

## Supplementary Information

### Role of heme distortion on oxygen affinity in heme proteins: the protoglobin case

Damián E. Bikiel<sup>1</sup>, Flavio Forti<sup>2</sup>, Leonardo Boechi<sup>1</sup>, Marco Nardini<sup>3</sup>, F. Javier Luque<sup>2</sup>, Marcelo A. Martí<sup>1,4\*</sup>, and Darío A. Estrin<sup>1\*</sup>

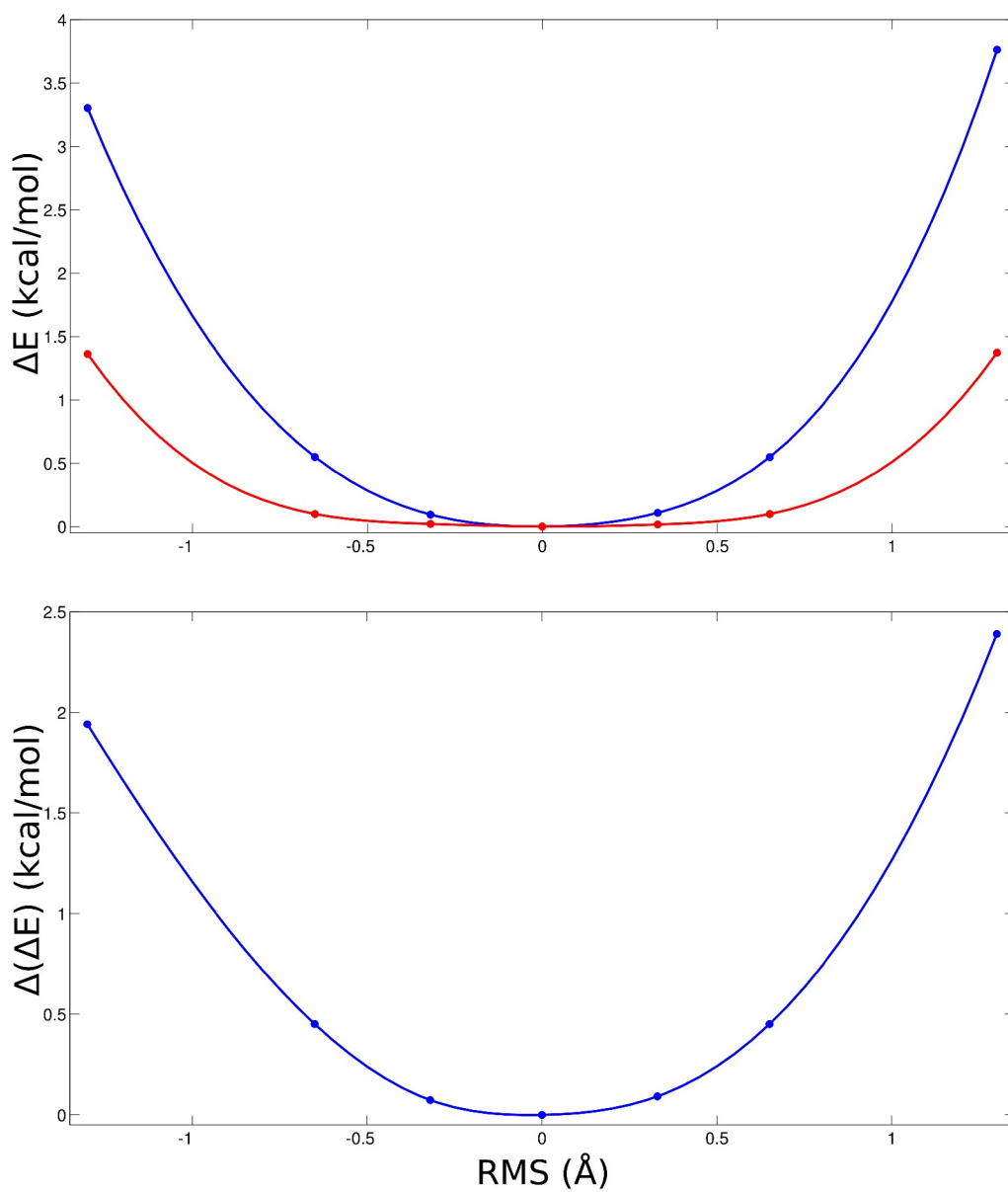
<sup>1</sup>*Departamento de Química Inorgánica, Analítica y Química Física/INQUIMAE-CONICET, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Ciudad Universitaria, Pabellón 2, Buenos Aires, C1428EHA, Argentina.*

<sup>2</sup>*Departament de Fisicoquímica and Institut de Biomedicina (IBUB), Facultat de Farmàcia, Universitat de Barcelona, Av. Diagonal 643, 08028, Barcelona, Spain.*

