

## Supporting Information

### Microhydration Structures of Protonated Oxazole

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#### Figure Captions

**Figure S1.** Optimized structure of the neutral Ox-W dimer and its linear IR absorption spectrum calculated at the B3LYP-D3/aug-cc-pVTZ level. Binding energy ( $D_0$ ) and bond lengths are given in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and Å, respectively.

**Figure S2.** NBO atomic charge distribution (in e) of selected  $\text{H}^+\text{Ox-W}_{n\leq 4}$  structures obtained at the B3LYP-D3/aug-cc-pVTZ level.

**Figure S3.** Potential energy barrier ( $E_e$ ) for internal rotation of the W ligand in  $\text{H}^+\text{Ox-W(H)}$  calculated at the B3LYP-D3/aug-cc-pVTZ level in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Bond lengths are given in Å.

**Figure S4.** Optimized structure and linear IR absorption spectrum of the  $\text{H}^+\text{Ox-W(C5)}$  isomer calculated at the B3LYP-D3/aug-cc-pVTZ level. Binding energy ( $D_0$ ) and bond lengths are given in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and Å, respectively. Numbers in parentheses correspond to relative energies and free energies ( $E_0$ ,  $G_0$ ) with respect to  $\text{H}^+\text{Ox-W(H)}$  in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**Figure S5.** Potential energy barrier ( $E_e$ ) between  $\text{H}^+\text{Ox-W}_4(\text{b})$  and  $\text{Ox-H}^+\text{W}_4(1)$  evaluated at the B3LYP-D3/aug-cc-pVTZ level in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**Figure S6.** Orbital interaction between the  $\sigma^*$  orbital of the X-H bond ( $\text{X=N/O/C}$ ) and the lone pair of O involved in the  $\text{XH}\dots\text{O}$  H-bonds of selected  $\text{H}^+\text{Ox-W}_{n\leq 4}$  isomers obtained from the NBO analysis at the B3LYP-D3/aug-cc-pVTZ level.  $E^{(2)}$  values given in kJ/mol.

**Figure S7.** Visualization of the NCI analysis of the  $\text{XH}\dots\text{O}$  ( $\text{X=N/O/C}$ ) H-bonds in selected  $\text{H}^+\text{Ox-W}_{n\leq 4}$  isomers calculated at the B3LYP-D3/aug-cc-pVTZ level.  $\rho^*$  values for the H-bonds are given in a.u.

