

# Octagallane (*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> and Its Reduction to (*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup> – On the Existence of Isomeric Gallium Clusters<sup>[†]</sup>

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**Keywords:** Clusters / Gallium / Isomers / Silicon

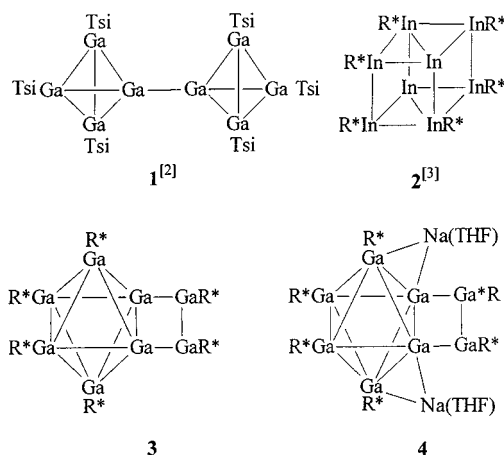
Thermolysis of the trigallanyl radical R<sup>\*</sup><sub>4</sub>Ga<sub>3</sub>· in heptane at 60 °C leads to the dark blue octagallane R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> (R<sup>\*</sup> = supersilyl Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>), as well as the digallanyl radical R<sup>\*</sup><sub>3</sub>Ga<sub>2</sub>· and the *tetrahedro*-tetragallane R<sup>\*</sup><sub>4</sub>Ga<sub>4</sub>. In addition, supersilyl radicals R<sup>\*</sup>· are formed which stabilize themselves either by dimerization or by addition of hydrogen atoms. R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> can be reduced in THF with NaC<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub> to the dark-red octagallanediide Na<sub>2</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub>R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>·2THF. According to an X-ray structure analysis of R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> and R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup> one finds that the Ga atoms of four R<sup>\*</sup>Ga moieties, together with two “naked” Ga atoms,

occupy the corners of a distorted octahedron; the “naked” Ga atoms themselves are located, along with Ga atoms of two further R<sup>\*</sup>Ga moieties, at the corners of a distorted square. The reduction of R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> leads only to a negligible shortening of the Ga–Ga distances from 2.64 to 2.61 Å (mean values) in R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>. Both the octagallanes possess Ga<sub>8</sub> frameworks previously unknown for group 13 clusters. They are isomeric to the recently described Ga<sub>8</sub> framework of the octagallane Tsi<sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> [Tsi = trisyl C(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. Hence, not only boron but also the heavier group 13 atoms form isomeric clusters.

## Introduction

Cluster compounds R<sub>*m*</sub>E<sub>*n*</sub> of the heavier group 13 metals Al, Ga, In, Tl — unlike those of B — became accessible only recently when it was realized that the tendency of R<sub>*m*</sub>E<sub>*n*</sub> to disproportionate into R<sub>3</sub>E and E (or R<sub>2</sub> and E) can be stopped by employing bulky substituents such as trisyl (Tsi) [C(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], hypersilyl (Hsi) [Si(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] or supersilyl (R<sup>\*</sup>) [Si(CMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. In fact, numerous clusters of Ga — the subject of this publication — have been isolated within the last few years (for more than 30 gallium cluster compounds see ref.<sup>[1]</sup>).

Schnöckel and co-workers<sup>[2]</sup> recently reported the preparation of hexatrisyloctagallane Tsi<sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> (**1**) with a framework of two *tetrahedro*-tetragallanyl moieties connected by a Ga–Ga bond (see Scheme 1). We now report the isolation of hexasupersilyloctagallane R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> (**3**) as well as its reduction product disodium hexasupersilyloctagallanediide-tetrahydrofuran(1/2) Na<sub>2</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub>R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>·2THF (**4**), the Ga<sub>8</sub> frameworks of which are isomeric with the Ga<sub>8</sub> cluster of Tsi<sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> (Scheme 1). It is worth mentioning here that the In<sub>8</sub> framework of hexasupersilyloctaindane R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>In<sub>8</sub> (**2**; Scheme 1), reported some years ago by us,<sup>[3]</sup> has a structure different to the structures of Tsi<sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> and R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub>.



