

C₇₀ Fullerene Cage as a Novel Catalyst for Efficient Proton Transfer Reactions between Small Molecules: A Theoretical Study

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Supplementary information

Table S1. Selected Physical Properties of Isolated H₂O⋯HF without and with C₇₀.^{a,b}

System	Method ^c	ΔE^c	$\Delta E(\text{BSSE})^c$	$r(\text{O}\cdots\text{H})$	$r(\text{H}-\text{F})$	$r(\text{O}\cdots\text{F})$	$\angle\text{O}\cdots\text{H}-\text{F}$	$\angle\text{HOH}$	$r(\text{O}-\text{H}(\text{H}_2\text{O}))$	Δ^d
H ₂ O⋯HF	PBE/6-311G**	-12.86	-8.30	1.685	0.950	2.623	168.5	104.3	0.971	0.735
	PBE/aug-cc-pVTZ	-9.43	-9.32							
	MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-8.98	-8.12							
	CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ	-8.87	-8.01							
H ₂ O⋯HF@C ₇₀	PBE/6-311G**	-13.33	-9.30	1.485	0.973	2.457	175.4	104.7	0.975	0.511
	PBE/aug-cc-pVTZ	-9.53	-9.44							
	MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-9.20	-8.56							
	CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ	-9.23	-8.57							

^a Geometries of H₂O⋯HF@C₇₀ and H₂O⋯HF were obtained with PBE/6-311G**.

^b Binding energies ΔE and $\Delta E(\text{BSSE})$ in kcal mol⁻¹, bond distances in Å, and bond distances in deg. $\Delta E(\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}) = E(\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}) - E(\text{H}_2\text{O}) - E(\text{HF})$; $\Delta E(\text{BSSE}) = \Delta E + E(\text{BSSE})$, where E is the total electronic energy of the individual species, and $E(\text{BSSE})$ is basis set superposition error energy.

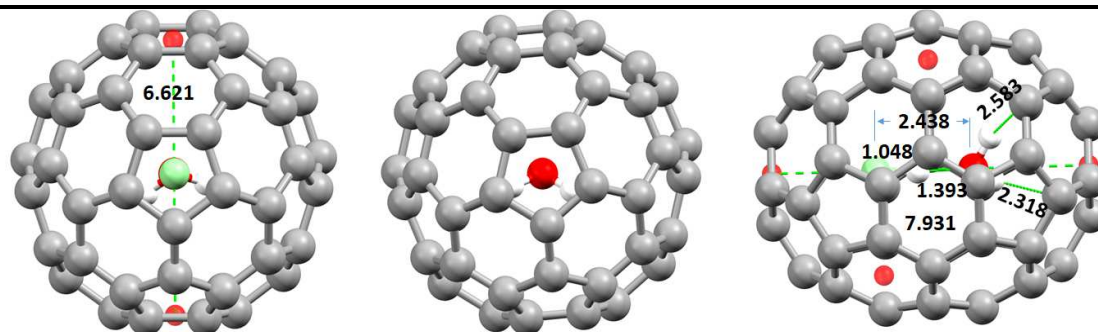
^c PBE, MP2 and CCSD(T), in conjunction with the aug-cc-pVTZ basis set, energies were obtained on the PBE/6-311G** energy-minimized geometries of H₂O⋯HF@C₇₀ and H₂O⋯HF.

^d Δ is the proton coordinate distances difference (Å), $r(\text{H}\cdots\text{O}) - r(\text{H}-\text{F})$

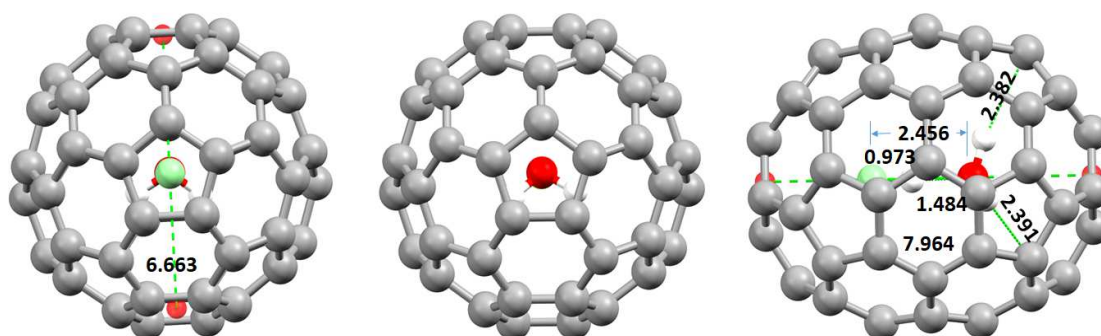
Table S2. Selected Physical Properties of the $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HX}$ ($\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}$) with and without C_{70} ^{a,b,c}

System	Method ^c	ΔE	$\Delta E(\text{BSSE})$	$r(\text{O}\cdots\text{H})$	$r(\text{H}-\text{X})$	$r(\text{O}\cdots\text{X})$	$\angle\text{O}\cdots\text{H}-\text{X}$	$\angle\text{HOH}$	$r(\text{O}-\text{H}(\text{H}_2\text{O}))$	Δ^f
$\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots\text{Cl}@C_{70}^d$	PBE/6-311G**	-187.02	-186.09	1.405	1.283	2.689	172.925	105.3	0.980	-0.122
	PBE/aug-cc-pVTZ	-187.76	-187.58							
	MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-188.62	-186.35							
	CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ	-188.31	-186.02							
$\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HCl}^e$	PBE/6-311G**	-11.62	-8.40	1.713	1.337	3.048	175.9	104.5	0.972	+0.376
	PBE/aug-cc-pVTZ	-6.85	-6.76							
	MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-6.57	-5.89							
	CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ	-5.85	-5.18							
$\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots\text{Br}@C_{70}^d$	PBE/6-311G**	-171.65	-170.24	1.221	1.563	2.760	164.8	105.3	0.982	-0.342
	PBE/aug-cc-pVTZ	-168.47	-168.23							
	MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-169.98	-165.68							
	CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ	-169.28	-164.94							
$\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HBr}^e$	PBE/6-311G**	-10.43	-7.09	1.745	1.479	3.221	174.7	104.4	0.972	+0.266
	PBE/aug-cc-pVTZ	5.97	-5.86							
	MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-6.2	-5.03							
	CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ	-4.68	-3.57							

