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Communication

Deuterium Isotope Effect on the Complexation of β -Cyclodextrin and Triplet Xanthone in Aqueous Solution

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The replacement of H_2O by D_2O as solvent leads to a significant decrease in the equilibrium constant for complexation of excited triplet xanthone with β -cyclodextrin, mainly as the result of the decrease in the corresponding association rate constant.

Cyclodextrins (CDs) have been widely used over the past decades due to their ability to form inclusion complexes. While there is a large volume of data available on the complexation equilibrium between various cyclodextrins and numerous substrates, only a couple of reports have been published on solvent isotope effects. In this context, an increase in association equilibrium constants (K_{eq}) when replacing H_2O by D_2O has been observed in the case of complexation of organic dyes and inorganic ions when complexed to α - and β -CDs.^{1,2} $K_{\text{eq}}(\text{H}_2\text{O})/K_{\text{eq}}(\text{D}_2\text{O})$ ratios varied from 0.67 to 0.89. Due to the small differences in equilibrium constants, the thermodynamic parameters, however, were inconclusive regarding the interactions responsible for the isotope effects.²

Kinetic studies, as in the case of thermodynamic studies, can yield information regarding the mechanism of inclusion-complex formation that is not obtainable from equilibrium-constant measurements alone. Cyclodextrins have exchangeable hydrogens and consequently, as in the case of studies of solvent isotope effects in enzyme reactions, it becomes difficult if not impossible to separate solvent from constitutional isotope effects. Studies of H/D isotope effects, however, may lead to some insights into the nature of the association/dissociation process, this being an area relatively unexplored due to the need of very fast experimental techniques. In this communication, application of time-resolved laser flash photolysis to the study of H/D isotope effects on the complexation of β -CD and triplet xanthone is reported.

Xanthone is an aromatic ketone known to form 1:1 inclusion complexes with CDs in aqueous solution.³ Based on the application of laser flash photolysis techniques it has been shown that,

following excitation in CD aqueous solutions, xanthone triplet relocates from the cyclodextrin cavity into the aqueous phase.³ Such relocation was interpreted as being triggered by dipole moment changes between the ground and the triplet states that lead to differences between their association constants and, hence, to a displacement of the equilibrium position. Equilibrium constants for excited triplet xanthone complexed with CDs were later on measured and shown to be, as initially predicted, smaller than those observed for the ground state.⁴

Association equilibrium constants (K_{eq}) for complexation of ground state xanthone with β -cyclodextrin in H_2O and D_2O solutions were determined measuring the decrease in xanthone emission intensity as a function of β -CD concentration, as previously described.^{3,5} The values obtained are $(1.11 \pm 0.03) \times 10^3 M^{-1}$ and $(1.07 \pm 0.05) \times 10^3 M^{-1}$ for H_2O and D_2O , respectively, i.e., the same values within experimental errors and $K_{eq}(H_2O)$ identical to the reported value.

Both in H_2O and D_2O solutions, the shape of the traces obtained upon 355-nm laser excitation of xanthone aqueous solutions containing β -CD depends on the monitoring wavelength, as a result of the changes in the transient spectra as a function of the delay following the laser pulse.⁶ The triplet-triplet (T-T) spectra of xanthone shows λ_{max} at ca. 605 nm immediately after laser excitation, and at ca. 580 nm several hundreds of nanoseconds later. The T-T absorption spectrum of xanthone is known to be dependent on the polarity of the media (e.g., $\lambda_{max} = 655$ nm and 615 nm in Cl_4C and 2-propanol, respectively) due to close proximity of n,π^* and π,π^* triplet states.⁷ Thus, the spectral shift observed in the presence of β -CD, which parallels that observed in homogeneous solution when the solvent is changed from a nonpolar to a polar one, is ascribed to the relocation of xanthone triplets from the cyclodextrin cavity to the bulk aqueous phase, as previously reported.³

In order to determine association/dissociation rate constants and, consequently, equilibrium

constants from transient absorption data, a global compartmental analysis was performed.⁸ The transient absorption (ΔA) observed at any monitoring wavelength is given by Equation 1,

$$\Delta A = \epsilon_{X^*} b [X^*]_t + \epsilon_{X^* \cdot CD} b [X^* \cdot CD]_t \quad (1)$$

where ϵ_{X^*} and $\epsilon_{X^* \cdot CD}$ are the extinction coefficients for free and complexed triplet xanthone, b is the optical path length, and $[X^*]_t$ and $[X^* \cdot CD]_t$ are the time dependent concentrations of free and complexed triplet xanthone. The expression of these two excited-state concentrations are given by Equations 2 and 3 as a function of the exponential factor $\gamma_{1,2}$ shown in Equation 4:⁸

$$[X^*]_t = \beta_{1,1} \exp(\gamma_1 t) + \beta_{1,2} \exp(\gamma_2 t) \quad (2)$$

$$[X^* \cdot CD]_t = \beta_{2,1} \exp(\gamma_1 t) + \beta_{2,2} \exp(\gamma_2 t) \quad (3)$$

$$\gamma_{1,2} = -1/2 \left\{ (k_a [CD] + k_X + k_{X^* \cdot CD} + k_d) \pm ((k_a [CD] + k_X - k_{X^* \cdot CD} - k_d)^2 + 4k_d k_a [CD])^{1/2} \right\} \quad (4)$$

where β represents pre-exponential factors, k_a and k_d are the association and dissociation rate constants for complexation between triplet xanthone and β -CD, k_X and $k_{X^* \cdot CD}$ are the deactivation rate constants for free and complexed triplet xanthone, and $[CD]$ is the free concentration of β -CD.⁹

