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## **CONFORMATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THIAZOLE-5-CARBOXYLIC ACID USING DFT/TD-DFT METHODS**

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## **ABSTRACT**

In this work, structures of the conformers of the thiazole-5-carboxylic acid (T5CA) were studied using density functional theory (DFT) with B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) level of approximation. From calculations of the potential energy distribution depending on the orientation of the carboxylic group (C-C-OH and O=C-OH) attached to the five-membered heterocyclic ring, four conformers were found at minimum energy. Considering that the relative energy in the most stable structure is zero. The relative energies of the other conformations were found to be about 0.14, 27.11, 29.84 kJ mol-1, respectively. It was found that the carboxylic acid group of the T5CA\_3 and 4 were not planar, while T5CA\_1 and T5CA\_2 were planar. Stabilization and donoracceptor orbital interaction energies were calculated for all conformations and orbitals were plotted using natural bond orbital analysis (NBO) method. The excited state energies were calculated and graphed using Time-Dependent Density Functional Theory (TD-DFT) calculations. The singlet state energies were tabulated for all conformations and it was seen that the most stable form with the highest oscillator strength was at the second singlet state (S2). In addition, HOMO-LUMO energy gaps were calculated and electrostatic potential surface maps were drawn for all conformations.

**Keywords:** Thiazole-5-carboxylic acid (T5CA), DFT/ TD-DFT, NBO, HOMO-LUMO energy

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Carboxylic acids contain carboxyl functional groups (–COOH) and carbonyl groups (C=O) with a hydroxyl (O-H) attached to the same carbon atom in their structures. Since the electronegativity of oxygen is higher than that of carbon and hydrogen, the oxygen atoms in the carboxyl group are partially negative and the carbon and hydrogen atoms are partially positively charged. It has a strong dipole bond between carbon and oxygen in the carbonyl group. Many studies have been carried out in recent years on molecules formed by carboxylic acid groups attached to thiazole and isothiazole rings. One of the study was done by Kaur et al. using thiazole-5-carboxylic acid (T5CA). They proportionally synthesized 22 different compounds of T5CA derivatives and also characterized all the compounds by 1H and 13C NMR. After all these studies, they discussed the results of spectrophotometric tests against xanthine oxidase enzyme [1]. Fausto et al. (2016) studied with thiazole-2-carboxylic acid. They trapped the molecule in argon and nitrogen noble gases and investigated the conformational changes of the molecule by near infrared and UV lights using spectroscopic methods [2]. Thiazoline and thiazole ester compounds were synthesized and their thermal properties were studied [3]. Five new molecular complexes were successfully synthesized using thiazole-4-carboxylic acid as the ligand and, these new structures were characterized by single crystal X-ray diffraction [4]. Using a variety of experimental and theoretical techniques, Li et al. (1993) determined the crystalline molecular structure of isothiazofurine using single crystal X-ray diffraction techniques and 1H NMR. They also confirmed their results theoretically [5]. Bonnel et al. (2016) re-investigated the structures of thiazole-based-peptide folders with FT-IR and NMR [6].

In this study, conformational structures of T5CA were investigated by computational methods. Stabilization energies and donor acceptor orbital interactions were calculated by natural bond orbital (NBO) analysis method. Using time dependent density function theory (TD-DFT) method, excitation

\*Corresponding Author: nkus@eskisehir.edu.tr Received: 30.10.2020 Published: 27.11.2020 energies were calculated and singlet and triplet level energies were found. HOMO-LUMO energy gap of the T5CA conformations were calculated and the effects of electrostatic potentials were drawn.