^a Geometries of $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HX}@C_{70}$ and $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HX}$ were obtained with PBE/6-311G(d,p).^b Binding energies ΔE and $\Delta E(\text{BSSE})$ in kcal mol⁻¹, bond distances in Å, and bond angles in deg.^c PBE, MP2 and CCSD(T), in conjunction with the aug-cc-pVTZ basis set, binding energies were obtained on the PBE/6-311G** energy-minimized geometries.^d $\Delta E(\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots\text{X}) = E(\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots\text{X}) - E(\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+) - E(\text{X})$ ($\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}$); $\Delta E(\text{BSSE}) = \Delta E + E(\text{BSSE})$, where E is the total electronic energy of individual species, and $E(\text{BSSE})$ is the basis set superposition error energy.^e $\Delta E(\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HX}) = E(\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HX}) - E(\text{H}_2\text{O}) - E(\text{HX})$; $\Delta E(\text{BSSE}) = \Delta E + E(\text{BSSE})$, where E is the total electronic energy of individual species, and $E(\text{BSSE})$ is the basis set superposition error energy.^f Δ is the proton coordinate distances difference (Å), $r(\text{H}\cdots\text{O}) - r(\text{H}-\text{X})$



a) X-ray crystal data (CSD ref: MATHUN)



b) Calculated data [PBE/PBE/6-311G(d,p)]

Figure S1. Comparison between various views of experimental and theoretically simulated geometries of $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}@C_{70}$. Note that the H atom positions in the X-ray diffraction geometry are manipulated through a least squares fitting analysis. Although these are somehow inaccurate, these compare well with the PBE predicted data. Bond lengths are in Å, in which, the experimental $\text{O}\cdots\text{H}$, $\text{O}\cdots\text{F}$ and the $\text{C}_5\cdots\text{C}_5$ (centrod-centrod) distances (1.393, 2.438 and 7.931 Å) were reproduced within < 0.1 Å. The $\angle\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}$ for the experimental and calculated geometries were 174.6 and 175.4°, respectively, showing the calculated bond angle is reproduced within 1°.

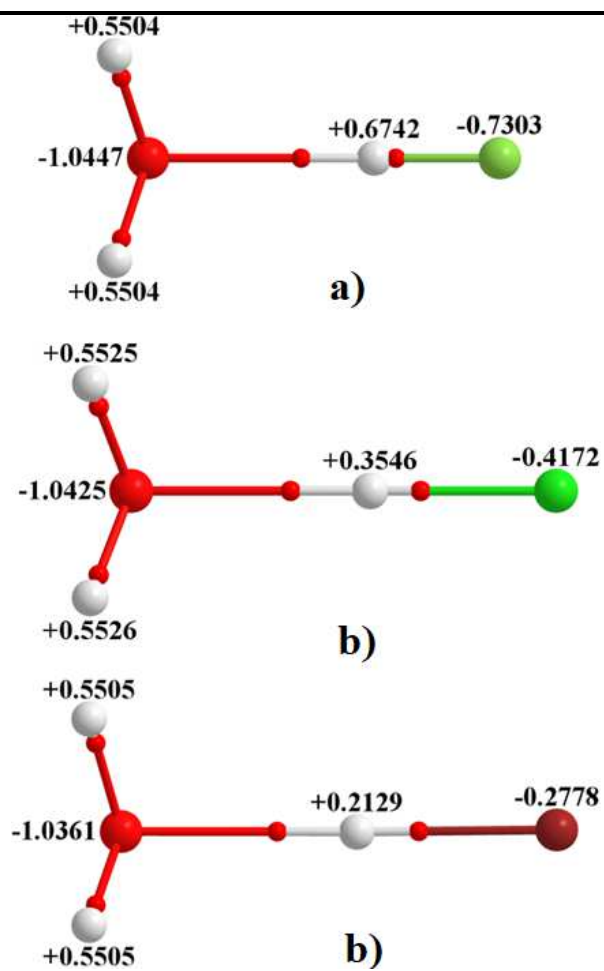


Figure S2. PBE level integrated QTAIM charges (in e) for isolated a) $\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdots \text{HF}$, b) $\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdots \text{HCl}$ and c) $\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdots \text{HBr}$.

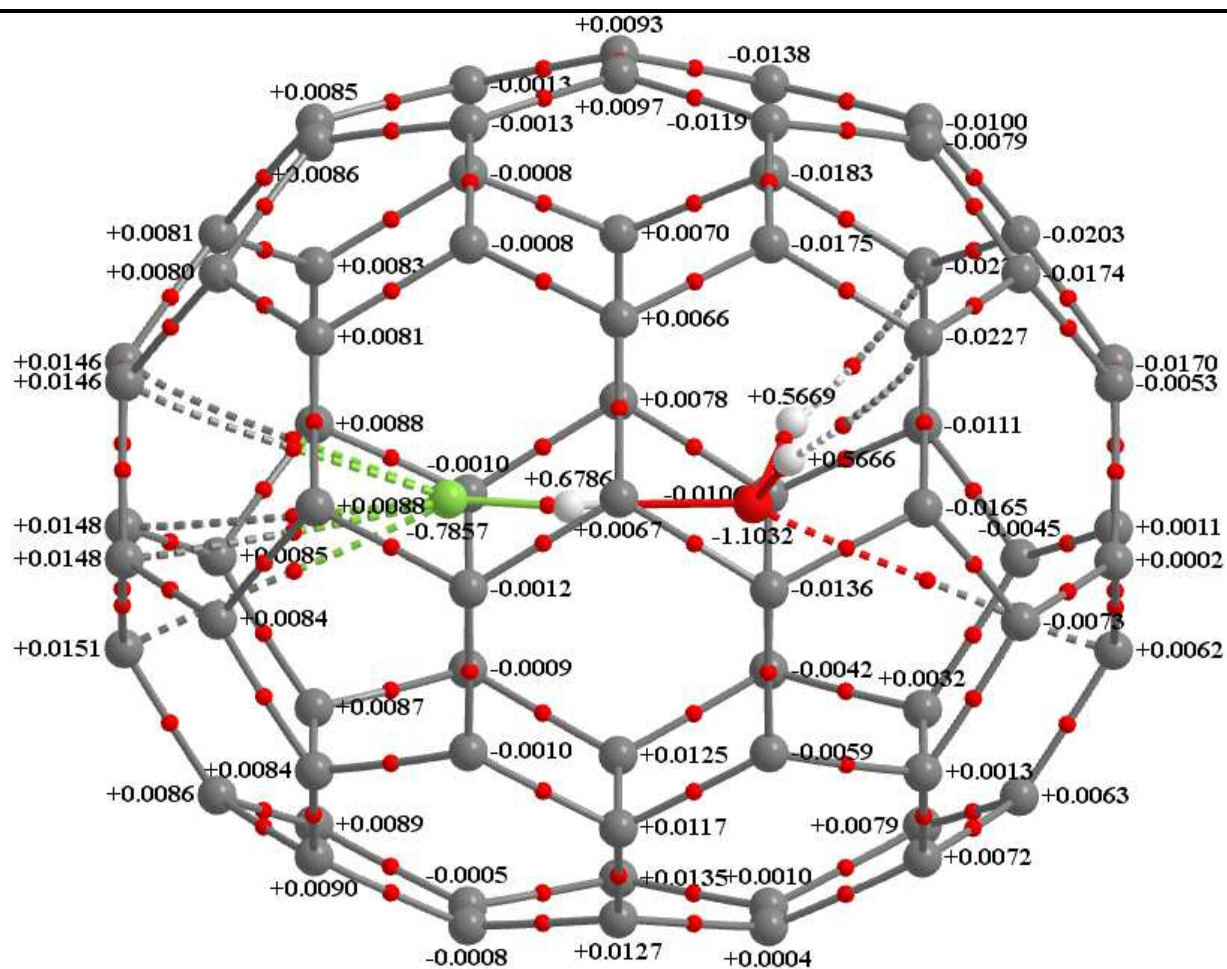


Figure S3. PBE level integrated QTAIM charges (in *e*) for H₂O...HF@C₇₀, showing charge redistribution and separation.

