

Dynamic NMR Study of *trans*-Cyclodecene

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**Abstract:** The slow-exchange <sup>13</sup>C spectrum of *trans*-cyclodecene at −154.9 °C shows eight peaks for the olefinic carbons, and these are interpreted in terms of five conformations. Three of the conformations are of C<sub>1</sub> symmetry, and two are of C<sub>2</sub> symmetry. Further evidence for the number of conformations and their symmetries came from a proton NMR spectrum of the olefinic hydrogens taken at −154.9 °C with decoupling the allylic hydrogens. Populations ranged from 3.0% to 37.6%, with the least-populated conformation having a free energy of 0.59 kcal/mol, relative to the most stable conformer. The conformations studied by Saunders and Jimenez-Vazquez using Allinger's MM3 force field are described, and the calculated strain energies and populations are discussed. Energies for six conformations were also obtained from *ab initio* calculations at the HF/6-311G\* level.

The medium-ring *trans*-cycloalkenes have been of interest because of the molecular dissymmetry of these compounds, which was predicted by Blomquist et al.<sup>1</sup> and later confirmed experimentally by Cope and co-workers.<sup>2</sup> For example, isomers of *trans*-cyclooctene with rotations [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> of −458 and +440° were separated using diastereomeric platinum complexes. The (*R*)-configuration was later assigned to the levorotatory enantiomer.<sup>3</sup> Interconversion of enantiomers requires rotation of the double bond through the ring, and this motion is hindered by steric interactions with CH<sub>2</sub> groups across the ring. An activation energy for racemization of 35.6 kcal/mol was determined<sup>4</sup> from the changes in optical rotation at elevated temperatures. A lower barrier (*E*<sub>a</sub> = 20 ± 2 kcal/mol) was later obtained for racemization of *trans*-cyclononene, but optically active *trans*-cyclodecene could not be isolated.<sup>5</sup>

*trans*-Cyclodecene-1,2,4,4,9,9-*d*<sub>6</sub> was studied using low-temperature <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy by Binsch and Roberts.<sup>6</sup> These authors pointed out that the C<sub>5</sub>–C<sub>6</sub> bond in *trans*-cyclooctene could be either parallel or crossed with respect to the carbon–carbon double bond and could constitute a second element of dissymmetry. Interconversion of enantiomers would require rotation of both the double bond and the C<sub>5</sub>–C<sub>6</sub> bond through the ring, and either process alone results in a diastereomer. Recent strain-energy calculations using Allinger's MM3 force field predict<sup>7</sup> that the conformation of *trans*-cyclooctene with C<sub>1</sub>–C<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>5</sub>–C<sub>6</sub> parallel is 3.0 kcal/mol higher in strain energy than the conformation with these bonds crossed. For *trans*-cyclodecene, six conformations were considered.<sup>6</sup> In half of these, C<sub>1</sub>–C<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>7</sub> were parallel and differed in the locations of C<sub>4</sub> and C<sub>9</sub>, and in the other three conformations these bonds were crossed. Interconversion of conformations could be accomplished by rotation of the C<sub>1</sub>–C<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>7</sub> bonds through the ring and flipping of C<sub>4</sub> and C<sub>9</sub>.<sup>8</sup> The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for the allylic protons of the deuterated *trans*-cyclodecene was a singlet at room temperature

and changed into an AB quartet by −74 °C. The changes were attributed to slowing the rate of rotation of the double bond through the ring, and an activation energy of 10.7 ± 0.3 kcal/mol was determined for the process. Further changes in the spectra of these protons were observed at lower temperatures, and by −164 °C two featureless, partially overlapping peaks with line widths of about 30 Hz were found. The finding of more than one process for the deuterated *trans*-cyclodecene rules out the possibility of a single C<sub>2</sub> conformation, such as one based on boat-chair-boat (BCB) cyclodecene or one based on twist-boat-chair-chair (TBCC) cyclodecene.

