# KINETIC STUDIES ON THE AMINOLYSIS OF 1-(TRIMETHYLSILYL)ETHYL ARENESULPHONATES IN ACETONITRILE AND METHANOL

## HYUCK KEUN OH AND CHUL HO SHIN

Department of Chemistry, Chonbuk National University, Chonju, 560-756, Korea

AND

# HYOUNG YEON PARK AND IKCHOON LEE\*

Department of Chemistry, Inha University, Inchon, 420-751, Korea

Nucleophilic substitution reactions of 1-(trimethylsilyl)ethyl arenesulphonates with anilines and benzylamines in acetonitrile and methanol at  $65 \cdot 0^{\circ}$ C were studied. The cross-interaction constants,  $\rho_{XZ}$ , between substituents in the nucleophile (X) and leaving group (Z) are relatively small (0.10 for XC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> in MeCN) but similar to those for other S<sub>N</sub>2 processes at a secondary carbon atom. This provides further evidence for an approximately constant, loose S<sub>N</sub>2 transition state at a secondary carbon regardless of the size of the C<sub>\alpha</sub> substituents. The transition-state variations with substituents X and Z are in accord with that expected from the positive  $\rho_{XZ}$  value observed: a stronger nucleophile and/or nucleofuge leads to an earlier transition state, i.e. a lower degree of bond making and breaking.

# INTRODUCTION

The cross-interaction constants,  $\rho_{ij}$  in the equation

$$\log(k_{ij}/k_{\rm HH}) = \rho_i \sigma_i + \rho_j \sigma_j + \rho_{ij} \sigma_i \sigma_j \tag{1}$$

have been successfully applied to the elucidation of organic reaction mechanisms in solution.<sup>1</sup> In equation (1), *i* and *j* represent the substituent X, Y or Z in the nucleophile, substrate and leaving group, respectively (Scheme 1). It has been shown<sup>1</sup> that if the sign of  $\rho_{XZ}$ , which can be alternatively given<sup>1</sup> as

$$\rho_{\rm XZ} = \frac{\delta \rho_Z}{\delta \sigma_{\rm X}} = \frac{\delta \rho_{\rm X}}{\delta \sigma_Z} \tag{2}$$

is positive (negative), a stronger nucleophile ( $\delta \sigma_X < 0$ ) and/or nucleofuge ( $\delta \sigma_Z > 0$ ) lead to an earlier (later) transition state (TS) with a lower (higher) degree of bond making ( $\delta | \rho_X | < 0$ ) and breaking ( $\delta \rho_Z < 0$ ). On the other hand, the magnitude of  $\rho_{XZ}$  provides a measure of the tightness of the TS.<sup>1</sup> It has been reported that a tight TS involved in an associative  $S_N2$ process at a primary carbon atom shows a relatively large magnitude of  $\rho_{XZ}$ , whereas the  $\rho_{XZ}$  value is small for a dissociative  $S_N2$  process with a loose TS at a sec-



ondary carbon atom.<sup>2</sup> Surprisingly, the size of  $\rho_{XZ}$  has been found to be approximately constant for the primary (ca 0.33)<sup>3</sup> and secondary carbon centres (ca 0.10),<sup>4</sup> respectively, irrespective of the size of a group attached to the reaction centre carbon, C<sub> $\alpha$ </sub>.

In previous work, a  $\rho_{XZ}$  value of 0.33 was obtained<sup>3</sup> for the reactions of trimethylsilylmethyl arenesulphonates (I) with anilines in acetonitrile at 65.0 °C conforming to the value expected for a tight TS at a primary carbon centre despite the large trimethylsilyl group on the  $\alpha$ -carbon. In this work, we extended our work to its  $\alpha$ -methyl-substituted analogue (II), which has a secondary carbon center.

> Received 12 December 1993 Revised 18 February 1994

<sup>\*</sup> Author for correspondence.