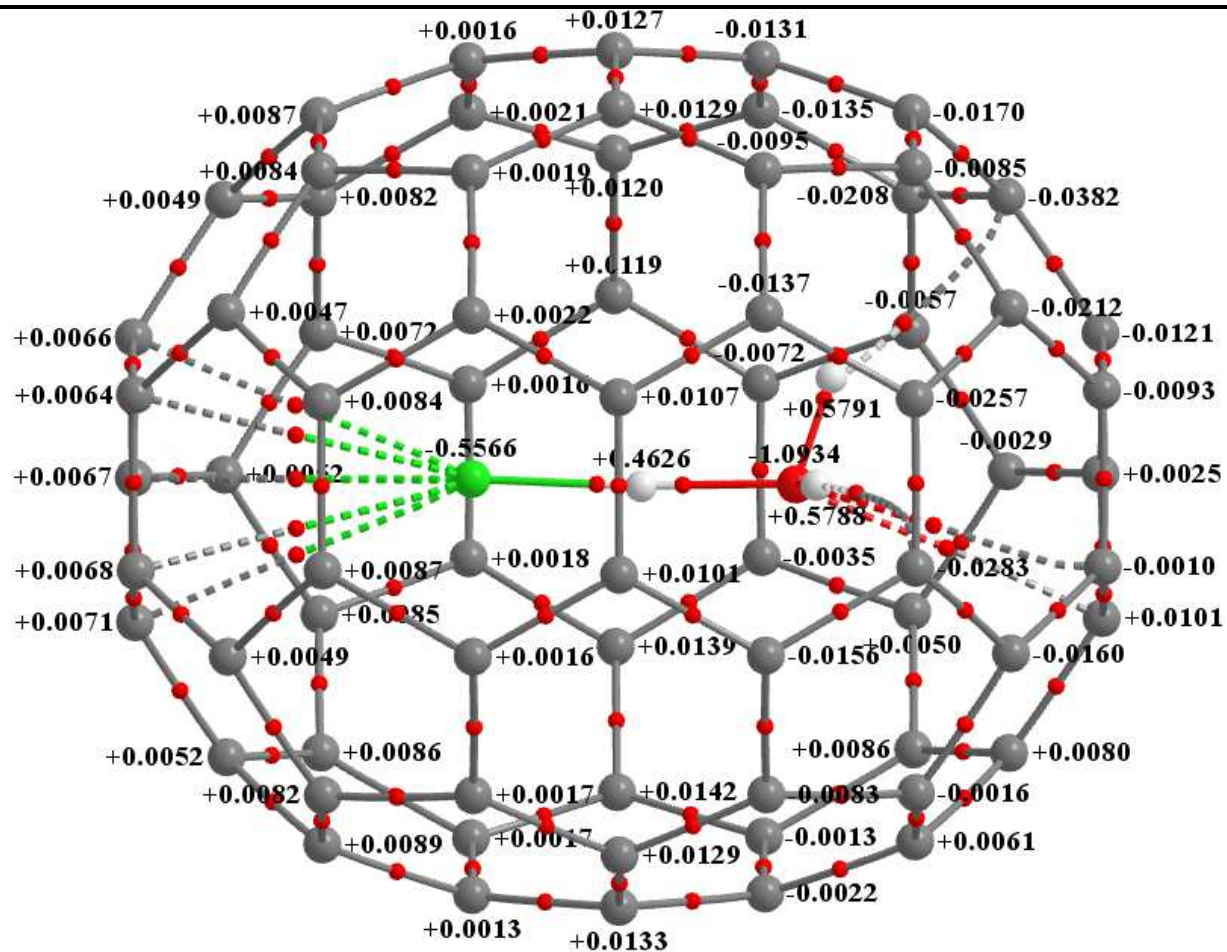


Figure S4. PBE level integrated QTAIM charges (in e) for $\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots\text{Cl}^-$, showing charge redistribution and separation.