A low-temperature <sup>19</sup>F NMR study of 3,3-difluoro-*trans*-cyclodecene confirmed that more than one conformation is populated at lower temperatures.<sup>11</sup> By −30 °C, an AB quartet was also observed for this compound, and a free-energy barrier of 12.4 kcal/mol was determined for the difluoride, in reasonable agreement with the free-energy barrier for the deuterated *trans*-cyclodecene (12.0 kcal/mol).<sup>12</sup> At −148 °C, two AB quartets could be clearly identified, and smaller peaks indicated the presence of additional conformations, although the exact number could not be determined. Interpretation of the <sup>19</sup>F spectra was complicated by the observation of four peaks for each conformation at slow exchange, the broadening of the peaks by H-F couplings, and by the lower symmetry of the difluoride. For each C<sub>1</sub> conformation of *trans*-cyclodecene, there are two corresponding conformations of the difluoride.

We report here a low-temperature <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H NMR study of *trans*-cyclodecene (**1**). The molecular mechanics calculations of Saunders and Jimenez-Vazquez using Allinger's MM3 force field predict five conformations of **1** with measurable populations at −200 °C and are useful in indicating which conformations may be populated at low temperatures.<sup>7</sup> At the same time, the low-temperature NMR study provides an experimental check on some aspects of the molecular mechanics calculations for this complex system.

<sup>⊗</sup> Abstract published in *Advance ACS Abstracts*, November 15, 1996.

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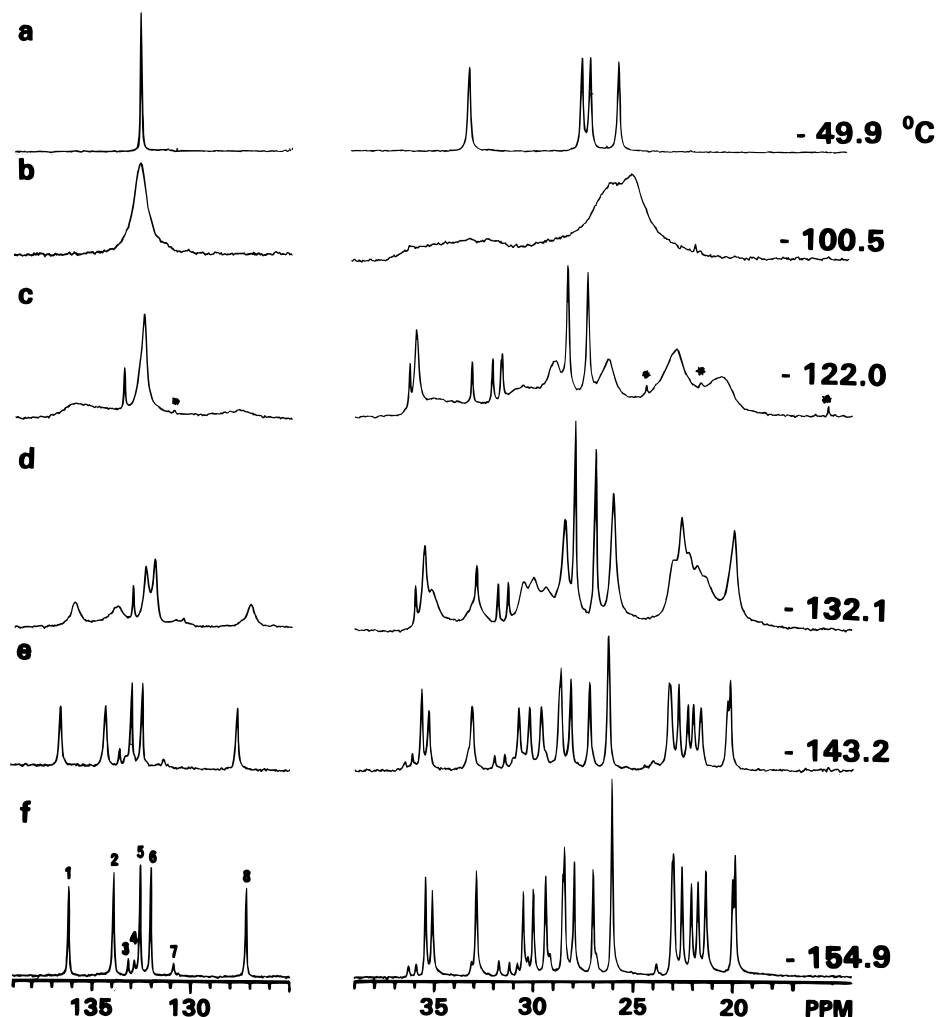
(8) An alternative to rotation of C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>7</sub> through the ring has been described: Fanta, P. Private communication to Roberts, J. D. This process is shown in ref 9, p 64. For a description of conformational processes in medium ring cycloalkanes, see ref 10.

