# Estimation of rate constants for gas-phase reactions of chrysene, benz[*a*]anthracene, and benzanthrone with OH and NO<sub>3</sub> radicals via a relative rate method in CCl<sub>4</sub> liquid phase-system

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#### Abstract

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CCl<sub>4</sub> liquid-phase reaction kinetics of polycyclic aromatic compounds (PACs), including chrysene (CHRY), benz[*a*]anthracene (BaA), and benzanthrone (BA), with NO<sub>3</sub> radicals were investigated at 273 K using a relative rate method with naphthalene (NA) as the reference compound. The obtained relative reaction rates of CHRY, BaA, and BA to NA were  $1.76 \pm 0.08$ ,  $2.27 \pm 0.20$ ,  $0.75 \pm 0.01$ , respectively. CHRY, BaA, and BA are semi-volatile PACs with four aromatic rings. They are chemically modified into mutagenic nitropolycyclic aromatic compounds via gas-phase OH or NO<sub>3</sub> radical-initiated reactions. Based on the PACs relative reactivity in the CCl<sub>4</sub> liquid phase-system, the rate constants at 298 K for the gas-phase reaction of CHRY, BaA, and BA with OH radicals and those of CHRY, BaA, and BA with NO<sub>3</sub> radicals were estimated to be (in cm<sup>3</sup>molecule<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>): CHRY, (4.4 ± 0.3) × 10<sup>-11</sup> and (9.2 ± 3.2) ×  $10^{-28}$  [NO<sub>2</sub>]; BaA, (5.3 ± 0.5) × 10<sup>-11</sup> and (1.3 ± 0.5) × 10<sup>-27</sup> [NO<sub>2</sub>]; BA, (2.3 ± 0.1) × 10<sup>-11</sup> and (3.1 ± 1.1) × 10<sup>-28</sup> [NO<sub>2</sub>].

Keywords: PAH, nitro-PAH, radical-initiated reactions, atmospheric nitration

#### 15 Introduction

Nitrated polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (nitro-PAHs) are a class of polycyclic aromatic compounds (PACs), most of which exhibit direct-acting mutagenicity or carcinogenicity<sup>1</sup>. They are detected in filtered samples of ambient air <sup>2</sup> or combustion emissions <sup>3</sup>, including diesel exhaust particles <sup>4</sup> and airborne particles <sup>5</sup>. For example, atmospheric 1-nitropyrene (1-NP) is produced during combustion<sup>2, 5</sup>, whereas, 2-nitrofluoranthene (2-NF) is found in higher concentrations in airborne 20 particles <sup>2, 6</sup>, and it is considered a product of atmospheric gas-phase reactions of parent fluoranthene (FLRA) with nitrogen oxides initiated by hydroxyl (OH) radicals or nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) radicals <sup>7-9</sup>. Benzanthrone (BA) is a less volatile PAC than FLRA, sublimation pressures at 298 K (Ps(298K)) for BA and FLRA are  $2 \times 10^{-5}$  Pa and  $1.23 \times 10^{-3}$  Pa, respectively <sup>10, 11</sup>. Nevertheless, BA also reacts with 25 OH and NO<sub>3</sub> radicals in the gas phase, resulting in 2-nitrobenzanthrone (2-NBA)<sup>12</sup>. Vapor pressures of chrysene (CHRY) and benz[a]anthracene (BaA) are comparable to the vapor pressure of BA, i.e., Ps(298 K) are  $1.2 \times 10^{-6}$  Pa for CHRY and  $2.7 \times 10^{-5}$  Pa for BaA <sup>10</sup>. Thus, CHRY and BaA may also react with OH and NO<sub>3</sub> radicals in the gas phase, resulting in toxic nitro-PAHs. The rate constants for the reactions of BA, CHRY, and BaA with OH or NO<sub>3</sub> radicals, although poorly understood, are important factors, because they may control their nitro-derivatives' concentrations in the atmosphere. 30

