

# A Molecular Electron Density Theory Study of the Mechanism of the Reaction Between Bromotrichloromethane and Triethylphosphite.

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**ABSTRACT:** In present study we employed the method to determine certain thermodynamic descriptors, transition states, global reactivity Indicator like the energies of the highest occupied and lowest unoccupied molecular orbitals ( $\epsilon_H$ , respectively), the difference between the two ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) gaps, electronic chemical potential  $\mu$ , chemical hardness  $\eta$ , global electrophilicity index  $\omega$  and global nucleophilicity index  $N$ , and local reactivity like the electrophilic and nucleophilic Parr functions, as the most relevant indices for the reaction between bromotrichloromethane and triethylphosphite. In vibrational frequencies calculation, no imaginary frequency was shown.

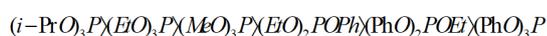
Our results show that triethylphosphite behaves as a nucleophile, while bromotrichloromethane behaves as an electrophile. The nucleophilic attack takes place preferentially at the halogen (Br or Cl) atom of the bromotrichloromethane rather than at the carbon atom. The reaction is exothermic, polar and regioselective. These results are comparable to those obtained experimentally.

**Key Words:** Bromotrichloromethane; ; Reactivity indices; Parr functions; Transition state; Triethylphosphite.

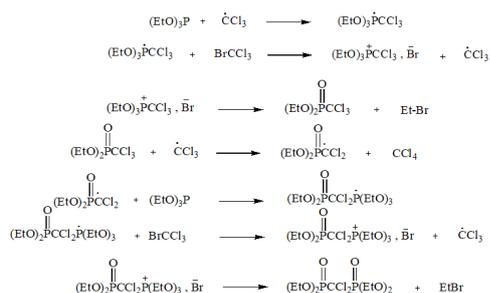
## INTRODUCTION

The reaction between the trivalent phosphorus derivatives and certain polyhalogenoalkanes leads to the formation of a number of products [1,2], some of which have numerous applications in industry [3] and biology [4]. The nature of the products obtained varies considerably depending on the structure of the reactants, which suggests that there are significant variations in the reaction mechanism [5,6].

The reactivity of trivalent phosphorus with regard to polyhalogenomethanes in general and tetrachloromethane in particular has already been the subject of several studies [7,8]. This reactivity varies according to the nature of the substituents carried by the phosphorus atom and increases as its electro positivity increases.



A number of reaction mechanisms have been proposed to describe these reactions [9-11]. Kamai and Egorova were the first to study the reaction between triethylphosphite and bromotrichloromethane, in 1946 [12]. At room temperature, this reaction is extremely vigorous and is complete in a few minutes. According to Griffin [13], and to Cadogan and Bunyan [14], the reaction involves a radical chain mechanism as shown below:



These authors present this reaction mechanism without describing how the trichloromethyl radical is formed from bromotrichloromethane at the initial stage. In

order to clarify this, Bakkas [15] carried out a controllable thermic reaction between triethylphosphite and bromotrichloromethane at 60°C, using heptane as solvent. The reaction led to the formation of a very complex mixture. He proposed an ionic reaction mechanism starting with mono-electron transfer from phosphite to bromotrichloromethane. However, nucleophilic attack at the halogen, whether this is chlorine or bromine, appears the most probable in view of the results obtained in our laboratory.

At the same time, a number of theories have been put forward to explain chemical reactivity in general. The most widely used are transition state theory [16] and frontier molecular orbital theory [17]. Recently new chemical concepts and reactivity indices derived from density functional theory (DFT) have emerged as powerful tools for the prediction of reactive sites in molecular systems [18,19]. Some of these concepts are already familiar to chemists, e.g. electronic chemical potential  $\mu$  and electronegativity  $\chi$ . New concepts such as electrophilicity  $\omega$  and chemical hardness  $\eta$  have been derived from the fundamental equations of DFT.

