

An Adjusted Model for Simple 1,2-Dyotropic Reactions. *Ab Initio* MO and VB Considerations

Henk M. Buck

Kasteel Twikkelerf 94, Tilburg, The Netherlands

Email: h.m.buck@ziggo.nl

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ABSTRACT

With an adjusted model, we reconsider simple 1,2-dyotropic reactions with the introduction of a concept based on the intramolecular dynamics of a tetrahedron (van 't Hoff modeling). In fact the dyotropic reactions are strongly related to conversions originated from neighbouring group participation or anchimeric assistance, defined as the interaction of a center with a lone pair of electrons in an atom and the electrons present in a σ or π bond. The researchful 1,2-dyotropic reactions, based on the 1,2-interchange of halogens, methyl and hydrogen taking place in a concerted fashion, are in competition with the two-step reaction in which the neighbouring group participation or anchimeric assistance comes to full expression by ionic dissociation of the other exchangeable (halogen) atom. As to be expected there is an essential difference between halogen or methyl exchange regarding the number of electrons participating in the transition state. This aspect becomes evident in the geometries of the corresponding transition state geometries. In this paper we refer to *ab initio* MO calculations and VB considerations. We consider the 1,2-halogen exchange as a combination of two S_N2 reactions each containing four electrons. The van 't Hoff dynamics appears a useful model in order to illustrate the computations in a straightforward manner.

Keywords: Type-I Dyotropic Reactions; MO Calculations; Van 't Hoff Model Considerations; Halogen and Methyl Exchange; Conflicting Models

1. Introduction

Recently a theoretical model has been given for type-I 1,2-dyotropic reactions of the type $\text{CH}_2\text{X}-\text{CH}_2\text{X}$ focused on the exchange of X, based on sophisticated *ab initio* computations. Reactions of this type have been defined by Reetz as isomerizations that involve an intramolecular one-step migration of the two σ bonds [1,2]. In type-I the shift is based on 1,2-interchange of atoms (halogens) or groups (methyl) that may result in inversion of configuration of the positions under consideration. We reconsider these identity reactions with the results based on a linear three-center four electron bonding, known as S_N2 reactions in combination with van 't Hoff modeling [3,4]. We introduce an adjusted model for this type of exchange reactions. For the 1,2-interchange of dibromides, we will also focus the attention on a more complex system based on the mutarotation of 5α , 6β -dibromide cholestane that rearranges in the more stable diequatorial 5β , 6α isomer. In this situation, we are dealing with a more or less fixed geometry that disfavors the flexibility during the reaction course. We also take into consideration

symmetry changes by substitution of $\text{CH}_2\text{X}-\text{CH}_2\text{X}$ for $\text{SiH}_2\text{X}-\text{CH}_2\text{X}$ and the corresponding dynamics.

2. Results and Discussion

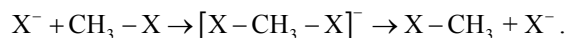
2.1. MO Calculations. Van 't Hoff Model Description for 1,2-Dyotropic Halogen Exchange Reactions in $\text{CH}_2\text{X}^*-\text{CH}_2\text{X}$ with X = F, Cl, Br, and I. A Dibromide Isomerization in a More Complex and Rigid System

The 1,2-dyotropic reactions we consider, are focused on identity halogen exchange in $\text{CH}_2\text{X}^*-\text{CH}_2\text{X}$ (X = F, Cl, Br, and I). We also take notice of the results of hydrogen and methyl migration. The transition state (TS) is given in **Figure 1**.

The relevant *ab initio* data for these exchange reactions are given in **Table 1**. These model calculations in combination with activation energies (ΔE^\ddagger) have been computed at ZORA-OLYP/TZ2P by Fernández *et al.* [5]. They also extended their studies to corresponding methyl and hydrogen shifts. We focus on the ratio

$d[\text{TS}, \text{C}-\text{X}]/d[\text{R}(\text{P}), \text{C}-\text{X}]$ based on the distances (d) indicated as $R(d)$, given in **Table 1**. The results in this table also demonstrate a linear relation between ΔE^\ddagger and $R(d)$. Similar observations have been done before and completely worked out [4].

