

Supporting Information for

**Catalysis of thiol-thioester exchange by water soluble
alkyldiselenols applied to the synthesis of peptide
thioesters and SEA-mediated ligation**

Marine Cargoët, Vincent Diemer, Benoît Snella, Rémi Desmet, Annick Blanpain, Hervé
Drobecq, Vangelis Agouridas,* Oleg Melnyk*

UMR CNRS 8204, Université de Lille, Institut Pasteur de Lille, 1 rue du Pr Calmette, 59021 Lille Cedex,
France.

Corresponding author:

Dr Oleg Melnyk, E-mail : oleg.melnyk@ibl.cnrs.fr

Dr Vangelis Agouridas, E-mail : vangelis.agouridas@ibl.cnrs.fr

1. Table of Contents

1. Table of Contents	S2
1. Kinetic studies	S3
Step 1. Kinetic measurements for SEA amide-SEA thioester equilibrium (see Figure 1)	S3
Step 2. Kinetic study of the MPA - SEA thioester exchange (see Figure 2)	S4
SEA thioester-MPA exchange for C-terminal Thr and Ile (see Table 1)	S5
2. Characterizations of synthesized compounds	S6
Characterization of peptide 1e	S6
Characterization of peptide 1f	S7
Characterization of peptide 1g	S8
Characterization of peptide 4b	S9
Characterization of peptide 4e	S10
Characterization of diselenide 5a	S12
Characterization of diselenide 5b	S16
Characterization of diselenide 5c	S20
Characterization of compound 6	S25
Characterization of compound 8	S27
Characterization of peptide 10	S29
Characterization of peptide 11	S30
Proteomic analysis of peptide 11	S31
Characterization of peptide 12	S34
Rearrangement of the <i>O</i> -acyl isopeptide unit	S35
Proteomic analysis of rearranged peptide 13	S37
Study of the deselenization of catalyst 5c during the SEA-thiol exchange reaction at pH 4.0	S40

1. Kinetic studies

Step 1. Kinetic measurements for SEA amide-SEA thioester equilibrium (see Figure 1)

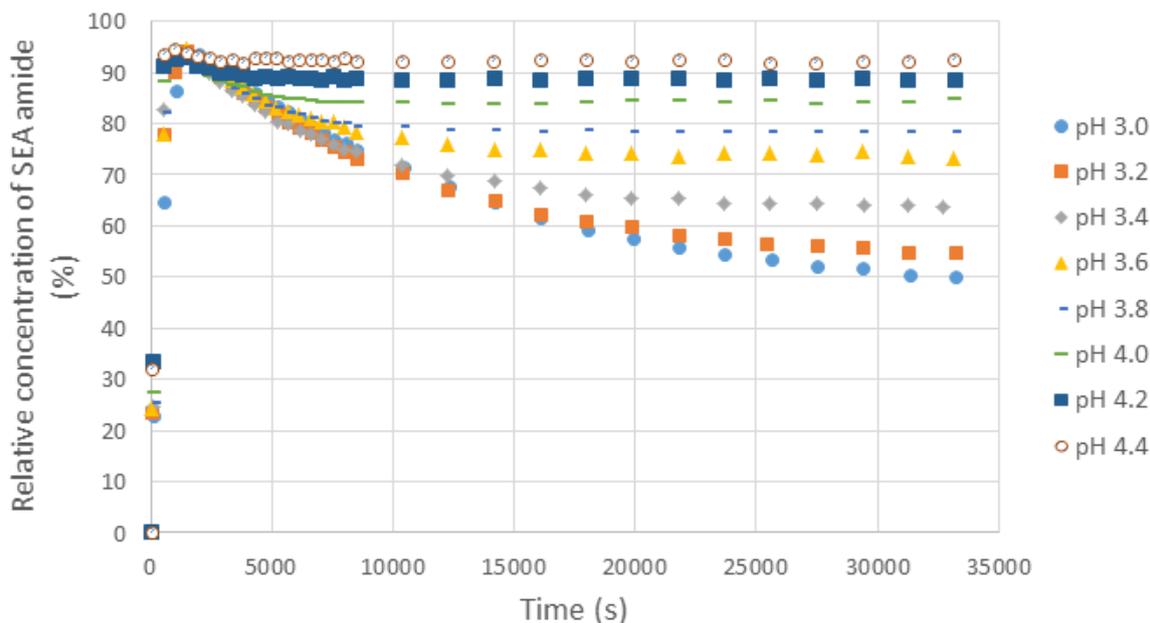


Figure S 1. Evolution of the relative concentration of SEA^{on} peptide **2a** at various pH (expressed as a percentage of total peptidic content).

Table S 1. Step 1. Determination of rate constants k_1 , k_2 and k_{-2} .

pH	k_1	STDERR	k_{+2}	STDERR	k_{-2}	STDERR
3.0	0.0239	0.002414	4.08E-05	3.64E-06	3.29E-05	8.90E-06
3.2	0.0372	4.22E-03	4.80E-05	4.31E-06	5.60E-05	1.14E-06
3.4	0.0394	0.001472	5.59E-05	1.65E-06	0.0001	4.13E-05
3.6	0.0412	0.004287	5.53E-05	4.35E-06	0.000159	1.80E-05
3.8	0.042809	0.002441	7.40E-05	2.74E-06	0.000274	4.24E-05
4.0	0.0488	0.001274	8.38E-05	1.48E-06	0.000444	5.94E-05
4.2	0.065	0.001163	0.000101	8.07E-06	0.000803	6.87E-05
4.4	0.0718	0.00101	0.000123	6.39E-06	0.00154	7.13E-04

^a k_1 in $M^{-1}.s^{-1}$; k_{+2} and k_{-2} in s^{-1}

Step 2. Kinetic study of the MPA - SEA thioester exchange (see Figure 2)

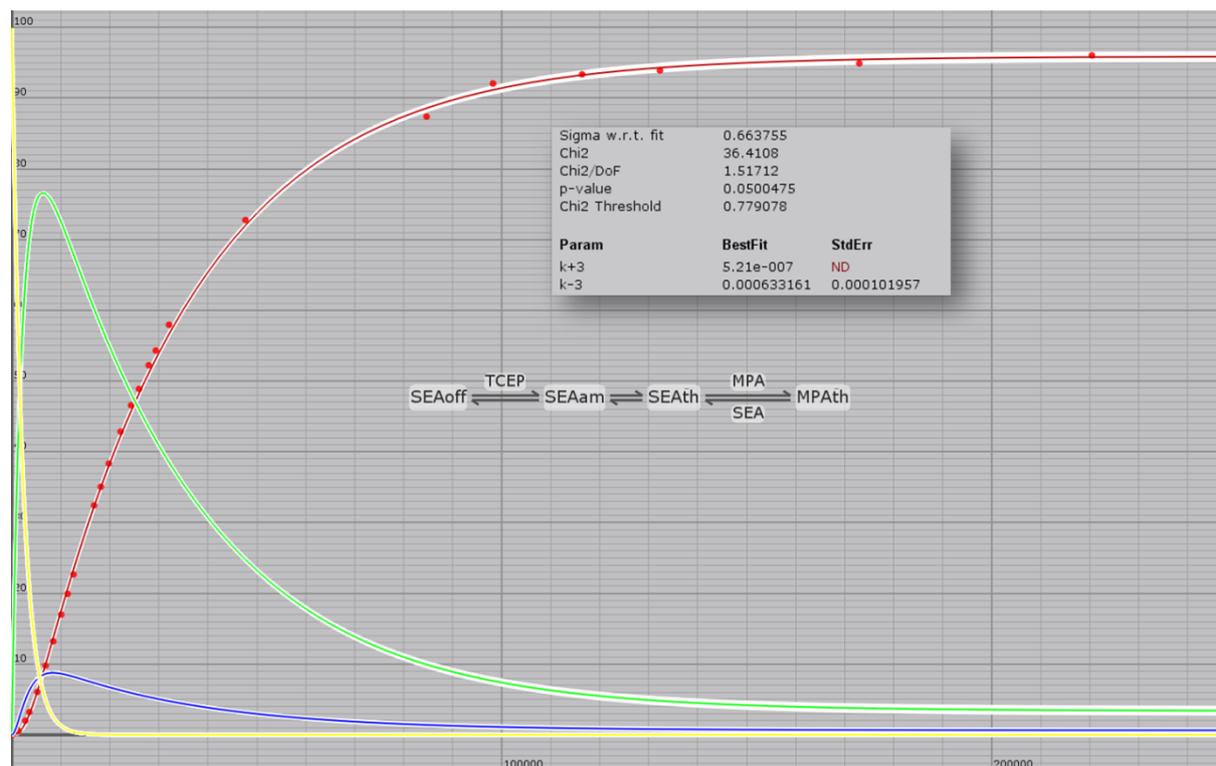


Figure S 2. Fitting of the uncatalyzed SEA -MPA exchange reaction using Kintek Explorer SoftwareTM (Version 7.2.180216., Kintek Corporation - <https://kintekcorp.com/software/>). Red dots correspond to experimental values.

SEA thioester-MPA exchange for C-terminal Thr and Ile (see Table 1)

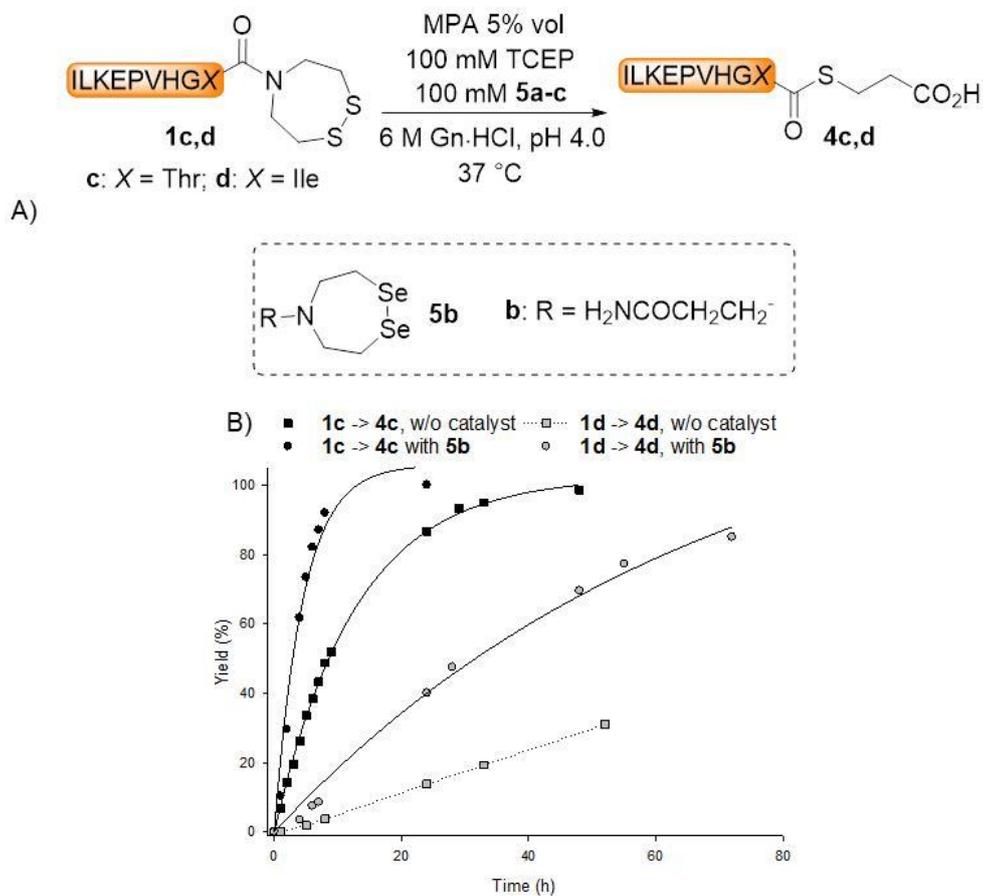


Figure S 3. Exchange of the SEA group by MPA catalyzed by diselenide **5b**. Conversion of peptide **1c,d** into **4c,d**. The continuous curves correspond to the fitting to a pseudo first order kinetic law from which $t_{1/2}$ were extracted (see Table 1 in the manuscript).

2. Characterizations of synthesized compounds

Characterization of peptide **1e**

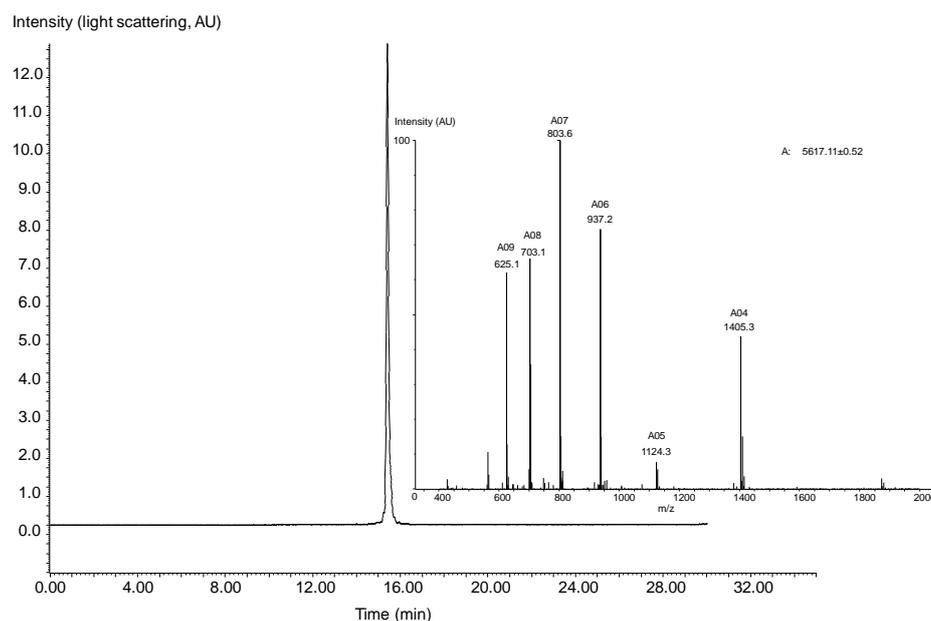


Figure S 4. LC-MS analysis of peptide **1e**. LC trace. Chromatography conditions: eluent A 0.10% TFA in water, eluent B 0.10% TFA in CH₃CN/water: 4/1 by vol. C3 Zorbax 300SB Å 3.5 μm (4.6 × 150 mm) column, gradient 0-100% B in 30 min, 60 °C, 1 mL/min, detection at 215 nm. MS trace. m/z = 1405.3 ([M+4H]⁴⁺), 1124.3 ([M+5H]⁵⁺), 937.2 ([M+6H]⁶⁺), 803.6 ([M+7H]⁷⁺), 703.1 ([M+8H]⁸⁺), 625.1 ([M+9H]⁹⁺). Calcd. for M: 5617.5 (average), found: 5617.1.

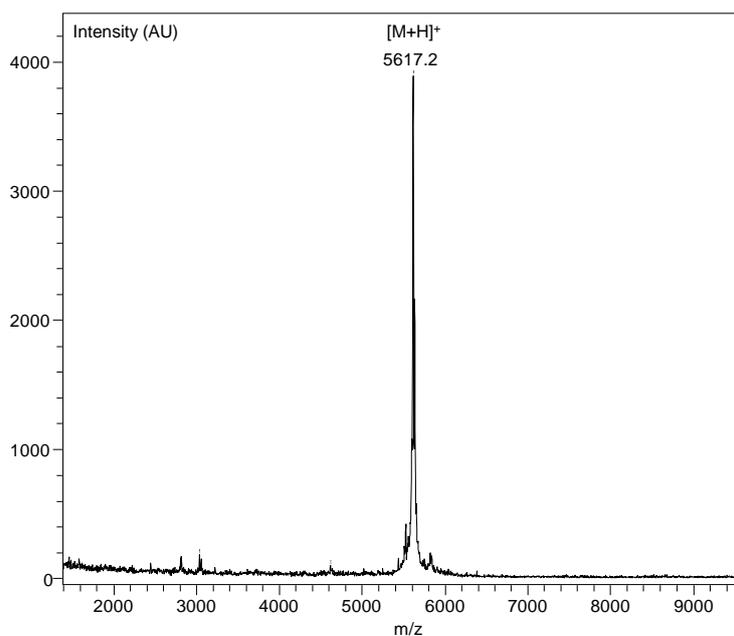


Figure S 5. MALDI-TOF of peptide **1e**. Matrix = sinapinic acid, positive detection mode, m/z calcd for [M+H]⁺ (average): 5618.5, found: 5617.2.

Characterization of peptide **1f**

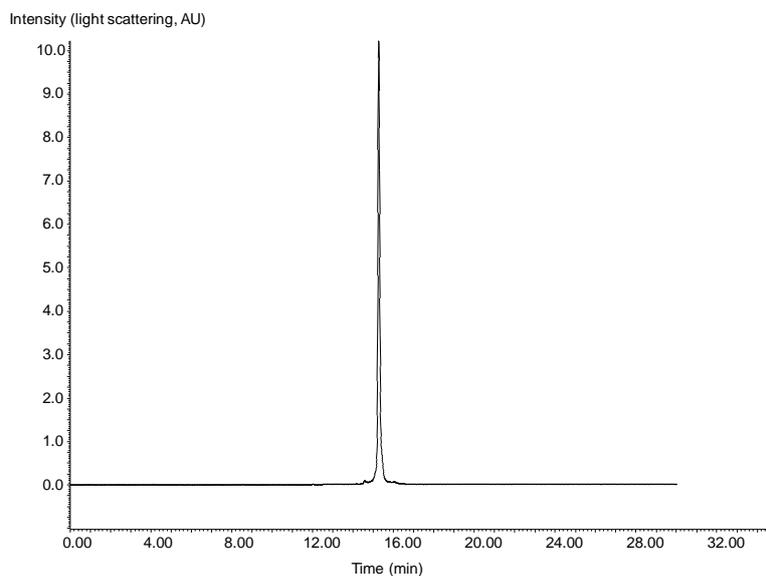


Figure S 6. LC analysis of peptide **1f**. LC trace. Chromatography conditions: eluent A 0.10% TFA in water, eluent B 0.10% TFA in CH₃CN/water: 4/1 by vol. C3 Zorbax 300SB Å 3.5 μm (4.6 × 150 mm) column, gradient 0-100% B in 30 min, 60 °C, 1 mL/min, detection at 215 nm.

