

**Supporting Information for**

**Comparison of the active-site design of molybdenum**

**oxo-transfer enzymes by quantum mechanical calculations**

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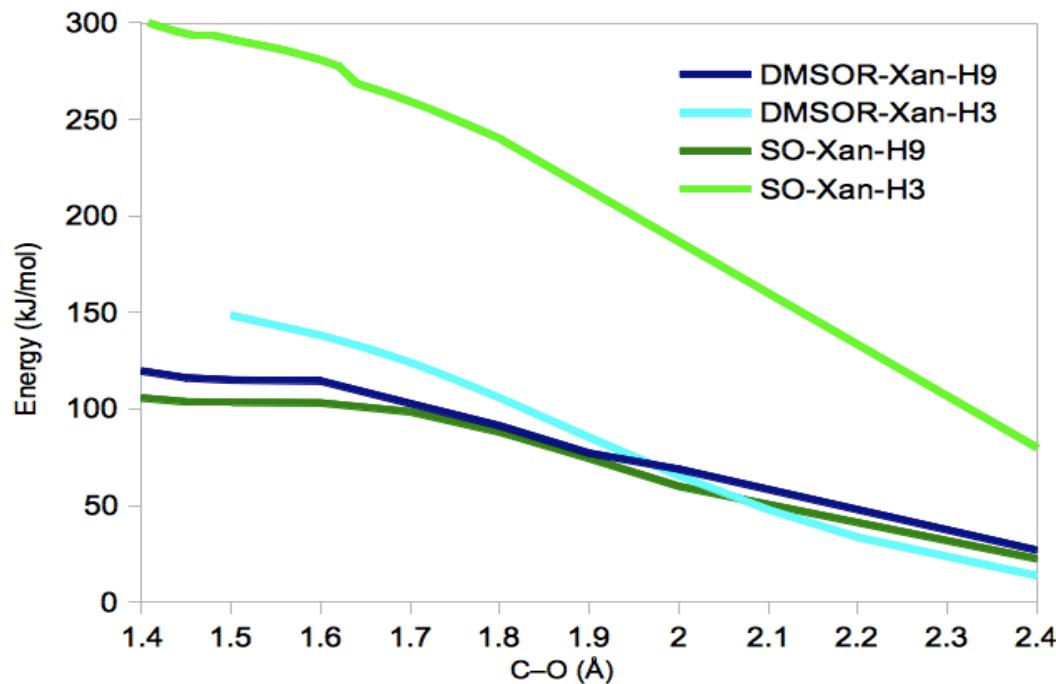
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**Figure S1.** Relaxed potential-energy surfaces scan for the DMSOR-Xan and SO-Xan reactions with neutral xanthine protonated either on the N<sub>1</sub>, N<sub>7</sub>, and N<sub>9</sub> (H7) or on the N<sub>1</sub>, N<sub>3</sub>, and N<sub>7</sub> atoms (H3) along the C<sub>8</sub>–O(Mo) reaction coordinate (RC → IM reaction; for the XO model, RC, TS1 and IM are found at C<sub>8</sub>–O distances of 2.72, 1.75, and 1.43 Å, respectively). The reference energy is that of the RC state.



**Table S1.** Reaction free energies (kJ/mol) of the general OAT reaction in Eqn. 2, calculated with TPSS functional (corresponding to the data in Table 1).

X	Y	Z =			
		DMS	SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Xan	
DMDT	OMe	104.1	-87.3	9.9	
DMDT	SMe	111.7	-79.8	17.5	
DMDT	OH	100.0	-91.4	5.8	
O	OMe	183.1	-8.3	89.0	
O	SMe	180.2	-11.3	86.0	
O	OH	182.9	-8.5	88.7	
S	OMe	199.5	8.0	105.3	
S	SMe	195.0	3.6	100.9	
S	OH	188.9	-2.6	94.7	
S	O	183.2	-8.2	89.0	

**Table S2.** The four reduction potentials (V) in Scheme 3 for the ten models, calculated with TPSS functional (corresponding to the data in Table 2).

