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# **Tautomeric Equilibria of Substituted 2-Pyridone/2- Hydroxypyridine in the Gas and Aqueous Phases**

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*Author's contribution*

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# *Article Information*

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# **ABSTRACT**

Heats of formation, entropies and Gibbs free energies for the twenty structures of substituted 2 pyridone and 2-hydroxypyridine were studied using semiempirical Austin Model (AM1) and Parametric Method 3 (PM3) calculations at the self-consistent field level, both in the gas and liquid phases, with full geometry optimization. It was revealed from the study that 2-hydroxypyridine is predominant in gas phase, while 2-pyridone in the liquid phase which agrees with the experimental and theoretical predictions. All substituents such as F, Cl, OH, CH<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CHO, CN, CF<sub>3</sub> stabilize the 2-pyridone in the gas and liquid phases except F, CI and  $NH<sub>2</sub>$  in PM3 calculations in the gas phase. The substituents stabilization is more effective in liquid phase. This was also confirmed by thermodynamic calculations and isodesmic reactions.

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*Keywords: 2-pyridone; 2-hydroxypyridine; tautomerism; substituents; AM1; PM3.*

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

The tautomerism of 2-pyridone/2-hydroxypyridine plays a significant role in many areas of chemistry and biochemistry, viz., the

rationalization of structures, properties, and reactivities in heterocyclic chemistry [1,2]; concepts and probes of aromaticity [3]; measures of intrinsic stabilities verse solvent effect [4,5]; mechanisms of enzymatic catalysis and receptor

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interactions [6]; and possibly even mutations during DNA replication [2,7]. Early investigations of tautomerism of 2-pyridone were performed by Baker and Baely [8]. Since then, most studies have dealt with the equilibrium in liquid media [1,9]. X-ray crystallography has shown that pyridone is also favored in the solid [10-12].

The dominance of pyridone tautomer in solution neat liquid and solid has been shown to be the results of strong solvent effects, ion binding and self associations [1,4,5,10-16]. In contrast, IR and UV measurements have established that the tautomers are nearly equal in energy when unassociated in the vapor [4,17,18]. IR spectroscopy in inert gas matrices [19], and microwave spectroscopy [20] have led to conclusion that the free energy differences between hydroxy form and oxy form is 0.478- 0.717 kcal/mol in favour of the hydroxy form. A similar gas-phase tautomerizations have been investigated for a number of lactam/lactim pairs by using IR [21], UV [22], photoelectron [23,24], ion cyclotron resonance [25-27] and mass spectroscopy [28,29]. All these gas– phase equilibria showed marked differences from solution data [1,2,9,13-17,30].

Numerous theoretical studies have attempted previously to reproduce the tautomerization energy for pyridone/ hydroxypyridine and similar heterocyclic systems [31-38].

In solution state, the energy difference between two tautomers seems to be very small and depending on the polarity of the solvent, polar solvents favour the 2-pyridone whereas in nonpolar solvents, both tautomers can co-exist [39, 40]. The experimental tautomerism free energy changes for 2-pyridone in the gas phase and acetonitrile was -0.81 and 2.96 kcal/mol respectively [40].

Electronegative substituents at the C-6 position have been shown [41] to have a considerable effect on the pyridone/hydroxypyridine equilibrium, both in the gas phase and in a variety of solvents. The studies of Beak et al. [4,42] have revealed such experimental data on several chloro derivatives of 2-hydroxypyridine and 2-mercaptopyridine. Experimentally, the equilibrium between 6-chloro-2-pyridone and 6 chloro-2-hydroxypyridine in the gas phase, water and carbon tetrachloride reported that, both in the gas phase and in carbon tetrachloride, the hydroxy-form is dominant while in an aqueous environment, the 2-pyridone is preferred [43-46].

The main objective of this paper is to give more theoretical insight to the problem of the tautomerism of 2-pyridone/2-hydroxypyridine (Scheme 1) by studying the effect of substituents  $X$  (X= F, OH, NH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>, CN, NO<sub>2</sub> and CF<sub>3</sub>) at C-6 position in the gas phase ( $\varepsilon$  =1)<br>and liquid phase ( $\varepsilon$  =78.4) by  $=78.4$ ) by using semiempirical methods AM1 [47] and PM3 [48].



