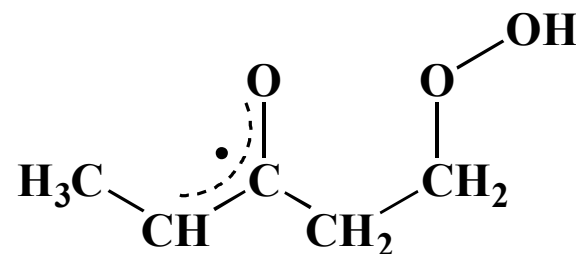
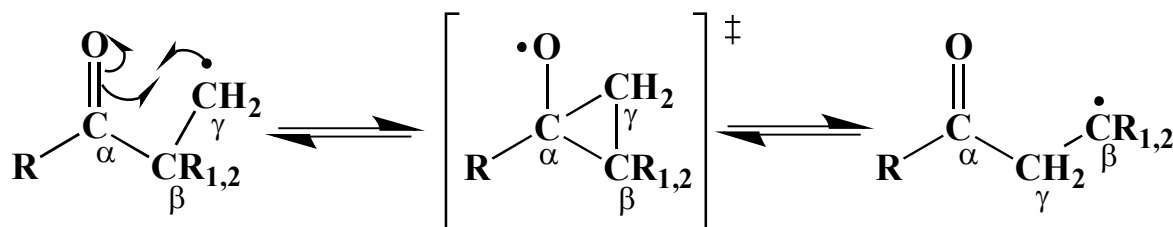




Rapid Radical Rearrangement of Ketones and selective chain-propagating channels via resonantly-stabilized QOOH



Adam Scheer, Oliver Welz, David Osborn and Craig Taatjes

7/12/2013

Liquid Fuels in The United States



- 140 billion gallons of gasoline a year

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007:

Cellulosic Biofuel Requirements:

- 500 million gallons of cellulosic biofuels for 2012
- 1 billion gallons for 2013
- 16 billion gallons by 2022

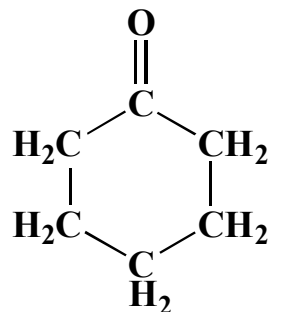
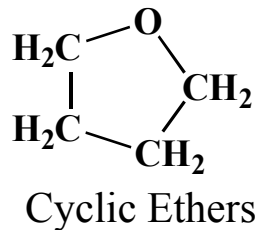
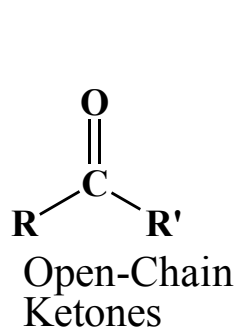
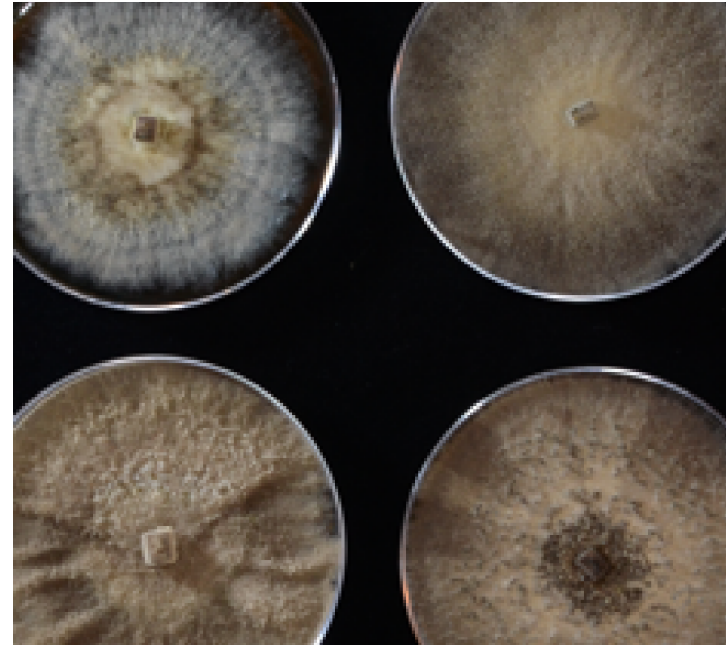
*corn ethanol production = 13 billion gallons (2012)

20,000 gallons of cellulosic biofuels actually produced in 2012.

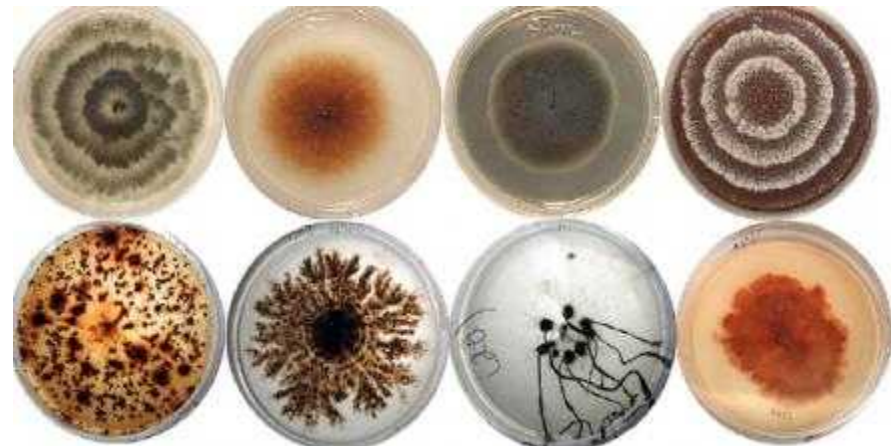
$$500,000,000 - 20,000 = 499,980,000.$$

Breaking Down Cellulose: Fungal Endophytes are Tunable Platforms

- Certain fungi can convert cellulose directly into a variety of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).
- Unfortunately these VOCs do not include octane.
- These “fuels” need to be characterized.

