# Reaction of [In(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub> with N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NSiMe<sub>3</sub>H)<sub>3</sub>: Synthesis and Characterization of New Azaindatranes and Azaindocane

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**Keywords:** N ligands / Indium / Tripodal ligands / Amides

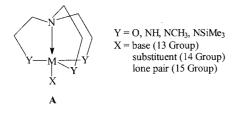
 $[In(NEt_2)_3]_2$  and  $N(CH_2CH_2NSiMe_3H)_3$  react to yield monomeric azaindatrane 1,  $N(CH_2CH_2NSiMe_3)_3In$ , which is unstable without additional donor (e.g. pyridine), turning into dimeric azaindatrane 2, [N(CH2CH2NSiMe3)2(CH2-CH<sub>2</sub>NH)In]<sub>2</sub>. An intermediate product of this transformation is oligomeric azaindocane 3,  $[N(CH_2CH_2NSiMe_3)_2In(CH_2-In(CH_2In(CH$ 

CH<sub>2</sub>NSiMe<sub>3</sub>)]<sub>3</sub>. The composition and structures of new compounds have been established by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy. The crystal structures of 1.Py, trans-2, and 3 have been determined by X-ray diffraction studies.

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# Introduction

The chemistry of indium amido compounds continues to be of interest due to their importance in preparing nitride ceramic materials and semiconductors.[1-3] During our studies of groups 13-15 metallatranes (A, Scheme 1, Y = O) and azametallatranes (A, Scheme 1,  $Y = NR)^{[4-8]}$  we have reported the synthesis and X-ray investigation of the first azaindatrane - [N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe)<sub>3</sub>In]<sub>2</sub>.<sup>[8]</sup> This compound is dimeric both in the solid phase and in solution due to the formation of an (In-N)<sub>2</sub> core with a very unusual set of In-N distances.[8]



Scheme 1

Monomeric tris-amides of group 13 elements are a promising class of precursors of technologically important group 13 nitride semiconductors.[1-3] Bulky substituents R in the parent tetramine N[CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NRH]<sub>3</sub> are expected to stabilize the monomeric structure of azaindatranes. We report here the reactions of [In(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub> and InCl<sub>3</sub> with N[CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)H]<sub>3</sub> (Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren) and the lithium salt of Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren {N[CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)Li]<sub>3</sub>}, respectively. We aimed to prepare Me<sub>3</sub>Si-containing azaindatranes and to estimate the influence of bulky Me<sub>3</sub>Si groups on structure and stability of monomeric species.

We therefore synthesized four new indium tris-amides containing  $[N(CH_2CH_2NSiMe_3)_3]^{3-}$  or  $[N(CH_2CH_2-$ NSiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH)]<sup>3-</sup> moieties: N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NSiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-In (1), N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NSiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>In·C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>N (1·Py), dimeric derivative 2, and oligomeric compound 3 (Scheme 2). The structures of compounds 1.Py, trans-2, and 3 have been confirmed by X-ray diffraction studies.

## **Results and Discussion**

Verkade et al. have carried out syntheses, NMR spectroscopy investigations and X-ray diffraction studies of closely related tris(N,N'',N''-trimethylsilyl)azaatranes of boron (4), aluminium (5), and gallium (6) (Scheme 3).[9-11] The reaction of B(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub> with Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren afforded 4 in low yield (6%), [9] which was explained by the preferred formation of polymeric products. However, the structure of these polymeric products was not established. Compounds of the type  $N(CH_2CH_2NSiMe_3)_3M$  [M = Al (5), yield 18%;<sup>[9]</sup> Ga (6), yield 88%<sup>[11]</sup>] were synthesized also, via transamination of M(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub> with Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren. Dimeric aluminium azaatrane 7, the structure of which is analogous to azaindatrane 2, was obtained during attempts to grow single crystals of 5 from pentane solution.<sup>[10]</sup>

Our synthetic results are summarized in Scheme 4. Treatment of [In(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub> with Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren in the presence of an

