

## Supporting Information

### Gas-phase Synthesis of Ag-centred Phenylenediamine Clusters

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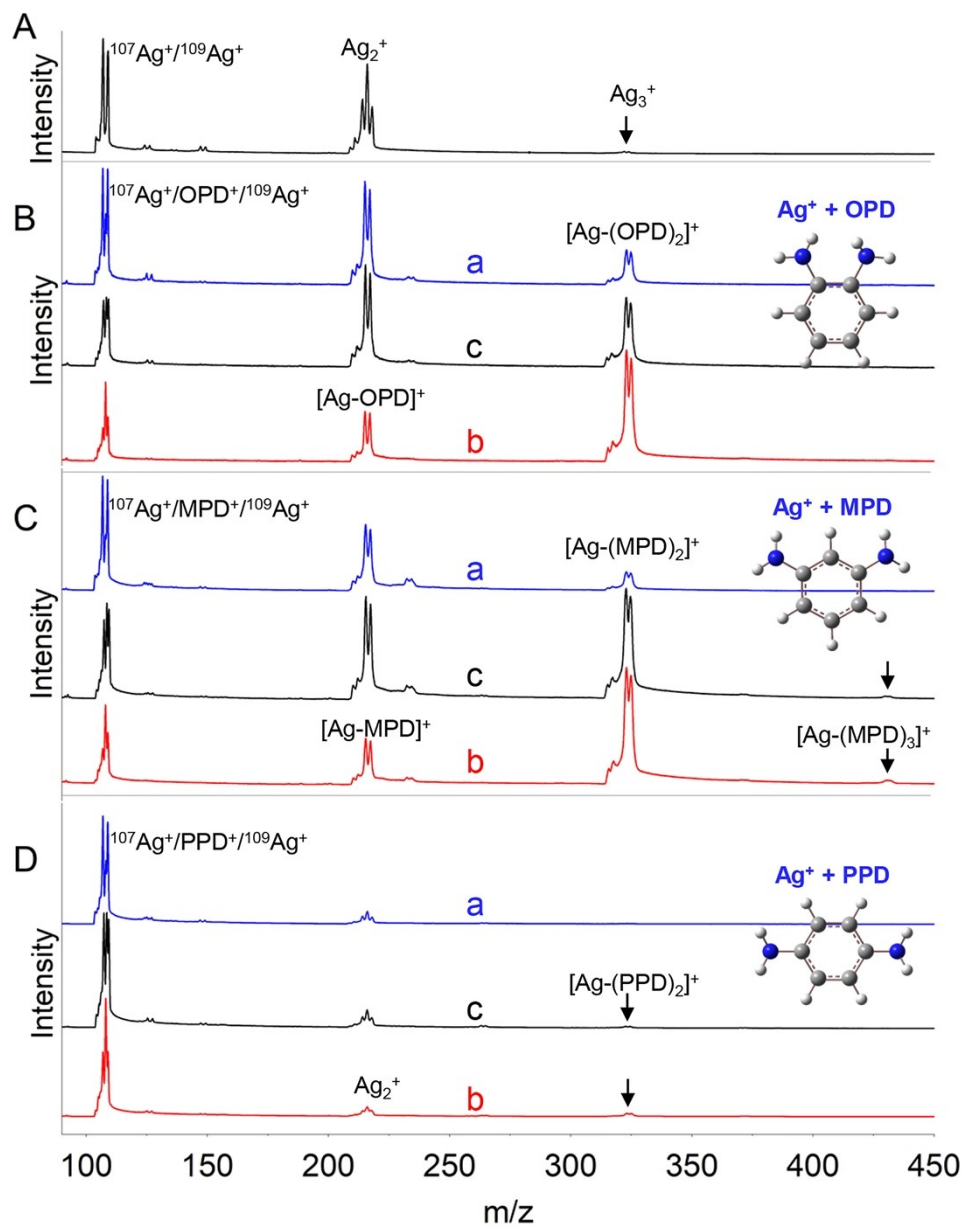
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## S1. Mass spectrometry observation



**Fig. S1** Mass spectra of (A)  $\text{Ag}_{1-3}^+$ , (B)  $[\text{Ag}-(\text{OPD})_{1-2}]^+$ , (C)  $[\text{Ag}-(\text{MPD})_{1-3}]^+$  and (D)  $[\text{Ag}-(\text{PPD})_2]^+$ . (a-c-b) Small to large amounts of PD vapors were introduced into the compact reaction tube. Mass spectra (a) and (b) are the same as that in Fig. 1.

**Table S1** The intensity ratios of  $[\text{Ag}-(\text{PD})_n]^+$  to the corresponding PD in Fig. S1.

| line               | n | $[\text{Ag}-(\text{OPD})_n^+]/\text{OPD}$ | $[\text{Ag}-(\text{MPD})_n^+]/\text{MPD}$ | $[\text{Ag}-(\text{PPD})_n^+]/\text{PPD}$ |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Curve a<br>(blue)  | 1 | 1.468                                     | 1.183                                     | 0.000                                     |
|                    | 2 | 0.486                                     | 0.328                                     | 0.004                                     |
|                    | 3 | 0.000                                     | 0.000                                     | 0.000                                     |
| Curve c<br>(black) | 1 | 1.464                                     | 1.081                                     | 0.000                                     |
|                    | 2 | 0.985                                     | 1.158                                     | 0.009                                     |
|                    | 3 | 0.000                                     | 0.019                                     | 0.000                                     |
| Curve b<br>(red)   | 1 | 0.629                                     | 0.570                                     | 0.000                                     |
|                    | 2 | 1.403                                     | 1.480                                     | 0.025                                     |
|                    | 3 | 0.003                                     | 0.042                                     | 0.000                                     |

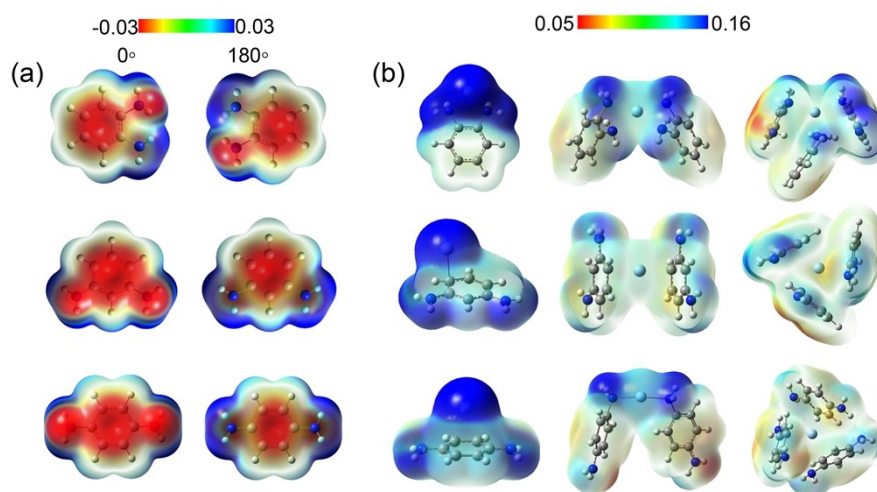
  

| line    | $\text{Ag}^+/\text{OPD}$ | $\text{Ag}^+/\text{MPD}$ | $\text{Ag}^+/\text{PPD}$ |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a-blue  | 1.653                    | 2.074                    | 1.689                    |
| c-black | 0.973                    | 0.938                    | 0.989                    |
| b-red   | 0.558                    | 0.645                    | 0.537                    |

