

HYDROGEN BONDING IN PHENOLS—VI¹

ABNORMALLY PERSISTENT INTERMOLECULAR ASSOCIATION OF SOME *META*- AND *ORTHO*- SUBSTITUTED PHENOLS AND 2-HYDROXY-8-ACETYL NAPHTHALENE

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Abstract—IR, UV, NMR data and osmometric measurements of average molecular weights demonstrate a strong self-association for 2-hydroxy benzalacetone, methyl coumarate, n-propyl coumarate and 2-hydroxy-8-acetyl naphthalene in CCl₄ and CHCl₃ solutions. All measurements reveal that in these compounds dimeric association is dominant, in which the two H-bonds are in the geometrically favourable 16-membered rings. Using an empirical relation between the concentration of phenols and the intensity of the OH stretching vibration band, the association constants have been determined over the temperature range 20–53°C. Thus, the enthalpies ($-\Delta H^\circ$) and entropies ($-\Delta S^\circ$) for 2-hydroxy-8-acetyl naphthalene, n-propyl coumarate and methyl coumarate have been calculated.

ALTHOUGH phenols are known to associate in non polar media by hydrogen-bonding, the aggregates so formed have no great stability.^{2,3} However, some *m*-nitro and *m*-methoxyphenols reported by Anet and Muchowski⁴ and *m*-hydroxy acetophenone, ethyl coumarate and bis-(1-hydroxy-4-methyl-phenyl)-methane, reported in our previous work,³ strongly associate. We have encountered several types of phenolic compounds where intermolecular association, presumably dimeric, is unusually persistent. We have used, whenever possible, three spectral methods—IR, UV and NMR spectroscopy in conjunction with osmometric measurements of average molecular weight.

In the present study the self-association of phenolic compounds is compared with that of substituted anilines as intermediates obtained by the synthesis of model phenolic compounds. In our previous work³ it was reported that the strong self-association observed with ethyl coumarate is due to the extended conjugated system enticing us to find other strongly associated compounds of a similar type. 2-Hydroxy-8-acetyl naphthalene is an example, it is being discussed in more detail and compared with other phenolic compounds under study. Eleven variously substituted phenols have been examined including three anilines bearing an electron-rich substituent in the *m*- and *o*-positions to the phenolic or amino group as follows. They are: ethyl 3-hydroxy-4-methyl-benzoate I; 3-hydroxy-4-methyl acetophenone II; 3-hydroxy-benzophenone III; 3-hydroxy-4-methyl benzonitrile IV; methyl coumarate V; n-propyl coumarate VI; 2-hydroxy benzalacetone VII; 2-hydroxy-8-acetyl naphthalene VIII; 3-amino-4-methyl acetophenone IX; 3-amino-benzophenone X and 2-amino-8-acetyl naphthalene XI.

TABLE 1. (continued)

V	5.0	9.93	3601	23	96	3305	250	65	2.74	1719	20	310	1688 ^a	(22)	310	222
	2.5	20.0	3601	24	109	3302	245	47	5.23	1719	21	388	1688 ^a	(28)	257	222
	0.6	20.0	3600	22	150	(3302)	—	(10)	5.23	1718	19	486	(1688) ^a	—	(15)	—
VI	20	2.74	3603	25	56	3300	250	114	0.5	1715	(26)	264	1687 ^b	(22)	516	309
	4	9.93	3603	25	105	3300	250	72	2.74	1715	21	334	1687 ^b	(20)	365	318
	1	20.0	3604	23	144	3304	252	34	5.28	1716	19	414	—	—	—	312
VII	2.0	9.93	3602	22	90	3176	(298)	80	9.93	1695	(16)	(75)	1675	15	(275)	775
	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9.93	1695	(16)	(100)	1675	14	312	—
	0.4	50.30	3605	26	140	3180	—	(35)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	781
VIII	5.0	5.28	3591	23	55	3254	195	166	2.74	1677	(19)	165	1653	16	400	2145
	2.5	9.93	3592	22	75	3254	189	147	5.28	1673	(17)	185	1650	17	420	2174
	1.0	9.93	3592	23	110	3254	192	115	9.93	1674	(16)	240	1649	17	340	2138
	0.5	50.30	3593	22	125	3253	192	89	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2165