CCC 0894-3230/94/070359-05

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## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The second-order rate constants,  $k_2$ , for the reactions of 1-(trimethylsilyl)ethyl arenesulphonates (II) with anilines and benzylamines are summarized in Table 1. The rate is seen to increase with a stronger nucleophile ( $\delta\sigma_X < 0$ ) and nucleofuge ( $\delta\sigma_Z > 0$ ), as expected from a typical S<sub>N</sub>2 process. Comparison of the rates for II in Table 1 with the corresponding values for the reactions of I with anilines in MeCN<sup>3</sup> indicates that the rate is ca 3-6.8 times faster for I than for II, i.e.  $k_2(I)/k_2(II) = 3-6.8$ . The rate ratio becomes greater with a stronger nucleophile and nucleofuge; the ratio varies from ca 3 for X = p-Cl with Z = p-CH<sub>3</sub> to 6.8 for X = p-CH<sub>3</sub>O with Z = p-NO<sub>2</sub>. This is consistent with a lower degree of steric inhibition due to a lower degree of bond formation in the TS for a stronger nucleophile and/or nucleofuge, as the decrease in the magnitude of the Hammett ( $|\rho_X|$  and  $\rho_Z$ ) and Brønsted coefficients ( $\beta_X$  and  $|\beta_Z|$ ) in Table 2 indicate.

An earlier TS with a lower degree of bond formation for a stronger nucleophile and nucleofuge is also consistent with the positive  $\rho_{XZ}$  values (Table 3), which are determined by subjecting the rate data in Table 1 to multiple regression analysis using equation (1) with i, j = X, Z.<sup>1</sup> A similar trend is found for the reactions of I and II with anilines in MeOH; in this case, however, the ratio is greater,  $k_2(I)/k_2(II) = 5-7.5$ . This may be due to a looser TS for the reactions in MeOH than in MeCN. Indeed, we note in Table 3 that the cross-interaction constants,  $\rho_{XZ}$  and  $\beta_{XZ}$ , are smaller in MeOH, albeit the difference in the magnitude is very small.

The TSs for both  $S_N 2^5$  and  $S_N 1^6$  processes are known to become tighter and less ionic with increasing solvent polarity. A tighter TS is therefore expected in MeCN ( $\varepsilon = 37.5$ ) than in MeOH ( $\varepsilon = 32.6$ ).

Nucleophile		Z					
	х	p-CH <sub>3</sub>	H	<i>p</i> -Cl	m-NO <sub>2</sub>	p-NO <sub>2</sub>	
Aniline <sup>a</sup>	<i>p</i> -CH₃O	0.837	1.24	2.26	6.80	$8 \cdot 62$ $(58 \cdot 6)^d$	
	$p-CH_3$	0.539	0.797	1.47	4.61	5.74	
	́н ́	0.267	0.408	0.754	2.37	2.96	
	p-Cl	$0.106 (0.312)^{d}$	0.160	0.298	0.941	1 · 22	
	[MeOH] <sup>c</sup>	[0.425]	[0.656]	[1.33]	[4 • 47]	[5.70]	
Aniline <sup>b</sup>	p-CH₃O	2.15	3.30	5.16	14.5	20·9 (157) <sup>d</sup>	
	p-CH <sub>3</sub>	1.43	2.17	3.54	10.2	14.4	
	н	0.832	1.23	2.07	6.04	8.61	
	<i>p</i> -Cl	0·347 (1·78) <sup>d</sup>	0.502	0.868	2.49	3.68	
Benzylamine <sup>a</sup>	p-CH <sub>3</sub> O	2.57	4.25	9.28	30.2	40·0 (839) <sup>d</sup>	
	p-CH <sub>3</sub>	2.21	3.71	8.05	25.9	35.6	
	Ĥ	1.68	2.76	6.09	19.6	26.8	
	p-Cl	$(30 \cdot 4)^d$	2.02	4.46	14.4	19.8	

Table 1. Second-order rate constants,  $k_2 \times 10^4 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , for reactions of 1-(trimethylsilyl)ethyl Z-benzenesulphonates with X-anilines and X-benzylamines in MeCN and MeOH at  $65 \cdot 0^{\circ} \text{C}$ 

<sup>a</sup> MeCN.

<sup>b</sup> MeOH.

<sup>c</sup> Methanolysis rate constants,  $k_1 \times 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , at  $65 \cdot 0^{\circ}$ C.

