

Electronic Supplementary Information

for

***In Situ* Spectroelectrochemical and Theoretical Study on the Oxidation of a 4H-Imidazole-Ruthenium Dye Adsorbed on Nanocrystalline TiO₂ Thin Film Electrodes**

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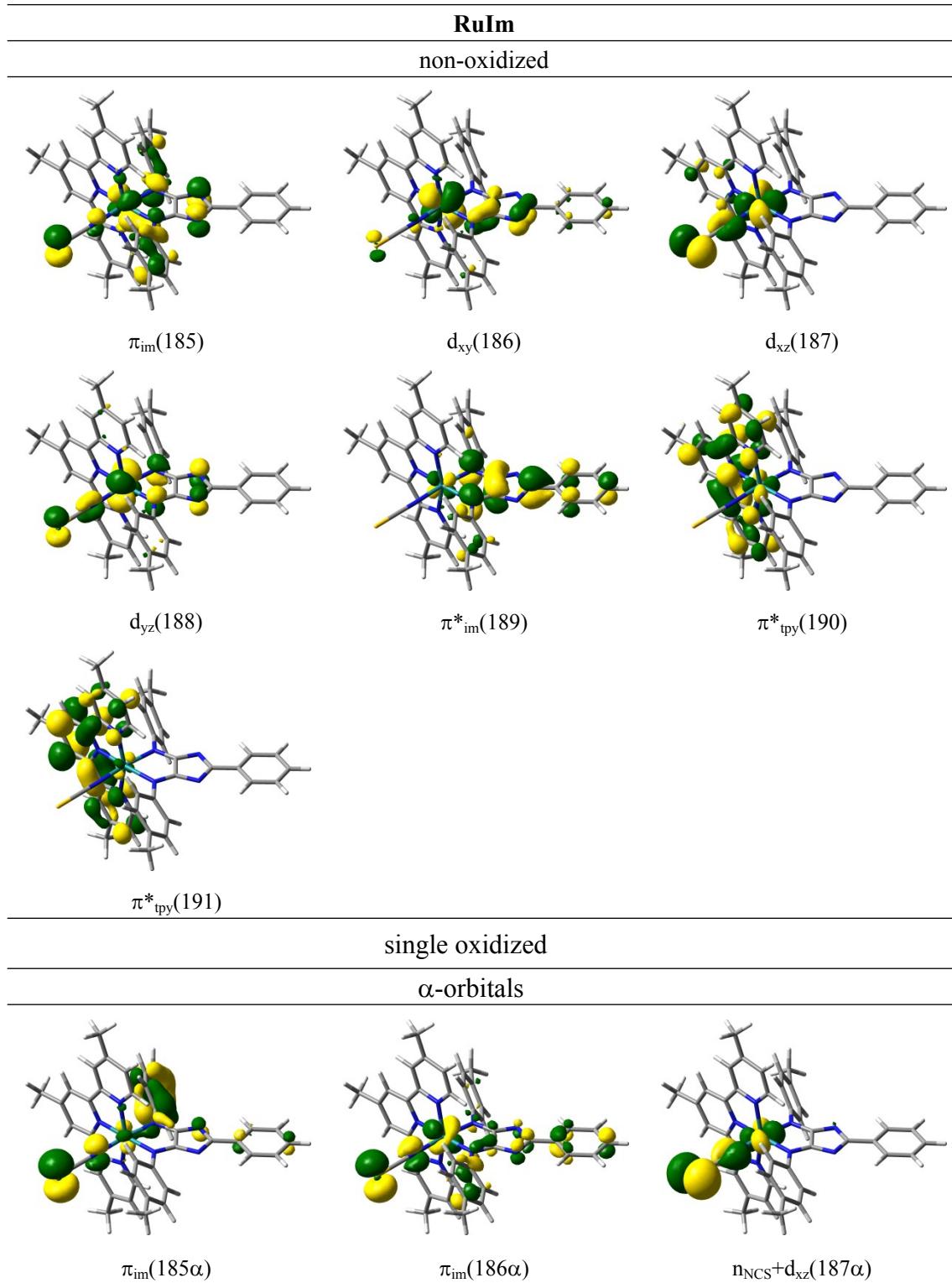
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Table S1: Molecular orbitals involved in the main configurations for the excited states of non-oxidized and oxidized species of **RuIm**.



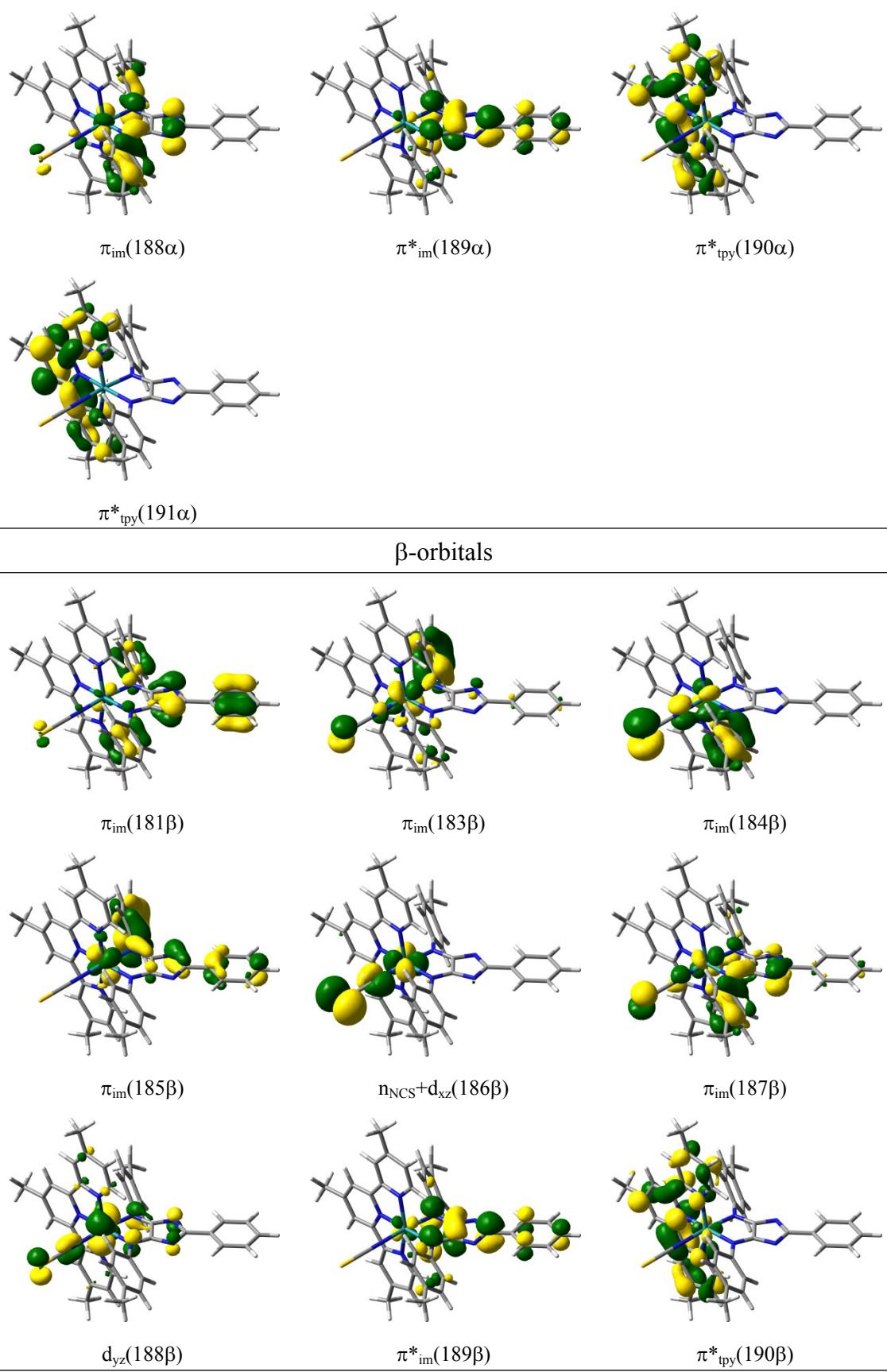


Table S2. Calculated bright electronic excited states for the non-oxidized and oxidized species of **RuIm** with the main contributing transitions, excitation energies E^e , oscillator strengths f , the eigen values of $\langle s^2 \rangle$, and experimental absorption maxima.

