

## Supporting Information:

### Figure Legend

#### Figure S1

CID spectrum of  $[\text{RGYGGGG}+\text{H}]^+$

#### Figure S2

CID spectra of the radical cations in **Table 1.a-d)**  $[\text{R}(\text{G})_{m-2}\text{YG}]^{*+}$  ( $m=2-5$ ); e)-g)  
 $[\text{R}(\text{G})_{m-2}\text{FG}]^{*+}$  ( $m=3-5$ )

#### Figure S3

CID spectra of a)-f)  $[\text{K}(\text{G})_{n-2}\text{Y}(\text{G})_{7-n}]^{*+}$  and g)-l)  $[\text{K}(\text{G})_{n-2}\text{F}(\text{G})_{7-n}]^{*+}$  ( $n = 2 - 5$ ).  
Formation of  $[\text{b}_n - \text{H}]^{*+}$  and  $\text{y}_n^+$  ions.

#### Figure S4

Potential energy surface for the formation of  $[\text{b}_2 - \text{H}]^{*+}$  ion from  $[\text{R}\cdot\text{FG}]^+$ . Upper numbers are enthalpies at 0 K, and lower italicized numbers are free energies at 298 K. All numbers (in  $\text{kcal mol}^{-1}$ ) are relative to the enthalpy of  $[\text{R}\cdot\text{FG}]^+ - 1$ . Selected bond lengths are in Å.

#### Figure S5

The transition states for the formation of  $[\text{b}_2 - \text{H}]^{*+}$  from  $[\text{RFG}]^{*+}$  and  $[\text{KFG}]^{*+}$  through the pathway of side-chain attack. Upper numbers are enthalpies at 0 K, and lower italicized numbers are free energies at 298 K. All numbers (in  $\text{kcal mol}^{-1}$ ) are relative to the enthalpy of  $[\text{R}\cdot\text{FG}]^+ - 1$ . Selected bond lengths are in Å.