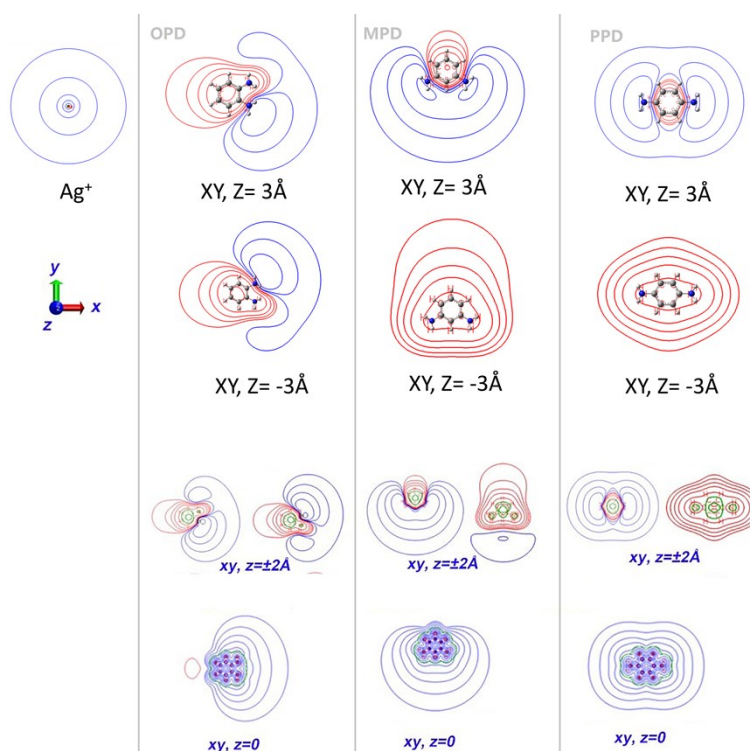
## S2. DFT-calculated Energetics

|                                                                                 |                                |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| $\text{Ag}^+ + \text{OPD} \rightarrow \text{Ag} + \text{OPD}^+$                 | $\Delta E = -1.042 \text{ eV}$ | (S1)  |
| $\text{Ag}^+ + \text{MPD} \rightarrow \text{Ag} + \text{MPD}^+$                 | $\Delta E = -1.087 \text{ eV}$ | (S2)  |
| $\text{Ag}^+ + \text{PPD} \rightarrow \text{Ag} + \text{PPD}^+$                 | $\Delta E = -1.553 \text{ eV}$ | (S3)  |
| $\text{Ar}^+ + \text{OPD} \rightarrow \text{Ar} + \text{OPD}^+$                 | $\Delta E = -8.770 \text{ eV}$ | (S4)  |
| $\text{Ar}^+ + \text{MPD} \rightarrow \text{Ar} + \text{MPD}^+$                 | $\Delta E = -8.815 \text{ eV}$ | (S5)  |
| $\text{Ar}^+ + \text{PPD} \rightarrow \text{Ar} + \text{PPD}^+$                 | $\Delta E = -9.281 \text{ eV}$ | (S6)  |
| $\text{Ag}^+ + \text{OPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-OPD}]^+$                        | $\Delta E = -2.905 \text{ eV}$ | (S6)  |
| $\text{Ag}^+ + 2 \text{ OPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(OPD)}_2]^+$                 | $\Delta E = -4.933 \text{ eV}$ | (S7)  |
| $\text{Ag}^+ + 3 \text{ OPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(OPD)}_3]^+$                 | $\Delta E = -6.273 \text{ eV}$ | (S8)  |
| $\text{Ag}_2^+ + \text{OPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-OPD}]^+ + \text{Ag}$          | $\Delta E = -1.119 \text{ eV}$ | (S9)  |
| $\text{Ag}_2^+ + 2 \text{ OPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(OPD)}_2]^+ + \text{Ag}$   | $\Delta E = -3.147 \text{ eV}$ | (S10) |
| $\text{Ag}_2^+ + 3 \text{ OPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(OPD)}_3]^+ + \text{Ag}$   | $\Delta E = -4.487 \text{ eV}$ | (S11) |
| $\text{Ag}_3^+ + \text{OPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-OPD}]^+ + \text{Ag}_2$        | $\Delta E = 0.023 \text{ eV}$  | (S12) |
| $\text{Ag}_3^+ + 2 \text{ OPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(OPD)}_2]^+ + \text{Ag}_2$ | $\Delta E = -2.005 \text{ eV}$ | (S13) |
| $\text{Ag}_3^+ + 3 \text{ OPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(OPD)}_3]^+ + \text{Ag}_2$ | $\Delta E = -3.345 \text{ eV}$ | (S14) |
| $\text{Ag}^+ + \text{MPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-MPD}]^+$                        | $\Delta E = -2.798 \text{ eV}$ | (S15) |
| $\text{Ag}^+ + 2 \text{ MPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(MPD)}_2]^+$                 | $\Delta E = -4.973 \text{ eV}$ | (S16) |
| $\text{Ag}^+ + 3 \text{ MPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(MPD)}_3]^+$                 | $\Delta E = -6.365 \text{ eV}$ | (S17) |
| $\text{Ag}_2^+ + \text{MPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-MPD}]^+ + \text{Ag}$          | $\Delta E = -1.012 \text{ eV}$ | (S18) |
| $\text{Ag}_2^+ + 2 \text{ MPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(MPD)}_2]^+ + \text{Ag}$   | $\Delta E = -3.187 \text{ eV}$ | (S19) |
| $\text{Ag}_2^+ + 3 \text{ MPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(MPD)}_3]^+ + \text{Ag}$   | $\Delta E = -4.579 \text{ eV}$ | (S20) |
| $\text{Ag}_3^+ + \text{MPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-MPD}]^+ + \text{Ag}_2$        | $\Delta E = 0.130 \text{ eV}$  | (S21) |
| $\text{Ag}_3^+ + 2 \text{ MPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(MPD)}_2]^+ + \text{Ag}_2$ | $\Delta E = -2.045 \text{ eV}$ | (S22) |
| $\text{Ag}_3^+ + 3 \text{ MPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(MPD)}_3]^+ + \text{Ag}_2$ | $\Delta E = -3.437 \text{ eV}$ | (S23) |
| $\text{Ag}^+ + \text{PPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-PPD}]^+$                        | $\Delta E = -2.570 \text{ eV}$ | (S24) |
| $\text{Ag}^+ + 2 \text{ PPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(PPD)}_2]^+$                 | $\Delta E = -4.895 \text{ eV}$ | (S25) |
| $\text{Ag}^+ + 3 \text{ PPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(PPD)}_3]^+$                 | $\Delta E = -6.331 \text{ eV}$ | (S26) |
| $\text{Ag}_2^+ + \text{PPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-PPD}]^+ + \text{Ag}$          | $\Delta E = -0.785 \text{ eV}$ | (S27) |
| $\text{Ag}_2^+ + 2 \text{ PPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(PPD)}_2]^+ + \text{Ag}$   | $\Delta E = -3.109 \text{ eV}$ | (S28) |
| $\text{Ag}_2^+ + 3 \text{ PPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(PPD)}_3]^+ + \text{Ag}$   | $\Delta E = -4.545 \text{ eV}$ | (S29) |
| $\text{Ag}_3^+ + \text{PPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-PPD}]^+ + \text{Ag}_2$        | $\Delta E = 0.358 \text{ eV}$  | (S30) |
| $\text{Ag}_3^+ + 2 \text{ PPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(PPD)}_2]^+ + \text{Ag}_2$ | $\Delta E = -1.967 \text{ eV}$ | (S31) |
| $\text{Ag}_3^+ + 3 \text{ PPD} \rightarrow [\text{Ag-(PPD)}_3]^+ + \text{Ag}_2$ | $\Delta E = -3.403 \text{ eV}$ | (S32) |

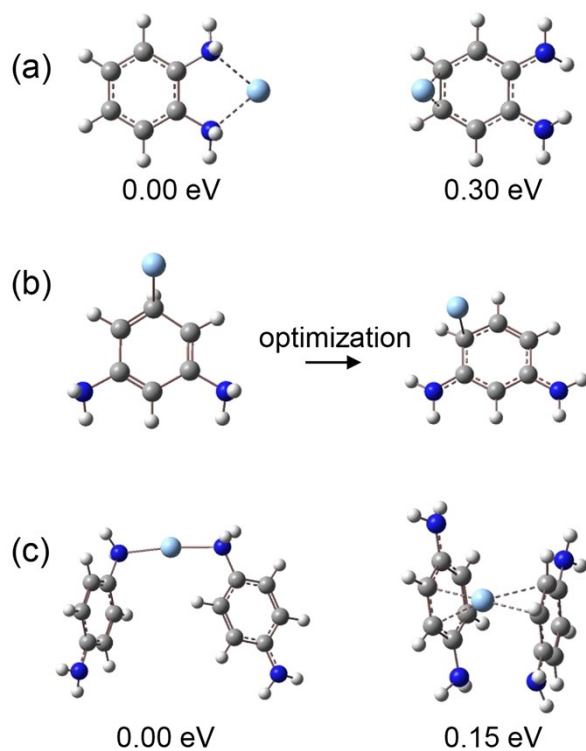
### S3. Electrostatic potentials (ESP)



**Fig. S2** Electrostatic potentials (ESP) on van der Waals surface. **(a)** ESP patterns of neutral PDs, where positive and negative parts are represented by blue and red with maxima and minima corresponding to 0.03 au and -0.03 au. 180° and 0° mean molecules flip 180° vertically and before flip, respectively. **(b)** ESP patterns of [Ag-(PD)<sub>n</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (n=1-3) with minima and maxima corresponding to 0.05 au and 0.16 au.

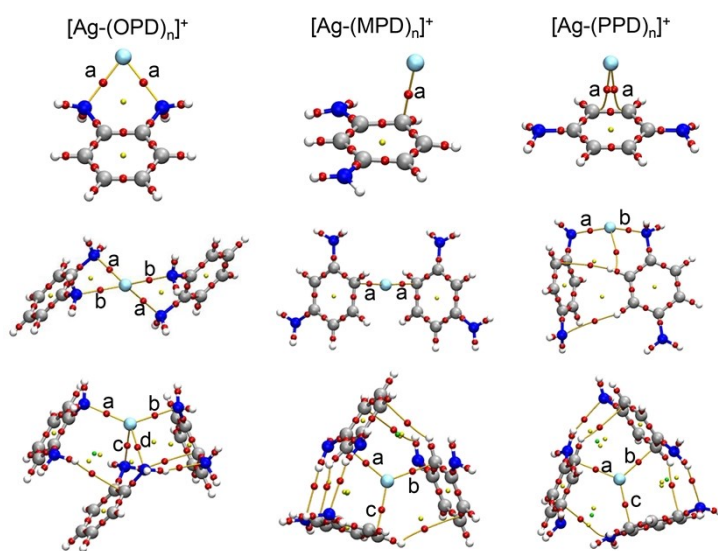


**Fig. S3** ESP maps of neutral OPD, MPD and PPD on different coordinate plane. Positive and negative parts are represented by blue and red lines, respectively.



