

**Electronic Supplementary Information for**

**Experimental and Theoretical Investigations of Infrared Multiple Photon Dissociation Spectra of Arginine Complexes with Zn<sup>2+</sup> and Cd<sup>2+</sup>**

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Table S1 provides relative single point energies of located high-energy [Zn(Arg-H)]<sup>+</sup> complexes. Tables S2 and S3 give the vibrational frequencies and IR intensities for the five lowest energy conformers of [Zn(Arg-H)]<sup>+</sup> and CdCl<sup>+</sup>(Arg) calculated at the B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) and B3LYP/def2-TZVP levels of theory, respectively.

Figures S1 and S2 show select high energy conformers of [Zn(Arg-H)]<sup>+</sup> and CdCl<sup>+</sup>(Arg), respectively. Figures S3 and S4 show representative mass spectra for the IRMPD of [Zn(Arg-H)]<sup>+</sup> and CdCl<sup>+</sup>(Arg), respectively. Figure S5 shows the spectral comparison between the CdCl<sup>+</sup>(Arg) spectrum and composite fits of the two lowest energy conformers located.

**Table S1** Relative enthalpies (0 K) and Gibbs energies (298 K) of high-energy [Zn(Arg-H)]<sup>+</sup> complexes<sup>a</sup>

structure	B3LYP	B3LYP-GD3BJ <sup>b</sup>	B3P86	MP2(full)
[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>δ</sup> ,N <sup>ω</sup> ]-gcgctct	141.5 (141.7)	135.2 (136.4)	141.8 (142.0)	125.6 (125.8)
[N <sup>-</sup> ,OH,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]-tgggtgcc	142.9 (139.8)	137.1 (133.9)	148.2 (144.1)	144.4 (141.4)
[N <sup>-</sup> ,OH,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]-tggttcct	161.1 (156.9)	159.4 (155.6)	162.5 (158.3)	160.9 (156.5)
[N,OH,N <sup>δ</sup> ,N <sup>ω'-</sup> ]-tggggtg	178.1 (175.3)	178.7 (176.7)	182.5 (179.7)	169.9 (167.1)
[CO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>δ</sup> ,N <sup>ω</sup> ]-ggggct	181.7 (180.6)	186.8 (185.7)	185.6 (184.5)	177.8 (176.7)
[N <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]-tggtcccc	214.6 (211.4)	214.5 (212.2)	216.1 (212.9)	214.2 (211.0)
[N <sup>ω-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]-tggtttcc	253.4 (238.0)	282.2 (265.3)	267.0 (251.6)	275.0 (259.6)

<sup>a</sup> Relative single point energies at 0 K and 298 K Gibbs energies in parentheses calculated at the level of theory indicated using a 6-311+G(2d,2p) basis set and B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) geometries and zero-point energy corrections. <sup>b</sup> Empirical dispersion corrected B3LYP-GD3BJ/6-311+G(2d,2p) values using B3LYP-GD3BJ/6-311+G(d,p) geometries and zero-point energy corrections.

**Table S2** Vibrational frequencies ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) scaled by 0.975 and IR intensities (km/mol, in parentheses) for the five lowest energy conformers of  $[\text{Zn}(\text{Arg-H})]^+$  calculated at B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) level of theory.<sup>a</sup>

