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IMIDAZOLE-FUNCTIONALIZED PYRIDINIUM-FUSED SELENADIAZOLIUM SALTS AS VERSATILE CHALCOGEN BOND DONORS

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IMIDAZOLE-FUNCTIONALIZED PYRIDINIUM-FUSED SELENADIAZOLIUM SALTS AS VERSATILE CHALCOGEN BOND DONORS

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Abstract. Novel imidazole-functionalized pyridinium-fused selenadiazolium salts were synthesised and structurally characterised as versatile chalcogen bond (ChB) donors. The compounds were obtained from the reaction of 2-pyridylselenyl chloride with 4,5-dicyanoimidazole, yielding a monocationic chloride salt and a dicationic perchlorate derivative. X-ray diffraction analysis revealed that both salts adopt nearly planar selenadiazole cores and T-shaped geometries stabilized by intermolecular $\text{Se}\cdots\text{X}$ ($\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{O}$) chalcogen bonds. In the solid state, monocationic salt forms a supramolecular polymer via a combination of $[\text{Se}\cdots\text{Cl}]_2$ dimerisation and, secondary, $\text{Se}\cdots\text{N}$ chalcogen bonds involving the imidazole moiety. Results of Hirshfeld surfaces analysis reveal that crystal packing primarily determined by intermolecular contacts involving hydrogen atoms. Theoretical QTAIM and RDG analyses confirmed the presence and attractive nature of key noncovalent interactions ($\text{Se}\cdots\text{Cl}$, $\text{Se}\cdots\text{N}$, $\text{Se}\cdots\text{O}$, $\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$, $\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$), with estimated energies consistent with typical chalcogen and hydrogen bonds. This work illustrates a rational strategy for managing supramolecular organization through synergistic noncovalent interactions, offering a pathway toward predictable chalcogen-bond-driven architectures for crystal engineering and functional materials.

Keywords: imidazole, selenadiazolium salt, supramolecular polymer, chalcogen bond, noncovalent interactions.

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Introduction

Despite its significant directionality and tunable strength, chalcogen bonding (ChB) has not yet been widely employed to construct extended supramolecular architectures. In this interaction, a chalcogen atom acts as an electrophilic acceptor of electron density from a Lewis base [1-3]. This stands in contrast to the ubiquitous use of hydrogen bonding (HB), a classical and foundational tool for building supramolecular assemblies and frameworks [4-6].

Recently, novel selenadiazolium salts have emerged as promising chalcogen-bond donors [7-14]. In certain cases, these cations assemble into supramolecular Se_2N_2 squares via antiparallel $\text{Se}\cdots\text{N}$ ChB, a motif with potential for use as a

structural node in extended supramolecular architectures [7-9, 15-21]. However, the formation of these squares proved inconsistent and was highly sensitive to substituents on the selenadiazolium core. Competing noncovalent interactions often dominate, disrupting square formation and dictating alternative packing modes. This observation motivated the exploration of strategies for achieving reliable, rational assembly of Se_2N_2 squares. In particular, the use of multifunctional building blocks that incorporate additional donor or acceptor sites could help steer supramolecular assembly through hierarchical or synergistic noncovalent interactions, favouring the desired ChB-driven motifs.

Imidazole is a five-membered aromatic heterocycle featuring two nitrogen atoms (one pyrrole-type NH and one pyridine-type N) that confer versatility in molecular recognition and supramolecular chemistry. Its ability to act simultaneously as a hydrogen bond donor and acceptor makes it a privileged scaffold in crystal engineering. Furthermore, the imidazole ring can participate in π - π stacking, coordinate to metal centres, and, when appropriately functionalized, engage in chalcogen and halogen bonding.

In this context, the synthesis and structural characterization of new cationic systems derived from the reaction of 2-pyridylselenenyl chloride with 4,5-dicyanoimidazole is reported. The resulting compounds feature pyridinium-fused selenadiazole cores linked *via* an imidazole spacer. It was proposed that the imidazole moiety, with its dual hydrogen-bonding capability and potential for secondary ChB interactions, could act as a versatile supramolecular auxiliary. This might either reinforce the formation of classical Se_2N_2 squares or guide the assembly into novel architectures, such as one-dimensional polymers, by providing additional interaction vectors. Herein, the synthesis, X-ray structures, and theoretical investigation of new selenadiazolium salts are described, demonstrating how the imidazole unit influences the solid-state organization through a combination of $\text{Se}\cdots\text{X}$ ($\text{X}=\text{Cl}, \text{O}$) chalcogen bonds and secondary interactions, leading to the formation of a 1D supramolecular polymer in one case.

Experimental

Materials

No uncommon hazards are noted derived from the experimental work carried out. All manipulations were carried out in air. All the reagents used in this study (PhICl_2 , 2,2'-dipyridyldiselenide, 4,5-dicyanoimidazole, NH_4ReO_4), were obtained from the commercial sources (Aldrich, TCI-Europe, Strem, ABCR). Commercially available solvents were purified by conventional methods and distilled immediately prior to use.

Instruments

The ^1H and ^{13}C -NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker Avance neo 700 spectrometer, using D_2O as the NMR solvent. Chemical shifts are indicated in parts per million (ppm) relative to tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. Coupling constants (J) are reported in Hertz (Hz). C, H, and N elemental analyses were carried out on a Euro EA 3028HT CHNS/O analyser.

