

Influence of Solvent on Photoinduced Electron-Transfer Reaction: Time-Resolved Resonance Raman Study

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Received: April 26, 2009

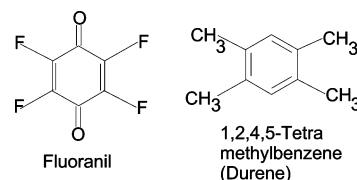
Time-resolved resonance Raman spectroscopy (TR3) has been used to study the effect of solvent polarity on the mechanism and nature of intermediates formed in photoinduced electron-transfer reaction between triplet flouranil (^3FL) and tetramethylbenzene (TMB). Comparison of the TR3 spectra in polar, nonpolar, and medium polar media suggests that formation of radical anion due to electron-transfer reaction between ^3FL and TMB is favored in more polar solvents, whereas ketyl radical formation is more favored in less polar media. Compared to ketyl radical, the extent of radical anion formation is negligible in nonpolar solvents. Therefore, it is inferred that in nonpolar media ketyl radical is mainly generated by hydrogen-transfer reaction in the encounter complex between ^3FL and TMB. In solvents of medium polarity, the ion-pair decay leads to the formation of both ketyl radical and ketyl radical formed from the encounter between triplet state and the donor. Thus, competition between the formation of ketyl radical and ion pair is influenced by the solvent polarity. The nature of the ion pair in different solvent polarity has been investigated from the changes observed in the vibrational frequency of (flouranil) FL part of the complex.

Introduction

Photoinduced electron-transfer reactions have received much attention in recent years, with a view to investigate the oxidation and reduction mechanism of molecules in the excited state. Since most electron-transfer reactions take place in condensed media, the influence of medium is of great importance for understanding the mechanism and nature of intermediates formed in the reaction. The ion pair formed between a donor and acceptor has been recognized as a key intermediate in photoinduced electron-transfer reactions.¹ Competition between the stabilization gained from Coulombic interaction of the ions in an ion pair and the solvation of the ions has important consequence on the nature of the ion pair, which can be either a contact ion pair (CIP) or a solvent-separated ion pair (SSIP). In this respect, solvent polarity has revealed interesting features in the distribution of these intermediates.^{2–8} In polar solvents, triplet ion pairs, commonly observable in the nanosecond time domain from bimolecular photoinduced electron-transfer reactions, are mainly SSIP, whereas in less polar solvents CIPs are expected in the same timescale.^{9–11} In highly polar solvents such as acetonitrile, the SSIP may dissociate into solvated ions. Transient absorption studies have shown that, in nonpolar media, CIP between chloranil and acenaphthene decays through intra-ion-pair proton transfer and, in polar solvents, the nature of ion pair is SSIP, which favors ionic dissociation into free anion and cation radicals.⁹ Chloranil-durene system in 1,2-dichloromethane revealed the presence of both CIP and SSIP in equilibrium.¹⁰ But in such studies reported thus far, there is no structural evidence to differentiate the nature of ion pair formed in different solvent polarity.

As the polarity of solvent decreases, the structure of CIP becomes less ionic because of mixing of the locally excited triplet state and the ionic CT state. Therefore, CIP can be differentiated from SSIP or solvated ions in terms of donor–acceptor

SCHEME 1



tor interaction and extent of charge transfer in the CIP. This kind of species in which the extent of charge transfer is less compared to the pure ionic CT state is referred to as exciplex. Therefore, probing the structural difference between CIP (exciplex) and SSIP will give good insight into the nature of the ion pair formed in different solvent polarity. In this work, TR3 spectroscopy was used to study the effect of solvent polarity on the nature of the ion pair and the mechanism of photoinduced electron-transfer reaction. The solvent polarity is varied by using a mixture of acetonitrile (CH_3CN) and carbon tetrachloride (CCl_4) in different proportions. The systems employed for the study are flouranil (FL) as the electron acceptor and tetramethylbenzene (Durene) (TMB) as electron donor. The structures of FL and TMB are shown in Scheme 1. In FL, the fluorine atom induces strong electron withdrawing (by inductive effect) and a weak electron pair donating (π bonding) effect, which is referred to as the perfluoro effect.¹² The presence of such effects will significantly affect the mechanism of photoinduced electron-transfer reactions compared to other halogenated quinones. We previously reported^{13,14} detailed TR3 studies on triplet flouranil (^3FL), where we investigated the influence of perfluorination on its structure and reactivity.

