Supporting Information

Computational Study of the Reaction of 1-methyl-4-amino-1,2,4-triazolium Dicyanamide with NO₂: From Reaction Dynamics to Potential Surfaces, Kinetics and Spectroscopy

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Computational Methodologies

1. Direct dynamics simulations

The chemical reaction dynamics program, VENUS,¹⁻² was used to set up initial conditions for the trajectories. Trajectories started at the equilibrium geometries of reactants. Initial reactant vibrational modes were sampled using the quantum Boltzmann probability distribution:³

$$P(n_i) = \exp\left(-\frac{n_i h v_i}{k_B T}\right) \left[1 - \exp\left(-\frac{h v_i}{k_B T}\right)\right] \tag{1}$$

where v_i and n_i are the frequency and the quantum number of the *i*th vibrational mode, respectively; k_B is the Boltzmann constant, and T is the temperature. Reactant rotational energy (E_{rot}) was sampled from a classical Boltzmann distribution. Vibrational states were simulated by giving individual reactant atoms displacements from equilibrium geometries and momenta that were appropriate to initial rovibrational states, with random phases for different modes. Each molecule had zero point energy (ZPE) in all of its vibrational modes. Collision energy (E_{col}) was added as relative translational energy. Initial separation between the centers of mass of randomly oriented reactants was set in the range of 7 – 9 Å where the inter-molecular interaction was negligible. The purpose of trajectory simulations was to capture gross features and key dynamics of the reaction, therefore, all trajectories were calculated at zero impact parameter (*i.e.* head-on collisions).

The Hessian-based predictor-corrector algorithm,⁴ as implemented in Gaussian 09,⁵ was used for numerical integration of the classical equations of motion, with the Hessian matrix updated every five steps. Trajectories were propagated with a step size of 0.25 amu^{1/2}Bohr which corresponded to a step size of ~ 0.4 fsec in trajectory time and was small enough to ensure that energy conservation was met. Because millions of gradient and Hessian evaluations were required, we had to make a compromise between accuracy and computational cost in selecting the level of theory to be used for the simulations. The B3LYP method has been used successfully in calculating energetics of dialkylimidazolium-⁶⁻¹⁰ and triazolium-based¹¹ ILs, with negligible basis set superposition errors for the ion pairs.⁹ In a previous study,¹² we had utilized the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory for reaction dynamics simulations of

EMIM⁺DCA⁻ and EMMIM⁺DCA⁻. The trajectory outcomes in that work were in good agreement with the experiment.¹³ By extension, the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory is expected to provide a reliable description of MAT⁺DCA⁻ and was thus chosen for the present work. An initial guess of the molecular orbital for each DFT calculation was obtained from the previous trajectory step, and the total energy of the system was checked at each step to ensure that the energy was conserved to better than 10^{-4} Hartree. A quadratically convergent SCF procedure^{5, 14} was adopted for the trajectory integration in those cases when first-order SCF did not converge. It is to be noted that the M06 method was used for the spectral analysis in Kaiser et al.'s work.¹⁵ To compare the performance of the B3LYP method vs. the M06 method, we calculated the ion pair energy of MAT⁺DCA⁻ at the B3LYP and the M06 levels of theory with the same 6-31G(d) basis set. The B3LYP-calculated pairing energy ($\Delta H = 4.27 \text{ eV}$ at 298 K) is slightly less than the M06-calculated value (4.44 eV). The two theories produced similar PESs for the MAT⁺DCA⁻ \rightarrow [MAT⁺ – H_{C5}⁺] + HDCA reaction, with the maximum differences between the two PESs being less than 0.2 eV. A small batch of trajectories for $MAT^+DCA^- + NO_2$ was also carried out at the M06/6-31G(d) level of theory. The M06 trajectories were found to follow similar pathways and revealed similar dynamics as the B3LYP trajectories. Finally, we also computed a few trajectories at the MP2/6-31G(d) level of theory. But the MP2 computational cost was significantly higher than that of B3LYP and M06, presumably due to the fact that the computational requirements for MP2 scales as N⁵, whereas DFT scales only as N³⁻⁴ where N is a measure of the problem size.¹⁶

Trajectories were terminated after a preset length of time (~ 1 psec) or when product separation exceeded 8.0 Å. All calculations were completed on a Linux computer cluster at Queens College. gOpenMol¹⁷ was used for trajectory visualization. Analyses of individual trajectories and trajectory ensembles were carried out with programs written by us for these purposes, which had automated algorithms to search and sort reaction pathways.

An issue with using quasi-classical direct dynamics methods is that vibrational energy (E_{vib}) is not quantized in the molecules. Lack of quantization may affect how energy is distributed between

vibrational modes.¹⁸⁻¹⁹ It is possible to have trajectories where the product E_{vib} is below ZPE. Such unphysical trajectories were found to be of minor occurrence in our previous reaction dynamics studies of EMIM⁺DCA⁻ and EMMIM⁺DCA⁻ and also in the present study of MAT⁺DCA⁻ + NO₂, presumably because here we are looking at high internal energy conditions, for which the errors associated with treating the motion classically are minimalized.

