

## *Supporting information*

### **Reasons for enhanced activity of doxorubicin on co-delivery with octa(3-aminopropyl)silsesquioxane**

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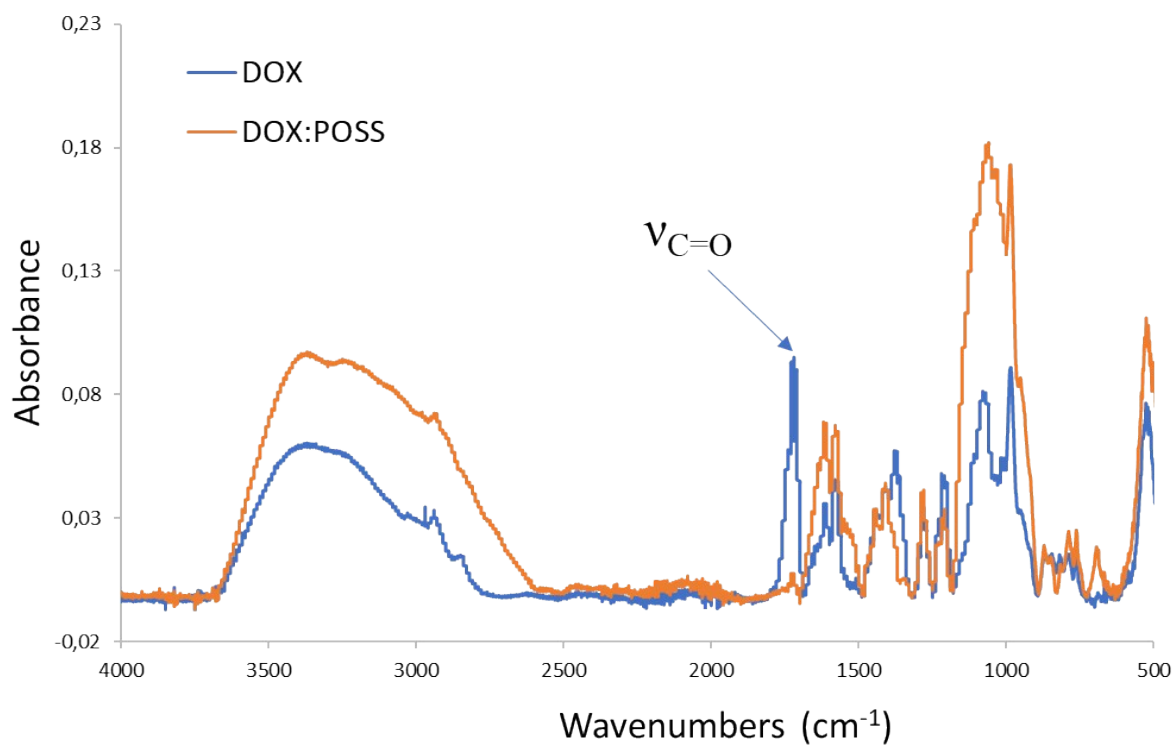


Fig. 1. FTIR spectra of DOX-POSS and DOX.

