THEORETICAL STUDIES OF THE ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE OF THE GROUND AND LOW-LYING EXCITED STATES OF  $ScH_2^{++}$ ,  $TiH_2^{++}$ ,  $VH_2^{++}$ ,  $CrH_2^{++}$ , and  $MnH_2^{++}$ 

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In all of the titled molecules the two positive charges remain localized essentially on the transition metal and the low-lying electronic states are those of the corresponding dipositive free ion split by a virtually intact, polarized  $H_2$  molecule. We discus the character of these states, their binding energy, and the splitting of the free ion term as determined by high level ab-initio calculations.