# Electron capture negative ion mass spectra of some freon derivatives

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Abstract The temperature dependence of dissociative attachment has been investigated in the temperature range 350–575 K for two freon derivatives 1,1,1-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>F<sub>2</sub>Cl and C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub>Cl using Electron Capture Negative Ion Mass Spectra (ECNI MS). The temperature dependence for 1,1,1-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>F<sub>2</sub>Cl is similar to that observed in the case of CF<sub>3</sub>Cl reported by Illenberger *et al.* In contrast, C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub>Cl exhibits quite a different spectrum and its temperature behavior. It has been suggested that  $\sigma^*_{C-Cl}$  delocalization onto two empty orbital leads to Cl<sup>-</sup> ion formation in two different resonance states.

Key words negative ions • electron capture • freon derivatives

## Introduction

Freon derivatives are very important objects in ecology, atmospheric physics and chemistry and many other branches. Low energy electron capture by halogenated methanes has been investigated earlier [2, 3, 6–8, 15, 16]. Low-energy dissociative attachment (DA)

(1) 
$$e^- + CF_3Cl \rightarrow CF_3Cl^- \rightarrow CF_3 + Cl^-$$

exhibits a temperature effect described well and clearly in the framework of classical theory of DA [7, 11, 12]. For numerical calculation of the temperature effects it is necessary to know a number of parameters of the model: electron affinity (EA) of the molecule and halogen atom, molecular vibrational energies  $(\hbar\omega)$ , dissociation energy (DE) and others. The results obtained are in good agreement with the experimental data [6, 7, 11, 12]. The same results may be reached by means of mixed ab initio-semiempirical approach of R-matrix theory [5, 16, 20]. It is clear that in the case of dissociative attachment in a low-energy electron-molecular collision the most important point is that of the formation of an intermediate negative ion, which can dissociate into a fragment ion and appropriate neutral, or lose an additional electron by autodetachment (AD). Competition between these processes determines the socalled survival probability, and governs the shape of the NI curve of effective yield (CEY), see Fig. 4 in [6]. Obviously, quantitative description of the temperature behavior of the electron capture cross section is a hard enough problem, but elaborated methodology [6, 7, 11, 12] gives the possibility to analyze DA experimental data qualitatively [17, 19]. A very similar semi-quantitative approach has been used for investigation of the temperature dependencies of DA by complex molecules of halogenated anthraquinones [1].

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Received: 14 November 2002, Accepted: 4 February 2003

### Experimental

Negative ion mass spectra were obtained using a modified [9] MI-1201 mass spectrometer under the following conditions: accelerating voltage 4 kV, electron trap current  $\sim 1 \mu A$ , FWHM of electron energy distribution  $\Delta E_{1/2} = 0.35 \text{ eV}$ ,  $E_{el}$  varies in the range 0–12 eV. Vaporisation temperatures of compounds under investigation were about 300 K. Temperature dependencies of the curves of NI effective yield (CEY) were measured in the range 100–300°C. The details of ECNI MS experiments using a method developed for static mass-spectrometers have been described previously [9]. Drift time for the SF<sub>6</sub>/SF<sub>6</sub> ion (m/z = 146) from the moment of formation in the ion source through the mass-separator system to the moment of detection by secondary electron multiplier is ~25 µs.

## **Results and discussion**

Measured negative ion curves of effective yield are presented in Figs. 1 and 2. Tabulated NI mass spectra are listed in Table 1. Abbreviation  $I^{int}$  means integrated intensity of the ion:

(2) 
$$I^{\text{int}} \int_{E_{\min}}^{E_{\max}} I(\varepsilon) d\varepsilon,$$

where  $E_{\min}$  and  $E_{\max}$  denote the minimum and the maximum energy of the spectrum,  $I(\varepsilon)$  stands for NI intensity as a function of electron energy  $\varepsilon$ . That value is preferable for characterisation of the NI DA abundance in the whole energy range of dissociative electron capture, whereas traditionally used value of NI intensity in the peak maximum ( $I_{\max}$ ) describes the NI DA cross section as a function of electron energy. Moreover, the sum of  $I^{int}$  for all isotopes of each ion is bold faced. The last value makes it possible



**Fig. 1.** Curves of negative ion effective yield for  $CH_3CF_2CI$ . Total ion current is a sum of CEY for all the fragment ions.



