

THERMODYNAMIC PROPERTIES OF TRIETHYLALUMINIUM MONOMER AND DIMER

G. A. Poskrebshev¹ and S. M. Frolov^{2,3,4}

¹V. L. Talrose Institute of Energy Problems of Chemical Physics at N. N. Semenov Federal Research Center for Chemical Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 38-2 Leninsky Prosp., Moscow 119334, Russian Federation

²N. N. Semenov Federal Research Center for Chemical Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 4 Kosygin Str., Moscow 119991, Russian Federation

³National Research Nuclear University MEPhI (Moscow Engineering Physics Institute), 31 Kashirskoe Sh., Moscow 115409, Russian Federation

⁴Scientific Research Institute for System Analysis of the National Research Centre “Kurchatov Institute,” 36-1 Nakhimovskii Prosp., Moscow 117218, Russian Federation

Abstract: Using molecular modeling, the enthalpies of formation of the monomers and dimers of triethylaluminum (TEA) and trimethylaluminum (TMA) were calculated: $\Delta_f H^\circ(\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3) = -65.1 \pm 14$ kJ/mol, $\Delta_f H^\circ(\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_6) = -211 \pm 18$ kJ/mol, $\Delta_f H^\circ(\text{Al}(\text{CH}_3)_3) = -58.5 \pm 14$ kJ/mol, and $\Delta_f H^\circ(\text{Al}_2(\text{CH}_3)_6) = -196.7 \pm 18$ kJ/mol. It is demonstrated that, according to thermodynamics, the formation of TEA dimer (DTEA) within existing uncertainties can be expected at $T \leq 400$ K. It is also found that the heat of combustion of TEA ($\Delta_{r,1} H^\circ = -9894.5$ kJ/mol), calculated using the derived value of $\Delta_f H^\circ(\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3)$, is consistent with values reported previously. The temperature dependences of the thermodynamic properties of the TEA monomer and dimer were calculated in the temperature range from 0 to 4000 K.

Keywords: pyrophoric fuel; triethylaluminum; trimethylaluminum; monomer; dimer; standard enthalpy of formation; M062X; CBSQB3; G3B3

DOI: 10.30826/CE25180308

EDN: BYVLDU

Figure Captions

Figure 1 The M062X/6-311++G(d,p) optimized structures of considered TEA conformers S1 (a) – S5 (e)

Figure 2 The M062X optimized structures of two considered dimers: (a) $\text{Al}_2(\text{CH}_3)_6$; and (b) $\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_6$

Figure 3 The temperature dependencies of $\Delta_{r,2} G^\circ$ calculated for different TEA conformers (S1–S5)

Table Captions

Table 1 The values of $H_0^\circ(X)_i$, $H^\circ(X)_i$, and $G^\circ(X)_i$ calculated for the five considered structures of TEA (S1–S5)

Table 2 The calculated values of $H_0^\circ(\text{atom})$, $H^\circ(\text{atom})$, and $G^\circ(\text{atom})$ (in Hartree) as well as the literature values of $\Delta_f H^\circ(\text{atom})_{\text{lit}}$ from [12]

Table 3 The calculated values of $\Delta_{\text{ra}} H^\circ(X)_i$, $\Delta_f H^\circ(X)_i$, and $\Delta_f H^\circ(X, \text{HR1})_3$

Table 4 The calculated values of $H^\circ(\text{Al}(\text{CH}_3)_3)_i$, $H^\circ(\text{C}_3\text{H}_8)_i$, and $H^\circ(\text{C}_2\text{H}_6)_i$

Table 5 The calculated values of $\Delta_{\text{HR}m} H^\circ$ and $\Delta_f H^\circ(X, \text{HR}m)$ ($m = 1$ and 2 (see below))

Table 6 The calculated values of $\Delta_{\text{ra}} H^\circ(\text{Al}(\text{CH}_3)_3)_i$, $\Delta_f H^\circ(\text{Al}(\text{CH}_3)_3)_i$, $\Delta_{\text{ra}} H^\circ(\text{Al}_2(\text{CH}_3)_6)_i$, and $\Delta_f H^\circ(\text{Al}_2(\text{CH}_3)_6)_i$

Table 7 Temperature dependencies of $(C_p)_T$, S_T° , $H_T^\circ - H^\circ$, $\Delta_f H_T^\circ$, and $\Delta_f G_T^\circ$ calculated for the TEA structure S1

Table 8 Temperature dependencies of $(C_p)_T$, S_T° , $H_T^\circ - H^\circ$, $\Delta_f H_T^\circ$, and $\Delta_f G_T^\circ$ calculated for the DTEA ($\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_6$)

Acknowledgments

The work was implemented within the framework of the Fundamental Scientific Research Program of the Russian Federation “Chemical Physics of Oxidation, Combustion, and Explosion,” registration No. 1024040200065-4, and had budgetary funding.

