

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for: Photodynamics of alternative DNA base isoguanine

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### Assignment of key vibrational modes

**Table 1** The key (anharmonic) vibrational frequencies in the spectral region tracked in the IR-UV hole burning experiments obtained at the B2PLYP/def2-TZVP level.

Vibration type	Theory (anharmonic) [cm <sup>-1</sup> ]
<i>keto-N3,7</i>	
symmetric NH <sub>2</sub> stretching (amino group)	3443
N3H stretching	3463
N7H stretching	3510
symmetric NH <sub>2</sub> stretching (amino group)	3554
<i>keto-N1,9</i>	
symmetric NH <sub>2</sub> stretching (amino group)	3438
N1H stretching	3467
N9H stretching	3493
asymmetric NH <sub>2</sub> stretching (amino group)	3581
<i>keto-N3,9</i>	
symmetric NH <sub>2</sub> stretching (amino group)	3425
N3H stretching	3455
N9H stretching	3491
asymmetric NH <sub>2</sub> stretching (amino group)	3535
<i>keto-N1,7</i>	
symmetric NH <sub>2</sub> stretching (amino group)	3431
N1H stretching	3442
N7H stretching	3495
asymmetric NH <sub>2</sub> stretching (amino group)	3533
<i>enol-N7</i>	
symmetric NH <sub>2</sub> stretching (amino group)	3439
N7H stretching	3510
asymmetric NH <sub>2</sub> stretching (amino group)	3542
OH stretching	3631
<i>keto-N9</i>	
symmetric NH <sub>2</sub> stretching (amino group)	3504
N9H stretching	3507
asymmetric NH <sub>2</sub> stretching (amino group)	3636
OH stretching	3637

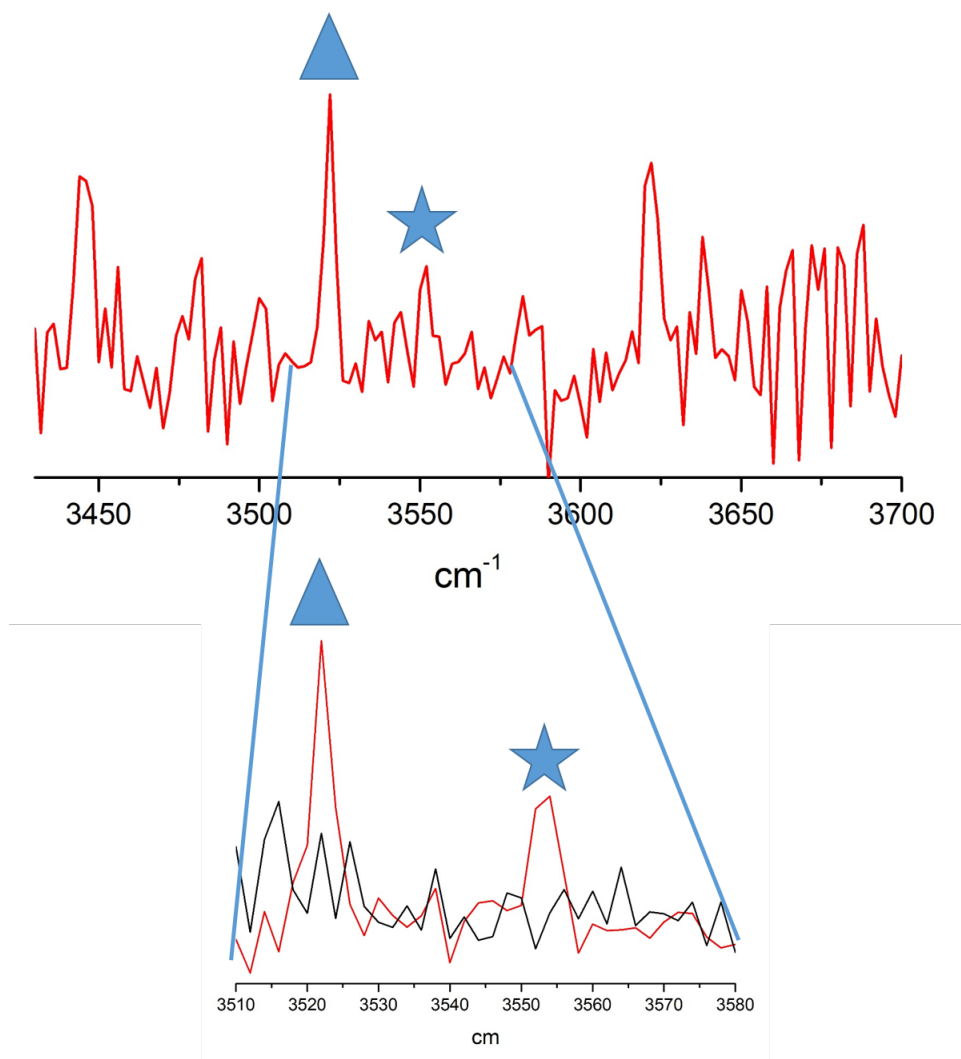
## Vertical excitation energy benchmarks