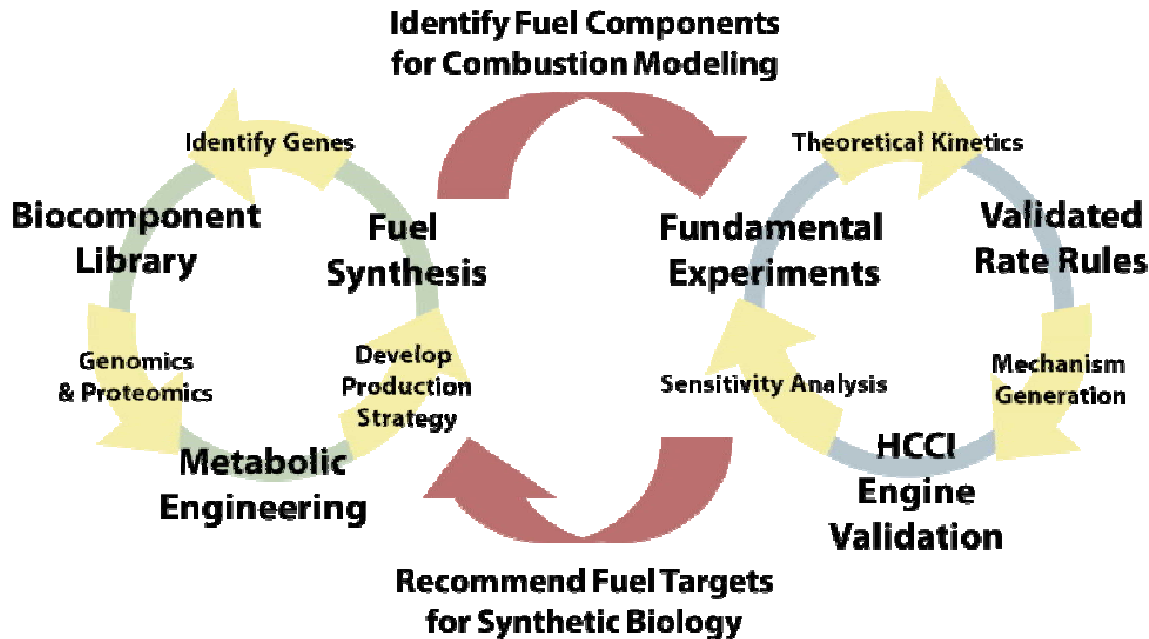


Families of molecules from
fungal metabolism of cellulose

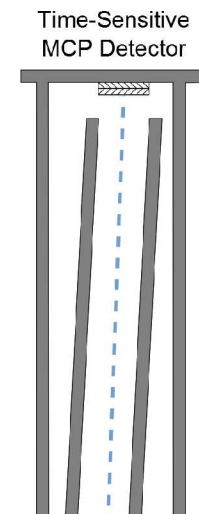
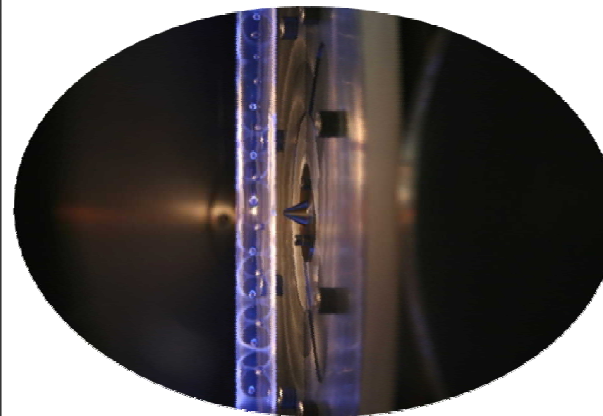
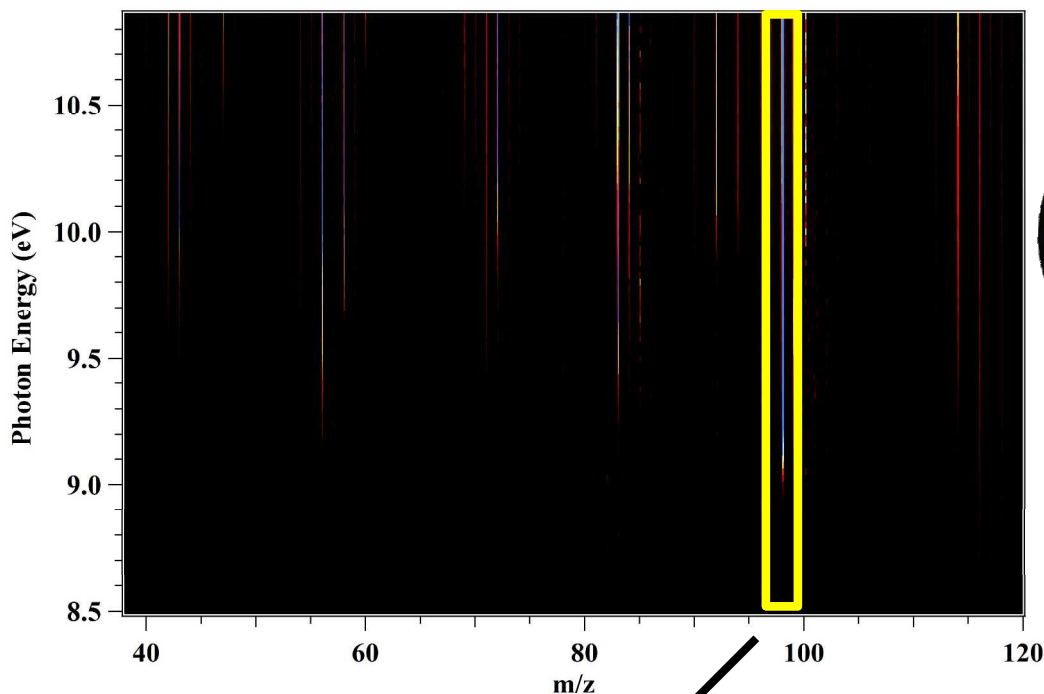


G. A. Strobel, et al. *J. Microbiology-(UK)* **2008**, 154 (3319).

Investigating Fungal Conversion of Cellulose for Liquid Fuels: Collaboration!



Experiment: Chlorine-Initiated Oxidation using MPIMS

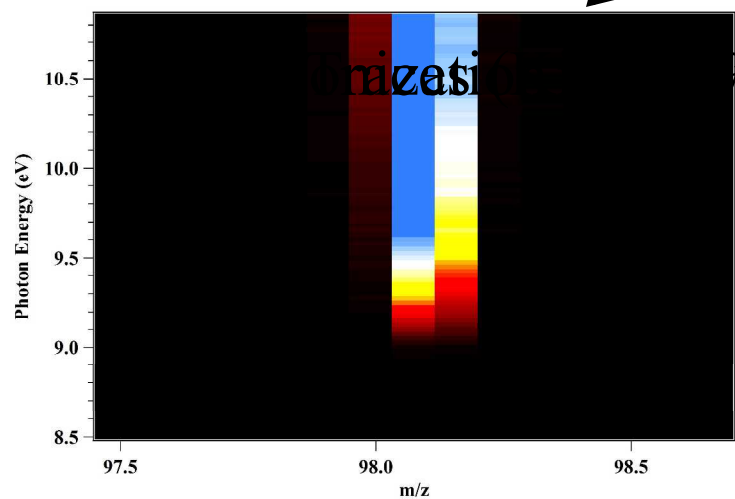


Excimer Photolysis

1000 cm/s

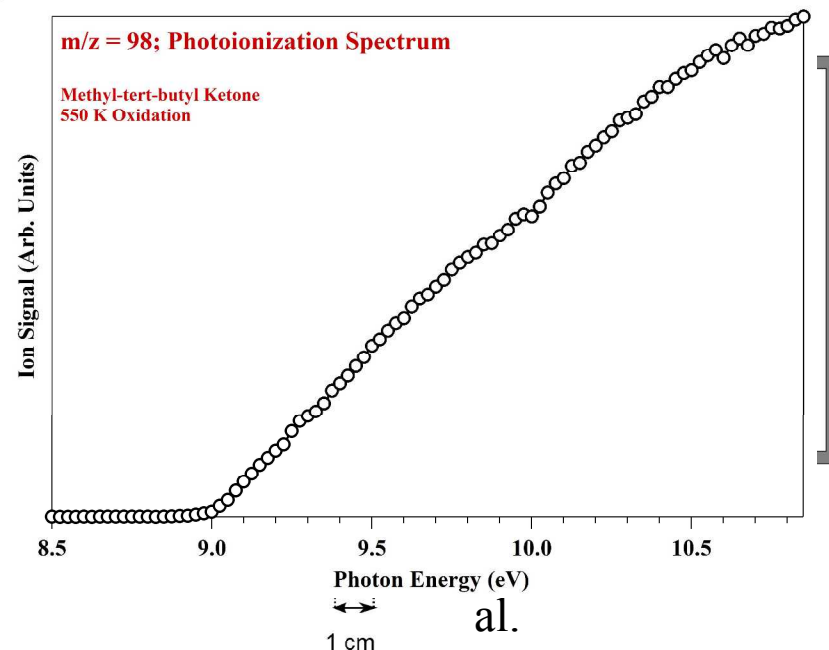
Tunable Ionizing hv (ALS or Discharge)

hv (351 nm)

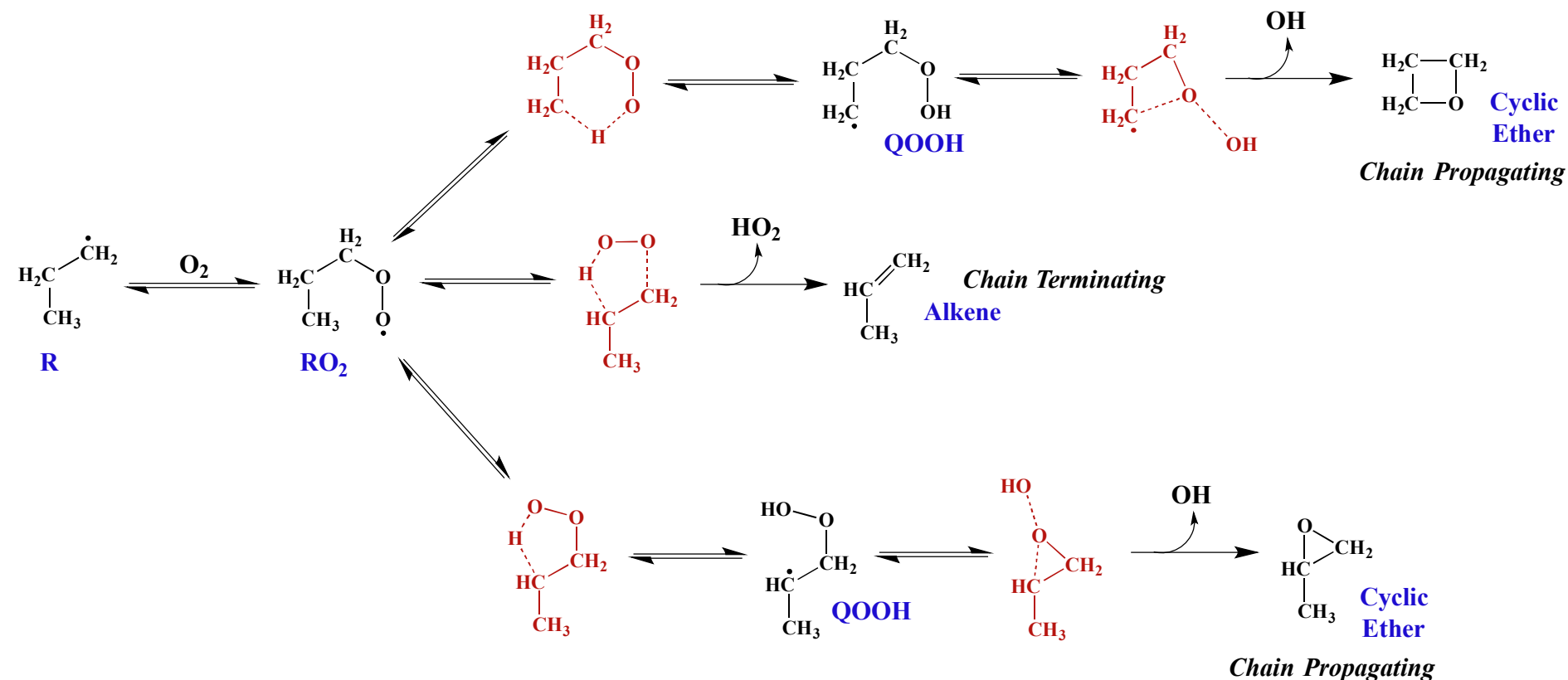


HCl

Products



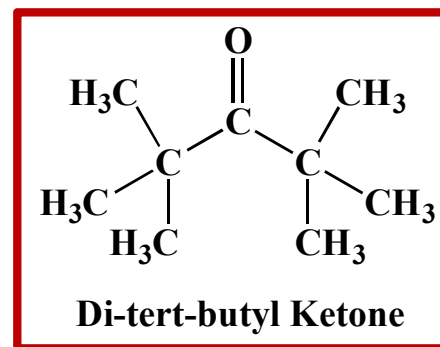
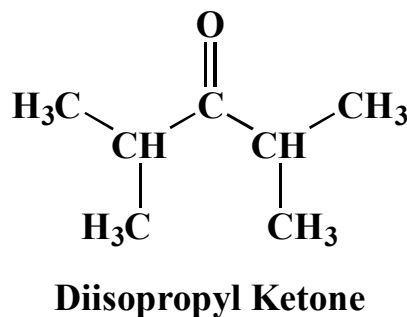
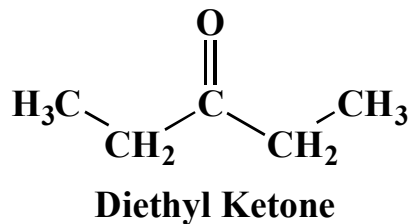
Background: Oxidation of n-propyl Radical



