

Popular C₈₂ Fullerene Cage Encapsulating a Divalent Metal Ion Sm²⁺: Structure and Electrochemistry

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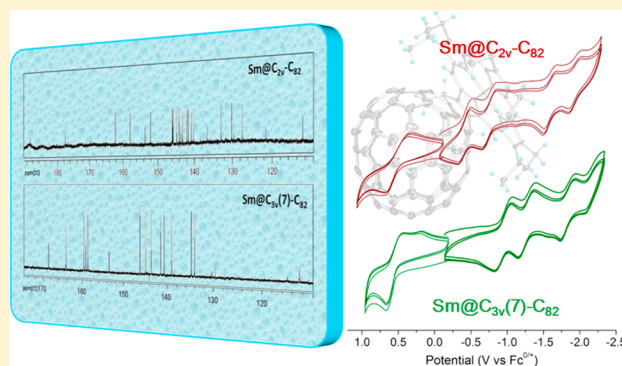
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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Two Sm@C₈₂ isomers have been well characterized for the first time by means of ¹³C NMR spectroscopy, and their structures were unambiguously determined as Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C₈₂ and Sm@C_{3v}(7)-C₈₂, respectively. A combined study of single crystal X-ray diffraction and theoretical calculations suggest that in Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C₈₂ the preferred Sm²⁺ ion position shall be located in a region slightly off the C₂ axis of C_{2v}(9)-C₈₂. Moreover, the electrochemical surveys on these Sm@C₈₂ isomers reveal that their redox activities are mainly determined by the properties of their carbon cages.



INTRODUCTION

Filling a fullerene cage with metals or a metallic cluster gives rise to the formation of endohedral metallofullerene (EMF). Such a concept has been developed a lot since the middle of 1990s, when an EMF (i.e., La@C₈₂) was detected and simply characterized for the first time by means of laser fragmentation.¹ In the past decade, a variety of EMFs have been synthesized, isolated, and characterized.^{2,3} Great interest has been devoted to their unique structures and favorable properties. Particularly, La@C₈₂ and its analogous M@C₈₂ (M = group 2–3 elements and most lanthanides), which are more abundantly produced relative to others, have been widely studied and exhibited potential applications in the fields of medicine and material science.^{4,5}

In contrast to the early discovery of La@C₈₂, its structure has remained unknown for a long time. The breakthrough was made by Nagase et al. in 1998.⁶ They predicted the major isomer of La@C_{2v}(9)-C₈₂ as well as the minor isomers of La@C_s(6)-C₈₂ and La@C_{3v}(7)-C₈₂ via theoretical calculations.⁶ These predictions have been unambiguously confirmed by a number of subsequent studies of NMR and single crystal X-ray diffraction (XRD).^{7–9} The electronic structures of these isomeric La@C₈₂ have been generally described using an electronic model of La³⁺@(C₈₂)^{3–},⁶ suggesting a formal transfer of three electrons between the metal and cage. It was believed

that such a metal-cage interaction can contribute to the stabilization of the isomeric C₈₂ cages.

Furthermore, recent studies revealed that these isomeric C₈₂ cages can be stabilized not only by a trivalent metal ion but also by a divalent metal ion such as Ca²⁺, Tm²⁺, Yb²⁺, and Sm²⁺. The structures of divalent M@C₈₂ (M = Ca, Tm, Yb) have been characterized using XRD, NMR, and DFT calculations or a combination. Previous studies reported three isomers for Tm@C₈₂¹⁰ and Yb@C₈₂¹¹ (i.e., C_{2v}(9), C₂(5), and C_s(6) isomers) and four isomers for Ca@C₈₂¹² (i.e., C_{2v}(9), C₂(5), C_s(6), and C_{3v}(7) isomers). Among them, the C_{3v}(7) isomer of Ca@C₈₂ was tentatively proposed based on an incomplete ¹³C NMR spectrum, and the C_{3v}(8) isomer could not be fully excluded. On the other hand, another divalent EMF Sm@C₈₂ has been studied by three independent groups. It is noteworthy that different metal sources were used by these groups, and they reported different isomeric distributions of Sm@C₈₂. Specifically, three isomers were obtained by using Sm₂O₃ as a samarium source, while four isomers were obtained by using SmNi₂/Sm₂Co₁₇ alloy as a metal source.^{13,14} The three isomers reported by Liu et al. were characterized as Sm@C₂(5)-C₈₂, Sm@C_s(6)-C₈₂, and Sm@C_{3v}(7)-C₈₂ using single crystal

