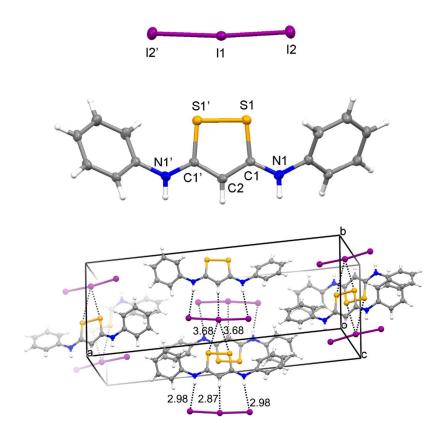
# Electronic Supporting Information

# Ionic couple-driven palladium leaching by organic triiodide solutions

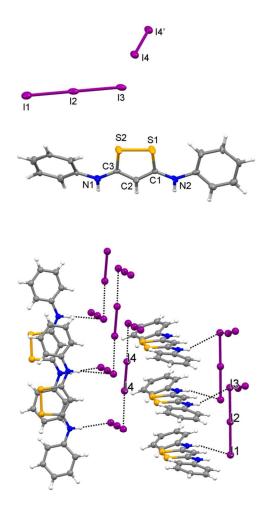
Mariangela Cuscusa, Americo Rigoldi, Flavia Artizzu, Roberto Cammi, Paolo Fornasiero, Paola Deplano, Luciano Marchiò,\* and Angela Serpe\*

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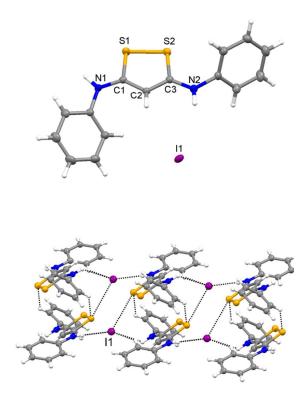
## X-Ray molecular structure of the (PhHN)<sub>2</sub>DTLI<sub>n</sub> salts



**Figure S1**. Molecular structure (above) and crystal packing (below) of  $(PhHN)_2DTLI_3$ . Weak interactions are represented as dashed lines. Symmetry code ' = -x; y;  $\frac{1}{2}$ -z. The molecular structure of  $(PhHN)_2DTLI_3$  shows remarkable similarities with that of **5**, Figure S5. The  $I_3^-$  exchanges three types of interactions with the cation.



**Figure S2**. Molecular structure (above) and portion of the crystal packing (below) of  $(PhHN)_2DTLI_5$ . Weak interactions are represented as dashed lines. The linear  $I_3^-$  anion bridges between two cations with the terminal iodine atoms and by interacting with two NH groups. The  $I_2$  is interposed between two symmetry related  $I_3^-$  anions.

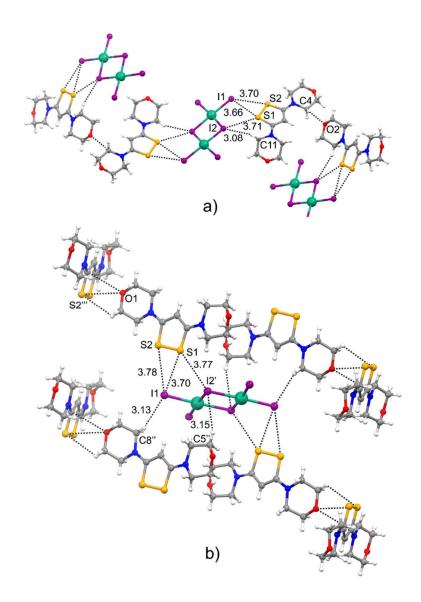


**Figure S3**. Molecular structure (above) and portion of the crystal packing (below) of (PhHN)<sub>2</sub>DTLI. Weak interactions are represented as dashed lines.