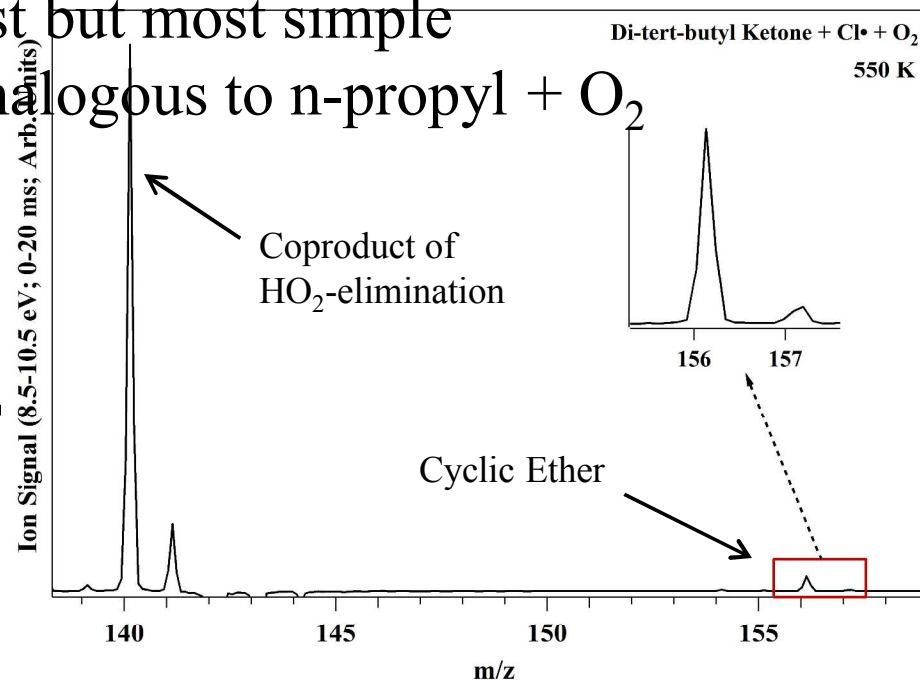
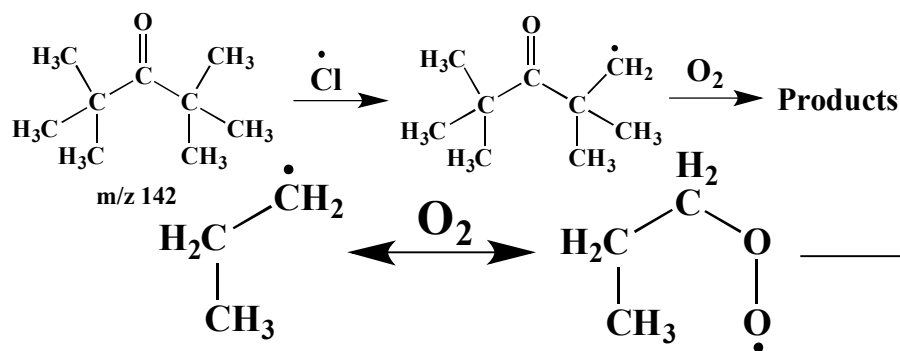
J. D. DeSain et al. *J. Phys. Chem. A* **2003**, 107, (4415).

- Do not typically detect OH and HO_2 directly in MPIMS.
- Instead observe coproducts at Parent – 2 (unsaturated hydrocarbon) and Parent + 14 (cyclic ether)
- QOOH never observed but vital intermediate in chain-propagating and chain-branching channels

Fuels From Fungus: Investigating Branched Ketones

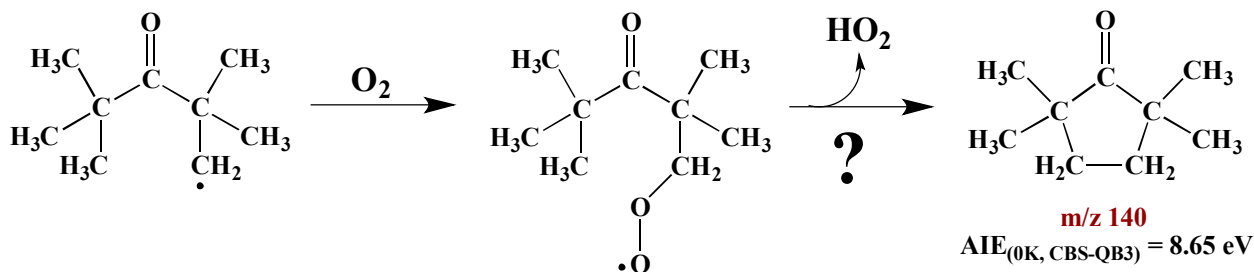


- Di-tert-butyl ketone is the largest but most simple
- No HO₂-elimination pathway analogous to n-propyl + O₂

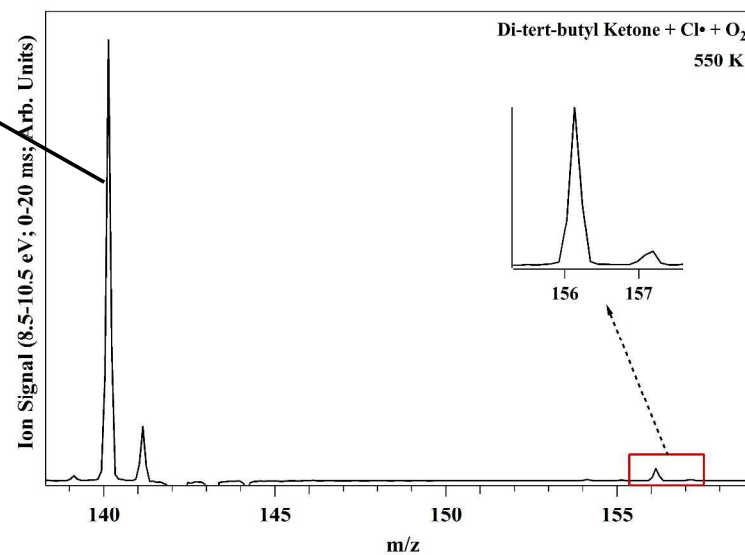
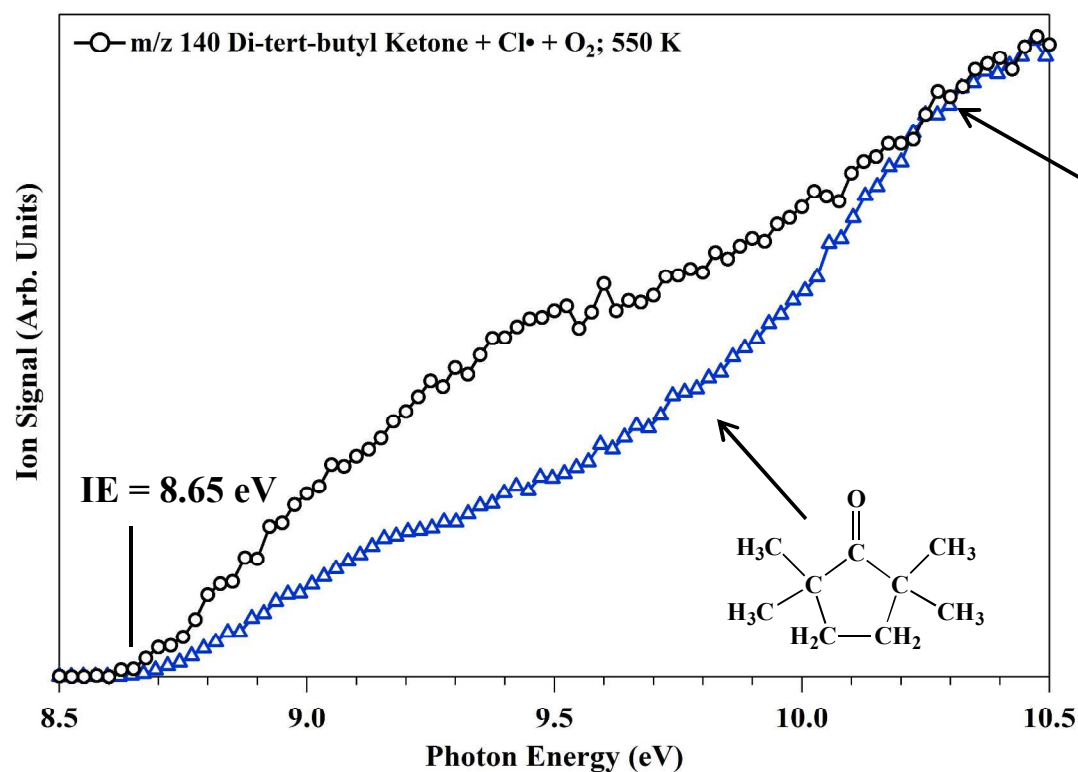


Fuels From Fungus: Investigating Branched Ketones

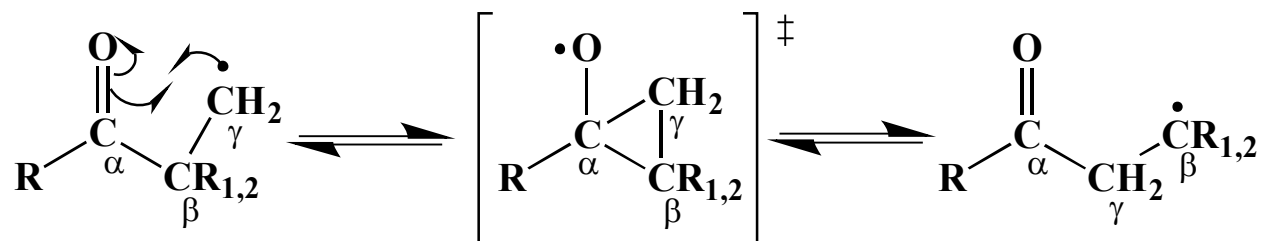
Ring Closure Yielding HO₂-Elimination?



