Atmospheric Chemistry of a Model Biodiesel Fuel, $CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3$: Kinetics, Mechanisms, and Products of Cl Atom and OH Radical Initiated Oxidation in the Presence and Absence of NO_x

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Relative rate techniques were used to study the kinetics of the reactions of Cl atoms and OH radicals with ethylene glycol diacetate, $CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3$, in 700 Torr of N_2/O_2 diluent at 296 K. The rate constants measured were $k(Cl + CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3) = (5.7 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-12}$ and $k(OH + CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3) = (5.7 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-12}$ and $k(OH + CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3) = (2.36 \pm 0.34) \times 10^{-12}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹. Product studies of the Cl atom initiated oxidation of ethylene glycol diacetate *in the absence of NO* in 700 Torr of O_2/N_2 diluent at 296 K show the primary products to be $CH_3C(O)OC(O)CH_2OC(O)CH_3$, $CH_3C(O)OC(O)H$, and $CH_3C(O)OH$. Product studies of the Cl atom initiated oxidation of ethylene glycol diacetate *in the presence of NO* in 700 Torr of O_2/N_2 diluent at 296 K show the primary products to be $CH_3C(O)OC(O)CH_3C(O)OC(O)H$ and $CH_3C(O)OH$. The $CH_3C(O)OCH_2O\bullet$ radical is formed during the Cl atom initiated oxidation of ethylene glycol diacetate, and two loss mechanisms were identified: reaction with O_2 to give $CH_3C(O)OC(O)H$ and α -ester rearrangement to give $CH_3C(O)OCH_2O\bullet$ radicals. The reaction of $CH_3C(O)OCH_2O_2\bullet$ with NO gives chemically activated $CH_3C(O)OCH_2O\bullet$ radicals which are more likely to undergo decomposition via the α -ester rearrangement than $CH_3C(O)OCH_2O\bullet$ radicals produced in the peroxy radical self-reaction.

1. Introduction

Energy security and climate change concerns have prompted increased interest in alternative transportation fuels derived from biogenic sources.^{1–3} The principal biofuels under consideration are methyl esters of long chain fatty acids (e.g., CH₃(CH₂)₇-CH=CH(CH₂)₇C(O)OCH₃ from oleic acid and C₁₅H₃₁C(O)-OCH₃ from palmitic acid) for blending in diesel fuel and alcohols (e.g., C₂H₅OH, C₃H₇OH, and C₄H₉OH) for blending in gasoline. Biodiesel has an energy density which is similar to that of petroleum diesel and so provides similar fuel economy. Biodiesel is made via a relatively simple transesterification process from triglycerides.

During biodiesel production, glycerine (CH₂OHCH(OH)CH₂-OH, propane-1,2,3-triol) is formed in significant quantities as a coproduct. One of the technical hurdles facing the biodiesel industry is finding commercially attractive uses for glycerine. One possible use for this material is to convert it into a compound for blending with diesel fuel. Glycerine is not a viable blending component because of its low solubility in hydrocarbons and high affinity for water. However, glycerine can be transformed into compounds with more suitable blending properties. For example, acylation using acetic acid, propionic acid, or longer chain acids provides molecules which are more soluble in hydrocarbon solvents like diesel fuel and less soluble in water. Prior to the use of such acylated glyercine derivatives, information on their atmospheric chemistry is required. In this study we investigate the atmospheric fate of ethylene glycol diacetate, $CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3$, as a model compound for such acylated glycerine molecules. Ethylene glycol diacetate was chosen as a model because its vapor pressure is greater than, but its chemistry is expected to be similar to, the analogous acylated glycerine derivatives.

2. Experimental Section

The experiments were performed in a 140-L Pyrex reactor interfaced to a Mattson Sirus 100 FTIR spectrometer. The reactor was surrounded by 22 fluorescent blacklamps (GE F15T8-BL) which were used to photochemically initiate the experiments. Chlorine atoms were produced by photolysis of molecular chlorine.

$$Cl_2 + h\nu \rightarrow Cl + Cl$$
 (1)

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Figure 1. Decay of $CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3$ versus C_2H_5Cl (circles) and CH_3Cl (diamonds) in the presence of Cl atoms in 700 Torr of either air (filled symbols) or N_2 (open symbols) at 296 ± 1 K.

