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Molecular Calcium Hydride: Dicalcium Trihydride Cation Stabilized by a Neutral NNNN-Type Macrocyclic Ligand

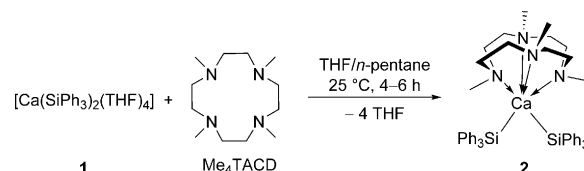
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In memory of Yoshiharu Izumi

Abstract: Hydrogenolysis of bis(triphenylsilyl)calcium containing the neutral NNNN-type macrocyclic amine ligand Me₄TACD [Ca(Me₄TACD)(SiPh₃)₂] (**2**), gave the cationic dinuclear calcium hydride [Ca₂H₃(Me₄TACD)₂](SiPh₃) (**3**), characterized by NMR spectroscopy, single-crystal X-ray analysis, and DFT calculations. Compound **3** reacted with deuterium to give the deuteride [D₃]-**3**.

Molecular magnesium hydrides are of current interest in the context of hydrogen-storage materials.^[1] Several families of molecular magnesium hydride complexes are known and their structure, reactivity, including hydrogen release and uptake behavior have been studied in some detail.^[2] In contrast, only two molecular calcium hydrides have been reported, namely Harder's dimeric nacnac-supported calcium hydride [(CaH(DIPP-nacnac)(THF))₂]^[3] (DIPP-nacnac = (2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃)-NC(Me)C(H)-C(Me)N(2,6-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃)) and the cationic tricalcium dihydride [Ca₃H₂(Me₃TACD)₃](A)^[4] (A = SiPh₃H₂, N(SiMe₃)(SiPh₃), (Ph₃SiH)CHPh, SiPh₃; Me₃TACD-H = 1,4,7-trimethyl-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane). These calcium hydride complexes are stabilized by mono-anionic LX- and L₃X-type ligands, which prevent the formation of insoluble calcium dihydride with a stable PbCl₂-type ionic lattice.^[5] Following the observation that bis(triphenylsilyl)calcium [Ca(SiPh₃)₂(THF)₄] (**1**) undergoes hydrogenolysis to give what appears to be a colloidal calcium dihydride,^[6] the Me₄TACD ligated bis(triphenylsilyl)calcium is regarded a suitable precursor for the molecular calcium dihydride [CaH₂(Me₄TACD)] (Me₄TACD = 1,4,7,10-tetramethyl-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane). Herein we report the synthesis and structural characterization of the cationic calcium hydride [Ca₂H₃(Me₄TACD)₂](SiPh₃) (**3**), obtained by hydrogenolysis of [Ca(Me₄TACD)(SiPh₃)₂] (**2**) that contains a neutral NNNN-type macrocyclic ligand.

First we treated **1** with Me₄TACD^[7] to give the yellow THF-free bis(triphenylsilyl)calcium [Ca(Me₄TACD)(SiPh₃)₂]



Scheme 1. Synthesis of the Me₄TACD adduct of bis(triphenylsilyl)-calcium (**2**).

(**2**; Scheme 1). This complex is soluble in THF and insoluble in aliphatic as well as in aromatic hydrocarbons. Complex **2** is less soluble in THF than **1** and could therefore be isolated in quantitative yield by crystallization from a THF/*n*-pentane mixture at 25 °C. Elemental analysis and NMR spectroscopic data of **2** agree with the proposed formula (see the Supporting Information).

