

Supplementary Information

A First-Principles Study on the Multilayer Graphene Nanosheets Anode Performance for Boron-Ion Battery

Mustapha Umar ¹, **Chidera C. Nnadiekwe** ¹, **Muhammad Haroon** ¹, **Ismail Abdulazeez** ^{2,*}, **Khalid Alhooshani** ^{1,3}, **Abdulaziz A. Al-Saadi** ^{1,3} and **Qing Peng** ^{4,5,6,*}

- ¹ Chemistry Department, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran 31261, Saudi Arabia; g201708770@kfupm.edu.sa (M.U.); g201707330@kfupm.edu.sa (C.C.N.); muhammad.hanif@kfupm.edu.sa (M.H.); hooshani@kfupm.edu.sa (K.A.); asaadi@kfupm.edu.sa (A.A.A.-S.)
- ² Interdisciplinary Research Center for Membranes and Water Security, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran 31261, Saudi Arabia
- ³ Interdisciplinary Research Center for Refining and Advanced Chemicals, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran 31261, Saudi Arabia
- ⁴ Interdisciplinary Research Center for Hydrogen and Energy Storage, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran 31261, Saudi Arabia
- ⁵ Physics Department, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran 31261, Saudi Arabia
- ⁶ KACARE Energy Research and Innovation Center at Dhahran, Dhahran 31261, Saudi Arabia
- * Correspondence: ismail.abdulazeez@kfupm.edu.sa (I.A.); qing.peng@kfupm.edu.sa (Q.P.)

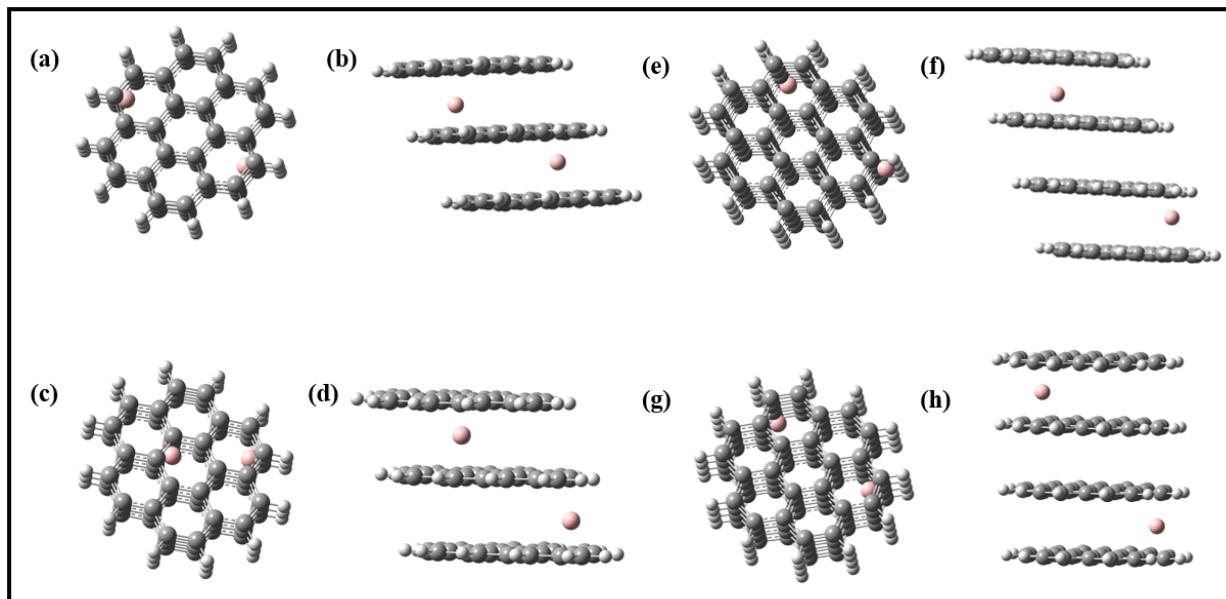


Figure S1. Optimized structures of (a) and (b) 2B@TG (side and topviews), (c) and (d) 2B@TG (side and topviews), (e) and (f) 2B³⁺@TTG (side and topviews), (g) and (h) 2B³⁺@TTG (side and topviews).

