INFRARED SPECTRA OF THE 2,3-DIHYDROPYRROL-2-YL AND 2,3-DIHYDROPYRROL-3-YL RADICALS ISOLATED IN SOLID PARA-HYDROGEN

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The reaction of hydrogen atoms (H) with pyrrole (C_4H_5N) in solid para-hydrogen (p-H₂) matrices at 3.2 K has been studied using infrared spectroscopy. The production of H atoms for reaction with C₄H₅N was essentially a three step process. First, mixtures of C_4H_5N and Cl_2 were co-deposited in $p-H_2$ at 3.2 K for several hours, then the matrix was irradiated with ultraviolet light at 365 nm to produce Cl atoms from the Cl2, and finally the matrix was irradiated with infrared light to induce the reaction of the Cl atoms with p- H_2 to produce HCl and H atoms. Upon infrared irradiation, a series of new lines appeared in the infrared spectrum, resulting from the products of the $H + C_4H_5N$ reaction. To determine the grouping of lines to distinct chemical species, secondary photolysis was performed using 533-nm and 455-nm lightemitting diodes. Based on the secondary photolysis, it was determined that the majority of the new lines belong to two distinct chemical species, designated as set A (3491.0, 2754.4, 1412.7, 1260.4, 1042.8, 963.2, 922.1, 673.6 cm⁻¹) and set B $(3468.3, 2784.9, 1470.6, 1449.5, 136.3, 1266.5, 1151.1, 1098.0, 960.6, 949.5, 924.0, 860.8, 574.2 \text{ cm}^{-1})$. The most likely reactions to occur under the low temperature conditions in solid p-H2 are the addition of the H atom to the nitrogen atom or the two carbon atoms of C_4H_5N to produce the corresponding hydrogen atom addition radicals (H- C_4H_5N). Quantum-chemical calculations were performed at the B3PW91/6-311++G(2d,2p) level for the three possible H-C₄H₅N radicals in order to determine the relative energetics and the predicted vibrational spectra for each radical. The addition of the H atom to carbons 2 and 3 is predicted to be exothermic by 112.1 and 76.1 kJ/mol, respectively, while the addition of the H atom to the nitrogen is predicted to be endothermic by 67.8 kJ/mol. When the lines in set A and B are compared to the scaled harmonic and anharmonic vibrational spectra for all three possible radicals, the best agreement for set A is with the radical produced by the addition to carbon 3 (2,3-dihydropyrrol-2-yl radical) and the best agreement for set B is with the radical produced by addition to carbon 2 (2,3-dihydropyrrol-3-yl radical).