



STRUCTURE-REACTIVITY CORRELATION IN THE OXIDATION OF SUBSTITUTED BENZYL ALCOHOLS BY IMIDAZOLIUM FLUOROCHROMATE

Poonam, D. Sharma^[a], P. Panchariya^[a], P. Purohit^[a] and Pradeep K. Sharma^{[a]*}

Keywords: Correlation analysis; halochromates; imidazolium fluorochromate; kinetics; mechanism; oxidation

Oxidation of benzyl alcohol and some *ortho*-, *meta*- and *para*-monosubstituted ones by imidazolium fluorochromate (IFC) in dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO) leads to the formation of corresponding benzaldehydes. The reaction is of first order with respect to IFC. A Michaelis – Menten type of kinetics were observed with respect to the alcohols. The reaction is promoted by hydrogen ions; the hydrogen-ion dependence has the form $k_{\text{obs}} = a + b [\text{H}^+]$. Oxidation of α,α -dideuteriobenzyl alcohol (PhCD_2OH) has exhibited a substantial primary kinetic isotope effect ($k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}} = 5.86$ at 298 K). The reaction has been studied in nineteen organic solvents and the effect of solvent analysed using Taft's and Swain's multi-parametric equations. The rates of oxidation of *para*- and *meta*-substituted benzyl alcohols have been correlated in terms of Charton's triparametric LDR equation whereas the oxidation of *ortho*-substituted benzyl alcohols with tetraparametric LDRS equation. The oxidation of *para*-substituted benzyl alcohols is more susceptible to the delocalization effect than that of *ortho*- and *meta*- substituted compounds, which display a greater dependence on the field effect. The positive value of η suggests the presence of an electron-deficient reaction centre in the rate-determining step. The reaction is subjected to steric acceleration by the *ortho*-substituents. A suitable mechanism has been proposed.

Corresponding Authors

E-Mail: drpkvs27@yahoo.com

[a] Department of Chemistry, J N V University, Jodhpur 342 005, India

non-aqueous nature of the solvent, toluene-*p*-sulphonic acid (TsOH) was used as a source of hydrogen ions. Solvents were purified by the usual methods^{13c}.

Product analysis

The product analysis was carried out under kinetic conditions. In a typical experiment, benzyl alcohol (5.4 g, 0.05 mol) and IFC (3.10 g, 0.01 mol) were made up to 50 cm³ in DMSO and kept in the dark for *ca.* 15 h to ensure completion of the reaction. The solution was then treated with an excess (200 cm³) of a saturated solution of 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine in 2 mol dm⁻³ HCl and kept overnight in a refrigerator. The precipitated 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone (DNP) was filtered off, dried, weighed, re-crystallized from ethanol, and weighed again. The yields of DNP before and after re-crystallization were 2.59 g (91 %) and 2.26 g (79 %) respectively. The DNP was found identical (m.p. and mixed m.p.) with the DNP of benzaldehyde. Similar experiments were performed with other alcohols also. The oxidation state of chromium in completely reduced reaction mixtures, determined by an iodometric method was 3.95 ± 0.1 .

Kinetic measurement

The pseudo-first order conditions were attained by maintaining a large excess ($\times 15$ or more) of the alcohol over IFC. The solvent was DMSO, unless specified otherwise. The reactions were followed, at constant temperatures (± 0.1 K), by monitoring the decrease in [IFC] spectrophotometrically at 354 nm. No other reactant or product has any significant absorption at this wavelength. The pseudo-first order rate constant, k_{obs} , was evaluated from the linear ($r=0.990 - 0.999$) plots of $\log [\text{IFC}]$ against time for up to 80% reaction. Duplicate kinetic runs showed that the rate constants were

Introduction

Halochromates have been used as mild and selective oxidizing reagents in synthetic organic chemistry¹. Imidazolium fluorochromate (IFC) is also one of such compounds used as mild and selective oxidizing agent in synthetic organic chemistry². A few reports on the oxidation aspects of halochromates, including IFC are available in the literature³⁻⁶. We have been interested in the kinetic and mechanistic studies of the reactions of chromium (VI) species. In continuation of our earlier work⁷⁻¹⁰, we report in the present article the kinetics of oxidation of some monosubstituted benzyl alcohols by IFC in DMSO as solvent. Attempts have been made to correlate reactivity and structure in this reaction. Oxidation of benzyl alcohols with various oxidants is an important area of chemistry both from kinetics¹¹ and preparative point of views¹².

Experimental Section

Materials

IFC was prepared by the reported method² and its purity checked by an iodometric method. The procedure used for the purification of alcohols has been described earlier^{13a}. α,α -Dideuteriobenzyl alcohol (PhCH_2OH) was prepared by the reported method^{13b}. Its isotopic purity, as ascertained by its NMR spectra, was $95 \pm 4\%$. Due to

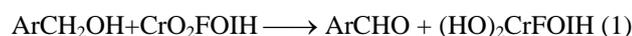
reproducible to within $\pm 3\%$. The second order rate constant, k_2 , was obtained from the relation: $k_2 = k_{\text{obs}}/[\text{alcohol}]$. All experiments, other than those for studying the effect of hydrogen ions, were carried out in the absence of TsOH.

Results and Discussion

The rates and other experimental data were obtained for all the alcohols. Since the results are similar, only representative data are reproduced here.

Stoichiometry

Oxidation of benzyl alcohols by IFC results in the oxidation of corresponding benzaldehydes. Analysis of products and the stoichiometric determinations indicate the following overall reaction (1).



Thus IFC undergoes a two electron change. This is in accord with the earlier observations with other halochromates⁷⁻¹⁰ also. It has already been shown that both PFC¹⁴ and PCC¹⁵ act as two electron oxidants and are reduced to chromium (IV) species, by determining the oxidation state of chromium by magnetic susceptibility, ESR and IR studies

Rate laws

The reactions are of first order with respect to IFC. Figure 1 depicts a typical kinetic run. Further, the pseudo-first order rate constant, k_{obs} is independent of the initial concentration of IFC. The reaction rate increases with increase in the concentration of the alcohols but not linearly (Table 1).

