

## Benzylimidazolium Cations as Zeolite Structure-Directing Agents. Differences in Performance Brought About by a Small Change in Size.

Alex Rojas, Luis Gómez-Hortigüela and Miguel A. Cambor

### Electronic Supplementary Information.

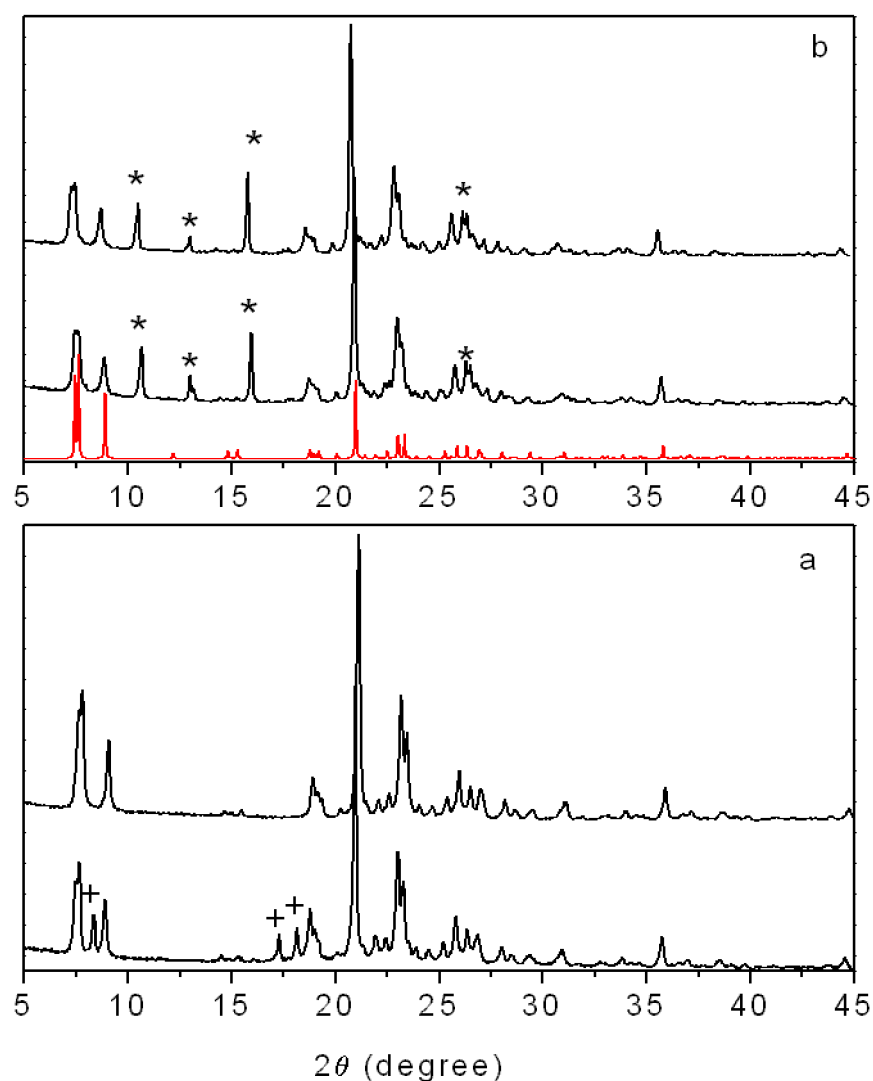
#### Multinuclear magic angle spinning NMR spectroscopy

The spectra of as-made samples were recorded at room temperature on a Bruker AV-400-WB equipment using 4mm ZrO rotors and Kel-F lids spinning at 10kHz for  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{29}\text{Si}$  and 2.5 mm ZrO rotors and Vespel lids spinning at 25kHz for  $^{19}\text{F}$ . The  $^{19}\text{F}$  spectra were acquired at a resonance frequency of 376.45 MHz with a  $\pi/8$  pulse at 60kHz, 75 kHz spectral width, relaxation delay of 20s and are referenced using  $\text{Na}_2\text{SiF}_6$  as a secondary reference (-152.46 ppm referenced to  $\text{CFCl}_3$  at  $\delta = 0$  ppm as primary reference). The  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra were acquired at 100.61 MHz resonance frequency using a CP-MAS sequence, with a  $3\mu\text{s}$   $^1\text{H}$  excitation pulse, 3.5 ms contact time, 4s recycle delay and 35kHz spectral width, using proton decoupling at 80kHz  $\text{tppm15}$  during acquisition. The spectra were referenced to the  $\text{CH}_2$  resonance of adamantane as secondary reference (29.5 ppm with respect to TMS at  $\delta = 0$  ppm as primary reference). The  $^{29}\text{Si}$  spectra were acquired at a resonance frequency of 79.49 MHz with a  $\pi/12$  pulse at 20kHz, spectral width of 15kHz and 60 or 180s relaxation delay, and are referenced using kaolin as a secondary reference (-91.2 ppm, referenced to TMS at  $\delta = 0$  ppm as primary reference).

