

Hydrogenation of aluminium hexamer: ab initio molecular orbital theory and density functional theory study.

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The detailed mechanism of the reaction of aluminium hexamer with H₂ molecule to form a dihydride has been studied using ab initio molecular orbital theory and density functional theory. For the bare Al₆ cluster, the singlet state distorted octahedron (D_{3d}) is found to be the ground-state structure. The hydrogenation reaction of the singlet state Al₆ cluster is described by the lack of activation barrier for H₂ cleavage, consistent with experiment. The most stable product isomer involves two H bridges on the Al–Al edges of the same Al–Al–Al face of the Al₆ octahedron and its formation is exothermic by about 30 kcal/mol.

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