

**Supplementary Information for**

**Mechanism and Kinetic Study on the Reaction of Benzoic acid with OH Radicals, NO<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>**

**Radicals in Atmosphere**

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## Captions

**Fig. S1** The reactants, transition states, intermediates, complex and products for the abstraction and addition reaction of 2-hydroxybenzoic acid, 6-hydroxybenzoic acid with OH radical.

**Fig. S2** The reactants, transition states, intermediates, complex and products for the abstraction and addition reaction of 3-hydroxybenzoic acid, 5-hydroxybenzoic acid with OH radical.

**Fig. S3** The reactants, transition states, intermediates, complex and products for the abstraction and addition reaction of 4-hydroxybenzoic acid with OH radical.

**Fig. S4** The reactants, transition states, intermediates, complex and products for the addition and abstraction reaction of 2-hydroxybenzoic acid, 6-hydroxybenzoic acid with OH radical.

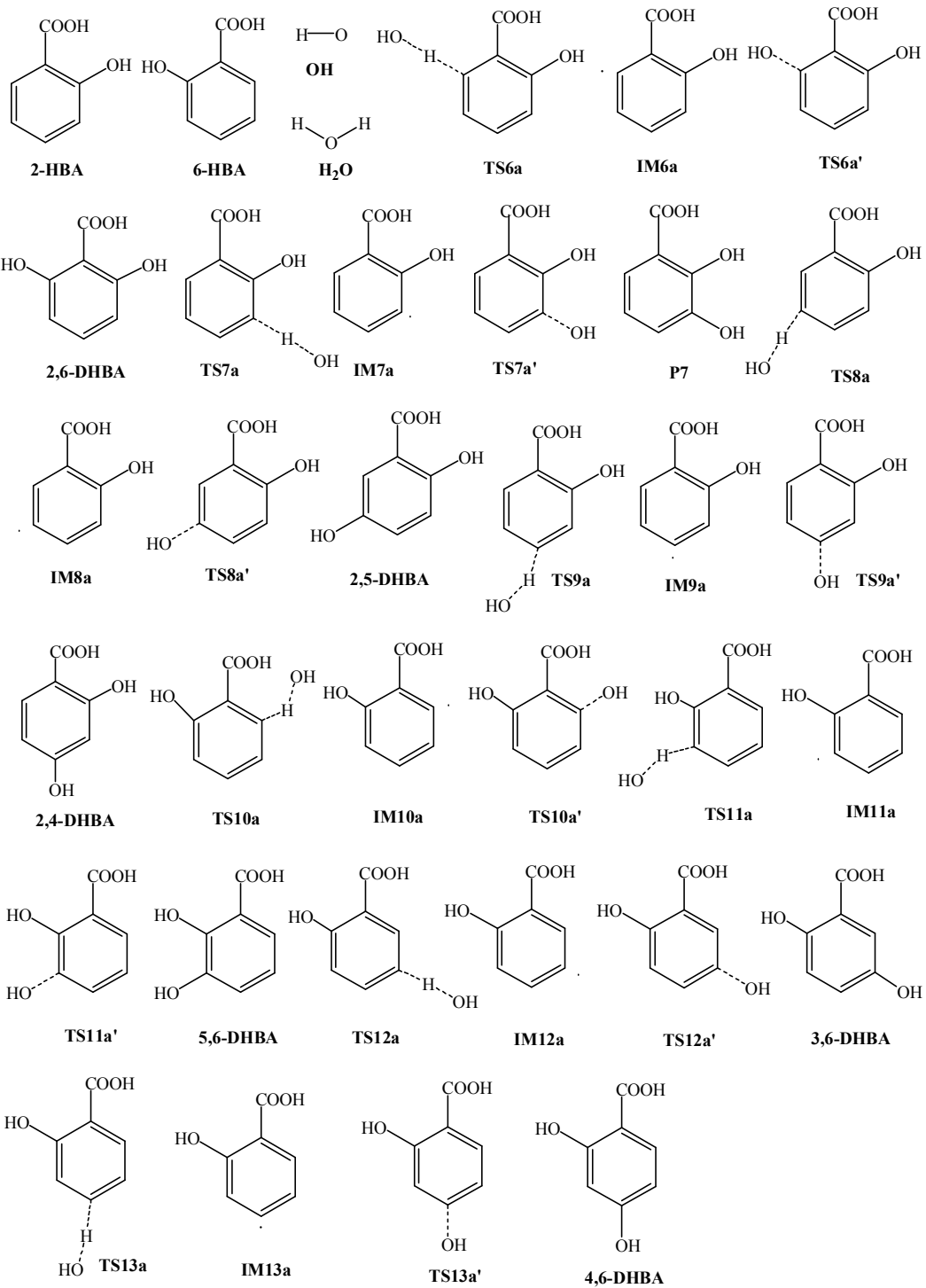
**Fig. S5** The reactants, transition states, intermediates, complex and products for the addition and abstraction reaction of 3-hydroxybenzoic acid, 5-hydroxybenzoic acid with OH radical.

**Fig. S6** The reactants, transition states, intermediates, complex and products for the addition and abstraction reaction of 4-hydroxybenzoic acid with OH radical.