Scheme 1. Compounds with isomeric group 13 E<sub>8</sub> cluster frameworks [Tsi = C(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, R<sup>\*</sup> = Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>]

## Results and Discussion

### Syntheses of R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> (**3**) and Na<sub>2</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub>R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>·2THF (**4**)

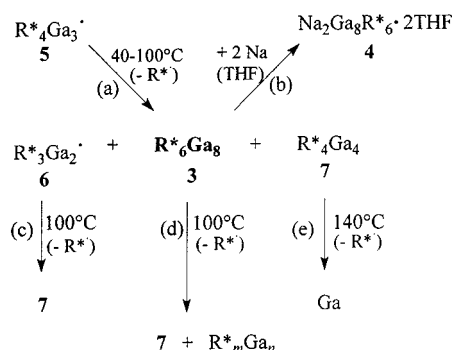
The dark green radical R<sup>\*</sup><sub>4</sub>Ga<sub>3</sub>· (**5**), which may be synthesized, via isolable intermediates, from gallium trichloride GaCl<sub>3</sub>, supersilyl sodium NaR<sup>\*</sup>, and supersilyl bromide R<sup>\*</sup>Br,<sup>[4]</sup> slowly decomposes in heptane at 40 °C with formation of the dark blue radical R<sup>\*</sup><sub>3</sub>Ga<sub>2</sub>· (**6**) and the dark violet *tetrahedro*-tetragallane R<sup>\*</sup><sub>4</sub>Ga<sub>4</sub> (**7**) [see Scheme 2, Equation

[†] Compounds of Silicon and Homologues, 152; Compounds of Boron and Homologues, 19. — Parts 151 and 18: Ref.<sup>[7]</sup>

[‡‡] X-ray structure analyses

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(a); for the structures see Scheme 3).<sup>[4]</sup> The radical **6** transforms quantitatively at 100 °C in heptane into the tetrahedrane **7** [Scheme 2, Equation (c)] which decomposes as a solid at 322 °C and in solution at 140 °C to metallic gallium [Scheme 2, Equation (e)].<sup>[5]</sup> The supersilyl radicals  $R^*$  obtained in reactions (c) and (e) dimerize to give superdisilane molecules  $R^*_2$ , which at higher temperatures transform via  $R^*$  into supersilane  $R^*H$ .<sup>[6]</sup>

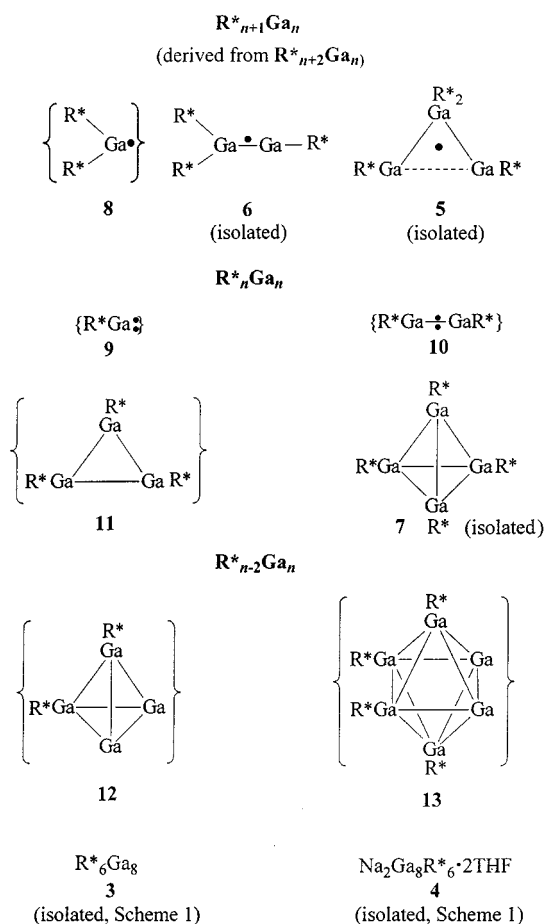


Scheme 2. Decomposition of **5** (the produced supersilyl radical  $R^*$  stabilizes with formation of  $R^*_2$  and/or  $R^*H$ ;  $R^* = Si^i/Bu_3$ )

