

Supplementary data for article :

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**Mononuclear gold(III) complexes with phenanthroline ligands as efficient inhibitors of angiogenesis: a comparative study with auranofin and sunitinib**

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**Abstract**

Gold(III) complexes with 1,7- and 4,7-phenanthroline ligands, [AuCl<sub>3</sub>(1,7-phen-κN7)] (**1**) and [AuCl<sub>3</sub>(4,7-phen-κN4)] (**2**) were synthesized and structurally characterized by spectroscopic (NMR, IR and UV-vis) and single-crystal X-ray diffraction techniques. In these complexes, 1,7- and 4,7-phenanthrolines are monodentately coordinated to the Au(III) ion through the N7 and N4 nitrogen atoms, respectively. In comparison to the clinically relevant anti-angiogenic compounds auranofin and sunitinib, gold(III)-phenanthroline complexes showed from 1.5- to 20-fold higher anti-angiogenic potential, and 13- and 118-fold lower toxicity. Among the tested compounds, complex **1** was the most potent and may be an excellent anti-angiogenic drug candidate, since it showed strong anti-angiogenic activity in zebrafish embryos achieving IC<sub>50</sub> value (concentration resulting in an anti-angiogenic phenotype at 50% of embryos) of 2.89 μM, while had low toxicity with LC<sub>50</sub> value (the concentration inducing the lethal effect of 50% embryos) of 128 μM. Molecular docking study revealed that both complexes and ligands could suppress angiogenesis targeting the multiple major regulators of angiogenesis, such as the vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGFR-2), the matrix metalloproteases (MMP-2 and MMP-9), and thioredoxin reductase (TrxR1), where the complexes showed higher binding affinity in comparison to ligands, and particularly to auranofin, but comparable to sunitinib, an anti-angiogenic drug of clinical relevance.

*Keywords:* Gold(III) complexes, Phenanthroline, Cytotoxicity, Embryotoxicity, Angiogenesis

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**Fig. S8.** Therapeutic window (TW) of gold(III)-phenanthroline complexes **1** and **2**, the respective 1,7- and 4,7-phen ligands, K[AuCl<sub>4</sub>], auranofin and sunitinib assessed as the ratio of LC<sub>50</sub> and IC<sub>50</sub>. Respective TW values are presented above each of tested compounds.

**Fig. S9.** The binding of gold(III) complexes **1** and **2**, 1,7- and 4,7-phen, auranofin and sunitinib in the active site of VEGFR-2 protein as assessed by molecular docking.

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**Table S1** S29

Crystal data for **1** and **2**.

**Table S2** S30

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**Table S3** S31

Selected bond distances (Å) and valence angles (°) of the gold(III) complexes **1** and **2**.

**Table S4** S32

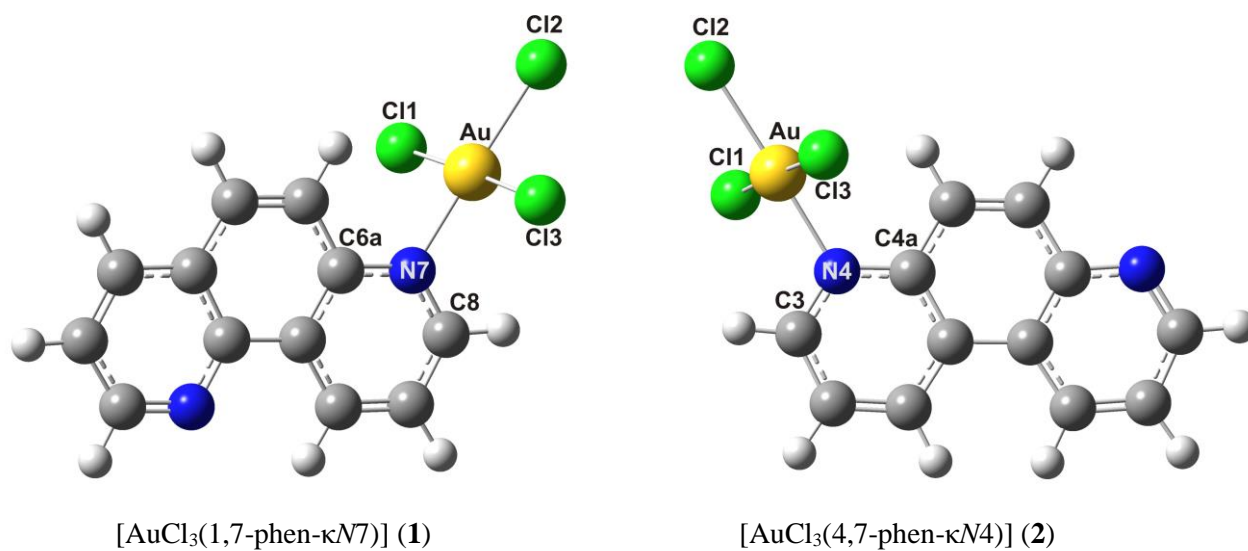
Geometrical parameters describing intermolecular interactions in the crystals of **1** and **2**<sup>a,b</sup>.

**Table S5** S33

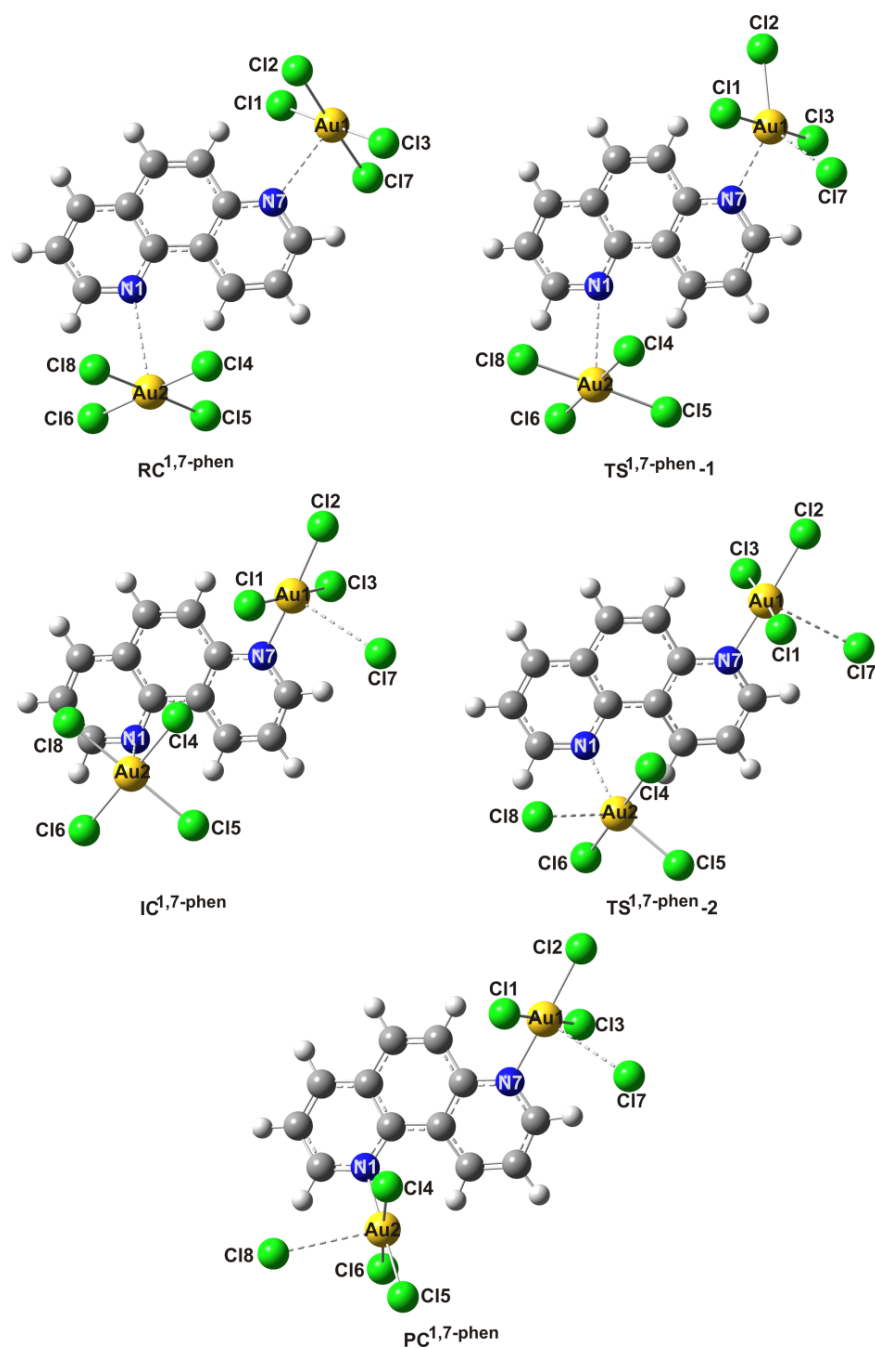
Crucial interatomic distances (Å) in the structures involved in the mechanism of the reaction of [AuCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup> with 1,7- and 4,7-phen calculated at the M06-2X/cc-PVTZ+LanL2TZ(f) level of theory.

**Table S6** S34

Evaluation of anti-angiogenic potential of gold(III) complexes in comparison to 1,7- and 4,7-phenanthroline, K[AuCl<sub>4</sub>] and clinically used drugs auranofin and sunitinib.

