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VIBRATIONAL CHARACTERIZATION OF MONOMERS AND DIMERS OF CELLULOSE  
BY USING DFT CALCULATIONS AND THE SQM METHODOLOGY

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Research

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## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest for any of the authors.

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## ABSTRACT

In this work, monomeric and dimeric species of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose were vibrationally characterized by using theoretical calculations derived from the density functional theory (DFT) and the scaled quantum mechanical force field (SQMFF) methodology. Here, the experimental available FT-IR and Raman spectra and the experimental available structure for the  $\beta$ - form were used in order to perform the assignments of the 129 normal vibration modes for both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose forms. Raman bands and shoulders at 1258, 1153, 1123, 918, 907, 897, 864, 744, 727, 721, 483 and 281  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  could probably support the presence of two proposed dimeric species of cellulose in the solid state. The structural properties reveal differences between both monomeric  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose species mainly evidenced by their molecular electrostatic potentials. The high dipole moment values and the higher populations for the  $\beta$ - form could support the major proportion found experimentally for this form. The volume contraction observed for the  $\beta$ -dimer could be related to their lower dipole moment in solution in relation to that observed in the gas phase. The reduction of the glycosidic angles for both forms in solution support their rigid structures, as was experimentally observed. The atomic charges on the O atoms belonging to the glucopyranose rings and to the glycosidic bonds (O33) present the lower values. The NBO and AIM studies suggest the presence of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose in the two media but the major quantity of H bonds predicted for the  $\beta$ - form and their high donor-acceptor interaction values could support their most important proportion existent of this form in the earth. Similar reactivities were found in gas phase but the  $\alpha$ - form is more reactive in solution than the other one probably because the electrophilicity and nucleophilicity for the  $\beta$ -form show lower values than the  $\alpha$  ones.

**Keywords:** Cellulose, molecular structure, vibrational spectra; DFT calculations, force field.

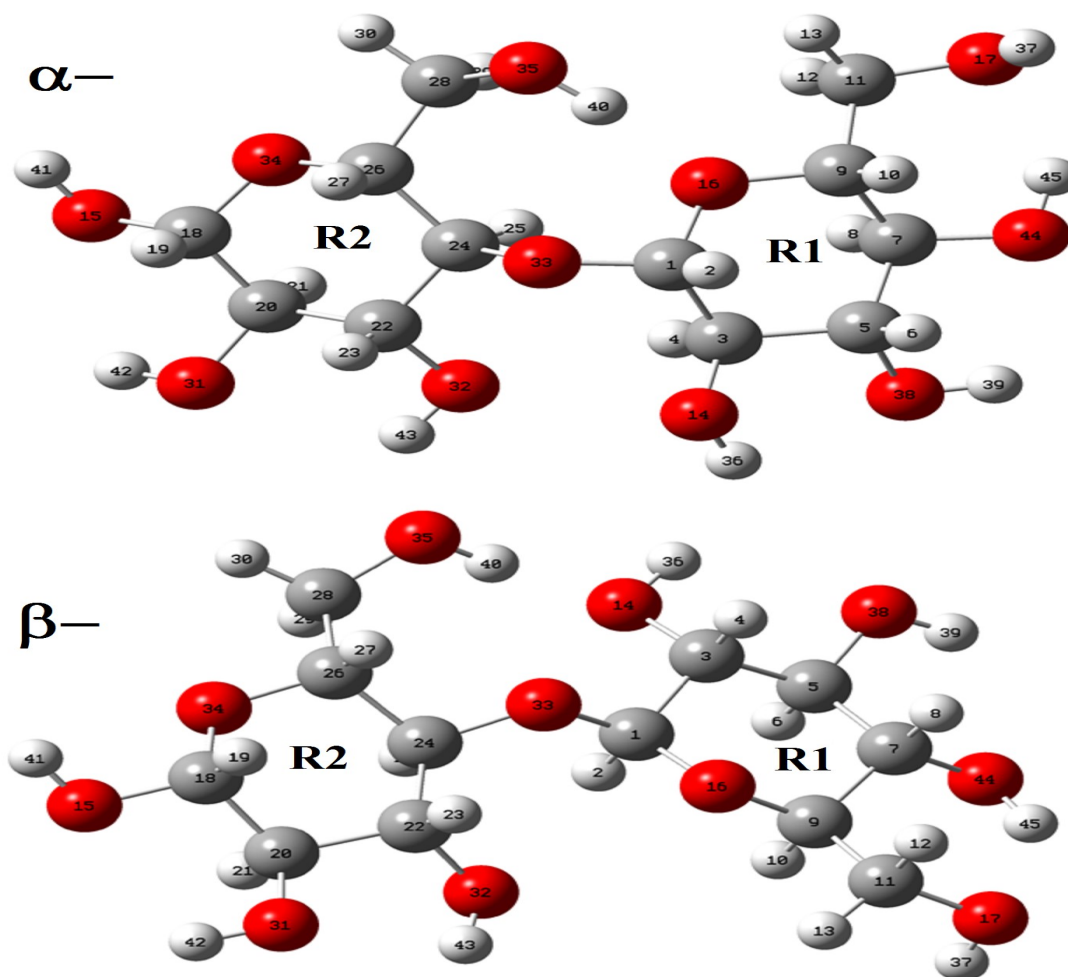
## INTRODUCTION

Different crystalline and amorphous cellulose structures and their derivatives were widely studied since long time by using X-ray or electron diffraction techniques. Besides, different spectroscopic methods were employed to characterize these structures being one of the most used the vibrational spectroscopy and, for this reason, only some of these studies are mentioned here [1-31]. But, so far, there are not complete assignments of their infrared and Raman spectra because these structures are strongly dependent of the cell wall of the different cellulose fibers where they are present type (wood) and the applied procedure, as clearly was reported by Popescu et al. [17] and by Szymańska-Chargot et al. [22]. For instance, Forziati and Rowen have found changes in the crystalline structure of bacterial cellulose, cotton fibers and *Valonia* cell wall by using infrared spectroscopy [1] while microcrystalline cellulose was extracted from cotton waste by Lokshina et al [32] or from natural fibers by Kavkler and Demšar [25]. In the latter work the authors have demonstrated that different external factors (physical, chemical or biological) modify the composition of the natural cellulosic fibers structures. Furthermore, as cellulose is a large polymers chain of glucose connected by  $\beta$ -acetal linkages it is necessary first to perform a very good structural analysis previous to their vibrational study. From this vibrational point of view, only the main bands observed in the infrared and Raman spectra were reported by several authors [1-7,11-14,17,18,22-27,31]. Because of the industrial importance to identify the structures of cellulose and its derivatives by using the vibrational spectroscopy, in this work a structural and vibrational study on different cellulose structures were performed in order to know their structural properties and report the complete assignments of their vibrational spectra. With these purposes,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ -cellulose monomeric structures (two glucose units) and their corresponding dimeric species (four glucose units) were simulated and optimized in the gas phase and in aqueous solution by using the hybrid B3LYP/6-31G\* calculations [33,34]. As mentioned by Higgins et al. [4] first, it is necessary to know the detailed vibrational assignment for the monomeric units in order to interpreting the polymer spectrum. After that, their atomic charges, bond orders, stabilization energies, molecular electrostatic potential (MEP) surfaces and gap energy values can be calculated in order to observe the differences among the structural properties for the two  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ -cellulose forms. All those properties were computed in gas and aqueous solution phases by using natural bond orbital (NBO) [35], atoms in molecules (AIM) [36] and frontier orbitals [37] calculations. Later, the force fields only for the isolated monomeric structures were performed employing the scaled quantum mechanical force field (SQMFF) procedure [38] with the Molvib program [39] and, by using their corresponding internal normal coordinates. The low numbers of normal vibration modes justify the study only for those two monomeric structures while for the dimeric species the vibrational analysis was performed with the aid of the *GaussView* program [40]. Here, the predicted IR and Raman spectra for both monomers and dimers were compared with those experimental available reported by several authors for different cellulose structures [1-3,6,14,17,23,24,32]. In general, the different reported IR spectra for cellulose structures show clearly a similar pattern of bands but the differences observed are attributed to the diverse treatments of the processed samples in order to obtain thinner fibers, as those mentioned by Tsuboi [3], Higgins et al [4] and Popescu et al [17]. The differences reported by Higgins et al [4] analyzing the influences of different factors on the positions of the bands in the IR spectra of cellulose were also observed here for both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - anomers of cellulose.

## 2. Computational details

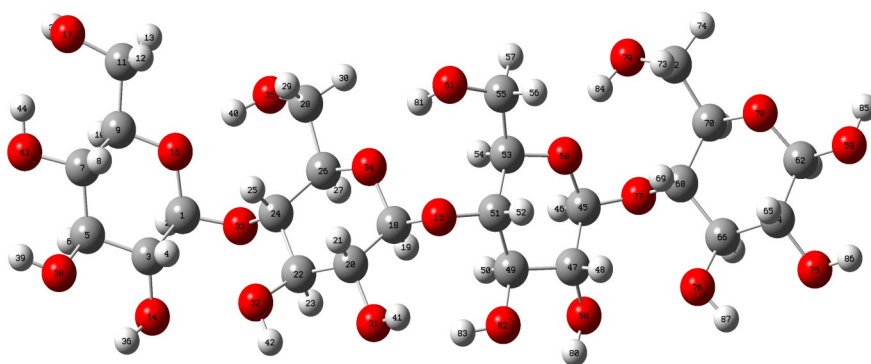
The initial structure of  $\beta$ -cellulose was taken from that experimental reported by Nishiyama et al [11] from Synchrotron X-ray and Neutron Fiber Diffraction. Later, the  $\alpha$ -cellulose structure was built from that experimental  $\beta$ -cellulose changing the positions of the groups and taking into account that two glucose monomers have 1-4 linkage, as indicated in **Figure S1** of the Supporting material. Both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose monomeric structures were optimized by using the hybrid B3LYP/6-31G\* method with the Gaussian 09 program [41]. After that, the dimeric species of both forms were built considering that in the  $\alpha$ -cellulose dimeric structure the monomers have the same orientation, as can be seen in Figure S1.

**Figure 1.** Molecular structures of  $\alpha$ - (upper) and  $\beta$ - (bottom) monomeric cellulose showing the positions of the glucopyranose rings and atoms numbering.



**Figure 1** show both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose monomeric structures together with the atoms labeling and the identification of their glucopyranose rings while their corresponding  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose dimeric species are presented in **Figures 2** and **3**, respectively. In aqueous solution, the self consistent reaction field (SCRF) method was used together with the polarized continuum (PCM) while the solvation energies were predicted using the solv-

ation (SD) model with the option SMD, as implemented by the Gaussian program [42-44]. The Moldraw program [45] was employed to compute the volume variations for all the species in both media considering the differences between the values in solution in relation to the values in the gas phase. The atomic charges derived from the molecular electrostatic potential named Merz-Kollman (MK) [46] and the natural population atomic (NPA) were analyzed for the monomeric species of cellulose using the same level of theory and the NBO program [47]. On the other hand, the AIM2000 program [48] was used to compute the topological properties while the gap energies and some interesting descriptors were obtained using the HOMO-LUMO orbitals [37,49]. This way, the reactivities and behaviours of all the species were predicted using the gap values and the chemical potential ( $\mu$ ), electronegativity ( $\chi$ ), global hardness ( $\eta$ ), global softness ( $S$ ) and global electrophilicity index ( $\omega$ ) descriptors at the same level of theory [50-54]. Taking into account that the equations are generally known these were presented as supporting material. The force fields were computed only for the monomeric species by using the SQMFF methodology [38] and the Molvib program [39] while the internal coordinates for those cellulose species were taken of those reported for carbohydrate compounds with similar rings [55-58] and, for this reason, these were not presented in this work. The complete vibrational assignments of the monomeric cellulose structures were performed taking into account the potential energy distribution components (PED) 10% while for the dimeric species the *GaussView* program [40] was used as an aid to perform the assignments. After that, the calculated properties for  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose species were analyzed and compared later with those properties reported for some compounds with similar rings, such as some carbohydrates [55-58].



**Figure 2.** Molecular structures of  $\alpha$ -dimeric cellulose structure showing the different 1-4 linkages of glucose monomers and atoms numbering.

### 3. Experimental available infrared and Raman spectra

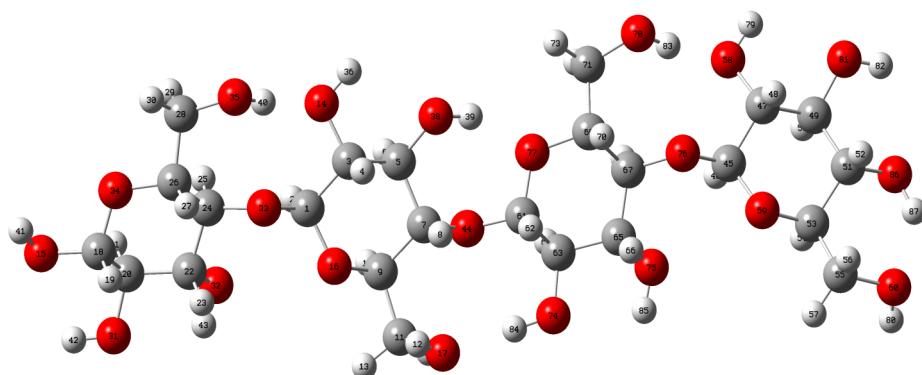
The experimental infrared spectra for microcrystalline cellulose in the  $4000\text{--}400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region were taken from Refs. [6,23,24,26,32,60,61] while the IR bands in the lower wavenumbers ( $400\text{--}10\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) region were taken from that terahertz IR spectrum reported by the National Institute of standard and Technology in Ref [59]. Here, it is necessary to clarify that all the IR spectra recorded from different

cellulose structures show practically the same profiles of bands only that in some spectra the bands have a very good definition or they are observed with major intensities than other ones, as observed in **Figure S2**. Obviously, the differences observed are due to the previous treatments of the processed samples. The Raman spectrum of cellulose in the solid state was taken from that reported by Søren B. Engelsen for Food Technology KVL, as indicated in Ref. [62].

## 4. Results and discussion

### 4.1. Structural analysis

For the two monomeric cellulose structures and their dimeric species, the total and relative energies, dipole moments and populations calculated in gas and aqueous solution phases using the hybrid B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory can be seen in **Table 1**. In general, the monomeric and dimeric species show that the  $\beta$ - forms are the most stable in both media with higher dipole moment and population values, presenting the  $\beta$ -dimeric species the higher populations in both media, as obviously it is expected because the real cellulose structure is polymeric and, as a consequence the structures with four units are most stable than those with two units. The dipole moment value for the  $\beta$ - form in gas phase (3.67 D) is in good agreement with the value of 4.4 D reported by Agarwal et al. [63] for this form from atomistic molecular dynamics (MD) simulations. Besides, the magnitude, orientation and directions of both vector dipole moments are different from both monomeric structures, as can be seen in **Figure S3**. The  $\alpha$ - form shows the vector located in a direction forming angles on the xz and yz planes while in the  $\beta$ - form the vector is directly on the y-axis, as observed in Figure S3 and, as reported by Agarwal et al. [63] because the cellulose polymer consists of alternating glucose units with 180° flips along the y-axis.