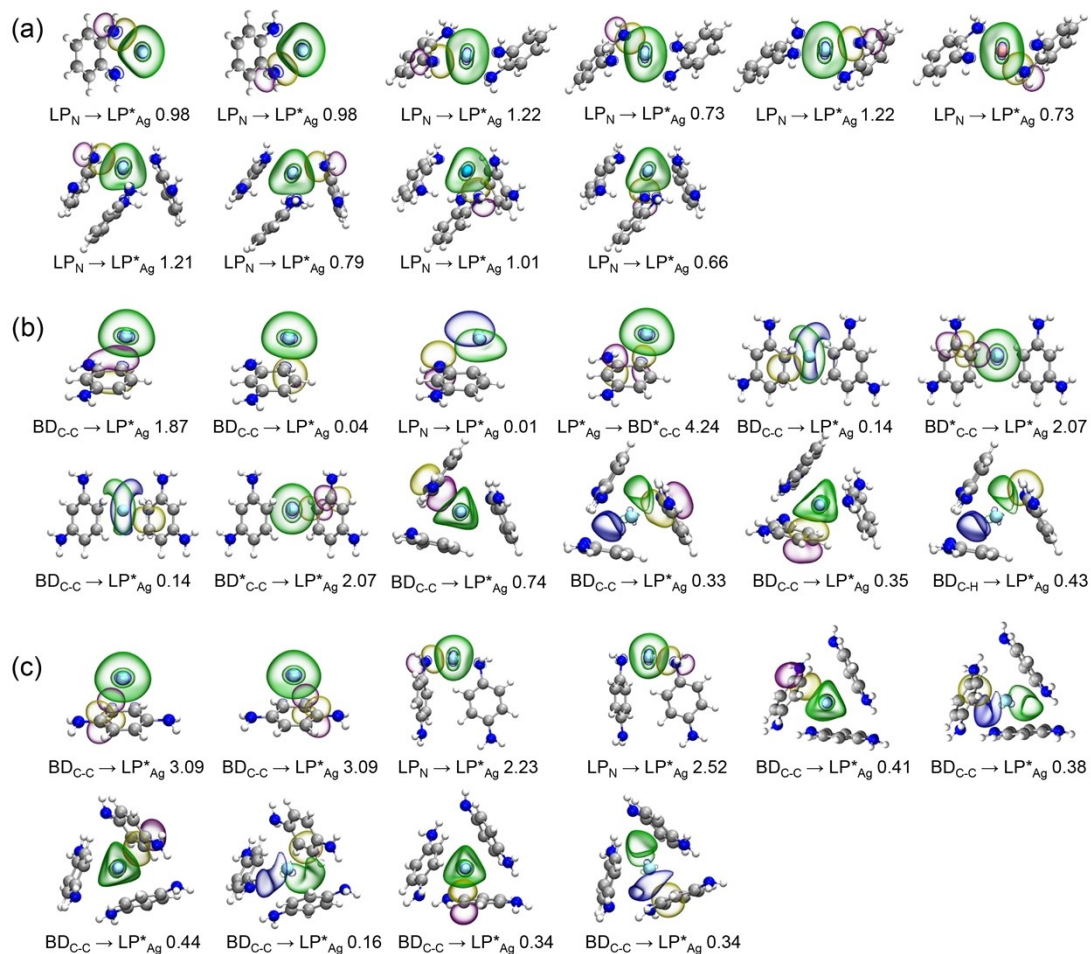
**Fig. S4** The typical structures of (a)  $[\text{Ag}-(\text{OPD})]^+$ , (b)  $[\text{Ag}-(\text{MPD})]^+$  and (c)  $[\text{Ag}-(\text{PPD})_2]^+$

#### S4. Topological analysis



**Fig. S5** Topological analysis within the theory of atoms in molecules (AIM), the bond critical points (BCPs) are indicated by red dots.

## S5. NBO analysis



**Fig. S6** Details of the NBO analysis for (a) [Ag-(OPD)<sub>n</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (b) [Ag-(MPD)<sub>n</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (c) [Ag-(PPD)<sub>n</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (n=1-3). Donor-acceptor charge-transfer interaction energies are in eV.

## S6. Energy decomposition analysis

We have conducted detailed energy decomposition analysis (EDA) for all the  $[\text{Ag}-(\text{PD})_n]^+$  systems, as shown below. All the energies are given in kJ/mol.

**Table S2** Energy decomposition analysis of  $\text{Ag}^+-\text{OPD}$ .

| Frag.                    | Atom           | Elec.   | Rep.  | Disp.  | Total   |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|
| $\text{Ag}^+$            | $1\text{Ag}^+$ | -85.05  | 31.64 | -7.64  | -61.04  |
| OPD                      | 2N             | -247.41 | 15.19 | -3.15  | -235.37 |
|                          | 3C             | 65.44   | 0.61  | -0.53  | 65.52   |
|                          | 4C             | -46.78  | 0.01  | -0.07  | -46.84  |
|                          | 5C             | 65.44   | 0.61  | -0.53  | 65.52   |
|                          | 6C             | -23.46  | 0.00  | -0.02  | -23.47  |
|                          | 7C             | -23.46  | 0.00  | -0.02  | -23.47  |
|                          | 8C             | -46.78  | 0.01  | -0.07  | -46.84  |
|                          | 9N             | -247.41 | 15.19 | -3.15  | -235.37 |
|                          | 10H            | 84.08   | 0.00  | -0.02  | 84.07   |
|                          | 11H            | 84.67   | 0.00  | -0.02  | 84.65   |
|                          | 12H            | 24.89   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 24.88   |
|                          | 13H            | 16.04   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 16.04   |
|                          | 14H            | 16.04   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 16.04   |
|                          | 15H            | 24.89   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 24.88   |
|                          | 16H            | 84.67   | 0.00  | -0.02  | 84.65   |
|                          | 17H            | 84.08   | 0.00  | -0.02  | 84.07   |
| $\text{Ag}^+-\text{OPD}$ |                | -170.09 | 63.29 | -15.28 | -122.08 |

**Table S3** Energy decomposition analysis of  $\text{Ag}^+- (\text{OPD})_2$ .

| Frag | Atom | Elec    | Rep   | Disp  | Total   |
|------|------|---------|-------|-------|---------|
| OPD1 | 1N   | -212.27 | 7.59  | -3.25 | -207.92 |
|      | 2C   | 59.13   | 0.48  | -0.82 | 58.80   |
|      | 3C   | -43.32  | 0.01  | -0.21 | -43.51  |
|      | 4C   | 60.92   | 0.58  | -0.80 | 60.70   |
|      | 5C   | -22.35  | 0.00  | -0.09 | -22.43  |
|      | 6C   | -22.64  | 0.00  | -0.08 | -22.72  |
|      | 7C   | -44.94  | 0.01  | -0.17 | -45.10  |
|      | 8N   | -231.82 | 14.45 | -3.70 | -221.07 |
|      | 9H   | 78.60   | 0.00  | -0.03 | 78.57   |
|      | 10H  | 68.26   | 0.00  | -0.04 | 68.22   |
|      | 11H  | 22.85   | 0.00  | -0.03 | 22.82   |
|      | 12H  | 15.39   | 0.00  | -0.01 | 15.38   |
|      | 13H  | 15.67   | 0.00  | -0.01 | 15.67   |
|      | 14H  | 24.25   | 0.00  | -0.02 | 24.23   |
|      | 15H  | 79.79   | 0.00  | -0.03 | 79.76   |
|      | 16H  | 80.23   | 0.00  | -0.03 | 80.21   |

|                       |                   |         |       |        |         |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|
| OPD2                  | 17N               | -212.27 | 7.59  | -3.25  | -207.92 |
|                       | 18C               | 59.13   | 0.48  | -0.82  | 58.80   |
|                       | 19C               | -43.32  | 0.01  | -0.21  | -43.51  |
|                       | 20C               | 60.92   | 0.58  | -0.80  | 60.70   |
|                       | 21C               | -22.35  | 0.00  | -0.09  | -22.43  |
|                       | 22C               | -22.64  | 0.00  | -0.08  | -22.72  |
|                       | 23C               | -44.94  | 0.01  | -0.17  | -45.10  |
|                       | 24N               | -231.82 | 14.45 | -3.70  | -221.07 |
|                       | 25H               | 78.60   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 78.57   |
|                       | 26H               | 68.26   | 0.00  | -0.04  | 68.22   |
|                       | 27H               | 22.85   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 22.82   |
|                       | 28H               | 15.39   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 15.38   |
|                       | 29H               | 15.67   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 15.67   |
|                       | 30H               | 24.25   | 0.00  | -0.02  | 24.23   |
|                       | 31H               | 79.79   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 79.76   |
|                       | 32H               | 80.23   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 80.21   |
| Ag <sup>+</sup>       | 33Ag <sup>+</sup> | -157.38 | 45.67 | -12.98 | -124.69 |
| OPD1--OPD2            |                   | 12.92   | 0.61  | -5.63  | 7.90    |
| OPD1--Ag <sup>+</sup> |                   | -157.38 | 45.67 | -12.98 | -124.69 |
| OPD2--Ag <sup>+</sup> |                   | -157.38 | 45.67 | -12.98 | -124.69 |

**Table S4** Energy decomposition analysis of Ag<sup>+</sup>-(OPD)<sub>3</sub>.

| Frag            | Atom             | Elec    | Rep   | Disp   | Total   |
|-----------------|------------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|
| Ag <sup>+</sup> | 1Ag <sup>+</sup> | -170.42 | 48.90 | -14.24 | -135.76 |
| OPD1            | 2N               | -206.60 | 14.19 | -7.84  | -200.25 |
|                 | 3C               | 58.06   | 1.22  | -2.95  | 56.33   |
|                 | 4C               | -45.46  | 0.23  | -1.12  | -46.34  |
|                 | 5C               | 54.00   | 2.30  | -4.39  | 51.91   |
|                 | 6C               | -23.48  | 0.17  | -0.85  | -24.16  |
|                 | 7C               | -22.68  | 0.40  | -1.39  | -23.67  |
|                 | 8C               | -40.48  | 1.77  | -3.15  | -41.85  |
|                 | 9N               | -179.99 | 11.89 | -11.54 | -179.64 |
|                 | 10H              | 65.09   | 0.79  | -0.80  | 65.09   |
|                 | 11H              | 69.91   | 0.00  | -0.07  | 69.84   |
|                 | 12H              | 24.37   | 0.00  | -0.10  | 24.27   |
|                 | 13H              | 16.34   | 0.00  | -0.07  | 16.27   |
|                 | 14H              | 15.78   | 0.01  | -0.15  | 15.64   |
|                 | 15H              | 20.10   | 0.27  | -0.71  | 19.66   |
|                 | 16H              | 57.68   | 0.18  | -0.64  | 57.21   |
|                 | 17H              | 58.01   | 0.02  | -0.31  | 57.72   |
|                 | 18N              | -216.65 | 20.42 | -5.80  | -202.04 |
|                 | 19C              | 55.51   | 1.74  | -2.75  | 54.50   |
|                 | 20C              | -47.80  | 0.32  | -1.34  | -48.81  |