The thermolysis of **5** in addition leads to the octagallane  $R^*_6Ga_8$  (**3**) [Scheme 2, Equation (a); maximum yields at about 60 °C], which itself decomposes in benzene at 100 °C to give the tetrahedrane **7** (main product) as well as unidentified cluster compounds  $R_mGa_n$  [Scheme 2, Equation (d)]. The octagallane **3** can be reduced in THF with  $NaC_{10}H_8$  to give the octagallanediide  $Na_2Ga_8R^*_6 \cdot 2THF$  (**4**) [Scheme 2, Equation (b)]. Reduction of the tetragallane **7** in THF with sodium occurs analogously to produce the tetragallanediide  $Na_2Ga_4R^*_4 \cdot 2THF$ .<sup>[7]</sup>

To date our insight into the pathways of the formation and thermolysis of **3** is still incomplete. It is possible that compounds **8–13**, which are shown in Scheme 3 along with the isolated products **3–7**, may play the role of intermediates (cf. ref.<sup>[4]</sup> for formation of **3**, and the following for thermolysis of **3**). Radical **5** can react with cleavage of Ga–Ga bonds to form **6** and **9**, as well as **8** and **10**, and with cleavage of a Ga–Si bond to form **11** and  $R^*$ ; radical **8**, after dimerization and  $R^*$  elimination, transforms into isolable **6** (cf.<sup>[4]</sup>), and radical **6**, after elimination of  $R^*$ , into non-isolable **10**. The formed gallylene **9** and the digallene **10** tetramerize and dimerize, respectively, to give isolable **7**. It is also possible that the cyclotrigallane **11** may eliminate  $R^*$  and then dimerize with formation of the hitherto non-isolated hexagallane **13** which, on adding **10**, might form the isolable octagallane **3**. This compound decomposes on gentle heating to give the isolable tetrahedrane **7** and the non-isolable tetragallane **12** which possibly stabilizes with formation of unidentified oligogallanes (see above). Support for this suggestion is based on the formation of deca-gallanide  $R^*_6Ga_{10}^-$  [<sup>8</sup>] as an isolable adduct of **12** and **13** [see also  $Hsi_6Ga_{10}$ ,  $Hsi = Si(SiMe_3)_3$  [<sup>8</sup>]] as well as the formation of dodecaindane  $R^*_8In_{12}$  [<sup>9</sup>] from two molecules of the In analog of **13** (Hexa-indane  $R^*_4In_6$  — an obvious

intermediate in the formation of  $R^*_8In_{12}$  — has been observed by NMR spectroscopy<sup>[9]</sup>.) In addition, a cluster formed from two equivalents of **12** with In/Dmp instead of Ga/ $R^*$  has been synthesized<sup>[10]</sup> (Dmp = 2,6-Mes<sup>\*</sup><sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub> with Mes<sup>\*</sup> = 2,4,6-*i*Bu<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>). The preparation and isolation of hexagallane **13** is the next challenge for group 13 cluster chemists.



Scheme 3. Isolated and postulated products of the thermolysis of **5** as well as the reduction product **4** of **3** ( $R^* = Si^i/Bu_3$ )

### Characterization and Structures of $R^*_6Ga_8$ (**3**) and $Na_2Ga_8R^*_6 \cdot 2THF$ (**4**)

Hexasupersilyloctagallane (**3**) crystallizes from benzene as water- and air-sensitive dark blue prisms (monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/c$ ) which are thermolabile at elevated temperatures. Disodium hexasupersilyloctagallanediide-tetrahydrofuran(1/2) (**4**) crystallizes from benzene as extremely water- and air-sensitive dark red prisms (triclinic, space group  $P\bar{1}$ ).

The molecular structures of the molecules **3** and **4** in the crystal are shown in Figure 1 and 2, respectively. In both compounds the Ga atoms of four  $R^*Ga$  moieties occupy the corners of a distorted octahedron together with two “naked” Ga atoms. The “naked” Ga atoms are located next to each other, along with the Ga atoms of two further  $R^*Ga$  moieties, at the corners of a distorted square. The Ga

