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Published in issue 26, 2008 of Dalton Transactions



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Synthesis and structures of crystalline Li, Al and Sn(II) 1-azaallyls and β -diketiminates derived from [Li{ $\mu,\eta^3-N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)SiMe_3$ }]₂ (Ad = 1-adamantyl)[†]

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Received 4th December 2007, Accepted 31st January 2008 First published as an Advance Article on the web 11th March 2008 DOI: 10.1039/b718728a

The crystalline dimeric 1-azaallyllithium complex [Li{ μ , η^3 -N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)SiMe_3]₂ (1) was prepared from equivalent portions of Li[CH(SiMe_3)₂] and 1-cyanoadamantane (AdCN). Complex 1 was used as precursor to each of the crystalline complexes **2–8** which were obtained in good yield. By 1-azaallyl ligand transfer, **1** afforded (i) [Al{ η^3 -N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)SiMe_3}{ κ^1 -N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)= C(H)SiMe_3-*E*}Me] (**5**) with [AlCl₂Me]₂, (ii) [Sn{ η^3 -N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)SiMe_3}₂] (7) with Sn[N(Si-Me_3)₂]₂, and (iii) [Li(N{C(Ad)=C(H)SiMe_3-*E*}{Si(NN)SiMe_3})(thf)₂] (**8**) with the silylene Si[(NC-H₂Bu')₂C₆H₄-1,2] [= Si(NN)]. By insertion into the C≡N bond of the appropriate cyanoarene RCN, **1** gave the β-diketiminate [Li{ μ -N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)C(R)NSiMe_3]₂ [R = Ph (**2**), C₆H₄Me-4 (**3**)], and **5** yielded [Al{ κ^2 -N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)C(Ph)NSiMe_3} κ^1 -N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)=C(H)SiMe_3-*E*}Me] (**6**). The β-diketiminate [Al{ κ^2 -N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)C(Ph)NSiMe_3}Me₂] (**4**) was prepared from **2** and [AlClMe₂]₂. The X-ray structures of **1** and **3–8** are presented. Multinuclear NMR spectra in C₆D₆ or C₆D₅CD₃ have been recorded for each of **1–8**; such data on **8** revealed that in solution two minor isomers were also present.

Introduction

There has been a long-standing interest in lithium 1-azaallyls (prepared *in situ* and generally not structurally characterised) because of their role in organic synthesis,¹ undergoing a number of C–C bond-forming reactions with electrophiles, as in controlled aldol condensation reactions and the regioselective α -functionalisation of ketones.¹ 1-Azaallylic anions have played a major role in heterocyclic chemistry.² A direct synthesis of enamines from olefins has recently been reported, as in PrⁿCH=CH₂ + HN(CH₂)₄CH₂ + CO + H₂ $\xrightarrow{Cat.}$ BuⁿCH=CHN(CH₂)₄CH₂.³

A 2001 review on 1-azaallylmetal complexes had 144 literature citations.⁴ A variety of metal–ligand coordination modes were identified, including the terminal η^3 - (I), terminal κ^1 - (enamido) (II) and *C*,*N*-chelating-*N*-bridging (III).



Our entry into this field began in 1994, with the disclosure that Li[CH(SiMe_3)_2] with Bu^tCN in Et₂O gave the X-raycharacterised crystalline compound IV;⁵ related reactions are shown in Scheme 1.⁶ Compound IV or its Na or K analogue was used as ligand transfer reagent; relevant to the present studies are data on tin(II),⁷ and aluminium⁸ compounds. The structures of crystalline bis(1-azaallyl)tin(II) complexes are sterically sensitive; *cf.* the X-ray-characterised compounds $Sn[\eta^3-N(SiMe_3)C(Bu^t)C(H)SiMe_3]_2$ (V), $Sn[\eta^3-N(SiMe_3)C(Ph)C(SiMe_3)_2][\kappa^1-N(SiMe_3)C(Ph)=C(SiMe_3)_2]$ and $Sn[\kappa^1-N(SiMe_3)C(Bu^t)=C(H)C_6H_3Me_2-2,5]_2$.⁷ The crystalline MeAl complex VI in solution underwent rapid 1-azaallyl ligand fluxionality^{8b} and, on the basis of multinuclear NMR spectra, the Me₂Al complex VII was assigned to have the ligand in the η^3 -bonding mode **I**.^{8b}



Results and discussion

The results and discussion is divided into two parts, each based on [Li{ $\mu,\eta^3-N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)SiMe_3$]₂ (1). [Its preparation, from Li[C(H)(SiMe_3)_2]⁹ and AdCN (Ad = 1-adamantyl), has previously been mentioned in outline^{10a} and it has been used as a precursor to P{N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)SiMe_3}Ph_2.^{10b}] The first part deals with the preparation of 1 and its conversion into two lithium β -diketiminates. Succeeding sections are concerned with its role as precursor to (i) three methylaluminium compounds, (ii) a homoleptic tin(II) 1-azaallyl and (iii) a bulky lithium amide derived from the reaction of 1 with the bis(amino)silylene Si[(NCH₂Bu¹)₂C₆H₄-1,2].

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Scheme 1 Synthesis of 1-azaallyllithium (IV)⁵ and some of its reactions.⁶

Synthesis and structures of the lithium 1-azaallyl 1 and the β -diketiminates 2 and 3

Their syntheses are shown in Scheme 2; yields (as for **4**-**8**) were not optimised and refer to X-ray-quality crystalline materials. The procedures used are related to those leading to the *tert*-butyl compound **IV** and the β -diketiminate [Li{ μ,κ^2- {N(SiMe₃)C(Ph)CHC(Bu^t)NSiMe₃}]₂ rather than [Li{ μ,κ^2- (N(SiMe₃)C(Ph))₂C(H)}]₂.⁶ Each of **1**-**3** was characterised by satisfactory C, H and N analyses, multinuclear NMR solution spectra, mass spectra and for **1** and **3** by single crystal X-ray diffraction studies.



Scheme 2 Synthesis of the crystalline lithium compounds 1–3.

