

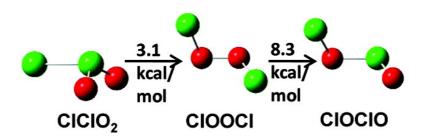
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Letter

# CICIO Is the Most Stable Isomer of CIO. Accurate Coupled Cluster Energetics and Electronic Spectra of CIO Isomers

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# ClClO<sub>2</sub> Is the Most Stable Isomer of Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Accurate Coupled Cluster Energetics and Electronic Spectra of Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> Isomers

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High level ab initio electronic structure calculations at the coupled cluster level with a correction for triples (CCSD(T)) extrapolated to the complete basis set limit have been made for the thermodynamics of the Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> isomers: ClClO<sub>2</sub>, ClOOCl, and ClOClO. The ClClO<sub>2</sub> isomer is predicted to be the most stable isomer and is more stable than ClOOCl by 3.1 kcal/mol at 298 K. The ClOClO isomer is less stable than ClOOCl by 8.3 kcal/mol at 298 K. The weakest bond in ClClO<sub>2</sub> is the Cl-Cl bond with a bond dissociation energy (BDE) of 24.4 kcal/mol, and the smallest BDE in ClOOCl is the O-O bond with a value of 18.0 kcal/mol. The smallest BDE in ClOClO is for the central O-Cl bond with a BDE of 9.7 kcal/mol. Electronic transitions were calculated with the equations of motion EOM-CCSD method. The calculations clearly demonstrate that singlet states of ClClO<sub>2</sub> absorb to longer wavelengths in the visible than do the singlet states of ClOOCl as does ClOClO.

Since Molina and Rowland's paper<sup>1</sup> on the role of chlorine atoms in the destruction of ozone in the stratosphere, there has been substantial interest in the nature of the chlorine oxides, notably ClOOCl which is formed by the dimerization of two ClO molecules. This molecule photodissociates to form ClOO and Cl, and the ClOO molecule rapidly decomposes to form Cl +  $O_2$ . The Cl atoms then participate in the usual Cl catalyzed destruction of  $O_3$  via reaction (1).

$$Cl + O_3 \rightarrow ClO + O_2$$
 (1)

There is renewed interest in the ultraviolet absorption spectrum of ClOOCl due to a recent study by Pope et al.<sup>5</sup> that showed that the photoabsorption cross sections of ClOOCl at wavelengths longer than 300 nm are significantly lower than all previous measurements or estimates.<sup>6–12</sup> This is critical as the absorption at wavelengths longer than 300 nm is the most important for predicting the photolysis rate of ClOOCl as ozone absorbs most of the shorter wavelengths in this region of the atmosphere. The latest experimental work used very carefully purified ClOOCl to minimize the contributions of impurities that could increase the longer wavelength cross-section. Because photolysis of ClOOCl is the rate limiting step in the loss of polar ozone, it is critical to understand different potential absorbers. There is substantial concern in the atmospheric

modeling community as to what the correct chemistry is to account for ozone depletion in the stratosphere.<sup>2,13</sup>

Computational chemistry approaches have reached the point where the combination of electronic structure methods (coupled cluster<sup>14</sup> or multireference configuration interaction<sup>15</sup>), correlation-consistent basis sets that extrapolate to the complete basis set limit, 16 and high performance computers allow us to predict the structures and energies of medium size molecules to chemical accuracy.<sup>17</sup> This has already been done for the XO diatomics (X is a halogen). 18 Of interest to the current problem with the photoabsorption cross section of ClOOCl is the fact that there are three relevant isomers with the formula Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: ClOOCl, ClClO<sub>2</sub>, and ClOClO.<sup>19</sup> Müller and Willner reported the first synthesis of ClClO2 in a matrix as well as its spectroscopic characterization in 1992.<sup>20</sup> McKeachie et al.<sup>21</sup> observed the formation of ClClO2 from reactions of ClO on/in water ice surfaces and Pursell et al.<sup>22</sup> observed the formation of ClClO<sub>2</sub> in studies of the photolysis of OClO in polycrystalline ice. Lee et al.<sup>23</sup> used coupled cluster theory with a perturbative triples correction (CCSD(T)) with atomic natural orbital basis sets to predict that the ClClO<sub>2</sub> isomer is only  $0.9 \pm 2.0$  kcal/ mol above the energy of ClOOCl and, in fact, could lie lower in energy. They also predicted the isomer ClOClO to be 10.1  $\pm$  4.0 kcal/mol higher in energy. Since Lee et al.'s work, there have been a number of experimental advances including the experimental determination<sup>24</sup> of the structure of ClClO<sub>2</sub> as well