Calculated ionization energy matches experimental onset.

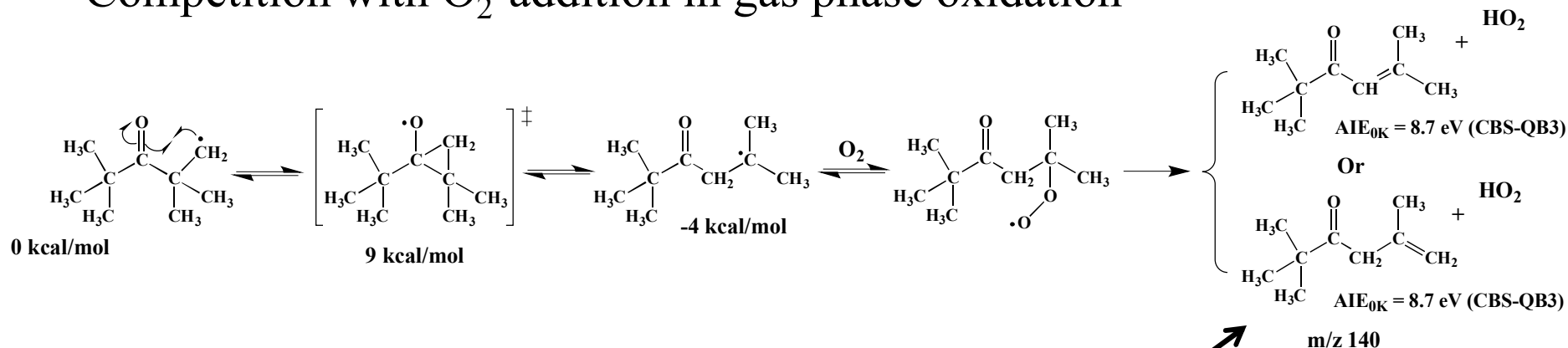


Open-Chain Ketones: Rapid Radical Rearrangement Reactions?



Karl et al. *J. Org. Chem.* **37**, 2834 (1972)

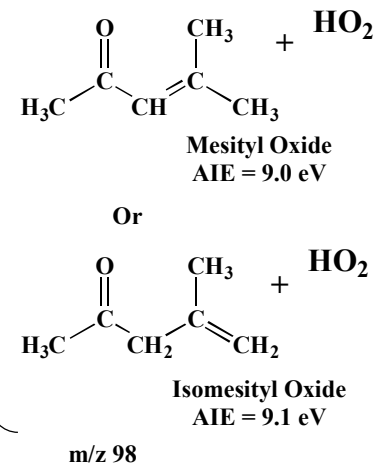
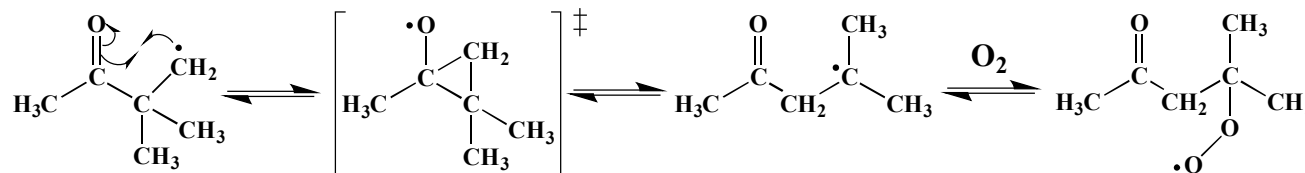
- Thermodynamic driving force depending on substituents
- Competition with O_2 -addition in gas phase oxidation



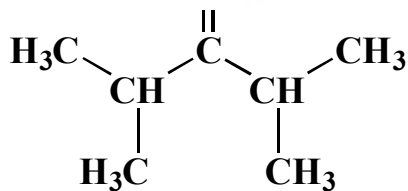
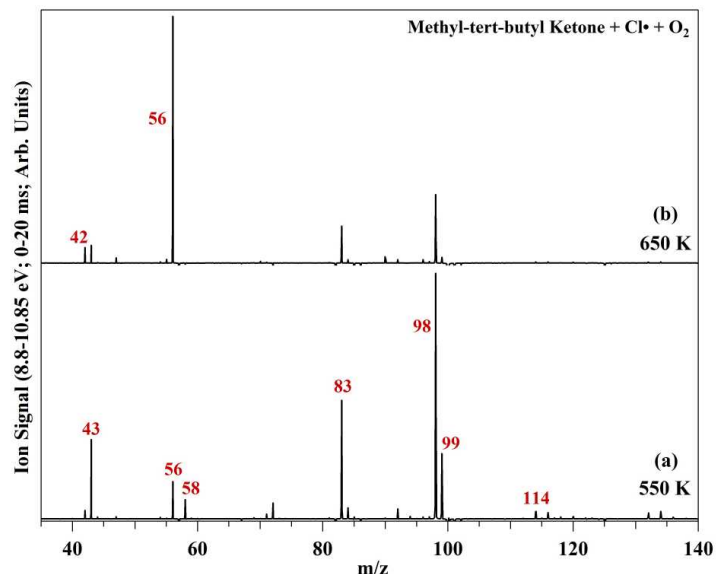
- Neither product available for comparison.

Fuels From Fungus: Methyl-tert-butyl Ketone

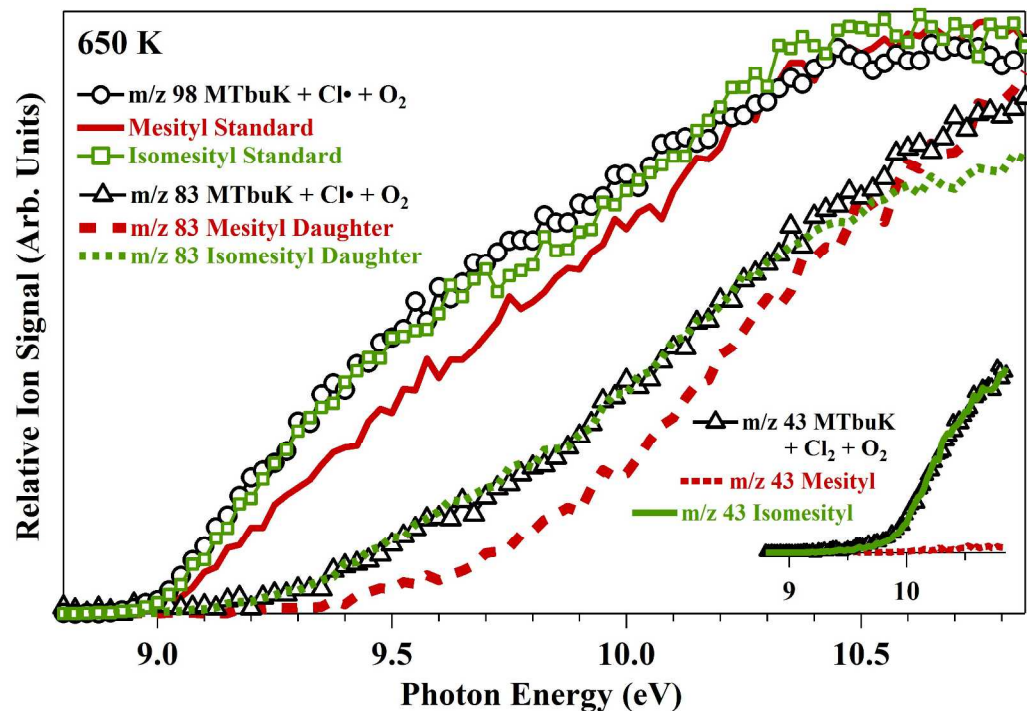
Rapid Radical Rearrangement Reactions?



