Vaporization Study of $\alpha$-Bromonaphthalene

Maria Urbanl, Rosario Gigli, and Vincenzo Placente*<br>Instituto di Chimica Fisica, Università di Roma, Rome, Italy


#### Abstract

Using two different molecular effusion techniques, we measured the vapor pressure of liquid $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene in the temperature range 295-359 K. The pressure equation $\log P(\mathrm{kPa})=(6.9 \pm 1.1)-(2950$ $\pm 300) / T$ and the vaporization enthalpy $\Delta H^{\circ}{ }_{329}=56 \pm 6$ $\mathrm{kJ} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ were derived. Thermodynamic functions as free energy function, heat content, and entropy for gaseous and liquid phases were also evaluated.


## Introduction

A large amount of experimental and theoretical work on the physical properties of $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene is reported in literature. ${ }^{1}$ Unfortunately, its vapor pressure is not well-known. The only data reported in literature are high-pressure data in the range $150-800 \mathrm{mmHg}$ determined by comparative ebulliometry ${ }^{2}$ and some other data that are very old and unreliable. ${ }^{3,4}$

As part of our program for the study of the vaporization of pure organic substances, vapor pressure values of $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene were determined by using two different techniques based on molecular effusion.

## Experimental Procedure and Results

The $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene employed was supplied by KochLight ( $99.9 \%$ pure). The sample purity was tested by density measurements at $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, d^{20}=1.483 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~cm}^{-3}\left(1.482 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~cm}^{-35}\right)$. The vaporization study of this compound was investigated by using the torsion-effusion and Knudsen-effusion technique.

The loading of the cells with the sample was always made in a drybox to avoid interaction with the atmosphere.

## A. Torsion Effusion Technique

The equilibrium vapor pressure over $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene was determined essentially by the torsion method. This technique and the experimental assembly have been described previously. ${ }^{6,7}$ At each temperature, from the measurments of the torsion angle $\alpha$ of the effusion cell, the vapor pressure value was derived by using the well-known relation

$$
\begin{equation*}
p(\mathrm{kPa})=2 K \alpha /\left(a_{1} l_{1} f_{1}+a_{2} l_{2} f_{2}\right)=K^{\circ} \alpha \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\alpha$ is the cell deflection, $a_{1}, a_{2}$ and $I_{1}, I_{2}$ are the areas of the effusion orifices and their distances from the rotation axis, respectively, $f_{1}$ and $f_{2}$ are the Freeman and Searcy correction factors ${ }^{8}$ for the orifice geometry, and $K$ is the torsion constant of the suspension tungsten wire. In this study a particular cell (see Figure 1) with a geometrical constant $K^{\circ}=(5.94 \pm 0.25)$ $\times 10^{-5} \mathrm{kPa} \mathrm{deg}{ }^{-1}$ was employed. The temperatures were measured with a calibrated chromel-alumel thermocouple inserted in a second empty cell placed below the torsion cell. In order to test the temperature measurements and to test that thermodynamic equilibrium existed within the used cell, we measured the vapor pressure of sulfur. The corresponding heat of sublimation, $\Delta H^{\circ}{ }_{298}$, derived by second- and third-law treatments of the data are in agreement with each other and with the values selected by Hultgren, ${ }^{9}$ and this result has been considered proof that equilibrium conditions were obtained.
The vaporization of $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene was studied in three runs over the temperature range $298-359 \mathrm{~K}$. The results are

Table I. Vapor Pressures of $\alpha$-Bromonaphthalene Measured by the Torsion Effusion Method