|                        |     |         |       |        |         |
|------------------------|-----|---------|-------|--------|---------|
| OPD2                   | 21C | 43.39   | 2.09  | -3.40  | 42.08   |
|                        | 22C | -23.56  | 0.09  | -0.75  | -24.23  |
|                        | 23C | -21.43  | 0.16  | -0.92  | -22.19  |
|                        | 24C | -35.65  | 1.14  | -2.26  | -36.77  |
|                        | 25N | -116.22 | 2.39  | -4.71  | -118.55 |
|                        | 26H | 77.23   | 0.00  | -0.05  | 77.19   |
|                        | 27H | 71.46   | 0.00  | -0.06  | 71.40   |
|                        | 28H | 28.00   | 0.01  | -0.19  | 27.82   |
|                        | 29H | 16.85   | 0.00  | -0.07  | 16.78   |
|                        | 30H | 14.93   | 0.00  | -0.09  | 14.84   |
|                        | 31H | 17.74   | 0.14  | -0.46  | 17.42   |
|                        | 32H | 53.87   | 0.09  | -0.43  | 53.52   |
|                        | 33H | 38.85   | 0.01  | -0.12  | 38.74   |
| OPD3                   | 34N | -223.54 | 10.93 | -4.90  | -217.51 |
|                        | 35C | 62.98   | 1.79  | -2.66  | 62.11   |
|                        | 36C | -52.50  | 0.53  | -1.47  | -53.45  |
|                        | 37C | 56.81   | 1.38  | -2.51  | 55.68   |
|                        | 38C | -26.56  | 0.20  | -0.87  | -27.24  |
|                        | 39C | -25.50  | 0.18  | -0.82  | -26.14  |
|                        | 40C | -46.46  | 0.42  | -1.31  | -47.35  |
|                        | 41N | -168.16 | 3.98  | -4.14  | -168.33 |
|                        | 42H | 79.43   | 0.00  | -0.04  | 79.39   |
|                        | 43H | 77.81   | 0.00  | -0.06  | 77.76   |
|                        | 44H | 29.37   | 0.02  | -0.20  | 29.18   |
|                        | 45H | 18.41   | 0.00  | -0.08  | 18.33   |
|                        | 46H | 17.26   | 0.00  | -0.07  | 17.19   |
|                        | 47H | 23.49   | 0.01  | -0.14  | 23.36   |
|                        | 48H | 60.73   | 0.00  | -0.04  | 60.69   |
|                        | 49H | 58.85   | 0.00  | -0.05  | 58.81   |
| Ag <sup>+</sup> --OPD1 |     | -142.46 | 34.55 | -11.40 | -119.31 |
| Ag <sup>+</sup> --OPD2 |     | -88.94  | 41.55 | -9.70  | -57.10  |
| Ag <sup>+</sup> --OPD3 |     | -109.43 | 21.70 | -7.38  | -95.10  |
| OPD1--OPD2             |     | -4.26   | 15.45 | -33.26 | -22.08  |
| OPD1—OPD3              |     | -11.99  | 16.94 | -27.51 | -22.56  |
| OPD2—OPD3              |     | 6.23    | 0.23  | -3.83  | 2.63    |

**Table S5** Energy decomposition analysis of Ag<sup>+</sup>-MPD.

| Frag                | Atom              | Elec    | Rep   | Disp   | Total   |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|
| MPD                 | 1N                | -94.83  | 0.00  | -0.03  | -94.86  |
|                     | 2C                | 58.09   | 0.03  | -0.11  | 58.00   |
|                     | 3C                | -60.76  | 0.08  | -0.20  | -60.87  |
|                     | 4C                | -81.28  | 0.07  | -0.17  | -81.39  |
|                     | 5C                | -26.36  | 1.84  | -0.93  | -25.44  |
|                     | 6C                | -99.01  | 26.19 | -3.49  | -76.31  |
|                     | 7C                | 78.78   | 1.04  | -0.70  | 79.12   |
|                     | 8N                | -136.85 | 0.10  | -0.26  | -137.00 |
|                     | 9H                | 35.70   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 35.70   |
|                     | 10H               | 38.08   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 38.08   |
|                     | 11H               | 26.56   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 26.55   |
|                     | 12H               | 34.75   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 34.74   |
|                     | 13H               | 29.12   | 0.03  | -0.08  | 29.07   |
|                     | 14H               | 44.67   | 0.28  | -0.23  | 44.72   |
|                     | 15H               | 46.17   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 46.17   |
|                     | 16H               | 58.36   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 58.36   |
| Ag <sup>+</sup>     | 17Ag <sup>+</sup> | -48.81  | 29.67 | -6.22  | -25.36  |
| MPD—Ag <sup>+</sup> |                   | -97.61  | 59.34 | -12.45 | -50.72  |

**Table S6** Energy decomposition analysis of Ag<sup>+</sup>-(MPD)<sub>2</sub>.

| Frag | Atom | Elec    | Rep   | Disp  | Total   |
|------|------|---------|-------|-------|---------|
| MPD1 | 1N   | -94.80  | 0.00  | -0.13 | -94.93  |
|      | 2C   | 57.98   | 0.05  | -0.31 | 57.72   |
|      | 3C   | -60.46  | 0.18  | -0.56 | -60.84  |
|      | 4C   | -80.26  | 0.10  | -0.39 | -80.54  |
|      | 5C   | -25.71  | 3.09  | -1.70 | -24.32  |
|      | 6C   | -92.05  | 22.37 | -3.79 | -73.47  |
|      | 7C   | 75.68   | 1.21  | -1.04 | 75.85   |
|      | 8N   | -129.27 | 0.10  | -0.49 | -129.66 |
|      | 9H   | 35.42   | 0.00  | -0.00 | 35.42   |
|      | 10H  | 37.79   | 0.00  | -0.00 | 37.79   |
|      | 11H  | 26.39   | 0.00  | -0.05 | 26.34   |
|      | 12H  | 34.32   | 0.00  | -0.03 | 34.30   |
|      | 13H  | 27.61   | 0.05  | -0.20 | 27.46   |
|      | 14H  | 41.08   | 0.24  | -0.31 | 41.01   |
|      | 15H  | 44.01   | 0.00  | -0.00 | 44.01   |
|      | 16H  | 53.46   | 0.00  | -0.01 | 53.45   |
|      | 17N  | -94.80  | 0.00  | -0.13 | -94.93  |
|      | 18C  | 57.98   | 0.05  | -0.31 | 57.72   |
|      | 19C  | -60.46  | 0.18  | -0.56 | -60.84  |

|                       |                   |         |       |        |         |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|
| MPD2                  | 20C               | -80.26  | 0.10  | -0.39  | -80.54  |
|                       | 21C               | -25.71  | 3.09  | -1.70  | -24.32  |
|                       | 22C               | -92.05  | 22.37 | -3.79  | -73.47  |
|                       | 23C               | 75.68   | 1.21  | -1.04  | 75.85   |
|                       | 24N               | -129.27 | 0.10  | -0.49  | -129.66 |
|                       | 25H               | 35.42   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 35.42   |
|                       | 26H               | 37.79   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 37.79   |
|                       | 27H               | 26.39   | 0.00  | -0.05  | 26.34   |
|                       | 28H               | 34.32   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 34.30   |
|                       | 29H               | 27.61   | 0.05  | -0.20  | 27.46   |
|                       | 30H               | 41.08   | 0.24  | -0.31  | 41.01   |
|                       | 31H               | 44.01   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 44.01   |
|                       | 32H               | 53.46   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 53.45   |
| Ag <sup>+</sup>       | 33Ag <sup>+</sup> | -102.71 | 54.43 | -12.82 | -61.10  |
| MPD1-- MPD2           |                   | 5.13    | 0.36  | -5.23  | 0.27    |
| MPD1--Ag <sup>+</sup> |                   | -102.71 | 54.43 | -12.82 | -61.10  |
| MPD2--Ag <sup>+</sup> |                   | -102.71 | 54.43 | -12.82 | -61.10  |

**Table S7** Energy decomposition analysis of Ag<sup>+</sup>-(MPD)<sub>3</sub>.

| Frag            | Atom             | Elec    | Rep   | Disp   | Total   |
|-----------------|------------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|
| Ag <sup>+</sup> | 1Ag <sup>+</sup> | -138.99 | 49.21 | -16.71 | -106.49 |
| MPD1            | 2N               | -123.52 | 0.43  | -2.07  | -125.16 |
|                 | 3C               | 72.27   | 1.79  | -2.39  | 71.66   |
|                 | 4C               | -57.37  | 0.48  | -1.39  | -58.28  |
|                 | 5C               | -110.26 | 14.71 | -5.33  | -100.88 |
|                 | 6C               | -18.18  | 0.54  | -1.29  | -18.93  |
|                 | 7C               | -58.47  | 0.38  | -1.36  | -59.46  |
|                 | 8C               | 72.85   | 1.91  | -2.54  | 72.21   |
|                 | 9N               | -126.47 | 0.73  | -2.64  | -128.38 |
|                 | 10H              | 47.03   | 0.00  | -0.08  | 46.96   |
|                 | 11H              | 45.03   | 0.00  | -0.02  | 45.01   |
|                 | 12H              | 25.32   | 0.01  | -0.14  | 25.19   |
|                 | 13H              | 46.96   | 1.22  | -1.56  | 46.62   |
|                 | 14H              | 18.79   | 0.01  | -0.13  | 18.67   |
|                 | 15H              | 26.03   | 0.01  | -0.14  | 25.89   |
|                 | 16H              | 48.14   | 0.01  | -0.12  | 48.03   |
|                 | 17H              | 46.26   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 46.24   |
|                 | 18N              | -117.41 | 1.91  | -3.90  | -119.40 |
|                 | 19C              | 70.77   | 2.06  | -3.11  | 69.72   |
|                 | 20C              | -58.34  | 0.60  | -1.79  | -59.53  |
|                 | 21C              | -106.61 | 15.87 | -6.74  | -97.48  |
|                 | 22C              | -18.81  | 0.84  | -1.71  | -19.68  |

