

Magnetic Switching of Charge Separation Lifetimes in Artificial Photosynthetic Reaction Centers

Darius Kuciauskas, Paul A. Liddell, Ana L. Moore,* Thomas A. Moore,* and Devens Gust*

Contribution from the Center for the Study of Early Events in Photosynthesis, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona 85287-1604

Received May 27, 1998

Abstract: Excitation of a triad artificial photosynthetic reaction center consisting of a porphyrin (P) covalently linked to a fullerene electron acceptor (C_{60}) and a carotenoid secondary donor (C) leads to the formation of a long-lived $C^{+}-P-C_{60}^{-}$ charge-separated state via photoinduced electron transfer. This reaction occurs in a frozen organic glass down to at least 8 K. At 77 K, charge recombination of $C^{+}-P-C_{60}^{-}$ occurs on the microsecond time scale, and yields solely the carotenoid triplet state. In the presence of a small (20 mT) static magnetic field, the lifetime of the charge-separated state is increased by 50%. This is ascribed to the effect of the magnetic field on interconversion of the singlet and triplet biradicals. At zero field, the initially formed singlet biradical state is in equilibrium with the three triplet biradical sublevels, and all four states have comparable populations. Decay to the carotenoid triplet only occurs from the three triplet sublevels. In the presence of the field, the S and T_0 states are still rapidly interconverting, but the T_+ and T_- states are isolated from the other two due to the electronic Zeeman interaction, and are not significantly populated. Under these conditions, recombination to the triplet occurs only from T_0 , and the lifetime of the charge-separated state increases. This effect can be used as the basis for a magnetically controlled optical or optoelectronic switch (AND gate).

Introduction

The effects of magnetic fields on the lifetimes of radical pairs formed by photoinduced electron transfer and the corresponding yields of the products of radical pair decay have been studied for many years.^{1–4} They arise because the field can affect the rates of interconversion among the singlet radical pair and the three sublevels of the triplet radical pair. The observation of such effects requires two apparently contradictory conditions. For photoinduced electron transfer to occur from an excited singlet state, the electronically excited electron donor (acceptor) and the ground-state acceptor (donor) must experience relatively strong electronic coupling so that electron transfer can compete kinetically with the other decay pathways available to the excited state. However, such strong coupling generally precludes the interconversion of the singlet and triplet radical pair states necessary for the development of magnetic field effects. Both conditions may be satisfied sequentially by allowing diffusional processes to bring together the donor and acceptor, thus promoting rapid photoinduced electron transfer. Diffusion can then separate the radical pairs, reducing coupling and allowing singlet–triplet interconversion. Thus, magnetic field effects are generally observable in radical pair systems wherein the donors and acceptors freely diffuse in solution, or in biradicals where the radicals are linked by flexible chains such as polymethylene groups so that large-scale internal motions are facile.

Because of these restrictions, rigid donor–acceptor assemblies, or those in media such as low-temperature glasses

where molecular motions are restricted, typically do not demonstrate magnetic field effects on radical pairs originating from excited singlet state precursors. This hinders the use of such effects in the design of molecular-scale electronic components that must function in rigid media. The conundrum can be avoided by employing a multistep electron-transfer strategy whereby the electron is moved from the primary donor to the ultimate acceptor via intermediate donor–acceptor species. In this way, the electronic coupling between adjacent donor–acceptor pairs is strong enough so that each electron-transfer step is rapid and can compete with other decay pathways, resulting in a high yield of the final charge-separated state. At the same time, the electronic coupling between the donor and the ultimate acceptor is small, and this can allow rapid singlet–triplet interconversions and consequently magnetic field effects.

The preeminent example of this phenomenon is photosynthesis, where a number of different magnetic field effects on reaction yields and rates have been observed.^{5–11} In the case of photosynthetic model systems, magnetic-field-dependent nonexponential decays of biradical states at room temperature have been reported in diporphyrin–imide triad molecules.¹²

(5) Blankenship, R. E.; Schaafsma, T. J.; Parson, W. W. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* **1977**, *461*, 297–305.

(6) Blankenship, R. E. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1981**, *14*, 163–170.

(7) Hoff, A. J.; Redemarker, H.; van Grondelle, R.; Duysens, L. N. M. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* **1977**, *460*, 547–554.

(8) Hoff, A. J. *Photochem. Photobiol.* **1986**, *43*, 727–745.

(9) Boxer, S. G.; Chidsey, C. E. D.; Roelofs, M. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1982**, *104*, 1452–1454.

(10) Boxer, S. G.; Chidsey, C. E. D.; Roelofs, M. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1982**, *104*, 2674–2675.

(11) van Dijk, B.; Carpenter, J. K. H.; Hoff, A. J.; Hore, P. J. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **1998**, *102*, 464–472.

(12) Werner, U.; Sakaguchi, Y.; Hayashi, H.; Nohya, G.; Yoneshima, R.; Nakajima, S.; Osuka, A. *J. Phys. Chem.* **1995**, *99*, 13930–13937.

