Cover Picture

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The cover picture shows the newest member of an "elite" club of aromatic molecules. The platinabenzene, in which a benzene methine (CH) unit has been replaced by an isoelectronic platinum fragment, completes the series of metalla-aromatics containing third row, Group VIII metals (Os, Ir, Pt). Previously excluded, the molecule gains admittance to this select club because it exhibits properties similar to other six-membered ring heteroaromatic compounds (e.g., pyridine), such as ring planarity, delocalized bonding, and downfield shifts in the ^{1}H NMR spectrum. The platinabenzene shares a feature unique for the third period transition metals in that it requires no further stabilization by coordination to an additional metal center. More on the structure and properties of this molecule can be found in the communication by Haley et al. on p. 3470 ff..