

## Supporting informations

### **Solid state structure and solution behaviour of organoselenium(II) compounds containing 2-{E(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NCH<sub>2</sub>}C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> groups (E = O, NMe)**

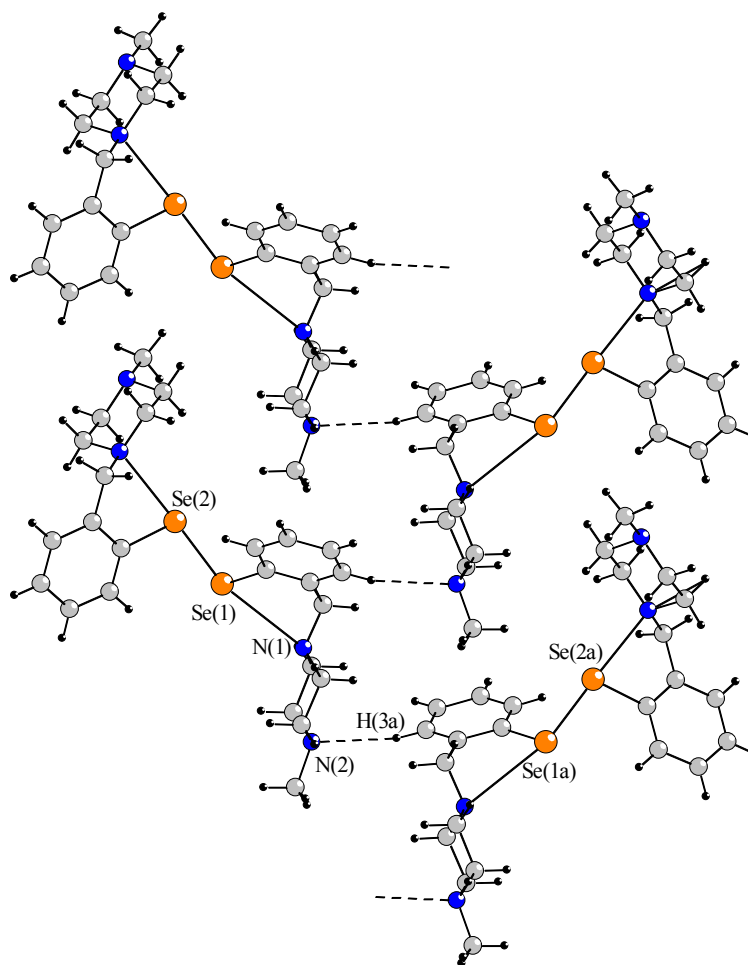
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## Solid state structure - supramolecular architectures



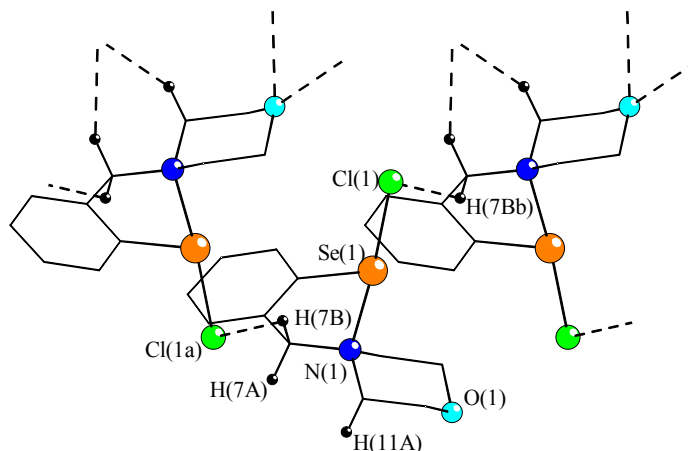
- the crystal contains a 1:1 mixture of 1:1 mixtures of ( $R_{N1}, S_{N3}$ ) and ( $S_{N1}, R_{N3}$ ) isomers
- the crystal contains parallel chains built from either ( $R_{N1}, S_{N3}$ ) or ( $S_{N1}, R_{N3}$ ) isomers



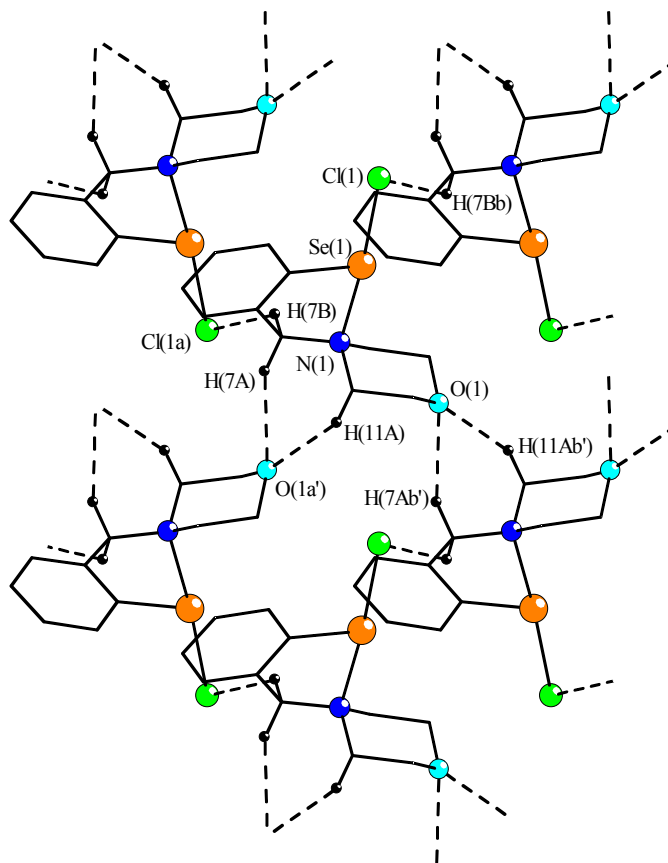
**Figure S1.** View along  $c$  axis of the chain polymer of ( $R_{N1}, S_{N3}$ )-**2** isomers based on intermolecular hydrogen contacts. Symmetry equivalent positions: H(3a) ( $2.5-x, -0.5+y, 0.5-z$ ). Intermolecular contacts within a chain:  $\text{N}(2)\cdots\text{H}(3a)_{\text{aryl}}$  2.67 Å (c.f.  $\sum r_{\text{vdW}}(\text{N}, \text{H})$  2.74 Å). No further inter-chain contacts.