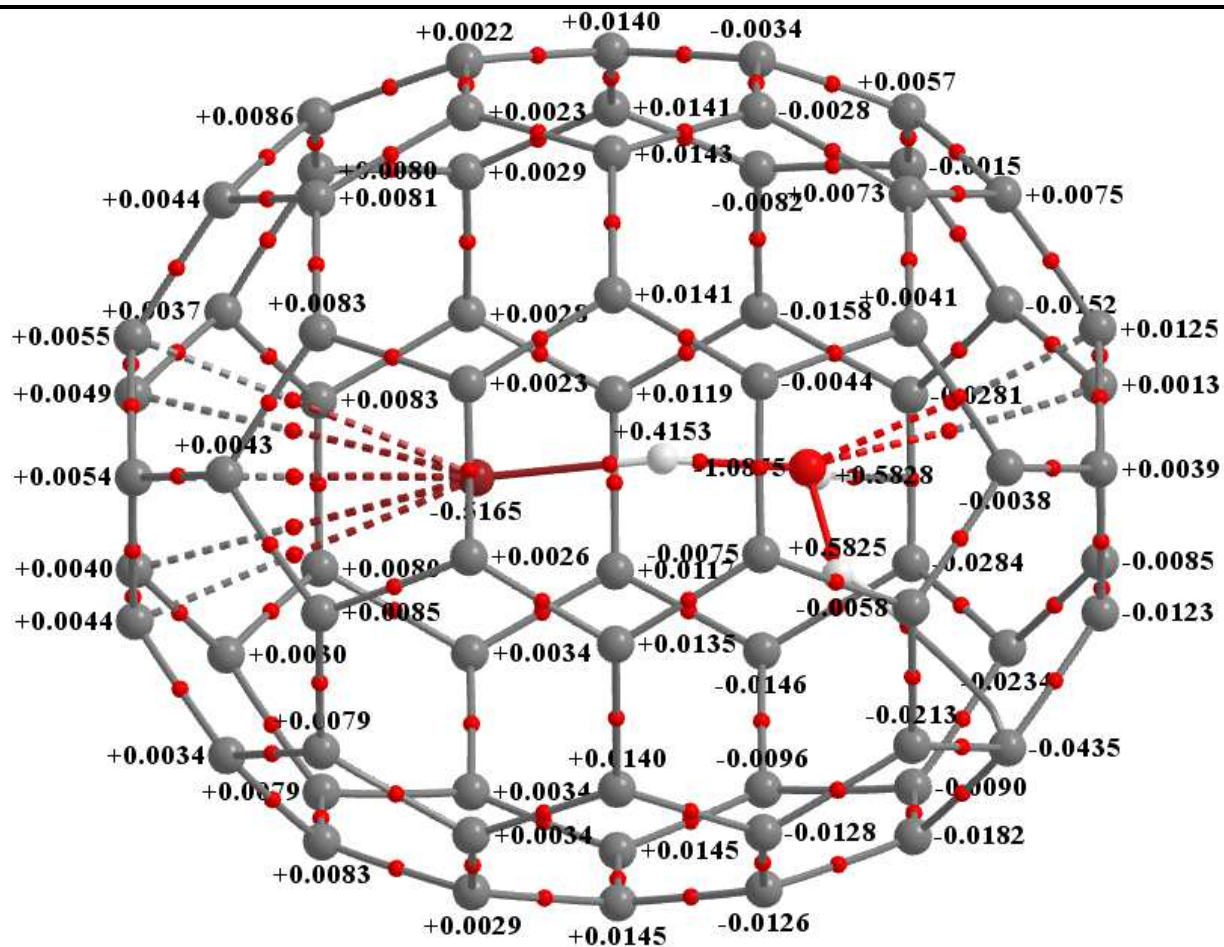


Figure S5. PBE level integrated QTAIM charges (in e) for $\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots\text{Br}^-$, showing charge redistribution and separation.

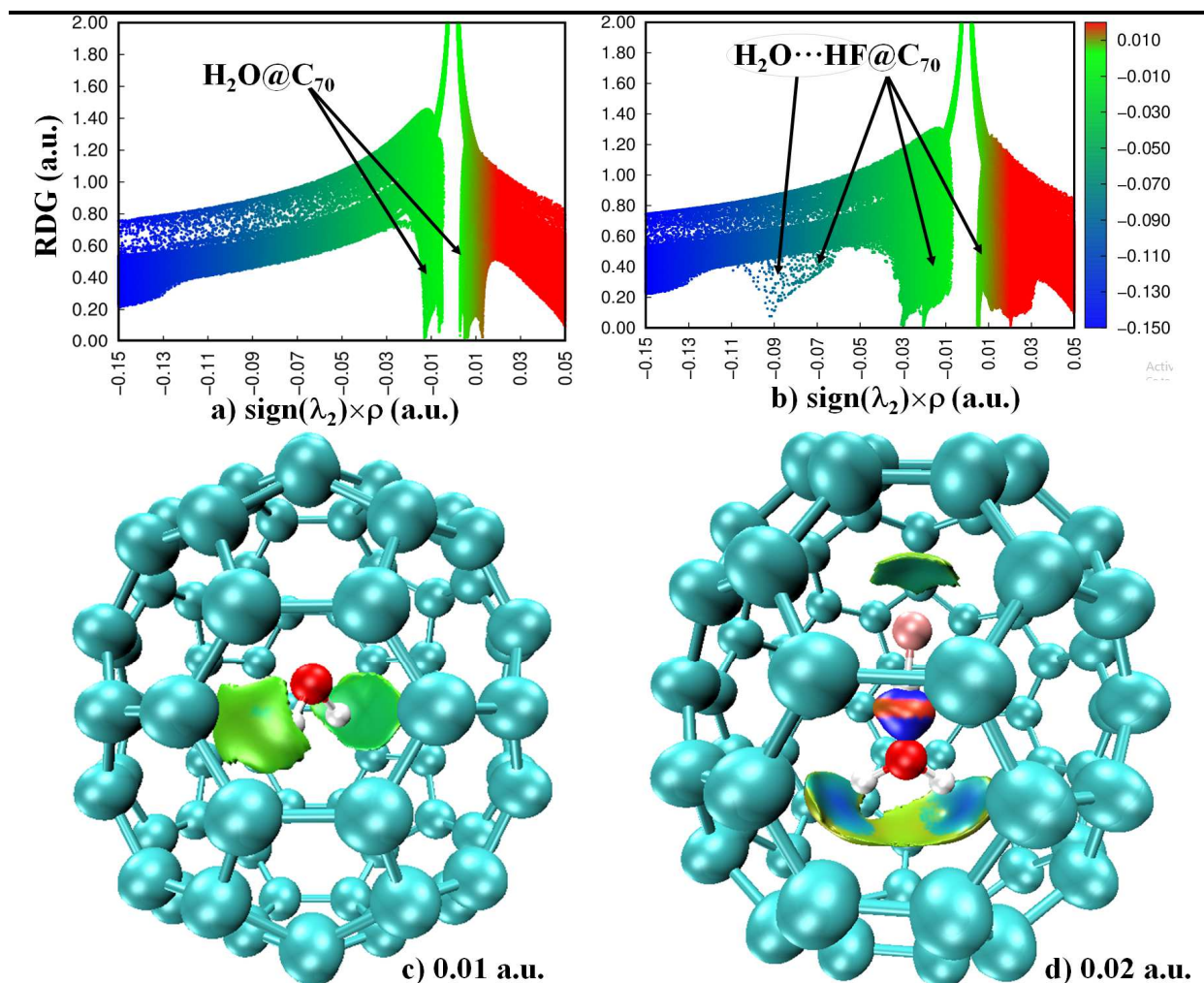


Figure S6. $\text{sign}(\lambda_2) \times \rho$ vs. RDG 2D plots (0.5 a.u.) for a) $\text{H}_2\text{O}@\text{C}_{70}$, b) $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}@\text{C}_{70}$. The IGM isosurface plots for the corresponding systems are illustrated in c) 0.01 a.u. and d) 0.02 a.u., respectively. Experimental X-ray crystal geometries of a) $\text{H}_2\text{O}@\text{C}_{70}$ (CSD ref: VAKTIN) b) $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}@\text{C}_{70}$ (CSD ref: MATHUN) obtained from Cambridge Structure Database, together with promolecular approximation, was used for RDG and IGM analysis. Isosurfaces colored blue, green and red represent reasonably strong, medium-to-weak (attraction) and strongly repulsive interactions, respectively.