References

1. Dutch Association of Safety Experts, Dutch Chemical Industry Association, Dutch Safety Institute. 1980. Handling Chemicals Safely. 929.
2. Byrdin, K. A., S. M. Frolov, P. A. Storozhenko, and S. L. Guseinov. 2023. Detonatsionnaya sposobnost' bor- i alyuminiy-soderzhashchikh soedineniy v vozdukh, vo- de i dioksidi ugleroda [Detonability of boron- and aluminum-containing compounds in air, water, and carbon dioxide]. *Goren. Vzryv (Mosk.) — Combustion and Explosion* 16(2):50–70. doi: 10.30826/CE23160205. EDN: DUZAPT.
3. Byrdin, K. A., S. M. Frolov, P. A. Storozhenko, and S. L. Guseinov. 2023. Thermochemical study of the deto- nation properties of boron- and aluminum-containing compounds in air and water. *Shock Waves* 33:501–520.
4. Frolov, S. M., I. O. Shamshin, K. A. Byrdin, K. A. Avde- ev, V. S. Aksenov, P. A. Storozhenko, and S. L. Guseinov. 2024. Usilenie udarnoy volny v dvukhfaznoy smesi pere- gretogo vodyanogo para i trietilaluminiuma [Amplification of the shock wave in a two-phase mixture of superheat- ed steam and triethylaluminum]. *Dokl. Rossiyskoy akad. nauk. Fizika, tekhnicheskie nauki* [Reports of the Rus- sian Academy of Sciences. Physics, Technical Sciences] 518:17–22. doi: 10.31857/S2686740024050034.
5. Frolov, S. M., I. O. Shamshin, K. A. Byrdin., K. A. Avde- ev, V. S. Aksenov, P. A. Storozhenko, and S. L. Guseinov. 2025. Perekhod udarnoy volny v detonatsiyu v dvukhfaz- noy smesi zhidkogo trietilaluminiuma s peregretym parom [Shock-to-detonation transition in a two-phase mixture of liquid triethylaluminum with superheated steam]. *Goren. Vzryv (Mosk.) — Combustion and Explosion* 18(1):63–74. doi: 10.30826/CE25180107.
6. Zhao, Y., and D. G. Truhlar. 2008. The M06 suite of density functionals for main group thermochemistry, thermochemical kinetics, noncovalent interactions, ex- cited states, and transition elements: Two new functionals and systematic testing of four M06-class functionals and 12 other functionals. *Theor. Chem. Acc.* 120:215.
7. Montgomery, J. A., Jr., M. J. Frisch, J. W. Ochterski, and G. A. Petersson. 2000. A complete basis set model chem- istry. VII. Use of the minimum population localization method. *J. Chem. Phys.* 112:6532–6542.
8. Baboul, A. G., L. A. Curtiss, P. C. Redfern, and K. Raghavachari. 1999. Gaussian-3 theory using density functional geometries and zero-point energies. *J. Chem. Phys.* 110:7650–7657.
9. Frisch, M. J., G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, X. Li, M. Caricato, A. V. Marenich, J. Bloino, B. G. Janesko, R. Gom- perts, B. Mennucci, H. P. Hratchian, J. V. Ortiz, A. F. Iz- maylov, J. L. Sonnenberg, D. Williams-Young, F. Ding, F. Lipparini, F. Egidi, J. Goings, B. Peng, A. Petrone, T. Henderson, D. Ranasinghe, V. G. Zakrzewski, J. Gao, N. Rega, G. Zheng, W. Liang, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Naka- jima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven,
10. Throssell, J. A. Montgomery, Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. J. Bearpark, J. J. Heyd, E. N. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, T. A. Keith, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. P. Rendell, J. C. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, C. Adamo, R. Cammi, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, O. Farkas, J. B. Foresman, and D. J. Fox. 2016. Gaussian 16w, Revision C.01. Wallingford, CT: Gaussian, Inc.
11. Kashinski, D. O., G. M. Chase, R. G. Nelson, O. E. Di Nallo, A. N. Scales, D. L. VanderLey, and E. F. C. Byrs. 2017. Harmonic vibrational frequencies: Approximate global scaling factors for TPSS, M062X, and M11 func- tional families using several common basis sets. *J. Phys. Chem. A.* 121:2265–2273.
12. Mokrushin, V., V. Bedanov, W. Tsang, M. R. Zachariah, V. D. Knyazev, and W. S. McGivern. 2011. ChemRate. A tool for RRKM / Master Equation Modeling. Version 1.5.10. NIST.
13. Kroupnov, A. A., and M. Ju. Pogosbekian. 2022. Ter- modinamicheskie svoystva ozomeroz trietilaluminiuma [Thermodynamic properties of triethylaluminum iso- mers]. *Goren. Vzryv (Mosk.) — Combustion and Explosion* 15(4):112–122.
14. Kroupnov, A. A., and M. Ju. Pogosbekian. 2021. Ener- geticheskie i strukturnye kharakteristiki nachal'noy stadii samovosplamneniya trietilaluminiuma v vozdukh [En- ergy and structural characteristics for the initial stage of self-ignition of triethylaluminum in air]. *Goren. Vzryv (Mosk.) — Combustion and Explosion* 14(4):91–95.
15. Cox, J. D., D. D. Wagman, and V. A. Medvedev. 1984. *CODATA key values for thermodynamics*. New York, NY: Hemisphere Publishing Corp.
16. Afeefy, H. Y., J. F. Liebman, and S. E. Stein. 2025. Neu- tral Thermochemical Data in NIST Chemistry WebBook, NIST Standard Reference Database Number 69. Eds. P. J. Linstrom and W. G. Mallard. Gaithersburg, MD: National Institute of Standards and Technology. Available at: <http://webbook.nist.gov/chemistry/> (accessed July 28, 2025).
17. Pittam, D. A., and G. Pilcher. 1972. Measure- ments of heats of combustion by flame calorimetry. Part 8. — Methane, ethane, propane, *n*-butane and 2-methylpropane. *J. Chem. Soc. Farad. T. 1* 68:2224–2229.
18. Manion, J. A. 2002. Evaluated enthalpies of formation of the stable closed shell C₁ and C₂ chlorinated hydrocar- bons. *J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data* 31:123–172. doi: 10.1063/ 1.1420703.
19. Poskrebyshv, G. A. 2022. The corrected values of $\Delta_r H^\circ(C_a H_b O_a, a \leq 16)$ of atomization of the aromati- c compounds and their uncertainties determined using several quantum mechanical approaches. *ChemistrySelect* 7:e202104502. doi: 10.1002/slct.202104502.
20. Poskrebyshv, G. A. 2023. Mechanism and thermo- chemistry of radical driven partial chain oxidation of *p*-benzylphenol. 2023. *ChemistrySelect* 8:e202301579. doi: 10.1002/slct.202301579.

