

Computational Studies on the Reaction Pathways of CF₃Br with O(¹D,³P) Atoms

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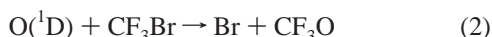
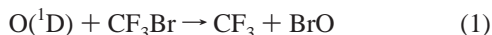
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The triplet and singlet potential energy surfaces (PES) for O(³P,¹D) + CF₃Br reactions have been studied using the density functional method at the B3LYP level. Geometries, energies, and vibrational frequencies of CF₃Br, CF₃BrO (¹A' and ³A''), CF₃OBr (¹A'), CF₃, BrO, CF₂O, BrF, and CF₂O–BrF complexes have been examined. Transition states connecting these species have been characterized and the whole potential surfaces could satisfactorily describe the O + CF₃Br reactions. In the gas phase, the OBr radical is the main product on both the singlet and triplet PESs. In a condensed matrix, however, CF₃OBr should be the dominant product generating from the recombination of nascent CF₃ + OBr.

1. Introduction

CF₃Br (Halon 1301) has long been used as fire fighting agent and refrigerant, and is believed to contribute significantly to atmospheric bromine.¹ Since CF₃Br does not react with OH radicals, its tropospheric lifetimes is very long (65–77 years).² In the stratosphere, CF₃Br can either be photodecomposed or react directly with atomic oxygen to generate ozone-depleting agents such as Br and BrO in the gas phase. The following reactions between oxygen atoms and CF₃Br have been extensively investigated in the gas phase:^{3–5}



Thompson and Ravishankara³ have studied the branching ratio for the reactive loss and quenching of O(¹D) by monitoring the time-resolved VUV atomic resonance fluorescence of O(³P). Recently, Cronkhite and Wine⁴ pointed out that reaction 1 is the dominant one for the competing reactions 1 and 2. Alagia et al.⁵ have built a model potential energy surface coupled with their molecular beam scattering experiments for O(¹D) + CF₃-Br system. They suggested that BrO in reaction 1 could be formed on a reactive PES with a deep energy well stabilizing CF₃OBr intermediates. However, CF₃OBr has never been observed in the gas phase.

Lorenzen-Schmidt et al.⁶ and Minkwitz et al.⁷ have successfully isolated CF₃OBr and recorded its IR and Raman spectra in an Ar matrix as well as in pure solid state. Quite recently, our group reinvestigated the IR spectra of CF₃OBr in an Ar matrix,⁸ and infrared absorptions at 1249.4, 1204.2, and 1201.9 cm⁻¹ were assigned to CF₃OBr with the aid of density functional calculations at the B3LYP/6-31+G(d) level. This work is now completed by detailed quantum chemical MO calculations of the potential energy surface (PES) for reactions between CF₃-Br and oxygen (both ¹D and ³P states). Geometries, energies, vibrational frequencies of reactants, products, reaction intermediates, and transition states (TS) are obtained, and we hope

these results will be valuable for better understanding the reaction mechanism of the CF₃Br + O system.

2. Computation Methods

Quantum chemical MO calculations were carried out using Gaussian 98 codes.⁹ Initial potential energy surface scan was performed using the B3LYP^{10,11} method with the 6-31+G(d) basis set. Stationary points of interests were further optimized using the 6-311+G(d) basis set. Harmonic vibrational frequencies were calculated using analytical second derivatives, and zero point vibrational energies (ZPE) were derived. The number of imaginary frequencies were used to characterize the nature of located structures. The ZPEs and the vibrational frequencies of reaction intermediates and transition states are used without scaling. Single point energy calculations were done with 6-311+G(2df) basis sets using the 6-311+G(d) geometries.

Transition state optimizations were done with the synchronous transit-guided quasi-Newton (STQN) method¹² at the B3LYP/6-311+G(d) level. The program can generate a guess for the transition structure that is midway between the reactant and product, and it then goes on to optimize that starting structure to a first-order saddle point automatically. At all the calculated transition states, vibrational normal modes were analyzed to testify the nature of the saddle point. In some cases, intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) calculations were performed to follow the reaction path.

3. Results and Discussion

In section 3.1, we will first discuss the intersystem crossing between the singlet and triplet potential energy surfaces (PESs) of the O + CF₃Br system; then we will describe the PESs in detail. These profiles are shown in Figures 1 and 2. Reaction intermediates and the transition states (TS) are calculated with their energies in Table 1 and geometries in Figures 3 and 4. Finally, we will discuss the vibrational frequencies (Tables 2 and 3) of the reaction intermediates and TS in section 3.2.

