Structure, stability and cluster-cage interactions in nitride clusterfullerenes M<sub>3</sub>N@C<sub>2n</sub> (M

= Sc, Y; 2n = 68 - 98): a density functional theory study

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Supporting information:

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*Table S1.* Relative energies ( $\Delta E$ , kJ/mol), binding energies (BE-1, eV) and averaged M–N and M––C distances ( $d_{M-N}$ ,  $d_{M-C}$ , Å) in selected M<sub>3</sub>N@C<sub>2n</sub> isomers (M = Sc, Y; 2n = 68–98) as computed at the DFT level

	Cage	$Sc_3N@C_{2n}$				$Y_3N(a)C_{2n}$			
$C_{2n}$	isomer	$\Delta E$	BE-1	$d_{ m Sc-N}$	$d_{\rm Sc-C}$	$\Delta E$	BE-1	$d_{ m Y-N}$	$d_{ m Y-C}$
C <sub>68</sub>	<i>D</i> <sub>3</sub> : 6140	0.0	-12.50	1.993	2.326		-9.01	2.039	2.415
C <sub>68</sub>	$C_{2v}$ : 6073	246.0	-9.07	2.025	2.287				
$C_{70}$	C <sub>2v</sub> : 7854	0.0	-12.43	2.036	2.331		-9.30	2.058	2.410
$C_{70}$	D <sub>5h</sub> : 8149	163.7	-6.91	1.969	2.266				
C <sub>72</sub>	<i>C</i> <sub>s</sub> : 10528	0.0	-10.56	2.043	2.322	33.4	-7.84	2.062	2.414
C <sub>72</sub>	$C_1$ : 10482	26.7	-11.75	2.057	2.342	0.0	-9.65	2.085	2.443
C <sub>72</sub>	$C_1$ : 10468	48.9	-11.45	2.073	2.347	25.5	-9.32	2.070	2.438
C <sub>72</sub>	D <sub>2</sub> : 10611	54.6	-10.51	1.985	2.265				
C <sub>74</sub>	<i>C</i> <sub>2v</sub> : 14239	0.0	-10.59	2.034	2.311	86.8	-7.77	2.090	2.409
C <sub>74</sub>	<i>C</i> <sub>3</sub> : 13492	9.9	-11.74	2.051	2.352	0.0	-9.93	2.100	2.455
$C_{74}$	<i>C</i> <sub>2</sub> : 13295	18.7	-11.31	2.007	2.309				
C <sub>76</sub>	<i>T</i> <sub>d</sub> : 19151	0.0	-10.10	2.017	2.307	37.7	-7.61	2.092	2.403
C <sub>76</sub>	<i>C</i> <sub>s</sub> : 17490	20.0	-11.71	2.070	2.323	0.0	-9.81	2.105	2.431
$C_{78}$	D <sub>3h</sub> : 24109	0.0	-10.51	2.012	2.307	83.6	-7.53	2.076	2.393
$C_{78}$	<i>C</i> <sub>2</sub> : 22010	80.4	-12.10	2.077	2.352	0.0	-10.82	2.100	2.466
$C_{80}$	<i>I</i> <sub>h</sub> : 31924	0.0	-12.48	2.034	2.315	0.0	-10.38	2.060	2.406
$C_{80}$	D <sub>5h</sub> : 31923	67.0	-12.38	2.041	2.308	70.2	-10.25	2.065	2.401
$C_{80}$	<i>C</i> <sub>1</sub> : 28325	262.8	-11.25	2.085	2.352	90.0	-10.58	2.135	2.492
C <sub>82</sub>	<i>C</i> <sub>2v</sub> : 39718	0.0	-10.78	2.062	2.332	29.6	-9.29	2.099	2.426
$C_{82}$	<i>C</i> <sub>2v</sub> : 39705	17.7	-11.99	2.082	2.355	0.0	-10.98	2.119	2.470
$C_{82}$	C <sub>s</sub> : 39663	49.8	-11.36	2.059	2.337	32.6	-10.35	2.131	2.457
C <sub>84</sub>	C <sub>s</sub> : 51365	0.0	-11.90	2.089	2.335	0.0	-11.32	2.156	2.482
C <sub>84</sub>	<i>D</i> <sub>2</sub> : 51589	13.8	-9.64	2.107	2.360	33.2	-8.85	2.136	2.454
$C_{86}$	C <sub>s</sub> : 63757	0.0	-10.12	2.079	2.329	26.1	-9.52	2.157	2.476
$C_{86}$	<i>D</i> <sub>3</sub> : 63761	12.2	-10.04	2.083	2.351	3.7	-9.79	2.173	2.480
$C_{86}$	<i>C</i> <sub>2v</sub> : 63751	28.6	-10.44	2.084	2.345	0.0	-10.40	2.196	2.515
$C_{88}$	<i>D</i> <sub>2</sub> : 81738	0.0	-10.56	2.083	2.351	0.0	-10.37	2.195	2.507
$C_{90}$	<i>C</i> <sub>2</sub> : 44	52.8	-9.52	2.103	2.378	0.0	-9.53	2.230	2.541
C <sub>90</sub>	<i>C</i> <sub>2</sub> : 43	0.0	-10.51	2.043	2.323	8.0	-9.89	2.224	2.530
C <sub>92</sub>	D <sub>3</sub> : 85		-10.90	2.173	2.404		-10.90	2.171	2.492
C <sub>94</sub>	<i>C</i> <sub>2</sub> : 121		-10.14	2.030	2.323		-10.02	2.257	2.541
$C_{96}$	D <sub>2</sub> : 186		-10.40	2.061	2.327		-10.06	2.255	2.525
C <sub>98</sub>	<i>C</i> <sub>2</sub> : 166		-9.36	2.056	2.324		-9.24	2.260	2.537

