

# Mo Fischer carbene complexes: A DFT study on the prediction of redox potentials

Adebayo A. Adeniyi<sup>\*a,b</sup>, M. Landman<sup>c</sup>, Jeanet Conradie<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, University of the Free State, PO Box 339, Bloemfontein, 9300, South Africa

<sup>b</sup> Department of Industrial Chemistry, Federal University Oye Ekiti, Nigeria

<sup>c</sup> Department of Chemistry, University of Pretoria, 02 Lynnwood Road, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa.

## Supporting Information

### Table of Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Figures.....   | 3 |
| Figure S1: Optimized geometry of the indicated molecules in their neutral (M), reduced (M <sup>-</sup> ), 1e <sup>-</sup> oxidized (M <sup>+</sup> ) and 2e <sup>-</sup> oxidized (M <sup>2+</sup> ) states.....   | 3 |
| Figure S2: Optimized geometry of the indicated molecules, all containing a furyl group, in 2e <sup>-</sup> oxidized (M <sup>2+</sup> ) state.....  | 3 |
| Figure S3: (a) The Mo-C <sub>carbene</sub> bond distance (Å), (b) The HOMO and LUMO distance (in Å), (c) the overlap between the HOMO and LUMO (in au) across the 23 derivatives.....  | 4 |
| Figure S4: The plots of the (a) HOMO, (b) LUMO and (c) dipole moments of the molecules in their neutral (M), reduced (M <sup>-</sup> ), 1e <sup>-</sup> oxidized (M <sup>+</sup> ) and 2e <sup>-</sup> oxidized (M <sup>2+</sup> ) calculated in acetonitrile medium.....  | 4 |
| Figure S5: The correlation of the experimental and calculated reduction potential according to the M <sup>+</sup> , M <sup>++</sup> and M <sup>2+</sup> calculated oxidation potential using (a) – (c) B3LYP and (d) - (f) M06 functional method.....  | 5 |
| Figure S6: The correlation of the experimental oxidation potential (OP) with the calculated oxidation potential using the derivatives that best represent M <sup>2+</sup> ( <b>1d, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4g</b> ) and M <sup>++</sup> ( <b>1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3b, 3c, 4f, 4h, 5a, 5b</b> and <b>5c</b> ) oxidation potentials as indicated using the B3LYP and M06.....   | 5 |
| Figure S7: The correlation of the experimental oxidation potential (OP) with the calculated ionization potential of (a) M <sup>++</sup> using all derivatives except <i>fac</i> isomers of model 5 (b) M <sup>++</sup> using selected derivatives ( <b>1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3b, 3c, 4f, 4h, 5a, 5b</b> and <b>5c</b> ), (c) M <sup>2+</sup> using all derivatives (b) M <sup>2+</sup> using selected derivatives ( <b>1d, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4g</b> ).....                                   | 6 |
| Figure S8: Relating the MESP minimum (V <sub>min</sub> ), Mo atomic potential (V(Mo)), carbene C atomic potential (V(C)), HOMO and LUMO energies and ionization potential (IP) calculated for 1e <sup>-</sup> oxidized molecules (1p) and related to the experimental OP and (a) calculated OP at M <sup>+</sup> state and (b) the clustering of derivatives, (c) calculated OP at M <sup>++</sup> state with the computed properties at M <sup>+</sup> state and (d) the clustering of derivatives..... | 6 |
| Tables.....  | 7 |
| Table S1: The electron affinity (EA in eV), ionization potential (IP in eV) and change in solvation energy from the neutral to reduced or oxidation state (ΔΔG <sub>sol</sub> ) in eV calculated using B3LYP.....  | 7 |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Table S2: The minimum MESP ( $V_{\min}$ ) and the maximum MESP ( $V_{\max}$ ) in the complexes (in kcal/mol). ..... | 8 |
| Table S3: The atomic potential (V) of Mo and carbene carbon atom in the complexes in au. ....                       | 9 |

