COMPUTATIONAL MOLECULAR SPECTROSCOPY OF FeCN IN THE $^{6}\Delta$ ELECTRONIC GROUND STATE

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We have previously reported a computational molecular spectroscopic study of ${}^{6}\Delta_{i}$ FeNC,^{*a*} where we showed that the experimentally derived, too-short C-N bond length (r_{e} (C-N) = 1.03(8) Å)^{*b*} can be ascribed to an inadequate treatment of the large amplitude bending motion in the experimental determination of r_{0} . Here, we report analogous calculations for ${}^{6}\Delta_{i}$ FeCN.^{*c*}

Based on the three-dimensional potential energy surface calculated at the MR-SDCI+Q+ $E_{rel}/[Roos ANO (Fe), aug-cc-pVQZ (C, N)]$ level of theory, the standard spectroscopic parameters of Fe¹²CN and Fe¹³CN are derived by perturbation methods, and ro-vibrationally averaged bond lengths $\langle r \rangle$ have been predicted as expectation values obtained with ro-vibrational wavefunctions from the MORBID program. Some of the spectroscopic constants thus determined are: $r_e(Fe-C) = 2.048$ Å and $r_e(C-N) = 1.168$ Å, $\omega_1 = 2179$ cm⁻¹, $\omega_2 = 173$ cm⁻¹, $\omega_3 = 420$ cm⁻¹, dipole moment = 4.59 D, spin-orbit coupling constant $A_{SO} = -83$ cm⁻¹, $\langle r(Fe-C) \rangle_0 = 2.082$ Å, and $\langle r(C-N) \rangle_0 = 1.172$ Å. In variational MORBID calculations, rovibronic energy levels are determined, and some vibrational bands are simulated. The bending potential is shallow, and the MORBID calculations show that the zero-point averaged structure is bent with the expectation value $\langle \angle (Fe-C-N) \rangle_0 = 170(5)^\circ$ (where the number in parentheses is the quantum-mechanical uncertainty). We compare the $^6\Delta_i$ FeCN results with those obtained for $^6\Delta_i$ FeNC. Since there are no experimental spectroscopic data available for FeCN, we hope that the predictions made here may be useful in the experimental investigation of this molecule.

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