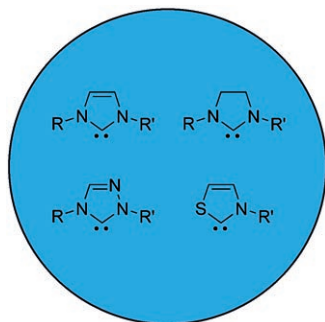


Cover Picture

Markus Hoffmann, Craig J. Wilson, Barbara Odell, and Harry L. Anderson*

A *molecular wire* is forged into a smooth ring—not by the blacksmith's fire, as shown in the background of the picture—but by the vicelike grip of an octadentate template. H. L. Anderson and co-workers describe in their Communication on page 3122 ff. how a linear porphyrin oligomer can be cyclized to generate a highly symmetric belt-shaped π system (image by M. Hoffmann; background photograph by J. McNerney, Yukon Forge, www.yukonforge.com).

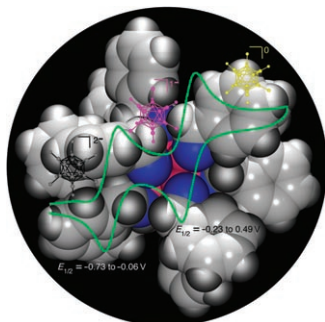
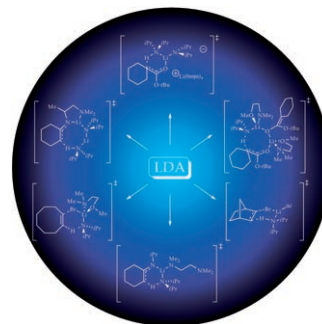


Organocatalysis

S. P. Nolan, S. Díez-González, and N. Marion present in their Minireview on page 2988 ff. the power of N-heterocyclic carbene as catalysts in organic synthesis. Their applicability in simple condensation reactions is ever increasing.

Lithium Reagents

Lithium diisopropylamide represents one of the standard reagents in organic synthesis, but its behavior is complex. Important results from kinetic studies—and the lessons they impart—are discussed in the Review by D. B. Collum et. al. on page 3002 ff.



Polyhedral Boranes

Alkoxy derivatives of the $[B_{12}H_{12}]^{2-}$ ion exhibit remarkable structure-dependent electronic properties. M. F. Hawthorne and co-workers describe in their Communication on page 3018 ff. the tunable nature of these pseudometallic species.