**Scheme 1**

#### **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Materials are substituted 2-pyrydone.2 hydroxypyridine. Substituents are F, Cl, OH,  $CH<sub>3</sub>$ ,  $NH<sub>2</sub>$  NO<sub>2</sub> and CHO. Theoretical calculations were performed by using well known AM1 (47) and PM3 (48) for calculations.

# **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The present work was first performed by AM1 method and then by PM3 method.

#### **3.1 AM1 Method**

Calculations were first performed in the gas phase and then in liquid phase.

#### **3.1.1 AM1 calculations in the gas phase (**ε **=1)**

The calculated molecular structures of 20 compounds are given in Fig. 1.

The calculations were first performed on a parent compounds (2-pyridone and 2-hydroxypyridine without substitution), and then on a substituted parent compounds.



**Fig. 1. Molecular structures of the substituted 2-Pyridone and 2-Hydroxypyridine**



**Scheme 2**

*a) Parent Compounds (2-pyridone and 2 hydoxypyridine)*

## 2- hydroxypyridine: Exists in two forms:

The forms **1B** and **2B** (Scheme 2) differ in the orientation of OH group relative to the nitrogen atom. The calculated heat of formation of **2B** (-11.854 kcal/mol) is more negative in compared to **1B** (-7.977 kcal/mol), suggesting that **2B** is This agrees with theoretical calculations done by other researchers [32,34, 49].

#### *Tautomerism:*

Thermodynamic calculations of Gibbs free energies of 2-pyridone and 2-hydroxypyridine are presented in Table 1.



#### **Scheme 3**

The Gibbs free energy of the tautomerization (∆*G*) (Scheme 3) at 298.15 K were predicated by adding the heat of formation ∆H<sub>f</sub> and entropic (-T∆S) terms. The calculated Gibbs free energy for tautomerization ∆*G* is - 0.540 kcal/mol, which is in favour of the product (2-hydroxypyridine). This result agrees with the experimental values recorded by other workers [19,20]. It also agrees with the theoretical calculations [33,34,40]. This ∆*G* has been taken as reference for determining the relative stability of Xsubstituted 2-pyridone and 2hydroxypyridine.

*b) Effect of substituents*:

#### *Effect of F:*

The thermodynamic calculation of compound **3**  (Fig. 1) showed that ∆*G* = - 0.240 kcal/mol (Table 1) was more positive than that of the parent (∆*G* = - 0.540 kcal/mol) suggested that F substituent slightly stabilizes the 2-pyridone.

The stabilization effectwas also supported by isodesmic reactions [50-56]. A negative value for the reaction indicates a less stable, and a positive value indicates a more stable product.

It was observed that ∆*Hrxn* value of the isodesmic reaction of compound **3** (Table 2) is positive (0.044 kcal /mol) and that of **4** is negative (-0.253 kcal/mol) which suggests that F slightly stabilizes the compound **3.** This is in agreement with the present thermodynamic calculation, which predicts a small shift in equilibrium to the 2-pyridone compared to parent.

## **Table 1. Calculated Gibbs free energies (kcal mol-1 ) of the substituted 2- pyridine/ 2 – hydoxypyridine in the gas phase (ε =1) and liquid phase (ε =78.4) using AM1**



# *Effect of Cl***:**

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **5** (Fig. 1) shows that ∆*G* = - 0.390 kcal/mol (Table 1) is slightly greater in compared to parent compounds (∆*G* = - 0.540 kcal/mol), which suggests that Cl slightly stabilizes the 2-pyridone. This is confirmed by the isodesmic reaction of compound 5 (Table 2) where ∆*Hrxn* is negative (-0.276 kcal/mol) and that of **6** is also negative (- 0.348 kcal/mol), whereas **5** is more positive than **6** . This suggests that Cl slightly stabilizes the compound **5**. This agrees with the present thermodynamic calculation (∆*G* = - 0.390 kcal/mol) which predicts a small shift in equilibrium to the 2- pyridone compared to the parent compounds ( $\Delta G = -0.540$  kcal/mol). But ∆*G* is still negative, suggested that 6 chloro-2-hydroxypyridine is dominant. This agrees with the experimental predictions [43- 46].