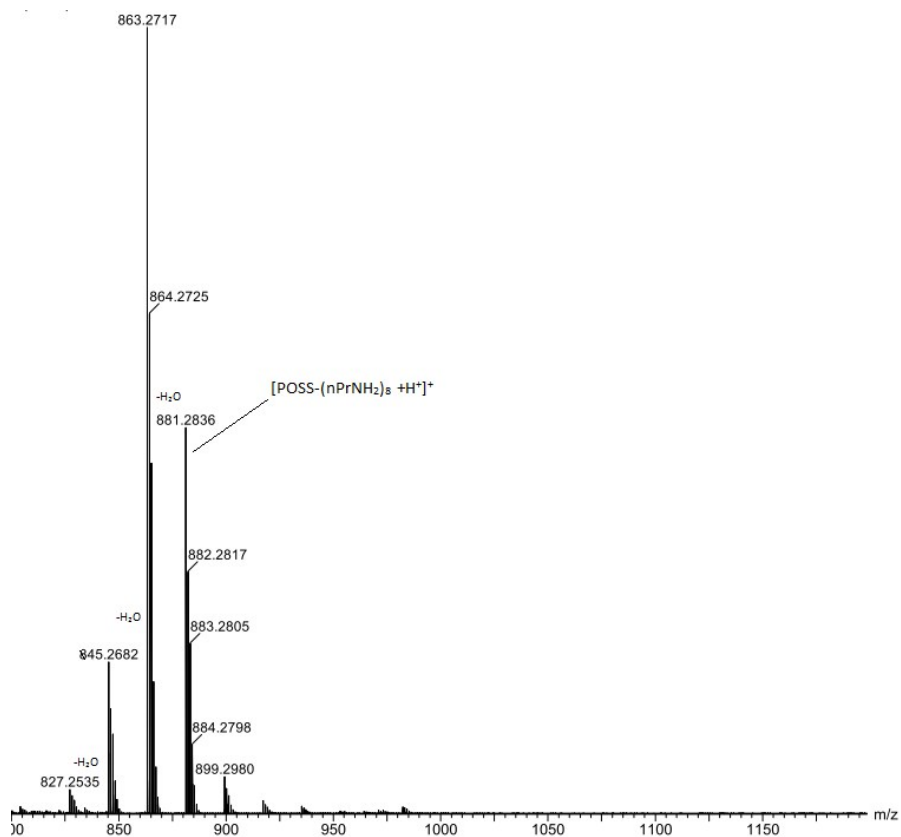


Fig. 2. ESI MS spectrum of POSS after 24h incubation (37°C) in H<sub>2</sub>O.

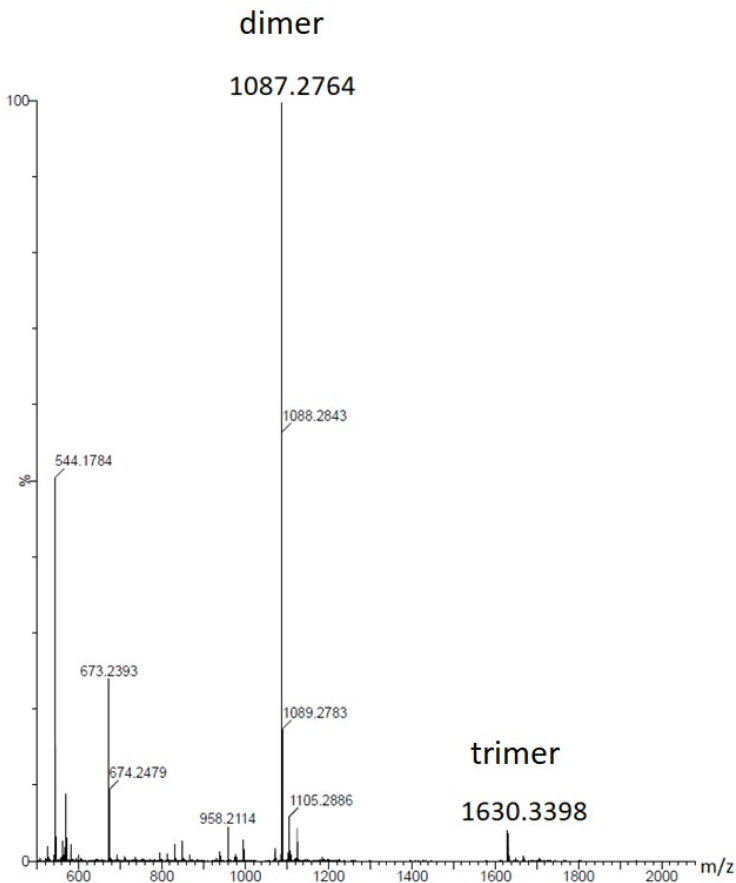


Fig. 3. ESI MS spectrum of doxorubicin after 24h incubation (37°C) in H<sub>2</sub>O.

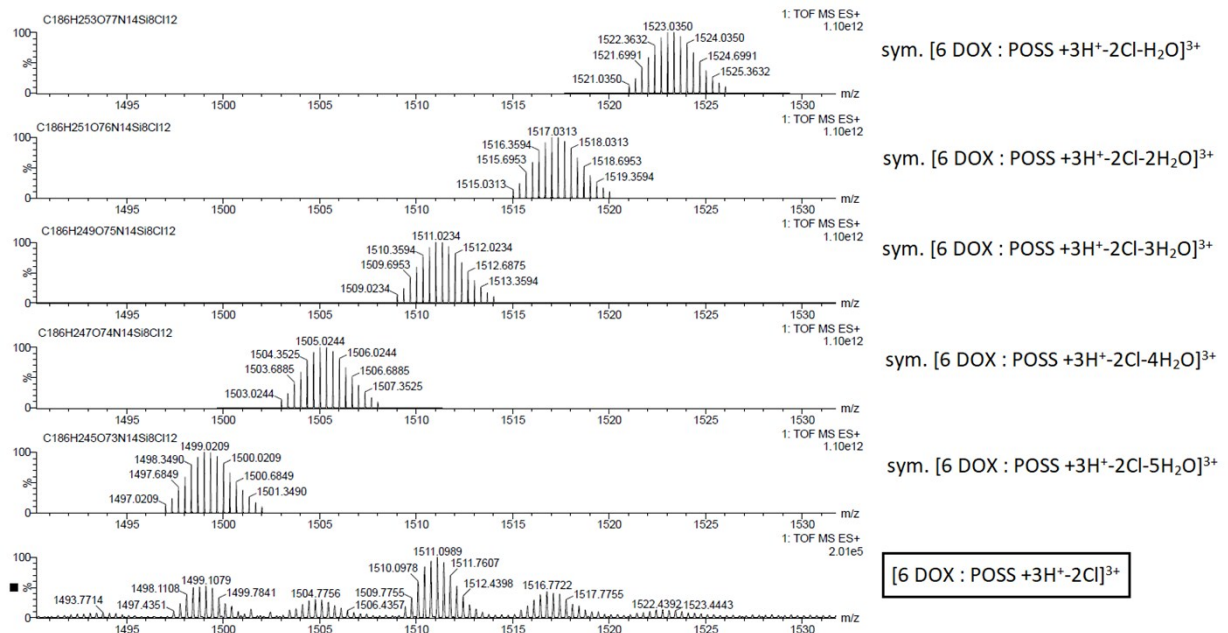
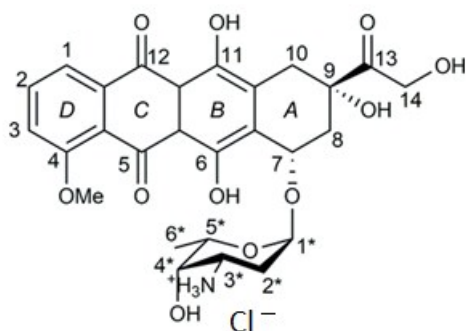