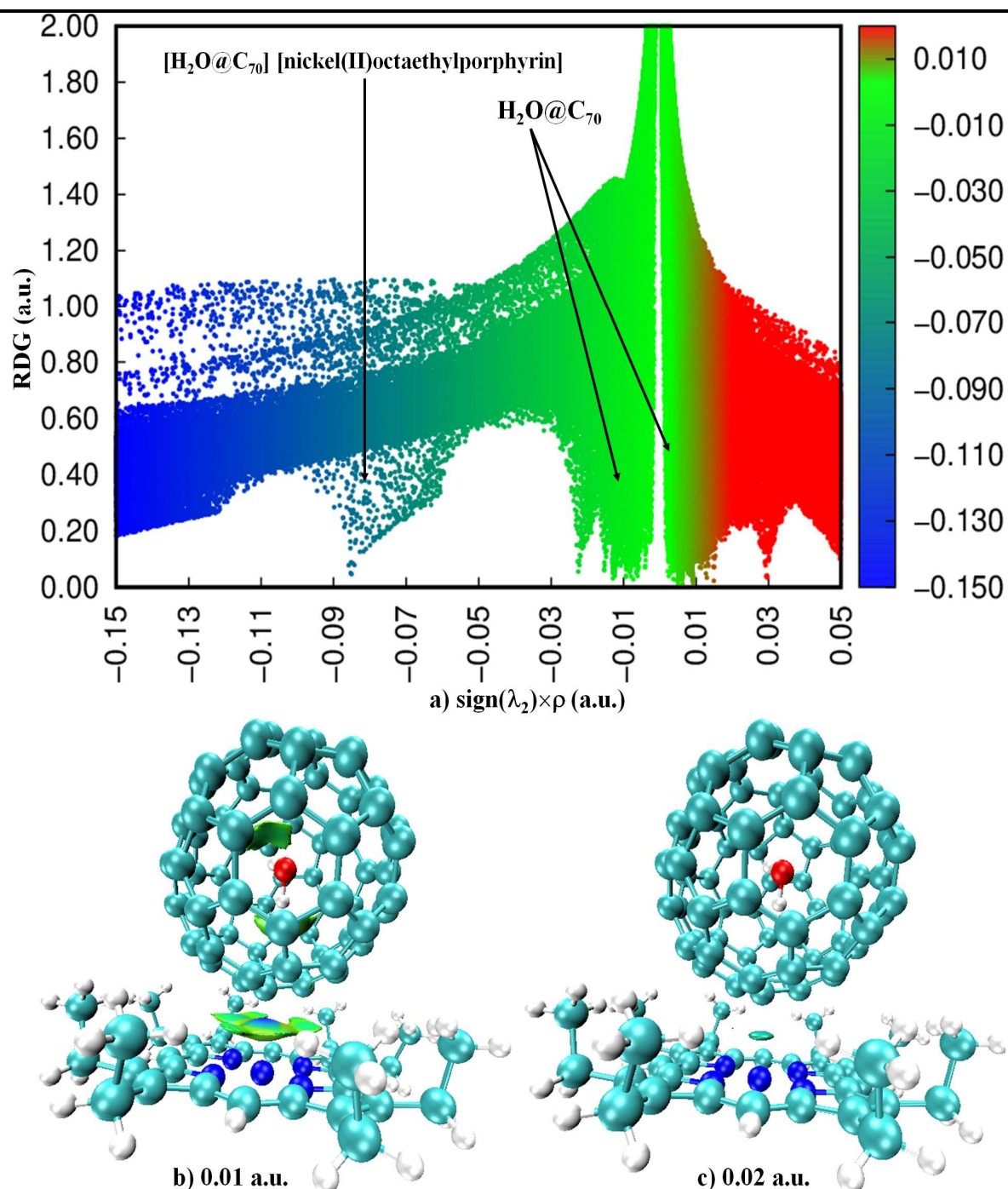


Figure S7. $\text{sign}(\lambda_2) \times \rho$ vs. RDG 2D plots (0.5 a.u.) for a) $H_2O@C_{70}$ (2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethylporphyrinato)-nickel(ii)). The IGM isosurface plots for the corresponding system is illustrated in b) 0.01 a.u. and c) 0.02 a.u., respectively. Experimental X-ray crystal geometry of C_{70} Fullerene (2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethylporphyrinato)-nickel(ii) benzene chloroform solvate hydrate obtained from CSD (CSD ref: VAKTIN), together with promolecular approximation, was used for RDG and IGM analysis. Isosurfaces colored blue, green and red represent reasonably strong, medium-to-weak (attraction) and strongly repulsive interactions, respectively.

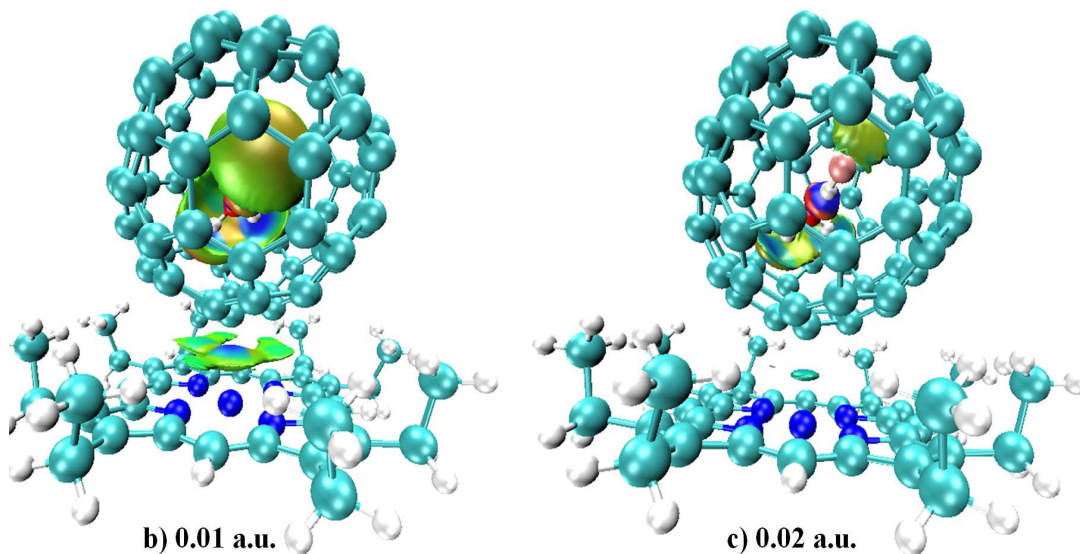
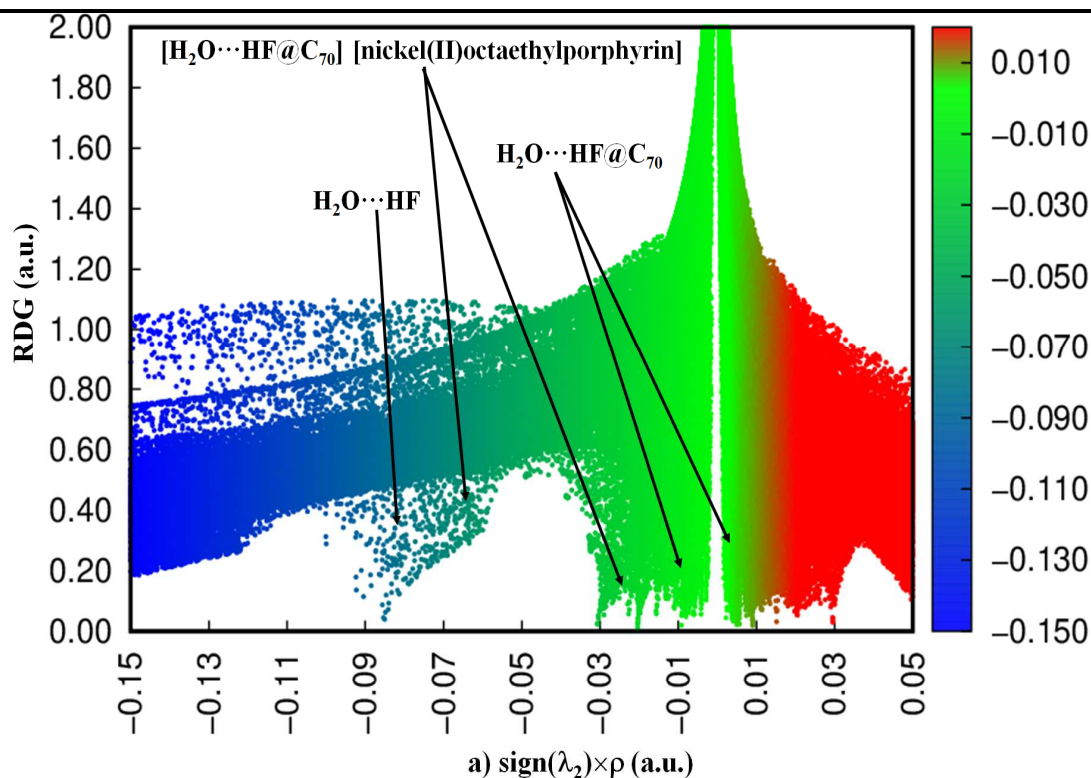


