AN ab initio MO STUDY OF CONFORMATION STRUCTURE OF NICOTINAMIDE AND ITS DERIVATIVES*

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Conformation of nicotinamide (I), 3-carbamoylpyridinium (IIa), 1-methyl-3-carbamoylpyridinium (IIb), and 1-methyl-1,4-dihydronicotinamide (IIIa) has been studied in the rigid rotor approximation on the basis of non-empirical STO-3G wave functions. The rotation barriers decrease in the order: IIIa > $I \sim IIb > IIa$. When confronted with semiempirical calculations, the conformation curves of molecular energy show a better qualitative similarity to the EHT than to NDDO and particularly to CNDO/2 curves. Relation of the calculated characteristics to experimental findings is discussed.

Conformation behaviour of nicotinamide (I) is, in fact, restricted to rotation around the C-C' bond between amide group and the heterocycle resulting in formation of syn and anti conformer types. Whereas X-ray diffraction of crystalline compound I showed¹ exclusively the presence of the anti form, dielectric measurements² of solutions of I in benzene and dioxane revealed equilibria of the type $I(syn) \rightleftharpoons I(anti)$. Semiempirical calculations on the basis of EHT (ref.³⁻⁵) and NDDO (ref.⁶) wave functions prefer energetically the form I(anti), but the CNDO/2 (ref.²), MINDO/2 (refs^{2,7}), and PCILO data⁸ give no unequivocal results. X-Ray diffraction studies of more complex bioorganic systems involving the ionic fragment type II found syn-conformation of the amide group^{9,10} as well as anti-conformation, which depended on anion component (X^-) of the ion pair II - X (R = CH₃). In the 1,4-dihydro derivatives type IIIb, the syn-conformation could only be found¹¹. Whereas the experimentally found conformation of compound III fully agrees with results of MO calculations of the IIIa model in the basis of EHT (ref.¹²), CNDO/2 (ref.²), MINDO/2 (refs²), and PCILO (ref.⁸) wave functions, similar semiempirical MO studies¹³⁻¹⁵ of the ion IIb gave no such unequivocal results. Thus in application of the EHT method, relative energies of the ions IIa(anti) and IIa(syn) depend on how many geometry degrees of freedom were optimized¹³.

The aim of this paper is to elucidate the extent to which inconsistency of the above--mentioned MO calculations is affected by choice of empirical parameters; therefore

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we decided to study the conformational behaviour in MO models of I, IIa,b, and IIIa by non-empirical *ab initio* calculation. The study was restricted to application of the contracted minimum STO-3G basis set of AOs. A recent analogous MO calculation¹⁶ of IIa ion was only focused on study of interaction with hydride ion, the conformational aspect being not considered.

CALCULATIONS

All the calculations were carried out with the use of standard program Gaussian 76. For the starting geometry we used the bond lengths and angles obtained¹⁷ by gradient optimization¹⁸ on the basis of CNDO/2 wave function except for the torsion angle α between amide group and heterocyclic fragments which was considered variable (the rigid rotor model). This approximative procedure was chosen with respect to possible comparison with semicmpirical data published earlier. Table I gives the non-empirically calculated total molecular energies E_{iot} of the STO-3G models of *I* to *IIIa*. The geometries corresponding to the minima at the respective curves $E_{iot} = f(\alpha)$ were not further optimized and were assigned to equilibrium conformational states

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Conformation: Fig. 1 gives energy dependences $E_{101} = f(\alpha)$ for the STO-3G models of I, IIa, b, and IIIa. Mutual similarity is seen in the pairs I-IIa and IIb-IIIa, the former preferring anti conformations, and the latter preferring syn conformations. Comparison of the curves $E_{tot} = f(\alpha)$ shows also that the protonation process $I + H^+ \rightarrow IIa$ should result in lowering of rotation barrier of amide group and, hence, in acceleration of establishing of the $syn \rightleftharpoons anti$ equilibrium. Moreover, the protonated form IIa shows a decrease in relative preference of the anti-conformer $(\alpha_{\min} = 15^{\circ})$ as compared with analogous form of the non-protonated amide I ($\alpha_{\min} = 25^{\circ}$). It is noteworthy in this context that the largest energy should be needed to overcome the stabilizing conjugation effects in the ion IIa ($\alpha_{max} = 90^{\circ}$), whereas in the free base I this energy should be needed to overcome the non-bonding interactions (ortho-effect) between NH, group of the amide fragment and hydrogen centre at 2-position ($\alpha_{max} = 0^\circ$). In the case of the latter pair IIb – IIIa, representing in fact a trivial model of NAD⁺-NADH, the curves $E_{tot} = f(\alpha)$ are quite similar. This finding can be interpreted as a theoretically justified argument supporting the idea that the biologically important process NAD + $2e^- + H^+ \rightleftharpoons$ NADH could take place without any distinct conformational change in amide group of the nicotinamide fragment of the coenzyme. Thus syn-conformation is preferred in the compounds IIb and IIIa markedly ($\alpha_{min} = 165^{\circ}$ and 180° , respectively), the rotation barrier of the 1,4-dihydro derivative IIIa being higher than that of the IIb ion by 12.9 kJ mol⁻¹. According to the STO-3G calculation, the energy needed to interrupt conjugation of the π system in IIIa is even higher ($\alpha_{max} = 90^{\circ}$) than that for overcoming of the steric hindrance due to non-valence interactions ($\alpha_{max} = 0^{\circ}$).

