

Time-dependent density functional theory study of the excited-state dihydrogen bonding: clusters of 2-pyridone with diethylmethylsilane and triethylgermanium

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Abstract Density functional theory (DFT) was carried out to identify the existence of intermolecular dihydrogen bonds of the 2-pyridone (2PY)-diethylmethylsilane (DEMS) and 2PY-triethylgermanium (TEGH) clusters in the ground state. The H···H distances of both clusters are shorter than the sum of their van der Waals radii. Thus, intermolecular dihydrogen bonds N–H···H–Si and N–H···H–Ge exist in the 2PY-DEMS and 2PY-TEGH clusters, respectively. Based on the ground-state conformations, intermolecular dihydrogen bonds N–H···H–Si and N–H···H–Ge in the electronically excited state of the 2PY-DEMS and 2PY-TEGH clusters were also investigated using time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT). Electronic transition of the 2PY-DEMS cluster resembles that of the 2PY-TEGH cluster. Their S₁ state is a locally excited (LE) state centered on 2PY moiety. The H···H distances of the 2PY-DEMS and 2PY-TEGH clusters both stretch in the S₁ state compared to those in the ground state. Upon electronic excitation, intermolecular dihydrogen bonding N–H···H–Si and N–H···H–Ge can weaken with decreasing dihydrogen bonding energies.

Keywords Density functional theory · Dihydrogen bond · Electronically excited state · Locally excited state · Time-dependent density functional theory

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Abbreviations

DFT	Density functional theory
TDDFT	Time-dependent density functional theory
2PY	2-pyridone
TEGH	Triethylgermanium
DEMS	Diethylmethylsilane
LE	Locally excited state
CSD	Cambridge Structure Database
BTMA	Borane-trimethylamine
B3LYP	Becke's three-parameter hybrid exchange functional with Lee-Yang-Parr gradient corrected correlation functional
TZVP	Triple zeta valence plus polarization functions
HOMO	Highest occupied molecular orbital
LUMO	Lowest unoccupied molecular orbital
Mos	Molecular orbitals
IR	Infrared spectrum

Introduction

Dihydrogen bond, a novel type of hydrogen bond, can be usually represented as X – H^{δ-}...^{δ+}H – Y [1–8]. The electrostatic attraction between the oppositely charged hydrogen atoms promotes the formation of dihydrogen bond [4–13]. It has caught wide attention with its comparative strength and directionality to conventional hydrogen bond [5, 7–32]. Dihydrogen bond has been characterized by various spectroscopic and crystallographic studies. Experimental investigations have demonstrated that dihydrogen bond has potential applications in catalysis, crystal engineering and materials chemistry [5]. Dihydrogen bond has been a well-established system containing main group and transitional elements in gas and condensed phase.

In the middle of the 1990s, electrostatic interaction $H^{\delta-}\dots\delta^+H$ was identified mostly in transition-metal compounds [14–19]. Raston et al. observed an intramolecular interaction N–H \cdots H–Al in the alane-piperidine adduct using X-ray crystallography in 1994 [20]. Crabtree et al. clarified the term “dihydrogen bonds” for the first time by examining the Cambridge Structure Database (CSD) to find the N–H \cdots H–B interaction among boron-nitrogen compounds in 1995 [21]. Campbell et al. reported the intermolecular dihydrogen bond N–H \cdots H–Ga involving gallium by means of Gladfelter’s neutron diffraction crystal structure of cyclotrigallazane [22]. Proton transfer is thought to proceed with the dihydrogen bonding from the protic donor to metal hybrid [23–27]. Moreover, dehydrogenation reaction from a dihydrogen-bonded cluster has been investigated theoretically and experimentally [28–30]. Ishikawa et al. identified dihydrogen bond containing silicon by IR-UV double-resonance spectroscopy in 2005 [31]. Recently, Singh and co-workers reported the formation of intermolecular dihydrogen bond O–H \cdots H–Ge of dihydrogen-bonded Phenol-Triethylgermanium (TEGH) cluster in the gas phase [32].

