

## Free Radical Formation in Novel Carotenoid Metal Ion Complexes of Astaxanthin

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**Supporting Information:** Optimized cartesian coordinates at B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level for Ast<sup>•+</sup>, #Ast<sup>•</sup>(5), #Ast<sup>•</sup>(9), #Ast<sup>•</sup>(13), #Ast<sup>•</sup>(3)a and #Ast<sup>•</sup>(3)b neutral radicals and Ast<sup>•-</sup> radical anion of astaxanthin; Isotropic  $\beta$ -methyl proton couplings and anisotropic  $\alpha$ -proton tensors (MHz) for Ast<sup>•+</sup>, #Ast<sup>•</sup>(5), #Ast<sup>•</sup>(9), #Ast<sup>•</sup>(13), #Ast<sup>•</sup>(3)a and #Ast<sup>•</sup>(3)b neutral radicals and Ast<sup>•-</sup> radical anion of astaxanthin obtained by DFT calculations; CV plot of astaxanthin in the presence of Ca and Zn salts as a function of scan rate; stability of the radical cation, dication and the neutral radical is dependent on the presence of the salt, the apparent oxidation shifts to lower oxidation potential and is dependent on the type of metal. CV plot of astaxanthin 1 mM + Ca<sup>2+</sup> (20 mM) or Zn<sup>2+</sup> (30 mM) in anhydrous CH<sub>3</sub>CN (scan rate = 1000 mV/s); CV plot of astaxanthin 1 mM + Ca(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> 20 mM in anhydrous CH<sub>3</sub>CN (scan rate = 200 mV/s); CV plot of astaxanthin 1 mM + Ca<sup>2+</sup> (20 mM) or Zn<sup>2+</sup> (30 mM) in anhydrous CH<sub>3</sub>CN (scan rate = 10 mV/s); The effect of hydrated salts in CH<sub>3</sub>CN causing severe irreversible CV and decay of the radical species; Astaxanthin 0.1 mM in CH<sub>3</sub>CN, Scan rate = 10 mV/sec.; The ESEEM spectra of astaxanthin radicals: the spectra show proton modulation consistent with the formation of carotenoid radicals.; The EPR spectra of astaxanthin radicals: the spectra show broadening upon irradiation indicating formation of neutral radicals. Field positions are not corrected for change in frequency before and after irradiation, samples being irradiated external to the cavity.

**TABLE S1:** Optimized cartesian coordinates at B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level for Ast<sup>•+</sup>.

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| C | 11.630156 | -0.074551 | 0.032381  |
| C | 11.768586 | 1.245578  | -0.314776 |
| C | 12.742373 | -0.895371 | 0.729297  |
| C | 13.869629 | 0.020111  | 1.264505  |
| H | 14.754017 | -0.586437 | 1.487580  |
| H | 13.543039 | 0.462882  | 2.215229  |
| C | 14.259302 | 1.174879  | 0.348026  |
| H | 14.973171 | 1.832571  | 0.850445  |
| C | 13.022232 | 1.997945  | 0.011159  |
| C | 12.144512 | -1.642261 | 1.947494  |
| H | 11.424763 | -2.411978 | 1.652737  |
| H | 12.946769 | -2.139000 | 2.502650  |
| H | 11.640491 | -0.950703 | 2.629991  |
| C | 13.327124 | -1.950642 | -0.246045 |
| H | 14.052610 | -2.572735 | 0.287481  |
| H | 12.557689 | -2.620309 | -0.642473 |
| H | 13.851549 | -1.491023 | -1.084356 |
| C | 10.737509 | 2.084309  | -1.028862 |
| H | 10.084148 | 1.486106  | -1.665966 |
| H | 10.110660 | 2.635688  | -0.317326 |
| H | 11.241143 | 2.843758  | -1.629966 |
| C | 10.414384 | -0.837619 | -0.250766 |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H | 10.574337 | -1.888004 | -0.480311 |
| C | 9.124009  | -0.403137 | -0.172131 |
| H | 8.931125  | 0.616238  | 0.146495  |
| C | 7.959107  | -1.208946 | -0.432995 |
| C | 6.719352  | -0.615737 | -0.241344 |
| H | 6.721375  | 0.419605  | 0.096586  |
| C | 5.450361  | -1.201891 | -0.433762 |
| H | 5.395533  | -2.231444 | -0.772860 |
| C | 4.267671  | -0.515757 | -0.206826 |
| H | 4.345543  | 0.515311  | 0.134357  |
| C | 2.961766  | -1.032693 | -0.377463 |
| C | 1.887205  | -0.177260 | -0.090990 |
| H | 2.147444  | 0.825868  | 0.244331  |
| C | 0.523180  | -0.463471 | -0.185918 |
| H | 0.201998  | -1.447842 | -0.516644 |
| C | 8.127875  | -2.633033 | -0.894327 |
| H | 7.179346  | -3.132878 | -1.086287 |
| H | 8.717684  | -2.673509 | -1.816047 |
| H | 8.664847  | -3.221165 | -0.141694 |
| C | 2.766187  | -2.452320 | -0.850260 |
| H | 3.224153  | -2.599975 | -1.834093 |
| H | 3.239286  | -3.159360 | -0.160666 |
| H | 1.716117  | -2.729040 | -0.933079 |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| C | -0.471334  | 0.465584  | 0.127783  |
| H | -0.149921  | 1.449552  | 0.459412  |
| C | -1.835219  | 0.179774  | 0.033151  |
| H | -2.096096  | -0.822178 | -0.305218 |
| C | -2.909618  | 1.034332  | 0.325065  |
| C | -4.215140  | 0.518729  | 0.154060  |
| H | -4.294378  | -0.509481 | -0.195337 |
| C | -5.397638  | 1.203180  | 0.392013  |
| H | -5.340698  | 2.228915  | 0.742038  |
| C | -6.666704  | 0.620452  | 0.198598  |
| H | -6.671844  | -0.410101 | -0.153639 |
| C | -7.905871  | 1.211958  | 0.407769  |
| C | -9.072148  | 0.412209  | 0.143792  |
| H | -8.885060  | -0.600689 | -0.198615 |
| C | -2.712551  | 2.451277  | 0.805587  |
| H | -3.163216  | 2.591845  | 1.793851  |
| H | -1.662279  | 2.728864  | 0.882503  |
| H | -3.191578  | 3.162202  | 0.124233  |
| C | -10.362513 | 0.845880  | 0.247018  |
| H | -10.521762 | 1.889459  | 0.505945  |
| C | -11.579247 | 0.090359  | -0.027692 |
| C | -11.719796 | -1.230572 | 0.319008  |
| C | -13.029908 | -1.914527 | 0.132437  |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| C | -14.144899 | -1.257994 | -0.683304 |
| H | -14.475955 | -2.007696 | -1.418401 |
| C | -13.690774 | -0.003914 | -1.409079 |
| H | -14.575526 | 0.557725  | -1.727206 |
| H | -13.168314 | -0.317973 | -2.321161 |
| C | -12.747397 | 0.919798  | -0.608283 |
| C | -8.069311  | 2.628600  | 0.893519  |
| H | -8.643818  | 2.653511  | 1.825401  |
| H | -7.118618  | 3.127182  | 1.077623  |
| H | -8.619750  | 3.226807  | 0.158971  |
| C | -10.687413 | -2.074612 | 1.022008  |
| H | -10.077060 | -2.639288 | 0.305614  |
| H | -10.014792 | -1.479841 | 1.642387  |
| H | -11.201443 | -2.812381 | 1.640553  |
| C | -13.494373 | 1.619038  | 0.554459  |
| H | -12.818452 | 2.258258  | 1.133562  |
| H | -14.290147 | 2.255831  | 0.154136  |
| H | -13.954918 | 0.891980  | 1.224208  |
| C | -12.237072 | 1.994893  | -1.596628 |
| H | -11.606137 | 1.558966  | -2.378218 |
| H | -13.092207 | 2.472580  | -2.084717 |
| H | -11.668395 | 2.788065  | -1.102776 |
| O | 13.051543  | 3.216608  | -0.056690 |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| O | -13.270637 | -2.988448 | 0.673151  |
| O | 14.900734  | 0.761610  | -0.864898 |
| H | 14.223671  | 0.561391  | -1.524978 |
| O | -15.214508 | -0.942627 | 0.205946  |
| H | -15.418756 | -1.758742 | 0.687579  |

**TABLE S2:** Optimized cartesian coordinates at B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level for #Ast<sup>•</sup>(5).

