



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Electronic structure theory investigation on the electrochemical properties of cyclohexanone derivatives as organic carbonyl-based cathode material for lithium-ion batteries



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Abstract Organic carbonyl-based compounds with redox-active site have recently gained full attention as organic cathode material in lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) owing to its high cyclability, low cost, high abundance, tunability of their chemical structure compared to traditionally used inorganic material. However, the utilization of organic carbonyl-based compounds in LIBs is limited to its poor charge capacity and dissolution of lower molecular weight species in electrolytes. In this study, we theoretically investigated five set of cyclohexanone derivatives (denoted as: H₁, H₂, H₃, H₄, and H₅) and influence of functional groups (-F and -NH₂) on their electrochemical properties using advanced level density functional theory (DFT) with the Perdew-Burke-Ernzenhof hybrid functional (PBE0) at 6-31 + G(d,p) basis set. In line with the result gotten, the HOMO-LUMO results revealed that compound H₅ is the most reactive among the studied cyclohexanone derivatives exhibiting energy gap values of 0.552, 0.532, 0.772 eV for free optimized structures and structurally engineered structures with electron withdrawing group (EWG) and electron donating group (EDG) respectively. Also, results from electrochemical properties of the studied compounds lithiated with only one lithium atom displayed that compound H₂ exhibited interesting redox potential and energy density for all the studied structures in free optimized state (1108.28 W h kg⁻¹, 4.92 V vs Li/Li⁺), with EWG

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(648.22 W h kg⁻¹, 3.313 V Li/Li⁺), and with EDG (1002.4 W h kg⁻¹, 5.011 V vs Li/Li⁺). From our result, we can infer that compound H₂ and H₃ with corresponding redox potential, energy density and theoretical charge capacity value of 4.92 V vs Li/Li⁺, 1108.28 W h kg⁻¹, 225.26 mA h g⁻¹ and 5.168 V, 1041.61 W h kg⁻¹, 201.55 mA h g⁻¹ lithiated with only one lithium atom in free optimized state are the most suitable compounds to be employed as organic cathode material in lithium-ion batteries among all the investigated cyclohexanone derivatives.

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1. Introduction

Organic carbonyl – based compounds are one of the promising organic electrode materials employed as cathode material in rechargeable lithium – ion batteries (LIBs) that is commonly used in high performance energy storage devices such as electric vehicles (EVs) and portable rechargeable electronic devices (laptops, mobile phones) which is contributed from its high energy density and fast charge transfer (Shi et al., 2021; Lyu et al., 2021; Ye and Li, 2021; Amin et al., 2018). Presently, redox-active organic compounds with carbonyl moiety have been found to be of great advantage as cathode materials in LIBs due to the ease of production, good cyclability, reversible multi-electron reaction, sustainability, high abundance, benign and tune-ability of their chemical structures in order to modify their electrochemical properties (Onori et al., 2016; Esser et al., 2021; Wu et al., 2016; Kerman et al., 2017; Horstmann et al., 2021; Trahey et al., 2020) compared to conventionally used transition metal-based inorganic cathode material such as LiCoO₂, LiFePO₄, LiNiO₂, LiMn₂O₄ which suffers major problems of poor diffusion of lithium ions through them (Kim et al., 2021; Amin and Chiang, 2016; Yang et al., 2021; Chung et al., 2002; Chen et al., 2017; Li et al., 2016). In as much as organic carbonyl-based compounds aids in enhancing the electrochemical performance of lithium – ion batteries, the main bottle neck of organic compounds as electrode material is that the lower molecular weight species tends to attain dissolution in the electrolyte used and their low theoretical charge capacity (<600 mA h g⁻¹) (Gunnarsdóttir et al., 2020; Amanchukwu et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2020; Yu et al., 2020; Le et al., 2017).

In recent years, several researchers have reported the use of organic carbonyl compounds as cathode material in LIBs and also suggested several methods of increasing their electrochemical properties for proper utilization in LIBs. For instance, Kim and coworkers conducted DFT studies on the stability and redox potential of seven selected quinone derivatives namely; 1,4-Benzoquinone, 1,4-Naphthoquinone, 9,10-Anthraquinone, 2-Aminoanthraquinone, Anthraquinone-2-carboxylic acid, 2,6-Diaminoanthraquinone, Anthraquinone-2,6-dicarboxylic acid using two functionals (PBE0 and PWB6K) with 6-31+G(d,p) basis set for possible application as organic cathode material in Lithium-ion batteries (Kim et al., 2016). Their result revealed that modifying the studied compounds with functional groups EWG (COOH) and EDG (NH₂), presence of EWG tends to increase their redox potential than those designed with EDG due to increase in electron affinity of the compounds with EWG. Park and coworkers successfully performed DFT calculation using PBE0/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory on two ketone derivatives (phenalenyl and anthracene) by incorporating on them different number of carbonyl group (Park et al., 2017). They pointed out that redox potential of the investigated compounds increases as the number of attached redox-active carbonyl group increases. Luo and coworkers also carried out theoretical study on tetra-(phthalimido)-benzoquinone (TPB) with rigid ring as insoluble cathode material for LIBs by utilizing DFT/B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) theory level (Luo et al., 2017). They reported that, on insertion of 2Li atom and 4Li atom, TPB demonstrated redox potential of 3.63 V and 2.28 V respectively. Recently, Jung et al., systematically performed DFT study on carbonitrile and quinone derivatives for possible use as organic positive electrode mate-

rial in rechargeable Li-ion batteries by employing DFT/PBE0/6-31+G(d,p) method (Jung et al., 2020). They inferred that introducing EWG functional group is an effective method of enhancing redox potential of the abovementioned compounds. Lu and coworkers investigated the electrochemical characteristics of cyclohexanone experimentally and computationally using DFT method for prospective application as cathode material for LIBs (Lu et al., 2019). They highlighted that C₆O₆ exhibited ground breaking result with theoretical and experimental charge capacity of 957 mA h g⁻¹ and 902 mA h g⁻¹ respectively which is attributed to ultima electron transfer on all the six redox active sites present on the compound.

Herein, we report the use of density functional theory (DFT) method to theoretically examine the electrochemical properties of five set of cyclohexanone derivatives with and without functional groups (EWG: fluorine and EDG: NH₂) for possible utilization as organic cathode material in lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) by employing DFT/PBE0/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory. Frontier molecular orbital (FMO) of the studied cyclohexanone derivatives was also estimated to verify their stability and reactivity as organic cathode material in LIBs. Natural bond orbital (NBO) analysis was also considered in order to visualize the form of interaction taking place within the orbitals of the investigated compounds. The electrochemical properties of the studied compounds were investigated with respect to the redox potential, energy density, and charge capacity.

2. Methodology

2.1. Computational details

In this study, all density functional theory (DFT) computations were executed using Gaussian 09 (Trucks et al., 2013) and GaussView 6.0.16 software packages. We employed the Perdew-Burke-Ernzenhof hybrid functional (PBE0) level of theory and 6-31+G(d,p) basis set as utilized by several authors (Kim et al., 2016; Park et al., 2017; Jung et al., 2020) for geometry optimization of all the structures implemented in this research work. Frequency calculations were also performed on the optimized structures using the aforementioned DFT level of theory and basis set to validate that the resultant geometries of the investigated structures attain minima potential energy on the surface (Park et al., 2017). Due to the atomic size of the considered structures, the chosen function sufficiently captures all possible electron–electron interaction by considering all dispersion corrections. Throughout this study, redox potential of the cyclohexanone derivatives was computed both in neutral and in anionic phase by utilizing Born-Haber's thermodynamics cycle proposed by Truhler and coworkers (Kim et al., 2016; Park et al., 2017; Jung et al., 2020; Kushwaha et al., 2017) which is an application of Hess law. In addition, to determine solvation effect, we deploy the conductor – like polarizable continuum model (CPCM) (Itkis et al., 2021) which is an implicit solvation model by employing

water as solvent in order to aid in calculation of redox potentials and assess all possible electronic effects imposed by ions in solution. Also, Natural Bond Orbital (NBO) (Undiandeye et al., 2022; Patrick-Inezi et al., 2022; Nemykin et al., 2021; Louis et al., 2021) calculations were implemented on the in-built NBO 3.1 module (Glendening et al., 2003) in the Gaussian 09 software in order to investigate intra and inter molecular interactions and charge transfer taking place within the molecules (Ji et al., 2021).