[2- $\{\text{O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}\text{SeCl}$  (3)

- the crystal contains only the *S* isomer
- intramolecular distances  $\text{Cl}(1)\cdots\text{H}(6)$  2.67 Å  $\sum r_{\text{vdW}}(\text{Cl},\text{H})$  3.01 Å



**Figure S2.** View of the chain polymer of *S*-2 isomers based on intermolecular hydrogen contacts (only hydrogens involved in intermolecular interactions are shown). Symmetry equivalent positions: Cl(1a)  $(-0.5+x, 0.5-y, -z)$ ; H(7Bb)  $(0.5+x, 0.5-y, -z)$ . Intermolecular contacts within a chain:  $\text{Cl}(1)\cdots\text{H}(7\text{Bb})_{\text{methylene}}$  2.89 Å.



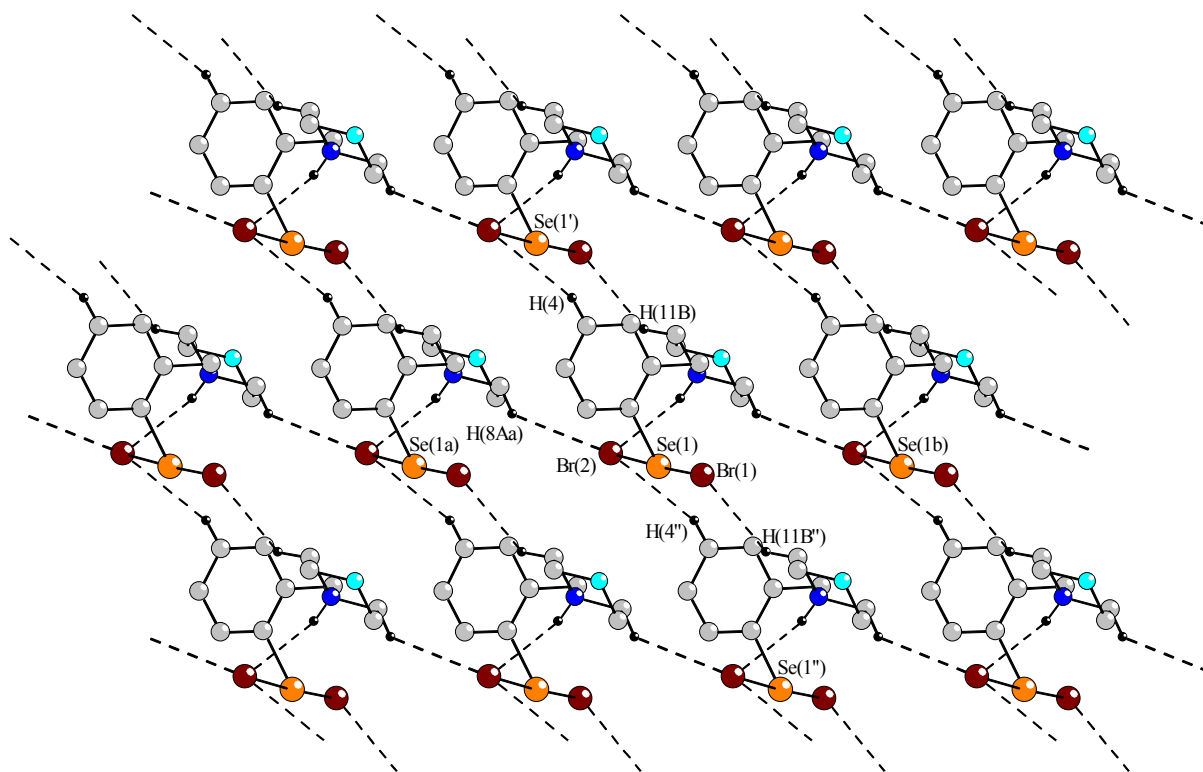
**Figure S3.** View of a layer network built from parallel chains of *S*-2 isomers, connected through inter-chain hydrogen contacts (only hydrogens involved in intermolecular interactions are shown). Symmetry equivalent positions: O(1a')  $(-0.5+x, -0.5-y, -z)$ ; H(7Ab'), H(11Ab')  $(0.5+x, -0.5-y, -z)$ . Intermolecular contacts between chains:  $\text{O}(1)\cdots\text{H}(7\text{Ab}')_{\text{methylene}}$  2.50 Å,  $\text{O}(1)\cdots\text{H}(11\text{Ab}')_{\text{N-methylene-ring}}$  2.56 Å (c.f.  $\sum r_{\text{vdW}}(\text{O},\text{H})$  2.60 Å). No further inter-layer contacts.

[2-{O(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NCH<sub>2</sub>}C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>]SeBr·HBr (4·HBr)