**Figure S8.** Experimental proton affinities of  $\text{W}_n$  clusters ( $n=1-4$ ) and Ox.

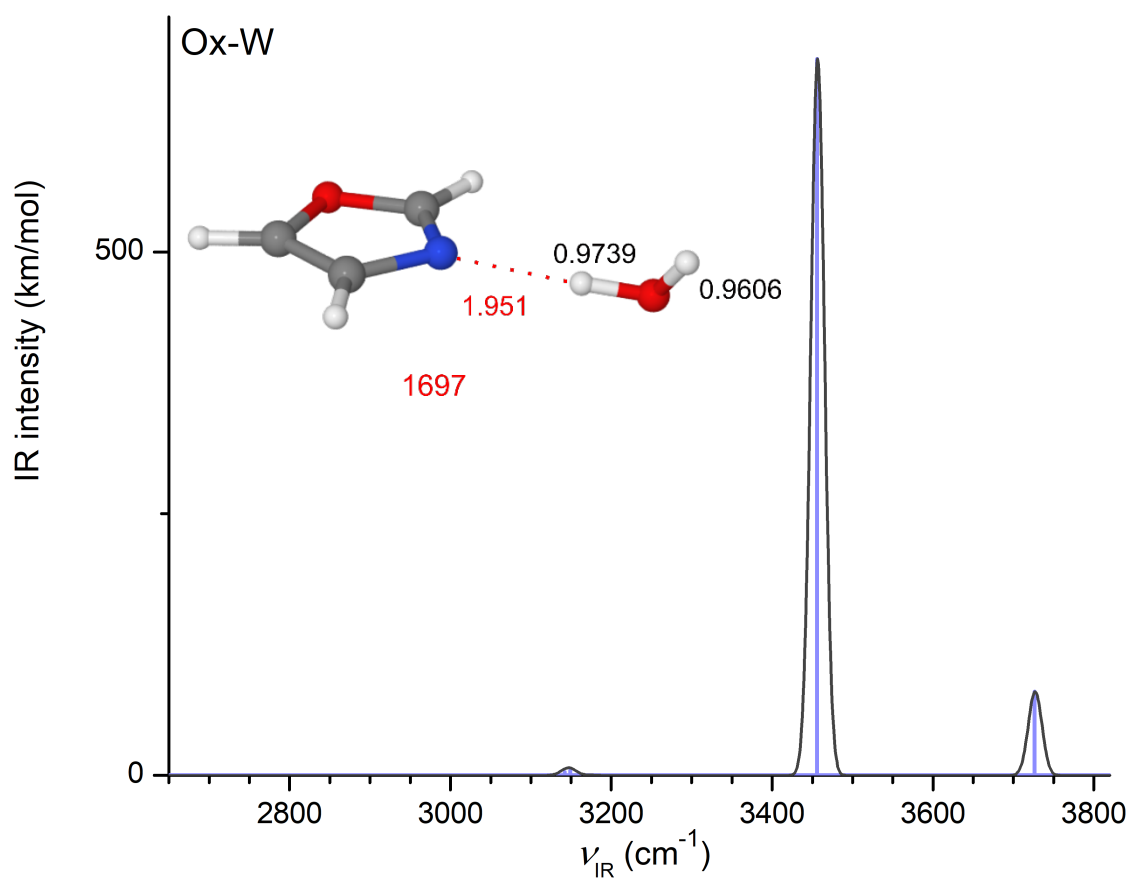


Figure S1

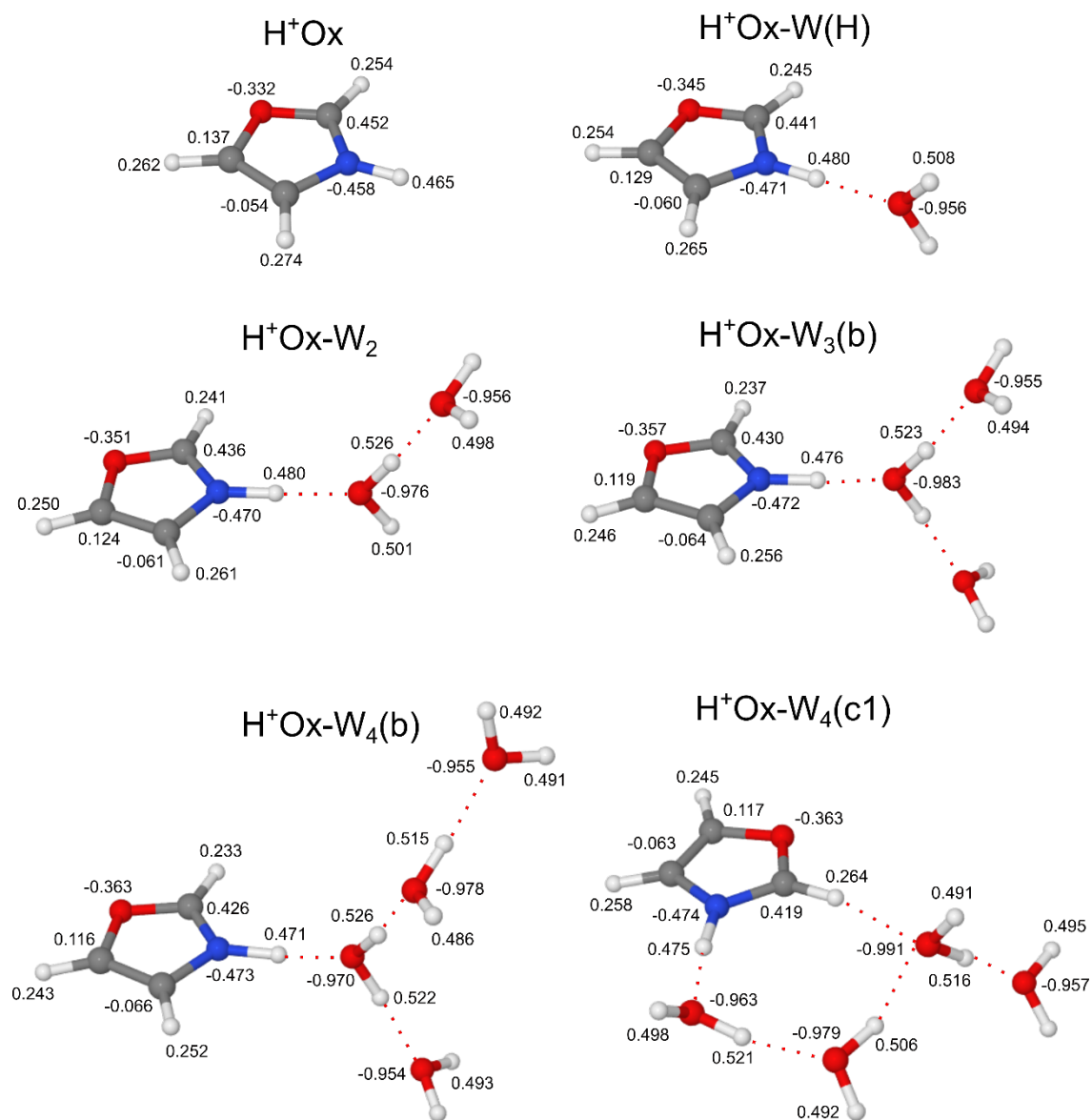


Figure S2