We compare these results with the identity $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$ substitution reactions as given by



The results are given in **Table 2**. For a qualification of the theoretical outcome we give the van 't Hoff model results. As we published before the van 't Hoff model is based on the transition from a regular tetrahedron into a trigonal pyramid (TP) by moving the tetrahedral carbon along the principal normal to the reaction center of the triangle [8]. In the $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$ reaction mechanism as originally proposed by Hughes and Ingold, the geometry of the TS then corresponds with a trigonal bipyramid (TBP) via backside attack of the incoming nucleophile, resulting in inversion of carbon [9]. We then arrive to:

$$R(\cos \theta) = 1 - \cos \theta$$

in which θ is the van 't Hoff tetrahedral angle. The value for $d[\text{TS}, \text{C}-\text{X}]$ can then be expressed by:

$$d[\text{TS}, \text{C}-\text{X}] = R(\cos \theta) \times d[\text{R}(\text{P}), \text{C}-\text{X}]$$

The ideal $R(\cos \theta)$ value is 1.333 with $\theta = 109.47^\circ$.

By comparison the ratio values $R(d)$ in **Table 1** with the corresponding values in **Table 2**, it is clear that going from Cl to I there is a nearly constant difference. The average values are 1.263 and 1.298, respectively. However, it should be mentioned that the XCX angle in **Figure 1**

deviates from linearity for about 40° . The ratio value of 1.333 for $n = 4$ can be intuitively obtained with:

$$R(n) = 1 + n/12$$

in which n is the number of electrons in the TS [3].

This relation has been tested for identity methyl, proton, hydrogen atom, and hydride exchange reactions in relation to three center four-(methyl cation and proton), three-(hydrogen atom), and two electrons (hydride anion) following the corresponding principal reaction coordinate in the TS [3,8]. The $R(n)$ values are then 1.333, 1.250, and 1.167. These values are in good correspondence with *ab initio* values and the van 't Hoff model considerations. In the case of four electrons and a three center carbon configuration, hypervalency could be frozen as a TBP configuration reflecting nicely the 1.333 value [3,4]. The significance for proton transfer focused on biochemical networks could be clearly visualized with the van 't Hoff model making this and the other transfer reactions understandable in order to judge the computations [4].

From the description of the reaction type as proposed by Fernández *et al.* [5] under investigation, four σ electrons are involved. This results in a ratio value of 1.167 for each $\text{X}-\text{C}-\text{X}$ bonding, a value that differs strongly from the results in **Table 1**. Therefore the mechanism for this type of reactions as presented in **Figure 1** in combination with the computational results in **Table 1** must be considered from a model that includes an additional contribution of four electrons in the TS. These extra electrons can be delivered by one of the lone pairs of each transferred X. Summarizing, each X delivers two σ electrons ($\text{C}-\text{X}$ bond) and one lone pair. This electron

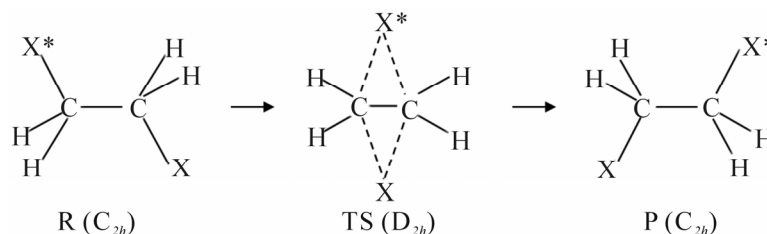


Figure 1. Reaction pathway for $\text{CH}_2\text{X}^* - \text{CH}_2\text{X} \rightarrow \text{CH}_2\text{X} - \text{CH}_2\text{X}^*$ with $\text{X} = \text{F}, \text{Cl}, \text{Br},$ and I .

Table 1. Geometric values of distances (in Å), angles (in deg) and activation energies (ΔE^\ddagger in $\text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$) for the reaction pathway as given in **Figure 1**^a.