3.1. Potential Energy Surfaces. Energies of O (³P) and O (¹D). Before we proceed to discuss the reaction PESs, it is necessary to confirm the veracity of our computation methods. In Table 1, experimental energies^{13,14} of some species are included for comparison. We note the energy difference between O(³P) and O(¹D) is calculated to be 63.4 kcal/mol, which severely deviates from the measured value of 45.4 kcal/mol.¹³ This large difference originates from the wrong symmetry of the wave function for the O(¹D) atom in a simple closed-shell

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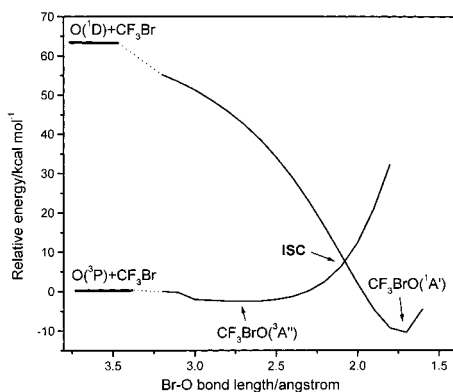


Figure 1. Relative energy of O + CF₃Br interaction on the singlet and triplet PESs plotted as a function of Br–O separation with bent configuration. Calculated at the B3LYP/6-31+G(d) level.

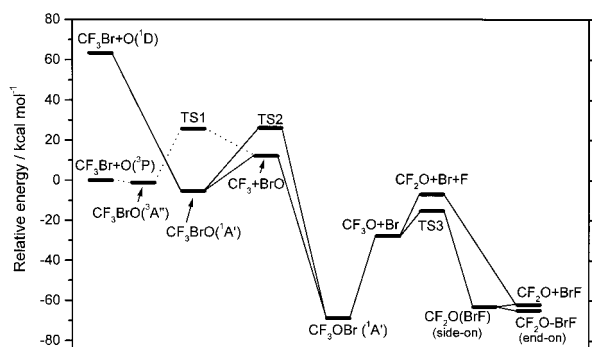


Figure 2. Singlet (solid lines) and triplet (dotted lines) potential energy profiles of the CF₃Br + O system, plotted using B3LYP/6-311+G(d) energies plus ZPE corrections.

TABLE 1: Relative Energies (kcal/mol) of the Reaction Intermediates and Transition States

species	energies			expt ^b
	6-311+G(d)	6-311+G(d)+ZPE	6-311+G(2df) ^a	
CF ₃ OBr (¹ A')	-71.36	-68.80	-75.24	
CF ₂ O–BrF (end on)	-66.34	-64.88	-69.31	
CF ₂ O(BrF) (side on)	-64.28	-63.08	-67.18	
CF ₂ O + BrF	-62.88	-62.06	-66.07	
CF ₃ O + Br	-28.75	-27.78	-28.99	-34.2
CF ₂ O + Br + F	-6.84	-6.95	-5.26	-10.2
CF ₃ BrO (¹ A')	-6.45	-5.30	-14.04	
CF ₃ BrO (³ A'')	-1.35	-1.13	-1.55	
CF ₃ Br + O(³ P)	0	0	0	0
CF ₃ + BrO	12.53	12.13	8.05	14.0
CF ₃ Br + O(¹ D)	63.36	63.36	63.41	45.45
TS1	25.86	25.68	22.96	
TS2	25.35	26.18	17.47	
TS3	-16.20	-15.28	-17.34	

^a Single point energy calculated at the B3LYP/6-311+G(d) geometries ^b Relative values of heats of formation ΔH_f (298K). The data are from ref 13, except that of CF₃O, which is from ref 14.

type Kohn–Sham functional. This could be fixed by introducing perfect-pairing general valence bond (GVB-PP) calculation,⁹ but unfortunately, it is not available with B3LYP DFT methods.

The singlet–triplet intersystem crossing we are going to discuss is only a qualitative feature, and the aforementioned incorrect energy gap between O(³P) and O(¹D) will not influence the results. On the other hand, the calculated relative energies accord with experiments with a uncertainty of 2–5 kcal/mol, as shown in Table 1. Therefore, higher level calculations such as CCSD(t) or QCISD have not been performed to correct the energies.