Single crystals of **2** were obtained from a concentrated THF solution; the compound crystallizes in the monoclinic space group *C*2/*c* (No. 15) with *Z* = 4 and crystallographic *C*₂ symmetry. The calcium atom resides in a distorted trigonal prism, is located on the *C*₂ axis and bonded to two silyl ligands as well as to one κ⁴*N*-Me₄TACD ligand (Figure 1). The Ca–Si bond length (Ca1–Si1 3.1654(15) Å) is comparable to that in [Ca(SiPh₃)₂(THF)₄]^[6] (**1**) and in [Ca{Si(SiMe₃)₃}(THF)₃]^[8]. The small Si1–Ca1–Si1' angle of 85.68(5)° is notable. The Ca–N bond lengths (Ca1–N1 2.559(3) Å; Ca1–N2 2.603(4) Å) are inconspicuous. The overall structure is reminiscent of the lutetium dialkyl complex [Lu(Me₄TACD)(CH₂SiMe₃)₂][B{3,5-C₆H₃(CF₃)₂}]^[9].

The ¹H NMR spectrum of **2** in [D₈]THF at 25 °C shows two sharp singlets at δ = 2.18 and 2.50 ppm for the protons of

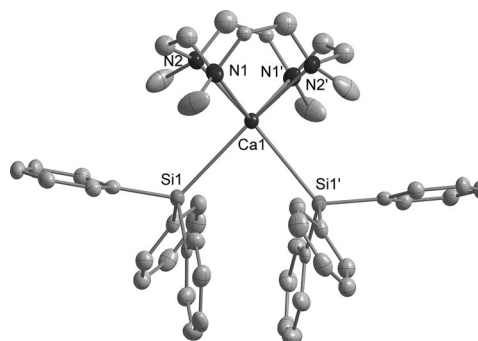


Figure 1. Molecular structure of **2**. Displacement ellipsoids are set at 50% probability; hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected interatomic distances [Å] and angles [°]: Ca1–Si1 3.1654(15), Ca1–N1 2.559(3), Ca1–N2 2.603(4); Si1–Ca1–Si1' 85.68(5), N1–Ca1–N1' 117.82(17), N2–Ca1–N2' 99.37(16).

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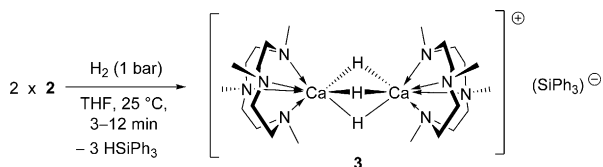
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the methyl and CH_2CH_2 groups of Me_4TACD , the CH_2CH_2 protons being equivalent as a result of the dissociated Me_4TACD ligand. The silyl groups result in three multiplets for *para/meta/ortho*-CH protons in the expected ratio between $\delta = 6.87$ and 7.41 ppm. The $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum at -60°C shows one singlet at $\delta = -15.20$ ppm; the absence of a signal at room temperature indicates fast dissociation in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ on the NMR time scale. Variable temperature (VT) ^1H NMR measurements in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ reveal coalescence of the CH_2CH_2 resonance signals at -40°C , with a calculated value of $\Delta G^\ddagger = 48.8$ kJ mol $^{-1}$ (see the Supporting Information). At -80°C , two broad signals ($\delta = 2.20$ – 2.70 ppm) with relative intensities of 1:1 are observed for the diastereotopic CH_2CH_2 protons of the macrocycle Me_4TACD . This result indicates that this ligand exchanges with THF molecules, indicating a labile bonding of Me_4TACD to the calcium center in **2**.

DFT calculations at the B3PW91 level were performed to understand the bonding in **2**. The optimized structure compares well with the crystal structure and NBO analysis showed three slightly bonding orbitals between Me_4TACD and calcium. Two strong interactions between calcium and the silyl ligands were identified with the HOMO and HOMO–1 orbitals (see the Supporting Information). Since the calculations did not explain the lability of the Me_4TACD ligand, we computed the enthalpy required to replace Me_4TACD by THF: $[\text{Ca}(\text{SiPh}_3)_2(\text{THF})_4] + \text{Me}_4\text{TACD} \rightarrow [\text{Ca}(\text{Me}_4\text{TACD})(\text{SiPh}_3)_2] + 4\text{THF}$. The value of $\Delta H = 36.4$ kJ mol $^{-1}$ agrees well with the observed exchange reaction.