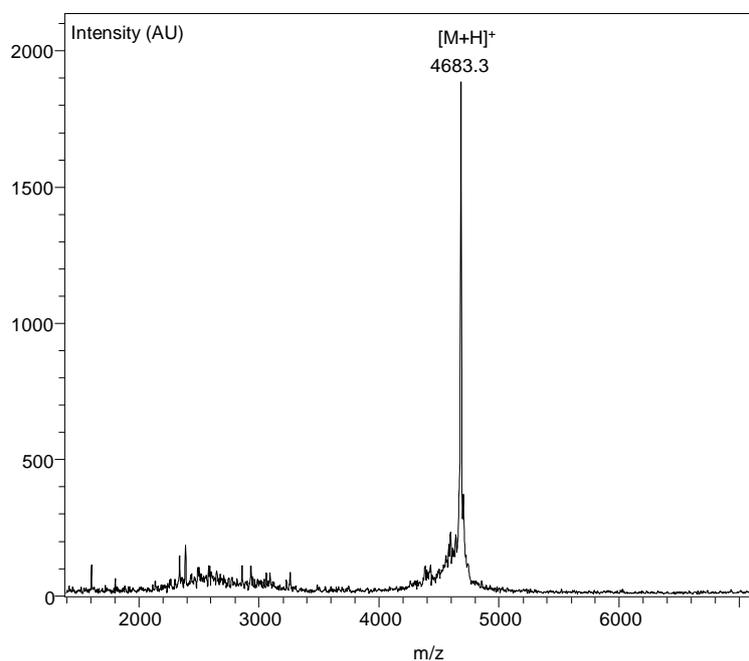


Figure S 7. MALDI-TOF of peptide **1f**. Matrix = sinapinic acid, positive detection mode, m/z calcd for [M+H]⁺ (average): 4683.8, found: 4683.3.

Characterization of peptide **4b**

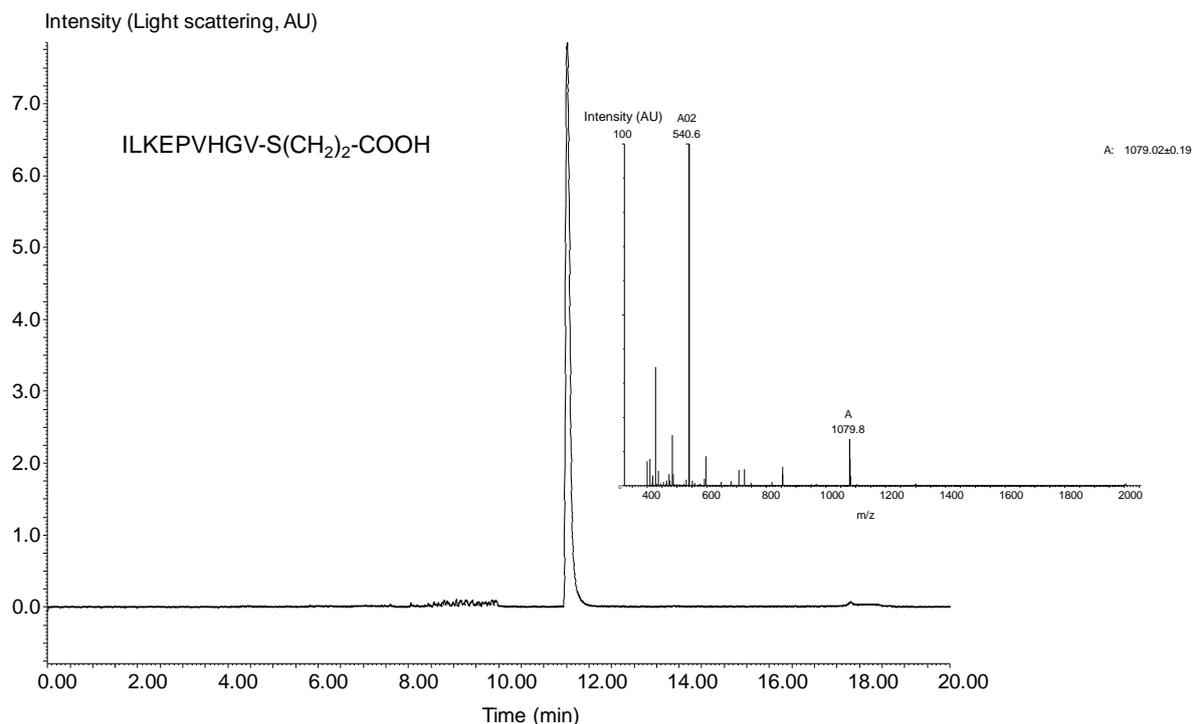


Figure S 10. LC-MS analysis of peptide **4b**. LC trace. Chromatography conditions: eluent A 0.1% TFA in water, eluent B 0.1% TFA in CH₃CN/water: 4/1 by vol. C18 Xbridge BEH 300 Å 5 µm (4.6 × 250 mm) column, gradient 0-50% B in 15 min, 1 mL/min, detection at 215 nm. MS trace. m/z = 1079.8 ([M+H]⁺), 540.6 ([M+2H]²⁺). Calcd. for M (average): 1079.3, found: 1079.0.

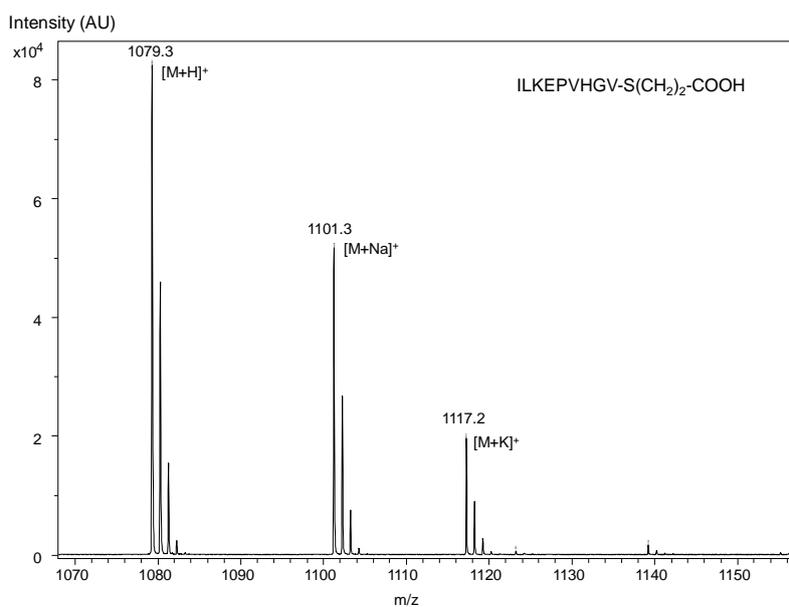


Figure S 11. MALDI-TOF of peptide **4b**. Matrix = α-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid, positive detection mode, m/z calcd for [M+H]⁺ (monoisotopic): 1079.6, found: 1079.3.

Characterization of peptide 4e

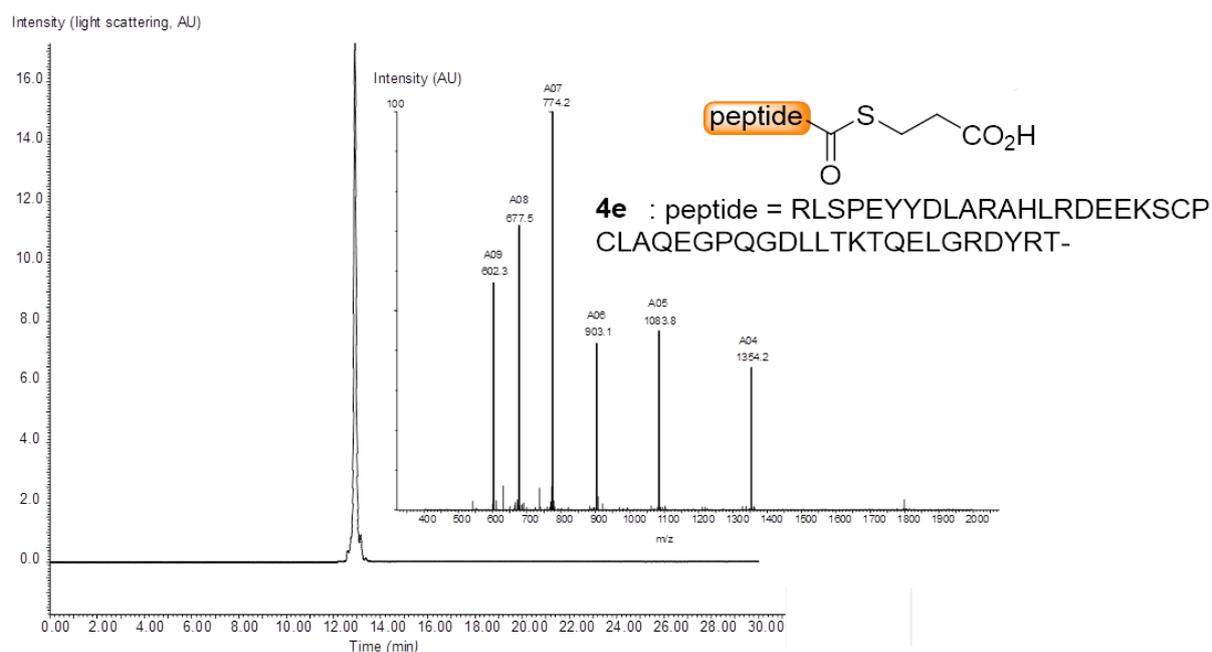
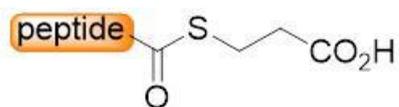


Figure S 12. LC-MS analysis of peptide **4e**. LC trace. Chromatography conditions: eluent A 0.10% TFA in water, eluent B 0.10% TFA in CH₃CN/water: 4/1 by vol. C3 Zorbax 300SB Å 3.5 µm (4.6 × 150 mm) column, gradient 0-100% B in 30 min, 60 °C, 1 mL/min, detection at 215 nm. MS trace. m/z = 1354.2 ([M+4H]⁴⁺), 1083.8 ([M+5H]⁵⁺), 903.1 ([M+6H]⁶⁺), 774.2 ([M+7H]⁷⁺), 677.5 ([M+8H]⁸⁺), 602.3 ([M+9H]⁹⁺). Calcd. for M (average): 5412.04, found 5412.50.



4e: peptide = RLSPEYYDLARAHLRDEEKSCP
CLAQEGPQGDLLTKTQELGRDYRT-

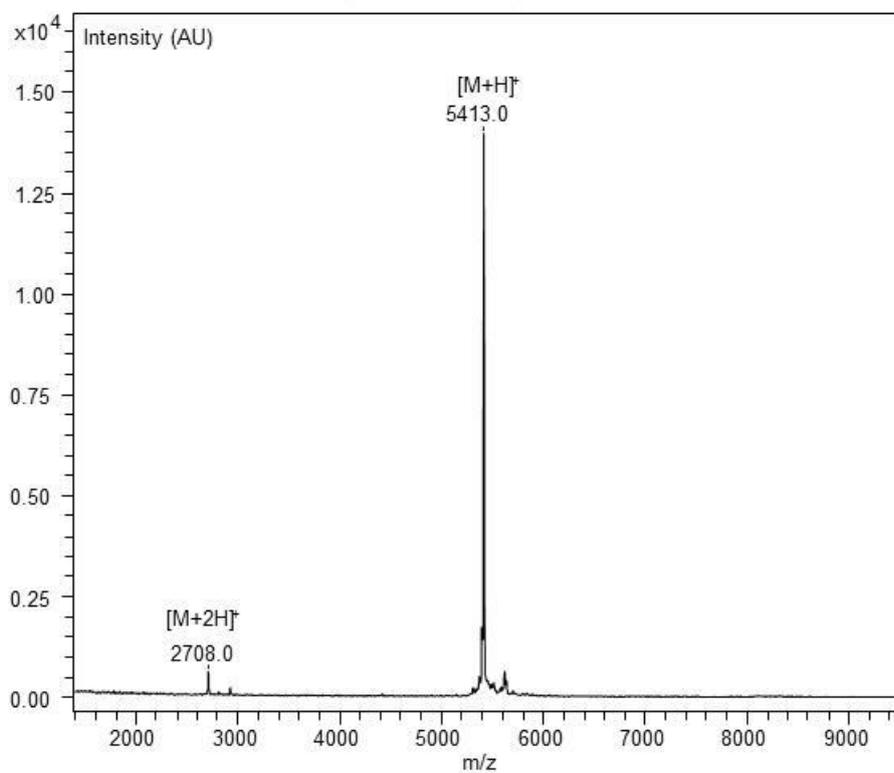
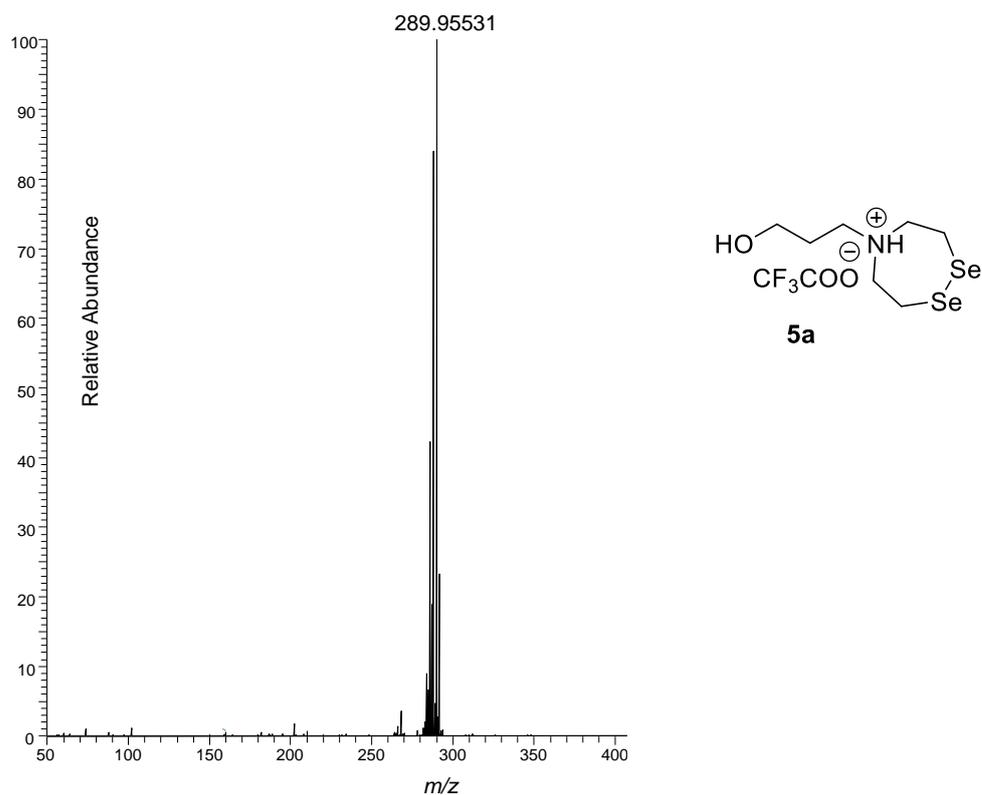


Figure S 13. MALDI-TOF of peptide **4e**. Matrix = sinapinic acid, positive detection mode, m/z calcd for [M+H]⁺ (average): 5413.0, found: 5413.0.

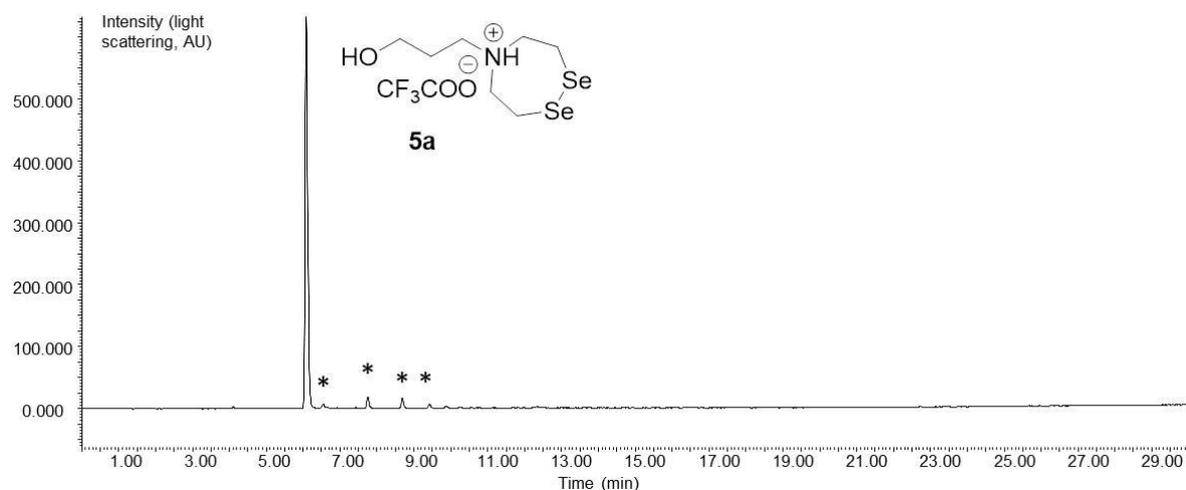
Characterization of diselenide **5a**



m/z	Intensity	Relative	Theo.	Delta	RDB	Composition
		e	Mass	(ppm)	equiv	
285,9579	7890467	44,41	285,9584	-1,72	0,5	C7 H16 O N [76]Se Se
286,9588	3286462	18,5	286,9591	-0,85	0,5	C7 H16 O N [77]Se Se
287,9562	14460140	81,39	287,9565	-1,13	0,5	C7 H16 O N [78]Se Se
289,9552	17765790	100	289,9557	-1,67	0,5	C7 H16 O N Se2
291,9553	4317527	24,3	291,9559	-1,95	0,5	C7 H16 O N Se [82]Se

Figure S 14. HRMS analysis for catalyst **5a**. m/z calcd. for [M+H]⁺ (monoisotopic): 289.9559, found: 289.9552.