Table 1. Rate constants for the oxidation of benzyl alcohol by IFC at 298 K

$10^3[\text{IFC}]$, mol dm^{-3}	$[\text{Alcohol}]$, mol dm^{-3}	$[\text{TsOH}]$, mol dm^{-3}	$10^4 k_{\text{obs}}$, s^{-1}
1.0	0.10	0.0	4.62
1.0	0.20	0.0	6.89
1.0	0.40	0.0	9.12
1.0	0.60	0.0	10.2
1.0	0.80	0.0	10.9
1.0	1.00	0.0	11.3
1.0	1.50	0.0	12.0
1.0	3.00	0.0	12.7
2.0	0.40	0.0	10.8
4.0	0.40	0.0	11.7
6.0	0.40	0.0	10.2
8.0	0.40	0.0	10.5
1.0	1.00	0.1	5.46
1.0	1.00	0.2	6.42
1.0	1.00	0.4	7.84
1.0	1.00	0.6	9.27
1.0	1.00	1.0	12.6
1.0	0.40	0.0	9.72*

*contained $0.001 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ acrylonitrile

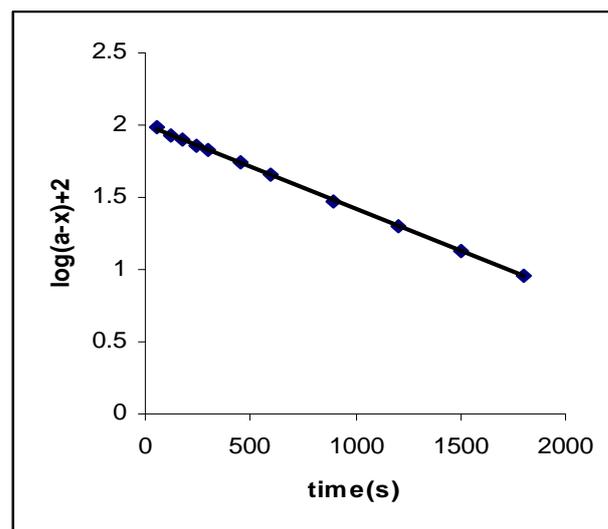
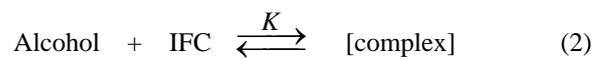


Figure 1. Oxidation of Benzyl alcohol by IFC: A typical kinetic run

A plot of $1/k_{\text{obs}}$ against $1/[\text{Alcohols}]$ is linear ($r > 0.995$) with an intercept on the rate-ordinate (Figure 2). Thus, Michaelis-Menten type kinetics are observed with respect to the alcohols. This leads to the postulation of following overall mechanism (2) and (3) and rate law (4).



$$\text{Rate} = \frac{k_2 K [\text{Alcohol}][\text{IFC}]}{1 + K [\text{Alcohol}]} \quad (4)$$

The dependence of reaction rate on the reductant concentration was studied at different temperatures and the values of formation constants K and decomposition constants of the complex k_2 were evaluated from the double reciprocal plots. The thermodynamic parameters of the complex formation and activation parameters of the decomposition of the complexes were calculated from the values of K and k_2 respectively at different temperatures (Tables 2 and 3).

Tests for free radicals

The oxidation of benzyl alcohol by IFC, in an atmosphere of nitrogen failed to induce the polymerisation of acrylonitrile. Further, an addition of a radical scavenger, acrylonitrile, had no effect on the rate (Table 1).

Table 2. Rate constants and activation parameters of oxidation of substituted benzyl alcohols by IFC