[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- gggtgct		[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- gggggtt		[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- gcggttt		[CO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- gggtgct		[N <sup>-</sup> ,CO,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tgggtgct	
49	(9)	53	(<1)	49	(10)	49	(1)	53	(1)
74	(3)	77	(7)	68	(1)	75	(1)	79	(<1)
95	(1)	106	(1)	70	(6)	105	(1)	103	(<1)
133	(1)	123	(5)	113	(8)	113	(4)	128	(20)
143	(6)	145	(3)	145	(13)	138	(7)	147	(1)
162	(6)	147	(10)	149	(3)	148	(1)	167	(11)
193	(3)	190	(3)	183	(16)	165	(9)	187	(2)
231	(5)	220	(4)	218	(2)	189	(32)	205	(33)
260	(171)	246	(4)	237	(3)	226	(6)	220	(165)
271	(7)	265	(1)	270	(2)	240	(13)	256	(1)
286	(3)	303	(2)	313	(1)	274	(150)	275	(17)
312	(3)	328	(3)	324	(5)	278	(3)	297	(3)
327	(11)	370	(13)	361	(12)	292	(41)	312	(15)
344	(15)	396	(189)	399	(30)	314	(6)	338	(63)
371	(31)	422	(11)	415	(132)	351	(18)	346	(15)
381	(13)	428	(11)	446	(19)	372	(7)	365	(3)
439	(0)	453	(23)	466	(1)	416	(5)	386	(60)
451	(28)	493	(12)	509	(11)	435	(58)	436	(2)
509	(72)	528	(1)	532	(46)	446	(17)	504	(73)
550	(9)	571	(7)	548	(32)	536	(26)	529	(8)
590	(23)	<b>614</b>	<b>(31)</b>	565	(70)	554	(10)	582	(18)
<b>617</b>	<b>(86)</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>(17)</b>	579	(18)	583	(22)	<b>609</b>	<b>(52)</b>
<b>630</b>	<b>(27)</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>(105)</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>(148)</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>(104)</b>
<b>666</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>(120)</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>(37)</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>(27)</b>
<b>679</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>(17)</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>(72)</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>(11)</b>
<b>714</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>(40)</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>(67)</b>
<b>727</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>(17)</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>(38)</b>

[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- gggtgct	[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- gggggggt	[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- gcggttt	[CO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- gggtgct	[N <sup>-</sup> ,CO,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tgggtgct
785	(13)	775	(2)	777
804	(12)	798	(26)	816
840	(32)	848	(26)	843
878	(0)	880	(3)	899
922	(2)	913	(9)	923
954	(9)	937	(<1)	943
1016	(1)	1002	(8)	993
1040	(6)	1043	(41)	1045
1050	(5)	1054	(55)	1058
1058	(33)	1062	(16)	1081
1075	(150)	1063	(75)	1087
1124	(16)	1099	(38)	1106
1145	(33)	1141	(73)	1166
1179	(9)	1196	(12)	1191
1223	(100)	1220	(65)	1230
1249	(61)	1248	(22)	1232
1266	(99)	1253	(109)	1253
1294	(3)	1299	(2)	1285
1304	(14)	1318	(13)	1300
1330	(3)	1326	(14)	1344
1332	(4)	1347	(7)	1352
1358	(3)	1367	(20)	1368
1373	(11)	1378	(30)	1373
1419	(74)	1403	(103)	1427
1445	(15)	1444	(32)	1435
1463	(15)	1449	(3)	1456
1481	(18)	1468	(18)	1477
1568	(300)	1537	(194)	1521
				(148)
				1486
				(24)
				1481
				(28)

[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- gggtgct	[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- gggggggt	[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- gcggttt	[CO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> ,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- gggtgct	[N <sup>-</sup> ,CO,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tgggtgct
<b>1591</b> (132)	<b>1581</b> (158)	<b>1567</b> (256)	<b>1559</b> (282)	<b>1571</b> (282)
<b>1606</b> (76)	<b>1603</b> (54)	<b>1602</b> (66)	<b>1593</b> (139)	<b>1591</b> (159)
<b>1632</b> (439)	<b>1635</b> (447)	<b>1637</b> (378)	<b>1630</b> (397)	<b>1630</b> (450)
<b>1754</b> (430)	<b>1755</b> (421)	<b>1741</b> (386)	<b>1633</b> (48)	<b>1653</b> (303)
2942 (12)	2946 (11)	2938 (20)	2973 (6)	2958 (3)
2959 (12)	2958 (21)	2954 (18)	2974 (<1)	2960 (8)
2992 (10)	2973 (6)	2965 (6)	2976 (20)	2967 (23)
2996 (8)	2985 (14)	2998 (9)	3009 (10)	2989 (5)
3016 (3)	3016 (3)	3006 (4)	3018 (4)	2999 (14)
3022 (2)	3023 (2)	3006 (12)	3035 (2)	3002 (15)
3031 (12)	3027 (8)	3020 (2)	3048 (9)	3039 (10)
3377 (23)	3388 (18)	3388 (19)	3434 (9)	3490 (47)
3438 (23)	3457 (24)	3447 (30)	3495 (55)	3513 (132)
3485 (52)	3481 (54)	3461 (73)	3504 (119)	3522 (21)
3508 (149)	3491 (140)	3493 (114)	3509 (16)	3529 (71)
3529 (78)	3502 (58)	3503 (78)	3512 (95)	3625 (76)
3620 (84)	3602 (80)	3606 (84)	3618 (82)	3628 (132)

