

**Supporting Information**

**Effect of Substituent and Solvent on Cation- $\pi$  Interaction in Benzene and Borazine: A Computational Study**

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**Table S1.**  $\Delta E_{\text{BSSE}}$  corrections at B3LYP and MP2 level calculation in gas phase

	B3LYP			MP2		
	6-31+G(d)	6-31++G(d,p)	6-311++G(d,p)	6-31+G(d)	6-31++G(d,p)	6-311++G(d,p)
Benzene -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.51	0.57	0.56	4.47	4.27	3.90
Benzene -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.40	0.50	0.72	3.78	3.70	2.99
Benzene -K <sup>+</sup>	0.29	0.3	0.32	2.33	2.62	2.17
Benzene-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.45	0.57	0.32	2.11	2.94	2.51
Benzene-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.78	0.78	0.84	4.06	3.68	2.88
Benzene -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.49	0.49	0.37	3.75	3.77	2.43
Benzene-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.75	0.74	0.69	4.24	3.90	3.65
Benzene-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.88	0.97	0.89	3.84	3.59	2.91
Benzene -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.64	0.68	0.41	4.29	4.48	2.50
Borazine -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.62	0.56	0.40	3.17	2.84	2.22
Borazine -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.56	0.58	0.55	2.98	2.68	1.63
Borazine -K <sup>+</sup>	0.37	0.37	0.16	2.66	2.83	1.56
Borazine-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.73	0.65	0.46	3.38	2.97	2.76
Borazine-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.82	0.77	0.70	3.48	3.12	2.13
Borazine -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.61	0.64	0.23	4.21	4.68	2.25
Borazine -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.93	0.78	0.66	3.51	3.12	2.86
Borazine-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	1.02	0.94	0.82	3.70	3.24	2.28
Borazine -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.63	0.62	0.25	4.19	4.50	2.26
Borazine -(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.64	0.61	0.46	2.93	2.80	2.00
Borazine-(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.63	0.59	0.63	2.14	2.08	1.69
Borazine -(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.44	0.46	0.31	2.93	3.02	1.85

**Table S2.** BSSE corrected cation- $\pi$  interaction energy (in kcal/mol) of borazine and their substituted derivatives in different solvent medium at B3LYP/6-31++G(d,p) level of calculation.

Compounds	Interaction Energy, $\Delta E$		
	Benzene	Acetone	Water
Borazine -Li <sup>+</sup>	-0.95	15.26	16.43
Borazine -Na <sup>+</sup>	-1.18	7.80	8.39
Borazine -K <sup>+</sup>	-1.56	3.51	3.84
Borazine-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	-6.36	12.79	14.24
Borazine-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	-4.61	6.58	7.36
Borazine -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	-2.75	4.25	4.75
Borazine -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	-15.54	8.79	10.90
Borazine-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	-12.47	3.92	5.36
Borazine -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	-10.64	0.72	1.77
Borazine -(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	24.87	26.17	25.47
Borazine-(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	19.74	15.91	14.90
Borazine -(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	15.43	10.95	10.09

**Table S3.** Correlation values ( $R^2$ ) between Hammett constant ( $\sigma_m$ ,  $\sigma_p$  and  $\Sigma\sigma_m+\sigma_p$ ) and interaction energies ( $\Delta E$ ). The values of Hammett constants are taken from ref (45). and those of interaction energies

Cation-pi Complexes	Substit -uents	$\sigma_m$	$\sigma_p$	$\Sigma\sigma_m+\sigma_p$	$R^2$ values for plot of $\Delta E$ against											
					Gas			Benzene			Acetone			Water		
					$\sigma_m$	$\sigma_p$	$\Sigma\sigma_m+\sigma_p$	$\sigma_m$	$\sigma_p$	$\Sigma\sigma_m+\sigma_p$	$\sigma_m$	$\sigma_p$	$\Sigma\sigma_m+\sigma_p$	$\sigma_m$	$\sigma_p$	$\Sigma\sigma_m+\sigma_p$
Borazine-Li <sup>+</sup>	CH <sub>3</sub>	-0.07	-0.17	-0.24	0.98	0.98	1	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.94	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.99
Borazine-Na <sup>+</sup>	NH <sub>2</sub>	-0.16	-0.66	-0.82	0.97	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.99	1	0.99	0.97	0.98	0.99	0.96	0.99
Borazine-K <sup>+</sup>	NO <sub>2</sub>	0.71	0.78	1.49	0.96	0.99	0.99	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.99	0.96	0.99

