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# Binding motifs of carboplatin and oxaliplatin with guanine: a combined MS/MS, IRMPD and theoretical study 

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#### Abstract

Complexes generated in the gas phase involving the purine nucleobase guanine bound to second and third generation platinum drugs, namely carboplatin (CarboPt) and oxaliplatin (OxaliPt), were investigated by combining tandem mass spectrometry, collision induced dissociation (CID), infrared multiple photon dissociation spectroscopy (IRMPD) and density functional theory (DFT) calculations.

As first step, a spectroscopic characterization of the protonated platinum drugs was accomplished. Protonation of both CarboPt and OxaliPt in the gas phase occurs on one of the two carbonyl groups of the cyclobutanedicarboxylate and oxalate ligand, respectively. Such protonation has been postulated by several theoretical studies as a key preliminary step in the hydrolysis of Pt drugs under acidic conditions.

Subsequently, the protonated drugs react with guanine in solution to generate a complex of general formula [Pt drug $+\mathrm{H}+$ guanine $]^{+}$, which was then mass-selected. CID experiments provided evidence for the presence of strong binding between guanine and platinum-based drugs within the complexes. The structure of the two complexes has also been examined by comparing the experimental IRMPD spectra recorded in two spectral regions with DFTcomputed IR spectra. For each system, the IRMPD spectra agree with the vibrational spectra calculated for the global minimum structures, which present a monodentate complexation of Pt onto the N7 position of canonical guanine. This binding scheme is therefore akin to that observed for cisplatin, while other coordination sites yield substantially less stable species. Interestingly, in the case of oxaliplatin, the IRMPD spectra are consistent with the presence of two isomeric forms very close in energy.


## Introduction.

Discovered in the late 60's, cisplatin (cis-diamminedichloroplatinum(II); cis-[Pt( $\left.\left.\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right]$ ), has since revolutionized the field of cancer therapy, and is widely used as an anticancer drug, especially to treat lung, ovarian, testicular, head, and neck cancers. ${ }^{1}$ Its mechanism of action is now well described. ${ }^{2}$ After passive diffusion through the cell wall, the mechanism starts with hydrolysis of cisplatin by removal of a first chloro ligand, leading to the biologically active complex cis- $\left[\mathrm{Pt}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right) \mathrm{Cl}\right]^{+}$. The latter in turn interacts with the N 7 position of guanine (G), thereby generating a monofunctional adduct by substitution of water. Then, displacement of the second chloro ligand and coordination to the N7 position of an adjacent purine results in the formation of intrastrand crosslinks, ${ }^{3}$ mainly $1,2-\mathrm{d}(\mathrm{GpG})$ and, to a lesser extent, $1,2-\mathrm{d}(\mathrm{ApG})$, which induce strong distortion of $\mathrm{DNA}^{4}$ and ultimately cell death.

In spite of its clinical success, this first generation of Pt-based anticancer drugs suffers from the appearance of severe side effects, such as nausea, nephro-, oto- and neurotoxicity, ${ }^{5}$ as well as acquired resistance of tumor cells. ${ }^{6}$ Consequently, many efforts were devoted to the development of new Pt-based drugs, by systematically varying the metal ligand sphere, notably to reduce the high rate of hydrolysis of cisPt, recognized as an important factor of its toxicity. Forty years of intensive research finally resulted in the worldwide approval of the second and third generation platinum drugs, namely carboplatin (CarboPt) and oxaliplatin (OxaliPt), respectively (Scheme 1).


Caboplatin


Oxaliplatin

Scheme 1

As shown in Scheme 1, carboplatin and oxaliplatin present malonato and oxalato ligands, respectively, able to decrease the rate of hydrolysis by orders of magnitude when compared to that of cisplatin. ${ }^{7}$ CarboPt is used primarily to treat ovarian cancer, whereas OxaliPt is particularly active against colorectal tumors. ${ }^{8}$ However, in retrospect, neither carboplatin nor oxaliplatin have achieved the broad-spectrum application of cisplatin. ${ }^{2 b}$

It is generally admitted that the mechanism of action of CarboPt and OxaliPt within the cells is retracing that of cisPt. However, given the presence of bulkier substituents, and notably of the very stable 1,2-diamino-cyclohexane (DACH) ligand in oxaliplatin, one may reasonably wonder how their mode of interaction at the molecular level compares to that described for cisPt. This question has motivated the present study, which reports the structural characterization of the bare complexes arising from the interaction between CarboPt and OxaliPt with guanine, and the comparison with our previous works on cisPt. We performed this scrutiny by combining tandem mass spectrometry experiments, density functional theory calculations (DFT), and IRMPD (Infrared Multiple Photon Dissociation) spectroscopy of mass-selected ions. This latter technique is particularly powerful for the structural characterization of free/isolated metal ions/biomolecules complexes, ${ }^{9}$ and particularly for the interactions with DNA building blocks. ${ }^{10}$ Two distinct IR frequency domains were presently examined. We used a Fourier Tranform Ion Cyclotron Resonance (FT-ICR) setup coupled to the CLIO (Centre Laser Infrarouge d'Orsay) free electron laser to record IRMPD spectra in the $800-1900 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ energy region. ${ }^{11}$ Furthermore, we also examined the NH and OH stretches region between 2900 and $3700 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ by means of a tunable OPO/OPA system (optical parametric oscillator/optical parameter amplifier (OPO/OPA) combined with a Paul ion trap mass spectrometer. ${ }^{12}$

## Experimental

### 2.1 Materials

Carboplatin (cis-diammine-[1,1-cyclobutanedicarboxylato]platinum(II)) and oxaliplatin [(1R,2R-diamminocyclohexane)oxalatoplatinum(II)], 2'-deoxyguanosine-5'-monophosphate ( 5 '-dGMP), methanol and water used in this work were research grade products from commercial sources (Sigma-Aldrich s.r.l. Milan, Italy) and were used without any further purification. Stock aqueous solutions of $5^{\prime}$-dGMP and the two drugs were prepared at $10^{-3} \mathrm{M}$ concentration. To circumvent the poor solubility of guanine in any solvent, we used 5'-dGMP to generate the complexes of interest in the gas phase by loss of the deoxyribosyl-phosphate moiety. To this end, a $10^{-5} \mathrm{M}$ water:methanol solution of Pt drug and $5^{\prime}$-dGMP were mixed together in the molar ratio of (1:1) and then let to react at room temperature for 24 h .

### 2.2 CID experiments

The CID experiments were performed using two different mass spectrometers both equipped with an electrospray ionization (ESI) source. The solutions prepared as described were delivered to the ESI source using a syringe pump at a flow rate of $10 \mu \mathrm{~L} \mathrm{~min}{ }^{-1}$. To draw the fragmentation scheme of the investigated complex ions, $\mathrm{MS}^{\mathrm{n}}$ spectra were recorded in a linear ion trap mass spectrometer (LTQ XL from Thermo Scientific ${ }^{\mathrm{TM}}$ ). Typical operating parameters were set as follows: temperature: $250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, spray voltage: 5000 V and sheath gas flow rate: 10 (arbitrary units). Conversely, CID spectra at variable energy of the adducts of interest were obtained using a commercial hybrid triple-quadrupole linear ion trap mass spectrometer (2000 Q-Trap instrument from Applied Biosystems) with a Q1q2Q ${ }_{\text {Lit }}$ configuration. In this case, the source parameters used were ion spray voltage: 5500 V , declustering potential: 80 V , and entrance potential: 4 V . In the CID measurements, the complex ions of interest were massselected in Q1 and let to collide with $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ in the quadrupole collision cell q2 at variable collision
energies $\left(E_{\text {lab }}=5-50 \mathrm{eV}\right)$. The nominal pressure measured at the vicinity of q 2 was $3.3 \times 10^{-5}$ mbar. Note however that the actual pressure in the collision cell is in fact in the order of $10^{-2}$ mbar. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{At}$ this pressure and given the dimension of q2 ( $\sim 20 \mathrm{cms}$ long $)$, the mean free path for a $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ molecule is about 5 mm . So, the complexes under examination (which have higher collision cross-sections) certainly undergo multiple collisions along their path through q2, as also already reported for QTRAP instruments. ${ }^{14}$ The dissociation products were monitored by scanning Quit using the enhanced mode of operation, where the ions were trapped in Quit for 10 accumulation cycles to increase both resolution and signal intensity. Breakdown curves were generated by plotting the relative abundance of the ions in the resulting CID mass spectra as a function of collision energy. Quantitative threshold information is not directly available. ${ }^{15}$ However, to compare the breakdown curves of different ions, the laboratory-frame collision energy (Elab) was first converted to the center-of-mass frame (ЕСм) according to the equation $\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{CM}}=[\mathrm{m} /(\mathrm{m}+\mathrm{M})] \mathrm{E}_{\text {lab }}$, where m and M are the masses of the collision gas and of the ion, respectively. Phenomenological threshold energies (TE) of selected fragmentation pathways were then derived from linear extrapolation of the sigmoidal increase of the fragment abundances for comparative purposes. ${ }^{15 b, 16}$

### 2.3 IRMPD experiments

IRMPD experiments have been carried out in two spectral ranges. The fingerprint range (800$2000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ) was explored using the beamline of the free electron laser (FEL) of the Centre Laser Infrarouge d'Orsay (CLIO). ${ }^{17}$ The FEL radiation is delivered in trains of $8 \mu$ s-long macropulses at a repetition rate of 25 Hz , each containing few hundred micropulses ( $0.5-3 \mathrm{ps}$ long). Typical macropulse energies are 40 mJ . For the present study, the electron energy of the FEL was adjusted at 44.4 MeV to optimize and ensure a fairly stable laser power $(900-1100 \mathrm{~mW})$ in the explored frequency range of interest. The FEL beamline was coupled to a hybrid FT-ICR
tandem mass spectrometer (APEX-Qe Bruker) equipped with a 7.0 T actively shielded magnet and a quadrupole-hexapole interface for mass-filtering and ion accumulation. This experimental setup has already been described in details elsewhere. ${ }^{11}$ Ions of interest were mass-selected in the quadrupole, accumulated and collisionally cooled during 300 ms in a hexapole containing argon buffer gas and then transferred into the ICR cell where they were irradiated with the IR FEL light for 200 to 500 ms . The resulting photofragment ions are then mass-analyzed. To avoid saturation effects of the most intense absorptions, IRMPD spectra were also recorded using one or two attenuators to decrease the irradiation power.