Hydrogen bonding in phenols—VI¹

ν and $\Delta\nu_{2,0}$ are in cm^{-1} . Values in parenthesis are approximate; sh—shoulder, $K = [\text{dimer}/(\text{monomer})^2]$. In nujol $\nu(\text{OH})$; $\Delta\nu_{2,0}$ (bonded): I 3319, (60), II 3416, (50), III 3246, (110), IV 3364, (210), V 3393, (44), VI 3394, (260), VII 3364, (82), VIII 3211, (150), ^a shoulder at 1680 cm^{-1} , ^b shoulder at 1675 cm^{-1} , —not measured.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From work to date,³ it appears that self-association in phenols persists to an unusual extent only in cases where a ring of hydrogen bonds is spatially favoured. From IR data of the compounds investigated (Tables 1 and 2) self-association to very low concentrations is observed in those cases when phenolic compounds can adopt energetically favoured conformations and the hydrogen bonds are sterically protected against the solvent molecules.

Compounds I-III (Table 1) display two concentration-dependent bands in the OH and two in the CO regions in CCl₄. The presence of the bands assigned to the stretching vibrations of OH and CO groups bonded observed at millimolar concentration level suggest the dimeric association of a cyclic type, discussed previously,³ is dominant. It follows from the association constants (*K*) of these compounds (Table 1), $K = [\text{dimer}/(\text{monomer})^2]$ in l mole⁻¹, calculated from the Mecke-Kempton equation,⁵ that 3-hydroxy-4-methyl acetophenone (II) associates more strongly ($K \sim 370$ l mole⁻¹) than does ethyl 3-hydroxy-4-methyl benzoate I. This may be due to the fact that the rotation of the OR group in compound I weakens the H-bonding. The stronger self-association of 3-hydroxy-4-methyl acetophenone (II) than that observed with 3-hydroxy acetophenone³ ($K \sim 120$ l mole⁻¹ in CCl₄) suggested that the introduction of the CH₃ group into *o*-position to the OH group the H-bonding is sterically protected against the solvent molecules. The lower association constant of 3-hydroxy-4-methyl benzonitrile (IV) ($K \sim 90$ l mole⁻¹) (Table 1) than that of 3-hydroxy-4-methyl-acetophenone (II) ($K \sim 370$ l mole⁻¹) or ethyl 3-hydroxy-4-methylbenzoate (I) ($K \sim 265$ l mole⁻¹) might be explained by the weak proton-acceptor nature of the CN group. It is interesting that the bonding shift in CCl₄, $\Delta\nu = \nu\text{OH}(\text{free}) - \nu\text{OH}(\text{bonded})$ in compounds I-III is approximately the same ($\Delta\nu \sim 160$ cm⁻¹) whilst the association constant values differ markedly (Table 1).

TABLE 2. HYDROXYL AND CARBONYL ABSORPTIONS OF 3-HYDROXY-4-METHYL ACETOPHENONE (II) AND 2-HYDROXY-8-ACETYL NAPHTHALENE (VIII) IN CHCl₃

Compound No.	Conc. (mM)	Cell paths (mm)	$\nu(\text{OH})$						$\nu(\text{CO})$			K l/mole	
			Free			Bonded			ν	$\Delta\nu_{3\sigma}$	ϵ_a		
			ν	$\Delta\nu_{3\sigma}$	ϵ_a	ν	$\Delta\nu_{3\sigma}$	ϵ_a					
II ^a	100	0.474	3594	20	83	3405	(150)	90	0.1	1677	21	430	20
	50	0.474	3597	45	95	3406	(180)	70	0.2	1677	21	420	20
	25	0.964	3602	52	122	3406	(190)	(58)	0.474	1675	20	410	23
VIII ^b	50	0.474	3580	39	46	3248	(238)	139	0.2	1649	(22)	370	242
	40	0.474	3579	43	53	3250	(242)	134	0.474	1649	(22)	315	238
	25	0.964	3581	40	65	3250	(236)	123	0.964	1650	—	245	236
	10	2.736	3580	(46)	74	3254	(230)	100	2.736	1652	—	210	255

See for symbols Table 1:^a overtone 2 ν/CO at ~ 335 cm⁻¹; ^b the additional concentration dependent band at 1669 cm⁻¹, ϵ_a of which increases with decreasing concentration (from 180 \rightarrow 236 l mole⁻¹, cm⁻¹ over the range of concentrations studied).

