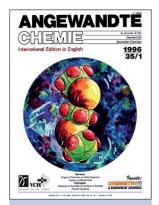
Author Profile



The author presented on this page has recently published his 10th article since 2000 in Angewandte Chemie: "Hydrogen Storage in Magnesium Hydride: The Molecular Approach": S. Harder, J. Spielmann, J. Intemann, H. Bandmann, Angew. Chem. 2011, 123, 4242-4246; Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2011, 50, 4156-4160.



The work of S. Harder has been featured on the cover of Angewandte Chemie: "The Heaviest Alkali Metallocene: Structure of an Anionic Cesocene Triple-Decker": S. Harder, M. H. Prosenc, Angew. Chem. **1996**, *108*, 101–103; Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. **1996**, *35*, 97–99.

Sjoerd Harder

Date of birth: March 17, 1963

Position: Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, University of Groningen (The Netherlands)

E-mail:

http://www.rug.nl/scheikunde/onderzoek/scholen/stratingh/groepen/molan/index Homepage: Education: 1981-1986 Undergraduate studies of Chemistry and Physics, University of Utrecht (The

1986-1990 PhD research with Lambert Brandsma, University of Utrecht

1991–1992 Postdoc with Paul von Ragué Schleyer, Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany) 1992-1993 Postdoc with Andrew Streitwieser, University of California at Berkeley (USA) 1993–1994 Postdoc with Hans-Herbert Brintzinger, Universität Konstanz (Germany)

1995-1998 Habilitation at the Universität Konstanz

Awards: 1991 H. J. Backer Award in Organic Chemistry (KNCV); 1991 Alexander von Humboldt fellow;

1992 NATO fellow; 1994 Marie Curie fellow

Current research interests:

Development of heavier Group 2 metal chemistry (Ca, Sr, Ba) and Zn; use of early main group organometallics (especially calcium) in catalysis; advocating the many similarities of early main group and transition metal chemistry; synthesis and applications of early main group metal and zinc hydrides; use of molecular compounds in investigations towards hydrogen storage;

development of benzyllanthanide chemistry/applications in catalysis and luminescence; polymerization catalysis with Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Zn, Group 3 and 4 metal species; use and

application of extraordinary large cyclopentadienyl ligands (CpBIG)

Hobbies: Travelling to all kinds of remote places; cooking and eating all kinds of cuisines; brewing and

drinking all kinds of beverages; roasting all kinds of green coffee; trying to find time for all kinds

of water and mountain sports

When I was eighteen I wanted to be ... an astronaut—the ultimate travel experience.

Young people should study chemistry because ... it is the science that strives to achieve complete understanding and control over matter, that is, the world we live in.

am waiting for the day when someone will discover ... transport by teleportation—a "Beam me up, Scotty!" device.

If I could be described as an animal it would be ... a mountain eagle—ever since an eye-to-eye paragliding experience beside one of those majestic birds I keep dreaming of such freedom and ability

My favorite book is ... "Surely, You're Joking, Mr. Feynman! (Adventures of a Curious Character)" by Richard P. Feynman, a book that not only has historical value but shows that science can be fun when applied to everyday life.

My motto is ... keep it simple!

My 5 top papers:

- 1. "The Simplest Metallocene Sandwich: the Lithocene Anion": S. Harder, M. H. Prosenc, Angew. Chem. 1994, 106, 1830-1832; Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 1994, 33, 1744 – 1746. (This paper is one of my favorites because it is so simple but shows that, although different in nature, main group metallocenes can be very similar to d-block metallocenes.)
- 2. "Novel Calcium Half-Sandwich Complexes for the Living and Stereoselective Polymerization of Styrene": S. Harder, F. Feil, K. Knoll, Angew. Chem. 2001, 113, 4391-4394; Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2001, 40, 4261-4264. (This paper describes the first well-defined organocalcium catalysts and demonstrates the unique properties of these species.)
- 3. "Rational Design of a Well-Defined Soluble Calcium Hydride Complex": S. Harder, J. Brettar, Angew. Chem. 2006, 118, 3554-3558; Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.

- 2006, 45, 3474-3478. (In the same issue an article appeared that questions "chemical design" let alone "rational design". Although I strongly oppose this statement, it is true in this case.)
- 4. "Synthesis, Structure, and Reactivity of a Stabilized Calcium Carbene: R₂CCa": L. Orzechowski, G. Jansen, S. Harder, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2006, 128, 14676 – 14684. (I enjoy the controversy over defining R2C=Ca as a carbene with a double metal-carbon bond.)
- 5. "Calcium Amidoborane Hydrogen Storage Materials: Crystal Structures of Decomposition Products": J. Spielmann, G. Jansen, H. Bandmann, S. Harder. Angew, Chem. 2008, 120, 6386-6391; Angew, Chem. Int. Ed. 2008, 47, 6290-6295. (It was a joy to work together with theoreticians and NMR experts on this paper.)