Figure S8. $\text{sign}(\lambda_2) \times \rho$ vs. RDG 2D plots (0.5 a.u.) for a) $\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdots \text{HF} @ \text{C}_{70}$ (2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethylporphyrinato)-nickel(ii)). The IGM isosurface plots for the corresponding system is illustrated in b) 0.01 a.u. and c) 0.02 a.u., respectively. Experimental X-ray crystal geometry of ([2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethylporphyrinato]-nickel(ii) C_{70} fullerene chloroform hydrogen fluoride benzene solvate monohydrate) obtained from CSD (CSD ref: MATHUN), together with promolecular approximation, was used for RDG and IGM analysis. Isosurfaces colored blue, green and red represent reasonably strong, medium-to-weak (attraction) and strongly repulsive interactions, respectively.

Table S3: Computed energies (in eV) of HOMO, LUMO and Kohn-Sham gap (KSGAP) for isolated and complexed C₇₀, obtained with two different levels of theory. ^a

Species	B3LYP/6-31G*				PBE/6-311G**			
	HOMO	LUMO	KSGAP ^b	Decrease ^c	HOMO	LUMO	KSGAP ^b	Decrease ^c
Free C₇₀	-5.91	-3.27	2.65	0.00	-5.87	-4.16	1.71	0.00
H₂O⋯HF@C₇₀	-5.90	-3.29	2.61	-0.04	-5.86	-4.18	1.69	-0.02
H₂OH⁺⋯⁻Cl@C₇₀	-5.91	-3.33	2.58	-0.07	-5.88	-4.22	1.65	-0.06
H₂OH⁺⋯⁻Br@C₇₀	-5.91	-3.34	2.57	-0.07	-5.88	-4.24	1.64	-0.07

^a PBE/6-311G** geometries for isolated and complexed C₇₀ were used.

^b KSGAP = LUMO - HOMO

^c Decrease = Complexed (C₇₀ with guest) – Free (C₇₀)

Table S4: B3LYP/6-31G* computed energies (in eV) of HOMO, LUMO, Kohn-Sham gap (KSGAP), ionization potential, electron affinity and fundamental gap for isolated and complexed C₇₀, obtained with two different levels of theory. ^a

	HOMO	LUMO	KSGAP	Ionization Potential	Electron Affinity	Fundamental Gap	Optical gap
Free C ₇₀	-5.91	-3.27	2.65	7.08	2.11	4.96	2.07
H ₂ O⋯HF@C ₇₀	-5.90	-3.29	2.61	7.04	2.12	4.92	2.05
H ₂ OH ⁺ ⋯ ⁻ Cl@C ₇₀	-5.91	-3.33	2.58	7.07	2.18	4.89	2.02
H ₂ OH ⁺ ⋯ ⁻ Br@C ₇₀	-5.91	-3.34	2.57	7.07	2.19	4.88	2.01

^a PBE/6-311G** geometries for isolated and complexed C₇₀ were used.

^b KSGAP = LUMO - HOMO

^c The optical gaps for the corresponding species were 1.76, 1.73, 1.71 and 1.70 eV, respectively.

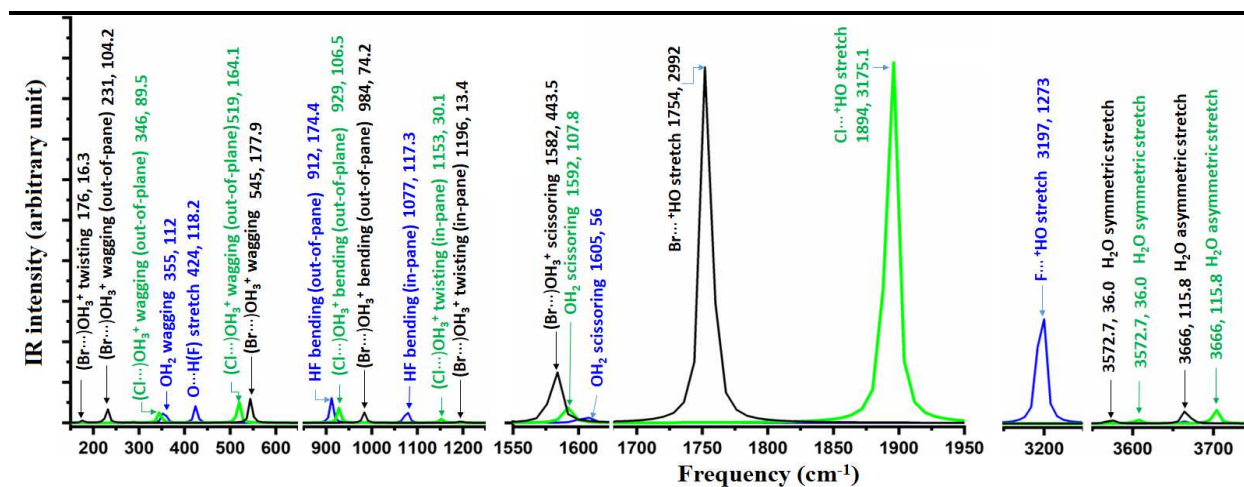


Figure S9. Simulated IR spectra of $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}$, $\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots\text{Cl}$ and $\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots\text{Br}$, obtained on the geometries of these complexes as in C_{70} . The nature of approximate vibration, frequency centers (in cm^{-1}) and intensities (km mol^{-1}) of the bands are shown for selected modes.

Table S5: PBE level volumes of atomic basins (in a.u.) of isolated C_{70} .

