



Effects of Intra-Base Pair Proton Transfer on Dissociation and Singlet Oxygenation of 9-Methyl-8-Oxoguanine–1-Methyl-Cytosine Base-Pair Radical Cations [9MOG·1MC]*

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Biological Relevance of OG⁺⁺

\blacktriangleright Both G^{•+} and G^{•+} form readily under oxidative stress in cells.

species	<i>E</i> ° (vs. NHE, V)	species	AIP (eV)	
			gas phase	solution
8-oxoguanosine (OG)	0.74 ^[1]	8-oxoguanine	6.93 ^[2]	
	0.55		\$ 0.75	
guanosine (G)	1.29 ^[3]	guanine	7.68 ^[4]	4.42 ^[5]
adenosine (A)	1.42 ^[3]	adenine	8.26 ^[4a, 6]	4.81 ^[5]
deoxycytidine (C)	1.6 ^[3]	cytosine	8.66 ^[4a, 6]	4.91 ^[5]
thymidine (T)	1.7 ^[3]	thymine	8.82 ^[4a, 7]	5.05 ^[5]
		PO ₄ ³⁻	unstable	8.4 (vertical) ^[8]
		HPO4 ²⁻	unstable	8.9 ^[8]
		$H_2PO_4^-$	4.57 ^[9]	9.5 ^[8]
		deoxyribose		9.4-9.7 ^[8b, 10]

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 \blacktriangleright Guanine radical cation G⁺⁺ is the precursor of OG

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OG-containing Base Pairs in DNA





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In what context we examined the dissociation and singlet oxygenation of [OG·C]⁺⁺



Watson-Crick OG·C

The synergistic damage of the OG·C mismatch pair, if not repaired, upon the attack of ionizing radiation and reactive oxygen species (ROS) simultaneously

Practical interest: Explore addictive effects of combining ionizing radiation-based radiotherapy and singlet O₂-based photodynamic therapy in cancer treatment.

Experimental Approaches for G^{•+}/OG^{•+} Chemistry

Photolysis/radiolysis in solution



What was actually measured in solution: neutral $[G - H]^{\bullet}$ and $OG^{\bullet+}/[G - H]^{\bullet}$

 $G \xrightarrow{radiolysis} G^{\bullet+}(pk_a = 3.9) \xrightarrow{deprotonation} [G - H_{N1}]^{\bullet} + H^+$

- Radical cations formed in the DNA duplex retain more cationic character than would isolated radical and they persist sufficiently long to react with ROS and RNS.
- Warrant the measurement of radical cation reactivity directly

Formation of radical cations in the gas phase via collision-induced intramolecular electron transfer and dissociation of copper complex



transfer originating from the N1-H at a Watson-Crick edge and non-statistical dissociation;



ESI Guided-Ion Beam Tandem Mass Spectrometer

1MC:1-methycytosine to mimic cytidine

Exp # 1: Intra-Base Pair PT of [9MOG·1MC]^{•+} explored using collision-induced dissociation (CID) tandem MS



Thermodynamics Equilibrium of

 $9MOG^{\bullet+} \cdot 1MC \rightleftharpoons [9MOG - H_{N1}]^{\bullet} \cdot [1MC + H_{N3'}]^{+}$ Conventional conformer: $9MOG^{\bullet+} \cdot 1MC \rightarrow 9MOG^{\bullet+} + 1MC$ $\Delta H (0 K) = 1.87 \text{ eV}$ Proton-transferred (PT) conformer: $[9MOG - H_{N1}]^{\bullet} \cdot [1MC + H_{N3'}]^{+} \rightarrow [9MOG - H]^{\bullet} + [1MC + H]^{+} \Delta H (0 K) = 1.79 \text{ eV}$

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Insight into Kinetics of [9MOG·1MC]⁺⁺ Dissociation in Xe CID



 $[9MOG - H_{N1}]^{\bullet} \cdot [1MC + H_{N3'}]^{+} (PT) \rightarrow [9MOG - H]^{\bullet} + [1MC + H]^{+} \gg 9MOG^{\bullet+} \cdot 1MC \text{ (conventional)} \rightarrow 9MOG^{\bullet+} + 1MC$ $Implicated \text{ that} \qquad i) \text{ the population of PT conformer > conventional conformer upon collisional activation}$ $or \qquad ii) \text{ the dissociation rate } k_{PT} > k_{conventional}$

or iii) both i and ii

Non-Statistical Dissociation: A Characteristic Behavior of WC Base Pairs (?)

accompanied with an intra-base pair PT originating from N-H at the WC-edge

Kinetics modeling in statistical theory framework



- RRKM assumption: energy is randomized and distributed statistically among all energetically accessible states at TS
- Dissociation: no reverse barrier, tight and loose TS were assumed based on base pair and product probabilities

 $[9MG - H_{N1}]^{\bullet} \cdot [1MC + H_{N3'}]^{+} \rightarrow [9MG - H_{N1}]^{\bullet} + [1MC + H_{N3'}]^{+} \gg 9MG^{\bullet+} \cdot 1MC \rightarrow 9MG^{\bullet+} + 1MC$

