present and GLPC analysis (column B, 100 °C) showed a peak with retention time identical with an authentic sample of *trans*-stilbene.

Quantum Yield for the Photoinduced Disappearance of 1 in the Presence of 2. Solutions of 1 (0.1 M) and 2 (0.2 M) in dry spectral grade benzene were prepared as above and degassed 5-mL samples in sealed Pyrex ampules were irradiated in a double baffle merrygo-round apparatus with RPR 3500-Å lamps to about 10% disappearance of benzophenone. The precise quantity of 1 which had disappeared was determined by GLPC on column A. Light flux, which was found to be nearly invariant over the reaction period, was determined by 5-min exposure of an aqueous potassium ferrioxalate solution immediately before, at the midpoint, and immediately after the irradiation with analysis by standard actinometry techniques.<sup>30</sup> The period of the irradiation was determined on a stopwatch.

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## Solid State Photochemistry of N, N-Dialkyl- $\alpha$ -oxoamides. Type II Reactions in the Crystalline State

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Abstract: The solid state photochemistry of N,N-dialkyl- $\alpha$ -oxoamides (1) has been studied. The amides undergo type II cyclization giving  $\beta$ -lactams (2) selectively. The selective formation of the lactams via an unprecedented type II reaction in the crystalline state is explainable in terms of the crystal lattice restraints on the molecular motion of the biradical intermediate (5) formed by  $\gamma$ -hydrogen abstraction. The nonreactivity of N-alkyl- $\alpha$ -oxoanilides toward solid state photolysis was most reasonably explained by their unfavorable s-cis geometries for  $\gamma$ -hydrogen abstraction.

The Norrish type II reaction of ketones is one of the most important photochemical processes of ketones. The reaction takes place both in solution<sup>1</sup> and in the vapor phase.<sup>2</sup> However, that in the solid state has not yet been reported except for polymers such as polyacrylophenones.<sup>3</sup> The question of comparing photoreactivities in the solid and liquid states is an intriguing one. Solid state reactions may differ from those in solution because of the restraints on molecular motions imposed by the crystal lattice on its constituents. Recently, Scheffer and Dzakpasu reported an interesting study of solid state intramolecular hydrogen transfers.<sup>4</sup> Their investigation was mainly concerned with relationships between the solid state conformation of the substrates and the primary photochemical steps. In this paper, we report the first example of type II reaction of carbonyl compounds in the crystalline state, in which the behavior of the biradical formed by  $\gamma$ -hydrogen abstraction is apparently influenced by crystal-lattice restraints.5

The substrates chosen in our study are N,N-disubstituted  $\alpha$ -oxoamides (1). Our previous work<sup>6</sup> on the solution phase photochemistry of these oxoamides showed that the primary step of the reaction was  $\gamma$ -hydrogen abstraction by the ketone carbonyl oxygen to give the biradical (5) which undergoes three



Table I. Photochemical Reaction of  $\alpha$ -Oxoamides

starting	melting	reaction	reaction yields, %		
materials	pts, °C	conditions	2	3	4
1a	97	solid state, 0 °C	82	a	а
		in benzene <sup>b</sup>	~100	а	а
		in methanol <sup>b</sup>	86	а	а
1b	39	solid state, -78 °C	89	а	а
		in benzene <sup>b</sup>	94	а	а
		in methanol <sup>b</sup>	17	78	а
1c	126	solid state, 0 °C	83	с	а
		in benzene <sup>b</sup>	С	62	29 d
		in methanol <sup>b</sup>	22	58	16 <sup>e</sup>
		in DMF <sup>b</sup>	13	31	35d
1d	106	solid state, 0 °C	358	20	а
		in benzene <sup>b</sup>	27	34	а
		in methanol <sup>b</sup>	4	60	а
		in DMF <sup>b</sup>	16	48	а
1e	f	solid state. –78 °C	31	29	а
	2	in benzene <sup>b</sup>	а	86	а
		in methanol <sup>b</sup>	а	~100	а
		neat liquid <sup>b</sup>	С	65	а
		neat liquid, -20 °C	а	73	а

<sup>*a*</sup> Not detected. <sup>*b*</sup> At room temperature,  $\sim$ 25 °C. <sup>*c*</sup> Trace. <sup>*d*</sup> N-Isopropylmandelamide. <sup>*e*</sup> Methyl mandelate. <sup>*f*</sup> Liquid at room temperature.