TR3 spectroscopy is an excellent technique for probing the structure of the molecule in the excited state. This technique has been used widely to study the structure and dynamics of intermediates formed in photoinduced electron-transfer reaction.^{15–17} For example, TR3 studies on 9,10-anthraquinone-1,2,4-trimethoxybenzene revealed the presence of geminate ion pair

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and its separation into free ions in photoinduced electron-transfer reaction. The TR3 spectra show shifting of the band position of 1,2,4-trimethoxybenzene cation radical as the ion pair proceeds toward separation.^{15,16} Further, using this method, Tahara and Hamaguchi extensively investigated structural evidence on the exciplex nature of the ion pair in the case of *p*-chloranil alkylbenzene charge-transfer complex.¹⁷ Our main objectives of this study are (a) to understand influence of medium on the mechanism of formation and decay of ion pair and (b) to provide structural evidence on the nature of the ion pair formed in different solvent polarities using TR3 spectroscopy.

Experimental Section

The experimental apparatus and procedures used for the TR3 spectroscopy were described in detail previously.¹⁸ Briefly, the photoexcitation pump wavelength is the third-harmonic 355-nm output of a Nd:YAG laser (DCR-11), and the probe wavelength 416 nm is from a homemade H₂ Raman shifter. The laser pulses are about 8–10 ns in temporal width, and energies are about 1.0 and 0.5 mJ for pump and probe, respectively. The delay between the laser pulses is provided by the standard DG535 delay generator. A SPEX 1404 double monochromator was used with two 600 grooves grating to disperse the scattered light. A liquid nitrogen-cooled CCD (Princeton instrument) with 576 × 376 pixel was used as a multichannel detector. TMB and FL were obtained from Aldrich. The CH₃CN and CCl₄ used were of analytical grade and distilled before use. The recorded Raman spectra were calibrated using known solvent bands as reference, and the spectral resolution was estimated as 5 cm⁻¹.

In transient absorption measurement, the laser excitation pulse at 355 nm was obtained from the Nd:YAG laser. The sample cell used had a path length of 1 cm, and the signals were detected using a 250 W pulsed xenon lamp, Czerny Turner monochromator, and R-928 photomultiplier tube. The signals were acquired in an oscilloscope and then processed.

Results and Discussion

Transient Absorption Studies. Photoinduced electron-transfer reaction between FL and TMB was studied under varying solvent polarity conditions. The polarity was varied by using a mixture of CH₃CN and CCl₄ in different proportions. Transient absorption spectra recorded from solvent mixture (a) 4:1 (v/v) CCl₄–CH₃CN, (b) 3:2 (v/v) CCl₄–CH₃CN, and (c) CH₃CN solution of FL (2 × 10⁻³ M)–TMB (1 × 10⁻¹ M) are shown in Figure 1a, b, and c, respectively. The excitation wavelength at 355 nm corresponds to the ground-state absorption maximum of FL. The ground-state absorption spectra of FL–TMB mixture in two different solvent polarity and individual systems are shown in Figure 2. The ground-state absorption maximum of FL appears at 337 nm. The absorption profile of FL–TMB mixture shows the charge-transfer transition absorption band of ground-state electron donor–acceptor (EDA) complex at 442 nm and the charge-transfer absorbance increases with solvent polarity. Deconvolution of the absorption profile shows that, at 355 nm, absorption from ground-state EDA complex is much less. Therefore, pump excitation at 355 nm will preferably excite FL in an FL–TMB mixture.

The possible photoinduced processes that are expected upon excitation are electron-transfer reaction in the singlet electronic manifold, which may lead to the formation of singlet ion pair, and intersystem crossing from the singlet state of the acceptor to its triplet state. It is known from picosecond transient absorption studies that the singlet ion pair between chloranil and aromatic donors is very short-lived, and it reverts back to

