for $\lambda = 1$. Certainly, at smaller $\lambda$ values, adding Gaussian functions at longer distances could decrease somewhat the energy of the excited state leaving obviously unaffected the ground level. Searching for an additional excited state is by now out of our computer capabilities. On the other hand, we call the attention of the reader to the fact that the Efimov treatment involves several approximations, as, e.g., the factorization of the total wave function in the interaction region, and the consideration of only the first term ($\ell = 0$) in the partial wave series [9]. Therefore, an exact reproduction of the model conclusions from the remarkable Efimov work may hardly be expected.

Therefore, from the above points, one can conclude that this very interesting boson trimer system still remains an open problem.


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TABLE 1. Ground and first excited energies and dominant geometries for the He$_3$ trimer recently reported in the literature. Meaning of symbols: QLinear: quasilinear; Equi: equilateral triangle; NEqui: nonequilateral triangle; NLinear: nonlinear configuration.

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<tr>
<td>$\nu = 0$</td>
<td>$-0.131$</td>
<td>$-0.126$</td>
<td>$-0.1252$</td>
<td>$-0.1259$</td>
<td>$-0.1264$</td>
<td>$-0.1252$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>QLinear</td>
<td>QLinear</td>
<td>Equi</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>NEqui</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\nu = 1$ (mK)</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>$-2.269$</td>
<td>$-2.28$</td>
<td>$-2.271$</td>
<td>$-2.269$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>...</td>
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