Fig. 4. ESI MS experimental spectrum of DOX-POSS complex ( $[6\text{DOX-POSS}+3\text{H}^+-2\text{Cl}]^{3+}$ ) and simulated isotopic patterns.

Table 1. Experimental and theoretical masses of DOX:POSS complexes

<b>6 DOX:POSS</b>	<b>[6 DOX·HCl+POSS(HCl)<sub>8</sub>-2HCl-3H<sub>2</sub>O+H<sup>+</sup>]</b>	<b>cal. 4527.11 Da</b>	<b>4527.29 Da</b>
<b>7 DOX:POSS</b>	<b>[7 DOX·HCl+POSS(HCl)<sub>8</sub>-2HCl-3H<sub>2</sub>O+H<sup>+</sup>]</b>	cal. 5106.08 Da	5106.45 Da
<b>8 DOX:POSS</b>	<b>[8 DOX·HCl+POSS(HCl)<sub>8</sub>-2HCl-3H<sub>2</sub>O+H<sup>+</sup>]</b>	cal.5687.07 Da	5688.59 Da
<b>9 DOX:POSS</b>	<b>[9 DOX·HCl+POSS(HCl)<sub>8</sub>-2HCl-3H<sub>2</sub>O+H<sup>+</sup>]</b>	cal. 6267.05 Da	6266.74 Da
<b>10 DOX:POSS</b>	<b>[10 DOX·HCl+POSS(HCl)<sub>8</sub>-2HCl-3H<sub>2</sub>O+H<sup>+</sup>]</b>	cal. 6847.03 Da	6847.85 Da
<b>11 DOX:POSS</b>	<b>[11DOX·HCl+POSS(HCl)<sub>8</sub>-2HCl-3H<sub>2</sub>O+H<sup>+</sup>]</b>	cal. 7426.01 Da	7426.05 Da