An ORTEP representation of the molecular structure of crystalline 1 is shown in Fig. 1a; its skeletal core, with bond distances, is found in Fig. 1b. From the latter it is evident that each of the ligands is bound to its lithium atom in an η^3 - rather than the enamido (κ^1)-fashion. The central Li₂N₂ ring is almost planar with the endocyclic angle subtended at each lithium atom (106.4 ±



Fig. 1 (a) ORTEP representation of the structure of 1 (50% thermal ellipsoids) (top); (b) bond distances (Å) in the skeletal core of $[\text{Li}\{\mu,\eta^3-N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)SiMe_3\}]_2$ (1) (bottom).

 0.9°) wider that at each nitrogen atom (73.6 \pm 0.2 °). The relative disposition of the 1-adamantyl and the adjacent *C*–SiMe₃ is *cisoid* (C9 *vs.* Si2) or *transoid* (C27 *vs.* Si4). Some further geometric parameters of **1** are compared with those of **8** in Table 4.

An ORTEP representation of the molecular structure of the centrosymmetric dimeric lithium β -diketiminate **3** is shown in Fig. 2a; its step-like fused tricyclic skeletal core is sketched in 2D in Fig. 2b. Selected geometric parameters for **3** are compared with those of $[\text{Li}\{\mu,\kappa^2-(N(\text{SiMe}_3)C(\text{Ph}))_2C(\text{H})\}]_2^6$ in Table 1. A less accurate structure of crystalline $[\text{Li}\{\mu,\kappa^2-\{N(\text{SiMe}_3)C(\text{Ph})C(\text{HC})(\text{Bu}^{'})N\text{SiMe}_3\}]_2$ is also available.⁶ The central Li₂N₂ ring of **3** is rhomboidal and the adjacent fused sixmembered rings are boat-shaped with the Li and C2 atoms 0.83 and 0.11 Å out of the N1N2C1C3 plane respectively. The Li atom

Table 1 Bond distances (Å) and selected angles (°) in the skeletal core of $[Li\{\mu,\kappa^2-N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)C(C_6H_4Me-4)NSiMe_3\}]_2$ (3) and $[Li\{\mu,\kappa^2-(N(SiMe_3)C(Ph))_2C(H)\}]_2^{-6}$

Compound	3	$[Li\{(N(SiMe_3)C(Ph))_2C(H)\}]_2$
Li–N1	1.996(2)	1.952(10)
Li–N2	2.015(5)	1.965(9)
N1-C1	1.303(4)	1.299(6)
N2-C3	1.365(3)	1.337(6)
C1-C2	1.448(4)	1.439(6)
C2-C3	1.378(4)	1.394(7)
Li–N2–Li′	78.3(2)	75.0(4)
N2–Li–N2′	101.7(2)	103.0(4)
N1-Li-N2	101.2(2)	105.0(4)



Fig. 2 (a) ORTEP representation of the structure of 3 (50% thermal ellipsoids) (top); (b) the centrosymmetric core of $[Li{\mu,\kappa^2-N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)C(C_6H_4Me-4)NSiMe_3}]_2$ (3) (bottom).

has relatively close contacts to the C1 [2.702(6) Å], C3 [2.775(6) Å] and C24 [2.861(6) Å] atoms.

Synthesis and structures of the aluminium compounds 4, 5 and 6

The routes to the crystalline methylaluminium compounds **4–6** are illustrated in Scheme 3. Two dimethylaluminium β -diketiminates related to **4** had previously been reported, albeit using a different methodology: [Al{(N(SiMe₃)C(Ph))₂CH}Me₂] (VIII) had been obtained by methane elimination from AlMe₃ and the appropriate β -diketimine,¹¹ and CH₂[C{C(C₆H₄Me-4)N(SiMe₃)}₂AlMe₂]₂ was similarly prepared from 2AlMe₃ and the corresponding CH₂-bridged bis(β -diketimine).¹² The synthesis of the methylaluminium bis(1-azaallyl) **5** involved the same strategy (Cl/ligand exchange)

as formerly employed for $[Al\{N(SiMe_3)C(Bu^t)C(H)SiMe_3\}_2Me]$ (VI).⁸⁶ The compound **6**, chiral at the Al atom, containing both 1azaallyl and β -diketiminato ligands is currently without precedent.

Compounds **4–6** were characterised by microanalysis (**5**, **6**), multinuclear (¹H, ¹³C, ²⁹Al and ²⁹Si) NMR spectra in C_6D_6 at 293 K (**4**, like **VIII**, ¹¹ was fluxional) and mass spectra (**5**, **6**), as well as single crystal X-ray diffraction.

ORTEP representations of the molecular structures of crystalline complexes **4–6** are shown in Fig. 3, 4 and 5, respectively. Selected geometrical data for the AlN1C1C2C3N2 rings of **4**, **VIII**,¹¹ and **6** are listed in Table 2. The Al atom is 1.0 (**4**), 0.95 (**VIII**) and 1.01 (**6**) Å out of the N1C1C3N2 plane, respectively; for **4** the C2 atom is coplanar with the latter but for the shallowboat rings of **VIII** and **6**, the C2 atom is 0.12 (**VIII**) or 0.17 (**6**) Å out of the N1C1N2 plane.



Fig. 3 ORTEP representation of the structure of 4 (50% thermal ellipsoids).

Comparative geometric data for (i) the enamido fragments of $[Al\{\eta^3-N(SiMe_3)C(R)C(H)SiMe_3\}\{\kappa^1-N(SiMe_3)C(R)=C(H)-SiMe_3-E\}Me]$ [R = Ad (5), R = Bu^t (VI)⁸⁶] and $[Al\{\kappa^2-N(SiMe_3)C(Ph)C(H)C(Ad)NSiMe_3\}\{\kappa^1-N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)=C-(H)SiMe_3-E\}Me]$ (6) and (ii) the η^3 -1-azaallyl fragment of 5 and VI⁸⁶ are listed in Table 3. That the two isomeric 1-azaallyl ligands in



Scheme 3 Synthesis of the crystalline aluminium compounds 4–6.