X-ray crystal structure determination

The single-crystal X-ray diffraction data for **3** and **4** were obtained at the Collective Use Center of the Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences on a three-circle Bruker SMART Apex II or Bruker D8 Venture (graphite monochromator, ω and φ scanning mode). The data were indexed and integrated using the SAINT program (Bruker, SAINT, v. 8.40A, Bruker AXS Inc., Madison, WI, 2019), and then scaled and corrected for absorption using the SADABS program. For details, see Table S1 in Supplementary material.

The structures were determined by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least squares technique on F² with anisotropic displacement parameters for non-hydrogen atoms. Hydrogen atoms are calculated from geometric considerations. All calculations were carried out using the SHELXL program and OLEX2 program package.

Level B errors in crystal **3** are due to the low crystal quality. The short $\text{Se}\cdots\text{O}$ contacts (level A errors in crystal **4**) correspond to intermolecular chalcogen bonds.

Crystallographic data for all investigated compounds have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center, CCDC 2528228-2528229. Copies of this information may be obtained free of charge from the Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (Fax: +44 1223 336033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk or www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

Synthesis of 3-(5-cyano-1H-imidazol-4-yl)-[1,2,4]selenadiazolo[4,5-a]pyridin-4-ium chloride (**3**).

A solution of PhICl_2 (18 mg, 64 μmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (2 mL) was added to a suspension of 2,2'-dipyridyldiselenide (20 mg, 64 μmol) and 4,5-dicyanoimidazole (15 mg, 128 μmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (3 mL), and the reaction mixture was left with stirring at room temperature for 12 h. After that, the solution was decanted from a colourless precipitate, and the solid was washed with acetone (3×1 mL), Et_2O (3×1 mL) and dried under vacuum. ^1H NMR (700 MHz, D_2O) δ 10.32 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.91 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.49–8.46 (m, 1H), 8.25 (s, 1H), 8.07–8.05 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (176 MHz, D_2O) δ 168.5, 147.5, 140.2, 140.0, 138.1, 136.9, 125.9, 123.2, 111.0, 107.0. Elem. anal. calculated for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_6\text{ClN}_5\text{Se}$: C, 38.67; H, 1.95; N, 22.55. Found: C, 38.75; H, 2.21; N, 22.39. Yield: 63%.

Synthesis of 3,3'-(1*H*-imidazole-4,5-diyl)bis([1,2,4]selenadiazolo[4,5-*a*]pyridin-4-ium) perrhenate (4).

3,3'-(1*H*-imidazole-4,5-diyl)bis([1,2,4]selenadiazolo[4,5-*a*]pyridin-4-ium) chloride (30 mg, 32 μ mol) was dissolved in MeOH (1.5 mL) and the addition of MeOH solution (1.5 mL) of NH_4ReO_4 (200 mg, 746 μ mol) resulted in the formation of a colourless crystals, which were washed with acetone (3×1 mL), Et_2O (3×1 mL) and dried under vacuum. The compound was insoluble in common deuterated solvents, which precluded NMR analyses. Elem. anal. calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_6\text{O}_8\text{Re}_2\text{Se}_2$: C 19.32; H, 1.08; N, 9.01. Found: C 19.58; H 1.21; N 8.78. Yield: 76%.

Computational details

Hirshfeld surfaces analysis for the X-ray structures **3** and **4** was carried out in CrystalExplorer program (version 17.5). The normalized contact distances, d_{norm} , based on Bondi's van der Waals radii, were mapped into the Hirshfeld surfaces. In the colour scale, negative values of d_{norm} are visualised by the red colour, indicating contacts shorter than the sum of vdW radii. The white colour denotes intermolecular distances close to the vdW contacts with d_{norm} equal to zero. In turn, contacts longer than the sum of vdW radii with positive d_{norm} values are coloured with blue.

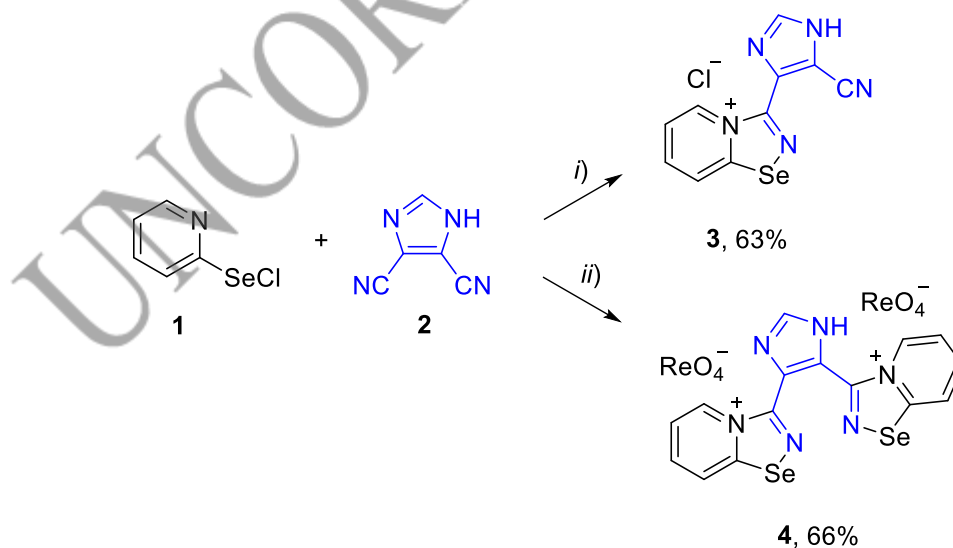
The DFT calculations based on the experimental X-ray structures **3** and **4** were carried out using the dispersion-corrected hybrid functional ω B97XD with the help of Gaussian-09

program package. The Douglas–Kroll–Hess 2nd order scalar relativistic calculations requested relativistic core Hamiltonian were carried out using the DZP-DKH basis sets for all atoms. The topological analysis of the electron density distribution with the help of the atoms in molecules (QTAIM) method developed by Bader was performed by using the Multiwfn program (version 3.7). The Cartesian atomic coordinates for model supramolecular associates are presented in Table S1, Supplementary material.

