

# Electronic Supplementary Information

## Gas-phase structure and reactivity of the keto tautomer of the deoxyguanosine radical cation

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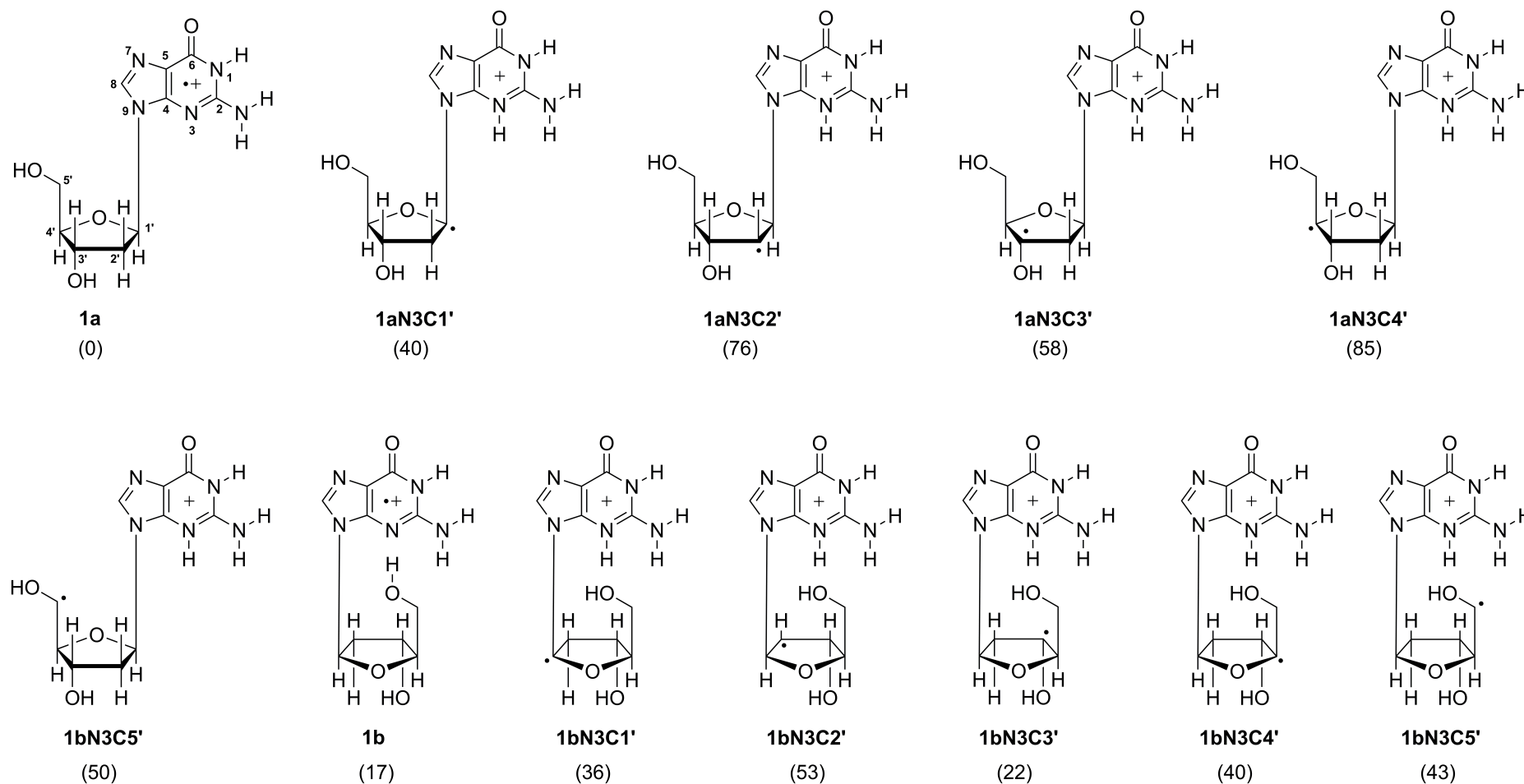
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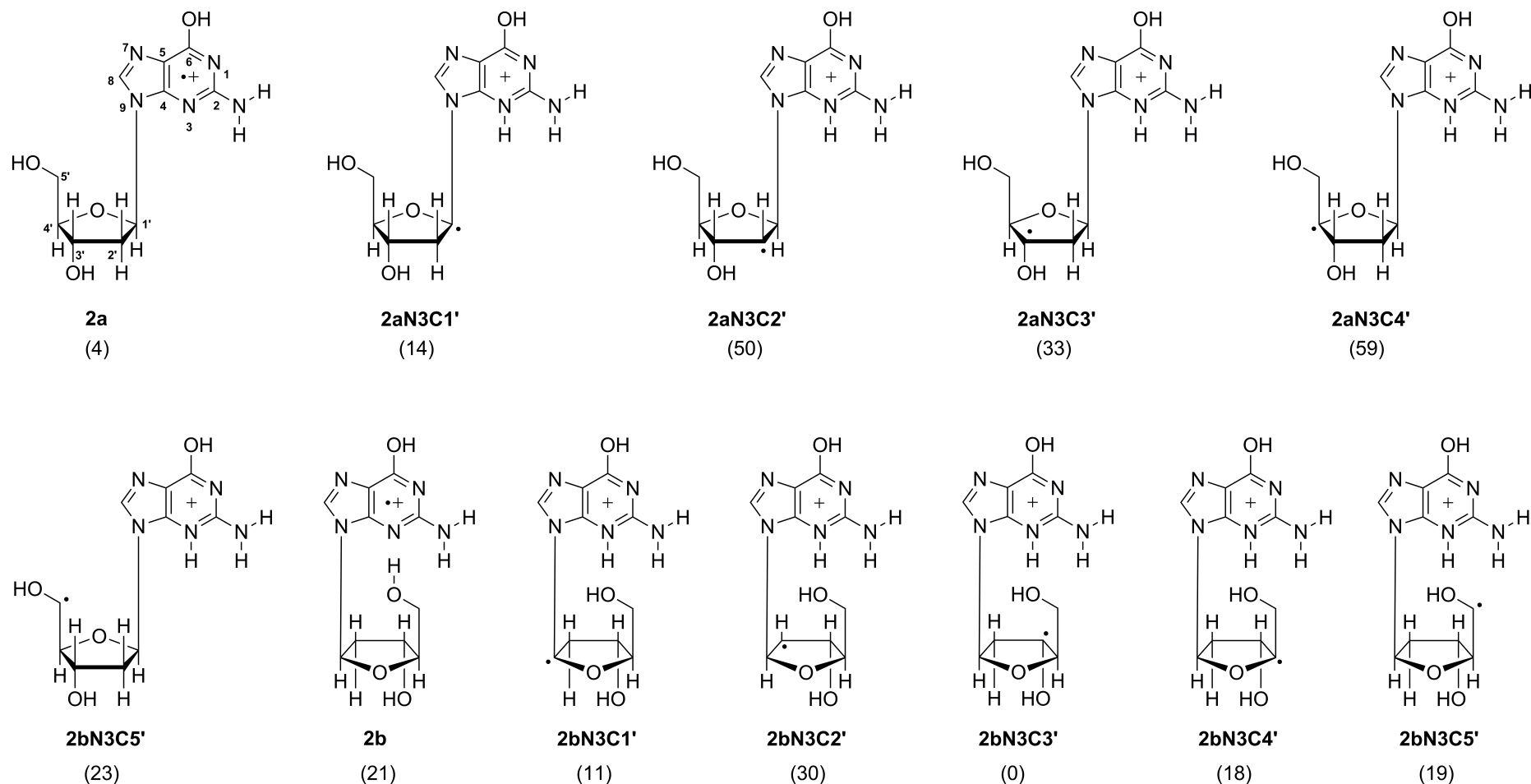