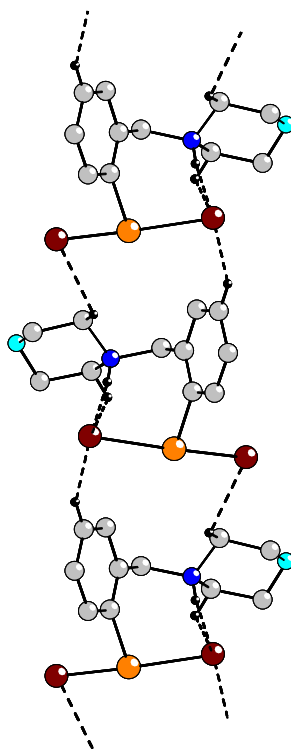
- intramolecular distances

Br(2)···H(2) 2.555(7) Å

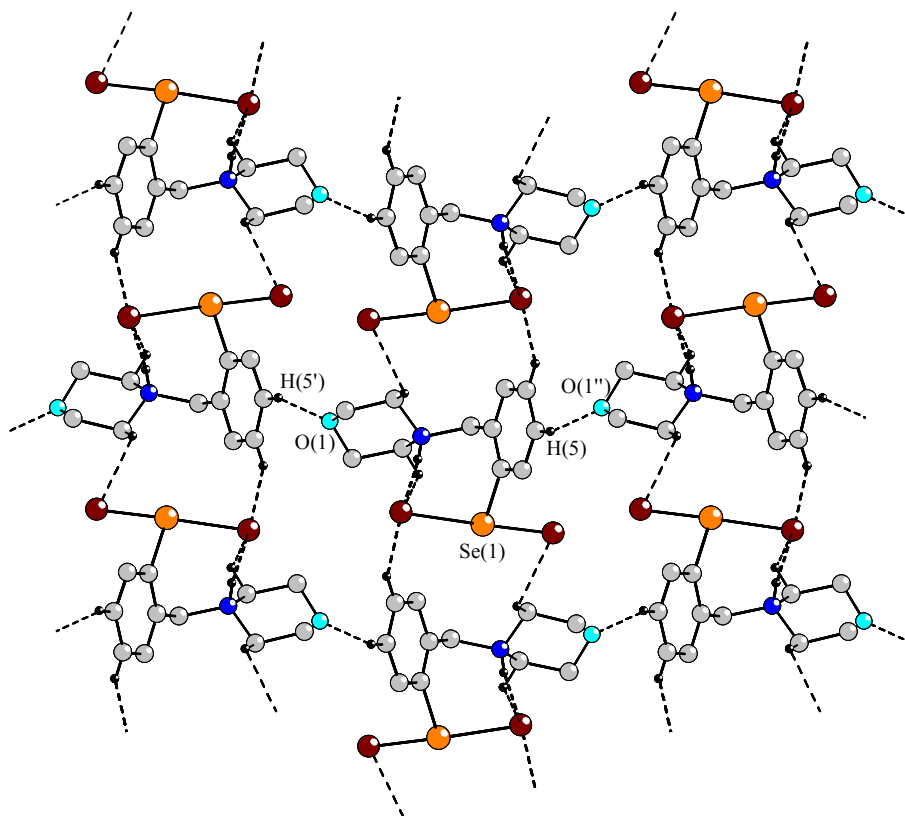
$\sum r_{\text{vdW}}(\text{Br},\text{H})$  3.15 Å



**Figure S4.** View along *a* axis of the layer network built from 4·HBr units through intermolecular hydrogen contacts (only hydrogens involved in hydrogen contacts are shown). Symmetry equivalent positions: Se(1a) (*x*, *y*, 1+*z*); Se(1b) (*x*, *y*, -1+*z*); Se(1') (1.5-*x*, 0.5+*y*, 0.5+*z*); Se(1'') (1.5-*x*, -0.5+*y*, -0.5+*z*). Intermolecular contacts within a layer: Br(1)···H(11B'')<sub>N-methylene-ring</sub> 3.02 Å, Br(2)···H(8Aa)<sub>N-methylene-ring</sub> 3.05 Å, Br(2)···H(4'')<sub>aryl</sub> 3.06 Å.



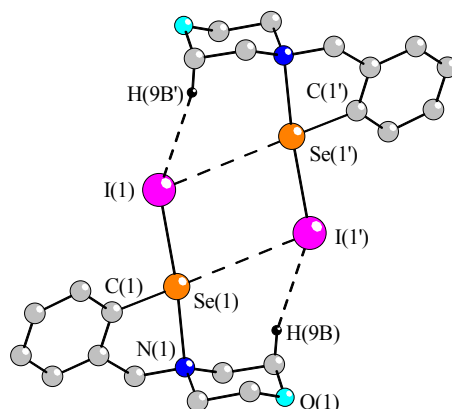
**Figure S5.** View along  $c$  axis of the layer network in the crystal of  $4\cdot\text{HBr}$ .



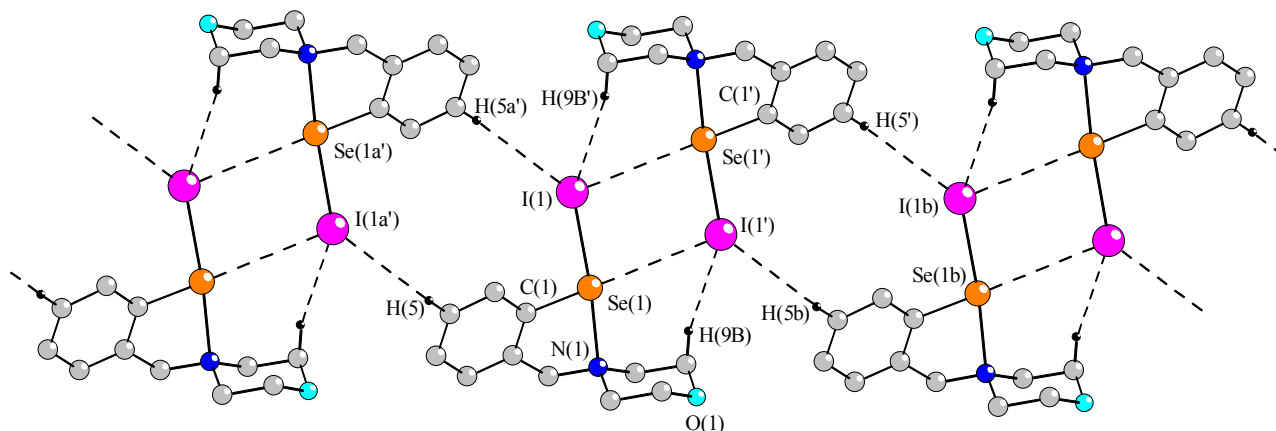
**Figure S6.** View along  $c$  axis of the tridimensional network in the crystal of  $4\cdot\text{HBr}$  built through inter-layer hydrogen contacts (only hydrogens involved in hydrogen contacts are shown). Symmetry equivalent positions:  $\text{H}(5')$   $(-0.5+x, 0.5-y, -1+z)$ ;  $\text{O}(1'')$   $(0.5+x, 0.5-y, 1+z)$ . Intermolecular contacts between layers:  $\text{O}(1)\cdots\text{H}(5')_{\text{aryl}}$   $2.37 \text{ \AA}$  (c.f.  $\sum r_{\text{vdW}}(\text{O},\text{H})$   $2.60 \text{ \AA}$ ).