A)



B)

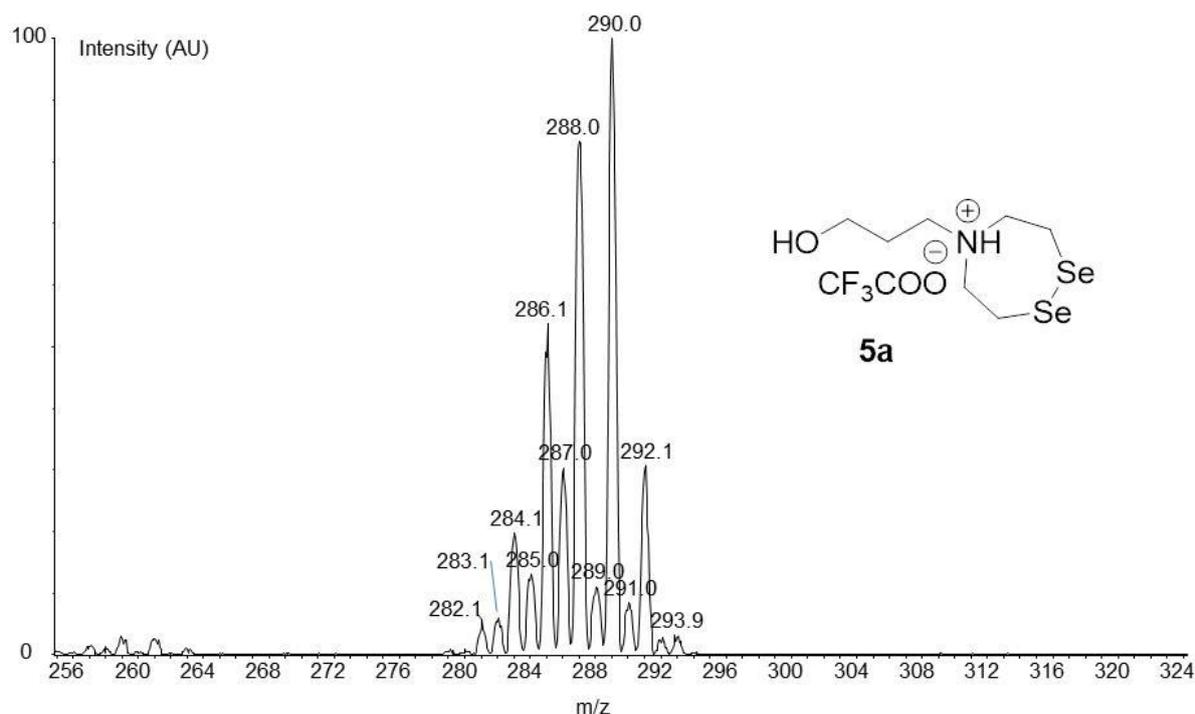
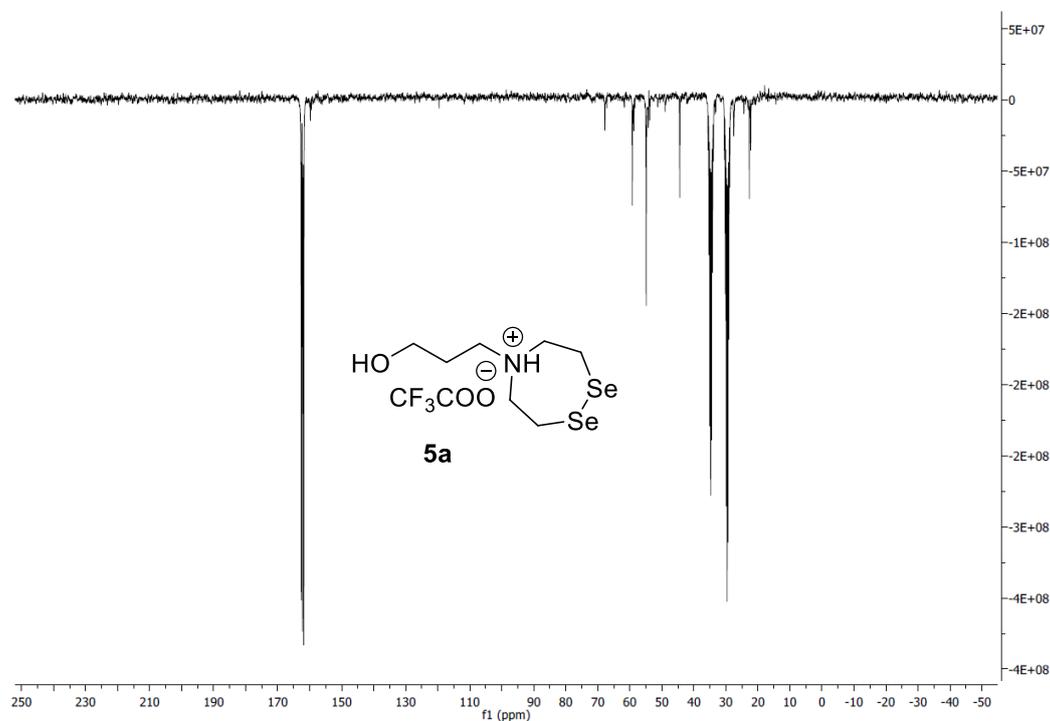
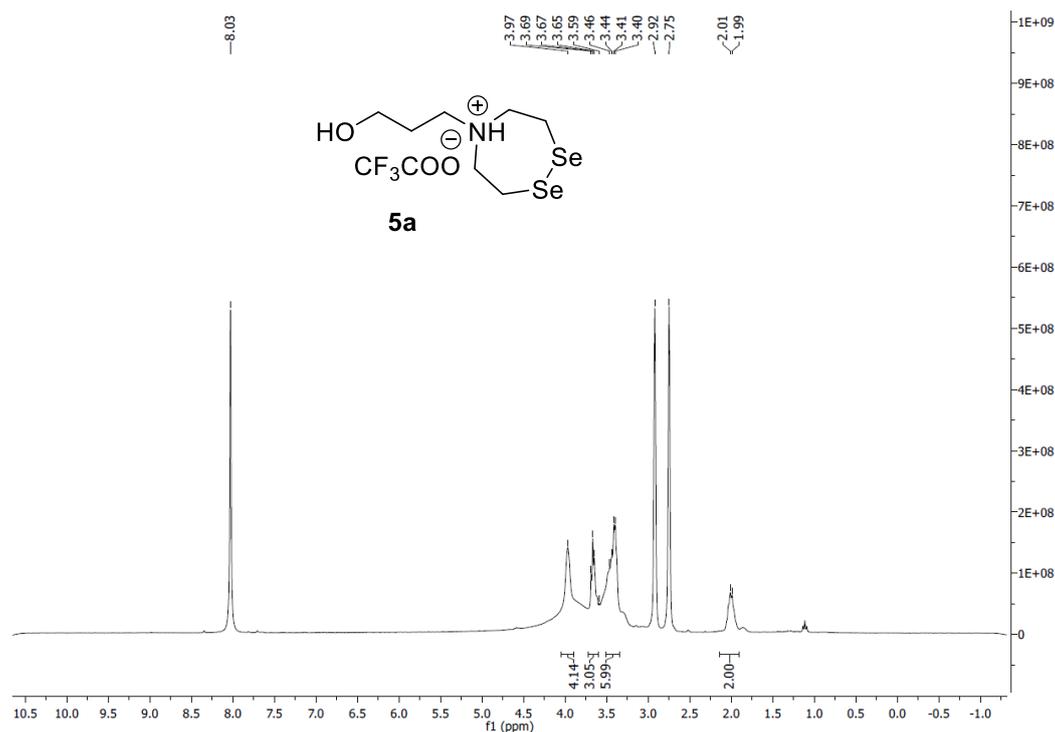


Figure S 15. LC-MS analysis of diselenide **5a**. A) LC trace. Chromatography conditions: eluent A 0.1% TFA in water, eluent B 0.1% TFA in CH₃CN/water: 4/1 by vol. C18 Xbridge BEH 300 Å 5 μm (4.6 × 250 mm) column, gradient 0-50% B in 15 min, 1 mL/min, detection at 215 nm. The peaks marked by a star correspond to aggregates of diselenide **5a**. All display the same MS trace as **5a**. The capacity of diselenide **5a** to aggregate is reminiscent of the aggregation properties of 1,2,5-diselenazepane. B) MS trace. m/z calcd. for [M+H]⁺: 290.0 (peak of highest intensity, monoisotopic), found: 290.0.



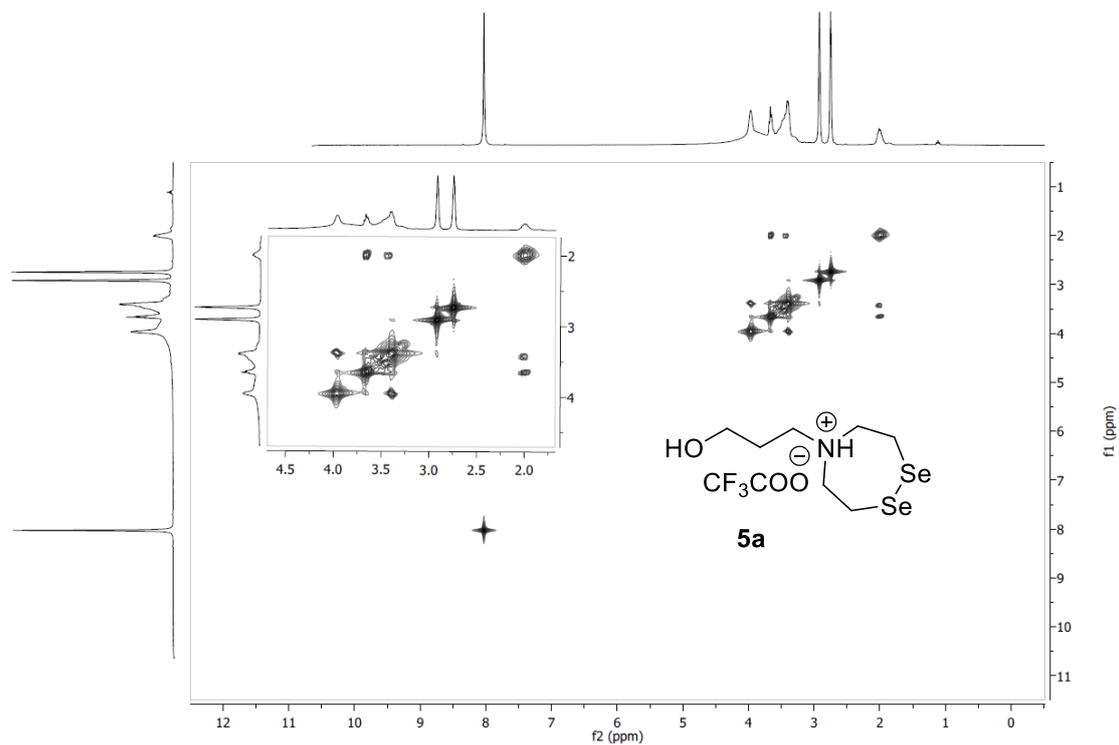


Figure S 18. ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum for compound **5a** (DMF- d_7 , 300 K).

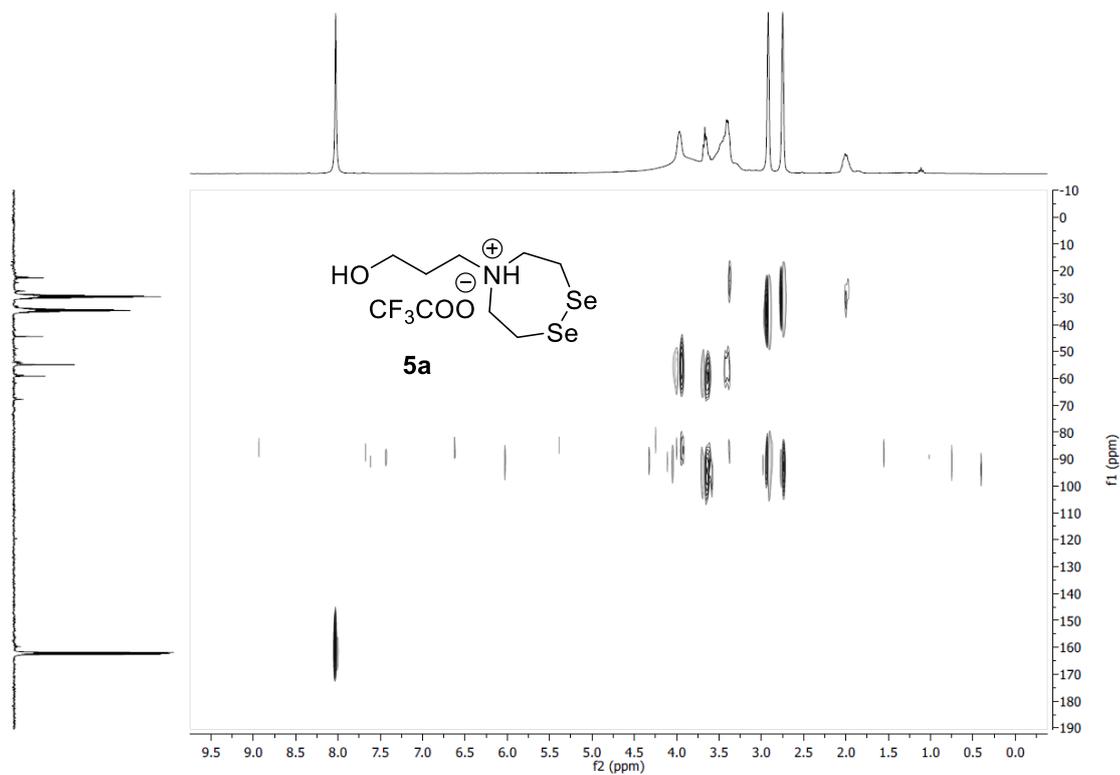
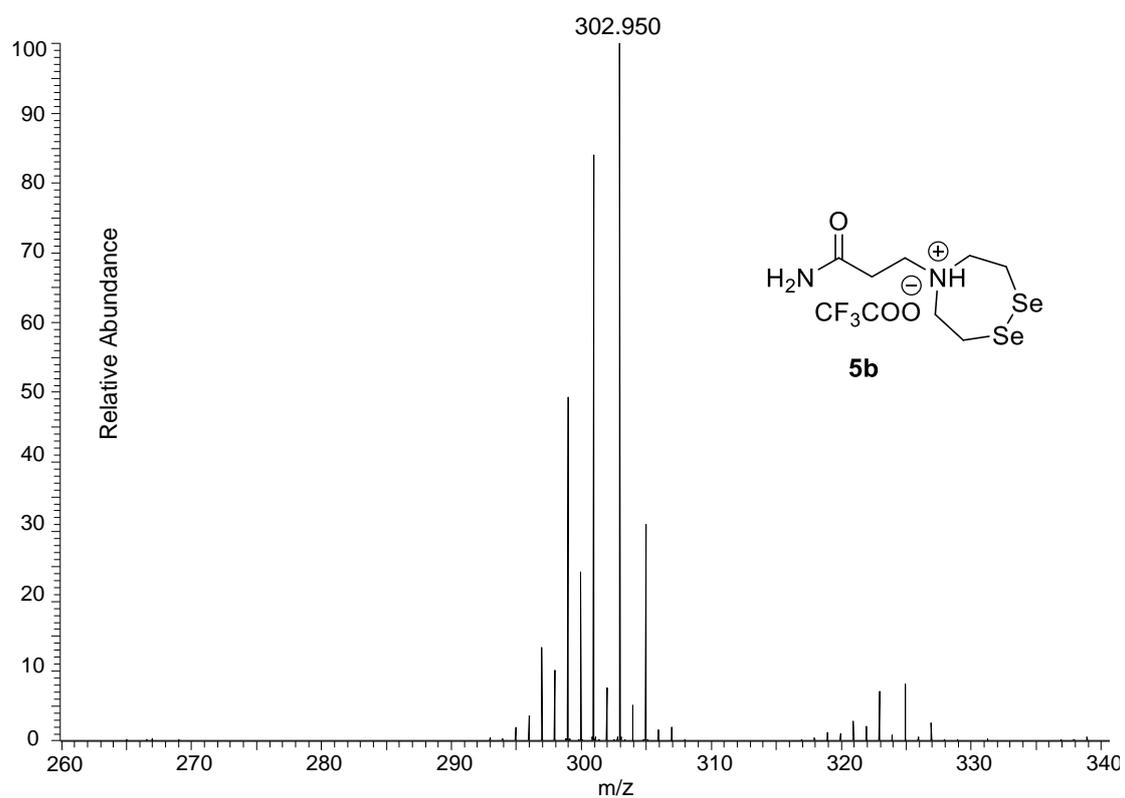


Figure S 19. ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC spectrum for compound **5a** (DMF- d_7 , 300 K).

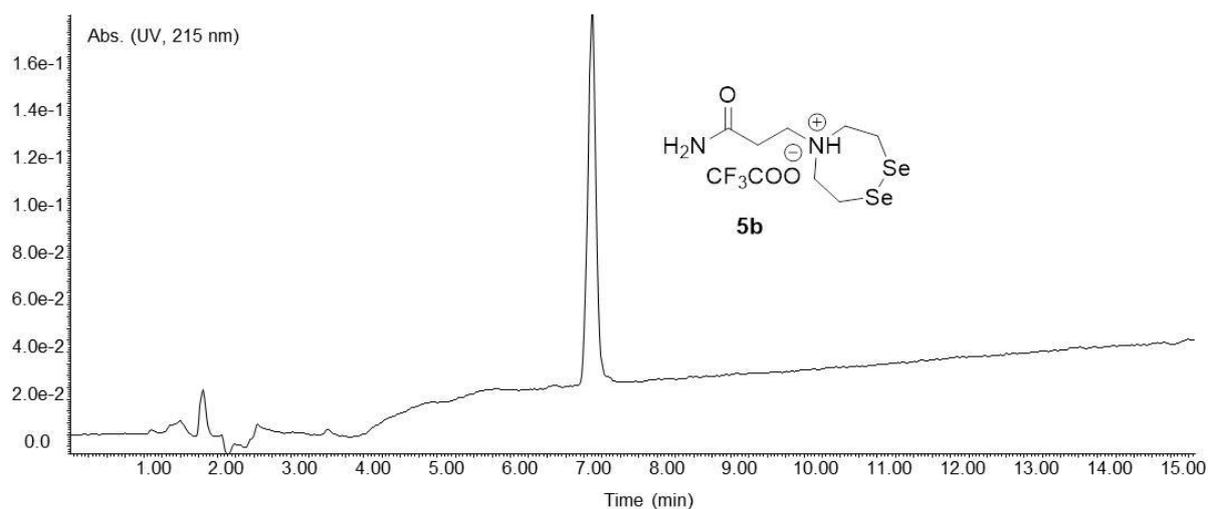
Characterization of diselenide **5b**



m/z	Intensity	Relative	Theo. Mass	Delta (ppm)	RDB equiv	Composition
298,9531	61619380	50,61				
299,9541	30622960	25,15				
300,9513	103122168	84,7				
302,9503	121743136	100	302,9509	-1,98	1,5	C7 H15 O N2 Se2
304,9504	38553024	31,67				

Figure S 20. HRMS analysis for catalyst **5b**. m/z calcd. for $[M+H]^+$ (monoisotopic) 302.9509, found: 302.9503.

A)



B)

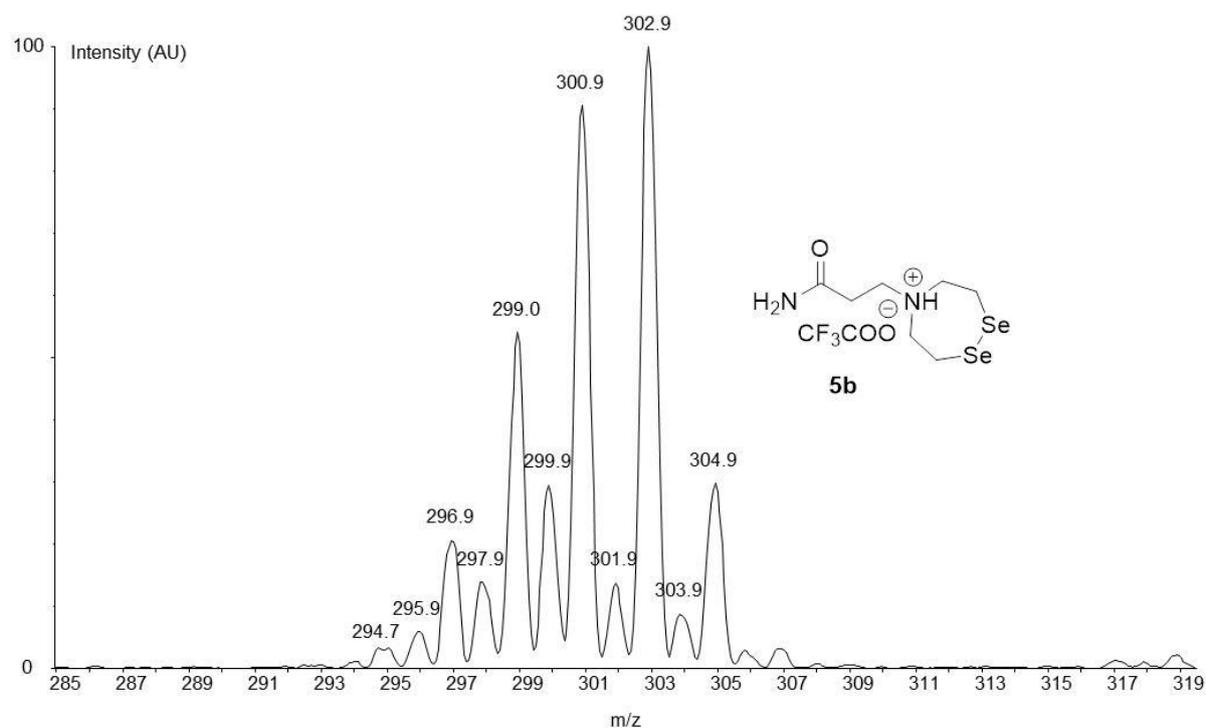


Figure S 21. LC-MS analysis of diselenide **5b**. A) LC trace. Chromatography conditions: eluent A 0.1% TFA in water, eluent B 0.1% TFA in CH₃CN/water: 4/1 by vol. C18 Xbridge BEH 300 Å 5 μm (4.6 × 250 m) column, gradient 0-50% B in 15 min, 1 mL/min, detection at 215 nm. B) MS trace. m/z calcd. for [M+H]⁺: 303.0 (peak of highest intensity, monoisotopic), found: 302.9.

