

Supplementary Information

Cobalt analogues of Roussin's red salt esters: a density functional study

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Table S1. BP86/6-311G(d) electronic energies and thermodynamic corrections calculated for the singlet $\text{Co}_2(\text{NO})_4(\text{SCH}_3)_2$ structures. Total energies in a.u., relative energies in kcal mol⁻¹.

| | Electronic Energies | | Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------|---|----------|--|----------|---|----------|
| | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative |
| O-ud-1 | -4162.324123 | 0.0 | -4162.214990 | 0.1 | -4162.193777 | 0.2 | -4162.269905 | 0.1 |
| O-dd-1 | -4162.323665 | 0.3 | -4162.215196 | 0.0 | -4162.193943 | 0.1 | -4162.270025 | 0.0 |
| O-TS-1 | -4162.323209 | 0.6 | -4162.214490 | 0.4 | -4162.194028 | 0.0 | -4162.267322 | 1.7 |
| B-d-1 | -4162.311128 | 8.2 | -4162.202870 | 7.7 | -4162.181843 | 7.6 | -4162.255780 | 8.9 |
| B-u-1 | -4162.308826 | 9.6 | -4162.200784 | 9.0 | -4162.179762 | 9.0 | -4162.253686 | 10.3 |
| Iso-1 | -4162.260142 | 40.1 | -4162.152493 | 39.3 | -4162.131098 | 39.5 | -4162.206447 | 39.9 |

Table S2. BP86/6-311G(d) electronic energies and thermodynamic corrections calculated for the relevant singlet $\text{Co}_2(\text{NO})_4(\text{SCH}_3)_2$ structures including corrections for the solvent effects. Total energies in a.u., relative energies in kcal mol⁻¹.

| | Electronic Energies | | Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------|---|----------|--|----------|---|----------|
| | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative |
| O-ud-1 | -4162.329890 | 0.0 | -4162.221438 | 0.4 | -4162.200645 | 0.4 | -4162.275630 | 0.3 |
| O-dd-1 | -4162.329860 | 0.0 | -4162.222022 | 0.0 | -4162.201240 | 0.0 | -4162.276139 | 0.0 |
| B-d-1 | -4162.320758 | 5.7 | -4162.212618 | 5.9 | -4162.192261 | 5.6 | -4162.263663 | 7.8 |
| B-u-1 | -4162.320140 | 6.1 | -4162.212308 | 6.1 | -4162.191802 | 5.9 | -4162.263335 | 8.0 |
| Iso-1 | -4162.267155 | 39.4 | -4162.159921 | 39.0 | -4162.139009 | 39.1 | -4162.212767 | 39.8 |

Table S3. M06-L/6-311G(d) electronic energies and thermodynamic corrections calculated for the singlet $\text{Co}_2(\text{NO})_4(\text{SCH}_3)_2$ structures. Total energies in a.u., relative energies in kcal mol⁻¹.

| | Electronic Energies | | Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------|---|----------|--|----------|---|----------|
| | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative |
| O-ud-1 | -4161.502005 | 0.0 | -4161.389440 | 0.0 | -4161.369686 | 0.0 | -4161.440422 | 0.0 |
| O-dd-1 | -4161.500846 | 0.7 | -4161.387731 | 1.1 | -4161.367628 | 1.3 | -4161.438120 | 1.4 |
| O-uu-1 | -4161.500758 | 0.8 | -4161.388065 | 0.9 | -4161.367637 | 1.3 | -4161.439104 | 0.8 |
| O-TS-1 | -4161.497960 | 2.6 | -4161.386231 | 2.0 | -4161.366844 | 1.8 | -4161.438272 | 1.3 |
| B-d-1 | -4161.485068 | 10.6 | -4161.373471 | 10.0 | -4161.352721 | 10.6 | -4161.425606 | 9.3 |
| B-u-1 | -4161.482535 | 12.2 | -4161.371304 | 11.4 | -4161.350540 | 12.0 | -4161.422978 | 10.9 |
| Iso-1 | -4161.437481 | 40.5 | -4161.325944 | 39.8 | -4161.305320 | 40.4 | -4161.377282 | 39.6 |

