

**The absorption spectrum, mass spectrometric properties
and
electronic structure of ortho-benzoquinone**

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Supporting information

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**The orthoquinone spectrum is available as an EXCEL file:
[Orthoquinone Spectrum.xls](#)**
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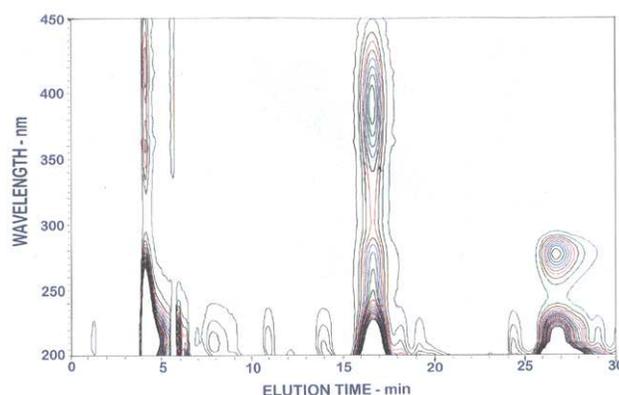


Fig. S-1 – Contour plot of a chromatographic recording for a solution initially containing 200 μM catechol to which 1 equivalent of hexachloroiridate(IV) had been added. The signals at 4.6, 16.5 and 26.8 min represent, respectively, 200 μM hexachloroiridate(III), 100 μM orthoquinone and 100 μM catechol.

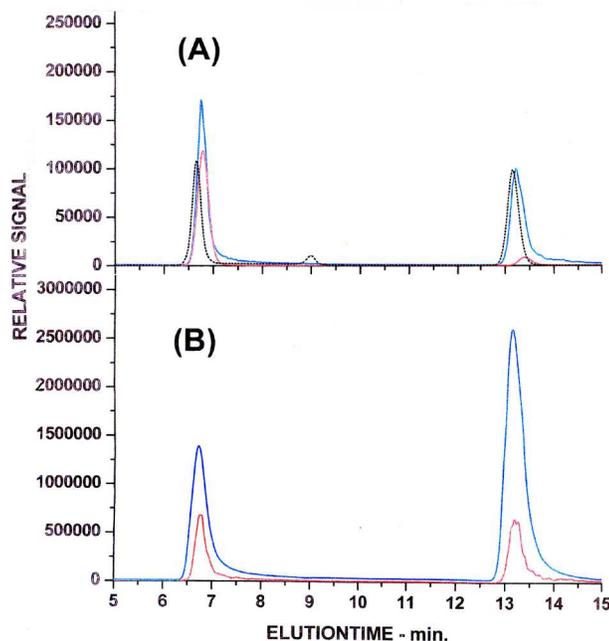


Fig. S-2 – Mass 109 chromatograms for solutions 100 μM in orthoquinone and catechol using (A) electrospray and (B) chemical ionization. **Cation** signals are in red and **anion** signals in blue. The dotted red chromatogram in A has been scaled by a factor of 10. Complementary 276 spectrophotometric data, given by the black chromatogram in A identify the mass peaks at 6.7 and 13.2 min as representing orthoquinone and catechol.

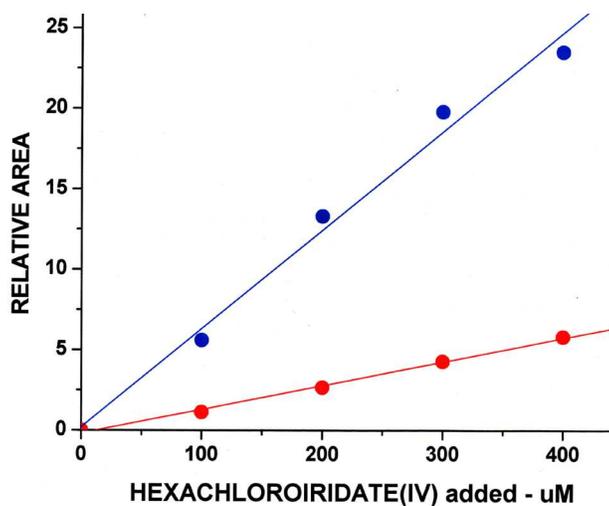


Fig. S-3 - The dependence of mass 109 cation (blue) and anion (red) signals on the concentration of hexachloroiridate(IV) added to 200 μM catechol.