<sup>a</sup> Bold indicates the region of the IR spectrum included in the present experimental study.

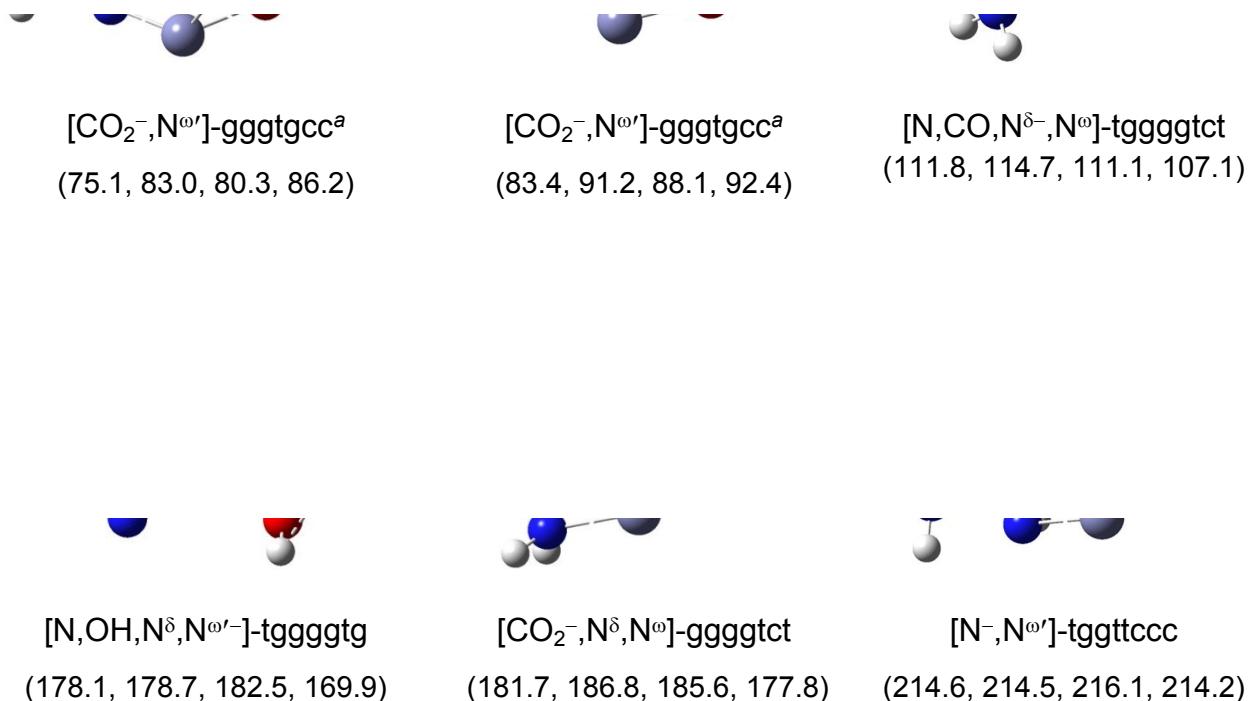
**Table S3** Vibrational frequencies ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) scaled by 0.975 and IR intensities (km/mol, in parentheses) for the five lowest energy conformers of  $\text{CdCl}^+(\text{Arg})$  calculated at B3LYP/def2-TZVP level of theory.<sup>a</sup>