**Table 2** Vertical excitation energies (in eV) of the four considered tautomers of isoG, computed using the ADC(2)/aug-cc-pVTZ method, assuming the ground-state minimum energy structures optimized at the B3LYP/def2-TZVPP level.

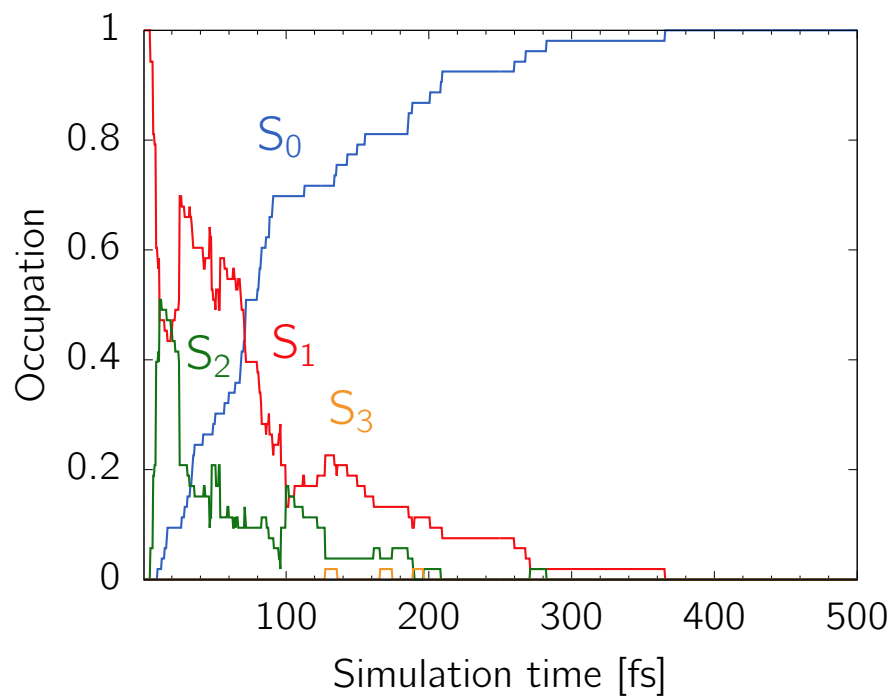
State / Transition		E <sub>exc</sub> /[eV]	f <sub>osc</sub>	λ/[nm]
<i>keto-N1,9</i>				
S <sub>1</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	3.89	0.142	318.7
S <sub>2</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	4.71	$2.23 \cdot 10^{-3}$	263.2
S <sub>3</sub>	$n_N\pi^*$	4.93	$2.27 \cdot 10^{-4}$	251.5
S <sub>4</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	5.20	$1.78 \cdot 10^{-4}$	238.4
S <sub>5</sub>	$n_O\pi^*$	5.24	$3.94 \cdot 10^{-5}$	236.6
S <sub>6</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	5.35	0.176	231.7
<i>keto-N3,7</i>				
S <sub>1</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	4.22	0.162	293.8
S <sub>2</sub>	$n_O\pi^*$	4.77	$1.53 \cdot 10^{-3}$	259.9
S <sub>3</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	4.84	$1.16 \cdot 10^{-3}$	256.2
S <sub>4</sub>	$n_N\pi^*$	5.11	$2.42 \cdot 10^{-3}$	242.6
S <sub>5</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	5.51	0.145	225.0
S <sub>6</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	5.66	$2.80 \cdot 10^{-3}$	219.1
<i>enol-N7</i>				
S <sub>1</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	4.57	0.144	271.3
S <sub>2</sub>	$n_N\pi^*$	4.84	$2.94 \cdot 10^{-3}$	256.2
S <sub>3</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	4.97	$5.46 \cdot 10^{-3}$	249.5
S <sub>4</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	5.62	$6.21 \cdot 10^{-2}$	220.6
S <sub>5</sub>	$n\sigma_{NH}^*$	5.71	$1.52 \cdot 10^{-2}$	217.1
S <sub>6</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{OH}^*$	5.81	$1.22 \cdot 10^{-3}$	213.4
<i>enol-N9</i>				
S <sub>1</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	4.94	0.188	251.0
S <sub>2</sub>	$n_N\pi^*$	5.35	$2.52 \cdot 10^{-3}$	231.7
S <sub>3</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	5.39	$3.45 \cdot 10^{-3}$	230.0
S <sub>4</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	5.45	0.113	227.5
S <sub>5</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	5.73	$7.36 \cdot 10^{-4}$	216.4
S <sub>6</sub>	$n_N\pi^*$	6.07	$1.06 \cdot 10^{-3}$	204.3