X	TS, C-X	R(P), C-X	$R(d)^b$	ΔE^\ddagger	R(P), C-C	TS, C-C	TS, XCC	TS, X-X
F	1.874	1.398	1.340	65.1	1.523	1.401	68.0	3.476
Cl	2.283	1.803	1.266	42.6	1.517	1.412	72.0	4.343
Br	2.444 (2.510) ^c	1.982 (1.934) ^d	1.233 (1.298)	32.0 (28.0) ^c	1.509	1.413 (1.417) ^c	73.2 (73.6) ^c	4.679
I	2.662	2.192	1.214	24.9	1.501	1.409	74.7	5.134

^aThe distances, angles and activation energies are derived from computations of Fernández *et al.*, [5]; ^b $R(d) = \text{TS}, \text{C}-\text{X}/\text{R}(\text{P}), \text{C}-\text{X}$; ^cFernández *et al.*, [6]; ^dExperimental distance for CH_3Br [7].

participation connects the results of **Tables 1** and **2** in demonstrating a rather good correspondence between the calculated distances and those obtained with the van 't Hoff model. In our opinion this electron participation in the TS model may be an effective model for explaining the 1,2-dyotropic halogen exchange reactions. Studying the effects of electron-donating (D) and electron-accepting (A) substituents for the hydrogens of the ethane moiety as (A)DXHC-CHXD(A), it appears that the electron-donating substituents reduce the ΔE^\ddagger in contrast with the acceptor substituents for the bromine exchange [6]. This aspect may be understandable by taken the Br-C-Br configuration. The displacement of the electrons from C to Br will be facilitated by donor substituents linked to carbon. This type of electron transfer has been calculated for the S_N2 reactions with $[X-CH_3-X]^-$ as TS. For $X = Br$ calculations give $q_{CH_3} = +0.188$ and $q_{Br} = -0.594$. This electron transfer decreases from F to I [7].

The reactions described are relatively simple in their geometry. Therefore we will consider a 1,2-exchange reaction for a more complex system as the diaxial 5α , 6β -dibromide isomerization of cholestane into the stable diequatorial 5β , 6α -dibromide. This is illustrated in a simplified way in **Figure 2**. Both dibromides when treated with NaI in acetone undergo trans elimination with regeneration of cholestane in which the 5α , 6β -dibromide reacts much faster because the bromine and carbons all concerned lie in one plane and are in a favoured position for a four-center TS [9].

Calculations on the bromine exchange have been carried out by Fernández *et al.* for a simplified system (see **Table 1**) and the more complex system 5α , 6β dibromocholestane. Because of the rigid structure of cholestane, there is a significant difference in the various distances in the TS [6]. The calculations give for the top C(5)-Br = 2.766 Å and C(6)-Br = 2.673 Å, and for the bottom C(5)-Br = 2.828 Å and C(6)-Br = 2.540 Å. These data differ from the simple configuration as illustrated in **Figure 1** with corresponding values for the bond length of C-Br in the TS as given in **Table 1**. The average value is 2.693 Å corresponding with an $R(d)$ value of 1.392 and 1.359 for the experimental C-Br distance of 1.934 Å and the calculated value of 1.982 Å, respectively, as given in **Table 1**. These values are in good correspondence with the proposed van 't Hoff model as a realistic approach for the correctness of the *ab initio* calculations.

For the isomerization of the 5α , 6β dibromocholestane also the activation parameters, as a first order in dibromide, were determined in chloroform [11]. These values are $\Delta H^\ddagger = 19.9 \text{ kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$, $\Delta E^\ddagger = 20.6 \text{ kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$, $\Delta S^\ddagger = -14.3 \text{ cal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$, and $\Delta G^\ddagger = 24.2 \text{ kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$. The value of ΔE^\ddagger can be compared with the values in **Table 1** for the D_{2h} symmetry. The negative value for ΔS^\ddagger has been interpreted that fewer degrees of freedom are available than in the ground state which seems consistent with a dyotropic reaction. An ionization with internal return would show a positive value for ΔS^\ddagger . In these considerations the nature of the medium may play an essential role. As has been proposed that a decrease in polarity

Table 2. Geometric values of distances (in Å) for the reaction pathway of the exchange reaction $X^- + CH_3 - X$ via a trigonal bipyramidal $[X-CH_3-X]^-$ transition state^a. A comparison with the van 't Hoff model^b.