#### *Effect of OH***:**

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **7** (Fig. 1) shows that ∆*G* = 0.300 kcal /mol (Table 1) is greater in compared to parent (∆*G* = - 0.540 kcal/mol) suggested that OH stabilizes the 2 pyridone. This is confirmed by the isodesmic reactions of compound **7** (Table 2) where ∆*Hrxn* is 1.138 kcal/mol more positive than that for **8** (∆*Hrxn* = 0.243 kcal/mol), which suggests that OH stabilizes compound **7.** This agrees with the present thermodynamic calculation (∆*G* = 0.300 kcal/mol) which predicts a small shift in equilibrium to the 2-pyridone in compared to the parent compounds (∆*G* = - 0.540 kcal/mol).

#### *Effect of CH3***:**

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **9** (Fig. 1) shows that  $\Delta G = 0.264$  kcal/mol (Table 1) is greater in compared tothe parent (∆*G* = - 0.540 kcal/mol), which suggests that  $CH<sub>3</sub>$  slightly stabilizes the 2- pyridone.

This confirmed by the isodesmic reaction of compound **9** (Table 2) where ∆*Hrxn* is positive (∆*Hrxn* = 0.166 kcal/mol) and that of **10** is negative  $(\Delta H_{rxn} = -0.239 \text{ kcal/mol})$ , which suggests that CH3 stabilizes compound **9.**

## *Effect of NH<sub>2</sub>***:**

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **11** (Fig. 1) shows that ∆*G* = - 0.080 kcal/mol (Table 1) is greater in compared to the parent (∆*G* = - 0.54 kcal/mol) which suggests that  $NH<sub>2</sub>$  stabilizes the 2- pyridone.

This confirmed by the isodesmic reaction of compound **11** (Table 2) where ∆*Hrxn* is positive



**Table 2. Evaluation of substituent effects of the substituted 2-pyridone 2-hydroxypyridine tautomerism via isodesmic reactions (∆***Hrxn* **in kcal/mol), in the gas phase**

(0.682 kcal/mol) and that of **12** is also positive (0.245 kcal/mol), but that of **11** is more positive than **12,** which suggests that  $NH<sub>2</sub>$  stabilizes the compound **11**.

#### *Effect of NO<sub>2</sub>:*

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **13**  (Fig. 1) shows that ∆*G* = 0.130 kcal/mol (Table 1) is greater in compared to the parent (∆*G* = - 0.540 kcal/mol) which suggests that  $NO<sub>2</sub>$ stabilizes the 2- pyridone.

This confirmed by the isodesmic reaction of compound **13** (Table 2) where ∆*Hrxn* (1.528 kcal/mol) is greater than that of compound **14** (∆*Hrxn* = 0. 817 kcal/mol), which suggests that NO2 stabilizes the compound **13.**

# *Effect of CHO***:**

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **15** (Fig. 1) shows that ∆*G* = 1.000 kcal/mol (Table 1) is greater than the parent  $(\Delta G = -0.540$ kcal/mol), which suggests that CHO stabilizes the 2-pyridone.