types of reactions, i.e., type II cyclization (path a) to afford the  $\beta$ -lactam (2), type II elimination (path b) followed by addition of a nucleophile to give a mandelic acid derivative (4), and 1,4-hydrogen shift (path c) followed by cyclization to yield the oxazolidin-4-one (3) (see Scheme I). Yields of these products in the solution phase reaction are dependent on substituents and solvents.<sup>6</sup>

Solid State Photoreactions. The amides were crystallized from *n*-hexane or methanol-water, and irradiated as described in the Experimental Section. All five N,N-dialkyl- $\alpha$ -oxoamides (1a-e) underwent efficient photochemical reactions in the crystalline states. In the case of benzoylformamides 1a and 1c, the reaction proceeded gradually even when the crystals were exposed to the scattered light in the laboratory. The results of the photoreactions in the solid states and in solution are summarized in Table I. The five amides yielded the corresponding  $\beta$ -lactams (2) as main products in the solid state photolysis. The efficient type II cyclization of the oxoamides in the solid states is of interest in view of the fact that some acyclic ketones afford type II products efficiently in the liquid phase but are inert toward photolysis in the crystalline states.<sup>7</sup> The specific formation of 2a and 2b in the solid state photolysis of N, Ndibenzylamides 1a and 1b is not surprising since similar results were obtained in the photolysis of the amides in an aprotic





Scheme III





Figure 1. Most favorable excited state conformation for  $\gamma$ -hydrogen abstraction in the  $\alpha$ -oxoamide.

solvent. On the other hand, the results of the solid state photolysis of **1c**, **1d**, and **1e** were quite different from those of the liquid phase photolysis, in which the oxazolidinones (3) were main products irrespective of solvents.

The selective formation of the  $\beta$ -lactams in the solid state photolysis is of interest in both mechanistic and synthetic view points.<sup>8</sup> The fact that the  $\beta$ -lactams become favored in the solid state reaction can be explained as follows. Formation of 3 involves considerably more molecular motion of the biradical intermediate 5 than does formation of 2 (Scheme II). The 1,4-hydrogen migration of 5 (path c) in aprotic media is constrained to the planar or nearly planar cisoid transition state<sup>9</sup> (Scheme III), which requires rotation of the C(OH)-CO bond of 5 because  $\gamma$ -hydrogen abstraction can occur only from the transoid form of 1 (see Figure 1). The resulting biradical has to rotate the CO-C(OH) bond again to undergo cyclization. Such molecular motions are possible in solution but prevented by crystal-lattice restraints in the solid state. The absence of the ketene-derived product 4 in the solid state photolysis of 1c can be explained in terms of the lack of a suitable trapping agent in the medium. The ketene is presumed to decompose during irradiation, although a possibility that the ketene reacts with the imine to produce the starting material (a reverse reaction of path b) cannot be eliminated.

The selectivities in the solid state reactions of 1d and 1e were relatively low as shown in Table I. The low selectivities may be ascribable to the incomplete crystallinity of the amides under the reaction conditions. The amide 1e is liquid at room temperature and was solidified by cooling to -78 °C before irradiation, but the solid was not completely crystalline but partially glassy. Although 1d is a moderately high melting solid, it turned to a greasy semisolid at the end of irradiation. An attempt to avoid the partial liquefaction by lowering the reaction temperature was unsuccessful because the solid state reaction of 1d became extremely inefficient below -30 °C. On the other hand, the selectivity was almost perfect in the case of 1c. This seems to be due to the high melting point of the

Table II. Temperature Effects on the Photoreactions in Solution

		reaction	у	ields, %	
reactant	solvent	temp, °C	2	3	4
1c	MeOH	-40 to ca. $-30$	16	82	а
		~25	22	58	16 <sup>b</sup>
		50	19	34	47 <i><sup>b</sup></i>
		65	18	22	54 <i><sup>b</sup></i>
		90	18	11	62 <sup>b</sup>
1d	MeOH	~25	4	60	а
		-50 to ca40	С	66	а
1e	AcOEt	~25	6	52	а
		-50 to ca40	С	55	а

<sup>a</sup> Not detected. <sup>b</sup> Methyl mandelate. <sup>c</sup> Trace.

reaction mixture (94-114 °C at 42% conversion; 93-108 °C at 88% conversion).