RuIm							
state	transition	non-oxidized		E^e / eV	λ / nm	f	$\langle s^2 \rangle$
		weight / %					
S ₁	d _{yz} (188) → π* _{im} (189) (MLCT)	95	1.87	664	0.037	0.00	700
S ₂	d _{yz} (188) → π* _{tpy} (190) (MLCT)	95	1.93	644	0.016	0.00	700
S ₆	d _{xz} (187) → π* _{tpy} (190) (MLCT)	53	2.40	517	0.270	0.00	567
	d _{xy} (186) → π* _{im} (189) (MLCT)	36					
S ₇	d _{xz} (187) → π* _{tpy} (191) (MLCT)	92	2.48	500	0.040	0.00	567
S ₈	d _{xy} (186) → π* _{tpy} (191) (MLCT)	55	2.52	491	0.072	0.00	567
	d _{xy} (186) → π* _{im} (189) (MLCT)	28					
	d _{xz} (187) → π* _{tpy} (190) (MLCT)	9					
S ₉	d _{xy} (186) → π* _{tpy} (191) (MLCT)	37	2.65	467	0.141	0.00	427
	d _{xy} (186) → π* _{im} (189) (MLCT)	26					
	d _{xz} (187) → π* _{tpy} (190) (MLCT)	21					
S ₁₀	π _{im} (185) → π* _{im} (189) (ILCT)	87	2.91	426	0.221	0.00	427
single oxidized							
state	transition	single oxidized		E^e / eV	λ / nm	f	$\langle s^2 \rangle$
		weight / %					
D ₃	π _{im} (187β) → d _{yz} (188β) (LMCT)	57	1.20	1030	0.053	0.81	900
	π _{im} (185β) → d _{yz} (188β) (LMCT)	27					
D ₄	π _{im} (184β) → d _{yz} (188β) (LMCT)	35	1.68	738	0.056	0.91	900
	π _{im} (185β) → d _{yz} (188β) (LMCT)	28					
	π _{im} (183β) → d _{yz} (188β) (LMCT)	16					
D ₆	π _{im} (184β) → d _{yz} (188β) (LMCT)	41	1.84	673	0.063	1.30	900
	π _{im} (183β) → d _{yz} (188β) (LMCT)	19					
	π _{im} (188α) → π* _{im} (189α) (ILCT)	16					
	π _{im} (187β) → π* _{im} (189β) (ILCT)	13					
D ₁₆	π _{im} (187β) → π* _{im} (189β) (ILCT)	30	2.56	484	0.195	1.18	440
	π _{im} (188α) → π* _{im} (189α) (ILCT)	29					
	π _{im} (185β) → π* _{im} (189β) (IL)	15					
D ₂₂	n _{NCS} +d _{xz} (187α) → π* _{tpy} (190α) (LLCT)	47	2.84	437	0.155	1.05	440
	n _{NCS} +d _{xz} (186β) → π* _{tpy} (190β) (LLCT)	16					
	π _{im} (186α) → π* _{im} (189α) (IL)	12					
D ₂₃	π _{im} (186α) → π* _{im} (189α) (IL)	28	2.90	428	0.219	1.18	440
	π _{im} (188α) → π* _{tpy} (191α) (ILCT)	24					
	π _{im} (185β) → π* _{im} (189β) (IL)	12					
D ₃₁	π _{im} (185α) → π* _{im} (189α) (ILCT)	37	3.03	409	0.166	1.71	440
	π _{im} (185β) → π* _{im} (189β) (IL)	9					
	π _{im} (184β) → π* _{im} (189β) (ILCT)	9					
	π _{im} (181β) → π* _{im} (189β) (IL)	8					

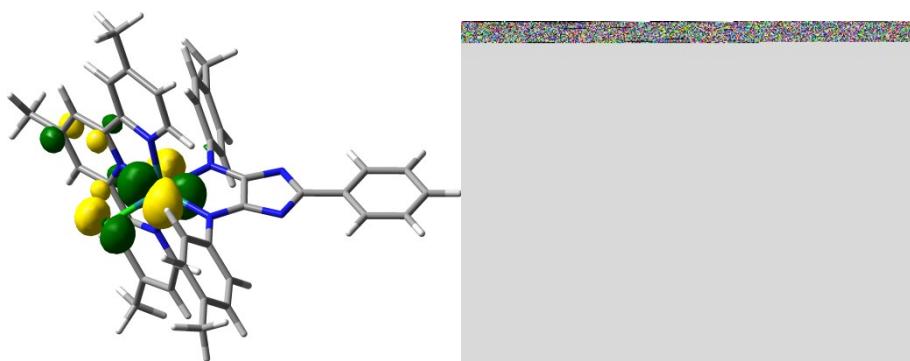


Figure S1. Molecular orbitals $d_{xy}(180)$ of the chloro-4*H*-imidazole-ruthenium complex (left) as compared with molecular orbitals $d_{xy}(187)$ of isothiocyanate **RuIm** (right).

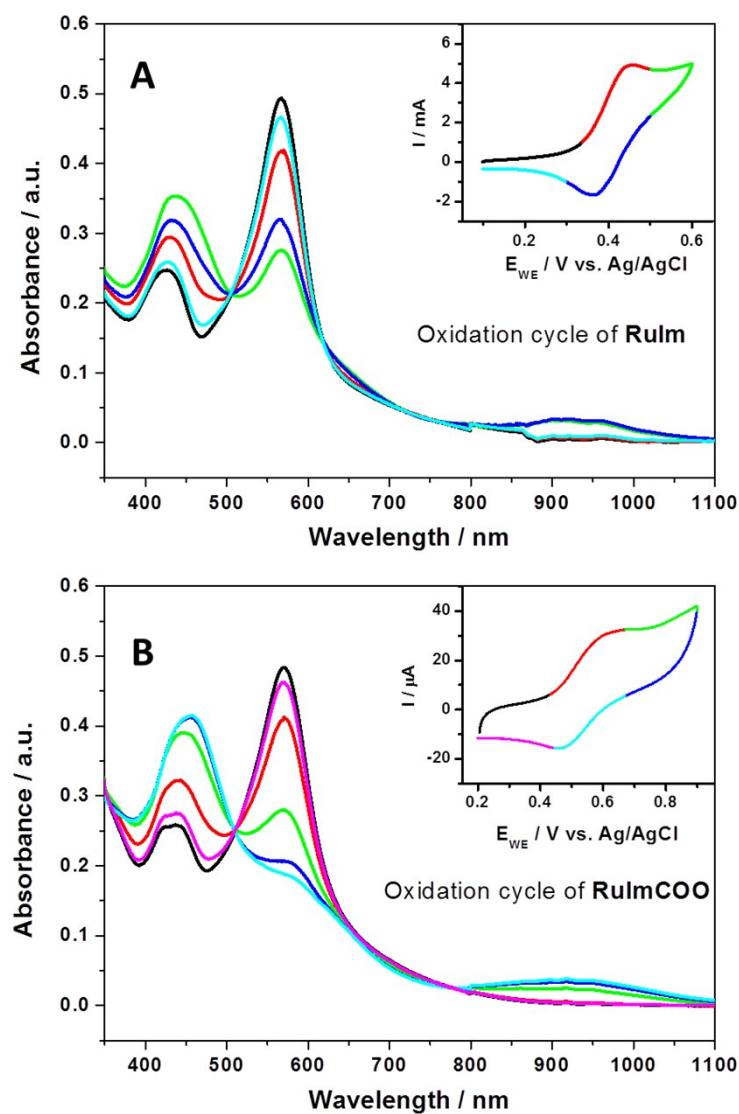
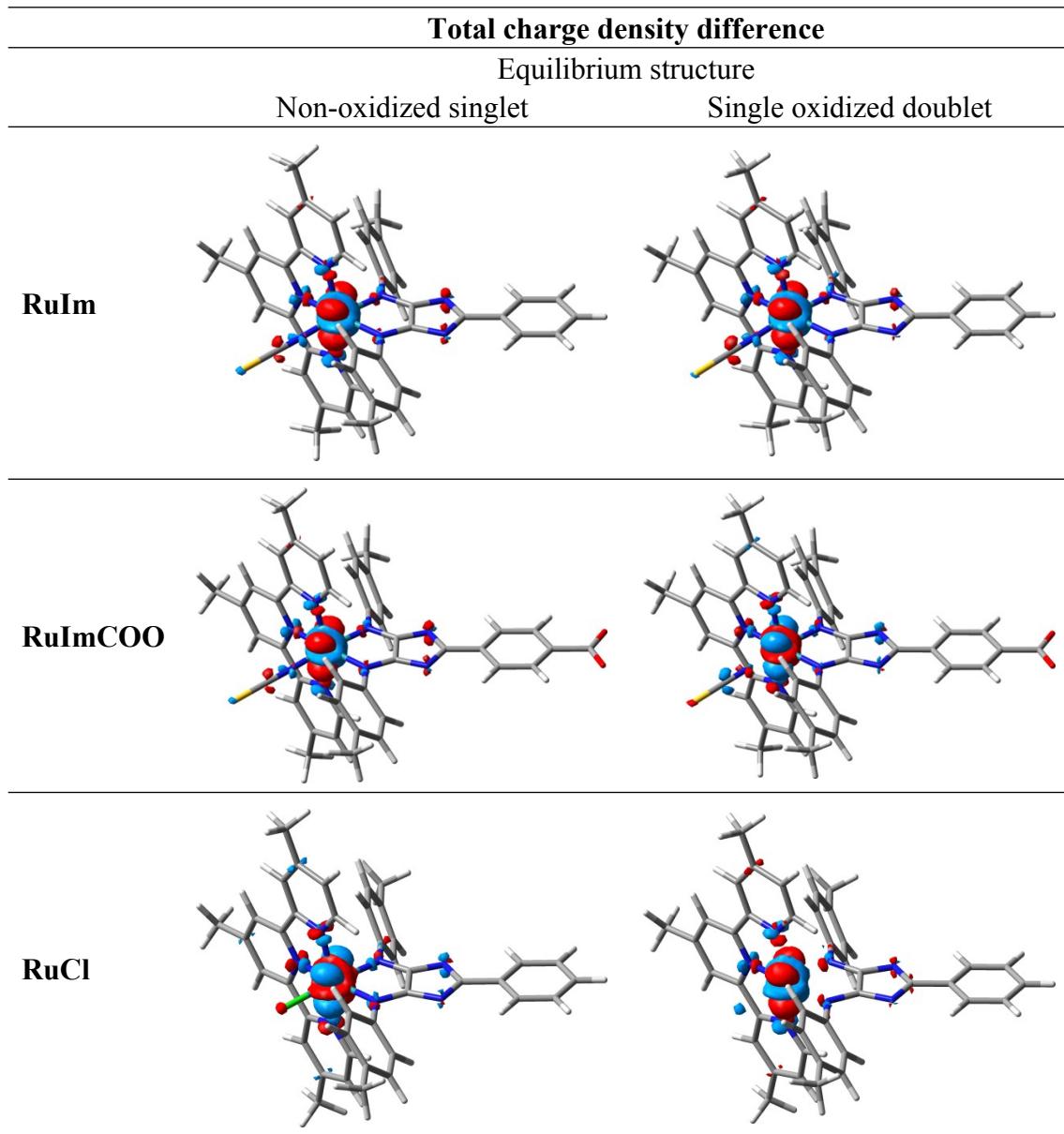