Substance	$10^4 k_2, \text{dm}^3 \text{mol}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$				ΔH^\ddagger , kJ mol ⁻¹	ΔS^\ddagger , J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹	ΔG^\ddagger , kJ mol ⁻¹
	288 K	298 K	308 K	318 K			
H	5.76	13.5	31.5	71.1	61.3±0.6	-95±2	89.3±0.5
<i>p</i> -Me	12.5	28.3	63.0	135	57.9±0.4	-99±1	87.5±0.3
<i>p</i> -OMe	26.1	59.0	126	270	56.6±0.4	-98±1	85.7±0.3
<i>p</i> -F	5.36	12.8	30.6	70.2	62.8±0.6	-90±2	89.5±0.5
<i>p</i> -Cl	3.37	8.19	19.8	46.5	64.1±0.6	-89±2	90.6±0.5
<i>p</i> -NO ₂	0.23	0.64	1.76	4.67	73.9±0.6	-78±2	96.9±0.5
<i>p</i> -CF ₃	0.72	1.87	4.85	12.1	69.2±0.7	-85±2	94.2±0.5
<i>p</i> -COOMe	0.99	2.54	6.45	15.8	67.8±0.6	-87±2	93.5±0.5
<i>p</i> -Br	3.29	8.01	19.4	45.5	64.2±0.7	-89±2	90.6±0.5
<i>p</i> -NHAc	12.6	28.8	64.8	141	58.8±0.6	-97±2	87.5±0.4
<i>p</i> -CN	0.42	1.13	3.02	7.74	71.5±0.2	-81±2	95.5±0.5
<i>p</i> -SMe	14.4	34.6	77.4	162	58.9±0.5	-95±1	87.1±0.1
<i>p</i> -NMe ₂	132	270	531	1080	51.6±0.5	-99±2	82.2±0.4
<i>m</i> -Me	10.4	23.4	52.8	115	58.5±0.6	-99±2	88.0±0.5
<i>m</i> -OMe	10.8	23.7	51.9	108	56.0±0.4	-108±1	87.9±0.3
<i>m</i> -Cl	1.76	4.29	10.4	24.3	64.2±0.6	-95±2	92.2±0.5
<i>m</i> -Br	1.74	4.23	10.3	23.4	63.6±0.4	-96±1	92.2±0.4
<i>m</i> -F	2.16	5.18	12.3	27.9	62.5±0.5	-99±2	91.7±0.4
<i>m</i> -NO ₂	0.18	0.51	1.39	3.67	73.9±0.5	-79±2	97.5±0.4
<i>m</i> -CO ₂ Me	0.95	2.43	6.17	15.3	68.0±0.8	-86±2	93.6±0.6
<i>m</i> -CF ₃	0.65	1.69	4.37	10.8	68.9±0.6	-86±2	94.5±0.5
<i>m</i> -CN	0.33	0.89	2.38	6.12	71.6±0.6	-82±2	96.1±0.5
<i>m</i> -SMe	7.35	16.5	36.9	79.2	57.8±0.5	-82±2	96.1±0.5
<i>m</i> -NHAc	6.51	14.8	33.3	72.9	58.8±0.6	-104±2	89.1±0.4
<i>o</i> -Me	58.5	117	239	468	50.4±0.6	-113±2	83.9±0.5
<i>o</i> -OMe	40.5	81.9	167	324	50.4±0.5	-116±1	84.9±0.4
<i>o</i> -NO ₂	0.61	1.53	3.98	9.81	68.2±0.9	-90±3	94.7±0.7
<i>o</i> -COOMe	4.86	11.2	25.7	56.7	59.9±0.9	-101±2	89.8±0.5
<i>o</i> -NHAc	72.0	142	279	522	47.9±0.3	-120±1	83.5±0.3
<i>o</i> -Cl	12.6	27.0	59.4	124	55.7±0.7	-108±2	87.6±0.5
<i>o</i> -Br	17.1	36.9	77.4	159	54.0±0.4	-111±1	86.9±0.3
<i>o</i> -I	30.2	62.1	126	251	51.2±0.5	-116±1	85.6±0.4
<i>o</i> -CN	1.32	3.24	7.92	18.9	65.0±0.7	-94±2	92.9±0.6
<i>o</i> -SMe	63.0	124	243	459	48.0±0.4	-121±1	83.9±0.3
<i>o</i> -F	6.75	15.3	34.2	74.7	58.5±0.5	-103±2	89.0±0.4
<i>o</i> -CF ₃	13.5	28.7	61.2	126	54.2±0.5	-112±2	87.5±0.4
α, α' -BA	0.94	2.34	5.73	13.7	65.5±0.6	-95±2	93.7±0.5
k_H/k_D	6.12	5.77	5.50	5.19			

Effect of acidity

The reaction is catalysed by hydrogen ions. The hydrogen-ion dependence taking the form: $k_{\text{obs}} = a + b[\text{H}^+]$ (Table 1). The values for a and b for benzyl alcohol are $4.67 \pm 0.25 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $8.14 \pm 0.41 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ dm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ respectively ($r^2 = 0.9898$)

Kinetic isotope effect

To ascertain the importance of the cleavage of the $\alpha\text{-C-H}$ bond in the rate-determining step, oxidation of α, α -di-deuterio benzyl alcohol was studied. Results showed the presence of a substantial primary kinetic isotope effect (Table 2).

Effect of solvents

The oxidation of benzyl alcohol was studied in 19 different organic solvents. The choice of solvents was limited by the solubility of IFC and its reaction with primary and secondary alcohols. There was no reaction with the solvents chosen. Kinetics were similar in all the solvents. The values of K and k_2 are recorded in Table 3.

The correlation between activation enthalpies and entropies of oxidation of the thirty three alcohols is not very good ($r^2 = 0.9042$). The value of the isokinetic temperature is $593 \pm 33 \text{ K}$. However, according to Exner¹⁶, an isokinetic relationship between the calculated values of activation enthalpies and entropies is often vitiated by random experimental errors.

Table 3. Formation constants for the decomposition of IFC–Alcohol complexes and thermodynamic parameters