Acyl Migration Channels:

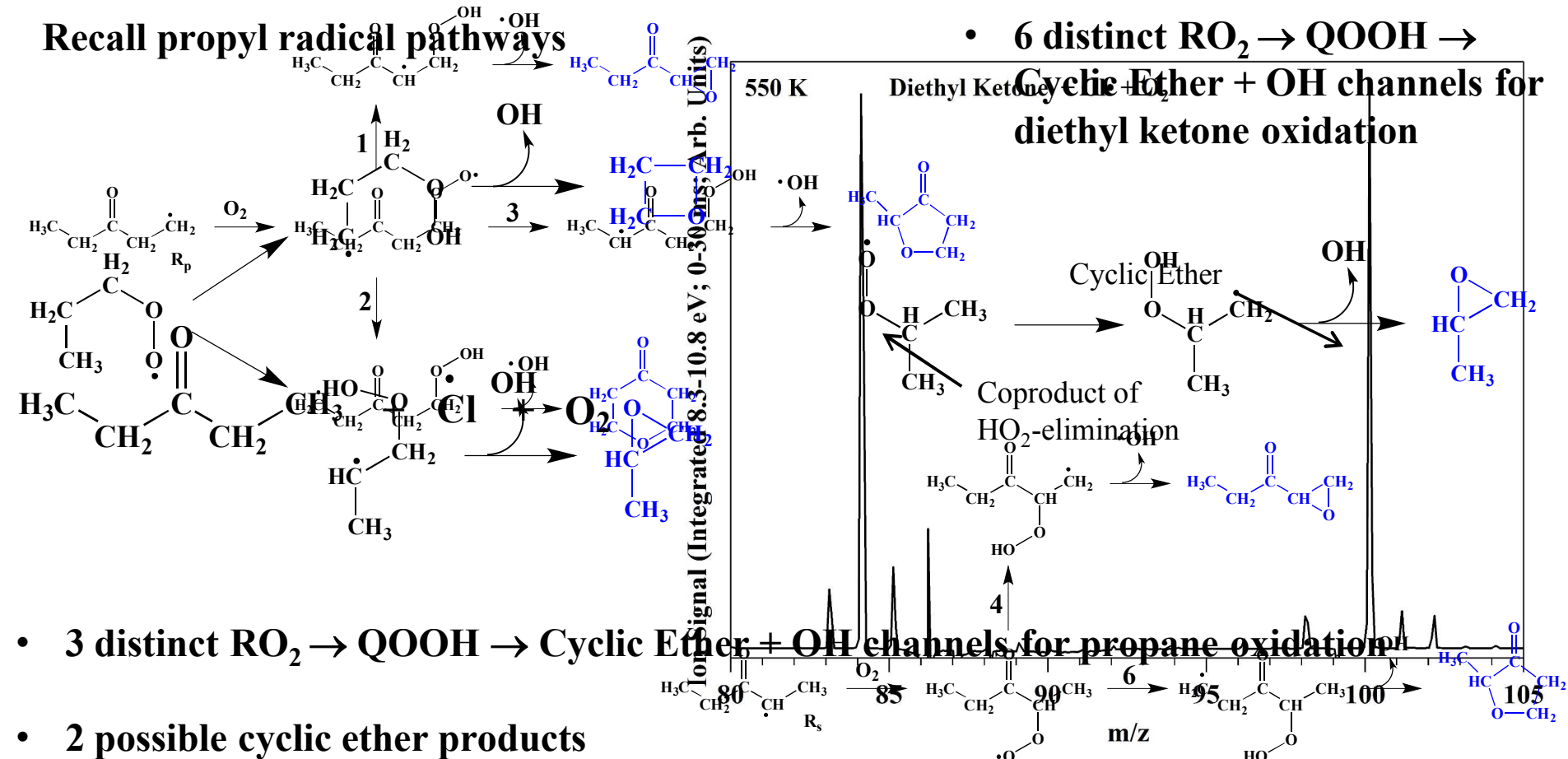


Diisopropyl Ketone



Switching Gears: Cyclic Ether Formation Possibilities in Diethyl Ketone Oxidation

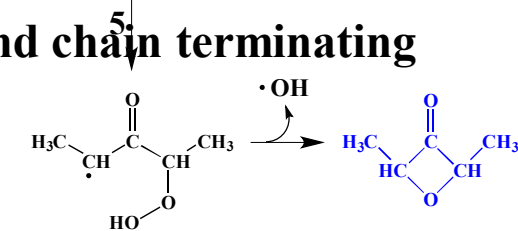
Recall propyl radical pathways



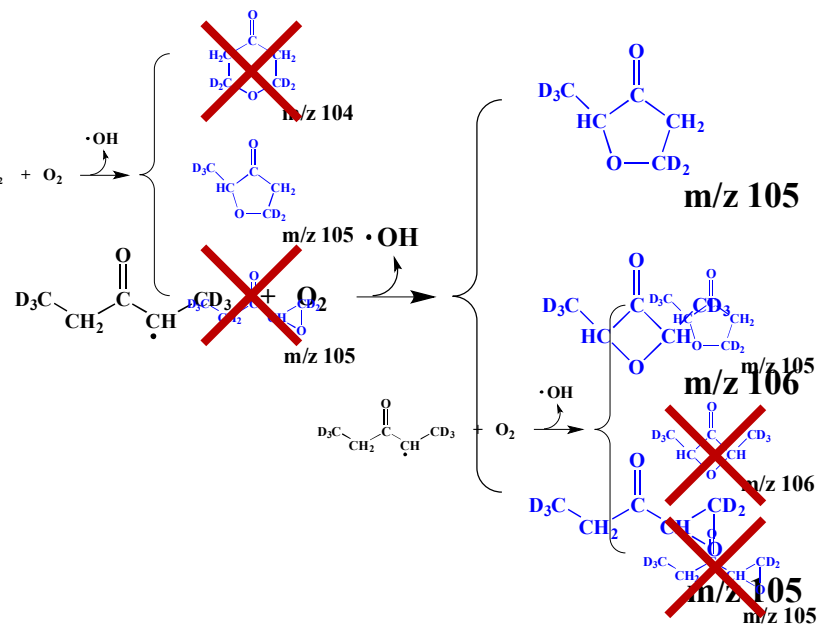
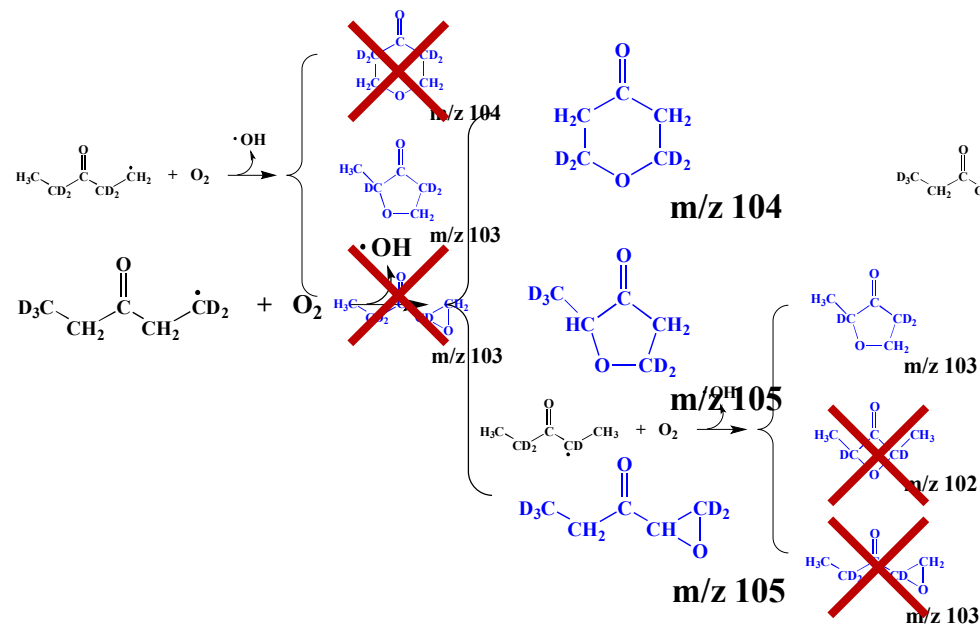
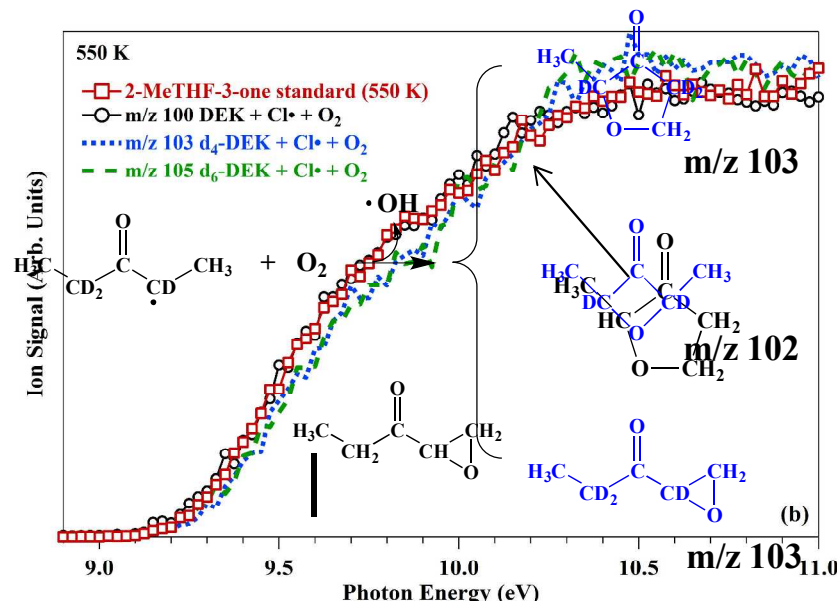
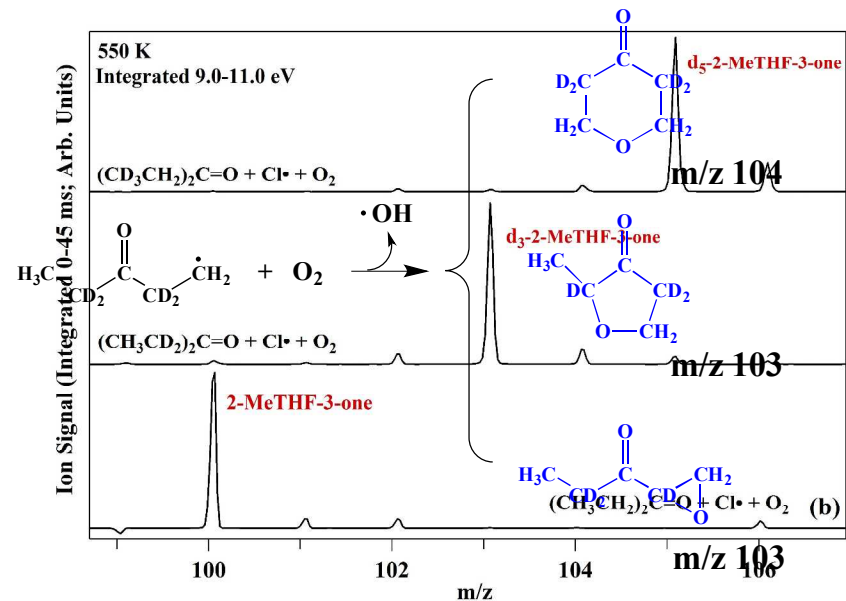
- 6 distinct $\text{RO}_2 \rightarrow \text{QOOH} \rightarrow$ Cyclic Ether + OH channels for diethyl ketone oxidation

