:1) \text{ MeOH, CH}_2CI_2}$$
3a
$$5a$$

 $H_2O_{2(aq)}$  (9.77 M in  $H_2O$ , 0.3 mL, 2.93 mmol) was added rapidly to a solution of 9,9-dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine (**3a**) (100 mg, 0.29 mmol) in a 2:1 mixture of MeOH (13.5 mL) and  $CH_2Cl_2$  (6.5 mL) and allowed to stir at rt for 24 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure.  $H_2O$  (15 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with  $Et_2O$  (2 × 15 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (4:1, n-

hexane: Et<sub>2</sub>O). Diselenide **3a** (59 mg, 59%) eluted from the column first, followed by **5a** (36 mg, 34%).

## 9,9-Dibutyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide (5b) via mCPBA oxidation

Se—Se

MCPBA (1.2 eq)

Et<sub>2</sub>O, 15 min

$$14$$
 $15$ 
 $18$ 
 $16$ 
 $17$ 
 $19$ 
 $20$ 
 $21$ 
 $3b$ 
 $18$ 
 $18$ 
 $16$ 
 $17$ 
 $19$ 
 $20$ 
 $21$ 

mCPBA (47 mg, 0.27 mmol) was added as a single portion to a solution of 9,9-dibutyl-9Hfluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (3b) (100 mg, 0.23 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) and allowed to stir at rt for 15 min. Compound 5b precipitated during this time. The solid was filtered under vacuum and washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 15 mL). Compound **5b** was obtained as a yellow powder (40 mg, 38%). Evaporation of the filtrate gave diselenide **3b** (53 mg, 53%). Data for **5b**:  $R_f$ 0.15 (Et<sub>2</sub>O); mp 147–149 °C;  $v_{\text{max}}$ (solid neat, ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2955, 2916, 2274, 1368, 1246, 816, 732;  $\delta_{H}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.75–7.70 (1 H, m, H-3), 7.59–7.58 (2 H, stack, H-1 and H-2), 7.47– 7.41 (2 H, stack, H-6 and H-7), 7.39 (1 H, dd, J = 7.8 and 1.4, H-8), 2.06–2.02 (4 H, m, H-14 and H-15), 1.12–1.05 (4 H, m, H-16 and H-17), 0.68 (8 H, ap. q, J = 7.8, H-20, H-21 and H-18 or H-19), 0.59–0.52 (2 H, m, H-18 or H-19);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 153.5 (C, C-10), 152.7 (C, C-13), 135.6 (C, C-11), 134.9 (C, C-12), 130.7 (C, C-4), 130.1 (CH, C-7), 129.3 (CH, C-2), 126.8 (CH, C-6), 126.4 (CH, C-1), 125.5 (CH, C-3), 121.7 (CH, C-8), 116.7 (C, C-5), 55.8 (C, C-9), 39.84 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-14 or 15), 39.79 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-14 or 15), 26.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-16 and 17), 23.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-18 or 19), 23.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-18 or 19), 13.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-20 or 21), 13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-20 or 21); <sup>77</sup>Se NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 710.0, 1046.2; m/z (ASAP+) 453.0239 ([M+H]+, C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>25</sub><sup>80</sup>Se<sub>2</sub>O requires 453.0240)

### trans-Seleninic anhydride 6a

Compound **6a** is a novel compound, prepared according to a modified literature procedure.<sup>3</sup> mCPBA (603 mg, 3.49 mmol) was added as a single portion at rt to a solution of 9H-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (**3a**) (350 mg, 0.99 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) and allowed to stir at rt for 15 min. Seleninic anhydride **6a** precipitated during this time. The solid was filtered under vacuum and washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 15 mL). Seleninic anhydride **6a** was obtained as a white powder (389 mg, 98%) that required no further purification. mp 221–222 °C;  $v_{max}$ (solid neat, ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2951, 2924, 2852, 2397, 1453, 1411, 813, 795, 736, 673;  $\delta_{H}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.71–7.68 (4 H, stack, H-1, H-3, H-6 and H-8), 7.60 (2 H, t, J = 7.6, H-2 and H-7), 1.54 (6 H, s, H-14 and H-15);  $\delta_{C}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 157.3 (C, C-10 and C-13), 148.3 (C, C-11 and C-12), 135.5 (C, C-4 and C-5), 129.2 (CH, C-1 and C-8 or C-3 and C-6), 127.0 (CH, C-2 and C-7), 47.8 (C, C-9), 27.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-14 and C-15); <sup>77</sup>Se NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1278.3; m/z (ASAP+) found 400.9204 (M++, C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub><sup>80</sup>Se<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires 400.9198).

#### trans-Seleninic anhydride 6b

Compound **6b** is a novel compound, prepared according to a modified literature procedure.<sup>8</sup> mCPBA (395 mg, 2.29 mmol) was added as a single portion at rt to a solution of 9,9-dibutyl-9H-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (**3b**) (284 mg, 0.65 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 15 min. Compound **6b** precipitated during this time. The solid was filtered under vacuum and washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 15 mL). Seleninic anhydride **6b** was obtained as a white powder (300 mg, 95%) that required no further purification. mp 175–178 °C;  $v_{max}$ (solid neat, ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2956, 2927, 2854, 2394, 1457, 1405, 818, 797, 737, 671;  $\delta_{H}$  (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) 7.69 (2 H, dd, J = 7.1 and 1.4, H-3 and H-6 or H-1 and H-8), 7.57 (2 H, dd, J = 7.8 and 1.4, H-3 and H-6 or H-1 and H-8), 7.58 (2 H, t, J = 7.8, H-2 and H-7), 2.13–1.95 (4 H, m, H-14 and H-15), 0.99–0.84 (4 H, m, H-16 and H-17), 0.59 (6 H, t, J = 7.4, H-20 and H-21), 0.25–0.14 (4 H, m, H-18 and H-19);  $\delta_{C}$  (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) 155.5 (C, C-10 and C-13), 146.6 (C, C-11 and C-12), 139.8 (C, C-4 and C-5), 129.2 (CH, C-1 and C-8), 127.7 (CH, C-3 and C-6), 127.1 (CH, C-2 and C-7), 56.4 (C, C-9), 41.3

(CH<sub>2</sub>, C-14 and C-15), 27.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-16 and C-17), 23.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-18 and C-19), 14.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-20 and C-21);  $^{77}$ Se NMR (76 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) 1175.9; m/z (ASAP+) 485.0147 found ([M+H]+, C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>25</sub>80Se<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires 485.0138).

# Potassium 9,9-dimethyl-9*H*-fluorene-4,5-diseleninate (7a) and reformation of *trans*-seleninic anhydride (6a)

Seleninic anhydride **6a** (50 mg, 0.125 mmol) was added as a single portion to a solution of KOH (56 mg, 1.00 mmol) in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (4.0 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 2 h. NMR spectroscopy revealed the presence of **7a**.  $HCI_{(aq)}$  (1 M, 5 mL) was added to the reaction mixture to afford a precipitate. The solid was filtered under vacuum and washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 10 mL). Seleninic anhydride **6a** was obtained as a white powder (43 mg, 86%) that required no further purification.

Data for **7a**:  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) 8.04 – 7.84 (2 H, broad, J = 7.8, H-1 and H-8), 7.51 – 7.27 (4 H, broad, J = 7.6, H-2 and H-7), 1.38 – 1.08 (6 H, broad, H-14 and H-15);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) 154.9 (C, C-10 and C-13), 149.5 (C, C-11 and C-12), 134.9 (C, C-4 and C-5), 128.8 (CH, C-2 and C-7), 124.6 (CH, C-1 and C-8 or C-3 and C-6), 124.5 (CH, C-1 and C-8 or C-3 and C-6), 46.0 (C, C-9), 26.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-14 and C-15); <sup>77</sup>Se NMR (76 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) 1136.0.

### 9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]ditellurine (8a)

Compound **8a** is a novel compound, prepared according to a modified literature procedure.<sup>4</sup> *n*BuLi (2.13 M in hexanes, 4.8 mL, 10.22 mmol) was added dropwise over 10 min to a solution of 9,9-dimethyl-9*H*-fluorene (**4a**) (500 mg, 2.57 mmol) in TMEDA (1.5 mL, 10.28 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to –78 °C and THF (15 mL) was added followed by addition of tellurium (2.62 g, 20.5 mmol) as a single

portion. The cooling bath was removed and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 16 h.  $H_2O$  (150 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with  $Et_2O$  (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (100% *n*-hexane). Ditelluride **8a** was obtained as a dark purple crystalline solid (284 mg, 25%).  $R_f$  0.10 (*n*-hexane); mp degradation above 250 °C;  $v_{max}$ (solid neat, ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2953, 1556, 1451, 1417, 1396, 1183, 782, 727;  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.44 (2 H, dd, J = 7.4 and 1.1, H-1 and H-8), 7.20 (2 H, dd, J = 7.5 and 1.1, H-2 and H-7), 7.13 (2 H, t, J = 7.5, H-3 and H-6), 1.43 (6 H, s, H-14 and H-15);  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 155.0 (C, C-10 and C-13), 143.9 (C, C-11 and C-12), 132.6 (CH, C-3 and C-6), 129.5 (CH, C-2 and C-7), 122.7 (CH, C-1 and C-8), 94.2 (C, C-4 and C-5), 46.0 (C, C-9), 27.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-14 and C-15); m/z (ASAP+) found 452.9141 (M++, C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub><sup>130</sup>Te<sub>2</sub> requires 452.9143).

### 9,9-Dibutyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]ditellurine (8b)

and H-19);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 152.2 (C, C-10 and C-13), 145.9 (C, C-11 and C-12), 132.5 (CH, C-3 and C-6), 129.2 (CH, C-2 and C-7), 122.9 (CH, C-1 and C-8), 90.0 (C, C-4 and C-5), 54.1 (C, C-9), 40.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-14 and C-15), 25.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-16 and C-17), 23.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-18 and C-19), 13.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-20 and C-21); m/z (ASAP+) found 536.0015 (M+, C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub><sup>130</sup>Te<sub>2</sub> requires 536.0005).

# Reaction of 9,9-dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide (5a) with (4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)methanethiol (10)

(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)methanethiol (**10**) (720 mg, 3.99 mmol) was added to a solution of 9,9-dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide (**5a**) (150 mg, 0.41 mmol) in a 2:1 mixture of MeOH (18.6) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (9.3 mL) and stirred at rt for 15 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (9:1, hexane: Et<sub>2</sub>O) to firstly afford 9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine (**3a**) (122 mg, 85%), followed by 1,2-bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)benzyl)disulfane **11** (133 mg, 91%), followed by thiol **10** (540 mg, 75% recovered thiol, 94% based on theoretical consumption of 2 equivalents of thiol, scheme S1).

Data for disulfide **11**: R<sub>f</sub> 0.30 (*n*-hexane); mp 63–64 °C;  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.25 (4 H, d, J = 8.3, H-3 and H-5), 7.09 (4 H, d, J = 8.4, H-2 and H-6), 3.51 (4H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.22 (18 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 150.5 (C, C-4), 134.3 (C, C-1), 129.2 (CH, C-2 and C-6), 125.5 (CH, C-3 and C-5), 43.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 34.6 (C), 31.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); m/z (ASAP+) found 376.2133 ([M + NH<sub>4</sub>]+, C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>34</sub>NS<sub>2</sub> requires 376.2133).