OH radicals were produced by photolysis of CH₃ONO in the presence of NO in air.

$$CH_3ONO + h\nu \rightarrow CH_3O\bullet + NO$$
 (2)

$$CH_3O \bullet + O_2 \rightarrow HO_2 + HCHO$$
 (3)

$$HO_2 + NO \rightarrow OH + NO_2$$
 (4)

Relative rate techniques were used to measure the rate constant of interest relative to a reference reaction whose rate constant has been established previously. The relative rate method is a well-established technique for measuring the reactivity of Cl atoms and OH radicals with organic compounds.⁴ Kinetic data are derived by monitoring the loss of $CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3$ relative to one or more reference compounds. The decays of $CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3$ and the reference are then plotted using the expression

$$\operatorname{Ln}\left(\frac{[\operatorname{reactant}]_{0}}{[\operatorname{reactant}]_{t}}\right) = \frac{k_{\operatorname{reactant}}}{k_{\operatorname{reference}}} \times \operatorname{Ln}\left(\frac{[\operatorname{reference}]_{0}}{[\operatorname{reference}]_{t}}\right)$$
(I)

where [reactant]₀, [reactant]_t, [reference]₀, and [reference]_t are the concentrations of CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ and the reference compound at times "0" and "t", and k_{reactant} and $k_{\text{reference}}$ are the rate constants for reactions of Cl atoms or OH radicals with the CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ and the reference compound. Plots of Ln([reactant]₀/[reactant]_t) versus Ln([reference]₀/ [reference]_t) should be linear, pass through the origin, and have a slope of $k_{\text{reactant}}/k_{\text{reference}}$.

CH₃ONO was synthesized by the dropwise addition of concentrated sulfuric acid to a saturated solution of NaNO₂ in methanol.⁵ Acetoxyacetic acetic anhydride, CH₃C(O)OC(O)CH₂-OC(O)CH₃, was prepared from acetoxyacetyl chloride (Aldrich) and sodium acetate in tetrahydrofuran as described by Schijf and Stevens.⁶ Acetoxyacetic acetic anhydride was purified by repeated bulb-to-bulb vacuum transfers. The sample of acetoxyacetic acetic anhydride which could not be removed, possibly due to the formation of an azeotropic mixture. The presence of the acetic anhydride impurity, together with the low vapor pressure of acetoxyacetic acetic anhydride, prevented an absolute calibration of the acetoxyacetic acetic



Figure 2. Decay of $CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3$ versus C_2H_4 (diamonds) and C_2H_2 (circles) in the presence of OH radicals in 700 Torr of air with (closed symbols) and without (open symbols) added NO at 296 \pm 1 K.

anhydride reference spectrum. Other reagents were obtained from commercial sources. Experiments were conducted in 700 Torr total pressure of O_2/N_2 diluent at 296 ± 1 K. Concentrations of reactants and products were monitored by FTIR spectroscopy. IR spectra were derived from 32 coadded interferograms with a spectral resolution of 0.25 cm⁻¹ and an analytical path length of 27 m.

In smog chamber experiments it is important to check for the unwanted loss of reactants and products via photolysis, dark chemistry, and heterogeneous reactions. Control experiments were performed in which (i) mixtures of reactants (except Cl_2) were subjected to UV irradiation for 10-20 min and (ii) product mixtures obtained after the UV irradiation of reactant mixtures were allowed to stand in the dark in the chamber for 20 min. There was no observable loss of reactants or products, suggesting that photolysis, dark chemistry, and heterogeneous reactions are not significant complications in the present work. Unless stated otherwise, quoted uncertainties are two standard deviations from least-squares regressions.

3. Results

3.1. Relative Rate Study of $k(Cl + CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC-(O)CH_3)$. The kinetics of reaction 5 were measured relative to those of reactions 6 and 7:

$$Cl + CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3 \rightarrow products$$
 (5)

$$Cl + CH_3Cl \rightarrow products$$
 (6)

$$Cl + C_2H_5Cl \rightarrow products$$
 (7)

Reaction mixtures consisted of 1.9–2.6 mTorr of CH₃C(O)O-(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃, 88–103 mTorr Cl₂, and 14.7–30.1 mTorr of either C₂H₅Cl or CH₃Cl in a total of 700 Torr air or N₂. The observed loss of CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ versus those of the reference compounds is plotted in Figure 1. Linear least-squares analysis of the data in Figure 1 gives $k_5/k_6 = 10.9 \pm 1.1$ and $k_5/k_7 = 0.77 \pm 0.08$. Using $k_6 = 4.8 \times 10^{-13}$ ⁷ and $k_7 = 8.04 \times 10^{-12}$ ⁸ gives $k_5 = (5.2 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-12}$ and (6.2 ± 0.6) $\times 10^{-12}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹. Indistinguishable values of k_5 are obtained using the two different references. We choose



Figure 3. IR spectra obtained before (A) and after (B) a 15 s irradiation of 3.9 mTorr of $CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3$ and 92 mTorr of Cl_2 in 700 Torr air. (C) shows the IR product spectrum. (E) shows the product spectrum after the subtraction of features due to $CH_3C(O)OC(O)H$. (G) shows the product spectrum after the subtraction of features due to $CH_3C(O)OC(O)H$ and $CH_3C(O)OH$.

to cite a final value which is the average of the individual determinations together with error limits which encompass the extremes of the determinations; therefore, $k_5 = (5.7 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

