

Synthesis and Structure of the First Soluble Ternary Metal Amide–Imide Compounds with an $M_2Al_2Si_2N_6$ Core (M = Li, Na)

Peter Böttcher, Herbert W. Roesky,^{*,†} Mrinalini G. Walawalkar, and Hans-Georg Schmidt

Institut für Anorganische Chemie der Universität Göttingen, Tammannstrasse 4, D-37077 Göttingen, Germany

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Summary: The reaction of the silyl triamide 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)Si(NH₂)₃ (**1**) with MAIme₄ yielded ionic aluminosilazanes, [2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)Si(NH₂)(NH)₂AlMe₂]₂[M·THF]₂ (M = Li (**2**), Na (**3**)), the first examples of ionic aluminosilazanes containing both amido and imido groups. The molecular structures of **2** and **3**, determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction, show that these drum-shaped aluminosilazanes have a central M₂Al₂Si₂N₆ core.

Introduction

Since the first preparation of metallasiloxanes toward the end of the 19th century,^{1–3} several research groups around the world have been contributing continuously to our basic understanding of the structural and catalytic aspects of silicate-based materials.^{4–8} In the past few years, we have taken up a new and unique approach in understanding the structures of the naturally occurring metallasilicates and zeolites by synthesizing soluble model compounds in the laboratory, starting from simple metal precursors and silanols.^{9–11} Also in recent years the importance of nitridosilicates in materials science has been growing. New nitridosilicates with a highly polymeric, three-dimensional framework and incorporated cations have been synthesized using silicon diimide, [Si(NH)₂]_n, and various metals at high temperatures.^{12–18}

* To whom correspondence should be addressed. Fax: Int. Code + (551)39-3373. E-mail: hroesky@gwdg.de.

† Dedicated to Professor Leopold Horner on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

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Our success in the preparation of neutral and ionic metallasiloxanes^{9–11} and the valence isoelectronic neutral metallasilazanes^{19–25} coupled with the recent interest in nitridosilicate chemistry prompted us to explore the possibility of extending this chemistry to the synthesis of ionic metallasilazanes. We report herein the synthesis of the first soluble ionic aluminosilazanes, [2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)Si(NH₂)(NH)₂AlMe₂]₂[M·THF]₂ (M = Li(**2**), Na(**3**)), and their unambiguous structural characterization.

Results and Discussion

The reaction between 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)Si(NH₂)₃ (**1**)¹⁹ and an equivalent quantity of MAIme₄ (M = Li, Na) in a 5:1 mixture of boiling toluene and THF for 3 h gave compounds **2** (yield: 72%) and **3** (yield: 77%) (Scheme 1).

Compounds **2** and **3** have been fully characterized by elemental analysis and mass, IR and NMR spectroscopy.

The EI-MS spectrum of **2** shows a fragment ion at *m/z* 450 for M⁺ – 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃NSiMe₃ – 4 Me – 2 Li – 2 THF (5%), and that of **3** gives a peak at *m/z* 418 for M⁺ – 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃NSiMe₃ – 2 NH₂ – 4 Me – 2 Na – 2 THF (3%). For both compounds the base peak observed at *m/z* 162 corresponds to the aryl cation 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₄⁺. The infrared spectra of **2** and **3** show three characteristic absorptions (3402, 3380, and 3353 cm⁻¹ (**2**); 3498, 3373, and 3334 cm⁻¹ (**3**)), which are assigned to the N–H stretching frequencies. The ¹H and ²⁹Si NMR data in solution are consistent with the structures of **2** and **3**