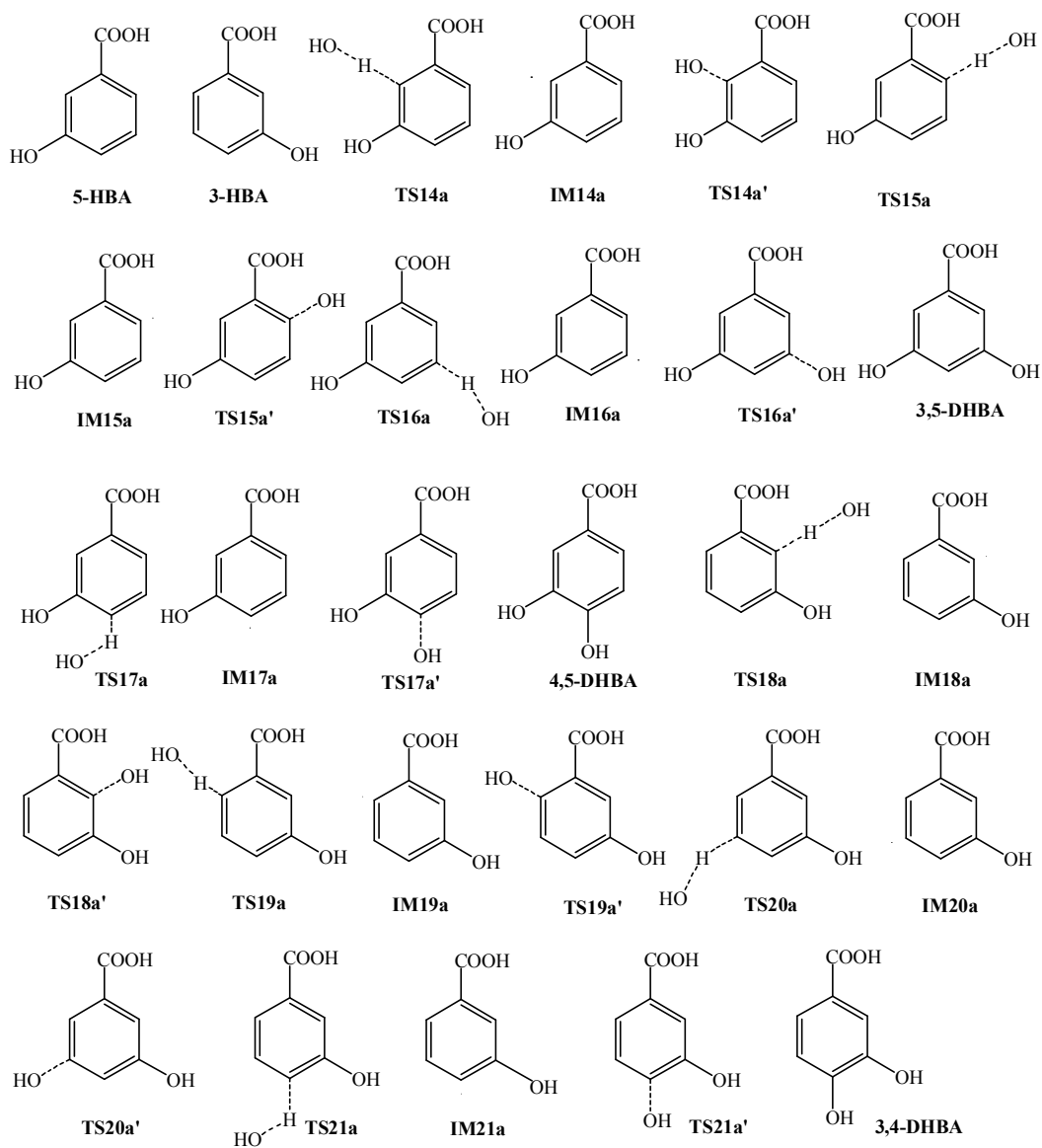
**Table S1** The reaction potential barriers ( $\Delta E_b$ ) and reaction energy ( $\Delta E_r$ ) in water droplets

**Table S2** The Enthalpy change ( $\Delta H$ ), entropy change ( $\Delta S$ ) and free energy change ( $\Delta G$ ) at 1 atm and 298 K

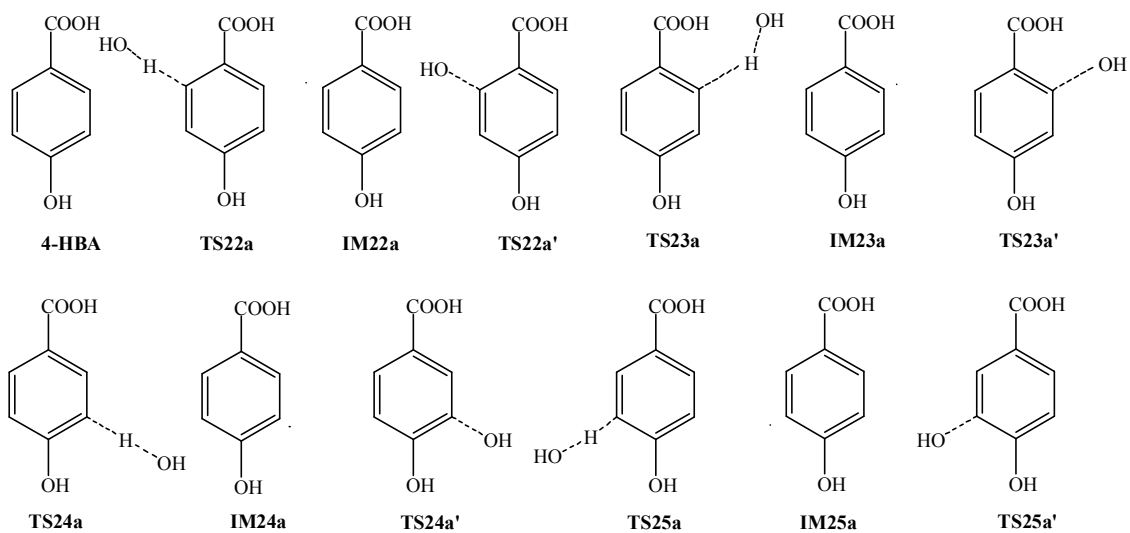
**Description of the product DHBA**



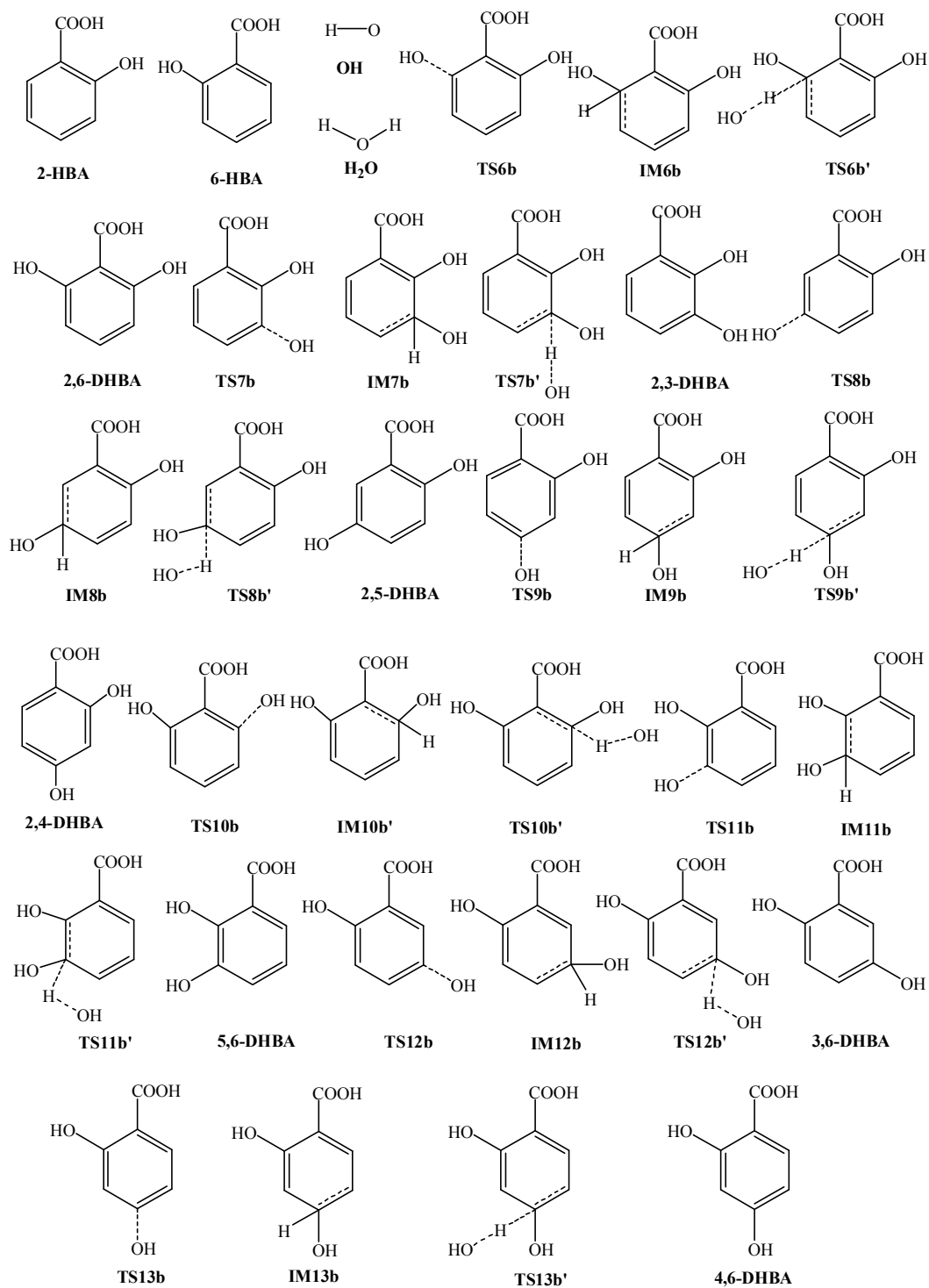
**Fig. S1** The reactants, transition states, intermediates, complex and products for the abstraction and addition reaction of 2-hydroxybenzoic acid, 6-hydroxybenzoic acid with OH radical.



