

Electronic supplementary information

**Hydration effect on electronic structure and stability of  
superalkali cation  $\text{Li}_3^+$**

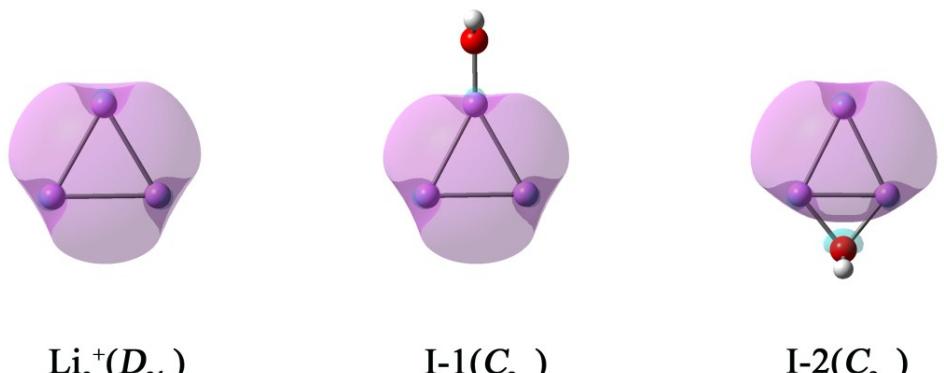
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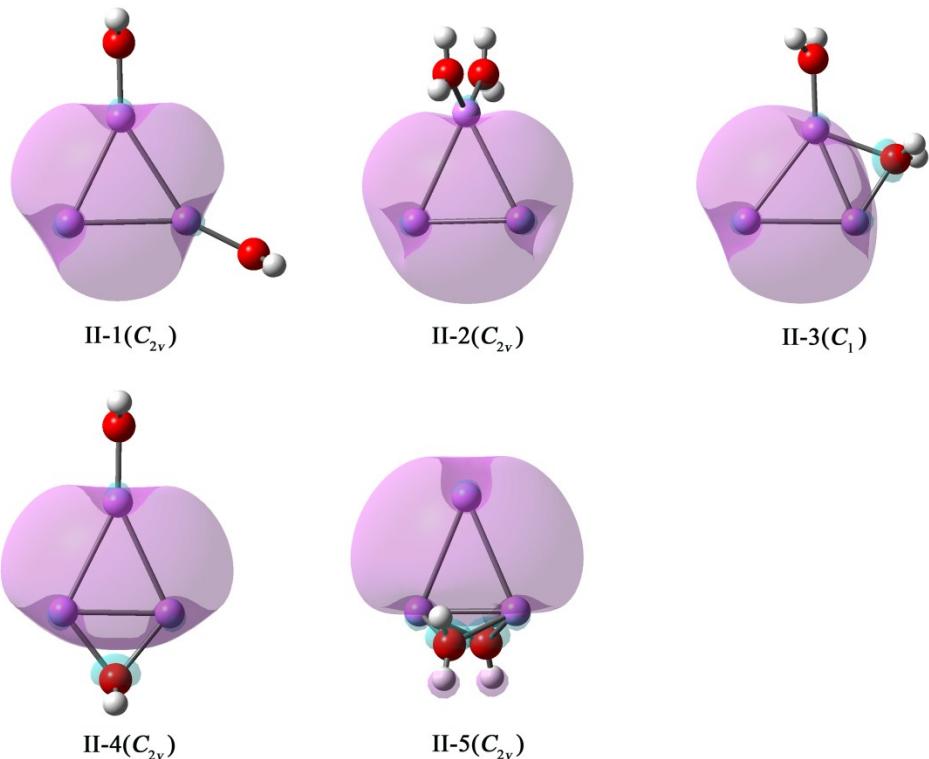
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\* Corresponding author.

