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# Photochemical and electrochemical regioselective *cross*-dehydrogenative $C(sp^2)$ -H sulfenylation and selenylation of substituted benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ols

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Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for New Journal of Chemistry

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#### **EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

#### 1. General.

All chemicals (analytical grade) other than benzo[a]phenazin-5-ols were purchased from reputed companies and used without further purification. Benzo[a] phenazin-5-ols (**1a-1e**) used in this present study were prepared out of the reaction between 2-hydroxynaphthoquinone and o-phenylenediamines as per the previously reported procedure.<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>H-, <sup>13</sup>C-, <sup>77</sup>Se-NMR spectra were collected at 400, 100 and 76 MHz, respectively, on a Bruker DRX spectrometer using CDCl<sub>3</sub> and DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> containing 1-2 drops of saturated NaOH solution in D<sub>2</sub>O, as the solvents. Chemical shifts were reported in  $\delta$  (ppm), relative to the internal standard, TMS. The signals observed are described as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), and m (multiplet). Coupling constants are reported as J value in Hz. Mass spectrometry was obtained using a Bruker maXis Impact (Q-TOF), Agilent (Q-TOF), and Microtek Q-TOF Micro YA 263 Waters high-resolution mass spectrometer. X-ray single crystallographic data were collected on X'Calibur CCD area-detector diffractometer. UV spectra were recorded on a SHIMADZU UV-3101PC spectrophotometer. Melting point was recorded on a Chemiline CL-725 melting point apparatus and is uncorrected. Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) was performed using silica gel 60 F254 (Merck) plates. Philips 9 W Standard B22 white LED Bulbs (Manufacturer: PHILIPS; Model and other details: LED Lamp B22d Crystal White, 9 W, F6500, Lumen 825 lm (91.7 lm/W), 0.060 A, 220-240 Vac, 50 Hz) were used as the light source. For accessing direct sunlight, all reactions were carried out on an open roof-top (Chemistry Building). A 'Metravi RPS-3005 DC Regulated Power Supply' and Graphite, Pt, Ag, Zn, and Cu plate-electrodes were used to perform the electrochemical cell reactions.

### 2. Pictorial views of the experimental Set-ups



**Figure S1**: (a) A pictorial view (from the top end) at the time of lightening of two white LED  $(2 \times 9 \text{ W})$  positioned face to face; (b) Pictorial view at the time of running the experiment; (c) Pictorial view of the reaction set-up in open sunlight on the roof-top (Dept. of Chemistry, Visva-Bharati), (d) 'Metravi RPS-3005 DC Regulated Power Supply' and Platinum || Graphite plate-electrodes were used to perform the electrochemical cell reactions.

#### 3. The spectral data of all the synthesized benzo[a]phenazin derivatives 1 (1a – 1e) are given below:



**Benzo**[*a*]**phenazin-5-ol** (1a).<sup>1a</sup> Orange amorphous solid; yield: 89% (220 mg, 1 mmol scale ); mp =296 °C.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 9.16-9.13 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.43-8.41 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.10 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, Ar-H), 7.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, Ar-H), 7.84-7.77 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.71-7.68 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 6.77 (s, 1H, *H*C=C(OH)-)) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  =166.39, 148.19, 143.11, 46.400 MHz, 120.472 (20).426.02 (400 MHz, 120.421 (400.411))

139.72, 137.85, 133.66, 131.46, 129.54, 129.17 (2C), 127.90, 126.92, 125.39, 124.53, 124.19, 101.51 ppm.



**10-Bromobenzo**[*a*]**phenazin-5-ol** (**1b**). Yellow crystalline solid; yield: 94% (308 mg, 1 mmol scale ); mp = 274-276°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 11.61 (br s, 1H, Ar-*OH*), 9.16 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.41-8.28 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 8.15-8.03 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.95-7.88 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.14 (s, 1H, *H*C=C(OH)-)) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 157.45, 145.56, 141.21, 139.88, 133.15, 131.45, 131.07, 130.95, 130.64, 130.43, 129.96, 111.102.21 mm

128.87, 124.94, 122.97, 121.11, 103.31 ppm.