<i>Table S2.</i> Relative energies ( $\Delta$	E, kJ/mol), and binding	energies (BE-2, eV) of th	ne most stable $M_3N@C_{2n}$ (2n	= $68-88$ ; M = Sc, Y) isomers as
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computed at the DFT level

Cage		$Sc_3N@C_{2n}$	Cage		$Sc_3N@C_{2n}$			$Sc_3N@C_{2n}$	$Y_3N@C_{2n}$	Cage		$Sc_3N@C_{2n}$	$Y_3N@C_{2n}$
$C_{2n}$ isomer	APPs	$\Delta E$ BE-2	$C_{2n}$ isomer	APPs	$\Delta E$ BE-2	$C_{2n}$ isomer	APPs	$\Delta E$ BE-2	$\Delta E$ BE-2	$C_{2n}$ isomer	APPs	$\Delta E BE-2$	$\Delta E$ BE-2
C <sub>68</sub> D <sub>3</sub> : 6140	3	0.0 -137.7	C <sub>70</sub> C <sub>2v</sub> : 7854	3	0.0 -136.7	C <sub>76</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 17490	2	20.0 -134.7	0.0 -125.5	C <sub>80</sub> I <sub>h</sub> : 31924	0	0.0 -133.2	0.0 -123.9
$C_{68} C_{2v}$ : 6073	2	246.0 -135.3	C <sub>70</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 7957	2	140.0 135.4	C <sub>76</sub> C <sub>2v</sub> : 19138	1	41.7 -134.6	103.2 -124.6	C <sub>80</sub> D <sub>5h</sub> : 31923	0	67.0 -133.4	70.2 -124.1
$C_{68} C_1: 6102$	3	95.6 -137.2	C <sub>70</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 7852	3	21.6 -136.9	C <sub>76</sub> T <sub>d</sub> : 19151	0	0.0 -135.1	37.7 -125.3	C <sub>80</sub> C <sub>2v</sub> : 31922	0	166.5 -133.5	93.9 -124.9
C <sub>68</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 6118	3	71.4 -137.6	C <sub>70</sub> D <sub>5h</sub> : 8149	0	163.7 -135.5	C <sub>76</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 17465	2	83.1 -134.6	55.4 -125.5	C <sub>80</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 31891	1	185.1 -133.9	149.8 -124.9
C <sub>68</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 6146	2	191.7 -136.4	C <sub>70</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 7960	2	179.0 -135.4	C <sub>76</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 17765	2	116.4 -134.2	80.2 -125.3	C <sub>80</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 28325	2	227.4 -133.6	90.0 -125.7
$C_{68} C_s: 6072$	3	205.9 -136.4	C <sub>70</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 7886	3	39.2 -136.9	C <sub>76</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 17512	2	176.6 -133.7	71.1 -125.4	C <sub>80</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 28319	1	239.7 -133.7	145.2 -125.3
$C_{68} C_s: 6089$	3	256.9 -135.8	C <sub>70</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 7922	3	68.0 -136.6	C <sub>76</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 18161	2	70.0 -134.8	26.1 -125.9	C <sub>80</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 29591	2	255.4 -133.6	110.6 -125.7
C <sub>68</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 6138	3	87.9 -137.6	C <sub>70</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 7887	3	43.6 -136.9	C <sub>76</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 17588	2	81.1 -134.8	85.7 -125.4	C <sub>80</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 28324	1	261.4 -133.6	168.5 -125.2
$C_{68} C_1: 6116$	3	123.9 -137.4	C <sub>70</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 7851	3	28.6 -137.1	C <sub>76</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 17760	2	95.7 -134.7	83.7 -125.5	C <sub>80</sub> C <sub>2v</sub> : 31920	0	290.5 -133.3	124.5 -125.7
C <sub>68</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 6039	3	200.9 -136.6	C <sub>70</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 7849	3	35.6 -137.1	C <sub>76</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 17459	1	106.2 -134.6	149.7 -124.8	C <sub>80</sub> C <sub>1</sub> :31876	1	232.1 -133.9	144.2 -125.5
