Supporting information for:

## A solvent-mediated conformational switch in sulfanilamide

S. Mato,<sup>[a]</sup> R. Aguado,<sup>[a]</sup> S. Mata,<sup>[a]</sup> J. L. Alonso,<sup>[a]</sup> I. León,\*<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Grupo de Espectroscopía Molecular (GEM), Edificio Quifima, Laboratorios de Espectroscopia y Bioespectroscopia, Unidad Asociada CSIC, Parque Científico UVa, Universidad de Valladolid, 47011 Valladolid, Spain.

\*Corresponding Author: Iker León Ona, <u>ileon@uva.es</u> phones: +34 983 186344 / +34 983 186349 web: http://www.gem.uva.es/ **Figure SI01.** LA-CP-FTMW rotational spectrum of sulfanilamide in the 6-14 GHz frequency range. The red stars indicate the rotational transitions of the monomer, while a few selected transitions of its water cluster are highlighted using blue triangle marks to illustrate the difference in intensity



**Table SI01.** Measured frequencies and residuals (in MHz) for the rotational transitions of rotamer I, corresponding to the e-d conformer, using the LA-CP-FTMW spectrometer.

J'	$K'_{-1}$	$K'_{+1}$	J''	$K''_{-1}$	$K''_{\!\scriptscriptstyle +1}$	Vobs	Vobs - Vcal
1	1	0	0	0	0	3175.558	-0.064
2	1	1	1	1	0	2208.585	0.039
2	1	1	1	0	1	4305.700	0.033
3	0	3	2	0	2	3231.695	-0.042
3	1	3	2	1	2	3157.551	0.042
3	1	2	2	1	1	3312.222	0.010
3	2	1	2	2	0	3239,375	0.014
3	2	2	2	2	1	3235.518	0.014
3	1	2	2	0	2	5461 852	0.013
4	0	4	3	Ő	3	4304 363	-0.044
4	1	4	3	1	3	4209 059	0.031
4	1	3	3	1	2	4415 175	0.040
4	2	3	3	2	2	4313 251	-0.006
4	2	3	4	1	3	5958 213	0.067
5	0	5	4	Ō	4	5373 322	-0.048
5	1	5	4	1	4	5259 590	0.034
5	1	4	4	1	3	5517 008	-0.030
5	2	2		2	2	5400 582	0.050
5	2	 ∕	4	2	2	5409.362	0.078
5	2	т 2	т 1	2	2	5390.339	-0.010
5 F	د ۸	с r	4 1	د ۸	1	5393./02	
5	4	2	4	4	1	5394.043	-0.001
5	2	4	5	1	4	5031.44/	-0.029
6	0	6	5	0	5	6437.663	-0.045
6	1	6	5	1	5	6308.940	-0.051
6	2	5	5	2	4	6466.643	-0.037
6	2	5	6	1	5	5680.448	-0.082
7	2	6	7	1	6	5505.994	0.002
8	2	7	8	1	7	5308.782	0.033
9	2	8	9	1	8	5089.941	0.005
10	2	9	10	1	9	4850.980	-0.002
11	2	10	11	1	10	4593.660	0.003
12	2	11	12	1	11	4320.141	0.010
6	2	4	5	2	3	6499.966	-0.003
6	1	5	5	1	4	6617.646	0.028
7	1	7	6	1	6	7357.157	-0.005
7	0	7	6	0	6	7496.702	0.001
7	2	6	6	2	5	7542.059	0.037
7	2	5	6	2	4	7594.869	0.061
7	3	4	6	3	3	7558.286	0.075
7	3	5	6	3	4	7556.878	0.076
7	4	3	6	4	2	7554.286	-0.009
7	5	3	6	5	2	7552.907	-0.007
7	1	6	6	1	5	7716.553	-0.008
5	1	4	4	ō	4	7858.135	0.226
2	2	0	1	1	0	8346.013	-0.119
2	2	1	1	1	1	8396 418	-0 297
8	1	8	7	1	7	8404 021	0.060
8	ñ	8	, 7	Ô	, 7	8549 908	0.036
8	2	7	, 7	2	, 6	8616 259	0.002
R R	2	, 6	, 7	2	5	8638 163	-0 001
R R	2	5	, 7	2	4	8640 974	-0 003
Q Q	2	5	, 7	2	т 5	8604 262	0.005
Q	<u>د</u> 1	7	7	<u>د</u> 1	5	8812 ADE	-0 006
0 2	1	/	/	U T	U E	0101 674	-0.000 _0 E21
0 ว	L C	5	כ ר	1	5 1	0076 640	-0.001
3	۲ ۱	1	2	1	1	33/0.049 0440 200	-U.284
9	1	9	ð n	1	Х С	9449.290 0526 502	0.019
5	2	2	2	1	2	9526.503	-U.250
9	0	9	8	0	8	9597.005	0.00/
9	2	8	8	2	/	9689.182	-0.03/
9	4	5	8	4	4	9/15.740	-0.044
9	5	5	8	5	4	9/12.782	-0.030
9	3	7	8	3	6	9720.027	-0.018
9	3	6	8	3	5	9725.203	0.016
9	2	7	8	2	6	9798.715	0.081
9	1	8	8	1	7	9908.043	0.009
7	1	6	6	0	6	10381.271	0.242
4	2	2	3	1	2	10387.249	-0.325