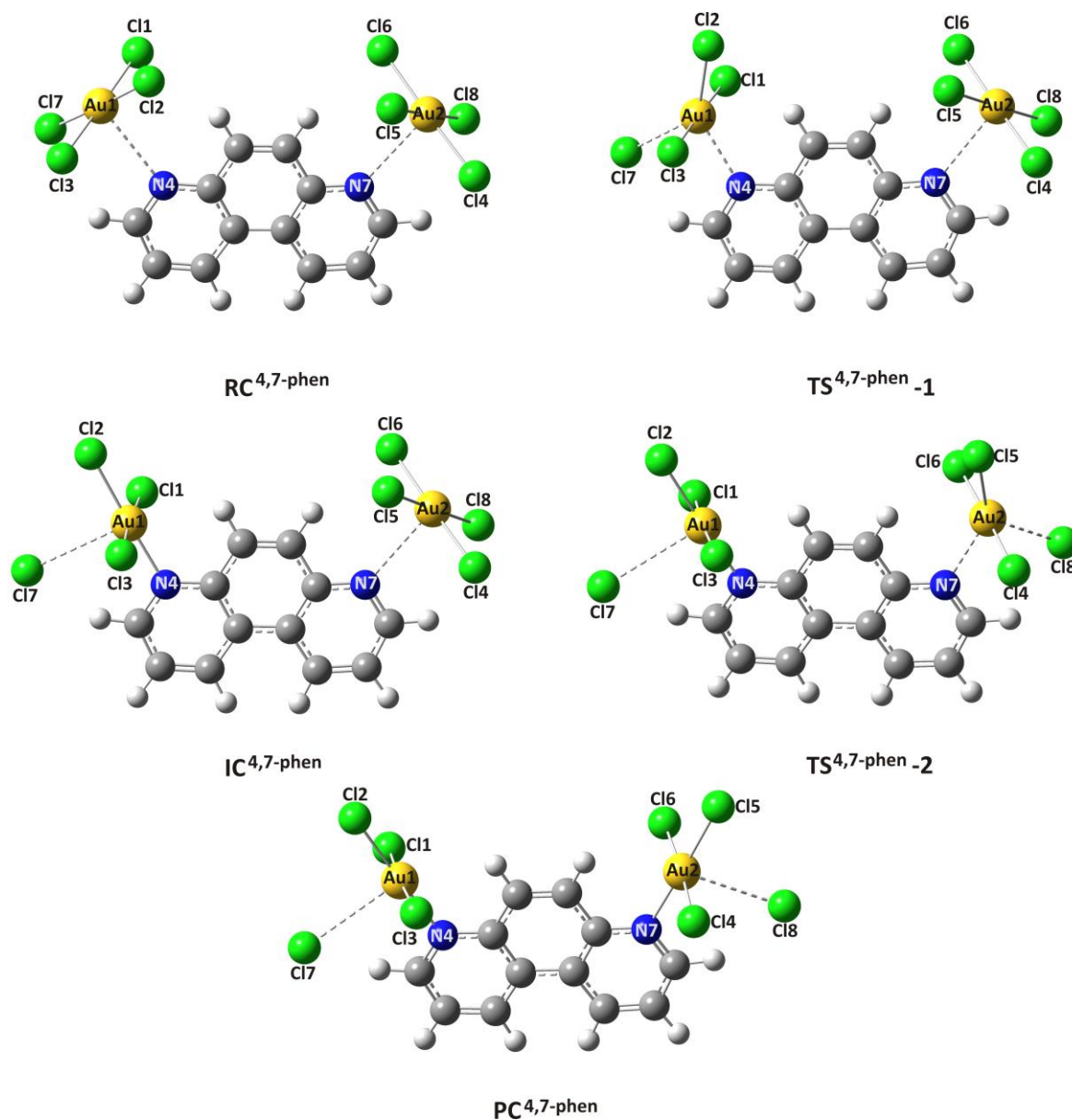


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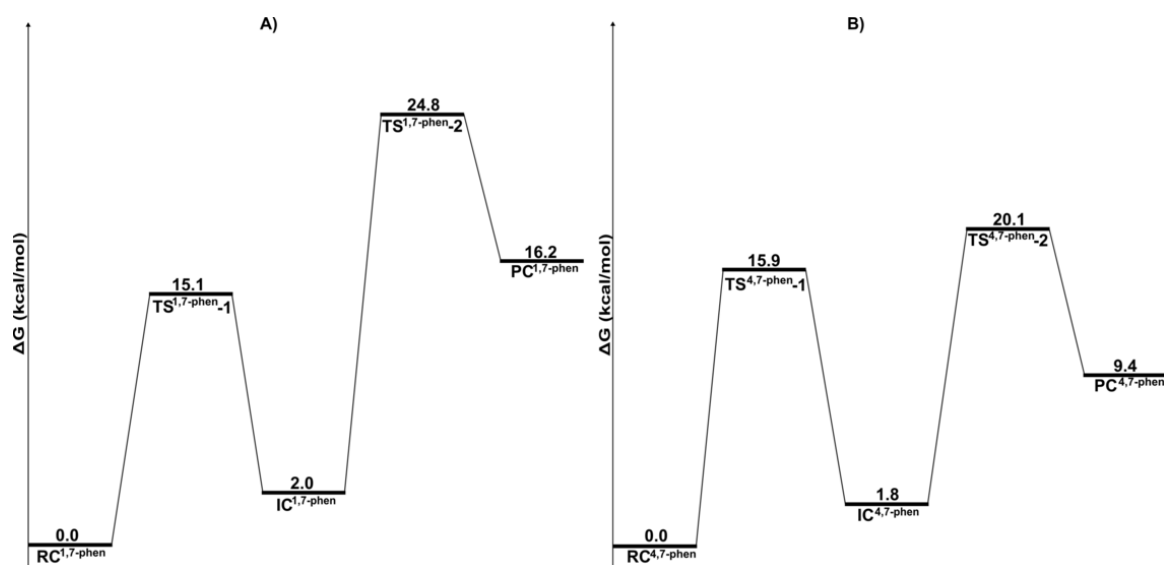


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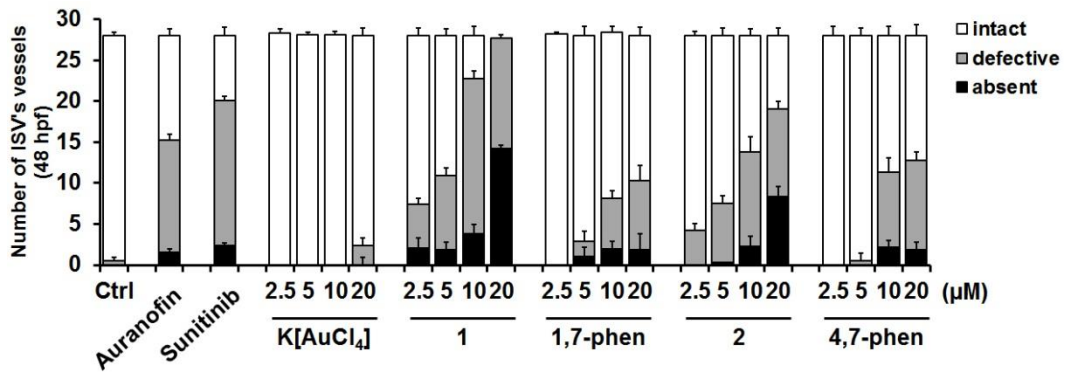




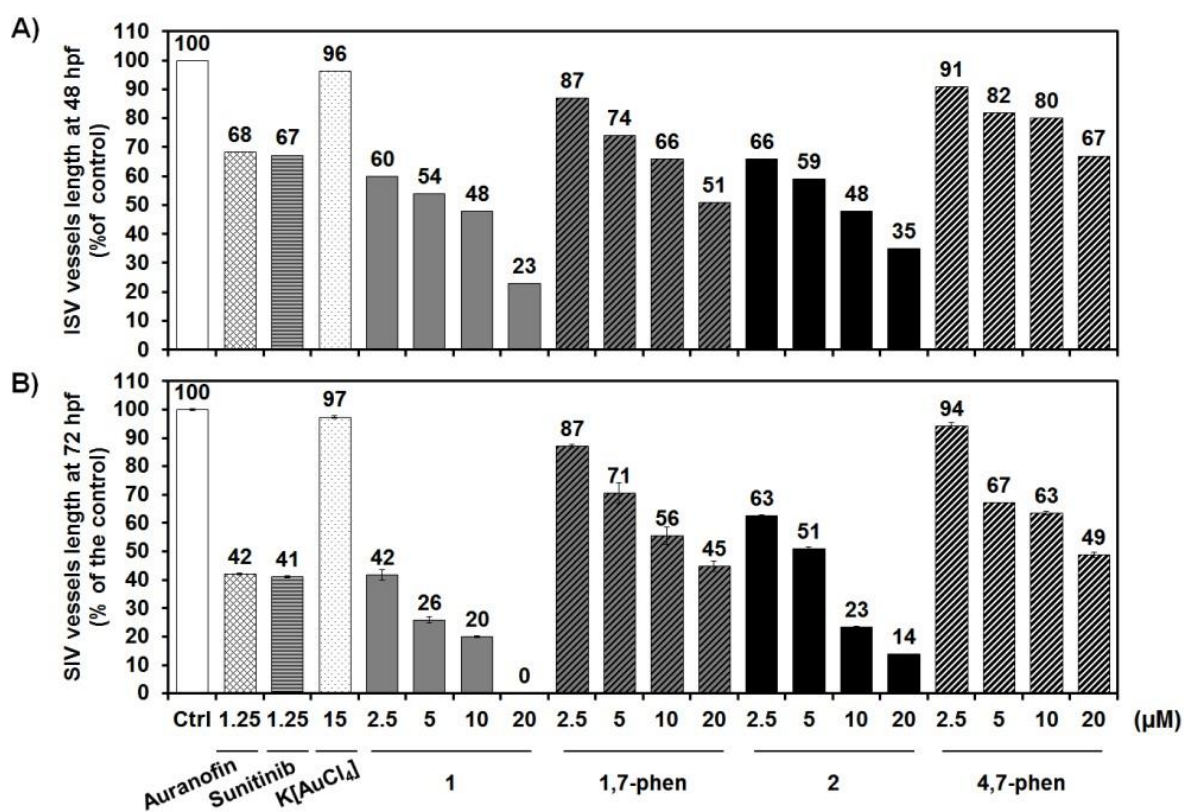
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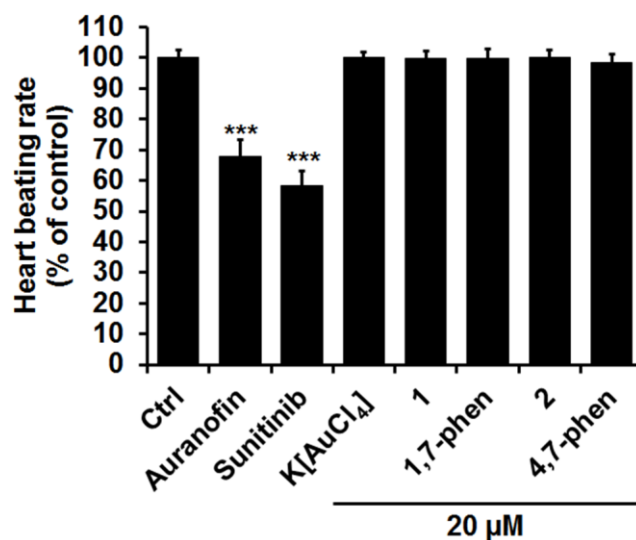
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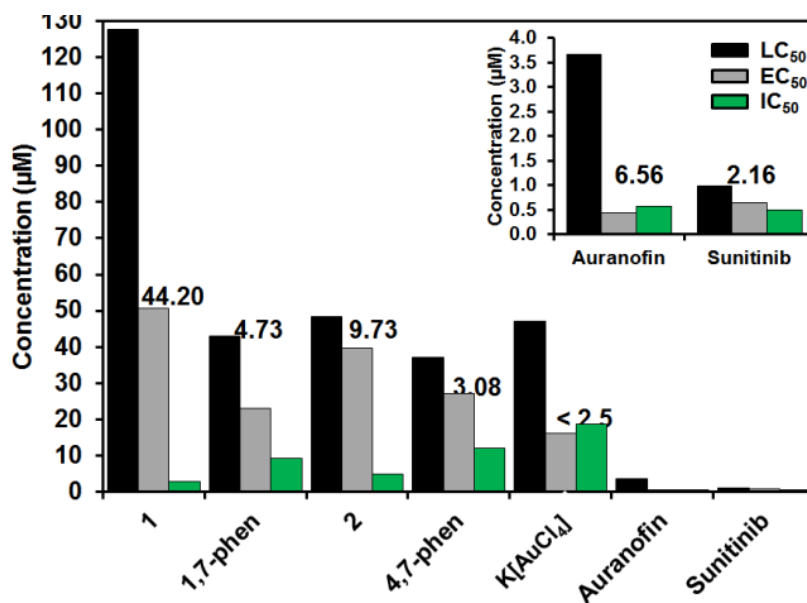
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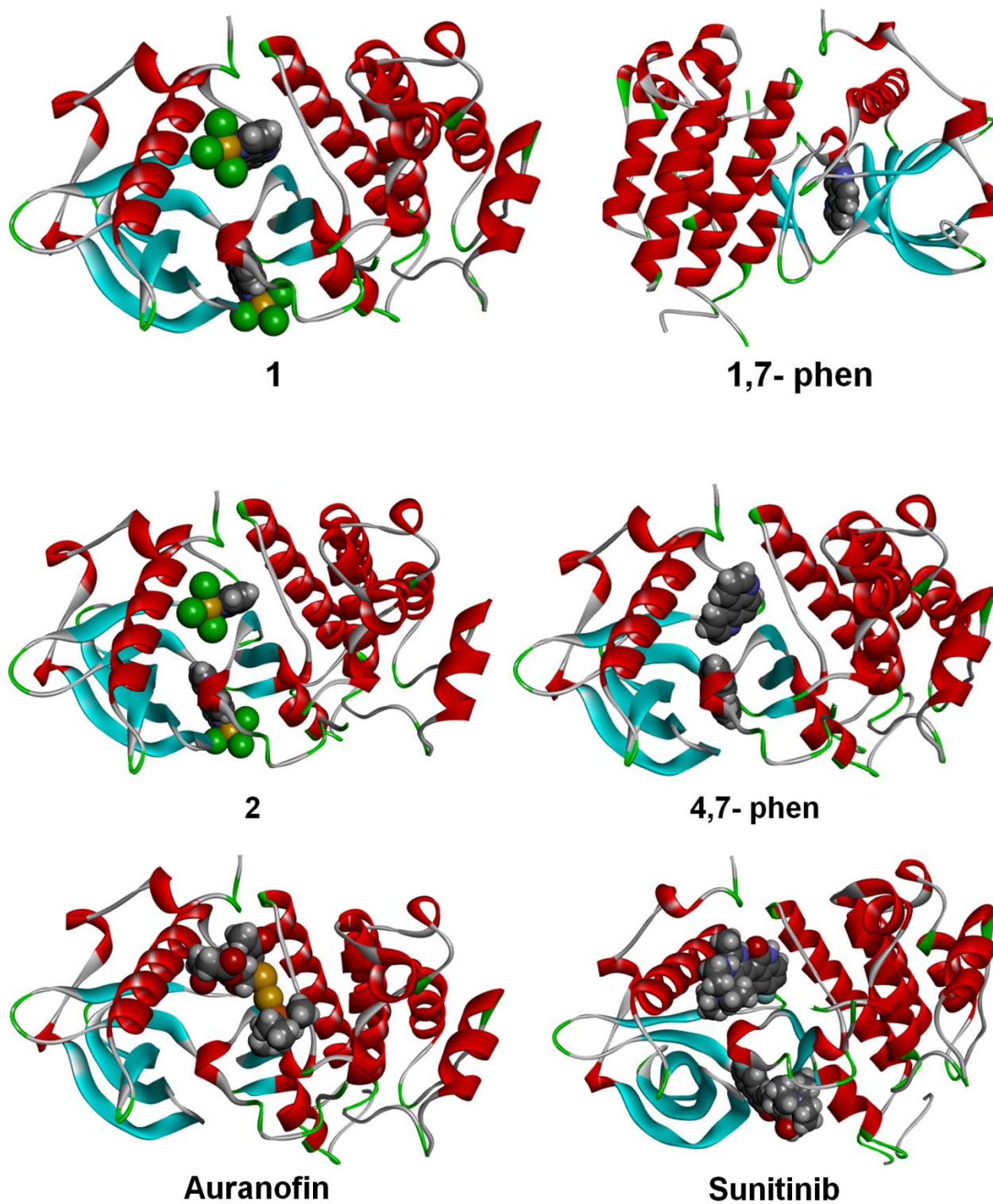
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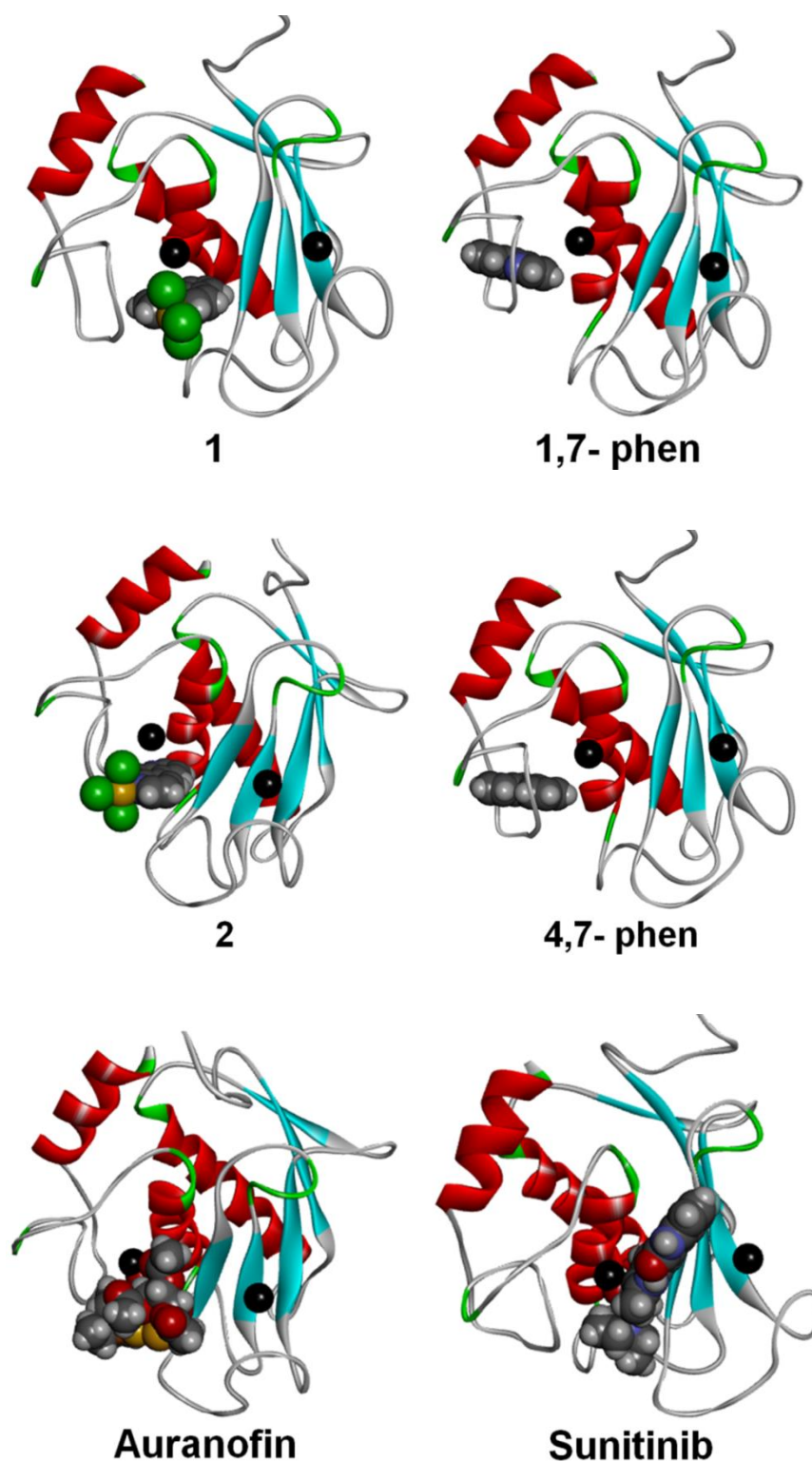
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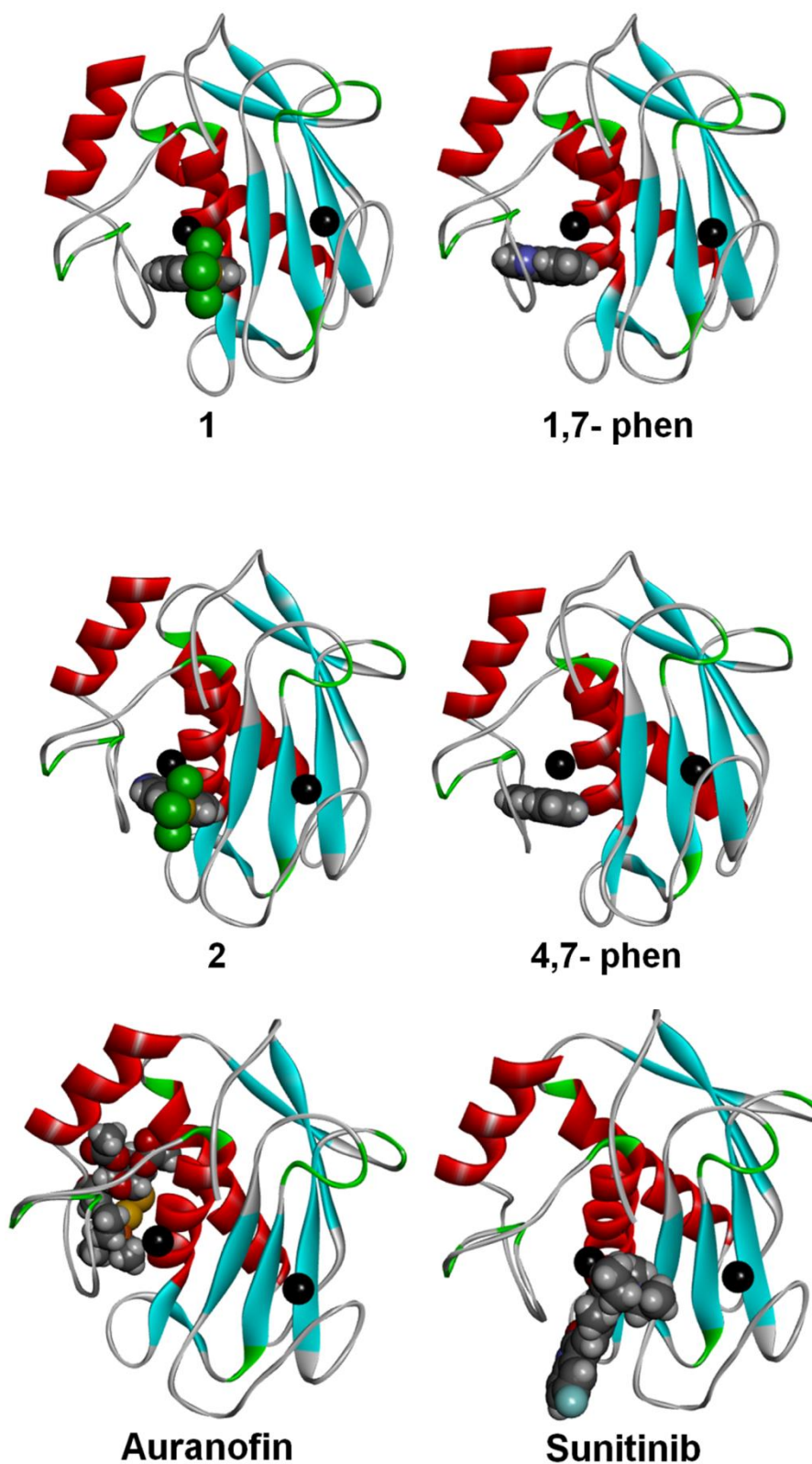


