Experimental FT-IR, FT-Raman spectra and theoretical DFT calculations of 3-acetylbenzonitrile

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ABSTRACT

The Fourier transform infrared and Fourier transform Raman spectra of 3-acetylbenzonitrile (3ABN) was recorded in the solid phase. The optimized geometry was calculated by B3LYP method using 6-311++G(d,p) basis set. The harmonic vibrational frequencies, infrared intensities, Raman scattering activities and the thermodynamic functions of the title compound were performed at the same level of theory. The theoretical spectrograms for IR and Raman spectra of the title molecule have been constructed.

Key words: FT-IR and FT-Raman spectra:ab initio and DFT (Density Function Theory), 3-acetylbenzonitrile; vibrational analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Benzonitrile is a phenyl cyanide compound. It is a colourless liquid with a boiling point of 197°C and having a smell of bitter almonds. Many derivatives of benzonitrile are widely used in industry and medicinal fields. The main products of benzonitrile-benzoic acid are used in medicine as urinary antiseptic in the form of salt and in vapour form for disinfecting bronchial tubes. Benzonitrile derivatives are used in dye industry for making aniline blue and also used for preserving food products^{1]} Because of its wide use and structural simplicity a large number of studies on benzonitrile and its derivatives were reported².

Joshi *et al.*, ³ reported the Infrared and electronic absorption spectra of 2,6-3,5-dichloro benzonitriles and 3-chloro-4methyl benzonitrile. The various modes of vibrations were assigned and the

effects of substitution were analysed. The infrared absorption spectra of liquid m- and p-methyl benzonitrile have been recorded by Johri *et al*⁴. The spectra were recorded forming a thin film of compound between KBr plates. They have carried out a complete vibrational assignment of the spectra on the basis of C_s and C_{2y} point group symmetry.

Literature survey reveals that to the best of our knowledge, neither the complete Raman and IR spectra nor the force fields for 3ABN have been reported so far. In our present study Density Functional Theory (DFT) calculations have been performed to support our wavenumber assignment. DFT calculations are reported to provide excellent vibrational frequencies of organic compounds if the calculated frequencies are scaled to compensate for the approximate treatment of electron correlation, for basis set deficiencies and for the anharmonicity.

EXPERIMENTAL

The compound (3-acetylbenzonitrile)3ABN in the solid form was purchased from the Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Company (USA) with a stated purity of greater than 98% and it was used as such without further purification. The FT-Raman spectrum of 3-ABN has been recorded using 1064 nm line of Nd:YAG laser as excitation wavelength in the region 100-4000 cm⁻¹ on a Brucker model IFS 66 V spectrophotometer. The FT-IR spectrum of this compound was recoded in the region 400-4000 cm⁻¹ on IFS 66 V spectrophotometer using KBr pellet techinque. The spectra was recorded at room temperature, with a spectral resolution of 2.0 cm⁻¹. The observed experimental FT-IR and FT-Raman spectra along with theoretical spectraare shown in Figs. 1-2. The spectral measurements were carried out at Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Facility (SAIF), IIT, Chennai.

Method of calculations

All calculations were performed at Hartree-Fock (HF) and B3LYP levels on a Pentium IV/3.02 GHz personal computer using Gaussian 03W⁵ program package, invoking gradient geometry optimization⁶. The geometry was re-optimized at gradient corrected density functional theory (DFT)⁷ with the Becke's three parameter hybrid functional (B3)⁸ for the exchange part and the Lee-Yang-Parr (LYP) correlation function⁹, accepted as a cost effective approach, for the computation of molecular structure, vibrational frequencies and energies of optimized structures.

