



H.-J. Himmel

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2000 in *Angewandte Chemie*:
 “Synthesis of a Stable $B_2H_5^+$ Analogue by Protonation of a Double Base-Stabilized Diborane(4)”: O. Ciobanu, E. Kaifer, M. Enders, H.-J. Himmel, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, 121, 5646–5649; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, 48, 5538–5541.

Hans-Jörg Himmel

Date of birth:	July 4th, 1970
Position:	Professor of Inorganic Chemistry
Education:	1989–1994 Student of Chemistry, Universities of Bochum and Heidelberg (Germany) 1994–1998 PhD in Physical Chemistry with C. Wöll, University of Bochum 1998–2000 Postdoctoral fellow with A. J. Downs, University of Oxford (UK) 2000–2005 Habilitation in Inorganic Chemistry with H. Schnöckel, TH Karlsruhe (Germany)
Professional associations:	2005–2006 Lecturer and Senior Fellow at The Queen’s College, University of Oxford
Awards:	2006–Present Professor (Chair) of Inorganic Chemistry, University of Heidelberg 2003 ADUC Annual Prize in Inorganic Chemistry 2004–2005 Heisenberg fellowship (DFG)
Current research interests:	Small-molecule activation, hydrides of group-13 elements, coordination chemistry, catalysis, synthesis of new functional materials starting from molecular precursors
Hobbies:	Reading novels, playing the piano, and hiking

The biggest challenge facing scientists is ... that every answer creates at least two new questions.

My favorite subject at school was ... history.

When I was eighteen I wanted to be ... a musician.

When I wake up I ... think of a list of things that have to be done today.

If I could have dinner with three famous scientists from history, they would be ... Albert Einstein, Kurt Goedel, and David Hilbert.

I chose chemistry as a career because ... I like it and it is a field in which very important discoveries are still waiting to be found.

My first experiment was ... growing alum crystals.

If I wasn’t a scientist, I would be ... a forester.

My most exciting discovery to date has been ... finding some examples of the striking reactivity and selectivity of metal-atom dimers and small clusters.

The best advice I have ever been given is ... that everybody who can measure very accurately has one prerequisite at hand to discover something very important. Of course, one has to also be able to distinguish between important and less-important experiments.

I would have liked to have discovered ... superconductivity.

The part of my job which I enjoy the most is ... the interaction with students.

My favorite composer is ... probably Joseph Haydn or Leoš Janáček. There are fortunately a large number of great composers, but I opt for these two because I think that their work is underrated.

My 5 top papers:

1. “Fabrication of a Carboxylterminated Organic Surface with Self-Assembly of Functionalized Terphenylthiols: The Importance of Hydrogen Bond Formation”: H.-J. Himmel, A. Terfort, C. Wöll, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, 120, 12069–12074.
2. “Thermal and Photochemical Reactions of Aluminium, Gallium and Indium Atoms (M) in the Presence of Ammonia: Generation and Characterization of the Species $M-NH_3$, $HMNH_2$, MNH_2 , and H_2MNH_2 ”: H.-J. Himmel, A. J. Downs, T. M. Greene, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, 122, 9793–9807.
3. “Characterization and Photochemistry of the Gallium and Indium Subhydrides Ga_2H_2 and In_2H_2 ”: H.-J. Himmel, L. Manceron, A. J. Downs, P. Pullumbi, *Angew. Chem.* **2002**, 114, 829–832; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, 41, 796–799.
4. “Spaltung der N_2 -Dreifachbindung durch Ti_2 : ein Weg zu molekularen Materialien für die N_2 -Aktivierung?": H.-J. Himmel, O. Hübner, W. Kloppe, L. Manceron, *Angew. Chem.* **2006**, 118, 2865–2868; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2006**, 45, 2799–2802.
5. “Synthesis and Structural Characterization of a Stable Dimeric Boron(II) Dication”: R. Dinda, O. Ciobanu, H. Wadepohl, O. Hübner, R. Acharyya, H.-J. Himmel, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, 119, 9270–9273, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, 46, 9110–9113.

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