

## Electronic Supporting Information

for

### **Ammonia as an efficient catalyst for decomposition of carbonic acid: A quantum chemical investigation**

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**Table S1** Relative energies (in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) of all species with respect to the isolated reactants involved in decomposition of carbonic acid calculated at the three different levels of theory. Here CA-X, TS<sub>x</sub> and CW-X stands for the pre-reactive complex, transition state and post-reactive complex of X-catalyzed reaction (X = WM and WD, AM, AD and FA)

Catalyst	Species	M06-2X/ aug-cc-pVTZ	MP2/ aug-cc-pVTZ	CCSD(T)/ aug-cc-pVTZ
None	CA	0.0	0.0	0.0
	TS	44.9	40.8	43.9
	CW	-3.7	-10.1	-7.4
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WM	CA-WM	-9.5	-9.3	-9.3
	TS <sub>WM</sub>	15.8	15.2	17.9
	CW-WM	-11.6	-17.7	-15.1
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WD	CA-WD	-13.7	-13.7	-13.5
	TS <sub>WD</sub>	6.0	6.6	9.4
	CW-WD	-16.5	-22.1	-19.4
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AM	CA-AM	-12.2	-12.3	-12.0
	TS <sub>AM</sub>	10.2	7.7	10.6
	CW-AM	-12.3	-18.8	-16.0
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AD	CA-AD	-18.7	-19.4	-18.9
	TS <sub>AD</sub>	-3.8	-4.5	-2.0
	CW-AD	-19.3	-25.9	-22.9
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FA	CA-FA	-12.2	-12.6	-12.6
	TS <sub>FA</sub>	4.1	3.9	6.1
	CW-FA	-14.3	-19.9	-17.4

**Table S2** Optimized geometries in Cartesian coordinates and normal mode frequencies of all species calculated at MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ level of theory

Species	Cartesian coordinate (Å)	Vibrational frequencies (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
CA	C -0.060696 -0.133494 -0.000032	
	O -0.779495 -1.093599 0.000009	496.39 544.653 572.237
	O 1.276931 -0.194607 0.000008	605.857 790.357 967.833
	H 1.624839 0.706962 0.000007	1159.568 1270.334 1409.041
	O -0.474827 1.158895 0.000004	1879.919 3796.856 3804.288
	H -1.441538 1.128493 0.000022	
CW	C 0.894344 0.003275 -0.000036	
	O 0.899596 1.173203 0.000114	4.168 97.016 111.372
	O 0.924155 -1.166187 -0.000052	150.911 165.096 648.601
	H -2.478377 -0.760632 0.001668	662.712 1328.626 1627.289
	O -1.878007 -0.009492 -0.000193	2404.378 3818.824 3944.670
	H -2.453637 0.760782 -0.000407	
TS	C 0.348400 0.084792 -0.006743	
	O 1.360754 -0.514254 -0.000946	-1684.612 397.487 501.476
	O -0.182545 1.233878 0.023464	626.211 723.315 789.505
	H -1.198507 0.536527 0.032401	940.464 1264.748 1302.201
	O -1.130663 -0.695968 -0.107208	1985.134 2190.221 3780.694
	H -1.272262 -1.234526 0.685580	
CA-WM	C 0.897095 -0.072478 0.002330	
	O 2.097991 -0.126568 0.019310	77.2246 117.8669 184.6784
	O 0.081851 -1.113392 -0.009694	213.2577 294.7233 433.9362
	H -0.854308 -0.809426 -0.027224	556.8863 570.9267 628.0678
	O 0.198469 1.109400 -0.005222	790.9354 854.2377 958.3307
	H 0.877672 1.798099 -0.004558	1189.4082 1345.0185 1466.6503
	H -3.079343 -0.156448 0.595981	1623.2309 1874.2634 3435.1441
	H -2.075731 0.868397 0.047999	3789.2477 3793.4974 3918.3785
	O -2.409668 -0.027659 -0.082667	
CW-WM	C -1.354702 -0.465616 0.003664	
	O -2.275819 0.243184 -0.087294	32.6045 99.3577 102.8496
	O -0.462254 -1.221977 0.094274	123.5066 148.4672 181.0786
	H 1.652469 -1.038870 -0.045305	197.6712 217.6134 280.7546
	O 0.495865 1.579862 0.120828	482.9014 638.4357 645.3031
	H 0.632797 2.444502 -0.274183	661.1433 1331.5448 1628.3157
	H 3.044127 -0.761895 0.519569	1648.5028 2408.9585 3685.7272
	H 1.335481 1.107348 0.004885	3787.5944 3913.0525 3918.8378
	O 2.425126 -0.470743 -0.156178	
TS <sub>WM</sub>	C 0.826834 -0.202595 -0.020493	
	O 1.986682 0.024672 0.171306	-1101.2445 109.0828 369.3814
	O 0.061049 -1.179895 -0.134735	429.6843 506.8299 547.6224
	H -1.275754 -0.751812 -0.049005	591.4968 640.3274 691.9895
	O -0.037714 1.114600 -0.192845	767.1696 785.5810 1057.6822
	H 0.440293 1.833169 0.240391	1187.5310 1343.5991 1409.8946
	H -2.470630 -0.115912 0.901973	1602.8425 1802.4251 1999.2702
	H -1.214871 0.776863 0.028843	2304.6912 3815.8149 3841.8385
	O -2.065023 -0.025220 0.031370	