3.2. Relative Rate Study of $k(OH + CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC-(O)CH_3)$. The kinetics of reaction 8 were measured relative to reactions 9 and 10:

$$OH + CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3 \rightarrow products$$
 (8)

$$OH + C_2H_4 \rightarrow products$$
 (9)

$$OH + C_2H_2 \rightarrow products$$
 (10)

Initial reaction mixtures consisted of 1.8–2.5 mTorr of CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃, 0–19 mTorr of NO, 95–102 mTorr CH₃ONO, and 7.2–11.5 mTorr of either C₂H₄ or C₂H₂ in 700 Torr total pressure of air diluent. Figure 2 shows the loss of CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ plotted versus loss of the reference compounds. Linear least-squares analysis gives $k_8/k_9 = 0.28 \pm 0.03$ and $k_8/k_{10} = 2.7 \pm 0.3$. Using $k_9 = 8.7 \times 10^{-12}$ ⁹ and $k_{10} = 8.45 \times 10^{-13}$ ¹⁰ we derive $k_8 = (2.44 \pm 0.26) \times 10^{-12}$ and (2.28 ± 0.26) × 10⁻¹². Indistinguishable values of k_8 are obtained using the two different references. We choose to cite a final value which is the average of the individual determinations together with error limits which encompass the



Figure 4. Formation of $CH_3C(O)OC(O)H$ (circles), $CH_3C(O)OH$ (diamonds), and $CH_3C(O)OC(O)CH_2OC(O)CH_3$ (triangles) versus the loss of $CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3$ following the UV irradiation of mixtures of $CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3$ and Cl_2 in the presence of either 5 (closed symbols) or 700 Torr O₂ (open symbols) in 700 Torr total pressure made up with N₂ as appropriate. The lines are least-squares linear fits to the data.

extremes of the determinations; therefore, $k_8 = (2.36 \pm 0.34) \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3$ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹. While there have been no previous measurements of k_8 , O'Donnell et al.¹¹ have reported rate coefficients for reactions of OH radicals with a series of related alkoxy esters. They report $k(OH+CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OCH_3) = (7.83 \pm 0.31) \times 10^{-12}$ and $k(OH+CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC_2H_5) = (1.21 \pm 0.29) \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3$ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹ at 298 K. Consistent with the available data concerning the reactivity of ethers and esters, CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ is approximately 3 times less reactive than CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OCH₃ reflecting the fact that $-OCH_3$ is more activating than the $-OC(O)CH_3$ group.

3.3. Structure-Activity Relationships. The kinetic results can be compared with the rate coefficients predicted using the structure-activity relationship (SAR) approach developed by Atkinson and co-workers.¹²⁻¹⁴ The SAR method provides a means of calculating the rate of reaction of the OH radical with a large number of organic compounds. Calculation of the H-atom abstraction rate from C-H bonds is based on the estimated -CH₃, -CH₂-, and >CH- group rate constants, where the group rate constant is influenced by the nature of the α substituent groups. Agreement with experimental values is generally good, except in cases where long-range effects require consideration of β substituent groups. Using the group rate constants and substituent factors recommended by Kwok and Atkinson,¹³ the rate constant for reaction 8 is calculated to be $k_8(SAR) = 3.9 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. Mellouki et al.¹⁵ reviewed the kinetics and mechanisms of the oxidation of oxygenated organic compounds and have proposed group rate constants for ester CH_x (x = 1,2,3) groups that depend on whether the CH_x group is on the acyl or alkoxy group of the ester and whether the CH_x group is in the α , β , γ , or δ position. Using the appropriate group rate constants, this approach gives a value of $k_8 = 3.0 \times 10^{-12}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹. Using the group rate constants from Mellouki et al.¹⁵ we conclude that 7% of OH atom attack occurs at the terminal $-CH_3$ group, while 93% of OH atom attack occurs at the bridging $-CH_2$ – groups. Mellouki et al.¹⁵ also discuss the reactivity of bridging -CH₂groups in difunctional oxygenated compounds. They cite examples where the reactivity of the bridging -CH₂- groups is the same as expected from α substituents and examples where

$$\begin{array}{c} H \stackrel{\circ}{_{\text{C}}} O \stackrel{\circ}{_{\text{C}}} H \stackrel{\circ}{_{\text{C}}} O \stackrel{\circ}{_{\text{C}}} - \stackrel{\circ}{$$

Figure 5. Diagram of the chlorine initiated oxidation of ethylene glycol diacetate in the absence of NO.

the reactivity is enhanced, suggesting the effect of long-range activation. The experimental value determined in this work, $k_8 = (2.36 \pm 0.34) \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, is consistent with the SAR estimates of both Kwok and Atkinson¹³ and Mellouki et al.¹⁵ Finally, Notario et al.¹⁶ extended the SAR approach to the reaction of Cl atoms with a series of esters. Using the modified SAR approach of Notario et al.¹⁶ gives $k_5(\text{SAR}) = 5.0 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, which is consistent with the experimental value determined in this work, $k_5 = (5.7 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

