

the synthesis of trichothecins. The results of these studies will be reported in due course.

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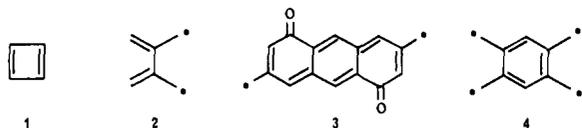
Ab Initio Study of 1,2,4,5-Tetramethylenebenzene: A Disjoint Non-Kekulé Molecule with a Possible Singlet Ground State

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The application³ of Hund's first rule, not only to its original domain in atomic spectroscopy⁴ but also to conjugated non-Kekulé molecules, has been discussed widely.⁵⁻⁷ Hückel⁶ was the first to point out that a violation might occur in the specific case of the Schlenk-Brauns hydrocarbon, because theory then available showed the singlet and triplet states to be of nearly equal energy. Borden and Davidson⁷ later discerned theoretically that this property should inhere in the whole class of "disjoint" biradicals, of which an important subgroup comprises alternant systems with equal numbers of starred and unstarred π -centers.^{7,8} Higher level ab initio SCF-MO-CI calculations confirm this idea by predicting singlet ground states for two disjoint systems, square cyclobutadiene (1)^{5d,h,9} and tetramethyleneethane (2).^{7,10} However,



the only available experimental test shows the disjoint non-Kekulé molecule 3 to have a triplet ground state,¹¹ and, although an ab initio calculation currently is not practical, INDO/S-CI calcu-

Table I. CI Results for 1,2,4,5-Tetramethylenebenzene

state	UHF optimized ^{a,b}	ROHF optimized ^{a,c}
	SD-CI/STO-3G ^e	
³ B _{1u}	-379.773 01	-379.826 71
¹ A _g	-379.783 08	-379.778 38
⁵ A _g	-379.760 39	
state	SDTQ-CI energy ^d	rel energy ^d
	SDTQ-CI/STO-3G ^e	
¹ A _g	-379.863 47	0.0
³ B _{1u}	-379.851 72	7.4
⁵ A _g	-379.773 90	56.2
	SDTQ-CI[4s,2p] ^f	
¹ A _g	-384.366 65	0.0
³ B _{1u}	-384.341 94	15.5

^aEnergy in hartrees. ^bSD-CI energy at STO-3G UHF optimized geometry. The ¹A_g calculation uses a two-configuration reference state. ^cSD-CI energy at STO-3G ROHF/TCSCF optimized geometry. The ¹A_g calculation was done as in footnote b. ^dEnergy relative to ¹A_g state in kcal/mol at SDTQ-CI level. ^eSTO-3G basis set at STO-3G optimized geometry, using UHF geometry for ¹A_g and ROHF geometry for ³B_{1u} (see text). ^fDunning-Huzinaga (9s,5p)[4s,2p] basis set at STO-3G optimized geometry.

lations do concur with the experimental finding.¹² In order to explore further the consequences of disjoint character, we have undertaken an ab initio study of a disjoint system of intermediate size, 1,2,4,5-tetramethylenebenzene (4). INDO/S-CI calculations¹² predict a singlet ground state by 9 kcal/mol. So far, this is the largest system for which our previously reliable semiempirical method¹² has been tested against higher level theory.

Geometry optimization of 4 was carried out using restricted open-shell Hartree-Fock (ROHF) and unrestricted Hartree-Fock (UHF) wave functions for the ³B_{1u} state, two-configuration SCF (TSCF) wave functions for the ¹A_g state, and UHF wave functions for the ⁵A_g state; the STO-3G basis set¹³ was used to optimize the geometries to less than 2.0 millihartrees/bohr using the program GAMESS.¹⁴ Planarity was imposed during the optimization since our objective was to examine disjoint character. The final geometries are shown in the supplementary material. Only the ⁵A_g state has an "aromatic" geometry. The geometries of the ¹A_g TCSCF and ³B_{1u} ROHF states, as expected,^{15,16} are essentially identical and resemble partially localized pentadienyl radicals joined at inactive sites. The ³B_{1u} UHF geometry has longer exocyclic methylene bond lengths than does the triplet ROHF geometry, but the UHF geometry is still approximately that of joined pentadienyl radicals. UHF wave functions are known to give variationally better geometries than ROHF wave functions for many open-shell species, due to the better correlation in UHF wave functions,¹⁵ which helps to avoid doublet instability in the triplet wavefunction.^{5b} However, the UHF/STO-3G-optimized ³B_{1u} state of 4 has a spin-squared expectation value ($\langle S^2 \rangle$) of 3.14, indicating substantial spin contamination, since a pure triplet should have $\langle S^2 \rangle = 2.00$. As a result, the UHF geometry presumably reflects the optimum for some mixture of spin states, not for the "pure" ³B_{1u} state. Therefore both UHF and ROHF geometries were used in configuration interaction (CI) calculations described below. The geometry of lowest CI energy would under these circumstances be variationally preferable, though probably not optimal due to the approximate nature of the wave functions used for optimization.

