

## Beryllium Compounds

Deutsche Ausgabe: DOI: 10.1002/ange.201606154  
Internationale Ausgabe: DOI: 10.1002/anie.201606154The Oxygen-Rich Beryllium Oxides  $\text{BeO}_4$  and  $\text{BeO}_6$ 

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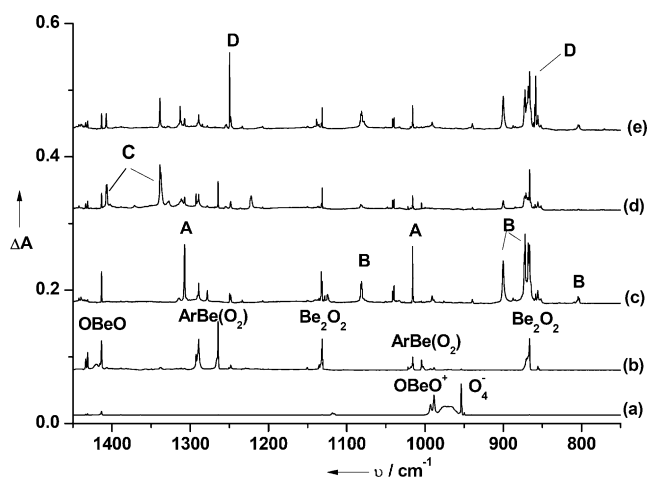
**Abstract:** Two novel isomers of  $\text{BeO}_4$  with the structures  $\text{OBeOOO}$  and  $\text{OBe}(\text{O}_3)$  in the electronic triplet state have been prepared as well as the known disuperoxide complex  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$  in solid noble-gas matrices. We also report the synthesis of the oxygen-rich bis(ozonide) complex  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_3)_2$  in the triplet state which has a  $D_{2d}$  equilibrium geometry. The molecular structures were identified by infrared absorption spectroscopy with isotopic substitutions as well as quantum chemical calculations.

Although beryllium resides in the same row as boron, nitrogen, carbon, and oxygen in the periodic table, the chemistry of beryllium has remained sketchy so far compared with that of the other elements of the first octal row of the periodic system. This is probably due to the high toxicity of beryllium compounds, which prevented large-scale experimental work for a long time, with notable exceptions.<sup>[1]</sup> Recent work indicates that beryllium chemistry may now become the focus of more intensive experimental studies.<sup>[2]</sup>

The structure and bonding of beryllium compounds are of significant experimental and theoretical interest. Owing to its high ionization energy and small atomic radius, covalent interactions play an important role in the bonding in many beryllium compounds, unlike the heavier alkaline-earth metals Mg–Ba.<sup>[3]</sup> Beryllium oxide species have gained experimental and theoretical attention, because of their unique bonding situation. The simplest beryllium oxide,  $\text{BeO}$  was characterized to be the strongest diatomic Lewis acid, which was found to be able to bind a noble gas atom in forming the complexes  $\text{NgBeO}$  ( $\text{Ng} = \text{He}–\text{Xe}$ ).<sup>[4,5]</sup> The beryllium dioxide molecule  $\text{BeO}_2$  has been prepared in solid noble-gas matrices and was characterized to be a linear molecule with a triplet ground state.<sup>[6–8]</sup> The less stable cyclic  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)$  isomer can also be stabilized by argon coordination as  $\text{ArBe}(\text{O}_2)$  complex in a solid argon matrix.<sup>[7]</sup> The hyperstoichiometric  $\text{BeOBe}$  and the cation  $\text{BeOBe}^+$  were spectroscopically determined to have very similar linear centrosymmetric structures.<sup>[6,9–12]</sup> Higher beryllium oxide species have also been reported in solid noble-gas matrices. The  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$  complex is character-

ized to be a disuperoxide with a  $D_{2d}$  structure.<sup>[6,7]</sup> The cyclic  $\text{Be}_2\text{O}_2$  and two  $\text{Be}_2\text{O}_4$  isomers have also been prepared and spectroscopically identified.<sup>[6,13]</sup> Herein we provide a joint matrix-isolation infrared spectroscopic and theoretical study on some novel oxygen-rich beryllium–oxygen species. Two additional structural isomers of the previously reported disuperoxide  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$  complex involving an end-on and a side-on bonded ozonide fragment, respectively, and a bis(ozonide) complex  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_3)_2$  were synthesized and identified.