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as more theoretical studies<sup>25</sup> which included modified G2 calculations<sup>26</sup> with density functional theory (B3LYP exchange-correlation functional<sup>27</sup>) geometries of the PES for interconversion of the Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> isomers. The latter results predict a barrier of 19 kcal/mol to convert ClOClO to ClClO<sub>2</sub> and a barrier of 12 kcal/mol to convert ClOClO to ClOOCl. Kaledin and Morokuma performed direct dynamics complete active space self-consistent field (CASSCF) calculations on the photodissociation of ClOOCl and showed that translationally hot Cl atoms and rotationally excited O<sub>2</sub> are expected to be the most important photodissociation products.<sup>28</sup> G2 calculations of the relative energies of the isomers predict that ClOOCl is the most stable isomer with the ClClO<sub>2</sub> isomer 6.8 kcal/mol higher in energy and the ClOClO isomer even higher in energy (11.9 kcal/mol) at 298 K.<sup>29</sup>

We have used high level molecular orbital theory following the methods we developed for accurate thermochemical predictions<sup>17</sup> to predict the structures, vibrational frequencies, and heats of formation of the Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> isomers and additional compounds with the stoichiometry  $Cl_xO_y$  for x, y = 1, 2. All thermochemical calculations were done with the R/UCCSD(T) method30 with correlation consistent basis sets<sup>31</sup> including tight d functions up through aug-cc-pV(n+d)Z with n = 5. Geometries were optimized up through n = T and in some cases for n = Q. The frequencies were all calculated at n = T and used to calculate the zero point energy ( $\Delta E_{\rm ZPE}$ ) except for ClClO ( $^{3}{\rm A''}$ ) where the MP2/aug-cc-pV(T+d)Z frequencies were used. The valence electronic energies were extrapolated to the complete basis set limit ( $\Delta E_{\text{elec}}(\text{CBS})$ ) using an  $l_{\text{max}}^3$  expansion for n = Q and 5.32,33 The scalar relativistic corrections ( $\Delta E_{SR}$ ) were carried out at the CCSD(T)/Douglas-Kroll-Hess level<sup>34</sup> with the ccpVTZ-DK basis sets. The core valence corrections ( $\Delta E_{\rm CV}$ ) were done at the CCSD(T)/cc-pwCVTZ level<sup>35</sup> and, for the Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> isomers, the core valence corrections were also obtained with the cc-pwCVQZ basis set. Atomic spin orbit corrections ( $\Delta E_{SO}$ ) were taken from the tables of Moore<sup>36</sup> and a molecular spin orbit correction of 0.45 kcal/mol was used for ClO.44 The total atomization energy is calculated from eq 2 and the various terms are given in the Supporting Information

$$\sum D_0 = \Delta E_{\text{elec}}(\text{CBS}) - \Delta E_{\text{ZPE}} + \Delta E_{\text{CV}} + \Delta E_{\text{SR}} + \Delta E_{\text{SO}} \quad (2)$$

