Production, Microwave Spectrum, Barrier to Internal Rotation, Dipole Moment and Molecular Models of Methylthioketene, CH₃—CH=C=S

BØRGE BAK, HENRIK SVANHOLT and ARNE HOLM

^a Chemical Laboratory V, The H. C. Ørsted Institute, University of Copenhagen, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø and ^b Chemical Laboratory II, The H. C. Ørsted Institute, University of Copenhagen, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark

Hitherto not described methylthioketene, CH₃-CH=C=S, has been produced by pyrolysis of 4-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole and of 5-methyl-1,2,3thiadiazole. The dominant (96 %) isotopic species, $CH_3 - CH = C = ^{32}S$, was identified by its ground state microwave spectrum and microwave spectra of five vibrationally excited species. A, E splittings due to internal methyl group rotation were observed and reproduced by a finally adopted structure and a barrier of 435 cm⁻¹. The experimental dipole moment of methylthioketene in its second torsionally excited level is 1.54 Debye (see text). Three slightly different rigid models of methylthioketene are presented based on stated assumptions and on experimental values of rotational constants B and C of $CH_3 - CH = C = {}^{32}S$ and $CH_3 - CH = C = {}^{34}S$. The calculated C - C = C valence angle and/or the calculated bond lengths are close to comparable geometric parameters in other molecules.

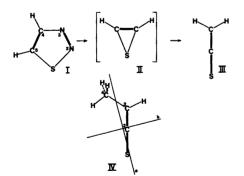


Fig. 1. Formulae and atom numbering in 1,2,3-thiadiazole (I), thi-irene (II), thioketene (III) and methylthioketene (IV). Heavy atoms of IV in plane of inertial axes, a and b.

1,2,3-Thiadiazole (I, Fig. 1) pyrolyzes to thioketene (III, Fig. 1) under C(4) and C(5) scrambling and H(5) migration. ^{1,2} We have investigated if the 4- and 5-methyl derivatives of (I), 4- and 5-methyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole (V and VI), will by analogy both convert to hitherto unknown methylthioketene (IV, Fig. 1). II (Fig. 1) was not observable by microwave product analysis ¹ but its methyl derivative might be sufficiently stable. A search for microwave transitions from this species was, therefore, included.

EXPERIMENTAL

Preparation of V and VI was carried out following Refs. 3 and 4. Both samples were repeatedly distilled in vacuo until their vapor pressure at 0 and 20 °C was 0.5 and 1.0 Torr, respectively (L. K. B. instrument). Pyrolysis and subsequent analysis of polar dissociation products were performed as described for (CH₃)₂NH.⁵

In the present case vapors at ca. 50 mTorr were pumped through a hot (1000 K) 20 cm length of quartz tubing (i.d. 8 mm) directly into the cell of a conventional Stark-modulated microwave (m.w.) spectrometer operated in the 18.6-39.6 GHz region at room temperature. The entrance to exit pressure in the cell was of the order 25/10 mTorr (one-half of this being N_2).

M.w. frequencies were measured to ±0.1 MHz. Our calculated r.m.s. deviations are larger than this. In part, this is due to near-coincidence of transition frequencies as to be expected from a near-prolate symmetric top such as IV. Also, low-lying vibrational levels cause coincidences. Stark lobes were frequently disturbing so that some transition fre-

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Table 1. Notation and percentage, PERCENT, relative to methylthioketene (32 S) (IV) in its ground level (g.l.), of its first and second torsionally excited levels, $v_t(1)$ and $v_t(2)$, its first excited skeletal in-plane deformation level, $v_b(1)$, its second excited level, $v_b(2)$, its $v_b(1) + v_t(1)$ level, and of methylthioketene (34 S) in its ground level. Number of observed A-type, R-branch μ_a -transitions, N. Root-mean-square (r.m.s.) deviations as calculated by ROTFIT. 12 J_{max} (maximum rotational quantum number involved)=7. Experimental frequencies available on request.