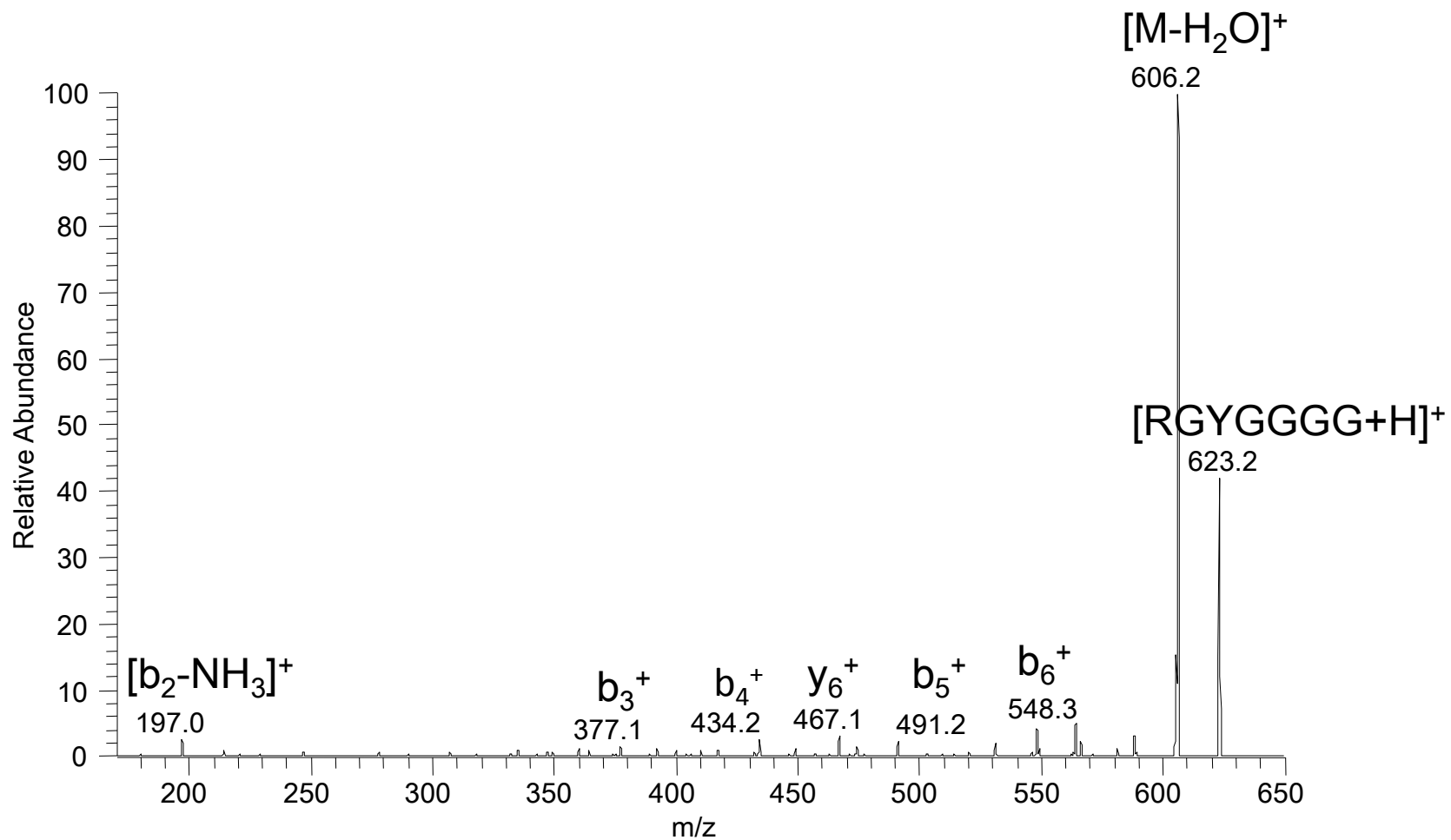
#### Figure S6

Low-energy structures and potential energy surface for the interconversion of KFG radical cations. Upper numbers are enthalpies at 0 K, and lower italicized numbers are free energies at 298 K. All numbers (in  $\text{kcal mol}^{-1}$ ) are relative to the enthalpy of  $[\text{K}\cdot\text{FG}]^+ - 1$ . Selected bond lengths are in Å.

