Supporting Information

Structure Determination of a Metastable Au₂₂(SAdm)₁₆ Nanocluster and Its Spontaneous Transformation into Au₂₁(SAdm)₁₅

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Fig. S1 Photograph of the raw product separated by TLC plate.



Fig. S2 UV-vis spectrum (a) and ESI-MS pattern (b) of the Au_{21} purified by TLC plate. Inset shows the calculated isotopic pattern of Au_{21} with +2 charge (red) compared with the experimental signal (black).



Fig. S3 ESI-MS spectrum of Au_{22} with prolonged acquisition time showing the $[Au_{22}(SAdm)_{16} + Ag^+]$ species.



Fig. S4 TGA curve of Au₂₂.



Fig. S5 Total structure of Au₂₂ (color labels: yellow = Au, red = S, gray = C, white = H).

 Table S1. Crystal data for Au₂₂.

| | Au ₂₂ |
|----------------------|---|
| Empirical formula | C160 H240 Au22 S16 |
| Formula weight | 7009.73 |
| Temperature | 120 K |
| Wavelength | 1.54186 Å |
| Crystal system | monoclinic |
| Space group | $P2_1/c$ |
| Unit cell dimensions | a = 16.3688(16) |
| | b = 32.3268(9) |
| | c = 36.999(2) |
| | $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$ |
| | $\beta = 97.356(7)^{\circ}$ |
| | $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$ |
| | $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$ $\beta = 97.356(7)^{\circ}$ $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$ |

| Volume | 19417(2) | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Z | 4 | |
| Density (calculated) | 2.398 g/cm ³ | |
| Absorption coefficient | 32.258 | |
| F(000) | 12776 | |
| Crystal size | 0.1 x 0.07 x 0.06 mm ³ | |

Table S2. Comparison of bond lengths in Au_{22} and Au_{21} .

| | Au ₂₂ | Au ₂₁ | Diff. |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| Au(core)-Au(core) | 2.61-3.22 Å (Avg. 2.81 Å) | 2.65-3.20 Å (Avg. 2.84 Å) | -0.88% |
| Au(core)-Au(motif) | 2.85-3.20 Å (Avg. 3.03 Å) | 2.84-3.25 Å (Avg. 3.02 Å) | +0.33% |
| Au(core)-S(motif) | 2.35-2.39 Å (Avg. 2.36 Å) | 2.22-2.46 Å (Avg. 2.35 Å) | +0.42% |
| Au(motif)-S(motif) | 2.27-2.32 Å (Avg. 2.30 Å) | 2.15-2.45 Å (Avg. 2.31 Å) | -0.43% |



Fig. S6 Packing mode of Au_{21} viewed from the a axle (a), b axle (b) and c axle (c) and Au_{22} viewed from the a axle (d), b axle (e) and c axle (f). (color labels: yellow = Au; red = S; grey = C; white = H).



Fig. S7 UV-vis spectra of Au_{21} (black curve) and Au_{21} reacting with Au-SAdm complex for 12 h (red curve).



Fig. S8 Time-dependent UV-vis spectra of Au_{22} in n-Hex.



Fig. S9 Time-dependent UV-vis spectra of Au_{22} in toluene.



Fig. S10 Time-dependent UV-vis spectra of Au_{22} in deoxidized CHCl₃ under N_2 atmosphere.



Fig. S11 Time-dependent UV-vis spectra of Au₂₂ in CHCl₃/EtOH.



Fig. S12 Time-dependent UV-vis spectra of Au₂₂ in CHCl₃/Et₂O.



Fig. S13 Time-dependent UV-vis spectra of Au₂₂ in CHCl₃/MeCN.