

## The Ring-opening Reactions of Cyclobutylmethyl and Cyclobutenylmethyl Radicals

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Rate constants for the ring-opening reactions of cyclobutylmethyl, 1-cyclobutyl-1-methylethyl, and cyclobut-2-enylmethyl radicals have been determined over a range of temperatures by kinetic e.p.r. spectroscopy. The results can be represented by equations (i)–(iii), respectively. The results are compared with those for ring

$$\log (k_3/s^{-1}) = (13.1 \pm 1.4) - (49.8 \pm 7.5 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})/2.3RT \quad (\text{i})$$

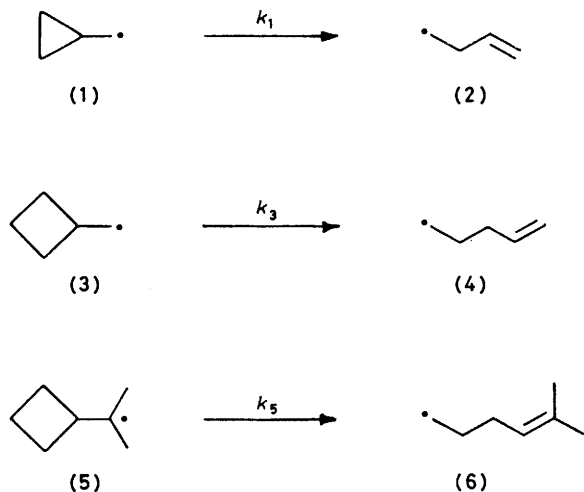
$$\log (k_5/s^{-1}) = (13.6 \pm 1.6) - (58.1 \pm 9.0 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})/2.3RT \quad (\text{ii})$$

$$\log (k_{10}/s^{-1}) = (12.2 \pm 1.4) - (42.2 \pm 8.0 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})/2.3RT \quad (\text{iii})$$

opening of other cycloalkylmethyl radicals. The rate constants for self-reaction of n-pentyl radicals in toluene solution have also been measured over a temperature range and found to fit relation (iv).

$$\log (2k_t/\text{dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}) = (12.3 \pm 0.7) - (10.5 \pm 3.0 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})/2.3RT \quad (\text{iv})$$

ALTHOUGH the rate constants for the cyclopropylmethyl (1) to but-3-enyl (2) rearrangement have been measured by kinetic e.p.r. spectroscopy,<sup>1,2</sup> and related reactions have been well studied by a variety of techniques,<sup>3,4</sup> the ring-opening reactions of cyclobutylmethyls have only recently begun to attract attention.<sup>3-8</sup> In a recent



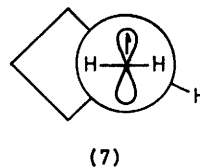
paper Beckwith and Moad reported relative rate constants for ring opening of a wide range of cyclobutylmethyl radicals, determined by treatment of cyclobutylalkyl chlorides with tri-n-butyltin hydride.<sup>8</sup> This prompts us to report our studies by kinetic e.p.r. spectroscopy of the ring-opening of cyclobutylmethyl (3), cyclobut-2-enylmethyl (10), and of 1-cyclobutyl-1-methylethyl (5), the latest being the first tertiary alkyl radical rearrangement to be studied by this well proven technique.<sup>3,9</sup>

### RESULTS

Radical (3) was generated by photolysis of cyclobutylmethyl bromide and hexamethylditin in toluene at temperatures from 148 to 313 K directly in the cavity of the e.p.r.

spectrometer. This procedure gave stronger e.p.r. signals at the higher temperatures than did photolysis of the appropriate diacyl peroxide or t-butyl perester. It should be added that hexabutyliditin gives good signals with the bromide, but it cannot be utilised for kinetic purposes since on photolysis it yields some n-butyl radicals which cannot be distinguished spectroscopically from radicals (4). The e.p.r. parameters for (3) at 243 K are:  $g$  2.0026,  $a^{\text{H}\alpha}$  (2 H) 2.15,  $a^{\text{H}\beta}$  (1 H) 1.403,  $a^{\text{H}\gamma}$  (2 H) 0.143 mT. It should be noted that only two  $\gamma$ -H atoms are resolved. The hyperfine splitting by these  $\gamma$ -H atoms was not observed in the only previous e.p.r. study of (3).<sup>6</sup> The value of  $a^{\text{H}\beta}$  is relatively small but increases substantially with increasing temperature:  $\partial a^{\text{H}\beta}/\partial T = +3.3 \mu\text{T/K}$  (with some curvature) from 188 to 313 K. These facts indicate that (3), like (1)<sup>10</sup> and like cyclobut-2-enylmethyl,<sup>10</sup> adopts form (7) as its preferred conformation.<sup>10</sup> Stereoelectronic arguments<sup>3,8</sup> suggest that such conformations favour ring scission because the SOMO and the bond to be cleaved are relatively favourably oriented.