**Table S4.** NICS values of the cationic complexes of benzene and substituted benzene.

Compound	NICS(0)	NICS(1)
Benzene	-7.9	-10.1
Benzene-Li <sup>+</sup>	-7.5	-9.8
Benzene-Na <sup>+</sup>	-6.4	-9.7
Benzene-K <sup>+</sup>	-7.4	-10.1
Benzene-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	-8.1	-9.4
Benzene-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	-7.7	-9.1
Benzene-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	-6.2	-8.9
Benzene-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	-6.9	-8.9
Benzene-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	-7.1	-6.7
Benzene-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	-6.1	-5.6
Benzene-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	-5.0	-5.4
Benzene-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	-6.2	-5.9

**Table S5.** Counterpoised corrected interaction energy of borazine dimer, H<sub>2</sub>O linked borazine and its substituted compounds, and M- $\pi$ - $\pi$  (M= Li<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>) complexes of borazine.

Compounds	$\Delta E_{\text{int}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{BSSE}}$
Borazine-Borazine	-0.5896	0.42079
Borazine-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> O- Borazine-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	-3.8730	2.31921
Borazine-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> O- Borazine-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	-12.1114	1.67072
Li <sup>+</sup> -Borazine-Borazine	-32.7670	1.18913
Na <sup>+</sup> -Borazine-Borazine	-20.5961	1.30425
K <sup>+</sup> -Borazine-Borazine	-12.7279	0.85684

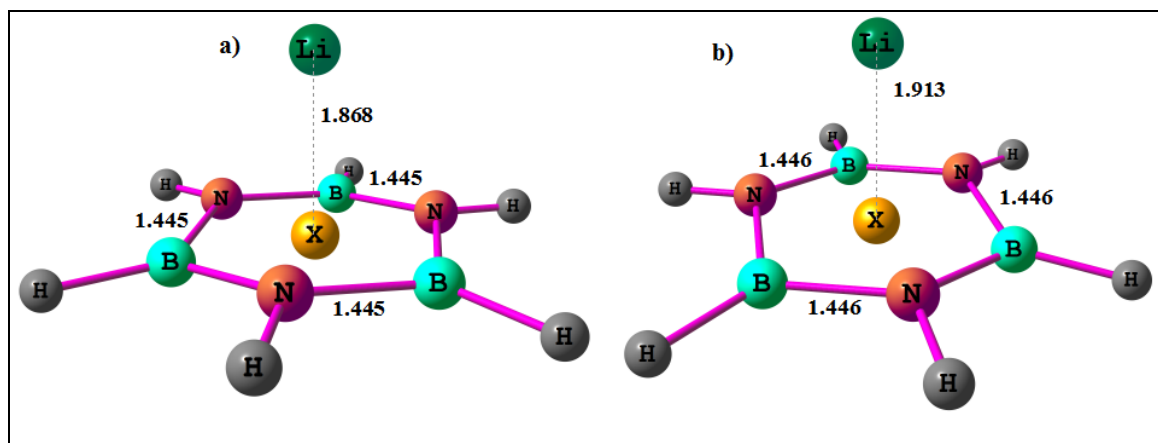
**Table S6.** Chemical hardness ( $\eta$ , in a.u.), chemical potential ( $\mu$  in a.u.) and electrophilicity index ( $\omega$ ) of benzene, borazine and their substituted derivatives in gas phase calculated at B3LYP/6-31++G (d,p).

Compounds	$\eta$	$\mu$	$\omega$	Compounds	$\eta$	$\mu$	$\omega$
1.Benzene	0.121	-0.136	0.077	1.Borazine	0.140	-0.147	0.077
2.Benzene -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.125	-0.336	0.451	2.Borazine -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.147	-0.340	0.393
3.Benzene -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.114	-0.320	0.445	3.Borazine -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.127	-0.335	0.440
4.Benzene -K <sup>+</sup>	0.114	-0.300	0.392	4.Borazine -K <sup>+</sup>	0.127	-0.315	0.389
5.Benzene-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	0.122	-0.113	0.053	5.Borazine-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	0.127	-0.143	0.080
6.Benzene -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.117	-0.305	0.396	6.Borazine -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.138	-0.319	0.368
7.Benzene -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.102	-0.298	0.435	7.Borazine -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.120	-0.316	0.416
8.Benzene -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.101	-0.284	0.398	8.Borazine -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.122	-0.299	0.365
9.Benzene -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	0.090	-0.104	0.060	9.Borazine -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	0.102	-0.268	0.350
10.Benzene -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.100	-0.265	0.349	10.Borazine -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.115	-0.281	0.343
11.Benzene-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.084	-0.265	0.416	11.Borazine -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.101	-0.281	0.390
12.Benzene -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.087	-0.250	0.360	12.Borazine -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.102	-0.268	0.350
				13. Borazine-(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	0.095	-0.241	0.305
				14.Borazine -(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.087	-0.369	0.778
				15.Borazine -(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.087	-0.379	0.820
				16.Borazine -(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.088	-0.358	0.723