atoms that form the  $\text{Ga}_6$  octahedron and the anellated  $\text{Ga}_4$  square lie almost in a plane together with the Si atoms of the four connected  $\text{R}^*$  groups. All quadrangle surfaces  $\text{Ga1Ga2Ga7Ga8}/\text{Ga5Ga6Ga7Ga8}/\text{Ga3Ga5Ga4Ga7}/\text{Ga3Ga6Ga4Ga8}$  in **3** and **4** are planar (angles sum ca.  $360^\circ$ ). The Si atoms connected at the apices of the  $\text{Ga}_6$  octahedron are tilted towards the square. The two  $\text{Na}(\text{THF})$  moieties of **4** bridge opposite edges between the Ga atoms of the apex and the central plane of the  $\text{Ga}_6$  octahedron. Surprisingly,  $\text{Na}(\text{THF})$  is not located above and below the  $\text{Ga}_4$  square, probably due to steric reasons.  $(\text{Hsi})_6\text{Ga}_{10}$ , which is derived from **4** after exchange of supersilyl for the sterically less crowded hypersilyl  $\text{Si}(\text{SiMe}_3)_3$  and  $\text{Na}(\text{THF})^+$  by “isoelectronic”  $\text{Ga}^+$ , shows a  $\text{Ga}_{10}$  framework built from two anellated  $\text{Ga}_6$  octahedrons. Scheme 4 shows the structural relationships between the octagallanediide  $\text{R}_6\text{Ga}_8^{2-}$  (isolated as **4**) and the decagallane  $\text{R}_6\text{Ga}_{10}$  [isolated as  $(\text{Hsi})_6\text{Ga}_{10}$ ]<sup>[8]</sup> via the nonagallanide  $\text{R}_6\text{Ga}_9^-$  {isolated as  $[\text{Na}(\text{THF})_6]^+(\text{Hsi})_6\text{Ga}_9^-$ },<sup>[8]</sup> which are formally derived from  $\text{R}_6\text{Ga}_8^{2-}$  by successive “neutralization” of the dianion with  $\text{Ga}^+$  cations (it remains to be seen whether  $\text{R}_6^*\text{Ga}_8^{2-}$  is transformed in the presence of a  $\text{Ga}^I$  compound into  $\text{R}_6^*\text{Ga}_{10}$  via  $\text{R}_6^*\text{Ga}_9^-$ ).

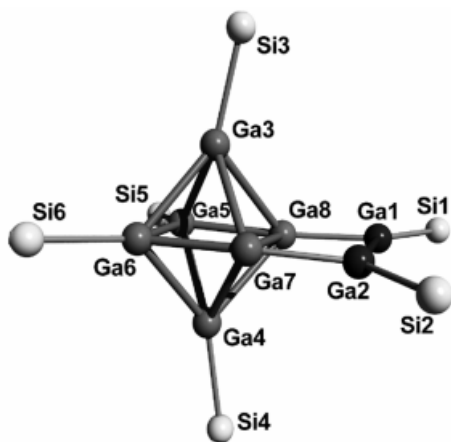


Figure 1. View of a molecule of **3** in the crystal ( $t\text{Bu}$  groups excluded for clarity); for bond lengths and angles see Table 1

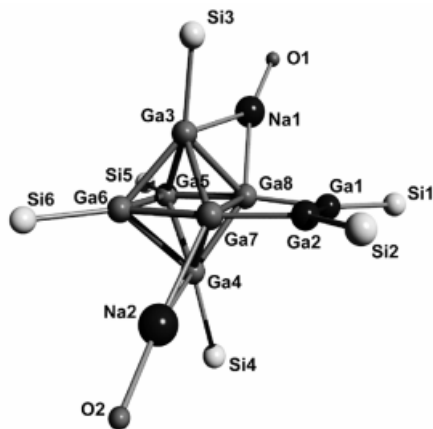
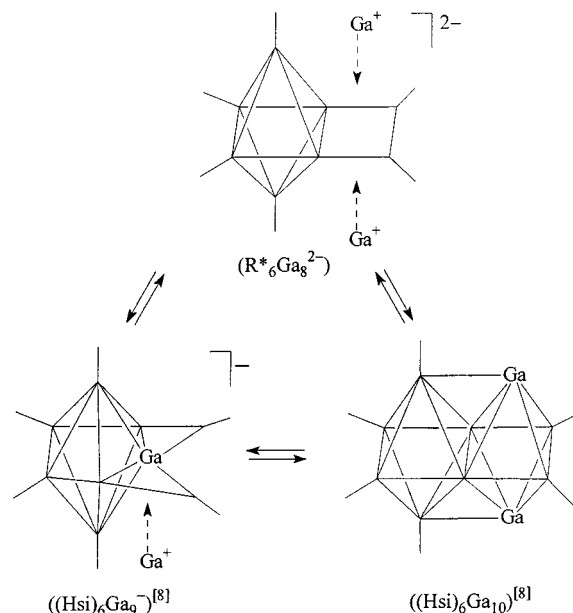


