Kinetics and Mechanisms of CF₃CHFOCH₃, CF₃CHFOC(O)H, and FC(O)OCH₃ Reactions with OH Radicals

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The kinetics and mechanism of oxidation of CF₃CHFOCH₃ was studied using an 11.5-dm³ environmental reaction chamber. OH radicals were produced by UV photolysis of an O₃-H₂O-He mixture at an initial pressure of 200 Torr in the chamber. The rate constant of the reaction of CF₃CHFOCH₃ with OH radicals (k_1) was determined to be $(1.77 \pm 0.69) \times 10^{-12} \exp[(-720 \pm 110)/T]$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹ by means of a relative rate method at 253-328 K. The mechanism of the reaction was investigated by FT-IR spectroscopy at 298 K. CF₃CHFOC(O)H, FC(O)OCH₃, and COF₂ were determined to be the major products. The branching ratio (k_{1a}/k_{1b}) for the reactions CF₃CHFOCH₃ + OH \rightarrow CF₃CHFOCH₂• H₂O (k_{1a}) and CF₃CHFOCH₃ + OH \rightarrow CF₃CHFOCH₂• H₂O (k_{1a}) and CF₃CHFOCH₃ + OH \rightarrow CF₃CHFOCH₂• H₂O (k_{1a}) and CF₃CHFOC(O)H, FC(O)OCH₃, and COF₂. The rate constants of the reactions of CF₃CHFOC(O)H (k_2) and FC(O)OCH₃ (k_3) with OH radicals were determined to be $(9.14 \pm 2.78) \times 10^{-13} \exp[(-1190 \pm 90)/T]$ and $(2.10 \pm 0.65) \times 10^{-13} \exp[(-630 \pm 90)/T]$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹, respectively, by means of a relative rate method at 253-328 K. The rate constants at 298 K were as follows: $k_1 = (1.56 \pm 0.06) \times 10^{-13}$, $k_2 = (1.67 \pm 0.05) \times 10^{-14}$, and $k_3 = (2.53 \pm 0.07) \times 10^{-14}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹. The tropospheric lifetimes of CF₃CHFOCH₃, CF₃-CHFOC(O)H, and FC(O)OCH₃ with respect to reaction with OH radicals were estimated to be 0.29, 3.2, and 1.8 years, respectively.

1. Introduction

Hydrofluoroethers (HFEs) are being investigated as alternatives to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).^{1,2} Because HFEs do not contain Cl atoms, their stratospheric ozone depletion potential is zero. However, HFEs are potential greenhouse gases because of their strong absorption at 1000–3000 cm⁻¹.^{2,3} 1,2,2,2-Tetrafluoroethyl methyl ether, CF₃CHFOCH₃, is one of the HFEs being developed, and it has a boiling point of 309 K at 760 Torr.⁴ Because CF₃CHFOCH₃ will be released into the atmosphere during use, its atmospheric chemistry should be assessed. In the atmosphere, CF₃CHFOCH₃ will be removed by reaction with OH radicals:

$$CF_3CHFOCH_3 + OH \rightarrow products, \qquad k_1 \qquad (1)$$

 $CF_3CHFOCH_3$ is expected to have a short atmospheric lifetime because its molecular structure is analogous to that of $(CF_3)_2$ -CHOCH₃, which is reported to have a very short atmospheric lifetime (2.0 months).⁵ However, there are no experimental data on the atmospheric chemistry of $CF_3CHFOCH_3$.

We measured the kinetics for the reaction of $CF_3CHFOCH_3$ with OH radicals by means of a relative rate method at 253– 328 K and investigated the mechanism of the reaction using FT-IR spectroscopy at 298 K. COF_2 was observed to be the major product of the reaction. Also, $CF_3CHFOC(O)H$, and FC-(O)OCH₃ were identified by density functional theory calculations. $CF_3CHFOC(O)H$ and FC(O)OCH₃ are potential greenhouse gases because of their strong absorption at 1000–3000

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cm⁻¹. CF₃CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)OCH₃ are expected to be removed from the atmosphere by reaction with OH radicals, rain washout, dissolution into the ocean,⁶ and photolysis by sunlight owing to their C=O groups:

 $CF_3CHFOC(O)H + OH \rightarrow products, \quad k_2 \quad (2)$

 $FC(O)OCH_3 + OH \rightarrow products, k_3$ (3)

 $CF_3CHFOC(O)H + h\nu \text{ (sunlight)} \rightarrow \text{products}$ (4)

 $FC(O)OCH_3 + h\nu \text{ (sunlight)} \rightarrow \text{products}$ (5)

In this study, k_2 and k_3 were determined by means of a relative rate method at 253–328 K.

2. Experimental Methods

2.1. Apparatus and OH Generation. All experiments were carried out in an 11.5-dm³ cylindrical quartz chamber (diameter, 10 cm; length, 146 cm) with an external jacket.⁷ The OH radicals were produced by UV photolysis of O_3 in the presence of water vapor (reactions 6 and 7) at an initial He pressure of 200 Torr, and the O_3/O_2 (3% O_3) gas mixture was continuously introduced into the reaction chamber at a flow rate of $1-3 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$ STP during the UV irradiation period:⁷

$$O_3 + h\nu (254 \text{ nm}) \rightarrow O(^1\text{D}) + O_2$$
 (6)

$$O(^{1}D) + H_{2}O \rightarrow 2OH$$
(7)

The O_3/O_2 gas mixture was generated from pure O_2 with a silentdischarge ozone generator (ECEA-1000, Ebarajitsugyo, Japan). The temperature in the reaction chamber was controlled by circulating coolant or heated water through the external jacket. Ten 40-W low-pressure Hg lamps (254 \pm 8 nm) (GL-40, National Co., Japan) were used to generate the UV light. A greaseless vacuum line was used in preparing the reaction gas mixtures.