Structure 1. Doxorubicin with labelled carbon atoms

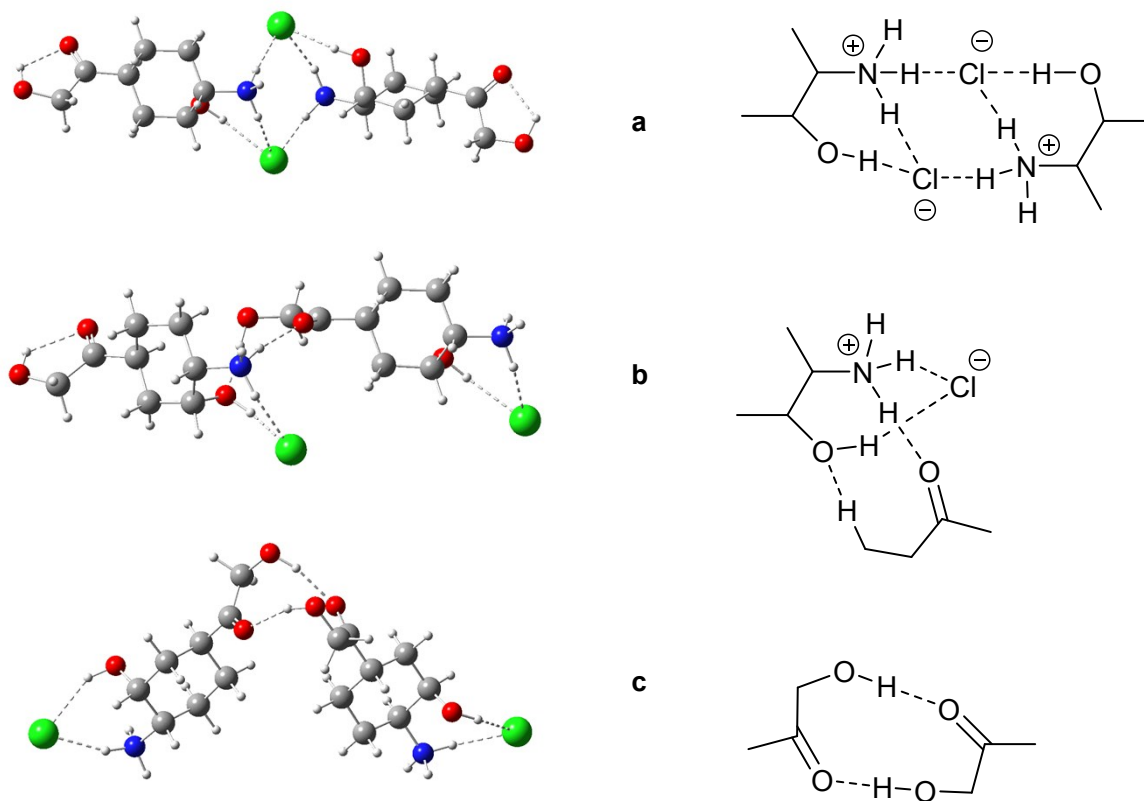


Fig. 5. Three possibilities of complex formation of two molecules of 1.

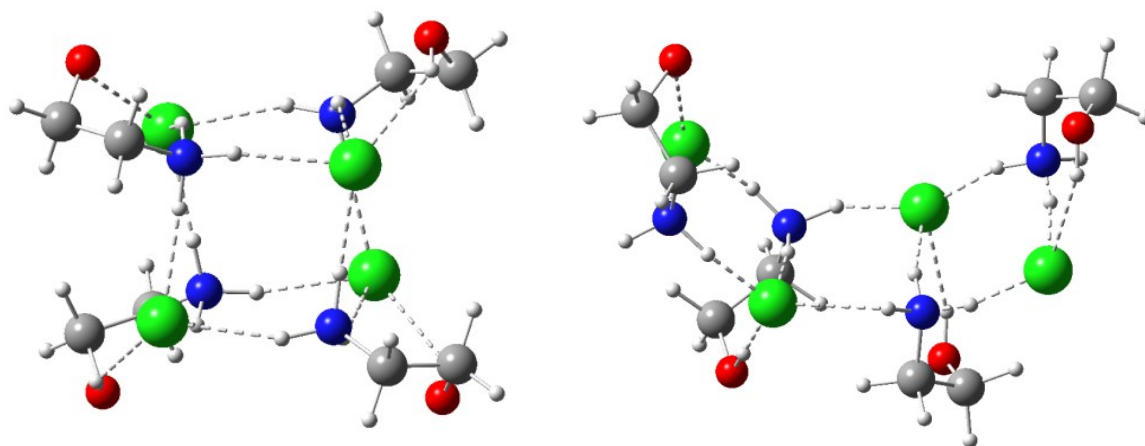


Fig. 6. Cage and ladder-like tetramers of hydroxy amine hydrochloride optimized by PM3 method.