Heats of formation were calculated by combining our computed  $\Sigma D_0$  values with the known enthalpies of formation at 0 K for the elements ( $\Delta H_{\rm f}^0({\rm Cl}) = 28.59 \pm 0.001$  kcal/mol and  $\Delta H_{\rm f}^0({\rm O}) = 58.98 \pm 0.02$  kcal/mol). We obtain enthalpies of formation at 298 K by following the procedures outlined by Curtiss et al.<sup>37</sup> The ab initio calculations of this work utilized predominately the MOLPRO program<sup>38</sup> except for the triplet excitation energy calculations which employed the DALTON package.<sup>39</sup>

The molecular geometries are given in the Supporting Information. The agreement of the calculated structure with the experimental geometry<sup>24</sup> for ClClO<sub>2</sub> is excellent, within 0.5° and a few thousandths of an angstrom. For ClOOCl, there is a larger error in the calculated geometry as compared to experiment<sup>40</sup> with the O–O distance predicted too short by 0.02 Å and the Cl–O distance too long by 0.01 Å even with the aug-cc-pV(Q+d)Z basis set. This is consistent with calculations on FOOF.<sup>41</sup> The predicted equilibrium structures with the aug-cc-pV(T+d)Z basis set are within 0.01 Å of the experimental geometries for OClO,<sup>42</sup> ClOCl,<sup>7,43</sup> ClO,<sup>44</sup> and Cl<sub>2</sub>,<sup>44</sup> a difference expected on the basis of other calculations and with our results for ClClO<sub>2</sub>.

The calculated vibrational frequencies (Supporting Information) serve as an additional test of the accuracy of the present

TABLE 1: Calculated Heats of Formation (kcal  $mol^{-1}$ ) at 0 and 298  $K^a$ 

Molecule	$\Delta H_{\rm f}$ (0 K) <sub>calc</sub>	$\Delta H_{\rm f}$ (298 K) <sub>calc</sub>	Reference $\Delta H_{\rm f}$ (298 K)
Cloocl	32.9	31.6	$30.5 \pm 0.7, 31.3 \pm 0.7^{b}$
ClOClO	41.0	39.9	41.9
ClClO <sub>2</sub>	29.4	28.5	$36.9^{c}$
OClO $(^{2}B_{1})$	24.5	23.9	$22.6 \pm 0.3, 23.53 \pm 0.24^d$
ClOCl	19.3	18.9	$19.4 \pm 0.4$
ClClO ( <sup>1</sup> A')	32.2	31.9	$22 \pm 7$
CICIO $(^3A'')^e$	52.2	52.4	
ClO <sup>f</sup>	24.8	24.8	$24.29 \pm 0.03$
$Cl_2$	-0.2	-0.2	0.0

 $^a$  Experimental heats of formation were taken from ref 10 unless noted.  $^b$  Reference 49.  $^c$  Estimated from calculated values in ref 23 and  $\Delta H_{\rm f}$  (ClOOCl).  $^d$  Reference 48.  $^c$  MP2/aug-cc-pV(T+d)Z frequencies.  $^f$  Includes molecular and atomic spin—orbit corrections.

results. For ClClO<sub>2</sub>, the calculated CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pV(T+d)Z harmonic frequencies are within 10 to 20 cm<sup>-1</sup> of the experimental anharmonic values. For ClOOCl, the calculated frequencies show somewhat larger differences of 20–25 cm<sup>-1</sup> as compared to experiment<sup>40</sup> and a difference of ~60 cm<sup>-1</sup> for the second *a* frequency mode. This is due to the fact that the bond distances are in error by 0.01–0.02 Å and that the Cl–O and O–O stretching coordinates are tightly coupled. The frequencies for ClOClO are in good agreement with the available experimental values, within 25 cm<sup>-1</sup> for most bands. The calculated frequencies for OClO<sup>45</sup> ClOCl,<sup>46</sup> ClO,<sup>44</sup> and Cl<sub>2</sub><sup>44</sup> show the same excellent agreement with the experimental values as found for ClClO<sub>2</sub>.

