

GAS ELECTRON DIFFRACTION AND QUANTUM CHEMICAL STUDIES OF THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF 2-NITROBENZENESULFONIC ACID

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A combined gas electron diffraction and quantum chemical (B3LYP/6-311+G**, B3LYP/cc-pVTZ) study of the molecular structure of 2-nitrobenzenesulfonic acid (2-NBSA) is performed. Quantum chemical calculations show that the 2-NBSA molecule has five conformers, and the Gibbs energy of one of them is lower by more than 4.5 kcal/mol than the energy of the other conformers. It is found experimentally that the saturated vapor of 2-NBSA at $T = 394(5)$ K contains only the low-energy conformer that has an intramolecular hydrogen bond between the H atom of the hydroxyl group and one of the O atoms of the NO₂ group. The C–C–S–O(H) torsion angle determining the position of the S–O(H) bond is $-72(7)^\circ$, while the NO₂ group is substantially turned relative to the benzene ring plane ($C1-C2-N-O = 40(5)^\circ$). The following experimental values of the internuclear distances are obtained for this conformer (Å): $r_{hl}(C-H)_{av} = 1.07(2)$, $r_{hl}(C-C)_{av} = 1.401(4)$, $r_{hl}(C-S) = 1.767(6)$, $r_{hl}(S=O)_{av} = 1.412(4)$, $r_{hl}(S-O) = 1.560(6)$, $r_{hl}(N-O)_{av} = 1.217(5)$, $r_{hl}(C-N) = 1.461(8)$, $r_{hl}(O-H) = 0.99(3)$.

Keywords: 2-nitrobenzenesulfonic acid, conformer, molecular structure, gas electron diffraction, quantum chemistry, mass-spectrometry.