### **2. THEORETICAL CALCULATIONS**

Quantum chemical calculations for T5CA were done using the Gaussian 09 program [7]. The equilibrium geometries in the ground state of the molecule are optimized together 6-311++ $G(d,p)$  basis set of density function theory (DFT) and the B3LYP functionality. This approach is a very powerful technique for analyzing the structure and conformation of the studying molecule. The relative stability of the conformations was calculated using the NBO analysis, developed by Weinhold and the working group and applicable in the Gaussian 09 program, using the NBO 3.1 program [8]. The energies of the excited states were calculated using the  $B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)$  approach of the TD-DFT [9, 10]. Molecular electrostatic potential (MEP) surfaces of the positions of the positive and negative charges of the conformations analyzed by drawing them.

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

T5CA (C4H3NO2S) is a 5-atom heterocyclic ring structure. The interaction between the OH group and the ring-bound nitrogen should be weaker than for a six-atom heterocyclic structure*, e.g.* pyridine-2 carboxylic acid [11]. The present study has also set an example for this situation.

Form	<b><i>AE(RB3LYP)</i></b>	$\Delta$ (E+ZPV)	ΛG
T <sub>5</sub> CA 1		0	
T <sub>5</sub> CA 2	0.111951	0.141777	0.110271
T <sub>5</sub> CA 3	28.31523	27.11091	25.73253
T5CA 4	31.44267	29.83881	28.03509

Table 1. Optimized relative electronic, electronic + zero point vibrational and Gibbs energies (kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) for T5CA conformers using DFT method with B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)level.

Rotatable bonds are shown in Figure 1 with adopted atom numbers and 4 different conformers have been obtained using potential energy distribution calculations. Calculated Relative Energies of T5CA conformers using DFT/B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) between T5CA\_1 and 4 were given in Table 1. As can be seen from Table 1, the most stable structure is T5CA\_1, and the calculated  $\Delta$ (E+ZPV) value of the other conformations (together with the zero point energy value) were 0.14, 27.11, 29.84 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. It was found that the 1st and 2nd conformations were planar after optimizing, but the 3rd and 4th conformers were not.

Potential energy graph of the T5CA\_1 conformer obtained by rotating the C1−C5−C8−O10 dihedral angle in 30 $\degree$  steps is given in Figure 2 (a). The 0 and 180 $\degree$  of this angle show the most stable cases of 1 and 2 conformers. In addition, the form in the transition state was observed as  $90^{\circ}$  and the barrier energy was calculated as 31.7, while it was only 31.6 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> at 180°. The  $\Delta E$  electronic energy difference between conformers  $T5CA\_1$  and  $T5CA\_2$  is only 0.11 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. Together with the zero point energy, this value is  $0.14 \text{ kJ}$  mol<sup>-1</sup>. This small value was not shown in the Figure 1(a).



**Figure 1.** Scheme of T5CA conformers with adopted atom numbers.

Figure 2 (b) shows that the formation of the T5CA\_3 from the T5CA\_1, which is the most stable structure, occurs with the rotation of the dihedral angle O9=C8−O10−C11. The barrier energy generated for the conversion from T5CA\_1 to T5CA\_3 is  $48.4 \text{ kJ}$  mol<sup>-1</sup>, in reverse case this value is 20.1 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> <sup>1</sup>. The transformation of T5CA\_2 form, which is in the second stable state, to the form T5CA\_4, occurred by 180o rotation of the O9=C8−O10−H11 dihedral angle. This situation is shown in Figure 2c. In this case, the barrier energy is  $51.1 \text{ kJ} \text{mol}^{-1}$  and in the reverse case it is 19.7 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. For the formation of the T5CA\_4 from the T5CA\_3, the dihedral angle C1−C5−C8−O10 had to rotate. The barrier energy created by 180 $^{\circ}$  rotation of this angle was 18.1 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, and 15 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> in the reverse case.





