

1 **Gallic Acid Dimer As a Double π -Hole Donor: Evidence from X-ray, Theoretical Calculations,**
2 **and Generalization from the Cambridge Structural Database**

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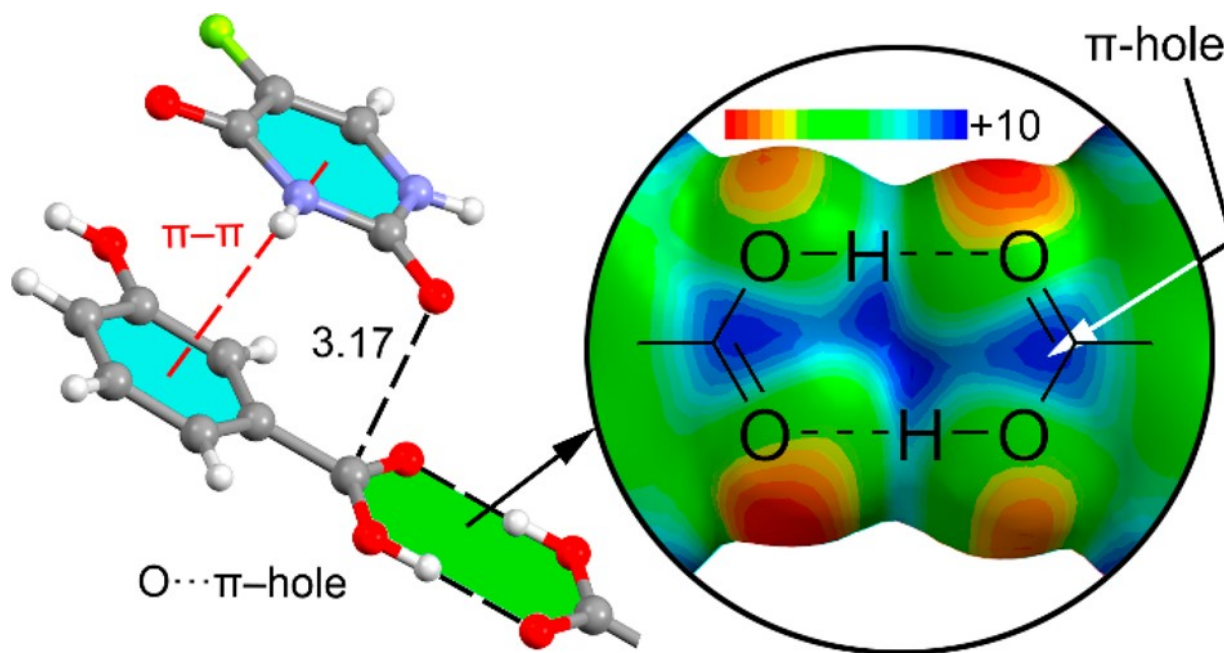
47 **ABSTRACT:**

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49 In this work, we demonstrate that the centrosymmetric eight-membered supramolecular ring R2 2 (8)
50 that is formed upon dimerization of benzoic acids has a marked tendency to establish π -hole interactions
51 with electron-rich atoms. We have used the Cambridge Structural Database to demonstrate the
52 preference of carboxylic acid dimers to form donor-acceptor interactions involving π -holes located at
53 the C atoms above and below the molecular plane. Moreover, we have carried out DFT calculations
54 (PBE0-D3/def2-TZVP) to investigate the geometric and energetic features of these interactions and how
55 they are affected by the substituents of the aromatic ring. Finally, as an example we report the synthesis
56 and X-ray characterization of a solvate of gallic acid with dioxane, where two molecules of dioxane are
57 located above and below the eight-membered supramolecular ring, forming two symmetrically
58 equivalent $O \cdots C$ π -hole interactions.

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65 INTRODUCTION

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67 The ultimate goal of crystal engineering is actually property engineering, which is, so far, unreachable.
68 Desiraju's definition of crystal engineering was basically composed by two parts: (i) "the understanding
69 of intermolecular interactions in the context of crystal packing" and (ii) "the utilization of such
70 understanding in the design of new solids with desired physical and chemical properties."¹ The full
71 accomplishment of the first part is needed to start progressing on the second part.² In fact, the progress
72 on the second part has been achieved either from a serendipitous finding³ or by optimizing known
73 structures.⁴ Therefore, a deep knowledge of the factors that govern crystal packing is necessary, which
74 involves a deep understanding of noncovalent interactions.

75 For decades, most of the scientific attention has been focused on the hydrogen bond.^{5–8} More recently,
76 several structurally and energetically related noncovalent interactions have gained increasing attention in
77 several areas.^{9–16} Many of these bonds derive from the σ -hole concept wherein a main group
78 element,^{17,18} even an electronegative atom, can attract a nucleophile through an anisotropic electronic
79 distribution, which offers a positive MEP (molecular electrostatic potential) in a region that is located at
80 the extension of a covalent bond.^{19,20} The σ -hole region is usually small, thus leading to very
81 directional interactions. The acidic σ -hole region is thus adequate for attracting negative sites (lone
82 pairs, anions, or π -electron systems).^{21–30} In addition to these σ -holes located opposite to a covalent
83 bond, some molecules also exhibit π -holes, which lie usually above and below the plane of the
84 system,^{31–36} leading to π -hole bonded complexes upon interaction with nucleophiles.³⁷ In this
85 respect, π -hole interactions in X-ray structures were identified and described by Bürgi and Dunitz in
86 1975,³⁸ thus revealing the trajectory along which a nucleophile attacks the π -hole of carbonyl group.
87 More recently, the importance of $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ interactions in proteins from a lone pair of electrons (n) to the
88 antibonding orbital (π^*) of the carbonyl group has been demonstrated.³⁹ In addition, operative π -holes
89 have been described as nitroderivatives,^{40–43} group 13 molecules, and acyl carbon containing
90 molecules.^{44–46} The physical nature and factors affecting the strength of π -hole interactions are similar
91 to those of σ -hole interactions.^{31–36} The significance of these π -hole interactions has been increasingly
92 recognized in the solid state, and they have been demonstrated by an accurate analysis of experimental
93 electron density maps from X-ray analysis in nitroderivatives, boronic acids, and carboxylic acids.⁴⁷
94 In this manuscript, we demonstrate that the eight-membered supramolecular ring R2 2 (8) that is formed
95 upon dimerization of benzoic acids is an overlooked synthon that has a marked tendency to establish
96 ditopic π -hole interactions with electron rich atoms. We use the Cambridge Structural Database
97 (CSD)⁴⁸ to demonstrate the ability of carboxylic acid dimeric entities to form donor–acceptor
98 interactions involving π -holes located at the C atoms above and below the molecular plane. Moreover,
99 we have carried out DFT calculations (PBE0-D3/def2-TZVP) to investigate the geometric and energetic
100 features of these interactions and how they are influenced by additional substituents of the benzoic
101 aromatic ring. Finally, to support this unnoticed behavior and to use it in a predictive way, we report the

102 synthesis and X-ray characterization of a solvate of gallic acid with dioxane, where two molecules of
103 dioxane are located above and below the eight-membered supramolecular ring, forming two
104 symmetrically equivalent O \cdots C π -hole interactions.

