

## Electronic Supporting Information

# Triaza-Macrocyclic Complexes of Aluminium, Gallium and Indium Halides: Fast $^{18}\text{F}$ and $^{19}\text{F}$ Incorporation *via* Halide Exchange under Mild Conditions in Aqueous Solution

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### Preparations

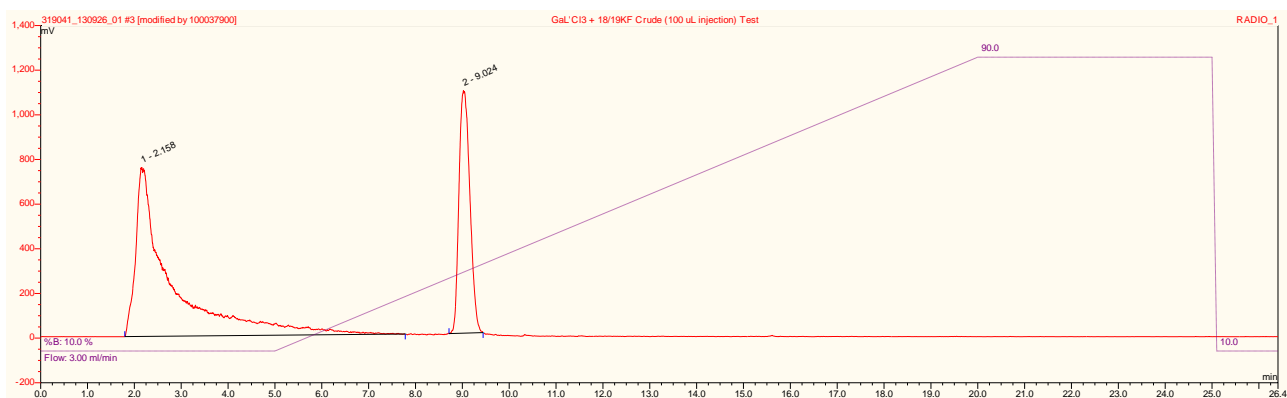
**[AlBr<sub>3</sub>(Me<sub>3</sub>-tacn)]:** AlBr<sub>3</sub> (0.133 g, 0.50 mmol) was added to a solution of Me<sub>3</sub>-tacn (0.086 g, 0.50 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) at room temperature with stirring which leads a formation of precipitate. After 30 mins. the solvent was removed by filtration. The white precipitate was washed with small amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solvent and dried *in vacuo*. Yield: 0.16 g, 74%. Required for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>21</sub>AlBr<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: C, 24.7; H, 4.8; N, 9.6. Found: C, 24.6; H, 5.3; N, 8.9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 297 K): δ 3.43 (m, [6H], CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.98 (m, [9H], CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.73 (m, [6H], CH<sub>2</sub>). IR (Nujol, v/cm<sup>-1</sup>): 324 (Al–Br).

**[AlBr<sub>3</sub>(BzMe<sub>2</sub>-tacn)]:** Method as for [AlBr<sub>3</sub>(Me<sub>3</sub>-tacn)] but using AlBr<sub>3</sub> (0.133 g, 0.50 mmol) and BzMe<sub>2</sub>-tacn (0.13 g, 0.50 mmol). White solid. Yield: 0.19 g, 74%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 298 K): δ 7.31 (m, [5H], ArH), 4.75 (m, [2H], Ar-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.72 (m, [2H], tacn-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.46 (m, [4H], tacn-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.04 (m, [6H], CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.70 (m, [4H], tacn-CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.33 (m, [2H], tacn-CH<sub>2</sub>). IR (Nujol, v/cm<sup>-1</sup>): 343, 325 sh (Al–Br).

