**Supplementary Information** 

## Antiaromaticity-aromaticity transition of cyclo[16]carbon upon metal encapsulation

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**Figure S1.** The optimized geometric structures of  $CaC_{16}$ ,  $ScC_{16}$ ,  $TiC_{16}$ ,  $VC_{16}$ ,  $CeC_{16}$ and  $UC_{16}$  at different theory levels. The def2-TZVP basis set was used for C, Ca, Sc, Ti and V atoms. The SDD basis sets, i.e. ECP28MWB and ECP60MWB, were used for Ce and U atoms, respectively. In addition, ECP10MDF was also employed for Ca, Sc, Ti and V atoms to evaluate the relativistic effects. The energy difference between the structures with different multiplicities is given in kcal/mol.

**Table S1.** Theoretically calculated binding energy ( $\Delta E_b$ , in kcal/mol) of CaC<sub>16</sub>, ScC<sub>16</sub>, TiC<sub>16</sub>, VC<sub>16</sub>, CeC<sub>16</sub> and UC<sub>16</sub> by using different functionals. The def2-TZVP basis set was used for C, Ca, Sc, Ti and V atoms. The SDD basis sets, i.e. ECP28MWB and ECP60MWB, were used for Ce and U atoms, respectively. In addition, ECP10MDF was also employed for Ca, Sc, Ti and V atoms to evaluate the relativistic effects.

	MN15	MN15	CAM-B3LYP	wB97X-D
Methods		(ECP10MDF)		
CaC <sub>16</sub>	-63.63	-59.36	-57.15	-65.42
ScC <sub>16</sub>	-63.23	-95.57	-82.84	-93.32
TiC <sub>16</sub>	-97.36	-129.05	-81.06	-90.45
<b>VC</b> <sub>16</sub>	-86.02	-96.58	-57.69	-67.24
CeC <sub>16</sub>	-67.29	-	-134.12	-147.27
<b>UC</b> <sub>16</sub>	-118.15	-	-129.24	-129.64



**Figure S2.** The isosurface map of localized molecular orbitals (LMOs) of (a)  $ScC_{16}$ , (b)  $TiC_{16}$ , (c)  $VC_{16}$ , (d)  $CeC_{16}$  and (e)  $UC_{16}$ . Only those LMOs with obvious overlap between metal and carbon atoms were listed for clarity.



**Figure S3.** The energy diagram of  $CaC_{16}$  and  $VC_{16}$ . The energy level of the occupied and unoccupied CMOs are denoted in red and black, respectively. The molecular orbitals shown in the left of the energy diagram correspond to the unpaired electrons.



Figure S4. Multiple clipped isosurfaces of ICSSzz of  $MC_{16}$  (M = Ca, Ti, Sc, V) calculated at MN15/def2-TZVP~ECP10MDF level of theory.

**Table S2.** The magnetically induced current intensities (in nA/T) passing through each C-C bond in  $MC_{16}$  (M = Ca, Ti, Sc, V, Ce, U) calculated by using the MN15 functional. The def2-TZVP basis set was used for C, Ca, Sc, Ti and V atoms. The SDD basis sets, i.e. ECP28MWB and ECP60MWB, were used for Ce and U atoms, respectively. Note that "R" represents that the data were obtained at MN15/def2-TZVP~ECP10MDF level of theory.

Bond	Ca	C <sub>16</sub>	Sc	C <sub>16</sub>	Ti	C <sub>16</sub>	V	C <sub>16</sub>	CeC <sub>16</sub>	UC <sub>16</sub>
Index	-	R	-	R	-	R	-	R	-	-
1	-25.33	-24.1	6.47	7.13	9.60	8.62	9.15	7.46	2.75	59.68
2	-24.49	-23.34	8.76	8.85	10.34	9.88	11.41	9.23	3.96	58.47
3	-24.51	-23.32	9.17	9.36	10.15	10.07	13.16	12.35	5.11	59.66
4	-25.25	-23.9	8.22	8.62	10.36	10.91	13.79	13.48	5.04	58.90
5	-25.78	-24.47	8.99	9.27	10.00	10.09	12.68	12.44	4.68	58.9