[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ](N <sup>ω'</sup> H <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup> )- gggtgc	[N,CO,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tgggtgct	[N,CO,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tgtgggct	[N,CO,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tggggggt	[N,OH,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tgggtgct
21	(6)	29	(2)	30
34	(<1)	38	(8)	33
50	(7)	47	(2)	50
57	(2)	62	(1)	70
74	(5)	92	(2)	88
111	(4)	101	(5)	99
116	(10)	115	(9)	118
143	(2)	139	(5)	126
178	(19)	146	(3)	157
189	(7)	183	(2)	196
207	(16)	199	(6)	215
241	(37)	223	(9)	226
249	(159)	257	(2)	233
276	(8)	287	(77)	281
294	(5)	304	(5)	298
317	(21)	311	(102)	314
323	(1)	321	(74)	337
357	(34)	338	(8)	359
361	(27)	356	(10)	381
404	(3)	364	(8)	389
432	(22)	432	(17)	445
508	(31)	481	(76)	524
515	(4)	519	(15)	529
532	(103)	542	(21)	545
549	(51)	578	(10)	555
				(28)
				597
				(2)
				578
				(53)

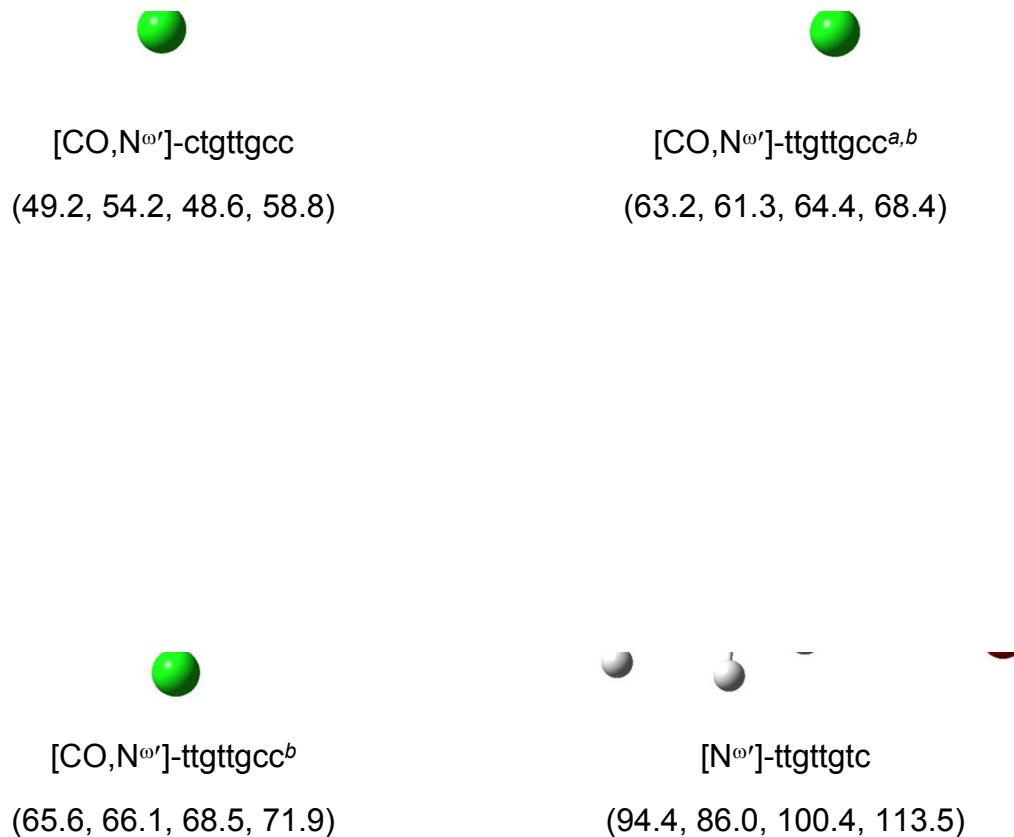
[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ](N <sup>ω'</sup> H <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup> )- gggtgc		[N,CO,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tgggtgct		[N,CO,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tgtgggct		[N,CO,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tggggggt		[N,OH,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tgggtgct	
557	(60)	612	(76)	623	(79)	619	(94)	579	(16)
612	(6)	649	(39)	642	(22)	678	(57)	646	(66)
673	(5)	656	(44)	659	(31)	691	(18)	649	(58)
697	(3)	679	(47)	668	(102)	717	(440)	658	(3)
724	(17)	713	(27)	710	(21)	740	(29)	700	(28)
749	(6)	717	(44)	730	(46)	770	(109)	715	(15)
820	(28)	768	(14)	798	(10)	772	(20)	754	(9)
835	(46)	809	(20)	820	(6)	789	(6)	811	(9)
888	(6)	832	(8)	829	(13)	847	(11)	817	(2)
906	(5)	881	(1)	872	(6)	899	(2)	881	(5)
944	(3)	933	(2)	921	(1)	933	(11)	933	(2)
997	(79)	985	(11)	980	(19)	958	(2)	978	(11)
1024	(7)	1025	(124)	1019	(35)	1018	(130)	1036	(11)
1036	(18)	1036	(5)	1046	(33)	1027	(19)	1051	(10)
1049	(6)	1064	(20)	1061	(94)	1066	(3)	1059	(235)
1053	(55)	1079	(31)	1072	(13)	1067	(4)	1072	(15)
1071	(16)	1089	(7)	1098	(21)	1081	(25)	1080	(53)
1083	(5)	1145	(22)	1128	(8)	1114	(23)	1123	(38)
1139	(50)	1164	(158)	1154	(51)	1167	(211)	1145	(16)
1164	(14)	1183	(32)	1176	(153)	1183	(12)	1198	(13)
1220	(3)	1198	(7)	1217	(6)	1219	(6)	1202	(16)
1235	(4)	1248	(20)	1240	(21)	1224	(106)	1245	(26)
1294	(22)	1260	(117)	1253	(110)	1251	(8)	1267	(121)
1319	(13)	1300	(17)	1282	(6)	1298	(6)	1290	(2)
1323	(44)	1307	(6)	1298	(0)	1312	(28)	1307	(3)
1330	(9)	1320	(14)	1334	(18)	1322	(6)	1318	(15)
1340	(29)	1335	(<1)	1357	(3)	1350	(2)	1332	(5)
1375	(101)	1361	(2)	1360	(7)	1368	(25)	1361	(6)