To examine the vibrational modes associated with the $\mathrm{XH}(\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{N}, \mathrm{O})$ stretches, IRMPD spectra were also recorded in the 2900-3700 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ energy range by means of an optical parametric oscillator/amplifier (OPO/OPA, LaserVision) system coupled to a Paul ion trap mass spectrometer (Esquire 6000+, Bruker Daltonics), as already reported. ${ }^{12}$ This parametric converter is pumped by the 1064 nm fundamental of a non seeded Nd:YAG laser (Continuum Surelite II) operating at 9 Hz repetition rates and generates a typical output energy of ca. 19 $\mathrm{mJ} /$ pulse in the spectral range of investigation with $3-4 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ bandwidth. In the trap, ions were accumulated for 5-50 msec prior to IR irradiation. The typical irradiation time used in the experiment is 0.5 to 4 sec . In several cases, we improved the IRMPD signal intensity by irradiating the sampled ions with an auxiliary $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ laser (Universal Laser Systems, Inc., Scottsdale, AZ, USA). To this end, a 15 ms long $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ pulse of 13 W , corresponding to an energy of 260 mJ , followed each OPO/OPA pulse, delayed by $10 \mu \mathrm{~s} .{ }^{18}$

IRMPD spectra presented in this work depict the photofragmentation yield $\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{R}=-$ $\ln \left[I_{\text {precursor }} /\left(I_{\text {precursor }}+\Sigma I_{\text {product }}\right)\right]$, where $I_{\text {precursor }}$ and $I_{\text {product }}$ are the integrated intensities of the mass peaks of the precursor and of the product ions, respectively) as a function of the frequency of the IR radiation. ${ }^{17 \mathrm{~b}, 19}$

### 2.4 Theoretical study

Quantum chemical calculations were carried out in the framework of the Density Functional Theory (DFT), by using the hybrid B3LYP functional, ${ }^{20}$ as implemented in the Gaussian-16 set of programs. ${ }^{21}$ Provided the use of an appropriate scaling factor, Hybrid DFT methods such as B3LYP have been shown to be very efficient to describe both position and relative intensities of IR band. ${ }^{22}$ Furthermore, a recent computational study has shown that the B3LYP functional performs also well for the structural and IR characterization of Pt complexes. ${ }^{23}$ Geometry optimization was performed without any symmetry constraint with the $6-311 \mathrm{G}^{* *}$ basis set. The platinum atom was described by using the Los Alamos effective core potential (ECP) in combination with the LACV3P** basis set. ${ }^{24}$ Harmonic vibrational frequencies were also computed at this level to estimate the zero-point vibrational energy (ZPE) corrections, and to characterize the stationary points as local minima or saddle points. The successful combination of the Los Alamos ECP+basis sets with the B3LYP functional for the investigation of both the electronic properties and reaction pathways of platinum-containing compounds is rather well documented, ${ }^{25}$ including several computational studies on cisplatin, carboplatin and oxaliplatin. ${ }^{26,27}$ In addition, so far we obtained an overall good agreement by using this approach, between the experimental IRMPD spectra and the harmonic vibrational spectra for different complexes involving cisplatin. ${ }^{10 \mathrm{e}, \mathrm{j}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{q}}$

The infrared absorption spectra of the various structures were calculated within the harmonic approximation. Calculated frequencies were scaled by a factor of 0.974 in the fingerprint region and by 0.957 in the X-H stretch region for a better agreement with the experimental spectrum, as detailed in a previous study. ${ }^{10 e}$ Finally, to be consistent with the experimental spectral resolution, the calculated absorption spectra have been convoluted with a Lorentzian profile of $15 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ FWHM (full width at half maximum) in the $800-2000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ region, while a FWHM of $5 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ was used for the $2900-3700 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ frequency range. Throughout this paper total energies
are expressed in Hartrees and relative energies in $\mathrm{kJ} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$. For the sake of simplicity, the basis set used for Pt will be referred to as $6-311 \mathrm{G}^{* *}$.

## 3.Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Collision-induced dissociation experiments

The mass spectrum of the methanolic/aqueous solution containing CarboPt and $5^{\prime}$ '-dGMP recorded in ESI-MS displays a cluster at $m / z 522-524$ whose isotopic pattern is in perfect agreement with the calculated isotopic pattern for the $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex, as reported in Figure S1. Similarly, the ESI mass spectrum of the OxaliPt - 5'-dGMP solution shows a cluster at $m / z$ 548-550, corresponding to $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex, as depicted in Figure S 2 . The complex observed is therefore different from the ions observed in a previous ESI study of OxaliPt/nucleobase mixtures, which were characterized by the loss of the oxalate ligand. ${ }^{28}$

To attain the fragmentation pattern of the $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$adducts ions, $\mathrm{MS}^{\mathrm{n}}$ experiments have been performed in a linear ion trap mass spectrometer. Figure S 3 shows the CID spectrum of $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$recorded at 15 eV , where the precursor ion exhibits three dissociation channels. The most abundant product ion at $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 505$ is obtained by the elimination of a single ammonia molecule, the product ion at $m / z 461$ from the combined loss of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ and $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$, and the $m / z 371$ species, formally ascribed to protonated carboplatin, $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$, by elimination of neutral guanine. $\mathrm{MS}^{3}$ experiments performed on each primary fragments has allowed to draw the fragmentation scheme for $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{G}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$adduct (Figure S 4 ).

The CID spectrum of $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$is characterized by four principal dissociation routes (Figure S5). The first dissociation product at $m / z 504$ is due to elimination of $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$, while the second one, at $m / z 458$, consists in the loss of $\left[\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}\right]$. Elimination of guanine yields protonated oxaliplatin at $m / z 397$, $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$, whereas the product ion at $m / z 353$ is due to
the combined elimination of guanine and $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$. The overall fragmentation scheme of $[\text { OxaliPt }+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$is reported in Figure S6.

Since both complexes lose neutral guanine yielding the respective protonated Pt-drug as primary fragment ion, this dissociation pathway was further investigated. A qualitative evaluation of the energy involved in Pt drug and guanine binding in $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$adducts have been gathered by exploiting CID at variable energy. The ion abundance of precursor and product ions as a function of the collision energy expressed in the center of mass framework ( $\mathrm{E}_{С \mathrm{CM}}$ ) is given in Figure S7. Linear extrapolation of the rise of the breakdown curves provides a phenomenological threshold energy (TE) of $0.56 \pm 0.20 \mathrm{eV}$ for the appearance of protonated carboplatin (Figure S7a), while the values of TE for the appearance of the ion at $m / z 397$, corresponding to protonated oxaliplatin, and the ion at $m / z$ 353 , corresponding to $\left[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}-\left(\mathrm{CO}_{2}\right)\right]^{+}$, are $0.93 \pm 0.20 \mathrm{eV}$ and $1.02 \pm 0.20 \mathrm{eV}$, respectively (Figure S 7 b ). Since the sizes of $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$are comparable and the CID experiments are conducted under the same collision gas pressure, both complexes undergo a comparable number of collisions during the experiments. For the same reason, relevant differences in kinetic shift effects are not expected due to the similar degrees of vibrational freedom of the complexes, and have not been considered in the phenomenological comparison. These TE values do not provide a direct, absolute measurement of the threshold energy for dissociation, but suggest that oxaliplatin is more strongly bound to guanine in comparison with carboplatin. This trend could be correlated to the minor drug resistance observed in the clinical application of oxaliplatin. Among the various factors that contribute to platinum-resistance cells, including decreased cellular drug accumulation, enhanced detoxification system and reduced apoptosis, the DNA repair process plays the most important role. ${ }^{29}$ The stronger binding observed in the isolated $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex may reflect the lower aptitude of the

OxalipPt-DNA crosslinks adducts to undergo DNA repair processes compared to CarboPtDNA adducts.

### 3.2 IRMPD spectroscopy of the reactive species $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$

 ESI mass spectra (Figure S1 and S2) show that protonation of the platinum drug is systematically observed, leading to $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$, which in turn form an adduct with guanine in solution to generate a complex of general formula $[\mathrm{Pt} \text { drug }+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$. The interaction mechanism therefore differs from that occurring with cisplatin, which is promoted by dechlorination, leading to cis-[ $\left.\mathrm{Pt}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{2}(\mathrm{G}) \mathrm{Cl}\right]^{+}$ions. ${ }^{10 e}$ Protonation on CarboPt and OxaliPt is also observed in the ESI mass spectra of methanolic/aqueous solution of the individual drugs in the absence of the nucleobase (Figure S8). Before examining in details the structure of the two $\mathrm{Pt} / \mathrm{G}$ complexes, we recorded the IRMPD spectra of the drugs in protonated form, because several computational studies suggested a key role of protonation in the ring opening process allowing the metallic center to interact with the nucleobase during a subsequent step. ${ }^{30}$The IRMPD spectra recorded in the fingerprint region for the $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$ ions are displayed in Figure 1, whereas data obtained in the $\mathrm{XH}(\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{N}, \mathrm{O})$ stretching region are summarized in the supporting information.

The photofragmentation spectrum of protonated oxaliplatin in the fingerprint region (recorded at $1250 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ) is characterized by loss of carbon dioxide, followed by elimination of water and carbon monoxide (Figure S9, upper panel). Elimination of the intact DACH ligand is not observed. Scanning the laser wavelength results in the IRMPD spectrum displayed in Figure 1a that shows three sharp features at 1248,1669 and $1759 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, and other weaker bands at 1063, 1150 and $1444 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.

To obtain structural information from this spectrum, a comparison with the calculated IR spectra of potential structures is mandatory. The geometry of the optimized structures for the $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$ions are given in Figure S10. The harmonic vibrational spectra obtained for the two most stable forms are displayed in Figure 1. Elimination of water as a photofragment suggested protonation of the oxalate ligand, consistently such protonation results in the most stable computed forms. The global minimum obtained, Oxal_H1, is in agreement with a previous theoretical study. ${ }^{26 c}$ It is characterized by a proton located on an oxygen atom not interacting with the metallic center, the proton being in an 'inside' position. The various features in the experimental spectrum are nicely reproduced by the computed spectrum of the isomer Oxal_H1. Given this good agreement, the vibrational modes of $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$can be assigned as described in Table S2. Notably, the band observed experimentally at $1444 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ probably corresponds to the stretch of the protonated carbonyl group, whereas the $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ stretch of the second carbonyl, computed at $1765 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and red-shifted due to the formation of an internal hydrogen bond, accounts for the very intense band at $1759 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.


Figure 1. Experimental IRMPD spectrum of a) $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$and $\mathbf{b}$ ) $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$ions in the fingerprint region, compared with the IR spectra of their two most stable computed forms at the B3LYP/6-311G** level. For [OxaliPt +H$]^{+}$: irradiation time 2 s combined with $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ activation of 15 ms ; for $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}:$irradiation time 500 ms and 1 attenuator.

Examination of Figure 1 also shows that the agreement of the Oxal_H2 structure with the experimental features at 1248,1669 and $1759 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ is less satisfactory. In addition, OPO experiments are consistent with data obtained in the fingerprint region. As shown in Figure S11, the agreement in the X-H stretch region is again much better with Oxal_H1. Furthermore, the $\mathbf{O x a l} \mathbf{H} \mathbf{2}$ structure is $20.9 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ less stable than the global minimum, supporting the evidence that its presence in the gas phase can be reasonably excluded. Finally, the Oxal_H3 form, characterized by protonation onto an oxygen that interacts with Pt, turned out to be notably less stable $\left(+78.7 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}\right)$ and its formation is therefore deemed unlikely (Figure S12). The IRMPD spectrum of $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$in the fingerprint range is presented in Figure 1b. This spectrum is characterized by three broad features at $1180-1255,1390-1460,1560-1630 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$
and two sharper bands centered at 1305 and $1745 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. Unsurprisingly, the photofragmentation differs from that of protonated OxaliPt and is associated with subsequent elimination of ammonia, carbon dioxide and the second ammonia (Figure S9 lower panel).

Given the results obtained with OxaliPt, we focused our theoretical survey on the protonation of the carboxylate group of the 1,1-cyclobutanedicarboxylato moiety. The two most stable forms are displayed in Figure 1 b and are again associated with the protonation of an oxygen atom not interacting with Pt. Carbo_H1 and Carbo_H2 only differ by rotation of the hydroxyl group and, not unexpectedly, examination of Figure 1b indicates that the spectra of the two forms reproduce the experimental trace reasonably well. Vibrational assignment for Carbo_H1 is provided in the supporting information (Table S3). The broad feature between 1180-1255 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ is accounted for by several OH and CH bending modes, whereas the sharp band at 1305 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ is attributed to ammonia bending vibrations. Interestingly, the broad signal observed at $1390-1460 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ may result from the combination of at least two bands at ca. 1405 and 1435 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$, which likely correspond to the $v(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H})$ stretching vibration computed at 1385 and $1415 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, for Carbo_H2 and Carbo_H1, respectively. Moreover, the $v(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OH}))$ stretching mode computed at 1563 and $1598 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ for Carbo_H1 and Carbo_H2, respectively, may account for the asymmetrical shape of the experimental band located between 1560 and 1630 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$. Finally, the sharp band at $1745 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ can be attributed to the $v(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OPt}))$ vibration. In the XH -stretching range, the two structures exhibit very similar spectra (Figure S11), which are again in very good agreement with the experimental contour. These different findings, combined with the fact that Carbo_H1 and Carbo_H2 are close in energy ( $8.6 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ ), suggest that a mixture of these two forms is likely to be sampled in the gas phase.