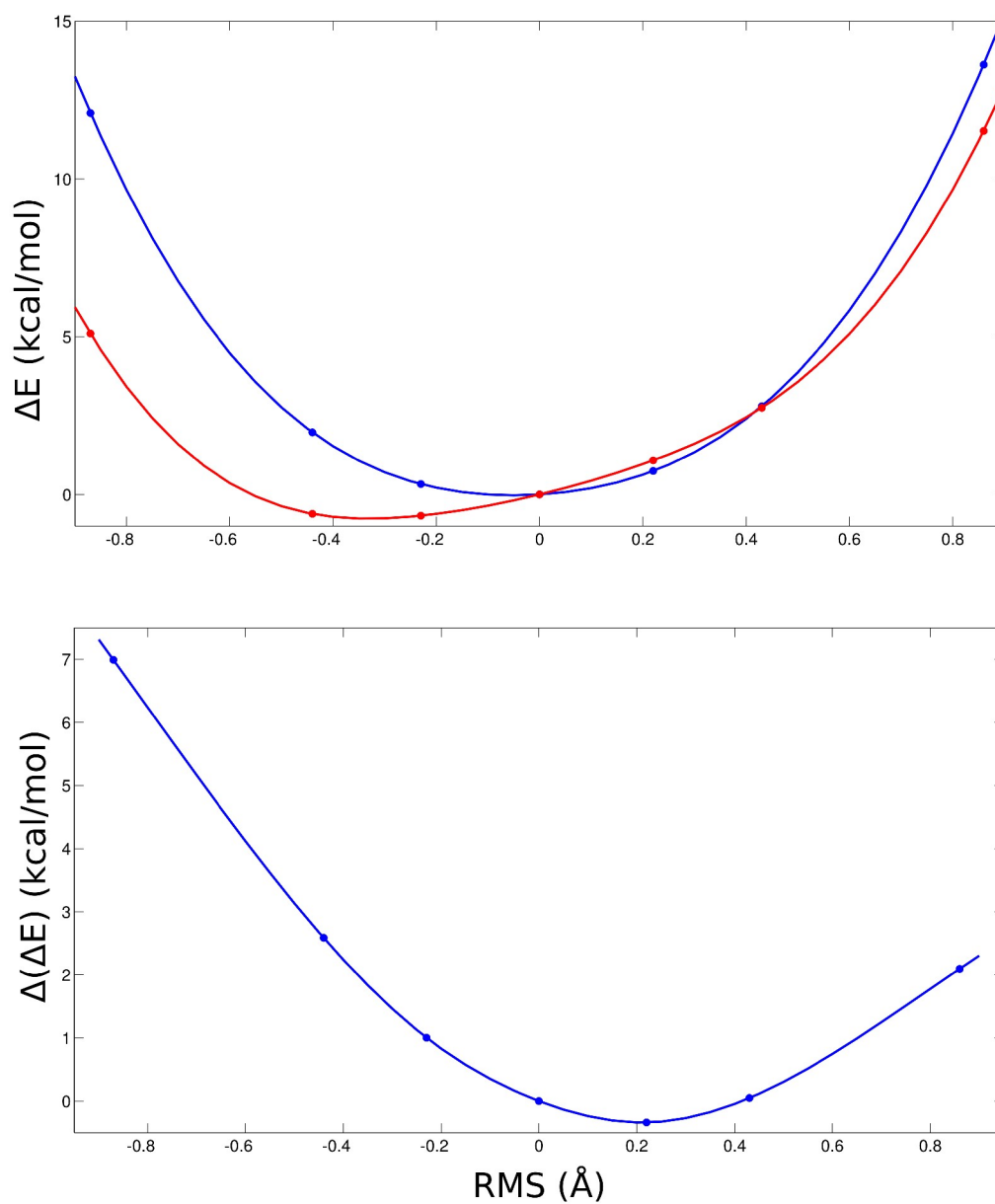
<sup>3</sup> *Department of Biomolecular Sciences and Biotechnology, CNR-INFM, University of Milano, Milano, Italy.*

<sup>4</sup>*Departamento de Química Biológica, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Ciudad Universitaria, Pabellón 2, Buenos Aires, C1428EHA, Argentina.*

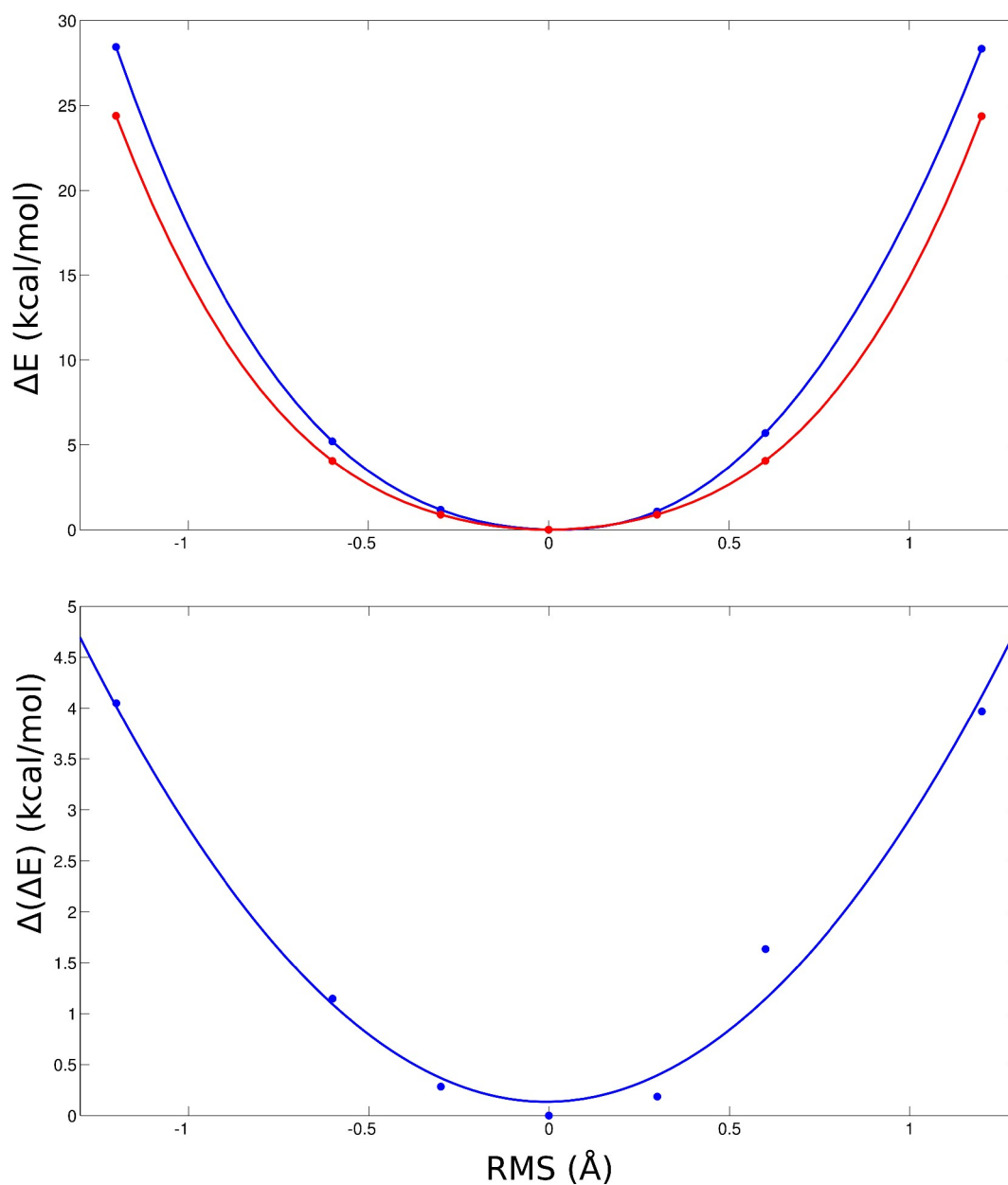
*To whom correspondence should be sent: [dario@qi.fcen.uba.ar](mailto:dario@qi.fcen.uba.ar), [marcelo@qi.fcen.uba.ar](mailto:marcelo@qi.fcen.uba.ar)*