It may be conceivable that the solid state reactions involve reaction from micro pools of liquid caused by localized heating, and that the selective formation of the  $\beta$ -lactams is due to the solvent effects of the liquefied oxoamides, since the photochemical reactions of the  $\alpha$ -oxoamides show substantial solvent effects. This possibility can, however, be eliminated because photolysis of **1e** in the liquid neat phase gave at most only a trace of **2e** both at 25 and -20 °C. Furthermore, the yields of the lactams **2c** and **2d** were poor even in the photolysis in dimethylformamide which is presumed to be a good model for liquid  $\alpha$ -oxoamides.

All these results are consistent with the above explanation that crystallinity of the reactants plays important roles in the selective formation of the  $\beta$ -lactams.

Finally, stereoselectivity of the photoreaction is worth noting. Stereoisomers can exist for the lactams 2a, 2b, and 2d. However, in the case of 2a and 2b, the NMR spectra of the isolated product and the reaction mixture showed that only one stereoisomer was produced exclusively<sup>10</sup> both in the solid and liquid state photolyses, though the configuration was not assigned. Meanwhile, the absence (or presence) of stereoisomers was not clear in the case of 2d because the NMR spectrum was quite complex.

Temperature Effects. Since the solid state photoreactions were carried out at low temperatures in order to avoid melting of the reaction mixture, it is conceivable that the reaction temperature may be more important than the crystallinity of the reactant for the selective formation of the  $\beta$ -lactams. Accordingly, the temperature effects on the liquid and solid phase reactions were examined. The yields of the products in the photolysis of 1c in methanol were apparently temperature dependent as Table II shows. The oxazolidin-4-one (3c) was a main product at low temperatures, while the type II cleavage product, methyl mandelate (4), was produced predominantly at high temperatures. A possibility of thermal conversion of 3c to methyl mandelate in the high temperature reaction was eliminated because 3c in methanol was quite stable even at 100 °C. Meanwhile, the yield the lactam 2c did not increase at low temperatures but was almost independent of the reaction temperature. Also in the case of 1d and 1e, lowering the reaction temperature did not increase the yield of the lactam.

On the other hand, the selectivity in the solid state photolysis of 1c was high not only at 0 °C but also at 25 °C. The yield of 2c was still moderately high even at 60 °C, but became very low at 95 °C where the reaction mixture gradually liquefied as the reaction proceeded (Table III). On the basis of these results, we can conclude that the selective formation of the  $\beta$ -lactams in the solid state photolysis is due to the crystallinity of the reactants rather than the low reaction temperature.

The remarkable temperature effect in the photolysis of **1c** in methanol could be explained on the assumption that the

Table III. Temperature Effects of the Solid State Photoreactions

	reaction	yields, %		
reactant	temp, °C	2	3	4
1c	0	83	а	b
	~25	82	а	b
	60	65	5	6°
	92	27	6	41 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Trace. <sup>b</sup> Not detected. <sup>c</sup>N-lsopropylmandelamide.

 Table IV. Effects of Conversion Percent in the Solid State

 Photolysis of 1d

	yields, %		
conversion, %	2d	3d	
100	58	20	
44	61	13	
18	64	10	

Table V. Effects of Crystallization Methods

	crystallization	crystal	melting	yields, %	
rcactant	method	forms	pts, °Č	2	3
1a	from <i>n</i> -hexane from MeOH-H <sub>2</sub> O	prisnıs needles	96-97 96-97.5	82 80	a a
1c	from <i>n</i> -hexane from MeOH-H <sub>2</sub> O by evaporation of CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> soln	prisms prisms	124–126 124–125.5 121–124	83 82 61	b b 15

<sup>*a*</sup> Not detected. <sup>*b*</sup> Trace.

activation energies (E) and the frequency factors (A) for the three biradical reactions (1,4-hydrogen shift, type II cyclization and elimination) are as follows:  $E_{\text{elim}} > E_{\text{cycl}} > E_{\text{Hshift}}$  and  $A_{\text{elim}} > A_{\text{cycl}} > A_{\text{Hshift}}$ , although no data in support of this assumption are available at present.<sup>11</sup>

Effects of Conversion Percent. The relatively low selectivity in the photolysis of 1d was ascribable to the partial liquefaction of the reaction mixture during irradiation as described above. Therefore, lowering the conversion percent of the reaction was expected to improve the selectivity. In fact, the  $\beta$ -lactam 1d was formed more selectively at low conversion (Table IV). This result also indicates that the crystallinity of the reactant plays important roles in the selective formation of the lactam. The selectivity in the solid state photolysis of 1d was not so high even in the case of low conversion. This result is, however, not unreasonable because the conversion percent at the crystal surfaces may be much higher in spite of the low total conversion percent.

