



UNCATALYSED OXIDATION OF AROMATIC ALCOHOLS BY CERIV(IV) IN NON-AQUEOUS ACIDIC MEDIUM-A KINETIC AND MECHANISTIC STUDY

Chemistry

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ABSTRACT

The oxidation of aromatic alcohols to carbonyl compounds and carboxylic acids is a very important organic transformation that is extensively used in the manufacture of a wide range of products. The oxidation of Benzyl alcohol and 2-Hydroxy benzyl alcohol by ceric ammonium nitrate has been studied spectrophotometrically, in the presence of glacial acetic acid, in acetonitrile as solvent. The reaction is first order with respect to oxidant and $[H^+]$. Michaelis-Menten type kinetics is observed. The reactions exhibit positive polymerization test. The activation parameters have been evaluated.

KEYWORDS

Kinetics, alcohols, CAN, oxidation.

Introduction-

Ceric ammonium nitrate (CAN) and ceric ammonium sulfate (CAS), in addition to other cerium salts, have been extensively studied as organic compound oxidants.¹⁻⁷ Alcohols and diol oxidation by Ce(IV) was not extensively studied in a preparative way. Ce(IV) chemical oxidation of alcohols is largely dependent on structural effects. Several kinetic investigations on redox reactions involving Ce(IV) and different organic and inorganic compounds including different alcohols have been carried out.⁸⁻¹⁴ Kinetic study on the oxidations of ethanol by Ce(IV) in perchloric acid media have been reported. Oxidation of malonic acid, aliphatic ketones and aldehydes, isobutyric acid and 3-bromopropanoic acid has been studied. Various investigations are also made on Ce(IV) in aqueous H_2SO_4 , where it forms strong sulphate complex.¹⁵ Trahanovsky et al.¹⁶ studied the oxidation of benzyl alcohol in high yields to benzaldehyde. Oxidation of benzyl alcohol to benzaldehyde in 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium triflate was studied by in-situ FTIR spectroscopy and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy on carbon-13-labeled benzyl alcohol.¹⁷ CAN converts benzylic alcohols into carbonyl compounds.¹⁸

Materials and Method:-

Benzyl alcohol and 2-Hydroxy benzyl alcohol were commercial products of the highest purity available. CAN was prepared by method described by Smith et al.¹⁹. Acetonitrile was purified by method given in literature.²⁰ Due to the non-aqueous nature of the medium, acetic acid (AcOH) was used as a source of hydrogen ions.

The pseudo-first order conditions were attained by keeping a large excess of the alcohol over CAN. The temperature was kept constant to ± 0.1 K. The reactions progress was followed by monitoring the decrease in the concentration of CAN spectrophotometrically at 390 nm up to 80% of the reaction.

Product and Stoichiometry:-

Products of oxidation are corresponding carbonyl compounds. Products of the reaction were also confirmed by extracting the reaction mixture with ether (3 x 15 ml). Tandon et al.²¹ observed that stretching peaks of the hydroxyl group as well as carbonyl group $>C=O$ were shifted to lower wave numbers. There may be intramolecular hydrogen bonding between hydroxyl group and the carbonyl oxygen which may be reason for shifting of peaks to the lower wave numbers.²² The stoichiometry of the reaction is found to be 2:1 for Ce(IV) and substrate.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:-

Effect of oxidant:-

When alcohols were in excess, the disappearance of CAN followed the first-order rate law. The first-order rate constants are independent of the initial concentration of the [CAN] when varied in the range (2 to 7) $\times 10^{-3}$ mol/dm³ at 303 K.

Effect of Substrate:-

At constant [CAN], the rate constants for oxidation were calculated at

different initial concentration of alcohols and found to increase linearly with the increase in concentration of alcohols ($2 \times 10^{-2} M$ to $6 \times 10^{-2} M$), (Table-1). A plot of $\log k_{obs}$ versus $\log [subs.]$ gives a straight line with slope nearly one revealed that the rate of oxidation is first order with respect to the substrate. It has been found that plot of $[1/k_{obs}]$ versus $(1/[substrate])$ is straight line with an intercept on the rate ordinate, indicating the oxidation of both the alcohols follow Michaelis-Menten type kinetics and proceeds through the formation of a complex between the oxidant and the substrate.

Effect of H^+ Ion:-

To study effect of hydrogen ion, glacial acetic acid was used. The rate of oxidation was studied from $[H^+] = 2$ to $5 \times 10^{-2} M$. It was observed that rate increases with increase in hydrogen ion concentration. Plot of $\log k_{obs}$ versus $\log [H^+]$ is a straight line in both the alcohols show first order dependence of $[H^+]$ on rate. The results are summarized in (Table 1).

Effect of Solvent composition:-

Effect of solvent was studied by changing proportion of water and acetonitrile percentage composition was varied from 10 to 50 % acetonitrile v/v. We have calculated dielectric constant using law of mixture and data for pure acetonitrile and water^{23,24} assuming a linear relationship in the limited range. Wieberg and Evans²⁵ have made a similar approximation with regard to the same binary solvent system. Looking to the nature of reaction, it can be either ion-dipole or dipole-dipole²⁶.

It was observed that $\log k_{obs}$ versus $1/\text{dielectric constant}$ is straight line for both the alcohols with the positive slope. This indicates that reaction is ion - dipolar and further by positive slope, we can say it is cation-dipole interaction in rate determining step²⁷. Result are summarized in (Table-1).