Density functional theory offers electron correlation frequently comparable to second-order Moller-Plesset theory (MP2). Finally, the calculated normal mode vibrational frequencies provide thermodynamic properties also through the principle of statistical mechanics.By combining the results of the GAUSSVIEW program¹⁰ with symmetry considerations, along with available related molecules vibrational frequency assignments were made with a high degree of accuracy.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Molecular Geometry

The labeling of atoms in 3acetylbenzonitrile is given in Fig. 3. The optimized geometrical parameters (bond length and angles) by DFT/B3LYP with 6- 6-311++G(d,p) as basis sets are listed in Table 1, along with available experimental data, viz. benzonitirle¹¹. It is seen from Table 1, a general priority for reproducing the experimental bond length taken from Ref. ¹¹ is not present in DFT-B3LYP level. However, all the bond lengths and bond angles computed with the DFT-B3LYP levels show excellent agreement with available experimental results when compared with HF levels.

The optimized geometry shows that CN and COCH₃ groups substituted in para and meta positions of phenyl ring are coplanar, which predicts maximum conjucation of the molecule with donor and acceptor groups. The DFT/6-311++G(d,p) calculations also gives shortening of the angle C4-C5-C13 by 2° and increase of the angle C6-C5-C13 by 2.8° from normal 120° at the C5 position, and this asymmetry of exocyclic angles reveals the repulsion between the COCH₃ group and the phenyl ring. The asymmetry of the exocyclic angles C2-C3-C11 and C4-C3-C11 is less at the C3 position, which gives lower repulsion of CN group with phenyl ring. The computed values of above mentioned angles correlate well with experimental results¹¹.

Vibrational assignments

With this assumed structural model, the molecule belongs to Cs point group and the 60 normal modes of fundamental vibrations which span the irreducible representations: 33A' + 15A". All the 48 fundamental vibrations are active in both IR and Raman.

The harmonic-vibrational frequencies calculated for 3ABN at B3LYP level using the triple split valence basis set along with diffuse and polarization functions, 6-311++G(d,p) have been collected in Table 2. Comparison of the frequencies calculated in general at B3LYP with experimental values (Table 2) reveals the overestimation of the calculated vibrational modes due to neglect of anharmonicity in real system. Inclusion of electron correlation in density functional theory to a certain extend makes the frequency values smaller in comparison with the HF frequency data. In order to improve the agreement with the

experiment, vibrational frequencies calculated at B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) level were scaled by 0.96 [12]. The descriptions concerning the assignment have also been indicated in Table 2. The calculated

IR and Raman spectra of the title compound is shown in Fig. 1-2.

There are six equivalent C-C bonds in

Parameters	B3LYP		Experimental ^a
Bond length (Å)	6-31G(d,p)	6-311++G(d,p)	Benzonitrile
C1-C2	1.391	1.389	
C1-C6	1.396	1.394	1.387
C1-H7	1.085	1.083	
C2-C3	1.407	1.405	1.399
C2-H8	1.085	1.083	
C3-C4	1.399	1.397	1.399
C3-C11	1.436	1.433	1.430
C4-C5	1.400	1.398	1.387
C4-H9	1.084	1.083	
C5-C6	1.402	1.400	1.391
C5-C13	1.505	1.507	
C6-H10	1.085	1.083	
C11-N12	1.163	1.155	1.152
C13-O14	1.220	1.215	
C13-C15	1.517	1.515	
C15-H16	1.096	1.094	
C15-H17	1.090	1.088	
C15-H18	1.096	1.094	
Bond angle (°)			
C2-C1-C6	120.2	120.2	
C2-C1-H7	119.8	119.8	
C6-C1-H7	120.0	120.0	
C1-C2-C3	119.7	119.7	
C1-C2-H8	120.7	120.7	
C3-C2-H8	119.6	119.7	
C2-C3-C4	120.1	120.1	120.0
C2-C3-C11	119.8	119.8	119.9
C4-C3-C11	120.2	120.2	119.9
C3-C4-C5	120.2	120.2	119.9
C3-C4-H9	121.1	120.9	
C5-C4-H9	118.7	118.9	
C4-C5-C6	119.3	119.2	120.2
C4-C5-C13	117.7	118.0	
C6-C5-C13	123.0	122.8	
C1-C6-C5	120.5	120.6	120.1
C1-C6-H10	119.2	119.1	

Table 1: Geometrical parameters optimized in (3ABN), bond length (A°), bond angle (°)

a Taken from Ref[11]

