

Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for New Journal of Chemistry.

**Excited-state multiple proton transfer mechanism of 7-
hydroxquinoline-(H₂O)₃ cluster**

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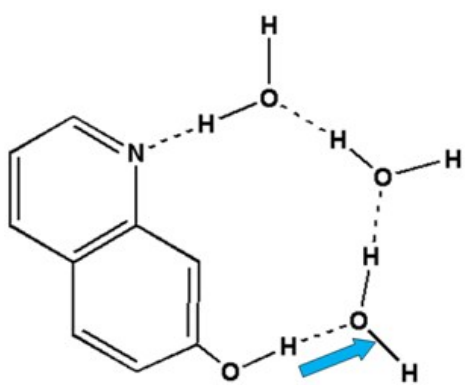
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Table S1. The calculated primary bond lengths (Å) of **7HQ-(H₂O)₃** configuration involved in intermolecular hydrogen bonds in the S₀ state and S₁ state.

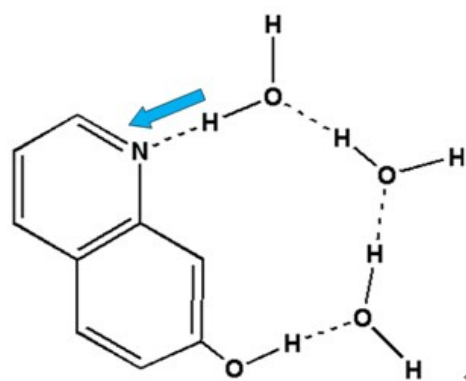
	N ₁ ···H ₂	H ₂ -O ₃	O ₃ ···H ₄	H ₄ -O ₅	O ₅ ···H ₆	H ₆ -O ₇	O ₇ ···H ₈	H ₈ -O ₉
S ₀	1.804	1.001	1.747	0.994	1.749	0.993	1.722	0.996
S ₁	1.738	1.011	1.726	0.996	1.714	0.997	1.607	1.017

Table S2. The calculated primary bond lengths (Å) of **7HQ-(H₂O)₃-PT** form involved in intermolecular hydrogen bonds in the S₀ state and S₁ state.

	N ₁ -H ₂	H ₂ ···O ₃	O ₃ -H ₄	H ₄ ···O ₅	O ₅ -H ₆	H ₆ ···O ₇	O ₇ -H ₈	H ₈ ···O ₉
S ₀	1.038	1.795	0.992	1.758	0.995	1.741	1.008	1.660
S ₁	1.032	1.827	0.991	1.761	0.992	1.756	0.993	1.752

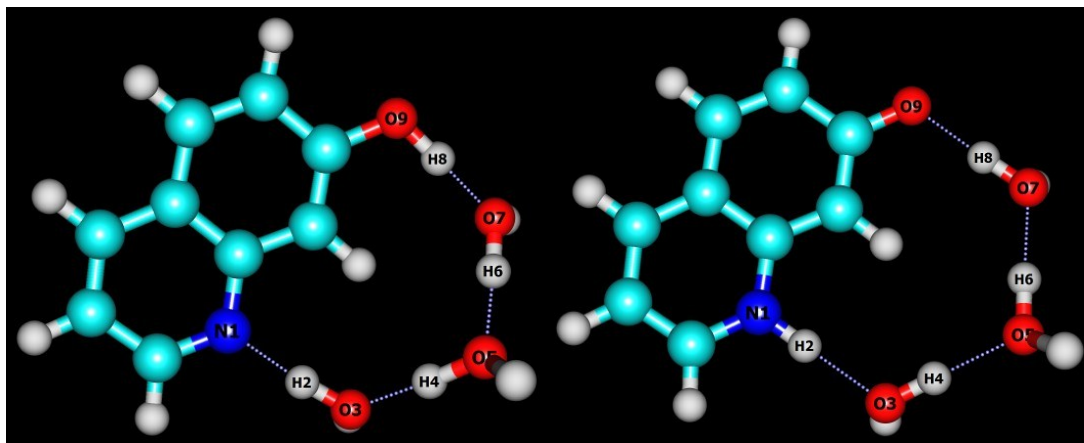


Type-C



Type-D

Scheme S1 Two types of proton transfer reaction mechanism.



