# ISOTOPIC EXCHANGE AND THE REPLACEMENT OF HYDROGEN IN ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

ay A. J. Shatenshlein

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## ИЗОТОПНЫЙ ОБМЕН И ЗАМЕЩЕНИЕ ВОДОРОДА В ОРГАНИЧЕСКИХ СОЕДИНЕНИЯХ

IZOTOPNYI OBMEN
I ZAMESHCHENIE VODORODA
V ORGANICHESKIKH SOEDINENIYAKH

ISOTOPIC EXCHANGE
AND THE REPLACEMENT OF HYDROGEN
IN ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

I dedicate this book to the memory of my brother David Isaevich Shatenshtein

#### PREFACE

Hydrogen replacement reactions play an outstanding part in organic chemistry. They include such industrially important processes as halogenation, nitration, sulfonation, alkylation, and direct amination and metallation of organic substances. It is no accident that the data obtained in the investigation of these reactions have been used extensively in the solution of a series of fundamental problems in theoretical organic chemistry and this tendency still exists.

Isotopic exchanges of hydrogen also belong to this group of chemical conversions. They have attracted considerable attention as they are the simplest and, to some extent, models of hydrogen replacement reactions, which are convenient for elucidating the mechanism of hydrogen replacement and the effects of interaction between atoms in organic molecules.

The mechanisms of hydrogen replacement reactions are examined in this monograph and the most space is allocated to hydrogen isotope exchanges. The mechanisms of all the given reactions are interpreted from the point of view of the acid—base properties of the reagents. In this connection, a large section of the book is devoted to a thorough substantiation of the thesis that hydrocarbons participating in the given reactions act as acids or bases. Problems of acid—base catalysis and the mechanism of acid—base interaction are also discussed. Thus, a considerable part of the book is concerned with problems of the theory of acids and bases.

In general, the contents of this book fall within the field of physical organic chemistry, which is evolving very rapidly nowadays. Most of the phenomena described lie at the meeting point of three sections of chemistry: the study of the structure and reactivity of organic compounds, the chemistry of isotopes, and the theory of acids and bases. It is most tempting to bridge the gap between them and thus make it possible to use the conclusions reached in the study of some phenomena for interpreting the nature of others and also to promote a critical attitude toward some existing generalizations from a new point of view.

Definite opinions are put forward on the nature and mechanism of heterolytic hydrogen exchange in solutions and the mechanisms of acid—base reactions as well as hypotheses on the effect of the medium on the reactivity of organic substances and

on the manifestation of the interaction between atoms in their molecules. These hypotheses required a multiplicity of facts for a thorough and objective substantiation. In the hope of stimulating the discussion of the problems considered in the book, the author has tried to group the material in such a way that concrete scientific conclusions evolve from it and these are formulated at the end of each chapter and section.

Soviet literature includes many books on problems in isotope chemistry, the mechanism of organic reactions, and the theory of acids and bases. It is sufficient to mention the valuable works of A. I. Brodskii, "The Chemistry of Isotopes" (1957), S. Z. Roginskii, "Theoretical Bases of Isotopic Methods of Studying Chemical Reactions" (1956), O. A. Reutov, "Theoretical Problems in Organic Chemistry" (1956), and N. A. Izmailov, "Electrochemistry of Solutions" (1959). I should also mention my previous monograph, "Theories of Acids and Bases." It seemed useless to duplicate the contents of these books. The reader can refer to them for further information. The present monograph summarizes and generalizes data obtained by Soviet and foreign authors and published in journals mainly in the decade up to and including 1958. Some work from 1959 is mentioned.\*

The book contains numerous cross references, which help to associate the material in the different sections.

