Mechanism of Oxidation of Brilliant Cresyl Blue with Acidic Chlorite and Hypochlorous Acid. A Kinetic Approach

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ABSTRACT
The kinetics and mechanism of oxidation of brilliant cresyl blue (7-amino-3-diethylamino-8-methyl-phenoxazine chloride) (BB⁺) by chlorite in the presence of acid is reported. Under [H⁺]₀ > [ClO₂⁻]₀ > [BB⁺]₀ conditions, the oxidation reaction followed pseudo first-order kinetics with respect to BB⁺. During the reaction, chlorite ion disproportionates, resulting in accumulation of chlorine dioxide. The overall reaction is third-order with first-order dependence on both H⁺ and ClO₂⁻ ions. The rate coefficient for the overall reaction is (0.158 ± 0.003) L² mol⁻² s⁻¹. The stoichiometry of the reaction is

\[ 2\text{BB}^+ + 7\text{ClO}_2^- + 2\text{H}^+ \rightarrow 2\text{P} + 2\text{CH}_3\text{COOH} + 4\text{ClO}_2^- + 3\text{Cl}^- \]

where P = 7-amino-3-ethylamino-8-methyl-phenoxazine-10-N-oxide, and it varied with the initial concentrations of chlorite and acid. Near neutral pH, the hypochlorite-initiated oxidation of BB⁺ proceeded through two second-order pathways, one driven by OCl⁻ ion and the other by HOCl. The latter reaction is much faster, with \( k = (1.26 \pm 0.04) \times 10^3 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1} \). At low pH, the reaction was much faster and had first-order dependence on the concentrations of BB⁺, H⁺ and HOCl. Ru(III) catalysed the BB⁺-chlorite reaction with efficiency and the kinetics of the catalysed reaction are reported. Ru(III) had a catalytic constant, \( k_{\text{CAT}} = 1.2 \times 10^6 \text{ L}^3 \text{ mol}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1} \). The activation parameters for both uncatalysed and catalysed reactions were also reported. The kinetic profiles of the title reaction were computed using the proposed 11-step mechanism and Simkine software. The simulated curves agreed well with the experimental curves.

KEYWORDS
Kinetics, reaction mechanisms, dyes, water chemistry, computer chemistry.

1. Introduction
The chlorite ion has been the subject of extensive studies due to its interesting chemistry of disproportionation into chlorine dioxide and chloride, plus chlorate or hypochlorite depending on pH conditions, and due to the associated scope for excitability and exotic non-linear kinetic patterns. Further, chlorite is also widely used as a disinfectant and in water treatment. Many heterocyclic and triaryl compounds from chemical and other industrial processes end up in the water systems. Thus, the reactions of chlorite with various organic species, particularly the organic dyes used in various industries that enter water systems, are of concern and of interest from the public health point of view. Brilliant cresyl blue (7-amino-3-diethylamino-8-methyl-phenoxazine chloride) (BB⁺), a heterocyclic species which is used in the staining of bone marrow smears, reticulocytes and trichomonads, belongs to the phenoxazine class of dyes. This cationic dye, which is stable and water-soluble with an absorption peak at 622 nm, was chosen as a representative species for the studies. Preliminary studies indicated that the kinetic profiles of BB⁺ depleton depended significantly on the initial concentrations of acid and chlorite. This communication reports the elucidated mechanism of the reaction of BB⁺ with acidic chlorite and hypochlorous acid by following a kinetic approach.

2. Experimental
2.1. Reagents
Brilliant cresyl blue (Aldrich) was used as supplied. Sodium chloride (BDH) was recrystallized before use. All the other reagents used were of Analar or high purity grade. Owing to the observed high sensitivity of reaction rates to the pH, all the solutions were made in distilled water and deionized ultrapure water.

2.2. Hypochlorite Generation
Hypochlorite was generated by bubbling chlorine gas through a cold solution of 5% sodium hydroxide. A Baird and Tatlock electrolytic analysis apparatus was also used for electrochemical generation of hypochlorite from alkaline sodium chloride. The arsenite method was used for the determination of the hypochlorite concentration in the sample.