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**Figure 1.** Low-temperature  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of *trans*-cyclodecene. The four asterisks for spectrum c mark the positions of small peaks believed to come from trace impurities in the solvents (see text).

## Experimental Section

A mixture of *trans*- and *cis*-cyclodecene was purchased from Farchan Chemical Company, and the percentages of the two isomers were determined by  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopy. The olefinic carbon signal at lower frequency ( $\delta$  130.0) was assigned to the *cis* isomer (72%), and the peak at  $\delta$  131.3 belonged to the *trans* isomer (28%), based on the chemical shift of a sample of pure *cis*-cyclodecene and on the general relationship<sup>13</sup> that *cis*-alkenes absorb at lower frequency than the corresponding *trans*-alkenes in the  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra of the olefinic carbons.

The *trans*-cyclodecene was separated from the *cis* isomer by a 16-stage counter current extraction,<sup>14</sup> as described by Binsch and Roberts.<sup>6</sup> Six grams of the mixture was separated into the components using twice the reported<sup>6</sup> amounts of reagents and solvents (40 mL of the equilibrated cyclohexane phase and 320 mL of the water, methanol, and silver nitrate solution for each extraction). From step 8 to step 16, the layers containing *cis*- and *trans*-cyclodecene were withdrawn, every other step, simultaneously from opposite ends. The combined phases containing the *trans*-cyclodecene were concentrated under vacuum using the rotary evaporator to about half the volume, poured into 1200 mL of concentrated ammonia and ice, and extracted five times with 600 mL portions of pentane. The combined pentane phases were dried over Drierite, and most of the pentane was removed by distillation. None of the *cis* isomer was detected by  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR

spectroscopy. Small amounts of pentane and other impurities were removed by preparative gas chromatography using a 1/4 in.  $\times$  4 ft. column containing 20% carbowax 20M on 80/100 mesh chromosorb P. A column temperature of 86  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  was used, and 25  $\mu\text{L}$  of concentrated *trans*-cyclodecene solution was injected each time. Two hundred microliters of pure *trans*-cyclodecene was isolated from the original 6 g of mixture. No impurities in the compound were detected by  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopy for a solution in dichloromethane.

Several samples, using different lecture bottles of solvents, were used for the low-temperature spectra. For the spectra taken at  $-132.1$ ,  $-139.0$ , and  $-154.9$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the solvent consisted of  $\text{CHClF}_2$  and  $\text{CH}_2\text{ClF}$  in a ratio of 3:1. Mixtures of  $\text{CHClF}_2$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_2\text{F}$ , and  $\text{CHF}_3$  in a ratio of 5:1:1 were used for the other temperatures.

A 5 mm thin-walled screw-cap tube from Wilmad Glass Company was used, and the sample temperature was maintained below 0  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  most of the time. A small amount of TMS was added to provide an internal reference for the  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^1\text{H}$  spectra, which were recorded on a General Electric model GN-300 wide-bore NMR spectrometer, operating at a frequency of 75.58 MHz for carbons and 300.52 MHz for protons.  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra were taken from 0  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-154.9$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$  with a 5 mm dual probe, and spinning was discontinued below  $-120$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Up to 3000 acquisitions were used, with a sweep width of  $\pm 12\,000$  Hz, data size of 64 K, and 3.0 Hz line broadening to increase the signal-to-noise ratio, except for  $-154.9$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , where the line broadening was 1 Hz. Several of the experimental parameters (sample concentration, pulse width, tip angle, and pulse-repetition period) differed at the various temperatures, and the values at each temperature are given in parentheses:  $-49.9$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$  (10%, 14  $\mu\text{s}$ , 124 $^{\circ}$ , 7.0 s);  $-100.5$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$  (12%, 14  $\mu\text{s}$ , 124 $^{\circ}$ , 7.0 s);  $-122.0$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$  (15%, 6.8  $\mu\text{s}$ , 60 $^{\circ}$ , 2.0 s);  $-143.2$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$  (15%, 8.0  $\mu\text{s}$ , 71 $^{\circ}$ , 2.0 s);  $-132.1$ ,  $-139.0$  and  $-154.9$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$  (15%, 16  $\mu\text{s}$ , 60 $^{\circ}$ , 1.0 s). The last

(13) Levy, G. C.; Lichter, R. L.; Nelson, G. L. *Carbon-13 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy*, 2nd ed.; John Wiley & Sons: New York, 1980; p 79.