| NOTATION | PERCENT | N | r.m.s. |
|----------------------------------|---------|----|--------|
| $CH_3CH = C = {}^{32}S$ | | | |
| IV (g.l.) | 100 | 37 | 0.2040 |
| ν .(1) | 51 | 18 | 0.2868 |
| v.(2) | 29 | 23 | 0.4458 |
| $v_{t}(2)$ $v_{b}(1)$ $v_{b}(2)$ | 47 | 39 | 0.3060 |
| $v_{\rm b}(2)$ | 22 | 20 | 0.1244 |
| $v_b(1) + v_t(1)$ | 24 | 16 | 0.2499 |
| $CH_3CH = C = {}^{34}S$ | | | |
| (g.l.) | 4 | 24 | 0.1475 |

[&]quot;Transitions of IV (g.l.) useful for analytical identification may be taken from Table 2.

Table 2. Observed frequencies F_A (MHz) of selected A-type transitions (TRANSITIONS) with experimental A,E splittings, $v_A - v_E$ (MHz), for methylthioketene (32 S) in its ground level, IV (g.l.) and its first torsionally excited level, $v_t(1)$, compared to splittings calculated by SEM 4. Molecular model, see text. Barrier height = 435 cm⁻¹. Torsional frequency $v_t = 140$ cm⁻¹.

| | IV (g.l.) | | | $v_i(1)$ | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|
| TRANSITIONS | F_{A} | $\frac{v_{A}-v_{E}}{Exp.}$ | Calc. | $\overline{F_{\mathbf{A}}}$ | $\frac{v_{A}-v_{E}}{Exp.}$ | Calc. | |
| $3_{13} \rightarrow 4_{14}$ | 20734.00 | -4.25 | -3.42 | 20734.88 | - 260.22 | - 260.91 | |
| $3_{03} \rightarrow 4_{04}$ | 21039.90 | 0.60 | 0.54 | 21031.53 | -12.34 | -12.67 | |
| $3_{12} \rightarrow 4_{13}$ | 21355.30 | 5.30 | 4.42 | 21338.98 | 223.33 | 222.36 | |
| $4_{14}^{12} \rightarrow 5_{15}^{13}$ | 25916.14 | -2.04 | -1.56 | 25917.50 | -283.91 | -285.28 | |
| $4_{04} \rightarrow 5_{05}$ | 26295.46 | 0.46 | 0.66 | 26285.14 | -15.50 | - 15.91 | |
| $4_{13} \rightarrow 5_{14}$ | 26693.14 | 3.38 | 2.82 | 26672.56 | 237.80 | 237.42 | |
| $5_{15}^{15} \rightarrow 6_{16}^{14}$ | 31097.77 | -1.00 | -0.72 | 31098.77 | -286.86 | -288.61 | |
| $5_{05}^{15} \rightarrow 6_{06}^{10}$ | 31548.43 | 0.85 | 0.79 | 31536.01 | -18.74 | -19.20 | |
| $5_{14} \rightarrow 6_{15}$ | 32030.02 | 2.64 | 2.23 | 32005.33 | 231.68 | 231.64 | |
| $6_{16} \rightarrow 7_{17}$ | 36278.47 | -0.38 | -0.27 | 36278.82 | -272.62 | -274.23 | |
| $6_{06} \rightarrow 7_{07}$ | 36797.69 | 0.94 | 0.92 | 36783.54 | -21.82 | -22.52 | |
| $6_{15} \rightarrow 7_{16}$ | 37365.89 | 2.40 | 2.03 | 37337.16 | 207.98 | 208.39 | |

quencies are slightly erroneous, although < 1 MHz.