**Figure 3.** Molecular structures of  $\beta$ - dimeric cellulose structure showing the different 1-4 linkages of glucose monomers and atoms numbering.

**Table 1.** Calculated total ( $E$ ) and relative energies ( $DE$ ), dipole moments and populations (%) for the two species of cellulose and their dimers in gas and aqueous solution phases

B3LYP/6-31G*								
Monomer								
Cellulose	GAS				PCM			
	$E$	$\mu$	$\Delta E$	Population	$E$	$\mu$	$\Delta E$	Population
	(hartree)	(D)	kJ/mol	%	(hartree)	(D)	kJ/mol	%
$\alpha$	-1297.8794	1.45	15.74	0.20	-1297.9387	2.18	10.75	1.28
$\beta$	-1297.8854	3.67	0.00	99.80	-1297.9428	7.76	0.00	98.72
Dimer								
Cellulose	$E$	$\mu$	$\Delta E$	Population	$E$	$\mu$	$\Delta E$	Population
	(hartree)	(D)	kJ/mol	%	(hartree)	(D)	kJ/mol	%
$\alpha$	-2519.3402	6.63	16.19	0.15	-2519.4029	5.88	58.23	0.00
$\beta$	-2519.3660	8.58	0.00	99.85	-2519.4251	8.49	0.00	100.00

**Table 2.** Comparison of calculated geometrical parameters for the two monomeric species of cellulose with the corresponding experimental ones

B3LYP/6-31G <sup>*a</sup>					Exp <sup>b</sup>
Parameter	$\alpha$ -cellulose		$\beta$ -cellulose		
	Gas	PCM	Gas	PCM	$\beta$ -cellulose
Bond lengths (Å)					
C1-O16	1,442	1,430	1,423	1,426	1,405
C9-O16	1.428	1.437	1.422	1.432	1.416
C18-O34	1.415	1.426	1.416	1.427	1.405
C26-O34	1.432	1.435	1.432	1.433	1.416
C1-O33	1.388	1.402	1.388	1.398	1.428
C24-O33	1.441	1.446	1.428	1.437	1.439
C1-C3	1.534	1.533	1.530	1.537	1.524
C3-C5	1.529	1.529	1.522	1.529	1.513
C5-C7	1.522	1.525	1.525	1.529	1.529
C7-C9	1.536	1.537	1.541	1.536	1.537
C9-C11	1.532	1.530	1.530	1.530	1.558
C18-C20	1.520	1.523	1.522	1.524	1.524
C20-C22	1.526	1.527	1.526	1.528	1.513
C22-C24	1.534	1.532	1.531	1.531	1.529
C24-C26	1.552	1.549	1.544	1.542	1.537
C26-C28	1.540	1.537	1.540	1.536	1.558

C3-O14	1.416	1.424	1.425	1.429	1.425
C5-O38	1.421	1.429	1.421	1.426	1.430
C7-O44	1.420	1.426	1.421	1.427	1.430
C11-O17	1.431	1.433	1.434	1.434	1.415
C18-O15	1.397	1.401	1.397	1.401	1.428
C20-O31	1.422	1.426	1.422	1.426	1.425
C22-O32	1.419	1.425	1.422	1.427	1.416
C28-O35	1.409	1.421	1.406	1.419	1.415
<b>RMSD</b>	<b>0.017</b>	<b>0.015</b>	<b>0.015</b>	<b>0.015</b>	
Bond angles (°)					
C1-O33-C24	120.1	119.8	118.7	118.5	115.7
C1-O16-C9	116.1	115.0	113.1	113.0	115.3
C20-O22-C24	112.0	111.8	111.0	111.5	108.2
C1-C3-C5	110.0	109.8	109.5	110.2	109.8
C3-C5-C7	111.9	111.4	110.7	110.9	108.2
C5-C7-C9	109.0	109.3	109.4	110.4	109.3
C18-C20-C22	110.5	110.3	110.4	110.8	109.8
C20-C22-C24	112.0	111.8	111.0	111.5	108.2
C22-C24-C26	111.8	109.9	112.2	111.1	109.3
O16-C1-O33	107.2	108.3	108.6	107.7	105.8
O15-C18-O34	109.1	108.2	109.1	108.2	105.8
O16-C9-C11	105.6	105.4	106.0	105.8	104.5
C7-C9-C11	113.0	113.1	112.6	113.0	109.6
O34-C26-C28	104.2	104.1	105.6	105.6	104.5
C24-C26-C28	114.9	116.2	113.9	114.2	109.6
<b>RMSD</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	
Dihedral angles (°)					
O16-C1-O33-C24	57.0	54.5	-105.4	-102.1	-88.8
C3-C1-O33-C24	-66.7	-68.6	136.5	139.3	152.3
O35-C28-C26-O34	166.5	166.2	163.7	162.3	157.6
O35-C28-C26-C24	-71.9	-73.3	-75.3	-77.1	-82.8
O17-C11-C9-O16	-177.8	-178.1	-177.4	-177.7	157.6
O17-C11-C9-C7	-57.7	-58.2	-56.8	-58.0	-82.8
O15-C18-O34-C26	176.9	177.7	177.5	177.3	-169.0
O15-C18-C20-C22	177.5	174.6	177.2	174.5	170.2
O15-C18-C20-O31	-63.3	-66.6	-63.4	-66.3	-66.3
O44-C7-C5-O38	-63.1	-65.3	-64.8	-65.7	-63.0
O44-C7-C5-C3	176.6	175.0	174.9	173.5	177.2
O44-C7-C9-O16	-173.9	-174.2	-173.6	-174.9	-175.2
<b>RMSD</b>	<b>158.7</b>	<b>158.9</b>	<b>139.5</b>	<b>139.5</b>	

Here, it is very important to clarify that the OH and CH<sub>2</sub>OH groups belonging to the R2 rings in both forms remain without change while the CH<sub>2</sub>OH groups belonging to the R1 rings change their positions in the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ -forms. In aqueous solution, the populations of  $\alpha$ - monomeric forms increase significantly from 0.20 to 1.28 while the populations of the corresponding dimeric ones decrease from 0.15 to 0.00. Note that, in both monomeric and dimeric forms the higher dipole moment values are related to the most stable structures, a result also observed in other molecules [64-66]. When the energy values of two units of the  $\beta$ - forms in gas phase ( $-1297.8854 \times 2 = -2595.7708$  Hartrees) are compared with those corresponding to the dimeric species ( $-2519.3660$  Hartrees), a lower energy value it is observed for that dimer suggesting a higher stability for the  $\beta$ -form in gas phase. Similar results are obtained when the energy values for the dimers are corrected by Basis Set Superposition Error (BSSE) by using the standard Boys–Bernardi counterpoise method [67].

A comparison of calculated geometrical parameters for the two monomeric species of cellulose with the corresponding experimental ones determined for the  $\beta$ - form by Nishiyama et al [19] is summarized in **Table 2**. The root-mean-square deviation (RMSD) was used to compare the theoretical geometrical parameters with the corresponding experimental ones and the RMSD values for lengths and angles are also presented in Table 2. Thus, analyzing exhaustively these results the better concordances are obtained for the bond lengths (0.017-0.015 Å) of both forms while only for the  $\beta$ - form in both media it is observed lower RMSD values in the bond angles (2.9°), as compared with the  $\alpha$ - form (3.5-3.4°). In general, the higher differences between both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - structures are observed in the dihedral O17-C11-C9-O16 and O15-C18-O34-C26 angles where the B3LYP/6-31G\* calculations in the two media predicted those first angles with negative signs while in the second one with positive signs, as observed in Table 2. The same signs observed for both forms in the two media are different from those experimental ones which could indicate that these changes can be dependent of the used method, as verified by us by using the wb97xd/6-31G\* method. In general, the parameters for both forms show that in aqueous solution the structures practically no change and that the two forms could exist in this media, as the cellulose I structure that is a mixture of both forms with major proportion of the  $\beta$ - form [17,63]. But, analyzing the glycosidic C1-O33 and C24-O33 bonds in solution, it is observed that the increasing in the former bond is of 0.014 Å in  $\alpha$  and of 0.01 Å in  $\beta$  while in the other one the increasing is of 0.005 Å in  $\alpha$  and of 0.009 Å in  $\beta$ . This little difference in both forms in solution probably suggest that the hydrogen bonds due to the hydration or to other adjacent cellulose units restrain the flexibility of the glycosidic linkage and therefore the structures are most rigid in this medium, as reported by Bellesia et al. [20]. The reduction of the glycosidic C1-O33-C24 angles in both forms in solution support the rigid structures of both forms in solution, as observed of Table 2. At this point, it is observed that the B3LYP/6-31G\* calculations underestimate the geometrical parameters, as compared with the experimental values and, that these structures can be perfectly used to perform later the vibrational analysis.

#### 4.2. Volume variations and solvation energies

**Table 3** shows the molecular volume and calculated solvation energy values for the two monomers cellulose and their dimers in different media by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method. Both monomeric species present practically the same variations in solution while higher variations and differences are observed for the dimeric species in aqueous solution, as expected due to the presence of more solvated OH groups. Whereas  $\alpha$ - dimer present a vol-



ume expansion in solution the  $\beta$  dimeric form show contraction. Hence, it is evident that in the polymer exist differences between the properties of both forms. Moreover, in both monomeric species there are volume expansions in solution, as observed for sugars such as lactose and maltose [57,58]. On the other hand, the corrected solvation energy values calculated for both monomeric forms present values comparable to those observed for maltose anhydrous species (183-177 kJ/mol). In this case, it is observed that the  $\alpha$ -form with higher volume variation present the higher solvation energy value probably because this species present higher hydration in solution, as supported by the increase in the dipole moment value (see Table 1). On the contrary, the volume contraction observed for the  $\beta$ -dimer could be related to their lower dipole moment in solution (8.49 D) in relation to that observed in the gas phase (8.58 D) as a consequence of higher O---O interactions in these species generating lower solvation energy. Note that the hydration increases the solvation energies as supported by the lactose [57] and maltose monohydrated [58] and sucrose di- and penta-hydrated [56].

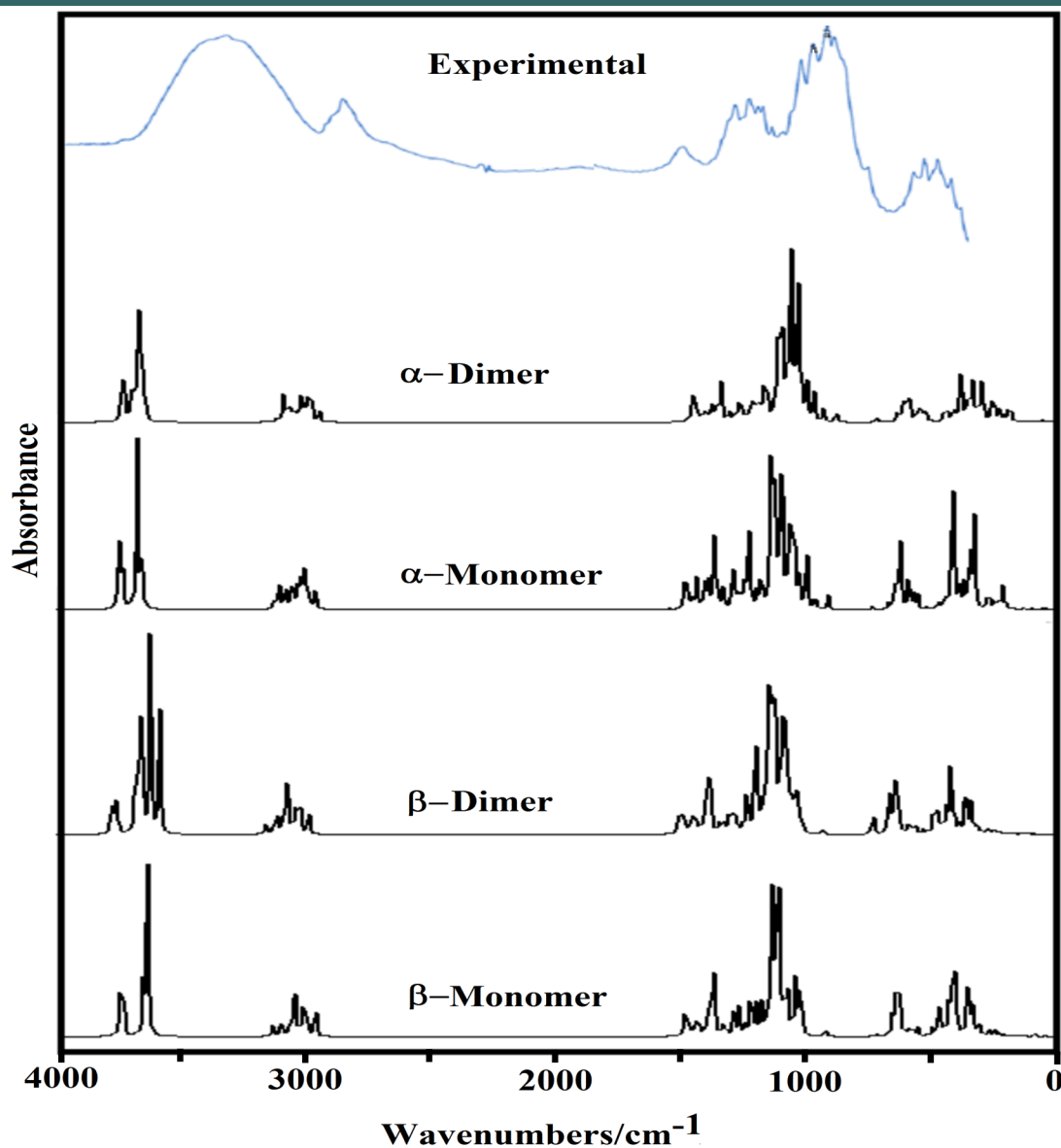
### 4.3. Charges, molecular electrostatic potentials (MEP) and bond orders (BO) studies

In this work, the atomic MK and NPA charges [35,46,47] were studied by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method and, their values in both media are presented in **Table S1**. The calculated NPA charges on the O and H atoms present higher values than the MK charges in both media while the MK charges on the C atoms have higher values than the NPA ones, as observed in Table S1. Besides, some values on the atoms of both forms increase in solution while other decreases. Note that the NPA charges on the C11 and C28 atoms of the two cellulose forms in both media present negative signs different from the MK charges because those two atoms have positive signs. A possible explanation could be attributed to that those two C atoms belong to the CH<sub>2</sub> groups of the side chain of both cellulose forms. Hence, the different magnitudes and orientations of the dipole moment vectors of both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - forms could be strongly related to the different charges signs and positions of the CH<sub>2</sub>-OH groups because in the  $\alpha$ -form those groups are confronted while in the  $\beta$ - form have opposing positions, as observed in Figure 1. On the other hand, the MK charges on the C20 atoms for the two cellulose forms in both media have negative signs different from those corresponding NPA charges. When the charges on the O atoms are analyzed those atoms belonging to the glucopyranose rings (O16 and O34) and to the glycosidic bonds (O33) present the lower charge values. In relation to the charges on the H atoms, the H13 and H29 atoms belonging to the CH<sub>2</sub> groups and those atoms closer to the C-O bonds of both glucopyranose rings (H2, H19, H10 and H27) have low MK and NPA values.