7HQ-(H₂O)₃

7HQ-(H₂O)₃-PT

Figure S1 Structures of 7HQ-(H₂O)₃ and its corresponding keto-tautomer 7HQ-(H₂O)₃-PT.

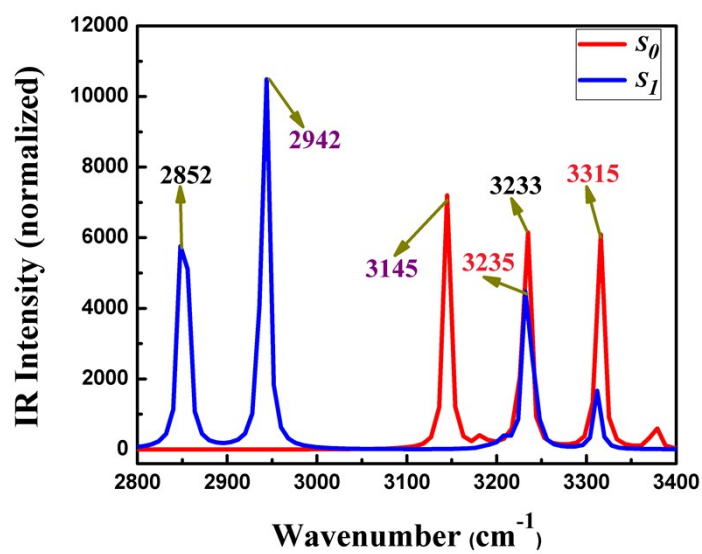


Figure S2 The calculated IR spectra of $7\text{HQ}-(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3$ structure in aqueous solvent at the spectral region of $\text{H}_2\text{-O}_3$ (purple), $\text{H}_8\text{-O}_9$ (black), $\text{H}_4\text{-O}_5$ and $\text{H}_6\text{-O}_7$ (pink) stretching bands.

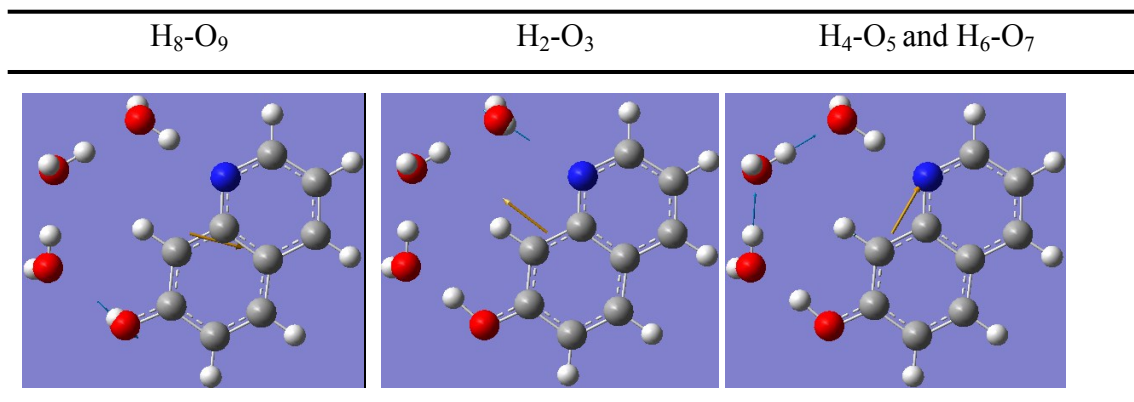


Figure S3 Assignment of the different vibrational modes (both displacement vector and dipole derivative unit vector) of hydrogen-bonded 7HQ-(H₂O)₃ cluster at the spectral region of H₂-O₃, H₈-O₉ and the simultaneous H₄-O₅, H₆-O₇ stretching band.

