

Vibrational spectra of o-hydroxyphenyl Schiff bases and related compounds.

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The specific features of intramolecular OH...N hydrogen bonds in o-hydroxyphenyl Schiff bases are discriminated. They are identified as resonance assisted low-barrier hydrogen bonds. The properties of such bridges are best reflected in infra-red absorption spectra and particularly in the stretching OH or NH bands. As shown, the most characteristic is the low intensity of these bands. The discussion is presented for a number of examples represented by the Mannich and Schiff bases, 2-hydroxybenzamides as well as by liquid crystalline o-hydroxyphenyl Schiff bases and o-hydroxyazobenzenes. The interaction effects through the bifurcated hydrogen bonds between the chelate rings are distinguished. Based on the quantum mechanical calculations the potential energy curves describing the proton motion are analysed for the isolated molecules and condensed phases showing a high anharmonicity. In the last part of the review the infra-red spectra in the finger print region are analysed from the point of view of tautomeric equilibria related to the proton transfer.

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