Results and discussion

The synthesis of the target cationic selenadiazolium salts was achieved through a straightforward procedure utilizing 2-pyridylselenyl chloride (**1**) as a versatile selenating reagent (Scheme 1).

First, the reaction of commercially available 2,2'-dipyridyldiselenide with one equivalent of phenyliodine(III) dichloride in dichloromethane generated ambiphilic **1** *in situ*. This reagent was subsequently treated with 4,5-dicyanoimidazole. The reaction proceeded *via* the addition of **1** to one nitrile group to yield the monocationic salt **3** as a chloride. This compound was isolated in good yield (63%) as a colourless solid. To obtain a dicationic species, **2** was reacted with two equivalents of **1**, leading to the functionalization of both nitrile groups. Subsequent anion metathesis with ammonium perrhenate in methanol afforded the desired bis-selenadiazolium salt **4**, isolated as its perrhenate derivative.



Reagents and conditions. i) 1 equiv 2-PySeCl; ii) 2 equiv 2-PySeCl, then saturated MeOH solution of NH_4ReO_4 .

Scheme 1. Reactions between 2-PySeCl and 4,5-dicyanoimidazole.

Structural confirmation of the prepared compounds was achieved using ^1H , ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy, along with X-ray diffraction analysis (Figure 1). For the formed heterocyclic product **3**, ^1H , ^{13}C chemical shifts and coupling constants are typical of those observed for 1,2,4-selenadiazolium salts. The ^1H NMR spectrum displays a doublet at 10.32 ppm assigned to the pyridinium proton adjacent to the selenium atom, along with a characteristic singlet at δ 8.25 for the imidazole CH proton. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum corresponds to the expected structure. Suitable single crystals for the X-ray study were grown *via* slow evaporation of a dichloromethane solution of **3**, whereas crystals of **4** were obtained directly from the methanol reaction mixture.

Compounds **3** and **4** are bicyclic and bis-bicyclic cationic systems (Figure 1), respectively. The selenium-containing rings are nearly planar, with $\text{C}_{\text{py}}\text{-Se-N}'\text{-C}$ torsion angles of $1.3(7)^\circ$ for **3** and -0.18° for **4**. The $\text{N}'\text{-Se}$ bond distances of $1.821(7)\text{ \AA}$ in **3** and $1.821(6)/1.833(6)\text{ \AA}$ in **4** correspond to typical single bonds, while the $\text{C}=\text{N}$ bond lengths of $1.283(3)\text{ \AA}$ and $1.288(4)\text{ \AA}$ are characteristic of double bonds [22]. The selenium atom adopts a T-shaped geometry, supported by non-covalent $\text{Se}\cdots\text{Cl}/(\text{ReO}_4)$ interactions. The $\text{C}_{\text{py}}\text{-Se-N}'$ angles are $88.7(3)^\circ$ for **3** and $87.7(3)^\circ$ for **4**, and the $\text{Se}\cdots\text{Cl}$ and $\text{Se}\cdots(\text{ReO}_4)$ contact distances are 2.905 \AA and 2.742 \AA , respectively. These structural features align with those previously reported for related selenadiazolium salts [7,11,14].

Table 1

Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for 3 .			
Bond	Value	Bond	Value
Se1–N2	1.821(7)	Se2–N7	1.828(7)
Se1–C1	1.862(9)	Se2–C11	1.832(10)
Se1–C11	2.985(2)	Se2–C12	2.908(4)
Se1 \cdots N8	3.056(8)	Se2–C12 ¹	3.263(5)
Se1 \cdots C11	3.263(5)		
Angle	°	Angle	°
N2–Se1–C1	88.7(3)	N7–Se2–C11	87.8(4)
N2–Se1–N8	87.0(3)	N7–Se2–C12	173.0(3)
N2–Se1–C11	177.9(2)	C11–Se2–C12	91.6(3)
C1–Se1–N8	173.9(3)	Se2–C12–Se2 ¹	81.60(11)
C1–Se1–C11	91.3(3)	C12–Se2–C12 ¹	98.4(2)
C11–Se1–N8	92.88(15)		
¹ 2-X,1-Y,2-Z			

Table 2

Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for 4 .			
Bond	Length	Angle	Value
Se1–N2	1.821(6)	Re1–O2–Se2	113.3(2)
Se1 ² –O7	3.383(6)	Re1–O3–Se2 ¹	104.5(2)
Se1–C1	1.857(7)	Re2–O7–Se1 ²	94.4(2)
Se1–O8	2.744(5)	Re2–O8–Se1	120.4(2)
Se2–N6	1.831(6)	N2–Se1–O8	171.8(2)
Se2–C11	1.874(7)	N2–Se1–C1	87.7(3)
Se2–O2	2.675(5)	C1–Se1–O8	86.3(2)
Se2 ¹ –O3	3.047(5)	N6–Se2–O2	168.2(2)
		N6–Se2–C11	87.9(3)
		C11–Se2–O2	83.6(2)
¹ 2-X,-Y,-Z; ² 2-X,1-Y,1-Z			