6	-25.66	-24.33	8.29	8.67	10.22	9.88	11.33	12.25	5.06	59.68
7	-24.78	-23.33	9.16	9.34	9.68	8.65	9.09	9.29	5.02	58.39
8	-25.10	-23.93	8.79	8.86	6.86	6.92	6.38	6.35	4.74	59.72
9	-25.82	-24.59	6.45	7.12	8.42	8.04	7.33	7.70	3.77	61.87
10	-25.11	-24.18	7.79	8.89	8.50	8.64	7.76	8.24	2.75	64.07
11	-24.88	-23.36	8.48	9.19	7.76	7.82	7.04	8.06	3.46	64.3
12	-24.60	-24.25	7.61	8.29	8.36	8.46	7.69	8.2	3.72	64.52
13	-24.91	-23.84	8.20	8.89	7.76	7.84	7.06	7.95	3.36	64.46
14	-25.10	-24.66	7.51	8.31	8.50	8.65	7.77	8.36	3.82	64.31
15	-24.80	-23.47	8.48	9.19	7.82	7.88	7.18	7.72	3.51	63.99
16	-25.31	-23.80	7.57	8.24	6.56	6.62	6.38	7.33	3.10	61.74



**Figure S5.** Anisotropy of the current-induced density (ACID) isosurface of MC<sub>16</sub> (M = Ca, Ti, Sc, V) contributed by (a)  $\pi_{in}$  and (b)  $\pi_{out}$  orbitals calculated at MN15/def2-TZVP~ECP10MDF level of theory.

## High-Resolution ACID plots:

C<sub>16</sub>:



CaC<sub>16</sub>:





TiC<sub>16</sub>:







CaC<sub>16</sub>: (ECP10MDF basis set for Ca)



ScC<sub>16</sub>: (ECP10MDF basis set for Sc)



TiC<sub>16</sub>: (ECP10MDF basis set for Ti)





## **Cartesian Coordinates (Angstrom) of DFT-Optimized Structures:**

0 1			
С	0.60964800	3.25596700	0.00000000
С	1.87123000	2.73340200	0.00000000
С	2.73340200	1.87123000	0.00000000
С	3.25596700	0.60964800	0.00000000
С	3.25596700	-0.60964800	0.0000000
С	2.73340200	-1.87123000	0.0000000
С	1.87123000	-2.73340200	0.00000000
С	0.60964800	-3.25596700	0.0000000
С	-0.60964800	-3.25596700	0.0000000
С	-1.87123000	-2.73340200	0.0000000
С	-2.73340200	-1.87123000	0.0000000
С	-0.60964800	3.25596700	0.0000000
С	-2.73340200	1.87123000	0.0000000
С	-1.87123000	2.73340200	0.0000000
С	-3.25596700	-0.60964800	0.0000000
С	-3.25596700	0.60964800	0.0000000

Cyclo[16]carbon (in MN15/def2-TZVP level of theory)

CaC<sub>16</sub> singlet (in MN15/def2-TZVP level of theory)

01			
С	-2.78158000	-0.87086400	0.0000000
С	-2.72498800	0.44414500	0.0000000
С	-2.40676400	1.67832200	0.0000000
С	-1.71825200	2.79804900	0.0000000
С	-0.59580500	3.42957200	0.0000000
С	0.72371600	3.31858400	0.00000000
С	1.89172600	2.81572600	0.00000000
С	2.49468500	1.60068100	0.00000000
С	2.79052900	0.39398000	0.0000000
С	2.81469600	-0.95969900	0.0000000
С	2.47327700	-2.14183500	0.0000000
С	-2.66525000	-2.12562300	0.0000000
С	-0.77709200	-3.85092900	0.0000000
С	-1.79022000	-3.12886700	0.0000000
С	1.70446100	-3.25589000	0.0000000
С	0.56685900	-3.73011300	0.0000000
Са	0.0000000	1.07542800	0.0000000

$CaC_{16}$	triplet (in MN15/def2-TZVP level	of theory)	
03			
С	-2.82900500	-0.92476600	0.0000000
С	-2.79009200	0.40439100	0.0000000
С	-2.50111600	1.63463800	0.0000000
С	-1.79732800	2.75526900	0.0000000
С	-0.68058600	3.37997700	0.0000000
С	0.63613700	3.39340100	0.0000000
С	1.76330200	2.78707900	0.0000000
С	2.48519500	1.67858300	0.0000000
С	2.78654200	0.45074600	0.0000000
С	2.83338300	-0.87774600	0.0000000
С	2.54794500	-2.09049500	0.0000000
С	-2.53159500	-2.13413500	0.0000000
С	-0.65001800	-3.79603300	0.0000000
С	-1.74164400	-3.21434100	0.00000000
С	1.77512300	-3.18252000	0.0000000
С	0.69375800	-3.78342200	0.0000000
Ca	0.0000000	1.05581200	0.0000000