**Figure 2.** Rotations around the (a) C−C bond enabling the formation of the T5CA\_1 to T5CA\_2, (b) C−O bond enabling the formation of the T5CA\_1 to T5CA\_3, (c) C−O bond enabling the formation of the T5CA\_2 to T5CA\_4, (d) C−C bond enabling the formation of the T5CA\_3 to T5CA\_4

In previous studies on the tiazole-2-carboxcylic acid molecule, the MP2/6-311++G(3df,3pd) method was used to calculate the barrier energies and the barrier height for the II→I transformation (in our study formation of the T5CA\_2 to T5CA\_4) was found to be approximately 46  $kJ$  mol<sup>-1</sup> and note that the N and S atoms were numbered 1 and 3 on both sides of the carboxylic acid group [2].

Stabilization energies were calculated from the Fock matrix equation [12], and this equation is given below (Eq.1). Energies greater than 10 percent were taken into account. These values and donoracceptor orbital interactions are given in Table 2.

$$
E(2) = \Delta E_{ij} = q_i \frac{F_{ij}^2}{\varepsilon_j - \varepsilon_i} \tag{1}
$$

In the Eq.1, the matrix element between the *i* and *j* NBO orbitals is given by  $F_{ij}$ .  $q_i$  is the occupancy of the donating orbital. The energies of acceptor and donor NBOs are shown as *ε<sup>i</sup>* and *εj*.

**Table 2.** Stabilization energies of T5CA conformers (conformers 1, 2, 3 and 4) for NBO pairs selected by second order perturbation theory analysis calculated from  $B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)$  level of theory.

Donor NBO (i)	Acceptor NBO $(j)$	E(2)	$E(j)$ - $E(i)$	F(i, j)
		kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> a.u. a.u. 49.08 0.27 90.42 0.29 87.07 0.34 57.99 0.57 82.05 0.26 0.24 127.24 65.02 1.81 71.17 0.70		
$\pi$ (C1-C5)	$\pi^*(N2-C3)$			0.053
$\pi$ (C1-C5)	$\pi^*(C8-O9)$			0.073
$\pi(N2-C3)$	$\pi^*(C1-C5)$			0.078
LP(1)N2	$\sigma^*(C3-S4)$			0.080
LP(2)S4	$\pi^*(C1-C5)$			0.066
LP(2)S4	$\pi^*(N2-C3)$			0.078
LP(1)O9	$Ry*(1)C8$			0.150
LP(2)O9	$\sigma^*(C5-C8)$			0.100
LP(2)O9	$\sigma^*(C8\text{-}O10)$	140.04	0.60	0.129
$^{A)}LP(2)O10$	$\pi^*(C8-O9)$	178.32	0.34	0.111

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<sup>B</sup>) Orbital interaction shown in Fig. 3-B.

**T5CA 3** 

Donor NBO (i)	Acceptor NBO $(j)$	E(2) $kJ$ mol <sup>-1</sup>	$E(j)$ - $E(i)$ a.u.	F(i,j) a.u.
$\pi$ (C1-C5)	$\pi^*(N2-C3)$	48.49	0.28	0.053
$\pi$ (C1-C5)	$\pi^*(C8-O9)$	75.94	0.32	0.069
$\pi(N2-C3)$	$\pi^*(C1-C5)$	85.90	0.33	0.077
LP(1)N2	$\sigma^*(C3-S4)$	56.74	0.57	0.079
LP(2)S4	$\pi^*(C1-C5)$	86.19	0.26	0.067
LP(2)S4	$\pi^*(N2-C3)$	128.11	0.24	0.078
LP(1)O9	$Ry*(1)C8$	61.09	1.83	0.146
LP(2)O9	$\sigma^*(C5-C8)$	74.98	0.67	0.100
LP(2)O9	$\sigma^*(C8-010)$	138.95	0.60	0.128
CLP(2)O10	$\pi^*(C8-O9)$	163.89	0.35	0.107

<sup>C</sup>) Orbital interaction shown in Fig. 3-C.

 $T5CA_4$ 



 $\mathbf{D}$ ) Orbital interaction shown in Fig. 3-D.