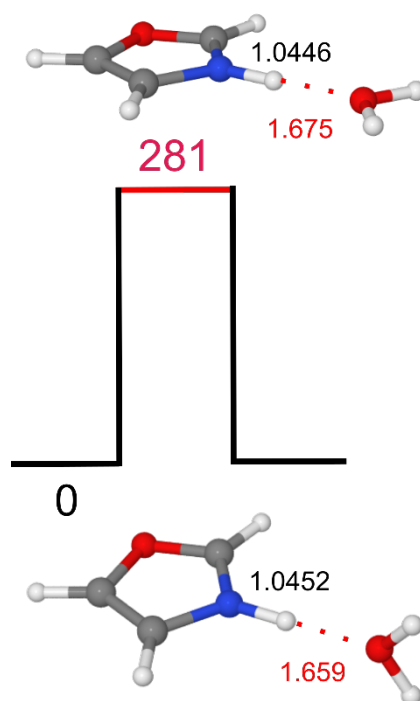


Figure S3

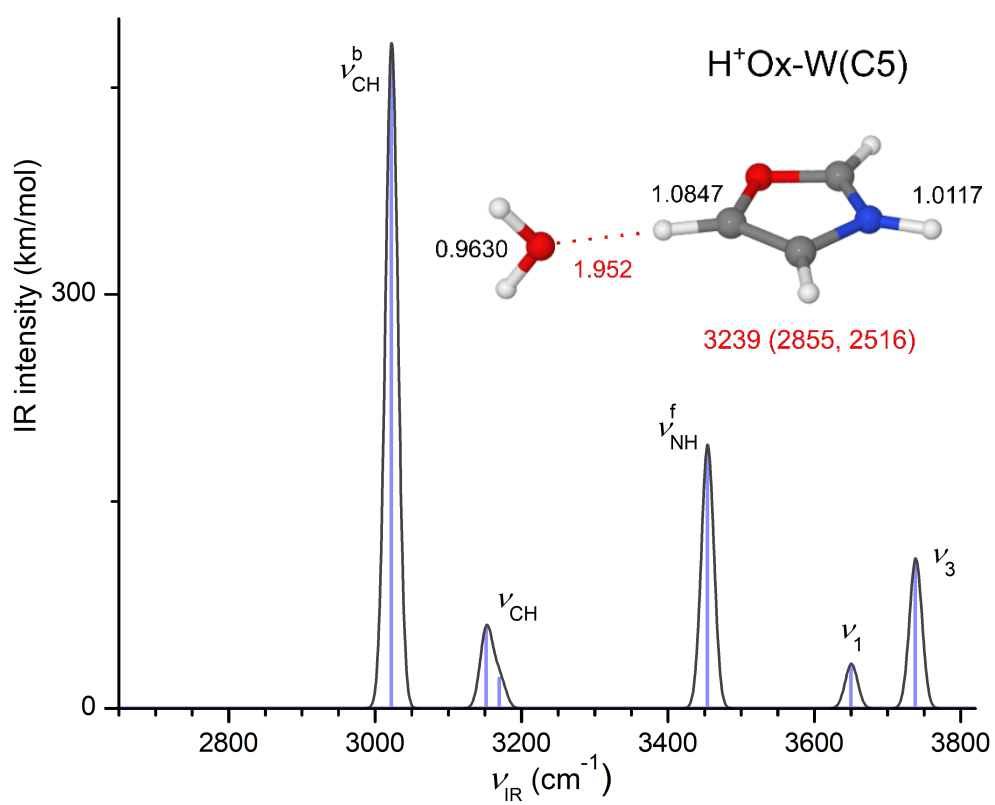


Figure S4