#### X-ray molecular structures of the ionic couples

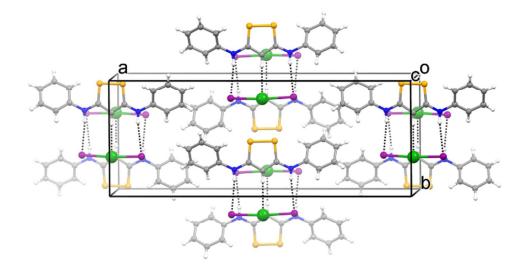
**2** crystallizes in two different polymorphs (form A and form B), which mainly differ by the mutual orientation of the  $Mo_2DTL^+$  cation and the  $[Pd_2I_6]^{2-}$  complex anion. In form A, the angle between the planar anionic moiety and the planar  $C_3S_2$  core is approximately 26°, whereas in form B, the same angle is approximately 73°. In both systems the S(1)-S(2) fragments interacts with the peripheral iodine atom, I(1), and with the bridging iodine atom, I(2), in a side-to-side orientation.

The bond distances within the N<sub>2</sub>C<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> fragment are consistent with the presence of a single bond between the S-S and C-S groups and with partial double bond character in the N-C-C-N system. The two morpholino residues adopt a chair conformation in both compounds, but a comparison between the two Mo<sub>2</sub>DTL<sup>+</sup> fragments reveals that the peripheral fragments are not superimposable for the two structures. The [Pd<sub>2</sub>I<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> system exhibits nearly the same geometric parameters in both forms. The metals have a square-planar geometry, which is slightly distorted since Pd-I(2)-Pd angle is significantly greater than 90° whereas the I(2)-Pd-I(2) angle is significantly smaller than 90°. The crystal packing of the two forms is also markedly different, Figure S4.



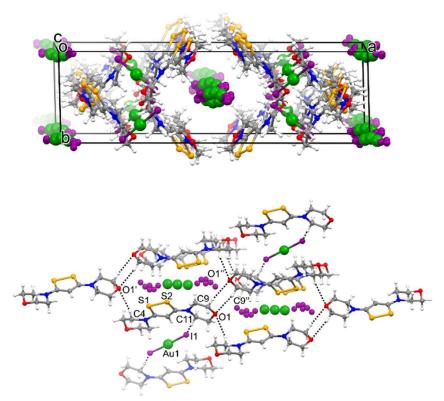
**Figure S4**. a) Portion of the crystal packing of  $(Mo_2DTL)_2[Pd_2I_6]$  (2) form A. Symmetry code ' =  $\frac{1}{2}$ -x; -1/2+y; 3/2-z. b) Portion of the crystal packing of  $(Mo_2DTL)_2[Pd_2I_6]$  (2) form B. Symmetry codes ' = - x;1-y; -z, " = x-1; y; z, "" =  $\frac{1}{2}$ +x; 3/2-y;  $\frac{1}{2}$ +z. Weak interactions are represented as dashed lines and expressed in Å

The molecular structure of **5** shows that the  $(PhHN)_2DTL^+$  cation exchanges three types of interactions with the almost linear  $[Aul_2]^-$  anion. Interestingly, the distance between nitrogen atoms of the cation (4.79 Å) is close to the distance between the iodine atoms of the anion (5.32 Å). This factor, together with the planarity of the N<sub>2</sub>C<sub>3</sub> system, implies that two strong N-H····I interactions can be formed (d(N···I) = 3.768(8) Å). Moreover, the central C-H group is close to the metal (d(C···Au) = 3.73(1) Å) but the interaction seems weaker than the N-H···I ones. In fact, the [Aul<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup> fragment deviates from linearity (~176 °) and this may be a consequence of the different strength of the interactions exchanged between anion and cation. The crystal packing of **5**, Figure S5, shows the presence of strongly interacting ionic couples that are stacked in a head-to-tail fashion (the metal lies over the central C-H group) and with the peripherals aromatic moieties that are facing each other.



**Figure S5**. Crystal packing of  $[(PhHN)_2DTL][Aul_2]$  (5) viewed along the *c* axis. Weak interactions are represented as dashed lines.