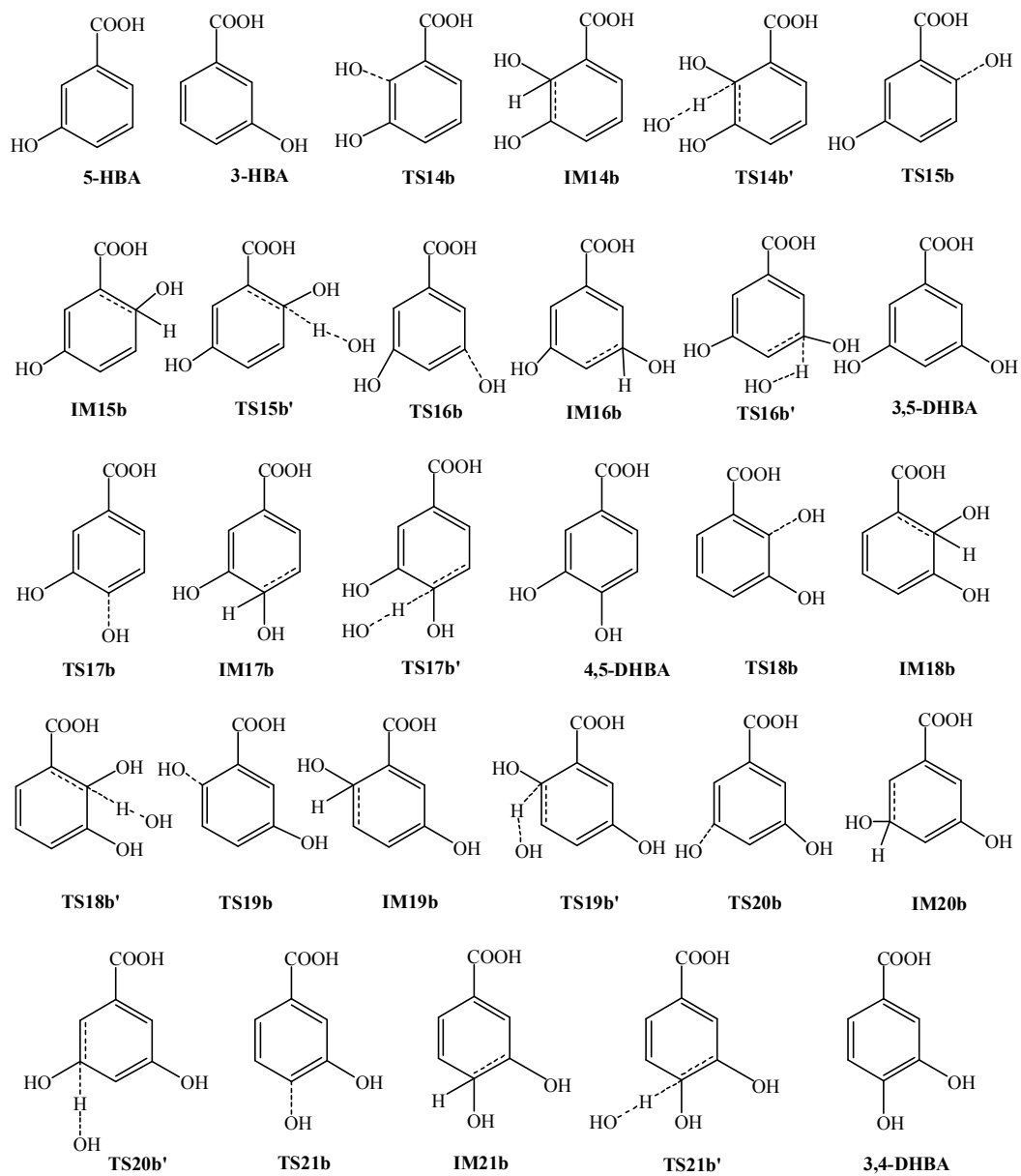
**Fig. S2** The reactants, transition states, intermediates, complex and products for the abstraction and addition reaction of 3-hydroxybenzoic acid, 5-hydroxybenzoic acid with OH radical.



