# The Vibrational and NMR Spectra, Conformations and ab Initio Calculations of Aminomethylene, Propanedinitrile and Its *N*-Methyl Derivatives

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The IR and Raman spectra of aminomethylene propanedinitrile (AM) [H<sub>2</sub>N-CH=C(CN)<sub>2</sub>], (methylamino)methylene propanedinitrile (MAM) [CH<sub>3</sub>NH-CH=C(CN)<sub>2</sub>] and (dimethylamino)methylene propanedinitrile (DMAM) [(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N-CH=C(CN)<sub>2</sub>] as solids and solutes in various solvents have been recorded in the region 4000-50 cm<sup>-1</sup>. AM and DMAM can exist only as one conformer. From the vibrational and NMR spectra of MAM in solutions, the existence of two conformers with the methyl group oriented anti and syn toward the double C=C bond were confirmed. The enthalpy difference  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  between the conformers was measured to be 3.7  $\pm$  1.4 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> from the IR spectra in acetonitrile solution and 3.4 ± 1.1 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> from the NMR spectra in DMSO solution. Semiempirical (AM1, PM3, MNDO, MINDO3) and ab initio SCF calculations using a DZP basis set were carried out for all three compounds. The calculations support the existence of two conformers anti and syn for MAM, with anti being 7.8 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> more stable than syn from ab initio and 8.6, 13.4, 11.6, and 10.8 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> from AM1, PM3, MNDO, and MINDO3 calculations, respectively. Finally, complete assignments of the vibrational spectra for all three compounds were made with the aid of normal coordinate calculations employing scaled ab initio force constants. The same scale factors were optimized on the experimental frequencies of all three compounds, and a very good agreement between calculated and experimental frequencies was achieved.

KEY WORDS: Vibrational and NMR spectra; conformational analysis; enamines; semiempirical and ab initio calculations.

### INTRODUCTION

Enamines are accessible and highly reactive compounds which are very important in a number of synthetic processes [1, 2] and their aminoethylene derivatives of the general formula R<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>N-CR<sub>3</sub>=CXY, where R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, and R<sub>3</sub> are H, alkyl or (hetero)aryl, and X and Y are electron-withdrawing groups, are useful as materials for pharmaceutical, dye, perfume, and polymer synthesis. For example N-(heteroaryl)-aminoethylene compounds with two electron-withdrawing substituents in  $\beta$ -position are often used in the synthesis with a fused 3-substituted pyridine ring with antibacterial properties [3, 4]. Aminomethylene- and 1-aminoethylidene propanedinitrile and its homologues with the general formula  $R_1R_2N-CR_3=C(CN)_2$  represent a group of compounds which also have a wide use in organic synthesis [5]. They are often used as starting reactants or intermediates for the preparation of many compounds, such as vitamin B<sub>1</sub> [6-8] and thiamine [9, 10].

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Despite wide use in organic synthesis, the study of the physical and physicochemical properties of these compounds has been mainly carried out by NMR and UV spectroscopy, where only basic NMR characteristics (chemical shift, coupling constants) and UV maxima were measured [11-16]. Therefore, we decided to study these compounds by vibrational spectroscopy. As a first step we choose the simplest molecules from this group: aminomethylene propanedinitrile and its N-methyl derivatives: ( $R_3$ =H and  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are H or  $CH_3$ ).

Aminomethylene propanedinitrile (AM)  $[H_2N-CH=C(CN)_2]$ , (methylamino)methylene propanedinitrile (MAM)  $[CH_3NH-CH=C(CN)_2]$ , and (dimethylamino)methylene propanedinitrile (DMAM)  $[(CH_3)_2-N-CH=C(CN)_2]$  have not been investigated by vibrational spectroscopy except for a general study in which the  $C\equiv N$  stretching absorptions were determined for 20 compounds of the general formula  $R_1R_2C=C(CN)_2$  and correlated with the resonance constants of the  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  substituents [17]. By NMR spectroscopy the barrier to hindered rotation around the C-N amino bond in DMAM was examined [13, 14].

To extend the information about the structure of these molecules, we have also carried out an ab initio study with fully optimized geometries, a determination of the force fields, and a calculation of frequencies for the normal modes of vibrations.

## **EXPERIMENTAL**

## **Preparative**

The compounds have been prepared according to the reaction scheme

$$R_1R_2NH + RO-CH=C(CN)_2 \rightarrow$$
  
 $R_1R_2N-CH=C(CN)_2 + ROH$ 

Ten mmol of ethoxy methylene propanedinitrile was dissolved in a minimum of hot methanol. To the solution was added 12 mmol of the aqueous solution of the corresponding amine. After cooling of the reaction mixture the product was separated and the precipitate was filtered from the reaction mixture, washed with water, dried under vacuum, and purified chromatographically (silicagel, eluent methanol in chloroform 0–50%). When the product did not separate, the reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness and purified chromatographically as in the former case. The purity and melting points were determined by differential scanning calorimetry using a

Perkin-Elmer DSC-7 calorimeter. The purity of all three compounds was better than 99%, and the melting points (148°C for AM, 191°C for MAM, and 81°C for DMAM) agree with the literature values [18-20]. The identity and purity of the samples were also confirmed by mass spectroscopy and NMR spectroscopy.

### Spectra

Mid-IR spectra in the region 4000-400 cm<sup>-1</sup> were recorded on Bruker model IFS 88 and on Philips model PU9800 FT-IR spectrometers and the far-IR spectra were recorded on an evacuated Bruker 114c FT-IR spectrometer with 3.5- $\mu$ m and 12- $\mu$ m Mylar beam splitters covering the regions 800-100 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 200-50 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The spectra of all the three compounds at room temperature were measured as KBr pellets and as nujol suspensions in the mid-IR region and as PE pellets in the far-IR region. Because the samples are not soluble in CCl<sub>4</sub> or CS<sub>2</sub>, we had to use CH<sub>3</sub>CN, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and CHCl<sub>3</sub> as solvents, and solubility increased in the order AM, MAM, DMAM. IR spectra of the solutions were measured in a cell equipped with KBr windows and a variable path length. The temperature-dependent IR spectra were measured in the region 283-338 K on a heatable cell from Carl-Zeiss with KBr windows and of 0.1-mm path length.

Raman recordings using an argon ion laser were impossible for the three samples due to extremely high fluorescence. Therefore, Bruker RFS 100 and Perkin-Elmer 2000 FT-Raman instruments equipped with an Nd<sup>3+</sup>: YAG laser were used. Raman spectra at room temperature of powdered solids were obtained for all three samples in the region 4000–50 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Due to low solubility more than 1000 scans were employed to obtain the Raman spectra for MAM in acetonitrile solution.

The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were run at room temperature with a Bruker MSL 300 spectrometer. To obtain frequency resolution of 0.23 Hz/point, zero filling up to 64k was used for gated decoupled spectra before transformation.

# RESULTS

A mid-IR survey spectrum of AM as a KBr pellet is shown in Fig. 1, while a Raman spectrum as a solid powder is given in Fig. 2. The wave numbers of the observed IR and Raman bands are listed in Table I.

The corresponding spectra of MAM are shown in Figs. 3 and 4, respectively. The IR and Raman spectra

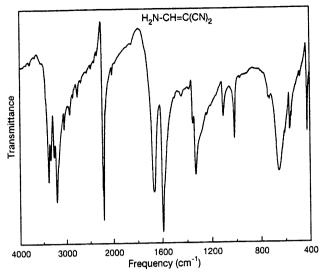


Fig. 1. IR spectrum of AM in KBr pellet at room temperature.

of the solid are compared in Fig. 5 with those of the acetonitrile solution in the region 700–400 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Some weak Raman bands in acetonitrile solution vanishing in the solid spectra are demonstrated in Fig. 6. IR curves of the acetonitrile solution of MAM between 1730 and 1560 cm<sup>-1</sup>, shown in Fig. 7, demonstrate the displacement of the conformational equilibrium with temperature. These curves were used for the  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  determination. The experimental wave numbers for MAM are collected in Table II.

A mid-IR spectrum of DMAM as a KBr pellet appears in Fig. 8, whereas a Raman spectrum of a solid powder is given in Fig. 9. The wave numbers of the observed IR and Raman bands are listed in Table III.

A comparison of the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of all the three samples in DMSO solution appear in Fig. 10, while the chemical shifts and vicinal coupling constants are listed in Table IV.

# **Conformational Analysis**

The conformational possibility for all three samples is determined by rotation around the C-N bond. Supposedly, the stable configuration of the amino group is that in which the lone electron pair at the amino nitrogen atom is included in a highly conjugated system of the C=C double bond and the triple bonds of both cyano groups. It is obvious that AM and DMAM can

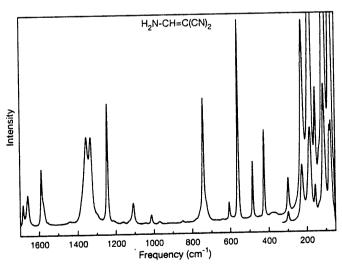


Fig. 2. Raman spectrum of solid AM at room temperature.

Table I. Infrared and Raman Spectral Data" for Aminomethylene Propanedinitrile (AM).

