

All these possibilities are obviously strongly dependent on the ordering of the initial $n\pi^*$ and $\pi\pi^*$ triplet states and on their energetic separation in the specific cyclic enone.

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The Gas-Phase Acidity Order of Some Inorganic Acids

L. BREWSTER YOUNG

Mobil Chemical Company, Edison, New Jersey 08817

AND

E. LEE-RUFF AND D. K. BOHME¹

Department of Chemistry, York University, Toronto, Ontario

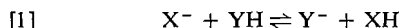
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The gas-phase acidity order at 300 °K of the inorganic acids, water, ammonia, and hydrogen has been directly determined using the flowing afterglow technique. The order established is $\text{H}_2\text{O} > \text{H}_2 > \text{NH}_3$, water being the strongest acid in this series. This result is inconsistent with recent calculations, current available thermochemical data, and the order found in solution.

Utilisant une technique continue de luminescence retardée, on détermine directement l'ordre de l'acidité en phase gazeuse à 300 °K d'acides inorganiques, de l'eau, de l'ammoniac et de l'hydrogène. On trouve que l'eau est le produit le plus acide et que l'ordre décroissant est $\text{H}_2\text{O} > \text{H}_2 > \text{NH}_3$. Ce résultat n'est pas consistant avec les calculs théoriques récents, les données thermodynamiques disponibles actuellement et l'ordre trouvée en solution.

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As part of a program directed towards the determination of relative acidities of organic acids in the gas phase, experiments were recently performed to determine the gas-phase acidities of some simple inorganic acids. The flowing afterglow technique was employed to investigate the kinetics at 300 °K of proton transfer reactions of the type



The determination of the preferred direction of proton transfer at thermal energies identifies the sign of the free energy change of reaction 1 which, in turn, provides a measure of the relative gas-phase acidity of the acids YH and XH. Such

information is valuable in formulating intrinsic reactivity functions, which should have an important bearing on reactivity functions measured in solution. Proton transfer reactions proceeding in the gas phase represent a limiting behavior that can be employed as a standard against which the performance of proton transfer reactions proceeding in the condensed phase may be related.

The experiments were performed in one of the flowing afterglow systems of the Environmental Science Services Administration Research Laboratories in Boulder, Colorado. Details of the method of operation and data analysis have been thoroughly described elsewhere (1, 2). Helium was again used as the buffer gas. The helium pressure in the tube was typically *ca.* 0.4 Torr. The NH_2^- and H^- ions were generated by 100

¹Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

TABLE 1. Summary of acid-base reactions investigated in the gas phase at 300 °K

Acid-base reaction	k_f^*	k_r^*	K	$-\Delta G_{300}^0$ (kcal mol ⁻¹)
$H^- + H_2O \rightleftharpoons OH^- + H_2$	$\approx 5(-11)$	$< 5(-12)$	> 10	> 1.4
$NH_2^- + H_2O \rightleftharpoons OH^- + NH_3$	$\approx 5(-11)$	$< 5(-12)$	> 10	> 1.4
$NH_2^- + H_2 \rightleftharpoons H^- + NH_3$	$\approx 3.7(-11)$	$\sim 4(-12)$	≈ 10	≈ 1.4

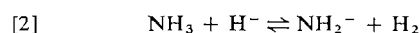
*Units in cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹, (-11) denotes 10⁻¹¹.

and 25 eV electron impact on NH₃, respectively. The production of OH⁻ has been described previously (2). The reactant, H₂O, concentration could not be measured by metering it into the flow tube through calibrated flow elements, which is our conventional technique for measuring neutral concentration. The H₂O concentration was therefore measured by monitoring the increase in the total pressure in the reaction region as the vapor was bled into it. This method of measuring H₂O concentration is, however, both insensitive (the smallest partial pressure measurable with capacitance manometer with a 10 Torr sensing head was at best 0.1 microns) and inaccurate. Consequently, the rate constants for the fast reactions involving H₂O are necessarily limits and are considered reliable only to within a factor of 2.

A summary of the kinetic data obtained for this series of experiments is given in Table 1. The measured equilibrium constant, which was taken to be equal to the ratio of the forward and reverse reaction rate constants, will be equal to the thermodynamic equilibrium constant only if the energy distributions of the respective reactants of the forward and backward proton transfer reactions investigated follow Boltzmann energy distributions. We expect that this is the case in this series of experiments since the ionic species are allowed to undergo many thousand collisions with helium atoms before entering the reaction region where the neutral reactant species are added in thermodynamic equilibrium at room temperature. Thus the data shown in Table 1 clearly indicate the gas-phase acidity order H₂O > H₂ > NH₃, water being the strongest acid in this series. Whereas the observation that water is a stronger acid than ammonia in the gas phase has already been reported (3, 4), the position of hydrogen in this sequence has not, to our knowledge, been previously determined.