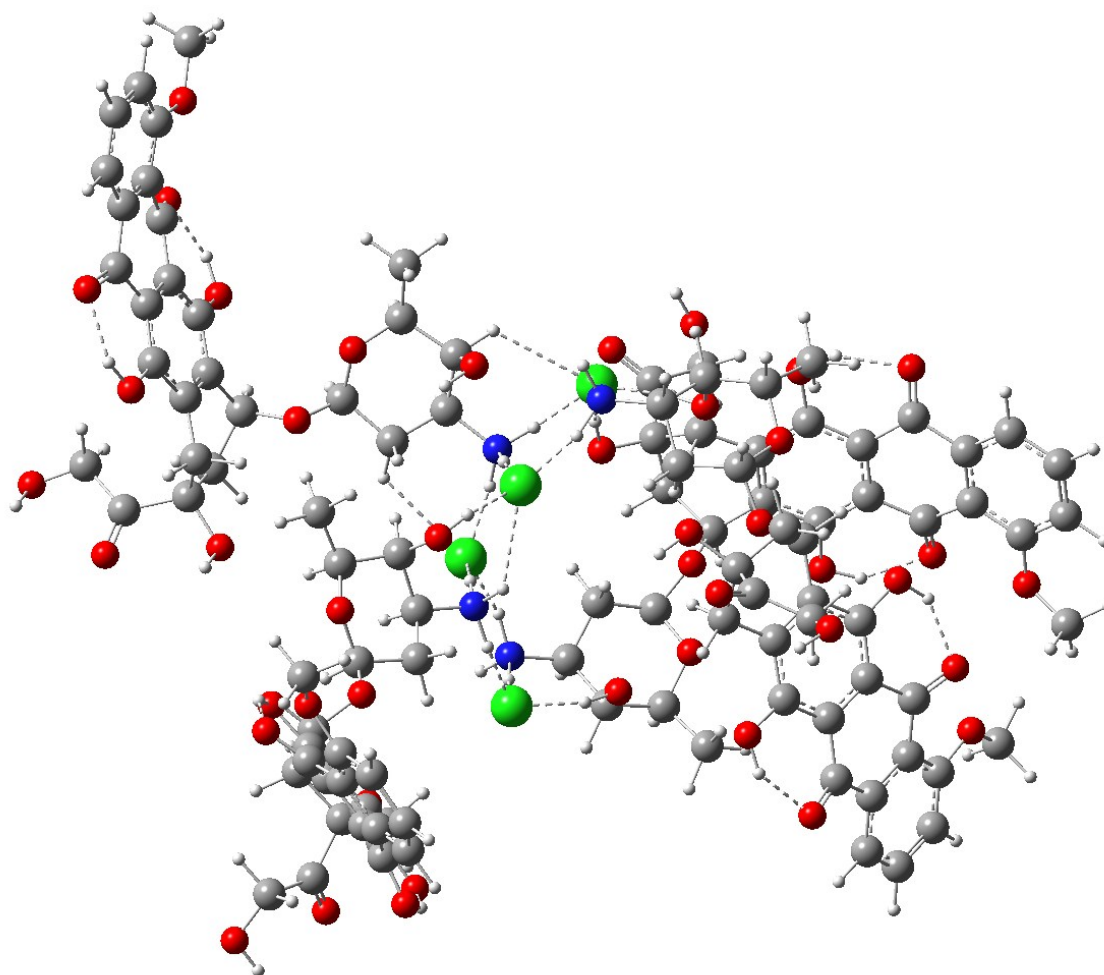
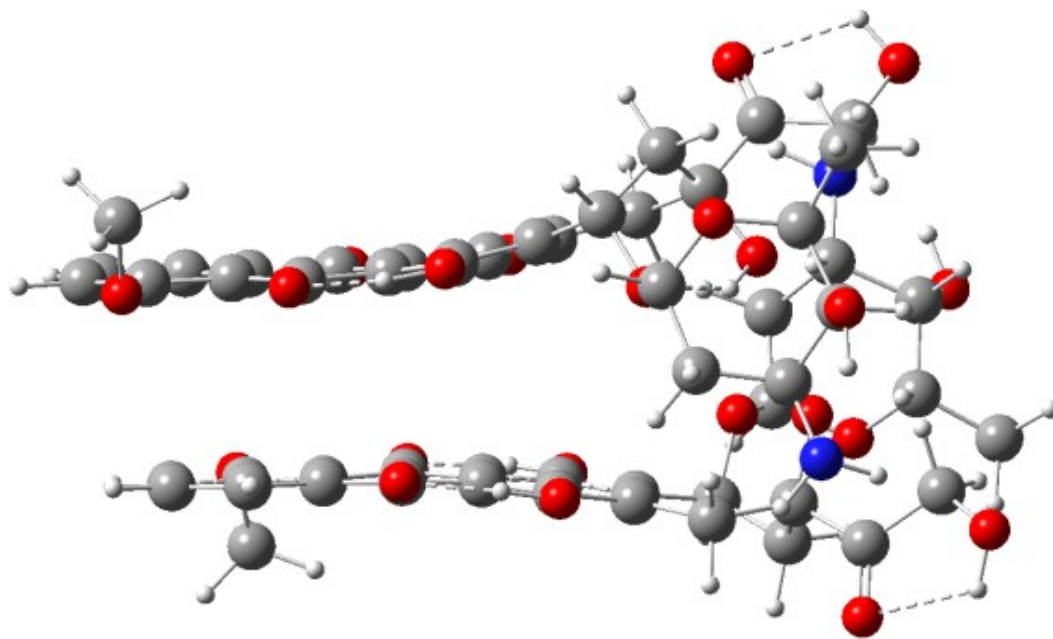
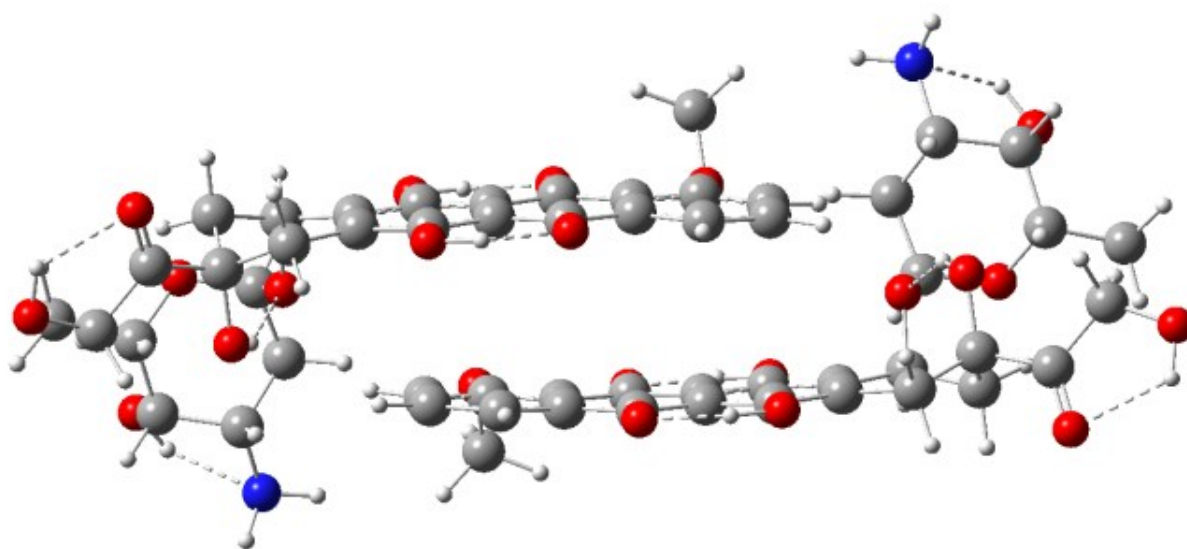


