

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for:

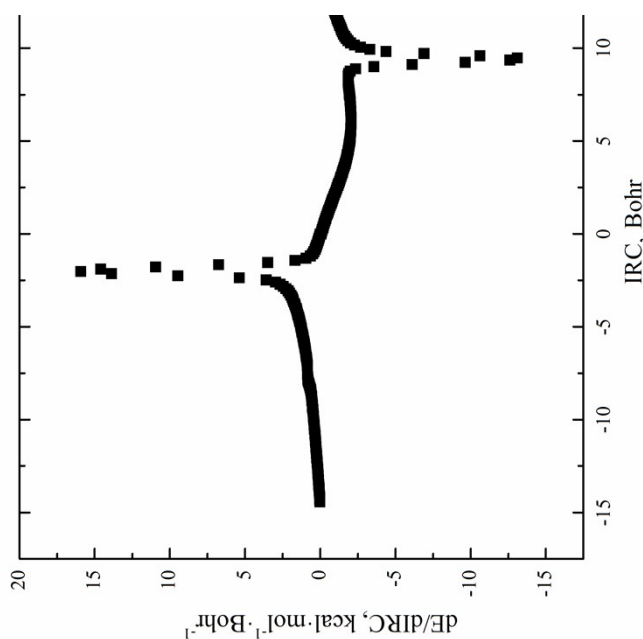
### **Tautomeric transition between wobble A·C DNA base mispair and Watson-Crick-like A·C\* mismatch: microstructural mechanism and biological significance**