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| C | 11.566069 | -0.045585 | 0.100032  |
| C | 11.715000 | 1.243187  | -0.356406 |
| C | 12.667033 | -0.786075 | 0.898416  |
| C | 13.778818 | 0.179524  | 1.373849  |
| H | 14.661165 | -0.398692 | 1.671725  |
| H | 13.427863 | 0.704358  | 2.273019  |
| C | 14.180381 | 1.249348  | 0.366740  |
| H | 14.876911 | 1.958868  | 0.821880  |
| C | 12.946304 | 2.026633  | -0.081739 |
| C | 12.050942 | -1.421275 | 2.169815  |
| H | 11.345176 | -2.222013 | 1.934461  |
| H | 12.847718 | -1.850145 | 2.787638  |
| H | 11.523015 | -0.672865 | 2.769257  |
| C | 13.283478 | -1.923932 | 0.042441  |
| H | 13.997149 | -2.490842 | 0.649850  |
| H | 12.525248 | -2.628062 | -0.312406 |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H | 13.828100 | -1.537230 | -0.819751 |
| C | 10.688221 | 1.998244  | -1.167164 |
| H | 10.095611 | 1.329500  | -1.795078 |
| H | 9.995059  | 2.559010  | -0.528056 |
| H | 11.192489 | 2.740585  | -1.788929 |
| C | 10.364150 | -0.845960 | -0.130068 |
| H | 10.533191 | -1.917320 | -0.196412 |
| C | 9.068079  | -0.424291 | -0.165085 |
| H | 8.853295  | 0.627950  | -0.006219 |
| C | 7.912448  | -1.270958 | -0.337352 |
| C | 6.665525  | -0.682867 | -0.273572 |
| H | 6.647373  | 0.394257  | -0.104643 |
| C | 5.393785  | -1.302858 | -0.390942 |
| H | 5.350668  | -2.375633 | -0.552634 |
| C | 4.208174  | -0.600156 | -0.298712 |
| H | 4.279276  | 0.475832  | -0.138412 |
| C | 2.897070  | -1.136818 | -0.384642 |
| C | 1.812702  | -0.258960 | -0.261599 |
| H | 2.066270  | 0.791294  | -0.113983 |
| C | 0.448740  | -0.558455 | -0.298845 |
| H | 0.130518  | -1.589437 | -0.437633 |
| C | 8.115717  | -2.748067 | -0.568383 |
| H | 7.178068  | -3.279944 | -0.729818 |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H | 8.751360  | -2.923040 | -1.444060 |
| H | 8.617346  | -3.214776 | 0.288321  |
| C | 2.717525  | -2.620946 | -0.599721 |
| H | 3.182368  | -2.939065 | -1.540223 |
| H | 3.194656  | -3.193681 | 0.203984  |
| H | 1.668861  | -2.916082 | -0.635510 |
| C | -0.560727 | 0.407647  | -0.160148 |
| H | -0.243309 | 1.440326  | -0.025993 |
| C | -1.917414 | 0.119751  | -0.180777 |
| H | -2.201228 | -0.924205 | -0.312954 |
| C | -2.983230 | 1.050768  | -0.042089 |
| C | -4.285385 | 0.570453  | -0.073398 |
| H | -4.398735 | -0.506126 | -0.202576 |
| C | -5.494595 | 1.304020  | 0.047003  |
| H | -5.436007 | 2.381843  | 0.166718  |
| C | -6.734212 | 0.712704  | 0.021729  |
| H | -6.772362 | -0.370147 | -0.096471 |
| C | -8.003891 | 1.377927  | 0.138818  |
| C | -9.143451 | 0.608451  | 0.114690  |
| H | -8.999901 | -0.465819 | 0.030446  |
| C | -2.658827 | 2.516769  | 0.136557  |
| H | -2.037041 | 2.673763  | 1.025175  |
| H | -2.095719 | 2.900719  | -0.721685 |



|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| H | -3.550729  | 3.133443  | 0.247529  |
| C | -10.503311 | 1.073088  | 0.149333  |
| H | -10.641120 | 2.142481  | 0.037853  |
| C | -11.636949 | 0.316442  | 0.240451  |
| C | -11.594440 | -1.149876 | 0.442665  |
| C | -12.525238 | -2.014245 | -0.366678 |
| C | -13.867793 | -1.398536 | -0.796595 |
| H | -14.149218 | -1.887206 | -1.740207 |
| C | -13.792813 | 0.117792  | -0.996406 |
| H | -14.815149 | 0.510247  | -1.098806 |
| H | -13.296742 | 0.307546  | -1.957687 |
| C | -13.042183 | 0.921735  | 0.103958  |
| C | -8.016644  | 2.880818  | 0.297771  |
| H | -9.022779  | 3.284870  | 0.409531  |
| H | -7.444526  | 3.181483  | 1.183035  |
| H | -7.551539  | 3.370718  | -0.565553 |
| C | -10.799795 | -1.782822 | 1.326042  |
| H | -10.147763 | -1.239995 | 2.001185  |
| H | -10.820951 | -2.865591 | 1.391444  |
| C | -13.770005 | 0.835729  | 1.469608  |
| H | -13.242558 | 1.445522  | 2.210476  |
| H | -14.792371 | 1.222150  | 1.381776  |
| H | -13.831673 | -0.187858 | 1.839359  |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| C | -13.030321 | 2.396191  | -0.336648 |
| H | -12.497409 | 2.537908  | -1.282265 |
| H | -14.058792 | 2.745869  | -0.474598 |
| H | -12.569476 | 3.041218  | 0.418039  |
| O | 13.000131  | 3.233857  | -0.286304 |
| O | -12.266233 | -3.170386 | -0.640026 |
| O | -14.768703 | -1.786798 | 0.245286  |
| O | 14.857944  | 0.727699  | -0.787145 |
| H | -15.639094 | -1.427274 | 0.026739  |
| H | 14.188709  | 0.479093  | -1.439059 |

**TABLE S3:** Optimized cartesian coordinates at B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level for #Ast<sup>•</sup>(9).

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| C | 11.594690 | -0.094041 | 0.060345  |
| C | 11.728905 | 1.251985  | -0.185301 |
| C | 12.715310 | -0.948206 | 0.703803  |
| C | 13.850053 | -0.067343 | 1.280262  |
| H | 14.739233 | -0.684710 | 1.452074  |
| H | 13.536831 | 0.314820  | 2.261543  |
| C | 14.218492 | 1.143162  | 0.432455  |
| H | 14.942932 | 1.770822  | 0.958519  |
| C | 12.972861 | 1.983699  | 0.169273  |
| C | 12.128465 | -1.761089 | 1.884385  |
| H | 11.401655 | -2.508304 | 1.554082  |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H | 12.935713 | -2.288162 | 2.405010  |
| H | 11.630944 | -1.105750 | 2.606284  |
| C | 13.298723 | -1.950141 | -0.327371 |
| H | 14.022037 | -2.603643 | 0.171846  |
| H | 12.526454 | -2.590981 | -0.762473 |
| H | 13.826196 | -1.443254 | -1.136298 |
| C | 10.677446 | 2.126716  | -0.826494 |
| H | 10.061073 | 1.569569  | -1.535365 |
| H | 10.008378 | 2.572541  | -0.080244 |
| H | 11.161890 | 2.962898  | -1.334449 |
| C | 10.387192 | -0.851520 | -0.268745 |
| H | 10.557077 | -1.892033 | -0.532443 |
| C | 9.091610  | -0.435735 | -0.192777 |
| H | 8.883622  | 0.568318  | 0.163935  |
| C | 7.929366  | -1.233847 | -0.500773 |
| C | 6.687029  | -0.665134 | -0.303815 |
| H | 6.678445  | 0.356208  | 0.077925  |
| C | 5.410165  | -1.239535 | -0.535366 |
| H | 5.356712  | -2.253772 | -0.919386 |
| C | 4.231004  | -0.561484 | -0.290608 |
| H | 4.313363  | 0.452674  | 0.100569  |
| C | 2.915573  | -1.050509 | -0.494564 |
| C | 1.839947  | -0.210524 | -0.172043 |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H | 2.105942  | 0.772498  | 0.217781  |
| C | 0.474594  | -0.473732 | -0.284683 |
| H | 0.143184  | -1.436405 | -0.667856 |
| C | 8.120926  | -2.637083 | -1.019592 |
| H | 7.178132  | -3.124533 | -1.268195 |
| H | 8.743666  | -2.638810 | -1.921531 |
| H | 8.631160  | -3.263860 | -0.277904 |
| C | 2.718108  | -2.443988 | -1.042436 |
| H | 3.222914  | -2.559233 | -2.008335 |
| H | 3.142761  | -3.195344 | -0.366310 |
| H | 1.666932  | -2.691574 | -1.190085 |
| C | -0.524327 | 0.448500  | 0.076281  |
| H | -0.193275 | 1.410727  | 0.462794  |
| C | -1.881847 | 0.200031  | -0.031537 |
| H | -2.180566 | -0.771971 | -0.423596 |
| C | -2.938177 | 1.090405  | 0.321982  |
| C | -4.242617 | 0.663900  | 0.140626  |
| H | -4.372643 | -0.336880 | -0.271218 |
| C | -5.445678 | 1.370805  | 0.427610  |
| H | -5.370042 | 2.369305  | 0.849957  |
| C | -6.687714 | 0.846878  | 0.213209  |
| H | -6.742295 | -0.170720 | -0.172335 |
| C | -7.974200 | 1.499555  | 0.458637  |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| C | -9.152335  | 0.608173  | 0.407919  |
| H | -8.958729  | -0.439646 | 0.625443  |
| C | -2.591092  | 2.453450  | 0.876739  |
| H | -3.472659  | 3.058577  | 1.087534  |
| H | -2.021394  | 2.362437  | 1.808467  |
| H | -1.967142  | 3.013746  | 0.171521  |
| C | -10.400396 | 0.980021  | 0.056281  |
| H | -10.540553 | 2.006193  | -0.277211 |
| C | -11.589512 | 0.123632  | -0.013243 |
| C | -11.880414 | -0.816384 | 0.939489  |
| C | -13.166826 | -1.542804 | 0.874893  |
| C | -13.951824 | -1.624319 | -0.437380 |
| H | -13.986246 | -2.695673 | -0.699308 |
| C | -13.305743 | -0.853683 | -1.578957 |
| H | -14.075898 | -0.624343 | -2.323627 |
| H | -12.578054 | -1.514019 | -2.066015 |
| C | -12.572120 | 0.439425  | -1.163496 |
| C | -8.106811  | 2.822721  | 0.725675  |
| H | -9.068329  | 3.252528  | 0.982132  |
| H | -7.261618  | 3.501572  | 0.704570  |
| C | -11.075113 | -1.084178 | 2.187185  |
| H | -10.388624 | -1.929083 | 2.050559  |
| H | -10.479115 | -0.219261 | 2.484126  |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| H | -11.757834 | -1.358383 | 2.994084  |
| C | -13.574982 | 1.519718  | -0.689307 |
| H | -13.052484 | 2.415644  | -0.336361 |
| H | -14.224477 | 1.816308  | -1.520231 |
| H | -14.213172 | 1.146520  | 0.113545  |
| C | -11.834839 | 0.959118  | -2.418555 |
| H | -11.028975 | 0.283293  | -2.722319 |
| H | -12.543869 | 1.033698  | -3.249784 |
| H | -11.403339 | 1.952817  | -2.272502 |
| O | 13.022048  | 3.207807  | 0.168213  |
| O | -13.672854 | -2.073258 | 1.862411  |
| O | 14.836187  | 0.804516  | -0.818829 |
| O | -15.273397 | -1.147090 | -0.201430 |
| H | 14.134620  | 0.649460  | -1.465767 |
| H | -15.529748 | -1.528320 | 0.653898  |

**TABLE S4:** Optimized cartesian coordinates at B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level for #Ast<sup>•</sup>(13).