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three spectra were taken much later than the rest, and the pulse width for a 90° pulse had increased by this time. The use of a tip angle greater than 90° for the first two spectra was unintentional. The delay times are shorter than optimal for integration,<sup>15</sup> but this was necessary in order to obtain an adequate signal-to-noise ratio.

A <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the olefinic hydrogens was taken at -154.9 °C; 500 acquisitions were used, with a sweep width of ±5000 Hz, data size of 64 K, pulse width of 3.1 μs, tip angle of 45°, and pulse-repetition period of 1 s.

Because of the difficulty in ejecting the sample at the lower temperatures, the temperature calibration was performed separately, using a copper-constantan thermocouple immersed in the same solvents contained in a dummy sample tube and under conditions as nearly identical as possible. The emf's were measured using a Leeds and Northrup Model 8690-2 millivolt potentiometer.

Molecular mechanics calculations were done with Allinger's MM3 program, which was run using version 3.0 of Spartan. Gaussian 92<sup>16</sup> was used for the *ab initio* calculations. All force field or *ab initio* calculations were performed with a Silicon Graphics computer.

## Results and Discussion

The proton-decoupled <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of *trans*-cyclodecene at 0 °C consists of five sharp peaks, as a consequence of rapid equilibration of conformations, and shows the presence of a time-averaged axis of symmetry. The finding<sup>6</sup> of a single peak for the allylic hydrogens of *trans*-cyclodecene-1,2,4,4,9,9-*d*<sub>6</sub> at room temperature and an AB quartet by -74 °C is also consistent with rapid equilibration at the higher temperature and indicates that the compound possesses a time-averaged plane of symmetry at room temperature, which no longer exists by -74 °C. The <sup>13</sup>C spectrum shows slight broadening of the upfield signals by -49.9 °C (Figure 1), and large changes are observed at lower temperatures. The spectrum at -122.0 °C includes five sharp peaks at δ 133.5, 36.2, 33.1, 32.1, and 31.6, which are assigned to a conformation of C<sub>2</sub> symmetry<sup>17</sup> that is interconverting slowly on the NMR time scale with the other conformations. The spectrum at this temperature has several small peaks, marked by asterisks, which are believed to arise from traces of impurities. Not all of these peaks may be present or apparent for each temperature, as the solvent mixtures differ (some do not contain CF<sub>3</sub>H), and different lecture bottles of solvents were used. Also, the small impurity peaks will be emphasized in spectra with very broad peaks of *trans*-cyclodecene, and signals from **1** may obscure the peaks at some temperatures. A short peak at δ 130.6 in the spectrum at -154.9 °C appears just upfield of peak number 7 of the compound and probably corresponds to the first of the impurity peaks at -122.0 °C. The second and fourth impurity peaks at -122.0 °C are absent at -154.9 °C.

Eight peaks are found for **1** in the olefinic carbon region at -154.9 °C, and these are assigned in Table 1 to three conformations of C<sub>1</sub> symmetry (peaks 1 and 8, 5 and 6, and 4 and 7), and two of C<sub>2</sub> symmetry (peaks 2 and 3). The finding of five major peaks (numbers 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8) in the olefinic

(15) Ideal conditions are a tip angle of 83° and a pulse - repetition period of 4.5 T<sub>1</sub>: Traficante, D. D. *Concepts Magn. Reson.* **1992**, *4*, 153. See, also: Traficante, D. D.; Steward, L. R. *Concepts Magn. Reson.* **1994**, *6*, 131.