Previous findings of non-statistical CID in other WC-base pairs

Deprotonated [9MG·C - H] ⁺ [9MG - H _{N1}] ⁻ ·[C - H _{N4b'} + H _{N3'}] → [9MG - H _{N1}] ⁻ + [C - H _{N4b'} + H _{N3'}] ≫9MG·[C - H _{N4b'}] ⁻ → 9MG + [C - H _{N4b'}] ⁻	PCCP., 2016, 18 , 32222 PCCP., 2017, 19 , 30616
Protonated [9MG·1MC + H] ⁺ [9MG + H _{N7} - H _{N1}]·[1MC + H _{N3}] ⁺ → [9MG + H _{N7} - H _{N1}] + [1MC + H _{N3}] ⁺ ≫ [9MG + H _{N7}] ⁺ ·1MC → [9MG + H _{N7}] ⁺ + 1MC	PCCP., 2020, 22 , 24986
[9MG·9MG] ^{•+} and [9MG·9MOG] ^{•+} [9MOG – H _{N1}] [•] [9MG + H _{N7}] ⁺ → [9MOG – H _{N1}] [•] + [9MG + H _{N7}] ⁺ \gg 9MOG ⁺⁺ ·9MG → 9MOG ⁺⁺ + 9MG	PCCP, 2022, 24 , 9263
[9MG-1MC] ^{•+} [9MG – H _{N1}] [•] ·[1MC + H _{N3}] ⁺ → [9MOG – H _{N1}] [•] + [1MC + H _{N3}] ⁺ \gg 9MG ^{•+} ·1MC → 9MG ^{•+} + 1MC	PCCP, 2020, 22 , 14875



On the contrary, HG-base pair is statistical

Protonated HG-[9MG·1MC + H]*

Exp 2: Singlet O₂ Oxidation of [9MOG·1MC]⁺⁺

- Singlet O₂ can be generated by non-enzymatic (photochemical, thermal, chemical) or enzymatic activation of O₂
- > The lowest electronically excited molecular O_2 ($a^1 \Delta_g$)
- As a strong oxidant, it readily oxidizes cellular components; within DNA, ¹O₂ exclusively target at guanine/8-oxoguanine due to their lower oxidation potentials Consequences: cell death, ageing and diseases
- Implication: photodynamic therapy (to destroy cancer cells)
- Photosensitization is the *conventional way* to generate singlet O₂ and conduct oxidation in solution phase
- The present work, on the other hand, studied the reaction of [9MOG·1MC]^{•+} with pure ¹O₂ in the gas phase, without interferences that may exist in solution



Chemical Generation of ¹O₂ and Ion-Molecule Reaction

$H_2O_2 + Cl_2 + 2KOH \rightarrow {}^{1}O_2 (15\%)/{}^{3}O_2 (85\%) + 2KCl + 2H_2O$



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Product ion and cross section of ${}^{1}O_{2}$ + [9MOG·1MC]^{•+}. Inset show a product ion mass spectra at E_{CM} = 0.02 eV.

- > Energy-dependence suggests an exothermic ion-molecule reaction.
- \blacktriangleright The cross section decreases as increasing $E_{\rm CM}$
- Maximum of 2.4 Å² at the lowest E_{CM} , minimum at the highest energies
- Maximum reaction efficiency of ${}^{1}O_{2}$ with [9MOG \cdot 1MC] \cdot is ~ 1.6% at 0.02 eV
- > The efficiency become negligible above 0.1 eV

Reaction Products and Cross Section of 9MOG^{•+} vs. [9MOG·1MC]^{•+}



The reactivity to 9MOG^{•+} monomer toward singlet O₂ is a factor of 2 higher than that of the base pair

The equilibrium of $9MOG^{\bullet+} \cdot 1MC \rightleftharpoons [9MOG - H_{N1}]^{\bullet} \cdot [1MC + H_{N3'}]^+$ brings about two different forms of 9MOG radicals

 $[H_{N3'}]^+$

Approximately spin-projected DFT, DLPNO-CCSD(T), CASPT2 & NEVPT2 computations of

9MOG•⁺	VS	[9MOG – H]•
9MOG•+	VS	9MOG•+·1MC
[9MOG – H]•	VS	$[9MOG - H_{N1}] \bullet \cdot [1MC]$

 $9MOG^{\bullet+} \cdot 1MC \text{ vs} [9MOG - H_{N1}]^{\bullet} \cdot [1MC + H_{N3'}]^+$

In all cases, $C5-O_2$ addition is the most favorable, followed by H-abstraction at N7



Conclusions

Non-statistical CID product ion ration of $[9MOG \cdot 1MC]^{\bullet+}$, that provides insight into the intra-base pair PT reaction of $9MOG^{\bullet+} \cdot 1MC \rightleftharpoons [9MOG - H_{N1}]^{\bullet} \cdot [1MC + H_{N3'}]^{+}$

The same the PT leads to two different radical forms of 9MOG in the reactions with ${}^{1}O_{2}$. The base-pair context effect on singlet oxygenation is first reflected in the reduced reactivity of 9MOG^{•+} within the base pair;

The neutral radical presents more favorable reaction energetics than the radical cation, both in an isolated monomer or within a base pair

The relative reactivity toward ${}^{1}O_{2}$ is $[9MOG - H]^{\bullet} > 9MOG^{\bullet+} > [9MOG - H_{N1}]^{\bullet} \cdot [1MC + H_{N3'}]^{+} \ge 9MOG^{\bullet+} \cdot 1MC$

- Effect of intra-base pair PT
- Effect of base pairing
- Electrostatic effect
- Effect on base-pairing energy

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Singlet O₂ Oxidation of OG and Its Derivatives