| run | $T, \mathrm{~K}$ | $P, \mathrm{kPa}$ | run | $T, \mathrm{~K}$ | $P, \mathrm{kPa}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A.01 | 298 | $7.13 \times 10^{-4}$ | A.02 | 323 | $8.33 \times 10^{-3}$ |
|  | 301 | $9.50 \times 10^{-4}$ |  | 326 | $8.54 \times 10^{-3}$ |
|  | 303 | $1.37 \times 10^{-3}$ |  | 328 | $1.04 \times 10^{-2}$ |
|  | 306 | $1.31 \times 10^{-3}$ |  | 331 | $1.25 \times 10^{-2}$ |
|  | 307 | $1.43 \times 10^{-3}$ |  | 331 | $1.17 \times 10^{-2}$ |
|  | 313 | $2.85 \times 10^{-3}$ |  | 340 | $1.73 \times 10^{-2}$ |
|  | 315 | $3.05 \times 10^{-3}$ |  |  |  |
|  | 318 | $3.62 \times 10^{-3}$ | A.04 | 299 | $1.07 \times 10^{-3}$ |
|  | 319 | $3.62 \times 10^{-3}$ |  | 307 | $1.72 \times 10^{-3}$ |
|  | 320 | $4.16 \times 10^{-3}$ |  | 309 | $2.32 \times 10^{-3}$ |
|  | 321 | $4.51 \times 10^{-3}$ |  | 311 | $2.61 \times 10^{-3}$ |
|  | 322 | $4.75 \times 10^{-3}$ |  | 316 | $3.86 \times 10^{-3}$ |
|  | 323 | $4.99 \times 10^{-3}$ |  | 323 | $6.18 \times 10^{-3}$ |
|  | 325 | $5.82 \times 10^{-3}$ |  | 324 | $6.21 \times 10^{-3}$ |
|  | 331 | $7.78 \times 10^{-3}$ |  | 328 | $7.00 \times 10^{-3}$ |
|  | 334 | $8.94 \times 10^{-3}$ |  | 333 | $8.58 \times 10^{-3}$ |
|  | 339 | $1.28 \times 10^{-2}$ |  | 336 | $1.03 \times 10^{-2}$ |
|  | 347 | $2.02 \times 10^{-2}$ |  | 341 | $1.29 \times 10^{-2}$ |
|  | 350 | $2.43 \times 10^{-2}$ |  | 343 | $1.75 \times 10^{-2}$ |
|  | 359 | $4.20 \times 10^{-2}$ |  | 355 | $3.87 \times 10^{-2}$ |

reported in Table I and fitted in Figure 2. Because of the high vapor pressure of $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene at room temperature, at the end of each run the sample was completely vaporized and the zero torsion angle was measured when the cell was empty. Consequently, the measured $\alpha$ values were appropriately corrected. The least-squares line through the vapor pressure points taken over the experimental temperature range covered is given by the equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
\log p(\mathrm{kPa})=(6.96 \pm 0.18)-(2980 \pm 57) / T \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the errors are the standard deviations.

## B. Knudsen Effusion Technique

A set of vapor pressure data in equilibrium with $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene was determined by the Knudsen method. ${ }^{10}$ The assembly used is reported in Figure 3. The temperatures of the cell were measured by a calibrated chromel-alumel thermocouple placed inside the thermostated copper block and in contact with the effusion cell. The assembly was heated by an oil bath.
The vapor pressures were evaluated by the mass loss of the sample by employing the relation

$$
\begin{equation*}
p(\mathrm{kPa})=2.29(m / \Delta t)(T / M)^{1 / 2} / S K^{\prime} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $m$ is the mass of the sample effused in time $\Delta t$ at temperature $T$ through the effusion hole of area $S, M$ is the molar mass of the gas, and $K^{\prime}$ is the Clausing factor. ${ }^{11}$ In each determination the vaporization time was evaluated by opening and closing the effusion hole with a movable pin (see Figure 3). The mass loss of the sample was determined by weighing the cell before and after each experiment. Here again, the test runs using pure substances performed with the different cells employed yielded vapor pressure values in good agreement with those selected in literature. ${ }^{9}$

In Table II and in Figure 2 are reported the vapor pressures of $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene calculated by assuming that monomeric $\mathrm{BrC}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{7}$ is the only gaseous species in analogy with $\alpha$-chloro-


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of the torsion effusion cell.


Figure 2. Experimental values of the vapor pressure of $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene: torsion effusion technique (O, run A.01; $\mathbb{E}$, run A.02; run A.04); Knudsen effusion technique ( $\Delta$ ).

Table II. Vapor Pressure of the $\alpha$-Bromonaphthalene Measured by Different Knudsen Effusion Cells

|  | area of effu- <br> cion hole, cm | $T, \mathrm{~K}$ | no. of <br> points | $P, \mathrm{kPa}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| B. 02 | $3.88 \times 10^{-2}$ | 315 | 4 | $4.95 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| B. 05 | $5.71 \times 10^{-2}$ | 322 | 4 | $9.26 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| B. 07 | $1.54 \times 10^{-2}$ | 323 | 1 | $8.97 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| B. 04 | $2.80 \times 10^{-2}$ | 327 | 4 | $1.16 \times 10^{-2}$ |
| B. 02 | $3.88 \times 10^{-2}$ | 333 | 1 | $1.61 \times 10^{-2}$ |
| B. 03 | $7.85 \times 10^{-3}$ | 338 | 2 | $1.84 \times 10^{-2}$ |
| B. 03 | $7.85 \times 10^{-3}$ | 343 | 2 | $2.83 \times 10^{-2}$ |