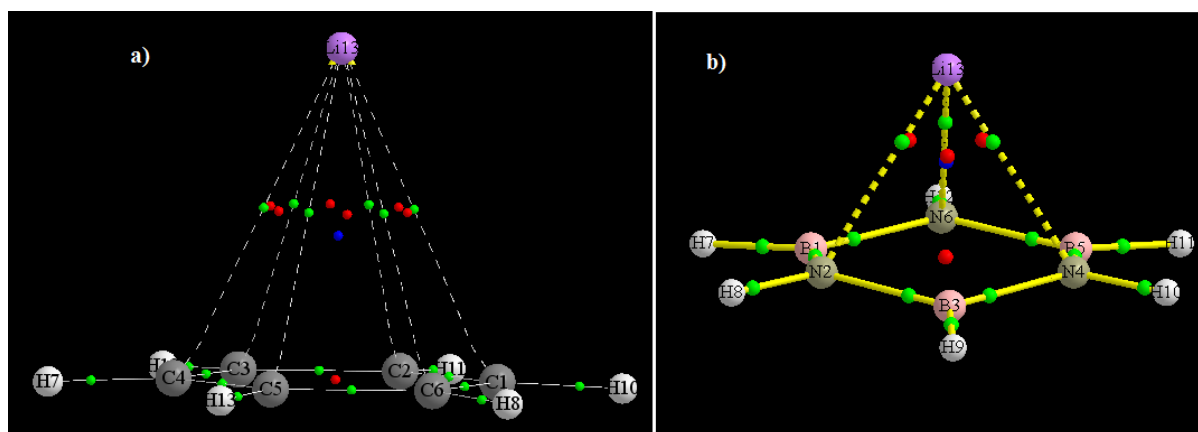
**Table S7.** Chemical hardness ( $\eta$ , in a.u.), chemical potential ( $\mu$  in a.u.) and electrophilicity index ( $\omega$ ) of benzene, borazine and their substituted derivatives in gas phase calculated at B3LYP/6-311++G (d,p).

Compounds	$\eta$	$\mu$	$\omega$	Compounds	$\eta$	$\mu$	$\omega$
1.Benzene	0.121	-0.135	0.075	1.Borazine	0.143	-0.143	0.072
2.Benzene -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.117	-0.307	0.402	2.Borazine -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.147	-0.340	0.392
3.Benzene -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.102	-0.300	0.438	3.Borazine -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.127	-0.335	0.439
4.Benzene -K <sup>+</sup>	0.103	-0.284	0.393	4.Borazine -K <sup>+</sup>	0.127	-0.314	0.389
5.Benzene-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	0.114	-0.121	0.064	5.Borazine-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	0.127	-0.142	0.079
6.Benzene -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.125	-0.339	0.459	6.Borazine -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.138	-0.319	0.368
7.Benzene -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.111	-0.322	0.451	7.Borazine -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.120	-0.316	0.416
8.Benzene -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.116	-0.300	0.387	8.Borazine -(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.122	-0.299	0.365
9.Benzene -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	0.095	-0.098	0.051	9.Borazine -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	0.102	-0.267	0.349
10.Benzene -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> - Li <sup>+</sup>	0.102	-0.265	0.346	10.Borazine -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.115	-0.280	0.343
11.Benzene-(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> - Na <sup>+</sup>	0.084	-0.266	0.419	11.Borazine -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.101	-0.281	0.389
12.Benzene -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.089	-0.251	0.354	12.Borazine -(NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.102	-0.267	0.349
				13. Borazine-(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	0.095	-0.240	0.305
				14.Borazine -(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Li <sup>+</sup>	0.087	-0.369	0.777
				15.Borazine -(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -Na <sup>+</sup>	0.087	-0.379	0.819
				16.Borazine -(NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -K <sup>+</sup>	0.088	-0.358	0.723