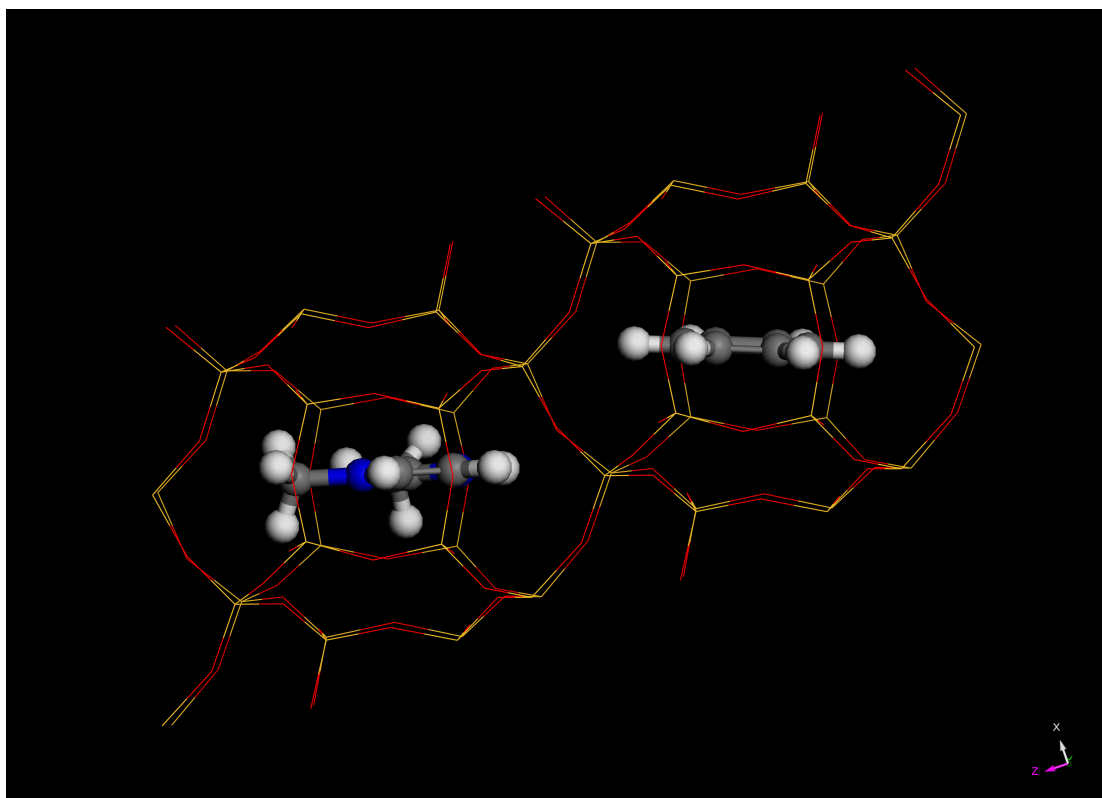
**Table S1. Syntheses with 1,2-dimethylimidazole<sup>a</sup>**

$\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{Si}_2\text{O}$	<i>F source</i>	<i>Time (days)</i>	<i>pH</i>	<i>Phase</i>
21	NH <sub>4</sub> F	7	9	Amorphous
		27	8,7	Amorphous
14,5	HF 48%	6	6,7	Amorphous
		31	6,7	Amorphous + dense
16 <sup>b</sup>	HF 48%	7	6,8	Amorphous
		18	7,0	Amorphous + dense
		33	6,7	dense