In summary, our study demonstrates that under our experimental condition, protonation of both CarboPt and OxaliPt occurs on one of the two carbonyl groups. Such protonation has been postulated by several theoretical studies as a key preliminary step in the hydrolysis of the Pt
drugs under acidic conditions, because protonation lowers the activation barrier associated with the ring-opening process and allows the subsequent interaction with the nucleobase. ${ }^{30}$ When comparing the geometry of the neutral and protonated forms of carboplatin and oxaliplatin (Figure S 10 ), one may notice that the oxygen protonation results in a significant lengthening of the associated Pt-O bond ( $+0.060 \AA$ and $+0.088 \AA$, respectively).

### 3.3 IRMPD spectroscopy of $[\mathbf{C a r b o P t}+\mathbf{H}+\mathbf{G}]^{+}$complex

The main purpose of the present paper is to determine the structure of the adducts $[\text { CarboPt }+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$observed with guanine ( G ), ions which formally correspond to the interaction of the protonated Pt drugs with intact G. To this end, we focused our theoretical survey by considering almost exclusively the canonical form of the nucleobase. We made several attempts by considering tautomeric forms of guanine, but as the resulting structures were systematically less stable, we did not push forward this exploration. Similarly, preliminary calculations have shown that protonation preferentially occurs onto the Pt drug, and not on the nucleobase. Given the fact that the results obtained for protonated carboplatin and oxaliplatin suggest the significant lengthening of one of the Pt-O bonds, we considered that one coordination site of Pt could become accessible, and that guanine could interact directly with the metal at either the $\mathrm{N} 3, \mathrm{~N} 7, \mathrm{O} 6$ or $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ positions. Consequently, the names used to label the different structures are composed of three distinct parts: i) the name of the Pt drug (Carbo/Oxal), ii) the guanine site of interaction with Pt , and iii) an additional number if different forms for a particular interaction site are mentioned. Figure 2 shows representative optimized geometries for the different binding sites of guanine with protonated carboplatin.


Carbo_N3 +150.5


Carbo_NH2-1 +114.9


Carbo_NH2-2 +260.2


Carbo_N7-1 0.0


Carbo_N7-2 +18.3


Carbo_0-1 +40.0



Figure 2. Representative structures computed for the $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex. Bond lengths are in Angströms, relative free energies in $\mathrm{kJ} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$.

First, a square planar coordination scheme is systematically observed around platinum. One can also note that the guanine amino group is the less favorable binding site. One of the key results of this computational survey is that interaction of Pt with COO is systematically preferred over interaction with COOH , regardless of guanine binding site. This is illustrated for example by the comparison between the two forms Carbo_NH2-1 and Carbo_NH2-2.

Examination of Figure 2 also indicates that the N7 position of guanine is the preferred platination target. This finding is not surprising given the previous results reported in the literature ${ }^{8,31}$, and it is similar to what we determined in the gas phase with cisplatin. ${ }^{10 e}$ The most stable form, Carbo_N7-1, is characterized by an interaction with N7 together with several stabilizing weak contacts, as already observed for the $\left[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}+\mathrm{G}\right]$ complex ${ }^{31}$. One may notice: i) an interaction between the hydrogen atom on C 8 and the protonated carboxylic group, ii) hydrogen bonds between the ammonia ligands and the carbonyl of G on one hand, and the malonate carboxylate on the other hand, and iii) an interaction between the OH and $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ of COOH in syn configuration. The removal of the latter interaction results in a structure (Carbo_N7-2) $18.3 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ less stable than the global minimum. When G interacts with either N 3 or O , several hydrogen bonds are also established within the complexes, but the resulting structures, although minima on the potential energy surface, are considerably less stable than those involving N7.

In the FT-ICR mass spectrometer, the whole isotopic cluster corresponding to the $[\text { CarboPt }+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex at $m / z$ 522-526 was mass selected for subsequent IRMPD experiments. The fragmentation of this species upon irradiation by IR photons in resonance with an active vibrational mode in the fingerprint region (Figure S13) yields two product ions that were previously observed in the CID experiments, namely by loss of one ( $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 505-509$ ) and two ammonia ( $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ 498-492) molecules. This latter fragment was observed in $\mathrm{MS}^{3}$ experiments on the ion at $m / z 505$. One can also observe two minor product ions associated with loss of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ and $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ (cluster at $m / z$ 461-465) and with the loss of G (cluster at 371-375), respectively. Formation of $\mathrm{GH}^{+}$is never observed upon IRMPD activation. These same photofragments are observed by IRMPD in the OPO region.

The experimental IRMPD spectrum of $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$in the $1000-1800 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ range is plotted in Figure 3a together with the IR spectra calculated for the species representative of different binding schemes (Figure 3b-e).


Figure 3. Experimental IRMPD spectrum of the $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex (top) in both a) fingerprint (red trace: irradiation time 500 ms ; black trace : irradiation time 250 ms ; green trace: irradiation time 500 ms , laser optimized in the $1600-1800 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ range) and $\mathbf{a}^{\prime}$ ) $\mathrm{X}-\mathrm{H}$ region (black trace : irradiation time 1500 ms ; blue trace : irradiation time 1000 ms ), compared with the computed IR spectra (b)-e) and $\mathbf{b}^{\mathbf{\prime}}$ )-e')) of structures representative of different binding schemes and reported in Figure 2. See text for details.

The experimental trace shows two distinct features centered around 1130 and $1320 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, and a very broad signal spanning from 1565 to $1750 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, resulting from the combination of several absorptions. Comparison between panels a and b in Figure 3 shows that the experimental IRMPD spectrum is nicely reproduced by the computed spectrum of the global minimum Carbo_N7-1. Given this good agreement, the vibrational modes of $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$can be interpreted as described in Table S4, which gathers both the experimental IRMPD features and the IR bands calculated for Carbo_N7-1. The band detected at $1130 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ may comprise the combination of several bending modes and notably rocking of the methylene groups of the cyclobutane moiety. The very intense signal ranging between 1285 and $1355 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and centered at $1320 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, may be associated to several intense vibrational modes, and particularly the $v(\mathrm{C}$ $=\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{Pt})$ and $v(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H})$ stretches ( $1295 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $1334 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, respectively), the $\mathrm{N} 1-\mathrm{H}$ bending mode ( $1328 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ), as well as the umbrella mode of both ammonia ligands ( $1341 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and 1353 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ). Specific examination of the $1500-1800 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ region indicates that these broad features can encompass at least four (if not more) absorptions. In this region, six particularly active vibrational modes are computed for the global minimum (Table S4): five stretches involving $\mathrm{N} 3-\mathrm{C} 4, \mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{N} 2, \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OPt}), \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}($ of G$), \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OH})$ bonds, and the bending mode associated to the $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H}$ bond engaged in the hydrogen bond with the guanine carbonyl group.

The $[\text { CarboPt+ } \mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex has also been examined in the region from 3050 to $3700 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. The resulting spectrum (Figure 3a') is particularly informative with a combination of broad ( $\sim 3150$ and $3345 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ) and sharp features (between 3390 and 3575 wavenumbers). Again, a reasonable agreement is observed with the spectrum computed for the global minimum Carbo_N7-1, especially in the region above $3300 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ The broad band centered around 3345 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ may be ascribed to a symmetric $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ stretching mode of the two ammonia ligands (computed at 3332 and $3334 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ), whereas the computed asymmetric counterpart is consistent with the experimental band at $3390 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. The bands detected at 3425 and $3445 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ may
correspond to the N1-H elongation and the symmetric $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ stretch of G, respectively. The most intense band at $3480 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ is attributed to the stretch of the N9-H bond. Finally, the two bands detected at 3550 and $3575 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (weak) may correspond to the asymmetric $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ stretch of G on one hand (computed at $3570 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ), and to the OH stretch of the COOH group (computed at $3584 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ) on the other hand. The experimental IRMPD spectrum of $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$shows also a broad and weak absorption around $3150 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. The nearest absorption computed for Carbo_N7-1 that might account for this particular signal, is the very intense feature associated to the $\mathrm{C} 8-\mathrm{H}$ stretch, the proton being interacting with the carbonyl of the COOH group. Such broadening effects and low IRMPD efficiencies associated to the stretching vibrations of X-H groups involved in a hydrogen bond, have been already observed for example in the case of protonated nucleobases ${ }^{32}$, and may find their origin in the anharmonicity of these modes.

Examination of Figures 3 c -e and 3 c '-e' shows that the alternate binding schemes $\left(\mathrm{O}, \mathrm{N} 3, \mathrm{NH}_{2}\right.$ ) are globally less consistent with the experimental spectra. Concerning the Carbo_O-1 form, a reasonable match is observed in the fingerprint region, but this is not the case in the OPO domain (Figure 3c'). As for the structures corresponding to the remaining binding sites, the agreement is not satisfactory. Given these discrepancies and the fact that these structures are significantly less stable than Carbo_N7-1, their formation during our experiments seems precluded. Finally, the comparison with the vibrational spectra computed for the Carbo_N7-2 structure is given in the supporting information (Figure S14). At first glance, one can see that in the fingerprint region, the computed spectrum reproduces the experimental trace quite well. However, one noticeable difference is the $v(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OH}))$ stretch computed at $1766 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, and therefore $33 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ blue-shifted with respect to Carbo_N7-1, because of the lack of the internal hydrogen bond between $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ and OH . Therefore, in Figure S14b, this vibration does not correspond to any experimental signature, and the computed spectrum does not reproduce the absorption observed experimentally around $1740 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. Similarly, another consequence is the

OH stretch computed at $3625 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (blue-shift of $41 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ compared to Carbo_N7-1), and therefore less consistent with the experimental spectrum. These findings and the relative free energy estimated for Carbo_N7-2 $\left(+18.3 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}\right)$ suggest that the Carbo_N7-2 form might not be generated in the gas phase.

### 3.4 IRMPD spectroscopy of $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathbf{H}+\mathbf{G}]^{+}$complex

Concerning the computational survey of the $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex, we followed the same strategy as for the previously reported $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex, by focusing on canonical guanine. Again, examination of Figure 4 shows a clear preference of the platinated agent towards the N7 position of guanine, as compared to either other interaction sites. Likewise the carboplatin case, N 3 and $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ are the least favorable interaction sites of guanine.


Oxal_N3 +113.3


Oxal_O +71.3


Oxal_N7-2 0.0


Oxal_N7-5 +27.6




Oxal_N7-3 +11.9


Oxal_N7-4 +26.4


Oxal_N7-6 +61.4

Figure 4. Representative structures computed for the $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex. Bond lengths are in Angströms, relative free energies in $\mathrm{kJ} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$.

Notably, an important difference in comparison with carboplatin is the greater flexibility of the oxalate moiety once the nucleobase has interacted with the metal, which leads to a set of structures rather close in energy. This is presently illustrated in Figure 4 by six different forms involving the N 7 platination, five of which lying within $28 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$. The sixth one, Oxal_N76, is much higher in free energy as it implies the coordination of Pt with COOH . Then, we can
focus on the two most stable structures, namely Oxal_N7-1 and Oxal_N7-2, which are separated by only $4.3 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$. They share the same square planar organization around Pt , involving the two amino groups of the DACH moiety, interaction with the COO group of the oxalate ligand, and a monodentate interaction (N7) with G. Again, these structures also exhibit several weak stabilizing interactions, and Oxal_N7-1 and Oxal_N7-2 differ by the nature of the hydrogen bond established within the oxalate ligand. In the former conformer, the hydrogen bond is found between the two carboxylic groups and the oxalate ligand is planar, whereas in the latter the hydrogen bond involves only one carbonyl group, and the oxalate ligand is no longer planar (OCCO dihedral angle $31.5^{\circ}$ ) because of the establishment of an $\mathrm{O} \cdots \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{C} 8$ interaction. Removal of this particular interaction (Oxal_N7-3) results in a geometry 11.9 kJ $\mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ less stable. In summary, given the small energy differences observed, the presence of a mixture of structures is possible.