Redox potential of the investigated compounds without and with Li atom were evaluated respectively using equation (1) and (2);

$$E^{red} = \left(-\frac{\Delta G^{red}(H, sol)}{nF} \right) \quad (1)$$

$$E_{Li}^{red} = \left(-\frac{\Delta G^{red}(H, sol)}{nF} \right) - 1.44V \quad (2)$$

where E^{red} and E_{Li}^{red} denotes the redox potential without and with Li atom, $\Delta G^{red}(H, sol)$ reflects reduction free energy change in solution phase and $1.44V$ refers to standard lithium reference electrode. In the same light, n and F individually shows the number of electrons present during reduction and Faraday constant. As evident from equation (1) and (2), reduction free energy change of the investigated cyclohexanone derivatives in solution phase $\Delta G^{red}(H, sol)$ was predicted from Truhlar and coworkers proposed thermodynamic cycle using the suggested equation (3) (Kim et al., 2016; Park et al., 2017; Jung et al., 2020; Kushwaha et al., 2017).

$$\Delta G^{red}(H, sol) = \Delta G^{red}(H, gas) + \Delta G^{solv}(H^-) + \Delta G^{solv}(H) \quad (3)$$

where $\Delta G^{red}(H, gas)$ represent reduction free energy change of the studied compounds in gas phase, $\Delta G^{solv}(H)$ and $\Delta G^{solv}(H^-)$ specifically characterize solvation free energies of the studied compounds in neutral and anionic phase. Furthermore, energy

density of the reported cyclohexanone derivatives was also estimated for both compounds with and without lithiation by one Li atom. The computed energy density was done using equation (4) (Kim et al., 2016; Park et al., 2017; Luo et al., 2017; Jung et al., 2020);

$$W\left(\frac{Wh}{kg}\right) = \int_0^Q V(q) dq \quad (4)$$

where W indicates the energy density, $V(q)$ represents calculated reduction potential, dq is change in charge. Also, theoretical charge capacity of the investigated compounds was predicted using equation (5) (Sreenidhi and SD, 2021);

$$Q\left(\frac{mAh}{g}\right) = \frac{nF}{3.6W_m} \quad (5)$$

From equation (5), Q designate theoretical charge capacity, n reflects amount of electron stored, F specifies Faraday's constant (96500C/mol) and W_m denotes molecular weight of the selected compounds under study.

Binding energy (B.E) involved during the lithiation of cyclohexanone derivatives was computed with the aid of equation (6);

$$B.E = E(H_x - Li) - E(H_x) - E(Li) \quad (6)$$

Here, $E(H_x - Li)$, $E(H_x)$, $E(Li)$ signifies the total energies of cyclohexanone derivatives with lithium atom, bare cyclohexanone derivatives and the Li atom.

2.2. Screening of cyclohexanone derivatives

We conducted DFT calculations for the screening of 11 models of the cyclohexanone derivatives using M06-2X *meta*-hybrid functional with 6-311 + G(d,p) basis set in order determine the best stable derivatives and the result is shown in Fig S1 of the supporting information. Selected stable cyclohexanone derivatives for this study can be seen in Fig. 1.

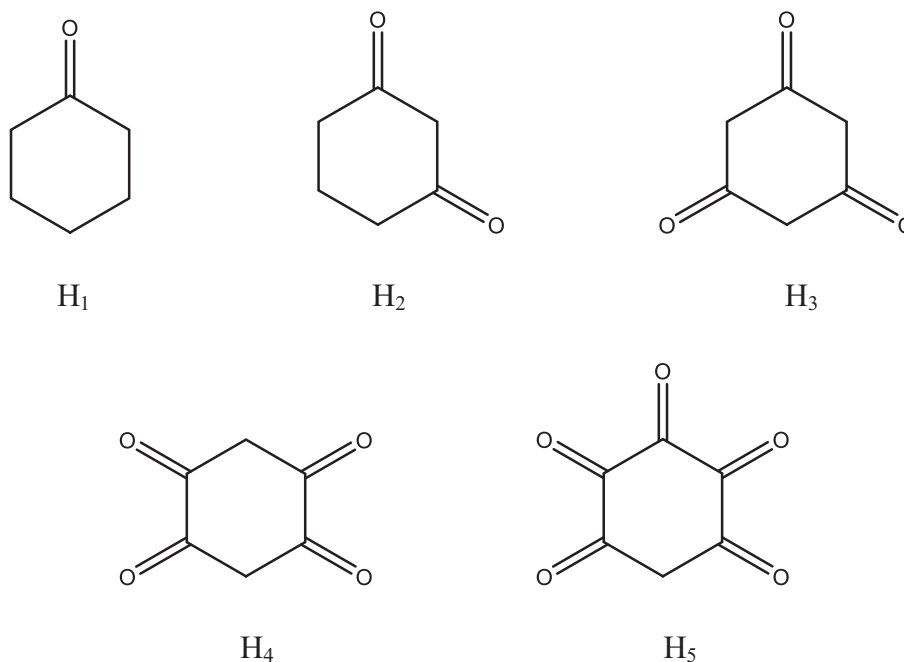


Fig. 1 Selected stable cyclohexanone derivatives employed in this study.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Cyclohexanone

3.1.1. Frontier molecular orbital (FMO)

To understand the nature of stability and reactivity of cyclohexanone derivatives, the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) (Udoikono et al., 2022), the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) (Unimuke et al., 2022) and energy gap (E_g) (Benjamin et al., 2022) of the cyclohexanone derivatives were computed at BPE0/6-31+G(d,p) (Kim et al., 2016; Park et al., 2017; Jung et al., 2020) level of theory. In accordance with FMO theory, the HOMO behaves as an electron donor and the LUMO accepts electron while energy gap (E_g) signifies the difference between the HOMO and the LUMO energy levels (Benjamin et al., 2022). Energy gaps obtained from the HOMO and LUMO values of the compounds critically depicts the stability and reactivity of the redox active organic compound under study. Also, from the aforementioned FMO theory, a higher energy gap indicates a more stable and less reactive compound while lower energy

gap implies that the compound is less stable and very reactive (see Figs. 2–9).

HOMO – LUMO energy levels and energy gaps (E_g) of the free optimized structures of the compounds under investigation is presented in Table S1. As evident from the table, results from the energy gap of the studied compounds reflects a progressive trend of $H_5 < H_4 < H_3 < H_2 < H_1$ with specific values of 0.552, 2.002, 2.922, 3.447, 3.687 eV respectively. From the trend of the results, there is a clear indication that H_5 possesses the least E_g value while compound H_1 possesses the highest energy gap. The high E_g of 3.687 eV for H_1 is as a result of attachment of one oxygen atom to one carbon atom of the cyclo ring while the low E_g of 0.552 eV for H_5 is of the fact that five oxygen atoms are bonded to five carbon atoms of the cyclo ring which in turn increases the electron density of the cyclo ring as a result of lone pair of electrons on the five oxygen atoms that is been delocalized into the cyclo ring. Thus, it can be stressed that the five oxygen atoms with lone pair of electrons conferred to H_5 makes it the least stable and most reactive with least E_g among the studied compounds while H_1 with only one atom with lone pair of electrons on it

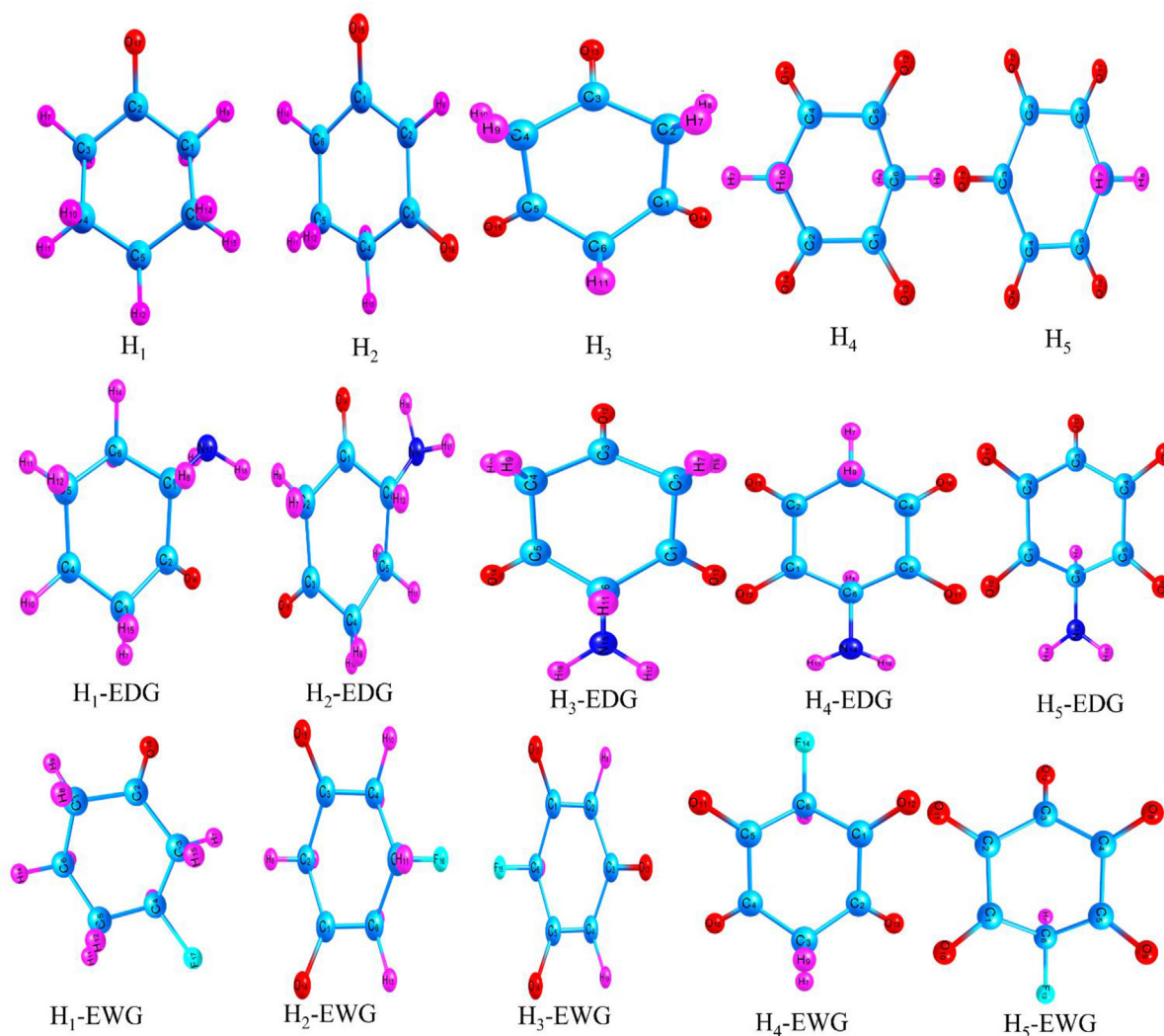


Fig. 2 Optimized structures of the free and functionalized cyclohexanone derivatives.