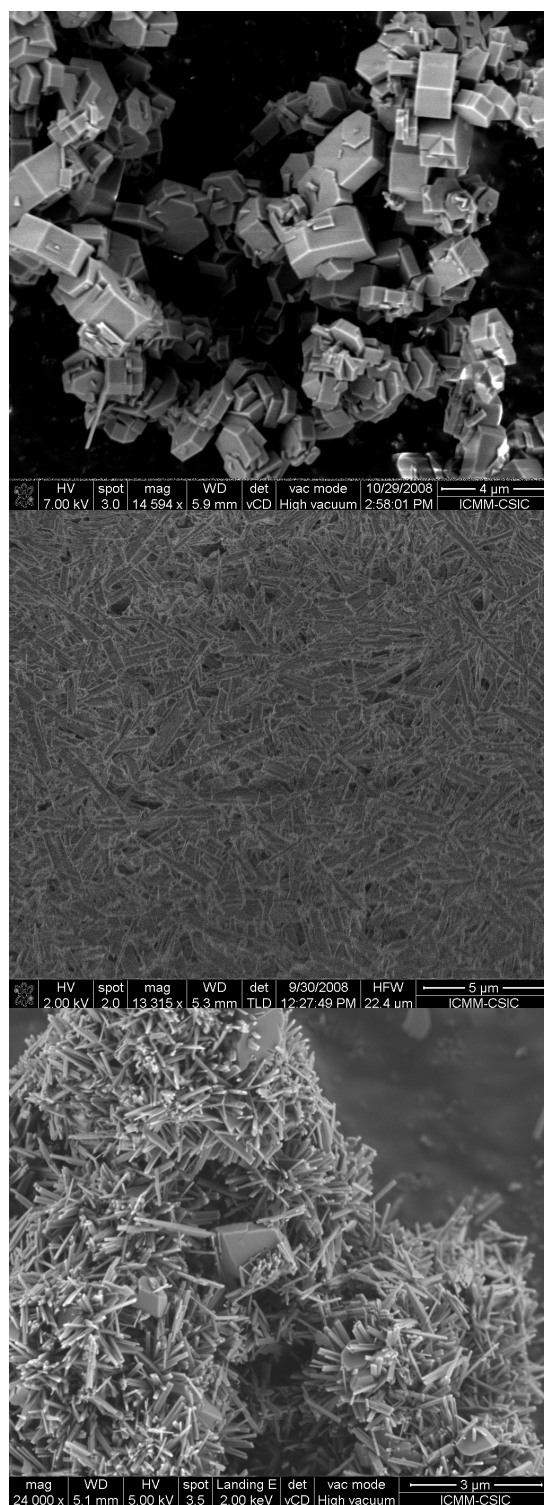
<sup>a</sup> 150°C, composition:  $\text{SiO}_2 : 0.5(1,2\text{-dimethylimidazole}) : 0.5(\text{HF or NH}_4\text{F}) : x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; silica source: fumed silica (Aldrich, 99.8%) <sup>b</sup> with ITW seeds added (2% based on silica).



