

## OXIDATION OF SUBSTITUTED PHENETHYL ALCOHOLS BY SODIUM *N*-CHLOROBENZENESULPHONAMIDE: A KINETIC STUDY

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The kinetics of the oxidation of six substituted phenethyl alcohols by sodium *N*-chlorobenzenesulphonamide or chloramine-B (CAB) in the presence of HCl was studied at 35 °C. The rate shows a first order dependence on [CAB]<sub>0</sub> and [H<sup>+</sup>] and is of fractional order in [PEA]<sub>0</sub> and [Cl<sup>-</sup>]. Ionic strength variations, addition of the reaction product of benzenesulphonamide and variation of the dielectric constant of the medium have no effect on the rate. The solvent isotope effect  $k_{H_2O}/k_{D_2O} \approx 0.78$ . Proton inventory studies were made in H<sub>2</sub>O–D<sub>2</sub>O mixtures. The rates correlate satisfactorily with Hammett's LFER. The reaction constant  $\rho$  was –3.5 for electron-releasing substituents and –0.30 for electron withdrawing groups at 35 °C. Activation parameters  $\Delta H^\ddagger$ ,  $\Delta S^\ddagger$ ,  $\Delta G^\ddagger$  and log  $A$  were computed for the reaction. An isokinetic relationship is observed with  $\beta = 338$  K, indicating enthalpy as a controlling factor.

### INTRODUCTION

Considerable attention has centred around the chemistry of *N*-metallo-*N*-arylhalosulphonamides generally known as organic haloamines, because of their versatility in behaving as mild oxidants, halogenating agents and *N*-anions, which act as both bases and nucleophiles. The important chlorine compound chloramine-T (CAT), which is a byproduct during saccharin manufacture, is well known as an analytical reagent for the determination of diverse substrates. Mechanistic aspects of many of these reactions have been documented.<sup>1–3</sup> The benzene analogue sodium *N*-chlorobenzenesulphonamide or chloramine-B (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>Na · 1.5H<sub>2</sub>O) or (CAB) is becoming important as a mild oxidant<sup>4,5</sup> and the compound can be easily prepared from benzenesulphonamide and chlorine.

Mild oxidation of alcohols to carbonyl compounds is a very important synthetic operation in organic synthesis.<sup>6,7</sup> Although a considerable amount of work has been done on mechanistic studies involving oxidations of alcohols by transition metal ions<sup>8</sup> such as chromium(VI), vanadium(V), cobalt(III), manganese(VII) and cerium(IV) in acidic medium, copper(II)<sup>9</sup> and ruthenium tetraoxide in alkaline medium and ferrate(VI)<sup>10,11</sup> ion, not much information is available in the literature concerning the oxidation of

different alcohols by organic haloamines in acidic media. After examining several oxidizing reagents, we found CAB to be an excellent oxidant for the controlled oxidation of alcohols to carbonyl compounds and this system is adaptable to large-scale operations. To shed some light on the mechanism of CAB oxidation of alcohols, we studied the reactions of six substituted phenethyl alcohols (PEA) with this oxidant. Optimum conditions for the formation of phenacetaldehyde, which is an important constituent of perfumes and acts as an intermediate in many organic syntheses, were established. The Hammett free energy relationship was deduced together with other thermodynamic parameters.

### EXPERIMENTAL

Chloramine-B (CAB) was prepared as reported previously.<sup>4,12</sup> An aqueous solution of the compound was prepared, standardized iodimetrically and stored in brown bottles to prevent its photochemical degradation. Phenethyl alcohols (Aldrich) were of accepted grades of purity and were used without further purification. Solutions of the compounds were prepared in water. All other reagents were of analytical grade. Doubly distilled water was employed in the preparation of aqueous solutions. The ionic strength of the system was main-

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tained at a constant high value using a concentrated solution of  $\text{NaClO}_4$ . Solvent isotope studies were made with  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (99.4%) supplied by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (Bombay). Regression analysis of experimental data was carried out on an EC-72 Statistical Calculator.

