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Low-Valent Ge₂ and Ge₄ Species Trapped
by N-Heterocyclic Gallylene

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After publication of this Communication, the authors learned about theoretical and experimental studies of four-membered cyclic compounds containing a B₂E₂ moiety (E = N, P, As) which possess a similar bonding situation as in their Ge₂Ga₂ species.^[1–3] In particular, the isolated and structurally characterized 1,3-dibora-2,4-diphosphonio-cyclobutane-1,3-diyl which has a cyclic B₂P₂ fragment exhibits a transannular B–B π bond without a B–B σ bond.^[1] Thus, the Ge₂Ga₂ compound described in the Communication is not the first example of a stable species which exhibits a π bond between two atoms without a σ bond. The authors are grateful to Didier Bourissou for drawing their attention to these precedents.

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