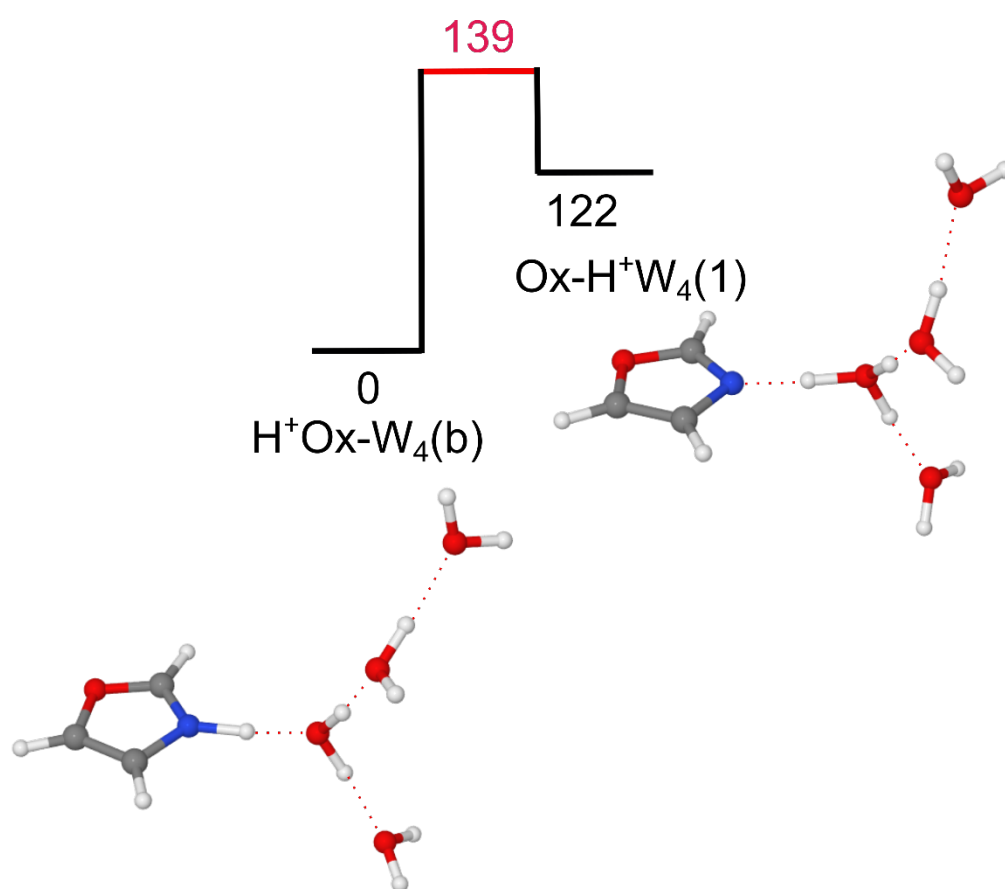


Figure S5

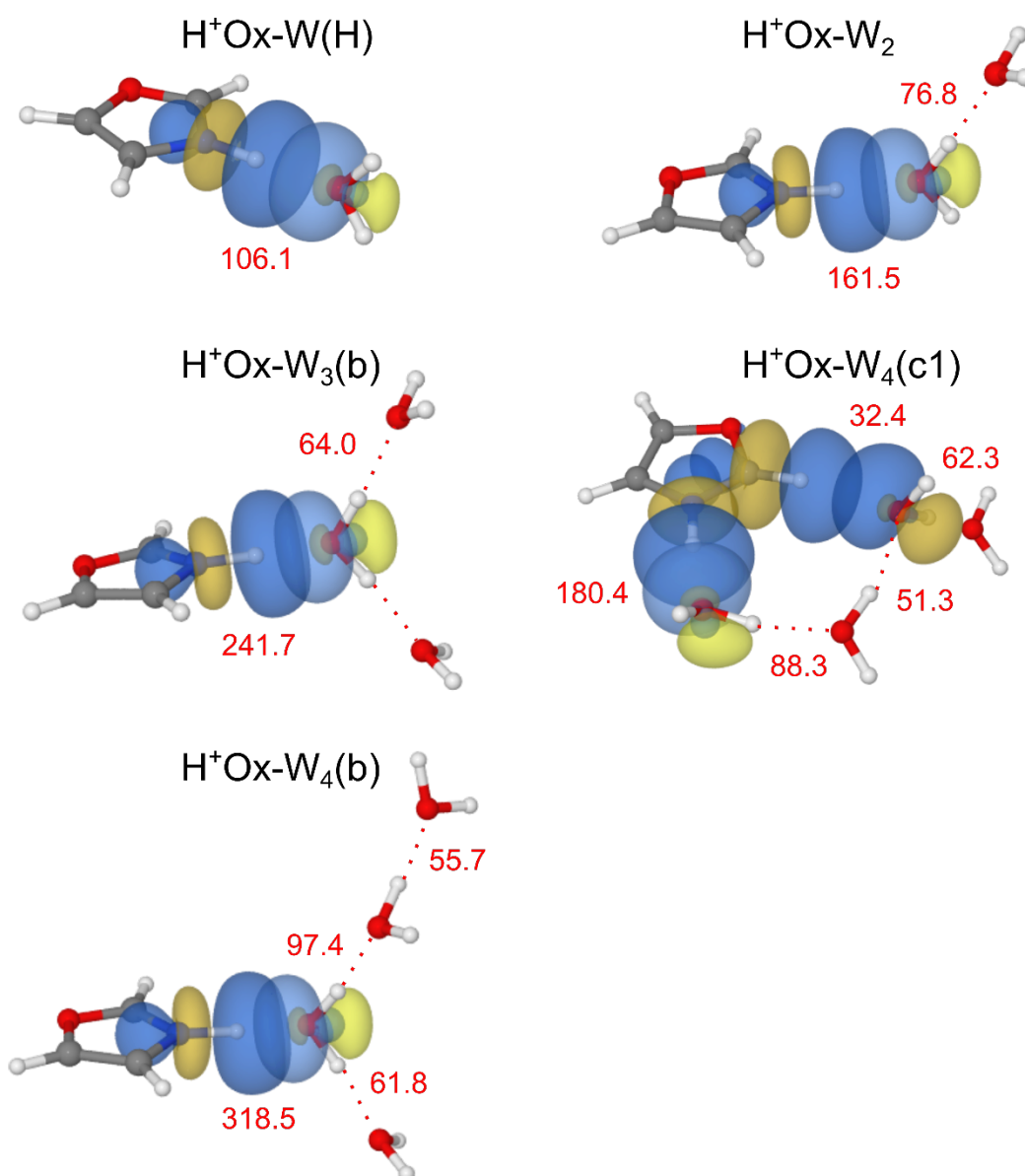


Figure S6