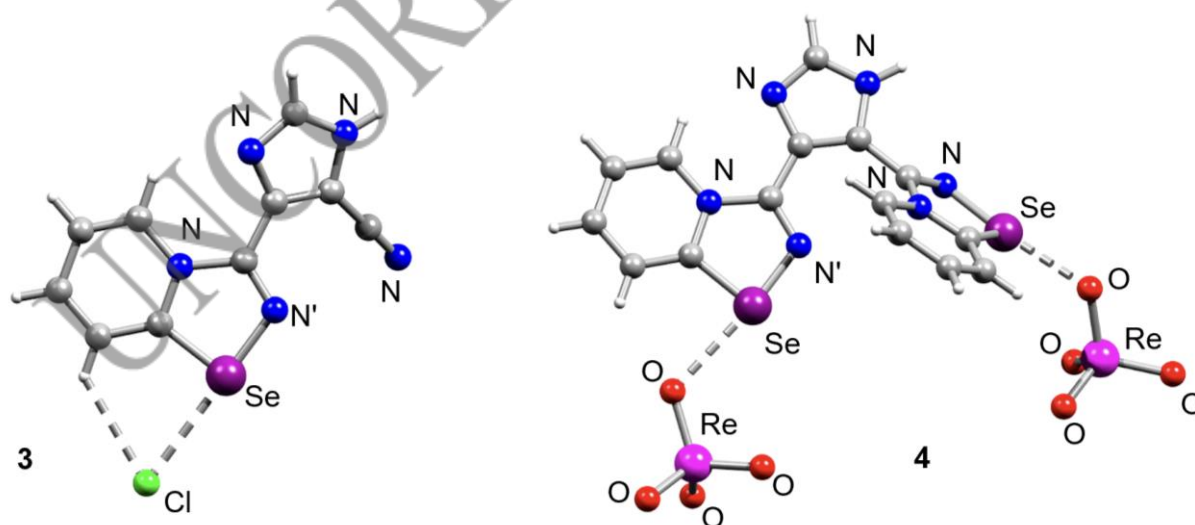


Figure 1. Ball-and-stick representation of the crystal structure of **3**, and **4**. Grey and light-grey spheres represent carbon and hydrogen, respectively.

In the crystal, the crystallographically independent part of the unit cell of compound **3** contains two independent cations and anions, which are linked to each other *via* a Se \cdots N σ -hole interaction (Se \cdots N = 3.057(10) Å). The second selenium atom forms a dimeric pair with a symmetrically related cation linked through an inversion centre *via* a four-centre [Se \cdots Cl]₂ interaction with two bridging chlorine atoms (Se \cdots Cl distances of 2.908(4) Å and

3.263(5) Å), ultimately yielding a tetrameric molecule (Figure 2). Similar dimerization has been observed for previously described pyridinium-containing 1,2,4-selenadiazoles [8,10]. The imidazolium group of the second cation participates in the formation of CH \cdots N hydrogen bonds, linking the tetramers into polymeric chains, which in turn are connected to each other through CH \cdots Cl and NH \cdots Cl hydrogen bonds (Figure 3).

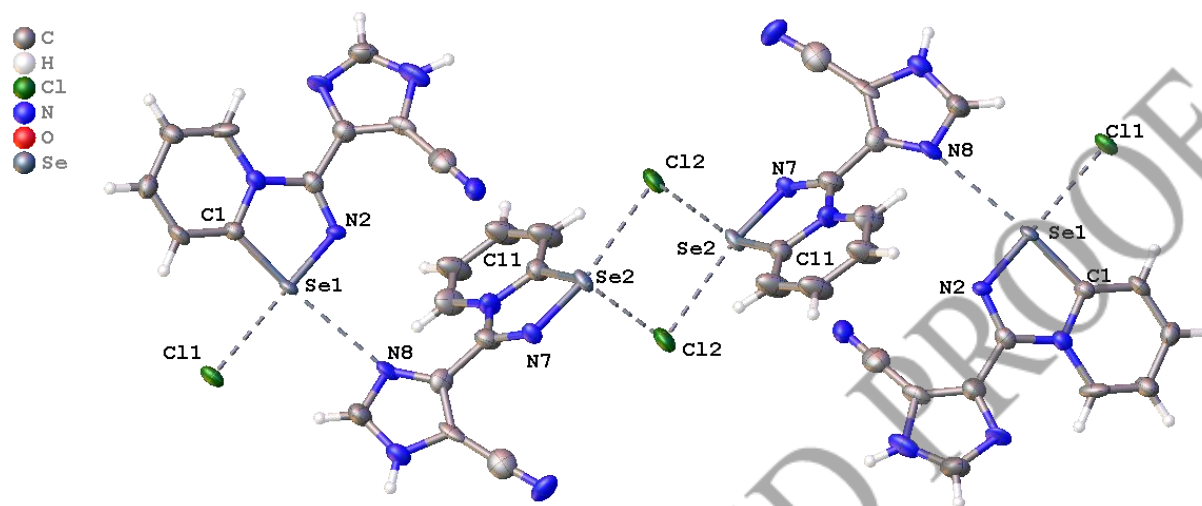


Figure 2. Ball-and-stick representation of the crystal structure of **3** demonstrating [Se \cdots Cl]₂, Se \cdots N and H \cdots Cl interactions. Grey and light-grey spheres represent carbon and hydrogen, respectively.

