

# Density functional theory study of crown ether–magnesium complexes: from a solvated ion to an ion trap

Katarina Čeranić<sup>a,b</sup>, Branislav Milovanović<sup>b</sup> and Milena Petković<sup>b\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Innovation Center of the Faculty of Chemistry, Studentski trg 12-16, 11158 Belgrade, Serbia

<sup>b</sup>University of Belgrade – Faculty of Physical Chemistry, Studentski trg 12-16, 11158 Belgrade, Serbia

Figure S1–S29: Crown **1–29** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level. (pages S2-S38)

Figure S30: Structures of magnesium–crown complexes optimized at 6-311+G(d,p) level. (page S39)

Figure S31: Structure of the magnesium ion coordinated with six water molecules optimized at 6-311+G(d,p) level. (page S40)

Figure S32: Structures of magnesium–crown complexes with the magnesium ion coordinated with two water molecules optimized at M06-2X/6-311+G(d,p) level. (page S41)

Figure S33: Time evolution of the dihedral angle  $d_{O_s}$  formed by the four oxygen atoms in complexes of  $Mg^{2+}$  with crowns **2-8**. (page S42)

Figure S34: Structures of dihydrated complexes of  $Na^+$  (the first and the second column),  $K^+$  (the third and the fourth column), and  $Ca^{2+}$  (the fifth and the sixth column) with crowns **3, 4**, and **7** optimized at M06-2X/6-311+G(d,p) level. (page S42)

Table S1–S29: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **1–29** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level. (pages S2-S38)

Table S30: Changes in average Mg–O distances induced by the solvent,  $\Delta\bar{r}_r(Mg-O)$ ; changes in Mg distances from the plane defined by crown's oxygen atoms,  $\Delta r_{plane}^{no}$ . All distances are presented in Å.  $\Delta E_{cl}^{CMg}$ ,  $\Delta E_{xc}^{CMg}$ , and  $\Delta E_{int}^{CMg}$  stand for the changes in classical, non-classical, and the overall crown–magnesium interaction energy caused by the presence of explicit solvent molecules. All energy components are presented in kcal/mol. Thin horizontal lines are used to emphasize that crowns **1-8**, **9-26**, and **27-29** contain 4, 5, and 6 oxygen atoms, respectively. (page S40)

Table S31: Average IQA energy components (in kcal/mol) for Mg–solvent (MgS) and crown–solvent (CS) interaction: solvent deformation energy  $\bar{E}_{def}^S$ , solvent promotion energy  $\bar{E}_{pro}^S$ , as well as classical  $\bar{E}_{cl}^{MgS}/\bar{E}_{cl}^{CS}$ , non-classical  $\bar{E}_{xc}^{MgS}/\bar{E}_{xc}^{CS}$ , and overall  $\bar{E}_{int}^{MgS}/\bar{E}_{int}^{CS}$  ion–solvent/crown–solvent interaction energy, absolute value of the difference in solvents' promotion energies  $\Delta E_{pro}^S$ , absolute value of the difference in classical  $\Delta E_{cl}^{MgS}/\Delta E_{cl}^{CS}$ , non-classical  $\Delta E_{xc}^{MgS}/\Delta E_{xc}^{CS}$ , and overall  $\Delta E_{int}^{MgS}/\Delta E_{int}^{CS}$  ion–solvent/crown–solvent interaction energy. (page S43)

Table S32: Distance of the metal ion from the center of mass defined by crown's oxygen atoms  $r(M-COM)$  ( $M = Mg, Na, K, Ca$ ) in the optimized hydrated complexes  $[CM(H_2O)_2]^{n+}$  ( $n = 2$  for Mg and Ca;  $n = 1$  for Na, K); average ion–oxygen distances  $\bar{r}(ion-O_i)$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) and the overall average ion–oxygen distance  $\bar{r}(ion-O)$ ; the number of solvent molecules  $n_S$  that coordinate the cation in the DFT-MD simulations. All distances are presented in Å. (page S43)

Table S33: Selected geometric parameters in dihydrated complexes of  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ , and  $Ca^{2+}$  with crowns **3, 4**, and **7** optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level: difference in the two ion-S bond lengths,  $\Delta r(Mg-S)$ ; ion distances from the plane defined by crown's oxygen atoms/crown's and solvent's oxygen atoms,  $r_{plane}^O / r_{plane}^{O/S}$ . (page S43)

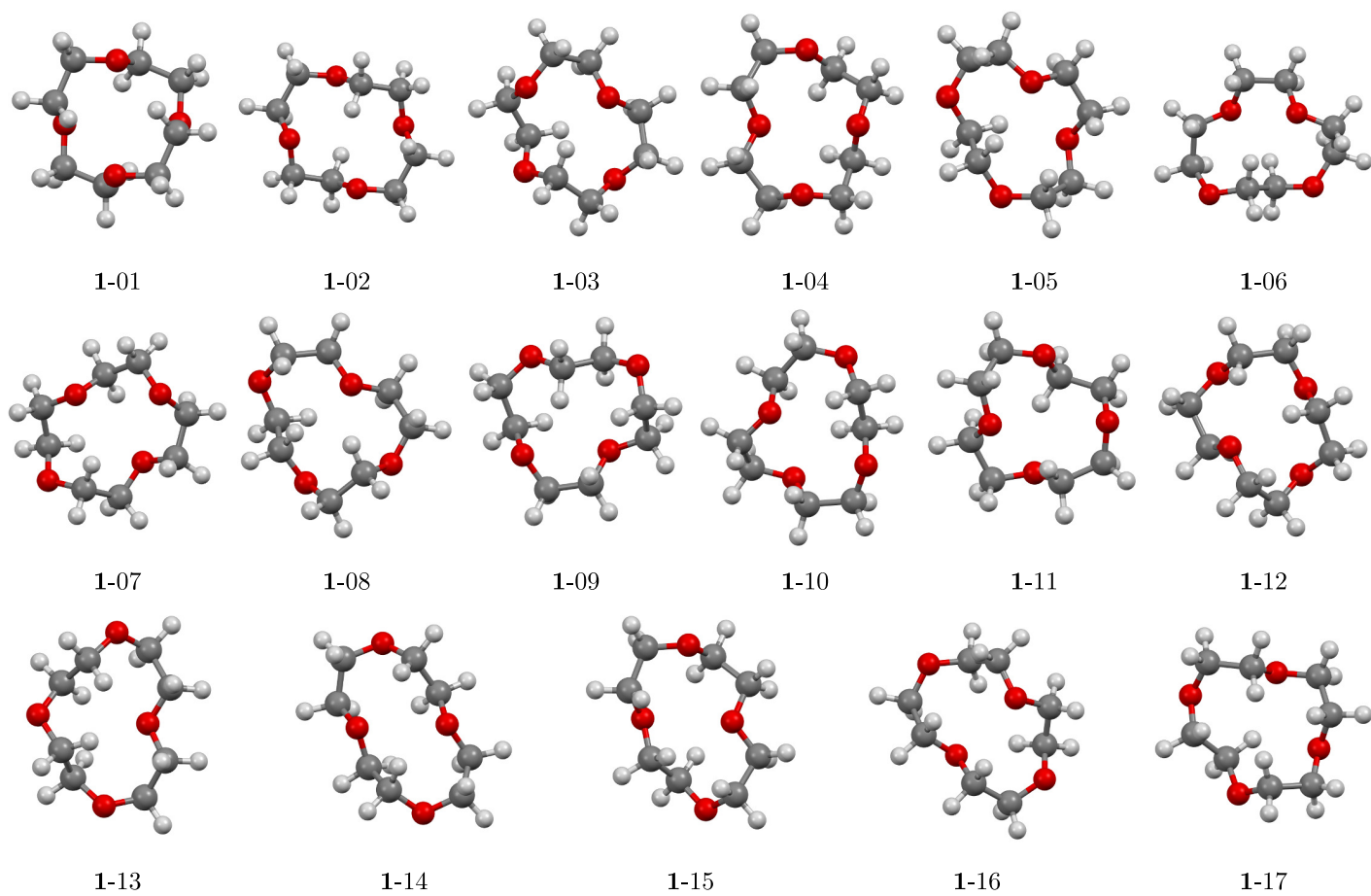


Figure S1: Crown 1 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S1: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown 1 conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
1-01	0.0	1-02	2.3	1-03	2.5	1-04	2.8	1-05	2.8	1-06	3.1
1-07	3.2	1-08	3.5	1-09	3.6	1-10	3.9	1-11	4.0	1-12	4.1
1-13	4.3	1-14	4.6	1-15	5.4	1-16	5.6	1-17	5.7		

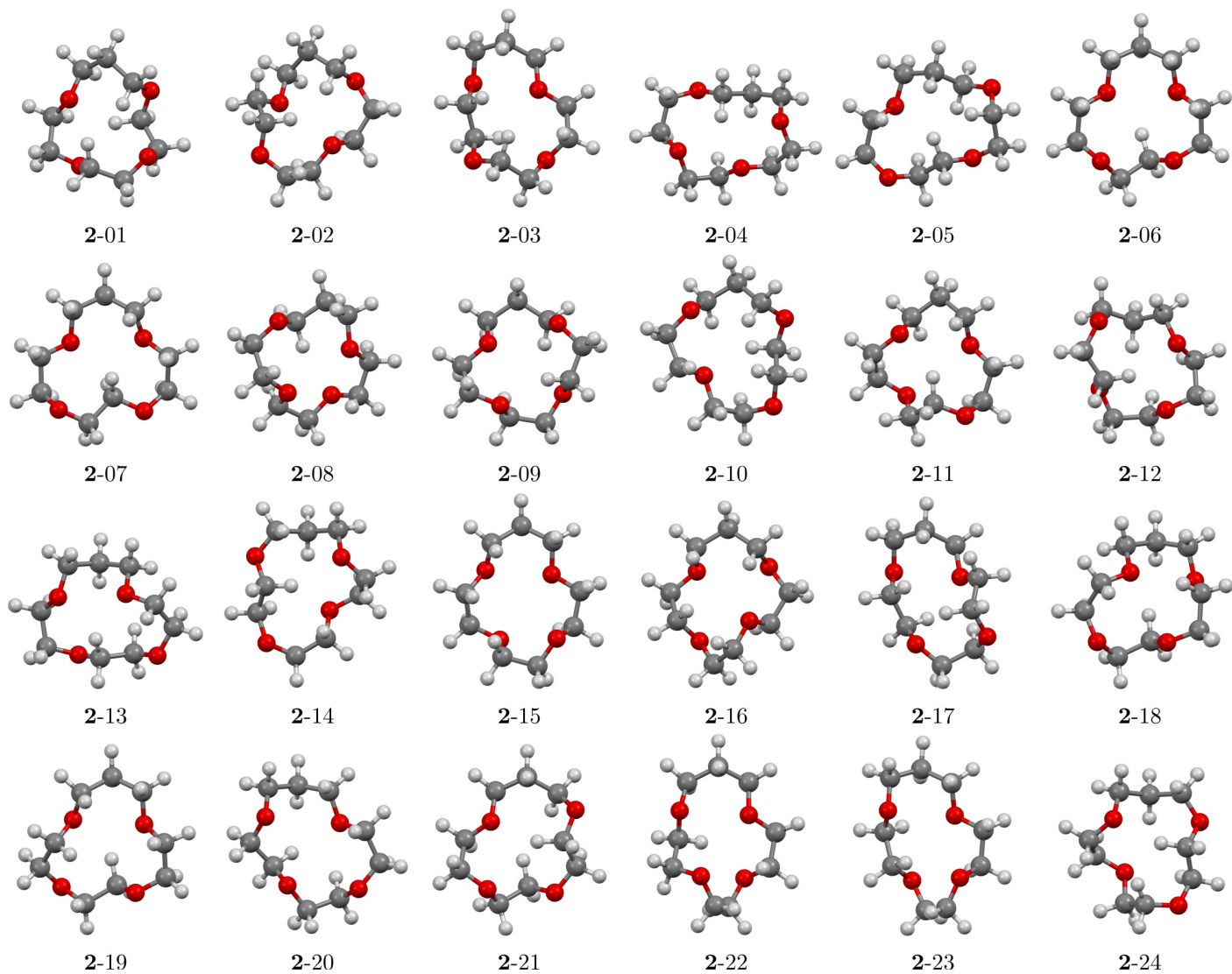


Figure S2: Crown 2 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S2: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown 2 conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
2-01	0.0	2-02	1.1	2-03	1.9	2-04	2.1	2-05	2.3	2-06	2.3
2-07	2.6	2-08	2.8	2-09	2.9	2-10	3.2	2-11	3.3	2-12	3.6
2-13	3.8	2-14	4.1	2-15	4.2	2-16	4.3	2-17	4.7	2-18	4.7
2-19	4.7	2-20	4.9	2-21	5.4	2-22	5.6	2-23	5.7	2-24	7.0

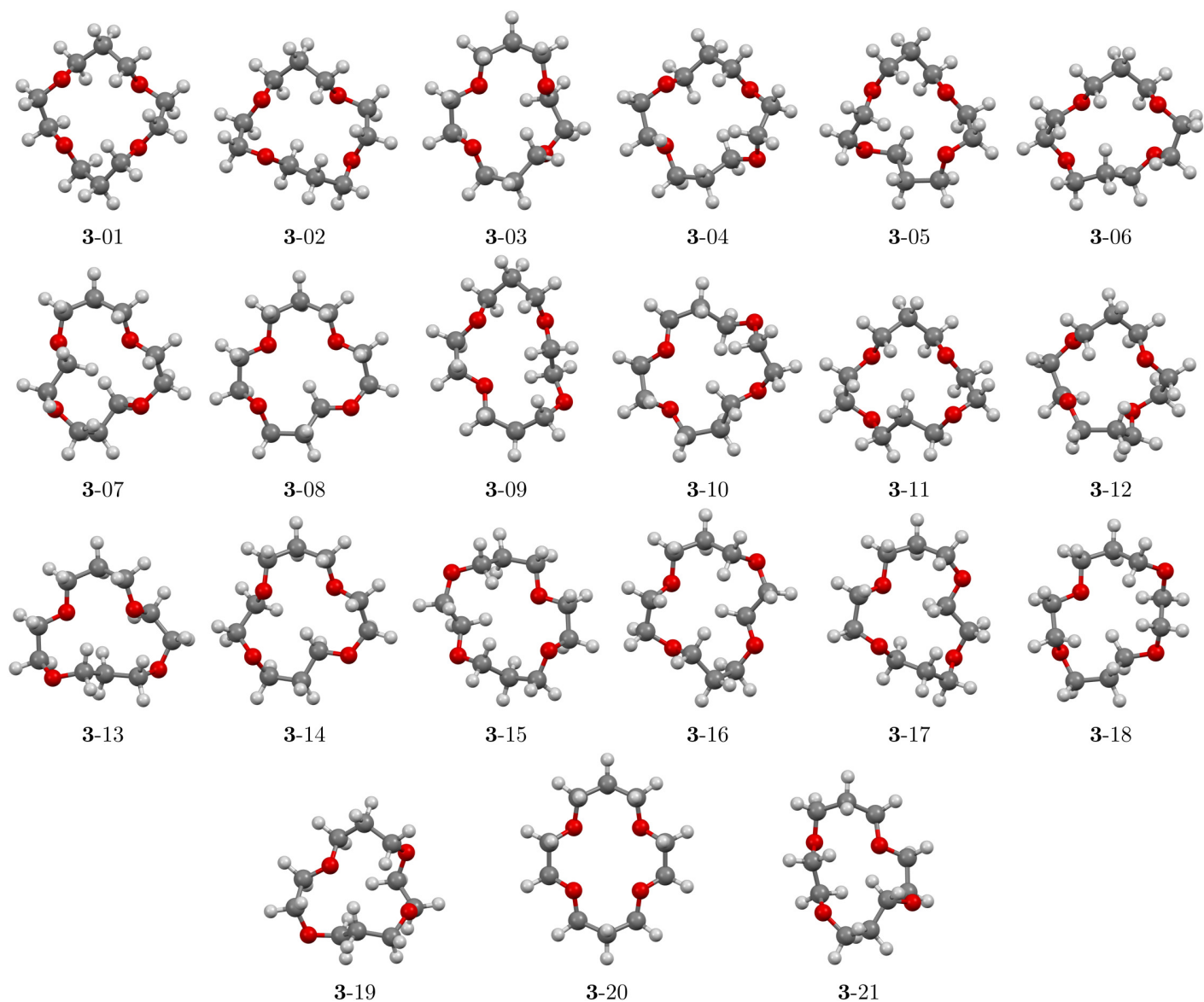


Figure S3: Crown 3 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S3: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown 3 conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
3-01	0.0	3-02	0.8	3-03	0.9	3-04	1.5	3-05	2.0	3-06	2.8
3-07	3.0	3-08	3.2	3-09	3.6	3-10	3.7	3-11	4.0	3-12	4.0
3-13	4.4	3-14	4.5	3-15	4.6	3-16	4.8	3-17	5.1	3-18	5.2
3-19	5.5	3-20	6.4	3-21	6.5						



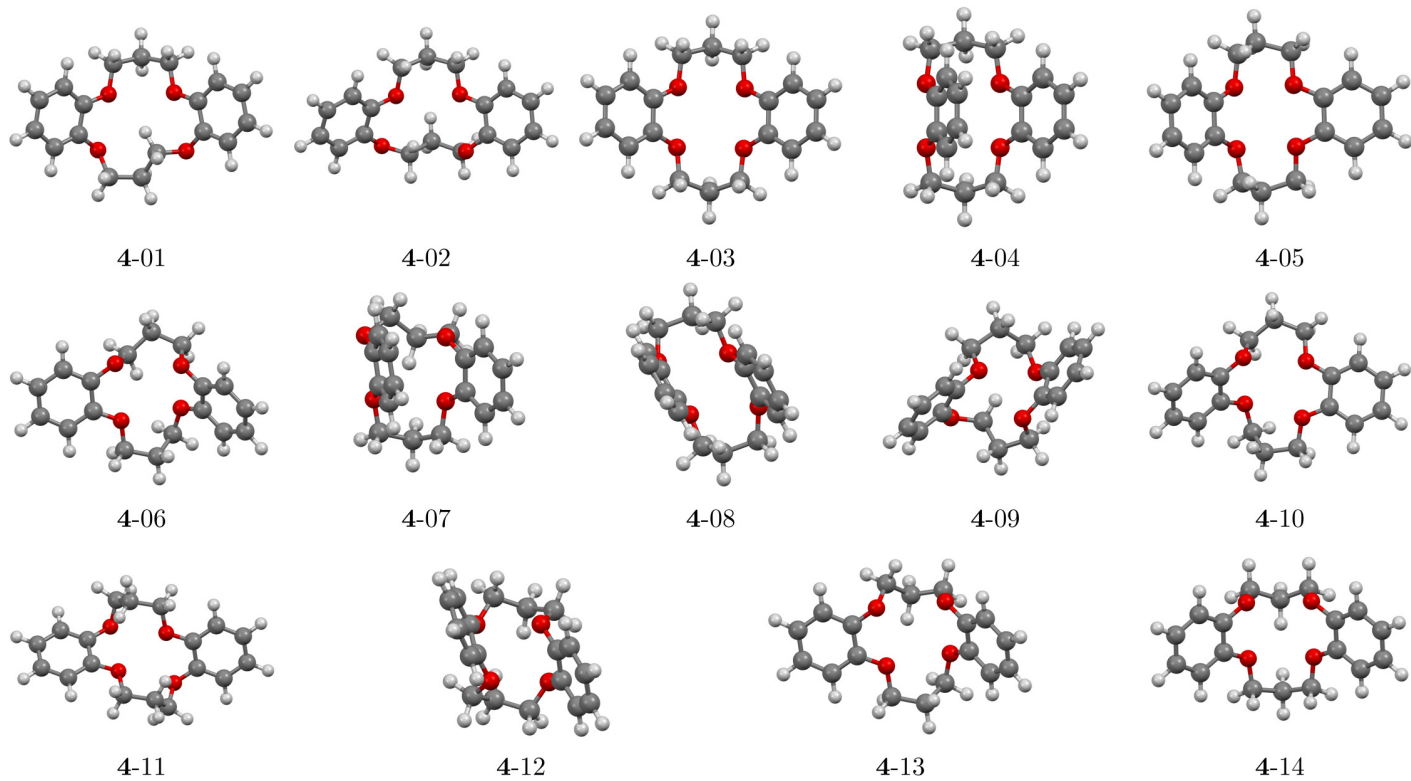


Figure S4: Crown 4 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S4: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown 4 conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
4-01	0.0	4-02	0.7	4-03	0.7	4-04	1.0	4-05	1.4	4-06	2.5
4-07	2.8	4-08	3.4	4-09	3.5	4-10	4.4	4-11	4.5	4-12	4.7
4-13	4.9	4-14	5.2								