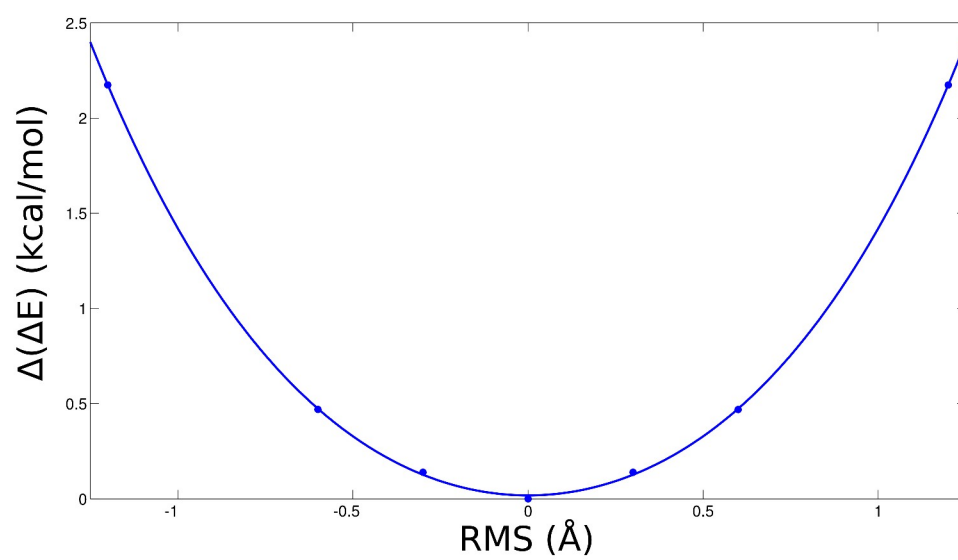
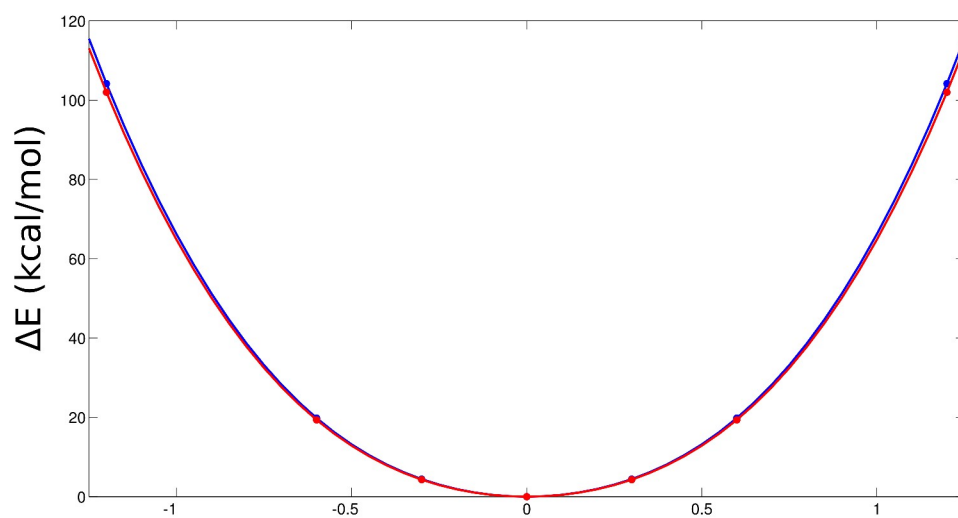
**Figure S1. *Top.* Energy profiles (kcal/mol) for the distortion of the heme following the *sad* mode in oxy (blue) and deoxy (red) states. *Bottom.* Difference between the two distortion energy profiles.**



