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### **Infrared and Raman Spectra of Tribromoacetic Acid and Its Potassic Salt**

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INFRARED AND RAMAN SPECTRA OF TRIBROMOACETIC ACID  
AND ITS POTASSIC SALT

Key Words: Infrared, Raman, Structure, Tribromoacetic.

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ABSTRACT

Infrared and Raman spectra of tribromoacetic acid and its potassic salt have been recorded as solid and aqueous solutions. A general assignment of the vibrational spectrum of the acid has been proposed on the basis of a symmetry of centrosymmetric dimers. The results agree with those for other halogen derivatives of acetic acid.

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## INTRODUCTION

Previously we have carried out several studies on the vibrational spectra, infrared and Raman, of molecules containing the  $\text{CBr}_3$  group, such as tribromoacetamide<sup>1</sup>, tribromoacetonitrile<sup>2-4</sup> and tribromoacetaldehyde<sup>5</sup>. In this paper the vibrational spectra of tribromoacetic acid as well as its potassic salt are presented and discussed.

No vibrational study of that acid has been published, though a partial study of the ion has been reported<sup>6</sup>. Neither the solid structure has been reported too, for this reason a tentative for a complete assignment on the basis of the experimental data is done. Anyway, we have obtained an optimization of geometry through MNDO, AM1 and PM3 semiempiric methods.

The crystal structures of some halogen-substituted derivatives of acetic acid have been reported. Both trifluoroacetic acid<sup>7</sup> and trichloroacetic acid<sup>8</sup> are composed of hydrogen-bonded centrosymmetric dimers packing with normal van der Waals separations whereas the acetic acid has been found<sup>9</sup> to form infinite chains in the crystalline state.

Since the spectroscopic researchs of the trifluoroacetic acid<sup>10</sup>, bromoacetic acid<sup>11</sup> and  $\beta$ -chloroacetic acid<sup>12</sup> are consistent with hydrogen-bonded dimer structure we have considered the centrosymmetric dimers with  $\text{C}_{2h}$  symmetry in order to discuss the proposed assignments of solid tribromoacetic acid.

## EXPERIMENTAL

Tribromoacetic acid was obtained from Aldrich with a 99% of purity. Purification was carried out by dissolving the acid in an aqueous solution of KOH and treating it several times with active charcoal. Solutions were filtered, evaporated and dried under vacuum over  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ . Potassium salt as well as its saturated aqueous solutions were prepared starting with the previously purified acid

by neutralization with KOH and following the same procedure for purification. Other samples of potassium salt were prepared from the acid and an amount of KOH exceeding the stoichiometric one by a 10%. These samples were used to obtain saturated aqueous solutions in order to avoid hydrolysis of the salt. Raman spectra of these solutions were recorded.

Deuterated samples were obtained using D<sub>2</sub>O (99.9%) solutions and subsequently crystallizing twice from the same solvent. Infra-red analysis showed that -COOH group was deuterated by more than a 97%.

Infrared spectra were recorded in the range 4000-200 cm<sup>-1</sup> on a Beekman 4260 and a Perkin Elmer 399 spectrophotometers in different matrices (KBr, Nujol and polyethylene). No significant interaction with the matrices was detected. The experimental error was ±0.5 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

The Raman spectra were recorded on a Jobin Ivon U-1000 spectrometer using 514.5 nm radiation from a Spectra-Physics 164 Ar<sup>+</sup> laser for excitation. Calibrations were made by using either plasma lines from the laser itself or from an Ne lamp. The uncertainty of measurement is of the order of ±2 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Both Table 1 and 2 summarize the infrared and Raman frequencies as well as the intensities, the depolarization ratios and the proposed assignments.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.

For to have an approximate molecular structure, the molecular geometry of the monomer and the dimer of tribromoacetic acid was optimized by using the MNDO, AM1 and PM3 semiempirical methods. The respective r(O...H) distances are 3.117, 2.119 and 2.423 Å, and the stabilization energy for dimer is 1.7, 6.0 and 1.6 Kcal/mol, respectively. Although the distances exhibit some high values (see Table 3) and the energies exhibit low ones when compared with typical values for hydrogen bonding, the AM1 method provides the more

TABLE 1.- Summary of the Frequencies (in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and Proposed Assignments for the Fundamentals Bands of the Vibrational Spectrum of Tribromoacetic Acid and its Deuterated Derivative.

