

Migration and Cyclisation Reactions of Selected Organic Anions

A Thesis Submitted Towards the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

by

John Michael Hevko B.Sc. (Hons)



THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

Department of Chemistry The University of Adelaide December 1998

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Abstract

In this thesis the investigation of anionic migration reactions in the gas phase, and rearrangement reactions of selected organic anions in the gas and condensed phases were examined.

"Long-range" phenyl anion "cross-ring" reactions occur when (M-H)⁻ ions of methoxy-, ethoxy-, and carbomethoxy- C_6H_4 --NCOPh are subjected to collisional activation. These reactions are generally minor processes: a particular example is the "cross-ring" elimination p- C_2H_5O - C_6H_4 --NCOPh \rightarrow [Ph⁻ (p- C_2H_5O - C_6H_4 -NCO)] \rightarrow p-(-O)- C_6H_4 -NCO + C_2H_4 + Ph. Major processes of these (M-H)⁻ ions involve losses of radicals to form stabilised radical anions, e.g. (a) loss of a ring H or (b) CH₃, (or C_2H_5 , or 'CO₂CH₃) from the alkoxy group.

Keto alcohols of the formula $MeCO(CH_2)_nOH$ (n = 3 - 5) are deprotonated by HO^- at both -OH or α to the carbonyl group. The various deprotonated species interconvert under the conditions of collisional activation. The fragmentations of $(M-H)^-$ ions are varied and complex, with most fragmentations being directed from the alkoxide centre. These fragmentations have been investigated by product ion and deuterium labelling studies. An interesting hydride transfer reaction occurs when n = 3 and 4, i.e. H^- transfer occurs from the CH_2 group next to the alkoxide centre to the carbon of the carbonyl group to form $^-CH_2CHO$ as the product anion. This reaction does not occur when n = 5. The corresponding Me^- transfer from deprotonated $MeCO(CH_2)_nC(Me)_2OH$ (n = 2 and 3) is not observed.

Ab initio calculations [at the MP2(fc)/6-31+G(d) level] indicate that the 3,4-epoxybutoxide anion, the 4,5-epoxypentoxide anion, and the 5,6-

epoxyhexoxide anion should undergo competitive S_Ni cyclisations (through four- and five-, five- and six-, and six- and seven-membered transition states respectively) to yield the corresponding (M-H)⁻ ions of the respective cyclic products. These systems have been studied experimentally in both the condensed and gas phases. A comparison is made of the reported competitive S_Ni reactions for the 2,3-epoxypropoxide anion, with those processes observed for 3,4-epoxybutoxide, 4,5-epoxypentoxide and 5,6-epoxyhexoxide anions. For all but the 3,4-epoxybutoxide system, the exclusive or major product is that which contains the smaller of the two ring systems for both gas phase and condensed phase reactions. In the case of the 3,4-epoxybutoxide system:- (i) in the gas phase, both four- and five-membered ring S_Ni products are formed in comparable yield, and (ii) in the condensed phase, the major product is that with the larger ring.