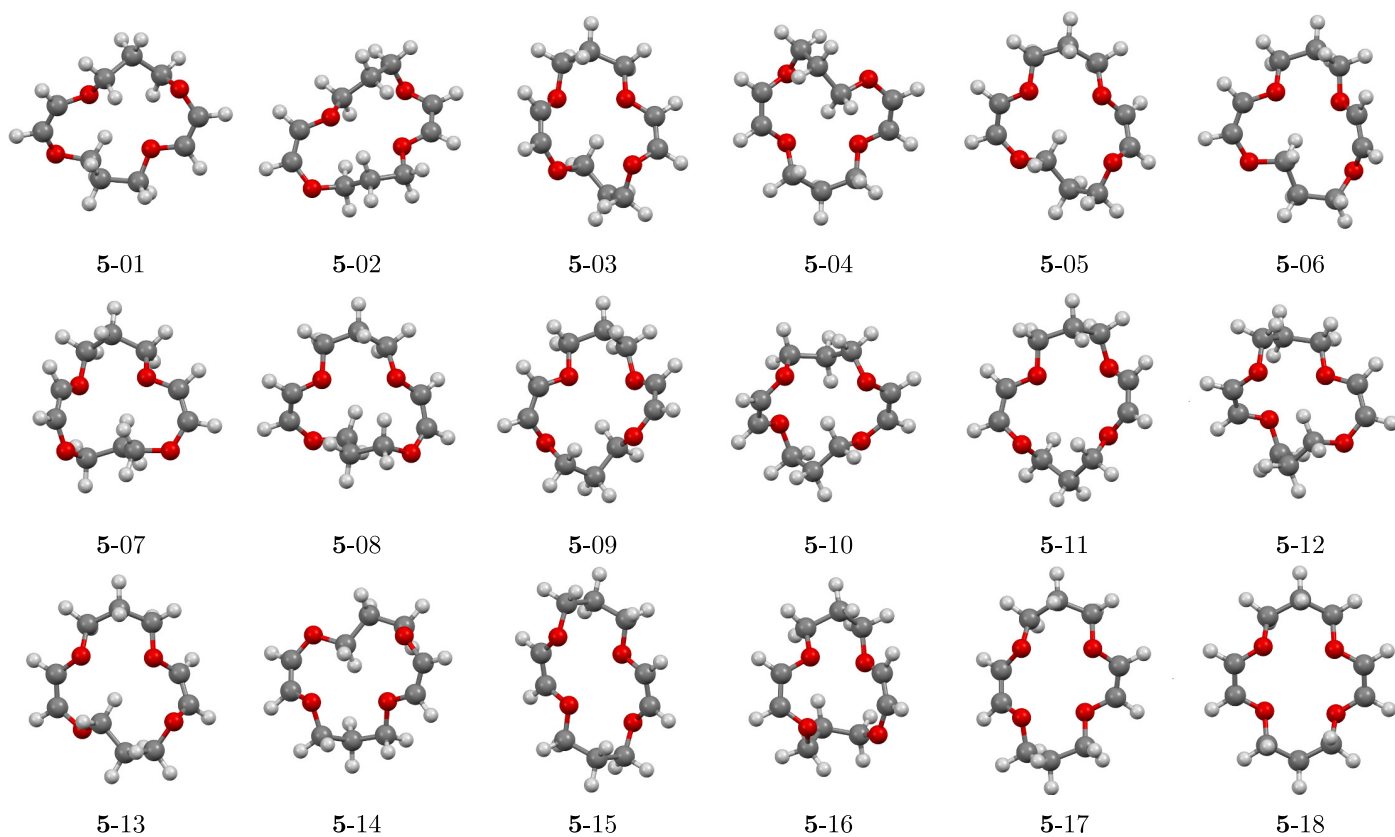


Figure S5: Crown 5 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S5: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown 5 conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
5-01	0.0	5-02	1.0	5-03	1.3	5-04	1.9	5-05	2.2	5-06	2.3
5-07	2.3	5-08	2.4	5-09	2.4	5-10	2.4	5-11	2.7	5-12	2.8
5-13	3.0	5-14	3.3	5-15	4.1	5-16	5.1	5-17	6.8	5-18	8.3

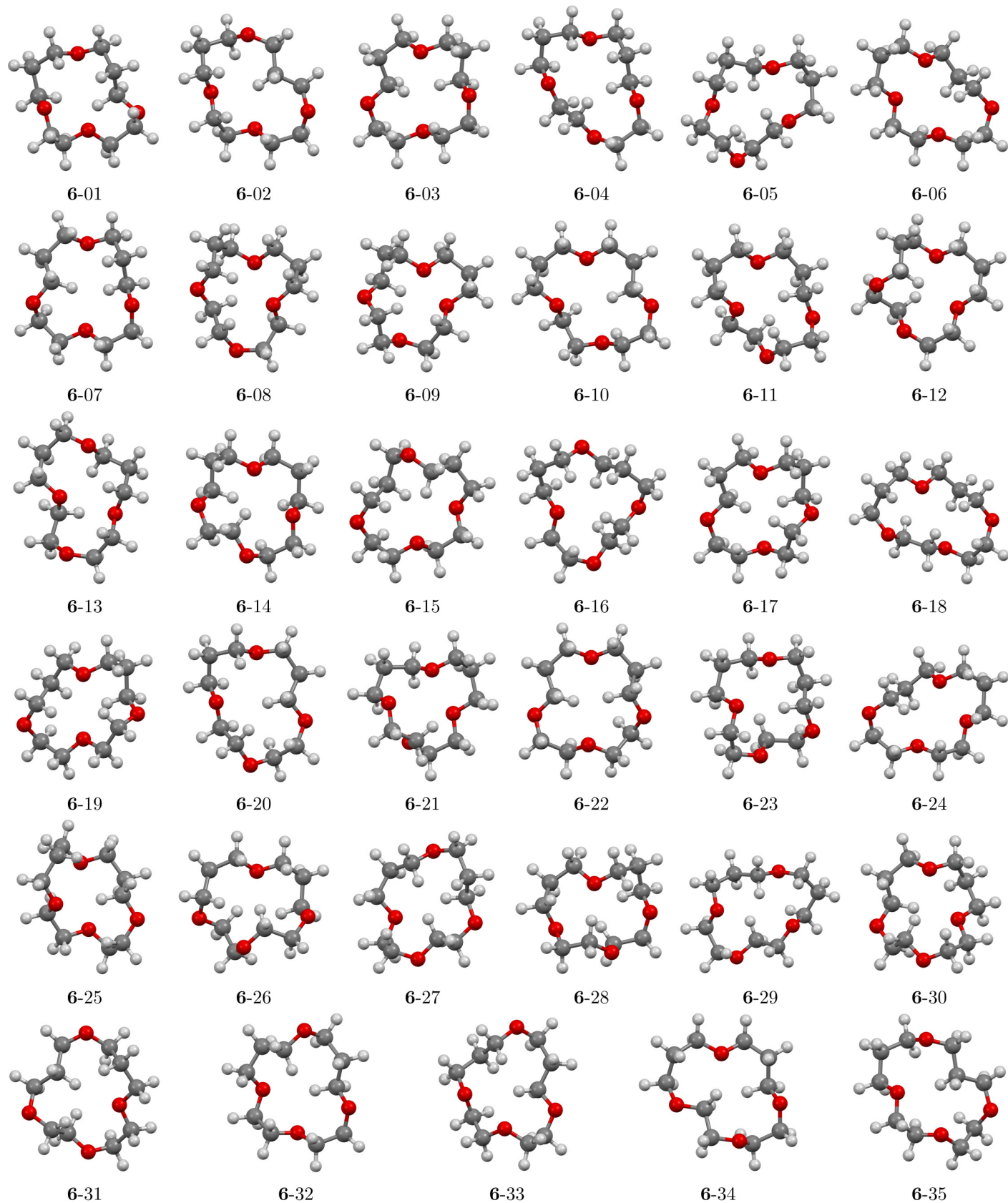


Figure S6: Crown 6 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S6: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **6** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
6-01	0.0	6-02	1.1	6-03	1.5	6-04	1.7	6-05	1.7	6-06	1.8
6-07	1.9	6-08	1.9	6-09	2.6	6-10	2.8	6-11	2.9	6-12	3.2
6-13	3.3	6-14	3.4	6-15	3.6	6-16	3.7	6-17	3.7	6-18	3.8
6-19	3.8	6-20	3.9	6-21	4.2	6-22	4.2	6-23	4.3	6-24	4.3
6-25	4.4	6-26	4.6	6-27	5.1	6-28	5.1	6-29	5.1	6-30	5.2
6-31	5.7	6-32	5.8	6-33	6.3	6-34	6.5	6-35	7.7		

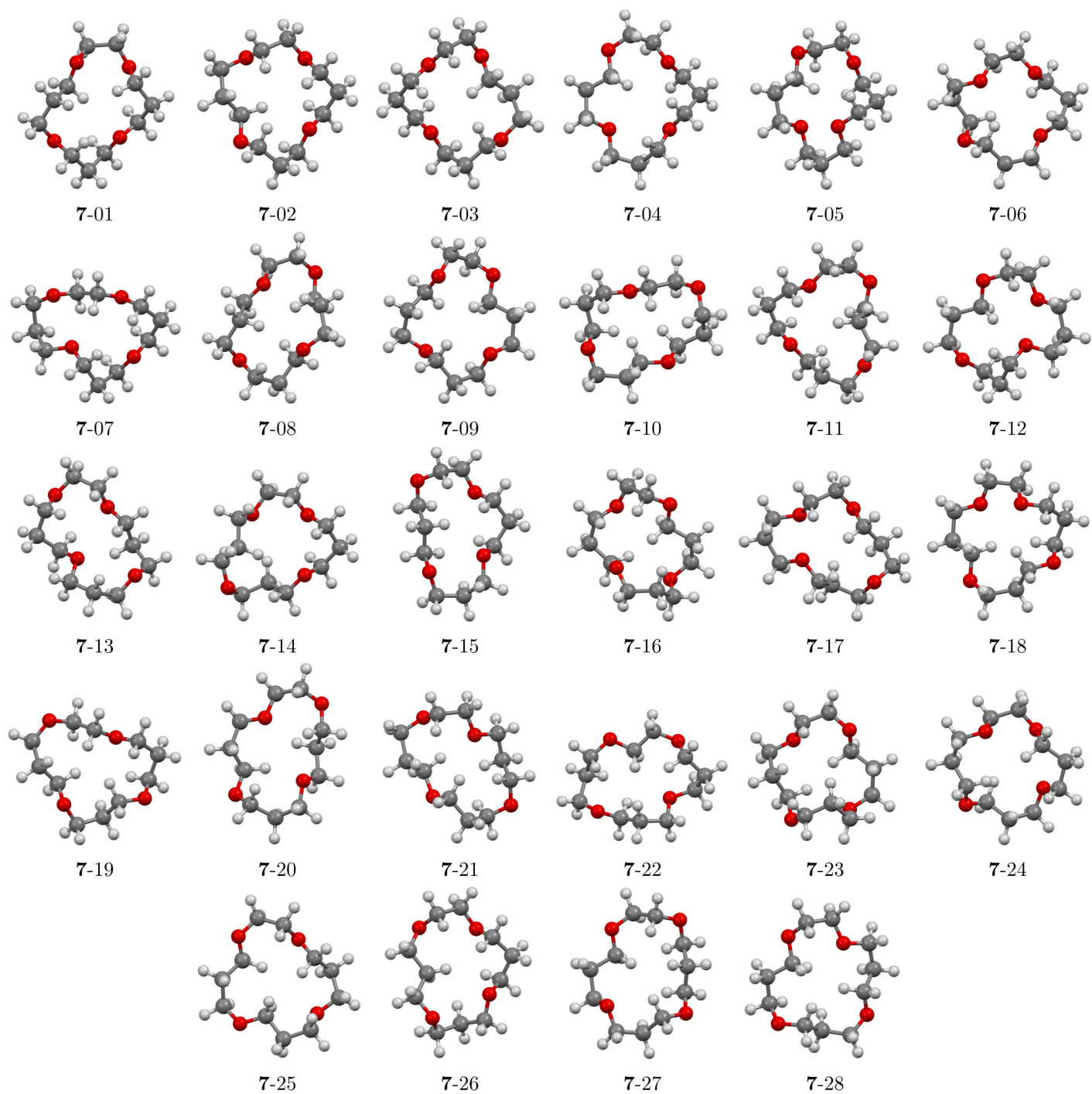


Figure S7: Crown 7 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S7: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown 7 conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
7-01	0.0	7-02	1.4	7-03	1.7	7-04	2.9	7-05	3.2	7-06	3.4
7-07	4.0	7-08	4.4	7-09	4.4	7-10	4.9	7-11	4.9	7-12	5.5
7-13	5.7	7-14	5.7	7-15	5.7	7-16	5.8	7-17	5.8	7-18	5.9
7-19	6.1	7-20	6.1	7-21	6.4	7-22	6.7	7-23	7.4	7-24	7.7
7-25	8.3	7-26	8.7	7-27	9.1	7-28	10.3				

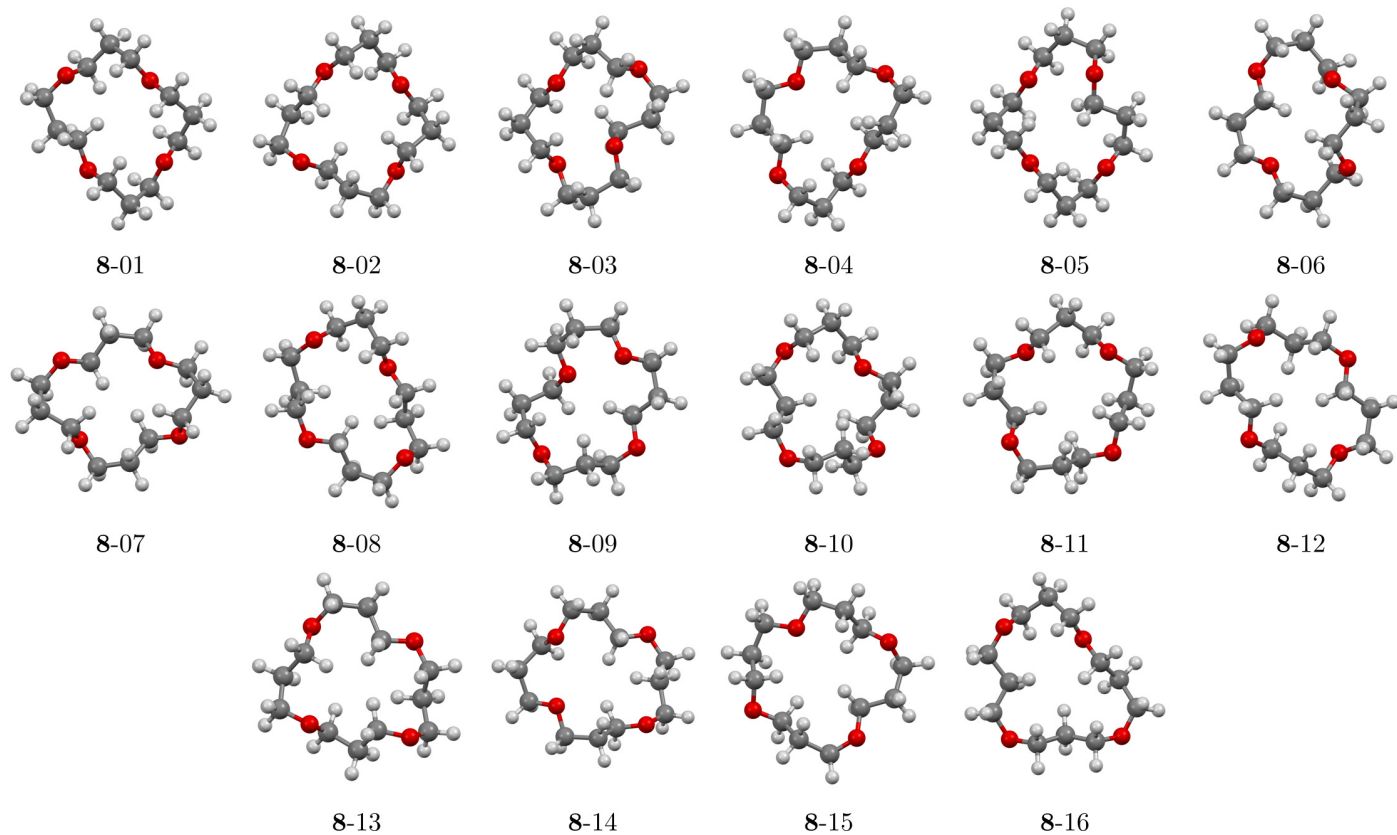


Figure S8: Crown **8** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S8: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **8** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
8-01	0.0	8-02	2.6	8-03	3.0	8-04	3.7	8-05	4.6	8-06	4.7
8-07	4.7	8-08	5.9	8-09	6.7	8-10	7.5	8-11	8.1	8-12	8.8
8-13	9.7	8-14	9.7	8-15	10.2	8-16	10.7				



