net change of concentration occurring during the relaxation process in the system of (3A). By use of the conservation and

equilibrium equations, the rate law (4A) can be derived:  

$$
-\frac{d\delta}{dt} = \left[k_1\left(-\frac{\delta_{M,L}}{\delta_{ML}}\right) + k_{-1}\right]\delta
$$
(4A)

$$
-\delta_{M,L}/\delta_{ML} = [K_{\infty}(|M| + |L|) + K_{\infty}K_2|M|^2|L|]/[1 + K_{\infty}(|M| + |L|) + K_2|M|^2 + 2K_2|M||L| + K_{\infty}K_2|M|^2|L|]
$$
\n(5A)

Being under the conditions of this work,  $K_{\alpha}K_2|M|^2|L| <$  $K_{\infty}(|M| + |L|)$  and  $2K_2|M||L| + K_{\infty}K_2|M|^2|L| \leq 1 + K_{\infty}(|M|)$  $+ |L|$ ) +  $K_2|M|^2$ , eq 5A is reduced to (6A). Introduction of (6A) into (4A) and subsequent integration yield the rela  $tionship (8)$ .

where  
\n
$$
-\frac{\delta_{M,L}}{\delta_{ML}} = \frac{K_{os}(|M| + |L|)}{1 + K_{os}(|M| + |L|) + K_{2}|M|^{2}}
$$
\n(6A)

 $^{[1]L[1]}$  **Registry No.** Fe, 7439-89-6; Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub><sup>3-</sup>, 13408-62-3; Co(CN)<sub>6</sub><sup>3-</sup>, (5A) 14897-04-2; Mo(CN)<sub>6</sub><sup>4-</sup>, 17923-49-8. 14897-04-2;  $Mo(CN)_{8}^{4-}$ , 17923-49-8.

Contribution from the Department of Chemistry, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA, Scotland, and Max-Planck-Institut fur Biophysikalische Chemie, D-3400 Gottingen, West Germany

## **Complexation Kinetics of Copper(I1) with the Cryptand (2,2,1) in Dimethyl Sulfoxide**

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The complexation kinetics of the cryptand  $(2,2,1)$ , a macrobicyclic diaza polyether, with Cu<sup>2+</sup> have been measured in dimethyl sulfoxide (Me<sub>2</sub>SO) with stopped-flow methods. This system is one of a few cryptate systems where not only the rate constant of dissociation but also the rate constant of complex formation can be determined independently. The ratio of the rate constants for  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  is found to be in agreement with the stability constant measured by calorimetric titration. As a result of the strong solvation of  $Cu^{2+}$  by Me<sub>2</sub>SO, the formation rate constant is strikingly small, its value being unparalleled by those of other cryptand complexes. The thermodynamic quantities of the copper complex suggest that  $(2,2,1)$  forms with Cu<sup>2+</sup> an inclusion complex. The changes of the dissociation rate and of the stability constant with temperature have also been studied, and activation parameters have been derived from the experimental data.

### **Introduction**

The selective complexation of alkali- and alkaline-earth metal ions by polyether crown and cryptand molecules has been studied extensively,<sup> $2-5$ </sup> and kinetic aspects of such complexation processes have also received increasing interest.<sup>6-9</sup> This is partly attributable to the fact that the complexes are piexation processes have also received increasing interest.<br>
This is partly attributable to the fact that the complexes are<br>
considered as model systems for metal ion transportation in<br>
biological systems.<sup>10,11</sup> However, plexation has been studied predominantly with open-chain and macrocyclic tetraaza and higher polyaza ligands. $^{12,13}$  These

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Table I. Stability Constant (log K<sub>c</sub>) and Heat and Entropy of Complex Formation for  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  in Me, SO from Calorimetry and Activation Enthalpy and Entropy for the Cryptate Dissociation Reaction, Also at 25 $^{\circ}$ C



complexes are extraordinarily stable and can be regarded as simple models for naturally occurring structures found in proteins.<sup>14</sup> Replacement of the nitrogen-binding sites by oxygen sites decreases the stability of corresponding transition-metal ion complexes considerably.<sup>15-17</sup> Therefore, in only a few studies the complex formation of transition-metal ions with cryptands  $(2,1,1)$ ,  $(2,2,1)$ , and  $(2,2,2)$  has been determined in water and in methanol. To our knowledge the present paper reports the first kinetic study on transition-metal ion complexation with a cryptand molecule in a nonaqueous solvent. Because of serious interference by hydrolysis of transition-metal ions in aqueous cryptand solutions, we have measured the rate constants for the formation and dissociation of  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  in dimethyl sulfoxide (Me<sub>2</sub>SO).