# Figures

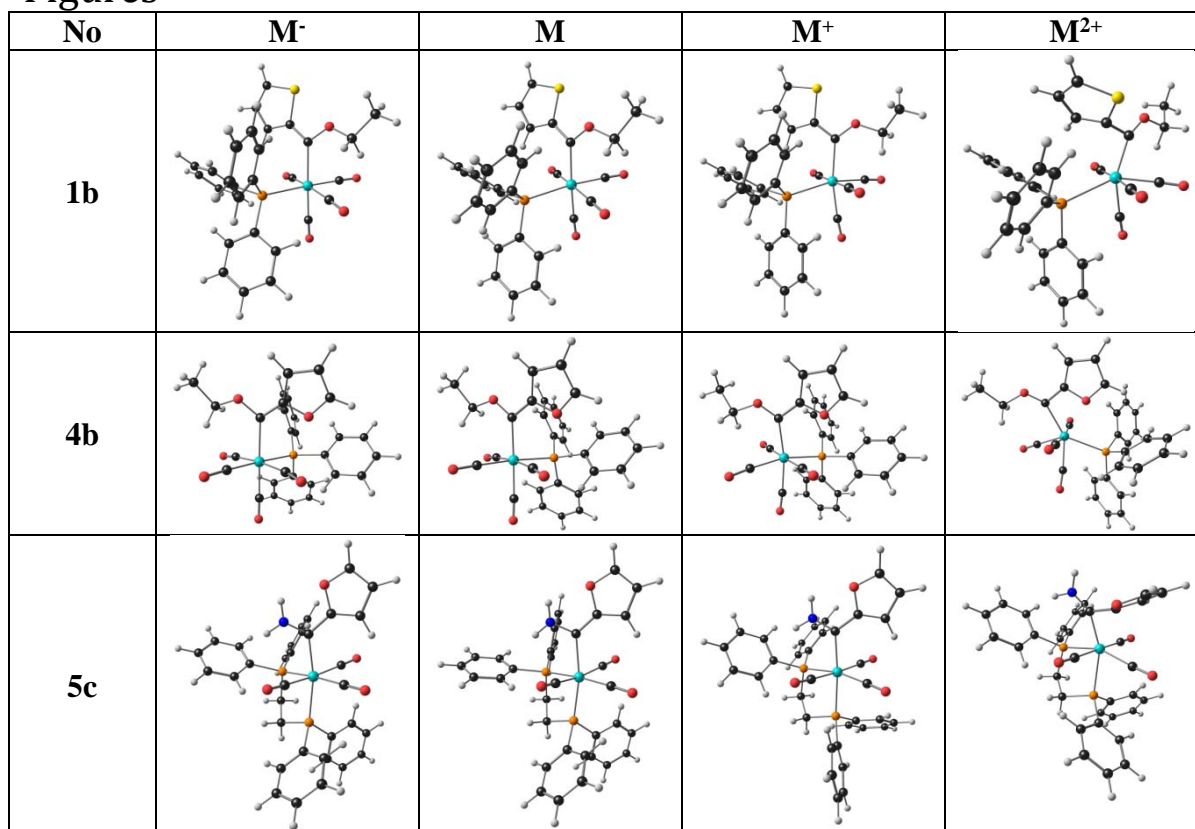


Figure S1: Optimized geometry of the indicated molecules in their neutral (M), reduced (M<sup>-</sup>), 1e<sup>-</sup> oxidized (M<sup>+</sup>) and 2e<sup>-</sup> oxidized (M<sup>2+</sup>) states.

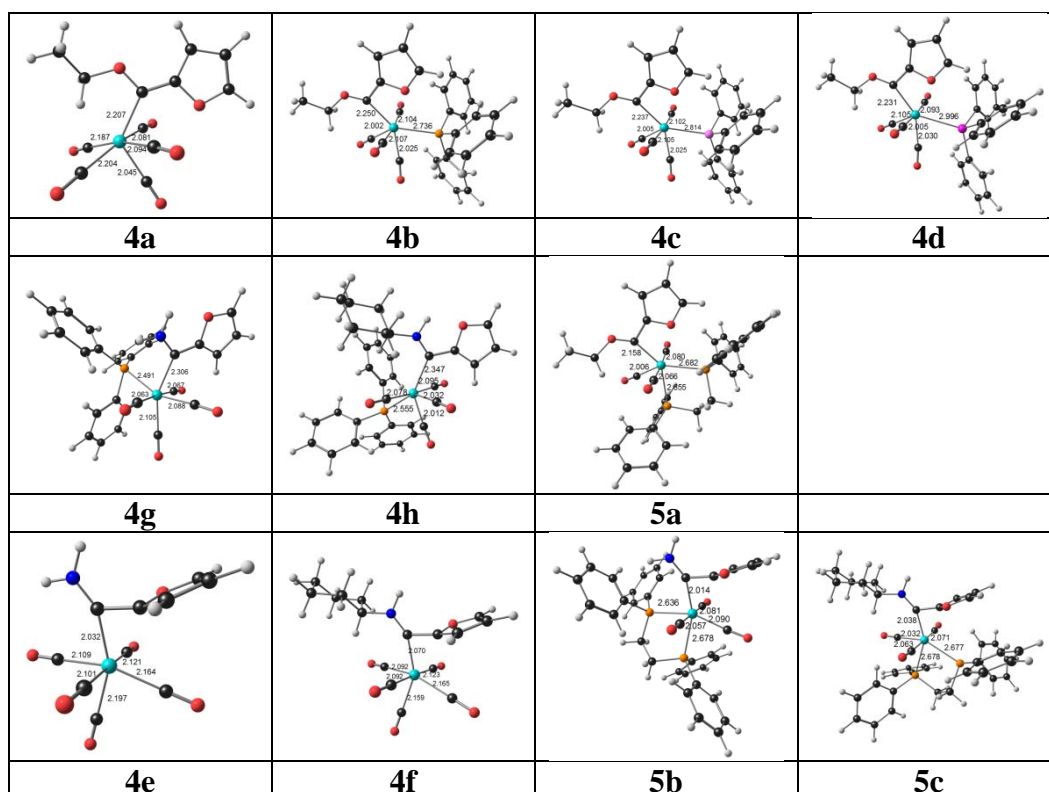


Figure S2: Optimized geometry of the indicated molecules, all containing a furyl group, in 2e<sup>-</sup> oxidized (M<sup>2+</sup>) state.