C <sub>72</sub> D <sub>2</sub> : 10611	2	54.6 -134.9	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 13295	2	18.7 -134.7	C <sub>82</sub> C <sub>2v</sub> : 39718	0	0.0 -133.1	29.6 -124.3	C <sub>84</sub> D <sub>2</sub> : 51589	0	13.8 -132.4	33.2 -124.4
$C_{72} C_1$ : 10610	2	34.6 -135.9	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 13333	2	51.3 -134.6	C <sub>82</sub> C <sub>2v</sub> : 39705	1	17.7 -133.2	0.0 -124.9	C <sub>84</sub> C <sub>s</sub> :51365	1	0.0 -132.6	0.0 -124.8
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 10616	2	49.9 -135.7	C <sub>74</sub> D <sub>3h</sub> : 14246	5 0	21.3 -135.0	C <sub>82</sub> C <sub>3v</sub> : 39717	0	58.1 -133.0	119.1 -123.9	C <sub>84</sub> D <sub>2d</sub> : 51591	0	18.0 -132.7	48.8 -124.5
$C_{72} C_1: 10482$	3	26.7 -136.0	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 13408	2	58.5 -134.7	C <sub>82</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 39715	0	41.2 -133.2	51.0 -124.7	C <sub>84</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 51578	0	43.4 -132.5	49.3 -124.6
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 10528	2	0.0 -136.3	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 13290	2	51.9 -134.8	C <sub>82</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 39663	1	49.8 -133.2	32.6 -124.9	C <sub>84</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 51583	0	43.5 -132.5	60.7 -124.5
$C_{72} C_{2v}$ : 11188	1	21.2 -136.1	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 13291	2	63.1 -134.8	C <sub>82</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 39714	0	89.5 -133.1	54.4 -125.0	C <sub>84</sub> D <sub>2</sub> : 51590	0	39.0 -132.6	77.3 -124.3
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 10518	3	40.5 -136.1	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 13292	2	70.7 -134.9	C <sub>82</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 39704	1	94.2 -133.2	103.2 -124.7	C <sub>84</sub> C <sub>2v</sub> : 51575	0	31.8 -132.8	73.4 -124.5
$C_{72} C_1$ : 10468	3	48.9 -136.0	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 13391	2	98.5 -134.6	$C_{82} C_s: 36652$	2	146.7 -132.8	65.1 -125.2	C <sub>84</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 50322	1	83.1 -132.3	68.1 -124.6
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 10557	2	107.7 -135.4	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>3</sub> : 13492	3	9.9 -135.6	C <sub>82</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 39656	1	147.8 -133.0	104.2 -125.0	C <sub>84</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 51350	1	70.8 -132.5	63.0 -124.7
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 10612	1	36.9 -136.2	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>2v</sub> : 14239	2	0.0 -135.8	C <sub>82</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 39713	0	118.8 -133.2	104.0 -124.9	C <sub>84</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 51425	1	57.0 -132.6	58.9 -124.8
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 10626	2	116.6 -135.4	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 13384	2	104.4 -134.8								
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 10526	3	55.6 -136.1	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 13336	2	50.4 -135.4	C <sub>86</sub> D <sub>3</sub> : 63761	0	12.2 -131.4	3.7 -123.9	C <sub>88</sub> D <sub>2</sub> : 81738	0	0.0 -131.2	0.0 -123.8
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 10693	2	53.5 -136.2	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 13479	3	38.4 -135.6	C <sub>86</sub> C <sub>2v</sub> : 63751	0	28.6 -131.6	0.0 -124.3	C <sub>88</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 81735	0	64.5 -131.3	55.5 -123.9