Table S4. BP86/6-311G(d) electronic energies and thermodynamic corrections calculated for the singlet $\text{Co}_2(\text{NO})_4(\text{SCF}_3)_2$ structures. Total energies in a.u., relative energies in kcal mol⁻¹.

| | Electronic Energies | | Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------|---|----------|--|----------|---|----------|
| | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative |
| O-ud-1 | -4757.952947 | 0.0 | -4757.890125 | 0.0 | -4757.864761 | 0.4 | -4757.952326 | 0.0 |
| O-TS-1 | -4757.952600 | 0.2 | -4757.889917 | 0.1 | -4757.865385 | 0.0 | -4757.949773 | 1.6 |
| O-dd-1 | -4757.952511 | 0.3 | -4757.889757 | 0.2 | -4757.864360 | 0.6 | -4757.952058 | 0.2 |
| B-u-1 | -4757.941747 | 7.0 | -4757.879132 | 6.9 | -4757.854184 | 7.0 | -4757.939366 | 8.1 |
| B-d-1 | -4757.938721 | 8.9 | -4757.875976 | 8.9 | -4757.851063 | 9.0 | -4757.936132 | 10.2 |
| Iso-1 | -4757.888229 | 40.6 | -4757.826590 | 39.9 | -4757.801003 | 40.4 | -4757.888492 | 40.1 |

Table S5. BP86/6-311G(d) electronic energies and thermodynamic corrections calculated for the singlet $\text{Co}_2(\text{NO})_4(\text{SCF}_3)_2$ structures including corrections for the solvent effects. Total energies in a.u., relative energies in kcal mol⁻¹.

| | Electronic Energies | | Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------|---|----------|--|----------|---|----------|
| | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative |
| O-ud-1 | -4757.959428 | 0.0 | -4757.897437 | 0.0 | -4757.872647 | 0.0 | -4757.958101 | 0.4 |
| O-dd-1 | -4757.959180 | 0.2 | -4757.897379 | 0.0 | -4757.872484 | 0.1 | -4757.958669 | 0.0 |
| B-u-1 | -4757.953577 | 3.7 | -4757.891428 | 3.8 | -4757.867271 | 3.4 | -4757.949118 | 6.0 |
| B-d-1 | -4757.952147 | 4.6 | -4757.890121 | 4.6 | -4757.865879 | 4.2 | -4757.948122 | 6.6 |
| Iso-1 | -4757.896058 | 39.8 | -4757.835351 | 39.0 | -4757.810267 | 39.1 | -4757.896255 | 39.2 |

Table S6. BP86/6-311G(d) electronic energies and thermodynamic corrections calculated for the relevant $\text{Co}_2(\text{NO})_4(\text{SC}_4\text{H}_9)_2$ structures. Total energies in a.u., relative energies in kcal mol⁻¹.

| | Electronic Energies | | Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------|---|----------|--|----------|---|----------|
| | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative |
| O-ud-1 | -4398.254402 | 0.0 | -4397.981556 | 0.0 | -4397.952171 | 0.0 | -4398.043912 | 0.0 |
| O-dd-1 | -4398.253241 | 0.7 | -4397.980367 | 0.7 | -4397.951035 | 0.7 | -4398.041656 | 1.4 |
| B-u-1 | -4398.235778 | 11.7 | -4397.963204 | 11.5 | -4397.934278 | 11.2 | -4398.024846 | 12.0 |
| B-d-1 | -4398.236531 | 11.2 | -4397.964215 | 10.9 | -4397.935122 | 10.7 | -4398.026460 | 11.0 |
| Iso-1 | -4398.190170 | 40.3 | -4397.918650 | 39.5 | -4397.889055 | 39.6 | -4397.980799 | 39.6 |

Table S7. BP86/6-311G(d) electronic energies and thermodynamic corrections calculated for the relevant singlet $\text{Co}_2(\text{NO})_4(\text{SC}_4\text{H}_9)_2$ structures including corrections for the solvent effects. Total energies in a.u., relative energies in kcal mol⁻¹.