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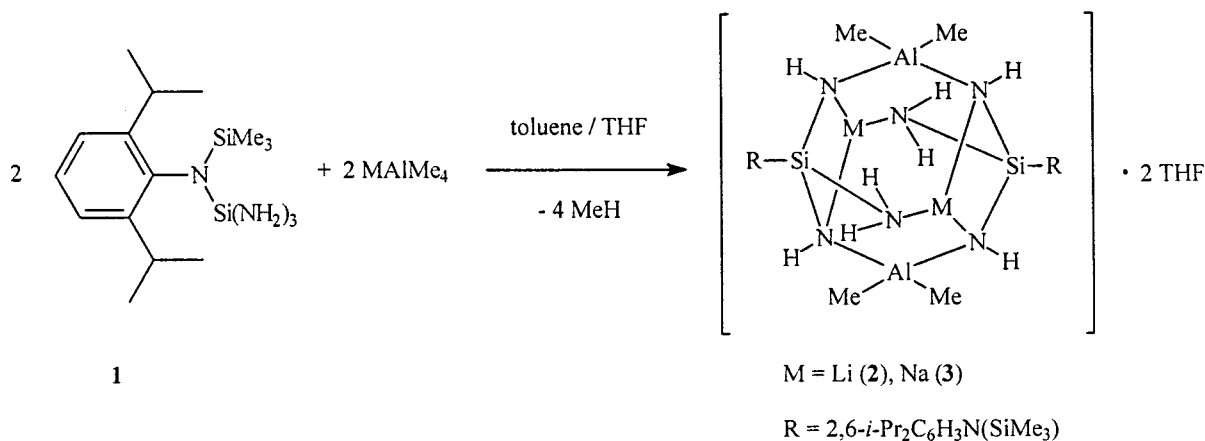
Scheme 1. Reaction of 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)Si(NH₂)₃ (**1**) and MAlMe₄ (M = Li, Na)

Table 1. Crystal Data and Structure Refinement Details for [2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)SiNH₂(NH₂)₂AlMe₂]₂[Li·THF]₂ (2**) and [2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)SiNH₂(NH₂)₂AlMe₂]₂[Na·THF]₂ (**3**)**

	2	3
empirical formula	C ₄₂ H ₈₈ Al ₂ Li ₂ N ₈ O ₂ Si ₄	C ₄₂ H ₈₈ Al ₂ Na ₂ O ₂ Si ₄
fw	917.40	949.50
temp, K	203(2)	200(2)
cryst syst	triclinic	monoclinic
space group	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i>
unit cell dimens		
<i>a</i> , Å	10.486(3)	14.740(4)
<i>b</i> , Å	11.714(4)	14.453(2)
<i>c</i> , Å	12.264(4)	14.436(7)
α, deg	101.65(4)	90
β, deg	90.53(2)	111.65(4)
γ, deg	110.466(12)	90
<i>V</i> , Å ³ ; <i>Z</i>	1377.0(8); 1	2859(2); 2
calcd density, Mg/m ³	1.106	1.103
abs coeff, mm ⁻¹	0.179	0.188
<i>F</i> (000)	500	1032
cryst size, mm	0.70 × 0.30 × 0.10	0.60 × 0.50 × 0.10
θ range for data collectn, deg	3.52–22.55	2.05–22.49
limiting indices	−11 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 6 −12 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 12 0 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 13	−14 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 15 −12 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 15 −7 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 15
no. of rflns collected	4053	3919
no. of indep rflns	3191 (<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0182)	3462 (<i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0313)
no. of data/restraints/params	3188/0/288	3459/0/288
goodness of fit on <i>F</i> ²	1.068	1.070
final <i>R</i> indices (<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>))		
<i>R</i> 1	0.0371	0.0580
<i>wR</i> 2	0.0891	0.1481
<i>R</i> indices (all data)		
<i>R</i> 1	0.0435	0.0707
<i>wR</i> 2	0.0978	0.1636
largest diff peak and hole, e Å ⁻³	0.245, −0.230	0.674, −0.370

Table 2. Selected Bond Distances (Å) and Bond Angles (deg) for [2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)SiNH₂(NH₂)₂AlMe₂]₂[Li·THF]₂ (2**), [2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)SiNH₂(NH₂)₂AlMe₂]₂[Na·THF]₂ (**3**), and [2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)NSi(NH)₃(AlMe)AlMe₂]₂ (**4**)^a**