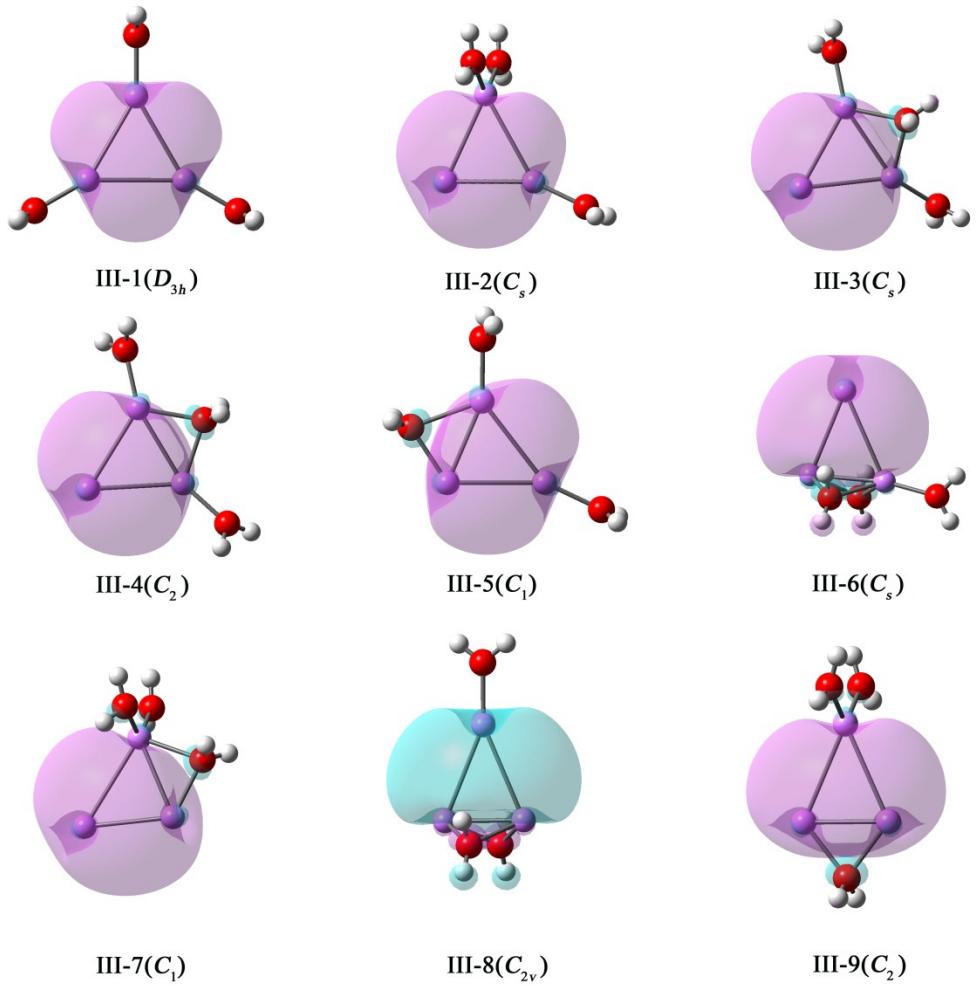
Email address: liyingedu@jlu.edu.cn



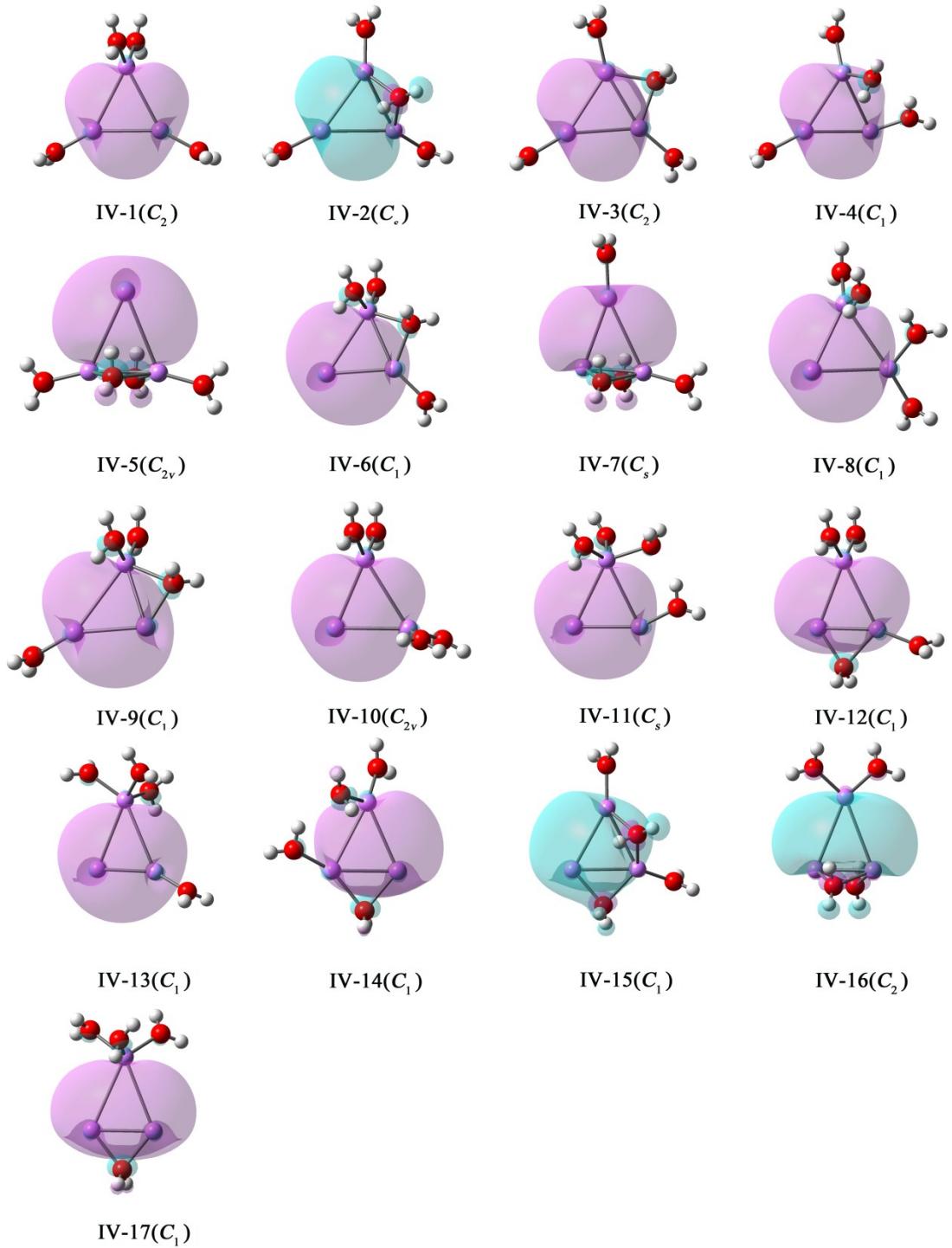
**Fig. S1** The highest occupied molecular orbitals (HOMOs) of  $\text{Li}_3^+$  and  $\text{Li}_3^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ .



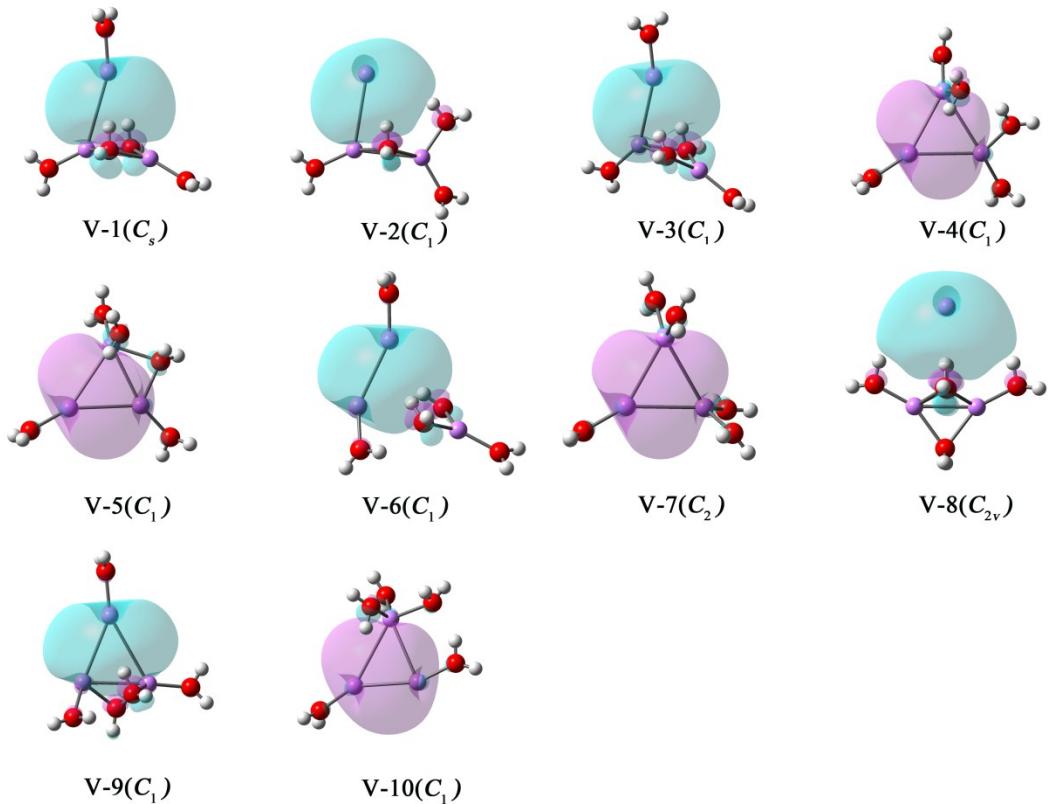
**Fig. S2** The highest occupied molecular orbitals (HOMOs) of  $\text{Li}_3^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2$ .