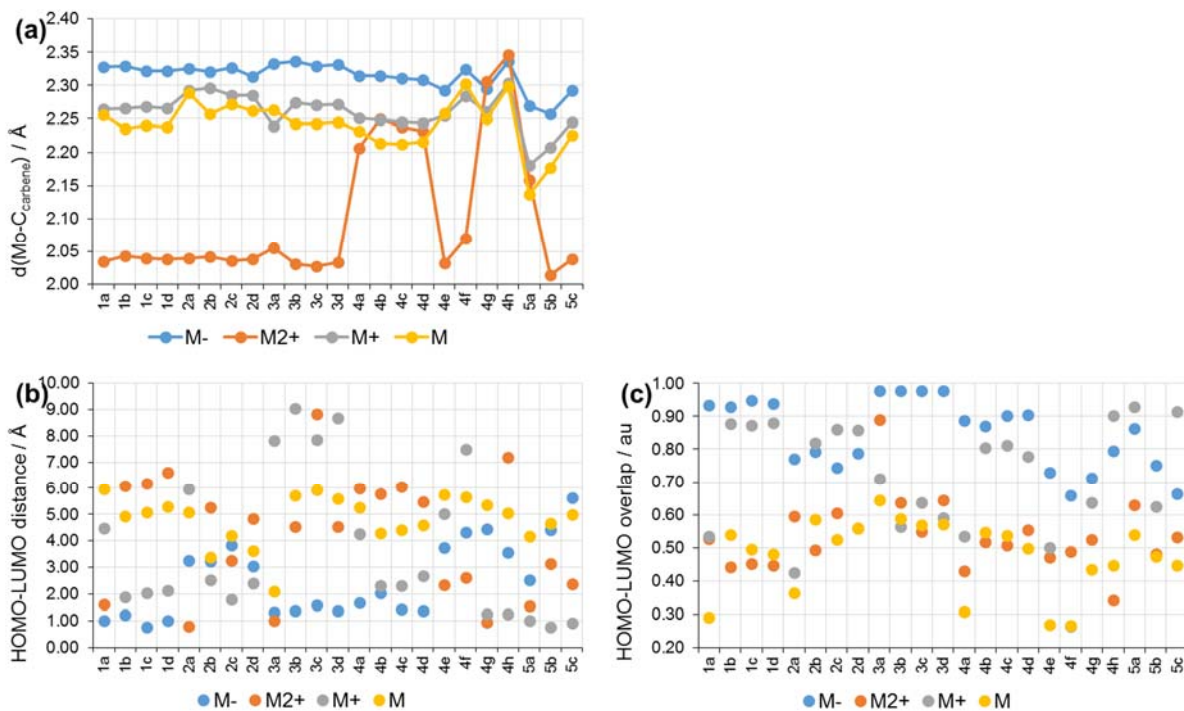


Figure S3: (a) The Mo-C<sub>carbene</sub> bond distance (Å), (b) The HOMO and LUMO distance (in Å), (c) the overlap between the HOMO and LUMO (in au) across the 23 derivatives

