## **Supporting Information**

## A Non-Isolated Pentagon Rule C<sub>82</sub> Cage Stabilized by a Stretched Sc<sub>3</sub>N Cluster

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## **Experimental Details**

Synthesis of Sc<sub>3</sub>N@*C*<sub>s</sub>(39663)-C<sub>82</sub>. Sc<sub>3</sub>N@*C*<sub>s</sub>(39663)-C<sub>82</sub> was synthesized by a modified Krätschmer-Huffman DC arc-discharge method. Each graphite rod packed with a mixture of Sc<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and graphite powder (molar ratio of Sc/C = 1:24) was vaporized in the arcing chamber under 266 mbar He and 5 mbar N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The resulting raw soot was collected and extracted with CS<sub>2</sub> for 12 h. On the average ca. 30 mg of crude fullerene mixture per rod was obtained. Finally, 150 graphite rods was vaporized and ca. 0.8 mg Sc<sub>3</sub>N@*C*<sub>s</sub>(39663)-C<sub>82</sub> was obtained. Besides Sc<sub>3</sub>N@*C*<sub>s</sub>(39663)-C<sub>82</sub>, ca. 0.2 mg Sc<sub>3</sub>N@*C*<sub>2ν</sub>(39718)-C<sub>82</sub> was obtained and other scandium-based endohedral fullerenes Sc@*C*<sub>2n</sub> and Sc<sub>3</sub>N@*C*<sub>2n</sub> were also formed along with empty fullerenes during arcing progress.

High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) separation process of Sc<sub>3</sub>N@*C*<sub>3</sub>(39663)-C<sub>82</sub>. The first stage was performed on a Buckyprep-M column (25 mm × 250 mm, Cosmosil Nacalai Tesque) with toluene as mobile phase. After that, as shown in Figure S1, fraction 9 (from 34 to 60 min, marked in orange) was re-injected into a Buckyprep column (10mm × 250 mm, Cosmosil Nacalai Tesque) for the second stage separation using toluene as the eluent. The fraction marked in green which contained Sc<sub>3</sub>N@*C*<sub>s</sub>(39663)-C<sub>82</sub> was collected. The third stage of separation was conducted on a 5PBB column (10mm × 250 mm, Cosmosil Nacalai Tesque) with toluene as the eluent. The fraction marked in cyan which contained Sc<sub>3</sub>N@*C*<sub>s</sub>(39663)-C<sub>82</sub> was collected. The last stage separation was conducted on a Buckyprep-M column (10mm × 250 mm, Cosmosil Nacalai Tesque) using toluene as the eluent and pure Sc<sub>3</sub>N@*C*<sub>s</sub>(39663)-C<sub>82</sub> was got. The purity of the isolated Sc<sub>3</sub>N@*C*<sub>s</sub>(39663)-C<sub>82</sub> was reconfirmed by chromatography on a Buckyprep-M column with toluene at the flow rate 4 mL/min, along with MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry in a positive charge mode. The wavelength of detection used for HPLC was 310 nm.

High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) separation process of  $Sc_3N@C_{2\nu}(39718)-C_{82}$ . The first stage was performed on a Buckyprep-M column (25 mm × 250 mm, Cosmosil Nacalai Tesque) with toluene as mobile phase. After that, as shown in Figure S2, fraction 8 (from 28 to 33 min, marked in red) was re-injected into a Buckyprep column (10mm × 250 mm, Cosmosil Nacalai Tesque) for the second stage separation using toluene as the eluent. The fraction marked in yellow which contained  $Sc_3N@C_{2\nu}(39718)-C_{82}$  was collected. The third stage of separation was conducted on a 5PBB column (10mm × 250 mm, Cosmosil Nacalai Tesque) with toluene as the eluent. The fraction marked in orange which contained  $Sc_3N@C_{2\nu}(39718)-C_{82}$  was collected. The last stage separation was recycled on a 5PBB column (10mm × 250 mm, Cosmosil Nacalai Tesque) using toluene as the eluent and pure  $Sc_3N@C_{2\nu}(39718)-C_{82}$  was got. The purity of the isolated  $Sc_3N@C_{2\nu}(39718)-C_{82}$  was reconfirmed by chromatography on a Buckyprep-M column with toluene at the flow rate 4 mL/min, along with MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry in a positive charge mode. The wavelength of detection used for HPLC was 310 nm.



**Fig. S1** HPLC profiles showing the separation of  $Sc_3N@C_s(39663)-C_{82}$  (left) and the corresponding MALDI-TOF mass spectra (right).



**Fig. S2** HPLC profiles showing the separation of  $Sc_3N@C_{2v}(39718)-C_{82}$  (left) and the corresponding MALDI-TOF mass spectra (right).

**Electrochemical studies of Sc**<sub>3</sub>**N**@*C*<sub>s</sub>(**39663**)-**C**<sub>82</sub>. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) was obtained in *o*dichlorobenzene using a CHI-660E instrument. A conventional three-electrode cell consisting of a platinum counter-electrode, a glassy carbon working electrode, and a silver reference electrode was used for the measurement. (n-Bu)<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub> (0.05 M) was used as the supporting electrolyte. The CV was measured at a scan rate of 100 mV/s.

