

# Applications of the PM3 semi-empirical method to the study of triethylenediamine

# J. Mancuso and R.J. McEachern\*

AECL, Whiteshell Laboratories, Pinawa, Manitoba, Canada

Charcoal filters impregnated with triethylenediamine (TEDA) are known to be efficient for the collection of volatile methyl iodide, which may be released under a hypothetical loss-of-coolant accident in a nuclear generating station. The structure and thermodynamic stability of the products of the TEDA-methyl iodide reaction have thus been studied using semi-empirical techniques. The reaction of TEDA with two molecules of methyl iodide leads to a quaternization reaction at each of the nitrogens. Moreover, it is shown that substitution of the hydrogens on TEDA with electron-donating groups can lead to enhanced stability of the quaternary ammonium reaction products. The semiempirical method PM3 (Parametric Method 3) was used as the basis for all calculations. Molecular systems and simulations were constructed using HyperChem 4.5 for Silicon Graphics workstations. Enthalpy determination and geometry optimization were some of the calculations performed on a system. © 1997 by Elsevier Science Inc.

Keywords: semi-empirical, PM3, molecular modeling, triethylenediamine, TEDA, iodomethane, enthalpy

### INTRODUCTION

Triethylenediamine (TEDA) is widely used as an impregnant on charcoal filters for the removal of noxious gases such as SO<sub>2</sub> and HCN from air streams<sup>1,2</sup> and also for removal of airborne radioiodine from nuclear reactors in the event of an accident<sup>3,4</sup>. The TEDA on the surface of charcoal chemisorbs iodine-containing organic compounds such as methyl iodide by way of well-known quaternization reactions (Figure 1)<sup>5–7</sup>.

Filters impregnated with TEDA show high efficiency for methyl iodide removal when they are new, but their effective-

Color Plates for this article are on page 101.

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ness is slowly degraded by adsorption of moisture and other contaminants<sup>8-11</sup>. Charcoal filters impregnated with several different TEDA analogs (including quaternary salts and alkylsubstituted compounds) have been investigated in an effort to minimize deterioration of filter performance over time<sup>12,13</sup>. In the present study, we report results of semi-empirical calculations modeling the reaction between TEDA and various organic iodine compounds to illustrate the utility of such a computational method and to identify TEDA analogs that may prove useful in charcoal filters.

### **CALCULATIONS**

All calculations in this study were performed with HyperChem, version 4.5®, for the Silicon Graphics® (Hypercube Inc., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada) Indigo workstation. The semi-empirical PM3<sup>14,15</sup> method, which is based on the NDDO<sup>14</sup> approximation, was used in the present study because it provides a reasonably accurate, rapid estimation of heats of formation. We are thus able to compare the relative energetics for the reaction between TEDA (or its analogs) with a series of organic iodine compounds.

The TEDA analogs were created by adding one substituent to each carbon on one of the carbon bridges. The substituents were placed in a *trans* configuration relative to each other for stereochemical equivalency and minimization of any steric effects (Figure 2). Geometry optimizations were then performed, and the heat of formation was obtained for the TEDA analogs, as well as for the mono- and bisquaternary derivatives obtained by reaction of these compounds with iodomethane.

## **RESULTS**

The optimized geometric configurations of TEDA and its analogs were calculated by standard methods with the HyperChem code. The connectivity of the atoms within each molecule was specified and then the model builder was invoked to provide reasonable starting geometries for the optimization. No significant difficulties were encountered with geometry optimization of TEDA or its analogs. Calculated

<sup>\*</sup>Address correspondence to: R.J. McEachern, AECL, Whiteshell Laboratories, Pinawa, Manitoba, ROE 1L0 Canada.

Figure 1. Quaternization reactions of TEDA and iodomethane.

bond lengths and angles were all within the expected ranges, e.g., for TEDA, C-C = 0.154 nm, C-H = 0.111 nm, and C-N = 0.150 nm. The optimized structure of TEDA is illustrated in Color Plate 1. The quaternary salts (Reactions 1 and 2; see Figure 1) did not display any significant Coulombic interaction between the ion pairs, but this is not surprising because our calculations were performed with a semi-empirical method; such procedures often have difficulty modeling the interaction between two gas-phase molecules or ions<sup>14</sup>.