## ScC<sub>16</sub> (in MN15/def2-TZVP level of theory)

02			
С	-1.01614200	-2.50927000	0.00005300
С	0.29990100	-2.31636600	-0.00000800
С	1.57781900	-2.27087400	-0.00002700
С	2.79842100	-1.76090000	-0.00002400
С	3.49560600	-0.65869100	-0.00001200
С	3.49524000	0.65952100	0.00002200
С	2.79776700	1.76149600	0.00003200
С	1.57694500	2.27102400	0.00001700
С	0.29913100	2.31698600	-0.00000700
С	-1.01697300	2.50934300	-0.00007600
С	-2.25411600	2.37575700	0.00002300
С	-2.25332900	-2.37602700	-0.00001000
С	-4.07532300	-0.66836700	0.00001700
С	-3.40669500	-1.71333700	0.00000400
С	-3.40730600	1.71274500	0.00002100
С	-4.07549600	0.66749900	0.00002000
Sc	1.47558600	-0.00015400	-0.00001300

С	-0.26849700	2.20141700	0.00299700
С	-1.54394100	2.20743400	-0.00152700
С	-2.78133100	1.73870200	-0.00399400
С	-3.50822200	0.65985600	-0.00311600
С	-3.50790700	-0.66041000	-0.00338800
С	-2.78082600	-1.73900500	-0.00196800
С	-1.54331700	-2.20768700	0.00133500
С	-0.26804100	-2.20262300	0.00487900
С	1.04796800	-2.40423100	0.00078700
С	2.28487800	-2.30013800	-0.00073000
С	3.47050300	-1.69406600	-0.00223400
С	1.04732400	2.40432900	0.00279600
С	3.46980600	1.69434800	-0.00036500
С	2.28429800	2.30047300	0.00157200
С	4.16534400	-0.66806300	-0.00297000
С	4.16545600	0.66886900	-0.00219900
Ti	-1.56368100	0.00021700	0.00221600

TiC<sub>16</sub> triplet (in MN15/def2-TZVP level of theory)

03			
С	-2.21285900	0.26753800	0.00000000
С	-2.21007700	1.54282500	0.00000000
С	-1.73911400	2.77941000	0.00000000
С	-0.66048900	3.50595400	0.00000000
С	0.66054200	3.50593600	0.00000000
С	1.73914500	2.77936000	0.00000000
С	2.21007500	1.54276100	0.00000000
С	2.21280700	0.26747600	0.00000000
С	2.41307700	-1.04793600	0.00000000
С	2.30462500	-2.28499100	0.00000000
С	1.69600500	-3.46860100	0.00000000
С	-2.41305200	-1.04788700	0.00000000
С	-1.69601900	-3.46855900	0.00000000
С	-2.30462700	-2.28494500	0.00000000
С	0.66811100	-4.16145500	0.00000000
С	-0.66814900	-4.16145200	0.00000000
Ti	0.0000000	1.56397200	0.00000000

VC <sub>16</sub> 0 2	doublet (in MN15/def2-TZVP level of theory)				
С		2.61286000	-2.19716200	0.00046200	
С		1.39868200	-2.45971700	0.00025800	

С	0.07882400	-2.36523500	-0.00003900
С	-1.17651800	-2.24468800	-0.00028700
С	-2.44981400	-1.87883600	-0.00055600
С	-3.36132300	-0.96589200	-0.00073400
С	-3.57081200	0.34276300	-0.00074300
С	-2.99641800	1.51416700	-0.00053300
С	-1.82203600	2.11717100	-0.00017500
С	-0.53791300	2.13810100	0.00018500
С	0.76224100	2.41017800	0.00039100
С	3.73166500	-1.47911800	0.00062600
С	4.08082300	0.98601900	0.00056400
С	4.22166200	-0.33837100	0.00062700
С	2.00701300	2.40236300	0.00043000
С	3.23044800	1.89283800	0.00049000
V	-1.61983900	0.03271800	-0.00025100