As in the case of $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$, we recorded the photofragmentation spectrum of the $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex by selecting the whole isotopic cluster ( $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 548-552$ ) and then irradiating with the CLIO FEL the selected ions by IR photons in resonance with an active vibrational mode (Figure S13). Four product ions, already observed under CID conditions, were detected. The most abundant species corresponds to loss of carbon dioxide, and the three other minor product ions are due to elimination of G, $\mathrm{G}+\mathrm{CO}_{2}$, and $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}$. These four product ions were all considered to obtain the experimental IRMPD trace presented in Figure 5, presently recorded by irradiating the complex during 210 ms . Two broad features are observed, the first one between 1125 and $1210 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and the second one between 1250 and $1340 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.


Figure 5. Experimental IRMPD spectrum of the $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex (top) in both a) fingerprint (irradiation time 210 ms ) and $\mathbf{a}^{\prime}$ ) X-H region (black trace : irradiation time 1500 ms ; blue trace : irradiation time 1000 ms ), compared with the computed IR spectra (b)-f) and $\left.\mathbf{b}^{\mathbf{\prime}}\right) \mathbf{- f} \mathbf{\prime}$ )) of structures representative of different binding schemes and reported in Figure 4. See text for details.

The region above $1550 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ is characterized by at least three significant absorptions at about $1585,1625,1680$, and a shoulder around $1755 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. Finally, two other weak signals are also observed at $1410 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $1800 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. Comparison between panels a and b in Figure 5 shows that most of the experimental bands are nicely reproduced by the computed spectrum of the global minimum Oxal_N7-2. Assuming the formation of this particular structure, the experimental absorptions of the $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex can be interpreted by the computed IR modes listed in Table S5. The broad band detected around $1160 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ may result from the contribution of several $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ of $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H}$ bending modes of G and DACH , together with the intense OH bending mode of the protonated oxalate group. The large feature detected between 1250 and $1340 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, and centered around $1295 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, is consistent with five significant absorptions of Oxal_N7-2, and notably the $v(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{Pt})$ stretch. The weak feature at $1410 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ may correspond to the $\delta(\mathrm{N} 9-\mathrm{H})$ bending mode. The intense band detected at c.a. $1585 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ is attributed to the stretching of the N3-C4 bond, whereas the band at $\mathrm{c} . \mathrm{a} 1625 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ can correspond to the $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ scissoring of the DACH ligand, and to $\mathrm{v}(\mathrm{C} 2 \mathrm{~N} 2)$. The $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ stretch of the carboxylate interacting with Pt , and of the guanine carbonyl, can account for the intense band observed at $1680 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. These two vibrations are significantly red shifted as compared to unperturbed carbonyl groups because of the establishment of hydrogen bonds with DACH amino groups. Finally, the shoulder observed around $1755 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ can be ascribed to the remaining carbonyl group (of COOH ) computed at $1762 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.

One can notice that the IR spectrum computed for the global minimum does not account for the small feature detected at $1800 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. This finding suggests that a mixture of forms could be generated for the $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex. The computed spectra of Oxal_N7-1 and Oxal_N7-2 are very similar, but one noticeable difference is the $\mathrm{v}(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OH}))$ stretching mode of Oxal_N7-1 $\left(1816 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$, which is not engaged in any weak interaction, is blue-shifted by 54
$\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ with respect to Oxal_N7-2 and therefore may account for the small absorption observed at $1800 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. Also to be noted is that the IR spectrum computed for Oxal_N7-1 does not reproduce the shoulder around $1755 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, thus reinforcing the likely presence of a mixture of two forms. The formation of Oxal_N7-1 may also account for the very strong and broad signal centered around $1295 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, because a highly active mode is computed at $1302 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (supporting information, Table S6). Finally, examination of panels $5 \mathrm{c}-\mathrm{f}$ shows that the agreement with the spectra computed for the remaining binding schemes is less satisfactory.

In summary, the data obtained in the fingerprint region suggest the formation of a mixture of at least two forms involving a monodentate interaction of the metal with the N 7 position of guanine. This finding is also supported by the experimental data recorded in the 2900-3700 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ spectral range (Figure $5 \mathrm{a}^{\prime}$ ). As in the Carboplatin case, the experimental spectrum presents a series of sharp (although sometimes weak) signals above $3300 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, which are presently well reproduced by assuming a mixture of Oxal_N7-1 and Oxal_N7-2 forms, and particularly those detected at 3418,3445 and $3475 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, that can be attributed for both structures to the $\mathrm{N} 1-\mathrm{H}$ elongation, the symmetric $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ stretch of G, and the elongation of the $\mathrm{N} 9-\mathrm{H}$ bond, respectively (Supporting information). The weak broad band below $3000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ probably corresponds to the C-H stretches of the DACH ligand, whereas the broad feature around $3110 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ may correspond to either C8-H or DACH N-H stretches, all engaged in hydrogen bonding. The signals detected at $3335 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and above $3500 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ can also be ascribed to a computed vibration of either Oxal_N7-1 or Oxal_N7-2. Again, the overall agreement with the computed spectra for structures arising from other interaction schemes is less satisfactory (Figures $5 \mathrm{c}^{\prime}$ '-f'). Given these discrepancies and the fact that these forms are sensibly less stable than Oxal_N7-1/Oxal_N7-2 ( $>40 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ ), their formation during our experiments seems unlikely. Overall, the data obtained by scanning the two energy ranges strongly suggest a preferred interaction of protonated oxaliplatin with the N7 position of guanine. Furthermore, IRMPD data point to the
establishment of a stabilizing hydrogen bond between the pseudoequatorial amino group of the $(\mathrm{R}, \mathrm{R})$-DACH ligand and the O 6 atom of G , similar to the one observed in the crystal structure of an oxaliplatin $1,2-\mathrm{d}(\mathrm{GpG})$ intrastrand cross-link in a DNA dodecamer duplex. ${ }^{33}$

## Conclusions

The protonated forms of carboplatin and oxaliplatin, the second- and third-generation platinum-based anticancer drugs, generated by ESI-MS, were structurally characterized by combining IRMPD action spectroscopy and quantum-chemical calculations. Both platinum drugs result protonated on one of the two carbonyl groups of the malonato and oxalato ligand of carboplatin and oxaliplatin, respectively. This protonation causes a significant elongation of one of the Pt-O bonds with respect to the neutral form of the platinum drugs. Such evidence agrees with previous theoretical studies indicating protonation as a key step in the hydrolysis of platinum-based drugs by lowering the activation barrier associated with the ring opening process.

Subsequently, IRMPD spectroscopy was applied to structurally characterize the $[\text { CarboPt }+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complexes, generated in solution and isolated in the mass spectrometer. Comparisons between experimental and calculated IR spectra showed that in both complexes the platinum atom binds directly and exclusively to the N 7 position of guanine, as previously observed for cisplatin. In these complexes protonation is directed on carboplatin or oxaliplatin moiety and the platinum maintains the square planar geometry of the neutral drug as guanine replaces the protonated carbonyl group of the malonato or oxalato ligand. These geometries confirm the key role played by protonation in the hydrolysis reaction mechanism of carboplatin and oxaliplatin. Any relevant contribution of isomers, characterized by different coordination schemes between guanine and platinum, can be excluded. The
interaction mechanism therefore differs from that occurring with cisplatin, which is promoted by dechlorination.

Furthermore, the $\mathrm{MS}^{2}$ spectra of both $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complexes display a product ion due to the loss of neutral guanine yielding the respective protonated Ptdrug. Further CID experiments at variable energies performed on both $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complexes found a significantly higher value of the phenomenological threshold energy for the appearance of protonated oxaliplatin compared to protonated carboplatin ion. This trend is indicative of a stronger $\mathrm{Pt}-\mathrm{G}$ bonding in the $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$than in $[\text { CarboPt }+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$. These findings are in agreement with the lower drug resistance observed in the oxaliplatin therapy respect to carboplatin treatment. The second part of this study, dedicated to the interaction with adenine, is under preparation and will report a very different behavior of the two purine bases in presence of these two Pt drugs.

The present results confirm IRMPD spectroscopy combined with DFT calculation and CID experiment as a powerful tool to elucidate the intrinsic interaction occurring between platinum agent and DNA nucleotide. As these studies have shown themselves on several occasions to be in agreement with the observations made in the condensed phase, they could be used to predict the coordination chemistry of potential new drugs with their final target.

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## Supporting Information Available

Detailed experimental mass spectra, CID, photofragmentation and IRMPD spectra of ions under examination; tables with experimental and computed vibrational bands for relevant structures of $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+},[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+},[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+},[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$ions, as well as the cartesian coordinates of all the computed structures and complete ref. 21, are gathered into a supporting information.

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Synopsis: The structure of $[\mathrm{Pt} \text { drug }+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{Pt} \text { drug }+\mathrm{H}+\text { guanine }]^{+}$complexes generated in the gas phase for the platinum drugs carboplatin and oxaliplatin, were investigated by combining collision induced dissociation (CID) experiments, infrared multiple photon dissociation spectroscopy (IRMPD) and density functional theory (DFT) calculations. Protonation of one COO group of the drugs promotes the ring opening process allowing the metallic center to interact with guanine; exclusively at its N7 position.

# Binding motifs of carboplatin and oxaliplatin with guanine: a combined MS/MS, IRMPD and theoretical study 

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Figure S1. Full scan positive-ion ESI mass spectrum of a $10^{-5} \mathrm{M}$ water/methanol solution (1:1) of carboplatin and $5^{\prime}$-dGMP. The enclosed panel report the experimental (red) and theoretical (purple) isotope distribution for $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex recorded in the FT-ICR MS.


Figure S2. Full scan positive-ion ESI mass spectrum of a $10^{-5} \mathrm{M}$ water/methanol (1:1) solution of oxaliplatin and 5 '-dGMP.


Figure S3. a) CID mass spectrum of [CarboPt + H + G] ${ }^{+}$complex ion recorded at CE $15 \mathrm{eV} ; \mathbf{b}$ ) $\mathrm{MS}^{3}$ mass spectra of the ion at $m / z 505$ recorded at CE 13 eV ; c) MS ${ }^{3}$ mass spectra of the ion at $m / z 371$ recorded at $\mathrm{CE} 15 \mathrm{eV} . \mathrm{N}_{2}$ is used as collision gas.


Figure S4. Fragmentation scheme for the $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{G}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$adduct $(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 522)$.

$m / z 522$


Figure S5. a) CID mass spectrum of [OxaliPt $+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex ion recorded at CE 15 eV ; b) $\mathrm{MS}^{3}$ mass spectra of the ion at $m / z 504$ recorded at CE 15 eV ; c) $\mathrm{MS}^{3}$ mass spectra of the ion at $m / z 353$ recorded at CE 20 eV ; d) $\mathrm{MS}^{3}$ mass spectra of the ion at $m / z 397$ recorded at CE $20 \mathrm{eV} . \mathrm{N}_{2}$ is used as collision gas.


Figure S6. Fragmentation scheme for the $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{G}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$adduct $(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 548)$.


Figure S7. Relative abundance of the precursor and product ions as a function of collision energy (center of mass, $\mathrm{E}_{\text {см }}$ ) during CID of mass-selected [CarboPt $\left.+\mathrm{G}+\mathrm{H}\right]^{+}(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 522)$ (a) and $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{G}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 548)(\mathbf{b})$. Only ionic fragments generated by the loss of guanine are reported.