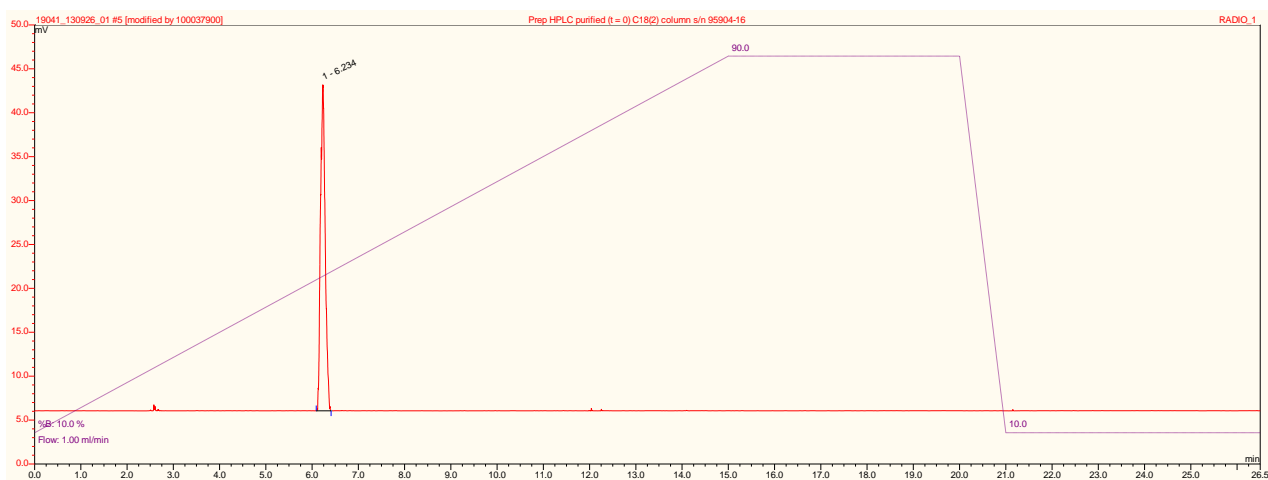
**[GaBr<sub>3</sub>(Me<sub>3</sub>-tacn)]:** Method as for [GaCl<sub>3</sub>(Me<sub>3</sub>-tacn)] but using Me<sub>3</sub>-tacn (0.086 g, 0.50 mmol) and GaBr<sub>3</sub> (0.150 g, 0.50 mmol). White solid. Yield: 0.106 g, 45%. Required for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>21</sub>Br<sub>3</sub>GaN<sub>3</sub>: C, 22.5; H, 4.4; N, 8.7. Found C, 22.4; H, 4.6; N, 8.6%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 298 K): δ 3.3 (br m, [6H], CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.9 (br s, [9H], Me), 2.7 (br m, [6H], CH<sub>2</sub>).

**[InBr<sub>3</sub>(Me<sub>3</sub>-tacn)]:** Method as for [GaCl<sub>3</sub>(Me<sub>3</sub>-tacn)], but using Me<sub>3</sub>-tacn (0.087 g, 0.50 mmol) and InBr<sub>3</sub> (0.177 g, 0.50 mmol). White solid. Yield: 0.162 g, 61%. Required for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>21</sub>Br<sub>3</sub>InN<sub>3</sub>: C, 20.5; H, 4.0; N, 8.0. Found C, 19.8; H, 4.0; N, 7.4%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 298 K): δ 3.18 (br m, [6H], CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.78 (br s, [9H], Me), 2.67 (br m, [6H], CH<sub>2</sub>).