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Scheme 2

Scheme 3

excess of C5H5N led, after standard workup, to 1.Py in good yield. Notably, carrying-out this reaction without pyridine led to complex 1 (NMR spectroscopic data). Unfortunately, 1 could not be obtained as a pure solid. According to NMR spectroscopic data this compound is an adduct of 1 with one molecule of HNEt2 formed during transamination. However, no additional evidence of this structure was obtained by other methods. Compound 1 is unstable in toluene and in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> and turns over 24 h into the oligomeric compound azaindocane 3, which was obtained after recrystallization from pentane (-30 °C). This transformation might be explained by the lesser steric hindrances in 3 compared with monomeric complex 1. To the best of our knowledge no similar reactions have been found in "atrane" chemistry.

$$1/2 [In(NEt_2)_3]_2 \xrightarrow{i} boiling, 24 \text{ h} 2 \xrightarrow{r.t., 24 \text{ h}} 3$$

$$InCl_3 \xrightarrow{ii} InCl_3 \xrightarrow{ii} -3 \text{ LiCl}$$

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i, N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHSiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> / toluene; ii, N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NLiSiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> / THF / hexane / reflux, 96 h

Scheme 4

Further standing of solutions of 3 at room temperature afforded dimeric azaindatrane 2. The conversion ( $\approx 70\%$ , <sup>1</sup>H NMR data) of the oligomeric ocane 3 into the dimer 2 was observed after 11 days. Formally, the bulky Me<sub>3</sub>Si group is substituted by hydrogen during this reaction. However, the true nature of this transformation is unclear. An analogous dimerization passing through desilylation processes has been found for (Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>-azaalumatrane 6<sup>[10]</sup> and related titanium derivatives (compounds 8 and 9, Scheme 5).[12] A hydrolytic pathway in the first case, and the reaction of titanium complexes with solvent protons (THF), have been proposed as possible explanations for the formation of desilvlated dimers. However, all attempts to prepare 7 by controlled hydrolysis of monomeric 6 failed. [10] The authors did not report the formation of any oligomeric products during both dimerization reactions.[10,12]

Scheme 5

Complex 1.Py also turns into 2 at room temperature (40 days, 100%). However, the formation of 3 was undoubtedly detected by NMR spectroscopy in this reaction. Azaatrane 2 was obtained in moderate yield from the reaction of [In-(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub> with Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren at 95 °C (24 h) – no traces of 1 and 3 being detected in reaction mixture after heating. Compound 2 was the only product that contains an atrane framework in the reaction between InCl<sub>3</sub> and the Li<sub>3</sub>-salt of Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren. The lithium salt was prepared in situ by treatment of tetramine (Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren) with three equivalents of nBuLi.

Compound 2 has a trans structure for the central (In-NH)<sub>2</sub> core, as confirmed by X-ray data (vide infra). However, the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of all the reaction mixtures that lead to 2 contain signals (trace amounts) that may be assigned to cis-2 (Scheme 6), but the cis-isomer was not isolated as a pure solid. Conversely, only the cis-isomer of 7 was formed in the dimerization of N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NSiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Al (6).<sup>[10]</sup> Analogously, we recently found that only the cis-isomer of [N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe)<sub>3</sub>In]<sub>2</sub> was formed in the reaction of [In(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub> with Me-tren [N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMeH)<sub>3</sub>], with no traces of trans-isomer.[8]

Scheme 6

Thus, we conclude that the dimeric azaatrane 2 is the most thermodynamically stable product of the transamination reaction of  $[In(NEt_2)_3]_2$  with Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren. Donor ligands (e.g. pyridine) partially stabilize the monomeric structure of azaindatrane (compound  $1 \cdot Py$ ).