### Kinetic measurements

The reaction was carried out in glass-stoppered Pyrex boiling tubes whose outer surface was coated black to eliminate photochemical effects. Solutions containing appropriate amounts of PEA, HCl and water (to keep the total volume constant for all runs) were placed in the tube and thermostated at 35 °C. A measured amount of CAB solution, also thermostated at the same temperature, was rapidly added to the mixture. The progress of the reaction was monitored by withdrawing aliquots from the reaction mixtures at regular time intervals and determining the unreacted CAB iodometrically. The course of reaction was studied up to two half-lives. The calculated pseudo-first-order rate constants,  $k^1$ , were reproducible to within  $\pm 3\%$ .

### Stoichiometry

Various ratios of CAB to PEA were equilibrated in the presence of 0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> HCl for 24 h. The determination of unconsumed CAB in the reaction mixture showed that 1 mol of PEA consumed 1 mol of CAB:



where X = H, Cl, Br,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{OCH}_3$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  and R =  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{SO}_2$ .

### Product analysis

The reaction products were subjected to column chromatography on silica gel (60–200 mesh) using gradient elution (dichloromethane to chloroform). After initial separation, the products were further purified by recrystallization. Materials were identified by comparison with commercially available samples.

### Phenacetaldehyde

Phenacetaldehyde was recrystallized from dichloromethane–light petroleum [m.p. = 32–33 °C; known m.p. = 33–34 °C (Merck Index 11, 7236)]. Phenacetaldehyde was further identified as its 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone (2,4-DNP) derivative. It was recrystallized from ethanol (recovery 66.6%) and was found to be identical with a DNP derivative of an authentic sample.

### Benzenesulphonamide

Benzenesulphonamide ( $\text{PhSO}_2\text{NH}_2$ ) (BSA) was detected by thin-layer chromatography using light petroleum–chloroform–butan-1-ol (2:2:1 v/v/v) as the solvent and iodine for detection ( $R_f = 0.88$ ).

## RESULTS

### Effect of reactants

With the substrate in excess, at constant [HCl] and  $[\text{PEA}]_0$ , plots of  $\log[\text{CAB}]$  vs time are linear ( $r > 0.998$ ), indicating a first-order dependence of rate on  $[\text{CAB}]_0$ . Values of the pseudo-first-order rate constants ( $k^1$ ) are given in Table 1.

The rate increases initially with increase in  $[\text{PEA}]_0$ . A plot of  $\log k^1$  vs  $\log[\text{PEA}]_0$  was linear ( $r = 0.997$ ; Table 1) and Michaelis–Menten kinetics were obeyed.

### Effect of [HCl]

The rate increases with increase in [HCl] and a plot of  $\log k^1$  vs  $\log[\text{HCl}]$  was linear ( $r = 0.999$ ; Table 2) with a slope of 1.60.

### Effect of $[\text{H}^+]$

At constant  $[\text{Cl}^-] = 0.4 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ , maintained by adding NaCl, the rate increased with increase in  $[\text{H}^+]$ , which was varied by adding HCl, and a plot of  $\log k^1$  vs  $\log[\text{H}^+]$  was linear ( $r = 0.998$ ; Table 2) with unit slope.

### Effect of halide ions

At constant  $[\text{H}^+] = 0.1 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ , the rate increased with the addition of NaCl and a plot of  $\log k^1$  vs

Table 1. Effect of varying reactant concentrations on the rate\*

$[\text{CAB}]_0 \times 10^4$ (mol dm <sup>-3</sup> )	$[\text{PEA}]_0 \times 10^3$ (mol dm <sup>-3</sup> )	$k^1 \times 10^4$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )
2.0	10.0	3.68
5.0	10.0	3.68
8.0	10.0	3.61
10.0	10.0	3.71
15.0	10.0	3.70
20.0	10.0	3.68
5.0	5.0	2.20
5.0	8.0	3.15
5.0	10.0	3.68
5.0	20.0	6.02
5.0	30.0	8.12
5.0	40.0	9.38
5.0	50.0	11.50

\*  $[\text{HCl}] = 0.1 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ;  $\mu = 0.5 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ;  $T = 308 \text{ K}$ .