The differences between both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - forms in the two media can be clearly seen when the molecular electrostatic potential values presented in **Table S2** are analyzed. Thus, in both forms the O35 atoms not change their positions and, for these reasons, these atoms exhibit the higher negative MEP values while the O14 and O32 atoms present also the higher MEP values in the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - forms, respectively. Regarding the H atoms, these have the less negative values, as expected, where the H37 atoms have the lower values together with the H41 and H42 atoms of both forms where these latter atoms be-

long to the groups OH that not change their positions while the H37 atoms have different positions in the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - forms. When the mapped surfaces for these two forms are evaluated from **Figure S4** it is observed that the red and blue colorations on the R2 rings of both forms remain without change while those colorations change on the R1 rings. Hence, the strong red colours are observed on the O35 atoms representing these clear nucleophilic sites ( $> \text{MEP}$ , Table S2) while the blue colours are located on the

**Figure 4.** Experimental available infrared spectrum of microcrystalline cellulose structure in the solid state (Ref. [32]) compared with the corresponding predicted for  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - monomeric and dimeric cellulose by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.



**Table 3.** Molecular volume and calculated solvation energies ( $\Delta G$ ) for the two cellulose species and their dimers in different media by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method compared with the values reported for species

Molar Volume ( $\text{\AA}^3$ )			
Cellulose <sup>a</sup>			
Species	GAS	PCM/SMD	<sup>#</sup> $\Delta V = V_{AS} - V_G (\text{\AA}^3)$
$\alpha$ -	321.0	322.8	1.8
$\beta$ -	322.1	323.7	1.6
$\alpha$ -dimer	613.2	622.4	9.2
$\beta$ -dimer	622.8	619.4	-3.4
Solvation energies (kJ/mol) <sup>a</sup>			
Species	$\Delta G_u^{\#}$	$\Delta G_{ne}$	$\Delta G_c$
$\alpha$ -	-155.55	25.29	-180.84
$\beta$ -	-150.57	25.66	-176.23
$\alpha$ -dimer	-164.47	-19.14	-145.33
$\beta$ -dimer	-155.03	-20.31	-134.72
Other sugars			
Maltose Anhydrous <sup>b</sup>			
$\alpha$ -maltose	322.1	325.6	3.5
$\beta$ -maltose	322.7	325.1	2.4
Maltose Monohydrated <sup>b</sup>			
$\alpha$ -maltose	343.6	348.7	5.1
$\beta$ -maltose	342.9	344.7	1.8
Solvation energies (kJ/mol) <sup>b</sup>			
Species	$\Delta G_u^{\#}$	$\Delta G_{ne}$	$\Delta G_c$
Maltose Anhydrous <sup>b</sup>			
$\alpha$ -maltose	-151.87	25.29	-177.16
$\beta$ -maltose	-158.43	23.99	-182.42
Maltose Monohydrated <sup>b</sup>			
$\alpha$ -maltose	-157.64	31.43	-189.07
$\beta$ -maltose	-185.97	24.79	-210.76
Lactose Anhydrous <sup>c</sup>			
$\alpha$ -Lactose	-174.95	26.33	-201.28
$\beta$ -Lactose	-179.67	26.17	-205.84
Lactose Monohydrated <sup>c</sup>			
$\alpha$ -Lactose	-165.25	30.18	-195.43
Sucrose <sup>d</sup>			
Anhydrous	-182.00	28.38	-210.38
Sucrose.(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub>	-198.56	29.30	-227.86
Sucrose.(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>5</sub>	-160.00	41.97	-201.97

<sup>#</sup>AS, aqueous solution; G, gas phase;  $\Delta G_c = \Delta G_{\text{uncorrected}}^{\#} - \Delta G_{\text{Total non electrostatic}}$

<sup>a</sup>This work, <sup>b</sup>Ref [58], <sup>c</sup>Ref [57], <sup>d</sup>Ref [56]

#### 4.4. Donor-acceptor interaction, bond order (BO) and AIM study

For both cellulose structures, NBO [35,47] and AIM [36,48] calculations were performed in order to know the donor-acceptor interaction energies, the bond orders and their topological properties. Thus, **Table S3** summarize the bond orders expressed as Wiberg indexes while the donor-acceptor interaction energies obtained from the second order perturbation calculations for the two monomeric species can be seen in **Table S4**. Analyzing first the bond orders corresponding to the atoms involved in the glycosidic linkages (C1-O33 and C24-O33) it is observed that the BO values for the O atoms are practically the same in both bonds while the BO values for the C24 atoms in both media are higher for the  $\alpha$ -form than the values corresponding to the  $\beta$ -ones, in accordance with their higher MEP values forms.

Evaluating the donor-acceptor interaction energies from Table S4, it is observed that: (i) the most important interactions for both forms are observed due to the lone pairs of the O atoms, (ii) the  $LP(2)O16 \rightarrow s^*O35-H40$  interaction only is observed in the  $\alpha$ -form while the  $LP(2)O14 \rightarrow s^*O35-H40$  interaction appear only in the  $\beta$ -form and, (iii) the  $LP(2)O14 \rightarrow s^*C3-H4$  interaction is not observed in the  $\beta$ -form in solution. Hence, the total energy show that the  $\alpha$ -form is the most stable in gas phase while in solution a slight major stability it is observed for the  $\beta$ -form. Therefore, both forms can be seen in solution and, also, probably in the solid state, showing the  $\beta$ -form the major stability in both media [17,63].

**Table S5** shows the analysis of the bond critical points (BCP) for the two cellulose forms in gas and in aqueous solution phases computed by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* Method. According to the Bader's theory of atoms and molecules (AIM) [36,48], in this analysis the topological properties are calculated in order to find different interaction's types such as the H bonds. Hence, the charge electron density,  $(\rho)$  and the *Laplacian* values,  $\nabla^2\rho(r)$  in the bond critical points (BCPs) for both cellulose forms were calculated with the AIM2000 program [48]. This study justify the high stability of the  $\alpha$ -form in the gas phase because for this species it is observed three H bonds interactions (three BCPs) and five ring critical points (RCPs) of which two of them belong to the glucopyranose R2 and R1 rings, as indicated in **Figure S5**. In solution, the stability of that form increases because in this medium are observed four BCPs and six RCPs. Note that for this form in solution appear the O14---O32 interaction while for the  $\beta$ -form in both media are observed two O---O interactions. Here, it is necessary to clarify that similar O---O interactions were observed in both anhydrous and monohydrated maltose species [58]. For both cellulose forms, it is observed that the calculated properties are strongly related with the distances between the atoms involved in the interactions, thus, high  $(\rho)$  and  $\nabla^2\rho(r)$  values are observed for shorter distances, hence, these properties for the O14---H40 interactions observed in both forms present the higher values, as shown in Table S5. This study support the high stability of the  $\beta$ -form in both media and of the  $\alpha$ -form in the gas phase.

#### 4.5. HOMO-LUMO and descriptors studies

To predict the reactivity and behaviors of both cellulose forms in the different media is of great interest because

Kavkler and Demšar [25] indicate that different external physical, chemical or biological factors have influence on the composition of the natural cellulosic fibers structures. Thus, the gap values for both cellulose forms were calculated according Parr and Pearson [37,49] in gas phase and in aqueous solution using the frontier orbitals, as can be seen in **Table S6**. Then, some descriptors [50-54] were also computed in order to predict the behavior of both forms and the equations used are presented in Table S6. Analyzing the gap values it is observed that both forms in gas phase have practically the same reactivities but the  $\alpha$ - form is more reactive in solution than the other one. The comparison of these values with those calculated for trehalose (8.0-7.9 eV) [67], maltose (7.8-7.6 eV) [58] and lactose (7.5-7.2 eV) [57] shows that the reactivities of both cellulose forms are similar to those found for maltose and lactose probably because the components monosaccharides in maltose, it is glucose  $1\alpha\rightarrow4$ glucose and in lactose, it is galactose  $1\beta\rightarrow4$ glucose, are similar to cellulose where are observed  $1\rightarrow4$  linkage of  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  glucose monomers. On the other hand, analyzing the chemical potential ( $\mu$ ), electronegativity ( $\chi$ ), global hardness ( $\eta$ ), global softness ( $S$ ), global electrophilicity index ( $\omega$ ) and nucleophilic index (E) descriptors from Table S6 it is observed that both ( $\omega$ ) and (E) indexes show lower values for the  $\beta$ -form than the  $\alpha$  ones. Besides, the comparison with other descriptors (**Table S7**) reported for different species of lactose, maltose and trehalose [57,58,68] shows that the values for both cellulose forms in the two media are similar to the anhydrous and monohydrated maltose species, possibly due to the similarity in the linkage of  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  glucose monomers.

#### 4.6. Vibrational study

The B3LYP/6-31G\* calculations predicted the two cellulose species with  $C_1$  symmetry where each monomeric species has 45 atoms and, for this reason, 129 normal vibration modes actives in the infrared and Raman spectra are expected for both forms. Figure S2 show all profiles of bands observed in different experimental available IR spectra for cellulose in the solid state reported by various authors in the 4000-400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region [6,23,24,26,32,60,61]. In the 400-10  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region we have considered all the bands observed in the terahertz IR spectrum reported in Ref [59]. The positions of the IR and Raman bands which are summarized in **Table 4** were taken from Refs. [6] and [59] and compared with bands observed in the IR spectrum from Ref [32] and in the experimental Raman according to Ref [62]. **Figure 4** show the comparisons between the experimental available IR spectrum from Ref [32] and those predicted by the calculations for the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -forms monomeric and dimeric species in gas phase in the 4000-0  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region. On the other hand, the comparisons between the experimental available terahertz IR spectrum taken from Ref [59] and those predicted by the calculations for the same species can be seen in **Figure S6**. Note that both monomeric and dimeric forms show in general approximately the same profile of bands but between the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -forms clearly there are shifting and increasing in the intensities of some bands, as observed in the predicted IR spectra presented in **Figures S7, S8 and S9**. Hence, the observed differences among their studied properties seen in above sections. **Figure 5** show the comparisons between the experimental available Raman spectrum from Ref [62] with those predicted by the calculations for the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -forms monomeric and dimeric species in gas phase in the 4000-0  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region. Note the very good correlations among the predicted and experimental Raman spectra are obtained when the theoretical activities Raman for both forms, presented in **Figure S10**, are transformed to intensities by using the equations reported in

the literature [69-71]. **Figure S11** shows the predicted Raman spectra for both dimers. In Table 4 are also presented the scaled frequencies for both forms by using SQM/B3LYP/6-31G\* calculations and their corresponding assignments while for the dimeric species the assignments were performed with the *GaussView* program [40]. The scale factors used were those reported in the literature [38] for B3LYP/6-31G\* calculations. In this work, the vibrational assignments for the monomers were performed by comparison with those reported for different cellulose structures [1-7,11-14,17,18,22-27,31] and for some carbohydrates [55-58,68], and with our B3LYP/6-31G\* calculations. These results can be obtained at the request of the authors. Brief discussions of the assignments for some groups are presented at continuation.

#### 4.6.1. Band Assignments

**4.6.1.1. O-H modes.** In this region, the broad IR bands observed in Figure 4 shows clearly that different intra and inter H bonds are expected for both cellulose forms, as reported by Guo and Wu [72], where the characteristics of both interactions are different. Here, the SQM calculations predicted the modes for both monomers between 3590 and 3480  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  while for the dimers between 3742 and 3549  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Figure S7 shows clear differences between  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose where the most intense IR band is attributed to the intra molecular H bond O14---H40 formed in  $\beta$ -, as revealed by NBO and AIM analyses (Tables S4 and S5 and, Figure S5). Hence, it region is useful to identify  $\alpha$ -cellulose from  $\beta$ -cellulose, as suggested by different authors [1-6,31,72,73] and, by Figs. S7 and S9. The presence of IR and Raman bands associated to both monomeric and dimeric forms suggest that all these species could exist in a crystalline cellulose sample, as reported by Kataoka and Kondo [74] where they have showed from IR spectra that the cellulose in the primary cell wall is rich in the metastable  $\alpha$  crystalline form and present higher crystallinity than the secondary wall cellulose composed mainly of the stable  $\beta$  crystalline phase. Table 4 shows the detailed assignments of all the OH stretching modes corresponding to the monomeric and dimeric species. The in-plane OH deformation modes are predicted in different regions for monomer and dimers, thus, these modes can be easily assigned to the IR and Raman bands between 1397 and 1200  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , as indicated in Table 4. The out-of-plane deformation modes for the two monomeric and dimeric forms are predicted in different regions, hence, for the monomers are predicted between 571 and 248  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  while for the dimeric forms between 477 and 280  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Thus, they were assigned accordingly. These modes in anhydrous trehalose forms are assigned at 476-189  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  while in their dihydrated species at 1389-163  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  [68]. On the other hand, in anhydrous maltose these modes are assigned at 537-182  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  while for the monohydrated species at 884-107  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  [58].

**4.6.1.2. CH modes.** In the stretching CH modes there are differences between the positions of the bands associated to these modes in both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose, as can be seen in Figure S7 and Table 4. Thus, the SQM calculations predicted the C24-H25, C3-H4 and C1-H2 stretching modes at higher wavenumbers for the  $\alpha$ - form than the  $\beta$ - one. This shifting is in accordance with that reported for the  $\alpha$ - anomer by Higgins et al [4] than the  $\beta$ - form. Note that in the dimeric forms these modes are predicted at higher wavenumbers than the monomeric ones. In the carbohydrates trehalose, maltose, lactose and sucrose these modes are expected in the respective 2997/2821, 3086/2881, 3094/2830 and 3094/2830  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  regions [56-58,68]. Here, the bands observed in both spectra in the region 2911-2821  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  justify clearly the presence of both monomers because the dimeric forms

have not exhibit bands in this region. The rocking modes associates with these groups are assigned in the expected regions ( $1443\text{--}1154\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), as reported by various authors [1-6,26,31] and, in accordance with some carbohydrates [56-58,68].