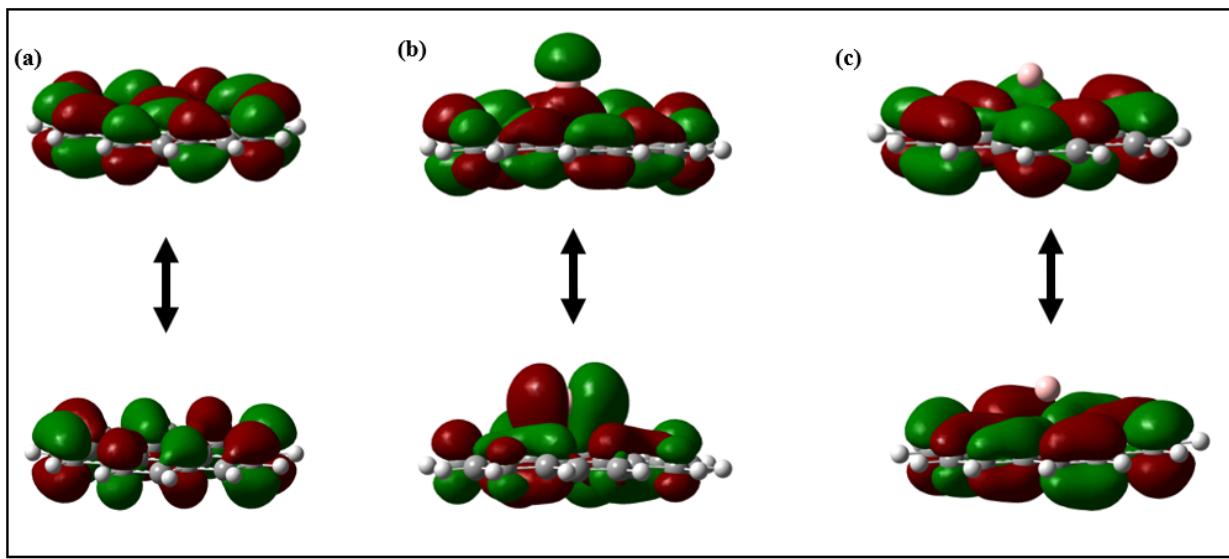


Figure S2. Molecular Orbital HOMO (Lower) and LUMO (upper) of (a) Monolayer Graphene Sheet (MG), (b) B@MG, (c) B³⁺@MG.

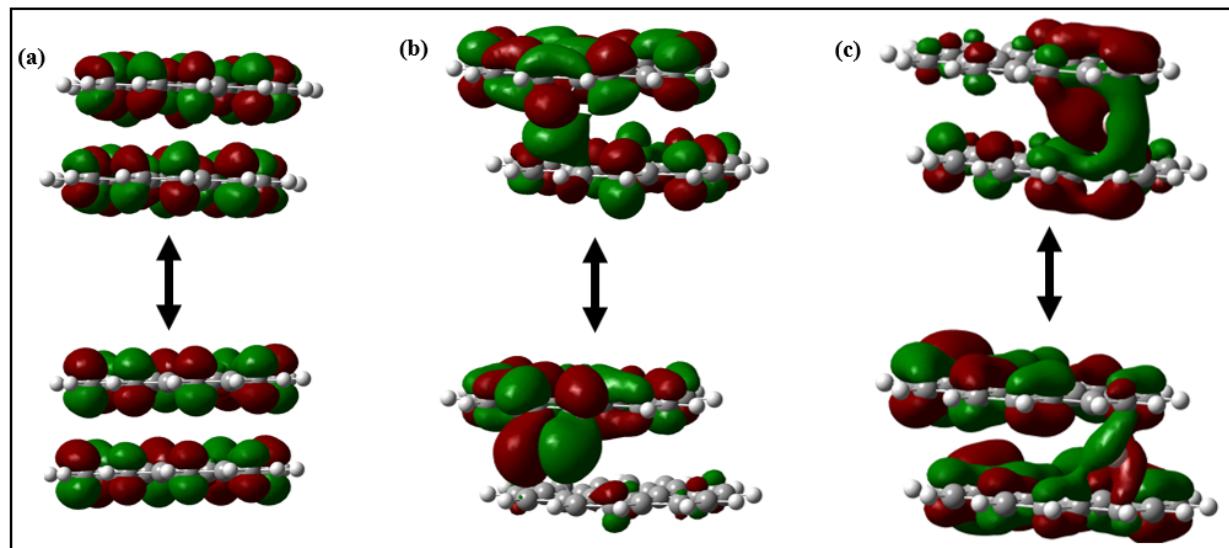


Figure S3. Molecular Orbital HOMO (Lower) and LUMO (upper) of (a) Bilayer Graphene Sheet (BG) (b) B@BG, (c) B³⁺@BG.