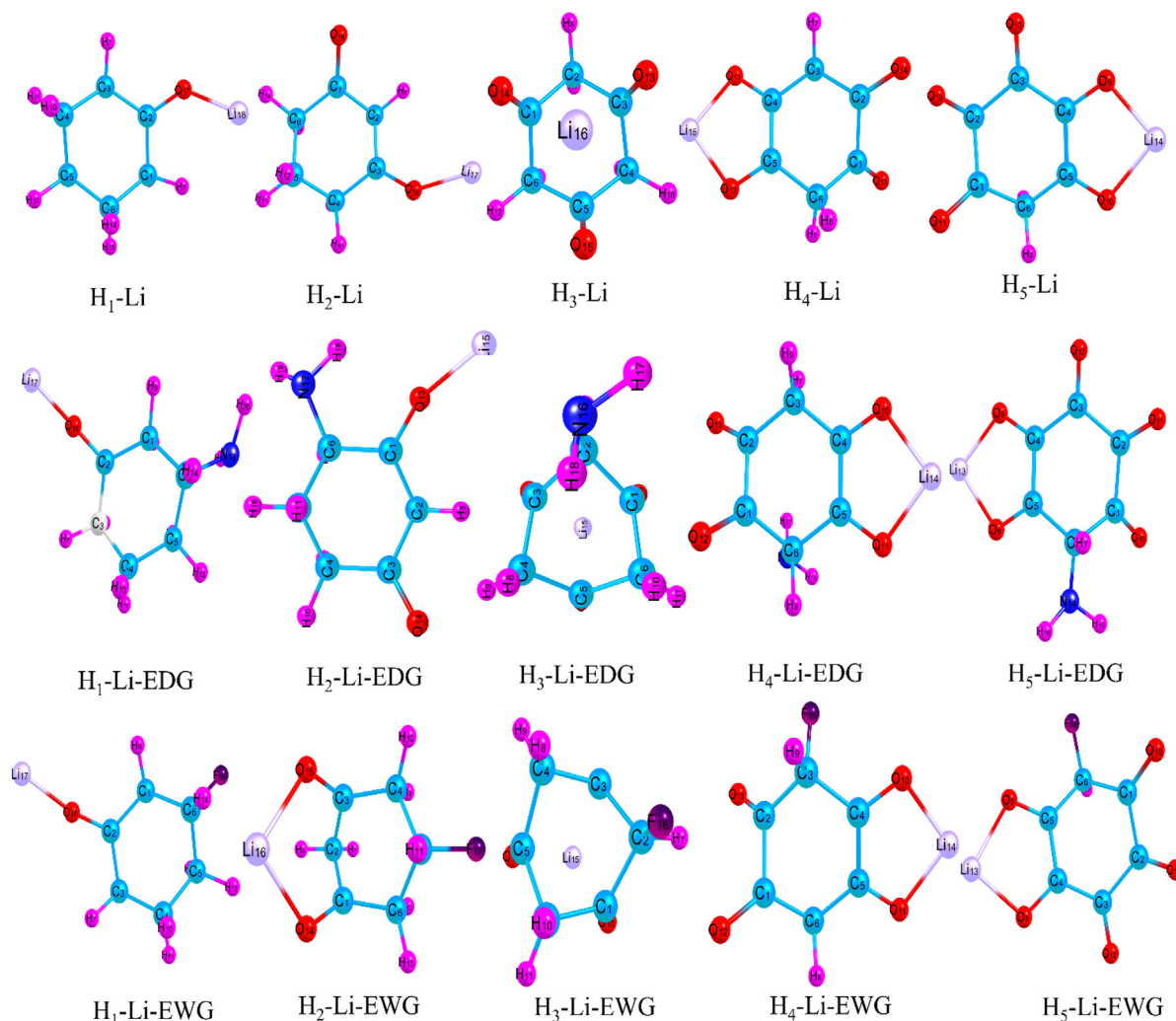


Fig. 3 Optimized structures of the free and functionalized cyclohexanone derivatives with one Li atom.

makes it the most stable and least reactive with highest E_g among the studied compounds.

In addition, molecular orbital composition of the HOMO and LUMO orbitals of all the cyclohexanone derivatives was also analyzed. For compound H_1 , the HOMO orbital is majorly distributed on O_{17} , C_2 , C_4 atoms with orbital contribution of 66.96%, 23.08%, 3.67% respectively while its LUMO orbital is mainly localized on C_4 , O_{17} , C_3 having individual orbital composition of 111.05%, 39.88%, 14.61%. In the same line, HOMO orbital of compound H_2 is largely distributed on O_{15} , C_2 , C_3 atoms of which their orbital compositions are 37.99%, 17.72%, 10.03% respectively while the LUMO orbital is dominantly concentrated on C_5 , C_1 , O_{15} atoms possessing specific orbital composition of 28.27%, 25.42%, 19.12%. In the case of compound H_3 , the HOMO orbital is chiefly spread on O_{13} , O_{14} , C_5 , C_4 atoms of which their respective orbital composition was 24.32%, 23.52%, 8.35%, 6.19% while that of LUMO orbital is principally dispersed on C_4 , C_6 , O_{14} , O_{13} atoms with corresponding orbital composition of 14.99%, 13.32%, 11.02%, 9.40%. Likewise, HOMO orbital of compound H_4 is greatly concentrated on the following atoms O_{11} , C_3 , C_5 with respective orbital composition of 17.50%, 6.34%, 4.33% while the LUMO orbital is

majorly positioned on O_{11} , C_1 atoms depicting orbital composition of 11.97%, 11.89% respectively. Moreover, compound H_5 HOMO orbital was found to be highly circulated on the subsequent atoms O_{13} , O_9 , O_{11} , C_3 , C_4 having orbital composition 18.72%, 13.59%, 11.58%, 8.01%, 5.64% while the LUMO orbital is predominantly localized on O_9 , O_{17} , C_5 , C_3 , O_{10} with individual orbital composition of 19.40%, 17.11%, 12.81%, 10.71%, 6.32%. In summary, it was observed that mostly, oxygen atoms with same atomic labeling contributed both in the HOMO and LUMO orbital of the studied cyclohexanone derivatives as a result of lone pair on the oxygen atoms and negative inductive effect of oxygen atom respectively.

3.1.2. Natural bond orbital (NBO) analysis

NBO is a computational approach that gives the most plausible method for elucidating interactions between Lewis valence orbital (donor) and non-Lewis valence orbital (acceptor) in a molecule (Undiandeye et al., 2022; Patrick-Inezi et al., 2022; Nemykin et al., 2021). It is a powerful tool used to decipher complex Schrödinger wave equation into a simple and more assimilating chemical bonding concept (Patrick-Inezi et al., 2022). NBO analysis was conducted by employing DFT/

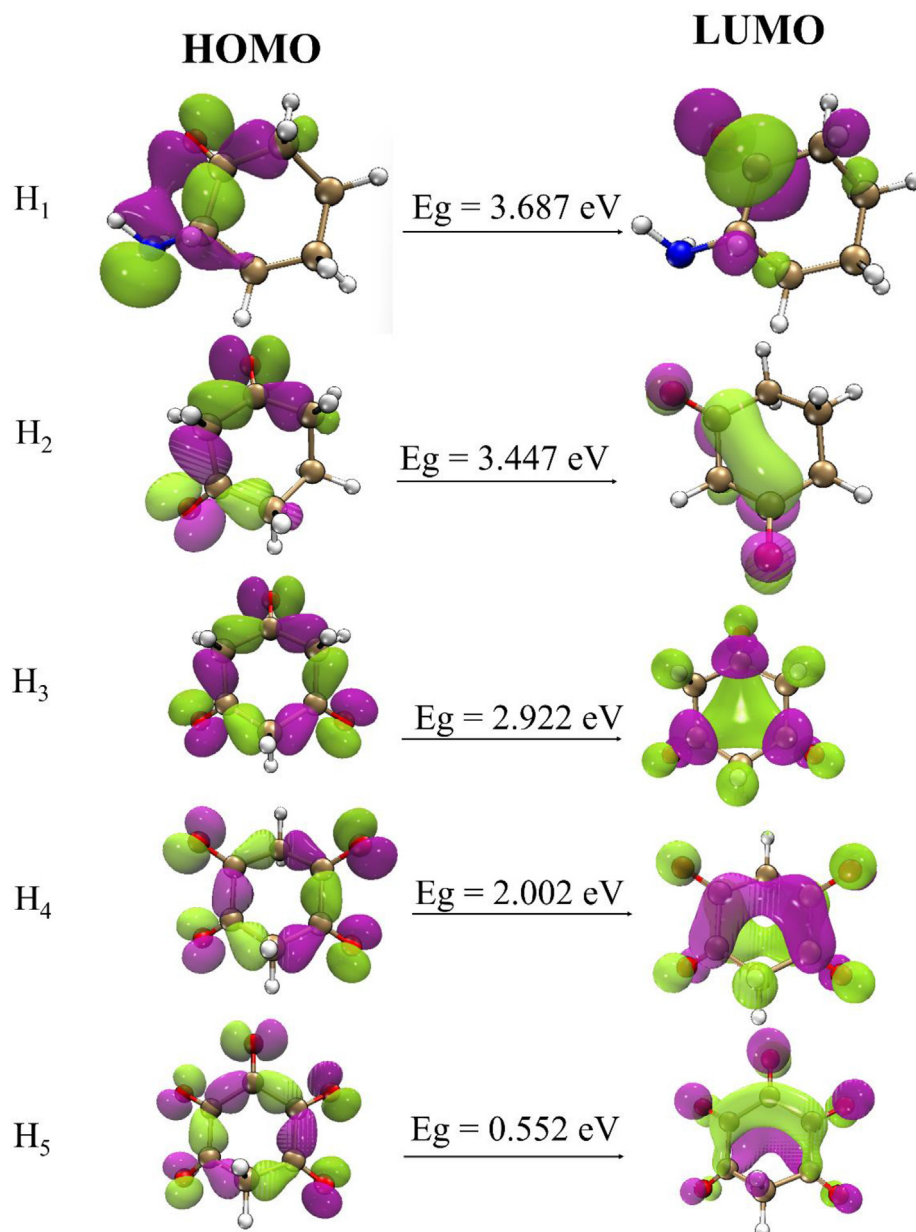


Fig. 4 HOMO-LUMO plot of the free optimized structures.

