

Putting a Terbium-Monometallic Cyanide Cluster into the C₈₂ Fullerene Cage: TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂

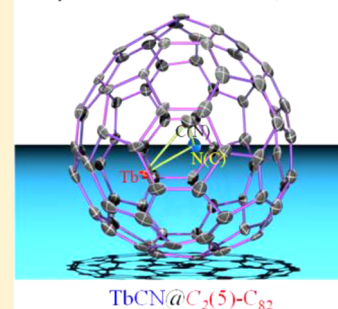
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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The first terbium (Tb)-monometallic cyanide clusterfullerene (CYCF), TbCN@C₈₂, has been successfully synthesized and isolated, whose molecular structure was determined unambiguously as TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ by single crystal X-ray diffraction. The C₂(5)-C₈₂ isomeric cage represents a new cage capable of encapsulating a monometallic cyanide cluster. The C–N bond length within the encaged TbCN cluster is determined to be 0.94(5) Å, which is smaller by at least 0.17 Å than those of the reported C–N triplet bonds in traditional cyanide/nitrile compounds and cyano coordination complexes. An electronic configuration of [Tb³⁺(CN)⁻]²⁺@[C₈₂]²⁻ was proposed for TbCN@C₈₂.

Terbium (Tb)-based monometallic cyanide clusterfullerene (CYCF)



INTRODUCTION

As a special family of carbon nanostructures, endohedral fullerenes with atoms, ions, or clusters encapsulated in the interior of carbon cages have shown unique molecular structures and electronic, physical/chemical properties as well as potential applications in biomedicine and organic photovoltaics, and so forth.¹ Among them, clusterfullerenes are characteristic in the encapsulation of an unstable metallic cluster by a robust fullerene cage which is in some cases unstable as well.^{1f} As the first metal nitride clusterfullerene (NCF),² Sc₃N@C₈₀ was synthesized in 1999 by a modified Krätschmer–Huffman DC-arc discharging method with the addition of N₂.^{2a} Because of the considerably high yield, the discovery of Sc₃N@C₈₀ initiated a new era of endohedral fullerene research, and led to the consequent discovery of five other types of clusterfullerenes,^{1f} including carbide clusterfullerenes (CCFs),³ oxide clusterfullerenes (OCFs),⁴ sulfide clusterfullerenes (SCFs),⁵ hydrocarbide clusterfullerenes (HCCFs),⁶ and carbonitride clusterfullerenes (CNCFs).⁷ Specifically, as the well-established method to synthesize NCFs, the addition of N₂ in the Krätschmer–Huffman DC-arc discharging process appears particularly important because not only clusterfullerenes including NCFs and CNCFs but also endohedral azofullerenes in the form of M₂@C₇₉N (M = Y, Tb, Gd) can be synthesized simultaneously.^{2,7,8} Furthermore, using the same modified Krätschmer–Huffman DC-arc discharging method with the addition of N₂ while TiO₂ was added in the raw mixture, very recently we discovered the first monometallic cyanide clusterfullerene (CYCF), YCN@C₅(6)-C₈₂, for which the formation was fulfilled only with the introduction of TiO₂ in the raw mixture.⁹ The discovery of such a monometallic

clusterfullerene is significant because in previous reports it was revealed that monometallofullerenes always existed as a simple form of M@C_{2n} and clusterfullerenes always required multiple (two to four) metal cations to stabilize an unstable metal cluster.^{1,9} Given that so far YCN@C₅(6)-C₈₂ is the only reported CYCF, an intriguing question to be addressed is whether other rare earth metals and cage isomers could form the CYCF structure or not. Herein, we report the synthesis, isolation, and structural characterization of the first terbium (Tb)-based CYCF, TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂. The molecular structure of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ was determined unambiguously by single crystal X-ray diffraction, and its electronic property was characterized by UV–vis–NIR spectroscopy and electrochemistry.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis and Isolation of TbCN@C₈₂. TbCN@C₈₂ was synthesized by a modified Krätschmer–Huffman DC-arc discharge method using a mixture of Tb₄O₇ and graphite (molar ratio of Tb/C = 1:15) as the raw material under 400 mbar He and 10 mbar N₂ gas.^{10,11} Since the addition of TiO₂ in the raw mixture was found to be essential for the synthesis of the reported YCN@C₈₂,⁹ in our present study, we also investigated the effect of TiO₂ on the formation of TbCN@C₈₂ by blending TiO₂ with the mixture of Tb₄O₇ and graphite (molar ratio of Tb/Ti/C = 1:1:15), which was subject to arc discharge under the identical conditions. Interestingly, TbCN@C₈₂ was observed in both fractions A and A' obtained from the