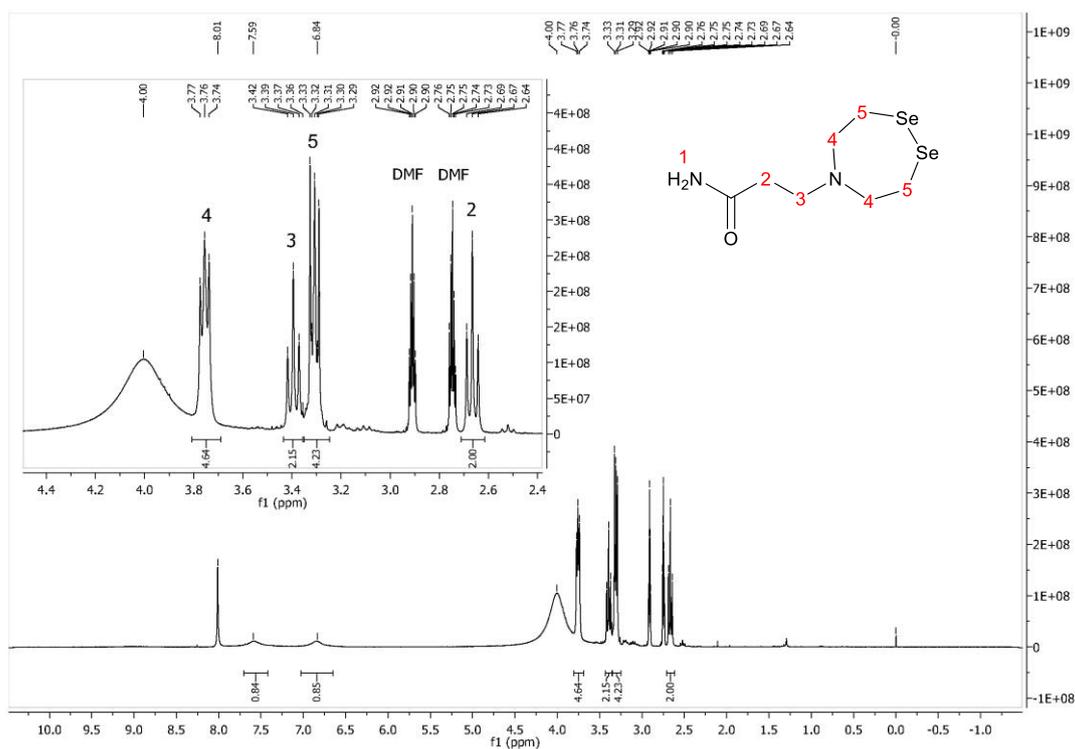


Figure S 22. ¹H NMR (300 MHz) spectrum for compound **5b** (DMF-d₇, 333 K). δ 7.59 (s, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 3.77-3.74 (m, 4H), 3.42-3.36 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.33-3.29 (m, 4H), 2.73-2.64 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H) ppm.

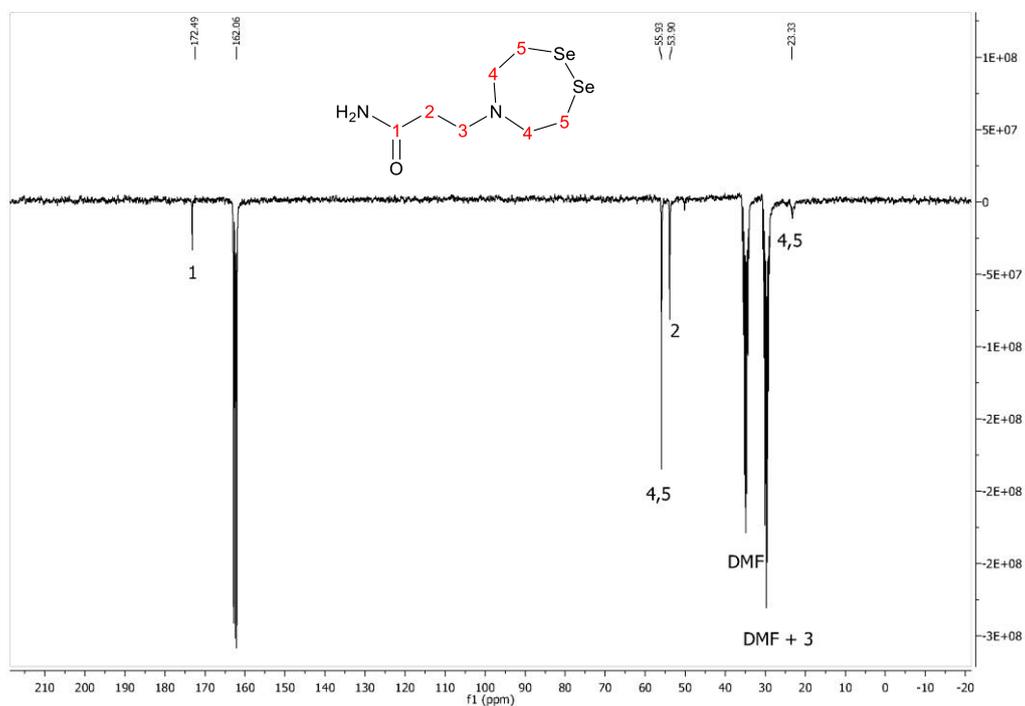


Figure S 23. ¹³C JMOD NMR (75 MHz) spectrum for compound **5b** (DMF-d₇, 291 K). δ 172.49 (C), 55.93 (2 \times CH₂), 53.90 (CH₂), 23.33 (2 \times CH₂) ppm. One ¹³C signal is not visible due to the overlapping with the residual signal of the solvent.

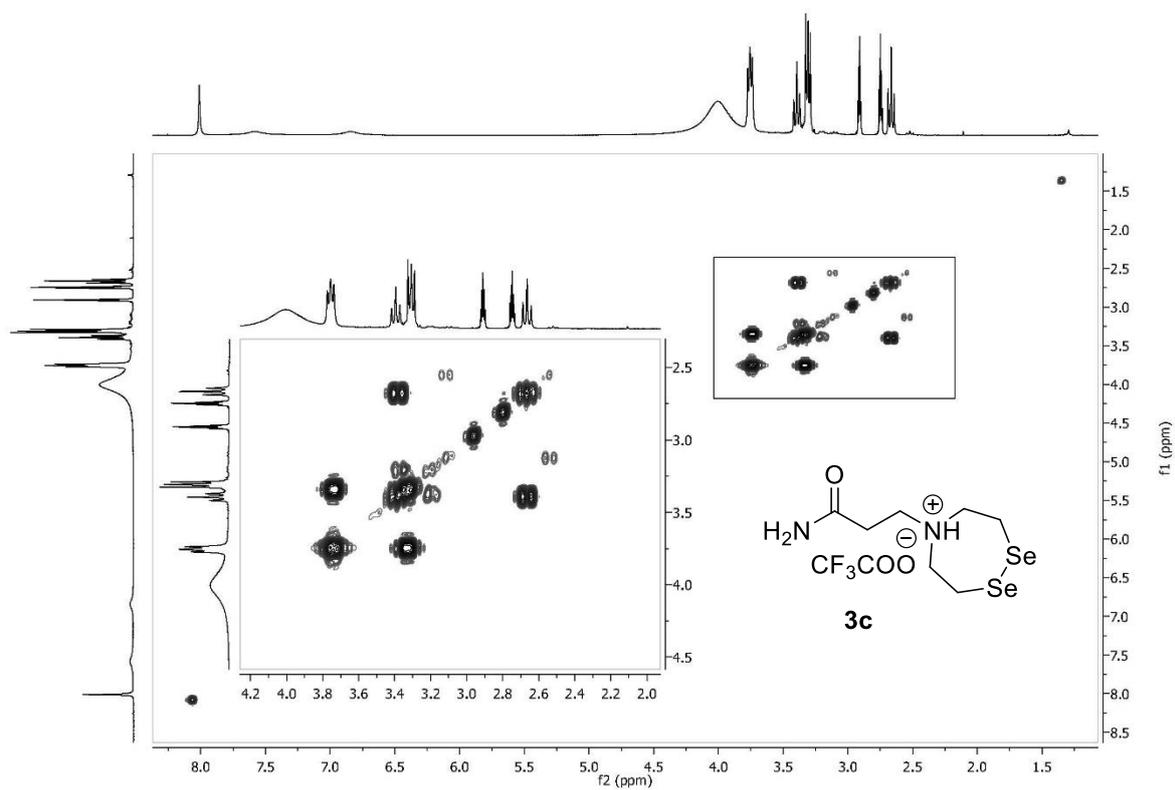


Figure S 24. ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum for compound **5b** (DMF-d7, 333 K).

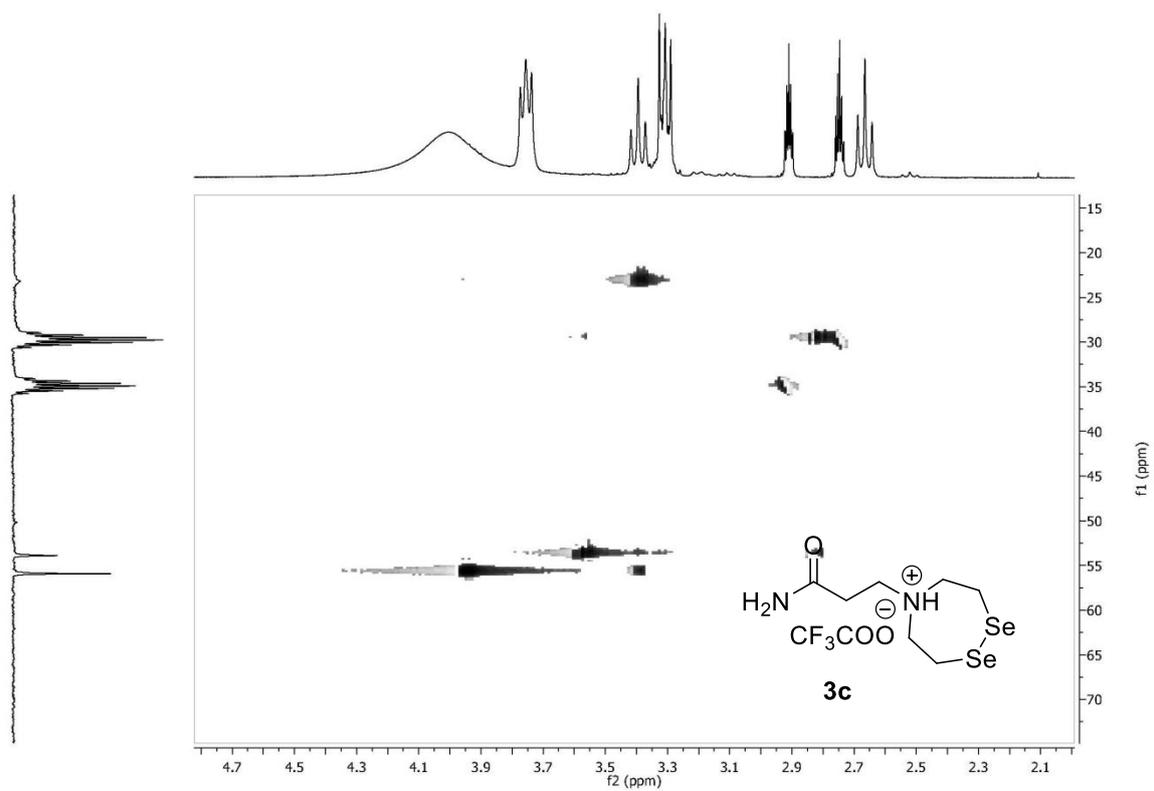
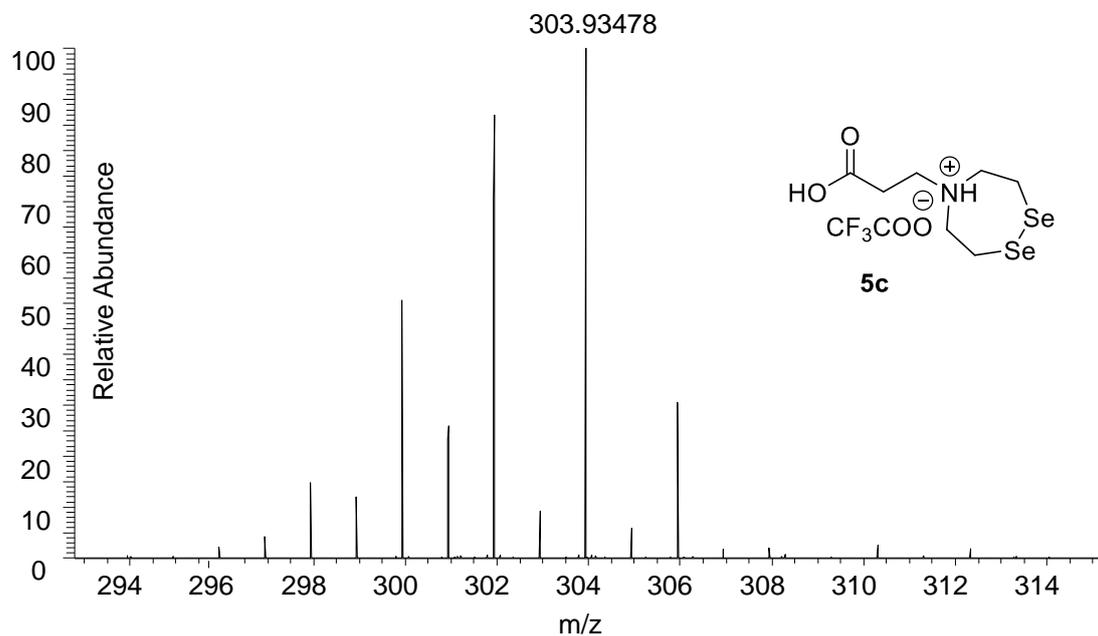


Figure S 25. ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC spectrum for compound **5b** (DMF-d7, 291K).

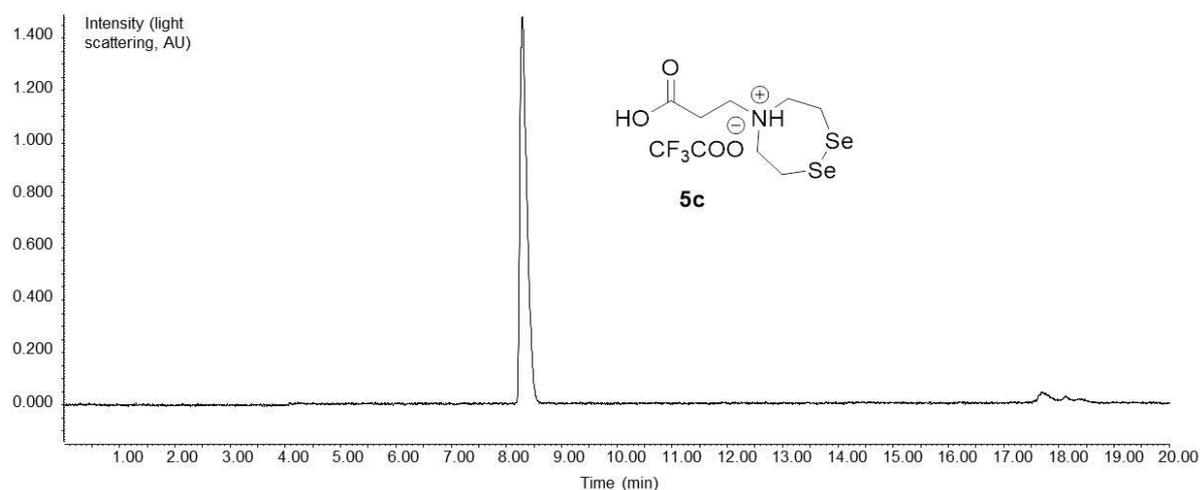
Characterization of diselenide **5c**



m/z	Intensity	Relative	Theo. Mass	Delta (ppm)	RDB equiv	Composition
299,9375	2139153,3	52,61				
300,9385	1105033	27,18				
301,9358	3534280,3	86,92				
303,9348	4066237,8	100	303,9350	-0,13	1,5	C7 H14 O2 N Se2
305,9348	1315523,8	32,35				

Figure S 26. HRMS analysis for catalyst **5c**. m/z calcd. for $[M+H]^+$ (monoisotopic): 303.9350, found: 303.9348.

