µSR Study of thioaldehyde/thioketones

In insulators (= most of organic compounds), the positive muon captures an electron to generate a muonium (Mu = $[\mu^+e^-]$), an equivalent to light hydrogen atom. The muoniums add to unsaturated molecular units, and the corresponding radicals via muonium addition can be observed by μ SR.

The carbonyl (>C=O) group is one of the most important functional groups in organic chemistry. Also, thiocarbonyl group (>C=S) has been useful for recent organic synthesis. Recently, we conducted μ SR experiments by using a sterically encumbered thioaldehyde developed by Okazaki and Ishii in 1982. The predominant addition of Mu to the sulfur atom was characterized. The experimentally determined muon hyperfine coupling constant indicated considerable isotope effect due to the light mass of muon (0.1126 m_p).

In addition, the sulfur analog of xanthene-9-thione and thioxanthene-9-thione are promising thioketones as functional radical precursors. S TF- μ SR disclosed decisive effects of the bridging chalcogen atoms (O, S) on muon hyperfine constants.

Phosphorus, Sulfur, Silicon, and the Related Elements **2019**, 194, 735. Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn. **2023**, 96, 461.

TF-µSR Measurement



TF- μ SR of Mes*CH=S



Muonium does not add to the benzene ring.

Muonium Addition to Mes*CH=S



The DFT-optimized structure can determine addition of Mu to the sulfur atom. However, the calculated hfc parameter considerably deviates from the experimental result.

Muonium Addition to Mes*CH=S

Manual Scanning of the Torsion Angle for Characterization of the Isotope Effect



Muonium Addition to Thioketones



The larger experimental muon hfcs correlate with increase of zero-point energy (muon isotope effect).

Thiocarbonyl-Muonium Chemistry: Old But New



C. Heller, H. M. McConnel, J. Chem. Phys. 1960, 32, 1535.

Muonium Radical from 9H-Xanthenethione