[N,CO <sup>-</sup> ](N <sup>ω'</sup> H <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup> )- gggtgc	[N,CO,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tgggtgct	[N,CO,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tgtgggct	[N,CO,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tggggggt	[N,OH,N <sup>ω'</sup> ]- tgggtgct
1380	(66)	1381	(11)	1378
1416	(29)	1413	(46)	1411
1448	(12)	1423	(95)	1417
1462	(10)	1451	(8)	1456
1470	(19)	1458	(18)	1461
1575	(61)	1471	(22)	1464
1600	(113)	1586	(322)	1582
1612	(54)	1591	(194)	1588
1637	(1088)	1621	(66)	1618
1643	(93)	1631	(343)	1629
1675	(224)	1709	(401)	1713
2937	(18)	2960	(7)	2958
2973	(8)	2972	(7)	2970
2984	(10)	2980	(6)	2976
2987	(16)	2985	(9)	2988
3002	(15)	3005	(17)	2992
3018	(1404)	3019	(4)	3022
3023	(154)	3052	(13)	3063
3059	(4)	3372	(27)	3381
3385	(18)	3447	(21)	3451
3446	(28)	3454	(36)	3456
3507	(113)	3501	(115)	3499
3516	(83)	3525	(65)	3513
3551	(128)	3603	(151)	3597
3617	(88)	3607	(66)	3608
			(64)	3600
			(163)	3610
			(71)	