Infrared			Raman	
Liquid	So	lid	Solid	
CH <sub>3</sub> CN <sup>b</sup>	KBr/PE pellet	nujol		Interpretation
CH <sub>3</sub> CN	pener		3379 vw	$\nu_1$
422 s <sup>c</sup>	3381 s	3378 s	3334 vw	<b>7</b> 1
356 vs	3338 s	3335 s	3262 vw	11-
280 s	3266 s	3264 s		$\nu_2$
227 s	3209 s	3202 s	3204 w	$2\nu_7 = 3188$
	3173 s,sh	3173 s,sh	2044	
8055 w	3044 m	3044 m	3044 w	$\nu_3$
	2920 vw			
	2350 vw	2352 vw	2222	
2220 vs	2227 s	2228 s	2223 vs	ν <sub>4</sub>
2210 vs	2209 vs	2209 vs	2210 vs	$\nu_5$
2163 w	2168 w,sh	2168 w,sh	2167 vw	
2103 **	2159 w,sh	2159 w,sh	2158 w	2020
	2020 w	2020 w	2020 vw	$2\nu_{18} = 2028$
	1989 vw			$\nu_9 + \nu_{19} = 1984$
	1852 vw			
	1032 ***		1684 vw	
1662	1665 vs	1670 vs	1659 w	$\nu_6$
1662 vs	1594 vs	1594 vs	1588 m	$\nu_{7}$
1591 vs	1577 s.h	1577 s,sh	1579 w,sh	$\nu_{18} + \nu_{20} = 158$
	1500 vw	1499 vw		$\nu_{18} + \nu_{21} = 149$
		. 122		$2\nu_{12} = 1458$
	1442 vw			$\nu_{12} + \nu_{19} = 138$
	1383 vw	1350 m	1354 s	$\nu_8$
1350 m,sh	1350 m	1329 s	1332 s	$\nu_9$
1329 s	1330 s	1300 m,sh		$2\nu_{19} = 1308$
	1303 m,sh	1240 w	1244 s	$\nu_{10}$
1234 w	1240 w	1240 w 1210 vw	1210 vw	$\nu_{19} + \nu_{20} = 122$
	1209 vw		1170 vvw	$\nu_{13} + \nu_{20} = 117$
1155 vw	1171 vw	1170 vw	1108 w	ν <sub>11</sub>
1099 m	1105 m	1105 m	1013 w	$\nu_{18}$
1002 m	1014 m	1015 m	968 vw	$v_{14} + v_{15} = 976$
959 vw	968 vw	968 vw	700 V W	$2\nu_{15} = 846$
	845 vw	845 vw		$\nu_{16} + \nu_{19} = 825$
	818 vw	702h		$\nu_{21} + \nu_{22} = 780$
	783 vw	783 vw,sh	740 s	21 - 22
	740 w,sh	739 w	740 s 730 w,sh	$\nu_{12}$
732 w	729 m	725 ?	/30 w,sii	
623 s	654 vs	654 vs	(OF	ν <sub>19</sub>
	605 m,sh	609 m,sh	605 w	ν <sub>13</sub>
567 m	567 s	567 m	550	$\nu_{20}$
	562 s,sh		558 s	
552 m,sh	553 m,sh	554 m,sh	553 w,sh	ν <sub>14</sub>
475 w	481 w	482 w	484 w	$\nu_{21}$
416 m	423 s	423 s	424 m	$\nu_{15}$
	299 w	298 w	298 m	$\nu_{22}$
	203 m,sh		224 s	$\nu_{23}$
	196 s,sh			
	185 s,sh		184 s	<i>v</i> <sub>24</sub>
	171 s			
	• • •		155 m	ν <sub>16</sub>
	138 w		136 w	
	108 s		111 s	<i>ν</i> <sub>17</sub>
	102 s,sh			

	Infrared		Raman	
Liquid	Solid		Solid	
CH₃CN <sup>b</sup>	KBr/PE pellet	nujol		Interpretation
			81 s	
			73 s	
	56 m		58 w	

Table I. Continued.

exist as only one conformer independent of the structure of the amino group (pyramidal or planar). It means that only MAM can exist in two conformations with the methyl group oriented out from the C=C double-bond anti conformer and toward the C=C double-bond syn conformer:

NC 
$$C = C$$

NC  $C = C$ 

NC  $C = C$ 

NC  $C = C$ 

NC  $C = C$ 

NO  $C$ 

We might intuitively assume from steric reasons that *anti* will be the more stable conformer, suppored by ab initio calculations and from the vibrational spectra.

Like all compounds with a cyano group these samples also have very small vapor pressue and low solu-

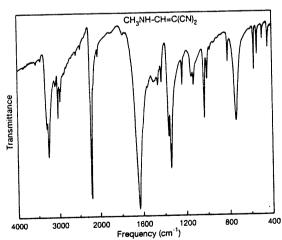


Fig. 3. IR spectrum of MAM in KBr pellet at room temperature.

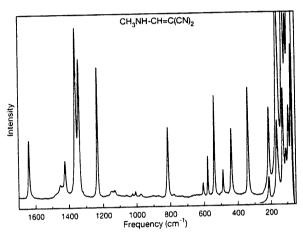


Fig. 4. Raman spectrum of solid MAM at room temperature.

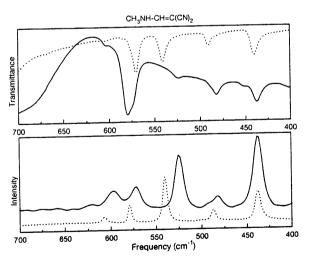


Fig. 5. IR spectra (top) of MAM in KBr pellet (dashed line) and as solution in acetonitrile (solid line) and Raman spectra (bottom) of solid MAM (dashed line) and as a solute in acetonitrile (solid line) at room temperature.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Weak bands in the regions 4000-3500 and 2900-2400 cm<sup>-1</sup> have been omitted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Solvent used.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup>Abbreviations: s, strong; m, medium; w, weak; v, very; sh, shoulder.

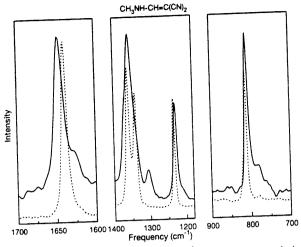


Fig. 6. Raman spectra of solid MAM (dashed line) and as a solution in acetonitrile (solid line) at room temperature.

bility in most solvents. AM is soluble only in a very polar solvents (CH<sub>3</sub>CN) in a small amount, and only the strongest bands in the IR solution spectra could be obtained. On the opposite side the best soluble sample is DMAM, and for this sample also IR spectra in a less polar solvent (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and CHCl<sub>3</sub>) could be obtained. In the solution spectra of these two compounds we did not find bands missing in solid-phase spectra.

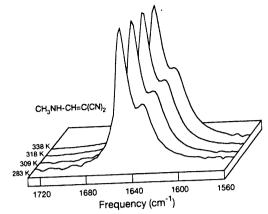


Fig. 7. IR temperature-dependent spectra of MAM in acetonitrile so-

Relatively good IR spectra in acetonitrile solution with different path length could be obtained for MAM, but only weak solution spectra in less polar solvents (CH2Cl2 and CHCl3) due to very low solubility were measured. From a comparison of the IR spectra in solution and in the solid phase, we have found some bands which disappear in the latter spectra. These bands are present in acetonitrile solution at 1630, 1370, 780, 689, 570, 490, and 452 cm<sup>-1</sup>. An attempt was made to confirm this conclusion, and several Raman spectra of

Table II. Infrared and Raman Spectral Data<sup>a</sup> for (Methylamino)methylene Propanedinitrile (MAM).

Infrared			Ran	nan		
Liquid	So	lid	Liquid		Interpretation	
CH <sub>3</sub> CN <sup>b</sup>	KBr/PE pellet	Nujol	CH₃CN <sup>b</sup>	Solid	anti	syi
3330 s <sup>c</sup> 3270 m	3287 s 3250 s 3085 w	3283 s 3249 s 3075 w	3326 vvw 3275 vvw 3084 ?	3280 vw 3245 w 3070 vw	$ u_1 $ $ u_2$	
3090 w 3081 vw,sh 3036 w 2974 vw	3076 vw,sh 3024 m 2969 m	3021 m	3074 w 3038 w 2978 w	3024 w 2965 w,sh 2948 mw	ν <sub>3</sub> ν <sub>23</sub> ν <sub>4</sub>	
2860 vw	2949 w 2906 vw 2864 vw		2856 vw	2864 vw	$2\nu_9 = 2916$ $\nu_{10} + \nu_{24} = 2869$	
2232 vw,sh 2215 vs 2205 vs	2238 w,sh 2218 vs 2203 vs	2236 w,sh 2217 vs 2203 vs	2215 vs 2208 s,sh	2215 vs 2202 vs	ν <sub>5</sub> ν <sub>6</sub>	
2161 vw	2161 w 2042 w 1895 vw	2163 w 2041 w		2042 vw	$2\nu_{26} = 2054$ $\nu_{11} + \nu_{18} = 1901$ $\nu_{12} + \nu_{19} = 1779$	

Table II. Continued.