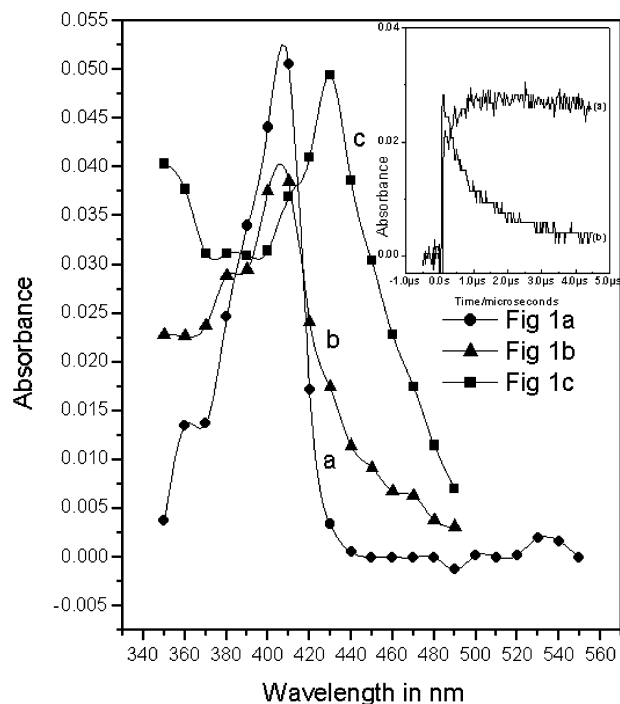


Figure 1. Transient absorption spectra of FL (2 × 10⁻³ M) and TMB (1 × 10⁻¹ M) in (a) 4:1 (v/v) CCl₄–CH₃CN, (b) 3:2 (v/v) CCl₄–CH₃CN, (c) CH₃CN. Pump laser 355 nm. The spectra are obtained at delay time of 1.0 μs after the start of the laser pulse. Inset: (a) Rise of FLH*. Absorption at 410 nm. (b) Decay of the 440-nm absorption of FL (2 × 10⁻³ M) and TMB (1 × 10⁻¹ M) system in 3:2 (v/v) CCl₄–CH₃CN.

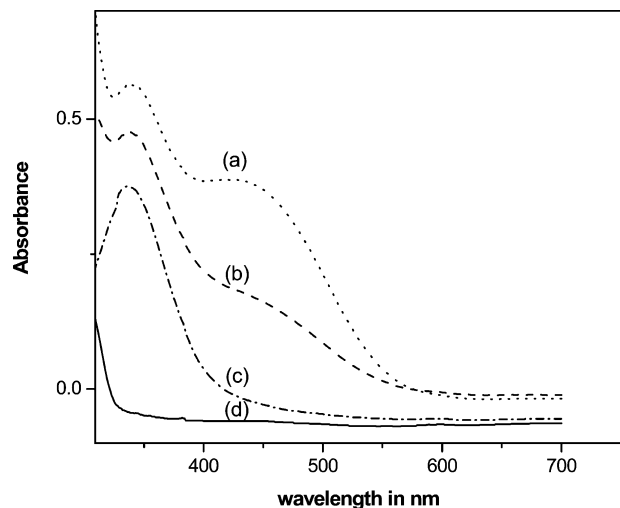


Figure 2. Ground-state absorption spectra of (a) FL (2 × 10⁻³ M) and TMB (1 × 10⁻¹ M) in 4:1 (v/v) CCl₄–CH₃CN, (b) FL (2 × 10⁻³ M) and TMB (1 × 10⁻¹ M) in CH₃CN, (c) FL (2 × 10⁻³ M) in CH₃CN, and (d) TMB (1 × 10⁻¹ M) in CH₃CN.

the ground state within 10 ps.¹⁹ Therefore, observation of photoinduced electron-transfer process in the singlet state is not possible with the time resolution of our present experimental setup.

The overall electron-transfer reactivity (singlet vs triplet) will depend on the relative rates of intersystem crossing and electron transfer. The intersystem crossing rates of fluoranil and chloranil are 0.9 × 10¹¹ and 1.0 × 10¹¹ s⁻¹, respectively. At low concentration of the donor, electron-transfer reaction proceeds by diffusional encounter between excited state acceptor and donor, and the timescale of diffusional encounter is greater than 1 ns. Therefore, fast ISC from the singlet state of acceptor is

more favorable compared to the electron-transfer process in the singlet state. Thus, in the present study the photoinduced electron-transfer reaction in the triplet electronic manifold was investigated.