The molecular structure of **6** comprises two different  $[Aul_2]^-$  fragments that differently interact with the  $Mo_2DTL^+$  cation. In one of them, each of the two iodine atoms of the linear I(1)-Au(1)-I(1) moiety exchange a moderately strong interaction with one of the morpholino C-H (d(C···I) = 3.87(1) Å). The other one is located into a channel-like cavity and is severely disordered in various positions. For some molecules, interactions between the sulfur atoms of the cation and the iodine atoms of the anion are observed, Figure S6.



**Figure S6.** Above, crystal packing of  $(Mo_2DTL)[Aul_2]$ . Below, interactions exchanged by the molecular fragments. Symmetry codes ' = x; 1-y; -1/2+z; " = -x; 1-y; 1-z. Weak interactions are represented as dashed lines.

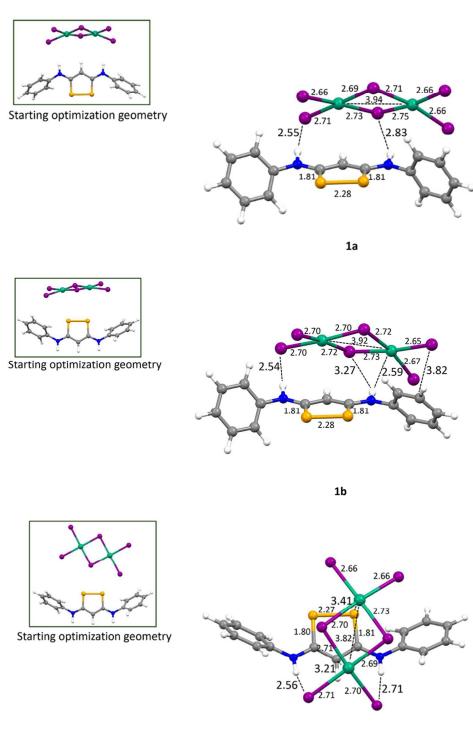
Empirical	C22H34I6N4O4Pd2S	C22H34I6N4O4Pd2S	C15H13Aul2N2S2	C11H17Aul2N2O2S2
Formula weight	1590.97	1590.97	736.16	724.15
Colour, habit	Black, needle	Black, prism	Brown, block	Black, needle
Crystal size,	0.16x0.04x0.04	0.16x0.15x0.10	0.46x0.38x0.38	0.23x0.21x0.08
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Orthorhombic	Monoclinic
Space group	P21/n	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> /n	Pbcn	C2/c
a, A	8.838(3)	10.537(1)	25.306(4)	33.335(4)
b, A	12.593(5)	19.616(2)	9.722(1)	7.465(1)
c, Å	17.287(6)	10.653(1)	7.781(1)	20.567(3)
α, deg.	90	90	90	90
β, deg.	90.574(7)	116.131(1)	90	127.212(2)
γ, deg.	90	90	90	90
V, A <sup>3</sup>	1924(1)	1976.9(3)	1914.3(4)	3831.4(9)
Z	2	2	4	8
<i>T</i> , K	293(2)	293(2)	293(2)	293(2)
$\rho$ (calc), Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	2.626	2.555	2.554	2.511
$\mu$ , mm <sup>-1</sup>	5.999	5.839	11.125	11.122
$\theta$ range, deg.	2.00 to 26.46	2.08 to 27.30	1.61 to 25.77	1.63 to 24.77
No. of rflcn/uniq	22964 / 3954	25478 / 4451	9068 / 1818	7457 / 3262
GooF	1.007	1.035	1.008	1.031
<i>R</i> 1	0.0326	0.0256	0.0541	0.0543
wR2	0.0644	0.0591	0.1528	0.1521

**Table S1.** Summary of X-ray crystallographic data for  $(Mo_2DTL)_2[Pd_2I_6]$  (2) form A, $(Mo_2DTL)_2[Pd_2I_6]$  (2) form B,  $[(PhHN)_2DTL][AuI_2]$  (5), and  $(Mo_2DTL)[AuI_2]$  (6).