Methods of Crystallization. Although the crystal forms of the amides 1a and 1c varied with crystallization solvents (*n*hexane or methanol-water), the melting points were independent of the solvents. The efficiency and the selectivity (in case of 1c) of the solid state reactions were also not affected by the crystallization solvents (Table V). On the other hand, when the crystals of 1c were deposited on a glass plate by evaporating the methylene chloride solution of 1c, the selectivity became low and 15% of the oxazolidin-4-one (3c) was produced. This result is presumed to be ascribable to the incomplete crystallinity.

Excited State Geometries in the Crystalline States. The fact that the  $\alpha$ -oxoamides 1a-1e undergo  $\gamma$ -hydrogen abstraction efficiently even in the crystalline states indicates that the geometries of the amides in the crystalline states are favorable for  $\gamma$ -hydrogen abstraction at least in the excited states. It is well-known that the favorable geometry for  $\gamma$ -hydrogen abScheme IV



straction is one in which the hydrogen being abstracted is coplanar with the carbonyl group.<sup>12</sup> Since amide groups are planar,<sup>13</sup> the  $\alpha$ -oxoamides can achieve such a geometry only when they possess coplanar or nearly coplanar transoid dicarbonyl geometries (Figure 1). Although it is quite difficult to know the excited state geometries of the amides in the crystalline states, those of related compounds in solvent glasses have been investigated. The excited states of  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyl compounds such as dialkyl, diaryl, and alkyl aryl  $\alpha$ -diketones, <sup>14,15</sup>  $\alpha$ -oxoacids, <sup>16</sup> or  $\alpha$ -oxoesters<sup>16</sup> have been presumed to possess coplanar or nearly coplanar dicarbonyl geometries. Therefore, it is highly probable that the most stable excited state geometry of  $\alpha$ -oxoamides is also planar about the CO-CO bond and favorable for  $\gamma$ -hydrogen transfer (Figure 1). The very rapid  $\gamma$ -hydrogen abstraction of the  $\alpha$ -oxoamides in solution<sup>6</sup> is also consistent with the favorable excited state geometry for the intramolecular hydrogen abstraction.<sup>17</sup>

On the other hand, it is well-known that  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyl compounds can possess coplanar dicarbonyl geometries in the ground states only when there are no large steric hindrances in the geometries.<sup>14-16</sup> Examination of molecular models showed that the ground state geometries of N,N-dialkyl- $\alpha$ -oxoamides could not be planar because of the steric repulsion between the alkyl groups on nitrogen and the ketone carbonyl oxygen as in the case of N, N'-tetraalkyloxamides.<sup>18</sup> Therefore, the CO-CO bond of the  $\alpha$ -oxoamides is presumed to rotate to some extent on excitation even in the crystalline states so as to make  $\gamma$ -hydrogen abstraction possible. However, such rotation may not be necessary for the hydrogen abstraction if the ketone carbonyl group becomes pyramidal on excitation.19

 $\alpha$ -Oxoanilides. N-Alkyl- $\alpha$ -oxoanilides (1f-1h) were completely inert toward photolysis in the crystalline states in distinction from the photoreactions in solution.<sup>6</sup> The unexpected nonreactivity of the anilides may be attributable to the infavorable geometry for  $\gamma$ -hydrogen transfer in the crystalline states. Two rotational isomers, s-cis and s-trans, can exist for N-alkylanilides (Scheme IV). In fact, the NMR spectrum of If showed the presence of a major isomer ( $\sim 95\%$ ) and a minor isomer ( $\sim$ 5%). The ratio was almost independent of solvents  $(C_6D_6, CDCl_3, or CD_3OD)$ . The major isomer was assigned to be a s-cis isomer as follows. The NMR study on a number of unsymmetrically N-substituted  $\alpha$ -oxoamides<sup>20</sup> using lanthanide shift reagents revealed that europium binded to the amide carbonyl oxygen rather than the ketone carbonyl oxygen and the substituent syn to the amide oxygen showed considerably larger lanthanide induced shift (LIS) than that anti to the oxygen. Since the methyl group of the major isomer of 1f showed much larger LIS than that of the minor isomer,<sup>21</sup> the major isomer was assigned to be the s-cis isomer. The assignment was further supported by the fact that in N-alkylarylamides the s-cis isomer is more stable than the s-trans isomer unless bulky substituents are present at the ortho position of the aryl group.<sup>22</sup>