Fig. 4 ORTEP representation of the structure of 5 (50% thermal ellipsoids).



Fig. 5 ORTEP representation of the structure of 6 (50% thermal ellipsoids).

crystalline **5** and **VI** are distinct is attributed to steric factors which make the formation of the isomeric bis(η^3 -azaallyl)methylalanes energetically unfavourable for steric reasons. Regarding the η^3 -1-azaallylaluminium moiety, the Al atom is 1.55 Å out of the N3C29C30 plane for **6**, 0.76 Å out of the N1C1C2 plane and

Table 2 Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for the $[Al{\kappa^2-N(SiMe_3)C(R)C(H)C(Ph)NSiMe_3}]$ fragment of 4, 6 (R = Ad) and of $[Al{\kappa^2-(N(SiMe_3)C(Ph))_2C(H)}Me_2]$ (VIII) (R = Ph)¹¹

Compound	4	6	VIII
Al-N1	1.9417(12)	1.959(2)	1.914(4)
Al–N2	1.9235(11)	1.924(2)	1.928(4)
N1-C1	1.3350(16)	1.341(3)	1.331(6)
N2-C3	1.3569(15)	1.359(3)	1.336(6)
C1-C2	1.4124(18)	1.415(3)	1.394(6)
C2-C3	1.4018(4)	1.383(3)	1.406(6)
N1-Al-N2	97.01(5)	95.12(9)	97.1(2)
C1C2C3	128.51(12)	126.4(2)	126.8(4)

1.45 Å out of the N2C19C20 plane for **5**, and 0.66 Å out of the N1C1C2 plane or 1.63 Å out of the N2C13C14 plane for **VI**.⁸⁶ The dihedral angles between the N1C1C2 and the N2C19C20 plane of 80° for **5** is to be compared with the 35° between the N1C1C2 and N2C13C14 planes of **VI**.⁸⁶

Synthesis and structure of the bis(η^3 -1-azaallyl)tin(II) complex 7

The crystalline homoleptic 1-azaallyltin(II) compound 7 was prepared in high yield as shown in eqn (1). The use of a metal bis(trimethylsily)amide in a hydrocarbon solvent as precursor is novel in 1-azaallylmetal chemistry and is likely to have some generality and not only in this area of chemistry; it has the advantage that the co-product Li[N(SiMe₃)₂] is volatile and hence readily separated *in vacuo*. We have previously used such a strategy for the synthesis of the homoleptic group 14 metal alkyls M[CH(SiMe₃)₂]₂ (M = Ge, Sn); for the germanium alkyl, in particular, it was the method of choice.¹³



Compound 7 was characterised by microanalysis, EI-mass spectrometry and ¹H, ¹³C, ²⁹Si and ¹¹⁹Sn NMR spectra in deuteriotoluene. The ¹¹⁹Sn chemical shift (δ –377.3 ppm) establishes that in solution both the ligands are bound to the tin atom in the η^3 -1-azaallyl mode I, as also found in the crystal (Fig. 6). In support, it is noted that similar solutions of Sn[η^3 -N(SiMe_3)C(Bu¹)C(H)SiMe_3]₂ (V), Sn[κ^1 -N(SiMe_3)C(Bu¹)= C(H)C₆H₃Me₂-2,5]₂, and Sn[η^3 -N(SiMe₃)C(Ph)=C(SiMe_3)₂][κ^1 -N(SiMe_3)C(Ph)=C(SiMe_3)₂] had ¹¹⁹Sn chemical shifts of δ –387.2, 61.5 and –37.3 ppm, respectively.⁷

An ORTEP representation of the molecular structure of crystalline 7 is shown in Fig. 6, together with selected geometric parameters of its core skeletal atoms. The tin atom is 1.39 Å out of both the N1C2C1 and N2C20C19 planes; the dihedral angle between these two planes is 18° . The core structure of 7 is similar to that of V⁷ or Sn[{N(C₆H₃Prⁱ₂-2,6)}₂CMe]₂ (obtained from Sn[N(SiMe₃)₂]₂ and H[{N(C₆H₃Prⁱ₂-2,6)}₂CMe]).¹⁴

Synthesis, reaction pathway and structure of the crystalline lithium silylamide 8

The crystalline lithium compound **8** was obtained in good yield from equivalent portions of the 1-azaallyllithium compound **1** and the thermally stable bis(amino)silylene Si[(NCH₂Bu^t)₂C₆H₄-1,2] (**IX**)¹⁵ [abbreviated as Si(NN)] in thf, eqn (2).

Table 3 Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for the enamidoAl fragment of 5, 6 and VI^{8b} and the 1-azaallylAl fragments of 5 and VI^{8b}

C17

 \mathscr{S}

C15

C5

C6

C4

C11

C18

C13

Si2

C16

C.2

СЗ

C8

C12 C7

Compound	6	EnamidoAl of 5	EnamidoAl of VI	1-AzaallylAl of 5	1-AzaallylAl of VI
Al-N3	1.856(2)	1.8471(16) [Al–N2]	1.839(2)	1.9945(15) [Al–N1]	1.998(2) [Al–N1]
$\begin{array}{c} AI \cdots C29 \\ AI \cdots C30 \end{array}$	2.910(2) 3.736(3)	2.8314(18) [AI · · · C19] 3.683(2) [AI · · · C20]	2.816(2) [A1C13] 3.564(2) [A1C14]	2.3748(17) [AI–C1] 2.0399(17) [AI–C2]	2.380(2) [Al–C1] 2.022(2) [Al–C2]
N3-C29	1.451(3)	1.441(2) [N2–C19]	1.445(3) [N2–C13]	1.326(2) [N1–C2]	1.320(3) [N1–C1]
C29-C30	1.348(4)	1.353(2) [C19–C20]	1.34/(3) [C13–C14]	1.46/(2) [C1–C2]	1.468(3) [C1–C2]
Al-N3-C29	122.83(17)	118.38(11) [Al-N2-C19]	117.56(14) [Al-N2-C13]	88.96(10) [Al-N1-C1]	89.2(2) [Al-N1-C1]
N3-C29-C30	119.4(2)	119.50(16) [N2-C19-C20]	119.3(2) [N2-C13-C14]	111.71(14) [N1–C1–C2]	111.8(2) [N1-C1-C2]
N3–Al–C30	33.49(8)	34.96(5) [N2–Al–C20]	38.4(1) [N2–Al–C14]	69.95(7) [N1–A1–C2]	70.1(7) [N1–Al–C2]