	2 (M = Li)	3 (M = Na)	4
Si(1)–N(2)	1.759(2)	1.759(3)	1.684(2)
Si(1)–N(3)	1.698(2)	1.694(3)	1.775(2)
Si(1)–N(4)	1.698(2)	1.693(4)	1.780(2)
Al(1)–N(3A)	1.888(2)	1.880(3)	1.940(2)
Al(1)–N(4)	1.887(2)	1.881(3)	1.951(2)
M(1)–N(2)	2.063(5)	2.385(4)	
M(1)–N(3A)	2.158(5)	2.590(4)	
M(1)–N(4A)	2.166(5)	2.508(4)	
N(1)–Si(1)–N(2)	115.05(10)	113.6(2)	114.2(1)
N(1)–Si(1)–N(3)	110.66(11)	108.9(2)	115.4(1)
N(1)–Si(1)–N(4)	111.38(11)	108.8(2)	112.8(1)
N(2)–Si(1)–N(3)	106.26(11)	104.3(2)	108.8(1)
N(2)–Si(1)–N(4)	103.13(11)	107.5(2)	113.3(1)
N(3)–Si(1)–N(4)	109.99(11)	113.9(2)	92.50(9)
N(4)–Al(1)–N(3A)	106.05(11)	107.5(2)	100.47(8)
N(2)–M(1)–N(3A)	111.4(2)	98.21(13)	
N(2)–M(1)–N(4A)	112.4(2)	107.04(13)	
N(3A)–M(1)–N(4A)	80.1(2)	67.65(12)	

^a Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms (#1): $-x, -y, -z + 1$ (**2**); $-x + 1, -y, -z + 2$ (**3**); $-x, -y, -z$ (**4**).

in the solid state. The ¹H NMR spectrum shows, in addition to the signals for the organic substituent R and the coordinated THF, three signals due to the AlMe₂ (−0.51 (**2**), −0.43 (**3**) ppm), the NH₂ (1.12 (**2**), 0.91 (**3**) ppm) and the NH moieties (1.75 (**2**), 1.38 (**3**) ppm).

Crystal data for compounds **2** and **3** are summarized in Table 1. Selected bond distances and angles are given in Table 2. Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were obtained by crystallization from THF (**2**) and from toluene (**3**) at ambient temperature. The molecular structures are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Compounds **2** and **3** lie on a crystallographic center of symmetry. Both molecules **2** and **3** are isostructural, and they have a drum-shaped central core which is made up of two types of six-membered rings and two four-membered rings. The two Si–N–Al–N–M–N six-membered rings are in a twist-boat conformation. These two rings are joined to each other by two Si–N–M–N rings which deviate considerably from planarity. The mean deviation shown by the atoms in this four-membered ring is 6.50 (**2**) and 1.17 Å (**3**). The geometry around each atom in the drum is tetrahedral. The amino moieties of the silyltriamide are partially reacted and two of the amino groups are in the imido (NH) form and one is in the amido (NH₂) form. The average Si–N(imido) bond is slightly shorter (1.70 Å (**2**), 1.69 Å (**3**)) than the Si–N(amido) bond (1.76 Å (**2**, **3**)). The average M–N(imido) bond is slightly longer (2.16 Å (**2**), 2.55 Å (**3**)) than the M–N(amido) bond (2.06 Å (**2**), 2.39 Å (**3**)). One molecule of THF is coordinated to each alkali-metal ion, which are tetracoordinated with a distorted tetrahedral geometry. Each aluminum center is tetrahedral and is bonded to two methyl groups and to the

