

Supporting Information for:

**“Excited states of polonium(IV): Electron correlation and spin-orbit coupling in the  $\text{Po}^{4+}$  free ion and in the bare and solvated  $[\text{PoCl}_5]^-$  and  $[\text{PoCl}_6]^{2-}$  complexes”**

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## 1 Molecular structures

All the structures have been obtained at the MP2/def2-TZVP level of theory (see main text for more details).

### 1.1 Gas phase structures

#### 1. $[\text{PoCl}_5]^-$ :

6

```
Po 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000
Cl 0.00000 2.52599 0.00000
Cl 0.00000 0.00000 2.55781
Cl 2.18757 -1.26300 0.00000
Cl 0.00000 0.00000 -2.55781
Cl -2.18757 -1.26300 0.00000
```

#### 2. $[\text{PoCl}_6]^{2-}$ :

7

```
Po 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000
Cl 0.00000 0.00000 2.60400
Cl 0.00000 2.60400 0.00000
Cl 2.60400 0.00000 0.00000
Cl 0.00000 0.00000 -2.60400
Cl -2.60400 0.00000 0.00000
Cl 0.00000 -2.60400 0.00000
```

#### 3. $[\text{PoCl}_5(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^-$ :

9

```
Po -0.06000 -0.00000 0.01300
Cl -1.62200 1.79100 -0.84800
Cl -1.62200 -1.79100 -0.84800
Cl -0.85200 -0.00000 2.37400
Cl 1.81200 1.84600 0.23400
Cl 1.81200 -1.84600 0.23400
O 1.20700 0.00000 -2.09800
H 1.68900 -0.76800 -1.90300
H 1.68900 0.76800 -1.90300
```

4.  $[\text{PoCl}_5(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^-$  :

12

Po 0.22448 -0.02103 -0.02614  
Cl 1.21980 2.14485 0.91823  
O -1.23055 0.39504 1.95667  
H -2.17313 0.30679 1.64945  
H -1.05685 1.33640 2.11044  
O -3.56325 -0.06500 0.71412  
H -3.24727 -0.93499 0.41369  
H -3.30254 0.50556 -0.03347  
Cl -1.30851 -2.09078 -0.40216  
Cl 1.63513 -0.22515 -2.05509  
Cl -1.59506 1.45125 -1.24523  
Cl 1.77060 -1.40296 1.41302

5.  $[\text{PoCl}_6(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2-}$  :

10

Po 0.23500 0.00000 -0.00000  
Cl 2.05000 1.82600 -0.00000  
Cl 0.23000 0.00000 2.59300  
O -4.31900 -0.00000 0.00000  
Cl -1.62400 -1.87900 0.00000  
Cl 0.23000 -0.00000 -2.59300  
Cl -1.62400 1.87900 -0.00000  
Cl 2.05000 -1.82600 0.00000  
H -3.76600 -0.72800 0.00000  
H -3.76600 0.72800 -0.00000

## 1.2 Solvated structures (polarisable continuum model)

1.  $[\text{PoCl}_5]^-$  :

6

Po 0.00000 0.00000 0.20719  
Cl -0.00000 2.55845 0.29454  
Cl 0.00000 0.00000 -2.20194  
Cl -2.55845 0.00000 0.29454  
Cl -0.00000 -2.55845 0.29454  
Cl 2.55845 -0.00000 0.29454

2.  $[\text{PoCl}_6]^{2-}$  :

7

Po 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000  
Cl -0.00000 0.00000 2.58932  
Cl -0.00000 2.58932 -0.00000  
Cl 2.58932 0.00000 0.00000  
Cl -0.00000 -0.00000 -2.58932  
Cl -2.58932 0.00000 -0.00000  
Cl -0.00000 -2.58932 0.00000

3.  $[\text{PoCl}_5(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^-$ :

9

Po -0.00082 -0.00000 -0.03248  
Cl -2.57448 -0.00027 -0.11770  
Cl 0.00269 -2.55349 -0.33109  
Cl -0.02789 0.00005 2.47370  
Cl 0.00216 2.55347 -0.33116  
Cl 2.57505 0.00026 -0.06290  
O 0.02637 -0.00002 -2.40170  
H 0.11994 -0.78585 -2.89143  
H 0.11986 0.78584 -2.89141

4.  $[\text{PoCl}_5(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^-$ :

12

Po -0.20000 -0.00800 0.00900  
Cl -0.95800 2.29200 -0.86000  
O 1.34400 0.05600 -1.86400  
H 2.29600 0.03300 -1.54800  
H 1.24200 0.86400 -2.39200  
O 3.73500 0.05400 -0.78400  
H 4.19200 -0.79400 -0.69800  
H 3.48800 0.30800 0.12100  
Cl 0.89500 -2.27100 0.52400  
Cl -1.78900 -0.06600 1.93500  
Cl 1.64800 1.15500 1.43300  
Cl -1.85900 -1.14700 -1.56200