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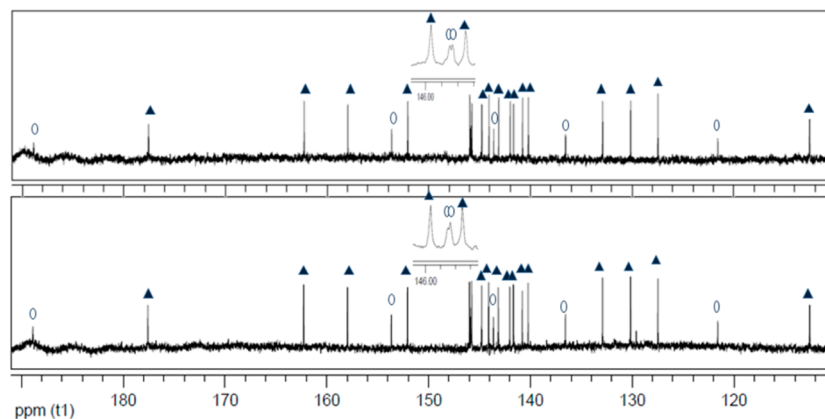


Figure 1. ^{13}C NMR spectra (125 MHz, in CS_2 using acetone- d_6 as internal lock, 293 K) of $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ in proton-coupled (up) and proton decoupled modes (down). The integrated intensity ratio of the peaks marked with a solid triangle and an open circle, respectively, is 2:1. Insets show the signals in the range of 145.5–146.2 ppm.

XRD,¹³ while the fourth isomer reported by Shi et al. was proposed as $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ based on its UV–vis–NIR spectral characteristics.^{14b} However, this proposal has never been confirmed by NMR or single crystal XRD. Herein, we demonstrate a full structural characterization of $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ as well as a complete NMR study of $\text{Sm}@C_{3v}(7)\text{-C}_{82}$, which might be valuable for the understanding of $\text{Sm}@C_{82}$. Moreover, the electrochemical surveys on these $\text{Sm}@C_{82}$ isomers were performed to reveal their cage-dependent redox properties.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Two $\text{Sm}@C_{82}$ isomers were prepared and isolated according to the previously reported procedure and characterized by MALDI-TOF mass and UV–vis–NIR spectroscopy (see Figures S1, S2).^{14a} One isomer was determined as $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ using a combined study of NMR and single crystal XRD. As shown in the proton decoupled or proton coupled ^{13}C NMR spectrum (see Figure 1), 24 signals (17 with full intensity and seven with half) are clearly seen in the range of 190–110 ppm at 293 K. This pattern evidently corresponds to the $C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ cage, which corroborates well with the previous assignment based on the UV–vis–NIR spectroscopic studies.^{14a} Moreover, summarizing all the previously reported ^{13}C NMR spectra of $M@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ (i.e., $[\text{La}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}]^-$, $[\text{Y}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}]^-$, $[\text{Pr}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}]^-$, and $\text{Yb}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$), the ^{13}C signals of cage carbons are generally distributed in a narrow range (160–130 ppm) compared to those of $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$. It is noteworthy that there is no unpaired electron on the endohedral La^{3+} , Y^{3+} , Pr^{3+} , or Yb^{2+} ion, whereas Sm^{2+} has a $4f^6$ electronic structure, and thus, there are six unpaired f electrons on the endohedral Sm^{2+} ion. These unpaired electrons significantly affect the local magnetic field and the fast relaxation of ^{13}C nuclear spins on the adjacent cage carbons, thus contributing to the NMR chemical shifts of these cage carbons.