Figure S2. Absorption spectra of **RuIm** (A) and **RuImCOO** (B) in solution during running a CV. The spectra correspond to respective applied potentials of same colors.

Table S3: Total charge density difference between the non-oxidized singlet and the single oxidized doublet ground states within the respective equilibrium geometries of **RuIm**, **RuImCOO** and the respective chloro-complex without anchoring group denoted as **RuCl**.



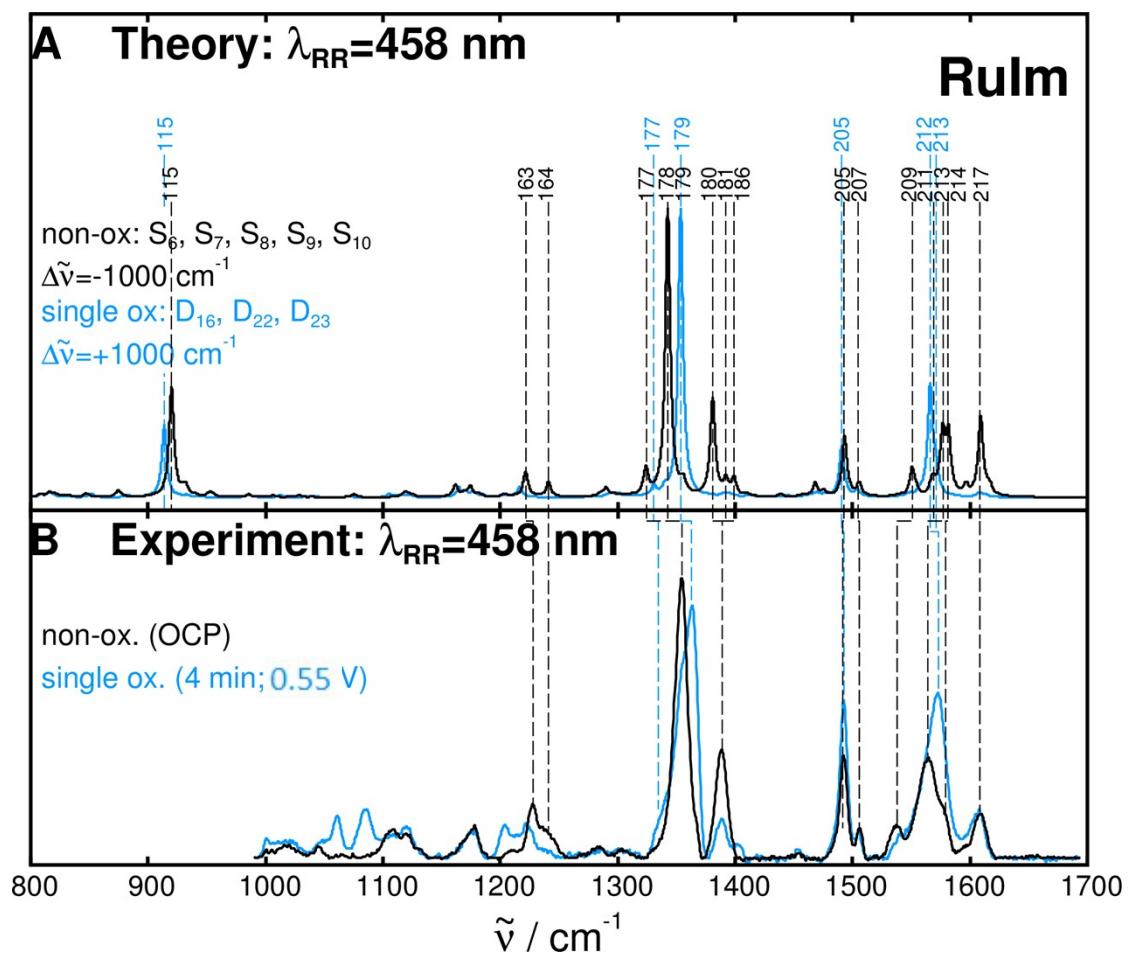
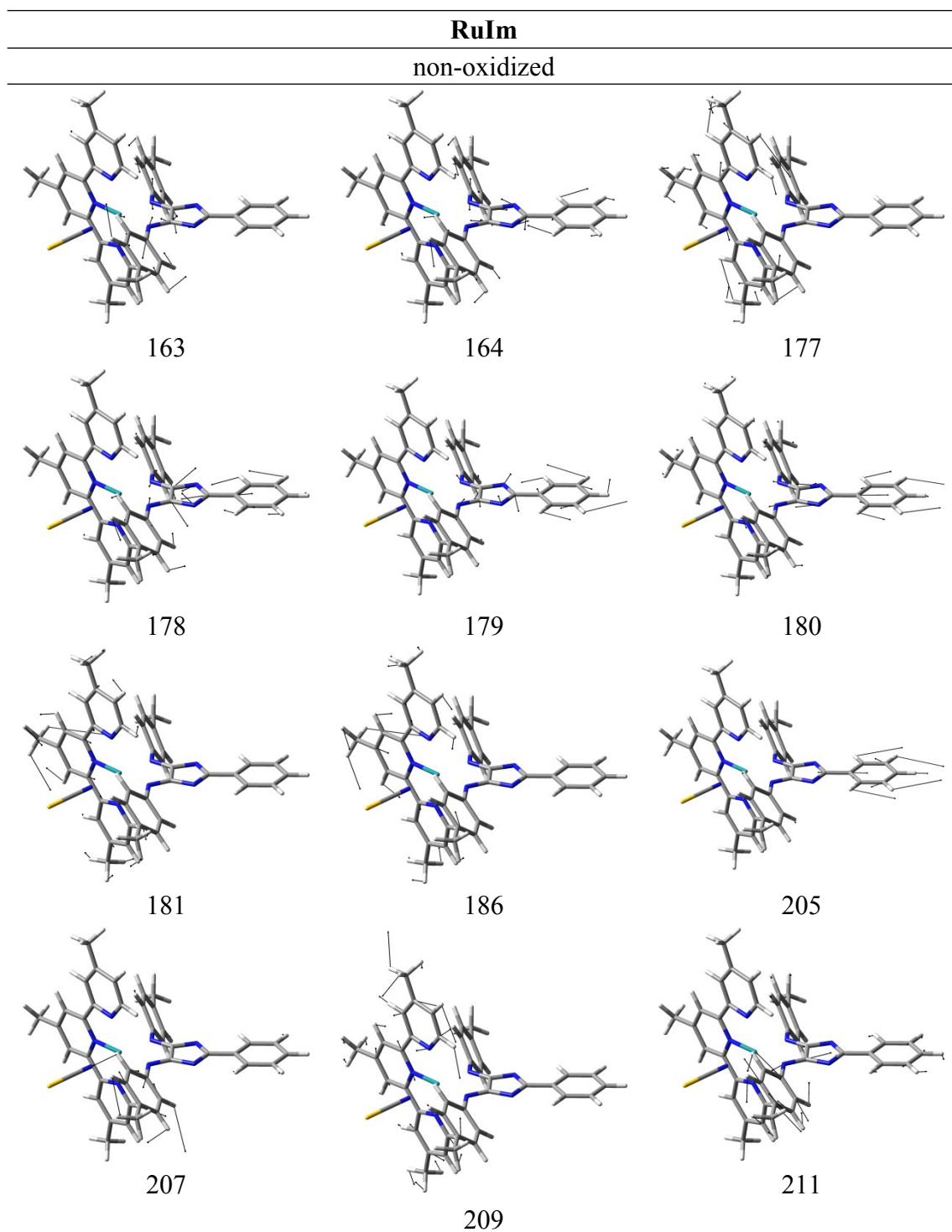
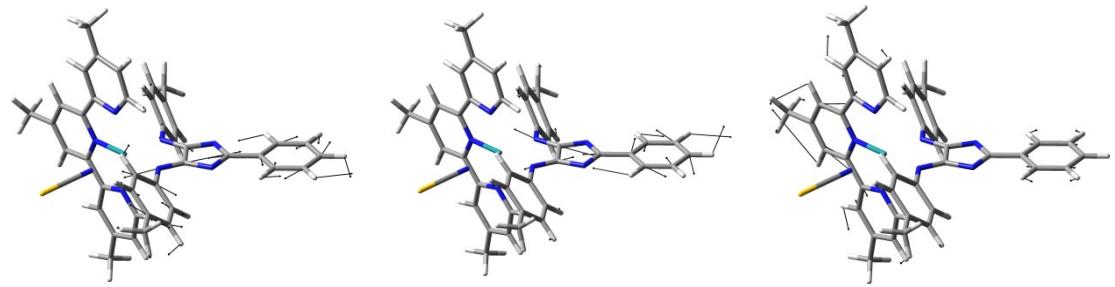