**10-Chlorobenzo**[*a*]**phenazin-5-ol** (**1c**).<sup>1c</sup> Greenish yellow crystalline solid; yield: 87% (244 mg, 1 mmol scale ); mp = 280-282 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 11.61 (br s, 1H, Ar-*OH*), 9.18-9.17 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.30-8.22 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 8.15-8.11 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.92-7.78 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.14 (s, 1H, *H*C=C(OH)-)) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 157.38, 145.48, 141.03, 139.49, 132.57, 131.05, 130.76, 130.70, 130.61,

130.41, 129.91, 128.84, 127.62, 124.94, 122.95, 103.29 ppm.



**10-Fluorobenzo**[*a*]**phenazin-5-ol (1d)**. Yellow amorphous solid; yield: 92% (243 mg, 1 mmol scale ); mp = 283-286°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 11.57 (br s, 1H, Ar-*OH*), 9.23-9.21 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.32-8.30 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.23-8.19 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.02-7.98 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.94-7.88 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.86-7.80 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.18 (s, 1H, *H*C=C(OH)-)) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 159.62 (*J*<sub>CF</sub> = 554 Hz),

159.92, 144.86, 139.95, 139.76, 130.69, 130.57, 130.41, 128.96, 128.81, 124.97, 124.70, 122.95, 120.96 ( $J_{CF} = 26$  Hz), 111.98 ( $J_{CF} = 21$  Hz), 103.30 ppm.



**9,10-dichlorobenzo**[*a*]**phenazin-5-ol** (1e).<sup>1a</sup> Orange amorphous solid; yield: 95% (299 mg, 1 mmol scale ); mp = 295-297°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 9.06-9.04 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.35-8.33 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 8.27 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 8.06 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.84-7.77 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 6.57 (s, 1H, *H*C=C(OH)-)) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 168.51, 167.60, 153.03, 149.12, 142.46, 140.97, 136.29, 131.07, 130.01, 129.52

(2C), 128.11, 127.05, 124.99, 124.16, 101.29 ppm.



4. Scanned copies of <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra for all the synthesized benzo[*a*]phenazin derivatives 1 (1a – 1e) (Figure S1 – S10)

Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (1a)



Figure S2. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (1a)



Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-bromobenzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**1b**)



Figure S4. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-bromobenzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**1b**)



Figure S95. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-chlorobenzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**1c**)



Figure S6. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-chlorobenzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (1c)



Figure S7. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-fluorobenzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (1d)



Figure S8. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-fluorobenzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (1d)



Figure S9. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 9,10-dichlorobenzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (1e)



Figure S10. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 9,10-dichlorobenzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (1e)

5. Scanned copies of <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, DEPT-135, <sup>77</sup>Se NMR, 2D-NMR (for representative compound 3e, along with showing the corresponding homo- and hetero-nuclear interactions in Table S1) and HRMS spectra for all the synthesized benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ols 3 (3a–3q) and 3' (3'a–3'e) (Figure S11 – S100)



Figure S11.<sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 6-(phenylthio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3a**) [**0.1 mmol scale**]



Figure S12. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 6-(phenylthio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3a**) [**1.0 mmol scale**]



Figure S13.<sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 6-(phenylthio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3a**)



Figure S14. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 6-(phenylthio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3a)



Figure S15. High-resolution Mass spectra of 6-(phenylthio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3a)



Figure S16. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-chlorophenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3b**)



Figure S17. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-chlorophenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3b**)



Figure S17. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 6-((4-chlorophenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3b)



Figure S18. High-resolution Mass spectra of 6-((4-chlorophenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3b)



Figure S19.<sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3c**)



Figure S20.<sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3c**)



Figure S21. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3c**)



Figure S22. High-resolution Mass spectra of 6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3c)



Figure S23. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (**3d**)



Figure S24.<sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3d**)



Figure S25. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3d)



Figure S26. High-resolution Mass spectra of 6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3d)



Figure S27. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3e)



Figure S28. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-o1(**3e**)



Figure S29. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 6-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3e)



Figure S30. <sup>1</sup>H<sup>-1</sup>H COSY45 spectra of6-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3e**)


Figure S30a. <sup>1</sup>H<sup>-1</sup>H COSY45 spectra of 6-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3e**) [extended form]



Figure S31.<sup>1</sup>H<sup>-13</sup>C HMQC spectra of 6-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3e**)



Figure S31a.<sup>1</sup>H<sup>-13</sup>C HMQC spectra of 6-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3e**) [extended form]



Figure S32.<sup>1</sup>H<sup>-13</sup>C HMBCspectra of 6-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3e**)



Figure S32a.<sup>1</sup>H<sup>-13</sup>C HMBCspectra of 6-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3e**)