Figure 2. View of a molecule of **4** in the crystal ( $t\text{Bu}$  and  $\text{CH}_2$  groups excluded for clarity); for bond lengths and angles see Table 1



Scheme 4. Topological relation between  $\text{R}_6^*\text{Ga}_8^{2-}$ ,  $(\text{Hsi})_6\text{Ga}_9^-$ , and  $(\text{Hsi})_6\text{Ga}_{10}$  [ $\text{R}^* = \text{Si}/t\text{Bu}_3$ ,  $\text{Hsi} = \text{Si}(\text{SiMe}_3)_3$ ]

Table 1 presents selected bond lengths [ $\text{\AA}$ ] and angles [ $^\circ$ ] of **3** and **4**. The Ga–Ga distances (2.41–2.93  $\text{\AA}$  for **3** and 2.45–2.76 for **4**) lie in the typical range observed in other gallium cluster compounds such as  $\text{R}_4^*\text{Ga}_4$ <sup>[5]</sup> and  $\text{R}_8^*\text{Ga}_{18}/\text{R}_8^*\text{Ga}_{22}$ .<sup>[1]</sup> On reduction of **3** to **4** some of the Ga–Ga bonds lengthen and some shorten, but on average they remain practically constant (mean bond length of 2.64  $\text{\AA}$  in **3** and 2.61  $\text{\AA}$  in **4**). Although the reductions of **3** and **7** with sodium in THF formally proceed in the same manner ( $\text{R}_6^*\text{Ga}_8/\text{R}_4^*\text{Ga}_4 + 2 \text{Na} + 2 \text{THF} \rightarrow \text{Na}_2\text{Ga}_8\text{R}_6^* \cdot 2\text{THF}/\text{Na}_2\text{Ga}_4\text{R}_4^* \cdot 2\text{THF}$ ), in the first case very little structural change is observed, whereas in the second case a drastic structure change and significant Ga–Ga bond shortening occurs.<sup>[7]</sup> The  $\text{Ga}_8$  framework of **3** is less symmetric than that of **4** (cf. Ga–Ga distances). The Na–GaR\*, Na–Ga, and Na–O distances are 3.52  $\text{\AA}$  (mean value), 2.99  $\text{\AA}$ , and 2.31  $\text{\AA}$  (angles sum at Na  $357^\circ$ , mean value of the Ga–Na–Ga angles  $46^\circ$ ), respectively.

Compounds **3** and **4** possess a framework of eight Ga atoms that was previously unknown for clusters of the group 13 elements B – Tl. The isolation of  $\text{R}_6^*\text{Ga}_8$  (**3**) and  $\text{Tsi}_6\text{Ga}_8$  (**1**)<sup>[2]</sup> shows for the first time that the heavier group 13 elements can also form isomeric clusters that hitherto were thought to be restricted to boron.

Compound **3** can be described as a *conjuncto*-octagallane, based on hexagallane  $\text{R}_4^*\text{Ga}_6$  (**13**) and digallane  $\text{R}_2^*\text{Ga}_2$  (**10**). Considering the Wade–Mingos rules<sup>[11]</sup> compound **13** may therefore be classified as a doubly capped *tetrahedro*-tetragallane, that is a *hypoprecloso*-hexagallane [**13** possesses 10 cluster electrons ( $2n - 2$  with  $n$  = number of cluster atoms), giving 1 electron for Ga and two electrons for GaR\*], although this description does not agree at all with the structure obtained for **3** by X-ray crystallography (see Table 1).

Table 1. Selected bond lengths and angles of the molecules **3** and **4** in the crystal