Fig. 6 ORTEP representation of the structure of 7 (50% thermal ellipsoids). Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Sn–N1 2.5466(16), Sn–N2 2.5156(16), Sn–C1 2.312(2), Sn–C19 2.313(2), Sn–C2 2.741(2), Sn–C20 2.718(2), N1–C2 1.309(2), N2–C20 1.309(2), C1–C2 1.454(3), C19–C20 1.451(3); N1–Sn–C1 57.18(6), N2–Sn–C19 57.63(6), N1–Sn–N2 147.88(5), C1–Sn–C19 92.83(7), C19–Sn–N1 99.99(6), N2–Sn–C1 98.24(6), N1–C2–C1 115.18(17), N2–C20–C19 115.42(17).



Plausible routes a, b and c from $1 + IX \rightarrow 8$ are shown in Scheme 4. The first step in pathways a and b is the formation of

the donor-acceptor adduct **X**. In *a*, this is succeeded by (i) the electrocyclic 1,3-N-Si(NN) bond-making with N-Li bond breaking yielding the intermediate **XI**, and (ii) a 1,2-SiMe₃ shift from **XI** with N-Li bond-making furnishing **8**. In *b*, **X** is converted directly into **8**, the electrocyclic rearrangement involving a 1,3-N \rightarrow Si SiMe₃ shift and Li-Si(NN) bond-breaking. As for route *c*, **1** and **IX** are converted directly into **8**, with **XII** as the transition state. The crucial part of *a* is the intermediate **XI**, which may alternatively be derived directly by a 1,1-addition of the fragments Li and N(SiMe₃)C(Ad)C(H)SiMe₃ from **1** to the silylene Si(NN) (**IX**).



There are precedents for the intermediates related to X and XI. As for X, among numerous examples of Si(NN) (IX) behaving as a ligand are the complexes $[Ni{Si(NN)}_4]$,^{16a} $[CuI(PPh_3)_2{Si(NN)}],^{16a}$ and $[Ln(\eta^5-C_5H_5)_3{Si(NN)}]$ (Ln = Y, Yb).^{16b} Related to XI are several compounds obtained from Si(NN) and various salts LiR' in thf, including $[Li{Si(NN)R'}(thf)_n] [R' = Bu', n = 3;^{17} R' = CH(SiMe_3)_2, n =$ 2^{17}_{27} R' = Si(SiMe₃)₃, $n = 2^{17}_{27}$ R' = NR₂, n = 3 (R = Me, Prⁱ)¹⁸]. In contrast to the formation of such 1,1-adducts of Li-R' to Si(NN), treatment of Si(NN) with Li[N(SiMe₃)₂] in thf gave XIIIa,¹⁹ an analogue of 8; likewise Si(NN) and Li[N(Bu¹)SiMe₃] gave XIIIb.¹⁹ Finally, a crucial experiment was that between Si(NN) and Li[N(C₆H₃Me₂-2,6)SiMe₃]: mixing the reagents below 0 $^{\circ}$ C gave XIV as the major product, but at higher temperatures XIV was isomerised yielding XIIIc.18 In the light of the cited earlier data, pathway a (or a') is the most appropriate to account for the formation of 8 from 1 + IX.



The crystalline lithium amide 8 gave satisfactory microanalytical data (C, H, N). An ORTEP representation of



Scheme 4 Alternative routes [(a), (a'), (b), or (c)] from $0.5(1) + IX \rightarrow 8$.

its molecular structure is shown in Fig. 7. Skeletal geometrical parameters of the Li[N{Si(NN)SiMe₃}] and the [NC(Ad)=C(H)SiMe₃-*E*] fragments of **8** are compared with those in [Li(N{Si(NN)SiMe₃}SiMe₃)(tmeda)]¹⁹ (Table 4a) and [Li{ μ,η^3 -N(SiMe₃)C(Ad)C(H)SiMe₃}]₂ (1) (Table 4b), respectively. The three-coordinate Li and C17(Ad) atoms of **8** are each in a distorted trigonal planar environment, while the N3 atom is 0.16 Å out of the LiC17Si1 plane. The SiMe₃ and Ad substituents in **8** are arranged in a *cisoid* manner about the C=C bond. The geometrical parameters of the Li[N{Si(NN)SiMe₃}] fragment of **8** are similar to those of [Li(N{Si(NN)SiMe₃}SiMe₃)(tmeda)].¹⁹



Fig. 7 ORTEP representation of the structure of 7 (50% thermal ellipsoids).

Solutions of **8** in C_6D_6 were examined by various NMR spectral experiments. At ambient temperature, the ¹H NMR spectrum showed three sets of signals, which were assigned to *E*-**8** (major

component, *ca.* 55%), **Z-8** (*ca.* 19%) and the NH-containing compound (apparently due to adventitious hydrolysis of *E-8*); assignments have been made on the basis of NOE experiments. The presence of only two thf signals (α - and β -CH₂) suggests that the thf is not strongly bound and undergoes fast exchange even at this temperature. Two ⁷Li and nine ²⁹Si resonances are consistent with the above assignment. Heating to 90 °C simplified the ¹H NMR multiplets in the aromatic and adamantyl proton areas but no coalescence of the signals belonging to different isomers was observed.