Analytical data are in agreement with literature values.9

## Reaction of trans-seleninic anhydride 6a with (4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)methanethiol (10)

(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)methanethiol (**10**) (676 mg, 3.75 mmol) was added to a solution of *trans*-seleninic anhydride **6a** (150 mg, 0.38 mmol) in a 2:1 mixture of MeOH and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (26 mL) and stirred at rt for 15 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (9:1, hexane: Et<sub>2</sub>O) to firstly afford 9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine (**3a**) (126 mg, 96%), followed by 1,2-bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)benzyl)disulfane **11** (357 mg, 88%), followed by thiol **10** (269 mg, 40% recovered thiol, 100% based on theoretical consumption of 6 equivalents of thiol, scheme S1).

# Reaction of 9,9-dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide 5a with *tert*-butylthiol

tert-Butylthiol (414 mg, 4.59 mmol) was added to a solution of 9,9-dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide (**5a**) (169 mg, 0.46 mmol) in MeOH (23.0 mL) at 0 °C and stirred at 0 °C for 15 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane 100%) to firstly afford *tert*-butylthiol (300 mg, 72% recovered thiol, 91% based on theoretical consumption of 2 equivalents of thiol, Scheme S2) followed by **12a** as a beige gel (230 mg, 94%). R<sub>f</sub> 0.32 (n-hexane); δ<sub>H</sub> (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.00 (2 H, dd, J = 6.4, 2.5, H-3 and H-6), 7.39–7.34 (4H, stack, H-1, H-2, H-7 and H-8), 1.41 (6 H, s, H-14 and H-15), 0.97 (18 H, s, H-17); δ<sub>C</sub> (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 153.9 (C, C-10 and C-13), 147.3 (C, C-11 and C-12), 135.6 (CH, C-2 and C-7), 129.2 (CH, C-1 and C-8 or C-3 and C-6), 128.2 (C, C-4 and C-5), 121.9 (CH, C-1 and C-8 or C-3 and C-6), 47.0 (C, C-16), 46.8 (C, C-9), 30.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-17), 27.9 (2 x CH<sub>3</sub>, C-14 and C-15);  $^{77}$ Se NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 398.6; m/z (AP+) found 530.0121 (M++, C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>30</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>80</sup>Se<sub>2</sub> requires 530.0119).

### Reaction of trans-seleninic anhydride 6a with tert-butylthiol

tert-Butylthiol (252 mg, 2.79 mmol) was added to a solution of *trans*-seleninic anhydride **6a** (112 mg, 0.28 mmol) in MeOH (14.0 mL) at 0 °C and allowed to stir at 0 °C for 15 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (*n*-hexane 100%) to firstly afford *tert*-butyl thiol (100 mg, 40% recovered thiol, 100% based of theoretical consumption of 6 equivalents of thiol, Scheme S2) followed by **12a** as a beige gel (140 mg, 94%) and *tert*-butyl disulfide (99 mg, 99% based on theoretical formation of 2 equivalents of disulfide, Scheme S2).

### Reaction of trans-seleninic anhydride 6a with triphenylmethanethiol (15)

Triphenylmethanethiol (**15**) (692 mg, 2.50 mmol) was added to a solution of *trans*-seleninic anhydride **6a** (100 mg, 0.25 mmol) in MeOH (12.0 mL) and allowed to stir at rt for 15 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane 100%) to firstly afford 9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine (**3a**) (86 mg, 98%), followed by trityl disulfide **16** (397 mg, 0.72 mmol, 96%), followed by triphenylmethanethiol (**15**) (242 mg, 35% recovered thiol, 88% based on theoretical consumption of 6 equivalents of thiol, scheme S1).

Data for disulfide **16**: R<sub>f</sub> 0.30 (*n*-hexane); mp 150–152 °C;  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.35–7.32 (30 H, m);  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 143.8 (C), 129.4 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 126.9 (CH), 73.5 (C).

Analytical data are in agreement with literature values.<sup>10</sup>

## Reaction of trans-seleninic anhydride 6a with 1-adamantanethiol (17)

1-Adamantanethiol (17) (210 mg, 1.25 mmol) was added to a solution of *trans*-seleninic anhydride **6a** (50 mg, 0.12 mmol) in MeOH (6.0 mL) and allowed to stir at rt for 15 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane 100%) to firstly afford 9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine (**3a**) (39 mg, 89%), followed by Di-*tert*-adamantyl disulfide **18** (97 mg, 0.29 mmol, 77%), followed by 1-adamantanethiol **17** (74 mg, 35% recovered thiol, 89% based on theoretical consumption of 6 equivalents of thiol, scheme S1).

Disulfide **18**; R<sub>f</sub> 0.36 (*n*-hexane); mp 223–224 °C;  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.06 (3 H, s, H-3), 1.82 (6 H, s, H-2), 1.70–1.63 (6 H, m, H-4);  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 47.4 (C, C-1), 43.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-2), 36.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-4), 30.1 (CH, C-3)

Analytical data are in agreement with literature values. 11

## X-ray crystallography

Crystal Data for 9,9-dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine (3a):  $C_{15}H_{12}Se_2$  (*M* =350.17 g/mol): tetragonal, space group I-4 (no. 82), a = 17.1924(2) Å, c = 8.8177(2) Å, V = 2606.32(8) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 8, T = 100.00(10) K,  $\mu(CuK\alpha) = 6.862$  mm<sup>-1</sup>, Dcalc = 1.785 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 12547 reflections measured (7.272°  $\leq 2\Theta \leq 149.15$ °), 2627 unique ( $R_{int} = 0.0198$ ,  $R_{sigma} = 0.0134$ ) which were used in all calculations. The final  $R_1$  was 0.0146 (I  $\geq 2\sigma(I)$ ) and  $wR_2$  was 0.0369 (all data).

Crystals of **3a** were obtained by slow evaporation from dichloromethane solution.

**Crystal Data for 9,9-dibutyl-9H-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (3b)**: C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub>Se<sub>2</sub> (*M* =434.32 g/mol): triclinic, space group P1 (no. 1), a = 9.1936(2) Å, b = 12.7735(3) Å, c = 17.6722(4) Å,  $α = 73.363(2)^\circ$ ,  $β = 79.2638(18)^\circ$ ,  $γ = 71.888(2)^\circ$ , V = 1879.11(8) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 4, T = 100.01(10) K, μ(Cu Kα) = 4.875 mm<sup>-1</sup>, Dcalc = 1.535 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 32449 reflections measured (5.25°  $≤ 2Θ ≤ 147.836^\circ$ ), 14219 unique ( $R_{int} = 0.0347$ ,  $R_{sigma} = 0.0397$ ) which were used in all calculations. The final  $R_1$  was 0.0292 (I > 2σ(I)) and  $wR_2$  was 0.0748 (all data).

Crystals of **3b** were obtained by slow evaporation from hexane solution.

The datasets were measured on an Agilent SuperNova diffractometer using an Atlas detector. The data collections were driven and processed and numerical absorption corrections based on gaussian integration over a multifaceted crystal model were applied using CrysAlisPro.<sup>[S1]</sup> The structure of **9,9-dimethyl-9***H***-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (3a)** was solved using ShelXT,<sup>[S2]</sup> that of **9,9-dibutyl-9***H***-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (3b)** was solved using ShelXS, <sup>[S3]</sup> and both structures were refined by a full-matrix least-squares procedure on  $F^2$  in ShelXL.<sup>[S4]</sup> All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. All hydrogen atoms were added at calculated positions and refined by use of a riding model with isotropic displacement parameters based on the equivalent isotropic displacement parameter ( $U_{e0}$ ) of the parent atom.

The structure of **9,9-dibutyl-9***H***-fluoreno[4,5-***cde***][1,2]diselenine (3b)** has been refined as an inversion twin with the refined percentage ratio of enantiomers being 69.6 (15): 30.4 (15). The structure contains four crystallography-independent molecules. In Molecule 4 the selenium atoms Se(31)-Se(32)/Se(1')-Se(2') are disordered over two positions are a refined percentage occupancy ratio of 62.7 (2): 37.3 (2).

Figures and reports were produced using OLEX2.<sup>[S5]</sup> The CIFs for the crystal structures of **9,9-dimethyl-9***H*-fluoreno[**4,5-***cde*][**1,2**]diselenine (3a) and **9,9-dibutyl-9***H*-fluoreno[**4,5-***cde*][**1,2**]diselenine (3b) and have been deposited with the CCDC and have been given the deposition numbers CCDC 2099301 and CCDC 1470801. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via <a href="https://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\_request/cif">www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\_request/cif</a>.

### Crystallography references

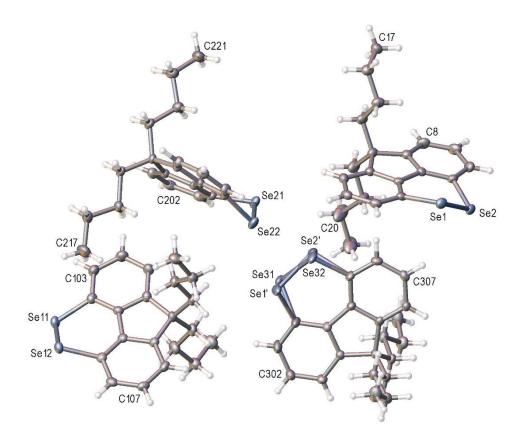
[S1] CrysAlisPro, Agilent Technologies, Version 1.171.37.35, **2014** and Version 1.171.39.46, **2018**.

[S2] G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Cryst. 2008, A64, 112-122.

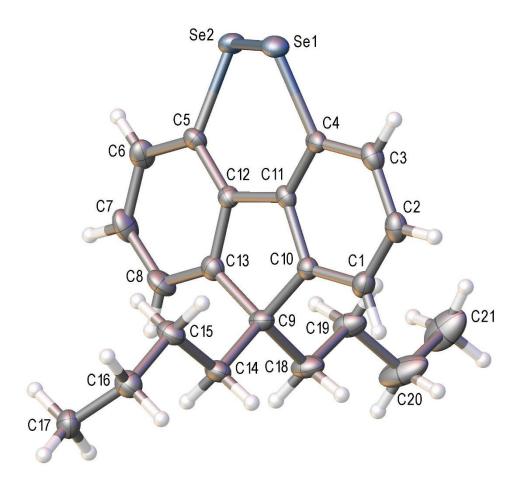
[S3] G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Cryst. 2015, A71, 3-8.

[S4] G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Cryst. 2015, C71, 3-8.

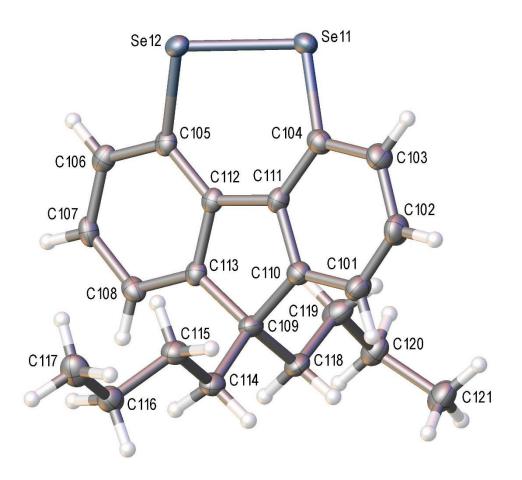
[S5] O. V. Dolomanov, L. J. Bourhis, R. J. Gildea, J. A. K. Howard, H. Puschmann, *J. Appl. Crystallogr.* **2009**, *42*, 339-341.