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107 **METHODS**

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109 Synthesis and X-ray Details. Suitable single crystals of gallic acid/dioxane solvate for X-ray diffraction
110 analysis were obtained by slow recrystallization of a solution of gallic acid in dioxane at room
111 temperature.

112 Single crystal X-ray diffraction intensity data were collected using a D8 Venture system equipped with a
113 multilayer monochromator and a Mo microfocus ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$). Frames were integrated with the
114 Bruker SAINT software package using a SAINT algorithm. Data were corrected for absorption effects
115 using the multiscan method (SADABS).⁴⁹ The structure was solved and refined using the Bruker
116 SHELXTL Software Package, a computer program for automatic solution of crystal structures and
117 refined by full-matrix least-squares method with ShelXle Version 4.8.0, a Qt graphical user interface for
118 SHELXL computer program.⁵⁰

119 Theoretical Methods. The energies of all complexes included in this study were computed at the
120 PBE051,52-D353/def2-TZVPD^{54,55} level of theory by means of the program TURBOMOLE version
121 7.0.⁵⁶ The interaction energies have been computed using the formula $\Delta E = E(a) - E(b) - 2E(c)$, where
122 $E(a)$ is the energy of the assembly, $E(b)$ is the energy of the optimized supramolecular R2 2 (8) dimer,
123 and $E(c)$ is the energy of the optimized Lewis base. The MEP (molecular electrostatic potential)
124 calculations have been performed at the PBE0-D3/def2-TZVP level of theory by means of the Gaussian-
125 16 calculation package.⁵⁷ The Bader's "Atoms in Molecules" theory⁵⁸ has been used to study the
126 interactions discussed herein by means of the AIMall calculation package.⁵⁹

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130 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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132 **Preliminary MEP Calculations.** As aforementioned, a σ/π -hole is a region of the molecule where the
133 electronic density is lower than its surroundings (commonly a positive electrostatic potential). Through
134 this positive potential, the molecule can interact attractively with nucleophiles, such as lone pairs, π
135 electrons, and anions. Thus, we have first computed the molecular electrostatic potential (MEP) plotted
136 onto the van der Waals surface of the benzoic acid dimer that is represented in Figure 1. It can be
137 observed that the eight-membered supramolecular ring presents two equivalent π -holes above and
138 below the C atoms of the carboxylate groups (+10 kcal/mol). Moreover, the MEP is also positive over
139 the center of the supramolecular ring. The negative part corresponds to the O atoms of the carbonyl
140 groups at the molecular plane (-30 kcal/mol). The MEP surface evidence shows that the supramolecular
141 ring that is generated by the dimerization of carboxylic acids has the potential ability to attract electron
142 rich atoms and establish π -hole interactions.

143 **CSD Analysis.** The Cambridge Structural Database is a large depot of geometrical information that
144 offers the opportunity to reveal interactions that have been unnoticed by the original authors. Therefore,
145 we have used the CSD to analyze the ability of aromatic carboxylic acid dimers to establish π -hole
146 interactions. The fragment used in the search is represented in Figure 2a, where the electron rich atom
147 used is oxygen. We have used aromatic rings in order to minimize steric effects that could influence the
148 location of the lone pair (lp) donor. Moreover, the aromatic ring does not present substituents in both
149 ortho-positions to ensure the coplanarity of the carboxylic group with the aromatic ring. We have
150 retrieved those structures where the $O\cdots C$ distance (d) is shorter than 5 Å. In order to ensure that the
151 electron rich atom is located above and below the molecular plane, we have defined the angle (β)
152 between the planes denoted as P1 and P2 in Figure 2a, where P1 is the molecular mean plane and P2 is
153 the plane defined by the atom of O and the exocyclic C-COOH bond. In addition, to select those
154 structures where the electron donor O atom is located approximately over the π -hole, we have only
155 selected those structures where the $O\cdots C\cdots X$ angle α is comprised between 75° and 105°. In the case
156 where a large angle is defined, the O atom is allowed to reach the π -system, and consequently, hits
157 corresponding to lp- π interactions could be retrieved. If a smaller angle is used, the O atom is allowed
158 to interact with the other π -hole of the R2 2 (8) ring, thus invalidating the analysis (duplicates could be
159 retrieved for long d values). Finally, we have used “only organics,” “no errors,” and “no disorder”
160 options in the CSD software conquest60 and X-ray determined structures (no powder structures). As a
161 result, we have found 977 fragments in the CSD exhibiting $O\cdots\pi$ -hole distances shorter than 5 Å that
162 correspond to 634 X-ray structures, in good agreement with the preliminary MEP surface results. The
163 parameter α is a good indicator of the location of the O atom, since values close to 90° (in combination
164 with the β constrain) indicate that the oxygen atom is precisely over the π -hole. The scattergram
165 represented in Figure 2b shows a concentration of points at values of α between 90 and 100° and
166 distances close to the sum of van der Waals radii (ΣR_{vdW}). This likely indicates a directionality of the

167 interaction (the O atom is located over the π -hole at $\Sigma RvdW$ distance). The directionality is also
168 suggested by the histogram shown in Figure 2d, where the major number of hits (294) is observed in the
169 95° – 100° range. The histogram shown in Figure 2c ($O\cdots\pi$ -hole distance) also shows that a large
170 number of structures (457) present distances close to the $\Sigma RvdW$ (3.22 Å). In fact, the percentage of
171 fragments with distances shorter than $\Sigma RvdW$ is 25.5% of the total, and if the limit to consider a contact
172 is enlarged to $\Sigma RvdW + 0.2$ Å, the ratio increases to 70.8%. This analysis clearly highlights that the
173 centrosymmetric H-bonded carboxylic dimer supramolecular ring is well suited to establish π -hole
174 interactions.

175 We have manually inspected the solid state architecture and crystal packing of the hits obtained from the
176 search described above with distances shorter than $\Sigma RvdW + 0.2$ Å. Agreeably, the analysis of the
177 structures revealed that the carboxylic acid dimer usually participates in two symmetrically related
178 π -hole interactions, above and below the molecular plane (232 out of 497 structures). We have
179 represented four structures in Figure 3 where different O-donor groups are involved in the interaction.
180 Figure 3a shows the structure of *p*-methylsulfonylbenzoic acid (refcode COBFUU61) where the
181 centrosymmetric hydrogen-bonded carboxylic acid dimer establishes two $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interactions. In
182 this self-assembly, the O atoms of the sulfonyl groups are located at 3.11 Å (0.11 Å shorter than
183 $\Sigma RvdW$) from the carboxylic C atoms and pointing to the π -hole ($\alpha = 81.4^\circ$).