2.3. Kinetic Measurements
In all the experiments the pseudo first-order kinetics with respect to BB⁺ were maintained and the reaction progress was monitored at 622 nm, using either a Cary-100 UV-VIS double-beam spectrophotometer or a HITECH SF61-DX2 micro-volume stopped flow apparatus at 25.0 ± 0.1°C unless otherwise specified. No interferences from the reagents, intermediates or products were observed at 622 nm. Reagent solutions were mixed in the order: requisite volumes of BB⁺, sulphuric acid, water plus other reagents, where necessary. In the experiments using the Cary 100, the initial total volume of the reaction mixture was always kept at 10 mL and a separately thermostatted solution of sodium chloride was added to commence the reaction. After vigorous mixing, the solution was transferred to a thermostatted spectrophotometer cell.

2.4. Product Analysis and Stoichiometry
The product analysis of this reaction was carried out after mixing 250 mg of brilliant cresyl blue in 2.0 M H₂SO₄ in 250 mL
with 250 mg of NaClO₂ in 250 mL for 4 h. The organic component of the reaction mixture was extracted with diethyl ether and by thin layer chromatography (TLC); acetic acid was identified to be one of the products. The ether extract was taken to the rotavapor and concentrated. The TLC of the ether extract indicated two measure spots. Based on the TLC analysis the solvent system found to be most effective in separating these major products was 8:2 hexane:ethyl acetate. A silica packed column was used to separate the compounds. The major product was analysed using ¹H and ¹³C NMR. The product has 15 carbon atoms, with heterocyclic structure intact and has ethylamino and methyl substituents in the 3 and 8 positions, respectively. The IR spectra of the sample showed an intense absorption peak between 1300 and 1200 cm⁻¹ indicating N-O stretching. No absorption bands in the range 3456–3407 cm⁻¹ and 1660–1641 cm⁻¹ were observed, excluding the formation of any carboxylic acid. Based on the IR spectra, the major product was identified as 7-amino-3-ethylamino-8-methyl-phenoxazine-10-N-oxide (P), which is further supported by high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) which showed m/z 353 u (60%) and other major peaks at 340 u (40%) and 335 u (23%). N-oxide formation from the oxidation of pyridines and phenothiazines by hydrogen peroxide and other oxidizing agents has been reported in the literature. Studies on the further characterization of the reaction products are in progress. The stoichiometry was determined using 1:10 and 1:20 molar ratios of BB⁺ to chlorite and with excess of H⁺. After about 1 h, 2 h and 4 h incubation, the absorbances at 662 nm and 358 nm (ClO₂ formation) were measured and the residual oxidizing capacity was determined iodometrically by titrating with sodium thiosulphate using starch as an indicator. BB⁺ and chlorite ion react in the ratio of 2:3 with overall stoichiometric ratio as follows:

\[ 2\text{BB}^+ + 7\text{ClO}_2^- + 2\text{H}^+ \rightarrow 2\text{P} + 2\text{CH}_3\text{COOH} + 4\text{ClO}_2^- + 3\text{Cl}^- \]

where P = 7-amino-3-ethylamino-8-methyl-phenoxazine-10-N-oxide.

3. Results and Discussion

Under the excess concentration conditions of chlorite and acid, with [H⁺] = 0.10 M, [ClO₂⁻] = 0.05 M and [BB⁺] = 2.0 × 10⁻⁵ M, Figure 1 shows the repetitive scan spectra, depicting the depletion of brilliant cresyl blue at 622 nm and the accumulation of chlorine dioxide. ClO₂⁻ is relatively inert at low pH and its formation is evident from the characteristic wavelike spectrum with a maximum at 358 nm. A plot of ln A at 622 nm versus time gave a straight line, which indicates that reaction under the chosen conditions follows pseudo first-order kinetics and the order with respect to [BB⁺] is unity.