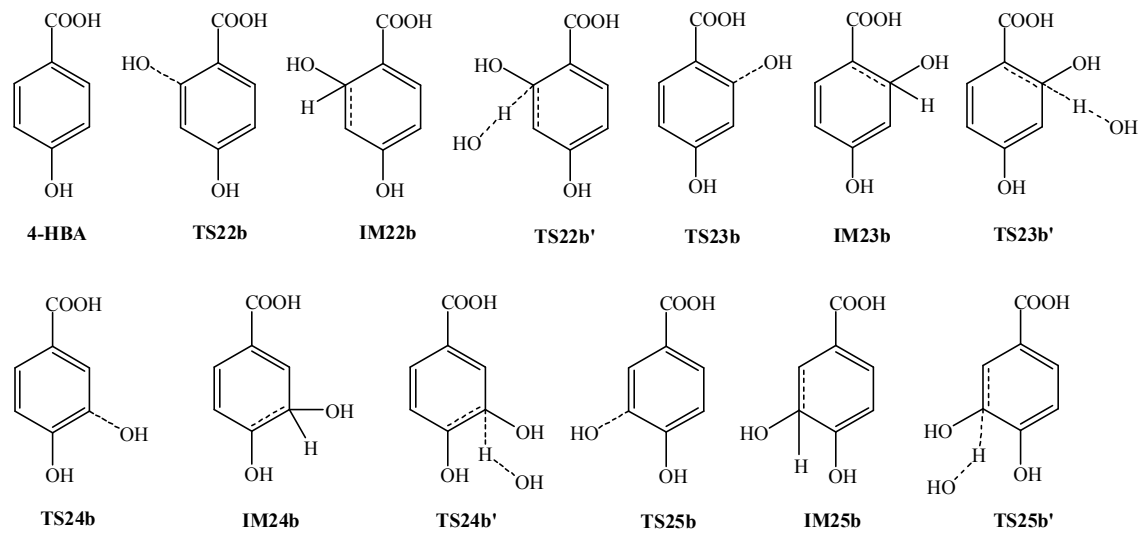
**Fig. S3** The reactants, transition states, intermediates, complex and products for the abstraction and addition reaction of 4-hydroxybenzoic acid with OH radical.



**Fig. S4** The reactants, transition states, intermediates, complex and products for the addition and abstraction reaction of 2-hydroxybenzoic acid, 6-hydroxybenzoic acid with OH radical.



**Fig. S5** The reactants, transition states, intermediates, complex and products for the addition and abstraction reaction of 3-hydroxybenzoic acid, 5-hydroxybenzoic acid with OH radical.



**Fig. S6** The reactants, transition states, intermediates, complex and products for the addition and abstraction reaction of 4-hydroxybenzoic acid with OH radical.



**Table S1 The reaction potential barriers ( $\Delta E_b$ ) and reaction energy ( $\Delta E_r$ ) in water droplets**

Reaction	$\Delta E_b$ kcal/mol	$\Delta E_r$ kcal/mol
BA+OH $\rightarrow$ TS1g $\rightarrow$ IM1g+H <sub>2</sub> O	8.15	-4.72
IM1g+O <sub>2</sub> $\rightarrow$ IM2g		-89.01
IM2g+NO $\rightarrow$ IM3g		-17.83
IM3g $\rightarrow$ TS2g $\rightarrow$ IM4g+NO <sub>2</sub>	16.21	-16.58
IM4g+H <sub>2</sub> O $\rightarrow$ TS3g $\rightarrow$ 3-HBA+OH	34.40	28.72
BA+OH $\rightarrow$ TS4g $\rightarrow$ IM5g+H <sub>2</sub> O	8.16	-4.65
IM5g+O <sub>2</sub> $\rightarrow$ IM6g		-89.17
IM6g+NO $\rightarrow$ IM7g		-17.83
IM7g $\rightarrow$ TS5g $\rightarrow$ IM8g+NO <sub>2</sub>	16.39	-16.37
IM8g+H <sub>2</sub> O $\rightarrow$ TS6g $\rightarrow$ 5-HBA+OH	33.3	28.53
BA+OH $\rightarrow$ TS1g' $\rightarrow$ IM1g'	1.83	-16.87
IM1g'+O <sub>2</sub> $\rightarrow$ IM2g'		-50.26
IM2g'+NO $\rightarrow$ IM3g'		-18.70
IM3g' $\rightarrow$ TS2g' $\rightarrow$ IM4g'+NO <sub>2</sub>	38.54	5.62
IM4g'+H <sub>2</sub> O $\rightarrow$ TS3g' $\rightarrow$ IM5g'+OH	22.17	12.42
IM5g'+OH $\rightarrow$ TS4g' $\rightarrow$ IM6g'+H <sub>2</sub> O	1.99	-54.27
IM6g'+OH $\rightarrow$ TS5g' $\rightarrow$ 2,5-DHBA+H <sub>2</sub> O	1.38	-96.54
IM1g'+O <sub>2</sub> $\rightarrow$ IM7g'		-0.44
IM7g'+NO $\rightarrow$ IM8g'		-62.86
IM8g' $\rightarrow$ TS6g' $\rightarrow$ IM9g'+NO <sub>2</sub>	13.86	-26.28
IM1g'+O <sub>2</sub> $\rightarrow$ IM10g'		-50.60
IM10g'+NO $\rightarrow$ IM11g'		-19.53
IM11g' $\rightarrow$ TS7g' $\rightarrow$ IM12g'+NO <sub>2</sub>	21.86	-7.75
IM1g'+O <sub>2</sub> $\rightarrow$ IM13g'		-53.36
IM13g'+NO $\rightarrow$ IM14g'		-18.79
IM14g' $\rightarrow$ TS8g' $\rightarrow$ IM15g'+NO <sub>2</sub>	24.84	-3.98

**Table S1** The reaction potential barriers ( $\Delta E_b$ ), reaction energy ( $\Delta E_r$ ), Enthalpy change ( $\Delta H$ ), entropy change ( $\Delta S$ ) and free energy change ( $\Delta G$ ) at 1 atm and 298 K in water droplets

Reaction	$\Delta H$	$\Delta S$	$\Delta G$
	kcal/mol	cal/(mol•K)	kcal/mol
BA+OH→TS1a→IM1a+H <sub>2</sub> O	-6.74	4.11	-7.96
BA+OH→TS2a→IM2a+H <sub>2</sub> O	-8.32	4.73	-9.73
BA+OH→TS3a→IM3a+H <sub>2</sub> O	-8.92	3.75	-10.04
BA+OH→TS4a→IM4a+H <sub>2</sub> O	-8.62	3.56	-9.68
BA+OH→TS5a→IM5a+H <sub>2</sub> O	-8.77	3.61	-9.85
BA+OH→TS1b→IM1b	-23.29	-37.16	-12.21
BA+OH→TS2b→IM2b	-23.64	-37.49	-12.46
BA+OH→TS3b→IM3b	-21.73	-37.49	-10.55
BA+OH→TS4b→IM4b	-21.60	-37.40	-10.45
BA+OH→TS5b→IM5b	-24.96	-37.47	-13.79
BA+NO <sub>3</sub> →TS1-NO <sub>3</sub> →IM1a+HNO <sub>3</sub>	22.49	2.82	21.66
BA+NO <sub>3</sub> →TS2-NO <sub>3</sub> →IM2a+HNO <sub>3</sub>	20.91	3.44	19.89
BA+NO <sub>3</sub> →TS3-NO <sub>3</sub> →IM3a+HNO <sub>3</sub>	20.31	2.46	19.58
BA+NO <sub>3</sub> →TS4-NO <sub>3</sub> →IM4a+HNO <sub>3</sub>	20.61	2.27	19.93
BA+NO <sub>3</sub> →TS5-NO <sub>3</sub> →IM5a+HNO <sub>3</sub>	20.46	2.32	19.77
BA+SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> →TS1-SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> →IM1a+HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	23.18	2.24	22.51
BA+SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> →TS2-SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> →IM2a+HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	21.60	2.86	20.74
BA+SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> →TS3-SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> →IM3a+HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	20.99	1.88	20.43
BA+SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> →TS4-SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> →IM4a+HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	21.29	1.69	20.79
BA+SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> →TS5-SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> →IM5a+HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	21.15	1.75	20.63
BA+OH→TS1g→IM1g+H <sub>2</sub> O	-8.85	3.98	-10.03
IM1g+O <sub>2</sub> →IM2g	-46.85	-41.11	-34.59
IM2g+NO→IM3g	-27.04	-45.98	-13.33
IM3g→TS2g→IM4g+NO <sub>2</sub>	-12.35	53.83	-28.40
IM4g+H <sub>2</sub> O→TS3g→3-HBA+OH	34.31	-6.01	36.10
BA+OH→TS4g→IM5g+H <sub>2</sub> O	-8.58	3.83	-9.73
IM5g+O <sub>2</sub> →IM6g	-47.05	-41.07	-34.81
IM6g+NO→IM7g	-27.06	-45.95	-13.36

