ULTRAFAST DYNAMICS IN RYDBERG STATES OF ALIPHATIC AMINES

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We investigated the ultrafast dynamics associated with low-n Rydberg states of aliphatic amines seeded in a molecular beam. Time-resolved mass spectra, obtained by [1+1'] multiphoton ionization, show that the α bonds cleave when the internal energy is large. Time-resolved photoelectron spectra reveal the detailed mechanism for distribution of the excitation energy. The 209 nm photons initially populate the $3p$ level, which rapidly decays into a bath of vibrationally excited states of $3s$. As a result of this process, a large amount of energy is inserted into vibrational coordinates, opening the path to cleavage of the α bond.