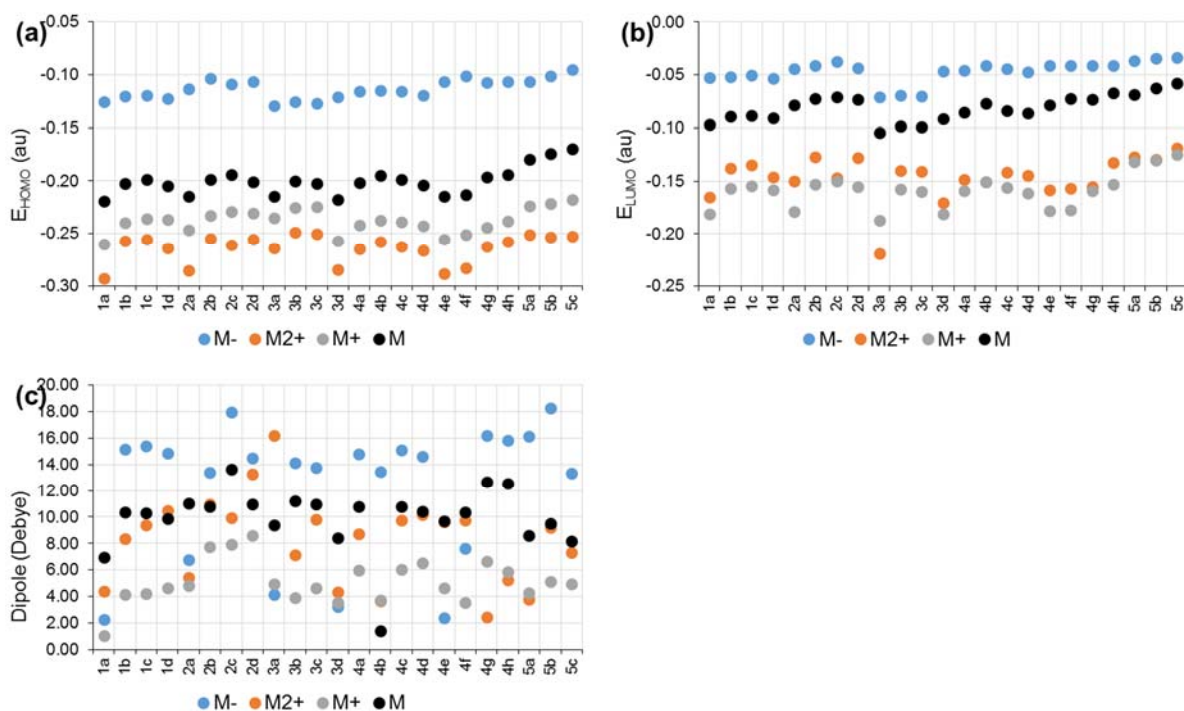


Figure S4: The plots of the (a) HOMO, (b) LUMO and (c) dipole moments of the molecules in their neutral (M), reduced (M<sup>-</sup>), 1e<sup>-</sup> oxidized (M<sup>+</sup>) and 2e<sup>-</sup> oxidized (M<sup>2+</sup>) calculated in acetonitrile medium

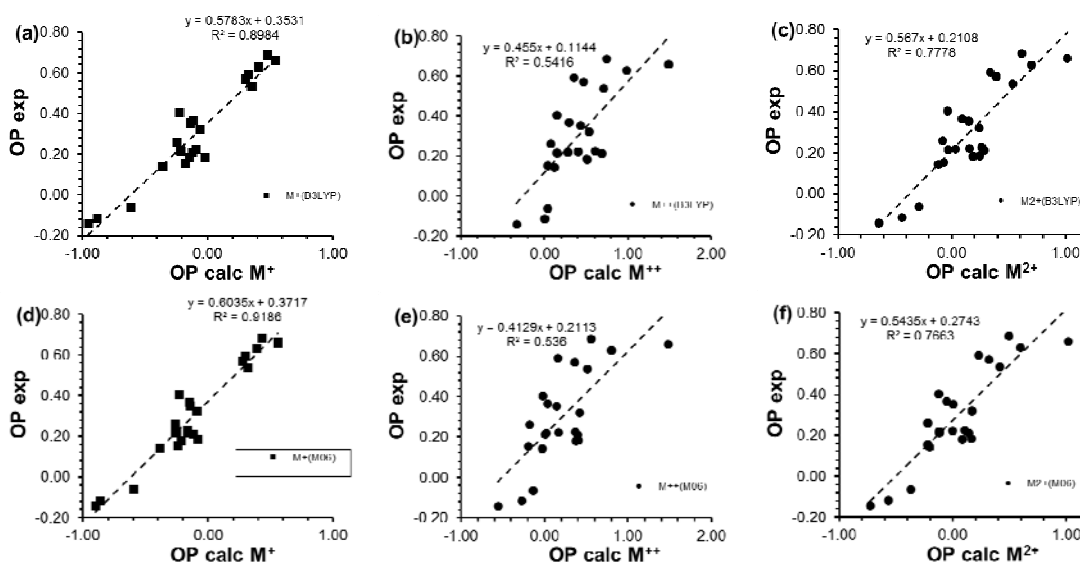


Figure S5: The correlation of the experimental and calculated reduction potential according to the M<sup>+</sup>, M<sup>++</sup> and M<sup>2+</sup> calculated oxidation potential using (a) – (c) B3LYP and (d) - (f) M06 functional method.