CA-WD	C	1.418115	-0.025101	-0.013876			
	O	2.587680	-0.299661	-0.075719	25.7033	81.9801	120.8444
	O	0.890580	1.155780	-0.241517	150.0192	217.0661	220.6850
	H	-0.090812	1.185997	-0.080857	258.8435	294.0054	300.8475
	O	0.463829	-0.968910	0.316025	432.8798	536.2812	561.1737
	H	0.978851	-1.767911	0.500173	612.6177	633.8700	789.5171
	H	-2.025534	1.878717	0.891808	830.3265	947.1864	984.0237
	H	-2.181062	0.590299	0.043657	1208.2882	1348.8029	1434.8871
	H	-1.405953	-1.321759	-0.091777	1629.3514	1652.8300	1872.9531
	H	-2.661800	-1.597456	-0.936914	3229.6173	3555.2837	3715.2530
	O	-1.716371	1.449187	0.089231	3778.2743	3893.9150	3901.4827
	O	-2.366014	-1.188557	-0.118375			
CW-WD	C	-1.956598	0.204981	-0.267200			
	O	-2.637770	-0.733803	-0.128127	11.7840	29.9614	78.0064
	O	-1.302694	1.164954	-0.418872	82.6306	100.8991	171.9167
	H	1.018235	2.022339	0.142117	189.7089	199.8796	222.7317
	O	0.317317	-1.050326	0.936817	226.4127	274.7306	323.9979
	H	0.230963	-1.801780	1.529374	388.6173	474.7628	603.0356
	H	1.075263	0.762362	0.988626	643.7374	649.6029	663.3766
	H	2.319487	0.100811	-0.566645	870.4335	1329.7097	1640.0060
	H	1.015382	-1.292513	0.299479	1648.3376	1670.9791	2406.4572
	H	3.258445	-1.053468	-0.976079	3553.6631	3613.4894	3694.0579
	O	2.331543	-0.804217	-0.933607	3885.1085	3901.4793	3902.7252
	O	1.644331	1.427437	0.567079			
TS <sub>WD</sub>	C	-1.322973	-0.214637	-0.026772			
	O	-2.490865	-0.053486	0.235706	-602.6739	40.4332	59.5854
	O	-0.555482	-1.173196	-0.213682	123.0983	366.5743	396.6156
	H	0.917330	-1.260842	-0.111070	409.5121	478.4765	510.8520
	O	-0.577251	1.118773	-0.194451	548.9359	564.1045	584.7943
	H	-1.211154	1.788661	0.094697	696.2055	744.0625	777.3313
	H	2.188038	-1.690126	0.767955	998.7670	1060.4564	1120.4571
	H	2.007728	0.124666	0.123871	1315.8492	1390.4042	1504.0335
	H	0.724997	1.254030	0.019007	1621.1677	1721.0448	1781.9006
	H	2.242394	1.640017	-0.590508	1912.6723	1946.6823	2678.1400
	O	1.816794	1.218309	0.165605	3797.8525	3841.6421	3866.7790
	O	1.940367	-1.181472	-0.011092			
CA-AM	C	0.000000	0.932890	0.000000			
	O	0.042728	2.137673	0.000000	50.884	77.949	102.101
	O	1.042330	0.126809	0.000000	241.7131	299.5776	377.2078
	H	0.751783	-0.833964	0.000000	568.4981	572.5081	634.8974
	O	-1.178967	0.230547	0.000000	798.93	963.307	1058.656
	H	-1.866071	0.911163	0.000000	1122.743	1194.641	1360.140
	N	0.235767	-2.464579	0.000000	1499.472	1665.855	1670.321
	H	0.494179	-3.005375	0.815904	1860.181	3053.060	3498.978
	H	0.494179	-3.005375	-0.815904	3642.161	3646.36	3793.994
	H	-0.773164	-2.371966	0.000000			
CW-AM	C	-1.428414	-0.461571	0.000020			
	O	-2.347598	0.257659	0.005305	29.6956	84.4920	90.0713
	O	-0.539282	-1.225693	-0.005148	104.6744	120.0685	130.1069
	H	1.850320	-1.127834	0.004590	205.5288	219.3456	253.7383
	O	0.450428	1.516319	-0.006018	512.4337	643.2068	662.1362
	H	0.690032	2.445926	0.012775	756.0715	1098.058	1330.487
	N	2.562453	-0.405934	0.003598	1644.765	1674.348	1679.667
	H	3.142805	-0.559357	-0.811483	2406.495	3493.030	3530.013
	H	3.145367	-0.559473	0.816813	3635.474	3647.592	3906.964
	H	1.296411	1.025424	-0.001099			