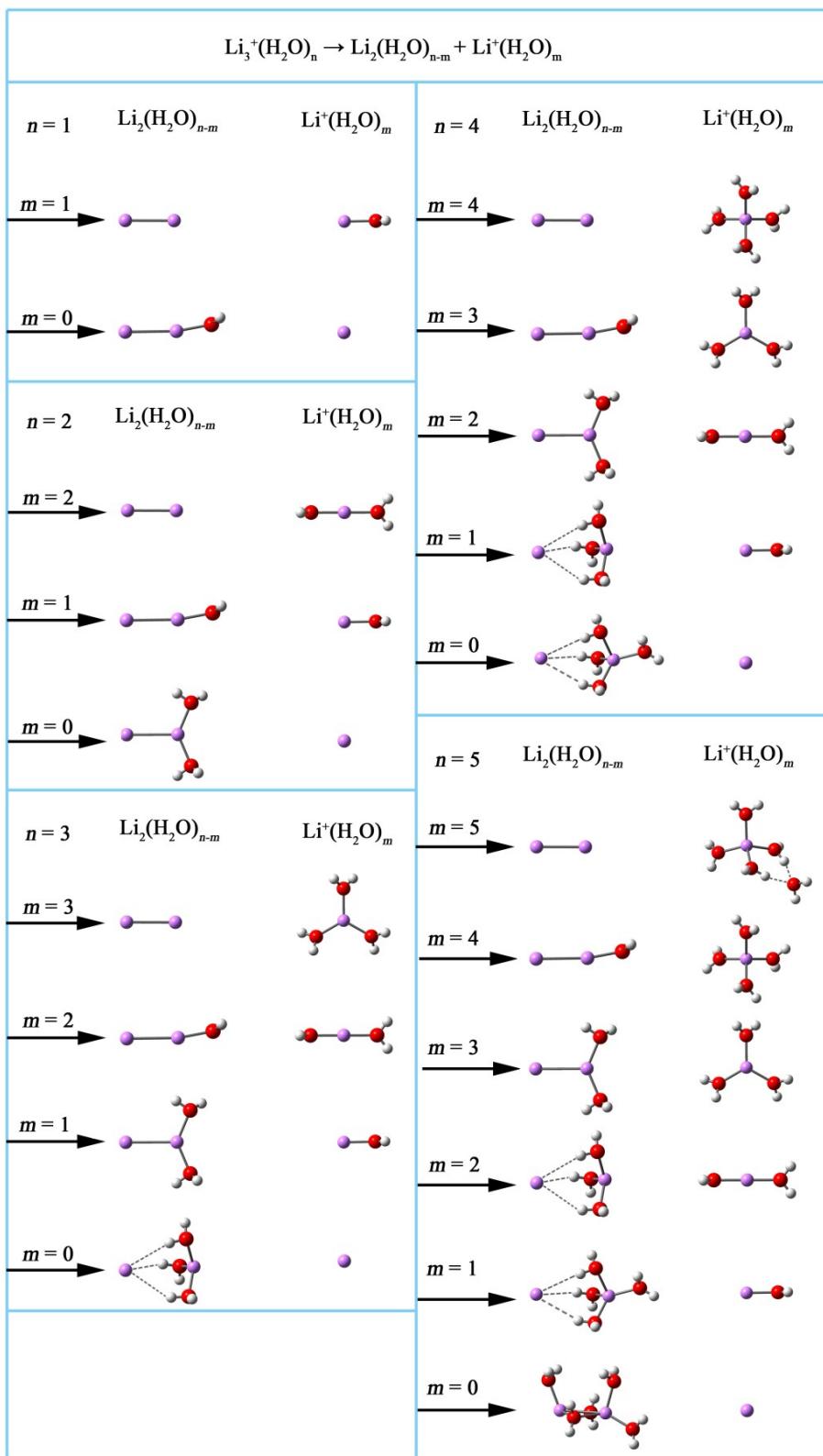
**Fig. S3** The highest occupied molecular orbitals (HOMOs) of  $\text{Li}_3^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3$ .



