tities of d_2, d_3, \ldots, d_9 trimethylbutanes were found. Such extensive exchange was also obtained with isobutylene and the methylbutenes and suggests that after a D_2 ⁻ transfer occurs in solution the products are able to react several more times before separating. Thus the reactants and product participating in the radical cation exchange appear to undergo reaction while in a solvent cage.

In the trimethylbutene experiment some trip $tane-d₀$ was also formed. This was probably formed by allylic hydride transfer from triptene to the triptyl ion. The relative intensity of the d_0 through d_9 isomers is shown in Figure 1.

Assuming that the reactions observed involve radical cations, it is likely that they are examples of eq 4 and hence an H_2 transfer. This may be inferred from the ionization potential or appearance potential of the respective radical cations. In Table IV it may be seen that saturated compounds generally are more difficult to oxidize than olefins although the difference between propylene and methylcyclopentane or methylcyclohexane is not large. This question ought to be the subject of future research.

In summary, a dual approach to the reaction of olefins in the $SbF_{5}-HSO_{3}F$ system has shown that in addition to normal carbonium formation and reactivity much of the olefin reacts *via* an unexpected route.

 i -C₄H₁₀ ⁺ **10.57** ^a J. L. Franklin, J. G. Dillard, H. M. Rosenstock, J. T. Herron, K. Draxl, and F. H. Field, NSRDS-NBS (26), June 1969.

 $\rm CH_{8^{+}C\text{-}C_{5}H_{9}}{}^+$

Several possible routes exist. One involves an interfacial chain reaction in which the olefin is protonated and extracts a hydride from the donor forming a cation which then protonates another olefin, etc. An alternative involves the formation of radical cationic intermediates. In any event, the addition of olefins like propylene or isobutylene to $SbF₅-HSO₃F$ solutions in the presence of hydride donor does not proceed to paraffin products exclusively by a normal path where one proton is transferred by the acid and the other from the hydride donor.

Registry No. - Antimony pentafluoride, 7783-70-2; fluorosulfonic acid, 7789-21-1.

Stable Carbocations. CXXXIV. Protonation of Mono- and Dihydroxybenzenes and Their Methyl Ethers in Superacids

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Received June 1.8. 197R

The protonation of mono- and dihydroxybenzenes and their methyl ethers was studied in four different superacid media, HF-SbF₅ (1:1 M: M)-SO₂ClF (I), HSO₃F-SbF₅ (1:1 M: M)-SO₂ClF (II), HSO₃F-SbF₆ (4:1 M: M)-SO₂ClF (III), and HSO₃F-SO₂ClF (IV) by low-temperature nmr spectroscopy. The sites of protonation (O-SO₂ClF (III), and HSO₃F-SO₂ClF (IV) by low-temperature nmr spectroscopy. The sites of protonation (O^{*vs.* C-)} were dependent upon the acid media used. The structures of the formed ions were assigned based on *vs.* C-) were dependent upon the acid media used. The structures of the formed ions were assigned based on their nmr (¹H and ¹³C) spectra. Isomeric ions derived from the same precursor were also observed. Stability of hydroxy(a1koxy)benzenium ions, including isomeric ion forms derived from the same precursors and the relative ease of protonation is discussed in terms of steric, resonance, and inductive effects. Phenyloxonium ion *(0* protonated phenol) formation was generally observed in HF containing small amounts of antimony pentafluoride at low temperature ($-105 \sim -80^{\circ}$) while C-protonated phenols were found in acids of higher strength and at higher temperature.

Hydroxy- and alkoxy-substituted benzenium ions have been studied by a number of investigators.² The site of protonation seemed to depend on the acidsolvent system and temperature. However, no systematic study of protonation of hydroxy(a1koxy) benzenes in different acid systems was so far attempted. Furthermore, the sites of protonation are not yet well understood. The effect of substitutents on benzenium ions were also not yet extensively studied. Isomeric ions derived from the same precursor are known **(e.g.,** Cand O-protonated anisole) **,2b** but the factors (electronic and steric, as well as those of media) that control the

relative amounts of isomeric ions formed were not known.

We now report a systematic study of these questions by pmr spectroscopy of ions obtained from monoand dihydroxybenzenes and their methyl ethers. Four superacid systems were used: I, HF-SbFs $SO_2CIF, III, HSO_3F-SbF_5(4:1 M:M)-SO_2CIF; and$ IV, HSOaF-SO2ClF. In addition, protonation of phenol was carried out in weaker acids, like HF containing traces of SbF_6 , in order to study both substituent and solvent effects. The nature of the extensive charge delocalization in the p-hydroxy- and methoxybenzenium ions was also studied by carbon-13 nmr spectroscopy. $(1:1 \text{ M}:M)-SO_2CIF$; II, HSO_3F-SbF_5 $(1:1 \text{ M}:M)-$

Results **and Discussion**

The hydroxybenzene derivatives were protonated in the four different superacid systems (1-IV). Ions

⁽¹⁾ Part CXXXIII: G. A. Olah, G. Liang, J. R. Wiseman, and J. A. Chong, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 94, 4729 (1972).