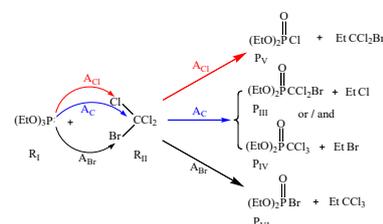


Figure 1. Reaction between bromotrichloromethane and triethylphosphite.

Our aim in this work was to carry out a theoretical study, using basis set, of the reaction between bromotrichloromethane and triethylphosphite in order to determine whether the phosphorus atom, which behaves here as a nucleophile, attacks the bromine (A<sub>Br</sub>), the chlorine (A<sub>Cl</sub>) or the carbon (A<sub>C</sub>) of the bromotrichloromethane, which behave as electrophilic centres (Fig.1).

## Method of calculation

We employed the method [20,21] to study the mechanism and equilibrium

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geometries of the reaction between bromotrichloromethane and triethylphosphite, as well as the transition states corresponding to the three attacks  $A_{\text{C}}$ ,  $A_{\text{Br}}$  and  $A_{\text{Cl}}$ . We localised the transition states and confirmed their existence by the presence of a single imaginary frequency in the Hessian matrix. The Intrinsic Reaction Coordinate (IRC) [22] was calculated and plotted in order to show that the transition state is indeed linked to the two minima (reactants and products). Enthalpy, entropy and free energy were calculated using standard statistical thermodynamics. All calculations were carried out using the level of theory with Gaussian 09W software [23].

In order to determine the electrophilic/nucleophilic nature of the reactants, we calculated the  $\mu$  (electronic chemical potential) and  $\eta$  (global hardness). These two statistical values directly extracted from the output files such as the energy of the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO), energy of the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO), as  $\epsilon_{\text{LUMO}}$  and  $\epsilon_{\text{HOMO}}$  respectively [24]. The global electrophilicity index ( $\omega$ ) is also defined as the energy stabilisation due to charge transfer [25]. It has been shown that the nucleophilic nature of a molecule can be determined without taking account of its electron density [26]. The nucleophilicity index  $N$  is expressed in terms of the tetracyanoethylene (TCE) as [27].

The global Reactivity indices were calculated from the energies in the base state of the molecules using the level of theory. Static indices of (local electrophilicity) [28] and (local nucleophilicity) [26] can reliably predict the most favoured reaction between the electrophile and the nucleophile in the formation of a chemical bond between two atoms. Indices of  $\omega$  and  $N$  are given by the expressions  $\omega_{\text{L}}$  and  $N_{\text{L}}$ , respectively, where  $\omega_{\text{L}}$  and  $N_{\text{L}}$  are obtained by analysis of the Mulliken atomic spin density of the anion and the cation [29].

## Results and discussion

### Thermodynamic study

In order to understand the reactivity of triethylphosphite ((EtO)<sub>3</sub>P) in relation to bromotrichloromethane (BrCCl<sub>3</sub>) (Fig.1) we employed the level of theory to calculate the variations in reaction energy  $\Delta E_{\text{r}}$ , reaction standard enthalpy  $\Delta H_{\text{r}}$  and reaction free enthalpy  $\Delta G_{\text{r}}$  corresponding to the formation of the compounds P\_III, P\_IV, P\_V and P\_VI (Table 1).

	$\Delta(TS_{\text{C}} - TS_{\text{Cl}})$ kcal/mol	$\Delta(TS_{\text{C}} - TS_{\text{Br}})$ kcal/mol	$\Delta(TS_{\text{Br}} - TS_{\text{Cl}})$ kcal/mol	$K_{\text{Cl}}/K_{\text{C}}$	$K_{\text{Br}}/K_{\text{C}}$
(EtO) <sub>3</sub> P + BrCCl <sub>3</sub>	18.83	.....	6.27	6.38	.....
				10 <sup>13</sup>	
	$A_{\text{Br}}/A_{\text{C}}$	12.55		.....	1.59 10 <sup>9</sup>

Table 1. Calculated values of the reaction energy  $\Delta E_{\text{r}}$ , reaction standard enthalpy  $\Delta H_{\text{r}}$  and reaction free enthalpy  $\Delta G_{\text{r}}$  (Kcal/(mol)).