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extracts of $\text{Tb}_4\text{O}_7/\text{N}_2$ and $\text{Tb}_4\text{O}_7/\text{TiO}_2/\text{N}_2$, respectively, revealing that TiO_2 is not essential to the formation of $\text{TbCN}@C_{82}$ (see Supporting Information, SI, Figures S1 and S2). This result is contrary to the case of $\text{YCN}@C_{82}$ for which the addition of TiO_2 in the raw mixture was essential,⁹ suggesting that the formation of CYCF is sensitively dependent on the nature of the encapsulated rare earth metal.

Isolation of $\text{TbCN}@C_{82}$ was accomplished by three-step HPLC (see SI S1 for details), and the high purity of the isolated $\text{TbCN}@C_{82}$ sample was confirmed by laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight (LD-TOF) mass spectroscopy (MS), indicating a predominant mass peak at $m/z = 1169$. Besides, the isotopic distribution analysis of the measured mass peak at $m/z = 1169$ shows a good coincidence with the calculated one (see SI Figure S4), confirming the proposed chemical identification of TbC_{83}N .

X-ray Crystallographic Study of $\text{TbCN}@C_2(5)-C_{82}$. The molecular structure of $\text{TbCN}@C_{82}$ was determined unambiguously to be $\text{TbCN}@C_2(5)-C_{82}$ by X-ray crystallographic study performed on a cocrystal of $\text{TbCN}@C_{82}$ with $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$ (OEP = octaethylporphyrin), which was obtained by layering a benzene solution of $\text{TbCN}@C_{82}$ over a benzene solution of $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$.¹² Figure 1 shows the relative orientations of the

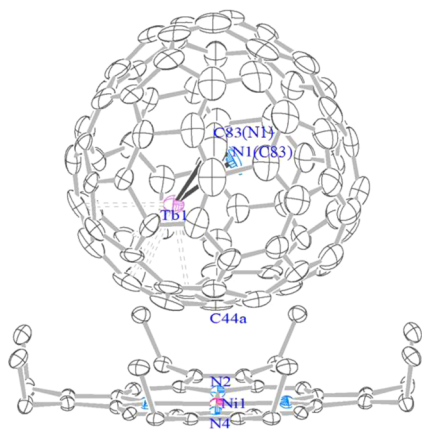


Figure 1. Drawing showing the interaction between the fullerene and porphyrin in $\text{TbCN}@C_2(5)-C_{82}\cdot\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})\cdot 2\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$ with 25% thermal ellipsoids. C, N, Tb, and Ni atoms are shown in gray, slate blue, orchid and deep pink, respectively. Only one orientation of the fullerene cage (0.50 occupancy) and the most abundant Tb site with 0.217 fractional occupancy are shown. The solvent molecule (benzene), another orientation of the fullerene cage, the minor metal positions, and hydrogen atoms of the porphyrin are all omitted for clarity.

$\text{TbCN}@C_2(5)-C_{82}$ and the $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$ molecules in $\text{TbCN}@C_2(5)-C_{82}\cdot\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})\cdot 2\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$ cocrystal. Only one orientation of the fullerene cage together with the major site of TbCN cluster was shown in the drawing for clarity. This structure reveals clearly that the carbon cage is composed of 82 atoms with $C_2(5)$ symmetry, thus ruling out the possibility of the endohedral azafullerene structure $\text{Tb}@C_{83}\text{N}$ with an 84-atom carbon cage.

