MOLECULAR STRUCTURE AND CONFORMATIONAL COMPOSITION OF GASEOUS 1,1-DICHLORO-2-BROMOMETHYL-CYCLOPROPANE AND 1,1-DICHLORO-2-CYANOMETHYL-CYCLOPROPANE AS DETERMINED BY ELECTRON DIFFRACTION

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

The conformation of halomethyl-cyclopropanes and oxiranes have been studied by spectroscopic methods [1, 2] and by gas-phase electron diffraction [3]. It is fairly well established that the major conformer in the halomethyl-cyclopropanes is the form with the carbon—halogen bond and the three-membered ring gauche to each other. The second conformer is the syn form, and the population of this form decreases as the size of the halogen atom increases. Wurrey and co-workers [1, 2, 4] studied the vibratinal spectra of chloromethyl, bromomethyl, and iodomethyl-cyclopropane and concluded that the abundance of the syn form in the liquid state was 5, 2 and <0.5%, respectively. For cyanomethyl-cyclopropane [4] the spectroscopic data were interpreted in terms of a gauche/syn equilibrium with the gauche form being 3.0 kJ mol⁻¹ lower in energy, corresponding to a syn population of 13% at room temperature. Reduced steric repulsion and a

possible interaction between the cyano and the cyclopropyl groups are possible reasons for the extra stability of the syn form in the cyanomethyl compound.

In the halomethyl-oxiranes (one of the CH₂-groups in the cyclopropyl ring replaced by an oxygen atom) the asymmetry of the oxirane ring makes the two gauche forms different. In the liquid state [1, 2, 5], the form with the larger dipole moment (gauche-1) is favored while in the gas phase [5, 6] the less polar gauche form (gauche-2) is the most stable form. The synform has not been observed in these molecules. In the solid phase [5] gauche-1 was the only conformer observed for fluoro, chloro and bromomethyl-oxirane. In the gas-phase the gauche-2 form has been found to be more stable for chloromethyl-oxirane (epichlorhydrin) [6] and chloromethyl-thiirane (3-chloropropylene sulfide) [7]. The more polar gauche form is stabilized in the condensed phases. The relative stability in the gasphase of the gauche-1 and gauche-2 forms can shed light on the long range interactions between halogen and oxygen or sulfur atoms. For example, the amount of gauche-1 present in chloromethyl-oxirane (33% at 67°C) compared with the amount present in chloromethyl-thiirane (18% at 35°C) suggests greater preference for the gauche-2 form in the thiirane. This difference may be a result of a larger repulsion between chlorine and sulfur than between chlorine and oxygen atoms. We wish to explore the non-bond interactions further by observing the relative population of gauche-1 and gauche-2 in a slightly perturbed cyclopropane system and comparing them with those of the oxiranes and thiiranes. This can be achieved by studying molecules where the symmetry of the three-membered ring is destroyed by substitution. We have therefore initiated gas-phase conformational investigations of 1,1-dichloro-2-cyanomethyl-cyclopropane and 1,1-dichloro-2-bromomethyl-cyclopropane (Fig. 1) and are reporting our findings in this article. No structural or conformational information has been reported available for these two compounds.

EXPERIMENTAL AND DATA ANALYSIS

The samples of 1,1-dichloro-2-cyanomethyl-cyclopropane (DCLC3CN) and 1,1-dichloro-2-bromomethyl-cyclopropane (DCLC3BR) were purchased from Maybridge Chemical Co., and were used without further purification. The electron diffraction photographs were recorded on Kodak Electron Image plates using the Oslo Balzers ED-instrument [8] at nozzle temperatures of 93°C (DCLC3CN) and 65°C (DCLC3BR). The camera distances were 497.73 mm and 247.96 mm for the long and short distances, respectively. Benzene was used for the wavelength calibration ($\lambda = 0.05906$ Å). For DCLC3CN five plates from each of the two camera distances were selected for use, while four plates from each distance were used for DCLC3BR. The intensity data were recorded using a Joyce Loebl microdensitometer. The data range obtained were $2.00 \le s \le 14.75$ and $4.00 \le$

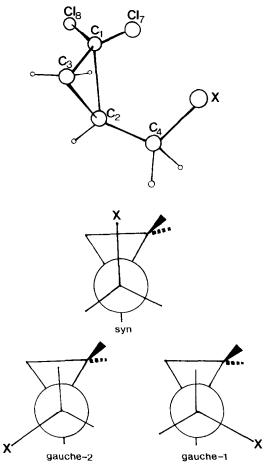


Fig. 1. Diagrams showing the atomic numbering of 1,1-dichloro-2-bromomethyl-cyclopropane (X = Br) and 1,1-dichloro-2-cyanomethyl-cyclopropane (X = CN). Newman projections of syn, gauche-1 and gauche-2 conformers.

