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Kinetics and Mechanism of Aquachromium(III) Anation by *L*-Arginine

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NOTE

KINETICS AND MECHANISM OF AQUACHROMIUM(III) ANATION BY L-ARGININE

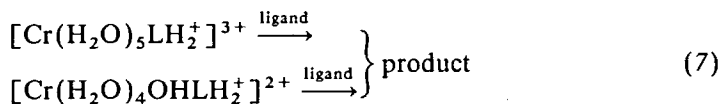
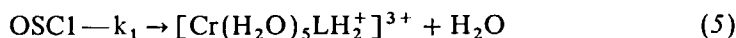
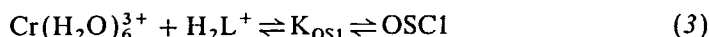
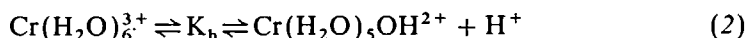
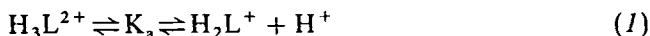
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Following Mertz's^{1a} remarkable discovery of GTF's (Glucose Tolerance Factor, a low-molecular-weight Cr(III) complex^{1b}) insulin potentiating activity, reports on various aspects of Cr(III) complexation with biologically important ligands have appeared.² In order to further clarify the substrate behaviour of aqueous Cr(III), we report the kinetics of the reaction of $\text{Cr}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{3+}/\text{Cr}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5\text{OH}^{2+}$ with L-arginine.

The progress of the reaction was monitored spectrophotometrically at 550 nm (in all sets $[\text{arginine}]_T \geq 10[\text{Cr(III)}]_T$; other details are given elsewhere^{2b}). Variation of *pseudo*-first-order rate constants (k_{obs}), obtained as a function of $[\text{arginine}]_T$, $[\text{H}^+]$, %EtOH and T was similar to earlier results.^{2b} These results, along with the nature of the dependence of k_{obs} on $[\text{arginine}]_T$ (Figure 1 shows saturation of k_{obs} at high $[\text{ligand}]$), are consistent with the following mechanism where an ion-pairing precedes the rate-limiting loss of a coordinated water molecule.



(Arginine has a separated negative charge on the carboxyl group but can take part in reactions as charges far from the reaction centre have been found to have no influence on reaction rate;³ the extra positive charge on the protonated N atom of

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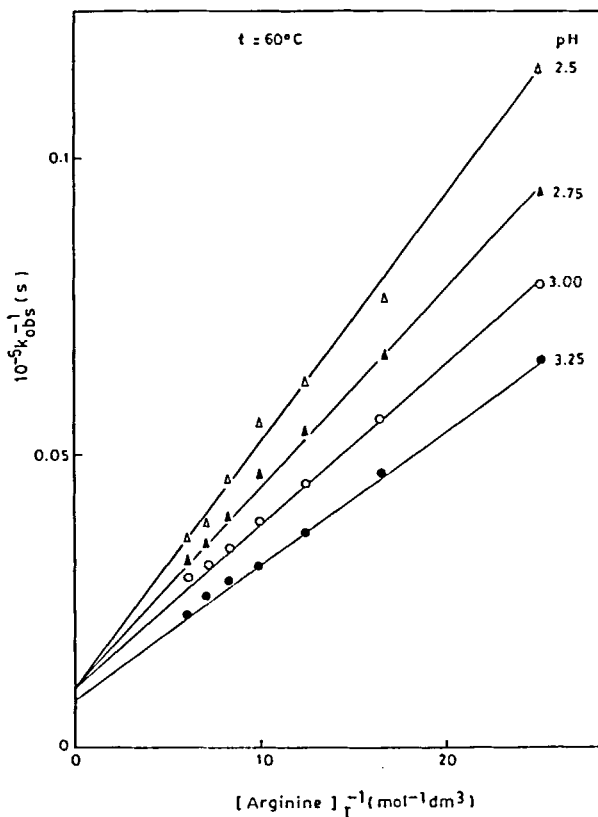
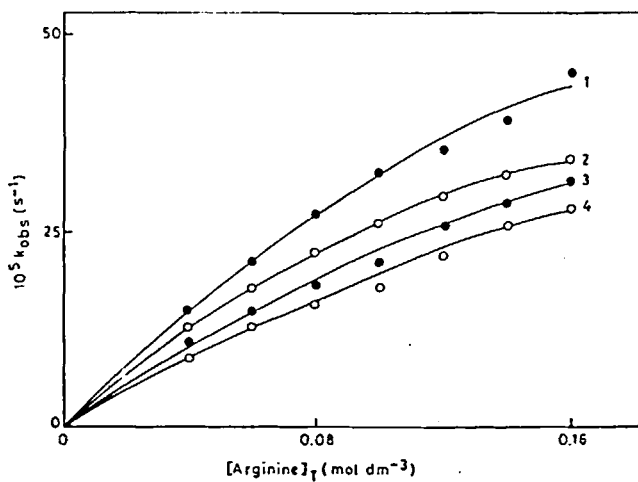