PBE0/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory in order to comprehend intramolecular and intermolecular hyperconjugation, charge transfer, delocalization of electron within the candidate molecules (Unimuke et al., 2022). The most interacting Lewis valence orbitals and non-Lewis valence orbitals of the studied compounds were computed by the second order perturbation theory analysis of the Fock matrix (Undiandeye et al., 2022; Golding Sheeba et al., 2021). From the second order perturbation theory analysis of the Fock matrix calculation, the interaction of the Lewis valence orbital (donor) and non-Lewis valence orbital (acceptor) were measured as a function of stabilization energy $E^{(2)}$ or second order perturbation energy $E^{(2)}$. Large stabilization energy $E^{(2)}$ reflects stronger interaction between the donor and acceptor orbital. The stabilization energy $E^{(2)}$ involved with the delocalization of electron between Lewis valence orbital and non-Lewis valence orbital

is predicted using equation (1) (Undiandeye et al., 2022; Patrick-Inezi et al., 2022; Nemykin et al., 2021; Shahab et al., 2021).

$$E^{(2)} = \Delta E_{ij} = -q_i \frac{F^2(i,j)}{\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j} \quad (7)$$

where q_i denotes the donor orbital occupancy, ε_i and ε_j symbolizes the diagonal elements and $F_{(i,j)}$ represents the Fock matrix element. The computed stabilization energy $E^{(2)}$ or second order perturbation energy $E^{(2)}$ of the most interacting NBO for free optimized structures of the studied compounds are represented in Table S2. The trend of the result obtained from the stabilization energy $E^{(2)}$ of the studied compounds is as follows $H_5 > H_4 > H_2 > H_3 > H_1$ with corresponding intermolecular hyperconjugative interactions and $E^{(2)}$ values of

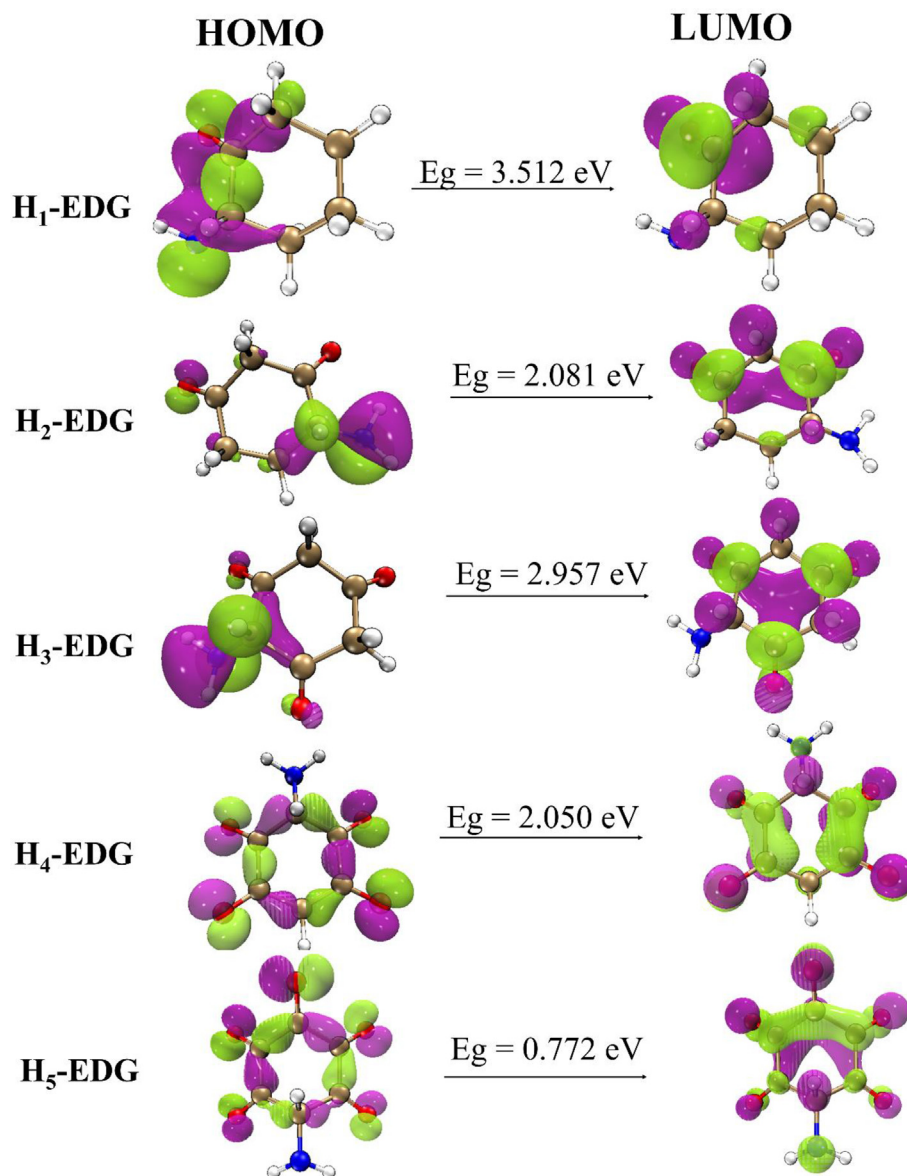


Fig. 5 HOMO – LUMO plot of the optimized structures structurally designed with EDG.

LP(2) O₁₁ → σ^* C₁ – C₂ (23.31 kcal/mol), LP(2) O₁₄ → σ^* C₁ – C₂ (22.02 kcal/mol), LP(2) O₁₆ → σ^* C₂ – C₃ (19.95 kcal/mol), LP(2) O₁₅ → σ^* C₅ – C₆ (19.49 kcal/mol), LP(2) O₁₇ → σ^* C₂ – C₃ (18.71 kcal/mol) respectively. The results obtained depicts that the most persistent intermolecular hyperconjugative interaction of the studied compounds is that of non-bonding interaction of LP → σ^* . The strongest intermolecular hyperconjugative interaction exhibited by compound H₅ arises from intense delocalization of electron (Shahab et al., 2021) from lone pair on donor LP(2) O₁₁ to σ^* C₁ – C₂ acceptor with stabilization energy $E^{(2)}$ of 23.31 kcal/mol, thus responsible for high reactivity of compound H₅ among the studied compounds which is in excellent agreement with its E_g result.

3.1.3. Electrochemical properties

Electrochemical properties such as redox potential, energy density and theoretical charge capacity of the investigated cyclohexanone derivatives was computed to ascertain their

performance as a possible organic cathode (positive) electrode material for lithium-ion battery (Chen et al., 2018; Lopez et al., 2019; Meng and Arroyo-de Dompablo, 2013). Estimated electrochemical properties of free optimized cyclohexanone derivatives is laid out in Table 1. In view from the table, it can be seen that redox potential of the studied free optimized structure of cyclohexanone derivatives is of the trend H₂ > H₅ > H₄ > H₁ > H₃. From the trend, it was observed that compound H₂ exhibited the highest redox potential of 1.868 V and highest energy density (447.09 W h kg⁻¹) with corresponding theoretical charge capacity of 239.34 mA h g⁻¹. We can infer that the high redox potential of compound H₂ is as a result of localized distribution of the two redox-active carbonyl group attached to it with minimum steric effect which increases the concentration of electron density on one side and thus can be reduced easily. From this line of reasoning, we deduced that compound H₂ is the best organic positive electrode material for lithium-ion battery application among the studied free