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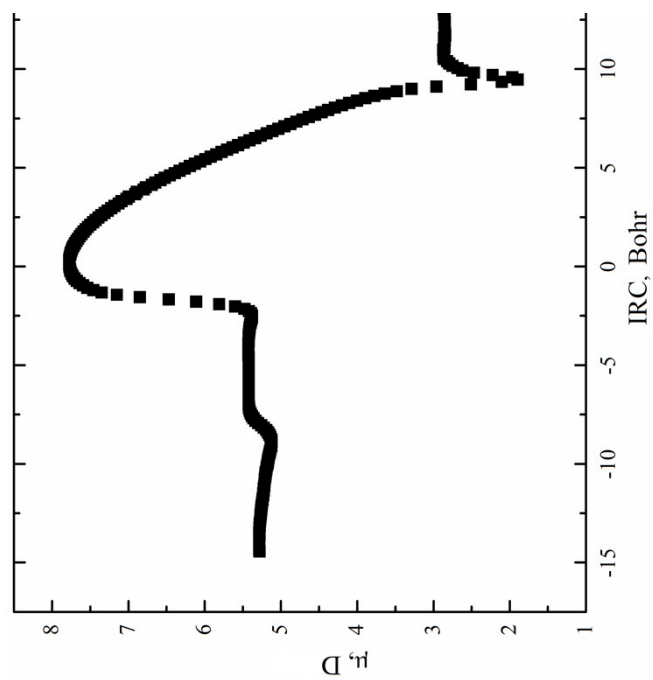
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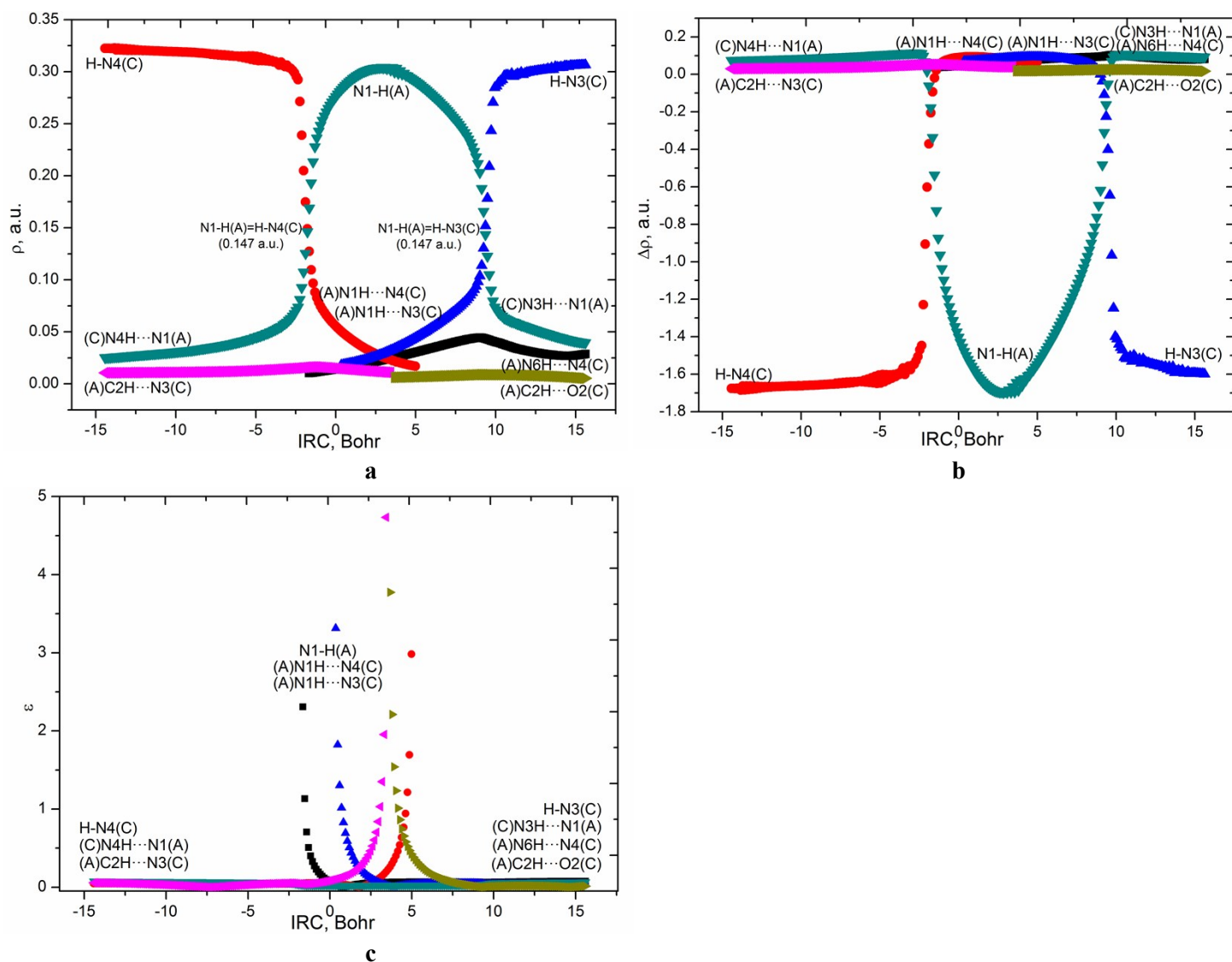
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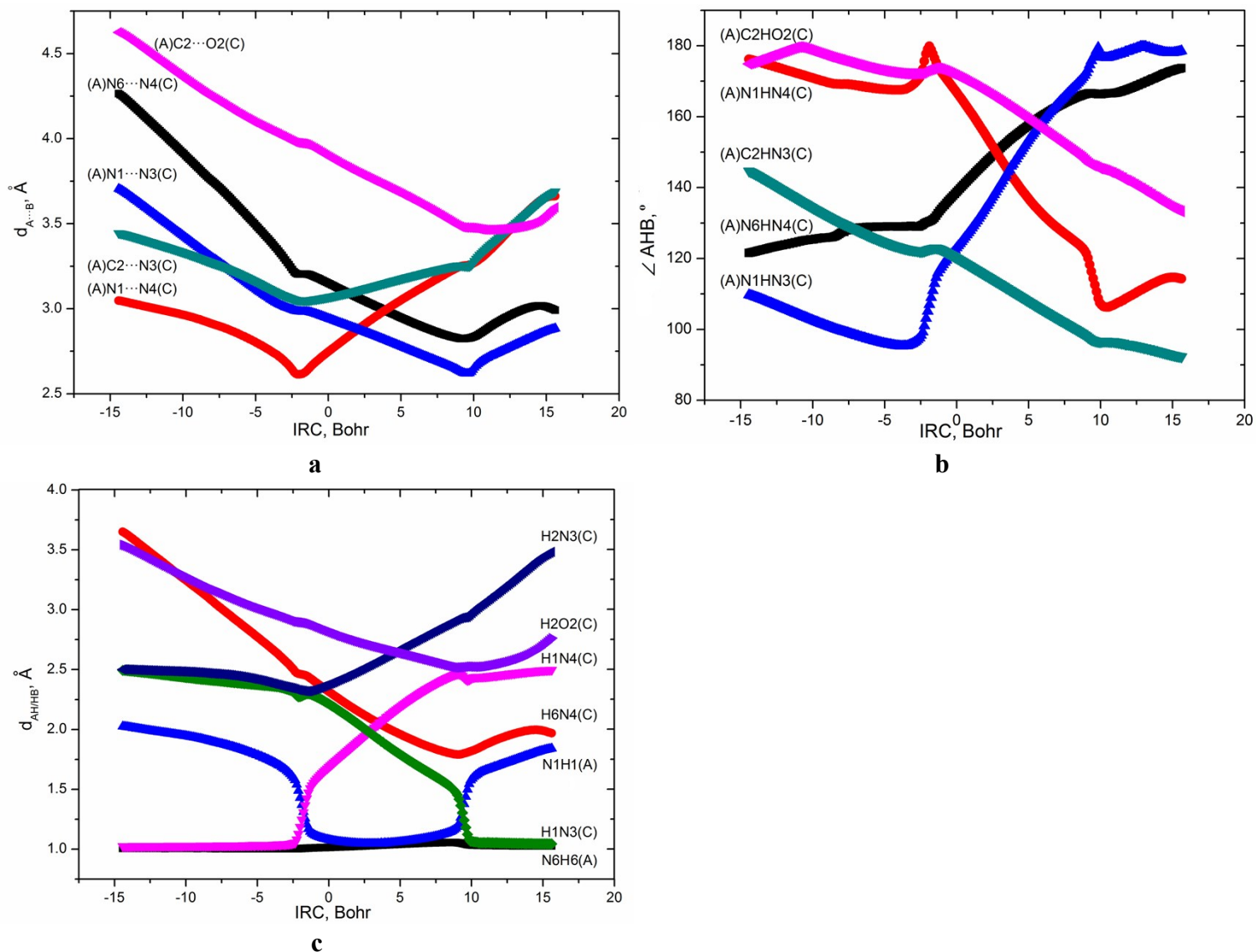
**Fig. S1.** Profile of the first derivative of the electronic energy with respect to the IRC ( $dE/dIRC$ ) along the IRC of the A·C(w) ↔ A·C\*(WC) tautomerisation *via* the sequential DPT obtained at the B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory.



**Fig. S2.** Profile of the dipole moment  $\mu$  along the IRC of the  $A \cdot C(w) \leftrightarrow A \cdot C^*(WC)$  tautomerisation *via* the sequential DPT obtained at the B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory.



**Fig. S3.** Profiles of: **(a)** the electron density  $\rho$ ; **(b)** the Laplacian of the electron density  $\Delta\rho$  and **(c)** the ellipticity  $\epsilon$  at the (3,-1) BCPs of the covalent and hydrogen bonds along the IRC of the A·C(w) $\leftrightarrow$ A·C\*(WC) tautomerisation *via* the sequential DPT obtained at the B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory (see also Scheme 1, Fig. 3 and Tables 1, 4).



**Fig. S4.** Profiles of: **(a)** the distance  $d_{A...B}$  between the electronegative A and B atoms; **(b)** the distance  $d_{AH/ HB}$  between the hydrogen and electronegative A or B atoms and **(c)** the angle  $\angle AHB$  along the IRC of the  $A\cdot C(w) \leftrightarrow A\cdot C^*(WC)$  tautomerisation *via* the sequential DPT obtained at the B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory (see also Scheme 1, Fig. 3 and Tables 1, 4).