184 We have selected a picrate salt [7-carboxy-2,4-dimethyl-5Hbenzo(b)(1,4)diazepinium picrate] as an
185 example of interaction where the O atom is anionic (refcode UMUXIJ62). Interestingly, the cationic part
186 self-assembles, forming the Hbonded dimer that establishes two symmetrically equivalent and highly
187 directional ($\alpha = 88.3^\circ$) $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interactions. Two additional structures, 3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid and
188 the cocrystal of 3-hydroxybenzoic acid and 5-fluoropyrimidine- 2,4(1H,3H)-dione (refcodes
189 CUKCAM2563 and IQIKUQ,64 respectively), are represented in Figure 3c,d. In these structures, the
190 π -hole interactions are established between the H-bonded carboxylic dimer and electron rich O atoms
191 belonging to nitro and carbonyl groups (see Figure 3c,d). In Figure 3, we have also represented, as red
192 dashed lines, additional interactions observed in the crystal structures that also influence the final
193 geometry of the supramolecular assemblies. For COBFUU and IQICUK structures, π -stacking
194 interactions are also established between the H-bonded dimer and the aromatic ring of the O-donor
195 molecule. Remarkably, in UMUIJ and CUKCAM25 structures, additional $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interactions are
196 also established, in the former with the π -hole of the adjacent carboxylate (3.13 Å) and in the latter with
197 the π -hole of the nitro group (3.05 Å).

198 **Theoretical Study.** In order to analyze the geometric and energetic features of π -hole interactions
199 involving the $RCOOH\cdots HOOCR$ synthon, the R2 2 (8) ring, we have initially computed dimers 1–6 and
200 their complexes 7–18 as shown in Figure 4. They correspond to double π -hole complexes where the
201 electron donor is either dimethyl ether or acetone, and we have incorporated different substitution in the
202 aromatic rings. Therefore, the interaction energies listed in Table 1 correspond to 1:2 ternary complexes
203 where the R2 2 (8) ring interacts with two Lewis acids. From the inspection of the results gathered in

204 Table 1, several interesting issues arise. First, the ability of carboxylic acid H-bonded dimers as double
205 π -hole donors is confirmed since the optimized geometries are in fact stabilized by the formation of
206 $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interactions. Second, the energies are moderately strong, ranging from -11.5 to -9.9
207 kcal/mol, and the equilibrium distances are in all cases slightly shorter than ΣR_{vdW} and similar to those
208 observed experimentally. In all cases, α and β angles are close to 90° , thus confirming that the O atom is
209 located over the π -hole. Finally, substituent effects are not very significant, likely due to the distance
210 between the electron donor and the substituent. Nevertheless, in each series, the complex involving the
211 *p*-cyanobenzoic acid dimer 4 is the most favorable (complexes 10 and 16). We have also taken
212 advantage of the DFT calculations to validate the geometric criterion used to analyze the CSD search:
213 we have selected those hits where $d \leq \Sigma R_{vdW} + 0.20$ (3.42 \AA). We have computed the ΔE of complex 7
214 situating the O atom exactly at the ΣR_{vdW} and compared it to the one situating the O atom exactly at
215 the $\Sigma R_{vdW} + 0.20 \text{ \AA}$. As a result, the interaction energy is only reduced by 24% by enlarging the
216 distance 0.2 \AA . Therefore, it can be assumed that 78% of the structures retrieved from the CSD with
217 $O\cdots C$ distances $\leq 5 \text{ \AA}$ have a significant contribution from the $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interaction.

218 The optimized geometries of some complexes are represented in Figure 5 where the $O\cdots\pi$ -hole
219 interactions are represented using black dashed lines. The conformation adopted by the O-donor
220 molecule in the complexes reveals the existence of two ancillary $C-H\cdots O$ interactions. In the complexes
221 with dimethyl ether, these distances are quite long ($>2.7 \text{ \AA}$) and not very directional (the lone pairs of
222 the O atom are situated in the molecular plane), therefore their contribution to the overall interaction
223 energy is expected to be small. These ancillary $C-H\cdots O$ interactions can be rationalized by the fact that
224 the MEP surface shows negative potential over the O atoms. For the acetone complexes, these H-bonds
225 are shorter in line with the higher acidity of the H atoms adjacent to the carbonyl group. These ancillary
226 interactions explain the orientation of the O-donor molecules and also the fact that dimethyl ether and
227 acetone complexes exhibit similar interaction energies. That is, there is a compensation effect between
228 the $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interaction that is stronger (shorter distances) in dimethyl ether complexes 7–12 and the
229 ancillary $C-H\cdots O$ interactions that are stronger in acetone complexes 13–18 (shorter distances).

230 We have carried out Bader's theory of "atoms-in-molecules" analysis of complexes 7–18 in order to
231 corroborate the existence of concurrent $O\cdots\pi$ -hole and $C-H\cdots O$ interactions. The presence of a bond
232 path (lines of maximum density linking neighboring nuclei in a system) and bond critical point
233 connecting two atoms is universal evidence of interaction.⁶⁵ The distributions of bond CPs and bond
234 paths in four representative complexes are given in Figure 6. The $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interaction is characterized
235 by a bond CP and bond path interconnecting the O and C atoms and confirming the interaction. Each
236 $C-H\cdots O$ interaction is also characterized by a bond CP and bond path that connect the H atom to the O
237 atom of the carboxylic group. It is worth mentioning that the value of charge density $\rho(r)$ at the bond CP
238 is a good indicator of the strength of the interaction, as demonstrated by a great deal of
239 interactions.^{66–69} The values of $\rho(r)$ at the bond CPs that characterize the π -hole interactions in
240 complexes 7–18 are also summarized in Table 1. They confirm that the π -hole interactions in the

241 complexes with dimethyl ether are stronger compared to the equivalent ones with acetone, in agreement
242 with the equilibrium distances. The $\rho(r)$ is at a maximum in complex 10 that presents a shorter
243 $O\cdots\pi$ -hole distance, confirming that the $\rho(r)$ at the bond CP is a good indicator of the strength of the
244 interaction. In Figure 6, we include the $\rho(r)$ values at all bond CPs that appear upon complexation. The
245 $\rho(r)$ values at the bond CPs that characterize the $C-H\cdots O$ interactions are larger in the acetone
246 complexes 13 and 16 than in the corresponding dimethyl ether complexes 7 and 10, in line with the
247 shorter H-bond distances observed in acetone complexes. On the contrary, the values of $\rho(r)$ at the bond
248 CPs that characterize the $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interactions are larger in the dimethyl ether complexes in
249 agreement with the equilibrium distances and the higher Lewis basicity character of dimethyl ether
250 compared to acetone.

