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Abstract: The electronic structure and the participation of the simplest azomethine imine (AI) in [3+2] cycloaddition (32CA) reactions have been analysed within the Molecular Electron Density Theory (MEDT) using DFT calculations at the MPWB1K/6-311G(d) level. Electron localisation function (ELF) topological analysis reveals that AI has a pseudoradical structure, while the conceptual DFT reactivity indices characterise this TAC as a moderate electrophile and a good nucleophile. The non-polar 32CA reaction of AI with ethylene takes place through a one-step mechanism with low activation energy, 5.3 kcal/mol⁻¹. A bonding evolution theory (BET) study indicates that this reaction takes place through a non-concerted [2n+2τ] mechanism in which the C−C bond formation is clearly anticipated prior to the C−N one. On the other hand, the polar 32CA reaction of AI with dicyanoethylene takes place through a two-stage one-step mechanism. Now, the more favourable regioisomeric transition state structure (TS) is located 8.5 kcal·mol⁻¹ below the reagents, in complete agreement with the high polar character of the TS. The current MEDT study makes it possible to extend Domingo’s classification of 32CA reactions to a new pra-type of reactivity.

Keywords: azomethine imine; [3+2] cycloaddition reactions; molecular electron density theory; conceptual density functional theory; electron localisation function; bonding evolution theory; electron density; molecular mechanisms; chemical reactivity.

1. Introduction

[3+2] cycloaddition (32CA) reactions emerged as a powerful synthetic tool for the construction of five-membered heterocyclic compounds [1,2]. Although these reactions have been experimentally known since the end of the 19th century, it was Huisgen who, in 1961, defined them as “1,3-dipolar cycloadditions” [3,4]. These reactions are bimolecular in nature and involve the 1,3-addition of an ethylene derivative to a three-atom-component (TAC) (see Scheme 1). TACs can be structurally classified into two categories: allylic type (A-TAC) and propargylic type (P-TAC) structures [5,6]. While A-TACs such as I are bent, P-TACs such as II have a linear structure (see Scheme 1).

![Scheme 1](image)

Scheme 1. Construction of five-membered heterocyclic compounds by a 32CA reaction, and classification of TACs by structure.
To explain the reactivity of TACs in 32CA reactions, Houk introduced, in 2007, a distortion/interaction energy model (DIEM) in which the activation barrier is divided into two additive terms: $\Delta E_d^*$, called distortion energy, and $\Delta E_i^*$, called interaction energy [7,8]. The applicability of this model was checked in 32CA reactions of nine different TACs, three A-TACs 1a-c and six P-TACs 2a-f, with ethylene 3 and acetylene 4 (see Scheme 2) [7,8].

\[
\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{N}\quad Y\equiv\text{N}--Z
\]

**Scheme 2.** Nine TACs studied by Houk.

Houk found that the computed B3LYP/6-31G* activation enthalpies correlated very nicely with the distortion energies: $\Delta E^* = 0.74 \times \Delta E_d^* - 0.78 \text{ kcal/mol (R}^2 = 0.97)$ (see Figure 1). He concluded that the distortion energy of the reagents towards the transition state structure (TS) is the major factor controlling the reactivity differences of TACs. This finding, which can be considered a computational assertion of Hammond’s postulate established in 1955 [9], does not resolve the question why activation energies depend on geometries, which are the result of the distribution of the molecular electron density. In addition, the partition of the TS geometries into two separated fragments has no physical significance within density functional theory [10] (DFT), since in this quantum chemical theory the energy is a functional of the electron density and the external potential, i.e. the nucleus positions. Consequently, the energy of the two separated fragments cannot be correlated with the energy of the TS because each of them loses the external potential created by the other fragment [11].

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{A-TACs} & \\
a & Z = O \\
b & Z = \text{NH} \\
c & Z = \text{CH}_2 \\
\text{P-TACs} & \\
a & Y = \text{N}, Z = O \\
b & Y = \text{N}, Z = \text{NH} \\
c & Y = \text{N}, Z = \text{CH}_2 \\
d & Y = \text{CH}, Z = O \\
e & Y = \text{CH}, Z = \text{NH} \\
f & Y = \text{CH}, Z = \text{CH}_2 
\end{align*}
\]

**Figure 1.** Plot of B3LYP/6-31G(d) activation energies $\Delta E^*$ vs distortion energies $\Delta E_d^*$, in kcal·mol$^{-1}$, for Houk’s 32CA reactions of TACs 1 and 2 with ethylene 3 and acetylene 4. The position of TACs 1a-c is remarked in red (see Scheme 4).

Very recently, Domingo has proposed a new reactivity theory in organic chemistry, namely, Molecular Electron Density Theory [12] (MEDT), in which changes in the electron density along an organic reaction, and not molecular orbital (MOs) interactions as proposed by the Frontier Molecular Orbital (FMO) theory [13], are responsible for its feasibility.
Several MEDT studies devoted to understanding the reactivity of TACs participating in 32CA reactions have allowed establishing a very good correlation between their electronic structures and reactivities. Accordingly, depending on the electronic structure of the TAC, i.e. pseudodiradical (typically an azomethine ylide (AY) 1a) [14], carbenoid (typically a nitrile ylide 2f) [15] or zwitterionic (typically a nitrone (Ni) 1c), the 32CA reactions towards ethylene 3 have been classified into pseudodiradical-type (pr-type) [16], carbenoid-type (cb-type) [17] and zwitterionic-type (zw-type) [16] reactions (Scheme 3). The reactivity trend decrease in the order pseudodiradical > carbenoid > zwitterionic, in such a manner that while pr-type 32CA reactions take place easily through earlier TSs even with a very low polar character [16,18], zw-type 32CA reactions demand the adequate nucleophilic/electrophilic activations to take place [16,17,19]. Note that the feasibility of the four reactivity types depends on the polar character of the reaction, i.e. the nucleophilic/electrophilic interactions taking place at the TSs; the more polar the reaction, the faster the reaction.