<sup>d</sup> The values in parentheses are those for the corresponding trimethylsilylmethylene arenesulphonates (I).

The rate ratio  $k_2(\mathbf{I})/k_2(\mathbf{II})$  (ca 20) becomes even greater for the reactions with benzylamines. This is again consistent with a much lower degree of bond formation expected from a looser TS based on the substantially lower  $\rho_{XZ}$  and  $\beta_{XZ}$  values in Table 3. The magnitude of  $\rho_{XZ}$  (and also  $\beta_{XZ}$ ) is similar to that obtained for  $S_N2$  reactions at secondary carbon atoms. This is indicative of an approximately constant TS tightness (or looseness) for the  $S_N2$  TS at a secondary carbon atom (reactions E–K in Table 3), similarly with an approximately constant TS tightness obtained at a primary carbon atom (reactions A–D in Table 3). It is surprising that the TS tightness is similar ( $\rho_{XZ} \approx 0.10$ ) for the reactions of II, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>SiCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)—, and isopropyl, CH<sub>3</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)—, series since II has a much bulkier group, Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, than the latter, CH<sub>3</sub>, attached to the reaction centre in addition to a common CH<sub>3</sub> group; the Taft's steric constants,  $E_{s}$ ,<sup>7</sup> are -1.74 and

Nucleophile Ζ ρx° βx° х ρz° βz<sup>c</sup> 1.06 Aniline<sup>a</sup> p-CH<sub>3</sub> -1.810.65 p-CH<sub>3</sub>O -0.29 -1.79 -0.29н 0.64 p-CH<sub>3</sub> 1.08 p-Cl -1.77 0.64 Н 1.09 -0.30-1.73 p-Cl m-NO<sub>2</sub> 0.63 1.10 -0.30 $p-NO_2$ -1.71 0.62 Aniline<sup>b</sup> p-CH<sub>3</sub>O p-CH<sub>3</sub> -1.580.57 1.01 -0.27 Н -1.570.57 p-CH<sub>3</sub> 1.02 -0.28p-Cl -1.550.56 Н 1.04 -0.28m-NO<sub>2</sub> -1.53 0.55 p-Cl 1.06 -0.28 $p-NO_2$ -1.50 0.54 Benzylamine<sup>a</sup> p-CH<sub>3</sub> -0.66 0.65 p-CH<sub>3</sub>O 1.23 -0.41p-CH<sub>3</sub> н -0.660.65 1.23 -0.41-0.65 p-Cl 0.64 Н  $1 \cdot 24$ -0.41m-NO<sub>2</sub> -0.550.63 p-Cl 1.24 -0.42 $p-NO_2$ -0.530.63

Table 2. Hammett ( $\rho_X$  and  $\rho_Z$ ) and Brønsted ( $\beta_X$  and  $\beta_Z$ ) coefficients for reactions of 1-(trimethylsilyl)ethyl Z-benzenesulphonates with X-anilines and X-benzylamines

<sup>a</sup> MeCN. <sup>b</sup> MeOH.

<sup>c</sup> Correlation coefficients are better than 0.994 in all cases.