Bis(triphenylsilyl) **2** reacted with H_2 (1 bar) in THF at room temperature to give the red calcium hydride $[\text{Ca}_2\text{H}_3(\text{Me}_4\text{TACD})_2(\text{SiPh}_3)]$ (**3**) in 95% yield. The hydrogenolysis proceeded fast at room temperature, whereas the deuterolysis to give the trideuteride $[\text{Ca}_2\text{D}_3(\text{Me}_4\text{TACD})_2(\text{SiPh}_3)]$ ($[\text{D}_3]\text{-3}$) in 95% yield was noticeably slower (12 vs. 3 min for a 0.1 M solution). Compound **3** is soluble in THF ($t_{1/2} \approx 12$ h), but insoluble in aromatic and aliphatic hydrocarbons and was characterized by elemental analysis and NMR spectroscopy (Scheme 2).^[10] Reaction of **3** with Ph_3SiH did not regenerate the starting silyl complex **2** under release of H_2 .



Scheme 2. Synthesis of cationic calcium trihydride **3**.

A single crystal of the cationic calcium hydride **3** was obtained from THF/*n*-hexane solution at -30°C . Compound **3** crystallized in the triclinic space group $P\bar{1}$ (No. 2). X-ray crystallography revealed a separated ion pair with a cationic dicalcium trihydride core $[\text{Ca}_2\text{H}_3(\text{Me}_4\text{TACD})_2]^+$ and a non-coordinating triphenylsilyl anion $(\text{SiPh}_3)^-$ (Figure 2 and Supporting Information for the silyl anion). The hydrogen atoms H1, H2, and H3 within the Ca_2H_3 core of **3** were located and refined in their positions. Each calcium atom is coordinated by four nitrogen atoms of the Me_4TACD ligand and

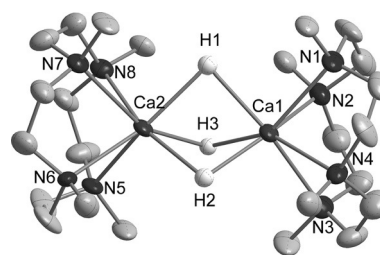


Figure 2. Molecular structure of **3**. Displacement ellipsoids are set at 50% probability; the triphenylsilyl anion and the hydrogen atoms except for those of the Ca_2H_3 core are omitted for clarity. Selected interatomic distances [Å]: Ca1...Ca2 3.233(2), Ca1–N1 2.614(6), Ca1–N2 2.576(8), Ca1–N3 2.590(6), Ca1–N4 2.674(7), Ca2–N5 2.589(6), Ca2–N6 2.670(7), Ca2–N7 2.612(6), Ca2–N8 2.587(6).

three bridging hydrides leading to a coordination number of seven and a tetragonally monocapped trigonal-prismatic coordination geometry around the calcium atom. The hydrides bridge the metal centers in a μ_2 manner. The intermetallic distance in **3** (Ca1...Ca2 3.233(2) Å) is shorter than that in trinuclear calcium hydride complexes $[\text{Ca}_3\text{H}_2(\text{Me}_3\text{TACD})_3](\text{A})$ ^[4] (Ca...Ca 3.3551(10) Å) and comparable to those in bimetallic lanthanide trihydrides $[\text{Ln}_2\text{H}_3]$ (Ln = Y and Lu; Ln...Ln = 2.93–3.75 Å),^[9,11] although the ionic radius of Ca^{2+} ions (1.06 Å with coordination number (CN) = 7) is larger than those of Y^{3+} ions (0.96 Å with CN = 7) and Lu^{3+} ions (0.86 Å with CN = 6).^[12]

The stability of the cationic calcium hydride **3** was investigated by an NBO analysis using DFT calculations at the same level as for **2**. The optimized structure compares well with the crystal structure. Expectedly, no bonding molecular orbitals connect the calcium atoms. Strong two-electron three-center bonds between the calcium and hydrogen atoms stabilize the calcium hydride complex (see the Supporting Information).

