Interaction in olefin–NO^+ complexes: structure and dynamics of the NO^+–2,3-dimethyl-2-butene complex

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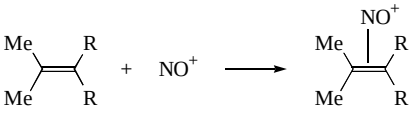
^{1}H and ^{13}C NMR studies involving the ^{13}C NMR deuterium perturbation method and *ab initio* calculations showed the interaction between 2,3-dimethyl-2-butene and the nitrosonium cation to form a dynamic π-complex.

Olefin–NO^+ π-complexes have often been postulated as intermediates in reactions of olefins with nitrosyl halides.[1,2] These reactions play an important role in the syntheses of various organic compounds such as nitroso and nitro halides,[1–4] aza heterocycles,[5] *etc*. However, available experimental data on these π-complexes are few in number (*cf*. refs. 6–8), and the fine structure of the complexes is obscure (*cf*. refs. 8, 9).

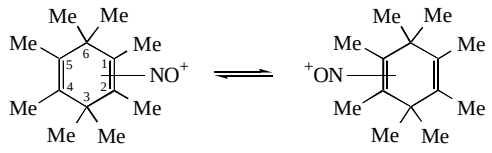


1a,**b** **2a**,**b**

a R = Me
b R = CD_3

Scheme 1

We examined the interaction of 2,3-dimethyl-2-butene **1a** with the NO^+ cation in low-nucleophilicity media at low temperatures in detail. The formation of a cationic complex between compound **1a** and the NO^+ cation was detected by the downfield shifts of the signals of C-2, C-3 and hydrogen atoms in the ^{13}C and ^{1}H NMR spectra, respectively (Table 1), when the olefin and $NO^+AlCl_4^-$ were mixed in SO_2–SO_2ClF–CD_2Cl_2 at –100 °C. The π-complex character of bonding in this cation follows from the consideration given below. The chemical shift of the signals of C-1 and C-5, as well as C-2 and C-4 atoms of the π-complex NO^+–octamethyl-1,4-cyclohexadiene **3**, which are 'averaged' owing to a degenerate rearrangement (Scheme 2), is 159.7 ppm.[6]



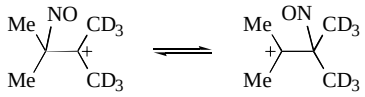
3 **3′**

Scheme 2

Assuming that the chemical shift of the C-4 and C-5 atoms of complex **3** is equal to that of the olefinic carbon atoms in the parent octamethyl-1,4-cyclohexadiene (129.7 ppm),[6] we come to the conclusion that the chemical shift of C-1 and C-2 atoms in complex **3** is to be 189.7 ppm (159.7×2 – 129.7). This value is very close to that found for the complex formed as a result of the interaction between olefin **1a** and the NO^+ cation (190.2 ppm).

We have obtained further evidence of the π-complex character of cation **2** using the isotope perturbation method.[10,11] The corresponding deuterated complex (as tetrachloroaluminate) was prepared from corresponding precursor **1b**† and $NO^+AlCl_4^-$ in SO_2–SO_2ClF–CD_2Cl_2. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum of this complex shows 'isotope splitting' ($\delta_{-100\,°C}$ = 1.1 ppm), which does not correspond to an alternative version, namely, 'fluxional' σ-complex **4** (Scheme 3) (*cf*. refs. 10, 11).