Raman	scattering	activities (Å4 am	u ⁻¹), Raman depol	arization	ratio and	I reduced m	asses (ai	nu), force cc	instants (m dyne Å-1)]
Mode nos.	Experin	ıental (cm¹)		Theoreti	ical Frequ	rencies (cm ⁻	(1	Vibrational	
	FT-IR	FT-Raman	B3LYP/6-	IR int	Sact	Depratio	Red	Force	assignments
			311++G(d,p)				Mass	constants	
.		96 w	54	-	0	0.75	1.0	0.11	τ CH ₃
2		139 m	66	4	5	0.74	4.5	0.01	βc-cH ₃ + β C°N
с			97	2	7	0.70	4.7	0.03	γ C°N + gC-H
4			116	8	с	0.75	5.7	0.05	B C°N + b C-CH3
5			147	2	7	0.71	4.1	0.06	γ C°N
9		183 w	248	-	-	0.73	8.3	0.33	γ C°N
7	379 w		297	-	2	0.44	3.4	0.19	γ ccc
8			352	5	4	0.34	7.1	0.56	γ ccc
6	432 w	428 w	361	0	-	0.70	4.9	0.41	γ CCC + γ C°N
10	480 w	478 vw	407	-	с	0.11	9.4	0.99	ß ccc
11			483	0	ი	0.14	4.2	0.63	γ ccc
12	538 s	532 vw	521	-	5	0.16	6.3	1.10	$\beta C^{\circ}N + \beta C=O$
13			547	15	8	0.14	4.8	0.93	ß C-CN
14	557 w	554 vw	563	-	13	0.26	4.2	0.86	ß C-CN
15	607 s	603 vw	622	8	2	0.71	7.5	1.86	γ ccc
16		630 vw	644	6	19	0.10	6.5	1.72	ß ccc
17	680s		683	36	12	0.38	4.9	1.47	ß ccc
18	692 w	691 ms	694	15	0	0.28	3.0	0.93	γ CCC + γ C-H
19	802 vs		774	4	9	0.68	4.2	1.63	ß ccc
20		860 vw	837	53	0	0.47	1.3	0.59	ү С-Н
21			912	8	5	0.20	1.6	0.83	p CH ₃
22			929	18	-	0.68	1.4	0.77	g C-H
23			951	0	0	0.72	1.4	0.78	ү С-Н
24			973	-	43	0.06	6.2	3.76	trigonal bending
25			985	17	5	0.40	3.8	2.38	ү С-Н
26	965 s	964 vw	1006	0	29	0.24	1.3	0.83	γ C-H