In the case of compounds V and VI despite the number of possibilities for conformational freedom inherent in the molecules, the H-bonding is very strong (Table 1). The stereochemistry of these compounds must, therefore, be favourable to hydrogen bond formation (Fig 1) although the breadth of the absorption band $\nu(\text{OH}(\text{bonded})) \sim 3300 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ is much greater ($\Delta\nu_{\frac{1}{2}} \sim 250 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) than that of compounds I–III. The high association constants (V, $K \sim 222 \text{ l mole}^{-1}$; VI, $K \sim 310 \text{ l mole}^{-1}$; (Table 1) indicate that the *s*-transoid conformation (Fig 1a) is preferable for the maintenance of conjugation in the system.

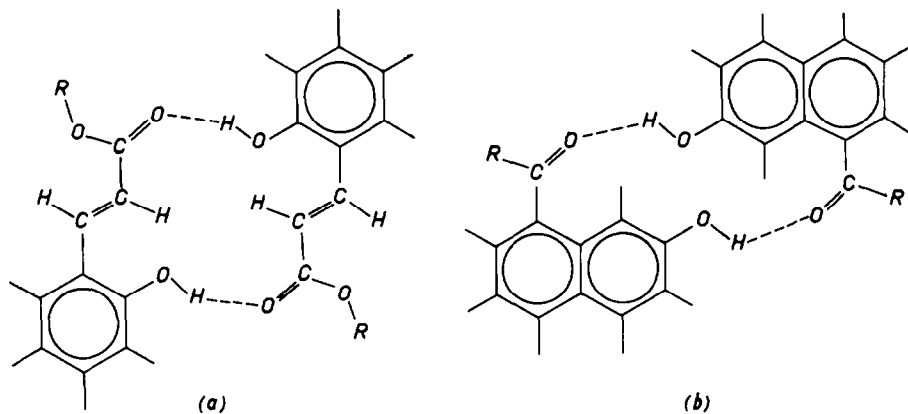


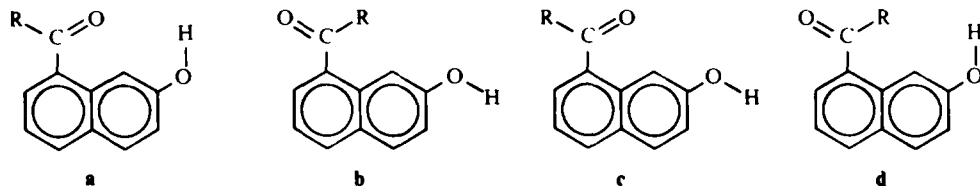
FIG 1. Planar projection of Dreiding models, a—VI and b—VIII. The dotted lines indicate the H-bonds.

By comparing compounds V, VI (Table 1) and ethylcoumarate³ it follows that the strength of association is appreciably weaker in compound V than that of *n*-propyl coumarate (VI) and ethylcoumarate³ ($K \sim 420 \text{ l mole}^{-1}$). Similar values for the association constants of *n*-propyl coumarate VI and ethyl coumarate³ suggest that the length of the alkyl chain attached to the oxygen of the carboxy group does not play any significant role. However, in the case of methyl coumarate (V), it seems that the H-bonding is less protected against the solvent molecules. Also the lowest association constant of methyl coumarate among the alkyl coumarates studied can probably be due to a conformation different from that adopted by the other coumarates studied.

The higher association constant of 2-hydroxy-benzalacetophenone (VII) as compared with that of compounds V and VI suggests that the situation in this compound is similar to that discussed with compounds I–III.

Of the compounds studied, the strongest association has been observed with 2-hydroxy-8-acetyl naphthalene (VIII) ($K \sim 2155 \text{ l mole}^{-1}$) (Table 1). The Dreiding molecular model (Fig 1b) shows that the interacting groups of two molecules of this compound are within bonding distance, that is the $\text{O} \cdots \text{O}$ distance is $\sim 3 \text{ \AA}$. Intramolecular H-bonding within a single molecule is not possible, as can be seen on the Dreiding model of this compound, due to a large distance between the functional

groups and the stereochemistry (the $O \cdots O$ distance is approximately $\sim 4 \text{ \AA}$) (Fig 1b). Of the four conformers (**a**, **b**, **c**, **d**) of compound VIII only two **a** and **c** would permit dimeric association by closure of the 16-membered ring through formation of twin H-bonds to the electron-rich carbonyl group



The intramolecular H-bonding in this compound is eliminated as confirmed by the presence of two concentration-dependent bands in the OH and CO regions (Table 1).