## **Experimental Section and Results**

**(a) Materials.** Cryptand (2,2,1) was purchased from Merck and used without further purification. Its purity of 98% given by Merck

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**Figure 1.** Dependence of the rates of reaction between  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $(2,2,1)$ upon the free cryptand concentration in Me<sub>2</sub>SO at 25 °C.

has been checked by pH metric, conductometric, and NMR methods.

 $Cu(Me_2SO)_4(ClO_4)_2$  was prepared from  $Cu(ClO_4)_2.6H_2O$  (Ventron) following the procedure from van Leeuwen and Groneveld.<sup>18</sup> After being dried under vacuum over P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub> at 50 °C for 48 h, the  $copper(II)-Me<sub>2</sub>SO$  salt was dissolved in  $Me<sub>2</sub>SO$  and kept as a stock solution. The concentration of  $Cu^{2+}$  was determined by complexometric titration with EDTA. Dimethyl sulfoxide (Merck, p.a.) was dried over molecular sieves (4 **A)** for several days and then fractionally distilled under nitrogen at 3 torr. The water content was checked by Karl-Fischer titration and was found to be always less than 50 PPm.

Methanesulfonic acid (Fluka 99%) was used without further purification. NaClO<sub>4</sub> (anhydrous) was purchased from Alfa and was dried under vacuum for 48 h at 60 °C before used.

(b) Stability Constant Measurements. The stability constant for  $Cu(2,2,1)<sup>2+</sup>$  in Me<sub>2</sub>SO (eq 1) was obtained by calorimetric titration

$$
K_{\rm c} = \left[{\rm Cu}(2,2,1)^{2+}\right] / \left[{\rm Cu}^{2+}\right] \left[(2,2,1)\right] \tag{1}
$$

experiments, with a Tronac Model 450 calorimeter. In each experimental run, a cryptand solution (ca.  $7.5 \times 10^{-2}$  M) was added to a solution of copper(II) perchlorate (ca.  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  M), with an automatic burette (2.5-mL Tronac). The heat of dilution of the ligand was found to be negligible. The heats of complexation  $\Delta H_c$  and also the stability constant  $K_c$  were calculated with a procedure of Eatough et al.<sup>19</sup> The data are listed in Table I.

**(c)** Kinetic Measurements. Those reactions which were followed by optical detection were measured in an all-glass stopped-flow unit manufactured by Tecquipment. The change in absorbance was monitored with photo diodes (Optronic OS-1). When changes in conductance were used to follow the progress of a reaction, a home-built stopped flow was employed, together with facilities for automatic data collection and processing.

**Rate of Complex Formation.** Since the  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  complex has a relatively small stability constant in Me<sub>2</sub>SO, the complex is only incompletely formed at ordinary concentrations of  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $(2,2,1)$ . In the rate experiments the concentration of  $(2,2,1)$  ranged between  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  M and  $5 \times 10^{-2}$  M. When a more than 10-fold excess of (2,2,1) was mixed with the copper(I1) solution, reaction 2 reduces

$$
Cu^{2+} + (2,2,1) \frac{k_1}{k_4} Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}
$$
 (2)

to a pseudo-first-order type of reaction. The experimental rate constant is therefore a linear function of ligand concentration as shown in eq 3. The reaction was monitored at 800 nm, near the end of the

$$
k_{e} = k_{d} + k_{f}[(2,2,1)] \tag{3}
$$

wavelength range of the monochromator (Bausch and Lomb, Type 338676) used. Since the uncomplexed ligand has no absorption at this wavelength and the absorption of the cryptate is much more intense than that of solvated  $Cu^{2+}$ , with a broad maximum around 840 nm, the change in optical density during the progress of reaction was attributed entirely to the formation of  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$ 

The experimental rate constants  $k<sub>e</sub>$  are plotted in Figure 1 vs. the actual concentration  $[(2,2,1)]$  of the free cryptand and follow eq 3.