2.2. Relative Rate Method. The rate constants were determined from the relative disappearance rate of the sample with respect to the disappearance rate of a reference compound in the presence of OH radicals.^{8,9}

sample + OH \rightarrow products, k_s (8)

reference + OH \rightarrow products, k_r (9)

For the measurements of k_1 , typical initial concentrations (in molecules cm⁻³) were 1.0×10^{15} (CF₃CHFOCH₃), 1.0×10^{15} (reference compound), and 5.6 \times 10¹⁷ (H₂O) in He at 200 Torr. However, the concentrations of H_2O were lower than 5.6 \times 10^{17} molecules cm⁻³ at reaction temperatures lower than 298 K, because the vapor pressure of H₂O decreased with decreasing temperature; the concentration of H₂O at 253 K was 3.6×10^{16} molecules cm⁻³. C₂H₆ and CH₃CHF₂ were used as reference compounds. The disappearance of both the sample and reference compound was monitored by flame ionization detector (FID) gas chromatography (GC) (Shimadzu 14A, Japan). By means of an automatic sampling system with a sampling loop (0.5 cm^3) , samples were extracted from the reaction chamber with a pressure the same as that in the chamber and transferred to a wide-bore capillary column (Rtx-1; length, 30 m; i.d., 0.53 mm) held at 278 K.⁷ In each sampling, the gas mixture residing in the line between the sampling loop and the chamber was drawn and discarded, and then the sample was charged in to the sampling loop and transferred to the GC-FID. The mass of reactants decreased by 0.2% with each GC-FID analysis. Even though the mixing ratio of reactants was diluted by the addition of O_3/O_2 gas mixture in the chamber, the mass of reactants in the chamber and sampling loop did not decrease. The decay rate of reactants was determined from the peak areas measured by GC-FID; therefore, the measurements of the rate constants were not interfered by the addition of O_3/O_2 gas mixture. The concentrations (molecule cm⁻³) of the reactants decreased due to reaction with OH radicals by up to 50-80% (CF₃CHFOCH₃), 70% (C_2H_6), and 30% (CH_3CHF_2) during the 100- to 120-min irradiation at 298 K. Uncertainties in the concentrations of samples and reference compounds measured by GC-FID were <2% and were generally in the range of 0.5–1.5%. Taking into account the reduction of reactant concentration (0.2%) with each GC-FID analysis step,⁷ we used eq I to evaluate the rate constant ratios, $k_{\rm s}/k_{\rm r}$:

$$\ln\left(\frac{[\text{sample}]_{0}}{[\text{sample}]_{t}}\right) + D_{n} = \frac{k_{s}}{k_{r}} \left[\ln\left(\frac{[\text{reference}]_{0}}{[\text{reference}]_{t}}\right) + D_{n}\right] \quad (I)$$

where [sample]₀ and [reference]₀ represent the initial concentrations of the sample (CF₃CHFOCH₃) and the reference compound; [sample]_t and [reference]_t represent the concentrations of the sample and reference compound at reaction time t; D_n is a parameter that corrects for the nonreactive decay of the reactant concentration (0.2%) as reactants were removed for GC-FID analysis ($D_n = n \ln(0.998)$, where n is the sample number in the GC-FID analysis);⁷ and k_s and k_r are the rate constants for reactions 8 and 9, respectively.

2.3. Product Analysis. The mechanism of the reaction of CF₃CHFOCH₃ with OH radicals was investigated at 298 K using FT-IR spectroscopy (JIR-6500, JEOL, Japan) at a resolution of



Figure 1. Loss of CF₃CHFOCH₃, CF₃CHFOC(O)H, and FC(O)OCH₃ versus reference compounds in the presence of OH radicals at 298 K under 200 Torr of He. An O₃/O₂ (3% O₃) gas mixture was introduced into the chamber at flow rate of 3 cm³ min⁻¹ STP. For CF₃CHFOCH₃, C₂H₆ (left triangle), CH₃CHF₂ (\bigtriangledown); for CF₃CHFOC(O)H, CH₂F₂ (\diamondsuit), CH₃CHF₂ (\bigtriangleup); for FC(O)OCH₃, CH₂F₂ (\square), CH₃CHF₂ (\bigcirc).

0.5 cm⁻¹ with an aluminum multipass White cell (coated on the inside with nickel; 375 cm³; optical path length, 3 m), which was connected to the circulation line of the reaction chamber.⁷ Experiments were performed at initial concentrations (in molecules cm⁻³) of 6.0×10^{15} (CF₃CHFOCH₃) and 5.6×10^{17} (H₂O) in He at 200 Torr, and the O₃/O₂ (3% O₃) gas mixture was continuously introduced into the reaction chamber at a flow rate of 1 cm³ min⁻¹ STP during the UV irradiation. The sample in the reaction chamber was continuously circulated through the White cell by a magnetically driven glass pump at a flow rate of 850 cm³ min⁻¹ during UV irradiation. The products of the reaction of CF₃CHFOCH₃ with OH radicals were identified and quantified by IR spectroscopy.