X	<i>ab initio</i>			Van 't Hoff		
	R(P), C-X	TS, C-X	$R(d)^c$	R(P), C-X ^d	TS, C-X	$R(\cos\theta)^e$
F	1.396	1.860	1.332	1.383	1.828	1.322
Cl	1.791	2.360	1.318	1.776	2.343	1.319
Br	1.959	2.510	1.281	1.934	2.522	1.304
I	2.157	2.720	1.261	2.132	2.812	1.319

^aThe *ab initio* results are derived from computations of Bento *et al.* [10]; ^bThe model results are obtained from the dynamics of a regular tetrahedron as originated by van 't Hoff into a trigonal bipyramid. See text; ^c $R(d) = TS, C-X/R(P), C-X$; ^dThe experimental distances are derived from CH_3X [7]; ^e $R(\cos\theta) = 1 - \cos\theta$ in which θ is the experimental tetrahedral angle H-C-X in CH_3X [7].

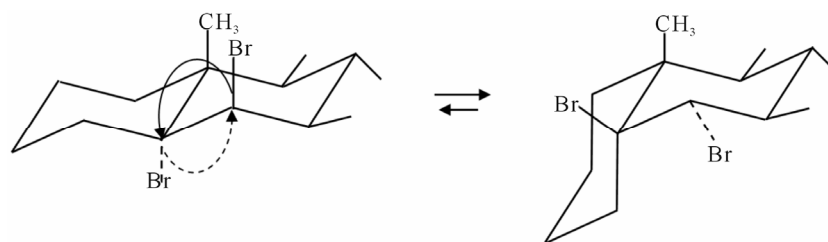


Figure 2. A simplified model for the isomerization of 5α , 6β dibromocholestane in the corresponding 5β , 6α isomer.

will favour an intermediate or TS in which negligible charge separation is involved favouring a dyotropic reaction [11,12].

2.2. VB Considerations. Van 't Hoff Model Description for 1,2-Dyotropic Halogen Exchange Reactions. The Influence of the C–C Bonding on the Electron Distribution in the X–C–X Transition State

An instructive visualization of the TS with four electrons has been given in **Figure 3**.

This configuration shows an explicit contribution of two electrons for the formation of a double bond character of the C–C bonding. The MO calculations show an average value of 1.409 Å for X = F (1.401 Å), Cl (1.412 Å), Br (1.413 Å), and I (1.409 Å), resulting in a partial double bond character for the C–C bonding. Expressed in bond orders with the corresponding number of electrons in parenthesis, we then calculate 0.626 (1.252 e), 0.560 (1.120 e), 0.554 (1.108 e), and 0.578 (1.156 e), respectively. With the expression of $R(n)$, *vide supra*, we then obtain 1.281, 1.287, 1.287, and 1.285 respectively, based on eight electrons with $4 - q/2$ electrons per X–C–X configuration in which q is the electron density of the partial C–C double bond. The $R(n)$ values are in correspondence with the average value of $R(d)$ *i.e.* 1.263 in **Table 1**, taking into account the deviation from linearity. Using the van 't Hoff model for the equatorial bonding, then:

$$R(\sin\theta) = \sin\theta$$

The value for $d[\text{TS}, \text{C}-\text{C}]$ can then be expressed by:

$$d[\text{TS}, \text{C}-\text{C}] = R(\sin\theta) \times d[\text{R}(\text{P}), \text{C}-\text{C}]$$

With the tetrahedral XCC angles 107.68°, 109.79°, 109.61°, 109.93°, respectively, we obtain for $d[\text{TS}, \text{C}-\text{C}]$ the corresponding values 1.451 Å, 1.427 Å, 1.421 Å, and 1.411 Å. There is significant deviation from the C–F distance of 1.401 Å as given in **Table 1**. From these considerations it is clear that the TS geometry of these type of reactions must be described by eight electrons and not by four electrons as was supposed. Therefore it is of interest to take notice of the methyl exchange reactions instead of

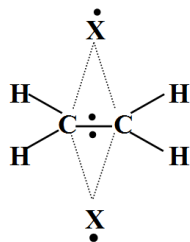


Figure 3. A characteristic VB configuration for a dyotropic reaction of 1,2-X exchange.

halogen. In that case we are not dealing with extra electrons as in the case of the additional lone pairs of the halogens. The results will be discussed in the next section.