Adopting the generally accepted idea of taking over structural and dynamic data from a related molecule to foresee what is to be expected from the microwave spectrum of IV we have applied data from methylketene, 6.7 thioketene 8 and methylisothiocyanate.9

Assuming a C=S distance of 1.554 Å from thioketene and taking the remaining geometric parameters from methylketene a rigid model of IV with rotational constants A,B,C=34768, 2736 and

2576 MHz was obtained. Thus, groups of lines separated by B+C=5312 MHz are anticipated. When V and VI were pyrolyzed, identical dense groups of lines ca. 5260 apart, separated by almost "empty" 3000-4000 MHz regions were observed. Further, replacing the C=O force-constant of methylketene $(161.7 \text{ nN/Å})^7$ by a C=S force-constant of 81.0 nN/Å^9 and using the remaining force-constants for methylketene, 7 produced predicted in-plane normal vibration frequencies at 168, 573, 803... cm⁻¹. Omitting CH_{3} -group torsion, out-of-plane

normal vibration frequencies at 418, 517, 1019... cm⁻¹ were estimated (program VIBROT).¹⁰ When considering the great spectral density of the observed m.w. spectra we estimated that assignment of transitions to levels less than 20 % populated relative to the ground level (g.1.) would be ambiguous. This means an upper limit of 335 cm⁻¹ for the energy of vibrational levels to be considered. Taking the first torsionally excited level at $v_{*}(1) = 140 \text{ cm}^{-}$ (to be derived) and the lowest non-torsionally excited level at $v_b(1) = 157$ cm⁻¹ (vide infra) we must be prepared to find 7 m.w. spectra: an intense spectrum assignable to IV in the g.l.; two spectra of molecules in states $v_t(1)$ and $v_b(1)$, one-half as intense; three spectra of molecules in states $v_b(2)$, $v_t(1) + v_b(1)$ and $v_t(2)$, all about equally intense and ca. 20 % as intense as the g.l. spectrum. Outside the dense spectral regions one can expect the microwave spectrum of isotopic CH₃CH=C=³⁴S (4%) abundance) to be observable without difficulty. Nomenclature and abundances are summarized in Table 1.

Moreover, the CH₃ group in IV is expected to cause A,E doublets due to hindered internal rotation. Therefore, recordings at widely different square-wave voltage amplitudes are necessary. For transitions of type $J_{K_{-1},K_1} \rightarrow (J+1)_{K_{-1},K_1+1}$ all E-components (except for $K_{-1}=0$) and A-components for which $K_{-1}>2$ show first-order Stark effect. They were recorded at 5-10 V/cm or lower. A-components of transitions for which $K_{-1} \le 2$, and E-components for which $K_{-1}=0$ show quadratic Stark effect and were usually recorded at several hundred V/cm. The assignments to follow agree with the intensity and Stark effect relations outlined above.

Vapors of V and VI started to break down by pyrolysis at the same oven temperature (700 K), producing identical m.w. spectra at increasing temperature.

ASSIGNMENT

A- and E-type, μ_a (Fig. 1) transitions of IV (g.l.) were easily assigned due to their intensity. A,E splittings turned out to be small (Table 2) except for $K_{-1} = 2$. The IV (g.l.) spectrum is partly overlapped by the weaker spectrum of IV in the $v_i(1)$ state in which the A,E splittings are much larger (Table 2). The observed A,E splittings of these two spectra were reproduced by using an available program 11 SEM-4, assuming a barrier to internal rotation of 435 cm⁻¹ with $v_t(1) = 140$ cm⁻¹ and $v_1(2) = 256 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The assumed geometry of IV was as above except for a small change of CH₃ group geometry, necessary to introduce when using SEM-4 (assumed C-H distances 1.083 Å, assumed C(3)C(4) H angles = 111.1° (Fig. 1), intertial moment about $C(3) - C(4) = 3.087 \text{ u Å}^2$).

Rotational and distortion constants for IV (g.l.) and $\nu_i(1)$ as obtained by an available ROTFIT program ¹² are given in Table 3. An estimated value of the inertial defect, I.D.= I_c - I_b - I_a = -2.867 u Ų was used throughout, based on a vibrational contribution of 0.220 u Ų from the vibrational calculation above, ⁷ taking I.D.= -3.087 (methyl group contribution) +0.220=-2.867 u Ų. Within limits (±0.3 u Ų) this ad hoc choice of I.D. has practically no influence on B,C, Δ_{JK} and Δ_{J} , but it fixes A under stated conditions. The value of A is of some interest to the final molecular models of IV, but of highest importance for precise predictions of possible μ_b transitions in the m.w. spectrum.

