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Does Gd@C₈₂ Have an Anomalous Endohedral Structure? Synthesis and Single Crystal X-ray Structure of the Carbene Adduct

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Endohedral metallofullerenes have attracted considerable interest as promising spherical molecules for material and biomedical applications, because of their unique properties that are unexpected from empty fullerenes.¹ It is the focus of interest to determine cage structures and metal positions, because these are essential for the properties and reactivities of endohedral metallofullerenes. Since the first extraction of La@C₈₂ in 1991,² M@C₈₂ (M = group 3 metals and lanthanides) has been known as a representative monometallofullerene. Theoretical calculations have predicted that the M atom is mostly encapsulated inside the C_{2v} cage of C_{82} .^{3,4} This prediction has been verified for metals such as M = Y,⁵ La,⁶⁻⁸ Ce,9 and Pr10 by measuring the 13C NMR spectra of the diamagnetic anion of $M@C_{82}$ or from the X-ray crystal analysis of the La@C₈₂ carbene adduct.⁷ The $C_{2\nu}$ cage structures of Sc@C₈₂¹¹ and $La@C_{82}^{12}$ have been also found by the MEM (maximum entropy method)/Rietveld analysis of synchrotron X-ray powder diffraction data. In addition, the MEM/Rietveld analysis has shown that the Sc and La atoms are located at an off-centered position near a hexagonal ring of the $C_{2\nu}$ -C₈₂ cage. This agrees with theoretical prediction.⁴ The X-ray single crystal analysis and theoretical calculations of La@C₈₂(Ad) (Ad = adamantylidene) have revealed that the La position is little changed by the Ad addition.⁷ The paramagnetic NMR spectral analysis and theoretical calculations of Ce@C₈₂ and its anion have shown that the Ce atom even in the Ce@C₈₂ anion is also located at an off-centered position adjacent to a hexagonal ring along the C_2 axis of the $C_{2\nu}$ -C₈₂ cage.¹³

From the MEM/Rietveld analysis, however, it has been recently claimed that $Gd@C_{82}^{14}$ and $Eu@C_{82}^{15}$ have an exceptional anomalous endohedral structure, in which the metal atom having f electrons is located near the C-C double bond on the opposite side of the C_{2v} -C₈₂ cage along the C_2 axis. This claim disagrees with theoretical calculations^{4,16–18} and experimental studies.^{19,20} According to the recent theoretical calculations of $Gd@C_{82}$ and Eu@C₈₂, the anomalous structures found from the MEM/Rietveld analysis are highly unstable and do not correspond to energy minima.¹⁷ In this context, we have carried out the single crystal X-ray crystallographic analysis of the Gd@C82 carbene adduct



Figure 1. ORTEP drawing of one enantiomeric isomer of Gd@C₈₂(Ad) (1) showing thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level. The CS_2 and 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene molecules are omitted for clarity.

 $(Gd@C_{82}(Ad)(1))$ together with theoretical calculations. These results do not support the anomalous structure of Gd@C₈₂.

Irradiation of a toluene solution of Gd@C₈₂²¹ (2 mg, 7.8×10^{-5} M) and an excess molar amount of 2-adamantane-2,3-[3H]-diazirine (2) in a degassed sealed tube at room temperature using a highpressure mercury-arc lamp (cutoff < 300 nm) resulted in the formation of the adduct, Gd@C₈₂(Ad) (1) in a 95% yield, which was purified by preparative HPLC (eq 1). LD-TOF mass spectrometry of 1 (C₉₂H₁₄Gd, mass m/z 1410) exhibits a molecular ion peak at m/z 1410–1407 and a peak at m/z 1276–1273 (Gd@C₈₂) due to the loss of the Ad group. The UV-visible-near-infrared absorption spectrum of 1 is similar to that of the pristine $Gd@C_{82}$. These results suggest that 1 retains the essential electronic and structural character of Gd@C₈₂.



The structure of 1 determined by the X-ray crystal analysis²² is shown in Figure 1. The structural aspects are very similar to those for La@C₈₂(Ad). As is apparent from Figure 1, the fullerene cage of 1 originates from the $C_{2\nu}$ isomer of C_{82} and the Gd atom is located at a single site. It is notable that the Gd atom is located at an off-centered position near a hexagonal ring in the $C_{2\nu}$ -C₈₂ cage, as found for $M@C_{82}$ (M = Sc¹¹ and La¹²) and La@C₈₂(Ad).⁷ The C(1)-C(2) distance is 2.100 Å, indicative of an open structure. The Gd-C(1) and Gd-C(2) distances are 2.515 and 2.523 Å, respectively. The X-ray data collected at 90, 213, and 293 K reveal

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Figure 2. Selected charge densities (upper) and POAV ($\theta_{\sigma\pi} - 90^{\circ}$) values (lower) in Gd@C₈₂.

that the Gd atom remains at the same position regardless of temperatures, as shown in Figure 1.

Since there are 24 nonequivalent carbons and 19 nonequivalent 6-6 bonds in Gd@C₈₂, the addition of Ad may occur at several sites to afford several monoadduct isomers. Although the reactions of Gd@C₈₂ with organic reagents²³ have been reported so far, no structural determination of the adducts has been reported yet.

The selective formation of 1 (the structure in Figure 1) can be explained using the reaction of the photochemically generated Ad with Gd@C₈₂, as in the La@C₈₂ case.⁷ The local strain on cage carbons plays an important role in determining the reactivity. The pyramidalization angles from the π -orbital axis vector analysis POAV ($\theta_{\sigma\pi} - 90^{\circ}$) values provide a useful index of the local strain.²⁴ The Mulliken charge densities and POAV ($\theta_{o\pi} - 90^{\circ}$) values calculated for Gd@C82 are shown in Figure 2.25 Both values are found to be large for the carbons in the six-membered ring nearest to the Gd atom. This suggests that the electrophilic Ad selectively attacks the highly electron-rich and strained carbons in the six-membered ring.²⁶ In fact, the addition of Ad takes place on the carbon atoms, C(1) and C(2) (Figure 2), as indicated by the X-ray crystal structure (Figure 1). The structural confirmation of Gd@C₈₂ by X-ray single crystal structure analysis is in progress and will be reported in due course.

The single crystal X-ray crystallographic analysis of Gd@C₈₂(Ad) (1) suggests that $Gd@C_{82}$ has a normal endohedral structure in which the Gd atom is located at an off-centered position near a hexagonal ring (not near the C–C double bond) along the C_2 axis of the $C_{2\nu}$ -C₈₂ cage, as does M@C₈₂ (M = Sc¹¹ and La¹²). This indicates that the MEM/Rietveld analysis is not always reliable for metal positions^{17,27} as well as cage structures,^{28,29} though it has been widely used for structural determination of endohedral metallofullerenes. 30 The highly selective derivatization of Gd@C_{82} suggests that an encapsulated metal plays an important role in controlling the reactivity and selectivity of fullerenes. Synthesis of target molecules with a high selectivity and reactivity is important for accurate organic synthesis, especially for endohedral metallofullerenes whose preparation and isolation are difficult in large-scale quantities.

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Supporting Information Available: Complete refs 6 and 7; analytical HPLC profile and cyclic and differential pulse voltammogram of 1; details of theoretical calculation and the X-ray crystallographic data collection and structure refinement. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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