Table	S2.	Summary	of	X-ray	crystallographic	data	for	(PhHN) <sub>2</sub> DTLI <sub>3</sub> ,	(PhHN) <sub>2</sub> DTLI <sub>5</sub> ,	and
(PhHN	)2DTI	_l.								

Empirical formula	$C_{15}H_{13}I_3N_2S_2$	$C_{15}H_{13}I_4N_2S_2$	$C_{15}H_{13}IN_2S_2$
Formula weight	666.09	792.99	412.29
Colour, habit	Orange, block	Orange, needle	Yellow, prism
Crystal size, mm <sup>3</sup>	0.45 x 0.38 x 0.38	0.31 x 0.04 x 0.04	0.36 x 0.19 x 0.11
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	Monoclinic	Triclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> bcn	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> /a	<i>P</i> -1
a, Å	25.402(3)	18.217(4)	a = 8.873(1) Å
b, Å	9.768(1)	5.297(1)	b = 9.490(1) Å
c, Å	7.834(1)	21.885(5)	c = 10.518(1) Å
$\alpha$ , deg.	90	90	91.042(2)
$\beta$ , deg.	90	92.935(4)	93.279(2)
γ, deg.	90	90	115.946(2)
Volume, Å <sup>3</sup>	1943.8(4)	2109.0(8)	794.17(14)
Z	4	4	2
Т, К	293(2) K	293(2) K	293(2) K
ho (calc), Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	2.276	2.497	1.724
μ, mm⁻¹	5.036	6.108	2.270
$\theta$ range, deg.	1.60 to 26.10.	0.93 to 23.89.	1.94 to 27.32
No. of rflcn/uniq			
collected	9054/1925	9782/3230	10327/3567
GooF	1.005	1.003	1.009
R1 [I>2sigma(I)]	0.0325	0.0557	0.0213
wR2	0.0779	0.0887	0.0532

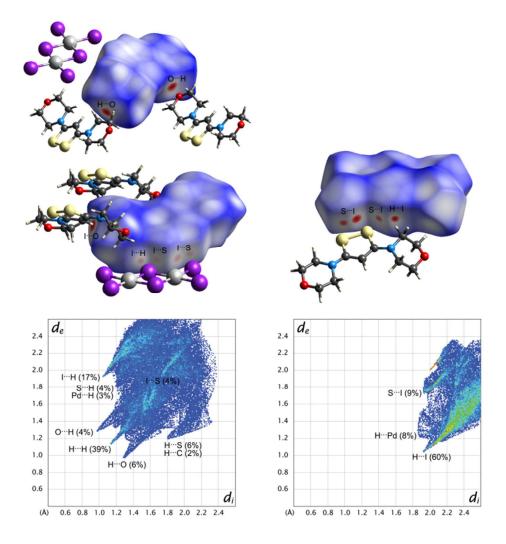
DFT optimization of  $[(PhHN)_2DTL]^*/[Pd_2I_6]^{2-}$  ionic couple geometries.



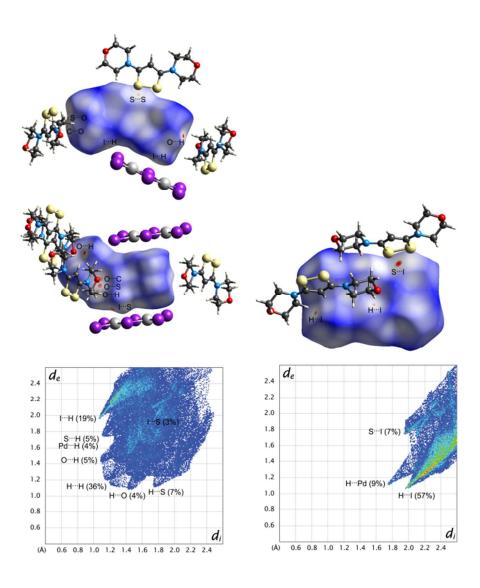
1c

**Figure S7**. Optimized geometries of **1a**, **1b** and **1c** ionic couples. Distances are reported in Å. M05-2X density functional. SDD basis set. Pd and I were treated with MWB28 and MWB46 pseudopotentials, respectively.

