# PHOTOCHEMICAL STABILITY OF ATMOSPHERIC CFCl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>2</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub> AND CF<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>

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### Summary

 $CFCl_2NO_2$ ,  $CF_2CINO_2$  and  $CF_3NO_2$  were prepared and purified in the laboratory from the oxidation of their corresponding nitrosomethanes with hydrogen peroxide and were characterized by their IR spectra. Quantitative measurements of their UV absorption spectra were made in order to obtain estimates of their atmospheric photochemical stability.

# 1. Introduction

The absorption of solar radiation by stratospheric chlorofluoromethanes results in C—Cl bond rupture [1, 2] with the formation of halogenated methyl radicals and chlorine atoms that react to deplete the stratospheric ozone concentration [3]. The halogenated methyl radicals may further release their chlorine atoms following chemical reactions involving oxygen and photodecomposition of phosgene-like compounds that are produced in the oxidation mechanism [4, 5].

Trace amounts of halogen-substituted methyl nitrogen oxides may be formed in the stratosphere and, if stable, they may prevent release of the chlorine from the halogenated methyl radicals [6]. Recent papers have provided information on (1) kinetic and IR absorption data for the formation of  $CCl_3O_2NO_2$ ,  $CFCl_2O_2NO_2$  and  $CF_2ClO_2NO_2$  [7], (2) the thermal stability of  $CCl_3O_2NO_2$  [8, 9] and  $CFCl_2O_2NO_2$  [10] and (3) the photochemical stability of  $CCl_3NO$  [11],  $CFCl_2NO$  [12],  $CF_2ClNO$  [12],  $CF_3NO$ [11],  $CCl_3NO_2$  [11] and  $CCl_3O_2NO_2$  [13].

We report here IR and UV absorption spectra for  $CFCl_2NO_2$ ,  $CF_2ClNO_2$ and  $CF_3NO_2$  as well as estimates of their atmospheric photochemical stability. These nitromethane molecules may be produced by

$$CX_3 + NO_2 + M \rightarrow CX_3NO_2 + M$$

(1)

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where M is a stabilizing third body. Reaction (1) occurs with  $CF_3$  [14, 15] and CCl<sub>3</sub> [16] radicals, although

$$CX_3 + NO_2 \rightarrow CX_3O + NO$$

may compete with reaction (1) [17]. Reaction (2) takes place at low pressures with  $CF_3$  [18] but is endothermic for  $CCl_3$  radicals at stratospheric temperatures [16].

Early attempts to prepare  $CF_2CINO_2$  and  $CF_3NO_2$  in the laboratory by the oxidation of the corresponding nitrosomethanes with dimanganese heptoxide, lead dioxide and chromic oxide resulted in low yields because of extensive decomposition [19, 20]. Subsequent work showed that higher yields of  $CF_1NO_2$  were obtained with the milder oxidizing agent  $H_2O_2$ [15, 20] and, in the present study,

$$CX_3NO + H_2O_2 \rightarrow CX_3NO_2 + H_2O$$
(3)

was used to synthesize the nitro compounds.

# 2. Experimental details

 $CF_3NO$  [11],  $CF_2CINO$  [12] and  $CFCl_2NO$  [12] at a pressure of 400 Torr were transferred separately on a greaseless vacuum line into 500 ml Pyrex bulbs equipped with a greaseless fitting and stopcock and containing 5 ml of 30% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> that had been outgassed at 77 K. The reaction mixtures containing CF<sub>3</sub>NO and CF<sub>2</sub>ClNO were heated at 323 K for 3 - 4 days while the  $CFCl_2NO-H_2O_2$  samples were kept at 298 K for about 12 h. After reaction, the products were nearly colorless and only a faint trace of the initial blue color remained.

 $CF_3NO_2$  was obtained by outgassing the reaction mixture at 77 K and then collecting the volatile fraction when the mixture was held at the temperature of solid  $CO_2$ -CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub> slush (187 K). Distillation at the temperature of  $n-C_5H_{12}$  slush (151 K) was used to remove the more volatile portion including the unreacted blue  $CF_3NO$ . The remaining fraction was passed through a column of dried granular LiOH [21] to eliminate trace amounts of  $CO_2$  that have been reported to be produced in the reaction [15]. Final purification was achieved by collecting the more volatile portion at 187 K.