The calculated heats of formation are given in Table 1. The results for the diatomics  $\text{Cl}_2$  and ClO are within 0.5 kcal/mol of the experimental values. To the triatomics ClOCl and OClO, the calculated heats of formation are also within 0.5 kcal/mol of experiment the most recent value of  $23.53 \pm 0.24$  kcal/mol from the photodissociation dynamics study of Davis and Lee<sup>48</sup> is used for OClO; this value for OClO also agrees with the older JANAF value.

For ClOOCI, the calculated heat of formation is 1.1 kcal/mol higher than the experimental value from Sander and coworkers,<sup>4</sup> which has an error bar of 0.7 kcal/mol. Our value for ClOOCI is in excellent agreement with the value of  $31.3 \pm 0.7$  kcal/mol obtained by both Cox and Hayman<sup>7</sup> and the recent photoionization study by Plenge et al.<sup>49</sup> We note that the less positive experimental heats of formation of OCIO and ClOOCI are from the same study<sup>4</sup> and appear to be off by 0.8-1.0 kcal/mol. Our results demonstrate that our calculated heats of formation should be accurate to  $\pm 1.0$  kcal/mol, and we would expect the relative energies to be better than  $\pm 1$  kcal/mol. The more approximate G2 value,<sup>29</sup> which includes empirical parameters for  $\Delta H_1^{298}$ (ClOOCI), of 30.0 differs from our higher level value by 1.6 kcal/mol. G2 makes a comparable error in the ionization energy for ClOOCI as compared to experiment.

We predict that ClClO<sub>2</sub> is 3.1 kcal/mol more stable than ClOOCl at 298 K on the enthalpy scale and that ClClO<sub>2</sub> will be favored by an additional 0.8 kcal/mol on the free energy scale. There is a strong basis set dependence on the relative energy and one needs large basis sets to get this energy difference correct as shown in Table 2. It is not until the aug-cc-pVQZ basis is used that ClClO<sub>2</sub> becomes more stable than ClOOCl in terms of the electronic energy. At the G2 level, <sup>29</sup> ClClO<sub>2</sub> is predicted to be 6.8 kcal/mol less stable than ClOOCl in clear contradiction with our more accurate CBS results. Table 2 shows why the G2 calculations<sup>29</sup> make an error of 10 kcal/

**TABLE 2: CCSD(T) Relative Electronic Energies for the** Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> Isomers As a Function of Basis Set in kcal/mol

basis set	$\begin{array}{c} \Delta E_{\rm elec}({\rm ClClO_2} \rightarrow \\ {\rm ClOOCl)} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \Delta E_{\rm elec}({\rm ClClO_2} \rightarrow \\ {\rm ClOClO}) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \Delta E_{\rm elec}({\rm ClOOCl} \rightarrow \\ {\rm ClOClO}) \end{array}$
aug-cc-pVDZ	-15.9	0.2	16.0
aug-cc-pVTZ	-1.4	9.7	11.2
aug-cc-pVQZ	1.7	11.4	9.7
aug-cc-pV5Z	3.4	12.4	9.1
CBS(Q5)	5.1	13.5	8.4

TABLE 3: Adiabatic Bond Dissociation Energies (kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) at 298 K

molecule	cule product	
Cloocl	ClO + ClO	18.0
	Cl + ClOO	$20.8^{a}$
ClOClO	ClO + ClO	9.7
	Cl + OClO	13.0
	O + ClOCl	38.6
ClClO <sub>2</sub>	Cl + OClO	24.4
	ClClO + O	63.0
OClO $(^{2}B_{1})$	O + ClO	60.4
ClOCl	Cl + ClO	34.9
ClClO ( <sup>1</sup> A')	$O + Cl_2$	27.6
	Cl + ClO	21.9
ClClO (3A")	$O + Cl_2$	7.2
	Cl + ClO	1.4
ClO (2II)	Cl + O	63.8
$Cl_2$	C1 + C1	58.0

a Calculated using the experimental value for the heat of formation of ClOO from ref 50.