#### Figure S7

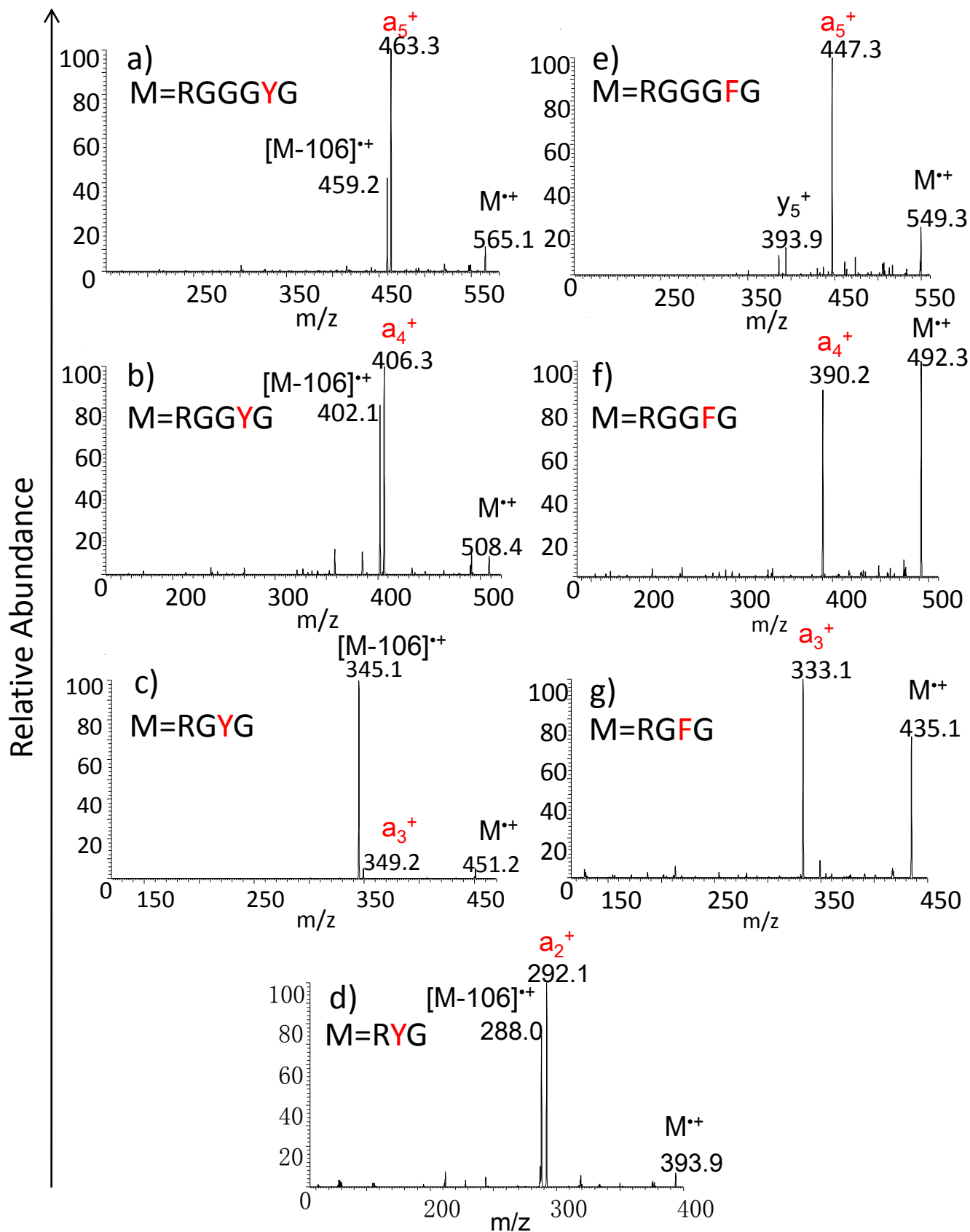
Potential energy surface for the formation of  $\text{a}_2^+$  ion from  $[\text{K}\cdot\text{FG}]^+$ . Upper numbers are enthalpies at 0 K, and lower italicized numbers are free energies at 298 K. All numbers (in  $\text{kcal mol}^{-1}$ ) are relative to the enthalpy of  $[\text{K}\cdot\text{FG}]^+ - 1$ . Selected bond lengths are in Å.

