## Electronic Supplementary Information for

# Identification of the protonation site of gaseous triglycine: the cispeptide bond conformation as the global minimum 

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Fig. S1 Comparison of the theoretical IR spectra of the most stable conformer of each isomer of protonated triglycine $\left(a_{1}\right) G G G H_{11}{ }^{*},\left(a_{2}\right) G G G H_{21},\left(a_{3}\right) G G G H_{31}$ and the corresponding enlarged small peaks $\left(b_{1}-b_{3}\right)$ at 298 K , simulated by anharmonic (anhar) and unscaled harmonic (har) frequency calculations at the B3LYP/6-311++G(d, p) level of theory. A Lorentzian profile with a FWHM of $20 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ is used to convolute the calculated spectra.


Fig. S2 Simulated IR spectra (2000-4000 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ region) of dominant conformers in the four isomers of protonated triglycine (a) $\mathrm{GGGH}_{1}^{*}$, (b) $\mathrm{GGGH}_{1}$, (c) $\mathrm{GGGH}_{2}$, (d) $\mathrm{GGGH} \mathrm{H}_{3}$ at 298 K , calculated at the B3LYP/6-311++G(d, p) level of theory, as well as their summations (SUM) calculated using the percentage abundances listed in Table 3. A Lorentzian profile with a FWHM of $20 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ is used to convolute the calculated spectra.

Table S1. Conformers with low Gibbs free energy of protonated triglycine, together with their respective percent abundances at $498,298,250$ and 198 K . The abundances were calculated using CCSD/6-31++G(d,p) electronic energies and Gibbs free energy corrections at the B3LYP/6-311++G (d, p) level of theory.

|  | $\mathrm{GGGH}_{11}{ }^{*}$ | $\mathrm{GGGH}_{12}$ | GGGH ${ }_{13}$ | GGGH ${ }_{14}{ }^{*}$ | GGGH ${ }_{15}$ | GGGH ${ }_{21}$ | $\mathrm{GGGH}_{22}$ | $\mathrm{GGGH}_{23}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 498 K | 25.60\% | 12.65\% | 12.53\% | 13.00\% | - | 10.01\% | 9.04\% | 7.73\% |
| 298 K | 60.44\% | 11.11\% | 10.95\% | 8.89\% | 0.60\% | 3.99\% | 2.38\% | 1.65\% |
| 250 K | 73.45\% | 8.37\% | 8.23\% | 5.98\% | 0.30\% | 2.04\% | 1.01\% | 0.63\% |
| 198 K | - | 45.52\% | 44.56\% | - | 0.84\% | 5.81\% | 2.11\% | 1.13\% |