Both  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data agree with the suggested structures for 1, 1·Py, 2, and 3. In the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of 1 and 1·Py, signals of methylene protons of the azaindatrane skeleton appear as a set of two pseudo-triplets, forming an AA'MM' spin system (J=4.9-5.1 Hz). This pattern is a general feature of the "azaatrane" framework for various azametallatranes.  $^{[13]}$  The  $\delta_{\rm C}$  signals of the azaatrane skeleton lie within the range typical of those in closely related monomeric derivatives of group 13 elements.  $^{[9-11]}$  Thus, 1 and 1·Py are monomeric in  $C_6D_6$  solution.

In contrast, the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **2** and **3** are more complicated. For **2** the data are consistent with a dimer. After purification, **2** was found in solution as one of two geometrical isomers (according to X-ray data – *trans*-**2**) of the In<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub> core (Scheme 6). This is documented by two singlets of the Me<sub>3</sub>Si groups and twelve partially overlapping multiplets of six CH<sub>2</sub> groups in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2**. Eight signals of the atrane skeleton carbon atoms appear in the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **2**. The hydrogen atoms of six methylene groups and methylene carbon atoms as well as each Me<sub>3</sub>Si group of one monomeric unit in **3** are also non-equivalent.

Notably, no molecular ions  $[M^+]$  or heavy ions that contain at least one In atom were found in mass-spectra (EI, 70 eV) of studied compounds (1·Py, 2 and 3).

Herein we report the crystal structures of azaindatranes  $1 \cdot Py$  and 2 and also of 3 [Figure 1 (one independent molecule), Figure 2 and Figure 3, respectively]. Important bond lengths and angles for 1-3 are summarized in Table 1.

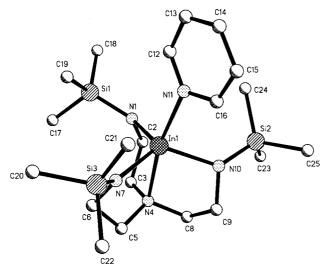


Figure 1. Molecular structure of 1-Py (one independent molecule); hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity

'The coordination polyhedron of the In atom in complex 1-Py represents a distorted trigonal bipyramid (TBP) with N(4) ( $N_{ax}$ ) and N(11) ( $N_{ax}^b$ ) (Scheme 7) occupying the axial

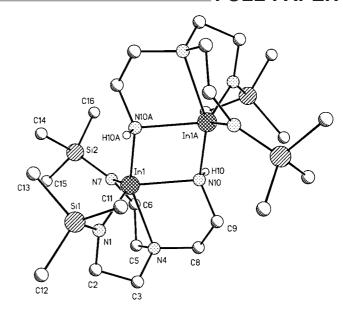


Figure 2. Molecular structure of  $\mathbf{2}$ ; hydrogen atoms (except H10 and H10A) omitted for clarity

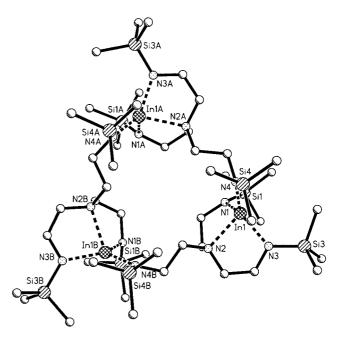


Figure 3. Molecular structure of 3; hydrogen atoms and solvate cyclohexane molecule omitted for clarity

positions. Three other nitrogen atoms [N(1), N(7), and N(10)] lie in equatorial sites ( $N_{eq}$ );  $N_{eq}-In-N_{eq}$  angles range between 112.3(1)° and 121.5(1)°,  $N_{ax}-In-N_{eq}$  angles range between 78.4(1)° and 80.9(1)°, and  $N_{ax}^b-In-N_{eq}$  angles range between 90.8(1)° and 107.3(1)° for 1·Py. The N(4)-In-N(11) fragment is close to linear for both independent molecules of 1·Py [169.3(1), 169.2(1)°]. These angles are smaller than those of closely related structures: 179.1(2)° for 10 and 178.4(4)° for 11 (Scheme 5).[14] However, they are greater than those in the dimer [N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe)<sub>3</sub>In]<sub>2</sub>: 150.3(1)-157.77(9)° for two independent molecules.<sup>[8]</sup> The latter proves that there is less