At temperatures above 250 K ring opening of (3) occurs and (4) [ $g$  2.0027,  $a^{\text{H}\alpha}$  (2 H) 2.19,  $a^{\text{H}\beta}$  (2 H) 2.81 mT] is detected. At temperatures above ca. 315 K (4) becomes the only observable radical. The measured concentrations of (3) and (4) in the temperature range 268–297 K are given in Table 1. They give, by the usual kinetic treatment,<sup>1,3,9</sup>



$\log (k_3/2k_t^{44}/\text{mol dm}^{-3}) = (0.75 \pm 0.75) - (39.3 \pm 4.5 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})/2.3RT$  where  $2k_t^{44}$  is the rate constant for the bimolecular self-reaction of (4) and the errors were estimated from the scatter on the plot. Values of  $2k_t$  for the n-pentyl radical [a reasonable model for (4)], which was generated from n-pentyl bromide under comparable conditions, were measured by kinetic e.p.r. spectroscopy. The results are given in Table 2. They can be represented by  $\log (2k_t/\text{mol}^{-1} \text{ dm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}) = (12.3 \pm 0.7) - (10.5 \pm 3.0$



We have now re-examined the ring-opening of (10) quantitatively. This radical was generated from the parent bromide using hexamethylditin in toluene as solvent. Both (10) and (12) could be detected in the temperature range 214–247 K. The measured concentrations of these two radicals (see Table 5) give equation (5). Values of

$$\log(k_{10}/2k_t^{12,12}/\text{mol dm}^{-3}) = (-0.07 \pm 0.7) - (31.9 \pm 5.0 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})/2.3RT \quad (5)$$

$2k_t^{12,12}$  were taken to be the same as those of the n-pentyl radical in toluene, given above, which yields equation (6).

$$\log(k_{10}/\text{s}^{-1}) = (12.23 \pm 1.4) - (42.2 \pm 8.0 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})/2.3RT \quad (6)$$

Assuming that the pre-exponential factors for the ring-opening reactions of (10) and (11) are identical, then, from

TABLE 5

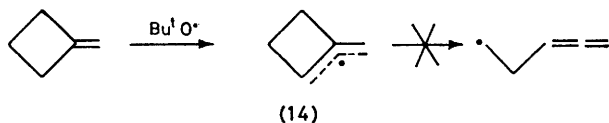
Ring-opening of cyclobut-2-enylmethyl radicals

$T/\text{K}$	$10^8[(10)]/\text{M}$	$10^8[(12)]/\text{M}$	$10^8 k_{10}/2k_t^{12,12}/\text{mol dm}^{-3}$
214	14.6	1.26	1.37
219	11.2	1.66	1.91
222	8.96	2.41	3.06
229	11.5	3.00	3.78
230	11.6	2.97	3.73
236	5.14	3.81	7.60
241	6.47	4.89	8.59
247	2.58	5.79	18.8

the temperature at which (11) undergoes ring-opening (*i.e.* 255 K) we estimate that the temperature dependence of  $k_{11}$  can be represented by equation (7).

$$\log(k_{11}/\text{s}^{-1}) = 12.23 - (45.1 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})/2.3RT \quad (7)$$

The cyclobut-1-enylmethyl radical (14) was recently observed by Lunazzi *et al.*<sup>16</sup> We also generated (14) by hydrogen abstraction from methylenecyclobutane with

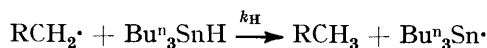


t-butoxy radicals. Our spectrum was somewhat better resolved than that of Lunazzi *et al.*, but yielded similar hyperfine splittings, *viz.*  $a$  (2 H) 0.410,  $a$  (1 H) 1.330,  $a$  (1 H) 1.370,  $a$  (1 H) 1.410,  $a$  (1 H) 2.380,  $a$  (1 H) 2.400 mT. This radical did not undergo ring-opening even at temperatures as high as 350 K, from which we estimate that  $E_{14} \geq 70 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ . The failure of (14) to ring-open is not surprising since both thermodynamic (allylic radical  $\rightarrow$  primary alkyl radical) and stereoelectronic (the SOMO and the bond to be broken are orthogonal) factors militate against this reaction.