2. Electronic structure calculations and RRKM analysis of reaction PESs

Using trajectory results as a guide, structures of reactants, intermediates, TSs and products along all of the reaction pathways were optimized at the B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory. TSs were verified to be first-order saddle points by frequency calculations, and the vibrational mode with an imaginary frequency corresponded to the associated reaction pathway. IRC calculations were carried out to confirm that TSs were located between correct minima. The Cartesian coordinates for all of the reactants, intermediates, TSs and products are provided in the Supporting Information. Reaction PESs were evaluated by the sum of electronic energies, ZPEs and thermal corrections at 298 K, for which the vibrational frequencies and ZPEs were scaled by a factor of 0.955 and 0.981,²⁰ respectively. To simulate reactant and product IR and Raman spectra in a condensed-phase IL environment, important structures were re-optimized using a parameterized SCRF-based SMD²¹ method (also known as the generic ionic liquid solvation model, SMD-GIL)²² and solvent parameters that were consistent with the experiment.

Statistical outcomes of reaction PESs were predicted using RRKM.²³ The RRKM theory is based on the assumptions of randomized distribution of reaction energy and no TS re-crossing.²⁴⁻²⁶ The RRKM reaction rate of a particular process is proportional to the total number of energetically accessible states in the TS. As a consequence, the most probable reactions follow IRC paths for which the density of states is the highest.²⁷ RRKM densities of states and rate constants were calculated using a direct count algorithm²⁸ and the scaled frequencies, energetics and moments of inertia of complexes and TSs as determined from the B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory calculations. The rotation quantum number *K* was treated as active, so that all (2J + 1) *K*-levels were counted in k(E, J) as:²⁹

$$k(E,J) = \frac{d}{h} \frac{\sum_{K=-J}^{J} G[E-E_0 - E_r^{\dagger}(J,K)]}{\sum_{K=-J}^{J} N[E-E_r(J,K)]}$$
(2)

where d is the reaction path degeneracy, G is the sum of accessible states from 0 to $E - E_0 - E_r^{\dagger}$ in the

TS, N is the energized reactant's density of states, E is the system energy, E_0 is the activation energy or

the unimolecular dissociation threshold, and E_r and E_r^{\dagger} are the rotational energies for the reactant and the

TS, respectively. Orbital angular momentum L was estimated from collision cross section ($\sigma_{collision}$), *i.e.*,

 $L = \mu v_{rel} \cdot (\sigma_{collision}/\pi)^{1/2}$, where μ and v_{rel} are the reduced mass and relative velocity, respectively, of the

collision partners, and $\sigma_{collision}$ was taken as an orientation-averaged hard-sphere collision cross section.

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Fig. S1 Comparison of the SMD-GIL//B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)-calculated harmonic IR and Raman spectra of MAT⁺DCA⁻ with the experimental spectra available in Ref [9]. The calculated frequencies were scaled by a factor of 0.974. See Table S1 for the assignments of vibrations.

	Vibrational mode	Calculated	Experimental	Experimental
	v Ibrational mode	frequencies (cm ⁻¹)	$IR(cm^{-1})^{a}$	Raman (cm ⁻¹) ^a
V ₁₃	antisymmetric NH ₂ , CH ₃ in-plane wag	446		446
v ₂ *	in-plane antisymmetric N-C≡N bend of DCA ⁻	522	511	
V3*	out-of-plane antisymmetric N-C≡N bend of DCA ⁻	524	524	532
ν_4 *	out-of-plane symmetric N-C≡N bend of DCA ⁻	548	540	
v_{17}	symmetric N-NH ₂ and N-CH ₃ stretch	598	601	606
v_{18}	N(4) umbrella	610	613	
V ₂₀ ,	H ₃ CN(1)-N(2)CH torsion	654	657	655
V5*	in-plane C-N-C bend of DCA ⁻	649		
V 21	antisymmetric ring mode with N-CH ₃ and N-NH ₂ stretch	730	737	729
V ₂₂	C(3)H, C(5)H antisymmetric out-of-plane	875	880	863
V ₂₃	wag C(3)H, C(5)H symmetric out-of-plane wag			
ν_6^*	C-N-C symmetric stretch of DCA ⁻	901	905	897
V25	NH ₂ rock	968	978	971
V26	N(1)-N(2) stretch, C(3)H in-plane wag	992		1038
V 27	ring C-N-C symmetric stretch, C(5) wag and CH ₃ rock	1051	1071	1059
V ₂₈	N-C-N ring bend, CH ₃ rock	1079	1091	1077
V ₃₀	$C(5)H$ wag, $N(1)$ - CH_3 stretch	1157	1171	1163
V ₃₁	C(3)H, C(5)H antisymmetric in-plane wag	1199	1212	1206
v_7^*	C-N-C antisymmetric stretch of DCA ⁻	1370	1310	1315
V37	CH ₂ wag	1401	1407	1402
V38	CH ₂ wag 2	1419	1439	
V39	N(2)-C(3) and N(4)-C(5) symmetric stretch	1443	1455	1448
V40	N(2)-C(3) and N(4)-C(5) antisymmetric stretch	1530	1535	1530
V41	N(1)-C(5) stretch, N-NH ₂ and N-CH ₃ antisymmetric stretch	1557	1571	1566
V42	NH ₂ scissor	1648	1630	1624
ν_8^*	C≡N antisymmetric stretch of DCA ⁻	2168	2126	2132
V9 [*]	C≡N symmetric stretch of DCA ⁻	2221	2197	2191
V45	CH ₃ symmetric stretch	2995	2971	2954
V46	CH ₃ antisymmetric stretch	3076	3022	3029
V47	CH ₃ antisymmetric stretch 2	3092	3080	3109
V48	C(5)H stretch	3194	3142	3160
V49	C(3)H stretch	3205	3227	3160
V ₅₀	symmetric NH stretch	3207	3294	3319
V ₅₁	antisymmetric NH stretch	3429	3507	

Table S1Comparison of the SMD-GIL//B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)-calculated harmonic frequenciesof MAT+DCA- with the experimental values

^a Ref [9] in the main text.