Figure S3. Calculated (A) and experimental (B) RR spectra of non-oxidized (blue) and oxidized (black) species of **RuIm** ($\lambda_{RR} = 458$ nm), while the vibrational modes are assigned to the measured bands and labeled accordingly.

Table S4. Vibrational modes of the non-oxidized and oxidized species of **RuIm** with relative RR intensities $\geq 5\%$ ($\lambda_{RR} = 458$ nm).



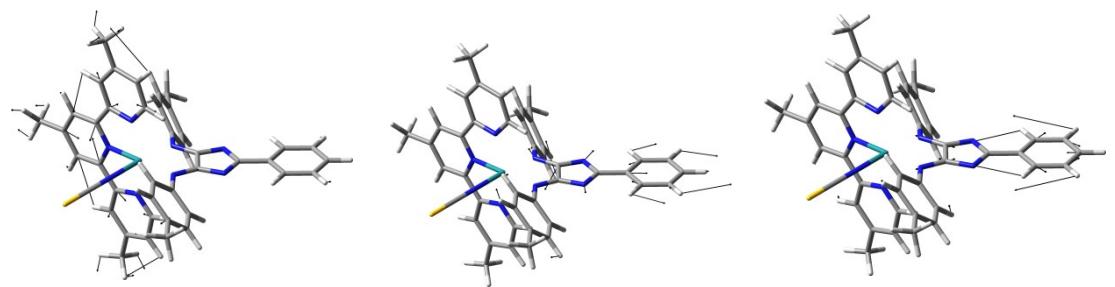


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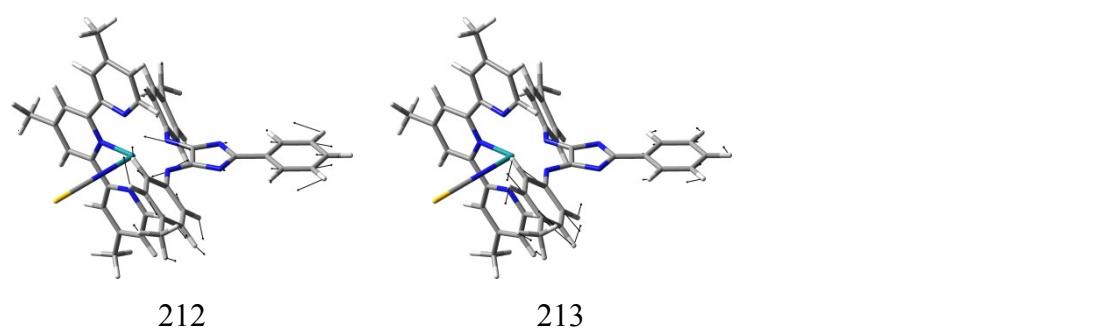
single oxidized



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205



212

213

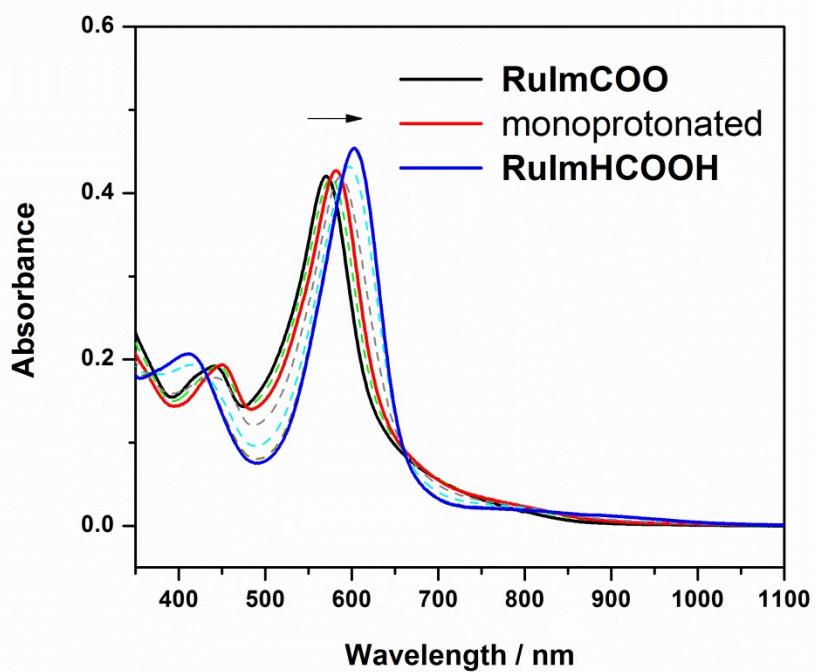


Figure S4. Absorption spectra of the deprotonated **RuImCOO** in ACN on addition of aliquots of TFA acid. The deprotonated form **RuImCOO** is illustrated in black, the single protonated form in red and the double protonated form **RuImHCOOH** in blue.