The monograph is the final outcome of investigations of the isotopic exchange of hydrogen in nonaqueous solutions under the general direction of the Scientific Council of the "Theory of Chemical Structure, Kinetics, and Reactivity" of the Division of Chemical Sciences of the Academy of Sciences USSR. The author is very grateful to the chairman of the Scientific Council Academician V. N. Kondrat'ev for his interest in these investigations and assistance in the publication of the book. The author considers it his pleasant duty to thank the Responsible Editor M. I. Kabachnik for much valuable advice and fruitful discussion and Academician Acad. Sci. Ukr. SSR A. I. Brodskii and Corresponding Member Acad. Sci. Ukr. SSR N. A. Izmailov for friendly help in the form of a critical review of the manuscript and valuable comments. All remarks as to the shortcomings of the book will be gratefully received.

Moscow, May, 1959

<sup>\*</sup>The translation includes supplementary material written by the author, which takes into consideration work published in 1959-1961.

## THE FOLLOWING SOVIET JOURNALS CITED IN THIS BOOK ARE AVAILABLE IN COVER-TO-COVER TRANSLATION

Russian Title	English Title	Publisher
Doklady Akademii Nauk SSSR	Proceedings of the Ac- ademy of Sciences USSR	Consultants Bureau (chemistry sections)
Kinetika i kataliz	Kinetics and Catalysis	Consultants Bureau
Optika i spektroskopiya	Optics and Spectroscopy	American Institute of Physics
Izvestiya Akademii Nauk SSSR, Otdelenie khimicheskikh nauk	Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences USSR, Division of Chem- ical Sciences	Consultants Bureau
Zhurnal fizicheskoi khimii	Journal of Physical Chemistry USSR	The Chemical Society (London)
Zhurnal obshchei khimii	Journal of General Chemistry USSR	Consultants Bureau

#### INTRODUCTION

The history of any science is an absorbing account of the discovery of new phenomena and their generalization, the rise and development of concepts, hypotheses, and theories, and the interaction of ideas.

In chemistry there are many concepts that have occupied the thoughts of scientists for centuries and these include an element, valence, chemical affinity, etc. The concepts of "acid" and "base" have an even longer history as the peculiar properties of fermented grape juice and an infusion of wood ash have been known since remote antiquity. An attempt to follow the successive changes in the ideas on acids and bases was made in the monograph, Theories of Acids and Bases [1].

The hydrogen theory of acids originated at the beginning of the last century. Davy, Ampère, and Gay-Lussac discovered that hydrochloric, hydrofluoric, and prussic acids contain hydrogen. The idea that acids must contain hydrogen was expressed particularly clearly by Dulong. An important stage in the history of the hydrogen theory is associated with the name of Liebig. He defined acids as hydrogen compounds in which the hydrogen may be replaced by a metal. This definition is still of some value. The success of Arrhenius' theory of electrolytic dissociation stimulated a re-examination of the definition of acids and alkalis. The acidity and alkalinity of substances were related to their dissociation in aqueous solution to form hydrogen ions (H<sup>+</sup>) and hydroxyl ions (OH<sup>-</sup>), respectively.

To counterbalance Arrhenius' physical theory of solutions, D. I. Mendeleev put forward a chemical theory of solutions and the Russian physical chemists D. P. Konovalov, I. A. Kablukov, and others participated actively in substantiating it.

Hantzsch, Franklin, Kraus, P. I. Walden, V. A. Plotnikov, and many other scientists helped to develop the chemistry and physical chemistry of nonaqueous solutions. The study of nonaqueous solutions showed that the properties and reactions of aqueous solutions of acids and alkalis are similar to those of solutions which not only contain no H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> ions, but do not even conduct an electric current.

In 1923 Brønsted [2] and Lowry [3] simultaneously and independently defined acids and bases as donors and acceptors of protons. The new definition agreed well with all

experimental material. Brønsted's orderly quantitative theory of acid—base equilibrium and catalysis has had a great influence on the investigations of chemists in different countries for several decades. Nonetheless, in the summary of the results achieved during the twenty-five years that Brønsted's theory has existed given in the monograph Theories of Acids and Bases [1] it was noted that there were already serious deviations from the theory and its limitations were beginning to be felt, while in the last decade so many facts have accumulated which do not agree with Brønsted's theory that a reexamination of it has become imperative. N. A. Izmailov [4] has established experimentally a theory of the dissociation of acids and bases, which allows for considerably greater complexity of the dissociation process than follows from Brønsted's theory. The equations of Brønsted's qualitative theory were found to be a particular case of N. A. Izmailov's equations.