Fig. S2 Comparison of the SMD-GIL//B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)-calculated anharmonic IR and Raman spectra of MAT⁺DCA⁻ with experimental data (Ref [9]). The calculated frequencies were scaled by a factor of 0.977.



Fig. S3 Harmonic IR (top) and Raman (bottom) spectra of HNC(-NO₂)NCN, HNCNC(-NO₂)N, NCNC(-NO₂)N⁻ and ON(CN)₂⁻ simulated at the SMD-GIL//B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) levels of theory. Frequencies were scaled by a factor of 0.974. Red-labled peaks are product-like, black-labeled ones are close to reactant vibrations, and the peaks that do not match experiemntal results are indicated by question marks.

Cartesian coordinates for the structures in Fig. 1 and Table 2, calculated at B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)

MAT⁺DCA⁻

C1 -0.691749 0.107028 0.509083 N2 -1.222356 -1.117349 0.313312 N3 -1.527076 0.971430 -0.043913 C4 -1.392241 2.431023 -0.102347 H5 -2.126930 2.882169 0.564436 H6 -1.579458 2.742921 -1.128277 C7 -2.385138 -0.926420 -0.383213 H8 -3.016158 -1.741951 -0.694762 H9 0.240553 0.363141 0.991535 H10 -0.372663 2.684244 0.194530 N11 3.074503 0.185858 -0.382078 C12 2.411123 1.195084 0.115733 C13 2.437017 -0.948416 -0.426236 N14 1.807958 2.095855 0.561693 N15 1.875000 -1.976330 -0.471829 N16 -2.598139 0.341190 -0.607143 N17 -0.702387 -2.384287 0.624770 H18 0.246171 -2.442094 0.195300 H19 -0.618104 -2.452796 1.635435

TS(PT1)

C1 1.215713 -0.139436 0.094380 N2 1.506459 1.188375 0.009600 N3 2.420262 -0.706198 0.014147 C4 2.716234 -2.134205 0.053227 H5 3.370864 -2.345573 0.898611 H6 3.209398 -2.428149 -0.873247 C7 2.864654 1.345992 -0.114761 H8 3.345387 2.306592 -0.198279 H9 -0.087154 -0.746939 0.217744 H10 1.776531 -2.671071 0.164219 N11 -3.433809 -0.761336 -0.531636 C12 -2.285725 -0.953905 -0.051921 C13 -4.336505 0.082286 -0.066709 N14 -1.200732 -1.241103 0.330433 N15 -5.178889 0.810157 0.267514 N16 3.458076 0.190083 -0.115905 N17 0.612740 2.271424 0.043877 H18 -0.036706 2.186475 -0.732859 H19 0.086712 2.234462 0.912301

$[MAT^+ - H_{C5}^+] \cdot HDCA$

C1 -1.267812 -0.087128 -0.156222 N2 -1.743487 1.191661 -0.058643 N3 -2.379329 -0.799315 0.072486

C4 -2.491386 -2.251624 0.095930 H5 -3.218628 -2.574034 -0.649650 H6 -2.816199 -2.579457 1.083946 C7 -3.088535 1.173527 0.216551 H8 -3.683893 2.063400 0.336946 H9 0.369160 -0.642396 -0.511751 H10 -1.514024 -2.670431 -0.132782 N11 3.538817 -0.795446 0.346499 C12 2.422197 -0.811003 -0.206193 C13 4.490370 0.114882 0.234804 N14 1.371087 -0.980083 -0.738676 N15 5.371860 0.868982 0.201758 N16 -3.515127 -0.049318 0.305829 N17 -1.022230 2.387480 -0.213583 H18 -0.287111 2.416612 0.486973 H19 -0.589430 2.386665 -1.132593

$[MAT^+ - H_{C5}^+]$

C1 0.015014 -1.000571 0.000013 N2 1.065040 -0.116546 0.000016 N3 -1.017538 -0.137805 -0.000014 C4 -2.427131 -0.491209 -0.000026 H5 -2.913334 -0.086433 -0.889292 H6 -2.913335 -0.086509 0.889274 C7 0.615903 1.181366 -0.000007 H8 1.265779 2.040865 -0.000011 H9 -2.494976 -1.576533 -0.000071 N10 -0.681469 1.208355 -0.000025 N11 2.434751 -0.439357 0.000037 H12 2.613828 -1.015683 0.817842 H13 2.613835 -1.015751 -0.817718

HDCA

H1 2.845933 -0.520152 0.613874 N2 -0.063423 0.580084 0.017050 C3 1.059336 0.083233 0.020988 C4 -1.271048 0.041734 0.003509 N5 2.201703 -0.269510 -0.122870 N6 -2.363375 -0.343381 -0.002874