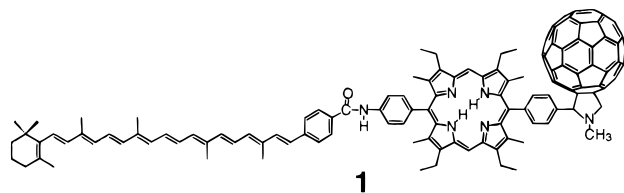
(1) Steiner, U. E.; Ulrich, T. *Chem. Rev.* **1989**, *89*, 51–147.
(2) Steiner, U. E.; Wolff, H. J. In *Photochemistry and Photophysics*; Rabek, J. F., Ed.; CRC: Boca Raton, FL, 1991; Vol. IV, pp 1–130.

(3) Hayashi, H. In *Photochemistry and Photophysics*; Rabek, J. F., Ed.; CRC: Boca Raton, FL, 1990; Vol. I, pp 59–136.

(4) Grissom, C. B. *Chem. Rev.* **1995**, *95*, 3–24.

Small magnetic fields increased the initial rate of decay of the biradical to the ground state by charge recombination. Magnetic field effects have also been reported in dyads consisting of porphyrins linked to viologen electron acceptors by flexible chains.^{13,14} In these cases, photoinduced electron transfer originates from the porphyrin excited triplet state, rather than the singlet.

We recently reported^{15–17} the preparation and study of a carotenoid (C)–porphyrin (P)–fullerene (C₆₀) triad artificial photosynthetic reaction center (**1**) that demonstrates photoin-



duced electron transfer behavior ideally suited for the observation of unusual magnetic field effects. Excitation of the porphyrin moiety yields C–¹P–C₆₀, which decays by photoinduced electron transfer to give C–P^{•+}–C₆₀^{•–}. Secondary electron transfer from the carotenoid to the porphyrin radical cation produces the C^{•+}–P–C₆₀^{•–} charge-separated state. This process occurs even in low-temperature organic glasses where molecular motions and some electron spin relaxation processes are slowed. In addition, charge recombination yields only the carotenoid triplet state, ³C–P–C₆₀, rather than the molecular ground state. As discussed below, this combination of properties results in a lifetime for the C^{•+}–P–C₆₀^{•–} charge-separated state on the microsecond time scale that is increased by 50% upon application of a weak magnetic field.

Results

Photochemistry at Ambient Temperatures. The synthesis and characterization of triad **1** has been previously reported.¹⁵ The photochemistry of the triad may be discussed with reference to Figure 1, which shows the relevant high-energy states and decay pathways. Time-resolved spectroscopic studies have shown that at ambient temperatures in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran solution, excitation of the porphyrin moiety yields C–¹P–C₆₀, which decays in 10 ps by photoinduced electron transfer to the fullerene to generate C–P^{•+}–C₆₀^{•–} (step 3 in Figure 1, $k_3 = 1.0 \times 10^{11} \text{ s}^{-1}$). The fullerene excited singlet state accepts an electron from the porphyrin to also yield C–P^{•+}–C₆₀^{•–} ($k_2 = 3.1 \times 10^{10} \text{ s}^{-1}$). The overall quantum yield of C–P^{•+}–C₆₀^{•–} by these two pathways is essentially unity. Secondary electron transfer from the carotenoid (step 4) competes with charge recombination by step 7 to yield the final C^{•+}–P–C₆₀^{•–} charge-separated state. The rise time of this state is 80 ps, and the overall yield is ~0.14, as determined by the comparative method with the *meso*-tetraphenylporphyrin triplet state ($\phi_T = 0.67$, $\epsilon_T =$

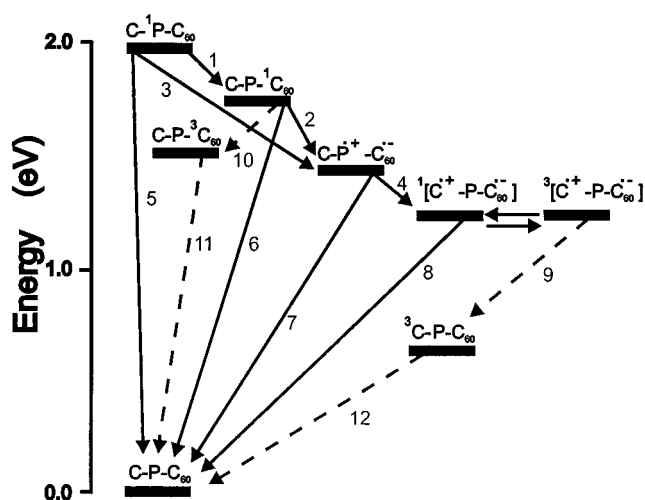


Figure 1. High-energy states of C–P–C₆₀ triad **1** and their relevant interconversion pathways at 77 K. Energies were estimated from spectroscopic results at ambient temperature and from cyclic voltammetric experiments carried out on suitable model compounds in polar solvents at ambient temperatures.¹⁵ These energies have not been corrected for any Coulombic effects.