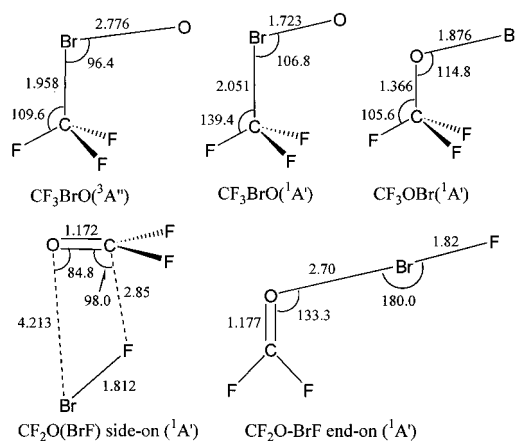


Figure 3. Geometries of CF₃BrO (¹A', ³A''), CF₃OBr (¹A'), CF₂O–(BrF) side-on complex, and CF₂O–BrF end-on complex. The intermediates all pertain to C_s symmetry.

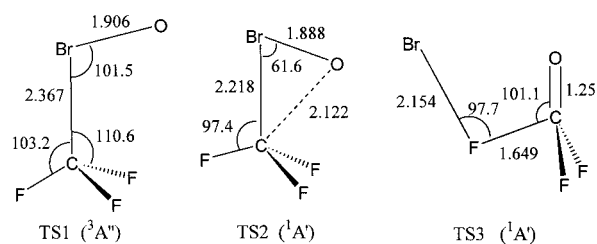


Figure 4. Calculated geometries of the reaction transition states. The TSs all have C_s symmetry.

TABLE 2: Calculated Vibrational Frequencies (cm⁻¹), IR Intensities (in Parentheses, km/mol) of CF₃BrO (¹A', ³A''), CF₃OBr, and CF₂O–BrF Complexes at the B3LYP/6-311+G(d) Level

CF ₃ BrO(¹ A')	CF ₃ BrO(³ A'')	CF ₃ OBr(¹ A')	CF ₂ O(BrF)(side)	CF ₂ O–BrF(end)
1224.1 (317)	1188.9 (312)	1214.0 (327)	1970.7 (485)	1937.1 (772)
1210.2 (291)	1180.1 (278)	1185.1 (667)	1205.5 (455)	1245.7 (447)
1043.7 (482)	1047.0 (597)	1163.3 (386)	956.8 (61)	975.0 (66)
735.9 (50)	750.2 (57)	899.2 (6)	768.2 (58)	775.9 (40)
696.0 (43)	541.7 (1)	719.2 (1)	642.8 (35)	627.1 (64)
542.9 (0)	541.5 (1)	644.9 (3)	615.4 (6)	624.6 (11)
525.6 (2)	332.4 (1)	599.8 (3)	576.3 (5)	580.7 (5)
318.6 (3)	297.3 (0)	518.0 (1)	90.7 (2)	124.6 (3)
262.3 (0)	296.4 (0)	423.7 (0)	63.4 (2)	120.1 (2)
249.1 (1)	104.5 (7)	337.3 (3)	50.3 (1)	90.9 (6)
138.8 (8)	27.7 (0)	169.5 (1)	36.9 (1)	47.6 (0)
31.8 (9)	15.7 (0)	88.0 (1)	34.1 (1)	37.8 (0)

TABLE 3: Calculated Vibrational Frequencies (cm⁻¹) of the Reaction Transition States at the B3LYP/6-311+G(d) Level

TS1	TS2	TS3
CF ₃ BrO(³ A'') → CF ₃ + BrO	CF ₃ BrO (¹ A') → CF ₃ OBr (¹ A')	CF ₃ OBr (¹ A') → CF ₂ O(BrF) (side on)
480.3 i	437.1 i	757.8 i
63.7	94.3	34.9
150.6	261.6	239.5
168.1	301.2	284.8
241.8	332.2	316.5
287.3	536.3	479.4
518.3	563.5	586.0
518.8	585.1	604.1
679.4	708.5	705.6
972.5	904.2	941.9
1218.2	1139.8	1193.1
1226.2	1326.2	1429.0

Intersystem Crossing. To characterize the seam of crossing, we scanned the PES for interaction between O(¹D, ³P) and CF₃–Br at the B3LYP/6-31+G(d) level. Previous calculations^{15,16} showed that O approaching CF₃I and CH₃I in a bent config-

ration is energetically favored. Similarly, both singlet and triplet CF₃BrO complexes have bent geometries; therefore we have only calculated the energy along the bent collision trajectories.