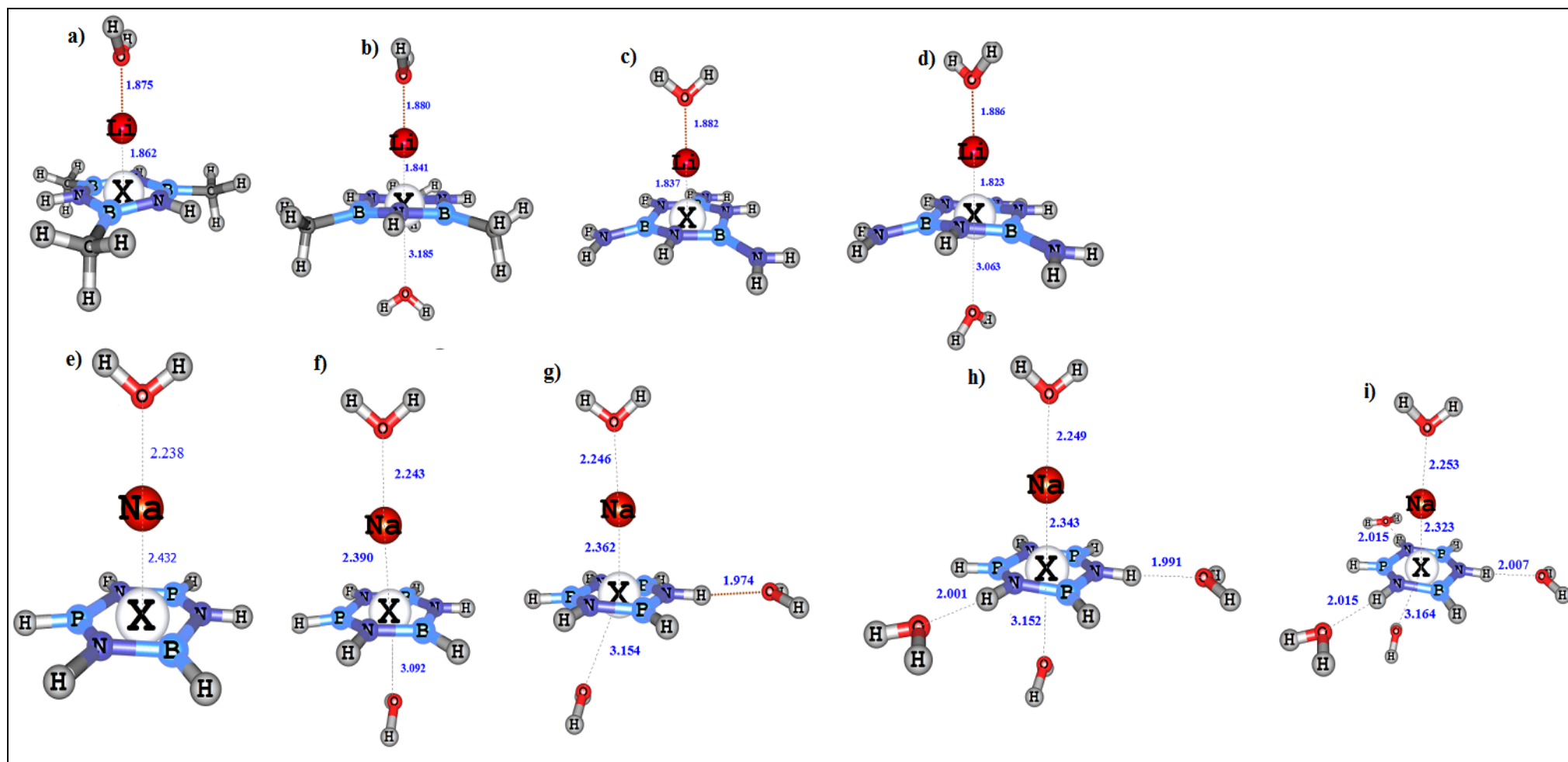




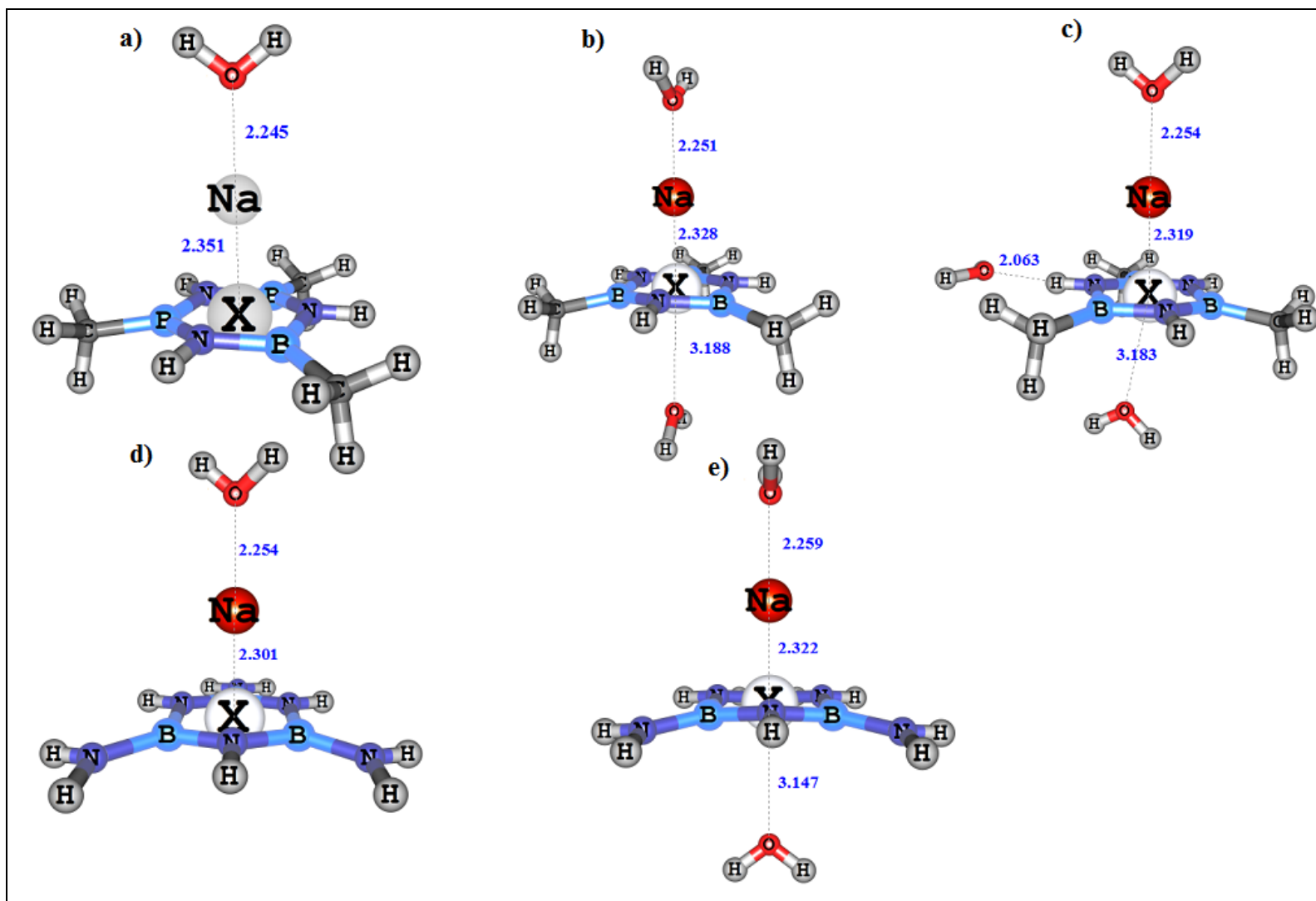
**Figure S1.** Optimized geometry of  $B_3N_3H_6-Li^+$  complex at a) MP2/Aug-ccPVTZ and b) MP2/TZVP level of theory.