| | Electronic Energies | | Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies | | Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------|---|----------|--|----------|---|----------|
| | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative | total | relative |
| O-ud-1 | -4398.259750 | 0.0 | -4397.987667 | 0.0 | -4397.959044 | 0.0 | -4398.048424 | 0.0 |
| O-dd-1 | -4398.259127 | 0.4 | -4397.987344 | 0.2 | -4397.958588 | 0.3 | -4398.047765 | 0.4 |
| B-d-1 | -4398.243942 | 9.9 | -4397.972203 | 9.7 | -4397.943995 | 9.4 | -4398.032015 | 10.3 |
| B-u-1 | -4398.246883 | 8.1 | -4397.974747 | 8.1 | -4397.946698 | 7.7 | -4398.033842 | 9.2 |
| Iso-1 | -4398.196749 | 39.5 | -4397.925913 | 38.8 | -4397.897141 | 38.8 | -4397.985999 | 39.2 |

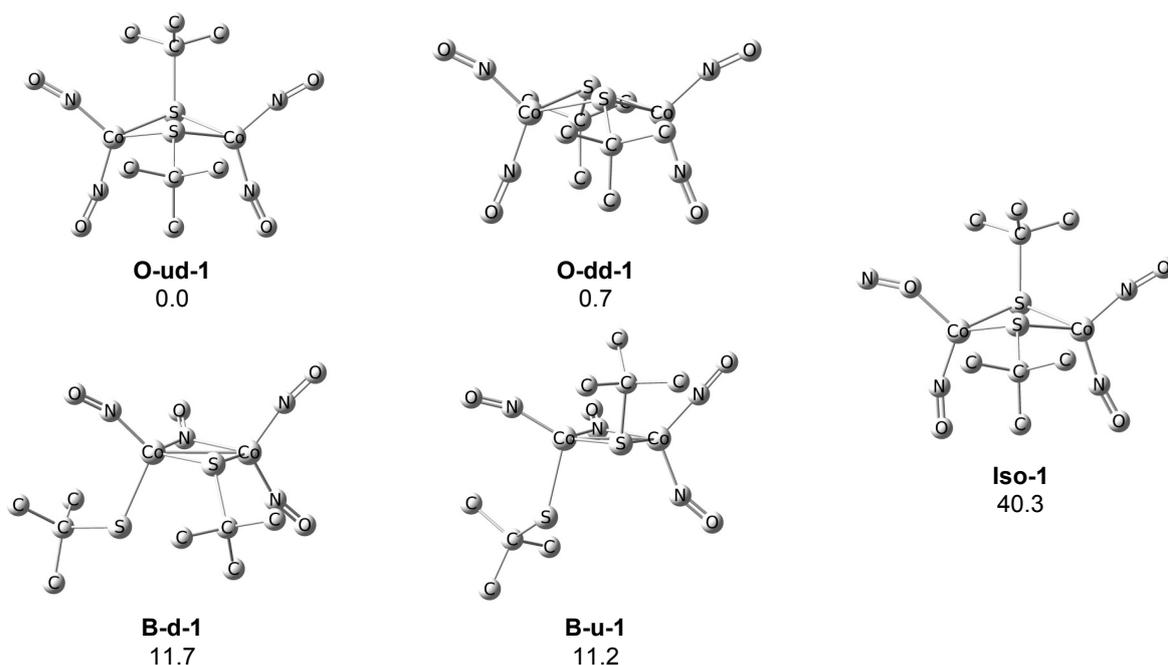


Figure S1. BP86/6–311G(d) optimized $\text{Co}_2(\text{NO})_4(\text{SC}_4\text{H}_9)_2$ geometries without corrections for the solvent effects. Hydrogen atoms are not shown for clarity.

Table S8. BP86/6-311G(d) structural parameters (Å), HOMO-LUMO gaps (eV), imaginary frequencies (cm^{-1}) and point groups of the $\text{Co}_2(\text{NO})_4(\text{SC}_4\text{H}_9)_2$ structures without corrections for the solvent effects.