|                        |     |         |       |        |         |
|------------------------|-----|---------|-------|--------|---------|
| MPD2                   | 23C | -58.75  | 0.76  | -2.02  | -60.01  |
|                        | 24C | 69.71   | 2.04  | -3.23  | 68.52   |
|                        | 25N | -113.06 | 1.82  | -3.81  | -115.04 |
|                        | 26H | 41.28   | 0.15  | -0.39  | 41.05   |
|                        | 27H | 44.05   | 0.00  | -0.04  | 44.01   |
|                        | 28H | 26.14   | 0.02  | -0.20  | 25.96   |
|                        | 29H | 44.04   | 4.58  | -2.86  | 45.75   |
|                        | 30H | 19.84   | 0.02  | -0.17  | 19.69   |
|                        | 31H | 26.39   | 0.04  | -0.25  | 26.17   |
|                        | 32H | 41.74   | 0.21  | -0.45  | 41.50   |
|                        | 33H | 44.68   | 0.00  | -0.05  | 44.63   |
| MPD3                   | 34N | -116.43 | 1.47  | -2.67  | -117.63 |
|                        | 35C | 66.39   | 1.76  | -2.75  | 65.40   |
|                        | 36C | -70.64  | 2.24  | -3.01  | -71.41  |
|                        | 37C | -83.05  | 3.70  | -2.89  | -82.24  |
|                        | 38C | -26.54  | 9.87  | -4.78  | -21.46  |
|                        | 39C | -73.96  | 2.94  | -3.28  | -74.29  |
|                        | 40C | 67.87   | 1.56  | -2.72  | 66.71   |
|                        | 41N | -119.73 | 1.52  | -2.75  | -120.95 |
|                        | 42H | 41.40   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 41.37   |
|                        | 43H | 45.42   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 45.39   |
|                        | 44H | 31.29   | 0.05  | -0.40  | 30.94   |
|                        | 45H | 36.08   | 0.11  | -0.33  | 35.86   |
|                        | 46H | 27.31   | 0.77  | -1.27  | 26.81   |
|                        | 47H | 33.01   | 0.08  | -0.49  | 32.60   |
|                        | 48H | 41.93   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 41.90   |
|                        | 49H | 46.93   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 46.90   |
| Ag <sup>+</sup> --MPD1 |     | -98.13  | 35.53 | -11.52 | -74.11  |
| Ag <sup>+</sup> --MPD2 |     | -79.99  | 35.05 | -11.31 | -56.25  |
| Ag <sup>+</sup> --MPD3 |     | -99.87  | 27.85 | -10.59 | -82.61  |
| MPD1--MPD2             |     | 1.87    | 5.70  | -18.36 | -10.78  |
| MPD1--MPD3             |     | 5.03    | 3.24  | -12.56 | -4.29   |
| MPD2--MPD3             |     | -10.58  | 21.06 | -31.77 | -21.29  |

**Table S8** Energy decomposition analysis of Ag<sup>+</sup>-PPD.

| Frag                 | Atom             | Elec    | Rep   | Disp   | Total   |
|----------------------|------------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|
| Ag <sup>+</sup>      | 1Ag <sup>+</sup> | -54.26  | 27.20 | -7.14  | -34.19  |
| PPD                  | 2C               | 75.84   | 0.72  | -0.58  | 75.98   |
|                      | 3C               | -57.01  | 0.14  | -0.25  | -57.12  |
|                      | 4C               | -83.17  | 12.60 | -2.42  | -72.99  |
|                      | 5N               | -128.57 | 0.04  | -0.15  | -128.68 |
|                      | 6C               | -57.18  | 0.14  | -0.25  | -57.30  |
|                      | 7C               | 76.36   | 0.72  | -0.58  | 76.50   |
|                      | 8C               | -83.42  | 12.60 | -2.42  | -73.25  |
|                      | 9N               | -128.42 | 0.04  | -0.15  | -128.54 |
|                      | 10H              | 29.01   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 29.00   |
|                      | 11H              | 44.29   | 0.12  | -0.15  | 44.26   |
|                      | 12H              | 43.96   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 43.96   |
|                      | 13H              | 48.53   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 48.53   |
|                      | 14H              | 28.98   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 28.97   |
|                      | 15H              | 44.25   | 0.12  | -0.15  | 44.22   |
|                      | 16H              | 43.86   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 43.86   |
|                      | 17H              | 48.43   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 48.43   |
| Ag <sup>+</sup> -PPD |                  | -108.51 | 54.40 | -14.27 | -68.38  |

**Table S9** Energy decomposition analysis of Ag<sup>+</sup>-(PPD)<sub>2</sub>.

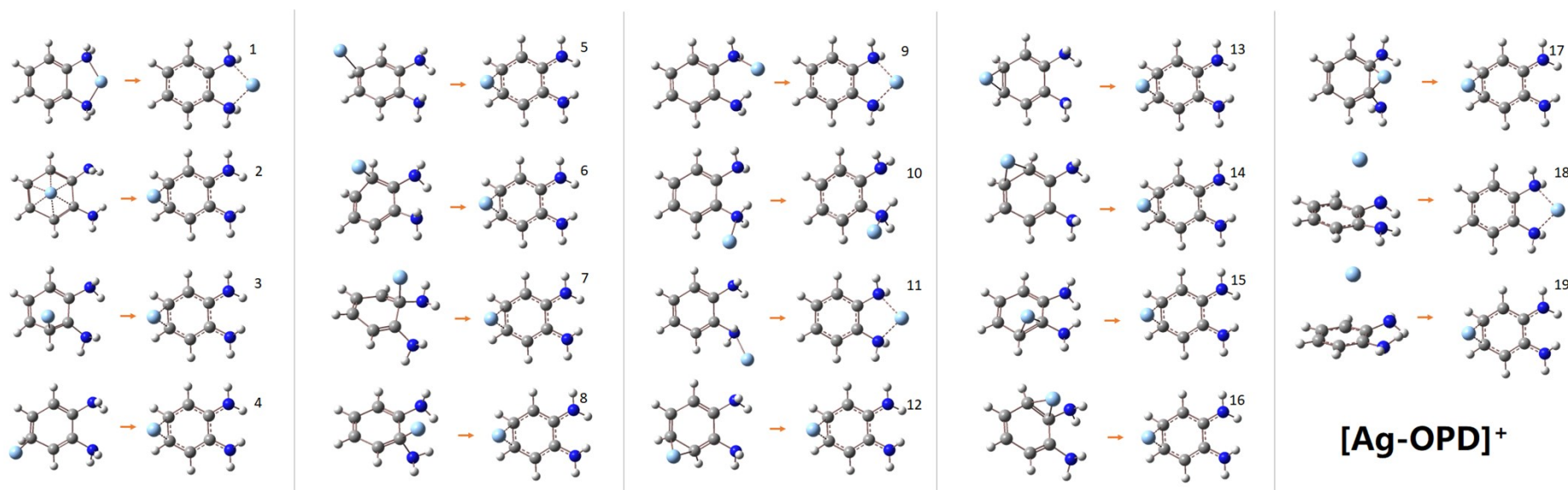
| Frag                   | Atom              | Elec    | Rep   | Disp   | Total   |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|
| PPD1                   | 1C                | 44.94   | 0.57  | -1.30  | 44.21   |
|                        | 2C                | -42.77  | 0.45  | -1.11  | -43.43  |
|                        | 3C                | -41.32  | 0.38  | -1.19  | -42.14  |
|                        | 4N                | -81.36  | 0.34  | -1.05  | -82.07  |
|                        | 5C                | -55.13  | 0.77  | -1.33  | -55.69  |
|                        | 6C                | 78.04   | 1.96  | -1.96  | 78.04   |
|                        | 7C                | -53.42  | 0.44  | -1.27  | -54.25  |
|                        | 8N                | -220.15 | 35.44 | -5.64  | -190.34 |
|                        | 9H                | 23.43   | 0.01  | -0.10  | 23.33   |
|                        | 10H               | 22.54   | 0.01  | -0.14  | 22.41   |
|                        | 11H               | 30.68   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 30.67   |
|                        | 12H               | 30.61   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 30.60   |
|                        | 13H               | 33.60   | 0.02  | -0.14  | 33.48   |
|                        | 14H               | 32.45   | 0.01  | -0.15  | 32.32   |
|                        | 15H               | 72.48   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 72.45   |
|                        | 16H               | 71.94   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 71.90   |
| PPD2                   | 17C               | 69.05   | 0.79  | -1.25  | 68.59   |
|                        | 18C               | -42.48  | 0.02  | -0.27  | -42.73  |
|                        | 19C               | -53.26  | 1.23  | -2.71  | -54.75  |
|                        | 20N               | -215.81 | 38.33 | -5.81  | -183.29 |
|                        | 21C               | -33.88  | 0.00  | -0.18  | -34.05  |
|                        | 22C               | 37.27   | 0.03  | -0.41  | 36.88   |
|                        | 23C               | -36.55  | 0.54  | -1.76  | -37.78  |
|                        | 24N               | -66.16  | 0.01  | -0.28  | -66.43  |
|                        | 25H               | 25.14   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 25.11   |
|                        | 26H               | 38.48   | 1.50  | -1.82  | 38.15   |
|                        | 27H               | 71.96   | 0.00  | -0.04  | 71.92   |
|                        | 28H               | 72.05   | 0.00  | -0.04  | 72.02   |
|                        | 29H               | 18.46   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 18.45   |
|                        | 30H               | 18.92   | 0.51  | -0.92  | 18.50   |
|                        | 31H               | 25.52   | 0.00  | -0.00  | 25.51   |
|                        | 32H               | 25.94   | 0.00  | -0.01  | 25.92   |
| Ag <sup>+</sup>        | 33Ag <sup>+</sup> | -101.34 | 76.56 | -12.77 | -37.56  |
| PPD1-- PPD2            |                   | 2.55    | 6.79  | -18.26 | -8.92   |
| PPD1-- Ag <sup>+</sup> |                   | -109.40 | 73.99 | -12.68 | -48.09  |
| PPD2-- Ag <sup>+</sup> |                   | -93.28  | 79.12 | -12.87 | -27.03  |