251 In order to confirm that the $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interaction dominates the formation of the complexes, we have
252 computed two additional complexes (19 and 20, see Figure 4) where the dimethyl ether has been
253 replaced by hexafluorodimethyl ether. In particular, we have used compounds 1 and 4 as π -hole donors.
254 The energetic and geometric features of both complexes are also included in Table 1, and the geometry
255 of the complexes is shown in Figure S1 (Supporting Information, SI). In spite of the electron donor
256 character of the O atom being reduced in CF_3OCF_3 compared to dimethyl ether due to the strong
257 electron-withdrawing effect, the interaction energies of complexes 19 and 20 are still important (-8.4
258 and -8.6 kcal/mol, respectively). Taking into consideration that the interaction energies using dimethyl
259 ether are -10.2 and -11.3 kcal/mol, we conclude that the $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interaction is the dominant force in
260 these complexes. Finally, we have also carried out the AIM analyses of complexes 19 and 20, which are
261 represented in Figure S2 (see SI), in order to discard a possible contribution from $F\cdots H$ interactions in
262 these complexes. As a result, they do not show any bond path connecting the F atoms to the H atoms
263 belonging to the R2 2 (8) ring, indicating that there is not any contribution from $F\cdots H$ contacts. This is
264 likely due to the fact that these H atoms are involved in strong H-bonding interactions. Instead, the AIM
265 analysis shows that the F atoms are connected to the O atoms of the R2 2 (8) ring, thus suggesting the
266 contrary effect (possible repulsion between the O atoms and the F atoms of perfluorodimethyl ether).

267 **Experimental Results.** Encouraged by the aforementioned results from the CSD and DFT calculations,
268 we envisaged utilizing gallic acid in combination with a ditopic O atom donor to generate a solid-state
269 architecture where double π -hole interactions could be established. That is, the combination of a double
270 O-donor molecule with a double π -hole donor can be a good crystal engineering strategy to influence
271 the crystal packing by taking advantage of the ability of the carboxylic acid dimer to establish this
272 particular interaction. Gratifyingly, we succeeded in the cocrystallization of gallic acid and dioxane.
273 This solvate crystallizes in the $P\bar{1}$ space group, and the asymmetric unit (shown in Figure 7) is
274 composed by three independent units of dioxane (two half molecules and one complete molecule) and
275 one of gallic acid.

276 A partial view of the crystal packing is shown in Figure 8 where, as expected, the centrosymmetric
277 hydrogen-bonded carboxylic acid dimer is formed. In addition, the dioxane molecules connect these

278 dimers by means of two $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interactions involving the axial lone pairs. The equatorial lone pairs
279 form $O-H\cdots O$ interactions with the hydroxyl group in para belonging to the gallic acid. The α and β
280 angles (see Figure 2 for their definition) are close to 90° , thus confirming the directionality of the
281 interaction. This result clearly confirms the potential use of carboxylic acid dimers as templates for
282 $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interactions to be exploited in crystal engineering. Other interactions are also observed in the
283 solid state of the cocrystal like π - π stacking interactions that are also important to understand the crystal
284 packing (marked using red dashed lines in Figure 8). Finally, to estimate the relative importance of the
285 $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interaction, we have computed the binding energy of the supramolecular assembly that is
286 formed by the gallic acid self-assembled H-bonded R2 2 (8) dimer and two dioxane molecules above
287 and below the molecular plane using the X-ray coordinates (see Figures S3). The resulting interaction
288 energy is -10.5 kcal/mol, which is in quite good agreement with the optimized complex 12 (gallic acid
289 dimer with two dimethyl ether molecules). This supports the fact that the location of the dioxane
290 molecules in the X-ray structure is due, among other factors like H-bonds and π -stacking interactions, to
291 the formation of the $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interactions.
292

293 **CONCLUSIONS**

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295 In this work, we have demonstrated for the first time that the centrosymmetric double H-bond
296 carboxylic dimer has a strong ability to establish two simultaneous π -hole interactions. We have shown
297 that a large number of X-ray structures in the CSD exhibit this type of interaction that determines the
298 formation of a robust supramolecular synthon. The interaction is moderately strong as evidenced by
299 DFT calculations. Finally, based on this previous knowledge, we have envisaged the cocrystallization of
300 a gallic acid with a double O-donor (dioxane) to support the robustness of this synthon. We succeeded in
301 the synthesis of the solvate that exhibited, as rationally predicted, self-assembled H-bonded carboxylic
302 dimers connected by the ditopic electron donor. We consider that the results reported herein may
303 function as useful empirical principles of π -hole interactions in crystal engineering and supramolecular
304 chemistry, where these interactions are increasingly recognized as functionally relevant.

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314 Author Contributions

315 The manuscript was written through contributions of all authors. All authors have given approval to the
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317 Notes

318 The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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498 **Legends to figures**

499 **Figure. 1.** Molecular electrostatic potential of the benzoic acid dimer plotted onto the van der Waals
500 surface (0.002 au). The MEP value over the COOH carbon atom is indicated. The encircled region
501 corresponds to the R2 2 (8) ring.

502
503 **Figure.2** (a) Fragment used for the CSD search. (b) Scattergram α ($O\cdots C-X$, where X is the
504 supramolecular ring centroid) vs d ($O\cdots C$). (c) Histogram of d ($O\cdots C$). (d) Histogram of α ($O\cdots C-X$).

505
506 **Figure.3** Partial view of the X-ray structures of refcodes, COBFUU (a), UMUXIJ (b), CUKCAM25 (c),
507 and IQIKUQ (d). Distances in Å. See Figure 2 for the definition of the angle α .

508
509 **Figure.4** Dimers 1–6 and complexes 7–20 studied herein.

510
511 **Figure.5** Optimized structures of complexes 8 (a), 14 (b), 9 (c), and 15 (d). Distances in Å. The π -hole
512 and H-bonding interactions are represented by black and blue dashed lines, respectively. A detail of
513 the MEP surface of the carboxylic dimer is shown in the center of the image.

514
515 **Figure.6** Distribution of bond, ring, and cage critical points (green, yellow, and dark blue spheres,
516 respectively) and bond paths in complexes 7, 10, 13, and 16.

517
518 **Figure.7** Asymmetric unit of compound 21 (solvate of gallic acid and dioxane) showing the full
519 molecules of the three independent units of dioxane.