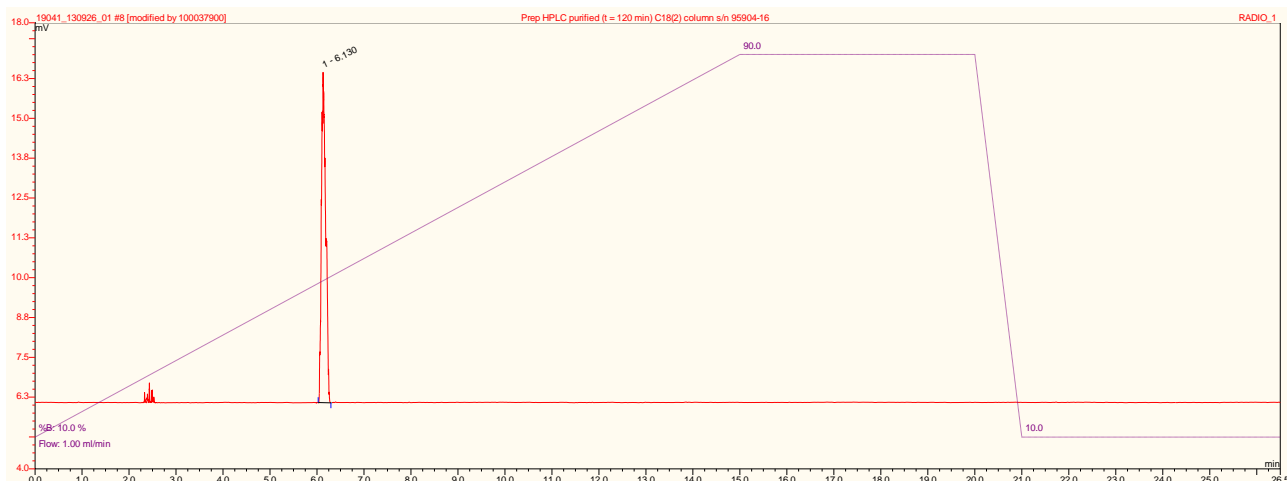
**[NMe<sub>4</sub>]<sub>3</sub>[Al<sub>2</sub>F<sub>9</sub>]:** AlF<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (0.250 g, 1.8 mmol) was suspended in 10 mL freshly distilled water. A solution of [NMe<sub>4</sub>]F (0.167 g, 1.8 mmol) in 3 mL water was added and the resulting mixture refluxed for 15 hours. The solution was cooled to room temperature and the white solid was isolated by filtration and dried under high vacuum for six hours. Yield 0.220 g, 70%. IR (Nujol, ν/ cm<sup>-1</sup>): 674 (br), 358 (s) (Al–F). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 298 K): δ 3.07 (s [12H] CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 298 K): δ –150.0 (m F<sup>-</sup>), –194.1 (m, [AlF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup>) ppm. <sup>27</sup>Al NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 298 K): 48.8 (quintet, [AlF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup>) ppm. Washing with MeCN, followed by slow evaporation of the filtrate yielded colourless crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction.



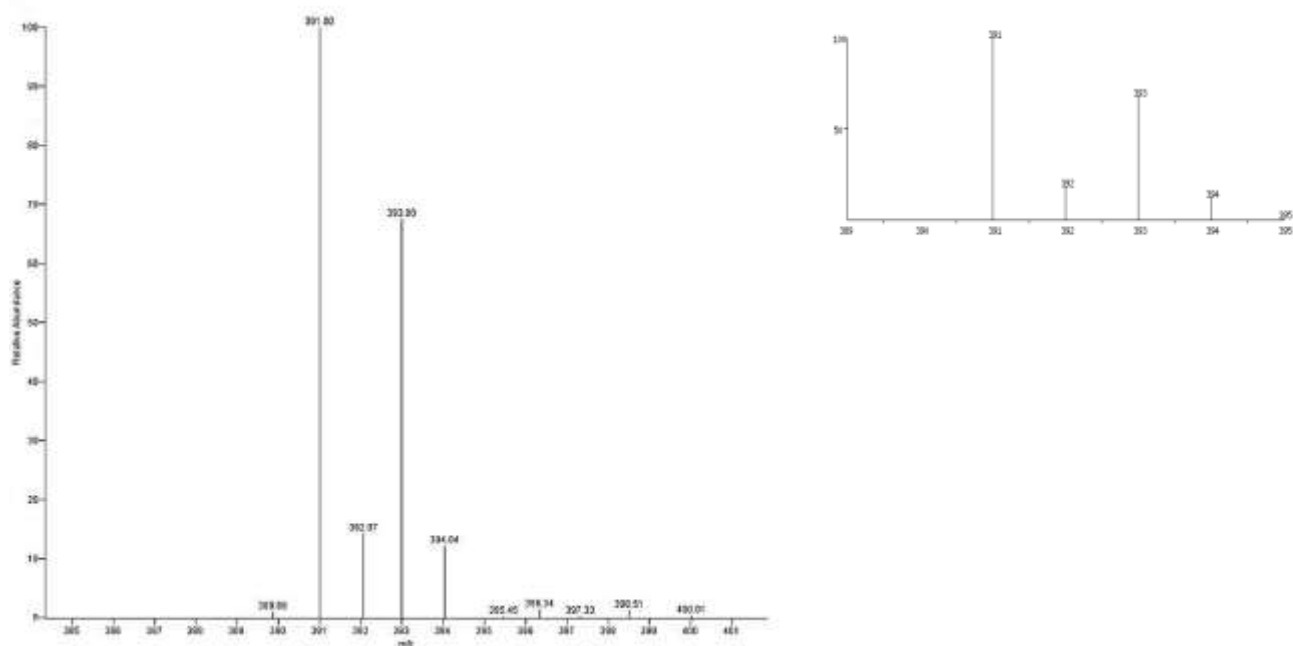
**Figure S1:** Preparative HPLC radio trace of the crude reaction mixture for the labelling of  $[\text{GaCl}_3(\text{BzMe}_2\text{-tacn})]$  with  $^{18}\text{F}/\text{K}^{19}\text{F}$ . Peak 1:  $R_t$  2.1 mins. ( $^{18}\text{F}$ ). Peak 2:  $R_t$  9.0 mins. ( $[\text{Ga}^{18}\text{F}^{19}\text{F}_2(\text{BzMe}_2\text{-tacn})]$ ).