 $s \le 29.00 \text{ Å}^{-1}$ for the long and short camera experiments, respectively, with $\Delta s = 0.25 \text{ Å}^{-1}$ ($s = 4\pi\lambda^{-1} \sin \theta$ where 2θ is the scattering angle). The usual data reduction procedures were followed [9, 10] and background curves were subtracted from each individual curve. The intensity data from each camera distance were then averaged together for each compound. These average experimental intensity curves are shown in Figs. 2 and 3, respectively [11]. Least squares procedures outlined by Gundersen and Hedberg [9] are followed using scattering factors tabulated by Schäfer et al. [12].

The atomic numbering scheme used for DCLC3BR is shown in Fig. 1. In principle, all three C—C bonds in the cyclopropyl ring are different. But since the effect of the dichlorosubstitution on the ring geometry is greater than that of a methyl group, we assumed the three-membered ring to be an

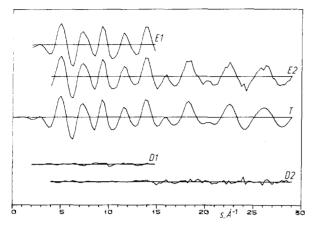


Fig. 2. Intensity curves, $sI_{\rm m}(s)$ for 1,1-dichloro-2-bromomethyl-cyclopropane. Experimental curves (E1, E2) are averages of all plates for the two camera distances. Theoretical curve (T) was calculated from the structure parameters of Table 1. Difference curves (D1, D2) are E - T.

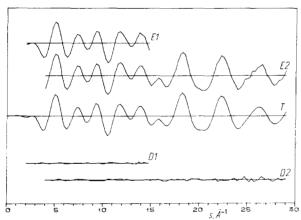


Fig. 3. Intensity curves, $sI_{\mathbf{m}}(s)$ for 1,1-dichloro-2-cyanomethyl-cyclopropane. Experimental curves (E1, E2) are averages of all plates for the two camera distances. Theoretical curve (T) was calculated from the structure parameters of Table 3. Difference curves (D1, D2) are E - T.

The least squares refinements, based on intensity curves, adjusted a single theoretical curve to the two average experimental curves using a unit weight matrix. Vibrational amplitudes and shrinkage corrections were calculated using a force field developed using selected values from the force fields for cyclopropane [13], 1,1-dichloro-cyclopropane [14] and 2,3-dibromo-propene [15].

Figure 4 shows the torsion-sensitive section of the experimental radial distribution (RD) curve together with the theoretical RD-curves for syn, gauche-1, gauche-2 and for a mixture of the last two of these conformers. The gauche-1 conformer has no important interatomic distances longer than 4.8 Å and the experimental peak at 5.6 Å clearly shows the presence of the gauche-2 conformer. However, the area under this peak in the experimental curve shows that a significant amount of a second conformer is present. This is also shown by the experimental RD-curve at about 4.6 Å. A theoretical RD-curve calculated with about equal amounts of gauche-1 and gauche-2 conformers gave good agreement with the experimental curve, and least squares refinements were made using this two-conformer model. A model with three conformers (gauche-1, gauche-2 and syn) was also tested. Our experiment gave no indications of a syn form being present, but based on the ED-results alone the presence of up to 10% syn cannot be excluded. In the refinements a value of 2% syn was obtained. In the final refinement the twoconformer model was used and the detailed results are summarized in Table 1.

