

Supplementary Material

Substitution by *tert*-butyl groups facilitates excited state proton transfer in hydroxylated triphenylimidazole frameworks more than it does for oxazole and thiazole analogs

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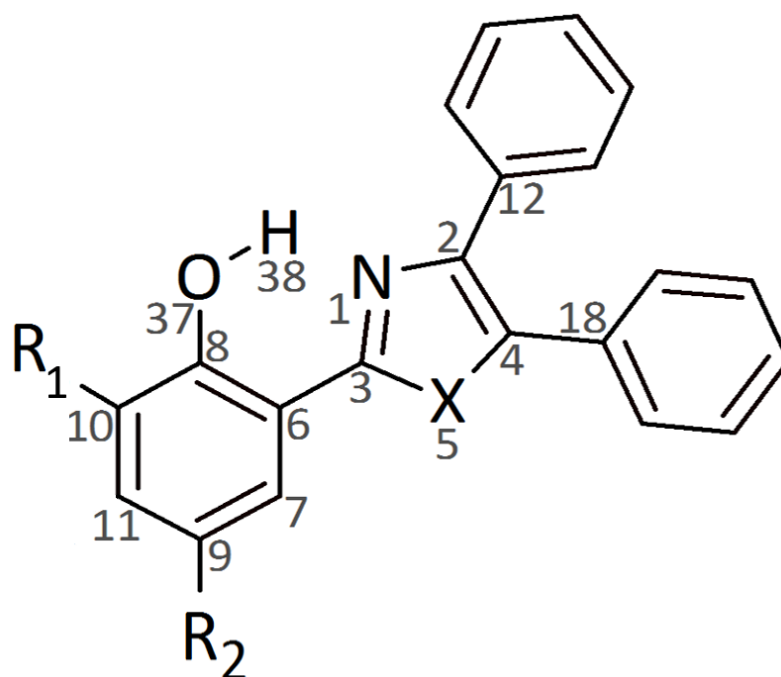


Figure SM1. Atomic numbering scheme adopted along the text.

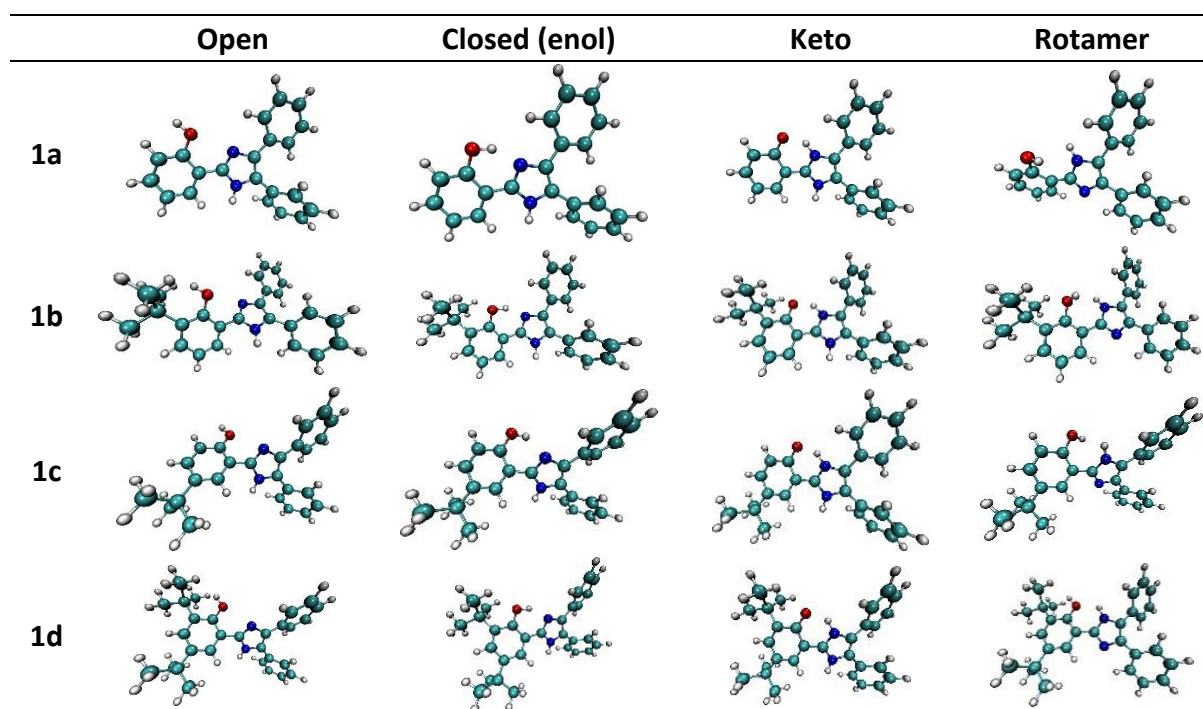


Figure SM2. Optimized structures obtained for the imidazole derivatives in open, closed (enol), keto and rotamer forms.

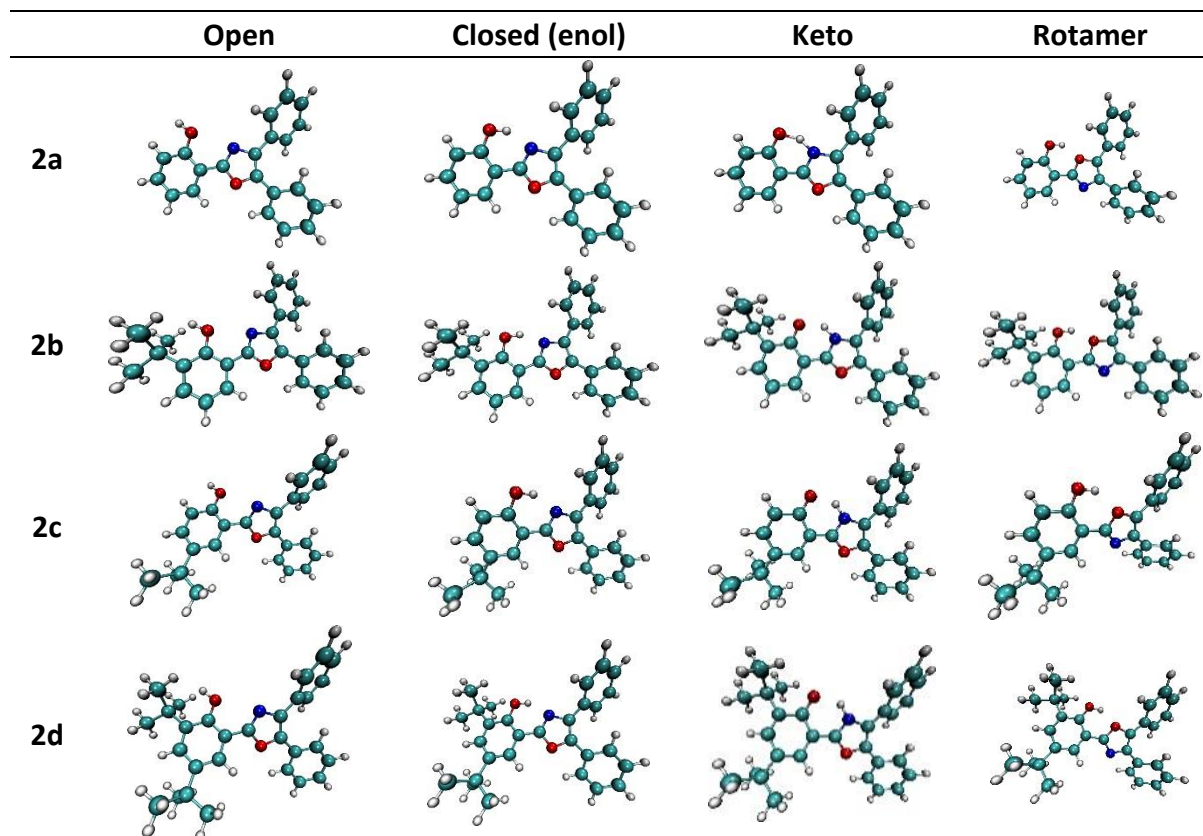


Figure SM3. Optimized structures obtained for the oxazole derivatives in open, closed (enol), keto and rotamer forms.