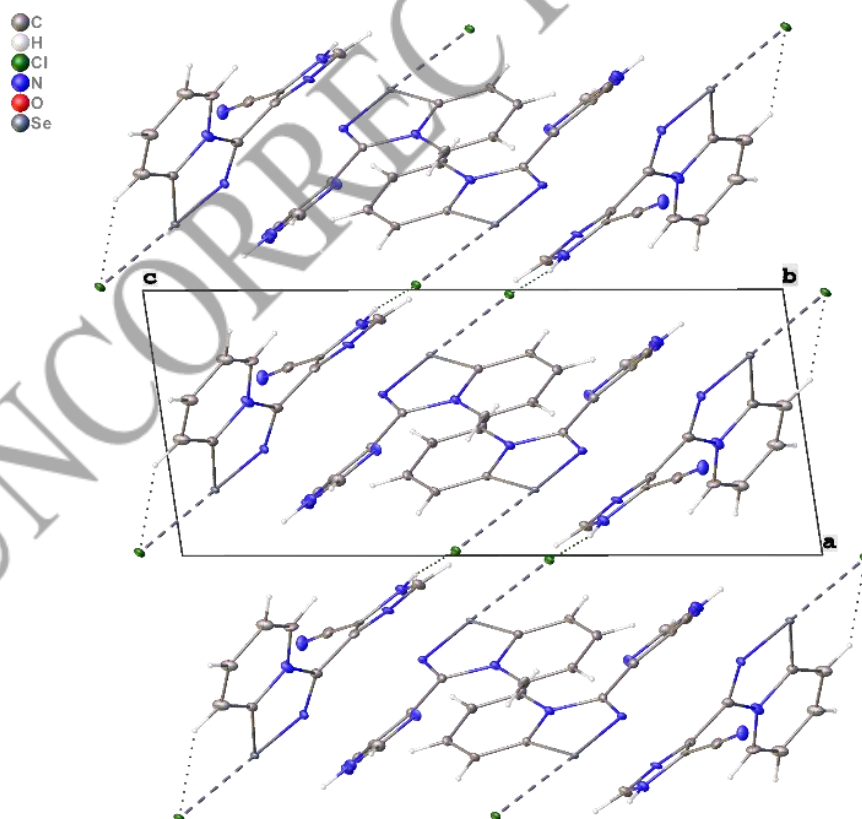


Figure 3. Packing diagram of **3** along *b*-axes.

In the crystal of compound **4**, two pairs of anions link the dications into a polymer chain oriented parallel to the crystallographic direction [011] (Figure 4).

Theoretical investigation of non-covalent interactions

To investigate the presence and characteristics of discussed non-covalent interactions in compounds **3** and **4**, we conducted DFT calculations followed by the topological analysis of the electron density distribution (QTAIM analysis) at the ω B97XD/DZP-DKH level of theory for model supramolecular associates (see Computational details and Table S1 in Supplementary material). Results of QTAIM analysis are summarized in Table 3, the contour line diagrams of the Laplacian of electron density $\nabla^2\rho(\mathbf{r})$, bond paths,

and selected zero-flux surfaces, visualization of electron localization function (ELF) and reduced density gradient (RDG) analyses for these non-covalent contacts are shown in Figure 5.

Values of the density of all electrons - $\rho(\mathbf{r})$, Laplacian of electron density - $\nabla^2\rho(\mathbf{r})$ and appropriate λ_2 eigenvalues, energy density - H_b , potential energy density - $V(\mathbf{r})$, Lagrangian kinetic energy - $G(\mathbf{r})$, and electron localization function - ELF (a.u.) at the bond critical points (3, -1), corresponding to non-covalent interactions in compounds **3** and **4**, and approximately estimated strength for these interactions $E_{int} = -V(\mathbf{r})/2$ (kcal/mol). * The Bondi's (shortest) van der Waals radii for H, O, N, Cl, and Se atoms are 1.20, 1.52, 1.55, 1.75, and 1.90 Å, respectively [23].

Table 3

QTAIM Parameters for Non-Covalent Interactions in the Model Associates of 3 and 4 .								
Contact*	$\rho(r)$	$\nabla^2\rho(r)$	λ_2	H_b	$V(r)$	$G(r)$	ELF	E_{int}
3								
Se...Cl, 2.91 Å	0.026	0.073	-0.026	0.001	-0.016	0.017	0.125	5.0
Se...Cl, 2.99 Å	0.023	0.061	-0.023	0.001	-0.013	0.014	0.125	4.1
Se...Cl, 3.26 Å	0.013	0.038	-0.013	0.001	-0.007	0.008	0.063	2.2
Se...N, 3.06 Å	0.013	0.043	-0.013	0.002	-0.007	0.009	0.048	2.2
H...Cl, 2.67 Å	0.012	0.040	-0.012	0.002	-0.007	0.009	0.039	2.2
H...Cl, 2.73 Å	0.011	0.035	-0.011	0.001	-0.006	0.007	0.036	1.9
H...Cl, 2.86 Å	0.008	0.023	-0.008	0.001	-0.004	0.005	0.029	1.3
4								
Se...O, 2.68 Å	0.024	0.086	-0.024	0.002	-0.017	0.019	0.079	5.3
Se...O, 2.74 Å	0.021	0.075	-0.021	0.002	-0.014	0.016	0.071	4.4
H...O, 2.33 Å	0.014	0.059	-0.014	0.002	-0.010	0.012	0.032	3.1
H...O, 2.39 Å	0.011	0.048	-0.011	0.002	-0.008	0.010	0.024	2.5