$\mathrm{E}_{\text {cm }}(\mathrm{eV})$

Figure S8. Full scan positive-ion ESI mass spectrum of a $10^{-5} \mathrm{M}$ water/methanol (1:1) solution of Oxaliplatin and Carboplatin in the absence of the nucleobase.

## Water/methanol solution of Oxaliplatin



## Water/methanol solution of Carboplatin



Figure S9. Photofragmentation mass spectra of $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$recorded with the CLIO FEL tuned at 1250 and $1410 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, respectively.
$[\text { OxaliPt }+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$(isolation : $m / z$ 397-399)

$[\text { CarboPt }+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$(isolation : $\boldsymbol{m} / \mathbf{z}$ 371-375)


Figure S10. Structures computed for $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$. Bond lengths are in Angströms, relative free energies in $\mathrm{kJ} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$.




CarboPt neutral


Carb_H1 0.0


Carb_H2 +8.6

Figure S11. Experimental IRMPD spectrum of a) $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$and $\mathbf{b}$ ) $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$ions in the $\mathrm{X}-\mathrm{H}(\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{N}, \mathrm{O})$ region, compared with the IR spectra of their two most stable computed forms at the B3LYP/6-311G** level. For [ Ox aliPt +H$]^{+}$: irradiation time 2 s combined with $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ activation of 15 ms ; for $[\text { CarboPt }+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$: irradiation time 4 s .



Figure S12. Experimental IRMPD spectrum of the [OxaliPt +H ] ${ }^{+}$ion in the fingerprint region compared with the harmonic IR spectrum of Oxal_H3 structure


Figure S13. Photofragmentation mass spectra of $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$and $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$ recorded with the CLIO FEL tuned at 1248 and $1600 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, respectively.
$[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$(isolation : $\boldsymbol{m} / z$ 548-552)

$[\text { CarboPt }+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$(isolation : $m / z$ 522-526)


Figure S14. Experimental IRMPD spectrum of the [CarboPt + H + G] ${ }^{+}$complex (top) in both a) fingerprint (red trace: irradiation time 500 ms ; black trace : irradiation time 250 ms ; green trace: irradiation time 500 ms , laser optimized in the $1600-1800 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} \mathrm{range}$ ) and $\mathbf{a}^{\prime}$ ) $\mathrm{X}-\mathrm{H}$ region (black trace : irradiation time 1500 ms ; blue trace : irradiation time 1000 ms ), compared with the computed IR spectra of the Carbo_N7-2 structure.


Table S1: Computational data associated with the complexes studied, obtained at the B3LYP/6-311G** level.

| Structure | $\begin{gathered} \text { E+ZPE } \\ \text { (Hartree) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \Delta \mathrm{E} \\ \left(\mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}\right) \end{gathered}$ | $\mathrm{H}^{\circ}{ }_{298}$ <br> (Hartree) | $\Delta \mathrm{H}^{\circ}{ }_{298}$ <br> ( $\mathrm{kJ} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ ) | $\mathrm{G}^{\circ}{ }_{298}$ <br> (Hartree) | $\Delta \mathrm{G}^{\circ}{ }_{298}$ <br> ( $\mathrm{kJ} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ ) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| [OxaliPt + H] ${ }^{+}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Oxal_H1 | -843.290645 | 0.0 | -843.275249 | 0.0 | -843.333149 | 0.0 |
| Oxal_H2 | -843.282395 | 21.7 | -843.266843 | 22.1 | -843.325187 | 20.9 |
| Oxal_H3 | -843.259461 | 81.9 | -843.243457 | 83.5 | -843.303176 | 78.7 |
| Oxal_H4 | -843.241844 | 128.1 | -843.225775 | 129.9 | -843.287087 | 120.9 |
| Oxal_H5 | -843.239007 | 135.6 | -843.223048 | 137.1 | -843.283217 | 131.1 |
| [CarboPt + H] ${ }^{+}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Carb_H1 | -765.868291 | 0.0 | -765.852228 | 0.0 | -765.9116810 | 0.0 |
| Carb_H2 | -765.865453 | 7.5 | -765.849481 | 7.2 | -765.908397 | 8.6 |
| [CarboPt + H + G] ${ }^{+}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Carbo_N3 | -1308.478380 | 143.5 | -1308.452827 | 143.1 | -1308.530475 | 150.5 |
| Carbo_NH2-1 | -1308.491001 | 105.4 | -1308.466155 | 108.1 | -1308.546532 | 114.9 |
| Carbo_ $\mathrm{NH}_{2}-2$ | -1308.435448 | 260.3 | -1308.410257 | 254.9 | -1308.491189 | 260.2 |
| Carbo_0-1 | -1308.518983 | 34.9 | -1308.493650 | 35.9 | -1308.575074 | 40.0 |
| Carbo_0-2 | -1308.513624 | 49.0 | -1308.488465 | 49.5 | -1308.568765 | 56.5 |
| Carbo_N7-1 | -1308.532916 | 0.0 | -1308.507335 | 0.0 | -1308.590291 | 0.0 |
| Carbo_N7-2 | -1308.527073 | 15.7 | -1308.50143 | 15.5 | -1308.583336 | 18.3 |
| [OxaliPt + H + G] ${ }^{+}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Oxal_N3 | -1385.906021 | 112.2 | -1385.880658 | 111.6 | -1385.961670 | 113.0 |
| Oxal_NH2 | -1385.935512 | 164.5 | -1385.909843 | 164.3 | -1385.992052 | 155.3 |
| Oxal_0 | -1385.921502 | 71.6 | -1385.896238 | 70.7 | -1385.977553 | 71.3 |
| Oxal_N7-1 | -1385.947067 | 4.4 | -1385.921489 | 4.4 | -1386.003058 | 4.3 |
| Oxal_N7-2 | -1385.948756 | 0.0 | -1385.923172 | 0.0 | -1386.004708 | 0.0 |
| Oxal_N7-3 | -1385.942952 | 15.2 | -1385.917188 | 15.7 | -1386.000176 | 11.9 |
| Oxal_N7-4 | -1385.938734 | 26.3 | -1385.913124 | 26.4 | -1385.994786 | 26.1 |
| Oxal_N7-5 | -1385.937840 | 28.7 | -1385.912155 | 28.9 | -1385.994186 | 27.6 |
| Oxal_N7-6 | -1385.925821 | 60.2 | -1385.900474 | 59.6 | -1385.981325 | 61.4 |

## Cartesian coordinates of the various computed structures in the xyz format

| 29 |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| OxaliPt Neutral |  |  |  |
| C | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 |
| C | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 1.53159418 |
| C | 1.43482447 | 0.00000000 | 2.08346622 |
| C | 2.25738308 | 1.16585463 | 1.51768793 |
| C | 2.24333087 | 1.17446501 | -0.01951994 |
| C | 0.80873187 | 1.18339574 | -0.55604071 |
| H | 1.40897827 | 0.04963928 | 3.17497211 |
| H | -0.53169281 | 0.89128484 | 1.88995883 |
| H | -0.55309546 | -0.86909820 | 1.90057778 |
| H | 0.45932118 | -0.92582923 | -0.36346638 |
| H | 1.85063502 | 2.11433215 | 1.88845156 |
| H | 3.28854270 | 1.11027715 | 1.87567025 |
| H | 2.76154072 | 0.28315177 | -0.39704392 |
| H | 0.31125091 | 2.10947190 | -0.24758829 |
| H | 1.92097354 | -0.94891957 | 1.82710097 |
| N | 0.72032126 | 1.15503428 | -2.04761609 |
| H | 0.95724563 | 2.06272355 | -2.44395576 |
| H | 1.38617115 | 0.48665454 | -2.43497194 |
| Pt | -1.22831875 | 0.60223159 | -2.63059892 |
| O | -3.08205439 | 0.05654468 | -3.16585349 |
| O | -1.07951387 | 1.15856551 | -4.55130639 |
| C | -3.35562404 | 0.28753583 | -4.44678436 |
| C | -2.18470371 | 0.93571294 | -5.25681642 |
| O | -4.41307146 | 0.02524400 | -4.95702543 |
| O | -2.29189713 | 1.20479459 | -6.42449940 |
| N | -1.36618205 | 0.03766288 | -0.60466806 |
| H | -1.82399120 | -0.86873569 | -0.52719421 |
| H | -1.95927970 | 0.70509903 | -0.11177004 |
| H | 2.78622720 | 2.04354786 | -0.40339509 |

Oxal_H1

| C | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 1.52906112 |
| C | 1.44622434 | 0.00000000 | 2.05767789 |
| C | 2.26668070 | 1.16078190 | 1.47833710 |
| C | 2.23763900 | 1.17168545 | -0.06114741 |
| C | 0.79242777 | 1.18252820 | -0.56094929 |
| H | 1.43075597 | 0.05731516 | 3.14790786 |
| H | -0.52691473 | 0.89171672 | 1.89206957 |
| H | -0.54491042 | -0.87117145 | 1.90361891 |
| H | 0.44694384 | -0.92934298 | -0.36839489 |
| H | 1.87643363 | 2.11336029 | 1.85442851 |
| H | 3.30214675 | 1.09608650 | 1.81861870 |
| H | 2.74833358 | 0.28025523 | -0.44744797 |
| H | 0.30303178 | 2.11120785 | -0.24860919 |
| H | 1.92404822 | -0.95331004 | 1.80470621 |
| N | 0.66345949 | 1.14368795 | -2.06221701 |
| H | 0.91606078 | 2.04837398 | -2.46008497 |
| H | 1.32472302 | 0.46859856 | -2.45087751 |
| Pt | -1.27496167 | 0.59258406 | -2.58345006 |
| 0 | -3.18018562 | 0.02396814 | -3.05434733 |
| 0 | -1.25646501 | 1.12294377 | -4.60765789 |
| C | -3.49887881 | 0.22895642 | -4.29341205 |
| C | -2.35670999 | 0.85872565 | -5.12295121 |
| 0 | -4.53537869 | 0.00167649 | -4.87100651 |
| O | -2.60409442 | 1.09254678 | -6.36611664 |
| N | -1.37866493 | 0.05279367 | -0.60664688 |
| H | -1.85095438 | -0.84720970 | -0.51070214 |
| H | -1.95818332 | 0.73171118 | -0.10825615 |
| H | 2.77373483 | 2.04296087 | -0.44810389 |
| H | -3.52996393 | 0.79754312 | -6.52317403 |


| C | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 1.52930198 |
| C | 1.44480486 | 0.00000000 | 2.06159265 |
| C | 2.26645775 | 1.16096600 | 1.48435657 |
| C | 2.24066999 | 1.17158266 | -0.05504099 |
| C | 0.79608959 | 1.18225032 | -0.55661307 |
| H | 1.42750835 | 0.05679901 | 3.15187148 |
| H | -0.52770527 | 0.89159883 | 1.89178348 |
| H | -0.54566255 | -0.87114359 | 1.90317868 |
| H | 0.45154068 | -0.92808304 | -0.36659421 |
| H | 1.87521093 | 2.11350141 | 1.85953939 |
| H | 3.30126186 | 1.09654555 | 1.82669251 |
| H | 2.75182151 | 0.27996081 | -0.44016442 |
| H | 0.30634397 | 2.11216120 | -0.24913770 |
| H | 1.92345313 | -0.95301501 | 1.80892829 |
| N | 0.67541617 | 1.13938763 | -2.05708216 |
| H | 0.92394459 | 2.03998590 | -2.46894591 |
| H | 1.33180526 | 0.45909880 | -2.44633179 |
| Pt | -1.22461106 | 0.61845590 | -2.62159822 |
| 0 | -3.13085691 | 0.12699152 | -3.33772858 |
| 0 | -1.00592079 | 1.20873088 | -4.54530686 |
| C | -3.23478925 | 0.41092939 | -4.54804262 |
| C | -2.04643851 | 1.04548674 | -5.32472385 |
| 0 | -4.32182948 | 0.19737743 | -5.21587632 |
| 0 | -2.15192086 | 1.31967535 | -6.48381399 |
| N | -1.37602137 | 0.04878797 | -0.61276010 |
| H | -1.83598724 | -0.85483760 | -0.50567578 |
| H | -1.95440139 | 0.72321080 | -0.10868444 |
| H | 2.77748773 | 2.04260896 | -0.44139750 |
| H | -5.00573411 | -0.19933355 | -4.64768433 |