- 3 distinct $\text{RO}_2 \rightarrow \text{QOOH} \rightarrow \text{Cyclic Ether} + \text{OH}$ channels for propane oxidation

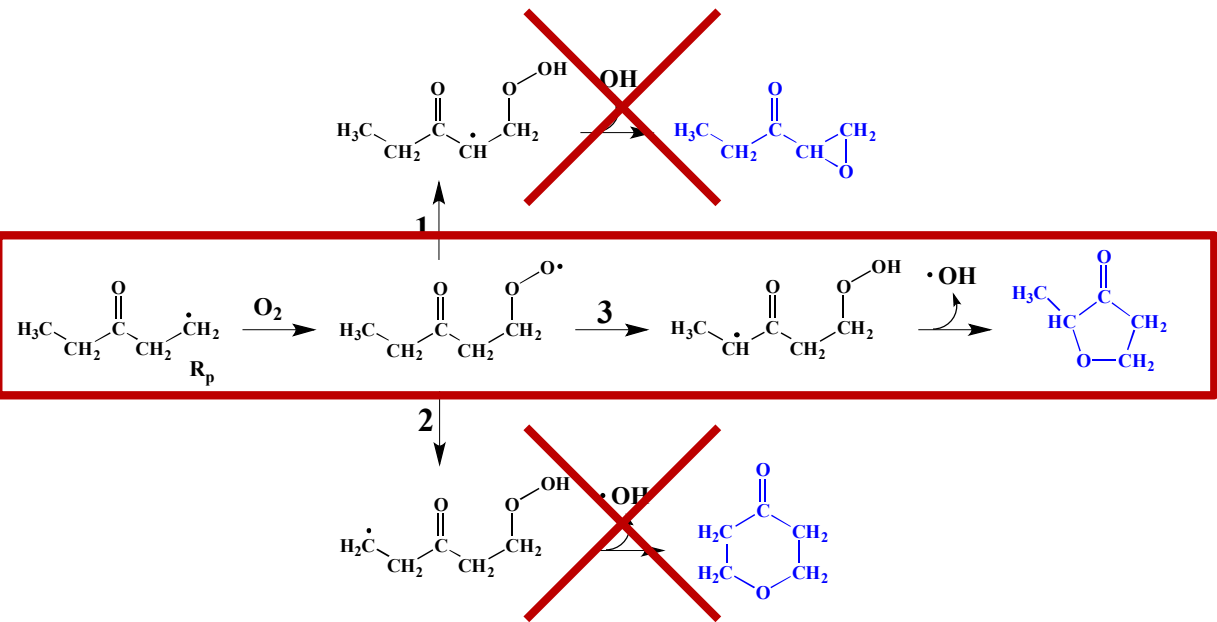
- **2 possible cyclic ether products**

[illegible]

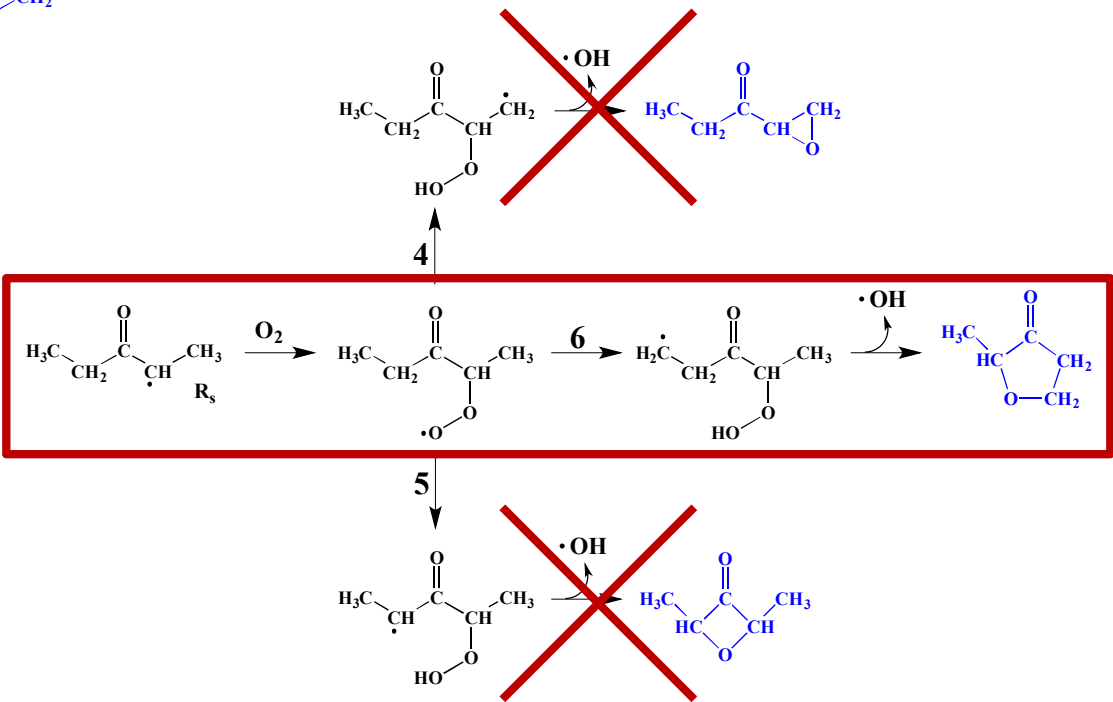
Isolation of Cyclic Ether Channels: Deuterated Diethyl Ketones



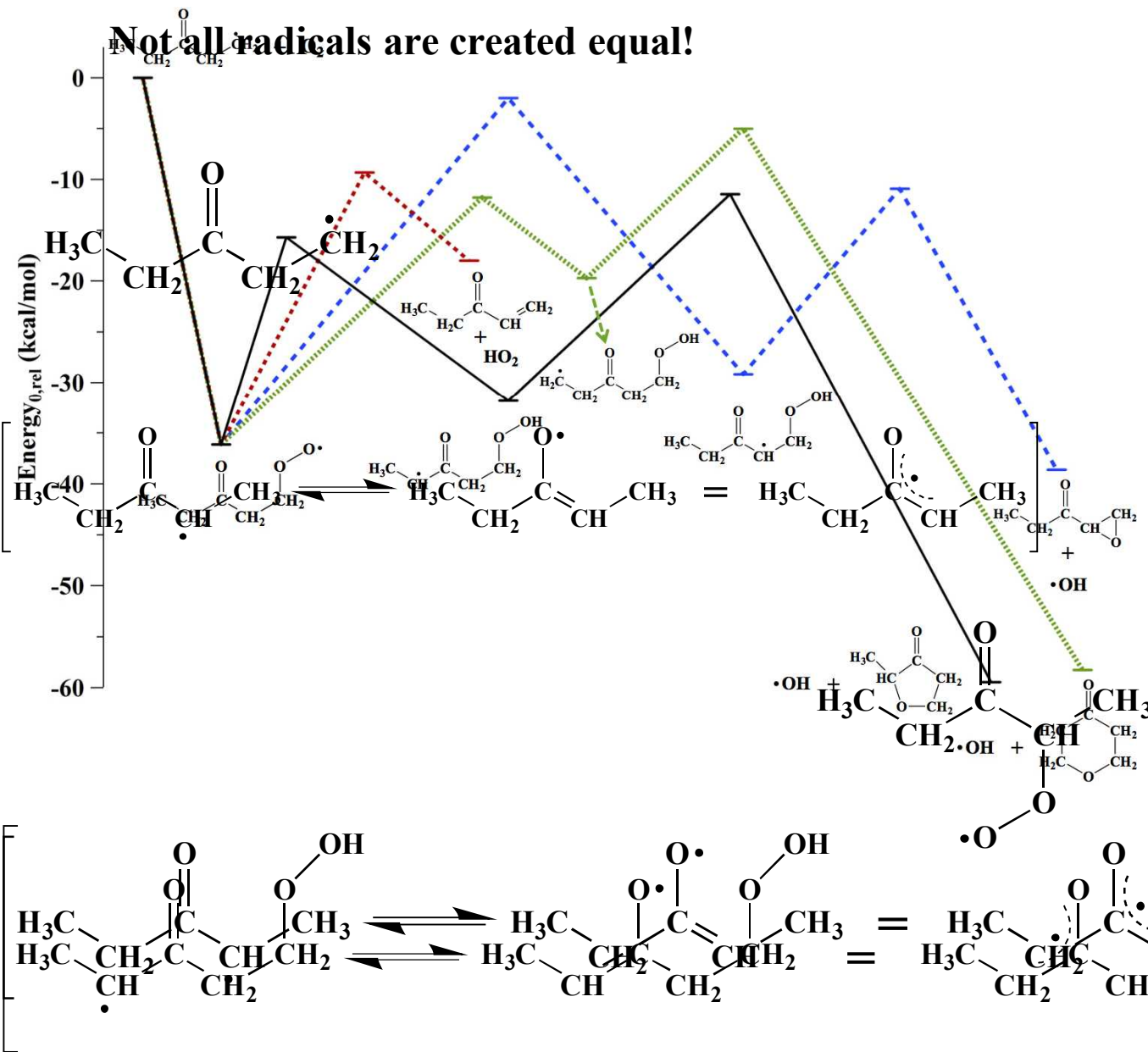
Isolation of Cyclic Ether Channels: Deuterated Diethyl Ketones