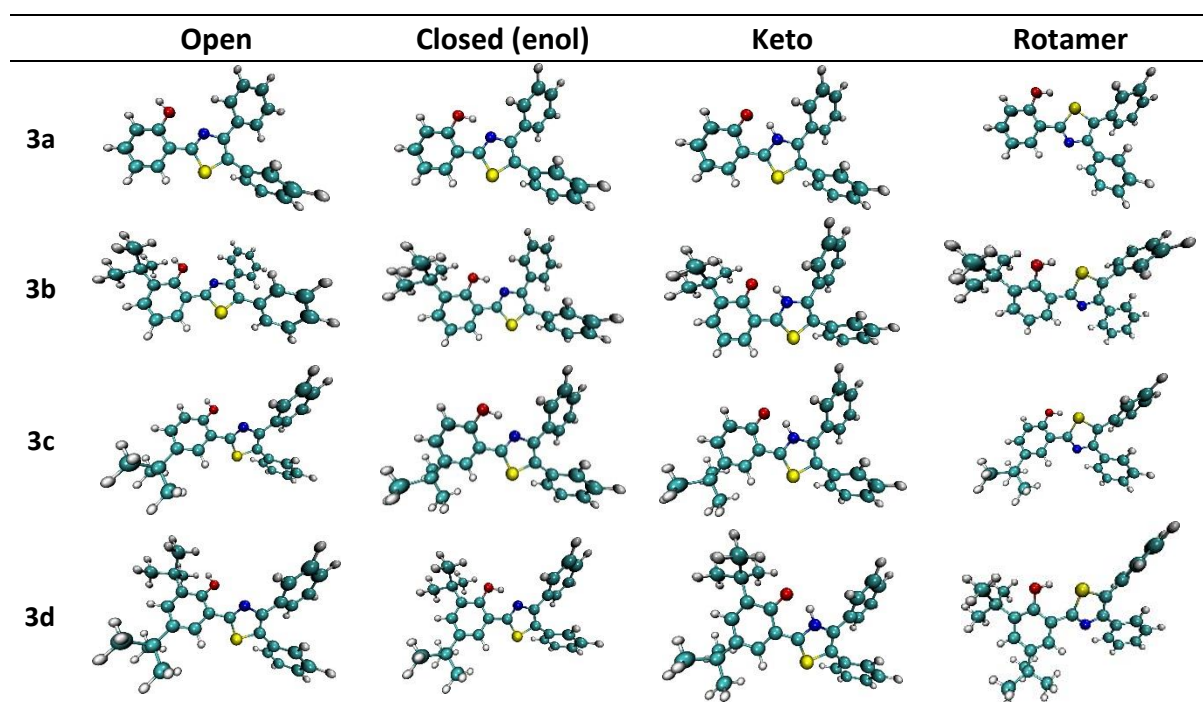


Figure SM4. Optimized structures obtained for the thiazole derivatives in open, closed (enol), keto and rotamer forms.

Table SM1. Bond distances and angles obtained for different forms of imidazole compounds in ground state

	Closed (enol)				Open				Rotamer			
	1a	1b	1c	1d	1a	1b	1c	1d	1a	1b	1c	1d
O – H	0.992	0.995	0.984	0.988	0.964	0.960	0.964	0.959	0.966	0.965	0.965	0.967
C₈ – O	1.341	1.346	1.346	1.351	1.355	1.363	1.359	1.362	1.376	1.392	1.382	1.369
N₁ – C₂	1.380	1.380	1.381	1.382	1.376	1.379	1.378	1.378	1.381	1.376	1.377	1.383
N₁ – C₃	1.328	1.328	1.328	1.329	1.319	1.318	1.320	1.322	1.317	1.321	1.322	1.320
N₅ – C₃	1.364	1.366	1.363	1.363	1.374	1.372	1.370	1.372	1.375	1.375	1.371	1.368
N₅ – C₄	1.388	1.387	1.385	1.384	1.382	1.382	1.381	1.380	1.388	1.387	1.383	1.383
C₂ – C₄	1.392	1.389	1.389	1.389	1.395	1.393	1.393	1.394	1.394	1.394	1.394	1.393
C₃ – C₆	1.456	1.458	1.458	1.459	1.464	1.471	1.469	1.473	1.466	1.468	1.466	1.485
C₆ – C₇	1.404	1.402	1.406	1.405	1.406	1.400	1.406	1.404	1.404	1.404	1.406	1.400
C₆ – C₈	1.420	1.421	1.411	1.412	1.416	1.412	1.406	1.409	1.408	1.409	1.404	1.401
C₇ – C₉	1.386	1.381	1.393	1.386	1.388	1.386	1.396	1.390	1.388	1.382	1.393	1.389
C₉ – C₁₁	1.399	1.398	1.407	1.405	1.393	1.391	1.402	1.400	1.396	1.394	1.406	1.405
C₈ – C₁₀	1.401	1.419	1.399	1.417	1.398	1.416	1.397	1.417	1.394	1.411	1.392	1.415
C₁₀ – C₁₁	1.386	1.394	1.385	1.392	1.388	1.401	1.388	1.396	1.391	1.399	1.387	1.396
θ (C8-C10-C11)	120.7	116.9	120.6	117.0	121.3	116.9	121.1	117.1	120.1	116.3	120.2	116.3
θ (C7-C9-C11)	119.3	119.5	116.6	116.8	119.3	119.4	116.5	116.7	119.6	120.1	117.1	116.9
θ (C9-C11-C10)	120.5	122.9	122.2	124.6	119.5	122.6	121.5	124.2	120.3	122.4	121.7	124.6
D° (C8-C6-C3-N1)	-0.4	-7.3	2.6	2.2	0.3	-44.8	42.9	37.8	-32.2	-14.9	29.9	-94.3
D° (C12-C2-C4-C18)	3.4	7.8	-3.6	-0.8	2.9	7.0	3.5	5.3	6.8	1.3	3.6	2.4

Table SM2. Bond distances and angles obtained for different forms of oxazole compounds in ground state

	Closed (enol)				Open				Rotamer			
	2a	2b	2c	2d	2a	2b	2c	2d	2a	2b	2c	2d
O – H	0.986	0.987	0.986	0.985	0.964	0.960	0.964	0.960	0.967	0.967	0.967	0.967
C ₈ – O	1.342	1.349	1.342	1.351	1.355	1.358	1.359	1.360	1.355	1.360	1.356	1.362
N ₁ – C ₂	1.389	1.392	1.390	1.393	1.387	1.389	1.390	1.390	1.391	1.391	1.390	1.391
N ₁ – C ₃	1.309	1.308	1.309	1.309	1.302	1.301	1.300	1.301	1.301	1.299	1.299	1.301
O ₅ – C ₃	1.351	1.351	1.351	1.351	1.365	1.366	1.361	1.364	1.367	1.370	1.369	1.371
O ₅ – C ₄	1.385	1.384	1.387	1.383	1.377	1.376	1.377	1.376	1.383	1.388	1.386	1.386
C ₂ – C ₄	1.377	1.379	1.378	1.377	1.379	1.380	1.381	1.381	1.375	1.376	1.374	1.373
C ₃ – C ₆	1.447	1.450	1.447	1.450	1.458	1.463	1.463	1.465	1.455	1.460	1.455	1.460
C ₆ – C ₇	1.406	1.404	1.408	1.406	1.406	1.403	1.407	1.405	1.408	1.406	1.409	1.408
C ₆ – C ₈	1.419	1.419	1.415	1.413	1.413	1.415	1.406	1.408	1.416	1.416	1.409	1.412
C ₇ – C ₉	1.385	1.380	1.389	1.384	1.387	1.382	1.394	1.388	1.384	1.379	1.389	1.385
C ₉ – C ₁₁	1.400	1.398	1.410	1.407	1.394	1.393	1.404	1.402	1.399	1.398	1.409	1.407
C ₈ – C ₁₀	1.401	1.419	1.399	1.417	1.398	1.419	1.397	1.417	1.399	1.418	1.399	1.416
C ₁₀ – C ₁₁	1.386	1.395	1.382	1.392	1.389	1.397	1.387	1.394	1.395	1.394	1.384	1.392
θ (C ₈ -C ₁₀ -C ₁₁)	120.4	116.7	120.5	116.8	121.1	117.0	121.0	117.0	120.7	116.8	120.7	116.8
θ (C ₇ -C ₉ -C ₁₁)	119.4	119.7	117.0	116.9	119.4	119.7	116.6	116.9	119.5	119.7	116.8	117.0
θ (C ₉ -C ₁₁ -C ₁₀)	120.8	123.2	122.3	124.8	119.8	122.5	121.7	124.3	120.3	122.9	122.0	124.6
D° (C ₈ -C ₆ -C ₃ -N ₁)	0.3	-2.2	-3.8	15.6	-2.0	-8.3	35.5	29.3	0.9	-3.5	15.9	20.2
D° (C ₁₂ -C ₂ -C ₄ -C ₁₈)	4.3	3.6	7.8	-2.6	4.9	3.2	1.8	3.2	5.8	3.9	3.9	1.9

Table SM3. Bond distances and angles obtained for different forms of thiazole compounds in ground state

