Structure-Reactivity Analyses for Epoxide, Organosulfate, and Organonitrate Reactions Relevant to Secondary Organic Aerosol Composition



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Biochemistry

Epoxide Intermediates Explain SOA Composition



2013





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OH

HO

Epoxide as a precursor to secondary organic aerosol formation from isoprene photooxidation in the presence of nitrogen oxides 2013

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Epoxide Intermediates Explain SOA Composition

2013



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Real-Time Continuous Characterization of Secondary Organic Aerosol Derived from Isoprene Epoxydiols in Downtown Atlanta, Georgia, Using the Aerodyne Aerosol Chemical Speciation Monitor

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2015

Mechanism of the hydroxyl radical oxidation of methacryloyl peroxynitrate (MPAN) and its pathway toward secondary organic aerosol formation in the atmosphere[†]

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SOA as Chemical Reactor











Acid Catalysis: Bronsted vs. General



Bronsted-Acid Catalyzed

epoxide	k (M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)
2-methyl-1,2-epoxypropane	8.7 (Minerath et al. <i>ES&T,</i> 2008)
2,3-MBO epoxide	0.41 (Mael et al. <i>JPC A</i> , 2015)
IEPOX-4	0.036 (Darer et al. <i>ES&T</i> , 2012)
IEPOX-1	0.0079 (Darer et al. <i>ES&T</i> , 2012)
МАЕ	0.0000591 (Birdsall et al. <i>ACP</i> , 2014)

Structure-Reactivity Conclusions

Tertiary nucleophilic addition most common, but primary nucleophilic addition is observed for MAE - indicates A-2 mechanism dominance

Neighboring OH groups reduce the rate constant – these electron withdrawing groups destabilize the A-2 transition state species (make the epoxide C more electropositive) and raise the effective activation energy

COOH groups are extremely good electron withdrawing groups, and raise the effective activation energy even higher

General Acid Catalyzed Reactions



Bleier et al. JPC A, 2013

Minerath et al. ES&T, 2009



+ RNH₂

 H_2O

+

Stropoli et al. JPC A, 2015

Which Nucleophiles Dominate?

- Nucleophilicity (the donation of electrons to form a new bond) is affected by four factors:
- 1) Charge the more negative, the better
- 2) Electronegativity/Lone Pairs the less electronegative the atoms and the more lone pairs, the better
- 3) Solvent polar solvents (water) can complicate analysis
- 4) Steric hindrance the less bulky, the better

Nucleophilicity scale definition:

nucleophile nucleophilic strength

water nucleophilic strength = $\frac{(Y_{nuc \ product} / X_{nucleophile})}{(Y_{hydrolysis \ product} / X_{H20})}$

Relative Nucleophilicities: Inorganic Ions

1,2-epoxyisoprene reaction (Minerath et al. ES&T, 2009):

nucleophile	relative nucleophilicity
H ₂ O	1 (by definition)
NO ₃ -	7.0
HSO₄⁻	8.8
Cl ⁻	31
Br⁻	60
l-	140

Charge and Solvent effect: stronger H-bonding with solvent H_2O of strong acid conjugate bases and smaller halides hinders nucleophilicity, but all negative ions stronger than H_2O

Relative Nucleophilicities: Alcohols and Acids MAE reaction (Birdsall et al. ACP, 2014):

	nucleophile	relative nucleophilicity
	СН₃СООН	0.4
MAE	ОН	0.6
2-MG	но но он	0.8 total = 0.4 (carboxylic acid) + 0.4 (primary alcohol)
	H ₂ O	1 (by definition)
	CH ₃ OH	3.1
	HSO4 ⁻	11

All OH groups have similar nucleophilicity, weaker than HSO₄⁻

Relative Nucleophilicities: Amines 1,2-epoxybutane reaction (Stropoli et al. JPC A, 2015):

nucleophile	relative nucleophilicity
H ₂ O	1 (by definition)
HSO ₄ -	20
t-butyl amine	3000

Electronegativity/Lone Pair Effect: Nitrogen has lower electronegativity than oxygen, but has a lone pair, unlike carbon, which combines to make amines very strong nucleophiles – organic amines especially strong because alkyl groups are electron donating
Protonated amines are very weak nucleophiles – most atmospheric amines are protonated at SOA pH's

Nucleophilicity Scale



Oligomerization is a Nucleophilic Addition Reaction

Oligomerization of IEPOX is an **alcohol** nucleophilic addition reaction:



Oligomerization of MAE is an **acid** nucleophilic addition



Isomerization Is a Unimolecular Nucleophilic Addition Reaction THF-like isomerization products observed from IEPOX (Lin et al. *ES&T*, 2012):



Because ring closing reactions are relatively slow, isomerization will dominate only when stronger nucleophiles are in low concentration (i.e., low SOA liquid water content)

Metastability of Organonitrates and Halides: Nucleophilic Substitution

Organic halides have generally not been detected in ambient SOA and organonitrates have been shown to susceptible to hydrolysis (Boone et al. *ES&T*, **2015**).

Relative nucleophilic substitution efficiency is predicted by leaving group properties (potential leaving groups in SOA: halides and NO_3^{-}) and structure at reactive site (tertiary structure best stabilizes intermediate).

Leaving group property is proportional to weak base property because the weak bases are able to take on extra electron density as they "leave": CI^{-} and NO_{3}^{-} are excellent leaving groups. Structure-Reactivity Tools for Predicting SOA Reactions

All Major Classes of Epoxide Reactions (Hydrolysis, Organosulfate Formation, Oligomerization, and Isomerization) Can Be Interpreted as Nucleophilic Addition Reactions.

Relative Rates of Nucleophilic Addition to Epoxides Depend on Catalysts, Epoxide Carbon Substitution Structure, Relative Nucleophilicity, and Nucleophile Concentrations.

Water Nucleophilic Substitution for Rates Depend on Leaving Groups, Carbon Substitution Structure, Liquid Water Content.

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