![Scheme 3](image-url)

**Scheme 3.** Electronic structure of TACs and the proposed reactivity types in 32CA reactions.

AY 1a, azomethine imine (AI) 1b and Ni 1c constitute a series of three CH2=NH−X (X = CH2, NH, O) A-TACs in which the terminal X atom changes along the C, N, O elements of the second arrow (see Scheme 4). In this short series of TACs, the activation energy associated with the 32CA reactions with ethylene 3 increases as the electronegativity of the atom X increases in the following order C < N < O (see Scheme 4) [16]. Interestingly, while the simplest AY 1a has a pseudodiradical structure, [14] Ni 1c has a zwitterionic one [20] (see Scheme 3). This behaviour causes these TACs to have a different reactivity towards ethylene 3 in 32CA reactions, i.e. the 32CA reaction involving AY 1a is a pr-type reaction presenting no activation energy, -0.9 kcal·mol⁻¹, while that involving Ni 1c is a zw-type reaction with an activation energy of 10.9 kcal·mol⁻¹ (see Scheme 4). Note that it is expected that the reactivity of AI 1b, which presents an activation energy towards ethylene 3 of 5.3 kcal·mol⁻¹, will be different to that of AY 1a and Ni 1c.

![Scheme 4](image-url)

**Scheme 4.** Series of CH2=NH−X (X = CH2, NH, O) A-TACs 1a-c. In parentheses, MPWB1K/6-311G(d) activation energies, in kcal·mol⁻¹, associated with the 32CA reactions with ethylene 3.

Considering that the simplest AI 1b has a different activation energy towards ethylene 3 than that shown by AY 1a and Ni 1c, two TACs with a different electronic structure (see Scheme 3), an MEDT study of the 32CA reactions of the simplest AI 1b with ethylene 3 and with electron-deficient (ED) dicyanoethylene (DCE) 6, a strongly electrophilic ethylene, is herein carried out in order to establish the structure and reactivity of this TAC (see Scheme 5). Together with an electron localisation function (ELF) characterisation of the electronic structure of the simplest AI 1b, a Bonding
Evolution Theory [21] (BET) study of both reactions is performed in order to characterise the molecular mechanisms and to explain the activation energies implied in these cycloadditions.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{H}_2\text{N-NH} & \quad + \\
\text{CH}_2 & \quad \rightarrow \\
\text{CH}_2 & \\
\text{1b} & \\

\text{N} & \\
\text{N} & \\
\text{H} & \\
\text{H} & \\
\text{3} & \\

\text{H} & \\
\text{N} & \\
\text{N} & \\
\text{H} & \\
\text{H} & \\
\text{5} & \\

\text{N} & \\
\text{C} & \\
\text{C} & \\
\text{CN} & \\
\text{6} & \\

\text{H} & \\
\text{N} & \\
\text{N} & \\
\text{H} & \\
\text{H} & \\
\text{7} & \\

\text{CN} & \\
\text{CN} & \\
\text{8} & \\

\end{align*}
\]

Scheme 5. 32CA reactions of AI 1b with ethylene 3 and DCE 6.

2. Results and Discussion

The present theoretical study is divided into six parts: i) first, an analysis of the electronic structure of AI 1b is performed; ii) then, the Conceptual DFT (CDFT) reactivity indices at the ground state (GS) of the reagents are analysed in order to predict the reactivity and regioselectivity in these 32CA reactions; iii) next, the energy profiles associated with the 32CA reactions of AI 1b with ethylene 3 and DCE 6 are studied; iv) later, a BET study of the 32CA reaction of AI 1b with ethylene 3 is performed in order to characterise the molecular mechanism of this cycloaddition; v) then, an ELF topological analysis of the C-C and N-C bond formation processes along the polar 32CA reaction between AI 1b and DCE 6 is carried out; and vi) finally, based on the electronic structure of AI 1b and its reactivity towards ethylene 3, a new type of reactivity in 32CA reactions is proposed.

2.1 ELF topological analysis and natural population analysis (NPA) of AI 1b.

As the reactivity of the TACs has been correlated with their electronic structure [16,17], an ELF topological analysis of the simplest AI 1b was first performed in order to characterise the electronic structure of this TAC and thus, to predict its reactivity in 32CA reactions. ELF attractors, including the most representative valence basin populations and natural atomic charges, ELF basins and the proposed Lewis structure arising from the ELF topological analysis for AI 1b are shown in Figure 2.

![Figure 2. Representation of ELF attractors together with some valence basin populations and natural atomic charges (in red), in e, ELF valence basins and the proposed Lewis structure for AI 1b.](image)

ELF topological analysis of the simplest AI 1b shows the presence of two monosynaptic basins, V(C1) and V'(C1), integrating a total electron density of 0.62e, two disynaptic basins, V(C1,N2) and...
V(N2,N3), with electron populations of 2.95e and 2.09e, and one V(N3) monosynaptic basin integrating 3.53e. These ELF basins are related with the presence of a C1 pseudoradical center, a C1-N2 bonding region integrating ca. 3e, an N2-N3 single bond and an N3 non-bonding electron density (see the ELF-based Lewis structure of AI 1b in Figure 2).

According to the Lewis structures, V(C) monosynaptic basins integrating ca. 1e are associated to pseudoradical centers [14,18], while those integrating ca. 2e in neutral molecules are associated to carbenoid centers [17]. TACs presenting two pseudoradical centers have been classified as pseudodiradical TACs [16], while those presenting a carbenoid center have been classified as carbenoid TACs [17]. Finally, TACs that neither present pseudoradical nor carbenoid centers have been classified as zwitterionic TACs [16]. Consequently, ELF topological analysis of the electronic structure of the simplest AI 1b indicates that this TAC, which presents a pseudoradical structure, does not have the electronic structure of any of the three representative pseudodiradical, carbenoid and zwitterionic TACs given in Scheme 3.

After the establishment of the bonding pattern of AI 1b based on the ELF topological analysis, the charge distribution was analysed. The natural atomic charges, obtained through an NPA, are shown in Figure 2. As can be observed, the three atoms belonging to this TAC present negative charges: -0.30e (C1), -0.18e (N2) and -0.54e (N3), while the hydrogen atoms support the positive charges. This charge distribution is in complete disagreement with the commonly accepted 1,2-zwitterionic structure given for AIs in which a positive charge and a negative charge are entirely located at the N2 and N3 nitrogen atoms [3,22].