naphthalene. ${ }^{12}$ The least-squares treatment of the data gave the following pressure-temperature equation:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\log p(\mathrm{kPa})=(6.33 \pm 0.33)-(2710 \pm 110) / T \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the errors are the standard deviations. Of course, because of the relatively smail temperature interval and the scarce experimental points, the overall errors could well be larger than those reported.


Figure 3. Knudsen effusion assembly.


Figure 4. Vapor pressure of $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene: 1, Hon et al. ${ }^{2}$; 2, Stull ${ }^{4}$; 3, Jordan ${ }^{3}$; 4, this work.

## Conclusion

Considering the results obtained by the torsion and Knudsen effusion methods, we propose the following vapor pressure equation for $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\log p(\mathrm{kPa})=(6.9 \pm 1.1)-(2950 \pm 300) / T \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the slope and intercept were evaluated by weighing the corresponding values obtained in each experiment. The associated errors were estimated by taking into account the errors in temperature measurements and in the calibration factors. In Figure 4 are reported vapor pressure-temperature dependence

Table III. Comparison of Vapor Pressure Equations and Vaporization Enthalpies of $\alpha$-Bromonaphthalene

| temp ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | no. of points | $\log p(\mathrm{kPa})=A-B / T$ |  | $\Delta H^{\circ}{ }_{T}, \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ | method | ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | A | $10^{-3} B$ |  |  |  |
| 80-290 | 22 | 7.40 | 3.88 | 74.2 | selected data | 3 |
| 84.2-281.1 | 10 | 7.40 | 2.96 | 56.6 | selected data | 4 |
| 196.27-285.93 | 14 | 6.10 | 2.23 | 42.6 | ebulliometry | 2 |
| 25-90 | 39 | $6.9 \pm 1.1$ | $2.95 \pm 0.30$ | $56 \pm 6$ | torsion effus | this work |
| 42-70 | 7 |  |  |  | Knudsen effus | this work |

Table IV. Thermodynamic Functions of $\alpha$-Bromonaphthalene

| $T, \mathrm{~K}$ | liquid ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |  | gas |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} H^{\circ} T-H^{\circ} 298 \\ \mathrm{KJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} S^{\circ} T, \\ \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~K}^{-1} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -\left(G^{\circ} T-H^{\circ}{ }_{2 \Omega \alpha}\right) / T \\ {\mathrm{~J} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~K}^{\circ-1}}^{-1} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} H_{T}^{\circ}-H^{\circ}{ }_{298} \\ \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} S^{\odot} T \\ \mathrm{~J} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~K}^{-1} \end{gathered}$ |  |
| 298 |  | 283 | 283 |  | 376 | 376 |
| 300 | 0.3 | 284 | 283 | 0.3 | 377 | 376 |
| 320 | 3.9 | 294 | 283 | 3.4 | 387 | 376 |
| 340 | 7.7 | 304 | 284 | 6.8 | 397 | 377 |
| 360 | 11.7 | 314 | 285 | 10.3 | 407 | 379 |
| 380 | 15.9 | 324 | 287 | 14.0 | 417 | 380 |
| 400 | 20.4 | 334 | 289 | 17.8 | 427 | 383 |

$a$ Values derived from the thermodynamic data of the gas phase (see text).
Table V. Vibrational Frequencies ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) of $\alpha$-Bromonaphthalene