The reagents used were CF₃CHFOCH₃ (99% pure) and CH₃-CHF₂ (99% pure) (SynQuest Labs., USA), C_2H_6 (99.5% pure, GL Sciences, Japan), CH₂F₂ (99.7% pure, Sigma-Aldrich Co., USA), O₂ (99.5% pure, Nihon Sanso Corp., Japan), and COF₂/ N₂ standard (85% pure, Takachiho Chemical Industry Co., Japan).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Kinetics of CF₃CHFOCH₃ (k_1) Reactions with OH Radicals. The values of k_1 at 298 K were derived from the data presented in Figure 1 on the basis of data for the reference compounds C₂H₆ and CH₃CHF₂. The plots of ln([sample]₀/ [sample]_t) + D_n versus ln([reference]_0/[reference]_t) + D_n gave straight lines, with slopes k_1/k_r , that intersected the origin. Linear least-squares analysis of the data shown in Figure 1 after three runs gave k_1/k_r values of 0.632 ± 0.045 (C₂H₆) and 4.88 ± 0.35 (CH₃CHF₂). The errors reported are 2 standard deviations and represent precision only. Using these k_1/k_r values and k_{298K} -(C₂H₆) = 2.4 × 10⁻¹³ and k_{298K} (CH₃CHF₂) = 3.4 × 10⁻¹⁴ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹,¹⁰ we estimated the following values for k_1 : k_1 -(298 K) = (1.52 ± 0.11) × 10⁻¹³ (C₂H₆) and (1.65 ± 0.12) × 10⁻¹³ (CH₃CHF₂). The two values were the same, within experimental uncertainty.

Table 1 lists the values of k_1 determined over the temperature range 253–328 K from the measured k_1/k_r ratios and $k(C_2H_6)$ = 8.7 × 10⁻¹² exp(-1070/*T*) and $k(CH_3CHF_2) = 9.4 \times 10^{-13}$ exp(-990/*T*) cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹.¹⁰ The temperature dependence

TABLE 1: Measured Values of k_i/k_r and k_i (i = 1, 2, 3) over Temperature Range 253–328 K^{*a*}

				$10^{14} \times k_i$
				(cm ³
				molecule ⁻¹
compounds	references	$T(\mathbf{K})$	$k_i/k_{ m r}$	s ⁻¹)
CF ₃ CHFOCH ₃	C ₂ H ₆	253	0.764 ± 0.030	9.68 ± 0.38
		268	0.688 ± 0.022	11.1 ± 0.4
		283	0.651 ± 0.010	12.9 ± 0.2
		298	0.632 ± 0.045	15.2 ± 1.1
		313	0.599 ± 0.044	17.1 ± 1.3
		328	0.549 ± 0.024	18.3 ± 0.8
	CH_3CHF_2	253	5.72 ± 0.45	10.7 ± 0.9
		268	5.54 ± 0.53	12.9 ± 1.2
		283	5.05 ± 0.86	14.4 ± 2.5
		298	4.88 ± 0.35	16.5 ± 1.2
		313	4.67 ± 0.31	18.6 ± 1.2
		328	4.43 ± 0.62	20.3 ± 2.8
CF ₃ CHFOC(O)H	CH_2F_2	253	1.83 ± 0.11	0.826 ± 0.050
		268	1.58 ± 0.07	0.826 ± 0.050
		283	1.51 ± 0.06	1.28 ± 0.05
		298	1.50 ± 0.03	1.66 ± 0.03
		313	1.48 ± 0.06	2.10 ± 0.08
		328	1.45 ± 0.05	2.55 ± 0.09
	CH_3CHF_2	253	0.469 ± 0.011	0.881 ± 0.021
		268	0.469 ± 0.041	1.10 ± 0.10
		283	0.476 ± 0.014	1.35 ± 0.04
		298	0.471 ± 0.017	1.60 ± 0.06
		313	0.498 ± 0.005	2.00 ± 0.02
		328	0.512 ± 0.013	2.39 ± 0.06
$FC(O)OCH_3$	CH_2F_2	253	3.84 ± 0.16	1.74 ± 0.07
		268	2.97 ± 0.23	1.74 ± 0.15
		283	2.54 ± 0.09	2.15 ± 0.08
		298	2.29 ± 0.05	2.54 ± 0.05
		313	2.02 ± 0.08	2.85 ± 0.11
		328	1.89 ± 0.05	3.32 ± 0.09
	CH_3CHF_2	253	1.00 ± 0.03	1.88 ± 0.06
		268	0.876 ± 0.043	2.05 ± 0.10
		283	0.782 ± 0.009	2.22 ± 0.03
		298	0.726 ± 0.027	2.46 ± 0.09
		313	0.688 ± 0.007	2.74 ± 0.03
		328	0.658 ± 0.039	3.03 ± 0.18

^a The quoted errors are 2 standard deviations.