IR	IR(D)	Raman	Assignment
3100 mb	2350 mb		$\nu(\text{OH})(\text{OD}); B_u$
1721 vs	1720 vs		$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O}); B_u$
		1687 s	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O}); A_g$
		1425 s	$\delta(\text{OH}); A_g$
1410 s	1043 m		$\delta(\text{OH})(\text{OD}); B_u$
		1252 s	$\nu(\text{C}-\text{O}); A_g$
1244 vs	1328 m		$\nu(\text{C}-\text{O}); B_u$
		944 w	$\nu(\text{C}-\text{C}); A_g$
930 w	929 vw		$\nu(\text{C}-\text{C}); B_u$
867 mb	643 vw		$\gamma(\text{OH})(\text{OD}); A_u$
		797 s	$\nu'_s(\text{CBr}_3); A_g$
782 vs	779 vs		$\nu'_s(\text{CBr}_3); B_u$
		680 vs	$\delta(\text{OCO}); A_g$
679 s	681 m		$\delta(\text{OCO}); B_u$
		614 vs	$\nu_{as}(\text{CBr}_3); B_g$
600 s	600 m		$\nu_{as}(\text{CBr}_3); A_u$
479 vw	500 vw		$\gamma(\text{CCO}); A_u$
431 s	433		$\delta(\text{CCO}); B_u$
		396	$\delta(\text{CCO}); A_g$
352 vw			$\nu_s(\text{CBr}_3); B_u$
		343 s	$\nu_s(\text{CBr}_3); A_g$
		233 vs	$\delta_{as}(\text{CBr}_3); B_g$
228 vw			$\delta_{as}(\text{CBr}_3); A_u$
		221 s	$\delta'_s(\text{CBr}_3); A_g$
209 vw			$\delta'_s(\text{CBr}_3); B_u$
		203 m	$\delta_s(\text{CBr}_3); A_g$
202			$\delta_s(\text{CBr}_3); B_u$
		157 sh	$r_{as}(\text{CBr}_3); B_g$
		153 s	$r_s(\text{CBr}_3); A_g$
		83 m	
		68 sh	
		56 w	

vs=very strong; s=strong; m=medium; w=weak; b=broad and sh=shoulder.

TABLE 2.- Summary of the Frequencies ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), Depolarization Ratios and Proposed Assignments for the Fundamentals Bands of Tribromoacetate ion.

IR	Raman	$\rho$	Assignment
1654 vs	1654 vs		$\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{OCO}); \text{A}' \text{ or } \text{A}''$
1356 vs	1367 vs	p	$\nu_{\text{s}}(\text{OCO}); \text{A}'$
917 m	928 m		$\nu(\text{CC}); \text{A}'$
758 vs	764 vs	p	$\nu'_{\text{s}}(\text{CBr}_3); \text{A}'$
724 s	722 vs	p	$\delta(\text{OCO}); \text{A}'$
605 s	610 vs	dp	$\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{CBr}_3); \text{A}''$
495 w			$\gamma(\text{OCO}); \text{A}'$
434 b	412 m		$\tau(\text{OCO}); \text{A}' \text{ or } \text{A}''$
	323 s	p	$\nu_{\text{s}}(\text{CBr}_3); \text{A}'$
	260 vw	dp	$\delta_{\text{as}}(\text{CBr}_3); \text{A}''$
	214 vs	p	$\delta'_{\text{s}}(\text{CBr}_3); \text{A}'$
	185 m	p	$\delta_{\text{s}}(\text{CBr}_3); \text{A}'$
	163 s		$\tau_{\text{as}}(\text{CBr}_3); \text{A}''$
	145 m		$\tau_{\text{s}}(\text{CBr}_3); \text{A}'$
	81 w		$t(\text{CBr}_3); \text{A}''$

acceptable results. In Fig. 1 it can be seen the optimized AMI geometry for the dimer of tribromoacetic acid.

In agreement with this  $\text{C}_{2\text{h}}$  symmetry, the representation of the internal vibrations is  $\Gamma_{\text{int}} = 12\text{A}_g + 6\text{B}_g + 6\text{A}_u + 12\text{B}_u$ . For the anion with a  $\text{C}_s$  symmetry their  $3\text{N}-6=15$  vibrations distribute  $10\text{A}' + 5\text{A}''$  or  $9\text{A}' + 6\text{A}''$  depending on the orientation of  $\text{COO}^-$  group with respect the molecular plane.