[2- $\{O(CH_2CH_2)_2NCH_2\}C_6H_4\}SeI$  (**5**)

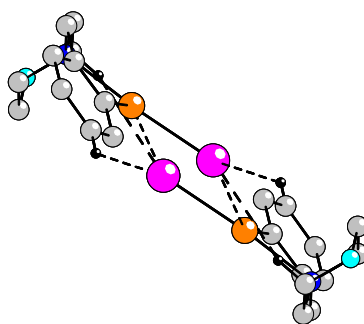
- the crystal contains a 1:1 mixture of *R* and *S* isomers
- intramolecular distances  $I(1)\cdots H(6)$  2.96 Å  $\sum r_{vdW}(I,H)$  3.35 Å



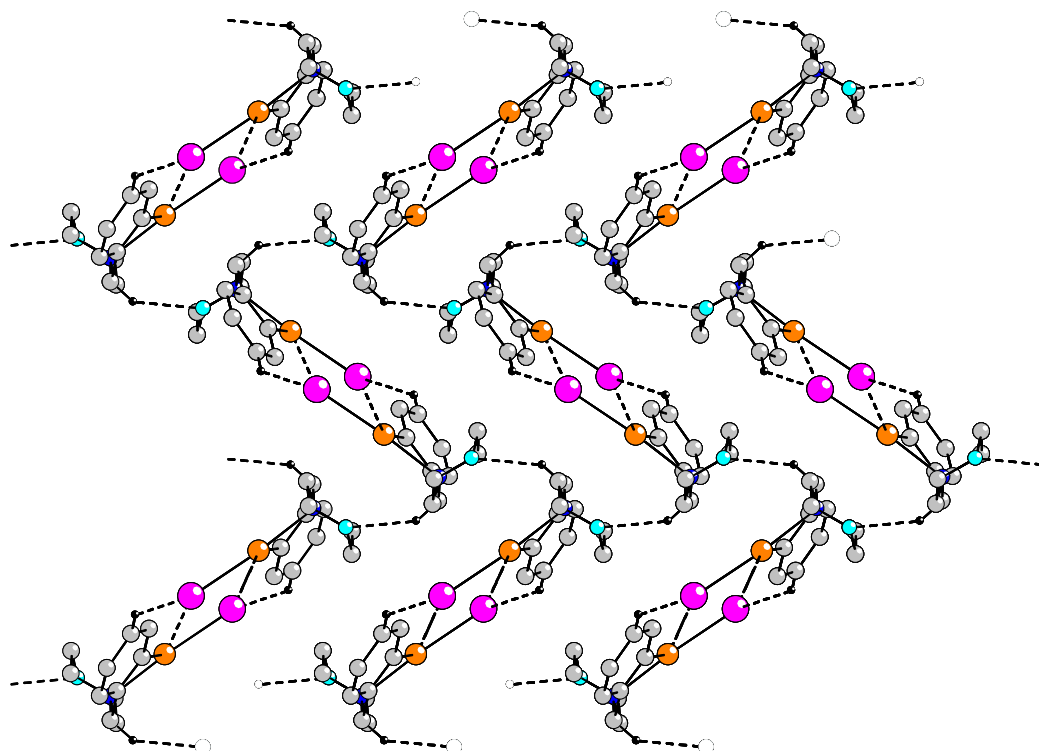
**Figure S7.** View of the dimer association of *R* and *S* isomers in the crystal of **5** (only hydrogens involved in hydrogen contacts are shown). Symmetry equivalent positions: Se(1') (2-*x*, -*y*, 1-*z*). Intermolecular contacts within the dimer unit: Se(1) $\cdots$ I(1') 3.96 Å; I(1) $\cdots$ H(9B')<sub>O-methylene-ring</sub> 3.28 Å (c.f.  $\sum r_{vdW}(Se,I)$  4.15 Å).



**Figure S8.** View of the columnar chain polymer in the crystal of **5** based on hydrogen contacts between dimer units (only hydrogens involved in hydrogen contacts are shown). Symmetry equivalent positions: Se(1a') (2-*x*, -*y*, 2-*z*); Se(1b) (*x*, *y*, -1+*z*). Inter-dimer contacts within a chain: I(1) $\cdots$ H(5a')<sub>aryl</sub> 3.29 Å.



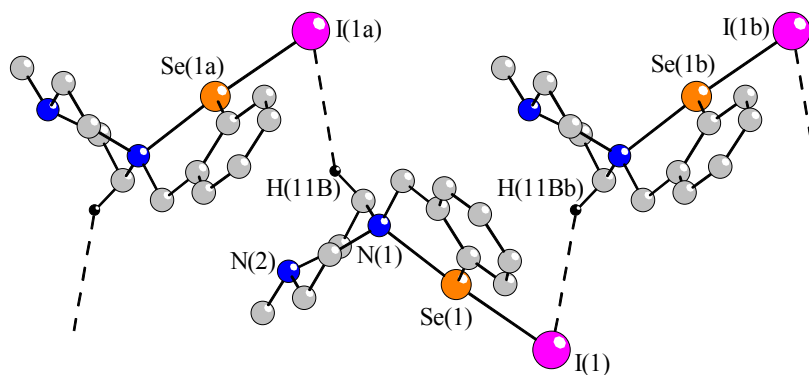
**Figure S9.** View along *c* axis of the columnar chain polymer in the crystal of **5**.



**Figure S10.** View along *c* axis of the tridimensional network built from columnar chain polymers in the crystal of **5**, through oxygen-hydrogen inter-chain contacts (only hydrogens involved in hydrogen contacts are shown). Inter-chain contacts: O(1)⋯H(7B)<sub>methylene</sub> 2.51 Å (c.f.  $\sum r_{\text{vdW}}(\text{O},\text{H})$  2.60 Å).

[2-{MeN(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NCH<sub>2</sub>}C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>]SeI (**6**)