Likewise, the $v_b(1)$ spectrum is partly overlapped by the weaker spectrum $v_b(1) + v_t(1)$. It turned out that the A,E splittings for the $v_b(1)$ spectrum were of the same order of magnitude as for IV (g.l.) and that the A,E splittings for the $v_b(1) + v_t(1)$ spectrum were of the same order of magnitude as for $v_t(1)$. Also, the

Table 3. Rotational constants A, B and C (MHz) and distortion constants Δ_J and Δ_{JK} (kHz) of methylthioketene (32 S) in its ground level, IV (g.l.), of 5-vibrationally excited levels (as defined in Table 1) and of methylthioketene (34 S) in its ground level, IV* (g.l.), all based on A-type μ_a -transitions.

| | A^a | В | С | B+C | $\Delta_{\scriptscriptstyle \mathrm{J}}$ | $\Delta_{ m JK}$ |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|----------|--|---------------------|
| IV (g.l.) | 35528(7) | 2708.362(21) | 2552.969(22) | 5261.331 | 0.39(14) | -46.55(30) |
| $v_{t}(1)$ | 36303(11) | 2705.158(35) | 2554.038(36) | 5259.196 | 0.91(29) | -134.7(1.9) |
| $v_{b}(1)$ | 34819(7) | 2717.566(24) | 2557.390(24) | 5274.956 | 0.24(20) | -46.79(42) |
| $v_{b}(1) + v_{t}(1)$ | 35736(7) | 2713.904(28) | 2558.964(31) | 5272.868 | 0.82(28) | $-134.6(\hat{1.4})$ |
| $v_{\rm b}(2)$ | 34158(3) | 2726,599(14) | 2561.738(16) | 5288.337 | 0.22(13) | - 34.09(30) |
| $v_{t}(2)$ | 31932(8) | 2732,985(44) | 2553.994(43) | 5286.979 | -0.86(41) | 340.0(9) |
| IV* (g.l.) | 35449(4) | 2639.524(20) | 2491.327(20) | 5130.851 | 1.08(18) | -45.79(21) |

[&]quot;Inertial defect $I_c - I_a - I_b = -2.867$ u Å² assumed. Absolute values of the A constants dependent on this assumption.

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m.w. spectra of molecules in states $v_b(2)$ and $v_i(2)$ are partly overlapping. The A,E splittings for $v_b(2)$ were small. The lines of $CH_3CH=C=^{34}S$ were observed in-between dense regions and were easy to assign. Rotational and distortion constants of the seven species investigated are summarized in Table 3. There is good consistence between the distortion constants Δ_{JK} and Δ_{J} for IV (g.l.), $\nu_b(1)$, $\nu_b(2)$ and CH₃CH=C=³⁴S, all without torsional excitation. Further, a calculation by the forceconstant method 7 gave $\Delta_{JK} = -49.8$ kHz and $\Delta_1 = 0.86$ kHz in fair agreement with the m.w. determination. The agreement between the distortion constants for $v_1(1)$ and $v_2(1) + v_2(1)$ is noteworthy, both states involving one torsional quantum. A change of sign of Δ_{IK} occurs for the $v_i(2)$ state. An interpretation will not be given here.

The quoted value of $v_b(1)=157~{\rm cm}^{-1}$ was determined by relative intensity measurements of two E-type transitions $(4_{13}\rightarrow 5_{14})$ of IV (g.l.) at 26689.76 MHz and of molecules in the $v_b(1)$ state at 26769.76 MHz using a rarely occurring opportunity to compare spectral lines with controlled and experimentally quite similar Stark patterns. An average of 6 intensity measurements for each transition gave $v_b(1)=157\pm 5~{\rm cm}^{-1}$ consistent with the value of $168~{\rm cm}^{-1}$ obtained by the force-field method.

DIPOLE MOMENT. μ_b -TRANSITIONS

The dipole moment (DPM) of IV was estimated as reported here and measured to support the identification of IV as methylthioketene and to provide information on the orientation of the DPM in the molecular frame.