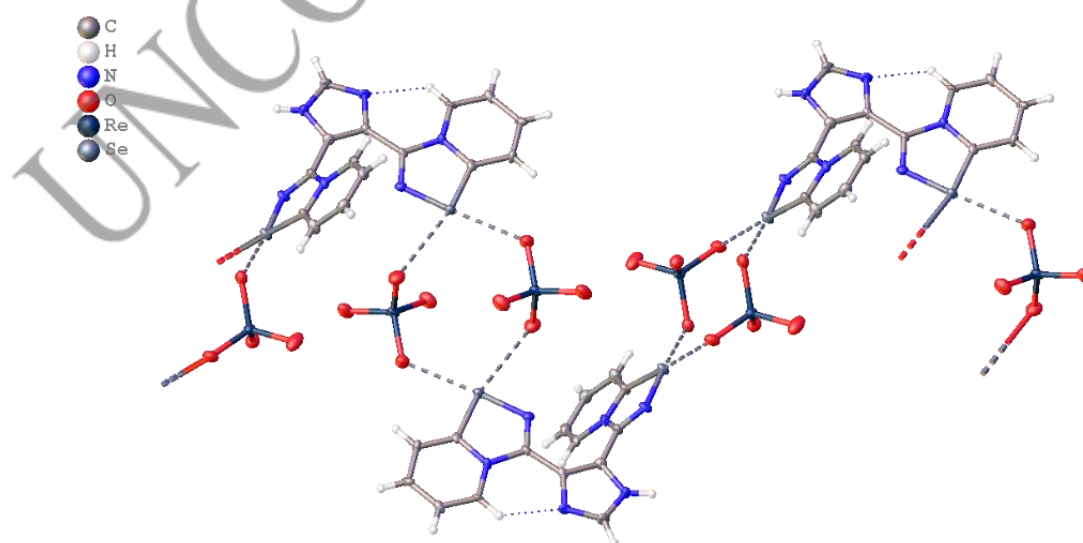


Figure 4. A fragment of the polymer chain of compound **4** formed by Se...O chalcogen bonds.

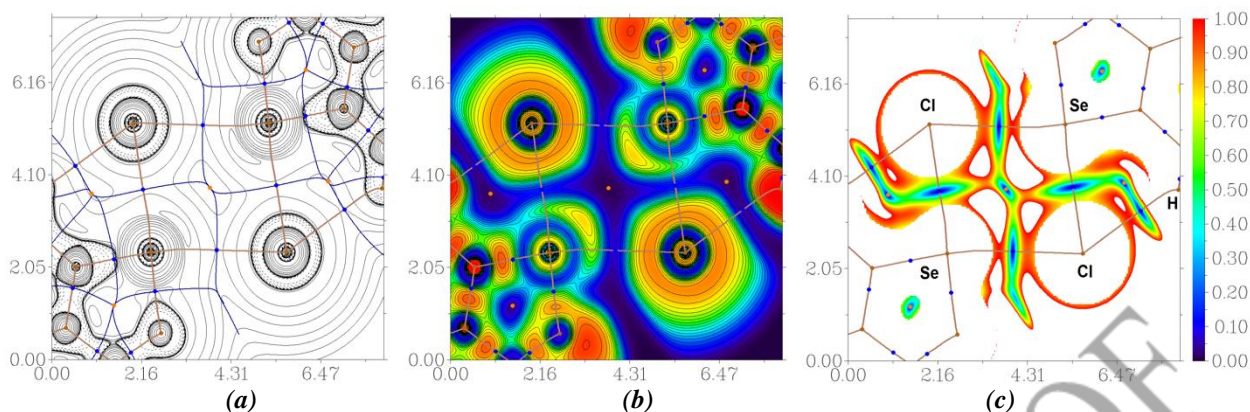


Figure 5. Contour line diagram of the Laplacian of electron density distribution $\nabla^2\rho(r)$, bond paths, and selected zero-flux surfaces (a), visualization of electron localization function (ELF) (b) and reduced density gradient (RDG) (c) analyses for non-covalent contacts $[\text{Se}\cdots\text{Cl}]_2$ and $\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$ in **3**. Bond critical points (3, -1) are shown in blue, nuclear critical points (3, -3) – in pale brown, ring critical points (3, +1) – in orange, bond paths are shown as pale brown lines, length units – Å, and the colour scale for the ELF and RDG maps is presented in a.u.

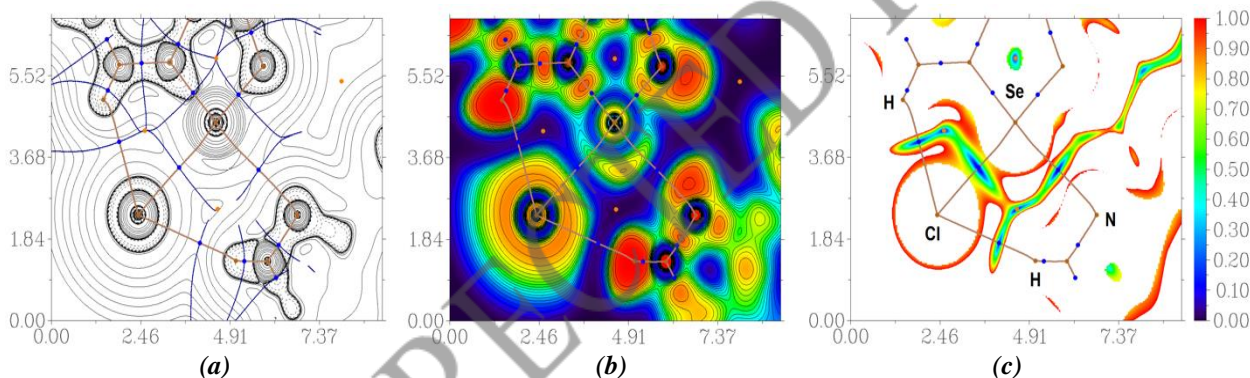


Figure 6. Contour line diagram of the Laplacian of electron density distribution $\nabla^2\rho(r)$, bond paths, and selected zero-flux surfaces (a), visualization of electron localization function (ELF) (b) and reduced density gradient (RDG) (c) analyses for non-covalent contacts $\text{Se}\cdots\text{Cl}$, $\text{Se}\cdots\text{N}$, and $\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$ in **3**. Bond critical points (3, -1) are shown in blue, nuclear critical points (3, -3) – in pale brown, ring critical points (3, +1) – in orange, bond paths are shown as pale brown lines, length units – Å, and the colour scale for the ELF and RDG maps is presented in a.u.