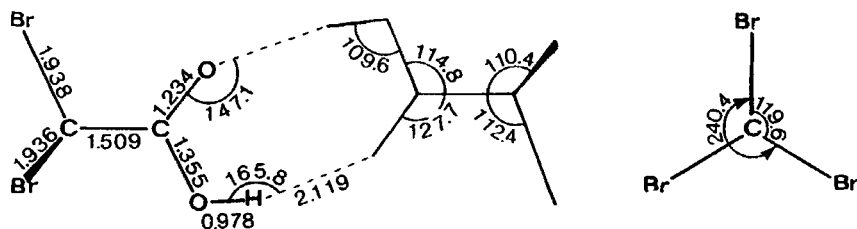


FIG. 1.- Molecular parameters for the dimer of tribromoacetic acid.

### Vibrational assignment:

4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to 1000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region.- The fundamental modes expected in this region are OH and C=O stretching modes as well as the coupling between both C-O stretching and the OH in-plane bending modes. Concerning the salt, only two modes are expected in this region, i.e. symmetric and asymmetric OCO stretching. The broad band centred at about 3100  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in the infrared spectra correspond to the OH stretching vibrations (2350  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in the deuterated compound). The Raman active one is too weak to be observed. It is also interesting to note that beside of this broad band there appear a series of less intense bands, which some authors call submaxima<sup>13</sup>. Concerning the C=O stretching modes, they are readily assigned being well known characteristic bands. The very strong absorption band observed at 1721  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in the IR spectrum is assigned to the C=O linkage. It remains also in the deuterated acid. The corresponding Raman band of  $A_g$  symmetry appears to 1687  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The splitting of these vibrations is quite typical of dimer acid spectra. With regard to  $\nu(\text{C}-\text{O})$  and  $\delta(\text{OH})$  modes, as it is well-known, the  $\delta(\text{OH})$  couples strongly with  $\nu(\text{C}-\text{O})$ <sup>14</sup>. Although there is a marked disagreement in the literature concerning their precise assignments. The absorption band at 1410  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  has been assigned to the  $\delta(\text{OH});\text{Bu}$  mode, this frequency apparently shifts to 1043  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in the deuterated molecule, the ratio of

the frequencies in the two isotopic species is 1.35 which is a reasonable value for a  $\delta(\text{OH})$  vibration<sup>11</sup>.

On the other hand, the  $\nu(\text{C-O})$ ;Bu mode has been assigned to the band at  $1244\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the IR spectrum that shifts to  $1328\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the deuterated molecule. Both vibrations appears at  $1425\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1252\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the Raman respectively. Concerning the ion, there are two modes in this region of the spectrum,  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{OCO})$  and  $\nu_{\text{s}}(\text{OCO})$ , the first one can be assigned to the intense band at  $1654\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in both spectra. Therefore, the second one has to be assigned to the strong IR band at  $1356\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which corresponds with the Raman band at  $1367\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . No depolarization ratios could be determined for these bands.

$1000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region.- The assignment of the bands in the region below  $1000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is very difficult due to the nature of the vibrations here expected. These include the out-of-plane OH deformation mode, the C-C stretching mode, the OCO skeletal angle-bending mode and the  $-\text{CBr}_3$  group stretching.

The  $\gamma(\text{OH})$ ;Au bending mode is recorded as a broad band at about  $867\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the IR spectra and at  $643\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the corresponding deuterated derivative, the frequencies ratio being 1.35.

Both  $\nu(\text{CC})$ ;Ag and Bu modes appear at  $944\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $930\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the Raman and infrared spectra respectively. In the anion this mode has been measured at  $928$  and  $917\text{ cm}^{-1}$  respectively.

The  $-\text{CBr}_3$  stretches occur at a frequency consistent with other compounds containing three C-Br bonds and are readily assigned. We have assigned the very strong band at  $782\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the IR to  $\nu'_{\text{s}}(\text{CBr}_3)$ ;Bu mode and the strong band at  $797\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the Raman to the Ag symmetry species. In the anion, they have been registred at lower frequency both infrared and Raman spectra. Finally, the  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{CBr}_3)$  modes have been assigned to the bands at  $600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $614\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the IR and Raman spectra respectively. These modes appear in the salt at practically the same frequency with very strong intensity.