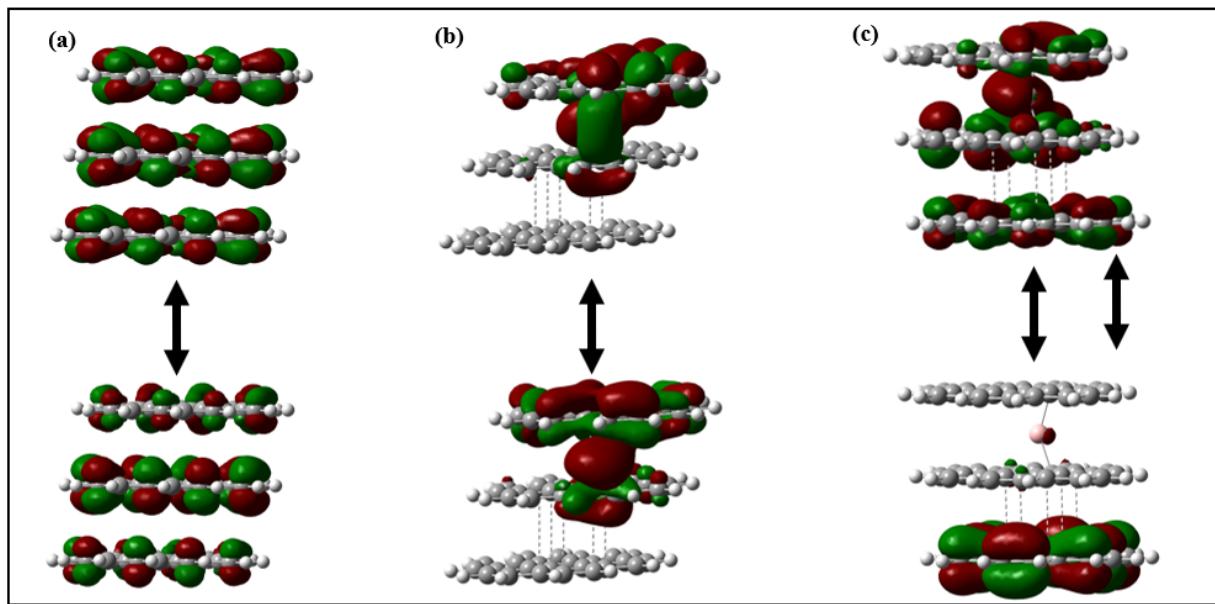


Figure S4. Molecular Orbital HOMO (Lower) and LUMO (upper) of (a) Trilayer Graphene Sheet (TG), (b) B@TG, (c) B³⁺@TG.

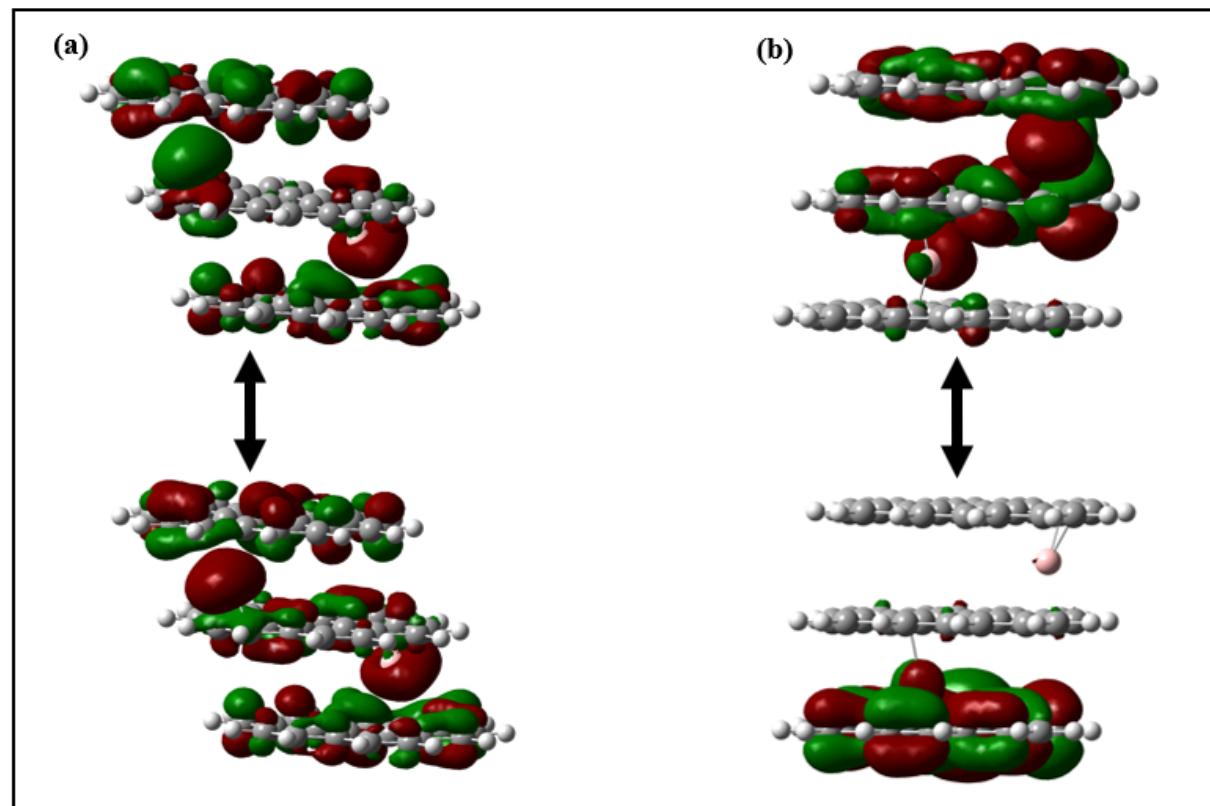


Figure S5. Molecular Orbital HOMO (Lower) and LUMO (upper) of (a) 2B@TG and (b) 2B³⁺@TG.