HN(CN)₂

N1 0.000088 0.679993 0.000531 C2 1.182270 0.037906 -0.000489 C3 -1.182354 0.038008 0.000105 N4 2.207784 -0.493440 0.000138 N5 -2.207831 -0.493426 -0.000135 H6 0.000215 1.692623 -0.001436

$[MAT^+ - H_{amino}^+]$

C1 -0.059703 -0.910227 -0.020328 N2 -1.179520 -0.146319 0.006046 N3 1.010356 -0.068306 -0.046980 C4 2.415980 -0.418138 0.033562 H5 2.697805 -0.681725 1.056876 H6 2.988450 0.449331 -0.288224 C7 -0.701810 1.157876 0.010681 H8 -1.367410 2.002554 0.021224 H9 -0.028352 -1.983977 -0.041769 H10 2.625523 -1.258511 -0.630463 N11 0.610223 1.209927 -0.014300 N12 -2.482917 -0.431675 0.016412 H13 -2.549809 -1.450133 0.010620

MAT^+

C1 -0.007623 -0.893509 0.000000 N2 -1.094827 -0.091110 0.000000 N3 1.045887 -0.096681 0.000001 C4 2.470775 -0.454696 -0.000001 H5 2.933048 -0.035625 0.892404 H6 2.933042 -0.035651 -0.892421 C7 -0.624667 1.199402 0.000000 H8 -1.273987 2.060896 0.000000 H9 -0.010775 -1.972071 0.000001 H10 2.558277 -1.539358 0.000015 N11 0.678001 1.215645 0.000000 N12 -2.453433 -0.417180 0.000000 H13 -2.699951 -0.930038 -0.840781 H14 -2.699950 -0.930039 0.840780

DCA-

N1 -0.000014 0.679121 -0.000008 C2 -1.149914 0.058004 0.000028 C3 1.149938 0.058069 -0.000005 N4 -2.233964 -0.389293 -0.000013 N5 2.233958 -0.389319 0.000002

HDCA

H1 2.845933 -0.520152 0.613874 N2 -0.063423 0.580084 0.017050 C3 1.059336 0.083233 0.020988 C4 -1.271048 0.041734 0.003509 N5 2.201703 -0.269510 -0.122870 N6 -2.363375 -0.343381 -0.002874

NO_2

N1 0.000000 0.000000 0.321839 O2 0.000000 1.099987 -0.140804 O3 0.000000 -1.099987 -0.140804

TS1

N1 -3.815819 0.282084 0.009667 C2 -2.667584 0.108427 -0.014542 N3 -1.360154 0.034011 -0.051689 C4 -0.507413 -0.871868 0.007547 N5 0.768309 -0.993606 0.065248 N6 1.883260 0.247477 0.004127 O7 3.007106 -0.162152 -0.050506 O8 1.423291 1.343896 0.034985 H9 1.277622 -1.863064 -0.025322

HN(-NO₂)CNCN

N1 3.730018 0.291528 -0.000016 C2 2.586233 0.089322 -0.000008 N3 1.280041 -0.013854 0.000000 C4 0.456543 -0.951868 0.000024 N5 -0.866488 -0.952552 0.000025 N6 -1.769735 0.239120 -0.000003 O7 -2.940538 -0.060974 0.000010 O8 -1.242119 1.314722 -0.000035 H9 -1.412248 -1.804409 0.000051

TS2

N1 1.084120 1.862411 -0.242899 C2 0.270490 0.988282 0.054405 N3 -0.957190 0.870407 0.497873 C4 -1.898391 0.134202 0.028180 N5 -2.845415 -0.472059 -0.324236 H6 2.035581 1.526673 -0.393216 N7 1.004318 -0.735440 0.033262 O8 0.259945 -1.674205 0.052011 O9 2.206430 -0.693146 -0.033298

HNC(-NO₂)NCN

N1 -1.287607 1.732564 0.000128 C2 -0.419510 0.804923 0.000052 N3 0.902933 1.040191 0.000008 C4 1.874328 0.204665 -0.000065 N5 2.894145 -0.392670 -0.000129 H6 -2.230927 1.331303 0.000152 N7 -0.920898 -0.692929 0.000006 O8 -0.074675 -1.560170 -0.000083 O9 -2.127574 -0.839696 0.000063

TS4

N1 1.281194 1.848383 -0.192939 C2 0.409266 1.031334 0.032810 N3 -0.892891 0.982703 0.356635 C4 -1.777362 0.185017 0.042589 N5 -2.779834 -0.390516 -0.289889 N6 1.105507 -0.667374 0.021051 O7 0.249022 -1.517269 0.110997 O8 2.288472 -0.785623 -0.082726 H9 -3.089215 -1.287346 0.057430

HNCNC(-NO₂)N

N1 -1.331179 1.764927 0.145334 C2 -0.485365 0.861819 -0.034814 N3 0.840900 0.983456 -0.293325 C4 1.773530 0.220465 -0.035897 N5 2.804330 -0.317856 0.269349 N6 -1.053960 -0.622151 -0.017747 O7 -0.221039 -1.503914 -0.113117 O8 -2.248262 -0.748031 0.096101 H9 3.204774 -1.136770 -0.164881