**Figure S2:** Analytical HPLC radio trace of  $[\text{Ga}^{18}\text{F}^{19}\text{F}_2(\text{BzMe}_2\text{-tacn})]$  formulated in PBS:EtOH (90:10) at  $t = 0$ . Peak:  $R_t$  6.2 mins. RCP = 99.6%.



**Figure S3:** Analytical HPLC radio trace of  $[\text{Ga}^{18}\text{F}^{19}\text{F}_2(\text{BzMe}_2\text{-tacn})]$  formulated in PBS:EtOH (90:10) at  $t = 120$  min. Peak:  $R_t$  6.1 mins. RCP = 98.8%.



**Figure S4:** ESI<sup>+</sup> mass spectrum of  $[\text{GaF}_3(\text{BzMe}_2\text{-tacn})+\text{NH}_4]^+$  taken from radiolabelling reaction (left) and the predicted isotope pattern for  $[\text{GaF}_3(\text{BzMe}_2\text{-tacn})+\text{NH}_4]^+$  (right).

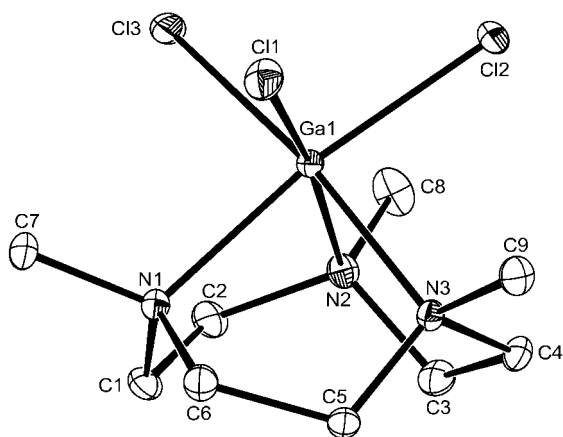
**Table S1** Crystal data and structure refinement details<sup>a</sup>

Compound	[AlF <sub>3</sub> (Me <sub>3</sub> -tacn)] · 4H <sub>2</sub> O	[GaF <sub>3</sub> (Me <sub>3</sub> -tacn)] · 4H <sub>2</sub> O	[InF <sub>3</sub> (Me <sub>3</sub> -tacn)] · 4H <sub>2</sub> O	[InF <sub>3</sub> (BzMe <sub>2</sub> -tacn)] · 1.2H <sub>2</sub> O	[AlCl <sub>3</sub> (Me <sub>3</sub> -tacn)]	[GaCl <sub>3</sub> (Me <sub>3</sub> -tacn)]
Formula	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>29</sub> AlF <sub>3</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>29</sub> F <sub>3</sub> GaN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>29</sub> F <sub>3</sub> InN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>27</sub> F <sub>3</sub> InN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>1.20</sub>	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>21</sub> AlCl <sub>3</sub> N <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>21</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> GaN <sub>3</sub>
<i>M</i>	327.33	370.07	415.17	440.42	304.62	347.36
crystal syst	Orthorhombic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	Pbca (no. 61)	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c (no. 14)	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n (no. 14)	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c (no. 14)	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c (no. 14)	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c (no. 14)
<i>A</i> [Å]	8.8131(15)	13.420(4)	6.8679(10)	6.7721(10)	12.128(5)	12.173(3)
<i>B</i> [Å]	13.356(2)	8.871(2)	20.187(4)	13.666(3)	7.185(2)	7.2253(10)
<i>C</i> [Å]	26.551(5)	13.542(3)	12.014(2)	18.998(3)	15.695(6)	15.696(6)
$\alpha$ [deg]	90	90	90	90	90	90
$\beta$ [deg]	90	97.816(15)	99.482(10)	96.106(10)	90.07(5)	90.239(6)
$\Gamma$ [deg]	90	90	90	90	90	90
<i>U</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	3125.3(10)	1597.3(7)	1642.8(5)	1748.2(5)	1367.7(8)	1380.5(6)
<i>Z</i>	8	4	4	4	4	4
$\mu$ (Mo K $\alpha$ ) [mm <sup>-1</sup> ]	0.178	1.769	1.484	1.389	0.713	2.552
total reflns	8255	12911	19404	23249	8994	6378
unique reflns	3570	3645	3750	4005	3059	3150
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.051	0.049	0.028	0.028	0.053	0.022
No. of params, restraints	209, 8	216, 85	209, 0	226, 0	149, 0	148, 0
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> <sup>b</sup> [ <i>I</i> <sub>o</sub> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> <sub>o</sub> )]	0.079	0.058	0.0219	0.022	0.058	0.021
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> [all data]	0.124	0.076	0.0254	0.025	0.078	0.024
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> <sup>b</sup> [ <i>I</i> <sub>o</sub> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> <sub>o</sub> )]	0.168	0.124	0.044	0.046	0.107	0.052
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [all data]	0.196	0.133	0.046	0.048	0.119	0.053