$\epsilon_{G440} = 6.8 \times 10^4 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$) as a standard, and using an extinction coefficient of $1.6 \times 10^5 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for the carotenoid radical cation. The C^{•+}–P–C₆₀^{•–} state decays exponentially in 170 ns exclusively by charge recombination to produce the carotenoid triplet state ($\Phi_T = 0.13$). Decay of ³C–P–C₆₀ occurs in 4.9 μs ($k_{15} = 2.0 \times 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$). The application of a small (up to 41 mT) magnetic field to the sample at ambient temperatures had no effect on either the yield or the lifetime of the charge-separated state.

Photochemistry at 77 K in the Absence of a Magnetic Field. Excitation of a $\sim 1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ solution of **1** in a 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K with a 590 nm, 5 ns laser pulse gave rise to several transient species.¹⁵ A transient absorption with a maximum at 700 nm corresponding to the fullerene triplet state was observed. The quantum yield of C–P–³C₆₀ was 0.17, as determined by the comparative method, and it decayed with a time constant of 81 μs . At the excitation wavelength, ~19% of the light is absorbed by the fullerene moiety, and the quantum yield of triplet in model fullerene compounds is essentially unity. Thus, C–P–³C₆₀ is postulated to form by normal intersystem crossing via step 10 in Figure 1. This conclusion has been borne out by time-resolved EPR experiments that confirm the intersystem crossing mechanism.¹⁶

The nanosecond time-resolved absorption experiments also reveal a transient absorption with a maximum at 965 nm corresponding to the carotenoid radical cation of the C^{•+}–P–C₆₀^{•–} charge-separated state. The quantum yield is ~0.10, based on total light absorbed and using the extinction coefficients reported for the tetraphenylporphyrin triplet state and carotenoid radical cations at ambient temperatures. Transient absorption experiments carried out under similar conditions with subpicosecond excitation at 575 nm with the pump–probe technique gave a rise time for C^{•+}–P–C₆₀^{•–} of 770 ps at 77 K (Figure 2). This rise time is presumably the reciprocal of ($k_4 + k_7$) at this temperature.

The decay of the carotenoid radical cation absorption of C^{•+}–P–C₆₀^{•–} occurs on the microsecond time scale, and is shown in Figure 3. It is accompanied by the rise of a new transient with a maximum absorbance at ~550 nm whose rise kinetics are identical to the decay kinetics of the carotenoid radical cation. The new state is ascribed to ³C–P–C₆₀ generated by

(13) Saito, T.; Hirata, Y.; Sato, H.; Yoshida, T.; Mataga N. *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **1988**, *61*, 1925–1931.

(14) Nakamura, H.; Uehata, A.; Motonaga, A.; Ogata, T.; Matsuo, T. *Chem. Lett.* **1987**, 543–546.

(15) Liddell, P. A.; Kuciauskas, D.; Sumida, J. P.; Nash, B.; Nguyen, D.; Moore, A. L.; Moore, T. A.; Gust, D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1997**, *119*, 1400–1405.

(16) Carbonera, D.; Di Valentin, M.; Corvaja, C.; Agostini, G.; Giacometti, G.; Liddell, P. A.; Kuciauskas, D.; Moore, A. L.; Moore, T. A.; Gust, D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, *120*, 4398–4405.

(17) Gust, D.; Moore, T. A.; Moore, A. L.; Liddell, P. A.; Kuciauskas, D.; Sumida, J. P.; Nash, B.; Nguyen, D. In *Recent Advances in the Chemistry and Physics of Fullerenes and Related Materials*; Kadish, K. M., Rutherford, A. W., Eds.; The Electrochemical Society: Pennington, NJ, 1997; pp 9–24.

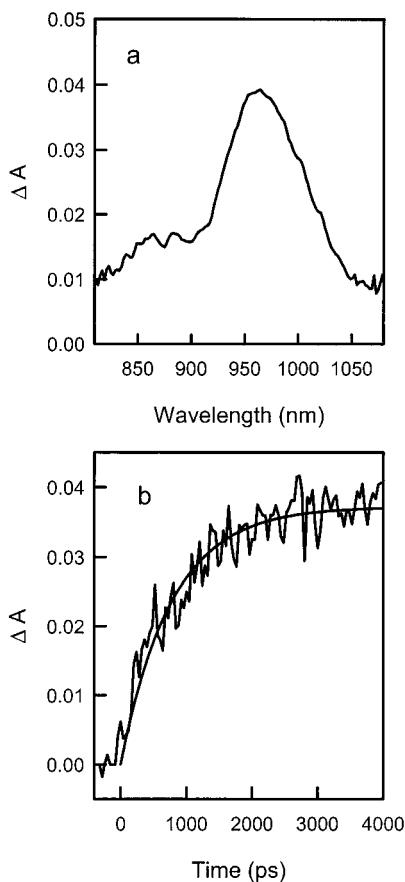


Figure 2. (a) Transient absorption spectrum of $C^{*+}\text{-P-Q}^{*-}$ taken 3950 ps after excitation of a $\sim 1 \times 10^{-3}$ M solution of **1** in a 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K with a 150-fs, 20 nJ laser pulse at 575 nm. (b) Rise of the absorption in part a, determined at 950 nm. The smooth curve is an exponential fit to the rise data with a time constant of 770 ps.