| in gas ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | in liquid ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | assignt ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | in gas ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | in liquid ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | assignt ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | in gas ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | in liquid ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | assignt $^{c}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 3103 | 3080 | C-H | 1362 | 1370 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ | 733 | 651 | ring def op |
| 3091 | 3059 | C-H | 1344 | 1339 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend ip | 700 | 731 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend op |
| 3066 | 3038 | C-H | 1260 | 1251 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend ip | 633 | 613 | ring def ip |
| 3060 | 3020 | C-H | 1207 | 1200 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend ip | 609 | 618 | ring def ip |
| 3020 | 3010 | C-H | 1158 | 1160 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend ip | 558 | 582 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{Br}$ |
| 3005 | 2990 | C-H | 1143 | 1140 | C-H bend op | 533 | 562 | ring def ip |
| 2951 | 2948 | C-H | 1130 | 1134 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend op | 520 | 531 | ring def ip |
| 1705 | 1682 | C-C | 1021 | 1022 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend op | 514 | 512 | ring def ip |
| 1622 | 1623 | C-C | 1062 | 1058 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend op | 473 | 471 | ring def op |
| 1582 | 1590 | C-C | 950 | 958 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend ip | 390 | 383 | ring def op |
| 1552 | 1560 | C-C | 942 | 949 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend ip | 344 | 320 | ring def ip |
| 1497 | 1500 | C-C | 913 | 899 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend op | 302 | 299 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{Br}$ bend ip |
| 1467 | 1455 | C-C | 855 | 857 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend op | 242 | 237 | ring def op |
| 1455 | 1454 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ | 819 | 790 | ring def op | 228 | 225 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{Br}$ bend op |
| 1432 | 1432 | ring def ip | 750 | 765 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bend op | 185 | 175 | ring def op |
| 1370 | 1376 | $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ | 745 | 742 | breathing | 135 | 125 | ring def op |

${ }^{a}$ Argon ( $99.998 \%$ purity) was employed as matrix gas. ${ }^{b}$ From Sharma et al. ${ }^{15}{ }^{c}$ Legend: def, deformation; ip in-plane vibration; op, out-of-plane vibration. In-plane and out-of-plane normal modes are $\mathrm{A}^{\prime}$ and $\mathrm{A}^{\prime \prime}$ vibrations, respectively, in the $C_{s}$ group.
measured here and those reported by previous authors. ${ }^{2-4}$ From the slope of eq 5 , a second-law vaporization enthalpy $\Delta H^{\circ}{ }_{329}$ $=56 \pm 6 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ was derived. In Table III are shown for comparison vapor pressure equations and enthalpies of vaporization along with similar values calculated from the data of previous investigations.

Considering that the mean experimental temperature, $T=$ 329 K , is very close to $298 \mathrm{~K}, \Delta H^{\circ} \simeq \Delta H^{\circ}{ }_{298}$ was assumed and the free energy function, $-\left[\left(G^{\circ}{ }_{T}-H^{\circ}{ }_{298}\right) / T\right]$, for the liquid phase was derived by using the equation

$$
\begin{align*}
& {\left[\left(G^{\circ}-H_{298}^{\circ}\right) / T\right]_{I}=R \ln p+\Delta H^{\circ}{ }_{298} / T+} \\
& \quad\left[\left(G^{\circ}{ }_{T}-H^{\circ}{ }_{298}\right) / T\right]_{g} \tag{6}
\end{align*}
$$

The values so obtained are reported in Table IV. The free energy functions of $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene in the ideal gas state were calculated by the statistical mechanic formulas by neglecting the electronic contribution and considering a planar configuration ( $C_{s}$ group and $\sigma=1$ ) as hypothesized for $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene by Chanh. ${ }^{13}$ The bond lengths and the angles employed were those of $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene. The necessary vibrational frequency values were experimentally determined by an infrared matrix isolation technique with a procedure similar to that described elsewhere. ${ }^{14}$

It is interesting to note that the found values agree with those derived by Sharma ${ }^{15}$ in the liquid phase. They are reported in Table V.

In Table III are also reported the heat content functions for the liquid phase derived by a least-squares treatment of the free energy function according to the equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{d}\left[\left(G^{\circ}{ }_{T}-H^{\circ}{ }_{298}\right) / T\right] / \mathrm{d} T=-\left(H^{\circ}{ }_{T}-H^{\circ}{ }_{298}\right) / T^{2} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

and the absolute entropy values derived from the direct use of the Gibbs-Helmholtz equation. A value of $S^{\circ}{ }_{298}=282 \pm 21$ $\mathrm{J} \mathrm{mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~K}^{-1}$ for the liquid $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene can be derived from the slope of the equation $R \ln P=\Delta S^{\circ}{ }_{298}-\Delta H^{\circ}{ }_{298} / T$
by considering the term $i=\iint_{298}{ }^{\top}(\Delta C p / T) \mathrm{d} T-\left(\int_{298}{ }^{\top} \Delta C p \mathrm{~d} T\right) / T$ $\ll R$ In $P$ and $S^{\circ}{ }_{298}(\mathrm{~g})=376 \mathrm{~J} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~K}^{-1}$. The value is essentially identical with that found with the previous procedure $\left(S^{\circ}{ }_{298}=283 \mathrm{~J} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~K}^{-1}\right)$.

