Supplementary Information

Spin-paired Solvated Electron Couples in Alkali-Ammonia Systems

Michael Mauksch*[a] and Svetlana B. Tsogoeva*[b]

Figure S1. Geometries (with point group symmetries) and HOMOs (for 3 and 4) at B3LYP/6-31G*, unless otherwise stated. Distances are given in pm. S5 is the reactant connected to TS7 in the text. Hydrogens of outwards pointing CH bonds in 3 are suppressed where appropriate. The pseudo-octahedral symmetry in S3 and S4 is actually an exact local $O_h$ symmetry, when only nitrogen and sodium are considered. Below are the computed microsolvation reactions given (strictly speaking, eq. 1 is not "isodesmic"). The "cage" species in eqs. 1-3 are the respective first solvent shells of the clusters referred to in the indices (computed as single points).

**Isodesmic equations of microsolvation:**

1. $\text{Na}^+_\text{am} + 8 \text{NH}_3 \rightarrow \text{Na}^+_\text{am} + e^-_{\text{am}}$  
   $\Delta H = 55.4 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$

2. $\text{Na}^+_\text{am} + \text{cage}_{\text{Na}^+_\text{am}} + e^-_{\text{am}} \rightarrow \text{Na}^+_\text{am} + \text{cage}_{\text{Na}^+_\text{am}} + e^-_{\text{am}}$  
   $\Delta H = 52.7 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$

3. $2e^-_{\text{am}} + \text{cage}_{\text{2e}^-_{\text{am}}} \rightarrow (2e)^2_{\text{am}} + 2\text{cage}_{e^-}$  
   $\Delta H = 57.2 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$

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**Figure S2.** Spin density a) and SOMO (orbital #31) electron density b) of species 1. The plots are contour lines along diametrically opposite ammonia nitrogen atoms. The numerical value of the spin and electron density in cavity center, respectively, are 0.0045 and 0.0044, normalized to unity (for the single excess electron) inside the given frame (in Å). Spatial integration would provide the fractional spin and charge located in the cavity.