TS5

N1 3.747196 0.325316 -0.383125 C2 2.655169 -0.023755 0.002752 N3 1.568348 -0.242841 0.524666 C4 0.292991 -0.147686 0.255129 N5 -0.716947 -0.831870 0.109641 H6 4.433673 -0.291287 -0.799967 N7 -2.067987 0.101357 -0.071878 O8 -3.029558 -0.552883 -0.341455 O9 -1.950055 1.284908 0.091149

HNCNCN-NO₂

N1 3.751730 -0.175167 -0.438794 C2 2.638571 0.007563 -0.013942 N3 1.542620 0.362207 0.403784 C4 0.274365 0.201418 0.035935 N5 -0.746329 -0.025716 0.718213 H6 4.410943 -0.876180 -0.131209 N7 -2.010405 -0.056719 -0.047334 O8 -2.502449 -1.151776 -0.167496 O9 -2.454036 1.013033 -0.388983

TS_HT

N1 -4.282713 0.775677 0.339393 C2 -3.338126 0.179522 -0.005456 N3 -2.358993 -0.555431 -0.452752 C4 -1.121266 -0.412965 -0.189252 N5 0.039716 -0.371713 -0.052517 N6 2.889377 0.318865 -0.208376 O7 4.045607 0.563950 -0.232616 O8 2.390298 -0.475925 0.658783 H9 1.257406 -0.475333 0.378663

DCA

N1 0.000023 0.656080 0.000097 C2 -1.147556 0.054284 -0.000075 C3 1.147552 0.054307 -0.000197 N4 -2.240223 -0.374569 0.000041 N5 2.240204 -0.374589 0.000095

HNO₂ (*trans*-conformation)

N1 0.180051 0.486565 0.000068 O2 -1.045306 -0.255258 0.000055 O3 1.102795 -0.225557 -0.000053 H4 -1.720273 0.440558 -0.000488

TS_HT'

N1 -3.836117 0.740424 -0.535995 C2 -2.919528 0.218737 -0.033648 N3 -1.961450 -0.360173 0.636504 C4 -0.841823 -0.751011 0.187276 N5 0.201764 -1.219823 -0.121542 N6 2.332418 0.206495 -0.044694 O7 3.371146 -0.333866 -0.351896 O8 2.132807 1.348706 0.306642 H9 1.380178 -0.493541 -0.099652

O-NH-O

N1 0.000000 0.000000 0.309894 O2 0.000000 1.094283 -0.220195 O3 0.000000 -1.094283 -0.220195 H4 0.000000 0.000000 1.353866

TS1'

N1 -4.041721 0.352616 0.319180 C2 -2.958950 0.002810 0.092310 N3 -1.781558 -0.523890 -0.182319 C4 -0.621709 -0.065241 -0.190912 N5 0.589730 -0.405767 -0.380221 N6 2.830884 0.532975 0.155069 O7 3.068322 -0.613574 0.359148 O8 1.582097 0.848468 -0.208973 H9 1.099268 -1.196108 0.008247

HN(-ONO)CNCN

N1 -3.800840 0.552715 -0.248800 C2 -2.728781 0.164307 -0.026333 N3 -1.561608 -0.311590 0.337816 C4 -0.425766 -0.353602 -0.202767 N5 0.695115 -0.814960 0.342937 N6 2.694174 0.482466 -0.316143 O7 2.165850 1.283091 0.294841 O8 1.833094 -0.913429 -0.385720 H9 0.747848 -1.181934 1.290963

TS2'

N1 -2.713108 -0.333855 -0.430433 C2 -1.738886 0.119109 0.028454 N3 -0.707805 0.624953 0.647964 C4 0.396193 1.036337 0.083349 N5 1.217813 1.947701 -0.005714 N6 1.162648 -1.423968 -0.292435 O7 0.724507 -1.635415 0.794035 O8 1.079313 -0.297964 -0.857210 H9 0.908756 2.830539 0.398904

HNC(-ONO)NCN

N1 2.957232 -0.992372 -0.186702 C2 2.123075 -0.163030 -0.142009 N3 1.303302 0.837348 -0.145212 C4 -0.023244 0.667887 0.202568 N5 -0.869537 1.644752 0.086015 N6 -1.900966 -1.122516 0.156268 O7 -2.435486 -0.484193 -0.596631 O8 -0.395332 -0.523822 0.664417 H9 -0.382659 2.464498 -0.278219

TS3'

N1 1.001911 2.351777 0.054758 C2 1.216933 1.164851 -0.143898 N3 0.660758 -0.008221 -0.025248 C4 1.305034 -1.178233 -0.040118 N5 1.822231 -2.212612 -0.066093 H6 1.600739 3.100268 -0.272656 N7 -1.751680 -0.127483 -0.462768 O8 -2.824808 -0.219044 -0.031793 O9 -0.783328 -0.161481 0.640819

HNCN(-ONO)CN

N1 0.190850 2.398052 -0.048075 C2 0.925113 1.408147 -0.130587 N3 0.638977 0.102327 0.136075 C4 1.538512 -0.881089 -0.031270 N5 2.290281 -1.749251 -0.167211 H6 0.545161 3.325105 -0.256467 N7 -1.623893 -0.501961 -0.490351 O8 -2.641486 -0.751819 -0.046085 O9 -0.583567 -0.277132 0.697903