Furthermore, the absolute structure of $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ was determined via a single-crystal XRD study. A cocrystal of $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}/\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$ suitable for X-ray analysis was obtained by slow diffusion of a benzene solution of EMF into a CHCl_3 solution of $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$. The molecular structure was resolved and refined in a $C2/m$ (No. 12) space group.¹⁵ Both the cage and endohedral metal atom were found to be disordered. In particular, two cage orientations with fractional occupancies of 0.27 and 0.23, respectively, have been identified. Figure 2 shows

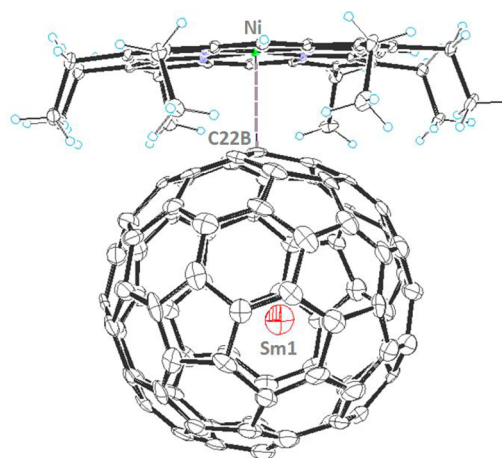


Figure 2. Ortep drawing of $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}\cdot\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$ with 25% thermal ellipsoids, showing the relationship between the fullerene cage and $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$. Only the major cage orientation with 0.27 occupancy and the major Sm site (Sm1) with 0.118 occupancy are shown. The solvent molecules, other cage orientation, and metal ion sites are omitted for clarity.

the major cage orientation, the major samarium site (Sm1, 0.116 occupancy), and their relationships to $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$ moiety. The shortest C–Ni distance between a carbon atom of the major cage (C22B) and the Ni ion in $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$ was determined as 2.751(10) Å. This value is similar to those of 2.79(3) Å found in $\text{Yb}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}\cdot\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$, 2.78(2) Å in $\text{La}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}\cdot\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$, and 2.784(8) Å in $\text{Gd}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}\cdot\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$, reflecting the similar interactions between trivalent or divalent $M@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ and the $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{OEP})$ moiety.

Inside the cage of $C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$, multiple Sm sites were detected. Particularly, three sites (Sm4, Sm5, Sm6) reside on the crystallographic mirror plane, and other sites (Sm1, Sm2, Sm3, Sm7) are on general positions. Among them, Sm1 site has the highest occupancy, while other sites have occupancies ranging from 0.104 to 0.033. Moreover, additional Sm sites (Sm1A, Sm2A, Sm3A, Sm7A) are generated via the crystallographic mirror plane. Thus, there are totally 11 Sm sites inside the disordered $C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ cages. Figure 3 shows the major cage orientation with all these metal sites. Because of the inherent disordered positions of the metal ions combined with a crystallographic mirror plane being mismatched with the

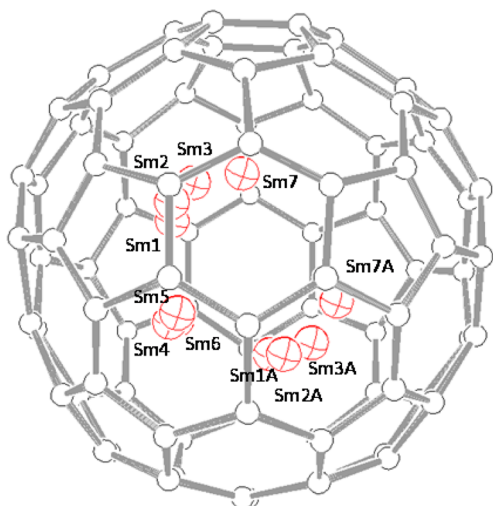


Figure 3. Diagram showing all the samarium sites inside the major cage of $C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$. The sites Sm1–3A and Sm7A are generated from the sites Sm1–3 and Sm7 via the crystallographic mirror plane. Occupancies of these Sm sites are the following: Sm1, 0.116(3); Sm2, 0.104(3); Sm3, 0.083(4); Sm4, 0.066(4); Sm5, 0.051(6); Sm6, 0.033(5); and Sm7, 0.047(2). The sum of the occupancies of samarium sites Sm1–7 is 0.5, equal to the cage occupancy of 0.5.