	Infrared		Ram	an		
Liquid	So	lid	Liquid		Interpretation	
CH <sub>3</sub> CN <sup>b</sup>	KBr/PE pellet	Nujol	CH <sub>3</sub> CN"	Solid	anti	syn
	1637 vs	1636 vs	1647 w	1639 m	ν <sub>7</sub>	
1648 vs 1630 s	*	*	1629 vw,sh	*		<i>v</i> <sub>7</sub>
1553 w	1552 w	1561 w	1548 vvw	*	$\nu_{16} + \nu_{27} = 1553$	$\nu_8$ ?
1333 W	1500 vw	1507 vw,sh			$\nu_{15} + \nu_{29} = 1493$	
1485 vw	1482 vw	1497 vw,sh	1482 vw		$\nu_8$	
1460 vw	1458 w		1459 vw,sh	1451 vw	ν <sub>9</sub>	
1443 w	1443 vw,sh		1447 w	1441 vw	<i>v</i> <sub>24</sub>	
1426 m	1426 m	1433 m	1424 m	1424 mw	ν <sub>10</sub>	
1370 m,sh	*	*	1369 m,sh	*		$\nu_{11}$ ?
1360 m	1360 s	1364 s	1358 s	1362 s	$\nu_{11}$	
1337 s	1339 s	1341 s	1343 s,sh	1342 s	$\nu_{12}$	
1557 5			1305 w	*		$\nu_{12}$
1231 w	1234 m	1233 m	1230 m 1209 vw,sh	1235 s *	$\nu_{13}$	ν <sub>13</sub> ?
1136 m	1148 m	1150 m	1142 vw	1150 vw	$\nu_{25}$	
1123 w	1129 m	1129 m	1125 vvw	1130 vw	$\nu_{14}$	
1123 W	1098 w,sh	1098 w.sh			$\nu_{18} + \nu_{28} = 1111$	
	1078 w,sh				$2\nu_{18} = 1082$	
1003 m,sh	1027 s	1026 s	1025 vw	1027 vvw	$\nu_{26}$	
992 m	1002 m	1001 m	1005 vw	1008 vw	$\nu_{15}$	
974 w,sh	975 w	974 w	968 vw	974 vw	$2\nu_{29} = 982$	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	942 vw	939 vw			$\nu_{19} + \nu_{29} = 931$	
	909 vw				$\nu_{20} + \nu_{28} = 908$	
808 w	813 m	812 m	810 w	813 m	$\nu_{16}$	
780 ?	*	*	782 vw,sh	*		$\nu_{16}$
710 m	740 s	736 s			$\nu_{27}$	
	710 m,sh					
689 m,sh	*	*				$\nu_{27}$
602 vw	606 vw	606 vw	620 vw	607 w	$\nu_{17}$	
579 s	570 s	569 s	596 w	579 mw	$\nu_{28}$	
570 m,sh	*	*	571 w	*		$\nu_{28}$
526 w	541 s	540 m	525 m	540 s *	$\nu_{18}$	Vac
490 vw,sh	*	*	490 w			$\nu_{29}$
482 w	491 m	490 w	482 w	486 mw	$\nu_{29}$	ν <sub>19</sub>
452 vw	*	*	427	437 s	W	719
436 w	440 m	440 m	437 m	437 8	$\nu_{19}$	
	436 w,sh	220	332 w	339 s	$ u_{20}$	
320 ?	338 m	338 m	321 vw,sh	333 w,sh	$\nu_{30}$	
	330 w	332 w	263 vw	*	- 30	$\nu_{30}$ ?
	226 m	226 m	194 m,sh	213 mw	$\nu_{31}$	
	226 m 170 s	220 111	15 / 111,011			
			149 vs	163 s	$\nu_{21}$	
	161 m,sh			154 w,sh	=-	
	123 m		128 vs	126 s	$\nu_{32}$	
	107 s		<del></del> <del>-</del>	108 w	ν <sub>22</sub>	
	10/3			92 s		
	76 m			77 s	<i>v</i> <sub>33</sub>	

 $<sup>^</sup>a$ Weak bands in the regions 4000-3400 and 2800-2300 cm $^{-1}$  have been omitted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Solvent used.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Abbreviations: s, strong; m, medium; w, weak; v, very; sh, shoulder; \* denotes bands vanishing in the solid phase.

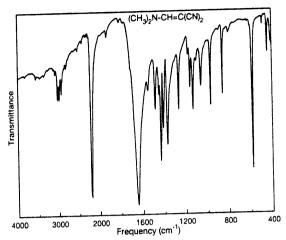


Fig. 8. IR spectrum of DMAM in KBr pellet at room temperature.

MAM in acetonitrile solution were recorded. Unfortunately, in an almost saturated solution and up to 4000 scans the weak Raman bands are only slightly above the noise level. Despite this, a comparison of the Raman solid and acetonitrile solution spectra is possible, as can be seen in Fig. 6, and the result from IR spectra can be confirmed also from the Raman spectra. Furthermore, some additional disappearing bands at 1548, 1305, and 263 cm<sup>-1</sup> have been detected. These facts support the

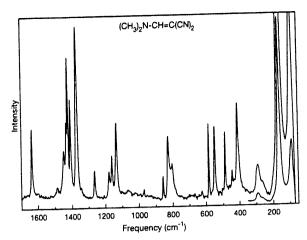


Fig. 9. Raman spectrum of a solid DMAM at room temperature.

conclusion that MAM exists in two conformational forms in acetonitrile solution.

These results were also confirmed by NMR spectroscopy. The <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of AM, MAM, and DMAM in DMSO have been measured at room temperature (Fig. 10). In these spectra each main band has a weaker counterpart only in the spectrum of MAM, meaning that the room temperature is below the coalescence temperatures and confirms the existence of two

Table III. Infrared and Raman Spectral Data<sup>a</sup> for (Dimethylamino)methylene Propanedinitrile (DMAM).

	Infi	Raman				
Lic	luid	Sol	id	Solid		
CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> <sup>b</sup>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN <sup>b</sup>	KBr/PE pellet	Nujol		Interpretation	
		3080 vw <sup>c</sup>	3074 vw	3079 vw	$\nu_1$	
2020		3025 w	3023 w	3027 w,sh	$\nu_2, \ \nu_3$	
3030 w		3009 vw	3013 vw	3011 m	$\nu_4$	
2980 w		2987 w		2979 m	$\nu_5$	
2980 W		2984 w,sh				
2930 m		2933 w		2937 s	$\nu_6$	
2930 111		2924 vw,sh			ν <sub>7</sub>	
		2884 vw,sh			$\nu_{11} + \nu_{17} = 289$	
		2852 vw			$2\nu_{14} = 2866$	
		2833 vw			$\nu_{16} + \nu_{17} = 283$	
		2814 vw,sh	2815 vw,sh	2815 w	$2\nu_{17} = 2818$	
		2289 vw	2290 vw			
2261 vw		2260 vw	2261 vw			
2207 vs	2219 vs	2213 vs	2217 s,sh	2209 vs	$\nu_8$	
2205 vs	2207 vs	2199 vs	2199 vs	2200 vs	ν <sub>9</sub>	
2155 vw	2155 vw	2154 m,sh	2155 m,sh			
		2144 m,sh	2145 m,sh			
		2136 w,sh	2136 w,sh			

Table III. Continued.

	Raman		red	Infra		
	Solid	id	Sol	uid	Liq	
Interpretation		Nujol	KBr/PE pellet	CH₃CN <sup>b</sup>	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> <sup>b</sup>	
$2\nu_{25} = 1938$	1926 w	1929 w	1930 w	1891 vw	1900 vw	
$\nu_{17} + \nu_{33} = 18$		1815 vw	1813 vw	1071 ***	1900 VW	
$\nu_{18} + \nu_{33} = 17$		1777 vw	1774 vw			
$2\nu_{26} = 1714$		1710 w,sh	1711 w,sh			
ν <sub>10</sub>	1638 m	1648 vs	1646 vs	1644 vs	1638 vs	
		1611 w,sh	1614 w,sh		1050 13	
$\nu_{25} + \nu_{29} = 15$		1549 w	1550 w		1544 w	
$\nu_{11}, \ \nu_{12}$	1486 vw	1484 s	1483 s		1482 m	
ν <sub>13</sub>	1447 w	1450?	1448 m		1402 111	
$\nu_{14}, \ \nu_{15}$	1433 m,sh	1434 s	1433 s		1436 s	
v <sub>16</sub>	1424 s	1428 m,sh	1427 m,sh		1424 s	
ν <sub>17</sub>	1409 m	1410 m	1409 s		1408 s	
		1404 w,sh	1402 m,sh		11000	
ν <sub>18</sub>	1370 s	1370?	1371 s	1368 s	1368 s	
	1344 vw	1342 w,sh	1341 w,sh		1333 vw,sh	
$\nu_{26} + \nu_{32} = 13$		1300 vw	1310 vw		,	
$\nu_{19}$	1264 m	1260 s	1263 s	1264 w		
$\nu_{20}$	1178 w	1175 w	1175 w	1176 vw	1172 vw	
$\nu_{21}$	1160 mw	1158 m	1158 m	1157 w	1154 w	
$\nu_{22}$	1134 m	1132 m	1131 m	1132 s	1129 s	
$\nu_{23}$	1107 wv	1100 w	1099 w	1100 vw,sh		
$\nu_{24}$	1075 vw	1055 m	1055 m		1059 m	
$\nu_{29} + \nu_{32} = 10$		1021 vw,sh	1024 vw,sh			
ν <sub>25</sub>	972 vw	968 s	969 s	957 m	954 m	
$2\nu_{32} = 886$		891 vw	890 vw			
ν <sub>26</sub>	857 w	857 s	857 s	857 w	859 m	
ν <sub>27</sub>	825 m	828 vw	830 vw	819 vw	817 w	
$2\nu_{34} = 806$	802 w	799 w	797 w			
$\nu_{28}$	626 vw	625 vw	624 vw		625 vw	
	<b>70.</b>	600 vw,sh	599 vw,sh		602 vw	
$\nu_{29}$	584 m	585 vs	583 vs	585 s	585 s	
ν <sub>30</sub>	548 m					
$\nu_{31}$	487 m	498 w	498 w		498 vw	
	444	444	487 vw			
ν <sub>32</sub>	444 vw	444 m	443 m		444 w	
ν <sub>33</sub>	411 m	409 m	409 m		400 vw,sh	
<i>y</i> <sub>34</sub>	405 w,sh	403 m	403 m		391 w	
V <sub>a.e</sub>	287 mw	365 vw	367 vw			
ν <sub>35</sub>		286 w	289 w,sh			
ν <sub>36</sub>	258 vw	259 m	261 m			
ν <sub>37</sub> ν <sub>38</sub>			196 w			
ν <sub>39</sub>	164 vs		176 m,sh			
	10-7 13		168 m			
V <sub>40</sub>			158 m,sh			
V41	89 s		100 m,sh			
741	U/ 3		92 m			
			84 m			
V <sub>42</sub>	58 w,sh		64 m 58 m			

 $<sup>^{</sup>a}$ Weak bands in the regions 4000-3100 and 2800-2300 cm $^{-1}$  have been omitted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Solvents used.

