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Authors
Spencer, J. Brock
Myers, Rollie J.

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Ernest O. Lawrence Radiation Laboratory

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THE EXCHANGE OF CN\textsuperscript{-} WITH Cr(NO)(CN)\textsubscript{5}\textsuperscript{-3} AS FOLLOWED BY ELECTRON SPIN RESONANCE

J. Brock Spencer and Rollie J. Myers

March 31, 1963
The Exchange of CN\(^{-}\) with Cr(NO)(CN)\(_5\)^{-3} as Followed by Electron Spin Resonance

J. Brock Spencer and Rollie J. Myers

Department of Chemistry and Inorganic Materials Research Division of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, University of California Berkeley 4, California

ABSTRACT

The electron spin resonance of Cr(NO)(CN)\(_5\)^{-3} has been reported by Bernal and Harrison\(^{(1)}\). From a variety of evidence it is concluded that the NO is essentially NO\(^{+}\) and therefore it is a Cr\(^{3+}\) surrounded by six isoelectric ligands. The electron spin resonance lines in this complex are only a few gauss wide and the hyperfine interaction of N\(^{14}\)O\(^{+}\) and Cr\(^{53}\) (9.5\%) are clearly resolved.

Hayes\(^{(2)}\) has shown that C\(^{13}\) in natural abundance can also be detected in the hyperfine splitting in the electron spin. We have followed the formation of Cr(NO)(CN)\(_5\)^{-3} containing C\(^{13}\)N\(^{-}\) by exchange in solution utilizing NaCN enriched in C\(^{13}\). This exchange has been quantitatively followed in aqueous solutions containing CN\(^{-}\) enriched to 50\% in C\(^{13}\). The measurements were made by directly following the formation of Cr(NO)C\(^{13}\)N(CN)\(_4\)^{-3} while the samples were heated directly in glass tubes in the electron spin resonance spectrometer. In Figure 1 a typical exchanged spectrum is shown. Below 100\(^\circ\)C no net decomposition of the complex could be observed but it was detected above this temperature.

The reaction was assumed to be over-all second order and both the initial rate and the integrated rate were used to determine the rate for exchange. Some representative rate constants are given in Table I.
Figure 1. The center triplet is due to $^{13}$O$^+$, the single line on either side is due to partially exchanged $^{12}$H$^+$ and the weak lines are mainly $^{63}$Ca.
Table I.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[Cr(^+)]</th>
<th>[CN]</th>
<th>t(^\circ)C</th>
<th>k(hr(^{-1})M(^{-1}))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E\(_a\) = 22 to 25 Kcal/mole.
During the exchange it was observed that hyperfine interaction was produced which corresponded to two and more equivalent $^{13}\text{N}^-$ in the complex. Since $\text{Cr(NO)}(\text{CN})_5^-\text{CN}^-$ has most certainly $C_{4v}$ symmetry the observation of two magnetically equivalent $\text{CN}^-$ must mean that the observed rate of exchange is not simply the rate of the axial $\text{CN}^-$. From intensities measurements with $^{13}\text{C}$ in natural abundance Hayes\(^{(2)}\) has concluded that the observed hyperfine coupling either corresponds to four or five magnetically equivalent $\text{CN}^-$ sites. Since we have been unable to observe a unique set of hyperfine lines which can be ascribed to the axial $\text{CN}^-$ there are several possible situations.

If all five of the $\text{CN}^-$ are magnetically equivalent they may have very similar rates of chemical exchange. In this case we would be unable to differentiate between the axial and equatorial $\text{CN}^-$. If only the four equatorial $\text{CN}^-$ are magnetically equivalent either the axial $\text{CN}^-$ has a much slower rate of exchange, so that we have not been able to enrich this position, or its hyperfine interaction is particularly small so that we have not been able to detect it.

Since the $\text{NO}^+$ and $\text{CN}^-$ are isoelectronic one might expect a similar unpaired spin density on the $\text{N}^{14}$ and $\text{C}^{13}$, and the observed hyperfine interaction constants are in agreement with this. It is thus quite possible that all five $\text{CN}^-$ are magnetically equivalent and the axial and equatorial $\text{CN}^-$ may also exchange at the same rate. Further experiments are being done to check this point.

It would be of considerable interest to extend these exchange studies to further complex ions. This will not be possible in many cases since the large electron spin resonance line widths observed for most complex ions preclude the observation of hyperfine interactions.
References

2. R. G. Hayes, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory Report UCRL-9873;
   also submitted for publication.

Figure Caption

Figure 1. The center triplet is due to N$^{14}$O$^+$, the single line on either side is due to partially exchanged C$^{13}$N$^+$ and the weak lines are mainly C$^{53}$.