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STO-3G to	STO-3G total and relative energies of rotation conformers of the structures studied	gies of rotatio	n conformers of the	structures stu	ıdied		
A sele	Ia		IIa		911		IIIa ^b
Angle	$E_{\rm lot}^{c}$	E_{rel}^{d}	$E_{\rm tot}^{c}$	$E_{\rm rel}^{\ d}$	$E_{\rm lot}{}^{d}$	Erei ^d	E _{lot} ^c
0	-409-176816	1-4		0.3		20.1	-448.876969
15			-409-611329	0.0			448 • 878544
30	409-177275	0.2	-409.611080	0.7	$-448 \cdot 188622$	13-3	-448-880649
45				3.8			-448.880425
60	-409-174534	7-4	-409-608183	8.3	-448·187758	15-6	-448-878814
75			409-606793	11-9			448-877072
90	$-409 \cdot 172260$	13-4	$-409 \cdot 606309$	13-2	448.186710	18-4	- 448.876481
105				11-6			

 E_{rel}^{d} <u>80</u>.0 25.8 20.6

20·3 25.1 29.7 31.2 28-7 15.3 8·1 2.3

22-8

- 448-879707 -448·882528 -448-885293 - 448·887478

10.7

-448·189611 -448-193293

11-6 7.8 3.8 4.4 6.3

> -409.608365-409.610424-409.609638-409.608944

10.4 10-7 22·1

 $-409 \cdot 173380$ $-409 \cdot 173257$ $-409 \cdot 168941$

120 135 150 165 180

-409-609881

0.0

-448.888366

0·0

 $-448 \cdot 193692$ - 448·193692

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TABLE I

The corresponding total/relative energies are: $-448 \cdot 87911/1 \cdot 2$, $-448 \cdot 888215/0 \cdot 4$; ^c the values are given in dimensionless units $E = E_{iot}/E_h$ where $E_h = 2.628 \cdot 1$ kJ mol⁻¹; ^d the values are given in kJ mol⁻¹. (0 04, -409.177340/0.0, -409.177324/0.04, -409.177188/0.4; ^b the compound IIIa, was, moreover, calculated for the angles 170° and 175°.^a The compound I was, moreover, calculated for the angles 22.5°, 25.0°, 27.5°, 32.5°. The corresponding total/relative energies are: – 409·177324

Comparison of the said curves $E_{tot} = f(\alpha)$ with analogous curves obtained^{2,6,8,12,15} by semiempirical MO procedures enables to specify some general features of the non-empirical approach in the terms of the rigid rotor approximation. Generally, the STO-3G calculation results in higher rotation barriers (Figs 2–4) and differs distinctly from the CNDO/2 rigid rotor model which underestimates the rotation barriers due to conjugation of the π system ($\alpha = 90^{\circ}$)^{1,20}. In the case of nicotinamide *I* itself (Fig. 2) the best similarity was obtained with the curve $E_{tot} = f(\alpha)$ calculated³ by EHT method, which resembles the situation of *IIb* ion (see Fig. 3 in ref.¹⁵). The NDDO calculation⁶ of the model *I* approximates best the rotation barrier due to conjugation ($\alpha_{max} = 90^{\circ}$), but it underestimates the non-bonding *ortho* repulsion ($\alpha_{max} = 0^{\circ}$). In the case of 1,4-dihydro derivative *IIIa* (Fig. 3) there is a considerable similarity with the NDDO curve⁶ and with simple EHT calculation¹². At the same time it is obvious that the absence of the minimum at $\alpha \approx 40^{\circ}$ in the CNDO/2 calculation² represents an often observed artefact of underestimation of the rotation barrier due to conjugation effects ($\alpha \approx 90^{\circ}$) in this method.