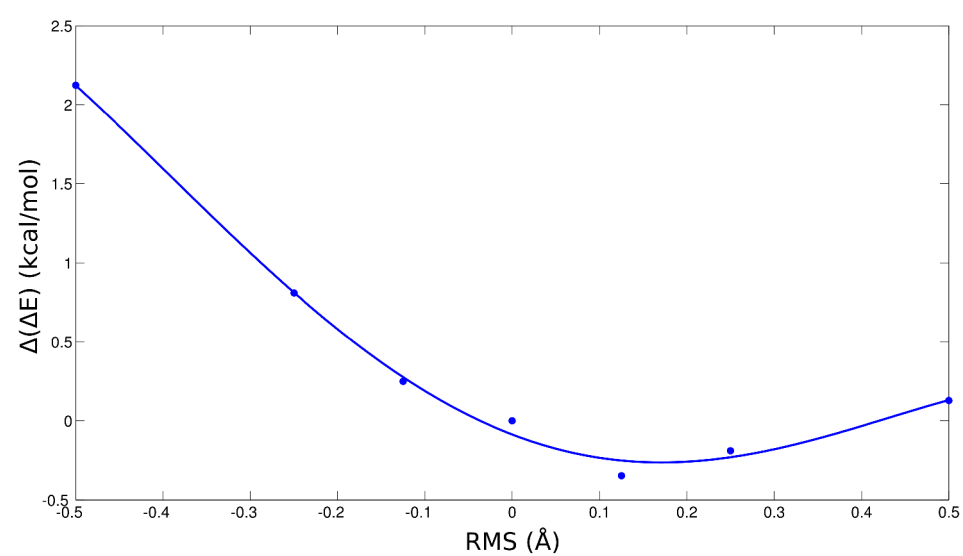
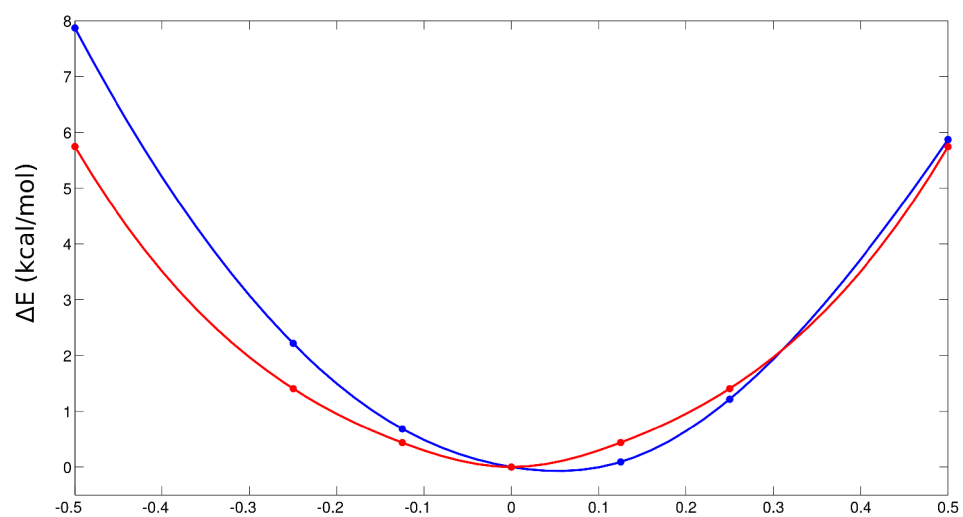
**Figure S2. *Top.* Energy profiles (kcal/mol) for the distortion of the heme following the *dom* mode in oxy (blue) and deoxy (red) states. *Bottom.* Difference between the two distortion energy profiles.**



**Figure S3. *Top.* Energy profiles (kcal/mol) for the distortion of the heme following the *wax* mode in oxy (blue) and deoxy (red) states. *Bottom.* Difference between the two distortion energy profiles.**