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 β C-H β C-H v C-CN β C-H v C-C ω CH3 β C-H + δ CH₂ in CH₃ φ C-H v C-H v C-H v C-H v C-H v C-H 	1.63 1.63 2.81 1.35 1.35 1.35 1.35 1.35 1.35 1.35 1.35 1.35 1.35 1.35 1.35 1.35 1.36 1.37 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.38 1.39 1.32 1.32 1.33 1.33 1.33 1.33 1.40 1.51 1.52 1.53 1.54 1.55 1.57 1.57 1.57 1.57 1.57 1.57 1.57 1.57 1.57 1.57 <t< th=""><th>22 21 22 23 23 24 25 25 26 27 27 28 29 21 21 22 23 23 24 25 26 27 27 28 29 29 29 29 20 20 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 27</th><th>0.12 0.30 0.35 0.35 0.38 0.38 0.39 0.39 0.33 0.73 0.73 0.73 0.73 0.73 0.73 0.73</th><th>1 5 2 3 3 3 3 5 2 3 2 4 3 2 2 3 4 4 3 2 3 2 8 5 3 4 4 3 2 3 3 8 5 4 4 3 5 2 3 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4</th><th>- ⁶ 6 7 7 8 7 7 7 8 7 7 7 8 7 7 7 8 7 7 7 8 7 7 7 8 7 7 7 7 8 7</th><th>1050 1069 1172 1275 1315 1376 1376 1376 1376 1456 1456 1555 1402 1555 2912 2923 2923 2923 2923 2923</th><th>390 s 1182 m 1182 m 1275 ms 1294 s 1368 w 1578 m 1578 m 1578 m 1578 m 1578 m 1578 m 2963 vw 3005 w 3080 m</th><th>397 III 1025 m 1025 m 1274 s 1369 vs 1369 vs 1481 m 1747 w 1588 s 1588 s 1747 w 1930 w 2924 vw 2924 vw 3070 m</th><th></th></t<>	22 21 22 23 23 24 25 25 26 27 27 28 29 21 21 22 23 23 24 25 26 27 27 28 29 29 29 29 20 20 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 27	0.12 0.30 0.35 0.35 0.38 0.38 0.39 0.39 0.33 0.73 0.73 0.73 0.73 0.73 0.73 0.73	1 5 2 3 3 3 3 5 2 3 2 4 3 2 2 3 4 4 3 2 3 2 8 5 3 4 4 3 2 3 3 8 5 4 4 3 5 2 3 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4	- ⁶ 6 7 7 8 7 7 7 8 7 7 7 8 7 7 7 8 7 7 7 8 7 7 7 8 7 7 7 7 8 7	1050 1069 1172 1275 1315 1376 1376 1376 1376 1456 1456 1555 1402 1555 2912 2923 2923 2923 2923 2923	390 s 1182 m 1182 m 1275 ms 1294 s 1368 w 1578 m 1578 m 1578 m 1578 m 1578 m 1578 m 2963 vw 3005 w 3080 m	397 III 1025 m 1025 m 1274 s 1369 vs 1369 vs 1481 m 1747 w 1588 s 1588 s 1747 w 1930 w 2924 vw 2924 vw 3070 m	
v _{ss} C-H in CH ₃ v _{ss} C-H in CH ₃	7.15 7.21	 	0.62 0.71	87 39	9	3185 3193	3115vw		
v., C-H in CH v., C-H in CH	7.21 7.21	1.1	0.62 0.71	87 39	9	3185 3193	3115vw		
v_{s} C-H in CH ₃	7.15	1.1	0.62	87	10	3185			
v_{s} C-H in CH $_{3}$	6.32	1.0	0.04	182	4	3098	3080 m	3070 m	
v C-H	6.04	1.1	0.13	234	7	2933	3043 vw	3044 w	
v C-H	5.98	1.1	0.32	40	0	2925	3005 w		
v C-H	5.97	1.1	0.71	73	4	2923	2963 vw		
v C-H	5.90	1.1	0.71	55	-	2912	2926 m	2924 vw	
v C°N	41.61	12.8	0.27	318	11	2258	2228 vs	2229 vs	
overtone/combination								1981w	
overtone/combination								1930w	
overtone/combination								1820w	
overtone/combination								1747w	
v C=O	8.07	5.1	0.71	7	18	1566	1676 vs	1688 vs	
v C=C (semicircle stretch)	7.46	4.8	0.66	0	2	1555	1597 m	1598 s	
v C=C	2.71	2.0	0.63	-	7	1456	1578 m	1581 s	
CH ₃ asym. bending	1.38	1.1	0.74	0	-	1402	1422 w	1418 s	
β C-H + δ CH ₂ in CH ₃	2.76	2.2	0.73	0	-	1391		1481 m	
CH ₃ umbrella mode	1.32	1.1	0.51	7	2	1376	1368 w	1369 vs	
β С-H	1.64	1.5	0.73	5	ø	1315	1294 s	1313 w	
ω CH3	1.22	1.2	0.39	0	150	1275			
< C-C	3.38	3.3	0.38	5	11	1266	1275 ms	1274 s	
β С-H	1.10	1.3	0.35	12	10	1172			
v C-CN	2.81	3.3	0.09	4	7	1156	1182 m	1187 s	
β С-H	1.35	1.8	0.30	8	ი	1090	1089 m	1088 m	
β С-H	1.63	2.2	0.12	9	32	1069		1025 m	
				+	_	0701	990 S	337 III	

Table 2. Cont.