Table 3. Cross-interaction constants, $\rho_{XZ}$ and $\beta_{XZ}$ , for some nucleophilic substitution reactions at 65	aucleophilic substitution reactions	some nucleophilic substitution	$p_{XZ}$ and $p_{XZ}$ , ic	constants, $\rho_{2}$	Cross-interaction	Table 3.
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Reaction	Solvent	ρxz	$\beta_{\rm XZ}$	Ref.
(A) $XC_6H_4NH_2 + CH_3OSO_2C_6H_4Z$	MeOH	0.30	0.18	9
	MeCN	0.32	0.20	9
(B) $XC_6H_4NH_2 + CH_3CH_2OSO_2C_6H_4Z$	MeOH	0.33	0.19	9
	MeCN	0.34	0.21	9
(C) $XC_6H_4NH_2 + (CH_3)_3SiCH_2OSO_2C_6H_4Z$	MeOH	0.31	0.18	8
	MeCN	0.33	0.20	8
(D) $XC_6H_4NH_2 + (CH_3)_3CCH_2OSO_2C_6H_4Z^a$	MeOH	0.31	0.18	3
(E) $XC_6H_4NH_2 + (CH_3)_2CHOSO_2C_6H_4Z$	MeCN	0.10	0.06	2
(F) $XC_6H_4NH_2 + cvclo-C_4H_7OSO_2C_6H_4Z$	MeCN	0.11	0.06	4
(G) $XC_6H_4NH_2 + cvclo-C_5H_9OSO_2C_6H_4Z$	MeCN	0.11	0.06	4
(H) $XC_6H_4NH_2 + cyclo-C_6H_{11}OSO_2C_6H_4Z$	MeCN	0.11	0.07	4
(1) $XC_6H_4NH_2 + cyclo-C_7H_{13}OSO_2C_6H_4Z$	MeCN	0.11	0.06	4
(J) $XC_6H_4NH_2 + (CH_3)_3SiCH(CH_3)OSO_2C_6H_4Z$	MeCN	0.10	0.06	This work
(-)		(0·999) <sup>b</sup>	(0·995) <sup>b</sup>	
	MeOH	0.08	0.05	This work
		(0·999) <sup>b</sup>	(0·996) <sup>b</sup>	
(K) $XC_6H_4CH_2NH_2 + (CH_3)_3SiCH(CH_3)OSO_2C_6H_4Z$	MeCN	0.01	0.04	This work
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		(0·999) <sup>b</sup>	(0·999) <sup>b</sup>	

"At 55 ⋅ 0 °C.

<sup>b</sup>Correlation coefficients at the 99% confidence level.

0.0 for C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub>, respectively [The  $E_s$  value for the trimethylsilyl group, Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, is not available, but it is expected to be even more negative than that for the *tert*-butyl group, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, owing to the greater size of Sil.

Likewise, a similar TS tightness is obtained for the reactions at primary carbon centres, e.g. the  $\rho_{XZ}$  values (ca 0.33 in MeCN) for neopentyl, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>—,<sup>3</sup> and trimethylsilylmethylene, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>SiCH<sub>2</sub>—,<sup>8</sup> series are similar to that of ethyl, CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>—,<sup>9</sup> series (Table 3).

Shaik et al.<sup>10</sup> have shown that the tightness (or looseness) of the  $S_N 2$  TS can be correlated with magnitude of the intrinsic barrier, i.e. the barrier for the thermoneutral process,  $\Delta E_0^{\neq}$ . For a non-identity  $S_N 2$  process:

$$X^{-} + RZ \rightleftharpoons (X \cdots R \cdots Z)^{-} \rightleftharpoons XR + Z^{-}$$
(3)  
$$d_{XZ}^{\neq}$$

 $\Delta E_0^{\neq}$  is given by the average of the two  $\Delta E_0^{\neq}$  values involving the forward,  $\Delta E_{XX}^{\neq}$ , and reverse,  $\Delta E_{ZZ}^{\neq}$ , thermoneutral (identity) processes:

$$\Delta E_0^{\neq} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \Delta E_{XX}^{\neq} + \Delta E_{ZZ}^{\neq} \right) \tag{4}$$

Hence the similar magnitude of  $\rho_{XZ}$  should be an indication of the approximately constant  $\Delta E_{\delta}^{\neq}$ , which is primarily a function of bond stretching (R...X and R...Z) energy in the TS. The relatively constant  $|\rho_{XZ}|$ values obtained for the primary ( $\rho_{XZ} = 0.33$ ) and secondary ( $\rho_{XZ} = 0.10$ ) carbon centres reflect that an  $\alpha$ -alkyl substituent has little effect on the overall (or average) intrinsic barrier,  $\Delta E_{0}^{\pm}$ , and hence on the overall tightness of the  $S_{N2}$  TS,  $d_{XZ}^{\pm}$ . The actual reactivity ( $\Delta E^{\pm}$ ) is affected also by the steric effect in addition to the thermodynamic barrier ( $\Delta E^{\circ}$ ).

We conclude that the overall tightness of an  $S_N 2$  TS depends only on whether the reaction centre is a primary or a secondary carbon, but is almost independent of the size of the group attached to the reaction centre carbon atom.

