

ORGANOMETALLICS

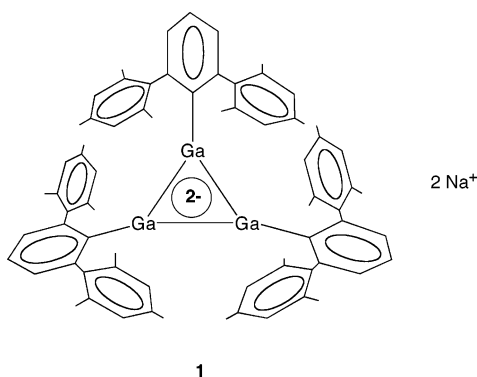
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Editor's Page

The Editor's Introduction to the Review by Wang and Robinson in This Issue of *Organometallics*

The molecule on the cover of the present issue is the sodium salt of a cyclotrigallene dianion, **1**, whose preparation and structural characterization were reported in 1995 in a JACS communication by Gregory H. Robinson, the senior author of the review in this issue, and his co-workers. It was the first



example of a compound that contains a planar ring of three gallium atoms. Our cover molecule, isolated as red-black crystals, was prepared by the reaction of (2,6-dimesitylphenyl)gallium dichloride with metallic sodium in diethyl ether. Professor Robinson immediately recognized its importance in terms of bonding theory, stating in his communication: "In addition to being the first cyclogallane, $\text{Na}_2[(\text{Mes}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3)\text{Ga}]_3$ is at once both promising and intriguing as the concept of *metalloaromaticity*—a metallic ring system possessing aromatic character—is brought to the fore."

Our cover molecule is one of many group 13 molecules that contain metal–metal single, double, and triple bonds that are discussed in the review by Yuzhong Wang and Professor Robinson, which follows immediately after the Editor's Page.

As the list of references shows, the area that Wang and Robinson review is a relatively recent one, dating back to 1988. While the focus is on Robinson's work, the results of others, particularly the other major contributors to this area, Werner Uhl, Hansjörg Schnöckel, and Philip Power, are covered.

Of special interest is Robinson's discussion of his digallyne dianion, a species with a Ga–Ga triple bond. This has been the subject of vigorous debate, and Robinson gives a spirited account of his views.

Professor Robinson obtained his B.S. in 1980 at Jacksonville State University in Alabama, where he not only learned chemistry but also was a football star (Gulf South Conference Defensive Player of the Year in 1979). Graduate studies at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa followed, where, under the guidance of Jerry L. Atwood, he became acquainted with and very active in group 13 chemistry. After he received his Ph.D., he joined the faculty of Clemson University in South Carolina. There he pursued a very productive and outstanding program of research in group 13 organometallic chemistry, initially focusing on organoaluminum chemistry. By 1990, he had become actively and very innovatively engaged in research in organogallium and -indium chemistry. In addition to his fascinating unsaturated anionic organogallium compounds discussed in this review, the preparation of a spirocyclic gallate anion in 1998 and the trimethylgallium adduct of an N-heterocyclic carbene (1996) are noteworthy.

In 1995, Professor Robinson joined the chemistry faculty of the University of Georgia, where in 2005 he became Franklin Professor.

Professor Robinson's coauthor, Yuzhong Wang, studied chemistry in his native China and then came to the University of Kentucky, where he obtained his Ph.D. under the guidance of David A. Atwood. He currently is a member of Professor Robinson's research group as an Associate Research Scientist.

In comparison to organoaluminum chemistry, the organic chemistry of gallium and indium was not very actively pursued before 1990. Now the picture has changed dramatically—the exciting new metal–metal-bonded derivatives, both saturated and unsaturated, and the novel and unusual cluster compounds of these elements have made their chemistry very interesting indeed.

The cover molecule figure was kindly provided by Professor Arnold L. Rheingold.

Dietmar Seyferth
Editor
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