



FIG. 2. Energy contour diagrams of the lower adiabatic potential sheets of the X^2E' electronic ground state and the excited A^2E'' state of $^{21}\text{Li}_3$. The x, y axes give the deviations (in atomic units a_0) of each atom from the equilateral configuration with $5.7 a_0$ (3.02 \AA) bond length in the A state and $5.5 a_0$ (2.91 \AA) in the X state. These values were chosen to include the absolute potential minimum in each cut. The dashed contour lines ($E=0$) correspond to the lowest conical intersection energies. The triangles show the molecular geometries that result for selected points of the diagram. The dashed closed curve in the upper potential diagram illustrates the pseudorotation path.