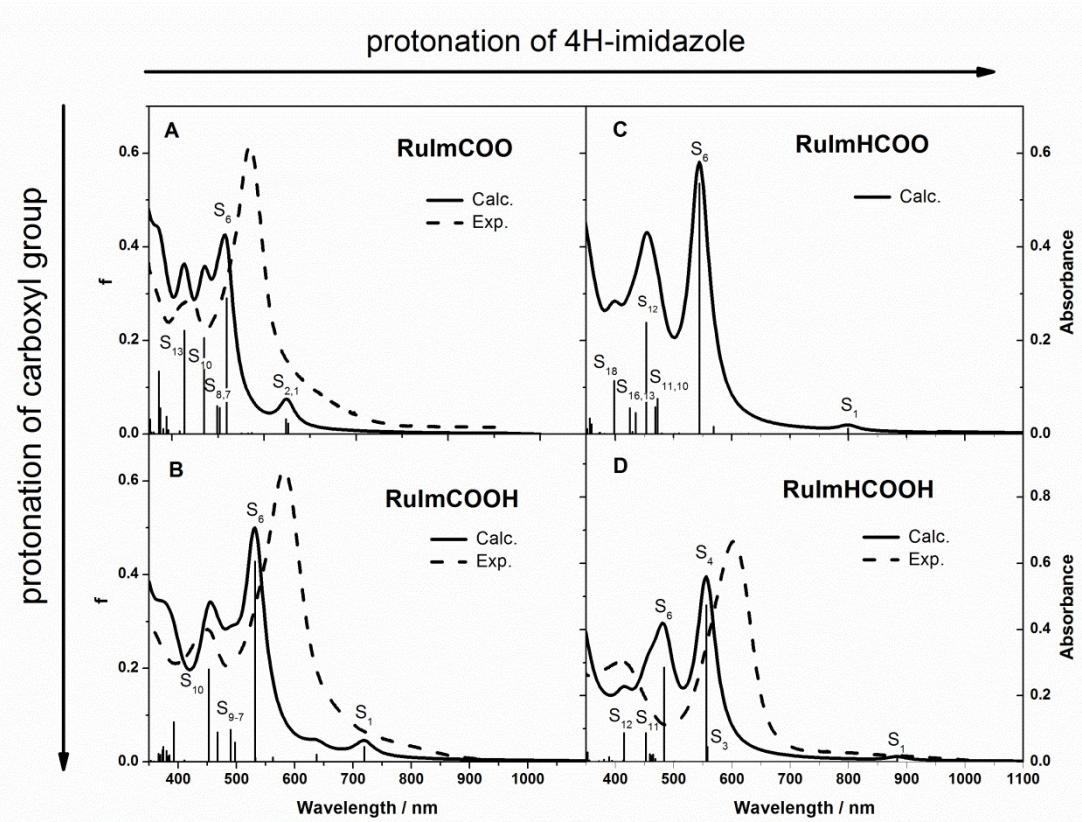
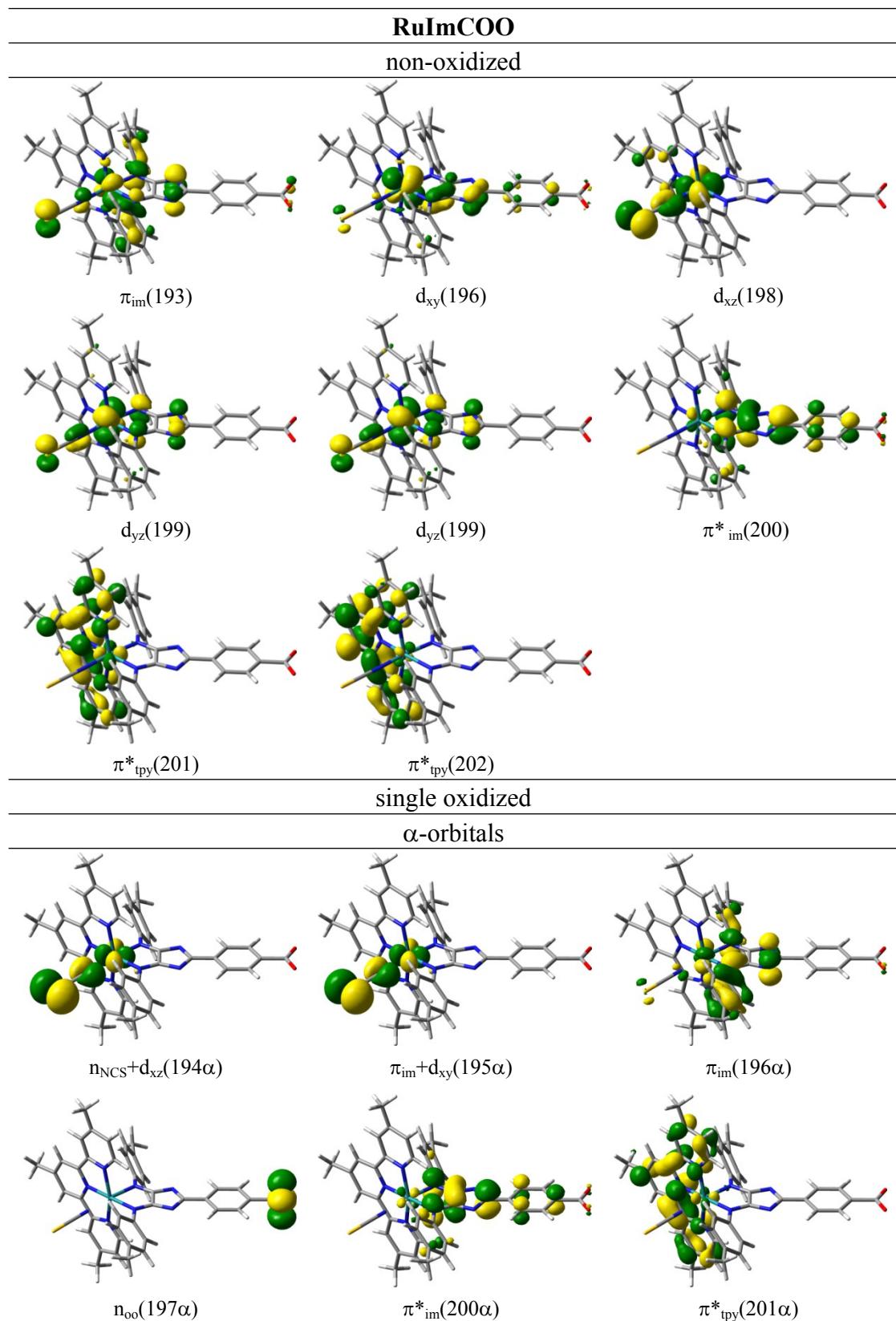


Figure S5. Calculated (solid) and experimental (dashed) absorption spectra for different protonated species of **RuImCOOH** (A-D) in ACN.

Table S5: Molecular orbitals involved in the main configurations for the excited states of non-oxidized and oxidized species of **RuImCOO**.



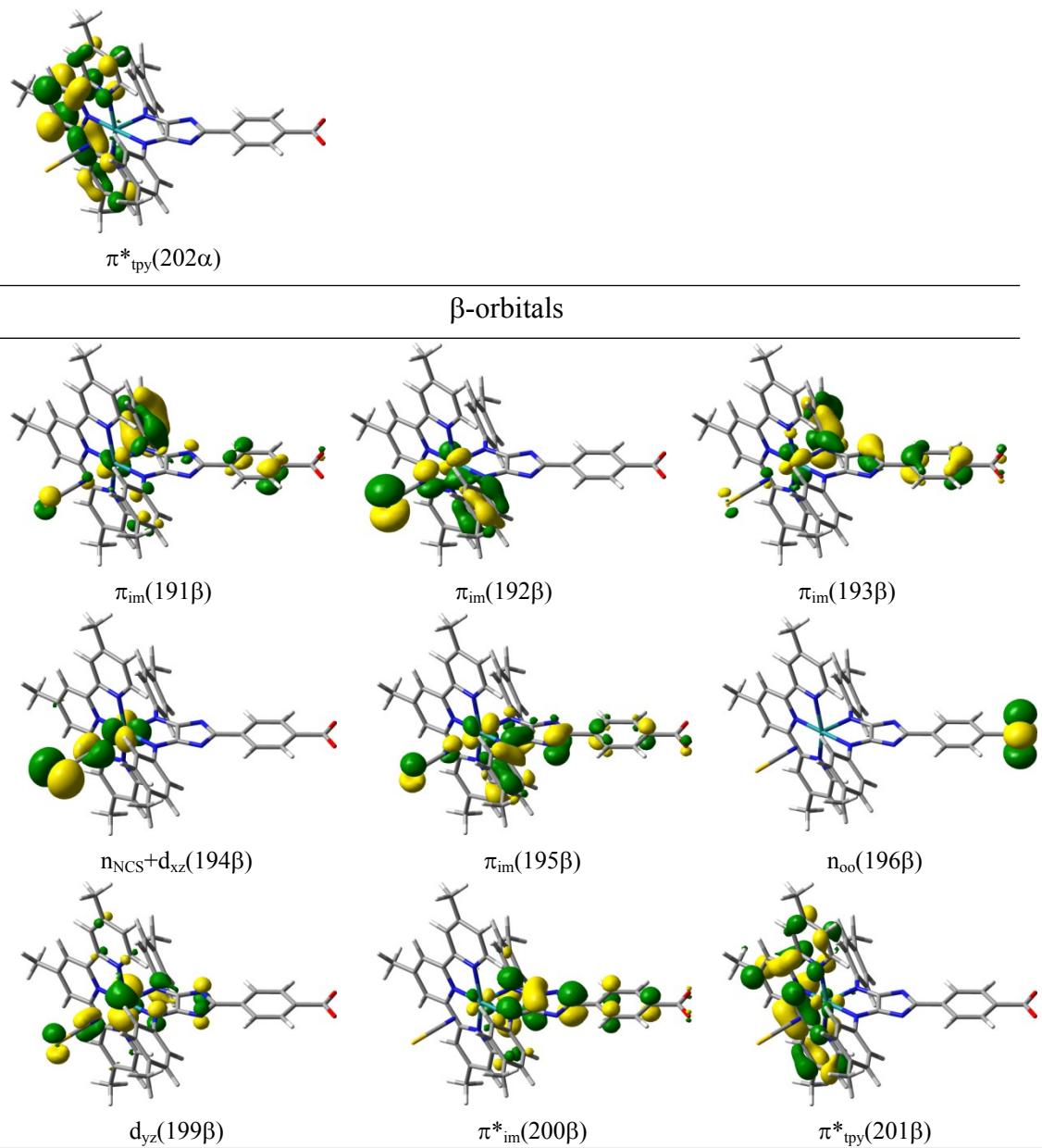


Table S6. Calculated bright electronic excited states for the non-oxidized and oxidized species of **RuImCOO** with the main contributing transitions, excitation energies E^e , oscillator strengths f , the eigen values of $\langle s^2 \rangle$, and experimental absorption maxima.