Table 2. Effect of varying HCl, H<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> concentrations on the rate<sup>a</sup>

[HCl] × 10 <sup>2</sup> (mol dm <sup>-3</sup> )	$k^1 \times 10^4$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	[H <sup>+</sup> ] × 10 <sup>2</sup> (mol dm <sup>-3</sup> )	$k^1 \times 10^4$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	[Cl] × 10 <sup>2</sup> (mol dm <sup>-3</sup> )	$k^1 \times 10^4$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )
8.0	2.55	10.0	8.18	20.0	6.32
10.0	3.68	15.0	12.01	25.0	7.70
15.0	6.52	20.0	15.50	30.0	8.70
20.0	10.70	25.0	18.50	35.0	9.30
30.0	19.19	30.0	24.31	40.0	10.50
40.0	30.70	35.0	27.22	50.0	12.00
—	—	40.0	30.70	—	—

<sup>a</sup> [CAB]<sub>0</sub> = 5 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; [PEA]<sub>0</sub> = 10 × 10<sup>-3</sup> mol dm<sup>-3</sup>;  $\mu$  = 0.5 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; T = 308 K.<sup>b</sup> Variation at constant [Cl<sup>-</sup>] = 0.4 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>.<sup>c</sup> Variation at constant [H<sup>+</sup>] = 0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>.

log[Cl<sup>-</sup>] was linear ( $r = 0.998$ , Table 2) with a fractional slope (0.63). Addition of Br<sup>-</sup> ions in the form of NaBr (5 × 10<sup>-4</sup>–20 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mol dm<sup>-3</sup>) had a negligible effect on the rate.

#### Effect of benzenesulphonamide (BSA)

Addition of the reaction product BSA (5 × 10<sup>-4</sup>–20 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mol dm<sup>-3</sup>) had a negligible effect on the rate, indicating that it is not involved in a pre-equilibrium to the rate-limiting step.

#### Effect of ionic strength

Variation of the ionic strength of the medium by adding NaClO<sub>4</sub> (0.2–1.0 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>) had no effect on the rate.

#### Effect of varying dielectric constant of medium

The dielectric constant of the medium was varied by adding methanol (0–40%, v/v) to the reaction mixture, but the rates were not significantly altered. Blank experiments with methanol indicated that oxidation of

methanol was negligible during the period of the experiment.

#### Solvent isotope studies

Studies of the rate in D<sub>2</sub>O medium for PEA revealed that whereas  $k_{H_2O}^1 = 3.68 \times 10^{-4}$  s<sup>-1</sup>,  $k_{D_2O}^1 = 4.72 \times 10^{-4}$  s<sup>-1</sup>. The solvent isotope effect  $k_{H_2O}^1/k_{D_2O}^1$  was found to be 0.78. Proton inventory studies were made by carrying out the reaction in H<sub>2</sub>O–D<sub>2</sub>O mixtures with various atom fractions  $n$  of deuterium (Figure 1, Table 3).

Table 3. Proton inventory studies for PEA in H<sub>2</sub>O–D<sub>2</sub>O mixtures at 308 K<sup>a</sup>

Atom fraction of deuterium ( $n$ )	$k_n^1 \times 10^4$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )
0.000	3.68
0.250	3.95
0.500	4.27
0.753	4.52
0.947	4.72

<sup>a</sup> [CAB]<sub>0</sub> = 5 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; [PEA]<sub>0</sub> = 10 × 10<sup>-3</sup> mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; [HCl] = 0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>;  $\mu$  = 0.5 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; T = 308 K.Table 4. Temperature dependence of the oxidation of 4-substituted PEA by CAB<sup>a</sup>