TS <sub>AM</sub>	C	0.909348	-0.227252	-0.025889			
	O	2.036271	0.108305	0.227857	-614.091	78.7365	234.4123
	O	0.203548	-1.218484	-0.179407	267.7703	373.9783	424.8637
	H	-1.584444	-0.882721	0.015534	432.1462	539.4310	610.0797
	O	-0.042424	1.102730	-0.243949	707.9513	757.6924	914.0791
	H	0.454224	1.833308	0.145187	1059.377	1279.305	1378.643
	N	-2.165191	-0.036342	0.148869	1571.522	1605.748	1699.753
	H	-2.620676	-0.047858	1.052269	1841.963	2000.875	3244.595
	H	-2.852283	0.054021	-0.588586	3570.111	3654.266	3816.085
	H	-1.275737	0.720749	0.052834			
CA-AD	C	-1.421406	-0.066824	-0.033150			
	O	-2.541033	-0.476912	-0.219494	24.4868	74.0686	99.1858
	O	-0.913596	1.043092	-0.510494	109.9298	139.8731	164.2814
	H	0.036100	1.215181	-0.178369	190.5739	244.9819	270.6929
	O	-0.509270	-0.759769	0.735566	334.3417	392.8406	535.2545
	H	-1.010115	-1.521841	1.059377	569.7160	591.6747	643.8864
	N	1.567830	1.584030	0.268110	799.9383	953.9550	1092.807
	H	1.642030	1.784015	1.258084	1144.330	1190.245	1201.535
	H	1.972331	2.369468	-0.226712	1364.674	1510.731	1656.179
	H	2.135788	0.756600	0.074633	1671.083	1681.347	1700.875
	N	2.479420	-1.266341	-0.355755	1856.211	2748.002	3393.325
	H	1.517596	-1.426669	-0.073563	3484.145	3576.605	3622.137
	H	3.060079	-1.900220	0.179152	3641.407	3642.474	3785.156
	H	2.555076	-1.550706	-1.324818			
CW-AD	C	-1.767654	0.226591	-0.390186			
	O	-2.689588	-0.161195	0.213782	23.6668	29.7038	71.9535
	O	-0.874405	0.637493	-1.027967	88.5027	107.6367	127.9603
	H	1.121995	2.147882	-0.076733	144.6423	163.2405	174.7847
	O	0.125833	-0.927075	1.268145	216.3126	241.6950	246.1339
	H	-0.000831	-1.678463	1.853228	311.0812	345.3892	416.4948
	N	1.777416	1.602590	0.469825	581.3941	639.9217	663.8051
	H	1.220467	1.025303	1.093824	852.0325	1098.009	1138.489
	H	2.300910	2.253846	1.041148	1327.665	1644.303	1657.245
	H	2.209368	-0.220824	-0.632608	1680.775	1684.866	1694.072
	N	1.959540	-1.190869	-0.828625	2402.401	3380.706	3427.594
	H	0.765885	-1.227359	0.581895	3476.847	3585.752	3612.309
	H	2.815674	-1.726016	-0.899559	3645.384	3645.686	3897.252
	H	1.519048	-1.209743	-1.740162			
TS <sub>AD</sub>	C	1.280104	-0.163849	-0.108649			
	O	2.501627	-0.180388	-0.130939	-891.688	39.3660	53.1655
	O	0.388576	-0.781770	-0.744390	103.9378	227.0484	267.6999
	H	-0.993175	-1.258799	0.070442	304.3318	315.5491	416.9752
	O	0.687600	0.776589	0.844502	482.7888	551.9605	576.6371
	H	1.459889	1.185897	1.257378	615.8916	635.0976	688.8294
	N	-1.967152	-1.121773	0.438565	771.9404	812.2707	823.2697
	H	-1.963352	-1.221386	1.446076	1169.809	1253.371	1292.099
	H	-2.597557	-1.806800	0.042075	1328.802	1561.932	1579.438
	H	-2.031346	0.129906	-0.000261	1676.230	1705.590	1758.211
	N	-1.690152	1.247124	-0.461198	1787.333	1831.371	2965.067
	H	-0.800928	1.410192	0.038507	3242.188	3544.896	3556.150
	H	-2.325464	2.027942	-0.357772	3638.846	3649.350	3791.628
	H	-1.449984	1.123233	-1.439503			