Because blue  $CF_2CINO$  was difficult to separate from the colorless  $CF_2CINO_2$ , the gas phase of the reaction mixture was further reacted with a fresh supply of 5 ml 30%  $H_2O_2$  at 323 K until no blue color remained (2 - 3 days).  $CF_2CINO_2$  was isolated from the residual liquids by distilling at the temperature of  $CHCl_3$  slush (210 K) and collecting the volatile fraction. Higher volatile impurities were discarded by distillation at the temperature of  $CH_3OH$  slush (175 K).

 $CFCl_2NO_2$  was separated by distilling the product from the liquid phase at the temperature of  $CCl_4$  slush (251 K) and then discarding the more volatile fraction at 187 K. UV-visible and IR absorption scans showed the presence of trace  $NO_2-N_2O_4$  in the samples.  $NO_2-N_2O_4$  may originate not

(2)

only from the oxidation of  $CFCl_2NO$  with  $H_2O_2$  but also from the synthesis of  $CFCl_2NO$  if the latter system is not kept oxygen free [12]. This impurity was eliminated by passing the material through a short column of dried granular  $CaCl_2$  so as to convert the  $NO_2-N_2O_4$  to ClNO by the reaction [22]

$$2NO_2(g) + \frac{1}{2}CaCl_2(s) \rightarrow ClNO(g) + \frac{1}{2}Ca(NO_3)_2(s)$$
(4)

Separation of ClNO from  $CFCl_2NO_2$  was accomplished by distillation at 187 K and discarding the more volatile fraction.

The colorless  $CF_3NO_2$ ,  $CF_2CINO_2$  and  $CFCl_2NO_2$  were stored in the dark at 187 K to prevent any possible photodecomposition and thermal decomposition, although none was observed during the course of the experiments.

UV-visible and IR measurements were made using 2 and 10 cm path length cells at 298 K with a Varian Cary 219 spectrophotometer (at and above 185 nm) at a constant spectral bandwidth of 1 nm and 10 cm path length cells with a Perkin-Elmer 621 spectrophotometer ( $600 - 4000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). For the CF<sub>2</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub> and CFCl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> experiments the Cary 219 was interfaced to an IMSAI 8080 microcomputer for data handling and storage, while pressures were determined with MKS Baratron gauges and ranged from 0.2 - 86 Torr and 0.2 - 60 Torr respectively for the UV cross section measurements. CF<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> pressures were determined using mercury and dibutyl phthalate manometers and varied from 0.5 to 78 Torr.

### 3. Results and discussion

The IR spectrum of the purified  $CF_3NO_2$  was in agreement with that reported in the literature [23]. The IR absorption spectra of  $CF_2ClNO_2$  and  $CFCl_2NO_2$  from 600 to 2000 cm<sup>-1</sup> are shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Assignments for some of the fundamental vibrational modes of  $CF_2ClNO_2$  and  $CFCl_2NO_2$ were made using the known IR spectra of  $CF_3NO_2$  [23],  $CCl_3NO_2$  [23],



Fig. 1. IR spectrum of gaseous CF<sub>2</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub> at 298 K (pressure, 8 Torr; path length, 10 cm).



Fig. 2. IR spectrum of gaseous CFCl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> at 298 K (pressure, 8 Torr; path length, 10 cm).

 $CF_2CINO$  [24] and  $CFCl_2NO$  [24] and are given in Table 1. Complete interpretation of the vibrational spectra of  $CF_2CINO_2$  and  $CFCl_2NO_2$  is expected to be more complicated than those of  $CF_3NO_2$  and  $CCl_3NO_2$  because of the presence of a greater number of stable rotational conformers in the mixed halogen compounds [25]. The assignments for the C-N symmetric stretch were made so as to be consistent with the  $CF_3NO_2$  and  $CCl_3NO_2$  spectra. The frequencies that have been reported for the C-N symmetric stretches of CF<sub>3</sub>NO, CF<sub>2</sub>ClNO, CFCl<sub>2</sub>NO and CCl<sub>3</sub>NO are 810 cm<sup>-1</sup> [26, 27], 768  $cm^{-1}$  [24], 943  $cm^{-1}$  [24] and 936  $cm^{-1}$  [24] respectively. The C–N symmetric stretch of CF<sub>2</sub>ClNO appears to be incorrectly assigned and the correct assignment could possibly be the sharp band at 925  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  or the previously [24] unassigned peak at 985 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The NO<sub>2</sub> deformation frequencies for  $CF_2CINO_2$  and  $CFCl_2NO_2$  (Table 1) obey the straight-line relationship that has been observed between the deformation frequency and the electronegativity of X in  $CX_3NO_2$  when  $X \equiv H$ , D, Br, Cl and F [23]. The remaining observed peaks that have been left unassigned are located at 654 (w), 882 (w), 983 (s), 1030 (w), 2480 (w), 2650 (w) and  $2930 \,\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$  (w) for CF<sub>2</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub> and 725 (w), 934 (s), 1015 (w), 1090 (w), 1380 (w), 1760 (w), and 2645  $cm^{-1}$  (w) for CFCl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (where w indicates a weak peak and s indicates a strong peak).