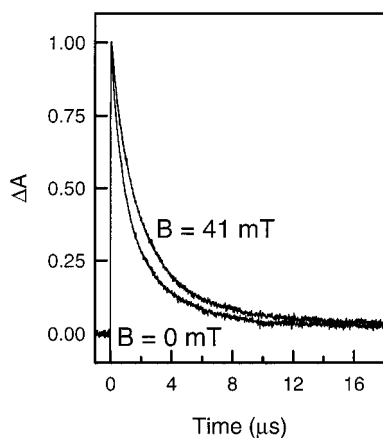


Figure 3. Decay of the transient absorption of the $C^{*+}\text{-P-C}_{60}^{*-}$ charge-separated state in a 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K, monitored at 980 nm where the carotenoid radical cation absorbs strongly. Excitation was at 575 nm with a ~ 5 ns laser pulse. The lower, more rapidly decaying transient was obtained at zero magnetic field, and the upper, more slowly decaying signal at 41 mT. The smooth curves passing through the experimental data are best fits of the data in the time window shown with use of three exponential components, as described in the text.

charge recombination of the $C^{*+}\text{-P-C}_{60}^{*-}$ biradical. It is formed with a quantum yield of ~ 0.07 based on ambient-temperature extinction coefficients, which is comparable to the yield of $C^{*+}\text{-P-C}_{60}^{*-}$, within experimental error. The decay

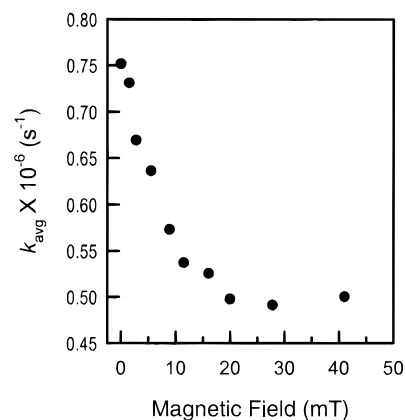


Figure 4. Dependence of k_{avg} , as defined by eq 1, on magnetic field strength at 77 K.

can be fit within the noise limits with two exponentials. The major component has a time constant of 10 μs , which is a typical lifetime for a carotenoid triplet state, and the lifetime of the minor component is 83 μs . The similarity of the minor component lifetime to that for $C\text{-P-}^3C_{60}$ suggests that it may be due to some absorption of the fullerene triplet state at 550 nm.

The 980-nm absorption of $C^{*+}\text{-P-C}_{60}^{*-}$ at 77 K does not decay as a single exponential, in contrast to the behavior at ambient temperatures. To compare these results with those obtained in the presence of a magnetic field, we have defined an “average” decay rate, k_{avg} , for the illustrated time window defined by eq 1, where A , A' and A'' are the amplitudes of three

$$k_{\text{avg}} = \frac{Ak + A'k' + k''A''}{A + A' + A''} \quad (1)$$

exponential decay components with rate constants k , k' , and k'' . For example, at zero field, the decay may be fitted over the time window shown in Figure 3 with two exponential components of 1.0 (60% of the decay) and 2.5 μs (37%) and a very slowly decaying component with an amplitude of 3%. Thus, the k_{avg} value for **1** is $7.5 \times 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$ in the absence of an applied magnetic field. Using different time windows yields slightly different combinations of time constants and amplitudes.

Photochemistry at 77 K in the Presence of a Magnetic Field. Identical experiments at 77 K on the nanosecond time scale were carried out in the presence of a weak (41 mT), steady-state magnetic field (B) applied before excitation. The yield of $C^{*+}\text{-P-C}_{60}^{*-}$ under these conditions was essentially identical to the yield at $B = 0$. The decay of the charge-separated state, however, was significantly slower than that in the absence of a magnetic field (Figure 3). Application of eq 1 to these data yields a k_{avg} value of $5.0 \times 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$ in a 41 mT field.

The magnetic field dependence of k_{avg} is shown in Figure 4. The effect on the lifetime of the biradical saturates at a few tens of mT; the field strength for half-saturation, $B_{1/2}$, is 6.4 mT. The time dependence of the difference in the transient absorption of the biradical at zero field and at saturating magnetic field effect may be quantified by subtracting the decay curve in the absence of field from that obtained at 41 mT. The resulting curve (Figure 5a) shows that the maximum difference in concentration of the charge-separated states, as a function of time, occurs 1.3 μs after the excitation pulse. The total difference in response of the triad to the two field strengths is conveniently illustrated and quantified by integrating the two transient absorptions over their lifetimes (Figure 5b).

