

**Electronic Supplementary Information**  
**Electron ionization of the nucleobases adenine and hypoxanthine**  
**near the threshold:**  
**A combined experimental and theoretical study**

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Table S1. Appearance energies (AEs) for other minor cations produced upon electron impact ionization of adenine. Fragment assignments are made based on refs. <sup>1,2</sup>.

Cation	Mass ( $m/z$ )	Experimental AE (eV)
$C_4H_3N_4^+ / C_5H_5N_3^+$	107	$13.94 \pm 0.3$
$C_3H_2N_3^+$	80	$15.12 \pm 0.5$
$C_2H_4N_3^+$	70	$14.89 \pm 0.2$
$C_3H_3N_2^+ / C_2HN_3^+$	67	$15.59 \pm 0.3$
$C_3H_2N_2^+ / C_2N_3^+$	66	$14.16 \pm 0.3$
$C_3HN_2^+$	65	$17.88 \pm 0.4$
$NH_2CNH^+ / C_2H_5N^+$	43	$14.01 \pm 0.3$
$NCN^+$	40	$15.67 \pm 0.3$ $18.52 \pm 0.4$
$HCCN^+$	39	$18.13 \pm 0.2$
$NH_2CH^+$	29	$15.15 \pm 0.15$
$HCN^+$	27	$13.48 \pm 0.2$

Table S2. Appearance energies (AEs) for other minor cations produced upon electron impact ionization of hypoxanthine. Fragment assignments are made based on ref.<sup>3</sup>.

Cation	Mass ( $m/z$ )	Experimental AE (eV)
$^{13}\text{C}_5\text{H}_4\text{N}_4\text{O}^+$	137	$8.80 \pm 0.5$
$\text{C}_4\text{H}_3\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$	109	$12.34 \pm 0.3$
$\text{C}_3\text{H}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$	82	$12.61 \pm 0.3$
$\text{C}_3\text{H}_2\text{N}_3^+$	80	$14.35 \pm 0.5$

Table S3. Absolute energies and zero-point corrected energies (ZPE) for the most stable cations and neutral conformers from adenine calculated using B3LYP/6-311+G(2d,p).

Cation	Mass ( $m/z$ )	Absolute energy (h)	Zero-Point corrected energy (h)
$\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N}_5^+$	135	-467.1663893	-467.054801
$\text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{N}_4^+$	108	-373.5429667	-373.460192
$\text{C}_3\text{H}_3\text{N}_3^+$	81	-280.0703798	-280.007429
$\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{N}_2^+$	54	-186.5514422	-186.515235
$\text{C}_2\text{HN}_2^+$	53	-185.9467569	-185.921894
$\text{HCNH}^+$	28	-93.73493916	-93.709041
Neutral fragment	Mass ( $m/z$ )	Absolute energy (h)	Zero-Point corrected energy (h)
$\text{C}_4\text{H}_3\text{N}_4$	107	-373.1807003	-373.109067
$\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_3$	82	-281.0271762	-280.953091
$\text{C}_3\text{H}_3\text{N}_3$	81	-280.3794029	-280.318791
$\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{N}_2$	54	-186.8626753	-186.824131
HCN	27	-93.45625859	-93.441723
CN	26	-92.73347225	-92.729601
H	1	-0.50215593	-0.502156

Table S4. Absolute energies and zero-point corrected energies (ZPE) for the most stable cations and neutral conformers from hypoxanthine calculated using B3LYP/6-311+G(2d,p).

Cation	Mass ( $m/z$ )	Absolute energy (h)	Zero-Point corrected energy (h)
$C_5H_4N_4O^+$	136	-487.0287338	-486.92981
$C_4H_2N_3O^+$	108	-392.8174957	-392.756789
$C_4H_4N_4^+$	108	-373.6346216	-373.546866
$C_3H_3N_3^+$	81	-280.0703798	-280.0703798
$C_3HN_2O^+$	81	-299.3307092	-299.29332
$C_3H_2N_3^+$	80	-279.4518876	-279.402985
$C_2H_2N_2^+$	54	-186.5514422	-186.515235
$C_2NO^+$	54	-205.8031015	-205.78799
$C_2HN_2^+$	53	-185.9467569	-185.921894
$HCNH^+$	28	-93.73493916	-93.709041
$CO^+$	28	-112.8300751	-112.824847
Neutral fragment	Mass ( $m/z$ )	Absolute energy (h)	Zero-Point corrected energy (h)
$C_4H_2N_3O$	108	-393.0282591	-392.971073
$C_4H_4N_4$	108	-373.9245758	-373.836136
$C_3H_3N_2O$	83	-300.9147819	-300.852479
$C_3H_4N_3$	82	-281.0267752	-280.952194
$C_2H_3N_2$	55	-187.4848886	-187.4848886
$C_2H_2N_2$	54	-186.9278986	-186.888652
$HCNH$	28	-94.00287677	-93.977139
$CO$	28	-113.3520125	-113.3520125
$HCN$	27	-93.441723	-93.441723
$CN$	26	-92.73347225	-92.729601
$H$	1	-0.50215593	-0.502156

## REFERENCES

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