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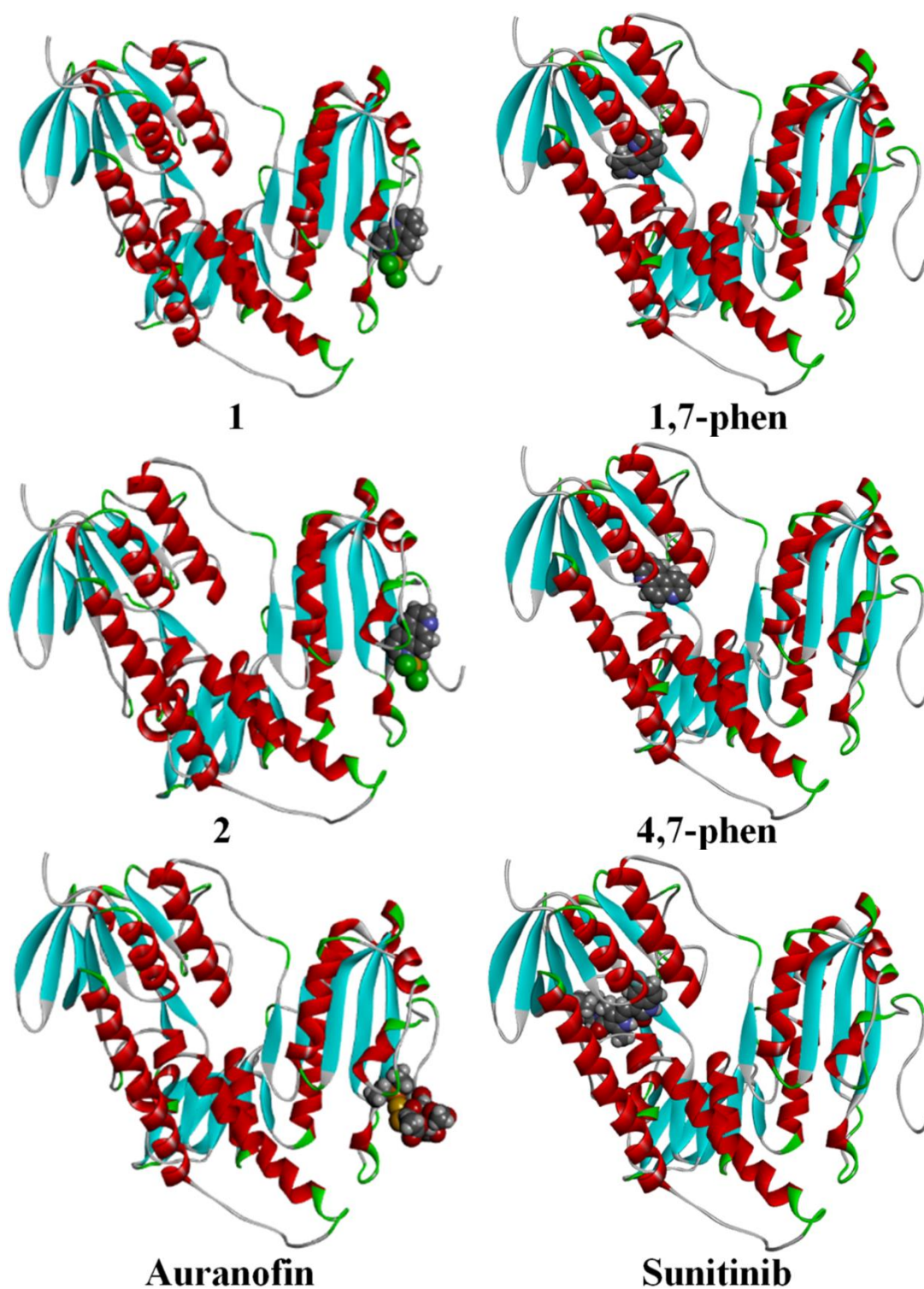