As shown in Figure 1, energies along the interaction path are plotted as a function of CF₃Br–O separation. During optimization, we kept the CF₃Br part unchanged, and varied the Br–O bond length. The O atom approaches the Br side in CF₃Br with a C–Br–O angle of 106.8°, the same angle as in the CF₃BrO adducts. As seen from Figure 1, the ISC occurs at a Br–O distance of about 2.1 Å, which is midway between CF₃BrO (³A'') and CF₃BrO (¹A'). The crossing point is 2.7 kcal/mol above the O(³P) + CF₃Br reactants, and also 5.1 and 12.6 kcal/mol higher than the CF₃BrO (³A'') and CF₃BrO (¹A'), respectively. The energy of CF₃BrO (¹A') depends significantly on the basis set, as can be seen in Table 1. This implies that the ISC point would also move when using a better basis set. Since the level of theory employed here is below that used to calculate the whole PESs, this picture for ISC is expected to be qualitatively correct.

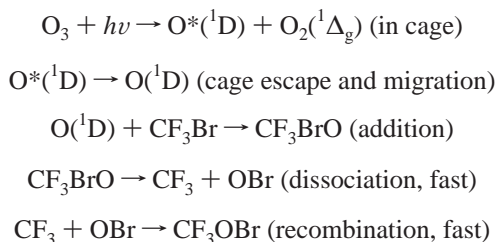
Previous calculations on the reactions between O (³P) and CF₃I,¹⁵ CH₃I,¹⁶ and C₂H₅I¹⁷ have shown that the singlet–triplet PES intersections are also important features. As far as we know, the ISC for the CF₃Br + O system is similar to that of the C₂H₅I + O (¹D,³P) system,¹⁷ of which the ISC occurs at the exit of the entrance valley on the PES.

CF₃BrO and CF₃OBr. The overall potential energy surfaces are given in Figure 2. Starting from O(³P) and CF₃Br, a vdW complex CF₃BrO (³A'') is located with a binding energy of 1.1 kcal/mol (B3LYP/6-311+G(d) + ZPE). Interaction between O(¹D) and CF₃Br leads directly to CF₃BrO (¹A'), which is stabilized by about 68 kcal/mol with respect to O(¹D) + CF₃Br. Singlet CF₃BrO (¹A') is a true covalently bound molecule, and it is 5.1 kcal/mol lower in energy than CF₃BrO (³A''). As can be seen from Figure 3, the Br–O bond length in CF₃BrO (³A'') is 2.776 Å, indicating a weak interaction. When it comes to CF₃BrO (¹A'), the Br–O bond length becomes 1.723 Å, which is even shorter than that in OBr (1.756 Å), and the C–Br is enlarged to 2.051 Å from 1.948 Å in free CF₃Br. Mulliken population reveals that the BrO bond in CF₃BrO (¹A') is ionic in nature with +0.578 atomic charge on Br and –0.497 on O. This may arise from the donation of the bromine lone pair electrons to the vacant p orbital on oxygen.

Dissociation of CF₃BrO (³A'') to doublet CF₃ + BrO proceeds via TS1, a transition state lying 24.5 kcal/mol above the minimum CF₃BrO (³A'') and 13.6 kcal/mol above CF₃ + BrO. On the singlet surface, CF₃BrO (¹A') generated from O(¹D) + CF₃Br is initially excited by nearly 70 kcal/mol in energy. This molecule can undergo further dissociation/isomerization pathways on the PES, as shown in Figure 2. First, dissociation of CF₃BrO (¹A') by C–Br bond fission to form CF₃ + OBr has no distinct barrier, and the process needs only 18 kcal/mol energy input. Previous experiment⁴ found that BrO formation via reaction 1 is the dominant channel with a branching ratio of 0.49 at 298 K. This result accords with our PES qualitatively. Second, CF₃BrO (¹A') could also isomerize through TS2 to form CF₃OBr. This three-center TS lies 31.5 kcal/mol above CF₃BrO (¹A'). However, in comparison with the dissociation channel leading to CF₃ + BrO, this isomerization process is less energetically favored. The geometric parameters of TS1 and TS2 are given in Figure 4.