	Closed (enol)				Open				Rotamer			
	3a	3b	3c	3d	3a	3b	3c	3d	3a	3b	3c	3d
O – H	0.989	0.993	0.989	0.987	0.964	0.960	0.964	0.960	0.963	0.963	0.967	0.968
C₈ – O	1.342	1.347	1.343	1.350	1.358	1.361	1.359	1.361	1.361	1.366	1.361	1.371
N₁ – C₂	1.379	1.380	1.379	1.382	1.377	1.377	1.379	1.379	1.373	1.377	1.378	1.376
N₁ – C₃	1.315	1.314	1.314	1.314	1.299	1.300	1.300	1.302	1.307	1.306	1.303	1.304
S₅ – C₃	1.751	1.751	1.750	1.750	1.765	1.769	1.755	1.764	1.759	1.759	1.767	1.765
S₅ – C₄	1.747	1.747	1.750	1.746	1.744	1.738	1.744	1.741	1.745	1.744	1.744	1.748
C₂ – C₄	1.380	1.380	1.381	1.380	1.386	1.383	1.385	1.384	1.382	1.382	1.381	1.384
C₃ – C₆	1.455	1.457	1.454	1.458	1.466	1.471	1.474	1.475	1.469	1.474	1.468	1.472
C₆ – C₇	1.406	1.404	1.408	1.405	1.406	1.403	1.403	1.403	1.412	1.408	1.410	1.408
C₆ – C₈	1.421	1.422	1.416	1.415	1.416	1.417	1.405	1.410	1.413	1.415	1.417	1.409
C₇ – C₉	1.383	1.379	1.387	1.384	1.387	1.382	1.395	1.389	1.383	1.377	1.391	1.384
C₉ – C₁₁	1.400	1.399	1.410	1.407	1.394	1.392	1.403	1.401	1.398	1.396	1.407	1.406
C₈ – C₁₀	1.402	1.419	1.401	1.418	1.400	1.418	1.397	1.418	1.400	1.425	1.397	1.417
C₁₀ – C₁₁	1.386	1.394	1.383	1.392	1.388	1.398	1.387	1.396	1.384	1.394	1.384	1.395
θ (C8-C10-C11)	120.6	116.9	120.7	117.0	121.3	117.2	120.8	117.0	120.9	116.9	120.6	116.8
θ (C7-C9-C11)	119.2	119.5	116.6	116.7	119.2	119.4	116.7	116.8	119.5	119.7	116.9	117.0
θ (C9-C11-C10)	120.6	122.9	122.2	124.6	119.2	119.4	116.7	116.8	119.9	122.5	121.9	124.4
D° (C8-C6-C3-N1)	-0.2	-9.0	-3.5	20.5	0.2	-23.4	50.7	38.1	0.5	0.5	33.3	26.0
D° (C12-C2-C4-C18)	6.7	9.9	7.4	0.3	4.4	6.5	3.0	5.6	8.9	-0.3	10.2	8.7

Table SM4. Bond distances and angles obtained for tautomers of imidazole compounds in ground (S_0) and excited (S_1) states

	S_0 enol (\equiv closed form)				S_1 enol				S_0 keto				S_1 keto			
	1a	1b	1c	1d	1a	1b	1c	1d	1a	1b	1c	1d	1a	1b	1c	1d
O – H	0.992	0.995	0.984	0.988	1.009	0.995	1.032	1.011	1.606	1.595	1.585	1.671	1.964	1.971	1.926	1.941
H\cdotsN	1.711	1.684	1.841	1.783	1.653	1.639	1.572	1.578	1.030	1.039	1.040	1.029	1.030	1.039	1.040	1.029
C₈ – O	1.341	1.346	1.346	1.351	1.324	1.328	1.315	1.318	1.274	1.281	1.275	1.277	1.257	1.257	1.257	1.258
N₁ – C₂	1.380	1.380	1.381	1.382	1.367	1.367	1.372	1.373	1.387	1.387	1.388	1.389	1.417	1.417	1.417	1.417
N₁ – C₃	1.328	1.328	1.328	1.329	1.331	1.331	1.329	1.327	1.344	1.345	1.344	1.347	1.317	1.319	1.318	1.319
N₅ – C₃	1.364	1.366	1.363	1.363	1.382	1.383	1.374	1.375	1.359	1.360	1.359	1.358	1.328	1.329	1.329	1.330
N₅ – C₄	1.388	1.387	1.385	1.384	1.379	1.379	1.386	1.387	1.399	1.399	1.400	1.399	1.419	1.419	1.420	1.420
C₂ – C₄	1.392	1.389	1.389	1.389	1.447	1.446	1.442	1.441	1.382	1.381	1.382	1.382	1.422	1.422	1.423	1.422
C₃ – C₆	1.456	1.458	1.458	1.459	1.431	1.433	1.437	1.440	1.421	1.423	1.421	1.419	1.484	1.485	1.483	1.484
C₆ – C₇	1.404	1.402	1.406	1.405	1.411	1.408	1.403	1.399	1.413	1.412	1.415	1.414	1.370	1.368	1.373	1.371
C₆ – C₈	1.420	1.421	1.411	1.412	1.440	1.443	1.444	1.446	1.457	1.455	1.452	1.450	1.461	1.462	1.458	1.458
C₇ – C₉	1.386	1.381	1.393	1.386	1.382	1.378	1.393	1.390	1.375	1.371	1.380	1.373	1.419	1.416	1.424	1.420
C₉ – C₁₁	1.399	1.398	1.407	1.405	1.409	1.408	1.423	1.421	1.416	1.414	1.426	1.425	1.392	1.389	1.406	1.403
C₈ – C₁₀	1.401	1.419	1.399	1.417	1.406	1.423	1.410	1.428	1.436	1.454	1.434	1.456	1.443	1.468	1.441	1.466
C₁₀ – C₁₁	1.386	1.394	1.385	1.392	1.382	1.390	1.376	1.384	1.373	1.381	1.371	1.378	1.384	1.394	1.377	1.387
θ (O – H \cdots N)	148.8	150.6	146.6	149.0	149.7	151.1	150.9	152.0	139.9	139.2	141.0	136.3	125.7	123.7	127.0	125.3
θ (C₈-C₁₀-C₁₁)	120.7	116.9	120.6	117.0	120.2	116.5	120.2	116.5	121.9	118.4	121.9	118.5	121.8	118.0	122.0	118.2
θ (C₇-C₉-C₁₁)	119.3	119.5	116.6	116.8	120.1	120.4	117.7	117.9	119.0	119.2	116.4	116.5	120.2	120.6	117.3	117.6
θ (C₉-C₁₁-C₁₀)	120.5	122.9	122.2	124.6	120.7	123.0	122.1	124.4	121.7	123.9	123.2	125.4	119.7	122.2	121.6	124.0
D^o (C₈-C₆-C₃-N₁)	-0.4	-7.3	2.6	2.2	-3.1	-3.3	-3.0	-3.4	0	3.0	5.8	6.0	1.0	13.8	4.8	7.9
D^o (C₁₂-C₂-C₄-C₁₈)	3.4	7.8	-3.6	-0.8	14.7	14.3	14.3	14.2	3.8	4.3	0	3.6	16.1	17.0	16.6	16.6

Table SM5. Bond distances and angles obtained for tautomers of oxazole compounds in ground (S_0) and excited (S_1) states

	S_0 enol (\equiv closed form)				S_1 enol				S_0 keto				S_1 keto			
	2a	2b	2c	2d	2a	2b	2c	2d	2a	2b	2c	2d	2a	2b	2c	2d
O – H	0.986	0.987	0.986	0.985	1.005	1.006	1.039	1.001	1.280	1.629	1.611	1.712	1.646	1.946	1.928	1.940
H \cdots N	1.765	1.755	1.764	1.806	1.692	1.658	1.545	1.629	1.162	1.041	1.041	1.029	1.162	1.041	1.041	1.029
C ₈ – O	1.342	1.349	1.342	1.351	1.324	1.322	1.305	1.314	1.298	1.276	1.272	1.272	1.265	1.258	1.258	1.259
N ₁ – C ₂	1.389	1.392	1.390	1.393	1.373	1.378	1.395	1.391	1.391	1.394	1.393	1.396	1.427	1.433	1.434	1.434
N ₁ – C ₃	1.309	1.308	1.309	1.309	1.316	1.310	1.299	1.300	1.323	1.335	1.335	1.338	1.294	1.300	1.299	1.301
O ₅ – C ₃	1.351	1.351	1.351	1.351	1.360	1.355	1.338	1.344	1.340	1.343	1.342	1.344	1.304	1.302	1.301	1.302
O ₅ – C ₄	1.385	1.384	1.387	1.383	1.393	1.399	1.416	1.411	1.397	1.398	1.400	1.398	1.436	1.434	1.435	1.435
C ₂ – C ₄	1.377	1.379	1.378	1.377	1.429	1.427	1.423	1.423	1.374	1.369	1.371	1.368	1.416	1.412	1.412	1.411
C ₃ – C ₆	1.447	1.450	1.447	1.450	1.430	1.439	1.456	1.454	1.421	1.407	1.404	1.402	1.473	1.474	1.473	1.473
C ₆ – C ₇	1.406	1.404	1.408	1.406	1.405	1.393	1.379	1.379	1.409	1.416	1.420	1.419	1.368	1.369	1.373	1.373
C ₆ – C ₈	1.419	1.419	1.415	1.413	1.441	1.447	1.444	1.443	1.444	1.459	1.456	1.455	1.457	1.457	1.453	1.453
C ₇ – C ₉	1.385	1.380	1.389	1.384	1.387	1.389	1.417	1.411	1.378	1.367	1.375	1.369	1.422	1.416	1.425	1.421
C ₉ – C ₁₁	1.400	1.398	1.410	1.407	1.410	1.407	1.419	1.417	1.411	1.418	1.430	1.429	1.393	1.390	1.407	1.404
C ₈ – C ₁₀	1.401	1.419	1.399	1.417	1.406	1.430	1.418	1.437	1.421	1.457	1.436	1.459	1.441	1.468	1.442	1.466
C ₁₀ – C ₁₁	1.386	1.395	1.382	1.392	1.383	1.389	1.374	1.385	1.379	1.379	1.369	1.376	1.385	1.396	1.378	1.388
θ (O – H \cdots N)	147.0	149.1	146.9	148.1	148.9	151.0	151.4	151.7	150.8	136.6	138.4	133.5	135.3	124.1	126.3	124.7
θ (C ₈ -C ₁₀ -C ₁₁)	120.4	116.7	120.5	116.8	119.9	116.1	120.0	116.3	120.9	118.0	121.7	118.1	121.3	117.8	121.8	118.0
θ (C ₇ -C ₉ -C ₁₁)	119.4	119.7	117.0	116.9	120.4	121.0	118.1	118.3	119.3	119.5	116.7	116.8	120.4	120.6	117.3	117.6
θ (C ₉ -C ₁₁ -C ₁₀)	120.8	123.2	122.3	124.8	120.7	122.7	121.6	123.9	121.8	124.2	123.5	125.8	120.1	122.5	122.0	124.3
D ^o (C ₈ -C ₆ -C ₃ -N ₁)	0.3	-2.2	-3.8	15.6	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.1	0	1.8	0.7	8.2	2.0	4.0	2.8	2.8
D ^o (C ₁₂ -C ₂ -C ₄ -C ₁₈)	4.3	3.6	7.8	-2.6	15.9	15.9	17.4	16.8	5.8	4.0	4.9	-1.4	19.4	18.7	18.4	19.1