Table S1. 2D-NMR properties of representative compound 3e showing the corresponding homo- and hetero-nuclear interactions



Carbon	<sup>1</sup> Η (ppm/δ)	<sup>13</sup> C (ppm/δ)	<b>DEPT-135</b>	<sup>1</sup> H- <sup>1</sup> H COSY-45	<sup>1</sup> H- <sup>13</sup> C HMQC	<sup>1</sup> H- <sup>13</sup> C HMBC
C-1	7.98 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, Ar-H)	129.09	СН	H-1 (δ 7.98) <i>vs</i> H-2 (δ 7.43- 7.39)	δ 7.98 (H-1) <i>vs</i> δ 129.09 (C-1)	δ 7.98 (H-1) vs δ 143.59 (C-12a)
C-2	7.43-7.39 (m, 1H, Ar-H)	124.22	СН	H-2 (δ 7.43-7.39) <i>vs</i> H-1 (δ 7.98) & H-3 (δ 7.75-7.69)	δ 7.43-7.39 (H-2) <i>vs</i> δ 124.22 (C-2)	δ 7.43-7.39 (H-2) <i>vs</i> δ 135.94 (C-12b)
C-3	7.75-7.69 (m, 1H, Ar-H)	128.34	СН	H-3 (δ 7.75-7.69) <i>vs</i> H-2 (δ 7.43-7.39) & H-4 (δ 9.05- 9.02)	δ 7.75 (H-3) <i>vs</i> δ 128.34 (C- 3)	δ 7.75 (H-3) <i>vs</i> δ 124.22 (C-2), δ 124.56(C-4), δ 135.94 (C-12b)
C-4	9.05-9.02 (m, 1H, Ar-H)	124.56	СН	H-4 (δ 9.05-9.02) <i>vs</i> H-3 (δ 7.75-7.69)	δ 9.05-9.02 (H-4) <i>vs</i> δ 124.56 (C-4)	δ 9.05-9.02 (H-4) <i>vs</i> δ 129.09 (C-1)
C-4a	_	132.10	С	_	_	_
C-5	_	173.03	С	_	_	_
C-6	_	98.00	С	_	_	_
С-ба	_	150.31	С	_	_	_
C-7a	_	139.96	С	_	_	_
C-8	8.41-8.39 (m, 1H, Ar-H)	125.75	СН	H-8 (δ 8.41-8.39) <i>vs</i> H-9 (δ 7.75-7.69)	δ 8.41-8.39 (H-8) <i>vs</i> δ 125.75 (C-8)	δ 8.41-8.39 (H-8) <i>vs</i> δ 128.85 (C-9/ C-10)
C-9	7.75-7.69 (m, 1H, Ar-H)	128.85	СН	H-9 (δ 7.75-7.69) <i>vs</i> H-8 (δ 8.41-8.39)	δ 7.75-7.69 (H-9) <i>vs</i> δ 128.85 (C-9)	δ 7.75-7.69 (H-9) <i>vs</i> δ 136.73 (C-11a)

C-10	7.75-7.69 (m, 1H, Ar-H)	128.85	СН	H-10 (δ 7.75-7.69) <i>vs</i> H-11 (δ 7.58-7.54)	δ 7.75-7.69 (H-10) <i>vs</i> δ 128.85 (C-10)	δ 7.75-7.69 (H-10) <i>vs</i> δ 136.73 (C-11a)
C-11	7.58-7.54 (m, 1H, Ar-H)	129.49	СН	H-11 (δ 7.58-7.54) vs H-10 (δ 7.75-7.69)	δ 7.58-7.54 (H-11) <i>vs</i> δ 128.85 (C-11)	δ 7.58-7.54 (H-11) <i>vs</i> δ 129.49 (C-12a)
C-11a	_	136.73	С	_	_	_
C-12a	-	143.59	С	_	-	_
C-12b	_	135.94	С	_	_	_
C-1'	_	133.20	С	_	_	_
C-2' &C- 6'	6.95 (d, 2H, <i>J</i> = 8.8 Hz,Ar-H)	127.09	СН	H-2'/ H-6' (δ 6.95) <i>vs</i> H-3'/ H-5' (δ 6.65)	δ 6.95 (H-2'/H-6') <i>vs</i> δ 127.09 (C-2'/C-6')	δ 6.95 (H-2'/H-6') <i>vs</i> δ 156.19 (C-4'), 133.20 (C-1')
C-3' &C- 5'	6.65 (d, 2H, <i>J</i> = 8.8 Hz,Ar-H)	114.20	СН	H-3'/ H-5' (δ 6.65) <i>vs</i> H-2'/ H-6' (δ 6.95)	δ 6.65 (H-3'/H5') <i>vs</i> δ 114.20 (C-3'/C-5')	δ 6.65 (H-3'/H-5') <i>vs</i> δ 156.19 (C-4'),
C-4'	_	156.19	С	-	_	_
C-7'	3.75 (s, 3H, Ar-OCH <sub>3</sub> )	55.33	OCH <sub>3</sub>	_	δ 3.59 (Ar-OCH <sub>3</sub> ) <i>vs</i> δ 55.33 (Ar-OCH <sub>3</sub> )	δ 3.59 (Ar-OCH <sub>3</sub> ) vs δ 156.19 (C-4')