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| C | -11.627530 | -0.084076 | 0.050166  |
| C | -11.755896 | 1.264785  | 0.282739  |
| C | -12.765309 | -0.947754 | -0.548075 |
| C | -13.917939 | -0.075707 | -1.101900 |
| H | -14.811027 | -0.696132 | -1.238682 |
| H | -13.634860 | 0.293399  | -2.097230 |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| C | -14.262938 | 1.145738  | -0.259908 |
| H | -15.002777 | 1.765899  | -0.773248 |
| C | -13.011235 | 1.990706  | -0.043409 |
| C | -12.212585 | -1.775194 | -1.735073 |
| H | -11.475456 | -2.517393 | -1.416676 |
| H | -13.034265 | -2.309693 | -2.224611 |
| H | -11.737512 | -1.128828 | -2.479824 |
| C | -13.316105 | -1.937288 | 0.512729  |
| H | -14.053354 | -2.597397 | 0.043566  |
| H | -12.530237 | -2.572183 | 0.931968  |
| H | -13.819283 | -1.420847 | 1.331065  |
| C | -10.686671 | 2.148507  | 0.880931  |
| H | -10.045085 | 1.599885  | 1.573770  |
| H | -10.044762 | 2.589785  | 0.108636  |
| H | -11.156754 | 2.987751  | 1.397313  |
| C | -10.408708 | -0.834797 | 0.351494  |
| H | -10.567373 | -1.870343 | 0.640917  |
| C | -9.117042  | -0.418485 | 0.219714  |
| H | -8.925577  | 0.578695  | -0.164594 |
| C | -7.943564  | -1.207780 | 0.500067  |
| C | -6.708585  | -0.642070 | 0.241457  |
| H | -6.717277  | 0.369644  | -0.165092 |
| C | -5.425661  | -1.208763 | 0.437374  |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H | -5.354196 | -2.211758 | 0.847099  |
| C | -4.254850 | -0.535752 | 0.124757  |
| H | -4.356508 | 0.465320  | -0.294419 |
| C | -2.936411 | -1.016042 | 0.290163  |
| C | -1.871708 | -0.183831 | -0.109422 |
| H | -2.158605 | 0.783906  | -0.521903 |
| C | -0.509515 | -0.441679 | -0.046805 |
| H | -0.155761 | -1.387709 | 0.356956  |
| C | -8.111068 | -2.599517 | 1.056450  |
| H | -7.158040 | -3.079396 | 1.279300  |
| H | -8.699150 | -2.582875 | 1.981149  |
| H | -8.647012 | -3.243487 | 0.348378  |
| C | -2.708135 | -2.390610 | 0.873018  |
| H | -3.211546 | -2.493643 | 1.840602  |
| H | -3.112719 | -3.168785 | 0.214864  |
| H | -1.651680 | -2.609265 | 1.029093  |
| C | 0.475118  | 0.474620  | -0.489991 |
| H | 0.115714  | 1.417465  | -0.899996 |
| C | 1.824278  | 0.237571  | -0.432075 |
| H | 2.140519  | -0.718497 | -0.016652 |
| C | 2.900442  | 1.124819  | -0.858753 |
| C | 4.259793  | 0.586274  | -0.686940 |
| H | 4.328067  | -0.497084 | -0.587929 |



|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| C | 5.409174  | 1.299764  | -0.614174 |
| H | 5.351875  | 2.383979  | -0.656942 |
| C | 6.703496  | 0.689598  | -0.461389 |
| H | 6.700398  | -0.399223 | -0.409374 |
| C | 7.919251  | 1.308219  | -0.376991 |
| C | 9.098395  | 0.472722  | -0.224761 |
| H | 8.910338  | -0.596902 | -0.185252 |
| C | 2.685283  | 2.358700  | -1.393824 |
| H | 3.503694  | 2.966583  | -1.760859 |
| H | 1.691145  | 2.778399  | -1.493814 |
| C | 10.372449 | 0.917359  | -0.084118 |
| H | 10.530712 | 1.992122  | -0.048809 |
| C | 11.573340 | 0.105427  | 0.113792  |
| C | 11.796433 | -1.071931 | -0.555263 |
| C | 13.090315 | -1.765768 | -0.404658 |
| C | 14.004821 | -1.464123 | 0.785291  |
| H | 14.100335 | -2.413285 | 1.339459  |
| C | 13.453672 | -0.396931 | 1.717369  |
| H | 14.285190 | 0.030816  | 2.288214  |
| H | 12.790211 | -0.887592 | 2.439782  |
| C | 12.654819 | 0.728924  | 1.026754  |
| C | 8.100146  | 2.805069  | -0.437022 |
| H | 8.763000  | 3.084372  | -1.264044 |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| H | 7.158796   | 3.337257  | -0.572213 |
| H | 8.562965   | 3.178960  | 0.483975  |
| C | 10.887936  | -1.667553 | -1.603172 |
| H | 10.197436  | -2.403605 | -1.172444 |
| H | 10.287897  | -0.905323 | -2.104692 |
| H | 11.498740  | -2.196970 | -2.337159 |
| C | 13.582899  | 1.624974  | 0.170537  |
| H | 13.009821  | 2.393410  | -0.360000 |
| H | 14.309255  | 2.133071  | 0.814399  |
| H | 14.141300  | 1.036586  | -0.559364 |
| C | 12.033036  | 1.586581  | 2.152392  |
| H | 11.271662  | 1.031425  | 2.709674  |
| H | 12.817322  | 1.882855  | 2.857025  |
| H | 11.573798  | 2.505065  | 1.777581  |
| O | -13.061803 | 3.214607  | -0.055236 |
| O | 13.505668  | -2.575817 | -1.233414 |
| O | -14.844313 | 0.823453  | 1.012863  |
| O | 15.280627  | -1.073898 | 0.283107  |
| H | -14.124646 | 0.675722  | 1.641347  |
| H | 15.461989  | -1.689154 | -0.445673 |

**TABLE S5:** Optimized cartesian coordinates at B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level for #Ast<sup>•</sup>(3)a.

|   |           |           |          |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------|
| C | 11.604667 | -0.081980 | 0.003616 |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------|

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| C | 11.747740 | 1.238288  | -0.345112 |
| C | 12.714994 | -0.890945 | 0.717425  |
| C | 13.841558 | 0.027596  | 1.248031  |
| H | 14.726555 | -0.576280 | 1.479426  |
| H | 13.510976 | 0.478592  | 2.193721  |
| C | 14.227578 | 1.175052  | 0.323210  |
| H | 14.940615 | 1.840040  | 0.818081  |
| C | 12.988406 | 1.993258  | -0.027825 |
| C | 12.114422 | -1.624296 | 1.942308  |
| H | 11.396578 | -2.396505 | 1.653139  |
| H | 12.916450 | -2.109482 | 2.509506  |
| H | 11.602962 | -0.923962 | 2.610175  |
| C | 13.307030 | -1.959218 | -0.239423 |
| H | 14.029673 | -2.575637 | 0.305876  |
| H | 12.537777 | -2.630071 | -0.632704 |
| H | 13.836686 | -1.508747 | -1.079778 |
| C | 10.708665 | 2.062913  | -1.067915 |
| H | 10.077943 | 1.447892  | -1.712817 |
| H | 10.053788 | 2.596047  | -0.367909 |
| H | 11.205132 | 2.833693  | -1.661081 |
| C | 10.390656 | -0.855347 | -0.273750 |
| H | 10.554788 | -1.908505 | -0.486804 |
| C | 9.103365  | -0.429312 | -0.196395 |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H | 8.907446  | 0.595925  | 0.104075  |
| C | 7.924419  | -1.240244 | -0.431856 |
| C | 6.698818  | -0.655015 | -0.249201 |
| H | 6.698668  | 0.389724  | 0.062668  |
| C | 5.402450  | -1.242093 | -0.413504 |
| H | 5.341604  | -2.282055 | -0.719630 |
| C | 4.246246  | -0.548275 | -0.198917 |
| H | 4.333365  | 0.494359  | 0.107214  |
| C | 2.902892  | -1.052206 | -0.333995 |
| C | 1.860023  | -0.195296 | -0.073859 |
| H | 2.126394  | 0.820403  | 0.219512  |
| C | 0.459958  | -0.464271 | -0.138762 |
| H | 0.129870  | -1.461056 | -0.423124 |
| C | 8.104654  | -2.674956 | -0.861539 |
| H | 7.156245  | -3.180580 | -1.043198 |
| H | 8.695517  | -2.735581 | -1.782865 |
| H | 8.644383  | -3.248169 | -0.097872 |
| C | 2.708567  | -2.489535 | -0.752281 |
| H | 3.161334  | -2.674786 | -1.733437 |
| H | 3.192525  | -3.170643 | -0.042622 |
| H | 1.657401  | -2.770548 | -0.815449 |
| C | -0.500885 | 0.470776  | 0.138888  |
| H | -0.169252 | 1.467448  | 0.422100  |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| C | -1.901359  | 0.204801  | 0.075870  |
| H | -2.171098  | -0.812396 | -0.208845 |
| C | -2.941299  | 1.068238  | 0.328227  |
| C | -4.286851  | 0.569317  | 0.201069  |
| H | -4.380054  | -0.477809 | -0.087168 |
| C | -5.439170  | 1.274471  | 0.403457  |
| H | -5.369592  | 2.319646  | 0.689610  |
| C | -6.739954  | 0.696052  | 0.253871  |
| H | -6.750924  | -0.356914 | -0.028541 |
| C | -7.960639  | 1.299531  | 0.419809  |
| C | -9.148695  | 0.498305  | 0.212066  |
| H | -8.969533  | -0.540229 | -0.052569 |
| C | -2.739726  | 2.509450  | 0.730144  |
| H | -3.190169  | 2.707496  | 1.709767  |
| H | -1.687399  | 2.787088  | 0.787918  |
| H | -3.222107  | 3.184298  | 0.013545  |
| C | -10.432991 | 0.943490  | 0.275104  |
| H | -10.583816 | 2.005599  | 0.452886  |
| C | -11.649148 | 0.169818  | 0.057755  |
| C | -11.804264 | -1.128660 | 0.482889  |
| C | -13.071357 | -1.843408 | 0.252185  |
| C | -14.038066 | -1.243731 | -0.606173 |
| C | -13.795000 | 0.022553  | -1.329969 |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| H | -14.743179 | 0.532717  | -1.535648 |
| H | -13.350971 | -0.210620 | -2.311960 |
| C | -12.840558 | 0.961810  | -0.547450 |
| C | -8.122016  | 2.749762  | 0.804568  |
| H | -8.701613  | 2.846335  | 1.729863  |
| H | -7.167070  | 3.252451  | 0.957500  |
| H | -8.665424  | 3.301881  | 0.028221  |
| C | -10.791597 | -1.919588 | 1.269741  |
| H | -10.160173 | -2.535192 | 0.616402  |
| H | -10.134895 | -1.274665 | 1.856746  |
| H | -11.322330 | -2.612861 | 1.926310  |
| C | -13.615248 | 1.632834  | 0.612769  |
| H | -12.958305 | 2.282337  | 1.199847  |
| H | -14.434402 | 2.248275  | 0.223074  |
| H | -14.038449 | 0.884480  | 1.288859  |
| C | -12.380057 | 2.047805  | -1.543862 |
| H | -11.729921 | 1.628354  | -2.317925 |
| H | -13.253508 | 2.488199  | -2.037257 |
| H | -11.839865 | 2.863164  | -1.056858 |
| O | 13.040427  | 3.213169  | -0.124733 |
| O | -13.356417 | -2.969948 | 0.748460  |
| O | 14.872173  | 0.748324  | -0.886755 |
| H | 14.184846  | 0.545296  | -1.535647 |