# Figure S1

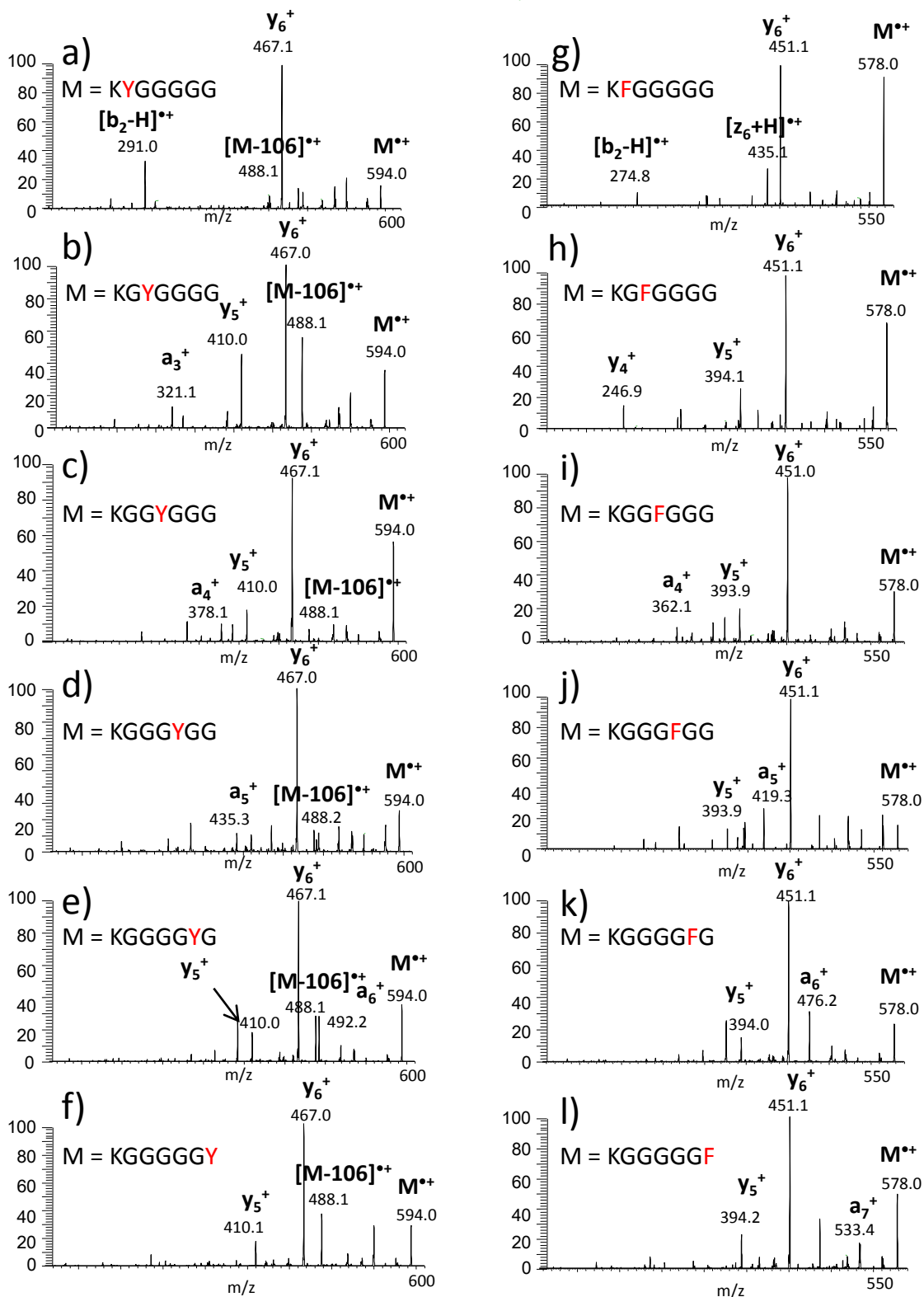


# Figure S2

Supplementary Material (ESI) for PCCP  
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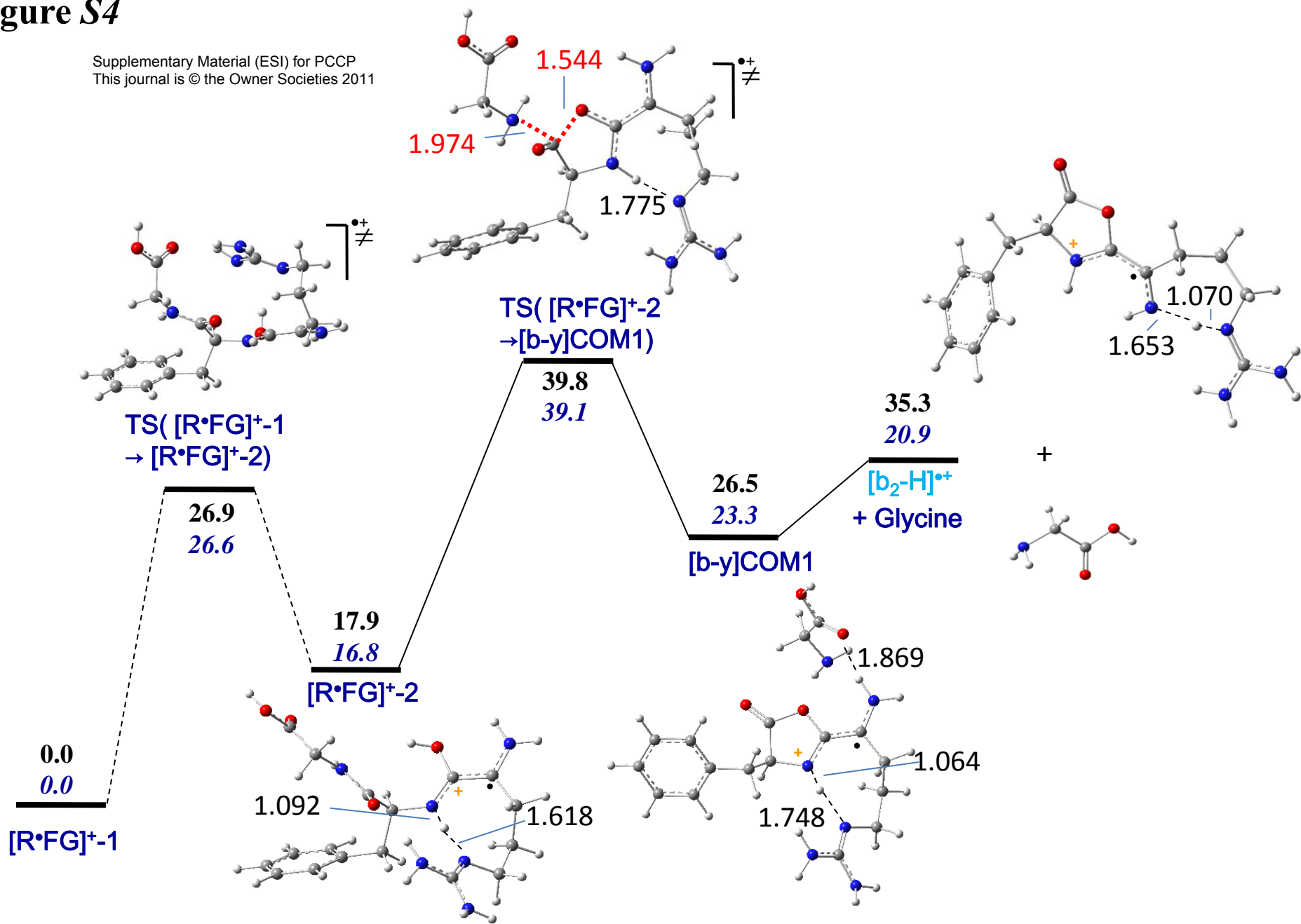


Relative Abundance



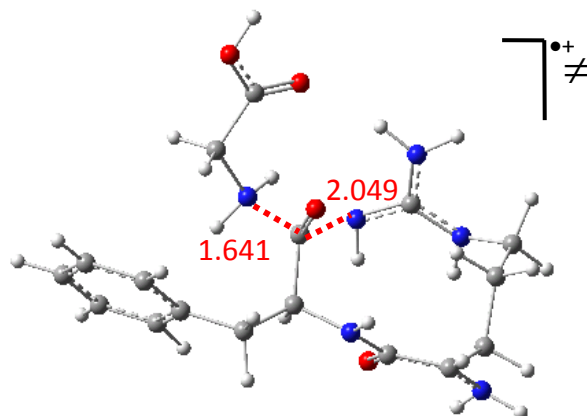
# Figure S4

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# Figure S5

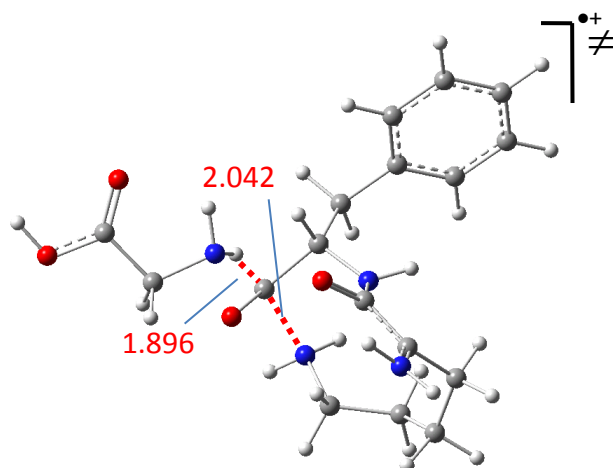
Supplementary Material (ESI) for PCCP  
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TS ( side-chain attack to form  $[b_2-H]^{\bullet+}$  from  $[RFG]^{\bullet+}$ )

