

observed in amine oxidase are probably also equatorial.

Absorbance and EPR data are consistent with such a structure. Ligand-field transitions are in the 19 000–12 000-cm⁻¹ range for Cu(II)-imidazole complexes;¹⁶ bovine plasma amine oxidase displays ligand-field bands at 15 150 and 12 500 cm⁻¹.^{6c,8a} The EPR parameters for Cu(imid)₄²⁺ are $g_{\parallel} = 2.267$, $g_{\perp} = 2.063$, and $A_{\parallel} = 179 \times 10^{-4}$ cm⁻¹,¹⁷ as compared to $g_{\parallel} = 2.280$, $g_{\perp} = 2.06$, and $A_{\parallel} = 155 \times 10^{-4}$ cm⁻¹, for the amine oxidase.⁸ Taken together, the data suggest that the structure shown in Figure 3 is an excellent model for the Cu(II) sites in amine oxidases. Magnetic resonance results^{4a} and the ligand-substitution chemistry^{4,6} of various amine oxidases indicate that H₂O is an equatorial ligand; axially coordinated H₂O has been inferred from ¹H NMR relaxation experiments.^{4a} It is possible that the pyridine nitrogen of a pyridoxal derivative¹⁸ or pyrroloquinolinequinone (PQQ)¹⁹ is coordinated to copper. Since a rigid nitrogen heterocycle provides a set of outer-shell scattering atoms similar to imidazole, a structure similar to that shown in Figure 3 but with one imidazole replaced by pyridoxal or PQQ may also be consistent with the XAS data. Extensive XAS experiments designed to elucidate additional Cu(II) structural features in resting amine oxidases and other forms of these enzymes are in progress.

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Does Carbon-Protonated Hydrogen Cyanide, H₂CN⁺, Exist?

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Many theoretical studies of the CH₂N⁺ potential energy surface have been performed,^{1,2} motivated largely by the postulated role of this molecule in the interstellar synthesis of hydrogen cyanide and hydrogen isocyanide.³ The most stable isomer is linear HCNH⁺ corresponding to nitrogen-protonated HCN or, equivalently, carbon-protonated HNC, and which has a heat of formation⁴ of 222 ± 4 kcal mol⁻¹. Next is H₂NC⁺, nitrogen-

Table I. Theoretical Values of the Lowest Vibrational Frequency of H₂CN⁺ (cm⁻¹)

basis set	SCF	MP2	CID
6-31G(d)	416	495 <i>i</i>	
6-31G(d,p)	376	530 <i>i</i>	281 <i>i</i>
D95(d,p)	366		
6-311G(d,p)	310	590 <i>i</i>	
6-311++G(d,p)	312		
6-311G(2d,2p)	297		
6-311G(d,pd)	291		

protonated HNC, with a heat of formation⁵ of 265 ± 9 kcal mol⁻¹, in agreement with the theoretical estimate that H₂NC⁺ lies 46 kcal mol⁻¹ above HCNH⁺.^{2a} The third isomer, H₂CN⁺, carbon-protonated HCN, has been estimated theoretically^{2a} to lie 72 kcal mol⁻¹ above the linear structure. Moreover, these calculations found it "highly probable" that H₂CN⁺ was a saddle point on the potential energy surface and thus not an observable species. Partial evidence was the finding^{2a} that H₂CN⁺ was a saddle point on the SCF/DZ+P surface. This conflicts with the results of a recent mass spectroscopic experiment.⁵ Ions with stoichiometry CH₂N⁺ were formed from the dissociative electron capture of methylamine. It was postulated that the *m/z* 28 anions observed were formed by a 1,2-H₂ elimination from the primary product of the electron capture reaction, H₃CNH⁺, and that they thus have the H₂CN⁺ structure. Charge reversal of the *m/z* 28 anions via kilovolt collisions with helium led to positive ions which were analyzed by collisional activation (CA) mass spectroscopy. The resulting CA spectrum and the vertical nature of the charge reversal reaction⁶ indicated that the *m/z* 28 cation had the H₂CN⁺ structure and that this species therefore exists in a potential well. No evidence for ions with this structure was found in experiments with positive ions only.^{5,7}

