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## Supplementary information

## Insights into the capture mechanism of CO<sub>2</sub> by diamine-appended

## Mg<sub>2</sub>(dobpdc): a combined DFT and microkinetic modeling study

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Fig. S1. Potential energy surface of  $CO_2$  adsorption on the inner amine of the mmen molecule in the mmen-Mg<sub>2</sub>(dobpdc) structure. Side views of the optimized geometries of  $CO_2$  adsorption along reaction path 2. [Color code: green-magnesium; gray-carbon; blue-nitrogen; red-oxygen; white-hydrogen.]



Fig. S2. Optimized structures of the deprotonation reaction of the inner and outer amine in  $Mg_2(dobpdc)$  within an alkaline solution (1M KOH). The reaction was investigated using Quantum Espresso with the 3D-RISM solution method.



Fig. S3. Potential energy surface of  $CO_2$  adsorption on the inner amine of the mmen molecule in mmen-Mg<sub>2</sub>(dobpdc) in an alkaline environment. [Color code: greenmagnesium; gray-carbon; blue-nitrogen; red-oxygen; white-hydrogen.]



Fig. S4. Potential energy surface of  $CO_2$  adsorption on the outer of the mmen molecule in mmen-Mg<sub>2</sub>(dobpdc) in an alkaline environment. [Color code: green-magnesium; gray-carbon; blue-nitrogen; red-oxygen; white-hydrogen.]



Fig. S5. (a) The calculated total energy (eV) as a function of the simulation time (fs) was computed for  $CO_2$  adsorption on the outer amine site in mmen-Mg<sub>2</sub>(dobpdc) under an alkaline environment with pH = 14. (b) Side views of snapshots are presented at simulation times of 0, 1000, and 2200 fs.

	N <sup>1</sup> -H	N <sup>2</sup> -H	O <sup>2</sup> -H	C-O <sup>1</sup>	C-O <sup>2</sup>	$C-N^1$	Mg-N <sup>1</sup>	Mg-O <sup>1</sup>
IS	1.03	3.27	-	-	-	-	2.25	-
TS1	1.61	1.19	-	-	-	-	2.13	-
IM1	2.83	1.04	-	-	-	-	2.04	-
IM2	2.86	1.04	5.48	1.18	1.18	6.32	2.04	-
TS2	-	1.04	2.63	1.21	1.21	2.25	2.18	-
IM3	-	1.61	1.05	1.23	1.34	1.41	2.79	3.88
TS3	-	1.66	1.05	1.24	1.34	1.37	3.53	3.25
FS	-	1.60	1.06	1.26	1.33	1.36	-	2.02

**Table S1.** Selected geometrical parameters (Å) of  $CO_2$  molecule adsorbed on the inner amine site of the mmen molecule in the mmen- $Mg_2(dobpdc)$  structure along reaction path 1.

	N-H	O <sup>2</sup> -H	C-O <sup>1</sup>	C-O <sup>2</sup>	C-N	Mg-N	O <sup>3</sup> -H
IS	1.03	-	-	-	-	-	-
IM1	1.03	3.97	1.18	1.17	3.09	2.25	-
TS1	1.22	1.38	1.21	1.29	1.59	2.27	-
IM2	2.44	0.98	1.23	1.38	1.37	2.26	3.13
TS2	-	0.98	1.22	1.35	1.45	2.26	2.40
FS	-	1.01	1.25	1.35	1.37	2.25	1.65

**Table S2.** Selected geometrical parameters (Å) of  $CO_2$  molecule adsorbed on the outer amine site of the mmen molecule in the mmen-Mg<sub>2</sub>(dobpdc)structure along reaction path 3.