The gas-phase acidity order determined in this series of experiments is inconsistent with the

recent theoretical studies of Ritchie and King who, on the basis of their computations of the potential energy surfaces of proton transfer reactions, predicted both NH₃ and H₂O to be stronger acids than H₂ (5, 6). The position of H₂ in our acidity scale is also inconsistent with the thermochemical data presently available. The value of 4.38 eV for $D(NH_2-H)$ (7) and 1.21 eV for the electron affinity of NH₂ (8) are probably least reliable and may be low or high, respectively, by as much as 0.5 eV.² Finally, the solution acidity order of this series is H₂O > NH₃ > H₂ since metal hydrides undergo facile proton transfer reactions with both water and ammonia to liberate hydrogen in solution (9, 10). Although the exchange reaction between amide and D₂ proceeds quite readily in solution, it has been found that the hydride ion is not involved in this exchange process. The reversal of the acidity order of NH₃ and H₂ in the gas phase suggests that solvation effects favor the right-hand side of the equilibrium



Similar acidity order reversals have been shown in the gas phase for alcohols and substituted amines (3, 11).

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²Indeed, in the course of this work the authors have become aware of a very recent redetermination of $D(NH_2-H)$ by S. W. Benson, who suggests a value of 4.73 ± 0.04 eV, which is considerably higher than the older value.

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Utility of Shift Reagents in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Studies of Polyfunctional Compounds: *N*- and *O*-Acetylated Carbohydrates and Nucleosides

R. F. BUTTERWORTH¹, A. G. PERNET², AND S. HANESSIAN³

Department of Chemistry, University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec

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The utility of n.m.r. shift reagents, Eu(DPM)₃ and Pr(DPM)₃, can be extended to polyfunctional molecules containing acetate and amide groups with significant spectral simplification and definitive peak assignments based on "signal crossover" phenomena.

On démontre que l'utilité des réactifs Eu(DPM)₃ et Pr(DPM)₃ qui induisent des déplacements en r.m.n. peut être étendue aux molécules polyfonctionnelles contenant des groupes acétate et amides; il en résulte que les spectres sont simplifiés d'une façon remarquable et que des attributions définitives de pics peuvent être faites.

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Recent work has demonstrated the ability of europium (1, 2) and praseodymium (3) chelates of dipivaloylmethane to produce remarkable shifts in the ¹H n.m.r. spectra of monofunctional compounds possessing simple and relatively complex structures (4). We report herein the effects of shift reagents on the n.m.r. spectra (at 100 and 60 MHz) of various classes of *polyfunctional* compounds, in which, *a priori*, multiple sites of complexation would be anticipated. We demonstrate the application of Eu(DPM)₃ and Pr(DPM)₃ chelates in the assignment of *O*-acetyl and *N*-acetyl resonance signals in polyacetylated carbohydrates as well as in the spectral simplification of various polyfunctional derivatives, including *nucleosides*.

Model studies⁴ on the mechanism and prefer-

ential sites of complexation of Eu chelates with polyfunctional molecules were performed on methyl 2,3-*O*-isopropylidene-β-D-ribofuranoside (6), the corresponding 5-*O*-acetate, and 5-deoxy (7) analogs. The induced shifts decreased as expected in the order ΔEu:OH > H_{5,5'} > H₄, H₃ > H₁ in accordance with the generalization that protons remote from the site of complexation suffer smaller induced shifts than those of closer proximity (8). The 5-*O*-acetate and 5-deoxy analogs were found to complex to the extent of approximately 40–50% and 10–20% respectively, compared to the parent compound. Upfield shifts of approximately the same relative magnitudes were observed using Pr(DPM)₃ in CCl₄.

The significant interaction with the 5-*O*-acetate derivative cited above, prompted us to study substrates containing more than one acetyl group. In the case of α- and β-D-glucose pentaacetates, in which the relative chemical shifts of the respective acetyl signals are known by inference with other model compounds (9, 10) and in the case of β-D-galactose pentaacetate, the signal of the *primary* acetoxy group was in each case, shifted substantially more than secondary acetoxy signals. Incremental additions of Eu(DPM)₃ in minute portions to a solution of α-D-glucose pentaacetate

¹Postdoctoral fellow, 1969–1971.

²France-Quebec predoctoral fellow, 1969–1970.

³To whom correspondence should be addressed.

⁴Our initial studies with diacetone glucose revealed that at a defined concentration of Eu(DPM)₃ the order of chemical shifts increasing to higher field were H₅ > H₃ > H₁ > H₄ > H₂ > H_{6,6'}. Similar results have been reported on this compound while this work was in progress (5). We also note that the presence of two hydroxyl groups in a molecule as in 5-deoxy-1,2-*O*-isopropylidene-β-xylohexofuranose causes increased broadening of bands and presents some limitation on the method.