The transient species generated by photoinduced reaction between ^3FL and TMB in CH_3CN generates a transient absorption band at 430 nm, which is the characteristic of fluoranil radical anion ($\text{FL}^{\bullet-}$).²³ Therefore, it is inferred that electron-transfer reaction occurs in CH_3CN . In nonpolar solvent (4:1 (v/v) CCl_4 – CH_3CN), the spectra show transient absorption maximum around 410 nm. The absorption band at 410 nm disappears gradually with a long lifetime compared to the transient generated in CH_3CN . The shift in the absorption maximum of (4:1 (v/v) CCl_4 – CH_3CN) with respect to radical anion of fluoranil is almost the same as those reported²³ for ketyl radical of FL (FLH^{\bullet}); thus, absorption at 410 nm was assigned to FLH^{\bullet} . Figure 1 shows the transient absorption spectra obtained at 1 μs in different solvent polarity. It is quite interesting that, in nonpolar media, we do not observe bands of $\text{FL}^{\bullet-}$. In solvents of medium polarity (3:2 (v/v) CCl_4 – CH_3CN), the 410-nm absorption decays at slower rate as compared to that at 430 nm. Therefore, it is inferred that in solvents of medium polarity the spectra consist of absorption bands from both $\text{FL}^{\bullet-}$ and FLH^{\bullet} . The above results clearly suggest that the competition, between the electron-transfer and the hydrogen-transfer reaction, is influenced by the solvent polarity.

The effect of solvent polarity on the spontaneity of ion-pair formation was evaluated from the free energy change ΔG associated with its formation. In the electron-transfer process, the primary ion-pair intermediate formed in less polar solvents is mainly CIP, whereas SSIP is favored in highly polar media. Thus, in nonpolar media for 4:1 (CCl_4 – CH_3CN) (dielectric constant is 13.4) the ΔG value for the contact ion-pair formation was estimated approximately by eq 1^{10,20} to be -0.562 eV, and with the help of eq 2 ΔG for SSIP formation in acetonitrile was estimated to be -0.621 eV. The ΔG values calculated for both the ion pairs were negative, and therefore ion-pair formation by electron-transfer reaction is feasible in both polar and nonpolar media

$$\Delta G(\text{FL}^{\bullet-} - \text{TMB}^{\bullet+})_s = E(\text{TMB}/\text{TMB}^{\bullet+}) - E(\text{FL}^{\bullet-}/\text{FL}) - E_T(^3\text{FL}) + 0.32 - 0.7(\epsilon - 1/2\epsilon + 1) \quad (1)$$

$$\Delta G(\text{FL}_s^{\bullet-} - \text{TMB}_s^{\bullet+}) = E(\text{TMB}/\text{TMB}^{\bullet+}) - E(\text{FL}^{\bullet-}/\text{FL}) - E_T(^3\text{FL}) - e^2/\epsilon R \quad (2)$$

The dielectric constant of mixed solvent was assumed to be proportional to the mole fractions of those original solvents. $E(\text{TMB}/\text{TMB}^{\bullet+})$ and $E(\text{FL}^{\bullet-}/\text{FL})$ are the oxidation potential of TMB (1.59 V) and the reduction potential of FL (-0.04 V), respectively, in acetonitrile. The energy of ^3FL ($E_T(^3\text{FL})$) is 2.2 eV,²¹ ϵ is the dielectric constant, and R is the distance, typically 7.5 Å, between the donor and the acceptor for a loose ion pair.¹⁶

Free energy calculations show that ion-pair formation is feasible in both polar and nonpolar media, whereas transient absorption spectra obtained in nonpolar media show the presence of only FLH^{\bullet} . The possible reason for this could be that the hydrogen-transfer sites in the collision complex between ^3FL and TMB are present in close proximity in nonpolar media, which favors hydrogen-transfer reaction to proceed with a high frequency factor. The collision complex might result from the formation of an initial hydrogen-bonding bridge between O-atom

of the acceptor and H-atom of the methyl group on the donor. A fast hydrogen transfer by a two-step mechanism of electron transfer followed by proton transfer has been reported in electron donor–acceptor and hydrogen-bonding interaction systems.²⁰ Taking this reported observation into account, it is also possible that the formation of FLH^{\bullet} in nonpolar solvents might also proceed through a two-step mechanism of fast electron transfer followed by proton transfer.