2 channels available for 5-membered ring cyclic ether + OH

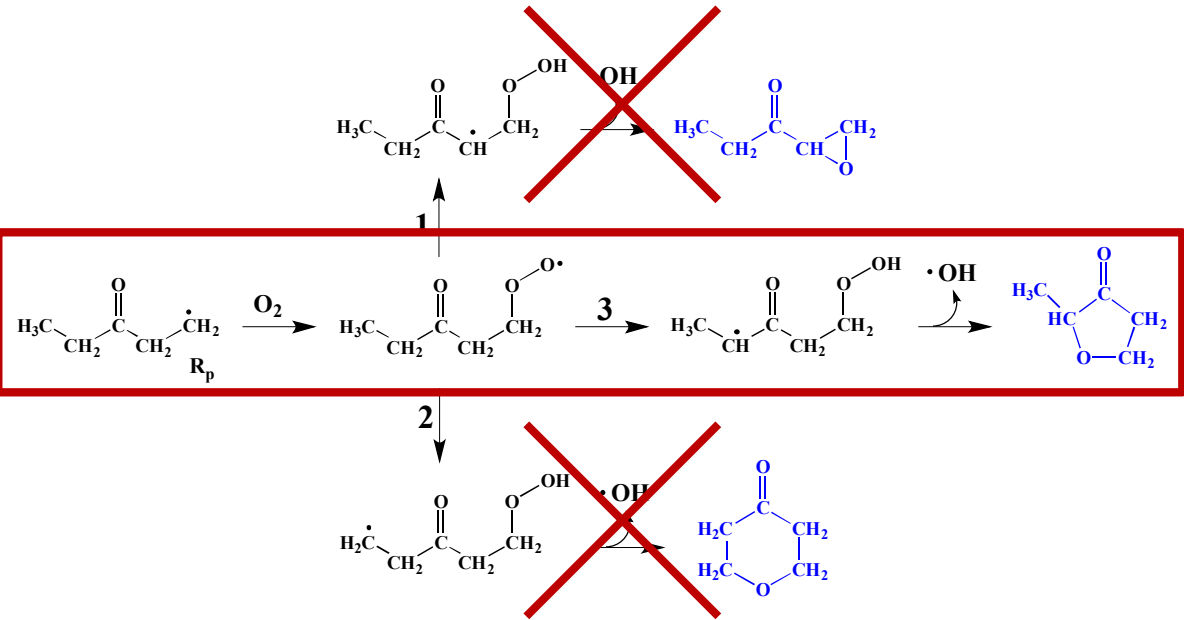


Why Cyclic Ether Selectivity in Diethyl Ketone Oxidation?

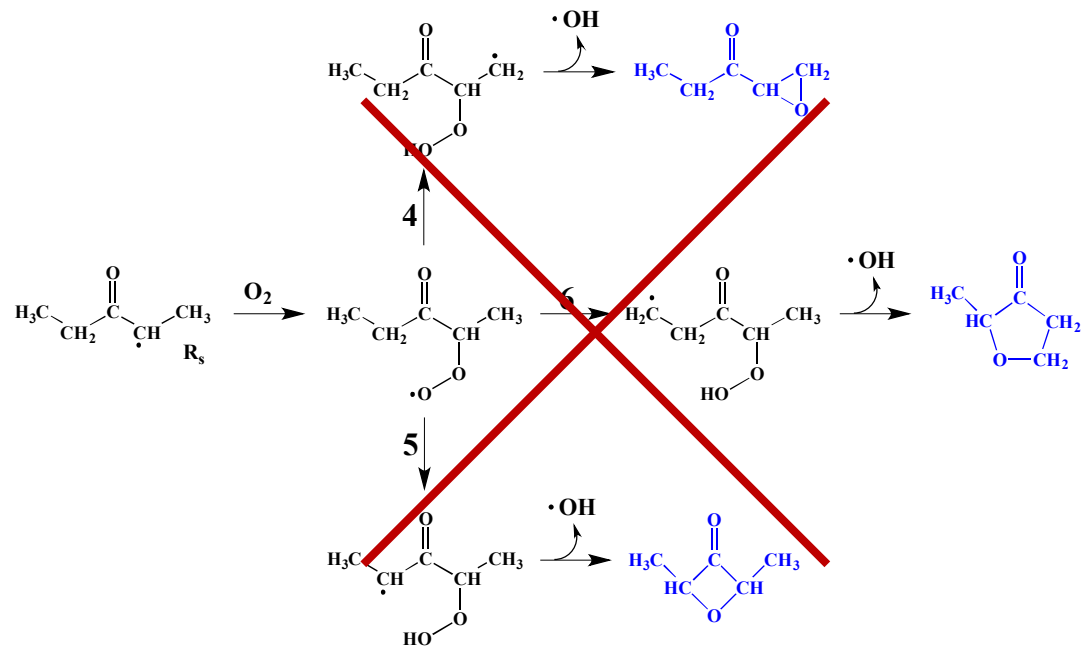


- Resonance stabilization of secondary radical
- RO_2 -well ≈ 36 kcal/mol – shallow!
- $\text{R} + \text{O}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{RO}_2$ shifted to products
- All members of ring HO_2 -elimination and energy breaking pathways about stabilized OOH

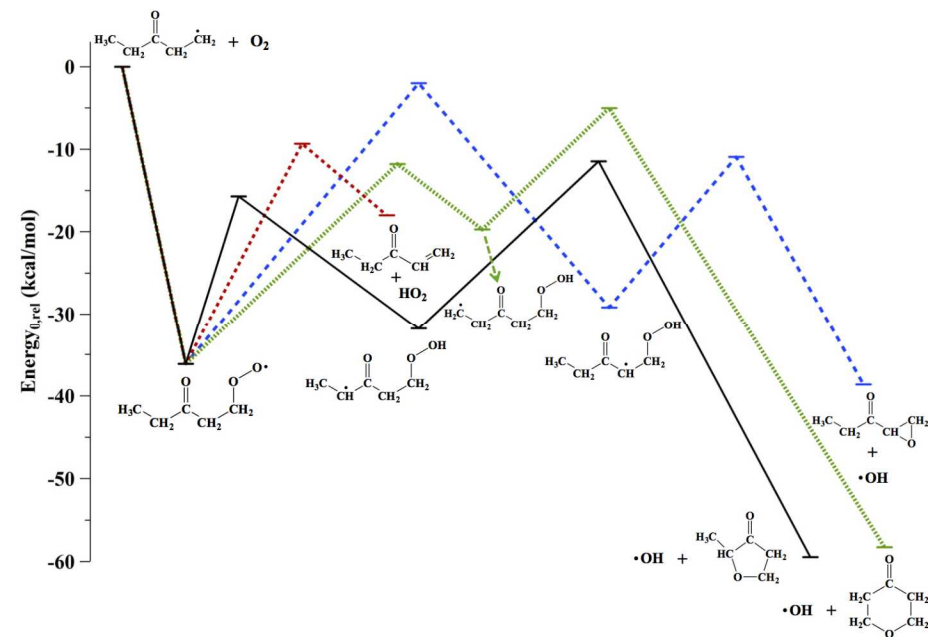
Isolation of Cyclic Ether Channels: Deuterated Diethyl Ketones



Combination of experiment and theory allows assignment of predominant channel

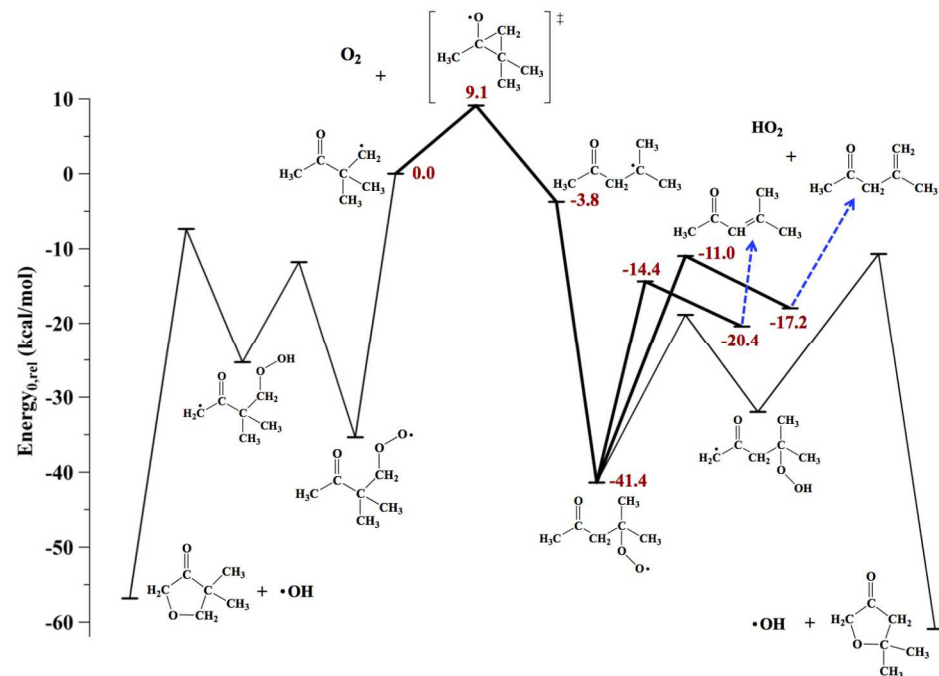


Why is Very Little Cyclic Ether produced in Methyl-tert-butyl Ketone Oxidation Compared to Diethyl Ketone?