TS4′

N1 -2.457678 -1.422935 0.177758 C2 -1.885417 -0.408041 -0.096637 N3 -1.481932 0.737312 -0.320617 C4 -0.322017 1.298593 -0.016901 N5 0.418976 2.221067 0.114621 H6 -2.445231 -2.305740 -0.311674 N7 1.953178 -0.275023 -0.293143 O8 2.497839 -1.310013 -0.089550 O9 0.834914 -0.172552 0.494871

HNCNC(-ONO)N

N1 3.494167 -0.106598 0.264020 C2 2.317675 -0.291235 0.056257 N3 1.130175 -0.596884 0.003806 C4 0.034147 0.251702 -0.184218 N5 0.075653 1.513314 -0.107118 H6 4.205771 -0.080409 -0.453103 N7 -2.301123 0.106224 0.447207 O8 -3.282025 -0.335058 0.081846 O9 -1.106576 -0.426791 -0.461162

TS5'

N1 -3.949870 -0.094592 -0.441202 C2 -2.829047 -0.029239 0.008556 N3 -1.717300 -0.194700 0.497183 C4 -0.474116 0.159147 0.257753 N5 0.632197 -0.356738 0.134091 H6 -4.631688 0.652404 -0.405266 N7 2.966304 0.387194 -0.154489 O8 3.167246 -0.773505 -0.183633 O9 1.699172 0.821005 0.003424

HNCNCN-ONO

N1 -4.007544 0.041825 -0.088221 C2 -2.814030 -0.120879 0.019430 N3 -1.624660 -0.402818 -0.033472 C4 -0.488286 0.319395 -0.017772 N5 0.682026 -0.129325 -0.004924 H6 -4.661258 0.098770 0.679980 N7 3.036169 0.292114 0.011450 O8 3.077744 -0.862318 0.015624 O9 1.656408 0.874513 -0.001094

NO

N1 0.000000 0.000000 -0.612285 O2 0.000000 0.000000 0.535749

HN(O)CNCN

N1 -2.975840 -0.217671 -0.250202 C2 -1.867271 -0.046804 0.034676 N3 -0.637587 0.163419 0.516955 C4 0.400252 0.256486 -0.153248 N5 1.694948 0.370890 -0.102239 O6 2.520688 -0.595807 -0.007089 H7 2.065971 1.291893 -0.383448

HNC(O)NCN

N1 2.436805 -0.398988 -0.257299 C2 1.379209 -0.087186 0.092104 N3 0.187601 0.269191 0.608624 C4 -1.035364 -0.110371 0.008899 N5 -0.706460 1.171918 -0.364622 O6 -1.797241 -1.001000 -0.092843 H7 -1.110768 1.898495 0.229800

HNCN(O)CN

N1 2.139446 -0.718468 -0.166566 C2 1.065790 -0.244746 0.124026 N3 -0.053048 0.386381 -0.007145 C4 -1.209531 -0.362236 0.006869 N5 -2.208460 -0.939518 -0.010985 H6 2.770543 -1.044902 0.567014 O7 -0.131708 1.698504 -0.007440

HNCNC(O)N

N1 -2.549614 0.195423 -0.134112 C2 -1.415796 -0.163300 0.025052 N3 -0.293446 -0.675542 0.046514 C4 0.898009 -0.019347 0.009650 N5 1.367707 1.158114 0.005877 H6 -3.216186 0.504698 0.557003 O7 2.081298 -0.519348 -0.024145

HNCNCNO

N1 2.921205 -0.287812 -0.127105 C2 1.769061 0.051479 0.023620 N3 0.644690 0.542457 0.016331 C4 -0.573267 0.016118 -0.000330 N5 -1.738517 -0.016964 0.001950 H6 3.545601 -0.515370 0.636186 O7 -2.939002 -0.194248 -0.001770

HNCO

C1 -0.044851 0.021878 -0.000210 N2 1.158127 -0.122263 0.000066 O3 -1.210324 0.013896 0.000085 H4 1.844813 0.613402 0.000122

NCN

C1 0.000000 0.089813 0.000000 N2 1.211058 -0.039982 0.000000 N3 -1.211058 -0.037001 0.000000

HNCN

N1 1.155561 -0.133976 0.000003 C2 -0.109034 0.009343 -0.000010 N3 -1.299271 0.018057 0.000004 H4 1.660174 0.755376 0.000004

NCO

C1 0.000000 0.047048 0.000000 N2 0.624492 1.082804 0.000000 O3 -0.546431 -0.982739 0.000000

DCA⁻

N1 -0.000014 0.679121 -0.000008 C2 -1.149914 0.058004 0.000028 C3 1.149938 0.058069 -0.000005 N4 -2.233964 -0.389293 -0.000013 N5 2.233958 -0.389319 0.000002

NO_2

N1 0.000000 0.000000 0.321839 O2 0.000000 1.099987 -0.140804 O3 0.000000 -1.099987 -0.140804

TS6

N1 -1.283945 0.202315 0.000008 C2 -0.428996 -0.766888 0.000004 C3 -2.589175 0.094402 -0.000005 N4 0.796286 -1.071810 0.000007 N5 -3.757869 0.125066 -0.000016 N6 1.812440 0.123243 0.000003 O7 2.980330 -0.225413 0.000019 O8 1.412250 1.273315 -0.000021