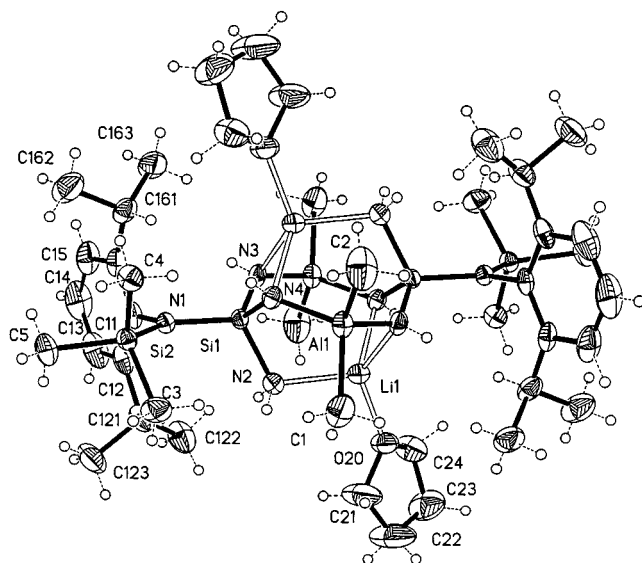


Figure 1. Crystal structure of $[2,6\text{-}i\text{-Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}(\text{SiMe}_3)\text{Si}(\text{NH}_2)(\text{NH})_2\text{AlMe}_2]_2[\text{Li}\cdot\text{THF}]_2$ (**2**) showing 50% probability of the thermal ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme.

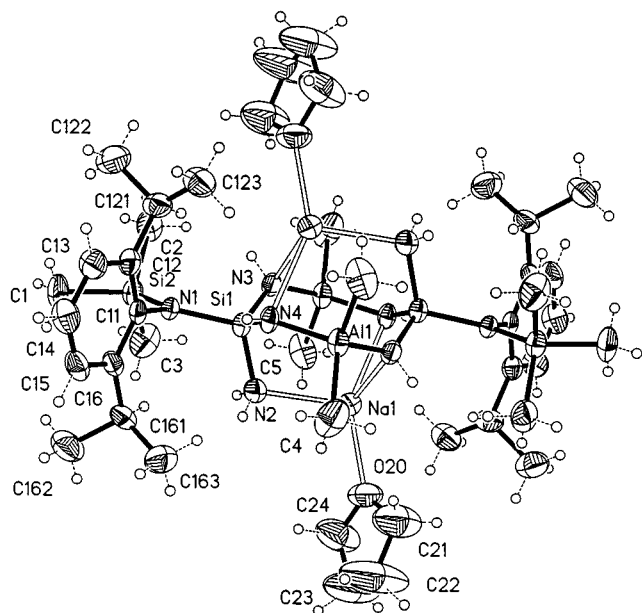


Figure 2. Crystal structure of $[2,6\text{-}i\text{-Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}(\text{SiMe}_3)\text{Si}(\text{NH}_2)(\text{NH})_2\text{AlMe}_2]_2[\text{Na}\cdot\text{THF}]_2$ (**3**) showing 50% probability of the thermal ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme.

two imido nitrogens. The average Al–N bond lengths are 1.89 Å (**2**) and 1.88 Å (**3**), respectively. It is remarkable that the comparable Si–N and Al–N bond lengths in **2** and **3** are nearly the same.

The only other structurally characterized compound with a comparable structure is the nonionic metallasilazane $[2,6\text{-}i\text{-Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}(\text{SiMe}_3)\text{NSi}(\text{NH})_3(\text{AlMe})\text{AlMe}_2]_2$ (**4**)^{22,25} (selected bond distances and angles are given in Table 2). The difference in the structure of **4** is that the alkali-metal ions are replaced by Al–Me groups and no THF is coordinated within the molecule (Figure 3).

The Si–N(imido) and the Al–N(imido) bond lengths in **2** and **3** are slightly shorter than those found in **4** (average Si–N 1.75 Å; average Al–N 1.96 Å). Compound **4** has also a tetrahedral geometry around each atom in

the drum. The N–Al–N angles in **2** (106.1°) and **3** (107.5°) are slightly greater than those reported for **4** (100.5°).