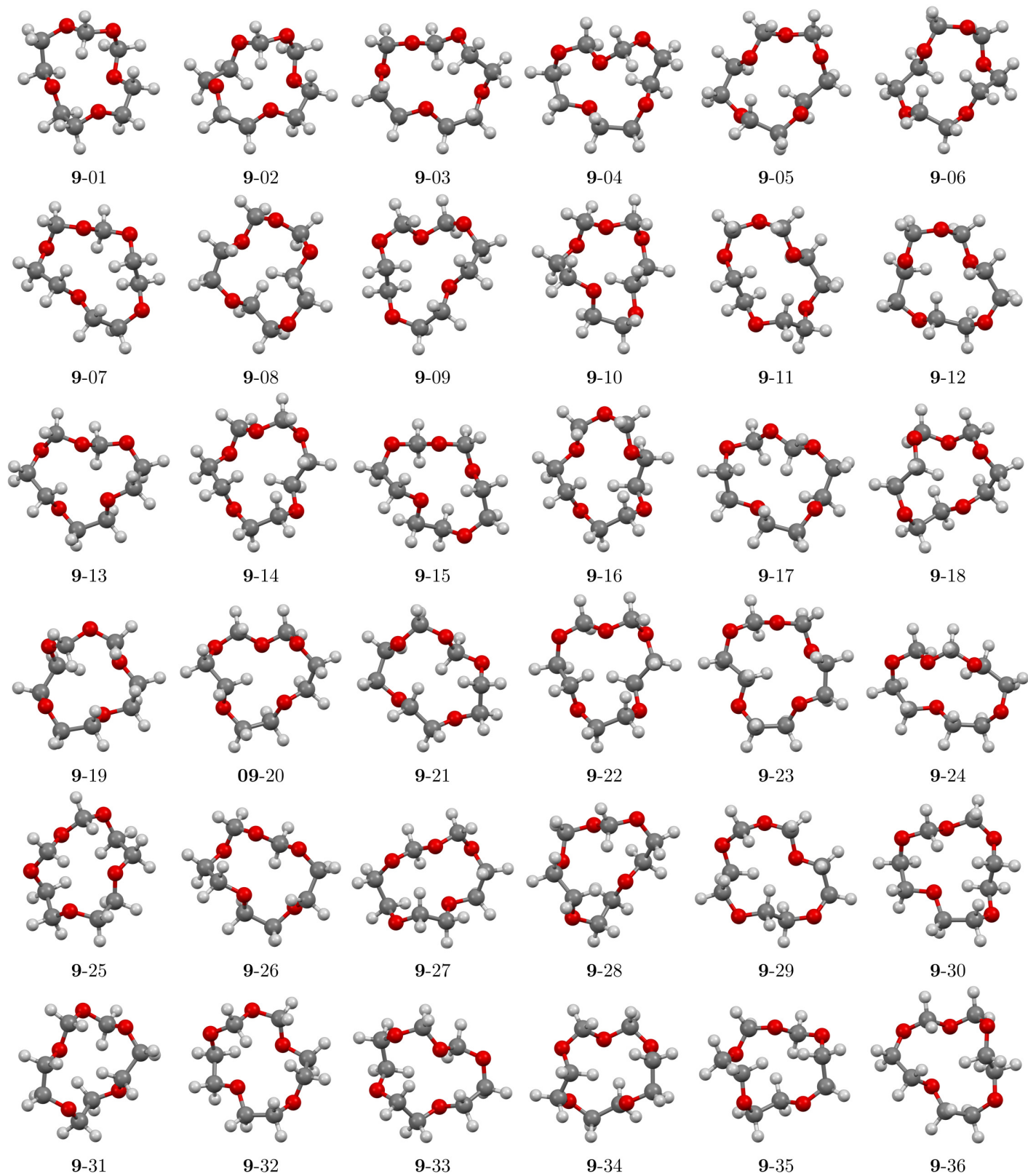


Figure S9: Crown 9 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S9: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **9** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
9-01	0.0	9-02	1.0	9-03	1.3	9-04	1.5	9-05	1.6	9-06	1.7
9-07	1.8	9-08	2.2	9-09	2.5	9-10	3.1	9-11	3.3	9-12	3.3
9-13	3.3	9-14	3.6	9-15	3.8	9-16	4.2	9-17	4.3	9-18	4.5
9-19	4.8	9-20	5.0	9-21	5.2	9-22	5.4	9-23	5.4	9-24	5.5
9-25	5.6	9-26	5.6	9-27	6.2	9-28	6.2	9-29	6.3	9-30	6.6
9-31	6.6	9-32	6.7	9-33	6.7	9-34	6.9	9-35	9.3	9-36	9.7

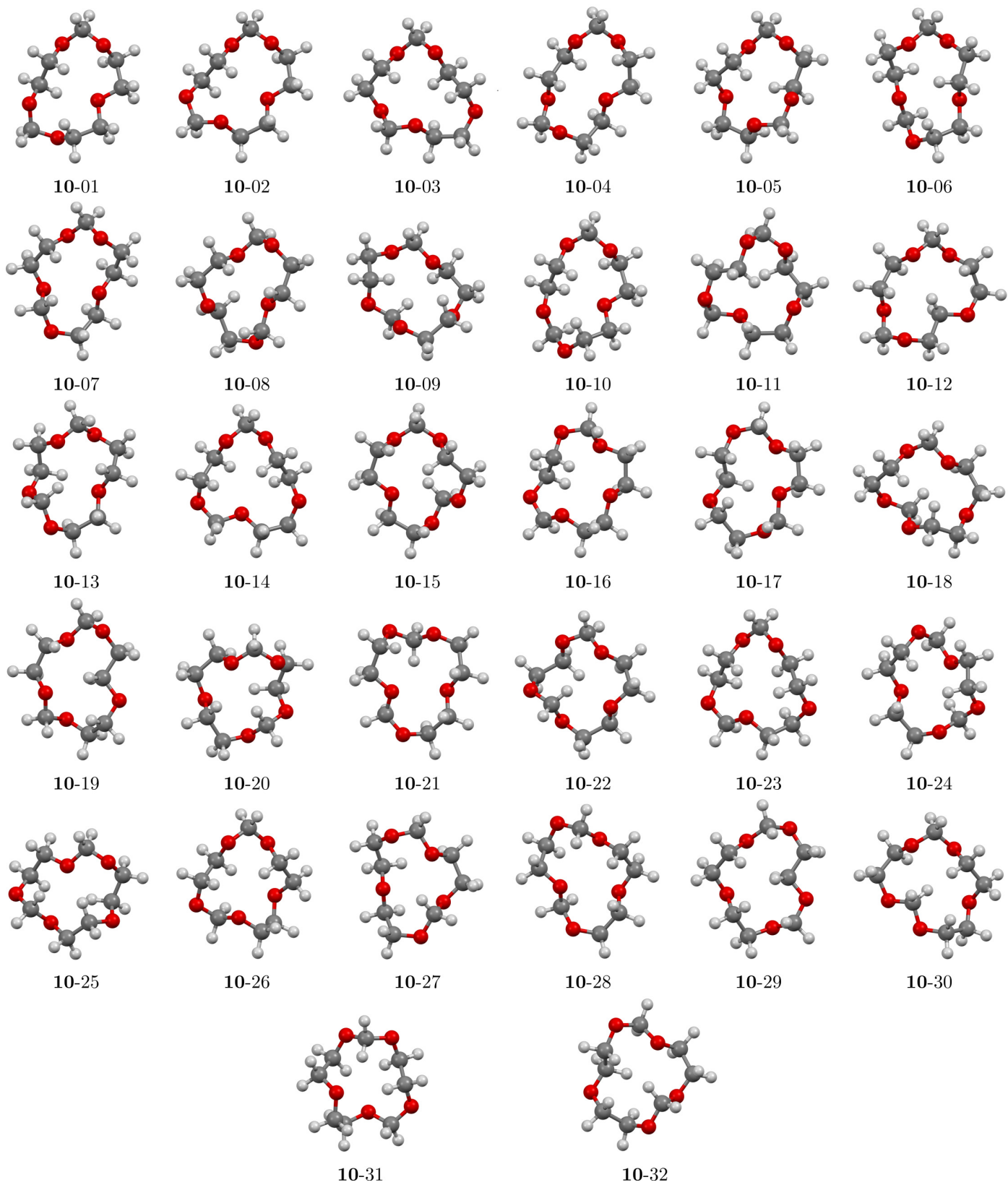


Figure S10: Crown 10 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S10: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **10** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
<b>10-01</b>	0.0	<b>10-02</b>	2.2	<b>10-03</b>	2.3	<b>10-04</b>	2.9	<b>10-05</b>	3.2	<b>10-06</b>	3.2
<b>10-07</b>	3.3	<b>10-08</b>	4.2	<b>10-09</b>	4.4	<b>10-10</b>	4.5	<b>10-11</b>	4.5	<b>10-12</b>	4.8
<b>10-13</b>	5.1	<b>10-14</b>	5.3	<b>10-15</b>	5.6	<b>10-16</b>	6.0	<b>10-17</b>	6.3	<b>10-18</b>	6.4
<b>10-19</b>	6.6	<b>10-20</b>	6.7	<b>10-21</b>	6.8	<b>10-22</b>	6.8	<b>10-23</b>	7.0	<b>10-24</b>	7.6
<b>10-25</b>	7.6	<b>10-26</b>	7.8	<b>10-27</b>	8.1	<b>10-28</b>	8.3	<b>10-29</b>	9.3	<b>10-30</b>	9.6
<b>10-31</b>	9.9	<b>10-32</b>	10.5								

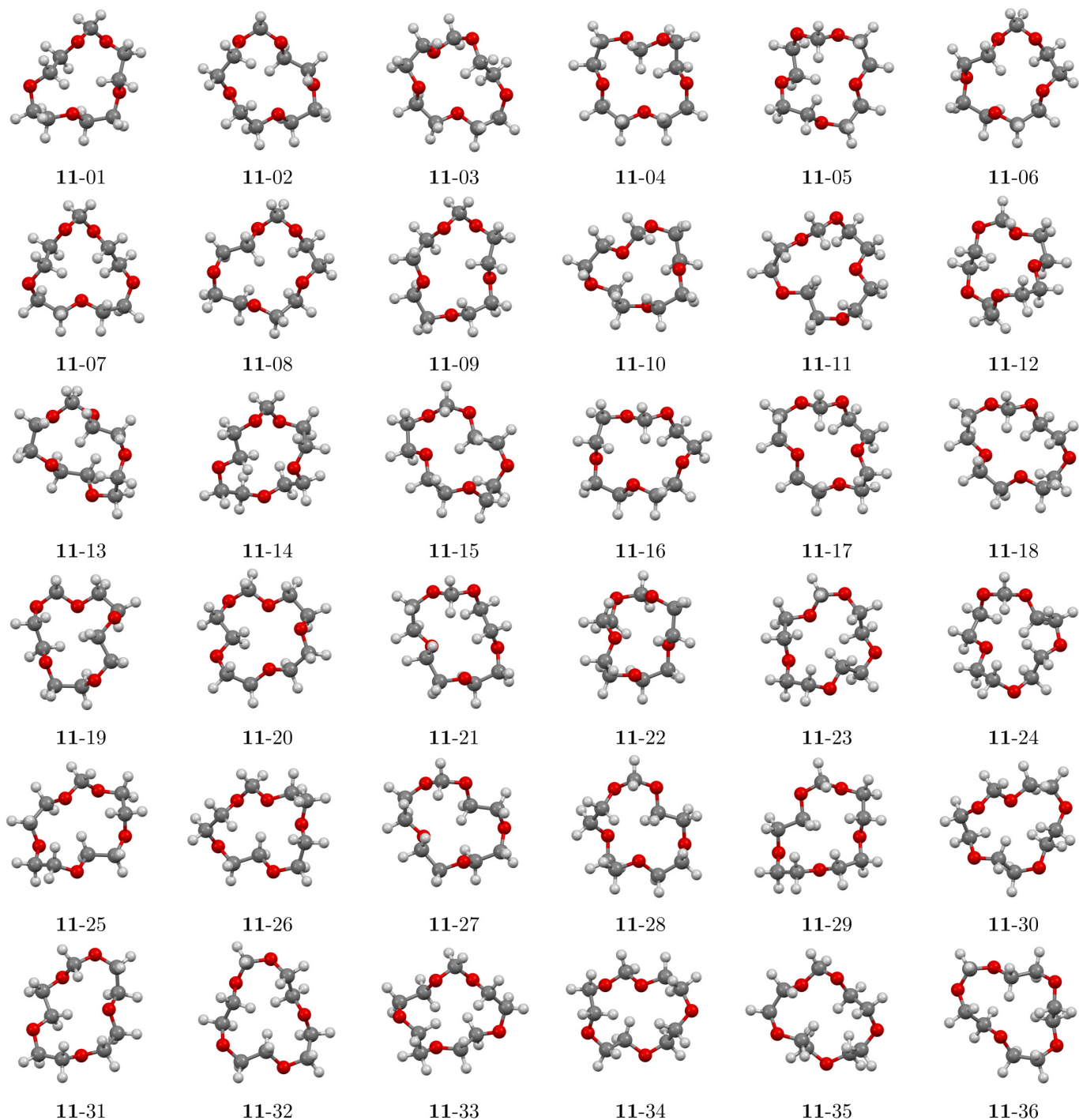


Figure S11: Crown 11 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S11: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown 11 conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
11-01	0.0	11-02	0.7	11-03	1.7	11-04	2.5	11-05	2.8	11-06	2.9
11-07	3.1	11-08	3.3	11-09	3.5	11-10	4.3	11-11	4.6	11-12	4.8
11-13	5.1	11-14	5.1	11-15	5.1	11-16	5.2	11-17	5.6	11-18	5.8
11-19	5.8	11-20	5.9	11-21	5.9	11-22	6.1	11-23	6.6	11-24	6.7
11-25	6.7	11-26	6.9	11-27	7.0	11-28	7.0	11-29	7.0	11-30	7.2
11-31	7.5	11-32	7.8	11-33	8.3	11-34	8.6	11-35	9.1	11-36	9.3



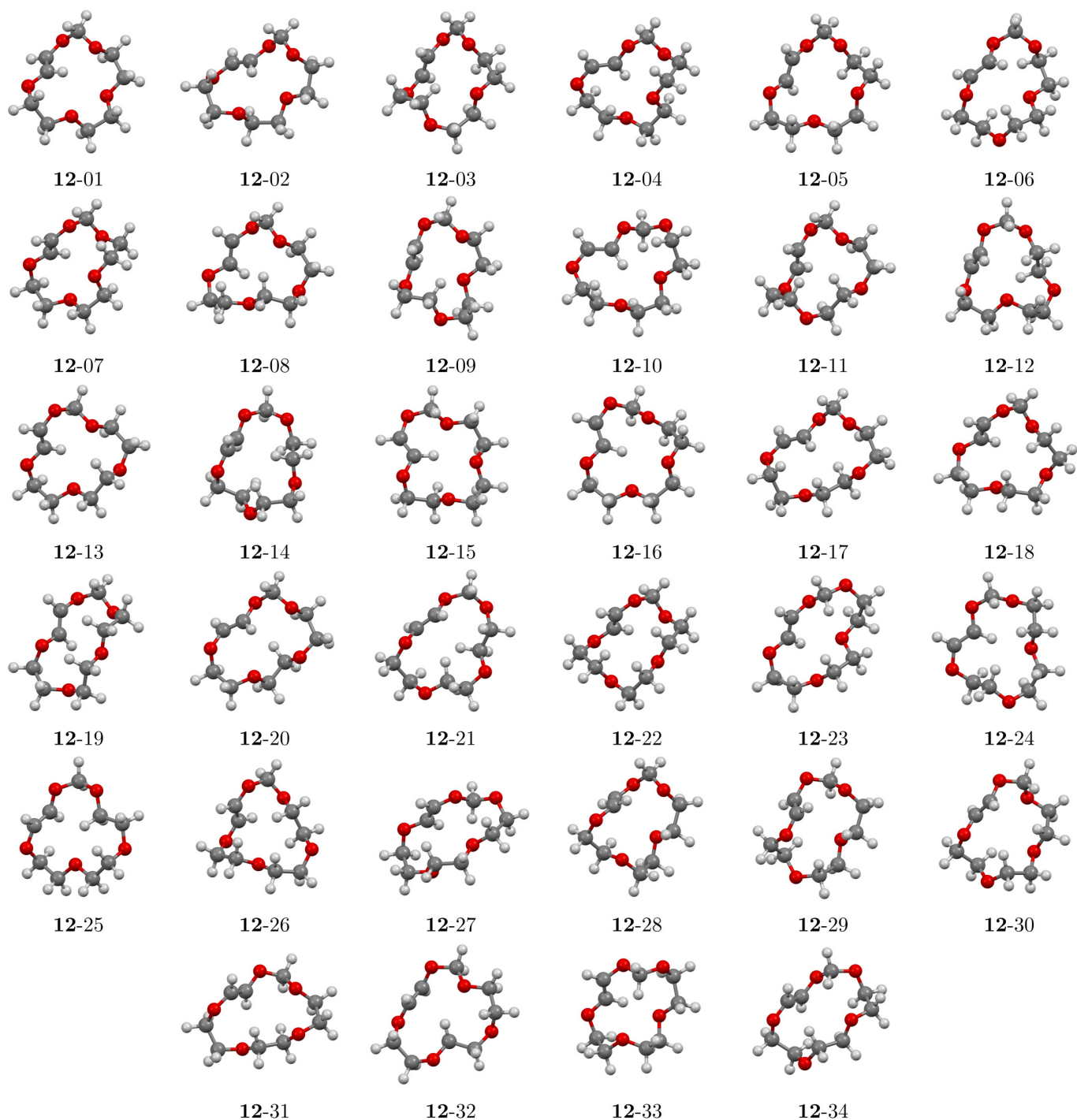


Figure S12: Crown 12 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S12: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown 12 conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
12-01	0.0	12-02	0.7	12-03	1.0	12-04	1.2	12-05	1.5	12-06	1.5
12-07	1.5	12-08	1.9	12-09	2.2	12-10	2.6	12-11	2.7	12-12	2.8
12-13	3.1	12-14	3.2	12-15	3.4	12-16	3.4	12-17	3.5	12-18	3.7
12-19	4.4	12-20	4.5	12-21	4.5	12-22	4.6	12-23	4.8	12-24	5.2
12-25	5.2	12-26	5.3	12-27	5.4	12-28	5.5	12-29	5.5	12-30	5.7
12-31	6.3	12-32	6.3	12-33	8.2	12-34	8.4				