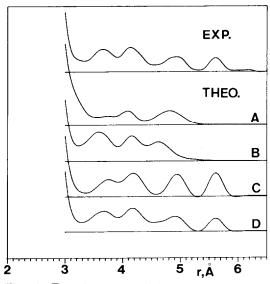


Fig. 4. Experimental radial distribution curve for 1,1-dichloro-2-bromomethyl-cyclo-propane together with theoretical curves for the syn (A), gauche-1 (B), and gauche-2 (C) conformers and a mixture of 45% gauche-1 and 55% gauche-2 (D). Only the conformationally important parts of the curves are shown. All curves are on the same scale.

TABLE 1

Final parameter values for 1,1-dichloro-2-bromomethyl-cyclopropane^a

Parameter	r_a/L_{α}	l	Parameter	ra	l
r(C-H)	1.095(19)	0.067	Dependent dis	tances:	
$\langle r(C-C)\rangle^{\mathbf{b}}$	1.496(14)		$r(C_1 - C_2)$	1.476(11)	0.046
$\Delta r(C-C)^c$	0.041(36)		$r(C_2 - C_3)$	1.517(31)	0.046
$r(C_2 - C_4)$	1.543(32)	0.051	$r(C_2 \cdots Br)$	2.871(24)	0.077
r(C-Cl)	1.752(6)	0.049	$r(C_1 \cdots C_4)$	2.560(61)	0.070
r(C—Br)	1.950(13)	0.053	$r(Cl\cdots Cl)$	2.900(11)	0.069
$\angle C_4 - C_2 - C_1$	117.5(1.3)		$r(C_3 \cdots Cl)$	2.780(8)	0.070
∠C—C—Br	110.5(1.9)		$r(C_4 \cdots Cl_8)$	4.095(17)	0.089
∠Cl—C—Cl	111.9(6)		$r(\mathbf{C}_{A}\cdots\mathbf{Cl}_{2})$	3.036(21)	0.094
\angle H $-$ C $-$ H \angle C $_4$ $-$ C $_2$ $-$ H \angle C $_2$ $-$ C $_4$ $-$ H ϕ_1 d ϕ_2 d ϕ_2 d ϕ_2 d ϕ_2 d	[109.0] [110.0] [111.4] 116.2(5.6) -132.7(7.6) 55(11)		$gauche-2$ $r(C_3 \cdots Br)$ $r(C_1 \cdots Br)$ $r(Cl_8 \cdots Br)$ $r(Cl_7 \cdots Br)$ $gauche-1$ $r(C_3 \cdots Br)$ $r(C_1 \cdots Br)$ $r(Cl_8 \cdots Br)$ $r(Cl_8 \cdots Br)$	3.789(64) 4.244(19) 5.607(20) 4.941(24) 4.225(23) 3.581(39) 4.641(34) 3.624(87)	0.156 0.082 0.110 0.137 0.096 0.147 ^e (50) 0.192 0.290 ^e (50)

^aDistances (r_a) and vibrational amplitudes (l) are in Ångstroms, angles (L_α) are in degrees. Parenthesized uncertainties are 2σ and include estimates of systematic errors and correlation in the experimental data. Quantities in brackets were kept constant in the least squares refinements. ${}^{b}\langle r(C-C)\rangle = 0.5(r(C_1-C_2) + r(C_2-C_3))$. ${}^{c}\Delta(r(C-C)) = r(C_2-C_3) - r(C_1-C_2)$. ${}^{d}\phi_1$, and ϕ_2 are the C-C torsion angles between the C-Br bond and the three-membered ring for gauche-1 and gauche-2 conformers, respectively. A positive value of ϕ corresponds to a clockwise rotation of the C-Br bond in the Newman projections shown in Fig. 1. e Refined as a group.

Some of the valence angles involving hydrogen could not be determined in the refinements and they were therefore given reasonable values and kept constant. In the preliminary refinements a value of 0.040 Å, as reported for 1,1-dichloro-cyclopropane [14], was assumed for $\Delta r(C-C)$. This restriction was removed in the final refinement and a value of 0.041(36) Å was obtained. Figure 5 shows the experimental radial distribution curve together with the difference curve. Table 2 gives the correlation matrix for the refined parameters.