The transfer of a proton, to which Brønsted reduced the reaction between an acid and a base, is actually only the final stage of an acid—base interaction. It occurs only under favorable conditions.

Brønsted greatly extended the scope of acids and bases, but still did not cover the whole range of acid—base processes. This became evident with the application of methods that were more sensitive than classical ones, namely, potentiometry, conductimetry, and electronic spectrophotometry. Measurements of infrared spectra, dipole moments, and proton magnetic resonance have made it possible to not only detect, but even characterize quantitatively much weaker interactions of the same type as normal acid—base reactions.

One extremely sensitive method utilizes the isotopic exchange of hydrogen in nonaqueous protophilic (basic) and protogenic (acidic) media. This was used in the Isotopic Reactions Laboratory of the L. Ya. Karpov Physicochemical Institute over the last ten years for a systematic study of the acidic and basic properties of various hydrocarbons.

Isotopes play a predominant part in contemporary science. They help investigators to elucidate the details of chemical reaction mechanisms, to obtain much important information on the reactivity and structure of substances, etc. Exchange reactions in which atoms of the same element participate can be followed readily by the use of isotopes. Such reactions were predicted by D. I. Mendeleev [5] in 1886: "In a mass of molecules there must or, at least, there may be exchange movement of the atoms. If we have the molecules AB and AB, then A from the former may transfer to the latter molecule and back."

Among the stable isotopes, the heavy isotope of hydrogen, deuterium, which was discovered by Urey, Brickwedde, and Murphy in 1932 [6], has been of the greatest value in chemical investigations. Gaseous deuterium was obtained by fractionation of liquid hydrogen. Washburn and Urey [7], and Lewis and MacDonald [8] soon proposed a simpler method of separating hydrogen isotopes by electrolysis of water; "heavy water" was obtained in this way. Even in the first work with it, Lewis [9], Hall [10], Bonhöffer [11], Klar [12], and other scientists discovered that it was then possible to make a detailed study of the isotopic exchange of hydrogen for deuterium or, more briefly, deuterium exchange. In the USSR, A. I. Brodskii [13] prepared water enriched in heavy isotopes of hydrogen and oxygen and used it successfully for many valuable studies in isotopic chemistry.

#### INTRODUCTION

The hydrogen bound by O-H, N-H, S-H, and Hal-H bonds exchanges very rapidly with heavy water, but it is not usually possible to effect this exchange with C-H bonds, which is most promising for the solution of many problems in theoretical organic chemistry. It is readily observed that the exchange of hydrogen for the deuterium of heavy water occurs only with the C-H bonds of substances which are weak acids or weak bases in aqueous solutions and the exchange is catalyzed by strong acids and bases. Ingold [14] was able to replace hydrogen in some hydrocarbons by deuterium by the action of deuterosulfuric acid. These facts suggest the acid-base nature of hydrogen exchange in solutions and from this it follows that if the acidic or basic properties of hydrocarbons and their derivatives are increased by the use of appropriate solvents and catalysts, hydrogen exchange in C-H bonds becomes a normal phenomenon [15]. Knowledge of the rules of acid-base equilibrium and catalysis in nonaqueous solutions has helped in the search for solvents and catalysts which have made it possible to extend the range of hydrogen exchange reactions considerably. In addition, knowledge of the rules of acid-base interaction has made it possible to predict the factors which must affect hydrogen exchange.

Studies on hydrogen exchange in nonaqueous solutions were begun in the Isotopic Reactions Laboratory of the L. Ya. Karpov Physicochemical Institute on the basis of Brønsted's theory, which was found to be of inestimable help in their development [16]. At the same time, the results of these studies have made the limitations of the theory obvious as was also the case in the development of other aspects of acid-base interaction. The accumulation of knowledge of acids and bases has made it necessary to extend the concept of protolytic reactions and to determine their mechanism more accurately.