OH and NO<sub>3</sub> radical-initiated reactions of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were studied extensively <sup>13–18</sup>. However, the rate constants for the gas-phase reactions of semi- and lowvolatile PACs (those with four or more aromatic rings) cannot be accurately determined using conventional methods such as large-chamber experiments <sup>8</sup> and fast-flow discharge methods <sup>19</sup>, because they are mainly deposited on the walls of the reaction system due to their low vapor pressures. We established a method for determining the rate constants of the gas-phase reactions of low-volatile organics with OH radicals using a relative-rate technique in CCl<sub>4</sub> liquid phase-system <sup>20, 21</sup>. In particular, we obtained several PACs' relative reactivity indices, by reacting them with NO<sub>3</sub> radicals in a CCl<sub>4</sub> liquid phase-system. These indices can be used to predict the reaction rate constants of low-volatile

40 PACs with OH or NO<sub>3</sub> radicals in the gas phase.

In the present study, we estimate the rate constants of the gas-phase reactions of CHRY, BaA, and BA with OH and NO<sub>3</sub> radicals based on their reactivity with other PACs in the CCl<sub>4</sub> liquid phase-system.

#### 45 Material and methods

#### *Relative-rate method in the* N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–NO<sub>3</sub>–NO<sub>2</sub>–CCl<sub>4</sub> *liquid phase-system*

The gas-phase reactions' rate constants of CHRY, BaA, and BA with OH and NO3 radicals were predicted using the relative-rate method in a N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>–NO<sub>3</sub>–NO<sub>2</sub>–CCl<sub>4</sub> liquid phase-system <sup>20, 21</sup>. Detailed descriptions of this method were provided in the previous reports <sup>20, 21</sup>. As the source of NO<sub>3</sub> radicals, 50 we used N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> synthesized by a two-step dehydration of a concentrated HNO<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution with  $P_2O_5$ <sup>22</sup>. The prepared N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> was dissolved in CCl<sub>4</sub>. The N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-CCl<sub>4</sub> solution was added to a CCl<sub>4</sub> solution of each PAC with stirring. Naphthalene (NA) was used as the reference substrate, because the rate constants of its reactions with OH and NO<sub>3</sub> radicals are well established. The N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> initial concentration was up to 32 mmol  $L^{-1}$ , and the PACs initial concentrations were: 0.5 µmol  $L^{-1}$  for FLRA. 55 fluorene (FLRE), 2-methylnaphthalene (2-MNA), NA, phenanthrene (PHE), pyrene (PY), CHRY, BaA, and triphenylene (TP); 1  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup> for BA, acenaphthene (ACE), 1-methylnaphthalene (1-MNA), and 2,3-dimethylnaphthalene (2,3-DMNA); 5  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup> for 1-nitronaphthalene (1-NNA). During the reaction, an aliquot of the reaction solution (normally 1 mL) was sampled at 30-sec intervals, and added to 200 uL acetaldehyde to terminate the radical reaction. The remaining PAC was determined through 60 high-performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) with either a spectrofluorometric or a UV-vis spectrophotometric detector. The rate constant ratio of each PAC to NA was determined in the N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-NO<sub>3</sub>-NO<sub>2</sub>-CCl<sub>4</sub> system using a relative-rate method at  $273 \pm 1$  K. CCl<sub>4</sub> was employed as an aprotic non-polar solvent enabling N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to exist as a covalent molecular species to generate NO<sub>3</sub> following equilibrium between molecular N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub> (N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>  $\neq$  NO<sub>3</sub> + NO<sub>2</sub>). Assuming that the reaction 65 with NO<sub>3</sub> radicals is the only loss process of the PACs, the natural logarithmic plots of each PAC's concentration against NA at specific reaction times (usually within 150 sec) relative to its initial

concentration provide the rate constant ratio between each PAC and NA, according to the following equations:

 $NO_3 + PAC \rightarrow Products$  (1)

70  $NO_3 + NA \rightarrow Products$  (2)

 $\ln([PAC]_0/[PAC]_t) = k_1/k_2 \ln([NA]_0/[NA]_t)$ (3)

where  $[PAC]_0$  and  $[NA]_0$  are the initial concentrations, and  $[PAC]_t$  and  $[NA]_t$  are the concentrations at reaction time *t*. The  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  are the rate constants for reactions 1 and 2, respectively.