The ^1H NMR spectrum of **3** in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ at 25°C shows one singlet at $\delta = 2.54$ ppm for the methyl groups of Me_4TACD and two broad signals in the range of $\delta = 1.95$ – 3.23 ppm for the CH_2CH_2 protons, indicating highly fluxional CH_2CH_2 bridges. The hydride signal at $\delta = 4.72$ ppm appears as a sharp singlet and is shifted downfield compared to the corresponding resonance in $[\text{CaH}(\text{DIPP-nacnac})(\text{THF})_2]$ ^[3] ($\delta = 4.45$ ppm) and $[\text{Ca}_3\text{H}_2(\text{Me}_3\text{TACD})_3](\text{A})$ ^[4] ($\delta = 4.00$ ppm). The *para/meta/ortho*-CH protons of the triphenylsilyl anion appear as multiplets in the range of $\delta = 6.70$ – 7.39 ppm. The $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum shows one singlet at $\delta = -9.96$ ppm at -40°C . NMR spectroscopic data of the cationic calcium deuteride $[\text{D}_3]\text{-3}$ are similar to those of **3** and the ^2H NMR spectrum of $[\text{D}_3]\text{-3}$ shows one singlet at $\delta = 4.81$ ppm (see Supporting Information).

VT ^1H NMR measurements of **3** in $[\text{D}_8]\text{THF}$ show two doublets and two pseudo triplets with a ratio of 1:1:1:1 for an AA'XX' spin system above the coalescence temperature of 0°C (see the Supporting Information).^[13] Line-shape analysis revealed fluxional CH_2CH_2 bridges with values of $\Delta H^\ddagger = 61.6 \pm 0.3$ kJ mol $^{-1}$ and $\Delta S^\ddagger = 34.7 \pm 2$ J mol $^{-1}$ K $^{-1}$ values that compare well with those of similar CH_2CH_2 -containing macrocyclic ligands ($\Delta H^\ddagger = 60.4 \pm 3.1$ kJ mol $^{-1}$ for $[\text{Fe}(\text{L})(\text{MeCN})_2](\text{PF}_6)_2$; L = NNNN-type macrocyclic ligand).^[14]

When a solution of the cationic calcium hydride **3** in $[D_8]THF$ was treated with D_2 (1 bar), the hydride signal in the 1H NMR spectrum decreased with concomitant formation of HD ($\delta = 4.51$ ppm, $^1J_{HD} = 42.66$ Hz). Deuteration of **3** to give $[D_3]-\mathbf{3}$ was indicated by the gradual appearance of the hydride resonances of the isotopomers (see the Supporting Information). As expected,^[15] the hydride resonances of the monodeuteride $[D_1]-\mathbf{3}$ and dideuteride $[D_2]-\mathbf{3}$ are shifted by $\delta = 0.01$ and 0.02 ppm upfield compared to **3**. The H/D exchange between **3** and $[D_3]-\mathbf{3}$ is similar to the previously reported deuteration of the lanthanide hydride $[Lu_2H_4(Me_4TACD)_2][B\{3,5-C_6H_3(CF_3)_2\}_4]_2$.^[9] The conversion of **3** into $[D_3]-\mathbf{3}$ followed pseudo-first-order kinetics with $k_H(H_2) = 2.82(3) \times 10^{-5} s^{-1}$ and $k_D(D_2) = 1.80(8) \times 10^{-5} s^{-1}$. A kinetic isotope effect (KIE) of $k_H/k_D = 1.6$ indicates that the H–H (D–D) bond cleavage is the rate-determining step during the dihydrogen activation by the cationic calcium hydride **3** ($[D_3]-\mathbf{3}$). A KIE of $k_H/k_D = 1.40$ was found for a β -phase palladium hydride^[16] for the H/D exchange reaction and similar reactivities were observed for iron hydride complexes,^[17] a magnesium,^[18] and a calcium borohydride.^[19]

When the cationic calcium hydride **3** was deuterated in $[D_8]THF$ at 25 °C in the presence of one equivalent of $HSiPh_3$, the Si–H resonance had disappeared after 12 h and $DSiPh_3$ was formed. This indicates that the silyl anion $(SiPh_3)^-$ is involved in the activation of dihydrogen. We also observed that **3** undergoes dissociation in THF. An initial 1:1 mixture of **3** and $[D_3]-\mathbf{3}$ in $[D_8]THF$ at 25 °C equilibrated over 5 min, leading to a 1H NMR spectrum with signals indicating the presence of **3**, $[D_1]-\mathbf{3}$, $[D_2]-\mathbf{3}$, and $[D_3]-\mathbf{3}$ (Figure 3).