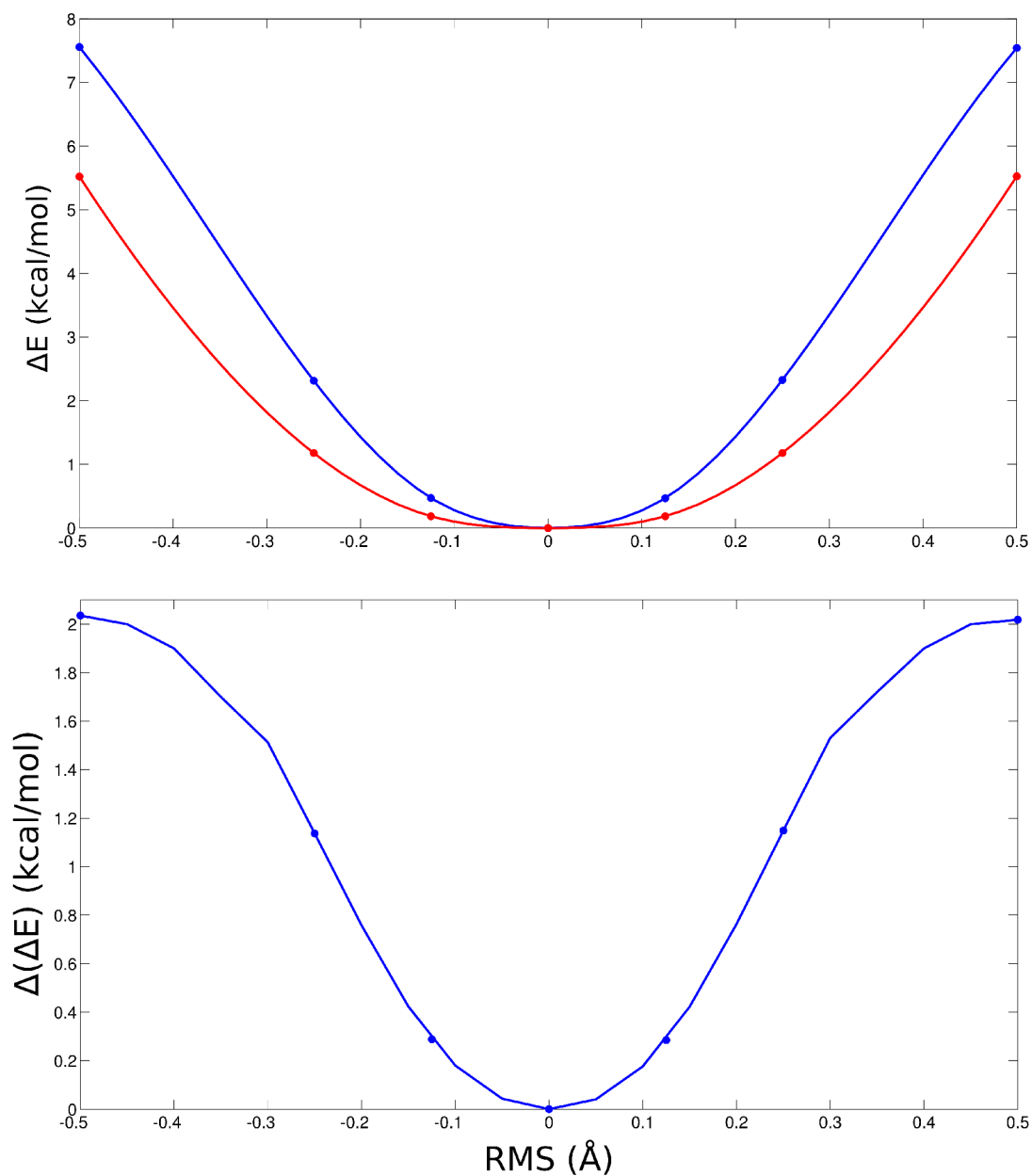


**Figure S4. *Top.* Energy profiles (kcal/mol) for the distortion of the heme following the *pro* mode in oxy (blue) and deoxy (red) states. *Bottom.* Difference between the two distortion energy profiles.**

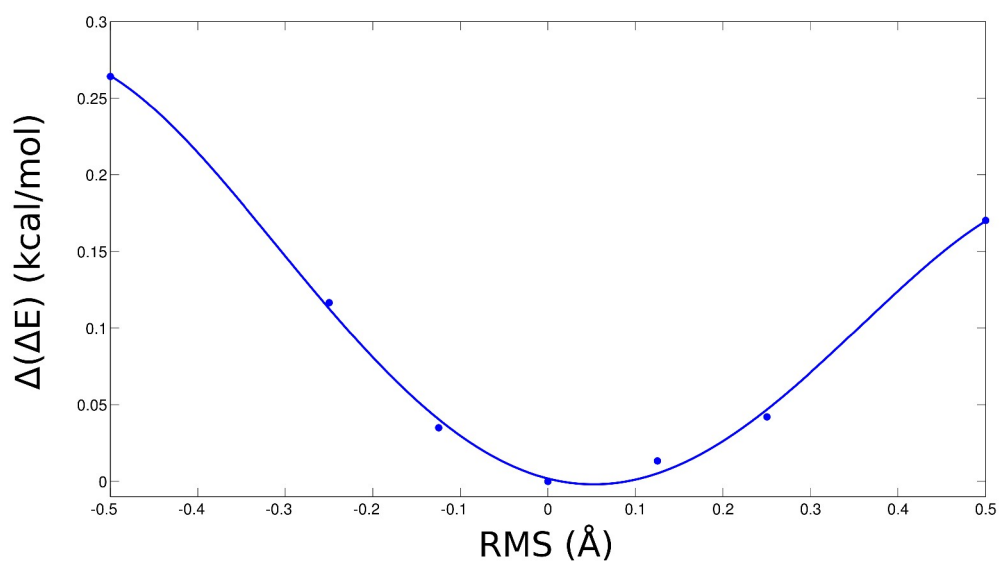
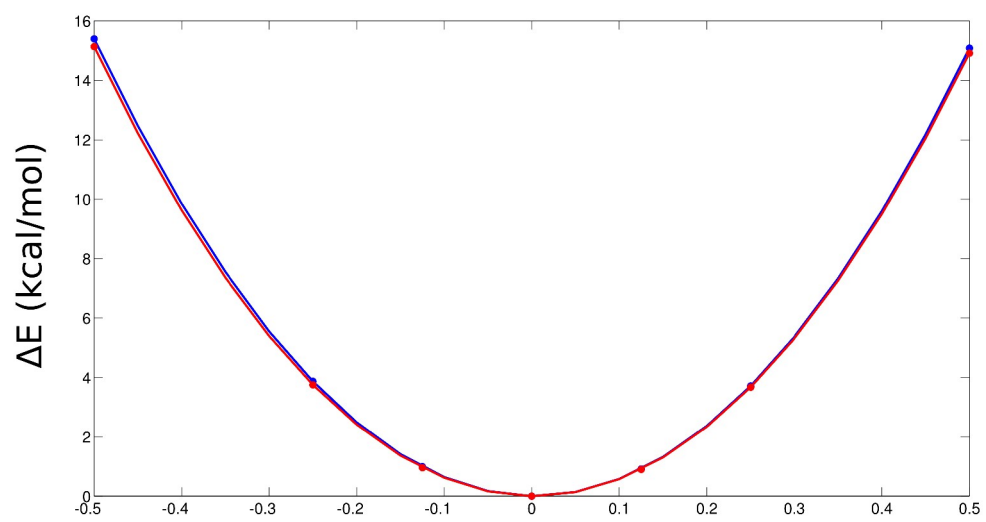