3.4. Products of the Cl Atom Initiated Oxidation of CH₃C-(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ in the Absence of NO. The Cl atom initiated oxidation of ethylene glycol diacetate in the absence of NO was investigated by irradiating mixtures containing 2-5 mTorr CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ and 86-100 mTorr Cl₂ in 700 Torr of O₂/N₂ diluent. Reaction mixtures were subjected to 5-7 successive irradiations of 5-30 s duration. Figure 3 shows spectra acquired before (A) and after (B) a 15 s irradiation of 4.1 mTorr CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ and 91.7 mTorr Cl₂ in 700 Torr of air. The consumption of CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC-(O)CH3 was 41%. Panel (C) shows the product spectrum obtained by subtracting CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ features from panel B. Comparison of panel (C) with the reference spectrum in panel (D) shows that acetic formic anhydride, CH₃C(O)OC(O)H, is an important product. Panel (E) shows the result of subtracting CH₃C(O)OC(O)H features from panel (C). Comparison of panel (E) with the reference spectrum in panel (F) shows that acetic acid, CH₃C(O)OH, is a product. Panel (G) is the result of subtracting CH₃C(O)OH features from panel (E). Comparison of panel (G) with the reference spectrum in panel (H) shows that CH₃C(O)OC(O)CH₂OC(O)CH₃ is a product. Figure 4 shows the formation of products versus the loss of CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ for experiments in the presence of either 5 or 700 Torr of O₂ at 700 Torr total pressure made up with N₂ as appropriate. The linearity of the data suggests that secondary loss or formation of these products is not important under these conditions. The yields of CH₃C(O)-OC(O)H and CH₃C(O)OH clearly depend on the O₂ concentration, while the yield of CH₃C(O)OC(O)CH₂OC(O)CH₃ is independent of O₂ concentration.

A diagram of the reaction pathways for the Cl atom initiated oxidation of ethylene glycol diacetate in the absence of NO_x is given in Figure 5. Reaction of $CH_3C(O)OCH_2CH_2OC(O)CH_3$ with Cl atoms can occur via two channels.

$$CH_{3}C(O)OCH_{2}CH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} + Cl \rightarrow$$
$$CH_{3}C(O)OC\bullet HCH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} + HCl (11a)$$

$$CH_{3}C(O)OCH_{2}CH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} + CI \rightarrow$$

$$\bullet CH_{2}C(O)OCH_{2}CH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} + HCI (11b)$$

We have no direct measure of the relative importance of the two channels; however, in studies of the Cl and OH initiated oxidation of acetates,^{17–20} H atom abstraction from the CH₃C-(O) group was found to be of minor importance. Reaction 11a is expected to be the dominant channel, and the observed products are consistent with this assumption. Reaction 11a followed by reaction with O₂ results in the formation of alkyl peroxy radicals.

$$CH_{3}C(O)OC(\bullet)HCH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} + O_{2} \rightarrow CH_{3}C(O)OCHOO(\bullet)CH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} (12)$$

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In the absence of NO, reaction of $CH_3C(O)OCHOO \bullet CH_2-OC(O)CH_3$ with other peroxy radicals results in the formation of alkoxy radicals

$$CH_{3}C(O)OCHOO \bullet CH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} + ROO \bullet \rightarrow CH_{3}C(O)OCHO \bullet CH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} + RO \bullet + O_{2}$$
(13)

Self-reaction of $CH_3C(O)OCHOO \bullet CH_2OC(O)CH_3$ radicals to give molecular products is also a possibility.

$$2 \text{ CH}_{3}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}\text{C}\text{H}\text{O}\text{O}\text{O}\text{C}\text{H}_{2}\text{O}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{C}\text{H}_{3} \rightarrow \\ \text{C}\text{H}_{3}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{C}\text{H}_{2}\text{O}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{C}\text{H}_{3} + \\ \text{C}\text{H}_{3}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}\text{C}\text{H}\text{O}\text{H}\text{C}\text{H}_{2}\text{O}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{C}\text{H}_{3} \text{ (14)}$$

The alkoxy radicals formed in reaction 13 can react with O_2 to form acetoxyacetic acetic anhydride and HO_2 .

Tuazon et al.¹⁷ first reported, and others^{18–20} have confirmed, that alkoxy radicals of the form RC(O)OCHO•R' can undergo a rapid rearrangement and decomposition (α -ester rearrangement) to form RC(O)OH and R'CO•.

The alkoxy radicals formed in reaction 13 can also decompose via C-C bond cleavage.

