

BROADBAND ROTATIONAL SPECTRA OF THE SOMAN-RELATED COMPOUNDS: PINACOLYL ALCOHOL AND PINACOLONE

JASON J. PAJSKI, BRIAN C. DIAN, GORDON G. BROWN, KEVIN O. DOUGLASS, RICHARD D. SUENRAM, and BROOKS H. PATE, *Department of Chemistry, University of Virginia, McCormick Rd., P.O. Box 400319, Charlottesville, VA 22904*; DAVID F. PLUSQUELLIC, *Optical Technology Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899*.

The related pair of compounds, pinacolyl alcohol and pinacolone, are reaction precursors/degradation products related to the nerve gas, Soman. Here, the rotational spectra of pinacolyl alcohol ($(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{CC}(\text{OH})\text{CH}_3$) and pinacolone ($(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{CC}(=\text{O})\text{CH}_3$) have been recorded on the University of Virginia CP-FTMW instrument and the cavity mini-FTMW spectrometers at NIST and the University of Virginia. The rotational constants of the alcohol are: $A = 3085$ MHz, $B = 2226$ MHz, $C = 1859$ MHz. No internal rotor splittings from the lone methyl top are observed for the alcohol. For pinacolone, the rotational constants for the A-state are $A = 3192$ MHz, $B = 2293$ MHz, $C = 1928$ MHz. For pinacolone, in addition to the A-state transitions, a number of transitions have been observed that are believed to arise from splittings caused by internal rotation of the lone methyl top in the molecule. The barrier to internal rotation is calculated to be 93 cm^{-1} at the MP2/6-311++G(d,p) level. Rotational assignments of the E-state transitions are pending.