Bond lengths [Å] <sup>[a]</sup>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Ga7–Ga8	2.782(3)	2.678(1)
Ga1–Ga2/Ga5–Ga6	2.519(2)/2.561(3)	2.535(1)/2.685(1)
Ga1–Ga8/Ga2–Ga7	2.406(3)/2.446(3)	2.466(1)/2.453(1)
Ga5–Ga8/Ga6–Ga7	2.638(3)/2.502(3)	2.630(1)/2.561(1)
Ga3–Ga5/Ga3–Ga6	2.652(2)/2.713(2)	2.757(1)/2.641(1)
Ga3–Ga7/Ga3–Ga8	2.647(2)/2.849(2)	2.551(1)/2.592(1)
Ga4–Ga5/Ga4–Ga6	2.614(2)/2.731(2)	2.612(1)/2.761(1)
Ga4–Ga7/Ga4–Ga8	2.638(2)/2.925(2)	2.628(1)/2.536(1)
Ga–Si / Si–C (av.)	2.50/1.95	2.51/1.96
Ga4–Na1/Ga7–Na1	–	3.491(3)/2.983(2)
Ga3–Na2/Ga8–Na2	–	3.544(3)/2.989(2)
Na1–O1/Na2–O1	–	2.308(4)/2.308(5)
Bond angles [°] in quadrangles		
Ga1/Ga2/Ga7/Ga8	76.60(4)/109.36(4)/ 71.16(3)/102.44(4)	92.00(3)/90.93(3)/ 88.94(3)/87.38(3)
Ga5/Ga6/Ga7/Ga8	98.55(4)/85.97(4)/ 96.29(5)/79.11(4)	89.04(3)/90.76(3)/ 90.67(3)/89.44(2)
Ga3/Ga5/Ga4/Ga7	81.34(7)/98.46(7)/ 82.22(7)/97.98(7)	89.35(2)/87.56(2)/ 90.90(2)/91.70(3)
Ga3/Ga6/Ga4/Ga8	90.18(7)/94.19(7)/ 88.25(7)/87.36(7)	90.81(2)/86.92(2)/ 89.32(2)/92.88(3)
Bond angles [°] in triangles <sup>[b]</sup> and at other positions		
Ga(base)–Ga(apex)–Ga(base) (av.)	57.45	60.08
Ga(apex)–Ga(base)–Ga(base) (av.)	61.28	59.96
Ga1–Ga8–Ga5/Ga2–Ga7–Ga6	175.70(4)/167.11(4)	175.59(3)/174.32(3)
C–Si–C (av.)	111.1	109.9
O1–Na1–Ga4/Ga7	–	144.0(2)/163.4(2)
O2–Na2–Ga3/Ga8	–	148.0(2)/165.6(2)
Ga–Na–Ga (av.)	–	46.44
Torsion angles		
Ga5–Ga8–Ga7–Ga2	0.96	3.49
Ga6–Ga7–Ga8–Ga1	2.01	0.88
Si1–Ga1–Ga2–Si2	3.34	0.42
Si5–Ga5–Ga6–Si6	11.39	5.30

<sup>[a]</sup> Compound numbering from Figures 1 and 2. <sup>[b]</sup> Apex = Ga3, Ga4; basis = Ga5, Ga6, Ga7, Ga8.

However, **3** may also be derived from the hexagallane  $R^*_6Ga_6$  – that should not be preparable for steric reasons – by substituting two neighbouring  $R^*$  groups for digallanediyl  $-R^*Ga-GaR^*$ . According to its 12 ( $2n$ ) cluster electrons,  $R^*_6Ga_6$  should be classified as a mono-capped trigonal-bipyramidal *closo*- $Ga_5$  cluster, that is a *pre-closo*-hexagallane. This description agrees with the solid-state structure found for **3** (Table 1). The long Ga8–Ga3/Ga4/Ga7 distances of the  $R^*_4Ga_6$  moiety of **3** suggest that  $R^*_4Ga_6$  contains a trigonal-bipyramidal Ga3Ga4Ga5–Ga6Ga7 cluster with Ga8 as the edge-bridging atom. By the same reasoning, the octagallanediide **4** may be described as a derivative of the *closo*-octagallanediide  $R^*_6Ga_6^{2-}$  [14 ( $2n + 2$ ) cluster electrons] by substituting two neighbouring  $R^*$  groups for  $-R^*Ga-GaR^*$ , and in fact the  $R^*_4Ga_6^{2-}$  moiety of **4** shows a more regular (octahedral)  $Ga_6$  framework than the  $R^*_4Ga_6$  moiety of **3** (Table 1).

Information about the structures of **3** and **4** in solution is still limited. Only one (broad) NMR signal is found for the six  $R^*$  groups of **3** in benzene, whereas three NMR signals (ratio of areas 1:1:1) are found for **4** in benzene. This either means that **3** gives equal NMR shifts for the nonequivalent  $R^*$  groups, or that it is fluxional. Low temperature NMR studies of **3** in solution are planned. In addition, NMR studies of **4** in donor solvents **D** may confirm the expected dissociation of the cluster into  $Na(D)_n^+$  and  $R^*_6Ga_8^{2-}$  ions.