In polar solvents, proton transfer in the ion pair may be restricted, whereas in medium polar solvents the ion pairs are likely to undergo proton-transfer reaction. In such a case, the decay of the ion-pair absorption in medium polarity will be accompanied by growth of the transient absorption from FLH^{\bullet} . This has been analyzed from the temporal change in the transient absorption at 410 nm, which is characteristic of FLH^{\bullet} . The pure $\text{FL}^{\bullet-}$ spectrum free from FLH^{\bullet} (Figure 1c) (obtained in polar solvent) has a considerable amount of absorption at 410 nm due to $\text{FL}^{\bullet-}$. Therefore, the temporal change in transient absorption at 410 nm obtained in medium polar media involves absorption from both $\text{FL}^{\bullet-}$ and FLH^{\bullet} . With the help of eq 3, the contribution from radical anion absorption was subtracted from the net spectrum obtained at 410 nm in medium polarity.

$${}^N A = {}^M A_{410} - ({}^P A_{410}/{}^P A_{440}) \times {}^M A_{440} \quad (3)$$

${}^N A$ is the subtracted spectrum. ${}^M A_{410}$ and ${}^M A_{440}$ are the absorbance at 410 and 440 nm, respectively, obtained in medium polar media. ${}^P A_{410}$ and ${}^P A_{440}$ are the absorption at 410 and 440 nm, respectively, obtained in polar media. The use of transient absorption decay profile at 440 nm is necessary since at this wavelength absorption due to ketyl radical is negligible. The temporal change in the transient absorption at 410 nm obtained after subtracting the contribution from $\text{FL}^{\bullet-}$ is shown as inset in Figure 1 along with the transient decay at 440 nm corresponding to $\text{FL}^{\bullet-}$ absorption. It shows temporal growth in 410-nm absorption. In contrast, the temporal profile of FLH^{\bullet} absorption in nonpolar solvent does not show rise in the transient absorption. Therefore, it is inferred that intra-ion-pair proton transfer occurs in medium polar solvent and fast hydrogen-transfer process takes place in nonpolar solvent. In the Figure 1 inset, the rise time (310 ns) of the 410-nm band due to FLH^{\bullet} absorption and the first-order decay time (900 ns) of the 440-nm band due to $\text{FL}^{\bullet-}$ absorption do not match properly. The possible reason could be that FLH^{\bullet} generated by collisional encounter between ^3FL and TMB might also contribute to the temporal profile of the 410-nm absorption. While the major contribution of the absorption at 440 nm is from CIP, it will also have some amount of contribution from long-lived solvated ions resulting from the dissociation of SSIP, and this will also lead to mismatch between the decay time of ion pair and rise of FLH^{\bullet} .

The CIP, which has some amount of mixing between the ionic and the locally excited triplet complex, is well-known as exciplex. The exciplex nature of the CIP will lead to structural difference between the CIP and SSIP. Time-resolved resonance Raman studies can provide better information regarding the nature of ion pair formed, because the extent of charge transfer in the ion pair, which differentiates the CIP from SSIP, can be observed in the time-resolved vibrational spectra.

Time-Resolved Resonance Raman Study. TR3 studies on photoinduced electron-transfer reaction between ^3FL and TMB were conducted at pump wavelength 355 nm and probe wavelength 416 nm in different mixtures of CH_3CN and CCl_4 .

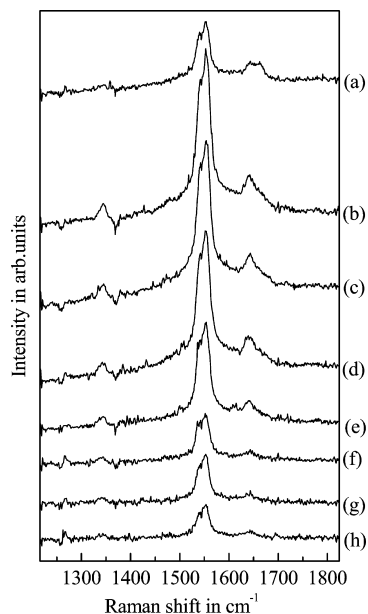


Figure 3. Time-resolved resonance Raman spectra of FL (2×10^{-3} M) and TMB (1×10^{-1} M) in 4:1 (v/v) CCl_4 - CH_3CN obtained at various delay times (pump laser 355 nm, probe laser 416 nm). (a) 0 ns, (b) 68 ns, (c) 168 ns, (d) 368 ns, (e) 1.3 μs , (f) 5.3 μs , (g) 9.3 μs , (h) 17.3 μs . Pump-only and probe-only spectra were subtracted from the pump+probe spectra.

The transient absorption spectra showed that both $\text{FL}^{\cdot-}$ and FLH^{\cdot} sufficiently absorb at 416 nm. Therefore, at this probe wavelength resonance enhancement due to both the species can occur.

