## Polymorphism of Trimeric Perfluoro-*ortho*-phenylene Mercury, $[Hg(o-C_6F_4)]_3$

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Dedicated to Professor Hubert Schmidbaur on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday

Three new modifications of trimeric perfluoro-*ortho*-phenylene mercury (2) have been investigated by single crystal X-ray diffraction. In each of these modifications, the molecules of 2 form extended stacks. Within each stack, the successive molecules are parallel and separated by approximately 3.3 - 3.4 Å. The packing observed in the different structures is rationalized on the basis of secondary mercury- $\pi$  interactions, mercuriophilic interactions and electrostatic interactions. Altogether, little preference is given for one particular type of interaction. The packing appears to be dominated by non-directional van der Waals interactions between molecules of 2 which are largely aromatic and whose overall polarizability is magnified by relativistic effects at the mercury(II) centers.

*Key words:* Polymorphism, Mercury, Stacking, Metallophilic Interactions, van der Waals Interactions