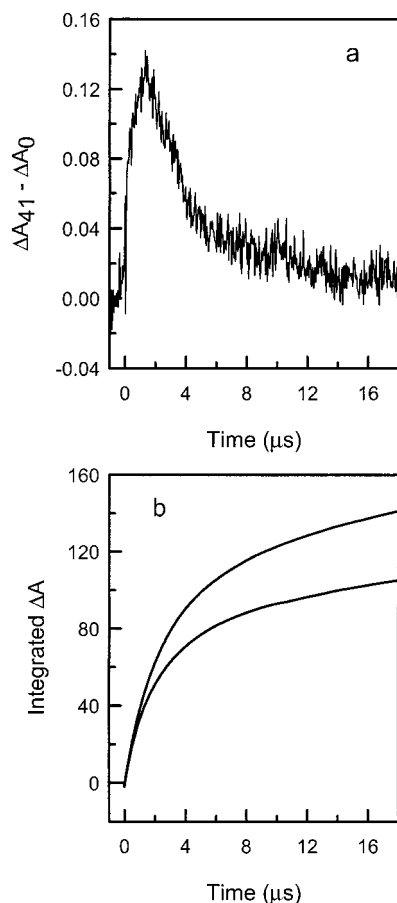


Figure 5. (a) Transient absorbance at 980 nm of a solution of **1** in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K determined at 41 mT minus that determined at zero magnetic field. This is the difference of the two curves in Figure 3. (b) Integral of the transient absorbance at 980 nm of a solution of **1** in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K, determined at 41 mT (upper curve) and zero field (lower curve). These are the integrals of the two curves in Figure 3 over time.

The yield of the carotenoid triplet species, ${}^3\text{C-P-C}_{60}$, arising from charge recombination was determined at zero field and at saturating field (41 mT), and no differences outside of experimental error were observed. In addition, the rise kinetics of the carotenoid triplet state at 0 and 41 mT were identical with the decay kinetics of the carotenoid radical cation. Thus, the carotenoid triplet state is the only significant product of charge recombination at all field strengths investigated. The carotenoid triplet state lifetime at 77 K was independent of the magnetic field.

Discussion

The 50% increase in the lifetime of the $\text{C}^{\bullet+}\text{-P-C}_{60}^{\bullet-}$ charge-separated state resulting from the application of a relatively weak static magnetic field may be explained by reference to the simple and well-known kinetic scheme in Figure 6, which shows the singlet biradical state, the three triplet biradical sublevels, and the pathways that interconvert and depopulate them. The rapid (770 ps) formation of the $\text{C}^{\bullet+}\text{-P-C}_{60}^{\bullet-}$ state at 77 K ensures that its excited-state precursor is the porphyrin first excited singlet state, rather than the triplet. Thus, $\text{C}^{\bullet+}\text{-P-C}_{60}^{\bullet-}$ is formed as a singlet biradical. It has been previously determined by time-resolved EPR spectroscopy¹⁶ that the exchange interaction energy between the two electrons of the biradical is very small ($J = 0.12$ mT). In this case, the spin Hamiltonian \mathcal{H} can

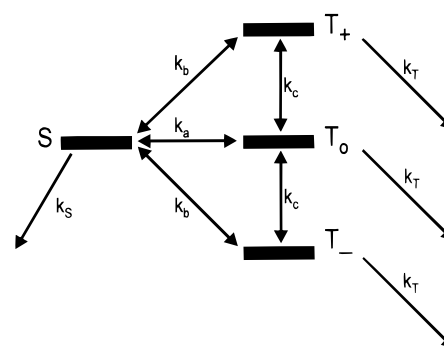


Figure 6. Schematic representation of the singlet biradical, the three triplet sublevels of the biradical, and their decay and interconversion pathways.

be divided into four parts,¹⁸

$$\mathcal{H} = \beta B_0 (g_1 S_1 + g_2 S_2) - J (I_x^2 + 2S_1 S_2) + \sum_i a_{1i} S_1 I_i + \sum_k a_{2k} S_2 I_k \quad (2)$$

where β is the Bohr magneton, B_0 is the applied magnetic field, g_1 and g_2 are the electronic g -factors for each radical, S_1 and S_2 are electron spin operators for the two components of the biradical, J is the scalar exchange interaction constant, I_i and I_k are nuclear spin operators, and a_{1i} and a_{2k} are the isotropic hyperfine coupling constants of nucleus i with radical 1 and nucleus k with radical 2. The first term in eq 2 accounts for the different electronic Zeeman interactions of the two radicals with the magnetic field. The second term represents the scalar coupling interaction of $2J$, and the last two terms allow for the isotropic hyperfine coupling interactions of magnetically active nuclei (mainly protons) with the electron spins. It is assumed that nuclei associated structurally with a given radical couple only with that radical; this is justified when J is very small.

The singlet biradical S (Figure 6) can in principle decay by charge recombination (k_s , which is identical to k_8 in Figure 1), or interconvert with the T_0 (k_a) or T_+ and T_- (k_b) states. The three triplet sublevels can interconvert via k_c , and each can undergo charge recombination to yield the carotenoid triplet state with a rate constant k_T .

At zero applied field, the first term in eq 2 vanishes, and the energies of all four states in Figure 6 are nearly degenerate when the exchange interaction energy is very small, as in **1**. It is postulated that as a result, interconversion among all four states via hyperfine coupling interaction (HFI)-induced intersystem crossing is rapid on the time scale of charge recombination. The resulting equilibrium leads to a population that is 25% singlet biradical and 75% triplet. The experimental results show that this population decays only within the triplet manifold ($k_s \ll k_T$), yielding ${}^3\text{C-P-C}_{60}$ as the sole product. Under these conditions, and assuming all k_T values to be equal, the decay of the charge-separated state is given by

$$\frac{d[\text{BR}]}{dt} = \frac{3[\text{BR}]}{4} k_T \quad (3)$$

where $[\text{BR}]$ is the total concentration of the biradical. The charge-separated state will decay by step 9 in Figure 1 with an observed first-order rate constant $k_9 = 3k_T/4$.