The highest stabilization energy for all conformers was seen in the interactions between LP(2)O and  $π*(C8-O9)$  orbitals. This amount of energy is about 178 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> for T5CA<sub>-</sub>1 and 2 conformers and slightly lower for T5CA $\_\$ 3 and 4 conformers (*ca.* 164 and 169 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively).



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**Figure 3.** Orbital interaction of higher stabilization energies for conformers of T5CA



**Figure 4.** HOMO-LUMO difference energies of T5CA conformers calculated by NBO method

HOMO-LUMO energy diagrams of all conformers of T5CA are given in Figure 4 according to NBO results and these energy values were calculated as 5.36, 5.32, 5.47 and 5.35 eV, respectively. The HOMO-LUMO orbital interactions of the T5CA\_1, 2 and 3 conformers were observed between the lone pair S and  $\pi^*(C-N)$  in the thiazole ring, while the orbital interaction of the 4th conformer was between lone pair O9 in the carboxyl group and  $\pi^*(C-N)$  in the ring. In fact, it would not be right to mention about the HOMO-LUMO interaction for the conformer 4. As can be seen from the figure, there is no interaction between these two orbitals.

In a study, Fausto et al. (2016) observed the conformational changes II→I (in our study 1→3) irradiating the T2CA molecule, which they trapped in argon and nitrogen gases at very low temperatures, and observed these conformers as a result of excitation with an energy of 300 or 305 nm. If such an experiment is planned, it is thought that the same change from T5CA\_1 to 3 may occur when it irradiates with UV excitations about  $\lambda > 240$  nm, according to TD-DFT results (Figure 5).



**Figure 5.** TD-DFT profiles of T5CA calculated by B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory using rotation of carboxylic acid group. (y-axis break).

Singlet states, transition types and percentages, oscillator strengths and excitation energies for T5CA conformers are given in Table 3. The values with the highest oscillator strength are indicative of the greatest absorption probability. It also indicates an excess of quantum mechanical quantities. This is also known as the transition dipole moment. The highest oscillator strength was observed in T5CA\_1 conformer in S2 singlet state with 0.2039.

In all conformers, the highest filled molecular orbital and the lowest (first) empty molecular orbital energy range corresponded to the state of 33→34 type, this corresponds to the HOMO-LUMO energy gap and is given in Figure 4. The lowest energy transition was observed in the case where the oscillator power is the lowest, that is, in the S1 state, and as a result of the calculations, this transition type was found to be HOMO-1-LUMO.

The HOMO-LUMO energy range corresponds to state S2 at T5CA\_1, but this energy range corresponds to state S3 in the T5CA\_3 conformer, and the percentage ratio is the greatest (0.69966). The result of this large energy range can be explained by the high degree of aromaticity of the molecule.

**Table 3.** TD-DFT calculated results of singlet states, types and percentages, relative energies, oscillator strengths and excitation energies for the optimized four conformers of the T5CA.

<b>T5CA 1</b>	<b>State</b>	type	% type	$\Delta E$ (eV)		$E$ (nm)
	$S_{\alpha}$					
	$S_1$	$32 \rightarrow 34$	0.70145	4.4143	0.0000	280.87
	$\mathbf{S}_2$	$33 \rightarrow 34$	0.69039	5.0937	0.2039	243.41
	S,	$30 \rightarrow 34$	0.68741	5.1127	0.0000	242.50
	$S_4$	$31 \rightarrow 34$	0.67837	5.4598	0.0880	227.09
	$S_5$	$33 \rightarrow 35$	0.61599	5.8157	0.0010	213.19
	$\mathrm{S}_6$	$32 \rightarrow 36$	0.67976	5.9319	0.0031	209.01

T5CA 2



T5CA 3



#### T5CA 4



MEPs are a preferred study because they provide information about electrophilic attacks, because the single maxima of MEP are located only in the nuclei [13]. In T5CA (Figure 6), the regions with the most negative MEP indicate the most likely regions of electrophilic attack. From Figure 6, it is seen that the most negative region belongs to T5CA\_3 conformer and this minimum value is -7.618e-2. It was

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observed in the carboxyl group on O bonded with a double bond to the C atom, and it can be said that the electrophilic attack is the most in this region. The most positive region is around the hydrogens of the carboxyl group and is seen as the blue region.