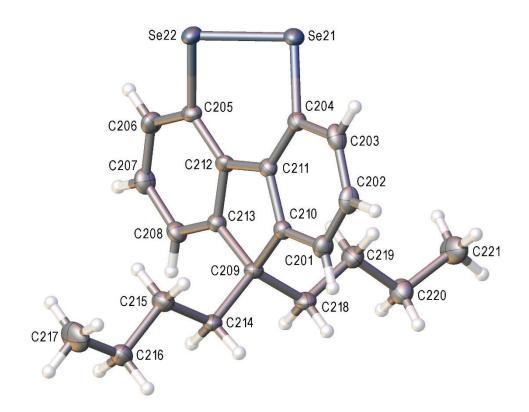
**Figure S1** Crystal structure of **9,9-dibutyl-9***H***-fluoreno[4,5-***cde***][1,2]diselenine (3b)** with ellipsoids drawn at the 50 % probability level. The structure contains four crystallography-independent molecules. In molecule 4 the selenium atoms Se(31)-Se(32)/Se(1')-Se(2') are disordered over two positions are a refined percentage occupancy ratio of 62.7 (2): 37.3 (2).



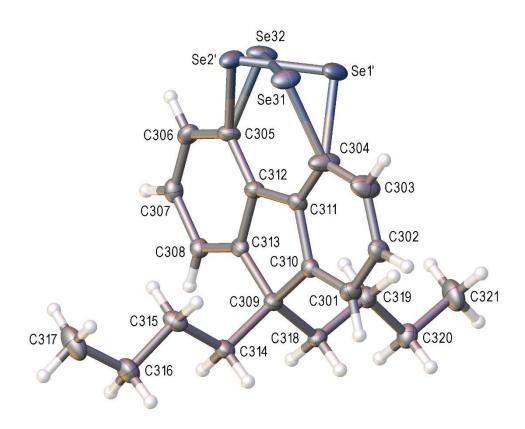
**Figure S2** Crystal structure of molecule 1 of **9,9-dibutyl-9***H*-fluoreno[**4,5-** *cde*][**1,2]diselenine (3b)** with ellipsoids drawn at the 50 % probability level. The structure contains four crystallography-independent molecules of which only one is shown for clarity.



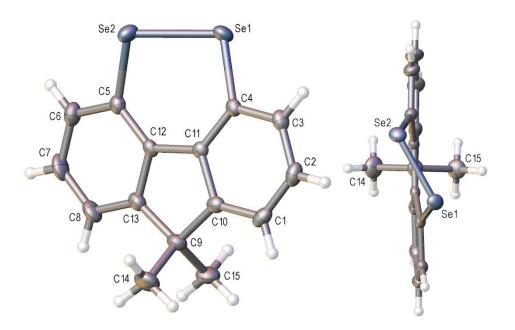
**Figure S3** Crystal structure of molecule 2 of **9,9-dibutyl-9***H***-fluoreno[4,5-** *cde***][1,2]diselenine (3b)** with ellipsoids drawn at the 50 % probability level. The structure contains four crystallography-independent molecules of which only one is shown for clarity.



**Figure S4** Crystal structure of molecule 3 of **9,9-dibutyl-9***H***-fluoreno[4,5-** *cde*][1,2]diselenine (3b) with ellipsoids drawn at the 50 % probability level. The structure contains four crystallography-independent molecules of which only one is shown for clarity.



**Figure S5** Crystal structure of molecule 4 of **9,9-dibutyl-9***H***-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (3b)** with ellipsoids drawn at the 50 % probability level. The structure contains four crystallography-independent molecules of which only one is shown for clarity. The selenium atoms Se(31)-Se(32)/Se(1')-Se(2') are disordered over two positions are a refined percentage occupancy ratio of 62.7 (2): 37.3 (2).



**Figure S6** Two views of the crystal structure of **9,9-dimethyl-9***H***-fluoreno**[**4,5-** *cde*][**1,2]diselenine (3a)** with ellipsoids drawn at the 50 % probability level.

3b	Molecule	Molecule	Molecule	Molecule	Average	Average
	1	2	3	4	All	Molecules
					Molecules	1-3
C(4)-Se(1)-Se(2)-C(5)	39.9(3)	-42.2(2)	-44.7(3)	43.2(3)	44.0(35)*	42.3(20)*
				-50.2(2)		
C4-C11-C12-C5	10.6(9)	-9.8(9)	-13.4(8)	2.2(9)	9(4)	11.3(15)

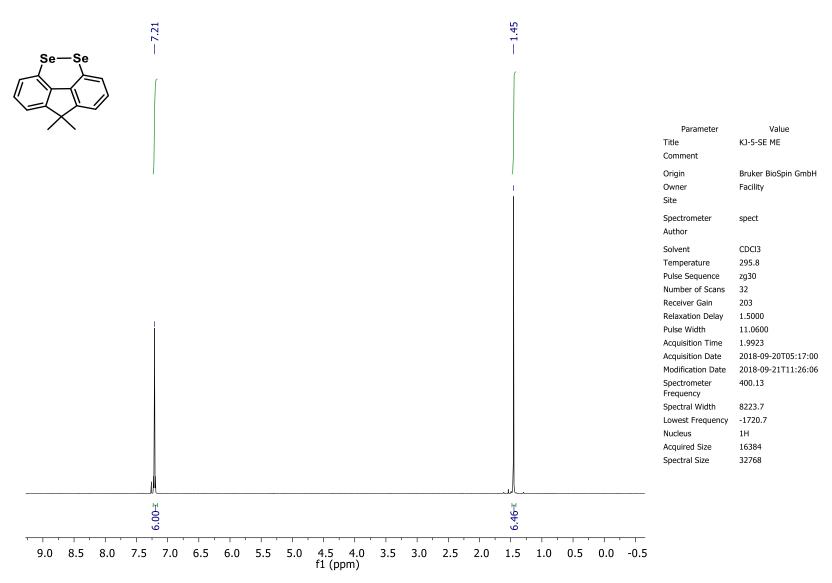
**Table S1**: Dihedral angles (°) in **3b**. The structure contains four crystallography-independent molecules, with equivalent parameters given and labelled as in Molecule 1. In Molecule 4 the selenium atoms Se(31)-Se(32)/Se(1')-Se(2') are disordered over two positions. Average values from all four molecules and also for Molecules 1-3 are given. \*In the case of torsion angles and differences the modulus of the parameters are used to calculate the average values.

Compound	2a	2b	3a	3b <sup>a</sup>	<b>9</b> b
CCDC Numbers	236815	2011ncs0489	2099301	1470801	207/49
CCDC Refcodes	ZZZBKS01				TAKFAM01
C-Se-Se-C	-2.28(13)	-1.50(7)	-41.35(12)	42.3(20)*	59.0(3)
					-59.0(4)
					-57.0(4)
C4-C11-C12-C5				11.3(15)	_

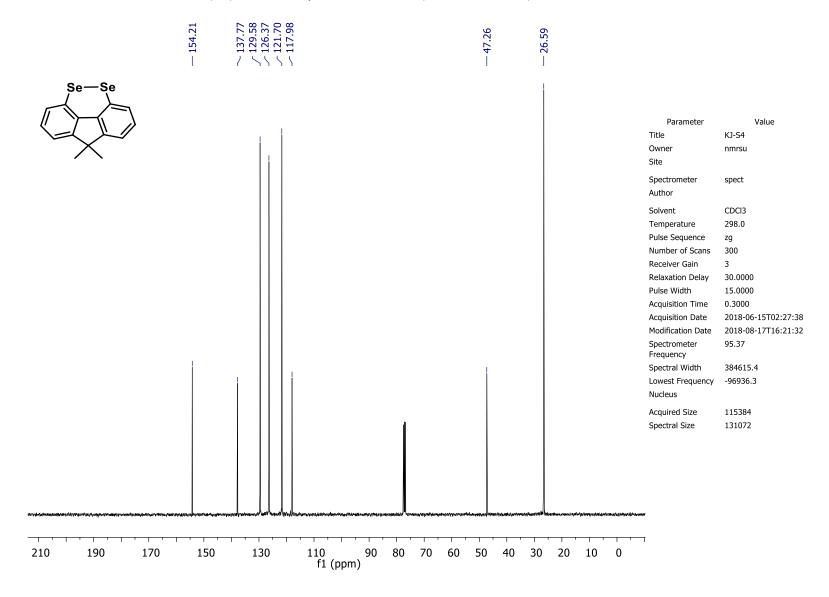
**Table S2**: Dihedral angles (°) in diselenides **2a**, **2b**, **3a**, **3b** and **9**. \*In the case of torsion angles and differences the modulus of the parameters are used to calculate average values. <sup>a</sup>For **3b** the average value calculated from Molecules 1-3 for each parameter is given (see Table S1). <sup>b</sup>**9** contains three crystallographically-independent molecules, two of which lie on a 2-fold rotation axis.

## **Copies of NMR spectra**

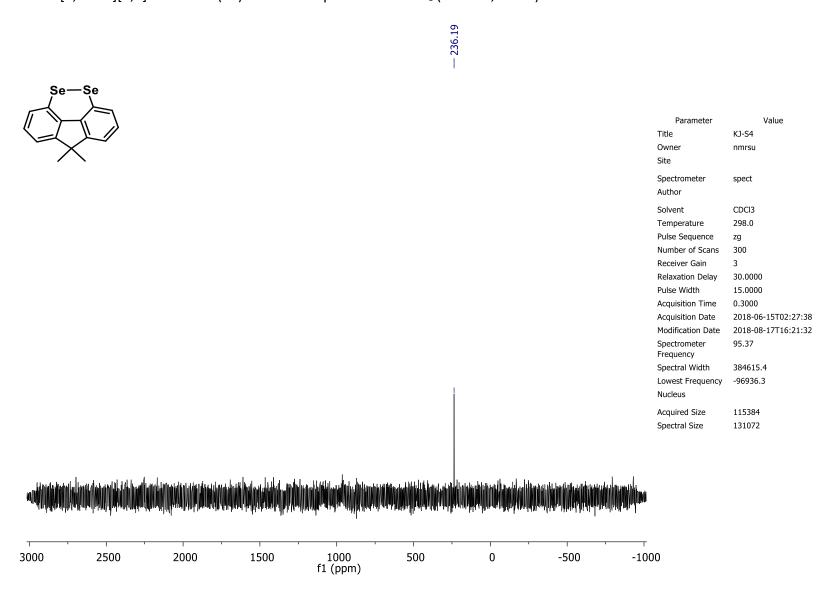
## 9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine (**3a**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz, 296 K)



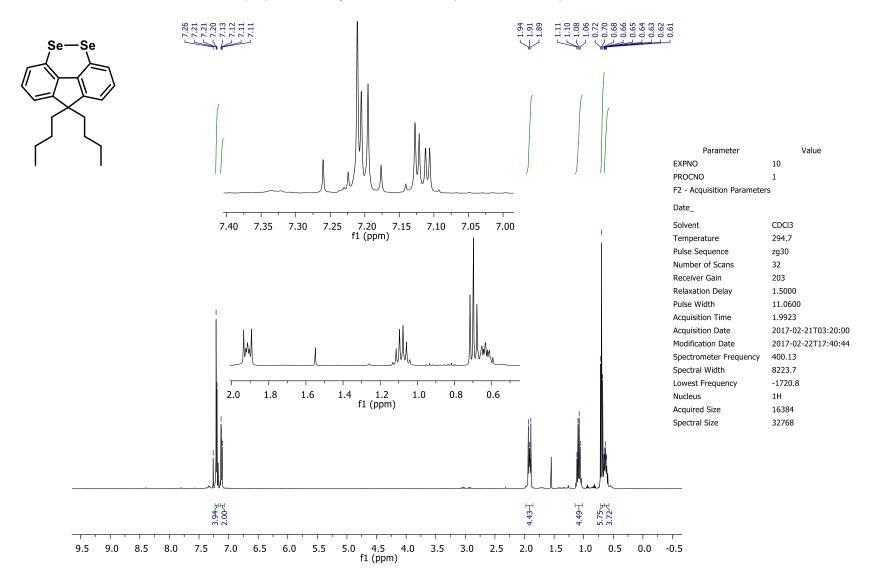
## 9,9-Dimethyl-9H-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (3a): 13C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (101 MHz, 296 K)