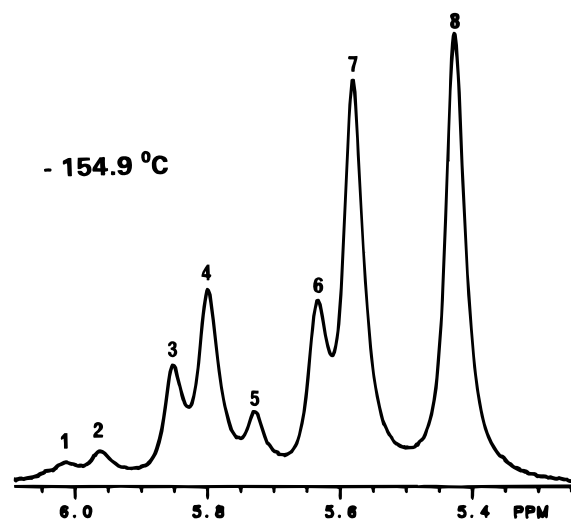
(16) Frisch, M. J.; Trucks, G. W.; Head-Gordon, M.; Gill, P. M. W.; Wong, M. W.; Foresman, J. B.; Johnson, B. G.; Schlegel, H. B.; Robb, M.; Replogle, E. S.; Gomperts, R.; Anders, J. L.; Raghavachari, K.; Binkley, J. S.; Gonzales, C.; Martin, R. L.; Fox, D. J.; Defrees, D. J.; Baker, J.; Stewart, J. J. P.; Pople, J. A. *GAUSSIAN 92*, Revision A; Gaussian, Inc.: Pittsburgh, PA, 1992.

(17) The possibility that the symmetry is actually C<sub>1</sub>, with conformational averaging to give a time-averaged C<sub>2</sub> symmetry, is not completely ruled out, but is considered unlikely. Accidental coincidence of chemical shifts for a C<sub>1</sub> conformation could also result in apparent C<sub>2</sub> symmetry, but coincidence for all five pairs of carbons is not expected.

**Table 1.** Experimental Populations and Free Energies of *trans*-Cyclodecene Conformations at -154.9 °C

no.	symmetry/ peak numbers <sup>a</sup>	populations (%)	relative free energies (kcal/mol)
1	C <sub>1</sub> (5 + 6)	37.6	0.000
2	C <sub>1</sub> (1 + 8)	31.8	0.039
3	C <sub>2</sub> (2)	21.8	0.128
4	C <sub>1</sub> (4 + 7)	5.8	0.439
5	C <sub>2</sub> (3)	3.0	0.594

<sup>a</sup> Peak numbers refer to Figure 1f.



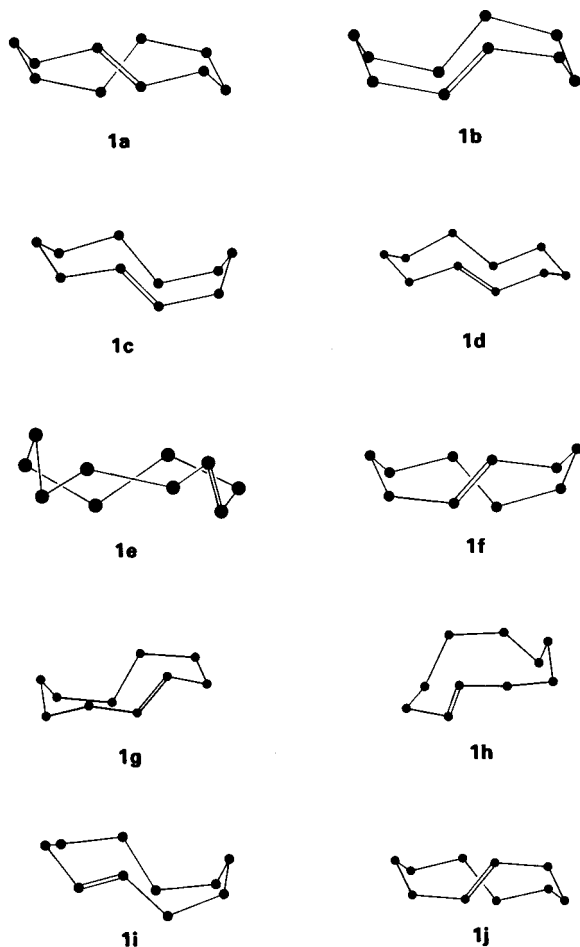
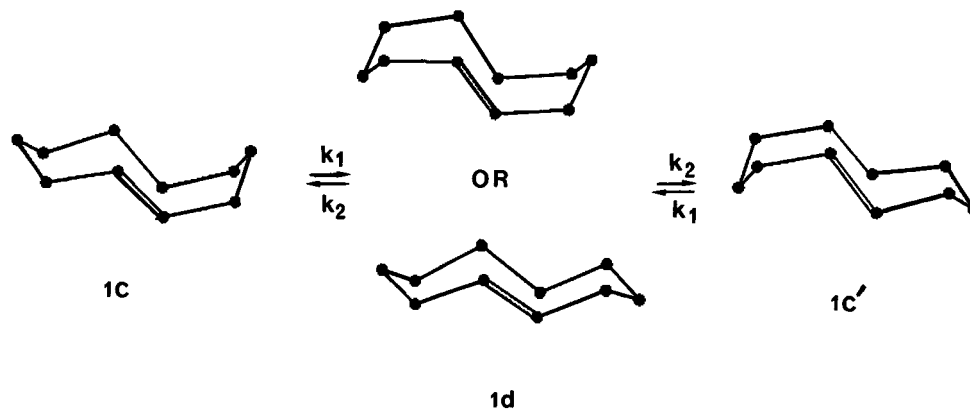
**Figure 2.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the olefinic hydrogens of *trans*-cyclodecene, taken with decoupling of the allylic hydrogens.