(2) (a) T. Birchall, A. N. Bourns, R. J. Gillespie, and P. J. Smith, Can.

J. Chem., 42, 1433 (1964); (b) D. H. Brouwer, E. L. Mackor, and C. Mac-
Lean, *Recl. Trav. Chim. Pays-Bas*, 85, 109, 114 (1966); (c) R. W. Alder
and F. J. Tayler, *J. Chem. Soc. B*, 845 (1970); (d) M. P. Hartshorn, K. E. Richards, **J.** Vaughan, and G. J. Wright, *ibid.,* **1624 (1971).**

 α For actual experimental conditions (e.g., temperature), see text.

formed are summarized in Table I. The pmr data of the hydroxy- and methoxybenzenium ions as well the related oxonium ions obtained under varied conditions are tabulated in Tables 11 and 111, respectively.

Phenol and **Anisole.** C-Protonation *us.* O-Protonation. A. Phenol (1).-The chemical behavior of phenol in strong acid systems, like fluorosulfuric acid^{2a} and HF-BF₃-sulfolane,^{2c} has been studied by Gillespie and Adler, respectively. Our interests in the protonation of phenol are to investigate the behavior of phenol in various superacid media and hopefully to find the conditions for 0-protonation as well as C-protonation. Furthermore, the extensive charge delocalization of ion **2** was studied by carbon-13 nmr spectroscopy (INDOR method).

In all superacid systems I-IV, 1 was completely Cprotonated to give ion 2. The nmr spectra (Figure 1, bottom trace) of these solutions were identical except that the hydroxylic proton was not observable in superacid system IV. The hydroxylic proton absorption of **²**in superacids 1-111 is temperature dependent. At -30° , it becomes a broadened line at δ 11.3 indicating rapid proton exchange with the superacid. The exchange reaction may involve diprotonation on the oxygen atom and thus involvement of dipositive transition state **3.**

When 1 was dissolved in liquid HF containing *5%* of SbFs, the pmr spectrum (Figure **1)** of the solution at

 -40° showed a multiplet centered at δ 6.8 and the acid peak at δ 8.8. When the solution was cooled to -90° , the multiplet became a broadened absorption line remaining at 6 6.8 but a new, very broad absorption appeared at δ 9.4. Upon further cooling down to - 105°, the new very broad absorption line sharpened and remained at δ 9.4 (Figure 1). The intense acid peak forms a shoulder at $\sim \delta$ 9.0. These results indicate the formation of 0-protonated phenol, **4.** As expected, the aromatic protons of 4 show a multiplet

and the $-OH_2$ ⁺ shift is similar to those of $-OH_2$ ⁺ of protonated aliphatic alcohols, $+ROH₂$.³ In relatively weak acids it is always difficult to observe nonexchanging protonated heteroorganic compounds. In order to slow down the rate of proton exchange, *0* protonated phenol must be observed at very low temperature.

The multiplet of the aromatic protons of ion **4** is shielded from the ring protons of ion **2,** indicating that 0-protonation of phenol leads to a charge-localized ion. On the other hand, C-protonation of phenol involves π electrons and leads to a charge-delocalized benzenium ion **2** (see subsequent discussion of carbon-13 nmr studies of ions **2** and *6).*

(3) *(a)* **G. A.** Olah and E. Namanworth, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.,* **88, 5327** (1966); (b) G. A. Olah, J. Sommer, and E. Namanworth, *ibid.*, **89**, 3576 **(1967).**

B. Anisole *(5)* has been protonated in various acid media by Gillespie,^{2a,4} Brouwer,^{2b} Olah,⁵ and their coworkers. In fluorosulfuric acid with or without antimony pentafluoride, p-methoxybenzenium ion (6) is generated. In HF-BF₃ solution at -60° , 5 was both C- and 0-protonated to ions 6 and 7.2b As the

temperature was raised to -10° , only ion 6 was observed. In the four superacid systems I-IV, *5* was found to be C-protonated to give ion 6. The pmr spectrum of ion 6 was temperature dependent because of the inhibition of rotation about the partial $C=-0$ double bond.

C. Carbon-13 Nmr Studies of Ions 2 and 6.order to study the trend of charge distribution of ions **2** and 6, we undertook a carbon-13 nmr study, which is an excellent tool for the investigation of carbocations. The carbon-13 data provide important new information about the nature of ions **2** and 6. Table IV summarizes the carbon-13 nmr data of protonated and parent phenol and anisole and, for comparison, we also list the carbon-13 shifts of protonated toluene.6

The sp3 methylene carbon has almost identical carbon shifts in both ion **2** and *6.* These data further prove that protonation is indeed occurring at the aromatic ring. The sp^3 carbon of p-toluenium ion **8** has a carbon shift deshielded by 6 ppm from those of ions **2** and *6,* indicating partial charge delocalization to the oxygen atoms. The sp² carbon shifts of all the three ions **2,** 6, and 8 clearly show that the deshielding effects follow the order para \lt ortho \lt meta. In other words, charge is mainly delocalized into the ortho,para carbons and the oxygen atom. These results are consistent with theoretical calculation.⁷