Table 1. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for 1-Py (two independent molecules), 2, and 3 (a: Displacement of In atom from the plane defined by the three  $N_{eq}$  atoms towards the  $N_{ax}$  atom; b: displacement of  $N_{ax}$  atom from the plane defined by the three carbon atoms towards the indium atom)

	1.	Ру	2	3
$N_{ax} \rightarrow In$	2.412(3)	2.427(1)	2.398(3)	2.294(4)
$N_{ax} \rightarrow In^b$	2.340(3)	2.206(1)	2.326(3)	- `´
In-N <sub>eq</sub>	2.091(3)	2.076(1)	2.096(3)	2.066(5)
	2.100(3)	2.098(1)	2.107(3)	2.106(5)
	2.120(3)		2.123(3)	,
$In-N_{eq}^*(2)$ or $In-N_{eq}^b(3)$	_ ` ` `	2.249(1)	_ ` `	2.054(5)
$\Delta \text{In (to N}_{ax})^a$	0.38	0.44	0.38	0.22
$\Delta N_{ax}^{b}$ (to In)	0.36	0.39	0.37	0.42
$N_{ax}-In-N_{ax}^{b}$	169.3(1)	153.89(5)	169.2(1)	_
$N_{eq}^{m}$ -In- $N_{eq}^{m}$ (or $N_{eq}^{b}$ , or $N_{eq}^{*}$ )	112.3(1)	119.43(6)	113.7(1)	126.3(2)
	121.5(1)	108.64(6)	116.5(1)	113.3(2)
	116.6(1)	119.19(5)	120.4(1)	117.0(2)
$N_{eq}-M-N_{ax}^b$	103.9(1)	119.59(6)	104.0(1)	- ` `
	107.3(1)	102.87(5)	106.4(1)	
	90.6(1)	81.51(5)	90.8(1)	
$N_{eq}-M-N_{ax}$	80.1(1)	79.86(5)	80.9(1)	119.9(2)
	79.7(1)	78.70(5)	79.8(1)	83.3(2)
	79.0(1)	75.33(5)	78.4(1)	84.2(2)
C-N <sub>ax</sub> -C	114.7(3)	112.7(1)	114.8(3)	115.9(5)
	114.2(3)	114.0(1)	112.4(3)	109.2(5)
	113.5(3)	113.4(1)	114.9(3)	111.0(5)

1.Py steric hindrance than in dimeric [N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe)<sub>3</sub>In]<sub>2</sub>. Analogously to 1·Py, the coordination environment at the In atom in 2 is formed by three covalently linked nitrogen atoms [N<sub>eq</sub>: N(1), N(7); N<sup>b</sup><sub>eq</sub>: N(10)] and two-coordinated nitrogen atoms -  $N_{ax}$ : N(4)and Nax: N(10A) and may be regarded as TBP, which is more distorted than that in 1.Py due to the steric influence of second azaatrane framework. For compound 2, the central (In-N)<sub>2</sub> unit is planar, differing from that of closely related [N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe)<sub>3</sub>In]<sub>2</sub> and 7 where central arrays form a puckered rectangle.[8,10]

Scheme 7

For both 1·Py and 2, the indium atoms are displaced by 0.38 Å (1·Py, both independent molecules) and 0.44 Å (2) from the plane defined by the three equatorial nitrogen atoms toward pyridine ring (1·Py) or N(10A) (2). These values characterize the extent of TBP distortion (this displacement should be zero in an ideal TBP).