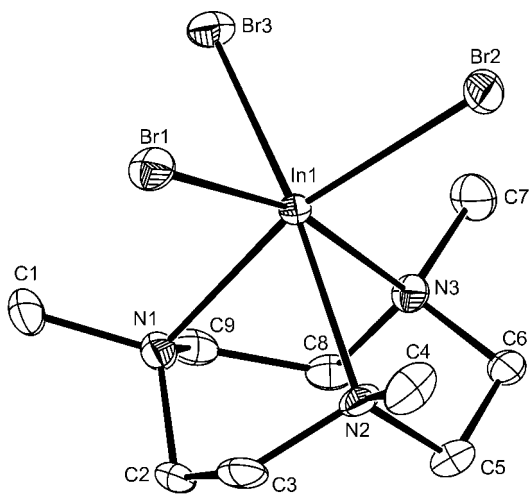
<sup>a</sup> Common items: temperature = 120 K; wavelength (Mo-K $\alpha$ ) = 0.71073 Å;  $\theta$ (max) = 27.5°; <sup>b</sup>  $R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ ;  $wR_2 = [\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \sum wF_o^4]^{1/2}$ .

**Table S1 continued**

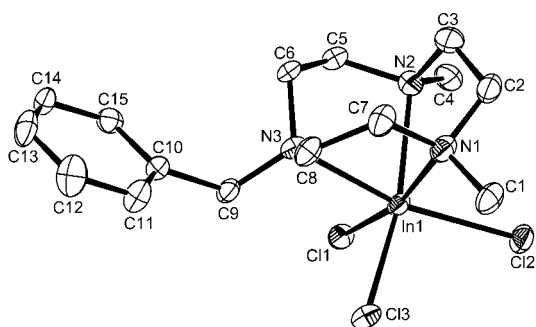
Compound	[InBr <sub>3</sub> (Me <sub>3</sub> -tacn)]·CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	[InCl <sub>3</sub> (BzMe <sub>2</sub> -tacn)]	[{(Me <sub>3</sub> -tacn)Ga} <sub>2</sub> (μ-OH) <sub>3</sub> ]Br <sub>3</sub> ·3CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	[NMe <sub>4</sub> ] <sub>3</sub> [Al <sub>2</sub> F <sub>9</sub> ]
Formula	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>23</sub> Br <sub>3</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> InN <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>25</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> InN <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>51</sub> Br <sub>3</sub> Cl <sub>6</sub> Ga <sub>2</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>36</sub> Al <sub>2</sub> F <sub>9</sub> N <sub>3</sub>
<i>M</i>	610.76	468.55	1027.55	447.40
crystal syst	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Hexagonal	Hexagonal
Space group	C2/c (no. 15)	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c (no. 14)	P6 <sub>3</sub> /m (no. 176)	P6 <sub>3</sub> /m (no. 176)
<i>a</i> [Å]	16.276(3)	7.2893(15)	12.979(2)	7.997(5)
<i>b</i> [Å]	16.175(3)	15.026(4)	12.979(2)	7.997(5)
<i>c</i> [Å]	14.815(2)	18.528(4)	13.565(4)	18.178(7)
α [deg]	90	90	90	90
β [deg]	105.595(2)	100.924(15)	90	90
γ [deg]	90	90	120	120
<i>U</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	3756.9(11)	1992.5(8)	1978.9(7)	1006.8(10)
<i>Z</i>	8	4	2	2
μ(Mo Kα) [mm <sup>-1</sup> ]	7.916	1.588	4.826	0.227
total no. reflns	21458	19924	15378	4622
unique reflns	4306	4522	1356	799
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.078	0.057	0.074	0.064
no. of params, restraints	176, 0	201, 0	72, 0	49, 0
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> <sup>b</sup> [ <i>I</i> <sub>o</sub> > 2σ( <i>I</i> <sub>o</sub> )]	0.045	0.053	0.044	0.043
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> [all data]	0.071	0.0758	0.054	0.063
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> <sup>b</sup> [ <i>I</i> <sub>o</sub> > 2σ( <i>I</i> <sub>o</sub> )]	0.080	0.096	0.091	0.098
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [all data]	0.088	0.107	0.097	0.107



