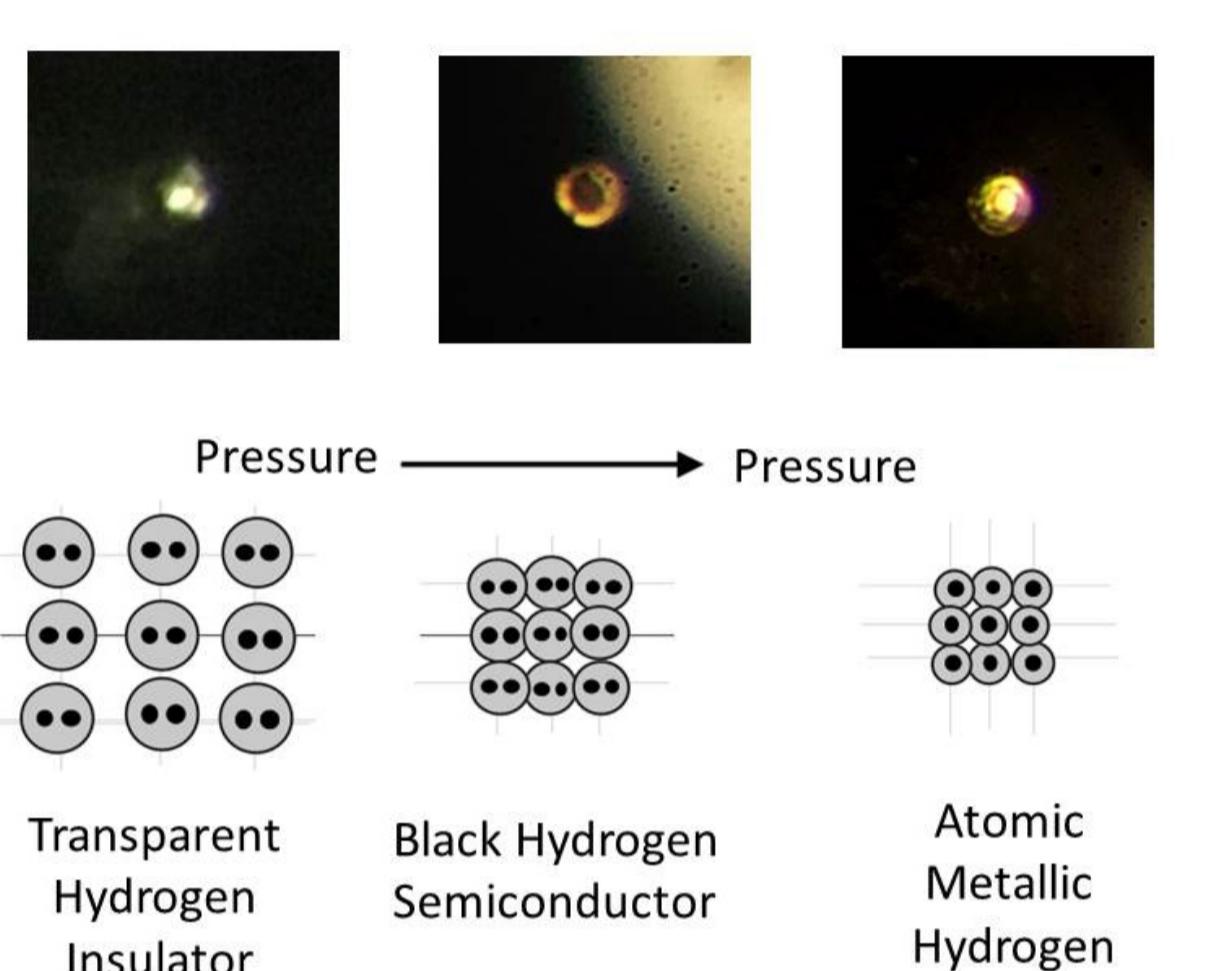


## Hidrogen metàl·lic i sòlid?

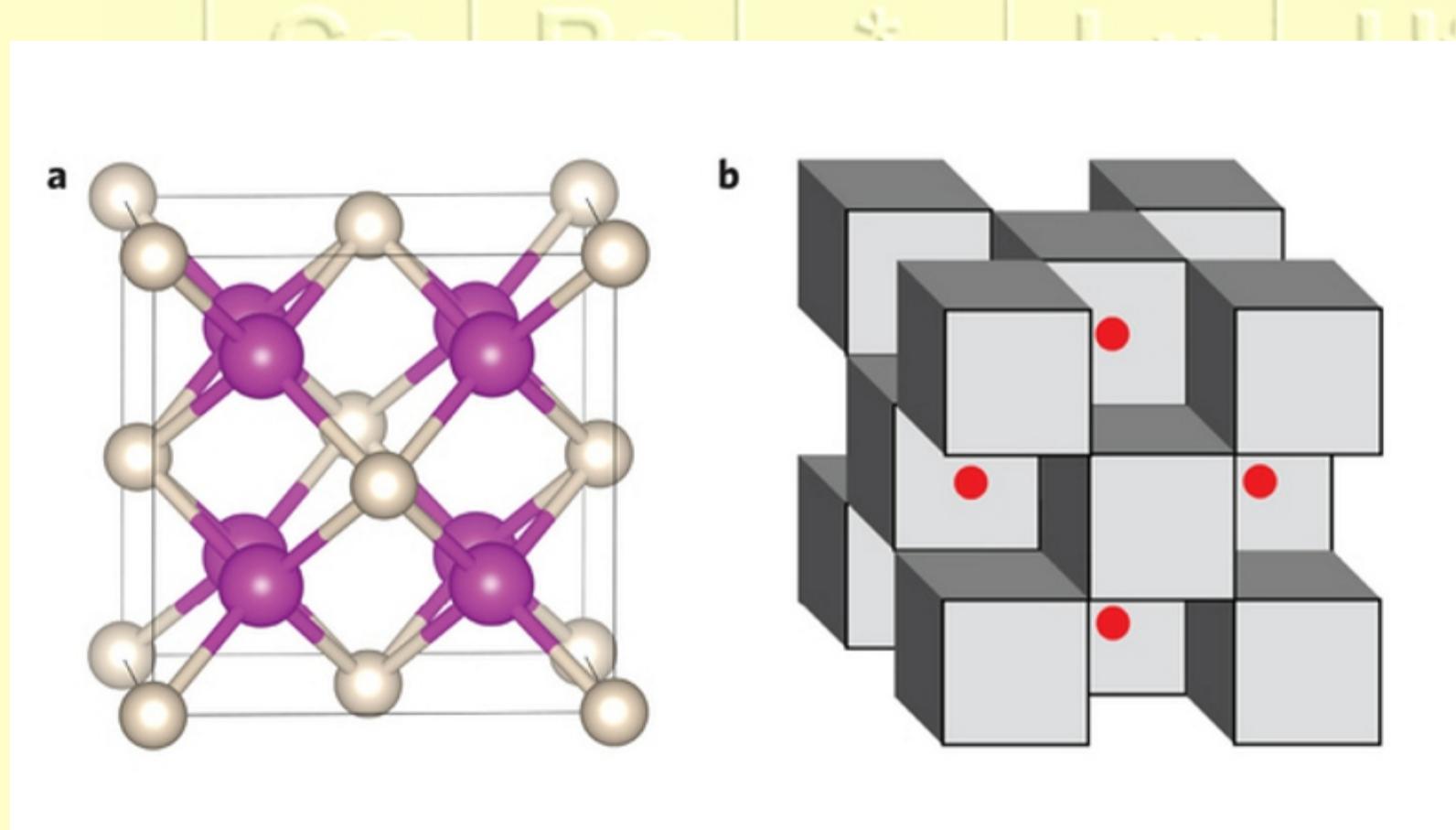
It has been over 80 years in the making but the metallic form of hydrogen has finally been created in the lab at extreme pressures, 495 GPa. (F. Silvera et al., *Science*, **2017**; DOI:10.1126/science.aal1579). At those extreme pressures, solid molecular hydrogen which consists of molecules on the lattice sites of the solid breaks down, and the tightly bound molecules transform into atomic hydrogen, which is a metal. In addition to helping scientists answer fundamental questions about the nature of matter, the material is theorized to have a wide range of applications, including as a room temperature superconductor.

However, the high pressure scientific community have responded with extreme scepticism. Some researchers cast doubt about the measurement of the pressures involved; others wonder if the metallic character or crystalline nature of the hydrogen have been clearly proved. (*Nature*, **2017**, 542; DOI:10.1038/nature.2017.21379. *Chemistry World*, 26 January 2017).



## L'heli ja forma compostos: Na<sub>2</sub>He

Chemistry textbook authors may soon have to rewrite sections covering noble gases and chemical inertness. An international research team has reported the synthesis of a helium-sodium compound that is stable at high pressures (X. Dong et al., *Nat. Chem.* **2017**, DOI:10.1038/nchem.2716). Using a computational strategy, known as evolutionary structure prediction, the team concluded that Na<sub>2</sub>He should be thermodynamically stable at pressures greater than roughly 115 GPa. On the basis of X-ray diffraction and other methods, the team reports that Na<sub>2</sub>He adopts a structure similar to that of the mineral fluorite and is electrically insulating. The material, which remains stable up to at least 1,000 GPa, is an electride, a type of crystal containing positively charged ionic cores and electrons that function as anions.