| C | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 1.52915818 |
| C | 1.44559067 | 0.00000000 | 2.06008286 |
| C | 2.26695817 | 1.16060575 | 1.48187228 |
| C | 2.24073478 | 1.17049510 | -0.05765334 |
| C | 0.79521317 | 1.18161595 | -0.55679661 |
| H | 1.42851649 | 0.05741482 | 3.15025983 |
| H | -0.52725774 | 0.89171777 | 1.89203468 |
| H | -0.54487320 | -0.87140137 | 1.90368169 |
| H | 0.45051770 | -0.92826223 | -0.36726300 |
| H | 1.87669666 | 2.11353066 | 1.85691394 |
| H | 3.30201250 | 1.09580072 | 1.82312016 |
| H | 2.75105126 | 0.27849806 | -0.44284725 |
| H | 0.30648658 | 2.11271875 | -0.25165722 |
| H | 1.92361641 | -0.95337530 | 1.80789431 |
| N | 0.67358739 | 1.13305138 | -2.05624706 |
| H | 0.92016367 | 2.03074586 | -2.47727697 |
| H | 1.32599666 | 0.44827080 | -2.44531647 |
| Pt | -1.21666663 | 0.62809137 | -2.62922332 |
| 0 | -3.07917352 | 0.21423623 | -3.51570205 |
| 0 | -0.87837687 | 1.25945779 | -4.51277221 |
| C | -3.17254380 | 0.56089549 | -4.91434250 |
| C | -1.82880015 | 1.17216390 | -5.41314669 |
| 0 | -4.17411870 | 0.36454635 | -5.49412973 |
| 0 | -1.76475143 | 1.51017433 | -6.55793222 |
| N | -1.37933515 | 0.04783207 | -0.61191940 |
| H | -1.83174103 | -0.85762580 | -0.49046483 |
| H | -1.95222992 | 0.72343358 | -0.10302820 |
| H | 2.77708896 | 2.04131933 | -0.44482409 |
| H | -3.91197158 | -0.16494742 | -3.19038896 |


| C | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 1.52797901 |
| C | 1.44862247 | 0.00000000 | 2.05312266 |
| C | 2.27357885 | 1.15461792 | 1.46727436 |
| C | 2.24652090 | 1.16228234 | -0.07347049 |
| C | 0.79465850 | 1.18290341 | -0.55684969 |
| H | 1.43549591 | 0.06348542 | 3.14297905 |
| H | -0.52638163 | 0.89195244 | 1.89118655 |
| H | -0.54319244 | -0.87141223 | 1.90442406 |
| H | 0.45573234 | -0.92619865 | -0.36667967 |
| H | 1.89046310 | 2.11120822 | 1.83978729 |
| H | 3.30969277 | 1.08490293 | 1.80457877 |
| H | 2.74828016 | 0.26589216 | -0.45907413 |
| H | 0.31648937 | 2.11888080 | -0.25275033 |
| H | 1.92264540 | -0.95639957 | 1.80487967 |
| N | 0.66763745 | 1.12498806 | -2.04831663 |
| H | 0.90709494 | 1.99146310 | -2.57857773 |
| H | 1.24763778 | 0.37540231 | -2.43523378 |
| Pt | -1.23115240 | 0.77205322 | -2.59530624 |
| N | -1.37708065 | 0.04540762 | -0.62025359 |
| H | -1.81071116 | -0.87581000 | -0.55948350 |
| H | -1.97272644 | 0.67424285 | -0.07805850 |
| H | 2.78421898 | 2.02953643 | -0.46481539 |
| 0 | -1.20363818 | 1.51058155 | -4.43334298 |
| 0 | -1.78190757 | 2.84254219 | -6.72143524 |
| C | -0.34813760 | 2.42148098 | -4.82125444 |
| C | -0.70686637 | 2.98355658 | -6.21533023 |
| 0 | 0.61793231 | 2.80889994 | -4.18482013 |
| 0 | 0.33375006 | 3.64067345 | -6.73069568 |
| H | 0.06297279 | 3.98829821 | -7.59534458 |


| C | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 1.52804277 |
| C | 1.44880863 | 0.00000000 | 2.05277143 |
| C | 2.27335148 | 1.15492340 | 1.46715731 |
| C | 2.24615812 | 1.16290791 | -0.07388961 |
| C | 0.79416589 | 1.18313702 | -0.55650167 |
| H | 1.43564983 | 0.06362539 | 3.14256591 |
| H | -0.52656983 | 0.89171870 | 1.89148621 |
| H | -0.54287553 | -0.87167727 | 1.90415524 |
| H | 0.45528654 | -0.92634151 | -0.36677188 |
| H | 1.89045926 | 2.11145140 | 1.83996794 |
| H | 3.30967347 | 1.08519144 | 1.80368164 |
| H | 2.74815357 | 0.26673940 | -0.45962016 |
| H | 0.31533915 | 2.11900662 | -0.25325341 |
| H | 1.92293967 | -0.95635070 | 1.80476318 |
| N | 0.66740171 | 1.12484969 | -2.04988295 |
| H | 0.91521936 | 1.98957034 | -2.57224992 |
| H | 1.24796426 | 0.37477485 | -2.43539917 |
| Pt | -1.23078800 | 0.76409420 | -2.59524802 |
| N | -1.37737580 | 0.04595636 | -0.61999561 |
| H | -1.81222408 | -0.87477380 | -0.55730120 |
| H | -1.97250847 | 0.67666676 | -0.07907753 |
| H | 2.78381744 | 2.03067103 | -0.46437185 |
| O | -1.20316278 | 1.48862813 | -4.44291461 |
| 0 | -1.60410664 | 2.57327781 | -6.92320446 |
| C | -0.35713566 | 2.37713356 | -4.86015912 |
| C | -0.66319703 | 2.92506322 | -6.28285787 |
| 0 | 0.62475238 | 2.78583771 | -4.24115553 |
| $\bigcirc$ | 0.24378757 | 3.82036544 | -6.67589224 |
| H | 0.90055004 | 3.93031512 | -5.96889675 |

CarboPt neutral

Pt
N
N
H
H
H
H
H
H
O
C
0

C

0

0

C
C
C
C
H
H
H
H
H
H

| 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 2.10725111 |
| 2.04107912 | 0.00000000 | -0.52733892 |
| 2.55401864 | 0.84623684 | -0.29309329 |
| 1.96742460 | -0.05782213 | -1.54760531 |
| 2.57639763 | -0.80163713 | -0.20291090 |
| -1.00693704 | -0.04152312 | 2.29190046 |
| 0.37022211 | 0.83915752 | 2.54634775 |
| 0.43471299 | -0.81024841 | 2.54192269 |
| -0.14537461 | -0.07572770 | -1.99449268 |
| -1.27969579 | 0.14572744 | -2.65453687 |
| -1.35269958 | -0.09594742 | -3.83859374 |
| -2.88713761 | 0.13865719 | -0.58127200 |
| -1.96657739 | -0.08508030 | 0.35457133 |
| -4.05169155 | -0.10719835 | -0.36137492 |
| -2.43823384 | 0.81557690 | -1.88681592 |
| -2.12285555 | 2.35735525 | -1.71222436 |
| -3.59586498 | 1.21396340 | -2.83906127 |
| -3.00756561 | 2.64380316 | -2.95192290 |
| -1.07037850 | 2.64314327 | -1.75401586 |
| -2.55591639 | 2.74397817 | -0.78723145 |
| -3.65553378 | 0.63131316 | -3.75573870 |
| -4.54565524 | 1.18156876 | -2.30778857 |
| -2.41237647 | 2.77140002 | -3.85740224 |
| -3.70723846 | 3.47741712 | -2.86751838 |

Carb_H1

| Pt | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| N | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 2.11146452 |
| N | 2.03857766 | 0.00000000 | -0.32598446 |
| H | 2.51907954 | 0.85187332 | -0.03965874 |
| H | 2.10557436 | -0.06878219 | -1.34716304 |
| H | 2.53676010 | -0.79575815 | 0.07068586 |
| H | -0.96964988 | -0.05008680 | 2.42597228 |
| H | 0.39937037 | 0.84278440 | 2.52276875 |
| H | 0.48025167 | -0.80063738 | 2.52078323 |
| O | -0.00436220 | -0.06770992 | -1.99803706 |
| C | -1.03924485 | 0.18796841 | -2.78510160 |
| O | -0.98903186 | 0.01517813 | -3.97300143 |
| C | -2.77017282 | 0.16731516 | -0.89989522 |
| O | -2.05495486 | -0.09770741 | 0.09946878 |
| O | -4.04770799 | -0.11165749 | -0.82650984 |
| C | -2.30762056 | 0.83530587 | -2.14416124 |
| C | -2.03865310 | 2.39653445 | -1.94493850 |
| C | -3.36888906 | 1.21212150 | -3.21527231 |
| C | -2.77151701 | 2.64074656 | -3.28698400 |
| H | -0.99036190 | 2.68144782 | -1.85946983 |
| H | -2.58814615 | 2.79029792 | -1.08770507 |
| H | -3.32385955 | 0.61029020 | -4.11910402 |
| H | -4.37894967 | 1.20246393 | -2.80917525 |
| H | -2.07497289 | 2.74948050 | -4.11727589 |
| H | -3.47849603 | 3.46877615 | -3.29998355 |
| H | -4.24873075 | -0.52641968 | 0.02943370 |

Carb_H2

Pt
N
N
H
H
H
H
H
H
0

C

0

C

0
0
C

C

C

C

H

H

H
H
H
H

H

| 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 2.10564233 |
| 2.03589778 | 0.00000000 | -0.34719256 |
| 2.51527711 | 0.85724424 | -0.07525112 |
| 2.10128133 | -0.08437893 | -1.36679667 |
| 2.53842501 | -0.78791495 | 0.05962465 |
| -0.97363054 | -0.08299952 | 2.40368772 |
| 0.36690771 | 0.85461984 | 2.52257858 |
| 0.49976847 | -0.78605798 | 2.51959024 |
| -0.03990105 | -0.08281748 | -2.00357735 |
| -1.10464908 | 0.10740615 | -2.76036175 |
| -1.10840271 | -0.12091726 | -3.94084620 |
| -2.78963723 | 0.08824029 | -0.82926634 |
| -2.04207529 | -0.11534203 | 0.15297091 |
| -4.03206675 | -0.29042442 | -0.66480357 |
| -2.35850828 | 0.76544113 | -2.09013605 |
| -2.07916450 | 2.32202331 | -1.91729827 |
| -3.43396543 | 1.13116755 | -3.15387686 |
| -2.81353914 | 2.54880117 | -3.26174013 |
| -1.03025206 | 2.60507907 | -1.84155444 |
| -2.62422432 | 2.73509721 | -1.06634353 |
| -3.42828637 | 0.50809311 | -4.04462377 |
| -4.45022714 | 1.19215652 | -2.74723413 |
| -2.12173470 | 2.61595834 | -4.10008964 |
| -3.50732859 | 3.38671749 | -3.29866216 |
| -4.55382593 | -0.10779076 | -1.46150422 |

