

Supplementary Information to:

Water activation by small free ruthenium oxide clusters

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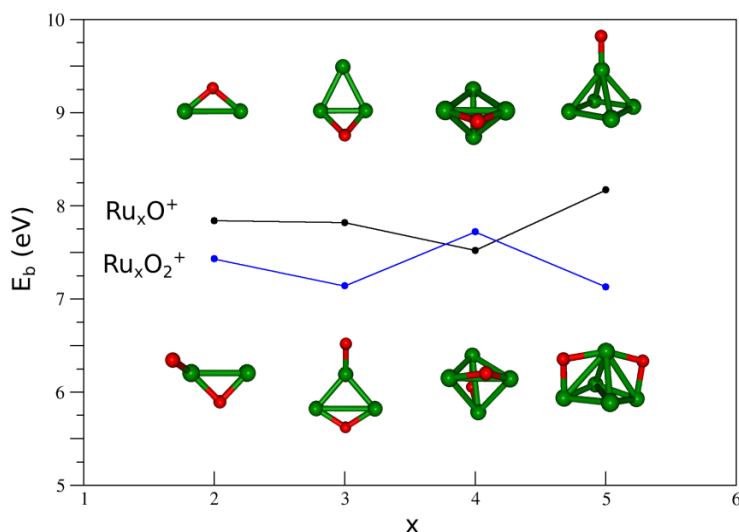


Fig. S1 Calculated O-atom binding energies for ruthenium mono- and di-oxides together with the corresponding lowest energy structures. $E_b = E[\text{Ru}_x\text{O}^+] - E[\text{Ru}_x^+] - E[\text{O}]$ and $E_b = E[\text{Ru}_x\text{O}_2^+] - E[\text{Ru}_x\text{O}^+] - E[\text{O}]$. Ru and O atoms are indicated by green and red spheres, respectively.

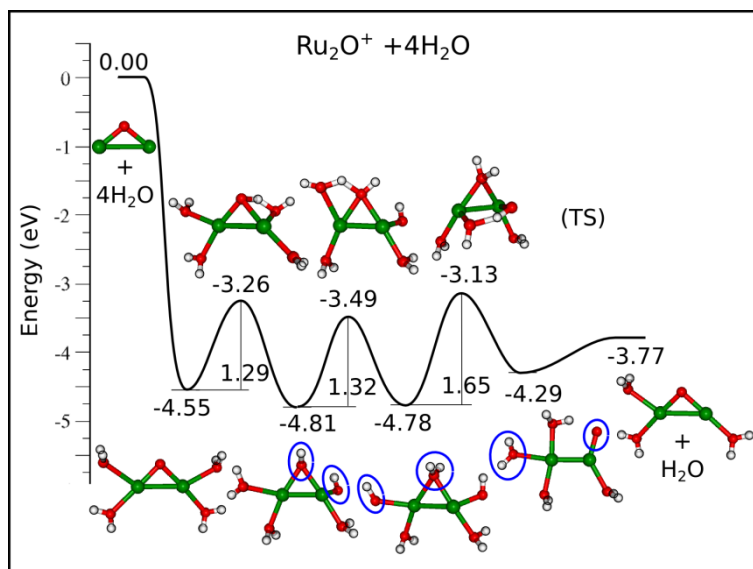


Fig. S2 Calculated energy profile of one possible reaction pathway for the [1,3] shift hydrogen transfer reaction of $\text{Ru}_2\text{O}^+ + 4 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ including the lowest energy isomer depicted in Fig. 4b. Ru, O, and H atoms are indicated by green, red, and white spheres, respectively. The blue circles indicate the OH-groups resulting from the stepwise hydrogen shifts.