O -15.152212 -1.940043 -0.819353  
H -15.006606 -2.746922 -0.262563

**TABLE S6:** Optimized cartesian coordinates at B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level for #Ast<sup>•</sup>(3)b.

C 11.560720 -0.053667 0.054464  
C 11.706676 1.235914 -0.399385  
C 12.668002 -0.798696 0.839569  
C 13.785609 0.163809 1.307569  
H 14.670014 -0.416484 1.595048  
H 13.443857 0.686120 2.211735  
C 14.179066 1.236515 0.300186  
H 14.880969 1.943457 0.751032  
C 12.941845 2.017062 -0.133630  
C 12.062592 -1.437376 2.114290  
H 11.352778 -2.235544 1.882335  
H 12.864072 -1.870447 2.722993  
H 11.542036 -0.690104 2.721553  
C 13.274282 -1.934414 -0.026370  
H 13.992771 -2.504798 0.572033  
H 12.511520 -2.636064 -0.376427  
H 13.811349 -1.545507 -0.892298  
C 10.673471 1.995025 -1.198145  
H 10.069597 1.328630 -1.817645

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H | 9.991569  | 2.560179  | -0.550903 |
| H | 11.173444 | 2.734183  | -1.827187 |
| C | 10.354334 | -0.850819 | -0.166907 |
| H | 10.520896 | -1.921556 | -0.248777 |
| C | 9.059634  | -0.425541 | -0.177193 |
| H | 8.850658  | 0.625520  | -0.002667 |
| C | 7.898405  | -1.266815 | -0.343797 |
| C | 6.655117  | -0.675900 | -0.255464 |
| H | 6.642358  | 0.398561  | -0.070116 |
| C | 5.379382  | -1.290534 | -0.368006 |
| H | 5.331723  | -2.360001 | -0.549111 |
| C | 4.197735  | -0.587084 | -0.249897 |
| H | 4.272838  | 0.485445  | -0.069643 |
| C | 2.883274  | -1.119180 | -0.334704 |
| C | 1.803389  | -0.242304 | -0.185059 |
| H | 2.059870  | 0.803745  | -0.014639 |
| C | 0.437016  | -0.538031 | -0.223200 |
| H | 0.116708  | -1.564552 | -0.387791 |
| C | 8.094391  | -2.741265 | -0.596862 |
| H | 7.152991  | -3.269631 | -0.747507 |
| H | 8.713909  | -2.906635 | -1.485857 |
| H | 8.610432  | -3.219049 | 0.244993  |
| C | 2.699182  | -2.598107 | -0.579486 |



|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| H | 3.144642   | -2.894924 | -1.536232 |
| H | 3.192836   | -3.188187 | 0.201274  |
| H | 1.650037   | -2.892976 | -0.599728 |
| C | -0.568845  | 0.424518  | -0.055777 |
| H | -0.250407  | 1.452853  | 0.106258  |
| C | -1.927793  | 0.138482  | -0.082563 |
| H | -2.211673  | -0.901087 | -0.245588 |
| C | -2.990949  | 1.064125  | 0.084532  |
| C | -4.295582  | 0.585150  | 0.034930  |
| H | -4.407555  | -0.486491 | -0.131660 |
| C | -5.502860  | 1.312421  | 0.176609  |
| H | -5.446471  | 2.384854  | 0.338211  |
| C | -6.744574  | 0.721115  | 0.119922  |
| H | -6.778050  | -0.356281 | -0.042751 |
| C | -8.012794  | 1.377116  | 0.253529  |
| C | -9.155134  | 0.606834  | 0.178388  |
| H | -8.994016  | -0.455469 | 0.022896  |
| C | -2.667885  | 2.523968  | 0.310046  |
| H | -2.044257  | 2.653075  | 1.201759  |
| H | -2.107552  | 2.936212  | -0.536778 |
| H | -3.560276  | 3.135635  | 0.442808  |
| C | -10.511564 | 1.067946  | 0.209210  |
| H | -10.637851 | 2.142300  | 0.150819  |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| C | -11.663936 | 0.322431  | 0.216159  |
| C | -11.701236 | -1.128838 | 0.438121  |
| C | -12.725631 | -1.883834 | -0.067117 |
| C | -13.835108 | -1.304715 | -0.863975 |
| C | -13.751535 | 0.186864  | -1.122211 |
| H | -14.770467 | 0.552692  | -1.284137 |
| H | -13.207123 | 0.322096  | -2.068079 |
| C | -13.033591 | 0.991516  | -0.010205 |
| C | -8.033106  | 2.872037  | 0.473343  |
| H | -9.040428  | 3.264885  | 0.610617  |
| H | -7.455206  | 3.139546  | 1.365256  |
| H | -7.578577  | 3.399642  | -0.373260 |
| C | -10.676169 | -1.823306 | 1.315527  |
| H | -9.952833  | -2.421334 | 0.745319  |
| H | -10.112400 | -1.107449 | 1.912860  |
| H | -11.175308 | -2.501187 | 2.021953  |
| C | -13.868625 | 0.954593  | 1.294536  |
| H | -13.376072 | 1.537761  | 2.079081  |
| H | -14.860338 | 1.386906  | 1.122563  |
| H | -14.005502 | -0.063138 | 1.667877  |
| C | -12.945177 | 2.455599  | -0.473747 |
| H | -12.333242 | 2.563446  | -1.374634 |
| H | -13.949587 | 2.825525  | -0.703593 |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| H | -12.532416 | 3.107006  | 0.303272  |
| O | 12.994548  | 3.224848  | -0.334058 |
| O | -12.852092 | -3.223275 | 0.115161  |
| O | 14.844737  | 0.718088  | -0.861931 |
| H | 14.169165  | 0.471275  | -1.507950 |
| O | -14.745600 | -1.993605 | -1.294129 |
| H | -12.090341 | -3.556783 | 0.606697  |

**TABLE S7:** Optimized cartesian coordinates at B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level for Ast<sup>+</sup>.