Abbreviations: s, strong; m, medium; w, weak; v, very; sh, shoulder.

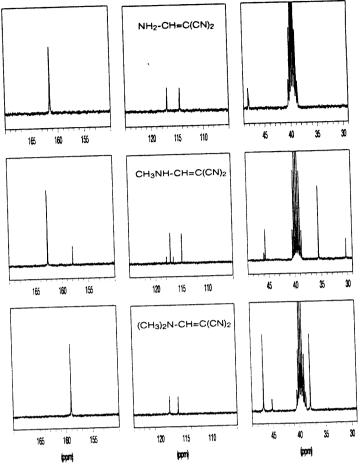


Fig. 10. NMR spectra of AM, MAM, and DMAM in DMSO solution at room temperature.

Table IV.  $^{13}C$  NMR Data of the Compounds  $R_1R_2N + CH = (CN)_2$ .

Compound	AM MAM-anti $R_1=R_2=H$ $R_1=CH_3$ , $R_2=H$		$\begin{array}{c} MAM-syn \\ R_1 = H, R_2 = CH_3 \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{c} \text{DMAM} \\ R_1 = R_2 = CH_3 \end{array} $
Chemical shifts C <sub>1</sub> C <sub>2</sub> C <sub>7</sub> C <sub>9</sub> C <sub>4</sub> C <sub>6</sub>	s <sup>a</sup> in ppm 48.1 161.4 116.9 114.4	45.6 162.1 117.1 114.8 35.4	45.9 157.9 117.8 116.5	45.1 158.9 118.0 116.3 46.8 37.8
Vicinal couplin $H_5-C_7$ $H_5-C_9$ $H_5-C_4$ $H_5-C_6$ $H_4-C_1$	ng constants <sup>a</sup> in Hz 4.6 10.4 2.0	4.6 10.2 5.3	5.5 11.1 7.9 1.2	5.5 10.6 5.1 6.5

<sup>&</sup>quot;Numbering of the atoms according to Fig. 11.

conformers for this sample. More detailed NMR temperature studies in different solvents together with DNMR investigations of the barrier of the hindered rotation in the amino group will appear in a separate article [21].

# Conformational Energy Difference

The enthalpy difference between the two conformers of MAM in solution can be determined from temperature studies of the appropriate IR spectra. The best band pairs should be conformationally pure belonging to the *anti* and *syn* conformer with sufficient intensity and separation. From all the MAM bands in acetonitrile solution mentioned above, only one band is useful: 1630 cm<sup>-1</sup> for the *syn* conformer and 1648 cm<sup>-1</sup> for the *anti* conformer. Thus, in the variable-temperature cell the solution spectra were recorded in the temperature range 283–338 K. A band separation procedure was employed since the 1630- and 1648-cm<sup>-1</sup> bands overlapped slightly and band areas were used for determining the equilibrium constant K at different temperatures.

By applying the van't Hoff equation we have determined  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  by making a plot of  $\ln K$  versus 1/T, where  $\Delta H^{\circ}/R$  is the slope of the line obtained by a least-squares procedure. It is assumed that  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  is not a function of temperature in such a short interval. A value  $\Delta H^{\circ}(syn-anti) = 3.7 \pm 1.4 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  has been obtained.

A similar value was obtained from the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra where bands corresponding to the -CH= proton for both conformers were measured in the temperature range 295-353 K. Using band areas for determining the equilibrium constant K at different temperatures and using the same procedure, we have obtained  $\Delta H^{\circ} = 3.4 \pm 1.1$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>.

# Semiempirical and ab Initio Calculations

Since there are no reported experimental data regarding the structure, conformational energies, and vibrational assignments of the present molecules, we carried out semiempirical and ab initio calculations to support the interpretations. The semiempirical (AM1, PM3, MNDO, and MINDO3) methods were employed using the MOPAC program [22]. For the ab initio Hartree-Fock SCF calculations the HONDO-like program and the standard Huzinaga DZP basis set [23, 24] were employed. To improve the accuracy of the ab initio energies, MP2 corrections were carried out but geometries of the molecules were not reoptimized at the MP2/SCF level.

A decreasing character of the pyramidal structure of the amino group from CH<sub>3</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> to CH<sub>2</sub>=CHNH<sub>2</sub> has been measured [25, 26]. A nearly planar structure of the amino group is expected in the present molecules due to the strongly electron withdrawing cyano groups. Similarly in substituted aniline a planar structure was calculated [27] due to electron-withdrawing groups in the benzene ring. Thus, the crucial point for interpreting the vibrational spectra of the present molecules is whether the moiety of the amino group  $=CH-NR_1R_2$  is planar or nonplanar. If it is planar does the plane of the amino group orient in the plane of the rest of molecule? In the latter case the molecule may have  $C_s$  symmetry, while otherwise the molecule lacks symmetry. In all the semiempirical and ab initio calculations the full set of structural parameters were optimized with no assumptions regarding symmetry. The results of the torsional angles for the  $C=CH-NR_1R_2$  moiety ( $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is H or C) are found in Table V.

From these results it is obvious that ab initio, AM1, and MINDO3 methods give nearly planar structures of the amino group for AM and for both conformers of MAM with a small exception for the *anti* conformer of MAM in the AM1 method. In this case the energy is only 0.07 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> higher for the fixed planar structure. PM3 and MNDO give for these molecules only non-planar pyramidal structures of the amino group. If the plane of symmetry was fixed, the obtained energies were significantly higher and the vibrational analysis gave one negative vibrational mode, meaning that a planar structure can be a saddle point for inversion processes.

In DMAM a nearly planar structure was suggested only when the AM1 method is employed. The other semiempirical methods give nonplanar structures with different geometry of the amino group. While the PM3 method gives the pyramidal structure of the amino group, the MNDO and MINDO3 methods reveal planar structure of the C-NC<sub>2</sub> moiety but turn 10-20 degrees from the plane of rest of molecule. The ab initio suggests a slightly nonplanar structure for this molecule probably due to steric interactions of both methyl groups.

As the most acceptable results we consider the ab initio calculations which were calculated with a relatively large basis set. Refinement of the ab initio geometry was carried out until the norm of gradient was lower than 10<sup>-4</sup> a.u. (most of them in the range 10<sup>-5</sup>) and the vibrational analysis gave only nonnegative vibrational modes. The obtained internal coordinates with their names and labeling according to Fig. 11 are listed in Table VI. Since we do not have experimental struc-

Sample	Method	$t(C_1 = C_2 - N_3 - X_4)^b$	$I(C_1 = C_2 - N_3 - X_6)$	$t(H_5-C_2-N_3-X_4)$
AM	ab initio	180.91	-0.65	1.08
AM	AM1	180.00	0.00	0.00
	PM3	154.92	20.78	-30.55
	MNDO	157.06	24.78	-28.12
	MINDO3	180.02	-0.06	0.04
anti MAM	ab initio	180.02	0.02	0.03
anti MAM	AM1	174.46	3.80	-6.74
	PM3	159.77	20.80	-25.13
	MNDO	167.21	10.63	-15.57
	MINDO3	179.99	0.02	-0.01
MAM	ab initio	179.94	0.10	0.09
syn MAM	AM1	180.00	0.00	0.00
	PM3	158.75	20.01	-26.87
	MNDO	179.00	1.92	-2.03
	MINDO3	179.92	-0.02	-0.07
D)(4)(	ab initio	183.86	0.71	4.02
DMAM	AM1	179.58	0.29	-0.52
	PM3	163.33	18.46	-21.75
	MNDO	167.43	-18.31	-11.44
	MINDO3	169.97	-10.08	-9.47

Table V. Torsional Angles" of the Amino Group for the AM, MAM, and DMAM Calculated by ab Initio and Semiempirical Methods.

tural data for any of these molecules, the reliability of the ab initio structures is difficult to ascertain. Nevertheless, for interpreting the vibrational spectra we have accepted planar structures with  $C_3$  symmetry for AM and MAM and a nonplanar structure with  $C_1$  symmetry for DMAM

In all five methods the anti conformer was the more

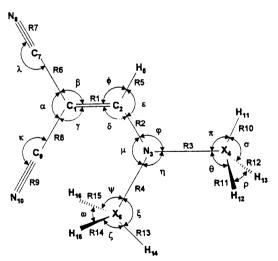


Fig. 11. Internal coordinates for AM  $(X_4 = X_6 = H)$ , anti MAM  $(X_4 = C, X_6 = H)$ , syn MAM  $(X_4 = H, X_6 = C)$ , and DMAM  $(X_4 = X_6 = C)$ .

stable conformer for MAM. From the ab initio calculations in a DZP basis set at SCF level the *anti* conformer is 11.1 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> more stable. After including the MP2 corrections and zero-point vibrational energy. the *anti* conformer is 7.8 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> at the MP2/SCF level and 8.5 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> at the VIB0/MP2/SCF level more stable. For AM1, PM3, MNDO, and MINDO3 the values 8.6, 13.4, 11.6, and 10.8 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> have been calculated.