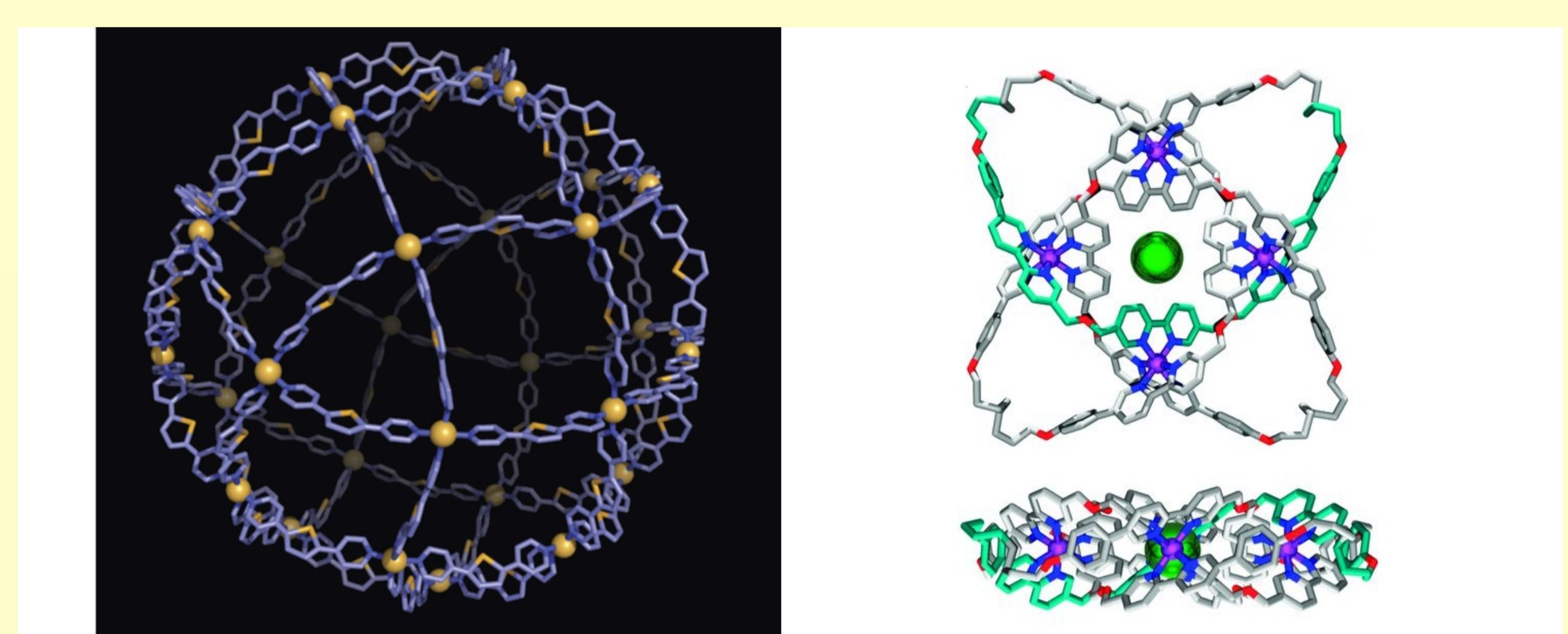


Ball-and-stick representation (a, pink and grey atoms represent Na and He, respectively) and polyhedral representation (b), where half of the Na<sub>2</sub> cubes are occupied by He atoms (shown as polyhedra) and half by 2e (shown as red spheres)