At saturating applied magnetic field strengths, the Zeeman interaction of the spins with the external magnetic field (first

term in eq 2) removes the near-degeneracy of the triplet sublevels, increasing the energy of T_+ and decreasing that of T_- by an equal amount. Under these conditions, the mixing between T_0 and S is much stronger than the mixing among any other electronic states. At 77 K, it is postulated that on the time scale of biradical recombination, the interconversion of the S and T_0 levels is still rapid. However, interconversion between these states and T_+ and T_- by any relaxation mechanism is now much slower than charge recombination, and the T_+ and T_- states are in effect isolated from the other two. Under these conditions, $C^{*+}-P-C_{60}^{*-}$, which is born as a singlet biradical, rapidly equilibrates with T_0 , but T_+ and T_- are not significantly populated. When the field is present, the decay of the biradical is given by

$$\frac{d[\text{BR}]}{dt} = \frac{-[\text{BR}]}{2} k_T \quad (4)$$

and the first-order decay constant k_9 is $k_T/2$. Thus, the observed k_9 at zero field will equal 1.5 times k_9 at a saturating field strength. This result corresponds to what is observed experimentally, as k_{avg} at zero field is indeed 1.5 times that at a saturating field.

It was noted that the decays at 77 K are not single exponentials. This is ascribed, for the most part, to the likelihood that in the frozen medium, a variety of molecular microenvironments and a variety of slightly different molecular conformations exist, and that these have slightly different recombination rates. Thus, although the data may be fit, within experimental error, by two exponentials and a small baseline offset, the true kinetic description is likely better described as a distribution of decays. In this connection, it is interesting to note that both k and k' in eq 1 are larger by a factor of ~ 1.5 in the absence of a magnetic field. Thus, the molecules in the great majority of the postulated microenvironments respond in the same way to the presence of the field.

It is worthwhile to briefly examine a few of the postulates underlying the above explanation. As determined by EPR spectroscopy, the coupling J between the electron spins in $C^{*+}-P-C_{60}^{*-}$ is $+0.12$ mT.¹⁶ This means that the T_0 state lies 2.7×10^{-8} eV below the singlet state. The zero-field splitting between the triplet states must be of this general magnitude as well. At 77 K, thermal energies are $\sim 6.6 \times 10^{-3}$ eV. Thus, the assumption that when in equilibrium at zero field, the four energy levels are essentially equally populated is justified.

It is generally found that the dominant mechanism for singlet-triplet interconversion at zero and low fields is HFI-induced intersystem crossing.¹⁻⁴ At zero field, the four spin levels are essentially isoenergetic, and HFI-induced intersystem crossing rapidly equilibrates all four states. As the magnetic field strength increases and the Zeeman interaction splits the energies of T_+ and T_- away from those of T_0 and S (Figure 6), HFI-induced intersystem crossing to T_+ and T_- becomes slower. Finally these two states are no longer populated, and the magnetic field effect saturates. Weller and co-workers have shown¹⁹ that for a series of organic radical pairs, the magnetic field value at half saturation due to HFI, $B_{1/2}$, is given by:

$$B_{1/2} = 2 \frac{B_1^2 + B_2^2}{B_1 + B_2} \quad (5)$$

where B_1 and B_2 refer to the energies of the hyperfine

interactions between the nuclear spins and unpaired electron spins on each radical. These may be determined from the values of the isotropic hyperfine coupling constants a_{ik} . For the current example, where the dominant hyperfine interactions are with protons ($I = 1/2$), the value of B_i is given by:¹⁹

$$B_i = \left(\sum_k I(I+1) a_{ik}^2 \right)^{1/2} = \left(\sum_k \frac{3a_{ik}^2}{4} \right)^{1/2} \quad (6)$$

In the case of triad **1**, the fullerene moiety is expected to contribute negligibly because there are few, if any, hyperfine coupling interactions with protons. This is consistent with the narrow EPR line width of this radical (~ 0.1 mT).²⁰ The large number of hyperfine couplings in the carotenoid radical cation, which lead to a broad EPR signal, are expected to dominate $B_{1/2}$. The proton hyperfine coupling constants for β -carotene have been determined.²¹ If we use these values to estimate those for the carotenoid of **1**, then B_{car} is 3.4 mT, and eq 5 yields a $B_{1/2}$ value of 6.8 mT, which is in good agreement with the experimental value of 6.4 mT (Figure 4). This result is consistent with the assignment of HFI-induced intersystem crossing as the major intersystem crossing mechanism.

In the presence of magnetic fields, the spin rephasing (Δg) mechanism can also interconvert the S_0 and T_0 states. This mechanism relies on the difference in precession frequencies of the electron spins in the biradical (Δg) that arises from differences in chemical environments (first term in eq 2). The time for interconversion of the S_0 and T_0 states by this mechanism ($\Delta\omega$) is given⁴ by:

$$\Delta\omega = \Delta g \beta B / \hbar \quad (7)$$

The g values for the carotenoid radical cation and fullerene radical anion are 2.0027 and 1.998, respectively.^{20,22,23} At the field where the magnetic field effects in **1** saturate, ~ 0.020 mT, $1/\Delta\omega$ equals 120 ns. Thus the Δg mechanism could have some effect on S_0-T_0 interconversion at the higher magnetic field strengths, although the HFI mechanism dominates overall, as discussed above.