A)



B)

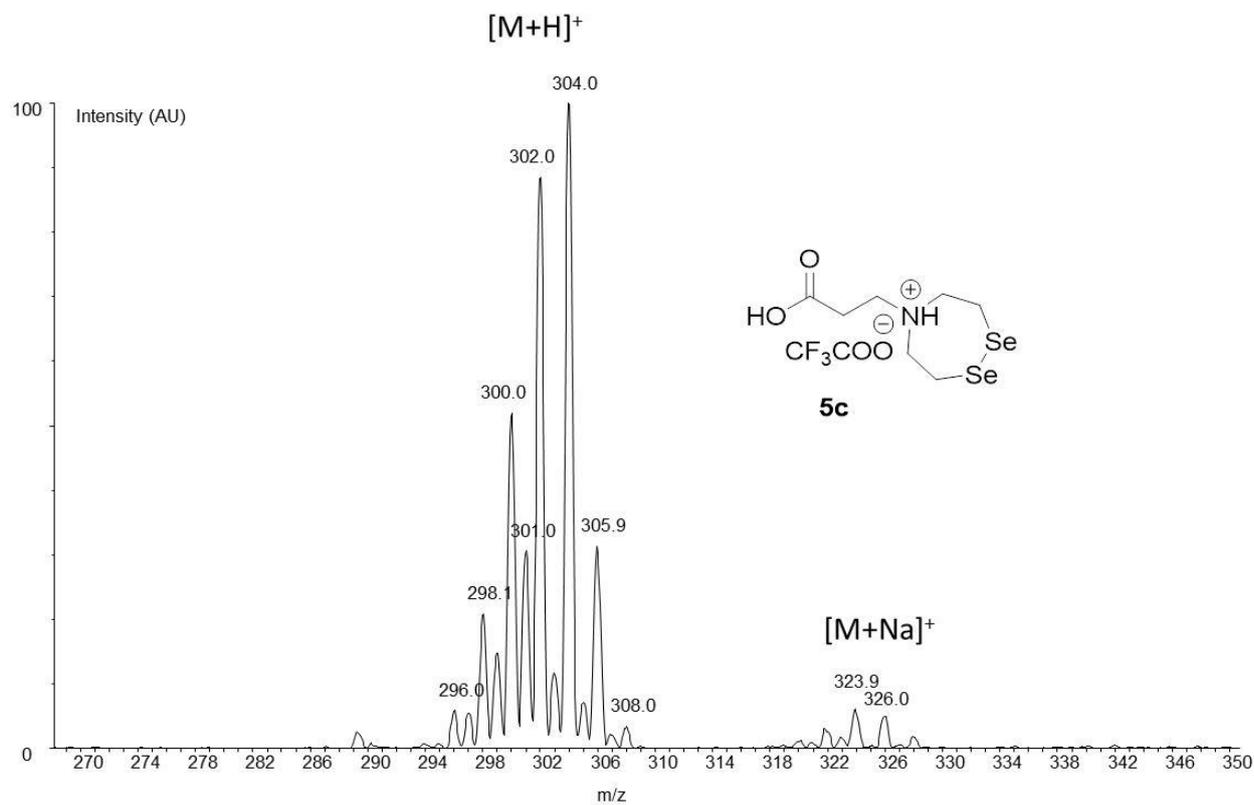


Figure S 27. LC-MS analysis of diselenide **5c** A) LC trace. Chromatography conditions: eluent A 0.1% TFA in water, eluent B 0.1% TFA in CH₃CN/water: 4/1 by vol. C18 Xbridge BEH 300 Å 5 μm (4.6 × 250 mm) column, gradient 0-50% B in 15 min, 1 mL/min, detection at 215 nm. B) MS trace. m/z calcd. for $[M+H]^+$: 303.9 (peak of highest intensity, monoisotopic), found: 304.0.

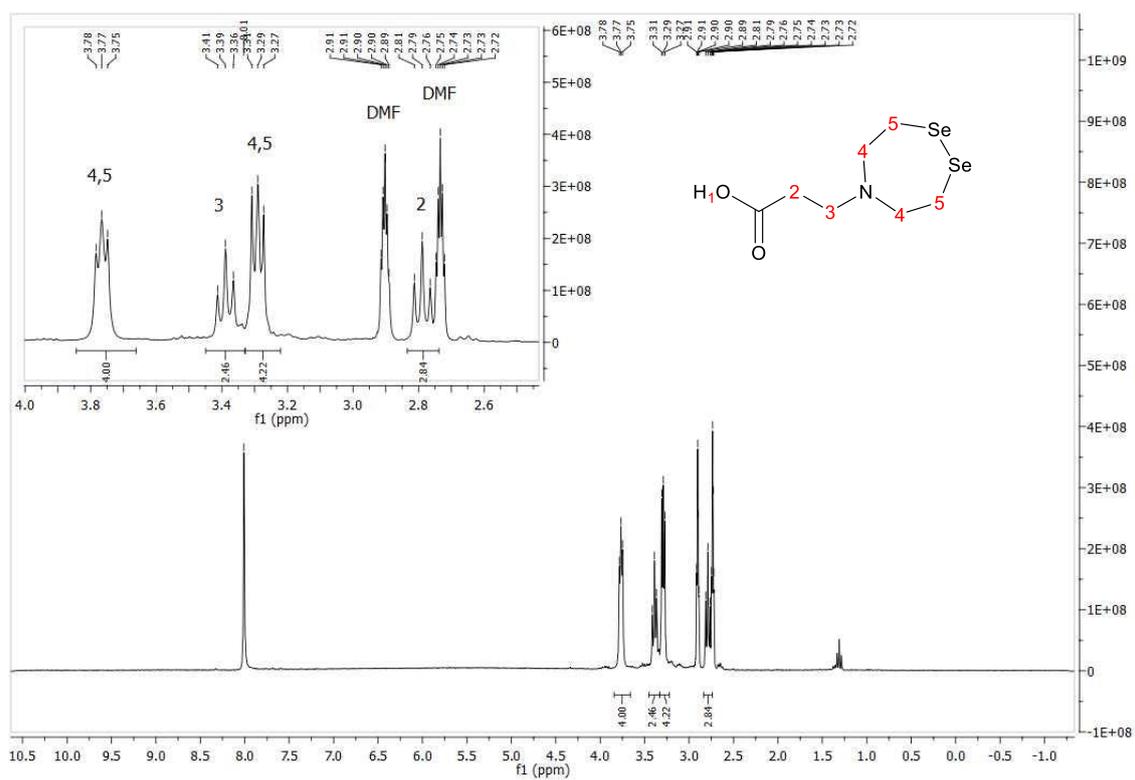


Figure S 28. ^1H NMR (300 MHz) spectrum for compound **5c** (DMF- d_7 , 310 K). δ 3.78-3.75 (t, $J = 5.3$ Hz, 4H), 3.41-3.36 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.31-3.27 (t, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 4H), 2.81-2.76 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H) ppm.

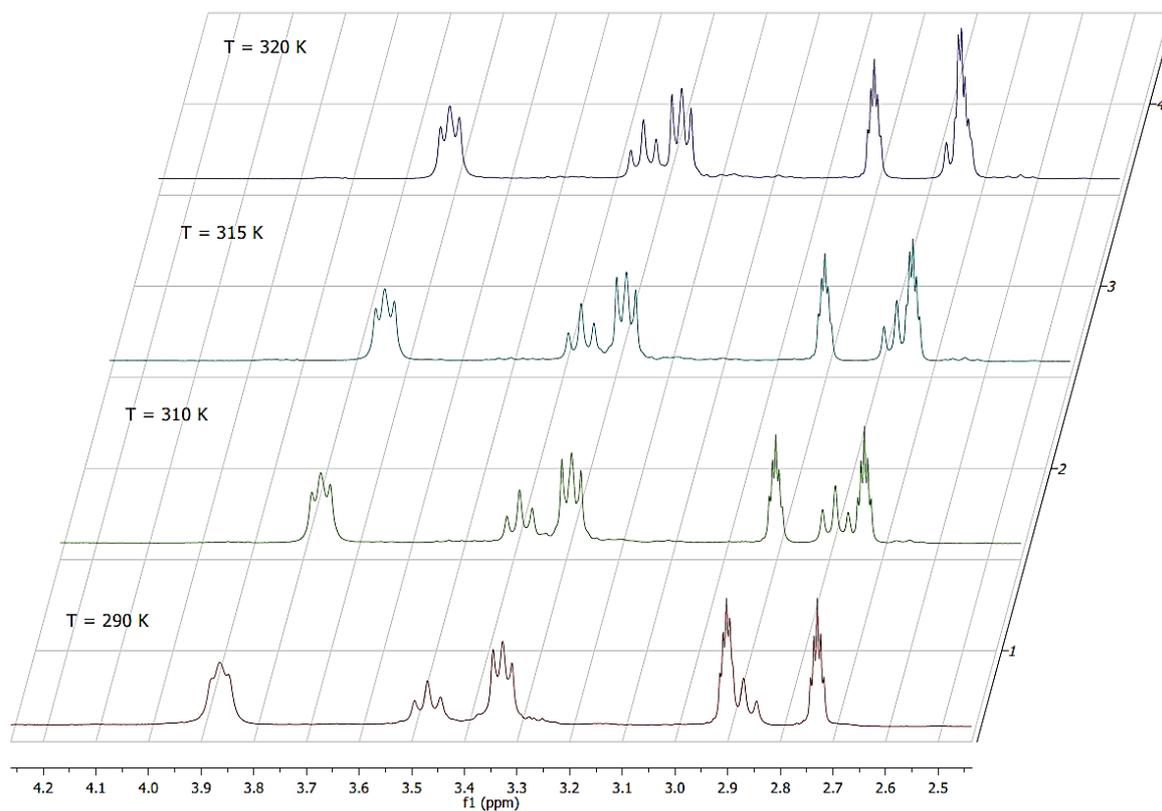


Figure S 29. ^1H NMR (300 MHz) spectrum for compound **5c** (DMF- d_7). Effect of the temperature.

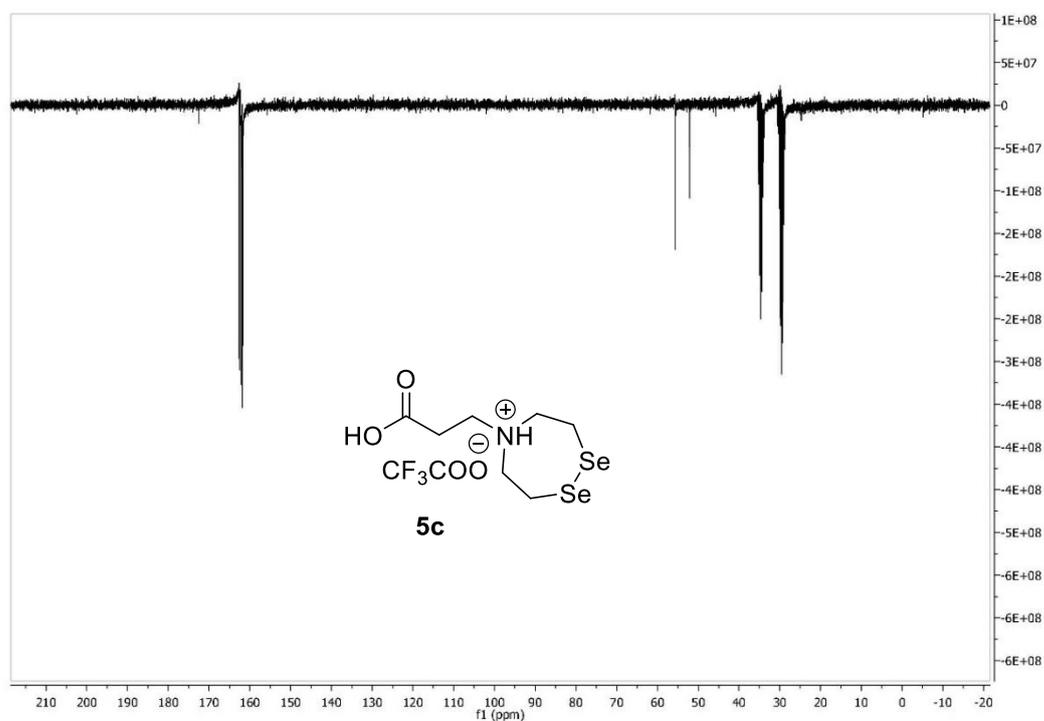


Figure S 30. ^{13}C JMOD NMR (75 MHz) spectrum for compound **5c** (DMF- d_7 , 310 K). δ 172.50 (C), 55.66 ($2 \times \text{CH}_2$), 52.16 (CH_2), 24.61 ($2 \times \text{CH}_2$) ppm. One ^{13}C signal is not visible due to the overlapping with the residual signal of the solvent.

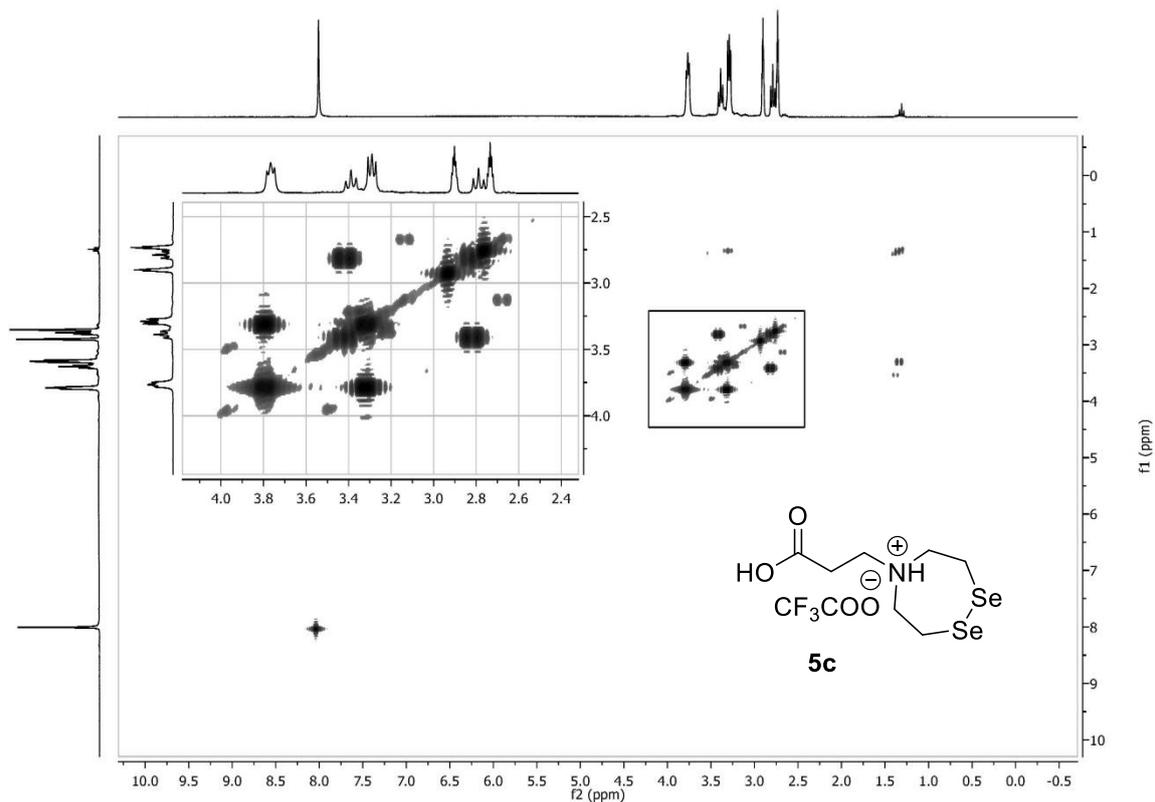


Figure S 31. ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum for compound **5c** (DMF- d_7 , 310 K).

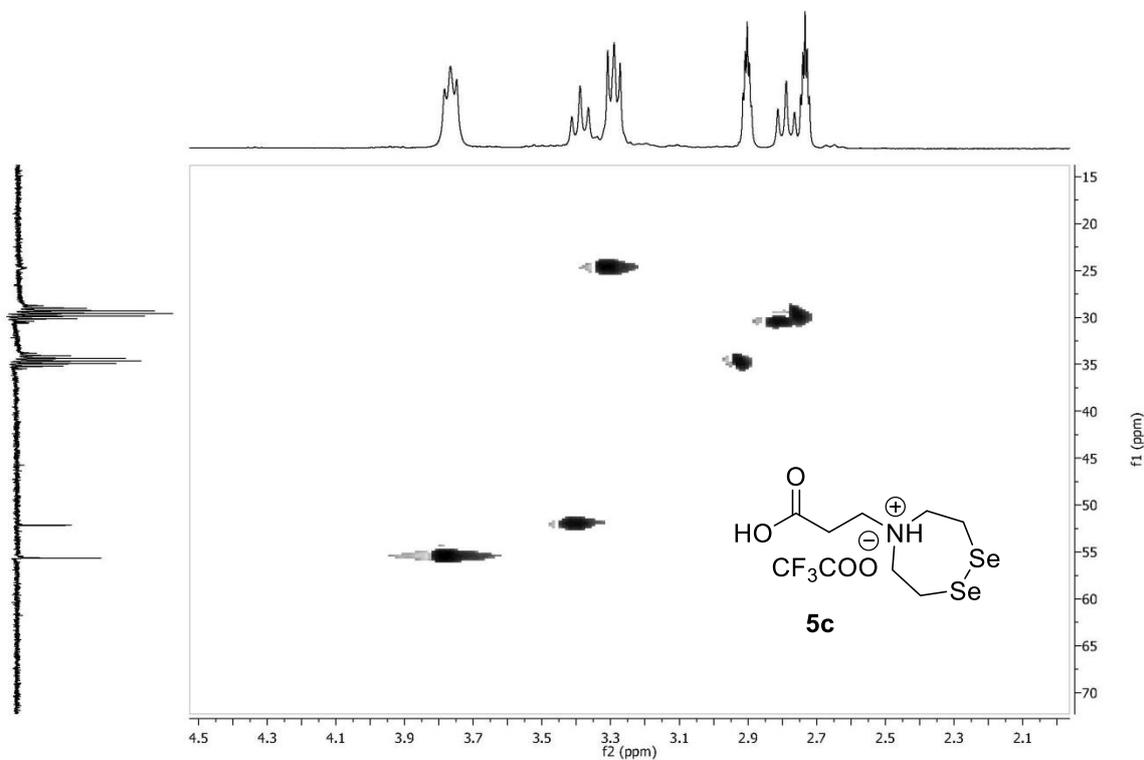


Figure S 32. ^1H - ^{13}C HSQC spectrum for compound **5c** (DMF- d_7 , 310K).

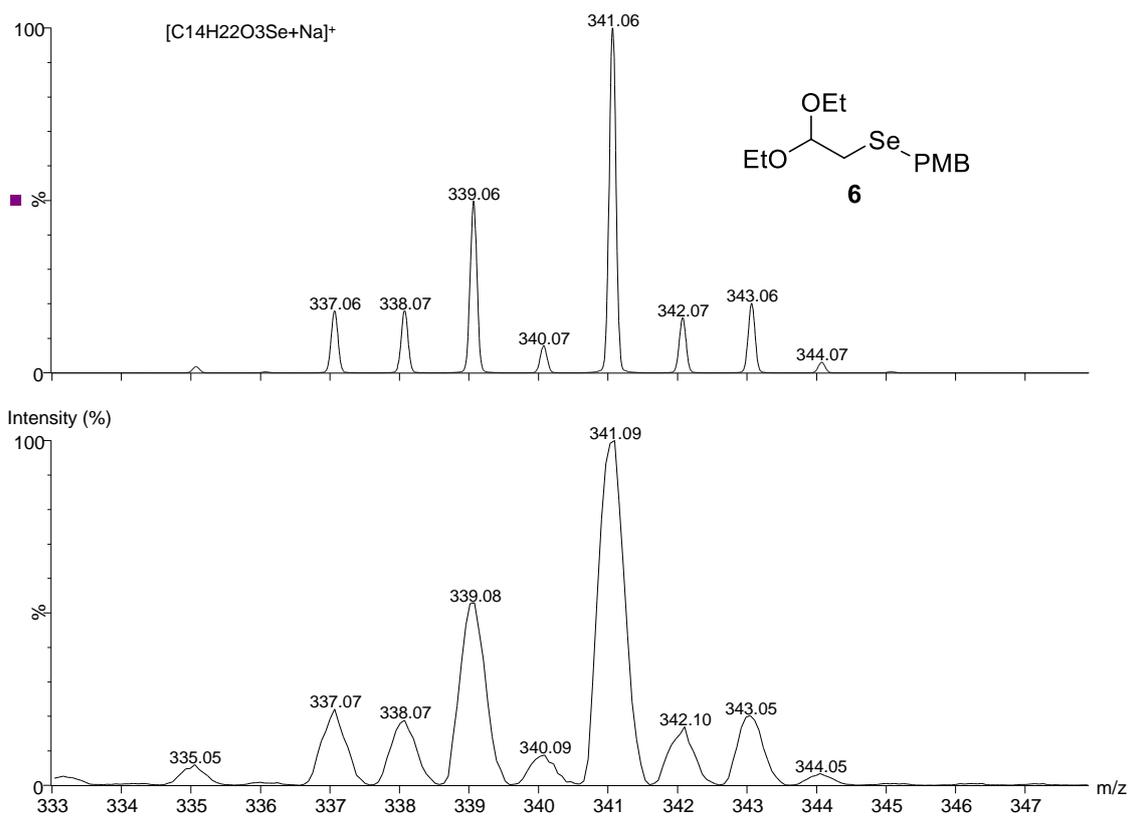


Figure S 35. MS analysis of compound **6** (bottom) and theoretical profile (top).