**Table S10** Energy decomposition analysis of Ag<sup>+</sup>-(PPD)<sub>3</sub>.

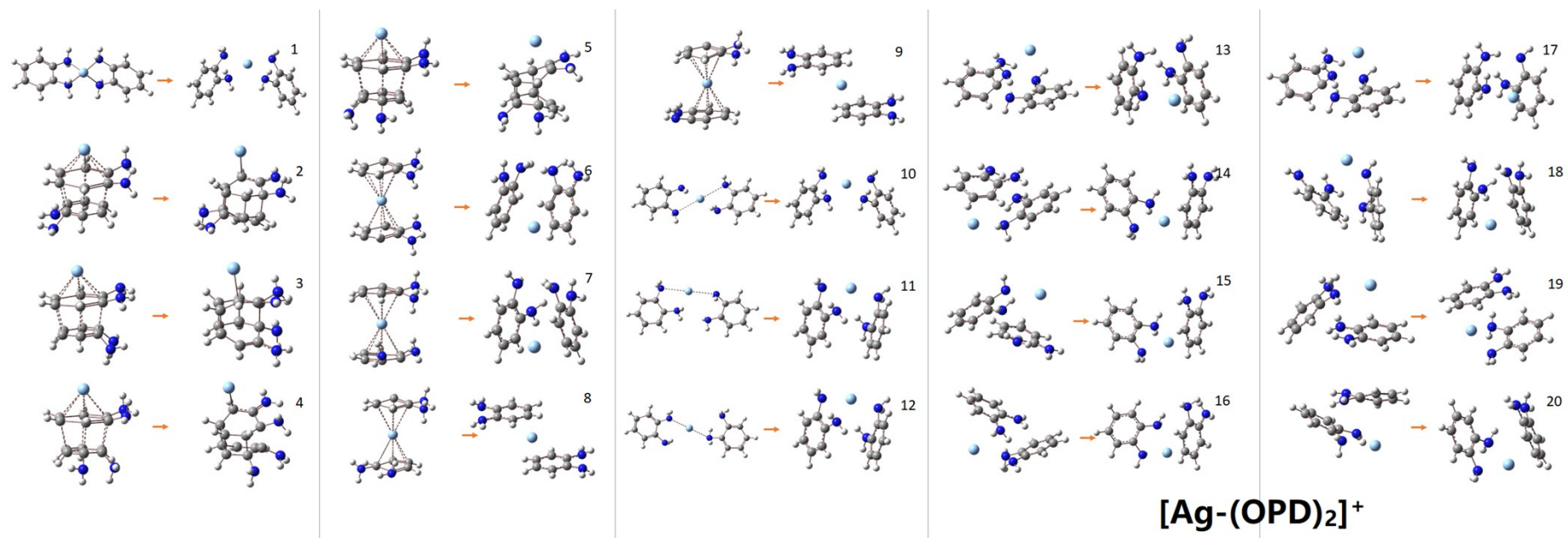
| Frag            | Atom             | Elec    | Rep   | Disp   | Total   |
|-----------------|------------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|
| Ag <sup>+</sup> | 1Ag <sup>+</sup> | -138.68 | 46.35 | -16.19 | -108.52 |
| PPD1            | 2C               | 61.7    | 2.04  | -2.90  | 60.89   |
|                 | 3C               | -49.87  | 1.23  | -1.81  | -50.45  |
|                 | 4C               | -61.74  | 2.82  | -3.57  | -62.48  |
|                 | 5N               | -114.90 | 3.35  | -3.70  | -115.24 |
|                 | 6C               | -51.89  | 0.39  | -1.39  | -52.89  |
|                 | 7C               | 69.83   | 1.85  | -2.84  | 68.84   |
|                 | 8C               | -69.82  | 12.10 | -5.70  | -63.42  |
|                 | 9N               | -118.98 | 3.64  | -4.50  | -119.85 |
|                 | 10H              | 26.39   | 0.03  | -0.18  | 26.24   |
|                 | 11H              | 33.06   | 0.12  | -0.56  | 32.62   |
|                 | 12H              | 40.10   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 40.07   |
|                 | 13H              | 41.55   | 0.00  | -0.05  | 41.50   |
|                 | 14H              | 27.35   | 0.01  | -0.12  | 27.23   |
|                 | 15H              | 36.10   | 2.14  | -2.07  | 36.17   |
|                 | 16H              | 41.31   | 0.00  | -0.04  | 41.28   |
|                 | 17H              | 38.98   | 0.46  | -0.59  | 38.85   |
| PPD2            | 18C              | 64.49   | 1.99  | -2.87  | 63.60   |
|                 | 19C              | -50.58  | 1.26  | -1.83  | -51.16  |
|                 | 20C              | -65.50  | 3.84  | -3.61  | -65.27  |
|                 | 21N              | -120.48 | 3.42  | -3.74  | -120.80 |
|                 | 22C              | -51.09  | 0.35  | -1.34  | -52.08  |
|                 | 23C              | 67.89   | 1.20  | -2.34  | 66.75   |
|                 | 24C              | -70.27  | 11.05 | -5.09  | -64.31  |
|                 | 25N              | -116.13 | 0.85  | -2.69  | -117.97 |
|                 | 26H              | 26.73   | 0.03  | -0.19  | 26.57   |
|                 | 27H              | 35.59   | 0.12  | -0.53  | 35.18   |
|                 | 28H              | 41.61   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 41.58   |
|                 | 29H              | 43.81   | 0.00  | -0.05  | 43.76   |
|                 | 30H              | 26.65   | 0.01  | -0.12  | 26.53   |
|                 | 31H              | 36.29   | 1.25  | -1.61  | 35.93   |
|                 | 32H              | 40.15   | 0.00  | -0.03  | 40.13   |
|                 | 33H              | 43.71   | 0.01  | -0.13  | 43.60   |
|                 | 34C              | 63.73   | 1.07  | -1.97  | 62.83   |
|                 | 35C              | -49.85  | 0.69  | -1.77  | -50.93  |
|                 | 36C              | -66.21  | 4.03  | -3.18  | -65.36  |
|                 | 37N              | -113.34 | 0.41  | -1.31  | -114.24 |
|                 | 38C              | -49.62  | 0.64  | -1.84  | -50.82  |
|                 | 39C              | 66.04   | 1.62  | -2.95  | 64.72   |
|                 | 40C              | -69.96  | 13.29 | -5.79  | -62.47  |
|                 | 41N              | -109.33 | 3.69  | -4.69  | -110.33 |

|                        |     |        |       |        |        |
|------------------------|-----|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| PPD3                   | 42H | 26.75  | 0.02  | -0.21  | 26.57  |
|                        | 43H | 36.17  | 0.08  | -0.41  | 35.83  |
|                        | 44H | 39.59  | 0.00  | -0.01  | 39.57  |
|                        | 45H | 42.58  | 0.00  | -0.02  | 42.56  |
|                        | 46H | 25.86  | 0.04  | -0.24  | 25.66  |
|                        | 47H | 35.75  | 2.18  | -2.09  | 35.84  |
|                        | 48H | 38.28  | 0.00  | -0.04  | 38.24  |
|                        | 49H | 35.75  | 0.44  | -0.59  | 35.61  |
| Ag <sup>+</sup> --PPD1 |     | -90.15 | 29.00 | -10.45 | -71.59 |
| Ag <sup>+</sup> --PPD2 |     | -92.91 | 29.31 | -10.56 | -74.16 |
| Ag <sup>+</sup> --PPD3 |     | -94.29 | 34.39 | -11.38 | -71.29 |
| PPD1--PPD2             |     | -5.68  | 15.39 | -24.35 | -14.64 |
| PPD1--PPD3             |     | -5.69  | 15.96 | -25.34 | -15.07 |
| PPD2--PPD3             |     | 4.34   | 6.05  | -17.49 | -7.10  |

## S7. Determination of energy-minima structure

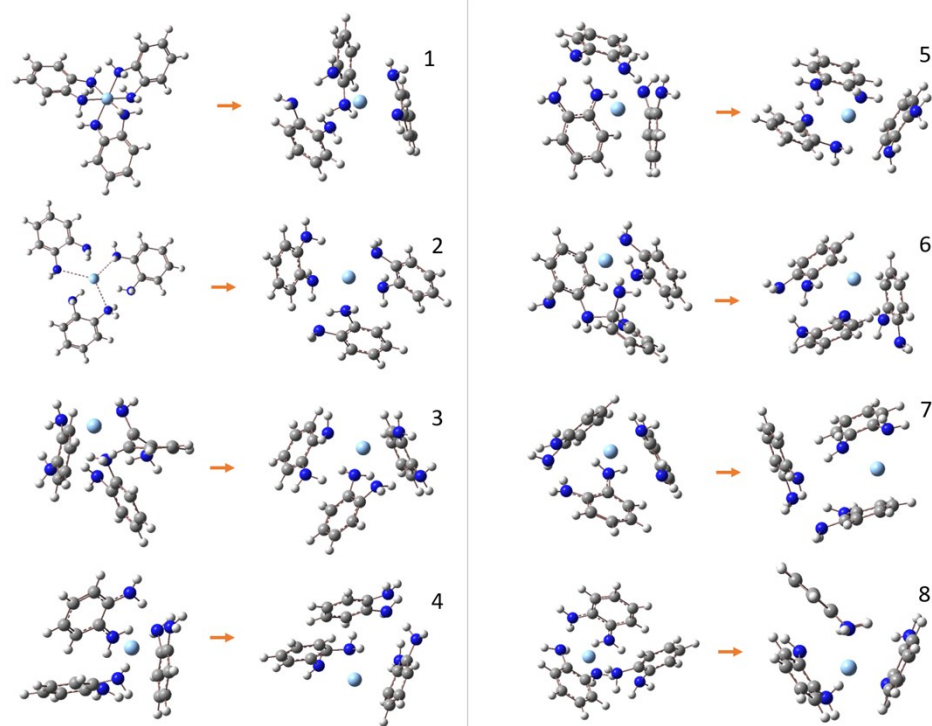


|               | 1                  | 2           | 3           | 4           | 5           | 6           | 7           | 8           | 9           | 10          |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Energy (a.u.) | <b>-489.277021</b> | -489.266162 | -489.266162 | -489.266162 | -489.266162 | -489.266162 | -489.266162 | -489.266162 | -489.277021 | -489.258812 |
|               | 11                 | 12          | 13          | 14          | 15          | 16          | 17          | 18          | 19          |             |
| Energy (a.u.) | -489.277021        | -489.266162 | -489.266162 | -489.266162 | -489.266162 | -489.266162 | -489.266162 | -489.277021 | -489.266162 |             |