Spin-orbit coupling can also in principle lead to interconversion among spin states in biradicals. Spin-orbit coupling is most important for heavy atoms, and interconversion by spin-orbit coupling is expected to be too slow to be significant in triad **1** at 77 K. The fact that a magnetic field effect is observed at all, and that it saturates at low magnetic fields, shows that rapid interconversion of all spin states by spin-orbit coupling or any other mechanism is not, in fact, occurring under these conditions.

At 298 K, no effect of small magnetic fields on the lifetime of $C^{*+}-P-C_{60}^{*-}$ is observed in organic solvents. Thus, under these conditions, rapid equilibration among the various spin sublevels must be occurring even in the presence of the field. It is possible that properties of the fullerene radical anion contribute to the high equilibration rate.

The treatment above assumes that all singlet-triplet interconversion occurs in the $C^{*+}-P-C_{60}^{*-}$ biradical. Given the 770 ps rise time of this state at 77 K, it is conceivable that some interconversion could also happen in the precursor $C-P^{*+}$ -

(20) Zoleo, A. 1995. Dissertation, Universita di Padova.

(21) Piekara-Sady, L.; Kahled, M. M.; Bradford, E.; Kispert, L. D.; Plato, M. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1991**, *186*, 143-148.

(22) Grant, J. L.; Kramer, V. J.; Ding, R.; Kispert, L. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1988**, *110*, 2151-2157.

(23) Hasharoni, K.; Levanon, H.; Tang, J.; Bowman, M. K.; Norris, J. R.; Gust, D.; Moore, T. A.; Moore, A. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1990**, *112*, 6477-6481.

(19) Weller, A.; Nolting, F.; Staerk, H. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1983**, *96*, 24-27.

$C_{60}^{\bullet-}$, although the radicals are presumably much more strongly coupled in this state. If this occurs, it has no significant consequences. The yield of $C^{\bullet+}-P-C_{60}^{\bullet-}$ is essentially the same at 77 K and ambient temperature, where the rate of formation of $C^{\bullet+}-P-C_{60}^{\bullet-}$ is much too fast to permit inter-system crossing in the precursor biradical. The yield of $C^{\bullet+}-P-C_{60}^{\bullet-}$ at 77 K is also independent of magnetic field strength. This suggests that singlet-triplet interconversion in $C-P^{\bullet+}-C_{60}^{\bullet-}$ is not affecting the competition between steps 4 and 7 in Figure 1.

Conclusions

Triad **1** provides a unique opportunity to observe a straightforward influence of weak magnetic fields on radical pair recombination, and the expected 50% increase in the lifetime of the charge-separated state. There are several reasons for this situation. In the first place, **1** generates the charge-separated state via a multistep electron-transfer strategy that produces a long-lived charge-separated state in high yield, but with only a small exchange interaction between the radicals. This weak coupling permits singlet-triplet interconversion by hyperfine interactions of the electron spins with nuclear magnetic moments. Presumably, these are mainly the hydrogen atoms on the carotenoid chain. Second, charge separation occurs in a rigid glass at 77 K (electron transfer occurs down to at least 8 K in **1**), and this establishes the conditions for rapid equilibration of the S and T_0 states with no population of T_+ and T_- in the presence of the magnetic field. Finally, charge recombination yields exclusively the carotenoid triplet state. If recombination occurred only to the singlet ground state, the lifetime of the charge-separated state would be *reduced* by the magnetic field.

As mentioned above, there are numerous examples of magnetic field effects on reaction yields in mobile radical ion pairs (MARY effect).¹⁻⁴ Examples with rigid systems are less common. Effects related to those reported here have been observed in photosynthetic reaction center preparations, where large-scale motions within the protein matrix are restricted. In reaction centers of *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* excitation of the special pair of bacteriochlorophyll molecules is followed by photoinduced electron transfer via a bacteriochlorophyll monomer to a bacteriopheophytin. An electron then migrates to a quinone acceptor Q_A , and finally to a second quinone Q_B . If Q_A is pre-reduced so that it cannot act as an acceptor, a long-lived radical pair consisting of the special pair radical cation and bacteriopheophytin radical anion is formed. The singlet radical pair can recombine to yield the ground state, or undergo intersystem crossing to the triplet radical pair, which decays to yield the triplet state of the special pair. In the presence of a magnetic field of 50 mT, the yield of triplet chromophore decreases by ~50%.^{5,7} The genesis of this effect is that at zero field, the singlet radical pair can interconvert rapidly with the three triplet sublevels by hyperfine interactions. In the presence of the field, interconversion only occurs between the singlet and T_0 levels, as discussed above, and therefore charge recombination to the ground state is enhanced. Other effects are observed at much higher field strengths.