10	1	10	9	1	9	10493.089	0.038
10	0	10	9	0	9	10638.225	0.022
4	2	3	3	1	3	10682.478	0.055
10	2	9	9	2	8	10760.763	0.003
10	5	6	9	5	5	10793.254	-0.030
10	4	7	9	4	6	10797.133	-0.079
10	4	6	9	4	5	10797.405	0.007
10	3	8	9	3	7	10802.437	0.049
10	3	7	9	3	6	10811.215	0.052
10	2	8	9	2	7	10907.462	0.092
10	1	9	9	1	8	10999.714	-0.002
5	2	3	4	1	3	11381.920	-0.023
11	1	11	10	1	10	11535.253	0.003
11	0	11	10	0	10	11673.966	0.010
8	1	7	7	0	7	11698.074	0.245
11	2	10	10	2	9	11830.726	-0.007
5	2	4	4	1	4	11863.805	0.041
11	6	5	10	6	4	11871.301	-0.060
11	5	7	10	5	6	11874.133	-0.024
11	4	8	10	4	7	11879.319	-0.013
11	3	9	10	3	8	11885.108	0.005
11	3	8	10	3	7	11899.301	0.026
11	2	9	10	2	8	12019.995	0.090
11	1	10	10	1	9	12088.032	-0.026
6	2	4	5	1	4	12364.439	-0.441
12	1	12	11	1	11	12575.869	-0.007
12	0	12	11	0	11	12705.011	-0.012
12	2	11	11	2	10	12898.961	-0.039
12	5	8	11	5	7	12955.369	-0.103
12	4	9	11	4	8	12962.091	-0.008
12	4	8	11	4	7	12962.768	-0.024
12	3	10	11	3	9	12968.050	-0.016
12	3	9	11	3	8	12989.899	-0.035
9	1	8	8	0	8	13056.330	0.339
6	2	5	5	1	5	13070.948	0.060
12	2	10	11	2	9	13135.328	0.045
12	1	11	11	1	10	13172.444	-0.084
7	2	5	6	1	5	13342.059	-0.010
3	3	0	2	2	0	13591.955	0.238
13	1	13	12	1	12	13614.978	0.012
13	0	13	12	0	12	13732.320	-0.039
13	2	12	12	2	11	13965.376	-0.055

**Figure SI02.** A section of the experimental broadband rotational spectrum of sulfanilamide showing the  $8_{08} \leftarrow 7_{07}$  rotational transition for the <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>34</sup>S isotopologues of the eclipsed conformer of SA.



 $K'_{+1}$  $K''_{-1}$  $K''_{+1}$  $K'_{-1}$ J''J'Vobs Vobs - Vcal 4180.469 -0.037 5336.377 -0.007 5223.998 0.046 5 6 6 5477.823 0.001 5352.895 0.004 5 5 6393.617 0.003 -0.013 6266.322 6421.772 -0.005 7 7 7445.715 0.018 7489.677 -0.046 7541.061 0.067 7661.922 0.027 8347.451 0.094 8492.080 0.017 8556.652 0.074 0.038 8751.230 9385.742 0.006 9532.567 0.049 9622.184 -0.016 9728.670 0.093 0.010 9838.173 10422.628 0.018 10567.213 0.052 10686.417 -0.024 10735.322 0.019 0.045 10829.123 10922.369 -0.006 -0.029 11457.914 11596.446 0.022 -0.015 11749.144 11815.600 0.009 11933.380 0.025 12491.707 -0.030 12621.048 0.013 12810.173 -0.046 12877.363 -0.051 12898.272 -0.062 13040.533 0.030 -0.023 13080.573 13524.012 -0.013 13641.922 0.027 13869.459 -0.035 8577.896 0.031 8580.546 -0.008 10726.913 -0.000 -0.031 11802.006 12003.323 -0.034 -0.040 13952.857 13983.914 -0.043

**Table SI02.** Measured frequencies and residuals (in MHz) for the rotational transitions of the <sup>34</sup>S isotopomer of rotamer I, corresponding to the e-d conformer, using the LA-CP-FTMW spectrometer.