CA-FA	C	1.650339	-0.039414	0.000011	34.2422	78.0045	158.3823
	O	2.837783	0.133909	0.000001			
	O	1.033094	-1.199755	-0.000109			
	H	0.049782	-1.101657	-0.000038			
	O	0.756377	1.019870	0.000098			
	H	1.312444	1.812561	0.000165			
	C	-2.398640	-0.155261	0.000023			
	H	-3.485431	-0.245791	0.000182			
	O	-1.653008	-1.118721	0.000092			
	O	-2.018299	1.111545	-0.000121			
H	-1.034566	1.128152	-0.000196				
CW-FA	C	2.070470	-0.556747	-0.000022	23.3688	30.2958	48.4185
	O	3.096051	-0.004942	-0.000012			
	O	1.068825	-1.168628	-0.000036			
	H	-0.868032	-1.046197	0.000098			
	O	0.628488	1.678208	0.000049			
	H	0.797373	2.623692	0.000142			
	C	-2.545403	-0.165236	-0.000018			
	H	-3.609483	-0.410216	-0.000059			
	O	-1.816300	-1.277528	0.000080			
	O	-2.118576	0.969787	-0.000074			
H	-0.338168	1.589442	0.000011				
TS <sub>FA</sub>	C	-1.522536	-0.211338	-0.013146	-922.953	65.5086	79.0000
	O	-2.670520	0.024502	-0.254747			
	O	-0.760898	-1.194128	0.035242			
	H	0.564560	-1.096670	0.122803			
	O	-0.716527	1.071860	0.384578			
	H	-1.262437	1.827355	0.123633			
	C	2.197104	0.020164	-0.098310			
	H	3.281608	0.015401	-0.191776			
	O	1.661952	-1.111849	0.123763			
	O	1.605671	1.121442	-0.217602			
H	0.411437	1.106345	0.044199				
WM	O	0.000000	0.000000	0.118189	1627.7612	3824.7050	3950.6090
	H	0.000000	0.758025	-0.472754			
	H	0.000000	-0.758025	-0.472754			
WD	O	-1.385097	0.000601	0.110496	127.0098	147.1099	154.9316
	H	-1.746597	-0.763119	-0.349950			
	H	-1.747854	0.758911	-0.357831			
	O	1.512857	-0.000695	-0.121976			
	H	0.559405	0.000611	0.048517			
	H	1.912972	0.004353	0.751104			
AM	N	-0.000001	0.000024	-0.113458	1031.0862	1668.1686	1668.278
	H	-0.813306	0.468039	0.264760			
	H	0.812092	0.470150	0.264756			
	H	0.001222	-0.938358	0.264690			
AD	N	-1.566861	-0.000104	-0.049447	49.2407	61.3644	109.2828
	H	-1.370764	0.000065	0.944511			
	H	-2.143019	-0.811868	-0.234205			
	H	-2.141135	0.812853	-0.234957			
	N	1.665929	-0.000114	0.100349			
	H	2.126024	-0.810612	-0.294555			
	H	0.709620	-0.000019	-0.243743			
H	2.125797	0.811106	-0.293365				