**4.6.1.3. CH<sub>2</sub> modes:** These antisymmetric and symmetric stretching modes for both monomeric and dimeric forms are predicted by calculations in the same regions but at higher wavenumbers in the dimeric species than the other ones, as observed in Table 4. A similar relation are observed in the corresponding deformation modes of these groups, where in the dimeric species are predicted between  $1535$  and  $1529\text{ cm}^{-1}$  while in the monomers between  $1468$  and  $1462\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The wagging, rocking and twisting modes were assigned as predicted by SQM calculations in the  $1435/1380$ ,  $1334/1173$ ,  $926/844\text{ cm}^{-1}$  regiones, respectively as indicated in Table 4 and, in accordance with those partial assignments reported [1-6,26,31]. This way, they were assigned accordingly.

**4.6.1.4. Skeletal modes:** The results most important of this vibrational study are observed in the C-O stretching modes belonging to the glycosidic  $\text{R1}>\text{C1-O33-C24}<\text{R2}$  bonds and to the two glucopyranose R1 (C1-O16-C9) and R2 (C18-O34-C26) rings because these stretching modes are predicted in different regions in the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -monomeric forms and, in some cases coupled with other stretching modes, as indicated in Table 4. Thus, the C1-O33 stretching modes for both forms are predicted at higher wavenumbers than the C24-O33 stretching ones with significant differences between them, thus, the separation between these modes is of approximately  $229\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the  $\alpha$ - form while of  $188\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the  $\beta$  form. These results are in agreement with the bond orders corresponding to the atoms involved in the glycosidic linkages (C1-O33 and C24-O33) it is observed that the BO values for the O atoms are practically the same in both bonds while the BO values for the C24 atoms in both media are higher for the  $\alpha$ - form than the values corresponding to the  $\beta$ - ones, in accordance with their higher MEP values forms. On the other hand, for the  $\beta$  species the stretching modes belonging to R1 rings, which are C1-O16 and C9-O16, they are predicted very closer with a difference about  $36\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and, for the  $\alpha$ - form the difference increase at  $95\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Hence, the difference between both forms due to the glucopyranose R1 is evident. Analyzing, the positions of the stretching modes for R2, these are those C18-O34 and C26-O34 stretching modes, they are observed with a difference between both modes of  $16\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the  $\alpha$ - form and of  $20\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the  $\beta$ - form. These results show that the rings R1 present notable modifications in the positions of the IR and Raman bands related with these modes as a consequence of the different positions of the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -anomers. Regarding the C-C stretching modes in these species, it is observed from Table 4 that these modes are associated with IR and Raman bands in the  $1106\text{--}669\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region as observed in the carbohydrates maltose ( $1171\text{--}668\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and trehalose ( $1131\text{--}672\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) which present similar rings in their structures [58,68]. The deformation and torsions modes corresponding to both glucopyranose rings are also predicted in different positions for both anomers and, in some cases coupled with other modes. The other vibration modes expected for the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - monomeric and dimeric species such as the CCC, OCO, CCO and OCC deformation modes, as summarized in Table 4.

## 4.7. Force Field

In order to analyze the different forces of the bonds, especially those related with the groups most important of both forms of cellulose the force constants were calculated by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method in gas phase employing the SQMFF procedure [38] and the Molvib program [39]. Here, the force constant values compared

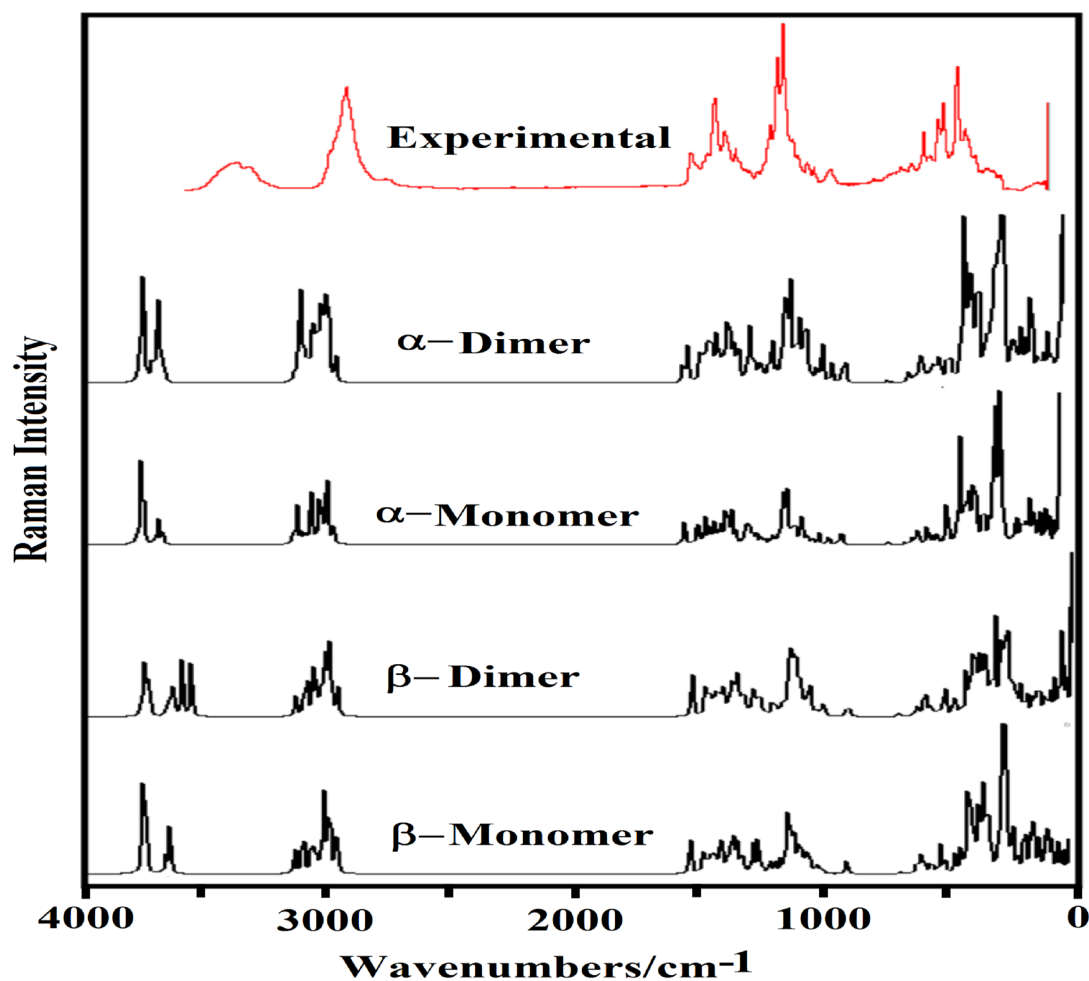
with those observed for carbohydrates with similar rings such as maltose [58], lactose [57] and trehalose [68] are presented in **Table 5**. Evaluating first the force constants for the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - forms it is observed that in general the values are slightly different for both species with exception the  $f(\nu CH_2)$ ,  $f(\nu C-C)$ ,  $f(\delta C-O-H)$  and  $f(\delta CH_2)$  force constants that present similar values, in concordance with their frequencies observed in the vibrational analysis. The higher value observed in the  $f(\nu O-H)$  force constants for the  $\alpha$ - form probably explain that for the  $\beta$ - form when increase the temperature decreases intensities of the bands associated to the OH groups because heating weakens hydrogen bonds, as reported by Agarwal et al [63]. On the other hand, it is very important to note that the  $f(\delta C-O-C)$  force constants related to the glycosidic bonds is higher in the  $\alpha$ - form than the corresponding  $\beta$ - form while the  $f(\nu C-H)$  force constant in the  $\alpha$ - form is higher than the other one, as expected because some frequencies corresponding to these vibration modes are observed to higher wavenumbers in the  $\alpha$ - form than the other one. The comparisons among the force constants for the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - forms of cellulose with those corresponding to maltose, lactose and trehalose [57,58,68] are presented in **Figure S12**. The figure clearly shows differences in the  $f(\nu C-O)_C$  force constants related to glycosidic (C1-O33, C24-O33) bonds, to (C1-O16, C9-O16) bonds belong to R1 ring and to (C18-O34, C26-O34) bonds belong to R2 ring and, besides, to the  $f(\delta C-O-C)$  force constants related to the angle corresponding to glycosidic bonds. Hence, the tendency observed in both forms is: maltose > lactose > cellulose > trehalose.

## 5. Conclusions

In this work, monomeric and dimeric species of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose were vibrationally characterized by using the experimental available FT-IR and Raman spectra and the experimental available structure for the  $\beta$ - form. The theoretical structures of both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$  forms were determined at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory in gas and aqueous solution phases. The Raman bands and the shoulders observed in the same spectrum at 1258, 1153, 1123, 918, 907, 897, 864, 744, 727, 721, 483 and 281  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  could support the presence of both proposed dimers of cellulose. Notable differences in both media were found between the structural properties studied for both monomeric  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose species mainly evidenced by their MEP values. The high dipole moment values and the higher populations for the  $\beta$ - form could support the major proportion found experimentally for this form while the direction of their vector directly on the y-axis is in accordance with the cellulose polymer. The volume contraction observed for the  $\beta$ -dimer could be related to their lower dipole moment in solution in relation to that observed in the gas phase, as a consequence of higher O---O interactions in these species generating lower solvation energy. The reduction of the glycosidic C1-O33-C24 angles for both forms in solution support their rigid structures, as was experimentally observed in this medium. The atomic charges on the O atoms belonging to the glucopyranose rings and to the glycosidic bonds (O33) present the lower values. The NBO and AIM studies reveal high stabilities of both forms and support their presences in the two media but the major quantity of H bonds predicted for the  $\beta$ - form and their high donor-acceptor interaction values could support their most important proportion existent of this form in the earth. The similar gap values in gas phase predicted the same reactivities for both forms but the  $\alpha$ - form is more reactive in solution than the other one probably because the electrophilicity and nucleophilicity for the  $\beta$ -form show lower values than the  $\alpha$  ones. Finally, complete assignments of the 129 normal vibration modes were reported for both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose forms.



**Figure 5.** Experimental available Raman spectrum of microcrystalline cellulose structure in the solid state (Ref. [62]) compared with the corresponding predicted for  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - monomeric and dimeric cellulose by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.



**Table 4.** Observed and calculated wavenumbers ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and assignments for the monomers and dimers cellulose

Experimental solid			Monomer cellulose <sup>a</sup>				Dimer cellulose <sup>a</sup>					
Ref. [6]			Ref. [24]	Ref. [62]	$\alpha$ -cellulose	$\beta$ -cellulose	$\alpha$ -cellulose	$\beta$ -cellulose				
IR	Raman	Assig.	IR	Raman	SQM <sup>b</sup>	Assig. <sup>b</sup>	SQM <sup>b</sup>	Assig. <sup>b</sup>	Calc <sup>c</sup>	Assig. <sup>c</sup>	Calc <sup>c</sup>	Assig. <sup>c</sup>
3408w	3398w	$\nu\text{O-H}$	3413vs	3403sh	3590	$\nu\text{O14-H36}$	3587	$\nu\text{O15-H41}$	3742	$\nu\text{O-H}$	3742	$\nu\text{O-H}$
3376w	3374w	$\nu\text{O-H}$			3588	$\nu\text{O15-H41}$	3585	$\nu\text{O31-H42}$	3731	$\nu\text{O-H}$	3731	$\nu\text{O-H}$
	3369m	$\nu\text{O-H}$	3358vs		3586	$\nu\text{O17-H37}$	3584	$\nu\text{O17-H37}$	3729	$\nu\text{O-H}$	3723	$\nu\text{O-H}$
3347vs	3354m	$\nu\text{O-H}$			3586	$\nu\text{O31-H42}$	3577	$\nu\text{O38-H39}$	3698	$\nu\text{O-H}$	3715	$\nu\text{O-H}$
	3339m	$\nu\text{O-H}$			3576	$\nu\text{O32-H43}$	3571	$\nu\text{O32-H43}$	3678	$\nu\text{O-H}$	3646	$\nu\text{O-H}$

