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With its so-called ufosan structure ...

... the $[Bi_{11}]^{3-}$ ion is the first polycyclic bismuth polyanion. S. Dehnen and co-workers show in their Communication on page 4704 ff. that its synthesis occurs by the surprisingly simple reaction of $[K([2.2.2]\text{crypt})]_2(GaBi_3)$ with the pyridine solvent to yield $[K([2.2.2]\text{crypt})]_3(Bi_{11})$. The binary Zintl anion $[GaBi_3]^{2-}$ decomposes under oxidative coupling of pyridine molecules and release of H_2 to form the $[Bi_{11}]^{3-}$ species.

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