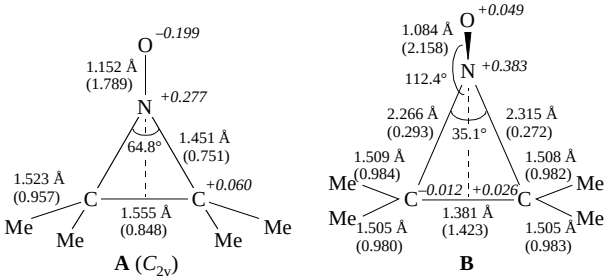
† Olefin **1b** was prepared from [$^2H_6$]acetone and Pr^iMgI followed by dehydration of the resulting carbinol under the action of oxalic acid.[12]



4 **4′**

Scheme 3

In order to determine the fine structure of the olefin–NO^+ π-complexes, we performed *ab initio* calculations of the energy and chemical shift for complex **2a**. The geometry was optimized at the 6-31G* level using the GAMESS-94 program.[13] The results are indicative of the two modes of interaction of the nitrosonium cation with the olefin resulting in the formation of π-complexes: **A** (C_{2v} symmetry) and **B** (a little disturbed C_S symmetry). The Hessian analysis demonstrated that the structures **A** and **B** correspond to minima on the potential energy surface. These results are in accordance with those found earlier for the parent NO^+–ethylene model system.[9] Figure 1 represents the key geometrical features, Mulliken charges and bond orders. The heats of formation of the complexes **A** and **B** from olefin **1a** and NO^+ are 93.7 and 117.6 kJ mol^{-1} (exothermic reactions), and the distances between the N atom and the C_2–C_3 bond are 1.22 and 2.18 Å, respectively. In the π-complex **B**, the C–N bonds are very long (2.266 and 2.315 Å), and the bond orders are 0.293 and 0.272, respectively.



A (C_{2v}) **B**

Figure 1 *Ab initio* optimized structures of the NO^+–2,3-dimethyl-2-butene complexes. Mulliken charges are italicised. Bond orders are given in parentheses.

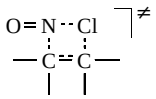
Table 1 ^{1}H and ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts[a] for olefin **1** and NO^+–2,3-dimethyl-2-butene complexes.

Structure	Solvent[b]	T/°C	δ_H Me/ppm	δ_C/ppm	
				C-2 and C-3	Me
1a	SO_2–CD_2Cl_2	–70	1.48	133.3	20.1
1a	SO_2–SO_2ClF–CD_2Cl_2	–100	1.52	133.2	19.8
2a	SO_2–SO_2ClF–CD_2Cl_2	–100	2.37	190.2	18–28[c]
A[d]				67.2	17.6
B[d]				183.4, 189.8	21.9[e]

[a] Relative to Me_4Si with CH_2Cl_2 (^{1}H, δ 5.33 ppm) and CD_2Cl_2 (^{13}C, δ 53.6 ppm) as internal standards. [b] The SO_2–CD_2Cl_2 and SO_2–SO_2ClF–CD_2Cl_2 volume ratios are ~4:1 and ~1:2:1, respectively. [c] The exact chemical shift was not determined because the signal is masked by other signals of Me groups of polymeric products. [d] Shifts calculated by the IGLO method. [e] Averaged chemical shift.

The IGLO chemical shift DZ calculations[14] were performed using *ab initio* calculated geometries. Table 1 demonstrates that the chemical shifts of the C-2 and C-3 atoms in the complex **B** are equal to 183.4 and 189.8 ppm, respectively. The averaged value is very close to that found for π-complex **2a**. The equivalence of the C-2 and C-3 atoms and also that of methyl groups observed in the ^{13}C NMR spectrum of π-complex **2a** can be explained by fast inversion at the N atom or rotation of the NO group around the axis crossing the N atom and perpendicular to the C_2–C_3 bond and by fast migration of this group (*cf*. ref. 6).

It is well known that the addition of nitrosyl chloride to norbornene and other cyclic olefins in low-polarity solvents results in the formation of *syn*-adducts; skeletal rearrangements did not occur during the nitrosation.[2,15] A mechanism has been proposed[2,15] that involves a four-centre transition state of the type C.



C

Our results indicate that the absence of any skeletal rearrangement during nitrosation does not contradict the classical mechanism of the reaction[1,16] because the positive charge on basal carbon atoms in π-complex intermediate **2** is very small. The capture of the chloride anion combined with cation **2** in a tight ion pair from the frontal side of the π-complex is quite accessible, because the C–N bond orders in this complex are very small.

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