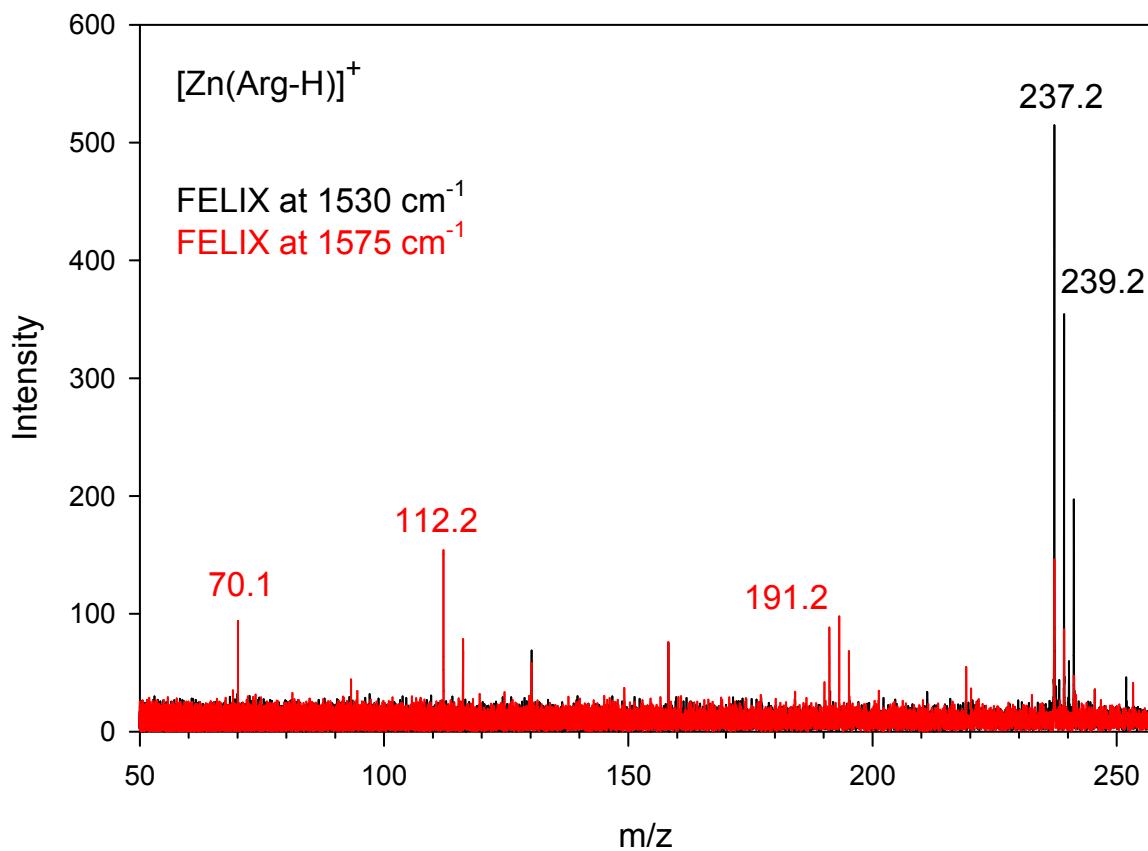
<sup>a</sup> Bold indicates the region of the IR spectrum included in the present experimental study.