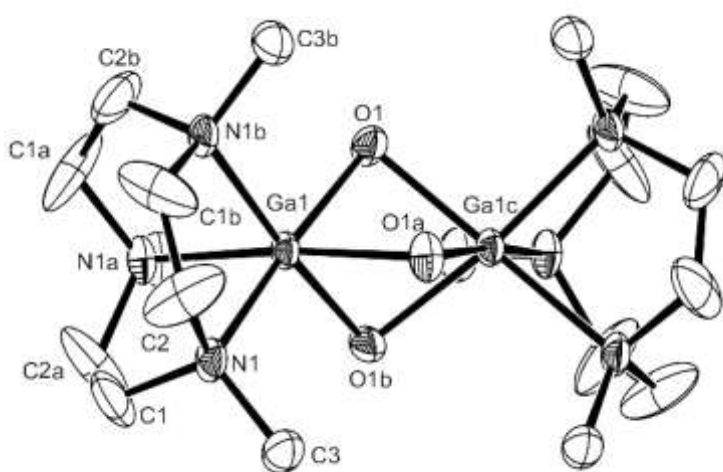
**Figure S5** Structure of  $[\text{GaCl}_3(\text{Me}_3\text{-tacn})]$  showing the atom labelling scheme. Ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ):  $\text{Ga1-N3} = 2.1644(13)$ ,  $\text{Ga1-N1} = 2.1755(13)$ ,  $\text{Ga1-N2} = 2.1960(14)$ ,  $\text{Ga1-Cl2} = 2.3087(5)$ ,  $\text{Ga1-Cl1} = 2.3177(9)$ ,  $\text{Ga1-Cl3} = 2.3217(5)$ ,  $\text{N3-Ga1-N1} = 81.90(5)$ ,  $\text{N3-Ga1-N2} = 80.80(5)$ ,  $\text{N1-Ga1-N2} = 80.83(5)$ ,  $\text{Cl2-Ga1-Cl1} = 94.38(2)$ ,  $\text{Cl2-Ga1-Cl3} = 93.98(2)$ ,  $\text{Cl1-Ga1-Cl3} = 94.49(2)$ .



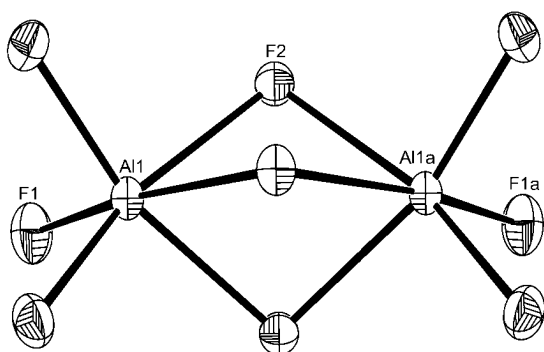
**Figure S6** Structure of  $[\text{InBr}_3(\text{Me}_3\text{-tacn})]$  showing the atom numbering scheme. Ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ):  $\text{In1-N3} = 2.344(4)$ ,  $\text{In1-N1} = 2.345(5)$ ,  $\text{In1-N2} = 2.347(4)$ ,  $\text{In1-Br2} = 2.5987(8)$ ,  $\text{In1-Br3} = 2.6006(8)$ ,  $\text{In1-Br1} = 2.6046(8)$ ,  $\text{N3-In1-N1} = 76.4(2)$ ,  $\text{N3-In1-N2} = 76.8(2)$ ,  $\text{N1-In1-N2} = 76.2(2)$ ,  $\text{Br2-In1-Br3} = 96.66(3)$ ,  $\text{Br2-In1-Br1} = 95.06(2)$ ,  $\text{Br3-In1-Br1} = 96.15(3)$ .