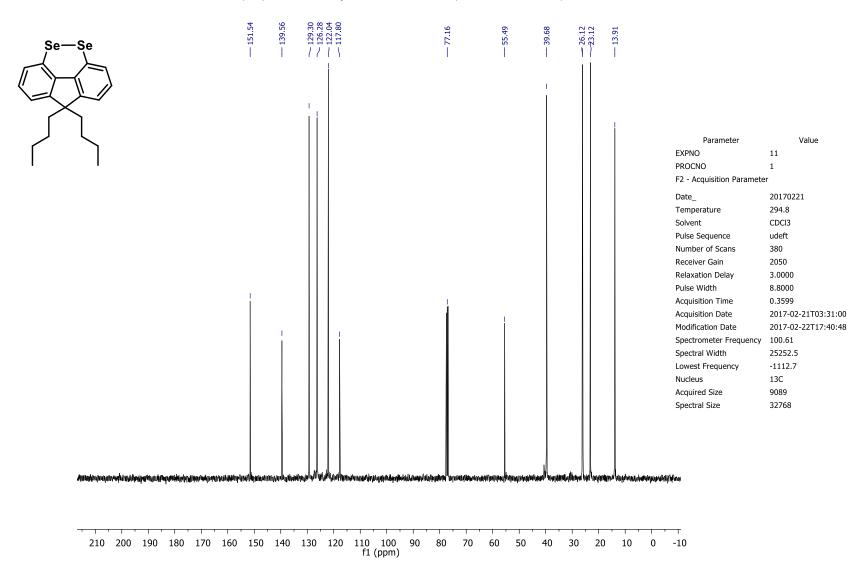
## 9,9-Dimethyl-9H-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (3a): <sup>77</sup>Se NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (95 MHz, 296 K)



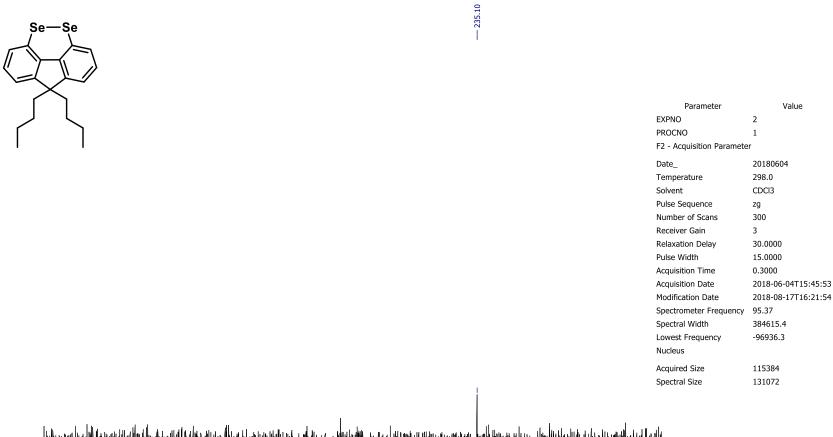
## 9,9-Dibutyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (**3b**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz, 295 K)



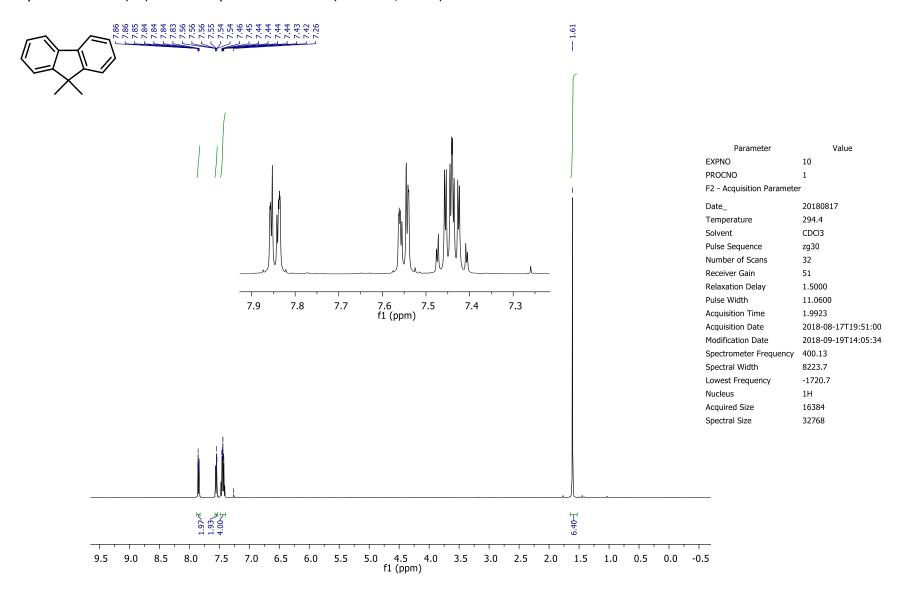
## 9,9-Dibutyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine (**3b**): <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (101 MHz, 295 K)



## 9,9-Dibutyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine (**3b**): <sup>77</sup>Se NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (95 MHz, 298 K)

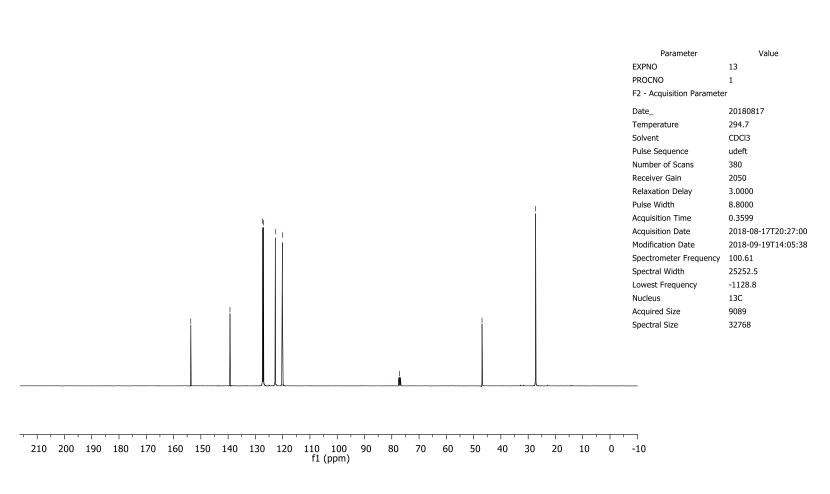


## 9,9-Dimethyl-9H-fluorene (4a): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz, 294 K)

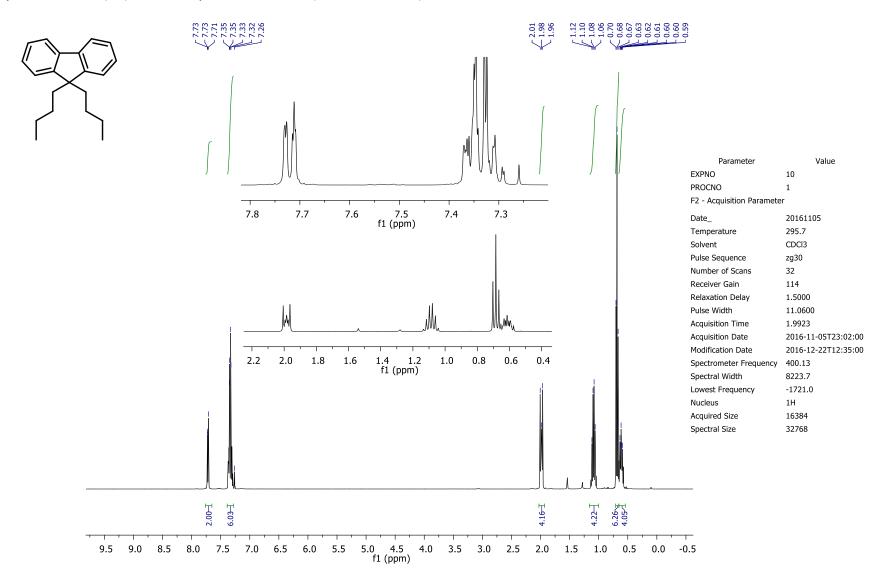


## 9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluorene (**4a**): <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (101 MHz, 295 K)

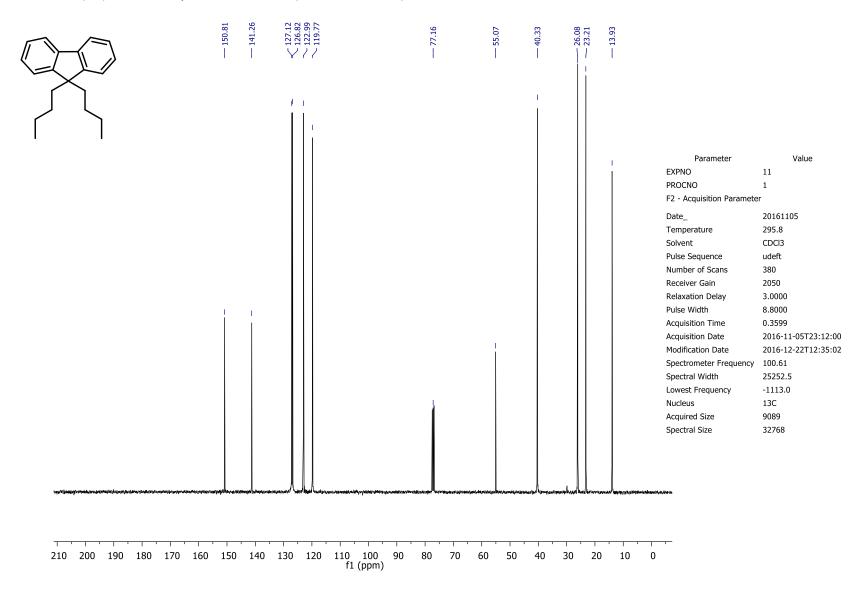




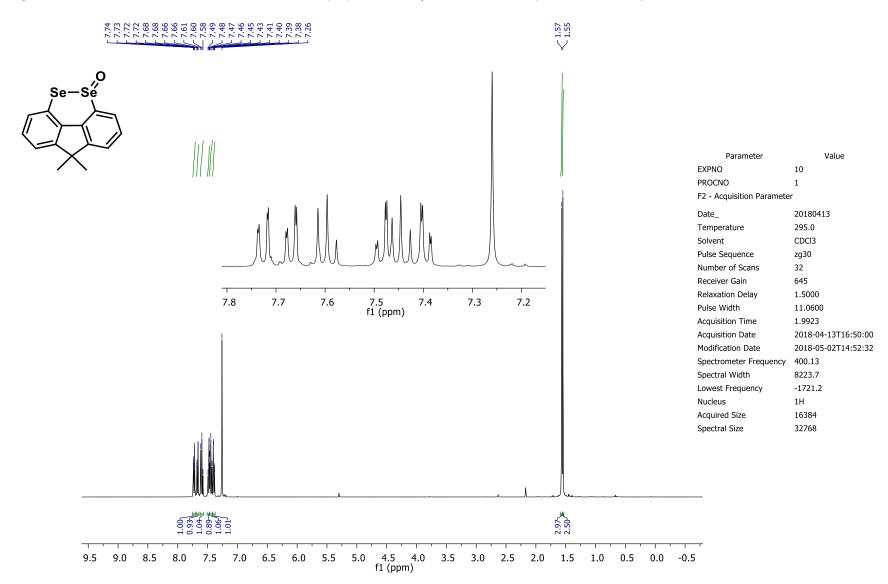
## 9,9-Dibutyl-9*H*-fluorene (**4b**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz, 296 K)