region suggests that 20 peaks of similar intensity should exist in the CH<sub>2</sub> region of the spectrum, and these were found in a spectrum obtained from the same fid as was used for spectrum 1f of Figure 1, but processed without line broadening; it was assumed that the tall signal at δ 26.0 represents two chemical shifts which are too close to be resolved. Eleven of the 12 minor peaks expected in the CH<sub>2</sub> region were also detected in this spectrum processed without line broadening, although in a few cases substantial overlap with adjacent peaks occurred. Electronic integration<sup>18</sup> of the olefinic region of spectrum 1f gave the populations and free-energy differences of Table 1.

Assignment of pairs of peaks to C<sub>1</sub> conformations was based in part on the equal intensities for these signals, but it could be argued that they represent two C<sub>2</sub> conformations with nearly equal populations. The NMR spectra of the olefinic hydrogens, with decoupling of the adjacent allylic hydrogens, should distinguish between these possibilities if overlap of peaks does not occur. An AB quartet would be observable for each C<sub>1</sub> conformation, while two C<sub>2</sub> conformations would give rise to two single lines. The <sup>1</sup>H spectrum of **1** with decoupling of the allylic hydrogens is shown in Figure 2. Peaks 1 and 2 are separated by approximately 15 Hz and are assigned to the high-frequency half of the AB quartet for the minor C<sub>1</sub> conformation; the remaining half is assumed to be buried under other peaks of the spectrum. Signals 3, 4, and 6 of Figure 2 are assigned to the three peaks at highest frequency of an AB quartet from one of the two major C<sub>1</sub> conformations, and the separation of peaks 3 and 4 corresponds to a coupling constant of 15.5 Hz. Peak number 5 is assigned to the minor C<sub>2</sub> conformation, and the seventh peak has intensity from both the major C<sub>2</sub> conformation and the fourth peak of the major AB quartet. An additional major AB quartet is expected but not found, and, in

(18) Peaks 4, 5, and 6 were integrated together. Peak 4 was assumed to have the same area as peak 7, and the area of 5 + 6 was obtained by subtracting this amount.

## Scheme 1



**Figure 3.** Conformations of *trans*-cyclodecene drawn in order of increasing strain energy according to the MM3 force field.<sup>7</sup>

order for the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C results to match, it is necessary to assume that the chemical shift difference is small enough for the two hydrogens to give the appearance of a single line (peak number 8).