Characterization of compound **8**

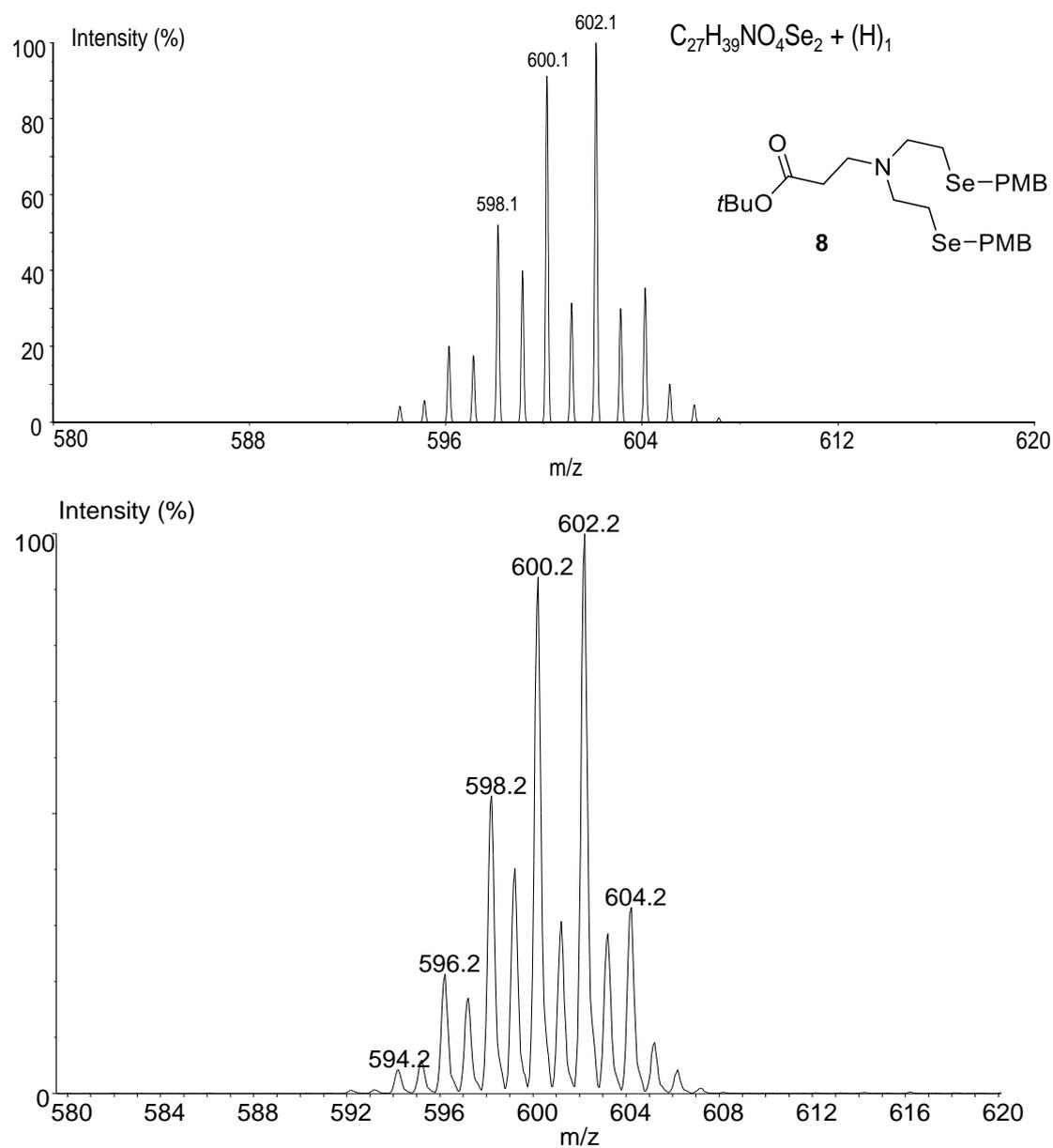


Figure S 36. MS analysis of compound **8** (bottom) and theoretical profil (top).

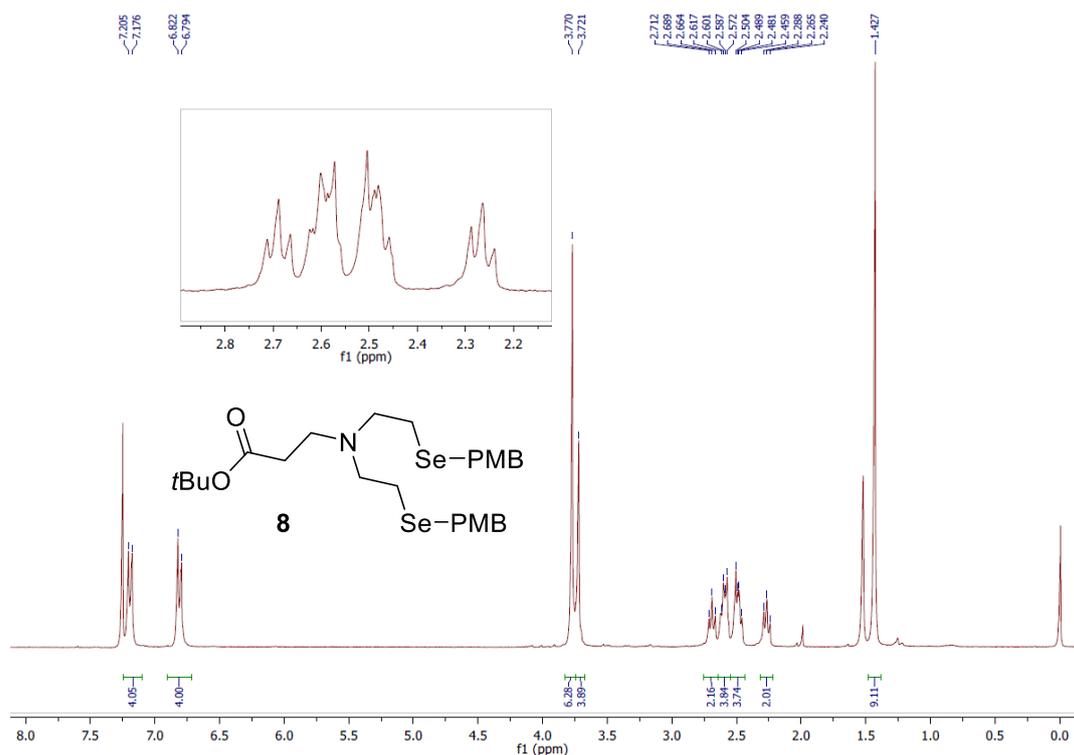


Figure S 37. ¹H NMR (300 MHz) spectrum for compound **8** (CDCl₃, 305 K). δ 7.20 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 4H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 4H), 3.77 (s, 6H), 3.72 (s, 4H), 2.69 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.60 (m, 4H), 2.48 (m, 4H), 2.26 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H) ppm.

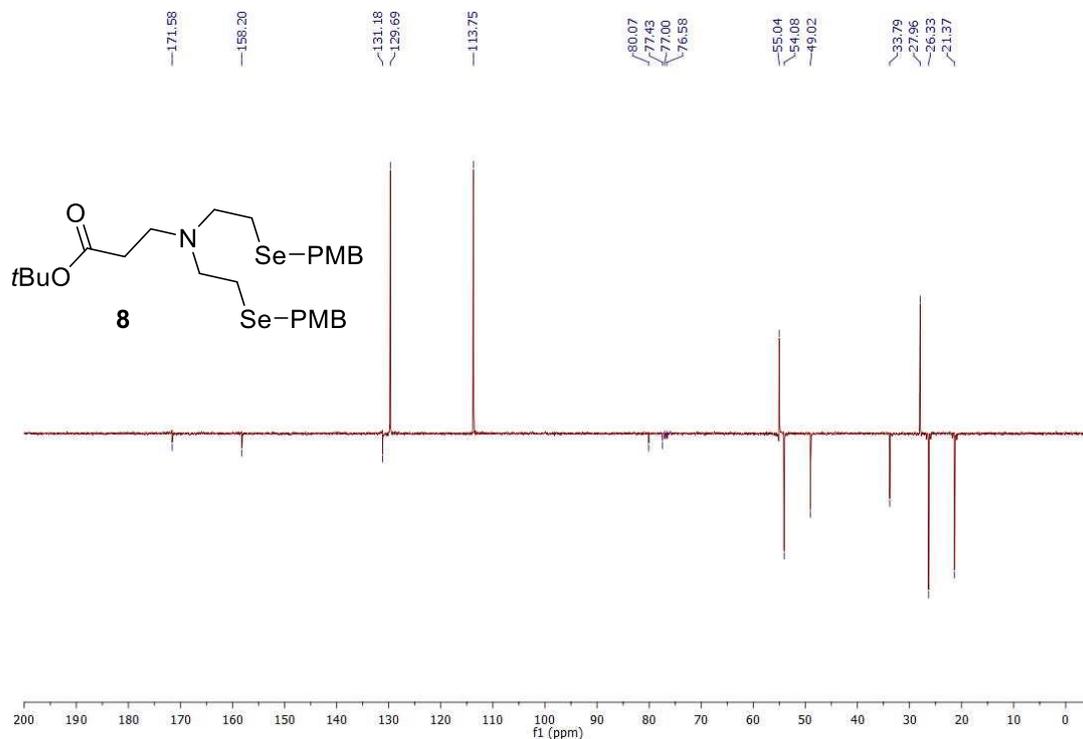


Figure S 38. ¹³C JMOD NMR (75 MHz) spectrum for compound **8** (CDCl₃, 293 K). δ 171.6 (C), 158.2 (2 \times C), 131.1 (2 \times C), 129.7 (4 \times CH), 113.7 (4 \times CH), 80.1 (C), 55.0 (2 \times CH₃), 54.1 (2 \times CH₂), 49.0 (CH₂), 33.8 (CH₂), 28.0 (3 \times CH₃), 26.3 (2 \times CH₂), 21.4 (2 \times CH₂) ppm.

Characterization of peptide 10

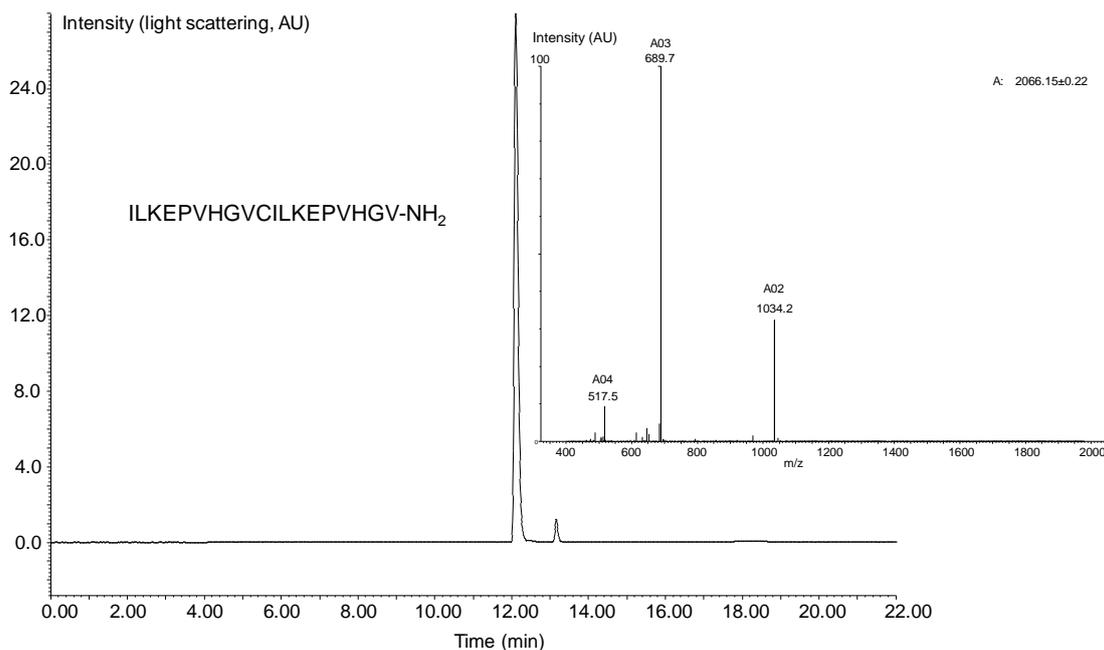


Figure S 39. LC-MS analysis of peptide 10. LC trace. Chromatography conditions: eluent A 0.10% TFA in water, eluent B 0.10% TFA in CH₃CN/water: 4/1 by vol. C18 Xbridge BEH 300 Å 5 µm (4.6 × 250 mm) column, gradient 0-50% B in 15 min, 1 mL/min, detection at 215 nm. MS trace. m/z = 1034.2 ([M+2H]²⁺), 689.7 ([M+3H]³⁺), 517.5 ([M+4H]⁴⁺). Calcd. for M (average): 2066.5, found 2066.1.

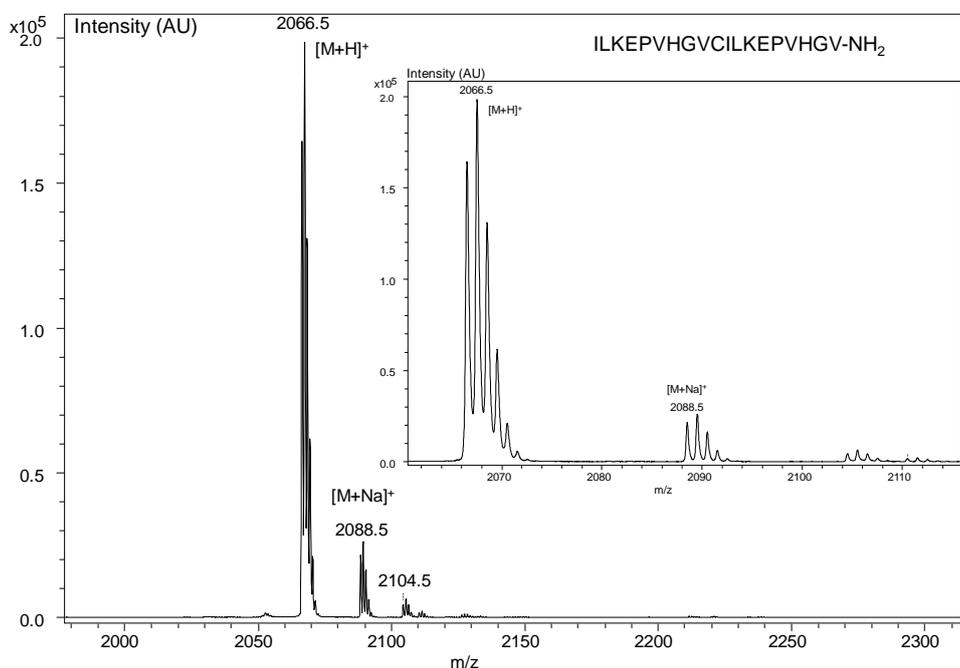


Figure S 40. MALDI-TOF analysis of peptide 10. Matrix = α-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid, positive detection mode. m/z calcd for [M+H]⁺ (monoisotopic): 2066.2, found: 2066.5.

Proteomic analysis of peptide 11

Reduction-alkylation

Peptide **11** (10 μg) was diluted with dithiothreitol (1 mg/mL in 0.025 M ammonium bicarbonate, 10 μL) and treated with iodoacetamide (10 mg/mL in 0.025 M ammonium bicarbonate, 10 μL) for 10 min. The alkylation step was monitored by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry as shown below.