Thus, while NPA reveals that this TAC does not have a 1,2-zwitterionic Lewis structure, ELF topological analysis of the electron density of AI 1b permits establishing a pseudoradical electronic structure with a pseudoradical center at the C1 carbon atom. The distinct electronic structure of AI 1b with respect to that of the pseudodiradical, carbenoid and zwitterionic structures given in Scheme 3 justifies the different reactivity of these TACs (see Scheme 4), and therefore, the establishment of a new reactivity model in 32CA reactions.

2.2. Analysis of the CDFT reactivity indices at the GS of the reagents.

Global reactivity indices defined within CDFT [23,24] are powerful tools to explain the reactivity in cycloaddition reactions. Since the global electrophilicity and nucleophilicity scales are given at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level, the present analysis has been performed at this computational level. The global indices, namely, the electronic chemical potential (μ), the chemical hardness (η), the electrophilicity (ω) and the nucleophilicity (N), for AI 1b, ethylene 3 and DCE 6, as well as the pr index of A-TACs 1a-c, are presented in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>μ</th>
<th>η</th>
<th>ω</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>pr</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DCE 6</td>
<td>-5.64</td>
<td>5.64</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ni 1c</td>
<td>-3.43</td>
<td>5.55</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>2.92</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AI 1b</td>
<td>-2.70</td>
<td>5.02</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethylene 3</td>
<td>-3.37</td>
<td>7.77</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AY 1a</td>
<td>-1.82</td>
<td>4.47</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>5.07</td>
<td>1.13</td>
</tr>
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</table>

As shown in Table 1, the electronic chemical potential μ of AI 1b, -2.70 eV, is higher than that of ethylene 3, -3.37 eV, and DCE 6, -5.64 eV. Consequently, along polar 32CA reactions, the global electron density transfer [25] (GEDT) will take place from AI 1b toward ethylene 3 or DCE 6; however, note that ethylene 3 has no tendency to participate in polar processes.

Along a polar reaction, there is an electron density transfer from the nucleophilic to the electrophilic species, which is measured by the GEDT [25] value computed at the TS of the reaction; the larger the GEDT at the TS, the more polar the reaction. Note that the GEDT concept comes from...
the observation that the electron density transfer taking place from the nucleophile to the electrophile along a polar reaction is not a local process, but a global one involving the two interacting frameworks and depending on the electrophilic/nucleophilic interactions taking place between them [25]. It should be emphasised here that his global property is lost with the molecular fragmentation carried out in Houk’s distortion/interaction energy model [11].

The simplest AI 1b has an electrophilicity $\omega$ index of 0.72 eV and a nucleophilicity $N$ index of 3.92 eV, being classified as a marginal electrophile [26] and as a strong nucleophile [27]. The high electron density accumulated in the three heavy atoms belonging to AI 1b could account for the high nucleophilic character of this TAC (see NPA in Section 3.1). Consequently, AI 1b will participate only as a strong nucleophile in polar 32CA reactions.

Analysis of the reactivity indices of the three A-TACs given in Scheme 4 shows that the electrophilicity $\omega$ index increases and the nucleophilicity $N$ index decreases as the electronegativity of the terminal X atom increases in the following order C < N < O. In any case, the three A-TACs are strong nucleophiles.

In order to characterise the participation of TACs in a $pr$-type 32CA reaction, the $pr$ index, has recently been introduced [16]. A-TACs with $pr$ values larger than 0.90 can be related to species having a very soft character, i.e. with low hardness $\eta$ values, and low stabilised frontier electrons, i.e. low ionisation potential, participating in $pr$-type 32CA reactions, while A-TACs with low $pr$ values should participate in $zw$-type 32CA reactions. A-TACs $AY$ 1a, AI 1b and NI 1c have $pr$ values of 1.13, 0.78 and 0.53 (see Table 1), indicating that in spite of the pseudoradical structure of AI 1b, this TAC will not present a $pr$-type reactivity in 32CA reactions.

Polar cycloaddition reactions require the participation of good electrophiles and good nucleophiles. Ethylene 3 is one of the poorest electrophilic, $\omega$ = 0.73 eV, and nucleophilic, $N$ = 1.86 eV, species involved in cycloaddition reactions, being classified as a marginal electrophile and as a marginal nucleophile. Consequently, ethylene 3 cannot participate in polar reactions. Substitution of two gem hydrogen atoms in ethylene 3 by two electron-withdrawing –CN groups in DCE 6 considerably increases the electrophilicity $\omega$ index to 2.82 eV and decreases the nucleophilicity $N$ index to 0.65 eV. Consequently, DCE 6 will participate only as a strong electrophile in polar 32CA reactions. Given the high nucleophilic character of AI 1b and the strong electrophilic character of DCE 6, it is expected that the 32CA reaction between AI 1b and DCE 6 will have a high polar character.

By approaching a non-symmetric electrophilic/nucleophilic pair along a polar or ionic process, the most favourable reactive channel is that associated with the initial two-center interaction between the most electrophilic center of the electrophile and the most nucleophilic center of the nucleophile. Recently, Domingo proposed the nucleophilic $P_i^-$ and electrophilic $P_e^+$ Parr functions [28], derived from the changes of spin electron-density reached via the GEDT process from the nucleophile to the electrophile, as a powerful tool in the study of the local reactivity in polar or ionic processes. Accordingly, the nucleophilic $P_i^-$ Parr functions of AI 1b and the electrophilic $P_e^+$ Parr functions of DCE 6 were analysed in order to characterise the most nucleophilic and electrophilic centers of the species involved in this polar 32CA reaction (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. 3D representations of the atomic spin densities (ASD) of the radical cation 1b$^{+*}$ and the radical anion 6$^{-*}$, together with the nucleophilic $P_i^-$ Parr functions of AI 1b and the electrophilic $P_e^+$ Parr functions of DCE 6.
Analysis of the nucleophilic $P_k^-$ Parr functions at the reactive sites of AI 1b indicates that both the C1 carbon atom, with a $P_k^-$ value of 0.54, and the N3 nitrogen atom, with a $P_k^-$ value of 0.72, are nucleophilically activated, the latter more than the former. Note that the N2 nitrogen atom is nucleophilically deactivated, possessing a negative $P_k^-$ value of -0.19. On the other hand, the electrophilic $P_k^+$ Parr functions at the reactive sites of DCE 6 indicate that the more electrophilic center is the C4 carbon atom, possessing the maximum value of $P_k^+ = 0.74$.