Substrate 4-X-PEA: X =	$k^1 \times 10^4$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )			
	303 K	308 K	313 K	318 K
NO <sub>2</sub>	1.23	1.74	2.23	2.63
Cl	1.55	2.30	3.09	4.00
Br	2.09	2.60	4.07	5.37
H	2.69	3.68	5.62	8.32
CH <sub>3</sub>	8.99	13.18	21.87	33.88
OCH <sub>3</sub>	15.84	29.50	44.66	74.13

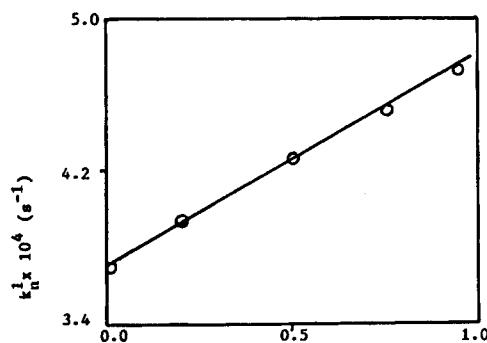
<sup>a</sup> [CAB]<sub>0</sub> = 5 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; [4-X-PEA]<sub>0</sub> = 10 × 10<sup>-3</sup> mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; [HCl] = 0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>;  $\mu$  = 0.5 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; [MeOH] = 5% (v/v).Figure 1. Proton inventory plot of  $k_n^1$  vs the deuterium atom fraction  $n$  in H<sub>2</sub>O–D<sub>2</sub>O mixtures

Table 5. Kinetic and thermodynamic parameters for the oxidation of 4-substituted phenethyl alcohols by CAB<sup>a</sup>

Substrate 4-X-PEA: X =	$E_a$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Delta H^\ddagger$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Delta S^\ddagger$ (J K <sup>-1</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Delta G^\ddagger$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	Log A
NO <sub>2</sub>	34.6	32.0	-213.2	98.2	5.2
Cl	39.4	36.8	-195.2	97.4	6.1
Br	48.7	46.1	-163.1	96.7	7.8
H	59.8	57.2	-124.5	95.9	9.8
CH <sub>3</sub>	68.0	65.4	-88.0	92.4	11.8
OCH <sub>3</sub>	74.4	73.7	-60.6	90.6	13.2

<sup>a</sup> [CAB]<sub>0</sub> = 5 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; [4-X-PEA]<sub>0</sub> = 10 × 10<sup>-3</sup> mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; [HCl] = 0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>;  $\mu$  = 0.5 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; [MeOH] = 5% (v/v).

### Effect of temperature on the rate

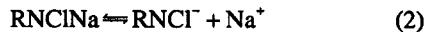
The reaction was studied at different temperatures (308–318 K) and from the Arrhenius plots of  $\log k^1$  vs  $1/T$  values of the activation parameters for the composite reaction were calculated. (Tables 4 and 5).

### Test for free radicals

Addition of the reaction mixtures to acrylamide did not initiate polymerization, showing the absence of free radical species.

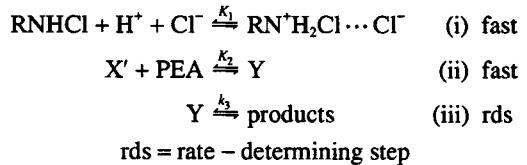
### DISCUSSION

Chloramine-B acts as an oxidizing agent in both acidic and alkaline media. In general CAB undergoes a two-electron change in its reactions. The reduction potential of CAB–RNH<sub>2</sub> is pH dependent and decreases with increase in the pH of the medium (values are 1.14 V at pH 0.65 and 0.5 V at pH 12 for CAT). Depending on the pH of the medium, CAB furnishes different types of reactive species in solution [equations (2)–(5)], such as RNHCl, RNCl<sub>2</sub>, HOCl and possibly H<sub>2</sub>OCl<sup>+</sup> in acidic solutions.<sup>4,13,14</sup>



If RNCl<sub>2</sub> were to be the reactive species, then the rate law predicts a second-order dependence of rate on [CAB]<sub>0</sub>, which is contrary to the experimental observations. If HOCl is primarily involved, a first-order retardation of rate by the added benzenesulphonamide (BSA) is expected. Since no such effect is seen, HOCl can be ruled out as the oxidizing species. Hence RNHCl is responsible for the oxidation of phenethyl alcohols.