The remaining two Ag and Bu vibrations, corresponding to the  $\delta(\text{OCO})$ , are essentially associated with the two bands at  $680\text{ cm}^{-1}$



and  $679\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the Raman and IR spectra respectively. In the salt spectra, they have been recorded at higher frequency but also with very strong intensity.

Region below  $500\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .— In this region of the spectrum, the skeletal deformation vibrations and the deformational modes of  $-\text{CBr}_3$  group as well as the  $\nu(\text{CBr}_3)$  mode of lower frequency should be expected.

The  $\nu(\text{CCO})$ ;  $A_u$  mode is assigned to the very weak band at  $497\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the IR. It has been assigned in the salt spectra practically at same frequency; this mode is missing in the Raman spectra.

Both  $\delta(\text{CCO})$  of  $B_u$  and  $A_g$  symmetry have been assigned to the strong bands at  $431\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $433\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the deuterated compound) and  $396\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the infrared and Raman spectra respectively. In the salt spectra it is not possible to decide between  $A'$  and  $A''$  symmetry because of the absence of depolarization ratios, as in the case of  $\nu_{as}(\text{OCO})$ .

Concerning the  $-\text{CBr}_3$  modes, they have been assigned by correlation with the bromal spectra. In this way, we have assigned the strong band at  $343\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $\nu_s(\text{CBr}_3)$ ;  $A_g$  in the Raman spectrum. The  $B_u$  mode is assigned to the weak band at  $352\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the IR spectrum. At  $323\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the salt spectra, it appears a polarized Raman band that we assigned to this mode. On the other hand, the bands at  $233\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (very strong),  $221\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $203\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the Raman spectrum are assigned to  $\delta_{as}(\text{CBr}_3)$ ;  $B_g$ ,  $\delta'_s(\text{CBr}_3)$ ;  $A_g$  and  $\delta_s(\text{CBr}_3)$ ;  $A_g$  respectively. The modes active in the IR are assigned to bands at  $228\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $209\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $202\text{ cm}^{-1}$  respectively. In this region of the Raman spectrum of the salt we have three bands, two polarized ones and another depolarized, since the depolarized band appear at higher frequency, it is evident that it must be assigned to the  $\delta_{as}(\text{CBr}_3)$  mode of  $A''$  symmetry, whereas the other bands have been assigned to the  $A'$  modes, the order of appearing is in agreement with other molecules containing the  $\text{CBr}_3$  group.

The rocking vibrations were assigned to shoulder at  $157\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the strong band at  $153\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the asymmetric and symmetric

TABLE 3.— O...O distances and  $\gamma(\text{OH})$  and  $\delta(\text{OCO})$  frequencies for various halogen-substituted derivatives of acetic acid.

	$d(\text{O}\cdots\text{O})(\text{\AA})$	$\gamma(\text{OH})(\text{cm}^{-1})$	$\delta(\text{OCO})(\text{cm}^{-1})$
$\text{CH}_3\text{-COOH}^{\text{a}}$	2.631(8)	941	645
$\text{CF}_3\text{-COOH}^{\text{b}}$	2.648(3)	904	717
$\text{CCl}_3\text{-COOH}^{\text{c}}$	2.666(6)	873	667
$\text{CBr}_3\text{-COOH}$	3.077(0)	867	679

a) Refs.(9),(15).

b) Refs.(7),(10).

c) Ref.(8).

vibrations respectively, both in the Raman spectrum. In the corresponding salt spectrum they appear more or less at the same frequency.

The spectral region below  $150\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , is rather complex, containing some very low torsional internal modes, besides lattice and hydrogen-bond vibrations for the acid. In the anion, the band at  $81\text{ cm}^{-1}$  can be assigned to the torsional mode.

Finally, Table 3 shows the O...O distances in the hydrogen bonded dimers as well as the observed frequencies for  $\gamma(\text{OH})$  and  $\delta(\text{OCO})$  modes along the series of halogen-derivatives of acetic acid. This complete the results by Collins and Haywood<sup>15</sup>.

As can be deduced therefrom, correlation between O...O distances and frequencies of  $\gamma(\text{OH})$  modes is due to weakening of the hydrogen bond when going from the lighter to the heavier derivatives. Data for tribromoacetic acid are in complete agreement with the previous ones, although the O...O distance is the calculated one, and seems to be overestimated. Nevertheless, the observed frequen-

cies for  $\delta(\text{OCO})$  modes do not show any systematic behaviour with the hydrogen bond strength.

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