Substitution in Equation 1 by Equations 2 and 3 leads to:

$$\Delta A = (\epsilon_{X^*} \beta_{1,1} + \epsilon_{X^* \cdot CD} \beta_{2,1}) b \exp(\gamma_1 t) + (\epsilon_{X^*} \beta_{1,2} + \epsilon_{X^* \cdot CD} \beta_{2,2}) b \exp(\gamma_2 t) \quad (5)$$

Decay traces were recorded at 620 nm at different times domains as a function of β -CD concentration. Traces corresponding to each of the β -CD concentration employed were then simultaneously fitted to a double exponential decay using the global lifetime analysis software from Photon Technology International. The lifetimes thus obtained are related to the exponential factors $\gamma_{1,2}$ according to

$$\gamma_{1,2} = -1/\tau_{1,2} \quad (6)$$

From Equations 4 and 6 one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} 1/(\tau_1 + \tau_2) &= -(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2) \\ &= k_a[\text{CD}] + k_X + k_{X\cdot\text{CD}} + k_d \quad (7) \end{aligned}$$

Plots of $1/(\tau_1 + \tau_2)$ vs. $[\text{CD}]$ are linear (Fig 1), and values of k_a and k_d can be obtained from the slope and intercept. Since the rate of deactivation of free and complex triplet xanthone (i.e., k_X and $k_{X\cdot\text{CD}}$) is much slower than k_d , the intercept of such plots is indeed k_d .¹⁰ For H_2O as solvent the resulting k_a and k_d values are $(3.0 \pm 0.4) \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ and $(9.6 \pm 0.4) \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$, respectively. These values are similar to those previously reported, namely, $(2 \pm 1) \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ and $(9.1 \pm 0.7) \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$.¹¹ In the case of D_2O solutions the resulting k_a and k_d values are $(8.8 \pm 0.6) \times 10^7 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ and $(7.6 \pm 0.1) \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$, respectively, significantly lower than values in H_2O . Kinetic solvent isotope effects ($k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}/k_{\text{D}_2\text{O}}$) range from 0.5 to 6.¹² In this case, $k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}/k_{\text{D}_2\text{O}}$ ratios of 3.4 and 1.3 are obtained for k_a and k_d , respectively. From these k_a and k_d values the resulting equilibrium constants for complexation of triplet xanthone with β -CD in H_2O and D_2O solutions are $(31 \pm 5) \text{ M}^{-1}$ and $(11.6 \pm 0.9) \text{ M}^{-1}$, respectively.¹³

Several intermolecular interactions are responsible for the complexation with native cyclodextrins: hydrophobic interactions, van der Waals forces and hydrogen bonding being typical.¹⁴ On inclusion within the CD cavity the guest molecule must expel the ("activated") water molecules already present in it and strip off its own hydration sphere. Solvent reorganization and solvation of the guest molecule play significant roles in determining the formation of the resultant inclusion complex. Although the properties of H_2O and D_2O are very similar to each other, D_2O forms stronger hydrogen bonds than H_2O and it is more structured.^{12,15} The decrease observed in association/dissociation rate constants is in agreement with the observation that hydrophobic interactions probably dominate in complex for-

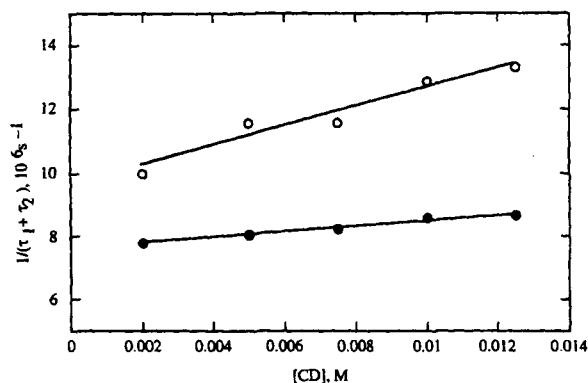


FIGURE 1 Plot of $1/(\tau_1 + \tau_2)$ as a function of total β -CD concentration for triplet xanthone in (O) H_2O and (●) D_2O .

mation. More detailed investigations as on which are the dominant driving factors (e.g., solvent reorganization, solute/solvent interactions) are currently in progress.

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- [6] Experiments were carried out using a Surelite Nd/YAG laser. Samples were contained in $7 \times 7 \text{ mm}^2$ quartz cells and were deaerated by bubbling with oxygen-free nitrogen for 20 min. The laser system is controlled by a Power Mac 7100/80 computer operating with LabVIEW 3.1.1 software from National Instruments. This system is similar to that described in ref. 7; details will be published elsewhere.

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