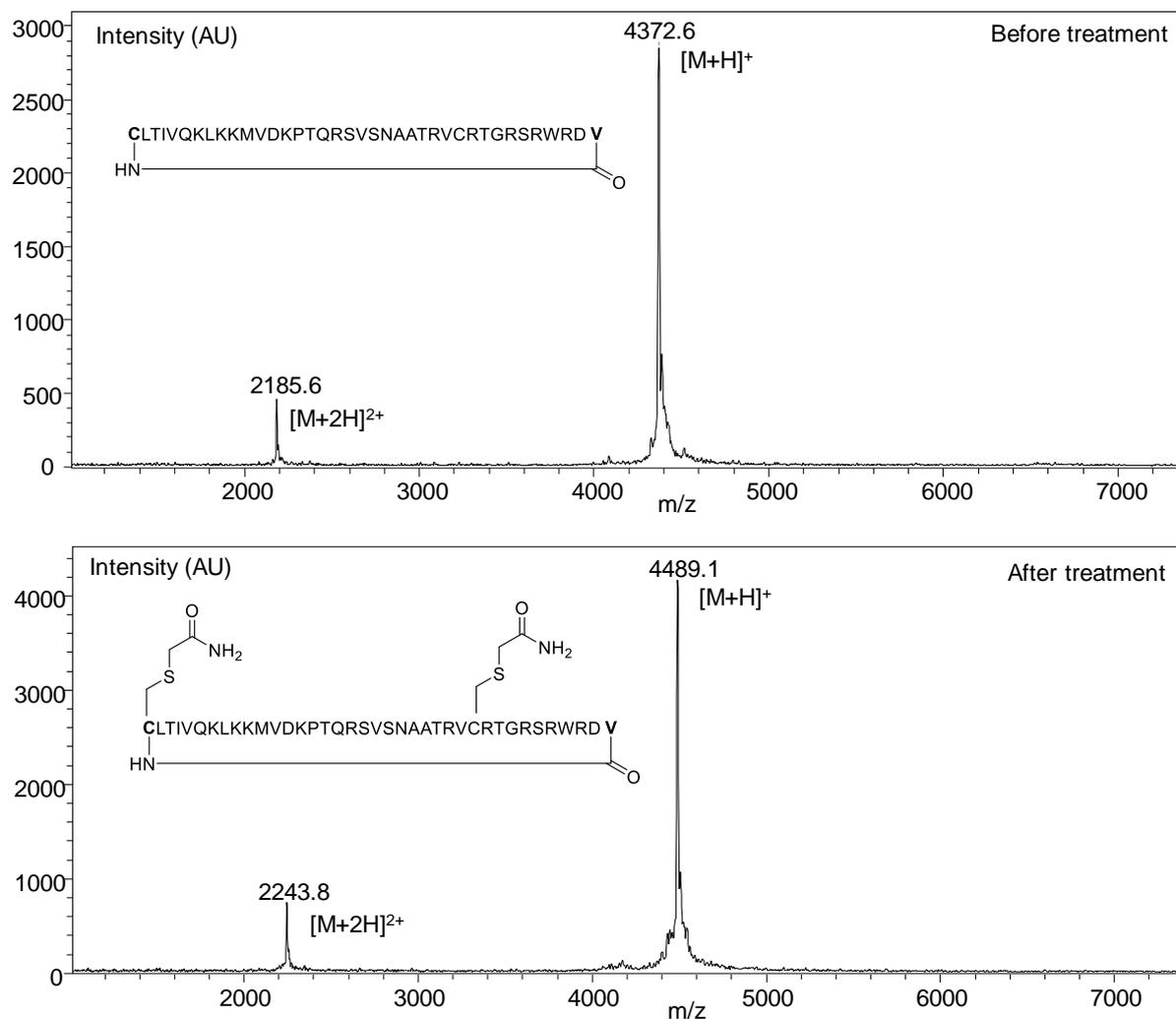
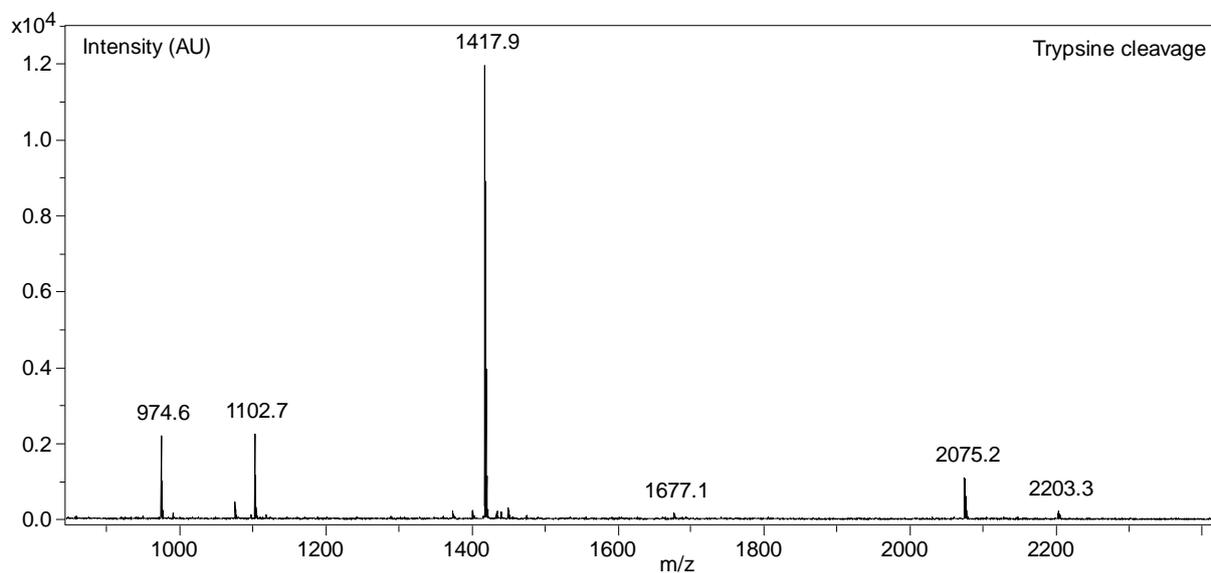


Figure S 43. Monitoring of the alkylation of cyclic peptide **11** by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry (matrix: α -cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid).

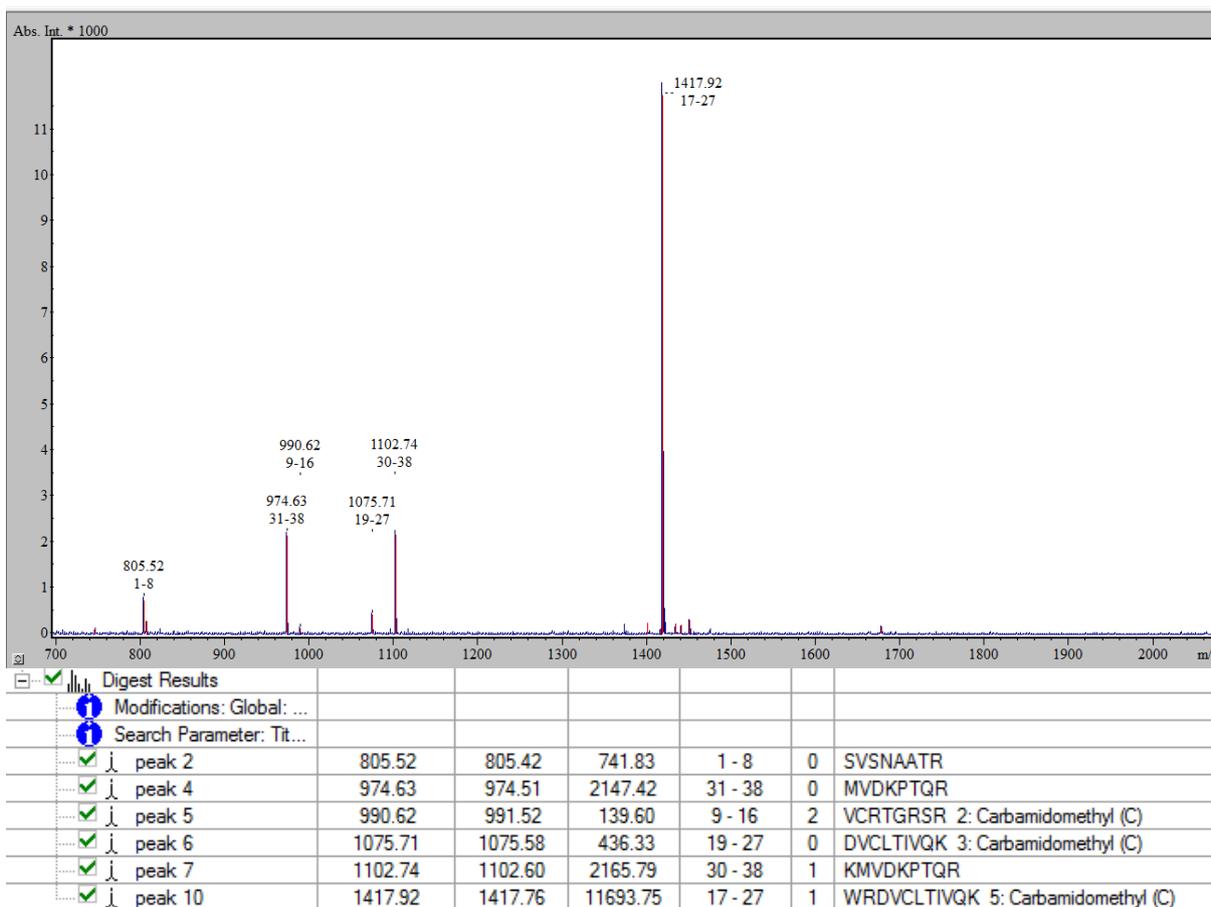
Trypsin cleavage

Then, trypsin (0.1 mg/mL, 1 μ L) was added to the mixture to cleave the alkylated cyclic peptide. The formed peptide fragments were identified by MALDI-TOF MS-MS.

A)



B)



C)

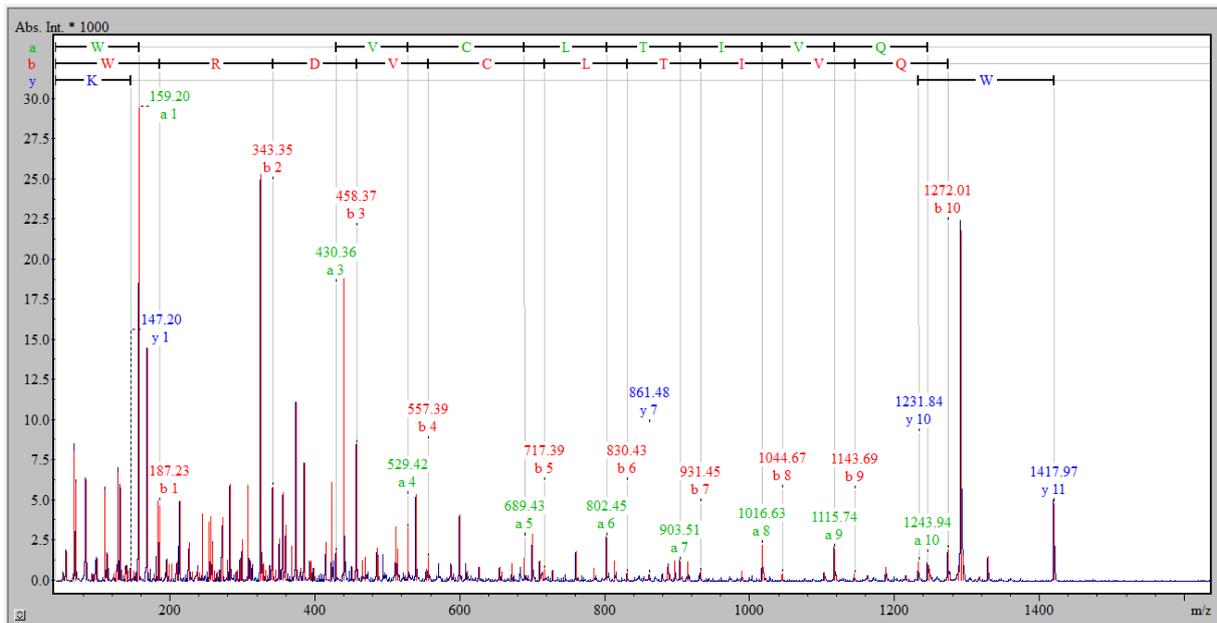
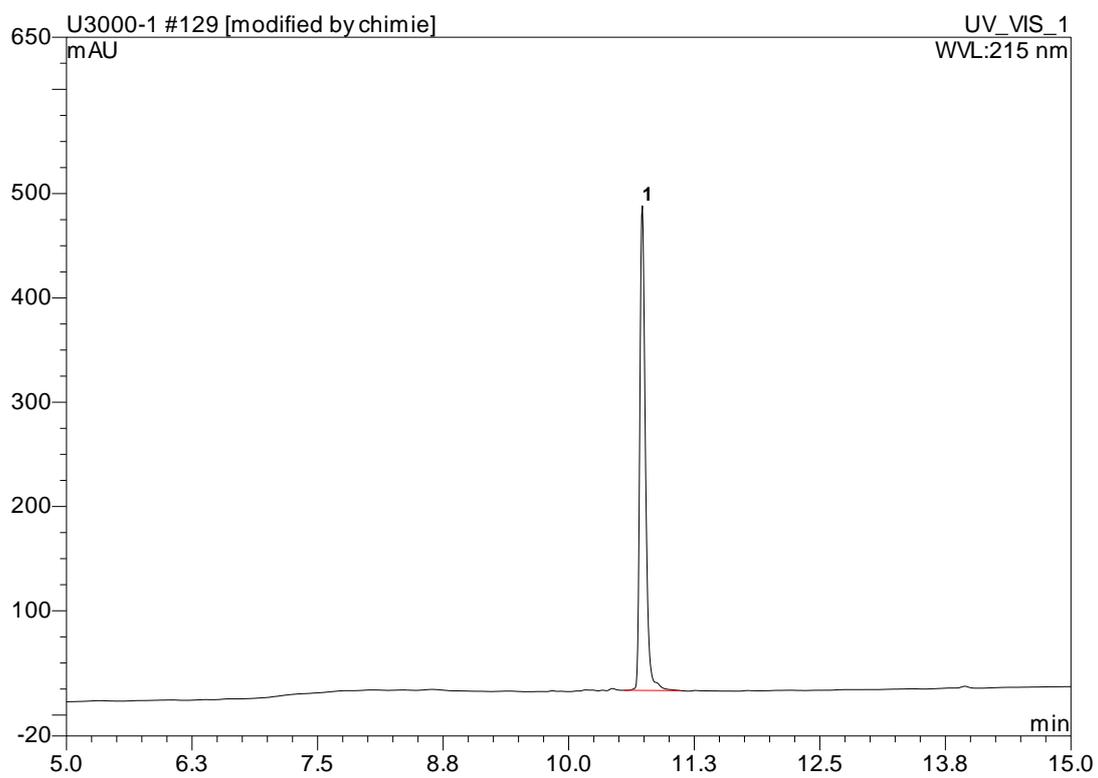


Figure S 44. In source MALDI-TOF sequencing of peptide **11** after alkylation and trypsin cleavage using α -cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid as matrix (positive reflector mode). A) Global spectrum. B) MS-MS sequencing of the peptides. C) MS-MS sequencing of the ion at m/z 1417.97 shows the presence of the Val-Cys peptide bond (...RDVCLT...).

Characterization of peptide **12**

A)



B)

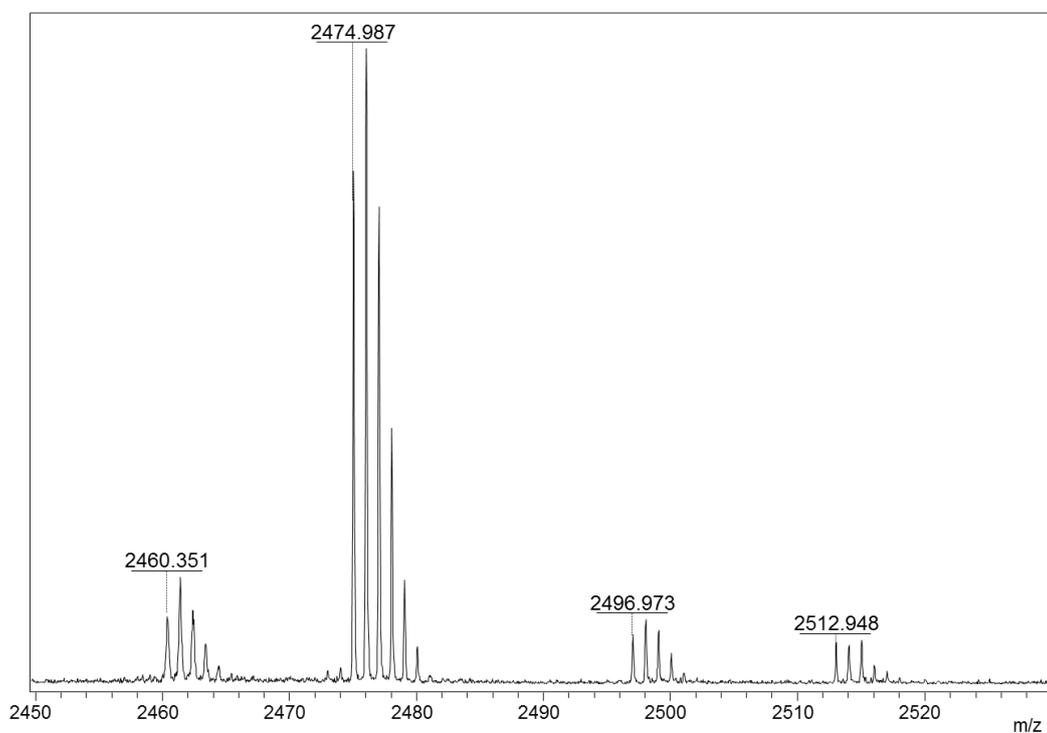
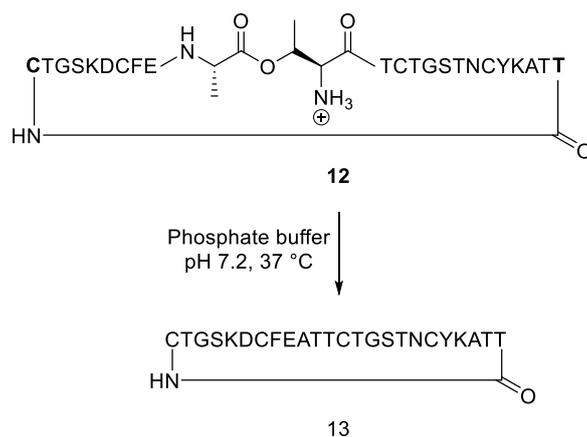


Figure S 45. Peptide **12**. A) HPLC trace, eluent A 0.10% TFA in water, eluent B 0.10% TFA in CH₃CN/water: 4/1 by vol. C18 Zorbax 300 Å 3.5 µm (4.6 × 150 mm) column, gradient 0-100% B in 30 min, 50 °C, 1 mL/min, detection at 215 nm. B)

Rearrangement of the O-acyl isopeptide unit

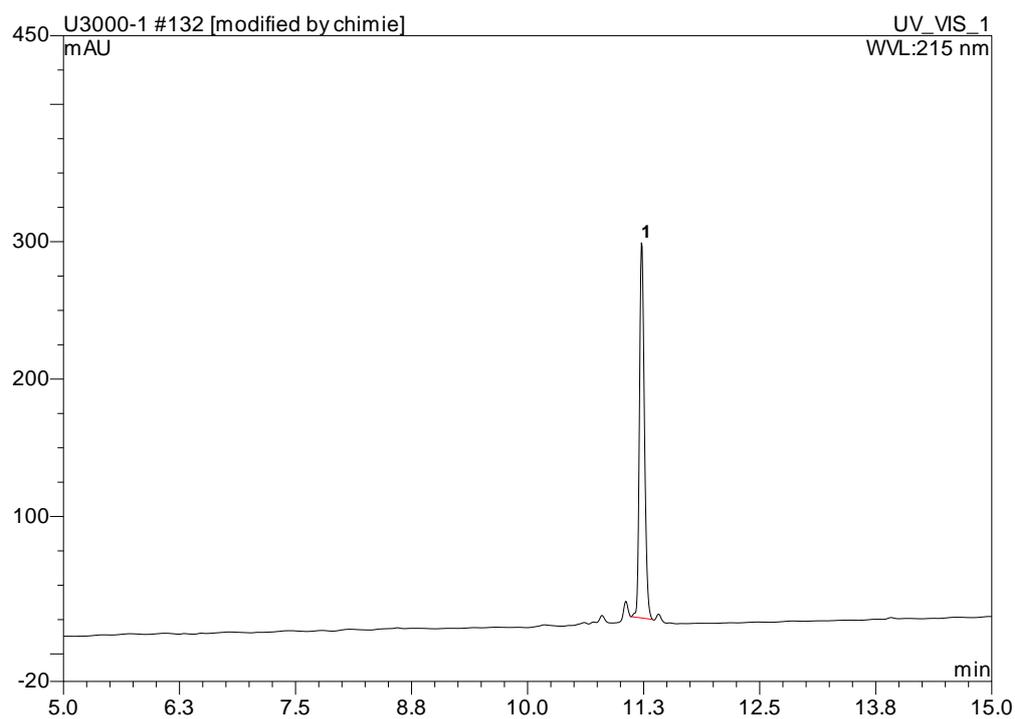


Scheme S 1. Rearrangement of peptide **12** into cyclic peptide **13**.

Peptide **12** (0.324 mg, 119 μmol , 1 mM) was dissolved in a 10 mM solution of TCEP in phosphate buffer at pH 7.2 (120 μL). The reaction mixture was immediately analyzed by HPLC to show the rearrangement of the *O*-acyl isopeptide unit (cyclic peptide **13**).