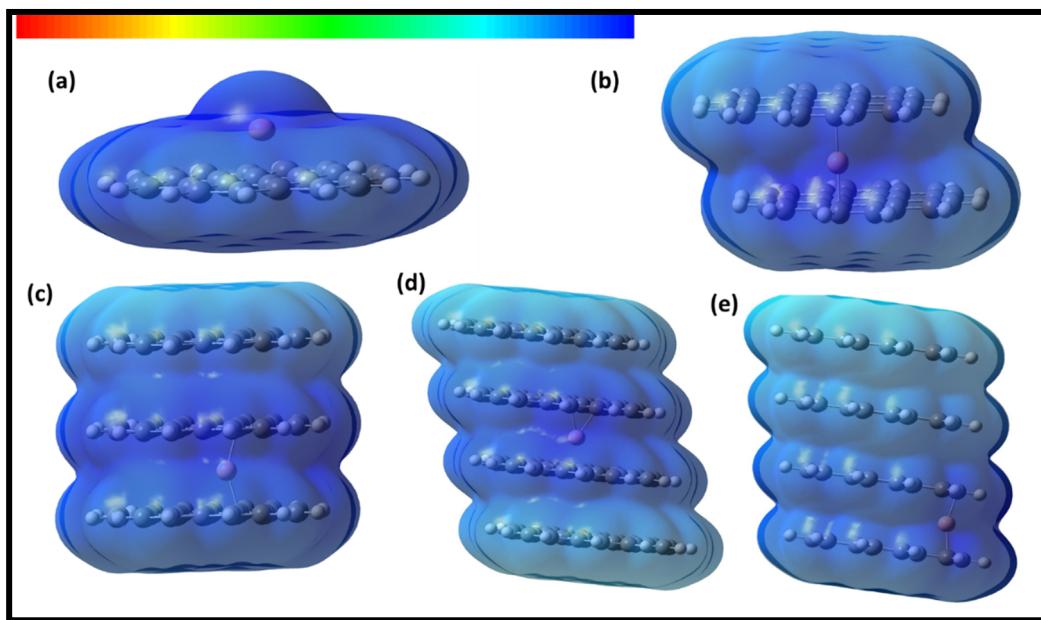


Figure S6. Electrostatic potential (ESP) map of (a) $\text{B}^{3+}@\text{MG}$, (b) $\text{B}^{3+}@\text{BG}$, (c) $\text{B}^{3+}@\text{TG}$, (d) $\text{B}^{3+}@\text{TTG_sym}$ and (d) $\text{B}^{3+}@\text{TTG_asym}$.

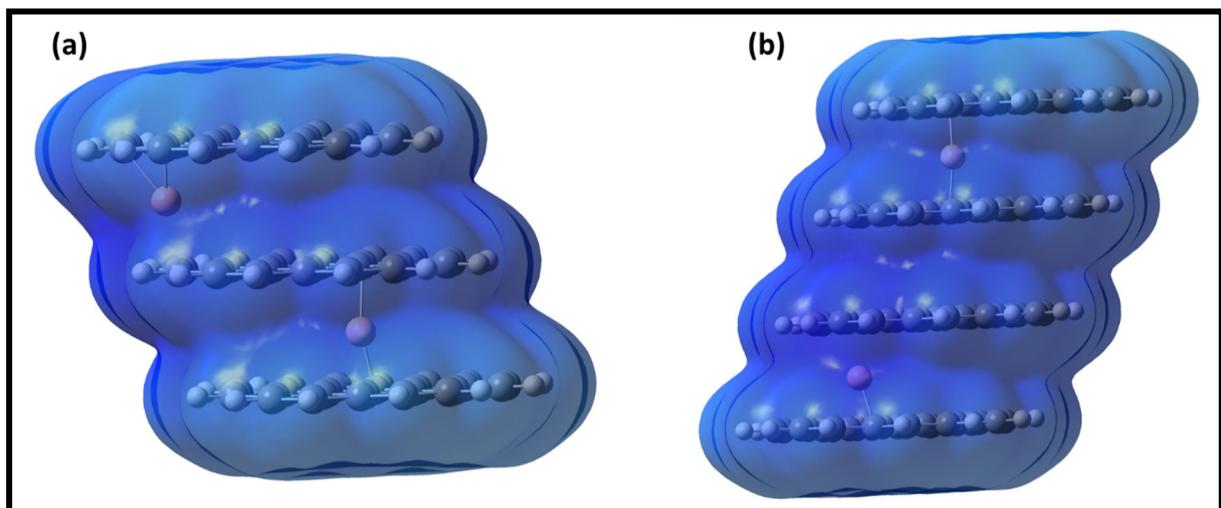


Figure S7. Electrostatic potential (ESP) (a) $2\text{B}^{3+}@\text{TG}$ and (b) $2\text{B}^{3+}@\text{TTG}$.