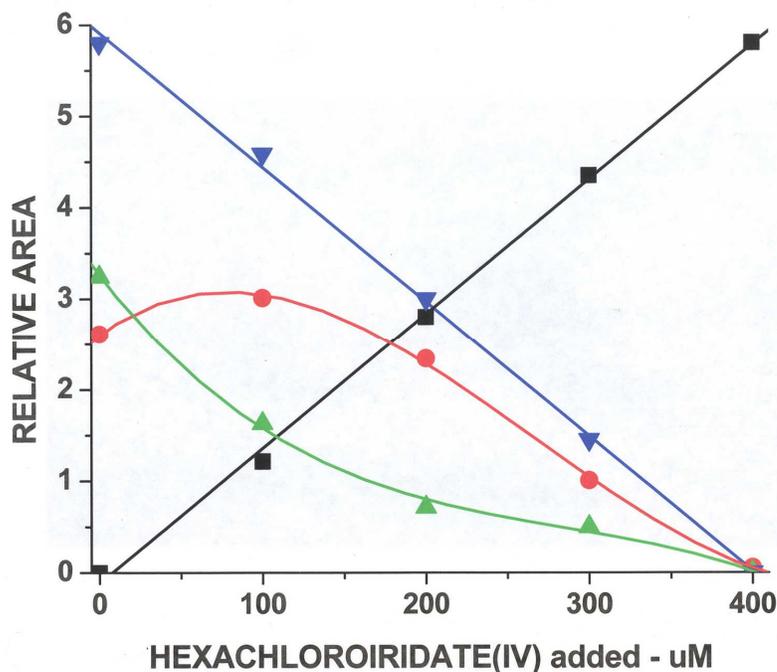


Fig. S-4 – The dependence observed in APCI experiments of the relative areas of the mass 109 anion signals at the orthoquinone (black) and catechol (blue) peaks on the concentration of hexachloroiridate added to 200 μM catechol. The mass 109 cation signal (red) at the catechol peak, however, initially increases before decreasing as the catechol is consumed. This anomalous dependence implies that using positive ion detection a non ionic intermediate, approximately indicated by the green data, is initially produced from catechol in these APCI experiments.

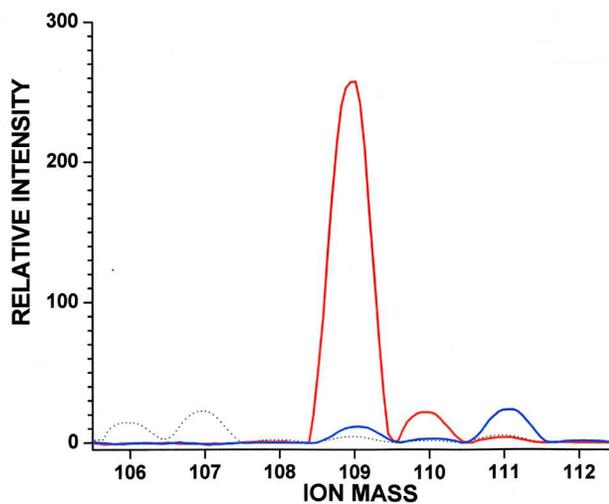


Fig. S-5 – Mass spectra recorded with the MicroMass instrument at the orthoquinone (red) and catechol (blue) peaks. The subtracted background contribution is given by the dotted spectra.

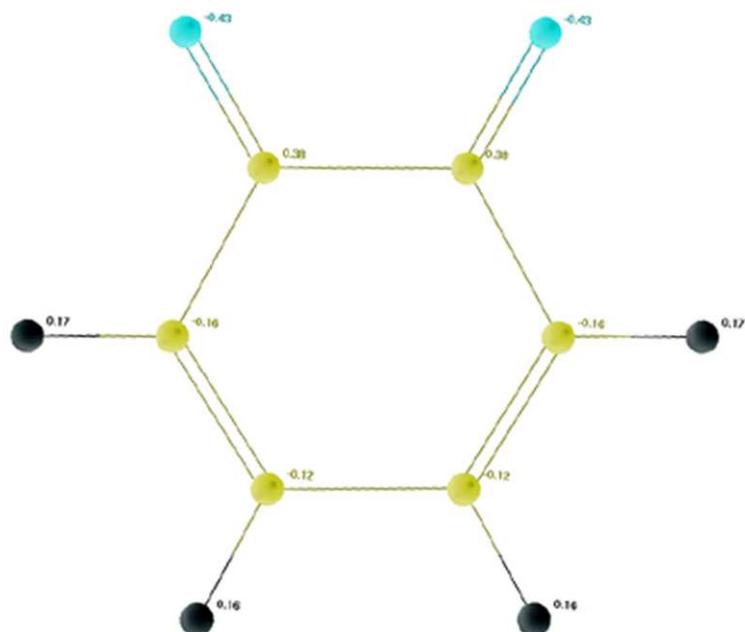


Fig. S-6 – Charge distribution in orthoquinone.