X	Y	$\Delta G_{6 \rightarrow 5,0}^{\text{redox}}$	$\Delta G_{6 \rightarrow 5,\text{OH}}^{\text{redox}}$	$\Delta G_{5 \rightarrow 4,\text{OH}}^{\text{redox}}$	$\Delta G_{5 \rightarrow 4,\text{Wat}}^{\text{redox}}$
DMDT	OMe	-3.06	-0.94	-2.96	-0.51
DMDT	SMe	-2.79	-0.72	-2.81	-0.74
DMDT	OH	-2.73	-0.84	-2.93	-0.50
O	OMe	-3.39	-0.88	-3.50	-1.24
O	SMe	-3.08	-0.57	-3.08	-1.05
O	OH	-3.42	-0.66	-3.38	-1.19
S	OMe	-2.96	-1.38	-3.51	-1.20
S	SMe	-2.59	-1.20	-3.50	-1.08
S	OH	-2.94	-1.10	-3.47	-1.20
S	O	-5.28	-2.94	-5.54	-2.53

**Table S3.** The four acidity constants (pK<sub>a</sub> units) in Scheme 3 for the ten models, calculated with TPSS functional (corresponding to the data in Table 3).

X	Y	$\Delta G_{6,\text{OH} \rightarrow \text{O}}^{\text{pKa}}$	$\Delta G_{5,\text{OH} \rightarrow \text{O}}^{\text{pKa}}$	$\Delta G_{5,\text{Wat} \rightarrow \text{OH}}^{\text{pKa}}$	$\Delta G_{4,\text{Wat} \rightarrow \text{OH}}^{\text{pKa}}$
DMDT	OMe	11.7	47.6	14.9	56.4
DMDT	SMe	9.7	44.8	12.1	47.0
DMDT	OH	13.1	45.0	12.5	53.5
O	OMe	11.8	54.3	10.4	48.5
O	SMe	10.1	52.5	7.9	42.2
O	OH	9.3	56.0	9.5	46.6
S	OMe	10.4	37.0	18.9	57.9
S	SMe	9.4	32.9	16.9	57.8
S	OH	6.0	37.2	18.3	56.7
S	O	43.1	82.7	39.6	90.4

**Table S4.** Reaction energies of the two hydrogen-atom transfer reactions in Scheme 3 (diagonal reactions; V) for the ten models, calculated with TPSS functional (corresponding to the data in Table 4).

X	Y	$\Delta G_{6 \rightarrow 5}^{\text{diag}}$	$\Delta G_{5 \rightarrow 4}^{\text{diag}}$
DMDT	OMe	-0.24	0.38
DMDT	SMe	-0.14	-0.02
DMDT	OH	-0.06	0.24
O	OMe	-0.18	-0.63
O	SMe	0.03	-0.59
O	OH	-0.11	-0.62
S	OMe	-0.77	-0.08
S	SMe	-0.64	-0.09
S	OH	-0.74	-0.12
S	O	-0.39	-0.19

**Table S5.** Gibbs free energies (kJ/mol) for the water-binding reaction in Eqn. 3 calculated with TPSS functional (corresponding to the data in Table 5).

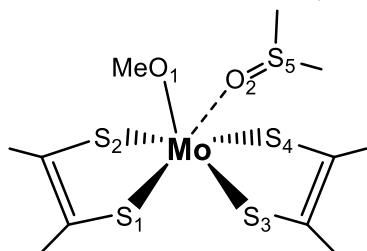
X	Y	$\Delta G$
DMDT	OMe	10.6
DMDT	SMe	33.6
DMDT	OH	17.3
O	OMe	16.9
O	SMe	0.5
O	OH	11.9
S	OMe	7.1
S	SMe	0.0
S	OH	15.1
S	O	2.2

**Table S6.** Relative enthalpies (kJ/mol) along the reaction paths for the studied reactions calculated with TPSS functional (corresponding to the data in Table 6).