At the present stage, it is of interest to discuss the origin of CF₃OBr in the matrix isolation experiment.^{6,8} Lorenzen-Schmidt et al.⁶ have addressed that CF₃OBr came from photodecomposition of the CF₃Br–O₃ complex, and the process is predominantly an insertion reaction. They suggested that direct insertion mechanism should apply or else the byproduct like O₂ might compete with CF₃ and BrO to give CF₃OO or other products. However, under our matrix isolation experiment conditions,⁸ the reaction precursors (CF₃Br and O₃) were in good isolation and the product CF₃OBr resulted from separate O(¹D) and CF₃–Br pairs, so the competing pathways involving O₂ can be totally excluded. Accordingly, it is reasonable to recognize that interaction between O(¹D) and CF₃Br leads to CF₃BrO adduct, which readily dissociates to CF₃ and BrO, and fast recombination of nascent CF₃ and BrO leads to CF₃OBr formation.

A dissociation/recombination mechanism for O₃ and CF₃Br reactions in matrix can be proposed as follows:



This mechanism can satisfactorily explain the reaction products observed in matrix IR spectra. Moreover, it also supports the gas-phase experiments.^{3–5}

Final Product: CF₂O Formation. Now we will concentrate on the latter region of the PES where the final products CF₂O and BrF were produced from O(¹D) + CF₃Br^{6,8} reactions. This channel is important in condensed phase reaction,^{6,8} although it is not observed in gas phase.

Obviously, CF₂O should come directly from CF₃OBr or CF₃O in which O binds directly with C. We will consider CF₃O first. About 41 kcal/mol energy input is required to break the O–Br bond in CF₃OBr to form CF₃O + Br. Since minor amounts of CF₂O + BrF were observed in matrix isolation experiments,^{6,8} it seems a small fraction of initially excited CF₃OBr could still dissociate to CF₃O + Br. One possible channel is that CF₂O + BrF could originate from the following steps: dissociation of CF₃O to CF₂O + F, followed by F atom recombination with Br in a matrix cage forming BrF finally. Normally, C–F bonds are very strong, but it is interesting to notice that the third C–F bond in CF₃O is much weaker than the other two. B3LYP/6-311+G(d) calculations predict its bond energy to be only 21 kcal/mol, much lower than the normal C–F bond strength of 110–120 kcal/mol.

Another possible channel is Br abstraction of F in CF₃O to form a side-on CF₂O(BrF) complex. We have explored the PES and found a transition state (TS3) for this Br abstraction channel:



Figure 4 gives the structure of TS3. In this transition state, the F atom (abstracted by Br) is 1.649 Å away from the C atom, which is 0.32 Å longer than normal C–F bond. The Br–F distance is 2.154 Å, still 0.3 Å away from the free BrF molecule (1.809 Å). TS3 is 12.5 kcal/mol above CF₃O + Br. The final product of this channel is a side-on complex, CF₂O(BrF), which is 1.0 kcal/mol more stable than separated CF₂O + BrF. Geometries of CF₂O(BrF) complexes can be found in Figure 3.

The unimolecular dissociation of CF_3OBr to form the $\text{CF}_2\text{O}-\text{BrF}$ complex is another reaction pathway generating CF_2O . Breaking the C–F and O–Br bonds in CF_3OBr requires lots of energy input. The C–F bond in CF_3OBr should not be as weak as that in CF_3O (vide supra), although it is hard to determine the C–F bond strength here. On that basis, a TS which looks like CF_2OBr with a separate F atom attacking at Br must be high in energy on the PES. Several attempts trying to locate this TS connecting CF_3OBr and $\text{CF}_2\text{O}(\text{BrF})$ (side-on complex) eventually failed. Thus, we could not judge for the present time whether this unimolecular reaction is applicable, and whether there is a TS for this reaction.