Peptide **13**: ESI-MS m/z 1238.7 ($[\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+}$), 826.0 ($[\text{M}+3\text{H}]^{3+}$), calcd. for M 2475.7 (average), found 2475.2. MALDI-TOF matrix sinapinic acid, positive detection mode, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd (monoisotopic) 2474.99, observed mass: 2475.04 (monoisotopic).

A)



B)

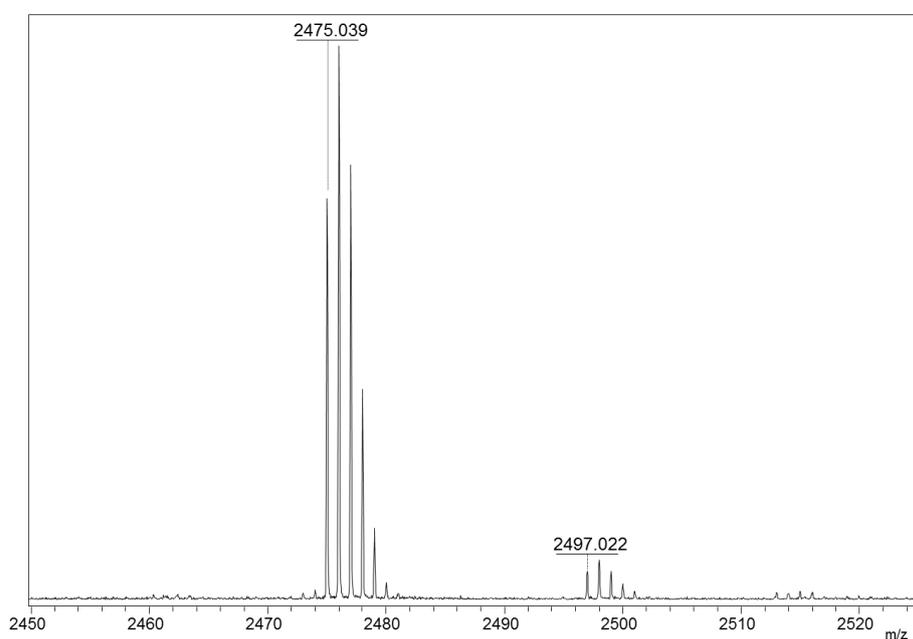


Figure S 46. Rearranged peptide **13**. A) HPLC trace, eluent A 0.10% TFA in water, eluent B 0.10% TFA in CH₃CN/water: 4/1 by vol. C18 Zorbax 300 Å 3.5 µm (4.6 × 150 mm) column, gradient 0-100% B in 30 min, 50 °C, 1 mL/min, detection at 215 nm. B) MALDI-TOF of peptide **13**. Matrix sinapinic acid, positive detection mode.

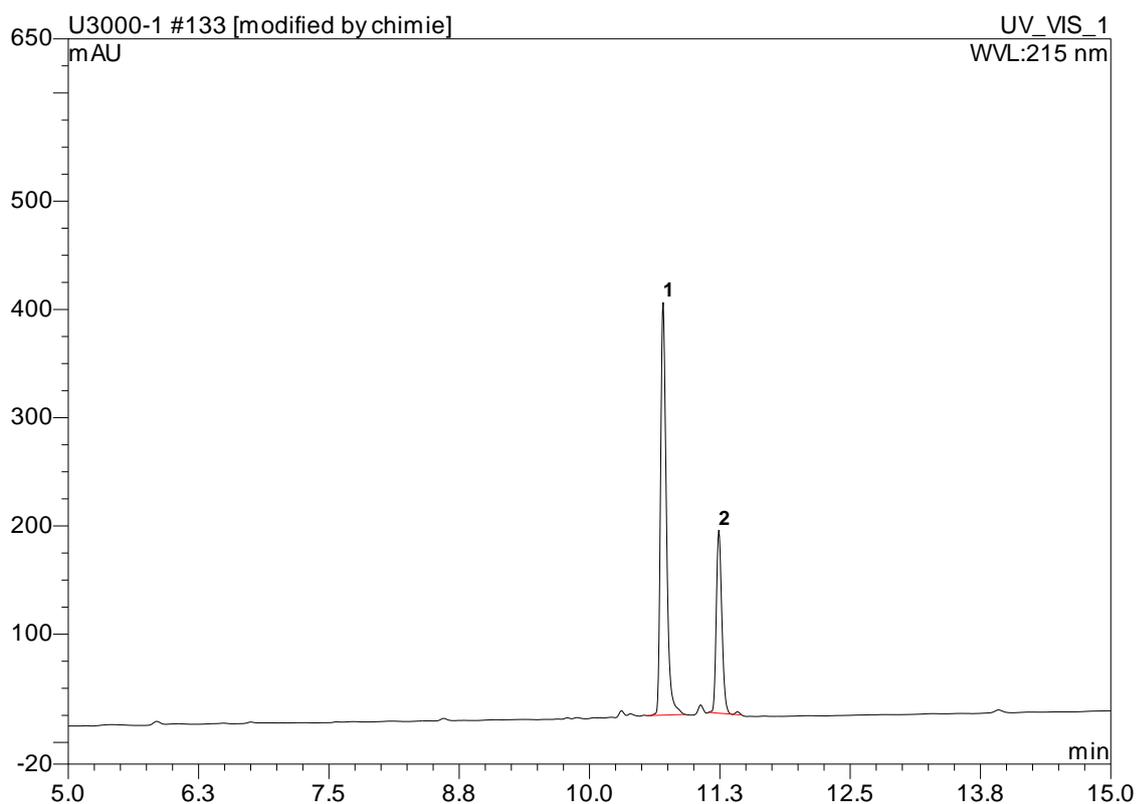


Figure S 47. Coelution control of *O*-acyl isopeptide containing peptide **12** (peak 1) with rearranged peptide **13** (peak 2). HPLC trace, eluent A 0.10% TFA in water, eluent B 0.10% TFA in CH₃CN/water: 4/1 by vol. C18 Zorbax 300 Å 3.5 μm (4.6 × 150 mm) column, gradient 0-100% B in 30 min, 50 °C, 1 mL/min, detection at 215 nm.

Proteomic analysis of rearranged peptide 13

Reduction – Alkylation - Trypsin cleavage

Peptide **13** (~10 μg) was diluted with dithiothreitol (1 mg/mL in 0.025 M ammonium bicarbonate, 10 μL) and treated with iodoacetamide (10 mg/mL in 0.025 M ammonium bicarbonate, 10 μL) for 10 min. The alkylation step was monitored by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry (Figure S 48B).

Then, trypsin (0.1 mg/mL, 1 μL) was added to the mixture to cleave the alkylated cyclic peptide (Figure S 48C,D). The formed peptide fragments were identified by MALDI-TOF MS-MS.

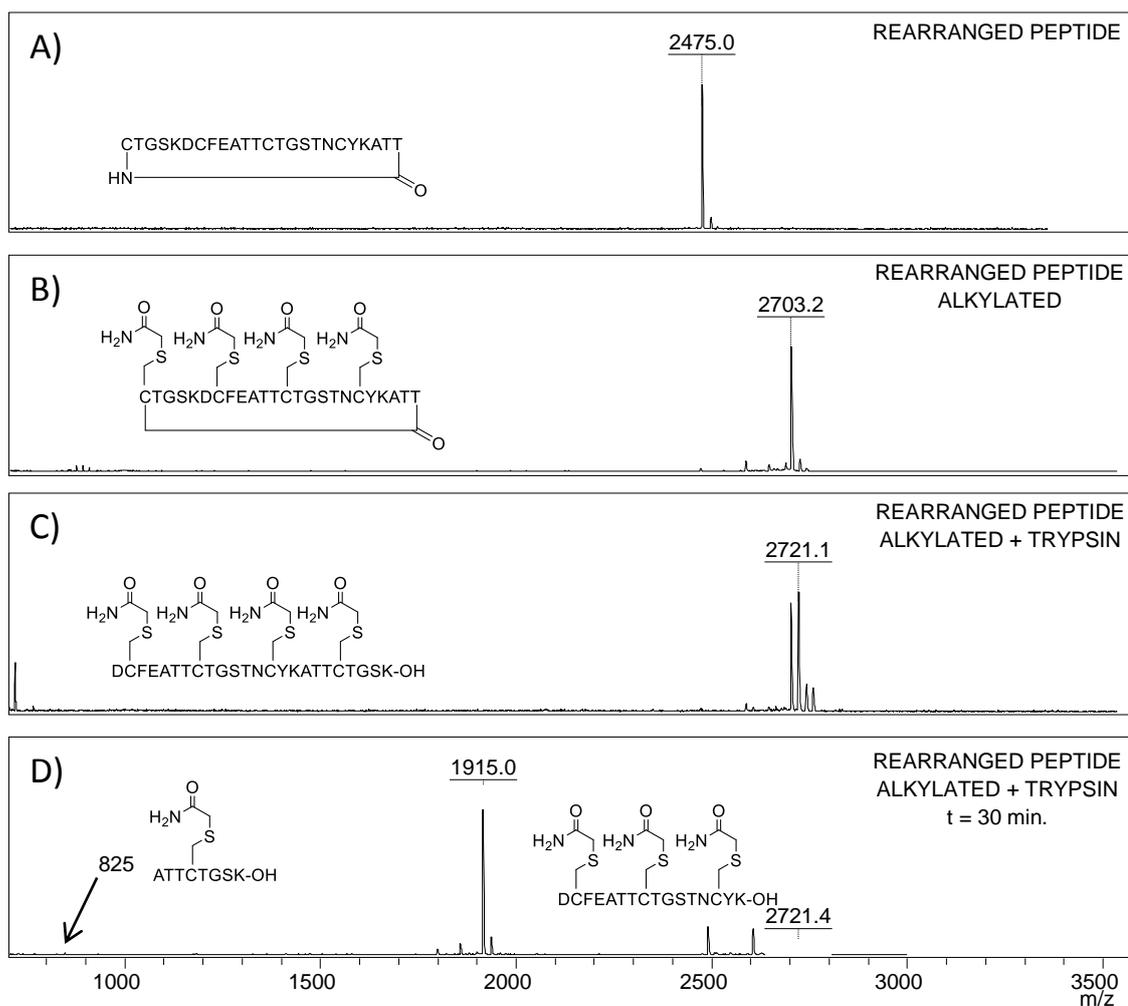


Figure S 48. A) & B). Monitoring of the alkylation of cyclic peptide **13** by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry (matrix: alpha-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid). C) & D) MALDI-TOF Monitoring of tryptic digestion of alkylated peptide **13**.

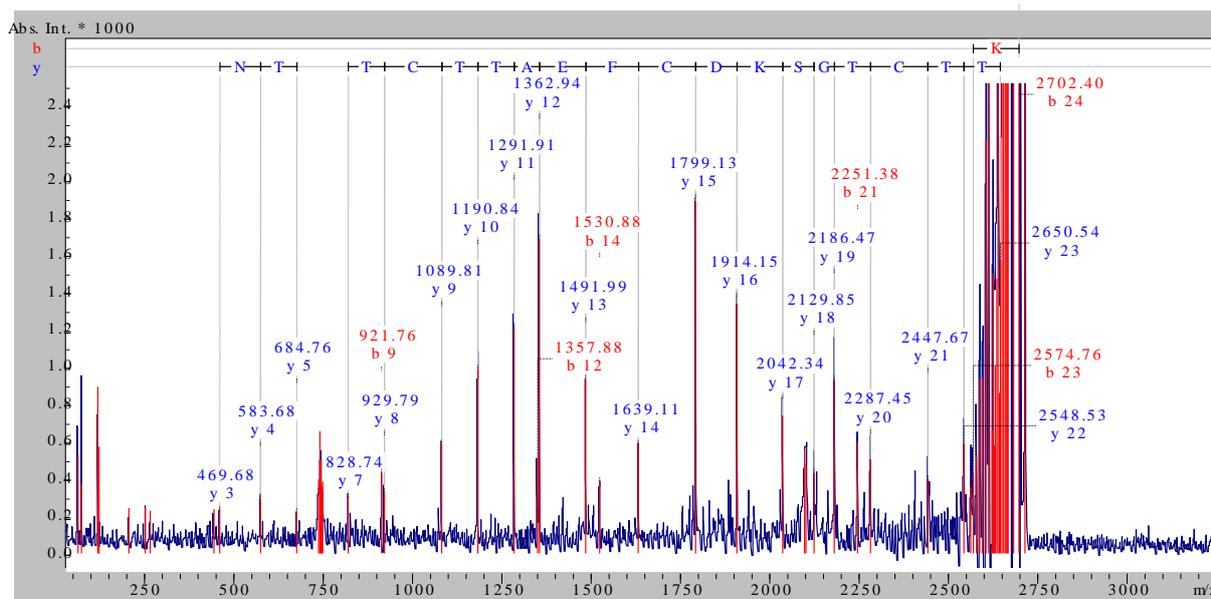


Figure S 49. In source MALDI-TOF sequencing of peptide **13** after alkylation and trypsin cleavage using alpha-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid as matrix (positive reflector mode). MS-MS sequencing of the ion at m/z 1915.0 shows the presence of the Thr-Cys peptide bond (...SGTCTT...).

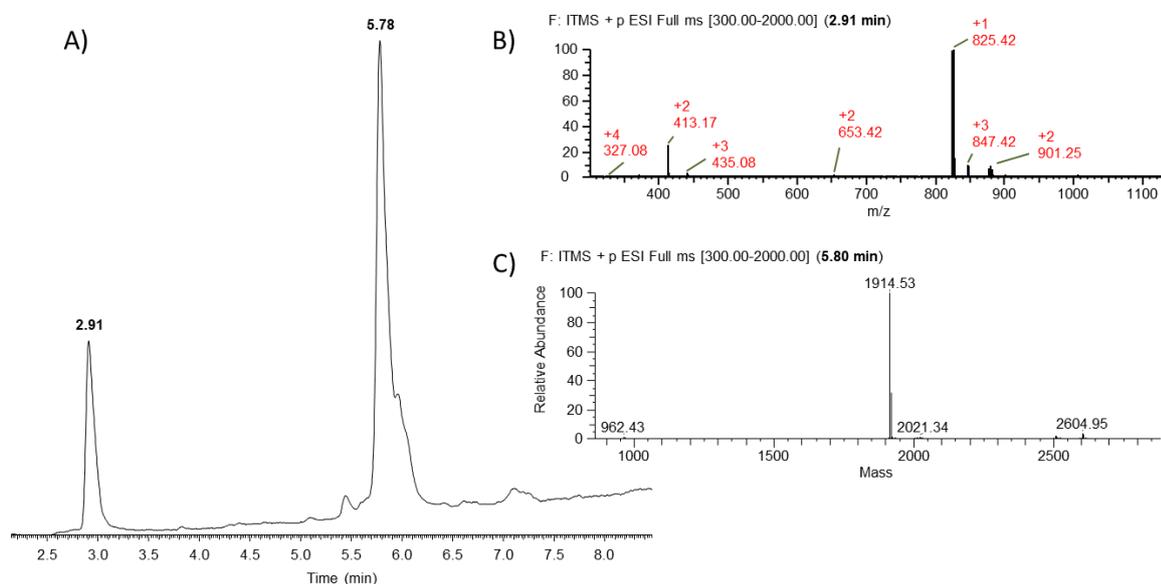


Figure S 50. UPLC-MS analysis of the trypsin digest of alkylated peptide **13**. A) LC trace, eluent A 0.1% TFA in water, eluent B 0.1% TFA in $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{water}$: 4/1 by vol. C18 BEH (3.0 \times 100 mm) column, gradient 0-100% B in 15 min, 50 $^\circ\text{C}$, 0.7 mL/min, detection at 215 nm ; B) MS trace of peptide fragment at 2.91 min. $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ m/z calcd. (average) 825.92, found

825.42; C) MS trace of peptide fragment at 5.80 min. $[M+H]^+$ m/z calcd. (average) 1915.05, found 1914.53.

Study of the deselenization of catalyst 5c during the SEA-thiol exchange reaction at pH 4.0

We quantified the deselenization of catalyst **5c** during the SEA-thiol exchange reaction at pH 4.0 by monitoring the appearance of selenophosphine $\text{Se}=\text{P}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H})_3$ in the reaction mixture by HPLC, see manuscript for experimental details.

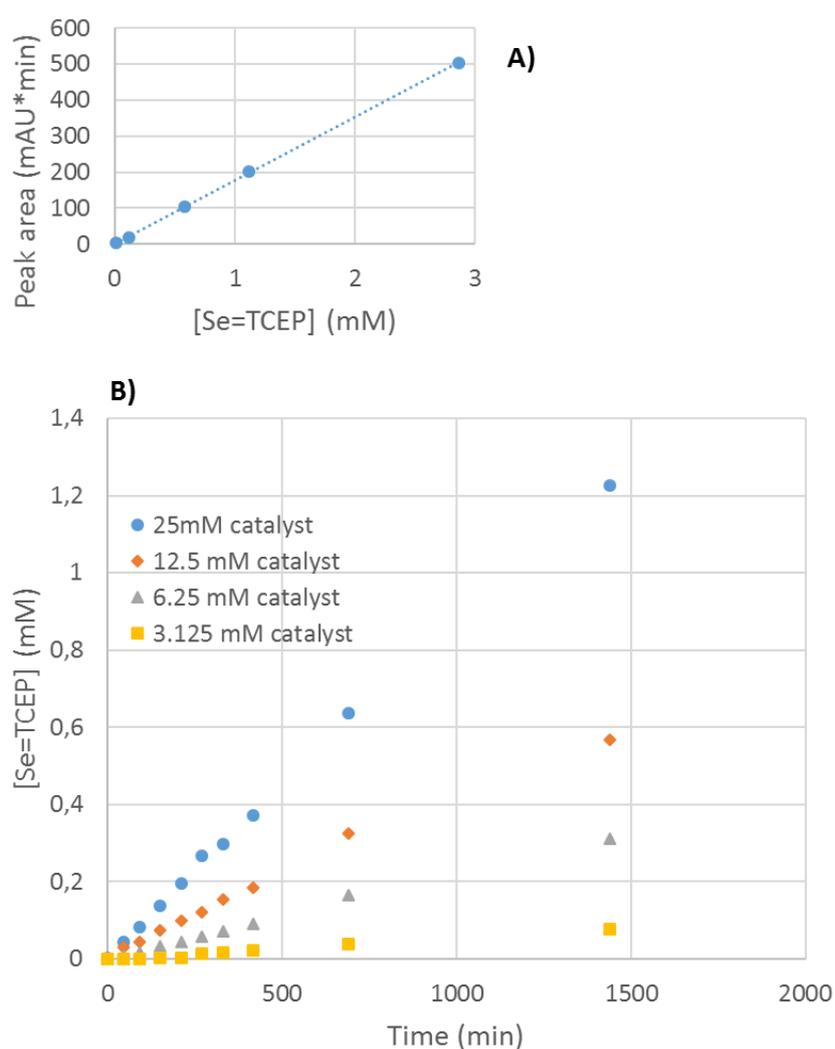


Figure S 51. A) Standard calibration curve of [TCEP=Se]; B) Evolution of selenophosphine concentration [TCEP=Se] at different catalyst concentration.