Table SM6. Bond distances and angles obtained for tautomers of thiazole compounds in ground (S_0) and excited (S_1) states

	S_0 enol (\equiv closed form)				S_1 enol				S_0 keto				S_1 keto			
	3a	3b	3c	3d	3a	3b	3c	3d	3a	3b	3c	3d	3a	3b	3c	3d
O – H	0.989	0.993	0.989	0.987	1.003	1.046	1.042	1.007	1.610	1.608	1.582	1.629	1.807	1.772	1.789	1.789
H \cdots N	1.742	1.686	1.736	1.778	1.678	1.492	1.541	1.610	1.030	1.036	1.039	1.029	1.030	1.036	1.039	1.029
C ₈ – O	1.342	1.347	1.343	1.350	1.330	1.310	1.311	1.319	1.270	1.274	1.271	1.273	1.262	1.264	1.261	1.263
N ₁ – C ₂	1.379	1.380	1.379	1.382	1.354	1.365	1.365	1.362	1.384	1.385	1.383	1.386	1.418	1.414	1.418	1.417
N ₁ – C ₃	1.315	1.314	1.314	1.314	1.328	1.317	1.317	1.318	1.343	1.343	1.343	1.344	1.306	1.306	1.307	1.307
S ₅ – C ₃	1.751	1.751	1.750	1.750	1.776	1.746	1.748	1.754	1.742	1.743	1.742	1.744	1.706	1.709	1.707	1.709
S ₅ – C ₄	1.747	1.747	1.750	1.746	1.767	1.780	1.776	1.776	1.769	1.770	1.771	1.770	1.775	1.777	1.775	1.776
C ₂ – C ₄	1.380	1.380	1.381	1.380	1.435	1.426	1.428	1.428	1.370	1.370	1.371	1.370	1.417	1.417	1.416	1.416
C ₃ – C ₆	1.455	1.457	1.454	1.458	1.435	1.467	1.462	1.463	1.411	1.412	1.410	1.410	1.482	1.483	1.480	1.480
C ₆ – C ₇	1.406	1.404	1.408	1.405	1.410	1.376	1.385	1.383	1.419	1.418	1.420	1.418	1.374	1.372	1.377	1.375
C ₆ – C ₈	1.421	1.422	1.416	1.415	1.442	1.450	1.444	1.445	1.463	1.461	1.457	1.456	1.459	1.458	1.456	1.455
C ₇ – C ₉	1.383	1.379	1.387	1.384	1.386	1.413	1.416	1.411	1.370	1.366	1.373	1.368	1.417	1.414	1.421	1.417
C ₉ – C ₁₁	1.400	1.399	1.410	1.407	1.405	1.392	1.414	1.411	1.420	1.419	1.431	1.430	1.392	1.388	1.406	1.403
C ₈ – C ₁₀	1.402	1.419	1.401	1.418	1.403	1.441	1.415	1.433	1.440	1.458	1.438	1.458	1.441	1.464	1.440	1.463
C ₁₀ – C ₁₁	1.386	1.394	1.383	1.392	1.386	1.396	1.379	1.389	1.370	1.378	1.368	1.376	1.386	1.397	1.378	1.389
θ (O – H \cdots N)	147.9	150.2	147.9	148.4	149.7	153.9	152.1	152.4	141.5	106.3	142.3	140.0	134.2	134.0	124.8	133.7
θ (C ₈ -C ₁₀ -C ₁₁)	120.6	116.9	120.7	117.0	120.3	116.6	120.3	116.6	121.8	118.2	121.9	118.4	121.8	118.1	122.0	118.3
θ (C ₇ -C ₉ -C ₁₁)	119.2	119.5	116.6	116.7	120.1	121.2	117.8	118.1	119.1	119.4	116.5	116.8	120.0	120.3	117.1	117.4
θ (C ₉ -C ₁₁ -C ₁₀)	120.6	122.9	122.2	124.6	120.5	121.7	121.3	123.6	121.8	123.9	123.3	125.4	120.0	122.3	121.7	124.1
D $^\circ$ (C ₈ -C ₆ -C ₃ -N ₁)	-0.2	-9.0	-3.5	20.5	1.8	1.5	0.5	1.2	-0.6	4.5	0.6	6.2	1.1	3.7	5.2	3.7
D $^\circ$ (C ₁₂ -C ₂ -C ₄ -C ₁₈)	6.7	9.9	7.4	0.3	20.0	17.9	18.2	17.7	4.8	6.2	3.9	5.7	20.7	19.6	19.4	20.2

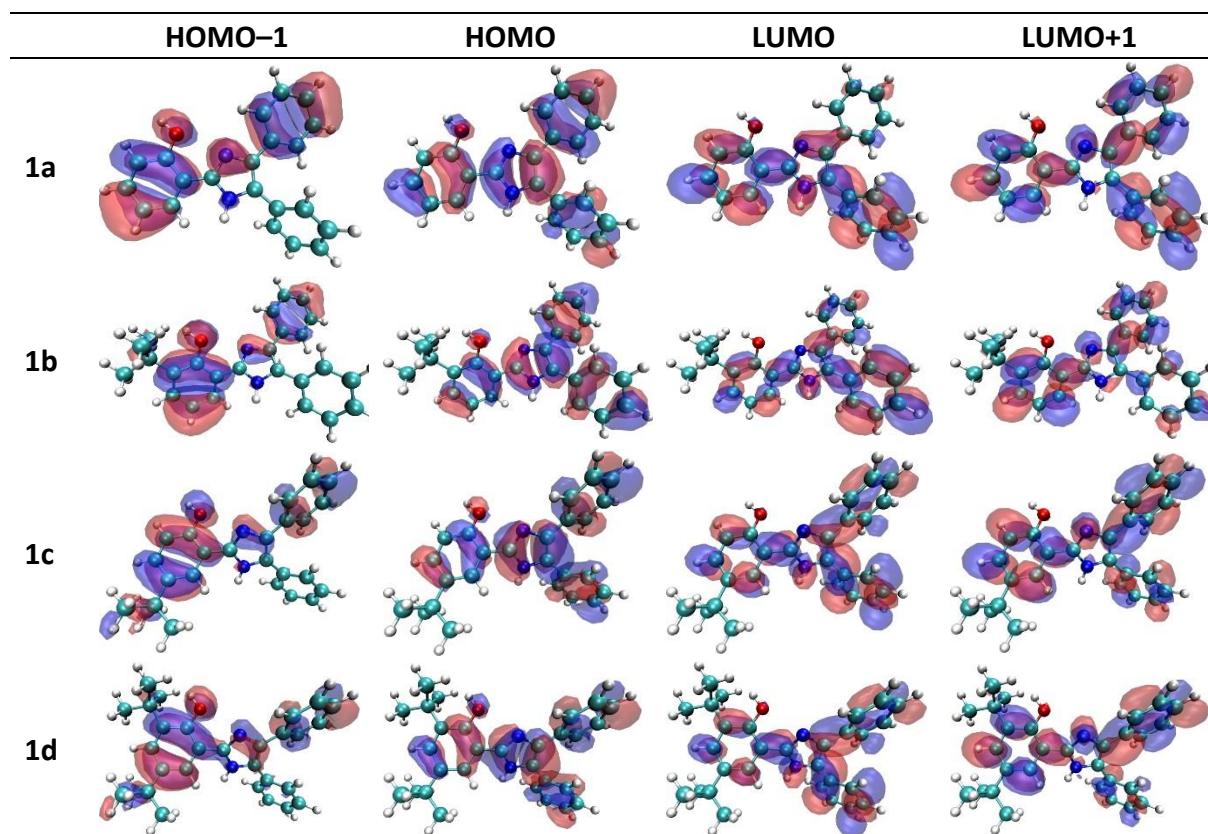


Figure SM5. Molecular orbitals obtained for the open form of the imidazole derivatives.