Owing to the anisotropy effect of the oxygen atom in ion 6, carbons 5 and 6 are more deshielded than carbons 3 and *2,* respectively. Long-range proton-proton coupling between $p\text{-}\mathrm{CH}_3$ and CH_2 protons in $p\text{-}\mathrm{tolu}$ enium ion⁷ and proton-fluorine coupling between $\rm CH_{2}$ and $p-F$ in p-fluorobenzenium ion⁸ are known. In ion 6, we also observe long-range proton-carbon coup- \lim_{g} (T_{CH} = 143.8 Hz) between CH₃O carbon and CH2 protons through six bonds. The proton-carbon coupling was evidenced from the $CH₂$ proton main peak enhanced IXDOR spectrum. The INDOR spectrum showed a quartet at δ 129.3 ppm (from CS_2) when the CH2 protons were doubly irradiated.

(4) T. Birchall and R. J. Gillespie, *Can. J. Chem., 42,* **502 (1964). (5)** *G.* **A.** Olah, M. B. Comisarow, E. Kamanworth, and B. Ramsey,

- *J. Amer. Chem.* **Hoc., 89, 5259 (1967). (6) G. A.** Oleh, R. H. Schlosberg, **R.** D. Porter, *Y.* K. Mo, D. P. Kelley,
-

and G. D. Mateescu, *ibid.*, **94**, 2034 (1972).

(7) D. M. Brouwer, E. L. Mackor, and C. MacLean in "Carbonium

Ions," G. A. Olah and P. V. R. Schleyer, Ed., Wiley-Interscience, New

York, N. Y., 1970, p 865.

Figure 1.-Pmr spectra (60 MHz) of C-protonated phenol 2 (bottom trace) and O-protonated phenol at -40° and -105° (middle and upper traces).

Finally, it ehould be mentioned that the carbon-13 shifts of ions **2** and 6 show a close relationship to those of protonated α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds.⁹

Protonation of Isomeric Cresols and Their Methyl Ethers. A. p-Cresol and p-Methylanisole. --Protonation of p-methylanisole (9b) in HF-BF₃ at -85° has been reported by Brouwer and coworkers.^{2b} They found that the site of protonation was at the ethereal oxygen atom and not at the aromatic ring. In super-

(9) G. A. Olah, *Y.* Halpern, *Y.* K. Mo, and G. Liang, *ibid.,* **94, 3554 (1972).**

⁽⁸⁾ G. **A.** Olah and T. E. Kiovsky, *J. Amer. Chem.* **9oc., 89, 5692 (1967).**

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TABLE I11 MAGNETIC RESONANCE DATA OF ARYLOXONIUM IONS

^aChemical shifts are referred to external TMS: s = singlet; b = broad; d = doublet. *b* The OH peak is not observable since it exchanges with acid systems. **c** The broad peak should be a quartet.

acid I both 9a and 9b were C-protonated to give the respectively. The structure of ion 10a is based on its pmr spectrum (Table II). The hydroxylic proton cannot be observed in the spectrum, presumably because it exchanges rapidly with the superacid.
The pmr spectrum of ion 10b is similar to that of stable benzenium ions, 10a and 10b, at -48 and -60° ,

The pmr spectrum of ion 10b is similar to that of the cis-trans isomers is rapid. We were so far unable 10a, except for an additional three-proton singlet is to freeze out the relatively low energy process in this **10a**, except for an additional three-proton singlet is to freeze out the relatively low energy process in this found at δ 4.79 (see Table II). The two isomeric particular medium even at -80° . However, the ions (cis-10b and trans-10b) were not observed in superacid I, presumably because interconversion of media 11-IV.

particular medium even at -80° . However, the cis-trans isomers of **10b** can be observed in superacid

TABLE IV

COOLUTER AND PARTIE PERSON ANDERS COMPARISON OF CARBON-13 NYR SHIFTS OF PROTONATED AND PARTIE PHENOL, AND TOLUENE THE TRACT

In superacid II at -10° , 9a was found to be completely C-protonated, giving ion 10a. In the same superacid (11) 9b showed a more complicated pmr spectrum, indicating that two or three isomeric ions were formed. The pmr spectrum of this mixture is temperature dependent. At -80° , the two isomeric ions (cis-10b and trans-10b) are present in about equal portions $(35\% \text{ each})$ with $30\% \text{ of } O\text{-protonated } p$ methylanisole (11) (based on comparison with pmr spectra of individual ions). As the temperature was raised to -40° , the intensities of the pmr resonances corresponding to ions cis-10b and trans-10b became identical with those observed when Ob was protonated in superacid system I. The remaining portions of the spectrum are consistent with formation of ion 11, since they are identical with the spectrum observed when 9b was completely 0-protonated in superacid IV. Thus, the complicated pmr spectrum of this reaction mixture (9b in superacid system 11) indicates the equilibria $11 = 9b = cis-10b = trans-10b$.