IM7g→TS5g→IM8g+NO <sub>2</sub>	-11.96	53.53	-27.92
IM8g+H <sub>2</sub> O→TS6g→5-HBA+OH	33.96	-5.69	35.65
BA+OH→TS1g'→IM1g'	-21.45	-37.10	-10.39
IM1g'+O <sub>2</sub> →IM2g'	-4.81	-44.14	8.35
IM2g'+NO→IM3g'	-29.14	-43.92	-16.04
IM3g'→TS2g'→IM4g'+NO <sub>2</sub>	9.94	52.45	-5.70
IM4g'+H <sub>2</sub> O→TS3g'→IM5g'+OH	16.95	-2.88	17.81
IM5g'+OH→TS4g'→IM6g'+H <sub>2</sub> O	-59.78	1.91	-60.35
IM6g'+OH→TS5g'→2,5-DHBA+H <sub>2</sub> O	-97.38	6.97	-99.45
IM1g'+O <sub>2</sub> →IM7g'	38.05	-42.67	50.78
IM7g'+NO→IM8g'	-65.31	-47.48	-51.16
IM8g'→TS6g'→IM9g'+NO <sub>2</sub>	-23.45	55.07	-39.87
IM1g'+O <sub>2</sub> →IM10g'	-6.73	-44.91	6.66
IM10g'+NO→IM11g'	-29.56	-43.84	-16.49
IM11g'→TS7g'→IM12g'+NO <sub>2</sub>	-1.54	51.50	-16.90
IM1g'+O <sub>2</sub> →IM13g'	-8.71	-44.31	4.50
IM13g'+NO→IM14g'	-29.12	-43.73	-16.08
IM14g'→TS8g'→IM15g'+NO <sub>2</sub>	2.13	50.17	-12.83

## Production of DHBA

After the structure of monohydroxybenzoic acids are optimized, the ortho-, meta- and para-addition products are obtained according to the different positions that OH radicals added in the benzene ring. By comparing the energy of the products, five kinds of reaction products with the lowest energy are selected, and then the OH radicals are added to obtain DHBA, resulting in four types of DHBAs. The reaction processes of the DHBA generation are similar to produce of MHBA.

The meaning of each symbol in following figures are similar to that of **Fig. 1**, as well as the atom labels of carbon sites.  $\Delta E_b$  represents the reaction potential barrier and  $\Delta E_r$  represents the reaction energy. The reaction channels are shown as following formulas and the unit of energy is kcal/mol. After optimization of the products and energy comparison, the products with lowest energy in two pathways are consistent. There are 10 kinds of the dihydroxy addition reaction products and they are shown in **Fig. 3**. In the reactions, the two pathways to form intermediate IM and the product DHBA are exothermic reactions.

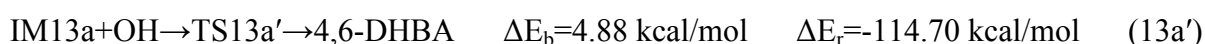
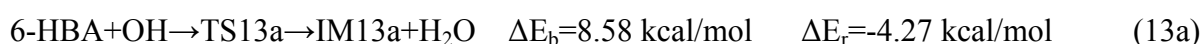
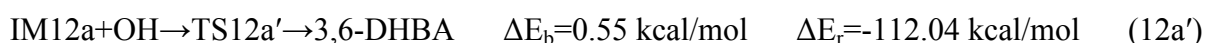
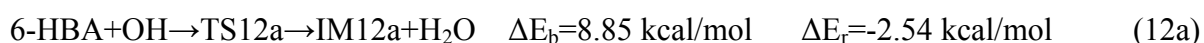
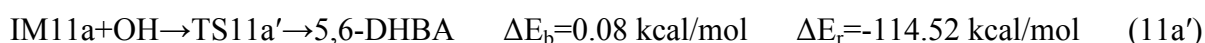
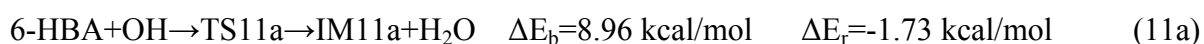
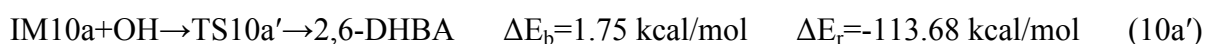
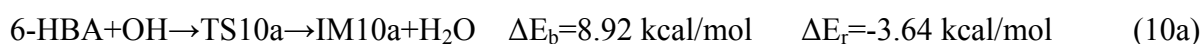
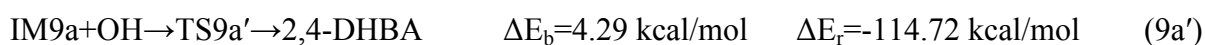
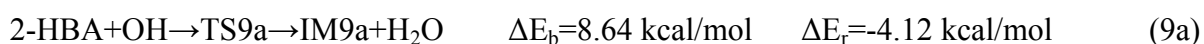
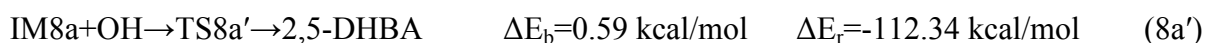
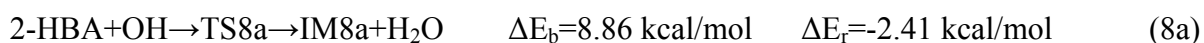
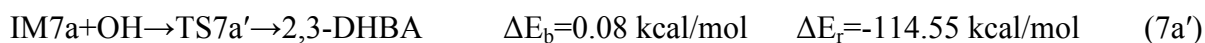
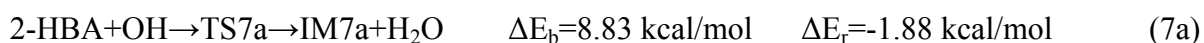
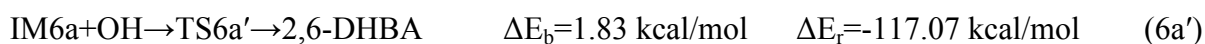
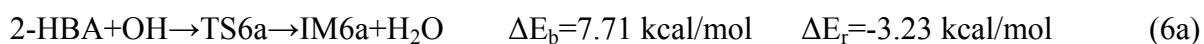
In both pathways of the elementary reactions to product intermediates, The potential barriers of addition elementary reactions are smaller than the abstraction elementary reactions, and the releasing heat of the additon initiated reactions are also less than the abstraction initiated reactions. Besides, in the abstraction initiated reactions, the potential barrier to finally get the 4,6-DHBA is smallest for 7.30 kcal/mol, while to finally product the 3,4-DHBA is biggest for 9.08 kcal/mol. In the additon initiated reactions, the potential barrier to finally get the 3,4-DHBA is smallest for 0.06 kcal/mol, while to finally product the 4,5-DHBA is biggest for 4.68 kcal/mol.