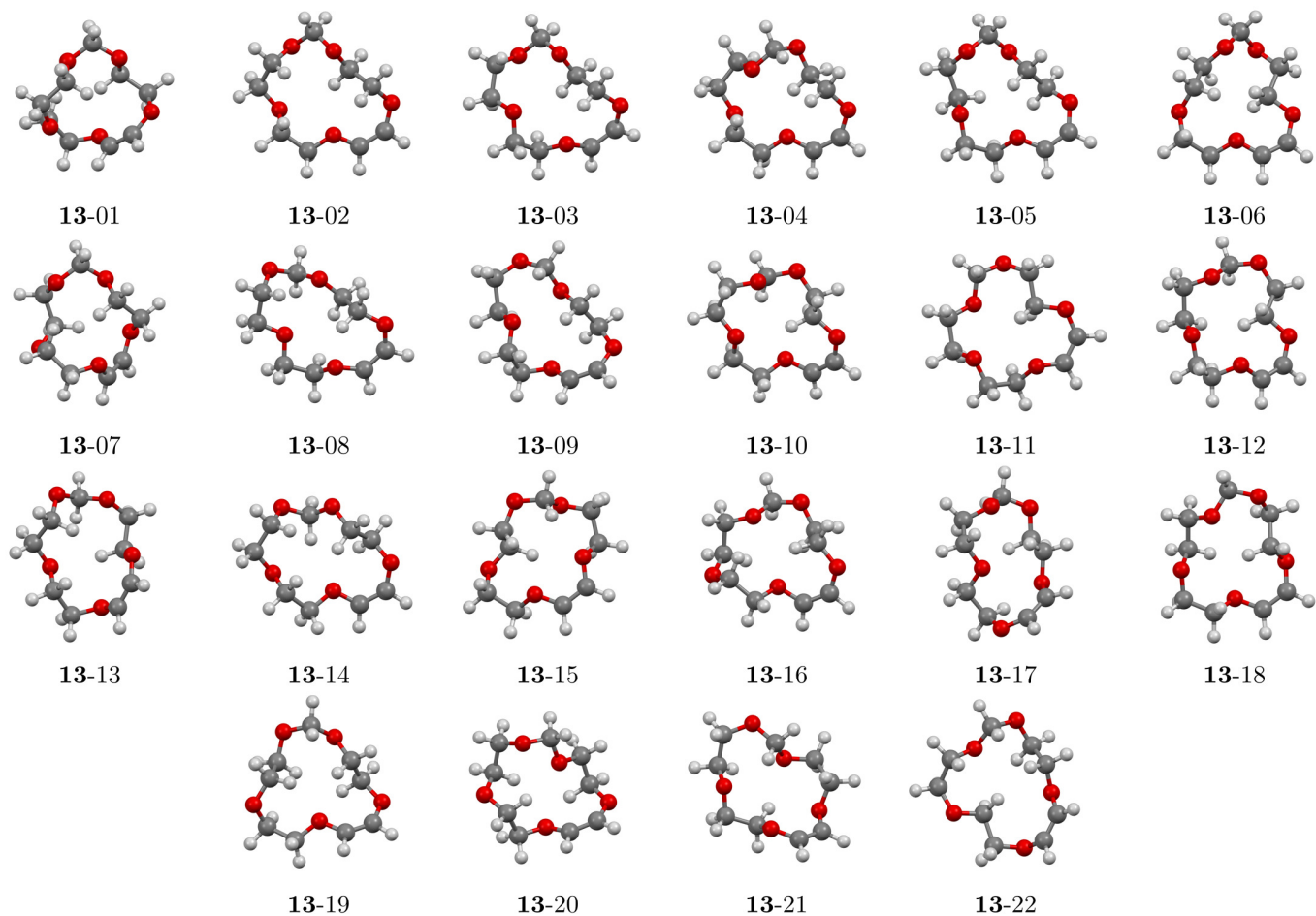


Figure S13: Crown **13** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S13: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **13** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
13-01	0.0	13-02	0.2	13-03	1.0	13-04	1.2	13-05	1.2	13-06	1.4
13-07	2.0	13-08	2.3	13-09	3.0	13-10	3.3	13-11	4.0	13-12	4.1
13-13	4.1	13-14	4.2	13-15	4.3	13-16	4.8	13-17	4.8	13-18	4.9
13-19	5.2	13-20	5.9	13-21	7.1	13-22	7.2				

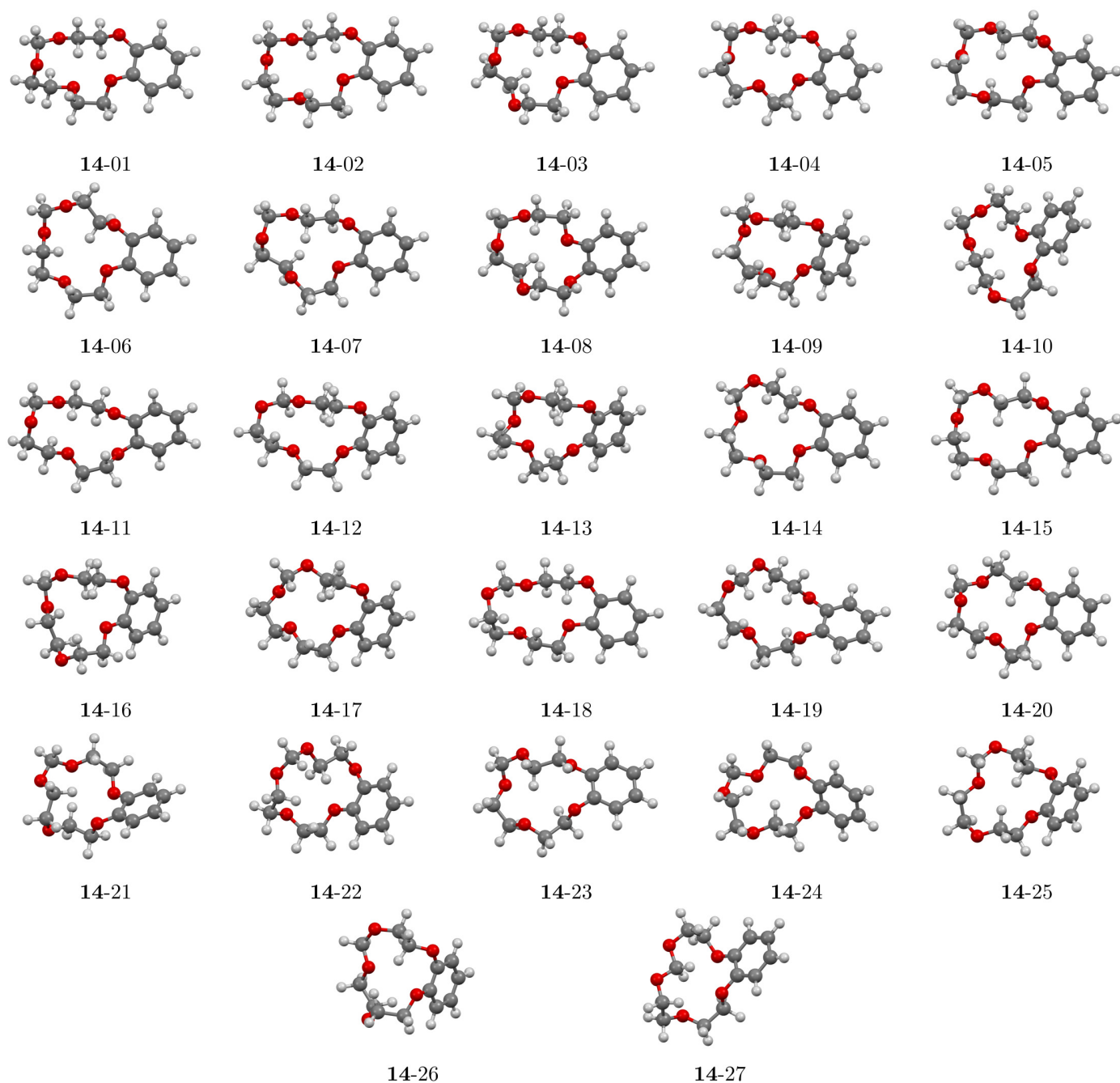
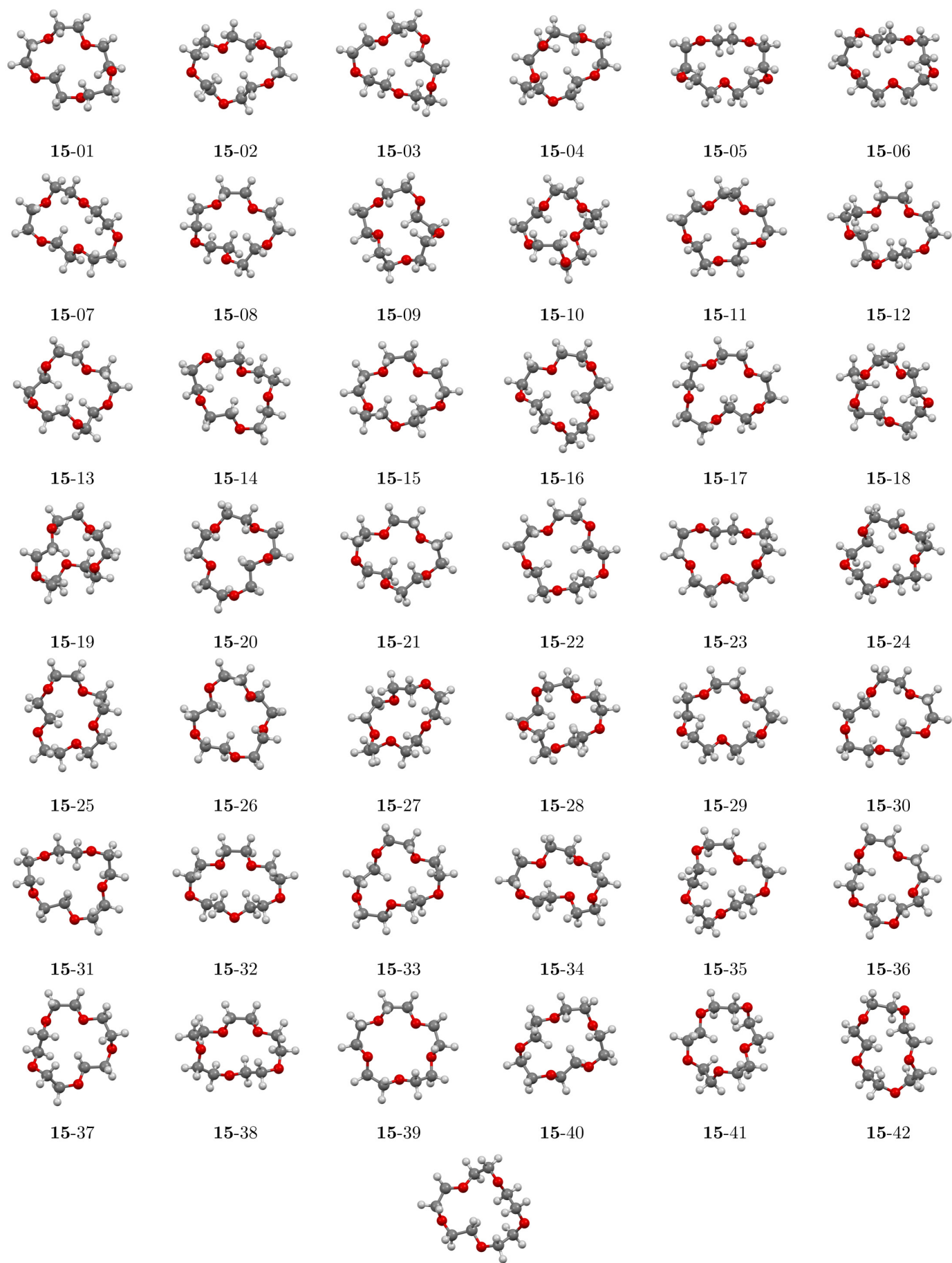


Figure S14: Crown **14** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S14: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **14** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
14-01	0.0	14-02	0.5	14-03	0.8	14-04	1.6	14-05	1.6	14-06	1.9
14-07	2.0	14-08	2.4	14-09	2.5	14-10	2.6	14-11	2.8	14-12	3.2
14-13	3.3	14-14	3.9	14-15	4.1	14-16	4.2	14-17	4.2	14-18	4.4
14-19	4.5	14-20	4.8	14-21	5.5	14-22	5.6	14-23	6.2	14-24	6.7
14-25	6.9	14-26	8.1	14-27	8.1						



15-43  
S19

Figure S15: Crown 15 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S15: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **15** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
15-01	0.0	15-02	0.3	15-03	0.7	15-04	0.7	15-05	0.8	15-06	1.1
15-07	1.2	15-08	1.3	15-09	1.3	15-10	1.6	15-11	1.6	15-12	1.8
15-13	2.2	15-14	2.3	15-15	2.3	15-16	2.4	15-17	2.4	15-18	2.4
15-19	2.6	15-20	2.8	15-21	2.9	15-22	2.9	15-23	2.9	15-24	3.0
15-25	3.1	15-26	3.1	15-27	3.2	15-28	3.2	15-29	3.5	15-30	3.6
15-31	3.7	15-32	3.7	15-33	3.8	15-34	3.8	15-35	4.1	15-36	4.2
15-37	4.6	15-38	4.7	15-39	4.7	15-40	5.0	15-41	5.5	15-42	7.2
15-43	8.0										

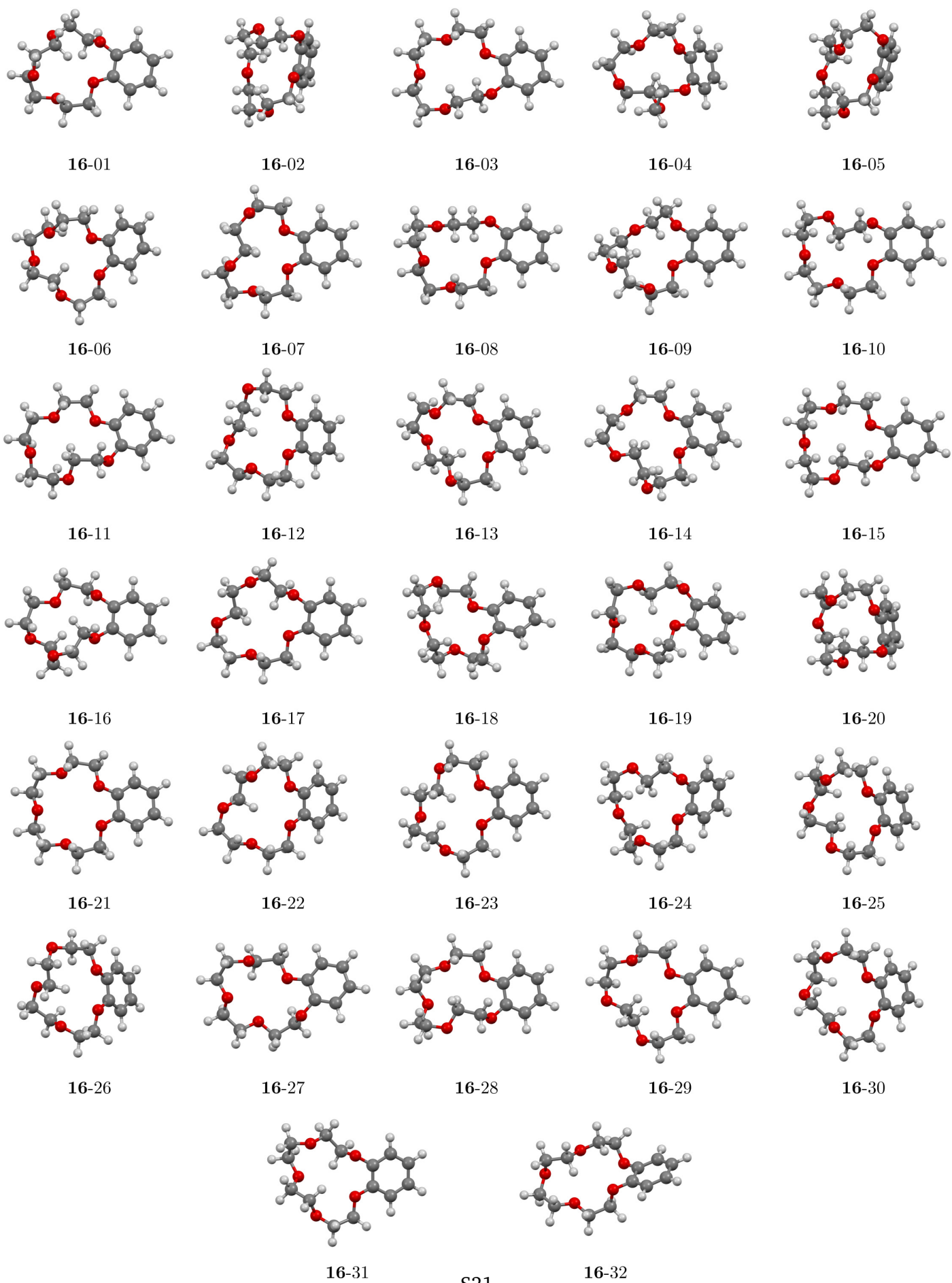


Figure S16: Crown 16 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S16: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **16** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
<b>16-01</b>	0.0	<b>16-02</b>	1.2	<b>16-03</b>	2.1	<b>16-04</b>	2.1	<b>16-05</b>	2.2	<b>16-06</b>	2.3
<b>16-07</b>	2.4	<b>16-08</b>	2.5	<b>16-09</b>	2.6	<b>16-10</b>	2.8	<b>16-11</b>	3.1	<b>16-12</b>	3.2
<b>16-13</b>	3.2	<b>16-14</b>	3.7	<b>16-15</b>	3.9	<b>16-16</b>	4.1	<b>16-17</b>	4.2	<b>16-18</b>	4.3
<b>16-19</b>	4.6	<b>16-20</b>	4.7	<b>16-21</b>	4.8	<b>16-22</b>	4.9	<b>16-23</b>	4.9	<b>16-24</b>	5.2
<b>16-25</b>	5.2	<b>16-26</b>	5.6	<b>16-27</b>	5.8	<b>16-28</b>	6.0	<b>16-29</b>	6.6	<b>16-30</b>	6.6
<b>16-31</b>	7.4	<b>16-32</b>	7.6								