The asymmetric unit cell of the cocrystal $\text{TbCN}@C_2(5)-C_{82}\cdot\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})\cdot 2\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$ contains a half of the $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$ molecule and two halves of the $C_2(5)-C_{82}$ cage. The crystallographic mirror bisects N2, N4, Ni1, and C83(N1) and is perpendicular to the paper plane as shown in Figure 1. The fully ordered $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$ is present on the crystallographic mirror that bisects N2, N4, and Ni1, so an intact $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$ molecule was readily

obtained by combining the existing half molecule with its mirror image. The nearest cage-Ni contact involves C44a with a distance of 2.82(2) Å, which is similar to those reported for cocrystals of other endohedral fullerenes with $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$.^{12d,13} A complete C_{82} cage was finally obtained by combining one of the halves of the fullerene cage with the mirror image of the other. Accordingly, the occupancies of the two cage orientations are 0.50, respectively.

Similar to the cases of other clusterfullerenes, the engaged TbCN cluster shows disorder.^{4,14} As shown in Figure 2, for the

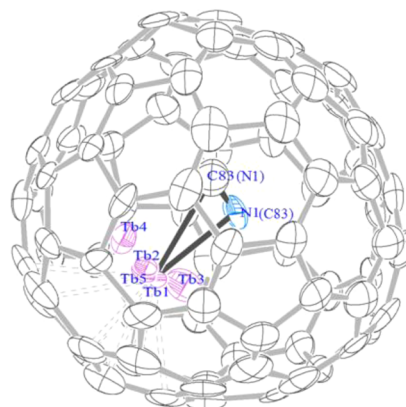


Figure 2. Drawing showing one orientation of the fullerene cage together with a half of the Tb disordered sites with 25% thermal ellipsoids, another half of the Tb disordered sites could be generated by mirror plane of the crystal. The fractional occupancies are 0.217, 0.138, 0.067, 0.056, and 0.022 for Tb1, Tb2, Tb3, Tb4, and Tb5, respectively.

encapsulated TbCN cluster, as many as ten sites for Tb are distinguishable (with occupancies 0.217, 0.138, 0.067, 0.056, and 0.022 for Tb1, Tb2, Tb3, Tb4, and Tb5, respectively, another five sites are generated by the mirror image of these five Tb sites (see SI Figure S6)). However, two sites for the CN moiety were distinguishable, but differentiation between carbon and nitrogen atoms is challenging because of their similarity on the size and scattering power.^{8a} Despite such an ambiguity, clearly one atom (C83 or N1) locates on the crystallographic mirror plane, while another site (N1 or C83) is generated by the crystallographic mirror which is vertically perpendicular to the paper plane as shown in Figure 2.

Similar to the structure of the recently isolated $\text{YCN}@C_5(6)-C_{82}$,⁹ both C and N atoms within the encapsulated TbCN cluster are located near the cage center, whereas Tb atom locates between the CN unit and one side of the cage, affording a triangular TbCN cluster which is different from the linear structures commonly found in traditional metal cyanide complexes (see also SI Figure S5).¹⁵ For the major Tb site with a 0.217 occupancy (Tb1), the Tb1–N1 (C83), and Tb1–C83 (N1) bond distances are 2.32(3) Å and 2.36(5) Å, respectively, and this shows a similar trend with that of $\text{YCN}@C_5(6)-C_{82}$, in which the bond distances of Y–N and Y–C (the major Y site) are 2.383 and 2.484 Å, respectively.⁹ Even more intriguingly, the C–N bond length within $\text{TbCN}@C_2(5)-C_{82}$ is determined to be 0.94(5) Å, which is very close to that within $\text{YCN}@C_5(6)-C_{82}$ (0.935 Å).⁹ Such a short C–N bond is quite unusual, because it is shorter by at least 0.17 Å than those of the reported C–N triple bonds in traditional cyanide/nitrile compounds and cyano coordination complexes (1.12–1.17