Fig. 7. Ladder tetramer of doxorubicin hydrochloride (PM3 optimized).



**A**



**B**

Fig. 8. B3LYP-GD3/6-31+G(d) optimized doxorubicin  $\pi$ -stacking dimer structures: (A) parallel, (B) antiparallel.

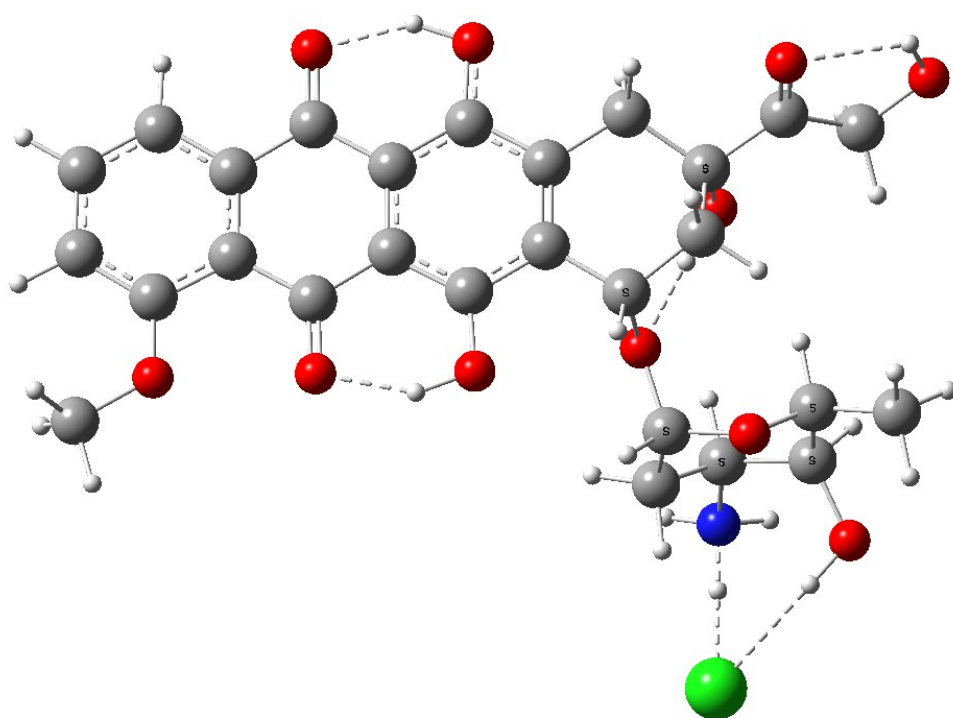


Fig. 9. Doxorubicin hydrochloride, the most stable conformer (by ca 0.7 kcal/mol more stable than the second stable one) optimized with B3LYP/6-31+G(d). The hydrogen bonds are marked with dashed lines.