Figure S33. High-resolution Mass spectra of 6-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3e**)



Figure S34.<sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 6-(*p*-tolylthio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3f**)



Figure S35.<sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 6-(*p*-tolylthio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3f**)



Figure S36. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 6-(p-tolylthio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3f)



Figure S37. High-resolution Mass spectra of 6-(p-tolylthio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3f)



Figure S38. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-(phenylthio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3g**)



Figure S39. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-(phenylthio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3g**)



Figure S40. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-(phenylthio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3g)



Figure S41. High-resolution Mass spectra of 10-bromo-6-(phenylthio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3g)



Figure S42. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3h**)



Figure S43. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3h)



Figure S40. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3h)



Figure S41. High-resolution Mass spectra of 10-bromo-6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3h**)



Figure S42. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3i)



Figure S43. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3i**)



Figure S44. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3i)



Figure S45. High-resolution Mass spectra 10-bromo-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3i)



Figure S46. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-bromophenyl)thio)-10-chlorobenzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3j)



Figure S47. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-bromophenyl)thio)-10-chlorobenzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3j)



Figure S48. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 6-((4-bromophenyl)thio)-10-chlorobenzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3j)



Figure S49. High-resolution Mass spectra of 6-((4-bromophenyl)thio)-10-chlorobenzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3j)



Figure S50. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum f 10-chloro-6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (**3k**)



Figure S51. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-chloro-6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (**3k**)



Figure S52. High-resolution Mass spectra of 10-chloro-6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3k**)



Figure S53. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-chloro-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3l)



Figure S54. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-chloro-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3**)



Figure S55. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 10-chloro-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3l)



Figure S56. High-resolution Mass spectra of 10-chloro-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (31)



Figure S57. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-fluoro-6-(phenylthio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3m**)


Figure S58. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-fluoro-6-(phenylthio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3m**)



Figure S59. High-resolution Mass spectra of 10-fluoro-6-(phenylthio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3m)



Figure S60. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-bromophenyl)thio)-10-fluorobenzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3n)



Figure S61. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-bromophenyl)thio)-10-fluorobenzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (**3n**)



Figure S62. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 6-((4-bromophenyl)thio)-10-fluorobenzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3n)



Figure S63. High-resolution Mass spectra of 6-((4-bromophenyl)thio)-10-fluorobenzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (**3n**)



Figure S64. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-chlorophenyl)thio)-10-fluorobenzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3o**)



Figure S65. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 6-((4-chlorophenyl)thio)-10-fluorobenzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3o**)



Figure S66. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 6-((4-chlorophenyl)thio)-10-fluorobenzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (**3o**)



Figure S67. High-resolution Mass spectra of 6-((4-chlorophenyl)thio)-10-fluorobenzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3o**)



Figure S68. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-fluoro-6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3p**)



Figure S69. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-fluoro-6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3p**)



Figure S70. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 10-fluoro-6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3p)



Figure S71. High-resolution Mass spectra of 10-fluoro-6-((4-fluorophenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3p)



Figure S72. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-fluoro-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3q)



Figure S73. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-fluoro-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3q**)



Figure S74. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 10-fluoro-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3q**)



Figure S75. High-resolution Mass spectra of 10-fluoro-6-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)thio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3q)



Figure S76. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 6-(Phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'a**)



Figure S77. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 6-(Phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'a**)



Figure S78. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 6-(Phenylselanyl)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3'a)