Preliminary calculations of ours had shown that H₂CN⁺ was, in fact, a minimum on the SCF/DZ+P surface, contradicting the earlier calculation.^{2a} This and the reported laboratory detection⁵ necessitate a theoretical reexamination of the stability of C-protonated HCN. The extended calculations, including electron correlation, reported here show that H₂CN⁺ is at a saddle point on the potential energy surface and that it is probable that the charge reversal of H₂CN⁺ results in the production of H₂CN⁺ in an excited triplet state.

To determine whether H₂CN⁺ is a minimum or a saddle point structure we have optimized its geometry in C_{2v} symmetry and computed the harmonic vibrational frequencies. If the molecule is at a minimum the frequencies will all be real whereas if it is at a saddle point one of the frequencies will be imaginary. The frequency calculations were done analytically at the SCF level⁸ with a sequence of basis sets of increasing size and at the correlated MP2 and CID levels via numerical differentiation of analytic first derivatives.^{8,9} The resulting values of the lowest vibrational frequency, the in-plane CH₂ wag, are given in Table I. At the SCF level, C-protonated HCN is a minimum-energy structure with all of the basis sets considered. Thus, extension of the 6-31G(d) (also denoted 6-31G*)¹⁰ polarized split-valence basis

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set by the addition of p-polarization functions on hydrogen decreases the magnitude of the frequency from 416 to 376 cm^{-1} . This is substantially identical with the result obtained with the polarized Dunning (9,5) double- ζ basis D95(d,p).¹¹ The addition of a third set of valence s and p functions (6-311G(d,p))¹² leads to a further decrease of 66 cm^{-1} in the vibrational frequency to 310 cm^{-1} . Neither the addition of diffuse functions (6-311++-G(d,p)),¹³ a second set of polarization functions (6-311G(2d,2p)),¹⁴ nor d functions on hydrogen (6-311G(d,pd))¹⁴ leads to a significant change in the frequency. This sequence leads us to conclude that, at the basis set limit, H_2CN^+ is a relative minimum on the potential energy surface. However, at the correlated MP2 level of theory, H_2CN^+ is a saddle point on the potential surface as indicated by the imaginary frequencies in Table I. Note that increasing basis set size works in the same direction at both the SCF and correlated levels. At the SCF level increasing the size of the basis decreases the magnitude of the real frequency whereas at the MP2 level it increases the magnitude of the imaginary frequency, making it likely that even larger basis sets would favor the conclusion that C-protonated HCN is at a saddle point rather than at a minimum. Configuration interaction frequencies including all double excitations (CID is correct to third order in the perturbation theory expansion¹⁵) were computed with the 6-31G(d,p) basis. As with geometries,¹⁶ MP2 overestimates the correlation correction to the vibrational frequency and the CID answer lies between the SCF and MP2 values and is imaginary by a significant magnitude.

The possibility that higher order correlation terms would change the conclusion that H_2CN^+ is at a saddle point is negligible, and even if they did the barrier to isomerization to the linear isomer would be too small to allow detection of the C-protonated isomer. (At the MP2/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory the vertical charge reversal reaction leaves H_2CN^+ excited by 5 kcal mol^{-1} .) A possible explanation for the collisional activation results is that the charge-reversal reaction produces an excited-state triplet species. It has been shown theoretically¹ that the H_2CN^+ structure is a stable minimum on the triplet potential energy surface and that it is $\sim 120 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ above the linear singlet structure. Furthermore, there is precedent for the production of electronically excited cations by the charge reversal reaction.¹⁷ Indeed, the production of triplet methoxy cations, H_3CO^+ , from methoxide^{17b} provides a close analogy as singlet H_3CO^+ is not a stable minimum on the CH_3O^+ potential surface.