VC <sub>16</sub>	quartet (in MN15/def2-TZVP level	of theory)		
04				
С	-2.16917900	0.24733700	0.00000000	
С	-2.16772100	1.52081700	0.0000000	
С	-1.71025100	2.76400600	0.0000000	
С	-0.65884200	3.52296600	0.0000000	
С	0.65809700	3.52329200	0.00000000	
С	1.70981200	2.76475500	0.00000000	
С	2.16745600	1.52164300	0.00000000	
С	2.16884800	0.24812200	0.00000000	
С	2.37121300	-1.06544200	0.0000000	
С	2.27498000	-2.30347900	0.0000000	
С	1.68931100	-3.49762600	0.0000000	
С	-2.37130200	-1.06626000	0.00000000	
С	-1.68877200	-3.49833000	0.0000000	
С	-2.27461600	-2.30425200	0.0000000	
С	0.66810200	-4.20121800	0.0000000	
С	-0.66713800	-4.20129300	0.0000000	
V	0.0000000	1.57172900	0.0000000	

CeC <sub>16</sub>	singlet (in MN15/def2-TZVP ~ ECP28MWB level of theory)		
01			
С	1.68869939	2.47696339	-0.00006073
С	0.41012226	2.61492330	0.00025965
С	-0.88095500	2.54437509	0.00032361
С	-2.12161861	2.15856546	0.00023934

С	-2.97740324	1.18366337	0.00000546
С	-3.29897583	-0.07546433	-0.00010621
С	-2.90416947	-1.31465230	-0.00037708
С	-1.98465841	-2.22478883	-0.00009745
С	-0.73159034	-2.58775443	-0.00012043
С	0.55082436	-2.59721106	0.00021360
С	1.84034724	-2.44544401	0.00026820
С	2.93111450	2.13879548	-0.00042228
С	4.38931636	0.07312308	-0.00036322
С	3.84368029	1.24567311	-0.00051538
С	3.05709589	-2.07018387	0.00015171
С	3.93260748	-1.11990837	-0.00015914
Ce	-0.80114864	-0.00006984	0.00007866

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$CeC_{16}$	triplet (in MN15/def2-TZVP ~ ECP28MWB level of t		
03			
С	-1.65626700	2.57428600	-0.00027200
С	-0.41821600	2.79540000	-0.00049800
С	0.90190800	2.75640300	-0.00054800
С	2.07454700	2.25567600	-0.00067100
С	2.96390400	1.28924900	-0.00074700
С	3.22910400	0.02500600	-0.00074700
С	2.88250700	-1.23577800	-0.00074500
С	2.01089000	-2.18436900	-0.00066300
С	0.77898600	-2.63441400	-0.00057600
С	-0.48828600	-2.72079400	-0.00047100
С	-1.79818900	-2.59727200	-0.00035400
С	-2.88127700	2.07429300	-0.00023000
С	-4.23964100	-0.03181100	-0.00014200
С	-3.78427900	1.21433200	-0.00014800
С	-2.98499700	-2.19018500	-0.00026100
С	-3.89294300	-1.23100600	-0.00017500
Ce	0.73132400	0.07696100	-0.00048900

UC<sub>16</sub> (in MN15/def2-TZVP  $\sim$  ECP60MWB level of theory) 0.3

03			
С	-2.47707300	-0.65472000	0.00000000
С	-2.51824000	0.63911500	0.00000000
С	-2.17240500	1.88810000	0.00000000
С	-1.26054300	2.81892400	0.00000000
С	0.00028300	3.14901800	0.00000000
С	1.26105500	2.81872500	0.00000000

С	2.17277000	1.88775800	0.0000000
С	2.51841300	0.63871900	0.00000000
С	2.47704900	-0.65510700	0.0000000
С	2.37615300	-1.93962100	0.0000000
С	2.04069400	-3.17631200	0.0000000
С	-2.37634400	-1.93924500	0.0000000
С	-1.19599300	-4.13887600	0.0000000
С	-2.04107200	-3.17599000	0.0000000
С	1.19546200	-4.13906900	0.0000000
С	-0.00030100	-4.60503100	0.0000000
U	0.00009100	0.76126900	0.0000000