molecular symmetry, the crystallographic data alone cannot determine the assignment of these Sm sites to each cage orientation. Nevertheless, theoretical calculations might provide more useful information. The previously calculated electrostatic potential map of $[C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}]^{2-}$ has demonstrated that the potential minimum is under a hexagon along the C_2 axis of the $C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$ cage, which usually corresponds to the position of endohedral divalent metal ion^{11b,c} (see Figure S3). When considering the major cage orientation of $C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$, metal sites Sm1–3 and Sm7 are found to be located close to or around the calculated potential minimum, indicating that these sites might be related to the major cage. Among them, the minor site Sm7 resides more closely to the potential minimum as compared to Sm1 and other Sm sites (see Figures S3, S4 for a detailed description). Therefore, DFT optimizations of $Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$ were performed at the M06-2X/3-21G ~ SDD level starting from the models with Sm1 and Sm7 sites, respectively, both of which pointed to a structure as shown in Figure S5. It

can be concluded that in the optimized $Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$ the Sm^{2+} ion is located slightly off the C_2 cage axis with a Sm-hexagon distance of 2.237 Å. It is noteworthy that the optimized Sm^{2+} position is different from the Sm1 site but very close to the Sm7 site as well as the Yb^{2+} position in the optimized $Yb@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$.^{11b} The arrangement with the Sm^{2+} ion right along the C_2 axis is higher in energy by 0.732 kcal/mol with respect to the optimized $Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$. Interestingly, the M06-2X/6-31G* ~ SDD single-point calculations in the observed $Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}/Ni^{II}(OEP)$ geometries (i.e., without any geometry optimizations, see Figure S4) place the moiety with the Sm7 site by 18.15 kcal/mol higher than the Sm1 species. To this end, despite the occupancy mismatch, it can be seen that the theoretical result, to some extent, agrees with the X-ray result. Therefore, the combined study of X-ray analysis and theoretical calculations might suggest that the preferred position of the Sm^{2+} ion in $Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$ is located slightly off the C_2 axis of $C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$. Incidentally, the computed Mulliken charge on Sm is +1.955e, confirming the electronic structure of $Sm^{2+}@[C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}]^{2-}$.

As for another $Sm@C_{82}$ isomer, both the proton decoupled and proton coupled ^{13}C NMR spectra are shown in Figure 4. Each spectrum displays 16 signals (12 with full intensity, three with half and one with 1/6) in the range of 170–110 ppm at 293 K. This pattern can be unambiguously assigned to the cage of $C_{3v}(7)-C_{82}$ rather than $C_{3v}(8)-C_{82}$. Such a result is consistent with the assignment based on the UV–vis–NIR spectroscopic studies.¹² As compared with the previously reported NMR data of $Ca@C_{3v}(7)-C_{82}$,^{12a} which demonstrate signals in the range of 150–130 ppm, the wider signal distribution of $Sm@C_{3v}(7)-C_{82}$ again indicates the paramagnetic effect of the endohedral Sm^{2+} ion. Moreover, because there is only one ^{13}C NMR signal having 1/6 intensity in the spectrum, it can be safely assigned to the carbon C(82) (see Figure S6) that is the only carbon residing along the C_3 axis of the $C_{3v}(7)-C_{82}$ cage. Note that this carbon has a lower chemical shift (i.e., 114.96 ppm) relative to most others in the spectrum, indicating a significant paramagnetic effect imposed by the closely located paramagnetic Sm^{2+} ion. A similar situation was also observed in the ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[Ce@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}]^-$, in which the signals with lower chemical shifts were assigned to the hexagon that is along the C_2 axis and close to the paramagnetic Ce^{3+} ion. Therefore, the NMR study of $Sm@C_{3v}(7)-C_{82}$ might indicate that the internal

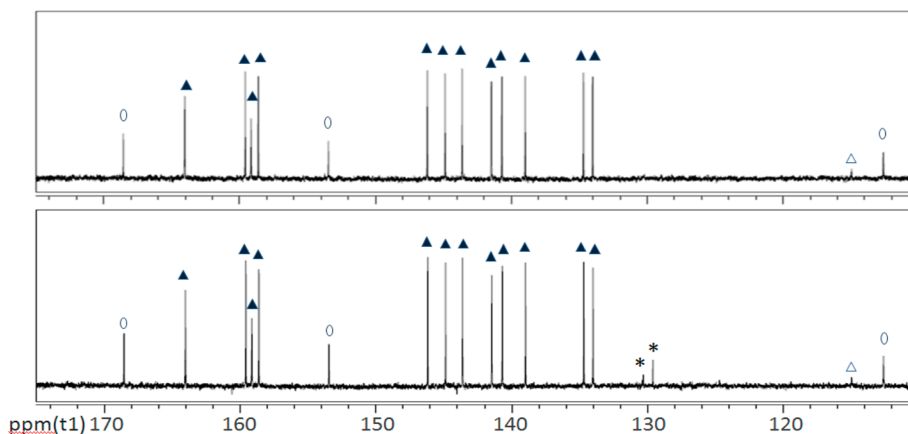


Figure 4. ^{13}C NMR spectra (125 MHz, in CS_2 using acetone- d_6 as internal lock, 293 K) of $Sm@C_{3v}(7)-C_{82}$ in proton-coupled (up) and proton decoupled modes (down). The integrated intensity ratio of the peaks marked with a solid triangle, an open circle, and an open triangle, respectively, is 6:3:1. The asterisk (*) indicates the signals from impurities.