The qualitative similarities between the CH_2N^{+1} system and the $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{N}^{+18}$ system should be noted here. Both hydrogen cyanide and methyl cyanide protonate only on the terminal nitrogen atom and not on the nitrile carbon. The only stable isomer of $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{N}^+$ corresponding to protonated CH_3CN is CH_3CNH^+ ; the C-protonated form is a saddle point on the potential energy surface as is the C-protonated form of HCN considered in this paper. By contrast, hydrogen isocyanide and methyl isocyanide both have stable protonated isomers resulting from protonation at either the terminal carbon or the isonitrile nitrogen.

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Unprecedented C-N Bond Formation. Crystal and Molecular Structure of *N*-(2-Aminoethyl)-*N*-(4-aza-6-aminoheptyl)-(α,α -diaminomalonato)cobalt(III) Perchlorate

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We wish to report on a novel compound unexpectedly obtained from the reaction of α -aminomalonate (AM^{2-}) with *trans*- $[\text{CoCl}_2(2,3,2\text{-tet})]\text{ClO}_4$.

In our laboratory, asymmetric decarboxylations of α -amino- α -alkylmalonates (ARM^{2-}) using a chiral cobalt(III) complex containing an optical active tetraamine have been investigated.⁴ Every X-ray study of some stereospecifically obtained α -amino- α -methylmalonate (AMM) complexes containing optical active tetraamines revealed⁵ that the AMM ion coordinates to the central metal through the amino group and through one of the carboxyl groups in the *cis*- β_2 fashion, and the uncoordinated carboxyl group forms the intramolecular hydrogen bond to one of the secondary nitrogens of the tetraamine. As a continuation of our research on the series of the ARM complexes, we have recently used AM, which has an active proton in place of the alkyl group, and have tried to prepare its cobalt(III) complex with 2,3,2-tet.⁶

Contrary to our expectation from the AMM complexes, a novel compound containing a geminal diamine linkage as a result of an unexpected bond formation between the α -carbon of the AM moiety and one of the secondary nitrogens of the tetraamine was obtained and characterized by X-ray crystallography.

The complex was prepared by the same procedure as has been employed in the preparation of the ARM complexes; *trans*- $[\text{CoCl}_2(2,3,2\text{-tet})]\text{ClO}_4$ and ammonium α -aminomalonate were refluxed for 3 h in absolute methanol in the presence of triethylamine. After the solvent had been removed, the residue was dissolved in water and subjected to SP-Sephadex C-25 column chromatography. Elution with 0.01 N NaClO_4 produced an orange band, which is supposed to be singly charged, as the major product and a large amount of brownish species which strongly adsorbed to the resin. Concentration of the eluate yielded good orange crystals.⁷

The molecular structure of the complex established by the X-ray study⁸ is illustrated in Figure 1. The tetraamine moiety coor-

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(6) This tetraamine was chosen because this system gave good crystals suitable for an X-ray crystallographic study. A similar product was also obtained in the system containing (4*R*,6*R*)-4,6-dimethyl-3,7-diaza-1,9-diaminononane (5*R*,7*R*-Me₂-2,3,2-tet).

(7) Anal. ($\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_5\text{O}_4\text{CoClO}_4$) C, H, N, Cl. ¹H NMR (D_2O) 1.95-2.35, 2.50-3.35 (complicated pattern, CH_2 of 2,3,2-tet) ppm; ¹³C NMR (D_2O) 24.6, 44.8, 45.2, 47.1, 48.8, 51.2, and 57.4 (t, CH_2 of 2,3,2-tet), 85.6 (s, α -C of AM), 176.2 and 177.1 (s, COO^- of AM) ppm; AB (H_2O) ν_{max} 20 700 (log ϵ = 2.16), 28 200 (log ϵ = 2.06) cm^{-1} .