In conformers **b** and **d** the electrostatic repulsion of the CH_3 groups does not permit dimeric association. The strength of association is comparable with, but higher than that of alkylcoumarates **V** and **VI**. This can be explained by the fact that the number of possibilities for conformational freedom inherent in the molecule is lower than that with compounds **V** and **VI**. Also, the conjugated system, as with compounds **V** and **VI** and **VII** is, in compound **VIII**, extended by H-bonding.

The strength of association of compounds studied in CHCl_3 is reduced and some interaction with the solvent is to be expected (Table 2) e.g. broadening of the bands and decrease in wavenumber.

There is a marked change in the CO absorptions on passing from the CCl_4 to CHCl_3 solution and also the expected lowering in wavenumber by $\sim 10 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and the increase of the half-band width by 10 cm^{-1} in compound **II** and by 23 cm^{-1} and 5 cm^{-1} in compound **VIII**, respectively. It is interesting that the self-association of

TABLE 3. UV ABSORPTION SPECTRAL DATA FOR 3-HYDROXY-4-METHYL ACETOPHENONE (II), 3-HYDROXY-4-METHYL BENZONITRILE (IV), *n*-PROPYL COUMARATE (VI) AND 2-HYDROXY-8-ACETYL NAPHTHALENE (VIII) IN CYCLOHEXANE

Compound No.	Cell paths (cm)	Conc. (mM)	λ_{max} (nm)	$\log \epsilon$	λ_{max} (nm)	$\log \epsilon$	λ_{max} (nm)	$\log \epsilon$	λ_{max} (nm)	$\log \epsilon$
II	1.0	0.25	306	3.43	299	3.46	273	3.28		
	4.0	0.025	305	3.46	297	3.52	273	2.78		
IV	1.0	0.20	294	3.61	284	3.59	240	—		
	4.0	0.025	294	3.51	284	3.47	240	4.02		
VI	0.1	1.0	325	3.91	318	3.95	307	3.87	273	4.26
	0.5	0.2	325	3.81	317	3.94	306	3.87	271	4.25
	1.0	0.1	325	3.79	315	3.93	306	3.84	270	4.25
VIII	1.0	0.25	350	3.66	309	3.57	297	3.50	271	4.08
	4.0	0.025	345	3.70	308	3.60	297	3.57	271	3.30

ϵ in $\text{l mole}^{-1}, \text{cm}^{-1}$; — not measured.

compound VIII is so strong at the 10^{-2} M in CHCl_3 $\nu\text{OH}(\text{bonded})$; ϵ_m , 100 l mole^{-1} , cm^{-1} and $\nu\text{OH}(\text{free})$; ϵ_m , 74 l mole^{-1} , cm^{-1} , although this solvent always solvates the more polar monomer.

The half-band width of bonded OH groups of compounds I, II, V and VII in nujol is relatively small (Table 1). This may indicate that these compounds exist only in the dimeric form with the two H-bonds in 14- or 16-membered rings, respectively.

The large half-band width of bonded OH groups with compounds VI and VIII $\Delta\nu_{\frac{1}{2}} \sim 260$ and 150 cm^{-1} , respectively, can be due to the overlapping of the bands with C-H aromatic bands in this region.

The UV data of the compounds studied (Table 3) show distinct molar absorptivity changes with concentration, e.g. with compound VIII, the band with $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 350 \text{ nm}$, $\log \epsilon = 3.66$ is shifted to lower wave length ($\lambda_{\text{max}} = 345 \text{ nm}$, $\log \epsilon = 3.70$) on passing from 0.25 to 0.025 mM in cyclohexane.

We have attempted, but with limited success, to support our conclusions from NMR spectroscopy. Anet and Muchowski⁴ observed marked NMR shifts for changing concentrations of methyl-3-hydroxy-4-isopropyl benzoate the NMR of which was analysed as an ABX system. However, the solubility of compounds

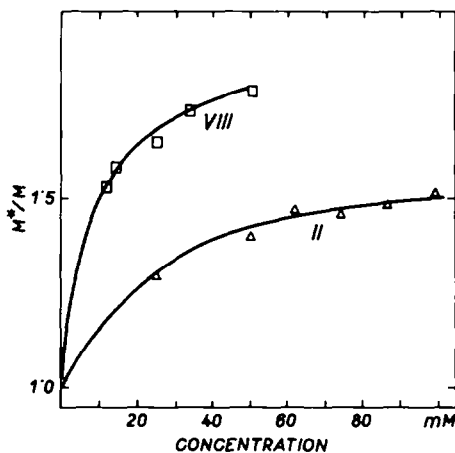
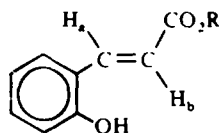