Table 1. Redox Potentials (V vs $\text{Fc}^{0/+}$)^a of $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$, $\text{Sm}@C_{3v}(7)\text{-C}_{82}$, and Reference Fullerenes

	$^{\text{ox}}E_1$	$^{\text{red}}E_1$	$^{\text{red}}E_2$	$^{\text{red}}E_3$	$^{\text{red}}E_4$	$\Delta E_{\text{gap,EC}}$	abs. onset
$\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$	0.52	-0.42	-0.77	-1.60	-1.94	0.94	1766 (0.70) ^f
$\text{Yb}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ ^d	0.61	-0.46	-0.78	-1.60	-1.90	1.07	
$\text{Sm}@C_2(5)\text{-C}_{82}$ ^e	0.42	-0.84	-1.01	-1.51	-1.90	1.26	1402 (0.88) ^{f,g}
$\text{Yb}@C_2(5)\text{-C}_{82}$ ^d	0.38	-0.86	-0.98	-1.50	-1.87	1.24	
$\text{Sm}@C_{3v}(7)\text{-C}_{82}$	0.66 ^b (0.56 ^c)	-0.94	-1.25	-1.79	-2.11	1.50	1128 (1.10) ^f

^aHalf-wave potentials unless otherwise noted. ^bIrreversible process; peak potential. ^cDPV value. ^dRef 11a. ^eRef 16. ^fAbsorption onset position; units: nm (eV). ^gValues reported by ref 13.

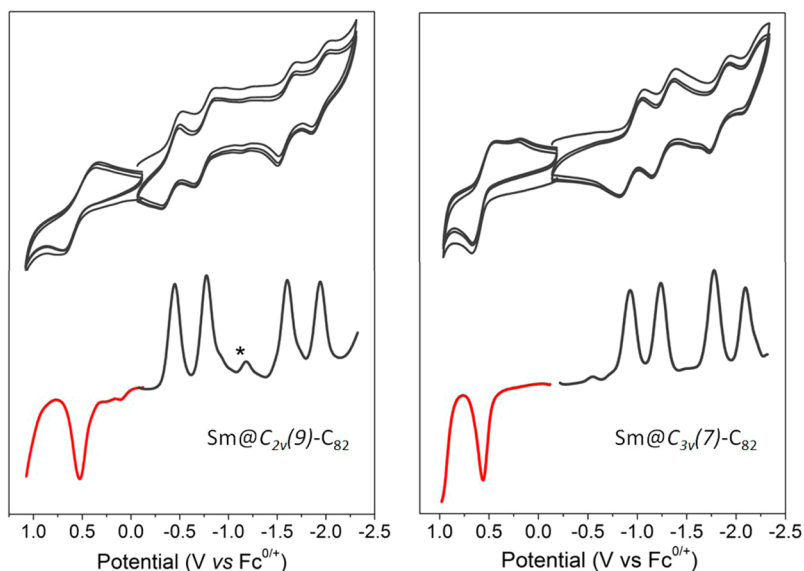


Figure 5. Cyclic voltammograms and differential pulse voltammogram of $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ (left) and $\text{Sm}@C_{3v}(7)\text{-C}_{82}$ (right) in *o*-dichlorobenzene containing 0.05 M $(n\text{-Bu})_4\text{NPF}_6$, (scan rate: 100 mV s^{-1} and 20 mV s^{-1} for CV and DPV, respectively). The asterisk (*) corresponds to the trace impurities in the sample or solvent.