Therefore, it can be predicted that the most favourable electrophile-nucleophile interaction along the nucleophilic attack of AI 1b on DCE 6 in a polar process will take place between the most nucleophilic center of AI 1b, the N3 nitrogen atom, and the most electrophilic center of DCE 6, the C4 carbon atom.

2.3. Study of the reaction channels associated with the 32CA reactions of AI 1b with ethylene 3 and DCE 6.

2.3.1. 32CA reaction involving ethylene 3

The 32CA reaction between AI 1b and ethylene 3 takes place through a one-step mechanism. Due to the symmetry of ethylene 3, the reagents, 1b and 3, only one TS, TS1, and the corresponding pyrazolidinone 6 were located and characterised (see Scheme 6). The MPWB1K/6-311G(d) total and relative energies of the stationary points involved in the 32CA reaction of AI 1b with ethylene 3 are given in Table 2.

![Scheme 6. 32CA reaction between AI 1b and ethylene 3.](image)

The relative energy of TS1, associated with the 32CA reaction between AI 1b and ethylene 3, is 5.3 kcal/mol, the reaction being strongly exothermic, 62.0 kcal/mol. This activation energy is found between that associated with the non-polar 32CA reaction of AY 1a with ethylene 3, -0.9 kcal/mol, a pr-type reaction, and that associated with the non-polar 32CA reaction of Ni 1c with ethylene 3, a zw-type reaction, 10.9 kcal/mol (see Scheme 4).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>E (a.u.)</th>
<th>$\Delta E$ (kcal/mol)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AI 1b</td>
<td>-149.866583</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ethylene 3</td>
<td>-78.546281</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC1</td>
<td>-228.416728</td>
<td>-2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TS1</td>
<td>-228.404441</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>-228.511604</td>
<td>-62.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Relative to the separated reagents AI 1b and ethylene 3.

The geometry of TS1 is displayed in Figure 4. At TS1, the distances between the C1 and C5, and the N3 and C4 interacting atoms are 2.272 and 2.289 Å, respectively. It has been well established that the formation of C–C single bonds takes place in the short distance range of ca. 1.9 – 2.0 Å [25], while several studies have shown that formation of C–N single bonds begins at shorter distances, ca. 1.7 Å [29]. Therefore, despite the geometrical symmetry of TS1, these parameters suggest an asynchronous bond formation process in which the C1–C5 bond formation is more advanced than the N3–C4 one.
Figure 4. MPWB1K/6-311G(d) geometry of the TS associated with the 32CA reaction between AI 1b and ethylene 3. Distances are given in Angstroms.

The electronic nature of the 32CA reaction between AI 1b and ethylene 3 was analysed by computing the GEDT [25] at the corresponding TS. Cycloadditions with GEDT values near 0.0e correspond to non-polar processes, whereas values higher than 0.2e correspond to polar processes. In gas phase, the GEDT that fluxes from the AI moiety towards the ethylene one is 0.10e at TS1. This value indicates that this 32CA reaction has a low polar character. Interestingly, the slight GEDT computed at TS1, whose direction is in agreement with the analysis of the corresponding electronic chemical potential $\mu$ indices, can be rationalised as a delocalisation of the energetically destabilised electron density of the AI framework into the ethylene one, rather than a GEDT process associated to a polar process [14]. Note that ethylene 2 has neither electrophilic nor nucleophilic character.

2.3.2. 32CA reaction involving DCE 6

Due to the non-symmetry of AI 1b and DCE 6, this 32CA reaction can take place through two regioisomeric channels, the ortho and the meta (see Scheme 7), i.e. those associated with the initial formation of the C1–C4 and N3–C4 single bonds, respectively. Analysis of the stationary points involved in the two regioisomeric pathways indicates that this 32CA reaction occurs through a one-step mechanism. Consequently, two molecular complexes (MCs), MC2-o and MC2-m, two regioisomeric TSs, TS2-o and TS2-m, and the two corresponding pyrazolidines 7 and 8, were located and characterised (see Scheme 7). The MPWB1K/6-311G(d) total and relative energies of the stationary points involved in the 32CA reaction of AI 1b with DCE 6 are given in Table 3.

When AI 1b and DCE 6 gradually approach each other, the energy is reduced until the formation of two MCs located 6.3 (MC2-o) and 8.9 (MC2-m) kcal·mol$^{-1}$ below the separated reagents takes place. Further approach of both the AI and the DCE frameworks leads to the formation of the TSs, which are found 3.2 (TS2-o) and 0.4 (TS2-m) kcal·mol$^{-1}$ above the corresponding MCs. Moreover, formation of pyrazolidines 7 and 8 becomes strongly exothermic by 56.2 and 58.2 kcal·mol$^{-1}$, respectively. Some appealing conclusions can be drawn from these energy results: i) the activation barrier associated to the more favourable TS2-m is 7.3 kcal·mol$^{-1}$ lower than that associated to TS1, 7.7 kcal·mol$^{-1}$; ii) this
32CA reaction is highly regioselective, TS2-o being 2.8 kcal·mol⁻¹ above TS2-m; and iii) the strong exothermic character of this reaction makes the formation of pyrazolidines 7 and 8 irreversible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>E</th>
<th>ΔE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AI 1b</td>
<td>-149.866583</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCE 6</td>
<td>-262.985589</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC2-o</td>
<td>-412.862154</td>
<td>-6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC2-m</td>
<td>-412.866330</td>
<td>-8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TS2-o</td>
<td>-412.861212</td>
<td>-5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TS2-m</td>
<td>-412.865718</td>
<td>-8.5</td>
</tr>
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<td>-56.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>-412.944843</td>
<td>-58.2</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Relative to the separated reagents AI 1b and DCE 6.