Table **11.** Rate Constants of Dissociation and Formation of  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  in Me<sub>2</sub>SO at 25<sup>°</sup>C and the Stability Constant (log *K,)* Calculated from Eq 4

$k_{\rm d}$ /s <sup>-1</sup>	$k_f/M^{-1}$ s <sup>-1</sup> log $K_s$	type of reaction
		$0.11 \pm 0.02$ 37.0 $\pm$ 0.6 2.5 $\pm$ 0.2 Cu <sup>2+</sup> + (2,2,1) $\rightarrow$
$0.08 \pm 0.02$ 40.1 <sup>a</sup>		$Cu(2,2,1)^{2+} + Na^{+} \rightarrow$
		$(50$ ppm $H, O$ )
0.07		$Cu(2,2,1)^{2+} + Na^{+} \rightarrow$
		(extrapolated to O ppm $H2O$ )
$0.08 \pm 0.02$ 40.1 <sup>4</sup>		$Cu(2,2,1) + 2CH_3SO_3H \rightarrow$

<sup>*a*</sup> Calculated,  $k_f = K_c k_d$ , with log  $K_c = 2.7$  (Table I).



**Figure 2.** Dependence of the rates of dissociation of  $Cu(2,2,1)<sup>2+</sup>$  upon  $NaClO<sub>4</sub> concentration in Me<sub>2</sub>SO.$ 



**Figure 3.** Water dependence of the rates of dissociation of  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$ in Me<sub>2</sub>SO in the reaction Cu(2,2,1)<sup>2+</sup> + Na<sup>+</sup>  $\rightarrow$  Cu<sup>2+</sup> + Na(2,2,1)<sup>+</sup>.

The rate constants of dissociation (intercept) and of formation (slope) are listed in Table **I1** together with the stability constant *K,* calculated from the rate constants (eq 4). Experimental uncertainties in  $k_e$  have

$$
K_{\rm s} = k_{\rm f}/k_{\rm d} \tag{4}
$$

a much larger effect in percentage terms on the dissociation rate constant,  $k_d$ , than the rate constant of formation,  $k_f$ , because of the small intercept in Figure 1. Therefore, only the  $k_f$  values obtained from these experiments have been accepted as reliable.

In a large number of preliminary experiments it was found that the results obtained from these measurements were very sensitive to the residual water content of the Me<sub>2</sub>SO. Only in solutions with less than 50 ppm water were the effects on  $k_d$  and  $k_f$  negligibly small.

Rates of Complex **Dissociation.** So that a more accurate value for  $k_d$  could be obtained, the dissociation rate was measured as a pseudo-first-order type of reaction by mixing  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  solutions with those containing an excess of either  $NaClO<sub>4</sub>$  or methanesulfonic acid. The observed rate constant *k* of reaction 5, was obtained from

$$
Cu(2,2,1)^{2+} + Na^{+} \xrightarrow{k} Na(2,2,1)^{2+} + Cu^{2+} \tag{5}
$$

spectrophotometric measurements at 800 nm. It was found to be independent of the  $Na<sup>+</sup>$  concentration at temperatures between 25 and 40 °C (Figure 2) and was therefore identified with the dissociation rate constant  $k_d$  for Cu(2,2,1)<sup>2+</sup>. In  $k_d$  is linearly dependent upon  $1/T$ , and the enthalpy and entropy of activation are listed in Table I. The value of  $k_d$  at 25 °C may be taken together with the stability constant determined by calorimetry to calculate the formation rate

**<sup>(18)</sup> P.** W. N. M. van Leeuwen and W. L. Groneveld, *Inorg. Nucl. Chem. Lett.,* **3, 145 (1967). (19)** D. J. Eatough, R. M. Izatt, and J. J. Christensen, *Thermochim.* Acta,

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**Figure 4.** Dependence of the rates of dissociation of  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  upon the actual concentration of undissociated methanesulfonic acid in Me<sub>2</sub>SO at 25 °C.

constant. The data in Table **I1** show a good agreement between calculated and experimental  $k_f$  values.

The system was also carefully studied to examine the effect of residual water in the solutions **on** the observed dissociation rates. It was found that the dissociation rate is strongly enhanced by increases in the amount of water up to 0.3 M. The variation of  $k_d$  with water concentration and temperature is shown in Figure 3.