As Table 1 shows,  $\Delta G_{\text{r}}$  is always negative, whatever the mode of attack. This means that these reactions are not only possible, but also thermodynamically preferred. The value of  $\Delta G_{\text{r}}$  corresponding to the formation of compound P\_VI is greater in absolute terms than that corresponding to the formation of compound P\_V, showing that compound P\_VI is more stable thermodynamically than compound P\_V and that the phosphorus attacks the bromine rather than the chlorine.

We found that the formation of compounds P\_III and P\_IV which result from an attack at the carbon atom ( $A_{\text{C}}$ ) is thermodynamically less favoured than the formation of compounds P\_V and P\_VI. Free enthalpy of formation of these last two is greater in absolute terms than that of products P\_III and P\_IV, showing that the most favourable site for the attack is the halogen (Cl or Br) rather than the carbon.

We also found that the value of  $\Delta E_{\text{r}}$  corresponding to the formation of compound P\_VI is greater in absolute terms than that corresponding to the formation of compound P\_V, which confirms that the most favoured site of attack is the bromine atom.

### Frontier molecular orbitals

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Frontier molecular orbital theory (FMOT) requires that the orbitals to be considered in the interaction between two molecules should be the (nucleophile) of one molecule reacting with the (electrophile) of a second molecule chosen in such a way that the energy difference is as small as possible [30]. The  $\epsilon_{\text{LUMO}}$  and  $\epsilon_{\text{HOMO}}$  are directly obtainable, alongside with the  $\Delta E_{\text{gap}}$  from the computational output. The  $\Delta E_{\text{gap}}$  has served as a simple measure of kinetic stability [31]. A molecule with a small energy gap value is chemically reactive [32]. Pearson showed that the energy gap value represents the chemical hardness of the molecule. Zhou and Parr discussed the chemical reactivity of cyclic p-electronic systems using the  $\epsilon_{\text{LUMO}}$  of the reactant and the transition state. The  $\epsilon_{\text{LUMO}}$  of triethylphosphite and bromotrichloromethane are calculated by level of theory and depicted in Fig.2. The orbital diagram (Fig.2) gives a good qualitative indication of the reactivity between the LUMO of (EtO)<sub>3</sub>P and the HOMO of BrCCl<sub>3</sub>.

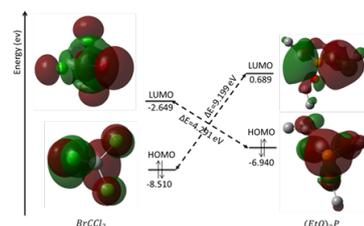


Figure 2. Orbital diagram of triethylphosphite and the bromotrichloromethane (BrCCl<sub>3</sub>).

Localisation of the molecular orbitals of triethylphosphite and bromotrichloromethane (Fig.2) shows that the LUMO is very concentrated around the phosphorus atom while the HOMO is concentrated around the bromine atom, indicating that the nucleophilic attack by the phosphorus atom takes place primarily at the bromine atom.

## Chemical concepts and reactivity indices based on DFT

### Predicting the nature of the reaction mechanism and the electrophilic/nucleophilic character of the reaction

In order to determine which reactant behaves as a nucleophile (electron donor) and which as an electrophile (electron acceptor), we calculated the energy gap for each pair of reactants (Table 2).

Reactants	$E_{\text{LUMO}}$	$E_{\text{HOMO}}$	$ E_{\text{HOMO}} - E_{\text{LUMO}}(\text{BrCCl}_3) $	$ E_{\text{HOMO}}(\text{BrCCl}_3) - E_{\text{LUMO}} $
(EtO) <sub>3</sub> P	0.689	-6.940		
BrCCl <sub>3</sub>	-2.649	-8.510	4.291	9.199

Table 2. Difference between the two possible energy ( $\Delta E_{\text{gap}}$ ) combinations for triethylphosphite and the polyhalogenoalkane BrCCl<sub>3</sub> (eV).