In conclusion, the synthesis, structure and a variety of insertion and ligand transfer reactions of the crystalline dimeric μ , η^{3-1} azaallyllithium compound **1** are described. These furnished in high yield the new crystalline lithium, aluminium and tin(II) complexes **2–8**, five of which have been X-ray-characterised. The preparation of [Sn{ η^{3} -N(SiMe₃)C(Ad)C(H)SiMe₃}₂] (7) by the [N(SiMe₃)₂]⁻/[1-azaallyl]⁻ exchange reaction points to the wider use of metal bis(trimethylsilyl)amides. The reaction between **1** and the silylene Si[(NCH₂Bu^t)₂C₆H₄-1,2] [abbreviated as Si(NN)] in thf gave the crystalline lithium amide [Li(N{C(Ad)=C(H)SiMe₃-*E*}{Si(NN)SiMe₃})(thf)₂] (**8**).

Experimental

General remarks

All manipulations were carried out under argon using standard Schlenk and vacuum line techniques. Pentane and hexane were dried using a sodium–potassium alloy; diethyl ether and thf were dried and distilled from sodium–benzophenone. Solvents were then stored over a sodium mirror under argon. The nitriles and methylaluminium chlorides were commercial samples. The compounds Li[CH(SiMe₃)₂],⁹ Si[(NCH₂Bu⁺)C₆H₄-1,2]¹⁵ and Sn[N(SiMe₃)₂]¹³ were prepared by published procedures. Apart from ¹H, the NMR spectra were proton-decoupled and were recorded at 293 K in C₆D₆ unless otherwise stated on a Bruker

(a) Compound	8		[Li(N(SiMe ₃){Si	(NN)SiMe ₃ })(tmeda)] ¹	9	
	Li–N3 Si1–N3 Si1–Si3 Li–N3–Si1 N3–Si1–Si3	1.942(4) 1.6683(17) 2.3791(8) 113.48(15) 115.09(6)	Li–N3 Si1–N3 Si1–Si2 Li–N3–Si1 N3–Si1–Si2	1.936(6) 1.656(3) 2.3849(11) 113.2(2) 109.76(12)		
(b) Compound	8		1			
	N3-C17 C17-C18 C17-C25 C18-Si2 N3-C17-C18 N3-C17-C25 C17-C18-Si2 C18-C17-C25	$\begin{array}{c} 1.391(3) \\ 1.364(3) \\ 1.548(3) \\ 1.850(2) \\ 123.22(18) \\ 113.52(16) \\ 141.69(17) \\ 123.25(18) \end{array}$	N1-C1 C1-C2 C1-C9 C2-Si2 N1-C1-C2 N1-C1-C9 C1-C2-Si2 C2-C1-C9	$\begin{array}{c} 1.403(2) \\ 1.372(3) \\ 1.544(3) \\ 1.871(2) \\ 119.29(18) \\ 117.55(16) \\ 142.33(16) \\ 123.13(17) \end{array}$	N2-C19 C19-C20 C19-C27 C20-Si4 N2-C19-C20 N2-C19-C27 C19-C20-Si4 C20-C19-C27	1.396(2) 1.360(3) 1.560(3) 1.855(2) 122.42(18) 116.97(16) 133.34(17) 120.47(17)

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{Table 4} \quad \text{Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) of (a) the Li[N{Si(NN)SiMe_3}] fragment of 8 and of [Li(N(SiMe_3){Si(NN)SiMe_3})(tmeda)]^{19} and (b) the [N-C(Ad)=C(H)SiMe_3] fragment of 8 and of 1 [Si(NN) = Si{(NCH_2Bu^{1})_2C_6H_4-1,2}] \end{array}$

DPX 300 (300.1 MHz for ¹H, 75.5 MHz for ¹³C and 116.6 MHz for ⁷Li) or AMX 500 (131.3 MHz for ²⁷Al, 99.4 MHz for ²⁹Si and 186.5 MHz for ¹¹⁹Sn) instruments and referenced externally (⁷Li using LiCl, ²⁷Al using AlCl₃ with a D₂O lock, ²⁹Si using SiMe₄, ¹¹⁹Sn using SnMe₄) or internally to the residual solvent resonances (¹H, ¹³C). Electron impact mass spectra were taken from solid samples using a Kratos MS 80 RF instrument. Melting points were measured in sealed capillaries. Elemental analyses were determined by Medac Ltd, Brunel University, UK.

Preparations

 $[Li{\mu,\eta^3-N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)SiMe_3}]_2$ (1). A solution of 1cyanoadamantane (0.78 g, 4.8 mmol) in diethyl ether (ca. 8 cm³) was added to a cooled (-20 °C) solution of bis(trimethylsilyl)methyllithium (0.80 g, 4.8 mmol) in Et₂O (15 cm³). The mixture was stirred at -20 °C for 20 min, then set aside for ca. 16 h at 20 °C. Volatiles were removed in vacuo. The colourless residue was dissolved in hot hexane (ca. 20 cm³). Cooling at 20 °C afforded colourless crystals of 1 (1.13 g, 73%) (found: C, 65.0; H, 10.69; N, 4.41. C₃₆H₆₈Li₂N₂Si₄ requires C, 66.0; H, 10.46; N, 4.27%), mp 155–160 °C. ¹H-NMR (C₇D₈): δ0.26 [s, 9 H, CSi(CH₃)₃], 0.33 [s, 9 H, NSi(CH₃)₃], 1.63–2.02 (m, 15 H, Ad), 4.5 $(s, 1 H, CH); {}^{13}C-NMR (C_7D_8): \delta 1.0 [CSi(CH_3)_3], 5.3 [NSi(CH_3)_3];$ 29.6, 37.1, 42.4, 43.3 (Ad), 94.8 (CHSiMe₃), 185.7 [C(Ad)NSiMe₃]; ⁷Li-NMR (C₇D₈): δ –1.20 and –1.39; ²⁹Si NMR (C₇D₈): δ –14.8 and -14.4 (CSiMe₃), -0.7 (NSiMe₃). MS (M denotes the parent) m/z (assignments, %): 321 ([M/2 - (Li + H)]⁺, 20%).