The stabilization effect is confirmed by the isodesmic reaction. It can be seen from Table 2 that ∆*Hrxn* value of the isodesmic reaction of compound **15** is 2.445 kcal/mol is greater than that of compound **16** ( $\Delta H_{rxn}$  = 0.828 kcal/mol), which suggests that CHO stabilizes the compound **15.**

## *Effect of CN:*

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **17**  (Fig. 1) shows that ∆*G* = - 0.300 kcal/mol (Table

1) is slightly greater than that of the parent (∆*G* = - 0.540 kcal/mol) which suggests that CN slightly stabilizes the 2-pyridone. The stabilization effect is confirmed by the isodesmic reaction. It can be see from Table 2 that ∆*Hrxn* value of the isodesmic reaction of compound **17** is 0.617 kcal/mol greater in compared to the compound **18** ( $\Delta H_{\text{rxn}}$  = 0.392 kcal/mol), suggested that CN stabilizes the compound **17.** 

#### *Effect of CF<sub>3</sub>*:

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **19** (Fig. 1) shows that ∆*G* = 0.130 kcal/mol (Table 1) is greater than the parent  $(\Delta G = -0.540 \text{ kcal/mol})$ which suggests that  $CF<sub>3</sub>$  stabilizes the 2pyridone.

The stabilization effect confirmed by isodesmic reaction, it can be seen from Table 2 that ∆*Hrxn* value of the isodesmic reaction of compound **19** is 0.975 kcal/mol greater than that of compound **20** (0.444 kcal/mol), which suggests that  $CF<sub>3</sub>$  stabilizes the compound **19**.

Therefore, all substituents showed an increase in the stability of 2-pyridone.

#### **3.1.2 AM1 calculations in liquid phase (**ε **= 78.4)**

Calculations were first performed on the parent compounds (2-pyridone and 2-hydroxypyridine without substitution), and then on the substituted parent compounds.

#### *a) Parent Compounds (2-pyridone and 2 hydoxypyridine)*

The calculated Gibbs free energies of 2-pyridone and 2-hydroxypyridine are shown in Table 1. The heat formation of 2-pyridone (A) ( $\Delta H_f$  = - 31.480 kcal/mol) is more negative in compared to 2 hydroxypyridine (B) ( $\Delta H_f$  = - 24.204 kcal/mol) suggesting that compound (A) is the more stable (Scheme 3). This agrees with the previous published works [1,4,5,10-16].

The calculated Gibbs free energy (∆*G*) for the tautomerization (Scheme 3) is 7.140 kcal/mol, suggesting that 2-pyridone was predominant. This agrees with theoretical and experimental predictions [33,34,40]. This ∆*G* was taken as a reference for determining the relative stability of X-substituted 2-pyridone and 2-hydroxypyridine.

## *b) Effect of substituents*

All substituents showed an increase in the Gibbs free energy values (∆*G*) (Table 1) in compared to the parents ( $\Delta G = 7.140$  kcal/mol), suggested that all the substituents stabilize the 2-pyrididone thermodynamically. This confirmed by the isodesmic reactions in Table 3, where all ∆*Hrxn* values of the 2-pyridone are more positive than that of 2-hdroxypyridine.

# **3.2 PM3 Calculations**

PM3 calculations were primarily performed in the gas phase and then in the liquid phase.

# **3.2.1 PM3 calculations in the gas phase (**ε **=1)**

Calculations first performed on the parent compounds (2-pyridone and 2-hydroxypyridine

without substitution), and then on the substituted parent compounds.

#### *a) Parent Compounds (2-pyridone and 2 hydoxypyridine)*

The calculated Gibbs free energies of 2-pyridone and 2-hydroxypyridine are given in Table 4. The heat of formation of 2-hydroxypyridine (B) ( $\Delta H_f$  = - 18.150 kcal /mol) is more negative than 2 pyridone (A) ( $\Delta H_f$  = - 15.658 kcal/mol), which suggests that the compound (B) is more stable (Scheme 3). i.e. 2-hydroxypyridine is predominant in the gas phase. This is in agreement with the theoretical and experimental predictions [4, 17-20, 33, 34, 40]. The calculated Gibbs free energy for the tautomerization (∆*G)* (Scheme 3) is - 2.571 kcal /mol (Table 4), which is not closed to the experimental value (- 0.81 kcal/mol) [40] as calculated by the present AM1. Therefore, the present AM1 calculation gives better result in regard to the Gibbs free energy in the gas phase. This *∆G* was taken as a reference for determining the relative stability of Xsubstituted 2-pyridone and 2- hydroxypyridine.