**Figure 6**. Molecular electrostatic potential (MEP) map for T5CA conformers calculated by DFT method using  $B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)$  level.

Atom	<b>T5CA_1</b>		<b>T5CA 2</b>		<b>T5CA 3</b>		<b>T5CA 4</b>	
N <sub>0</sub>	<b>Mulliken</b>	<b>Natural</b>	<b>Mulliken</b>	<b>Natural</b>	<b>Mulliken</b>	<b>Natural</b>	<b>Mulliken</b>	<b>Natural</b>
C1	$-0.406$	0.033	$-0.491$	0.040	$-0.499$	$-0.001$	$-0.463$	0.036
N2	$-0.056$	$-0.460$	$-0.054$	$-0.458$	$-0.056$	$-0.458$	$-0.043$	$-0.446$
C <sub>3</sub>	$-0.106$	$-0.099$	$-0.155$	$-0.098$	$-0.085$	$-0.100$	$-0.116$	$-0.084$
<b>S4</b>	$-0.061$	0.462	$-0.024$	0.450	$-0.033$	0.479	$-0.160$	0.382
C <sub>5</sub>	0.378	$-0.351$	0.384	$-0.355$	0.684	$-0.357$	0.670	$-0.358$
<b>H6</b>	0.195	0.223	0.197	0.226	0.142	0.202	0.201	0.231
H7	0.252	0.212	0.246	0.212	0.253	0.214	0.255	0.215
C8	$-0.002$	0.764	0.086	0.766	$-0.217$	0.762	$-0.154$	0.765
O <sub>9</sub>	$-0.296$	$-0.589$	$-0.299$	$-0.584$	$-0.272$	$-0.551$	$-0.271$	$-0.546$
<b>O10</b>	$-0.191$	$-0.683$	$-0.190$	-0.686	$-0.150$	$-0.662$	$-0.150$	$-0.665$
H11	0.294	0.488	0.299	0.488	0.232	0.471	0.231	0.470

**Table 4.** Natural and Mulliken charges of T5CA calculated using DFT method.

In addition to the analysis of the orbital interactions, the Mulliken and natural atomic charges of T5CA conformers were calculated using B3LYP level. These charges are given in Table 4. The chemical reactivities of each atom were determined and it was found that the atoms that provide the orbital interactions at the highest stabilization energy were the same atoms (C8, O9, O10 and H11), Electrophilic and nucleophilic regions were determined by analyzing the results in the Table 4. The most negative charges of the structure are localized on O9 and O10 atoms, while the most positive charges are localized on C8 and H11 atoms.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

T5CA optimized conformers investigated theoretically calculated by DFT method with (B3LYP)/6- 311++G(d,p) level. Four conformers of T5CA were found to be related to the orientations of the carboxylic acid and hydroxyl groups. The most stable structure is the conformer called T5CA\_1 in which the OH group is close to the S atom. According to NBO calculation results, the conformers with the highest stabilization energies were T5CA\_1 and 2 and the corresponding to the highest stabilization energy was LP(2)O- $\pi$ <sup>\*</sup>(C8-O9) donor-acceptor orbital interactions. The HOMO-LUMO energy differences were found to be very close to each other for all conformers and these values were between 5.36 and 5.47 eV. According to the results of TD-DFT calculations, the highest value of oscillator strength was 0.2039 and it was observed in S2 singlet state in T5CA\_1. From the MEP results, it was found that the region with the highest electron density is around the O9 atom. Positive regions were observed on H11, where the blue color is intense. Mulliken and natural atomic charges of T5CA conformers were calculated.

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