The transannular bond lengths  $N_{ax}\rightarrow In$  [2.412(3), 2.398(3) Å for 1·Py; 2.427(1) for 2] and  $N_{ax}^b\rightarrow In$  [2.340(3), 2.326(3) Å for 1·Py; 2.206(1) Å for 2] in both compounds lie within the typical range for similar indium—nitrogen interactions [2.099(2)–2.62 Å]. Interestingly, the considerable

contraction of  $N_{ax}^b \rightarrow In$  in **2**, compared with that in **1**·Py, does not noticeably influence the  $N_{ax} \rightarrow In$  contact. To the best of our knowledge, the structures of only two tris(amido) indium species containing pyridine as additional ligand  $[(C_6H_5)_2N]_3In\cdot Py$ ,  $(2,6-iPr_2C_6H_3NH)_3In\cdot 2Py]$  have previously been studied by X-ray diffractometry. [2,3] Notably,  $N_{ax}^b \rightarrow In$  (Py $\rightarrow In$ ) in **1**·Py [2.340(3), 2.206(1) Å, two independent molecules] are shorter than those in (2,6- $iPr_2C_6H_3NH)_3In\cdot 2Py$  [2.460(4), 2.421(4) Å] with a pentacoordinate In atom, [3] but similar to that in the complex [ $(C_6H_5)_2N]_3In\cdot Py$  [2.264(4) Å] with a tetracoordinate indium atom. [2]

Compound 3 appears to be only the second "azaindocane", the first being the structurally characterized dimeric 12 (Scheme 8)<sup>[15]</sup>. In contrast to the type of In atom coordination environment found in 1.Py and 2, the coordination polyhedron of In atoms in trimeric compound 3 represents a strongly distorted trigonal monopyramid. Each indium atom in 3 is displaced by 0.22 Å from the plane defined by the two  $N_{eq}$  and one  $N_{eq}^{\phantom{eq}}$  atoms towards the  $N_{ax}$  atom (Scheme 7). The angles formed by the three equatorial nitrogen atoms and indium atom deviate by less than 7° from the ideal value of  $120^{\circ}$ , and both  $N_{ax}$ -In- $N_{eq}$  angles are close to 90°. However, the N<sub>ax</sub>-In-N<sub>eq</sub>\* angle is noticeably greater than 90°. The lower In coordination number in 3 (CN = 4) compared with 1-Py and 2 (CN = 5) leads to considerable shortening of  $N_{ax}$ -In in 2 [2.294(4) Å] as against those in 1.Py [2.412(3), 2.427(1) Å] and 2 [2.398(3) Å].

All five-membered rings of the atrane skeleton in  $1 \cdot Py$  and 2 as well as the ocane framework of 3 adopt an "envelope"-like conformation (Scheme 8, B). All carbon atoms in  $\beta$ -positions to the  $N_{ax}$  atom in  $1 \cdot Py$  and 2 occupy "flap" sites, while  $C \cdot \alpha$  atoms form the base of the envelope plane.

Scheme 8

This is contrary to conformations of ocane rings in 3 and those previously found for "usual" metallatranes (without C- $\beta$  substituents). However, as observed for azametallatranes, C- $\beta$  as well as C- $\alpha$  atoms may occupy "flap" sites of the "envelope". [6,17]

#### Conclusion

Transamination of [In(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub> and N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NSi-Me<sub>3</sub>H)<sub>3</sub> affords the monomeric azaindatrane **1**, which is converted into the dimeric azaindatrane **2** via the unexpected azaindocane **3**. The desilylated dimer **2** has also been obtained from the reaction of InCl<sub>3</sub> with N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NSi-Me<sub>3</sub>Li)<sub>3</sub>. The structures of **2** and **3** as well as of the adduct **1**·Py have been confirmed by X-ray diffraction analyses.