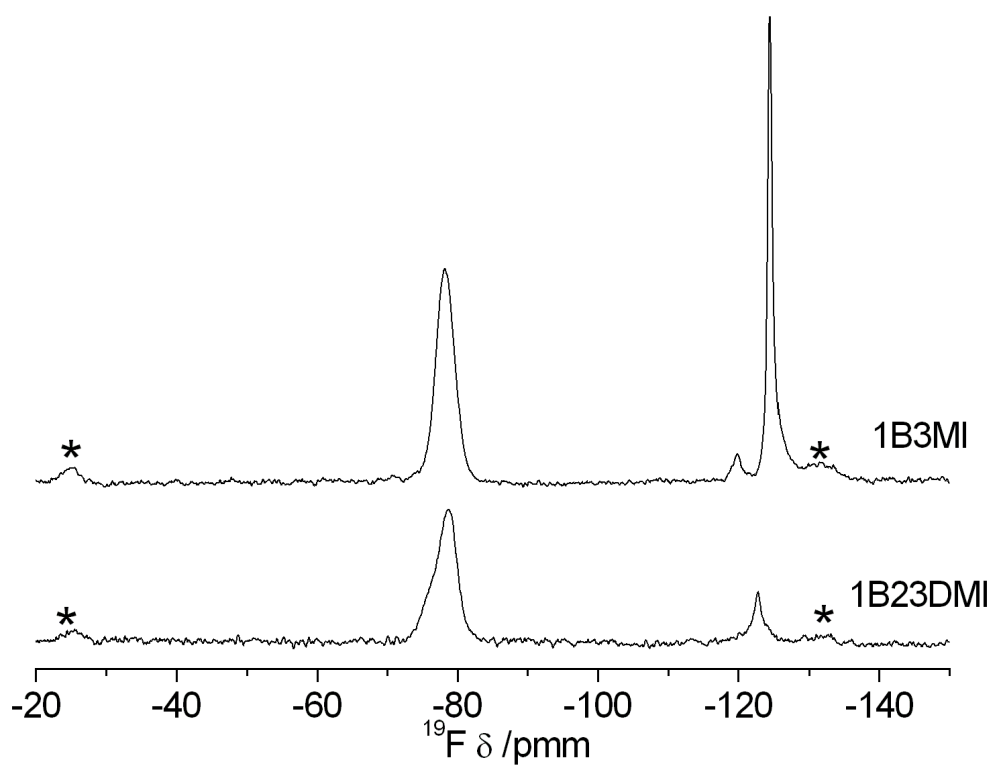
**Fig. S1.** Powder X-Ray Diffraction patterns of the solids obtained at 150°C with 1B23DMI at (a)  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{SiO}_2$  ratio of 5.8 and crystallization time of 11 days before (bottom) and after extensive washing with hot water (top) and (b)  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{SiO}_2$  ratio of 5.3 and crystallization time of 5 days (black bottom trace) and 12 days (top). Most reflections belong to MTW (its simulated pattern is shown in red for comparison), while the ones marked correspond to soluble (+) or ITW (\*) phases.



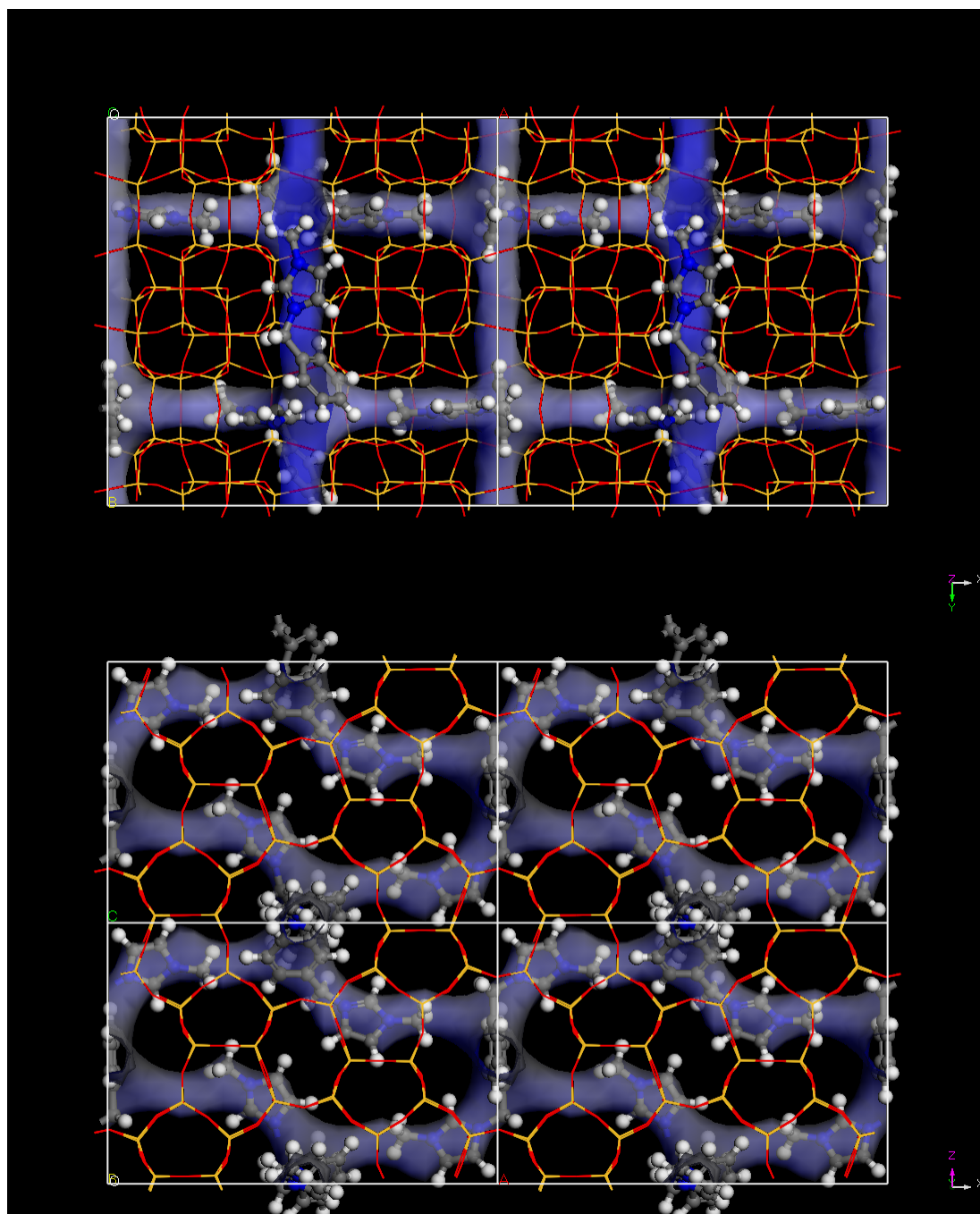
**Fig. S2.** One 1,2-dimethylimidazole and one benzene in close adjacent cavities of ITW, showing they are too far apart and in an unfavourable orientation to be connected through a  $\text{CH}_2$  bridge.