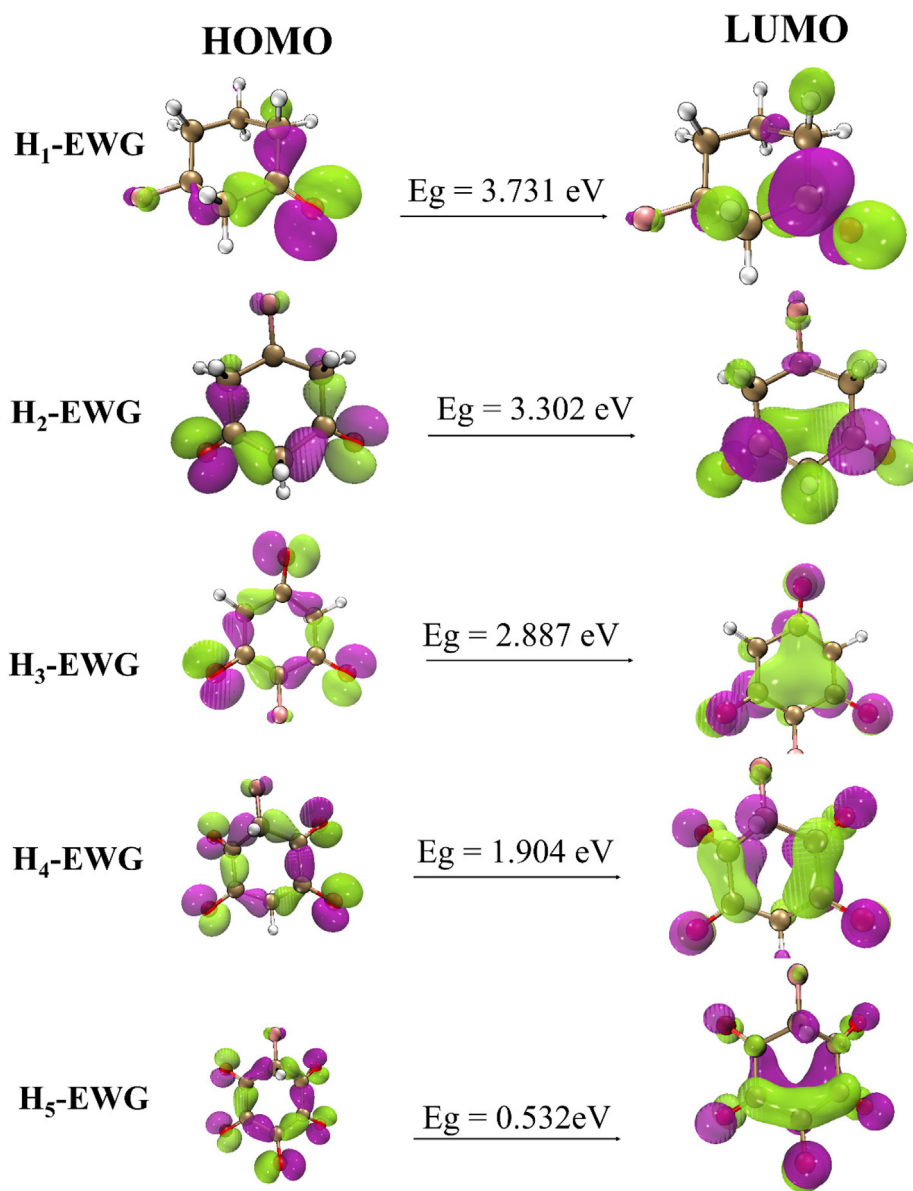


Fig. 6 HOMO – LUMO plot of the optimization structures fine-tuned with EWG.

optimized structure of cyclohexanone derivatives. We also noticed that compound H₃ portrayed the least redox potential of 1.492 V with resultant energy density and theoretical charge capacity of 317 W h kg⁻¹ and 212.74 mA h g⁻¹ respectively. The low redox potential of compound H₃ is attributed to uniform distribution of three redox carbonyl moiety on the compounds which in turn result to increased uniform concentration of electron density and thus can't be reduced easily. However, H₅ was observed to have the least energy density of 311.92 W h kg⁻¹ with redox potential of 1.792 V. The low energy density of H₅ is due to its poor theoretical charge capacity (174.06 mA h g⁻¹) arising from high molecular weight of the compound contributed by 5 redox-active carbonyl moieties attached to it. In general, it can be seen that the number and distribution of carbonyl group attached to the studied organic carbonyl compounds greatly affect their redox potential (Li et al., 2021).

3.2. Cyclohexanone derivatives with EDG

3.2.1. Frontier molecular orbital

The result obtained from the computed HOMO – LUMO energy levels of the candidate molecules with EDG (NH₂) is exhibited in Table S2. It was observed that the result obtained from their various energy gap follows the trend H₁-EDG > H₃-EDG > H₂-EDG > H₄-EDG > H₅-EDG with corresponding values of 3.512, 2.957, 2.081, 2.050, 0.772 eV. From the trend of the result, it is revealed that H₁-EDG possesses the highest energy gap of 3.512 eV while H₅-EDG possesses the least E_g of 0.772 eV. The least E_g of H₅-EDG is as a result of combined delocalization of lone pairs of electrons from five oxygen atoms attached to it and the lone pair of electron on EDG into the cyclo ring thus pushing excess electron into the cyclo ring which in turn increases the electron density (Pelzer et al., 2017) of the cyclo ring while the high E_g of H₁-

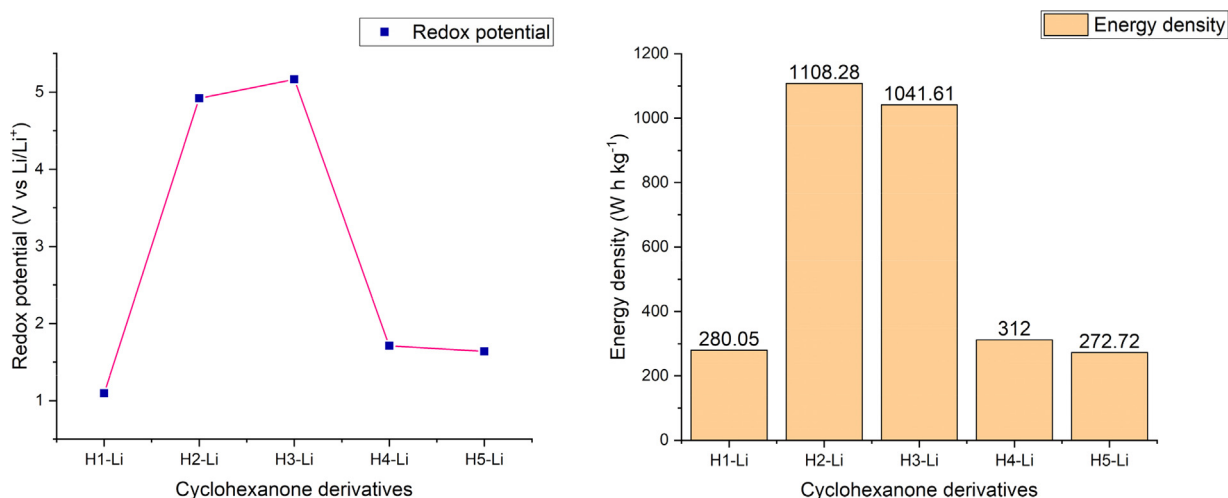


Fig. 7 Redox potential of the lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives in free optimized state (b) Energy density of the lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives in free optimized state.

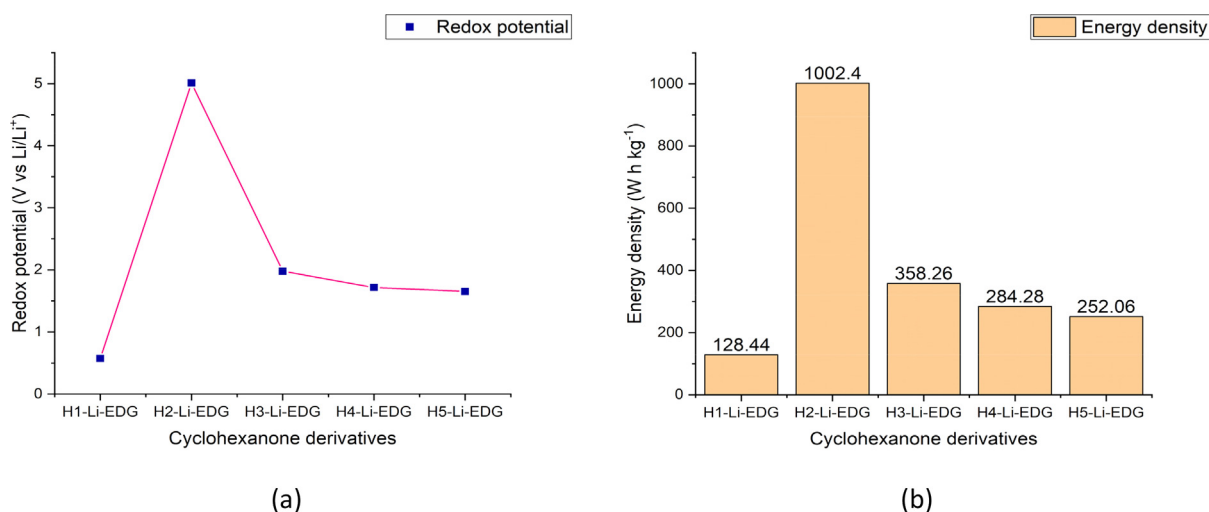


Fig. 8 Redox potential of the lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives fine-tuned with EDG. (b) Energy density of the lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives fine-tuned with EDG.

EDG can be attributed to delocalization of lone pair of electron from only one oxygen atom attached to it and the lone pair of electron from the EDG into the cyclo ring. Thus, pushing less electron into the cyclo ring.

3.2.2. Natural bond orbital (NBO) analysis

NBO of all the titled molecules fine-tuned with EDG (NH₂) were also explored. NBO and stabilization energy $E^{(2)}$ of the most interacting orbitals of the investigated compounds is displayed in Table S4. From the table, it was observed that H₅-EDG possesses the highest stabilization energy $E^{(2)}$ of 39.55 kcal/mol among the investigated compounds. The high $E^{(2)}$ value for H₅-EDG resulting from $\pi^* \rightarrow \pi^*$ antibonding transition is attributed to intermolecular charge transfer (Wu et al., 2020) from donor C₄-O₈ to acceptor C₃-O₁₂ and also from the intense delocalization of electron density contributed by the presence of EDG.