In summary, we have shown that the discrete silane triamide **1** is an excellent synthon for generating a new class of soluble metal amide–imide systems containing Al, N, Si, and alkali metal in the framework. The synthetic methodology is likely to be quite general and can possibly be extended to the preparation of other metal-containing oligomeric silazanes. Furthermore, the presence of easily hydrolyzable Al–C bonds, apart from several reactive N–H groups, offer possible access to supramolecular networks based on silazane frameworks. We are actively pursuing these aspects.

Experimental Section

General Methods. All experimental manipulations were carried out using standard Schlenk procedures. Solvents were dried according to standard methods and freshly distilled prior to use. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM 200, a Bruker MSL 400, or a Bruker Avance 500 instrument. The chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to external SiMe₄. IR spectra were recorded on a Bio-Rad Digilab FTS 7 spectrometer. Mass spectra were obtained on a Finnigan MAT 8230 system and a Varian MAT CH5. Melting points were obtained on a Büchi B-500 instrument and are reported uncorrected. Elemental analyses were performed at the analytical laboratory of the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Universität Göttingen.

Starting Materials. 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)Si(NH₂)₃, LiAlMe₄, and NaAlMe₄ were prepared using literature procedures.^{19,26}

Synthesis of $[2,6\text{-}i\text{-Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}(\text{SiMe}_3)\text{Si}(\text{NH}_2)(\text{NH})_2\text{AlMe}_2]_2[\text{Li}\cdot\text{THF}]_2$ (2**).** LiAlMe₄ (0.43 g, 5.00 mmol) dissolved in toluene/THF (10 mL/10 mL) was added to a solution of **1** (1.62 g, 5.00 mmol) in toluene (40 mL). The solution was heated under reflux for 3 h, during which time the evolution of methane ceased and a colorless solid precipitated. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, the precipitate was filtered. Analytically pure **2** was obtained by washing the crude product with *n*-hexane (10 mL). Yield: 1.64 g (1.79 mmol, 72%). Mp: 226 °C dec. Anal. Calcd for C₄₂H₈₈Al₂Li₂N₈O₂Si₄ (M_r = 917.40): C, 55.0; H, 9.7; N, 12.2. Found: C, 54.9; H, 9.9; N, 12.0. MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* 450 (5, M⁺ – 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃NSiMe₃ – 4 Me – 2 Li – 2 THF), 162 (100, 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₄⁺). IR (KBr, Nujol): 3402, 3380, 3353, 1568, 1312, 1248, 1178, 1106, 1063, 1045, 964, 951, 926, 901, 871, 838, 799, 776, 738, 677, 637, 575, 525, 507, 473 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C₅D₅N, ppm): δ –0.51 (s, 12 H, AlCH₃), 0.28 (s, 18 H, SiCH₃), 1.12 (s, 4 H, NH₂), 1.27, 1.28 (d, ³J_{HH} = 6.9 Hz, 12 H, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.59 (m, 8 H, THF CH₂), 1.75 (s, 4 H, NH), 3.63 (m, 8 H, THF OCH₂), 3.79 (sept, ³J_{HH} = 6.9 Hz, 4 H, CHMe₂), 7.10–7.19 (m, 6 H, arom H). ²⁹Si NMR (50 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, ppm): δ –50.1 (SiN₃), –13.8 (SiMe₃).

Synthesis of $[2,6\text{-}i\text{-Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}(\text{SiMe}_3)\text{Si}(\text{NH}_2)(\text{NH})_2\text{AlMe}_2]_2[\text{Na}\cdot\text{THF}]_2$ (3**).** To a solution of **1** (1.62 g, 5.00 mmol) in toluene (50 mL) was added a solution of NaAlMe₄ (0.55 g, 5.00 mmol) in THF (10 mL). The reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 3 h, during which time the evolution of methane ceased. After the mixture was cooled, the solution was concentrated in vacuo (10 mL). The resulting solution was cooled at 0 °C overnight to yield 1.82 g (1.92 mmol, 77%) of analytically pure **3**. Mp: 246 °C dec. Anal. Calcd for C₄₂H₈₈Al₂N₈Na₂O₂Si₄ (M_r = 949.50): C, 53.1; H, 9.3; N, 11.8. Found: C, 52.9; H, 9.4; N, 11.7. MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* 418 (3, M⁺ – 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃NSiMe₃ – 2 NH₂ – 4 Me – 2 Na – 2 THF), 162 (100, 2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₄⁺).