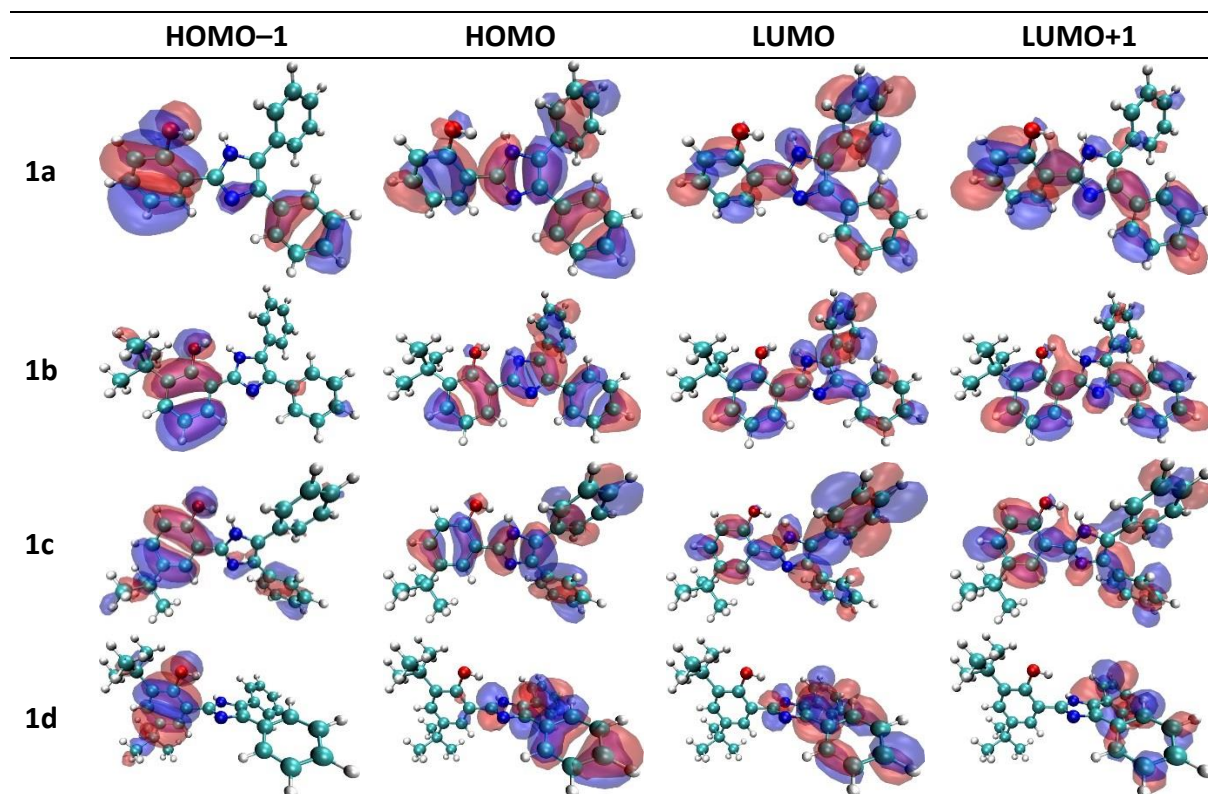


Figure SM6. Molecular orbitals obtained for the rotamer form of the imidazole derivatives.

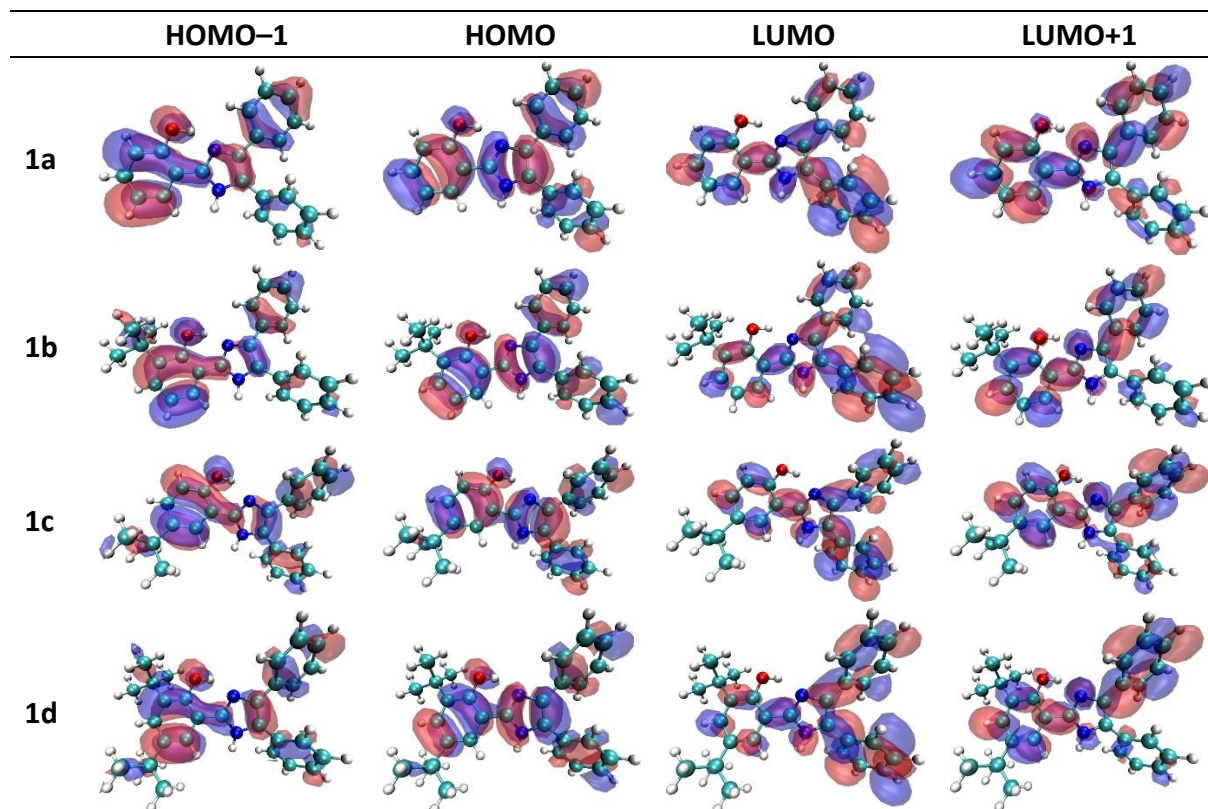


Figure SM7. Molecular orbitals obtained for the closed (enol) form of the imidazole derivatives.

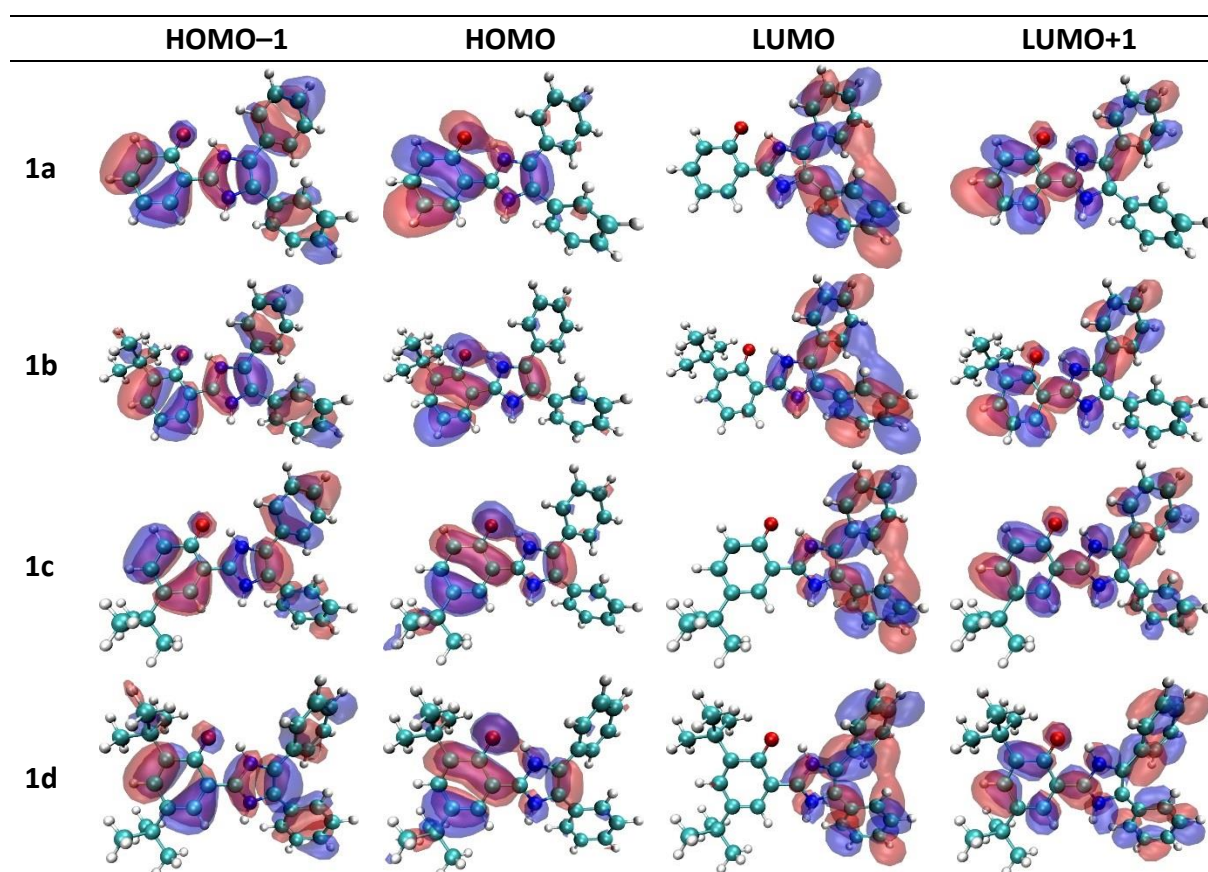


Figure SM8. Molecular orbitals obtained for the keto form of the imidazole derivatives.