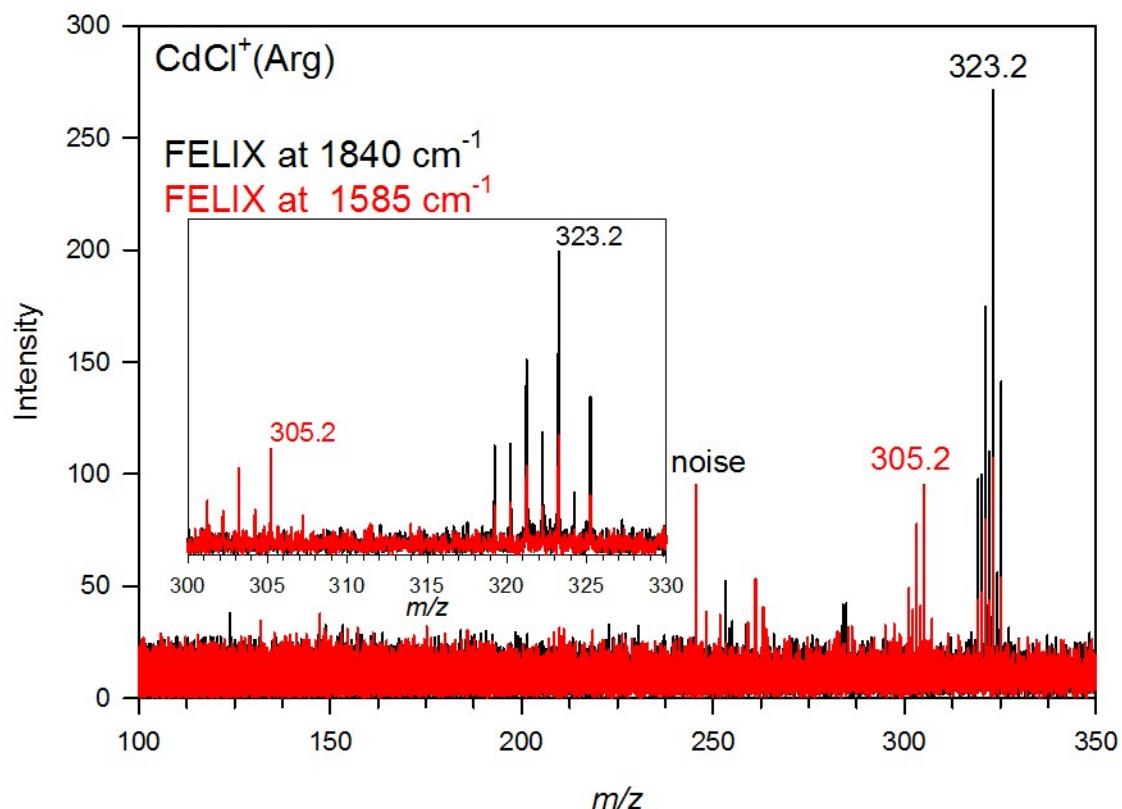
**Fig. S1** Select high-energy conformers of  $[\text{Zn}(\text{Arg-H})^+]$  calculated at the B3LYP/6-311G+(d,p) level of theory. Relative 0 K single point energies (in kJ/mol) at the B3LYP, B3LYP-GD3BJ, B3P86, and MP2(full)/6-311+G(2d,2p) levels of theory are given, respectively. Short dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds. Metal-ligand interactions are shown by long dashed lines. (Red—oxygen, grey—carbon, white—hydrogen, blue—nitrogen, steel grey—zinc.) <sup>a</sup> These two structures are distinguished by the orientation of the  $\text{NH}_2$  group, which hydrogen bonds to a carboxylate oxygen in the lower energy structure.