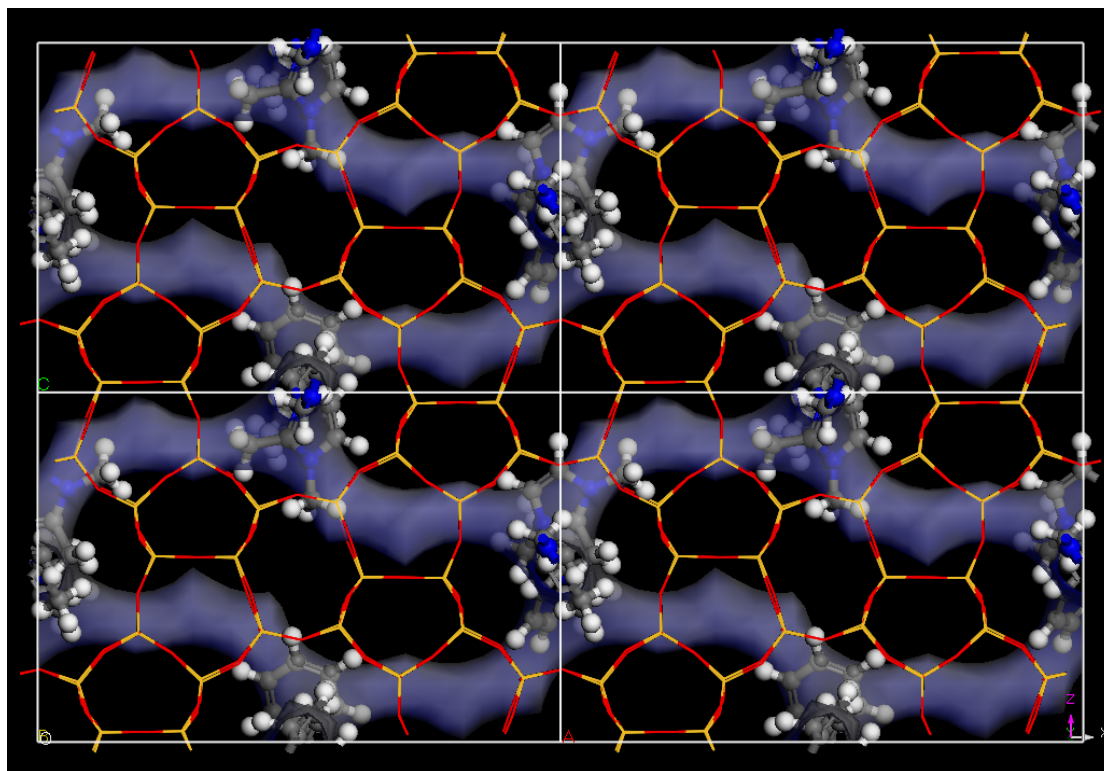
**Fig. S3.** Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy (acquired with a FEI NOVA NANOSEM 230) images of (from top to bottom): 1B3MI-MFI, 1B3MI-MTW and the MTW+ITW mixture obtained with 1B23DMI at a water/silica ratio of 5.3, 150°C, 5 days of crystallization (the crystals with smaller and larger aspect ratio are ITW and MTW, respectively).



