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# Evidence of hollow golden cages: Supplementary Materials and Supporting Information

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### Supplementary Materials for

# Evidence of hollow golden cages

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Fig. 3. Simulated anion photoelectron spectra [based on the density-functional theory (DFT) calculation with the PBEPBE/LANL2DZ functional and basis set] for all of the candidate lowest-energy isomers of  $Au_{15}^{-}(A)$ ,  $Au_{16}^{-}(B)$ ,  $Au_{17}^{-}(C)$ , and  $Au_{18}^{-}(D)$  identified in Fig. 3 A-D, respectively.

[follows]

# Simulated Anion Photoelectron Spectra



Au<sub>15</sub>- (top 5)

Figure 4A



Au<sub>16</sub>- (top 5)

Figure 4B



Au<sub>17</sub>- (top 6)

Figure 4C



Au<sub>18</sub>- (top 6)

Figure 4D

Fig. 4. Top-10 lowest-energy isomers of  $Au_{15}$  (*A*),  $Au_{16}$  (*B*),  $Au_{17}$  (*C*),  $Au_{18}$  (*D*), and  $Au_{19}$  (*E*) obtained from a basin-hopping global search combined with DFT optimization and total-energy calculation. The energy values (in eV) given beneath each isomer are the relative energy with respective to the leading lowest-energy isomer. The energy values in black are based on the PBE exchange-correlation functional (1), and the double numerical basis set with polarization functions, implemented in the DMOL<sup>3</sup> package (2). Those isomers with their energy value within 0.2 eV from the leading lowest-energy isomer are all regarded as candidates for the lowest-energy isomers are further evaluated by using a modest and a large basis sets. The energy values in blue are based on optimization with the PBEPBE/LANL2DZ functional/basis set, implemented in the GAUSSIAN 03 package (3), and the energy values in red are based on single-point calculations at the PBEPBE/SDD+Au(2f)//PBEPBE/LANL2DZ level of theory, implemented inthe GAUSSIAN 03 package (3). Here "SDD+Au(2f)" denotes the Stuttgart/Dresden ECP valence basis (4, 5) augmented by two sets of *f* polarization functions (exponents = 1.425, 0.468). The isomers enclosed by a black frame also are highlighted in Fig. 1*B*.

#### Notes

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Au<sub>15</sub>- (top10)

Figure 3A



Au<sub>16</sub>- (top10)

Figure 3B



Figure 3C



Figure 3D



Figure 3E

Table 2. The experimental adiabatic detachment energies (ADEs) for Au<sub>n</sub><sup>-</sup> (n = 15–19) measured from the threshold of the first photoelectron band

| Isomer                        | ADE, eV       |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Au <sub>15</sub> <sup>-</sup> | $3.61\pm0.03$ |
| Au <sub>16</sub>              | $3.99\pm0.03$ |
| Au <sub>17</sub> <sup>-</sup> | $4.03\pm0.03$ |
| Au <sub>18</sub> <sup>-</sup> | $3.24\pm0.03$ |
| Au <sub>19</sub> <sup>-</sup> | $3.71\pm0.03$ |