The beryllium–oxygen species were prepared by the reactions of beryllium atoms and dioxygen molecules in solid argon, and were detected by infrared absorption spectroscopy as described in detail previously.<sup>[14]</sup> The infrared spectra in the  $1450–750\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region from co-deposition of Be atoms with 0.3 %  $\text{O}_2$  in argon are shown in Figure 1. After 1 h



**Figure 1.** Infrared spectra in the  $1450–750\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region from co-deposition of Be atoms with 0.3 %  $\text{O}_2$  in argon. a) after 1 h of sample deposition at 4 K, b) after 30 min of UV/Vis light irradiation (250–580 nm), c) after annealing to 30 K, d) after 15 min of UV/Vis light irradiation, and e) after annealing to 25 K. A:  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$ , B:  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_3)_2$ , C:  $\text{OBeOOO}$ , and D:  $\text{OBe}(\text{O}_3)$ .

of sample deposition at 4 K (Figure 1, trace a), absorptions at  $1413.4$ ,  $1118.7$ ,  $988.6$ , and  $953.8\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were observed. The  $1118.7$  and  $953.8\text{ cm}^{-1}$  absorptions are due to the  $\text{O}_4^+$  cation and  $\text{O}_4^-$  anion, which are common for laser-evaporated metal-atom reactions with dioxygen.<sup>[15,16]</sup> The  $1413.4$  and  $988.6\text{ cm}^{-1}$  absorptions were previously assigned to the antisymmetric stretching vibrations of the linear  $\text{OBeO}$  and  $\text{OBeO}^+$  species, respectively.<sup>[6,7]</sup> When the as-deposited sample was subjected to broad band irradiation using a mercury arc lamp without a filter ( $250 < \lambda < 580\text{ nm}$ ); Figure 1, trace b), the charged species absorptions were completely destroyed, while the  $\text{OBeO}$  absorption increased

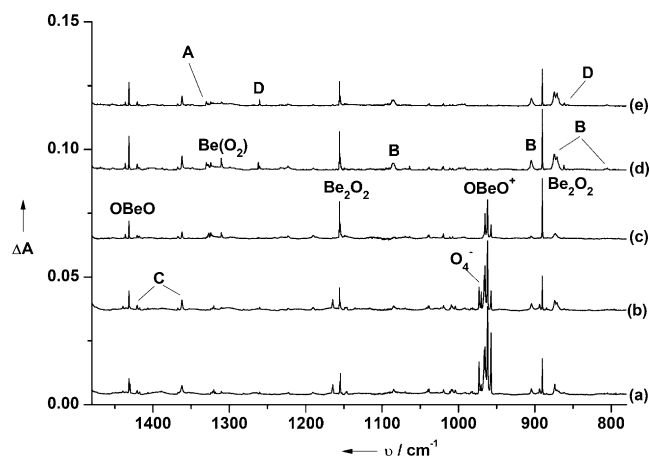
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markedly along with the formation of cyclic  $\text{Be}_2\text{O}_2$  (1131.3, 866.3, and  $522.4\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and  $\text{ArBe}(\text{O}_2)$  (1289.1/1264.3 and  $1015.6/1004.4\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).<sup>[6]</sup> Subsequent sample annealing to 30 K (Figure 1, trace c) produced two groups of new absorptions (labeled as **A** and **B**) at the expense of the  $\text{OBeO}$  and  $\text{ArBe}(\text{O}_2)$  absorptions. Both group **A** and **B** absorptions were almost destroyed on additional broad band UV/Vis irradiation (Figure 1, trace d) during which a new species **C** was produced. Group **C** absorptions disappeared on following sample annealing to 25 K (Figure 1, trace e), while a new species **D** was produced and species **B** was partially recovered. The experiments were repeated under the same conditions using the  $^{18}\text{O}_2$ ,  $^{16}\text{O}_2 + ^{18}\text{O}_2$ , and  $^{16}\text{O}_2 + ^{16}\text{O}^{18}\text{O} + ^{18}\text{O}_2$  samples to help product identification on the basis of isotopic shifts and absorption splittings. The isotopic spectra in selected regions are shown in Figures S1–S4 of the Supporting Information. The product band positions are summarized in Table 1.