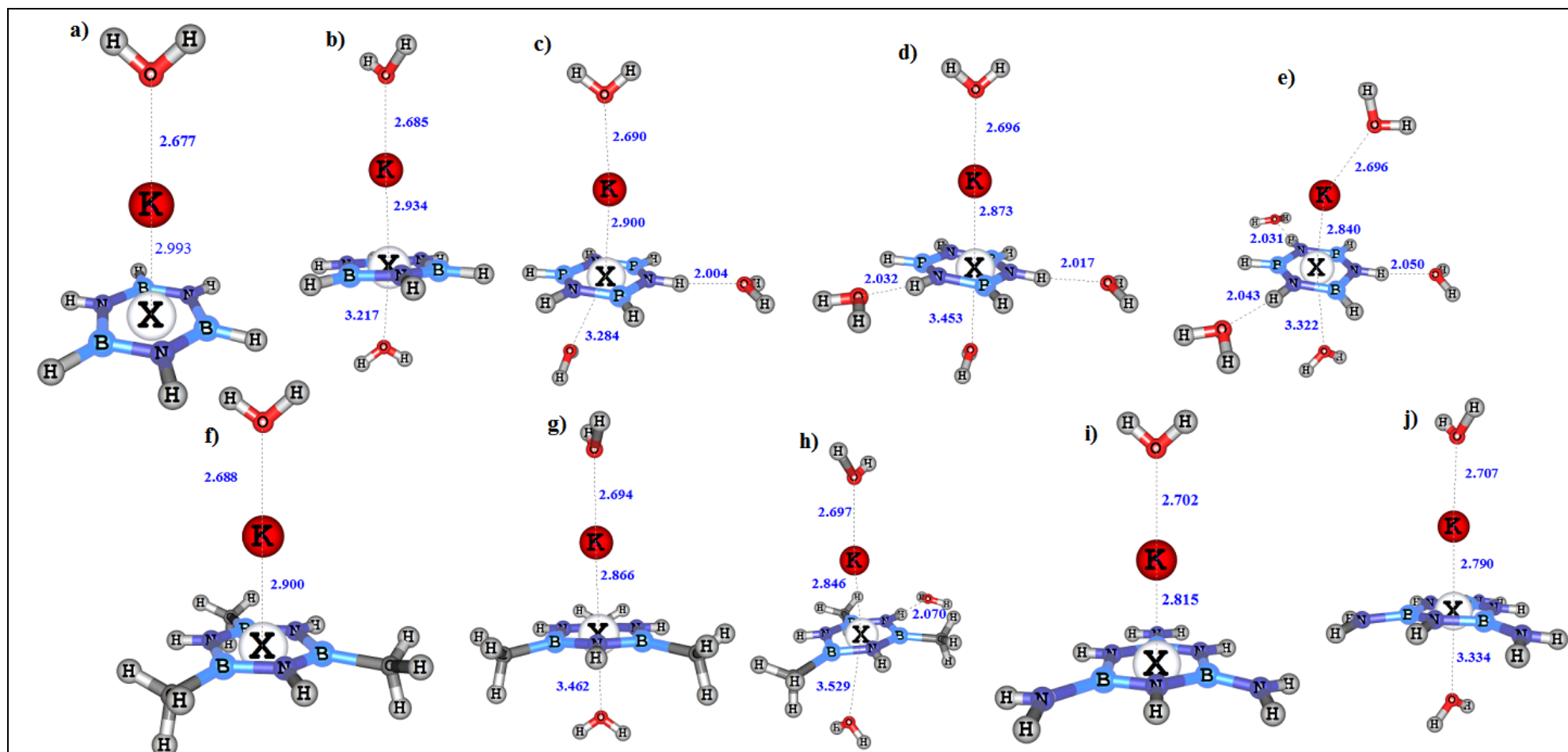
**Figure S2.** Molecular graph of (a) benzene-Li<sup>+</sup> and (b) borazine-Li<sup>+</sup> complex.



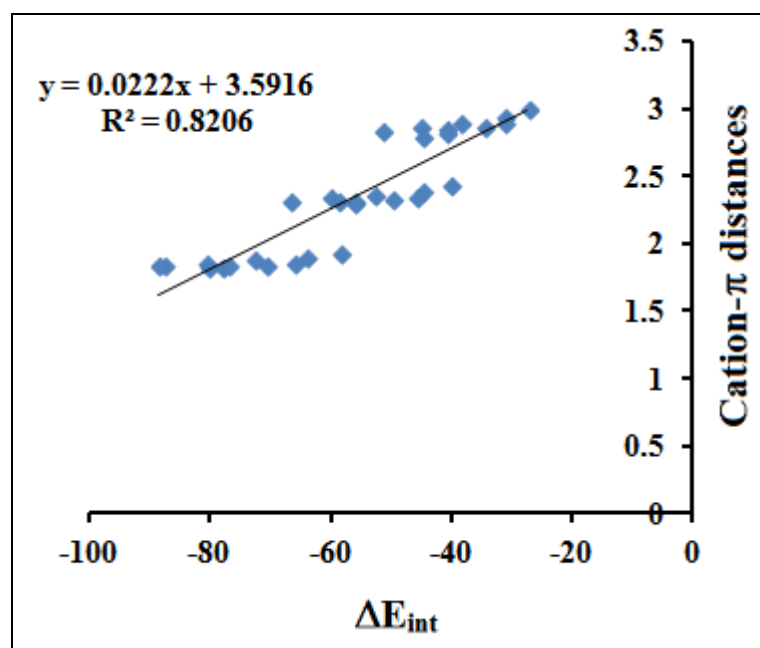
**Figure S3.** Optimized geometry of a) Borazine (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-Li<sup>+</sup>-π-W b) Borazine (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-Li<sup>+</sup>-π-2W c) Borazine (NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-Li<sup>+</sup>-π-W d) Borazine (NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-Li<sup>+</sup>-π-2W e) Borazine-Na<sup>+</sup>-π-W f) Borazine-Na<sup>+</sup>-π-2W g) Borazine-Na<sup>+</sup>-π-3W h) Borazine-Na<sup>+</sup>-π-4W i) Borazine-Na<sup>+</sup>-π-5W.