Effect of Temperature:-

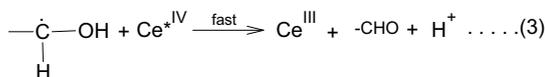
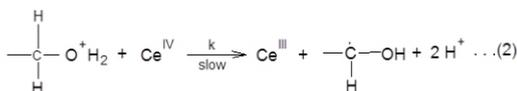
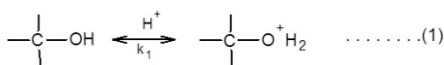
Rate of oxidation increases with increase in temperature. Rate of reactions were determined at different temperature (303 to 323 K) (Table- 2). In case of both the alcohols, a plot of $\log k_{obs}$ versus $1/T$ is straight line. This shows that Arrhenius equation is valid for this oxidation. The energy of activation is 57.44 and 63.36 kJ mol⁻¹ respectively. The entropy values are negative and high suggesting that the transition state is more rigid. The negative entropy also suggests the formation of cyclic intermediate from acyclic species. Thermo dynamic parameters have been calculated (Table-3).

Conclusion:-

Oxidative transformation of Benzyl alcohol and 2-Hydroxy benzyl alcohol is first order with respect to oxidant and $[H^+]$. Glasston²⁸ has pointed out that if entropy of activation is large and positive, the reaction will be normal and fast but if it is negative, the reaction is slow. In this case, the negative values of entropy of activation come under a category of slow reactions. In these oxidation reaction negative values of entropy suggest either formation of cyclic structure from non-cyclic

structure or the activated state is more polar than the reactants. Polymerization of the monomer acrylonitrile by reaction mixture was observed. This is in contradiction with Nayak et. al.²⁹ There fore reaction involve free radicals. Kemp and Water³⁰ also suggest that C-H fission must occur with Ce(IV). Thus the overall mechanism is proposed to involve the formation of a complex in a fast pre-equilibrium and then a decomposition of the complex in a subsequent slow step via cyclic concerted symmetrical transition state leading to the product.

The kinetic data represents Michaelis-Menten type of kinetics suggesting protonation of alcohol in acid media indicating involvement of H⁺ in the reaction in equilibrium step. Ce^{IV} has been found kinetically active in this study with generation of free radical in the reaction.



In equation (3) Ce*(IV) represents any species of Ce^{IV}.

TABLE-1 Effect of [Substrate], [H⁺] and [Solvent] [CAN] = 3 x 10⁻³ MT = 308 K

[Substrate] X 10 ² M	[ACETIC ACID] x 10 ² M	Percentage of H ₂ O [In Acetonitrile-Water Mix.]	k _{obs} x 10 ⁵ sec ⁻¹	
			Benzyl alcohol	2-Hydroxy Benzyl alcohol
2.0	2.0	0	10.48	5.25
3.0	2.0	0	13.43	8.73
4.0	2.0	0	15.91	12.48
5.0	2.0	0	18.04	16.95
6.0	2.0	0	20.73	22.03
2.0	2.0	0	10.48	5.25
2.0	2.5	0	19.11	6.78
2.0	3.0	0	30.14	8.50
2.0	3.5	0	43.37	9.94
2.0	4.0	0	64.29	12.81
2.0	4.5	0	88.38	15.36
2.0	5.0	0	123.21	18.68
2.0	2.0	0	10.48	5.25
2.0	2.0	10	9.56	4.38
2.0	2.0	20	8.73	3.69
2.0	2.0	30	7.84	3.07
2.0	2.0	40	6.91	2.59
2.0	2.0	50	6.34	2.13

Table-2 VARIATION OF RATE WITH TEMPRATURE [SUBSTRATE] = 2.0 X 10⁻² [ACETIC ACID] = 2 X 10⁻² M [CAN] = 3 X 10⁻³ M

Temperature in K	k x 10 ⁵ sec ⁻¹	
	Benzyl alcohol	2-Hydroxy Benzyl alcohol
303	10.48	5.25
308	15.65	7.88
313	22.43	12.06
318	32.18	18.51
323	44.05	27.36

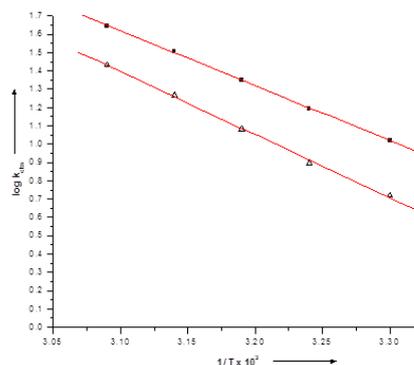
Table-3 Thermodynamic Parameters

Alcohol	log A	Energy of activation E# kJ mol ⁻¹	Entropy of activation S# JK ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹	Free energy of activation G# kJ mol ⁻¹	Enthalpy of activation H kJ mol ⁻¹

Benzyl Alcohol	7.32	57.44	-108.76	54.92	87.74
2-Hydroxy Benzyl Alcohol	8.56	63.36	-85.07	63.84	89.61

Figure-1 VARIATION OF RATE WITH TEMPERATURE 1/T v/s log k_{obs}

■ BENZYLALCOHOL ▲ 2-HYDROXY BENZYLALCOHOL



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