Å).^{9,15} Similar to the case of YCN@C_s(6)-C₈₂, this finding on the unusually short C–N bond within TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ reveals once more the unique bonding feature of the TbCN cluster upon encapsulated in carbon cage, and such a shrinking effect may be interpreted by the stronger bonding between metal and C/N atoms induced by the space confinement of the interior of the carbon cage.⁹ Besides, because the C–N bond length of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ is also much smaller than the C–C bond lengths of all carbide clusterfullerenes determined by X-ray crystallographic study as well, for which the smallest C–C bond length was reported to be 1.04 Å for Gd₂C₂@D₃(85)-C₉₂,¹⁶ a possible carbide clusterfullerene TbC₂@C₈₁N as an isomeric structure of TbCN@C₈₂ can be excluded.

Electronic Absorption and Vibrational Spectroscopic Study of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂. Figure 3 presents the UV–vis–

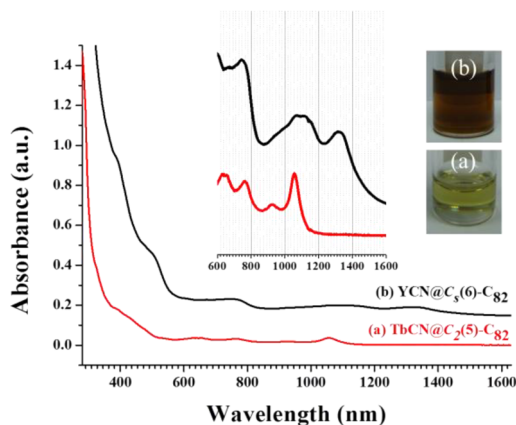


Figure 3. UV–vis–NIR spectrum of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ (a) dissolved in toluene in comparison with that of YCN@C_s(6)-C₈₂ (b). Spectrum of YCN@C_s(6)-C₈₂ are shifted vertically for clarity. Insets: Enlarged spectral region (600–1600 nm) and the photographs of samples in toluene.

NIR absorption spectrum of the isolated TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ dissolved in toluene (curve a) in comparison with that of the reported YCN@C_s(6)-C₈₂ (curve b). The electronic absorption spectrum of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ exhibits one broad shoulder peak at about 392 nm along with a broad absorption peak with three absorption maxima at 627, 656, and 763 nm in the UV and visible regions and a distinct absorption peak at 1056 nm accompanied by a weak absorption peak at 923 nm in the NIR region. Such an electronic absorption feature leads to a greenish solution of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ in toluene (see insets of Figure 3). This spectral feature of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ is obviously different from that of the reported YCN@C_s(6)-C₈₂, for which the toluene solution is brown-yellow.⁹ More strikingly, the

optical band gap ($\Delta E_{\text{gap, optical}}$) of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ estimated from the absorption spectral onset of ca. 1240 nm is 1.0 eV, much larger than that of YCN@C_s(6)-C₈₂ (0.77 eV).⁹ It is well-known that the electronic absorptions of fullerenes are predominantly due to π - π^* carbon cage transitions and depend on the isomeric structure and charge state of the carbon cage.^{1,2b,17} For endohedral fullerenes, the charge state of the carbon cage is determined by the type of encapsulated species (metal(s) or metal cluster) which transfers a certain number of electrons to the carbon cage. In particular, for clusterfullerenes with the same type of metal cluster encapsulated (i.e., the charge state of the carbon cage is same), the electronic absorption property is in general dependent primarily on the isomeric structure of the carbon cage and insensitive to the encapsulated metal itself.^{1,2b,17} Therefore, the difference between the electronic absorption spectra of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ and YCN@C_s(6)-C₈₂ is evidently resulted from their discrepancy on the cage isomeric structure.