Spectroscopic studies of Sc<sub>3</sub>N@C<sub>s</sub>(39663)-C<sub>82</sub> and Sc<sub>3</sub>N@C<sub>2v</sub>(39718)-C<sub>82</sub>. The positive-ion mode matrix assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight (Bruker, German) was employed for the mass characterization. UV–vis–NIR spectrum of the purified Sc<sub>3</sub>N@C<sub>s</sub>(39663)-C<sub>82</sub> and Sc<sub>3</sub>N@C<sub>2v</sub>(39718)-C<sub>82</sub> was measured in CS<sub>2</sub> solution with a Cary 5000 UV–vis–NIR spectrophotometer (Agilent, USA).

**Single-Crystal X-ray Diffraction.** Black cocrystals of  $Sc_3N@C_s(39663)-C_{82}\cdot[Ni^{II}(OEP)] \cdot C_6H_6$  were obtained by allowing a solution of the fullerene in CS<sub>2</sub> and a solution of  $[Ni^{II}(OEP)]$  in benzene to diffuse together. X-ray data were collected at 130 K using a diffractometer (APEX II; Bruker Analytik GmbH) equipped with a CCD collector. The multi-scan method was used for absorption correction. The structure was resolved using direct methods<sup>1</sup> (SIR2004) and refined on  $F^2$  using full-matrix least-squares using SHELXL2015.<sup>2</sup> Hydrogen atoms were inserted at calculated positions and constrained with isotropic thermal parameters.

Crystal data for Sc<sub>3</sub>N@*C*<sub>s</sub>(39663)-C<sub>82</sub>·[Ni<sup>II</sup>(OEP)]·C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>: C124 H50 N5 Ni Sc3, *M*<sub>r</sub> = 1803.28, 0.2 × 0.15 × 0.08 mm<sup>3</sup>, monoclinic, space group *P*2<sub>1</sub>/*c* (No. 14), *a* = 19.830(5) Å, *b* = 15.111(3) Å, *c* = 25.233(8) Å, *a* = 90°, *b* = 93.958(19)°, *y* = 90°, *V* = 7543(3) Å<sup>3</sup>, *Z* = 4,  $\rho_{calcd}$  = 1.588 g cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\mu$ (Cu K $\alpha$ ) = 3.039mm<sup>-1</sup>,  $\vartheta$  = 2.233– 68.331°, *T* = 130(2) K, *R*<sub>1</sub> = 0.0921, *wR*<sub>2</sub> = 0.2368 for all data; *R*<sub>1</sub> = 0.0794, *wR*<sub>2</sub> = 0.2210 for 11277 reflections (*I* > 2.0 $\sigma$ (*I*)) with 1233 parameters. Goodness of fit indicator 1.057. Maximum residual electron density 1.353 e Å<sup>-3</sup>.



**Fig. S3** (a) a diagram showing the relative orientation of the two different triangular  $Sc_3N$  units. (b) Perspective drawing shows the disorder of Sc in the  $Sc_3N$  cluster. N atom is fully ordered.

compound	M-C	Distance / Å		
	Sc1-C1	2.329(6)		
	Sc1-C5	2.316(6)		
Sc N/@C (20662) C	Sc2-C49	2.272(6)		
SC3N@C3(S9003)-C82	Sc2-C50	2.280(6)		
	Sc3-C59	2.340(5)		
	Sc3-C60	2.256(5)		
	Gd1-C78	2.476(10)		
	Gd1-C82	2.48(10)		
Gd <sub>3</sub> N@C <sub>s</sub> (39663)-C <sub>82</sub>	Gd2-C28	2.370(8)		
	Gd3-C17	2.438(9)		
	Gd3-C18	2.429(8)		

Table	S1.	Comparison	of	the	distances	between	the	metal	and	closest	cage	carbon	for
Sc₂NØ	)C.(3	9663)-C <sub>22</sub> and	l Gd	l₂N@	C.(39663)-	C₀₂³ (dista	nces	are giv	en in	angstror	n)		

Atom	Sc1	Sc2	Sc3	Sc4	Sc5	Sc6
Occupancy	0.817	0.817	0.817	0.183	0.183	0.183

Table S3. Bond lengths and bond angles of the  $Sc_3N$  cluster in the major orientation.

	Sc1-N1	Sc2-N1	Sc3-N1
Length (Å)	2.112(3)	2.052(4)	2.038(3)
	Sc1-N-Sc2	Sc1-N-Sc3	Sc2-N-Sc3
Angle (°)	118.05(17)	117.45(14)	124.43(18)



Fig. S4 Comparison of the endohedral structures of  $Sc_3N@C_3(39663)-C_{82}$  (a) and  $Sc_3N@C_{2\nu}(39718)-C_{82}$  (b).



Fig. S5 Stone-Wales transformation of  $C_s(39663)-C_{82}$ ,  $C_s(6)-C_{82}$  and  $C_{2\nu}(39718)-C_{82}$ .

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