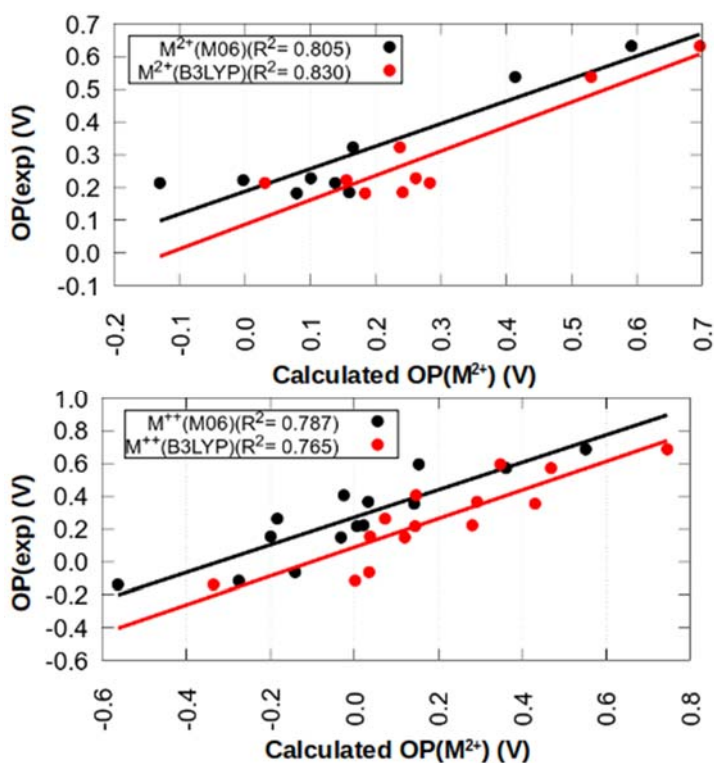


Figure S6: The correlation of the experimental oxidation potential (OP) with the calculated oxidation potential using the derivatives that best represent M<sup>2+</sup> (1d, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4g) and M<sup>++</sup> (1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3b, 3c, 4f, 4h, 5a, 5b and 5c) oxidation potentials as indicated using the B3LYP and M06.

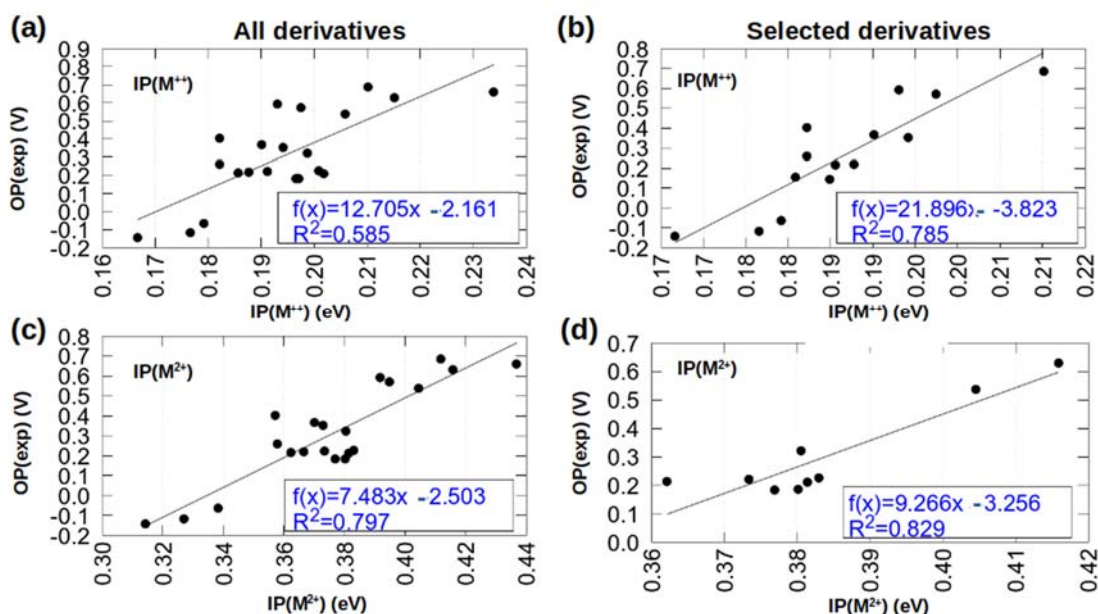


Figure S7: The correlation of the experimental oxidation potential (OP) with the calculated ionization potential of (a)  $M^{+}$  using all derivatives except *fac* isomers of model 5 (b)  $M^{+}$  using selected derivatives (1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3b, 3c, 4f, 4h, 5a, 5b and 5c), (c)  $M^{2+}$  using all derivatives (b)  $M^{2+}$  using selected derivatives (1d, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4g).