**Fig. 2.** Curves of negative ion effective yield for  $C_2F_5Cl$ . Total ion current is a sum of CEY for all the fragment ions. Only most intensive CEY's are shown; a complete spectrum listed in the Table 1.

to compare the intensities of different channels of dissociation when some of them have an isotope distribution.

Figure 1 shows that the NI curves of effective yield (CEY) of the 1,1,1-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>F<sub>2</sub>Cl exhibit a typical temperature dependence as in the case of CF<sub>3</sub>Cl [6, 7, 12, 15]. The first resonant state (RS1) at the energy of about 1 eV shifts toward low energy with increasing temperature, and its relative intensity increases as well. The second RS ( $E_{el} \sim 3 \text{ eV}$ ) keeps its energy and relative intensity. Following the conclusions of the Illenberger [6], we interpret them as the shape resonance (single particle resonance) with an additional electron in the  $\sigma^*$  orbital of the C-Cl bond (lowest unoccupied orbital of the molecule, LUMO), and the electron excited resonance (two particles resonance) where the incoming electron excites one of the electrons in the target molecule.

The temperature dependence of the shape resonance can be explained clearly by means of a simple semiclassical approach [6, 11, 12]. The potential energy surfaces  $V^0$  and  $V^-$  of the neutral CH<sub>3</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cl and the anion CH<sub>3</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cl<sup>−</sup> as a function of the dissociative bond length  $r_{\text{C-Cl}}$  are shown in Fig. 3. Appropriate Morse curve  $V_0(r) = E_0 + \text{DE}\{1-\exp[-\beta(r-r_0)]\}^2$  for the neutral, adopted to reproduce the experimental data, has the following parameters:  $E_0 = 0$  eV;  $r_0 = 3.31 a_0$  for the equilibrium bond length,  $DE_0 = 3.76$  eV [6] for the dissociation energy,  $\beta_0 = 0.7935 a_0^{-1}$ , and for anion:  $E^- = -0.37 \text{ eV}$ ,  $r^- = 4.59 a_0^{-1}$ ,  $DE^- = 0.52 \text{ eV}$ ,  $\beta^- = 0.8464 a_0^{-1}$ . The reduced mass of the Cl atom is  $\mu = 22.75$  a.m.u. =  $4.147 \times 10^4 m_e$ . According to the model, the vibrational energy in the molecule  $\hbar\omega_0 =$  $\beta_0(\mu/2DE_0)^{1/2} = 55.7 \text{ meV}$ , which looks as a reasonable value. So, the temperature dependence of the CEY's for the  $CH_3CF_2Cl$  shown in Fig. 1 can be rationalized in the framework of a simple semi-classical model elaborated in [6, 7, 12, 15]. Indeed, using the classical approximation [4] we can evaluate the energy of the transition from the molecular term in the right turning point to the anion term,