## Experimental Section

All experiments were carried out in flame-dried glass apparatus with standard Schlenk techniques under dry argon or nitrogen. Air and moisture were strictly excluded. The solvents (heptane, ben-



zene, THF) were dried with sodium plumbide or sodium in the presence of benzophenone. Available for use: C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>. The following compounds were synthesized according to literature procedures: R<sup>\*</sup><sub>4</sub>Ga<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> (**3**),<sup>[4]</sup> NaC<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub> in THF.<sup>[12]</sup>

**NMR Spectra:** Jeol GX-270 (<sup>1</sup>H/<sup>13</sup>C/<sup>29</sup>Si: 270.17/67.94/53.67 MHz), Jeol EX-400 (<sup>1</sup>H/<sup>13</sup>C/<sup>29</sup>Si: 399.78/100.54/79.43 MHz). The NMR spectra were recorded with the INEPT and DEPT pulse sequences using empirically optimized parameters for the mentioned groups.

**Synthesis of R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> (**3**):** A solution of **5** (0.151 g, 0.130 mmol) in 5 mL of heptane was kept 25 h at 60 °C, after which time it had quantitatively decomposed into R<sup>\*</sup>H,<sup>[13]</sup> R<sup>\*</sup><sub>2</sub>,<sup>[13]</sup> **6**,<sup>[4]</sup> **7**,<sup>[5]</sup> and **3** (ratio of <sup>1</sup>H NMR signal areas of the R<sup>\*</sup> groups of molecules R<sup>\*</sup>H, R<sup>\*</sup><sub>2</sub>, **7**, **3** about 1:1:5:3, corresponding to a mol ratio of the compounds of about 4:2:5:2) according to ESR, and <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>29</sup>Si NMR spectroscopy. After the removal of all volatile compounds under vacuum and dissolving the residue in 2 mL of benzene, compound **3** (0.115 g, 0.066 mmol, 15%) was obtained after eight days at 8 °C as water- and air-sensitive dark-blue crystals. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ = 1.28 (broad, 162 H, 6 Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ = 25.6/33.6 (broad/broad, 18 C/54 C, 18 CMe<sub>3</sub>/18 CMe<sub>3</sub>). <sup>29</sup>Si NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ = 58.7 (broad, 6 Si, 6 Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>). X-ray structure analysis: see Figure 1 (blue prisms from benzene). *Note:* The relative yields of **6** (seen only by ESR spectroscopy), **7** and **3** (seen only by NMR spectroscopy) depend, amongst others, on the reaction temperature. According to the NMR spectra, **7** and **3** are formed from **5** in heptane after 25 h at 40 or 60 or 100 °C in the mol ratio of about 99:1 or 71:29 or 100:0 (**3** is thermolabile at 100 °C).

**Thermolysis of R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> (**3**):** A solution of **3** (0.073 g, 0.042 mmol) in 0.6 mL of C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> was kept for 14 h at 100 °C. After this time, according to the <sup>1</sup>H/<sup>13</sup>C/<sup>29</sup>Si NMR spectra, **3** had quantitatively decomposed into R<sup>\*</sup>H,<sup>[13]</sup> R<sup>\*</sup><sub>2</sub>,<sup>[13]</sup> **7**,<sup>[5]</sup> and an unidentified compound R<sub>*m*</sub>Ga<sub>*n*</sub> (ratio of <sup>1</sup>H NMR signal areas of the R<sup>\*</sup> groups of molecules R<sup>\*</sup>H, R<sup>\*</sup><sub>2</sub>, **7**, R<sub>*m*</sub>Ga<sub>*n*</sub> about 2:1:10:(4+2), corresponding to a mol ratio of R<sup>\*</sup>H, R<sup>\*</sup><sub>2</sub> and **7** of about 4:1:5). In addition, an insoluble product was formed (oligogallane?). Characterization of the dissolved R<sub>*m*</sub>Ga<sub>*n*</sub>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ = 1.39 (broad). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ = 25.59/26.01 (s/s, 2*x* C/*x* C, 2*x* CMe<sub>3</sub>/*x* CMe<sub>3</sub>), 30.27/33.45 (s/s, 6*x* C/3*x* C, 2*x* CMe<sub>3</sub>/*x* CMe<sub>3</sub>). <sup>29</sup>Si NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ = 43.28/56.70 (s/s, 2*x* Si/*x* Si, 2*x* Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>/*x* Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>). *Note:* Octagallane R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub> with the structure of R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>In<sub>8</sub> (**2**) should give a ratio of Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub> NMR signal areas of 2:1).