A magnetic field effect on quantum yields such as that found in reaction centers can only be observed if radical pair recombination can occur by two competing mechanisms. In triad **1**, this is precluded because charge recombination yields only the carotenoid triplet state, but lifetime effects are observed. A somewhat related situation has been observed in modified bacterial reaction centers at temperatures below ~70 K.¹¹ Under these conditions, electron transfer proceeds to yield a radical

pair consisting of the special pair radical cation and the Q_A radical anion, but further electron transfer is blocked. Charge recombination occurs only from the singlet radical pair to yield the ground state, as the special pair triplet state is energetically inaccessible. At fields of 50 mT, the initial part of the nonexponential decay of the radical pair to the ground state shows an increase in decay rate, attributable to decreased interconversion of the S and T_0 states with the T_+ and T_- states.

Magnetic field effects at ambient temperatures have been reported in triad photosynthetic model systems consisting of two covalently linked porphyrins, one of which bears an aromatic imide electron acceptor.¹² The decay to the ground state of the biradical resulting from photoinduced electron transfer is biphasic, and the rate of the initial part of the decay increases in the presence of a very small (5 mT) magnetic field. This effect, which is quite different from those observed for **1**, is ascribed to an initial decay of the singlet biradical to both the ground state and the triplet manifold, with comparable rate constants. Eventually a dynamic equilibrium is established, giving rise to a slower component. The magnetic field decreases the rate of intersystem crossing, thus affecting the rate constants and enhancing singlet decay to the ground state at early times. In these systems, magnetic field effects are not observed when the charge separation lifetime is longer than a few hundred nanoseconds.

The magnetic field effects observed for **1** are potentially useful in two ways. In the first place, the enhanced lifetime of a charge-separated state induced by the magnetic field could in principle be of value in solar energy conversion applications of artificial reaction centers. A longer lifetime could increase the quantum yield of useful energy conversion reactions by slowing down charge recombination. Of course, this is only a 50% effect, and is observable only at low temperatures in **1**.

The ability to significantly slow charge recombination by application of a small field could be the basis of a magnetically controlled optical or optoelectronic switch or logic gate. The change in absorption of the carotenoid radical cation at 980 nm, monitored either at the time of maximum difference in the curves with the field on and the field off (Figure 5a) or as the integral of the absorptions over their lifetimes (Figure 5b), is much larger than the noise level in these experiments. Appropriate monitoring of this transient absorption with a probe light beam and a detector with a suitable threshold would allow implementation of an AND gate-like function. In its unperturbed resting state, a collection of triads would have no detectable absorption at 980 nm, as no light is absorbed by the ground state in this spectral region. Switching on the magnetic field would not generate an absorption. Excitation in the absence of a magnetic field would generate a signal below the detection threshold. However, excitation in the presence of the field would produce a measurable signal, and therefore a change in the state of the device. Thus, an output signal would be produced only in the simultaneous presence of two inputs, the magnetic field and the excitation pulse, as required for an AND gate. A similar device with an electrical readout could be devised if electron transfer from the charge-separated state of the triad to an external circuit competed with decay to the carotenoid triplet state. The electrical signal would be larger in the presence of the magnetic field, when recombination to the triplet was slowed.

Experimental Section

Transient absorption measurements on the picosecond time scale were made with use of the pump-probe technique. The sample was dissolved in purified 2-methyltetrahydrofuran and the resulting ~0.001

M solution was placed in a cuvette having a 2-mm path length in the beam area and stirred. For low-temperature measurements, a closed-circuit helium refrigerator from APD Cryogenics Inc. equipped with a Model 330 temperature controller from Lake Shore Cryogenics was used. Excitation was at 590 nm with 150–200 fs, 30 μ J pulses at a repetition rate of 540 Hz or with 100–150 fs, 5 μ J pulses at a repetition rate of 1000 Hz. The signals from the continuum-generated white-light probe beam were collected by an optical spectrometric multi-channel analyzer with a dual diode array detector head.²⁴

For nanosecond transient absorption measurements, similar solutions were placed in a cuvette with a 1-cm path length. For measurements at ambient temperatures, the sample was deoxygenated by purging with argon. The transient absorption measurements were made with excitation from an Oportek optical parametric oscillator pumped by the

third harmonic of a Continuum Surelight Nd:YAG laser. The pulse width was \sim 5 ns, and the repetition rate was 10 Hz. The detection portion of the spectrometer has been described elsewhere.²⁵

Magnetic fields were generated with use of Helmholtz coils. The sample, sealed in a cuvette, was immersed in liquid nitrogen in a clear glass dewar flask. The magnetic field was measured at the sample with a Bell Gaussmeter (calibrated to \pm 3%).

Acknowledgment. This work was supported by the National Science Foundation (CHE-9709272). This is publication No. 371 from the ASU Center for the Study of Early Events in Photosynthesis.

JA981848E

(24) Lin, S.; Chiou, H.-C.; Kleinherenbrink, F. A. M.; Blankenship, R. E. *Biophys. J.* **1994**, *66*, 437–445.

(25) Davis, F. S.; Nemeth, G. A.; Anjo, D. M.; Makings, L. R.; Gust, D.; Moore, T. A. *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* **1987**, *58*, 1629–1631.