Figure 2. Arrhenius plot of kinetic data obtained by a relative rate method for reactions of CF₃CHFOCH₃, CF₃CHFOC(O)H, and FC(O)-OCH₃ with OH radicals at 253–328 K. for CF₃CHFOCH₃ (μ), C₂H₆ (\Box), CH₃CHF₂ (\odot); for CF₃CHFOC(O)H (k_2), CH₂F₂ (Δ), CH₃CHF₂ (∇); for FC(O)OCH₃ (k_3), CH₂F₂ (\diamond), CH₃CHF₂ (left triangle).

of k_1 is illustrated in Figure 2. Using the Arrhenius equation, $k = A e^{-E/(RT)}$, we determined the Arrhenius rate parameters (A and E/R) by nonlinear least-squares analyses of the data presented in Table 1. The Arrhenius rate parameters and the values of k_1 at 298 K calculated from the Arrhenius expressions are listed in Table 2.

TABLE 2: The Rate Constants at 298 K and Arrhennius Rate Parameters for CF₃CHFOCH₃, CF₃CHFOC(O)H, and FC(O)OCH₃ Reaction with OH Radicals over the Temperature Range 253-328 K^a

-	0		
compounds	$10^{13} \times k(298 \text{ K})$ (cm ³ molecule ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	$10^{12} \times A$ (cm ³ molecule ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	<i>E/R</i> (K)
CF ₃ CHFOCH ₃ CF ₃ CHFOC(O)H FC(O)OCH ₃	$\begin{array}{c} 1.56 \pm 0.06 \\ 0.167 \pm 0.005 \\ 0.253 \pm 0.007 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1.77 \pm 0.69 \\ 0.914 \pm 0.278 \\ 0.210 \pm 0.065 \end{array}$	$720 \pm 110 \\ 1190 \pm 90 \\ 630 \pm 90$

^a The quoted errors are 2 standard deviations.

Loss processes for samples and reference compounds other than reaction with OH radicals must be accounted for in any estimate of the rate constants. In this reaction system, UV photolysis and reactions with O₃, H₂O, and O(¹D) represent the potential losses for samples and reference compounds. CF3-CHFOCH₃ and reference compounds were photolyzed by UV irradiation in separate experiments for 5 h, and the decays of the concentrations of these reactants were found to be lower than the GC-FID analysis uncertainties (2%). The dark reactions of these reactants with either O3 or H2O were also examined for 5 h in this study, and losses due to dark reactions were lower than the GC-FID analysis uncertainties (2%). In this reaction system, the disappearance rates of CF₃CHFOCH₃ by the reaction with OH or O(1D) are compared. The concentration of OH radicals at reaction time t, $[OH]_t$, was estimated from the decay of CF₃CHFOCH₃ using eq II:

$$[OH]_t = \frac{-1}{k_1 [CF_3 CHFOCH_3]_t} \frac{d[CF_3 CHFOCH_3]}{dt}$$
(II)

The average concentration of OH radicals was obtained to be 3.3×10^9 radicals cm⁻³. The concentration of O(¹D) was estimated from the average concentrations of CF₃CHFOCH₃ and C₂H₆ using eq III:

$$[(O^{1}D)] = (k_{1}[CF_{3}CHFOCH_{3}] + k_{C_{2}H_{6}}[C_{2}H_{6}] + k_{O_{2}}[O_{3}])[OH]/(2k_{7}[H_{2}O])$$
(III)

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The losses of reactants in reaction with O(1D) might be considerable at 253 K because the concentration of H₂O (3.6 $\times~10^{16}$ molecules cm $^{-3})$ at 253 K was lowest during the measurements. In the measurement at 253 K, the values of k_1 , $k_{C_2H_6}$, k_{O_3} (for reaction O₃ + OH \rightarrow products), and k_7 were 1.03 $\times 10^{-13}$, 1.27 $\times 10^{-13}$, 4.1 $\times 10^{-14}$, and 2.1 $\times 10^{-10}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹, respectively.¹⁰ The average concentrations of CF₃CHFOCH₃, C₂H₆, and O₃ (obtained from FTIR analysis) were 6.1×10^{14} , 5.4×10^{14} , and 1.0×10^{14} molecules cm⁻³, respectively. The concentration of O(1D) was obtained to be 2.3×10^4 radicals cm⁻³. The rate constant of reaction O(¹D) + $CF_3CHFOCH_3 \rightarrow products$ was assumed to be 2×10^{-10} cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹. The disappearance rates of CF₃CHFOCH₃ by the reaction with OH or O(¹D) were obtained to be 3.4×10^{-4} s^{-1} and 4.6 \times 10⁻⁶ s^{-1} , respectively. The loss of CF₃CHFOCH₃ due to reaction with O(1D) was about 1.4% of that with OH radicals. We assumed that the rate constant of reaction $O(^{1}D)$ + $C_2H_6 \rightarrow$ products at 253 K is equal to that at 300 K (6.29 × 10^{-10} cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹).¹¹ The loss of C₂H₆ due to reaction with $O(^{1}D)$ was estimated to be about 3.5% of that with OH radicals. Therefore, the losses of the reactants with $O(^{1}D)$ were considered to be insignificant in this system.