Up to now, tremendous spectroscopic and theoretical investigations are focused on the nature of dihydrogen bond in the ground state. Nevertheless, dihydrogen bond in the electronically excited state is scarcely studied due to the extremely short timescales involved. It is difficult to measure the excited-state hydrogen and dihydrogen bonding by time-resolved techniques. Theoretical calculations on the electronically excited states of the hydrogen- and dihydrogen-bonded clusters afford to enrich the knowledge [33–48]. Zhao and Han have contributed significantly to the study of excited-state hydrogen bonding in the world. Based on the research of excited-state hydrogen bonding, they reported the theoretical structure and dynamics of dihydrogen bonding in the electronically excited state between phenol and borane-trimethylamine (BTMA) for the first time [42]. In the S₁ state, the dihydrogen-bonded phenol–BTMA cluster shows no hydroxyl or B–H stretching vibrational mode in the calculated infrared (IR) spectrum in the benchmark work [42]. We have theoretically investigated the intermolecular dihydrogen bonding in the electronically excited state of the phenol–diethylmethylsilane (DEMS) [43], phenol–H₂O–DEMS [44] and phenol–TEGH [45] clusters. These intermolecular dihydrogen bondings involving hydroxyl protic donor all get strengthened upon electronic excitation. Then, we theoretically studied the excited-state 2-pyridone (2PY)–BTMA cluster which contains intermolecular hydrogen and dihydrogen bonding on the basis of experimental research in the ground state [46]. The N–H stretching vibrational mode of the 2PY–BTMA cluster is blueshifted upon electronic excitation. Additionally, carbonyl

character of the 2PY moiety disappears in the excited-state IR spectrum. These were attributed to the weakening of the dihydrogen bonding N–H \cdots H–B and hydrogen bonding C–O \cdots H–C. Understanding the properties of dihydrogen bond in the excited state continues as an area of intense experimental and theoretical research.

2PY is a simple molecule having a peptide group. The electronic spectra and vibrational spectra of 2PY and its hydrogen-bonded clusters have been studied in detail [49–54]. The studies found that the hydrogen-bond strengths of 2PY–H₂O and (2PY)₂ clusters are weakened in the S₁ state due to a decrease of the acidity of 2PY [50–52]. Nevertheless, spectroscopic studies on the dihydrogen-bonded cluster involving 2PY are less reported so far. In the present work, we propose a theoretical analysis about the intermolecular dihydrogen bonds of the 2PY–DEMS and 2PY–TEGH clusters in different electronic states. Density functional theory (DFT) method was employed to predict the existence of the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–DEMS and 2PY–TEGH clusters in the ground state. Intermolecular dihydrogen bonds N–H \cdots H–Si and N–H \cdots H–Ge in the electronically excited state were studied using time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT) since it has been proven as a valid method for the investigation of electronically excited state [55–62]. Theoretical calculations cannot only provide useful insights into the structure and dynamics of dihydrogen bonding but also suggest future experiments.

Computational methods

Density functional theory (DFT) and time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT) were employed for our ground state and excited state computations, respectively. Becke’s three-parameter hybrid exchange functional with Lee-Yang-Parr gradient corrected correlation functional (B3LYP hybrid functional) can provide satisfying quantitative and qualitative agreement with experiment [36, 45, 46, 63]. Thus, all geometry optimizations in this work were carried out using B3LYP hybrid functional. Triple zeta valence plus polarization (TZVP) functions was chosen as basis set throughout [64]. Fine quadrature grids 4 were employed, too. Harmonic vibrational frequency analyses were performed at the same theoretical level to verify the true energy minima locating in the ground state and the electronically excited state [63–65].

The binding energies E_{bind} of the clusters in different electronic states were calculated at the B3LYP/TZVP level by using the geometries optimized at the same level. E_{bind} was evaluated as [66, 67]:

$$E_{bind} = E_{AB} - (E_A + E_B), \quad (1)$$

where E_{AB} is the energy of the dihydrogen-bonded complex formed between molecules A and B, and E_A and E_B are individual energies of constituent molecules A and B, respectively. These values were determined by DFT and TDDFT energy calculations.