It is of interest to note that 9a is completely Cprotonated in superacid II while 9b is partially Cprotonated under identical conditions. The only difference between ions 10a and 10b is the nature of the stabilizing groups, \overline{OH} and \overline{OCH}_3 , respectively. That a hydroxy group is a better substituent in stabilizing arenium ions than an alkoxy group, as has been observed in other systems.'O

In superacid 111, 9a is *25%* C-protonated to give 10a and 75% O-protonated to give ion 11. The pmr spectrum of the solution also shows two additional singlets at δ 2.52 and 7.50, besides the resonance absorption of ions 10a. These two singlets were also observed when 9a was completely 0-protonated in superacid IV, except that the proton shifts are slightly changed owing to different media (see Table 111). Similarly, 9b is also **35%** C-protonated to give

(10) (a) A. J. Kresge, Y. Chiang, and L. E. Hakka, J. *Aner. Chen.* **Soc., 93,** 6167 (1971); (b) G. A. Olah and Y. K. Mo, *ibid.*, **94**, 5341 (1972).

10b and 65% 0-protonated to ion 12 in superacid 111. The ratio of C-protonation to 0-protonation decreased with the decreasing molar ratio of HSO_3F/SDF_5 , *i.e.*, the acidity of the medium.

+ OR HOR **CH,** CH, **9a,** R=H **11,** R=H **9b,** $R = CH_3$ **12,** $R = CH_3$

The hydroxylic protons were not observable in both cases. However, the pmr spectrum of ion 12 was consistent with that reported by Brouwer^{2b} except for the methoxy protons. The methoxy protons show a singlet at δ 4.67 instead of a doublet, indicating that rapid equilibration *(ie.,* protonation-deprotonation) occurs. Table 111 also shows the influence of medium toward the proton shifts of both ions 11 and 12. In stronger acid systems, more deshielding is observed and the individual aryloxocarbenium ions also have longer lifetimes.

B. o-Cresol and o-Methylanisole. ---o-Methylanisole (13) is C-protonated in all the four superacid systems at low temperature to give the transoid benzenium ion (14a). The cisoid ion (14b) was not observed in the temperature range -80 to -28° , owing probably to the fact that ion 14b is sterically less favorable than ion 14a.

The methoxy protons show a sharp singlet at δ 4.68, indicating that only the more stable transolid ion 14a is formed and no cisoid ion 14b is present. The meta proton, H_a of ion 14a, is a doublet at δ 7.67 $(J_{\text{HH}} = 10 \text{ Hz})$ and is coupled to the ortho proton, H_e , which shows a doublet of quartets at δ 7.77 (J_{HH} = 10 and 1.5 Hz). The doublet of quartets of the

 H_c proton arises from coupling between H_c and the $CH₂$ protons and also the long-range coupling to the H_b proton. Owing to the almost identical magnitude of coupling constant between H_e and CH_2 , and H_e and H_b , a quartet is observed. Furthermore, the large coupling is due to coupling between H_a and H_c . All these couplings have been proven by double irradiation experiments.

Similarly, o-cresol (15) is also C-protonated in the four superacid systems at low temperature. In all cases, the site of protonation is on the ring carbon para to the hydroxy group and thus all give the same transoid benzenium ion (16a). The cisoid ion (16b) was again not observed and variable-temperature pmr studies indicated no interconversion of 16a and 16b between -80 and -20° . Rapid proton exchange between the hydroxylic proton and solvent system can be ruled out because of the observed pmr singlet for the OH proton absorption at δ 12.2. Thus, as in the previously discussed case, ion 16a is sterically more favored than ion 16b. The pmr spectrum of ion 16a is similar to that of ion 14a, except that a deshielded singlet at **⁶** 12.2 (OH) is present instead of the methoxy absorption (Figure 2). The long-range coupling between the H_b and H_c protons is again observed.

C. m -Cresol and m -Methylanisole. --Protonation of m-methylanisole (17) in superacids 11, 111, and IV at *-80"* all give the isomeric benzenium ions 18a and 18b

in a ratio of 4:l. The clearest evidence for the formation of two isomeric ions 18a and 18b arises from the temperature-dependent pmr studies. The solution at -64° shows in its pmr spectrum two sharp singlets for the methyl protons in a ratio of 4:1, at δ 2.90 and 2.78. In addition, two sets of slightly broadened doublets (both have $J_{HH} = 10$ Hz) for the ortho proton are observed at 6 8.4 and 8.7 (also in a ratio of 4 : 1). When the temperature of the solution was raised to -16° , the two methyl singlets became a sharp singlet at 6 **2.83** and the two sets of doublets (ortho proton) showed a doublet at δ 8.5 ($J_{\text{HH}} = 10$ Hz). These results indicate that interconversion of ions 18a and 18b

Figure 2.---Pmr spectrum of C-protonated o-cresol (3-methyl-4-hydroxybenzenium ion).

occurs at higher temperature. It should be noted that the methoxy protons and the two meta protons $(H_a \text{ and } H_b)$ have coincidental chemical shifts in ions 18a and 18b.