Substance	$K, \text{dm}^3 \text{mol}^{-1}$				$-\Delta H,$ kJ mol^{-1}	$-\Delta S^{\circ}$ $\text{J mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$	$-\Delta G^{\circ}$ kJ mol^{-1}
	288 K	298 K	308 K	318 K			
H	5.85	5.21	4.56	3.88	12.3±0.3	20±1	6.56±0.2
<i>p</i> -Me	5.46	4.82	4.22	3.60	13.0±0.4	23±1	6.37±0.3
<i>p</i> -OMe	5.32	4.70	4.05	3.42	13.7±0.5	25±2	6.29±0.4
<i>p</i> -F	5.56	4.95	4.32	3.65	13.1±0.6	23±2	6.42±0.5
<i>p</i> -Cl	5.90	5.26	4.65	4.03	12.1±0.4	19±1	6.59±0.3
<i>p</i> -NO ₂	6.18	5.53	4.95	4.28	11.7±0.4	17±1	6.72±0.3
<i>p</i> -CF ₃	5.89	5.25	4.65	4.02	12.1±0.4	19±1	6.58±0.3
<i>p</i> -COOMe	5.44	4.82	4.17	3.51	13.6±0.6	25±2	6.35±0.4
<i>p</i> -Br	5.81	5.22	4.50	3.96	12.4±0.4	19±1	6.59±0.3
<i>p</i> -NHAc	6.02	5.40	4.78	4.14	12.0±0.4	18±1	6.65±0.3
<i>p</i> -CN	6.22	5.57	4.95	4.32	11.7±0.4	17±1	6.73±0.3
<i>p</i> -SMe	6.15	5.53	4.90	4.30	11.6±0.3	17±1	6.71±0.3
<i>p</i> -NMe ₂	5.66	5.04	4.41	3.78	12.7±0.4	21±1	6.47±0.4
<i>m</i> -Me	5.73	5.13	4.49	3.87	12.4±0.4	20±1	6.51±0.4
<i>m</i> -OMe	5.45	4.81	4.20	3.53	13.4±0.6	24±2	6.36±0.4
<i>m</i> -Cl	6.13	5.51	4.88	4.23	11.4±0.3	16±1	6.70±0.2
<i>m</i> -Br	5.49	4.86	4.22	3.60	13.2±0.4	23±1	6.38±0.4
<i>m</i> -F	5.99	5.35	4.75	4.12	11.9±0.4	18±1	6.63±0.3
<i>m</i> -NO ₂	6.02	5.40	4.77	4.13	12.0±0.4	19±1	6.65±0.3
<i>m</i> -CO ₂ Me	6.05	5.42	4.80	4.15	12.0±0.4	18±1	6.66±0.3
<i>m</i> -CF ₃	5.98	5.36	4.71	4.06	13.2±0.4	23±1	6.38±0.4
<i>m</i> -CN	60.3	5.41	4.76	4.15	12.1±0.4	19±1	6.60±0.3
<i>m</i> -SMe	5.31	4.70	4.06	3.45	12.0±0.4	18±1	6.65±0.3
<i>m</i> -NHAc	5.94	5.31	4.67	4.06	13.4±0.5	24±2	6.29±0.4
<i>o</i> -Me	5.27	4.65	4.03	3.40	13.6±0.5	25±2	6.27±0.4
<i>o</i> -OMe	6.18	5.56	4.95	4.28	11.7±0.5	17±1	6.72±0.4
<i>o</i> -NO ₂	5.91	5.29	4.65	4.05	12.1±0.4	19±1	6.59±0.3
<i>o</i> -COOMe	5.45	4.82	4.20	3.57	13.2±0.5	23±2	6.36±0.4
<i>o</i> -NHAc	5.92	5.28	4.65	4.05	12.1±0.3	19±1	6.59±0.3
<i>o</i> -Cl	5.61	4.97	4.32	3.75	12.7±0.3	22±1	6.44±0.2
<i>o</i> -Br	5.83	5.21	4.58	3.92	12.5±0.5	21±2	6.55±0.4
<i>o</i> -I	5.79	5.18	4.50	3.93	12.4±0.4	20±1	6.53±0.3
<i>o</i> -CN	6.04	5.40	4.77	4.14	12.0±0.4	19±1	6.65±0.3
<i>o</i> -SMe	5.88	5.22	4.62	4.01	12.2±0.3	19±1	6.57±0.3
<i>o</i> -F	5.86	5.23	4.61	3.95	12.4±0.5	20±2	6.57±0.4
<i>o</i> -CF ₃	5.76	5.13	4.52	3.88	12.5±0.4	20±1	6.52±0.3
α, α' -BA	5.31	4.66	4.03	3.40	13.8±0.5	26±2	6.28±0.4

Exner suggested an alternative method for establishing the isokinetic relationship. Exner's plot between $\log k_2$ at 288 K and at 318 K was linear ($r^2 = 0.9990$) (Figure 3).

The value of isokinetic temperature evaluated from the Exner's plot is 690 ± 37 K. The linear isokinetic correlation implies that all the alcohols are oxidized by the same mechanism and the changes in the rate are governed by changes in both the enthalpy and entropy of activation.

Reactivity oxidizing species

The observed hydrogen-ion dependence suggests that the reaction follows two mechanistic pathways, one acid-independent and another acid-dependent. The

acid-catalysis may well be attributed to a protonation of IFC as equation 5 to yield a protonated Cr(VI) species which is a stronger oxidant and electrophile. Formation of a protonated Cr(VI) species has earlier been postulated in the reactions of structurally similar PCC¹⁷.



The rate constants, k_2 , in seventeen solvents (CS₂ was not considered as the complete range of solvent parameters was not available) were correlated in terms of linear solvation energy relationship (Eqn. 6) of Kamlet *et al*¹⁸.

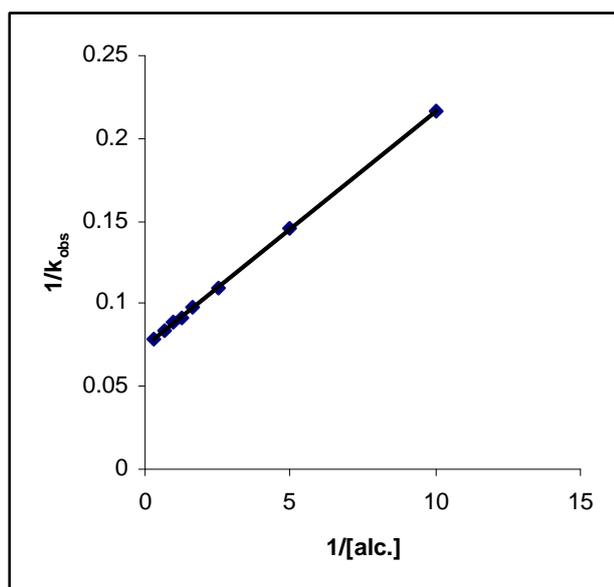


Figure 2. Oxidation of benzyl alcohol by IFC: A double reciprocal plot

$$\log k_2 = A_0 + p\pi^* + b\beta + a\alpha \quad (6)$$

In Eq. (3) π^* represents the solvent polarity, β the hydrogen bond acceptor basicities and α is the hydrogen bond donor acidity. A_0 is the intercept term. It may be mentioned here that out of the 18 solvents, 13 has a value of zero for α . The results of correlation analyses terms of Eq. (3), a biparametric equation involving π^* and β , and separately with π^* and β are given below (equation 7 - 10).