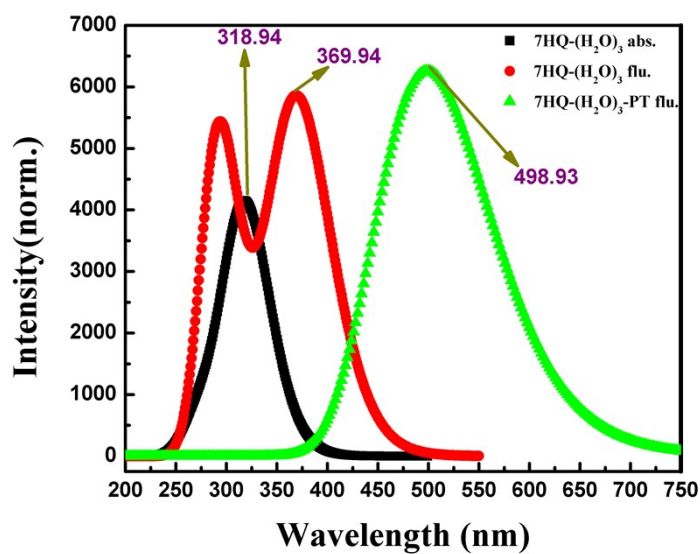
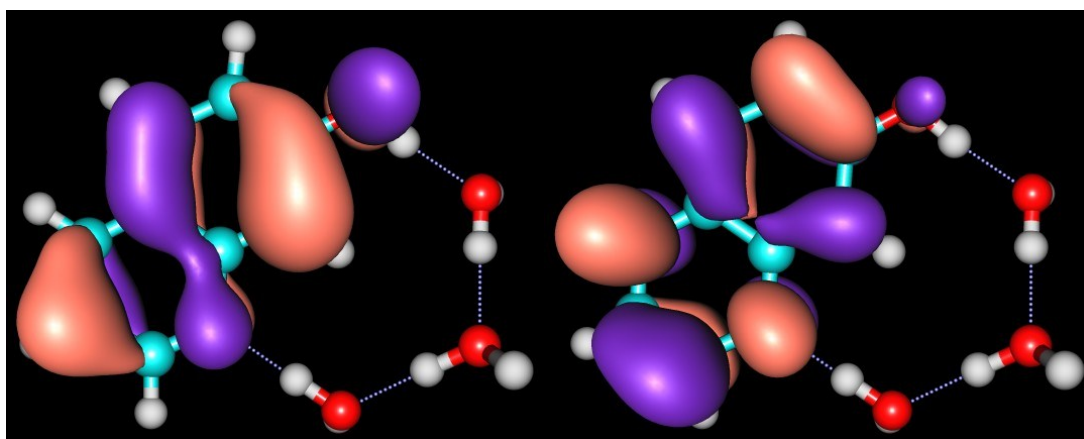


Figure S4 The calculated absorption and fluorescence spectra of **7HQ-(H₂O)₃** and **7HQ-(H₂O)₃-PT** forms based on the TDDFT/B3LYP/6-31+G(d)/IEFPCM (water) theoretical level.



HUMO

LUMO

Figure S5 Frontier molecular orbitals (HOMO and LUMO) of **7HQ-(H₂O)₃** cluster.

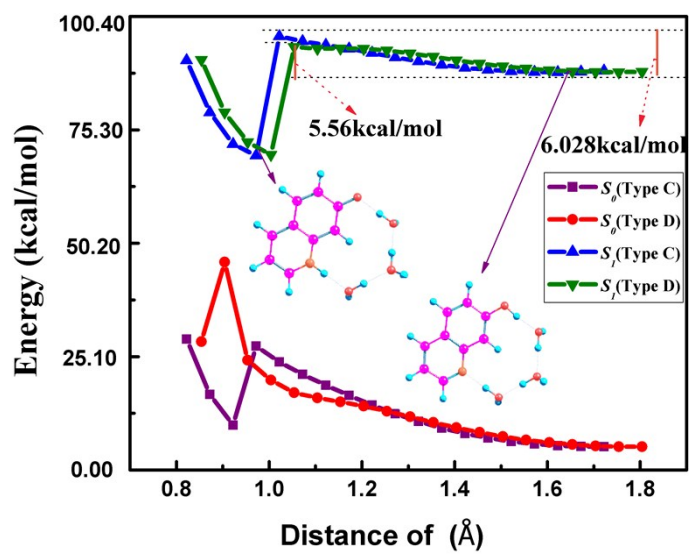


Figure S6 Potential energy curves of the S_0 and S_1 states for **7HQ-(H₂O)₃** cluster along with O₉-H₈···O₇ (Type-C) and N₁···H₂-O₃ (Type -D).