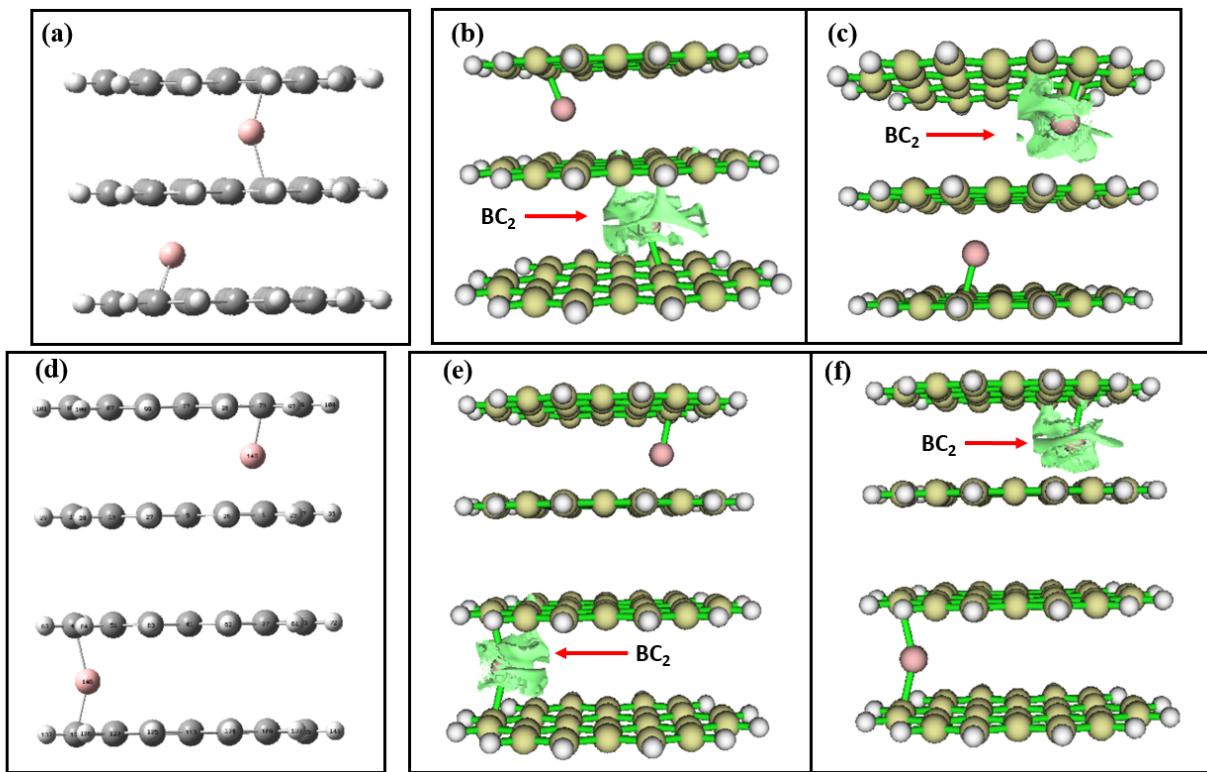


Figure S8. The reduced density gradient (RDG) isosurfaces analyses of (a), (b) and (c) 2B³⁺@TG (complex and RDG), and (d), (e) and (f) 2B³⁺@TTG (complex and RDG). Where blue regions correspond to strong hydrogen bonds; red regions indicate strong steric effects, whereas green regions describe strong van der Waals interactions.

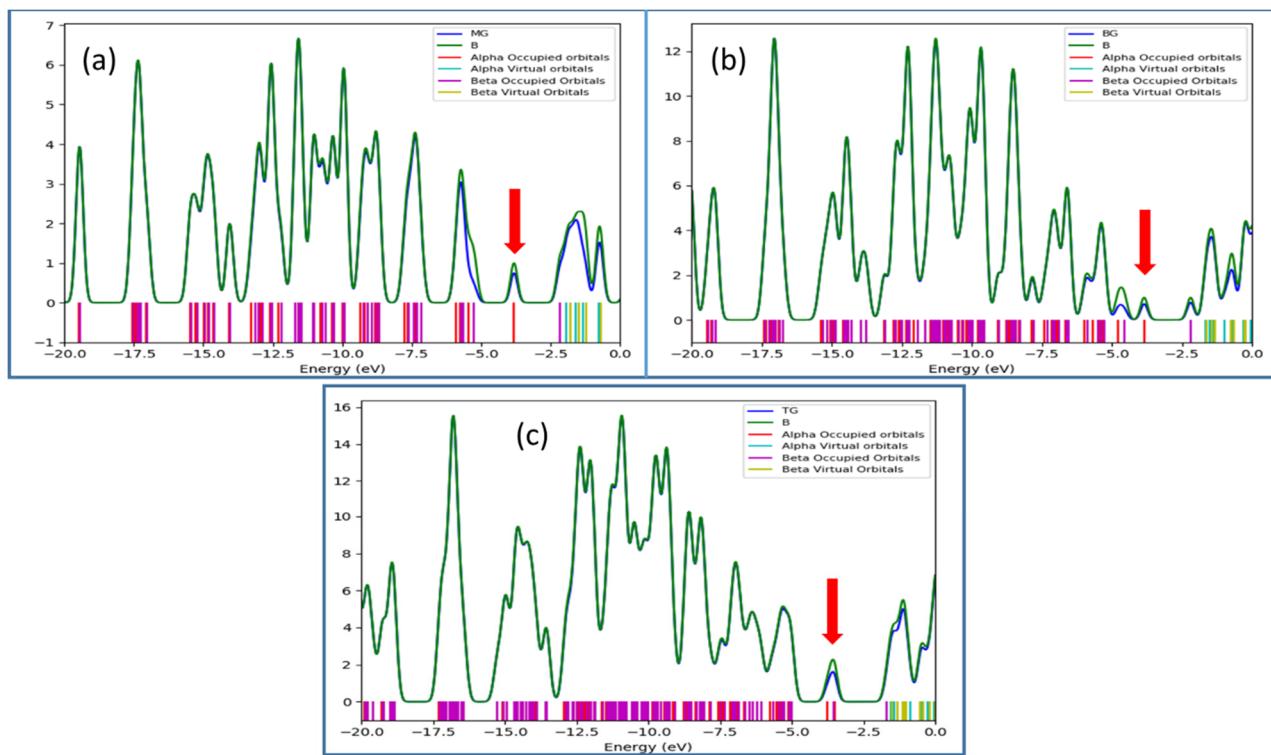


Figure S9. Partial density of states (PDOS) plots (a) B@MG (b) B@BG and (c) B@TG.