Sm^{2+} ion prefers to reside along the C_3 axis and very close to the carbon $C(82)$. Such a proposal agrees very well with the previously reported XRD data, which demonstrated a similar Sm^{2+} ion position as well as a close metal-cage contact between Sm and $C(82)$ in $\text{Sm}@C_{3v}(7)\text{-C}_{82}$.¹³

Electrochemical surveys of $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ and $\text{Sm}@C_{3v}(7)\text{-C}_{82}$ were performed by means of cyclic voltammogram (CV) and differential pulse voltammogram (DPV). CV and DPV were recorded in *o*-dichlorobenzene (*o*-DCB) containing 0.05 M tetra(*n*-butyl)-ammonium hexafluoro-phosphate ($(n\text{-Bu})_4\text{NPF}_6$) as a supporting electrolyte. All the obtained redox potentials were summarized in Table 1 and compared with those of previously reported $\text{Sm}@C_2(5)\text{-C}_{82}$.¹⁶ As shown in the CV profiles (see Figure 5), these $\text{Sm}@C_{82}$ isomers all exhibit four reversible one-electron reduction steps in the cathodic region, while the difference of their first or second reduction potentials exceeds 0.5 V. Specifically, the first reduction potential of $\text{Sm}@C_{3v}(7)\text{-C}_{82}$ is much higher than those of other two isomers, shifting from -0.94 V for $\text{Sm}@C_{3v}(7)\text{-C}_{82}$ to -0.84 V for $\text{Sm}@C_2(5)\text{-C}_{82}$ and -0.42 V for $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$. Apparently, the reduction potentials of these $\text{Sm}@C_{82}$ isomers are mainly determined by the properties of their carbon cages, and $\text{Sm}@C_{3v}(7)\text{-C}_{82}$ exhibits a much weaker electron-accepting ability relative to others. As for the third or fourth reductions, the potential difference between these isomers is almost negligible. Such a feature suggests that the LUMO+1 orbitals of $\text{Sm}@C_{82}$ isomers are less susceptible to the cage symmetries as compared to their nondegenerate low-lying

LUMOs. On the other hand, in the anodic region, the CV of $\text{Sm}@C_{3v}(7)\text{-C}_{82}$ at a scan rate of 100 mV s^{-1} shows an irreversible one-electron oxidation step with a peak potential at 0.66 V. Decreasing the scan rate from 100 mV s^{-1} to 50 mV s^{-1} , the first oxidation of $\text{Sm}@C_{3v}(7)\text{-C}_{82}$ becomes even more irreversible (see Figure S7). The other two isomers both exhibit fully reversible oxidations at 0.52 and 0.42 V ($E_{1/2}$ vs Fc/Fc^+), respectively. Thus, the oxidative behaviors of $\text{Sm}@C_{82}$ isomers are cage-dependent. All these redox steps can also be observed in the corresponding DPV profiles. The electrochemical gap was determined as 1.5 eV for $\text{Sm}@C_{3v}(7)\text{-C}_{82}$,¹⁷ 0.94 eV for $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$, and 1.26 eV for $\text{Sm}@C_2(5)\text{-C}_{82}$, respectively, which are consistent with the magnitude of their absorption onset positions (see Table 1). Moreover, another comparison study demonstrated an unremarkable potential difference (less than 90 mV) between $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ and $\text{Yb}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$. Also, the potential difference between $\text{Sm}@C_2(5)\text{-C}_{82}$ and $\text{Yb}@C_2(5)\text{-C}_{82}$ is even smaller than 40 mV.¹⁵ These results suggest that replacing the endohedral Yb^{2+} ion with the Sm^{2+} ion does not significantly influence the redox properties of $\text{M}@C_{82}$.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, two $\text{Sm}@C_{82}$ isomers have been structurally characterized by ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy for the first time, and their cage symmetries were unambiguously determined as $C_{2v}(9)$ and $C_{3v}(7)$, respectively. A combined study of single crystal X-ray analysis and theoretical calculations suggest that the preferred Sm^{2+} ion position in $\text{Sm}@C_{2v}(9)\text{-C}_{82}$ might be

located in a region slightly off the C_2 axis of $C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$. Moreover, the electrochemical surveys on these $Sm@C_{82}$ isomers reveal that their redox activities are mainly determined by the properties of their carbon cages. Therefore, our results not only further complete the knowledge of divalent $M@C_{82}$ but also enhance the understanding of the structures and electrochemical properties of these $Sm@C_{82}$ isomers.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Synthesis and Isolation. The synthesis of Sm-metallofullerenes was described in earlier studies.¹⁴ Briefly, Sm-metallofullerenes were produced using a modified arc-discharge method. Specifically, the anode graphite rod was filled with $SmNi_2$ /graphite powder (1:10 atomic ratio), while a pure graphite rod was employed as a cathode. The arc-discharge was carried out at 70 A with an electrode gap of ca. 1 cm under 400 Torr helium static atmosphere. Fullerene species was extracted from soot using *o*-xylene at a high temperature under a nitrogen atmosphere. The pure samples of $Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$ and $Sm@C_{3v}(7)-C_{82}$ were isolated via a multistage HPLC procedure and then checked by analysis HPLC.