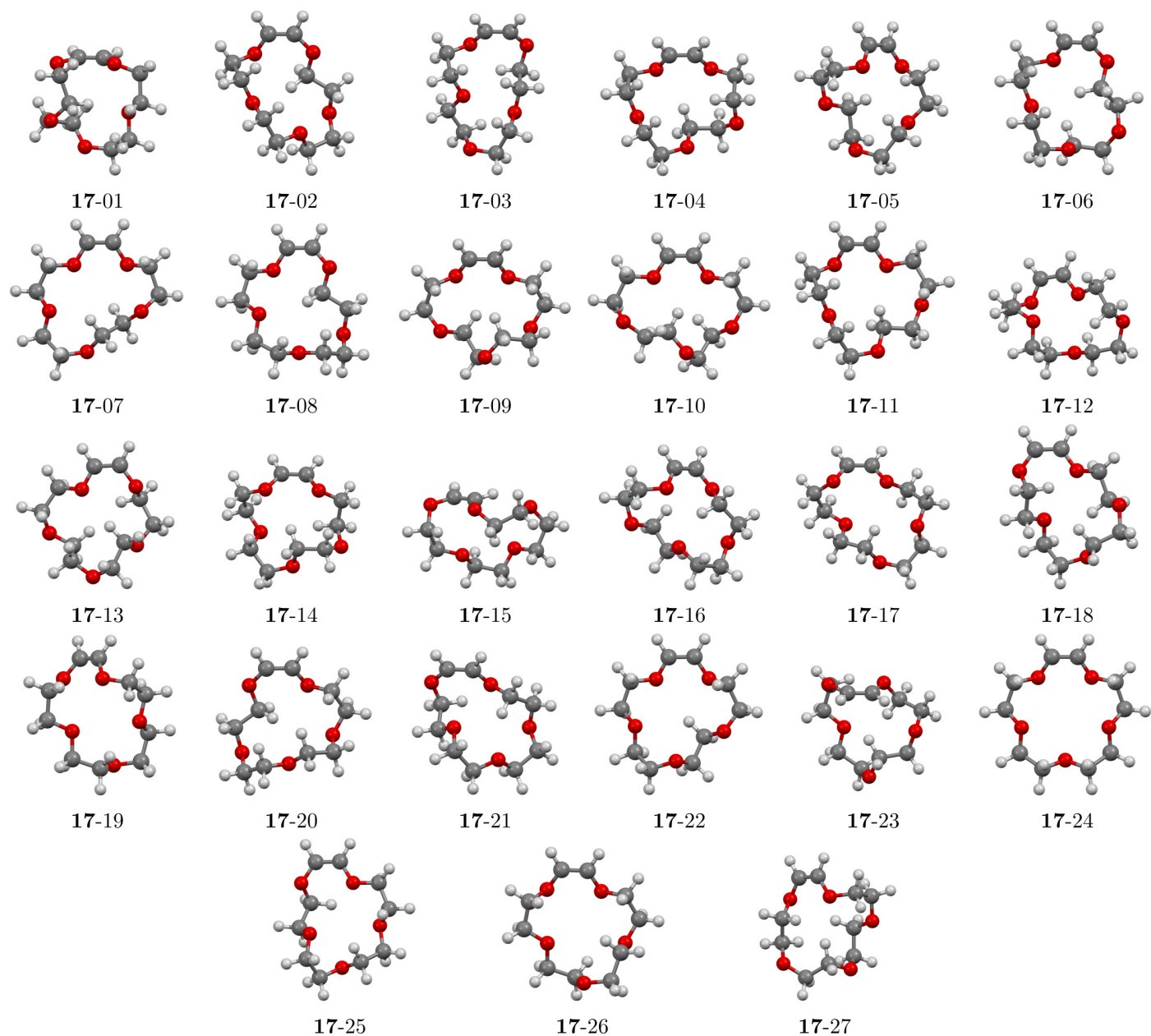


Figure S17: Crown 17 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S17: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown 17 conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
17-01	0.0	17-02	0.2	17-03	0.8	17-04	1.6	17-05	1.7	17-06	2.0
17-07	2.3	17-08	2.5	17-09	3.1	17-10	3.1	17-11	3.2	17-12	3.4
17-13	3.5	17-14	3.9	17-15	4.0	17-16	4.4	17-17	4.5	17-18	4.8
17-19	4.8	17-20	4.8	17-21	4.8	17-22	4.9	17-23	5.3	17-24	5.8
17-25	5.8	17-26	5.9	17-27	7.7						

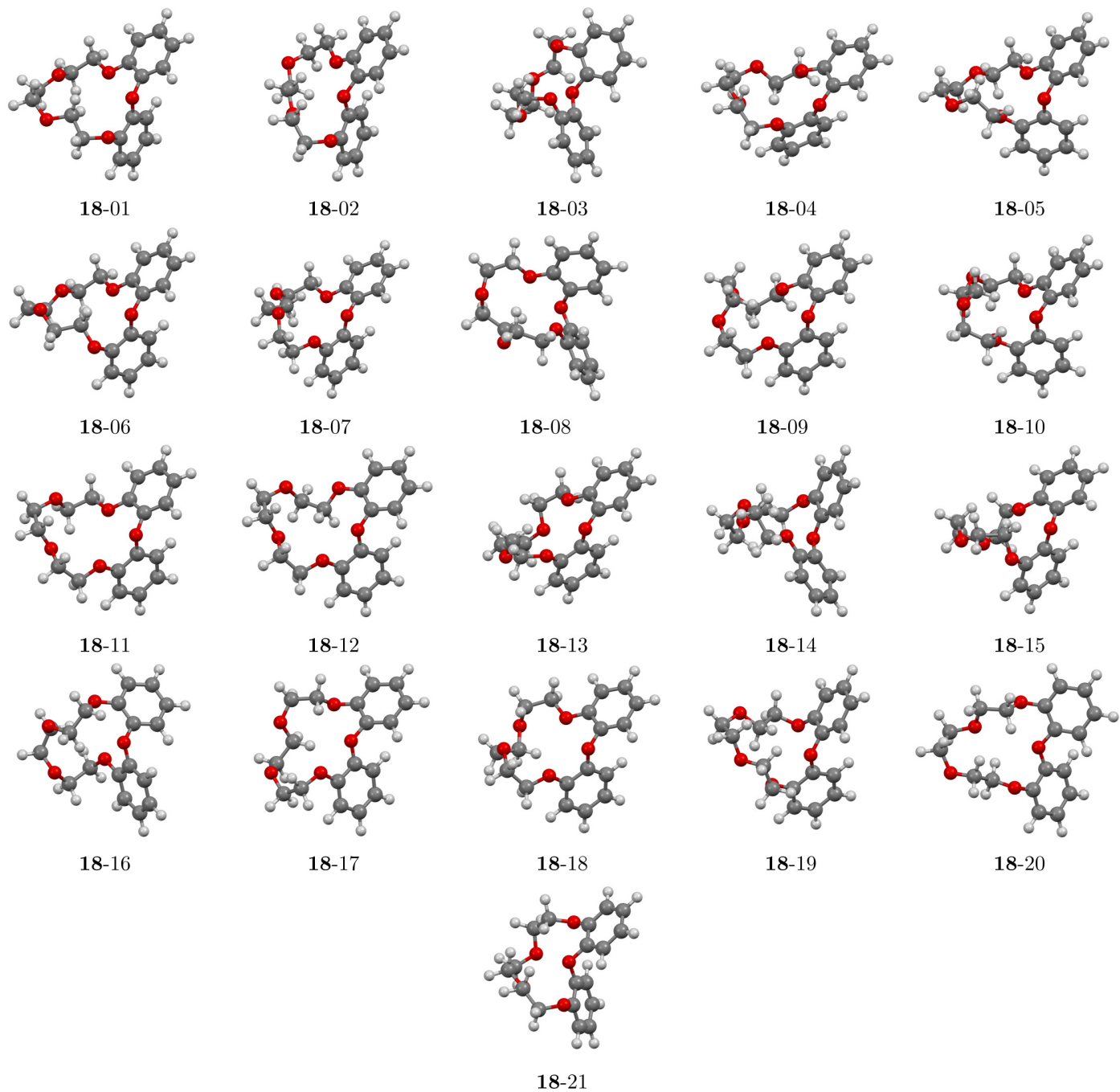


Figure S18: Crown **18** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S18: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **18** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
18-01	0.0	18-02	0.4	18-03	0.6	18-04	0.6	18-05	0.7	18-06	0.7
18-07	0.8	18-08	1.5	18-09	1.6	18-10	1.7	18-11	1.8	18-12	1.9
18-13	2.7	18-14	2.7	18-15	3.2	18-16	3.2	18-17	3.7	18-18	4.0
18-19	4.2	18-20	4.3	18-21	4.6						

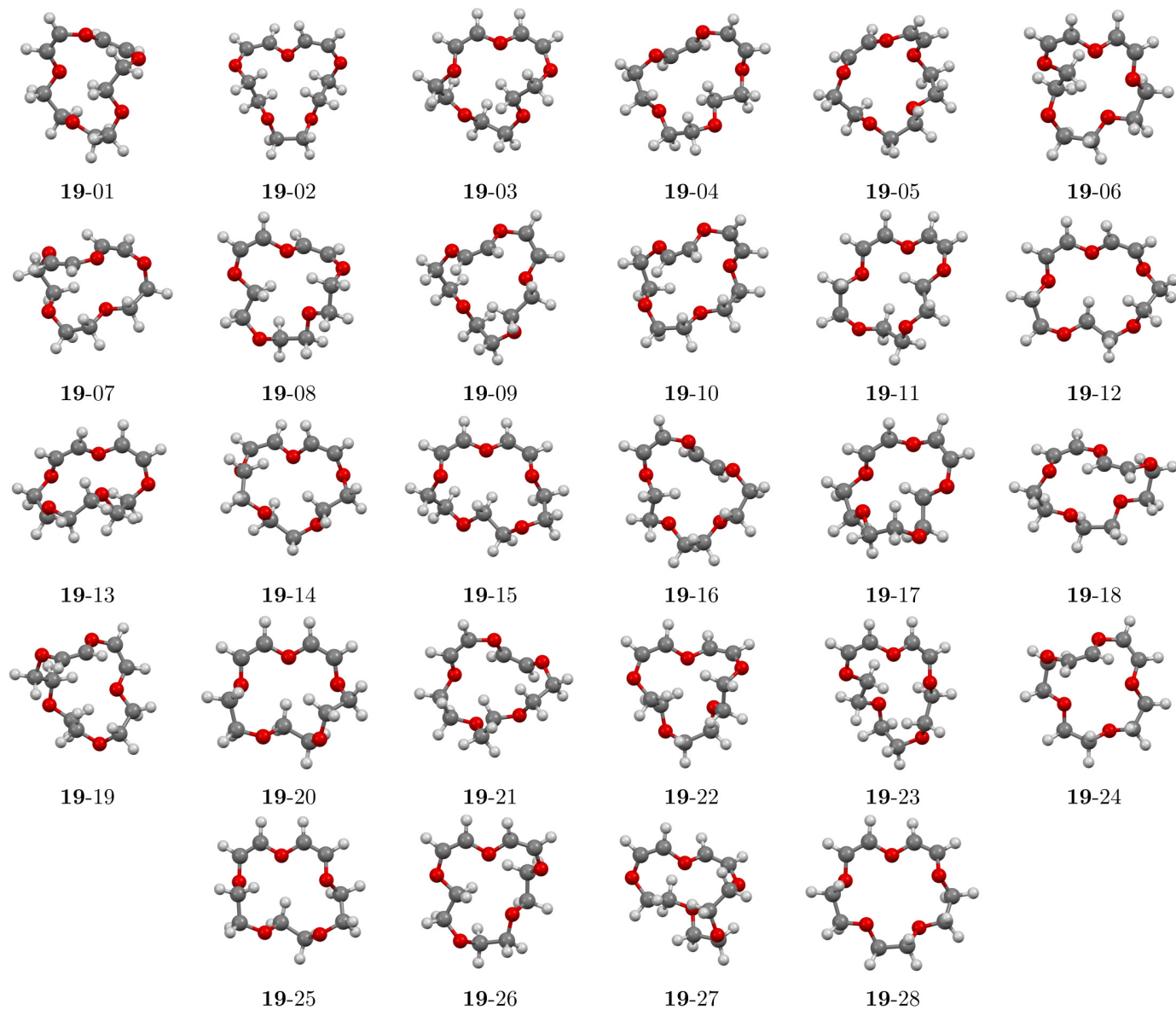


Figure S19: Crown **19** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S19: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **19** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
19-01	0.0	19-02	0.3	19-03	0.6	19-04	0.8	19-05	1.3	19-06	1.4
19-07	1.4	19-08	1.6	19-09	1.6	19-10	1.9	19-11	2.1	19-12	2.3
19-13	2.4	19-14	2.4	19-15	2.4	19-16	2.7	19-17	2.7	19-18	2.8
19-19	2.8	19-20	3.0	19-21	3.1	19-22	3.4	19-23	3.8	19-24	4.2
19-25	4.5	19-26	4.5	19-27	4.7	19-28	6.2				

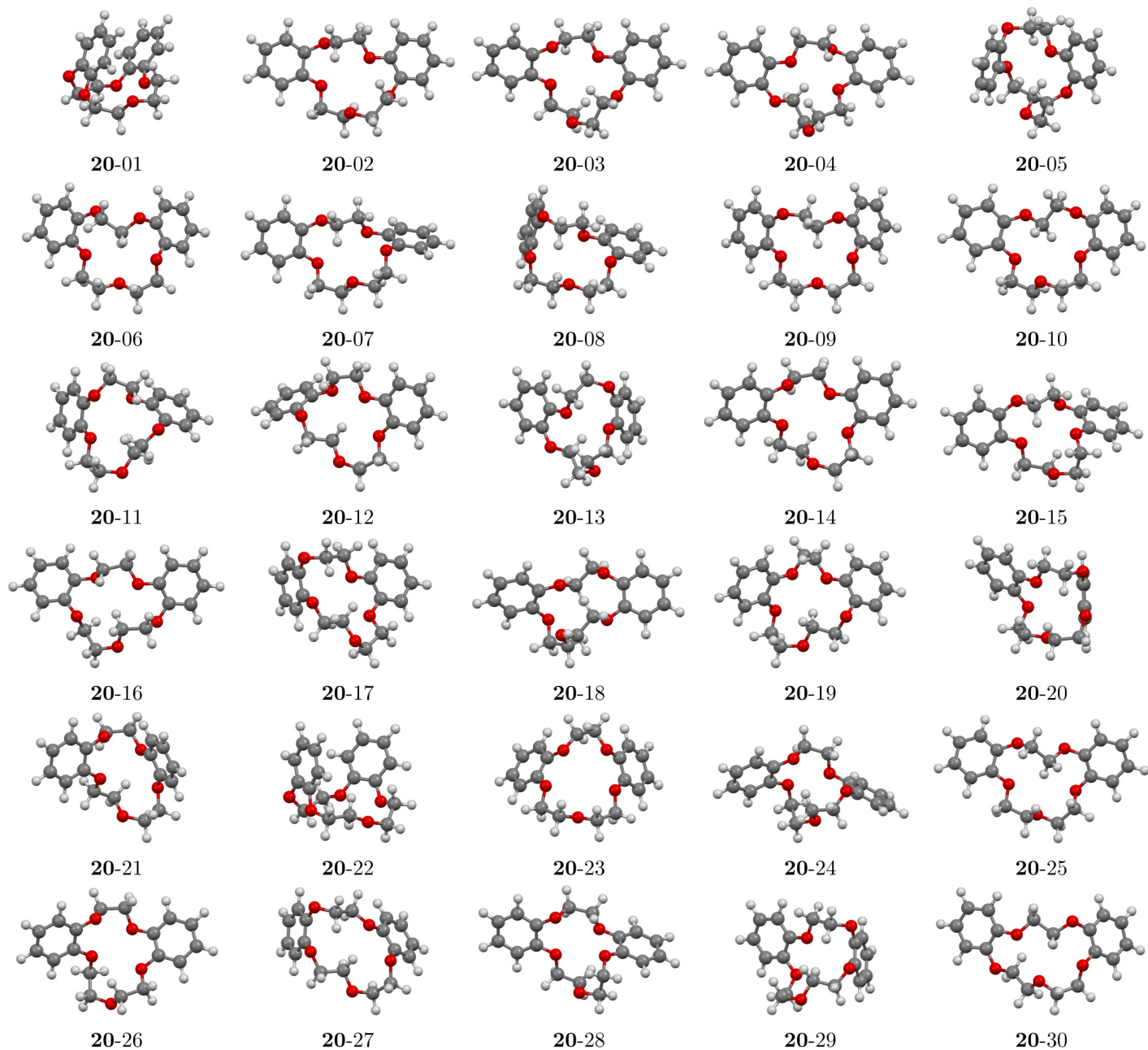


Figure S20: Crown **20** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S20: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **20** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
20-01	0.0	20-02	0.8	20-03	1.2	20-04	1.5	20-05	1.9	20-06	2.0
20-07	2.0	20-08	2.2	20-09	2.2	20-10	2.3	20-11	2.5	20-12	2.7
20-13	2.8	20-14	2.8	20-15	3.1	20-16	3.2	20-17	3.3	20-18	3.4
20-19	3.6	20-20	3.8	20-21	3.8	20-22	3.8	20-23	3.9	20-24	3.9
20-25	4.3	20-26	4.4	20-27	4.6	20-28	5.1	20-29	5.7	20-30	6.9



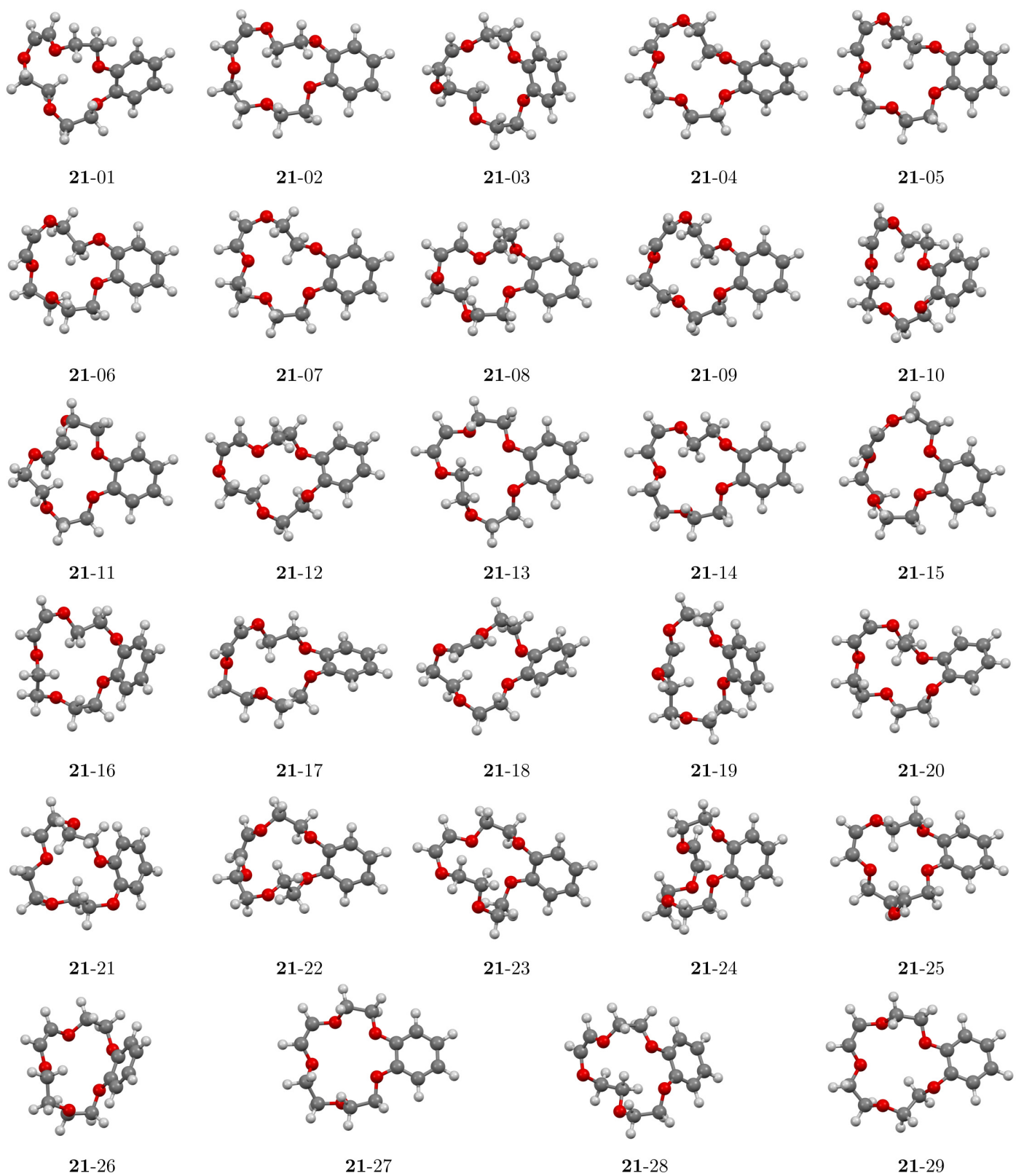


Figure S21: Crown **21** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S21: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **21** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
21-01	0.0	21-02	0.8	21-03	0.8	21-04	1.2	21-05	1.3	21-06	1.3
21-07	1.5	21-08	1.5	21-09	1.9	21-10	1.9	21-11	2.0	21-12	2.2
21-13	2.4	21-14	2.7	21-15	2.7	21-16	2.8	21-17	2.9	21-18	3.1
21-19	3.3	21-20	3.4	21-21	3.6	21-22	3.7	21-23	3.8	21-24	3.9
21-25	4.0	21-26	4.7	21-27	4.8	21-28	5.0	21-29	5.6		