The fate of $CH_3C(O)OC \bullet H_2$ is discussed in detail in a paper on the atmospheric oxidation mechanism of methyl acetate by Christensen et al.¹⁸ It was concluded that $CH_3C(O)OC \bullet H_2$ radicals add O₂ and then react with other RO₂• radicals to form $CH_3C(O)OCH_2O \bullet$ radicals.

$$CH_3C(O)OC \bullet H_2 + O_2 \rightarrow CH_3C(O)OCH_2OO \bullet$$
 (18)

$$CH_{3}C(O)OCH_{2}OO \bullet + RO_{2} \rightarrow CH_{3}C(O)OCH_{2}O \bullet$$
(19)

There are two competing loss mechanisms for $CH_3C(O)$ -OCH₂O• radicals: reaction with O₂ and α -ester rearrangement.

$$CH_3C(O)OCH_2O \bullet + O_2 \rightarrow CH_3C(O)OC(O)H + HO_2 \bullet$$
 (20)

$$CH_3C(O)OCH_2O \rightarrow CH_3C(O)OH + HCO$$
(21)

Yields of CH₃C(O)OC(O)H and CH₃C(O)OH observed from the Cl initiated oxidation of CH₃C(O)OCH₂CH₂OC(O)CH₃ in the absence of NO are shown in Figure 6 as a function of [O₂]. The yield of CH₃C(O)OC(O)H increases, while the yield of CH₃C(O)OH decreases with increasing oxygen concentration. The yield of CH₃C(O)OC(O)CH₂OC(O)CH₃ is independent of oxygen concentration. The simplest explanation for these results is that CH₃C(O)OCH₂CH₂OC(O)CH₃ reacts with Cl in the presence of O₂ to form the alkyl peroxy radicals CH₃C(O)-OCHOO•CH₂OC(O)CH₃, via reactions 11a and 12. The yield of CH₃C(O)OC(O)CH₂OC(O)CH₃ is independent of O₂ concentration, suggesting that reaction 15 is either very important or not very important for all [O₂] studied, depending on the



Figure 6. Yields of CH₃C(O)OC(O)H (circles), CH₃C(O)OH (diamonds), CH₃C(O)OC(O)CH₂OC(O)CH₃ (triangles down), and the combined yield of CH₃C(O)OC(O)H and CH₃C(O)OH (triangles up) versus the O₂ partial pressure following the UV irradiation of CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃/Cl₂/N₂/O₂ mixtures at 700 Torr total pressure and 296 \pm 1 K. Curves are the least-squares fits of expressions II and III to the data. See text for details.

rate constant ratio, k_{15}/k_{17} . The fact that we observe significant amounts of CH₃C(O)OC(O)H and CH₃C(O)OH suggests that reaction 15 is not very important. The independence of the CH₃C(O)OC(O)CH₂OC(O)CH₃ yields on [O₂] is consistent with the molecular channel of the self-reaction, reaction 14, being responsible for the anhydride formation. The molecular channel of the self-reaction of CH₃C(O)OCHOO•CH₂OC(O)CH₃ radicals, reaction 14, produces an alcohol, CH₃C(O)OCHOHCH₂-OC(O)CH₃, along with acetoxyacetic acetic anhydride. While there are residual features in the product spectrum when the IR features of the identified products are subtracted, there are no features that are characteristic of an alcohol, such as an OH feature at 3600-3800 cm⁻¹. It is possible that this feature is weak; however, it is also possible that the alcohol is reactive and is quickly consumed by reaction with Cl atoms. The remaining CH₃C(O)OCHOO•CH₂OC(O)CH₃ radicals react with RO₂ to give alkoxy radicals, CH₃C(O)OCHO•CH₂OC(O)CH₃. As seen in Figure 6, the yield of $CH_3C(O)OH$ is small at high $[O_2]$, suggesting that α -ester rearrangement of CH₃C(O)- $OCHO \bullet CH_2OC(O)CH_3$, reaction 16, is not very important. The alkoxy radical decomposes to form CH₃C(O)OC(O)H and •CH₂-OC(O)CH₃, reaction 17. The alkyl peroxy radical, CH₃C(O)OCH₂-OO•, is formed via reaction 18. Of the $CH_3C(O)OCH_2OO$ • radicals formed, some will react to form CH₃C(O)OC(O)H via channels that are independent of O_2 concentration, reactions 22 and 23, while the balance will react with RO₂ to form CH₃C-(O)OCH₂O• radicals, reaction 19. The fate of $CH_3C(O)OCH_2O$ • radicals is either reaction with O_2 or α -ester rearrangement, reactions 20 and 21.

$$2CH_{3}C(O)OCH_{2}OO \bullet \rightarrow$$

$$CH_{3}C(O)OC(O)H + CH_{3}C(O)OCH_{2}OH + O_{2} (22)$$

$$CH_{3}C(O)OCH_{2}OO \bullet + HO_{2} \bullet \rightarrow$$

$$CH_{3}(O)OC(O)H + H_{2}O + O_{2} (23)$$

Christensen et al.¹⁸ showed that, in the Cl atom initiated oxidation of methyl acetate, the dependence of the CH₃C(O)-OC(O)H and CH₃C(O)OH yields on $[O_2]$ can be expressed in terms of the rate constant ratio k_{20}/k_{21} . The yields of CH₃C(O)-



Figure 7. Diagram of the chlorine initiated oxidation of ethylene glycol diacetate in the presence of NO_x.

