

LABORATORY OBSERVATION OF THE ROTATIONAL SPECTRUM OF A POTENTIAL INTERSTELLAR SUGAR, ERYTHROSE

I. PENA, C. CABEZAS, A. M. DALY, S. MATA, J. L. ALONSO, *Grupo de Espectroscopía Molecular (GEM), Edificio Quifima, Laboratorios de Espectroscopía y Bioespectroscopía, Parque Científico, Universidad de Valladolid, 47011 Valladolid, Spain.*

The rotational spectrum of erythrose has been recorded in the frequency region 6 – 12 GHz using a chirped-pulse Fourier transform microwave spectrometer (CP-FTMW)^a combined with a laser ablation (LA) source.^b The investigation of rotational spectra of erythrose is of astrophysical and biological relevance. However, no gas-phase data were available on erythrose. It is syrup at room temperature and vaporization using conventional methods leads to decomposition. A non conventional laser ablation method has been successfully used to vaporize erythrose and two cyclic forms have been observed using rotational spectroscopy. α -erythrose has been found to have rotational constants $A = 2586.8998$ (21) MHz, $B = 2353.0837$ (41) MHz and $C = 1773.2378$ (18) MHz and β -erythrose is characterized with rotational constants $A = 3109.2005$ (46) MHz, $B = 1856.1298$ (15) MHz, $C = 1616.5557$ (18) MHz.

^aG. G. Brown, B. C. Dian, K. O. Douglass, S. M. Geyer, S. T. Shipman, B. H. Pate, *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* **2008**, 79, 053103.

^bS. Mata, I. Peña, C. Cabezas, J. C. López, J. L. Alonso, *J. Mol. Spectrosc.* **2012**, 280, 91.