### 75 PACs chemical analysis in the system

The CCl<sub>4</sub> solutions containing each PAC were diluted with methanol at appropriate concentrations. An aliquot of each sample solution was analyzed using a Hitachi L-6200 HPLC-system equipped with either a Hitachi F-1050 spectrofluorometric detector or a Hitach L-4200 UV–vis spectrophotometric detector using an Inertsil ODS-3 column (GL science, 3.0 mm i.d.  $\times$  250 mm). The mobile phase of the analysis system was methanol/water (4/1, v/v).

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#### Chemicals

Authentic standards of PACs were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Co. or Wako Pure Chemical Ind. Ltd. All solvents and other chemicals used were HPLC or analytical grades from Wako Pure 85 Chemical Ind., Ltd.

#### **Results and Discussion**

Applying linear regression to the plot of ln([PAC]<sub>0</sub>/[PAC]<sub>t</sub>) vs. ln([NA]<sub>0</sub>/[NA]<sub>t</sub>), the slope of the regression line is equivalent to the rate constant ratio k<sub>1</sub>/k<sub>2</sub>. The relative rate plots from the experiments
90 in accordance with Eq (3) are presented in Figs. 1a–1c. Good linear plots with no intercept are obtained, validating the relative rate method as an effective tool to obtain the rate constants ratio for the studied reactions. The k<sub>1</sub>/k<sub>2</sub> values for CHRY, BaA, and BA obtained by the least-square analysis and the rate constant ratios for the gas phase OH or NO<sub>3</sub> radical-initiated reactions of PAC to those of NA (k<sub>PAC</sub>-

 $_{OH/k_{NA-OH}}$  and  $k_{PAC-NO3/k_{NA-NO3}}$ ) are given in Table 1. These values were obtained by using previously reported rate constants <sup>13, 14, 17, 18, 23–25</sup>. For the gas-phase NO<sub>3</sub>-reaction, the rate constant of the NO<sub>2</sub>-dependent reaction was used as  $k_{PAC-NO3}$  (see footnote of Table 1).

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The  $k_1/k_2$  ratio correlates well with  $k_{PAC-NO3}/k_{NA-NO3}$  [i.e.,  $\log(k_{PAC-NO3}/k_{NA-NO3}) = 1.27 \log(k_1/k_2)$ + 0.09, correlation coefficient r = 0.95, significance level p < 0.001 and  $k_{PAC-OH}/k_{NA-OH}$  [i.e.,  $\log(k_{PAC-OH}/k_{NA-OH})$  $OH/k_{NA-OH}$  = 0.78\*log( $k_1/k_2$ ) + 0.07, r = 0.97, p < 0.001]<sup>21</sup>. Based on these relationships and the rate 100 constant ratio  $k_1/k_2$  for CHR, BaA, and BA (1.76, 2.27, and 0.75, respectively), the ratios of the rate constant for the gas phase NO<sub>3</sub> or OH radical-initiated reactions of these PACs to those of NA ( $k_{PAC}$ - $NO3/k_{NA-NO3}$  and  $k_{PAC-OH}/k_{NA-OH}$ , respectively) can be predicted. Based on the obtained rate constant ratios  $k_{PAC-NO3}/k_{NA-NO3}$  and  $k_{PAC-OH}/k_{NA-OH}$  and the known rate constants for the gas phase NO<sub>3</sub> or OH radical-initiated reactions of NA { $k_{\text{NA-NO3}} = (3.66 \pm 1.26) \times 10^{-28} [\text{NO}_2] \text{ cm}^3 \text{molecule}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $k_{\text{NA-OH}} =$  $(2.39 \pm 0.10) \times 10^{-11}$  cm<sup>3</sup>molecule<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>}<sup>18, 26</sup>, the rate constants at room temperature for the gas-phase 105 reaction of CHRY, BaA, and BA with OH radicals and those of CHRY, BaA, and BA with NO<sub>3</sub> radicals are (in cm<sup>3</sup>molecule<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>): CHRY,  $(4.4 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-11}$  and  $(9.2 \pm 3.2) \times 10^{-28}$  [NO<sub>2</sub>]; BaA,  $(5.3 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-11}$  $10^{-11}$  and  $(1.3 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-27}$  [NO<sub>2</sub>]; BA,  $(2.3 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-11}$  and  $(3.1 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-28}$  [NO<sub>2</sub>]. The indicated errors were based on the standard deviations of the  $k_1/k_2$  ratios from three replicate measurements and the uncertainty of the rate constants of the reference compound. The obtained rate 110 constants of the gas-phase OH reaction using this system for CHRY and BaA agreed closely with previously estimated values,  $3.4 \times 10^{-11}$  cm<sup>3</sup>molecule<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> and  $5.3 \times 10^{-11}$  cm<sup>3</sup>molecule<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, using an empirical relationship between  $k_{PAC-OH}$  and the Hückel hardness factors <sup>26</sup>.