TR3 spectra obtained in 4:1 (v/v) CCl_4 - CH_3CN mixture at various delays are shown in Figure 3. It consists of an intense band at 1550 cm^{-1} and a weak band at 1638 cm^{-1} , which resemble the resonance Raman spectra of FLH^{\cdot} .¹⁴ At 0-ns delay between the pump and probe, a weak shoulder band at 1662 cm^{-1} is noticed in the TR3 spectra, and at a later time (after 65 ns) this band decays. The weak shoulder band could be due to the presence of the ion pair (vide infra). Transient absorption results showed that the ion-pair formation is less favorable in nonpolar solvents. The TR3 spectra consisting of a vibrational band predominantly from FLH^{\cdot} are consistent with the transient absorption studies.

The TR3 spectra obtained in CH_3CN at various delays between the pump and probe are shown in Figure 4. The TR3 spectra at initial (within 240 ns) are similar to the $\text{FL}^{\cdot-}$. The resemblance of the TR3 spectra of FL-TMB in CH_3CN with the resonance Raman spectrum of $\text{FL}^{\cdot-}$ ¹⁶ confirms that the early time TR3 spectra are due to $\text{FL}^{\cdot-}$. The band at 1667 cm^{-1} decays at a faster rate compared to the one at 1560 cm^{-1} . This is due to the presence of ketyl radical whose TR3 vibrational frequencies are very close to that of the radical anion but the relative intensities are just reversed.²² At later time (after 2.1 μs), the presence of a very weak band due to FLH^{\cdot} is observed in the TR3 spectra. The major content in the spectra is TR3 bands of $\text{FL}^{\cdot-}$. Occurrence of electron-transfer reaction in polar solvents is consistent with the transient absorption results.

The TR3 spectra at various delays obtained in solvents of medium polarity containing 3:2 (v/v) CCl_4 - CH_3CN mixture are shown in Figure 5. The early time (below 26 ns) shows two bands at 1667 and 1560 cm^{-1} . The relative intensity of both the bands at early time is different from those obtained in polar and nonpolar media. This shows that the extent of radical anion formation is much higher compared to those observed in nonpolar solvents, and the amount of ketyl radical formation is

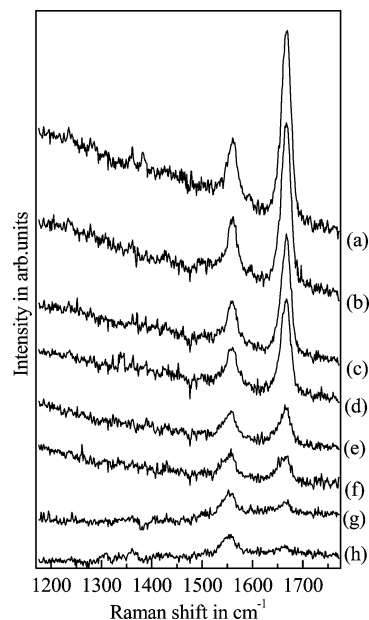


Figure 4. Time-resolved resonance Raman spectra of FL (2×10^{-3} M) and TMB (1×10^{-1}) in CH_3CN obtained at various delay times (pump laser 355 nm, probe laser 416 nm). (a) 10 ns, (b) 40 ns, (c) 140 ns, (d) 240 ns, (e) 1.2 μs , (f) 2.1 μs , (g) 4.1 μs , (h) 6.1 μs . Pump-only and probe-only spectra were subtracted from the pump+probe spectra.

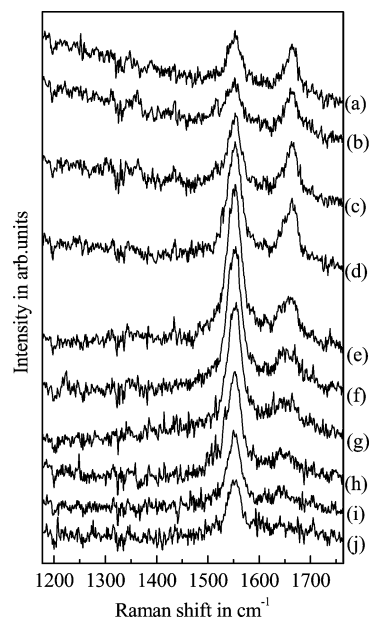


Figure 5. Time-resolved resonance Raman spectra of FL (2×10^{-3} M) and TMB (1×10^{-1}) in 3:2 (v/v) CCl_4 - CH_3CN obtained at various delay times (pump laser 355 nm, probe laser 416 nm). (a) 10 ns, (b) 12 ns, (c) 16 ns, (d) 26 ns, (e) 66 μs , (f) 166 ns, (g) 266 ns, (h) 1.2 μs , (i) 3.2 μs , (j) 5.2 μs . Pump-only and probe-only spectra were subtracted from the pump+probe spectra.

much higher compared to those observed in polar solvents. In the process of decay, the intense radical anion band at 1667 cm^{-1} decays much faster and the presence of long-lived bands of ketyl radical is observed in the spectra.