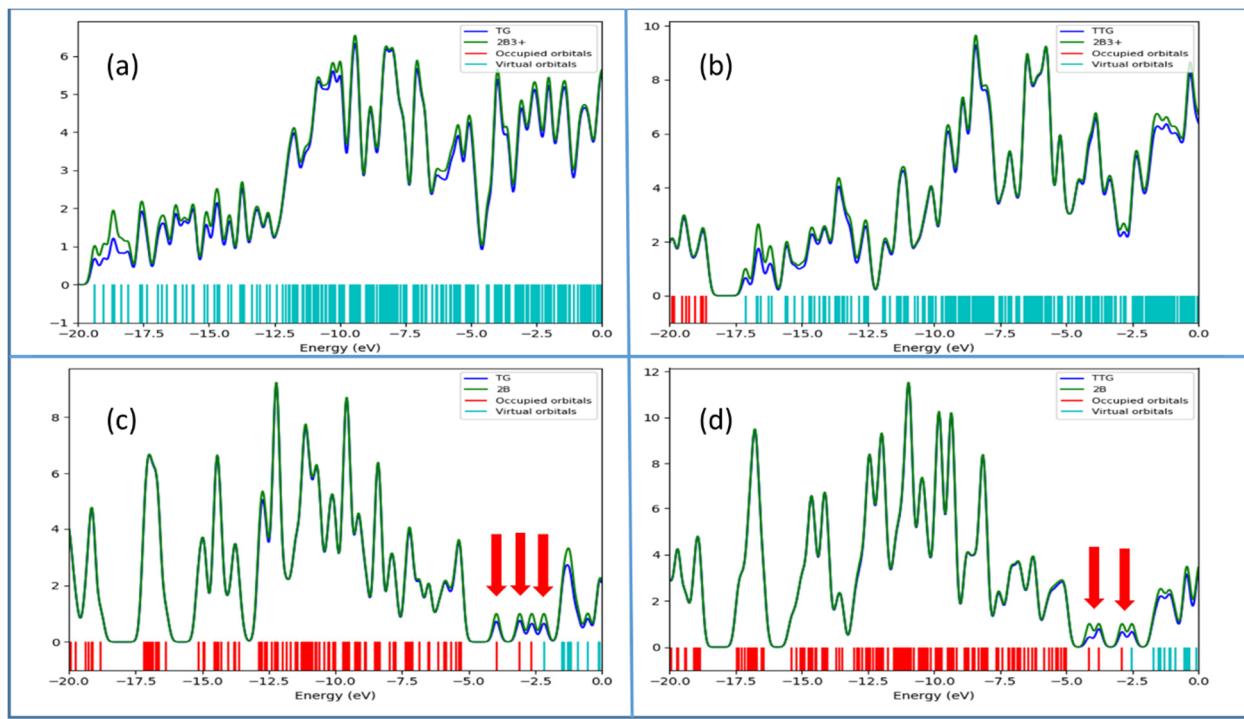


Figure S10. Partial density of states (PDOS) plots (a) 2B³⁺@TG (b) 2B³⁺@TTG (c) B@TG_sym and (d) 2B@TTG.

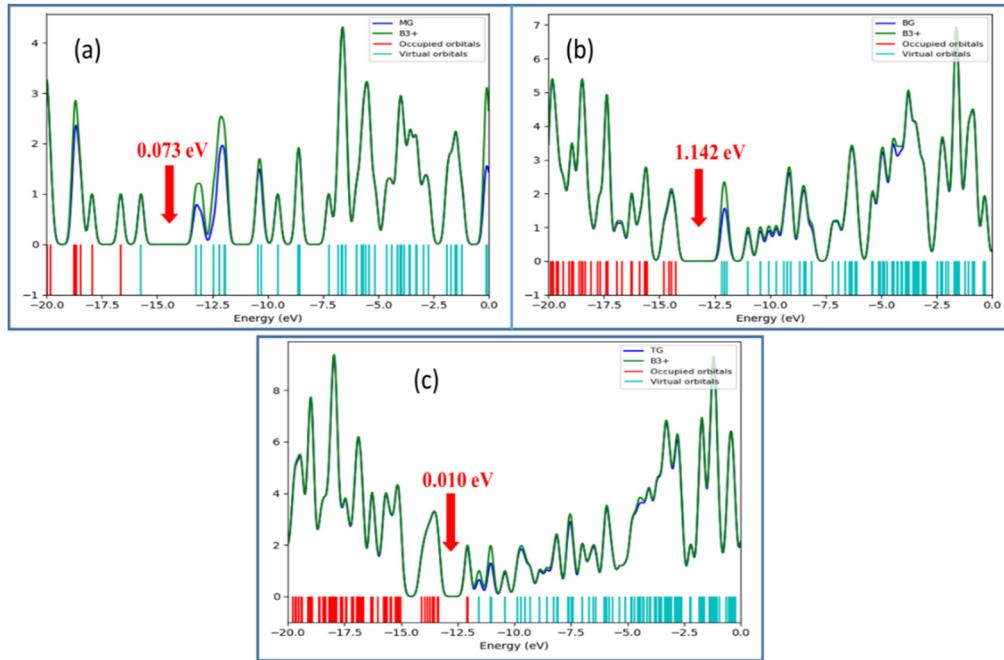


Figure S11. Partial density of states (PDOS) plots of (a) B³⁺@MG (b) B³⁺@BG and (c) B³⁺@TG.