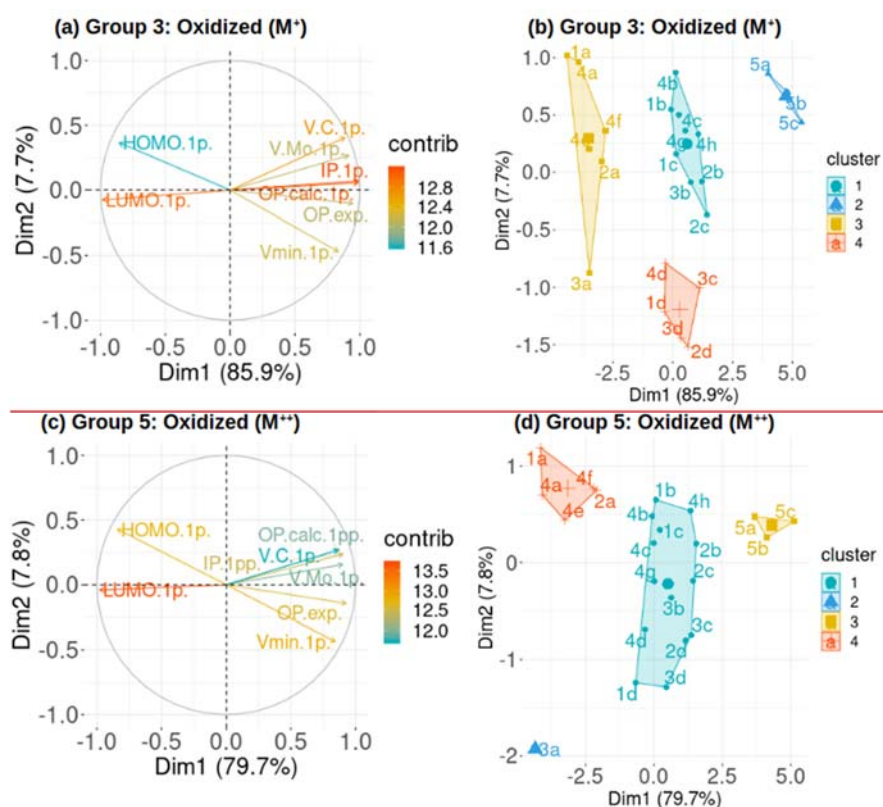


Figure S8: Relating the MESP minimum ( $V_{\min}$ ), Mo atomic potential ( $V(\text{Mo})$ ), carbene C atomic potential ( $V(\text{C})$ ), HOMO and LUMO energies and ionization potential (IP) calculated for  $1e^{-}$  oxidized molecules (1p) and related to the experimental OP and (a) calculated OP at  $M^{+}$  state and (b) the clustering of derivatives, (c) calculated OP at  $M^{2+}$  state with the computed properties at  $M^{+}$  state and (d) the clustering of derivatives

## Tables

Table S1: The electron affinity (EA in eV), ionization potential (IP in eV) and change in solvation energy from the neutral to reduced or oxidation state ( $\Delta\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$ ) in eV calculated using B3LYP

| Molecules | M <sup>-</sup>      | M <sup>+</sup>      | M <sup>++</sup>      | M <sup>2+</sup>      | M <sup>-</sup>                            | M <sup>+</sup>                            | M <sup>++</sup>                              | M <sup>2+</sup>                              |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|---|--|--|
|           | EA(M <sup>-</sup> ) | IP(M <sup>+</sup> ) | IP(M <sup>++</sup> ) | IP(M <sup>2+</sup> ) | $\Delta\Delta G_{\text{sol}}(\text{M}^-)$ | $\Delta\Delta G_{\text{sol}}(\text{M}^+)$ | $\Delta\Delta G_{\text{sol}}(\text{M}^{++})$ | $\Delta\Delta G_{\text{sol}}(\text{M}^{2+})$ |
| <b>1a</b> | -1.849              | 7.340               | 10.792               | 18.132               | -1.290                                    | 1.878                                     | 5.042  | 6.920  |
| <b>1b</b> | -1.620              | 6.423               | 9.624                | 16.047               | -1.329                                    | 1.509                                     | 4.437  | 5.946  |
| <b>1c</b> | -1.631              | 6.506               | 9.554                | 16.061               | -1.321                                    | 1.631                                     | 4.431  | 6.062  |
| <b>1d</b> | -1.738              | 6.598               | 9.510                | 16.107               | -1.244                                    | 1.628                                     | 4.032  | 5.659  |
| <b>2a</b> | -1.369              | 7.159               | 10.473               | 17.632               | -1.286                                    | 1.750                                     | 5.215  | 6.965  |
| <b>2b</b> | -1.189              | 6.250               | 9.368                | 15.618               | -1.296                                    | 1.453                                     | 4.400  | 5.853  |
| <b>2c</b> | -1.213              | 6.222               | 9.656                | 15.878               | -1.228                                    | 1.538                                     | 4.619  | 6.157  |
| <b>2d</b> | -1.301              | 6.416               | 9.264                | 15.681               | -1.193                                    | 1.546                                     | 4.333  | 5.880  |
| <b>3a</b> | -2.116              | 7.121               | 10.768               | 17.888               | -1.176                                    | 1.602                                     | 4.453  | 6.055  |
| <b>3b</b> | -1.896              | 6.278               | 9.263                | 15.541               | -1.223                                    | 1.400                                     | 3.965  | 5.365  |
| <b>3c</b> | -1.917              | 6.282               | 9.456                | 15.739               | -1.176                                    | 1.464                                     | 4.400  | 5.864  |
| <b>3d</b> | -1.996              | 6.450               | 9.142                | 15.592               | -1.153                                    | 1.481                                     | 3.925  | 5.406  |
| <b>4a</b> | -1.711              | 7.275               | 11.415               | 18.690               | -1.304                                    | 1.812                                     | 5.559  | 7.371  |
| <b>4b</b> | -1.499              | 6.371               | 9.692                | 16.063               | -1.347                                    | 1.405                                     | 4.267  | 5.672  |
| <b>4c</b> | -1.266              | 6.164               | 9.464                | 15.627               | -1.419                                    | 1.434                                     | 4.061  | 5.495  |
| <b>4d</b> | -1.531              | 6.413               | 9.713                | 16.127               | -1.308                                    | 1.508                                     | 4.333  | 5.841  |
| <b>4e</b> | -1.622              | 6.484               | 9.654                | 16.139               | -1.256                                    | 1.474                                     | 4.289  | 5.763  |
| <b>4f</b> | -1.414              | 7.319               | 11.036               | 18.355               | -1.238                                    | 1.908                                     | 5.428  | 7.336  |
| <b>4g</b> | -1.263              | 7.131               | 10.494               | 17.625               | -1.242                                    | 1.760                                     | 5.114  | 6.874  |
| <b>4h</b> | -1.220              | 6.311               | 9.666                | 15.977               | -1.296                                    | 1.407                                     | 4.151  | 5.558  |
| <b>4i</b> | -1.140              | 6.176               | 9.384                | 15.560               | -1.242                                    | 1.395                                     | 4.401  | 5.796  |
| <b>5a</b> | -1.074              | 5.633               | 8.869                | 14.501               | -1.397                                    | 1.268                                     | 3.970  | 5.238  |
| <b>5b</b> | -0.890              | 5.480               | 8.890                | 14.369               | -1.396                                    | 1.354                                     | 4.068  | 5.421  |
| <b>5c</b> | -0.834              | 5.353               | 8.468                | 13.821               | -1.331                                    | 1.304                                     | 3.911  | 5.216  |