The parameters used to define the DCLC3CN-molecules are basically the same as those used for DCLC3BR. The parameters r(C-Br) and $\angle C-C-Br$ are replaced by r(C-CN) and $\angle C-C-CN$, and r(C=N) is an additional parameter. It was assumed that $\angle C-C=N=180^\circ$. For DCLC3CN the amplitudes of vibration and shrinkage corrections are calculated using force constants selected from force fields of cyclopropane [13], 1,1-dichloro-cyclopropane [14] and allylcyanide [16].

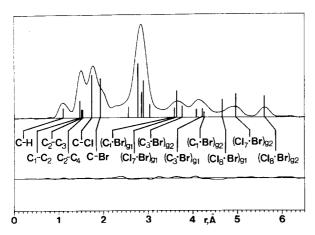


Fig. 5. Radial distribution curves for 1,1-dichloro-2-bromomethyl-cyclopropane. The vertical lines indicate the locations and weights for the most important interatomic distances in the molecule. Difference curve is experimental minus theoretical. Artificial damping coefficient $B = 0.0020 \, \text{Å}^2$.

TABLE 2

Correlation matrix (X100) for the parameters of 1,1-dichloro-2-bromomethyl-cyclopropane

Parameter	$\sigma^{\mathbf{a}}$	$r_{\scriptscriptstyle 1}$	r_2	r_3	r_4	L,	L_{6}	L,	\mathcal{L}_{8}	r_9	L_{10}	l_{11}	%
1 r(C-H)	0.0051	100	-9	8	9	9	-2	10	8	-1	5	4	2
$2 r(C_2 - C_4)$	0.0067		100	-71	29	-58	-38	-34	5	36	-54	1	-13
3 ⟨r(C−C)⟩	0.0022			100	-31	41	13	30	2	-41	69	1	11
$4 \Delta r(C-C)$	0.0031				100	-19	-56	10	11	50	-27	14	-3
$5 LC_4 - C_2 - C$	0.55					100	38	38	-10	-10	21	-2	- 2
6 ∠C—C—Br	0.51						100	-13	-29	-60	2	-23	-7
$7 \phi_1$	2.56							100	-16	6	24	43	18
$8 \phi_2$	1.95								100	19	-4	4	29
9 r(C-Cl)	0.0013									100	-42	11	-2
10 ∠Cl—C—Cl	0.17										100	11	7
$11 l(C_1 \cdots Br)$	0.027											100	-24
12 % gauche-2	3.9												100

^aStandard deviations from least squares refinements.

Figure 6 shows the torsion-dependent part of the experimental RD-curve together with theoretical curves for syn, gauche-1, gauche-2 and a mixture of the last two conformers.

In gauche-1 all important interatomic distances are shorter than 5.2 Å while gauche-2 has longer non-bonded distances between the cyano group and the chlorine atoms. This is reflected in the RD-curves of Fig. 6. The area under the peaks at 4.15, 4.9, 5.6 and 6.2 Å clearly shows the presence of

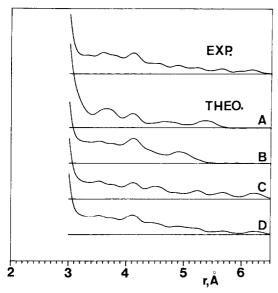


Fig. 6. Experimental radial distribution curve for 1,1-dichloro-2-cyanomethyl-cyclopropane together with theoretical curves for syn (A), gauche-1 (B) and gauche-2 (C) and a mixture of 45% gauche-1 and 55% gauche-2 (D). All curves are on the same scale.

both gauche conformers. Also for this molecule we can find no evidence for the syn form being present, but small amounts (up to 15%) of this conformer cannot be excluded. In the final least squares refinement a two-conformer model was used and the results are shown in Table 3. Table 4 gives the correlation matrix for the parameters and the final RD-curves for DCLC-3CN are shown in Fig. 7.

DISCUSSION

Table 5 summarizes the major geometrical parameters for some substituted cyclopropanes. The ring structure obtained for DCLC3CN agrees very well with that reported for 1,1-dichloro-cyclopropane [14]. One has to bear in mind, however, that we assumed an isosceles triangle for the cyclopropane ring. The external C—C bond (i.e. $r(C_2-C_4)$) in DCLC3CN is identical to that reported for methylcyclopropane [17]. The bonds in DCLC3BR are not very accurately determined, but the structures of these two molecules are consistent with each other and with related molecules.