Experiments were also performed with laser-evaporated beryllium atoms and  $\text{O}_2$  in excess neon. The spectra with a 0.03 %  $\text{O}_2$  in neon are shown in Figure 2. The same products as observed in the argon matrix are presented, but the product absorptions are much weaker than those observed in the argon matrix, particularly for the  $\text{BeO}_4$  isomers. The product absorptions in solid neon are given in parentheses in Table 1. The band positions are uniformly shifted to higher wave numbers from those of in solid argon.

Species **A** with absorptions at 1307.0, 1015.8, and  $596.4\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in solid argon is assigned to the beryllium disuperoxide complex  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$  with  $D_{2d}$  symmetry. The first



**Figure 2.** Infrared spectra in the  $1480\text{--}780\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region from co-deposition of laser-evaporated Be atoms with 0.03 %  $\text{O}_2$  in neon. a) 30 min sample deposition at 4 K, b) after annealing to 10 K, c) after 15 min of  $280\text{--}580\text{ nm}$  light irradiation, d) after 15 min of  $250\text{--}580\text{ nm}$  light irradiation, and e) after 12 K annealing. **A:**  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$ , **B:**  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_3)_2$ , **C:**  $\text{OBeOOO}$ , and **D:**  $\text{OBe}(\text{O}_3)$ .

absorption was attributed to this species previously.<sup>[7]</sup> The mixed isotopic spectral features (Figure S1 and S2, Table S1) confirm that two equivalent  $\text{O}_2$  units with equivalent oxygen atoms are involved. The band position and isotopic frequency ratio (1.0472) suggest that the  $1015.8\text{ cm}^{-1}$  absorption is mainly an antisymmetric O–O stretching vibration. The  $596.4\text{ cm}^{-1}$  absorption can be attributed to the antisymmetric  $\text{OBeO}$  stretching mode, which is doubly degenerate for the

**Table 1:** Experimental and calculated infrared absorptions and isotope shifts ( $\Delta$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of the  $\text{BeO}_4$  and  $\text{BeO}_6$  compounds.

Species	Exptl. <sup>[d]</sup>		$\Delta$	Assignment	Calcd. CCSD/cc-pVTZ <sup>[c]</sup>			M06-2X/def2-TZVPP		
	$^{16}\text{O}_2$	$^{18}\text{O}_2$			$^{16}\text{O}_2$	$^{18}\text{O}_2$	$\Delta$	$^{16}\text{O}_2$	$^{18}\text{O}_2$	$\Delta$
$\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$ ( <b>A</b> )	1307.0 (1330.1)	1282.8 (1311.0)	−24.2 (−19.1)	$\text{Be-O-O-O s-str}^{[e]}$	1320.3	1297.7	−22.6	1362.3	1329.6	−32.7
	1015.8	970.0	−45.8	$\text{Be-O-O-O a-str}^{[e]}$	1126.1	1072.6	−53.5	1194.6	1145.9	−48.7
	596.4	578.6	−17.8	$\text{O-Be-O a-str}$	619.0 <sup>[a]</sup>	600.6	−19.0	648.5 <sup>[a]</sup>	627.2	−21.3
$\text{OBe}(\text{O}_3)$ ( <b>D</b> )	1249.5 (1262.0)	1230.1 (1242.2)	−19.4 (−19.8)	$\text{Be-O str}$	1298.9	1281.6	−17.3	1312.7	1293.7	−19.0
	858.6 (861.8)	816.2 (818.7)	−42.4 (−43.1)	$\text{O-O-O a-str}$	932.2	888.3	−43.9	997.0	946.6	−50.4
$\text{OBeOOO}$ ( <b>C</b> )	1407.4 (1420.7)	1380.9 (1392.1)	−26.5 (−28.6)	$\text{O-O, O-Be-O str}$	1421.5	1402.2	−19.3	1460.1	1437.6	−22.5
	1338.7 (1362.0)	1272.4 (1296.9)	−66.3 (−65.1)	$\text{O-O, O-Be-O str}$	1258.9	1188.0	−70.9	1342.6	1269.5	−73.1
	497.8	473.8	−24.0	$\text{O-O str}$	472.4	446.7	−25.7	468.2	442.8	−25.4
$\text{Ar-OBeOOO}$				$\text{O-Be-O str}$				1472.3	1450.8	−21.5
				$\text{O-O str}$				1340.6	1266.7	−73.9
				$\text{O-O str}$				470.3	444.7	−25.6
$\text{OBeOOO-Ar}$				$\text{O-Be-O str}$				1458.0	1435.7	−22.3
				$\text{O-O str}$				1341.1	1268.0	−73.1
				$\text{O-O str}$				475.6	449.6	−26.0
$\text{Be}(\text{O}_3)_2$ ( <b>B</b> )	1080.8 (1085.5)	1050.7 (1055.6)	−30.1 (−29.9)	$\text{Be-O-O-O str}$	1138.2	1089.9	−48.3	1204.6	1142.8	−61.8
	900.2 (904.5)	881.8 (886.1)	−18.4 (−18.4)	$\text{Be-O str}$	1000.4	976.3	−24.1	1009.0	993.7	−15.3
	872.1 (874.5)	829.4 (832.2)	−42.7 (−42.3)	$\text{O-O-O a-str}$	936.5 <sup>[a]</sup>	892.8 <sup>[a]</sup>	−44.7	1004.5	953.3	−51.2
	804.4 (805.2)	776.9 (777.3)	−27.5 (−27.9)	$\text{O-O-O bend}$	786.0 <sup>[b]</sup>	767.2 <sup>[b]</sup>	−18.8	815.1 <sup>[b]</sup>	771.6 <sup>[b]</sup>	−43.5