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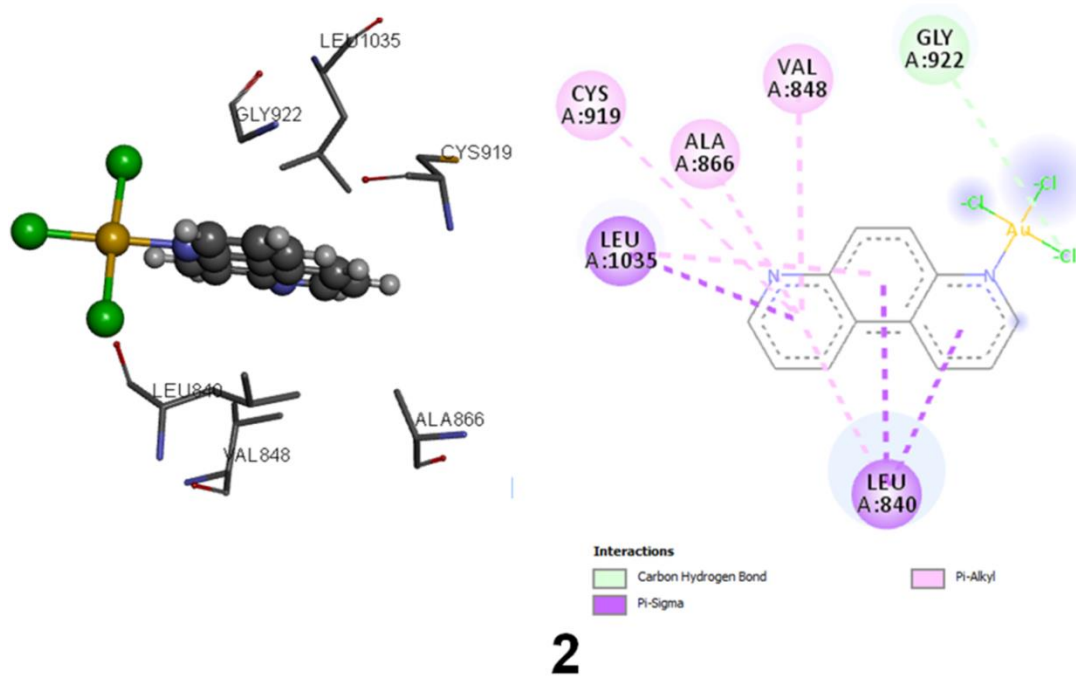
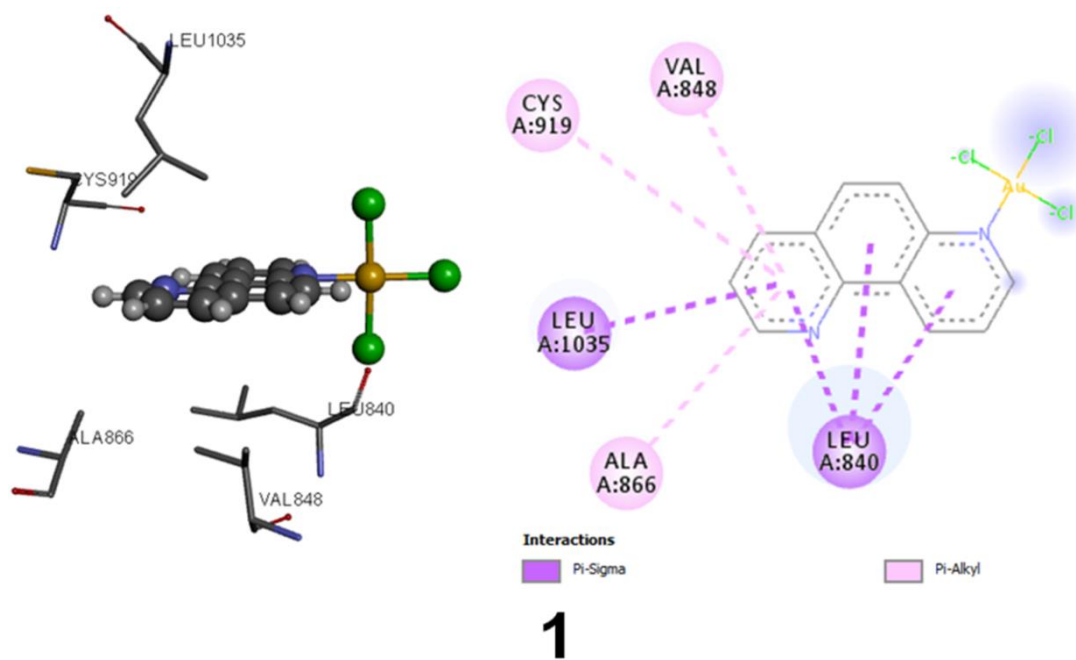


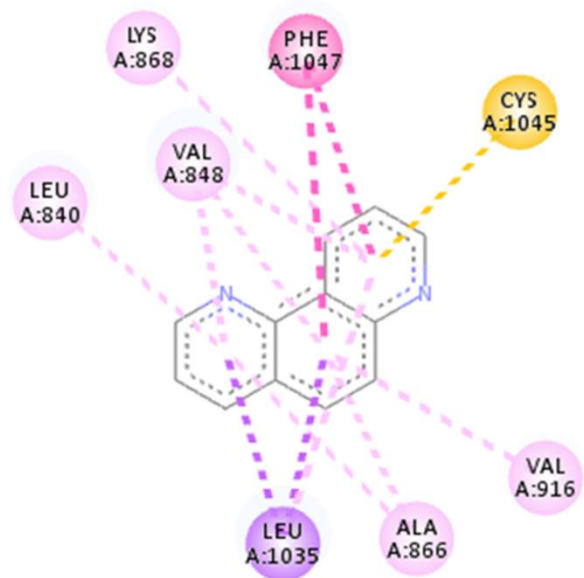
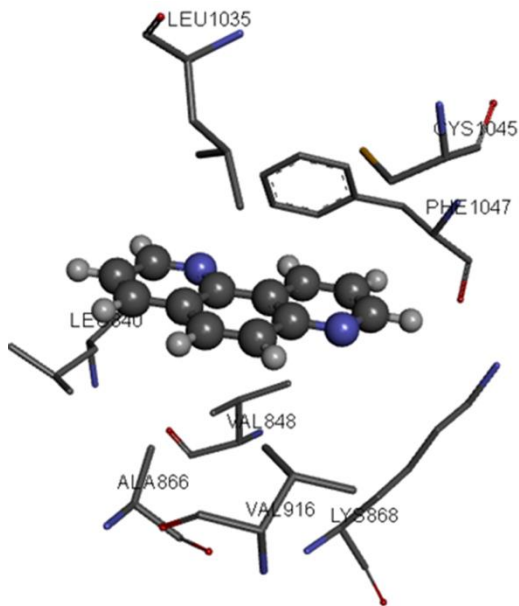


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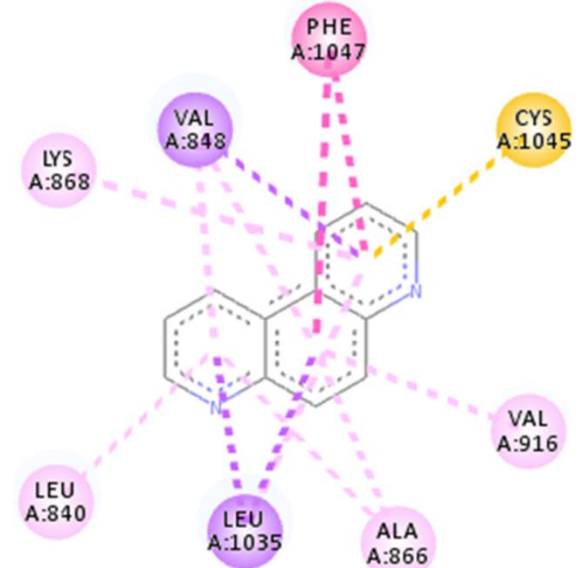
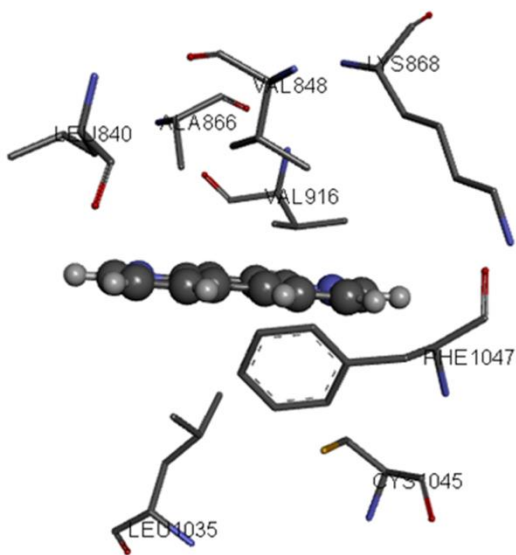