Molecular mechanics calculations by Saunders and Jimenez-Vazquez<sup>7</sup> using Allinger's MM3 force field predict five conformations with measurable populations at  $-200$  °C, although two of these have  $C_1$  symmetry and three are of  $C_2$  symmetry, which is the reverse of our experimental results for  $-154.9$  °C (three  $C_1$  and two  $C_2$  conformations). We have reproduced the strain energy calculations to obtain drawings for the ten conformations of Figure 3, which are shown in order of increasing strain energy. The calculated<sup>19</sup> symmetries, energies, and populations at  $-200$  °C and  $0$  °C are shown in Table 2. Conformations **1b–d** are the conformations with

**Table 2.** Symmetry, Strain Energies, Relative Strain Energies, and Populations of Different Conformations of *trans*-Cyclodecene, Predicted by Molecular Mechanics (MM3)<sup>a</sup>

conformer	symmetry	MM3 strain energies (kcal/mol)	relative MM3 strain energies (kcal/mol)	MM3 populations (%)	
				$0.0$ °C	$-200$ °C
<b>1a</b>	$C_2$	22.147	0.000	4.6	1.8
<b>1b</b>	$C_2$	22.542	0.395	8.5	7.4
<b>1c</b>	$C_1$	22.602	0.455	32.6	50.5
<b>1d</b>	$C_2$	22.908	0.761	34.7	35.2
<b>1e</b>	$C_1$	23.302	1.155	15.1	5.1
<b>1f</b>	$C_1$	23.751	1.604	2.1	0.0
<b>1g</b>	$C_1$	24.077	1.930	1.1	0.0
<b>1h</b>	$C_1$	25.166	3.019	1.0	0.0
<b>1i</b>	$C_1$	25.419	3.272	0.1	0.0
<b>1j</b>	$C_1$	25.834	3.687	0.1	0.0

<sup>a</sup> Reference no. 7.

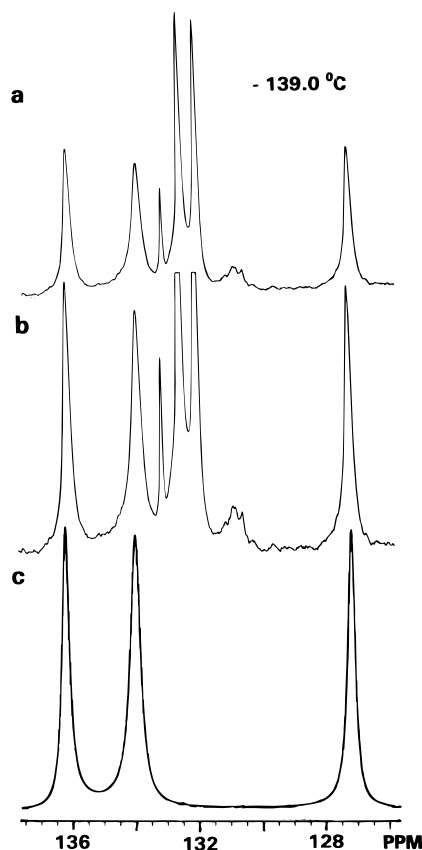
parallel  $C_1-C_2$  and  $C_6-C_7$  bonds considered by Roberts and Binsch,<sup>6</sup> and conformations **1a,f,j** have these bonds crossed. Although conformation **1j** lacks a 2-fold rotational axis, the deviation from  $C_2$  symmetry is small. Conformation **1b** resembles the BCB conformation of cyclodecane, which is the lowest-energy conformation of this compound, and **1a** and **1e** are both similar to the TBCC conformation of cyclodecane, with the double bond occupying different positions. A conformation corresponding to **1a** was found<sup>20</sup> by X-ray crystallography for a silver nitrate complex of **1** in the solid state. Although **1a** has the lowest strain energy according to MM3, the calculated population of this form at  $-200$  °C is only 1.8%.<sup>7</sup>

*Ab initio* calculations at the HF/6-311G\* level were carried out for **1**, and the energies (electronic + vibrational) are summarized in Table 3. These calculations also predict that several low-energy conformations should exist for *trans*-cyclodecene.

The  $C_1$  conformation **1c**, which resembles boat-chair-chair (BCC) cyclodecane, is calculated by MM3 to have the highest population (50.5% at  $-200$  °C). Interconversion of olefinic carbon sites could occur through a  $C_2$  conformation (**1d** or the mirror image of **1b**), as shown in Scheme 1. Peaks 1, 8, and 2 of the <sup>13</sup>C spectrum at  $-139.0$  °C (Figure 4) appeared to be consistent with an exchanging system of this type, with the  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  conformations largely insulated from the others. An attempt to match the lineshape of these three peaks gave the calculated spectrum<sup>21</sup> shown in Figure 4c with  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  equal to 50.0 and 37.2  $s^{-1}$ , and populations of 0.299 for **1c** or **1c'** and 0.402 for **1d** or the mirror image of **1b**. The barrier for

(19) Our version of Spartan does not allow calculation of free energies and populations. We thank Professor Saunders and Mr. Jimenez-Vazquez for sending a complete set of computations for **1**.