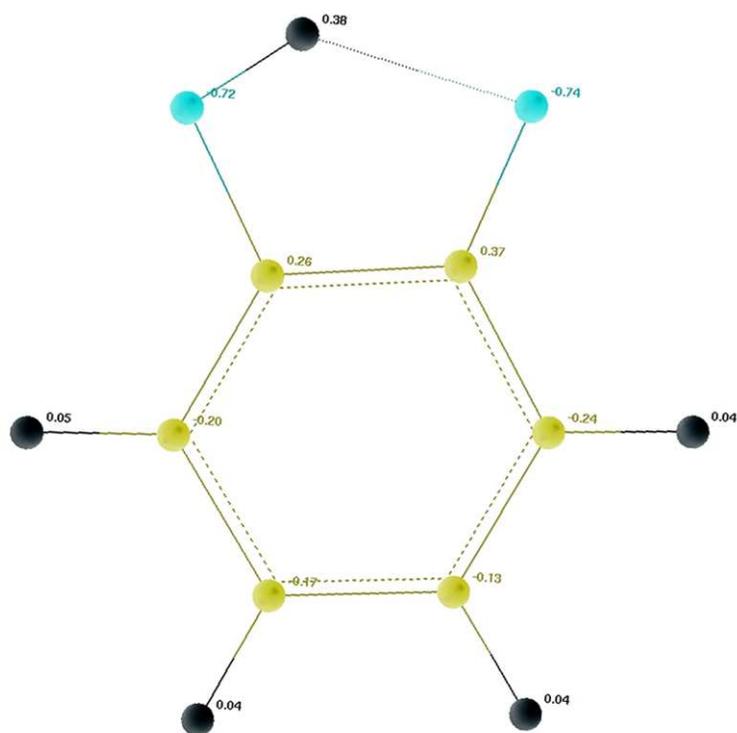


Fig. S-7 – Charge distribution in the hydride adduct at minimum energy.

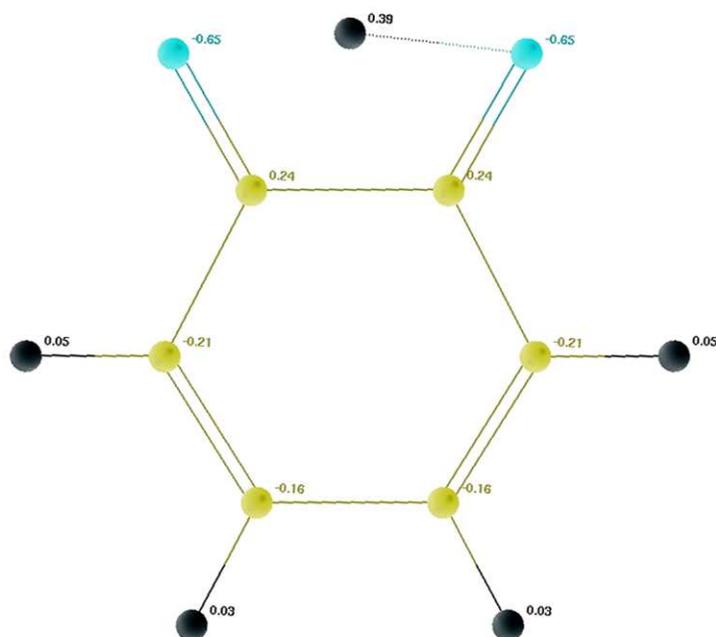


Fig. S-7T– Charge distribution in the hydride adduct at its transition state.

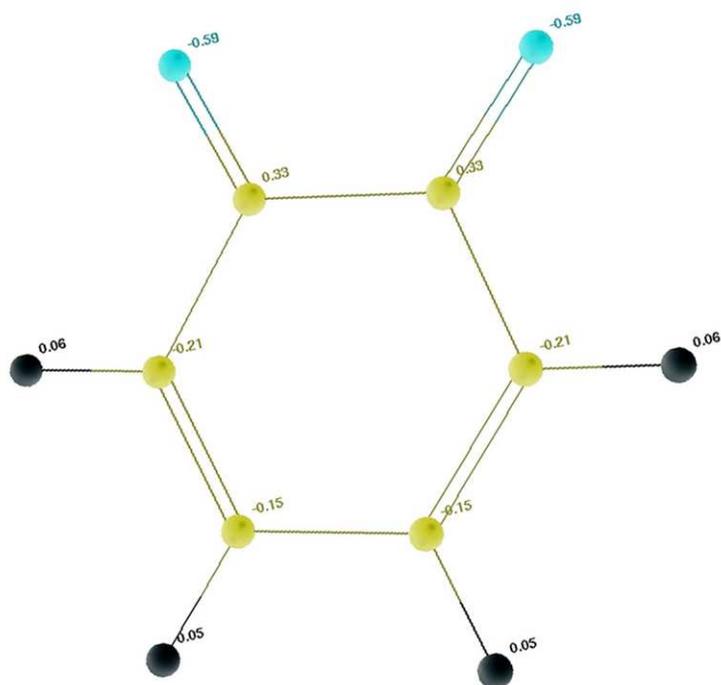


Fig. S-8 – Charge distribution in the orthosemiquinone radical anion.