FIG 2. Plot of the ratio M^*/M of the apparent M^* to true M molecular weight against molar concentration for solutions in CHCl_3 .

investigated, except for compound VI (Table 4) was too low for NMR analysis. In *n*-propyl coumarate (VI), it was possible to detect small but significant changes with concentration in the chemical shift values for the ethylenic protons (60 Mc/s spectrum, Table 4). In the concentration range (500 \rightarrow 125 mM), the resonance signal of the OH proton in CDCl_3 was shifted from 2.53 to 3.57 τ and the same was observed for ethylenic protons (H_a from 1.88 to 1.92 τ and H_b from 3.32 to 3.35 τ).

A plot of average molecular weight observed (M^*) over true molecular weight (M) of the compounds II and VIII against molar concentration, determined by osmometry, reveals the dimeric association (Fig 2). All these results are in accord with the spectral data of these compounds.

TABLE 4. NMR DATA FOR METHYL COUMARATE (V) AND *n*-PROPYL COUMARATE (VI) (τ)

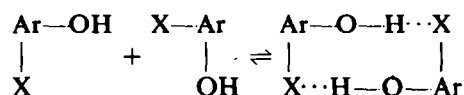
Compound No.	Solvent	Conc. (mM)	H_a		H_b		OH
V	CDCl ₃	75	1.81	2.08	3.24	3.51	3.76
		500	1.74	2.02	3.19	3.46	2.53
	CDCl ₃	250	1.76	2.04	3.21	3.48	2.97
		125	1.78	2.06	3.22	3.49	3.57
VI	CDCl ₃ + D ₂ O	500	1.75	2.02	3.22	3.50	5.37
		250	1.77	2.04	3.23	3.51	5.38
		125	1.79	2.07	3.23	3.52	5.38

V J_{ab} 16.2 c/s; $-\text{OCH}_3$ 6.16, 2.3 \rightarrow 3.3 τ (Ar-H).

VI J_{ab} 16.8 c/s; $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_3$; Ar-H 2.3 \rightarrow 3.3 τ
 τ 5.78 8.26 9.01
 J (c/s) 6.7 7.6 7.1

With compounds V, VI and VIII we have attempted to evaluate the H-bond enthalpies ($-\Delta H^\circ$) and entropies ($-\Delta S^\circ$). Assuming the dimer formation, the association constants were calculated according to the relation $K = [\text{dimer}/(\text{monomer})^2]$ in 1 mole^{-1} at different temperatures.

For these systems the following equilibrium was assumed:



The relatively constant values of the association constants over the range of concentrations studied suggest that the formation of cyclic "dimers" is dominant and the formation of "trimers" or "oligomers" can be neglected. This assumption seems to be reasonable because of their low concentrations (at millimolar level) at which the polymeric association is negligible. One may, therefore, conclude that the association constants calculated are reliable criteria for H-bonding in the systems studied.

For the determination of thermodynamic quantities of the systems studied the assumptions were made that the variation of cell thickness or the concentration with temperature is negligible over the range concerned.

The $\log K$ values plotted against $1/T$ were found to fall on a straight line, from which the enthalpy ($-\Delta H^\circ$) and entropy ($-\Delta S^\circ$) changes for the hydrogen bond formation were obtained (Fig 3 and 4, Table 5). The results ensure the validity of the assumption of the equilibrium.

TABLE 5. THERMODYNAMIC QUANTITIES FOR COMPOUNDS V, VI AND VIII

Compound No.	V					VI					VIII							
°C	25.2	30.5	34.5	40.5	45.0	52.5	25.5	33.2	37.6	43.0	47.3	52.5	21.5	30.5	36.0	38.8	47.2	52.0
$\epsilon_n(\text{OH})$ Bonded	74	65	58	48	41	30	80	68	61	53	46	39	186	162	144	140	118	104
Free	92	100	105	113	119	128	90	100	106	112	118	124	48	59	68	68	84	93
K(1 mole ⁻¹)	290	214	171	121	92	58	336	228	183	140	108	83	3777	2056	1320	1003	675	474
$-\Delta H^\circ$	10.88 = 0.9 Kcal mole ⁻¹					9.48 = 0.9 Kcal mole ⁻¹					12.89 = 1.2 Kcal mole ⁻¹							
$-\Delta S^\circ$	5.50 = 0.5 e.u.					4.40 = 0.5 e.u.					5.66 = 0.6 e.u.							

