CHEMISTRY

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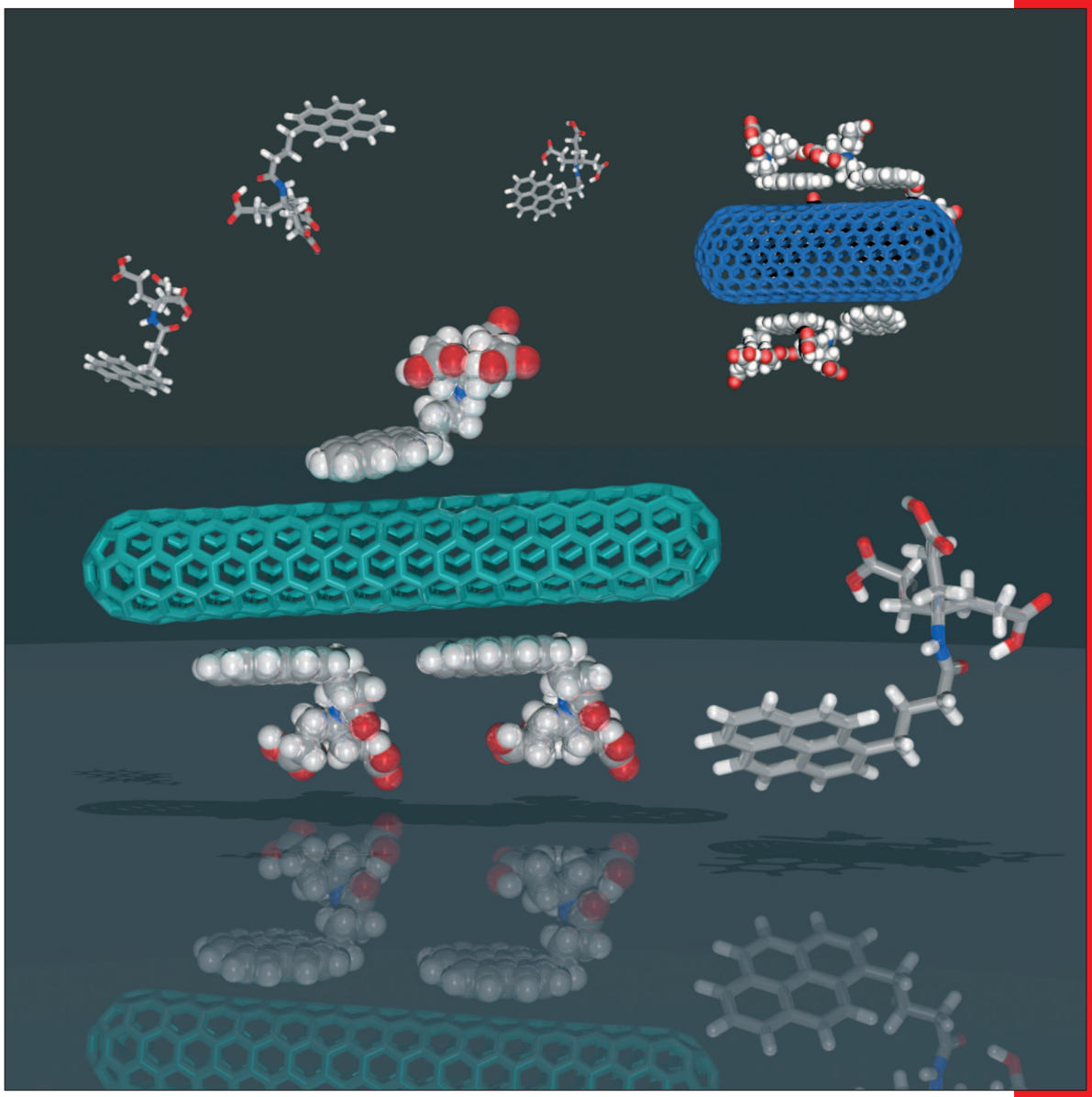

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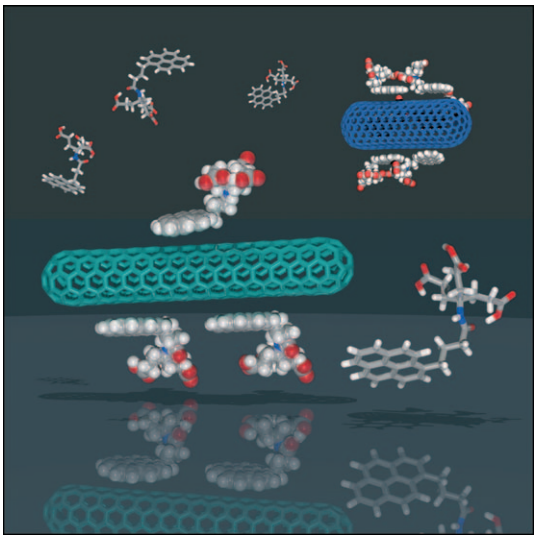
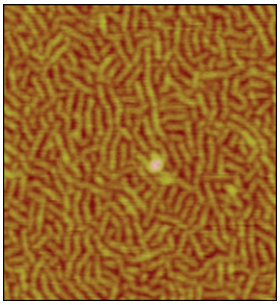
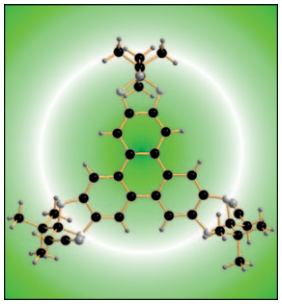
… of a novel pyrene-based carbon nanotube surfactant is depicted on the cover. The aromatic pyrene unit adsorbs on the nanotube sidewall by π–π-stacking interactions. Water solubility is then provided by a Newkome-type dendrimer on the periphery of the anchoring group. Interestingly, the dispersing agent exhibits selectivity towards larger diameter SWCNTs, as indicated by the higher packing density onto larger diameter nanotubes in the image. For more details, see the Communication by A. Hirsch et al. on page 3314 ff.



Stepwise Multicomponent Self-Assembly
In the Full Paper on page 3318 ff., Y. Sakata, S. Hiraoka, and M. Shionoya report the stepwise construction of an octanuclear Pd^{II}–Ti^{IV} cage complex, which is based on the Ti^{IV}-centered site-selective ligand exchange on a preassembled tetranuclear Pd^{II}–Ti^{IV} ring complex. This new synthetic strategy based on the HSAB concept provides an easy and versatile way of metal-centered various-component replacements through a key intermediate for a variety of designer coordination architectures.



Dyes/Pigments
In their Full Paper on page 3372 ff., F. Würthner et al. describe the synthesis of four twofold spermine-functionalized and core-unsubstituted perylene bisimides (PBIs). AFM and TEM studies reveal the formation of large rod-like aggregates that grow in both length and diameter with increasing linker length. Other results demonstrate that PBIs can be outstanding fluorophores in aqueous media as well if their aggregation is efficiently suppressed. This observation might open a new research avenue for this popular class of functional dyes.



Oxidative Coupling
In their Full Paper on page 3459 ff., S. R. Waldvogel et al. describe the first *syn*-selective oxidative trimerization of catechol ketals, paving the way to an attractive synthetic access to these nanoscale-dimension clefts. Their findings clearly demonstrate that $MoCl_5$, and reagent mixtures thereof, are more than simple oxidants and might find application in other stereoselective coupling reactions.