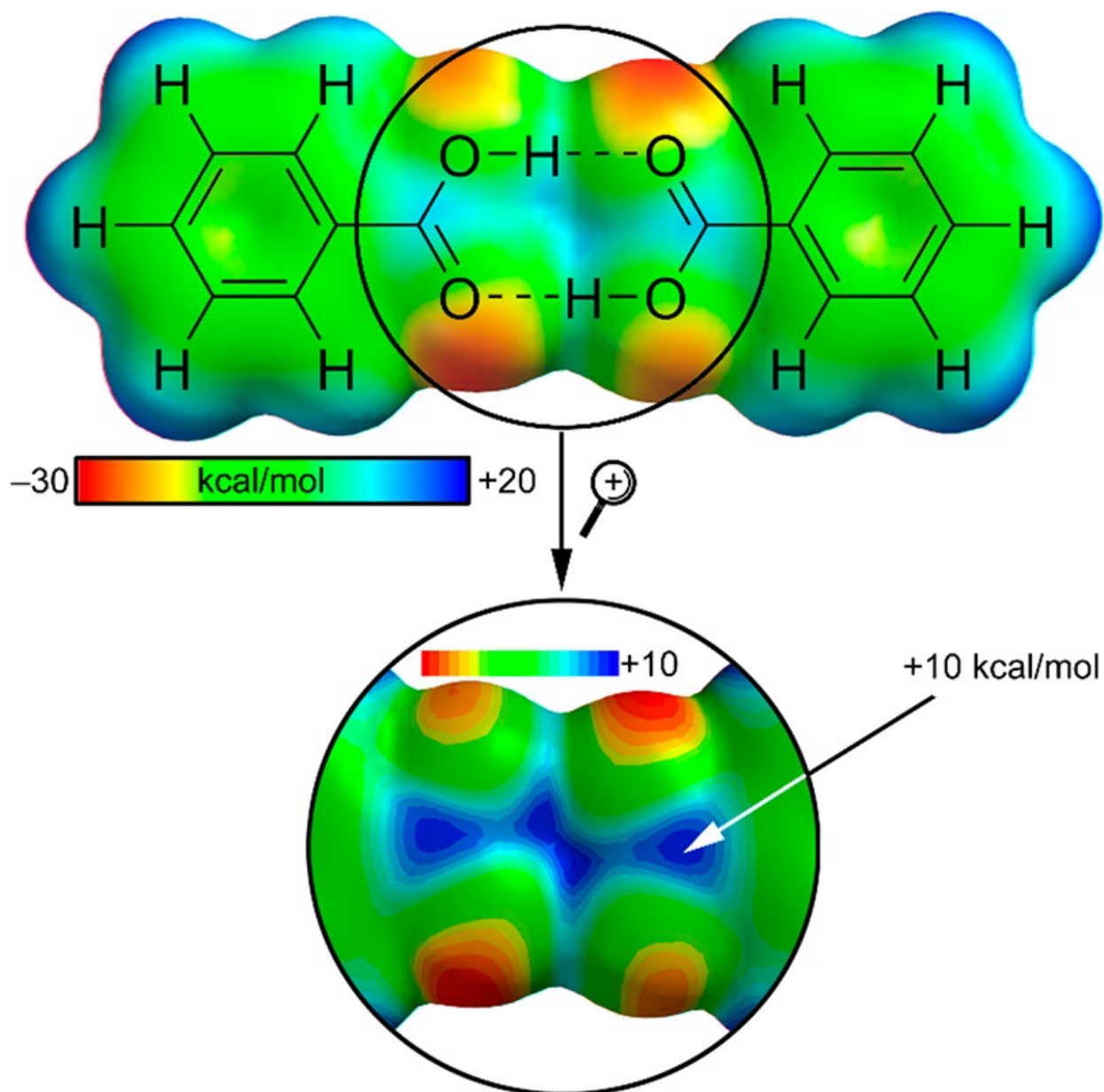
520
521 **Figure.8** Crystal packing of compound 21 with indication of the $O\cdots\pi$ -hole interactions. Distance in Å.

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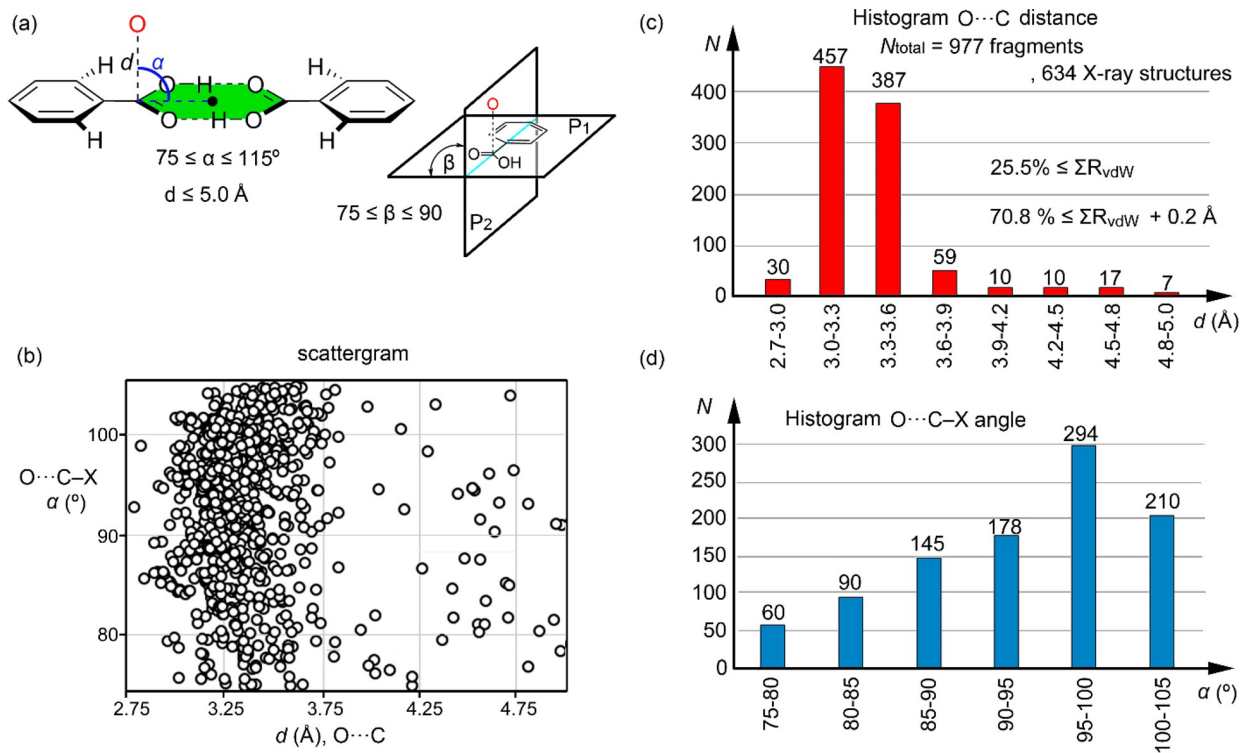
FIGURE 1