[Li{ μ , κ^2 -N(SiMe₃)C(Ad)C(H)C(Ph)NSiMe₃]]₂ (2). Benzonitrile (0.40 cm³, 3.92 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 1 (1.30 g, 1.98 mmol) in diethyl ether (25 cm³) at 0 °C. The yellow mixture was stirred at 20 °C for *ca*. 16 h. Volatiles were removed *in vacuo* leaving a residual yellow powder. Yellow crystals of **2** (1.50, 89%) (found: C, 69.1; H, 9.21; N, 6.56. C₅₀H₇₈Li₂N₄Si₄ requires C, 69.7; H, 9.13; N, 6.50%), mp 155–160 °C were obtained from a hot hexane solution by cooling to -18 °C. ¹H-NMR: δ 0.12 [s, 9 H, (CH₃)₃SiNC(Ph)], 0.48 [s, 9 H, (CH₃)₃SiNC(Ad)]; 1.68, 2.01 (2 broad s, 15 H, Ad), 5.90 (s, 1 H, CH), 7.13–7.45 (m, 5 H, C₆H₅); ¹³C-NMR: δ 2.9 [(CH₃)₃SiNC(Ph)], 4.9 [(CH₃)₃SiNC(Ad)];

29.6, 37.1, 41.9, 44.1 (Ad), 108.0 (CH), 127.2–149.3 (C₆H₅), 178.0 (N*C*Ph), 184.0 (N*C*Ad); ⁷Li-NMR: δ 0.18; ²⁹Si-NMR: δ –17.7 (Me₃SiNCPh), –4.4 (Me₃SiNCAd). MS (*M* denotes the parent) *m*/*z* (assignments, %): 289 ([*M*/2 - (Ad + H)]⁺, 100%).

[Li{μ,κ²-N(SiMe₃)C(Ad)C(H)C(C₆H₄Me-4)NSiMe₃]₂ (3). As for **2**, from 4-MeC₆H₄CN (0.70 cm³, 5.86 mmol) and **1** (1.90 cm³, 2.90 mmol) in diethyl ether (35 cm³) there were obtained X-ray quality yellow crystals of **3** (1.46, 57%) (found: C, 69.7; H, 9.41; N, 6.53. C₅₂H₈₂Li₂N₄Si₄ requires C, 70.2; H, 9.30; N, 6.30%), mp 135–140 °C. ¹H-NMR: δ 0.15 [s, 9 H, (CH₃)₃SiNC(Ph)], 0.49 [s, 9 H, (CH₃)₃SiNC(Ad)]; 1.67, 1.99 (2 broad s, 15 H, Ad), 2.06 (s, 3 H, CH₃-C₆H₄), 5.98 (s, 1 H, CH), 6.93–7.32 (m, 4 H, C₆H₄); ¹³C-NMR: δ 2.7 [(CH₃)₃SiNC(Ph)], 4.8 [(CH₃)₃SiNC(Ad)], 21.1 (CH₃-C₆H₄); 29.6, 37.1, 41.7, 44.0 (Ad), 109.2 (CH); 126.7, 128.8, 137.7, 145.5 (C₆H₄), 181.3 (NCPh), 186.7 (NCAd); ⁷Li-NMR: δ 0.16; ²⁹Si-NMR: δ –15.7 (Me₃SiNCPh), -1.9 (Me₃SiNCAd). MS (*M* denotes the parent) *m*/*z* (assignments, %): 303 ([*M*/2 - (Ad + H)]⁺, 100%).

 $[Al{\kappa^2-N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)C(Ph)NSiMe_3}Me_2]$ (4). A one molar solution of chloro(dimethyl)alane in hexanes (0.72 cm³, 0.72 mmol) was added dropwise to a suspension of 2 (0.31 g, 0.36 mmol) in hexane (20 cm³) at 0 °C, then stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and set aside at 20 °C for ca. 16 h. The mixture was filtered. Evaporation of volatiles in vacuo from the filtrate furnished a yellow solid, which was freed from volatiles in vacuo yielding the yellow powder 4 (0.32, 92%). Yellow, X-ray quality crystals were isolated by cooling a concentrated pentane solution of 4 at -18 °C. ¹H-NMR: $\delta - 0.13$ [s, 6 H, (CH₃)₂Al], 0.04 [s, 9 H, (CH₃)₃SiNC(Ph)], 0.47 [s, 9 H, (CH₃)₃SiNC(Ad)], 1.50–1.92 (m, 15 H, Ad), 6.03 (s, 1 H, CH), 6.94–7.15 (m, 5 H, C₆H₅); ¹³C-NMR: δ -5.8 [(CH₃)₂Al], 2.7 [(CH₃)₃SiNC(Ph)], 6.0 [(CH₃)₃SiNC(Ad)], 29.1, 36.6, 41.5, 44.7 (Ad), 112.8 (CH), 127.0-144.7 (C₆H₅), 180.6 (NCPh), 192.5 (NCAd); ²⁷Al-NMR: δ 154.5 ($\Delta v_{1/2} \sim 5$ KHz); ²⁹Si-NMR: δ –0.62 (Me₃SiNCPh), 8.43 (Me₃SiNCAd).

 added dropwise to a solution of 1 (1.44 g, 2.2 mmol) in hexane (50 cm³) at 0 °C, then stirred at 20 °C for ca. 16 h. The mixture was filtered. Evaporation of volatiles in vacuo from the filtrate afforded an off-white solid, which upon crystallisation from pentane at -18 °C produced colourless crystals of 5 (1.00, 66%) (found: C, 63.7 (duplicate analysis); H, 10.60; N, 4.15. C₃₇H₇₁AlN₂Si₄ requires C, 65.0; H, 10.47; N, 4.10%), mp 120-125 °C. ¹H-NMR: $\delta - 0.13$ [s, 2.6 H, (CH₃)Al]; 0.19, 0.26, 0.32 and 0.38 [bs, 36 H, (CH₃)₃SiNC(Ad)], 1.69 (bs, 15 H, Ad), 1.96 (bs, 15 H, Ad), 4.83 (bs, 1 H, CH); ¹³C-NMR: δ 2.1 [(CH₃)₂Al], 3.5, 4.0, 4.2 and 4.5 [(CH₃)₃SiNC(Ad)], 28.3, 29.2, 36.0, 36.9, 38.5, 40.9, 41.8, 43.9 and 44.7 (Ad), 115.3 (CH), 137.2 (N(R)C(Ad)=C(H)R), 174.9 (NCPh), 192.5 (N(R)C(Ad)C(H)R); ²⁷Al-NMR: δ 127.3 ($\Delta v_{1/2} \sim$ 4.2 KHz); ²⁹Si-NMR: δ -10.27 (Me₃SiC(H)), 5.19 and 6.05 (Me₃SiNCAd). MS (*M* denotes the parent) m/z (assignments, %): 651 ([*M* - 2 Me]⁺, 40%), 531 ([*M* - Me - Ad]⁺, 60%), 186 (100%).