FIGURE 1 (Upper) dependence of k_{obs} on pH and $[\text{Arginine}]_{\text{T}}$; $[\text{Cr(III)}]_{\text{T}} = 4.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $\mu = 1.0 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $T = 60^\circ\text{C}$, pH = 3.25(1), 3.00(2), 2.75(3), 2.50(4). (Lower) linear dependence of k_{obs}^{-1} on $[\text{Arginine}]_{\text{T}}^{-1}$ (see (9) and (10)); details as above.

TABLE I
Determined k_1 and K_{OS} values for the anation of aquachromium(III) by *L*-arginine.

T (°C)	$10^4 k_1$ (s ⁻¹)	$10^3 k_2$ (s ⁻¹)	K_{OS1} (mol ⁻¹ dm ³)	K_{OS2} (mol ⁻¹ dm ³)
45	1.5		8.4	
50	3.3		5.6	
55	5.7	3.7	4.5	0.9
60	10.0	9.6	4.1	2.3
ΔH^\ddagger	100 kJ mol ⁻¹			
ΔS^\ddagger	-23 JK ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹			

the guanidino function in *L*-arginine can be ignored; $OSC1 = \{Cr(H_2O)_6^{3+} \cdot LH_2^+\}$; $OSC2 = \{Cr(H_2O)_5OH^{2+} \cdot LH_2^+\}$.

The following rate equation was deduced,

$$k_{obs} = \{k_1 K_a K_{OS1} [H^+] + k_2 K_a K_h K_{OS2}\} [\text{arginine}]_T \\ \div \{[H^+]^2 + [H^+] K_a + [H^+] K_h + K_a K_h \\ + (K_a K_{OS1} [H^+] + K_a K_h K_{OS2}) [\text{arginine}]_T\} \quad (8)$$

$$k_{obs}^{-1} = A/C + B/C [\text{arginine}]_T^{-1} \quad (9)$$

with $A = K_a K_{OS1} [H^+] + K_a K_h K_{OS2}$, $B = [H^+]^2 + [H^+] K_a + [H^+] K_h + K_a K_h$, and $C = k_1 K_a K_{OS1} [H^+] + k_2 K_a K_h K_{OS2}$.

The mechanism was confirmed by plotting k_{obs}^{-1} vs $[\text{arginine}]_T$ at different acidities (Figure 1). In the low pH range (where the part played by the conjugate base, $Cr(H_2O)_5OH^{2+}$, can be omitted), (9) simplifies to

$$k_{obs}^{-1} = 1/k_1 + B'/C' [\text{arginine}]_T^{-1} \quad (10)$$

which envisages a common intercept (see upper plots in Figure 1, $B' = [H^+] + K_a$, $C' = k_1 K_a K_{OS1}$).

Straight line plots (according to (9) and (10)) were employed to evaluate k_1 , k_2 , K_{OS1} and K_{OS2} (Table I).