| | Co–Co | Co–S ^a | Co–N ^b | N–O ^c | HOMO-LUMO | Imaginary freq. | |
|---------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| O-ud-1 | 3.418 | 2.339 | 1.642 | 1.175 | 1.6 | none | C_s |
| | | 2.293 | 1.640 | 1.173 | | | |
| O-dd-1 | 3.425 | 2.311 | 1.651 | 1.172 | 1.7 | none | C_2 |
| | | 2.310 | 1.633 | 1.177 | | | |
| B-d-1 | 2.630 | 2.236 | 1.650 | 1.170 | 0.6 | none | C_1 |
| | | 2.270 | 1.729 | 1.200 | | | |
| | | 2.200 | 1.997 | | | | |
| B-u-1 | 2.575 | 2.281 | 1.656 | 1.172 | 0.7 | none | C_1 |
| | | 2.227 | 1.725 | 1.202 | | | |
| | | 2.214 | 1.955 | | | | |

^a Terminal Co–S distances in *italics*. ^b Terminal Co–N(O) distances are averaged for the butterfly type structures, bridging Co–N(O) distances in *italics*. ^c Terminal N–O distances are averaged for the butterfly type structures, bridging N–O distances in *italics*.

Table S9. BP86/6-311G(d) atomic charge distributions from natural population analysis and relative charge differences for **O-ud-1** $\text{Co}_2(\text{NO})_4(\text{SR})_2$ (R = CH_3 , CF_3).

| R = CH_3 | | | R = CF_3 | | | charge difference |
|-------------------|----|------------|-------------------|----|------------|-------------------|
| Atom | No | NPA charge | Atom | No | NPA charge | |
| Co | 1 | 0.80 | Co | 1 | 0.80 | 0.0 |
| S | 2 | -0.29 | S | 2 | -0.37 | -0.1 |
| Co | 3 | 0.80 | Co | 3 | 0.80 | 0.0 |
| S | 4 | -0.25 | S | 4 | -0.35 | -0.1 |
| N | 5 | -0.06 | N | 5 | -0.03 | 0.0 |
| O | 6 | -0.16 | O | 6 | -0.13 | 0.0 |
| N | 7 | -0.07 | N | 7 | -0.04 | 0.0 |
| O | 8 | -0.16 | O | 8 | -0.13 | 0.0 |
| N | 9 | -0.06 | N | 9 | -0.03 | 0.0 |
| O | 10 | -0.16 | O | 10 | -0.13 | 0.0 |
| N | 11 | -0.07 | N | 11 | -0.04 | 0.0 |
| O | 12 | -0.16 | O | 12 | -0.13 | 0.0 |
| C | 13 | -0.70 | C | 13 | 0.91 | 1.6 |
| C | 14 | -0.71 | C | 14 | 0.91 | 1.6 |
| H | 15 | 0.21 | F | 15 | -0.35 | -0.6 |
| H | 16 | 0.21 | F | 16 | -0.34 | -0.5 |
| H | 17 | 0.21 | F | 17 | -0.34 | -0.5 |
| H | 18 | 0.21 | F | 18 | -0.34 | -0.5 |
| H | 19 | 0.20 | F | 19 | -0.35 | -0.6 |
| H | 20 | 0.21 | F | 20 | -0.34 | -0.5 |

Table S10. BP86/6-311G(d) atomic charge distributions from natural population analysis and relative charge differences for **O-dd-1** $\text{Co}_2(\text{NO})_4(\text{SR})_2$ (R = CH_3 , CF_3).

| R = CH_3 | | | R = CF_3 | | | charge difference |
|-------------------|----|------------|-------------------|----|------------|-------------------|
| Atom | No | NPA charge | Atom | No | NPA charge | |
| Co | 1 | 0.79 | Co | 1 | 0.80 | 0.0 |
| S | 2 | -0.25 | S | 2 | -0.37 | -0.1 |
| Co | 3 | 0.79 | Co | 3 | 0.80 | 0.0 |
| S | 4 | -0.25 | S | 4 | -0.37 | -0.1 |
| N | 5 | -0.04 | N | 5 | -0.03 | 0.0 |
| O | 6 | -0.16 | O | 6 | -0.13 | 0.0 |
| N | 7 | -0.09 | N | 7 | -0.04 | 0.0 |
| O | 8 | -0.19 | O | 8 | -0.13 | 0.1 |
| N | 9 | -0.04 | N | 9 | -0.03 | 0.0 |
| O | 10 | -0.16 | O | 10 | -0.13 | 0.0 |
| N | 11 | -0.09 | N | 11 | -0.04 | 0.0 |
| O | 12 | -0.19 | O | 12 | -0.13 | 0.1 |
| C | 13 | -0.70 | C | 13 | 0.92 | 1.6 |
| C | 14 | -0.70 | C | 14 | 0.92 | 1.6 |
| H | 15 | 0.21 | F | 15 | -0.33 | -0.5 |
| H | 16 | 0.21 | F | 16 | -0.33 | -0.5 |
| H | 17 | 0.21 | F | 17 | -0.33 | -0.5 |
| H | 18 | 0.21 | F | 18 | -0.35 | -0.6 |
| H | 19 | 0.21 | F | 19 | -0.35 | -0.6 |
| H | 20 | 0.21 | F | 20 | -0.33 | -0.5 |