The dissociation rate at 25  $^{\circ}$ C was also checked by using methanesulfonic acid as a general acid scavenger. In earlier studies<sup>9,20,21</sup> it was shown that the dissociation rate may be conveniently measured by following the conductance change when an excess of acid is added to an equilibrium cation-cryptand mixture. The observed rates for the reaction *(eq* 6) were found to be linearly dependent **upon** the free *he* conductance change when an excess of action-<br>
brium cation-cryptand mixture. The observer  $\ln$  (eq 6) were found to be linearly dependent up<br>  $\text{Cu}(2,2,1)^{2+} + 2\text{HA} \xrightarrow{k_{\text{det}}} (2,2,1)\text{H}_2^{2+} + 2\text{A}^{-1}$ 

$$
Cu(2,2,1)^{2+} + 2HA \xrightarrow{k_{d,a}} (2,2,1)H_2^{2+} + 2A^-
$$
 (6)

acid concentration (due allowance being made for the slight decrease in [HA] occurring during the reaction). Since methanesulfonic acid is only incompletely dissociated in Me<sub>2</sub>SO,  $pK = 1.56$  at 298 K,<sup>22</sup> the concentration of ions, and hence the conductance, increases when the cryptand is protonated. Metal ion concentrations used were ca.  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  M-10<sup>-2</sup> M and those of [(2,2,1)] ca.  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M-5  $\times 10^{-3}$ M. The excess of acid with respect to (2,2,1) was always more than 10-fold. Since the observed rates were found to be dependent **upon**  the total acid concentration, the experimental  $k_{\text{de}}$  values were plotted against the actual [H'] as well as against the concentration of **un**dissociated methanesulfonic acid (always corrected for the portion of doubly protonated cryptand). Only the plot of  $k_{d,e}$  vs. concentration of undissociated acid (Figure 4, *eq* **7)** shows a nice linear dependence

$$
k_{d,e} = k_d + k_{HA}[\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}] \tag{7}
$$

with an acid catalysis constant  $k_{HA}$  of 34.2 M<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. This behavior contrasts with that of the alkali-metal cryptates in Me<sub>2</sub>SO, where dissociation rates show no catalysis by protons or general acids.<sup>9</sup>

## **Discussion**

It is difficult to pressent a detailed discussion of the results for  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  at this stage because of the lack of comparative results for other systems. Thus there are no other data re**ported for copper(II) cryptates in Me<sub>2</sub>SO** or other polar aprotic solvents. This paper gives for the first time a rate constant for copper(I1) cryptate formation. Similarly, a comparison with stabilities and rate constants for other doubly charged metal ion cryptates is restricted **because** of the relatively few experimental studies published<sup>2,4,6,8,9</sup> and also because  $Mg^{2+}$ which is almost the same size as  $Cu^{2+}$ , is the least studied of the alkaline-earth cations. Therefore, only preliminary conclusion may be drawn from our results. However, **because** the formation and dissociation rates have been measured independently, it is possible to compare their quotient with the

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Table **111.** Gibbs Energies of Transfer from Water to Me,SO for Metal **Ions** and **Their** Complexes with (2,2,1)

$M^{z+}$	$\Delta G_{\text{tr}}(M^{z+}),$ $kJ$ mol <sup>-1</sup>	$\Delta G_{tr}(\text{M}(2,2,1)^{2})$ , $kJ$ mol <sup>-1</sup>
Li*	$-14.6$	$-14.0$
$Na+$	$-13.8$	$-20.3$
$C_{11}$ <sup>2+</sup>	$-41.0$	$-11.2$

experimental value of the stability constant.

Arnaud-Neu et al.<sup>23</sup> and Spiess et al.<sup>24</sup> in thorough investigations have determined, among other systems, the stabilities of  $Cu^{2+}$  complexes with several cryptands, including  $(2,2,1)$ , in water and methanol. The stability constants, *K,,* vary only between  $3.63 \times 10^7$  M<sup>-1</sup> and  $1.20 \times 10^{10}$  M<sup>-1</sup> for the various ligands. By contrast, the corresponding values for the alkaline-earth metal ion complexes in water and 95 wt % methanol/water vary over at least 10 orders of magnitude and show a pronounced maximum when the cavity diameter of the ligand and the ionic radii of the metal ions are nearly equal.3 **As** the characteristic behavior associated with the optimal fit requirement, which has been suggested to follow mainly from electrostatic interactions between the cation and the binding sites of the ligand,<sup>2</sup> is absent for the copper(II) cryptates, the interactions involved between  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  and the cryptand binding sites must be mainly nonelectrostatic in nature.