OC(O)H and CH₃C(O)OH are given by

$$Y(CH_{3}C(O)OC(O)H) = \left[Y'(RO\bullet) \times \left(\frac{\frac{k_{20}}{k_{21}}[O_{2}]}{\frac{k_{20}}{k_{21}}[O_{2}] + 1}\right)\right] + A$$
(II)

$$Y(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\mathrm{C}(\mathrm{O})\mathrm{OH}) = \left[Y'(\mathrm{RO}\bullet) \times \left(\frac{1}{k_{20}} \left[\mathrm{O}_{2}\right] + 1\right)\right] + B$$
(III)

where $Y'(RO\bullet)$ is the yield of the CH₃C(O)OCH₂O• radical. The terms A and B in the equations are required to account for the formation of CH₃C(O)OC(O)H and CH₃C(O)OH via channels that are independent of O₂ concentration. Christensen et al.¹⁸ fit eqs II and III to their product data in the absence of NO and determined $k_{20}/k_{21} = 0.0054 \pm 0.0022$ Torr⁻¹. The curves in Figure 6 are least-squares fits of expressions II and III to the data using $k_{20}/k_{21} = 0.0054 \pm 0.0022$ Torr⁻¹. From the CH₃C-(O)OC(O)H data in Figure 6 we derive $Y'(RO\bullet) = 0.58 \pm 0.06$ and $A = 0.81 \pm 0.04$. From the CH₃C(O)OH data in Figure 6 we derive $Y'(RO_{\bullet}) = 0.53 \pm 0.10$ and $B = 0.03 \pm 0.03$. The values of $Y'(RO\bullet)$ derived from the CH₃C(O)OC(O)H and CH₃C(O)OH yields are consistent. Averaging the two determinations of $Y'(RO\bullet)$ together with uncertainties that encompass the individual measurements gives $Y'(RO\bullet) = 0.55 \pm 0.12$. The yield of CH₃C(O)OH from O₂ independent channels is effectively zero. These parameters can be used to determine the yield of the CH₃C(O)OCHO•CH₂OC(O)CH₃ radicals, *Y*(RO•), in the absence of NO. If decomposition is the sole fate of CH₃C(O)OCHO•CH₂OC(O)CH₃ radicals and β is the fraction of CH₃C(O)OCH₂OO• radicals that react to form CH₃C(O)-OC(O)H via channels that are independent of O₂ concentration, then the following equations apply.

$$Y(RO\bullet) + (\beta \times Y(RO\bullet)) = 0.81 \pm 0.04$$
 (IV)

$$Y(RO\bullet) - (\beta \times Y(RO\bullet)) = 0.55 \pm 0.12$$
 (V)

Solving these equations gives $Y(\text{RO}\bullet) = 0.68 \pm 0.06$ and $\beta = 0.19 \pm 0.11$. As discussed previously, the acetoxyacetic acetic anhydride reference spectrum used in this work is uncalibrated; however, the results presented here, together with carbon balance considerations, suggest that $Y(\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3) \le 0.16$ and $Y(\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OC}\text{H}\text{O}\text{H}\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3) \le 0.16$ due to the molecular channel of the CH₃C(O)OCHOO•CH₂OC(O)CH₃ radical self-reaction, reaction 14. In this mechanistic analysis we have assumed no contribution from the attack of Cl atoms on the terminal –CH₃ groups. If attack occurs on the terminal –CH₃ groups, it is conceivable that a series of oxidations, followed by decomposition, would lead to formation of the •CH₂OC(O)CH₃ radical. However, if this channel was significant, the values of $Y'(\text{RO}\bullet)$ derived from fits of eqs II and III would not be in agreement.

Mauer et al. ²¹ investigated the Cl atom initiated oxidation of ethylene glycol diformate, $HC(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)H$, in the absence of NO_x . They found that the alkoxy radical, $HC(O)-OCHO(\bullet)CH_2OC(O)H$, decomposes to form formic acid anhydride, HC(O)OC(O)H, and $\bullet CH_2OC(O)H$. The fate of $\bullet CH_2$ - OC(O)H is a competition between reaction with O₂ to form HC(O)OC(O)H and α -ester rearrangement to form HC(O)OH and HC(O). In the absence of NO_x, the formic acid anhydride and formic acid yields were 144 ± 29 mol % and 39 ± 8 mol %, respectively.