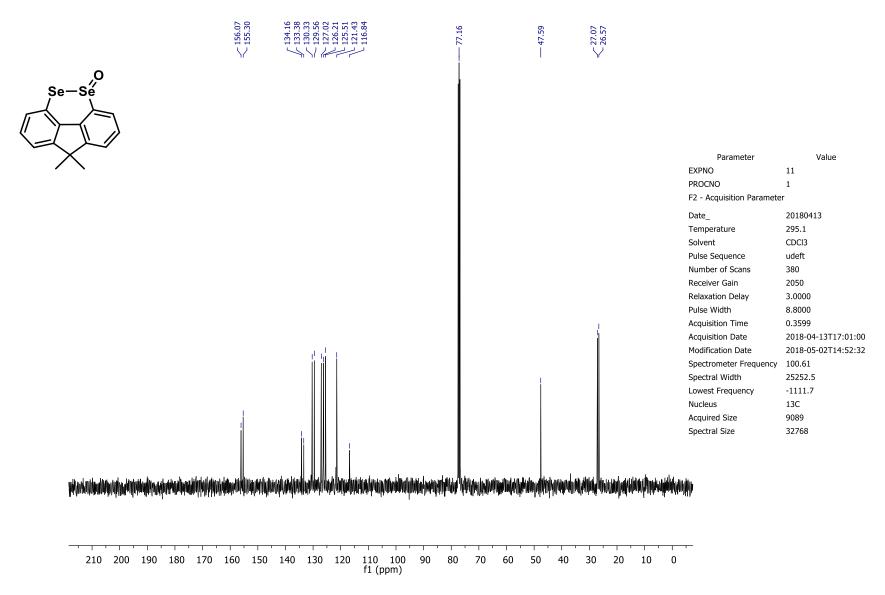
## 9,9-Dibutyl-9*H*-fluorene (**4b**): <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (101 MHz, 296 K)



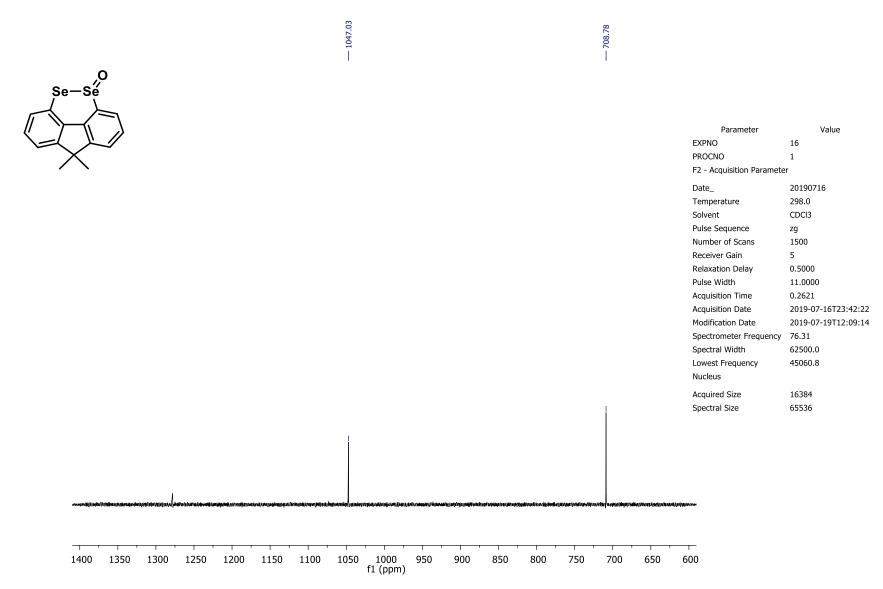
## 9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide (**5a**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz, 295 K)



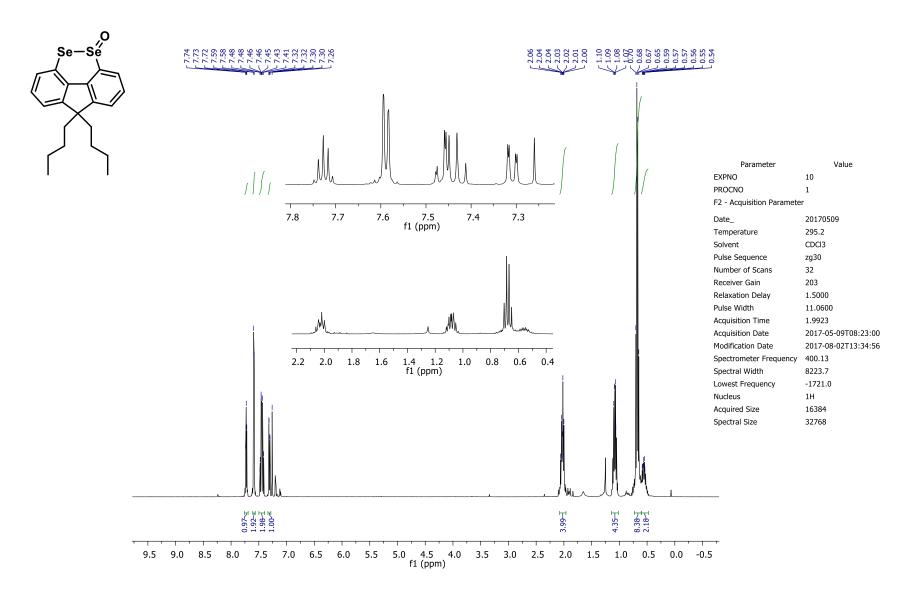
#### 9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide (**5a**): <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (101 MHz, 295 K)



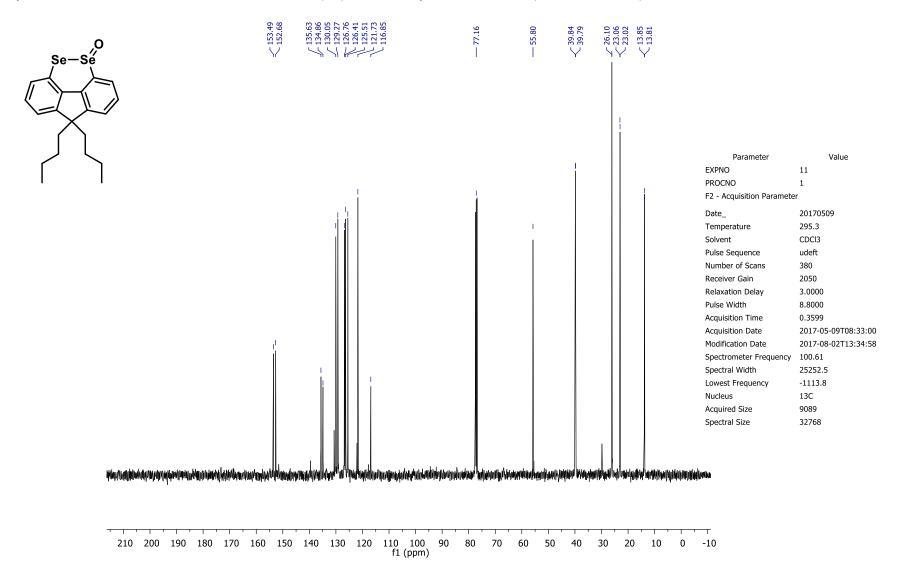
## 9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide (**5a**): <sup>77</sup>Se NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (76 MHz, 298 K)



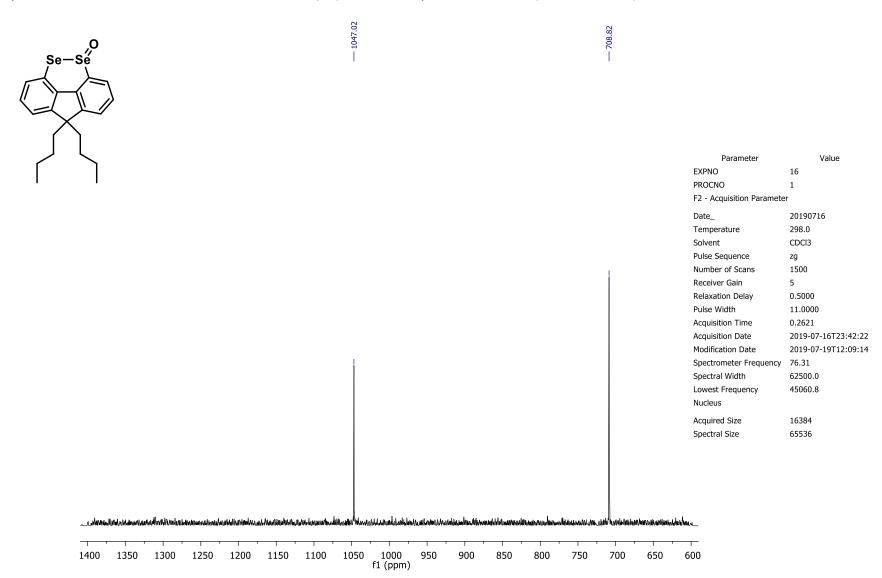
## 9,9-Dibutyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide (**5b**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz, 295 K)



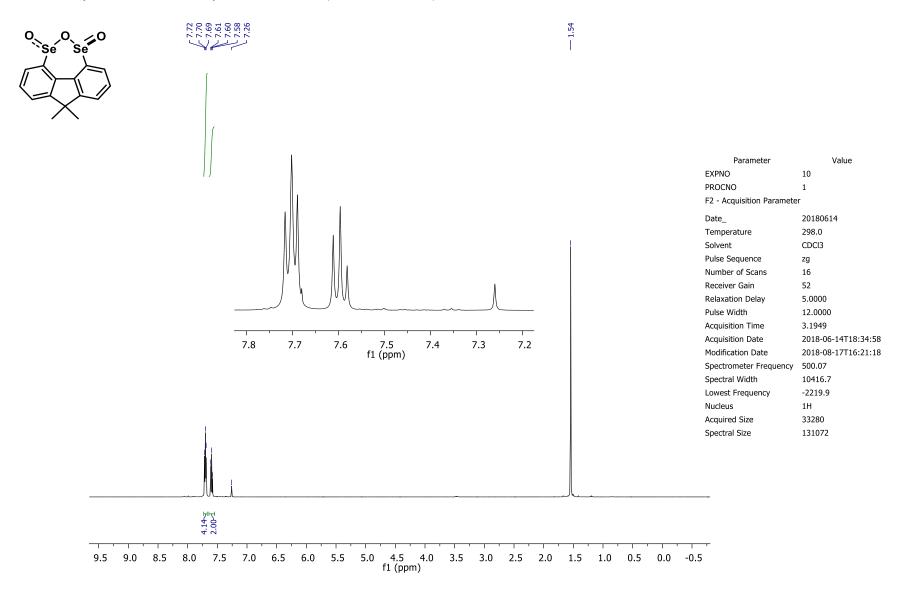
#### 9,9-Dibutyl-9H-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide (5b): 13C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (101 MHz, 295 K)



## 9,9-Dibutyl-9H-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]diselenine 4-oxide (5b): <sup>77</sup>Se NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (76 MHz, 298 K)