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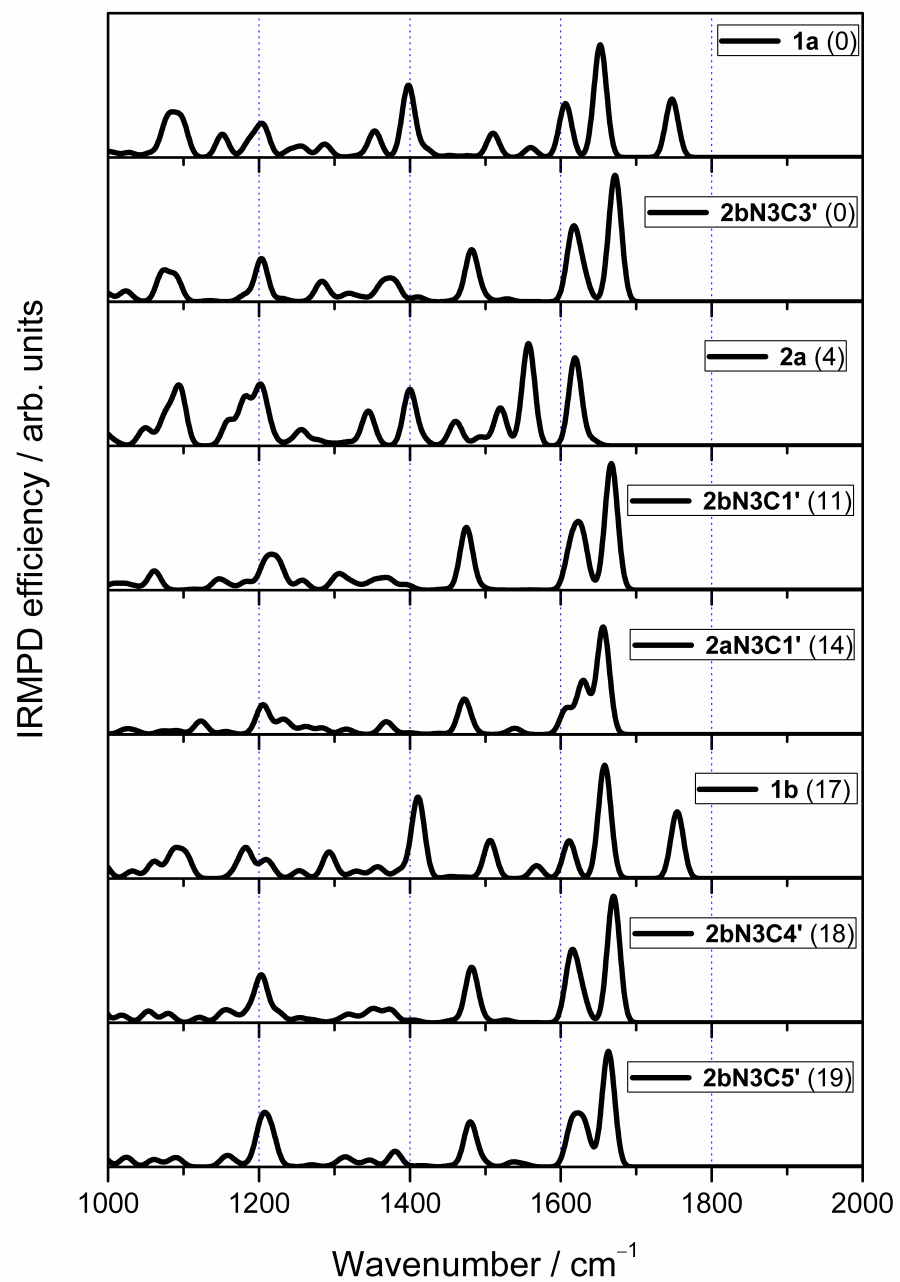
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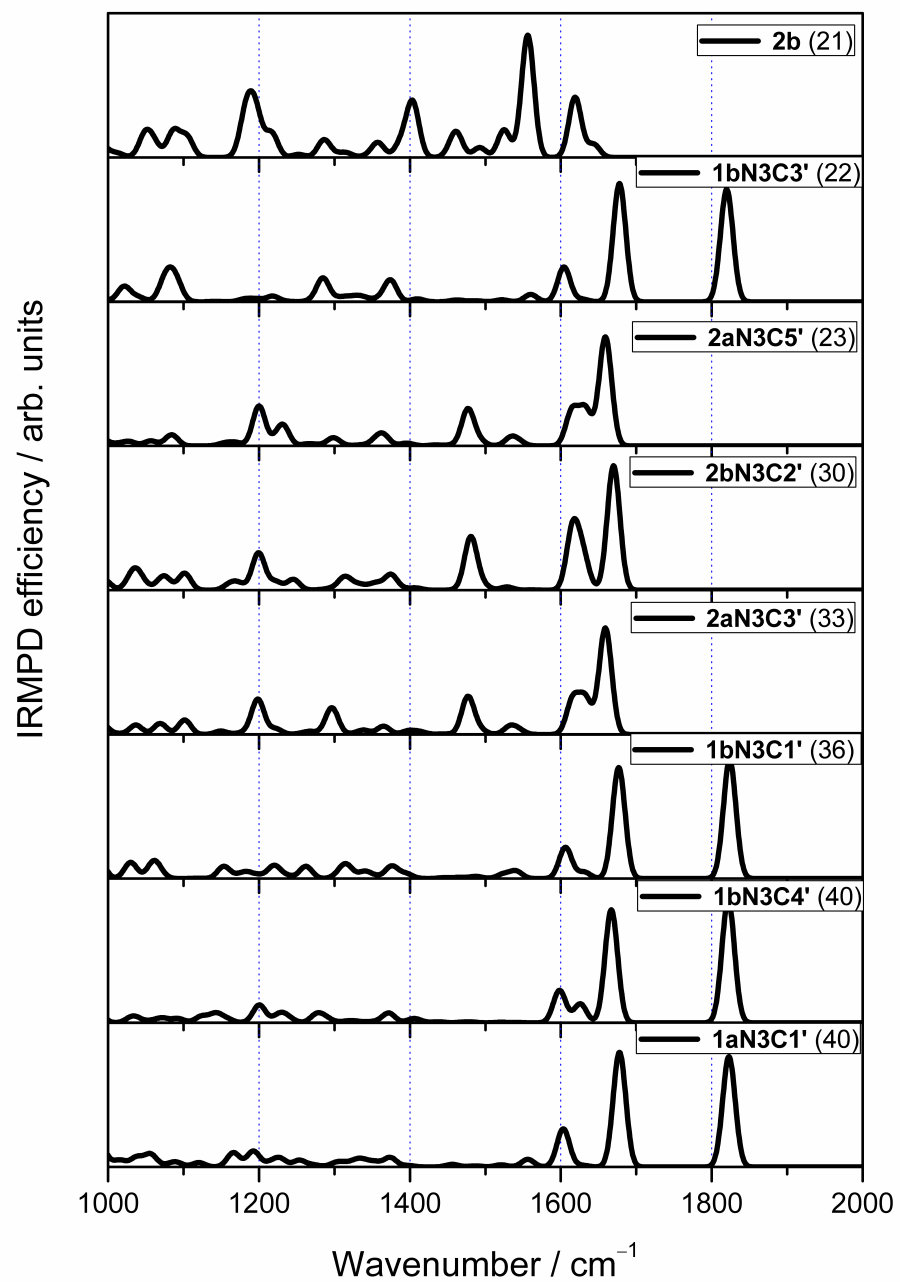
**Figure S1:** M06-2X/6-311+G(3df,2p) calculated minimum energy structures for the anti (**1a**) and syn (**1b**) keto tautomers of the deoxyguanosine radical cation together with their distonic isomers arising from H-atom transfer from the sugar ring to the N3 position of the nucleobase. The numbering of these distonic ions reflects the atom sites defined in **1a**. Free energies ( $\Delta G$ ) (M06-2X/6-311+G(3df,2p), 298 K,  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ ), calculated relative to the most stable keto isomer (**1a**) are given in parentheses.