NMR Experiments. The ^{13}C NMR measurements were conducted with a spectrometer (Avance 500 with a Cryo-Probe system; Bruker) in proton-decoupled and proton-coupled modes, respectively. Carbon disulfide was used as a solvent and a capillary tube of acetone- d_6 as an internal lock. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CS_2 , 293 K) of $Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$: δ 188.87(2C), 177.56(4C), 162.26(4C), 157.96(4C), 153.65(2C), 152.06(4C), 145.97(4C), 145.85(2C), 145.83(2C), 145.75(4C), 144.78(4C), 144.08(4C), 143.61(2C), 143.13(4C), 142.00(4C), 141.65(4C), 140.78(4C), 140.21(4C), 136.55(2C), 132.90(4C), 130.15(4C), 127.46(4C), 121.58(2C), 112.54(4C) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CS_2 , 293 K) of $Sm@C_{3v}(7)-C_{82}$: δ 168.55(3C), 164.03(6C), 159.58(6C), 159.14(6C), 158.61(6C), 153.46(3C), 146.17(6C), 144.87(6C), 143.62(6C), 141.46(6C), 140.69(6C), 138.98(6C), 134.68(6C), 134.01(6C), 114.96(1C), 112.62(3C) ppm.

Single-crystal X-ray Diffraction Analysis. Black cocrystals of $Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}/Ni^{II}(OEP)$ were obtained by allowing the benzene solution of fullerene and the chloroform solution of $Ni^{II}(OEP)$ to diffuse together. X-ray data were collected at 90 K using a diffractometer (APEX II; Bruker Analytik GmbH) equipped with a CCD collector. The multiscan method was used for absorption correction. The structure was resolved using direct methods (SHELXS97) and refined on F^2 using full-matrix least-squares using SHELXL97.¹⁸ The intact cage was modeled via the crystallographic mirror plane in refinement. The sum of the occupancy factors for all samarium sites was set as 0.5, equal to the sum of cage occupancy of 0.5. Hydrogen atoms were added geometrically and refined with a riding model.

The cocrystal of $Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}/Ni^{II}(OEP) \cdot 0.87C_6H_6 \cdot 0.13CHCl_3$ contains another severely disordered lattice of C_6H_6 and $CHCl_3$ molecules that could not be modeled properly. Therefore, the SQUEEZE program, a part of the PLATON package of crystallographic software,¹⁹ was used to calculate the solvent disorder area and remove its contribution from the intensity data.

Electrochemistry. Differential pulse voltammetry (DPV) and cyclic voltammetry (CV) were carried out in *o*-dichlorobenzene (*o*-DCB) using a BAS CW-50 instrument. A conventional three-electrode cell consisting of a platinum working electrode, a platinum counter-electrode, and a saturated calomel reference electrode (SCE) was used for both measurements. 0.05 M (*n*-Bu)₄NPF₆ was used as the supporting electrolyte. All potentials were recorded against a SCE reference electrode and corrected against Fc/Fc⁺. DPV and CV were measured at a scan rate of 20 and 100 mVs⁻¹, respectively.

COMPUTATIONAL METHOD

Single point calculations and geometry optimizations were carried out using the Gaussian 09 program package²⁰ at the M06-2X/3-21G(6-31G*) ~ SDD level.²¹ The standard 3-21G or 6-31G* basis set was

used for the C, N, and H atoms and the SDD basis set (with the SDD effective core potential) for Sm and Ni atoms.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

Mass and UV-vis-NIR spectra of $Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$ and $Sm@C_{3v}(7)-C_{82}$, X-ray models of $Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}$, CV profiles of $Sm@C_{3v}(7)-C_{82}$, X-ray crystallographic file in CIF format for $Sm@C_{2v}(9)-C_{82}/Ni^{II}(OEP) \cdot 0.87C_6H_6 \cdot 0.13CHCl_3$, and complete ref 20. 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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