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| C | 11.617269 | 0.157764  | -0.150738 |
| C | 11.716340 | -1.105923 | -0.726006 |
| C | 12.856281 | 0.865873  | 0.464192  |
| C | 14.133150 | -0.007988 | 0.384275  |
| H | 14.853162 | 0.336448  | 1.136403  |
| H | 14.610815 | 0.130840  | -0.595509 |
| C | 13.882099 | -1.502104 | 0.541690  |
| H | 14.810597 | -2.064223 | 0.406676  |
| C | 12.903572 | -1.947207 | -0.543071 |
| C | 13.153879 | 2.164847  | -0.327964 |
| H | 12.380988 | 2.926856  | -0.196612 |
| H | 14.100083 | 2.595728  | 0.020232  |
| H | 13.248934 | 1.957586  | -1.398614 |
| C | 12.590849 | 1.246808  | 1.942799  |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H | 13.424227 | 1.845608  | 2.329061  |
| H | 11.674201 | 1.832880  | 2.049708  |
| H | 12.509708 | 0.357931  | 2.571661  |
| C | 10.663060 | -1.717483 | -1.619892 |
| H | 9.942621  | -2.336804 | -1.068887 |
| H | 10.097303 | -0.954238 | -2.160000 |
| H | 11.159884 | -2.383734 | -2.329158 |
| C | 10.414024 | 0.949563  | -0.126516 |
| H | 10.559138 | 2.010638  | 0.049732  |
| C | 9.101426  | 0.527418  | -0.196037 |
| H | 8.899167  | -0.536462 | -0.269100 |
| C | 7.949643  | 1.361560  | -0.127075 |
| C | 6.693451  | 0.759516  | -0.146273 |
| H | 6.692791  | -0.329694 | -0.216376 |
| C | 5.422967  | 1.361739  | -0.088445 |
| H | 5.361405  | 2.443782  | -0.013782 |
| C | 4.236863  | 0.635995  | -0.121330 |
| H | 4.327687  | -0.449110 | -0.189744 |
| C | 2.923791  | 1.148859  | -0.075265 |
| C | 1.845620  | 0.252408  | -0.113504 |
| H | 2.114648  | -0.803197 | -0.178997 |
| C | 0.476044  | 0.528281  | -0.078527 |
| H | 0.145112  | 1.563495  | -0.012798 |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| C | 8.126171  | 2.858871  | -0.029645 |
| H | 7.176433  | 3.393407  | -0.075181 |
| H | 8.619181  | 3.142496  | 0.909669  |
| H | 8.756575  | 3.235752  | -0.844048 |
| C | 2.720157  | 2.644507  | 0.017877  |
| H | 3.145717  | 3.045085  | 0.946481  |
| H | 3.219897  | 3.162288  | -0.809698 |
| H | 1.666696  | 2.925764  | -0.008737 |
| C | -0.520907 | -0.451105 | -0.122685 |
| H | -0.189560 | -1.486322 | -0.187999 |
| C | -1.890001 | -0.176090 | -0.090263 |
| H | -2.160272 | 0.879446  | -0.030784 |
| C | -2.968302 | -1.074636 | -0.126423 |
| C | -4.280252 | -0.563602 | -0.093900 |
| H | -4.373520 | 0.521875  | -0.037522 |
| C | -5.467800 | -1.291762 | -0.128079 |
| H | -5.403486 | -2.374680 | -0.187599 |
| C | -6.736249 | -0.691655 | -0.089897 |
| H | -6.738350 | 0.398312  | -0.034698 |
| C | -7.995698 | -1.295820 | -0.112826 |
| C | -9.144119 | -0.463713 | -0.063070 |
| H | -8.943675 | 0.600681  | -0.011757 |
| C | -2.759865 | -2.570703 | -0.207108 |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| H | -3.149120  | -2.975166 | -1.149856 |
| H | -1.707886  | -2.850619 | -0.138579 |
| H | -3.289980  | -3.085732 | 0.602709  |
| C | -10.458935 | -0.900380 | -0.013712 |
| H | -10.586795 | -1.976375 | 0.042544  |
| C | -11.672720 | -0.143894 | 0.051120  |
| C | -11.819362 | 1.175919  | -0.384346 |
| C | -13.075166 | 1.911810  | -0.275099 |
| C | -14.236064 | 1.253824  | 0.473532  |
| C | -13.879343 | 0.031215  | 1.281928  |
| H | -14.803072 | -0.480479 | 1.572628  |
| H | -13.388226 | 0.376612  | 2.203281  |
| C | -12.918145 | -0.927996 | 0.542527  |
| C | -8.166376  | -2.795740 | -0.186849 |
| H | -8.755943  | -3.084698 | -1.065536 |
| H | -7.212159  | -3.321016 | -0.243287 |
| H | -8.700448  | -3.178360 | 0.692445  |
| C | -10.735956 | 1.942481  | -1.103975 |
| H | -10.053126 | 2.454991  | -0.412927 |
| H | -10.131174 | 1.288961  | -1.738810 |
| H | -11.206269 | 2.719168  | -1.710429 |
| C | -13.641674 | -1.546283 | -0.678883 |
| H | -12.974832 | -2.227525 | -1.217410 |

|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| H | -14.523408 | -2.114576 | -0.359240 |
| H | -13.968119 | -0.774597 | -1.381894 |
| C | -12.579976 | -2.059771 | 1.538460  |
| H | -11.942231 | -1.699594 | 2.351536  |
| H | -13.507283 | -2.445454 | 1.977387  |
| H | -12.075327 | -2.905869 | 1.064399  |
| O | 13.094474  | -2.996748 | -1.163364 |
| O | -13.250857 | 3.042198  | -0.745659 |
| O | 13.390755  | -1.864713 | 1.843344  |
| H | 12.430566  | -1.749277 | 1.822700  |
| O | -15.362092 | 1.715355  | 0.438224  |

**TABLE S8:** Isotropic  $\beta$ -methyl proton and anisotropic  $\alpha$ -proton tensors (MHz) for Ast<sup>•+</sup> radical cation of astaxanthin obtained by DFT calculations; the bold values are the isotropic coupling constants  $A_{\text{iso}}$  given by averaging the three anisotropic coupling tensors  $A_{XX}$   $A_{YY}$   $A_{ZZ}$

| Position | Number of protons | $A_{XX}$ | $A_{YY}$ | $A_{ZZ}$ | $A_{\text{iso}}$ |
|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| 1        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-0.05</b>     |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.33</b>      |
| 1'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.01</b>      |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.03</b>      |
| 2        | 1                 | 0.71     | 0.82     | 1.20     | <b>0.91</b>      |
|          | 1                 | 0.09     | 0.21     | 0.73     | <b>0.35</b>      |
| 2'       | 1                 | 0.9      | 0.98     | 1.36     | <b>1.08</b>      |
|          | 1                 | -0.14    | -0.02    | 0.49     | <b>0.11</b>      |
| 3        | 1                 | -0.66    | -0.51    | 0.01     | <b>-0.39</b>     |
|          | 1                 | -0.30    | -0.14    | 0.37     | <b>-0.02</b>     |
| 3'       | 1                 | -0.203   | -0.104   | 0.313    | <b>0.002</b>     |
|          | 1                 | -0.54    | -0.28    | 0.47     | <b>-0.12</b>     |
| 5        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>5.05</b>      |
| 5'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>4.45</b>      |
| 7        | 1                 | -15.14   | -10.6    | -4.8     | <b>-10.18</b>    |
| 7'       | 1                 | -14.73   | -10.26   | -4.56    | <b>-9.85</b>     |
| 8        | 1                 | 1.83     | 2.23     | 5.66     | <b>3.24</b>      |
| 8'       | 1                 | 1.83     | 2.26     | 5.60     | <b>3.23</b>      |
| 9        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>9.17</b>      |
| 9'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>9.23</b>      |
| 10       | 1                 | 0.86     | 1.46     | 4.22     | <b>2.18</b>      |
| 10'      | 1                 | 1.07     | 1.64     | 4.49     | <b>2.40</b>      |
| 11       | 1                 | -12.47   | -9.08    | -3.71    | <b>-8.42</b>     |
| 11'      | 1                 | -12.93   | -9.34    | -3.87    | <b>-8.72</b>     |
| 12       | 1                 | 0.66     | 1.08     | 4.08     | <b>1.94</b>      |
| 12'      | 1                 | 0.99     | 1.33     | 4.52     | <b>2.28</b>      |
| 13       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>5.62</b>      |
| 13'      | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>6.06</b>      |
| 14       | 1                 | -2.60    | -2.47    | 0.54     | <b>-1.51</b>     |
| 14'      | 1                 | -2.15    | -1.87    | 0.90     | <b>-1.04</b>     |
| 15       | 1                 | -4.66    | -4.1     | -0.69    | <b>-3.15</b>     |
| 15'      | 1                 | -5.38    | -4.59    | -1.01    | <b>-3.66</b>     |



**TABLE S9:** Isotropic  $\beta$ -methyl proton and anisotropic  $\alpha$ -proton tensors (MHz) for #Ast<sup>•</sup>(5) neutral radical of astaxanthin obtained by DFT calculations; the bold values are the isotropic coupling constants  $A_{\text{iso}}$  given by averaging the three anisotropic coupling tensors  $A_{XX}$   $A_{YY}$   $A_{ZZ}$

| Position | Number of protons | $A_{XX}$ | $A_{YY}$ | $A_{ZZ}$ | $A_{\text{iso}}$ |
|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| 1        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.46</b>      |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-0.10</b>     |
| 1'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.01</b>      |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.04</b>      |
| 2        | 1                 | 1.59     | 1.70     | 2.45     | <b>1.91</b>      |
|          | 1                 | -0.79    | -0.38    | 0.68     | <b>-0.16</b>     |
| 2'       | 1                 | 0.94     | 1.03     | 1.36     | <b>1.11</b>      |
|          | 1                 | 0.03     | 0.19     | 0.62     | <b>0.28</b>      |
| 3        | 1                 | 0.22     | 0.28     | 0.76     | <b>0.42</b>      |
|          | 1                 | -0.12    | -0.11    | 0.26     | <b>0.01</b>      |
| 3'       | 1                 | -0.18    | -0.07    | 0.37     | <b>0.04</b>      |
|          | 1                 | -0.59    | -0.30    | 0.39     | <b>-0.17</b>     |
| 5        | 1                 | -3.56    | -2.4     | -1.12    | <b>-2.36</b>     |
|          | 1                 | -4.5     | -2.78    | -0.73    | <b>-2.67</b>     |
| 5'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>3.71</b>      |
| 7        | 1                 | 3.53     | 3.77     | 6.53     | <b>4.61</b>      |
| 7'       | 1                 | -14.41   | -10.06   | -4.66    | <b>-9.71</b>     |
| 8        | 1                 | 3.53     | 3.77     | 6.53     | <b>4.61</b>      |
| 8'       | 1                 | -13.29   | -10.19   | -4.27    | <b>-9.25</b>     |
| 9        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-4.62</b>     |
| 9'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>10.09</b>     |
| 10       | 1                 | -17.09   | -12.65   | -5.72    | <b>-11.82</b>    |
| 10'      | 1                 | 4.45     | 5.46     | 10.70    | <b>6.87</b>      |
| 11       | 1                 | 4.71     | 5.62     | 10.82    | <b>7.05</b>      |
| 11'      | 1                 | -21.50   | -14.98   | -7.44    | <b>-14.64</b>    |
| 12       | 1                 | -19.58   | -14.60   | -6.83    | <b>-13.67</b>    |
| 12'      | 1                 | 5.49     | 7.03     | 13.10    | <b>8.54</b>      |
| 13       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-7.53</b>     |
| 13'      | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>14.05</b>     |
| 14       | 1                 | -2.79    | 3.35     | 12.30    | <b>4.29</b>      |
| 14'      | 1                 | 6.17     | 7.99     | 14.66    | <b>9.61</b>      |
| 15       | 1                 | 6.29     | 7.88     | 14.48    | <b>9.55</b>      |
| 15'      | 1                 | -25.20   | -17.85   | -8.43    | <b>-17.16</b>    |