The vapor pressure of  $CF_3NO_2$  was taken at six temperatures over the range 141 - 210 K (Table 2) and made to fit the linear equation  $\ln p$  (Torr) = 18.58 - 2898/T(K) using the method of least squares. This is in good agreement with data taken from 238.6 to 242.5 K ( $\ln p$ (Torr) = 17.37 - 2598/T(K)) [15] and that reported by Banus ( $\ln p$ (Torr) = 18.89 - 2936/T(K)) [20].

The vapor pressures of  $CF_2CINO_2$  and  $CFCl_2NO_2$  (Table 2) were measured at five temperatures over the range 187 - 273 K and the following respective linear least-squares expressions were obtained:

# **TABLE 1**

Observed frequencies in wavenumbers and tentative band assignments for some halogen-substituted nitromethanes and nitrosomethanes

Vibrational mode	$CF_3NO_2^{a}$	CCI <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> ª	CF2CINO <sup>b</sup>	CFCl2NO <sup>b</sup>	CF2CINO2°	CFCl <sub>2</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>c</sup>
N-O asymmetric stretch	1620	1625	1600.5	1614	1628	1628
NO symmetric stretch	1310	1311	Ι	I	1338	1329
C-F symmetric stretch	1151	I	1176	1147.5	1167	1173
			1167.5	1139.5	1107	
			1149	1137		
			1087			
C-N symmetric stretch	860	850	768 <sup>d</sup>	943	832	850
N-O <sub>2</sub> symmetric deformation	750	677	I	I	713	069
$(a')\nu(CICF_2)$	I	ł	932	I	934	1
			925		928	
(a")»(CICCI)	I	1	I	829	1	794
				823		
$(a')\nu(CF_2 CI)$	I	1	1243.5	I	1250	i

<sup>a</sup> Ref. 23. <sup>b</sup>Ref. 24. <sup>c</sup>This work. <sup>d</sup>See text for discussion of this assignment.

Temperature (K)	ln p(Torr)					
	$\overline{CFCl_2NO_2}$	CF2CINO2	CF <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>			
141.5			-1.61			
150.2			-0.92			
162.2			0.41			
175.2			1.95			
187	-2.12	1.22	3.30			
209.5	-0.16	2,38	4.77			
227.8	1.01	3.38				
250.1	2.73	4.76				
273	4.01	5.70				

Vapor pressure data for CFCl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>2</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub> and CF<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>

$$\ln p (\text{Torr}) = 16.92 - \frac{3059}{T(\text{K})}$$
$$\ln p (\text{Torr}) = 17.97 - \frac{3822}{T(\text{K})}$$

Extrapolation of the vapor pressure curves gave 297 K (compared with the previously reported value of 298 K [19]) and 337 K for the boiling points of  $CF_2CINO_2$  and  $CFCl_2NO_2$  respectively at a pressure of 1 atm. Using the Clausius-Clapeyron equation, the heats of vaporization for  $CF_2CINO_2$  and  $CFCl_2NO_2$  are calculated to be 6.1 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> and 7.6 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> respectively.