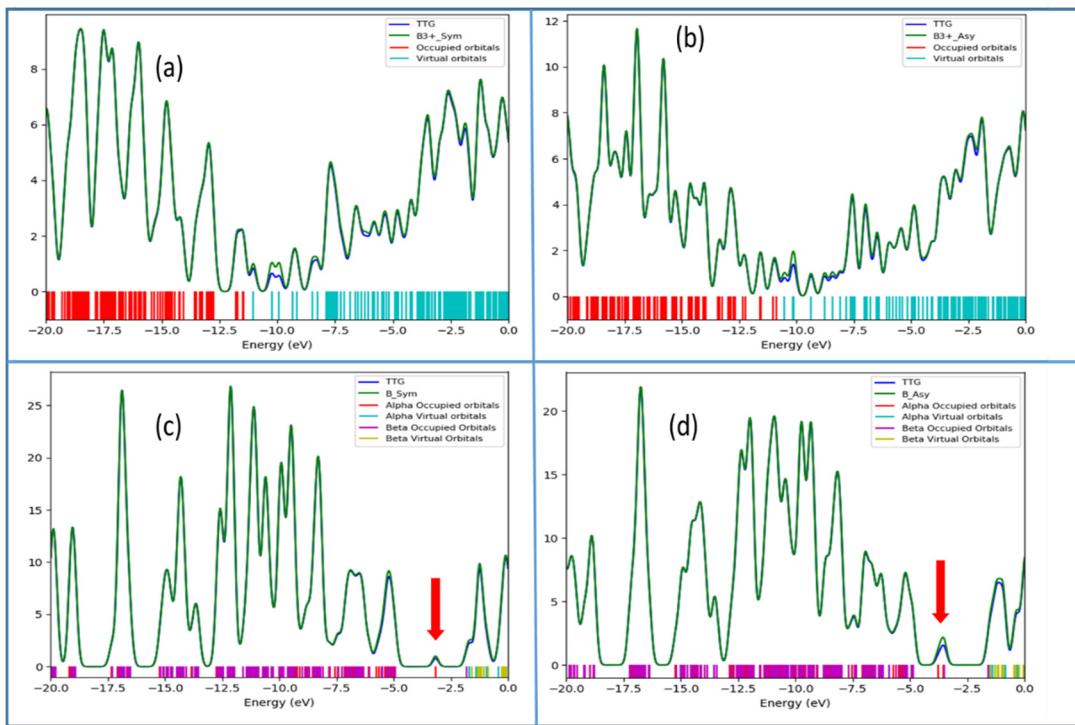


Figure S12. Partial density of states (PDOS) plots of (a) $\text{B}^{3+}\text{@TTG}_{\text{sym}}$ (b) $\text{B}^{3+}\text{@TTG}_{\text{asym}}$ (c) $\text{B}\text{@TTG}_{\text{sym}}$ and (d) $\text{B}\text{@TTG}_{\text{asym}}$.

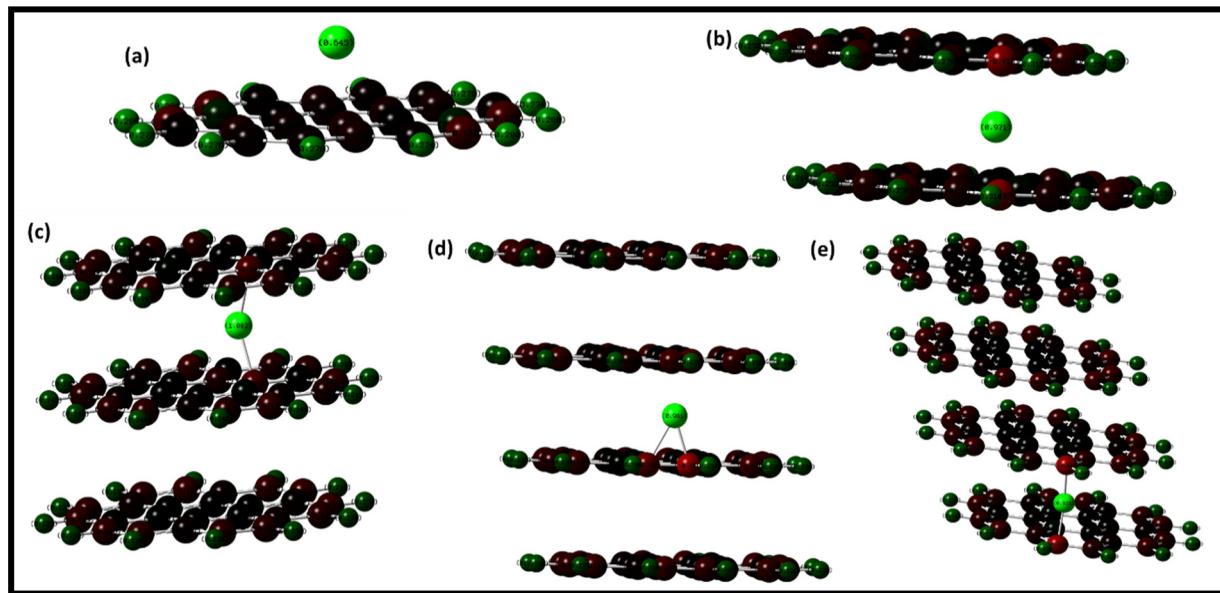


Figure S13. Natural bond orbital charges of (a) $\text{B}^{3+}\text{@MG}$, (b) $\text{B}^{3+}\text{@BG}$ and (c) $\text{B}^{3+}\text{@TG}$, (d) $\text{B}^{3+}\text{@TTG}_{\text{sym}}$ and (e) $\text{B}^{3+}\text{@TTG}_{\text{asym}}$.