State	DMSOR-	SO-	XO-	XOH-	SO-	DMSOR-	XO-	XOH-	XO-	XO <sub>3</sub> <sup>b-</sup>
	DMSO	DMSO	DMSO	DMSO	SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Xan	Xan
SR	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TS1	11.2	1.6	19.1	-71.4	134.0	146.6	441.5	154.7	46.8	62.6
IM	4.0	-50.5	-6.4	-196.5	35.3	66.0		93.1	45.5	52.5
TS2	23.2	-55.0	-10.3	-17.5	151.9	56.7		158.9	47.4	105.7
SP	-102.5	-180.7	-182.2	-181.4	-13.8	-88.0	-7.8	-9.3	-11.4	32.6

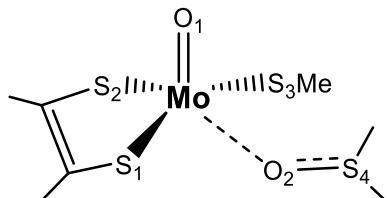
<sup>a</sup> preR (with XOH); RC is at 12.7 kJ/mol. <sup>b</sup> preR; RC is at 6.8 kJ/mol.

**Table S7.** Mo–ligand bond lengths (Å), angles and dihedrals (°) for the DMSOR–DMSO reaction, obtained at the B3LYP-D2/def2-TZVPP+ZORA+COSMO level.



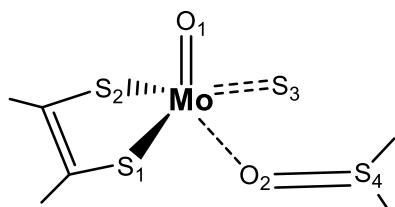
	M-O <sub>2</sub>	M-O <sub>1</sub>	M-S <sub>1</sub>	M-S <sub>2</sub>	M-S <sub>3</sub>	M-S <sub>4</sub>	O <sub>2</sub> -S <sub>5</sub>	MO <sub>2</sub> S <sub>5</sub>	S <sub>2</sub> MS <sub>3</sub>	S <sub>1</sub> S <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub> S <sub>4</sub>
<b>SR</b>		1.86	2.34	2.34	2.36	2.36	1.50			
<b>TS1</b>	2.62	1.94	2.37	2.35	2.36	2.38	1.51	116.6	140.1	177.6
<b>IM</b>	2.31	1.99	2.38	2.37	2.37	2.39	1.53	121.4	140.2	175.5
<b>TS2</b>	1.91	1.99	2.43	2.42	2.42	2.44	1.89	121.3	151.5	143.7
<b>SP</b>	1.71	1.94	2.45	2.43	2.61	2.42				

**Table S8.** Mo–ligand bond lengths (Å), angles and dihedrals (°) for the SO–DMSO reaction, obtained at the B3LYP-D2/def2-TZVPP+ZORA+COSMO level.



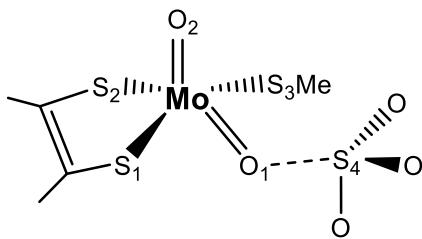
	M-O <sub>2</sub>	M-O <sub>1</sub>	M-S <sub>1</sub>	M-S <sub>2</sub>	M-S <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>2</sub> -S <sub>4</sub>	MO <sub>2</sub> S	S <sub>1</sub> MS <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub>
<b>R</b>	6.19	1.71	2.32	2.32	2.35	1.51		-112.1
<b>TS1</b>	3.20	1.69	2.35	2.31	2.39	1.51	98.2	-122.3
<b>IM</b>	2.24	1.70	2.39	2.37	2.42	1.54	126.9	-137.1
<b>TS2</b>	1.95	1.70	2.42	2.42	2.42	1.84	129.1	-140.7
<b>P</b>	1.71	1.72	2.46	2.47	2.44	5.01	83.7	168.5

**Table S9.** Mo–ligand bond lengths (Å), angles and dihedrals (°) for the XO–DMSO reaction, obtained at the B3LYP-D2/def2-TZVPP+ZORA+COSMO level.