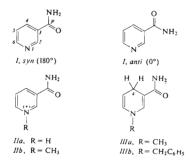
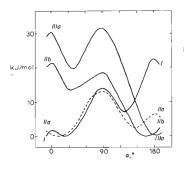


Table II summarizes the discussed energy characteristics of the STO-3G and semiempirical MO models of I-IIIa and compares them with the experimental findings obtained by X-ray diffraction^{1,9,10,11}. Obviously, the non-empirical calculation leads to some further differences in the energy characteristics of the conformational curves $E_{tot} = f(\alpha)$ as far as energy differences (ΔE) between syn- and anti-conformers and transformation (E_{trans}) and racemization energies (E_{rac}) are concerned. With respect to experimental findings it is clear that the torsion angles α obtained by the STO-3G calculation for the energetically most favourable conformation agree with the experimental data (α_{exp}) better than or comparably to the α angles calculated semiempirically.

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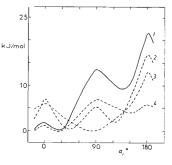




Fig. 1

Comparison of dependences of the STO-3G molecular energies of compounds I-III on the rotation angle α

Comparison of dependence of the STO-3G molecular energy of compound I on the rotation angle with similar semiempirical da-ta^{2,3,6}. I = STO-3G; 2 = EHT, 3 = CNDO/2; 4 = NDDO

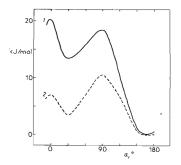
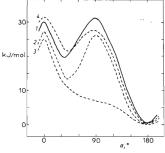


FIG. 3

Comparison of dependence of the STO-3G molecular energy of compound *IIb* on the rotation angle with analogous semiempirical data¹⁵. I = STO-3G; 2 = EHT





Comparison of dependence of the STO-3G molecular energy of compound IIIa on the rotation angle with similar semiempirical data^{2.6.12}. I = STO-3G; 2 = E HT; 3 = CNDO/2; 4 = NDDO

Orbital structure: In analogy to the semiempirical calculations, the non-empirical HOMOs and LUMOs of all the investigated systems are of π type, and their character is not substantially affected by change of torsion angle in the region of planar molecular fragments. Figure 5 represents schematically nodal properties and shape of the two frontier MOs for nicotinamide (I), NAD⁺ model IIb, and NADH model IIIa. The orbital characteristics of the two ions IIa,b differ but slightly, and, therefore, the case IIa is not discussed later. It is seen that the compound I exhibits nodal planes in the HOMO which are perpendicular to N(1)—C(2), C(4)—C(5), C(3)—C(3) bonds, those in the LUMO being perpendicular to C(2)—C(3), C(3)—C(4), C(5)—C(6), C(6)—N(1), C(3)—O, and C(3')—N(H₂) bonds. The HOMO of IIb ion has identical character, but the LUMO already differs, its nodal planes being perpedicular to the bonds N(1)—C(2), C(4)—C(5), C(6)—N(1), C(3')—O, and C(3')—N(H₂). It is noteworthy that the HOMO of the model of the reduced form IIIa has a similar shape, especially so in the region of dihydropyridine ring, with the nodal planes for the bonds N(1)—C(2), C(3)—C(3'), C(3')—N(H₂), C(3)

TABLE II

Comparison of energy barriers in the compounds studied. The energy values are given in k1. . mol⁻¹, the angles in degrees. E_{rot} is given by difference of energy values of the maximum separating the two types of conformers and the deeper minimum belonging to one of the conformers; E_{transf} is given by difference of values of the maximum separating the two types of conformers and the shallower minimum belonging to one of the conformers; E_{rac} is given by difference of values of the local maximum and minimum belonging to the same conformer; $\Delta E = |E_{tot}(syn) - E_{tot}(anti)|$