# Normal Coordinate Analysis

In order to obtain a more complete description of the molecular motions involved in the normal vibration of all the three samples studied, we have carried out a normal coordinate analysis. The ab initio force fields in Cartesian coordinates calculated in a DZP basis set at the SCF level were transformed to suitable internal coordinates.

It is well known that the ab initio SCF results in different basis sets systematically overestimate the (harmonic) force field by 10-20% but after a suitable correction give an accurate prediction of the vibrational fundamentals [28]. Therefore the ab initio force fields in internal coordinates for all three samples were subsequently scaled according to the type of internal coordinates, using the scheme  $F_{ij}$ (scaled) =  $F_{ij}$ (ab initio)(x

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Torsional angles in degrees.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Numbering of the atoms according to Fig. 11.

Table VI. Ab Initio Structural Parameters<sup>a</sup> for AM, MAM, and DMAM.

	Totamal		М	AM	
Name <sup>b</sup>	Internal coordinate <sup>c</sup>	AM	anti	syn	DMAM
R1	$r(C_1=C_2)$	1.3570	1.3622	1.3618	1.3677
R2	$r(C_2-N_3)$	1.3273	1.3226	1.3259	1.3242
R3	$r(N_3-H_4)$	0.9954		0.9961	
R3	$r(N_3-C_4)$		1.4460		1.4521
R4	$r(N_3-H_6)$	0.9995	1.0013		
R4	$r(N_3-C_6)$			1.4517	1.4552
R5	$r(C_2-H_5)$	1.0808	1.0815	1.0811	1.0803
R6	$r(C_1-C_7)$	1.4309	1.4298	1.4347	1.4341
R7	$r(C_7 \equiv N_8)$	1.1343	1.1347	1.1345	1.1348
R8	$r(C_1-C_9)$	1.4320	1.4305	1.4334	1.4326
R9	$r(C_9 \equiv N_{10})$	1.1347	1.1351	1.1343	1.1346
R10	$r(C_4-H_{11})$		1.0863		1.0853
R11	$r(C_4 - H_{12})$		1.0885		1.0899
R12	$r(C_4 - H_{13})$		1.0885		1.0891
R13	$r(C_6 - H_{14})$		1.0005	1.0855	1.0883
R14	$r(C_6-H_{15})$			1.0869	1.0851
R15	$r(C_6 - H_{16})$			1.0869	1.0856
δ	$\angle (C_1 = C_2 - N_3)$	126.38	126.54	130.95	131.68
φ	$\angle (C_1 = C_2 - H_3)$	118.08	117.71	115.45	114.38
$\varphi$	$\angle (C_2 - N_3 - H_4)$	120.71	117.71	115.49	114.56
$\varphi$	$\angle (C_2 - N_3 - C_4)$	120.71	124.86	113.49	119.96
	$\angle (C_2 - N_3 - H_6)$	121.33	117.58		119.90
μ	$\angle (C_2 - N_3 - N_6)$ $\angle (C_2 - N_3 - C_6)$	121.55	117.50	127.73	122.20
μ β	$\angle (C_2 = C_1 - C_7)$	120.02	119.84	117.64	123.39
	$\angle (C_2 = C_1 - C_9)$	120.02	120.26	125.31	117.02 126.44
χ λ	$\angle (C_1 - C_7 = N_8)$	179.00	178.91	178.90	
ĸ	$\angle (C_1 - C_9 = N_{10})$	176.36	176.28	178.38	178.94
$\pi$	$\angle (N_3 - C_4 - H_{11})$	170.30	109.40	179.36	178.74
	$\angle (N_3 - C_4 - H_{12})$		110.78		110.12
$\theta_1$	$\angle (N_3 - C_4 - H_{13})$ $\angle (N_3 - C_4 - H_{13})$		110.79		110.63
$\theta_2$			110.79	107.63	110.40
ξ ./.	$\angle (N_3 - C_6 - H_{14})$ $\angle (N_3 - C_6 - H_{15})$			107.62	108.18
<b>V</b> 1				111.37	111.51
$\psi_2$	$\angle (N_3 - C_6 - H_{16})$	190.01		111.38	111.01
<i>t</i> l	$t(C_1 = C_2 - N_3 - H_4)$ $t(C_1 = C_2 - N_3 - C_4)$	180.91	190.03	179.84	102.06
t1 •2		0.65	180.02		183.86
t2 t2	$t(C_1 = C_2 - N_3 - H_6)$	-0.65	0.02	0.10	0.71
	$t(C_1 = C_2 - N_3 - C_6)$	1.00		0.10	0.71
t3	$t(H_5-C_2-N_3-H_4)$	1.08	0.02	0.09	
13	$t(H_5-C_2-N_3-C_4)$	100.00	0.03	100.01	4.02
t4 .5	$t(N_3-C_2=C_1-C_7)$	180.22	180.00	180.01	181.14
t5	$t(N_3-C_2=C_1-C_9)$	0.23	0.00	-0.04	1.89
t6	$t(C_2-N_3-C_4-H_{11})$		0.14		-3.33
t7 .0	$t(C_2-N_3-C_4-H_{12})$		119.65		116.53
r8 -0	$t(C_2-N_3-C_4-H_{13})$		240.61	100.13	236.84
r9 . 10	$t(C_2-N_3-C_6-H_{14})$			180.13	172.50
10	$t(C_2-N_3-C_6-H_{15})$			-60.77	-68.00
t11	$t(C_2-N_3-C_6-H_{16})$			61.02	53.62
! 1 <sup>d</sup>	$l(C_2C_7C_1N_8)$	0.14	0.02	-0.25	0.32
!2 <sup>d</sup>	$l(C_2C_9C_1N_{10})$	-0.11	0.00	0.33	-2.87

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Bond lengths in Angstroms, bond and torsion angles in degrees.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Internal coordinate symbol.

Numbering of the atoms according to Fig. 11.

Coordinate describing linear part of molecule in degrees.

 $(x_i)^{1/2}$ , where  $x_i$  and  $x_i$  are scaling factors for the diagonal constants [29]. Initially, all the scaling factors were kept fixed at a value of 1.0 to produce the pure ab initio calculated vibrational frequencies. These vibrational frequencies were found to be 8% to 18% higher than the experimental ones for all three samples. Subsequently, in the first scaling step we have used the scaling scheme preferred by Durig et al. [28], and scaling factors of 0.9 for the stretching, 0.8 for the bending and 1.0 for the out-of-plane and torsional coordinates were used. After this scaling procedure the agreement with experimental frequencies was improved to 4-6%, but there are still well-localized vibrational modes like N-H and  $C \equiv N$  stretching and =C-H wagging. which are overestimed up to 12%.

In the second step we choose for such vibrational modes separate scaling factors. This means that we added the separate scaling factors for each of the N-H, C-H, and C≡N stretching coordinates and one common scaling factor for the hydrogen wagging coordinates (for =C-H,  $-NH_2$ , and -N-H wagging coordinates). We have also included a separate scaling factor for C-C≡N linear bending [30, 31]. All eight scaling factors were then optimized on the 85 experi-

mental frequencies of all the three samples. We obtained the final scaling factors: 0.851 for stretching, 0.827 for bending, 0.874 for torsion and out of plane, 0.754 for N-H stretching, 0.837 for C-H stretching, 0.720 for C≡N stretching, 0.750 for hydrogen wagging, and 0.770 for C-C=N linear bending coordinates. Frequencies calculated with these scaling factors and the corresponding potential energy distributions (PED) for all three samples are given in Tables VII-X. Agreement with experimental frequencies was improved to 3% outside the low-frequency region below 250 cm<sup>-1</sup> where data from the fluid phases are missing and the assignment is also rather uncertain due to lattice modes.

## DISCUSSION

### Geometry

Experimental structure data are not available for the molecules studied, and therefore the reliability of the calculated geometrical values can be tested only in comparison with similar compounds.