**Figure S5. *Top.* Energy profiles (kcal/mol) for the distortion of the heme following the *mst* mode in oxy (blue) and deoxy (red) states. *Bottom.* Difference between the two distortion energy profiles.**

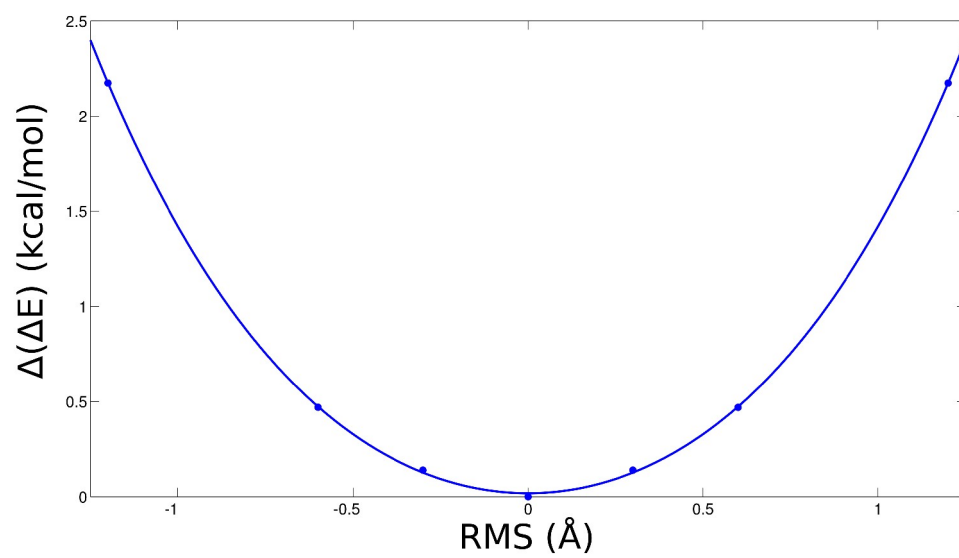
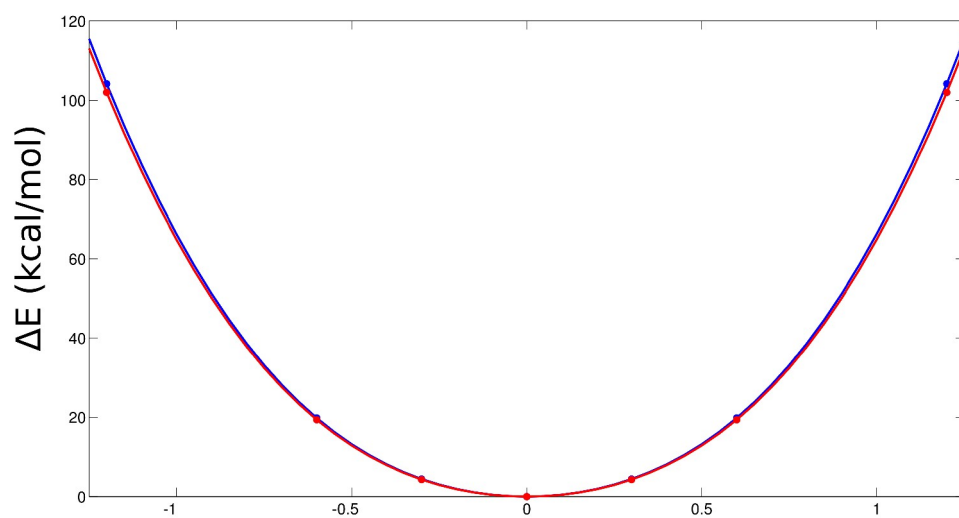




