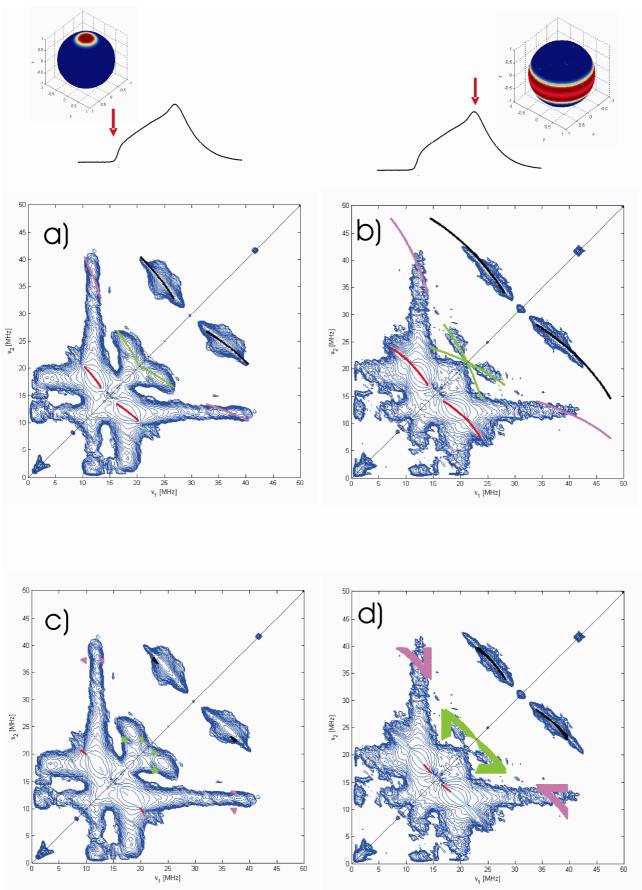
## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## The Hydration Structure of the Ti(III) Cation as Revealed by Pulse EPR and DFT Studies. New Insights into a Textbook Case

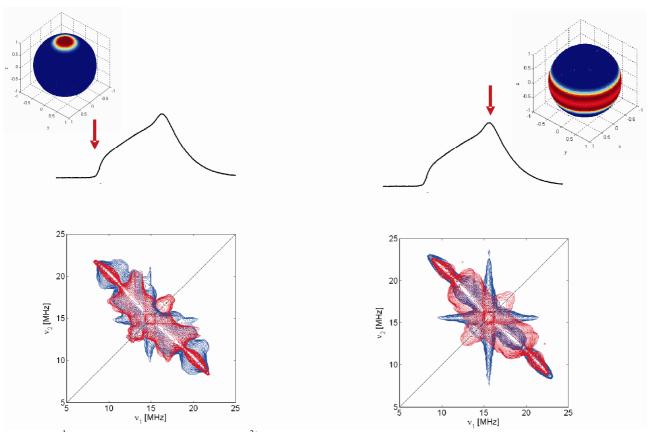
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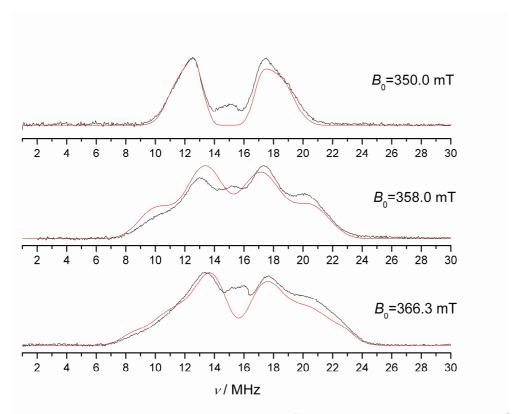
> Cristiana Di Valentin, Gianfranco Pacchioni Dipartimento di Scienza dei Materiali, Università di Milano-Bicocca, Via R. Cozzi, 53 – 20125, Milano, Italy