3306w	3307m	$\nu$ O-H	3306vs	3375sh	3575	$\nu$ O38-H39	3570	$\nu$ O14-H36	3676	$\nu$ O-H	3620	$\nu$ O-H
	3295m	$\nu$ O-H			3521	$\nu$ O35-H40	3496	$\nu$ O44-H45	3663	$\nu$ O-H	<b>3586</b>	$\nu$ O-H
3271m	3277m	$\nu$ O-H		3345w,b	3501	$\nu$ O44-H45	3480	$\nu$ O35-H40	3652	$\nu$ O-H	<b>3549</b>	$\nu$ O-H
3238m	3235w	$\nu$ O-H		3297w	2994	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	2998	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	3104	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub>	<b>3129</b>	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub>
2966w	2972w	$\nu$ C-H	2966sh		2977	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C28)	2966	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C28)	3015	$\nu$ C-H	3128	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub>
2942w	2932m	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub>	2942sh	2966m	2958	$\nu$ C24-H25			3010	$\nu$ C-H	3047	$\nu$ C-H
				2941sh	2945	$\nu$ C3-H4			3004	$\nu$ C-H	3014	$\nu$ C-H
2919vw	2920w	$\nu$ C-H		2925sh	2927	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	2933	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	2996	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub>	<b>2991</b>	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub>
					2920	$\nu$ C1-H2	2921	$\nu$ C3-H4	2956	$\nu$ C-H	2956	$\nu$ C-H
							2913	$\nu$ C24-H25				
2911vw	2907m	$\nu$ C-H	2906s		2903	$\nu$ C20-H21	2900	$\nu$ C20-H21				
2894m	2889m	$\nu$ C-H		2893s	2890	$\nu$ C26-H27	2889	$\nu$ C26-H27				
							2884	$\nu$ C1-H2				
					2884	$\nu$ C22-H23	2884	$\nu$ C22-H23				
					2878	$\nu$ C7-H8	2876	$\nu$ C7-H8				
2866w	2867w	$\nu$ C-H	2872sh	2873sh	2869	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C28)	2867	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C28)				
					2861	$\nu$ C5-H6	2861	$\nu$ C5-H6				
2853w	2850w	$\nu_s$ CH <sub>2</sub>		2855sh	2856	$\nu$ C9-H10	2841	$\nu$ C9-H10				
			2825sh	2821sh	2835	$\nu$ C18-H19	2833	$\nu$ C18-H19				
1482w	1479m	$\delta$ O-H		1476w	1468	$\delta$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	1467	$\delta$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	1531	$\delta$ CH <sub>2</sub>	<b>1535</b>	$\delta$ CH <sub>2</sub>
1455w	1454w	$\delta$ O-H	1446sh	1462sh	1463	$\delta$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C28)	1462	$\delta$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C28)	1530	$\delta$ CH <sub>2</sub>	<b>1529</b>	$\delta$ CH <sub>2</sub>
						$\rho$ C18-H19						
				1443vw	1442	nC18-C20	1441	$\rho$ C18-H19	1453	$\rho$ C-H	1450	$\rho$ C-H
1426m	1432vw	$\delta$ CH <sub>2</sub>	1430m	1430sh	1435	$\rho$ C1-H2	1439	$\rho'$ C1-H2	1450	$\rho$ C-H	1447	$\rho$ C-H
					1425	wagCH <sub>2</sub>	1427	$\rho$ C5-H6	1434	wagCH <sub>2</sub>	1435	wagCH <sub>2</sub>
			1420sh	1422sh	1423	$\rho$ C5-H6	1420	wagCH <sub>2</sub>	1428	wagCH <sub>2</sub>	1429	$\rho$ C-H
				1416sh	1416	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	1415	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	1415	$\rho$ C-H	1417	wagCH <sub>2</sub>
				1416sh	1413	$\rho$ C22-H23	1412	$\rho$ C22-H23	1412	$\rho$ C-H	1414	$\rho$ C-H
1405w	1407m	$\delta$ O-H		1407w	1403	$\rho$ C20-H21	1404	$\rho$ C20-H21	1400	$\rho$ CH <sub>2</sub>	1409	$\rho$ C-H
				1397sh	1392	$\rho'$ C5-H6	1398	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	1395	$\rho$ C-H	1397	$\rho$ CH <sub>2</sub>
				1397sh	1391	$\rho'$ C9-H10	1392	$\delta$ O35-H40	1391	wagCH <sub>2</sub>	<b>1392</b>	$\rho$ C-H
1376vw				1386sh	1389	$\delta$ O35-H40	1384	$\rho'$ C9-H10	1385	$\rho$ C-H	1385	$\rho$ C-H
1372m	1377s	$\delta$ C-H	1370m	1377m	1379	$\rho'$ C26-H27	1380	wagCH <sub>2</sub>	1380	$\rho$ C-H	<b>1382</b>	$\rho$ C-H
			1362sh	1365sh	1375	$\rho'$ C1-H2	1373	$\rho'$ C26-H27	1371	$\rho$ C-H	1367	$\rho$ C-H
1359m	1359vw	$\delta$ C-H		1358sh	1355	$\rho'$ C18-H19	1356	$\rho'$ C18-H19	1358	$\rho$ C-H	1356	$\rho$ C-H
					1344	$\delta$ O17-H37	1342	$\rho$ C24-H25	1344	$\rho$ C-H	1342	$\rho$ C-H
						$\rho$ C9-H10		$\rho'$ C3-H4				
1337m	1337s	$\delta$ O-H		1337w	1336	$\delta$ O44-H45	1339	$\rho$ C5-H6	1336	$\rho$ C-H		
			1334m	1334w	1334	$\rho$ C20-H21	1334	$\rho$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	1332	$\rho$ C-H	1331	$\rho$ C-H
				1327sh	1328	$\rho'$ H <sub>2</sub> (C11)	1325	$\rho'$ C3-H4	1326	$\rho$ C-H	1329	$\rho$ C-H
1316m	1319vw	wagCH <sub>2</sub>	1314m	1318sh	1320	$\rho'$ C20-H21	1321	$\rho'$ C20-H21	1322	$\rho$ CH <sub>2</sub>	1319	$\rho$ C-H
			1314m	1318sh	1314	$\rho'$ C3-H4	1318	$\rho$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	1315	$\delta$ O-H	1313	$\rho$ C-H

			933sh	929sh	923	$\nu$ C24-O33	965	$\nu$ C24-O33			926	$\tau$ CH <sub>2</sub>
				918sh					919	$\tau$ CH <sub>2</sub>	917	$\tau$ CH <sub>2</sub>
893vw	910w	$\delta$ C-H		907vw					912	$\tau$ CH <sub>2</sub>	916	$\tau$ CH <sub>2</sub>
			889m	897w					905	$\tau$ CH <sub>2</sub>	909	$\tau$ CH <sub>2</sub>
			861sh	864vw					903	$\tau$ CH <sub>2</sub>		
858vw			852sh	855vw	850	$\tau$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	853	$\tau$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C28)				
				848vw			848	$\tau$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C11)				
				842vw	844	$\tau$ CH <sub>2</sub> (C28)						
745w		$\rho$ CH <sub>2</sub>	742sh	744vw					742	$\nu$ C-C		
				727vw							726	$\nu$ C-C
			723sh	721vw					722	$\nu$ C-C		
				714vw	714	$\delta$ O16C1O33					715	$\tau$ O-H
708w			700sh	705vw			701	$\delta$ O16C1O33			701	$\delta$ OCC
668m			669sh	663sh					669	$\nu$ C-C	667	$\nu$ C-C
			655m	656vw	653	$\delta$ O15C18O34			656	$\beta_{R1}$	656	$\tau$ O-H
				648sh					645	$\beta_{R1}$	646	$\tau$ O-H
				639vw			641	$\beta_{R1}$ (A1)	637	$\beta_{R1}$	634	$\beta_{R1}$
				632vw	630	$\beta_{R1}$ (A1)	630	$\delta$ O15C18O34	636	$\tau$ O-H	633	$\tau$ O-H
628w			627sh	624vw					625	$\beta_{R1}$	628	$\tau$ O-H
619m				617vw	617	$\delta$ C22C24O33			618	$\tau$ O-H	622	$\tau$ O-H
			603m	609vw			609	$\beta_{R1}$ (A2)	612	$\tau$ O-H	615	$\beta_{R1}$
600w				604sh					601	$\tau$ O-H	604	$\tau$ O-H
			589sh	594vw	596	$\beta_{R1}$ (A1)	596	$\beta_{R1}$ (A1)			593	$\beta_{R1}$
				587vw			581	$\delta$ O15C18C20	585	$\tau$ O-H	580	$\tau$ O-H
				576sh	576	$\delta$ O15C18C20			576	$\tau$ O-H	574	$\delta$ OCC
560w	568w			563w	561	$\delta$ O38C5C7	571	$\tau$ O44-H45	561	$\delta$ OCC	562	$\delta$ OCC
			550s	555sh	547	$\tau$ O44-H45	553	$\tau$ O44-H45	557	$\delta$ OCC	554	$\delta$ OCC
			540sh	543vw	544	$\tau$ O35-H40	540	$\delta$ O32C22C24	545	$\delta$ OCC	546	$\delta$ OCC
530vw			530sh	533sh	534	$\tau$ O35-H40	531	$\tau$ O35-H40				
	524m			521sh					521	$\delta$ CCO	522	$\delta$ OCC
518w			510w	517w							519	$\delta$ OCC
				508sh			500	$\delta$ C26C24O33	507	$\beta_{R2}$	502	$\beta_{R2}$
			498sh	496vw	498	$\delta$ C26C24O33						
			484sh	483vw							480	$\beta_{R2}$
			470sh	477sh			478	$\delta$ O38C5C7	477	$\tau$ O-H	477	$\tau$ O-H
	462s			459sh	457	$\delta$ C9C11O17			460	$\tau$ O-H	463	$\tau$ O-H
455w			454sh	456m	453	$\delta$ C1O33C24	450	$\delta$ C9C11O17	457	$\beta_{R2}$	452	$\beta_{R2}$
445w	438s		438sh	435s	437	$\beta_{R2}$ (A2)	438	$\beta_{R2}$ (A2)	439	$\beta_{R2}$ , $\tau$ O-H	441	$\beta_{R2}$
431w			426w	432sh	429	$\delta$ C26C28O35	433	$\beta_{R3}$ (A2)	434	$\beta_{R2}$ , $\tau$ O-H	432	$\tau$ O-H
420w			410sh	419sh	422	$\beta_{R2}$ (A1)	420	$\beta_{R2}$ (A1)	416	$\tau$ O-H	417	$\tau$ O-H
			405sh	408sh	404	$\delta$ O14C3C5	406	$\tau$ O14-H36	409	$\tau$ O-H	410	$\tau$ O-H
395w	394vw		391vw	400w			391	$\delta$ C28C26C24	388	$\tau$ O-H	396	$\tau$ O-H
	378s		388vw#	378vs	384	$\delta$ O31C20C18 $\delta$ O31C20C22	385	$\tau$ O38-H39	386	$\tau$ O-H	390	$\tau$ O-H
			380vw#	378vs			374	$\tau$ O38-H39	378	$\tau$ O-H	375	$\tau$ O-H
				378vs	373	$\tau$ O38-H39	372	$\tau$ O31-H42	371	$\tau$ O-H		

339m	366vw	363vw#	366sh	360	$\tau$ O31-H42		364	$\tau$ O-H	
	346w	350vw#	348sh	354	$\tau$ O31-H42	359	$\tau$ O32-H43	351	$\tau$ O-H
		345vw#	342s	351	$\tau$ O32-H43	338	$\beta_{R3}(A1)$	340	$\tau$ O-H
330m		330sh#	329m	335	$\beta_{R3}(A1)$	332	$\delta$ C26C28O35	331	$\beta_{R3}$
			325sh	328	$\beta_{R3}(A2)$	328	$\tau$ O15-H41	328	$\tau$ O-H
		310sh#	313w	315	$\tau$ O14-H36			318	$\beta_{R3}$
303w			305w	301	$\delta$ O44C7C9	303	$\delta$ O14C3C1 $\delta$ O44C7C9	307	$\delta$ OCC
			300sh	299	$\tau$ O15-H41	297	$\tau$ O17-H37		299
			290vw	295	$\tau$ O17-H37	292	$\tau$ O15-H41	289	$\tau$ O-H
277vw			281vw					280	$\tau$ O-H
		277sh#	274vw			280	$\delta$ O44C7C5	274	$\delta$ OCC
		263sh	266vw	265	$\delta$ O44C7C5			267	$\delta$ OCC
211w			258vw	254	$\delta$ O32C22C24	255	$\delta$ O32C22C20	258	$\delta$ OCC
			243sh	250	$\delta$ O32C22C20	248	$\tau$ O15-H41	243	$\delta$ OCC
		235w#	232w	230	$\delta$ O31C20C18	232	$\delta$ O31C20C18	232	$\delta$ OCC
211w		226sh#	224w	221	$\delta$ C28C26C24	222	$\beta_{R3}(A1)$	221	$\delta$ CCC
		212w#	217w			216	$\delta$ C26C24O33	217	$\delta$ OCC
		206sh#	209w					209	$\tau_{R1}$
211w		201sh#	202w	205	$\delta$ C7C9C11	203	$\delta$ C22C24O33		
			193w	200	$\delta$ O38C5C3			196	$\tau_{R1}$
			186w	182	$\tau_{R1}(A1)$			190	$\tau_{R1}$
211w							$\delta$ C22C24O33		
		171w#	174vw	170	$\tau$ W C28-C26	174	$\tau_{R1}(A2)$	176	$\tau_{R1}$
		157sh#	165vw			168	$\tau$ WC28-C26	166	$\delta$ OCC
211w		153sh#	153vw	159	$\delta$ C3C1O33	159	$\tau$ WC28-C26	150	$\delta$ CCC
		143vw#	137vw	129	$\delta$ C28C26O34	143	$\tau$ WC9-C11	130	$\delta$ OCC
		124sh#	137vw					124	$\tau$ WC-C
211w		101w#	100sh	116	$\tau$ WC9-C11	120	$\tau$ WC9-C11	121	$\tau_{R2}$
		101w#	100sh	115	$\tau_{R2}(A1)$	113	$\tau_{R2}(A1)$	106	$\tau_{R2}$
211w		87sh#	89vw	87	$\tau_{R2}(A2)$	93	$\tau_{R2}(A2)$	95	$\tau_{R2}$
		76sh#	89vw	82	$\tau$ WC9-C11	74	$\tau_{R3}(A2)$	89	$\tau_{R2}$
211w		72sh#	68sh	69	$\tau_{R3}(A2)$	73	$\tau_{R3}(A1)$	66	$\tau_{R3}$
		48w#	43vw,br	46	$\tau$ WC24-O33	41	$\delta$ C1O33C24	40	$\tau_{R3}$
211w			36vw,br	30	$\tau$ WC1-O33	31	$\tau$ WC24-O33	32	$\tau$ WC-O, $\tau_{R3}$
			27vw	27	$\tau$ WC24-O33			25	$\tau$ WC-O, $\tau_{R3}$
			17vw			21	$\tau$ WC1-O33	17	$\tau$ WC-O

Abbreviations:  $\nu$ , stretching;  $\beta$ , deformation in the plane;  $\gamma$ , deformation out of plane; wag, wagging; t, torsion;  $\beta_R$ , deformation ring  $t_R$ , torsion ring;  $\rho$ , rocking; tw, twisting;  $\delta$ ; a, antisymmetric; s, symmetric; (1), glucopyranose Ring1; (2), glucopyranose Ring2. <sup>a</sup>This work, <sup>b</sup>From scaled quantum mechanics force field, <sup>c</sup>From

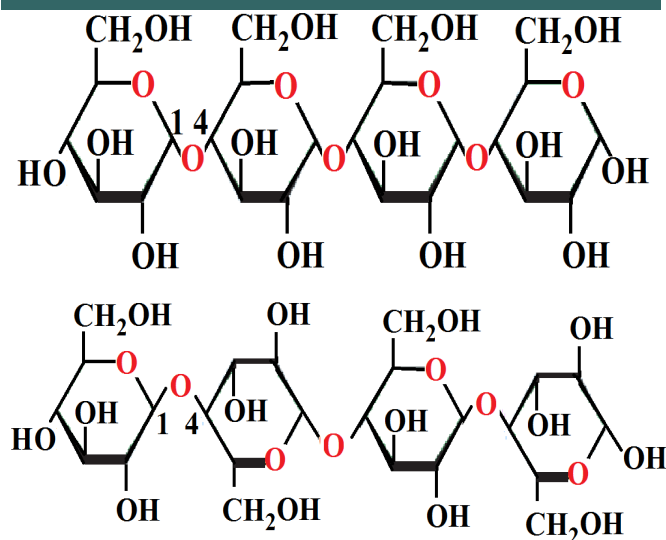
**Table 5.** Comparison of scaled internal force constants for the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ -cellulose species with those corresponding to anhydrous species of maltose, lactose and trehalose.