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FIGURE 2



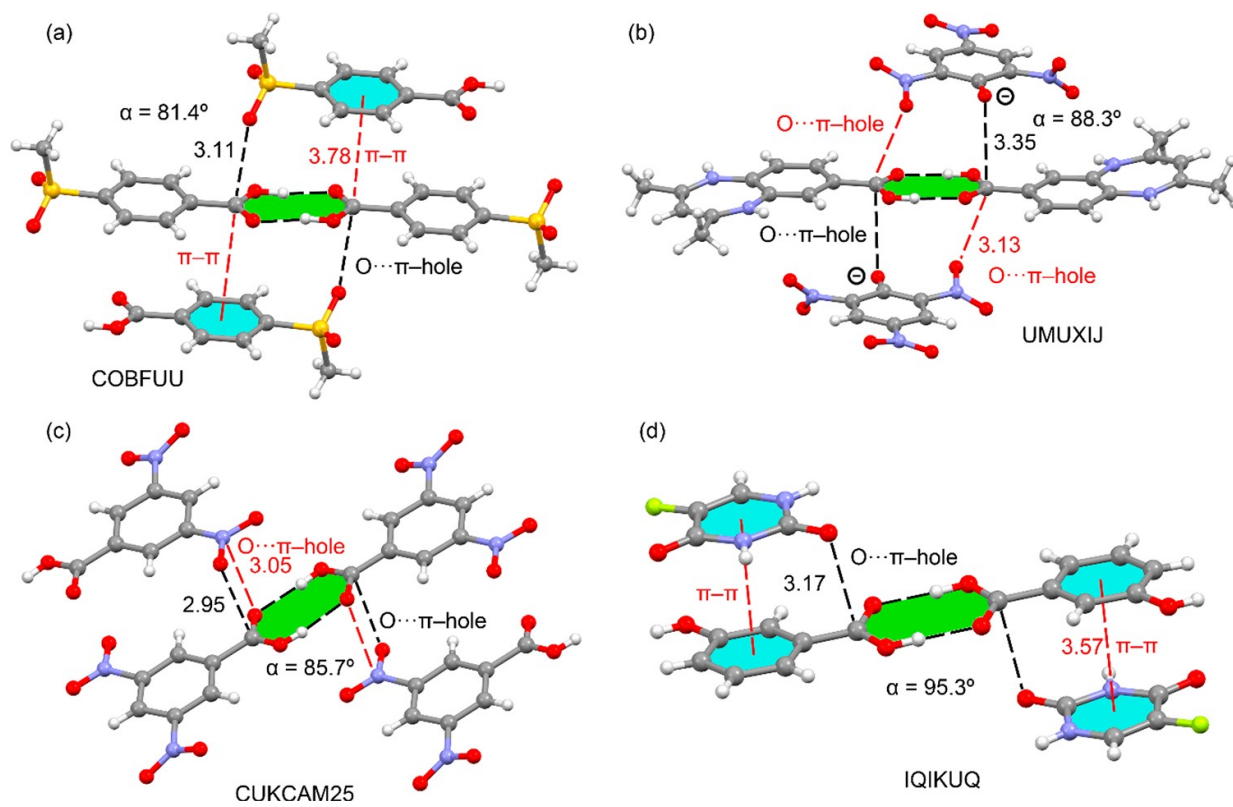
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FIGURE 3

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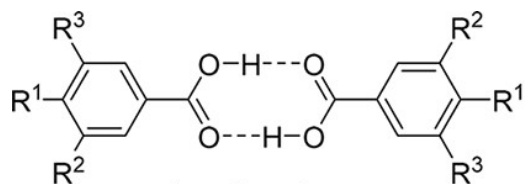
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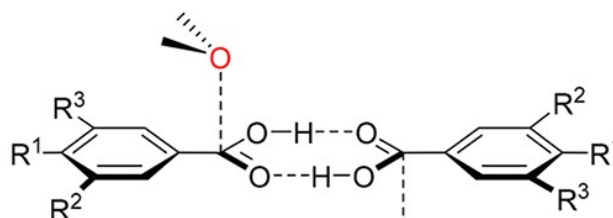
FIGURE 4

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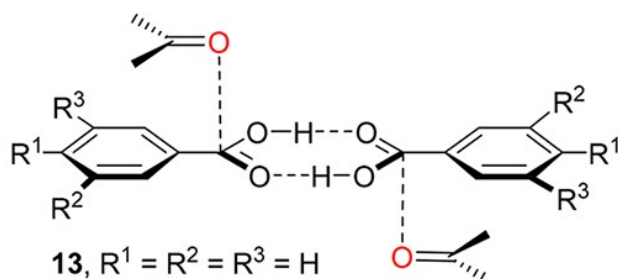
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- 1, $R^1 = R^2 = R^3 = H$
- 2, $R^1 = OH, R^2 = R^3 = H$
- 3, $R^1 = F, R^2 = R^3 = H$
- 4, $R^1 = CN, R^2 = R^3 = H$
- 5, $R^1 = OH, R^2 = OH, R^3 = H$
- 6, $R^1 = OH, R^2 = OH, R^3 = OH$



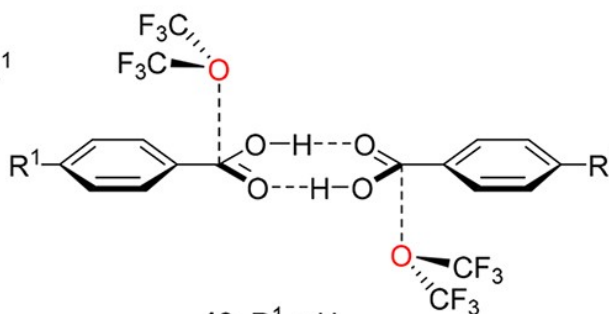
- 7, $R^1 = R^2 = R^3 = H$
- 8, $R^1 = OH, R^2 = R^3 = H$
- 9, $R^1 = F, R^2 = R^3 = H$
- 10, $R^1 = CN, R^2 = R^3 = H$
- 11, $R^1 = OH, R^2 = OH, R^3 = H$
- 12, $R^1 = OH, R^2 = OH, R^3 = OH$



- 13, $R^1 = R^2 = R^3 = H$
- 14, $R^1 = OH, R^2 = R^3 = H$
- 15, $R^1 = F, R^2 = R^3 = H$
- 16, $R^1 = CN, R^2 = R^3 = H$
- 17, $R^1 = OH, R^2 = OH, R^3 = H$
- 18, $R^1 = OH, R^2 = OH, R^3 = OH$