**TABLE S10:** Isotropic  $\beta$ -methyl proton and anisotropic  $\alpha$ -proton tensors (MHz) for #Ast<sup>•</sup>(9) neutral radical of astaxanthin obtained by DFT calculations; the bold values are the isotropic coupling constants  $A_{\text{iso}}$  given by averaging the three anisotropic coupling tensors  $A_{XX}$   $A_{YY}$   $A_{ZZ}$

| Position | Number of protons | $A_{XX}$ | $A_{YY}$ | $A_{ZZ}$ | $A_{\text{iso}}$ |
|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| 1        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-0.01</b>     |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-0.09</b>     |
| 1'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.01</b>      |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.04</b>      |
| 2        | 1                 | -0.13    | -0.09    | 0.04     | <b>-0.06</b>     |
|          | 1                 | -0.18    | -0.12    | 0.09     | <b>-0.07</b>     |
| 2'       | 1                 | 1.01     | 1.11     | 1.45     | <b>1.19</b>      |
|          | 1                 | 0.03     | 0.18     | 0.63     | <b>0.28</b>      |
| 3        | 1                 | -0.02    | 0.04     | 0.13     | <b>0.05</b>      |
|          | 1                 | -0.063   | 0.003    | 0.057    | <b>-0.001</b>    |
| 3'       | 1                 | -0.21    | -0.09    | 0.36     | <b>0.02</b>      |
|          | 1                 | -0.62    | -0.31    | 0.42     | <b>-0.17</b>     |
| 5        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-0.65</b>     |
| 5'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>3.97</b>      |
| 7        | 1                 | 0.55     | 1.61     | 4.30     | <b>2.15</b>      |
| 7'       | 1                 | -15.79   | -11.10   | -5.32    | <b>-10.74</b>    |
| 8        | 1                 | -3.67    | -3.16    | -2.03    | <b>-2.95</b>     |
| 8'       | 1                 | 3.28     | 3.63     | 7.73     | <b>4.88</b>      |
| 9        | 1                 | -18.16   | -11.34   | -4.28    | <b>-11.26</b>    |
|          | 1                 | -16.74   | -11.29   | -4.51    | <b>-10.85</b>    |
| 9'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>10.79</b>     |
| 10       | 1                 | -21.68   | -14.96   | -6.62    | <b>-14.42</b>    |
| 10'      | 1                 | 4.83     | 5.96     | 11.48    | <b>7.42</b>      |
| 11       | 1                 | 4.45     | 5.43     | 11.84    | <b>7.24</b>      |
| 11'      | 1                 | -22.47   | -15.65   | -7.75    | <b>-15.29</b>    |
| 12       | 1                 | -19.76   | -14.95   | -6.88    | <b>-13.86</b>    |
| 12'      | 1                 | 5.83     | 7.51     | 13.88    | <b>9.07</b>      |
| 13       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-7.68</b>     |
| 13'      | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>14.59</b>     |
| 14       | 1                 | -23.43   | -17.17   | -7.97    | <b>-16.19</b>    |
| 14'      | 1                 | 6.35     | 8.19     | 15.04    | <b>9.86</b>      |
| 15       | 1                 | 6.46     | 8.07     | 14.87    | <b>9.80</b>      |
| 15'      | 1                 | -25.60   | -18.11   | -8.48    | <b>-17.40</b>    |

**TABLE S11:** Isotropic  $\beta$ -methyl proton and anisotropic  $\alpha$ -proton tensors (MHz) for #Ast<sup>•</sup>(13) neutral radical of astaxanthin obtained by DFT calculations; the bold values are the isotropic coupling constants  $A_{\text{iso}}$  given by averaging the three anisotropic coupling tensors  $A_{XX}$   $A_{YY}$   $A_{ZZ}$

| Position | Number of protons | $A_{XX}$ | $A_{YY}$ | $A_{ZZ}$ | $A_{\text{iso}}$ |
|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| 1        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-0.02</b>     |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-0.08</b>     |
| 1'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.01</b>      |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.05</b>      |
| 2        | 1                 | -0.10    | -0.07    | -0.04    | <b>-0.07</b>     |
|          | 1                 | -0.11    | -0.07    | 0.01     | <b>-0.06</b>     |
| 2'       | 1                 | 1.15     | 1.25     | 1.65     | <b>1.35</b>      |
|          | 1                 | 0.02     | 0.20     | 0.71     | <b>0.31</b>      |
| 3        | 1                 | -0.02    | 0.04     | 0.08     | <b>0.03</b>      |
|          | 1                 | -0.0448  | 0.0162   | 0.0292   | <b>0.0002</b>    |
| 3'       | 1                 | -0.24    | -0.10    | 0.40     | <b>0.02</b>      |
|          | 1                 | -0.69    | -0.35    | 0.48     | <b>-0.19</b>     |
| 5        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-0.56</b>     |
| 5'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>4.47</b>      |
| 7        | 1                 | 0.775    | 1.667    | 2.598    | <b>1.68</b>      |
| 7'       | 1                 | -18.00   | -12.67   | -6.08    | <b>-12.25</b>    |
| 8        | 1                 | -1.05    | -0.72    | -0.62    | <b>-0.8</b>      |
| 8'       | 1                 | 3.75     | 4.12     | 8.78     | <b>5.55</b>      |
| 9        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-1.90</b>     |
| 9'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>12.20</b>     |
| 10       | 1                 | -1.87    | -1.55    | -1.03    | <b>-1.48</b>     |
| 10'      | 1                 | 5.37     | 6.55     | 12.75    | <b>8.22</b>      |
| 11       | 1                 | 0.97     | 2.55     | 6.72     | <b>3.41</b>      |
| 11'      | 1                 | -24.97   | -17.43   | -8.54    | <b>-16.98</b>    |
| 12       | 1                 | -5.71    | -5.17    | -3.16    | <b>-4.68</b>     |
| 12'      | 1                 | 6.33     | 8.00     | 15.10    | <b>9.81</b>      |
| 13       | 1                 | -28.73   | -18.07   | -6.99    | <b>-17.93</b>    |
|          | 1                 | -26.66   | -17.77   | -7.03    | <b>-17.15</b>    |
| 13'      | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>15.93</b>     |
| 14       | 1                 | -29.199  | -19.966  | -8.465   | <b>-19.21</b>    |
| 14'      | 1                 | 6.51     | 8.17     | 15.74    | <b>10.14</b>     |
| 15       | 1                 | 5.66     | 7.02     | 15.64    | <b>9.44</b>      |
| 15'      | 1                 | -26.73   | -19.27   | -8.73    | <b>-18.24</b>    |

**TABLE S12:** Isotropic  $\beta$ -methyl proton and anisotropic  $\alpha$ -proton tensors (MHz) for #Ast<sup>•</sup>(3)a neutral radical of astaxanthin obtained by DFT calculations; the bold values are the isotropic coupling constants  $A_{\text{iso}}$  given by averaging the three anisotropic coupling tensors  $A_{XX}$   $A_{YY}$   $A_{ZZ}$

| Position | Number of protons | $A_{XX}$ | $A_{YY}$ | $A_{ZZ}$ | $A_{\text{iso}}$ |
|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| 1        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-0.43</b>     |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.09</b>      |
| 1'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.01</b>      |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.04</b>      |
| 2        | 1                 | 15.41    | 16.35    | 24.10    | <b>18.62</b>     |
|          | 1                 | 72.80    | 73.00    | 81.87    | <b>75.89</b>     |
| 2'       | 1                 | 0.09     | 0.10     | 0.13     | <b>0.10</b>      |
|          | 1                 | 0.001    | 0.013    | 0.046    | <b>0.02</b>      |
| 3O       | 1                 | -17.78   | -14.19   | 4.31     | <b>-9.22</b>     |
| 3'       | 1                 | -0.022   | -0.012   | 0.027    | <b>-0.002</b>    |
| O        | 1                 | -0.05    | -0.03    | 0.03     | <b>-0.02</b>     |
| 5        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-2.61</b>     |
| 5'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.38</b>      |
| 7        | 1                 | 4.68     | 4.73     | 7.9      | <b>5.77</b>      |
| 7'       | 1                 | -1.63    | -1.2     | -0.68    | <b>-1.17</b>     |
| 8        | 1                 | -3.85    | -3.54    | -1.71    | <b>-3.05</b>     |
| 8'       | 1                 | 0.47     | 0.61     | 0.99     | <b>0.69</b>      |
| 9        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-1.20</b>     |
| 9'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.92</b>      |
| 10       | 1                 | -2.39    | -2.10    | -0.91    | <b>-1.8</b>      |
| 10'      | 1                 | 0.65     | 0.92     | 1.43     | <b>1.00</b>      |
| 11       | 1                 | 0.34     | 0.43     | 1.45     | <b>0.74</b>      |
| 11'      | 1                 | -1.82    | -1.30    | -0.75    | <b>-1.29</b>     |
| 12       | 1                 | -1.80    | -1.37    | -0.52    | <b>-1.23</b>     |
| 12'      | 1                 | 0.70     | 1.05     | 1.61     | <b>1.12</b>      |
| 13       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-0.78</b>     |
| 13'      | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>1.03</b>      |
| 14       | 1                 | -1.34    | -0.98    | -0.38    | <b>-0.9</b>      |
| 14'      | 1                 | 0.62     | 0.94     | 1.53     | <b>1.03</b>      |
| 15       | 1                 | 0.45     | 0.71     | 1.36     | <b>0.84</b>      |
| 15'      | 1                 | -1.51    | -1.03    | -0.46    | <b>-1.0</b>      |