We confirmed that the measurement errors were insignificant in the measurements of k_1 with C_2H_6 and CH_3CHF_2 as reference compounds. However, the values of k_1 obtained relative to CH_3 -



Figure 3. IR spectra observed before (A) and after (B) a 45-min irradiation of a gas mixture of CF₃CHFOCH₃ (6.0×10^{15} molecules cm⁻³) and H₂O (5.6×10^{17} molecules cm⁻³) at 298 K under 200 Torr of He. An O₃/O₂ (3% O₃) gas mixture was introduced into the chamber at a flow rate of 1 cm³ min⁻¹. The following reference spectra are shown: (C) spectrum of COF₂; calculated spectra of (D) CF₃CHFOC-(O)H and (E) *anti*-FC(O)OCH₃ and *syn*-FC(O)OCH₃ (DFT, B3LYP/ 6-31G(d) level).

CHF₂ are consistently about 10% higher than those relative to C_2H_6 . In our previous study, the errors of $k((CF_3)_2CHOCH_3 + OH)$ obtained from the reference compounds of C_2H_6 and CH_2 -Cl₂ were less than 6%.⁵ This fact supports that the measurement errors were insignificant in this measurement system with C_2H_6 as reference compound. Therefore, the higher data of k_1 from CH₃CHF₂ might suggest that the recommended value of $k(CH_3-CHF_2)$ is slightly too high.

3.2. Mechanism of the Reaction of CF₃CHFOCH₃ with OH Radicals. The infrared spectra of the CF₃CHFOCH₃-O₃-H₂O-O₂ gas mixture before and after 45 min of UV irradiation are shown in Figure 3, panels A and B, respectively. Comparison of the latter spectrum with the IR spectrum of a COF₂ standard (Figure 3C) indicated that the band at 1928 cm^{-1} belongs to COF₂. The three unknown IR bands at 1788, 1845, and 1860 cm^{-1} in Figure 3B indicate the presence of C=O groups. By analogy with the mechanism of the reaction of $(CF_3)_2CHOCH_3$ with OH radicals,⁵ CF₃CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)OCH₃ might be produced from the OH radical-initiated reaction of CF3-CHFOCH₃. However, we had no standard samples of CF₃-CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)OCH3 for identification and quantification of these two products. Therefore, we calculated the theoretical IR spectra of CF₃CHFOC(O)H, syn-FC(O)OCH₃, and anti-FC(O)OCH₃ by means of density functional theory at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level (Gaussian 03, revision C.02; Figure 3, panels D and E).12 The calculated wavenumbers were scaled by a factor of 0.9613.¹³ The calculated absorptions at 1788 cm⁻¹ (CF₃CHFOC(O)H), 1845 cm⁻¹ (syn-FC(O)OCH₃), and 1860 cm^{-1} (anti-FC(O)OCH₃) were consistent with the observed IR



Figure 4. Proposed mechanism for degradation of CF₃CHFOCH₃ initiated by OH radicals at 298 K.

bands at 1788, 1845, and 1860 cm^{-1} in Figure 3B. This fact shows that CF₃CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)OCH₃ could be formed in this reaction system.

A proposed mechanism for the reaction of CF₃CHFOCH₃ with OH radicals is shown in Figure 4. The mechanism for the formation of CF₃CHFOC(O)H from the CF₃CHFOC•H₂ radical is shown in Figure 4A. The peroxyl radical CF₃CHFOC+H₂ coO[•] formed by the reaction of CF₃CHFOC•H₂ with O₂ (reaction 10) reacts with the ROO• radical (R = CF₃CHFOCH₂, CF₃CFOCH₃) and with HO₂ (reactions 11 and 12a). Theoretically, CF₃-CHFOCH₂OO• could also react with HO₂ to form CF₃-CHFOCH₂OOH (reaction 12b), but the formation of this product could not be determined unequivocally in this study.

$$CF_3CHFOCH_2OO^{\bullet} + HO_2 \rightarrow CF_3CHFOCH_2OOH + O_2$$
(12b)

Hydroperoxides are generally very reactive toward OH radicals (for example, $k(OH + CH_3OOH) = 7.4 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ at 298 K),¹⁰ although the presence of fluorine is expected to reduce the reactivity of CF₃CHFOCH₂OOH. Even if CF₃-CHFOCH₂OOH was formed in this study, it would react with OH radicals and undergo photolysis by UV irradiation to regenerate the CF₃CHFOCH₂OO• and CF₃CHFOCH₂O• radicals by means of reactions 13 and 14:

$$CF_{3}CHFOCH_{2}OOH + OH \rightarrow CF_{3}CHFOCH_{2}OO^{\bullet} + H_{2}O$$
(13)

$$CF_3CHFOCH_2OOH + h\nu \rightarrow CF_3CHFOCH_2O^{\bullet} + OH$$
(14)

The $CF_3CHFOCH_2O^{\bullet}$ radical produced by reaction 11 (see Figure 4) can react with O_2 (reaction 15) or undergo unimolecular dissociation (reaction 16):

$$CF_3CHFOCH_2O^{\bullet} + M \rightarrow CF_3CHFO^{\bullet} + HC(O)H + M$$
(16)