# **Experimental Section**

General Remarks: All manipulations were performed under dry, oxygen-free argon using standard Schlenk techniques. Solvents were dried by standard methods and distilled prior to use. InCl<sub>3</sub> (Aldrich) was used as supplied. The starting materials Me<sub>3</sub>Sitren<sup>[18]</sup> and [In(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub> <sup>[19]</sup> were prepared according to the literature. C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> was obtained from Deutero GmbH and dried with sodium. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded with Bruker AC200, AC300, AC500 spectrometers at 300 K. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to Me<sub>4</sub>Si as external standard. Elemental analyses were carried out by the Microanalytical Laboratory of the Fachbereich Chemie of the Philipps-University of Marburg (Heraeus Rapid Analyser). Mass spectra (EI-MS) were recorded with a Varian CH-7a device using electron impact ionization at 70 eV; mass spectra (FD-MS) were recorded with a HP-5989B device; all assignments were made with reference to the most abundant isotopes.

Azaindocane 3 (Reaction of [In(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub> with Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren): A solution of Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren (0.85 g, 2.35 mmol) in toluene (15 mL) was added at room temperature to a solution of [In(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (0.78 g, 1.18 mmol) in toluene (10 mL). The NMR spectrum of reaction mixture revealed the presence of  $\mathbf{1}^{[20]}$  after 1 h. The reaction mixture was then stirred for a further 24 h, and all volatiles were subsequently removed under reduced pressure. The resultant solid residue was recrystallized from n-pentane (10 mL) to give colorless crystals 3 (yield 0.95 g, 85%). All attempts to obtain an analytically pure sample failed, probably due to the presence of traces of dimeric 2 (analytical data below) as well as variable amounts of solvent, which could not completely be removed. Single crystals of 3

suitable for X-ray analysis were collected by recrystallizaton from cyclohexane.

**Data for 1:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( $C_6D_6$ , 300.130 MHz):  $\delta = -0.26$  (s, 27 H, 3SiMe<sub>3</sub>), 2.04 (t,  ${}^3J_{\rm H,H} = -5$  Hz, 6 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 3.02 (t,  ${}^3J_{\rm H,H} = -5$  Hz, 6 H, 3SiNCH<sub>2</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( $C_6D_6$ , 75.47 MHz):  $\delta = -2.21$  (SiCH<sub>3</sub>), 45.61 (SiNCH<sub>2</sub>), 58.06 [N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] ppm.<sup>[21]</sup>

**Data for 3:**  $^{1}$ H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 500.130 MHz): δ = -0.19 (s, 27 H, 3SiMe<sub>3</sub>), 0.32, 0.33 (2s, 54 H, 6SiMe<sub>3</sub>), 2.10–2.15 (m, 3 H), 2.30–2.32 (m, 6 H), 2.55–2.61 (m, 3 H), 2.83–2.89 (m, 3 H), 2.91–2.98 (m, 6 H), 3.15–3.17 (m, 3 H), 3.20 (br. s, 6 H), 3.27–3.33 (m, 3 H), 3.42–3.48 (m, 3 H) (18CH<sub>2</sub> groups) ppm.  $^{13}$ C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 50.32 MHz): δ = -1.72 (SiCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.77 (SiCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.05 (SiCH<sub>3</sub>), 40.79, 42.75, 44.82, 54.61, 57.28, 58.20 (CH<sub>2</sub> groups) ppm. EI-MS and FD-MS: [M<sup>+</sup>] was not found. C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>117</sub>In<sub>3</sub>N<sub>12</sub>Si<sub>9</sub> (1423.73): calcd. C 37.96, H 8.28, N 11.81; found C 36.82, H 8.68, N 10.93.

Conversion of 3 into 2: After standing for 11 days at room temperature, a toluene solution of 3 was converted into dimeric 2 (70%), as detected by NMR spectroscopy.

*trans-N,N'-Bis*(trimethylsilyl)azaindatrane Dimer 2.<sup>[22]</sup> Method A (Reaction of  $[In(NEt_2)_3]_2$  with Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren): A solution of Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren (1.67 g, 4.62 mmol) in toluene (25 mL) at room temperature was added to a solution of  $[In(NEt_2)_3]_2$  (1.53 g, 2.31 mmol) in toluene (15 mL). The reaction mixture was then boiled under reflux for 24 h, and then all volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The so-obtained solid residue was recrystallized from *n*-pentane (10 mL) to give colorless crystals 2 (yield 1.45 g, 66%) after standing at -30 °C.