0.001 a.u.		0.002 a.u.	
Atom	Volume	Atom	Volume
C1	72.56	C1	63.54
C2	72.52	C2	63.54
C3	72.57	C3	63.54
C4	72.53	C4	63.52
C5	72.57	C5	63.54
C6	72.91	C6	63.65
C7	72.05	C7	63.12
C8	72.03	C8	63.05
C9	72.90	C9	63.62
C10	72.04	C10	63.06
C11	72.03	C11	63.08
C12	72.92	C12	63.63

C13	72.05	C13	63.11
C14	72.04	C14	63.08
C15	72.92	C15	63.65
C16	72.07	C16	63.09
C17	72.03	C17	63.06
C18	72.90	C18	63.64
C19	72.04	C19	63.08
C20	72.04	C20	63.09
C21	72.08	C21	63.34
C22	72.08	C22	63.36
C23	71.90	C23	63.49
C24	71.89	C24	63.52
C25	72.04	C25	63.37
C26	72.10	C26	63.35
C27	71.92	C27	63.49
C28	71.99	C28	63.50
C29	72.08	C29	63.36
C30	72.09	C30	63.36
C31	71.89	C31	63.46
C32	71.92	C32	63.47
C33	72.05	C33	63.38
C34	72.04	C34	63.36
C35	71.92	C35	63.47
C36	71.92	C36	63.53
C37	72.08	C37	63.36
C38	72.05	C38	63.33
C39	71.89	C39	63.48
C40	71.89	C40	63.47

C41	72.07	C41	63.36
C42	72.04	C42	63.34
C43	72.01	C43	63.06
C44	72.06	C44	63.02
C45	72.10	C45	63.35
C46	72.08	C46	63.38
C47	72.04	C47	63.09
C48	72.05	C48	63.07
C49	71.99	C49	63.38
C50	72.04	C50	63.35
C51	72.06	C51	63.06
C52	72.05	C52	63.07
C53	72.05	C53	63.38
C54	72.08	C54	63.35
C55	72.03	C55	63.11
C56	72.06	C56	63.05
C57	72.11	C57	63.36
C58	72.03	C58	63.36
C59	72.03	C59	63.07
C60	72.07	C60	63.10
C61	72.95	C61	63.60
C62	72.55	C62	63.53
C63	72.53	C63	63.56
C64	72.89	C64	63.62
C65	72.56	C65	63.54
C66	72.93	C66	63.65
C67	72.87	C67	63.62
C68	72.52	C68	63.52

C69	72.54	C69	63.58
C70	72.89	C70	63.64
Total volume (C ₇₀)	5055.83		4435.30

Table S6: PBE level volumes (in a.u.) of atomic basins of C₇₀ complexed and free dimers of H₂O⋯HX (X = F, Cl, Br). The 0.001 a.u. isodensity envelope was used for the evaluation of atomic volumes.

H₂O⋯HF@C₇₀		H₂OH⁺⋯⁻Cl@C₇₀		H₂OH⁺⋯⁻Br@C₇₀	
Atom	Volume	Atom	Volume	Atom	Volume
C1	70.07	C1	70.20	C1	70.12
C2	70.07	C2	70.18	C2	70.12
C3	69.99	C3	70.18	C3	70.18
C4	69.99	C4	70.10	C4	70.22
C5	70.02	C5	70.21	C5	70.21
C6	70.80	C6	70.69	C6	70.71
C7	70.26	C7	69.93	C7	69.63
C8	70.39	C8	69.97	C8	69.72
C9	70.91	C9	70.67	C9	70.61
C10	70.36	C10	69.86	C10	69.75
C11	70.37	C11	69.85	C11	69.75
C12	70.96	C12	70.76	C12	70.74
C13	70.43	C13	69.92	C13	69.74
C14	70.28	C14	69.80	C14	69.66
C15	70.88	C15	70.69	C15	70.74
C16	70.30	C16	69.93	C16	69.75
C17	70.24	C17	69.75	C17	69.67
C18	70.80	C18	70.68	C18	70.77

C19	70.23	C19	69.82	C19	69.77
C20	70.26	C20	69.89	C20	69.81
C21	70.98	C21	69.85	C21	69.59
C22	71.09	C22	69.91	C22	69.61
C23	71.38	C23	70.69	C23	70.21
C24	71.33	C24	70.59	C24	70.10
C25	71.07	C25	69.91	C25	69.52
C26	71.16	C26	70.00	C26	69.72
C27	71.40	C27	70.55	C27	70.14
C28	71.42	C28	70.62	C28	70.19
C29	71.20	C29	69.93	C29	69.53
C30	71.11	C30	69.97	C30	69.57
C31	71.22	C31	70.56	C31	70.25
C32	71.35	C32	70.60	C32	70.15
C33	71.16	C33	70.05	C33	69.69
C34	71.05	C34	69.98	C34	69.61
C35	71.26	C35	70.65	C35	70.28
C36	71.20	C36	70.64	C36	70.28
C37	71.00	C37	70.00	C37	69.68
C38	70.99	C38	69.93	C38	69.63
C39	71.13	C39	70.58	C39	70.05
C40	71.20	C40	70.49	C40	70.16
C41	70.96	C41	71.05	C41	70.94
C42	71.06	C42	71.26	C42	71.18
C43	70.35	C43	70.32	C43	70.33
C44	70.35	C44	70.35	C44	70.30
C45	70.67	C45	71.07	C45	70.88
C46	70.91	C46	71.09	C46	70.96
C47	70.69	C47	70.27	C47	70.15

C48	70.66	C48	70.49	C48	70.42
C49	70.96	C49	71.07	C49	71.04
C50	70.61	C50	70.80	C50	70.69
C51	70.29	C51	69.89	C51	69.82
C52	70.25	C52	69.76	C52	69.63
C53	70.91	C53	70.78	C53	70.82
C54	70.90	C54	70.99	C54	70.94
C55	70.68	C55	70.57	C55	70.51
C56	70.30	C56	70.09	C56	70.07
C57	70.63	C57	70.94	C57	70.91
C58	70.48	C58	70.85	C58	70.75
C59	70.18	C59	70.05	C59	70.13
C60	70.58	C60	70.39	C60	70.44
C61	71.20	C61	70.89	C61	70.93
C62	70.67	C62	70.46	C62	70.49
C63	71.88	C63	70.44	C63	70.54
C64	71.22	C64	70.49	C64	70.45
C65	70.86	C65	70.71	C65	70.73
C66	71.35	C66	71.17	C66	71.18
C67	71.27	C67	70.87	C67	70.92
C68	70.65	C68	70.40	C68	70.44
C69	70.68	C69	70.32	C69	70.33
C70	70.89	C70	70.42	C70	70.41
O71	107.20	O71	91.19	O71	85.38
H72	14.27	H72	12.30	H73	12.37
H73	14.29	H73	11.87	H74	11.62
H74	8.85	H74	14.34	H71	15.75
F75	106.74	Cl75	163.97	Br75	185.00
Total volume (C ₇₀)	4954.40		4926.85		4916.94

Total volume (H ₂ O---HX)	251.36		293.67		310.13
Isolated H ₂ O---HX (X = F, Cl, Br)					
O1	125.25	O1	126.14	O1	126.53
H2	23.68	H2	23.61	H2	23.83
H3	23.64	H3	23.63	H3	23.83
H5	10.39	H5	24.89	H4	32.02
F4	119.72	Cl4	255.36	Br5	292.41
Total volume (H₂O---HX)	302.68		453.63		498.62

Table S7. PBE computed mean polarizability α (in a.u.) and volume v (a.u.) for isolated and complexed C₇₀. Included are also the mean polarizability of isolated dimers.

