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## **ARTICLE TYPE**

### **The Mechanism and Kinetic Studies on Oxidation Reaction of Acetofenate Initiated by HOX, NO3, O3, and Cl Radicals**

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Abstract: Acetofenate (AF) is a widely used pesticide. The mechanism of  $HO_x$ ,  $NO_3$ ,  $O_3$ , and Cl initiated oxidation reactions of AF was investigated with density functional theory. For each of the OH, NO<sub>3</sub>, and Cl, both addition and hydrogen abstraction were investigated, for each of the  $HO_2$  radicals and  $O_3$ , addition reactions were investigated. The cycloaddition reactions of  $O_3$  were considered, including the exploration of isomerization. Based on the potential energy surface, the rate constants were calculated with the transition state theory  $_{10}$  method over a temperature range of 200~400 K and fitted with the Arrhenius formulas. The rate constants of AF reaction with OH, HO<sub>2</sub>,

NO<sub>3</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, and Cl, are  $4.04 \times 10^{-13}$ ,  $7.02 \times 10^{-33}$ ,  $6.93 \times 10^{-20}$ ,  $1.45 \times 10^{-25}$ , and  $5.07 \times 10^{-12}$  cm<sup>3</sup>molecule<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> at 298.15 K, respectively. The OHinitiated reactions are dominant according to the branching ratio of reaction constants. The atmospheric lifetime of the reaction species was estimated according to rate constants.

#### <sup>15</sup>**Introduction**

Acetofenate (AF), also known as benzethazet and plifenate, is used worldwide to control pest  $\frac{1}{1}$ . As a commercial organochlorine pesticide, AF was developed as an analogue of DDT since  $1970s<sup>2</sup>$ . Due to its low toxicity, selective insecticidal

<sup>20</sup>activity, and high efficacy, AF is considered a good alternative to combat pests, especially health pests  $3, 4$ . However, its popularity has led to the direct release of pesticide into the environment for a long time<sup>5</sup>.

In the troposphere, radicals have great effects on the removal <sup>25</sup>or transformation of organic compounds through controlling the oxidative capacity of the atmosphere <sup>6</sup>. Once released into the atmosphere, AF could be oxidized by nucleophilic active species,  $HO_x$  radicals,  $NO_3$  radical,  $O_3$ , Cl atom, and other species, and generate a series of oxidation products  $7-11$ .

 $_{30}$  The HO<sub>x</sub> radicals (OH and HO<sub>2</sub> radical), whose photochemical lifetimes are very short, are responsible for the majority of oxidation processes in the troposphere and control concentrations of many species  $12, 13$ . The degradation pathway of AF initiated by OH is important for the related chemistry features of OH, such as

35 the inherent reactivity. However, the formation of OH mainly takes place in daytime through photolysis, and its concentration decreases rapidly after sunset  $8, 9, 14$ . As for  $HO_2$ , the principal sources are of photolysis and oxidation of HCHO, and the tropospheric abundances are about 100 times higher than that of  $40$  OH during the daytime in clean air  $^{15, 16}$ . On the whole, reactions

with  $HO_x$  radicals mainly occur during the day.

It is worth mentioning that not all atmospheric chemistry is initiated in the daytime. In the troposphere, the  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  radical is thought to be the main night-time oxidant  $17$ ,  $18$ . During the

 $45$  daytime, the concentration of  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  is very low. However, in the  $night-time$  atmosphere  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  radicals were measured at typical concentrations of 10-100 parts per trillion  $19$ . Clearly, the

reactions of  $AF$  with  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  pathway during nighttime cannot be ignored. In addition, in polluted environment,  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  radical is also  $50$  an important oxidant and may contribute to the removal of AF  $20$ , 21 .

Ozone is another powerful oxidant that cannot be ignored in atmospheric environment. Its strong oxidizing power and participation in the production of other radicals make ozone a key <sup>55</sup>role in the oxidation of organic matters during both day and night  $22, 23$ . Most notably, the ozone arises from a variety of sources, and the concentration of  $O_3$  (7.0×10<sup>11</sup> molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>) is much higher than that of OH radical  $(9.7 \times 10^5 \text{ molecule cm}^3)^{24,25}$ .

Moreover, in the marine atmosphere where the concentration 60 of Cl atoms can reach a peak value of  $10^5$  molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>, the Cl atom-initiated chemistry can be an important removal process for AF <sup>26</sup>. As for H-abstraction reactions, the rate constant of Cl atom is  $10<sup>3</sup>$  times more active than that of OH radical  $<sup>27</sup>$ . Thus, Cl atom</sup> also should be considered for the oxidation of AF in the 65 atmosphere.