Corrections were made for the basis set superposition error (BSSE) in the calculations. The magnitude of BSSE is estimated by counterpoise calculations [68]. The original counterpoise method of Boys and Bernardi is the procedure most frequently used for computing the BSSE [67–69]. Hence, the overestimation of the interaction energy (Eq. 1) is corrected as $E_{cp\text{-bind}}$:

$$E_{cp\text{-bind}} = E_{bind} + BSSE. \quad (2)$$

All the computations were performed using the TURBO-MOLE program suite.

Results and discussion

Geometric conformations of 2PY–DEMS and 2PY–TEGH clusters

Figure 1 shows the optimized conformations of the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–DEMS and 2PY–TEGH clusters in the ground state. One can find the calculated bond lengths and dihedral angles of the isolated monomers and the clusters in the ground state in Table 3. The C=O and N–H bonds of the 2PY–DEMS cluster are both longer than those of free 2PY. The Si–H bond slightly enlarges

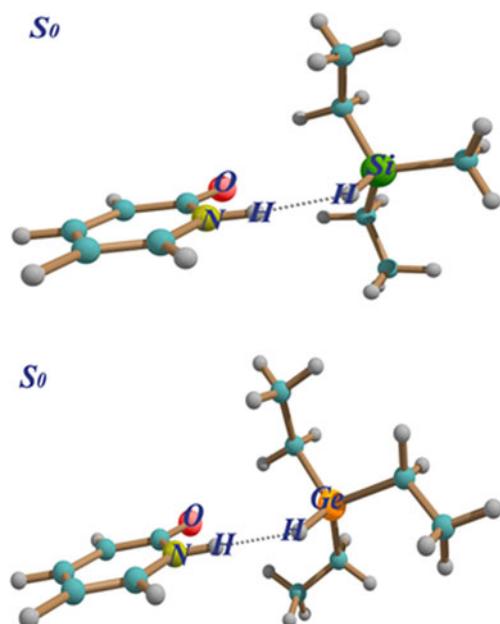


Fig. 1 Optimized geometries of the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–DEMS (top) and 2PY–TEGH (bottom) clusters in the ground state. Dotted line denotes the intermolecular dihydrogen bond

because of the formation the 2PY–DEMS cluster. The H···H distance of the 2PY–DEMS cluster is calculated to be 1.984 Å, which is shorter than the sum of their van der Waals radii (2.40 Å). Thus, it indicates the formation of dihydrogen bond N–H···H–Si between 2PY and DEMS in the ground state. Geometric conformation of the 2PY moiety of the 2PY–TEGH cluster is same to that of the 2PY–DEMS cluster. The Ge–H bond also slightly enlarges due to the formation the 2PY–TEGH cluster. The calculated H···H distance of the 2PY–TEGH cluster is 2.055 Å. It conforms that an intermolecular dihydrogen bond N–H···H–Ge exists between 2PY and TEGH in the ground state.

Electronic transition and frontier molecular orbitals

Based on the geometries with minimum energy, the electronic transition energies and corresponding oscillator strengths for the low-lying electronically excited states of the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–DEMS and 2PY–TEGH clusters and free monomers were calculated using TDDFT. The results are shown in Table 1 and Table 2. All of the electronic transition energies of the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–DEMS and 2PY–TEGH clusters are comparable with those of the 2PY monomer but significantly lower than those of the DEMS and TEGH monomers. It can be postulated that the electronically excited state of both dihydrogen-bonded clusters is centered on the 2PY moiety, while the DEMS and TEGH moieties still remain in the ground state.