 $[Al{\kappa^2-N(SiMe_3)C(Ph)C(H)C(Ad)NSiMe_3}{\kappa^1-N(SiMe_3)C (Ad)=C(H)SiMe_3-E$ }Me] (6). Benzonitrile (1.00)cm³. 0.98 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 5 (0.65 g, 0.95 mmol) in hexane (12 cm³) at 0 °C. The mixture was set aside at 20 °C for ca. 16 h. Removal of volatiles in vacuo yielded the yellow powder 6 (0.62 g, 80%) (found: C, 65.7; H, 9.50; N, 5.57. C₄₄H₇₆AlN₃Si₄ requires C, 67.2; H, 9.68; N, 5.35%), mp 170-172 °C. Yellow X-ray quality crystals were obtained by crystallisation from Et₂O at 20 °C. ¹H-NMR: δ 0.09 (s, 3 H, CH₃Al), 0.14 [s, 9 H, (CH₃)₃SiNC(Ph)], 0.37 [s, 9 H, (CH₃)₃SiC(H)], 0.45 [s, 9 H, (CH₃)₃SiNC(Ad)], 0.46 [s, 9 H, (CH₃)₃SiNC(Ad)], 1.56–2.19 (m, 30 H, Ad), 5.31 (s, 1 H, CH_{enamide}), 6.10 (s, 1 H, CH_{diket}), 6.95-7.12 (m, 5 H, C_6H_5); ¹³C-NMR: $\delta -0.7$ (CH₃Al), 3.2 [(CH₃)₃SiNC(Ph)], 4.3 [(CH₃)₃SiCH], 5.7 [(CH₃)₃SiNC(Ad)], 6.5 [(CH₃)₃SiNC(Ad)]; 29.1, 29.7, 36.7, 37.1, 41.4, 42.7, 44.8 (Ad), 116.6 (CH), 119.3 (CH), 127.5–143.3 (C₆H₅), 174.5 (NCPh), 183.0 (NCAd_{enamine}), 189.5 (NCAd_{diket}); ²⁷Al-NMR: δ 124 ($\Delta v_{1/2} \sim$ 5.4 KHz); ²⁹Si-NMR: $\delta - 14.72$ [Me₃SiC(H)], -5.17 (Me₃SiNCAd_{enamide}), -0.84 (Me₃SiNCPh), 8.52 (Me₃SiNCAd_{diket}). MS (M denotes the parent) m/z (assignments, %): 770 ([M - (Me + H)]+, 3%), 465 $([M - {RNC(Ad)C(H)R} - H]^+, 100\%).$

 $[Sn{\eta^3-N(SiMe_3)C(Ad)C(H)SiMe_3}_2]$ (7). The homoleptic bis(trimethylsilyl)amidotin(II) compound (0.53 g, 1.20 mmol) in hexane (20 cm³) was added to a suspension of 1 (0.79 g, 1.20 mmol) in hexane (40 cm³) at 20 °C. The resultant yellow solution was set aside for ca. 16 h at 20 °C. Partial removal of volatiles in vacuo yielded yellow crystals of 7 (0.83 g, 90%) (found: C, 56.3; H, 9.08; N, 3.86. C₃₆H₆₈N₂Si₄Sn requires C, 56.9; H, 9.02; N, 3.68%), mp 154–156 °C. ¹H-NMR (C₇D₈): δ0.23, 0.28, 0.30 [s, 18 H, Si(CH₃)₃], 0.46 [s, 10 H, Si(CH₃)₃], 1.62 and 1.74 (bs, 13 H, Ad), 1.88–1.95 (m, 12 H, Ad), 2.73 [s, 1.4 H, C(H)R], 4.65 [s, 0.4 H, C(H)R]; ¹³C-NMR (C₇D₈): δ0.6, 1.6, 2.1, 2.6 and 4.7 [(CH₃)₃Si], 29.1, 36.9, 40.6, 41.5, 45.4, 46.6 (Ad); ²⁹Si NMR (C₇D₈): δ -11.8, -11.5, 1.05 and 2.3; ¹¹⁹Sn-NMR (C_7D_8): δ –377.3. MS (*M* denotes the parent, L denotes the ligand) m/z (assignments, %): 760 ([M]⁺, 75%), 692 (15%), 572 (40%), 440 ($[M-L]^+$, 75%), 321 ($[L+H]^+$, 55%), 306 ([L + H - Me]⁺, 50%), 217 ([L + H-2Me]⁺, 50%), 186 ([L + 2 H-Ad]+, 50%).

Crystal data and refinement for the compounds **1** and **3–8**

Table 5

[Li(N{C(Ad)=C(H)SiMe₃}{Si((NCH₂Bu^t)₂C₆H₄-1,2)SiMe₃})-(thf)₂] (8). The azaallyllithium compound 1 (0.48 g, 0.73 mmol)