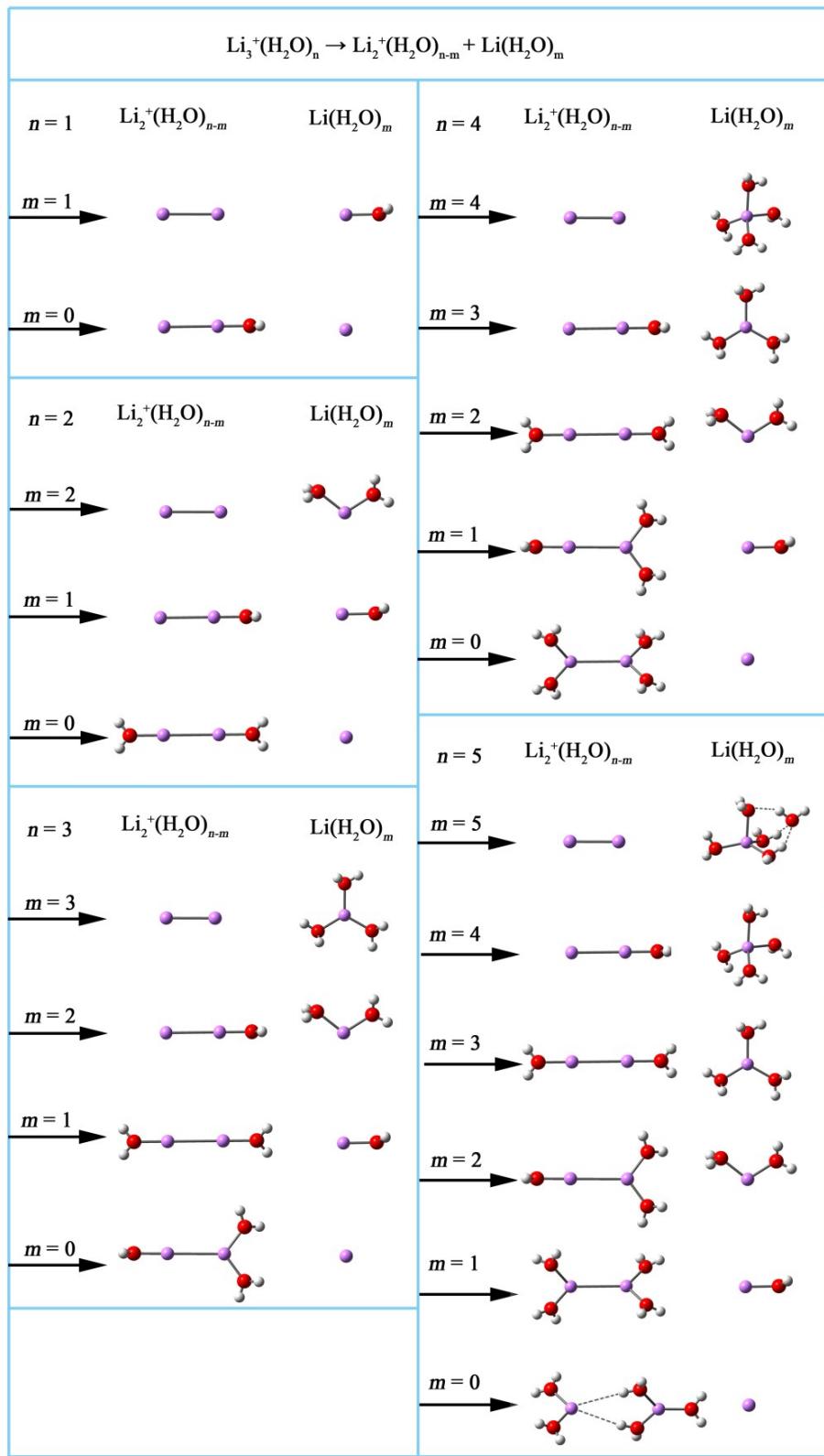
**Fig. S4** The highest occupied molecular orbitals (HOMOs) of  $\text{Li}_3^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4$ .