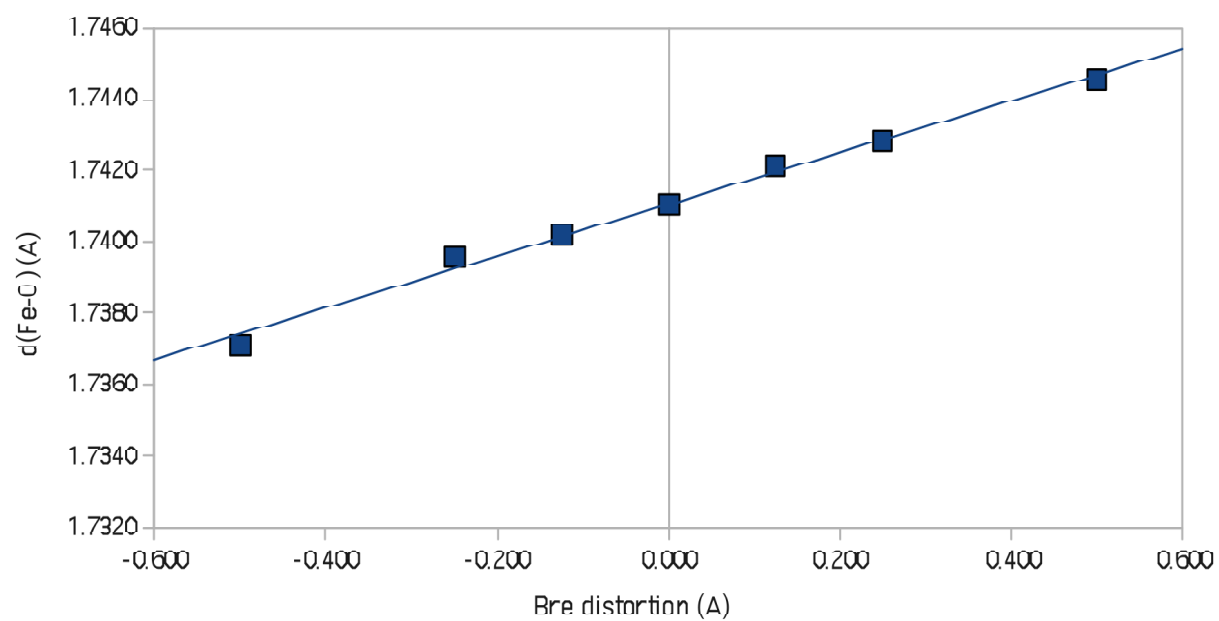
**Figure S6. *Top.* Energy profiles (kcal/mol) for the distortion of the heme following the *nst* mode in oxy (blue) and deoxy (red) states. *Bottom.* Difference between the two distortion energy profiles.**



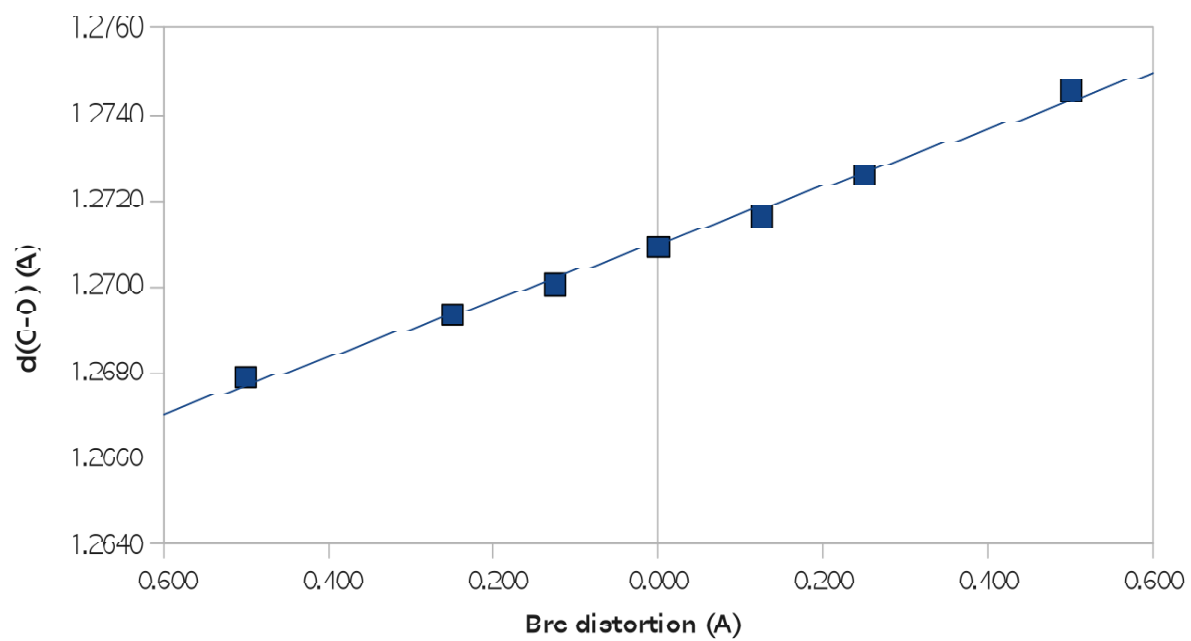
**Figure S7. *Top.* Energy profiles (kcal/mol) for the distortion of the heme following the *trx* mode in oxy (blue) and deoxy (red) states. *Bottom.* Difference between the two distortion energy profiles.**