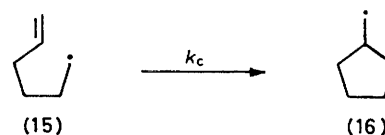
## DISCUSSION

The Arrhenius parameters for the ring fission of cyclobutylmethyl obtained in the present work by e.p.r. spectroscopy enable the reliability of the tin hydride method used by other workers<sup>8</sup> to be assessed and, more importantly, allow it to be further refined. That is, Arrhenius parameters for primary alkyl radical rearrangements obtained by the tin hydride method depend on

estimated Arrhenius parameters for the reaction of primary alkyls with the tin hydride.



The value of  $k_{\text{H}}$  has been determined at 298 K<sup>17</sup> but the Arrhenius parameters must be obtained indirectly from the Arrhenius equation for cyclization of hex-5-enyl<sup>18,19</sup> and from the results of a study of this reaction by the tin hydride method.<sup>20</sup>



The temperature dependence of  $k_c$  has twice been measured by e.p.r. spectroscopy in our laboratory.<sup>18,19</sup> Although the second measurement<sup>19</sup> *should* have been the more accurate, it gave, after a 'correction' to the measured radical concentration, an almost unacceptably low pre-exponential factor,  $A_c$ , of  $10^{9.5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . We have now re-examined this work and conclude that not only was the correction incorrectly applied, but that it should not have been applied in any case. Without this 'correction'  $A_c$  decreases to the totally unacceptable value of  $10^{9.1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . These results should therefore be ignored. The first set of measurements<sup>18</sup> gave equation

$$\log(k_c/\text{s}^{-1}) = (10.7 \pm 1.0) - (32.6 \pm 4.2 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})/2.3RT \quad (8)$$

(8). Combining this equation with values of  $k_c/k_{\text{H}}$ <sup>20</sup> yields equation (9). Combining this Arrhenius equation

$$\log(k_{\text{H}}/\text{s}^{-1}) 9.5 - (20.1 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})/2.3RT \quad (9)$$

with Beckwith and Moad's results<sup>8</sup> for the cyclobutyl-carbinyl ring fission yields equation (10). This pre-

$$\log(k_3/\text{s}^{-1}) = 13.15 - (58.1 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})/2.3RT \quad (10)$$

exponential factor is in good agreement with the value measured in this work, *i.e.*  $10^{13.05} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , but the activation energy is somewhat larger than the  $49.8 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  found by e.p.r. spectroscopy.

At 333 K the tin hydride method gives  $k_5 = 0.55k_3$ ,<sup>8</sup> while our own data, extrapolated to this temperature, give  $k_5 = 0.16k_3$ . It is perhaps worth noting that the rearrangement of (5) is the first clock reaction for the t-alkyl 'horlogerie' which can be used over a range of temperatures.<sup>9</sup>

The activation energies measured by kinetic e.p.r. spectroscopy for the ring fission of a number of cyclo-alkylmethyl radicals are listed in Table 6 together with some thermodynamic and structural data. It is immediately obvious that the activation energies for ring fission do not correlate with ring strain,<sup>21</sup> nor do they correlate with the reaction enthalpies,  $\Delta H^0$ , calculated by the group contribution method.<sup>21</sup> That this method is fairly accurate is indicated by the fact that the calculated  $\Delta H^0$  for cyclopropylmethyl ( $-24.6 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) is

in satisfactory agreement with an experimental value derived from the measured activation energies for ring fission<sup>2</sup> and for the reverse reaction, *i.e.*,<sup>3</sup>  $-13.4$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. Errors in other calculated  $\Delta H^0$  values are probably no greater than this difference.