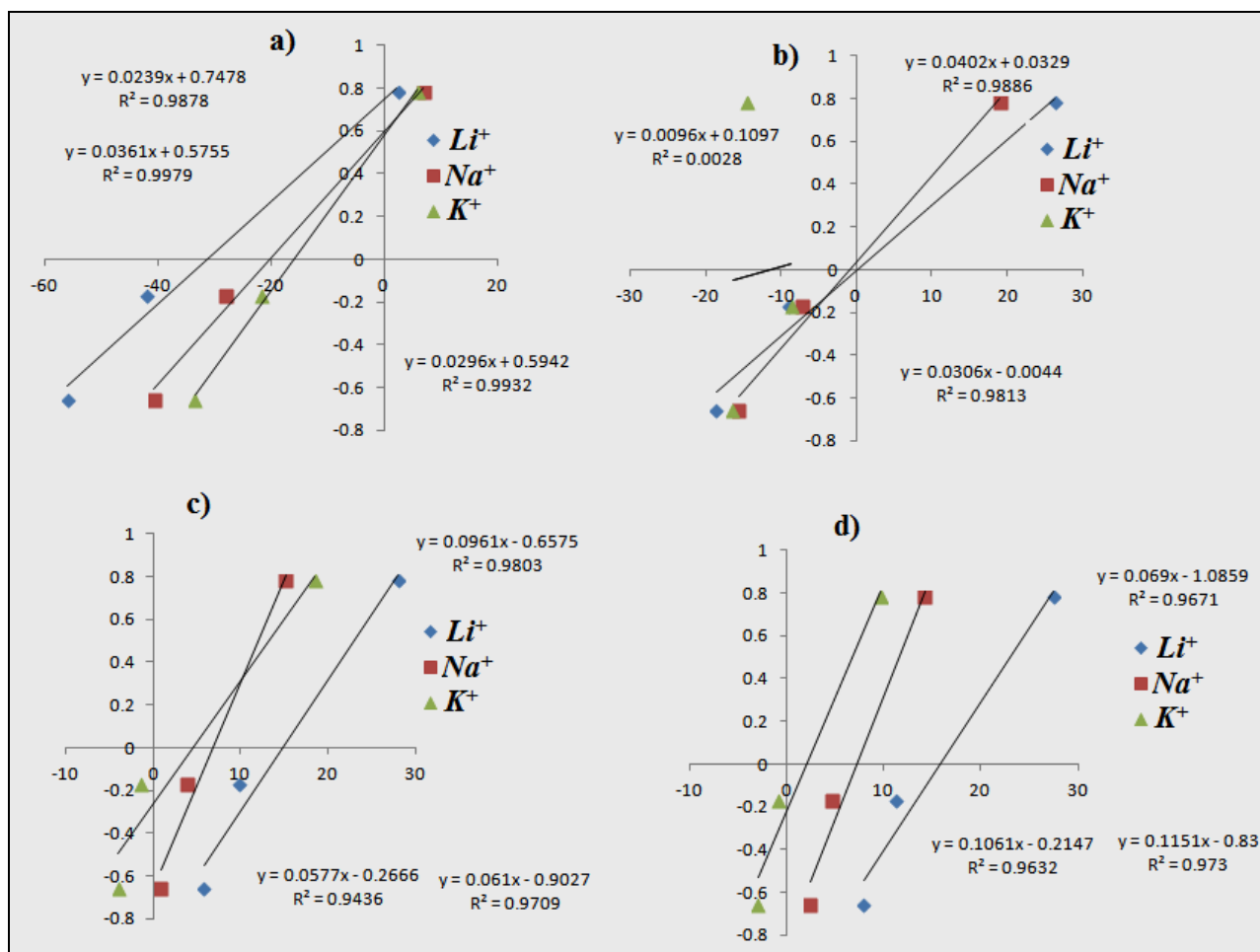
**Figure S4.** Optimized geometry of a) Borazine (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-Na<sup>+</sup>-π-W b) Borazine (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-Na<sup>+</sup>-π-2W c) Borazine (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-Na<sup>+</sup>-3π-W d) Borazine (NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-Na<sup>+</sup>-π-W e) Borazine (NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-Na<sup>+</sup>-π-2W.