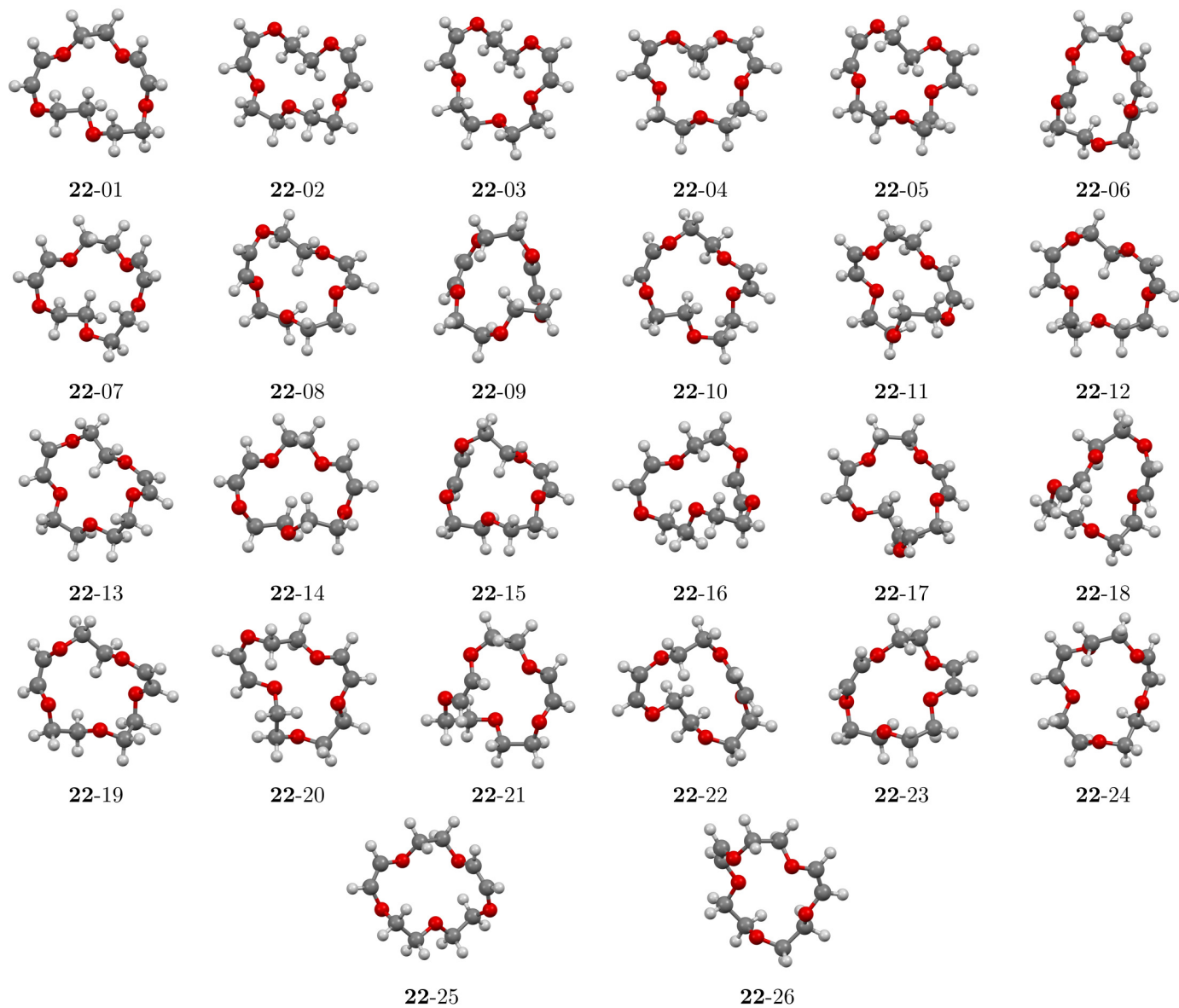


Figure S22: Crown **22** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S22: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **22** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
22-01	0.0	22-02	0.3	22-03	0.7	22-04	1.1	22-05	1.3	22-06	1.5
22-07	1.8	22-08	1.9	22-09	2.5	22-10	2.8	22-11	2.9	22-12	2.9
22-13	3.1	22-14	3.6	22-15	4.0	22-16	4.3	22-17	4.6	22-18	4.7
22-19	5.2	22-20	5.4	22-21	5.5	22-22	5.6	22-23	6.2	22-24	6.9
22-25	7.1	22-26	8.2								

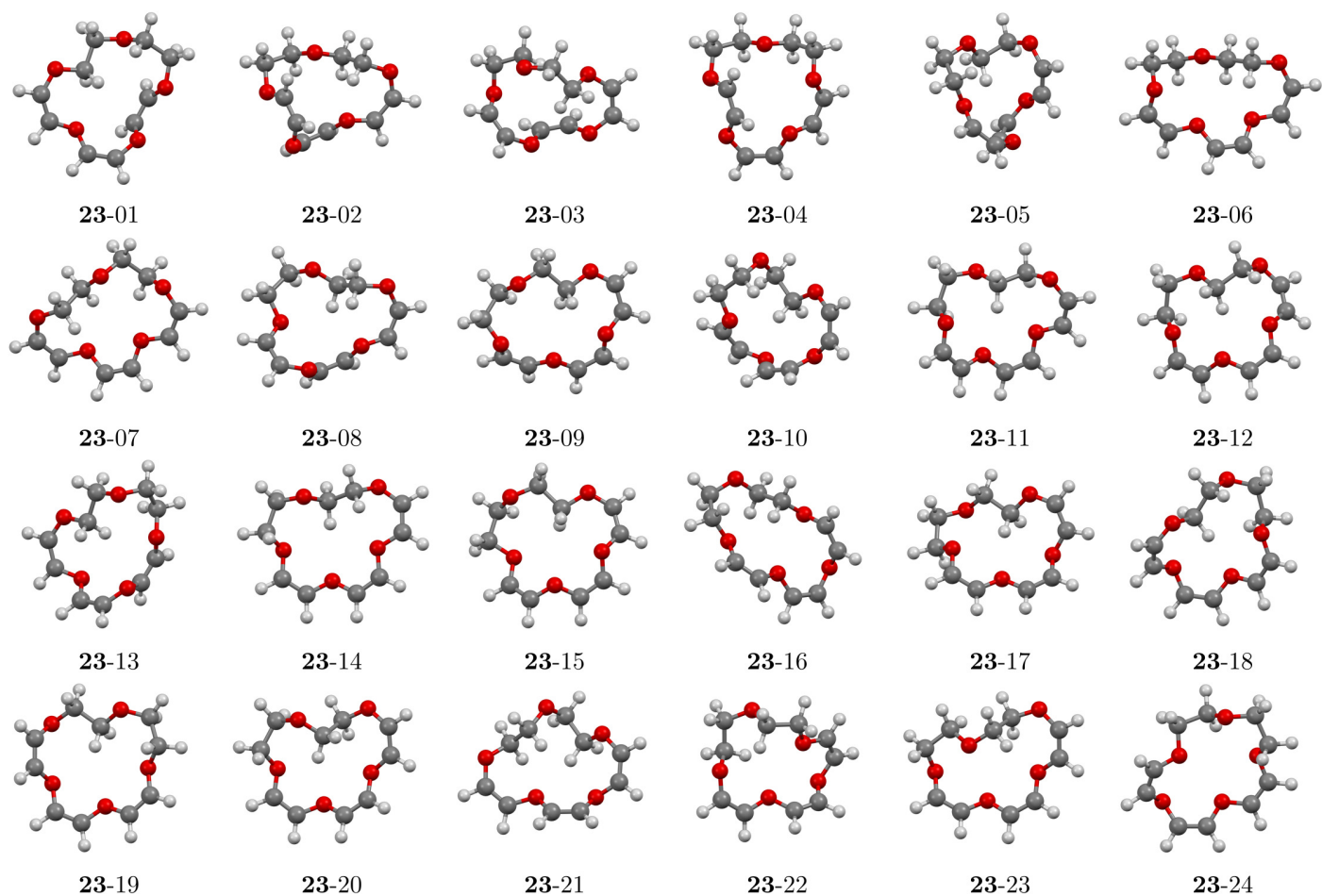


Figure S23: Crown 23 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S23: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown 23 conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
23-01	0.0	23-02	0.2	23-03	1.1	23-04	1.2	23-05	1.2	23-06	1.2
23-07	1.7	23-08	1.9	23-09	2.0	23-10	2.1	23-11	2.1	23-12	2.2
23-13	2.4	23-14	2.4	23-15	2.6	23-16	2.8	23-17	2.9	23-18	3.1
23-19	3.1	23-20	3.7	23-21	4.0	23-22	4.3	23-23	4.5	23-24	5.9

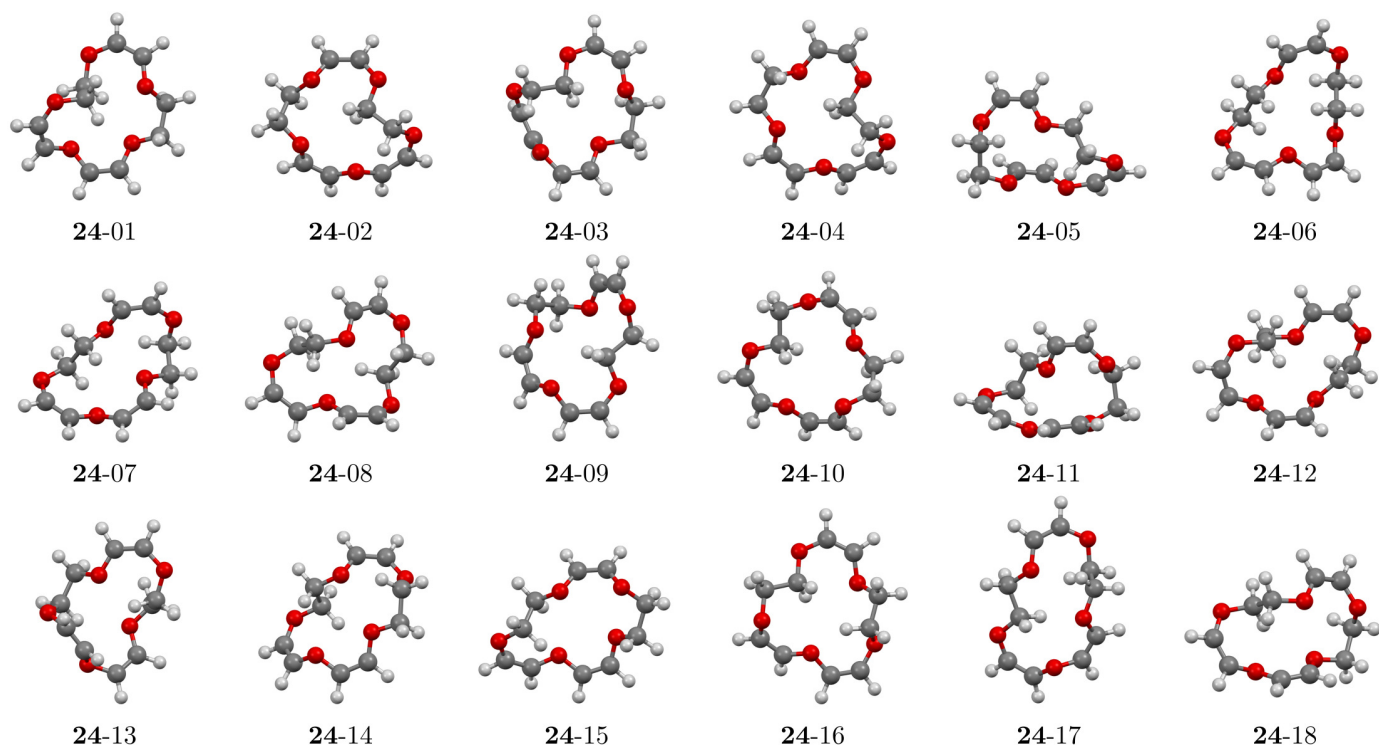


Figure S24: Crown **24** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S24: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **24** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
24-01	0.0	24-02	0.2	24-03	1.3	24-04	1.3	24-05	1.4	24-06	1.5
24-07	1.6	24-08	2.5	24-09	2.6	24-10	2.6	24-11	3.0	24-12	3.0
24-13	3.6	24-14	3.6	24-15	4.0	24-16	4.7	24-17	5.2	24-18	5.2

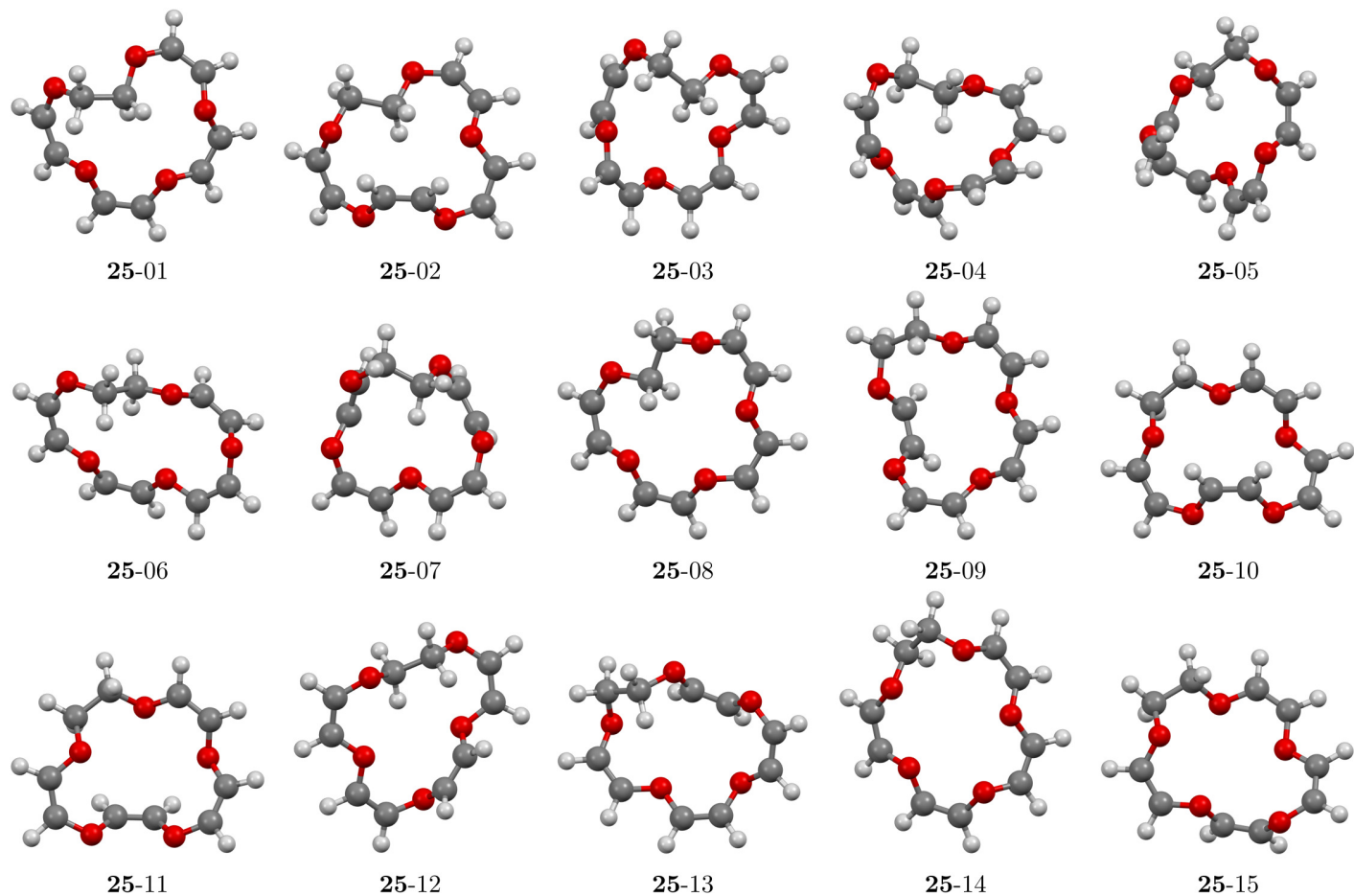


Figure S25: Crown 25 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S25: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown 25 conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
25-01	0.0	25-02	0.2	25-03	0.8	25-04	1.2	25-05	1.5	25-06	1.6
25-07	1.8	25-08	1.9	25-09	2.0	25-10	2.6	25-11	2.6	25-12	2.8
25-13	3.6	25-14	5.5	25-15	5.9						

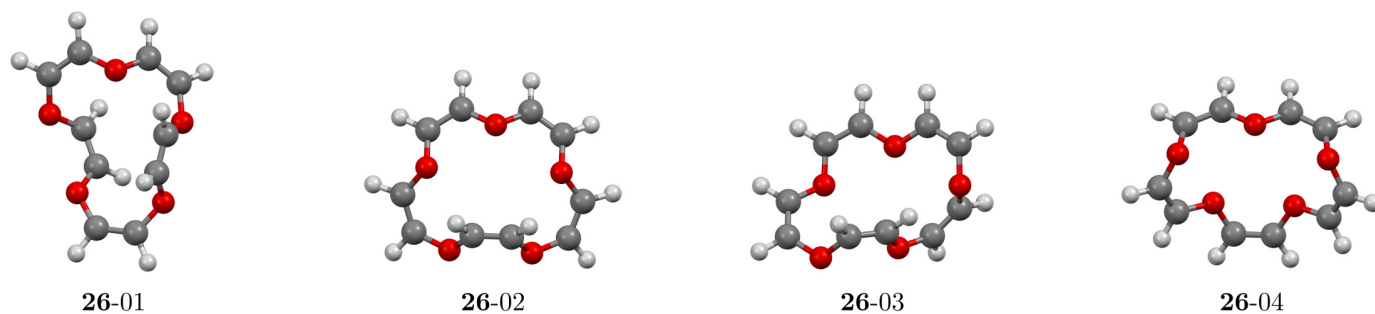


Figure S26: Crown **26** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S26: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **26** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
26-01	0.0	26-02	2.7	26-03	3.7	26-04	6.0