The isotopic exchange of hydrogen has much in common with chemical hydrogen replacement reactions. Ingold was the first to note this when he compared deuterium exchange between aromatic hydrocarbons and sulfuric acid with reactions of the former involving strong acids (nitration and sulfonation). However, isotopic reactions are much simpler as the molecular structure of the substance remains almost unchanged during the replacement of hydrogen by its isotope. If we neglect the small change in free energy caused by the differences in the zero point energies of bonds with tritium, deuterium, and protium, then it may be assumed that there is no thermal effect during isotopic exchange and the reaction is determined solely by kinetic parameters. In most cases the kinetics of isotopic exchange can be described quite accurately by a simple first-order equation. By measuring the rate of the exchange of deuterium for ordinary hydrogen in various monodeutero derivatives of the same compound in different solvents, one can readily evaluate quantitatively the reactivities of nonequivalent atoms in the molecule, examine the fine effects of the interaction of atoms, and observe the active role of the medium.

The book consists of five sections. In the first section the classification of reagents and reactions is described and it is shown that only acids and bases may participate in heterolytic hydrogen exchange reactions. In the second section there is a comparison od data on the catalysis of hydrogen exchange by acids and bases, which demonstrates the nature of this catalysis and provides a key to the understanding

<sup>\*</sup>In this book, hydrogen replacements which differ from isotopic reactions are arbitrarily termed chemical. Isotopic reactions essentially are also chemical.

of the mechanism of exchange reactions. The third section consists of a detailed review of the literature on the properties of hydrocarbons as acids and bases. This material demonstrates the need for extending the field of acids and bases beyond the limits set by Brønsted's theory and provides further proof for the thesis on the acid—base nature of hydrogen exchange in solutions. The fourth section contains a discussion of the mechanism of acid—base interaction and a new definition of acids and bases is formulated. Finally, in the fifth and last section of the book the mechanisms of hydrogen replacement in heterolytic chemical reactions are examined. A knowledge of them, together with an understanding of the mechanism of acid—base reactions, is essential for an accurate appraisal of the mechanism of hydrogen exchange in solutions.

The principles of methods of preparing deuterium compounds are examined in the Appendix.

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#### SECTION I

### TYPES OF REAGENTS AND REACTIONS

In order to be clear on the place of hydrogen isotope exchange reactions among other reactions, it is essential to be familiar with the existing classification of reagents and reactions [1-7].

#### 1. OXIDIZING AND REDUCING AGENTS

When an atom is converted into an ion, it donates or adds one or several electrons. A substance whose atoms act as electron donors is called a reducing agent and one whose atoms act as electron acceptors, an oxidizing agent.

An oxidation-reduction process is represented by equations (1) and (2):

where e is an electron.

An oxidation-reduction reaction actually occurs only when an electron donor and an electron acceptor are present at the same time. Summing equations (1) and (2) gives the equation of an oxidation-reduction reaction:

Examples of the reactions are the mutual ionization of sodium and chlorine atoms (4) and the formation of a hydride from atomic sodium and hydrogen (5):

$$red_1 \rightleftharpoons ox_1 + e^-; ox_2 + e^- \rightleftharpoons red_2; red_1 + ox_2 \rightleftharpoons ox_1 + red_2$$

$$Na \stackrel{\longrightarrow}{\longrightarrow} Na^+ + e^-; Cl + e^- \stackrel{\longrightarrow}{\longrightarrow} Cl^-; Na + Cl \stackrel{\longrightarrow}{\longrightarrow} Na^+ + Cl^-$$
 (4)

$$Na \stackrel{\rightarrow}{\rightleftharpoons} Na^+ + e^-; H + e^- \stackrel{\rightarrow}{\rightleftharpoons} H^-; Na + H \stackrel{\rightarrow}{\rightleftharpoons} Na^+ + H^-.$$
 (5)

Oxidation—reduction relationships extend to reactions between an atom and an ion (6), between ions (7) and (8), between an atom or an ion and a molecule (9) and (10), and between molecules (11).