**Table 3** Vertical excitation energies (in eV) of the four considered tautomers of isoG, computed using the ADC(2)/aug-cc-pVTZ method, assuming the ground-state minimum energy structures optimized at the MP2/cc-pVTZ level.

State / Transition	$E_{exc}/[eV]$	$f_{osc}$	$\lambda/[nm]$	
<i>keto-N1,9</i>				
S <sub>1</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	3.84	0.138	322.9
S <sub>2</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	4.71	$2.15 \cdot 10^{-3}$	263.2
S <sub>3</sub>	$n_N\pi^*$	4.89	$3.26 \cdot 10^{-4}$	253.5
S <sub>4</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	5.20	$2.65 \cdot 10^{-4}$	238.4
S <sub>5</sub>	$n_O\pi^*$	5.22	$6.39 \cdot 10^{-5}$	237.5
S <sub>6</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	5.31	0.181	233.5
<i>keto-N3,7</i>				
S <sub>1</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	4.22	0.169	293.8
S <sub>2</sub>	$n_O\pi^*$	4.74	$2.05 \cdot 10^{-3}$	261.6
S <sub>3</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	4.88	$1.23 \cdot 10^{-3}$	254.1
S <sub>4</sub>	$n_N\pi^*$	5.11	$2.66 \cdot 10^{-3}$	242.6
S <sub>5</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	5.55	0.104	223.4
S <sub>6</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	5.66	$3.16 \cdot 10^{-3}$	219.1
<i>enol-N7</i>				
S <sub>1</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	4.56	0.145	275.5
S <sub>2</sub>	$n_N\pi^*$	4.86	$2.83 \cdot 10^{-3}$	255.1
S <sub>3</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	5.03	$4.98 \cdot 10^{-3}$	246.5
S <sub>4</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	5.63	$6.38 \cdot 10^{-2}$	220.2
S <sub>5</sub>	$n\sigma_{NH}^*$	5.79	$1.15 \cdot 10^{-2}$	214.1
S <sub>6</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{OH}^*$	5.81	$5.04 \cdot 10^{-3}$	213.4
<i>enol-N9</i>				
S <sub>1</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	4.90	0.188	253.0
S <sub>2</sub>	$n_N\pi^*$	5.36	$2.69 \cdot 10^{-3}$	231.3
S <sub>3</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	5.41	$4.26 \cdot 10^{-3}$	229.2
S <sub>4</sub>	$\pi\pi^*$	5.45	0.110	227.5
S <sub>5</sub>	$\pi\sigma_{NH}^*$	5.76	$2.10 \cdot 10^{-3}$	215.3
S <sub>6</sub>	$\pi\sigma^*$	6.11	$1.36 \cdot 10^{-2}$	202.9
S <sub>7</sub>	$n_N\pi^*$	6.12	$7.79 \cdot 10^{-3}$	202.6



**Fig. 1** Rescaled experimental data of the right spectrum of figure 2 (IR-UV double resonance spectrum probing at  $34340 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). Red trace is burn signal and black is background signal. The peak marked by the triangle is at  $3522 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the peak marked by the star is at  $3552 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The inset displays the same experimental data, with the background signal displayed as well. This result demonstrates that the signal at  $3552 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the *enol-N7* tautomer is a real peak.



**Fig. 2** Adiabatic populations of electronic states extracted from nonadiabatic molecular dynamics simulations performed for the *keto*-N1,9 tautomer. Very fast recovery of the electronic ground state is assigned here to the incorrect description of the topography of the  $S_1(n\pi^*)/S_0$  state crossing in this particular tautomer (see the main article for more information).