

**GAS ELECTRON DIFFRACTION AND QUANTUM
CHEMICAL STUDY OF THE STRUCTURE OF A
2-NITROBENZENESULFONYL CHLORIDE MOLECULE**

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A combined gas electron diffraction and quantum chemical (B3LYP/6-311+G**, B3LYP/cc-pVTZ, B3LYP/cc-pVTZ, midix (CI), and MP2/cc-pVTZ) study of the structure of a 2-NO₂-C₆H₄-SO₂Cl molecule is performed. It is found experimentally that at a temperature of 345(5) K the gas phase contains two conformers of the C₁ symmetry. Conformer I with a nearly perpendicular arrangement of the S-Cl bond with respect to the benzene ring plane (the C(NO₂)-C-S-Cl torsion angle is 84(3)°) is contained predominantly (69(12)%). In conformer II, the S-Cl bond is located near the benzene ring plane (the C(NO₂)-C-S-Cl angle is 172(3)°). The following experimental internuclear distances (Å) are obtained for conformer I: $r_{h1}(\text{C-H}) = 1.064(15)$, $r_{h1}(\text{C-C})_{\text{av}} = 1.397(3)$, $r_{h1}(\text{C-S}) = 1.761(6)$, $r_{h1}(\text{S-O})_{\text{av}} = 1.426(4)$, $r_{h1}(\text{S-Cl}) = 2.043(5)$, $r_{h1}(\text{N-O})_{\text{av}} = 1.222(4)$, $r_{h1}(\text{C-N}) = 1.485(16)$. In both conformers, the NO₂ group is turned by more than 30° relative to the benzene ring plane.

Keywords: 2-nitrobenzenesulfonyl chloride, conformer, molecular structure, internal rotation, potential functions, gas electron diffraction, quantum chemical calculations, mass spectrometry.