49.2

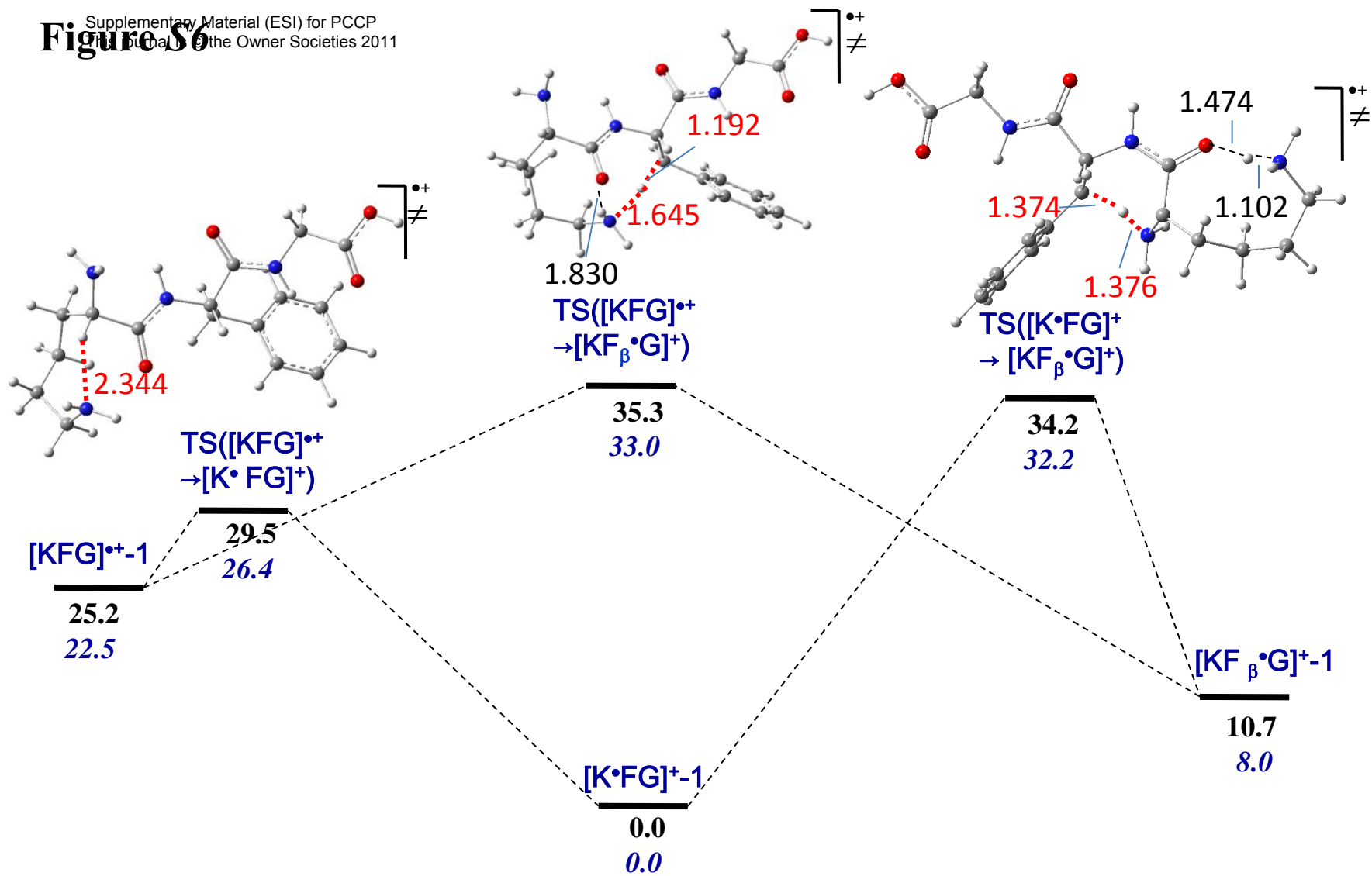
52.2



TS ( side-chain attack to form  $[b_2-H]^{\bullet+}$  from  $[KFG]^{\bullet+}$ )

57.2

55.4



# Figure S7

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