On the basis of these observations, we propose the deuteration of the cationic calcium hydride **3** to the deuterated complex $[D_3]-\mathbf{3}$ via an intermediate dideuterium complex **A**.^[9] A dissociated complex **B**^[20] may also be formed (Scheme 3). Deuterium is activated either by the Lewis acidic calcium center in **A** or by σ -bond metathesis in complex **B** to give the neutral dicalcium monodeuteride trihydride **C** under release of $DSiPh_3$. The silane $DSiPh_3$ reacts with **C** to the monodeuterated calcium hydride $[D_1]-\mathbf{3}$. The presence of a suitable NNNN-type macrocyclic ligand and a protic silane in the reaction solution prevents the formation of insoluble calcium hydride and protonates the neutral calcium dihydride complex **C**. DFT calculations indicate that the protonation of

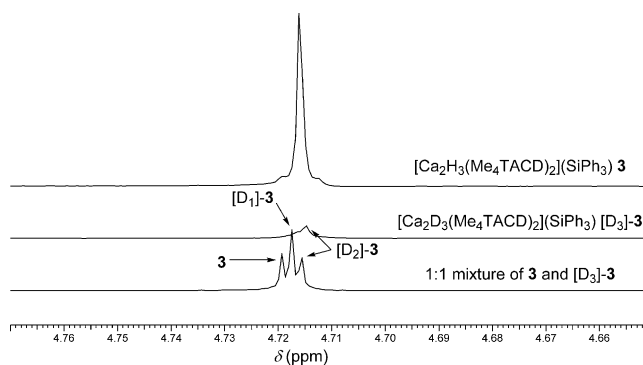
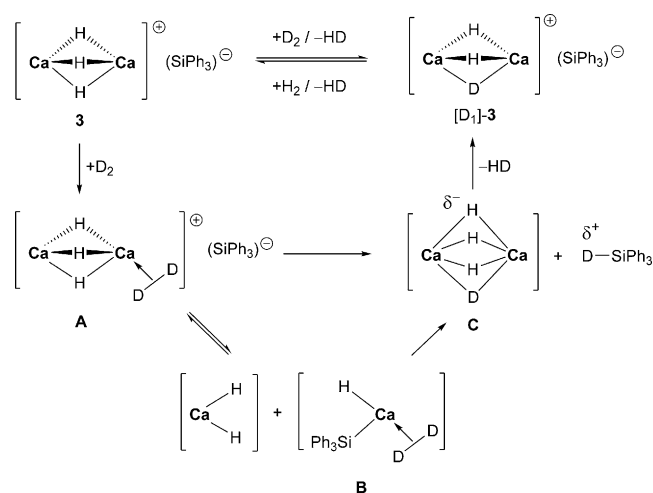


Figure 3. 1H NMR spectra of **3**, $[D_3]-\mathbf{3}$ and a 1:1 mixture in $[D_8]THF$ at 25 °C. For the full 1H NMR spectra see Supporting Information.

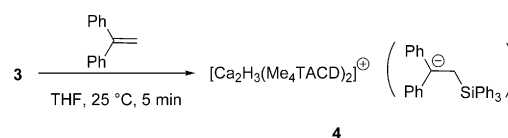


Scheme 3. Proposed mechanism for the reaction of the cationic calcium hydride **3** with D_2 to give $[D_1]-\mathbf{3}$. The neutral macrocyclic NNNN-type ligand Me_4TACD is omitted for clarity.

calcium dihydride complex **C** is favorable by $\Delta H = -9.2$ kJ mol $^{-1}$, whereas the dissociation of dimeric **3** into the monomers $[CaH_2(Me_4TACD)]$ and $[Ca(Me_4TACD)H](SiPh_3)$ (**B**) is unfavorable by $\Delta H = 107.6$ kJ mol $^{-1}$.