The nature of the ion pair in different solvent polarity was investigated from the changes observed in the vibrational frequency of the FL part of the complex. In medium polar solvent, if the CIP is a triplet exciplex then the vibrational frequency will be shifted from the pure radical anion frequency toward the corresponding mode of the triplet state. In polar

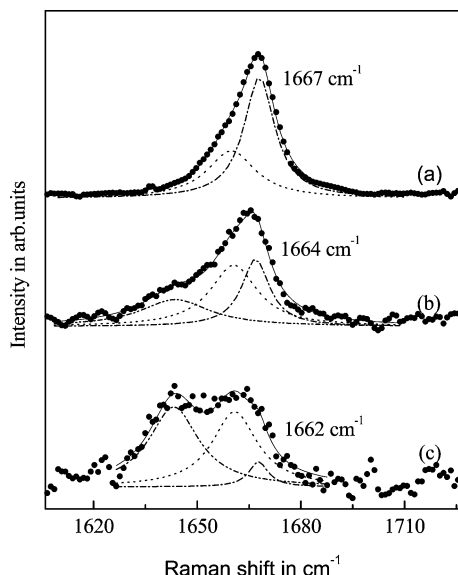


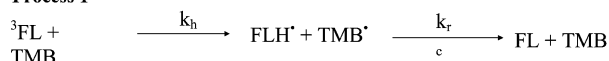
Figure 6. Time-resolved resonance Raman spectra of FL (2×10^{-3} M) and TMB (1×10^{-1}) (pump laser 355 nm, probe laser 416 nm) in (a) CH₃CN at 20 ns, (b) 3:2 (v/v) CCl₄-CH₃CN at 20 ns, and (c) 4:1 (v/v) CCl₄-CH₃CN at 0 ns. Pump-only and probe-only spectra were subtracted from the pump+probe spectra.

solvents, the SSIP will be closer to the vibrational frequency of the radical anion. TR3 studies carried out by Tahara and Hamaguchi¹⁷ on chloranil alkylbenzene triplet charge-transfer complex made a similar observation.

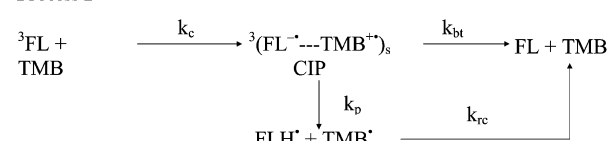
The change in the vibrational frequency due to the difference in the nature of the ion pair was observed in the case of the most intense band of FL⁻ at 1667 cm⁻¹, which corresponds to C=C stretching frequency. The corresponding mode of ³FL reported in acetonitrile is at 1603 cm⁻¹. Therefore, if the CIP is a triplet exciplex then due to mixing between the triplet locally excited state and the charge-transfer state, the band at 1667 cm⁻¹ in the CIP should get shifted toward lower frequency. Figure 6 shows the TR3 band at 1667 cm⁻¹ due to ion pair in different solvent polarity. In polar solvent TR3 band due to the ion pair consists of two bands observable from its unsymmetrical band shape. In medium and nonpolar solvents, the less intense band due to ketyl radical is also present along with the ion-pair band. The ion-pair band at 1667 cm⁻¹ in polar solvents shifts to 1664 cm⁻¹ in medium polar solvent. In nonpolar solvent, it gets further shifted to 1662 cm⁻¹. The asymmetrical shape of the 1667 cm⁻¹ band in polar solvent and its gradual shift (toward lower frequency) with decrease in solvent polarity suggest that the TR3 bands of ion pair consist of bands from two different species, one at lower and the other at slightly higher vibrational wavenumber. To identify the intermediates, we analyzed the change in intensity of the two intermediate species in each medium by carrying out a deconvolution of the Raman bands. Band fitting analyses were carried out with the assumption of a Lorentzian line shape of the Raman bands. The ion-pair band in polar solvent was fitted to two Lorentzian line shapes, whereas due to the presence of TR3 bands from the ketyl radical the Raman bands in medium and nonpolar solvent were fitted to three (based on the observed band contours) Lorentzian line shapes. The resulting spectra are shown in Figure 6. The deconvolution results in two bands for the ion-pair one at 1667 cm⁻¹ and the other at 1660 cm⁻¹. With decrease in solvent polarity, the intensity of the 1667 cm⁻¹ band decreases and the 1660 cm⁻¹ band increases. With respect to the 1667 cm⁻¹ vibrational band, the 1660 cm⁻¹ band is shifted toward the

