

Geometry and tautomerism of sapphyrin - DFT studies.

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The structure and total energy have been investigated, applying the density functional theory (DFT), for idealized sapphyrin derivatives, created by replacements of *meso*-phenyl groups of 5,10,15,20-tetraphenylsapphyrin or β -alkyl groups of decaalkylsapphyrin with hydrogens or two methyl groups, respectively. The following species have been considered: the dication of plain sapphyrin (SapH_5^{2+}) 12,13-dimethylsapphyrin ($12,13\text{-DMSapH}_3$), 12,13-dimethylsapphyrin dication ($12,13\text{-DMSapH}_5^{2+}$), and the 10,15-dimethylsapphyrin dication ($10,15\text{-DMSapH}_5^{2+}$). To address the issue of tautomerization the calculations have been carried out for the six feasible distribution patterns of NH protons among the five nitrogen centers of the planar sapphyrin $\text{P}0_i$ ($i=1-6$). The B3LYP/6-31G optimized bond lengths and angles of sapphyrin or (dimethylated sapphyrin) skeletons are in satisfactory agreement with X-ray crystallographic values determined for decaalkylsapphyrin dications. The calculated total energies, using the B3LYP/6-31G**//3-21G approach demonstrate that the plain sapphyrin and 12,13-dimethylsapphyrin dications favor the planar geometry of the macrocycle. Localization of the methyl groups at the 10,15-*meso* positions of sapphyrin reversed the order of stability leading to the energy preference for the inverted structure. Thus, this steric factor related to the *meso* substitution seems to be instrumental in the C pyrrolic ring inversion. The DFT calculation also provided the relative stability frame for the complex tautomeric equilibria of SapH_3 which involve six different forms. Their relative stability decreases in the range: $\{25\text{-NH}, 26\text{-N}, 27\text{-NH}, 28\text{-NH}, 29\text{-N}\} \text{P}0_3 > \{25\text{-NH}, 26\text{-N}, 27\text{-NH}, 28\text{-N}, 29\text{-NH}\} \text{P}0_1 > \{25\text{-NH}, 26\text{-NH}, 27\text{-N}, 28\text{-NH}, 29\text{-N}\} \text{P}0_5 > \{25\text{-N}, 26\text{-NH}, 27\text{-NH}, 28\text{-NH}, 29\text{-N}\} \text{P}0_2 > \{25\text{-NH}, 26\text{-N}, 27\text{-N}, 28\text{-NH}, 29\text{-NH}\} \text{P}0_6 > \{25\text{-N}, 26\text{-N}, 27\text{-NH}, 28\text{-NH}, 29\text{-NH}\} \text{P}0_4$. The stability order can be qualitatively related to the number and the nature of the *cis* NH interactions present in the sapphyrin core.

Słowa kluczowe

Sapphyrin, Tautomerism, density functional theory

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