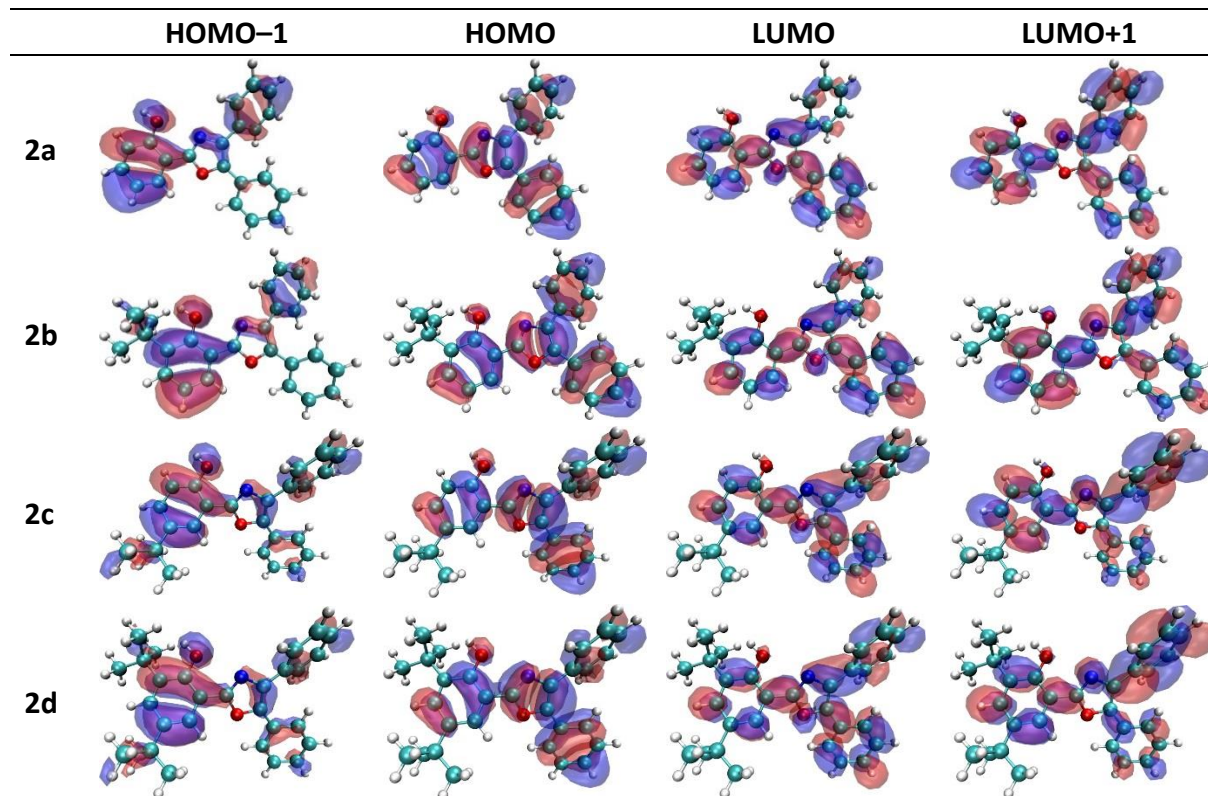


Figure SM9. Molecular orbitals obtained for the open form of the oxazole derivatives.

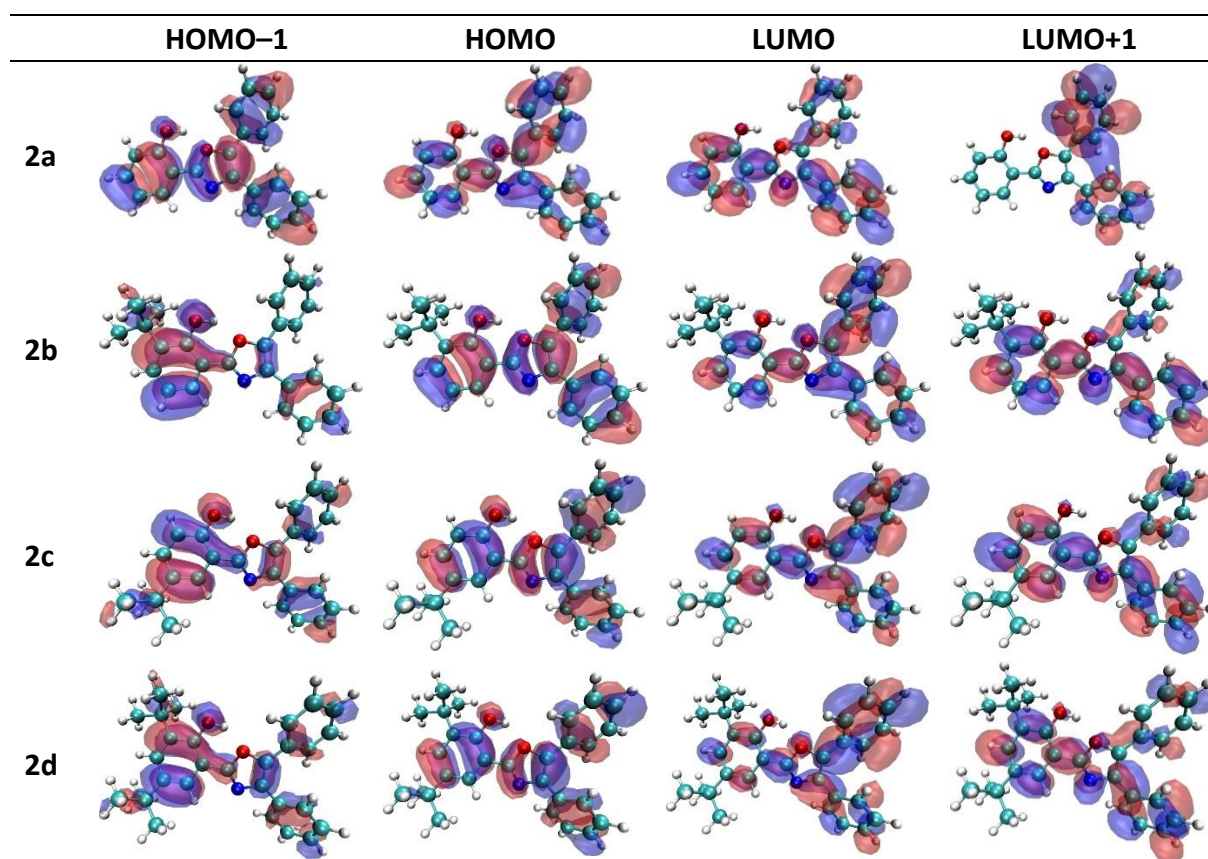


Figure SM10. Molecular orbitals obtained for the rotamer form of the oxazole derivatives.