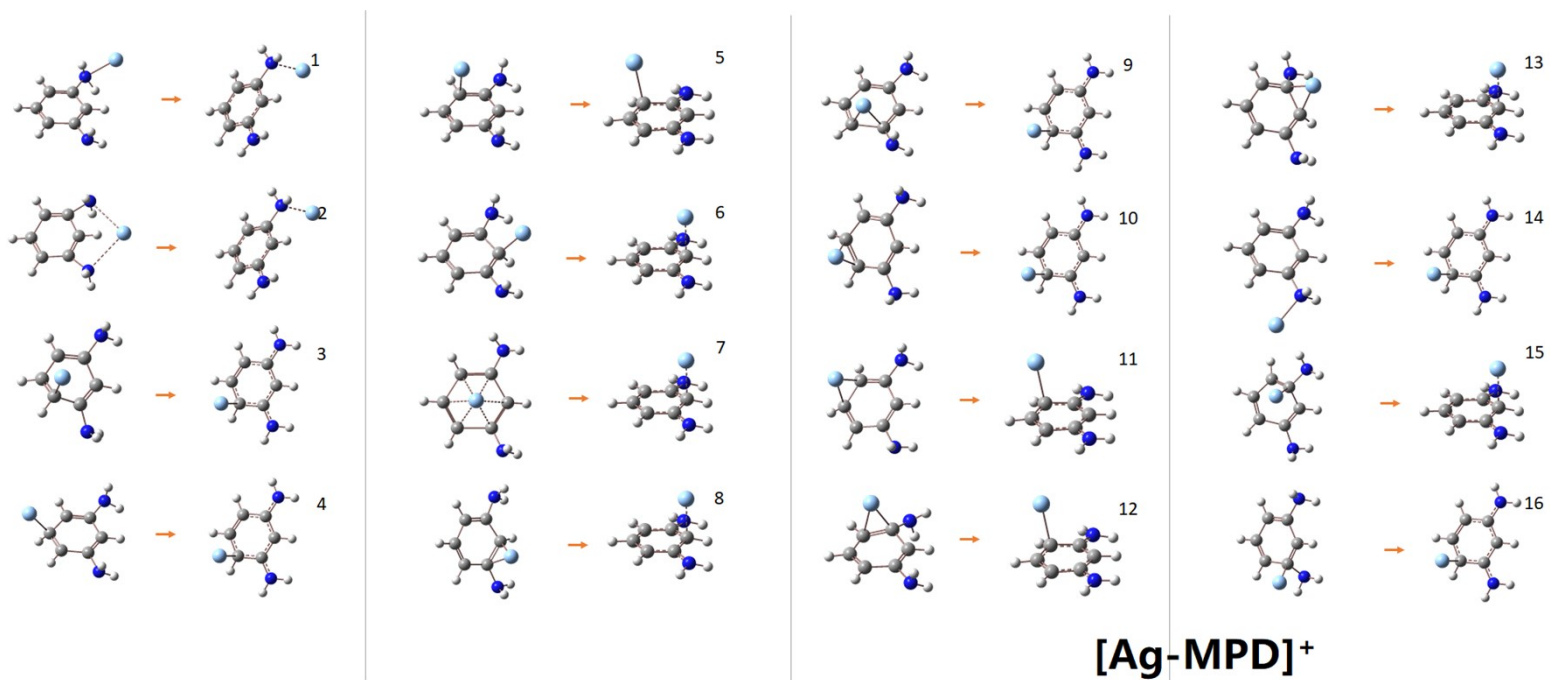


| Isomer        | 1                 | 2           | 3           | 4           | 5         | 6           | 7           | 8           | 9          | 10          |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Energy (a.u.) | <b>-831.86985</b> | -831.713535 | -831.728    | -831.7284   | -831.7174 | -831.86391  | -831.865927 | -831.862052 | -831.86204 | -831.86985  |
| Isomer        | 11                | 12          | 13          | 14          | 15        | 16          | 17          | 18          | 19         | 20          |
| Energy (a.u.) | -831.865901       | -831.865901 | -831.862563 | -831.866718 | -831.8667 | -831.866567 | -831.862563 | -831.865927 | -831.86696 | -831.866759 |

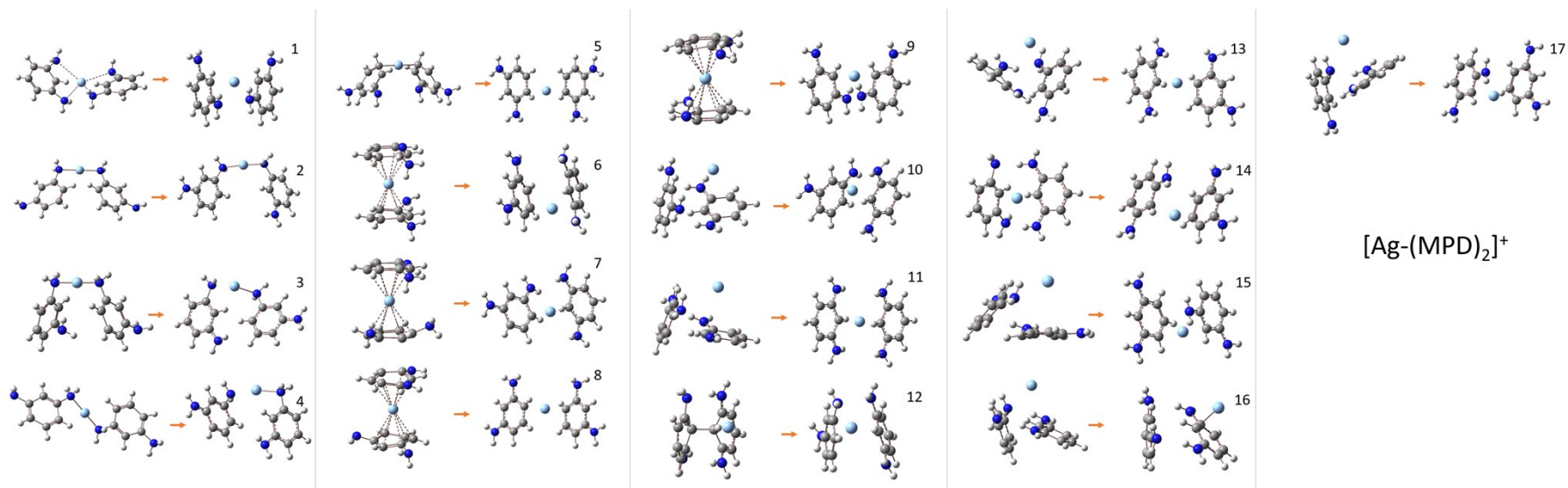




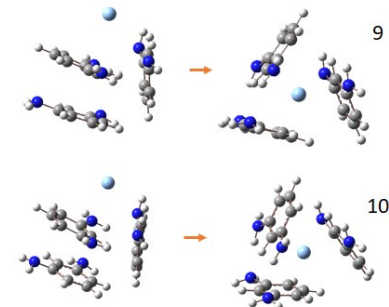
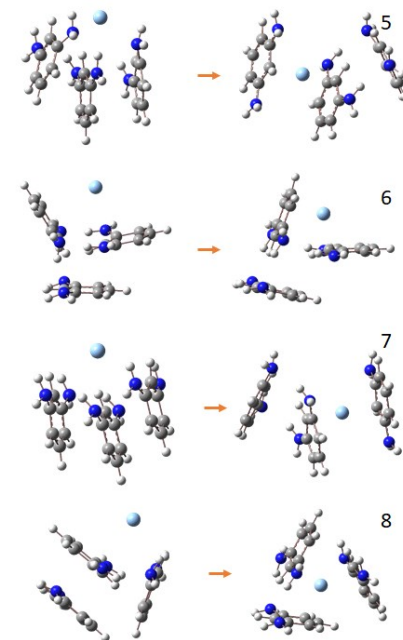
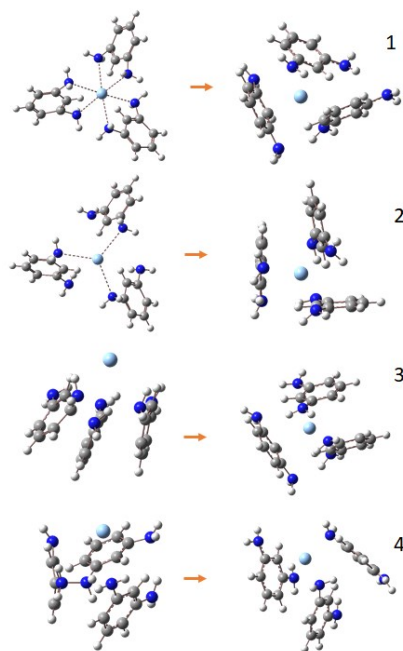
| $[\text{Ag}-(\text{OPD})_3]^+$ | 1         | 2          | 3                   | 4            | 5            | 6            | 7          | 8          |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Energy (a.u.)                  | -1174.436 | -1174.4298 | <b>-1174.437429</b> | -1174.423917 | -1174.431446 | -1174.431447 | -1174.4279 | -1174.4175 |