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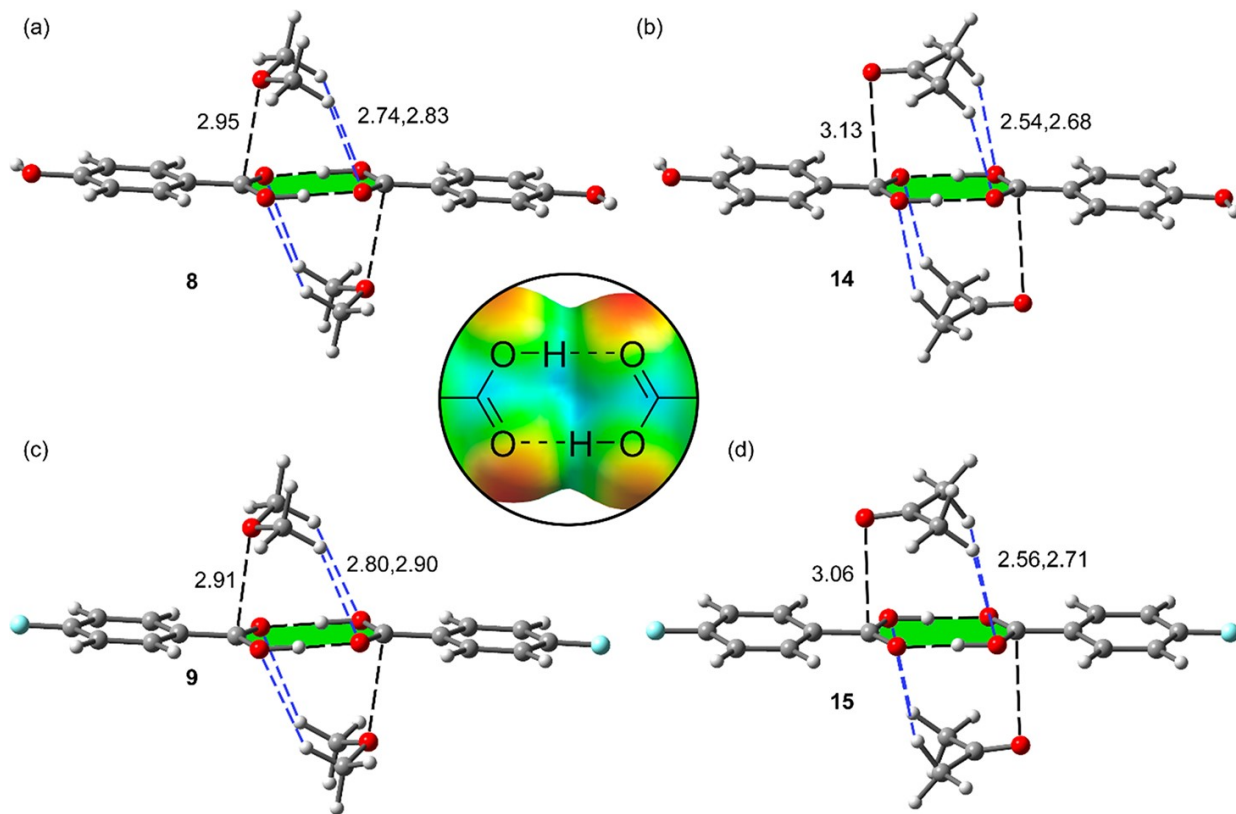
- 19, $R^1 = H$
- 20, $R^1 = CN$

