METHYL TORSIONAL LEVELS IN 9-METHYLANTHRACENE

MASAAKI BABA, YUKI NOMA, *Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606-8502, Japan*; SHUNJI KASAHARA, *Molecular Photoscience Research Center, Kobe University, Kobe 657-8501, Japan*; TAKAYA YAMANAKA, *Institute for Molecular Science, Okazaki 444-8585, Japan*; JON T. HOUGEN, *National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8441, USA*.

We have analysed energy levels of CH_3 torsion in the S_0 and S_1 states of 9-methylanthracene (9MA) by high-resolution fluorescence excitation spectrum in a supersonic jet. 9MA has the G_{12} molecular symmetry, which is the same as toluene. The sixfold torsional barrier in toluene is very small, [a] and the barrier height has been accurately determined as $V_6(S_0)$ = 4.874 cm^{-1} and $V_6(S_1)$ = 26.376 cm^{-1} by microwave and ultrahigh-resolution laser spectroscopy. [b,c] In 9MA, we estimated the barrier height as $V_6(S_0) \approx 100$ cm^{-1} and $V_6(S_1) \approx 50$ cm^{-1}, which is remarkably larger than that in toluene. The difference of transition energies between the $0a_1' \rightarrow 0a_1'$ and $1e'' \rightarrow 1e''$ is expected to be about 1 cm^{-1}. We have observed rotationally resolved ultrahigh-resolution spectrum of 9MA in a collimated molecular beam and confirmed this splitting. All of the observed rotational lines exhibit B-type selection rule, and the direction of transition moment has been shown to be parallel to the C_3 axis of the CH_3 group.

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