[a] Average value of two nearby lying signals; [b] Very low intensity; [c] The values for  $\text{OBeOOO}$  were calculated at CCSD/aug-cc-pVTZ;

[d] Experimental values in solid argon. The data in parentheses were obtained in solid neon; [e] s-str: symmetric stretch; a-str: asymmetric stretch.

$D_{2d}$  symmetry molecule. Only one weak band at  $1330.1\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is observed in solid neon for  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$ .

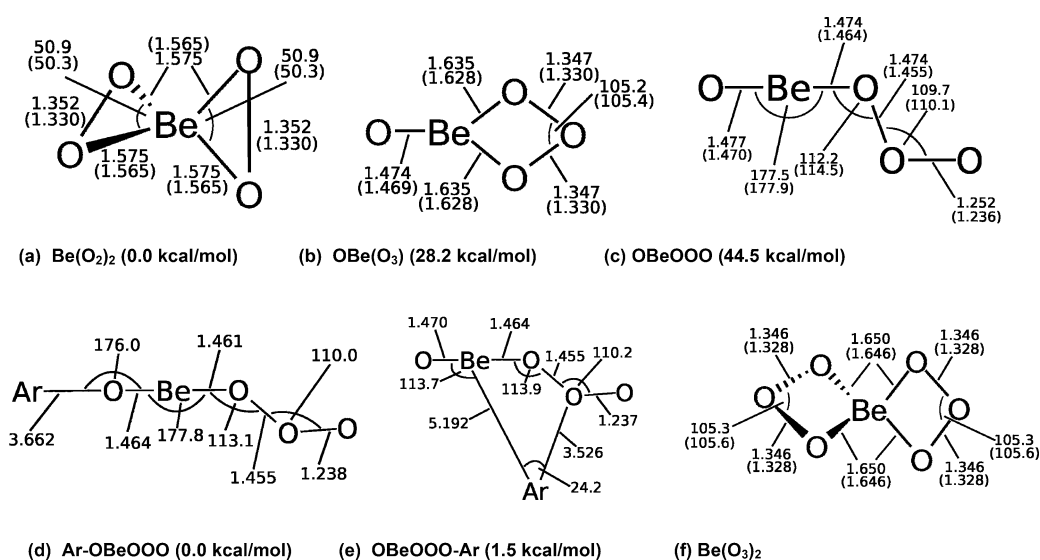
Species **C** with absorptions at  $1407.4$ ,  $1338.7$ , and  $497.8\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in solid argon is attributed to the  $\text{OBeOOO}$  molecule, a structural isomer of  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$ . Details on the spectral assignment of the experimentally observed modes are provided in Supporting Information. They agree with the assignments that come from the calculated spectra. The band position and isotopic  $^{16}\text{O}/^{18}\text{O}$  ratio (1.0192) suggest that the upper mode is mainly an antisymmetric  $\text{OBeO}$  stretching vibration. The middle mode has an isotopic  $^{16}\text{O}/^{18}\text{O}$  ratio of 1.0521, which is largely due to an  $\text{O-O}$  stretching vibration. The low frequency mode also shows quite large isotopic  $^{16}\text{O}/^{18}\text{O}$  ratio (1.0507), and is attributed to the stretching vibration of the weak  $\text{OBeO-OO}$  bond. Similar complexes involving a bent  $\text{OOO}$  unit have been reported for some transition- and main-group-metal systems with comparable  $\text{O-O}$  stretching frequencies.<sup>[13,17,18]</sup> The  $\text{OBeOOO}$  molecule in solid neon is observed at  $1420.7$  and  $1362.0\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The band positions are  $13.3$  and  $23.3\text{ cm}^{-1}$  blue-shifted from argon to neon.