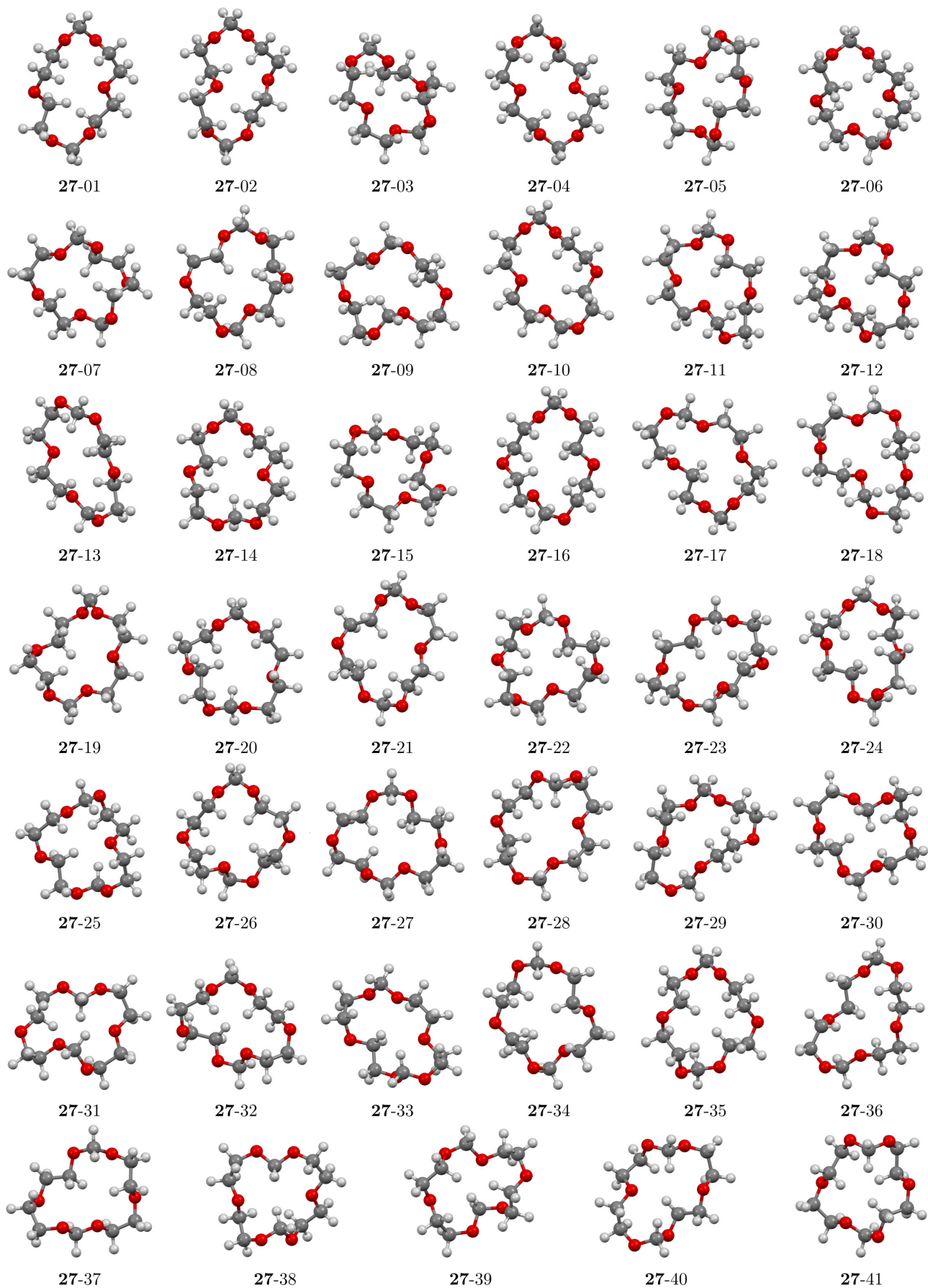


Figure S27: Crown 27 conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.



Table S27: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **27** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
27-01	0.0	27-02	0.1	27-03	0.3	27-04	0.4	27-05	1.3	27-06	2.4
27-07	2.8	27-08	3.5	27-09	3.8	27-10	3.9	27-11	4.2	27-12	4.4
27-13	4.5	27-14	4.8	27-15	4.8	27-16	5.1	27-17	5.1	27-18	5.2
27-19	5.5	27-20	6.1	27-21	6.6	27-22	6.6	27-23	6.6	27-24	6.7
27-25	6.7	27-26	6.8	27-27	6.9	27-28	7.4	27-29	7.5	27-30	7.6
27-31	7.9	27-32	8.0	27-33	8.2	27-34	8.4	27-35	8.9	27-36	9.3
27-37	9.5	27-38	9.7	27-39	10.1	27-40	10.3	27-41	11.0		

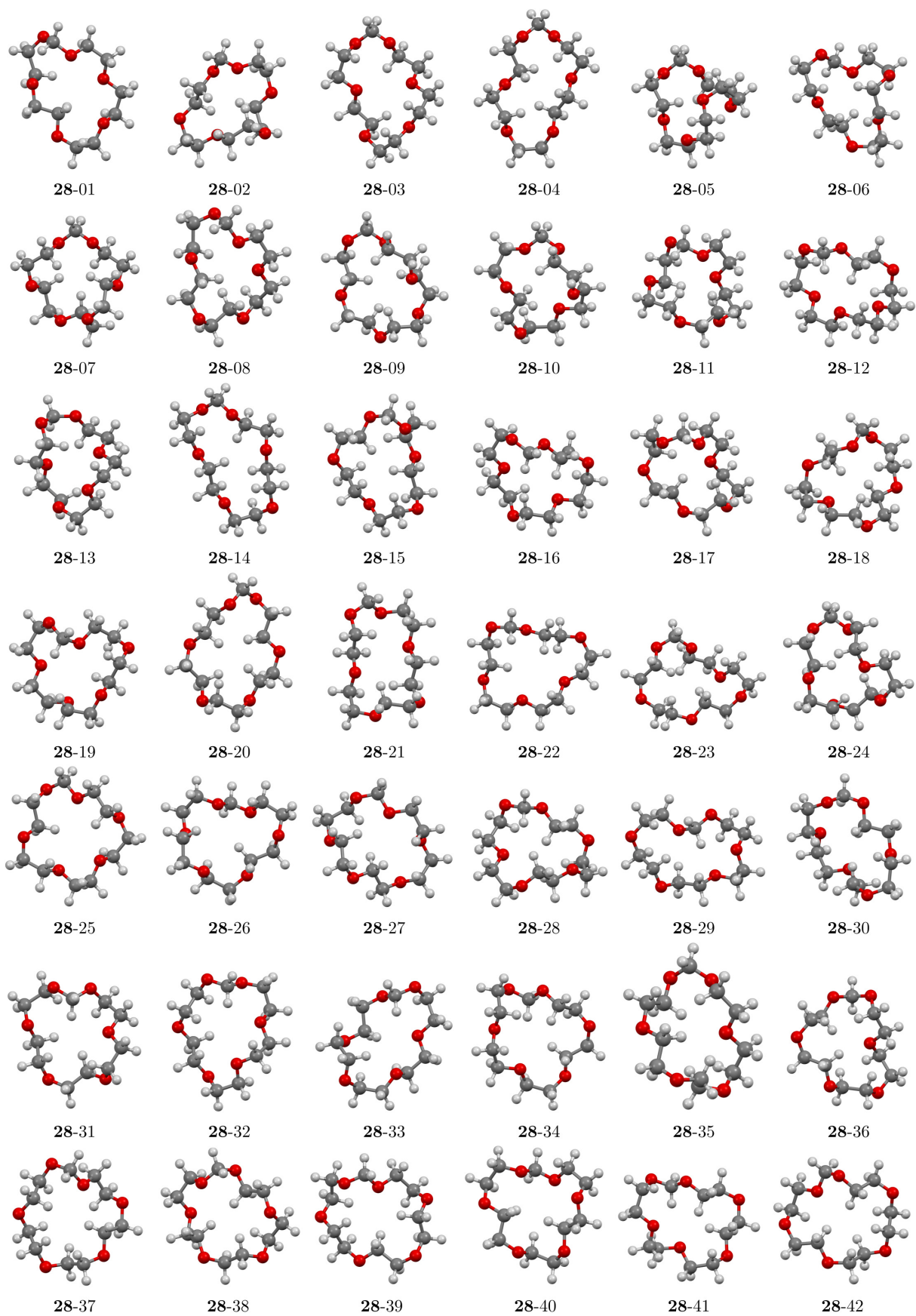


Figure S28: Crown **28** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S28: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **28** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
<b>28-01</b>	0.0	<b>28-02</b>	0.0	<b>28-03</b>	0.1	<b>28-04</b>	0.3	<b>28-05</b>	0.5	<b>28-06</b>	0.8
<b>28-07</b>	1.1	<b>28-08</b>	1.5	<b>28-09</b>	1.8	<b>28-10</b>	2.2	<b>28-11</b>	2.2	<b>28-12</b>	2.4
<b>28-13</b>	2.6	<b>28-14</b>	2.7	<b>28-15</b>	2.7	<b>28-16</b>	2.8	<b>28-17</b>	2.8	<b>28-18</b>	2.9
<b>28-19</b>	3.1	<b>28-20</b>	3.2	<b>28-21</b>	3.4	<b>28-22</b>	3.9	<b>28-23</b>	4.0	<b>28-24</b>	4.0
<b>28-25</b>	4.1	<b>28-26</b>	4.2	<b>28-27</b>	4.3	<b>28-28</b>	4.7	<b>28-29</b>	4.9	<b>28-30</b>	5.1
<b>28-31</b>	5.1	<b>28-32</b>	5.4	<b>28-33</b>	5.5	<b>28-34</b>	5.5	<b>28-35</b>	6.0	<b>28-36</b>	6.5
<b>28-37</b>	6.9	<b>28-38</b>	6.9	<b>28-39</b>	7.4	<b>28-40</b>	7.7	<b>28-41</b>	7.9	<b>28-42</b>	9.3

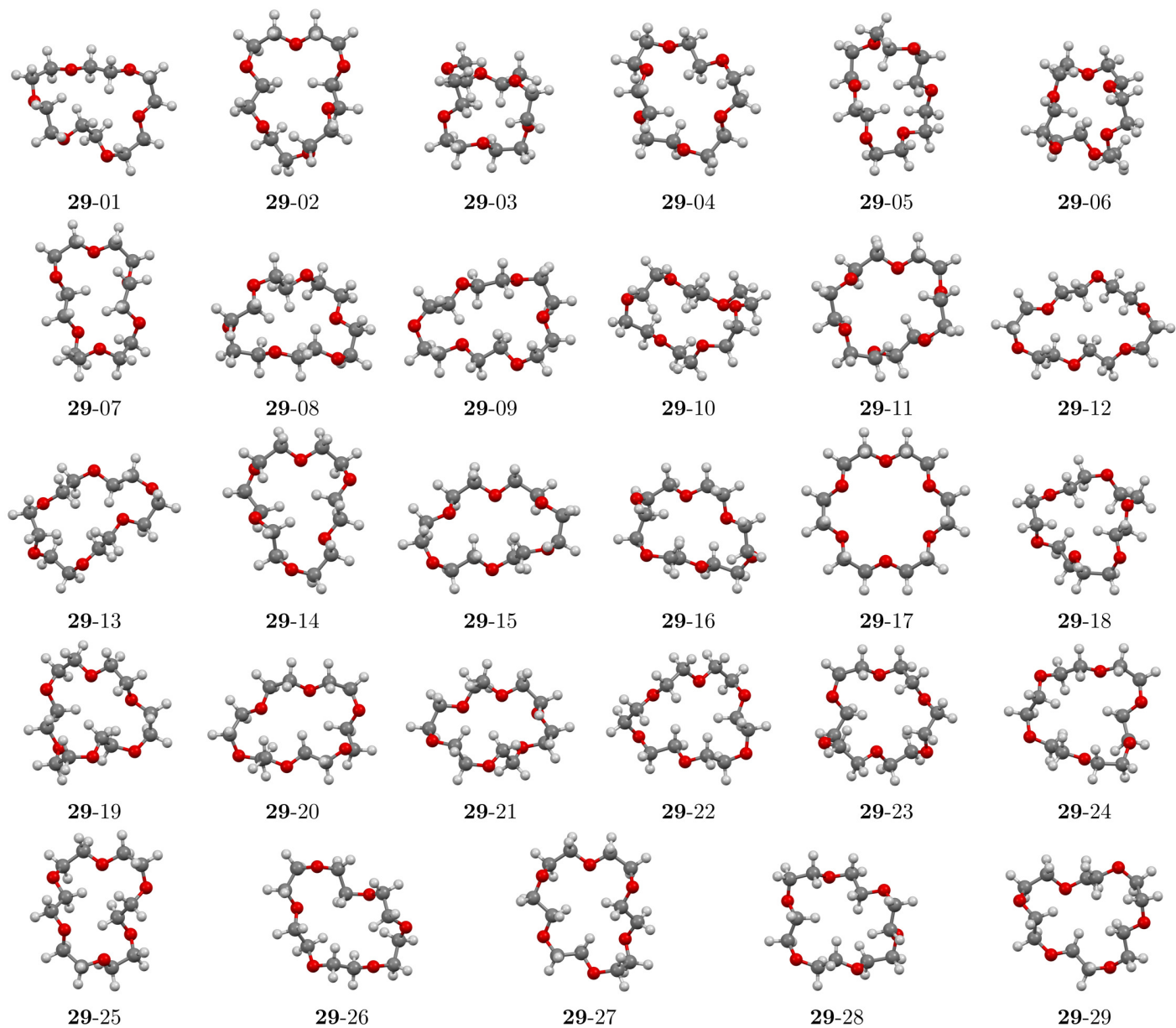


Figure S29: Crown **29** conformers optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Table S29: Relative energy  $E$  (in kcal/mol) of crown **29** conformers computed at the M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level.

Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$	Conformer	$E$
29-01	0.0	29-02	0.1	29-03	0.8	29-04	0.8	29-05	1.1	29-06	1.2
29-07	1.5	29-08	1.7	29-09	1.7	29-10	1.9	29-11	2.2	29-12	2.3
29-13	2.5	29-14	2.6	29-15	2.9	29-16	3.4	29-17	3.6	29-18	3.9
29-19	4.1	29-20	4.3	29-21	4.5	29-22	4.5	29-23	4.6	29-24	4.8
29-25	5.0	29-26	5.5	29-27	5.5	29-28	6.1	29-29	7.7		

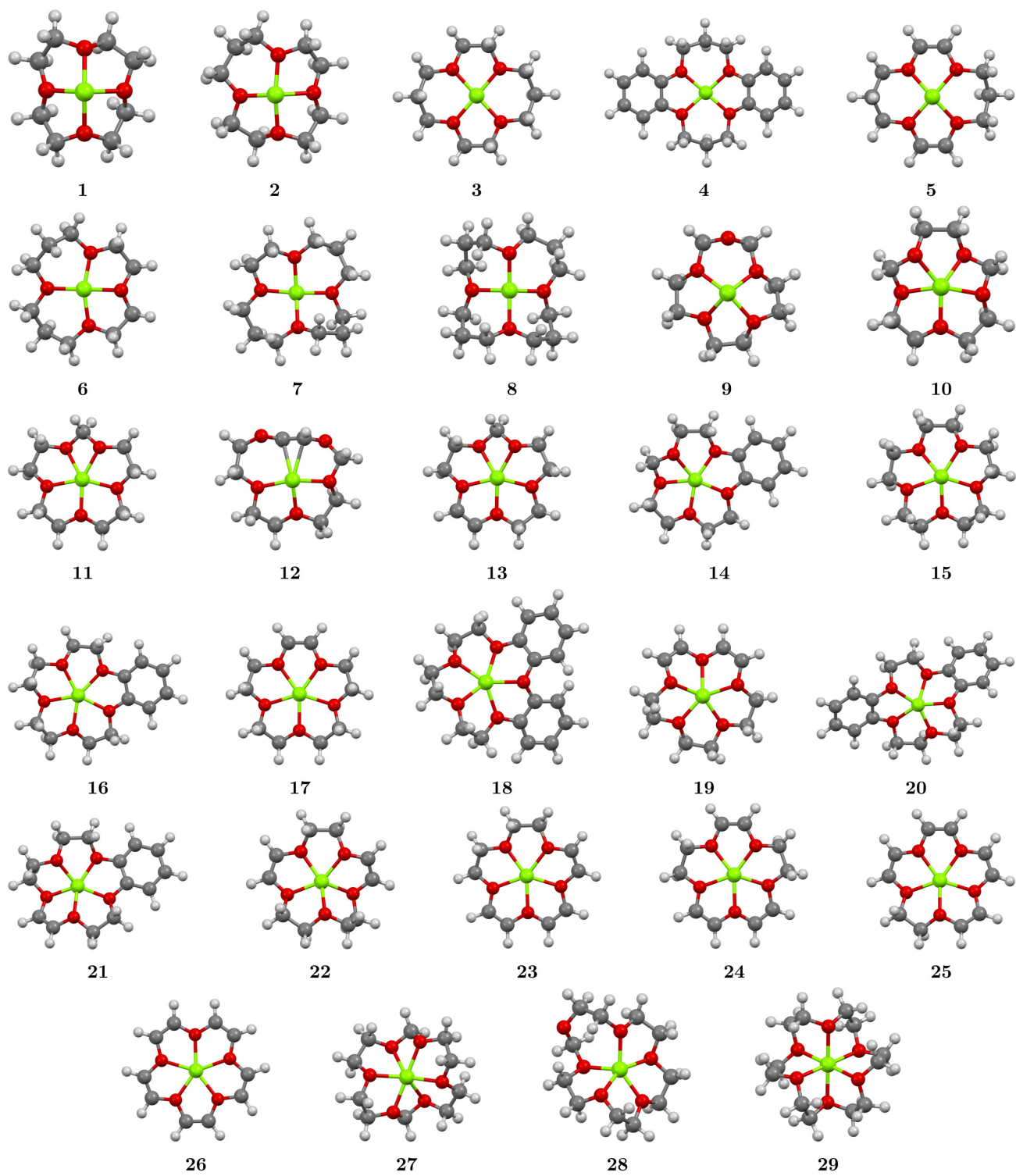


Figure S30: Structures of crown-magnesium complexes optimized at 6-311+G(d,p) level.