Table S11 – BP86/6-311G(d) atomic charge distributions from natural population analysis and relative charge differences for **B-d-1** Co₂(NO)₄(SR)₂ (R = CH₃, CF₃).

| R = CH ₃ | | | R = CF ₃ | | | charge difference |
|---------------------|----|------------|---------------------|----|------------|-------------------|
| Atom | No | NPA charge | Atom | No | NPA charge | |
| Co | 1 | 0.83 | Co | 1 | 0.82 | 0.0 |
| S | 2 | -0.25 | S | 2 | -0.36 | -0.1 |
| Co | 3 | 0.78 | Co | 3 | 0.78 | 0.0 |
| S | 4 | -0.27 | S | 4 | -0.30 | 0.0 |
| N | 5 | -0.02 | N | 5 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| O | 6 | -0.13 | O | 6 | -0.10 | 0.0 |
| N | 7 | -0.04 | N | 7 | -0.02 | 0.0 |
| O | 8 | -0.13 | O | 8 | -0.11 | 0.0 |
| N | 9 | -0.05 | N | 9 | -0.02 | 0.0 |
| O | 10 | -0.17 | O | 10 | -0.12 | 0.1 |
| N | 11 | -0.22 | N | 11 | -0.20 | 0.0 |
| O | 12 | -0.19 | O | 12 | -0.15 | 0.0 |
| C | 13 | -0.70 | C | 13 | 0.93 | 1.6 |
| C | 14 | -0.71 | C | 14 | 0.89 | 1.6 |
| H | 15 | 0.20 | F | 15 | -0.35 | -0.6 |
| H | 16 | 0.21 | F | 16 | -0.34 | -0.6 |
| H | 17 | 0.20 | F | 17 | -0.35 | -0.6 |
| H | 18 | 0.22 | F | 18 | -0.32 | -0.5 |
| H | 19 | 0.21 | F | 19 | -0.33 | -0.5 |
| H | 20 | 0.23 | F | 20 | -0.33 | -0.6 |

Table S12 – BP86/6-311G(d) atomic charge distributions from natural population analysis and relative charge differences for **B-u-1** Co₂(NO)₄(SR)₂ (R = CH₃, CF₃).

| R = CH ₃ | | | R = CF ₃ | | | charge difference |
|---------------------|----|------------|---------------------|----|------------|-------------------|
| Atom | No | NPA charge | Atom | No | NPA charge | |
| Co | 1 | 0.82 | Co | 1 | 0.82 | 0.0 |
| S | 2 | -0.21 | S | 2 | -0.31 | -0.1 |
| Co | 3 | 0.76 | Co | 3 | 0.76 | 0.0 |
| S | 4 | -0.22 | S | 4 | -0.31 | -0.1 |
| N | 5 | -0.01 | N | 5 | 0.01 | 0.0 |
| O | 6 | -0.12 | O | 6 | -0.10 | 0.0 |
| N | 7 | -0.05 | N | 7 | -0.02 | 0.0 |
| O | 8 | -0.15 | O | 8 | -0.11 | 0.0 |
| N | 9 | -0.06 | N | 9 | -0.02 | 0.0 |
| O | 10 | -0.17 | O | 10 | -0.12 | 0.0 |
| N | 11 | -0.23 | N | 11 | -0.20 | 0.0 |
| O | 12 | -0.19 | O | 12 | -0.15 | 0.0 |
| C | 13 | -0.71 | C | 13 | 0.91 | 1.6 |
| C | 14 | -0.72 | C | 14 | 0.89 | 1.6 |
| H | 15 | 0.20 | F | 15 | -0.35 | -0.6 |
| H | 16 | 0.21 | F | 16 | -0.34 | -0.6 |
| H | 17 | 0.20 | F | 17 | -0.36 | -0.6 |
| H | 18 | 0.22 | F | 18 | -0.33 | -0.5 |
| H | 19 | 0.20 | F | 19 | -0.35 | -0.6 |
| H | 20 | 0.21 | F | 20 | -0.33 | -0.5 |