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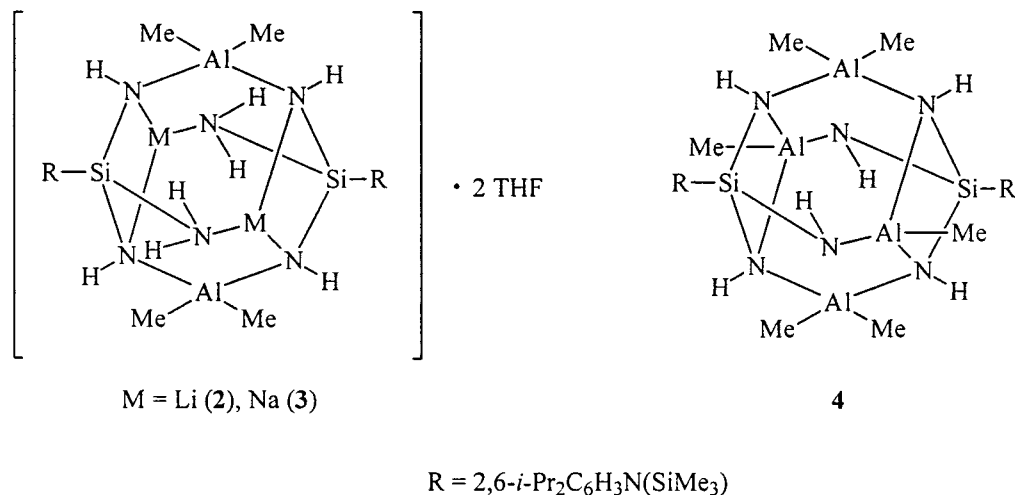


Figure 3. [2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)Si(NH₂)(NH)₂AlMe₂]₂[M·THF]₂ (M = Li (2), Na (3)) and [2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N(SiMe₃)Si(NH)₃(AlMe)AlMe₂]₂ (4).

IR (KBr, Nujol): 3498, 3373, 3334, 1562, 1312, 1248, 1182, 1106, 1078, 1053, 957, 929, 903, 871, 839, 801, 780, 673, 632, 543, 485, 460, 442 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C₅D₅N, ppm): δ -0.43 (s, 12 H, Al(CH₃)₂), 0.38 (s, 18 H, Si(CH₃)₃), 0.91 (s, 4 H, NH₂), 1.22 (d, ³J_{HH} = 6.8 Hz, 12 H, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.38 (s, 4 H, NH), 1.43 (d, ³J_{HH} = 6.8 Hz, 12 H, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.56 (m, 8 H, THF CH₂), 3.60 (m, 8 H, THF OCH₂), 4.13 (sept, ³J_{HH} = 6.8 Hz, 4 H, CHMe₂), 6.95–7.16 (m, 6 H, arom H). ²⁹Si NMR (99 MHz, C₅D₅N, ppm): δ -32.2 (SiN₃), -0.2 (SiMe₃).

Crystal Structure Determination for 2 and 3. Data for the structures of 2 and 3 were collected on a Stoe AED2 diffractometer; Mo Kα (λ = 0.710 73 Å) radiation was used. The structure solution (direct methods) and refinement (by full-matrix least squares on F²) were carried out using the SHELXS-86²⁷ and the SHELXL-93 programs.²⁸ All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The hydrogen

atoms were included using the riding model with its U_{iso} value tied to the U_{iso} value of the parent atom and were refined isotropically.

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Supporting Information Available: Tables giving positional and thermal parameters and estimated standard deviations for all atoms, bond distances, bond angles, and anisotropic thermal parameters for 2 and 3. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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