UV absorption by  $CF_3NO_2$ ,  $CF_2CINO_2$  and  $CFCl_2NO_2$  are shown in Figs. 3, 4 and 5 respectively. Analogous to the absorption spectra of  $CH_3NO_2$  [29] and  $CCl_3NO_2$  [11], two absorption bands are prominent: the long wavelength band due to an  $n,\pi^*$  transition of a non-bonding electron on an oxygen atom and the short wavelength band caused by a  $\pi,\pi^*$  transition [29]. A comparison of the cross sections for  $CF_3NO_2$ ,  $CF_2CINO_2$ ,  $CFCl_2NO_2$  and  $CCl_3NO_2$  at the maxima and minima in their UV spectra is given in Table 3. The observed cross sections for  $CF_3NO_2$  are in agreement with previous results [15, 28, 30] at the absorption maximum of the long wavelength band but differ at shorter wavelengths (Fig. 3). The cross sections of  $CCl_3NO_2$  also disagreed with those reported in ref. 28 (see ref. 11, Table 3 and Fig. 3; it should be noted that the cross section axis for ref. 11, Fig. 3, was incorrectly labelled and it should be a factor of 10 larger).

The photodecomposition of chloro- and fluoro-substituted nitromethanes is expected to occur by breakage of the weakest bond, the C–N bond, which is similar to the photodissociation mechanism of  $CH_3NO_2$  [29]:

$$CX_3NO_2 + h\nu \rightarrow CX_3 + NO_2$$

**TABLE 2** 



Fig. 3. Absorption spectrum of gaseous  $CF_3NO_2$  at 298 K: ——, this work; — —, ref. 28. The error bars were obtained from determinate error calculations.

Fig. 4. Absorption spectrum of gaseous CF<sub>2</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub> at 298 K.



Fig. 5. Absorption spectrum of gaseous CFCl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> at 298 K.

Molecule	λ <sub>max</sub> (nm)	$\sigma_{\rm max}({\rm cm}^2)$	λ <sub>min</sub> (nm)	$\sigma_{\min}~(\mathrm{cm}^2)$	Reference
CF <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	277 ± 2 277.5 279	$(4.3 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-20} 4.3 \times 10^{-20} 4.2 \times 10^{-20}$	250 ± 3 239.5 239	$(3.0 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-20}$ 7.6 × 10 <sup>-21</sup> 7.6 × 10 <sup>-21</sup>	This work [30] [15, 28]
CF <sub>2</sub> ClNO <sub>2</sub>	279 ± 3 195 ± 1	$(1.7 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-19}$ $(9.0 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-18}$	<b>238</b> ±1	$(2.4 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-20}$	This work This work
CFCl <sub>2</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	276 ± 3 198 ± 1	$(1.7 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-19}$ $(8.8 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-18}$	241 ± 1	$(4.7\pm0.1)\times10^{-20}$	This work This work
CCl <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	272 ± 2 275 202 ± 1	$(1.6 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-19}$ 7.6 × 10 <sup>-20</sup> $(9.7 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-18}$	242 ± 2 245	$\begin{array}{c} (4.9\pm0.2)\times10^{-20}\\ 2.7\times10^{-20} \end{array}$	[11] <sup>a</sup> [28] [11] <sup>a</sup>

Photoabsorption cross sections at the maxima and minima in the UV absorption spectra of gaseous  $CF_3NO_2$ ,  $CF_2CINO_2$ ,  $CFCl_2NO_2$  and  $CCl_3NO_2$ 

<sup>a</sup>The cross section axis in ref. 11, Fig. 3, is incorrectly labelled and should be a factor of 10 larger.

Smaller quantum yields of decomposition may arise from [29]

$$CX_3NO_2 + h\nu \rightarrow CX_2O + XNO$$
(6)

(7)

and

$$CX_3NO_2 + h\nu \rightarrow CX_3NO + O$$

The energetics of reactions (5) - (7) (Table 4) are such that the absorption of radiation by  $CF_3NO_2$  (Fig. 3),  $CF_2CINO_2$  (Fig. 4),  $CFCl_2NO_2$  (Fig. 5) and  $CCl_3NO_2$  [11] are of sufficient energy to permit photodissociation by reactions (5) - (7).

The photodissociation rate coefficients J reported in Table 5 are obtained by summing the product of the solar flux intensity I and the photoabsorption cross section  $\sigma$  over all absorbing wavelengths for each altitude h. The quantum yield  $\Phi$  for the decomposition of CX<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> was taken to be unity at each of the wavelengths used.

$$J(h) = \int \Phi I \sigma \, \mathrm{d}\lambda \tag{8}$$

The integration of eqn. (8) was done using the trapezoidal method for cross section data taken at 1 nm intervals. The solar flux intensities were interpolated so that their wavelengths matched the wavelengths at which the cross sections were calculated. This method of integration is slightly different from our previous calculations [11] which used exact values for solar flux intensities obtained at wavelengths closely corresponding to the cross-sectional wavelengths.