#### EXPERIMENTAL

*Materials*. Reagent-grade chemicals were used. Acetonitrile (Merck) was used after three distillations and methanol (Merck) was used without further purification. The nucleophiles, aniline and benzylamine, were purchased from Tokyo Kasei and were redistilled or recrystallized before use. Substrates, 1-(trimethylsilyl)ethyl arenesulphonates, were prepared by reacting 1-(trimethylsilyl)ethanol (Aldrich) with arenesulphonyl chlorides.<sup>11</sup>

The NMR (Jeol 400 MHz) spectroscopic data are as follows. 1-(Trimethylsilyl)ethyl benzenesulphonate: liquid,  $\delta$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 0.02 (9H, s, Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.29 (3H, d, CH<sub>3</sub>, J = 7.33 Hz), 4.44 (1H, q, CH, J = 7.33 Hz),

7.51-7.93 (5H, m, aromatic). 1-(Trimethylsilyl)ethyl *p*-methylbenzenesulphonate: liquid,  $\delta$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 0.01  $(9H, s, Si(CH_3)_3)$ , 1.27  $(3H, d, CH_3, J = 7.14 \text{ Hz})$ , 2.44 (3H. s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.41 (1H, q, CH, J = 7.15 Hz), 7.32 (2H, d, J = 7.93 Hz, meta), 7.79 (2H, d, 1-(Trimethylsilyl)ethyl J = 8.73 Hz, ortho). chlorobenzenesulphonate: m.p. 31-32 °C, & (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 0.01 (9H, s, Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.24 (3H, d, CH<sub>3</sub>, J = 8.07 Hz), 4.43 (1H, q, CH, J = 7.33 Hz), 7.58 (2H, d, J = 8.80 Hz, meta), 7.84 (2H, d, J = 8.79 Hz, 1-(Trimethylsilyl)ethyl ortho). *m*-nitrobenzenesulphonate: m.p. 63-64 °C,  $\delta$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 0.02 (9H, s, Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>),  $1 \cdot 35$  (3H, d, CH<sub>3</sub>,  $J = 7 \cdot 65$  Hz),  $4 \cdot 59$  (1H, q, CH,  $J = 8 \cdot 00$  Hz),  $7 \cdot 77$  (1H, t, aromatic-5H,  $J = 8 \cdot 01$  Hz),  $8 \cdot 24$  (1H, d, aromatic-6H,  $J = 8 \cdot 01$  Hz), 8.49 (1H, d, aromatic-4H, J = 8.35 Hz), 8.76 (1H, s, aromatic-2H). 1-(Trimethylsilyl)ethyl p-nitrobenzenesulphonate: m.p. 72-73 °C, δ (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 0.02 (9H, s, Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1·34 (3H, d, CH<sub>3</sub>, J = 7·33 Hz), 4·58 (1H, q, CH, J = 7.33 Hz), 8.11 (2H, d, J = 8.79 Hz, meta),  $8 \cdot 38$  (2H, d,  $J = 8 \cdot 80$  Hz, ortho).

Kinetic procedures. Rates were measured conductimetrically and  $k_2$  values were determined with at least four nucleophile concentrations using the procedure described previously.<sup>2,4,8</sup> The  $k_2$  values were reproducible to within 3%.

Product analysis. The analysis of final products was difficult owing to partial decomposition during product separation and purification. We therefore analysed the reaction mixture by NMR (Jeol 400 MHz) at appropriate intervals under exactly the same reaction conditions as for the kinetic measurements in CD<sub>3</sub>CN at  $65 \cdot 0^{\circ}$ C. Initially we found a CH peak for the reactant,  $(CH_3)_3SiCH(CH_3)OSO_2C_6H_4Cl-p$ , at 4.43 ppm, which was gradually reduced, and a new peak for CH in the product, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>SiCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)NHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, grew at 2.95 ppm as the reaction proceeded. No other peaks or complications were found during the reaction, except for the two peak height changes indicating that the reaction proceeds with no other side-reactions. The reactions with benzylamine had two corresponding peaks at 4.43 and 2.02 ppm.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation and the Ministry of Education for support of this work.

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