From the Table 2, it can be seen that the  $|E_{\text{HOMO}} - E_{\text{LUMO}}(\text{BrCCl}_3)|$  gap are smaller than the

$|E_{\text{HOMO}}(\text{BrCCl}_3) - E_{\text{LUMO}}(\text{EtO})_3\text{P}|$  gap and thus that triethylphosphite behaves as a nucleophile in this reaction, while bromotrichloromethane behaves as an electrophile.

Theoretical study of the  $|E_{\text{HOMO}} - E_{\text{LUMO}}|$  differences of and allows us to predict whether the interaction between these two reactants is NED (Normal Electron Demand) or IED (Inverse Electron Demand) in character. Global indices based on conceptual DFT/B3LYP [18] are effective tools for studying the reactivity of polar interactions.

We analysed the reactivity at various sites in the reactants using the static global properties of triethylphosphite and bromotrichloromethane, namely electronic chemical potential  $\mu$ , chemical hardness  $\eta$ , global electrophilicity index  $\omega$  and global nucleophilicity index  $N$  (Table 3).

Reactants	$E_{LUMO}$	$E_{HOMO}$	$\mu$	$\eta$	$\omega$	$N$	$\Delta\omega$
$(EtO)_3P$	0.689	-6.940	-3.125	7.629	0.640	2.428	....
$BrCCl_3$	-2.649	-8.510	-5.579	5.861	2.655	0.858	2.015

Table 3. electronic chemical potential,  $\mu$ , Hardness,  $\eta$ , electrophilicity  $\omega$  and global nucleophilicity  $N_{of}$  and  $\Delta\omega$  of  $BrCCl_3$ .

We found that  $BrCCl_3$  behave as electrophile (electron acceptor), while triethylphosphite behaves as a nucleophile (electron donor).  $BrCCl_3$  has the highest electrophilicity index ( $\omega=2.655$  eV) and the lowest nucleophilicity index ( $N=0.858$  eV). Furthermore, the electronic chemical potential of

$(EtO)_3P$  is higher than that of  $BrCCl_3$  ( $\mu=-5.579$  eV), indicating that electrons are transferred from  $(EtO)_3P$  to  $BrCCl_3$ .

The difference in electrophilicity ( $\Delta\omega=2.015$  eV) between  $BrCCl_3$  and  $(EtO)_3P$  indicates that this reaction is highly NED in character.

### Predicting the local reactivity of the reactants

According to Chattaraj's polar model [31,32], the local philicity indices  $N_K$  and  $N_{Kcan}$  reliably predict the most favoured interaction between two polar centres. The most favoured interaction is that associated with the highest local electrophilicity index  $\omega_K$  of the electrophile and the highest local nucleophilicity index  $N_K$  of the nucleophile.

We used DFT/B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) to calculate the Parr functions ( $\omega_K$ ) of the two reactants, and from these we calculated the values of local nucleophilicity  $N_K$  for  $(EtO)_3P$  and local electrophilicity  $\omega_K$  for  $BrCCl_3$ , in order to predict the most likely electrophile/nucleophile interaction throughout the reaction pathway, and thus to explain the regioselectivity of the reaction. Table 4 shows the most active sites in the reactants. The bromine atom Br is the most electrophilic site in  $BrCCl_3$  ( $\omega_{Br}=0.345$  eV), while the phosphorus atom P is the most nucleophilic site in  $(EtO)_3P$  ( $N_P=0.990$  eV). We can therefore deduce that the most favoured reaction takes place between the phosphorus atom P of  $(EtO)_3P$  and the bromine atom Br of  $BrCCl_3$ .

	$(EtO)_3P$				$BrCCl_3$				
	$P_1$	$O_2$	$O_3$	$O_4$	$C_1$	$Br_2$	$Cl_3$	$Cl_4$	$Cl_5$
$P_K^+$					0.236	<u>0.345</u>	0.139	0.140	0.140
$P_K^-$	<u>0.399</u>	0.026	0.275	0.222					
$\omega_K$					0.626	<u>0.915</u>	0.369	0.371	0.371
$N_K$	<u>0.990</u>	0.064	0.682	0.551					

Table 4. Parr functions ( $\omega_K$ ), local electrophilicity  $\omega_K$  and local nucleophilicity  $N_K$  of  $(EtO)_3P$  and  $BrCCl_3$  using DFT at the level of theory.