Temperature (K)	m/z	Structure	$E_{\rm max}$ (eV)	$I_{\rm max}$	$I^{ m int}$	<i>I</i> <sup>int</sup> , sum of all isotopes	$I^{\mathrm{int}}$ (%)	<i>I</i> <sup>int</sup> , sum of all isotopes
				1,1,1-C	<sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> F <sub>2</sub> Cl			
<i>T</i> = 343	35 37	Cl⁻	1.12	246 80	15,286 4987	20,273	55.31 18.04	73.35
	19	$F^-$	2.98	73	7365	7365	26.65	26.65
<i>T</i> = 478	35 37	Cl⁻	0.96	258 84	17,939 5853	23,792	58.73 19.16	77.89
	19	$F^-$	2.98	65.4	6755	6755	22.11	22.11
<i>T</i> = 568	35 37	Cl⁻	0.81	328 107	25,645 8367	34,012	64.12 20.92	85.04
	19	$F^-$	2.94	62	5985	5985	14.96	14.96
				C <sub>2</sub> I	F <sub>5</sub> Cl			
<i>T</i> = 348	135 137	(M-F) <sup>-</sup>	3.48	4.5 1.5	242 79	321	0.007 0.002	0.01
	119	$(M-Cl)^{-}$	2.76	5.25	261	261	0.007	0.007
	35 37	Cl⁻	0.61	16,625 5424	1,186,450 387,091	1,573,541	34.20 11.16	45.37
	35 37		2.42	9625 3140	843,200 275,102	1,109,302	24.31 7.93	32.24
	19	$F^-$	2.71	8753	776,730	776,730	22.39	22.39
<i>T</i> = 473	135 137	(M-F) <sup>-</sup>	3.3	4 1.5	239 78	317	0.008 0.003	0.011
	119	(M-Cl)⁻	2.6	3.7	223	223	0.007	0.007
	35 37 25	Cl⁻	0.45	16,250 5302	1,174,330 383,137	1,557,467	38.45 12.54 22.52	50.99
	35 37		2.3	2512	224,524	912,699	7.35	29.88
	19	$F^-$	2.62	6435	583,747	583,747	19.11	19.11
<i>T</i> = 573	135 137	(M-F) <sup>-</sup>	0.2	2.6 0.8	151 50	201	$0.005 \\ 0.002$	0.007
	135 137		3.3	3.6 1.2	219 73	292	$0.007 \\ 0.002$	0.009
	119 119	(M-Cl)⁻	0.56 2.5	1.1 3.7	89 280	369	0.003 0.009	0.003 0.009
	35 37	Cl⁻	0.39	18,025 5881	1,247,500 407.009	1,654,509	41.88 13.66	55.54
	35 37		2.22	6300 2055	573,650 187,159	760,809	19.26 6.28	25.54
	19	$F^-$	2.53	5978	562,800	562,800	18.89	18.89

Table 1. NI mass spectra of 1,1,1-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>F<sub>2</sub>Cl and C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub>Cl derivatives.

the arrow DA in Fig. 3. That value is equal to  $DA_0 = 1.1 \text{ eV}$ . When the first excited vibrational level in the target molecule is populated the energy of the appropriate transition will be  $DA_1 = 0.73 \text{ eV}$ . Such a simplification of the semiclassical approach [6, 7, 11, 12, 15], nevertheless, gives qualitative agreement with the experimental observations.

In contrast, the experimental CEY's for  $C_2F_5Cl$  we have obtained have a quite different temperature behavior, see Fig. 2. First, the Cl<sup>-</sup> channel exhibits two resonant states, at ~0.6 eV and ~2.4 eV, with high intensity. Second, the F<sup>-</sup> channel at 2.7 eV has comparable intensity, see Fig. 2 and Table 1. Third, the second RS shifts left with increasing the temperature in parallel with the RS1. And at last, the intensity of both the channels Cl<sup>-</sup> and F<sup>-</sup> in the second RS decreases as the temperature is raised, in contrary to the Cl<sup>-</sup> intensity in the RS1. These facts allow supposing that RS2 is a shape resonance with an additional electron captured into the second empty orbital (LUMO+1) of the target molecule. The view of the LUMO and LUMO+1 of the C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub>Cl and CH<sub>3</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cl according to the results of semiempirical PM3 calculations are presented in Fig. 4. It is easy to see that the  $\sigma^*_{C-Cl}$  bond contributes to the LUMO in the case of the CH<sub>3</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cl and Cl<sup>-</sup> ion formation is allowed in RS1 only. The  $\sigma^*_{C-Cl}$  bond contributes to both



**Fig. 3.** Schematic representation of the terms of the  $CH_3CF_2CI$  molecule and anion as a function of C-Cl bond length. See notation in text. (VAE – vertical attachment energy.)

the LUMO and LUMO+1 in the case of  $C_2F_5Cl$ , therefore  $Cl^-$  formation is possible in the RS1 and RS2, too. That effect is called "principle of orbital correlation" [10], an analog of the well-known Woodward–Hoffmann rules in concert chemical reactions.