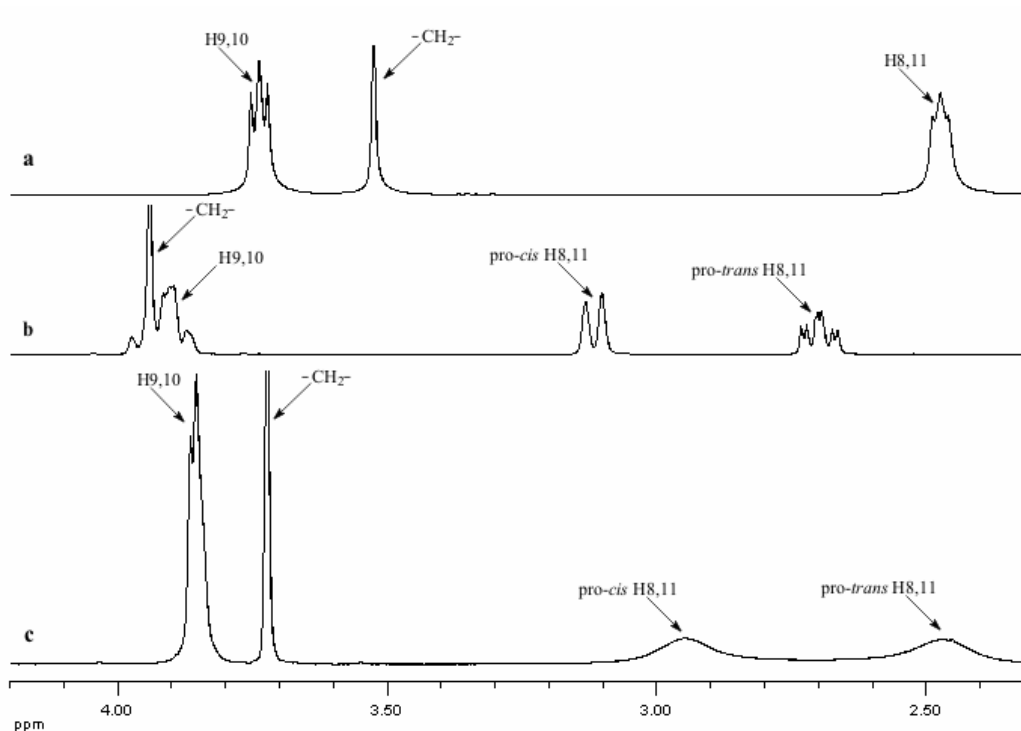
- the crystal contains a 1:1 mixture of *R* and *S* isomers
- intramolecular distances I(1)⋯H(6) 2.87 Å  $\sum r_{\text{vdW}}(\text{I,H})$  3.35 Å



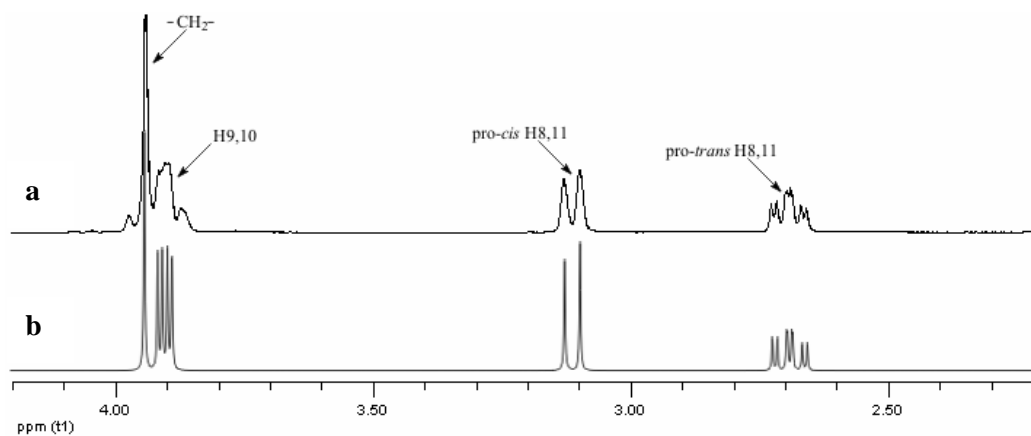
**Figure S11.** View along *a* axis of the chain polymer of alternating *S* and *R* isomers in the crystal of **6** (only hydrogens involved in intermolecular interactions are shown). Symmetry equivalent positions: Se(1a) (*x*, 1.5-*y*, 0.5+*z*); Se(1b) (*x*, 1.5-*y*, -0.5+*z*). Intermolecular contacts within a chain: I(1)⋯H(11Bb)<sub>N-methylene-ring</sub> 3.31 Å. No further inter-chain contacts.