In view of these facts, Scheme 1 can be proposed for the oxidation of PEA by CAB.



Scheme 1

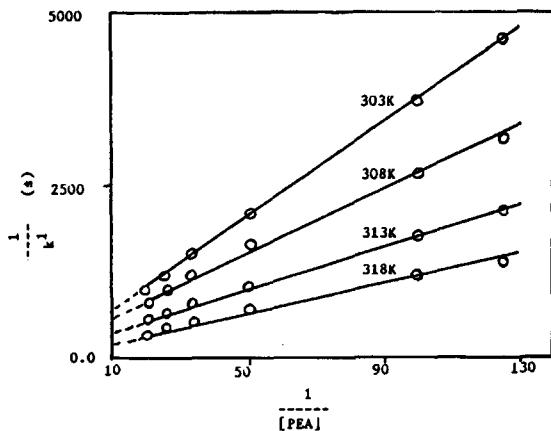
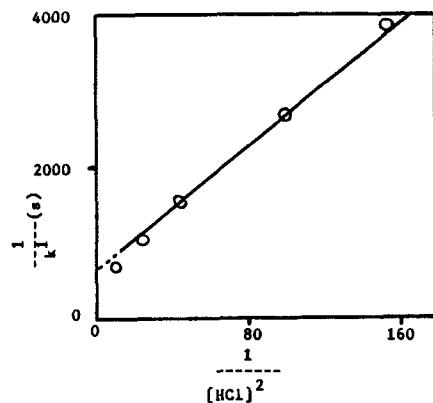
Scheme 1 assumes the formation of tight ion pair<sup>15</sup> (X'), which is an intermediate and at the same time indicates simultaneous catalysis by H<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> ions. The latter reacts with PEA through an equilibrium step to form a PEA–CAB complex (Y), which decomposes in a rate-limiting step to the products. The Michaelis–Menten kinetics obeyed by the substrate indicates a pre-equilibrium step (ii) in Scheme 1. Assuming [CAB]<sub>t</sub> = [RNHCl] + [X'] + [Y], rate law (6) can be derived for the oxidation of phenethyl alcohols by CAB:

$$-\frac{d[\text{CAB}]}{dt} = \frac{k_3 K_1 K_2 [\text{CAB}] [\text{H}^+] [\text{Cl}^-] [\text{PEA}]}{1 + K_1 [\text{H}^+] [\text{Cl}^-] (1 + K_2 [\text{PEA}])} \quad (6)$$

Equation (6) can be transformed into

$$\frac{1}{k'} = \frac{1}{k_3 K_2 [\text{PEA}]} \left( \frac{1}{K_1 [\text{H}^+] [\text{Cl}^-]} + 1 \right) + \frac{1}{k_3} \quad (7)$$

