Quantum Mechanical Studies of 2,5-didehydropyrrole

Brian Doherty and Carol Parish

Department of Chemistry, Gottwald Center for the Sciences, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173

This study focuses on the diradical structure of pyrrole with radicals at the 2, 5 positions. These species are likely formed via the high temperature pyrolysis of asphaltenes contained in oil shale. Also, a better understanding of diradical behavior may advance the development of anti-cancer drugs and allow the design of more selective Bergman cyclization and subsequent formation of the active diradical species. The structure of 2,5-didehydropyrrole was optimized using single-(CCSD(T)/DZ and TZ) and multi-reference (CAS(8,8), MCSCF, MR-CI) methods. Structures and energies of the singlet and triplet spin states were examined in order to determine singlet-triplet energy splittings. The data was collected and compared using multiple programs such as Columbus, Q-Chem and Gaussian in order to assess the methodological dependence of the results.