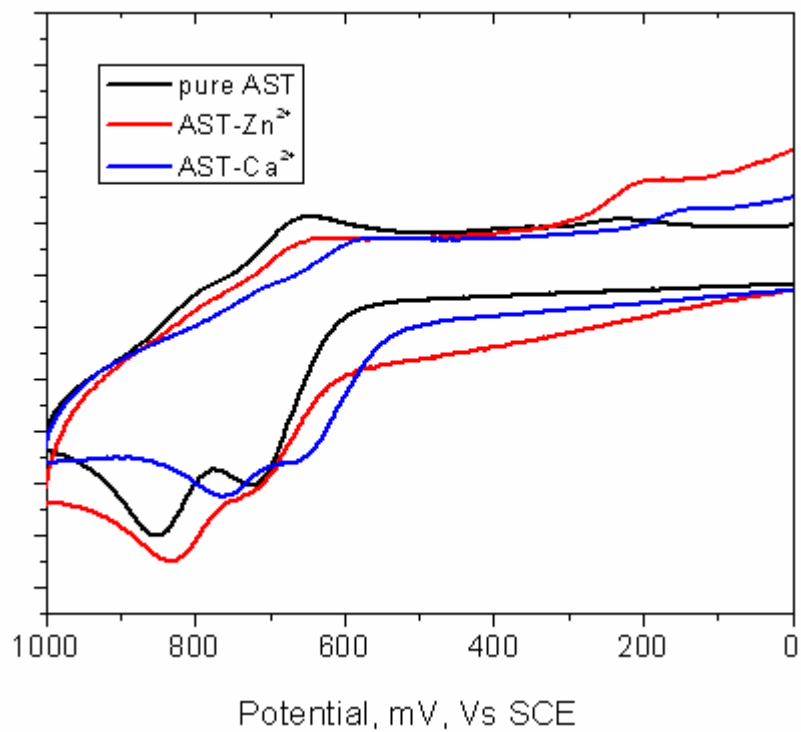
**TABLE S13:** Isotropic  $\beta$ -methyl proton and anisotropic  $\alpha$ -proton tensors (MHz) for #Ast<sup>•</sup>(3)b neutral radical of astaxanthin obtained by DFT calculations; the bold values are the isotropic coupling constants  $A_{\text{iso}}$  given by averaging the three anisotropic coupling tensors  $A_{XX}$   $A_{YY}$   $A_{ZZ}$

| Position | Number of protons | $A_{XX}$ | $A_{YY}$ | $A_{ZZ}$ | $A_{\text{iso}}$ |
|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| 1        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.29</b>      |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-0.05</b>     |
| 1'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.01</b>      |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.04</b>      |
| 2        | 1                 | -0.27    | -0.04    | 0.72     | <b>0.14</b>      |
|          | 1                 | -0.49    | -0.22    | 0.81     | <b>0.03</b>      |
| 2'       | 1                 | 0.9      | 0.98     | 1.31     | <b>1.06</b>      |
|          | 1                 | 0.04     | 0.18     | 0.59     | <b>0.27</b>      |
| 3'       | 1                 | -0.18    | -0.07    | 0.34     | <b>0.03</b>      |
| O        | 1                 | -0.55    | -0.28    | 0.38     | <b>-0.15</b>     |
| 5        | 1                 |          |          |          | <b>-2.14</b>     |
| 5'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>3.47</b>      |
| 7        | 1                 | 4.59     | 4.81     | 8.31     | <b>5.9</b>       |
| 7'       | 1                 | -13.73   | -9.58    | -4.41    | <b>-9.24</b>     |
| 8        | 1                 | -14.1    | -10.39   | -4.74    | <b>-9.74</b>     |
| 8'       | 1                 | 2.66     | 2.87     | 6.54     | <b>4.03</b>      |
| 9        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-5.09</b>     |
| 9'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>9.73</b>      |
| 10       | 1                 | -17.44   | -12.79   | -5.81    | <b>-12.01</b>    |
| 10'      | 1                 | 4.21     | 5.15     | 10.20    | <b>6.52</b>      |
| 11       | 1                 | 4.85     | 5.97     | 11.35    | <b>7.39</b>      |
| 11'      | 1                 | -20.80   | -14.47   | -7.15    | <b>-14.14</b>    |
| 12       | 1                 | -19.67   | -14.60   | -6.87    | <b>-13.71</b>    |
| 12'      | 1                 | 5.28     | 6.79     | 12.71    | <b>8.26</b>      |
| 13       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>-7.73</b>     |
| 13'      | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>13.75</b>     |
| 14       | 1                 | -22.85   | -16.67   | -7.82    | <b>-15.78</b>    |
| 14'      | 1                 | 6.01     | 7.83     | 14.39    | <b>9.41</b>      |
| 15       | 1                 | 6.23     | 7.92     | 14.54    | <b>9.55</b>      |
| 15'      | 1                 | -24.81   | -17.54   | -8.30    | <b>-16.88</b>    |

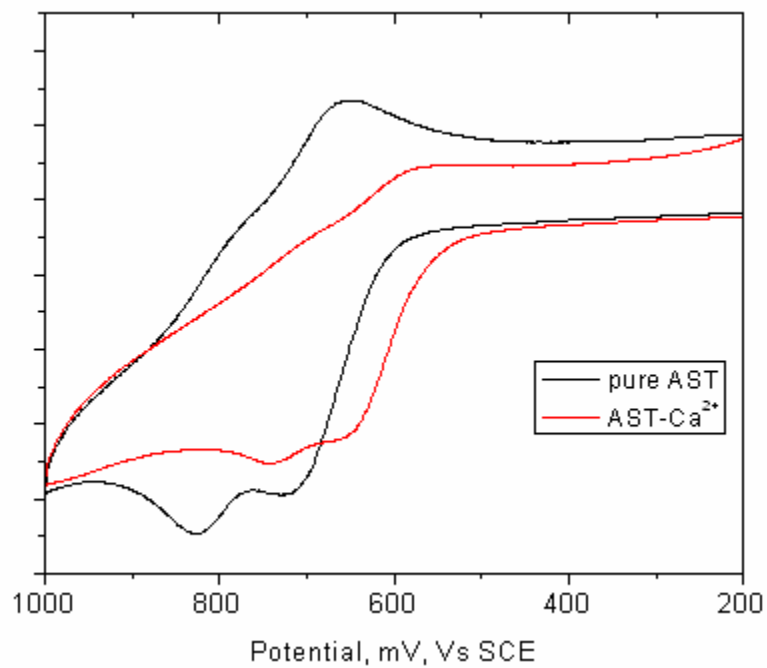
**TABLE S14:** Isotropic  $\beta$ -methyl proton and anisotropic  $\alpha$ -proton tensors (MHz) for Ast<sup>•-</sup> radical anion (proton loss form OH group of #Ast<sup>•-</sup>(3)b) obtained by DFT calculations; the bold values are the isotropic coupling constants  $A_{\text{iso}}$  given by averaging the three anisotropic coupling tensors  $A_{XX}$   $A_{YY}$   $A_{ZZ}$

| Position | Number of protons | $A_{XX}$ | $A_{YY}$ | $A_{ZZ}$ | $A_{\text{iso}}$ |
|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| 1        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.20</b>      |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.41</b>      |
| 1'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.25</b>      |
|          | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>0.54</b>      |
| 2        | 1                 | -0.03    | 0.17     | 0.64     | <b>0.26</b>      |
|          | 1                 | 1.70     | 2.11     | 2.70     | <b>2.17</b>      |
| 2'       | 1                 | 0.08     | 0.21     | 0.61     | <b>0.30</b>      |
|          | 1                 | 0.33     | 0.43     | 1.11     | <b>0.62</b>      |
| 5        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>3.42</b>      |
| 5'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>3.99</b>      |
| 7        | 1                 | -6.33    | -4.53    | -0.88    | <b>-3.91</b>     |
| 7'       | 1                 | -8.27    | -5.72    | -1.88    | <b>-5.29</b>     |
| 8        | 1                 | -2.06    | -1.60    | 0.48     | <b>-1.06</b>     |
| 8'       | 1                 | -0.94    | -0.23    | 1.45     | <b>0.09</b>      |
| 9        | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>3.14</b>      |
| 9'       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>4.30</b>      |
| 10       | 1                 | -1.63    | -0.84    | 0.69     | <b>-0.59</b>     |
| 10'      | 1                 | -0.46    | 0.35     | 2.00     | <b>0.63</b>      |
| 11       | 1                 | -5.63    | -4.46    | -1.34    | <b>-3.81</b>     |
| 11'      | 1                 | -7.96    | -5.87    | -2.16    | <b>-5.33</b>     |
| 12       | 1                 | -3.28    | -3.20    | -0.24    | <b>-2.24</b>     |
| 12'      | 1                 | -1.75    | -1.17    | 0.79     | <b>-0.71</b>     |
| 13       | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>2.33</b>      |
| 13'      | 3                 |          |          |          | <b>3.92</b>      |
| 14       | 1                 | -3.45    | -3.30    | -0.45    | <b>-2.4</b>      |
| 14'      | 1                 | -1.89    | -1.07    | 0.65     | <b>-0.77</b>     |
| 15       | 1                 | -3.51    | -3.31    | -0.38    | <b>-2.4</b>      |
| 15'      | 1                 | -6.19    | -4.99    | -1.33    | <b>-4.17</b>     |