(20) Ganis, P.; Dunitz, J. D. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1967**, *50*, 2379.



**Figure 4.** (a)  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectrum of the olefinic carbons of **1** at  $-139.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . (b) Same as (a) except expanded vertically; two peaks are offscale. (c) Calculated spectrum for three olefinic carbons of **1** at  $-139.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ; the three peaks correspond to peaks 1, 2, and 8 of Figure 1f.

conversion of the two topomers (**1c** + **1c'**) to **1d** or the mirror image of **1b** was calculated from the rate constant of  $50.0\text{ s}^{-1}$  to be  $6.6\text{ kcal/mol}$ , and the rate constant and barrier for the reverse process were  $74.4\text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $6.5\text{ kcal/mol}$ . The match between calculated and experimental spectra is not exact but may be close enough for these estimates of the barriers to be reasonable. The minor  $C_2$  conformation (peak 3 of Figure 1) could then be **1a** of Figure 3. An alternative interpretation of peaks 1, 8, and 2 of Figure 1f in terms of conformations **1f** and **1a** or **1j** is possible, but the calculated populations of Table 2 for **1** at  $-200\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  are in better agreement with the interpretation above.<sup>22</sup>

(21) Calculated spectra were obtained using program DNMR-SIM, written by Hagele, G. and Fuhler, R., Heinrich-Heine University, Dusseldorf Institute of Inorganic and Structural Chemistry, Dusseldorf, FRG, 1994. We thank Mr. Ali Jabalameli of our department for acquiring this program from the internet and for installing the program on our computer.

**Table 3.** Energies and Relative Energies of *trans*-Cyclodecene from *ab Initio* Calculations at the HF/6-311G\* Level

conformation <sup>a</sup>	energies (electronic + vibrational) (hartrees)	relative energies (electronic + vibrational) (kcal/mol)
<b>1a</b>	-389.479 629	0.000
<b>1b</b>	-389.476 378	2.040
<b>1c</b>	-389.477 932	1.065
<b>1d</b>	-389.478 701	0.582
<b>1e</b>	-389.478 786	0.529
<b>1f</b>	-389.474 840	3.005

<sup>a</sup> The numbering of conformations is the same as in Figure 3.

## Conclusions

*trans*-Cyclodecene was shown to have five conformations present in observable amounts at  $-154.9\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . Three of these are of  $C_1$  symmetry and two are of  $C_2$  symmetry. Force field calculations<sup>7</sup> predict five conformations at  $-200\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , but the symmetries are reversed ( $2C_1$  and  $3C_2$ ). A possible interpretation of three peaks of the slow-exchange spectrum of **1** in terms of conformations **1c** and **1d** (or **1b**) of Figure 3 was suggested. Free-energy barriers of  $6.5$  and  $6.6\text{ kcal/mol}$  at  $-139.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  were estimated for interconversion of these conformations, which can be accomplished by flipping of carbons 4 and 9. A  $C_2$  conformation interconverting slowly on the NMR time scale with the other conformations by  $-122\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  has been tentatively identified as conformation **1a** of Figure 3. Equilibration of **1a** with at least some of the other conformations requires rotation of the C6–C7 bond through the ring or an equivalent process. The process for *trans*-cyclodecene-1,2,4,4,9,9-*d*<sub>6</sub> with a free-energy barrier of  $12.0\text{ kcal/mol}$  is probably rotation of the double bond through the ring, as suggested by the authors.<sup>6</sup>

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**Supporting Information Available:** Expanded  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectrum of the  $\text{CH}_2$  carbons of *trans*-cyclodecene at  $-154.9\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (1 page). See any current masthead page for ordering and Internet access instructions.

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(22) Ring conformations similar to **1c** or **1d** have been determined for the silver-nitrate adducts of several ten-membered ring sesquiterpenes: McClure, R. J.; Sim, G. A.; Coggon, P.; McPhail, A. T. *Chem. Commun.* **1970**, 128.