3.5. Products of the Cl Atom Initiated Oxidation of CH₃C-(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ in the Presence of NO. The Cl atom initiated oxidation of ethylene glycol diacetate in the presence of NO was investigated by irradiating mixtures containing 3.3– 7.0 mTorr CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃, 24–26 mTorr NO, and 88–100 mTorr Cl₂. The experiments were performed at a constant total pressure of 700 Torr O₂/N₂ diluent with the O₂ partial pressure varied over the range 50–650 Torr. Reaction mixtures were subjected to 4–12 successive irradiations of 5–120 s duration. A diagram of the reaction pathways for the Cl atom initiated oxidation of ethylene glycol diacetate in the presence of NO_x is given in Figure 7. In the presence of NO, CH₃C(O)OCHO•CH₂OC(O)CH₃ radicals are formed by reactions 11a and 12, followed by reaction 24.

$$CH_{3}C(O)OCHOO \bullet CH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} + NO \rightarrow CH_{3}C(O)OCHO \bullet CH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} + NO_{2} (24)$$

In the presence of NO_x , nitrites and nitrates may be formed through the following reactions

$$CH_{3}C(O)OCHOO \bullet CH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} + NO \rightarrow CH_{3}C(O)OCH(ONO_{2})CH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} (25)$$

$$CH_{3}C(O)OCHO \bullet CH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} + NO \rightarrow CH_{3}C(O)OCH(ONO)CH_{2}OC(O)CH_{3} (26)$$

CH₃C(O)OCHO•CH₂OC(O)CH₃ + NO₂ → CH₃C(O)OCH(ONO₂)CH₂OC(O)CH₃ (27)

Consistent with the fact that the reactions of oxygenated peroxy radicals with NO generally produce rather small yields of organic nitrates, there was no evidence in the IR spectra for the formation of nitrates. The formation of nitrites and nitrates via reactions 26 and 27 in the present experiments was suppressed by keeping [NO]/[O₂] $< 5 \times 10^{-4}$. In all experiments CH₃C(O)OC(O)H and CH₃C(O)OH were identified and quantified using calibrated reference spectra. Figure 8 shows the observed yields of the products versus the O₂ concentration. The presence of NO is expected to suppress the self-reaction of CH₃C(O)OCHOO•CH₂OC(O)CH₃ radicals, and, in fact, formation of CH₃C(O)OC(O)CH₂OC(O)CH₃ was not observed. As in the absence of NO, the yield of CH₃C(O)OC(O)H increased with increasing O₂ concentration, while the yield of CH₃C(O)OH decreased.

As discussed in the previous section, $CH_3C(O)OCHO \bullet CH_2-OC(O)CH_3$ radicals formed in reaction 24 will decompose via C-C bond cleavage

The \bullet CH₂OC(O)CH₃ radicals will add O₂ to give the corresponding peroxy radicals.

$$CH_3C(O)OC \bullet H_2 + O_2 \rightarrow CH_3C(O)OCH_2OO \bullet$$
 (18)

Christensen et al.¹⁸ observed that the reaction of $CH_3C(O)$ -OCH₂OO• with NO, reaction 28, produces excited alkoxy



Figure 8. Yields of CH₃C(O)OC(O)H (circles), CH₃C(O)OH (diamonds), and the combined yield of CH₃C(O)OC(O)H and CH₃C(O)-OH (triangles) versus the O₂ partial pressure following the UV irradiation of NO/CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃/Cl₂/N₂/O₂ mixtures at 700 Torr total pressure and 296 \pm 1 K. Curves are the least-squares fits of expressions II and III to the data. See text for details.

radicals, $CH_3C(O)OCH_2O^*$, which either decompose via reaction 29 or lose their excess internal energy through collision with a third body, reaction 30. The thermalized $CH_3C(O)$ -OCH₂O• radicals formed in reaction 30 either react with O₂, reaction 20, or undergo α -ester rearrangement, reaction 21.

$$CH_3C(O)OCH_2OO_{\bullet} + NO \rightarrow$$

 $CH_3C(O)OCH_2O_{\bullet}^* + NO_2$ (28)

$$CH_3C(O)OCH_2O \bullet^* \rightarrow CH_3C(O)OH + HCO$$
 (29)

$$CH_{3}C(O)OCH_{2}O\bullet^{*} + M \rightarrow CH_{3}C(O)OCH_{2}O\bullet + M$$
(30)

$$CH_3C(O)OCH_2O \bullet + O_2 \rightarrow CH_3C(O)OC(O)H + HO_2 \bullet$$
 (20)

$$CH_3C(O)OCH_2O \bullet \rightarrow CH_3C(O)OH + HCO \bullet$$
 (21)