However, HC(O)H was not observed in this reaction system. HC(O)H might also have been removed by reaction with OH radicals, toward which it is highly reactive: $k(OH + HC(O)H) = 8.5 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ at } 298 \text{ K.}^{10} \text{ Previous studies}$ reported that for $C_n F_{2n+1} OCH_2 O^{\bullet}$ radicals (n = 1-4), the reaction with O₂ predominates over unimolecular dissociation.¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Therefore, the reaction of CF₃CHFOCH₂O[•] with O₂ (reaction 15) could be considered to predominate over the unimolecular dissociation (reaction 16) in our reaction system. Comparison of our reaction conditions with tropospheric reaction conditions provides confirmation that reaction 15 likely predominated in troposphere. A previous study showed that the decomposition rate constants at 37.5 Torr are about $\frac{1}{5}$ those at 760 Torr for RO[•] radicals (2-butoxy, 3-pentoxy, and isomerization 1-butoxy),¹⁷ and therefore, the rate of reaction 16 is likely to increase by less than a factor of 5 in going from our reaction pressure of 200 Torr to tropospheric pressure. In addition, the O₂ concentration $(5.17 \times 10^{18} \text{ molecule cm}^{-3})$ in the troposphere is 63 times larger than the O₂ concentration (8.2 \times 10¹⁶ molecule cm^{-3}) in our reaction system, which increases the likelihood that the reaction of CF₃CHFOCH₂O[•] with O₂ will predominate over unimolecular dissociation under tropospheric conditions.

The proposed mechanism for the formation of FC(O)OCH₃ and COF₂ from the CF₃C•FOCH₃ radical is shown in reactions 1b and 17–24 (Figure 4B). The peroxyl radical CF₃CFOO• OCH₃ formed by reaction of CF₃C•FOCH₃ with O₂ (reaction 17) can react with ROO• ($R = CF_3CHFOCH_2$, CF₃CFOCH₃) to produce CF₃CO•FOCH₃ (reaction 18). Like CF₃CHFOCH₂-OO•, the CF₃CFOO•OCH₃ radical can also react with HO₂ radicals, as discussed above. The discussion of CF₃CFOO•OCH₃ radical reaction with HO₂ radicals was omitted. FC(O)OCH₃ and the CF₃• radical are formed by unimolecular dissociation of the CF₃CO•FOCH₃ radical (reaction 19). CF₃• radicals can produce COF₂ by means of reactions 20–24:^{18–20}

$$CF_3^{\bullet} + O_2 + M \rightarrow CF_3OO^{\bullet} + M$$
 (20)

$$2CF_3OO^\bullet \rightarrow 2CF_3O^\bullet + O_2 \tag{21}$$

$$CF_3O^{\bullet} + HO_2 \rightarrow CF_3OH + O_2$$
 (22)

$$CF_3O^{\bullet} + RH \rightarrow CF_3OH + R^{\bullet}$$
 (23)

$$CF_3OH + wall \rightarrow COF_2 + HF + wall$$
 (24)

The mechanism illustrated in Figure 4 shows that CF_3 -CHFOC(O)H, FC(O)OCH₃, and COF₂ are the main products of the reaction of CF_3 CHFOCH₃ with OH radicals.

CF₃CHFOC(O)H, FC(O)OCH₃, and COF₂ were the only products that contained both carbon and fluorine (Figure 4), and both FC(O)OCH₃ and COF₂ were formed only in reaction 19. Therefore, we can use eqs IV and V to calculate the IR absorption cross-sections (ϵ) of CF₃CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)-OCH₃ from the concentration of CF₃CHFOCH₃ consumed and the concentration of COF₂ formed during the initial 12-min reaction period to minimize the effects of any secondary reactions of the product species:

$$[CF_{3}CHFOC(O)H]_{t} = \Delta [CF_{3}CHFOCH_{3}]_{t} - [COF_{2}]_{t}$$
(IV)

$$[FC(O)OCH_3]_t = [COF_2]_t$$
(V)

where Δ [CF₃CHFOCH₃]_{*t*} = ([CF₃CHFOCH₃]₀ – [CF₃CHFO-CH₃]_{*t*}), [CF₃CHFOCH₃]₀ represents the initial concentration of CF₃CHFOCH₃, and [CF₃CHFOCH₃]_{*t*}, [CF₃CHFOC(O)H]_{*t*}, [FC-(O)OCH₃]_{*t*}, and [COF₂]_{*t*} represent the concentrations of CF₃-CHFOCH₃, CF₃CHFOC(O)H, FC(O)OCH₃, and COF₂, respectively, at reaction time *t*. The concentrations of CF₃CHFOCH₃



Figure 5. Plots of the concentrations of the products against the concentration of $CF_3CHFOCH_3$ consumed: $CF_3CHFOC(O)H (\Box)$, FC-(O)OCH₃ (\triangle), and COF₂ (O). Data were obtained from the experiment illustrated in Figure 3.