TABLE 6

Cycloalkylmethyl ring-opening reactions

Reaction	$T_f^a /$ K	$E_f^b /$ kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	$a(H_\beta)^c /$ mT	R.S. <sup>d</sup> / kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	$\Delta H^0^e /$ kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>
(1) → (2)	133	24.7 <sup>f</sup>	0.26	115.4	-24.7
(10) → (12)	240	42.2	1.11	124.6	-95.3
(3) → (4)	285	49.7	1.54	109.5	-18.8
(5) → (6)	300	58.1	1.73	109.5	-10.9
(16) → (15)		(97.6) <sup>g</sup>	(2.13) <sup>h</sup>	26.3	+64.8

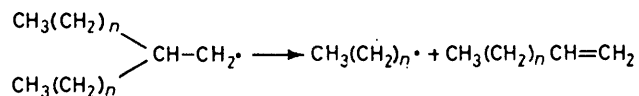
<sup>a</sup> Temperature at which the cycloalkylmethyl radical and the ring-opened radical are equal in concentration in a typical e.s.r. experiment. <sup>b</sup> Activation energy for ring fission measured by e.p.r. spectroscopy. <sup>c</sup> Hyperfine splitting at the temperature of rearrangement ( $T_f$ ). <sup>d</sup> Conventional ring strain from ref. 21. <sup>e</sup> Reaction enthalpies calculated by the group contributions method of ref. 21. <sup>f</sup> Result from ref. 21. <sup>g</sup> Calculated value from the computed  $\Delta H^0$  and the known activation energy for hex-5-enyl cyclization.<sup>18</sup> <sup>h</sup> Hyperfine splitting at 183 K;<sup>20</sup> value at  $T_f$  will be greater.

Although the activation energies for ring fission do not correlate with  $\Delta H^0$  for all the radicals listed in Table 6, it is worth noting that for the two structurally similar radicals (3) and (5) the difference in the  $\Delta H^0$  values and the difference in the activation energies are almost the same.

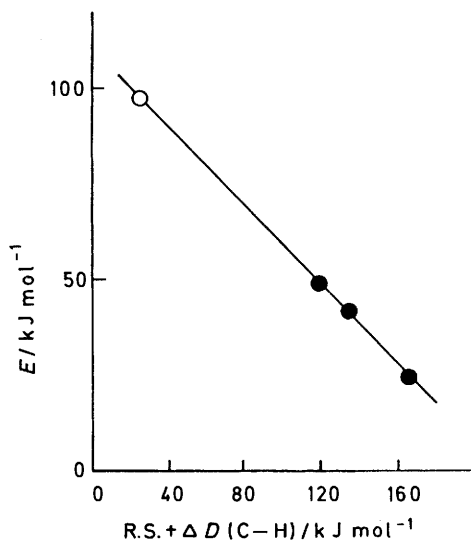
In cyclopropane the C-H bonds have more *s*-character and are stronger than secondary C-H bonds in *n*-alkanes, while the C-C bonds have more  $\pi$ -character and are weaker than C-C bonds in *n*-alkanes. The C-C bond weakening in cyclopropane is a consequence of the combined effects of conventional ring strain<sup>21</sup> (R. S.) and C-H bond strengthening. The extent of C-H bond strengthening in the cycloalkanes is given by the difference in C-H bond strengths for the cycloalkane and a secondary C-H in an *n*-alkane [ $\Delta D(C-H)$ ]. The activation energy for ring-opening in cycloalkylmethyl radicals might therefore be a function of the sum of  $\Delta D(C-H)$  and the ring strain, *i.e.*  $E = f[\text{R.S.} + \Delta D(C-H)]$ . The bond strength of a secondary C-H bond in an *n*-alkane is 395 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>,<sup>21,22</sup> the C-H bond strength in cyclopropane was recently<sup>23</sup> found to be 444 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, and the C-H bond strengths in cyclobutane and cyclopentane are 403 and 394 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> respectively.<sup>24</sup> On combining these values with the ring strain energies given in Table 6 the correlation shown in the Figure is obtained. There is a good straight line with a correlation coefficient of 0.9998 and it suggests that the strength of the C-C bond being broken in the cycloalkylmethyl radical is the dominant factor which controls the activation energy and hence rate of ring fission. It is unlikely, however, that all the ring strain has been released in the transition state for ring-opening.

The intercept on the activation energy axis of the correlation in the Figure (*i.e.* 111 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) should give an estimate of the activation energy for  $\beta(C-C)$  bond

fission in an alkyl radical such as isobutyl, where there is no ring strain and  $\Delta D(C-H)$  is zero. The measured activation energy for  $\beta$ -scission of isobutyl radicals in



the gas phase is<sup>25</sup> 136.5 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, and for the similar decompositions of *n*-propyl<sup>26</sup> and *n*-butyl<sup>27</sup> radicals the measured activation energies are 136.3 and 120 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. These values are in satisfactory agreement with the predicted value, considering the experimental errors and that the isobutyl and *n*-propyl radicals lose methyl rather than an *n*-alkyl radical.