Table S2: The minimum MESP ( $V_{\min}$ ) and the maximum MESP ( $V_{\max}$ ) in the complexes (in kcal/mol).

|           | $V_{\min}$ |                |                |                 | $V_{\max}$ |                |                |                 |
|-----------|------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
|           | M          | M <sup>-</sup> | M <sup>+</sup> | M <sup>2+</sup> | M          | M <sup>-</sup> | M <sup>+</sup> | M <sup>2+</sup> |
| <b>1a</b> | -26.14     | -92.84         | 50.10          | 108.16          | 34.66      | -16.23         | 126.19         | 216.42          |
| <b>1b</b> | -39.71     | -104.47        | 36.07          | 89.09           | 31.39      | -16.64         | 100.63         | 193.95          |
| <b>1c</b> | -34.56     | -101.08        | 37.14          | 85.38           | 34.97      | -15.53         | 110.45         | 196.44          |
| <b>1d</b> | -23.76     | -93.73         | 28.72          | 75.19           | 32.58      | -15.03         | 113.57         | 223.65          |
| <b>2a</b> | -35.16     | -100.33        | 41.01          | 108.93          | 47.47      | -8.55          | 117.46         | 214.34          |
| <b>2b</b> | -41.30     | -106.27        | 27.96          | 86.74           | 31.21      | -15.52         | 92.41          | 190.44          |
| <b>2c</b> | -40.87     | -104.54        | 29.58          | 80.17           | 41.02      | -12.91         | 97.74          | 194.70          |
| <b>2d</b> | -31.66     | -112.67        | 24.45          | 71.53           | 43.25      | 2.21           | 113.99         | 219.90          |
| <b>3a</b> | -27.18     | -90.51         | 39.57          | 101.08          | 32.65      | -3.18          | 106.97         | 194.23          |
| <b>3b</b> | -37.69     | -101.41        | 32.06          | 81.72           | 28.28      | -8.07          | 96.37          | 182.27          |
| <b>3c</b> | -35.97     | -96.05         | 25.53          | 78.35           | 50.37      | -10.23         | 104.39         | 191.78          |
| <b>3d</b> | -24.53     | -91.69         | 27.13          | 70.66           | 32.31      | -2.57          | 110.13         | 214.58          |
| <b>4a</b> | -27.34     | -96.92         | 48.35          | 113.54          | 32.98      | -16.36         | 121.85         | 235.36          |
| <b>4b</b> | -41.41     | -103.90        | 35.23          | 83.02           | 29.65      | -17.43         | 96.30          | 208.63          |
| <b>4c</b> | -36.64     | -102.48        | 36.67          | 80.46           | 42.26      | -17.63         | 104.60         | 210.28          |
| <b>4d</b> | -25.51     | -97.30         | 28.12          | 71.47           | 29.62      | -17.76         | 115.42         | 210.43          |
| <b>4e</b> | -34.57     | -103.96        | 42.81          | 111.83          | 69.76      | -3.67          | 154.04         | 216.54          |
| <b>4f</b> | -39.07     | -107.72        | 39.80          | 85.96           | 69.07      | -4.01          | 124.93         | 215.87          |
| <b>4g</b> | -41.17     | -108.52        | 29.35          | 90.88           | 51.99      | -15.69         | 118.37         | 214.43          |
| <b>4h</b> | -38.36     | -104.95        | 26.10          | 84.99           | 53.81      | -12.34         | 113.85         | 160.52          |
| <b>5a</b> | -36.16     | -117.33        | 29.12          | 81.13           | 35.74      | -15.37         | 98.34          | 162.81          |
| <b>5b</b> | -39.67     | -118.24        | 25.77          | 78.32           | 35.35      | -16.09         | 102.38         | 178.29          |
| <b>5c</b> | -41.30     | -111.70        | 24.10          | 76.02           | 33.20      | -17.26         | 100.11         | 176.67          |