	Total Energy (eV)			Activation Energy (eV)			Backward Barrier (eV)		
Path 1	DFT Energy	ZPE	$\triangle G$	DFT Energy	ZPE	riangle G	DFT Energy	ZPE	riangle G
IS	-1425.394	-1415.295	-1416.550						
TS1(H shift)	-1423.707	-1413.774	-1414.989	1.687	1.521	1.561	0.068	-0.065	-0.127
IM1(NH <sub>2</sub> )	-1423.775	-1413.710	-1414.861						
IM2(CO <sub>2</sub> ads)	-1423.979	-1413.889	-1414.621	-0.204	-0.179	0.240			
TS2	-1423.557	-1413.436	-1414.139	0.422	0.453	0.482	1.989	1.947	1.949
IM3(HCOON)	-1425.546	-1415.383	-1416.089						
TS3	-1425.512	-1415.384	-1416.158	0.034	-0.001	-0.070	0.699	0.668	0.599
FS(Mg-O)	-1426.211	-1416.052	-1416.757						

Table S3. Activation energies and backward barrier energies of each reaction pathway used for microkinetic simulations.

	Total Energy (eV)			Activation Energy (eV)			Backward Barrier (eV)		
Path 2	DFT Energy	ZPE	$\Delta G$	DFT Energy	ZPE	$\Delta G$	DFT Energy	ZPE	ΔG
IS	-1425.394	-1415.295	-1416.550						
IM1(CO <sub>2</sub> ads)	-1425.636	-1415.529	-1416.372	-0.242	-0.234	0.178			
TS1	-1423.283	-1413.294	-1414.064	2.352	2.236	2.308	2.263	2.090	2.025
IM2(HCOON)	-1425.546	-1415.383	-1416.089						
	Total Energy (eV)			Activation Energy (eV)			Backward Barrier (eV)		
Path 3	DFT Energy	ZPE	$\triangle G$	DFT Energy	ZPE	$\triangle G$	DFT Energy	ZPE	$ riangle \mathbf{G}$
IS	-1425.394	-1415.295	-1416.550						
IM1 (CO <sub>2</sub> ads)	-1425.629	-1415.496	-1416.236	-0.236	-0.200	0.314			
TS1	-1424.345	-1414.292	-1415.037	1.284	1.203	1.198	1.229	1.116	1.148
IM2 (HCOON)	-1425.575	-1415.409	-1416.185						
TS2	-1425.058	-1414.901	-1415.593	0.517	0.508	0.592	0.836	0.810	0.866
FS (H bond)	-1425.894	-1415.711	-1416.460						

We calculated the ratio of deprotonated mmen molecules according to the following equations:

A (aq)+ OH<sup>-</sup>(aq) 
$$\rightleftharpoons$$
 B<sup>-</sup> (aq)+ H<sub>2</sub>O(l)  

$$\Delta G = -RTlnK$$

$$K = \frac{[B-]}{[A][OH-]}$$

where  $\Delta G$ , R, and K indicates the free energy change of reaction, the constant of 8.314 J/(mol·K), and the equilibrium constant at room temperature, respectively.

	А	В	$\Delta G (eV)$	K <sub>eq</sub>	B/A
pH=11	RN <sub>in</sub> HN <sub>out</sub> H	RN <sub>in</sub> N <sub>out</sub> H <sup>-</sup>	0.105	0.893	8.9E-04
	RN <sub>in</sub> N <sub>out</sub> H <sup>-</sup>	RN <sub>in</sub> N <sub>out</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	0.164	0.838	7.5E-07
	А	В	$\Delta G (eV)$	K <sub>eq</sub>	B/A
pH=14	RN <sub>in</sub> HN <sub>out</sub> H	RN <sub>in</sub> N <sub>out</sub> H <sup>-</sup>	0.148	0.853	0.853
	RN <sub>in</sub> N <sub>out</sub> H <sup>-</sup>	RN <sub>in</sub> N <sub>out</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	0.170	0.833	0.710

**Table S4.** The Reaction energy ( $\Delta G$  in eV), rate constant (K<sub>eq</sub>) of deprotonation reaction of inner and outer amine, and the ratio of deprotonated mmen molecules (B/A) were determined under an alkaline environment of 1M KOH.