mol in the energy difference between ClOOCl and ClClO<sub>2</sub>. G2 only does QCISD(T) with the singly polarized triple- $\zeta$ 6-311G(d,p) basis set which is approximately comparable to the aug-cc-pV(D+d)Z basis set. CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pV(D+d)Z clearly predicts the incorrect energy difference by 16 kcal/mol. Higher order basis set effects in G2 are included only at the MP2 and MP4 levels with polarized triple- $\xi$  basis sets and even at the more accurate CCSD(T)/aug-cc-p(V+d)Z level, the ClClO<sub>2</sub> isomer is still less stable than ClOOCl. Thus G2 theory does not incorporate large enough basis sets to get this energy difference correct. The ClOClO isomer is predicted to be 8.3 kcal/mol above ClOOCl at 298 K and 11.4 kcal/mol above ClClO<sub>2</sub>. The G2 value<sup>29</sup> for  $\Delta H_{\rm f}^{298}$  (ClOClO) is 2 kcal/mol higher than our value. Our results suggest that one must take care in the synthesis of ClOOCl to avoid the formation of ClClO<sub>2</sub>, for example, on surfaces.

Our values can be used to predict the adiabatic bond dissociation energies (BDEs) of these species at 298 K in Table 3. The BDEs show that ClClO<sub>2</sub> is more stable with respect to bond breaking than is ClOOCl. In ClOOCl, the lowest BDE is for the O-O bond whereas in ClClO<sub>2</sub>, the weakest BDE is for the Cl-Cl bond. The Cl-O BDE obtained using the experimental heat of formation for ClOO50 in ClOOCl is slightly higher than the O-O BDE. ClOClO is expected to fragment by breaking the central O-Cl bond with a BDE of less than 10 kcal/mol. We also calculated the energy of the <sup>3</sup>A" state of ClClO. The stability of this state is very dependent on the quality of the basis set and that the aug-cc-p(5+d)Z basis set was required for this state to be stable. This state is 7.2 kcal/mol below the reactant  $O(^{3}P) + Cl_{2}$  and 1.4 kcal/mol below the product state ClO + Cl consistent with the observation of a weak complex in molecular beam scattering experiments.<sup>51</sup> The singlet state of ClClO has much higher BDEs.

To provide information about the observations of the photoabsorption of ClOOCl, we calculated the vertical electronic

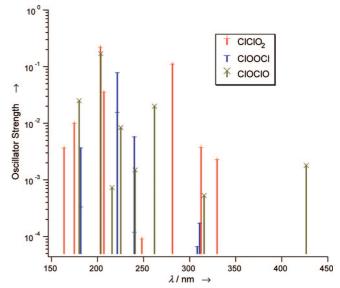


Figure 1. EOM-CCSD/aug-cc-pV(T+d)Z singlet excitation spectrum of ClClO<sub>2</sub>, ClOOCl, and ClOClO.

TABLE 4: EOM-CCSD/aug-cc-pV(T+d)Z Excitation Energies ( $\Delta E$ ) and Oscillator Strengths (f) for ClClO<sub>2</sub>, ClOOCl, and ClOClO at the aug-cc-pV(T+d)Z geometries