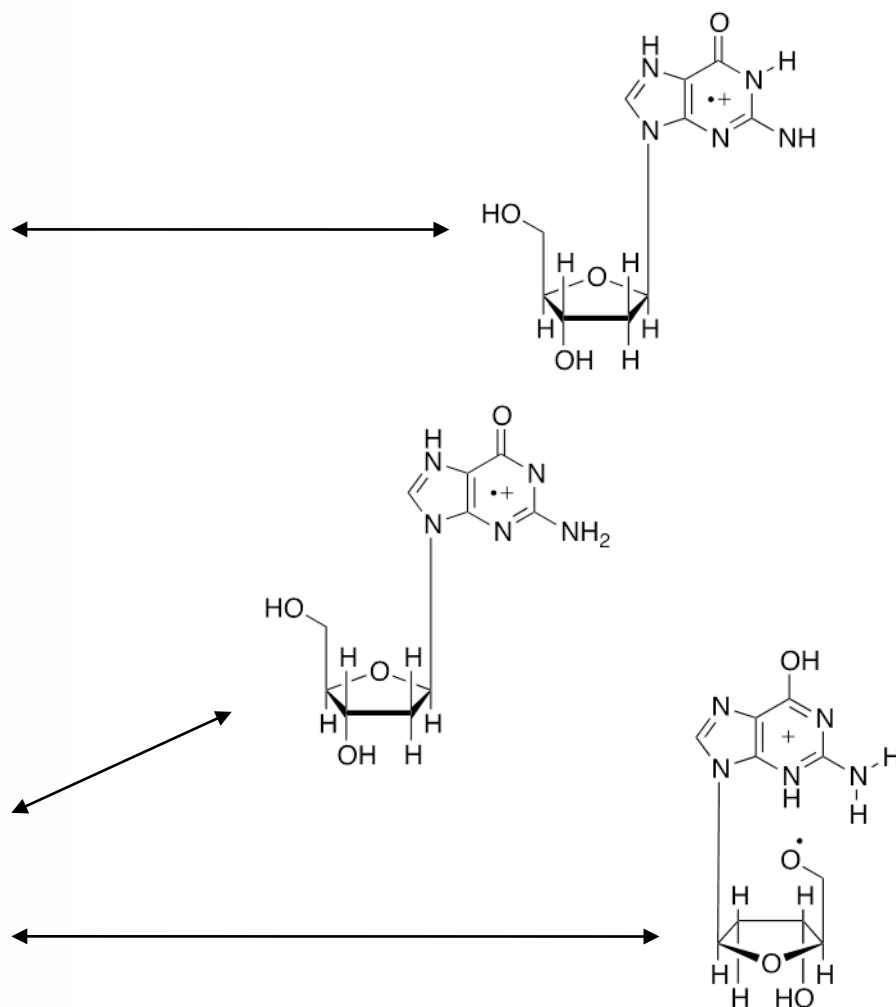
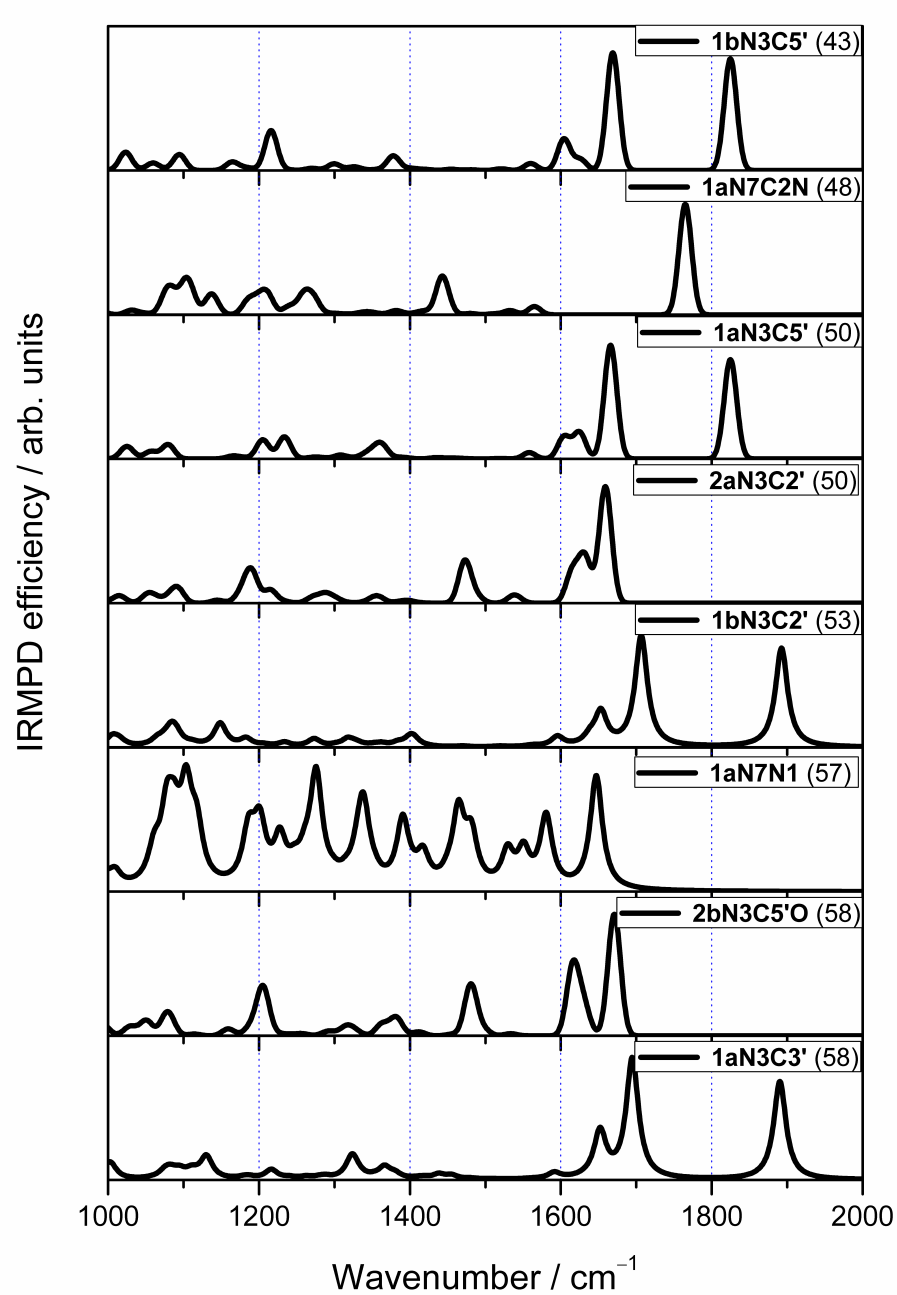
**Figure S2:** M06-2X/6-311+G(3df,2p) calculated minimum energy structures for the anti (**2a**) and syn (**2b**) enol tautomers of the deoxyguanosine radical cation together with their distonic isomers arising from H-atom transfer from the sugar ring to the N3 position of the nucleobase. The numbering of these distonic ions reflects the atom sites defined in **1a**. Free energies ( $\Delta G$ ) (M06-2X/6-311+G(3df,2p), 298 K,  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ ), calculated relative to the most stable keto isomer (**1a**) are given in parentheses.