### Electrostatic potential

3D-distribution of MEPs is highly useful in predicting the reactive sites behavior of the triethylphosphite and the polyhalogenoalkane. We analysed the MEPs and found that our results confirmed the electrophilic nature of bromine. The electrostatic potential at a point is defined as the electrostatic interaction energy of an imaginary charge of +1.0 a.u. with all the nuclei and electrons in a molecular system. This is expressed as:

$$V_{PES}(r) = \sum_A \frac{Z_A}{|R_A - r|} - \int \frac{\rho(r')}{|r' - r|} dr'$$

Areas of negative electrostatic potential are susceptible to electrophilic attack, while areas of positive potential are more susceptible to nucleophilic attack [33-35]. Theoretical determination of electrostatic potential using DFT at level are summarized in Figure 3, shows that the main interaction takes place between the bromine, which is the most electrophilic centre of

$BrCCl_3$ , and the phosphorus of  $(EtO)_3P$ , which is the most reactive and nucleophilic

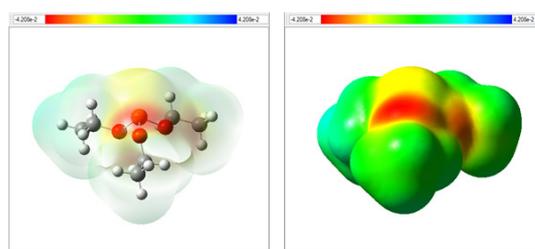
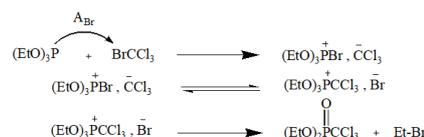


Figure 3. Molecular Electrostatic Potentials (MEPs) surfaces of  $(EtO)_3P$  and  $BrCCl_3$  using DFT at the level of theory. (Red: most negative electrostatic potential, Blue: most positive electrostatic potential and Green: moderately positive electrostatic potential)

### Example of a nucleophilic attack at the bromine atom

$(EtO)_3P$  reacts with  $BrCCl_3$  to give a complex mixture of phosphorus-containing and polyhalogenated products, the exact composition of which depends on the experimental conditions, and in particular on the mode of attack of the phosphorus on  $BrCCl_3$  ( $A_{Br}$ ,  $A_{Cl}$ , or  $A_C$ ). The simultaneous formation of bromate and chlorate phosphorus derivatives, respectively  $(EtO)_2P(O)Br$ ,  $(EtO)_2P(O)Cl$  and  $(EtO)_2P(O)CCl_3$ ,  $(EtO)_2P(O)Cl$ , shows that these modes of attack are competitive.

For example, the formation of trichloromethylphosphonate  $(EtO)_2P(O)CCl_3$  results from a nucleophilic attack on the bromine atom as shown in the following diagram:



The phosphite tends to react with bromine rather than with chlorine because of the energy difference between the C-Br and C-Cl bonds [36] (Table 5). The strength of the bond is directly related to its length: the longer the bond, the weaker it is.

Molecules	Bonds	Distances (Å)	Bond energies (Kcal/mol)
$CCl_4$	C-Cl	1.9872	490.0347
$BrCCl_3$	C-Cl	1.7888	491.9235
	C-Br	1.9743	437.4369
$Br_2CCl_2$	C-Cl	1.9879	493.8625
	C-Br	1.9837	439.8653

Table 5. Interatomic distance and bond energy of certain polyhalogenomethanes calculated by B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) basis set.

### Kinetic study of the nucleophilic attack of $(EtO)_3P$ on $BrCCl_3$ ( $A_C$ ), $A_{Cl}$ and $A_{Br}$ )

In order to determine the nature of the nucleophilic attack by the phosphorus atom on  $BrCCl_3$  ( $A_C$ ,  $A_{Cl}$  and  $A_{Br}$ ), we calculated the energy of the reactants and the products formed, relative energy, energy of the transition states ( $\ddagger TS_{Cl}$ ),  $\ddagger TS_{Cl}$  and  $\ddagger TS_{Br}$ ), energy difference of the transition states and the ratios  $K_{Cl}/K_C$  and  $K_{Br}/K_C$  of the reactions between  $BrCCl_3$  and  $(EtO)_3P$ .