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benzene and consequenty there will be six C-C stretching vibrations. In addition, there are several in-phase and out-of-phase bending vibrations of the ring carbons. However, due to high symmetry of benzene, many modes of vibrations are infrared inactive. In general the bands around 1400 cm⁻¹ to 1650 cm⁻¹ in benzene derivatives are assigned to skeletal stretching of C-C bonds. The bands observed at 1481, 1581 and 1598 cm⁻¹ of 3acetylbenzonitrile are identified as C-C stretching vibrations. The theoretically calculated C-C stretching vibrations by B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) are at 1266, 1456 and 1555 cm⁻¹ show excellent agreement with recorded spectral datas. The C-C aromatic stretch known as semicircle stretching, predicted at 1555 cm⁻¹ is also in excellent agreement with experimental observations of 1581 cm⁻¹ in FT-IR and 1578 cm⁻¹ in FT-Raman spectra. In the benzene, fundamental (992 cm⁻¹) and (1010 cm⁻¹) represents the ring breathing mode and carbonal trigonal bending mode. Under the C point group both the frequency of vibrations are very close, there is appreciable interaction between these vibrations and consequently their energies will be modified. The ring breathing and trigonal bending modes of 3ABN are assigned at 997 and 1025 cm⁻¹ respectively. The theoretically computed values for the above said vibrations are at 1023 and 973 cm⁻¹ by B3LYP/6-311++(d,p) method coincides with experimental observations. The theoretically calculated C-C-C out-of-plane and C-C-C in-plane bending modes have been found to be consistent with the recorded spectral values.

The C-H stretching modes usually appear with strong Raman intensity and are highly polarized. May be owing to this high polarization, the C-H stretching vibrations of benzene derivatives generally appear above 3000 cm⁻¹. In FT-IR spectrum of 3ABN, the bands are at 3044 and 3070 cm⁻¹ are assigned to the C-H stretching vibrations of aromatic ring respectively. In the FT-Raman spectrum, the bands are observed at 3005 and 3043 cm⁻¹ are attributed to C-H stretching vibrations. The vibrations assigned to aromatic C-H stretch in the region 2912-2933 cm⁻¹ ¹³ are in agreement with experimental assignment 3005-3044 cm⁻¹ ¹⁴. The expected C-CN stretching vibration is identified in the region 1095 - 1245 cm⁻¹. The C-CN stretching vibration is observed as strong to medium intensity at 1179 cm⁻¹ in 2-chloro-6-methylbenzonitrile¹⁵, 1150 cm⁻¹ in m-methylbenzonitrile¹⁶ and 1183 cm⁻¹ in pmethylbenzonitrile¹⁶. It is further observed that in many of the 1,2,3-trilight molecules, C-CN stretching has a higher value in cases where the attached substitutent is more electron attractive. In our tile molecule a strong band at 1187 cm⁻¹ in FT-IR and medium band at 1182 cm⁻¹ in FT-Raman are assigned to C-CN stretching vibration. The theoretically calculated value by B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) method at 1156 cm⁻¹ shows excellent agreement with experimental observations.

The three in-plane C-H bending vibrations appear in the range 1000 - 1300 cm⁻¹ in the substituted benzene and the three out-of-plane bending vibration occur in the frequency range 750-1000 cm⁻¹ ¹⁷. The C-H in-plane bending vibrations assigned in the region 1069 - 1315 cm⁻¹, while the experimental observation are at 1088 - 1313 cm⁻¹. The calculated frequencies 837, 929, 951 and 985 cm⁻¹ for the C-H out-of-plane bending falls in FT-IR value at 965, 692 cm⁻¹ and FT-Raman value at 964, 860 and 691 cm⁻¹.