The gauche-2 form is slightly favored in the gas phase for both DCLC3BR and DCLC3CN and this suggests a very small difference in energy between the two gauche conformers. Thus, perturbation of the cyclopropane ring by the two chlorine atoms makes little difference in the preference of one gauche conformer over the other. A much larger energy difference was observed between the gauche-1 and the gauche-2 conformers in chloro-

TABLE 3

Final parameter values for 1,1-dichloro-2-cyanomethyl-cyclopropane^a

Parameter	$r_{\mathbf{a}}/\mathcal{L}_{\alpha}$	ı		r _a	l
r(C-H)	1.101(16)	0.067	gauche-2		
$\langle r(C-C)\rangle^{b}$	1.521(12)		$r(C_3 \cdots C_5)$	3.436(59)	0.155
$\Delta r(C-C)^c$	0.046(23)		$r(C_3 \cdots N)$	4.296(84)	0.200
$r(C \equiv N)$	1.165(8)	0.035	$r(\mathbf{C_1}\cdots\mathbf{C_5})$	3.851(22)	0.082
r(C-CN)	1.466(26)	0.052	$r(C_1 \cdots N)$	4.902(30)	0.102
$r(C_2 - C_4)$	1.497(33)	0.051	$r(C_5 \cdots Cl_8)$	5.232(25)	0.111
r(C-C1)	1.754(5)	0.049	$r(\mathbf{N\cdots Cl}_8)$	6.221(36)	0.144
$\angle C_4 - C_2 - C$	122.8(1.6)		$rC_s \cdots Cl_7$	4.546(38)	0.136
$\angle C_2 - C_4 - C_5$	113.7(2.0)		$r(\mathbf{N}\cdots\mathbf{Cl}_{2})$	5.659(51)	0.146
∠Cl—C—Cl	112.5(4)		ggraha 1		
∠HCH	[109.0]		gauche-1	0.000/05\	0.000
$\angle C_4 - C_2 - H$	[110.0]		$r(\mathbf{C}_3 \cdots \mathbf{C}_5)$	3.862(35)	0.096
$\angle C_2 C_4 - H$	[111.4]		$r(C_3 \cdots N)$	4.897(47)	0.120
= •	110/10)		$r(\mathbf{C}_1 \cdots \mathbf{C}_5)$	3.315(71)	0.164
$\phi_1 \frac{d}{d}$	113(13)		$r(C_1 \cdots N)$	4.135(99)	0.212
$\phi_2^{\mathbf{d}}$	-124(11)		$r(\mathbf{C}_5 \cdots \mathbf{Cl}_7)$	3.521(156)	0.217
% gauche-2	55(26)		$r(\mathbf{N}\cdots\mathbf{Cl}_7)$	4.135(99)	0.197
Dependent dis	stances:		$r(C_5 \cdots Cl_8)$	4.456(45)	0.193
$r(\hat{C_1} - C_2)$	1.498(9)	0.046	$r(\mathbf{N}\cdots\mathbf{Cl}_8)$	5.021(69)	0.279
$r(C_2-C_2)$	1.544(21)	0.046			
$r(\mathbf{C}_5 \cdots \mathbf{C}_2)$	2.473(25)	0.077			
$r(C_2 \cdots N)$	3.487(22)	0.102			
$r(\mathbf{C}_1 \cdots \mathbf{C}_4)$	2.629(24)	0.069			
$r(Cl\cdots Cl)$	2.912(8)	0.069			
$r(C_3 \cdots Cl)$	2.797(7)	0.070			
$r(C_4 \cdots Cl_s)$	4.094(15)	0.089			
$r(C_4 \cdots Cl_7)$	3.158(26)	0.121			

^aDistances (r_a) and vibrational amplitudes (l) are in Ångstroms, angles (L_α) are in degrees. Parenthesized uncertainties are 2σ and include estimates of errors in the wavelength and data correlation. Quantities in brackets were kept constant in the least squares refinements. ${}^{b}\langle r(\text{C--C})\rangle = 0.5(r(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_2) + r(\text{C}_2-\text{C}_3)). {}^{c}\Delta r(\text{C--C}) = r(\text{C}_2-\text{C}_3) - r(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_2). {}^{d}\phi_1$ and ϕ_2 are the C-C torsion angles between C-C=N and the three-membered ring for the gauche-1 and guache-2 conformers, respectively. A positive value of ϕ corresponds to a clockwise rotation of the C-C=N group in the Newman projections shown in Fig. 1.