20. Poskrebyshv, G. A. 2021. The standard thermochemical properties of the *p*-benzylphenol and dimethyl phthalate, and their temperature dependencies. *Comput. Theor. Chem.* 1197:113146.
21. Kuznetsov N. M., S. M. Frolov, and P.A. Storozhenko. 2019. Raschet standartnoy ental'pii obrazovaniya i teploty polnogo sgoraniya trietilal'yuminiya v vodyanom pare i v vozdukh [Calculation of the standard enthalpy of formation and heat of complete combustion of triethylaluminum in water vapor and in air]. *Goren. Vzryv (Mosk.) — Combustion and Explosion* 12:10–13.
22. Frolov, S. M., V.Y. Basevich, A. A. Belyaev, I. O. Shamshin, V.S. Aksenov, F.S. Frolov, P.A. Storozhenko, and S. L. Guseinov. 2022. Kinetic model and experiment for self-ignition of triethylaluminum and triethylborane droplets in air. *Micromachines* 13:2033. doi: 10.3390/mi13112033.

Received February 10, 2025

After revision June 20, 2025

Accepted June 23, 2025

Contributors

Poskrebyshv Gregory A. (b. 1965) — Candidate of Science in chemistry, leading research scientist, V. L. Talrose Institute of Energy Problems of Chemical Physics at N. N. Semenov Federal Research Center for Chemical Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 38-2 Leninsky Prosp., Moscow 119334, Russian Federation; gposkr@chph.ras.ru

Frolov Sergey M. (b. 1959) — Doctor of Science in physics and mathematics, head of department, head of laboratory, N. N. Semenov Federal Research Center for Chemical Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 4 Kosygin Str., Moscow 119991, Russian Federation; professor, National Research Nuclear University MEPhI (Moscow Engineering Physics Institute), 31 Kashirskoe Sh., Moscow 115409, Russian Federation; leading research scientist, Scientific Research Institute for System Analysis of the National Research Centre “Kurchatov Institute,” 36-1 Nakhimovskii Prosp., Moscow 117218, Russian Federation; smfrol@chph.ras.ru