SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Boronyl as a terminal ligand in boron oxide clusters: Hexagonal ring $C_{2\nu}$ B₆O₄ and ethylene-like D_{2h} B₆O₄^{-/2-}†

Wei Wang,^a Qiang Chen,^a Ying-Jin Wang,^a Hui Bai,^a Ting-Ting Gao,^a Hai-Ru Li,^a Hua-Jin Zhai,^{*a,b} and Si-Dian Li^{*a}

 ^a Nanocluster Laboratory, Institute of Molecular Science, Shanxi University, Taiyuan 030006, China
^b State Key Laboratory of Quantum Optics and Quantum Optics Devices, Shanxi University, Taiyuan 030006, China

*E-mail: hj.zhai@sxu.edu.cn; lisidian@sxu.edu.cn

- Figure S1. Representative isomeric structures of B_6O_4 with their relative energies (in kcal/mol) indicated at the B3LYP/aug-cc-pVTZ level. Shown in *bold italic* are the relative energies for the top two structures at PBE0/aug-cc-pVTZ level. The B atom is in gray, and O is in black.
- **Figure S2.** Representative isomeric structures of $B_6O_4^-$ with their relative energies (in kcal/mol) indicated at the B3LYP/aug-cc-pVTZ level. Shown in *bold italic* are the relative energies for the top three structures at PBE0/aug-cc-pVTZ level. The B atom is in gray, and O is in black.
- **Figure S3.** Representative isomeric structures of $B_6O_4^{2-}$ with their relative energies (in kcal/mol) indicated at the B3LYP/aug-cc-pVTZ level. Shown in *bold italic* are the relative energies for the top two structures at PBE0/aug-cc-pVTZ level. The B atom is in gray, and O is in black.
- **Figure S4.** Selected canonical molecular orbitals (CMOs) of (a) $C_{2\nu}$ B₆O₄ (1, ¹A₁) and (b) D_{2h} B₆O₄⁻ (2, ²B_{3u}).
- **Figure S5.** The Wiberg bond indices of $C_{2\nu}$ B₆O₄ (1, ¹A₁).

Figure S1. Representative isomeric structures of B_6O_4 with their relative energies (in kcal/mol) indicated at the B3LYP/aug-cc-pVTZ level. Shown in *bold italic* are the relative energies for the top two structures at PBE0/aug-cc-pVTZ level. The B atom is in gray, and O is in black.





 $\begin{array}{c} C_{2\nu} \ ^{1}A_{1} \\ +38 \ cm^{-1} \\ 63.09 \ kcal/mol \end{array}$



 $C_1 {}^1A$ +49 cm⁻¹ 67.54 kcal/mol



 $C_2 {}^{1}A$ +26 cm⁻¹ 72.80 kcal/mol



 $C_1 {}^1A$ +22 cm⁻¹ 88.01 kcal/mol



 $C_1 {}^1A$ +43 cm⁻¹ 92.43 kcal/mol



 $C_1 {}^1A$ +48 cm⁻¹ 93.68 kcal/mol



C_s ¹A' +25 cm⁻¹ 95.55 kcal/mol



 $C_1 {}^1A$ +39 cm⁻¹ 95.86 kcal/mol

Figure S2. Representative isomeric structures of $B_6O_4^-$ with their relative energies (in kcal/mol) indicated at the B3LYP/aug-cc-pVTZ level. Shown in *bold italic* are the relative energies for the top three structures at PBE0/aug-cc-pVTZ level. The B atom is in gray, and O is in black.





 $C_{s}^{2}A'$ +31 cm⁻¹ 41.53 kcal/mol



C_s ²A" +37 cm⁻¹ 44.81 kcal/mol



C_s ²A' +67 cm⁻¹ 45.66 kcal/mol



C_s ²A' +80 cm⁻¹ 45.83 kcal/mol



 $\begin{array}{c} C_{2v} \ ^2B_1 \\ +29 \ cm^{-1} \\ 47.42 \ kcal/mol \end{array}$



 $C_1^2 A +74 \text{ cm}^{-1} 53.43 \text{ kcal/mol}$



 $\begin{array}{c} C_{2v} \, ^2B_1 \\ +36 \ cm^{-1} \\ 55.56 \ kcal/mol \end{array}$



 $C_{s}^{2}A'$ +11 cm⁻¹ 55.58 kcal/mol

Figure S3. Representative isomeric structures of $B_6O_4^{2-}$ with their relative energies (in kcal/mol) indicated at the B3LYP/aug-cc-pVTZ level. Shown in *bold italic* are the relative energies for the top two structures at PBE0/aug-cc-pVTZ level. The B atom is in gray, and O is in black.





 $C_{s}^{1}A'$ +44 cm⁻¹ 73.97 kcal/mol



 $C_1 {}^1A$ +20 cm⁻¹ 84.16 kcal/mol



 $\begin{array}{c} C_{2v} \ ^{1}A_{1} \\ +125 \ cm^{-1} \\ 84.67 \ kcal/mol \end{array}$



 $C_{s}^{1}A$ +27 cm⁻¹ 92.16 kcal/mol



C_s ¹A' +87 cm⁻¹ 93.69 kcal/mol



 $C_1^{-1}A + 36 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 101.26 kcal/mol



 $C_{s}^{1}A' + 37 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 103.85 kcal/mol



 $C_1 {}^1A' + 46 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 104.81 kcal/mol

Figure S4. Selected canonical molecular orbitals (CMOs) of (a) $C_{2\nu}$ B₆O₄ (**1**, ¹A₁) and (b) D_{2h} B₆O₄⁻ (**2**, ²B_{3u}). "SOMO" stands for the singly occupied molecular orbital.



Figure S5. The Wiberg bond indices of $C_{2\nu} B_6 O_4 (\mathbf{1}, {}^{1}A_1)$