**Figure S7** Structure of  $[\text{InCl}_3(\text{BzMe}_2\text{-tacn})]$  with atom numbering scheme. Ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level and H atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ):  $\text{In1-N1} = 2.312(4)$ ,  $\text{In1-N2} = 2.342(4)$ ,  $\text{In1-N3} = 2.371(4)$ ,  $\text{In1-Cl1} = 2.4443(13)$ ,  $\text{In1-Cl2} = 2.4518(14)$ ,  $\text{In1-Cl3} = 2.4581(14)$ ,  $\text{N1-In1-N2} = 77.1(2)$ ,  $\text{N1-In1-N3} = 77.4(2)$ ,  $\text{N2-In1-N3} = 76.3(2)$ ,  $\text{Cl1-In1-Cl2} = 95.32(5)$ ,  $\text{Cl1-In1-Cl3} = 96.26(5)$ ,  $\text{Cl2-In1-Cl3} = 98.31(5)$ .



**Figure S8** View of the structure of the cation in  $[(\text{Me}_3\text{-tacn})\text{Ga}](\mu\text{-OH})_3]\text{Br}_3 \cdot 3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Ellipsoids are drawn at the 40% probability level and H atoms are omitted for clarity. Symmetry operations:  $a = 1-y, x-y, z$ ;  $b = 1-x+y, 1-x, z$ ;  $c = x, y, 1/2-z$ . The cation has  $C_{3h}$  ( $-6$ ) symmetry. Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ):  $\text{Ga1-O1} = 1.955(4)$ ,  $\text{Ga1-N1} = 2.078(4)$ ,  $\text{Ga1}\cdots\text{Ga1c} = 2.668(2)$ ,  $\text{O1-Ga1-O1a} = 78.6(2)$ ,  $\text{N1-Ga1-N1a} = 84.7(2)$ ,  $\text{Ga1-O1-Ga1a} = 86.0(2)$ .



**Figure 9** View of the anion in  $[\text{NMe}_4]_3[\text{Al}_2\text{F}_9]$  with atoms numbering scheme. Atoms are shown at the 50% probability level. The anion has  $D_{3h}$  ( $-6m2$ ) crystallographic symmetry. Symmetry operation:  $a = x, y, 3/2 - z$ . Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ):  $\text{Al1-F1} = 1.7389(14)$ ,  $\text{Al1-F2} = 1.9136(14)$ ,  $\text{F1-Al1-F1a} = 96.94(6)$ ,  $\text{F1-Al1-F2} = 91.89(6)$ ,  $\text{F1-Al1-F2a} = 165.19(6)$ ,  $\text{F2-Al1-F2a} = 75.63(7)$ ,  $\text{Al1-F2-Al1} = 89.86(8)$ .



**Crystal structure determination of  $[\text{Me}_4\text{N}]_3[\text{Al}_2\text{F}_9]$ :** The crystal system is hexagonal with the likely Laue group  $6/m$ . Possible space groups from the absences are  $\text{P}6_3/m$  (no. 176) and  $\text{P}6_3$  (no.173). Structure solution in space group  $\text{P}6_3/m$  reveals a discrete  $[\text{Al}_2\text{F}_9]^-$  anion ( $\text{D}_{3h}$  point group), with two overlapping  $[\text{Me}_4\text{N}]^+$  cations (like two face-sharing tetrahedra – the common face positioned on a mirror planes), which refined well to a final  $R1 = 0.043$ . Structure solution was also attempted in space group  $\text{P}6_3$  to establish whether this might remove the overlapping cations. However, while the individual moieties were evident in the difference map, the pseudo mirror plane was very clear in the anion and two of the  $\text{Me}_4\text{N}$  cations, and the third cation (N2) did not show the overlapping problem. Refinement was less satisfactory and the final  $R1 = 0.052$ . The Flack parameter was 1.1 with a very large esd. Attempts to get the absolute structure (BASF/TWIN) failed (the L.S. blew-up). Hence, while chemically the same structure was evident in both space groups, the solution in  $\text{P}6_3/m$  (176) was preferred.