### Enthalpy of reaction for TEDA and its analogs

Reaction enthalpies for reactions (1) and (2) were calculated for TEDA and a number of its analogs. For each molecule studied, the standard heat of formation was generated in the course of geometry optimization by the PM3 method with HyperChem. The standard heats of formation for TEDA and each of the analogs studied are presented in Tables 1 and 2, along with the calculated heats of reaction.

Standard reaction enthalpies shown in Tables 1 and 2 were calculated by subtracting the sum of the formation enthalpies of the reactants from those of the products. The enthalpies of reactions, displayed in Tables 1 and 2, are positive because the PM3 method does not accurately predict the stability of gasphase ion pairs, such as the products of Reactions (1) and (2). Thus the reported product enthalpies are for isolated ions. In reality, the stability of the reaction products will be enhanced by crystallization of the quaternary products as ionic salts or by

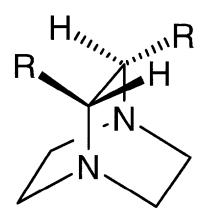


Figure 2. Structure of TEDA analogs.

adsorption of the products on the surface of the charcoal. In the present study, we are examining the effect of varying the substituents for a series of TEDA analogs; thus we are satisfied with calculated reaction enthalpies relative to the unsubstituted TEDA molecule. Thus the normalized reaction enthalpies  $(\Delta H_N^*)$  were calculated for each TEDA analog by subtracting the reaction enthalpy for the unsubstituted TEDA molecule. Our analysis includes the implicit assumption that reaction product stability associated with salt formation and/or surface adsorption is the same for TEDA as for the various analogs. Clearly such an assumption is valid only to a first approximation. However, the calculations reported herein are only a preliminary study of the performance of TEDA analogs; the actual performance of such filters would need to be experimentally verified to take into account reaction enthalpy, degree of impregnation of the TEDA analog on the charcoal surface, and the behavior of the reaction product species.

Chemical intuition suggests that substitution of some of the hydrogens on the carbon bridges of TEDA with electron-donating groups should increase the electron density around the nitrogen atoms. This could improve the ability of the TEDA molecule to act as a nucleophile in an  $S_N$ 2-type reaction. The extent to which such substituted TEDA molecules react with compounds such as iodomethane will thus vary according to the nature of the substituent. It is interesting to determine the extent to which a fairly modest computational method such as PM3 can model the substituent effects in TEDA.

Table 1 includes substituent field  $(\mathcal{F})$  and resonance  $(\mathcal{R})$  parameters, which measure the electron acceptance or donation capability of a functional group relative to hydrogen<sup>16</sup>. Positive parameter values indicate electron-withdrawing capability of the substituent, whereas negative values indicate electron-donating capability. For example, alkyl groups are primarily electron donating according to their field and resonance effects, whereas halogens are electron withdrawing by field effects and weakly donating by resonance.

Quantitative comparison of the calculated values of  $\Delta H_N^{\circ}$  with experimental data is not possible because these data do not appear to have been reported yet. However, the trend in reaction enthalpies given in Tables 1 and 2 seems reasonable. The overall trend indicates that the field effect of a substituent has a greater impact on  $\Delta H_N^{\circ}$  than does the resonance effect. Substituents with negative field effects reduce the reaction enthalpy regardless of their resonance effects (e.g., alkyls, trimethylsilane, 2-siliconeopentyl). The two substituents

Table 1. Enthalpy of reaction for the formation of the monoquaternary salt of TEDA and its analogs

Heat of formation (kcal/mol)