**Synthesis of Na<sub>2</sub>Ga<sub>8</sub>R<sup>\*</sup><sub>6</sub>·2THF (**4**):** A solution of NaC<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub> (0.11 mmol) in 1.5 mL of THF was added dropwise to a solution of **3** (0.05 mmol) in 10 mL of THF at –78 °C. After 5 h stirring at –78 °C all volatile components were removed from the reaction mixture under vacuum at –45 °C and the residue was dissolved in 3 mL of C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>. This solution was concentrated to 0.8 mL and water- and air-sensitive red crystals of **4** were obtained after two months at 5 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ = 1.289/1.367/1.380 (s/s/s, 54 H/54 H/54 H, 2 Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>/2 Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>/2 Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>), 1.124/3.325 (m/m, 8 H/8 H, 4 CH<sub>2</sub>/4 CH<sub>2</sub>O). <sup>29</sup>Si{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ = 43.8/47.1/51.2 (s/s/s, 2Si/2Si/2Si, 2 Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>/2 Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>/2 Si*t*Bu<sub>3</sub>). X-ray structure analysis: see Figure 2 (red prisms from benzene).

**X-ray Structure Determinations:** Data collection was performed with a Siemens P4 diffractometer equipped with an area-detector (Mo-K<sub>α</sub> radiation λ = 0.71073 Å). Crystals were mounted in perfluoropolyether oil and data collected at *T* = 188(2) (**3**) and 193(2) K (**4**). The structures were solved by direct methods (SHELXS-97) and refined with full-matrix procedures against *F*<sup>2</sup> for all observed reflections. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically

and H atoms were included in the final refinement at calculated positions using a riding model and fixed isotropic U<sub>i</sub> values. A semiempirical absorption correction was applied by using the program SADABS. The structures of **3** and **4** are shown in Figure 1 and 2, crystallographic details are summarized in Table 2.

CCDC-165237 (**3**) and CCDC-165238 (**4**) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge at [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html) [or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: (internat.) + 44-1223/336-033; E-mail: [deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk)].

Table 2. Selected parameters of the X-ray structure analyses of the compounds **3** and **4**

	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Empirical formula	C <sub>72</sub> H <sub>162</sub> Ga <sub>8</sub> Si <sub>6</sub>	C <sub>92</sub> H <sub>190</sub> Ga <sub>8</sub> Na <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>6</sub>
<i>M<sub>r</sub></i>	1754.32	2100.72
System	monoclinic	triclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$
<i>a</i> [Å]	25.02(2)	16.641(2)
<i>b</i> [Å]	16.18(2)	16.717(2)
<i>c</i> [Å]	25.53(3)	21.589(2)
$\alpha$ [°]	90	91.996(2)
$\beta$ [°]	118.195(1)	90.194(2)
$\gamma$ [°]	90.000	113.033(2)
<i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	9110(2)	5525(1)
<i>Z</i>	4	2
<i>D</i> [Mg m <sup>–3</sup> ]	1.279	1.263
$\mu$ [mm <sup>–1</sup> ]	2.441	2.032
<i>F</i> (000)	3704	2224
2 $\theta$ [°]	3.10–46.50	1.88–58.26
Ranges [°]	–21 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 22 –17 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 17 –28 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 28	–20 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 20 –20 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 22 –27 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 28
All reflections	37958	32188
Independent	10435	16939
Observed <sup>[a]</sup>	7428	10368
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.0496	0.0495
<i>x</i> / <i>y</i> <sup>[a]</sup>	0.8372/0.5403	0.6946/0.6205
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> [ <i>F</i> > 4σ( <i>F</i> )]	0.0706	0.0439
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> <sup>[a]</sup> [ <i>F</i> > 4σ( <i>F</i> )]	0.0965	0.0878
GOOF( <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> )	0.980	0.951
Max./min. electron density [e·Å <sup>–3</sup> ]	0.8372/–0.5403	0.6946/–0.6205

<sup>[a]</sup>  $w^{-1} = \sigma^2 F_0^2 + (xP)^2 + yP$  with  $P = (F_0^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ .

## Acknowledgments

We thank the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie for support of our research.

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Received October 2, 2001  
[101386]