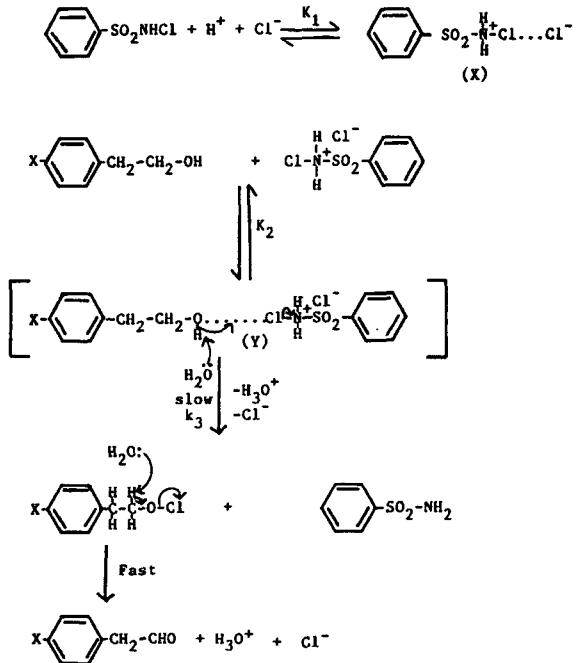
From the double reciprocal plots of  $k^1$  vs [PEA] and  $k^1$  vs [HCl]<sup>2</sup>, since [H<sup>+</sup>] = [Cl<sup>-</sup>] = [HCl], (Figures 2 and 3) values of  $k_3$ ,  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  can be evaluated. Using the  $k_3$  values ( $1.34 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $1.67 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $2.86 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $5.00 \times 10^{-3}$  s<sup>-1</sup> at 303, 308, 313 and 318 K respectively) obtained by varying [PEA]<sub>0</sub> at each temperature (Figure 2), activation parameters were determined for the rate-limiting step as follows:  $E_a = 66.9$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>,  $\Delta H^\ddagger = 64.4$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>,  $\Delta S^\ddagger = -87.8$  J K<sup>-1</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup>,  $\Delta G^\ddagger = 91.6$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>,  $\log A = 11.7$ ,  $K_1 = 3.5$  dm<sup>6</sup> mol<sup>-2</sup> and  $K_2 = 890$  dm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup>.

Figure 2. Double reciprocal plots of  $k^1$  vs [PEA]Figure 3. Double reciprocal plot of  $k^1$  vs  $[HCl]^2$  at 308 K

A detailed scheme of the oxidation of phenethyl alcohols by CAB and the structure of the intermediates are shown in Scheme 2.

It is interesting that the rate only slightly increased in  $D_2O$  medium. Since  $D_3O^+$  ion is a stronger acid than  $H_3O^+$  ion by a factor of 2-3, a solvent isotope effect of this magnitude is to be expected. However, the slight increase in  $D_2O$  medium probably shows that since the protonation step is followed by hydrolysis involving the O-H bond scission, the normal kinetic isotope effect  $k_H/k_D > 1$  could counterbalance the solvent isotope effect. Proton inventory studies in  $H_2O-D_2O$  mixtures could throw light on the nature of the transition state. The dependence of the rate constant ( $k^1$ ) on  $n$ , the atom fraction of deuterium in a solvent mixture of  $D_2O$  and  $H_2O$ , is given<sup>16,17</sup> by a form of Gross-Butler equation:

$$\frac{k_{obs}^0}{k_{obs}^n} = \frac{\pi^{TS}(1-n+n\phi_i)}{\pi^{RS}(1-n+n\phi_i)} \quad (8)$$



Scheme 2

where  $\phi_i$  and  $\phi_j$  are the isotopic fractionation factors for isotopically exchangeable hydrogen sites in the transition states (TS) and reactant site (RS), respectively. Equation (8) allows the calculation of the fractionation factor of TS if the reactant fractionation factors are known. However, the curvature of the proton inventory plot could reflect the number of exchangeable protons in the reaction.<sup>18</sup> A plot of  $k^1_n$  versus the deuterium atom fraction  $n$  (Figure 1, Table 3) in the present case is more or less a straight line with the least curvature. Comparison with the standard curves<sup>18</sup> clearly indicates the involvement of a single proton or H-D exchange during the reaction sequence. Hence the participation of  $H^+$  ion in the formation of transition state is inferred.

The moderate values of the enthalpy of activation, a large negative entropy of activation and the fairly high  $\Delta G^\ddagger$  values support the mechanism. The near constancy of  $\Delta G^\ddagger$  values indicates a solvated state and operation of a similar mechanism for the oxidation of all alcohols.