Com-	Method	a	nti	s	yn	F	F	E,	ас	ΔE
pound	Method	α _{calc}	aexp	α _{calc}	α _{exp}	E _{transf}	Eroi	syn	anti	
I	STO-3G	25	24 ^a	138	_	4.3	13.4	12.3	1.8	9.2
	NDDO ^b	29	-	151	_	2.5	7.0	1.0	1.0	4.2
	EHT	43	-	I 20	_	3.3	4.8	14.5	6.4	1.5
IIa	STO-3G	15		150	_	10.8	13.2	3.8	0.4	2.4
IIb	STO-3G	30	5 ^{<i>d</i>, <i>e</i>}	165	166 ^{d, i}	5.0	18.4	0.5	6.8	13.3
	EHT ^f	30	3 ^{g, h}	180	152 ^{d.j}	6.8	10.2	0.0	3.4	3.4
IIIa	STO-3G	37	_	180	176 ^k	11.7	31.2	0.0	10.3	19.5
	NDDO ¹	0		135		7.1	27.9	0.0	10.5	20.9
	EHT ^m	40	-	180		12.7	26.0	0.0	16.7	13-3

^a Ref.¹; ^b ref.⁶; ^c ref.³; ^d ref.¹⁰; ^c picrate; ^f ref.¹⁵; ^g ref.⁹; ^h 9-adenyl acetate; ⁱ iodide; ^f chloride; ^k 1-benzyl derivative, ref.¹¹; ^l ref.⁶; ^m ref.¹².

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-C(4), C(4)-H, C(4)-C(5), C(6)-N(1), and C-(H₃). This fact could facilitate considerably the effectiveness of electron-transfer between the two heterocyclic system IIb and IIIa. Participation of antisymmetrical combination of 1s AOs of hydrogen atoms in the C(4)—H bonds confirms the high degree of hydrogen hyperconjugation found already 2.6,12 with the semiempirical HOMOs of 1,4-dihydropyridine derivatives. High values of the expansion coefficients of AOs at 4 position in LCAO of the both discussed frontier MOs of the NAD⁺-NADH models IIb and IIIa agree (similarly as the semiempirical calculations^{2,6,12}) with behaviour of the respective coenzymes in biochemical redox processes. The less important (for these considerations) LUMO of dihydro derivative IIIa exhibits nodal planes crossing the bonds N(1)-C(2), C(2)-C(3). $C(3')-N(H_2)$, C(3')-O, C(4)-C(5), and C(5)-C(6), showing thus no distinct similarity to some of the discussed frontier orbitals. Orbital energies of the HOMO and the LUMO are characteristically changes on variation of the torsion angle α . From Table III it follows that the HOMO energies decrease, and the LUMO energiesi ncrease for $\alpha \rightarrow 90^{\circ}$, the highest sensitivity of these changes being seen with the neutral forms I and IIIa.

Electron distribution: The electric dipole moments calculated for the considered set of nicotinamide rotamers (I, $0^{\circ} \leq \alpha \leq 180^{\circ}$) vary within the limits 3.308. 10^{-30} to $14.514 \cdot 10^{-30}$ Cm (the experimental date² is $11.239 \cdot 10^{-30}$ Cm), being always lower that those obtained by semiempirical calculations^{2,3,6}. With 1,4-dihydronicotinamide (IIIa, $0^{\circ} \leq \alpha \leq 180^{\circ}$) the range of the corresponding values (16.208. . 10⁻³⁰ to 9.438. 10⁻³⁰ Cm; experimental date¹² is 13.340. 10⁻³⁰ Cm) suggests that the STO-3G moments again are much too low with respect to the fact that the syn-conformer ($\mu_{cale} = 9.438 \cdot 10^{-30} \text{ Cm}$) should by far predominate according to the above-mentioned analysis and also with respect to the calculated² CNDO/2 moment ($\mu_{calc} = 12.406 \cdot 10^{-30}$ Cm). These findings indicate with respect to the characteristical underestimation of values, in accordance with analogous literature data (refs²¹⁻²³), that the minimum STO-3G basis set is insufficient for desirable accuracy of calculation of electric dipole moments of compounds I and IIIa. Nevertheless, other partial STO-3G characteristics of electron distribution (as e.g. electronic charges and bond populations) exhibit obviously more reliable relations to the experimental characteristics than the analogous semiempirical data.