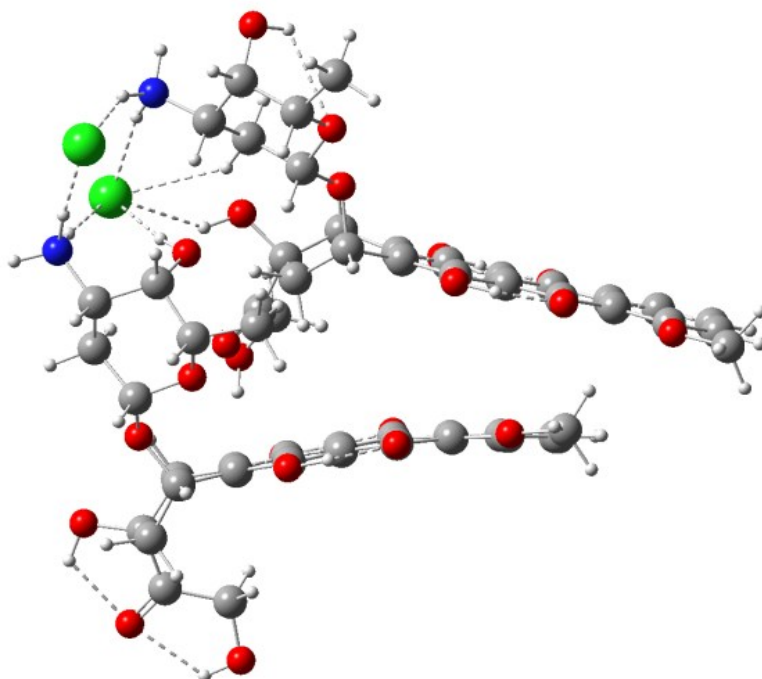


Fig. 10. Conformation of the doxorubicin hydrochloride dimer linked through an  $\text{NH}_3^+\text{Cl}^-$  bridge and additionally bound by intramolecular parallel  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking

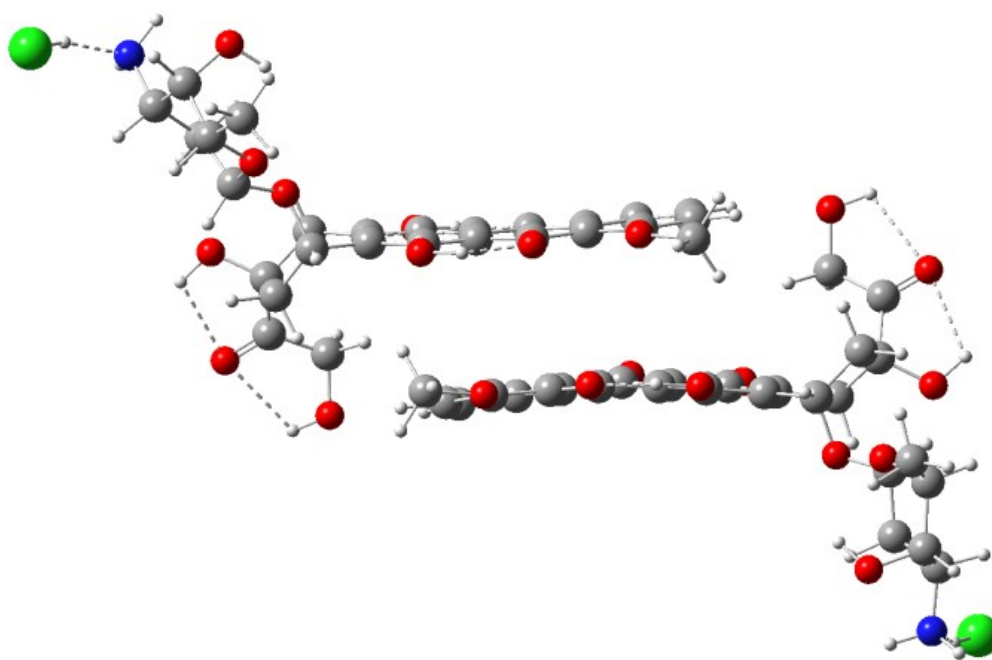


Fig. 11. Conformation of the doxorubicin hydrochloride dimer bound by antiparallel  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking.

