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The Photochemistry of Co(III) Complex of Glycinemethylester

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Photochemical reactions of Co(III) complexes have often been described in terms of mechanisms involving an excited state of the metal ion which is charge transfer in character.^{1,2} Ligand field excited states play important roles in the photoreactions of transition metal complexes especially with regard to photodegradation of complexes by ligand labilization.^{3,4} Charge transfer irradiation promotes an intramolecular oxidation–reduction reaction which may be schematized as follows using the glycinato complex as an example⁵

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Co(gly)}_3 & \xrightarrow{h\nu} & \text{Co(gly)}_3* \\ \text{Co(gly)}_3* & \longrightarrow & \text{Co(gly)}_2 + \text{oxidation products of glycine} \\ \text{Co(gly)}_2 & \xrightarrow{\text{H}_3\text{O}^+} & \text{Co}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2\text{glyH} \end{array}$$

In accordance with the intramolecular character of the photoreaction, the quantum yield was not affected by the acidity of the solution and only showed a small dependence on the glycinato and the steric arrangement of the complex.

The electronic spectra of Co(III) glycinato complexes suggest that there are significant interactions between ligand field states of the Co(III) centers. From the study of photochemical processes in Co(III) gltcinato complexes, it is possible to elucidate the reactivity of different excited states

and to provide insight into nature of bonding in Co(III) methylester complexes.

In this paper we examine whether the photoreactivity is localized at the Co(III) center delocalized over the ligand-metal bonds. The photochemical behaviors of the complex will also be correlated with theoretical predictions based on the electronlic absorption spectra of Co(III) glycineester complexes.

The complex, [Co(gly)₂(glycinemethylester)Cl] Cl₂ was prepared by the published method.⁶ The crude product was recrystallized from hot water by adding sequentially methanol, absolute ethanol, and ether, and dried in vaccuo over Mg (ClO₄)₂, The spectral properties (UV-Vis. IR, ¹H nmr) of this compound prepared were identical with those reported.

Photolysis was carried out in aqueous HClO₄ solutions (pH 1-3). Irradiations (λ_{irr} =254 nm) were utilized in an apparatus equipped with a Hanovia low-pressure mercury lamp. Light intensities were determined by ferrioxalate actinometry.⁷

The electronic structure of Co(III) glycineester complex was calculated by the CNDO/2 method with semiempirical integrals as described previously.⁸

Atomic cartesian coordinates of the molecular system

TABLE 1: Quantum Yields for the Photolysis of [Co (gly)2(glycinemethylester)Cl) Cl2 at 254 nm

pН	Temp (°C)	Φ	
1.0	18	0.13	
1.0	25	0.16	
2.0	25	0.14	
3.0	25	0.11	
1.0	50	0.17	
1.0	0 75		

TABLE 2: The Atomic Net Charges on Co(III), and Glycineester

Atom	Glycine	Glycinemethyl ester	Glycineethyl ester	Glyicneisopropyl ester
Co(M)	0.3075	0.3075	0.3075	0.3075
N (1)	-0.1982	-0.1974	-0.1980	-0.9177
C (2)	0.0203	0.0275	0.0276	0.0264
C (3)	0.3914	0.3892	0.3892	0.3874
O (4)	-0.3393	-0.3441	-0.3482	-0.3484
O (5)	-0.2860	-0.2251	-0.2354	-0.2498
C (6)		0.8855	0.1591	0.1873
C (7)	****	-	-0.0476	-0.4077
C (8)				0.0549

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
 & & & \\
\hline
 & & \\
\hline$$

Figure 1. The unmbering scheme of Co(III) glycineester.

were calculated with the aid of a modified version of Hildebrandt program.9

Irradiation of aqueous solutions of Co(III) glycinemethylester complex with light of 254 nm completely decomposes the complex, as shown by the disappearance of the characteristic visible absorption band. The values of quantum yield for the decomposition reactions are reported in Table 1.

The geometries of glyciemethylester ligand were assumed to be planar and were constructed from the probable bond angles, bond length and dihedral angles (Figure 1). Table 2 shows the electronic structure of Co(III) glycineester complexes as calculated by the CNDO/2 method.

It is seen in Table 1 that the quantum yield at 254 nm increases slightly with temperature and is practically independent of pH of the solution. It is possible that the actinic light of 254 nm is absorbed for the charge transfer from the molecular orbital mainly localized on the ligands to one of the $3d(\sigma^*)$ orbitals (Eg; octahedral symmetry) assumed of the central metal atom.11 When acid or aqueous solutions of these complexes were irradiated with 254 or 313 nm light corresponding to ligand-metal charge transfer bands, an

oxidoreductive decomposition occurs.5,11

The molecular orbital calculations of the preferred conformation of the Co(III) glycineester complex in terms of the dihedral angle yield a 105.9° between $\Delta O_4 C_3 C_2$ and Δ C₃C₂N₁. In the dihedral glycinato complexes of cobalt (III) of the octahedral ${}^{1}A_{1}-{}^{1}T_{1}$ d electron transition is broken down into components with ${}^{1}A_{2}$ and ${}^{1}E$ symmetry in D_{3} . From Table 2, we can predict that the coordination ability of glycineester is attributable to the charge transfer effect. The coordination ability of ligand as deduced by the amount of net charge transfer from the terminal nitrogen to the metal ion is in order of glycine glycineethylester glycineisopropylester and glycinemethylester. In glycinenato complex, strong charge transfer from the carboxyl oxygen and amino nitrogen to a metal orbital is expected from the values of net charge tsansfer (0.3393 and 0.1982, respectively). It is possible that the actinic light of 254 nm is absorbed by the charge transfer transition in their region, resulting in further charge transfer from the ligand to a metal orbital and reduction of cobalt (III) to cobalt (II).11 The experimental proof that the theoretical anticipation was essentially correct lent additional credibility to the assumption that the stereochemical distrbution of products is simply determined by the relative value of the relevant ligand field parameters. 12

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