Table IV compares the STO-3G charge distributions in the MO models I-IIIa with analogous Q_{tot} charges obtained semiempirically^{2.7,15}. It is seen that introduction of non-empiric values Q_{tot} for hydrogen atoms removes the artificial negative charge densities at some centres. The Q_{tot} values show, however, the most important differences from the NDO calculations at heteroatoms, where the non-empirical calculation locates more distinctly the electrons at oxygen atoms of amide groups. The STO-3G values Q_{tot} are supported by their being more reproducibly related to chemical shifts in ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra^{24.25}. From Table V it follows that the

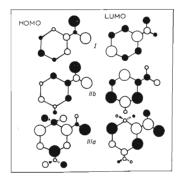
On Calculations of Biologically Important Compounds

	α	0	30	60	90	120	150	180
				Nicotin	amide I			
ł	номо	-0.289	-0.290	-0.293	-0.296	0.292	-0.288	-0.287
1	LUMO	0.217	0.222	0.233	0.233	0.231	0.221	0.216
			3-Ca	arbamoylp	yridinium	(IIa)		
1	номо	-0.426	-0.425	-0.425	0.425	-0.425	-0.424	-0.424
J	LUMO	-0.042	-0.042	-0.045	-0.042	-0.045	-0.043	-0.044
			1-Methy	/l-3-carban	noylpyridir	nium <i>IIb</i>		
1	номо	-0.425	-0.424	-0.424	-0.424	-0.423	-0.423	-0.423
1	LUMO	-0.039	-0.038	-0.038	-0.037	-0.037	-0.038	-0.039
			1-Methy	-1,3-dihyd	ronicotina	mide IIIa		
1	номо	-0.197	-0.196	-0.197	-0.197	-0.198	0.197	-0·196
1	LUMO	0.243	0.220	0.271	0.289	0.271	0.254	0.248

TABLE III

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^a The values are given in dimensionless units $E = E_n/h$, where $h = 2.628 \cdot 1$ kJ mol⁻¹.





Comparison of character of the STO-3G HOMOs and LUMOs of the compounds I - III at $\alpha = 0^{\circ}$

said quantities exhibit similar trends, the correlations being even quantitative in the cases of ¹³C chemical shifts of *I*, *IIa* and ¹H chemical shifts of *IIIa*. Noteworthy differences in σ and π charge distributions of the pair *IIb*-*IIIa* are given in Table VI. Typically, N(1) and N(H₂) centres carry strong positive σ charge (Q_{σ}) and even stronger negative π charge (Q_{π}), hence the resulting negative charge ($Q_{i\sigma}$) corresponds to the non-compensated part of the π component (Q_{n}). On the contrary, the σ charges (Q_{σ}) at oxygen centres are negligible, and the resulting negative charge ($Q_{i\sigma}$) is practically equal to the π component alone (*i.e.* $Q_{iot} \approx Q_{\pi}$). A different situation is encountered with the amide C(3') atom whose resulting positive charge Q_{σ} components. At the other carbon centres the combinations of Q_{π} and Q_{σ} components. At the other carbon centres the combinations of the two charge types (Q_{π} , Q_{σ}) are irregular. The overall Q_{iot} charge distribution depends little on the torsion angle α , which is due to mutual compensations of larger charge site Q_{π} and Q_{π} and Q_{π} components.

TABLE IV

Comparison of non-empiric and semiempiric charges of atomic centres of compounds I-III. The values are given for $\alpha = 0^{\circ}$

Posi-		I		IIa	1	Чb	I.	IIa
tion	STO-3G	CNDO/2ª	STO-3G	MINDO/2 ^b	STO-3G	CNDO/2 ^c	STO-3G	CNDO/2
N(1)	-0·244	-0.143	-0·237	-0.279	-0·185	0.075	-0·286	-0.118
C(2)	0.035	0.097	0.133	0.296	0.140	0.145	0.096	0.152
C(3)	-0.031	-0.064	-0.001	-0.502	-0.002	-0.035	-0.069	-0.122
C(4)	-0.035	0.056	0.040	0.217	0.027	0.102	-0.092	0.049
C(5)	-0.065	-0.034	-0.045	-0.020	-0.045	0.005	-0.078	-0.056
C(6)	0.041	0.106	0.135	0.302	0.128	0.136	0.053	0.093
C(1)	_	_	-		-0.063	e	-0.044	0.090
C(3')	0.310	0.358	0.290	0.826	0.289	0.366	0.275	0.360
$N(H_2)$	-0.411	-0.243	-0.399	-0.592	-0.394	-0.257	-0.409	-0.243
ວົ້	-0.294	-0.354	-0.227	-0.576	-0.236	-0.310	-0.312	-0.401
H(1)	_	_	0.303	с	0.121	e	0.067 ^f	-0.041 ^f
H(2)	0.065	-0.012	0.138	с	0.159	e	0.091	0.009
$H(4)^{f}$	0.092	0.002	0.153	е	0.123	e	0.043	-0.018
H(5)	0.072	0.007	0.141	e	0.136	e	0.054	0.002
H(6)	0.074	-0.016	0.153	e	0.144	e	0.066	-0.034
H(NH	₂) ^f 0.196	0.119	0.211	· e	0.210	е	0.183	0.120

^a Taken from ref.²; ^b taken from ref.⁷; ^c taken from ref.¹⁵; ^d ref.²; ^e the value is not given in the paper cited; ^f average value.