To study the reactivity of the cationic calcium hydride core $[Ca_2H_3(Me_4TACD)_2]^+$ in **3**, we sought to replace the reactive silyl anion $(SiPh_3)^-$ by a non-coordinating anion. The reaction of **3** with 1,1'-diphenylethylene (DPE) gave the new cationic calcium hydride $[Ca_2H_3(Me_4TACD)_2](Ph_2CCH_2SiPh_3)$ (**4**) as red microcrystals, isolated in 95 % yield and characterized by elemental analysis and NMR spectroscopy (Scheme 4).

The 1H NMR spectrum of **4** in $[D_8]THF$ at 25 °C agrees with the proposed formula, showing a singlet at $\delta = 2.68$ ppm for the $Ph_2CCH_2SiPh_3$ protons, a triplet of triplets at $\delta = 5.45$ ppm as well as two doublets of doublets at $\delta = 6.31$ and 6.81 ppm for the *para/meta/ortho*-CH atoms in the 1,1'-diphenylethyl moiety. For the $SiPh_3$ -moiety two multiplets in the range of $\delta = 7.07$ –7.57 ppm are found for the *para/meta/ortho*-CH atoms in the expected ratio. The 1H NMR resonances of the cationic calcium hydride core $[Ca_2H_3-(Me_4TACD)_2]^+$ of **4** are comparable to those of **3**. The $^{29}Si\{^1H\}$ NMR spectrum of **4** in $[D_8]THF$ at 25 °C shows one singlet at $\delta = -19.25$ ppm (see the Supporting Information). Compound **4** catalyzed the hydrogenation of 1,1'-DPE at 60 °C within 24 h.^[3,5] $B(C_6F_5)_3$ catalyzed hydrogenation (4 atm of H_2) of 1,1'-DPE showed full conversion at 50 °C after 48 h,^[21] whereas $B(C_6F_5)_3$ -catalyzed transfer hydrogenation of 1,1'-DPE was complete at 25 °C after 8 h.^[22] The transfer hydrogenation of 1,1'-DPE catalyzed by a cationic NHC gallium chloride at 20 °C showed 67 % conversion after 1 h.^[23]



Scheme 4. Synthesis of the cationic calcium hydride **4**.

In conclusion, the hydrogenolysis of the bis(triphenylsilyl) $[\text{Ca}(\text{Me}_4\text{TACD})(\text{SiPh}_3)_2]$ (**2**) proceeded under mild conditions (1 bar of H_2) to give the cationic dicalcium trihydride core in $[\text{Ca}_2\text{H}_3(\text{Me}_4\text{TACD})_2](\text{SiPh}_3)$ (**3**) instead of the neutral calcium dihydride $[\text{CaH}_2(\text{Me}_4\text{TACD})]$. These reaction conditions contrast with the slow and complicated hydrogenolysis of the calcium allyl $[\text{Ca}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_5)(\text{Me}_3\text{TACD})]$ to give $[\text{Ca}_3\text{H}_2(\text{Me}_3\text{TACD})_3]^+(\text{SiPh}_3)_2^-$.^[4] As can be seen from the deuteration experiments of **3**, the inaccessibility of the neutral dihydride $[\text{CaH}_2(\text{Me}_4\text{TACD})]$ may be related to the expected high polarity of Ca–H bonds that are capable of deprotonating even Si–H bonds. Nonetheless, hydrogenolysis of a M–Si bond (M = Ca,^[4b] K^[24]) may be applied to the synthesis of other molecular alkali- and alkaline-earth metal hydrides.

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Keywords: alkaline-earth metals · calcium · hydrides · hydrogen · Si ligands

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