The effect of varying solvent composition on the rate of reaction has been described in detail in various monographs.<sup>19-24</sup> For the limiting case of zero angle of approach between two dipoles or an ion-dipole system, Amis<sup>23</sup> has shown that a plot of  $\log k_{obs}$  vs  $1/D$ , where  $D$  is the dielectric constant of the medium, gives a straight line with a negative slope for a reaction between a negative ion and a dipole or between two dipoles,

whereas a positive slope results for a positive ion-dipole interaction. The total absence of the effect of varying dielectric constant on rate in the present work cannot be explained by the Amis theory.<sup>23</sup> Applying the Born<sup>25</sup> equation, Laidler and co-workers<sup>20</sup> derived the following equation for a dipole-dipole reaction:

$$\ln k^1 = \ln k_0 + \frac{3}{8kT} \left( \frac{2}{D} - 1 \right) \left[ \frac{\mu^2 A}{r^3 A} + \frac{\mu^2 B}{r^3 B} - \frac{\mu_*^2}{r_*^3} \right] \quad (9)$$

where  $k_0$  is the rate constant in a medium of infinite dielectric constant,  $\mu$  represents the dipole moment and  $r$  refers to the radii of the reactants and activated complex. It is seen that the rate should be greater in a medium of lower dielectric constant, when  $r_*^3 > r_A^3 + r_B^3$ . On the other hand,  $r_*^3 \approx r_A^3 + r_B^3$  implies the absence of a dielectric effect of solvent on the rate, as was observed in the present investigations, signifying that the transition state is not very different from the reactants.

### Structure-reactivity correlations

Structure-reactivity correlations were made by attempting to fit the Hammett equation. The Hammett plot shows two distinct lines (Figure 4, Table 6) for each of which there is good correlation between the substituent constants and the logarithm of the rate constants, particularly when  $\sigma_p$ , the Okamoto-Brown constant,<sup>25</sup> is used for the electron-releasing substituents. Of these, one has a much larger  $\rho$  of -3.5 and the other relatively

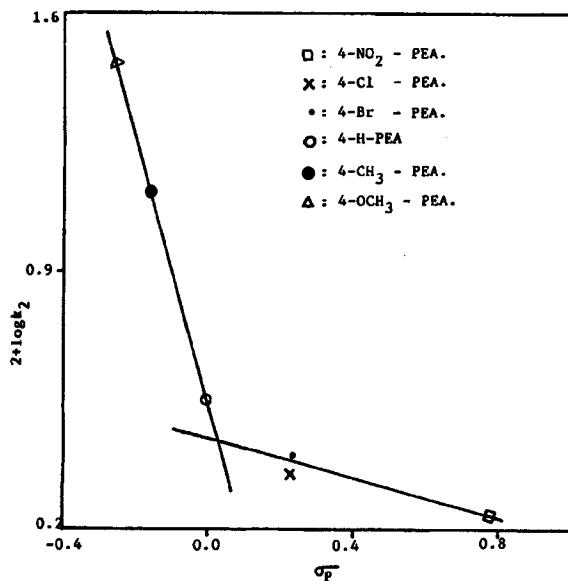


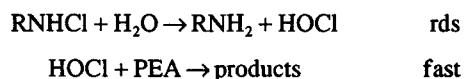
Figure 4. Plot of  $\log k_2$  vs  $\sigma_p$  for six substituted phenethyl alcohols at 35°C

Table 6. Second order rate constants for the oxidation of 4-substituted phenethyl alcohols by CAB<sup>a</sup>

Substrate	$k_2 \times 10^2 = k^1/[4\text{-X-PEA}]$ (dm <sup>3</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	$\sigma_p$
4-X-PEA: X = NO <sub>2</sub>	1.74	0.78
Cl	2.30	0.23
Br	2.60	0.23
H	3.68	0.00
CH <sub>3</sub>	13.18	-0.17
OCH <sub>3</sub>	29.50	-0.27