Protonation of **17** in superacid I gave the rapidly equilibrating ions $18a \rightleftharpoons 18b$ even at -80° . The pmr spectra of equilibrating ions $18a \rightleftharpoons 18b$ are almost identical in all four superacid systems at -10° .

m-Cresol (19) is completely C-protonated in the superacids 1, 11, and 111, giving ion 20. Since the

hydroxyl proton is not observable, isomeric ions cannot be observed even at -90° , indicating that rapid proton exchange occurs between ion 20 and the superacid system.

In superacid system IV, both C- and 0-protonation of 19 was found. The pmr spectrum shows a singlet at δ 7.10 for the aromatic protons and the CH₃ singlet at δ 2.43 in addition to the pmr resonance lines of ion 20.

Protonation of Isomeric Dimethylanisoles. -- Four isomeric dimethylanisoles (2,3-, 2,4-, 2,5-, and 2,6-) were protonated in all the four superacids.

A. -2,3-Dimethylanisole (21) is monoprotonated in all the four superacid systems to give the benzenium ion 22. Owing to the steric effect of the o -CH₃ group, only

a single isomeric ion was observed. It is suggested that the methoxy group is preferentially trans to the methyl group.

B. -Two different monoprotonated ions (C-protonated ion **24** and 0-protonated ion **25)** are formed in various ratios when 2,4-dimethylanisole **(23)** was

treated in the superacids 11, 111, and IV. The ratio of 24325 increases as the acidity is increased *(ie.,* the ratio of SbF_5-HSO_3F is increased). The relative amount of each ion was determined by the peak areas of a specific resonances in the pmr spectra.

The site of protonation in 23 is of interest. Usually, a methoxy group is the most powerful orienting substituent. As the para position (with respect to \widetilde{OCH}_3) of 23 is blocked, the proton attacks the C_5 carbon to give ion **24.** 'Inductively, ion **24** is stabilized by the two methyl groups (ortho and para) and the methoxy group is freely rotating (no partial double bond character) and has almost no influence on the stabilization of ion **24.** The ratio of 24:25 was found temperature independent, ranging from -80 to -30° in superacids I1 and 111. It decreases, however, with increasing temperature in superacid IV. For example, the ratio is 3.5:6.5 at -80° and is decreased to 1.3:8.7 at -20° .

The pmr spectrum of ion **24** (mixed yith ion **25)** shows a slightly broadened methylene singlet absorption at δ 4.43. The two methyl groups, coincide at δ 2.50 (sharp singlet), and the methoxy group show a singlet at δ 4.70. The ortho-vinyl proton shows a slightly broadened singlet absorption at **6** 8.3, since it couples to the methylene protons. The meta-vinylic proton also is a singlet at δ 7.5.

The pmr spectrum of ion **25** shows the methoxy doublet at δ 5.01 (J_{HH} = 2.5 Hz) indicative of O-protonation. The hydroxylic proton is a rather broad quartet at δ 11.8 in the characteristic region of O-protonated ethers.¹¹ The two methyl groups show a coincidental singlet at δ 2.63 and the three aromatic protons as a singlet at δ 7.62.

In superacid I, **23** is both monoprotonated and diprotonated to give ions **24** and **26,** respectively. The evidence for the formation of dication **26** comes from the pmr spectrum of the reaction mixture. In the pmr spectrum, nothing corresponding to 0-protonated ion **25** was observable. However, there arc five absorption lines identical with those of ion **24** in every respect. The remaining five absorption lines show similar features to those of ion 24 but deshielded by

(11) *G.* **A** Olah and D. **13.** O'Brien, *J Amer. Chm.* **SOC., 89, 1725 (1967).**

about 0.8 ppm. This indicates that a diprotonated species with a structure resembling ion **24** is formed. Ion **26** seems best to fit spectral data (Table 11). The unusual behavior of superacid system I toward **23** is rather surprising. However, as previously mentioned, the methoxy group in ion **24** has almost no conjugative effect and additional protonation in superacid I could take place on the oxygen lone pair to yield ion **26.**

The pmr spectra of the mixture of ions **24** and **26** is slightly temperature dependent. The ratio of **26: 24** decreased from 5:4 at -70° to 4:5 at -10° and the change was found to be reversible. Ion **26** is the first directly observed diprotonated long-lived benzenium type ion derived from a monoalkoxybenzene (diprotonation also was observed in the case of 2,6-dimethylanisole, *vide injra)* .

C. -Protonation of 2,5-dimethylanisole **(27)** in all four superacids gave the identical benzenium ion **28.** The pmr spectrum of ion **28** is well resolved and can be $\begin{align} \text{inside (27)} \text{ in} \ \text{seigenium ion} \ \text{colved and can} \ \text{CH}_{3}\searrow_{0} \ \text{in} \end{align}$

readily assigned, The meta- and ortho-methyl proton absorptions show two singlets at 6 2.42 and **2.85,** respectively. Owing to the steric effect of the ortho CH3 group, we only observed the isomeric trans ion. Thus, a sharp singlet at δ 4.73 was assigned to the methoxy protons. The methylene protons show a slightly broadened singlet at δ **4.2**, since they are coupled to the ortho-vinyl proton. The ortho proton appears as a triplet at δ 8.22 $(J = 1.5 \text{ Hz})$.