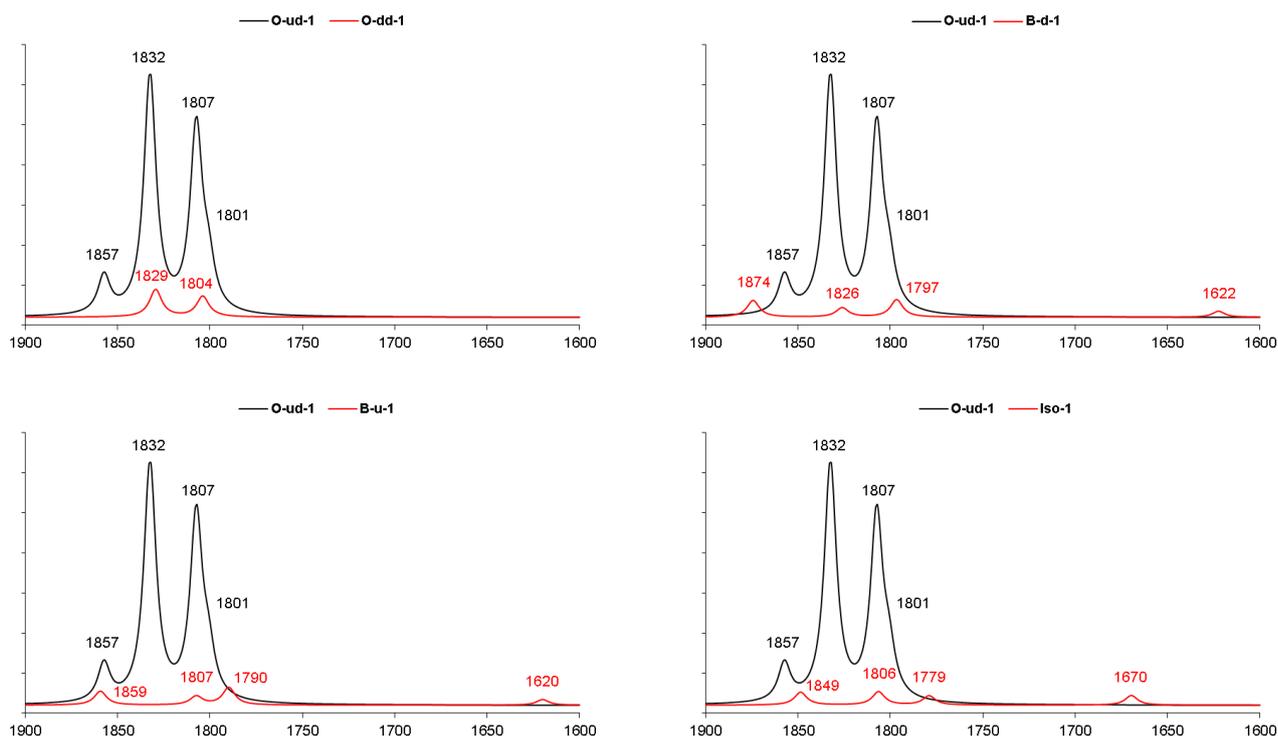


Figure S2. BP86/6-311G(d) superimposed theoretical IR spectra of the **O-ud-1** $\text{Co}_2(\text{NO})_4(\text{SC}_4\text{H}_9)_2$ structures (shown in black) with the corresponding theoretical IR spectra of **O-dd-1**, **B-d-1**, **B-u-1** and **Iso-1** (shown in red). The spectra of **O-dd-1**, **B-d-1**, **B-u-1** and **Iso-1** have been rescaled 10:1 (according to ref. 7).