### Comparison of the three nucleophilic modes of attack by the phosphorus atom on the bromine, chlorine and carbon atoms ( $A_C$ ), $A_{Cl}$ and $A_{Br}$ )

The potential energy surface corresponding to the two nucleophilic modes of attack on the bromine and carbon atoms during the reaction between  $BrCCl_3$  and  $(EtO)_3P$  (Figure 4) shows that the energy of the transition state corresponding to the bromine attack ( $\ddagger TS_{Br}$ ) is 0.0118 a.u. (equivalent to 7.4046 Kcal/mol) lower than that corresponding to the carbon attack ( $\ddagger TS_{C}$  ( $CCl_3$ )). The activation energies corresponding to the two modes of

attack are 43.4675 kcal/mol for A\_Br and 50.9035 kcal/mol for A\_C. It follows that the attack on the bromine atom is kinetically favoured relative to the attack on the carbon atom.

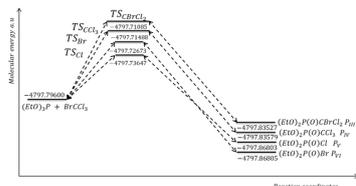


Figure 4. Energy profile in a.u. of the reaction between  $\text{BrCCl}_3$  and  $(\text{EtO})_3\text{P}$ .

Figure 4 shows that for the two modes of attack (A\_Cl and A\_C) the transition state energy for the chlorine attack ( $\text{TS}_{\text{Cl}}$ ) is 0.0256 a.u. higher than that for the carbon attack ( $\text{TS}_{\text{C}}$ ) (equivalent to 16.0642 kcal/mol). Activation energies for the two modes of attack are 37.3556 kcal/mol for A\_Cl and 53.4324 kcal/mol for A\_C. This indicates that the attack on the chlorine atom is preferred to the attack on the carbon atom. The transition state ( $\text{TS}_{\text{Cl}}$ ) (corresponding to the attack on the chlorine atom) for an activation energy of 37.3556 kcal/mol is 6.1119 kcal/mol lower than  $\text{TS}_{\text{Br}}$  (corresponding to the attack on the bromine atom). This shows that the products resulting from the attack at the chlorine atom are kinetically preferred. The four transition state structures optimized using basis set are depicted in Fig. 5.

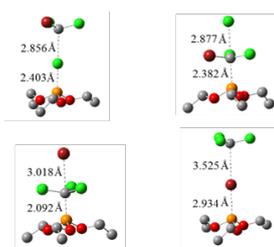


Figure 5. Bond lengths of the transition states in the reaction between triethyl phosphite and bromotrichloromethane.

#### Determination of the reaction pathway (IRC)

We determined the changes in the molecular system during the reaction between  $\text{BrCCl}_3$  and  $(\text{EtO})_3\text{P}$ , calculating the intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) in order to show that in each case the transition state is indeed linked to the minima of the reactants and the products.

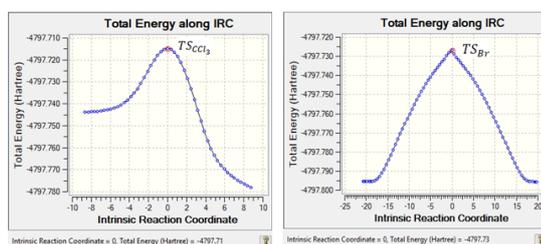


Figure 6. IRC of the reaction between  $\text{BrCCl}_3$  and  $(\text{EtO})_3\text{P}$  calculated using DFT/B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) (A\_Br/A\_C).