$$\log k_2 = -3.71 + 1.60(\pm 0.21)\pi^* + 0.19(\pm 0.17)\beta + 0.09(\pm 0.16)\alpha \quad (7)$$

$$R^2 = 0.8409; \text{sd} = 0.19; n = 18; \psi = 0.44$$

$$\log k_2 = -3.73 + 1.63(\pm 0.20)\pi^* + 0.15(\pm 0.16)\beta \quad (8)$$

$$R^2 = 0.8371; \text{sd} = 0.19; n = 18; \psi = 0.43$$

$$\log k_2 = -3.70 + 1.67(\pm 0.19)\pi^* \quad (9)$$

$$r^2 = 0.8271; \text{sd} = 0.19; n = 18; \psi = 0.43$$

$$\log k_2 = -3.02 + 0.45(\pm 0.36)\beta \quad (10)$$

$$r^2 = 0.0878; \text{sd} = 0.43; n = 18; \psi = 0.98$$

Here n is the number of data points and ψ is Exner's statistical parameter¹⁹.

Kamlet's¹⁹ triparametric equation explains *ca.* 84 % of the effect of solvent on the oxidation. However, by Exner's criterion the correlation is not even satisfactory (cf. equation 7). The major contribution is of solvent polarity. It alone accounted for *ca.* 83 % of the data. Both β and α play relatively minor roles.

The data on the solvent effect were also analysed in terms of Swain's equation²⁰ of cation- and anion-solvating concept of the solvents equation 11.

$$\log k_2 = aA + bB + C \quad (11)$$

Here A represents the anion-solvating power of the solvent and B the cation-solvating power of the solvent. C is the intercept term. $(A+B)$ is postulated to represent the solvent polarity. The rates in different solvents were analysed in terms of equation (11), separately with A and B and with $(A+B)$.

$$\log k_2 = 0.69 + (\pm 0.05)A + 1.71(\pm 0.03)B - 3.95 \quad (12)$$

$$R^2 = 0.9941; \text{sd} = 0.04; n = 19; \psi = 0.08$$

$$\log k_2 = 0.45(\pm 0.57)A - 2.77 \quad (13)$$

$$r^2 = 0.0358; \text{sd} = 0.46; n = 19; \psi = 1.01$$

$$\log k_2 = 1.38(\pm 0.13)B - 3.62 \quad (14)$$

$$r^2 = 0.8625; \text{sd} = 0.17; n = 19; \psi = 0.38$$

$$\log k_2 = 1.66 \pm 0.13(A+B) - 3.63 \quad (15)$$

$$r^2 = 0.9099; \text{sd} = 0.14; n = 19; \psi = 0.31$$

The rates of oxidation of benzyl alcohol in different solvents show an excellent correlation in Swain's equation (12) with the cation-solvating power playing the major role. In fact, the cation-solvation alone accounts for *ca.* 99% of the data. The solvent polarity, represented by $(A+B)$, also accounted for *ca.* 91% of the data. In view of the fact that the solvent polarity is able to account for *ca.* 91 % of the data, an attempt was made to correlate the rate with the relative permittivity of the solvent. However, a plot of $\log(\text{rate})$ against the inverse of the relative permittivity is not linear ($r^2 = 0.0584$ $\text{sd} = 0.33$, $\psi = 0.99$).

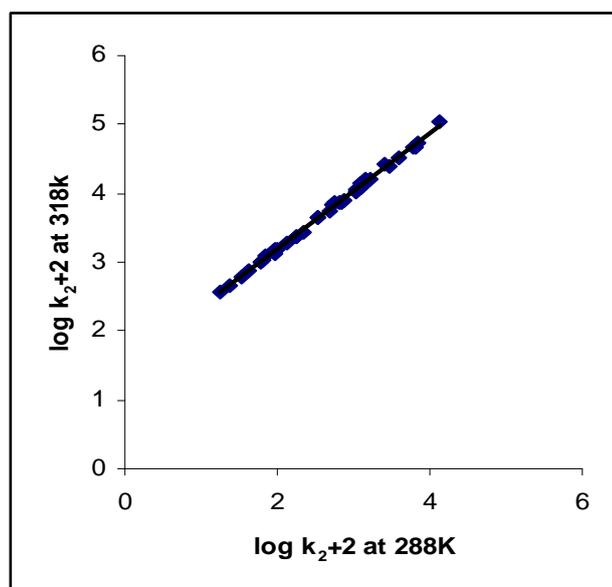


Figure 3. Exner's Isokinetic Relationship in the oxidation of benzyl alcohols by IFC

Correlation analysis of reactivity

The effect of structure on reactivity has long been correlated in terms of the Hammett equation²¹ or with dual substituent-parameter equations^{22,23}. In the late 1980s, Charton²⁴ introduced a triparametric LDR equation for the quantitative description of structural effects on chemical reactivities. This triparametric equation results from the fact that substituent types differ in their mode of electron delocalization. This difference reflected in a different sensitivity to the electron demand for the phenomenon being studied. It has an advantage of not requiring a choice of parameters as the same three substituent constants are reported to cover the range of electrical effects of the substituents. In this work we have applied the LDR equation 16 to the rate constants, k_2 .

$$\log k_2 = L\sigma_1 + D\sigma_d + R\sigma_e + h \quad (16)$$

Here, σ_1 is a localized (field and/or inductive) effect parameter, σ_d is the intrinsic delocalized electrical effect parameter when active site electronic demand is minimal and σ_e represents the sensitivity of the substituent to changes in electronic demand by the active site. The latter two substituent parameters are related by equation (17).

$$\sigma_D = \eta\sigma_e + \sigma_d \quad (17)$$

Here η represents the electronic demand of the reaction site and is given by $\eta = R/D$, and σ_D represents the delocalized electrical parameter of the diparametric LD equation.