RuImCOO							
state	transition	non-oxidized		E^e / eV	λ / nm	f	$\langle s^2 \rangle$
		weight / %					
S ₁	d _{yz} (199) → π* _{tpy} (201) (MLCT)	73	1.90	652	0.023	0.00	700
	d _{yz} (199) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT)	23					
S ₂	d _{yz} (199) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT)	74	1.91	648	0.032	0.00	700
	d _{yz} (199) → π* _{tpy} (201) (MLCT)	23					
S ₆	d _{xz} (198) → π* _{tpy} (201) (MLCT)	55	2.39	518	0.291	0.00	570
	d _{xy} (196) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT)	30					
S ₇	d _{xz} (198) → π* _{tpy} (202) (MLCT)	86	2.46	503	0.056	0.00	570
S ₈	d _{xy} (196) → π* _{tpy} (202) (MLCT)	63	2.49	498	0.060	0.00	570
	d _{xy} (196) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT)	22					
S ₁₀	d _{xy} (196) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT)	32	2.64	469	0.206	0.00	420
	d _{xy} (196) → π* _{tpy} (202) (MLCT)	27					
	d _{xz} (198) → π* _{tpy} (201) (MLCT)	22					
S ₁₃	π _{im} (193) → π* _{im} (200) (ILCT)	87	2.91	426	0.221	0.00	439
single oxidized							
state	transition	weight / %	E^e / eV	λ / nm	f	$\langle s^2 \rangle$	λ_{exp} / nm
D ₄	π _{im} (193β) → d _{yz} (199β) (LMCT)	42	1.20	1037	0.058	0.81	900
	π _{im} (195β) → d _{yz} (199β) (LMCT)	41					
	π _{im} (192β) → d _{yz} (199β) (LMCT)	8					
D ₇	π _{im} (192β) → d _{yz} (199β) (LMCT)	34	1.64	754	0.063	0.89	900
	π _{im} (193β) → d _{yz} (199β) (LMCT)	33					
	π _{im} (191β) → d _{yz} (199β) (LMCT)	12					
D ₉	π _{im} (192β) → d _{yz} (199β) (LMCT)	38	1.86	665	0.056	1.37	900
	π _{im} (196α) → π* _{im} (200α) (ILCT)	18					
	π _{im} (195β) → π* _{im} (200β) (ILCT)	13					
	π _{im} (191β) → d _{yz} (199β) (LMCT)	13					
D ₂₅	n _{oo} (196β) → π* _{im} (200β) (ILCT)	36	2.55	485	0.137	1.01	459
	π _{im} (195β) → π* _{im} (200β) (ILCT)	17					
	n _{oo} (197α) → π* _{im} (200α) (ILCT)	15					
	π _{im} (196α) → π* _{im} (200α) (ILCT)	13					
	π _{im} (193β) → π* _{im} (200β) (ILCT)	12					
D ₂₇	n _{oo} (196β) → π* _{im} (200β) (ILCT)	18	2.58	481	0.085	1.48	459
	n _{NCS} +d _{xz} (194β) → π* _{im} (200β) (ILCT)	18					
	π _{im} (196α) → π* _{im} (200α) (ILCT)	13					
	π _{im} (195β) → π* _{im} (200β) (ILCT)	12					
	n _{NCS} +d _{xz} (194β) → π* _{tpy} (201β) (LLCT)	12					

D ₃₇	$n_{NCS} + d_{xz}(194\alpha) \rightarrow \pi^*_{tpy}(201\alpha)$ (LLCT)	29	2.81	441	0.327	1.07	459
	$\pi_{im} + d_{xy}(195\alpha) \rightarrow \pi^*_{im}(200\alpha)$ (ILCT)	18					
	$\pi_{im}(193\beta) \rightarrow \pi^*_{im}(200\beta)$ (ILCT)	13					
	$n_{NCS} + d_{xz}(194\beta) \rightarrow \pi^*_{tpy}(201\beta)$ (LLCT)	12					
	$\pi_{im} + d_{xy}(195\alpha) \rightarrow \pi^*_{tpy}(201\alpha)$ (LLCT)	11					
D ₃₈	$\pi_{im} + d_{xy}(195\alpha) \rightarrow \pi^*_{tpy}(201\alpha)$ (LLCT)	57	2.85	435	0.176	1.46	459
	$\pi_{im} + d_{xy}(195\alpha) \rightarrow \pi^*_{im}(200\alpha)$ (ILCT)	13					
D ₃₉	$\pi_{im}(196\alpha) \rightarrow \pi^*_{tpy}(202\alpha)$ (ILCT)	45	2.87	432	0.098	1.18	459

Table S7. Calculated bright electronic excited states for the monoprotonated species **RuImCOOH** and **RuImHCOO** with the main contributing transitions, excitation energies E^e , oscillator strengths f , the eigen values of $\langle s^2 \rangle$, and experimental absorption maxima.

RuImCOOH							
state	transition	non-oxidized		E^e / eV	λ / nm	f	$\langle s^2 \rangle$
		weight / %					
S ₁	d _{yz} (199) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT)	96		1.72	719	0.032	0.00
S ₆	d _{xy} (197) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT)	64		2.33	532	0.428	0.00
	d _{xz} (198) → π* _{tpy} (201) (MLCT)	28					
S ₇	d _{xz} (198) → π* _{tpy} (202) (MLCT)	80		2.49	497	0.041	0.00
	d _{xz} (198) → π* _{tpy} (201) (MLCT)	9					
S ₈	d _{xz} (198) → π* _{tpy} (201) (MLCT)	31		2.53	490	0.069	0.00
	d _{xy} (197) → π* _{tpy} (202) (MLCT)	27					
	d _{xy} (197) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT)	17					
	d _{xz} (198) → π* _{tpy} (202) (MLCT)	16					
S ₉	d _{xy} (197) → π* _{tpy} (202) (MLCT)	65		2.65	468	0.063	0.00
	d _{xz} (198) → π* _{tpy} (201) (MLCT)	14					
S ₁₀	d _{yz} +π _{im} (196) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT/ILCT)	90		2.74	452	0.198	0.00
RuImHCOO							
state	transition	non-oxidized		E^e / eV	λ / nm	f	$\langle s^2 \rangle$
		weight / %					
S ₁	d _{yz} (199) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT)	94		1.55	799	0.012	0.00
S ₆	d _{xy} (195) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT)	81		2.28	544	0.536	0.00
	d _{xz} (197) → π* _{tpy} (201) (MLCT)	10					
S ₁₀	d _{xz} (197) → π* _{tpy} (202) (MLCT)	35		2.62	473	0.076	0.00
	d _{xz} (197) → π* _{tpy} (201) (MLCT)	30					
	d _{yz} (199) → π* _{tpy} (202) (MLCT)	19					
S ₁₁	d _{xz} (197) → π* _{tpy} (202) (MLCT)	62		2.64	469	0.058	0.00
	d _{xz} (197) → π* _{tpy} (201) (MLCT)	17					
	d _{yz} (199) → π* _{tpy} (202) (MLCT)	11					
S ₁₂	π _{im} (193) → π* _{im} (200) (ILCT)	86		2.74	453	0.268	0.00
S ₁₃	n _{NCS} +d _{yz} (192) → π* _{im} (200) (LLCT)	81		2.85	435	0.045	0.00
S ₁₆	n _{NCS} +d _{xz} (191) → π* _{im} (200) (LLCT)	77		2.92	425	0.055	0.00
	d _{xy} (195) → π* _{tpy} (202) (MLCT)	11					
S ₁₈	π _{im} (190) → π* _{im} (200) (ILCT)	98		3.12	398	0.114	0.00

Table S8. Calculated bright electronic excited states for the double-protonated species **RuImHCOOH** with the main contributing transitions, excitation energies E^e , oscillator strengths f , the eigen values of $\langle s^2 \rangle$, and experimental absorption maxima.

RuImHCOOH							
state	transition	non-oxidized					
		weight / %	E^e / eV	λ / nm	f	$\langle s^2 \rangle$	λ_{exp} / nm
S ₁	d _{yz} (199) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT)	93	1.40	884	0.011	0.00	-
S ₃	d _{yz} (199) → π* _{tpy} (201) (MLCT)	92	2.22	558	0.045	0.00	603
S ₄	d _{xy} (197) → π* _{im} (200) (MLCT)	79	2.23	556	0.473	0.00	603
S ₆	π _{im} (196) → π* _{im} (200) (ILCT)	80	2.56	484	0.285	0.00	412
S ₁₁	n _{NCS} +d _{xz} (194) → π* _{im} (200) (LLCT)	77	2.74	452	0.087	0.00	-
	n _{NCS} +d _{yz} (195) → π* _{im} (200) (LLCT)	10					
S ₁₂	π _{im} (193) → π* _{im} (200) (ILCT)	89	2.99	415	0.087	0.00	-