In this work, quantum chemistry method was applied to reveal the reaction mechanisms of AF. The initial reactions of  $HO_x$ radicals,  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  radical,  $O<sub>3</sub>$ , and Cl atom with AF were investigated, and thermodynamic parameters are included too. Based on <sup>70</sup>quantum chemistry information, the rate constants are calculated using the transition state theory method. Arrhenius equations of the rate constants with a temperature range of 200~400 K are fitted, and the lifetimes of the reaction species in troposphere are estimated according to the rate constants.

#### <sup>75</sup>**Computational methods**

#### **Mechanism study**

It is well known that the density functional theory (DFT) is a calculation tool to deal with atmospheric chemical reaction  $2<sup>8</sup>$ . In previous studies DFT have successfully applied to medium or so even larger scale molecular system  $^{29, 30}$ . The MPWB1K method

Cl Cl

is a hybrid DFT model with performance for thermochemistry, thermochemical dynamics, weak interactions, and hydrogen bonding <sup>31</sup>. In this paper, all the work is performed using the Gaussian 03 programs and SGI workstation <sup>32</sup>. The geometrical

5 parameters of reactants, transition states (TS), intermediates (IM), and products were fully optimized at the MPWB1K/6-31+G (d, p) level. The vibrational frequencies have been calculated at the same level in order to determine the nature of stationary points. The single point energy is calculated at the basis sets 6-311+G <sup>10</sup>(3df, 2p).

#### **Kinetic calculation**

The transition state theory (TST) is a model based on the interaction potential between reactants and products with a statistical representation of the dynamics to determine rate 15 constants <sup>33</sup>. It has been widely employed to discuss of rate processes in previous explorations. In this paper, the rate constants calculation of all elementary reactions have been carried out with the method over a suitable temperature range.

$$
20\quad
$$

The rate constant is calculated using the following equation:

Taking a bimolecular reaction as example:

$$
k_{TST} = \frac{k_B T}{h} \frac{Q_X}{Q_A Q_{BC}} \exp(-\frac{V_a^G}{RT}) \frac{RT}{P^{\theta}} \frac{10^6}{N_A}
$$
 (2)

 $A + BC \rightarrow AB + C$  (1)

The definition of each parameter can be referred to literature  $34$ . The numerical method for linear equation is used to fit the <sup>25</sup>Arrhenius formula of rate constants with temperature.

#### **Results and discussion**

#### **OH-initiated reaction**

Under the atmospheric condition, the chemical reactions of AF can be initiated by the OH radical. Two possible reaction

- 30 pathways are taken into consideration: OH radical addition and H atom abstraction. For convenience, the atom labels are marked in the structure of AF in **Figure 1**. The reaction schemes with the potential barriers ( $\Delta E_b$ ) and reaction heats ( $\Delta E_r$ ) are depicted in **Figures 1**, **S1**, and **S2**, respectively.
- Because of its molecule asymmetry, AF has two kinds of different addition positions, that is, the same and opposite side of the benzene ring (the *cis*-addition and the *trans*-addition) relative to branched chain substituents. This paper mainly presents the *cis*-addition reactions. It is obvious that all of *cis*-addition
- <sup>40</sup>channels can easily happen for their low potential barriers (3.70~9.94 kcal/mol). As for *trans*-addition reactions, the channels are also easily happen, for the  $\Delta E_b$  values are less than 10.00 kcal/mol. All these processes are exothermic (11.81~23.06 kcal/mol), with less than 24.00 kcal/mol of energy released.
- 45 Taken  $\Delta E_b$  values (<9.94 kcal/mol) and  $\Delta E_r$  values (<23.06 kcal/mol) into consideration, every OH addition reaction can occur easily. Among these pathways, the  $C_3$ -*cis*-addition and  $C_1$ *trans*-addition are thermodynamically favorable since the barriers are low, 3.70 kcal/mol and 2.49 kcal/mol.
- <sup>50</sup>Due to its nucleophilicity, OH radical can abstract the H atom from AF. There are five kinds of H atoms in AF molecule, suggesting that there are five possible pathways: three in the aromatic ring, one in the methylene group, and one in the methyl group. All these pathways can easily happen for their low  $55$  potential barriers  $(0.59~9.10 \text{ kcal/mol})$ . Compared with other