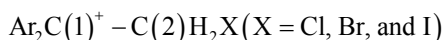
2.3. MO Calculation. Van 't Hoff Model for 1,2-Dyotropic Methyl Exchange Reactions

From the *ab initio* calculations it is clear that the C–C bond distance in the TS (1.350 Å) is very close to the ethylenic bond, corresponding with 1.859 e. Since no extra electrons are available, only via hyperconjugation of the methyl group, we calculated that only 1.071 e remains for each $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$ configuration. This result has no physical meaning in a three-center bonding. Apparently, we are dealing with a different TS complex than in the case of halogen exchange. In our opinion, **Figure 3** is a good representation. It is clear that in this case we are approaching a dissociative TS. A similar conclusion can be drawn for a corresponding 1,2-hydrogen exchange reaction. For a better understanding of the different TS complexes of the halogen and methyl exchange reactions it is obvious to consider halogen and methyl migration at *one* side of the C–C linkage. At first we will discuss the 1,2-methyl migration with corner-protonated cyclopropane [13]. As to be expected the corner-protonated cyclopropane, which can be considered as an intermediate in this methyl migration, is closely related to the stable nonclassical 2-norbornyl cation. The distances based on the triangle CXC, in which X = CH_3 , are C–C 1.399 Å (1.394 Å) and C– CH_3 1.803 Å (1.829 Å), corresponding values for the nonclassical 2-norbornyl cation are given in parenthesis [14]. Comparison of the geometry of the corner-protonated cyclopropane with the structure in **Figure 3** for X = CH_3 , then there is with respect to the former one a decrease in CXC angle of 13.94°, a decrease in C–C bond distance of 0.049 Å (3.50%) and an increase in C–X distance of 0.667 Å (36.99%). This dramatic increase in C–X bond length in the 1,2-methyl migration asks for a similar analysis of the corresponding halonium geometries. These halonium ions are known in the triangle geometry as has been established from the NMR work of Olah *et al.* [15]. We also mention a stable bromonium ion in the reaction of adamantylideneadamantane with bromine by Strating *et al.* [16]. The MO results are given in the next section.

2.4. A Comparison between the MO Results of the 1,2-Cyclic Halonium Ion and the Transition State of 1,2-Dyotropic Halogen Exchange

A coordinate halonium structure of the halogen exchange is given in **Figure 4**.

However, this intermediate follows a classical two-step mechanism resulting in the same stereochemistry as the one-step 1,2-dyotropic halogen exchange reaction. As starting point for the reaction profile a C_{2h} symmetry (R, P) is selected. Via a conrotatory process, both halogens reach a geometry that demonstrates a TP configuration in which the central carbon is in-plane with 2H's and the other CH_2 group, and the halogen is located in the axial position of the TP. From UV-vis and NMR spectroscopic measurements in combination with MO calculations based on model systems as the proton complexes of 1, 1-diphenyl-2-halogeno (Cl, Br, and I) ethylenes with *para* electron-donating substituents:



in which Ar is the aryl group with *para* substituents as OCH_3 and $N(CH_3)_2$, a TP geometry has been proposed for C(2) as center in plane of the triangle formed by C (1) and the 2H's with X in a C(2)-X axial position [17,18]. With MO symmetry arguments related to the twofold axis of symmetry of the carbenium ions, the A HOMO-S LUMO transition appears a good criterion for determining the electron shift from C(2) to X. Generally for a good fit between the UV-vis and NMR spectroscopy with the MO calculations, a shift of about 0.6 e has been taken place in the direction of X for the C(2)-X bonding. A similar exclusive shift is absent for C(2)-F. In that case the dominant electronegativity of F has already depleted the C(2) electron density in the tetrahedral configuration that cancels change in hybridization from sp^3 into sp^2 [18]. Summarizing, the TP model is valid for Cl, Br and I whereas F preserves its tetrahedral configuration in the bonding with C(2).