The oscillator strength of the 2PY–DEMS cluster in the S_5 state is the largest among the low-lying excited states. However, the oscillator strengths are all zero in the S_2 , S_3 and S_4 states. The S_2 , S_3 and S_4 states with lower energy are

Table 1 Calculated electronic transition energies (in eV) and corresponding oscillation strengths (in parentheses) of the low-lying electronically excited states of the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–DEMS complex and the isolated monomers

	2PY–DEMS	2PY	DEMS
1	4.350(0.082) H→L 96.5%	4.355(0.097) H→L 96.5%	7.407(0.005) H→L 97.4%
2	4.548(0.000)	4.520(0.000)	7.681(0.023)
3	5.547(0.000)	5.693(0.000)	7.881(0.023)
4	5.691(0.000)	5.879(0.000)	7.919(0.015)
5	5.846(0.150)	5.889(0.117)	8.169(0.010)
6	5.872(0.001)	6.844(0.000)	8.186(0.041)

The orbital transition contributions for the S_1 state are also listed

H: The highest occupied molecular orbital, HOMO

L: The lowest unoccupied molecular orbital, LUMO

Table 2 Calculated electronic transition energies (in eV) and corresponding oscillation strengths (in parentheses) of the low-lying electronically excited states of the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–TEGH complex and the isolated monomers

	2PY–TEGH	2PY	TEGH ^b
1	4.349(0.081) H→L 96.5%	4.355(0.097) H→L 96.5%	7.223(0.0129) H→L 72.6% H-1→L 25.4%
2	4.545(0.000)	4.520(0.000)	7.275(0.007)
3	5.346(0.001)	5.693(0.000)	7.406(0.024)
4	5.440(0.000)	5.879(0.000)	7.441(0.005)
5	5.687(0.000)	5.889(0.117)	7.697(0.028)
6	5.842(0.000)	6.844(0.000)	7.709(0.004)

The orbital transition contributions for the S₁ state are also listed

^b Data taken from Ref. [45]

the dark states of the 2PY–DEMS cluster. It can be speculated that the radiationless transition from the S₅ state to the S₁ state is ultrafast, while the internal conversion from the S₁ state to the ground state occurs on a slower timescale. Therefore, we just discuss the properties of the 2PY–DEMS cluster in the S₁ state here. The oscillator strength of the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–TEGH cluster is the largest in the S₁ state but is almost zero in other excited states. Hence, the 2PY–TEGH cluster can be initially excited to the S₁ state. Similarly, only the S₁ state of the 2PY–TEGH cluster is taken into our account in this study.

In the S₁ state, the vertical excitation energies of both the clusters are a little lower than that of free 2PY. It infers that a slightly redshift appears in the electronic transition of the dihydrogen-bonded cluster comparing with that of the isolated 2PY. Moreover, the orbital transition contributions for the S₁ state of both clusters are also listed in Table 1 and Table 2. The transition from the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) to the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) mainly contributes to the S₁ state of dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–DEMS and 2PY–TEGH clusters.

The molecular orbitals (MOs) analysis can provide direct understanding of the dihydrogen bonding in the

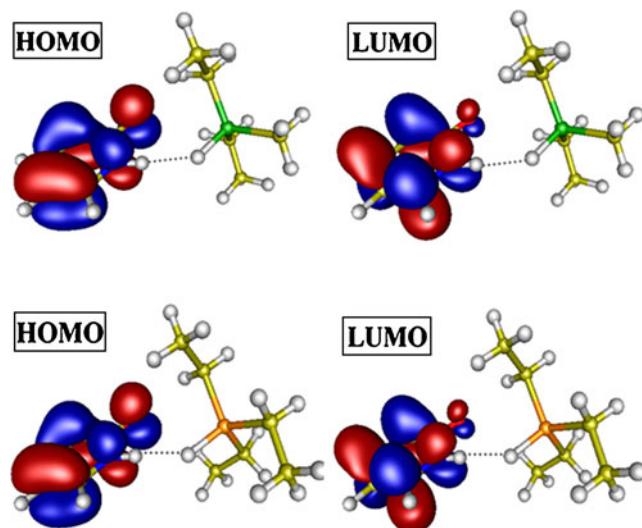


Fig. 2 Frontier MOs of the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–DEMS (top) and 2PY–TEGH (bottom) complexes

electronically excited state. Accordingly, we depicted the frontier MOs for the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–DEMS and 2PY–TEGH clusters in Fig. 2. One can find that the frontier MOs of the 2PY–DEMS and 2PY–TEGH clusters resemble each other. The electron densities of HOMO and LUMO are both localized on the 2PY moiety. Therefore, the S₁ state of the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–DEMS and 2PY–TEGH clusters is a locally excited (LE) state. The 2PY moiety of both clusters demonstrates a $\pi\pi^*$ transition upon electronic excitation. In addition, the electron density of the carbonyl oxygen decreases due to the molecular orbital transition from HOMO to LUMO. Intermolecular dihydrogen bonding N–H \cdots H–Si and N–H \cdots H–Ge should be influenced by the charge redistribution in the excited state.