			R N	R N	Heat of reaction (kcal/mol) <sup>c</sup>	
Substituent (R) <sup>a</sup>	Field parameter $(\mathcal{F})^b$	Resonance parameter $(\Re)^b$	R-TEDA	сн, Methyl-R-TEDA	ΔH° [Reaction (1)]	$\Delta H_N^{\circ}$ [Reaction (1)]
$-Si(CH_3)_3$	-0.10	0.16	-81.6	64.2	71.8	-14.1
$-CH_2Si(CH_3)_3$	-0.19	-0.32	-88.5	60.3	74.8	-11.1
$-C_6H_5$	0.25	-0.37	62.8	217.3	80.5	-5.4
$-OCH(CH_3)_2$	0.90	-2.88	-90.6	64.1	80.7	-5.2
$-N(CH_3)_2$	0.69	-3.81	9.5	164.7	81.2	-4.7
-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	-0.02	-0.44	-18.1	138.9	82.9	-3.0
-OCH <sub>3</sub>	0.54	-1.68	-69.6	87.7	83.2	-2.7
$-CH_3$	-0.01	-0.41	-8.5	149.1	83.6	-2.3
$-NH_2$	0.38	-2.52	14.6	172.5	83.9	-2.0
-tBu	-0.11	-0.29	-30.6	127.8	84.3	-1.6
-OH	0.46	-1.89	-80.6	78.2	84.8	-1.1
–H	0.00	0.00	2.5	162.4	85.9	0.0
-SCH <sub>3</sub>	0.68	-1.30	16.6	177.1	86.5	0.6
-SH	0.52	-0.26	27.0	191.8	90.7	4.8
–Cl	0.72	-0.24	-7.6	160.0	93.6	7.7
-I	0.65	-0.12	53.3	222.7	95.4	9.5
-F	0.74	-0.60	-85.5	85.3	96.7	10.8
-CF <sub>3</sub>	0.64	0.76	-307.1	-126.6	106.6	20.7

<sup>&</sup>quot;Substituents are sorted according to increasing reaction enthalpy.

containing silicon are those that reduce the reaction enthalpy the most. This is due to the lower electronegativity of silicon (with respect to carbon), <sup>17</sup> which enables electrons to be efficiently shifted from the methyl groups to the nitrogens.

A substituent with a positive field effect can reduce the reaction enthalpy if it has a relatively large negative resonance effect (e.g., amino, dimethylamino, hydroxy, and alkoxy groups). Halogens have positive field effects with small negative resonance effects and will increase the reaction enthalpy.

A linear regression was performed to determine an empirical relationship between reaction enthalpy,  $\Delta H_N^\circ$  and the field  $(\mathscr{F})$  and resonance  $(\mathscr{R})$  components of the substituent effects on chemical reactivity, as defined by Swain et al.  $^{16}$ . The results of the regression showed that the normalized reaction enthalpies can be described by the expressions:

$$\Delta H_N^{\circ}(1) = 19.47 \mathcal{F} + 4.76 \Re - 2.95 \tag{3}$$

$$\Delta H_N^{\circ}(2) = 19.31\mathcal{F} + 4.80\mathcal{R} - 8.20 \tag{4}$$

The linear regression analysis used to produce Eqs. (3) and (4) displayed good residuals for both  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $\mathcal{R}$ . Moreover, the F ratio (i.e., of the mean squares of the regression to that of the residual) test indicates that both field and resonance components contribute significantly (>95% confidence level) to the stability of the quaternary product. Our results thus confirm that both field and resonance components of the substituent effect can have a significant impact on the reaction enthalpy for the quaternization reactions [Reactions (1) and (2)] for TEDA analogs.

To illustrate the effect of the various substituents on the enthalpy change for Reaction (1), a plot was made of the PM3-calculated values of  $\Delta H_N^{\circ}$  [Reaction (1)] versus the values obtained with Eq. (3). The resulting plot is shown in Figure 3, and the analogous plot for Eq. (4) data is shown in Figure 4. The scatter in Figures 3 and 4 illustrates deviations between reaction enthalpies calculated by the two different methods; i.e., it is a measure of the "goodness of fit" for the linear expressions (3) and (4). The mean deviation between Reaction

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Negative values indicate degree of electron donation. Positive values indicate degree of electron acceptance. Values are relative to hydrogen ( $\mathcal{F} = 0$ ,  $\mathcal{R} = 0$ ) and NO<sub>2</sub> ( $\mathcal{F} = 1$ ,  $\mathcal{R} = 1$ ).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Heats of formation of iodine = -64.625 kcal/mol, and iodomethane = 9.394 kcal/mol.