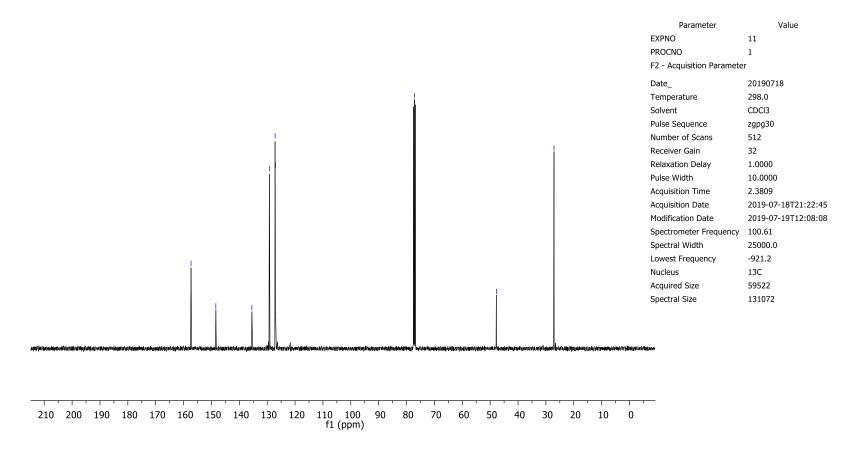


#### trans-Seleninic anhydride 6a: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (500 MHz, 298 K)



#### trans-Seleninic anhydride 6a: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (101 MHz, 298 K)





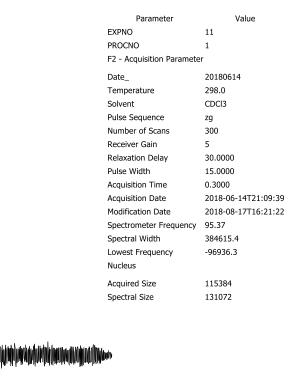


3000

2500

2000

1500



-500

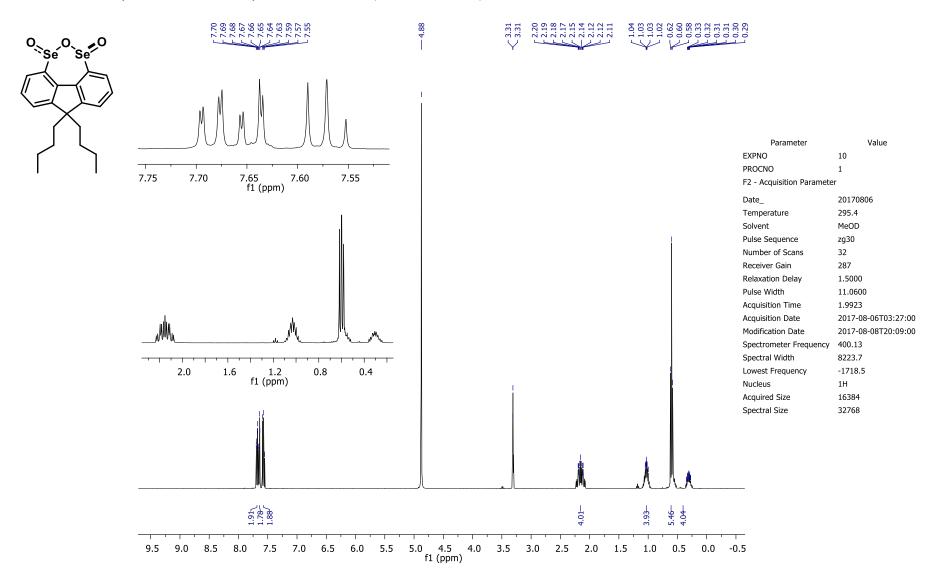
-1000

0

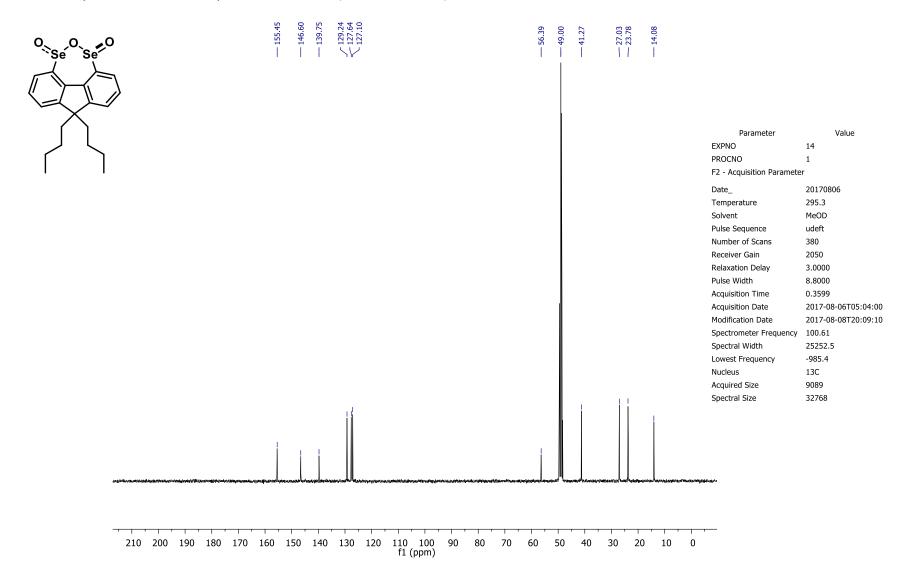
1000 f1 (ppm)

500

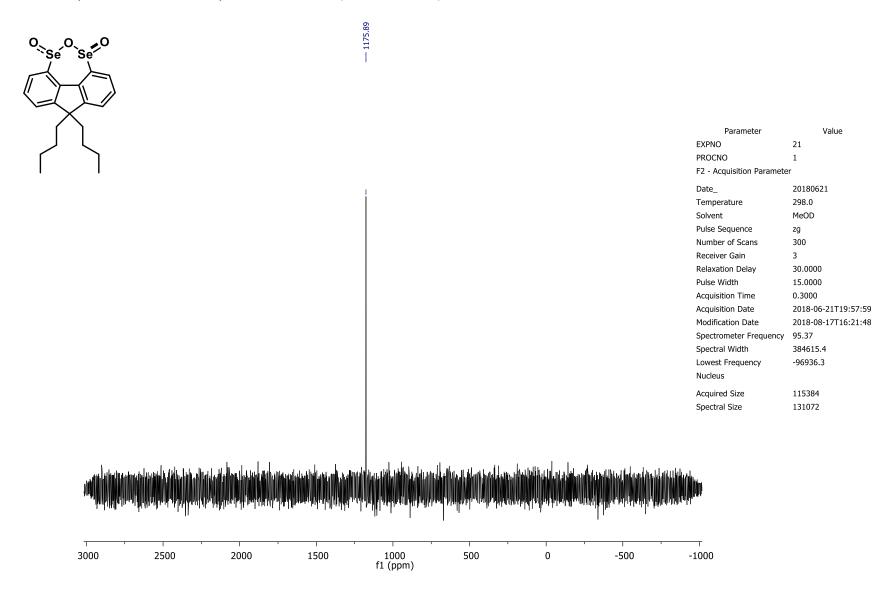
#### trans-Seleninic anhydride 6b: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in MeOD (400 MHz, 295 K)



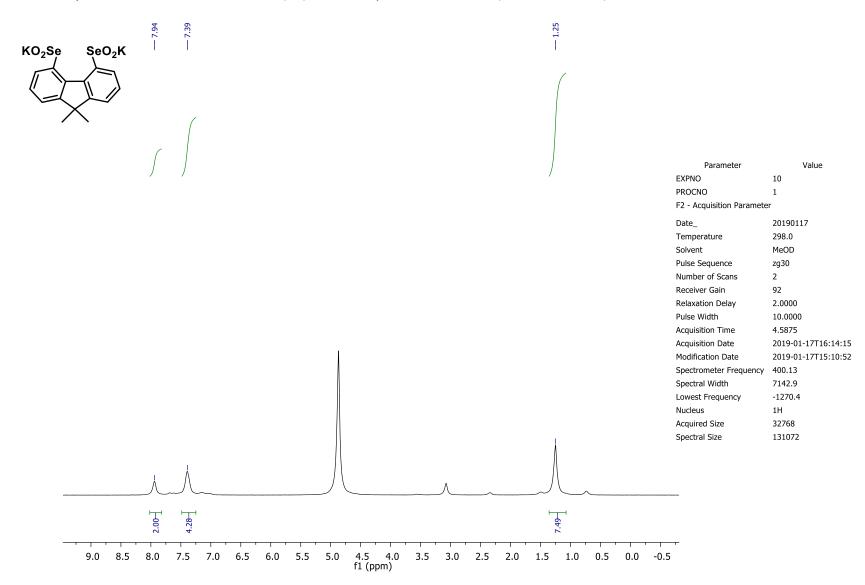
#### trans-Seleninic anhydride 6b: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum in MeOD (101 MHz, 295 K)



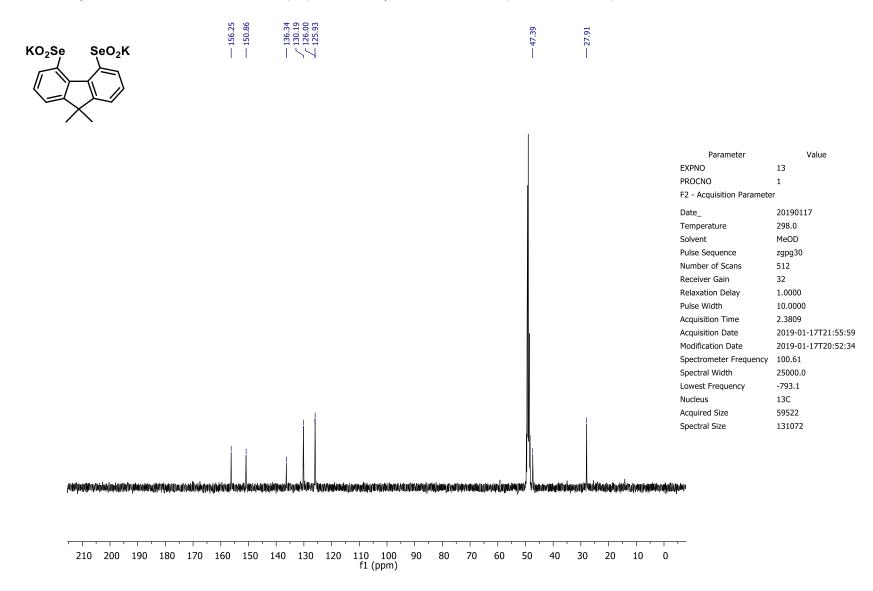
## trans-Seleninic anhydride 6b: 77Se NMR spectrum in MeOD (95 MHz, 298 K)



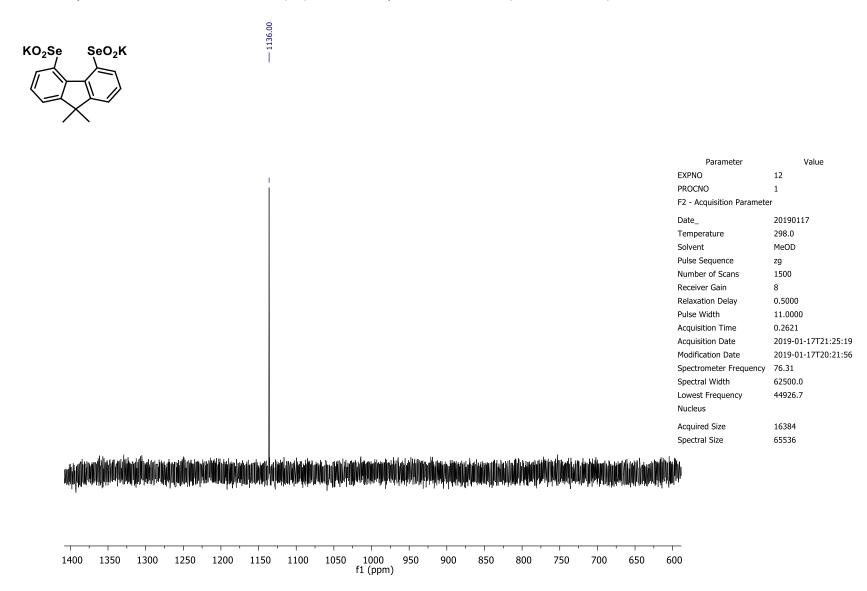
## Potassium 9,9-dimethyl-9H-fluorene-4,5-diseleninate (7a): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in MeOD (400 MHz, 295 K)



