## **Supplementary Materials**

## Stabilisation of Exotic Tribromide (Br₃<sup>-</sup>) Anions via Supramolecular Interaction with A Tosylated Macrocyclic Pyridinophane. A Serendipitous Case.

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Table of anion-ligand interactions for the crystal structures analysed in this work. Table of Hirshfeld surface data for the  $(H_2L-T_s)(Br_3)_{1.5}(NO_3)_{0.5}$  crystal structure. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the ligand L showing the presence of ca. 2% impurity of L-Ts.

**Table S1**. Breakdown of main anion-ligand interactions contributing to H-bond tip and anion- $\pi$  swoosh as found in crystal structures presented in Figures 11-14. Full information can be retrieved from original publications and/or directly from CSD database.

<b>Crystal Structure</b>	Anion <sup>a</sup>	H-bond tip	Anion-π swoosh		
(Figure)		(contact distance range) <sup>+b</sup>	(contact distance range) <sup>+c</sup>		
HUDVOU (Fig. 11)	l <sup>-</sup> (1)	5 CH <sup></sup> l contacts (3.82-4.03)	1 anion-π contact (3.61)		
AVISEE (Fig 12)	HgBr <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> (1)	3 CH <sup></sup> Br contacts (3.80-3.94)	1 anion-π contact (3.35)		
		8 NH <sup></sup> Br contacts (3.38-3.63)			
AVISII (Fig. 12)	HgCl <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> (1)	3 CH <sup></sup> Cl contacts (3.45-3.57)	1 anion-π contact (3.13)		
		6 NH <sup>®</sup> CI contacts (3.23-3.49)			
IDIJAJ (Fig. 12)	[Co(CN) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>3−</sup> (2) <sup>α</sup>	6 NH <sup></sup> N contacts (2.81-3.03)	2 anion-π contacts (2.78-3.44)		
		6 OH <sup></sup> N contacts (2.68-2.84)			
YOJDAD (Fig. 13)	Br <sub>3</sub> - (1)	4 CH <sup></sup> Br contacts (3.60-3.88)	3 anion-π contacts (3.25-3.83)		
YOJDEH (Fig. 13)	BrlBr⁻ (1)	4 CH <sup></sup> Br contacts (3.49-3.84) <sup>e</sup>	2 anion- $\pi$ contacts (3.28-3.58) <sup>e</sup>		
DETRIG (Fig. 14)	F <sup>-</sup> /FHF <sup>-</sup> (1 each)	10 CH <sup></sup> F contacts (3.25-3.54)	1 anion-π contact (3.01)		
DETMOH (Fig. 14)	Cl <sup>-</sup> (1)	3 CH-Cl contacts (3 52-3 71)	1 anion- $\pi$ contact (3.31)		
		1 NHCl contact (3.06)			
DETMUN (Fig. 14)	Br⁻ (1)	5 CH <sup></sup> Br contacts (3.60-3.99)	1 anion- $\pi$ contact (3.41)		
		1 NH <sup>…</sup> Br contacts (3.23)			
KAMLOC (Fig. 14)	l⁻ (2) <sup>d</sup>	5 CH <sup></sup> I contacts (4.01-4.22)	2 anion-π contacts (3.67-3.70)		
		2 NH <sup></sup> I contacts (3.45-3.48)			

<sup>+</sup> All distances in Å; <sup>a</sup> number of non-equivalent anions within the crystal structure in brackets; <sup>b</sup> given distance range is intended as anion-heavy (non-hydrogen) atom distance; <sup>c</sup> all distances given as anion-centroid distances; <sup>d</sup> in these cases, qualitative image shown in the text represents the closest anion- $\pi$  contact within the crystal structure; <sup>e</sup> contacts with I cannot be classified as short, yet CH<sup>...</sup>I and I- $\pi$  interactions are till distinguishable in the fingerprint plot.

<b>Table S2</b> . Breakdown of (H <sub>2</sub> L-Ts) <sup>2+</sup>	Hirshfeld surface in (	H <sub>2</sub> L-Ts)(Br <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>1.5</sub> (NO <sub>3</sub> )	0.5 crystal structure

(H <sub>2</sub> L-Ts) <sup>2+</sup>										
Inside Atom		Total								
	Br	S	Ν	Н	0	С				
С	2.3	•	0.1	5.5	0.4	3.5	11.8			
Н	25.6	•	•	40.1	12.2	3.3	81.2			
N	0.1	0.1	•	•	0.5	0.1	0.8			
0	0.0	•	0.5	4.2	0.9	0.4	6.1			
S	•	•	0.1	•		•	0.1			
Total	28.1	0.1	0.7	49.8	14.1	7.3				



**Figure S1**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum recorded on a  $D_2O$  solution (pD ca. 3) of L·3HBr. a) Aliphatic and aromatic signals; b) an enlarged detail of aromatic signals. The spectrum allows to detect and quantify the presence of an impurity of L-Ts (monotosylated ligand) in about 2%.