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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

The sole author designed, analyzed, interpreted and prepared the manuscript.

Article Information

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Original Research Article

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ABSTRACT

Heats of formation, entropies and Gibbs free energies for the twenty structures of substituted 2pyridone 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, CH₃, NH₂, NO₂, CHO, CN, CF₃ stabilize the 2-pyridone in the gas and liquid phases except F, Cl and NH₂ 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.

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 gasphase 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 6chloro-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, NH₂, CH₃, CN, NO₂ and CF₃) at C-6 position in the gas phase (ϵ =1) and liquid phase (ϵ =78.4) by using semiempirical methods AM1 [47] and PM3 [48].



Scheme 1

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2-pyrydone.2-Materials substituted are hydroxypyridine. Substituents are F, CI, OH, Theoretical CH_3 , NH_2 NO_2 and CHO. 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 ($\varepsilon = 1$)

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 2hydoxypyridine)

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 preferred. 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 (ΔG) (Scheme 3) at 298.15 K were predicated by adding the heat of formation ΔH_f and entropic $(-T\Delta S)$ terms. The calculated Gibbs free energy for tautomerization ΔG 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 taken as reference ΔG has been for determining the relative stability of Х-2-pyridone 2substituted and hydroxypyridine.

b) Effect of substituents:

Effect of F:

The thermodynamic calculation of compound **3** (Fig. 1) showed that $\Delta G = -0.240$ kcal/mol (Table 1) was more positive than that of the parent ($\Delta G = -0.540$ 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 ΔH_{rxn} 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

$\begin{array}{c} X \leftarrow H \\ A \end{array} \xrightarrow{H} O \\ A \end{array} \xrightarrow{H} O \\ B \end{array} \xrightarrow{H} O \\ B \end{array}$						
Х	$\Delta G (\varepsilon = 1)$	$\Delta G (\varepsilon = 78.4)$				
Н	-0.540	7.140				
F	-0.240	7.628				
Cl	-0.390	7.315				
ОН	0.300	8.090				
CH ₃	0.264	7.534				
NH ₂	-0.080	8.433				
NO ₂	0.130	8.610				
СНО	1.000	8.302				
CN	-0.300	8.075				
CF ₃	0.130	18.127				

Effect of CI:

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **5** (Fig. 1) shows that $\Delta G = -0.390$ kcal/mol (Table 1) is

slightly greater in compared to parent compounds ($\Delta G = -0.540$ kcal/mol), which suggests that CI slightly stabilizes the 2-pyridone. This is confirmed by the isodesmic reaction of compound 5 (Table 2) where ΔH_{rxn} 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 CI slightly stabilizes the compound 5. This agrees with the present thermodynamic calculation ($\Delta G = -0.390$ 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 ΔG is still negative, suggested that 6chloro-2-hydroxypyridine is dominant. This agrees with the experimental predictions [43-46].

Effect of OH:

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **7** (Fig. 1) shows that $\Delta G = 0.300$ kcal /mol (Table 1) is greater in compared to parent ($\Delta G = -0.540$ kcal/mol) suggested that OH stabilizes the 2-pyridone. This is confirmed by the isodesmic reactions of compound **7** (Table 2) where ΔH_{rxn} is 1.138 kcal/mol more positive than that for **8** ($\Delta H_{rxn} = 0.243$ kcal/mol), which suggests that OH stabilizes compound **7**. This agrees with the present thermodynamic calculation ($\Delta G = 0.300$ kcal/mol) which predicts a small shift in equilibrium to the 2-pyridone in compared to the parent compounds ($\Delta G = -0.540$ 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 to the parent ($\Delta G = -0.540$ kcal/mol), which suggests that CH₃ slightly stabilizes the 2- pyridone.

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

Effect of NH₂:

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **11** (Fig. 1) shows that $\Delta G = -0.080$ kcal/mol (Table 1) is greater in compared to the parent ($\Delta G = -0.54$ kcal/mol) which suggests that NH₂ stabilizes the 2- pyridone.

This confirmed by the isodesmic reaction of compound **11** (Table 2) where ΔH_{rxn} is positive

	Х					
Isodesmic Reactions	F CI OH CH ₃ NH ₂ NO ₂ CHO CN CF ₃					
$X \xrightarrow{H}_{N} \xrightarrow{O}_{V} \xrightarrow{N}_{V} \xrightarrow{H}_{V} \xrightarrow{O}_{V} \xrightarrow{N}_{V} \xrightarrow{N}_{V}$	0.044 -0.276 1.138 0.166 0.682 1.528 2.445 0.617 0.97					
$X \xrightarrow{H}_{O} \xrightarrow{H}_{O} \xrightarrow{N}_{O} \xrightarrow{H}_{O} \xrightarrow{H}_{O} \xrightarrow{H}_{O} \xrightarrow{N}_{O} \xrightarrow{N}_{O}$	-0.253 -0.348 0.243 -0.239 0.245 0.817 0.828 0.392 0.444					

Table 2. Evaluation of substituent effects of the substituted 2-pyridone \rightarrow 2-hydroxypyridine tautomerism via isodesmic reactions (ΔH_{rxn} 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_2 stabilizes the compound **11**.