The geometries of the TSs associated with the 32CA reaction between AI 1b and DCE 6 are displayed in Figure 5. At the ortho TS2-o, the distances between the C1 and C4, and the N3 and C5 interacting atoms are 2.311 and 2.625 Å, while at the meta TS2-m, the distances between the N3 and C4, and the C1 and C5 interacting atoms are 2.142 and 2.796 Å. Some appealing conclusions can be drawn from these geometrical parameters: i) both TSs correspond to highly asynchronous single bond formation processes in which the formation at the β conjugated position of DCE 6 is more advanced than that at the α one; ii) geometrically, the more favourable TS2-m is more advanced and more asynchronous than TS2-o; and finally, iii) the more favourable TS2-m is associated to the two-center interaction between the most nucleophilic center of AI 1b and the most electrophilic center of DCE 6, in complete agreement with the analysis of the Parr functions (see Section 2.2).

Figure 5. MPWB1K/6-311G(d) geometries of the TSs associated with the 32CA reaction between AI 1b and DCE 6. Distances are given in Angstroms.

In gas phase, the GEDT that fluxes from the AI framework towards the ethylene one is 0.25e at TS2-o and 0.27e at TS2-m. The GEDT at the more favourable TS2-m is slightly higher than that at TS2-o. These high values indicate that this 32CA reaction has a high polar character, in clear agreement with the very high nucleophilic character of AI 1b and the high electrophilic character of DCE 6, and account for the large decrease of the activation energy with respect to the non-polar 32CA reaction involving ethylene 3 via TS1.

2.4. BET study of the 32CA reaction of AI 1b with ethylene 3

When trying to achieve a better understanding of bonding changes in organic reactions, the so-called BET [21] has proven to be a very useful methodological tool. This quantum-chemical methodology makes it possible to understand the bonding changes along a reaction path and, thus, to establish the nature of the electronic rearrangement associated with a given molecular mechanism [30].
In order to characterise the molecular mechanism of the non-polar 32CA reaction of AI 1b with ethylene 3, a BET study along the cycloaddition reaction was carried out. The complete BET study is provided in the Supplementary Material. Some appealing conclusions can be drawn from this BET study: i) the intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) associated with the 32CA reaction of the simplest AI 1b with ethylene 3 is divided in nine differentiated phases, a behaviour that clearly indicates that the bonding changes along this one-step mechanism are non-concerted (see Figures 6); ii) ELF topological analysis of TS1 indicates that there is no bonding region between the N1 and C4, and the C3 and C4 interacting atoms, respectively; iii) the low activation energy associated with this reaction, 7.7 kcal·mol⁻¹, can be mainly associated with the rehybridisation of the C1 carbon from sp² to sp³; iii) formation of the first C3-C4 single bond takes place at a C-C distance of 2.03 Å through the C-to-C coupling of two C3 and C4 pseudoradical centers [25] (see points P5 and P6 in Figure 7); iv) interestingly, while the C4 pseudoradical center is generated along the reaction path through the depopulation of the C4-C5 double bond of ethylene 3, the C3 pseudoradical center is already present at the simplest AI 1b; v) formation of the second N1-C4 single bond takes place at an N-C distance of 1.92 Å through the C-to-N coupling of two N1 and C5 pseudoradical centers (see points P7 and P8 in Figure 6); vi) thus, formation of this C-N single bond is different to that found in the ketene-imine Staudinger reaction in which the first C-N single bond is formed through the donation of the electron density of the imine nitrogen lone pair to the ketene carbonyl carbon [29]; vii) the present BET study allows establishing the molecular mechanism of the non-polar 32CA reaction between the simplest AI 1b and ethylene 3 and characterising it as a [2n+2τ] process. The non-bonding 2n electrons involved in this 32CA reaction can be associated with the pseudoradical center present at the C1 carbon and part of the electron density of the N3 nitrogen lone pairs of the simplest AI 1b, while the 2τ electrons come from the C4-C5 double bond of ethylene 3. Note that in 1931, first Pauling [31] and later Slater [32] proposed that the C-C bonding region of ethylene 3 can be represented by two equivalent bonds named τ bonds. This electronic representation of C-C double bonds is in complete agreement with the ELF topological analysis of ethylene 3 in which the corresponding C-C bonding region is characterised by the presence of two equivalent V(C,C) disynaptic basins integrating ca. 2e each one (see the Supplementary Material).

![Figure 6. Relative energy (ΔE, in kcal·mol⁻¹) variations along the IRC (amu¹/²Bohr) associated with the non-polar 32CA reaction between AI 1b and ethylene 3. Black dashed lines separate the nine phases along the IRC, while the red point indicates the position of TS1. Relative energies are given with respect to the separated reagents.](image-url)
2.5. ELF topological analysis of the C–C and N–C bond formation processes along the polar 32CA reaction between AI 1b and DCE 6. Understanding the role of the GEDT.

Recently, an ELF topological analysis of some relevant points involved in the formation of the new single bonds along the IRC associated with the experimental 32CA reaction of an AI derivative with N-vinyl tetrahydroindole allowed establishing that this reaction takes place through a two-stage one-step mechanism [33]. Herein, in order to investigate the bond formation processes along the polar 32CA reaction of AI 1b with DCE 6 and to understand the low activation energies associated with the two meta/ortho regioisomeric channels, an ELF topological analysis of the corresponding stationary points and some relevant points along the IRC involved in the formation of the new C–C and N–C single bonds was performed. The complete ELF topological analysis is provided in the Supplementary Material, while a summary of the most appealing conclusions is reported herein.