ero o er, una	CIOCIO	at the aug	ee p ( 1 + u)2	a geometries
Molecule	state	$\Delta E \text{ (eV)}$	$\Delta E \text{ (nm)}$	f
ClClO <sub>2</sub>	$A^1A''$	3.76	330	$2.27 \times 10^{-3}$
	$B^1A'$	3.97	312	$3.73 \times 10^{-3}$
	$C^1A'$	4.41	281	$1.11 \times 10^{-1}$
	$D^1A''$	5.00	248	$9.09 \times 10^{-5}$
	$E^1A''$	5.99	207	$3.55 \times 10^{-2}$
	$F^1A'$	6.10	203	$2.20 \times 10^{-1}$
	$G^1A'$	7.09	175	$9.96 \times 10^{-3}$
	$H^1A''$	7.58	164	$3.64 \times 10^{-3}$
Cloocl	$A^1B$	3.99	311	$1.72 \times 10^{-4}$
	$B^1A$	4.02	308	$6.60 \times 10^{-5}$
	$C^1B$	5.17	240	$5.75 \times 10^{-3}$
	$D^1A$	5.17	240	$1.19 \times 10^{-4}$
	$E^1B$	5.60	221	$7.81 \times 10^{-2}$
	$F^1A$	5.60	221	$1.56 \times 10^{-2}$
	$G^1B$	6.82	182	$3.32 \times 10^{-4}$
	$H^1A$	6.82	182	$3.66 \times 10^{-3}$
ClOClO	$A^1A$	2.91	426	$1.80 \times 10^{-3}$
	$B^1A$	3.93	315	$5.28 \times 10^{-4}$
	$C^1A$	4.74	262	$2.03 \times 10^{-2}$
	$D^1A$	5.15	241	$1.51 \times 10^{-3}$
	$E^1A$	5.50	225	$8.39 \times 10^{-3}$
	$F^1A$	5.75	216	$7.26 \times 10^{-3}$
	$G^1A$	6.09	203	$1.72 \times 10^{-1}$
	$H^1A$	6.89	180	$2.51 \times 10^{-2}$

excitation energies for ClOOCl, ClClO2, and ClOClO at the EOM-CCSD/aug-cc-pV(T+d)Z level (EOM = equation ofmotion).<sup>52</sup> The spectra arising from the excited singlet states of all three species are shown in Figure 1 and summarized in Table 4. It should be noted that each of these states are characterized by single excitations from the ground state, hence EOM-CCSD should yield accurate results. This spectrum clearly demonstrates that singlet states of ClClO2 absorb to longer wavelengths in the visible than do the singlet states of ClOOCl. Our calculated spectrum for ClClO<sub>2</sub> is consistent with that reported by Willner and co-workers, 40 who observed a UV spectra for ClClO2 with maxima at 226 and 296 nm in the gas phase. We predict absorption peaks at 203 and 281 nm for the largest peaks, consistent with experiment. Our results are also consistent with the earlier calculations of Stanton and Bartlett on ClOOCl and ClClO<sub>2</sub><sup>53</sup> and of our previous calculations<sup>55</sup> on the excited states

of ClOOCl. The ratio of the sum of the oscillator strengths of the two weak bands furthest to the red to the sum of the oscillator strengths of the next four bands for ClOOCl is <1: 400. Assuming that the ratio of the oscillator strengths dominates the ratio of intensities, our results are in qualitative agreement with the results of the intensity ratios at 250 and 350 nm observed by Pope et al.,5 which show a large value for this ratio in the range of 300. The oscillator strength for the most intense band in ClOOCl is predicted to be about a factor of 2.5 too high as compared to the experimental estimate<sup>5</sup> of 0.032 and the oscillator strength of the second most intense band is in excellent agreement with the experimental value<sup>5</sup> of 0.017. In addition, we predict that there is essentially no splitting between the A and B bands for a given excitation range as found experimentally for the most intense bands.<sup>5</sup> Calculations<sup>28,54</sup> at the complete active space-configuration interaction (CAS-CI) level do not show as good agreement with the CCSD results for ClOOC1. Previous workers<sup>53–55</sup> have noted that the lowest energy excitations for ClOOCl are into orbitals with predominately ClO  $\sigma^*$  character, which should facilitate dissociation into Cl + OOCl, the main path observed experimentally. These results are also consistent with the CAS direct dynamics calculations,  $^{28}$  which show formation of  $2Cl + O_2$ .