Table 2. Enthalpy of reaction for the formation of the bisquaternary salt of TEDA and its analogs

			Heat of formation (kcal/mol)			
			R N	R N an CH <sub>3</sub>	Heat of reaction $(\text{kcal/mol})^c$	
Substituent (R) <sup>a</sup>	Field parameter $(\mathcal{F})^b$	Resonance parameter $(\Re)^b$	он, Methyl-R-TEDA	Dimethyl-R-TEDA	ΔH° [Reaction (2)]	$\Delta H_N^{\circ}$ [Reaction (2)]
$-Si(CH_3)_3$	-0.10	0.16	64.2	290.4	152.1	-25.9
$-CH_2Si(CH_3)_3$	-0.19	-0.32	60.3	292.2	157.9	-20.1
$-OCH(CH_3)_2$	0.90	-2.88	64.1	302.2	164.0	-14.0
$-C_6H_5$	0.25	-0.37	217.3	456.2	164.9	-13.1
$-N(CH_3)_2$	0.69	-3.81	164.7	404.7	166.0	-12.0
$-NH_2$	0.38	-2.52	172.5	417.6	171.0	-7.0
–tBu	-0.11	-0.29	127.8	373.0	171.1	-6.9
-OCH <sub>3</sub>	0.54	-1.68	87.7	333.1	171.5	-6.6
-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	-0.02	-0.44	138.9	384.7	171.8	-6.3
-SCH <sub>3</sub>	0.68	-1.30	177.1	423.3	172.2	-5.8
-CH <sub>3</sub>	-0.01	-0.41	149.1	397.5	174.3	-3.7
-OH	0.46	-1.89	78.2	328.9	176.7	-1.3
-SH	0.52	-0.26	191.8	443.8	177.9	-0.1
–H	0.00	0.00	162.4	414.5	178.0	0.0
I	0.65	-0.12	222.7	475.0	178.3	0.3
-Cl	0.72	-0.24	160.0	415.0	181.0	3.0
–F	0.74	-0.60	85.3	347.0	187.7	9.6

<sup>0.64</sup> <sup>a</sup> Substituents are sorted according to increasing reaction enthalpy.

 $-CF_3$ 

-126.6

140.1

0.76

(1) enthalpies calculated by the PM3 method and those obtained with Eq. (3) was 3.7 kcal/mol (0.239 kcal/mol = 1 kJ/mol), whereas the analogous deviation for Reaction (2) was 6.0 kcal/mol. (see Tables 3 and 4). In comparison, the average (unsigned) deviation between experimental and calculated heats of formation reported by Stewart was 8.6 kcal/mol<sup>14</sup>.

The quaternary N-CH<sub>3</sub> bond length is plotted in Figure 5 as a function of electronegativity of the substituent 18,19. The data in Figure 5 illustrate that a decrease in substituent electronegativity will decrease the length of the bond between the quaternary nitrogen and the methyl group. This is consistent with our data, in that a weakly electronegative substitutent will not greatly withdraw electron density from around the nitrogen atom. Therefore, the formation of another TEDA nitrogenalkyl bond (in a quaternization reaction) would be favored.