The tropospheric lifetimes of CHRY, BaA, and BA with respect to the gas-phase reaction with 115 OH and NO<sub>3</sub> radicals (Table 2) are calculated by combining the corresponding reaction rate constants with the ambient atmospheric concentrations (in molecule cm<sup>-3</sup>) of OH and NO<sub>3</sub> radicals applying a 12-h average daytime concentration of  $1.9 \times 10^{6}$  <sup>27</sup> and  $5 \times 10^{8}$  <sup>23</sup>, respectively. Indeed, the OH radical reaction during daytime is the dominant CHRY, BaA, and BA loss process. Thus, considerable atmospheric formation of CHRY, BaA, and BA nitro-derivatives is anticipated from their reaction with 120 OH radicals. The NO<sub>3</sub> radical reaction is less important by 2–3 orders of magnitude than the OH radical reaction in the atmospheric removal of CHRY, BaA, and BA.

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# **Figure Captions**

**Figure 1.** Plots of Eq (3) for the reaction of NO<sub>3</sub> radicals with CHRY, BaA, and BA in the CCl<sub>4</sub> liquid-phase system.



 $\ln(PAC_0/PAC_t)$ 

**Table 1:** Rate constant ratios  $k_1/k_2$  obtained in this study.  $k_{PAC-OH}$  and  $k_{PAC-NO3}$  are rate constants for the gas phase reactions of corresponding PACs with OH radicals and NO<sub>3</sub> radicals, respectively.

Compound	$k_1/k_2$	$10^{11}k_{\text{PAC-OH}^a}$	$10^{28}[\text{NO}_2]^{-1}k_{\text{PAC-NO3}^b}$
Chrysene (CHRY)	$1.76\pm0.08$	$4.4\pm0.3$	$9.2 \pm 3.2$
Benz[ <i>a</i> ]anthracene (BaA)	$2.27\pm0.20$	$5.3\pm0.5$	$12.6 \pm 4.5$
Benzanthrone (BA)	$0.75\pm0.01$	$2.3\pm0.1$	3.1 ± 1.1

<sup>a</sup> Given in unit of  $cm^3$  molecule<sup>-1</sup> sec<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>b</sup> [NO<sub>2</sub>] and  $k_{PAC-NO3}$  are given in unit of molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> and cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> sec<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.

**Table 2:** Calculated lifetimes of the compounds studied with respect to gas-phase reaction with OH and NO<sub>3</sub> radicals.

	Lifetime Due to Reaction with		
	OH (h) <sup>a</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> (day) <sup>b, c</sup>	
Chrysene (CHRY)	3.3	36	
Benz[a]anthracene (BaA)	2.8	27	
Benzanthrone (BA)	6.4	108	

<sup>a</sup> For a 12-h average daytime OH radical concentration of  $1.9 \times 10^6$  molecule cm<sup>-3 27</sup>.

<sup>b</sup> For a 12-h average NO<sub>3</sub> radical concentration of  $5 \times 10^8$  molecule cm<sup>-3 23</sup>.

<sup>c</sup> For a 24-h average NO<sub>2</sub> concentration of  $6.91 \times 10^{11}$  molecule cm<sup>-3 28</sup>.