Some appealing conclusions can be drawn from this ELF topological analysis along both meta/ortho regioisomeric channels: i) in both reaction channels, the formation of the first single bond involves the most electrophilic center of DCE 6, the C4 carbon (see Figure 8); ii) formation of the C–C single bonds along the two channels begins at C–C distances of 2.14 Å (meta) and 2.05 Å (ortho) through the C-to-C coupling of two C1 and C4/C5 pseudoradical centers (see P1-o and P2-o in Figure 8) [29]; iii) interestingly, while along the more favourable meta channel the two C1 and C5 pseudoradical centers are created as the reaction progresses, the C1 pseudoradical center is already present at ortho MC2-o; iv) while along the more favourable meta channel the C5 pseudoradical center created at the DCE framework participates more than the C1 one created at the AI moiety in the C–C bond formation process, along the ortho channel the C1 pseudoradical center already present at MC2-o contributes more to the C–C bond formation; v) conversely, the N–C bond formation takes place differently along both channels. Formation of the N–C single bond begins at N–C distances of 1.81 Å (meta) and 1.84 Å (ortho) through the donation of part of the non-bonding electron density of the N3 nitrogen to the C4 carbon along the meta channel (see P1-m and P2-m in Figure 8) or through the C-to-N coupling of two C5 and N3 pseudoradical centers along the ortho channel; vi) both reaction channels present highly asynchronous bond formation processes, in agreement with the previous geometry analysis. The polar 32CA reaction between AI 1b and DCE 6 proceeds through a two-stage one-step mechanism [33] in which the formation of the second bond begins when the first one is already formed by up to 95%; vii) the bonding patterns of TS2-o and TS2-m are very similar to those of the corresponding MCs and, accordingly, the very low energy barriers relative to the
corresponding MCs, 0.6 (TS2-o) and 0.4 (TS2-m) kcal·mol⁻¹, can mainly be associated with slight electron density variations within the molecular system; viii) therefore, the very low relative energies of TS2-m and TS2-o, ~8.5 and ~5.7 kcal·mol⁻¹, with respect to the separated reagents, can be correlated with the GEDT taking place at the polar TSs, which favours the polar 32CA reaction through an electronic stabilisation of both the nucleophile and electrophile frameworks; ix) the energy difference between TS2-o and TS2-m, 2.8 kcal·mol⁻¹, is likely to be associated to the higher stability of the electron density distribution at TS2-m than that at the pseudoradical structure of TS2-o. Note that at the more favourable TS2-m, there is a strong favourable two-center interaction between the most electrophilic center of DCE 6 and the most nucleophilic center of Al 1b.

The GEDT taking place at the TSs of the polar 32CA reaction between Al 1b and DCE 6 does not only decrease the activation energy associated with the non-polar 32CA reaction involving ethylene 3, but also modifies the molecular mechanism of the polar reaction making the most favourable reaction channel that involving the first N–C bond formation instead of the C–C one, in agreement with the analysis of the Parr functions. Note that despite the pseudoradical character of the C1 carbon, the N3 nitrogen is the most nucleophilic center of Al 1b (see Section 2.2).

A comparative analysis between the BET study of the non-polar 32CA reaction involving ethylene 3 and the ELF topological analysis of the bond formation processes along the polar 32CA reaction involving DCE 6 makes it possible to understand the role of the GEDT in the polar process. Some appealing conclusions emerge from the corresponding comparative analysis: i) while along the non-polar 32CA reaction of Al 1b with ethylene 3 and the less favourable ortho channel of the 32CA polar reaction between Al 1b and DCE 6 the most favourable interaction is that involving the C1 pseudoradical center, along the more favourable meta channel of the polar 32CA reaction between Al 1b and DCE 6 is that involving the interaction between the most nucleophilic and electrophilic centers of the reagents; ii) thus, while the non-polar cycloaddition and the ortho channel of the polar reaction begin with the initial formation of the C–C single bond, the meta channel of the polar reaction begins with the initial formation of the N–C single bond. Consequently, both mechanisms are different; iii) formation of the new single bonds is slightly asynchronous in the non-polar reaction but highly asynchronous in the polar reaction; iv) unlike polar Diels-Alder reactions and polar zw-type 32CA reactions in which the GEDT favours the bonding changes at the reagents, i.e. the rupture of the double bonds [34], in the polar 32CA reaction between Al 1b and DCE 6, the GEDT provokes an electronic stabilisation of the both the nucleophilic and the electrophilic frameworks at the TSs, decreasing the relative energies from 5.3 kcal·mol⁻¹ (TS1) to -5.7 (TS2-o) and -8.5 (TS2-m) kcal·mol⁻¹.

Figure 8. ELF basins, represented at an isovalue of 0.68 a.u., for the selected points of the IRCs involved in the formation of the first N3–C5 (meta) and C1–C4 (ortho) single bonds along the two meta/ortho reactive channel associated with the polar 32CA reaction between Al 1b and DCE 6.
2.6. Understanding the reactivity of Al 1b possessing a carbon pseudoradical center.

ELF topological analysis of several TACs have shown that unlike butadiene 9, which presents a conjugated C−C double bond Lewis structure, TACs have very complex electronic structures that cannot be usually represented by a simple Lewis structure. On the order hand, unlike the non-polar Diels-Alder reaction between butadiene 9 and ethylene 3, which has a high activation energy of ca. 25 kcal·mol⁻¹ [35], the non-polar 32CA reactions between TACs and ethylene 3 have activation energies that range from 1 to 15 kcal·mol⁻¹[7,8]. Note that ethylene 3 is a poor electrophile and a poor nucleophile that cannot participate in polar reactions.

As has been aforementioned in the Introduction, a good correlation between the electronic structures of TACs and the activation energies involved in the non-polar 32CA reactions towards ethylene 3, i.e. their reactivity, has been found [16,17]. Thus, while zwitterionic TACs such as Ni 1c, which must break the C−N double bond before the creation of the carbon pseudoradical center demanded for the subsequent C−C bond formation, present high activation energies towards ethylene 3 (10.9 kcal·mol⁻¹ for Ni 1c plus ethylene 3), pseudodiradical TACs such as AY 1a, which already has the two required carbon pseudoradical centers in the structure, present unappreciable activation energies (-0.9 kcal·mol⁻¹ for AY 1a plus ethylene 3). Note that AY 1a and Ni 1c are located at the extremes of the series given in Figure 9.

Figure 9. Plot of the MPWB1K/6-311G(d) activation energies ΔE° vs the distortion energies ΔEd°, in kcal·mol⁻¹, for Houk’s 32CA reactions of TACs 1 and 2, having at least one carbon atom, with ethylene 3.

Very recently, the 32CA reactions of diazoalkanes (DAAs) with ED ethylenes have been studied [36]. ELF topological analysis of the simplest DAA 2c showed that, similar to Al 1b, this TAC also has a pseudoradical structure (see Figure 10) [36]. However, despite its pseudoradical structure, the 32CA reaction of DAA 2c with ethylene 3 presents a high activation energy, 16.6 kcal·mol⁻¹, as a consequence of its lineal P-TAC structure [19].