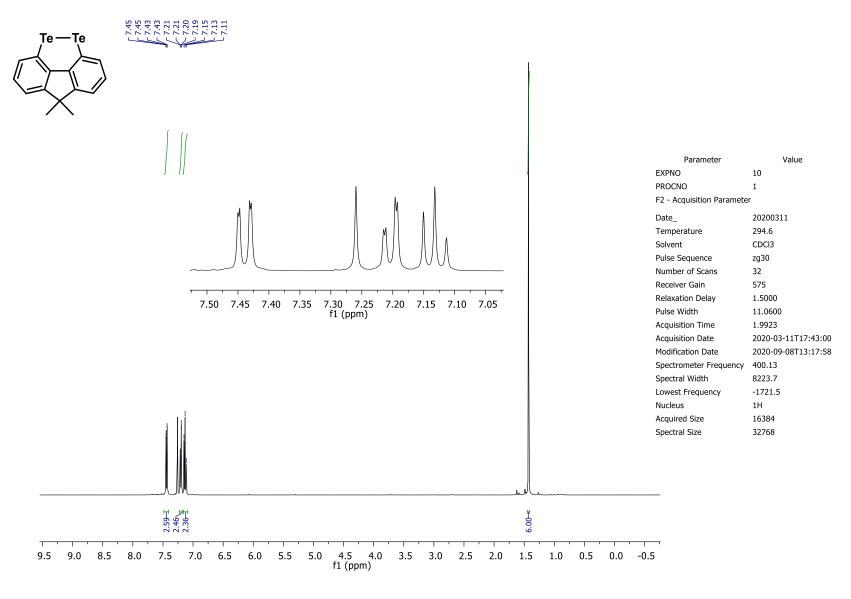
#### Potassium 9,9-dimethyl-9H-fluorene-4,5-diseleninate (7a): <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum in MeOD (101 MHz, 298 K)



Potassium 9,9-dimethyl-9*H*-fluorene-4,5-diseleninate (**7a**): <sup>77</sup>Se NMR spectrum in MeOD (76 MHz, 298 K)

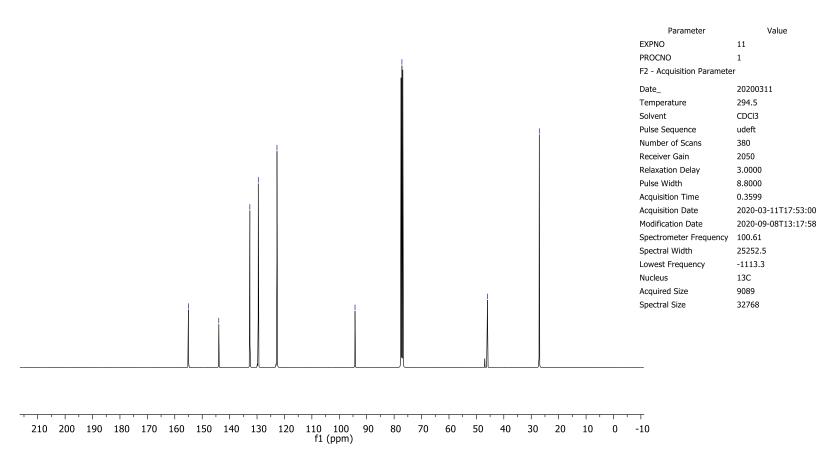


## 9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluoreno[4,5-*cde*][1,2]ditellurine (8a): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz, 295 K)

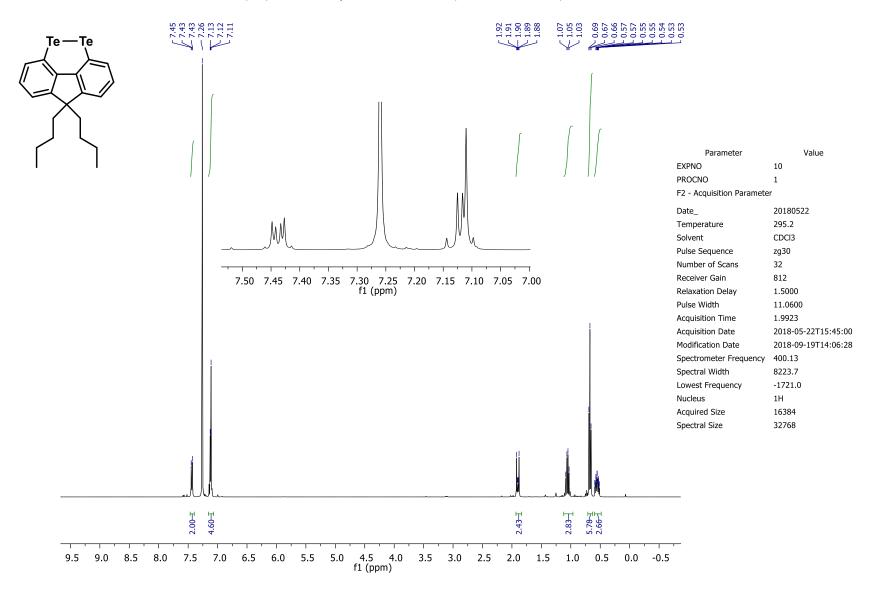


## 9,9-Dimethyl-9H-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]ditellurine (8a): 13C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (101 MHz, 295 K)

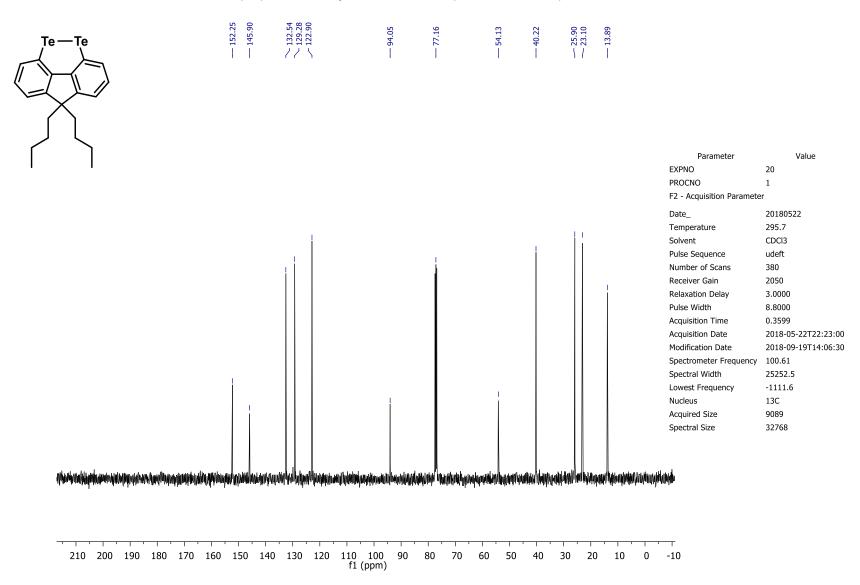




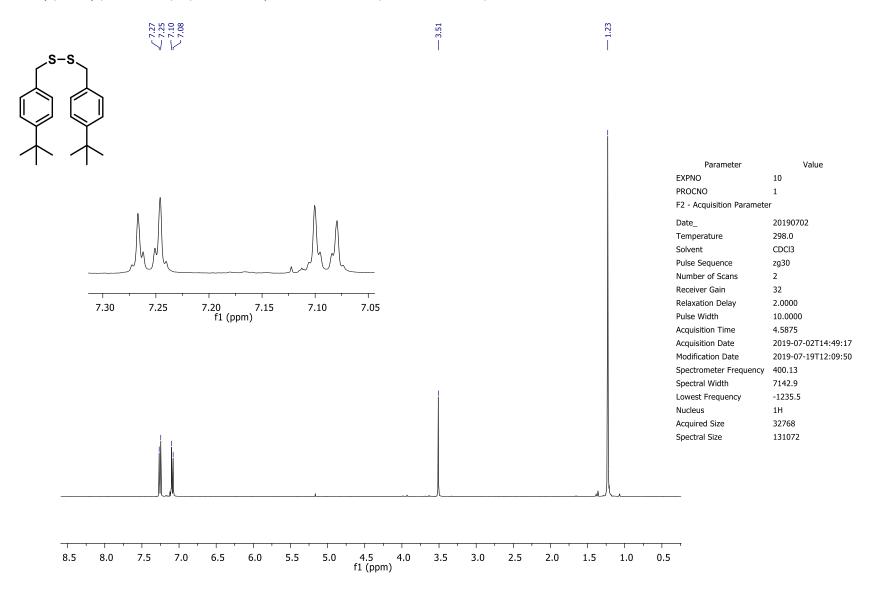
## 9,9-Dibutyl-9H-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]ditellurine (8b): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz, 295 K)



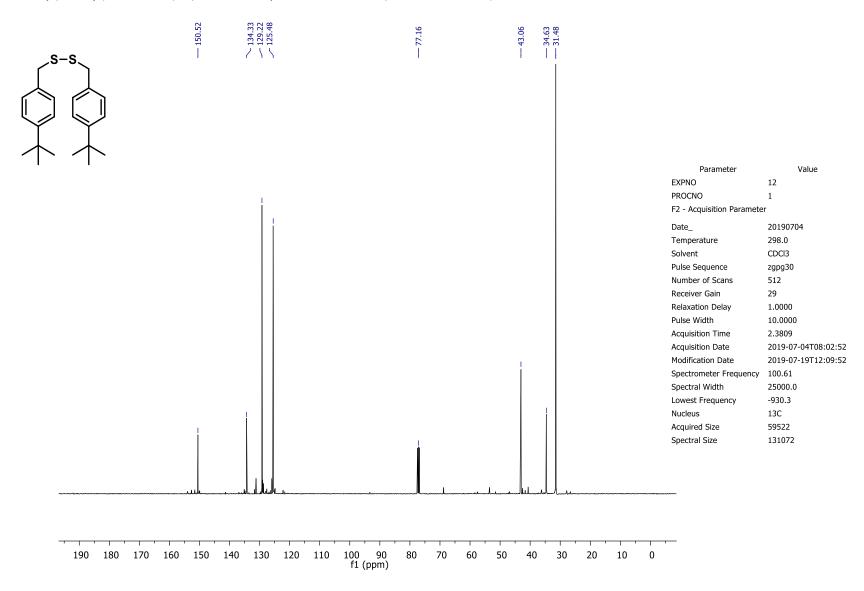
## 9,9-Dibutyl-9H-fluoreno[4,5-cde][1,2]ditellurine (8b): <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (101 MHz, 296 K)