Correlation of the sum of ring strain and  $\Delta D(C-H)$  with the activation energies for ring fission in cycloalkylmethyl radicals. The activation energy for cyclopentylmethyl radicals (open circle) was estimated as described in the text.

The magnitudes of the  $a(H_\beta)$  values for cyclopropyl-, cyclobutyl-, and cyclobut-2-enyl-methyl radicals (see Table 6) and their positive temperature coefficients indicate that the radicals have preferred conformations of type (7). This contrasts with the analogous open-chain radical, isobutyl (which adopts the alternative conformation), in which there is eclipsing between the SOMO and the  $\beta$ -hydrogen.<sup>28</sup> One reason for this difference in conformation may be that in acyclic alkyl radicals C-H hyperconjugation is better than C-C, whereas in small ring cycloalkylmethyls there is better C-C than C-H hyperconjugation. This too would stem from the weaker C-C bond with its greater  $\pi$ -character, which favours C-C hyperconjugation, while the stronger C-H bonds disfavour C-H hyperconjugation. These e.p.r.  $a(H_\beta)$  values may in fact also reflect the weakening of the C-C bonds in the cycloalkanes, since there is a monotonic relationship between  $a(H_\beta)$  at the temperature of ring scission and the experimental activation energies for the ring scission (see Table 6).

## EXPERIMENTAL

<sup>1</sup>H N.m.r. spectra were recorded on a Varian EM 360 instrument in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solutions at room temperature with tetramethylsilane as internal standard. Mass spectra were obtained with an A.E.I. MS 902 spectrometer.

The kinetic e.p.r. methods which were used to measure the rates of ring-opening and the termination rate have been described previously.<sup>9</sup> Varian E 104 and Bruker ER 200D instruments were employed.

Cyclobutylacetyl peroxide and the corresponding t-butyl perester were synthesised from cyclobutylacetic acid by the carbonyldi-imidazole route of Staab.<sup>30</sup> Photolysis of each of these peroxides in cyclopropane or toluene solutions gave rise to good e.s.r. spectra of the cyclobutylmethyl radical at low temperatures. At higher temperatures the signal to noise ratio decreased and the ring-opened radical could not be clearly identified.

**Cyclobutylmethyl Bromide.**—Cyclobutylmethanol (4.25 g, 0.05 mol) and triethylamine (7.6 g, 0.05 mol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 ml) was stirred at -10 °C and methanesulphonyl chloride (6.3 g, 0.055 mol) added over 15 min under nitrogen. After a further 20 min, water was added and the CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> layer separated, washed with 2M-HCl, 5% brine, and saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution, and dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>). The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was removed on a rotary evaporator at room temperature. The mesylate and dry lithium bromide (7.0 g) were then refluxed in acetone (150 ml) for 5 h. The precipitate was filtered off and the acetone removed by distillation through a Vigreux column at atmospheric pressure. Water and then ether were added to the residue; the organic layer was separated and dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and the ether removed on a rotary evaporator at room temperature. Distillation of the resulting oil in a Vigreux flask gave cyclobutylmethyl bromide (2.0 g, 27%), b.p. 41 °C at 15 mmHg (lit.,<sup>31</sup> 123 °C at 710 mmHg), δ 1.5–2.3 (6 H, m), 2.3–2.9 (1 H, m), and 3.4 (2 H, d, J 7 Hz).

**1-Cyclobutyl-1-methylethyl Formate.**—2-Cyclobutylpropan-2-ol was prepared from cyclobutyl methyl ketone and methyl iodide by a standard Grignard reaction. Formic acid (95%, 0.92 g, 0.020 mol) was added to NN'-carbonyldi-imidazole (0.023 mol) in tetrahydrofuran and stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The alcohol (2.28 g, 0.020 mol) was then added and the solution refluxed for 5 h. The mixture was washed with water several times and residual tetrahydrofuran removed with a vacuum pump. The residual oil was distilled and examined by g.l.c. on an OV 101 column at 75 °C. This showed two peaks in the ratio 26 : 73, the former being unchanged alcohol. The larger peak was separated by preparative g.l.c. and shown to be the formate, δ 1.43 (6 H, s), 1.83 (2 H, m), 1.93 (2 H, s), 2.40 (1 H, m), and 8.03 (1 H, s).

Cyclobut-2-enylmethyl bromide and cyclobut-2-enyl-

methyl trimethylsilyl ether were prepared as described previously.<sup>32</sup>

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