For ketene and methylketene the size and direction of their DPM's, $\bar{P}_{\rm K}$ and $\bar{P}_{\rm MK}$, are known. $\bar{P}_{\rm K}=1.414$ Debye (D), ¹³ forming an angle of 0°, $\bar{P}_{\rm MK}=1.79$ D⁶ forming an angle of 8° with the >C=C=O chain. Thus, the equation $\bar{P}_{\rm K}+\bar{P}_{\rm M}=\bar{P}_{\rm MK}$ is easily solved for $\bar{P}_{\rm M}=0.44$ D, forming an angle of 35° with the >C=C=O chain. Our final

model (vide infra) of IV was now placed in its inertial system (Fig. 1). $\bar{P}_{\rm M} = 0.44$ D was taken over forming an angle of 35° with the (supposed) linear >C=C=S chain. The known DPM of thioketene, $\bar{P}_{\rm TK} = 1.02$ D,⁸ is inserted along the >C=C=S chain of IV. $\bar{P}_{\rm MTK}$, the DPM of IV, follows from $\bar{P}_{\rm MTK} = \bar{P}_{\rm M} + \bar{P}_{\rm TK} = 1.40$ D with inertial axes components $\mu_{\rm a} = 1.40$ D and $\mu_{\rm b} = 0.10$ D.

In our microwave spectra lines suitable for Stark lobe measurements are rare. For example, all A-type lines from IV (g.l.) have nearby E-type components. An A-type, Stark identified $3_{12} \rightarrow 4_{13}$ transition at 21050.56 MHz associated with $v_1(2)$ was finally chosen because of its isolated position with no nearby E-components and no irrelevant Stark lobes. As documented in Table 4, $\mu_a[v_1(2)] = 1.54$ D. The ground level DPM must be close to this since vibrational excitation is unlikely to change the DPM substantially. The agreement between estimated and measured DPM is satisfactory.

Regions with few, scattered lines such as 32.6-36.3 GHz and 37.6-39.6 GHz were scanned in search of μ_b -transitions. A *Q*-line series of dominant intensity for a predicted μ_b spectrum within 20-40 GHz is expected $(J_{OJ} \rightarrow J_{1,J-1}; J=1-12)$, independent of the adopted value of the rotational constant.

A of Table 3, the spacing of these transitions, but not their precise positions can be precalculated, taking B and C from Table 3. None of our experimental "scattered" lines could be fitted with the predicted spacings in agreement with our estimate of $\mu_b/\mu_a = 0.07$, the μ_b transitions being too weak to be observed by us.

MOLECULAR MODELS

The well-defined rotational constants B and C of IV (g.l.) and of $CH_3CH=C=^{34}S$ (Table 3) contain structural information under stated assumptions. Throughout, we shall assume a methyl group

Table 4. Stark lobe shifts Δv (MHz) of A-type transition $3_{12} \rightarrow 4_{13}$ at 21501.56 MHz assigned to the 2nd torsionally excited level, $v_t(2)$ of methylthioketene. Field F in V/cm. M='magnetic' quantum number. Computer program STARK.¹⁴ Calculated dipole moment μ_a (Debye units).

| F | 645 | 699 | 753 | 806 | 860 | 914 | 968 | 1032 | 1290 | 1419 | 1548 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| M | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| $-\Delta v$ | 10.6 1.55 | 11.7 1.51 | 6.7 1.56 | 7.5 1.54 | 8.7 1.56 | 9.4 1.52 1.54 | 10.5 1.52 | 11.7 1.51 | 5.7 1.56 | 6.7 1.54 | 7.7 1.51 |

Table 5. Calculated geometric parameters for 3 rigid models common to $CH_3CH=C={}^{32}S$ and $CH_3CH=C={}^{34}S$ compared to experimental rotational constants ${}^{32}A_o$, ${}^{32}B_o$, ${}^{32}C_o$ and ${}^{34}A_o$, ${}^{34}B_o$, ${}^{34}C_o$ (MHz). Distances in Å, angles in degrees.