Some information on whether  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  forms an exclusive complex<sup>25</sup> because of the special type of bonding or an inclusive complex can be gained from a comparison of the solvent dependence of the stabilities of  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  with those of other cations. The Gibbs energy of transfer,  $\Delta G_{tr}$ , for Cu(2,2,1)<sup>2+</sup> from water to Me2S0 has been calculated from *eq* 8 with use  $\Delta G_{11}(M(2,2,1)^{2+}) =$ 

$$
\Delta G_{\text{tr}}(M^{2+}) + \Delta G_{\text{tr}}(2,2,1) - RT \ln \frac{K_s(Me_2SO)}{K_s(H_2O)}
$$

 $(8)$ 

of the stability constants of the cryptate in water<sup>23</sup> and in Me<sub>2</sub>SO and the Gibbs transfer energy for Cu<sup>2+</sup>.<sup>26</sup>  $\Delta G_{tr}(2,2,1)$ is known only for transfer between water and methanol, but this value,  $\Delta G_{tr} = 2.1$  kJ mol, has been previously used successfully to interpret the results for alkali-metal ion cryptates in aprotic solvents<sup>4</sup> and is also used in this work. The result for  $\Delta G_{tr}(\text{Cu}(2,2,1)^{2+})$ , together with those for Li(2,2,1)<sup>+</sup> and  $Na(2,2,1)^{+,9,27}$  are listed in Table III. Although it should be noted that the differences between Cu<sup>2+</sup> and the M<sup>+</sup> values depend on an extrathermodynamic assumption,<sup>26</sup> they are obviously larger than the differences between  $\Delta G_{\text{tr}}$  values for the cryptates, which indicates a similarity in the solvation of the cryptates. Therefore, one may propose that  $Cu^{2+}$  forms an inclusion complex with  $(2,2,1)$  since  $(2,2,1)$  forms inclusion complexes with Li<sup>+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup>, which has been proved most directly by Popov<sup>28,29</sup> from <sup>7</sup>Li and <sup>23</sup>Na NMR experiments. The low formation rate of  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  is also strongly indicative of an inclusion complex.

The dissociation rate of  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$ , with  $k_d = 0.08$  s<sup>-1</sup>, is not particularly unusual. Thus  $k_d$  for Ca(2,2,1)<sup>2+</sup> in dimethylformamide is a factor of 100 smaller, and  $k_d$  of Na-

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 $(2,2,1)^+$  in Me<sub>2</sub>SO is a factor of 10 larger than that of Cu- $(2,2,1)^{2+}$ . However, the formation rate of Cu(2,2,1)<sup>2+</sup> is much lower than that of either of the two aforementioned cryptates:  $k_f$  of Cu(2,2,1)<sup>2+</sup> is 100 times smaller than  $k_f$  of the corresponding Ca<sup>2+</sup> cryptate in DMF and  $2 \times 10^5$  times below  $k_f$ of  $Na(2,2,1)^+$  in Me<sub>2</sub>SO. This is due to the very strong solvation of  $Cu^{2+}$  by  $\mathbf{M}_{2}SO^{26}$  The low value of the formation rate constant of  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  is more similar to  $k_f$  values for the formation of  $Na^{2+}$  complexes with tetraaza ligands,<sup>12</sup> that also form extremely stable  $Cu^{2+}$  complexes, than to corresponding values for  $N_2O_2$ -type ligands, where no axial arrangement of nitrogen atoms is present. The rates of formation of  $Cu^{2+}$  complexes with these latter ligands have been studied by Adam et al.,<sup>15</sup> and  $k_f$  is always >10<sup>5</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> in 95 wt % methanol/water. It is probably premature to explain the small formation rate constant for  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  in Me<sub>2</sub>SO as a result of Jahn-Teller distortions being effective in one or more of the several intermediate steps in cryptate formation, when solvent molecules in the ionic solvation shell have to be replaced

continuously by binding groups in the cryptand.