**Interactions**

- Pi-Sigma
- Pi-Sulfur
- Pi-Pi T-shaped
- Pi-Alkyl

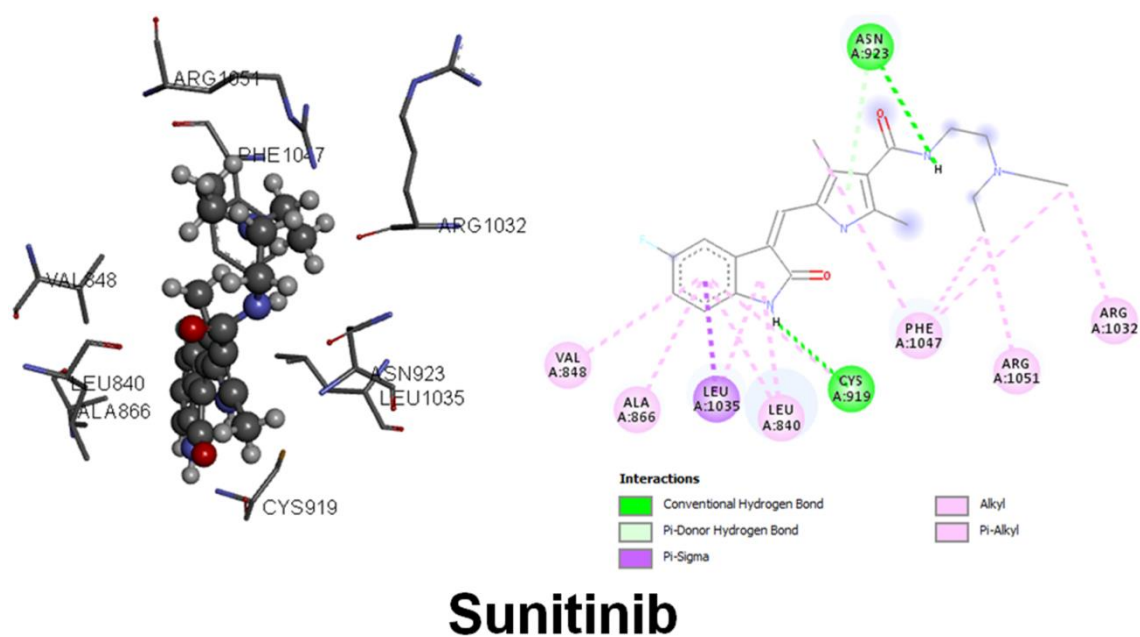
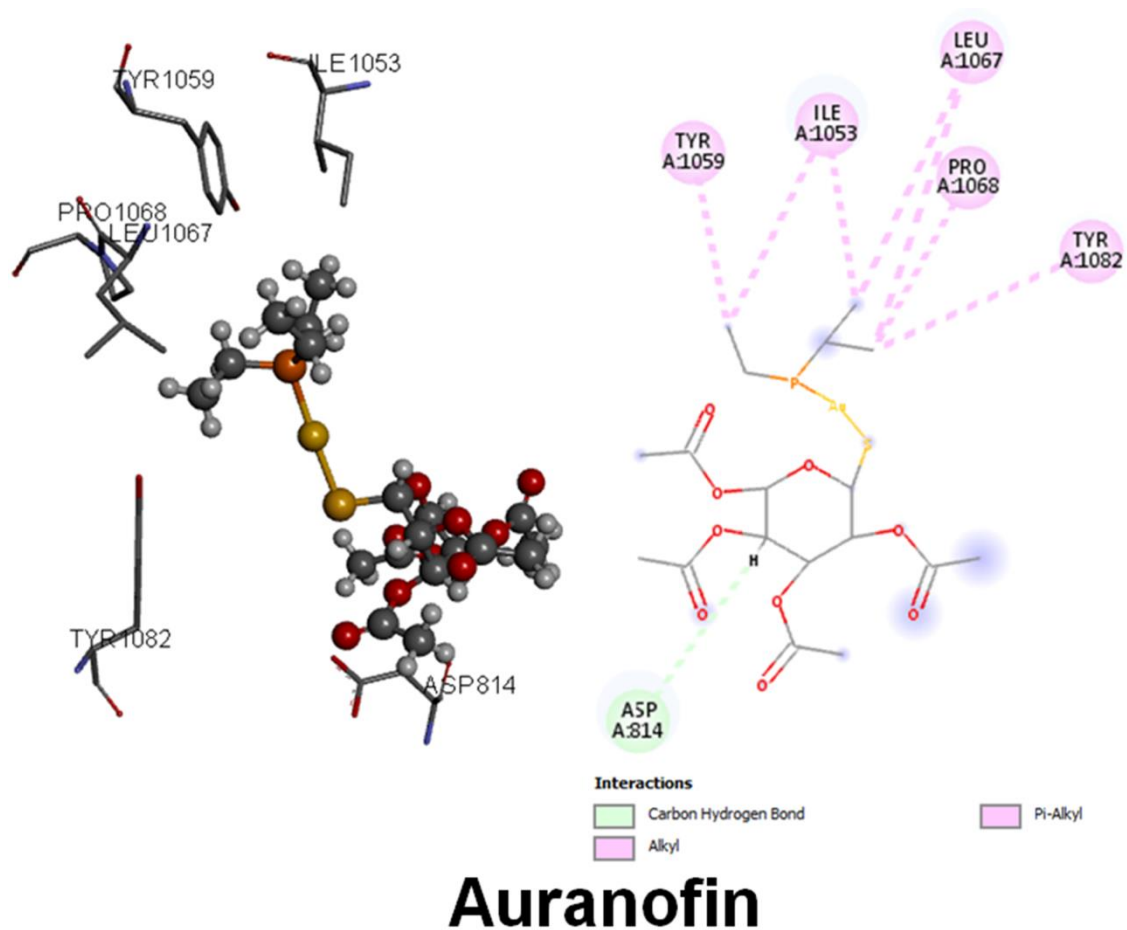
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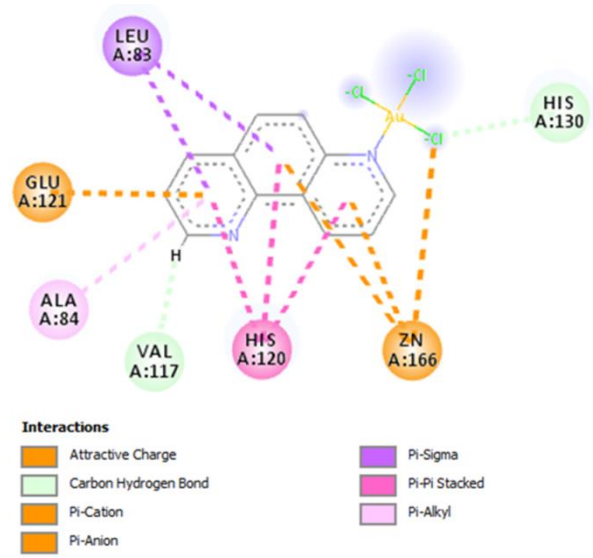
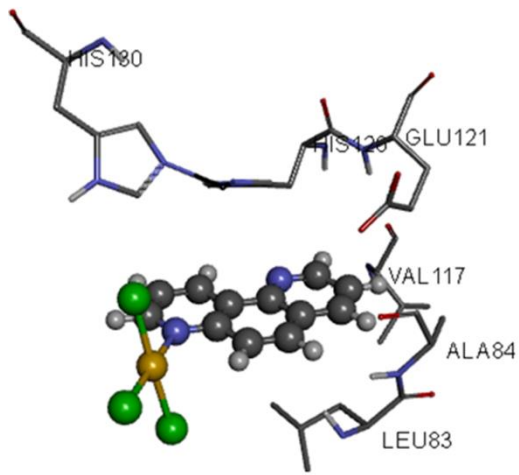
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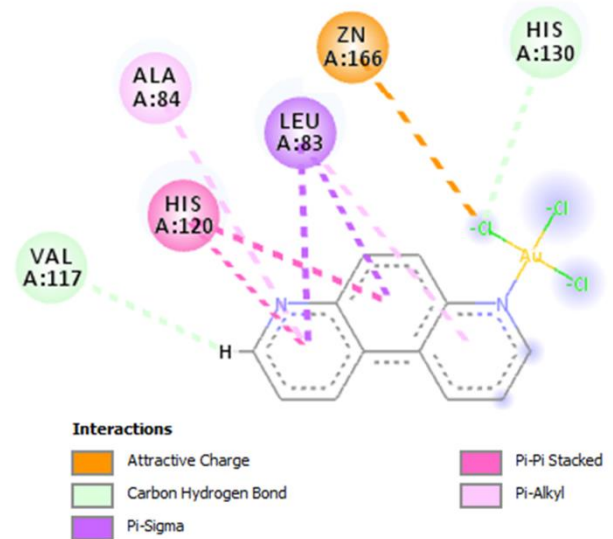
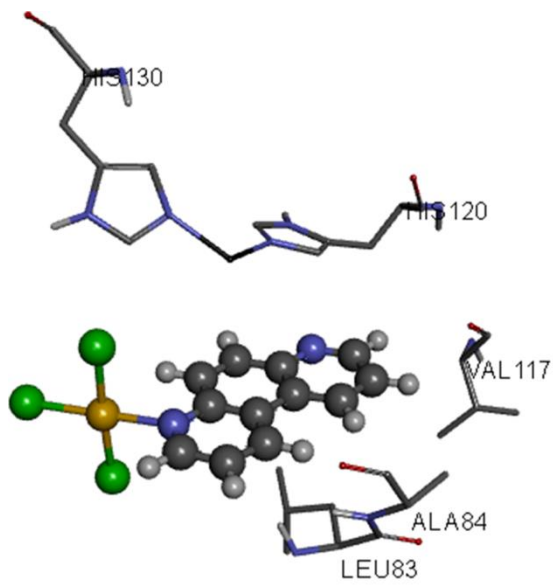
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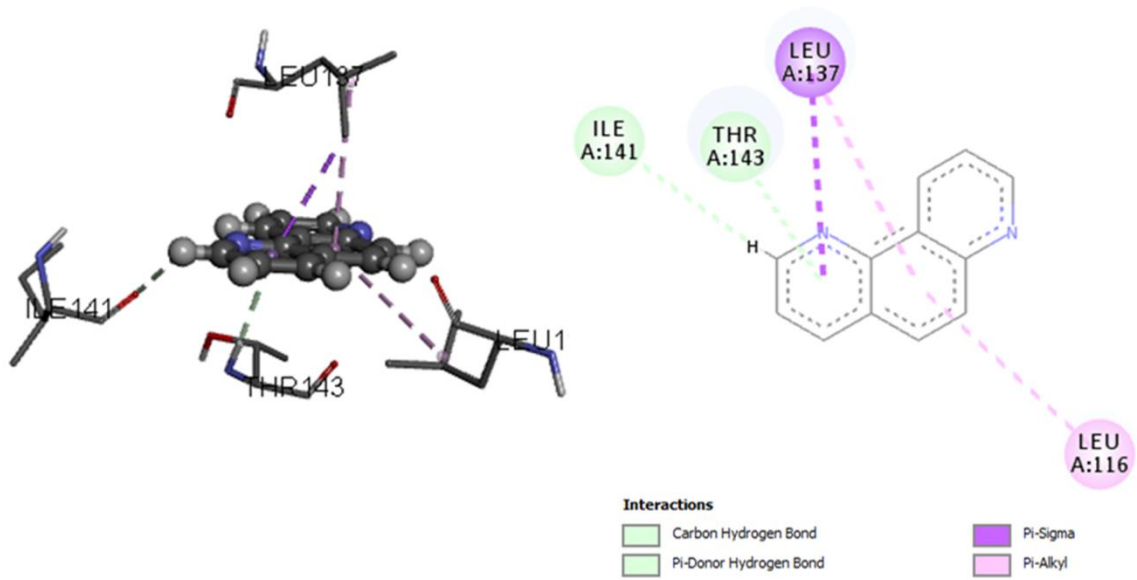
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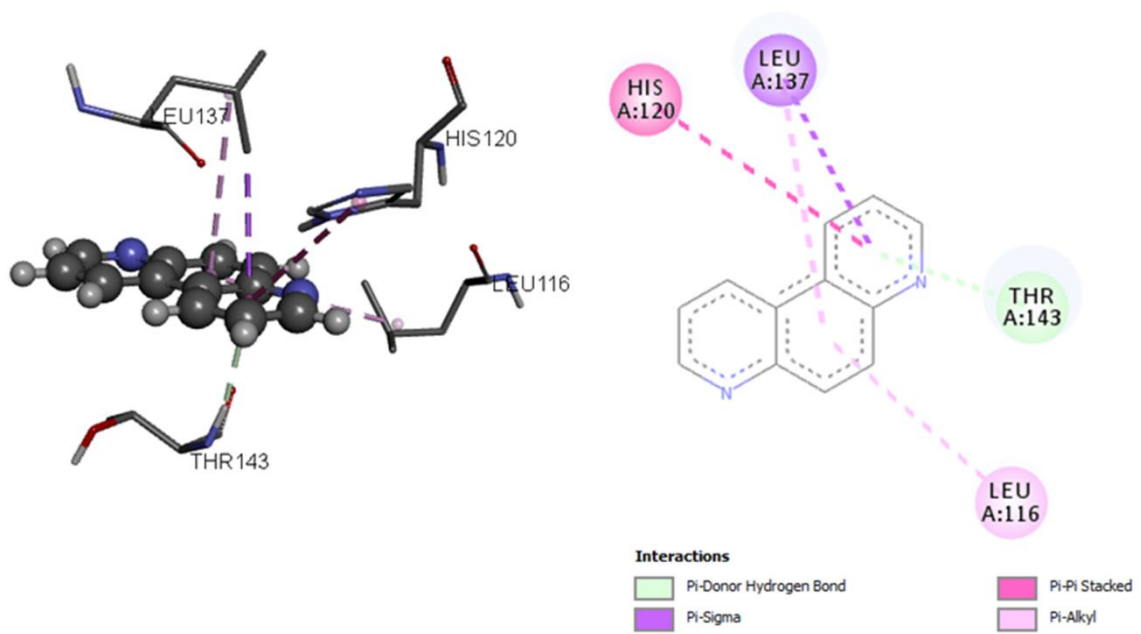
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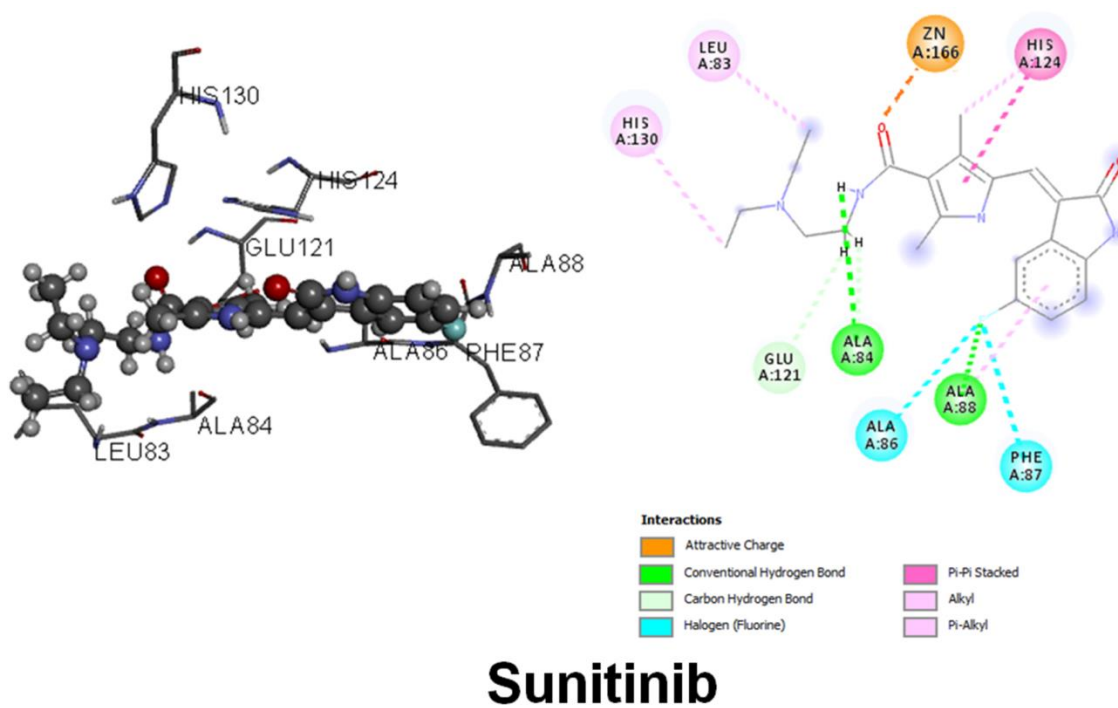
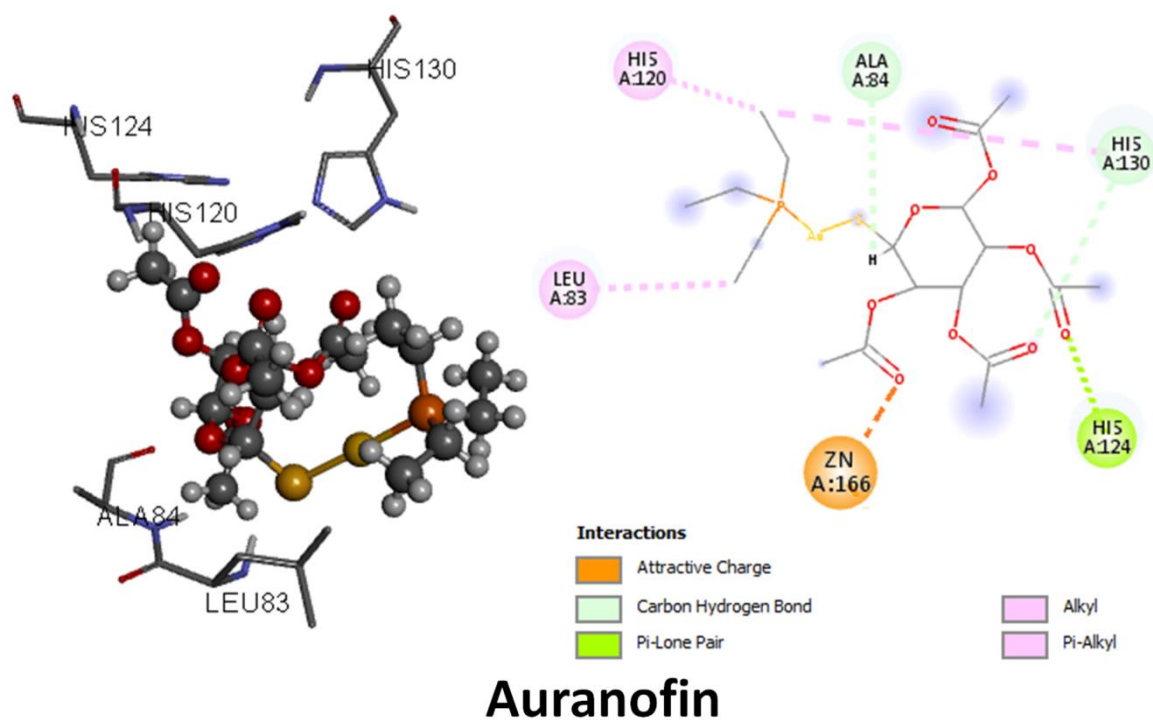
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## 1,7- phen