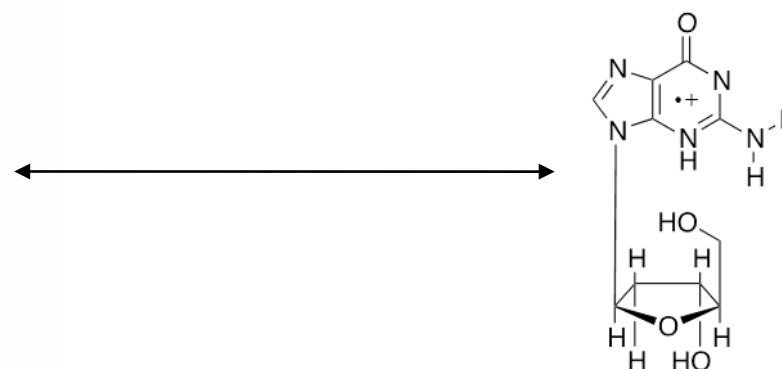
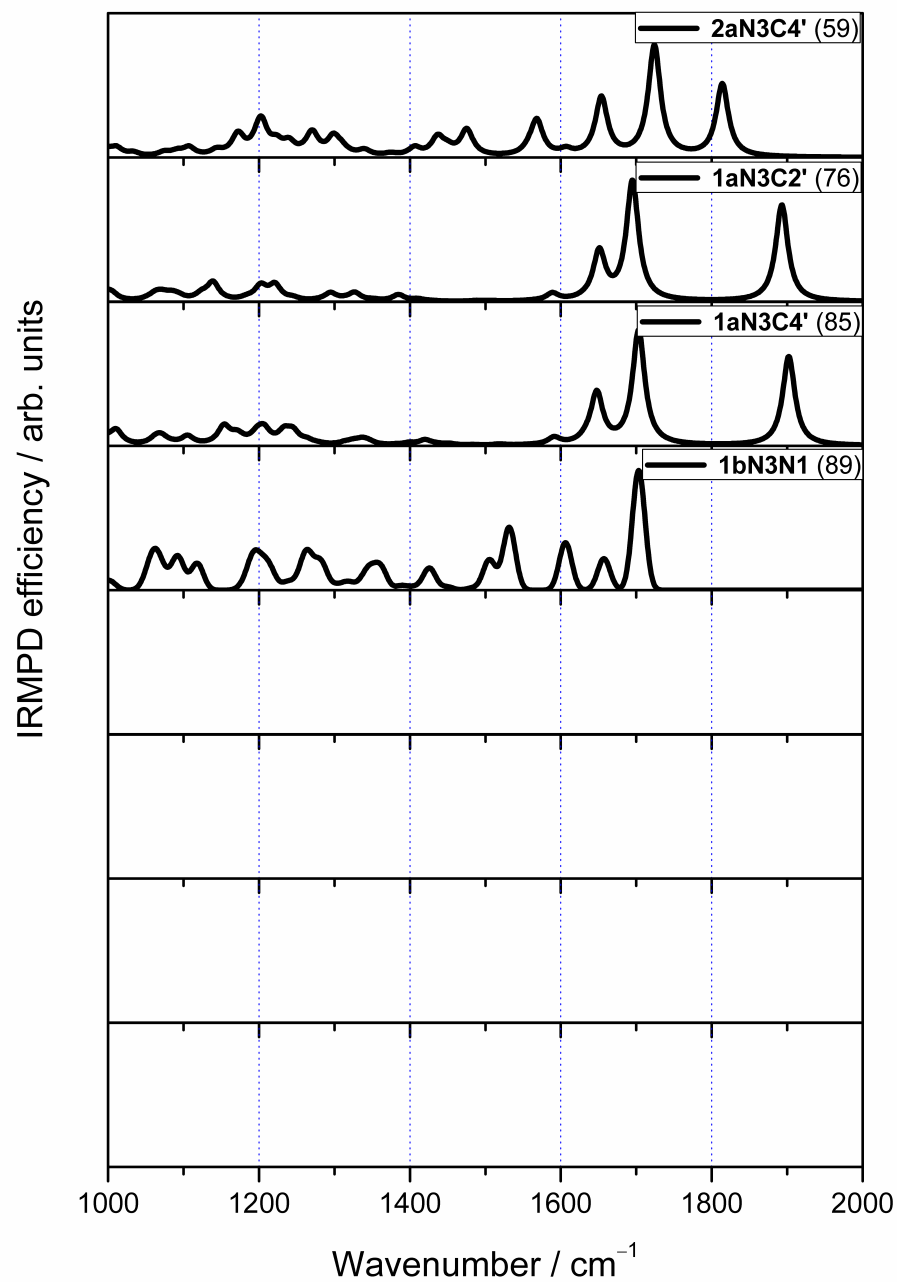
**Figure S3:** Theoretical B3-LYP/6-31+G(d,p) infrared spectra of isomers of deoxyguanosine radical cation in order of increasing relative free energy (M06-2X/6-311+G (3df,2p), 298 K,  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) given in parentheses.