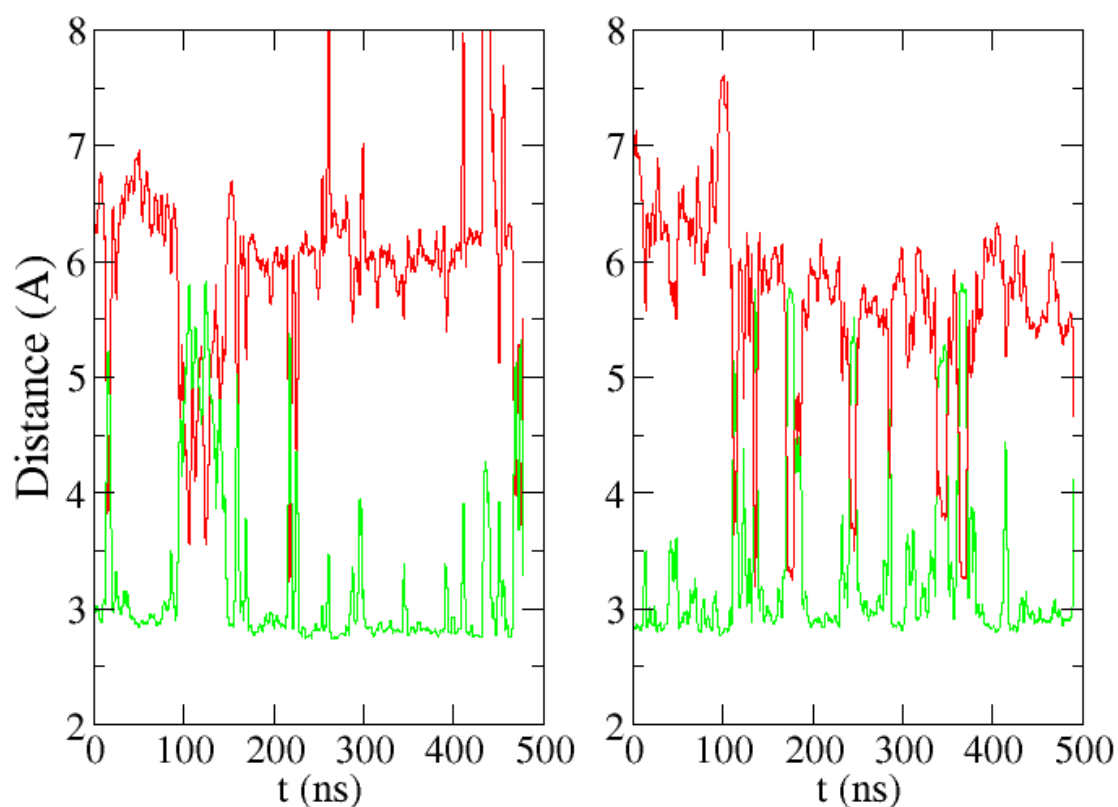
**Figure S8. *Top.* Energy profiles (kcal/mol) for the distortion of the heme following the *rot* mode in oxy (blue) and deoxy (red) states. *Bottom.* Difference between the two distortion energy profiles.**



**Figure S9. Effect of the *bre* mode in the d(Fe-O) distance.**

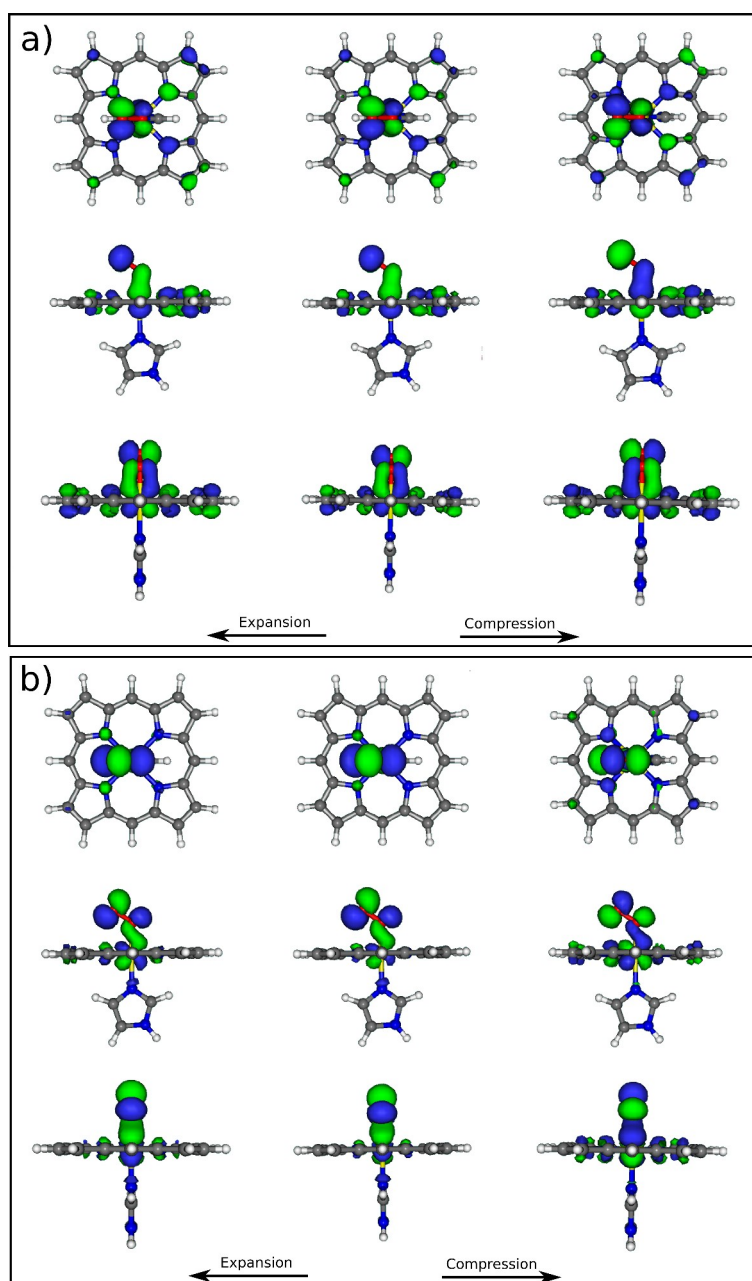


**Figure S10.** Effect of the *bre* mode in the d(O-O) distance.



**Figure S11. Time evolution of the distances between the hydroxyl group of TyrB10 and a) the heme-bound O<sub>2</sub> (red) or the carbonyl oxygen of LeuE5 (green) along the trajectory sampled in a 500 ns molecular dynamics simulation of oxygenated Pgb. The left and right plots denote the evolution of the distances in the two subunits of the dimer.**





**Figure S12. Side and upper views of selected NBO frontier orbitals showing the Fe-O<sub>2</sub> bonding orbitals**