## HEAVY ANALOGUES OF THE 67-ELECTRON CHARGED SYSTEMS: STRUCTURE, BONDING, AROMATICITY, AND APPLICATION AS NOVEL LIGANDS FOR TRANSITION METAL COMPLEXES

The  $6\pi$ -electron organic aromatics, such as benzene, cyclopentadienide ion and cyclobutadiene dianion derivatives, are commonly used convenient sources of cyclic polyene ligands for a vast number of coordination compounds. The subject of this presentation is the chemistry of a novel class of  $6\pi$ -electron organometallic aromatics of the heavy group 14 elements, namely, derivatives of the cyclopentadienide ion  $1^{-} \cdot [M^{+}(thf)]$  and cyclobutadiene dianion  $2^{2^{-}} \cdot 2[M^{+}(thf)_{2}]$ , in which the cyclic carbons are fully (or partially) replaced with heavy tetrels (Si, Ge). The important structural peculiarities, degree of aromaticity, and specific reactivity of both  $1^{-} \cdot [M^{+}(thf)]$  and  $2^{2^{-}} \cdot 2[M^{+}(thf)_{2}]$  will be discussed, with special attention paid to their reactions with transition metal derivatives producing complexes with new generation ligands featuring rather unusual structural characteristics and bonding situations.

[E = C, Si, Ge; R = H, alkyl, aryl, silyl; M = alkali metal]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Reviews: (a) *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **2007**, *46*, 6596. (b) *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2007**, *40*, 410. (c) *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2008**, *37*, 1652.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Recent papers: J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2004**, 126, 4758; J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2005**, 127, 13142; J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2009**, 131, 6352.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Recent papers: J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2005**, 127, 5768; Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2006**, 45, 3269; J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2007**, 129, 10340; Eur. J. Inorg. Chem. **2007**, 5471; J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2009**, 131, 916; J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2009**, 131, 9902.