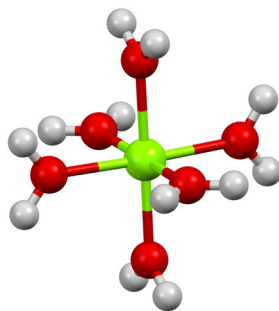


Figure S31: Structure of the magnesium ion coordinated with six water molecules optimized at 6-311+G(d,p) level.

Table S30: Changes in average Mg-O distances induced by the solvent,  $\Delta\bar{r}_r(\text{Mg-O})$ ; changes in Mg distances from the plane defined by crown's oxygen atoms,  $\Delta r_{\text{plane}}^{n_{\text{O}}}$ . All distances are presented in Å.  $\Delta E_{\text{cl}}^{\text{CMg}}$ ,  $\Delta E_{\text{xc}}^{\text{CMg}}$ , and  $\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{CMg}}$  stand for the changes in classical, non-classical, and the overall crown-magnesium interaction energy caused by the presence of explicit solvent molecules. All energy components are presented in kcal/mol. Thin horizontal lines are used to emphasize that crowns **1-8**, **9-26**, and **27-29** contain 4, 5, and 6 oxygen atoms, respectively.

C	hydration induced changes				
	$\Delta\bar{r}_r(\text{Mg-O})$	$\Delta r_{\text{plane}}^{n_{\text{O}}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{cl}}^{\text{CMg}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{xc}}^{\text{CMg}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{CMg}}$
<b>1</b>	+0.034	+0.078			
<b>2</b>	+0.007	-0.430	42.4	8.8	51.2
<b>3</b>	+0.053	0.000	46.1	18.6	64.7
<b>4</b>	+0.043	-0.191	49.4	16.6	66.0
<b>5</b>	+0.038	-0.187	43.7	15.6	59.3
<b>6</b>	+0.047	-0.013	42.7	18.7	61.5
<b>7</b>	+0.073	-0.243	40.7	22.5	63.2
<b>8</b>	+0.107	-0.171	32.6	30.2	62.8
<b>9</b>	+0.015	-0.017			
<b>10</b>	+0.036	-0.210	35.9	17.8	53.7
<b>11</b>	+0.055	-0.057	45.0	19.0	64.0
<b>12</b>	-0.018	-0.353			
<b>13</b>	+0.046	+0.003	41.2	18.5	59.7
<b>14</b>	+0.046	-0.028	43.3	18.5	61.8
<b>15</b>	+0.081	-0.041	49.4	22.1	71.5
<b>16</b>	+0.063	-0.010			
<b>17</b>	+0.055	-0.005			
<b>18</b>	+0.073	-0.023			
<b>19</b>	+0.086	-0.066			
<b>20</b>	+0.109	-0.120			
<b>21</b>	+0.102	-0.004			
<b>22</b>	+0.099	-0.026			
<b>23</b>	+0.056	+0.008			
<b>24</b>	+0.049	-0.005			
<b>25</b>	+0.052	+0.035			
<b>26</b>	+0.047	+0.070			
<b>27</b>	+0.235	+0.110			
<b>28</b>	+0.142	-0.101			
<b>29</b>	+0.170	+0.252			



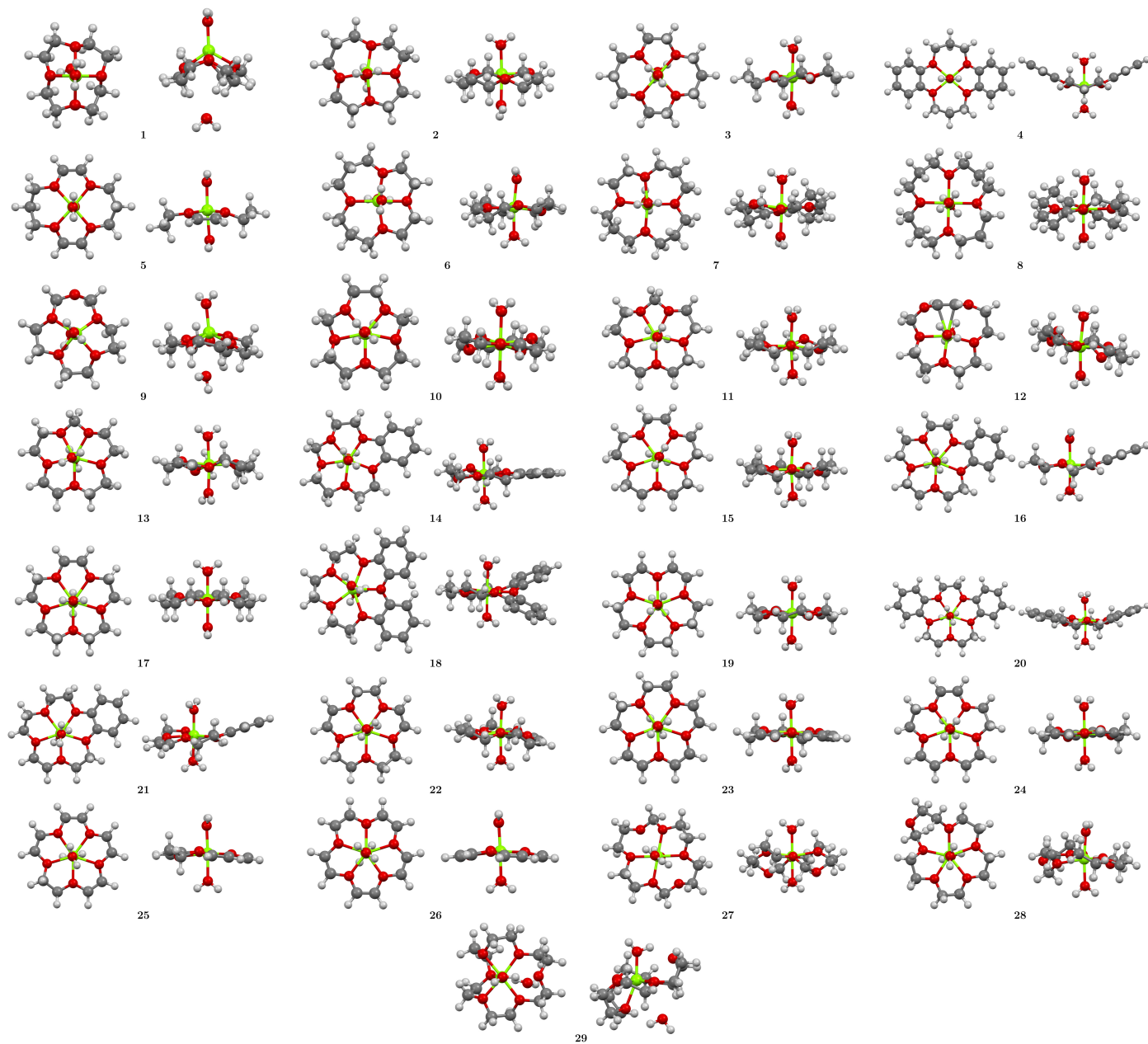


Figure S32: Structures of magnesium–crown complexes with the magnesium ion coordinated with two water molecules optimized at M06-2X/6-311+G(d,p) level.

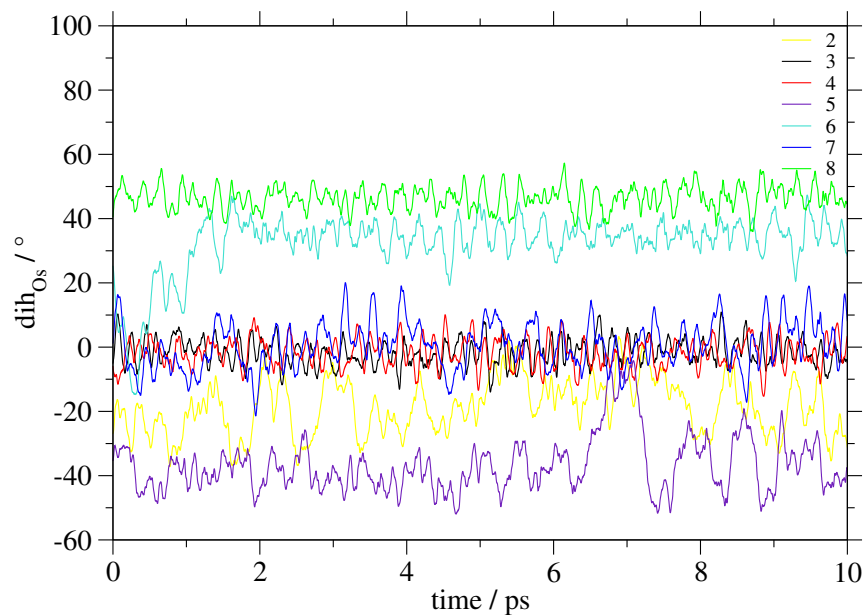


Figure S33: Time evolution of the dihedral angle  $d_{O_s}$  formed by the four oxygen atoms in complexes of  $Mg^{2+}$  with crowns **2-8**.

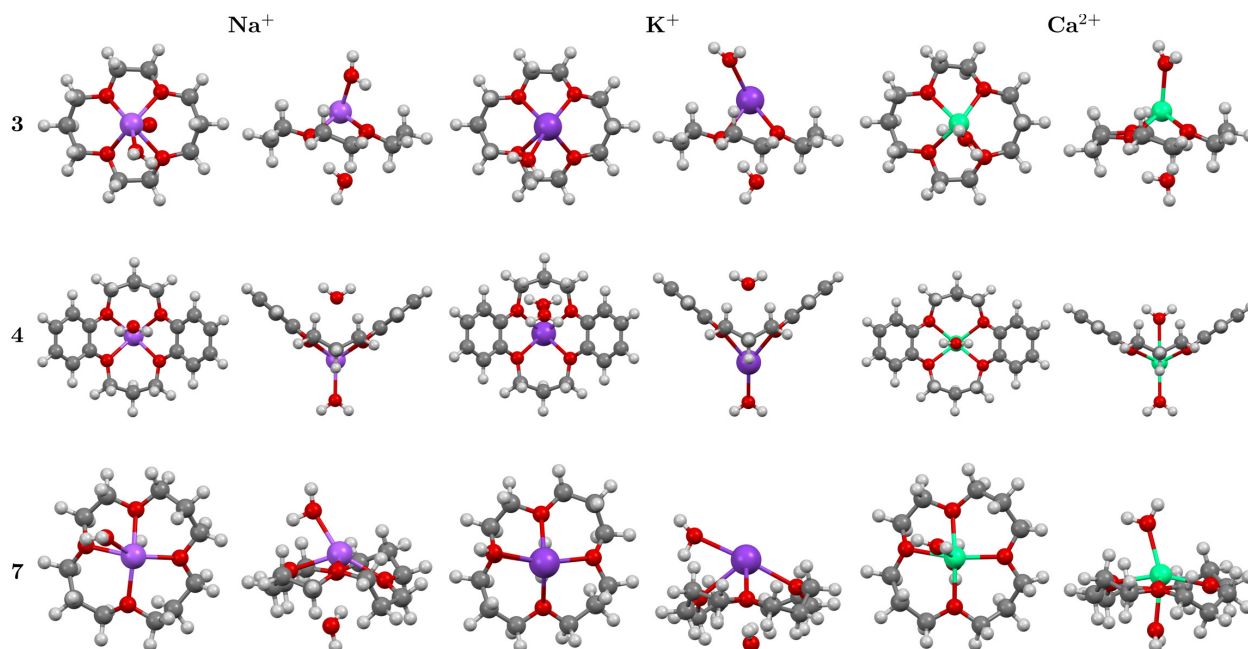


Figure S34: Structures of dihydrated complexes of  $Na^+$  (the first and the second column),  $K^+$  (the third and the fourth column), and  $Ca^{2+}$  (the fifth and the sixth column) with crowns **3, 4, and 7** optimized at M06-2X/6-311+G(d,p) level.

Table S31: Average IQA energy components (in kcal/mol) for Mg–solvent (MgS) and crown–solvent (CS) interaction: solvent deformation energy  $\bar{E}_{\text{def}}^{\text{S}}$ , solvent promotion energy  $\bar{E}_{\text{pro}}^{\text{S}}$ , as well as classical  $\bar{E}_{\text{cl}}^{\text{MgS}}/\bar{E}_{\text{cl}}^{\text{CS}}$ , non-classical  $\bar{E}_{\text{xc}}^{\text{MgS}}/\bar{E}_{\text{xc}}^{\text{CS}}$ , and overall  $\bar{E}_{\text{int}}^{\text{MgS}}/\bar{E}_{\text{int}}^{\text{CS}}$  ion–solvent/crown–solvent interaction energy, absolute value of the difference in solvents’ promotion energies  $\Delta E_{\text{pro}}^{\text{S}}$ , absolute value of the difference in classical  $\Delta E_{\text{cl}}^{\text{MgS}}/\Delta E_{\text{cl}}^{\text{CS}}$ , non-classical  $\Delta E_{\text{xc}}^{\text{MgS}}/\Delta E_{\text{xc}}^{\text{CS}}$ , and overall  $\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{MgS}}/\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{CS}}$  ion–solvent/crown–solvent interaction energy.

C	$\bar{E}_{\text{def}}^{\text{S}}$	$\bar{E}_{\text{pro}}^{\text{S}}$	$\bar{E}_{\text{cl}}^{\text{MgS}}/\bar{E}_{\text{cl}}^{\text{CS}}$	$\bar{E}_{\text{xc}}^{\text{MgS}}/\bar{E}_{\text{xc}}^{\text{CS}}$	$\bar{E}_{\text{int}}^{\text{MgS}}/\bar{E}_{\text{int}}^{\text{CS}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{pro}}^{\text{S}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{cl}}^{\text{MgS}}/\Delta E_{\text{cl}}^{\text{CS}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{xc}}^{\text{MgS}}/\Delta E_{\text{xc}}^{\text{CS}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{MgS}}/\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{CS}}$
2	0.1	32.3	-53.2 / 16.4	-11.6 / -38.8	-64.8 / -22.3	6.0	5.8 / 1.1	6.4 / 20.1	12.1 / 21.2
3	0.1	30.3	-54.1 / 18.2	-12.5 / -35.1	-66.6 / -16.9	0.0	0.0 / 0.0	0.0 / 0.0	0.0 / 0.0
4	0.1	30.8	-56.8 / 18.0	-12.8 / -34.8	-69.8 / -16.8	6.3	1.3 / 0.1	4.7 / 17.0	6.1 / 17.1
5	0.1	31.1	-56.3 / 17.6	-12.8 / -34.4	-69.1 / -16.8	9.0	1.0 / 0.3	6.0 / 26.1	7.0 / 25.7
6	0.1	30.6	-55.2 / 18.8	-12.4 / -35.8	-67.6 / -17.0	0.8	0.3 / 0.6	0.4 / 1.6	0.1 / 1.1
7	0.1	30.5	-56.2 / 20.2	-12.7 / -36.0	-69.0 / -15.8	0.2	0.5 / 0.2	0.4 / 0.3	0.9 / 0.4
8	0.1	32.0	-57.0 / 20.8	-13.0 / -38.1	-70.0 / -17.4	0.9	1.3 / 0.3	1.2 / 3.0	2.5 / 2.7
10	0.1	32.8	-54.0 / 16.6	-11.7 / -38.8	-65.6 / -22.3	0.2	0.1 / 0.0	0.0 / 0.1	0.1 / 0.2
11	0.2	31.0	-55.8 / 18.5	-13.4 / -35.3	-69.2 / -16.8	0.1	0.1 / 0.4	0.5 / 1.2	0.6 / 0.7
13	0.1	31.2	-55.4 / 17.8	-13.4 / -34.5	-68.7 / -16.6	0.5	0.3 / 0.2	0.1 / 1.4	0.4 / 1.5
14	0.1	30.8	-55.0 / 17.9	-13.4 / -34.4	-68.4 / -16.4	0.2	0.7 / 0.6	0.2 / 0.3	0.5 / 1.0
15	0.2	29.3	-57.3 / 20.4	-14.6 / -31.4	-71.9 / -11.0	0.0	0.0 / 0.0	0.0 / 0.0	0.0 / 0.0

Table S32: Distance of the metal ion from the center of mass defined by crown’s oxygen atoms  $r(\text{M}-\text{COM})$  (M = Mg, Na, K, Ca) in the optimized hydrated complexes  $[\text{CM}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^{n+}$  ( $n = 2$  for Mg and Ca;  $n = 1$  for Na, K); average ion–oxygen distances  $\bar{r}(\text{ion}-\text{O}_i)$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) and the overall average ion–oxygen distance  $\bar{r}(\text{ion}-\text{O})$ ; the number of solvent molecules  $n_{\text{S}}$  that coordinate the cation in the DFT-MD simulations. All distances are presented in Å.

crown	ion	$r(\text{M}-\text{COM})$	$\bar{r}(\text{ion}-\text{O}_1)$	$\bar{r}(\text{ion}-\text{O}_2)$	$\bar{r}(\text{ion}-\text{O}_3)$	$\bar{r}(\text{ion}-\text{O}_4)$	$\bar{r}(\text{ion}-\text{O})$	$n_{\text{S}}$
2	Mg	0.238	2.906	3.108	4.470	4.264	3.687	3.0
3	Mg	0.002	2.045	2.050	2.061	2.052	2.052	2.0
4	Mg	0.158	2.071	2.072	2.073	2.069	2.071	2.0
5	Mg	0.195	2.365	3.670	2.172	2.197	2.601	3.0
6	Mg	0.168	2.134	2.182	2.116	2.071	2.126	1.7
7	Mg	0.115	2.126	2.088	2.070	2.083	2.092	2.0
8	Mg	0.032	2.172	2.150	2.142	2.123	2.147	1.9
3	Na	1.075	2.128	2.098	2.069	2.174	2.117	1.2
3	K	1.739	2.927	3.093	3.271	3.055	3.086	3.3
3	Ca	1.059	2.637	2.615	2.575	2.635	2.616	3.9

Table S33: Selected geometric parameters in dihydrated complexes of  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ , and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  with crowns **3**, **4**, and **7** optimized at M06-2X/6-31+G(d,p) level: difference in the two ion-S bond lengths,  $\Delta r(\text{Mg}-\text{S})$ ; ion distances from the plane defined by crown’s oxygen atoms/crown’s and solvent’s oxygen atoms,  $r_{\text{plane}}^{\text{O}} / r_{\text{plane}}^{\text{O/S}}$ .

crown	ion	$\Delta r(\text{Mg}-\text{S})$	$r_{\text{plane}}^{\text{O}}$	$r_{\text{plane}}^{\text{O/S}}$
3	Na	1.089	1.062	0.491
3	K	1.273	1.724	0.827
3	Ca	0.912	1.048	0.029
4	Na	1.302	1.077	0.032
4	K	1.774	1.742	0.287
4	Ca	0.283	0.815	0.000
7	Na	0.902	0.842	0.576
7	K	1.150	1.609	1.400
7	Ca	0.100	0.526	0.109