SCHEME 2

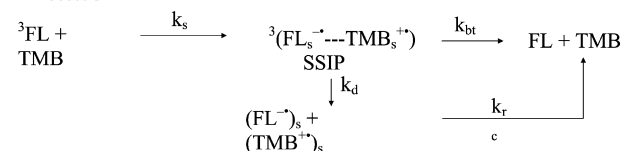
Process 1



Process 2



Process 3



corresponding vibrational mode of the triplet state, and moreover it is more intense for the ion-pair band in less polar media. Therefore, it is suggested that the 1660 cm⁻¹ is a CIP and it is a triplet exciplex in nature, whereas the 1667 cm⁻¹ band is very intense in polar media and therefore it corresponds to SSIP. In SSIP, the ion pairs are separated by solvents, and therefore structurally they cannot be differentiated from the solvated ions. Therefore, the band, which appears at higher wavenumbers, is due to the presence of both SSIP and solvated ions. The exciplex or CIP is stabilized by Coulombic interaction and by solvation. The stabilization gained by solvation is favored by increasing the solvent polarity. In highly polar solvents, the ion pairs get solvated rapidly, and in the process of solvation the solvent molecules penetrate the space between the ions, which results in screening of the Coulombic attraction between the ions. Therefore, in highly polar solvent, stabilization is gained because of the solvation of the ions (ΔG_{sol}), and the nature of ion pair is SSIP.

From the results obtained from transient absorption and TR3 studies, the effect of solvent polarity on the mechanism of photoinduced electron-transfer reaction between ³FL and TMB has been outlined in Scheme 2. The subscripts c and s refer to the processes of CIP and SSIP formation, respectively, and h, p, d, bt, and rc refer in turn to hydrogen transfer, proton transfer, ionic dissociation, back electron transfer, and recombination, respectively. In nonpolar solvent, process 1 is mostly favored, in medium polar media both processes 1 and 2 take place, whereas in polar media process 3 is the major reaction pathway.

The effect of solvent polarity on the mechanism of photoinduced electron-transfer reaction in the case of FL is quite different from that of *p*-chloranil.^{9,10,17} Transient absorption and TR3 studies on photoinduced electron-transfer reaction between chloranil and aromatic donors suggest that in nonpolar solvents such as 1,2-dichloroethane (dielectric constant of 10.3) 80% of the collision undergoes electron-transfer reaction to form the ion pair, whereas 20% of the collision complex undergoes H-transfer reaction.¹⁰ In contrast to this, in our present study the effect of nonpolar media in 4:1 (v/v) CCl₄-CH₃CN (dielectric constant = 13.4) results in formation of ketyl radical without the presence of ion-pair intermediate even though the polarity is slightly higher than that of 1,2-dichloroethane. The results clearly show that the perfluoro effect imparted by fluorine substitution results in difference in reactivity of FL compared to *p*-chloranil.

Conclusions

In this work, the effect of solvent polarity on the mechanism and the nature of ion-pair intermediates formed in photoinduced

electron-transfer process was investigated using transient absorption and TR3 spectroscopy. Hydrogen transfer was found to compete with the electron-transfer mechanism. In nonpolar media, the formation of ketyl radical due to hydrogen transfer from TMB to FL is favored. As the polarity of the solvent is increased, the hydrogen-transfer mechanism switches over to electron-transfer mechanism. The nature of primary ion-pair intermediates generated in different solvent polarity was investigated from the structural changes in the acceptor following charge transfer in the ion pair. In medium polar media, contact ion pair of exciplex nature is more favored, and this species eventually decays via intra-ion-pair proton transfer. In polar solvent, complete ionic nature of the solvent-separated ion-pair was observed.

Acknowledgment. We thank Dr. P. Ramamurthy for useful discussion and the National Centre for Ultrafast Processes, Chennai, for providing nanosecond transient absorption facilities. We thank the National Laser Programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for financial support.

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JP903973Q