However, the UV–vis–NIR spectra of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ and Yb@C₂(5)-C₈₂ show a similar absorption feature but with a significant shift of the absorption peak in the region of 600–1400 nm (especially the two absorption peaks at 1056 and 923 nm). Besides, the estimated optical band gap ($\Delta E_{\text{gap, optical}}$) of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ (1.0 eV) is also larger than that of Yb@C₂(5)-C₈₂ (0.92 eV) (see Table 1).¹⁹ These results indicate that the encapsulated species of X@C₈₂ (X = TbCN, Yb) has a dramatic influence on the electronic absorption properties correlating to the molecular orbital energy level, and this conclusion is further confirmed by electrochemical study below.

The FTIR spectrum of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ shows a large number of vibrational lines with relatively low signal-to-noise ratio due to its relatively low cage symmetry. In specific, the broad vibrational bands from 900 to 1600 cm⁻¹ assigned to the cage tangential modes look apparently different between TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ and YCN@C_s(6)-C₈₂,¹⁸ and this is again resulted from their discrepancy on the cage isomeric structure (see SI Figure S7).

Electrochemical Study of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂. The cyclic voltammogram of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ measured in *o*-dichlorobenzene (*o*-DCB) with tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate (TBAPF₆) as supporting electrolyte is illustrated in Figure 4, which includes also that of YCN@C_s(6)-C₈₂ obtained under identical conditions for comparison. The characteristic redox potentials are summarized in Table 1. In the anodic region, TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ exhibits one reversible oxidation step with a half-wave potential ($E_{1/2}$) at 0.50 V, which is shifted negatively compared to that of YCN@C_s(6)-C₈₂ (0.56 V).⁹ However, in the cathodic region, TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ shows four reversible reduction steps with half-wave potential ($E_{1/2}$) at -0.88, -0.97, -1.55, -1.91 V, respectively (see SI Figure S8).

Table 1. Redox Potentials (V vs Fc/Fc⁺), Electrochemical Energy Gaps ($\Delta E_{\text{gap, EC}}$) and Optical Band-Gaps ($\Delta E_{\text{gap, optical}}$) of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂, YCN@C_s(6)-C₈₂, and Yb@C₂(5)-C₈₂

samples	$E_{1/2}$ (V vs Fc/Fc ⁺)					$\Delta E_{\text{gap, EC}}/\text{V}^a$	absorption onset (λ_{onset} nm)	$\Delta E_{\text{gap, optical}}/\text{eV}^b$	ref
	reduction steps (E_{red})				oxidation step (E_{ox})				
	first	second	third	fourth	first				
TbCN@C ₂ (5)-C ₈₂	-0.88	-0.97	-1.55	-1.91	0.50	1.38	1240	1.0	this work
Yb@C ₂ (5)-C ₈₂	-0.86	-0.98	-1.50	-1.87	0.38	1.24	1350 ^c	0.92	19
YCN@C _s (6)-C ₈₂	-0.59	-0.84	-1.76	-1.92	0.56	1.15	1620	0.77	9

^a $\Delta E_{\text{gap, EC}} = E_{1/2, \text{ox}(1)} - E_{1/2, \text{red}(1)}$. ^b $\Delta E_{\text{gap, optical}} = 1240/\lambda_{\text{onset}}$. ^cEstimated from ref 19.

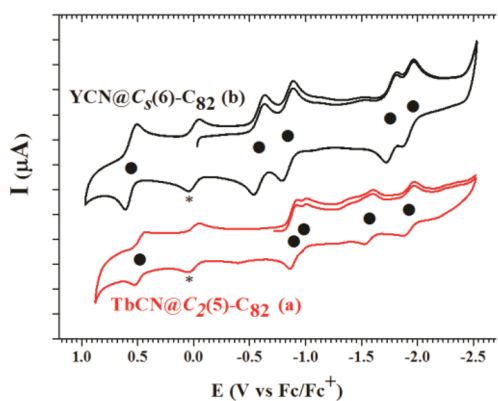


Figure 4. Cyclic voltammograms of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ (a) and YCN@C₅(6)-C₈₂ (b) in *o*-DCB solution. Ferrocene (Fc) was added as the internal standard, TBAPF₆ as supporting electrolyte, scan rate: 100 mV·s⁻¹. The half-wave potentials ($E_{1/2}$) of each redox step are marked with a solid dot to aid comparison. The asterisk labels the oxidation peak of ferrocene.