FA	C	0.000000	0.422392	0.000000			
	H	-0.376774	1.447695	0.000000	625.952	674.778	1058.557
	O	1.163418	0.108154	0.000000	1130.131	1301.324	1408.906
	O	-1.034994	-0.439528	0.000000	1794.039	3125.306	3741.349
	H	-0.650614	-1.331055	0.000000			



**Table S3** Absolute energies (in Hartree) of all species involved in decomposition of carboxylic acid calculated at the three different levels of theory. Here CA-X, TS<sub>x</sub> and CW-X stands for the pre-reactive complex, transition state and post-reactive complex of X-catalyzed reaction (X = WM and WD, AM, AD and FA)

Catalyst	Species	M06-2X/ aug-cc-pVTZ	MP2/ aug-cc-pVTZ	CCSD(T)/ aug-cc-pVTZ
None	CA	-265.02377660	-264.63907576	-264.6759148
	TS	-264.95220347	-264.57406173	-264.6060256
	CW	-265.02961886	-264.6551204	-264.6876492
WM	CA-WM	-341.4690336	-340.9828534	-341.0329751
	TS <sub>WM</sub>	-341.4287493	-340.9439045	-341.0422798
	CW-WM	-341.4723741	-340.9962466	-340.9897759
WD	CA-WD	-417.9140456	-417.3271415	-417.390438
	TS <sub>WD</sub>	-417.8826278	-417.2947286	-417.3998065
	CW-WD	-417.9185268	-417.3404721	-417.3539439
AM	CA-AM	-321.59616703	-321.11927572	-321.1755954
	TS <sub>AM</sub>	-321.56050389	-321.08737878	-321.1395183
	CW-AM	-321.59637830	-321.12964709	-321.1820193
AD	CA-AD	-378.15944730	-377.59104371	-377.6670727
	TS <sub>AD</sub>	-378.13571087	-377.56733222	-377.6401674
	CW-AD	-378.16045247	-377.60140657	-377.673548
FA	CA-FA	-454.8128131	-454.1458856	-454.2137132
	TS <sub>FA</sub>	-454.7868756	-454.1195708	-454.1840052
	CW-FA	-454.8161326	-454.1574632	-454.2213483

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