For the analysis of the CEY's temperature dependencies of the C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub>Cl let us consider terms of the molecule and anion. The low-energy RS1 is modeled well enough when appropriate fitting parameters are used. The molecular term (marked by  $V_0$  in Fig. 5):  $E_0 = 0$  eV;  $r_0 = 3.31 a_0$ ;  $\beta_0 = 0.926 a_0^{-1}$ ;

DE = 3.72 eV. Vibrational energy in the molecule  $\hbar\omega$  = 59.3 meV. The anion dissociative term (Cl<sup>-</sup> channel formation) was described using the repulsive potential [16]  $U^{\text{rep}} = A \cdot \exp[-2\delta(r - r_0)] + D$  with the following parameters  $(U_1^{\text{rep}} \text{ in Fig. 5})$ : D = 0.11 eV for the asymptotic  $(D = DE_0 - EA(Cl) = 3.72 - 3.61 \text{ eV})$ ; A = 1.4 eV;  $\delta = 2.38 a_0^{-1}$ ;  $r_0 = 3.31 a_0$ . Supplementary term  $V^-$  of the channel (M-Cl)<sup>-</sup> formation, see Table 1, is described by the Morse curve:  $E^{-} = 0.6 \text{ eV}$ ; DE<sup>-</sup> = 1.91 eV for dissociation energy of the C-Cl bond in the anion which is equal to the difference between  $DE_0 = 3.72 \text{ eV}$  and electron affinity of the  $C_2F_5$ fragment EA(C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub>) =  $1.81 \pm 0.14 \text{ eV} [18]; r^{-} = 4.63 a_0$  for the equilibrium bond length in the anion;  $\beta = 0.436 a_0^{-1}$ . Vibrational quantum of the anion  $\hbar \omega = 16.6$  meV seems as a reasonable estimation. Dissociation with (M-Cl)<sup>-</sup> formation is forbidden by energy in the first resonance  $(DE^- > E_{max}(RS1))$ , but it is observed in the second resonance with very low intensity, see Table 1. It may be explained by taking into consideration the repulsive term  $U_3^{\rm rep}$  shown in Fig. 5.

The terms obtained give the possibility to analyze the temperature dependencies of the RS1 in  $C_2F_5Cl$ . The dissociative repulsive term,  $U_1^{\text{rep}}$ , leading to the Cl<sup>-</sup> formation exhibits similar behavior as the same term in the case of CF<sub>3</sub>Cl [6, 12, 15] and CH<sub>3</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cl. Therefore, an increase in DA cross section with a shift of the RS1 maximum to lower energies is quite clear. An additional channel of (M-Cl)<sup>-</sup> formation is forbidden by energy in the first resonance, see Table 1. However, in the high-temperature spectrum (573 K) we detect a weak signal of  $C_2F_5^-$  in the low-energy region. It is a very strange phenomenon because a simple



**Fig. 4.** Two lowest normally empty MO of  $C_2F_5Cl$  (left), and  $CH_3CF_2Cl$  (right) according to semiempirical PM3 calculations.  $\sigma^*_{C-Cl}$  bond contributes to both of them in the first case, and  $\sigma^*_{C-Cl}$  bond contributes only to the LUMO in the second one.

energetic estimation shows that this is impossible. Consider the target eight-atom molecule  $C_2F_5Cl$  as a statistical ensemble with 3N-6 = 18 interacting degrees of freedom. The internal vibrational energy of that system is about  $E_{vib} \sim 18$  kT. At a temperature of 573 K  $E_{vib} \sim 0.9$  eV. Total internal energy of the temporary anion is equal to  $E^{total} = E_{vib} + E_{el}$ ;  $E_{el}$  means electron energy. So, it is obvious, that the channel for (M-Cl)<sup>-</sup> formation can be achieved at the energy ~1 eV if all degrees of freedom will contribute to energy fluctuation on the dissociative vibrational mode, see Fig. 5. Unfortunately, we cannot exclude an influence of the possible impurities on the hot spectrum; therefore we have not definitive conclusion for this phenomenon.