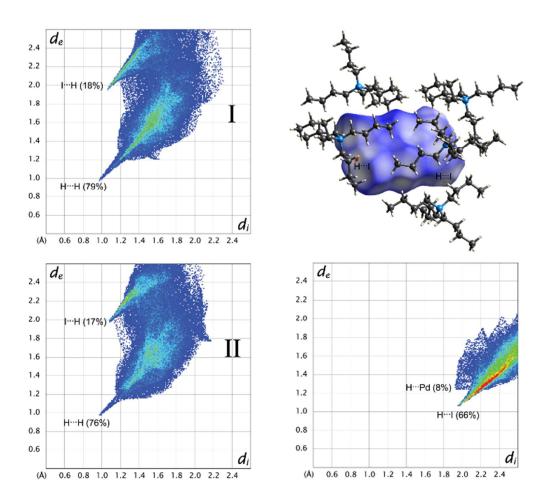




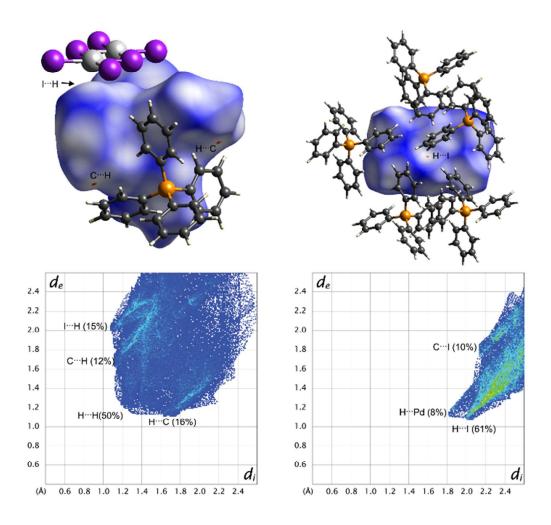
**Figure S8.** Hirshfeld surface (HS) and fingerprint plots of the form A of  $(Mo_2DTL)_2[Pd_2I_6]$  (2). Left, cation  $Mo_2DTL^+$ ; right, anion  $[Pd_2I_6]^{2^-}$ .§



**Figure S9.** Hirshfeld surface (HS) and fingerprint plots of the form B of  $(Mo_2DTL)_2[Pd_2I_6]$  (2). Left, cation  $Mo_2DTL^+$ ; right, anion  $[Pd_2I_6]^{2^-}$ .§



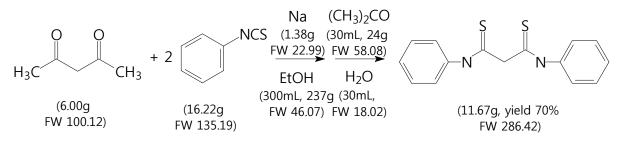
**Figure S10.** Hirshfeld surface (HS) and fingerprint plots of  $(TBA)_2[Pd_2I_6]$  (**3**). Left, fingerprint plots of the two independent TBA cations of the asymmetric unit (I and II); bottom right, anion  $[Pd_2I_6]^2$ .



**Figure S11.** Hirshfeld surface (HS) and fingerprint plots of  $(Ph_4P)_2[Pd_2I_6]$  (4). Left, cation  $Ph_4P^+$ ; right, anion  $[Pd_2I_6]^{2^-}$ .§

<sup>§</sup> Red spots on HS represent contacts between interacting fragments,  $d_e$  and  $d_i$  represent the distance from the HS to the nearest nucleus outside or inside, respectively, the surface. Color codes varying from blue to red highlight the frequency with which a ( $d_e$ ,  $d_i$ ) is observed.

