## **Electronic Supplementary Information for**

## Identification of the protonation site of gaseous triglycine: the cis-

## peptide 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  $(a_1) GGGH_{11}^*$ ,  $(a_2) GGGH_{21}$ ,  $(a_3) GGGH_{31}$  and the corresponding enlarged small peaks  $(b_1-b_3)$  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 cm<sup>-1</sup> is used to convolute the calculated spectra.



**Fig. S2** Simulated IR spectra (2000-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> region) of dominant conformers in the four isomers of protonated triglycine (a)  $GGGH_1^*$ , (b)  $GGGH_1$ , (c)  $GGGH_2$ , (d)  $GGGH_3$  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 cm<sup>-1</sup> 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.

	GGGH <sub>11</sub> *	GGGH <sub>12</sub>	GGGH <sub>13</sub>	GGGH <sub>14</sub> *	GGGH <sub>15</sub>	GGGH <sub>21</sub>	GGGH <sub>22</sub>	GGGH <sub>23</sub>
498 К	25.60%	12.65%	12.53%	13.00%	-	10.01%	9.04%	7.73%
298 К	60.44%	11.11%	10.95%	8.89%	0.60%	3.99%	2.38%	1.65%
250 К	73.45%	8.37%	8.23%	5.98%	0.30%	2.04%	1.01%	0.63%
198 К	-	45.52%	44.56%	-	0.84%	5.81%	2.11%	1.13%