In the abstraction and addition reaction of monohydroxybenzoic acid with OH radicals, firstly, the OH radical abstracts the hydrogen atom in the benzene ring of the monohydroxybenzoic acid which means that the OH radical is close to the remaining carbon sites, the OH radical and hydrogen atom remove in the form of H<sub>2</sub>O and the rest is the intermediate IM after a transition state. Then another OH radical and IM are combined to product dihydroxybenzoic acid.

### **(1) The abstraction and addition reaction of ortho-hydroxybenzoic acid (ortho-HBA)**

For the addition reactions of 2-hydroxybenzoic acid (2-HBA) with OH radicals, the reaction potential barrier of the initiated reaction and get the final product 2,6-DHBA of 7.71 kcal/mol is

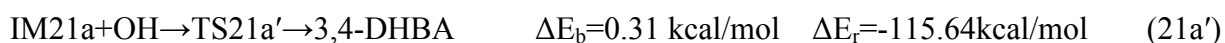
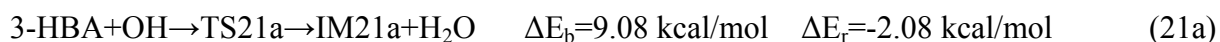
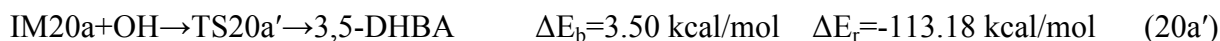
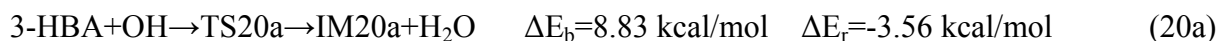
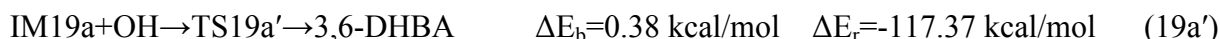
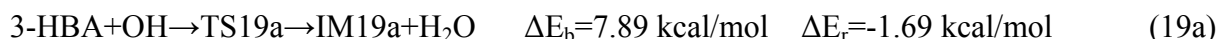
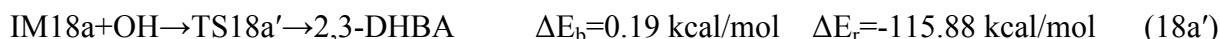
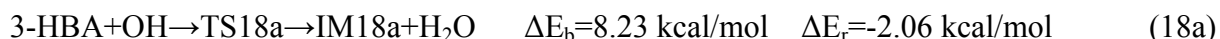
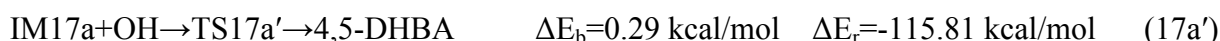
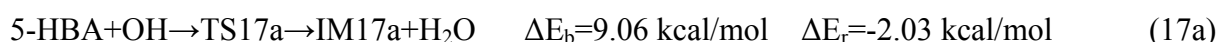
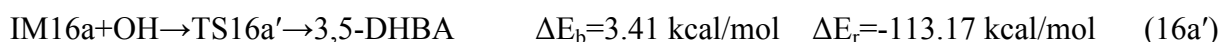
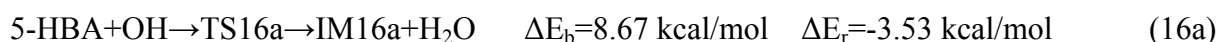
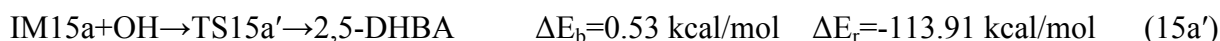
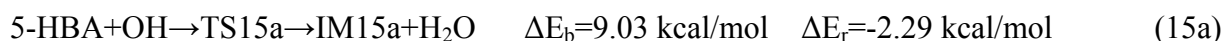
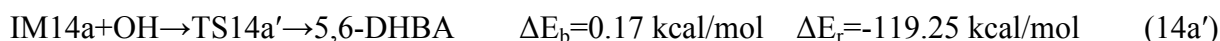
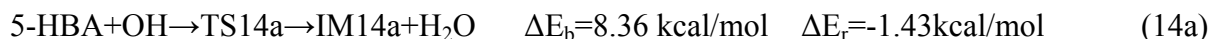
lowest and that of the 2,5-DHBA with 8.86 kcal/mol is highest. As for the 6-HBA, the reaction potential barriers to generate intermediates, 8.58 kcal/mol for the product 4,6-DHBA is minimum, while 8.96 kcal/mol for the product 5,6-DHBA is maximum. The following formulas show the reaction processes of the abstraction and addition reaction of 2-HBA and 6-HBA with OH radicals, as well as reaction potential barriers and reaction energy.