The higher energy isomer, ClOClO is predicted to have a weak absorption in the visible at 427 nm, leading to breaking the ClO-ClO bond. We predict that the first excited state of ClOClO leading to Cl-OClO bond breaking is the one at 240 nm. The ClOClO isomer has been identified in Ar and Ne matrices by its infrared spectrum and visible light photolysis of ClClO<sub>2</sub> in the Ar matrix has been shown to lead to formation of ClOClO.<sup>40</sup> Photolysis of ClOClO in an Ar matrix with visible light has also been shown to occur.<sup>40</sup>

It has previously been predicted<sup>55</sup> that that there are two triplet states >300 nm in ClOOCl at 389 and 385 nm on the basis of linear response CCSD calculations.<sup>56</sup> We predict triplet states >300 nm at 515, 382, and 350 nm for ClClO<sub>2</sub> and at 527, 399, and 355 nm for ClOClO using the same approach with the aV(T+d)Z basis set. The oscillator strengths of the triplet states of ClOOCl and ClClO<sub>2</sub> were calculated at the CASSCF level using the full Breit-Pauli spin orbit operator in the linear response CASSCF calculations with the aVTZ (ClOOCl)<sup>55</sup> and aV(T+d)Z (ClClO<sub>2</sub>) basis sets respectively using the Dalton program suite.<sup>57,58</sup> The oscillator strength of the more intense (of the two lowest lying triplets) a<sup>3</sup>B transition for ClOOCl is about an order of magnitude less than that of the more intense (of the two lowest lying singlets) A<sup>1</sup>B transition at the CASSCF level.<sup>55</sup> The low lying triplet state has been shown to smoothly dissociate to Cl + ClOO.55 Thus, in the region >370 nm for ClOOCl, the triplet state could be the most intense contributor to the photodissociation of ClOOCl as the peak of the lowest lying singlet is predicted to be at 310 nm. The oscillator strengths for ClClO<sub>2</sub> for the three lowest energy transitions are  $7.0 \times 10^{-8}$  (<sup>3</sup>A', 515 nm),  $5.5 \times 10^{-5}$  (<sup>3</sup>A", 382 nm), and 1.5  $\times$  10<sup>-4</sup> (<sup>3</sup>A', 350 nm) in comparison to the values of 5.5  $\times$  $10^{-6}$  (<sup>3</sup>B, 389 nm) and 1.5 ×  $10^{-5}$  (<sup>3</sup>A, 385 nm) for ClOOCl. The most intense low lying triplet transition in ClClO<sub>2</sub> has an oscillator strength that is almost an order of magnitude more intense than that in ClOOCl.

In summary, we predict that of the three low energy isomers of Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, the ClClO<sub>2</sub> isomer is the most stable and not the widely accepted ClOOCl isomer. An examination of the excited states of ClOOCl shows that there are only two weak absorption bands to the red of 245 nm at about 310 nm. This is consistent with the recently reported spectrum<sup>5</sup> of ClOOCl which shows

much lower intensities in the tail to the visible than previously reported. Our results show that the ClClO<sub>2</sub> isomer is a significant absorber in the near UV region and its potential presence needs to be accounted for in experiments. In particular it has two significantly more absorbing bands to the red of the lowest absorption band of ClOOCl. Our results provide new insights into the properties of the ClOClO isomer.

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Supporting Information Available: CCSD(T)/aV(T+d)Z optimized geometries for  $Cl_xO_y$ . CCSD(T)/aV(Q+d)Z oprimized geometries for  $Cl_2O_2$  isomers. Predicted and experimental vibrational frequencies, total CCSD(T)/aV(n+d) electronic energies as a function of basis set in au, and components for calculating the atomization energies in kcal  $mol^{-1}$  for  $Cl_xO_y$ . Linear response CCSD/aug-cc-pV(T+d)Z triplet excitation energies ( $\Delta E$ ) for  $Cl_2O_2$  isomers. Figures of the CCSD(T)/aV(T+d)Z optimized structures for  $Cl_xO_y$ . This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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