Cl

O  $_{\rm O-H}$ 

H

Cl Cl

C O C O CH<sub>3</sub>

H

H

H

C(Cl)3 H

**IM6'B**

**IM7'B**

O O H

**pathwayB7'**

60 Fig. 2 HO<sub>2</sub> initiated pathways with the potential barriers ∆E<sub>b</sub> and reaction heats ∆Er (kcal/mol)

 $\Delta$ E<sub>b</sub>=25.16  $\Delta E_r$ =17.43

**TS7'B**

three exothermic (1.70~2.84 kcal/mol) processes, pathway A11 (29.05 kcal/mol) and A12 (17.62 kcal/mol) are highly exothermic. <sup>65</sup>Among the abstraction pathways, barriers are lower in the reaction of the H atom abstracted from the methylene group and methyl group than those from the aromatic ring.



**Fig. 1** OH initiated addition pathways with the potential barriers ∆E<sub>b</sub> and reaction heats ∆Er (kcal/mol)

 $\alpha$ Cl

 $\alpha$ 

C O C O CH<sup>3</sup>

O H O 0-H

O

H H

H H

O  $_{\rm H}$ – $_{\rm Q}$ 

H

C O C O CH3  $C(CI)$ 3 H

H

O

**IM2'B**

**IM1'B**

**pathwayB1'**

**pathwayB2'**

 $C(Cl)$ 3

C(Cl)3 H

 $\Delta E_b=14.86$  $\Delta E_r = 4.30$ 

**TS1'B**

 $\Delta$ E<sub>b</sub>=17.61  $\Delta E_r = 10.90$ 

**TS2'B**

 $\Delta$ E<sub>b</sub>=15.35



**Fig. 3** NO3 initiated addition pathways with the potential barriers ∆Eb and reaction heats ∆Er (kcal/mol)



<sup>5</sup>**Fig. 4** NO3 initiated H atom abstraction pathways with the potential barriers  $\Delta E_b$  and reaction heats  $\Delta E_r$  (kcal/mol)

#### **HO<sup>2</sup> -initiated reaction**

HO<sup>2</sup> -initiated reaction schemes of AF embedded with the potential barriers and reaction heats are showed in **Figures 2** and <sup>10</sup>**S3**, respectively.

Unlike the OH radical,  $HO_2$  radical cannot abstract H atom from AF, and all channels are addition reactions. Clearly,  $HO<sub>2</sub>$ radicals react with AF via TS to form products. All reactions are endothermic, and the  $\Delta E_r$  varies over the range of 3.51~17.43 15 kcal/mol. The rate constant at 298.15K is  $7.02 \times 10^{-33}$  $cm<sup>3</sup>$  molecule<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>, which is smaller than that of OH-initiated reaction.

#### **NO<sup>3</sup> -initiated reaction**

NO<sub>3</sub> radical can be added to the double bond and abstract H atom <sup>20</sup>from AF which is similar to the reactions of AF and OH. The diagrams of  $NO<sub>3</sub>$ -initiated degradation mechanism of AF are illustrated in **Figures 3**, **4**, and **S4**, respectively.

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As for  $AF$ ,  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  can attrack C=C or C=O double bond to form two different kinds of  $NO<sub>3</sub>$ -adducts. It can be seen that in each of  $_{25}$  the pathways  $NO_3$  radicals are added to the benzene. There exists an intermediate  $AF-NO_3$ , whose energy is lower than that of  $AF +$ NO<sup>3</sup> by 5.89 kcal/mol of the *cis*-addition and by 4.69 kcal/mol of the *trans*-addition. Except the processes AF react with NO<sub>3</sub> radical in the  $C_2$  and  $C_7$ -tran-site are endothermic, the rest 30 processes are all slightly exothermic with less than 8.67 kcal/mol of energy released. As shown from the *cis*-addition the calculated potential barriers and reaction heats,  $NO_3$  addition to  $C_4$  is the most favorable reaction with the lowest barrier (5.18 kcal/mol) and releases the most heat (6.06 kcal/mol). As for the *trans*-<sup>35</sup>addition reactions, pathway C1' and C3' occur more early for the low potential barriers less than 2.26 kcal/mol. Then followed by pathway C4', the potential barriers is 4.22 kcal/mol, giving out 7.52 kcal/mol of energy.