Figure S79. <sup>77</sup>Se-NMR spectrum of 6-(Phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'a**)



Figure S80. High-resolution Mass spectra of 6-(Phenylselanyl)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3'a)



Figure S81. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'b**)



Figure S82. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'b**)



Figure S83. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3'b)



Figure S84. <sup>77</sup>Se NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'b**)



Figure S85. HRMS NMR spectrum of 10-bromo-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3'b)



Figure S86. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-fluoro-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'c**)



Figure S87. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-fluoro-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'c**)



Figure S88. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 10-fluoro-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3'c)



Figure S89. <sup>77</sup>Se-NMR spectrum of 10-fluoro-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'c**)



Figure S90. High-resolution Mass spectra of 10-fluoro-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'c**)



Figure S91. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 10-methyl-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (**3'd**)



Figure S92. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 10-methyl-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'd**)



Figure S93. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 10-methyl-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3'd)


Figure S94. <sup>77</sup>Se-NMR spectrum of 10-methyl-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'd**)



Figure S95. High-resolution Mass spectra of 10-methyl-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3'd)



Figure S96. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 9,10-dichloro-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'e**)



Figure S97. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of 9,10-dichloro-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'e**)



Figure S98. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of 9,10-dichloro-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3'e)



Figure S99. <sup>77</sup>Se-NMR spectrum of 9,10-dichloro-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[*a*]phenazin-5-ol (**3'e**)



Figure S100. High-resolution Mass spectra of 9,10-dichloro-6-(phenylselanyl)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3'e)

6. Scanned copies of <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (for representative compound 7b) spectra for all the synthesized benzophenones 7 (7a–7c) and benzaldehydes 9 (9a–9b) (Figure S101 – S105)



Figure S101. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of benzophenone (**7a**)



Figure S102. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of bis(4-chlorophenyl)methanone (7b)



Figure S103. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of bis(4-fluorophenyl)methanone (7c)



Figure S104. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of benzaldehyde (9a)



Figure S105. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of 4-methylbenzaldehyde (9b)

## 7. Single X-ray crystal structure analysis of 6-(Phenylthio)benzo[a]phenazin-5-ol (3a)

## Preparation of single crystals of compound 3a

For preparing single crystals of compound **3a**, 30 mg of the sample was dissolved in 5 mL of DMSO, and the solution was left for 3 days for slow evaporation at ambient temperature to yield reddish block-shaped crystals.

CCDC 2116546 (Compound **3a**) contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from *The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via* www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\_request/cif



**Figure S106a**. *ORTEP* view of the molecule, showing the atom-labelling scheme Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii.



Figure S106b. The packing arrangement of molecules viewed down the a-axis, b-axis and c-axis

CCDC Number	2116546	
Empirical formula	$C_{22}H_{14}N_2OS$	
Formula weight	354.41	
Temperature	150.02 (18) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	P 2 <sub>1</sub> /n	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 12.9621(4) Å	$\alpha = 90^{\circ}$
	b = 8.5724 (3) Å	β=91.399 (3)°
	c = 14.8322 (6) Å	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$
Volume	1647.60 (10) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.429 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	
Absorption coefficient	0.210 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
F(000)	736.0	
Crystal size	0.334×0.131×0.118 mm <sup>3</sup>	
Crystal shape (colour)	Block (Red color)	
Theta range for data collection	4.12 to 56.68°	
Index ranges	-16<=h<=14, -4<=k<=11, -9<=l<=19	
Reflections collected	5264	
Independent reflections	3661 [ $R_{int} = 0.0528$ , $R_{sigma} = 0.0764$ ]	
Completeness to theta = $28.340^{\circ}$	86.5 %	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>	
Data / restraints / parameters	3561 / 0 / 236	
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.049	
Final R indices [I>= $2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0673, wR_2 = 0.1783$	
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0858, wR_2 = 0.2057$	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.73 and -0.76 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>	
Scan mode	ωscan	
Reflections observed (I > $2\sigma(I)$ )	5264	
Structure determination	Direct methods	
No. of parameters refined	236	
Final residual electron density	0.73 and -0.76 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>	
Software for geometry calculation	WinGX [2]	
Software for geometrical calculation	PARST [3]	
Software for molecular plotting	PLATON [4], Ortep3 [5]	
Software for structure solution	SHELXS-97 [6]	
Software for refinement	SHELXL-97 [7]	

## 8. References

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