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Crystal Lattice Control of Unimolecular Photorearrangements. Differences in Cyclohexenone Photochemistry in Solution and the Solid State. Solid-State Results

Sir:

In the preceding communication¹ we outlined the solution phase photochemistry of $4a\beta$, 5, 8, $8a\beta$ -tetrahydro-1-naphthoquin-4 α -ol (1, Scheme I) and five of its substituted analogues. This consisted, in every case, of intramolecular [2 + 2] photocycloaddition to yield the corresponding tetracyclo- $[5.3.0.0^{2.6}.0^{4.9}]$ decane derivatives (e.g., 2). In this paper we describe the different results obtained when three of these same tetrahydronaphthoquinols were irradiated in the solid state. In addition, we report the crystal and molecular structure of each of the three substrates as determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction methods. These studies establish that the solid phase photoreactions are crystal lattice-controlled, least motion processes and lead to the novel conclusion that the solid state/solution reactivity differences are the result of reaction from different conformational isomers in the two media.

The compounds studied were the tetrahydronaphthoquinols 3, 6, and 7 prepared via sodium borohydride reduction of the corresponding ene-diones.¹ Irradiation² ($\lambda > 330$ nm) of polycrystalline samples of these substrates led to the results outlined in Scheme I, that is formation of photoproducts 4 and 9 from 3 and 7 respectively and no reaction in the case of tetrahydronaphthoquinol 6. Accompanying products 4 and 9 were traces (<5%) of the corresponding intramolecular [2 + 2] solution photoproducts.¹ We attribute their formation to reaction at defect sites and/or regions of local melting. Photoisomer 4 was identified by oxidation (pyridinium chloro-



chromate, 95%) to the known³ diketone 5. The relative stereochemistry of 4 at the hydroxyl-bearing carbon atom and the adjacent center follows from a vicinal coupling constant of 4 Hz. Photoproduct 9 was identified by a single crystal, direct method X-ray structure determination, current $R = 0.082.^4$ It is undoubtedly formed by cyclization of the keto-alcohol 8 which could not be isolated. Evidence which indicates that this hemiacetal formation occurs even in the solid state comes from experiments involving irradiation of potassium bromide pellets of 7. Infrared spectra of the irradiated pellet at various intervals showed only peaks due to 7 and 9; no absorptions corresponding to the cyclobutanone carbonyl stretching frequency (ca. 1780) cm^{-1}) were observed.

The X-ray crystal structures⁴ of starting substrates 3 (R =0.043), 6 (R = 0.041), and 7 (current R = 0.048) showed that all three adopt conformations which can be approximately described as consisting of a half-chair cyclohexene ring cisfused to a second half-chair cyclohexenone moiety. There are two non-equivalent ring flipped conformations of this type for each substrate, one in which the hydroxyl group is pseudoequatorial and one in which it is pseudoaxial. The crystallographic results show that the conformation with the hydroxyl group pseudoequatorial is present exclusively in each case. Figure 1 shows a computer drawn stereodiagram of this conformation for substrate 3.

The result of this conformational preference is that substrates 6 and 7 (hydroxyl group syn to bridgehead methyls)



Figure 1. Stereodiagram of the conformation of tetrahydro-1.4-naphthoquinol 3 in the solid state. The methyl hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.





adopt a conformation different from that adopted by 3 (hydroxyl group anti to bridgehead methyls). These differences are shown by structures 10 and 12 in Scheme II. With this information we are now in a position to understand the solid state photochemical results. Photoproduct 9 arises from conformer 10 via a six-membered transition state allylic hydrogen atom transfer from C(8) to C(3) followed by C(2) to C(8)bonding of the resulting biradical 13. On the other hand, photoproduct 4 is formed through conformer 12 by means of a C(5) to C(3) hydrogen atom transfer (five-membered transition state!⁵) and subsequent C(2) to C(5) bonding in 14.

These processes are seen, as in our previous unimolecular solid state results,⁶ to be least motion in character, that is, relatively little molecular reorganization is required to initiate product formation via carbon-carbon bonding following hydrogen abstraction. With regard to the abstraction processes themselves, the C(3) to H(5) distance in 12 is 2.72 (2) Å, and the C(3) to H(8) distance in 10 is 2.84(4) Å. Both values are within the suggested^{6a} van der Waals radii sum limit of 2.90 Å for abstraction of hydrogen by carbon.⁷ Significantly, substrate 6, which is photochemically unreactive and exists in conformation 10 ($R'' = CH_3$), has a C(3) to H(8) interatomic distance of 2.92 (2) Å, just outside the suggested limit. For all three substrates the angle τ_{c} , ^{6a} the degree to which the abstracted hydrogen atom lies outside the mean plane of the C(2)-C(3) double bond, is very close to 50°. Similarly, Δ_c , the C(2)-C(3)- H_{abs} angle, is nearly constant at 75°. The conclusion is thus that these geometric factors are not responsible for the lack of solid state reactivity of substrate 6.

Finally we turn to a discussion of the factors which give rise to the observed solution/solid state reactivity differences. We suggest that internal [2 + 2] photocycloaddition does not occur from conformers **10** and **12** owing to the relatively large double bond separations involved ($\geq 4.37(2)$ Å in every case) as well as their nonparallel orientations. Parallel double bond approach at distances of less than ca. 4.1 Å is a well-established prerequisite for successful *inter*molecular [2 + 2] photocycloadditions.^{6a,8} On the other hand, in solution, where conformational equilibration is facile, small amounts of conformers which better fulfill these requirements (e.g., 11) will be present. It is thus reasonable to suggest that rapid [2 + 2]photocycloaddition from these minor, higher energy conformers can predominate in solution. Perusal of the photochemical literature reveals a number of additional examples of systems which likely react via nonminimum energy conformations in solution and which might therefore exhibit different photobehavior in the solid state. We plan to continue our investigations along these lines.

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Hydrolysis of Phenyl Acetates with Capped β -Cyclodextrins: Reversion from Meta to Para Selectivity

Sir:

Modeling of enzymic reactions by use of natural¹ and artificial² compounds has been extensively studied in the past decade. One notable advantage of the use of artificial com-