# Reaction of TEDA with iodoalkanes

Most of the results presented herein have focused on the reaction of TEDA (and its analogs) with iodomethane. Reac-

tions (1) and (2) have been the primary focus of the present study because iodomethane is generally used as the organic iodide compound in reactor containment-gas source-term analysis<sup>20</sup>. However, there are, of course, other organic iodine compounds that would be found in containment, and the reactivity of such compounds (relative to that of iodomethane) toward TEDA is of interest. Calculations such as those presented herein are an ideal way to easily obtain an estimate of the reactivity of a range of iodine compounds toward TEDAimpregnated charcoal filters. We have thus calculated the reaction enthalpy for the monoquaternization reaction between TEDA and various iodine-containing organic compounds. The results are presented in Table 5, as are the efficiencies of TEDA-impregnated charcoal filters at removing these same organic iodine compounds from an air stream<sup>20</sup>. The calculated reaction enthalpies are compared with the charcoal filter removal efficiency in Figure 6. Note that the datum for diiodomethane has been treated as an outlier in Figure 6. The observed high removal efficiency for diiodomethane is perhaps

192.6

14.6

b Negative values indicate degree of electron donation. Positive values indicate degree of electron acceptance. Values are relative to hydrogen (F = 0, R = 0) and NO<sub>2</sub> ( $\mathcal{F} = 1$ ,  $\Re = 1$ ).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Heats of formation of iodine = -64.625 kcal/mol, and iodomethane = 9.394 kcal/mol.

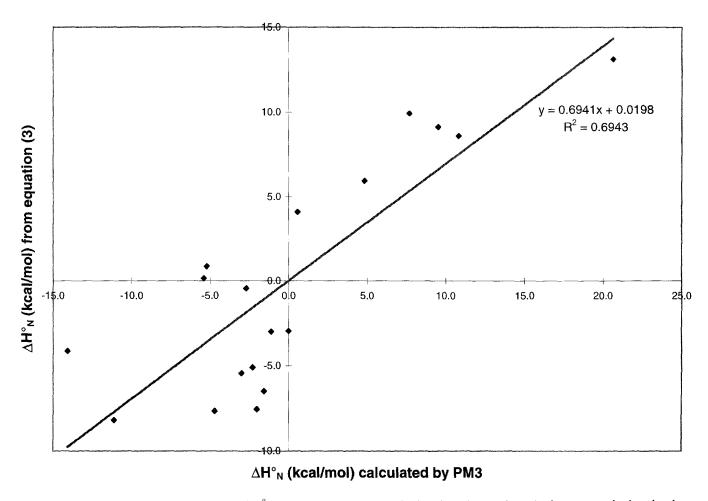


Figure 3. Normalized reaction enthalpy,  $\Delta H_N^{\circ}$ , for Reaction (1), as calculated by the PM3 method, versus calculated values of  $\Delta H_N^{\circ}$  from Eq. (3).

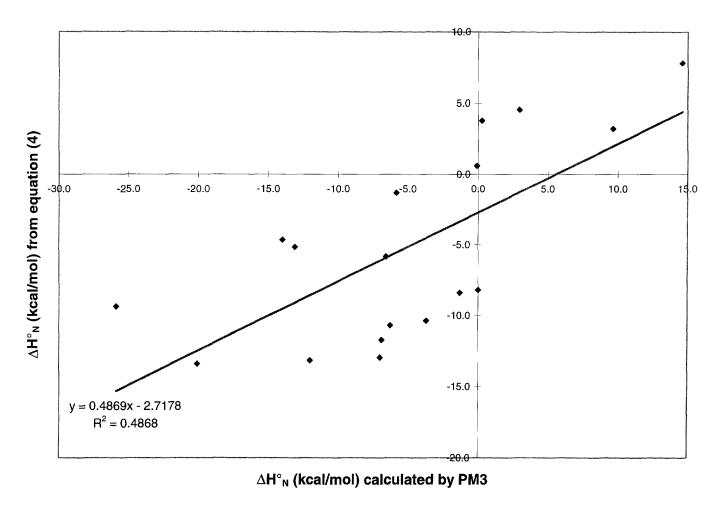


Figure 4. Normalized reaction enthalpy,  $\Delta H_N^{\circ}$ , for Reaction (2), as calculated by the PM3 method, versus calculated values of  $\Delta H_N^{\circ}$  from Eq. (4).