Furthermore from other data it is well known that F is not able to form a triangle halonium ion [15]. After reaching this location on the reaction coordinate, there is an inversion of charge on the halogen by coordination with the other carbon of the ethane linkage. The reaction then proceeds via D_{2h} symmetry as shown in **Figure 3**. The differences in geometry between the corner-protonated cyclopropane and the 1,2-dyotropic methyl exchange TS are much more pronounced than the corresponding geometric differences between the halonium ions [19] and the 1,2-dyotropic halogen TS. For the CXC

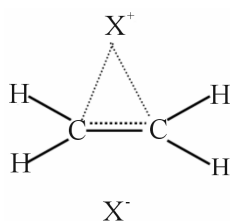


Figure 4. A coordinate halonium structure of the 1,2-dyotropic reaction.

angle, the decrease is 9.84° (Cl) and 6.34° (Br). The increase for the C-X distance is 0.407 \AA (21.70%, Cl) and 0.335 \AA (15.88%, Br). The differences for the C-C bond length are of minor significance. This explains the fundamental distinction between the methyl and halogen exchange reactions.

The position of F on the energy profile is now also clear. In the 1,2-F migration ΔE^\ddagger ($65.1 \text{ kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$) is much higher than for the corresponding halogens (Cl $42.6 \text{ kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$, Br $32.0 \text{ kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$, and I $24.9 \text{ kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$). Accommodation of positive charge on F in comparison with the other halogens is in fact an unfavourable model for double migration. Although the locations on the energy profile are focused on the interaction of one of the lone pairs halogens with the other carbon of the C-C linkage, there may be another profile for the 1,2-F migration.

The contrast between F and the other halogens is clear. For the geometries in **Figure 1**, the following CXC bond angles were calculated 43.90° (X = F), 36.02° (X = Cl), 33.61° (X = Br), and 30.69° (X = I). A similar behaviour is found for the open structures of the dialkylhalonium ions $[H_3C-X-CH_3]^+$. The calculations show for the CXC bond angles 120.2° (X = F), 105.0° (X = Cl), 101.4° (X = Br), and 97.7° (X = I). The cations for X = Cl, Br, and I have been prepared as long-lived cations. However, no stable dialkylfluoronium ion has been obtained [20]. The exclusive electronegativity of F with respect to the other halogens determines the expansion of the XCX angle. For simplicity it means that F aims at an increase of its *s* character. In that respect it is of interest to mention the results of the calculations of methylated dimethylhalonium ions. Theoretically it has been found that methylated dimethylhalonium ions accommodate a tetrahedral configuration whereas $[(CH_3)_3F]^{2+}$ has a D_{3h} symmetry [20]. Thus by going from C_{3v} to D_{3h} symmetry, F increases its *s* character.

Recently, there was mechanistic evidence for a symmetrical intermediate in solution [21]. The CFC bond angle and the C-F distance calculated from this fluoronium ion derived from a *fixed configured precursor*, correspond with the values as given for the $[H_3C-F-CH_3]^+$ ion [20].

2.5. A Comparison of 1,2-SiH₃ and CH₃ Shifts as Substituents in Ethane. MO Calculations and Van 't Hoff Model Consideration

We consider reactions as illustrated in **Figure 1** in which X = SiH₃. Like CH₃, Si has not the capacity to deliver extra electrons. So it is to be expected that the geometry for the TS of the SiH₃ shift is in correspondence with the methyl shift. In fact it means that two electrons are available for each H₃Si-C-SiH₃ configuration. This elec-

tron participation results in conflicting values for $R(n)$ and $R(d)$. In order to escape this split, the TS can be described as given in **Figure 3**. This is in excellent agreement with the ethylenic bond distance of 1.354 Å corresponding with 1.81 e. This geometry involves a dissociative state. The calculations show that the ΔE^\ddagger for the SiH₃ shift (101.7 kcal·mol⁻¹) is smaller than for the CH₃ shift (131.0 kcal·mol⁻¹). This aspect can be qualitatively explained by orbital expansion of Si compared with carbon.