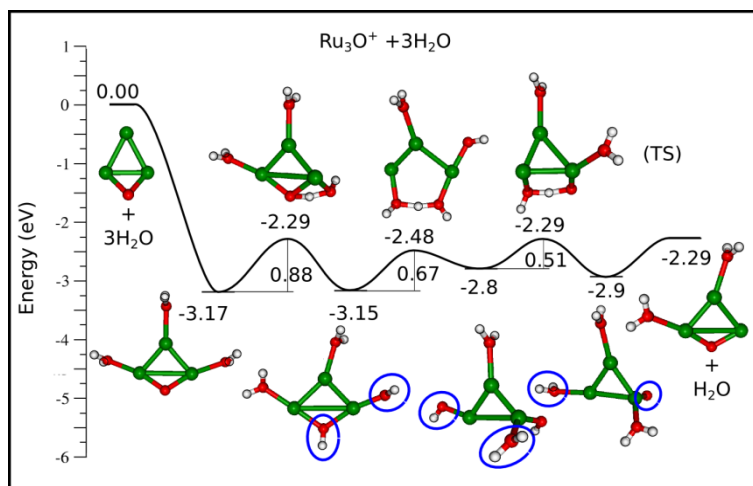


Fig. S3 Calculated energy profile of one possible reaction pathway for the [1,3] shift hydrogen transfer reaction of $\text{Ru}_3\text{O}^+ + 3 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ including the lowest energy isomer depicted in Fig. 4d. Ru, O, and H atoms are indicated by green, red, and white spheres, respectively. The blue circles indicate the OH-groups resulting from the stepwise hydrogen shifts.

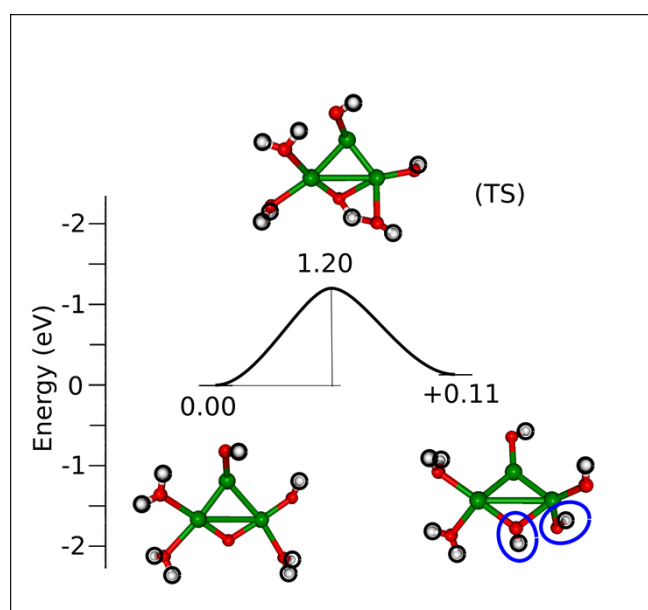


Fig. S4 Calculated energy profile for one possible reaction pathway for the [1,3] shift hydrogen transfer reaction of $\text{Ru}_3\text{O}(\text{OH})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3^+$ yielding $\text{Ru}_3(\text{OH})_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2^+$. The initial structure $\text{Ru}_3\text{O}(\text{OH})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3^+$ corresponds to the lowest energy isomer depicted in Figs. 4e and 6a. The blue circles indicate the OH-groups resulting from the hydrogen shift.

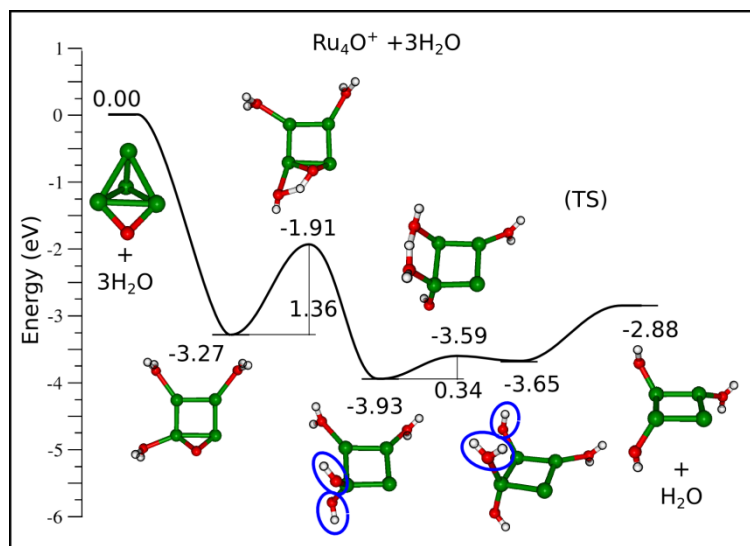


Fig. S5 Calculated energy profile of one possible reaction pathway for the [1,3]-shift hydrogen transfer reaction of $\text{Ru}_4\text{O}^+ + 3 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ including the lowest energy isomer depicted in Fig. 4g. Ru, O, and H atoms are indicated by green, red, and white spheres, respectively. The blue circles indicate the OH-groups resulting from the stepwise hydrogen shifts.