B3LYP/6-31G*									
Force constant	Cellulose <sup>a</sup>		Maltose <sup>b</sup>		Lactose <sup>c</sup>		Trehalose <sup>d</sup>		
	$\alpha$ -	$\beta$ -	$\alpha$ -	$\beta$ -	$\alpha$ -	$\beta$ -	$\alpha\alpha$ -	$\alpha\beta$ -	$\beta\beta$ -
f( $\nu$ O-H)	7.11	7.07	7.09	7.04	7.12	7.10	7.14	7.16	7.11
f( $\nu$ CH <sub>2</sub> )	4.77	4.77	4.81	4.79	4.73	4.73	4.73	4.75	4.75
f( $\nu$ C-H)	4.62	4.58	4.70	4.73	4.64	4.59	4.71	4.71	4.73
f( $\nu$ C-O) <sub>C</sub>	4.60	4.74	4.73	4.78	4.67	4.68	4.42	4.41	4.38
f( $\nu$ C-O) <sub>H</sub>	5.09	5.06	5.02	4.94	5.02	5.11	5.04	5.03	5.05
f( $\nu$ C-C)	4.01	4.03	3.88	3.86	3.91	3.91	4.00	4.01	3.97
f( $\delta$ C-O-C)	1.43	1.35	2.50	2.64	1.88	1.89	1.18	1.14	1.19
f( $\delta$ C-O-H)	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.78	0.74	0.74	0.80	0.80	0.80
f( $\delta$ H-C-H)	0.82	0.82	0.85	0.80	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.81

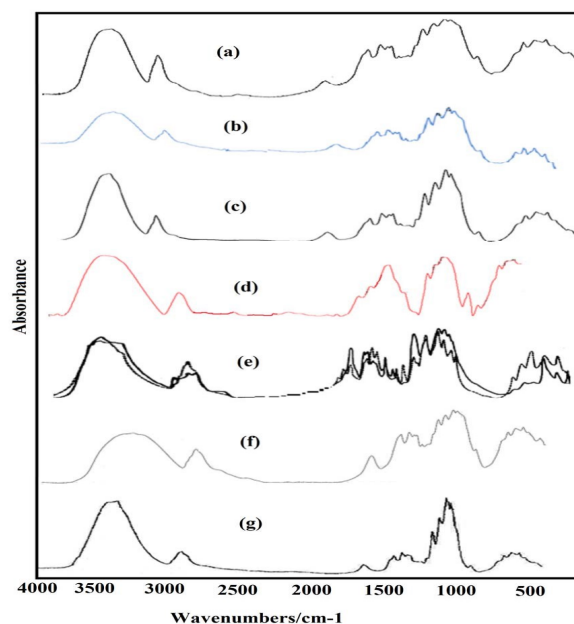
Units are mdyne Å<sup>-1</sup> for stretching and mdyne Å rad<sup>-2</sup> for angle deformations

## Supporting Files

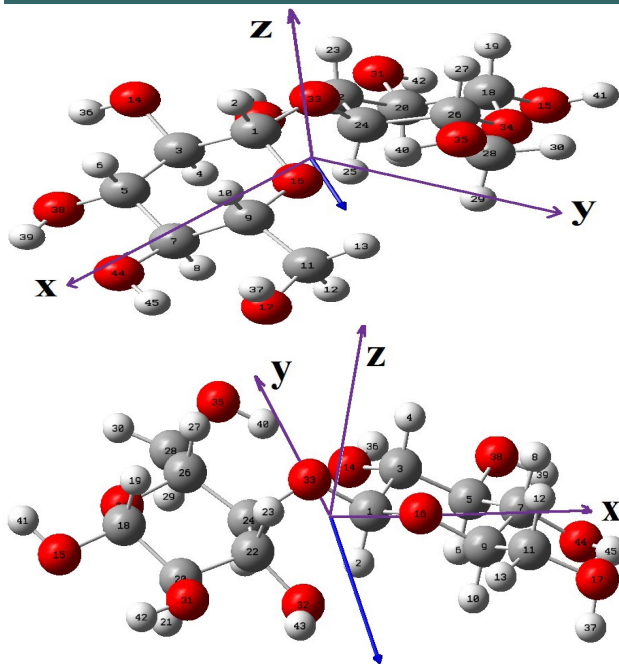
**Figure S1.** Detailed theoretical  $\alpha$ - (upper) and  $\beta$ - (bottom) dimeric cellulose structures showing the different 1-4 linkages of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  glucose monomers of cellulose together with the corresponding positions of the glucopyranose rings.



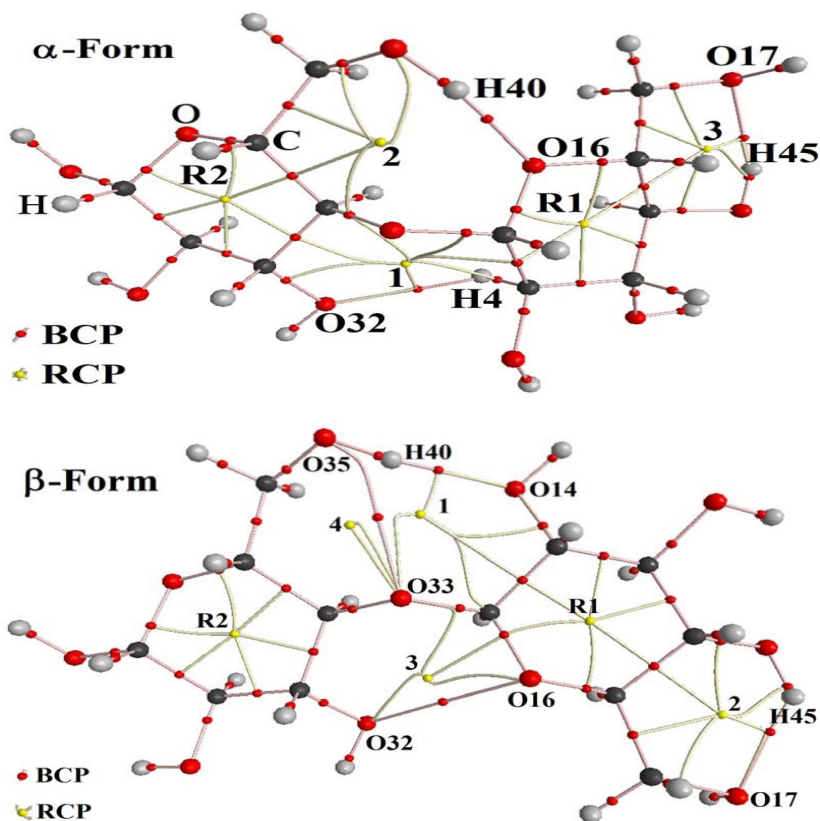
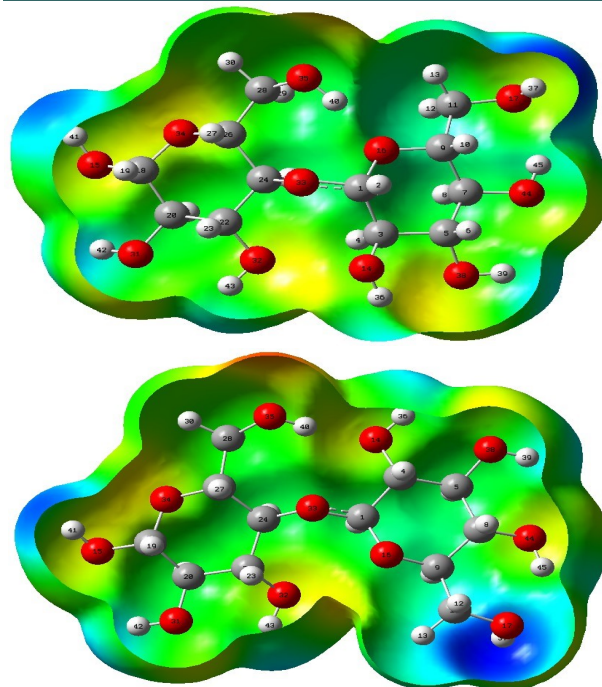
**Figure S2.** Experimental available infrared spectra of cellulose in the solid state taken from: (a) Ref. [60], (b) Ref. [32], (c) Ref. [61], (d) Ref. [23], (e) Ref. [6], (f) Ref. [24] and (g) Ref. [26].



**Figure S3.** Magnitude, orientation and directions of the dipole moment vectors of  $\alpha$ - (upper) and  $\beta$ -monomeric (bottom) forms of cellulose in gas phase by using B3LYP functional and the 6-31G\* basis set.

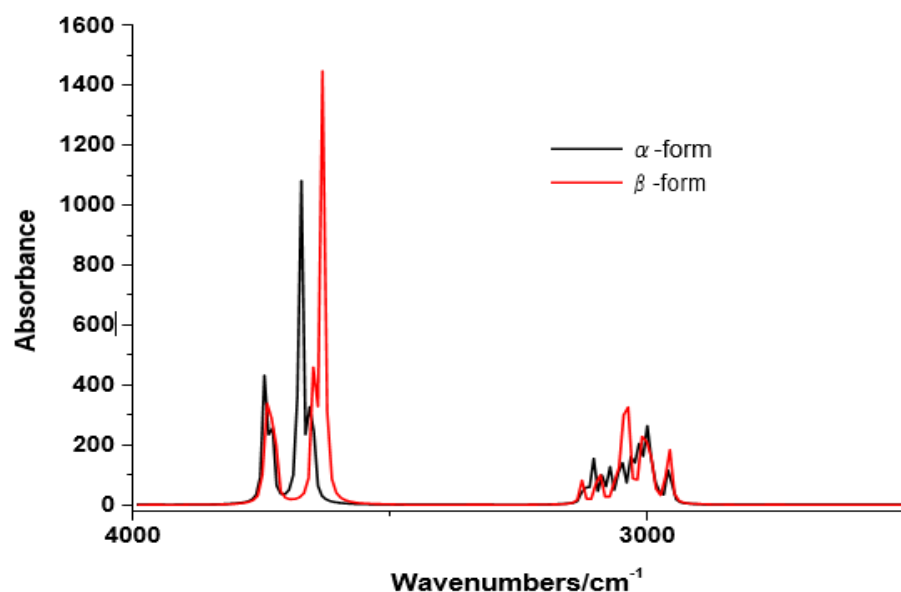
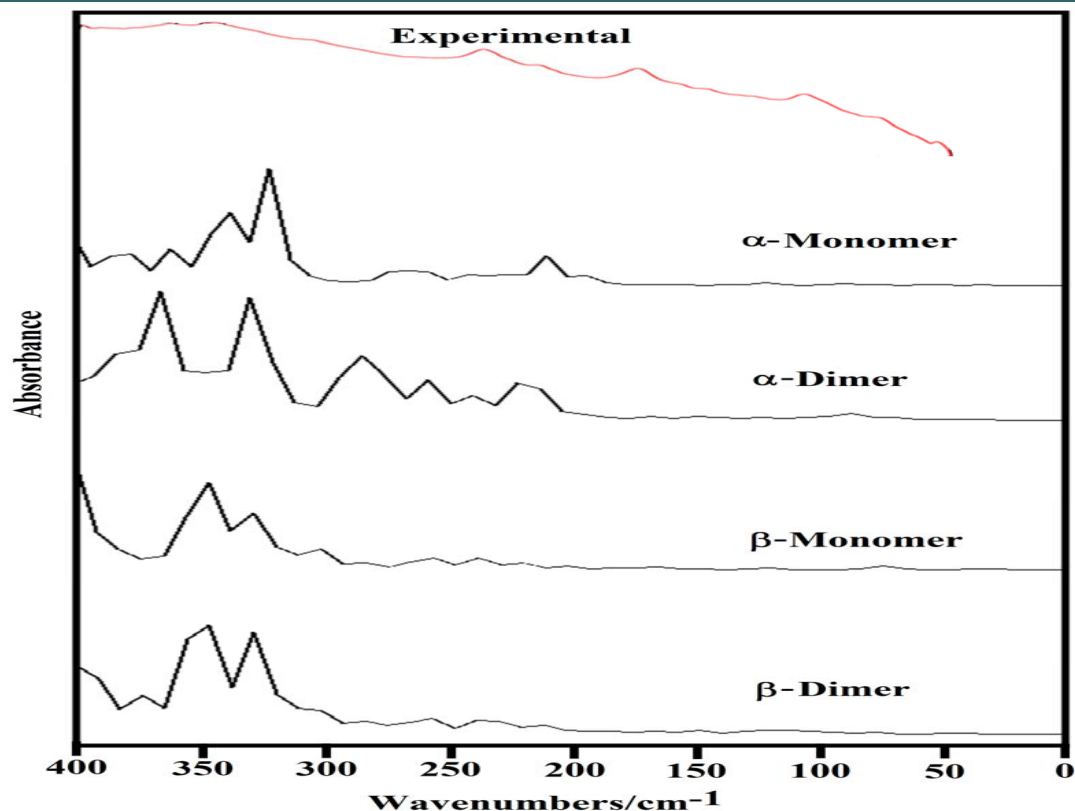


**Figure S4.** Calculated electrostatic potential surfaces on the molecular surfaces of  $\alpha$ - (upper) and  $\beta$ -monomeric (bottom) forms of cellulose in gas phase. Color ranges, in au: from red -0.070 to blue +0.070. B3LYP functional and 6-31G\* basis set. Isodensity value of 0.005.

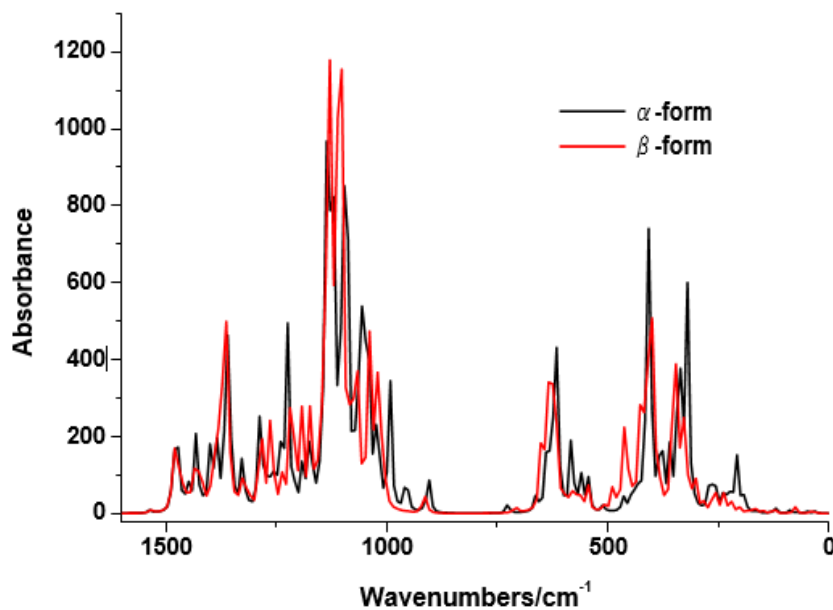


**Figure S4.** Calculated electrostatic potential surfaces on the molecular surfaces of  $\alpha$ - (upper) and  $\beta$ -monomeric (bottom) forms of cellulose in gas phase. Color ranges, in au: from red -0.070 to blue +0.070. B3LYP functional and 6-31G\* basis set. Isodensity value of 0.005.