3.2.3. Electrochemical properties

Influence of EDG on electrochemical properties of the studied cyclohexanone derivatives was also considered by fine tuning their chemical structures with EDG (NH₂). The trend of the result obtained from their redox potential is as follows H₂-EDG > H₁-EDG > H₃-EDG > H₄-EDG > H₅-EDG. It is notable that on substitution of the cyclohexanone derivatives with EDG (NH₂), the redox potential of H₁-EDG, H₂-EDG, H₃-EDG was found to increase compared to its free optimized counterpart while that of H₄-EDG and H₅-EDG was found to decrease. Among the studied cyclohexanone derivatives, H₂-EDG was also found to have the highest reduction potential of 1.976 V with energy density and theoretical charge capacity of 417.07 W h kg⁻¹ and 211.07 mA h g⁻¹ respectively. This can be attributed to the fact that the electron density of the compound increases due to the EDG (Thomsen et al., 2018) attached to them which in turn reduces their tendency to

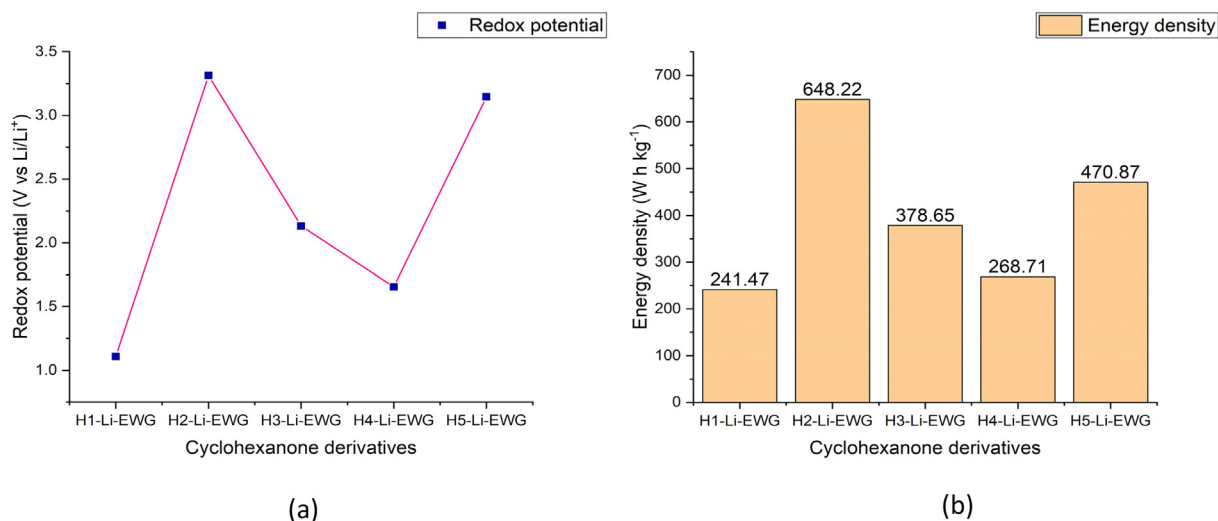


Fig. 9 Redox potential of the lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives fine-tuned with EWG (b) Energy density of the lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives fine-tuned with EWG.

Table 1 Electrochemical properties of cyclohexanone derivatives for free optimized structures.

| Compound | E^{red} (V) | Energy Density (W h kg ⁻¹) | Charge capacity (mA h g ⁻¹) |
|----------------|----------------------|--|---|
| H ₁ | 1.508 | 412.48 | 273.53 |
| H ₂ | 1.868 | 447.09 | 239.34 |
| H ₃ | 1.492 | 317.41 | 212.74 |
| H ₄ | 1.789 | 343.54 | 191.47 |
| H ₅ | 1.792 | 311.92 | 174.06 |

accept more electron in order to get reduced i.e their electron affinity is low. We also confirmed that H₅-EDG displayed the least redox potential of 1.286 V with corresponding low energy density and low theoretical charge capacity of 203.97 W h kg⁻¹, 158.61 mA h g⁻¹ respectively. The low redox potential of H₅-EDG is as a result of its high reactivity contributed by five oxygen atoms of redox-active carbonyl moiety group attached to it thus making it to dissolve in the electrolyte quickly. This observation is confirmed from its frontier molecular orbital (FMO) analysis of which it exhibited the least energy gap value. H₁-EDG was found to show the highest energy density of 444.79 W h kg⁻¹ among the studied compounds. This result is due to its high theoretical charge capacity of 237.22 mA h g⁻¹ and moderate redox potential of 1.875 V which are the two main properties for computing energy density of an electrode material. Evaluated electrochemical properties of the investigated cyclohexanone derivatives tuned with EDG (NH₂) is visible in Table 2.

3.3. Cyclohexanone derivatives with EWG

3.3.1. Frontier molecular orbital

Table S5 depicts the result obtained from the HOMO and LUMO energy levels of the investigated compounds with electron withdrawing (fluorine) group (EWG). It can be seen that the result obtained from their energy gap follows a decreasing trend of H₁-EWG > H₂-EWG > H₃-EWG > H₄-EWG > H₅-EWG with respective values of 3.731, 3.302,

Table 2 Electrochemical properties of cyclohexanone derivatives fine-tuned with EDG.

| Compound | E^{red} (V) | Energy Density (W h kg ⁻¹) | Charge capacity (mA h g ⁻¹) |
|---------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| H ₁ -EDG | 1.875 | 444.79 | 237.22 |
| H ₂ -EDG | 1.976 | 417.07 | 211.07 |
| H ₃ -EDG | 1.792 | 340.68 | 190.11 |
| H ₄ -EDG | 1.634 | 282.58 | 172.94 |
| H ₅ -EDG | 1.286 | 203.97 | 158.61 |

2.887, 1.904, 0.532 eV. This result demonstrates that compound H₁-EWG possesses the highest energy gap of 3.731 eV while H₅-EWG possesses the lowest energy gap of 0.532 eV. The high energy gap of H₁-EWG is accredited to the fact that the electron withdrawing (fluorine) group attached to compound H₁ containing only one oxygen atom withdraws more electron from the cyclo ring i.e the (-) inductive effect of the EWG dominates the delocalization of lone pair electron (Antonov et al., 2016; Zhu et al., 2017) from only one oxygen atom attached to it into the cyclo ring, thus rendering the cyclo ring to be electron-poor which in turn makes it less reactive with its corresponding high energy gap. On the other hand, H₅-EWG having the least energy gap is as a result of high electron density of the cyclo ring contributed by the delocalization of lone pairs of electrons into the cyclo ring from the five oxygen atoms attached to it compared to withdrawal of electron by the EWG (fluorine) attached to it i.e delocalization of lone pair of electrons into the cyclo ring from the five oxygen atoms dominates the (-) inductive effect of the electron withdrawing group (fluorine). Thus, making the cyclo ring to be electron-rich due to excess electrons that is pushed into it which in turn makes H₅-EWG the most reactive with least energy gap.

3.3.2. Natural bond orbital (NBO) analysis

NBO of the cyclohexanone derivatives functionalized with EWG was also computed to understand the nature of donor-acceptor interaction persisting within the studied com-

pounds. Table S6 summarizes the result obtained from the second order perturbation theory analysis of the investigated compounds with EWG (fluorine). On substituting EWG (fluorine) to the investigated compounds, it is obvious that the most prominent interaction was observed in H₅-EWG resulting from intermolecular hyperconjugative interaction of LP(2) O₁₀ → σ* C₁ – C₂ with stabilization energy of 22.80 kcal/mol which is lesser compared to stabilization energy of H₅ (23.31 kcal/mol) in free optimized state. This is due to the fact that delocalization of electron density in H₅-EWG is reduced as a result of presence of EWG (fluorine) which tends to withdraw electron from the molecules in order to fill its vacant P-acceptor orbital thus behaving as a non-Lewis valence orbital (acceptor) too.

3.3.3. Electrochemical properties

More interestingly, on tuning the chemical structures of cyclohexanone derivatives with functional groups such as EWG (fluorine), the redox potential of the studied compounds was found to increase for H₁-EWG and H₂-EWG with respective values of 2.138 V and 2.144 V when compared to both free optimized structures and optimized structures tuned with EDG (NH₂). This is as a result of strong (-) inductive effect (Antonov et al., 2016) of fluorine group (EWG) which tends to withdraw more electron density from their cyclo ring into its vacant-orbital from less delocalized electron density contributed from one and two carbonyl group attached to them respectively. However, estimated redox potential was found to decrease for H₃-EWG, H₄-EWG, H₅-EWG having corresponding values of 1.354, 1.553, 1.387 V when compared to that of free optimized structures. This unusual behavior exhibited by H₃-EWG, H₄-EWG, H₅-EWG can be related to the intense delocalization of electron density contributed by increased number of carbonyl groups attached to them with lone pair of electrons. The trend of the redox potential result obtained from the studied cyclohexanone derivatives is as follows H₂-EWG > H₁-EWG > H₄-EWG > H₅-EWG > H₃-EWG. From this analysis, we can infer that H₂-EWG possesses the highest redox potential of 2.144 V among the investigated compounds with energy density and theoretical charge capacity of 442.09 W h kg⁻¹ and 206.20 mA h g⁻¹ respectively. The high redox potential of H₂-EWG can also be attributed to its localized distribution of the two redox-active carbonyl group attached to it with minimum steric effect which makes electron density to be concentrated on one side and thus can be reduced easily.