			Q(H) =	$Q(H) = a\delta(H) + b$				сс) <u>-</u>	$Q(\mathbf{C}) = a\delta(^{13}\mathbf{C}) + b$	q + (
Parameter	H(2)	H(4)	H(5)	(9)H	a, b, r	C(2)	C(3)	C(4)	C(5)	C(6)	a, b, r
					Nicotinamide	le I					
δ(ppm) ^a Qsto-3G Qeste	8-89 0-935 0-879	8·18 0-908 0-972	7-52 0-928 0-920	8·68 0·926 0·926	5.4148.10 ⁻³ 8.7921.10 ⁻¹ 0.287	80-87 5-965 6-958	62·22 6·031 6·054	69-56 6-035 6-016	57.60 6-065 6-078	85-04 5-959 5-936	-5.1773 . 10 ⁻³ 6.3764 0.990
					3-Carbamoylpyridinium IIa	linium <i>Ila</i>	_				
δ(ppm) ^a Qsto-3G Q _{calc}	9-33 0-862 0-852	9-03 0-847 0-853	8-28 0-859 0-856	9-13 0-847 0-853	- 3.3828 .10 ⁻³ 8.8400 .10 ⁻¹ 0.197	74-44 5-867 5-922	66-07 6-001 5-993	78-97 5-960 5-884	61-15 6-045 6-035	76-98 5-865 5-900	-8-5159 . 10 ⁻³ 6-5561 0-927
				I-N	1-Methyl-3-carbamoylpyridinium 11b	pyridiniur	<i>d11</i> n				
ð(ррт) Qsт0-зG Одоб	9-32 0-841 0-852	8-94 0-877 0-859	8·25 0·864 0·870	9-03 0-856 0-857	-1.6951.10 ⁻² 1.0101 0.510	78-36 5-860 5-903	67-08 6-005 6-004	77-17 5-973 5-914	61-85 6-045 6-051	80-75 5-872 5-882	
				I-M	1-Methyl-1,4-dihydronicotinamide IIIa	cotinamic	e IIIa				1 4 8
g(ppm) ^b	6.97	2.86	4.72	5-68	- 1.1935 . 10 ⁻²	138-1	96.7	20-6	101-0	127-9	— 1-4755 . 10 ⁻³
Qsto-3G Q _{cale}	0-909	0-957	0-946 0-942	0-934 0-930	9-9779.10 ⁻¹ 0-976	5-904 5-958	6-049 6-019	6-095 6-131	6-078 6-012	5-947 5-973	6·1616 0·783

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TABLE VI

Comparison of the STO-3G σ and π charge populations in compounds IIb and IIIa

Position	L	Ib	IL	la
Position	Q _σ	Qπ	Q _σ	Qπ
N(1)	0.244	-0.429	0.442	-0.728
C(2)	0.001	0.133	0.028	0.068
C(3)	-0.003	-0.005	0.078	-0.147
C(4)	-0.148	0.175	-0.089	-0.006
C(5)	-0.022	0.011	-0.009	-0.069
C(6)	0.019	0.109	0.074	-0.051
C(3')	0.224	0.065	0.168	0.107
$N(H_2)$	0.427	-0.821	0.429	0.838
0	0.007	-0.543	0.021	-0.333

charges. The values of bond populations P(CO) and $P(CNH_2)$ also agree qualitatively with experiment. The calculated P(CO) values for the structures I-IIIa are: 0.433, 0.403, 0.404, 0.497. The corresponding $P(CNH_2)$ values are: 0.385, 0.391, 0.389, 0.380. The P(CO) values of the 1,4-dihydro derivative *IIIa* is remarkably lower than those of the other compounds, which agrees with lower values of force constant of the C=O bond, with higher degree of its conjugation with the heterocyclic π system, as well as with the characteristics of the respective IR spectra²⁶. It is worth saying that analogous conclusion can be also made from the Wiberg indices calculated by CNDO//2 method².

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