## (2) The abstraction and addition reaction of meta-hydroxybenzoic acid (meta-HBA)

The potential barriers of meta-HBA and OH radicals are different. The addition initiated reaction of 5-HBA to form the 5,6-DHBA has the least potential barrier of 8.36 kcal/mol, and the

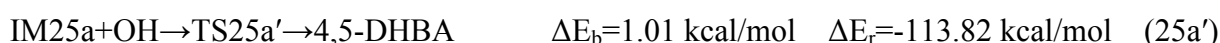
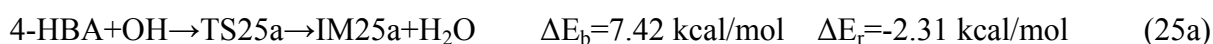
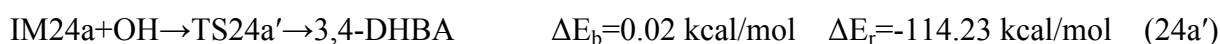
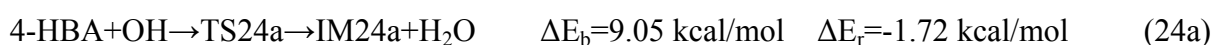
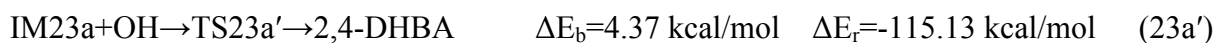
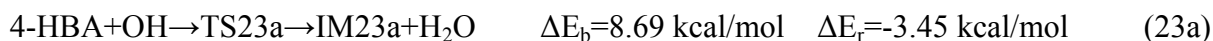
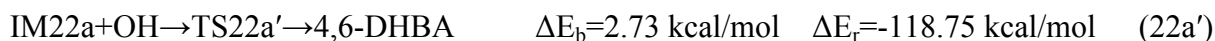
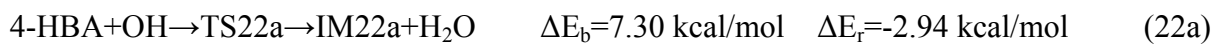
reaction to form the 4,5-DHBA has the largest potential barrier of 9.06 kcal/mol. In the hydrogen atom abstraction initiated reactions for 3-HBA, the potential barriers to generate the final product 3,6-DHBA (7.89 kcal/mol) is smallest, however the biggest that of the 3,4-DHBA is 9.08 kcal/mol. The reaction of the meta-reactions, reaction potential barriers and reaction energy are shown below, in addition, a part of the reactants and products are shown in before formulas, therefore there are no longer repeat numbers.



### (3) The abstraction and addition reaction of para-hydroxybenzoic acid (para-HBA)

In the reaction processes of para-HBA with OH radicals to generate the intermediates Ima, the

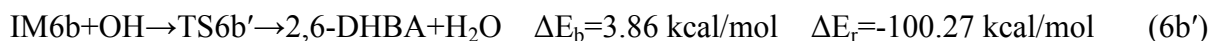
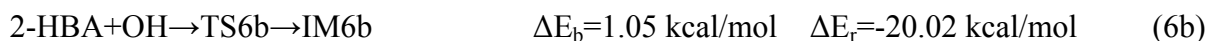
potential barriers from the 4-HBA to product 4,6-DHBA is smallest for 7.30 kcal/mol and 3,4-DHBA for 9.05 kcal/mol is largest. The reaction processes are as follows in the following formulas, moreover, some of the reactants and products have been shown before.

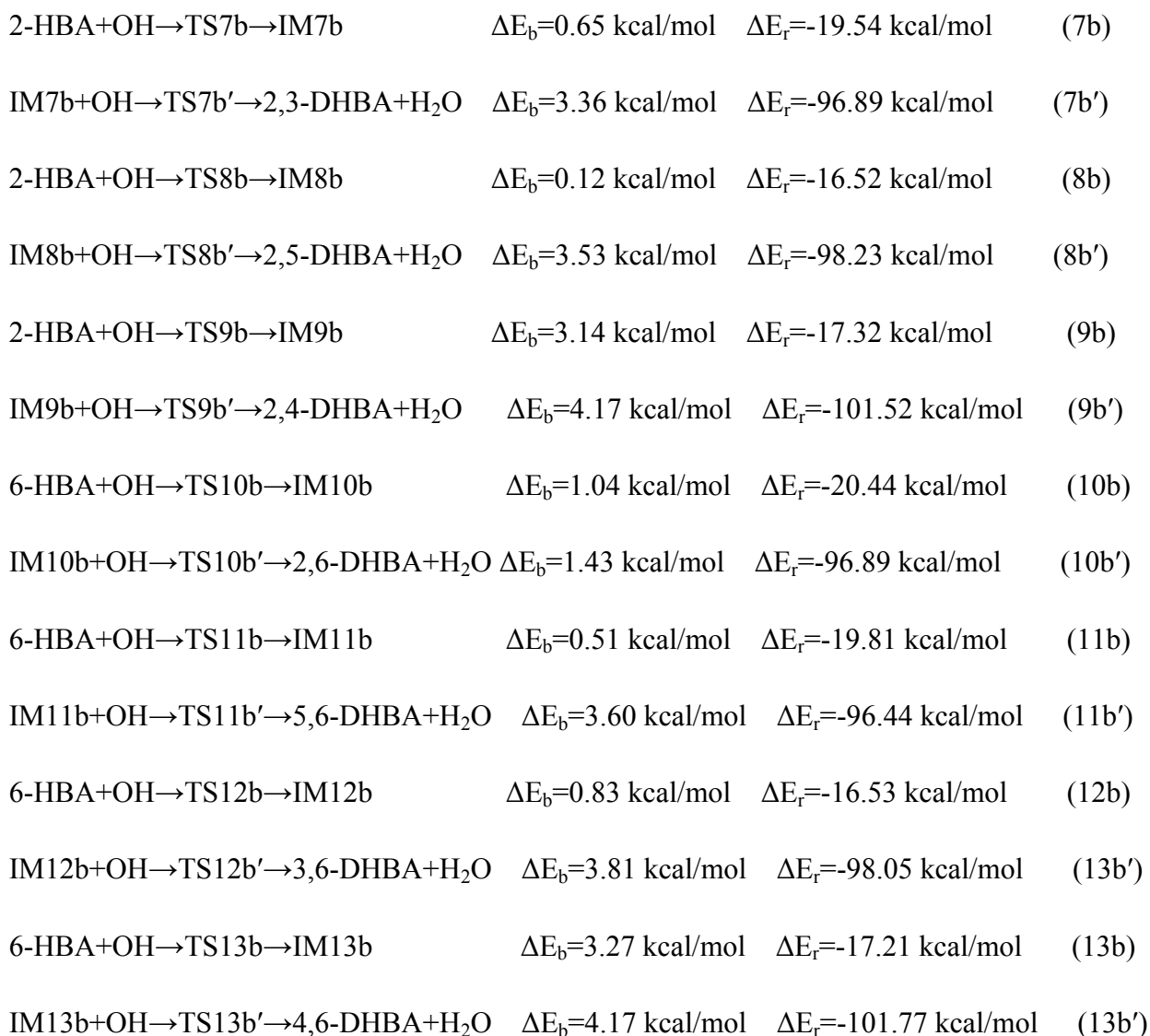


When the OH radicals have the addition and abstraction reactions with MHBA, in the first place, the OH radical is close to the remaining carbon atoms in the benzene ring of monohydroxybenzoic acid and get the transition states TS which the OH radical vibrates to the carbon atom in the benzene ring. After the OH radical is attached to the carbon atom, the intermediate is generated. Then another OH radical abstracts the hydrogen atom in the benzene ring, where the carbon site has been added with OH radicals, and form a molecular of H<sub>2</sub>O and the final product.