Table S3: The atomic potential (V) of Mo and carbene carbon atom in the complexes in au.

|           | Mo      |                       |                       |                        | C(carbene) |                      |                      |                       |
|-----------|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
|           | V(Mo,M) | V(Mo,M <sup>-</sup> ) | V(Mo,M <sup>+</sup> ) | V(Mo,M <sup>2+</sup> ) | V(C,M)     | V(C,M <sup>-</sup> ) | V(C,M <sup>+</sup> ) | V(C,M <sup>2+</sup> ) |
| <b>1a</b> | -46.618 | -46.828               | -46.468               | -46.344                | -14.586    | -14.787              | -14.457              | -14.322               |
| <b>1b</b> | -46.680 | -46.858               | -46.523               | -46.367                | -14.651    | -14.820              | -14.490              | -14.349               |
| <b>1c</b> | -46.675 | -46.837               | -46.500               | -46.346                | -14.627    | -14.816              | -14.489              | -14.346               |
| <b>1d</b> | -46.679 | -46.835               | -46.490               | -46.352                | -14.619    | -14.787              | -14.459              | -14.324               |
| <b>2a</b> | -46.640 | -46.835               | -46.489               | -46.348                | -14.586    | -14.787              | -14.462              | -14.324               |
| <b>2b</b> | -46.698 | -46.876               | -46.543               | -46.389                | -14.655    | -14.817              | -14.493              | -14.355               |
| <b>2c</b> | -46.693 | -46.862               | -46.522               | -46.356                | -14.637    | -14.814              | -14.490              | -14.350               |
| <b>2d</b> | -46.692 | -46.822               | -46.510               | -46.364                | -14.618    | -14.748              | -14.462              | -14.323               |
| <b>3a</b> | -46.620 | -46.823               | -46.476               | -46.350                | -14.588    | -14.784              | -14.452              | -14.326               |
| <b>3b</b> | -46.680 | -46.848               | -46.531               | -46.397                | -14.654    | -14.815              | -14.498              | -14.374               |
| <b>3c</b> | -46.667 | -46.825               | -46.504               | -46.360                | -14.644    | -14.810              | -14.497              | -14.360               |
| <b>3d</b> | -46.682 | -46.833               | -46.502               | -46.375                | -14.622    | -14.786              | -14.472              | -14.343               |
| <b>4a</b> | -46.626 | -46.841               | -46.480               | -46.282                | -14.593    | -14.790              | -14.461              | -14.331               |
| <b>4b</b> | -46.691 | -46.871               | -46.541               | -46.399                | -14.661    | -14.829              | -14.498              | -14.356               |
| <b>4c</b> | -46.679 | -46.856               | -46.519               | -46.383                | -14.651    | -14.820              | -14.493              | -14.353               |
| <b>4d</b> | -46.690 | -46.847               | -46.508               | -46.385                | -14.626    | -14.792              | -14.465              | -14.315               |
| <b>4e</b> | -46.623 | -46.843               | -46.468               | -46.350                | -14.586    | -14.786              | -14.456              | -14.321               |
| <b>4f</b> | -46.642 | -46.858               | -46.487               | -46.360                | -14.590    | -14.792              | -14.472              | -14.334               |
| <b>4g</b> | -46.702 | -46.858               | -46.535               | -46.403                | -14.651    | -14.834              | -14.497              | -14.349               |
| <b>4h</b> | -46.723 | -46.879               | -46.543               | -46.459                | -14.656    | -14.831              | -14.506              | -14.432               |
| <b>5a</b> | -46.733 | -46.891               | -46.569               | -46.447                | -14.693    | -14.857              | -14.534              | -14.403               |
| <b>5b</b> | -46.724 | -46.883               | -46.559               | -46.453                | -14.686    | -14.858              | -14.545              | -14.416               |
| <b>5c</b> | -46.743 | -46.896               | -46.581               | -46.461                | -14.688    | -14.855              | -14.532              | -14.409               |