Method B (Reaction of InCl<sub>3</sub> with Li<sub>3</sub>-Salt of Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren): A solution of trilithium salt, freshly prepared from Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren (3.8 g, 10.5 mmol) and n-butyllithium (1.6 M in n-hexane, 19.7 mL, 9.8 mmol), in THF (15 mL) at room temperature, with stirring, was added dropwise to a suspension of InCl<sub>3</sub> (2.32 g, 10.5 mmol) in THF (20 mL). The reaction mixture was then boiled under reflux for 96 h, and all volatiles were subsequently removed under reduced pressure. n-Pentane (40 mL) was then added to the residue, and insoluble substances were removed by filtration. The solution was then reduced in volume to 10 mL and stored at -30 °C for 3 days to obtain colorless crystals, which were separated by rapid decantation of the cold mother liquor to give 2 (yield 2.41 g, 57%). An analytically pure sample was obtained by recrystallization from pentane.  ${}^{1}H$  NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 500.130 MHz):  $\delta = -0.28$  (br. s, 36 H, 4SiMe<sub>3</sub>), 1.72-1.98 (m, 4 H), 2.08-2.29 (m, 8 H), 2.49-2.67 (m, 4 H), 2.80-3.11 (m, 8 H) (12CH<sub>2</sub> groups) ppm; the NH proton signals could not be located, probably due to overlap with CH<sub>2</sub> multiplets. <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( $C_6D_6$ , 75.47 MHz):  $\delta = -2.24$  (SiCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.21 (SiCH<sub>3</sub>), 42.62, 43.31, 43.82, 59.29, 60.55, 60.93 (CH<sub>2</sub> groups) ppm. EI-MS and FD-MS:  $[M^+]$  was not found.  $C_{24}H_{62}In_2N_8Si_4$  (804.79): calcd. C 35.82, H 7.77, N 13.92; found C 35.05, H 8.04, N 13.09.

Adduct of N,N'N''-Tris(trimethylsilyl)azaindatrane with Pyridine, 1-Py (Reaction of  $[In(NEt_2)_3]_2$  with Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren in the Presence of Pyridine): Pyridine (5 mL) and then a solution of Me<sub>3</sub>Si-tren (2.99 g, 8.25 mmol) in toluene (20 mL) were added at room temperature to a solution of  $[In(NEt_2)_3]_2$  (2.73 g, 4.12 mmol) in toluene (10 mL). The reaction mixture was then stirred for 12 h, and all volatiles were subsequently removed under reduced pressure. The resultant solid residue was recrystallized from n-pentane (10 mL) to give colorless crystals 1-Py (yield 3.59 g, 79%). Single crystals of 1-Py suitable for X-ray analysis were collected by recrystallizaton from n-pentane (-30 °C, saturated solution). <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( $C_6D_6$ ,

Table 2. Crystal data, data collection, structure solution and refinement parameters for 1-Py, 2, and 3