Obviously, the first and second reduction potentials of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ are both shifted negatively relative to those of YCN@C₅(6)-C₈₂ (see Figure 4 and Table 1). Besides, similar to the case of YCN@C₅(6)-C₈₂, which shows a large separation (0.92 V) between the second and third reduction steps, for TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂, the separation between the second and third reduction steps (0.58 V) is also much larger than those between the first two reduction steps (first-second, 0.09 V) and the last two reduction steps (third-fourth, 0.36 V).⁹ Moreover, for TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂, its first two reduction steps are mutually very close with a separation of only 0.09 V, suggesting that TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ has a closed-shell electronic configuration with nondegenerate low-lying LUMO and accessible LUMO+1 orbitals.¹⁹

Interestingly, the reduction steps of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ show a high resemblance to that of the reported Yb@C₂(5)-C₈₂,¹⁹ and the difference of reduction potentials between TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ and Yb@C₂(5)-C₈₂ is less than 0.05 V (see Table 1).¹⁹ This confirms further our assignment of the C₂(5)-C₈₂ isomeric cage to TbCN@C₈₂. However, the first oxidation potential of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ is positively shifted by 0.12 V compared to that of Yb@C₂(5)-C₈₂. These results indicate clearly that the encapsulated species of X@C₈₂ (X=TbCN, Yb) has a dramatic influence on the oxidation property correlating to the HOMO level, whereas its influence on the reduction property, which correlates to the LUMO levels, is negligible.

On the basis of the similarity of the reduction steps of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ with that of Yb@C₂(5)-C₈₂, a similar electronic configuration to that of Yb@C₂(5)-C₈₂, [Tb³⁺(CN)⁻]²⁺@[C₂(5)-C₈₂]²⁻, can be expected for TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂. Accordingly, the formal valence state of Tb within TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ is expected to be +3. Taking the electronic configuration of [Xe]4f⁸ for Tb³⁺ into account, six unpaired electrons exist. Thus, it is intriguing to address whether TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ is paramagnetic or not. Our ESR measurement of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ revealed no signal even at temperatures as low as 77 K. This is consistent with the proposed valency of Tb³⁺ because it is well-known that the ESR signal of Tb³⁺ ion could not be observed at $T > 30$ K due to its fast spin–lattice relaxation.²⁰ A similar ESR-silent behavior was reported for another Tb-based endohedral fullerene Tb₂@C₇₉N in which Tb takes a +3 valence state as well.^{8a}

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we have successfully synthesized and isolated TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ as the first Tb-based monometallic CYCF, whose structure was determined unambiguously to be TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ by single crystal X-ray diffraction study, and the C–N bond length within the encaged TbCN cluster is 0.94(5) Å, which is smaller by at least 0.17 Å than those of the reported C–N triple bonds in traditional cyanide/nitrile compounds and cyano coordination complexes but nearly the same to that found for YCN@C₅(6)-C₈₂. An electronic configuration of [Tb³⁺(CN)⁻]²⁺@[C₂(5)-C₈₂]²⁻ was proposed for TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂. TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ represents the second entrant of the CYCF family, and its successful isolation paves the way for exploring novel endohedral fullerenes with CYCF as a general platform.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Synthesis and Isolation of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂. TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ was synthesized in a modified Krätschmer-Huffman fullerene generator by vaporizing composite graphite rods (Φ8 × 150 mm) containing a mixture of Tb₄O₇ and graphite powder (molar ratio of Tb:C = 1:15) with the addition of 10 mbar N₂ into 400 mbar He as previously described.^{9,11} To investigate the effect of TiO₂ on the formation of TbCN@C₈₂, a reference synthesis by using a mixture of Tb₄O₇ (99.99%), TiO₂ (99.99%), and graphite powder with a molar ratio of 1:1:15 (Tb/Ti/C) was also carried out. The as-produced soot was Soxhlet-extracted by CS₂ for 24 h, and the resulting brown-yellow solution was distilled to remove CS₂ and then immediately redissolved in toluene and subsequently passed through a 0.2 μm Teflon filter (Sartorius AG, Germany) for HPLC separation. The isolation of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ was performed by three-step HPLC. The purity of the isolated TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ was further checked by laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight (LD-TOF) mass spectroscopic (MS) analysis (Biflex III, Bruker Daltonics Inc., Germany).