**Figure S3 (continued):** Theoretical B3-LYP/6-31+G(d,p) infrared spectra of isomers of deoxyguanosine radical cation in order of increasing relative free energy (M06-2X/6-311+G(3df,2p), 298 K, kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) given in parentheses.



**Figure S3 (continued):** Theoretical B3-LYP/6-31+G(d,p) infrared spectra of isomers of deoxyguanosine radical cation in order of increasing relative enthalpy (M06-2X/6-311+G (3df,2p), 298 K, kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) given in parentheses.

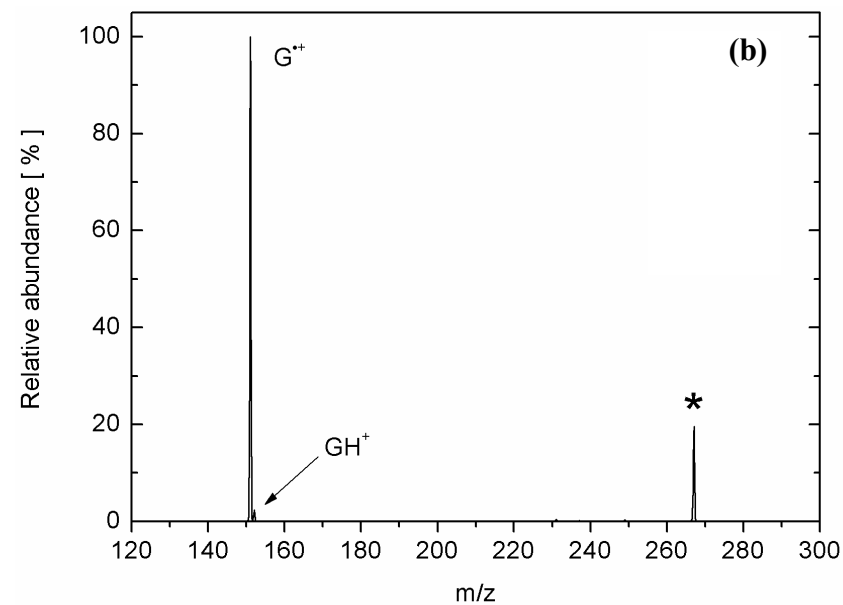
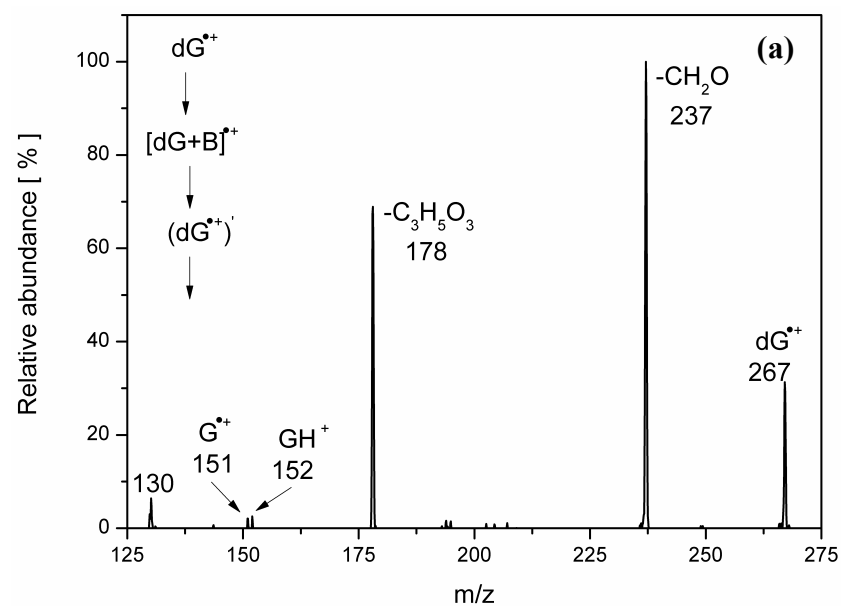


**Figure S3 (continued):** Theoretical B3-LYP/6-31+G(d,p) infrared spectra of isomers of deoxyguanosine radical cation in order of increasing relative free energy (M06-2X/6-311+G (3df,2p), 298 K, kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) given in parentheses.

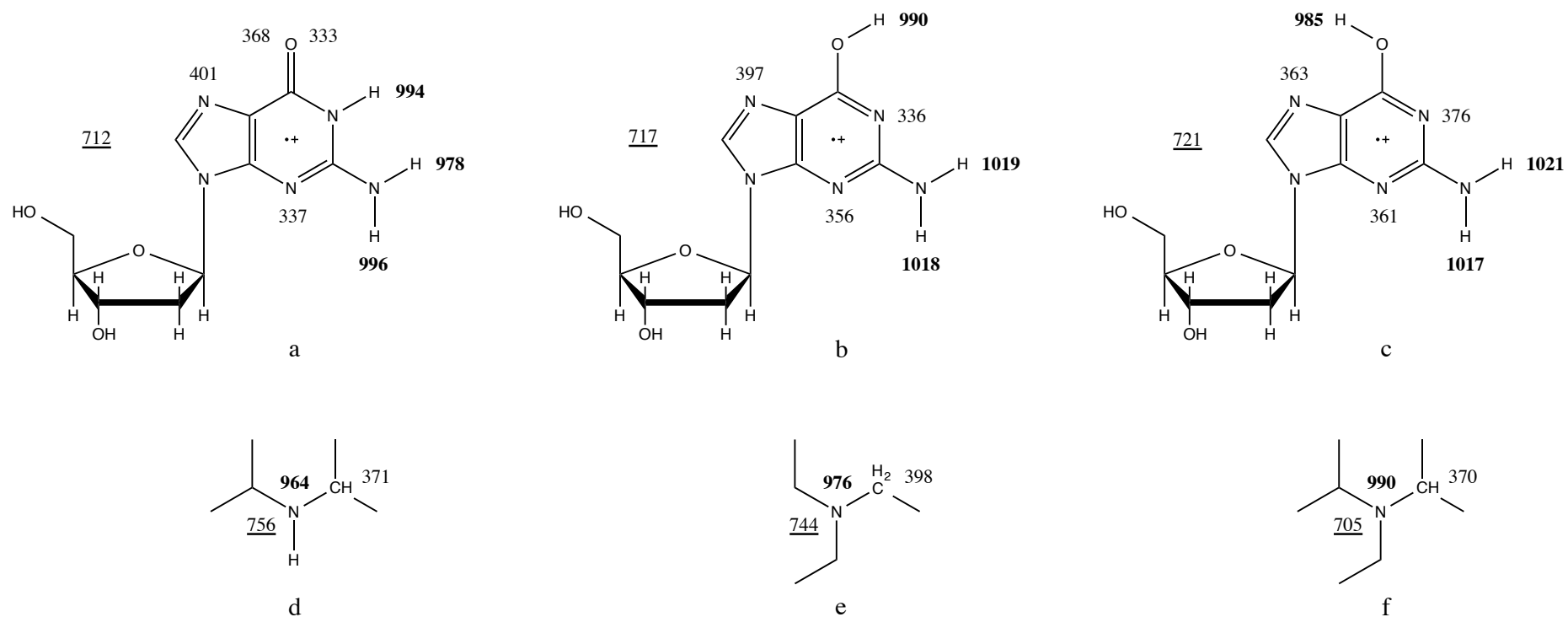
| Description              | Experimental frequency | 1a frequency (intensity) |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| CH <sub>2</sub> rock     |                        | 1076 (105)               |
| CN and CO st.            |                        | 1084 (84)                |
| CC st.                   | 1110                   | 1089 (46)                |
| CO st.                   |                        | 1099 (154)               |
| CN st.                   |                        | 1152 (113)               |
| COH bend                 | 1200                   | 1207 (132)               |
| CC st.                   | 1275                   | 1258 (50)                |
| Ring def                 |                        | 1287 (64)                |
| CH & NH bend             |                        | 1353 (63)                |
| C-NH <sub>2</sub> st.    | 1372                   | 1355 (66)                |
| Ring def. & CH bend      |                        | 1398 (311)               |
| Ring def. (C(2)N(3) st.) | 1511                   | 1510 (118)               |
| NH <sub>2</sub> sciss.   | 1595                   | 1606 (262)               |
| Ring def. (C(4)N(3) st.) | 1640                   | 1653 (547)               |
| C=O stretch              | 1750                   | 1748 (284)               |