No.	Fundamental <sup>a</sup>	Obs.b	ab Initio	Scaled	PED <sup>d</sup>
$\nu_1 A'$	NH <sub>2</sub> asym stretch	3422	3943	3423	95 NH <sub>2</sub> as
$\nu_2$	NH <sub>2</sub> sym stretch	3280	3800	3300	96 NH <sub>2</sub> ss
$\nu_3$	=C-H stretch	3055	3375	3088	99 CH s
v <sub>4</sub>	C≡N stretch	2220	2593	2220	87 C≡N s
ν <sub>5</sub>	C≡N stretch	2210	2585	2213	88 C≡N s
ν <sub>6</sub>	C=C stretch	1662	1821	1666	31 C=C s, 36 NH <sub>2</sub> $\delta$ , C-N s
ν <sub>η</sub>	NH <sub>2</sub> deformation	1591	1745	1593	59 NH <sub>2</sub> $\delta$ , 30 C=C s
ν <sub>8</sub>	=C-H rock	1350	1482	1354	30  C-H ro, $19  C=C s$ , $13  C-N s$
ν <sub>9</sub>	=C-N stretch	1329	1422	1300	$36 \text{ C-N s}, 29 \text{ C-H ro}, 13 \text{ NH}_2 \text{ ro}$
ν <sub>10</sub>	CC <sub>2</sub> asym stretch	1234	1338	1223	44 CC <sub>2</sub> as, 16 C-N s
$\nu_{11}$	NH <sub>2</sub> rock	1099	1180	1074	60 NH <sub>2</sub> ro, $18 CC_2$ as, $15 C-H$ ro
ν <sub>12</sub>	CC <sub>2</sub> sym stretch	732	798	727	34 CC <sub>2</sub> ss, 11 C=C s, 11 CC <sub>2</sub> $\delta$
ν <sub>13</sub>	CC <sub>2</sub> deformation	605	659	593	25 $CC_2 \delta$ , 26 $CC \equiv N s \delta$ , 26 $CC_2 s s$
ν <sub>14</sub>	C−C≡N asym bend	552	605	547	16 CC=N a $\delta$ , 22 CC <sub>2</sub> ro, 12 C=CN $\delta$
$\nu_{15}$	C=C-N bend	416	462	413	43 C=CN δ, 47 CC≡N aδ
ν <sub>16</sub>	CC <sub>2</sub> rock	171	182	164	50 CC <sub>2</sub> ro, 31 CC $\equiv$ N a $\delta$ , 13 C=CN $\delta$
ν <sub>17</sub>	C—C≡N sym bend	111	150	134	$57 \text{ CC} \equiv \text{N s}\delta$ , $50 \text{ CC}_2 \delta$
v <sub>18</sub> A"	=C-H wag	1002	1125	993	78 C-H wa
ν <sub>19</sub>	NH <sub>2</sub> torsion	623	733	667	25 NH <sub>2</sub> $\tau$ , 29 CC $\equiv$ N s $\delta$ , 29 CC <sub>2</sub> wa
	C—C≡N sym bend	567	613	554	30 CC $\equiv$ N s $\delta$ , 6 CC <sub>2</sub> wa, 33 NH <sub>2</sub> $\tau$
ν <sub>20</sub>	C—C≡N asym bend	475	537	478	75 CC=N a $\delta$ , 8 C=C $\tau$ , 10 NH <sub>2</sub> $\tau$
ν <sub>21</sub>	NH <sub>2</sub> wag	298	334	295	47 NH <sub>2</sub> wa, 15 C=C $\tau$ , 13 CC≡N aδ
ν <sub>22</sub>	C=C torsion	224	278	250	43 C=C $\tau$ , 29 NH <sub>2</sub> $\tau$ , 82 NH <sub>2</sub> wa
ν <sub>23</sub> ν <sub>24</sub>	CC <sub>2</sub> wag	184	188	173	51 CC <sub>2</sub> wa, 22 CC $\equiv$ N s $\delta$ , 28 C=C $\tau$

Table VII. Comparison of Observed and Calculated Vibrational Frequencies for AM.

CC<sub>2</sub> wag

v<sub>24</sub>

<sup>&</sup>quot;Approximate assignment taking into account also comparison of the spectra of all three samples.

b Observed frequencies are from liquid if are available.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Calculated using scaling factors mentioned in text.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup>Potential energy distribution for scaled frequencies.

Table VIII. Comparison of Observed and Calculated Vibrational Frequencies for anti MAM.

No.	Fundamental <sup>a</sup>	Obs.b	ab Initio	Scaled	PED <sup>d</sup>
$\nu_1 A'$	N-H stretch	3330	3809	3308	99 NH s
	=C-H stretch	3090	3366	3079	99 CH s
ν <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> asym stretch	3036	3301	3020	98 CH <sub>3</sub> as
ν <sub>3</sub> ν <sub>4</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> sym stretch	2974	3196	2924	98 CH <sub>3</sub> ss
	C≡N stretch	2215	2588	2215	86 C≡N s
ν <sub>5</sub> ν <sub>6</sub>	C≡N stretch	2205	2579	• 2208	86 C≡N s
	C=C stretch	1648	1829	1676	32 C=C s, 34 CH ro, 24 NH ro
77	N-H rock	1485	1637	1492	16 NH ro, 42 CH <sub>3</sub> a $\delta$ , 19 C=C s
V8	CH <sub>3</sub> asym bend	1460	1612	1467	36 CH <sub>3</sub> aδ, 36 CH <sub>3</sub> sδ, 21 NH ro
V9	CH <sub>3</sub> sym bend	1426	1577	1438	57 CH <sub>3</sub> s $\delta$ , 15 CH <sub>3</sub> a $\delta$ , 16 C=C s
10	=C-H rock	1360	1489	1360	23 CH ro, 19 NH ro, 14 C-N s
۱۱ 	=C-N stretch	1337	1444	1319	45 C-N s, 20 CH ro
v <sub>12</sub>	CC <sub>2</sub> asym stretch	1231	1341	1224	39 CC <sub>2</sub> as, 13 N-CH <sub>3</sub> s
v <sub>13</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> sym rock	1123	1236	1128	42 CH <sub>3</sub> ro, 18 N-CH <sub>3</sub> s, 17 CC <sub>2</sub> as
<sup>7</sup> 14	N-CH <sub>3</sub> stretch	992	1097	1007	47 N-CH <sub>3</sub> s, 22 CH <sub>3</sub> ro, 11 CH ro
15	CC <sub>2</sub> sym stretch	808	880	801	32 CC <sub>2</sub> ss, 13 CC <sub>2</sub> $\delta$ , 12 C=CN $\delta$
'16	CC <sub>2</sub> deformation	602	659	594	24 CC, $\delta$ , 25 CC $\equiv$ N s $\delta$ , 28 CC, as
'17 •	C−C≡N asym bend	526	582	524	27 CC≡N aδ, 26 CC, ro
'18	C = C - N bend	436	484	439	15 C=CN $\delta$ , 28 CNC $\delta$ , 12 CC=N $a\delta$
'19	C-N-C bend	338	364	327	41 CNC $\delta$ , 21 C=CN $\delta$ , 35 CC=N $a\delta$
<sup>2</sup> 20	C-C≡N sym bend	161	153	137	58 CC≡N sδ, 55 CC, δ
21	CC <sub>2</sub> rock	107	125	113	46 CC, ro, 23 CC $\equiv$ N a $\delta$ , 25 C $\equiv$ CN $\delta$
<sup>1</sup> 22 . 4"	CH <sub>3</sub> asym stretch	2974	3271	2992	100 CH <sub>3</sub> as
23 A"	CH <sub>3</sub> asym bend	1443	1589	1445	93 CH <sub>3</sub> aδ
'24	CH <sub>3</sub> asym rock	1136	1245	1133	90 CH <sub>3</sub> ro
25	=C-H wag	992	1123	989	79 CH wa
<sup>7</sup> 26	N-H wag	710	740	668	12 NH wa, 20 C-N $\tau$ , 24 CC=N s $\delta$
<b>2</b> 7	C-C≡N sym bend	579	649	578	34 CC≡N sδ, 11 CC <sub>2</sub> wa, 22 NH wa
28	C—C≡N sym bend C—C≡N asym bend	482	546	482	77 CC $\equiv$ N a $\delta$ , 8 C $\equiv$ C $\tau$
29	C=C torsion	330	335	304	31 C=C $\tau$ , 17 CC=N a $\delta$ , 19 CC=N s $\delta$
30	CC <sub>2</sub> wag	213	185	170	39 CC <sub>2</sub> wa, 14 CC $\equiv$ N s $\delta$ , 47 C $\equiv$ C $\tau$
31	=C-N torsion	123	129	118	34 C-N $\tau$ , 14 NH wa, 14 CC <sub>2</sub> wa
v <sub>32</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> torsion	76	49	45	46° CH <sub>3</sub> τ, 28 NH wa, 8 C-N τ
<i>v</i> <sub>33</sub>	Cn <sub>3</sub> toision	70	77		, .,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Approximate assignment taking into account also comparison of the spectra of all three samples.

Interaction of the nitrogen lone electron pair with the  $\pi$ -electron system of the carbon-carbon double bond results in decreasing the multiple character of this bond and increasing the carbon-nitrogen bond order. These facts can be documented by a comparison of the carbon-carbon double bond length in ethylene 1.332 Å [32], vinylamine 1.335 Å [26], acrylonitrile 1.343 Å [33], and the present enamines 1.357-1.367 Å. The length of the C-N bond is shortened from the values 1.474-1.465 Å for methylamine [25, 34, 35] over values 1.431 and 1.397 Å for phenyl- and vinylamine [36, 26] and the value 1.352 Å for formamide [37] to the calculated values 1.323-1.327 Å for the enamines.

The calculated C=C and C-N bond lengths for our enamines indicate a highly conjugated system, and the calculated planar or nearly planar structure for all three samples is not surprising. The tendency of forming a planar structure with a higher degree of conjugation appears from the angle between the NH<sub>2</sub> plane and the extension of the C-N bond. This angle is 54.3° for methylamine, 38° and 34° for phenyl- and vinylamine, and nearly zero for the nearly planar structures of gaseous or solid formamide, acetamide, and N-methylacetamide [38-40].

A more detailed ab initio geometry discussion with charge distributions for these enamines and for other similar compounds will appear shortly [41, 42].

## **Conformational Energy**

The conformational energies of MAM calculated by the ab initio and semiempirical methods are approx-

<sup>\*</sup>Observed frequencies are from liquid if are available.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup>Calculated using scaling factors mentioned in text.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup>Potential energy distribution for scaled frequencies.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Relative values.

Table IX. Comparison of Observed and Calculated Vibrational Frequencies for syn MAM.

