Atmospheric Pressure Chemical Ionization of Alkanes, Alkenes, and Cycloalkanes

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An error in our recently published manuscript has been brought to our attention (*J. Am. Soc. Mass Spectrom.* **1994**, *5*, 177–185). On page 182, column 1, we incorrectly cited the proton affinities of cyclohexane and cyclohexene as 189 and 212 kcal/mol, respectively. The correct values are 169 and 189 kcal/mol (S. G. Lias, J. E. Bartmess, J. F. Liebman, J. L. Holmes, R. D. Levin, and W. G. Mallard, *J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data*, Suppl. 1, **1988**, *17*, 2). The corrected thermodynamic values for reactions 2 and 3 (same page) are therefore:

$$N_2^+ + \text{cyclo-}C_6H_{12} \rightarrow \text{c-}C_6H_{11}^+ + \text{H} + N_2$$

- 103 kcal/mol (2)

$$2 - C_6 H_{11}^+ \rightarrow C_6 H_9^+ + H_2$$

+ 16 kcal/mol (3)

The structure of the $C_6H_9^+$ ion was assumed to be cyclohexene-3-yl. Note also in reaction 2, the H was incorrectly listed as H⁺. As a result, this dissociative charge transfer reaction 2 is exothermic with excess energy available to allow further dissociations as in reaction 3. However, dissociative charge transfer from water ions may also lead to hydrogen elimination:

$$H_2O^+ + c - C_6H_{12} \rightarrow c - C_6H_{11}^+ + H + H_2O$$

- 34 kcal/mol (4)

$$C_6H_{11}^+ \rightarrow C_6H_9^+ + H_2 + 16 \text{ kcal/mol}$$
(5)

Overall, this reaction scheme is exothermic by 18 kcal/mol. Charge transfer between H_2O^+ and c-

 C_6H_{12} , which produces the cyclohexene cation ($\Delta H^\circ = -56$ kcal/mol), also could occur. Thus, hydrogen elimination from cyclohexane possibly could occur after dissociative charge transfer with water ions as well as with nitrogen ions.

Under low moisture conditions in an ion mobility spectrometer, the following reaction possibly could occur to produce H_3O^+ ions:

$$H_2O^+ + c-C_6H_{12} \rightarrow H_3O^+ + c-C_6H_{11}$$

- 45 kcal/mol (6)

The proton transfer reaction scheme from H_3O^+ analogous to reaction 4 is slightly endothermic (+6 kcal/mol), but would be favored by a significant change in entropy:

$$H_{3}O^{+} + c C_{6}H_{12} \rightarrow c C_{6}H_{13}^{+} + H_{2}O$$

$$- 2 \text{ kcal/mol} \qquad (7)$$

$$c C_{6}H_{13}^{+} \rightarrow c C_{6}H_{11}^{+} + H_{2}$$

The relative contributions of the different pathways could not be determined under the given experimental conditions. Our thanks to Dr. John Stone of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, for noting these points.