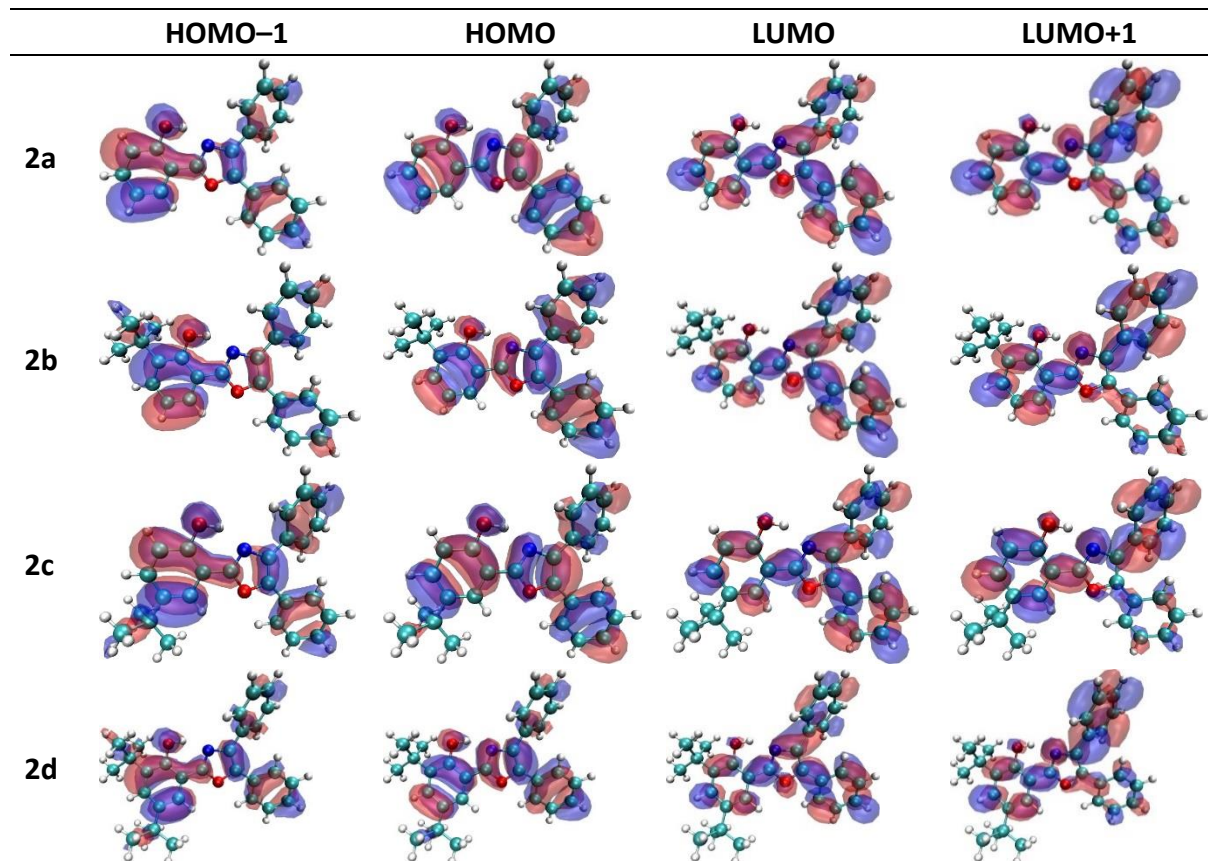


Figure SM11. Molecular orbitals obtained for the closed (enol) form of the oxazole derivatives.

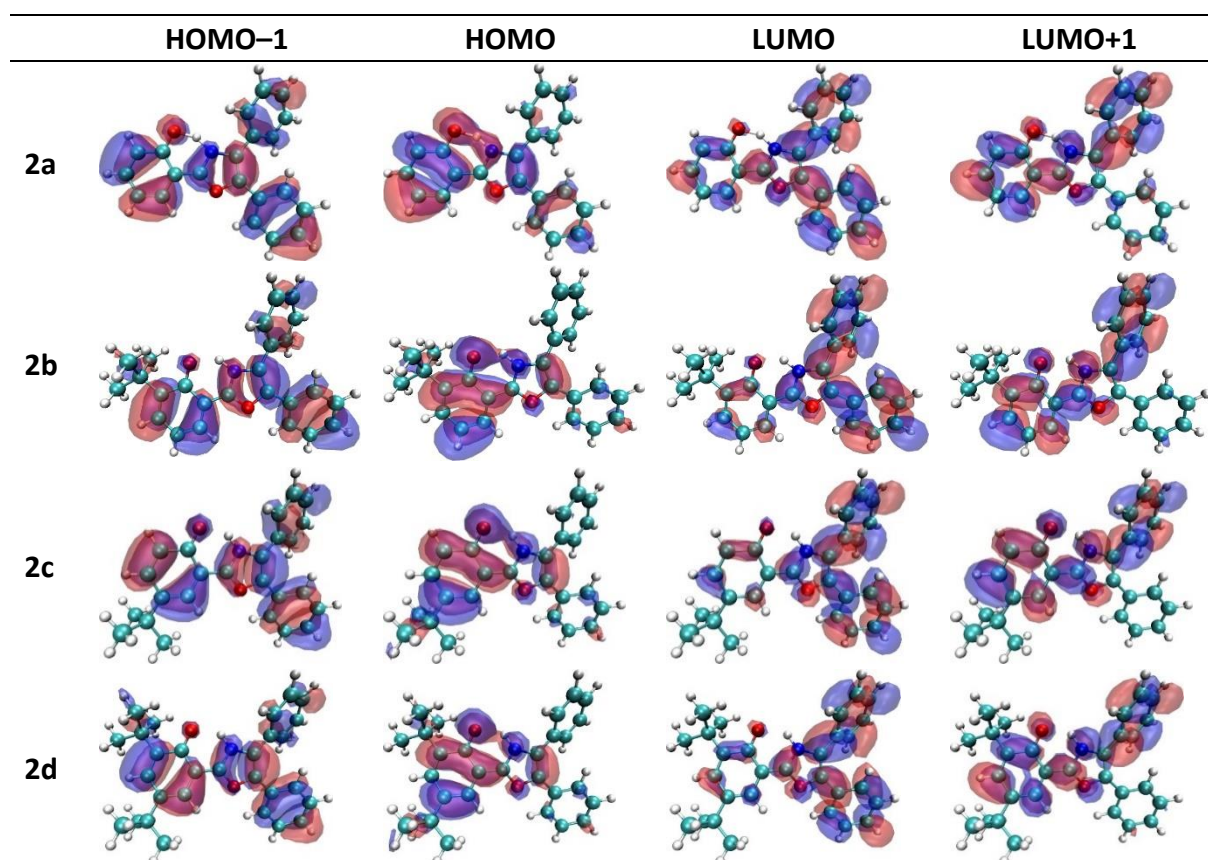


Figure SM12. Molecular orbitals obtained for the keto form of the oxazole derivatives.

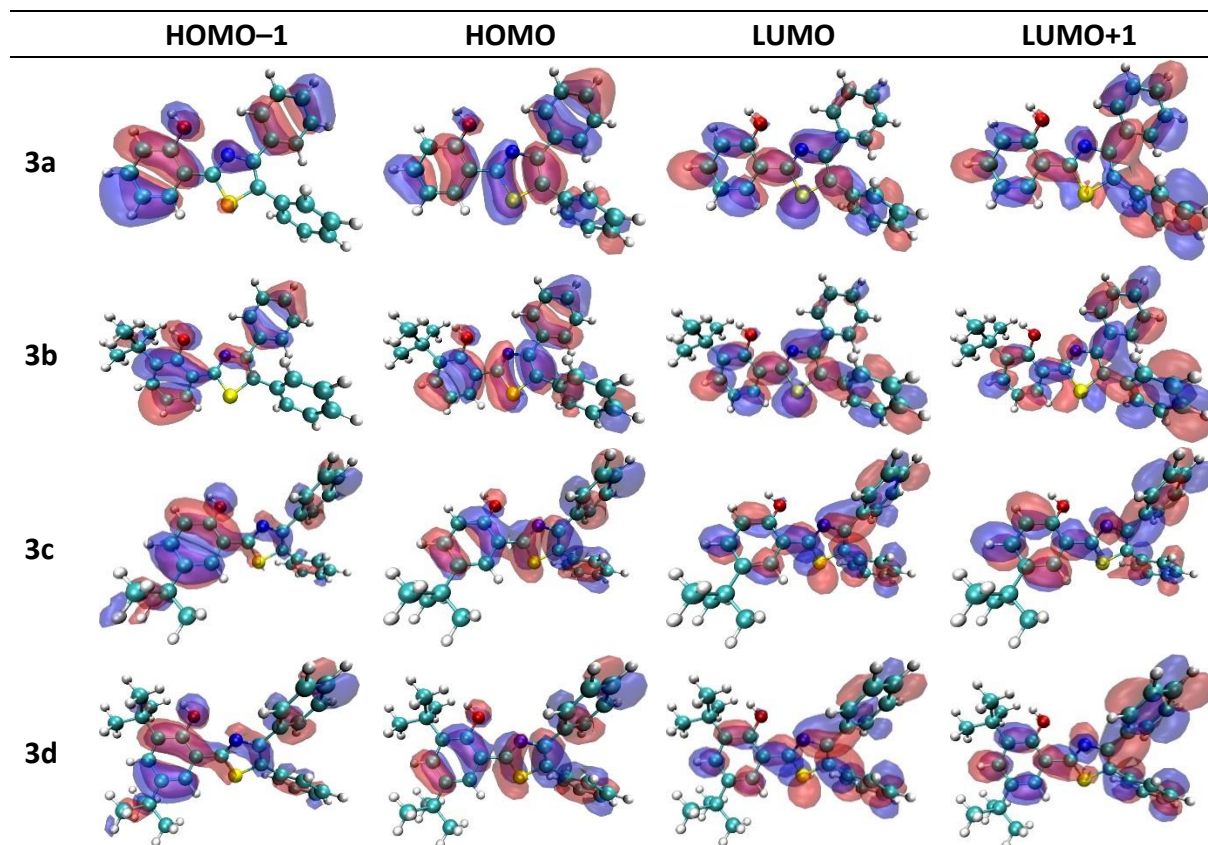


Figure SM13. Molecular orbitals obtained for the open form of the thiazole derivatives.