The hydrogen on the AF can be abstracted by  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  to produce 40 nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>). Noticeably, the pathway C11 and C12 are exothermic, while pathway C8, C9, and C10 are endothermic. The potential barrier of pathway C11 (5.68 kcal/mol) is lower than that of other pathways. At the same time, pathway C11 (21.29 kcal/mol) is more exothermic than pathway 12 (9.95 45 kcal/mol). Thus, the pathway C11, *i.e.*, NO<sub>3</sub> abstracts H atom from the methylene group, occurs more easily. What's more, at 298.15 K the total rate constant of addition reactions  $(4.59\times10^{-20}$  $cm<sup>3</sup>$  molecule<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>) is larger than that of abstraction reactions  $(2.34 \times 10^{-20} \text{ cm}^3 \text{molecule}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1})$  with NO<sub>3</sub> at 298.15 K.

#### **O<sup>3</sup>** <sup>50</sup>**-initiated reaction**

The ozonolysis reactions are initiated by addition of  $O_3$  to the double bond of AF to produce primary ozonide. The reaction channels are provided in **Figures 5** and **S5**, respectively.

The twelve elementary reactions all take place from AF with  $55 \text{ O}_3$  via TS to form the ozonide. All processes are highly exothermic with released heat of 27.33~35.72 kcal/mol, and the barrier varies over the range of 11.84~21.50 kcal/mol. The smaller energy barrier comes from the *trans*-addition pathways that  $O_3$  addition to  $C_2 - C_3$  products IM2'D. The high reaction <sup>60</sup>energy is retained as the internal energy of the adduct, the excited ozonide subsequently undergoes unimolecular decomposition due to highly exothermic  $3^5$ . Then the C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> and O-O of the added O<sub>3</sub> bonds break, respectively. In consideration of the large system of reactants and IM2'D is obtained more easily, and only IM2'D is <sup>65</sup>chosen to study the mechanism of isomerization. The reaction scheme is described as follows:





Fig. 5  $O_3$  initiated pathways with the potential barriers  $\Delta E_b$  and reaction heats ∆Er (kcal/mol)



5 Fig. 6 Cl initiated addition pathways with the potential barriers ∆E<sub>b</sub> and reaction heats ∆Er (kcal/mol)

Calculations indicate that in the two processes there are apparent potential barriers of 36.30 kcal/mol and 32.25 kcal/mol, absorbing 0.05 kcal/mol and 1.23 kcal/mol of heat.

#### <sup>10</sup>**Cl-initiated reaction**

Similar to the above reaction pathways, the Cl atom can attack the double bonds of AF, and abstract hydrogen to generate hydrochloric acid (HCl). The probable pathways for the reactions are depicted in **Figures 6**, **7** and **S6**, respectively.

<sup>15</sup>The *cis*-addition reactions are analysed in details. When Cl atom is added to the benene ring to react with AF, they first form the intermediate AF-Cl-1, with the energy lower than that of AF + Cl by 6.14 kcal/mol, and then generate IM via TS. The barriers of these processes vary over the range of 0.01~11.27 kcal/mol. <sup>20</sup>Among the six pathways, the barrierless process comes from pathway E4 (0.01 kcal/mol), and the reaction is slightly exothermic, giving out 2.58 kcal/mol of energy while others are endothermic. When the Cl is added to C=O double bond, this process without the formation of AF-Cl, so the process is 25 endoergic, absorbing 6.91 kcal/mol of heat, and the potential barrier is 8.08 kcal/mol.

The *trans*-addition reactions are similar with the *cis*-addition reactions. When Cl atom is added to the benene ring, there also exists an intermediate AF-Cl-1', and then generate IM via TS. <sup>30</sup>The barriers of these processes vary over the range of 0.16~8.76 kcal/mol. The process of Cl is added to C=O double bond without the formation of AF-Cl, and it is endoergic, absorbing 8.24 kcal/mol of heat, and the potential barrier is 8.76 kcal/mol. Among these reactions, pathway E1', E3', and E4' could easily <sup>35</sup>occur for low potential barriers (<1.18 kcal/mol) and the reaction pathway E2' is slightly endothermic, absorbing 1.39 kcal/mol of energy while others are exothermic.

The H atom abstraction pathways of AF with Cl atoms are all with positive barriers. The potential barriers of pathway E11 and <sup>40</sup>E12 are lower than that of pathway E8, E9, and E10. Compared with other three endothermic  $(2.78~14.19~\text{kcal/mol})$  processes, pathway E11 (4.54 kcal/mol) and E12 (1.82 kcal/mol) are slight exothermic. In addition, the rate constants of pathway E11 and E12 are larger than those of other pathways. So taken the 45 thermodynamic and kinetic into consideration, it is obvious that pathway E11 and E12 are favored in H abstraction pathways.