D.-Protonation of 2,6-dimethylanisole **(29)** in $HF-BF_3$ at -100° has been studied by Brouwer, Mackor, and MacLean.^{2b} They found that only the 0-protonated oxonium ion **30** was obtained under their

experimental conditions. We extended this study to the behavior of **29** in the four superacids. Indeed, **²⁹**was 0-protonated in superacids 11, 111, and IV at **-60".** The best medium is superacid 111, in which a well-resolved pmr spectrum is observed (Figure 3, upper trace). In superacid JV, no hydroxylic proton

was observed, indicating rapid equilibration with the solvent acid. The pmr spectrum of ion **30** is similar (with slight differences) to the reported data (Table 11).

It is, however, interesting to observe the different behavior of **29** in superacid I. The pmr spectrum (Figure **3,** lower trace) shows no indication of ion **30.** The aromatic protons are split into two equal intensity broadened peaks at δ 8.5 and 9.6. In the $-OH_2$ ⁺ region, a relatively broadened absorption is observed at δ 13.8. There are three slightly broadened singlets at δ 3.5 (6 H, CH₃), 5.4 (3 H, OCH₃), and 5.8 (2 H, CH₂). Based on these data, we conclude that **29** is diprotonated in supcracid I to give ion **31.** In comparison,

ion **31** is sterically **less** favored than ion **26,** even though they both formed in the same superacid medium. However, it is rather surprising that in superacids 11-IV **29** does not undergo C-protonation to give the

tonation is observed to give ion **30.** In contrast, 2,6 dimethoxytoluene **(33)** is C-protonated in superacids 11-IV to give **2,4-dimethoxy-3-methylbenzenium** ion **(34).** The structure of ion **34** was confirmed by its

pnir spectrum (see Table 11). In superacid I, **33** was polymerized to unidentified products.

E. -Protonation of 3,4-Dimethylanisole **(35)** in $HSO₃F$ solution has been studied by Vaughan and coworkers.2d They found two different C-protonated

Figure 3.-Pmr spectra of O-protonated 2,6-dimethylanisole (upper trace) and diprotonated 2,6-dimethylanisole (bottom trace).

obtained in the protonation of **35** in the four superacids. The pmr spectrum of ion **36** is in accordance with its structure (Table 11). Formation of ion **37** is based on the presence of a low-intensity $(ca. 2\%)$ shielded doublet at δ 1.8 ($J_{\text{CH}_3,H}$ = 7 Hz) corresponding to the methyl proton attached to the methylene carbon atom.

F. -Protonation of 3,5-dimethylanisole **(38)** in HF solution was examined by Brouwer and coworkers. **2b**

acids 11-IV, ion **39** is obtained and the pmr spectrum is similar to that reported.2b The pmr spectrum of ion **39** is found, however, to be temperature dependent, owing in all probability to the hindered rotation of the methoxy group. At low temperature (-80°) ,

the rotation is slow or does not occur at all, as different methyl groups and vinylic methine protons are observed. (Table 11). At higher temperatures **(e.g.,** -20° , each set of the two singlets collapsed and finally became a singlet. The rotation of the OCH₃ group at -20° is rapid, causing two methyl groups and also the two ring methine protons to become equivalent. **38**
 38
 38
 38
 38
 38
 39
 10
 10

In superacid I, **38** is both mono- and diprotonated to give ions **39** and **40,** respectively. The ratio of ions

39 : **40** is dependent on the ratio of the molar concentration of HF-SbFz and **38.** Dication **40** was formed predominantly at higher concentration of $HF-SbF₅$ in the solution. The formation of dication **40** is indicated by its substantially deshielded pmr absorbtions. The pmr spectrum shows (besides the absorption lines of ion **39**) a singlet due to the two methyl groups at δ 3.62 $(6 H)$, a methoxy singlet at 5.60 $(3 H)$, a slightly broadened methylene singlet at *5.5* (4 H), and a vinyl singlet at 8.66 (1 H).

Protonation of Dihydroxybenzenes. **A.** Catechol **(41)** is C-protonated in superacids I1 and I11 to give the 3,4-dihydroxybenzenium ion **42.** The pmr spectrum

is temperature independent ranging from -90 to -20° indicating the absence of isomeric cisoid and transoid ions of **42** and no 1,2-hydrogen shift of the methylene protons. Furthermore, the hydroxylic protons were not obeervable, presumably because of rapid protonation-deprotonation equilibrium (exchange), even though the hydroxylic proton of C-protonated phenol2 was observed under identical conditions. Apparcntly, intra- and intermolecular hydrogen bonding seem to be responsible for such observation. **A** possible mechanism for the rapid proton exchange involves the *p*quinoidal intermediate **(43).** On the other hand, di-

protonated catechol **(44)** as an intermediate could

equally well explain the rapid proton exchange of **42** with the superacid systems. The pmr spectrum of ion **42** shows a slightly broadened singlet at *6* 4.6 **(2** H, CH₂), a doublet at 7.74 (1 H, H_a , $J_{HH} = 9$ Hz), a triplet at 8.03 (1 H, H_b , $J_{HH} = 2$ Hz), and a doublet of triplets at 8.90 (1 H, H_e , J_{HH} = 9 and 2 Hz). The shielding (0.9 ppm) of the ortho proton by the adjacent hydroxyl group should bc noted.