CI calculations were then carried out on the appropriate geometries for the states of 4, using STO-3G (spin-pure) ROHF MO's for multiplet states and TCSCF MO's for ¹A_g. We carried

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- (2) University of Connecticut.
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out CI over the complete set of 10 π orbitals, using up to doubly (SD-CI) or quadruply (SDTQ-CI) excited configurations from the ground state.¹⁷ Table I shows the results. Of particular interest is that the SD-CI $^3B_{1u}$ state has a lower energy at the ROHF geometry by 32 kcal/mol, while the 1A_g state is lower at the triplet UHF geometry by 4 kcal/mol. Using the geometries that correspond to the lowest SD-CI energies calculated for each state, we find that **4** has a singlet ground state at the SDTQ-CI/STO-3G level, with the $^3B_{1u}$ and 5A_g states 7 and 56 kcal/mol, respectively, higher in energy. The 1A_g ground state is a biradical, as shown by the major terms in its CI wave function (eq 1) and

$$\psi_{CI} = 0.697(b_{2u})^2 - 0.529(b_{3g})^2 \quad (1)$$

by the natural orbital occupancies of the frontier MO's, 1.078 and 0.922, respectively.

We then carried out SDTQ-CI/[4s,2p] calculations over the first 12 π orbitals obtained using the Dunning-Huzinaga (9s,5p)/[4s,2p] contracted Gaussian basis set,¹⁸ with the geometries that gave the lowest SDTQ-CI/STO-3G energies for the 1A_g and $^3B_{1u}$ states. At this level, the 1A_g state remains the ground state by 15 kcal/mol below the $^3B_{1u}$ state.¹⁹

Since use of proper MCSCF wave functions is not yet practically possible for so large a system as **4**, the geometries obtained from UHF and ROHF wave functions for the states are uncertain, especially for the singlet and triplet states. As a result, there is uncertainty in the singlet-triplet gap. Although the geometry for the triplet state is not optimal because of spin contamination by a higher quintet state, and consequently the energy values of the individual states might change in a calculation based on a spin-pure triplet geometry, it seems unlikely that this would result in a drastic selective stabilization of the triplet. Therefore, the calculations suggest that a singlet is either the ground state or a very low-lying excited state of **4**, in confirmation of qualitative prediction based on disjoint HMOs and in accord with the INDO/CI result.¹² This species now becomes an attractive synthetic target as an experimental test of theory.

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Supplementary Material Available: Diagram of optimized geometries for 1,2,4,5-tetramethylenebenzene (3 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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Observation of an Unusually Low CO Stretching Frequency on Fe(100)

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We report here our observation with high-resolution electron energy loss spectroscopy (HREELS) of an unusually low CO

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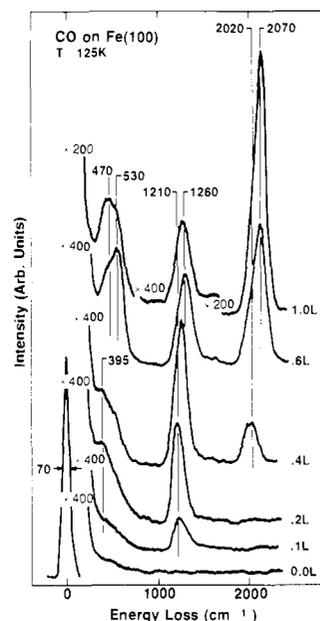


Figure 1. Vibrational spectra for CO chemisorbed on Fe(100) at 125 K for various exposures. Primary beam energy, 5.0 eV.

stretching frequency (1210 cm^{-1}) for a chemisorbed CO molecular state (α_3) on Fe(100). This chemisorbed state is the precursor state for CO dissociation. Our recent studies of CO adsorption on Fe(100) using X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) and temperature-programmed desorption (TPD)¹ showed that CO adsorbs molecularly in three sequentially filled states ($\text{CO}(\alpha_1)$, $\text{CO}(\alpha_2)$, and $\text{CO}(\alpha_3)$), and that CO dissociation is correlated with the most tightly bound molecular state, $\text{CO}(\alpha_3)$. The stretching frequency for this $\text{CO}(\alpha_3)$ state is 1210 cm^{-1} indicating a substantially weakened C-O bond relative to the gas-phase molecule, which has a stretching frequency of 2143 cm^{-1} . Along with the very recently reported observation for CO on Cr(110)² (1150-1330 cm^{-1}), it is the lowest CO stretching frequency reported to date for CO adsorbed on any single-crystal metal surface.^{3,4} Since all the previously observed CO molecular states on iron surfaces have substantially higher vibrational frequencies (1530-2070 cm^{-1}),^{5,6} this report demonstrates a striking example of the geometric effect of the adsorption site on the CO bond weakening upon chemisorption.

The experiments reported here were performed in a stainless steel UHV system with a base pressure of 3×10^{-10} torr equipped with a 127° cylindrical sector HREELS and TPD. The same Fe(100) crystal and cleaning procedures used for our previous XPS and TPD studies¹ were used. CO TPD spectra were identical with those observed previously for the clean Fe(100) surface. HREELS spectra as a function of CO exposure are shown in Figure 1. For CO exposure up to 0.2 langmuir at 125 K, one loss peak clearly dominates at 1210 cm^{-1} . There is also a weak peak at 395 cm^{-1} . Above 0.3 langmuir CO exposure, a loss peak appears at 2020 cm^{-1} which increases in intensity with CO exposure. This second peak shifts to 2070 cm^{-1} at 1.0 langmuir CO exposure. With the appearance of the second peak at 2020 cm^{-1} , the loss peak at 1210 cm^{-1} shifts to 1260 cm^{-1} . Initially the intensity of the loss peak at 1210 cm^{-1} increases with CO exposure. However, with increasing CO exposure above 0.4 langmuir, the 1210- cm^{-1} loss peak intensity decreases as the loss peak at 2020 cm^{-1} increases in

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