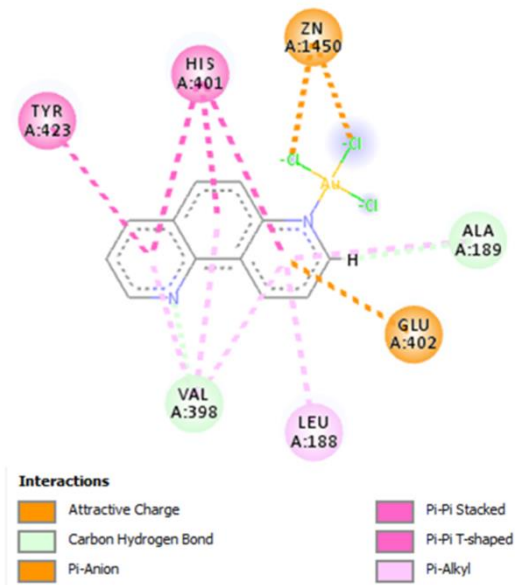
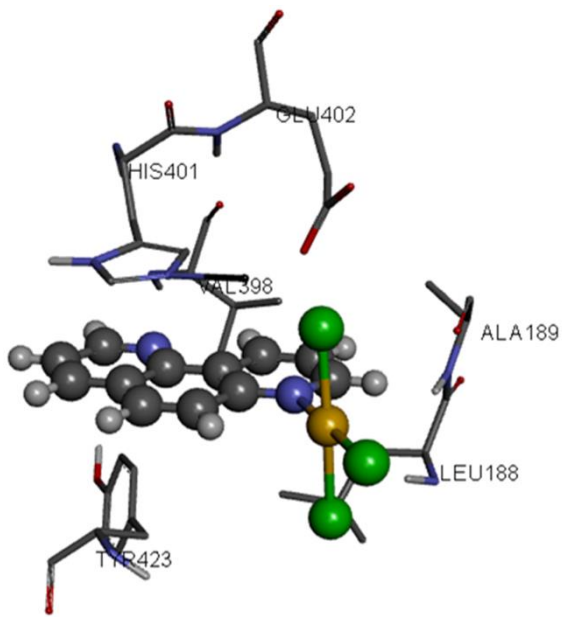


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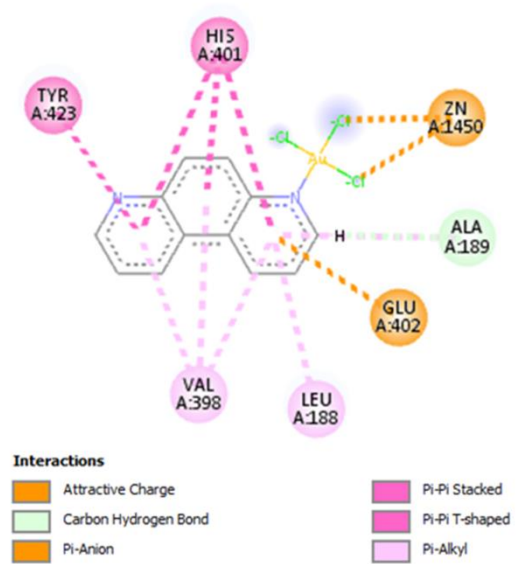
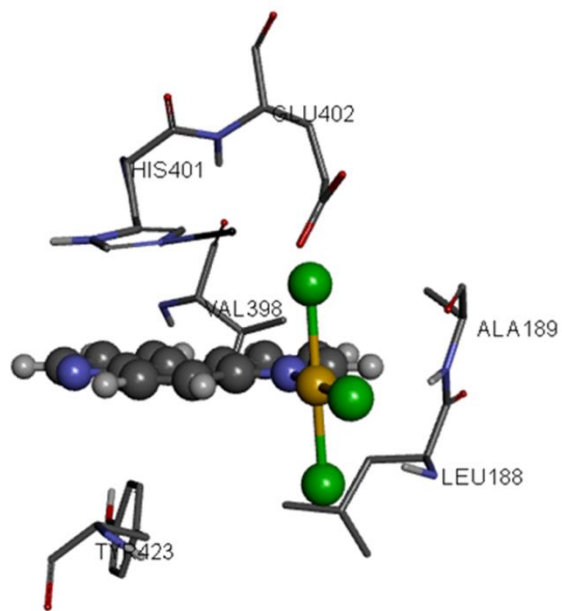


**Fig. S14.** Interactions of gold(III) complexes **1** and **2**, 1,7- and 4,7-phen, auranofin and sunitinib with MMP-2 protein during molecular docking.

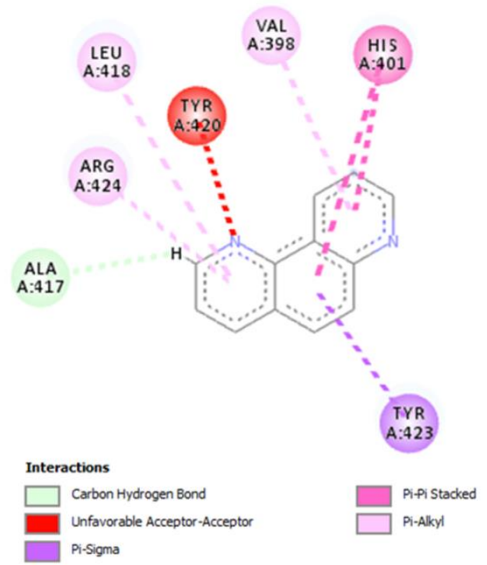
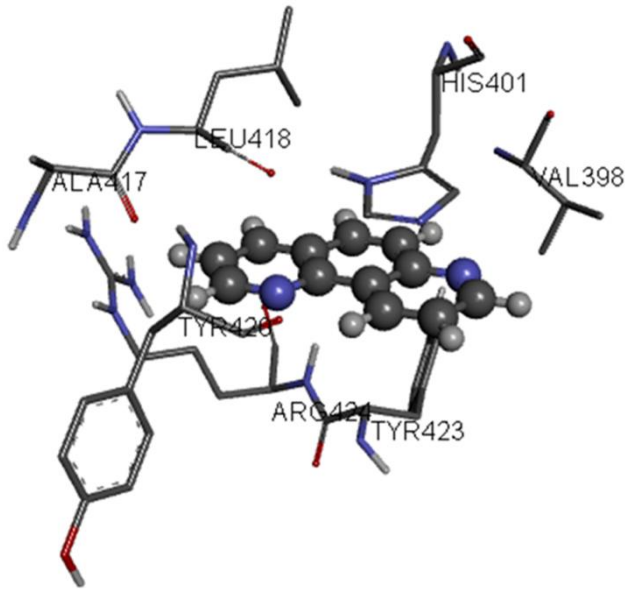




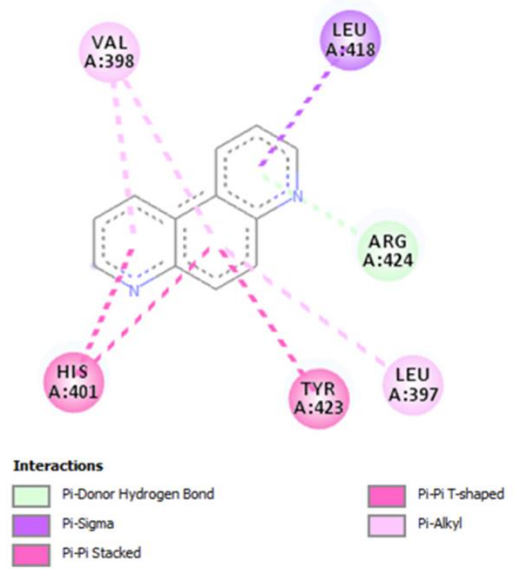
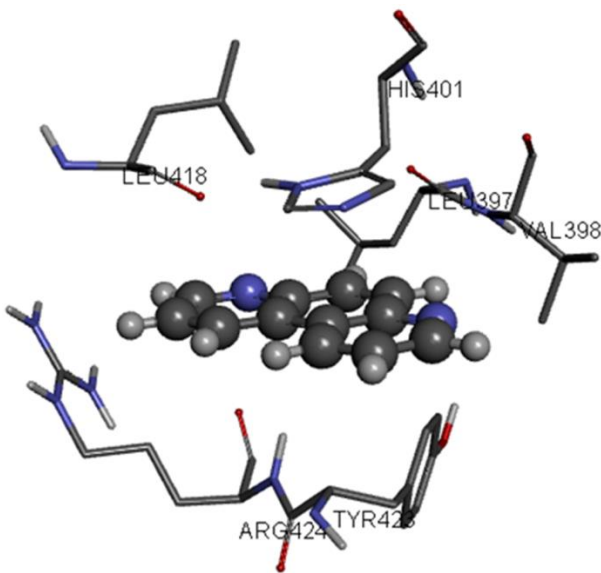
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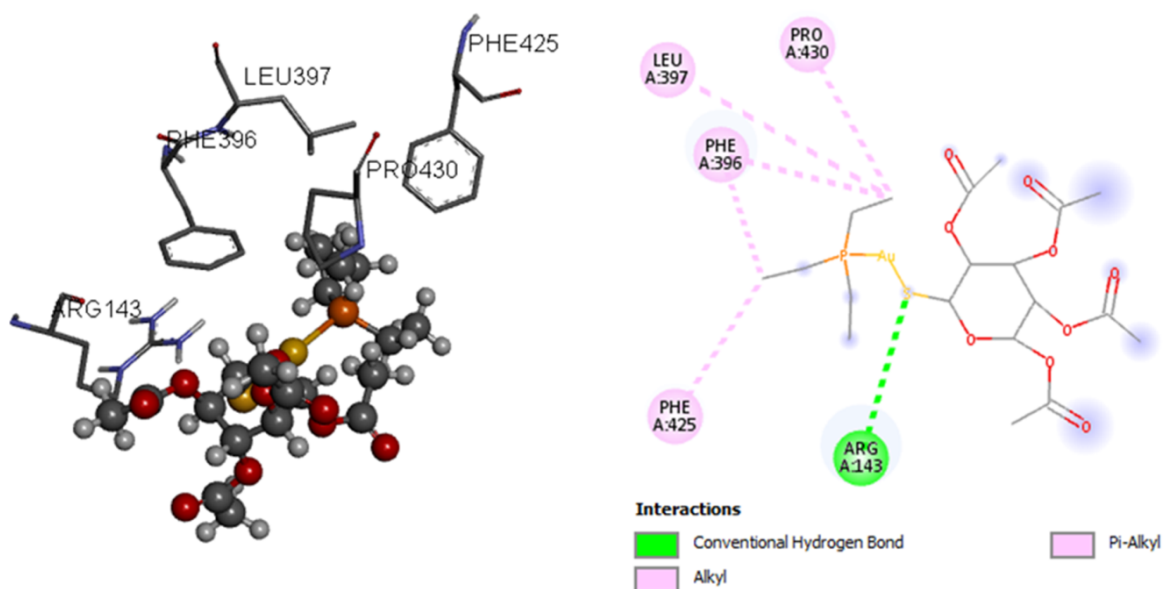
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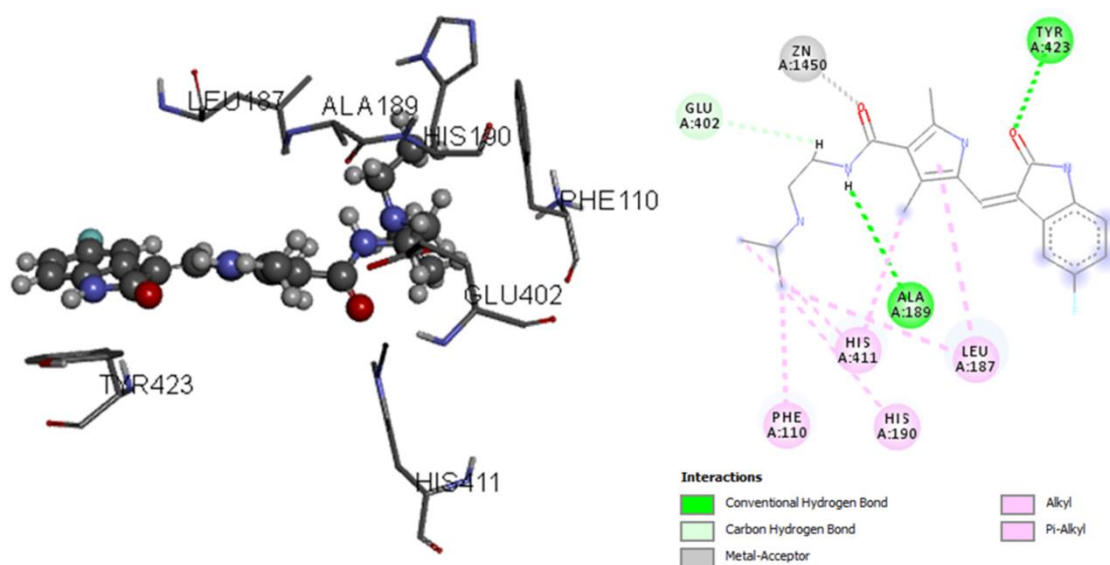
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## 4,7- phen