No.	Fundamentals <sup>a</sup>	Obs."	ab Initio	Scaled	PED"
$\nu_1 A'$	N-H stretch		3874	3364	99 NH s
$\nu_2$	=C-H stretch		3364	3077	99 CH s
$\nu_3$	CH <sub>3</sub> asym stretch		3298	3017	99 CH <sub>3</sub> as
4	CH <sub>3</sub> sym stretch		3210	2937	99 CH <sub>3</sub> ss
25	C≡N stretch		2591	2216	89 C≡N s
, '6	C≡N stretch		2584	2213	87 C≡N s
'7	C=C stretch	1629	1785	1638	54 C = C s, $30 C - N s$ , $27 CH ro$
'8	N-H rock	1548	1705	1555	69 NH ro, 21 C-N s
° '9	Cii <sub>3</sub> asym bend		1614	1467	90 CH <sub>3</sub> aδ
, 10	CH <sub>3</sub> sym bend		1580	1437	99 CH <sub>3</sub> sδ
'11	=C-N stretch	1369	1501	1370	56 CH ro, 21 C=C s
12	=C-H rock	1305	1416	1297	27 C $-N$ s, 22 NH ro, 15 N $-CH_3$ s
13	CC2 asym stretch	1209	1333	1215	31 CC <sub>2</sub> as, 25 CH <sub>3</sub> ro
14	CH <sub>3</sub> sym rock		1255	1143	41 CH <sub>3</sub> ro, 28 CC <sub>2</sub> as
15	N-CH <sub>3</sub> stretch		1043	959	65 N-CH <sub>3</sub> s, 11 C-N s
16	CC <sub>2</sub> sym stretch	782	857	781	17 CC <sub>2</sub> ss, 11 CC <sub>2</sub> as, 34 C=CN $\delta$
17	CC <sub>2</sub> deformation		676	608	29 CC <sub>2</sub> $\delta$ , 29 CC $\equiv$ N s $\delta$ , 23 CC <sub>2</sub> ss
18	C=C-N bend	571	654	597	10 C=CN $\delta$ , 17 CNC $\delta$ , 26 CC <sub>2</sub> ss
19	C-C≡N asym bend	452	511	455	58 CC≡N aδ, 15 CC <sub>2</sub> ro, 11 C=CN δ
20	C-N-C bend	263	282	256	57 CNC $\delta$ , 21 C=CN $\delta$ , 17 CC <sub>2</sub> ro
20 '21	CC <sub>2</sub> rock		171	154	46 CC <sub>2</sub> ro, 25 CC $\equiv$ N a $\delta$ , 16 C=CN $\delta$
22	C-C≡N sym bend		163	145	64 CC≡N s $\delta$ , 59 CC <sub>2</sub> $\delta$
$r_{23}^{22} A''$	CH <sub>3</sub> asym stretch		3309	3027	100 CH <sub>3</sub> as
23	CH <sub>3</sub> asym bend		1595	1450	92 CH <sub>3</sub> aδ
25	CH <sub>3</sub> asym rock		1241	1129	86 CH <sub>3</sub> ro
26	=C-H wag		1113	978	80 CH wa
27	C−C≡N sym bend	689	713	645	45 CC $\equiv$ N s $\delta$ , 30 CC <sub>2</sub> wa, 10 C $\equiv$ N $\tau$
27	C-C≡N asym bend	490	566	506	33 CC $\equiv$ N a $\delta$ , 9 C=C $\tau$ , 16 C-N $\tau$
28 '29	N—H wag		502	449	19 NH wa, 42 C−N $\tau$ , 41 CC≡N aδ
29 '30	C=C torsion		392	346	26 C=C $\tau$ , 17 CC≡N a $\delta$ , 60 NH wa
30 '31	CC <sub>2</sub> wag		203	186	65 CC <sub>2</sub> wa, 31 CC≡N sδ
31 '32	CH <sub>3</sub> torsion		153	143	80° CH <sub>3</sub> τ
'32 '33	=C-N torsion		76	70	$32^{\circ} C - N \tau$ , $39 C = C \tau$ , 12 NH wa

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Approximate assignment taking into account also comparison of the spectra of all three samples.

imately two to three times higher than the experimental values determined from IR and NMR spectra. The best results have been achieved with ab initio at the MP2/SCF level and with AM1 methods. The difference between experimental and calculated values may be attributed to possible interactions of the highly polar MAM molecule with the polar solvents (acetonitrile and DMSO) used for the experimental energy determination compared with the isolated molecule in the calculations.

#### **NMR Spectra**

All the spectra contain characteristic shifts in the region expected for nitrile carbon atoms (114-118 ppm).

Owing to the two nitrile substituents, the adjacent olefinic carbon atoms are extremely high field shifted (45– 48 ppm) in contrast to the other olefinic carbons with a corresponding low field shift (158–162 ppm). Depending on the stereochemical effects, the methyl groups absorb in the region 30 to 47 ppm. In the spectrum of MAM, two different subspectra appear, to be assiend to anti and syn conformers. It is known from other methylated amino compounds with partial double bonds between nitrogen and the neighboring atom (dimethylformamide, dimethylacetamide, etc.) that restriction of the rotational motion results in different chemical shifts of the methyl groups. Thus, two chemical CH<sub>3</sub> shifts for DMAM have been observed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Observed frequencies are from liquid if are available.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Calculated using scaling factors mentioned in text.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup>Potential energy distribution for scaled frequencies.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Relative values.

Table X. Comparison of Observed and Calculated Vibrational Frequencies for DMAM.

No.	Fundamental"	Obs."	ab Initio	Scaled	PED <sup>d</sup>
	=C-H stretch	3081	3370	3083	98 CH s
1	CH <sub>3</sub> asym stretch	3030	3316	3033	95 CH <sub>3</sub> as
2	CH <sub>3</sub> asym stretch	3030	3306	3024	89 CH <sub>3</sub> as
3	CH <sub>3</sub> asym stretch	3011	3296	3015	94 CH <sub>3</sub> as
•	CH <sub>3</sub> asym stretch	2980	3259	2981	99 CH <sub>3</sub> as
i	CH <sub>3</sub> sym stretch	2930	3209	2936	94 CH <sub>3</sub> ss
i .	CH <sub>3</sub> sym stretch	2924	3187	2916	93 CH <sub>3</sub> ss
'	C≡N stretch	2217	2588	2213	88 C≡N s
3	C≡N stretch	2205	2580	2209	88 C≡N s
•	C=C stretch	1638	1789	1641	42 C = C s, $40 C - N s$ , $26 C - H ro$
10	CH <sub>3</sub> asym bend	1482	1635	1489	55 CH <sub>3</sub> aδ, 15 CH <sub>3</sub> ro
H		1482	1617	1471	72 CH <sub>3</sub> aδ, 11 CH <sub>3</sub> ro
12	CH asym bend	1449	1604	1458	83 CH <sub>3</sub> aδ
13	CH <sub>3</sub> asym bend	1436	1593	1449	76 CH <sub>3</sub> sδ
14	CH <sub>3</sub> sym bend	1436	1590	1446	84 CH <sub>3</sub> aδ
15	CH <sub>3</sub> asym bend	1424	1573	1430	105 CH <sub>3</sub> sδ
16	CH <sub>3</sub> sym bend	1408	1556	1423	26 C-N s, 14 NC <sub>2</sub> as, 24 CH <sub>3</sub> aδ
17	=C-N stretch	1368	1511	1381	47 C-H ro, 26 C=C s
8	=C-H rock	1264	1417	1296	38 NC <sub>2</sub> as, 11 CC <sub>2</sub> as, 17 CH <sub>3</sub> ro
19	NC <sub>2</sub> asym stretch	1172	1272	1161	50 CC <sub>2</sub> as, 11 NC <sub>2</sub> as, 14 CC <sub>2</sub> ro
20	CC <sub>2</sub> asym stretch	1172	1259	1145	87 CH <sub>3</sub> ro
21	CH <sub>3</sub> asym rock		1231	1123	56 CH <sub>3</sub> ro
22	CH <sub>3</sub> sym rock	1129	1216	1105	84 CH <sub>3</sub> ro
23	CH <sub>3</sub> asym rock	1100	1171	1070	61 CH <sub>3</sub> ro
24	CH <sub>3</sub> sym rock	1059	1106	971	81 C-H wa
25	=C-H wag	954		860	68 NC <sub>2</sub> ss, 10 CC <sub>2</sub> ss
26	NC <sub>2</sub> sym stretch	859	936	804	19 CC, ss, 29 C=CN $\delta$ , 10 CC <sub>2</sub> as
27	CC <sub>2</sub> sym stretch	817	882	637	$51 \text{ CC} \equiv \text{N s}\delta$ , 37 CC <sub>2</sub> wa
28	$C-C \equiv N$ sym bend	625	706	611	$28 \text{ CC}_2 \delta, 38 \text{ CC} = \text{N s}\delta, 26 \text{ CC}_2 \text{ ss}$
29	CC <sub>2</sub> deformation	585	679	547	16 CC $\equiv$ N a $\delta$ , 15 CC <sub>2</sub> ro, 17 NC <sub>2</sub> $\delta$
30	$C-C\equiv N$ asym bend	548	602	496	$59 \text{ CC} = \text{N a}\delta, 13 \text{ C} = \text{C}\tau$
31	$C-C \equiv N$ asym bend	498	558	445	15 C=CN $\delta$ , 20 NC <sub>2</sub> ro, 15 CC=N s
32	C=C-N bend	444	497	402	43 NC <sub>2</sub> δ
33	NC <sub>2</sub> deformation	400	442		$10 C = C \tau, 28 CC = N \text{ a}\delta, 18 NC_2 \delta$
34	C=C torsion	391	432	392 272	43 NC <sub>2</sub> ro, 24 C=CN $\delta$ , 18 CC=N a
35	NC <sub>2</sub> rock	289	300		30 NC <sub>2</sub> wa, 19 CC <sub>2</sub> wa, 15 CC $\equiv$ N sô
36	NC <sub>2</sub> wag	261	271	252	33 CC <sub>2</sub> wa, 13 CC $\equiv$ N s $\delta$ , 61 CH <sub>3</sub> $\tau$
37	CC <sub>2</sub> wag	176	180	166	22 $CC_2$ ro, 17 $CC = N$ aô, 18 $CC = N$
38	CC <sub>2</sub> rock	168	169	153	
'39	C-C≡N sym bend	158	154	139	58 CC≡N sδ, 41 CC <sub>2</sub> δ 37 CH <sub>3</sub> τ, 18 CC <sub>2</sub> ro, 12 CC≡N aδ
40	CH <sub>3</sub> torsion	100	144	132	
41	CH <sub>3</sub> torsion	92	99	92	42° $CH_3 \tau$ , 46 $NC_2$ wa
y <sub>42</sub> .	=C-N torsion	58	31	29	$27^{e} C-N \tau$ , 43 CH <sub>3</sub> $\tau$ , 13 C=C $\tau$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Approximate description taking into account also comparison of the spectra of all three samples.