## Molècules gegants i entortolligades

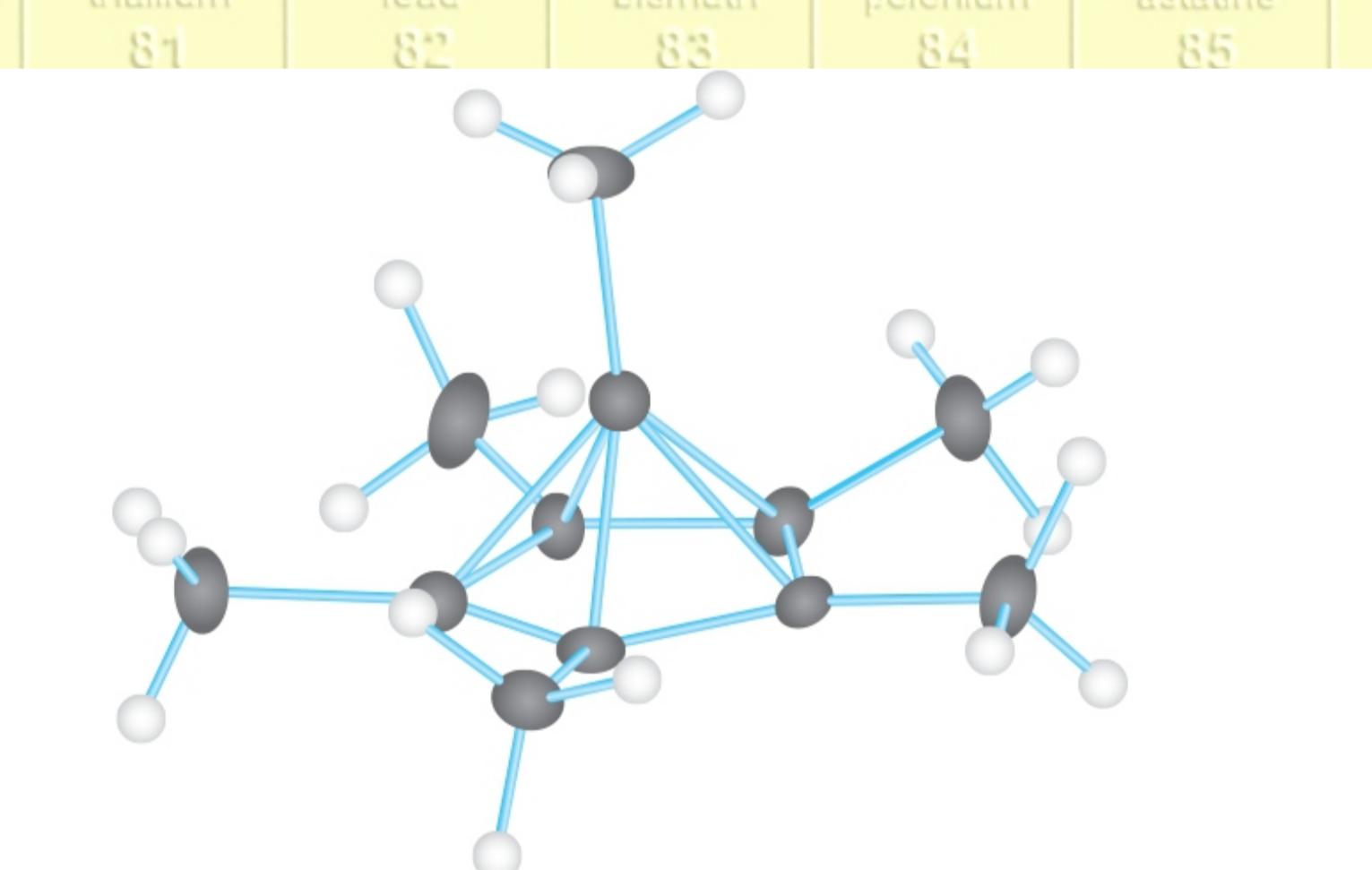
Several chemistry groups have been competing to make increasingly large cage-like supramolecules that can do useful things, such as host biomolecular guests or act as drugs. Now, Daishi Fujita and coworkers (*Nature*, **2016**, DOI: 10.1038/nature20771) have created a cage compound made with 48 palladium ions connected by 96 ligands. The research team believes that the new compound, Pd<sub>48</sub>L<sub>96</sub>, containing the combined 144 palladium ions and ligands represent the largest number of components in any self-assembled supramolecular cage structure, outside of biological structures.

On the other hand, using iron atoms to guide their molecular building blocks, chemists have now constructed the first braided knot (D.A. Leigh, et al., *Science*, **2017**, DOI: 10.1126/science.aal1619). This new knot is considerably more complex than previous examples of molecular knots, which were based on just two twisted strands. Leigh's group made the 192-atom knot with eight different crossing points by first assembling a circular helicate.



## 6 enllaços per al carboni

It has been suggested that the removal of two electrons from hexamethylenzene, leaving it with a positive charge, could dramatically change its shape. It seemed to rearrange so that one carbon atom was bonded to six other carbons. Now, C<sub>6</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub><sup>2+</sup> (SbF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·HSO<sub>3</sub>F has been obtained (M. Malischewski, K. Seppelt, *Angew. Chem. Int. Edition*, **2017**, 56, 368; DOI: 10.1002/anie.201608795) through the dissolution of hexamethyl Dewar benzene epoxide in HSO<sub>3</sub>F/SbF<sub>6</sub> and crystallized as the SbF<sub>6</sub> salt upon addition of excess of anhydrous hydrogen fluoride. The crystal structure confirms the pentagonal pyramidal structure of the dication. The apical carbon is bound to one methyl group (distance 1.479(3) Å) and to the five basal carbon atoms (distances 1.694(2)–1.715(3) Å).