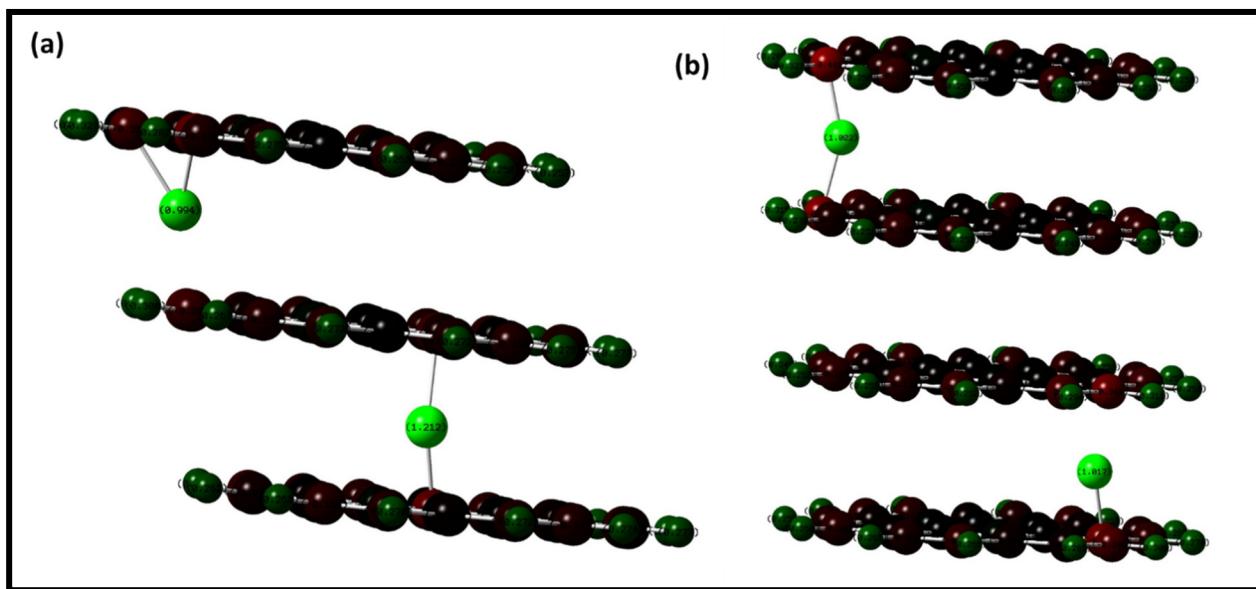


Figure S14. Natural bond orbital charges of (a) $2\text{B}^{3+}@\text{TG}$ and (b) $2\text{B}^{3+}@\text{TTG}$.

Table S1. Electronic properties.

Complexes	E_{HOMO} (eV)	E_{LUMO} (eV)	E_g (eV)	μ (eV)	η (eV)	χ (eV)	E_a (eV)
MG	-5.085	-2.242	2.843	13.42	1.421	3.663	2.242
BG	-4.883	-2.249	2.635	12.72	1.317	3.566	2.249
TG	-4.760	-2.233	2.527	12.23	1.264	3.496	2.233
FGS	-4.622	-2.151	2.472	11.47	1.236	3.386	2.151
B@MG	-4.857	-3.125	1.731	15.93	0.866	3.991	3.125
$\text{B}^{3+}@\text{MG}$	-16.31	-16.23	0.073	264.7	0.036	16.27	16.23
B@BG	-4.240	-3.122	1.118	13.55	0.559	3.681	3.122
$\text{B}^{3+}@\text{BG}$	-13.98	-12.84	1.142	179.8	0.571	13.41	12.84
B@TG	-3.407	-2.614	0.793	9.061	0.396	3.010	2.614
$\text{B}^{3+}@\text{TG}$	-11.96	-11.97	0.010	143.1	-0.005	11.96	11.97
B@TTG_asym	-3.347	-2.507	0.840	8.567	0.420	2.927	2.507
$\text{B}^{3+}@\text{TTG_asym}$	-10.85	-10.84	0.010	117.5	0.005	10.84	10.84
B@TTG_sym	-4.688	-2.680	2.009	13.57	1.004	3.684	2.680
$\text{B}^{3+}@\text{TTG_sym}$	-11.28	-11.28	0.003	127.1	0.002	11.28	11.28
2B@TG	-2.862	-2.787	0.075	7.979	0.038	2.825	2.787
2B$^{3+}$@TG	-20.08	-19.84	0.241	398.4	0.121	19.96	19.84
2B@TTG	-3.099	-3.059	0.040	9.479	0.020	3.079	3.059
2B$^{3+}$@TTG	-18.33	-17.66	0.672	323.9	0.336	18.0	17.66