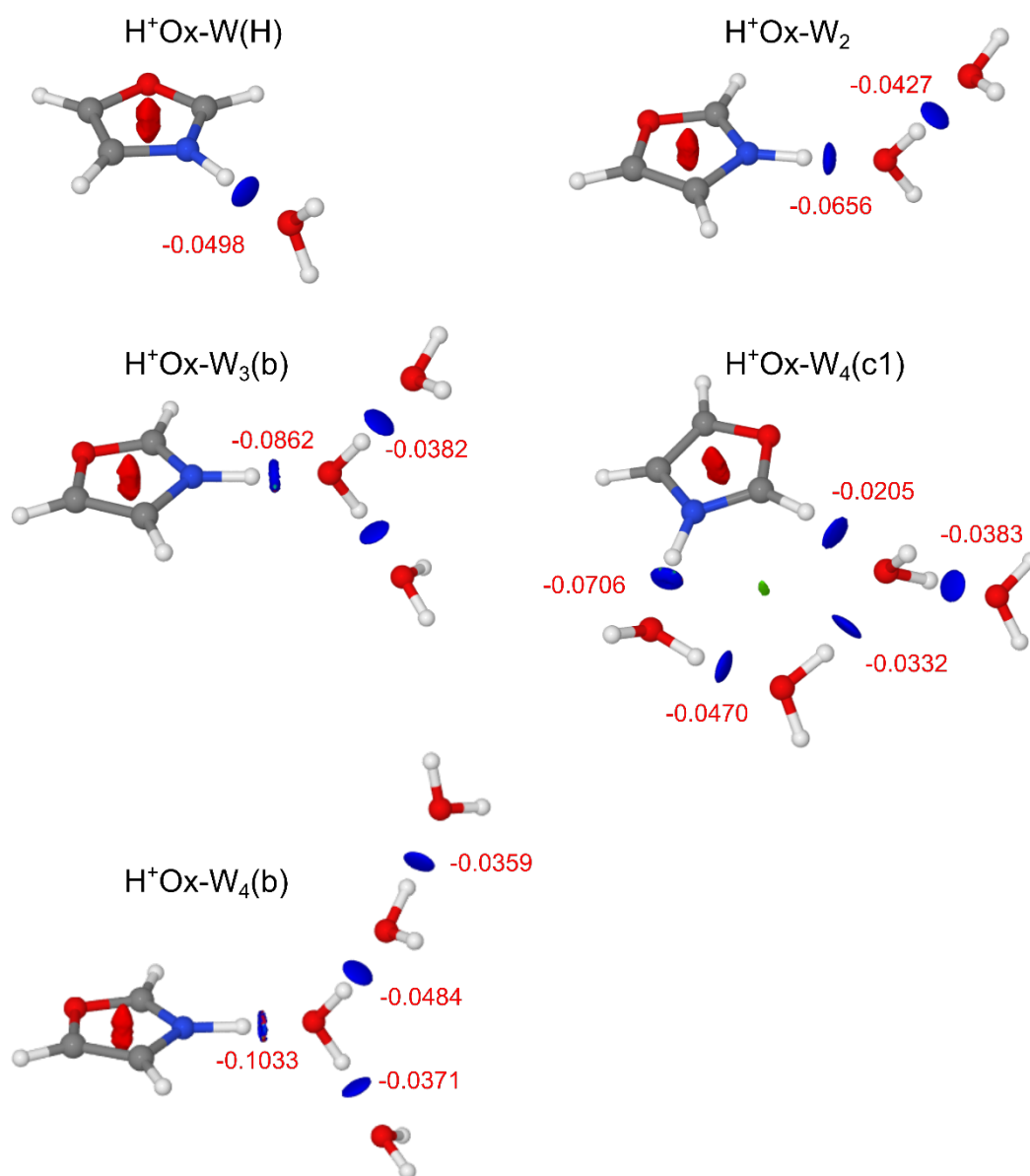


Figure S7



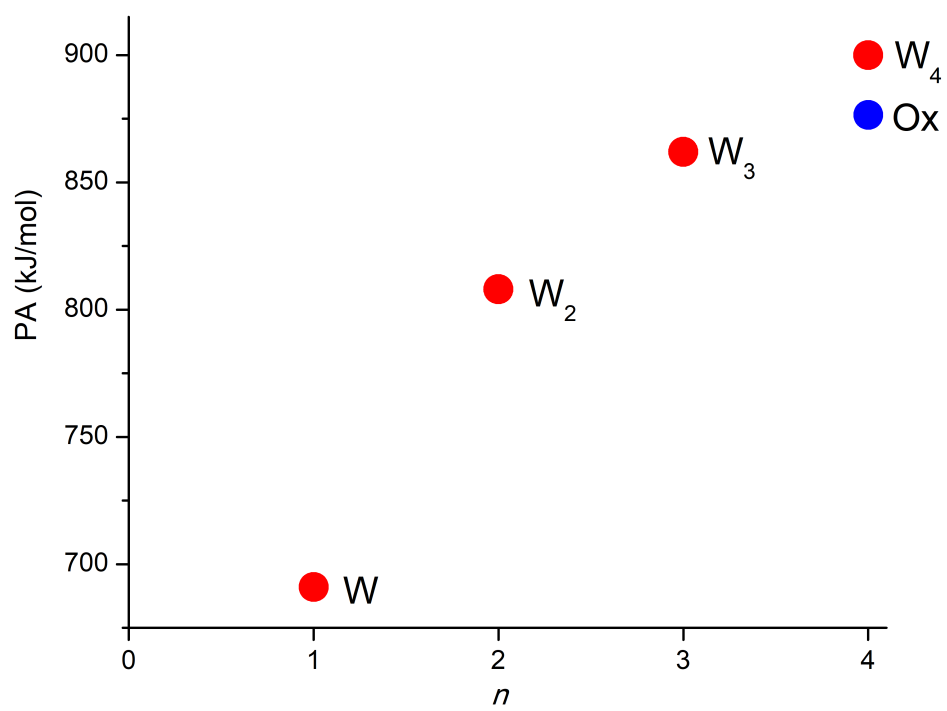


Figure S8