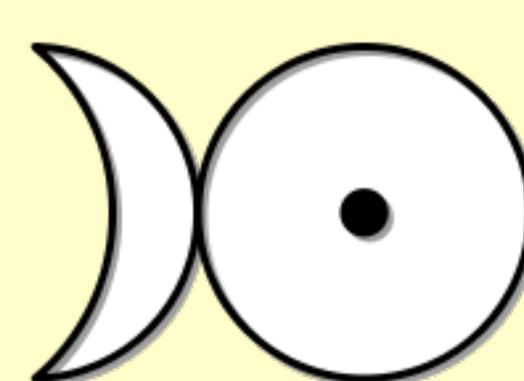
## Breus

- Els científics s'han mobilitzat contra l'ordre del president dels EUA, Donald Trump, que prohíbeix l'entrada en aquell país de visitants de set països: Iraq, Iran, Líbia, Somàlia, Sudan i Síria. A data de l'1 de febrer, més de 18.000 científics havien signat una petició oposant-se a aquesta ordre. (<https://notoimmigrationban.com>).
- L'anàlisi isotòpica de la relació de <sup>177</sup>Hf i <sup>176</sup>Hf del material obtingut per l'Apol·lo 14, revela que la Lluna es formà fa 4600 milions d'anys, contrariament a estimacions prèvies que la feien uns millions d'anys més jove. (M. Borboni et al., *Sci. Adv.*, **2017**; DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.1602365).
- La cromatografia de gasos ha permès confirmar que les camees de la reina Nefertiti, de la XVIII dinastia egipcia (1370-1330 a. C), s'exposen al Museu egipci de Torí. (M.E. Habicht et al., *Plos One*, **2016**; DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0166571).

## Avui recomanem

Els articles «Molecules of the year» (*Chem. Eng. News*, **2016**, 94(49), 19.12.2016) i «Cutting edge Chemistry» (*Chemistry World*, 15.12. **2016**) que presenten un recull dels descobriments més rellevants, en el camp de la química, de l'any 2016. Com ja és habitual la major part han estat destacats per *Notícies Inorgàniques*.

## L'element



Probablement l'estri més antic coneugut de platí, número atòmic 78, és un casc egipci del segle VII a. C; de totes maneres, aquest és l'únic objecte trobat a l'antic Egipte i tampoc no hi ha cap rastre que les cultures gregues, romanes i xineses en tinguessin coneixement de la seva existència; en canvi a Amèrica del sud ja es troba en monuments funeraris de 2000 anys d'antiguitat. De fet, és difícil de saber qui fou el primer en adonar-se que es tractava d'un metall. L'any 1557, l'italià Julius Scalinger, va descriure un metall, trobat a l'Amèrica central, que era impossible de fondre, que probablement era platí. El 1726, José Sánchez de la Torre descrigué la separació de l'or del platí. Tradicionalment, la descoberta del platí s'atribueix a Antonio de Ulloa (Sevilla, 1717 - Cadis, 1795), que el descobrí a Esmeraldas (Equador). El seu nom prové del terme espanyol "platina", per la seva semblança apparent amb la plata. És un dels pocs elements que té un símbol alquímic, atès l'interès en transformar-lo en or. A la naturalesa es troba lliure, principalment en forma de palletes, o en aliatges amb l'iridi. El principal país productor és Sudàfrica (ca. 75%) seguit de Rússia i EUA. La producció anual sobrepassa les 200 Tm i les reserves són superiors a 30.000 Tm. És un dels elements menys reactius, fins i tot a temperatures elevades. Entre els seus compostos pot destacar-se el «*cis*-platí», *cis*-[PtCl<sub>2</sub>(NH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>], que fou un dels primers compostos amb una activitat anticancerosa comprovada.

lanthanum	cerium	praseodymium	neodymium	promelhium	samarium	euroeuropium	gadolinium	terbium	dysprosium	holmium	erbium	thulium	yterbiom
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb
Actinoids	Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md
**actinoids	[227.03]	[232.04]	[231.04]	[238.03]	[237.05]	[244.06]	[243.06]	[247.07]	[247.07]	[251.06]	[252.06]	[257.10]	[258.10]