Evidence of the conformers and a total assignment of the spectra are given by evaluating the vicinal coupling constants  $^3J_{\rm HC}$  derived from proton-coupled  $^{13}{\rm C}$  NMR spectra.  $C_7$  and  $C_9$  can be easily assigned by comparing the coupling to  $H_5$ . The *trans* coupling (dihedral angle 180°) exceeds the *cis* coupling (0°) approximately by a factor of 2.

Similar behavior of the vicinal coupling constants between C<sub>4</sub> and C<sub>6</sub> with H<sub>5</sub> establishes the assignment of the corresponding chemical shifts. Comparing these values for DMAM (6.5 Hz trans coupling; 5.1 Hz cis coupling) and the corresponding coupling constants for the methyl groups of the MAM conformer mixture (5.3 Hz for anti and 7.9 Hz for syn), the assignment of Table

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Observed frequencies are from the solution if are available.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup>Calculated using scaling factors mentioned in text.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup>Potential energy distribution for scaled frequencies.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Relative values.

IV was obtained. Additional evidence for the two conformers is derived from the predominant *anti* conformer (ratio *anti:syn* is ca. 4:1, leading to the value of ca. 3.5 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> for Gibbs free energy at room temperature).

The substitution of one amine proton of AM forming the anti conformer of MAM does not change significantly the chemical shift of  $C_7$  and  $C_9$ . On the other hand, the same substitution in the syn position results in a downfield shift of 1.5 ppm at C<sub>9</sub>, leaving the chemical shift of C<sub>7</sub> unchanged. Substitution of the other proton by a methyl group in DMAM has no further influence. This fact suggests that steric interaction exists between the syn-methyl and nitrile in position 9. As a result, the R<sub>1</sub>-N-R<sub>2</sub> plane seems to be twisted slightly against the plane of the olefinic part of DMAM and probable syn in MAM, too. Twisting around the  $C_2$ - $N_3$  axis changes the dihedral angles H<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-N<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> and H<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-N<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>, reducing both the trans and cis coupling constants according to the Karplus curve. The numerical values of Table IV reflect this tendency. Vicinal coupling constant H<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>1</sub> is also reduced, introducing a methyl group in position 6. Finally, introducing the second methyl group in the anti or syn conformers of MAM results in considerably different beta effects for the existing methyl carbons, caused predominantly by steric interaction. This is an additional indication for twisting mentioned above.

## Vibrational Spectra

Since the N-H stretching modes give rise to the bands with the highest wave numbers, their assignment in the vibrational spectra for AM and MAM is straightforward. A doublet band structure was observed for these vibrational modes in the solid and solution spectra. The splitting can be attributed to enamine association or in solution interaction with the solvent molecules. These interactions are stronger in the solid phase where N-H frequencies are lower than in solutions. The association process is typical for amines, and the higher frequency corresponds to vibration of the free N-H bond, the lower frequency to vibration of the associated N-H bond.

The band with the highest wave numbers in the C-H frequency region has been assigned as the =C-H stretching mode. Such an assignment corresponds to the frequencies of the C-H bonds for trisubstituted ethylene. The assignment of the CH<sub>3</sub> stretching modes is not clear without additional isotopic studies and is based only on the normal coordinate calculations.

The C≡N stretching modes were found between

2200 and 2220 cm<sup>-1</sup>, and they are in the expected region [43]. According to PED, the higher-frequency band corresponds to C = N stretch in the *trans* position to the amino group.

The frequency shifts of the C=C stretching mode (1662 cm<sup>-1</sup> for AM, 1648 and 1630 cm<sup>-1</sup> for anti and syn conformers of MAM, and 1644 cm<sup>-1</sup> for DMAM) can be explained by the inductive effect of the N-methyl groups as was done for N-methyl derivatives of formamide and acetamide [40]. The shifts measured here are about half of those for N-methyl derivatives of formamide and acetamide and confirm the calculated slight decrease of the double-bond character of the C=C bond and the increase of the double-bond character of C-N bond from AM to DMAM. These conclusions are also supported by the increasing frequencies of the C-N stretching modes from 1329 cm<sup>-1</sup> for AM to 1408 cm<sup>-1</sup> for DMAM.

The vibrational frequencies of amino deformation modes—1591 cm<sup>-1</sup> for NH<sub>2</sub> scissoring and 1485 cm<sup>-1</sup> for NH rocking—are slightly below the region of such vibrations for nonplanar amines. However, these frequencies are in the expected region in planar or practically planar amides. The last in-plane vibrational mode of the amino group—NH<sub>2</sub> rocking—was assigned according to the normal coordinate calculation at 1099 cm<sup>-1</sup>. This value is in the region for the NH<sub>2</sub> twisting mode of amines and NH<sub>2</sub> rocking mode for amides.

The bands at 623 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 298 cm<sup>-1</sup> were assigned as the nonplanar vibrational modes of the NH<sub>2</sub> group. The first band corresponds to the NH<sub>2</sub> torsional mode, the second to the NH<sub>2</sub> wagging mode. The band at 710 cm<sup>-1</sup> was assigned to NH wagging mode. According to the calculated PED, the bands at 567 cm<sup>-1</sup> for AM and 579 cm<sup>-1</sup> for MAM could also be assigned to such modes. However, common features of both the 623-cm<sup>-1</sup> and 710-cm<sup>-1</sup> bands—strong and broad bands in IR spectra and absence in Raman spectra-and the fact that a band of such character is not present in this region in the vibrational spectra of DMAM indicate the assignment of the 623-cm<sup>-1</sup> and 710-cm<sup>-1</sup> bands to amino groups. Also, a higher frequency for the NH2 torsional mode compared with the NH<sub>2</sub> wagging mode is characteristic for planar amides rather than for nonplanar aliphatic or aromatic amines where the NH2 wagging mode is in the region 700-850 cm<sup>-1</sup> [43]. This means that the measured lower frequency of 623 cm<sup>-1</sup> for the NH2 out-of-plane mode supports the planar structure of the amino group.

According to PED, the vibrational frequencies of the =C-H rocking and wagging modes have been assigned in the narrow intervals 1350-1368 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 954-1002 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, in the regions expected for trisubstituted ethylene.

Eight bending modes are associated with the =C(CN)<sub>2</sub> group, and their assignment is not straightforward like for other compounds with a C(CN)2 group, e.g., 1,1-dicyanocyclopropane [30], 1,1-dicyanocyclobutane [31], carbonyl cyanide [44], and propanedinitrile [45]. The calculations indicate that each of the four C-C≡N linear bending modes is mixed with one of the four deformation modes of the =CC2 group. The CC2 scissor is mixed with the in-plane symmetric linear bending mode of both  $CC \equiv N$  groups, and the  $CC_2$  rock is mixed with the in-plane CC=N asymmetric linear bending mode. The CC2 wag is mixed with the out-ofplane symmetric linear bending mode of both CC≡N groups. The CC<sub>2</sub> twist for a nonplanar > CC<sub>2</sub> structure or the C=C torsional mode for a planar  $=CC_2$  structure is mixed with the out-of-plane asymmetric CC≡N linear bending mode. In each mentioned pair one mode should occur between 400 and 600 cm<sup>-1</sup> and the other between 100 and 300 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

The out-of-plane asymmetric CC≡N linear bending appears as the most localized mode according to the PED, and therefore its assignment is the most straightforward among the bands in the narrow region 475-498 cm<sup>-1</sup> for all three samples. This mode has also been found for 1,1-dicyanocyclopropane and for 1,1-dicyanocyclobutane [30, 31] in this region. On the other hand, the corresponding C=C torsional mode interacts with other fundamentals and suffers the largest frequency shift from 224 cm<sup>-1</sup> for AM to 391 cm<sup>-1</sup> for DMAM.

The  $CC_2$  scissoring and the in-plane symmetric  $CC \equiv N$  linear bending modes are both highly mixed as previously reported for 1,1-dicyanocyclopropane and 1,1-dicyanocyclobutane [30, 31]. The assignme of these two modes is not straightforward by normal coordinates calculations, and from the results for related compounds [30, 31, 44], we assigned the  $CC_2$  scissoring mode in the high-frequency region 585-605 cm<sup>-1</sup> and the corresponding  $CC \equiv N$  linear bend in the low-frequency range.

The two remaining  $CC_2$  modes (rocking and wagging), although mixed with the mentioned  $CC \equiv N$  modes, should occur in the low-frequency region. The  $CC \equiv N$  bending modes have been assigned in the regions 526-552 cm<sup>-1</sup> (the in-plane asymmetric linear bend) and 567-625 cm<sup>-1</sup> (the out-of-plane symmetric linear bend), respectively. The C = C - N bending mode was assigned for all three samples to a band with very

similar character in the narrow frequency interval 424-444 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

The assignment of the deformation modes and especially of the torsional modes below 250 cm<sup>-1</sup> is very tentative because spectral data from the fluid phases are missing in this region and many lattice modes for AM and MAM are present in the solid-phase spectra.

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