

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

***Ab initio* and DFT analysis of the low-lying electronic states of metal dihalides:**

Quantum chemical calculations on the neutral BrMCl (M=Cu, Ag, Au)

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Table S1. Electronic configuration and Mulliken charge distribution obtained for AgClBr at the HF level with different basis sets and ECPs.

Basis set Label	Electronic configuration (² A')	Mulliken Charge		
		Br	Ag	Cl
ANO-RCC	(3p _z Cl) ² (4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4dσ) ² (3p _y Cl) ² (4p _z Br) ² (4p _y Br) ¹	0.16	0.59	-0.75
	(3p _x Cl) ² (4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4p _x Br) ²			
ANO-DK3	(4dσ) ² (4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4p _z Br) ² (3p _z Cl) ² (3p _y Cl) ² (4p _y Br) ¹	-0.21	0.66	-0.45
	(4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4p _x Br) ² (3p _x Cl) ²			
ANO-DK3-u	(4dσ) ² (4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4p _z Br) ² (3p _z Cl) ² (3p _y Cl) ² (4p _y Br) ¹	-0.12	0.58	-0.46
	(4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4p _x Br) ² (3p _x Cl) ²			
17e-	(4dσ) ² (4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4p _z Br) ² (3p _z Cl) ² (3p _y Cl) ² (4p _y Br) ¹	0.04	0.37	-0.41
CG-AIMP	(4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4p _x Br) ² (3p _x Cl) ²			
17e-	(4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4dσ) ² (3p _y Cl) ² (4p _z Br) ² (4p _y Br) ² (3p _z Cl) ¹	-0.39	0.77	-0.38
CG-AIMP-u	(4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (3p _x Cl) ² (4p _x Br) ²			
19e-	(4dπ) ² (4dσ) ² (4dπ) ² (4p _y Br) ² (3p _z Cl) ² (3p _y Cl) ² (4p _z Br) ¹	0.03	0.47	-0.5
NP-AIMP	(4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4p _x Br) ² (3p _x Cl) ²			
19e-MWB	(3p _z Cl) ² (4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (dσ) ² (3p _y Cl) ² (4p _z Br) ² (4p _y Br) ¹	-0.06	1.07	-1.01
	(4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (3p _x Cl) ² (4p _x Br) ²			
19e-LANL2DZ	(4dπ) ² (dσCl) ² (4dπ) ² (3p _y Cl) ² (4p _z Br) ² (4p _y Br) ² (3p _z Cl) ¹	-0.53	1.12	-0.59
	(4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (3p _x Cl) ² (4p _x Br) ²			
17e-	(4dσ) ² (4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4p _z Br) ² (3p _z Cl) ² (3p _y Cl) ² (4p _y Br) ¹	0.07	0.36	-0.43
NR-AIMP	(4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4p _x Br) ² (3p _x Cl) ²			
17e-	(4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (4dσ) ² (3p _y Cl) ² (4p _z Br) ² (4p _y Br) ² (3p _z Cl) ¹	-0.35	0.71	-0.36
NR-AIMP-u	(4dπ) ² (4dπ) ² (3p _x Cl) ² (4p _x Br) ²			

Table S2. Orbital contribution to the total mulliken charge and spin (in parenthesis) beard by the metal from ADF calculations (B3LYP/TZVP) for copper (n=4), silver (n=5) and gold (n=6)

	Cu	Ag	Au
ns	0.37 (-0.01)	0.48 (-0.02)	0.14 (-0.01)
(n-1)d	0.47 (0.45)	0.27 (0.17)	0.59 (0.29)
np	-0.37 (-0.02)	-0.21 (-0.02)	-0.24 (-0.02)
Total	0.47 (0.42)	0.54 (0.13)	0.48 (0.27)

Table S3. Relativistic orbital energies for copper (n=4), silver (n=5) and gold (n=6) in atomic units.

	Cu	Ag	Au
ns _{1/2}	-0.245	-0.237	-0.292
(n-1)d _{3/2}	-0.488	-0.526	-0.494
(n-1)d _{5/2}	-0.474	-0.501	-0.429

Table S4. CASPT2 Mulliken charge distribution of ClCuBr and ClAgBr neutral molecules at the degeneracy of the ground state by CASPT2 level of theory.

	M	Cl	Br
Cu	28.1	17.6	35.4
Ag	46.4	17.5	35.1
Au	78.5	17.3	35.2