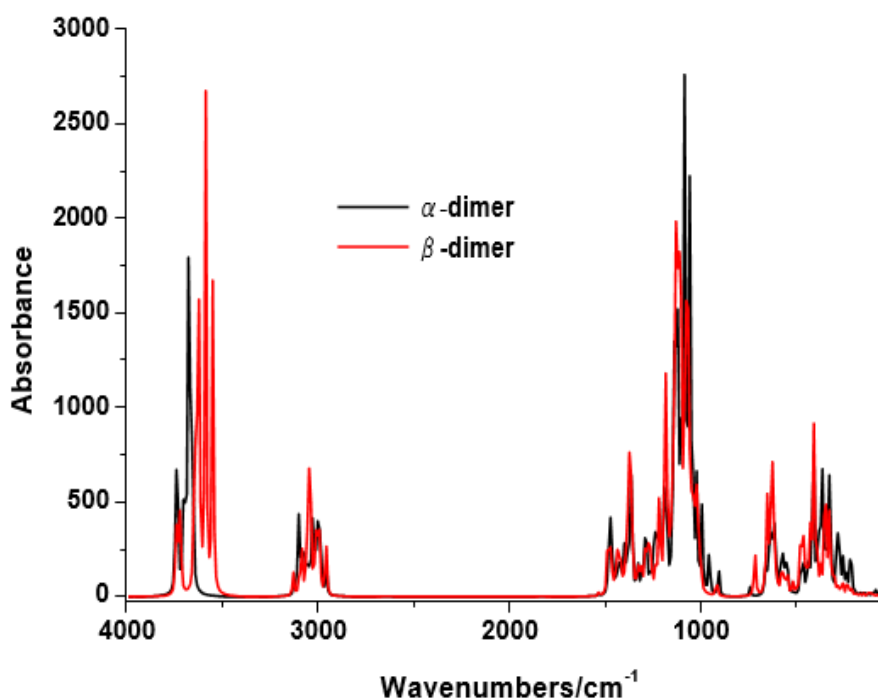
**Figure S6.** Comparisons among the experimental available terahertz infrared spectrum of microcrystalline cellulose in solid phase in the 400-0  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region taken from Ref [59] with the predicted for the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -forms monomeric and dimeric species in gas phase at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.



**Figure S7.** Comparisons among the predicted IR spectra for the monomeric the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -forms of cellulose in gas phase in the 4000-2500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.



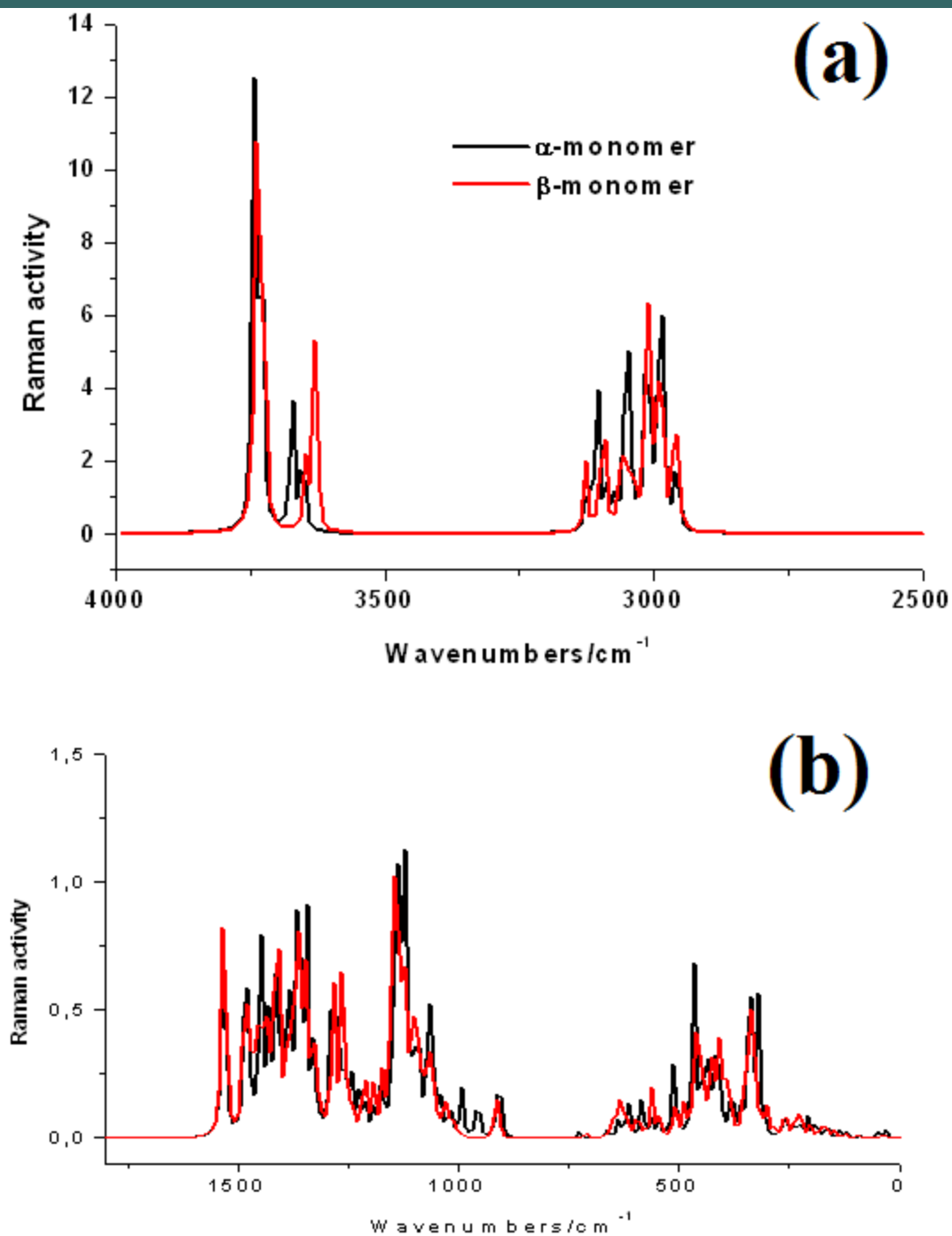
**Figure S8.** Comparisons among the predicted IR spectra for the monomeric the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -forms of cellulose in gas phase in the 1600-0  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.

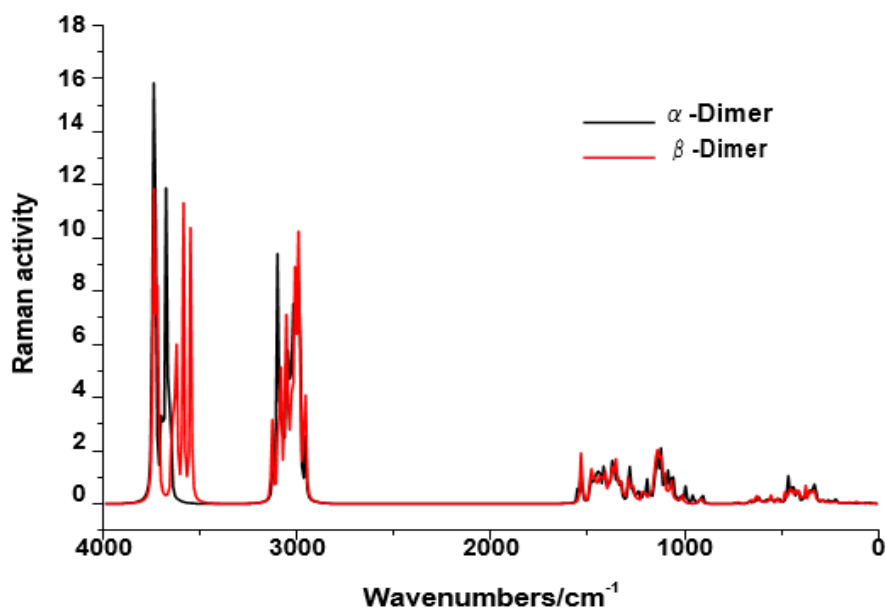


**Figure S9.** Comparisons among the predicted IR spectra for the dimeric  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -forms of cellulose in gas phase in the 4000-0  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.

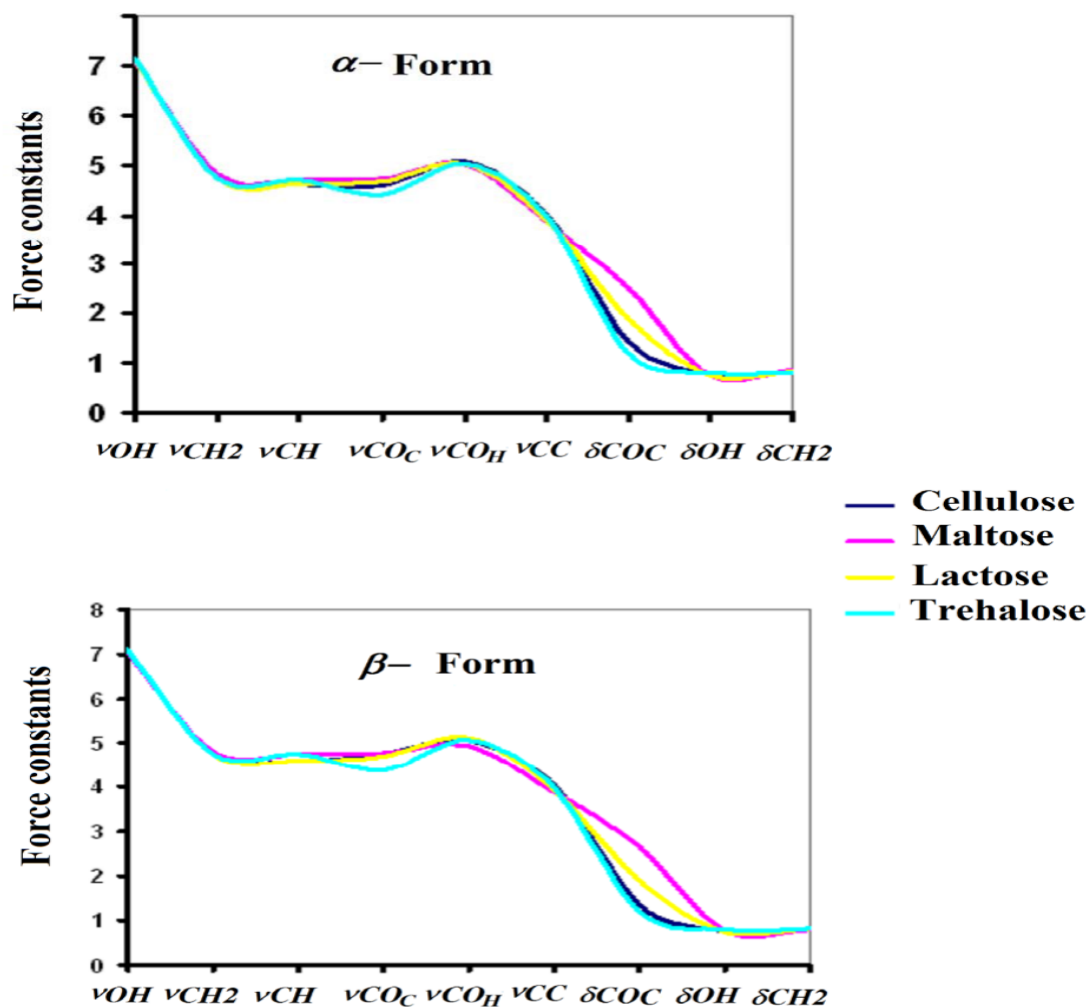


**Figure S10.** Comparisons among the predicted Raman spectra for the monomeric the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -forms of cellulose in gas phase in the 4000-2500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region (a) and 1800-0  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.





**Figure S11.** Comparisons among the predicted Raman spectrum of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -dimer cellulose in solid phase in the 4000-0  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region in gas phase at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.



**Figure S12.** Comparison among the force constants for both  $\alpha$ - (upper) and  $\beta$ - forms (bottom) of cellulose with those corresponding to some carbohydrates [57,58,68] at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.

**Table S1.** Atomic MK and NPA charges for the two forms of cellulose in gas and aqueous solution phases using the B3LYP/6-31G\*Methoda

Atoms	MK's charges				NPA's charges			
	$\alpha$ -form		$\beta$ -form		$\alpha$ -form		$\beta$ -form	
	GAS	PCM	GAS	PCM	GAS	PCM	GAS	PCM
1 C	0.628	0.490	0.741	0.461	0.410	0.410	0.408	0.399
2 H	0.027	0.050	-0.028	-0.017	0.224	0.222	0.200	0.181
3 C	0.043	0.097	-0.035	0.251	0.031	0.033	0.041	0.039
4 H	0.126	0.120	0.108	0.097	0.239	0.231	0.234	0.260
5 C	0.094	0.089	0.180	0.112	0.053	0.051	0.053	0.058
6 H	0.054	0.043	0.040	0.032	0.216	0.218	0.218	0.202
7 C	0.137	0.172	0.114	0.058	0.043	0.044	0.043	0.042
8 H	0.040	0.045	0.052	0.065	0.216	0.219	0.216	0.221
9 C	0.265	0.154	0.180	0.232	0.040	0.035	0.033	0.030
10 H	-0.017	0.017	0.004	-0.005	0.212	0.213	0.208	0.205
11 C	0.202	0.208	0.228	0.249	-0.113	-0.114	-0.109	-0.109
12 H	0.072	0.082	0.058	0.052	0.229	0.232	0.228	0.231
13 H	0.022	0.019	0.019	0.010	0.222	0.223	0.220	0.222
14 O	-0.618	-0.596	-0.630	-0.531	-0.750	-0.746	-0.771	-0.740
15 O	-0.623	-0.596	-0.633	-0.611	-0.755	-0.750	-0.755	-0.750
16 O	-0.601	-0.531	-0.547	-0.516	-0.632	-0.628	-0.590	-0.587
17 O	-0.630	-0.613	-0.627	-0.617	-0.758	-0.755	-0.761	-0.758
18 C	0.461	0.450	0.512	0.538	0.393	0.391	0.393	0.390
19 H	-0.018	-0.007	-0.031	-0.027	0.185	0.187	0.185	0.188
20 C	-0.029	-0.098	-0.032	-0.146	0.027	0.026	0.026	0.026
21 H	0.122	0.145	0.122	0.149	0.226	0.228	0.226	0.228
22 C	0.215	0.280	0.138	0.243	0.063	0.063	0.057	0.057
23 H	0.093	0.090	0.111	0.094	0.229	0.225	0.227	0.228
24 C	0.050	-0.106	0.040	0.023	0.042	0.046	0.058	0.059
25 H	0.088	0.115	0.098	0.088	0.234	0.231	0.225	0.219
26 C	0.260	0.331	0.233	0.236	0.045	0.045	0.047	0.045
27 H	0.036	0.017	0.043	0.044	0.223	0.220	0.223	0.224
28 C	0.094	0.130	0.217	0.165	-0.104	-0.107	-0.103	-0.107
29 H	0.011	-0.002	-0.015	-0.009	0.191	0.195	0.192	0.185
30 H	0.090	0.069	0.055	0.068	0.227	0.227	0.224	0.228
31 O	-0.630	-0.612	-0.623	-0.608	-0.768	-0.768	-0.769	-0.769
32 O	-0.648	-0.628	-0.616	-0.597	-0.761	-0.754	-0.761	-0.760
33 O	-0.474	-0.406	-0.477	-0.439	-0.578	-0.575	-0.581	-0.579
34 O	-0.502	-0.499	-0.521	-0.514	-0.609	-0.610	-0.607	-0.607
35 O	-0.611	-0.628	-0.654	-0.625	-0.767	-0.773	-0.768	-0.771
36 H	0.447	0.425	0.455	0.356	0.489	0.487	0.503	0.476
37 H	0.406	0.402	0.399	0.388	0.483	0.483	0.481	0.481
38 O	-0.625	-0.625	-0.633	-0.622	-0.765	-0.764	-0.769	-0.746
39 H	0.449	0.449	0.445	0.448	0.492	0.492	0.495	0.487
40 H	0.404	0.413	0.428	0.383	0.486	0.485	0.495	0.494
41 H	0.428	0.414	0.429	0.414	0.488	0.487	0.489	0.488
42 H	0.440	0.428	0.436	0.431	0.492	0.490	0.492	0.491
43 H	0.451	0.434	0.442	0.422	0.491	0.488	0.488	0.487
44 O	-0.648	-0.633	-0.656	-0.644	-0.781	-0.781	-0.783	-0.786
45 H	0.421	0.400	0.427	0.420	0.499	0.496	0.499	0.497