2.6. Symmetry Change in the 1,2-Dyotropic Halogen Exchange Reactions

Changing the C–C linkage through Si–C is of interest in consequence of loss of its symmetry and an increasing coordination ability of Si compared with carbon [5]. This aspect is observable for the 1,2-F migration between Si and carbon. In that specific case there is a pronounced asymmetry in F shift as follows from the different angles in the triangle CSiF 76.31°, SiCF 50.39°, and CFSi 53.30°. For comparison the corresponding results are given for the symmetric TS of the 1,2-exchange reaction of the 1,2-disubstituted fluoroethane *i.e.*, FCC 68.04° and CFC 55.98°. Thus in the asymmetric TS the deviation from linearity is substantially decreased compared with the symmetric one. This aspect is recognized in ΔE^\ddagger . For the asymmetric TS 48.9 kcal·mol⁻¹ has been calculated whereas for the symmetric TS 65.1 kcal·mol⁻¹ is found. It involves that Si accommodates a fifth ligand easier than carbon with a geometry closely related to a TBP configuration that results in lowering of the ΔE^\ddagger of the TS [22]. This aspect is also reflected in the value of $R(d)$ for the Si–F bond in the transition intermediate that approaches its normal bond length. However, for coordination of the other F with Si the displacement of F is considerable, resulting in a high $R(d)$ value of 1.582 for the C–F bond that influences the transition for the 1,2-F migration in a negative manner. In the corresponding 1,2-disubstituted chloroethane, the difference between the angles CSiCl and SiCCL is 7.21° whereas in the former one a value of 25.92° is found. The $R(d)$ values of Si–Cl and C–Cl are 1.212 and 1.353, respectively with an average value of 1.283. This value is in correspondence with the average value of 1.309 of the fluorine exchange. This difference is also reflected in the ΔE^\ddagger values. The 1,2-Cl migration is 9.8 kcal·mol⁻¹ in favour over the 1,2-F exchange.

3. Conclusion

It has been suggested that type-I 1,2-dyotropic reactions as presented in this paper are considered as four-membered transition states, involving a concerted exchange migration of the X atoms or groups in CH₂X–CH₂X. The discussion is based on X = halogen, methyl and hydrogen.

According to our results there is a fundamental difference in the description of this dyotropic reaction with others concerning the participation of the number of electrons in the TS based on a clear distinction between the halogen and the methyl and hydrogen exchange. The difference is clear. The halogen exchange takes profit from the presence of its lone pair electrons. This “catalyzing” effect is absent for methyl and hydrogen exchange, explaining the relatively high ΔE^\ddagger values of 131.0 and 145.2 kcal·mol⁻¹, respectively, in comparison with the halogens as shown in **Table 1**. A similar effect is found for the $R(d)$ values of 1.613 and 1.697, respectively, compared with the $R(d)$ values of the halogens in **Table 1**. The differences between methyl and hydrogen migration as expressed in ΔE^\ddagger and $R(d)$ are in fact a measure for the effect of hyperconjugation of the methyl group in the exchange reaction. The high values for both $R(d)$'s of the methyl and hydrogen binding in the TS (much higher than the van 't Hoff value of 1.333) are an indication for a loose complex binding or a dissociative state as illustrated in **Figure 3** and is confirmed by the distance of the C–C bond that approaches the double bond character. The effect of the SiH₃ transfer is still more explicit compared with the CH₃ migration, resulting in a decrease in ΔE^\ddagger value of 29.3 kcal·mol⁻¹ as a result of Si-orbital expansion. Generally, there is a strict linear relation between ΔE^\ddagger and $R(d)$ for the halogen exchange. This relation is supported by definition that for $\Delta E^\ddagger = a + b \times R(d)$ then must apply $a + b = 0$ which has been established. The methyl and hydrogen shift deviates from the halogen linearity. Finally, it is our conclusion that the mechanistic view of Fernández *et al.* [5] based on a qualitative VB analysis as given in **Figure 3** is far from complete. However, this approach is usable for the methyl and hydrogen exchange because of its reduced tendency for bonding in consequence of the available electrons in the transition state. In fact the differences in the 1,2-X migration are based on the overall number of electrons participating in the transition state. This situates the halogens with their additional lone pairs in a complete different position as methyl and hydrogen.

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