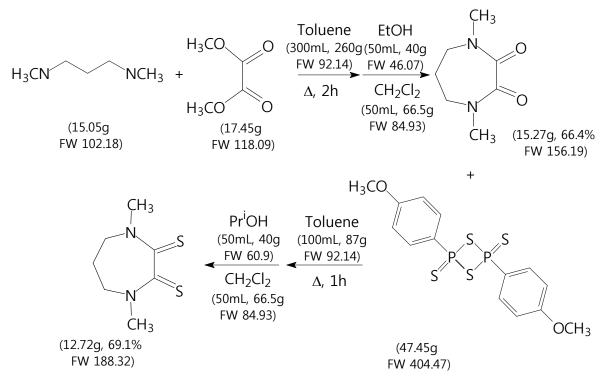
## Sustainability metrics for (PhHN)<sub>2</sub>DTM and Me<sub>2</sub>dazdt ligands<sup>[S1]</sup>



Scheme S1. Synthesis of (PhHN)<sub>2</sub>DTM

Table S3. Sustainabili	ty metrics for the synthesis c	f (PhHN) <sub>2</sub> DTM ligand.

Parameter	Eqn.	Numerator	Denominator	Result
Atom	FW desired product x 100	286.42	100.12 + (2 x 135.19) =	77%
Economy (%)	combined FW starting materials		370.5	
E-Factor	Kg (waste)   Kg (product)   =   Amount (reactants - desired product)   Amount desired product	(6.00 + 16.22 + 1.38 + 237 + 24 + 30) – 11.67 = 302.93	11.67	26
Effective Mass Yield (%)	mass of desired products mass of non-benign reagents × 100	11.67	16.22	72%



Scheme S2. Synthesis of Me<sub>2</sub>dazdt.

Table S4 Sustainability	metrics for the synthesis of Me <sub>2</sub> dazd	ligand
	methos for the synthesis of Megadza	. ngana.

Parameter	Eqn.	Numerator	Denominator	Result
Atom Economy (%)	FW desired product combined FW starting materials	188.32	102.18 + 118.09 + (1.2 x 404.47) = 705.63	27%
E-Factor	$\frac{\frac{\text{Kg (waste)}}{\text{Kg (product)}}}{=}$ $=\frac{\frac{\text{Amount (reactants - desired product)}}{\text{Amount desired product}}$	(15.05 + 17.45 + 260 + 40 + 66.5 + 47.45 + 87 + 40 + 66.5) – 12.72 = 616	12.72	48
Effective Mass Yield (%)	mass of desired products mass of non-benign reagents × 100	12.72	260 + (66.5 x 2) + 87 = 477	3%

All three selected parameters agree with a "greener" character of (PhHN)<sub>2</sub>DTM ligand.

[S1] D. J. C. Constable, A. D. Curzons, V. L. Cunningham, Green Chemistry, 2002, 4, 521–527

### Synthesis and characterization of ligands and salts

(PhHN)<sub>2</sub>DTM and Mo<sub>2</sub>DTM ligands, and Mo<sub>2</sub>DTLI<sub>3</sub> salt were prepared according to reported procedures (refs 33 and 20 in the main text). (PhHN)<sub>2</sub>DTLI<sub>3</sub> salt was prepared as described below.

(PhHN)<sub>2</sub>DTM. Metal sodium (1.38 g, 60 mmol) was dissolved in about 300 mL of EtOH, under stirring at room temperature for 1h. Acetylacetone (6 g, 60 mmol) and phenyl isothiocyanate (16.22 g, 120 mmol) were added to the clear solution under stirring. The color of the solution turned from yellow to orange in about 20 hours. A fast precipitation of the deep yellow crude product was achieved by adding distilled water to the solution. The crude product was then re-crystallized from acetone and distilled water obtaining yellow needle-shaped crystals. Reaction yield: 66%.