Consider the second resonant state RS2 at the energy  $\sim 2.5 \text{ eV}$ . This RS exhibits three dissociation channels Cl<sup>-</sup>, F<sup>-</sup>, and (M-Cl)<sup>-</sup>, see Fig. 2 and Table 1. All of them have the same temperature behavior: a decrease in DA cross section with a shift of the RS2 maximum to lower energies. The energy shift is about 0.2 eV when the temperature increases from 348 K to 573 K. The intensity of RS2, in contrary to the case of RS1, decreases to a considerable extent. That effect cannot be explained in the framework of the simple classical model [7, 11, 12]. According to our estimations, by the model of united atom approximation [13, 14] mean lifetime towards autodetachment of the  $C_2F_5Cl^-$  in RS1 is  $\tau_a^1 \approx 4$  fs, and in RS2  $\tau_a^2 \approx 6$  fs. The details of the calculations were described earlier [13]. The above values are very close to the previous ones for the dissociation lifetime in the case of CF<sub>3</sub>Cl ( $\tau_d \approx 3$  fs) [6, 11, 12]. It means that the dissociation probability  $\sigma_{DA}$  for the second resonant state should be slightly higher than for the first RS, as it follows from:

(3) 
$$\sigma_{\rm DA} = \sigma_{\rm C} \cdot \exp(-\tau_{\rm D} / \tau_{\rm AD}),$$

where  $\sigma_C$  means total electron capture cross section;  $\tau_D$  means dissociation lifetime. The last formula is very approximate, but quantitatively right. That fact explains relative ion intensities in RS1 and RS2, but decreasing of ion intensity in RS2 with the temperature rising is still unclear. The effect of negative temperature dependence of RS2 in C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub>Cl may be considered as an indication of classical model [7, 11, 12] limitation.

At the end, the parameters used for fitting of the  $U_2^{\text{rep}}$ and  $U_3^{\text{rep}}$  presented in Fig. 5 are listed.  $U_2^{\text{rep}}$  corresponds to the Cl<sup>-</sup> formation in RS2: D = 0.11 eV, A = 2.65 eV,  $\delta = 0.529 a_0^{-1}$ ;  $r_0 = 3.31 a_0$ .  $U_3^{\text{rep}}$  corresponds to the C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> formation in RS2: D = 1.91 eV, A = 0.85 eV,  $\delta = 0.4 a_0^{-1}$ ;  $r_0 = 3.31 a_0$ .

# Conclusion

The present data on ECNI MS of two freon derivatives show quite different temperature dependencies. The CH<sub>3</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cl has NI CEY the same as the one for the CF<sub>3</sub>Cl investigated earlier. The first RS, exclusively Cl<sup>-</sup> formation, is a shape resonance with an additional electron captured on the  $\sigma^*_{C-Cl}$  orbital. This resonance has a positive dependence of the DA cross section with temperature. Energy shifts toward low electron energy,  $\Delta E \approx 0.3$  eV, when the temperature is varying from 348 to 568 K. The second RS, predominantly F<sup>-</sup> formation, is an electron excited Feshbach

**Fig. 5.** Schematic representation of the terms of the  $C_2F_5Cl$  molecule and anion as a function of C-Cl bond length. See notation in text.

resonance which is not sensitive to the temperature variation.

Substitution of the CH<sub>3</sub> group by the CF<sub>3</sub> group leads to the dramatic changes in CEY temperature dependence. The first RS in  $C_2F_5Cl$  keeps growing and shifting into lowenergy region with increasing temperature. The second RS for DA in the  $C_2F_5Cl$  molecule is of resonance shape, too. Both, the ions Cl<sup>-</sup> and F<sup>-</sup> formed in this resonance decrease their intensities and the maxima shift to the left by about 0.2 eV when the temperature increases from 348 to 573 K. The supposition has been made that  $\sigma^*_{C-CI}$  delocalization into two empty orbitals leads to Cl- ion formation in two different resonance states. The temperature dependencies observed for the RS1 in CH<sub>3</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cl and  $\hat{C}_2F_5$ Cl are described qualitatively in the framework of a semi-classical model elaborated by the Illenberger group. Decreasing of RS2 intensity in  $C_2F_5Cl$  spectra with rising temperature is unclear in the framework of this model. The final decision of this problem requires additional experimental and theoretical investigations.

Acknowledgments Work has been supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, grant No. 00-02-16578, the Polish State Committee for Scientific Research under grant No. 3 T09A010 18, and NATO grant JSTC.RCLG.979570.

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