INTERNAL MIXING, PHENYL RING TORSION AND EXCITONIC INTERACTION IN DIPHENYLMETHANE

NATHAN R. PILLSBURY, JAIME A. STEARNS, CHRISTIAN W. MÜLLER, ALOKE DAS, TALITHA M. SELBY and TIMOTHY S. ZWIER, Department of Chemistry, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2084.

The close proximity of two identical ultraviolet chromophores render diphenylmethane (DPM) an interesting case for the study of the dependence of excitonic coupling on the distortion along low-frequency large-amplitude vibrational coordinates, in particular the phenyl ring torsional coordinates present in DPM.

We have studied the fluorescence excitation spectrum and several single vibronic level fluorescence (SVLF) spectra of the $A^1B(S_1) \leftrightarrow X^1A(S_0)$ and the $B^1A(S_2) \leftrightarrow X^1A(S_0)$ transition of DPM cooled in a supersonic jet.

The band in the excitation spectrum blue-shifted by 123 cm$^{-1}$ from the $S_1 \leftrightarrow S_0$ origin was assigned to the $S_2 \leftrightarrow S_0$ origin. Its SVLF spectrum shows two-region fluorescence reminiscent of that previously observed in the gas-phase and supersonic jet spectra of naphthalene$^1$ and ovalene$^2$. The high-energy region of this $S_2 0^0$ SVLF spectrum was tentatively assigned to transitions originating in vibrationally excited levels of the $S_1$ state. This finding indicates the presence of efficient internal mixing of the $S_2 0^0$ level with the sparse manifold of $S_1$ vibronic background levels. The quantum number changes in the non-totally symmetric torsional mode (see figure) upon internal mixing suggest that additional to the internal conversion transitions accounted for by the Jortner-Berry $\Delta \nu = \pm 1$ rule higher order vibronic mechanisms$^3$ have to be considered as well.