For *ortho*-substituted compounds, it is necessary to account for the possibility of steric effects and Charton²⁴, therefore, modified the LDR equation to generate the LDRS equation (15).

$$\log k_2 = L\sigma_1 + D\sigma_d + R\sigma_e + S\upsilon + h \quad (18)$$

where υ is the well known Charton's steric parameter based on Van der Waals radii.²⁵

Table 4 - Solvent effect on the oxidation of benzyl alcohol by IFC at 298 K

Solvents	K , $\text{dm}^{-3} \text{mol}^{-1}$	$10^4 k_2$, s^{-1}
Chloroform	5.58	41.7
Toluene	5.31	10.7
1,2-Dichloroethane	4.76	51.3
Acetophenone	6.21	60.3
Dichloromethane	4.35	39.8
THF	4.75	19.1
DMSO	5.21	135
t-Butylalcohol	4.38	17.8
Acetone	5.33	44.7
1,4-Dioxane	4.27	20.4
DMF	4.65	64.6
1,2-Dimethoxyethane	5.40	12.3
Butanone	5.85	32.4
CS ₂	4.95	5.25
Nitrobenzene	4.67	47.9
Acetic acid	5.90	7.94
Benzene	6.03	15.5
Ethyl acetate	5.40	16.6
Cyclohexane	5.25	1.51

The rates of oxidation of *ortho*-, *meta*- and *para*-substituted benzyl alcohols show an excellent correlation in terms of the LDR/LDRS equations (Table 4). We have used the standard deviation (sd), the coefficient of multiple determination (R^2), and Exner's¹⁹ parameter, ψ , as the measures of goodness of fit.

The comparison of the L and D values for the substituted benzyl alcohols showed that the oxidation of *para*-substituted benzyl alcohols is more susceptible to the delocalization effect than to the localized effect. However, the oxidation of *ortho*- and *meta*-substituted compounds exhibited a greater dependence on the field effect. In all the cases, the magnitude of the reaction constants decreases with an increase in the temperature, pointing to a decrease in selectivity with an increase in temperature.

All three regression coefficients, L, D and R, are negative indicating an electron-deficient carbon centre in the activated complex for the rate-determining step. The positive value of η adds a negative increment to σ_d , reflecting the electron-donating power of the substituent and its capacity to stabilise a cationic species. The positive value of S indicates that the reaction is subject to steric acceleration by an *ortho*-substituent.

Table 5 - Temperature dependence for the reaction constants for the oxidation of substituted benzyl alcohols by IFC

T/K	L	D	R	S	η	R^2	sd	ψ	P_D	P_S	T/K
<i>Para</i> -substituted											
288	-1.71	-1.98	-1.40	-	0.71	0.9999	0.009	0.01	53.7	-	288
298	-1.62	-1.89	-1.36	-	0.72	0.9989	0.001	0.01	53.8	-	298
308	-1.53	-1.80	-1.26	-	0.70	0.9998	0.003	0.02	54.1	-	308
318	-1.43	-1.71	-1.21	-	0.71	0.9998	0.007	0.02	54.5	-	318
<i>Meta</i> -substituted											
288	-1.99	-1.45	-1.16	-	0.80	0.9998	0.002	0.02	42.2	-	288
298	-1.89	-1.35	-1.09	-	0.81	0.9999	0.001	0.01	41.7	-	298
308	-1.80	-1.26	-0.99	-	0.79	0.9999	0.001	0.01	41.2	-	308
318	-1.72	-1.16	-0.94	-	0.81	0.9998	0.004	0.02	40.3	-	318
<i>Ortho</i> -substituted											
288	-1.89	-1.53	-0.79	1.44	0.52	0.9999	0.003	0.01	44.7	25.5	288
298	-1.80	-1.44	-0.70	1.35	0.49	0.9998	0.004	0.02	44.4	25.5	298
308	-1.71	-1.35	-0.65	1.26	0.48	0.9999	0.002	0.01	44.1	25.4	308
318	-1.62	-1.26	-0.55	1.17	0.44	0.9998	0.003	0.02	43.8	25.4	318

To test the significance of localized, delocalized and steric effects in the *ortho*-substituted benzyl alcohols, multiple regression analyses were carried out with (i) σ_1 , σ_d and σ_e (ii) σ_d , σ_e and υ and (iii) σ_1 , σ_e and υ . The absence of significant correlations showed that all the four substituent constants are significant.

$$\log k_2 = -1.52(\pm 0.50)\sigma_1 - 1.53(\pm 0.39)\sigma_d - 3.32(\pm 2.25)\sigma_e - 2.41 \quad (19)$$

$$R^2 = 0.7628; \text{sd} = 0.34; n = 12; \psi = 0.56$$

$$\log k_2 = -1.61(\pm 0.46)\sigma_d - 1.28(\pm 2.87)\sigma_e + 1.06(\pm 0.53)\upsilon - 3.43 \quad (20)$$

$$R^2 = 0.6638; \text{sd} = 0.41; n = 12; \psi = 0.67$$

$$\log k_2 = -2.02(\pm 0.61)\sigma_1 - 0.05(\pm 2.94)\sigma_e + 1.47(\pm 0.55)\upsilon - 2.22 \quad (21)$$

$$R^2 = 0.6457; \text{sd} = 0.42; n = 12; \psi = 0.69$$

Similarly in the cases of oxidation of *para*- and *meta*-substituted benzyl alcohols, multiple regression analyses indicated that both localization and delocalization effects are significant. There is no significant collinearity between the various substituents constants for the three series. The percent contribution²⁶ of the delocalized effect, P_D , is given by equation (22).

$$P_D = \frac{|D| \times 100}{|L| + |D|} \quad (22)$$

Similarly, the percent contribution of the steric parameter²⁵ to the total effect of the substituent, P_S , was determined by using equation (23).

$$P_S = \frac{|S| \times 100}{|L| + |D| + |S|} \quad (23)$$

The values of P_D and P_S are also recorded in Table 5. The value of P_D for the oxidation of *para*-substituted benzyl alcohols is *ca.* 54% whereas the corresponding values for the *meta*- and *ortho*-substituted alcohols are *ca.* 42 and 44% respectively. This shows that the balance of localization and delocalization effects is different for differently substituted benzyl alcohols. The less pronounced resonance effect from the *ortho*-position than from the *para*-position may be due to the twisting away of the alcoholic group from the plane of the benzene ring. The magnitude of the P_S value shows that the steric effect is significant in this reaction.