**Table S1:** Assignment of experimentally-observed vibrational bands through comparison with calculated IR bands and intensities of the keto isomer **1a** of the dG radical cation. The numbers in parentheses correspond to predicted intensities in km mol<sup>-1</sup>.

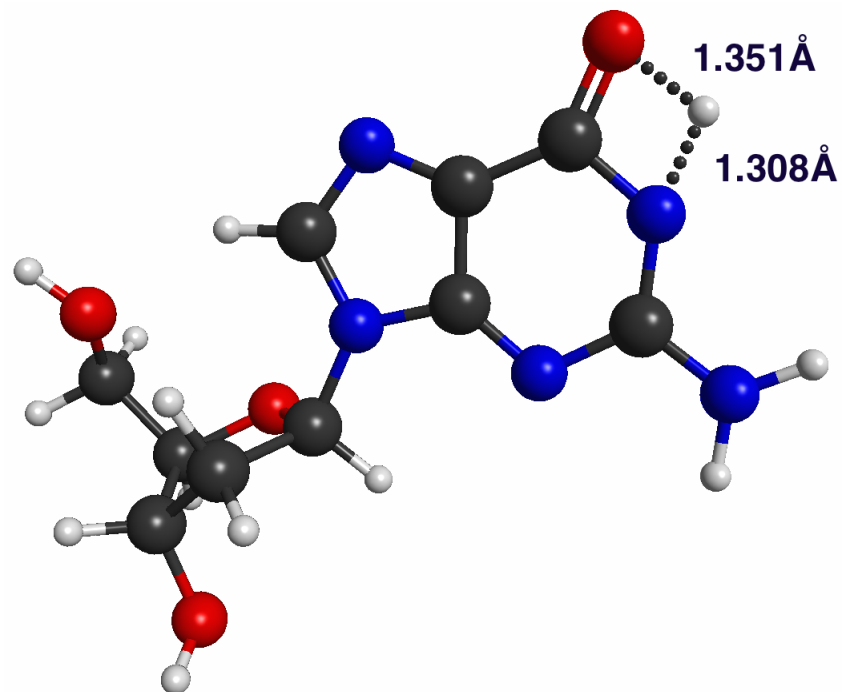




**Figure S4:** MS/MS CID spectrum of dG radical cation: (a) that has isomerised in the ion–molecule reactions with  $i\text{Pr}_2\text{NEt}$  at 1000 ms reaction time, the formed adduct was dissociated at 20 V and the formed dG radical cation re-isolated and subjected to CID at 19 V; (b) that is formed in the ESI.



**Figure S5:** M06-2X/6-311+G(3df,2p) thermochemical properties (ΔH, 298 K, kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>): (1) energies for hydrogen-atom abstraction by dG<sup>•+</sup> (a–c) and BDEs for the amines (d–f), (2) **deprotonation energies for dG<sup>•+</sup> and PAs for the amines**, and (c) electron affinities for dG<sup>•+</sup> and IEs for the amines.



**Figure S6:** Transition structure for the intramolecular 1,3-shift corresponding to the keto-enol tautomerisation of  $\text{dG}^{*+}$ .