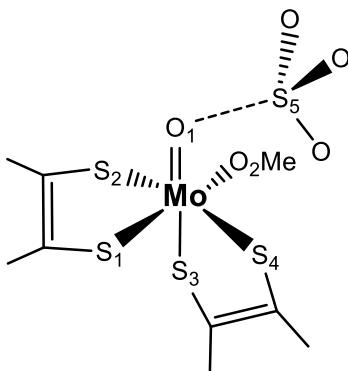
	M-O <sub>2</sub>	M-O <sub>1</sub>	M-S <sub>1</sub>	M-S <sub>2</sub>	M-S <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>2</sub> -S <sub>4</sub>	MO <sub>2</sub> S <sub>4</sub>	S <sub>1</sub> MS <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub>
<b>R</b>	8.84	1.72	2.36	2.36	2.24	1.50	70.7	-114.1
<b>TS1</b>	2.35	1.72	2.37	2.39	2.35	1.53	118.8	-123.1
<b>IM</b>	2.10	1.71	2.41	2.41	2.38	1.62	121.5	-134.6
<b>TS2</b>	2.01	1.71	2.44	2.43	2.35	1.74	120.7	-139.7
<b>P</b>	1.74	1.72	2.57	2.52	2.27	4.17	101.4	-163.6

**Table S10.** Mo–ligand bond lengths (Å), angles and dihedrals (°) for the SO–SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> reaction, obtained at the B3LYP-D2/def2-TZVPP+ZORA+COSMO level.



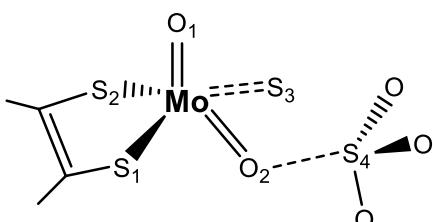
	M-O <sub>1</sub>	M-O <sub>2</sub>	M-S <sub>1</sub>	M-S <sub>2</sub>	M-S <sub>3</sub>	O1-S <sub>4</sub>	MO <sub>1</sub> S <sub>4</sub>	S <sub>1</sub> MS <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub>	S <sub>1</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>1</sub> S <sub>3</sub>
<b>SR</b>	1.71	1.72	2.46	2.48	2.44				
<b>TS1</b>	1.78	1.72	2.50	2.5	2.43	2.51	135.4	-153.2	-176.1
<b>IM</b>	2.13	1.70	2.43	2.41	2.43	1.55	140.7	-144.0	173.8
<b>TS2</b>	3.60	1.69	2.37	2.33	2.37	1.49	147.2	-128.7	152.4
<b>SP</b>	1.70	2.33	2.32	2.35	1.50			-113.17	

**Table S11.** Mo–ligand bond lengths (Å), angles and dihedrals (°) for the DMSOR–SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> reaction, obtained at the B3LYP-D2/def2-TZVPP+ZORA+COSMO level.



	M-O <sub>1</sub>	M-O <sub>2</sub>	M-S <sub>1</sub>	M-S <sub>2</sub>	M-S <sub>3</sub>	M-S <sub>4</sub>	O1-S <sub>5</sub>	MO <sub>1</sub> S <sub>5</sub>	S <sub>2</sub> MS <sub>4</sub>	S <sub>1</sub> S <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub> S <sub>4</sub>
<b>SR</b>	1.71	1.95	2.46	2.43	2.62	2.44		132.8	159.0	-46.7
<b>TS1</b>	1.80	1.98	2.53	2.47	2.54	2.46	2.26	127.5	157.2	-40.6
<b>IM</b>	2.13	1.96	2.48	2.37	2.41	2.40	1.54	135.7	152.3	-28.9
<b>TS2</b>	2.75	1.87	2.41	2.30	2.34	2.40	1.50	146.9	157.3	-29.4
<b>SP</b>	<b>5.37</b>	1.85	2.39	2.39	2.33	2.34	1.49		146.3	-0.95

**Table S12.** Mo–ligand bond lengths (Å), angles and dihedrals (°) for the XO–SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> reaction, obtained at the B3LYP-D2/def2-TZVPP+ZORA+COSMO level.