## Solution behaviour

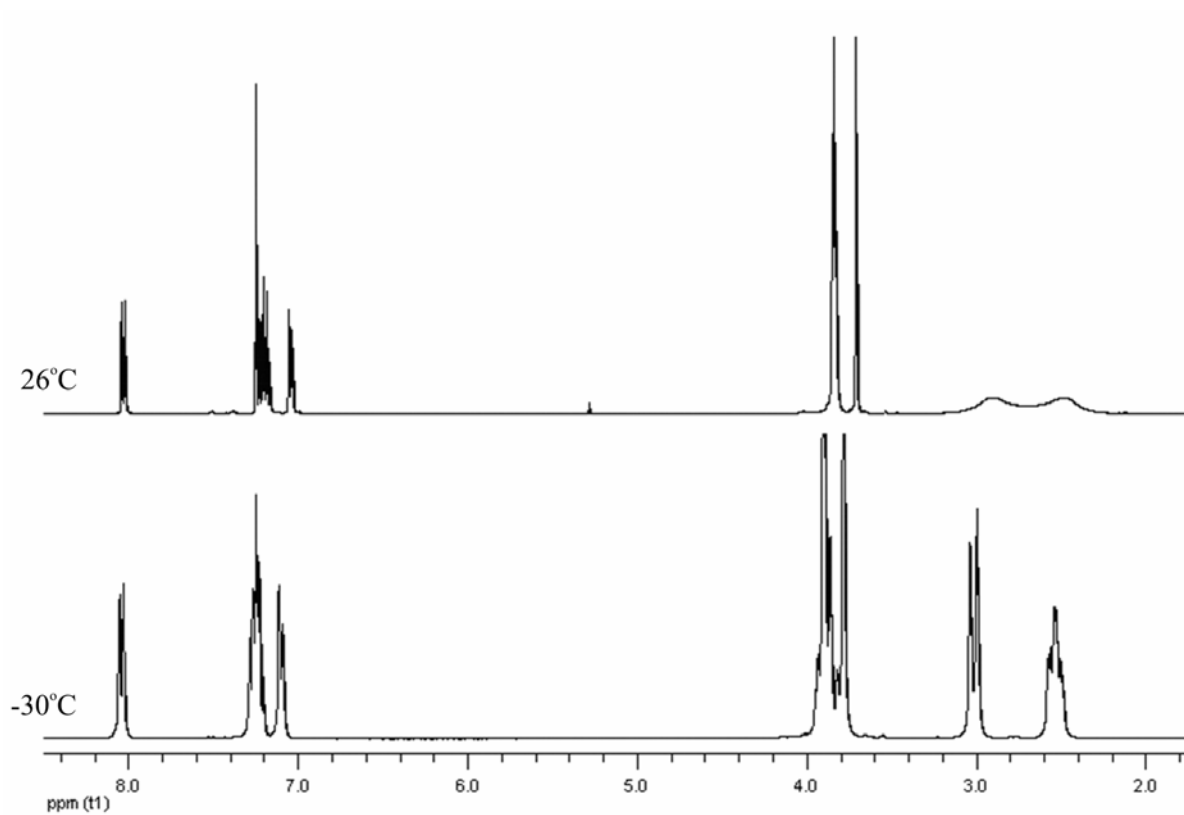


**Figure S12.** The aliphatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz,  $26^\circ\text{C}$ ) of (a)  $[2\text{-O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2]\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ; (b)  $[2\text{-}\{\text{O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4]\text{SeCl}$  (**3**); (c)  $[2\text{-}\{\text{O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4]\text{SeI}$  (**5**).

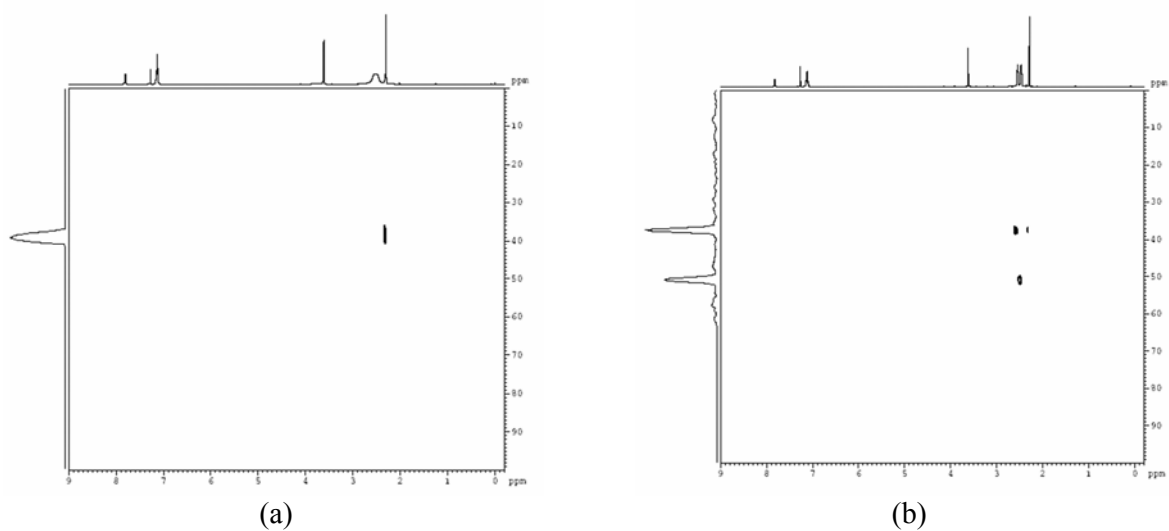
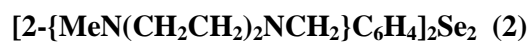


**Figure S13.** (a) The aliphatic region of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[2\text{-}\{\text{O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4]\text{SeCl}$  (**3**) ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz,  $26^\circ\text{C}$ ), and (b) simulation of the  $^1\text{H}$  aliphatic region for **3** on the basis of the following parameters:

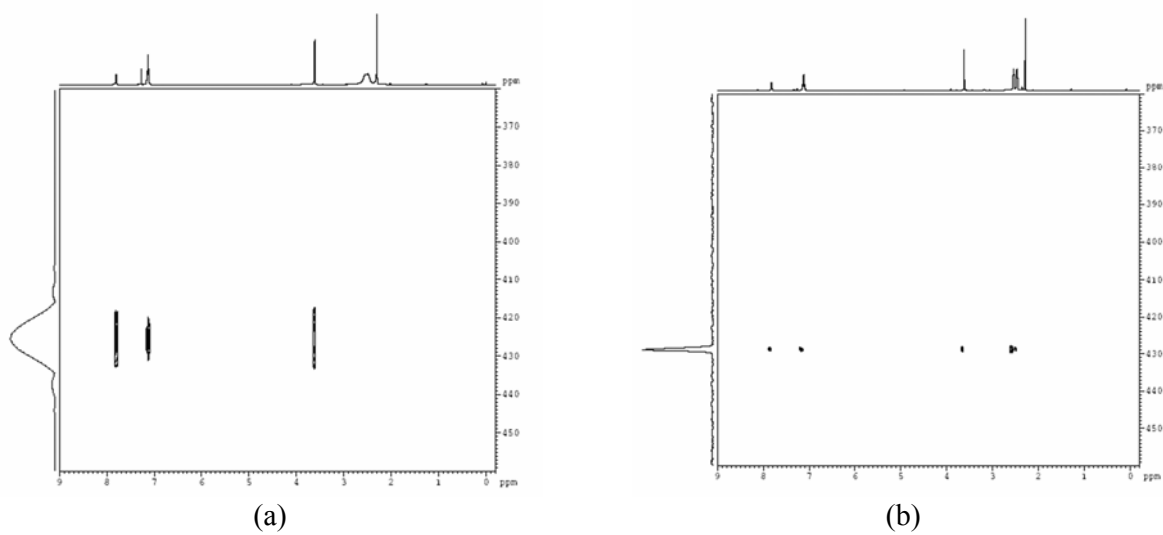
- $\delta$  2.690 ppm [ddd, N- $\text{CH}_2$ - $\text{CH}_2$ , pro-*trans*- $\text{H}_{8,11}$ ,  $^2J_{\text{HH}}$  12.0,  $^3J_{\text{HH}}$  11.1,  $^3J_{\text{HH}}$  4.0 Hz];
- $\delta$  3.110 ppm [d, N- $\text{CH}_2$ - $\text{CH}_2$ , pro-*cis*- $\text{H}_{8,11}$ ,  $^2J_{\text{HH}}$  12.0];
- $\delta$  3.900 ppm [m,  $\text{-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-O}$ ,  $\text{H}_{9,10}$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}}$  11.1,  $^3J_{\text{HH}}$  4.0 Hz (with pro-*trans*- $\text{H}_{8,11}$ )];
- $\delta$  3.940 ppm [s,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-CH}_2\text{-N}$ ,  $\text{H}_7$ ].