Pt
N
N
H
H
H
H
H
H
O
C
0
C
O
O
C
C

C
C
H
H
H
H
H
H
H
N
C
H
N
C
C
O
N
H
C
N
H
H
N
C

H

| 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 2.10869069 |
| 2.07770887 | 0.00000000 | -0.25952121 |
| 2.67602704 | 0.27976647 | 0.51455820 |
| 2.24906105 | 0.63974958 | -1.03731188 |
| 2.36718921 | -0.92639571 | -0.57981542 |
| -0.72755222 | -0.64734281 | 2.42572049 |
| -0.22383812 | 0.92608605 | 2.47241395 |
| 0.87368442 | -0.29139014 | 2.54241064 |
| 0.03984350 | 0.17780130 | -2.01117377 |
| -0.00252810 | -0.76118911 | -2.96835428 |
| 0.25542271 | -0.46632408 | -4.10611654 |
| 0.09237971 | -2.78485935 | -1.36870338 |
| -0.50493609 | -3.22524337 | -0.40692741 |
| 1.44471257 | -2.89870011 | -1.45285799 |
| -0.51013825 | -2.17587071 | -2.60332322 |
| -2.07296368 | -2.23438905 | -2.70448155 |
| -0.44330372 | -3.14287629 | -3.84164355 |
| -1.93864247 | -2.85032478 | -4.12061134 |
| -2.60028353 | -1.28398104 | -2.61953507 |
| -2.47772291 | -2.93691882 | -1.97519125 |
| 0.27705452 | -2.84515010 | -4.59969390 |
| -0.26338231 | -4.17678737 | -3.54164132 |
| -2.06357438 | -2.10850510 | -4.90845480 |
| -2.57268070 | -3.70966836 | -4.33498401 |
| -1.24702379 | 1.81802524 | -2.00607202 |
| -2.15895844 | 1.95373090 | -1.57729598 |
| -3.17453898 | 2.81160963 | -1.96274425 |
| -3.01343782 | 3.57735880 | -2.70594520 |
| -4.29629179 | 2.57908106 | -1.33789041 |
| -4.02746011 | 1.51360971 | -0.51363070 |
| -4.90853841 | 0.77355865 | 0.35108725 |
| -6.06297790 | 0.91053343 | 0.64287916 |
| -4.17759414 | -0.37464621 | 0.90154620 |
| -4.77599660 | -0.99787635 | 1.43130364 |
| -2.87524881 | -0.68604482 | 0.74345910 |
| -2.35398532 | -1.78222442 | 1.38675599 |
| -3.02780060 | -2.36985814 | 1.85998613 |
| -1.69465647 | -2.32502273 | 0.82043377 |
| -2.06820055 | 0.08803328 | 0.01648863 |
| -2.70549480 | 1.11839894 | -0.65342138 |
| 1.72391159 | -3.49043843 | -0.73582807 |

Carbo_NH2-1

Pt
N
N
H
H
H
H
H
H
O
C
0
C
0
O
C
C
C
C
H
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Oxal_N7-1

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| 4.85209623 | 2.34595615 | 1.90460827 |
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| 6.02877723 | 3.24783647 | 3.04202835 |
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| 1.94758564 | -0.82935992 | 9.90904338 |
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| C | 3.62518139 | 1.12080166 | 9.65373144 |
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| H | 1.83677642 | 0.04182818 | 10.22371506 |
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| 2.88442186 | 0.09897722 | 9.94343869 |
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| -1.42818072 | 0.01393264 | 5.39805794 |
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| -3.62539358 | -0.07847272 | 4.39667233 |
| 3.40488309 | -2.50339973 | 1.75845456 |
| 1.75125434 | 0.77218732 | 7.38933289 |
| 1.33192560 | 1.83267783 | 8.40802454 |
| 2.06916184 | 1.61125952 | 9.74127965 |
| 3.59205938 | 1.55758119 | 9.55210436 |
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| 3.26818695 | 0.75213253 | 7.19013647 |
| 1.80423145 | 2.40857536 | 10.43933757 |
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| 0.24890921 | 1.80104852 | 8.55695237 |
| 1.43445840 | -0.21565476 | 7.74159280 |
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| 4.08146246 | 1.33689017 | 10.50328972 |
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| H | 2.10772325 | 0.03068907 | 1.42351748 |
| N | 0.75741433 | 0.02549332 | 3.08580497 |
| C | -0.63909533 | 0.05942359 | 3.11524786 |
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| $\bigcirc$ | -1.42012283 | 0.21996091 | 5.39583803 |
| N | -2.90620219 | 0.21895091 | 3.67127087 |
| H | -3.61432576 | 0.29045517 | 4.39212601 |
| C | -3.26743734 | 0.18069705 | 2.34365758 |
| N | -4.58077689 | 0.21839275 | 2.04598442 |
| H | -5.29250292 | 0.39472542 | 2.73417877 |
| H | -4.83513314 | 0.24687283 | 1.07153631 |
| N | -2.38226626 | 0.09455739 | 1.37268149 |
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| 0 | 5.55873957 | -0.10682327 | 4.56537909 |
| C | 4.28548111 | 0.63490176 | 2.58533972 |
| C | 5.49371950 | 0.01671610 | 3.36559607 |
| 0 | 4.36166067 | 0.58012901 | 1.36414310 |
| 0 | 6.45441582 | -0.37821183 | 2.54795027 |
| H | 6.14038090 | -0.17984754 | 1.64261694 |
| C | 1.91948899 | -0.97332320 | 7.30699747 |
| C | 1.12655891 | -1.30949243 | 8.57063649 |
| C | 2.08075021 | -1.46835645 | 9.76820359 |
| C | 2.97544691 | -0.23442354 | 9.95475726 |
| C | 3.74546927 | 0.11503850 | 8.66905318 |
| C | 2.77344891 | 0.27942219 | 7.49929567 |
| H | 1.49876205 | -1.65203295 | 10.67417866 |
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| H | 0.54801201 | -2.22553103 | 8.41824738 |
| H | 2.58867887 | -1.80599833 | 7.06348839 |
| H | 2.36078542 | 0.62301483 | 10.25293050 |
| H | 3.68427270 | -0.40397474 | 10.76830754 |
| H | 4.46177624 | -0.68165403 | 8.43374717 |
| H | 2.10403139 | 1.12411649 | 7.69644980 |
| H | 2.70645543 | -2.35557775 | 9.61640164 |
| N | 3.43641223 | 0.57552076 | 6.19154440 |
| H | 3.74453912 | 1.54673705 | 6.15458664 |
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Oxal_N7-6

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| 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.00000000 | 0.00000000 | 1.01066480 |
| 1.09621653 | 0.00000000 | 1.81585393 |
| 2.11020099 | 0.02235659 | 1.45401606 |
| 0.74959764 | 0.01906405 | 3.08956248 |
| -0.64385519 | 0.03553119 | 3.11464415 |
| -1.58993052 | 0.07559330 | 4.18770907 |
| -1.41117130 | 0.05812269 | 5.40033442 |
| -2.90894385 | 0.13104079 | 3.68209352 |
| -3.61877122 | 0.15970019 | 4.40455339 |
| -3.27068932 | 0.12628174 | 2.35274737 |
| -4.58334038 | 0.16376379 | 2.05791907 |
| -5.29675567 | 0.30934290 | 2.75175260 |
| -4.84074546 | 0.20906691 | 1.08478812 |
| -2.38640798 | 0.07019933 | 1.37692376 |
| -1.11973709 | 0.03209061 | 1.80682996 |
| 3.17934764 | 1.37447699 | 3.27327822 |
| 3.69495977 | 3.03998430 | 5.71739333 |
| 3.67747994 | 2.51786655 | 3.32680562 |
| 3.93891620 | 3.47148451 | 4.57955447 |
| 4.07549313 | 3.07992886 | 2.23403489 |
| 4.38615860 | 4.55091815 | 4.17198322 |
| 4.39669026 | 3.97260159 | 2.59702525 |
| 1.90355725 | -1.13069968 | 7.26469810 |
| 1.03992054 | -1.49162452 | 8.47269669 |
| 1.91870617 | -1.58391719 | 9.73421390 |
| 2.73924504 | -0.30490560 | 9.95846104 |
| 3.57860694 | 0.06613618 | 8.72279696 |
| 2.67989082 | 0.16540853 | 7.48974438 |
| 1.28590381 | -1.78264022 | 10.60217813 |
| 0.27120024 | -0.72135250 | 8.60919330 |
| 0.51947465 | -2.43838467 | 8.29873598 |
| 2.62659559 | -1.93332507 | 7.07940741 |
| 2.06599320 | 0.52603693 | 10.19837909 |
| 3.39665106 | -0.42852752 | 10.82197943 |
| 4.34733954 | -0.69921414 | 8.55277011 |
| 1.96745793 | 0.98550269 | 7.62784596 |
| 2.59463081 | -2.44216514 | 9.64092466 |
| 3.40669066 | 0.47635966 | 6.22456730 |
| 3.66445917 | 1.49777793 | 6.15839812 |
| 4.25016576 | -0.09109971 | 6.14179502 |
| 2.12235154 | 0.21019372 | 4.64028098 |
| 1.12155938 | -0.97950170 | 5.98539967 |
| 0.93140871 | -1.90035101 | 5.59259623 |
| 0.19862973 | -0.54058946 | 6.12881490 |
| 4.09747563 | 1.01541351 | 8.87774242 |

Table S2: Experimental spectrum of the $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$ion and computed vibrational modes for the Oxal_H1 structure.

| Wavenumber ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) |  | Vibrational mode ${ }^{\text {b }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| IRMPD | Calculated ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |
| Fingerprint region (FEL) |  |  |
| 1003 | 988 (41) | v C-N DACH |
| 1063 | 1045 (22) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ twisting |
| 1150 | 1153 (96) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ wagging |
| 1248 | 1217 (153) | $\delta \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{OH}$ |
|  | 1254 (82) | $\delta$ C-H DACH |
|  | 1257 (354) | $\checkmark \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O} \cdots \mathrm{Pt}$ |
| 1444 | 1449 (251) | $\mathrm{vC}^{\text {-. }} \mathrm{OH}$ |
| 1669 | 1662 (279) | $v \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OH})$ |
| 1759 | 1765 (781) | $\mathrm{v} \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OPt})$ |
| X-H stretch region (OPO) |  |  |
| ~ 3285 | 3288 (31) | $\checkmark \mathrm{NH}_{2} \mathrm{sym}$ |
|  | 3294 (26) | $\checkmark \mathrm{NH}_{2} \mathrm{sym}$ |
| ~3340 | 3347 (45) | $\checkmark \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ asym |
|  | 3354 (41) | $\checkmark \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ asym |
|  | 3371 (216) | $\checkmark \mathrm{OH}$ |

${ }^{(a)}$ Calculated vibrational modes at the B3LYP/6-311G** level of theory. The computed intensities $\left(\mathrm{km} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}\right)$ are given in parenthesis. In the fingerprint region, bands with intensity lower than $20 \mathrm{~km} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ are not included.

Table S3: Experimental spectrum of the $[\mathrm{CarboPt}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$ion and computed vibrational modes for the Carbo_H1 structure.

| Wavenumber ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) |  | Vibrational mode ${ }^{\text {b }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| IRMPD | Calculated ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |
| Fingerprint region (FEL) |  |  |
| - | 1094 | $\checkmark$ C-C cyclobutane ring |
| 1180-1255 | 1176 (183) | $\delta \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{OH}+\delta \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1185 (95) | $\delta \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1203 (113) | $\delta \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{OH}+\delta \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1225 (23) | $\delta \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ |
| 1305 | 1312 (144) | $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ umbrella |
|  | 1322 (74) | $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ umbrella |
| 1390-1460 | 1416 (174) | $\mathrm{v}^{\text {C- }} \mathrm{OH}$ |
| 1560-1630 | 1563 (628) | v $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OH})$ |
|  | 1606 (23) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ scissoring |
|  | 1622 (47) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ scissoring |
|  | 1634 (57) | $\delta \mathrm{NH}$ |
| 1745 | 1752 (384) | $\mathrm{v} \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OPt})$ |
| $\mathrm{X}-\mathrm{H}$ stretch region (OPO) |  |  |
| 3300 | 3292 (22) | ${ }^{\text {}} \mathrm{NH}_{3} \mathrm{sym}$ |
| 3350 | 3350 (66) | $v \mathrm{NH}+\mathrm{v} \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ asym of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ |
| 3380-3390 | 3374 (46) | $v \mathrm{NH}+\mathrm{v} \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ asym of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ |
|  | 3384 (37) | $v \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ asym of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ |
|  | 3389 (65) | $v \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ asym of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ |
| 3545 | 3562 (154) | $\checkmark \mathrm{OH}$ |

${ }^{(a)}$ Calculated vibrational modes at the B3LYP/6-311G** level of theory. The computed intensities $\left(\mathrm{km} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}\right)$ are given in parenthesis. In the fingerprint region, bands with intensity lower than $20 \mathrm{~km} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ are not included.