On the other hand, it is of notice that H₃-EWG showed the least redox potential of 1.354 V with corresponding energy density and theoretical charge capacity of 252.04 W h kg⁻¹ and 186.15 mA h g⁻¹ respectively. The poor redox potential of H₃-EWG is as a result of uniform distribution of three carbonyl group (Kim et al., 2016) with minimum steric effect on the compound leading to uniform concentration of electron density stabilized by strong resonance effect on the compound. Also, H₅-EWG demonstrated the least energy density which is attributed to its high reactivity and instability and thus can dissolve in the electrolyte effortlessly. This result is validated from the estimated energy gap of compound H₅-EWG aforementioned in Section 3.3.1.

To this end, it was found that H₁-EWG exhibited the highest energy density of 494.05 W h kg⁻¹ among all (free opti-

mized, tuned with EDG and EWG) the investigated cyclohexanone derivatives with respective redox potential and theoretical charge capacity of 2.138 V, 231.08 mA h g⁻¹. Computed electrochemical properties of cyclohexanone derivatives functionalized with EWG (fluorine) is pointed out in Table 3.

3.4. Electrochemical properties of cyclohexanone derivatives with Li – Ion

Electrochemical properties of the cyclohexanone derivatives were also studied on lithiation of the compounds with only one Li atom for free optimized structures and optimized structures structurally engineered with functional groups such as EDG (NH₂) and EWG (fluorine).

3.4.1. Lithiated pure cyclohexanone derivatives

Free optimized structures of cyclohexanone derivatives were lithiated by binding one lithium atom to the high electronegative and electron rich oxygen atom of the redox active carbonyl moiety group. We performed electrochemical properties calculation on lithiation of the investigated cyclohexanone derivatives. From the result obtained, it was observed that the redox potential of the studied compounds ranges from 1.097 to 5.168 V vs Li/Li⁺. As evident from the result presented in Table 4., H₃-Li was observed to reflect the highest redox potential of 5.168 V vs Li/Li⁺ with high energy density of 1041.61 W h kg⁻¹ and theoretical charge capacity of 201.55 mA h g⁻¹. The high redox potential for H₃-Li can be attributed to the probability of the high electropositive lithium ion to possibly bind to the three-uniform distributed electronegative oxygen atoms on the redox active carbonyl group as a result of strong electron cloud surrounding the cyclo ring. The high redox potential of compound H₃-Li is in harmony with that reported by Kim and coworkers in their DFT work on carbonyl functionalized graphene oxide (5.3 V vs Li/Li⁺) as cathode material for Li-ion battery using PBE0 hybrid functional (Kim et al., 2016). H₂-Li was detected to exhibit the highest energy density (1108.28 W h kg⁻¹) among the studied compound as a result of its high redox potential of 4.92 V vs Li/Li⁺ and moderate theoretical charge capacity (225.26 mA h g⁻¹). In addition, compound H₄-Li demonstrated electrochemical properties of 1.711 V vs Li/Li⁺, 312 W h kg⁻¹, 182.35 mA h g⁻¹. The redox potential obtained from H₄-Li is in excellent agreement with experimental redox potential obtained from Lu and coworkers (Lu et al., 2019) on cyclohexanone (1.7 V vs Li/Li⁺) and also in close range with experimental redox potential observed by Mirosh-

Table 3 Electrochemical properties of cyclohexanone derivatives functionalized with EWG.

| Compound | E ^{red} (V) | Energy Density (W h kg ⁻¹) | Charge capacity (mA h g ⁻¹) |
|---------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| H ₁ -EWG | 2.138 | 494.05 | 231.08 |
| H ₂ -EWG | 2.144 | 442.09 | 206.20 |
| H ₃ -EWG | 1.354 | 252.04 | 186.15 |
| H ₄ -EWG | 1.553 | 263.48 | 169.66 |
| H ₅ -EWG | 1.387 | 216.16 | 155.85 |

Table 4 Electrochemical properties of lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives for free optimized structures.

| Compound | E^{red} (V) | Experimental E^{red} (V) | Energy density (W h kg^{-1}) | Charge Capacity (mA h g^{-1}) |
|--------------------|----------------------|---|---|--|
| H ₁ -Li | 1.097 | | 280.05 | 255.29 |
| H ₂ -Li | 4.92 | | 1108.28 | 225.26 |
| H ₃ -Li | 5.168 | | 1041.61 | 201.55 |
| H ₄ -Li | 1.711 | 1.7 [ref Lu et al., 2019], 1.9 [ref Miroshnikov et al., 2019] | 312.00 | 182.35 |
| H ₅ -Li | 1.638 | ~1.6 [ref Yang et al., 2020] | 272.72 | 166.49 |

nikov and coworkers (Miroshnikov et al., 2019) on their work on Tetrakislawsonone (1.9 V vs Li/Li⁺) as cathode material in LIBs. Moreover, compound H₅-Li displayed electrochemical properties of 1.638 V vs Li/Li⁺, 272.72 W h kg⁻¹, 166.49 mA h g⁻¹. Our redox potential obtained theoretically from H₅-Li is in compliance to that gotten by Yang *et al.* (Yang et al., 2020) on their experimental work on truxenone-base covalent organic framework (~1.6 V vs Li/Li⁺) as carbonyl-based organic cathode material for Lithium-ion batteries.

3.4.2. Lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives fine-tuned with EDG

Modification of electrochemical properties of lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives by fine-tuning their chemical structures with EDG (NH₂) was also considered. As laid out in Table 5., it is plain that redox potential of the lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives functionalized with EDG was found to decrease as compared to lithiated free optimized structures of which is between the range of 0.575 to 5.011 V vs Li/Li⁺. From the estimated electrochemical properties of the investigated compounds, it is visible that H₂-Li-EDG displayed the highest redox potential of 5.011 V vs Li/Li⁺ and also highest energy density (1002.4 W h kg⁻¹) among the lithiated compounds modified with EDG having theoretical charge capacity of 200.04 mA h g⁻¹. This high redox potential of H₂-Li-EDG can be as a result that the presence of the EDG increases the localized concentration of electron density (Kim et al., 2016) on one side and thus can be reduced by the highly electropositive and electrophilic Li-ion without stress. On the contrary, H₁-Li-EDG was observed to exhibit the least redox potential of 0.575 V vs Li/Li⁺ with energy density of 128.44 W h kg⁻¹ and theoretical charge capacity of 223.38 mA h g⁻¹. In the same light, H₃-Li-EDG depicted redox potential of 1.978 V vs Li/Li⁺ with respective energy density and theoretical charge capacity of 358.26 W h kg⁻¹, 181.12 mA h g⁻¹. The observed redox potential of H₃-Li-EDG is in line with experimental redox potential validated by Kim and coworkers (Kim et al., 2016) on their work anthraquinone substituted with EDG (NH₂) (2.1 V vs Li/Li⁺) and also to that obtained by Jung and coworkers using density functional theory method with PBE0 hybrid functional on 2-Amino anthraquinone (2.1 V vs Li/Li⁺) as organic quinone-based material for possible

application as positive electrode material in Lithium-ion batteries (Jung et al., 2020). Furthermore, it is clearly observed that H₄-Li-EDG exhibited redox potential of 1.718 V vs Li/Li⁺ having individual energy density and charge capacity of 284.28 W h kg⁻¹, 165 mA h g⁻¹. The estimated redox potential of H₄-Li-EDG is in close range to that reported experimentally by Kim and coworkers (Kim et al., 2016) on their work on amino group functionalized anthraquinone (2.0 V vs Li/Li⁺) as cathode material for LIBs and also to the theoretical redox potential (1.9 V vs Li/Li⁺) observed by Jung *et al.* using DFT method on amino group substituted anthraquinone-based compound when utilized as organic cathode material for Lithium-ion batteries (Jung et al., 2020). At this end, H₅-Li-EDG was found to display electrochemical properties of 1.655 V vs Li/Li⁺, 252.06 W h kg⁻¹, 152.30 mA h g⁻¹. The observed redox potential of H₅-Li-EDG varies a little bit from that reported by Kim and coworkers on lithiation of 2-amino anthraquinone (1.4 V vs Li/Li⁺) with only one Li atom at DFT/PBE0/6-31 + G(d,p) (Kim et al., 2016).