Species **D** with absorptions at  $1249.5$  and  $858.6\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in solid argon is attributed to the  $\text{OBe}(\text{O}_3)$  molecule, a third structural isomer with  $\text{BeO}_4$  stoichiometry. This species is interconvertible with the  $\text{OBeOOO}$  isomer. The isotopic frequency ratio (1.0158) and mixed isotopic spectral features (Figure S4) are consistent with the assignment of the  $1249.5\text{ cm}^{-1}$  absorption to the terminal  $\text{Be-O}$  stretching vibration that is coupled by a side-on bonded  $\text{O}_3$  unit. The low absorption with an isotopic  $^{16}\text{O}/^{18}\text{O}$  ratio of 1.0519 is appropriate for the antisymmetric stretching vibration of the  $\text{O}_3$  subunit. Side-on bonded ozonide complexes have been reported for a number of early transition-metal and main-group-metal systems.<sup>[14,17–20]</sup> The same molecule absorbs at  $1262.0$  and  $861.8\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in solid neon, which are only  $12.5$  and  $3.2\text{ cm}^{-1}$  blue-shifted from those in argon, suggesting weak matrix effect.

Four absorptions were observed for species **B** at  $1080.8$ ,  $900.2$ ,  $872.1$ , and  $804.4\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in solid argon. These absorptions are favored with relatively high  $\text{O}_2$  concentrations, and show strong correlation with the  $\text{OBeO}$  absorption (The spectra with the  $0.2\%$  and  $0.1\%$   $\text{O}_2$  samples are shown in Figure S5 and S6). The isotopic spectral features imply the assignment of species **B** to  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$  with  $D_{2d}$  symmetry formed by the reaction of  $\text{OBeO}$  with two dioxygen molecules (See Supporting Information for details). The

absorption at  $872.1\text{ cm}^{-1}$  shifted to  $829.4\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with  $^{18}\text{O}_2$ . The  $^{16}\text{O}/^{18}\text{O}$  isotopic frequency ratio of 1.0515 indicates that it is mainly due to an  $\text{O-O}$  stretching vibration. The band position and isotopic data point to the assignment of this absorption to the doubly degenerate antisymmetric  $\text{O}_3$  stretching vibration. The  $900.2\text{ cm}^{-1}$  absorption shifted to  $881.8\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with  $^{18}\text{O}_2$ . The  $^{16}\text{O}/^{18}\text{O}$  isotopic frequency ratio (1.0209) implies that this absorption is largely due to a  $\text{Be-O}$  stretching mode. The  $1080.8\text{ cm}^{-1}$  absorption has an  $^{18}\text{O}$  counterpart at  $1050.7\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The  $^{16}\text{O}/^{18}\text{O}$  isotopic frequency ratio of 1.0286 is higher than those of any  $\text{Be-O}$  stretching modes but is much lower than that of  $\text{O-O}$  stretching vibration, which implies that this absorption is due to a mixed mode of  $\text{Be-O}$  stretching and  $\text{O-O}$  stretching vibrations. The very weak absorption at  $804.4\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is likely due to a  $\text{O}_3$  bending vibration. The  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_3)_2$  complex is observed at  $1085.5$ ,  $904.5$ ,  $874.5$ , and  $805.2\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in solid neon. The band positions are blue-shifted less than  $5\text{ cm}^{-1}$  from those in solid argon.