#### **Subsequent reactions**

In general, the radicals formed from additions and abstractions could further be decomposed in the presence of  $O_2$  and  $NO/H_2O$ <sup>50</sup>in the atmosphere. Evidently, the addition reactions in which  $HO_2$ ,  $NO_3$ , and Cl are added to  $C_4$ -*cis* and  $C_1$ -*trans* sites are the most favorable paythways with the lowest barriers in each group, which can further lose the H atom that connected with the C atom and degraded in the atmosphere. In the H atom abstraction 55 pathways, different radicals obtain five similar intermediates. The barrierless and slight exothermic processes where H atom is abstracted from the methylene group and methyl group are more dominant. Some subsequent reactions for this part have been explored by our group <sup>36</sup>.





#### **Kinetic analysis**

With TST method, the rate constants of OH,  $HO_2$ ,  $NO_3$ ,  $O_3$ , and Cl initiated reactions of AF at a suitable temperature range of 200~400 K are listed in **Tables S1A** to **S8A**, respectively. The 5 Arrhenius equations *i.e.*  $k(T) = A \exp(-E a / RT)^{37}$  for rate constants of element reactions are listed in **Tables S1B** to **S5B**, respectively. The total Arrhenius equations and rate constants at 298.15K are

shown in **Table 1**. Obviously, most of the calculated rate constants can be fitted by Arrhenius equations. The correlation 10 coefficient  $R^2$  is above 0.9. The branching ratios of addition and abstraction reactions among different initiated reaction from 200

to 400 K are shown in **Figures S7** to **S9**. The rate constants at 298.15 K and 1 atom in the routes have

been chosen for discussion. Take OH-initiated reaction for <sup>15</sup>example. The individual rate constants for the addition pathway A1-A7 and A1'-A7' are noted  $k_{A1}$ - $k_{A7}$  and as  $k_{A1}$ - $k_{A7}$  respectively, and rate constants for the H atom abstraction pathway 8-12 are noted as  $k_{AB}$ - $k_{A12}$  respectively. The rate constants of overall OH radical addition reaction and H atom abstraction are defined as

20  $k_{OH}^{add} = k_{A1} + k_{A2} + k_{A3} + k_{A4} + k_{A5} + k_{A6} + k_{A7} + k_{A1'} + k_{A2'} + k_{A3'} + k_{A4'} +$ 

 $k_{A5'}$  +  $k_{A6'}$  +  $k_{A7'}$ , and  $k_{OB}^{abs} = k_{A8}$  +  $k_{A9}$  +  $k_{A10}$  +  $k_{A11}$  +  $k_{A12}$ , respectively. The overall rate constant for the AF with OH reaction is labeled as.  $k_{OH}^{Total} = k_{OH}^{add} + k_{OH}^{abs}$  At 298.15 K, the overall calculated rate constants for reactions of AF with OH, 25 HO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, and Cl, are  $4.04 \times 10^{-13}$ ,  $7.02 \times 10^{-33}$ ,  $6.93 \times 10^{-20}$ ,

 $1.45 \times 10^{-25}$ , and  $5.07 \times 10^{-12}$  cm<sup>3</sup>molecule<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>.

The degradation rate can be expressed by the formula  $r = k_X[X][AF]$ . Once the concentrations of AF and X radical in atmosphere are determined the degradation rate can be calculated. <sup>30</sup>The rate branching ratio can be presented by

 $=\frac{k_X[X][AF]}{\sum k_X[X][AF]}$  $R_{X} = \frac{k_{X}[X][AF]}{\sum k_{X}[X][A]}$  $X = \frac{K_X}{\sum I}$  $(X=OH, HO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, Cl)$ . In calculations, the

24 h average oxidant concentrations  $^{13, 24, 38, 39}$  are considered: OH radical concentration of  $9.7 \times 10^5$  molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>, HO<sub>2</sub> radical concentration of  $1.0 \times 10^8$  molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub> concentration of 35 1.2×10<sup>7</sup> molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>, O<sub>3</sub> concentration of  $7 \times 10^{11}$  molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>, and Cl concentration of  $1 \times 10^3$  molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>. Figure S10 indicates the rate branching ratio of different rate constants of initiated reactions to the total rate. It can be observed that the removal of AF in the atmosphere is dominated by its reactions

40 with OH radical (>98%), followed by minor reactions with Clatom  $(<2%)$  in the temperature range of 200 $~400$  K. On the contrary,  $HO_2$ ,  $O_3$ , and  $NO_3$  initiated reactions take little part in this range of temperature. When the temperature below 300K, the rate branching ratio of OH-initiated reactions increases slowly

<sup>45</sup>and the rate branching ratio of Cl-initiated reactions decreases as temperature rises. After 300K, the former increases and the later decrease. Generally speaking, the branching ratios change little with the various temperatures. In the whole reactions, OH initiated reactions make more contribution.