**Fig. S4.**  $^{19}\text{F}$  MAS NMR spectra of routinely washed MTW phases (spinning side bands marked with \*)

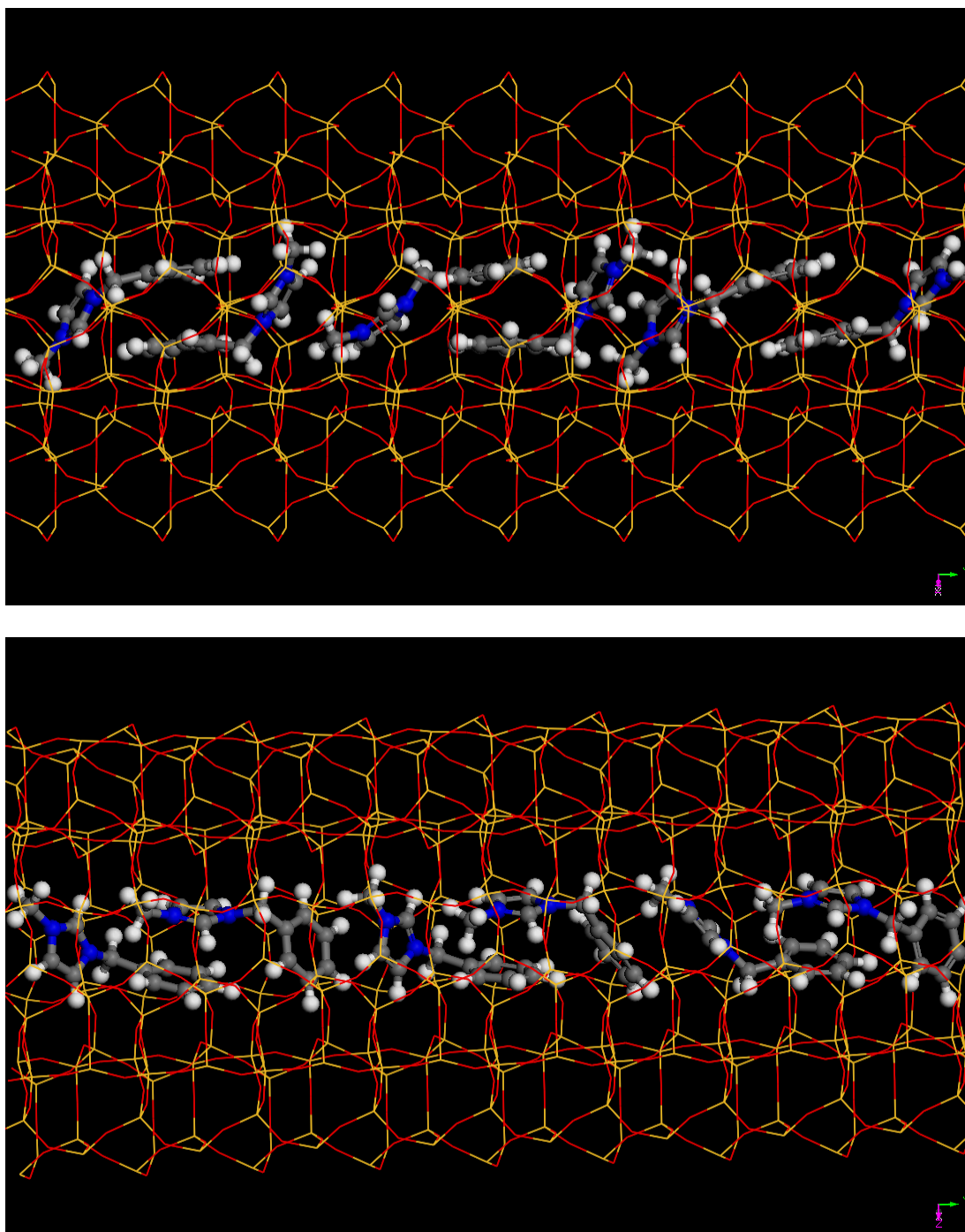


**Fig. S5.** Two views of the optimized location of five 1B3MI cations per unit cell.



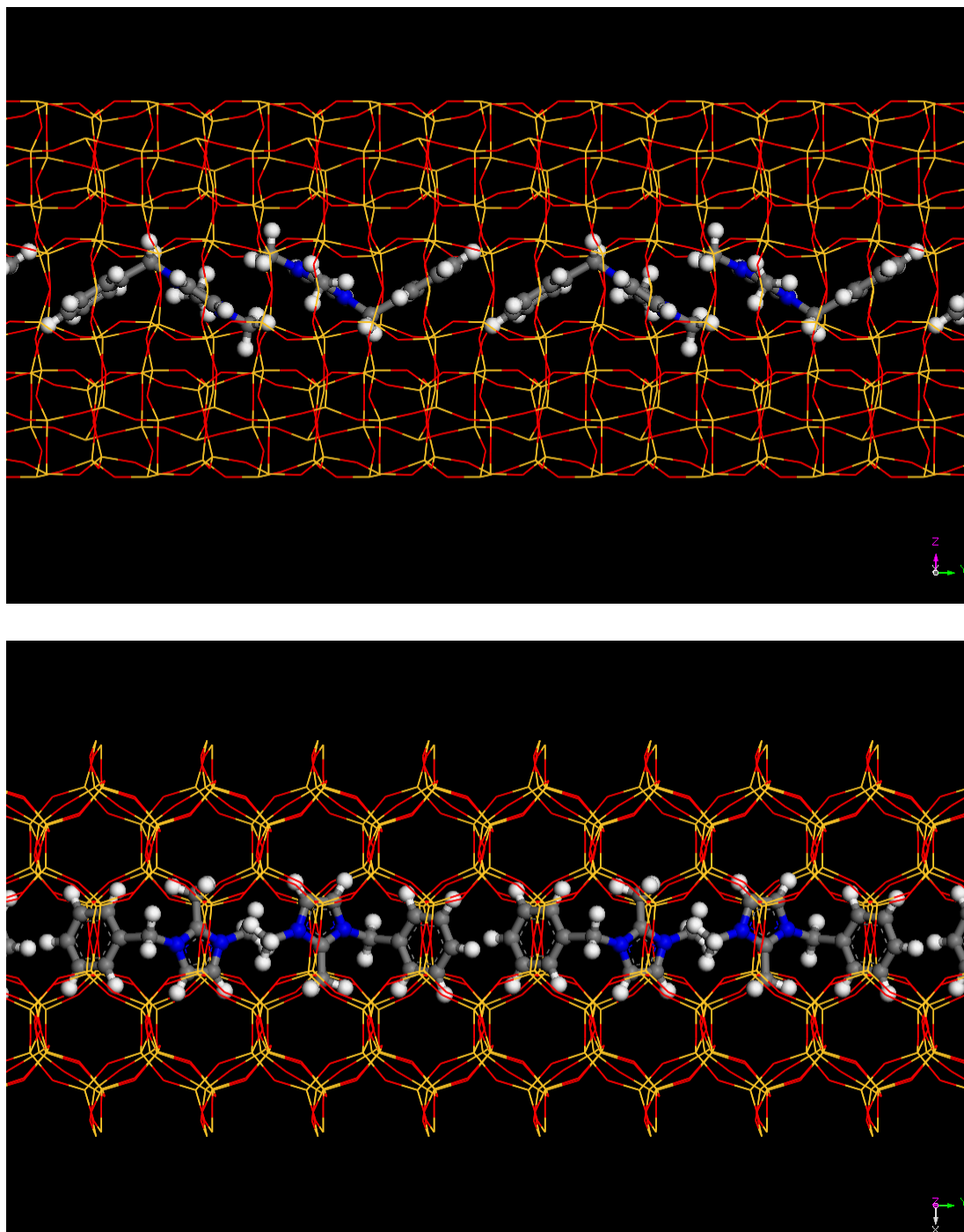
**Fig. S6.** Final location of 1B23DMI cations (oriented as in entry 1, Table 4), with 4 cations per u.c.





**Fig. S7.** Location of 1B3MI cations along the MTW channel under an unfavorable packing value of 3.0 cations per unit cell with head-to-head (top) or head-to-tail (bottom) orientation.





**Fig. S8.** Two views of the location of 1B23DMI cations along the MTW channel under a packing value of 2.0 cations per unit cell with unfavorable head-to-head orientation.