5.  $[\text{PoCl}_6(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2-}$ :

10

Po -0.22200 -0.00000 -0.00400  
Cl -1.90300 1.81700 -0.68200  
Cl 0.76400 0.00000 -2.39000  
Cl 1.48200 -1.86400 0.68800  
Cl -1.17400 -0.00000 2.39700  
Cl 1.48200 1.86400 0.68900  
Cl -1.90300 -1.81700 -0.68300  
O 4.09600 -0.00000 -0.02600  
H 3.58500 -0.74500 0.11700  
H 3.58500 0.74400 0.11700

## 2 Supplementary tables

Table S1 Numerical compositions the excited energy levels expressed in terms of the spin-orbit free states, for the bare  $[\text{PoCl}_5]^-$  and  $[\text{PoCl}_6]^{2-}$  complexes in the gas phase, obtained at the c-SOCI/SC-NEVPT2 level.

System	SPG	Symmetry	Composition
$[\text{PoCl}_5]^-$	$D_{3h}$	$A_1''$	$81.3\% *^3 E' + 18.7\% *^3 A_2''$
		$A_2''$	$86.9\% *^3 E' + 13.1\% *^1 A_2''$
		$E''$	$48.2\% *^3 E' + 20.8\% *^3 A_2'' + 31.0\% *^1 E'$
		$E''$	$^3 E'$
		$E'$	$46.9\% *^3 E' + 3.3\% *^3 A_2'' + 49.8\% *^1 E'$
		$A_1''$	$18.7\% *^3 E' + 81.3\% *^3 A_2''$
		$E'$	$4.9\% *^3 E' + 75.9\% *^3 A_2'' + 19.2\% *^1 E'$
$[\text{PoCl}_6]^{2-}$	$O_h$	$A_{1u}$	$13.1\% *^3 E' + 86.9\% *^1 A_2''$
		$T_{1u}$	$^3 T_{1u}$
		$T_{2u} \oplus E_u$	$73.8\% *^3 T_{1u} + 26.2\% *^1 T_{1u}$
		$T_{1u}$	$^3 T_{1u}$
		$T_{1u}$	$26.2\% *^3 T_{1u} + 73.8\% *^1 T_{1u}$

Table S2 Numerical compositions the excited energy levels expressed in terms of the spin-orbit free states, for the bare  $[\text{PoCl}_5]^-$  and  $[\text{PoCl}_6]^{2-}$  complexes at the solvated geometries (polarisable continuum model), obtained at the c-SOCI/SC-NEVPT2 level.

System	SPG	Symmetry	Composition
$[\text{PoCl}_5]^-$	$C_{4v}$	$A_2$	$68.6\% *^3 A_1 + 31.3\% *^3 E$
		$E$	$74.8\% *^3 A_1 + 15.5\% *^3 E + 9.6\% *^1 E$
		$A_1$	$36.3\% *^3 E + 63.1\% *^1 A_1$
		$A_2$	$31.3\% *^3 A_1 + 68.7\% *^3 E$
		$A_1$	$62.9\% *^3 E + 36.7\% *^1 A_1$
		$E$	$24.4\% *^3 A_1 + 59.3\% *^3 E + 16.3\% *^1 E$
		$B_1 \oplus B_2$	$^3 E$
$[\text{PoCl}_6]^{2-}$	$O_h$	$E$	$0.6\% *^3 A_1 + 25.2\% *^3 E + 74.0\% *^1 E$
		$A_{1u}$	$^3 T_{1u}$
		$T_{1u}$	$73.9\% *^3 T_{1u} + 26.1\% *^1 T_{1u}$
		$T_{2u} \oplus E_u$	$^3 T_{1u}$
		$T_{1u}$	$26.1\% *^3 T_{1u} + 73.9\% *^1 T_{1u}$

Table S3 Spin character of the excited energy levels and excitation energies (in eV), for the  $[\text{PoCl}_5(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^-$  complex at the solvated geometry (polarisable continuum model), obtained at the c-SOCI/SC-NEVPT2 level.

System	SPG	Composition	Energy
$[\text{PoCl}_5(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^-$	$C_1$	triplet	3.21
		triplet/singlet	3.28
		triplet/singlet	3.36
		triplet/singlet	3.37
		triplet	5.14
		triplet/singlet	5.17
		triplet/singlet	5.20
		triplet/singlet	5.32
		triplet	5.40
		triplet/singlet <sup>a</sup>	5.41
		triplet/singlet	5.70
triplet/singlet	5.84		

<sup>a</sup> This energy level correlates with a pure spin-triplet energy level in the reference  $C_{4v}$  structure of the  $[\text{PoCl}_5]^-$  complex. Because of the symmetry lowering to  $C_1$ , some little spin-singlet character has emerged. This is not the case of the energy levels that are here indicated as “triplet” (for which no spin-singlet character was numerically observed).