Although solid state and solution configuration do not necessarily correspond, it appears to be quite unlikely that only one isomer would exist in the crystalline state and the other isomer would be observed in overwhelming preponderance by NMR in solvents of varying polarity.<sup>23</sup> Therefore, it is highly probable that the anilides exist in the s-cis geometry also in the crystalline states, and  $\gamma$ -hydrogen abstraction cannot occur from the geometry because the alkyl group bearing  $\gamma$ -hydrogen is remote from the ketone carbonyl group. In conclusion, the inertness of the  $\alpha$ -oxoanilides is most reasonably explained by the unfavorable geometry for  $\gamma$ -hydrogen transfer, although other possibilities such as rapid deactivation of the excited amides or efficient reversion of the biradical<sup>24</sup> 5 to 1 in the solid states cannot be excluded at present.

### Experimental Section

General Procedure for the Solid State Photoreactions. The recrystallized  $\alpha$ -oxoamide (1) (100-300 mg) was sandwiched between a pair of Pyrex plates (thickness 2 mm) and put into a polyethylene envelope. The envelope was sealed and placed in a cold medium (water, icewater. or dry ice-methanol) and irradiated with a high-pressure mercury lamp (100 W) for 1-10 h. The lamp was used with a vessel for immersion type irradiation which contained dry air. The products were isolated by column chromatography on silica gel. The structures of 2a, 2b, 2c, 3b, 3c, and 3e were confirmed by direct comparison with samples obtained in the photoreaction of the corresponding starting materials in solution,<sup>6</sup> while 2d,<sup>8a</sup> 3d,<sup>8a</sup> and N-isopropylmandelamide  $(4c)^{25}$  were identified on the basis of the melting points and the spectral data. The products, 2a-e, 3b, 3e, and 4c were stable under the irradiation and workup conditions, while 3c and 3d decomposed slowly on standing in the presence of air.

3.4,4-Trimethyl-3-hydroxy-1-isopropylazetidin-2-one (2e): mp 122-124 °C; 1R (KBr) 3250 and 1720 cm<sup>-1</sup>; NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 1.17-1.47 (15 H, 5 Me), 3.58 (m, 1 H, N-CH).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N: C, 63.13; H, 10.01; N, 8.18. Found: C. 63.15; H, 10.04; N, 7.89.

General Procedure for the Photoreactions in Solution. A solution of the oxoamide 1 (1%) was irradiated in a Pyrex vessel under argon with a high-pressure mercury lamp for 3-5 h. When the reaction temperature was higher than the boiling point of the solvent, the solution was sealed in a Pyrex tube. The photolysis of 1e in the liquid neat phase was carried out as in the case of solid state photolysis.

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# Chemiluminescent Reactions of Lucigenin. 1. Reactions of Lucigenin with Hydrogen Peroxide

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Abstract: The chemiluminescent reaction of lucigenin (N,N'-dimethyl-9,9'-biacridine, 1) at various pH values (solvent H<sub>2</sub>O, 30 °C,  $\mu = 1.0$ ) with hydrogen peroxide in excess is first order to 6 half-lives. At constant pH the reaction rate was determined to be dependent upon the first power of the concentration of hydrogen peroxide and to be independent of concentrations of 1 and buffers. From the pH dependence of the pseudo-first-order rate constant  $(k_{obsd}, [H_2O_2]_T \gg [1])$  the rate of disappearance of 1 follows the general expression  $d[1]/dt = [1]\{k_1[HO_2^-] + k_2[HO_2^-][HO^-]\}$ . Diminution in light emission with time was shown to follow the same rate law and the quantum yield was established to be independent of [1], total hydrogen peroxide concentration  $([H_2O_2]_T)$ , and pH. These results establish that the chemiluminescent reaction of 1 with hydrogen peroxide follows the same rate law as does the overall disappearance of 1 from solution in the presence of varying concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and at all pH values. Replacement of H<sub>2</sub>O with *t*-BuO<sub>2</sub>H provides less light than obtained in the absence of any peroxide agent. Lucigenin reacts with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and *t*-BuO<sub>2</sub>H at various pH values to produce *N*-methylacridone (2) as the major fluorescent product. The chemiluminescent spectrum at any time could be shown to result from emission by excited 2 and subsequent absorption by 1. Competing dioxetane and linear peroxide mechanisms (with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and *t*-BuO<sub>2</sub>H) are proposed and discussed. Evidence is presented which suggests that the 9,9'-dioxetane of 1 provides  $2 + 2^*$  by the two competing pathways of spontaneous fragmentation and le<sup>-</sup> transfer.