**Table S2.** Calculated molecular electrostatic potential (a.u.) for the two forms of cellulose in gas and aqueous solution phases

Atoms	B3LYP/6-31G* method <sup>a</sup>			
	$\alpha$ -form		$\beta$ -form	
	GAS	PCM	GAS	PCM
1 C	-14.624	-14.623	-14.629	-14.622
2 H	-1.105	-1.104	-1.106	-1.094
3 C	-14.691	-14.688	-14.682	-14.677
4 H	-1.122	-1.120	-1.114	-1.105
5 C	-14.687	-14.681	-14.681	-14.678
6 H	-1.119	-1.111	-1.114	-1.107
7 C	-14.680	-14.678	-14.683	-14.682
8 H	-1.112	-1.112	-1.116	-1.116
9 C	-14.665	-14.661	-14.675	-14.672
10 H	-1.095	-1.090	-1.105	-1.099
11 C	-14.666	-14.663	-14.674	-14.671
12 H	-1.096	-1.092	-1.103	-1.100
13 H	-1.096	-1.093	-1.104	-1.102
14 O	-22.321	-22.324	-22.294	-22.285
15 O	-22.291	-22.293	-22.291	-22.289
16 O	-22.278	-22.274	-22.302	-22.299
17 O	-22.275	-22.270	-22.280	-22.276
18 C	-14.632	-14.633	-14.631	-14.630
19 H	-1.110	-1.108	-1.110	-1.104
20 C	-14.688	-14.688	-14.686	-14.682
21 H	-1.117	-1.115	-1.116	-1.110
22 C	-14.686	-14.688	-14.685	-14.682
23 H	-1.121	-1.124	-1.119	-1.116
24 C	-14.678	-14.680	-14.679	-14.674
25 H	-1.106	-1.108	-1.109	-1.102
26 C	-14.685	-14.689	-14.687	-14.687
27 H	-1.120	-1.122	-1.121	-1.119
28 C	-14.700	-14.702	-14.704	-14.703
29 H	-1.132	-1.132	-1.136	-1.131
30 H	-1.132	-1.134	-1.138	-1.136
31 O	-22.303	-22.303	-22.302	-22.299
32 O	-22.315	-22.323	-22.313	-22.313
33 O	-22.295	-22.299	-22.295	-22.291
34 O	-22.303	-22.309	-22.304	-22.306
35 O	-22.337	-22.340	-22.346	-22.350
36 H	-1.003	-1.005	-0.979	-0.970
37 H	-0.961	-0.957	-0.966	-0.962
38 O	-22.309	-22.303	-22.304	-22.315
39 H	-0.992	-0.987	-0.987	-0.998
40 H	-1.020	-1.022	-1.031	-1.033
41 H	-0.972	-0.975	-0.972	-0.971
42 H	-0.986	-0.986	-0.985	-0.982
43 H	-0.997	-1.005	-0.995	-0.995
44 O	-22.307	-22.311	-22.310	-22.313
45 H	-0.990	-0.992	-0.992	-0.994

**Table S3.** Wiberg Index for the two forms of cellulose in gas and aqueous solution phases

B3LYP/6-31G* method <sup>a</sup>				
Atoms	$\alpha$ -form		$\beta$ -form	
	GAS	PCM	GAS	PCM
1 C	3.755	3.758	3.776	3.788
2 H	0.954	0.955	0.966	0.973
3 C	3.871	3.878	3.863	3.858
4 H	0.948	0.952	0.951	0.937
5 C	3.877	3.876	3.874	3.889
6 H	0.959	0.958	0.958	0.965
7 C	3.878	3.880	3.878	3.879
8 H	0.959	0.957	0.959	0.957
9 C	3.850	3.849	3.866	3.868
10 H	0.961	0.961	0.964	0.965
11 C	3.795	3.793	3.794	3.791
12 H	0.951	0.949	0.951	0.950
13 H	0.954	0.954	0.954	0.954
14 O	1.794	1.796	1.797	1.840
15 O	1.820	1.826	1.819	1.826
16 O	1.989	1.995	2.011	2.013
17 O	1.799	1.807	1.797	1.804
18 C	3.782	3.785	3.783	3.785
19 H	0.972	0.971	0.972	0.970
20 C	3.871	3.870	3.871	3.871
21 H	0.955	0.954	0.955	0.954
22 C	3.873	3.878	3.873	3.874
23 H	0.953	0.955	0.954	0.953
24 C	3.858	3.862	3.853	3.858
25 H	0.951	0.952	0.954	0.957
26 C	3.848	3.852	3.847	3.850
27 H	0.956	0.957	0.956	0.956
28 C	3.830	3.829	3.833	3.839
29 H	0.968	0.966	0.967	0.970
30 H	0.951	0.951	0.953	0.951
31 O	1.783	1.783	1.782	1.782
32 O	1.788	1.791	1.784	1.783
33 O	2.044	2.040	2.045	2.046
34 O	1.995	1.991	1.995	1.992
35 O	1.780	1.770	1.778	1.770
36 H	0.763	0.765	0.750	0.776
37 H	0.769	0.769	0.770	0.771
38 O	1.783	1.786	1.780	1.796
39 H	0.760	0.760	0.758	0.765
40 H	0.767	0.768	0.758	0.759
41 H	0.764	0.765	0.763	0.763
42 H	0.760	0.762	0.760	0.762
43 H	0.761	0.764	0.765	0.766
44 O	1.771	1.766	1.768	1.762
45 H	0.754	0.758	0.754	0.756

**Table S4.** Donor-acceptor interaction energies obtained from the second order perturbation calculations (in kJ/mol) for the two monomers of cellulose in gas and in aqueous solution phases

Delocalization	B3LYP/6-31G*			
	$\alpha$ -form		$\beta$ -form	
	GAS	PCM	GAS	PCM
<i>LP(2)O14</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C3-H4</i>	23.74	28.97	10.45	
<i>LP(2)O14</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C3-C5</i>	28.67	21.69	25.25	27.04
<i>LP(2)O14</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>O35-H40</i>			46.48	61.91
<i>LP(2)O15</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C18-O34</i>	59.19	65.67	58.60	65.71
<i>LP(2)O16</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C7-C9</i>	27.13	25.25	29.13	26.63
<i>LP(2)O16</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>O35-H40</i>	39.08	49.45		
<i>LP(2)O17</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>O44-H45</i>	31.22	41.97	33.06	43.47
<i>LP(2)O31</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C18-C20</i>	32.14	34.53	32.31	34.28
<i>LP(2)O32</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C20-C22</i>	25.67	24.29	24.58	25.79
<i>LP(2)O32</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C22-H23</i>	24.87	26.38	26.04	23.70
<i>LP(2)O33</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C1-C3</i>	26.25	25.41	12.25	10.41
<i>LP(2)O33</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C1-O16</i>	54.47	49.78	60.19	59.19
<i>LP(2)O33</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C22-C24</i>	21.03	17.10	29.18	27.71
<i>LP(2)O34</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C18-C20</i>	28.13	26.58	28.59	26.84
<i>LP(2)O34</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C24-C26</i>	29.22	28.59	28.09	28.51
<i>LP(2)O35</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C26-C28</i>	37.70	38.12	40.92	39.12
<i>LP(2)O38</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C5-H6</i>	23.78	12.54	22.57	26.33
<i>LP(2)O38</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C5-C7</i>	28.22	34.40	28.84	26.58
<i>LP(2)O44</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C7-H8</i>	23.49	27.34	23.91	26.79
<i>LP(2)O44</i> → $\sigma^*$ <i>C7-C9</i>	30.60	24.83	30.60	24.62
$\Delta E_{Total}$	142.25	144.23	141.40	144.65

**Table S5.** Analysis of the Bond Critical Points for the two monomeric cellulose forms in gas and in aqueous solution phases

Parameter #	B3LYP/6-31G* Method						
	$\alpha$ - Cellulose form						
	Gas phase			Aqueous solution/PCM			
	O16---H40	O17---H45	O32---H4	O16---H40	O17---H45	O32---H4	O14---O32
$\rho(r)$	0.0304	0.0256	0.0121	0.0346	0.0295	0.0062	0.0073
$\nabla^2\rho(r)$	0.0941	0.0784	0.0437	0.1088	0.0886	0.0259	0.0274
$\lambda_1$	-0.0444	-0.0346	-0.0125	-0.0525	-0.0416	-0.0049	-0.0068
$\lambda_2$	-0.0423	-0.0311	-0.0103	-0.0501	-0.0387	-0.0030	-0.0055
$\lambda_3$	0.1808	0.1440	0.0666	0.2114	0.1689	0.0338	0.0397
$ \lambda_1 /\lambda_3$	0.2456	0.2403	0.1877	0.2483	0.2463	0.1450	0.1713
Distances	1.894	2.014	2.390	1.842	1.945	2.729	3.078

$\beta$ - Cellulose form								
Parameter <sup>#</sup>	Gas phase				Aqueous solution/PCM			
	O14---H40	O17---H45	O16---O32	O33---O35	O14---H40	O17---H45	O16---O32	O33---O35
$\rho(r)$	0.0268	0.0260	0.0076	0.0104	0.0342	0.0299	0.0085	0.0102
$\nabla^2 \rho(r)$	0.0782	0.0793	0.0283	0.0440	0.1021	0.0894	0.0298	0.0432
$\lambda_1$	-0.0381	-0.0353	-0.0064	-0.0093	-0.0527	-0.0423	-0.0074	-0.0088
$\lambda_2$	-0.0369	-0.0319	-0.0050	-0.0042	-0.0505	-0.0393	-0.0068	-0.0037
$\lambda_3$	0.1533	0.1466	0.0397	0.0576	0.2053	0.1711	0.0441	0.0556
$ \lambda_1 /\lambda_3$	0.2485	0.2408	0.1612	0.1615	0.2567	0.2472	0.1678	0.1583
Distances	1.954	2.007	3.064	2.955	1.847	1.939	3.009	2.967

<sup>#</sup>The quantities are in atomic units, distances in Å

Table S6. The molecular frontier HOMO and LUMO orbitals for the two monomeric forms of cellulose at B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory

Monomers cellulose				
Orbital	$\alpha$ -form		$\beta$ -form	
(eV)	GAS	PCM	GAS	PCM
HOMO	-6.7160	-6.5981	-6.5604	-6.5141
LUMO	0.9141	0.8123	1.0677	0.9923
GAP	-7.6301	-7.4104	-7.6281	-7.5064
Descriptors (eV)				
$\chi$	-3.8151	-3.7052	-3.8141	-3.7532
$\mu$	-2.9010	-2.8929	-2.7464	-2.7609
$\eta$	3.8151	3.7052	3.8141	3.7532
$S$	0.1311	0.1349	0.1311	0.1332
$\omega$	1.1029	1.1293	0.9888	1.0155
$E$	-11.0673	-10.7188	-10.4747	-10.3622

$$X = -[E(\text{LUMO}) - E(\text{HOMO})]/2; \mu = [E(\text{LUMO}) + E(\text{HOMO})]/2; \eta = [E(\text{LUMO}) - E(\text{HOMO})]/2; S = 1/2\eta;$$

$$\omega = \mu^2/2\eta$$

**Table S7.** Chemical potential ( $\mu$ ), electronegativity ( $\chi$ ), global hardness ( $\eta$ ), global softness ( $S$ ), global electrophilicity index ( $\omega$ ) and nucleophilic index (E) descriptors for all some carbohy-

GAS PHASE											
Trehalose <sup>a</sup>					maltose <sup>b</sup>				Lactose <sup>b</sup>		
Parameters	Anhydrous			Dihydrated	Anhydrous		Monohydrated		Anhydrous		Monohydrated
(eV)	αα	αβ	ββ	αα	α-	β-	α-	β-	α-	β-	α-
χ	-4.0419	-4.0056	-3.9675	-3.9799	-3.840	-3.895	-3.809	-3.915	-3.634	-3.625	-3.765
μ	-3.1394	-3.1169	-3.1826	-2.9665	-2.812	-2.801	-2.885	-2.817	-2.916	-2.982	-3.052
η	4.0419	4.0056	3.9675	3.9799	3.840	3.895	3.809	3.915	3.634	3.625	3.765
S	0.1237	0.1248	0.1260	0.1256	0.130	0.128	0.131	0.128	0.138	0.138	0.133
ω	1.2192	1.2127	1.2765	1.1056	1.030	1.007	1.092	1.013	1.170	1.227	1.237
E	-12.6888	-12.4847	-12.6270	-11.8064	-10.798	-10.907	-10.986	-11.029	-10.597	-10.810	-11.489
Aqueous solution/PCM											
χ	-3.9298	-3.9263	-3.9105	-3.9021	-3.727	-3.861	-3.570	-3.881	-3.599	-3.640	-3.550
μ	-3.0970	-3.0729	-3.1596	-2.9905	-2.704	-2.805	-2.907	-2.993	-2.902	-3.027	-2.793
η	3.9298	3.9263	3.9105	3.9021	3.727	3.861	3.570	3.881	3.599	3.640	3.550
S	0.1272	0.1273	0.1279	0.1281	0.134	0.130	0.140	0.129	0.139	0.137	0.141
ω	1.2203	1.2025	1.2764	1.1459	0.981	1.019	1.184	1.154	1.170	1.259	1.099
E	-12.1706	-12.0651	-12.3553	-11.6692	-10.078	-10.830	-10.378	-11.612	-10.444	-11.018	-9.915

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