	1	3	4	5	9	7	8 <i>a</i>
Formula	C ₃₆ H ₆₈ Li ₂ N ₂ Si ₄	C ₅₂ H ₈₂ Li ₂ N ₄ Si ₄ ·(C ₆ H ₁₄)	C ₂₇ H ₄₅ AlN ₂ Si ₂	$\mathrm{C}_{36.9}\mathrm{H}_{70.7}\mathrm{AlCl}_{0.1}\mathrm{N}_{2}\mathrm{Si}_{4}$	$ m C_{44}H_{76}AlN_{3}Si_{4}$	$C_{36}H_{68}N_2Si_4Sn$	$\mathrm{C}_{42}\mathrm{H}_{76}\mathrm{LiN}_{3}\mathrm{O}_{2}\mathrm{Si}_{3}$
<i>M</i>	655.16	975.63	480.81	685.6	786.42	759.97	746.27
Crvstal svstem	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic	Orthorhombic	Orthorhombic	Orthorhombic
Space group	P2 ₁ /c (No.14)	PĪ (No.2)	PĪ (No.2)	<i>P</i> Ī (No.2)	<i>Pbca</i> (No. 61)	<i>Pbca</i> (No. 61)	<i>Pna</i> 2 ₁ (No. 33)
a/Å	17.9148(5)	10.5486(5)	6.5294(2)	11.3363(4)	11.9220(2)	16.1969(3)	19.3106(7)
b/Å	12.7201(3)	11.7160(5)	12.4764(4)	12.5576(4)	19.0977(3)	23.3707(5)	18.0975(4)
c/Å	19.5483(5)	13.3180(7)	17.8535(4)	17.0946(6)	41.4159(7)	22.0743(3)	13.1943(5)
α/° β/° ~/^	90 115.991(1) 90	70.084(3) 87.413(4) 74.873(4)	97.866(2) 93.585(2) 98.304(2)	70.347(2) 89.000(2) 65.500(2)	06 06	06 06	06 06
Ŭ/ų Z	4003.8(2) 4	1492.14(12) 1	1420.58(8) 2	2064.2(1) 2	9429.7(3) 8	8355.8(3) 8 6	4611.1(3) 4
Abs. coeff./mm ⁻¹	0.17	0.14	1.12 $8060, 0.037$ 6885	0.20	0.18	0.75	0.14
Unique reflections, R_{int}	9493, 0.049	4109, 0.047		9759, 0.039	8303, 0.088	9857, 0.046	7935, 0.040
Reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$	7317	3348		7956	5601	7747	7322
Final R indices for $[I > 2\sigma(I)] R_1$, wR_2	0.050, 0.126	0.057, 0.169	0.044, 0.111	0.048, 0.116	0.055, 0.126	0.033, 0.073	0.038, 0.092
R indices (all data) R_1 , wR_2	0.071, 0.135	0.071, 0.184	0.054, 0.118	0.063, 0.126	0.093, 0.141	0.049, 0.080	0.043, 0.096
^{<i>a</i>} The Flack parameter for 8 is	-0.07(8).						

in thf (15 cm³) was added dropwise to the benzo-1,2di(neopentylamino)silylene (IX) (0.40 g, 1.46 mmol) in thf (20 cm³) at -30 °C. Volatiles were removed *in vacuo* yielding a cream solid (1.13 g) which was dissolved in hot hexane (5 cm³) and afforded upon cooling white crystals of 8 (0.99, 90%) (found: C, 66.7; H, 10.11; N, 6.13. C₄₂H₇₆LiN₃O₂Si₃ requires C, 67.6; H, 10.26; N, 5.63%), mp 119–121 °C. ¹H-NMR: δ0.08 and 0.18 (two s, [E-8]H), 0.31 and 0.47 (two s, Z-8), 0.41 and 0.52 (two s, E-8) (together 18 H, SiMe₃); 1.08 (s, H[8]), 1.17 (s, E-8) and 1.32 (s, Z-8) (together 18 H, Bu^t); 1.26 (br s, 8 H, thf); 1.52-2.12 (br multiplets, 15 H, Ad), 3.56 (br s, 8 H, thf), 3.08-3.47 (3 AB systems partly overlapped with thf, 4 H, CH₂Bu^t); 4.02 (br s, NH of H[8]); 4.04, 4.13 and 4.29 [s, 1 H, C=C(H)SiMe₃]; 6.7, 6.8 and 6.9 (multiplets, 4 H, C₆H₄); ¹³C-NMR: δ 0.5, 2.7 and 4.8 (SiMe₃), 25.1 (thf), 29.7, 29.0, 34.4, 36.9, 37.7, 41.8, 42.9, 57.1, 68.3 (thf), 94.9, 108.2, 109.6, 116.7, 117.8 and 143.8 (C₆H₄), 177.9 (C=CHR); ⁷Li-NMR: δ0.76 and 0.18; ²⁹Si-NMR (inverse gated): $\delta - 9.9, -12.6, -14.9, -17.3$, -18.1, -22.0, -24.7, -27.4, -37.4. MS (*M* denotes the parent) m/z (assignments, %): 595 ([M-Li-2 thf]+, 60), 580 ([M-Li - 2 thf - MeH]⁺, 50), 522 ($[M-\text{Li}-2 \text{ thf} - \text{SiMe}_3]^+$, 45), 347 ([M-Li-2thf -{NNp} $_{2}C_{6}H_{4}$ -1,2)]⁺, 20).

Crystal data and refinement details for 1 and 3-8⁺

Diffraction data for each compound were collected on an Enraf-Nonius Kappa-CCD diffractometer, using monochromated Mo K α radiation, λ 0.71073 Å. Crystals were directly mounted on the diffractometer under a stream of cold nitrogen gas. For **3**, the hexane solvate was disordered across an inversion centre; it was included with its C atoms (the terminal C atom was not located) having a common isotropic displacement parameter, the H atoms were omitted: 1,2-C–C distances were restrained to be equal, as were 1,3 C···C distances. For **6**, there was disorder of the substituent at Al: 90% methyl at C37 and 10% with a Cl atom in that position; the disorder was not resolved. Absorption correction was applied for **7** only. The structures were refined on all F^2 using SHELXL-97.²⁰ Further details are given in Table 5. Illustrations of structures are shown using ORTEP-3 for Windows.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the European Commission for the award of Marie Curie fellowships to both L. B.-M. and P. G. M.,

Dr B. Gehrhus for a gift of the silylene $Si[(NCH_2Bu^t)_2C_6H_4-1,2]$, Dr A. G. Avent for NMR spectral data on **8** and Dr A. V. Protchenko for useful discussion.

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