The question remaining unanswered is whether the interchange mechanism of $Cr(H_2O)_6^{3+}/Cr(H_2O)_5OH^{2+}$ is I_a or I_d . An answer is to be found on examining criteria of assigning the I_d (as opposed to I_a) mechanism to anations of Co(III). No appreciable change in k on changing the nature of entering ligand was found (the k span was only *ca* half an order of magnitude⁴ for anation of $Co(NH_3)_5H_2O^{3+}$ whereas k values are almost constant for anations of *cis*- $Co(en)_2(H_2O)_2^{3+}$ and *cis*- β - $Co(\text{trien})(H_2O)_2^{3+}$, Table II). Values of k and k_{ex} (for solvent water) are comparable and the volume of activation, ΔV^\ddagger , for water exchange is positive ($+1.2 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$)⁶ for $Co(NH_3)_5H_2O^{3+}$. Once these criteria are applied to anations of $Cr(H_2O)_6^{3+}/Cr(H_2O)_5OH^{2+}$ by amino acids, we find that (see Table II) k_1 and k_2 spans are, respectively, $(0.8-7.8) \times 10^{-4}$ and $(0.17-3.7) \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$, k_1 is always $> k_{ex}$ whereas k_2 is comparable with k'_{ex} , and ΔV^\ddagger for water exchange at $Cr(H_2O)_6^{3+}$ is negative ($-9.6 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$) but at $Cr(H_2O)_5OH^{2+}$ is positive ($+2.7 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$). It is seen that on all counts the favoured mechanism is I_a for the anation of $Cr(H_2O)_6^{3+}$ and I_d for $Cr(H_2O)_5OH^{2+}$ by *L*-arginine.

TABLE II
Comparison of anation rate constants (k_1) for Cr(III) and Co(III) species.^a

Ligand	$\text{Cr}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{3+}$ $10^4 k_1$ (s^{-1} , at 45°C)	$\text{Cr}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5\text{OH}^{2+}$ $10^3 k_2$ (s^{-1} , at 45°C)	$\text{cis-Co}(\text{en})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2^{3+}$ $10^4 k$ (s^{-1} , at 45°C) ^b	$\text{cis-}\beta\text{-Co}(\text{trien})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2^{3+}$ $10^4 k$ (s^{-1} , at 45°C) ^c
$\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O}^d$	$36.1 \times 10^{-2} (k_{\text{ex}})$	3.26 (k'_{ex})		
ΔH^\ddagger (kJ mol^{-1})	108.6	111.0		
ΔS^\ddagger ($\text{JK}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$)	+11.6	+55.6		
<i>D,L</i> -alanine	0.8	0.17	2.01	1.92
<i>L</i> -hydroxyproline	1.3	0.42	2.12 (β -alanine)	
<i>D,L</i> -tryptophan	1.3	0.27		
<i>L</i> -arginine	1.5	3.7 (55°C)		2.01 (<i>L</i> -serine)
<i>D,L</i> -serine	1.9			
<i>D,L</i> -threonine	2.0	0.71		
<i>L</i> -lysine	2.4	0.29		
<i>D,L</i> -aspartic acid	2.5	0.70		
<i>L</i> -phenylalanine	3.2	0.70		
<i>L</i> -isoleucine	3.3			
<i>L</i> -proline	4.0			2.13
<i>D,L</i> -aspartate	5.1	0.99		
<i>D,L</i> -methionine	5.1	1.23 (50°C)		
Sarcosine	5.3	1.54		
<i>L</i> -histidine	5.6			
<i>D,L</i> -valine	7.3		2.01	1.82
Glycine	7.8		1.33 (40°C)	2.22

^aFrom sources cited in Ref. 2g; $\mu = 1.0 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

^bFrom sources cited in Ref. 5b; $\mu = 0.03 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, 30% EtOH (v/v).

^cRef. 5c; $\mu = 0.5 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, 30% EtOH (v/v).

^dRef. 5a; $\mu = 0.7 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$.

Furthermore, a lower ΔH^\ddagger (than for $H_2^{18}O$ exchange) and a negative value of ΔS^\ddagger are suggestive of a more pronounced participation of the incoming ligand in the transition state and confirm the associative character of the reaction involving $Cr(H_2O)_6^{3+}$ species.

The labilizing effect of hydroxide is once again seen in the conjugate base. By virtue of its lone-pair of electrons, the hydroxide ion (adjacent to the leaving water molecule) exerts a strong electromeric effect and facilitates the loss of the H_2O ligand.

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