

Structural modifications resulting from proton transfer in complexes of phenols with pyridine.

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The structural consequences of proton transfer in complexes of phenol (**1**), 2,6-dichlorophenol (**2**), 4-nitrophenol (**3**) and 2,6-dichloro-4-nitrophenol (**4**) with pyridine were analyzed on the basis of results of B3LYP/6–31G** calculations. Three methods of describing the progress of proton transfer are proposed: the O—H [$d(\text{OH})$] and C—O [$d(\text{CO})$] bond lengths and the fraction X_{PT} of the proton transfer form, calculated from the values of the dipole moments. The $d(\text{OH})$ parameter reveals behaviour near to X_{PT} and can be used as a universal measure of the degree of proton transfer. The $d(\text{CO})$ parameter gives nearly linear dependences for various structural parameters, but independent estimation of the specific effects of the substituents is necessary, as separate correlations for each complex are found. A role of resonance interaction in systems containing a $p\text{-NO}_2$ substituent is demonstrated.

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