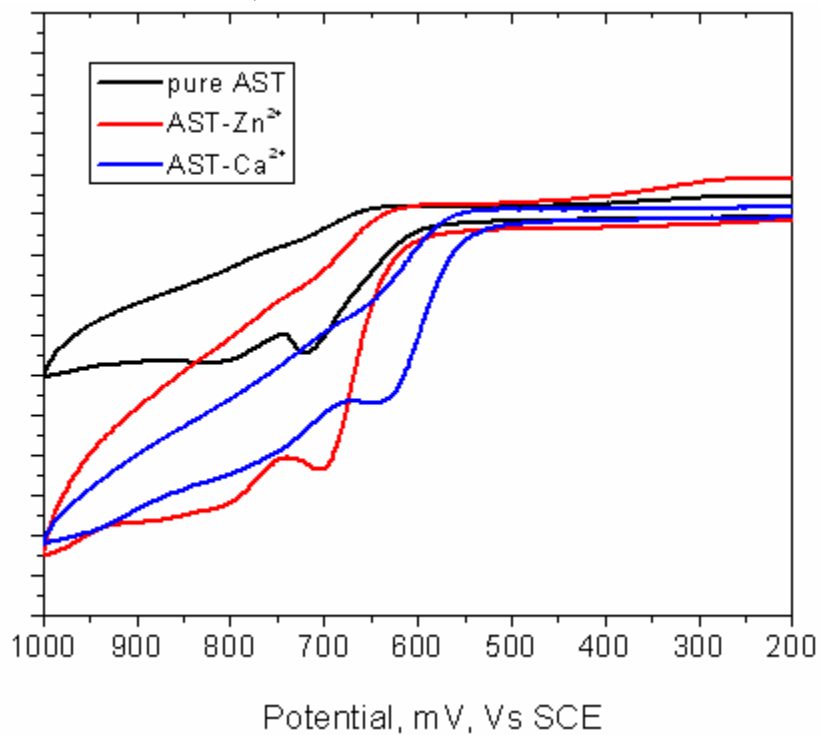
**Figure S1.** CV plot of astaxanthin in the presence of Ca and Zn salts as a function of scan rate; stability of the radical cation, dication and the neutral radical is dependent on the presence of the salt, the apparent oxidation shifts to lower oxidation potential and is dependent on the type of metal. CV plot of astaxanthin 1 mM +  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (20 mM) or  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  (30 mM) in anhydrous  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (scan rate = 1000 mV/s)



**Figure S2.** CV plot of astaxanthin 1 mM + Ca(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> 20 mM in anhydrous CH<sub>3</sub>CN (scan rate = 200 mV/s)

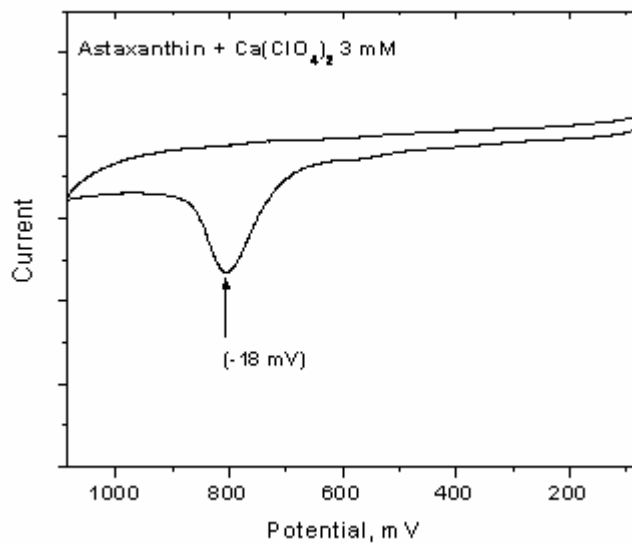
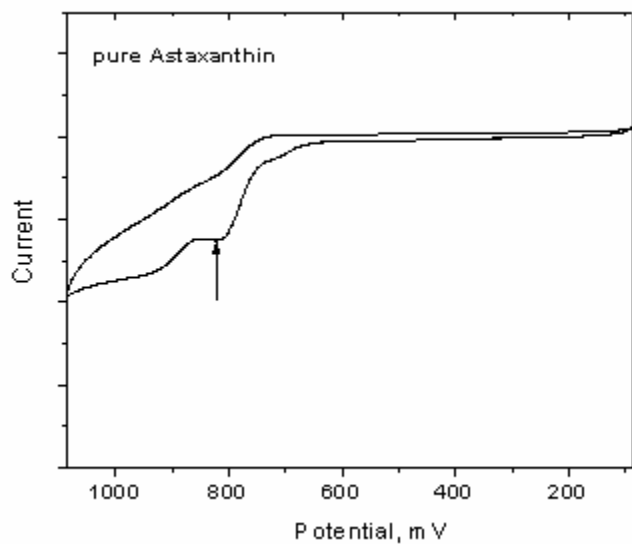


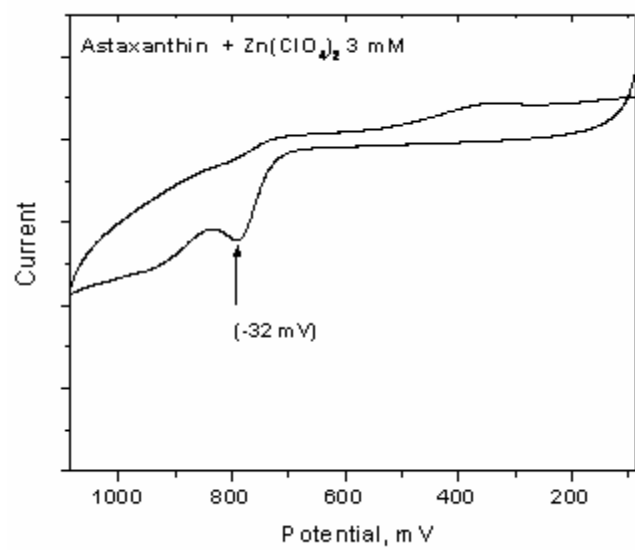
**Figure S3.** CV plot of astaxanthin 1 mM + Ca<sup>2+</sup> (20 mM) or Zn<sup>2+</sup> (30 mM) in anhydrous CH<sub>3</sub>CN (scan rate = 10 mV/s)





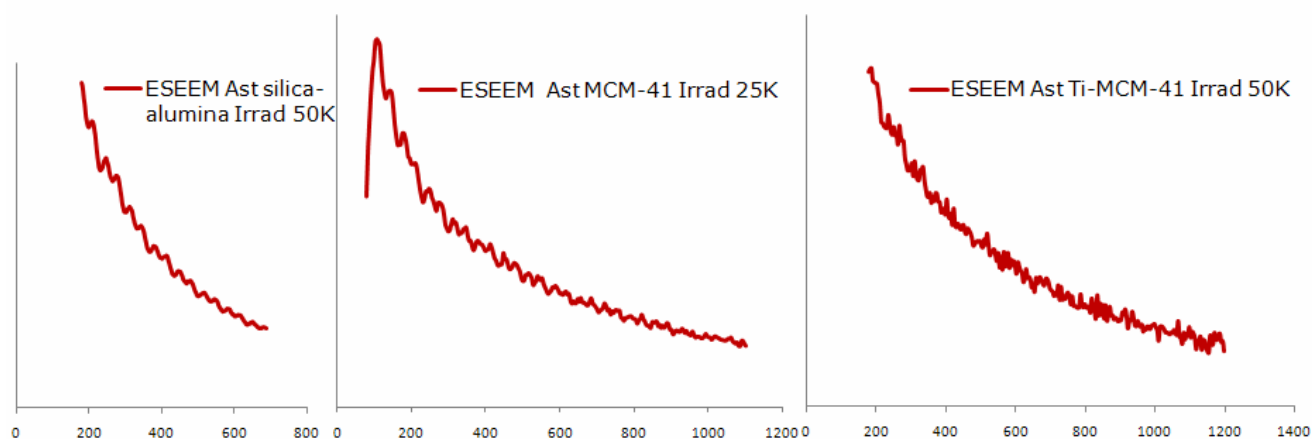
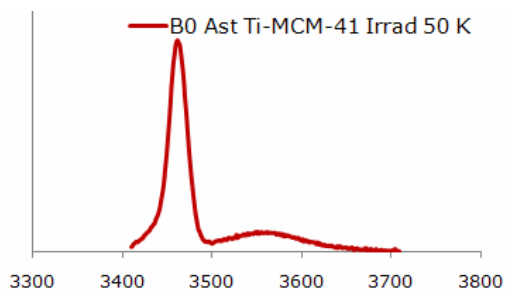
**Figure S4.** The effect of hydrated salts in CH<sub>3</sub>CN causing severe irreversible CV and decay of the radical species; Astaxanthin 0.1 mM in CH<sub>3</sub>CN, Scan rate = 10 mV/sec.





**Figure S5.** The ESEEM spectra of astaxanthin radicals: the spectra show proton modulation consistent with the formation of carotenoid radicals.

➤ Field sweep,  $B_0$  for ESEEM



➤ The ESEEM modulation shows proton modulation consistent with the formation of carotenoid radicals.

**Figure S6.** The EPR spectra of astaxanthin radicals: the spectra show broadening upon irradiation indicating formation of neutral radicals. Field positions are not corrected for change in frequency before and after irradiation, samples being irradiated external to the cavity.

