



# Journal Name

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## From Six to Eight $\Pi$ -electron Bare Rings of Group-XIV Elements and Beyond: Can Planarity be Deciphered from the “Quasi-molecules” They Embed?

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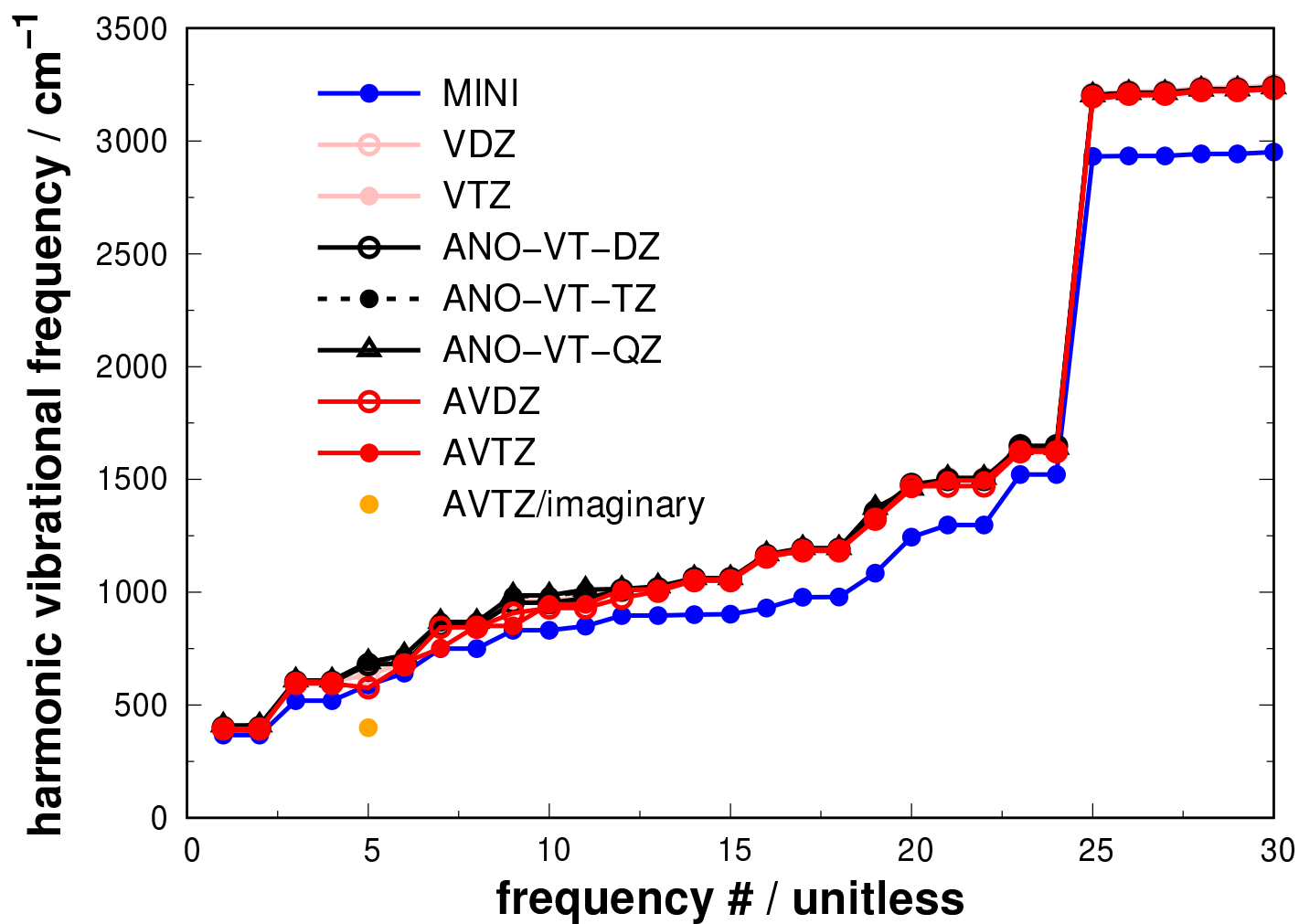
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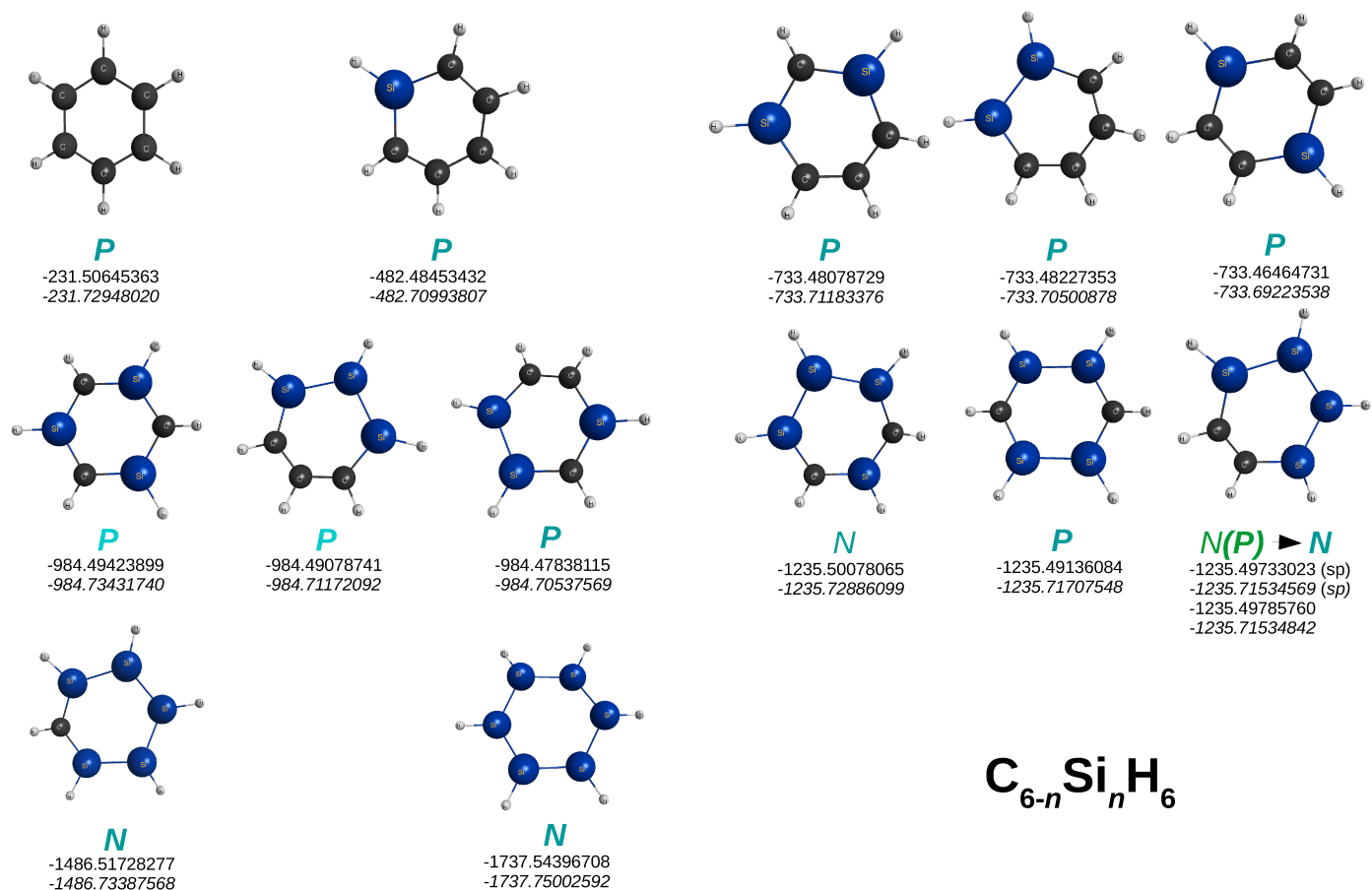
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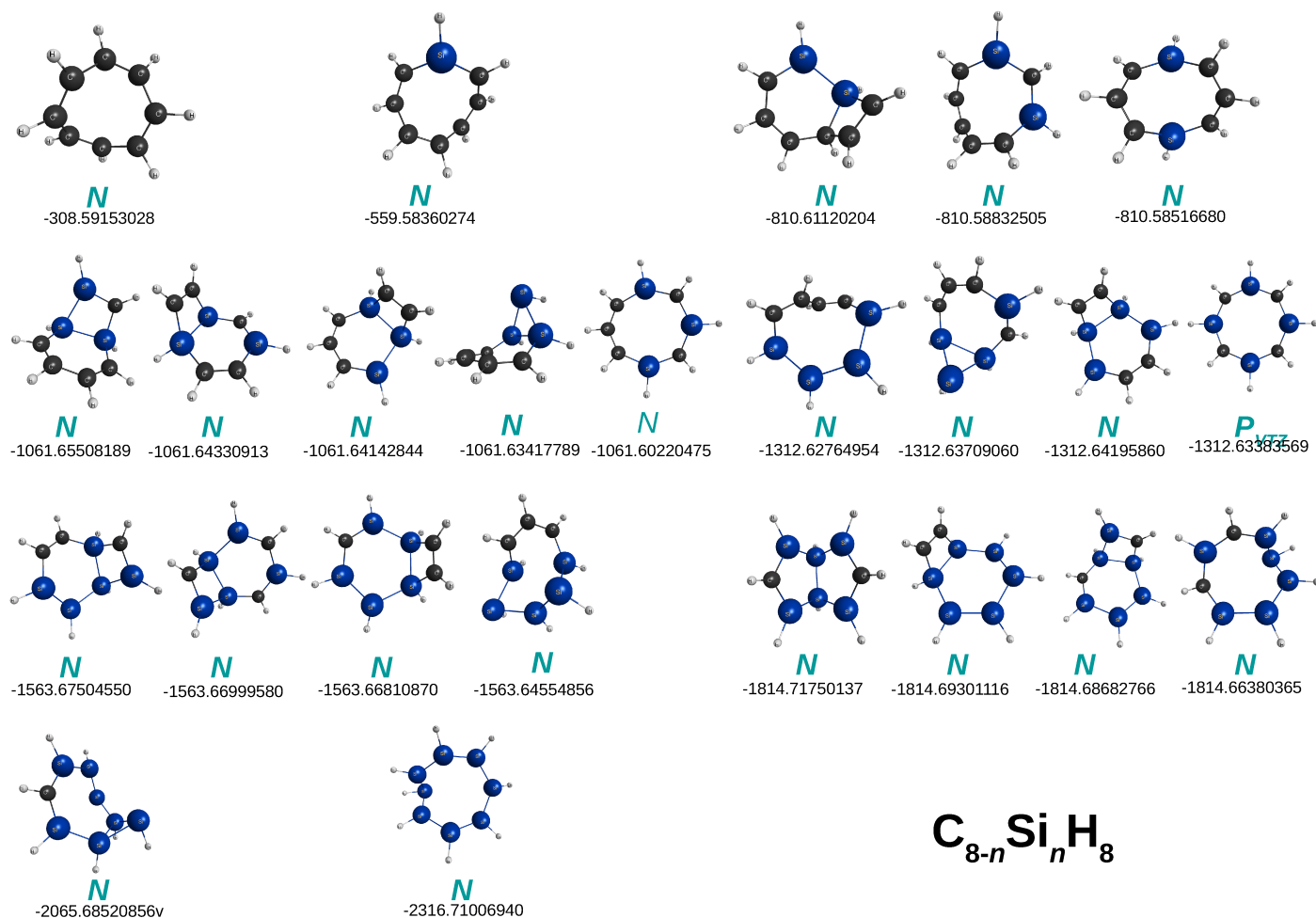
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**Fig. 1** Harmonic vibrational frequencies calculated in the present work for benzene at the MP2 level with MINI, VxZ, AVxZ, and ANO-VT-XZ basis sets (see the text).



**Fig. 2** Actual optimized structures for benzene and its E-derivatives. The optimized energies (in hartree,  $E_h$ ) here calculated at the MP2/VDZ level of theory are in roman, the MP2/VTZ ones in italic. Signaled by  $N(\mathbf{P}) \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  is the fact that the indicated structure varies from weakly nonplanar (light-italic N) to nonplanar at MP2/VDZ level of theory when transitioning from the saddle point to the nearby minimum structure. Note that the saddle point structure is perfectly planar even when MP2/V(T+d)Z optimized. Notation as in Figure 1 of the text.



**Fig. 3** Actual optimized structures for COT and its E-derivatives. The optimized energies (in  $E_h$ ) here calculated at the MP2/VTZ level of theory are also indicated. Notation as in Figure 1 of the text.