THEORETICAL SPECTROSCOPIC CHARACTERIZATION AT LOW TEMPERATURES OF S-METHYL THIOFORMATE AND O-METHYL THIOFORMATE

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Highly correlated ab initio methods are employed to determine spectroscopic properties at low temperatures of two S-analogs of methyl formate: S-methyl thioformate CH₃-S-CHO (MSCHO) and O-methyl thioformate CH₃-O-CHS (MOCHS). Both species can play important roles for astrochemistry. Molecular properties are compared with those of the O-analog, methyl formate.

Equilibrium geometries and equilibrium rotational constants have been evaluated at the CCSD(T)/CBS(Q,5)+CV(CQ) level. Both isomers present two conformers cis and trans. cis-CH₃-S-CHO represents the most stable structure lying at 4372.2 cm⁻¹ below cis-CH₃-O-CHS. The energy difference between the cis and trans forms is drastically lower for MSCHO (1134 cm⁻¹) than for MOCHS (1963.6 cm⁻¹). Harmonic and anharmonic fundamentals and the corresponding intensities, rotational constants for the ground vibrational states and first excited torsional states, as well as centrifugal-distortion constants, are provided.

Low torsional energy levels are determined by solving variationally a two dimensional Hamiltonian depending on the two torsional modes. The corresponding 2D potential energy surfaces are determined at the CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ level. The methyl torsional barriers V3(cis) are determined to be 139.7 cm⁻¹ and 670.4 cm⁻¹ for MSCHO and MOCHS, respectively. The A/E splitting of the torsional ground state is 0.438 cm⁻¹ for CH₃-S-CHO, while is negligible for CH₃-O-CHS.

[1] M.L. Senent, C. Puzzarini, M. Hochlaf, R. Domínguez-Gómez and M. Carvajal (in preparation)