When **41** was protonated in superacid IV, the pmr spectrum indicated the formation of ion **42** and an additional sharp singlet at δ 7.44. This sharp singlet can be tentatively assigned to the aromatic protons of 0-protonated catechol **(45)** undergoing rapid hydrogen exchange with the solvent system.

B. Resorcinol **(46)** is the strongest base among the three dihydroxybenzenes. It is completely C-protonated in superacids II-IV at -50° to give the 2,4dihydroxybenzenium ion (47). Alder and Taylor^{2c}

also found that 46 was C-protonated in BF_a -HF sulfolane solution, but gave no report on either peak multiplicities or coupling constants. The pmr spectrum of ion **47** as obtained in our work shows a doublet at δ 4.73 (CH₃, J_{HH} = 3.5 Hz), a singlet at 6.82 (H_a), a doublet at 7.31 (H_b, J_{HH} = 10 Hz), and a doublet of triplets at 8.10 (H_c, $J_{HH} = 10$ and 3.5 Hz). The shielding effect of the H, proton in ion **47** by the two OH groups is noteworthy. The well-resolved doublet of triplets of the H, proton clearly shows the rapid conformational interconversion about the benzenium ring. The hydroxylic protons are again not observed, implying rapid exchange *(via* intra- and intermolecular processes).

C. Hydroquinone **(48)** is not C-protonated in any of the superacids to give the 2,5-dihydroxybenzenium ion **49.** Thc pmr spectra of **48** in superacids 11, 111,

and IV (at -40°) show a sole singlet absorption at δ 8.52, 7.91, and 7.50, respectively. These results imply a rapid O-protonation-deprotonation process $(48 \rightleftharpoons$ **50).** In the strongcst of the three superacid systems $(i.e., II)$, the equilibrium is shifted to the right and the singlet absorption is dcshielded by about 1.5 ppm from that of the precursor **48.** Furthermore, the hydroxylic protons cannot be observed even at -90° , indicating that $48 \rightleftharpoons 50$ is an extremely rapid and low activation energy process. One possible mechanism for the proton exchange reaction may be involvment of the dipositive ion (or transition state) **51.**

Protonation of **41, 46, and 48 in superacid I at** -78° all gave only unidentified polymeric products. The reason for this difference in chemical behavior is not readily apparent, although superacid **I** is the strongest of the superacid systems used and may cause the most exothermic, difficult to control reactions, with possibility of local overheating causing polymerization.

Protonation of Dimethoxybenzenes. - In many respects, protonation of dimethoxybenzene in the four superacid systems is similar to the protonation of dihydroxybenzenes. The only obvious difference is that no polymerization takes place when any of the dimethoxybenzenes is protonated in any of the four superacids.

o-Dimethoxybenzene (veratrole) (52) was found **A.** C-protonated in superacids **I1** and **111,** giving the 3,4 dimethoxybenzenium ion **53.** The pmr spectrum of

ion **53** shows the methylene proton absorption at δ 4.8 (slightly broadened). The assignment of the ring protons is similar to those of C-protonated catechol **52** (also see Table **11).**

In HS03F-S02C1F **(IV), 52** undergoes both *C-* and O-protonation. However, the O-protonated ion **54**

is in equilibrium with **52.** It is likely that the acidic proton is attached to both methoxy oxygens *via* hydrogen bonding.

In $HF-SbF_5(1:1)-SOClF$, (1) 52 was C-protonated. The pmr spectrum of the solution shows a similar pattern to that of ion **53,** but all the absorption lines are deshielded by 0.43-1.24 ppm (see Table **11).** The deshielding effect is probably coming from additional protonation of the oxygen atom (ortho OCH3) of ion **57** to give the dication **55,** but rapidly exchanging with the acid solvent.

B. m-Dimethoxybenzene (56) was C-protonated in superacids **II-IV** to give 2,4-dimethoxybenzenium ion (57). Brouwer and coworkers^{2b} also found ion 57 when **(57).** Brouwer and coworkerszb also found ion **57** when

56 was treated with HF at -70° . The pmr spectrum of ion **57** is similar to that of ion **47** except that there are two additional sharp singlet absorptions at δ 4.52 and 4.63 for the ortho and para OCH3, respectively.

 56 in superacid I at -40° gave a pmr spectrum similar to that of ion **57** but all the resonance lines were deshielded by \sim 1 ppm (see Table II). In addition, a broadened, deshielded absorption was found at δ 12.2. These data suggest that a diprotonated species is formed. The second proton is likely attached to the ortho OCH₃ rather than the para OCH₃ group. These data indicate that **56** was diprotonated to give dication **57a,** which, however, exchanges with the solvent system.

