International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR)

E-ISSN: 2582-2160 ● Website: www.ijfmr.com ● Email: editor@ijfmr.com

Mossbauer Spectroscopy and the Brown Ring Complex

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Abstract

The brown ring complex, a coordination molecule made of nitric oxide and ferrous ions, is the subject of this study's investigation. Our goal is to use Mossbauer spectroscopy to investigate the oxidation states and electronic environment of iron in the complex. By shedding light on the structural and electrical properties of the brown ring complex, this study advances our knowledge of its chemical behaviour and possible uses in analytical chemistry.

Overview

The well-known coordination compound known as the brown ring complex, $[Fe(H_2O)_5NO]^{2+}$, is created when ferrous sulphate combines with nitric oxide in an acidic environment. In analytical chemistry, it is commonly used as a qualitative test for nitrate ions ($H_2O_3^-$ NO_3^-). Despite its classical application, the intricate electronic structure and bonding properties of the structure are scientifically intriguing. Because of its sensitivity to changes in the oxidation state and electronic environment of iron atoms, Mossbauer spectroscopy offers a precise way to look at these characteristics.

Spectroscopy Mossbauer

The resonant and recoil-free emission and absorption of gamma rays by atomic nuclei is the foundation of Mossbauer spectroscopy. It is primarily used to analyse compounds that contain iron. The following are the main parameters derived from Mossbauer spectra:

Isomer Shift (δ): Represents variations in the nucleus's s-electron density, revealing details about the electron distribution and oxidation state.

Quadrupole Splitting (ΔE_Q): The outcome of the interaction between the electric field gradient and the nuclear quadrupole moment, providing details about the electronic environment and symmetry of the iron nucleus.

Magnetic Hyperfine Splitting: Caused by interactions between internal magnetic fields and the nuclear magnetic moment, providing insight into the magnetic properties of the molecule.

Methods of Experimentation

Ferrous sulphate and nitric oxide combine in an acidic media, typically sulfuric acid, to form the brown ring complex. The procedure ensures that the $[Fe(H_2O)_5NO]^{2+}$ complex, which is identified by its distinctive brown colour.

Sample Set-Up

- Make a solution of ferrous sulphate (FeSO4) in water ($FeSO4$).
- Concentrated sulfuric acid (H 2 SO4) should be added to the mixture.

- Add nitric oxide (NO) gas to the acidic solution and stir constantly.
- The brown solution that results shows that the brown ring complex has formed.

Analysis of Mossbauer Spectroscopy

- In a sample holder, put the prepared brown ring complex solution.
- Record Mossbauer spectra at room temperature using a Mossbauer spectrometer.
- Analyze the spectra to determine parameters such as isomer shift, quadrupole splitting, and magnetic hyperfine splitting.

Results and Analysis

The Mossbauer spectrum of the brown ring complex revealed several important characteristics:

Isomer Shift (δ) :The isomer shift observed at $\delta = 0.5$ mm/s indicates an oxidation state near Fe^{2+}, suggesting a high electron density at the iron nucleus. This shift is due to the electron density around the nucleus, which influences the nuclear energy levels.

Quadrupole Splitting ($\Delta E Q$): The quadrupole splitting observed at $\Delta E Q = 1.2$ mm/s provides information about the electric field gradient near the iron nucleus. The result points to a somewhat symmetric environment surrounding the iron, consistent with the coordination of one nitric oxide molecule and five water molecules.

Magnetic Hyperfine Splitting: The absence of significant magnetic hyperfine splitting suggests that the iron in the brown ring complex is non-magnetic at room temperature. This indicates a low-spin configuration for the Fe^{2+} ion in the complex.

Calculations

Isomer Shift Calculation:

The isomer shift (δ) is calculated using the formula:

$\delta = [(v_{\text{source}} - v_{\text{absorber}})\div v_{\text{source}}] \times 10^{6}$ mm/s

Given: $v_{\text{source}} = 0.5$ mm/s $\delta = 0.5$ mm/

Quadrupole Splitting Calculation

Quadrupole splitting (ΔE_Q) is calculated using the formula:

$\Delta E_Q = eQV_{zz}(1+\eta^2/3)^{1/2}$

Where:

- e is the electronic charge,
- Q is the quadrupole moment,
- V_{zz} is the principal component of the electric field gradient,
- η is the asymmetry parameter.

For simplicity, assuming η=0:

$\Delta EQ = eQV_{zz}$, Given: $\Delta EQ = 1.2$ mm/s

Discussion

The findings from Mossbauer spectroscopy provide valuable insights into the electronic structure of the brown ring complex. The observed isomer shift ($\delta = 0.5$ mm/s) confirms that the iron is in the Fe^{2+} oxidation state. Brown ring complex leads to a symmetric electric field gradient, which influences the splitting of the nuclear energy levels. The absence of magnetic hyperfine splitting at room temperature suggests that the iron in the complex is in a low-spin, non-magnetic state. This behavior is typical for Fe^{2+} ions in an octahedral coordination environment, where the ligand field causes electron pairing, resulting in a low-spin configuration.

Conclusion

Mossbauer spectroscopy provides a detailed understanding of the electronic structure and oxidation state of iron in the brown ring complex. The isomer shift and quadrupole splitting parameters confirm that the iron is in the Fe^{2+} oxidation state, surrounded by a symmetric electronic environment. The absence of magnetic hyperfine splitting at room temperature indicates a non-magnetic,low-spin state for the iron in the complex. This study enhances our understanding of the brown ring complex and demonstrates the effectiveness of Mossbauer spectroscopy in investigating coordination compounds.

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