J'	$K'_{-1}$	$K'_{+1}$	J''	$K''_{-1}$	$K''_{+1}$	Vobs	Vobs - Vcal
6	1	6	5	1	5	6299.407	-0.029
5	1	4	4	1	3	5512.680	-0.038
5	2	3	4	2	2	5404.192	-0.011
5	0	5	4	0	4	5366.679	-0.023
4	1	4	3	1	3	4202.741	-0.027
8	0	8	7	0	7	8537.560	0.034
8	1	8	7	1	7	8391.008	0.056
8	1	7	7	1	6	8806.062	0.019
9	1	9	8	1	8	9434.502	0.034
9	0	9	8	0	8	9582.456	0.041
9	2	8	8	2	7	9677.780	-0.097
9	1	8	8	1	7	9899.330	-0.015
10	1	10	9	1	9	10476.405	0.011
10	0	10	9	0	9	10621.322	0.057
10	2	8	9	2	7	10899.642	0.017
10	1	9	9	1	8	10989.671	-0.001
11	1	11	10	1	10	11516.677	-0.027
11	0	11	10	0	10	11654.645	0.044
11	2	10	10	2	9	11816.371	-0.061
11	2	9	10	2	8	12011.893	0.028
11	1	10	10	1	9	12076.479	-0.032
12	1	12	11	1	11	12555.363	-0.042
12	0	12	11	0	11	12683.287	0.037
12	2	10	11	2	9	13126.909	0.034
7	0	7	6	0	6	7486.450	0.019
7	2	6	6	2	5	7533.433	0.006
7	2	5	6	2	4	7588.246	0.077
7	1	6	6	1	5	7710.262	0.032
8	2	7	7	2	6	8606.317	0.006
10	2	9	9	2	8	10747.937	-0.030
10	3	7	9	3	6	10800.409	0.011
11	3	9	10	3	8	11872.726	0.019
12	2	11	11	2	10	12883.078	-0.050
12	3	9	11	3	8	12977.742	-0.042
13	0	13	12	0	12	13708.183	-0.036

**Table SI03.** Measured frequencies and residuals (in MHz) for the rotational transitions of the  ${}^{13}C_2$  (= ${}^{13}C_6$  due to symmetry) isotopomer of rotamer I, corresponding to the e-d conformer, using the LA-CP-FTMW spectrometer.

J'	$K'_{-1}$	$K'_{+1}$	J''	$K''_{-1}$	$K''_{+1}$	Vobs	Vobs - Vcal
5	1	5	4	1	4	5231.762	0.012
5	0	5	4	0	4	5345.9831	-0.038
5	1	4	4	1	3	5490.7481	-0.010
6	1	6	5	1	5	6275.511	-0.065
6	0	6	5	0	5	6404.635	-0.047
7	0	7	6	0	6	7457.942	0.030
7	2	6	6	2	5	7504.210	0.070
8	0	8	7	0	7	8505.245	0.029
8	1	8	7	1	7	8359.318	0.049
8	1	7	7	1	6	8771.176	0.017
9	1	9	8	1	8	9398.937	0.030
9	0	9	8	0	8	9546.392	0.001
9	1	8	8	1	7	9860.267	0.030
10	0	10	9	0	9	10581.626	0.038
10	1	10	9	1	9	10436.975	-0.001
10	2	9	9	2	8	10706.315	-0.049
11	1	11	10	1	10	11473.428	-0.020
11	0	11	10	0	10	11611.354	0.046
11	2	10	10	2	9	11770.760	-0.013
11	1	10	10	1	9	12029.102	-0.028
12	1	12	11	1	11	12508.327	-0.003
12	0	12	11	0	11	12636.335	-0.016
8	3	6	7	3	5	8595.227	-0.010
8	2	6	7	2	5	8652.605	0.080
9	2	8	8	2	7	9640.332	-0.023
10	2	8	9	2	7	10855.718	0.035
12	2	11	11	2	10	12833.397	-0.047
12	3	10	11	3	9	12903.790	0.005
12	3	9	11	3	8	12926.387	-0.026
13	1	13	12	1	12	13541.653	-0.007
13	0	13	12	0	12	13657.723	0.018
13	2	12	12	2	11	13894.190	-0.051