C. p-Dimethoxybenzene (58) was O-protonated in all the four superacids. In the weakest acid (IV), the pmr spectrum shows two singlet absorptions at δ 4.46 and 7.58 for the methoxy and the aromatic protons, respectively. When the acidity is increased in 111 and **11,** the methoxy singlet absorptions were deshielded to 6 5.23 and 5.30, as were the aromatic singlet absorptions to δ 8.10 and 8.18, respectively. These results are similar to those derived for the protonation of hydroquinone **48,** which involves a O-protonationdeprotonation process. No polymerization took place when **58** was treated in superacid I, and indeed, the

dication **60** was observed. The pmr spectrum of dication **60** shows the methoxy doublets at δ 5.48 (J_{HH} = 3 Hz), an aromatic singlet absorption at δ 8.24, and the deshielded hydroxyl quartets at δ 11.92 $(J_{\text{HH}} = 3)$ Hz).

Conclusion

The sites of protonation of mono- and dihydroxybenzenes as well as their substituted derivatives were found to be dependent on the acid media used. Generally, O-protonation is favored in weaker acid media, while C-protonation was usually achieved in stronger

superacid media (for example, in the case of protonation of phenol, anisole, $m-$ and p -cresols, and 2,4,6dimethylanisole). In some cases, a mixture of 0- and C-protonated species were observed in the same solution and their relative ratio is related to the acid media used. The ratio of stereoisomer (cis and trans) formation is also dependent on the acid media used.

Based on their protonating ability the decreasing acidity of the four superacid systems used is $I > II >$ $III > IV$.

Substituent effects play an important role in the course of protonation. In $\text{FSO}_3\text{H-SO}_2\text{ClF}$ solution, m -methylanisole (17) was completely C-protonated (18) while m-cresol (19) was partially 0-protonated (25%) to 20a under identical experimental conditions. These results suggest that a methoxy group can stabilize a benzenium ion better than a hydroxy group. In contrast, we found in the protonation of 3,5-dimethoxyphenol that the site of protonation is four times more favorable at the carbon atom para to the hydroxyl than para to the methoxyl groups.¹⁰ Similarly, p cresol $(9a)$ is completely C-protonated in superacid I1 to give ion loa, while 9b is partially C-protonated under identical conditions. The reason for these differences is not yet completely understood. It is known that methoxyl groups activate the aromatic ring in electrophilic substitutions. However, we were not able to C-protonate p-dimethoxybenzene (58) even in the strongest superacid I medium, as it gave only the 0-diprotonated dication 60.

It is reasonable to assume that initial kinetic protonation is on oxygen, which, however, in many systems is a completely reversible process and 0-protonated ions can be observed only in low-nucleophilicity media *(ie.,* superacids), but even in these their exchange processes frequently remain rapid. In contrast Cprotonated ions [hydroxy (alkoxy) benzenium ions] show considerably less tendency to exchange with solvent.

Finally, three different types of dications mere observed in the protonation of studied hydroxy (alkoxy) aromatic compounds. These are (i) di-0-protonated p-dimethoxybenzene (60), (ii) di-C-protonated 3,5 dimethylanisole (40), and (iii) 0- and C-diprotonated 2,4-dimethylanisole (26), *0-* and m-dimethoxybenzenes

(55 and 57a). Diprotonation was only achieved in the strongest superacid I. The nature of these dications is further discussed in our subsequent paper.^{10b}

Experimental Section

Materials.--- All the mono- and dihydroxybenzenes and their methyl ethers were commercially available in high purity and were used without further purification. Antimony pentafluoride (Allied Chemical Co.) was refluxed for 12 hr while passing a stream of dry nitrogen throught it to remove HF. The material was then twice distilled (bp 150°). Fluorosulfuric acid (Allied Chemical Co.) was twice distilled (bp 160-164') before use. Hydrogen fluoride was obtained from Baker Chemical Co., sulfuryl chloride fluoride from Allied Chemical Co.

Preparation of Ions.-Superacids were prepared by mixing antimony pentafluoride and HF or $HSO₃F$ at $-78°$ in Teflon bottles. The resulting solutions were then diluted with sulfuryl chloride fluoride. Ions for nmr studies were prepared by adding \sim 50 mg of the aromatic compound to be protonated in an nmr tube to 1 ml of the above superacid solutions (at -78°), with good stirring, which was continued until a clear solution was obtained. Following their nmr study the solutions were quenched (as previously described*) and starting hydroxy (methoxy) compounds were recovered (as indicated by nmr, ir, and glc studies) showing that no side reactions took place otherwise as described.

Nmr Spectra.--A Varian Associates Model A-56/6OA nmr used for ¹H nmr spectra. Carbon-13 **INDOR** spectra¹² were obtained on a Varian Associates Model HA100 nmr spectrometer as described.

Acknowledgment. -Support of our work by the Petroleum Research Fund, administered by the American Chemical Society, and the National Institutes of Health is gratefully acknowledged.

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