Figure 10. Representation of the ELF valence basins and the proposed Lewis structure for DAA 2c.
Why AI 1b having one *pseudoradical* center presents a different reactivity than AY 1a having a *pseudodiradical* structure? Figure 11 shows how the two *pseudoradical* centers present in the simplest AY 1a favour the synchronous C-C single bond formation process through an homolytic rupture of the C-C double bond of the ethylene framework [14], a behaviour that is not feasible in the 32CA reactions of *pseudoradical* AI 1b and DAA 2c. Note that in these TACs the non-bonding electron density present at the nitrogen atom is associated to the nitrogen sp² lone pairs, which must be redistributed before the creation of the nitrogen *pseudoradical* center demanded for the C-N single bond formation.

![Figure 11](https://example.com/fig11.png)

**Figure 11.** Bonding changes demanded for the C-C bond formation in the *pr-type* 32CA reaction between AY 1a and ethylene 3, and for the C-C and C-N bond formation in the 32CA reaction between AI 1b and ethylene 3.

Consequently, from the comparison of the electronic structure and the reactivity of AI 1b in the non-polar 32CA reaction towards ethylene 3 with those of the three TACs given in Scheme 3, a new type of 32CA reaction model should be considered. This new type, called *pseudoradical* type (*pra-type*) 32CA reaction, is associated with TACs such as AI 1b and DAAs 2c having only one carbon *pseudoradical* center, i.e. a *pseudoradical* electronic structure (see Scheme 8).

![Scheme 8](https://example.com/scheme8.png)

**Scheme 8.** Electronic structure of TACs and the proposed reactivity types in the non-polar 32CA reactions towards ethylene 3.

Thus, unlike symmetric *pseudodiradical* TACs such as AYs 1c, carbonyl ylides and thiocarbonyl ylides, which induce a symmetric depopulation of the C-C double bond of ethylene 3, non-symmetric *pseudoradical* TACs such as AIs 1b and DAAs 2c are not able to induce an effective symmetric electron density depopulation of the C-C bonding region in the ethylene framework since the electron density demanded for the formation of the new C-N single bonds is at first being part of the non-bonding electron density of the nitrogen sp² lone pairs.

The present theoretical study emphasises how MEDT studies are able to rationalise the reactivity of organic compounds based on a rigorous analysis of the changes of the electron density along organic reactions [12]. Conversely, Houk’s DIEM only permits to establish a good relationship between the distortion energy and the activation energy in the series of non-polar 32CA reactions given in Scheme 2, i.e. when more distorted the TS is with respect to the separated reagents, higher the activation energy. This finding, which is a computational assertion of Hammond’s postulate [9],
does not resolve the question why the activation energies of these 32CA reactions depend on the geometry deformations [7,8].

The molecular geometry is the result of the energy minimisation, which, within the DFT, is a functional of the electron density [10]. Consequently, activation energies, which are the difference in energies between the GS and the TS, should be understood as the energy involved in the changes in electron density demanded to reach the TS. Since the electron density in a molecule and its associated energy depends on the total electrons and the external potential, i.e. the nuclei positions [10], the geometry of any species involved in a reaction path cannot be divided into separated fragments because they lose the information of the whole molecular system.

On the other hand, we have proposed that the GEDT taking place at the TSs is one of the more relevant factors controlling activation energies; the larger GEDT, the lower the activation energy [34]. Such as the non-polar DA reaction between butadiene and ethylene 3 that has a negligible GEDT, the 32CA reactions towards ethylene 3 also do not have any polar character. Consequently, the activation energies implied in these non-polar 32CA reactions are mainly associated to the energy required for the changes in the GS electron density, and not to the geometry deformation such as Houk proposed [7,8], which is a consequence of the former.

3. Conclusions

The electronic structure and chemical properties of the simplest AI 1b as well as its participation in 32CA reactions towards ethylene 3 and ED DCE 6 have been analysed within MEDT using DFT calculations at the MPWB1K/6-311G(d) level.

Analysis of the electron density pattern of the simplest AI 1b reveals that this TAC presents a pseudoradical structure, characterised by the presence of a V(C1) monosynaptic basin integrating 0.62e at the C1 carbon atom. On the hand, the charge distribution at AI 1b does not permit to assign any zwitterionic structure for this TAC, ruling out the common representation of this TAC as a 1,2-dipole.

CDFT analysis of AI 1b indicates that this TAC is a moderate electrophile and a good nucleophile. Consequently, it is expected that AI 1b will participate in polar 32CA reactions only towards electrophilically activated ethylenes. Analysis of the nucleophilic P_m Parr functions indicates that the N3 nitrogen atom is more nucleophilically activated than the C1 carbon.

The non-polar 32CA reaction of AI 1b with ethylene 3 takes place through a one-step mechanism with low activation energy, 5.3 kcal/mol, the reaction being strongly exothermic, 62.0 kcal/mol. Analysis of the TS geometry shows a high symmetry in the lengths of the two C-C and C-N forming bonds. The GEDT at TS1, 0.10e, indicates that this reaction has a low polar character.

BET analysis of this non-polar 32CA reaction indicates that in spite of the geometrical symmetry found at TS1, this one-step mechanism takes place through a non-concerted mechanism in which the C-C bond formation is clearly anticipated prior to the C-N one. Formation of the first C-C single bond takes place at a distance of 2.03 Å through the C-to-C coupling of two carbon pseudoradical centers [25], while formation of the second N-C single bond takes place at a distance of 1.92 Å through the C-to-N coupling of two carbon and nitrogen pseudoradical centers. Consequently, at TS1 the formation of the two single bonds has not yet begun.

BET analysis allows the molecular mechanism of the non-polar 32CA reaction to be characterised as a [2n+2τ] process. This MEDI study makes it possible to reject the concept of pericyclic mechanism, since the bond forming changes are neither concerted nor do they take place in a cyclic movement. In addition, ELF topological analysis of the structures involved in the formation of the two C-C and C-N single bonds indicates that the C1 pseudoradical and N3 non-bonding electron density belonging to AI 1b and that belonging to the π bond of ethylene 3 participate in the reaction. This behaviour, which indicates that only two electrons of the TAC and two electrons of the ethylene participate in this reaction, allows rejecting the classification of these reactions as [4π+2τ] processes, and consequently, the Woodward-Hoffmann rules of the conservation of orbital symmetry [37], according to which this thermal 32CA reactions should be forbidden by the MO symmetry.