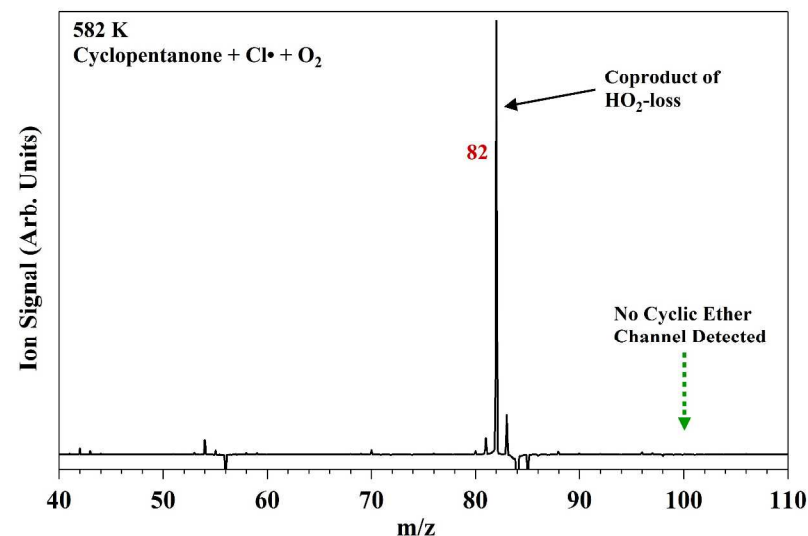
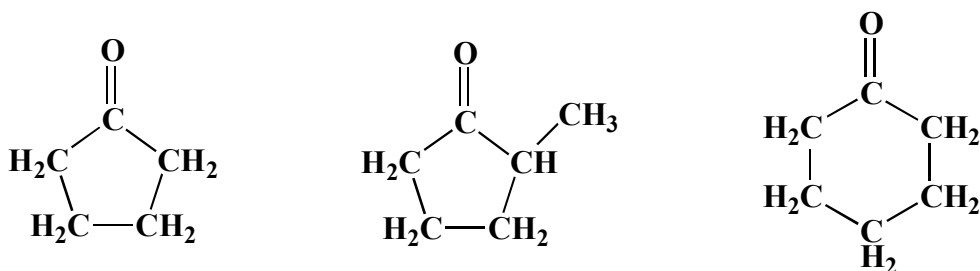
- **Radical rearrangement of methyl-tert-butyl ketone radical is fast relative to O_2 addition**
- **Lowest energy pathway of rearranged tertiary radical is HO_2 -elimination**
- **Ignition delay experiments consistent (Chang, Fernandes et al.)**

- **Lowest energy oxidation pathway for diethyl ketone is formation of 5-membered ring Cyclic Ether + OH**
- **HO₂-elimination competes as well**

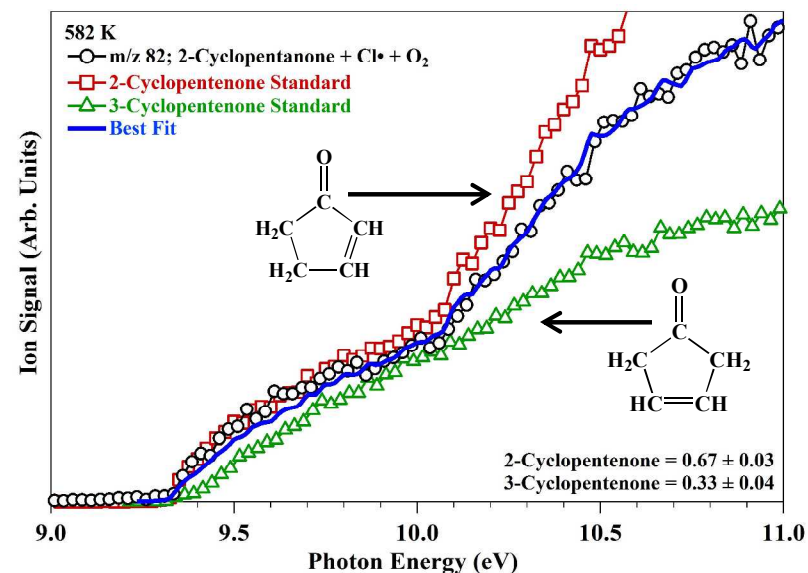
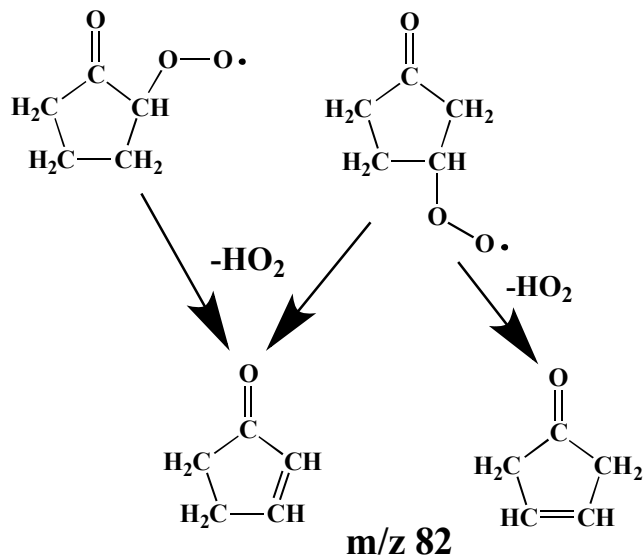


Investigating fundamental ignition chemistry of promising biofuels: Cyclic ketones

- Cyclic ketones** almost exclusively undergo HO_2 -elimination. No cyclic ether product observed.

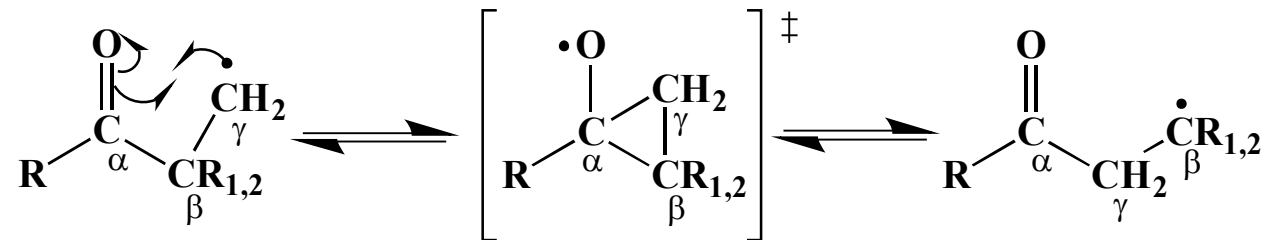


- Very stable** oxidation products can slow or prevent ignition

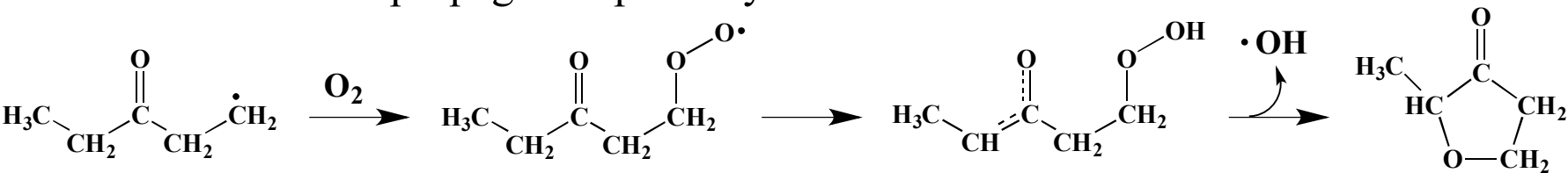


Oxidation of ketones: What have we learned?

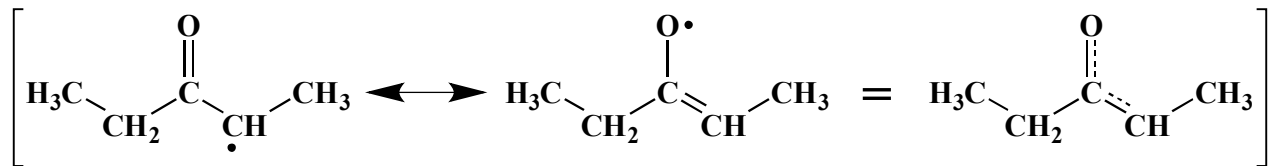
- Thermodynamic driving force leads to rapid radical rearrangement of γ -radicals



- These internal isomerizations lead to new chain-terminating HO_2 -elimination channels.
- 5-membered ring cyclic ether formation via resonantly-stabilized QOOH dominates chain-propagation pathways.



- Resonance stabilization of initial vinoxylic radicals results in very low reactivity.



- Cyclic ketones react almost exclusively by chain-terminating HO_2 -elimination.



Thanks to:

- Dr. Craig Taatjes, Dr. David Osborn et al.
- Prof. Barry Carpenter
- Dr. Darryl Sasaki
- Howard Johnson
- Collaborators at MIT, jbei, Aachen, NSRL, MSU



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