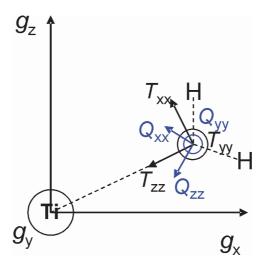
**Figure S1.** Simulation of the correlation ridges at the two field positions indicated on the ESE spectra above, expected for a three-spin system S=1/2,  $I_a=1/2$  and  $I_b=1/2$  assuming different parameters: a) and b)  ${}^1A_{\parallel}={}^2A_{\parallel}=15.5$  MHz  ${}^1A_{\perp}=15.5$  MHz and  ${}^1\beta={}^2\beta=60^\circ$ ; c) and d)  ${}^1A_{\parallel}=11.4$  MHz  ${}^2A_{\parallel}=15.5$  MHz  ${}^1A_{\perp}=1.5$  MHz,  ${}^2A_{\perp}=3.5$  MHz,  ${}^1\beta=0$ ,  ${}^2\beta=90^\circ$ 



**Figure S2**  $^{1}$ H HYSCORE spectra of  $\text{Ti}(\text{H}_{2}\text{O})_{6}^{3+}$  taken at at the two field positions indicated on the ESE spectra above. Blue experimental, red simulation using the parameters listed in Table 1.

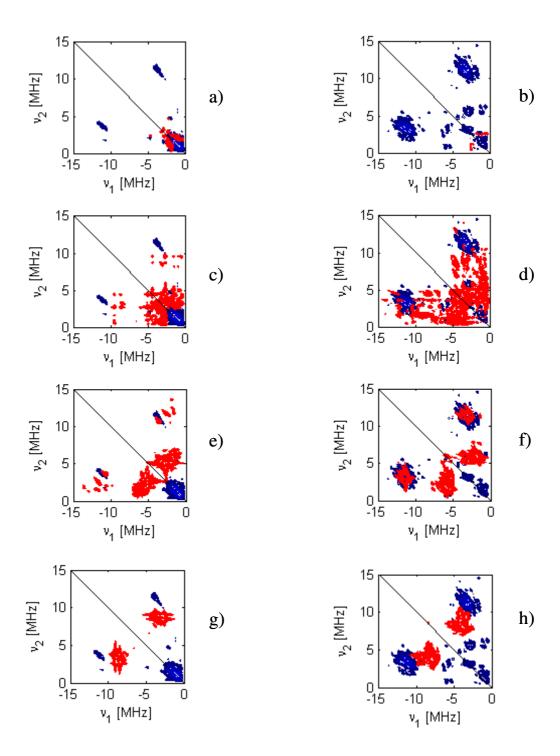


**Figure S3** Experimental (black) and simulated (red)  $^{1}$ H Davies-ENDOR spectra of Ti(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>6</sub> $^{3+}$  taken at at different field positions indicated beside each spectrum. Spectra were measured at 10 K. Length of the three m.w. pulses,  $t_{\pi}^{(1)} = 80$  ns,  $t_{\pi/2}^{(2)} = 16$  ns  $t_{\pi}^{(3)} = 32$  ns; length of the r. f. pulse  $t_{\rm rf} = 12$  µs. The rf and mw data were optimized to obtain good  $^{1}$ H ENDOR spectra, conditions which are unfavorable for the  $^{17}$ O contributions. The parameters used in the simulations are the same adopted for the simulation of the  $^{1}$ H HYSCORE spectra and listed in Table 1.