All measurements were made in heated cells of 10 mm thickness in CCl₄; concentrations 5 mM.

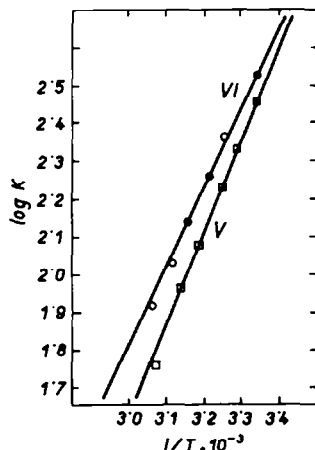


FIG 3. Plot of $\log K$ against $1/T$ (V and VI in CCl_4).

From the plots of $\log K$ against $1/T$ (Fig 3 and 4), $-\Delta H^\circ$ and $-\Delta S^\circ$ were determined by the relation

$$\log K = \frac{-\Delta H^\circ}{R \cdot T} + \frac{\Delta S^\circ}{R}$$

The limits of accuracy were about $\pm 10\%$ for $-\Delta H^\circ$ and $-\Delta S^\circ$ (Table 5).

The high values of $-\Delta H^\circ$ and $-\Delta S^\circ$ for compounds V, VI and VIII demonstrate that the relation $-\Delta H^\circ = 0.016 \Delta \nu(\text{OH}) + 0.63$ suggested by Purcell and Drago⁶ cannot be used in the present situation.

Compounds IX, X and XI show three bands in the $3100\text{--}3600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ region assigned to the asymmetrical and symmetrical stretching vibration of the NH_2 groups free and bonded. However, the strength of association of these compounds was found to be small as compared with phenolic compounds studies.

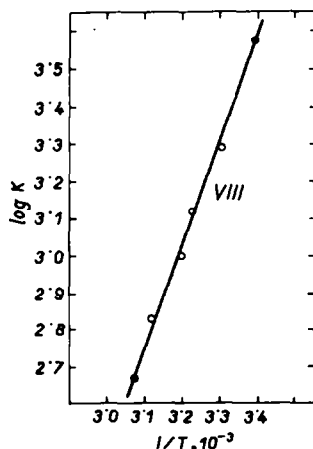


FIG 4. Plot of $\log K$ against $1/T$ (VIII in CCl_4).

EXPERIMENTAL

IR spectra were recorded with a Unicam S.P. 100 double beam instrument equipped with an S.P. 130 NaCl prism-grating double monochromator operated under the general procedure described previously.³ Wavenumber measurements for the free and interbonded OH and CO bands are believed to be accurate to $\pm 1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The intensities were measured on bands of not less than 0.05 absorbance. The apparent half-band widths, $\Delta\nu_{1/2}$, are quoted to the nearest integer; where necessary, they were determined by reflection of the undisturbed wings of the asymmetrical bands. Intensities are given as apparent molar absorptivities, ϵ_a (l mole⁻¹, cm⁻¹) rounded to the nearest integer and measured from a solvent-solvent base line. Association constants, $K = [\text{dimer}/(\text{monomer})^2]$ in l mole⁻¹, were calculated from the Mecke-Kempton equation⁵, $K = 1/a c(1 - \sqrt{a})$ where a is the value of the ratio of the apparent molar absorptivity of the OH band at concentration c (mole/l), to its value at infinite dilution. Although, the values of K are approximate, they will serve as a guide to the degree of association. To obtain $-\Delta H^\circ$ and $-\Delta S^\circ$, the measurements were carried out at room temperature in 7.4 mm cells (concentration 5 mM in CCl₄) heated to 53°C. The temperature was measured by a calibrated thermometer inserted in the cell. Heating was by water from an ultrathermostat, and the temperature was accurate to $\pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$. The thickness variation of the cells with temperature was neglected. The absorption cell was compensated by another fixed cell of the same thickness containing CCl₄.

UV spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer, Model 450 double beam spectrophotometer in cyclohexane. NMR spectra were obtained with a Tesla BS-744 spectrometer (60 Mc/s) (TMS as internal standard) in CDCl₃. The mol wt measurements were made with a VPO Laboratorn' pristroje, Czechoslovakia, vapour pressure osmometer precalibrated with benzil in CHCl₃ over a wide range of concentration in CHCl₃. Analar CCl₄ was used directly. Analar CHCl₃ was dried several times by passage through a column of blue silica gel before direct use. All compounds investigated were prepared according to the literature. Compounds V, VI and VII contained less than 1% of cis-isomer.

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