The photochemical stability of  $CX_3NO_2$  is such that the fraction 1/e remains after about an hour of photodecomposition by sunlight at 30 km (Table 5).

TABLE 3

TABLE 4

CX <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	Heat of reaction (kcal $mol^{-1}$ )						
	Reaction (5)	Reaction (6), producing CINO	Reaction (6), producing FNO	Reaction (7)			
CF <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	28		-36	70			
CF <sub>2</sub> CINO <sub>2</sub>	28	-56	-34	70			
CFCl <sub>2</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	28	-47	-25	69			
CCl <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	28			69			

Heats of reactions (5), (6) and (7) at 298 K<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Calculated from the heats of formation of CX<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub> [31], CF<sub>2</sub>Cl [32], CFCl<sub>2</sub> [32], CCl<sub>3</sub> [31], NO<sub>2</sub> [31], CCl<sub>2</sub>O [31], CClFO [31], CF<sub>2</sub>O [31], FNO [31], CINO [33], CX<sub>3</sub>NO [12] and O [33, 34]. The heats of formation of CX<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> were calculated from the bond dissociation energy of X<sub>3</sub>C—NO<sub>2</sub> and the heats of formation of CX<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>. The bond dissociation energies D of F<sub>3</sub>C—NO<sub>2</sub> and F<sub>2</sub>ClC—NO<sub>2</sub> were estimated using  $D(X_3C-NO_2) = D(X_3C-NO) + D(F-NO_2) - D(F-NO)$  while for FCl<sub>2</sub>C—NO<sub>2</sub> and Cl<sub>3</sub>C—NO<sub>2</sub> the equation  $D(X_3C-NO_2) = D(X_3C-NO) + D(Cl-NO_2) - D(Cl-NO)$  was used. The dissociation energies for X<sub>3</sub>C—NO were obtained from ref. 12 and those for F—NO<sub>2</sub>, Cl—NO<sub>2</sub>, F—NO and Cl—NO were calculated from the heats of formation of F [34], Cl [34], NO [31], NO<sub>2</sub> [31], FNO<sub>2</sub> [31] and ClNO<sub>2</sub> [31]. The estimated heats of formation of gaseous CF<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>2</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub>, CFCl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> and CCl<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> at 298 K are -132 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, -84 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, -43 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> and -1 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> respectively.

### TABLE 5

Photodissociation rate coefficients J and lifetimes 1/J for CX<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>a</sup>

Altitude (km)	CF <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>		$CF_2CINO_2$		$CFCl_2NO_2$		CCl <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	
	$\frac{J}{(s^{-1})}$	1/J (h)	$\frac{J}{(s^{-1})}$	1/J (h)	$\overline{J}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	1/J (h)	$\frac{J}{(s^{-1})}$	1/J (h)
0	$6.9 \times 10^{-5}$	4.0	$1.8 \times 10^{-4}$	1.5	$1.6 \times 10^{-4}$	1.7	$1.4 \times 10^{-4}$	2.0
10	$1.0 \times 10^{-4}$	2.8	$2.6 \times 10^{-4}$	1.1	$2.3 \times 10^{-4}$	1.2	$2.1 \times 10^{-4}$	1.3
20	$1.1 \times 10^{-4}$	2.5	$2.8 \times 10^{-4}$	1.0	$2.5 \times 10^{-4}$	1.1	$2.2 \times 10^{-4}$	1.3
30	$1.6 \times 10^{-4}$	1.7	$3.7 \times 10^{-4}$	0.8	$3.2 \times 10^{-4}$	0.9	$2.9 \times 10^{-4}$	1.0
40	$4.4 \times 10^{-4}$	0.6	$7.7 \times 10^{-4}$	0.4	$7.2 \times 10^{-4}$	0.4	$7.3 \times 10^{-4}$	0.4
50	$6.9 \times 10^{-4}$	0.4	$1.2 \times 10^{-3}$	0.2	$1.3 \times 10^{-3}$	0.2	$1.3 \times 10^{-3}$	0.2

<sup>a</sup>Solar flux intensities were taken at a zenith angle of 45°.

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