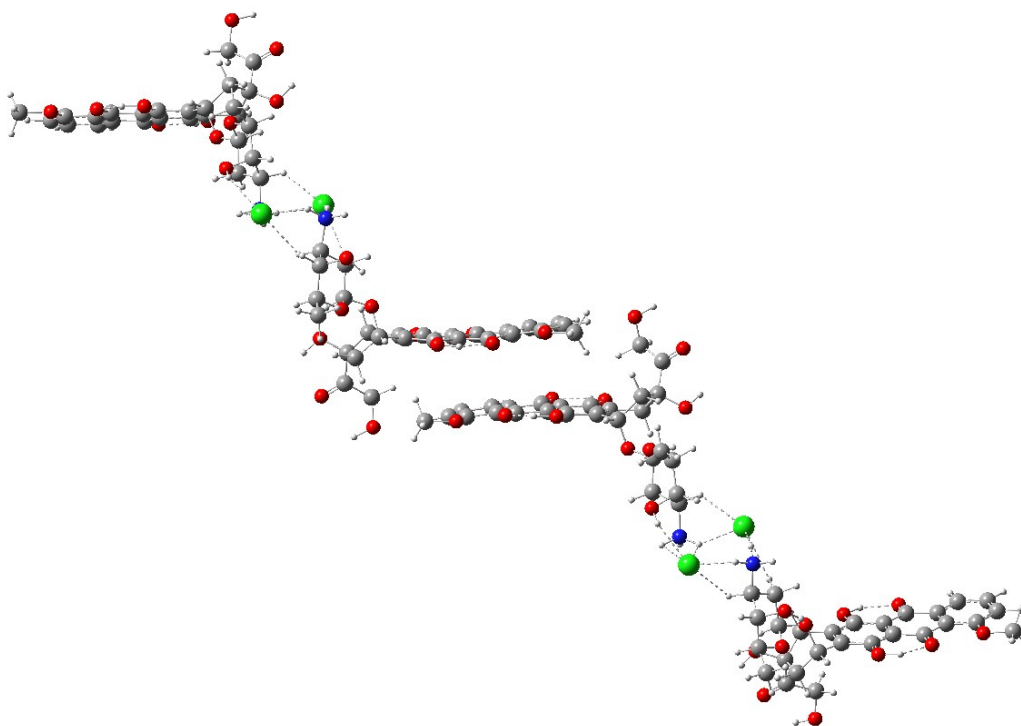


Fig. 12. PM7 optimized structure of doxorubicin hydrochloride tetramer.



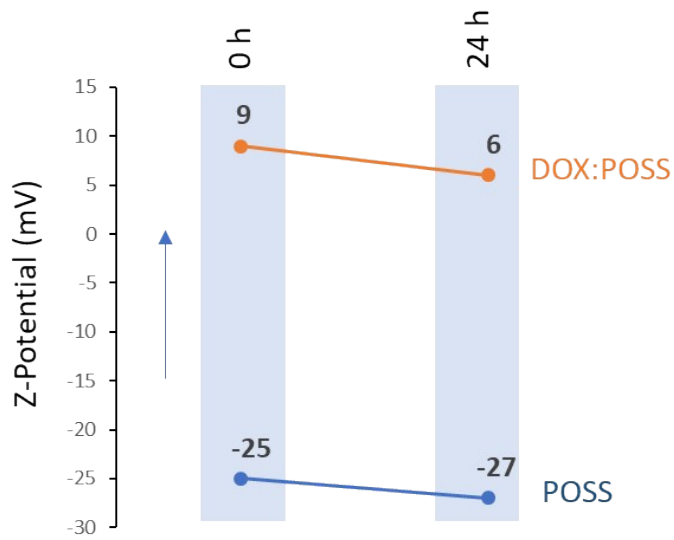


Fig. 13. Z-potential of DOX:POSS (8:1) and POSS at 0h and 24h in PBS at 37°C.

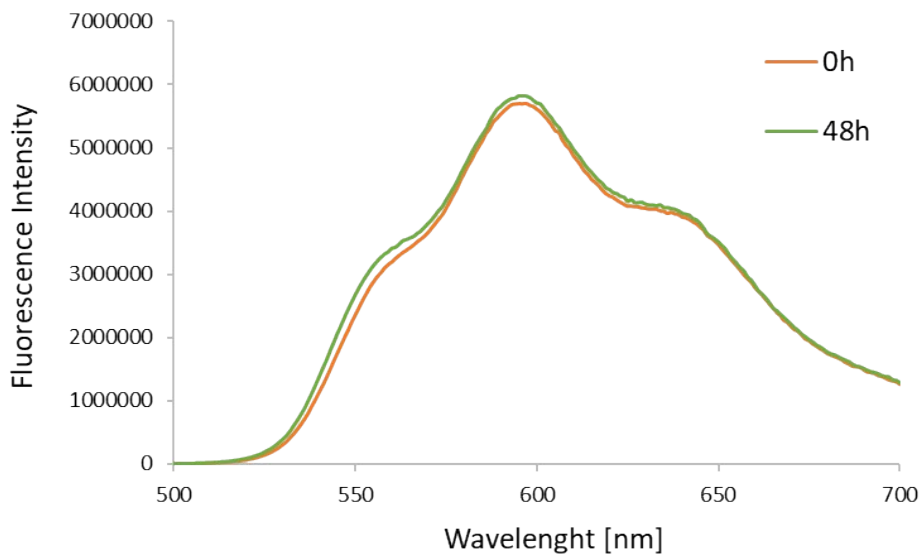


Fig. 14. Fluorescence emission spectra of complex DOX:POSS (8:1) in PBS with time at 37°C.