Weakening of dihydrogen bonding in the excited state

The geometries in the S₁ state of the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–DEMS and 2PY–TEGH clusters were optimized using TDDFT. The changes in structural conformation

Table 3 Calculated bond lengths L (Å) and dihedral angles (°) of the isolated monomers, dihydrogen-bonded 2PY–DEMS and 2PY–TEGH complexes in different electronic states

	E _{cp-bind}	L(C=O)	L(N–H)	L(H \cdots H)	N–H \cdots H–Si	N–H \cdots H–Ge	L(Si–H)	L(Ge–H)
monomer(S ₀)	—	1.223	1.011	—	—	—	1.498	1.555
2PY–DEMS(S ₀)	−15.275	1.227	1.015	1.984	140.127	—	1.511	—
2PY–DEMS(S ₁)	−6.517	1.336	1.011	1.990	154.038	—	1.509	—
2PY–TEGH(S ₀)	−16.219	1.227	1.015	2.055	—	23.968	—	1.569
2PY–TEGH(S ₁)	−6.271	1.337	1.010	2.083	—	43.093	—	1.568

The dihydrogen-binding energies E_{cp-bind} (KJ mol^{−1}) of the dimers are also listed

between the ground state and excited state can obviously affect the intermolecular dihydrogen bonding. Table 3 lists the calculated bond lengths and dihedral angles of the 2PY-DEMS and 2PY-TEGH clusters in different electronic states. The C=O bonds of the 2PY-DEMS and 2PY-TEGH clusters significantly lengthen upon electronic excitation. The N-H and Si-H bonds of the 2PY-DEMS cluster both slightly shorten after being excited to the S₁ state. Likewise, the N-H and Ge-H bonds of the 2PY-TEGH cluster get shortened in the S₁ state, too. In the S₁ state, the H···H distances of the clusters enlarge to 1.990 Å and 2.083 Å, respectively. It can be speculated that intermolecular dihydrogen bonding N-H···H-Si and N-H···H-Ge become very weak in the S₁ state because of the marked structural varieties.

To evaluate the ability of dihydrogen bonding in different electronic states, bonding energies (E_{cp-bind}) of the 2PY-DEMS and 2PY-TEGH clusters were calculated with consideration of BSSE. The values are listed in Table 3. The binding energies of the 2PY-DEMS and 2PY-TEGH clusters are -15.275 kJmol⁻¹ and -16.219 kJmol⁻¹, respectively. Upon electronic excitation, the binding energies of both clusters decrease nearly 10 kJmol⁻¹. It quantitatively infers that dihydrogen bondings N-H···H-Si and N-H···H-Ge are weaker in the S₁ state than in the ground state.

Conclusions

Intermolecular dihydrogen bonds N-H···H-Si and N-H···H-Ge were theoretically identified in the ground state of the dihydrogen-bonded 2PY-DEMS and 2PY-TEGH clusters by DFT method. Structural conformations and dynamics of the dihydrogen bonds in the excited state were also investigated using TDDFT method. The dihydrogen-bonded 2PY-DEMS and 2PY-TEGH clusters demonstrate similar electronic transitions upon electronic excitation. The S₁ state of both clusters is a LE state which localized on the 2PY moiety. The 2PY moiety exhibits a $\pi\pi^*$ transition from HOMO to LUMO in the S₁ state. The H···H distances of both dihydrogen bond significantly enlarge upon electronic excitation. Their dihydrogen bonding energies both decrease in the S₁ state compared to those in the ground state. It suggests that the intermolecular dihydrogen bondings N-H···H-Si and N-H···H-Ge of the 2PY-DEMS and 2PY-TEGH clusters get weaker in the electronically excited state due to the structural varieties and charge redistribution.

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