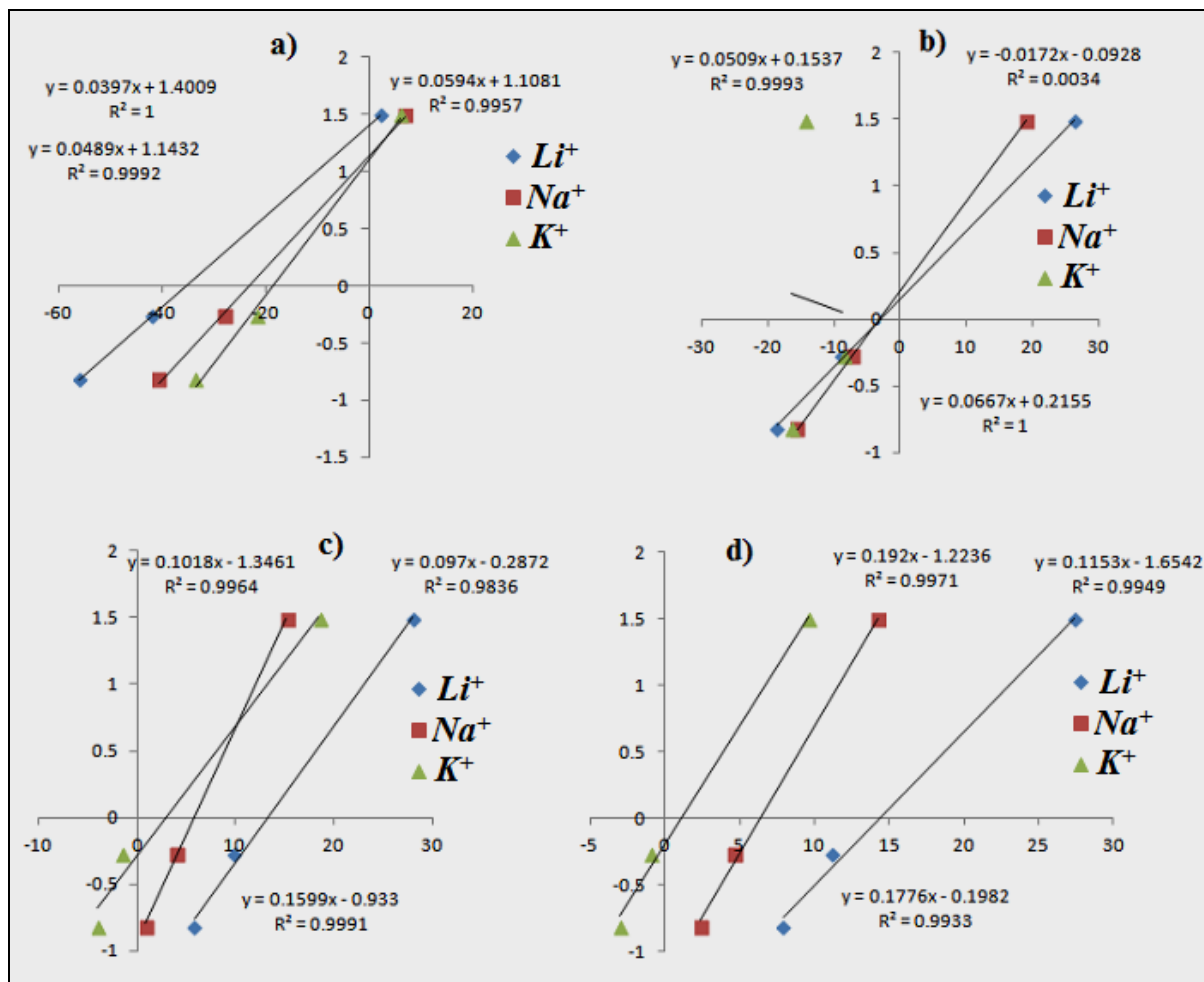
**Figure S5.** Optimized geometry of a) Borazine- $K^+-\pi-W$  b) Borazine- $K^+-\pi-2W$  c) Borazine- $K^+-\pi-3W$  d) Borazine- $K^+-\pi-4W$  e) Borazine- $K^+-\pi-5W$  f) Borazine  $(CH_3)_3-K^+-\pi-W$  g) Borazine  $(CH_3)_3-K^+-\pi-2W$  h) Borazine  $(CH_3)_3-K^+-\pi-2W$  i) Borazine  $(NH_2)_3-K^+-\pi-W$  j) Borazine  $(NH_2)_3-K^+-\pi-2W$ .



**Figure S6.** Correlation plot between interaction energies (x-axis) with cation- $\pi$  distance (y-axis) (Table 7).



**Figure S7.** Correlation plot between interaction energies (x-axis) of various substituted cation- $\pi$  complexes of borazine (Table 5) and Hammett constant ( $\sigma_p$ , y-axis) in a) gas phase b) in benzene medium c) in acetone medium and d) in water medium.



**Figure S8.** Correlation plot between interaction energies (X-axis) of various substituted cation- $\pi$  complexes of borazine (Table 5) and Hammett constant ( $\sigma_{Total} = (\Sigma\sigma_m + \Sigma\sigma_p)$ ), y-axis) in a) gas phase b) in benzene medium c) in acetone medium and d) in water medium.