Table 3. Absolute deviation between enthalpies (Kcal/mol) of Reaction (1) calculated by the PM3 method relative to those obtained from Equation (3)

_	$\Delta H_N^{\circ}$ , Reaction (1)	Calculated $\Delta H_N^{\circ}$	Error	Absolute error
-Si(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	-14.1	-4.1	-10.0	10.0
$-CH_2Si(CH_3)_3$	-11.1	-8.2	-2.9	2.9
$-C_6H_5$	-5.4	0.2	-5.5	5.5
$-OCH(CH_3)_2$	-5.2	0.9	-6.1	6.1
$-N(CH_3)_2$	-4.7	<b>−7.7</b>	2.9	2.9
-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	-3.0	-5.4	2.4	2.4
-OCH <sub>3</sub>	-2.7	-0.4	-2.3	2.3
-CH <sub>3</sub>	-2.3	-5.1	2.8	2.8
$-NH_2$	-2.0	-7.5	5.5	5.5
–tBu	-1.6	-6.5	4.9	4.9
-OH	-1.1	-3.0	1.9	1.9
–H	0.0	-3.0	3.0	3.0
-SCH <sub>3</sub>	0.6	4.1	-3.5	3.5
-SH	4.8	5.9	-1.1	1.1
–Cl	7.7	9.9	-2.3	2.3
−I	9.5	9.1	0.4	0.4
<b>-F</b>	10.8	8.6	2.2	2.2
-CF <sub>3</sub>	20.7	13.1	7.5	7.5
			Average: 0.0	3.7

Table 4. Absolute deviation between enthalpies (Kcal/mol) of Reaction (2) calculated by the PM3 method relative to those obtained from Equation (4)

	$\Delta H_{N}^{\circ}$ , Reaction (2)	Calculated $\Delta H_N^{\circ}$	Error	Absolute error
-Si(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	-25.9	-9.4	-16.5	16.5
-CH <sub>2</sub> Si(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	-20.1	-13.4	-6.7	6.7
$-C_6H_5$	-14.0	-4.6	-9.3	9.3
-OCH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	-13.1	-5.1	-8.0	8.0
$-N(CH_3)_2$	-12.0	-13.2	1.1	1.1
-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	-7.0	-13.0	6.0	6.0
-OCH <sub>3</sub>	-6.9	-11.7	4.8	4.8
-CH <sub>3</sub>	-6.6	-5.8	-0.7	0.7
$-NH_2$	-6.3	-10.7	4.4	4.4
-tBu	-5.8	-1.3	-4.5	4.5
-OH	-3.7	-10.4	6.7	6.7
–H	-1.3	-8.4	7.1	7.1
-SCH <sub>3</sub>	-0.1	0.6	-0.7	0.7
-SH	0.0	-8.2	8.2	8.2
-Cl	0.3	3.8	-3.5	3.5
_ <b>I</b>	3.0	4.6	-1.6	1.6
-F	9.6	3.2	6.4	6.4
-CF <sub>3</sub>	14.6	7.8	6.8	6.8
			Average: 0.0	5.7

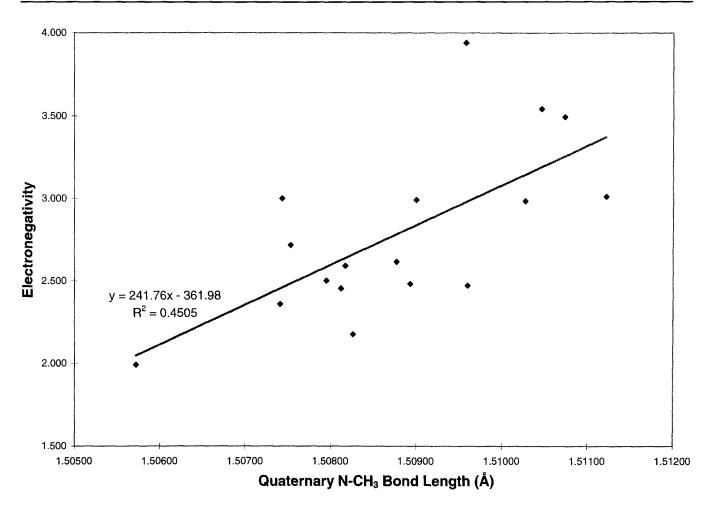


Figure 5. Substituent electronegativity versus quaternary N-CH<sub>3</sub> bond lengths of methyl-TEDA analogs.

