A SEARCH FOR THE HOCO RADICAL IN THE MASSIVE STAR-FORMING REGION Sgr B2(M)

TAKAHIRO OYAMA, MITSUNORI ARAKI, Faculty of Science Division I, Tokyo University of Science, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan; SHURO TAKANO, College of Engineering, Nihon University, Fukushima, Japan; NOBUHIKO KUZE, Faculty of Science and Technology, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan; YOSHI-HIRO SUMIYOSHI, Division of Pure and Applied Science, Faculty of Science and Technology, Gunma University, Maebashi, Japan; KOICHI TSUKIYAMA, Faculty of Science Division I, Tokyo University of Science, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan; YASUKI ENDO, Department of Applied Chemistry, National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan.

Despite importance of the origin of life, long lasting challenges to detect the simplest amino acid glycine (H_2NCH_2COOH) in interstellar medium has not been successful. As a preliminary step toward search for glycine, detection of its precursor has received attention. It is considered that glycine is produced by the reaction of the HOCO radical and the aminomethyl radical(CH_2NH_2) on interstellar grain surface:

 $HOCO + CH_2NH_2 \rightarrow H_2NCH_2COOH.$ (1)

HOCO is produced by the reaction of OH + CO \rightarrow HOCO and/or HCOOH \rightarrow HOCO + H. However, HOCO and CH₂NH₂ have not been investigated in interstellar medium. Recently, we determined the accurate molecular constants of HOCO.^{*a*} Thus, accurate rest frequencies were derived from the constants. In the present study, we carried out the observations of HOCO in the massive star-forming region Sgr B2(M), having variety of interstellar molecules, with Nobeyama 45 m radio telescope. Although HOCO could not be detected in Sgr B2(M), the upper limit of the column density was derived to be 9.0×10^{12} cm⁻² via the spectrum in the 88 GHz region by the rotational diagram method. If the reaction (1) is a main process of the glycine production in this region, an extremely deep search is needed to detect glycine.

^aT. Oyama et al., J. Chem. Phys. 134, 174303 (2011).