Table S4: Experimental spectrum of the [CarboPt $+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex and computed vibrational modes for the global minimum Carbo_N7-1.

| Wavenumber ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) |  | Vibrational mode ${ }^{\text {b }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| IRMPD | Calculated ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |
| Fingerprint region (FEL) |  |  |
| 1130 | 1121 (49) | $\delta \mathrm{C} 8-\mathrm{H}+\delta \mathrm{N} 9-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1130 (169) | $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ rocking |
| 1185 | 1158 (34) | $\delta \mathrm{C} 8-\mathrm{H}+\delta \mathrm{N} 9-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1165 (136) | $\delta \mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ |
| 1285-1355 (1320) | 1295(431) | $\vee^{\text {C }}=$ O-Pt |
|  | 1314 (35) | $\checkmark$ C5N9 |
|  | 1328 (81) | $\delta$ N1-H |
|  | 1334 (81) | v C=- O-H |
|  | 1341 (115) | $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ umbrella |
|  | 1353 (143) | $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ umbrella |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1565-1750 \\ & (1595+1635+ \\ & 1700+1740) \end{aligned}$ | 1585 (126) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ scissoring of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ |
|  | 1595 (489) | v N3C4 |
|  | 1636 (1145) | $\checkmark \mathrm{C} 2 \mathrm{~N} 2$ |
|  | 1646 (88) | $\mathrm{v} \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OPt})$ |
|  | 1662 (126) | $\delta \mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H}$ of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}, \mathrm{H}$ bonded to $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ of G |
|  | 1699 (465) | $\vee \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ (of G) |
|  | 1733 (393) | v $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OH})$ |
| X-H stretch region (OPO) |  |  |
| $\sim 3150$ (broad) | 3089 (303) | v C8-H |
| ~3345 | 3332 (43) | $v \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ sym of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ |
|  | 3334 (37) | $\checkmark \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ sym of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ |
| ~3390 | 3393 (21) | $v \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ asym of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ |
|  | 3398 (37) | v $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ asym of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ |
| $\sim 3425$ | 3423 (63) | $\checkmark \mathrm{N} 1 \mathrm{H}$ |
| $\sim 3445$ | 3452 (229) | $\mathrm{v}^{\mathrm{NH}_{2} \text { sym of G }}$ |
| $\sim 3480$ | 3473 (158) | $\checkmark$ N9H |
| $3550+3575$ | 3570 (80) | v $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ asym of G |
|  | 3584 (87) | $\checkmark \mathrm{OH}$ |

${ }^{(a)}$ Calculated vibrational modes at the B3LYP/6-311G** level of theory. The computed intensities $\left(\mathrm{km} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}\right)$ are given in parenthesis. In the fingerprint region, bands with intensity lower than $30 \mathrm{~km} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ are not included.

Table S5: Experimental spectrum of the $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex and computed vibrational modes for the global minimum Oxal_N7-2.

| Wavenumber ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) |  | Vibrational mode ${ }^{\text {b }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| IRMPD | Calculated ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |
| Fingerprint region (FEL) |  |  |
| 1125-1210 (1160) | 1115 (93) | $\delta \mathrm{C} 8-\mathrm{H}+\delta \mathrm{N} 9-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1133 (35) | $\delta$ N-H (DACH) |
|  | 1154 (401) | $\delta \mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1156 (176) | $\delta \mathrm{C} 8-\mathrm{H}+\delta \mathrm{N} 9-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1169 (125) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ (DACH) wagging + twisting $+\delta \mathrm{CH}(\mathrm{DACH})$ |
| 1250-1340 (1295) | 1242 (100) | $\delta \mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H}$ (DACH) |
|  | 1273(71) | $\delta \mathrm{C} 8-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1282 (175) | $v \mathrm{C}^{=-} \mathrm{O}-\mathrm{Pt}$ |
|  | 1285 (79) | $\delta \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{DACH}$ |
|  | 1315 (73) | $\checkmark$ C5N7 |
|  | 1329 (34) | $\delta$ N1-H |
| 1410 | 1396 (30) | ठ N9-H |
| 1585 | 1595 (533) | v N3C4 |
| 1625 | 1623 (38) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ scissoring of DACH (H bonded $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ to $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ of oxalate) |
|  | 1629 (371) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ scissoring of DACH (H bonded $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ to $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ of G) |
|  | 1637 (681) | $\checkmark \mathrm{C} 2 \mathrm{~N} 2$ |
| 1680 | 1693 (360) | v $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{Pt})$ |
|  | 1705 (566) | $\checkmark \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ (of G) |
| 1755 (shoulder) | 1762 (318) | v $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OH})$ |
| 1800 | - |  |
| X-H stretch region (OPO) |  |  |
| ~2960 (broad) | 2942 (25) | $v$ CH DACH |
|  | 2950 (26) | v CH DACH |
|  | 2952 (27) | $\checkmark$ CH DACH |
| 3110 (broad) | 3101 (421) | $v$ NH of DACH (H bonded to C=O of G) |
|  | 3107 (345) | $\checkmark \mathrm{C} 8 \mathrm{H}$ (interacting with $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OH})$ |
| 3335 | 3321 (29) | $v \mathrm{NH}$ of $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ (DACH) |
| 3335 | 3322 (31) | $v \mathrm{NH}$ of $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ (DACH) |
| 3395 | - |  |
| 3418 | 3425 (54) | v N1H |
| 3445 | 3451 (228) | $v \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ sym of G |
| 3475 | 3473 (177) | $\checkmark \mathrm{N} 9 \mathrm{H}$ |
| $3530+3555$ | 3568 (77) | $\vee \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ asym of G |
|  | 3580 (108) | $\checkmark \mathrm{OH}$ |

Calculated vibrational modes at the B3LYP/6-311G** level of theory. The computed intensities (km.mol ${ }^{-1}$ ) are given in parenthesis. In the fingerprint region, bands with intensity lower than $30 \mathrm{~km} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ are not included.

Table S6: Experimental spectrum of the $[\mathrm{OxaliPt}+\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{G}]^{+}$complex and computed vibrational modes for the local minimum Oxal_N7-1.

| Wavenumber ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) |  | Vibrational mode ${ }^{\text {b }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| IRMPD | Calculated ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |
| Fingerprint region (FEL) |  |  |
| 1125-1210 (1160) | 1112 (93) | $\delta \mathrm{C} 8-\mathrm{H}+\delta \mathrm{N} 9-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1128 (38) | $\delta \mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H}(\mathrm{DACH})$ twinsting ? |
|  | 1157 (40) | $\delta \mathrm{C} 8-\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{\delta} \mathrm{~N} 9-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1158 (95) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}(\mathrm{DACH})$ wagging + twisting $+\delta \mathrm{CH}(\mathrm{DACH})$ |
|  | 1164 (60) | $\mathrm{v}^{\mathrm{C}}={ }^{-\cdots} \mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1191 (42) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ (DACH) wagging + twisting $+\delta \mathrm{CH}(\mathrm{DACH})$ |
| 1250-1340 (1295) | 1240 (54) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ (DACH) wagging ( $\mathrm{NH}_{2} \mathrm{H}$ bonded to $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ of G$)$ |
|  | 1276 (30) | $\delta \mathrm{C} 8-\mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 1283 (38) | $\delta$ CH DACH |
|  | 1302 (167) | $\delta$ CH DACH |
|  | 1316 (53) | v C1N9 |
|  | 1329 (34) | ठ N1-H |
| 1410 | 1385 (75) | $\delta \mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ |
| 1585 | 1595 (612) | $\checkmark$ N3C4 |
| 1625 | 1613 (203) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ scissoring of DACH (H bonded $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ to $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ of G) |
|  | 1620 (59) | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ scissoring of DACH (H bonded $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ to $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ of oxalate) |
|  | 1638 (834) | $\checkmark \mathrm{C} 2 \mathrm{~N} 2$ |
| 1680 | 1665 (336) | $v \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OPt})$ |
|  | 1713 (517) | $\checkmark \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ (of G) |
| 1755 (shoulder) | - |  |
| 1800 | 1816 (264) | $v \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{OH})$ |
| X-H stretch region (OPO) |  |  |
| ~2960 (broad) | 2943 (23) | $\checkmark$ CH DACH |
|  | 2951 (23) | $\checkmark$ CH DACH |
|  | 2954 (26) | v CH DACH |
| 3110 (broad) | 3132 (52) | $\checkmark \mathrm{C} 8 \mathrm{H}$ |
|  | 3168 (363) | $v$ NH of DACH (H bonded to C=O of G) |
|  | 3182 (345) | $v$ NH of DACH (H bonded to $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ of oxalate) |
| 3335 | 3322 (31) | $v \mathrm{NH}$ of $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ (DACH) |
|  | 3349 (31) | $\checkmark \mathrm{NH}$ of $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ (DACH) |
| 3395 | - |  |
| 3418 | 3425 (54) | v N1H |
| 3445 | 3451 (230) | $v \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ sym of G |
| 3475 | 3470 (186) | $\checkmark$ N9H |
| $3530+3555$ | 3510 (113) | $\checkmark \mathrm{OH}$ |
|  | 3569 (79) | $v \mathrm{NH}_{2}$ asym of G |

${ }^{(a)}$ Calculated vibrational modes at the B3LYP/6-311G ${ }^{* *}$ level of theory. The computed intensities $\left(\mathrm{km} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}\right)$ are given in parenthesis. In the fingerprint region, bands with intensity lower than $30 \mathrm{~km} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ are not included.

## Complete citation for the Gaussian code of programs

Gaussian 16. Revision C. 01.
Frisch, M. J., Trucks, G. W., Schlegel, H. B., Scuseria, G. E., Robb, M. A., Cheeseman, J. R., Scalmani, G., Barone, V., Petersson, G. A., Nakatsuji, H., Li, X., Caricato, M., Marenich, A. V., Bloino, J., Janesko, B. G., Gomperts, R., Mennucci, B., Hratchian, H. P., Ortiz, J. V., Izmaylov, A. F., Sonnenberg, J. L., Williams, Ding, F., Lipparini, F., Egidi, F., Goings, J., Peng, B., Petrone, A., Henderson, T., Ranasinghe, D., Zakrzewski, V. G., Gao, J., Rega, N., Zheng, G., Liang, W., Hada, M., Ehara, M., Toyota, K., Fukuda, R., Hasegawa, J., Ishida, M., Nakajima, T., Honda, Y., Kitao, O., Nakai, H., Vreven, T., Throssell, K., Montgomery Jr., J. A., Peralta, J. E., Ogliaro, F., Bearpark, M. J., Heyd, J. J., Brothers, E. N., Kudin, K. N., Staroverov, V. N., Keith, T. A., Kobayashi, R., Normand, J., Raghavachari, K., Rendell, A. P., Burant, J. C., Iyengar, S. S., Tomasi, J., Cossi, M., Millam, J. M., Klene, M., Adamo, C., Cammi, R., Ochterski, J. W., Martin, R. L., Morokuma, K., Farkas, O., Foresman, J. B. and Fox, D. J.. Wallingford CT.

