

**Pairing Strength and Proton Characters of the N7, N9-dimethylated GC and AT Base Pairs: An Density Functional Theory Investigation**

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**Supporting Information**

**TABLE S1 Geometric Characteristics of All Species Derived From G-C /mG-C (bond lengths in Å, angle in degree)**

|                                  | O6...H4a | N1-H1              | N3...H1 | N1-N3 | O2...H2a           | D1 <sup>a</sup> | D2 <sup>a</sup> |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|---------|-------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| GC                               | 1.789    | (-)                | 1.934   |       | 1.920              | 0.04            | 0.00            |
| [mGC] <sup>+</sup>               | 1.941    | 1.048              | 1.868   | 2.915 | 1.767              | 0.00            | 0.00            |
| [mGC] <sup>+</sup> <sub>PT</sub> | 1.619    | 1.776              | 1.069   | 2.841 | 1.971              | (-)             | (-)             |
| [mGC] <sup>+</sup> <sub>TS</sub> | 1.660    | 1.382              | 1.273   | 2.654 | 1.789              | -10.7           | -6.6            |
| mG(N1)C                          | (-)      | 1.885 <sup>b</sup> | (-)     |       | 2.014 <sup>c</sup> | 0.03            | 0.03            |
| mG(N2a)C                         | 1.861    | (-)                | 2.111   |       | (-)                | -54.9           | -16.6           |
| mG(N2b)C                         | 1.817    | (-)                | 2.050   |       | 2.260              | 0.0             | 0.0             |
| mG(C8)C                          | 1.798    | (-)                | 1.927   |       | 1.920              | 0.00            | 0.00            |
| mGC(N1)                          | 2.000    | (-)                | 1.689   | 2.781 | 1.454              | 9.7             | 10.6            |
| mGC(N4a)                         | (-)      | 1.936              | (-)     | 2.966 | 1.959              | -32.2           | -39.0           |
| mGC(N4b)                         | 2.090    | 1.961              | (-)     | 2.995 | 1.899              | 0.0             | 0.0             |
| mGC(C5)                          | 1.871    | 1.914              | (-)     | 2.953 | 1.881              | 0.0             | 0.0             |
| mGC(C6)                          | 1.851    | 1.899              | (-)     | 2.937 | 1.874              | -0.3            | 0.0             |

<sup>a</sup> The dihedral angles G(O6-C2)-C(C2-C4) and G(C6-N1)-C(N3-C4) are denoted by D1 and D2, respectively. <sup>b</sup> the length of N1...H4a; <sup>c</sup> the length of N3...H2a. A dash (-) denotes that the H-bond has been removed upon deprotonated structure formation.

**TABLE S2. Geometric Characteristics of All Species Derived From AT /mAT (Bond Lengths in Å, Angle in Degree)**

|                    | O4...H6a | N1...H3N3 | N6...HO4 | N6...HN3 | D1 <sup>a</sup> | D2    |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------|-------|
| AT                 | 1.927    | 1.870     | (-)      | (-)      | 0.0             | 0.0   |
| [mAT] <sup>+</sup> | 1.763    | 1.993     | (-)      | (-)      | 0.1             | 0.0   |
| mA(C2)T            | 1.873    | 1.860     | (-)      | (-)      | 33.5            | 20.1  |
| mA(N6a)T           | (-)      | 1.904     | (-)      | (-)      | -84.0           | -67.6 |
| mA(N6b)T           | 2.290    | 1.845     | (-)      | (-)      | 0.0             | 0.0   |
| mA(C8)T            | 1.914    | 1.879     | (-)      | (-)      | 0.7             | 1.8   |
| mAT(N1)            | 1.399    | 2.050     | (-)      | (-)      | -0.1            | 0.0   |
| mAT(N3)            | (-)      | (-)       | (-)      | 1.840    | 34.7            | 11.4  |
| mAT(C6)            | (-)      | 1.883     | 1.712    | (-)      | 0.0             | 0.0   |

<sup>a</sup> The dihedral angles A(C6-N1)-T(N3-C4) and A(N1-C2)-T(C2-N3) are denoted by D1 and D2, respectively. A dash (-) denotes that the H-bond has been removed upon deprotonated structure formation.

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