The dissociation rate constant of  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  is strongly dependent upon the water content of the solvent (Figure 3). The dependence upon water concentration is nonlinear, and it is difficult to propose a simple explanation for this behavior. It is possible that an interaction between the water protons and the donor atoms of the ligand is involved.

The activation enthalpies and entropies of dissociation and of formation of  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  can only be compared with the corresponding quantities for alkaline-earth metal ion cryptates in water<sup>6</sup> because of lack of further data. From such a comparison it may be seen that only the activation entropy of formation of  $Cu(2,2,1)^{2+}$  ( $\Delta S_f^* = -107$  J K<sup>-1</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup>) is outside the range found for alkaline-earth cryptates. The most negative  $\Delta S_f^*$  of these is that of Ca(2,2,2)<sup>2+</sup>, which is only half as large as that for the copper(I1) complex.

Registry No. (2,2,1), 31364-42-8; Cu, 7440-50-8; Cu(2,2,1)<sup>2+</sup>, 80890-31-9.

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# **Reactions in Detergentless Microemulsions: Incorporation of Copper(I1) into**  *meso* **-Tetraphenylporphine** ( **(TPP)H2) in a Water/Oil Microemulsion**

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The rate of incorporation of Cu(I1) into tetraphenylporphine has been followed in ternary solvent systems consisting of water, toluene, and 2-propanol. Studies carried out in microemulsions at pH 3 show that when the surfactants hexadecyltrimethyiammonium perchlorate and hexadecylpyridinium perchlorate are added, little or no change in rate from that observed in detergent-free systems occurs. When the surfactant anion is C1- or **Br-,** there is a marked increase in rate  $(CIO<sub>4</sub> < Cl<sup>-</sup> < SU<sub>1</sub> < SU<sub>2</sub>$ . Addition of the anionic surfactant sodium hexadecyl sulfate and the nonionic Alfonic 1412-60 has little effect on the rate of reaction. A study of the rate of metalation as a function of solvent composition shows an increase in rate in the small-aggregate and normal ternary solution regions.

#### **Introduction**

Microemulsions are a unique class of quaternary solutions prepared from water, hydrocarbon, surfactant, and cosurfactant (usually a short-chain alcohol).<sup>2</sup> They are clear, thermodynamically stable solutions consisting of small droplets of one phase dispersed throughout a second phase. The diameter of these droplets may range from 50 to approximately 1000 **A.** The core of the dispersed droplet, which possesses bulk-solvent character, is surrounded by an interphase, which consists of the surfactant and cosurfactant.<sup>3</sup> If the dispersed phase is water and the continuous phase is the hydrocarbon (i.e., a W/O microemulsion), a layer of water molecules at the interphase will be hydrogen bonded to the polar head groups of the surfactant and molecules of the continuous external phase will be found between the hydrophobic tails of the surfactant molecules.<sup>4</sup>

Because of their unique structure, microemulsions exhibit unusual solvation properties. They possess the ability to dissolve a wide variety of water-insoluble organic reagents and water-soluble inorganic salts.<sup>2</sup> As a consequence, they have great potential for utilization in chemical reactions that presently require expensive polar solvents (e.g.  $DMF, Me<sub>2</sub>SO$ ), phase-transfer catalysts, or formation of micelles.<sup>5-8</sup>

There is a group of ternary solutions that has aiso been labeled microemulsions. These systems are prepared from water, hydrocarbon, and 2-propanol but do not require the addition of a "classical" surfactant in order to bring about a stable dispersion.<sup>9</sup> Ultracentrifugation data, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy, and light-scattering measurements have tended to support the designation of these ternary solutions as microemulsions. $9-11$  In addition, an investigation of the base hydrolysis of a variety of alkyl esters<sup>12</sup> has provided additional supportive data as have preliminary investigations on the rate of metalation of *meso*-tetraphenylporphine.<sup>13</sup>

Detergentless microemulsions possess tremendous potential importance as media for chemical reactions. As with the surfactant-containing systems they have the ability to dissolve both hydrophobic and hydrophilic reagents, possess enormous interphase area, can be prepared from inexpensive solvents, and in contrast to the surfactant-containing systems, require no long-chain amphiphile, which is difficult to remove in the

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