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 10688	3	56.6 -136.2	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 13961	2	132.1 -134.6	C <sub>86</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 63757	0	0.0 -132.1	26.1 -124.3	C <sub>88</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 81734	0	60.9 -131.4	77.4 -123.8
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 10469	3	70.9 -136.0	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 13771	2	57.1 -135.4	C <sub>86</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 58832	1	45.8 -131.8	40.8 -124.3	C <sub>88</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 81733	0	58.0 -131.5	91.3 -123.7
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 10774	3	40.9 -136.4	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 13549	2	49.6 -135.5	C <sub>86</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 63755	0	33.5 -132.0	34.6 -124.4	C <sub>88</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 81729	0	63.3 -131.5	86.9 -123.8
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 10615	2	66.5 -136.1	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 13410	2	74.9 -135.3	C <sub>86</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 63291	1	51.3 -131.9	54.9 -124.2	C <sub>88</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 80982	1	57.2 -131.6	78.3 -124.0
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 10554	2	148.1 -135.3	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 13393	1	65.7 -135.5	C <sub>86</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 63339	1	48.0 -132.0	56.2 -124.4	C <sub>88</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 81731	0	86.1 -131.3	86.9 -123.9
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 10849	2	132.1 -135.5	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 13334	2	72.7 -135.4	C <sub>86</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 63229	1	87.9 -131.7	69.5 -124.3	C <sub>88</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 69747	1	80.1 -131.4	75.5 -124.0
C <sub>72</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 10538	2	51.2 -136.4	C <sub>74</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 14049	1	47.1 -135.7	C <sub>86</sub> C <sub>2</sub> : 63756	0	44.9 -132.2	84.5 -124.2	C <sub>88</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 81712	0	43.2 -131.8	76.1 -124.0
						C <sub>86</sub> C <sub>s</sub> : 63750	0	80.6 -131.8	87.7 -124.2	C <sub>88</sub> C <sub>1</sub> : 70333	1	105.0 -131.2	79.3 -124.0



**Figure S1.** Structural correlation between  $C_{70}$  ( $C_{2v}$ : 7854, left),  $C_{72}$  ( $C_s$ : 10528, middle), and  $C_{74}$  ( $C_{2v}$ : 14239, right) cages, all corresponding to the most stable Sc<sub>3</sub>N@ $C_{2n}$  isomers. Red dots show approximate positions of carbon atoms to be added to  $C_{70}$  to form  $C_{72}$  and to  $C_{72}$  to form  $C_{74}$ . Grey lines show the bonds in the predecessors, which are broken after addition of two carbon atoms. Gray and black dots and gray arrows show the atoms involved in Stones-Wales rearrangements.



**Figure S2a**. Correlation between  $C_{82}$  ( $C_s$ : 39663, left) and  $C_{84}$  ( $C_s$ : 51365, right). Red dots show where carbon atoms should be added to  $C_{82}$  to form  $C_{84}$ . Two Stone-Wales rearrangements are also required to complete transformation.



**Figure S2b**. Correlation between  $C_{78}$  ( $D_{3h}$ : 24109, left) and  $C_{82}$  ( $C_s$ : 39663, right). Red dots show where carbon atoms should be added to  $C_{78}$  to form  $C_{82}$ .