	M-O <sub>2</sub>	M-O <sub>1</sub>	M-S <sub>1</sub>	M-S <sub>2</sub>	M-S <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>2</sub> -S <sub>4</sub>	MO <sub>2</sub> S <sub>4</sub>	S <sub>1</sub> MS <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub>	S <sub>1</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub>
<b>R</b>	1.74	1.72	2.53	2.57	2.26	14.86	161.3	-152.6	175.1
<b>TS1</b>	1.88	1.72	2.50	2.55	2.36	2.05	136.2	-141.8	163.2
<b>P</b>	19.04	1.73	2.36	2.36	2.24	1.49	172.8	-114.0	

**Table S13.** Mo–ligand bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ), angles and dihedrals ( $^\circ$ ) for the  $\text{XOH}-\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  reaction, obtained at the B3LYP-D2/def2-TZVPP+ZORA+COSMO level.

	<b>M-O<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>M-O<sub>1</sub></b>	<b>M-S<sub>1</sub></b>	<b>M-S<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>M-S<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>O<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>4</sub></b>	<b>MO<sub>1</sub>S<sub>4</sub></b>	<b>S<sub>1</sub>MS<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>S<sub>1</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>1</sub>S<sub>3</sub></b>
<b>R</b>	1.95	1.71	2.48	2.45	2.16			112.6	-74.7
<b>TS1</b>	1.98	1.78	2.48	2.45	2.20	2.32	128.9	107.1	-67.6
<b>IM</b>	1.99	2.13	2.41	2.34	2.19	1.55	136.8	100.1	-54.9
<b>TS2</b>	1.93	3.01	2.31	2.31	2.17	1.50	172.0	104.3	-49.5
<b>P</b>	1.90		2.29	2.29	2.17			111.0	

**Table S14.** Mo–ligand bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ), angles and dihedrals ( $^\circ$ ) for the  $\text{XO}-\text{Xan}$  reaction, obtained at the B3LYP-D2/def2-TZVPP+ZORA+COSMO level.

	<b>M-O<sub>1</sub></b>	<b>M-O<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>M-S<sub>1</sub></b>	<b>M-S<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>M-S<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>O<sub>1</sub>-C</b>	<b>C-H</b>	<b>S<sub>3</sub>-H</b>	<b>MO<sub>1</sub>C</b>	<b>S<sub>1</sub>MS<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>S<sub>1</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>1</sub>S<sub>3</sub></b>
<b>RC</b>	1.75	1.72	2.53	2.52	2.28	2.72	1.09	2.26	113.7	-158.3	-174.6
<b>TS1</b>	1.84	1.71	2.48	2.50	2.23	1.75	1.09	2.44	127.2	-145.3	169.0
<b>IM</b>	1.93	1.70	2.46	2.46	2.19	1.43	1.10	2.69	130.0	-140.3	162.7
<b>TS2</b>	2.00	1.70	2.43	2.43	2.27	1.35	1.32	1.69	129.2	-139.2	167.4
<b>P</b>	2.22	1.70	2.38	2.38	2.43	1.25	2.82	1.35	123.3	-135.6	159.5

**Table S15.** Mo–ligand bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ), angles and dihedrals ( $^\circ$ ) for the  $[\text{MoO}_3(\text{DMDT})]^{2-}-\text{Xan}$  reaction, obtained at the B3LYP-D2/def2-TZVPP+ZORA+COSMO level.

	<b>M-O<sub>1</sub></b>	<b>M-O<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>M-O<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>M-S<sub>1</sub></b>	<b>M-S<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>O<sub>1</sub>-C</b>	<b>C-H</b>	<b>O<sub>3</sub>-H</b>	<b>MO<sub>1</sub>C</b>	<b>S<sub>1</sub>MS<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>S<sub>1</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>1</sub>O<sub>3</sub></b>
<b>RC</b>	1.76	1.73	1.77	2.54	2.59	2.71	1.09	1.84	104.8	-146.4	171.4
<b>TS1</b>	1.85	1.72	1.74	2.51	2.53	1.75	1.09	2.21	122.5	-140.7	165.1
<b>IM</b>	1.93	1.71	1.72	2.49	2.48	1.43	1.09	2.46	128.1	-138.0	162.0
<b>TS2</b>	1.95	1.71	1.84	2.45	2.45	1.41	1.33	1.25	119.7	-140.0	173.5
<b>P</b>	2.27	1.70	2.01	2.37	2.38	1.25	3.00	2.23	134.3	-128.4	149.7