#### <sup>50</sup>**Atmospheric lifetime**

To assess its impact on the environment, it is critical to know the atmospheric lifetime of AF. The atmospheric lifetimes (τ) of AF, with respect to reactions with  $OH$ ,  $HO_2$ ,  $NO_3$ ,  $O_3$ , and Cl, can be calculated and analyzed on the basis of the rate constants in the

55 elementary reaction, using the formula  $\tau = \frac{1}{k_r[X]}$ . In which [X] term is the concentration of radical and can be taken as a constant in the troposphere. The calculated lifetimes at the range of 200~400 K are listed in **Tables S1C** to **S8C**. Overall, the higher the temperature is, the shorter the lifetime.  $\tau = \frac{1}{k_r[X]}$ 

The total atmospheric lifetime can be calculated with with the formula  $\frac{1}{\tau_{\text{total}}} = \sum_{i} \frac{1}{\tau_i}$  Total atmospheric lifetimes of AF with different oxidants are listed in **Table SD**. According to the results, the  $\tau_{total}$ for all OH,  $HO_2$ ,  $NO_3$ ,  $O_3$ , and Cl initiated oxidation reactions is 2.14 days. And the  $\tau$  for the reaction of OH radical is around <sup>65</sup>2.18 days, and 135 days for Cl. Evidently, AF is more likely to be removed quickly by the reaction with ozone near their emission sources. However, both the concentration of radicals and the rate constant of reactions with radicals determine the atmospheric lifetime of AF. In some places, the abundant OH radicals may 70 play an important role in the degradation of AF. At night or in

seriously polluted regions, the  $12h$  averaged  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  radical concentration is about  $5 \times 10^8$  cm<sup>3</sup>molecule<sup>-l<sub>s</sub>-1</sup>, the reaction with  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  may contribute to controlling AF  $^{40}$ . Moreover, in some coastal areas where the concentration of Cl atoms can reach  $75.1 \times 10^5$ molecule/cm<sup>3</sup>, the reaction of AF with Cl atom may contribute great portion to the removal of AF in the atmosphere 26 .

#### **Conclusions**

The degradation mechanism of AF initiated by OH radical,  $HO<sub>2</sub>$ radical, NO<sup>3</sup> radical, O<sup>3</sup> <sup>80</sup>, and Cl atom were investigated at the MPWB1K/6-31+G  $(d, p)$  level. The kinetic calculations were carried out with TST method. Some valuable conclusions can be drawn as follows:

The mechanism of OH,  $HO_2$ ,  $NO_3$ ,  $O_3$ , and Cl initiated 85 reactions of AF includes H abstraction pathways and the addition pathways.

The  $O_3$ -adducts can undergo unimolecular decomposition, leading to C-C/C-O bond cleavage. For *cis*-addition HO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, and Cl added to  $C_4$  are the most favorable reaction pathways with  $\theta$  the lowest barrier and release the more heat, while they added  $C_1$ are the most favorable reaction pathways among the *trans*addition, the adducts can further leave the H atom connect with  $C_4$  or  $C_1$  and be degraded in the atmosphere.

At 298.15 K, the total rate constants of AF with OH,  $HO_2$ , 95 NO<sub>3</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, and Cl, are  $4.04 \times 10^{-13}$ ,  $7.02 \times 10^{-33}$ ,  $6.93 \times 10^{-20}$ ,  $1.45 \times 10^{-10}$ <sup>25</sup>, and  $5.07 \times 10^{-12}$  cm<sup>3</sup>molecule<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The rate branching ratio of OH initiated reactions are dominant. The  $HO<sub>2</sub>$ , NO<sup>3</sup> , O<sup>3</sup> and Cl initiated reactions make little contribution to the reaction rate of AF from 200 to 400K compared with the OH 100 initiated reactions.

The  $\tau$  for all OH HO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, and Cl initiated oxidation reactions is 2.14 days.

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#### **Notes and references**

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**Table 1** Arrhenius formulas of rate constants k for elementary reactions at  $200-400K$  (cm<sup>3</sup>molecule<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>)