Spectroscopic Characterizations. UV–vis–NIR spectra were recorded on a UV–vis–NIR 3600 spectrometer (Shimadzu, Japan) using a quartz cell of 1 mm layer thickness and 1 nm resolution with the samples dissolved in toluene. For FTIR measurement, the samples were drop-coated onto KBr single-crystal disks. The residual toluene was removed by heating the polycrystalline films in a vacuum of 2 × 10⁻⁶ mbar at 235 °C for 3 h. FTIR spectra were recorded at room temperature on a TENSOR 27 spectrometer (Bruker, Germany). ESR spectra were measured in toluene solution using a JES-FA200 FT-EPR X-band spectrometer (JEOL, Japan).

Electrochemical Study. Electrochemical study was performed in *o*-dichlorobenzene (*o*-DCB, anhydrous, 99%, Aldrich). The supporting electrolyte was tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate (TBAPF₆, puriss. electrochemical grade, Fluka) which was dried under reduced pressure at 340 K for 24 h and stored in glovebox prior to use. Cyclic voltammogram experiments were performed with a CHI 660 potentiostat (CHI Instrument, U.S.A.) at room temperature in a glovebox. A standard three-electrode arrangement of a platinum (Pt) wire as working electrode, a platinum coil as counter electrode, and a silver wire as pseudoreference electrode was used. In a comparison experiment, ferrocene (Fc) was added as the internal standard and all potentials are referred to the Fc/Fc⁺ couple.

X-ray Crystallographic Study of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂. Crystal growth of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂·Ni^{II}(OEP)·2C₆H₆ was accomplished by layering a solution of 1 mg Ni^{II}(OEP) (OEP = octaethylporphyrin) in 1 mL benzene over a solution of ca. 1 mg of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂ in 2 mL benzene. After the two solutions diffused together over a period of one month, small black crystals suitable for X-ray crystallographic study formed upon a slow evaporation of benzene. X-ray diffraction data collection for the crystal of TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂·Ni^{II}(OEP)·2C₆H₆ (0.01 × 0.02 × 0.01 mm³) was carried out at 100 K on an Agilent Supernova diffractometer (Agilent Technologies, U.S.A.) with a Cu radiation ($\lambda = 1.54178$ Å). TbCN@C₂(5)-C₈₂·Ni^{II}(OEP)·2C₆H₆

crystallizes in the monoclinic space group $C2/m$, $a = 25.320(1) \text{ \AA}$, $b = 14.975(1) \text{ \AA}$, $c = 19.886(1) \text{ \AA}$, $\beta = 94.325(5)^\circ$, $V = 7518.6(7) \text{ \AA}^3$, $Z = 4$. A numerical absorption correction utilizing equivalents was employed. The structure was solved by direct methods and refined using all data (based on F^2) by SHELX 97.²¹ Hydrogen atoms were located in a difference map, added geometrically, and refined with a riding model. Refinement of 7346 reflections, 1039 parameters, and 6656 restraints yielded $wR_2 = 0.3119$ for all data and a conventional $R1$ of 0.1020 based on 4725 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

■ Supporting Information

Isolation of $TbCN@C_2(5)-C_{82}$, X-ray crystallographic data of $TbCN@C_2(5)-C_{82}$, FTIR spectra of $TbCN@C_2(5)-C_{82}$ and $YCN@C_5(6)-C_{82}$, cyclic voltammograms of $TbCN@C_2(5)-C_{82}$ in different scanning regions, and X-ray crystallographic file in CIF format for $TbCN@C_2(5)-C_{82}-Ni^{II}(OEP)\cdot 2C_6H_6$ and so forth. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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