



Figure 3. An orbital correlation diagram showing the splitting of the molecular orbitals of the $\{\text{MNO}\}^n$ group from Figure 1c in a field of C_{4v} symmetry. The dependence of the M-N-O angle upon n is shown for each symmetry.

sents the transition state for the conversion of the MNO group from linear geometry to bent geometry. Several electronic states arise from such a degenerate crossing point, and a simple electrostatic calculation has been carried out for a representative example in C_{4v} symmetry.¹² The results of the calculation and relationship of the state symmetry diagram to the reactions of mononitrosyl complexes are discussed in the succeeding paper.¹³

Finally, we suggest that the concept of inorganic functional groups has general utility for understanding covalently bound transition metal complexes. The concept should be especially applicable to metal complexes of other small molecules (such as O_2 and N_2) and to metal cluster compounds.^{14,15}

Acknowledgment. This research was supported by the National Science Foundation.

(12) R. D. Feltham and J. H. Enemark, *Theoret. Chim. Acta*, in press.

(13) J. H. Enemark and R. D. Feltham, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **96**, 5004 (1974).

(14) For example, see G. L. Simon and L. F. Dahl, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **95**, 2164 (1973), and references therein.

(15) B. A. Averill, T. Herskovitz, R. H. Holm, and J. A. Ibers, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **95**, 3523 (1973).

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Received March 20, 1974

Stereochemical Control of Valence. III. The $\{\text{CoNO}\}^8$ Group in Ligand Fields of C_{4v} , C_{2v} , and C_s Symmetry

Sir:

The role of symmetry in chemical reactions has received much attention.¹ Consideration of molecular orbital symmetry alone provides significant insight into

(1) See especially (a) R. B. Woodward and R. Hoffmann, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **87**, 395 (1965); (b) H. C. Longuet-Higgins and E. W. Abrahamson, *ibid.*, **87**, 2045 (1965); (c) T. H. Whitesides, *ibid.*, **91**, 2395 (1969); (d) R. B. Woodward and R. Hoffmann, "The Conservation of Orbital Symmetry," Verlag Chemie GmbH, Academic Press, Weinheim, 1970; (e) R. G. Pearson, *Accounts Chem. Res.*, **4**, 152 (1971).

the chemical reactivity of strongly bound compounds with no low-lying excited states.^{1a,d} However, molecular orbital symmetry by itself may be insufficient for understanding the reactions of transition metal complexes.^{1c} In the preceding communication² we introduced the concept of an inorganic functional group and showed that the properties of mononitrosyl complexes could be understood by examining the behavior of the $\{\text{MNO}\}^n$ group³ in ligand fields. In this communication, the concept is applied to the specific problem of understanding the properties of the $\{\text{CoNO}\}^8$ group in ligand fields of various symmetries.

Five-coordinate complexes containing the $\{\text{CoNO}\}^8$ group exhibit Co-N-O angles ranging from 120 to 180°. Moreover, to date all linear $\{\text{CoNO}\}^8$ groups occur in trigonal bipyramidal (TBP) geometry and strongly bent $\{\text{CoNO}\}^8$ groups occur in tetragonal pyramidal (TP) geometry.⁴ The molecular orbital correlation diagram appropriate for these complexes is shown in Figure 1. The maximum symmetry possible for CoNOL_4 is C_{4v} , and two possible molecular orbital orderings for it are shown in Figures 1b and 1c. If the molecular ordering is that depicted in Figure 1c, then the electron configuration will be $(2e)^4(1b_2)^2(3e)^2$. With the totally antibonding $3e$ orbital doubly occupied, the $\{\text{CoNO}\}^8$ group will bend² producing CoNOL_4 with C_s symmetry (Figure 1d). If the $4a_1$ orbital is lowest (Figure 1b) then the electron configuration is $(2e)^4(1b_2)^2(4a_1)^2$. With two electrons in $4a_1$, the $\{\text{CoNO}\}^8$ group will not bend, but the CoNOL_4 complex will distort to TBP geometry with C_{2v} symmetry. This distortion to TBP geometry makes $4a_1(d_{z^2})$ less antibonding thereby lowering the energy of the complex. A TBP distortion also allows the σ orbitals of the other two ligands in the equatorial plane of the TBP complex, thereby facilitating delocalization of electron density from the σ orbitals of the equatorial ligands into the π^* orbitals of the NO group. Thus, for five-coordinate complexes of the $\{\text{CoNO}\}^8$ group, the choice between a TBP structure of C_{2v} symmetry (Figure 1a) and a TP structure with C_s symmetry (Figure 1d) is dictated by the relative energies of the $4a_1$ and $3e$ orbitals of the hypothetical C_{4v} species.⁵

The presence of two electrons in the $4a_1$ and $3e$ molecular orbitals gives rise to several electronic states.⁹ Figure 2 shows the relative energies of the manifold of singlet states arising from the $(4a_1, 3e)^2$ electronic configurations in C_{4v} symmetry and the behavior of these states in C_{2v} and C_s symmetry. The far left-hand

(2) J. H. Enemark and R. D. Feltham, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **96**, 5002 (1974).

(3) n is the number of electrons associated with the metal d orbitals and the $\pi^*(\text{NO})$ orbitals of the MNO group; n corresponds to the familiar number of d electrons on the metal when the nitrosyl ligand is formally considered to be NO^+ .

(4) (a) B. A. Frenz and J. A. Ibers, *MTP (Med. Tech. Publ. Co.) Int. Rev. Sci., Phys. Chem., Ser. One*, **11**, 33 (1972); (b) J. H. Enemark and R. D. Feltham, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, **13**, 339 (1974).

(5) Molecular orbital correlation diagrams to account for the bending of MNO in $\text{M}(\text{NO})\text{L}_4$ complexes have been proposed previously.^{6,7} However, those diagrams consider only ordering 1b of the C_{4v} case and correlate that ordering to both structures 1a and 1d. Such a scheme has no predictive power and is not consistent with Walsh's results⁸ for small molecules upon which the correlations are purportedly based.

(6) C. G. Pierpont and R. Eisenberg, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **93**, 4905 (1971); *Inorg. Chem.*, **12**, 199 (1973).

(7) D. M. P. Mingos, *Inorg. Chem.*, **12**, 1209 (1973).

(8) A. D. Walsh, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 2266 (1953).

(9) R. D. Feltham and J. H. Enemark, *Theor. Chim. Acta*, in press.