There are two conformers of $\text{CF}_2\text{O}-\text{BrF}$ complexes, namely, side-on and end-on, whose structures are shown in Figure 3. The side-on complex is 1 kcal/mol more stable than separated $\text{CF}_2\text{O} + \text{BrF}$, and the Br–F unit in this complex is parallel to the CF_2O planar with Br interacting with O atom and F with central C atom. The end-on complex has a planar structure with terminal O atom linking Br–F through the bromine atom. The end-on complex is 3 kcal/mol lower in energy than isolated $\text{CF}_2\text{O} + \text{BrF}$. Both complexes have been observed in matrix isolation experiment.⁶

3.2. Vibrational Frequencies. Minkwitz et al. have reported the results of MP2/6-31G* and HF/6-311G* calculations on CF_3OBr .⁷ Recently, Kwon et al.¹⁸ calculated the structure, rotational barrier and vibrational frequencies of CF_3OBr using B3LYP method. In our previous study on the IR frequencies of CF_3OBr ,⁸ we have already carried out B3LYP/6-31+G(d) calculations on both CF_3OBr and CF_3BrO . In this paper, we have completed the previous study with higher level calculations on CF_3OBr and CF_3BrO (both singlet and triplet states). Moreover, final products such as $\text{CF}_2\text{O}-\text{BrF}$ complexes and transition states were also calculated. Vibrational frequencies of these reaction intermediates and TSs are compiled in Tables 2 and 3.

For singlet CF_3BrO ($^1A'$), the most intense bands are two CF_3 asymmetric stretch (1224.1, 1210.2 cm^{-1}) and one CF_3 symmetric stretch (1043.7 cm^{-1}). These modes are close to the corresponding vibrations in CF_3 radical at 1223.0, 1222.9, and 1062.5 cm^{-1} , suggesting a weak C–Br bond in CF_3BrO ($^1A'$). The B3LYP/6-311+G(d) results show that the C–Br bond in CF_3BrO ($^1A'$) is only 18 kcal/mol in strength, much lower than 70.6 kcal/mol in CF_3Br .¹⁹ For triplet CF_3BrO ($^3A''$), the three CF_3 stretch modes are also the most intense absorptions. However, these frequencies are very close to the corresponding modes in free CF_3Br which are 1055.3, 1174.4, and 1174.4 cm^{-1} . This implies that the interaction between CF_3Br and O in CF_3BrO ($^3A''$) is quite weak.

Calculated vibrational frequencies of CF_3OBr ($^1A'$) can reproduce our measured matrix isolation IR spectra⁸ very well. B3LYP/6-311+G(d) calculations give three CF_3 stretch frequencies at 1214.0, 1185.1, and 1163.3 cm^{-1} , slightly lower than the experimental values of 1249.4, 1204.2, and 1201.9 cm^{-1} . For the final products of CF_2O and its complexes with BrF, we also found a good match between theoretical and experimental results. Calculated C–O stretch frequencies in CF_2O , $\text{CF}_2\text{O}(\text{BrF})$ (side on), and $\text{CF}_2\text{O}-\text{BrF}$ (end on) molecules are at 1974.3, 1970.7, and 1937.1 cm^{-1} , respectively. The values and the trend are also in good agreement with measured bands at 1913.3, 1912.5, and 1887.3 cm^{-1} .⁶

4. Conclusion

Singlet and triplet potential energy surfaces for $\text{O}(^3\text{P}, ^1\text{D}) + \text{CF}_3\text{Br}$ reaction pathways have been thoroughly explored by DFT method at B3LYP/6-311+G(d) level. Our calculations show that

interaction of $\text{O}(^3\text{P})$ with CF_3Br results in CF_3BrO ($^3A''$) formation directly, followed by dissociation to $\text{CF}_3 + \text{BrO}$ via TS1. On the singlet PES, $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$ and CF_3Br interaction leads to CF_3BrO ($^1A'$), and subsequent dissociation of this intermediate to form $\text{CF}_3 + \text{BrO}$ is barrierless. Singlet–triplet intersystem crossing (ISC) is midway between CF_3BrO ($^3A''$) and CF_3BrO ($^1A'$) at the entrance channel on the PESs. The singlet adduct CF_3BrO ($^1A'$) could further isomerize via TS2 to form CF_3OBr . Initially excited CF_3OBr easily dissociates to $\text{CF}_3\text{O} + \text{Br}$. Since the third C–F bond in CF_3O is calculated to be very weak, we believe either fission of the C–F bond or Br attacking on the F atom (via TS3) would both generate CF_2O , a final product observed in matrix isolation experiments. The PESs obtained in this study can qualitatively explain the complicated behavior of $\text{O} + \text{CF}_3\text{Br}$ reactions.

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Supporting Information Available: Tables of atomic coordinates. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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