Furthermore, from the present vapor pressures and the well-known boiling point of $\alpha$-bromonaphthalene, ${ }^{3,4}$ the constants $A$ and $C$ of the Antoine equation, $\log p(\mathrm{kPa})=A-B /(t+C)$ ( $t$ is the temperature in Celsius), were calculated. These values were determined according to a procedure suggested by Thomson ${ }^{16}$ from the equation (8) obtained by least-squares

$$
\begin{equation*}
\log p(\mathrm{kPa})=A-\left[\left(t_{0}+C\right)\left(\log p-\log p_{0}\right)\right] /\left(t-t_{0}\right) \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

treatment of the data, where $t_{0}$ and $p_{0}$ represent the temperature and the pressure at the boiling point $\left(281^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 101.3 \mathrm{kPa}\right)$ and $p$ is the pressure determined at the experimental temperature $t\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$. From the $A$ and $C$ values, the average of $B$ was derived, so that the Antoine constants $A=7.02 \pm 0.36, B=$ $2523 \pm 80$, and $C=222 \pm 20$ were evaluated. These values are higher than those reported by Hon et al. ${ }^{2}$ ( $A=5.38175$, $B=929.64, C=91.06$ ) determined in the temperature range 196.27-285.93 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. However, in the present case having considered the boiling point temperature and the experimental vapor pressures measured in the temperature range $25-86^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, the temperature range utilized for deriving the Antoine constant results is larger and therefore their values should be more reliable.

## Acknowledgment

Thanks are due to Dr. L. Bencivenni for the infrared analysis of the sample and Dr. D. Ferro for the assistance in the torsion measurements.

## Literature Cited

(1) See for example: Jain, S. R.; Walker, S. J. Phys. Chem. 1971, 75, 2942. Shvedova, N. D.; Kats, S. M.; Grigorieva, N. A.; Sverdlov, L. M.

Opt. Spectrosk. 1971, 31, 385. Kox, B. W.; Keenan, M. A.; Topsom, R. D.; Wright, G. H. Spectrochim. Acta 1985, 21, 1663.
(2) Hon, H. C.; Singh, R. K.; Kudchadker, A. P. J. Chem. Eng. Data 1976, 21, 430.
(3) Jordan, T. E. "Vapor Pressure of Organic Compounds"; Interscience: New York, 1954.
(4) Stull, D. R. Ind. Eng. Chem. 1947, 39, 517.
(5) Denbigh, K. "The Principles of Chemical Equilibrium"; Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, England, 1964
(6) Freeman, R. D. In "The Characterization of High Temperature Vapour"; Margrave, J. L., Ed.; Wiley: New York, 1967.
(7) Placente, V.; De Maria, G. Ric. Sci. 1969, 39, 549.
(8) Freeman, R. D.; Searcy, A. W. J. Chem. Phys. 1954, 22, 762.
(9) Hultgren, R.; Orr, R. L.; Kelley, K. K. "Supplement to Selected Values of Thermodynamic Properties of Metals and Alloys", Department of

Mineral Technology, University of California, Berkley, CA, 1967.
(10) Knudsen, M. Ann. Phys. 1909, 28, 75.
(11) Dushman, S. "Scientific Foundation of Vacuum Technique"; Wiley: New York, 1958.
(12) Shuzo, O. "Computer Aided Data Book of Vapour Pressure"; Data Book Publishing Co.: Tokyo, Japan, 1976.
(13) Chanh, Par N. B.; Haget, Y.; Leroy, F.; Hannoteaux, F. Acta Crystallogr., Sect. B 1973, 29, 1469.
(14) Bencivenni, L.; D'Alessio, L.; Nunzlante Cesaro, S.; Maltese, M.; Spoliti, M. High Tomp. Sci., in press.
(15) Sharma, O. P.; Singh, R. D. Indian J. Pure Appl. Phys. 1972, 10. 885.
(16) Thomson, G. W. Chem. Rev. 1946, 39, 1.