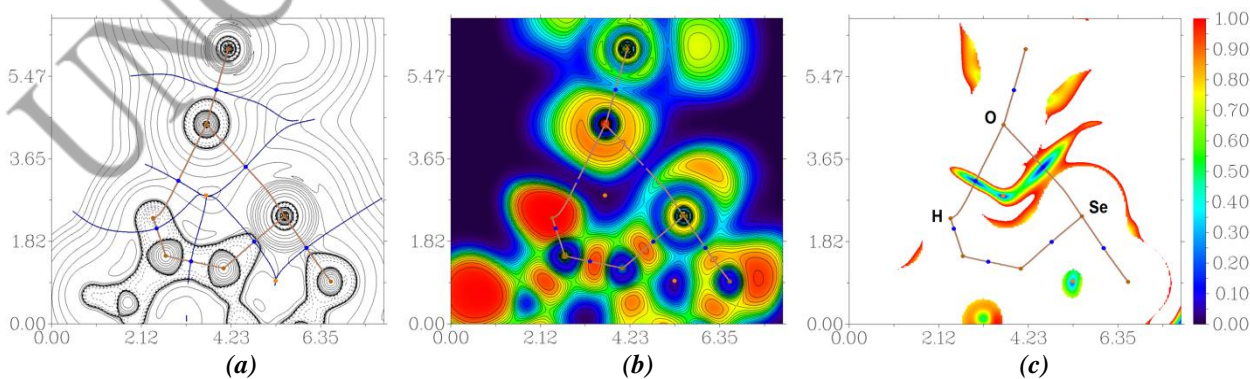


Figure 7. Contour line diagram of the Laplacian of electron density distribution $\nabla^2\rho(r)$, bond paths, and selected zero-flux surfaces (a), visualization of electron localization function (ELF) (b) and reduced density gradient (RDG) (c) analyses for non-covalent contacts $\text{Se}\cdots\text{O}$ and $\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$ in **4**. Bond critical points (3, -1) are shown in blue, nuclear critical points (3, -3) – in pale brown, ring critical points (3, +1) – in orange, bond paths are shown as pale brown lines, length units – Å, and the colour scale for the ELF and RDG maps is presented in a.u.

The QTAIM analysis of model supramolecular associates demonstrates the presence of bond critical points (3, -1) for short contacts Se···Cl, Se···N, Se···O, H···Cl, and H···O in **3** and **4** (Table 3 and Figures 5–7). The low magnitude of the electron density, positive values of the Laplacian of electron density, very close to zero and positive values of energy density, magnitudes of electron localization function in these bond critical points (3, -1) and estimated strengths for appropriate short contacts (chalcogen bonds are approximately two time stronger than hydrogen bonds in these chemical systems) are typical for such non-covalent interactions [7,9,10,24-30]. The balance $G(\mathbf{r})/V(\mathbf{r})$ in bond critical points (3, -1) reveals purely non-covalent nature of these contacts, and the sign of λ_2 allows to

distinguish these interactions as bonding (attractive, $\lambda_2 < 0$) [31,32].

The Hirshfeld surface analysis was carried out for the X-ray structures **3** and **4** to understand what kind of intermolecular contacts gives the largest contributions in crystal packing. In the case of **3**, the Hirshfeld surface analysis reveals the following contributions of intermolecular contacts: N-H 25.1%, H-H 15.0%, C-H 12.0%, N-C 9.9%, Cl-H 6.2%, Se-C 5.6%, Se-H 4.5%, Cl-C 4.0%, Se-N 3.5%, N-N 3.3%, C-C 3.2%, O-H 2.7%, Cl-Se 1.9%, Cl-N 1.7%, O-C 0.7%, O-N 0.5%. In case of **4**, the Hirshfeld surface analysis reveals following contributions of intermolecular contacts: O-H 24.5%, H-H 15.7%, Se-O 11.7%, N-H 11.1%, O-C 9.4%, O-N 5.8%, C-H 4.9%, N-C 4.8%, C-C 3.6%, Se-H 3.2%, Se-C 3.2%, Se-N 1.0%, Se-Se 0.8%, N-N 0.4%.