| Species | Geometric parameters | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | C = S | C = C | C-C | $\angle (C-C=C)$ | | | | | |
| M_1 | 1.5576 | 1.3163 | 1.518 a | 122.97 | | | | | |
| M_2 | 1.5520 | 1.3321 | 1.508 | 122.60° | | | | | |
| M_3^2 | 1.5627 | 1.3140 ^b | 1.515 | 122.90 | | | | | |
| | Calculated r | Calculated rotational constants | | | | | | | |
| | \boldsymbol{A} | В | | \boldsymbol{C} | | | | | |
| $CH_3CH = C = {}^{32}S$ | | | | | | | | | |
| M_1 | 34992 | 2708.3396 | | 2552,9733 | | | | | |
| M_2 | 34989 | 2708.2733 | | 2552,9023 | | | | | |
| M _a | 34992 | 2708.3196 | | 2552.9830 | | | | | |
| $^{32}A_{\rm o}$, $^{32}B_{\rm o}$, $^{32}C_{\rm o}$ | 35528 | 2708.362 | | 2552.969 | | | | | |
| $CH_3CH = C = {}^{34}S$ | | | | | | | | | |
| M_1 | 34911 | 2639.5249 | | 2491.3293 | | | | | |
| M ₂ | 34911 | 2639.4545 | | 2491.2636 | | | | | |
| M. | 34912 | 2639.4073 | | 2491,2277 | | | | | |
| $^{34}A_{\rm o}$, $^{34}B_{\rm o}$, $^{34}C_{\rm o}$ | 35449 | 2639.5 | 2491.327 | | | | | | |

^aTaken from the 'r_s' structure of methylketene. ⁶ Taken from the 'r_s' structure of thioketene. ⁸

geometry as indicated under ASSIGNMENT and oriented as shown in Fig. 1. One further, assumed geometric parameter will fix the three remaining geometric parameters of IV, reproducing B and C and leaving A with a so far acceptable error (Table 5). None of the calculated bond lengths and the valence angle of the new molecule are of unexpected magnitude.

DISCUSSION

The carbon atom scrambling which occurs when thicketene is formed from 1,2,3-thiadiazole has, therefore, its possible analogue when methylthioketene is formed from either 4- or 5-methyl-1,2,3thiadiazole supporting the view that a threemembered ring intermediate, $CH_3 - C = CH - S$, or methyl-thi-irene(VII), might exist. Since we know that our weak, unidentified lines are not μ_b -lines of methylthioketene we cannot exclude that these lines are due to VII. On the other hand, it has proved impossible for us to confirm it on the existing rather thin evidence. The same type of argument holds for VIII, IX and X, but not for XI (Fig. 2) for which ground-state rotational constants have been given. 16 A rigid rotor spectrum was calculated and shown to be unable to explain the weak lines not attributal to methylthioketene.

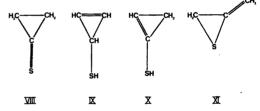


Fig. 2. Three-membered ring isomers of acyclic methylthioketene, VIII-XI. Only XI is known experimentally.¹⁶

In addition to the cyclic isomers of Fig. 2 there are several (XII-XVI) acyclic isomers of methylthioketene such as $CH_3-S-C\equiv CH$ (XII), $^{17}CH_3-C\equiv C-SH$ (XIII), $CH_2=CH-CH=S$ (XIV), $^8CH_2=C=CHSH$ (XV) and $CH\equiv C-CH_2SH$ (XVI). 18 It followed from Refs. 17, 8 and 18 that our weak, non-assigned lines could not be associated with XII, XIV or XVI. The expected m.w. spectra of XIII and XV would be of near-prolate top type. For both molecules an appreciable μ_a DPM component must exist which would result in accumulation of m.w. lines as for methylthioketene. This was not observed.

During pyrolysis two hydrogens at adjacent atoms are often lost.⁵ Thus, $CH_2=C=C=S$ and $CH\equiv C-CH=S$ might be formed, but these species are not among our products for the reason given for XIII and XV.

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