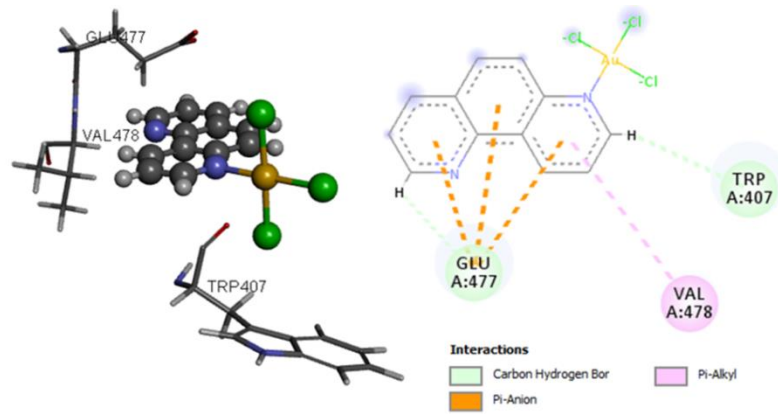


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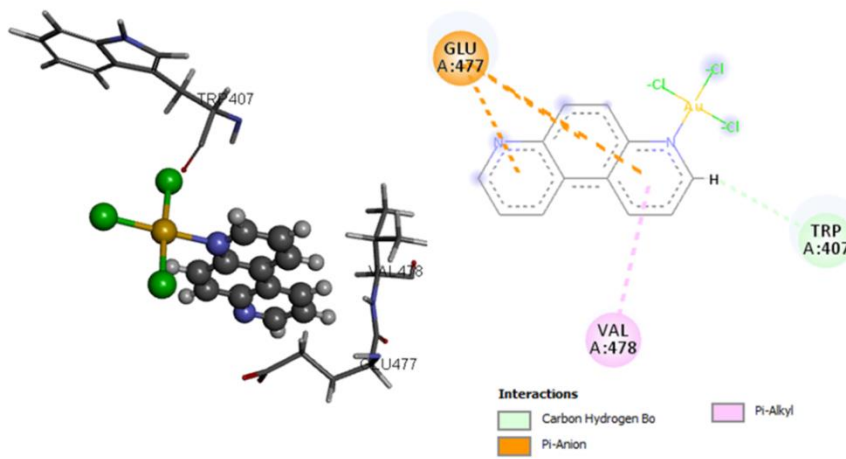


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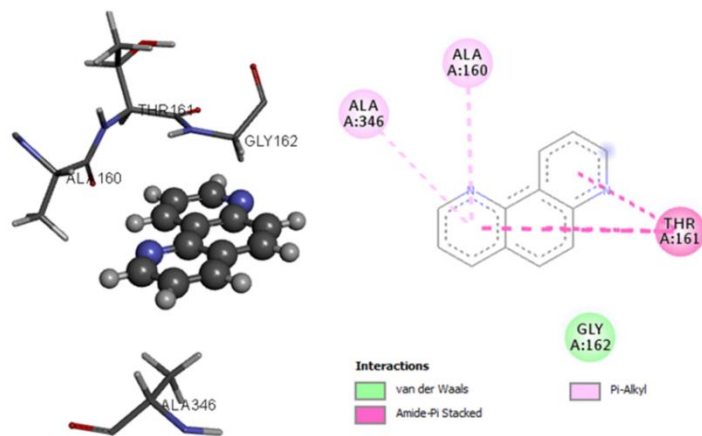
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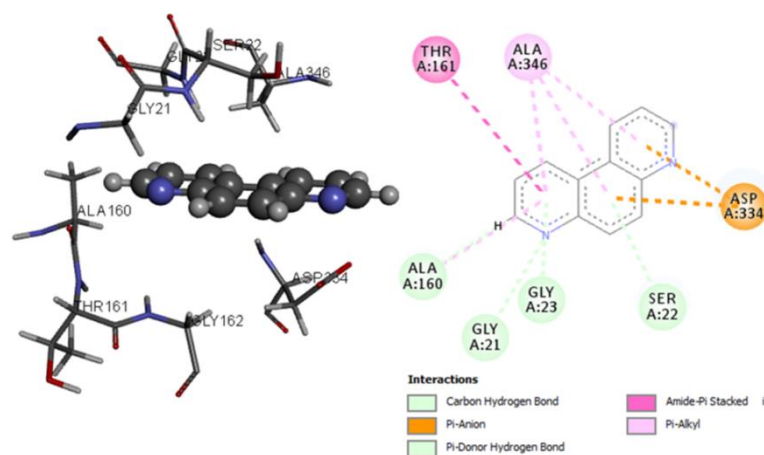
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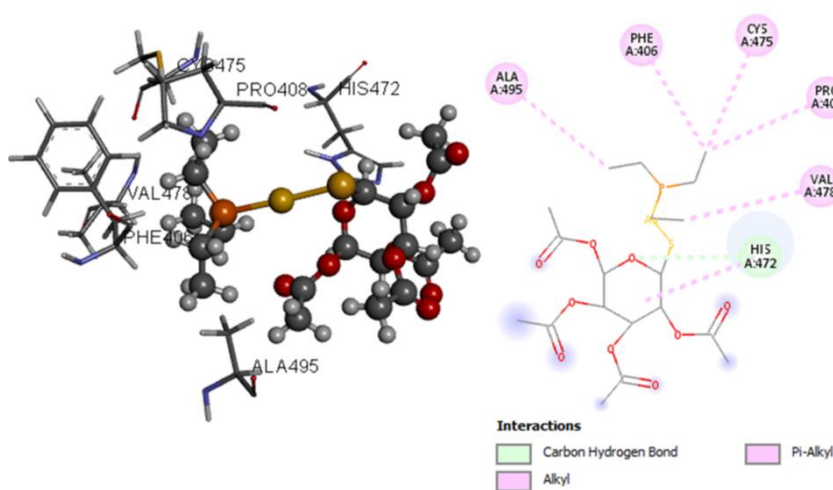
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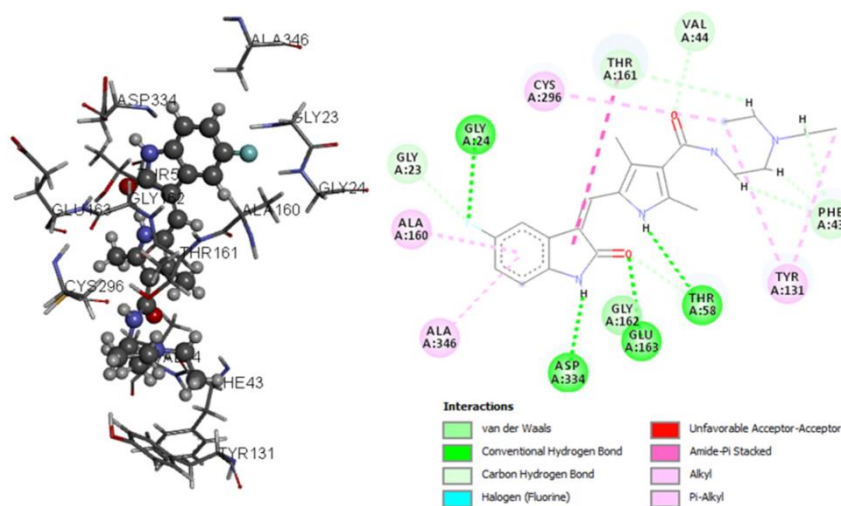
1,7-phen



### 4,7-phen



### Auranofin



### Sunitinib

**Fig. S16.** Interactions of gold(III) complexes **1** and **2**, 1,7- and 4,7-phen, auranofin and sunitinib with selenocysteine residue of TrxR1 protein during molecular docking.

**Table S1**Crystal data for **1** and **2**.

For all structures: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>8</sub>AuCl<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>,  $M_r = 483.52$ . Experiments were carried out at 295 K with Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation. H-atom parameters were constrained.

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Crystal data		
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$	Triclinic, $P\bar{1}$
$a, b, c$ (Å)	12.1848(3), 14.1996(3), 7.7110(2)	7.8420(12), 8.8631(14), 10.7500(5)
$\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ (°)	90, 95.833(2), 90	78.707(8), 87.300(8), 66.988(15)
$V$ (Å <sup>3</sup> )	1327.24(6)	674.04(17)
$Z$	4	2
$D_x$ (Mg m <sup>-3</sup> )	2.420	2.382
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	11.67	11.49
Crystal size (mm)	0.18 × 0.05 × 0.03	0.18 × 0.05 × 0.03
Data collection		
Absorption correction	Analytical	Multi-scan
$T_{\min}, T_{\max}$	0.093, 0.780	0.903, 1.000
No. of measured, independent and observed [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ] reflections	18485, 2336, 2126	4091, 4091, 3247
$R_{\text{int}}$	0.041	
$(\sin \theta/\lambda)_{\text{max}}$ (Å <sup>-1</sup> )	0.595	0.596
Refinement		
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)], wR(F^2), S$	0.019, 0.044, 1.08	0.036, 0.083, 0.93
No. of reflections	2336	4091
No. of parameters	163	164
$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}}, \Delta\rho_{\text{min}}$ (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.83, -0.56	1.08, -0.87
Percent Filled Space (K.P.I.) (%) <sup>a</sup>	69.2	67.9

<sup>a</sup>For definition see: A.I. Kitajgorodskij, *Molecular Crystals and Molecules*, New-York, Academic Press, 1973.

**Table S2**

Lethal and teratogenic effects observed in zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) embryos at different hours post fertilization (hpf).