#### (4) The addition and abstraction reaction of ortho-HBA

The addition and abstraction reactions of ortho-HBA with OH radicals may produce intermediate IMb. The potential barriers of the 2-HBA for the final product 2,5-DHBA is 0.12 kcal/mol which is lowest and that of the 2,4-DHBA is 3.14 kcal/mol which is highest. The lowest and highest potential barriers for the 6-hydroxybenzoic acid to produce the final product 5,6-DHBA and the 4,6-DHBA are 0.51 and 3.27 kcal/mol, respectively. The reaction processes, reaction potential barriers and reaction energy are as following text.

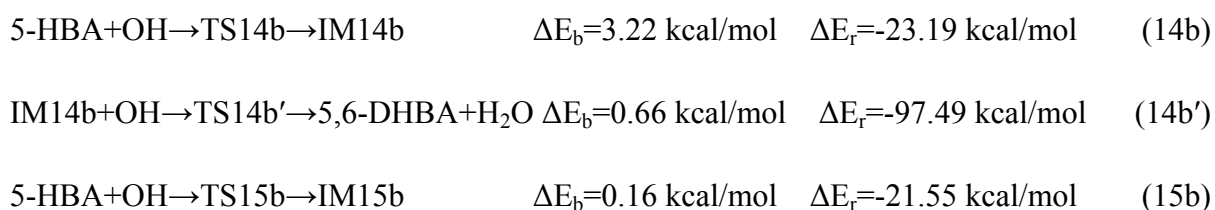




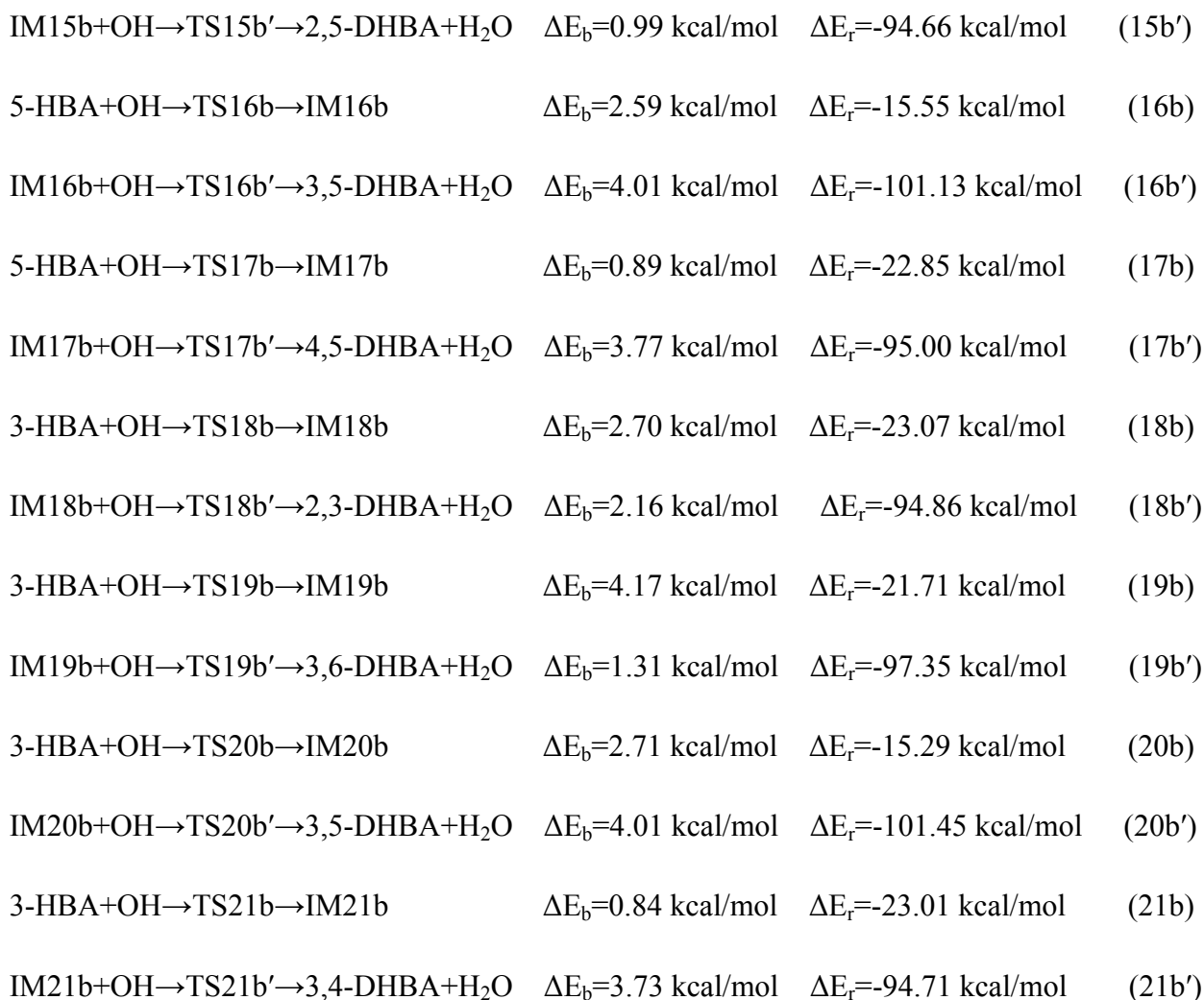
### (5) The addition and abstraction reaction of meta-HBA

In the addition reaction processes of meta-HBA with OH radicals may generate the intermediates IMA. The potential barriers of the 5-HBA to produce the final product 2,5-DHBA is 0.16 kcal/mol while that of the 5,6-DHBA is 3.22 kcal/mol. For the 3-HBA, the potential barrier for initiated reaction and to form the 3,4-DHBA is 0.84 kcal/mol, to form 3,6-DHBA is 4.17 kcal/mol.

The reaction potential barriers and reaction energy are depicted below, and some of the reactants and products are shown before.







#### (6) The addition and abstraction reaction of para-HBA

In the para-HBA and OH radicals addition reactions, the potential barriers to form the final product 3,4-DHBA is 0.06 kcal/mol while that of the 4,5-DHBA is 4.68 kcal/mol. The reaction potential barriers and reaction energy are shown below, part of the reactants and products are shown in before text.