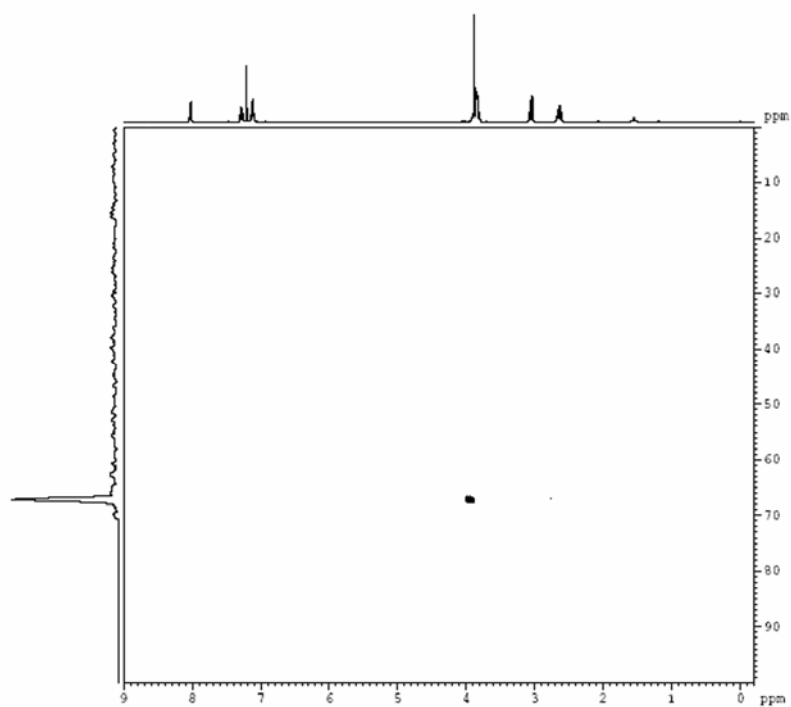
**Figure S14.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) for [2- $\{\text{O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\}$  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ]SeI (**5**) at (a)  $26^\circ\text{C}$  (400 MHz), and (b)  $-30^\circ\text{C}$  (300 MHz).



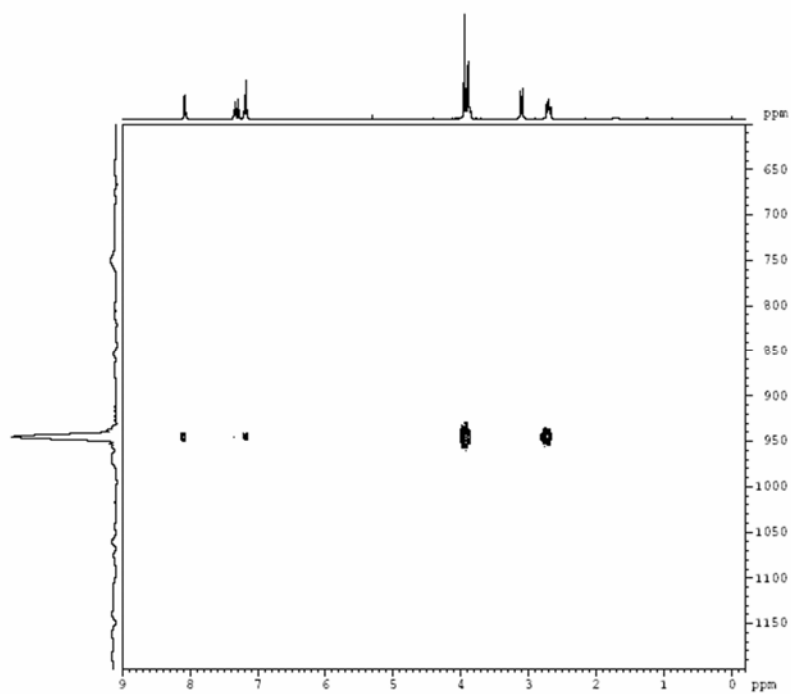
**Figure S15.** The 2D indirectly detected H,N-HMBC spectra (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) for **2**: (a) 26 °C; (b) 60 °C.



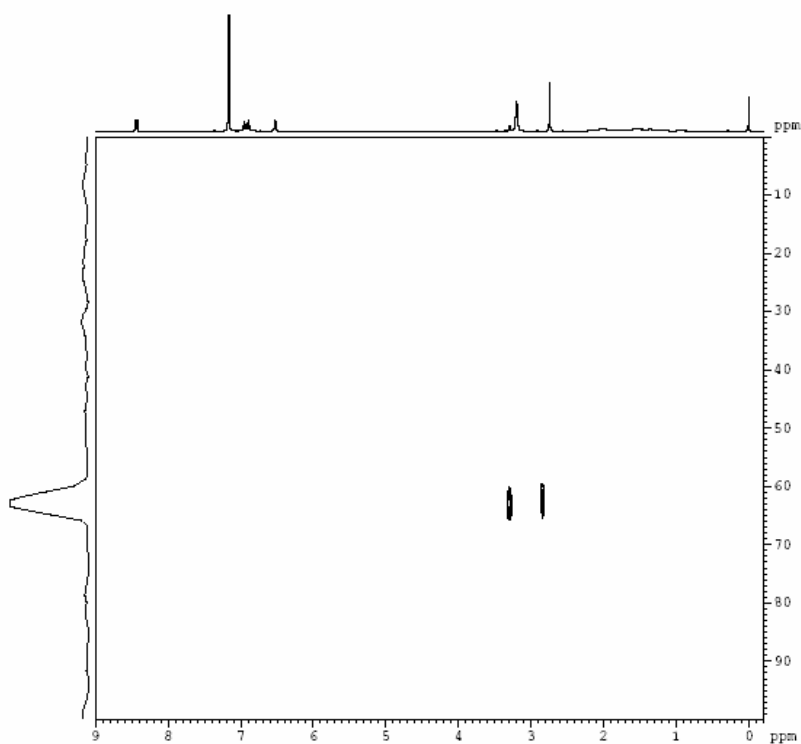
**Figure S16.** The 2D indirectly detected H,Se-HMBC spectra (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) for **2**: (a) 26 °C; (b) 60 °C.