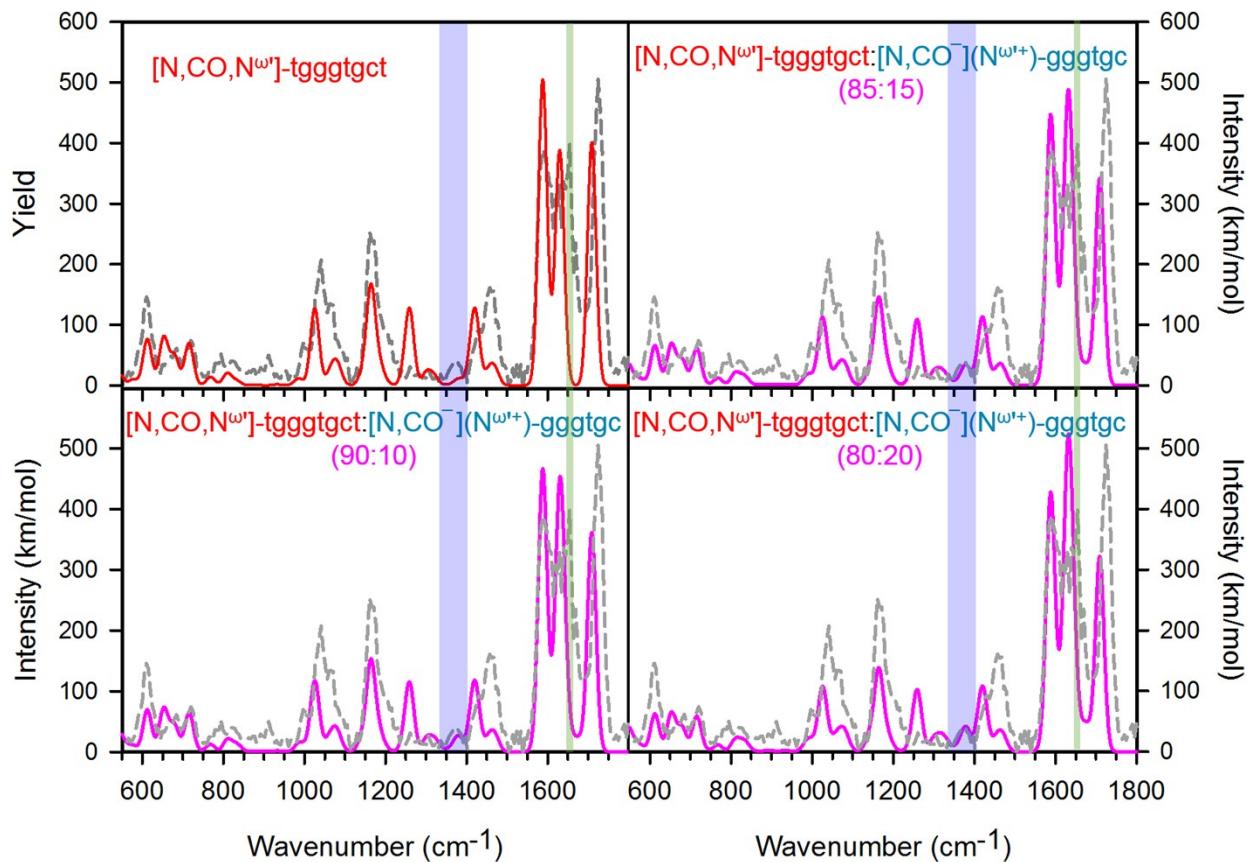
**Fig. S2** Select high-energy CdCl<sup>+</sup>(Arg) conformers calculated at the B3LYP/def2-TZVP level of theory. Relative single point energies (0 K, kJ/mol) at the B3LYP, B3LYP-GD3BJ, B3P86, and MP2(full)/def2-TZVPP levels of theory are given, respectively. Short dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds. Metal-ligand interactions are shown by long dashed lines. (Red—oxygen, grey—carbon, white—hydrogen, blue—nitrogen, yellow—cadmium, green—chlorine.) <sup>a</sup> This structure has a OH•Cl hydrogen bond. <sup>b</sup> These two structures are distinguished mainly by the orientation of the NH<sub>2</sub> group.



**Fig. S3** Representative mass spectra for the IRMPD of  $[Zn(\text{Arg-H})]^+$ . Zinc isotopes are evident in the triplet of peaks at  $m/z$  239 and 191. Other unidentified peaks are noise; the result of working with low count rates in this system and a small number of averages for these spectra.



**Fig. S4** Representative mass spectra for the IRMPD of  $\text{CdCl}^+(\text{Arg})$ . The Cd isotopes are evident in the series of peaks near  $m/z$  305 and 323. Other unidentified peaks are noise; the result of working with low count rates in this system and a small number of averages for these spectra.



**Fig. S5.** Comparison of the  $\text{CdCl}^+(\text{Arg})$  IRMPD spectrum (dashed grey lines) with the calculated spectrum of  $[N,CO,N^{\omega'}]-tgggtgct$  (red line) and composite spectra of  $[N,CO,N^{\omega'}]-tgggtgct$  and  $[N,CO^-](N^{\omega'+})-gggtgc$  (pink lines) in the ratios shown. The purple and green shading highlight the peaks at 1377 and 1655  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  that are augmented by the presence of the  $[N,CO^-](N^{\omega'+})-gggtgc$  isomer.