**Fig. S5** The highest occupied molecular orbitals (HOMOs) of  $\text{Li}_3^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5$ .



**Fig. S6** Equilibrium structures of the products for the  $\text{Li}_3^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n \rightarrow \text{Li}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{n-m} + \text{Li}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_m$  reaction (channel 1).



**Fig. S7** Equilibrium structures of the products for the  $\text{Li}_3^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n \rightarrow \text{Li}_2^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{n-m} + \text{Li}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_m$  reaction (channel 2).

**Table S1** NPA charges on the three Li atoms ( $Q_1$ ,  $Q_2$ ,  $Q_3$ , in  $|e|$ ), total NPA charge on  $\text{Li}_3^+$  ( $Q_{\text{tot}}$ , in  $|e|$ ), the average Li-O distances when the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules occupy on-top ( $T_{\text{Li-O}}$ ) and bridge ( $B_{\text{Li-O}}$ ) sites, respectively, and the VEA values of low-lying isomers of the  $\text{Li}_3^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$  ( $n = 1\text{-}4$ ) clusters.

isomer	$Q_1$	$Q_2$	$Q_3$	$Q_{\text{tot}}$	VEA (eV)	$T_{\text{Li-O}} (\text{\AA})$	$B_{\text{Li-O}} (\text{\AA})$
<b>I-2</b>	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.948	3.313	—	2.139
<b>II-2</b>	0.355	0.267	0.267	0.889	2.937	1.925	—
<b>II-3</b>	0.293	0.290	0.299	0.882	3.088	1.924	2.171
<b>II-4</b>	0.280	0.323	0.323	0.926	2.955	1.911	2.136
<b>II-5</b>	0.233	0.342	0.342	0.917	3.087	—	2.089
<b>III-2</b>	0.351	0.258	0.232	0.841	2.498	1.923	—
<b>III-3</b>	0.286	0.286	0.243	0.815	2.528	1.925	2.125
<b>III-4</b>	0.285	0.285	0.243	0.813	2.586	1.929	2.132
<b>III-5</b>	0.302	0.261	0.276	0.839	2.579	1.923	2.322
<b>III-6</b>	0.149	0.357	0.305	0.811	2.832	1.917	2.078
<b>III-7</b>	0.324	0.263	0.215	0.802	2.678	1.951	2.124
<b>III-8</b>	0.196	0.327	0.327	0.850	2.781	1.917	2.075
<b>III-9</b>	0.309	0.270	0.270	0.849	2.758	1.935	2.125
<b>IV-2</b>	0.322	0.322	0.183	0.827	2.244	1.917	2.067
<b>IV-3</b>	0.266	0.266	0.238	0.770	2.371	1.931	2.128
<b>IV-4</b>	0.299	0.311	0.191	0.801	2.420	1.936	—
<b>IV-5</b>	-0.007	0.428	0.428	0.849	2.594	1.916	2.047
<b>IV-6</b>	0.306	0.299	0.134	0.739	2.642	1.953	2.109
<b>IV-7</b>	0.107	0.407	0.308	0.822	2.107	1.919	2.054
<b>IV-8</b>	0.278	0.381	0.138	0.797	2.493	1.946	—
<b>IV-9</b>	0.328	0.248	0.187	0.763	2.604	1.944	2.124
<b>IV-10</b>	0.336	0.336	0.113	0.785	2.270	1.933	—
<b>IV-11</b>	0.316	0.312	0.143	0.771	2.620	1.980	—
<b>IV-12</b>	0.289	0.185	0.312	0.786	2.497	1.932	2.140
<b>IV-13</b>	0.405	0.205	0.164	0.774	2.366	1.964	—
<b>IV-14</b>	0.269	0.373	0.157	0.799	2.391	1.944	2.139
<b>IV-15</b>	0.300	0.346	0.173	0.819	2.621	1.922	2.119
<b>IV-16</b>	0.226	0.296	0.296	0.818	2.619	1.949	2.058
<b>IV-17</b>	0.362	0.205	0.219	0.786	2.745	1.981	2.105