**Table SI04.** Measured frequencies and residuals (in MHz) for the rotational transitions of the  ${}^{13}C_3$  (= ${}^{13}C_5$  due to symmetry) isotopomer of rotamer I, corresponding to the e-d conformer, using the LA-CP-FTMW spectrometer.

J'	$K'_{-1}$	$K'_{+1}$	J''	$K''_{-1}$	$K''_{+1}$	Vobs	Vobs - Vcal
7	0	7	6	0	6	7439.174	-0.001
8	0	8	7	0	7	8484.741	0.075
9	0	9	8	0	8	9524.308	0.045
9	1	8	8	1	7	9829.338	0.069
10	1	10	9	1	9	10413.578	0.006
10	0	10	9	0	9	10558.100	0.039
10	1	9	9	1	8	10912.561	0.032
11	1	11	10	1	10	11447.997	-0.026
11	0	11	10	0	10	11586.490	0.003
12	1	12	11	1	11	12480.912	-0.027
12	0	12	11	0	11	12610.230	-0.029
8	1	8	7	1	7	8340.138	0.041
8	1	7	7	1	6	8743.293	0.028
10	2	9	9	2	8	10676.909	-0.040
11	2	10	10	2	9	11738.734	-0.004
12	2	11	11	2	10	12798.848	-0.027
12	3	9	11	3	8	12886.663	0.010
12	1	11	11	1	10	13068.773	-0.114

**Table SI05.** Measured frequencies and residuals (in MHz) for the rotational transitions of the  ${}^{13}C_4$  isotopomer of rotamer I, corresponding to the e-d conformer, using the LA-CP-FTMW spectrometer.

**Figure SI03.** The predicted lowest-energy conformers of glutamine in energetical order from lowest to highest. The first and third lines have the "down" configurations, while the third and fourth lines have their corresponding conformer but with the "up" configuration. The labels are shown in the bottom together with the calculated  $\Delta E_{ZPE}$  values in cm<sup>-1</sup>.



**Table SI06.** Calculated spectroscopic parameters for the lowest energy conformers of sulfanilamide-water cluster. All the calculations were done using B3LYP-D3(BJ) with the 6-311++G(d,p) basis set. *A*, *B*, and *C* represent the rotational constants (in MHz);  $\mu_{ar}$ ,  $\mu_{br}$ , and  $\mu_{c}$  are the electric dipole moment components (in D);  $\chi_{aar}$ ,  $\chi_{bbr}$ , and  $\chi_{ccr}$  are the diagonal elements of the <sup>14</sup>N nuclear quadrupole coupling tensor (in MHz); A and S labels make reference to the amino and sulfonil nitrogen atoms, respectively.  $\Delta E$  is the relative energy (in cm<sup>-1</sup>) respect to the global minimum.  $\Delta E_{ZPE}$  is the relative energy (in cm<sup>-1</sup>) calculated at 298 K.

