

INFRARED PHOTODISSOCIATION SPECTROSCOPY AND MULTIREFERENCE ANHARMONIC VIBRATIONAL STUDY OF THE HO_4^+ MOLECULAR CATION

PETER R. FRANKE, MICHAEL A DUNCAN, GARY E. DOUBERLY, *Department of Chemistry, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA.*

HO_4^+ has been proposed as an astrochemical sink of oxygen but has never been observed.^a Molecular cations of HO_4^+ and DO_4^+ are produced in a supersonic expansion. They are mass-selected, and their infrared photodissociation spectra are measured with the aid of argon-tagging. Previous theoretical studies have modeled these systems as proton-bound dimers of molecular oxygen.^b Several conformers were located on the quintet, triplet, and singlet surfaces, differing in energy by, at most, a few thousand wavenumbers; the singlet and triplet conformers have pronounced multiconfigurational character. Our HO_4^+ is formed in a relatively hot environment, and similar experiments have been shown capable of producing multiple conformers in low-lying electronic states.^c None of the predicted HO_4^+ isomers can be ruled out *a priori* based on energetic arguments. We interpret our spectra with second-order vibrational perturbation theory with resonances (VPT2+K) using quartic force fields based on an economical combination of single- and multi-reference theories. The VPT2+K simulations include the effect of electrical anharmonicity; this is particularly important for transitions involving the shared-proton stretch. Previously unidentified chain structures (H-O-O-O-O) that exist on the singlet and triplet surfaces likely represent the global minima.

^aXavier, G. D.; Bernal-Uruchurtu, M. I.; Hernandez-Lamoned, R., *J. Chem. Phys.* **2014**, 141, 5, 081101.

^bXavier, F. G. D.; Hernandez-Lamoned, R., *PCCP* **2015**, 17, 16023-16032.

^cWagner, J. P.; McDonald, D. C.; Duncan, M. A., *Angewandte Chemie-International Edition* **2018**, 57, 5081-5085.