We carried out quantum chemical calculations of the molecules  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$ ,  $\text{OBeOOO}$ ,  $\text{OBe}(\text{O}_3)$ , and  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_3)_2$  using ab initio methods at the CCSD/cc-pVTZ level and density functional theory (DFT) at M06-2X/def2-TZVPP. Details of the methods are given in Supporting Information. Calculated data in this work refer to CCSD/cc-pVTZ calculations, unless otherwise marked. Calculations of the four species at the singlet and triplet electronic state showed that the triplets are always much lower in energy than the singlets. Figure 3 display the optimized geometries. The most stable isomer on the  $\text{BeO}_4$  potential energy surface is the disuperoxide  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$  with  $D_{2d}$  symmetry (Figure 3, structure (a)) which agrees with earlier work.<sup>[6,7]</sup> The oxo-ozonide isomer  $\text{OBe}(\text{O}_3)$ , which has a cyclic  $\text{BeO}_3$  moiety and  $C_{2v}$  symmetry (structure (b)), is at the CCSD/cc-pVTZ level  $28.2\text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$  higher in energy than  $\text{Be}(\text{O}_2)_2$  ( $28.1\text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$  at M06-2X/def2-TZVPP). The calculated reaction energies that are shown in Table 2 suggest



**Figure 3.** Optimized geometries and relative energies of the beryllium oxides at the CCSD/cc-pVTZ level (CCSD/aug-cc-pVTZ for  $\text{OBeOOO}$ ). Bond lengths [Å], angles [°]. Values at M06-2X/def2-TZVPP are given in parentheses. Geometries and relative energies of  $\text{Ar-OBeOOO}$  and  $\text{OBeOOO-Ar}$  are optimized at M06-2X/def2-TZVPP. All species have an electronic triplet state.

**Table 2:** Calculated reaction energies for oxidation of Be and BeO in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> at CCSD/cc-pVTZ.<sup>[a]</sup>

BeO <sub>n</sub>	Be + n/2 O <sub>2</sub> → BeO <sub>n</sub>	BeO + (n-1)/2 O <sub>2</sub> → BeO <sub>n</sub>
BeO	-36.6 (-35.5)	
Be(O <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	-123.1 (-119.2)	-86.5 (-83.7)
O-Be-OOO	-91.4 (-88.1)	-54.8 (-52.6)
O-Be-(O <sub>3</sub> )	-94.9 (-91.1)	-58.3 (-55.6)
Be(O <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	-104.9 (-99.1)	-68.3 (-63.5)

[a] The values in parentheses include zero-point vibrational corrections.

that all beryllium oxides Be(O<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, OBeOOO, OBe(O<sub>3</sub>), and Be(O<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> are thermodynamically stable for dissociation into BeO + O<sub>2</sub> and total loss of oxygen. However, the bis(ozonide) Be(O<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> is thermodynamically unstable towards loss of O<sub>2</sub> and formation of Be(O<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. Note that the difference between the first and second columns give the stability for the reaction Be + 0.5 O<sub>2</sub> → X(<sup>1</sup>Σ<sup>+</sup>) BeO which is shown in the first entry line. The dissociation of BeO<sub>2</sub> in the lowest lying <sup>3</sup>Σ<sub>g</sub><sup>-</sup> ground state into Be + O<sub>2</sub> has been calculated before.<sup>[8b]</sup> The theoretical value of 88 ± 4 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> indicates that Be(O<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, which has a calculated bond dissociation energy (BDE) for loss of O<sub>2</sub> of BDE = 123.1 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, is thermodynamically the most stable beryllium oxide of the BeO<sub>x</sub> species.