Specie	s-d-WI	s-u-WI	e-d-WII	e-u-WII	e-d-WIII	e-u-WIII	e-d-WIV	e-u-WIV	e-d-WV	e-u-WV	s-d-WVI	s-u-WVI	e-u-WVII	e-u-WVII	e-d-WVIII	e-u-WIX
Aª	1407	1407	1467	1466	1922	1901	1366	1374	1135	1134	1345	1347	1802	1798	1648	1755
В	506	506	475	475	410	412	508	509	534	534	517	517	362	361	375	359
С	404	404	396	396	365	366	470	470	393	393	457	457	323	322	370	359
μ <sub>a</sub>	5.1	5.0	3.4	3.3	5.1	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.0	4.0	8.1	8.0	7.3	7.6	2.0	0.5
µ <sub>b</sub>	2.9	3.0	1.9	2.4	2.6	2.7	0.7	0.7	1.8	1.8	2.4	3.6	0.7	1.2	0.3	1.2
μ <sub>c</sub>	1.4	3.0	0.8	2.4	1.0	2.6	0.0	0.3	0.9	2.5	1.1	2.1	2.1	3.6	0.0	5.6
<sub>Хаа</sub> , NA	2.66	2.49	2.77	2.21	2.69	2.41	2.70	2.56	2.56	2.61	2.74	2.46	2.59	2.54	1.71	1.39
<i><sub>Хьь</sub>, NA</i>	2.18	2.26	1.67	1.93	2.16	2.24	-4.92	-4.45	2.22	2.22	-2.46	-2.18	1.98	1.96	-3.69	1.73
χ <sub>cc</sub> ,NA	-4.83	-4.75	-4.44	-4.14	-4.85	-4.65	2.22	1.89	-4.78	-4.84	-0.28	-0.28	-4.58	-4.50	1.98	-3.13
$\chi_{aa},NS$	-3.99	-3.99	-2.35	-2.37	-1.73	-1.83	-3.09	-3.08	-2.80	-2.86	-4.55	-4.57	-2.89	-3.38	-4.39	-1.27
$\chi_{bb},NS$	0.78	0.78	1.30	1.30	-0.77	-0.54	1.65	1.57	0.19	0.25	1.89	1.86	1.16	1.12	2.78	1.52
χ <sub>cc</sub> ,NS	3.21	3.21	1.05	1.07	2.50	2.38	1.45	1.51	2.61	2.61	2.66	2.71	1.73	2.26	1.61	-0.25
∆E <sup>¢</sup>	0	41	154	159	243	263	1144	1131	1175	1201	1302	1379	1644	1682	1905	1933
$\Delta E_{ZPE}^{c}$	0	28	55	59	114	128	870	900	924	947	1091	1157	1237	1259	1633	1659
$\Delta G'$	283	304	0	3	18	6	1144	800	642	691	1008	1103	665	693	784	729

**Table SI07.** Measured frequencies and residuals (in MHz) for the rotational transitions of rotamer II, corresponding to the s-WI conformer, using the LA-CP-FTMW spectrometer.

J'	$K'_{-1}$	$K'_{+1}$	J''	$K''_{-1}$	$K''_{+1}$	Vobs	Vobs - Vcal
7	3	4	6	3	3	6448.807	0.213
7	2	5	6	2	4	6635.755	0.069
8	0	8	7	0	7	6813.917	0.098
8	2	7	7	2	6	7170.192	0.006
8	3	6	7	3	5	7318.686	0.039
8	3	5	7	3	4	7408.802	0.013
8	1	/	/	1	6	/462.613	0.014
3	5	1	2	2	0	/50/.8/3	-0.026
6	2	9	0 5	1	8 4	7565 108	-0.040
9	0	9	8	Ō	8	7610.924	0.069
8	2	6	7	2	5	7616.914	0.009
9	2	8	8	2	7	8035.138	0.011
7	2	6	6	1	5	8184.506	0.107
9	3	7	8	3	6	8232.431	-0.009
9	4	6	8	4	5	8245.525	0.066
9	4	5	8	4	4	8257.785	0.040
9 10	1	0 10	ð	1	0	8317.371	-0.032
10	1	10	9	1	9	8378 405	-0.051
9	3	6	8	3	5	8387.216	0.061
4	3	2	3	2	1	8399.474	0.117
4	3	1	3	2	1	8402.269	0.156
10	0	10	9	0	9	8409.605	-0.001
4	3	2	3	2	2	8438.717	-0.202
4	3	1	3	2	2	8441.640	-0.036
9	2	7	8	2	6	8585.915	-0.023
10	2	9	9	2	87	8890.802	0.056
10	5 1	0 0	9	5 1	/ 8	9140.957	-0.015
11	0	11	10	1	10	9160.437	-0.023
11	1	11	10	1	10	9190.790	-0.037
10	4	6	9	4	5	9199.311	-0.017
11	0	11	10	0	10	9210.552	-0.051
11	1	11	10	0	10	9240.951	-0.019
5	3	3	4	2	2	9260.327	-0.023
5	3	2	4	2	2	9271.376	0.069
10	3	2	9	3 7	5	9382.449	0.005
10	2	2	9	2	7	9537 288	-0.010
11	2	10	10	2	9	9737.294	0.039
11	1	10	10	1	9	9952.645	-0.019
12	0	12	11	1	11	9983.194	0.008
12	1	12	11	1	11	10001.277	-0.029
12	0	12	11	0	11	10013.484	-0.069
12	1	12	11	0	11	10031.564	-0.107
11 6	3	9	10	3 7	8	10042.403	0.008
11	4	4 8	10	2 4	5	10102 382	-0.020
6	3	3	5	2	3	10102.302	0.007
11	4	7	10	4	6	10152.441	0.050
4	4	1	3	3	0	10334.808	-0.027
4	4	0	3	3	1	10335.223	-0.023
6	3	4	5	2	4	10336.364	-0.036
6	3	3	5	2	4	10368.892	0.033
11	3	8	10	3	7	10388.806	-0.001
11 10	2	9 11	10	2	ბ 10	10400.0/0 10575 206	-0.045
12	∠ 1	11	11	∠ 1	10	10745 478	0.025 -0.035
13	Ň	13	12	1	12	10799 821	-0.009
13	1	13	12	1	12	10810.510	-0.001
13	Ō	13	12	Ō	12	10817.915	-0.034
7	3	5	6	2	4	10825.118	0.044
13	1	13	12	0	12	10828.609	-0.021
7	3	4	6	2	4	10904.655	0.045
12	3	10	11	3	9	10935.301	0.029
12	5	8	11	5	7	11008.614	-0.033