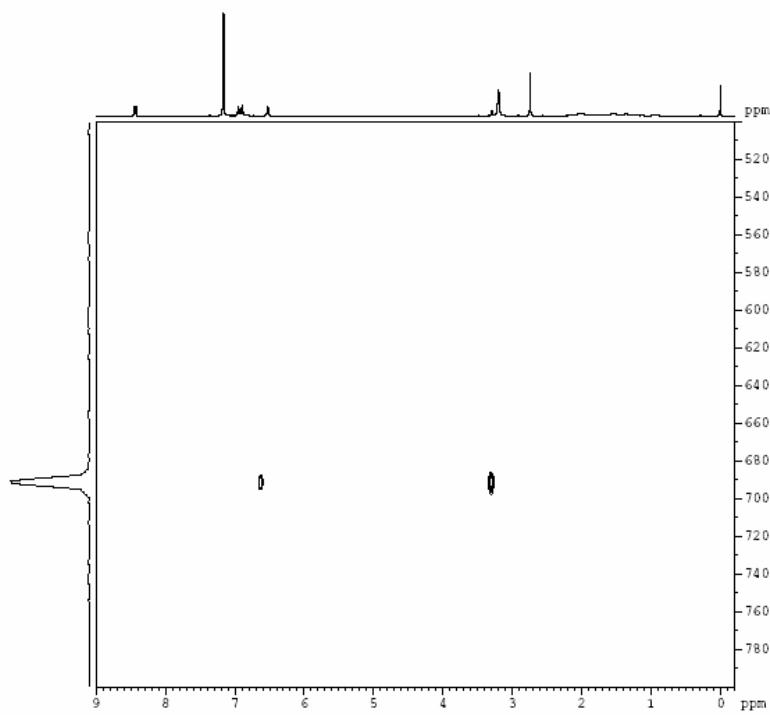
**Figure S17.** The 2D indirectly detected H,N-HMBC spectra (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for **3**, at 26 °C.



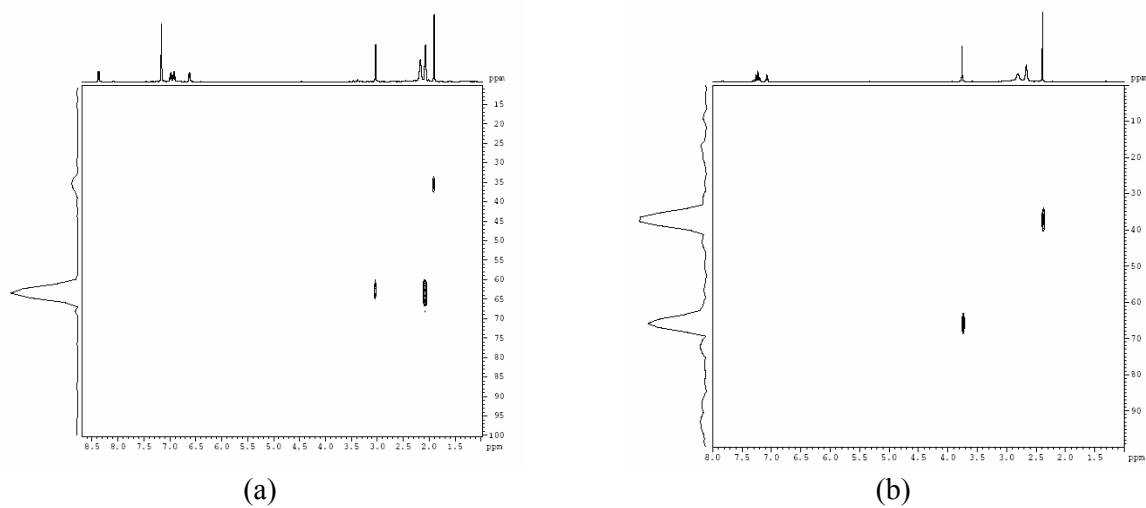
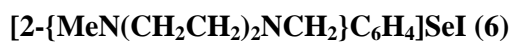
**Figure S18.** The 2D indirectly detected H,Se-HMBC spectra (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for **3**, at 26 °C.

$[2-\{\text{O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NCH}_2\}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4]\text{SeI}$  (**5**)

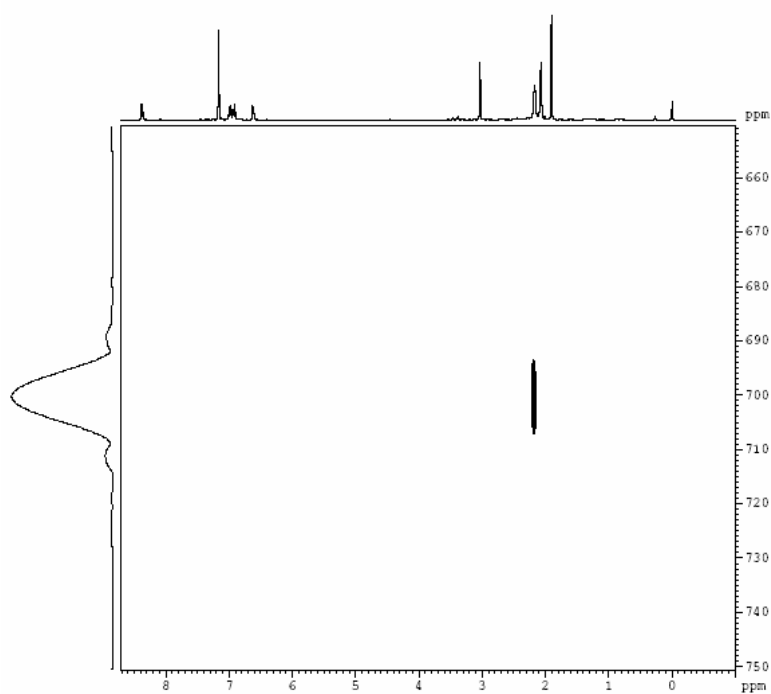
**Figure S19.** The 2D indirectly detected H,N-HMBC spectra (400 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) for **5**, at 26 °C.



**Figure S20.** The 2D indirectly detected H,Se-HMBC spectra (400 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) for **5**, at 26 °C.



**Figure S21.** The 2D indirectly detected H,N-HMBC spectra (400 MHz) for **6**: (a) 65 °C (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>); (b) 60 °C (CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



**Figure S22.** The 2D indirectly detected H,Se-HMBC spectra (400 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) for **6**, at 65 °C.