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FIGURE 5

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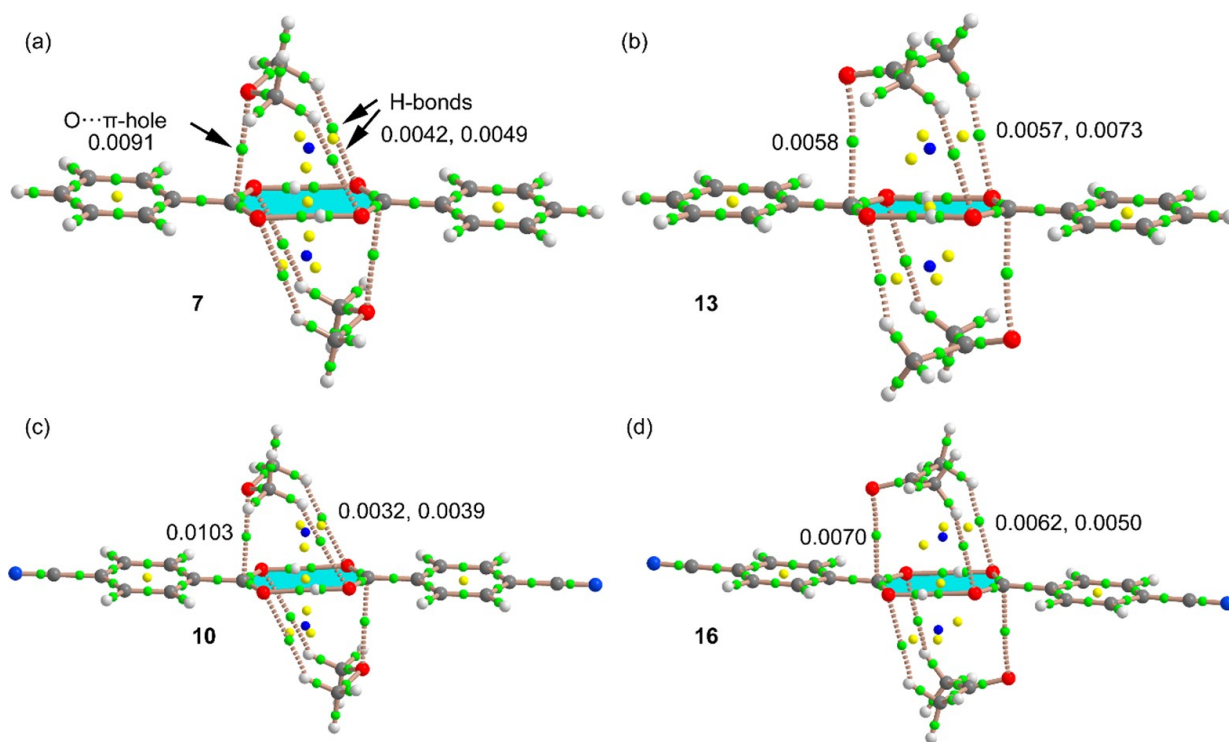
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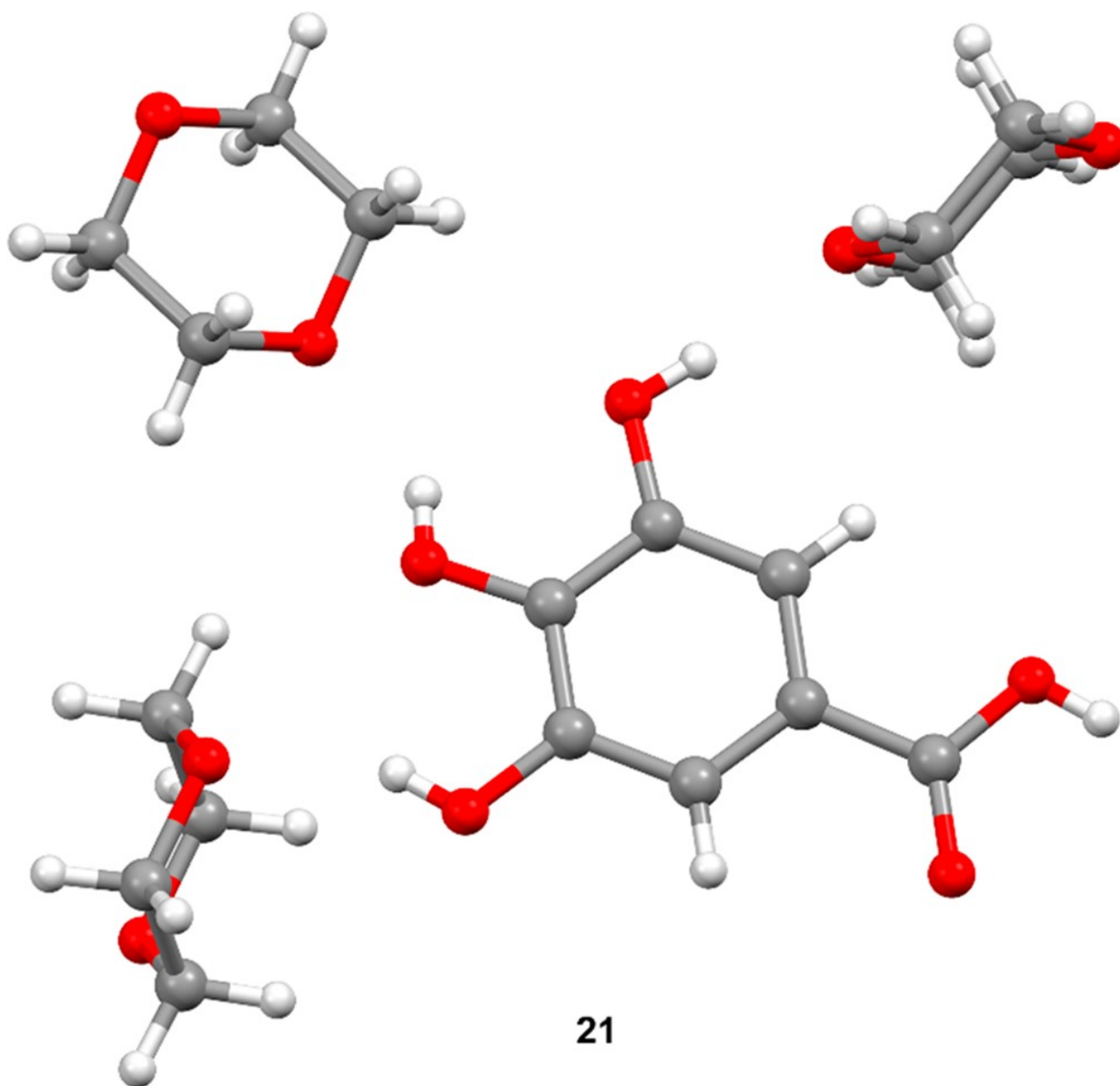
FIGURE 6



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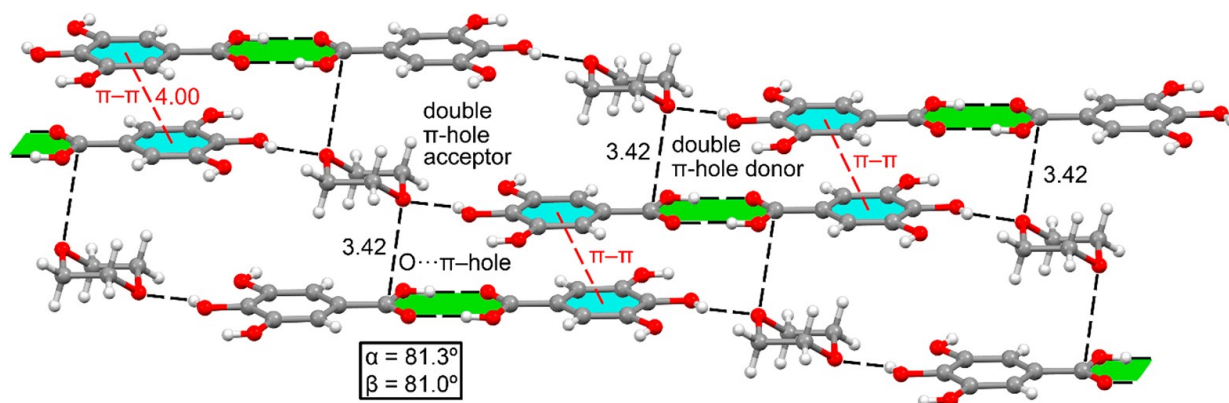
FIGURE 7



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FIGURE 8

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564 **Table 1** Interaction Energies (ΔE , kcal/mol), Equilibrium Distances (d , Å) and α and β Angles (deg) as
565 Described in Figure 2 and the Electron Charge Density $\rho(r)$ at the Bond CP That Connects the O to the
566 C Atom for Complexes 7–20 at the PBE0-D3/def2-TZVP Level of Theory

567

complex	ΔE	d	α	β	$\rho(r)$
7	-10.2	2.91	81.5	86.7	0.0091
8	-9.9	2.95	80.7	85.6	0.0084
9	-10.4	2.91	82.1	86.4	0.0091
10	-11.3	2.85	94.9	86.0	0.0103
11	-10.0	2.95	81.2	84.1	0.0085
12	-9.9	2.94	80.7	92.8	0.0086
13	-10.7	3.08	90.9	82.6	0.0058
14	-10.8	3.13	92.7	87.4	0.0053
15	-11.0	3.06	92.1	82.8	0.0060
16	-11.5	2.98	90.1	81.2	0.0070
17	-11.1	3.18	93.5	80.1	0.0051
18	-10.8	3.14	92.0	81.9	0.0052
19	-8.2	3.19	87.0	87.4	0.0048
20	-8.6	3.17	88.0	87.1	0.0050

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