3.4.3. Lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives fine-tuned with EWG

Molecular engineering of cyclohexanone derivatives lithiated with only one lithium atom was also conducted by fine tuning their chemical structures with EWG (fluorine) in order to validate its influence on their electrochemical properties when utilized as an organic cathode material for lithium-ion battery. Evaluated electrochemical properties of lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives fine-tuned with EWG is unveiled in Table 6. From the result obtained, it is crystal clear that the trend of redox potential of the studied cyclohexanone derivatives lithiated by only one lithium atom in the presence of EWG is as follows H₂-Li-EWG > H₅-Li-EWG > H₃-Li-EWG > H₄-Li-EWG > H₁-Li-EWG with individual values of 3.313, 3.145, 2.133, 1.654, 1.108 V vs Li/Li⁺. From the result, it is comprehensible that H₂-Li-EWG manifested the highest redox potential of 3.313 V vs Li/Li⁺ with specific energy density of 648.22 W h kg⁻¹ and theoretical charge capacity of 195.66 mA h g⁻¹. This can be as a result of presence of EWG which tends to withdraw the locally concentrated electron density within the compound easily by negative inductive effect and thus making the bounded lithium atom to also reduce less available electron easily which in turn leads to

Table 5 Electrochemical properties of lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives fine-tuned with EDG.

| Compound | E^{red} (V) | Experimental E^{red} (V) | Energy density (W h kg^{-1}) | Charge Capacity (mA h g^{-1}) |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| H ₁ -Li-EDG | 0.575 | | 128.44 | 223.38 |
| H ₂ -Li-EDG | 5.011 | | 1002.4 | 200.04 |
| H ₃ -Li-EDG | 1.978 | 2.1 [ref Jung et al., 2020] | 358.26 | 181.12 |
| H ₄ -Li-EDG | 1.718 | 2.0 [ref Kim et al., 2016] | 284.28 | 165.47 |
| H ₅ -Li-EDG | 1.655 | | 252.06 | 152.30 |

the compound having high electron affinity which relates with redox potential as reported by (Kim et al., 2019; Sood et al., 2018; Allam et al., 2018). This redox potential exhibited by H₂-Li-EWG is in tandem with that reported by Wang and coworkers on their experimental work on CF₃ substituted quinone based conductive redox polymer (3.2 V vs Li/Li⁺) (Wang et al., 2019) as a cathodic material for LIBs. Also, H₁-Li-EWG and H₅-Li-EWG displayed higher redox potential than its corresponding counterpart in free optimized state and structurally engineered with EDG. This can be attributed to inductive effect of the EWG attached to it which withdraws more electron from the compounds and thus raising their electron affinity leading to their high redox potential (Kim et al., 2016). In the same line, redox potential of 2.133 V vs Li/Li⁺ manifested by H₃-Li-EWG is in agreement with the experimental redox potential obtained by Kim *et al.* (Kim et al., 2016) on their work on anthraquinone functionalized with EWG (-COOH) (2.36 V vs Li/Li⁺) as an organic cathode material for LIBs and also on theoretical calculation conducted by Jung and coworkers using DFT/PBE0/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory on Anthraquinone-2-Carboxylic acid (2.4 V vs Li/Li⁺) for potential application as organic cathode material in Lithium-ion batteries (Jung et al., 2020). To this end, H₄-Li-EWG exhibited redox potential of (1.654 V vs Li/Li⁺) which is in relation to that obtained by Kim and coworkers on one Li atom bounded to anthraquinone substituted with an EWG (-COOH) at DFT/PBE0/6-31+(d,p) theory level (Kim et al., 2016).

3.5. Comparison between investigated cyclohexanone derivatives with and without lithium – Ion

In comparison between the electrochemical properties of the investigated cyclohexanone derivatives with and without bounded lithium atom for the free optimized structures, it is recognizable that H₂-Li and H₃-Li exhibited redox potential (4.92 V vs Li/Li⁺ and 5.168 V vs Li/Li⁺) and energy density (1108.28 W h kg⁻¹, 1041.61 W h kg⁻¹) higher than that of those without lithium atom (1.868 V, 1.492 V) with their specific energy density of 447.09 W h kg⁻¹, 317.41 W h kg⁻¹. This result shows that presence of Li atom aids in improving redox potential of the outlined compounds which in turn increases its energy density since redox potential is a crucial parameter used for computing its energy density of which is in total agreement with the work of Kim and coworkers on quinone derivatives (Kim et al., 2016).

More importantly, for cyclohexanone derivatives with and without one bounded lithium atom structurally modified with EDG, we observed that redox potential and energy density of H₂-Li-EDG to H₅-Li-EDG were higher for the lithiated compounds compared to its counterpart without lithium atom

while H₁-Li-EDG redox potential (0.575 V vs Li/Li⁺), energy density (128.44 W h kg⁻¹) and theoretical charge capacity (223.38 mA h g⁻¹) is lower compared to that without bounded Li atom. This result implies that presence of more than one redox-active carbonyl group aids in improving the redox potential of lithiated compounds in the sense that they provide more electron density for the highly electropositive and electrophilic Li atom to bind and get reduced easily and at such improves its energy density as well which was also confirmed by Kim and coworkers on their study on functionalization of graphene oxide for cathode material in LIBs (Kim et al., 2016). Among the aforementioned results, H₂-Li-EDG and H₂-EDG i.e with and without bounded Li atom was found to exhibit the highest values for its electrochemical properties with corresponding redox potential, energy density and theoretical charge capacity of 5.011 V vs Li/Li⁺, 1002.4 W h kg⁻¹, 200.04 mA h g⁻¹ and 1.976 V, 417 W h kg⁻¹, 211.07 mA h g⁻¹.

Furthermore, we also liken the results from the structurally designed cyclohexanone derivatives with EWG in the presence and absence of bounded one Li atom. As clearly expressed from their respective results, it was observed that redox potential of H₂-Li-EWG, H₃-Li-EWG, H₄-Li-EWG, H₅-Li-EWG were higher in contrast to its fellow compound without bounded Li atom. This result also validates that presence of Li atom increases redox potential which is also confirmed by ref. (Kim et al., 2016; Xu et al., 2020). However, reverse is the case for H₁-Li-EWG to its relative structure without Li atom. Low redox potential of H₁-Li-EWG (1.108 V vs Li/Li⁺) can be stressed to be as a result of poor availability of electron density from only one redox-active carbonyl moiety for highly electropositive and electron-loving Li atom to attack properly.

In general, we totally observed that among all the studied compounds, H₂ with and without functional groups for unlithiated compounds revealed the highest redox potential and also for its corresponding lithiated compound with exception for its free optimized structure. Also, the theoretical charge capacity of all the investigated cyclohexanone derivatives without Li atom was found to be higher than those with Li atom. This result is verified from the additional molecular weight contributed by the added one Li atom and theoretical charge capacity varies inversely with molecular weight of the studied compounds (Jeong et al., 2020; Li et al., 2020; Xu et al., 2012; Yang et al., 2017).

3.6. Binding energy

Binding energy was also computed for the lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives in free optimized state, with EDG and EWG in order to confirm the use of cyclohexanone derivatives

Table 6 Electrochemical properties of lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives fine-tuned with EWG.

| Compounds | E ^{red} (V) | Experimental E ^{red} (V) | Energy density (W h kg ⁻¹) | Charge Capacity (mA h g ⁻¹) |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| H ₁ -Li-EWG | 1.108 | | 241.47 | 217.93 |
| H ₂ -Li-EWG | 3.313 | 3.2 [ref Wang et al., 2019] | 648.22 | 195.66 |
| H ₃ -Li-EWG | 2.133 | 2.36 [ref Kim et al., 2016] | 378.65 | 177.52 |
| H ₄ -Li-EWG | 1.654 | | 268.71 | 162.46 |
| H ₅ -Li-EWG | 3.145 | | 470.87 | 149.72 |

as an organic positive electrode material in LIBs. During the lithiation of cyclohexanone derivatives, the electropositive Li atom preferentially binds to the redox active and electronegative oxygen atom of the carbonyl group by Lewis acid – Lewis base interaction leading to the formation of Li–O chemical bond (Kim et al., 2016). Results obtained from the calculated binding energies of the studied cyclohexanone derivatives is represented in Table S7. From the table, it is evident that all the studied cyclohexanone derivatives (in free optimized state, with EDG and EWG) demonstrated negative value of binding energy indicating that binding of the electron-deficient Li atom to the electron-rich redox active carbonyl group present in the cyclohexanone derivatives is favourable. Moreover, a more negative binding energy indicates a strong Li–O chemical bond and this was observed mostly on lithiation of cyclohexanone derivatives fine-tuned with EWG.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, we have theoretically investigated five set of selected cyclohexanone derivatives with redox-active carbonyl moiety as prospective organic cathode material for rechargeable Li-ion battery using density functional theory (DFT) model. Electrochemical properties of the titled compounds with and without one lithium atom and also on modification with functional groups was thoroughly screened. The results revealed that the distribution and number of carbonyl groups attached to the studied compounds played a greater role in their stability and electrochemical properties. H₂ with 2 locally distributed carbonyl group exhibited the highest redox potential among its fellow counterparts both in the absence and presence of one lithium atom with an exception of the free optimized structure with lithium atom. The investigated cyclohexanone derivatives demonstrated appreciating redox potential and energy density in the presence of one lithium atom than those without lithium atom. On modification of the studied compounds (lithiated and unlithiated) with functional groups EWG (fluorine) and EDG (NH₂), the structurally designed compounds with EWG tends to exhibit better redox potential and energy density due to the fact that EWG withdraws electron from the compound and thus increases their electron affinity which correspond to their high redox potential compared to EDG counterpart. Among the lithiated cyclohexanone derivatives, compound H₂ and H₃ in free optimized state with one bounded Li atom manifested better electrochemical property of 4.92 V vs Li/Li⁺, 1108.28 W h kg⁻¹, 225.26 mA h g⁻¹ and 5.168 V vs Li/Li⁺, 1041.61 W h kg⁻¹, 201.55 mA h g⁻¹ respectively, thus making them the most suitable organic carbonyl-based cathode material for LIBs among the studied cyclohexanone derivatives.

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Author Contributions

Hitler Louis: Project conceptualization, design, supervision, and administration. **ThankGod C. Egemonye:** Writing, editing, analysis, and manuscript draft. **Henry O. Edet, Terkumbur E. Gber:** Analysis, writing, editing. **Tomsmith O. Unimuke:** Methodology and analysis. **Victoria M. Bassey:** Resources, review, and editing. **Adedapo S. Adeyinka:** Validation, review, and editing.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Appendix A. Supplementary material

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