The curves in Figure 8 are least-squares fits of expressions II and III to the data using $k_{20}/k_{21} = 0.0054 \pm 0.0022$ Torr⁻¹. From the $CH_3C(O)OC(O)H$ data in Figure 8 we derive $Y'(RO\bullet)$ = 0.80 ± 0.20 and $A = 0.84 \pm 0.11$. From the CH₃C(O)OH data in Figure 8 we derive $Y'(RO\bullet) = 0.58 \pm 0.06$ and B = 0.13 ± 0.03 . Averaging the two determinations of Y'(RO•) together with uncertainties that encompass the individual measurements, $Y'(RO\bullet) = 0.69 \pm 0.30$. These parameters can be used to determine the yield of CH₃C(O)OCHO•CH₂OC(O)- CH_3 radicals, $Y(RO_{\bullet})$, in the presence of NO. If decomposition is the sole fate of CH₃C(O)OCHO•CH₂OC(O)CH₃ radicals, β is the fraction of CH₃C(O)OCH₂OO• radicals that react to form $CH_3C(O)OC(O)H$ via channels that are independent of O_2 concentration and γ is the fraction of CH₃C(O)OCH₂O• radicals that undergo prompt α -ester rearrangement, then the following equations apply

$$Y(RO\bullet) + (\beta \times Y(RO\bullet)) = 0.84 \pm 0.11$$
 (VI)

$$Y(\text{RO}\bullet) - (\beta \times Y(\text{RO}\bullet)) - (\gamma \times Y(\text{RO}\bullet)) = 0.69 \pm 0.30 \text{ (VII)}$$

$$\gamma \times Y(\text{RO}\bullet) = 0.13 \pm 0.03 \qquad \text{(VIII)}$$

Solving these equations gives $Y(\text{RO} \bullet) = 0.83 \pm 0.16$, $\beta = 0.02 \pm 0.02$, and $\gamma = 0.16 \pm 0.05$. Christensen et al.¹⁸ determined that, in the presence of NO, the fraction of CH₃C-(O)OCH₂ \bullet radicals which react to form CH₃C(O)OC(O)H via processes that are not dependent on the O₂ concentration was 0.04 ± 0.04 and that the yield of alkoxy radicals which undergo prompt rearrangement to form CH₃C(O)OH is 0.20 ± 0.08 . The fit of the curves to the data in Figure 8 demonstrate that the fate of the CH₃C(O)OCH₂O \bullet radical formed during the Cl initiated oxidation of ethylene glycol diacetate in the presence of NO is consistent with the fate of the CH₃C(O)OCH₂O \bullet radical determined by Christensen et al.¹⁸ in the Cl initiated oxidation of methyl acetate in the presence of NO.

Mauer et al.²¹ investigated the Cl atom initiated oxidation of ethylene glycol diformate, HC(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)H, in the presence of NO_x. They found that the alkoxy radical, HC(O)-OCHO(•)CH₂OC(O)H, decomposes to form formic acid anhydride, HC(O)OC(O)H and •CH₂OC(O)H. The fate of •CH₂OC-(O)H is reaction with O₂ to form HC(O)OC(O)H and α -ester rearrangement to form HC(O)OH and HC•(O). In the presence of NO_x, the molar yields of formic acid anhydride and formic acid were 173 ± 34% and 45 ± 9%, respectively. Evidence was also found for a chemically activated alkoxy radical effect.

4. Implications for Atmospheric Chemistry. The present work improves our understanding of the atmospheric chemistry of ethylene glycol diacetate, CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃. Cl atoms and OH radicals react with CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ with rate constants of $(5.7 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-12}$ and $(2.36 \pm 0.34) \times$ 10^{-12} cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹, respectively. The value of k(OH + $CH_3C(O)O(CH_2)_2OC(O)CH_3)$ can be used to provide an estimate of the atmospheric lifetime of CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)-CH₃. Using a global weighted-average OH concentration of 1.0 \times 10⁶ molecules cm⁻³ ²² leads to an estimated lifetime of CH₃C(O)O(CH₂)₂OC(O)CH₃ with respect to reaction with OH radicals of 4.9 days. The approximate nature of this atmospheric lifetime estimate should be stressed; the average daily concentration of OH radicals in the atmosphere varies significantly with both location and season. The value above is an estimate of the global average lifetime; local lifetime may be different. The major atmospheric oxidation products of ethylene glycol diacetate (CH₃C(O)OC(O)CH₂OC(O)CH₃, CH₃C(O)OC(O)H, and $CH_3C(O)OH$) are oxygenated organic compounds which are expected to be relatively unreactive toward further gas-phase oxidation reactions.²³ We conclude that ethylene glycol diacetate

has a modest kinetic reactivity and a low mechanistic reactivity and appears likely to have a low photochemical ozone creation potential.

Modeling studies are required to provide a precise quantification of the photochemical ozone creation potential but are beyond the scope of the present work.

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