# Vapor Pressures, Refractive Index at $20.0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and Vapor-Liquid Equilibrium at 101.325 kPa in the Methyl tert-Butyl Ether-Methanol System 

Karel Alm* and Mauro Ciprian ${ }^{\dagger}$<br>Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, 16502 Prague 6, Czechoslovakia


#### Abstract

The vapor pressures of methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) at roughly $3-55{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and of methanol ( MeOH ) at roughly $26-65{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ were determined by comparative ebulliometry, the refractive index over the entire composition range of the MTBE-MeOH system was measured at $20.0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ by dipping refractometry, and the isobaric vapor-liquid equillbrium in the system at 101.325 kPa was determined by dynamic method using a recirculation still. The estimated uncertainties in the measured temperature, pressure, refractive index, and compositions of the equilibrium phases are respectively $\pm 0.005{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, \pm 0.02 \%$, $\pm 0.00003$ refractive index units, and $\pm 0.0005$ to $\pm 0.005$ in mole fraction. The vapor-liquid equilibrium data were fitted to the Wilson equation. At 101.325 kPa , the MTBE-MeOH system exhibits a minimum-bolling azeotrope of composition $68.5 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ( $85.7 \mathrm{wt} \%$ ) MTBE at 51.27 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


## Introduction

MTBE, well-known for its excellent antiknock quality, has been extensively tested as an octane booster for lead-free or lowleaded gasoline, and the use of pure $\operatorname{MTBE}(1,2)$ and of its mixtures with $\mathrm{C}_{4}$ alcohols ( 3 ) for high-octane gasoline blending was recommended. Recently the use of MTBE as a gasoline component at concentrations of $7 \%$ or less by volume was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (4). Produced by catalytic reaction of methanol with isobutylene, MTBE appears as a welcome outlet for isobutylene formed in $\mathrm{C}_{4}$ streams of ethylene production plants as well as for the conventional refinery $\mathrm{C}_{4}$ streams. It is also increasingly valued as a means of making pure isobutylene.

Although most of the processes of the abruptly growing MTBE production involve distiliation at atmospheric pressure as a final stage, a search of the available literature failed to reveal reliable data on vapor-liquid equilibrium in the MTBE-MeOH system. For this system we report here the isobaric vapor-liquid equilibrium data at 101.325 kPa along with refractive indices at $20.0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ useful for analysis. Vapor pressures of pure components were determined ebulliometrically over the approximate pressure range $15-100 \mathrm{kPa}$ for comparison with the most accurate recent
results for methanol obtained by Gibbard and Creek (5) using a static technique and with the data of Ambrose et al. (6) for MTBE.

## Experimental Sectlon

Materials. MTBE from two sources was used for the study. The first batch was the product of Chemische-Werke Hüls, FRG, with an indicated purity of at least $98 \%$, and the second batch was synthesized in our laboratory from methanol and tert-butyl alcohol (both A.R. grade) in diluted sulfuric acid at ca. $52^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ by a procedure analogous to that described in literature $(7,8)$ for the preparation of ethyl tert-butyl ether. In both cases, the MTBE product was repeatedly washed with water, shaken with the saturated potassium permanganate aqueous solution containing ca. $120 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{L}$ potassium hydroxide (until the aqueous layer remained green), washed with water again, and twice rectified on a 60 -plate bubble-cup column at $20: 1$ reflux ratio. The 40 and $60 \%$ heart-cut was taken at the first and second distillation stage, respectively. The MTBE was then dried by staying in contact with freshly cut metal sodium for several days and finally being distilled from sodium on a column ( 30 mm i.d., 65 cm length) packed with Pyrex-glass helices ( 3 mm diameter) at a reflux ratio of $7: 1$. The middle $50 \%$ fraction was used for the experiments.
A.R. grade methanol (Lachema, Brno, Czechoslovakia) was twice rectified in a 60-plate bubble-cup column at 20:1 reflux ratio, the middle $50 \%$ distillate portion being retained in both stages. It was then dried by the procedure of Lund and Bjerrum (9) which, briefly, involved a separate conversion of a portion (corresponding stoichiometrically to 5 g of magnesium/L) of the methanol batch to magnesium methoxide and refluxing the methanol with dissolved methoxide for 3 h . With the exclusion of moisture from the system, methanol was then given the final distillation in the packed column under the same conditions as described for MTBE.

The water used for pycnometric calibrations, refractometric adjustments, and indirect pressure determinations by means of the water boiling point was a sample redistilled on addition of potassium permanganate in a quartz apparatus and deareated by bolling off one-third of its volume.

No impurities in the MTBE and methanol employed for experiments were detected by gas chromatographic analysis. Karl