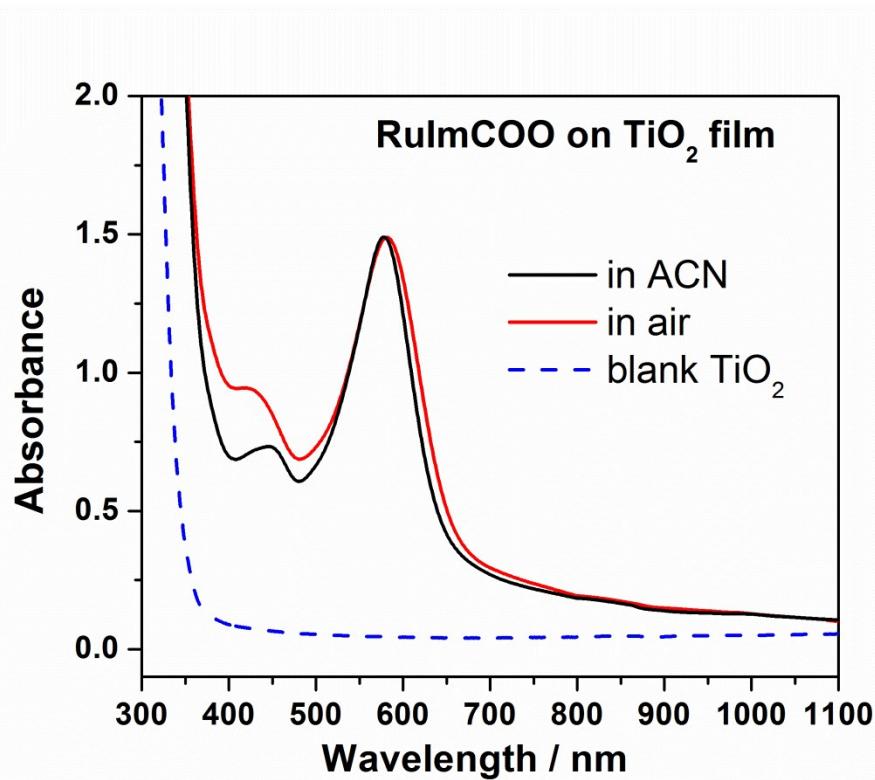


Figure S6. Absorption spectra of **RuImCOO** on TiO₂ film in ACN (black) and under air conditions (red) as well as a blank TiO₂ film (dash blue). The TiO₂ film shows negligible absorbance in the visible region, makes it feasible for SEC measurements of absorbed molecules.

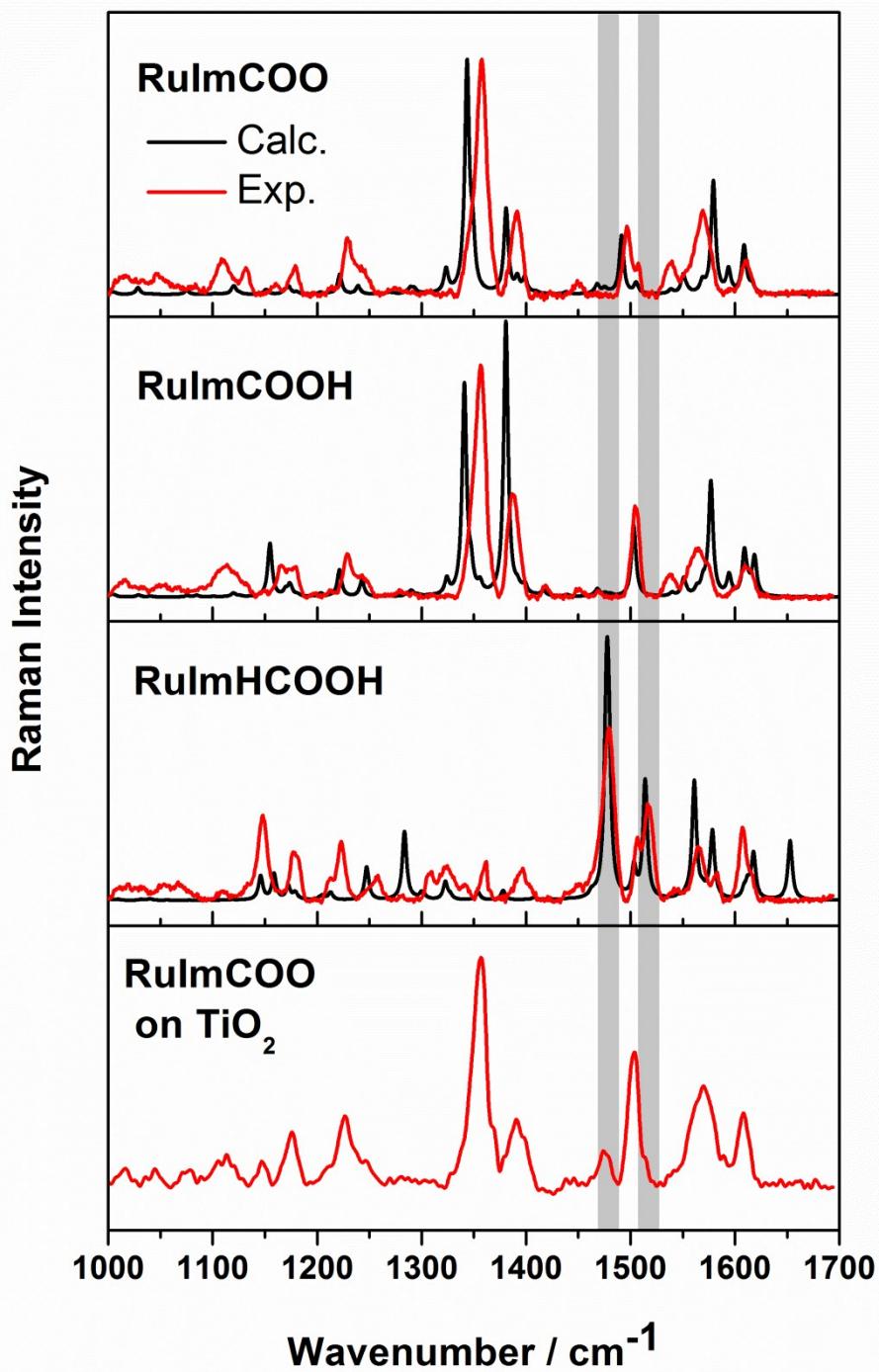


Figure S7. Calculated (black) and experimental (red) RR spectra of different protonation forms of **RuImCOOH** in ACN, as well as the RR spectra of **RuImCOO** on TiO_2 , measured at 458 nm. Highlighted in grey are the locations of the signature bands of the protonated imidazole ring.