CHN % found (*calculated for*  $C_{15}H_{14}N_2S_2$ , *FW*=286.42): C 64.13 (62.90); H 5.27 (4.93); N 9.53 (9.78);

IR (KBr pellet, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3450bw; 3180s; 3120vw; 3000w; 1702w; 1618w; 1516s; 1496s; 1444w; 1395vs; 1213w; 1115s; 1071w; 1026w; 969vw; 907vw; 848vw; 760m; 715s; 680s; 613; 501m.

UV-visibile [ $\lambda$ , nm ( $\epsilon$ , dm<sup>3</sup>mol<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>)]: 382.97 (2700); 300.93 (19700).

**Mo<sub>2</sub>DTM.** Morpholine (4 g, 46 mmol) and malonyl chloride (1.57 g, 11 mmol) were dissolved separately in a little volume of CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The malonyl chloride solution was added, drop by drop, to the morpholine solution under stirring at room temperature. A fast precipitation of a whitish precipitate of morpholine hydrochloride, occured and removed from the solution by filtration. A  $H_2O/CHCl_3$  liquid/liquid extraction was performed in order to eliminate residual unreacted reagents. Dimorpholylmalonamide was recovered from the solution by evaporation of the solvent and washing with  $Et_2O$ . The white solid was then solforated in refluxing toluene by using Lawesson's reagent in a 1:1.2 molar ratio, for 4h. Dimorpholyldithiomalonamide was recovered in almost quantitative yield, by evaporation of toluene and re-crystallized from  $CH_2Cl_2/EtOH$ .

IR (KBr pellet, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3440w, 2960vw, 2910w, 2850w, 1480m, 1430m, 1383s, 1323w, 1303w, 1273m, 1237vw, 1227m, 1207vw, 1183m, 1110s, 1060m, 1027m, 950m, 923m, 890m, 850vw, 820vw, 723vw, 690vw, 617m, 547w, 500w.

UV-vis [ $\lambda$ , nm ( $\epsilon$ , dm<sup>3</sup>mol<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>)]: 284.43(33000).

 $Mo_2DTLI_3$ . This salt was prepared as described above, starting from  $Mo_2DTM$  (0.311 g, 1.1 mmol) and  $I_2$  (0.542 g, 2.2 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. A quick precipitation of purple crystals of the product is observed with the reaction. Reaction yield: 50%.

CHN % found (*calculated for*  $C_{11}H_{17}I_3O_2N_2S_2+H_2O$  *FW*=672.12): C 19.5 (19.66); H 2.8 (2.85); N 4.0 (4.17);

IR (KBr pellet, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3090w, 2970w, 2860w, 1539vs, 1458vw, 1427m, 1368m, 1353, 1329w, 1302m, 1267s, 1224, 1108s, 1061m, 867m, 746m, 614m.

UV-vis [λ, nm (ε, dm<sup>3</sup>mol<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>)]: 291.51(136500); 361.99(60200).

 $(PhHN)_2DTLI_3$ .  $(PhHN)_2DTM$  (9 g, 31 mmol) and I<sub>2</sub> (16 g, 63 mmol) were dissolved separately in a little volume of  $(CH_3)_2CO$  and then mixed and reacted under stirring at room temperature for about 30 minutes. Brown needle-shaped crystals of the product suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by slow Et<sub>2</sub>O diffusion into the reaction solution. Reaction yield: 60%.

CHN % found (*calculated for* C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>I<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>+2/3CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>, FW=704.83): C 30.69 (29.41); H 2.70 (2.47); N 4.29 (4.03);

IR (KBr pellet, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3240m, 3050w, 2950w, 1594s, 1524vs, 1477vs, 1411s, 1200s, 1077w, 1026w, 905w, 781s, 754s, 707m, 688m, 657w, 606w, 579w, 552m, 513w, 497w, 478w.

UV-vis [λ, nm (ε, dm<sup>3</sup>mol<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>)]: 349.52 (35500) ;294.47 (46300); 244.17 (19100).

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (*δ*, ppm; DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): 11.73(s), 7.47(m), 6.67(s).