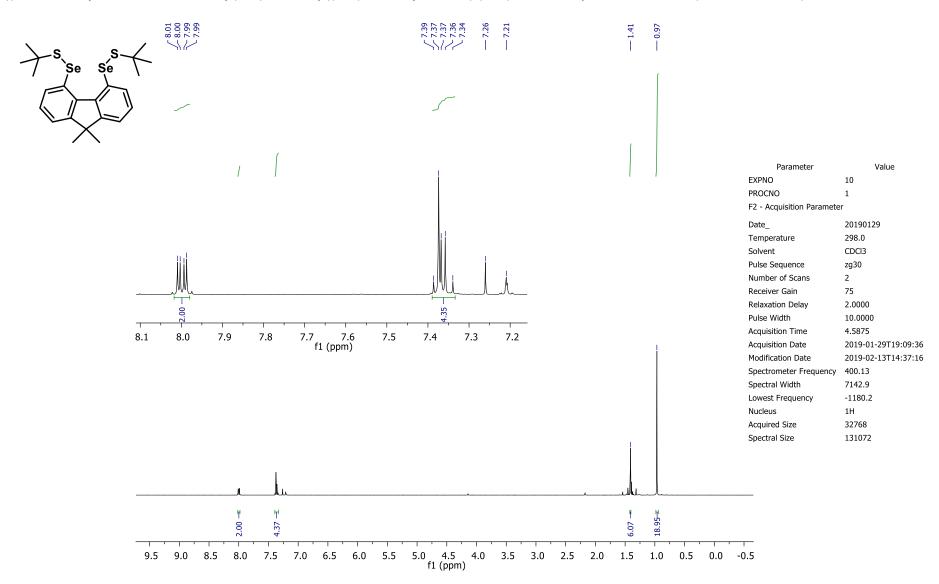
## 1,2-Bis(4-(tert-butyl)benzyl)disulfane (11): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz, 298 K)



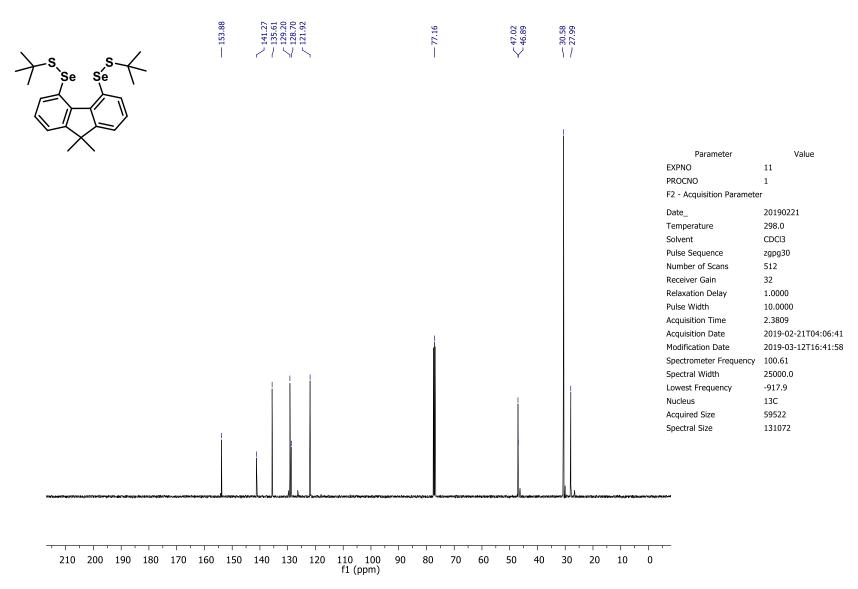
# 1,2-Bis(4-(tert-butyl)benzyl)disulfane (11): 13C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (101 MHz, 298 K)



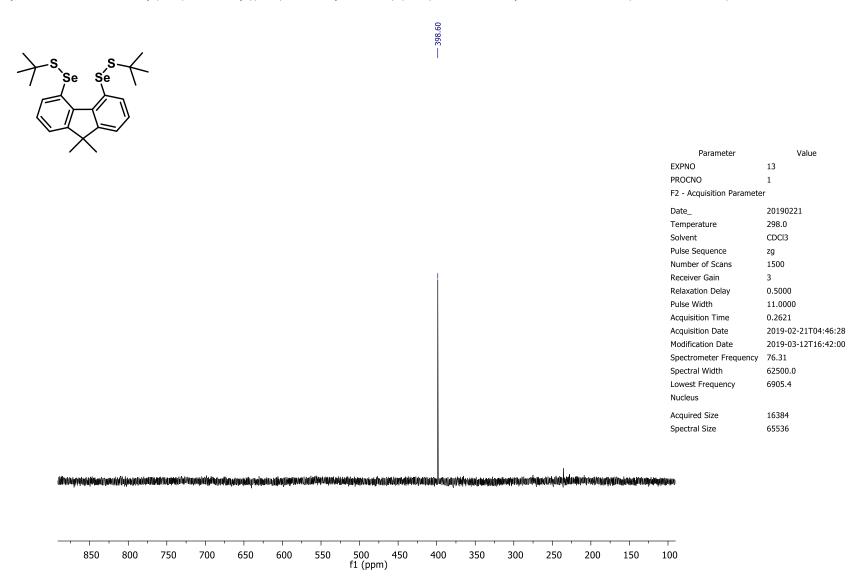
## ((9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluorene-4,5-diyl)bis(selanediyl))bis(tert-butylsulfane) (12a): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz, 298 K)



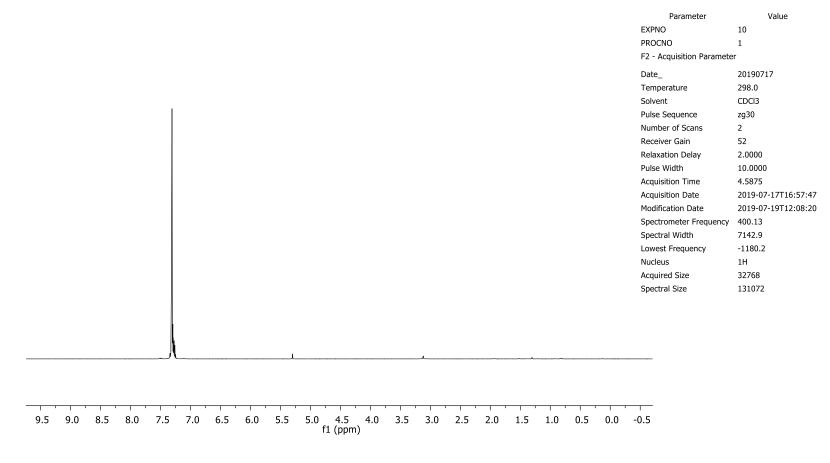
#### ((9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluorene-4,5-diyl)bis(selanediyl))bis(tert-butylsulfane) (12a): <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (101 MHz, 298 K)



#### ((9,9-Dimethyl-9*H*-fluorene-4,5-diyl)bis(selanediyl))bis(tert-butylsulfane) (12a): <sup>77</sup>Se NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (76 MHz, 298 K)

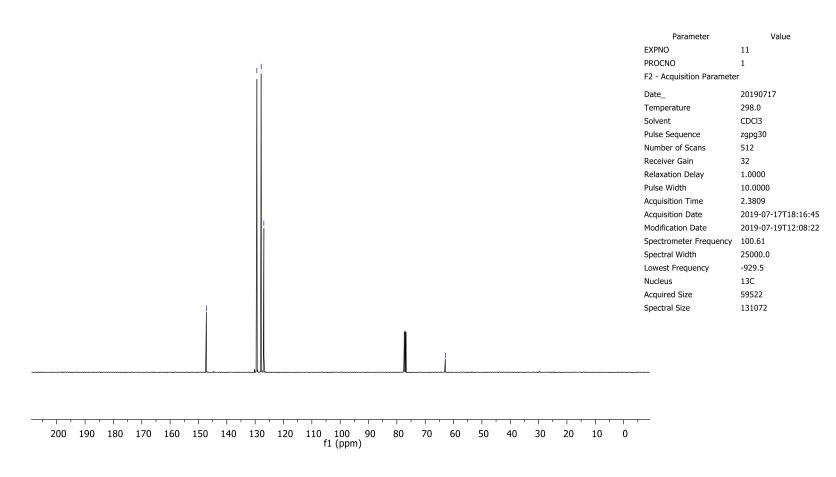


## 1,2-Ditrityldisulfane (16): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz, 298 K)

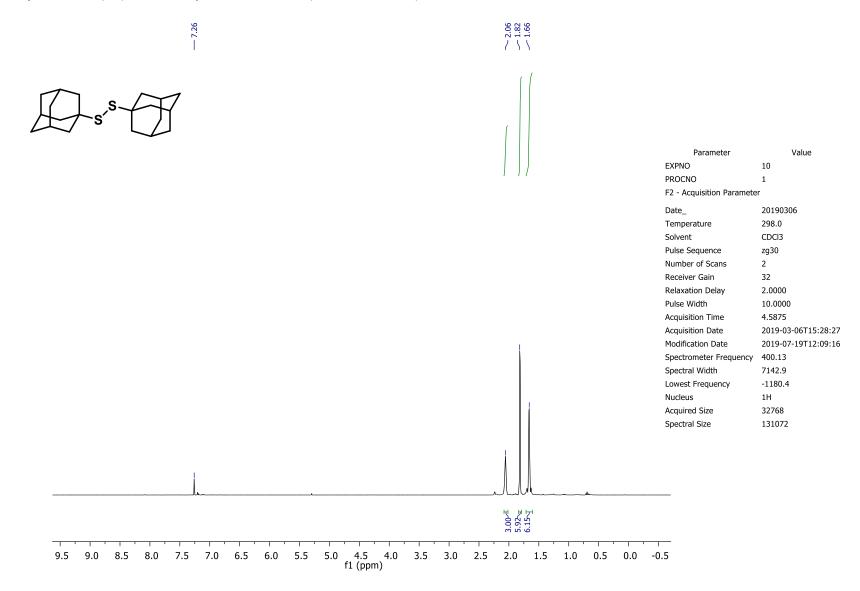


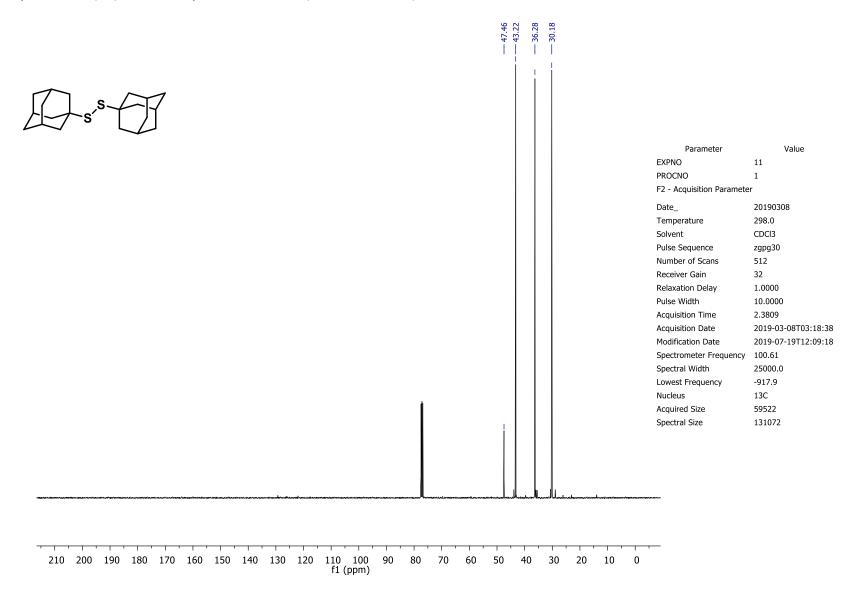
## 1,2-Ditrityldisulfane (16): <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (101 MHz, 298 K)





## Di-tert-adamantyl disulfide (18): <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (400 MHz, 298 K)





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