A nitrile group is associated with three charecteristic frequencies. They are stretching, inplane and out-of-plane bending vibrations. The geometry of the cyno group (C≡N) is affected insignificantly by a new substituent on the phenyl ring. Hence the vibrational wavenumber on the cyano group remains almost unchanged from the benzonitro molecules. For the aromatic compound which bears a C=N group attached to the ring, a band of good intensity has been absorbed in the region 2240 - 2221 cm^{-1 18} and it is being attributed to C≡N stretching. A strong IR band at 2229 cm⁻¹ in 3ABN indicates C=N stretching. It is calculated in benzonitrile at 2229 cm-1 which is close to the calculated value 2258 cm⁻¹ in our molecule 3ABN. Experimentally^{19, 20} in mono-substituted benzonitrile, this vibration appears in the 2220-2240cm⁻¹ range and in di-substituted benzonitrile at 2230 cm⁻¹, in accordance with scaled values of 2238 cm-1 in 4amino benzonitrile and 2248 cm⁻¹ in benzonitrile and with an IR intensity that varies from medium-weak to strong depending on the substituent. As in benzonitrile molecule and its derivative, this stretching mode appears with the strongest Raman intensity in accordance with our present result. The

intensity is enhanced by the conjugation of the aromatic ring.

In-plane and out-of –plane bending modes of C=N group, by contrast appears with weak IR intensity and with null Raman activity and strongly coupled with CCC bending modes. The C=N planar and non-planar bending modes appear at 564 and 246 cm⁻¹ respectively in 2-aminobenzonitrile²¹. In anthranitronitrile molecule²² the band observed at 570cm⁻¹ in solid and liquid phase has been assigned to the in-plane C=N deformation mode. Therefore, in the present case the strong band observed at 538 cm⁻¹ in FT-IR and a very weak band at 532 cm⁻¹ in FT-Raman spectra has been assigned to inplane C=N deformation mode in accordance with the assignments proposed by Mittal²³ in related molecules. The C=N out-of-plane bending mode is observed at 183 cm⁻¹ in FT-Raman spectrum for our title molecule. The theoretically computed values



Fig. 1(a): Recorded FT-IR spectrum of 3-acetylbenzonitrile (b) Theoretical FT-IR spectrum of 3-acetylbenzonitrile

at 521 and 248 cm⁻¹ by B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) method for C \equiv N in-plane and out-of-plane bending vibrations respectively shows excellent agreement with experimental observations.

The carbonyl group is important and its charecteristic frequency has been extensively used to study a wide range of compounds. If a compound contains a carbonyl group the absorption caused by C=O stretching is generally the stongest²⁴. Carbonyl group vibrations in ketones are the best charecteristic bands in vibrational spectra and for this reason, such bands have been the subject of extensive studies²⁵. The intensity of these bands can increase because of conjucation or formation of hydrogen bonds. The increase of conjucation, therefore, leads to the intensification of the Raman lines as well as to the increased infrared band intensities. The carbonyl stretching vibrations in ketones are expected in the region 1715 - 1680 cm⁻¹. In the present investigation the FT-IR band observed at 1688 cm⁻¹ and the FT-Raman band observed at 1676 cm⁻¹ has been assigned to C=O stretching vibration. The theoretically calculated value by B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) method at 1566 cm⁻¹ is deviating negatively by 110 cm⁻¹. This assignment is in good agreement with literature value²⁶.



Fig. 2(a): Recorded FT-Raman spectrum of 3-acetylbenzonitrile (b) Theoretical FT-IR spectrum of 3-acetylbenzonitrile



Fig. 3: Numbering system adopted in this study (3-acetylbenzonitrile)