The positive value of S showed a steric acceleration of the reaction. This may be explained on the basis high ground state energy of the sterically crowded alcohols. Since the crowding is relieved in the in the product aldehyde as well as the transition state leading to it, the transition state energy of the crowded and uncrowded alcohols do not differ much and steric acceleration, therefore results.

Mechanism

A hydrogen abstraction mechanism leading to the formation of the free radicals is unlikely in view of the failure to induce polymerization of acrylonitrile and no effect of the radical scavenger on the reaction rate. The presence of a substantial kinetic isotope effect confirms the cleavage of a α -C-H bond in the rate-determining step.

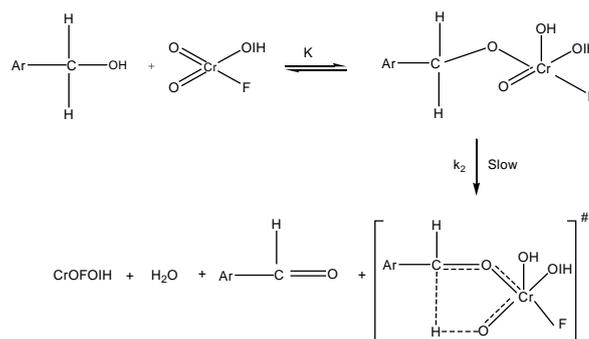
The negative values of the localization and delocalization electrical effects i.e. of L, D and R points to an electron-deficient reaction centre in the rate-determining step. It is further supported by the positive value of η , which indicates that the substituent is better able to stabilise a cationic or electron-deficient reactive site. Therefore, a hydride-ion transfer in the rate-determining step is suggested. The hydride-ion transfer mechanism is also supported by the major role of cation-solvating power of the solvents. The hydride ion transfer may take place either by a cyclic process via an ester intermediate or by an acyclic one-step bimolecular process. Kwart and Nickle²⁶ have shown that a dependence of kinetic isotope effect on temperature can be gainfully employed to determine whether the loss of hydrogen proceeds through a concerted cyclic process or by an acyclic one.

The data for protio- and deuterio-benzyl alcohols, fitted to the familiar expression: $k_H/k_D = A_H/A_D(-\Delta H^*/RT)^{27,28}$ show a direct correspondence with the properties of a symmetrical transition state in which activation energy difference for protio and deuterio compounds is equal to the difference in the zero-point energy for the respective C-H and C-D bonds ($\approx 4.5 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$) and the entropies of activation of the respective reactions are almost equal. Similar phenomena were also observed earlier in the oxidation of benzaldehydes by IFC.²⁹ Bordwell³⁰ has documented a very cogent evidence against the occurrence of concerted one-step bimolecular processes by hydrogen transfer and it is evident that in the present studies also the hydrogen transfer does not occur by an acyclic biomolecular process.

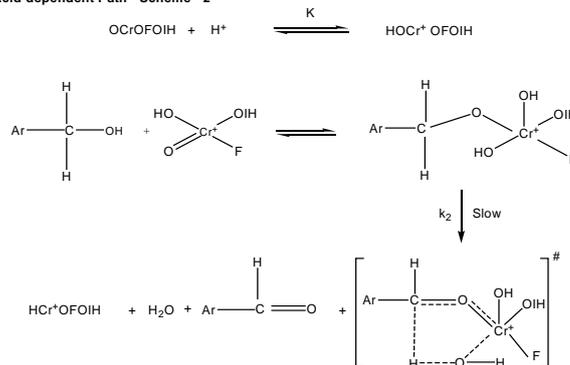
It is well-established that intrinsically concerted sigmatropic reactions, characterised by transfer of hydrogen in a cyclic transition state, are the only truly symmetrical processes involving a linear hydrogen transfer.³¹ Littler³² has also shown that a cyclic hydride transfer, in the oxidation of alcohols by Cr(VI), involves six electrons and, being a Huckel-type system, is an allowed process. Thus, a transition state having a planar, cyclic and symmetrical structure can be envisaged for the decomposition of the ester intermediate. Hence, the overall mechanism is proposed to involve the formation of a chromate ester in a fast pre-equilibrium step and then a decomposition of the ester in a subsequent slow step via a cyclic concerted symmetrical transition state leading to the product (Schemes 1 and 2).

The observed negative value of entropy of activation also supports the proposed mechanism. As the charge separation takes place in the transition state, the charged ends become highly solvated. This results in an immobilization of a large number of solvent molecules, reflected in the loss of entropy.³³

Acid-independent Path - Scheme - 1



Acid-dependent Path - Scheme - 2



Conclusion

The reaction is proposed to proceed through a hydride-ion transfer from alcohol to the oxidant in the rate-determining step. It has also been observed that an α -C-H bond is cleaved in the rate-determining step. Both deprotonated and protonated forms of IFC are the reactive oxidising species.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to University Grants Commission, New Delhi for financial support in the form of BSR-One Time Grant, No. F. 4-10/2010 (BSR) dated 07.03.2012.