consumed and COF₂ formed were determined from the IR absorption cross-sections (ϵ ; cm² molecule⁻¹; base 10) of CF₃-CHFOCH₃ (2.60 × 10⁻²⁰ at 3000 cm⁻¹) and COF₂ (6.3 × 10⁻¹⁹ at 1928 cm⁻¹), which were calculated from the IR spectra of He mixtures of known concentration $[(0.3-3.0) \times 10^{15} \text{ mol-}$ ecules cm⁻³)] at a total pressure of 200 Torr at 298 K. The ϵ values determined for CF₃CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)OCH₃ were $(3.8 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-19}$ and $(1.0 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-18}$ cm² molecule⁻¹ (base 10) at 1788 and 1860 cm^{-1} , respectively, from the results of four experiments. In Figure 5, the concentrations of CF₃-CHFOC(O)H, FC(O)OCH₃, and COF₂ formed during a 24-min UV irradiation period are plotted against the concentration of CF₃CHFOCH₃ consumed. The plots in Figure 5 gave straight lines that intersected the origin. They show that losses of CF₃-CHFOC(O)H, FC(O)OCH₃, and COF₂ due to reaction with OH radicals, photolysis by UV irradiation, and wall reaction are minor at most during a 24-min UV irradiation period. Therefore, the error due to the secondary reactions of the product species was minimal in the calculation of ϵ for CF₃CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)OCH₃ using the data obtained during the initial 12-min UV irradiation period from eqs IV and V. The slopes of these plots gave initial values of $\alpha(CF_3CHFOC(O)H)$, $\alpha(FC(O)-$ OCH₃), and α (COF₂) as 0.83 \pm 0.11, 0.19 \pm 0.02, and 0.20 \pm 0.02, respectively. The values k_{1a}/k_1 and k_{1b}/k_1 for CF₃-CHFOCH₂• and CF₃C•FOCH₃ radicals were equal to the values of α (CF₃CHFOC(O)H) (0.83 \pm 0.11) and α (COF₂) (0.20 \pm 0.02), respectively. The branching ratio k_{1a}/k_{1b} was estimated to be 4.2:1, and because there are three H atoms in the $-CH_3$ group (k_{1a}) , the reactivity of the terminal H atoms was 1.4 times that of the central H atom in OH-radical H-atom abstraction reactions.

The values of k_{1a} and k_{1b} at 298 K were estimated to be 1.26 $\times 10^{-13}$ and 3.0 $\times 10^{-14}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹, respectively, from k_{1a}/k_{1b} and k_1 . The reactivity of the –CH₃ group in CF₃-CHFOCH₃ is 10 times that of the –CH₃ group in CF₃CF₂OCH₃ (1.21 $\times 10^{-14}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹).²¹ Similar behavior has been observed for (CF₃)₂CHOCH₃ [k(–CH₃) = 1.5 $\times 10^{-13}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹] and (CF₃)₂CFOCH₃ [k(–CH₃) = 1.52 $\times 10^{-14}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹].^{5,21} The OH radical reactivity of –CH₃ in the –OCH₃ group was increased by replacement of –F with –H in the –CF₂O– group of CF₃CHFOCH₃. The value of k_{1b} at 298 K was 6 times that of CF₃OCHFCF₃ (4.98 $\times 10^{-15}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹),²² which indicates that replacing –OCF₃ with –OCH₃ increased the OH radical reactivity of the H atom in the –OCHFCF₃ group.



Figure 6. Photolysis of CF₃CHFOC(O)H by UV irradiation at 298 K in a gas mixture of CF₃CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)OCH₃, which was produced by irradiation of a CF₃CHFOCH₃-H₂O-O₃-O₂-He mixture at 200-230 Torr.

3.3. Kinetics of CF₃CHFOC(O)H (k₂) and FC(O)OCH₃ (k_3) Reactions with OH Radicals. The rate constants k_2 and k_3 were measured by means of a relative rate method with CH₂F₂ and CH₃CHF₂ as reference compounds. CF₃CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)OCH₃ were produced by irradiation of a mixture of CF₃-CHFOCH₃ (6.0 \times 10¹⁵ molecules cm⁻³), H₂O (5.6 \times 10¹⁷ molecules cm⁻³), and He (200 Torr) in the presence of a O₃/O₂ (3% O₃) gas mixture that was continuously introduced into the reaction chamber at a flow rate of 1 cm³ min⁻¹ STP. After CF₃-CHFOCH₃ was completely consumed by reaction with OH radicals, the flow of O₃/O₂ into the chamber was stopped. CF₃-CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)OCH₃ remaining in the chamber were photolyzed by UV irradiation. The concentrations of CF3-CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)OCH3 were monitored both by FT-IR and by GC-FID, the latter being a more precise method for determining the concentrations. FT-IR measurements indicated that photolysis of CF₃CHFOC(O)H occurred and that there was no change in the concentration of FC(O)OCH₃:

$$CF_3CHFOC(O)H + h\nu (254 \text{ nm}) \rightarrow \text{products}$$
 (25)

This same pattern was evident in GC-FID analysis and was used to identify the GC peaks corresponding to CF₃CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)OCH₃. The photolysis rate (*J*) for reaction 25 was estimated to be $(3.83 \pm 0.04) \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ based on the timedependent decrease of the CF₃CHFOC(O)H concentration observed by GC-FID (Figure 6). The average reaction rate of CF₃CHFOC(O)H with OH radicals at 298K was estimated to be 3.7 × 10⁻⁴ s⁻¹. The photolysis of CF₃CHFOC(O)H was about 10% compared with its reaction with OH radicals. Taking into account the decay of the CF₃CHFOC(O)H concentration by photolysis, we used the modified eq VI to evaluate k_2/k_r :

$$\ln\left(\frac{[\text{sample}]_{0}}{[\text{sample}]_{t}}\right) + D_{n} - Jt = \frac{k_{2}}{k_{r}} \left[\ln\left(\frac{[\text{reference}]_{0}}{[\text{reference}]_{t}}\right) + D_{n}\right]$$
(VI)