The planar acyclic oxo-ozonide OBeOOO (C<sub>s</sub> symmetry, Figure 3, structure (c)) was found as stationary point at the M06-2X/def2-TZVPP level and 45.8 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> higher in energy than Be(O<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. Optimization at CCSD/cc-pVTZ did not succeed, but augmentation of the basis set with diffuse functions at the CCSD/aug-cc-pVTZ level gave a stationary point, which is 44.5 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> higher in energy than Be(O<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> using a single-point energy of the Be(O<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> isomers at CCSD/cc-pVTZ//CCSD/aug-cc-pVTZ. The frequency calculations of the optimized structures of OBeOOO at CCSD/aug-cc-pVTZ and M06-2X/def2-TZVPP gave a small imaginary mode at both levels of theory. We optimized the geometry of OBeOOO at the M06-2X/def2-TZVPP level with one attached Ar atom and found two energy minima denoted as Ar-OBeOOO and OBeOOO-Ar with nearly the same energy (Figure 3, structures (d) and (e)) which exhibit slightly distorted geometries of the OBeOOO moiety. The oxygen-rich bis(ozonide) Be(O<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> exhibits a D<sub>2d</sub> structure with perpendicular O<sub>3</sub> moieties (Figure 3, structure (f)). The bond lengths and angles of the BeO<sub>3</sub> fragments in the bis(ozonide) Be(O<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> are very similar to the values of the cyclic ozonide fragment in OBe(O<sub>3</sub>). The theoretical bond lengths and angles at M06-2X/def2-TZVPP agree quite well with the CCSD/cc-pVTZ data.

The assignment of the vibrational spectra and the identification of the observed species was made by comparing the experimental signals with the calculated harmonic frequencies and the oxygen isotope shifts Δ (ν<sup>16</sup>O–ν<sup>18</sup>O) which are shown in Table 1. It is well established that the calculated harmonic frequencies are in general, higher than the experimental anharmonic frequencies. The noble-gas matrix effect, which is not considered by the calculations, is another factor that contributes to the difference between the matrix experimental and computed values. Table 1 shows that the isotopic shifts of the three observed IR modes for species A

agree very well with the calculated data of the global energy minimum structure Be(O<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> at both levels of theory. The absolute values of the calculated frequencies at CCSD/cc-pVTZ are slightly too high with the M06-2X/def2-TZVPP values being even higher. The newly discovered isomer OBe(O<sub>3</sub>) is also easily identified by comparing the experimental signals for species D with the calculated frequencies and isotope shifts Δ of the two signals (Table 1). The identification of species B as oxygen rich BeO<sub>6</sub> is also straightforward. Table 1 shows that the calculated frequencies agree very well with the experimental data.

The identification of the energetically rather high lying isomer OBeOOO as species C was more difficult. As mentioned above, the optimized structures at M06-2X/def2-TZVPP and CCSD/aug-cc-pVTZ have one small imaginary frequency (Table S3). The vibrational frequencies of the complexes Ar-OBeOOO and OBeOOO-Ar which are genuine energy minima are only lightly different from the values for free OBeOOO. Table 1 shows that the three experimentally observed modes and the isotope shifts of species C agree very well with the calculated frequencies of OBeOOO, Ar-OBeOOO, and OBeOOO-Ar. We think that the weak interactions of the surrounding noble-gas atoms stabilize the OBeOOO-Ar isomer such that it becomes an observable species.

In summary, the novel oxygen-rich species BeO<sub>6</sub> and three isomers of BeO<sub>4</sub> with the structures (O<sub>2</sub>)Be(O<sub>2</sub>), OBeOOO, and OBe(O<sub>3</sub>) have been synthesized via the reactions of beryllium atoms with dioxygen molecules in solid argon and neon. The matrix-isolation infrared spectroscopy in conjunction with isotopic substitution provides unequivocal evidence about the number of oxygen atoms contained in the species as well as the binding mode and oxidation state. The species characterized herein, together with the previously known BeO<sub>2</sub> molecule, demonstrate diverse bonding situations between beryllium and oxygen. All these complexes are identified to have electronic triplet ground states with the beryllium center in its most common oxidation state + II and up to six oxygen atoms can bind to one beryllium center in different oxidation states, that is, oxyl radical (O)<sup>-</sup>, superoxide (O<sub>2</sub>)<sup>-</sup>, and ozonide (O<sub>3</sub>)<sup>-</sup>.

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