methyl-oxirane (2.1 kJ mol⁻¹) [7]. The gauche-2 population in the thiirane compound was observed to be 82% at 35°C. This larger energy difference cannot be the result of a much higher steric repulsion in the gauche-1 form of chloromethyl-thiirane compared with that in DCL3BR. Both the shortest Br···Cl distance in DCLC3BR and the S···Cl distance in chloromethyl-thiirane are slightly shorter than the sum of the van der Waals radii (3.62 vs. 3.75 Å and 3.46 vs. 3.65 Å, respectively). These distances could also be easily increased by a small increase in the value of ϕ_1 . The conformational difference between the oxirane/thiirane and the dichloro-cyclopropyl

TABLE 4

Correlation matrix (X100) for the parameters of 1,1-dichloro-2-cyanomethyl-cyclopropane

Parameter	$\sigma^{\mathbf{a}}$	r_{i}	r_2	r_3	r_4	$r_{\scriptscriptstyle 5}$	\boldsymbol{x}_{6}	L,	L_8	L,	\angle_{10}	L ₁₁	$r_{_{12}}$	%
1 r(C-H)	0.0039	100	-1	-20	-21	16	19	14	4	8	-7	1	-46	-4
$2 r(C_2 - C_4)$	0.0082		100	-77	-44	-70	-48	-28	-35	-8	-13	4	4	5
3 (r(C-C))	0.0028			100	74	42	22	21	24	-5	23	-3	21	-2
$4 \Delta r(C-C)$	0.0058				100	47	-29	-13	1	-5	60	-58	19	2
5 r(C-CN)	0.0064					100	7	-6	17	14	35	-41	-23	-2
6 \(\text{C}_4 - \text{C}_2 - \text{C} \)	0.69						100	62	38	-1	-16	50	-18	4
$7 \angle C_2 - C_4 - C_5$	0.66							100	32	-40	-13	32	1	-4
$8\phi_1$	3.52								100	0	2	17	-2	-1
$9 \phi_2$	4.32									100	2	-3	-15	-3 1
10 r(C-Cl)	0.0009										100	-6 7	9	1
11 \(\alpha\)Cl\(\text{-C}\)Cl	0.15											100	-1	-4
12 r(C≡N)	0.0019												100	3
13 % gauche-2	8.7													100

^aStandard deviations from least squares refinements.

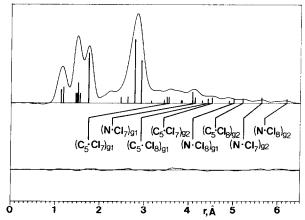


Fig. 7. Radial distribution curves for 1,1-dichloro-2-cyanomethyl-cyclopropane. The vertical lines indicate the locations and weights for the most important inter-atomic distances in the molecule. $B = 0.0020 \text{ A}^2$.

TABLE 5

Comparison of the geometry of some substituted cyclopropanes^a

	1,1-Dichloro- cyclopropane	Methyl-cyclopropane	1,1-Dichloro- 2-bromo- methyl-cyclo- propane	1,1-Dichloro- 2-cyano- methyl-cyclo- propane 1.498(9)		
$r(C_1-C_2)$	1.497(3)	1.509(3)	1.476(11)			
$r(C_2-C_3)$	1.538(9)	1.509(3)	1.517(31)	1.544(21)		
r(C-CH,X)		1.517(6)	1.543(32)	1.497(33)		
r(C-Cl)	1.759(2)		1.752(6)	1.754(5)		
∠Cl—C—Cl	112.6(2)		111.9(6)	112.5(4)		
Dist. type Ref.	$rac{r_{g}}{14}$	r _a 17	r _a This work	r _a This work		

^aDistances are in Ångstroms, angles in degrees.

compounds must therefore have other origins, for example differences in dipole/dipole interactions or inherent differences in the rotation about those C_2 — C_4 bonds.

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