<sup>a</sup> [CAB]<sup>0</sup> = 5 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; [4-X-PEA]<sup>0</sup> = 10 × 10<sup>-3</sup> mol dm<sup>-3</sup>; [HCl] = 0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>;  $\mu$  = 0.5 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>;  $T$  = 308 K; [MeOH] = 5% (v/v).

low  $\rho$  of -0.30 at 35°C. The break in the Hammett plot could suggest a concerted mechanism, the degree of concertedness depending on whether the hydride transfer from the C—H bond to the oxidant is synchronous with the removal of a proton from the OH group by a water molecule. In earlier work on the oxidation of primary alcohols by organic haloamines,<sup>26</sup> it was noted that electron donating groups increase the rate. This indicates that the rupture of the C—H bond occurs ahead of O—H bond cleavage, creating a carborium ion centre which is stabilized by the electron donating groups. In the present case, the decrease in rate with electron-withdrawing groups is in agreement with this observation. The biphasic Hammett plot could probably indicate a change in mechanism as a result of a change in the nature of the substituents. Alternatively, the measured rate constant  $k^1 = k_{\text{obs}}$  could be a composite quantity like  $k_{\text{obs}} = Kk$ . The Michaelis-Menten character of the substrate dependence points towards a substrate-independent mechanism such as



The above mechanism with a stronger electrophile such as HOCl may be operative along with that where simultaneous catalysis by H<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> ions is taking place (Scheme 1).

### Isokinetic relationship

The enthalpy of activation is low for the oxidation of phenethyl alcohols by CAB. The values of  $\Delta H^\ddagger$  and  $\Delta S^\ddagger$  for the oxidation of phenethyl alcohols are linearly related (Table 5) and the isokinetic temperature  $\beta = 338$  K. The genuine nature of the isokinetic relationship was verified by the Exner<sup>27</sup> criterion by plotting  $\log k^1$  (318 K) vs  $\log k^1$  (303 K). The value of  $\beta$  was calculated from the equation

$$\beta = T_1(1 - q)/(T_1/T_2) - q$$

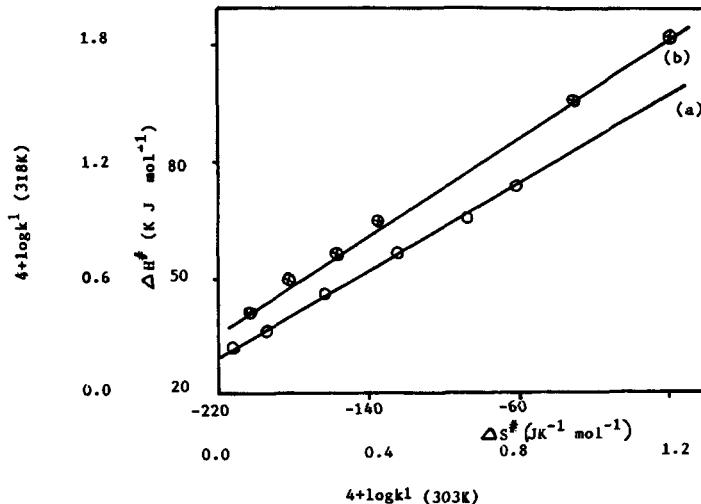


Figure 5. (a) Isokinetic plot of  $\Delta H^\ddagger$  vs  $\Delta S^\ddagger$  for the oxidation of six substituted phenethyl alcohols by CAB. (b) Exner plot of  $\log k^\ddagger$  (318 K) vs  $\log k^\ddagger$  (303 K)

where  $q$  is the slope of Exner plot and  $T_1 > T_2$ . The value of  $\beta$  is 340 K, which is higher than the experimental temperature (308 K) indicating enthalpy control on the reactions. (Figure 5).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

One of the authors (D.S.M.) thanks the University Grant Commission, New Delhi, for the award of an Emeritus Fellowship during these investigations. H.R. is grateful to the management, PES college of Engineering, Mandya, for permitting him to work in the Department of Studies in Chemistry, Manasagangotri, Mysore.

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