12	4	8	11	4	7	11120.061	-0 043
5	4	2	4	ד 2	1	1120.001	-0.043
5	4	1	4	3	2	11246 518	0.017
7	3	5	6	2	5	11324 319	-0.021
12	2	10	11	2	9	11370 891	-0.046
12	3	9	11	3	8	11396 787	0.008
7	3	4	6	2	5	11403 887	0.005
13	2	12	12	2	11	11405 775	-0.014
8	3	6	7	2	5	11508.059	0.031
13	1	12	12	1	11	11532.615	0.070
14	1	14	13	1	13	11618.904	0.016
14	0	14	13	0	13	11623.347	0.011
14	1	14	13	Ō	13	11629.569	0.000
8	3	5	7	2	5	11677.631	-0.082
13	5	8	12	5	7	11955.524	0.031
13	4	10	12	4	9	11957.485	0.006
13	4	9	12	4	8	12105.241	0.032
6	4	3	5	3	2	12146.987	0.012
6	4	2	5	3	3	12158.848	0.194
14	2	13	13	2	12	12229.949	-0.009
13	2	11	12	2	10	12246.158	-0.056
14	1	13	13	1	12	12319.950	0.095
8	3	6	7	2	6	12346.873	0.024
13	3	10	12	3	9	12396.105	-0.041
15	0	15	14	1	14	12423.178	0.042
15	1	15	14	1	14	12426.767	0.026
15	0	15	14	0	14	12429.390	0.021
14	3	12	13	3	11	12691.288	-0.038
14	4	11	13	4	10	12879.840	-0.007
14	5	9	13	5	8	12903.790	-0.097
15	2	14	14	2	13	13049.021	-0.019
14	2	12	13	2	11	13091.330	-0.002
5	5	0	4	4	1	13157.779	-0.034
16	1	16	15	1	15	13234.326	0.054
16	0	16	15	0	15	13235.863	0.056
14	3	11	13	3	10	13378.397	-0.068
16	1	15	15	1	14	13904.817	0.040
15	2	13	14	2	12	13908.189	-0.003
8	4	5	7	3	4	13909.923	-0.093
8	4	4	7	3	4	13917.835	-0.038