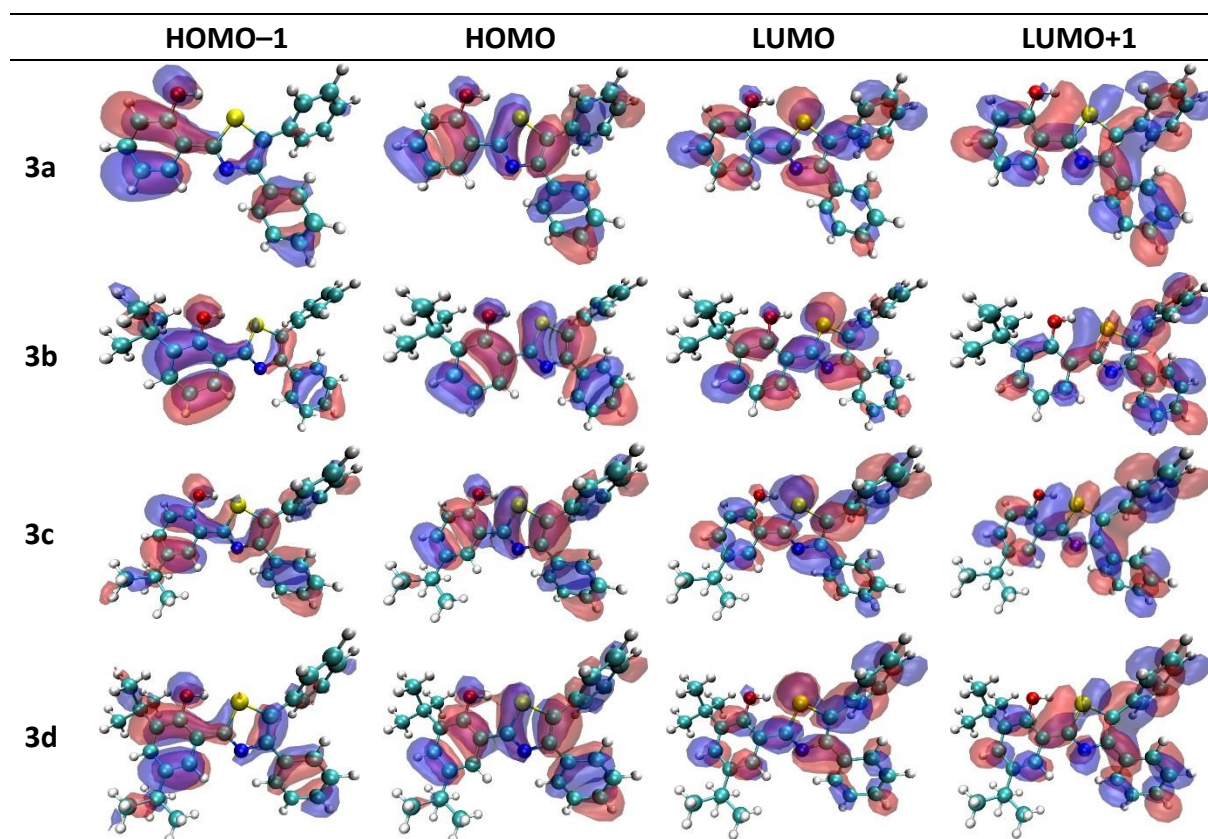


Figure SM14. Molecular orbitals obtained for the rotamer form of the thiazole derivatives.

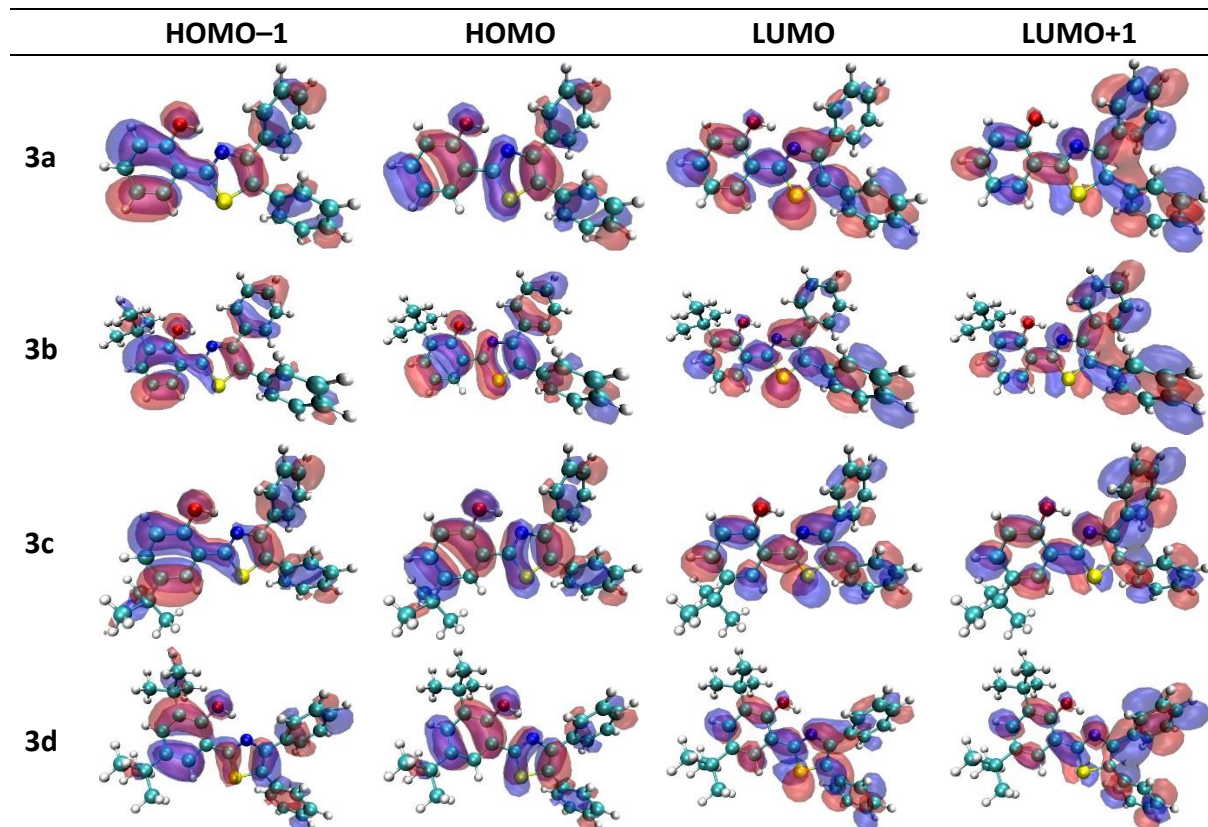


Figure SM15. Molecular orbitals obtained for the enol (closed) form of the thiazole derivatives.

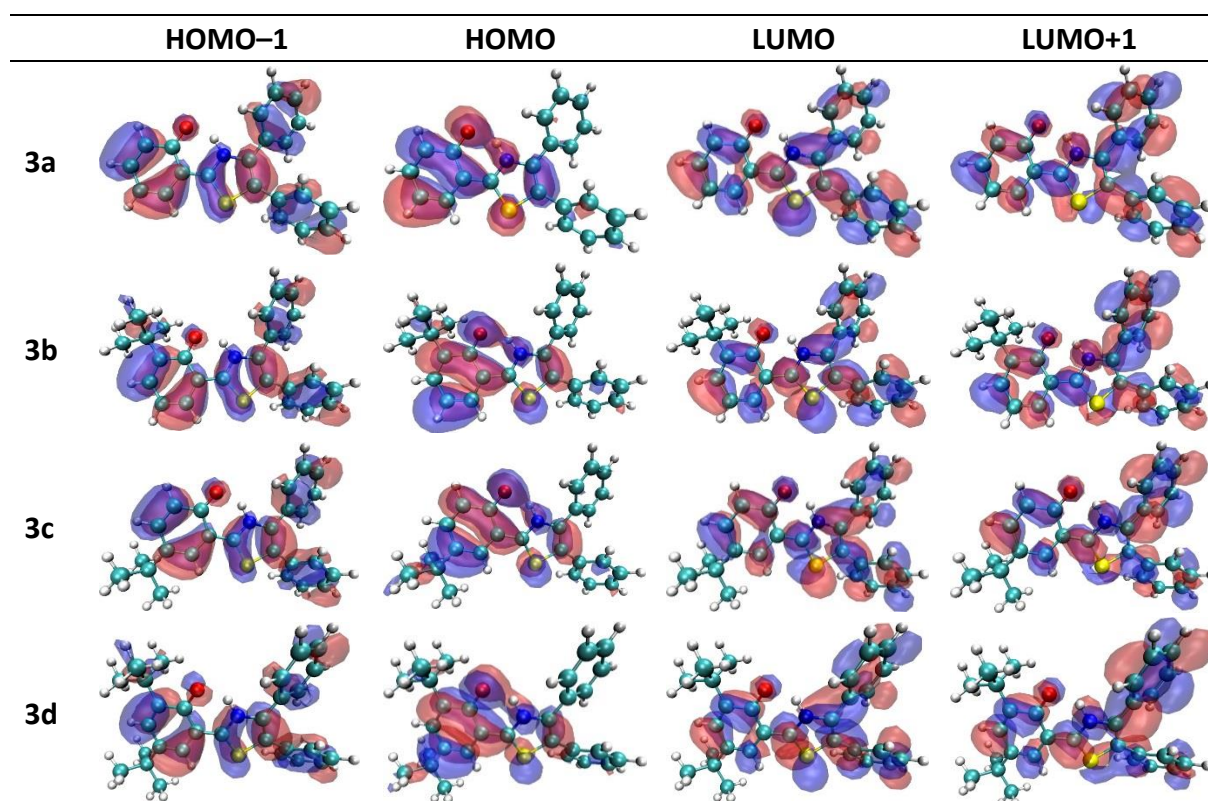


Figure SM16. Molecular orbitals obtained for the keto form of the thiazole derivatives.