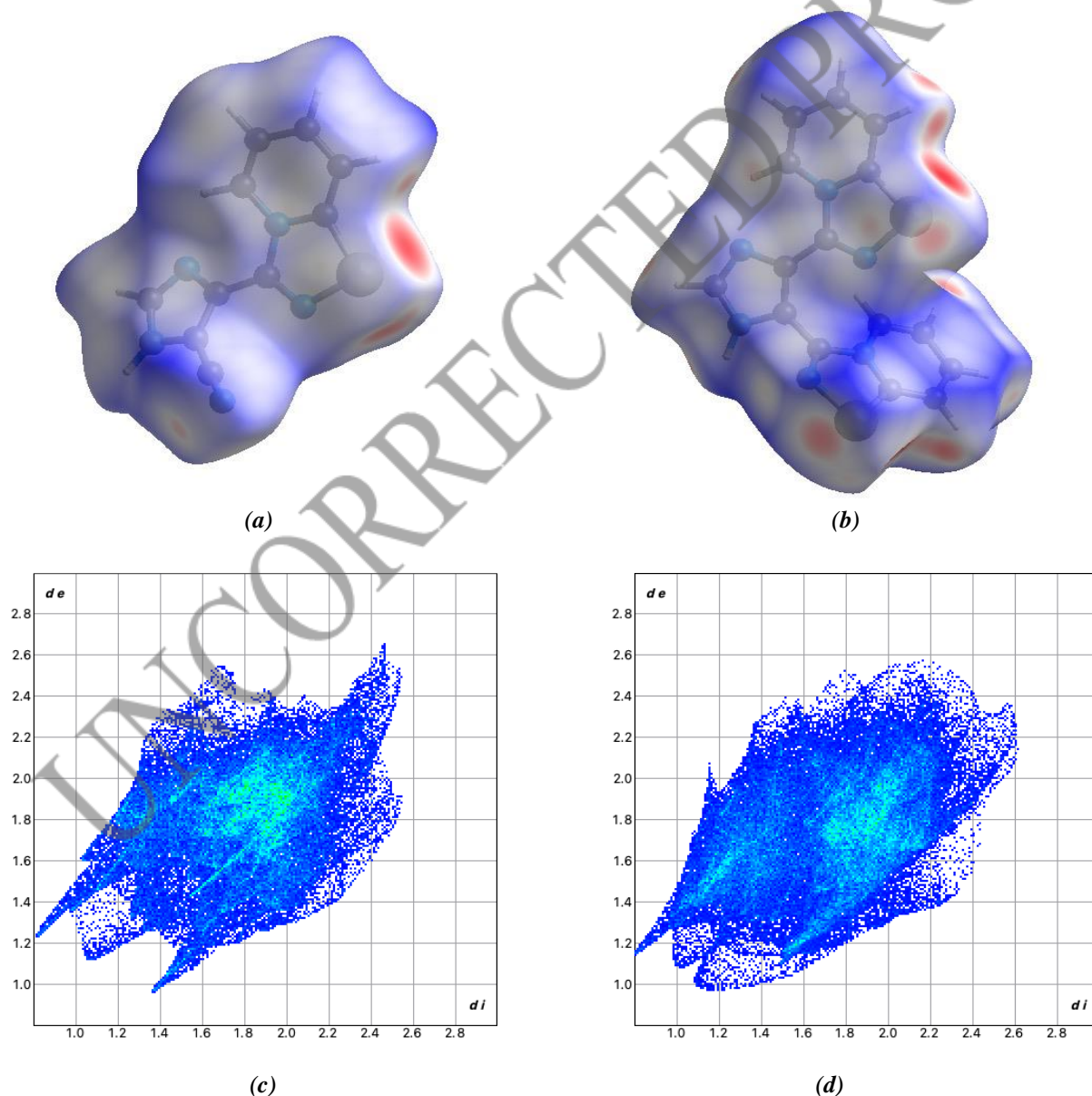


Figure 8. Visualization of Hirshfeld surfaces for the X-ray structures **3** (a) and **4** (b) and appropriate fingerprint plots for **3** (c) and **4** (d).

For the visualisation of Hirshfeld surfaces, was used a mapping of the normalized contact distance (d_{norm}), its negative value enables identification of molecular regions of substantial importance for detection of short contacts, and the fingerprint plots, which are two-dimensional histograms derived from Hirshfeld surfaces, mapping the distances from each point on the surface to the nearest atom inside (d_i) and outside (d_e) the surface (Figure 8).

Thus, results of Hirshfeld surface analysis for X-ray structures **3** and **4** reveal that noncovalent intermolecular contacts involving hydrogen atoms give the largest contributions in the crystal packing in both cases.

Conclusions

In summary, two novel cationic selenadiazolium salts derived from the reaction of 2-pyridylselenyl chloride with 4,5-dicyanoimidazole were synthesized and characterized. The structural analysis revealed that both compounds exhibit nearly planar selenium-containing cycles and adopt T-shaped geometries stabilised by intramolecular $\text{Se}\cdots\text{X}$ ($\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{O}$) chalcogen bonds. In the solid state, the monocationic salt **3** forms a 1D supramolecular polymer *via* a combination of $[\text{Se}\cdots\text{Cl}]_2$ dimerization and $\text{Se}\cdots\text{N}$ chalcogen bonds involving the imidazole moiety. This demonstrates the ability of the imidazole unit to act as a versatile supramolecular auxiliary, providing additional interaction vectors that guide assembly beyond well-documented Se_2N_2 squares.

Theoretical QTAIM and RDG analyses confirmed the presence and attractive nature of key noncovalent interactions ($\text{Se}\cdots\text{Cl}$, $\text{Se}\cdots\text{N}$, $\text{Se}\cdots\text{O}$, $\text{H}\cdots\text{Cl}$, and $\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$), with estimated interaction energies consistent with typical chalcogen and hydrogen bonds. The results highlight the hierarchical role of chalcogen bonding in directing solid-state organization, particularly in the presence of multifunctional building blocks.

Overall, this work illustrates a rational strategy for steering supramolecular assembly through synergistic noncovalent interactions, offering a pathway toward predictable chalcogen-bond-driven architectures with potential applications in crystal engineering and functional materials.

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Supplementary information

Supplementary data are available free of charge at <http://cjm.ichem.md> as PDF file.

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