J'	<i>K</i> ′ <sub>-1</sub>	<i>K</i> ′ <sub>+1</sub>	ľ	F	J''	<i>K</i> ″ <sub>-1</sub>	<i>K</i> ″ <sub>+1</sub>	Ι΄΄	F''	Vobs	Vobs - Vcal
3	1	2	2	3	2	0	2	1	2	5462.734	0.003
3	1	2	3	2	2	0	2	2	1	5460.758	0.001
3	1	2	3	3	2	0	2	3	2	5460.914	0.003
3	1	2	3	4	2	0	2	3	3	5462.309	-0.002
3	1	3	4	3	2	0	2	3	2	5462.115	0.001
3	1	3	4	3	2	0	2	3	3	5462.866	-0.000
3	1	3	4	4	2	0	2	3	3	5461.958	-0.004
3	1	3	4	5	2	0	2	3	4	5461.910	-0.003
4	1	4	3	2	3	1	3	2	1	4209.095	0.002
4	1	4	4	4	3	1	3	3	3	4208.993	-0.005
4	1	4	4	4	3	1	3	3	4	4209.144	-0.002
4	1	4	5	5	3	1	3	4	4	4208.900	0.001
4	1	4	5	6	3	1	3	4	5	4209.007	0.003
4	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	4312.841	-0.003
4	2	3	3	4	3	2	2	3	4	4313.105	-0.005
4	2	3	4	3	3	2	2	3	3	4313.671	-0.002
4	2	3	4	5	3	2	2	3	4	4313.593	-0.000
4	2	3	5	4	3	2	2	3	3	4313.407	0.002
4	2	3	5	5	3	2	2	4	4	4312.924	-0.002
4	2	3	5	6	3	2	2	4	5	4313.256	0.001
5	0	5	4	5	4	0	4	3	4	5373.424	0.002
5	0	5	5	4	4	0	4	4	3	5373.404	0.004
5	0	5	5	6	4	0	4	4	5	5373.438	0.003
5	0	5	6	6	4	0	4	5	5	5373.331	-0.003
5	0	5	6	7	4	0	4	5	6	5373.350	0.000
5	2	3	4	4	4	2	2	3	3	5409.331	-0.001
5	2	3	4	5	4	2	2	3	4	5409.511	-0.001
5	2	3	5	4	4	2	2	4	3	5409.663	0.001
5	2	3	5	5	4	2	2	4	4	5409.463	0.001
5	2	3	5	6	4	2	2	4	5	5409.643	0.000
5	2	3	6	6	4	2	2	5	5	5409.345	-0.000
5	2	3	6	7	4	2	2	5	6	5409.526	0.003

**Table SI08.** Measured frequencies and residuals (in MHz) for the nuclear quadrupole coupling hyperfine components of the rotamer I, corresponding to the e-d conformer, using the LA-MB-FTMW spectrometer.





**Figure SI05.** Comparison of the intensity dependence of selected *a*-type transitions of rotamer I, corresponding to the e-d conformer, using different polarization levels: a) 1dBm and b) -6.5 dBm



**Figure SI06**. (a) Relaxed PES rotating the C-C-N-H dihedral angle of SA. This scan shows that the interconversion between the *up* and *down* conformers is lower than 100 cm<sup>-1</sup>. (b) Relaxed PES rotating the C-S-N-H dihedral angle of SA. This scan shows that the interconversion between the *staggered* and *eclipsed* conformers is higher than 1000 cm<sup>-1</sup>. (c) Interconversion between the staggered and eclipsed conformers of SA through the transition state using the qst3 method. All the calculations were done using B3LYP-D3(BJ)/6-311++G(d,p). (b) and (c) show only the relevant portion of the molecule for an easier visualization.



**Figure SI07.** (a)Interconversion between the staggered and eclipsed conformers of SA-Water through the transition state using the qst3 method. (b) Relaxed PES rotating the H-O-H-O dihedral angle of SA-Water. This scan shows that the interconversion between the *e-WI* and *e-WII* conformers is lower than 28 cm<sup>-1</sup>. All the calculations were done using B3LYP-D3(BJ)/6-311++G(d,p).



Specie	Energy/D <sub>0</sub> (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	Method	Reference
SA-WATER staggered	39.0	B3LYP-D3(BJ)/6-311++G(d,p)	This work
SA-WATER eclipsed	33.6	B3LYP-D3(BJ)/6-311++G(d,p)	This work
BA-WATER	37.7	B3LYP-D3(BJ)/6-311++G(d,p)	Ref1 –
			recalculated
Phenol-water	21.33 / 23.9	B3LYP-D3(BJ)/6-311++G(d,p) // MATI <sup>2</sup>	Ref2
Indole-water	15.97 / 20.4	B3LYP-D3(BJ)/6-311++G(d,p) // MATI <sup>2</sup>	Ref2

 Table SI09.
 Comparison of the bond strengths of sulfanilamide-water with similar systems.

## **REFERENCES:**

- 1. Schnitzler, E. G. & Jäger, W. The benzoic acid–water complex: a potential atmospheric nucleation precursor studied using microwave spectroscopy and ab initio calculations. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **16**, 2305–2314 (2014).
- Braun, J. E., Mehnert, T. H. & Neusser, H. J. Binding energy of van der Waals- and hydrogen-bonded clusters by threshold ionization techniques. *Int. J. Mass Spectrom.* 203, 1–18 (2000).