The electrophilic activation of ethylene 3 provokes some remarkable changes in the 32CA reactions of AI 1b towards ED ethylenes. The polar 32CA reaction of AI 1b with DCE 6 takes place
also through a one-step mechanism. Now, due to the non-symmetry of both reagents, two regioisomeric channels are feasible. **TS2-m**, associated with the initial C-N bond formation, is found 2.8 kcal·mol⁻¹ below **TS2-o**, associated with the initial C-C bond formation; this polar 32CA reaction is highly regioselective, in clear agreement with the CDFT analysis of the Parr functions at the GS of the reagents. The activation barrier of the more favourable **TS2-m** is 7.3 kcal·mol⁻¹ lower than that of **TS1**, associated with the non-polar 32CA reaction of AI 1b with ethylene 3. This large acceleration is in complete agreement with the high GEDT found at the polar **TS2-m**, 0.25e, which provokes an electronic stabilisation of the both the nucleophilic and the electrophilic frameworks at the TSs. These behaviours are the consequence of the high nucleophilic character of AI 1b and the high electrophilic character of DCE 6.

Interestingly, ELF analysis of the bonding changes along the two regioisomeric channels indicates that the electrophilic activation of the ethylene compound does not only accelerate the reaction, but also changes the mechanism; the non-polar 32CA reaction begins with the C-C single bond formation, while the more favourable channel associated with the polar 32CA reaction starts with the C-N bond formation due to the favourable two-center interaction between the most nucleophilic center of AI 1b and the most electrophilic center of DCE 6. In addition, while the non-polar reaction is only slightly asynchronous, the polar process takes place through a non-concerted **two-stage one-step** mechanism [33].

Analysis of the electronic structure of AI 1b and its reactivity towards ethylene 3 indicates that this TAC is different to those previously studied. The **pseudodiradical** structure and reactivity of the simplest AI 1b towards ethylene 3, as such as those of the simplest DAA 10 [36], which are different to the **pseudodiradical** structure and **pr-type** reactivity of AY 1a, make it possible to extend Domingo’s classification to a new type of **pseudodiradical** TACs and **pra-type** reactivity.

The present theoretical study emphasises how MEDT is able to rationalise the reactivity of the organic compounds based on a rigorous analysis of the changes of the electron density along organic reactions, thus rejecting obsolete concepts and models developed in the last century through the analysis of MOs [12,25].

4. Computational methods

DFT calculations were performed using the MPWB1K functional [38] together with the 6-311G(d,p) basis set [39]. Optimisations were carried out using the Berny analytical gradient optimisation method [40,41]. The stationary points were characterised by frequency computations in order to verify that TSs have one and only one imaginary frequency. The IRC paths [42] were traced in order to check the energy profiles connecting each TS to the two associated minima of the proposed mechanism using the second order González-Schlegel integration method [43,44]. The global electron density transfer [25] (GEDT) is computed by the sum of the natural atomic charges (q), obtained by a natural population analysis (NPA) [45,46], of the atoms belonging to each framework (f) at the TSs; GEDT = Σqf. The sign indicates the direction of the electron density flux in such a manner that positive values mean a flux from the considered framework to the other one. All computations were carried out with the Gaussian 09 suite of programs [47].

CDFT [23,24] provides different indices to rationalise and understand chemical structure and reactivity. The global electrophilicity index [48] ω, is given by the following expression, ω = (μ² / 2 η), in terms of the electronic chemical potential μ and the chemical hardness η. Both quantities may be approached in terms of the one-electron energies of the frontier molecular orbitals HOMO and LUMO, εH and εL, as μ = (εH + εL) / 2 and η = (εL - εH), respectively [49,50]. The global nucleophilicity index [51,52], N, based on the HOMO energies obtained within the Kohn-Sham scheme [53], is defined as N = EHOMO(Nu) - EHOMO(TCE), where tetracyanoethylene (TCE) is the reference. The pr index, which has recently been introduced in order to characterise the participation of pseudodiradical TACs in **pr-type** 32CA reactions [16], comprises the chemical hardness η and the nucleophilicity N index of the TAC, as pr = N / η. Electrophilic P⁺ and nucleophilic P⁻ Parr functions [28] were obtained through the analysis of the Mulliken atomic spin densities (ASD)
of the radical anion of DNE 11 and the radical cation of DAA 10 by single point calculations from the neutral species. DFT reactivity indices were computed at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level.

ELF [54] studies were performed with the TopMod [55] program and using the corresponding B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) monodeterminantal wavefunctions over a grid spacing of 0.1 a.u.. For the BET study, the corresponding reaction channel was followed by performing the topological analysis of the ELF for 862 nuclear configurations along the IRC path. A BET procedure was used for the characterisation of the bond formation processes along the two meta/ortho regioisomeric channels associated to the polar reaction by performing the topological analysis of the ELF for 198 (meta) and 472 (ortho) nuclear configurations.

Supplementary Materials: BET study of the non-polar 32CA reaction between AI 1b and ethylene 3. ELF topological analysis of the C–C and N–C bond formation processes along the meta and ortho regioisomeric channel associated with the polar 32CA reaction between AI 1b and DCE 6.

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

32CA  [3+2] cycloaddition
AI    azomethine imine
ASD   atomic spin densities
A-TAC  allylic-type TAC
BET   Bonding Evolution Theory
cb-type  carbenoid-type
C-DFT  Conceptual DFT
DAA   diazoalkanes
DCE   dicyanoethylene
DFT   Density Functional Theory
DIEM  Distortion/Interaction Energy Model
ED    electron-deficient
ELF   electron localisation function
FMO   Frontier Molecular Orbital
GEDT  global electron density transfer
GS    ground state
MC    molecular complex
MEDT  Molecular Electron Density Theory
MO    molecular orbital
Ni    nitrone
pr-type pseudodiradical-type
pra-type pseudoradical type
P-TAC propargylic-type TAC
TAC three-atom-component
TCE tetracyanoethylene
TS transition state structure
zw-type zwitterionic-type

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