HeI PHOTOELECTRON SPECTROSCOPY AND ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE OF ALKYL-LITHIUM CLUSTERS

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HeI photoelectron spectra of some alkyl-lithium tetrameric and hexameric clusters have been recorded. In the low energy region (ca. 6.0-9.0 eV) bands have been assigned to ionization from the Li-C cluster orbitals. Ionization from the triply and doubly degenerate orbitals of the tetramers (T_d symmetry) and hexamers (D_{3d} symmetry), respectively, causes Jahn-Teller (JT) distortion of the clusters. *Ab initio* quantum chemical calculations have been performed to understand the nature and extent of the JT distortions.