### Introduction

Lophine (1877),<sup>1</sup> luminol (1928),<sup>2</sup> and lucigenin (1935)<sup>3</sup> stand as the classic organic chemiluminescent agents. Of these three compounds, the chemiluminescent (CL) reactions of N, N'-dimethyl-9,9'-biacridine (lucigenin, 1) are possibly the least understood. Indeed, chemiluminescence has been reported to occur on the addition of numerous nucleophiles and reducing agents to solutions of 1. However, none of these studies included a systematic approach to the mechanism of the CL reactions; few workers have even bothered to maintain constant pH. The application of kinetic methods to the elucidation of the mechanism of CL reactions may, by itself, be of limited use for the simple reason that light production may represent a minor reaction path. However, it is well appreciated<sup>4</sup> that the rate laws for both of two parallel reactions may be determined from the overall kinetic expression for disappearance of the common substrate and the fractional yield of product arising from the minor reaction. Light is a product of the minor CL reaction and the chemiluminescent quantum yield ( $\Phi_{CL}$ ) is a measure of the fractional yield of the minor reaction. As a pertinent example, consider the reactions of eq I where the

$$A \xrightarrow[k_1[HO^-]]{k_1[HO^-]} B$$

$$(I)$$

$$k_2 \qquad (B^+] \xrightarrow{k_1 + h\nu} B + h\nu$$

major reaction is not light producing. At constant pH the rate of disappearance of A and appearance of B will be pseudo first order and the pseudo-first-order rate constant  $(k_{\psi})$  will be

equal to  $k_1[HO^-] + k_2$ . Since  $k_1[HO^-] \gg k_2$ ,  $k_{\psi} = k_1[HO^-]$ , so that the rates of disappearance of A and (appearance of B) will be under the kinetic control of the major reaction path. For this reason a plot of log  $k_{\psi}$  vs. pH will be of slope +1. A plot of the logarithm of the first-order rate constants for decay of photon emission vs. pH will necessarily also be linear and of slope +1. If  $\alpha$  is defined as the mole fraction of A that passes through the CL pathway (i.e.,  $\alpha = k_2/k_1[HO^-]$ ), then  $\alpha$  is equivalent to  $\Phi_{ex}$ , the overall efficiency of producing the excited state  $B^{\pm}$ , and directly proportional to the quantum yield  $(\Phi_{\rm CL})$ . It follows from eq I that a plot of log  $\Phi_{\rm CL}$  (= $\Phi_{\rm f1}k_2/$  $k_1$ [HO<sup>-</sup>] where  $\Phi_{f1}$  is the fluorescence quantum yield equating  $\Phi_{\Gamma 1}$  to  $\alpha$ ) vs. pH would be linear but of slope -1. Such a relationship would establish that the very minor CL reaction is independent of [HO<sup>-</sup>]. If both the major reaction and the minor CL reaction were of the same order in  $HO^-$ ,  $H_3O^+$ , X, etc., then a change in the concentrations of these reagents would not alter  $\Phi_{CL}$ . This approach has been employed herein to establish the composition of the transition state for the CL reaction of 1 with hydrogen peroxide.

## **Experimental Section**

Materials. N,N'-Dimethyl-9,9'-biacridinium nitrate (1) (Aldrich Chemical Co.) was repeatedly recrystallized from ethanol-water (5/95 v/v) to give orange crystals that were dried at 100 °C (0.1 mm Hg) for 24 h, mp 250 °C dec (lit.<sup>5</sup> 250 °C). UV-vis (water, pH 3.72): 453 nm (log  $\epsilon$  3.93), 430 (4.03). 420 (3.95). 369 (4.55), 354 (4.24), 260 (5.22). N-Methylacridone (2) was prepared by a literature procedure<sup>6</sup> and recrystallized (three times) from absolute ethanol to give yellow crystals (needles) that melted at 210–211 °C (lit.<sup>6</sup> 209–210

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