Species	α	v	Isolated	α	$\Delta\alpha^a$
Free C ₇₀	637.51	5055.83		---	
H ₂ O...HF@C ₇₀	640.42	5205.76	H ₂ O...HF	10.23	-7.32
H ₂ OH ⁺ ... ⁻ Cl@C ₇₀	643.62	5220.52	H ₂ O...HCl	18.35	-12.24
H ₂ OH ⁺ ... ⁻ Br@C ₇₀	644.82	5227.07	H ₂ O...HBr	23.47	-16.16

^a $\Delta\alpha(\text{guest}@C_{70}) = \alpha(\text{guest}@C_{70}) - (\alpha(\text{guest}) + \alpha(C_{70}))$

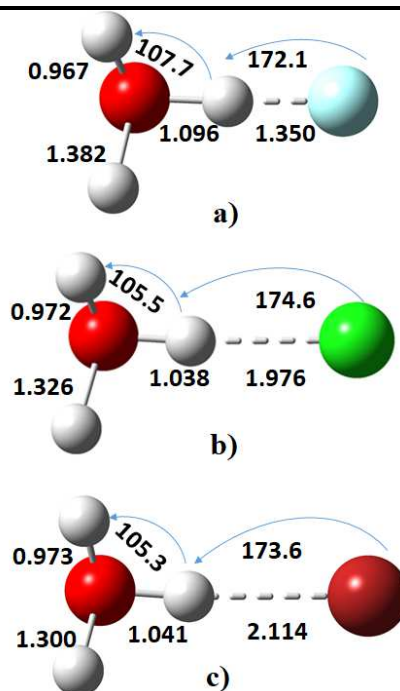


Figure S10. Simulated TD-DFT (PBE/6-311G**) geometries of the $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}$, $\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots\text{Cl}^-$ and $\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots\text{Br}^-$ dimers in the first excited electronic state. Selected bond distances and angles are shown in Å and deg, respectively.

TEXT S1 The geometry of isolated $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HX}$ ($\text{X} = \text{F}, \text{Cl}, \text{Br}$) dimers in their first excited and in their anionic ground states.

We compared the geometries of the $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HX}$ ($\text{X} = \text{F}, \text{Cl}, \text{Br}$) dimers in C_{70} and those of the isolated dimers in their respective excited states. For this, the TD-DFT geometries of all three isolated dimers were obtained in their first excited state and are local minima (Fig. S10). The results suggest that the breaking of the HX acids into the H^+ and X^- ions and subsequent formation of the OH_3^+ ion on complete concerted proton transfer are the eventual consequence. The HX acids and the H_2O base are now transformed to the conjugate acid base pairs $[\text{X}]^-$ and $[\text{OH}_3]^+$, and are linked with each other through a $\text{X}^-\cdots^+\text{H}(\text{OH}_2)$ hydrogen bond. The three OH bonds and the HOH bond angles are markedly unequal in these geometries. For instance, two of the OH bonds are virtually identical and the remaining one is markedly longer in all three dimers. The main difference between these geometries and those in C_{70} is that the O–H moieties participating in the hydrogen bond with the halide anion in these have strikingly different bond distances and charge polarities (see Fig. S10 and Fig. 1b-c, for example).

We have also supplied an external electron to the dimers of $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HX}$ ($\text{X} = \text{F}, \text{Cl}, \text{Br}$) dimers, as was done in a previous anion photoelectron spectroscopy and *ab initio* study for $\text{H}_3\text{NH}^+\cdots^-\text{Cl}$.²³ Whilst the energy-minimized geometry provided no evidence of proton transfer in the anionic $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}$ dimer, the intermolecular distance was indeed significantly reduced. For instance, $r(\text{O}\cdots\text{H})$ and $r(\text{O}\cdots\text{F})$ in the anionic dimer were 1.519 and 2.525 Å, respectively, and the $\angle\text{O}\cdots\text{H}-\text{F}$ was 176.0° ; these signify a similar pattern of intermolecular bonding compared with that observed for the neutral $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}$ dimer in C_{70} (Fig. 1a). For $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HX}$ ($\text{X} = \text{F}, \text{Cl}, \text{Br}$), however, the excess electron promoted concerted proton transfer from the acid, and transformed the geometries of the dimers into $\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots^-\text{Cl}$ and $\text{H}_3\text{OH}^+\cdots^-\text{Br}$ ion-pair salts. The changes in geometry on the formation of the $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}$, $\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots^-\text{Cl}$ and $\text{H}_3\text{OH}^+\cdots^-\text{Br}$ anionic dimers are similar to those of the dimers inside the C_{70} cage. However, for the formation of such latter geometries the cage does not supply an external electron to the dimers that effectuates concerted proton transfer between H_2O and HX ($\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}$).

Text T1.

An important feature of any fullerene system lies in the assessment of its binding affinity with the endohedral species. We have used the PBE/6-311G** optimized geometry, and have

calculated on it the basis set superposition corrected binding energy of the $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}@C_{70}$ system. In doing so, the entire encaged species $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}$ and C_{70} were considered as two monomers of the $\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdots\text{HF}@C_{70}$ supramolecular system, and D3 refers to the D3 version of Grimme's dispersion with the original D3 damping function implemented in Gaussian 09. Although the PBE method underestimates the value, all other functionals provided large values for the binding energy: PBE (+3.78 kcal mol⁻¹), ω B97XD (-16.38 kcal mol⁻¹), B97D3 (-14.65 kcal mol⁻¹), PBE-D3 (-13.41 kcal mol⁻¹), PBE0-D3 (-15.97 kcal mol⁻¹), M06-2X (-21.07 kcal mol⁻¹) and M06-2X-D3 (-22.45 kcal mol⁻¹). These results enable us to demonstrate that binding between C_{70} and the encaged species is reasonably strong; that dispersion is a major driving force responsible for complex stability; and that the widely used M06-2X functional is probably no good as it significantly overestimates the energy of interaction. Nevertheless, our calculation with B97D3 gave uncorrected (and corrected) binding energies of -21.12 (-12.99) and -14.02 (-5.89) kcal mol⁻¹ for $\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots\text{Cl}^-@C_{70}$ and $\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+\cdots\text{Br}^-@C_{70}$, respectively.