NCNCN-NO₂⁻

N1 -1.252353 0.186243 0.000615 C2 -0.410298 -0.793880 -0.000862 C3 -2.559657 0.083572 0.000362 N4 0.854655 -1.020821 -0.001011 N5 -3.727546 0.120608 0.000333 N6 1.762400 0.107739 -0.000038 O7 2.952445 -0.196582 0.001480 O8 1.342510 1.259766 -0.001016

TS7

N1 -1.084031 0.876016 0.426036 C2 0.183605 1.027361 0.105712 C3 -1.878426 -0.029414 -0.099371 N4 1.013765 1.940807 -0.053028 N5 -2.696118 -0.775883 -0.502541 N6 1.095613 -0.541408 0.036737 O7 1.992687 -0.686234 -0.783151 O8 0.740354 -1.374316 0.859592

NCNC(-NO₂)N⁻

N1 -0.948207 1.092610 -0.000028 C2 0.365571 0.946558 0.000121 C3 -1.804238 0.104121 -0.000186 N4 1.345979 1.748416 0.000307 N5 -2.657795 -0.696988 -0.000331 N6 0.931640 -0.564298 0.000051 O7 1.120718 -1.085068 -1.085676 O8 1.120618 -1.085213 1.085726

TS7′

N1 1.540787 0.586837 0.378700 C2 0.421308 1.129891 0.022193 C3 1.972652 -0.589861 -0.001240 N4 -0.131692 2.130525 -0.410501 N5 2.474603 -1.608735 -0.273891 N6 -1.776873 -0.352597 -0.382518 O7 -0.999828 0.055153 0.599680 O8 -2.639114 -1.121702 -0.013210

NCNC(-ONO)N-

N1 0.974198 -0.529849 0.274408 C2 0.159376 0.519340 0.148487 C3 2.252837 -0.438529 -0.005575 N4 0.300109 1.726347 -0.236083 N5 3.402669 -0.485739 -0.220063 N6 -1.929508 -0.332689 -0.469797 O7 -1.184002 0.203790 0.587488 O8 -3.029191 -0.595211 -0.124579

TS8'

N1 -0.544933 0.025182 0.074622 C2 -0.934518 1.285770 -0.011630 C3 -1.357861 -0.997793 -0.125846 N4 -1.232220 2.409118 -0.075474 N5 -2.018796 -1.940951 -0.297633 N6 2.098371 -0.663667 0.106354 O7 2.455328 0.196169 -0.648520 O8 0.749336 -0.263124 0.919742

ON(CN)2⁻

N1 -0.000069 0.336501 0.000000 C2 -0.000012 -0.330654 -1.151607 C3 -0.000012 -0.330654 1.151607 N4 -0.000012 -0.873522 -2.183473 N5 -0.000012 -0.873522 2.183473 O6 0.000099 1.730206 0.000000

NO

N1 0.000000 0.000000 -0.612285 O2 0.000000 0.000000 0.535749

Cartesian coordinates for the structures in Fig. 7, calculated at B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)

 $\begin{bmatrix} MAT^+ - H_{C5}^+ \end{bmatrix}$ C1 0.015014 -1.000571 0.000013 N2 1.065040 -0.116546 0.000016 N3 -1.017538 -0.137805 -0.000014 C4 -2.427131 -0.491209 -0.000026 H5 -2.913334 -0.086433 -0.889292 H6 -2.913335 -0.086509 0.889274 C7 0.615903 1.181366 -0.000007 H8 1.265779 2.040865 -0.000011 H9 -2.494976 -1.576533 -0.000071 N10 -0.681469 1.208355 -0.000025 N11 2.434751 -0.439357 0.000037 H12 2.613828 -1.015683 0.817842 H13 2.613835 -1.015751 -0.817718

NO_2

N1 0.000000 0.000000 0.321839 O2 0.000000 1.099987 -0.140804 O3 0.000000 -1.099987 -0.140804

precursor 1

C1 -0.286450 0.123468 0.465227 N2 -0.742895 -1.131660 0.165112 N3 -1.329789 0.873173 0.079221 C4 -1.423336 2.322617 0.155730 H5 -2.244595 2.607775 0.815074 H6 -1.600796 2.734133 -0.838802 C7 -2.005233 -1.065685 -0.369915 H8 -2.567029 -1.929832 -0.683946 H9 -0.481323 2.695519 0.551091 N10 -2.405834 0.168161 -0.434400 N11 -0.053594 -2.345941 0.342051 H12 0.860243 -2.240969 -0.093623 H13 0.100059 -2.472921 1.338833 N14 2.284570 0.366051 -0.265309 O15 2.810730 1.370950 0.106883 016 2.683814 -0.769025 -0.332084

precursor 2

C1 -0.279087 0.059472 0.463816 N2 -0.855949 -1.135681 0.120858 N3 -1.255344 0.912897 0.112249 C4 -1.215989 2.360718 0.238004 H5 -2.003041 2.697918 0.914640 H6 -1.361800 2.820944 -0.740355 C7 -2.108675 -0.935883 -0.403735 H8 -2.748241 -1.732386 -0.746572 H9 -0.240530 2.631784 0.634304 N10 -2.394598 0.330611 -0.420739 N11 -0.281491 -2.414039 0.244386 H12 0.634396 -2.372947 -0.195267 H13 -0.128967 -2.590049 1.233979 N14 2.948220 0.281311 0.004980 O15 2.615825 -0.853544 -0.191317 O16 2.427277 1.330195 -0.223856