# *b) Effect of Substituents*

The substituents  $F$ , CI and NH<sub>2</sub> showed a decrease in Gibbs energy values ∆*G* (Table 4) in compared to the parent  $(\Delta G = -2.571$  kcal /mol), indicating that the substituents destabilize the 2-pyrdone i.e., in favour of the product (2-hydroxypyridine). This is confirmed by the isodesmic reactions in Table 5, where the values of ∆*H<sub>rxn</sub>* of the substituents (F, Cl and  $NH<sub>2</sub>$ ) in case of the 2-hydroxypyridine are more.

**Table 3. Evaluation of substituent effects of the X-substituted 2-pyridone 2 hydroxypyridine tautomerism via isodesmic reaction ns (∆***Hrxn* **in kcal/mol), in liquid phase**





**Table 4. Gibbs free energies (kcal/mol) of the X- substituted 2-pyridone/2-hydroxypyridine in the gas phase (ε =1) and liquid phase (ε** 

positive than that of 2-pyridone. It suggests a destabilization of 2-pyridone. The rest of the substituents (  $OH$ ,  $CH<sub>3</sub>$ , NO<sub>2</sub>, CHO, CN and  $CF<sub>3</sub>$ ) showed more positive ∆*H<sub>rxn</sub>* values for the 2pyridone than that of the 2-hydroxypyridine, which suggests a more stabilization of the 2 pyridone.

Therefore, all substituents stabilize the 2 pyridone, except  $F$ , CI, and  $NH_2$ .

# **3.2.2 PM3 calculations in liquid phase (**ε **= 78.4)**

Calculations were primarily performed on the parent compounds (2-pyridone and 2 hydroxypyridine without substitution), and then on the substituted parent compounds.

# *a ) Parent Compounds (2-pyridone and 2 hydoxypyridine)*

The calculated Gibbs free energies of 2-pyridone and 2-hydroxypyridine are given in Table 4.

The heat of formation of 2-pyridone (A) ∆Hf (-36.426 kcal/mol) is more negative than that of 2 hydroxypyridine (B)( $\Delta H_f$  = - 28.749 kcal/mol) which suggests that compound (A) is the more stable (Scheme 3). This agrees with previously published works [1, 4, 5, 10-16].

The calculated Gibbs free energy (∆*G*) for the tautomerization (Scheme 3) is 7.199 kcal/mol, suggesting that 2-pyridone is predominant in the liquid phase, which agrees with the theoretical and experimental predictions [33,34,40]. This ∆*G* agrees also with the present AM1 calculation (∆*G* = 7.140 kcal/mol) in the liquid phase. This ∆*G* will be taken as reference for determining the relative stability of X-substituted 2-pyridone and 2 hydroxypyridine.

Table 5. Evaluation of substituent effects of the X- substituted 2-Pyridone  $\implies$  2-Hydroxy pyridine tautomerism via isodesmic reactions  $(\Delta H_{\rm rxn})$  in kcal/mol)in the gas phase.







#### b) *Effect of substituents*

All substituents showed an increase in the Gibbs free energy values (∆*G*) (Table 4) as compared to the parents ( $\Delta G = 7.199$  kcal/mol), which suggested that all substituent stabilize the 2 pyrididone thermodynamically. This is confirmed by the isodesmic reactions in Table 6, where all ∆*Hrxn* values of 2-pyridone are more positive than that of 2-hdroxypyridine. Therefore, thermodynamically, all substituent showed an increase in the stability of 2-pyridone.

# **4. CONCLUSION**

It can be concluded that 2-hydroxypyridine is dominant in the gas phase, while 2-pyridone in the aqueous phase, which agrees with the theoretical and experimental predictions. Thermodynamically, all substituent showed an increase in the stability of 2-pyridone in the gas and aqueous phases apart from the substituents F, CI and  $NH<sub>2</sub>$  in PM3 calculations in the gas phase. These results were confirmed by Gibbs free energy calculations and isodesmic reactions.

#### **COMPETING INTERESTS**

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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