

S_1 - S_0 VIBRONIC SPECTRA OF BENZENE CLUSTERS REVISITED: II. THE TRIMER

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As the second part of our recent reinvestigation on the electronic spectra of benzene clusters,^a we present the trimer vibronic system studied by two-color (2C) resonance enhanced two-photon ionization (R2PI) and UV-UV holeburning experiments. This band system is observed only in the dimer-ion channel even with 2C-R2PI because of extensive fragmentation after photoionization, and thus it has been incorrectly assigned to an isomeric form of the dimer.^b Detailed examination with mixed samples of C_6H_6 and C_6D_6 has revealed that the parent neutral has a single isomeric form for each isotopomer, $(C_6H_6)_m(C_6D_6)_n$ with $m + n = 3$. This observation confirms the equivalency in three benzene sites, which is consistent with the most stable cyclic form predicted by a NEMO calculation.^c One of the intermolecular modes shows prominent Franck-Condon activity, implying a substantial conformational change via photoexcitation. Other details observed in the vibronic spectra, *e.g.*, excitonic splitting, will also be discussed.

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