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Substitution of S by Se. Supramolecular Insight.

Aleksandra A. Rakić¹, Ivana S. Đorđević², Marko Popadić³, Mirjana Sarvan⁴, Marija Petković-Benazzouz⁴, Goran V. Janjić²

¹) Faculty of Physical Chemistry, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia; saska@ffh.bg.ac.rs
²) University of Belgrade - Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy- National Institute of the Republic Of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia;
³) Faculty of Chemistry, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia;
⁴) Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia.

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The study includes the crystallographic analysis of interactions of S and Se from Cys, Met, Sec and Mse side chains, based on crystal structures from the Cambridge Structural Database (CSD), and quantum-chemical insight in the strength of their individual interactions. CSD statistical analyses have shown a similar tendency of sulfur and selenium atoms towards the specified types of interactions. The most numerous are C–H⋯Se (for Se fragments) and C–H⋯S (for S fragments) interactions (~80%), while the second group in numerosity are structures with Se⋯Se and S⋯S interactions (~5%). The results of quantum-chemical calculations have revealed that C–H⋯S and C–H⋯Se interactions (about ~0.8 kcal/mol) are weaker than the most stable parallel Se/Se interaction (about ~3.3 kcal/mol) and electrostatic Se/Se interaction of σ/π type (around ~2.6 kcal/mol). The numerosity of C–H⋯S and C–H⋯Se interactions was explained by an abundance of CH groups compared to the numbers of Se and S atoms in the analyzed crystal structures. The substituents bonded to Se or S atom sterically reduce the possibilities of Se and S atoms to interact with species from the environment. The numerosity of crystal structures explains the lower values of O–H⋯Se (around ~4.4 kcal/mol) and N–H⋯Se interactions (around ~2.2 kcal/mol).

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