Effect of NO₂:

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **13** (Fig. 1) shows that $\Delta G = 0.130$ kcal/mol (Table 1) is greater in compared to the parent ($\Delta G = -0.540$ kcal/mol) which suggests that NO₂ stabilizes the 2- pyridone.

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

Effect of CHO:

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **15** (Fig. 1) shows that $\Delta G = 1.000$ 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 ΔH_{rxn} value of the isodesmic reaction of compound **15** is 2.445 kcal/mol is greater than that of compound **16** (ΔH_{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 $\Delta G = -0.300$ kcal/mol (Table

1) is slightly greater than that of the parent ($\Delta G = -0.540$ 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 ΔH_{rxn} value of the isodesmic reaction of compound **17** is 0.617 kcal/mol greater in compared to the compound **18** ($\Delta H_{rxn} = 0.392$ kcal/mol), suggested that CN stabilizes the compound **17**.

Effect of CF₃:

Thermodynamic calculation of compound **19** (Fig. 1) shows that $\Delta G = 0.130$ kcal/mol (Table 1) is greater than the parent ($\Delta G = -0.540$ kcal/mol) which suggests that CF₃ stabilizes the 2-pyridone.

The stabilization effect confirmed by isodesmic reaction, it can be seen from Table 2 that ΔH_{rxn} 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 CF₃ stabilizes the compound **19**.

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

3.1.2 AM1 calculations in liquid phase ($\varepsilon = \frac{78.4}{2}$

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 2hydoxypyridine)

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 (ΔG) 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 ΔG 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 (ΔG) (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 ΔH_{rxn} 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 2hydoxypyridine)

The calculated Gibbs free energies of 2-pyridone and 2-hydroxypyridine are given in Table 4. The heat of formation of 2-hydroxypyridine (B) (ΔH_f = - 18.150 kcal /mol) is more negative than 2pyridone (A) (ΔH_f = - 15.658 kcal/mol), which suggests that the compound (B) is more stable i.e. 2-hydroxypyridine (Scheme 3). 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 (ΔG) (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 ΔG 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 NH₂ showed a decrease in Gibbs energy values ΔG (Table 4) in compared to the parent (ΔG = - 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 ΔH_{rxn} of the substituents (F, CI and NH₂) 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 (ΔH_{rxn} in kcal/mol), in liquid phase

	Х
Isodesmic Reaction	F Cl OH CH ₃ NH ₂ NO ₂ CHO CN CF ₃
$X \xrightarrow{H} 0 \xrightarrow{N} = (X \xrightarrow{N} 0 \xrightarrow{N})$	0.213 -0.222 0.937 0.093 0.659 2.60 2.162 1.505 1.283
$X \xrightarrow{H}_{0} \xrightarrow{V}_{0} \xrightarrow{V}_{0} \xrightarrow{V}_{0} \xrightarrow{H}_{0} \xrightarrow{V}_{0} \xrightarrow{V}_{0}$	-0.378 -0.460 -0.046 -0.144 0.094 1.180 0.922 0.666 0.609

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
=78.4) using PM3

$X \bigcup_{A}^{H} O \longrightarrow X \bigcup_{B}^{H} O$						
Λ	$\Delta O(z - 1)$	20(e = 78.4)				
Н	-2.571	7.199				
F	-3.001	7.750				
Cl	-2.798	8.567				
OH	-2.414	7.533				
CH_3	-1.617	7.898				
NH_2	-4.049	7.439				
NO_2	-1.313	8.679				
СНО	-1.397	7.485				
CN	-2.313	8.136				
CF ₃	-2.010	8.225				

positive than that of 2-pyridone. It suggests a destabilization of 2-pyridone. The rest of the substituents (OH, CH₃, NO₂, CHO, CN and CF₃) showed more positive ΔH_{rxn} values for the 2-pyridone than that of the 2-hydroxypyridine, which suggests a more stabilization of the 2-pyridone.

Therefore, all substituents stabilize the 2pyridone, except F, CI, and NH₂.

3.2.2 PM3 calculations in liquid phase ($\epsilon = \frac{78.4}{2}$)

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 2hydoxypyridine)

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

The heat of formation of 2-pyridone (A) ΔH_f (-36.426 kcal/mol) is more negative than that of 2hydroxypyridine (B)(ΔH_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 (ΔG) 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 ΔG agrees also with the present AM1 calculation (ΔG = 7.140 kcal/mol) in the liquid phase. This ΔG 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 (ΔH_{rxn} in kcal/mol)in the gas phase.



Table 6.	Evaluation of substituent effects on the X- substituted 2-Pyridone	-	2-Hydroxypyridine
tautome	rism via isodesmic reactions (ΔH_{rxn} in kcal/mol), in liquid phase.		

	X							
Isodesmic Reactions	F	Cl	OH	CH ₃	NH ₂	NO_2	СНО	CN CF ₃
$X \xrightarrow{H}_{+} O \xrightarrow{N}_{+} \xrightarrow{N}_{$	0.596	0.389	0.725	0.189	-0.310	3.535	1.141	1.771 1.737
X = N + N + N + N + N + N + N + N + N + N	0.025	-0.447	0.341	-0.033	-1.360	1.470	0.924	0.839 0.836

b) Effect of substituents

All substituents showed an increase in the Gibbs free energy values (ΔG) (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 ΔH_{rxn} 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, Cl and NH₂ 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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