TS9

C1 -0.061475 -0.143473 0.341342 N2 -0.175243 1.203211 0.062532 N3 -1.325747 -0.590125 0.158874 C4 -1.799360 -1.953991 0.305369 H5 -2.174925 -2.322382 -0.650518 H6 -2.597515 -1.990241 1.049055 C7 -1.480618 1.474752 -0.260295 H8 -1.829116 2.465041 -0.503133 H9 -0.962897 -2.569452 0.628894 N10 -2.212175 0.403655 -0.218948 N11 0.823198 2.182836 0.134734 H12 1.277269 2.095316 1.039959 H13 1.526443 1.970472 -0.569316 N14 2.264958 -1.100440 -0.344065 015 2.641446 -0.315147 0.486551 016 1.006619 -1.010658 -0.719719

TS10

C1 0.055851 -0.025598 0.526961 N2 0.497704 1.221212 0.154265 N3 1.058800 -0.828949 0.118398 C4 1.150980 -2.271539 0.284630 H5 1.934390 -2.513598 1.005693 H6 1.386813 -2.728806 -0.676290 C7 1.720356 1.094054 -0.452616 H8 2.278929 1.933388 -0.832762 H9 0.187189 -2.632519 0.635481 N10 2.098872 -0.148523 -0.487711 N11 -0.149109 2.451743 0.353183 H12 -1.094829 2.347436 -0.013319 H13 -0.219337 2.611229 1.355296 N14 -1.650382 -0.406356 -0.176891 015 -2.019143 -1.558522 -0.095533 016 -2.359291 0.580707 -0.324050

TS11

C1 -1.109628 -0.796083 0.527592 N2 -0.291432 0.332637 0.582802 N3 -2.171814 -0.277913 -0.094355 C4 -3.387219 -0.994678 -0.450088 H5 -3.529163 -0.964864 -1.531193 H6 -4.244937 -0.532192 0.040118 C7 -0.922595 1.419778 -0.014009 H8 -0.485531 2.401735 -0.105964 H9 -3.272122 -2.022339 -0.114834 N10 -2.091040 1.074974 -0.438599 N11 0.922016 0.319175 1.176128 H12 1.704897 -0.555632 0.755624 H13 1.345712 1.244563 1.093815 N14 3.220831 -0.473638 -0.655666 O15 2.563467 -1.221119 0.150206 O16 2.921267 0.699617 -0.714044

5-O-MAT

C1 0.015229 0.692754 0.00000 N2 1.094223 -0.207119 0.000001 N3 -1.063216 -0.158907 -0.000001 C4 -2.455049 0.236577 0.000001 H5 -2.958459 -0.144373 0.890923 H6 -2.958465 -0.144386 -0.890912 C7 0.594741 -1.484263 -0.000001 H8 1.223330 -2.360008 0.000000 H9 -2.483918 1.325658 -0.000000 H9 -2.483918 1.325658 -0.000000 N10 -0.700909 -1.492417 -0.000001 N11 2.446018 0.136378 -0.000001 N11 2.631817 0.709796 -0.819421 H13 2.631826 0.709777 0.819430 O14 0.068942 1.910948 -0.000001

5-O₂N-MAT

C1 0.050171 0.117743 0.032569 N2 0.647462 -1.128695 -0.009119 N3 -1 288623 -0 129182 0 039107 C4 -2.415632 0.794844 -0.056905 H5 -3.229485 0.377969 0.534625 H6 -2.730092 0.889030 -1.098949 C7 -0.365028 -2.044111 -0.053419 H8 -0.182311 -3.105181 -0.095690 H9 -2.100025 1.761665 0.321916 N10 -1.534790 -1.480826 -0.024324 N11 2.008754 -1.468266 0.070228 H12 2.502769 -0.682673 -0.360449 H13 2.270654 -1.459749 1.055829 N14 0.707264 1.314171 -0.003316 015 0.044283 2.375052 0.202886 016 1.964587 1.282157 -0.252734

$[\mathbf{MAT}^+ - \mathbf{H}_2^+]$

C1 -0.037674 -1.023878 0.000001 N2 -1.137895 -0.160312 0.000001 N3 0.958833 -0.134759 -0.000001 C4 2.380602 -0.439288 -0.000003 H5 2.849516 -0.015975 0.889531 H6 2.849514 -0.015973 -0.889536 C7 -0.707238 1.159406 0.000000 H8 -1.378853 2.002093 0.000001 H9 2.486312 -1.521398 -0.000004 N10 0.583316 1.213191 -0.000001 N11 -2.433283 -0.503345 0.000003 H12 -2.417419 -1.529613 0.000004

cis-HNO₂

N1 0.172216 -0.519525 -0.000064 O2 1.058432 0.258769 0.000007 O3 -1.090084 0.066242 0.000032 H4 -0.952299 1.036586 0.000138