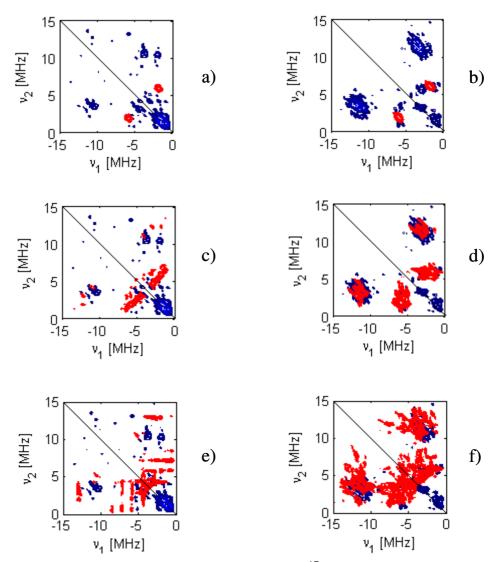


**Figure S4** Schematic illustration of the  $^{17}$ O hyperfine and quadrupole tensors orientations obtained from the DFT computations for the  $D_{3d}$  symmetry case and adopted in the simulations of the  $^{17}$ O HYSCORE spectra reported in Figure 4. The corresponding Euler angles ( $\alpha$   $\beta$   $\gamma$ ) are (0+n60, 64, 0) and (0+n60, 31, 0) for the hyperfine and quadrupole tensors respectively, where n ranges from 1 to 6 and accounts for the orientations of the six oxygens in the xy plane of the complex.

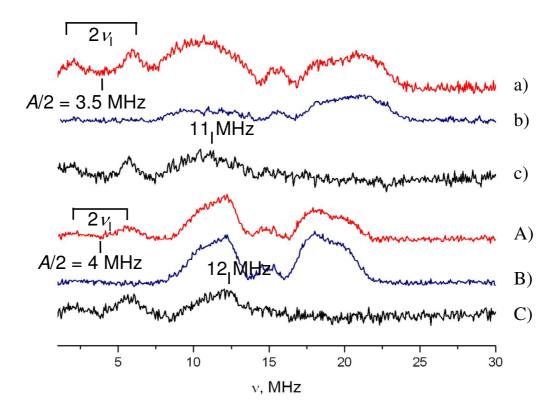
The largest quadrupole and hyperfine ( $a_{\rm iso}$  is positive) are perpendicular to the water plane (y direction). The smallest hyperfine is directed along the Ti-O bond making an angle of 64° with the  $g_z$  direction. The largest negative quadrupole is in the zx plane making an angle of 31° with the  $g_z$  direction. The largest H hyperfines ( $T_{zz}$  not shown in the scheme) lay in the zx plane making an angle of 45° and 72° with the z direction



**Figure S5** Effect of increasing  $a_{\rm iso}$  on the <sup>17</sup>O HYSCORE spectrum taken at  $B_0 = 352.0$  mT (position 2 in Figure 1a) and  $B_0 = 366.0$  mT (position 3 in Figure 1a) respectively. (a) and (b) |  $a_{\rm iso}$  | = 0 MHz; (c) and (d) |  $a_{\rm iso}$  = 4 MHz; (e) and (f) |  $a_{\rm iso}$  | = 8 MHz; (g) and (h) |  $a_{\rm iso}$  | = 12 MHz. For all spectra T = 1 MHz, e2qQ/h = 4 MHz,  $\eta = 0.75$ .



**Figure S6** Effect of increasing quadrupole coupling on the <sup>17</sup>O HYSCORE spectrum taken at  $B_0 = 352.0$  mT (position 2 in Figure 1a) and  $B_0 = 366.0$  mT (position 3 in Figure 1a) respectively. (a) and (b) e2qQ/h = 0; (c) and (d) e2qQ/h = 4 MHz; (e) and (f) e2qQ/h = 9 MHz. For all spectra  $a_{iso} = 7.84$  MHz and T = 0.84 MHz.



**Figure S7** <sup>17</sup>O Davies ENDOR spectra taken at (a,b,c)  $B_0$  = 366.0 mT and (A;B;C)  $B_0$  = 352.0 mT.  $t_{\rm rf}$  = 12  $\mu$ s,  $t_{\pi/2}$  = 16 ns,  $t_{\pi}$  = 32 ns. Red spectra <sup>17</sup>O , blue spectra <sup>16</sup>O, black trace is the difference between red and blue.