Table 5. Standard enthalpies of formation for various iododalkanes, and enthalpies of reaction for quaternization of TEDA

				Reaction enthal	lpies (kcal/mol)	<b>.</b>
Haloalkane	Standa	rd formation enthal	pies (kcal/mol)	$\Delta \mathrm{H}^{\circ},$	$\Delta \mathrm{H}^{\circ},$	Percentage removal
$(X)^a$	X	X-TEDA	X-TEDA-X	Reaction (1)	Reaction (2)	efficiency <sup>b</sup>
CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> I	2.0	155.9	398.0	86.8	174.9	95.31
CH <sub>3</sub> I	9.4	162.4	414.5	85.9	184.9	98.82
CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> I	-0.7	149.9	382.9	83.5	165.9	99.60
$CH_2I_2$	33.5	194.4	474.9	93.8	213.4	99.95
$C_6H_5I$	44.6	192.3	461.9	80.6	202.4	99.99

	Enthalpy of formation		
Iodide	-64.625 kcal/mol		
TEDA	2.508 kcal/mol		

<sup>&</sup>quot; Haloalkanes sorted by percentage removal efficiency.

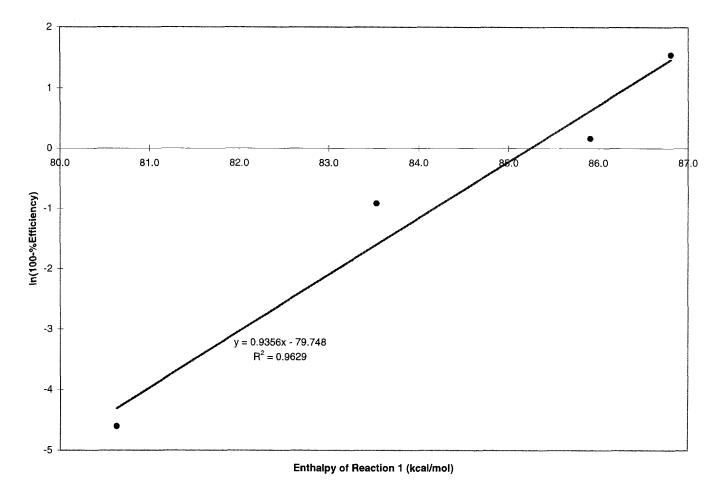


Figure 6. Filter efficiency versus monoquaternization enthalpies for reaction between TEDA and various organoiodides.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Percentage removal efficiency values taken from Freeman et al. (1986) [20].

due to increased reactivity of this compound owing to steric factors as well as the presence of two electronegative elements attached to the central carbon. Examination of Figure 6 shows a clear correlation between calculated quaternization-reaction enthalpies and filter efficiency. This correlation results from the fact that reaction enthalpies for Reactions (1) and (2) affect the equilibrium between gas-phase and adsorbed iodine compounds (because the quaternary ammonium reaction products will be much less volatile than the gas-phase haloalkanes). Thus compounds that are only weakly chemisorbed spend a relatively large amount of time in the gas phase, and they have a correspondingly lower removal efficiency.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The results reported herein show that the PM3 semi-empirical method, as implemented in the HyperChem code, can be used to gain insight into the quaternization reactions that TEDA and its analogs undergo. Even though the PM3 semi-empirical method is a fairly modest computational procedure, it properly models both field and resonance components of the substituent effects in the TEDA quaternization reactions. Experimental thermodynamic data are not yet available for comparison, but it was possible to perform a linear regression of the field and resonance parameters for the substituent effects against calculated reaction enthalpy and obtain a statistically significant relationship. Such calculations can be used as a guide to estimate the reactivity of various TEDA analogs toward iodomethane. The PM3 method has been shown to be useful in estimating the removal efficiency by TEDA-impregnated charcoal filters for various organic iodides, other than iodomethane.

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