References

- Corey, E.J., Suggs, W.J. *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **1975**, 2647; Guziec, F.S., Luzio, F.A. *Synthesis*, **1980**, 691; Bhattacharjee, M.N., Choudhuri, M.K., Dasgupta, H.S., Roy, N., Khathing, D.T. *Synthesis*, **1982**, 588; Balasubramanian, K., Prathiba, V. *Indian J. Chem.*, **1986**, 25B, 326; Pandurangan, A., Murugesan, V., Palamichamy, P. *J. Indian Chem. Soc.*, **1995**, 72, 479.
- Pandurangan A., Rajkumar A., Arabindoo G.A. and Murugesan V. *Indian J. Chem.*, **1999**, 38B, 99.
- Kumbhat, R., Prasadrao, P.T.S.R.K., Sharma, V., *Oxid. Commun.*, **2007**, 30 (1) 97.
- Choudhary, A., Agarwal, S., Sharma, V., *Indian J. Chem.*, **2009**, 48A, 362.

- ⁵Gehlot, M., Gilla, M., Mishra, P., Sharma, V. *J. Indian Chem. Soc.*, **2011**, 88(5) 685.
- ⁶Khatri, J., Choudhary, A., Purohit, P., Kumbhat, R., Sharma, V., *Eur. Chem. Bull.*, **2012**, 1(3-4) 49.
- ⁷Malani, N., Baghmar, M., Sharma, P.K., *Int. J. Chem. Kinet.*, **2009**, 41, 65.
- ⁸Vadera, K., Yajurvedi, D., Purohit, P., Mishra, P., Sharma P.K. *Prog. React. Kinet. Mech.*, **2010**, 35, 265.
- ⁹Sharma, D., Panchariya, P., Vadera K., Sharma P.K. *J. Sulfur Chem.*, **2011**, 32(4) 315–326
- ¹⁰ Sharma, D., Panchariya, P., Purohit P., Sharma, P.K. *Oxid. Commun.*, **2012**, 35(4) 821.
- ¹¹Banerji, K. K., *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 2*, **1978**, 639; Kumar, A., Sharma, P. K., Banerji, K. K., *J. Phys. Org. Chem.*, **2002**, 15(10), 721–727; Vyas, V. K., Kothari, S., Banerji, K. K., *Int. J. Chem. Kinetics*, **1997**, 29, 9-16; Kothari, S., Banerji, K., *Can. J. Chem.*, **1985**, 63, 2726; Kumar, A., Mishra, P., Kótai L., Banerji, K. K., *Ind. J. Chem.*, **2003**, 42A, 72.
- ¹²Choudhary, V. R., Jha, R., and Jana, P., *Green. Chem.*, **2007**, 9, 267; Bugarcic, Z., Novokmet, S., Kostic, V., *J. Serb. Chem. Soc.*, **2005**, 70(5), 681.; Kotai, L., Kazinczy, B., Keszler, A., Holly, S., Gacs, I., Banerji, K. K., *Z. Naturforsch. B-J. Chem. Sci.*, **2001**, 56(8), 823.
- ^{13a}Banerji, K.K., *Indian J. Chem.*, **1983**, 22B, 413.
- ^{13b}Bunnet, J.F., Devis, G.T., Tanida, H., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1962**, 84, 1606.
- ^{13c}Perrin, D.D., Armarego, W.L., Perrin, D.R., *Purification of Organic Compounds*, Oxford, Pergamon Press, **1966**.
- ¹⁴Bhattacharjee, M.N., Choudhuri, M.K., Purakayastha S. *Tetrahedron*, **1987**, 43, 5389.
- ¹⁵Brown, H.C., Rao, G.C., Kulkarni, S.U. *J. Org. Chem.*, **1979**, 44, 2809.
- ¹⁶Exner, O. *Collect. Chem. Czech. Commun.*, **1977**, 38, 411.
- ¹⁷Saraswat, S., Sharma, V., Banerji, K.K. *Indian J. Chem.*, **2001**, 40A, 583.
- ¹⁸Kamlet, M.J., Abboud, J.L.M., Abraham, M.H., Taft, R.W. *J. Org. Chem.*, **1983**, 48, 2877.
- ¹⁹Exner, O. *Collect. Chem. Czech. Commun.*, **1966**, 31, 3222.
- ²⁰Swain, C.G., Swain, M.S., Powel, A.L., Alunni, S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1983**, 105, 502.
- ²¹Johnson, C.D. *The Hammett equation*, University Press, Cambridge, **1973**, 78.
- ²²Dayal, S.K., Ehrenson, S., Taft, R.W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1974**, 94, 9113.
- ²³Swain, C.G., Unger, S.H., Rosenquest, N.R., Swain, M.S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1983**, 105, 492.
- ²⁴Charton, M., Charton, B. *Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr.*, **1988**, 199 and references cited therein.
- ²⁵Charton, M. *J. Org. Chem.*, **1975**, 40, 407.
- ²⁶Kwart, H., Nickel, J.H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1973**, 95, 3394.
- ²⁷Kwart, H., Latimer, M.C., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1971**, 93, 3770.
- ²⁸Kwart, H., Slutsky, J. *J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun.*, **1972**, 1182.
- ²⁹Khatri, J. Choudhary, A., Purohit, P., Kumbhat R., Sharma, V. *Eur. Chem. Bull.*, **2012**, 1(3-4), 49.
- ³⁰Bordwell, F.G., *Acc. Chem. Res.*, **1974**, 5, 374.
- ³¹Woodward, R.W., Hoffmann R. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed Eng.* **1969**, 8, 781.
- ³²Littler, J.S., *Tetrahedron*, **1971**, 27, 81.
- ³³Gould, E.S. *Mechanism and Structure in Organic Chemistry*, Holt, Rinehart & Winston Inc., NY, **1964**.

Received: 03.05.2013.

Accepted: 05.06.2013.