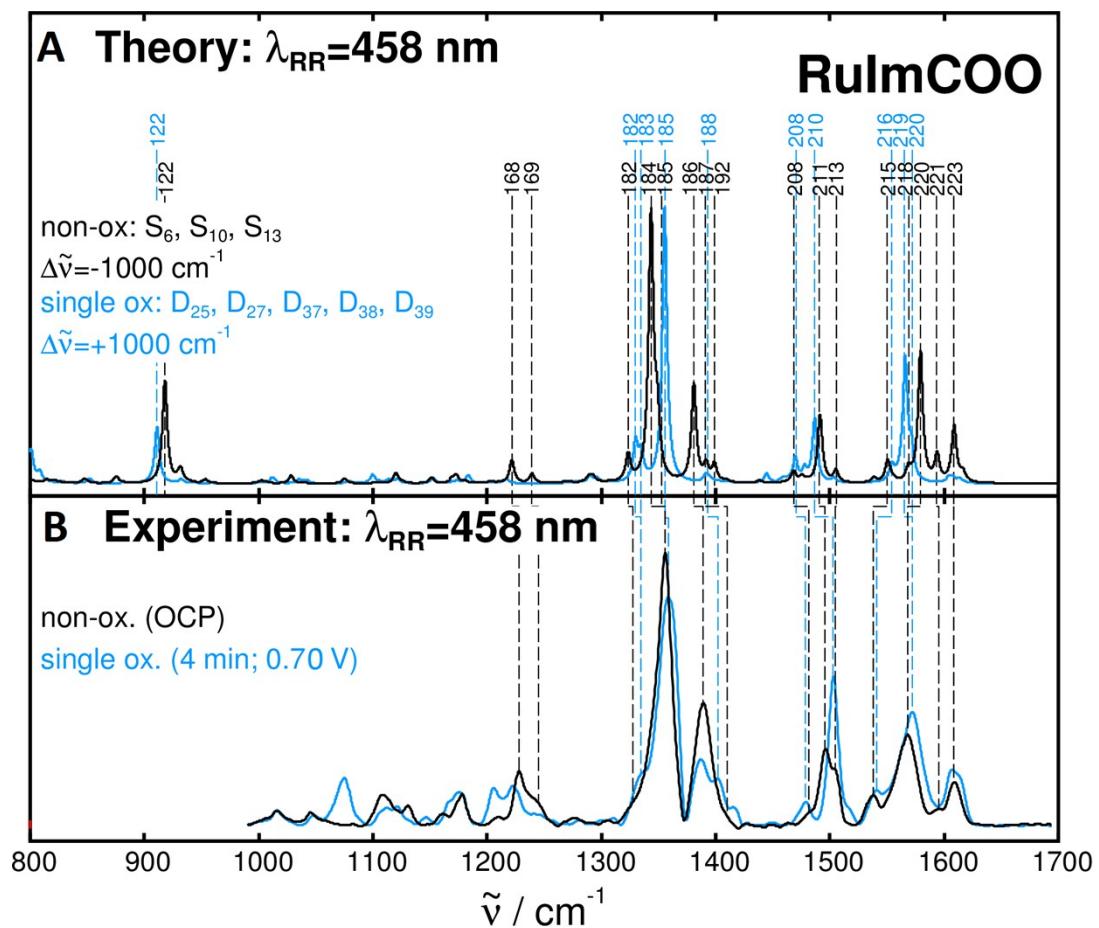
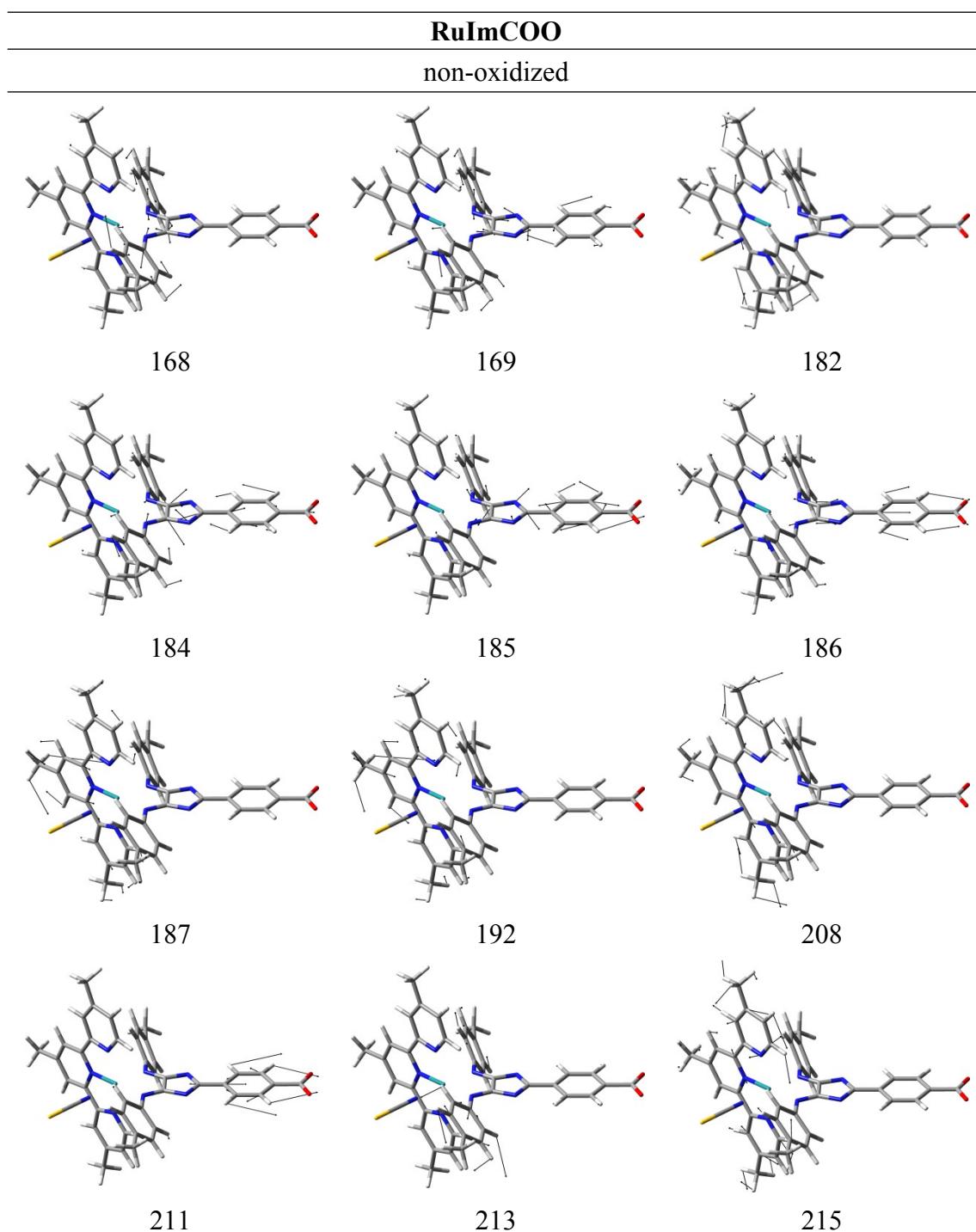
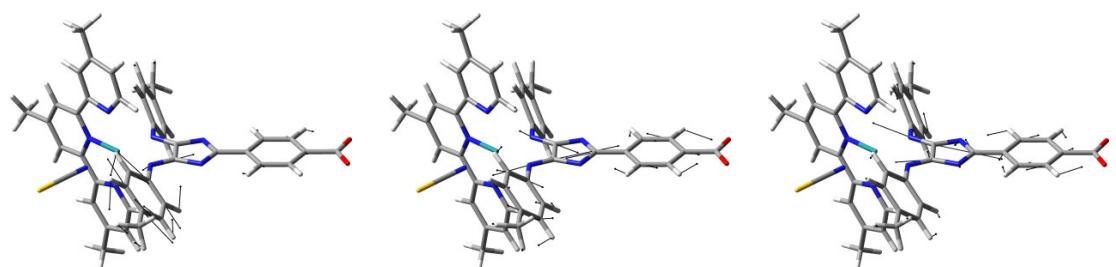


Figure S8. Calculated (A) and experimental (B) RR spectra of non-oxidized (blue) and oxidized (black) species of **RuImCOO** in solution ($\lambda_{RR} = 458$ nm), while the vibrational modes are assigned to the measured bands and labeled accordingly.

Table S9. Vibrational modes of the non-oxidized and oxidized species of **RuImCOO** with relative RR intensities $\geq 5\%$ ($\lambda_{RR} = 458$ nm).

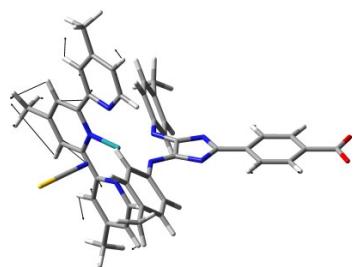




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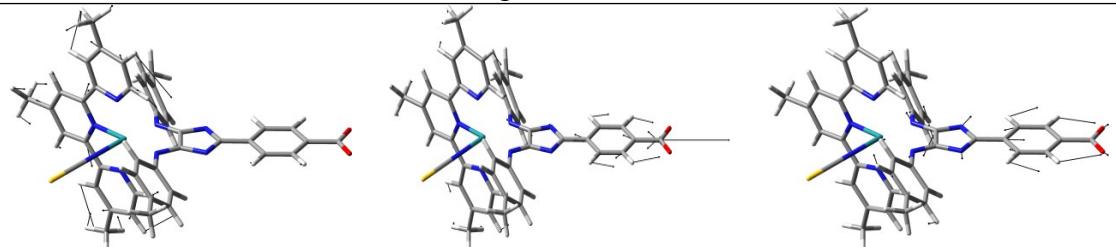
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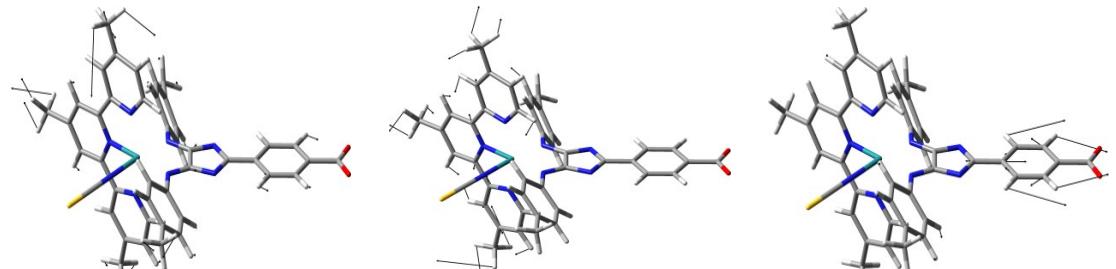
single oxidized



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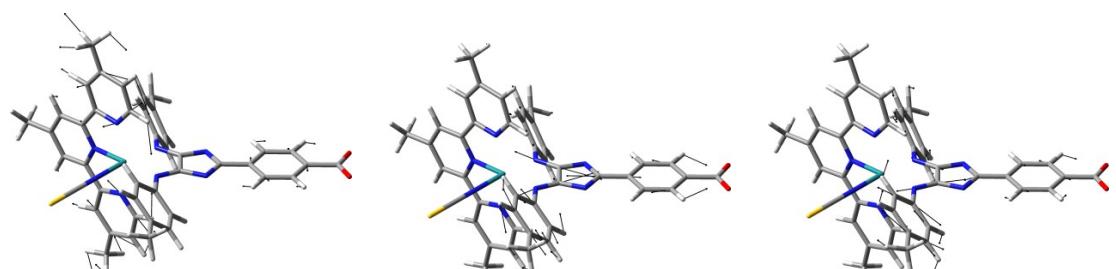
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