Methyl groups are generally referred to as electron donating substituents in the aromatic ring system. The asymmetric C-H stretching mode of CH₃ group is expected in the region around 2980 cm⁻¹ and the symmetric ²⁵ one is expected around the region 2870 cm⁻¹. The CH₃ asymmetric stretching vibrations appears as medium intense bands in the Raman spectrum at 3080 cm⁻¹ and weak bands in the IR spectrum at 3070 cm⁻¹, which is coupled with the aromatic C-H stretching mode. The symmetric stretching mode is observed as a medium intense band in the Raman spectrum at 2926 cm⁻¹. The changes in intensity of the CH₂ stretching mode in infrared spectrum and shift to higher wavenumbers are due to the influence of electronic effects resulting from hyperconjugation and induction of methyl group with the aromatic ring system. For the molecule where induction produces stronger polarization of C-H bonds along with the increase of both C-H force constant and charge of the hydrogen atom (q°_{μ}) and decrease of C-H stretching infrared intensity and with decrease of C-H bond length can cause enhancement of vibrational wavenumber of C-H stretching modes²⁷. Another electronic effect, hyperconjugation, causes the interaction of the orbital of a methyl group with the p orbital of an aromatic ring system²⁸. This interaction occurs with the releasing of electronic charge from s C-H to the C-C bond that connects the two interacting groups. The most evident effect of this interaction is that the C-C bond decreases in length from its normal value (1.54 Å) and increase in strength, but hyperconjugation can also have effect on C-H bonds. The different value of the equilibrium charges of hydrogen atoms involved in C-H bonds obtained from infrared intensities have been directly correlated to spectral patterns. When the hydrogen bonds become more acidic (q°_H more positive) because of the release of electronic charge, the infrared C-H stretching intensity decreases and the bending intensity increases²⁹. This happens because of hyperconjugation of the

Parameters	HF/6-31G(d,p)		B3LYP/6-31(d,p)	
	6-31G(d,p)	6-311++G(d,p)	6-31G(d,p)	6-311++G(d,p)
Total energy	-474.2210897	-474.3206492	-477.1477233	-477.1569546
Zero-point energy	91.92	91.22	85.68	83.03
Rotational constants	2.2298	2.2363	2.1884	2.7895
	0.7267	0.7269	0.7192	0.7485
	0.5499	0.5504	0.5432	0.5871
Entropy				
Total	94.590	95.017	96.969	95.441
Translational	40.827	40.827	40.827	40.827
Rotational	30.268	30.264	30.309	30.392
Vibrational	23.495	23.926	25.833	24.222
Dipole moment	6.648	6.795	6.103	6.531

Table 3: Theoretically computed energies (a.u.), zero-point vibrational energies (kcal mol⁻¹), rotational constants (GHz), entropies (cal mol⁻¹ K^{-1}) and dipole moment (D) for 3-acetylbenzonitrile

methyl group to the p electron in the aromatic ring, where the injection of negative electronic charge takes place from the CH₃ group to an adjacent portion of the molecule that contains π electrons. In 3ABN, the methyl hydrogen atoms are subjected simultaneously to hyperconjugation and induction, which cause the enhancement of stretching wavenumbers and the decrease of infrared intensities as reported in the literature for similar molecular systems³⁰. Thus, the hyperconjugation and induction of the methyl group, causing changes in intensity in infrared spectrum, clearly indicated the methyl hydrogen are directly involved in the donation of electronic charge which is confirmed by the large q^o_H values.

Other molecular properties

Several calculated thermodynamic parameters are presented in Table 3. Scale factors have been recommended³¹ for an accurate prediction in determining the zero-point vibration energies (ZPVE), and the entropy, $S_{vib}(T)$. The variations in the ZPVEs seem to be insignificant. The total energies are found to decrease with the increase of the basis set dimension. The changes

in the total entropy of 3-ABN at room temperature at different basis set are only marginal.

CONCLUSIONS

We have carried out ab initio DFT calculations on the structure and vibrational spectrum of 3ABN. Comparison between the calculated and experimental structural parameters indicates that B3LYP results are in good agreement with experimental ones. Vibrational frequencies, infrared intensities and Raman activities calculated by B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) method agree very well with experimental results. On the basis of agreement between the calculated and observed results, assignments of fundamental vibrational modes of 3ABN were examined and some assignments were proposed. Therefore, the assignments made at higher level of theory with higher basis set with only reasonable deviations from the experimental values, seem to be correct. This study demonstrates that scaled DFT/B3LYP calculations are powerful approach for understanding the vibrational spectra of medium sized organic compounds.

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