Category	Developmental endpoints	Exposure time (hpf)			
		24	48	72	96/114
Lethal effect	Egg coagulation <sup>a</sup>	●	●	●	●
	No somite formation	●	●	●	●
	Tail not detached	●	●	●	●
	No heartbeat		●	●	●
Teratogenic effect	Malformation of head	●	●	●	●
	Malformation of eyes <sup>b</sup>	●	●	●	●
	Malformation of sacculi/otoliths <sup>c</sup>	●	●	●	●
	Malformation of chorda	●	●	●	●
	Malformation of tail <sup>d</sup>	●	●	●	●
	Scoliosis	●	●	●	●
	Heartbeat frequency		●	●	●
	Blood circulation		●	●	●
	Pericardial edema	●	●	●	●
	Yolk edema	●	●	●	●
	Yolk absorption	●	●	●	●
Growth retardation <sup>e</sup>	●	●	●	●	

<sup>a</sup>No clear organs structure is recognized.

<sup>b</sup>Malformation of eyes was recorded for the retardation in eye development and abnormality in shape and size.

<sup>c</sup>Presence of no, one or more than two otoliths per sacculus, as well as reduction and enlargement of otoliths and/or sacculi (otic vesicles).

<sup>d</sup>Tail malformation was recorded when the tail was bent, twisted or shorter than to control embryos as assessed by optical comparison.

<sup>e</sup>Growth retardation was recorded by comparing with the control embryos in development or size (before hatching, at 24 and 48 hpf) or in a body length (after hatching, at and onwards 72 hpf) using by optical comparison using an inverted microscope (CKX41; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan).

**Table S3**Selected bond distances (Å) and valence angles (°) of the gold(III) complexes **1** and **2**.

	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	
	X-ray	DFT-calculated	X-ray	DFT-calculated
Au—N <sup>a</sup>	2.049(3)	2.0477	2.066(7)	2.0490
Au—Cl1	2.2858(10)	2.3007	2.284(3)	2.3005
Au—Cl2	2.2643(10)	2.2789	2.273(2)	2.2788
Au—Cl3	2.2701(12)	2.2993	2.273(3)	2.2997
N—Au—Cl1	89.64(9)	89.0716	89.5(2)	89.1026
N—Au—Cl2	178.07(10)	178.6975	179.9(3)	178.4938
N—Au—Cl3	88.90(9)	88.7922	88.9(2)	88.7689
Cl1—Au—Cl2	90.29(4)	91.1128	90.58(11)	91.0814
Cl1—Au—Cl3	178.49(4)	177.8293	176.79(11)	177.8456
Cl2—Au—Cl3	91.16(4)	91.0316	91.04(11)	91.0551
Au—N—C6a	121.0(2)	121.8445		
Au—N—C8	118.4(3)	116.9398		
Au—N—C4a			122.2(6)	122.0368
Au—N—C3			116.1(6)	116.5949

<sup>a</sup>N7 for the complex **1** and N4 for the complex **2**.



Table S4

Geometrical parameters describing intermolecular interactions in the crystals of **1** and **2**<sup>a,b</sup>.

	D–H [Å]	D...A [Å]	H...A [Å]	D–H...A [°]	Symmetry operations on A
<b>1</b>					
C2–H2...N1	0.93	3.632(5)	2.79	151	$-x+1, -y+2, -z+1$
C3–H3...Cl1	0.93	3.753(5)	2.87	158	$-x+1, +y+1/2, -z+1/2+1$
C4–H4...Cl3	0.93	3.832(4)	2.92	166	$-x+1, -y+1, -z+1$
C8–H8...Cl1	0.93	3.705(4)	2.87	150	$-x, -y+1, -z+1$
C9–H9...Cl1	0.93	3.600(4)	2.96	127	$x, -y+1/2+1, +z-1/2$
C9–H9...Cl2	0.93	3.701(4)	2.93	141	$-x, +y+1/2, -z+1/2$
<b>2</b>					
C2–H2...N7	0.93	3.398(13)	2.48	171	$x+1, +y-1, +z$
C9–H9...Cl1	0.93	3.713(12)	2.87	151	$-x, -y+1, -z$
C9–H9...Cl3	0.93	3.544(11)	2.88	129	$-x+1, -y+1, -z$
C8–H8...Cl2	0.93	3.820(10)	2.92	164	$x-1, +y+1, +z-1$
C5–H5...Cl3	0.93	3.573(12)	2.84	137	$-x+1, -y+1, -z+1$
C3–H3...Cl1	0.93	3.713(9)	2.83	160	$-x+1, -y, -z+1$
C1–H1...Cl2	0.93	3.778(11)	2.88	163	$x, +y, +z-1$
Cl...Cl Au...Cl	X...X [Å]	d [Å]	$\theta_1 / \theta_2$ [°]	type	Symmetry operations
<b>1</b>	Cl1...Cl3	3.4374(16)	149.30(6) / 149.01(7)	I	$x, +y, +z+1$
<b>2</b>	Cl1...Au1	3.4074(11)			$-x, -y+1, -z+1$
	Cl1...Cl3	3.534(4)	150.35(14) / 152.35(15)	I	$x-1, +y, +z$
	Cl1...Au1	3.786(3)			$-x+1, -y, -z+1$
Off-Face stacking		h [Å]	r [Å]	$\theta$ [°]	Symmetry operations
<b>1</b>		3.887	0.404	14	$x, -y+1/2+1, +z-1/2$
<b>2</b>		3.486	1.613	0	$-x, -y+1, -z$

<sup>a</sup>For description of parameters describing the halogen bonds see G.R. Desiraju, R. Parthasarathy, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 111 (1989) 8725-8726; A. Mukherjee, S. Tothadi, G.R. Desiraju, Acc. Chem. Res. 47 (2014) 2514-2524.

<sup>b</sup>For description of parameters describing stacking interactions see M. L. Główska, D. Martynowski, K. Kozłowska, J. Mol. Struct. 474 (1999) 81-89.

Table S5

Crucial interatomic distances (Å) in the structures involved in the mechanism of the reaction of  $[\text{AuCl}_4]^-$  with 1,7- and 4,7-phen calculated at the M06-2X/cc-PVTZ+LanL2TZ(f) level of theory.

	<b>Au1—N7</b>	<b>Au1—Cl1</b>	<b>Au1—Cl2</b>	<b>Au1—Cl3</b>	<b>Au1—Cl7</b>	<b>Au2—N1</b>	<b>Au2—Cl4</b>	<b>Au2—Cl5</b>	<b>Au2—Cl6</b>	<b>Au2—Cl8</b>
<b>RC</b> <sup>1,7-phen</sup>	2.9590	2.3100	2.3106	2.3088	2.3085	3.2725	2.3063	2.3080	2.3061	2.3055
<b>TS</b> <sup>1,7-phen -1</sup>	2.3957	2.3005	2.3278	2.2963	2.6415	3.1989	2.3048	2.3081	2.3067	2.3042
<b>IC</b> <sup>1,7-phen</sup>	2.0507	2.3053	2.2929	2.3081	3.2298	3.4059	2.3037	2.3048	2.3085	2.3028
<b>TS</b> <sup>1,7-phen -2</sup>	2.0549	2.3051	2.2878	2.3082	3.2150	2.4048	2.2980	2.3069	2.2961	2.7140
<b>PC</b> <sup>1,7-phen</sup>	2.0637	2.3078	2.2862	2.3057	3.1860	2.0838	2.3062	2.2788	2.3079	3.2069
	<b>Au1—N4</b>	<b>Au1—Cl1</b>	<b>Au1—Cl2</b>	<b>Au1—Cl3</b>	<b>Au1—Cl7</b>	<b>Au2—N7</b>	<b>Au2—Cl4</b>	<b>Au2—Cl5</b>	<b>Au2—Cl6</b>	<b>Au2—Cl8</b>
<b>RC</b> <sup>4,7-phen</sup>	2.9611	2.3111	2.3091	2.3113	2.3088	2.9622	2.3113	2.3091	2.3112	2.3089
<b>TS</b> <sup>4,7-phen -1</sup>	2.4037	2.2994	2.3253	2.2955	2.6426	2.9530	2.3097	2.3089	2.3088	2.3084
<b>IC</b> <sup>4,7-phen</sup>	2.0538	2.3068	2.2884	2.3062	3.2286	2.9503	2.3092	2.3098	2.3084	2.3083
<b>TS</b> <sup>4,7-phen -2</sup>	2.0574	2.3057	2.2871	2.3076	3.1974	2.3957	2.2952	2.3173	2.3000	2.6631
<b>PC</b> <sup>4,7-phen</sup>	2.0628	2.3044	2.2846	2.3079	3.1876	2.0627	2.3046	2.2846	2.3076	3.1877

**Table S6**

Evaluation of anti-angiogenic potential of gold(III) complexes in comparison to 1,7- and 4,7-phenanthroline, K[AuCl<sub>4</sub>] and clinically used drugs auranofin and sunitinib.

Compound	Affected embryos (%) <sup>a</sup>	ISVs (number)			Inhibition (%)	
		Intact	Defective	Absent	ISVs	SIVs
<b>DMF (0.035%)</b>	3.3 ± 0.6	28.4 ± 0.7	0.5 ± 0.7	0.0 ± 0.0	0.3 ± 1.1	0.1 ± 0.03
<b>[AuCl<sub>3</sub>(1,7-phen-κN7)] (1)</b>						
20 μM	100.0 ± 0.0	0.3 ± 0.5	13.5 ± 1.2	14.2 ± 0.9	77.3 ± 1.1	100 ± 0.0
10 μM	100.0 ± 0.0	5.2 ± 1.1	19.0 ± 1.6	3.8 ± 0.8	51.9 ± 2.7	80.2 ± 0.3
5 μM	63.3 ± 5.1	17.3 ± 0.8	9.0 ± 0.7	1.9 ± 0.6	45.8 ± 3.6	74.2 ± 1.0
2.5 μM	50.0 ± 3.3	20.7 ± 1.3	5.3 ± 1.1	2.1 ± 0.9	39.4 ± 1.9	58.5 ± 1.8
<b>1,7-phen</b>						
20 μM	96.7 ± 4.3	17.7 ± 1.6	8.4 ± 0.8	1.9 ± 1.6	47.8 ± 1.1	55.3 ± 1.9
10 μM	56.7 ± 1.9	20.1 ± 0.9	6.1 ± 0.1	2.0 ± 0.7	32.8 ± 1.8	44.5 ± 3.0
5 μM	10.0 ± 2.1	25.1 ± 0.7	1.9 ± 0.7	1.0 ± 0.7	25.4 ± 2.0	29.6 ± 3.8
2.5 μM	3.3 ± 0.6	28.0 ± 0.1	0.0 ± 0.0	0.1 ± 0.3	13.1 ± 1.2	13.0 ± 0.6
<b>[AuCl<sub>3</sub>(4,7-phen-κN4)] (2)</b>						
20 μM	100.0 ± 0.0	9.0 ± 1.1	10.7 ± 1.3	8.3 ± 1.6	64.3 ± 0.8	86.3 ± 0.1
10 μM	90.0 ± 0.0	14.4 ± 1.3	11.5 ± 1.2	2.3 ± 0.8	52.1 ± 0.3	76.8 ± 0.4
5 μM	46.7 ± 2.1	21.2 ± 2.5	7.2 ± 0.8	0.3 ± 0.5	41.3 ± 4.1	49.3 ± 0.1
2.5 μM	20.0 ± 2.7	24.0 ± 0.9	4.1 ± 1.1	0.1 ± 0.3	33.4 ± 1.6	37.4 ± 0.8
<b>4,7-phen</b>						
20 μM	76.7 ± 4.2	15.2 ± 0.6	10.9 ± 0.7	1.9 ± 1.1	32.6 ± 0.8	51.3 ± 0.5
10 μM	43.3 ± 1.7	16.8 ± 1.2	9.1 ± 1.1	2.2 ± 0.8	20.7 ± 2.1	36.6 ± 0.7
5 μM	6.7 ± 1.2	27.5 ± 0.9	0.5 ± 0.2	0.0 ± 0.0	18.2 ± 3.0	33.0 ± 0.1
2.5 μM	0.0 ± 0.0	28.3 ± 0.5	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	8.8 ± 0.4	5.8 ± 1.0
<b>K[AuCl<sub>4</sub>]</b>						
20 μM	30. ± 5.8	25.6 ± 1.1	2.4 ± 1.1	0.0 ± 0.0	6.7 ± 0.6	2.7 ± 0.5
<b>Auranofin</b>						
1.25 μM	100.0 ± 0.0	13.0 ± 1.1	13.6 ± 0.7	1.6 ± 1.1	31.8 ± 1.7	58.0 ± 0.3
<b>Sunitinib</b>						
1.25 μM	100.0 ± 0.0	7.9 ± 1.2	17.7 ±	2.4 ± 0.5	32.9 ± 4.1	59.0 ± 0.4

<sup>a</sup>The percentage of zebrafish embryos displaying anti-angiogenic phenotype.