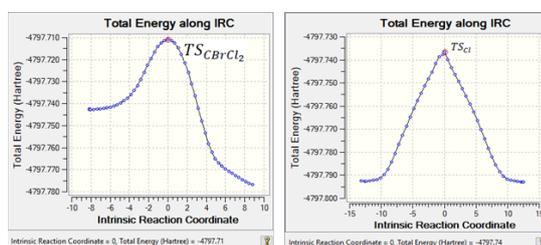


Figure 7. IRC of the reaction between  $\text{BrCCl}_3$  and  $(\text{EtO})_3\text{P}$  calculated using DFT/B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) (A\_Cl/A\_C).

We can deduce from this theoretical study that :

- the three nucleophilic modes of attack by  $(\text{EtO})_3\text{P}$  on  $\text{BrCCl}_3$  (A\_C, A\_Cl and A\_Br) are all thermodynamically possible;
- even though the local electrophilicity of carbon (0.236 eV) is greater than that of chlorine (0.140 eV), the attack at A\_C is discouraged by the steric hindrance around the chlorine and bromine atoms;
- the attack on the carbon atom A\_C is kinetically unfavorable given the very high ratio of the speed constants of the different nucleophilic modes of attack ( $k_{\text{Cl}}/k_{\text{C}}$  and  $k_{\text{Br}}/k_{\text{C}}$ ) (Table 6)

Table 6 shows that:

- The ratio  $k_{\text{Br}}/k_{\text{C}}$  is greater than the ratio  $k_{\text{Cl}}/k_{\text{C}}$ , showing that the formation of the products resulting from the attack on the bromine atom is kinetically preferred to the formation of the products resulting from the attack on the chlorine atom. In other words, the substitution of a bromine atom in place of chlorine increases the kinetic constant  $k_{\text{Br}}$  relative to  $k_{\text{Cl}}$ , confirming that the attack on the bromine atom is more favoured.
- The energy difference  $\Delta(\text{TS}_{\text{Br}}/\text{TS}_{\text{Cl}})$  is smaller than  $\Delta(\text{TS}_{\text{C}}/\text{TS}_{\text{Br}})$  and  $\Delta(\text{TS}_{\text{C}}/\text{TS}_{\text{Cl}})$ , showing that the products resulting from the attack on the halogen (chlorine or bromine) are kinetically favoured relative to the products resulting from the attack on the carbon atom.

Table 6. Energy difference between the transition states and the ratio  $k_{\text{Cl}}/k_{\text{C}}$  and  $k_{\text{Br}}/k_{\text{C}}$  of the reactions between  $(\text{EtO})_3\text{P}$  and  $\text{BrCCl}_3$ , calculated using DFT/B3LYP/6-311G(d,p).

#### Conclusion

We used DFT (density functional theory) with the standard base 6-311G(d,p) and the B3LYP functional to determine the variation in free enthalpy  $\Delta G_{\text{r}}$  and show that whatever the mode of attack by the phosphorus (ACl, ACand ABr) on  $\text{BrCCl}_3$ , the corresponding variations in free enthalpy  $\Delta G_{\text{r}}$  are negative. This shows that these nucleophilic attacks are thermodynamically possible.

Calculation of the global indices shows that  $(\text{EtO})_3\text{P}$  behaves as a nucleophile while  $\text{BrCCl}_3$  behaves as an electrophile. The experimentally determined regioselectivity was also confirmed by the local electrophilicity and nucleophilicity indices  $\rho^+$  and  $N_k$ .

The variation in reaction enthalpy  $\Delta H_{\text{r}}$  is highly exothermic for the reaction leading to the formation of compound VI, showing that this reaction is preferred since the products formed are stable and their formation releases energy.

Localisation of the HOMO of  $(\text{EtO})_3\text{P}$  and the LUMO of  $\text{BrCCl}_3$  shows that the phosphorus atom is the most nucleophilic centre of  $(\text{EtO})_3\text{P}$ , while bromine is the most electrophilic centre of  $\text{BrCCl}_3$ .

Calculation of the transition states shows that the kinetic products of the reaction between  $\text{BrCCl}_3$  and  $(\text{EtO})_3\text{P}$  are formed by the attack on the halogen atoms bromine and chlorine, with a preference for bromine.

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