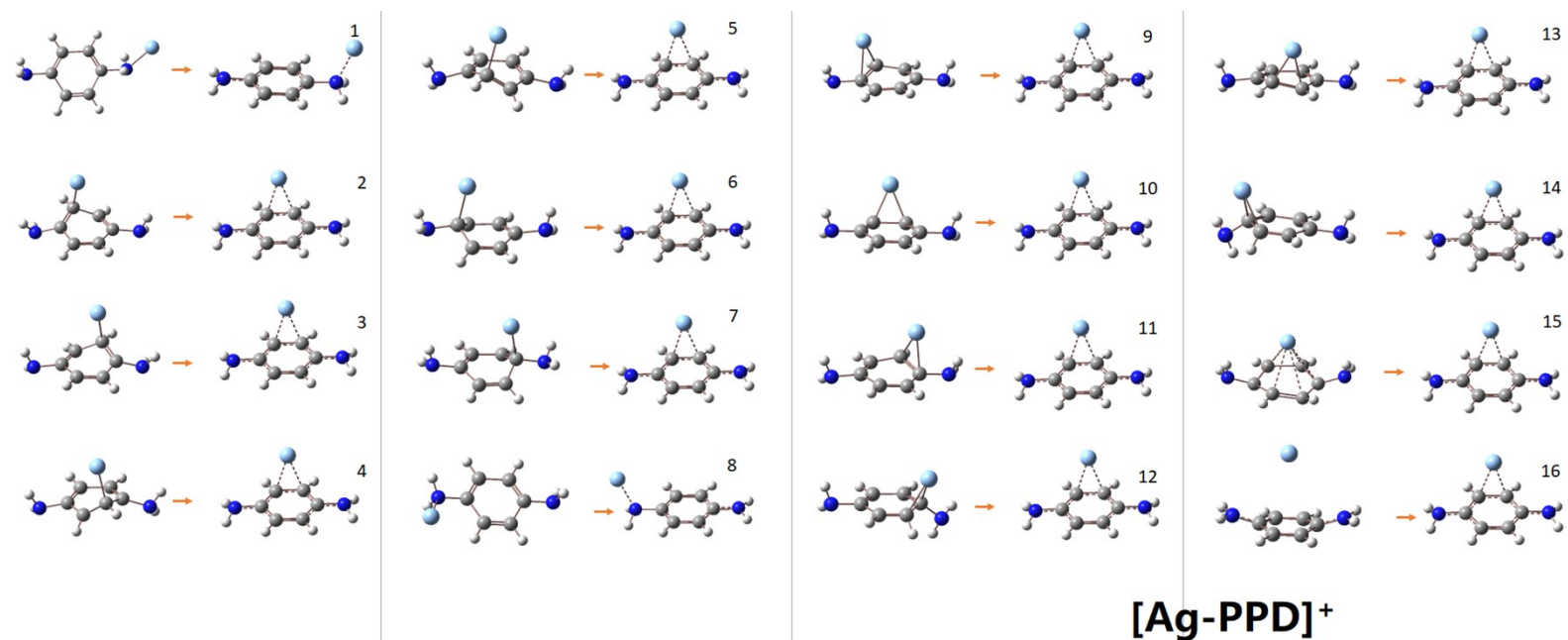
| Isomer        | 1           | 2           | 3           | 4           | 5          | 6          | 7           | 8                  |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Energy (a.u.) | -489.260923 | -489.260923 | -489.274054 | -489.274054 | -489.27405 | -489.26904 | -489.269039 | -489.269039        |
| Isomer        | 9           | 10          | 11          | 12          | 13         | 14         | 15          | 16                 |
| Energy (a.u.) | -489.274054 | -489.274054 | -489.274054 | -489.274054 | -489.26904 | -489.27405 | -489.269039 | <b>-489.274054</b> |



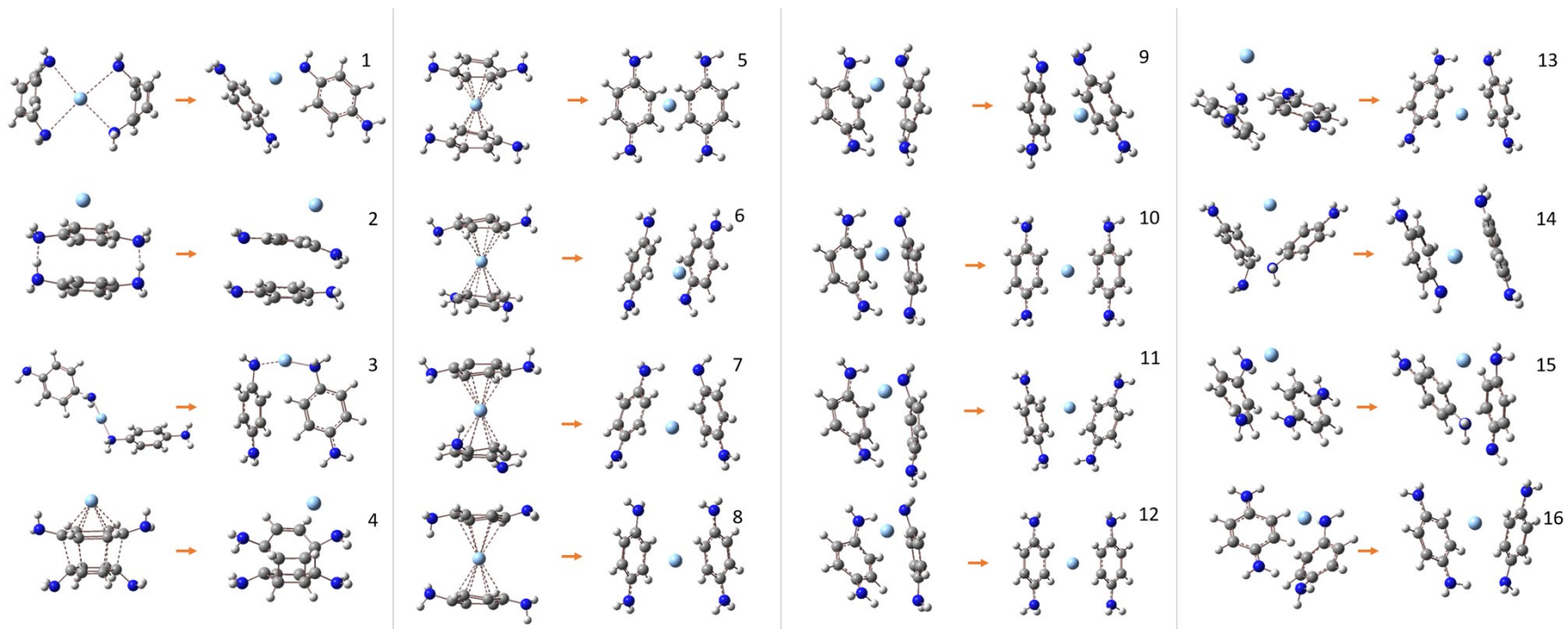
| Isomer       | 1          | 2           | 3           | 4           | 5           | 6           | 7           | 8                | 9           |
|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| Energy(a.u.) | -831.8673  | -831.864395 | -831.864976 | -831.865116 | -831.873277 | -831.872937 | -831.869987 | <b>-831.8733</b> | -831.867254 |
| Isomer       | 10         | 11          | 12          | 13          | 14          | 15          | 16          | 17               |             |
| Energy(a.u.) | -831.86717 | -831.867011 | -831.870007 | -831.869951 | -831.87025  | -831.87025  | -831.835645 | -831.870291      |             |



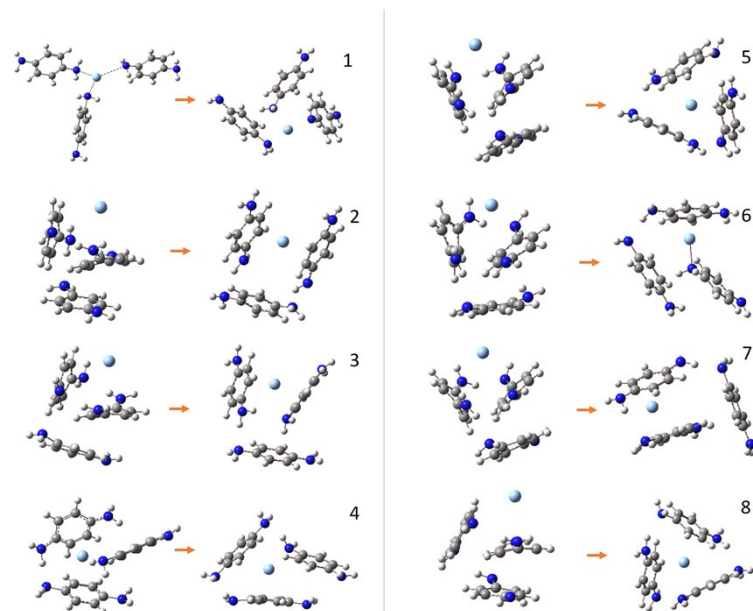
| Isomer        | 1           | 2         | 3           | 4            | 5            | 6            | 7            | 8          | 9          | 10                |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Energy (a.u.) | -1174.43815 | -1174.441 | -1174.44053 | -1174.433012 | -1174.428506 | -1174.429947 | -1174.428543 | -1174.4437 | -1174.4434 | <b>-1174.4437</b> |



| Isomer        | 1           | 2           | 3           | 4           | 5           | 6           | 7           | 8                  |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Energy (a.u.) | -489.261007 | -489.261301 | -489.261301 | -489.261301 | -489.261301 | -489.261301 | -489.261301 | -489.261007        |
| Isomer        | 9           | 10          | 11          | 12          | 13          | 14          | 15          | 16                 |
| Energy (a.u.) | -489.261301 | -489.261301 | -489.261301 | -489.261301 | -489.261301 | -489.261313 | -489.261313 | <b>-489.261313</b> |



| [Ag-(PPD) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> Isomer | 1        | 2        | 3               | 4        | 5        | 6        | 7        | 8        |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Energy (a.u.)                                | -831.858 | -831.814 | <b>-831.862</b> | -831.698 | -831.845 | -831.855 | -831.854 | -831.854 |
| [Ag-(PPD) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> Isomer | 9        | 10       | 11              | 12       | 13       | 14       | 15       | 16       |
| Energy (a.u.)                                | -831.855 | -831.856 | -831.854        | -831.856 | -831.854 | -831.856 | -831.859 | -831.854 |



| [Ag-(PPD) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> Isomer | Energy (a.u.) | [Ag-(PPD) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> Isomer | Energy (a.u.)       |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1                                            | -1174.427447  | 5                                            | -1174.429365        |
| 2                                            | -1174.409722  | 6                                            | -1174.415520        |
| 3                                            | -1174.409878  | 7                                            | -1174.407315        |
| 4                                            | -1174.425637  | <b>8</b>                                     | <b>-1174.429365</b> |