Compound	<b>1</b> •Py	2	3
Empirical formula	$C_{20}H_{44}In_1N_5Si_3$	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>62</sub> In <sub>2</sub> N <sub>8</sub> Si <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>48</sub> H <sub>123</sub> In <sub>3</sub> N <sub>12</sub> Si <sub>9</sub>
Molecular mass	553.69	804.82	1465.85
Colour, habit	colourless prism	colourless prism	colourless plate
Crystal size (mm)	$0.35 \times 0.31 \times 0.30$	$0.45 \times 0.24 \times 0.21$	$0.39 \times 0.15 \times 0.05$
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	trigonal
Space group	$P2_1/c$	$P2_1/c$	R-3
Unit cell dimensions, a (Å)	19.426(1)	10.364(1)	22.485(1)
b (Å)	12.0030(4)	16.309(1)	( )
$c(\mathring{A})$	24.639(1)	11.797(1)	22.485(1)
β (°)	90.080(4)	107.886(7)	26.544(2)
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	5745.0(4)	1897.6(3)	11622(1)
Z	8	2	6
Density (calculated) [g·cm <sup>-3</sup> ]	1.280	1.409	1.257
Absorption coefficient [mm <sup>-1</sup> ]	0.963	1.367	1.061
F(000)	2320	832	4608
θ range (°)	1.34-25.89	2.20-26.18	1.30 - 24.98
Index ranges	$-23 \le h \le 23$	$-12 \le h \le 12$	$-26 \le h \le 26$
	$-13 \le k \le 14$	$-20 \le k \le 20$	$-24 \le k \le 26$
	$-30 \le l \le 30$	$-14 \le l \le 14$	$-31 \le l \le 31$
Reflections collected	55794	17852	20441
Independent reflections	$11076 [R_{\text{int}} = 0.0394]$	$3754 [R_{int} = 0.0308]$	$4520 [R_{\rm int} = 0.0764]$
Data/restraints/parameters	11076/0/542	3754/0/183	4520/0/226
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.031	1.054	0.954
Final R indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0280$	$R_1 = 0.0172,$	$R_1 = 0.0490,$
	$wR_2 = 0.0718$	$wR_2 = 0.0422$	$wR_2 = 0.1287$
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0332$	$R_1 = 0.0205$	$R_1 = 0.0727$
	$wR_2 = 0.0733$	$wR_2 = 0.0431$	$wR_2 = 0.1374$
Extinction coefficient	_	0.0003(4)	_
Largest diff. peak/hole [e•Å <sup>-3</sup> ]	0.521/-0.708	0.285/-0.263	0.938/-0.624

300.130 MHz):  $\delta = -0.14$  (s, 27 H, 3SiMe<sub>3</sub>), 2.30 [t,  ${}^{3}J_{\text{H,H}} = -5$  Hz, 6 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 3.14 (t,  ${}^{3}J_{\text{H,H}} = -5$  Hz, 6 H, 3SiNCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.55–6.59 (m, 2 H, Py hydrogen atoms), 6.81–6.86 (m, 1 H, Py hydrogen), 8.80–8.83 (m, 2 H, Py hydrogen atoms) ppm.  ${}^{13}$ C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 75.47 MHz):  $\delta = -2.82$  (SiCH<sub>3</sub>), 44.51 (SiNCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.76 [N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 124.24, 138.11, 150.12 (Py carbon atoms) ppm.  ${}^{[21]}$  EI-MS: [M<sup>+</sup>] not found. C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>44</sub>InN<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>3</sub> (553.676): calcd. C 43.39, H 8.01, N 12.65; found C 42.99, H 7.70, N 11.92.

**Conversion of 1-Py into 2:** After standing at room temperature for 40 days, a toluene solution of **1-Py** was converted into dimer **2** (100%), as detected by NMR spectroscopy. According to <sup>1</sup>H NMR data the reaction mixture contained **1-Py**, **2**, and **3** (ratio 5:3:2) after 18 days.

**X-ray Crystallographic Study:** Crystal data, data collection, structure solution and refinement parameters for compounds 1·Py, 2, and 3 are presented in Table 2. Experimental intensities were measured with a Stoe IPDS diffractometer using graphite-monochromatized Mo- $K_{\alpha}$  radiation ( $\lambda=0.71073~\text{Å}$ ) at 193(2) K. The structures were solved by direct methods<sup>[23]</sup> and refined by full-matrix least-squares on  $F^2$  [<sup>24]</sup> with anisotropic thermal parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms. All H atoms were placed in calculated positions and refined using a riding model.

CCDC-224379 (for 1·Py), -224380 (for 2), and -224381 (for 3) 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 [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].

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- <sup>[21]</sup> Assignments of CH<sub>2</sub> signals agree with the data of Verkade et al. for  $N(CH_2CH_2NSiMe_3)_3M$  (M = B, Al).<sup>[9]</sup>
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