where *J* is the photolysis rate of CF₃CHFOC(O)H by UV irradiation in this reaction system. The decays of CF₃CHFOC-(O)H, FC(O)OCH₃, and a reference compound were determined after the GC peak for CF₃CHFOCH₃ had disappeared completely. The plots of ln([sample]₀/[sample]_{*t*}) + $D_n - Jt$ (or ln-([sample]₀/[sample]_{*t*}) + D_n) versus ln([reference]₀/[reference]_{*t*}) + D_n gave straight lines, with slopes k_2/k_r and k_3/k_r , that intersected the origin (Figure 1). The values of k_2/k_r and k_3/k_r were also determined over the temperature range 253–328 K. Values of k_2 and k_3 were determined from the measured k_2/k_r and k_3/k_r ratios and $k(CH_2F_2) = 1.7 \times 10^{-12} \exp(-1500/T)$ and $k(CH_3CHF_2) = 9.4 \times 10^{-13} \exp(-990/T)$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹ (Table 1).¹⁰ The temperature dependencies of k_2 and k_3 are plotted in Figure 2. Using the Arrhenius equation, $k = A e^{-E/(RT)}$, we determined the Arrhenius rate parameters (*A* and *E/R*) by nonlinear least-squares analyses of the data presented in Table 1. The Arrhenius rate parameters and the values of k_2 and k_3 at 298 K calculated from the Arrhenius expressions are listed in Table 2 with the data for k_1 .

The value of k_2 [(1.67 ± 0.05) × 10⁻¹⁴ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹] at 298 K is similar to the reported rate constants for reactions of CF₃OC(O)H [(1.65 ± 0.13) × 10⁻¹⁴ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹] and C₂F₅OC(O)H [(1.48 ± 0.06) × 10⁻¹⁴ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹] with OH radicals.^{23,24} This similarity indicates that the OH radical reactivity of the H in the -OC(O)H group is larger than that of the H in the CF₃CHFO– group. The value for k_3 [(2.53 ± 0.07) × 10⁻¹⁴ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹] at 298 K is twice the reported value for $k(CF_3C(O)OCH_3)$ (5.38 × 10⁻¹⁴ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹) at 298 K,²⁵ which implies that replacing -Fwith $-CF_3$ in the FC(O)O– group increased the OH radical reactivity of $-CH_3$ in FC(O)OCH₃.

4. Atmospheric Implications

We determined the rate constant of the reaction of CF₃-CHFOCH₃ with OH radicals, $k_1(T)$, to be $(1.77 \pm 0.69) \times 10^{-12}$ exp[$(-720 \pm 110)/T$] cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹. The tropospheric lifetime of CF₃CHFOCH₃ (τ_1) with respect to its reaction with OH radicals was estimated to be 0.29 years by scaling the lifetime of CH₃CCl₃:

$$\tau_1 = \frac{k_{\rm CH_3CCl_3}(272 \text{ K})}{k_1(272 \text{ K})} \times \tau_{\rm CH_3CCl_3}$$
(VII)

where $k_1(272 \text{ K})$ and $k_{\text{CH}_3\text{CCl}_3}(272 \text{ K})$ represent the rate constants for the reactions of CF3CHFOCH3 and CH3CCl3 with OH radicals at 272 K, respectively, and $\tau_{CH_3CCl_3}$ represents the tropospheric lifetime of CH₃CCl₃ with respect to reaction with OH radicals. The k_1 value at 272 K was calculated to be 1.25 $\times 10^{-13} \,\mathrm{cm^3}$ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹ from the Arrhenius expression for k_1 . The recommended value of $k_{\text{CH}_3\text{CCl}_3}$ at 272 K is 6.1 × 10⁻¹⁵ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹.¹⁰ The $\tau_{CH_3CCl_3}$ value has been estimated to be 6.0 years.²⁶ CF₃CHFOCH₃ is expected to have less impact on global warming than HCFCs and HFCs because it is more rapidly removed from the atmosphere.² However, in this study, we found that two esters, $CF_3CHFOC(O)H$ and $FC(O)OCH_3$, can be produced from the OH radical-initiated reaction of CF3-CHFOCH₃. These esters are also potential greenhouse gases, owing to their strong absorption at 1000-3000 cm⁻¹. We measured the rate constants of the reactions of CF3CHFOC-(O)H and FC(O)OCH₃ with OH radicals, $k_2(T)$ and $k_3(T)$, respectively, to be $(9.14 \pm 2.78) \times 10^{-13} \exp[(-1190 \pm 90)/$ T] and (2.10 \pm 0.65) \times 10⁻¹³ exp[(-630 \pm 90)/T] cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹. The tropospheric lifetimes of CF₃CHFOC(O)H (3.2 years) and FC(O)OCH₃ (1.8 years) with respect to their reactions with OH radicals were obtained from the k_2 (1.15 \times $10^{-14} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$) and $k_3 (2.07 \times 10^{-14} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1})$ s⁻¹) at 272 K by scaling the lifetime of CH₃CCl₃ using eq VII. The lifetimes of CF₃CHFOC(O)H and FC(O)OCH₃ are longer than that of CF₃CHFOCH₃. However, CF₃CHFOC(O)H and FC-(O)OCH₃ may also be removed from the atmosphere by rain washout, dissolution into the ocean, and photolysis; therefore, further investigation of the final fate of CF₃CHFOC(O)H and $FC(O)OCH_3$ in the atmosphere is needed.

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