3.1. Order with Respect to Chlorite and Hydrogen Ion

Under low acid conditions, the reaction rate was initially slow and it increased with time, showing autocatalytic behaviour. Such a non-linear trend was very pronounced when [chlorite] >> [H⁺]. In the current studies all the experiments were done with [H⁺] > [chlorite] and all the BB⁺ depletion curves showed exponential decay over two half-lives (see Fig. 2). Figure 3 shows typical absorbance versus time plots of formation of ClO₂⁻ at fixed
acid and ionic strengths for varying chlorite concentrations. Table 1 summarizes the pseudo first-order constants, \( k_0' \), obtained at constant ionic strength for varying initial concentrations of chlorite and H\(^+\) ions. The plots of ln \( k_0' \) versus ln [ClO\(_2^-\)] and ln [H\(^+\)] gave straight lines with slopes 0.986 (\( R^2 = 0.999 \)) and 0.986 (\( R^2 = 0.996 \)), respectively, suggesting that the reaction has first-order dependence with respect to both chlorite and H\(^+\). For the probable rate law, 

\[
r = k_0[H^+][ClO_2^-][Bb^+] \]

the mean third-order rate constant for the reaction was (0.159 \( \pm \) 0.003) \( F \) mol\(^{-2}\) s\(^{-1}\).

### 3.2. Catalysed Reaction Dynamics

With a view to finding good catalyst cations to enhance the rate of the title reaction, the effect of a wide range of cations was investigated. Interestingly, divalent cations of Ni, Co, Mn, Cu, Pb, Rh and Pd; trivalent cations of As, Cr, Al, Bi and Sb; tetravalent cations of Ce and Se; and Re(V) or W(VI) had little or no effect on the reaction rate. While Fe(III) had some catalytic effect, Ru(III) demonstrated significant catalysing ability. Considering the selectivity and sensitivity of the catalyst, hence the scope of the title reaction for kinetic-catalytic determination of Ru(III), the detailed kinetics of the Ru(III)-catalysed reaction were investigated.

With excess acid and chlorite, the Ru(III)-catalysed depletion of brilliant cresyl blue followed pseudo first-order kinetics. The plots of ln \( A \) versus time yielded good straight lines. With \([Bb^+]_0 = 2.0 \times 10^{-5} \) M, \([H^+]/M = 0.8 \) M and \([ClO_2^-]_0 = 0.05 \) M, the value of the pseudo first-order constant, \( k_0' \), were determined for various initial Ru(III) concentrations. The plot of ln \( k_0' \) versus [Ru(III)], gave a good straight line with slope = \( 4.8 \times 10^4 \) mol\(^{-1}\) s\(^{-1}\), intercept = \( 6.1 \times 10^{-3} \) s\(^{-1}\) and \( R^2 = 0.9987 \) (Fig. 4). The intercept value agreed well with the rate constant for the uncatalysed reaction.

To establish the reaction orders with respect to chlorite and acid in the Ru(III)-catalysed reaction, experiments were conducted at constant ionic strength, with varying initial concentrations of acid and chlorite. The ln \( k_0' \) versus ln [ClO\(_2^-\)] plot gave a slope of 0.986 with \( R^2 = 0.99 \), while the ln \( k_0' \) versus ln [H\(^+\)] plot gave a slope of 0.987 with \( R^2 = 0.99 \), suggesting that the reaction order is also unity with respect to both oxidant and acid in the catalysed reaction (Table 2). The third-order constant in presence of 1.0 \( \times \) 10\(^{-8}\) M Ru(III) is 0.274 \( \pm \) 0.003 F mol\(^{-2}\) s\(^{-1}\). Based on the experimentally-established reaction orders for the Ru(III)-catalysed reaction, the catalytic constant, \( k_{ca} = k_0'[H^+][ClO_2^-] \), was found to be equal to \((1.2 \pm 0.3) \times 10^4\) F mol\(^{-1}\) s\(^{-1}\).

### 3.3. Effect of Ionic Strength, I

The role of the ionic strength on the dynamics of both the uncatalysed and Ru(III)-catalysed reactions was studied by measuring the rate constants for fixed concentrations of the reactants and varied amounts of the neutral salt, sodium sulphate. Figure 5 illustrates the plots of ln \( k_0' \) versus \( I \) for both sets of experiments. When the ionic strength of the reaction mixture was increased from 0.65 M to 1.25 M, the uncatalysed reaction gave a slope of \(-0.53\) F mol\(^{-1}\) s\(^{-1}\), while the catalysed reaction slope was \(-0.45\) F mol\(^{-1}\) s\(^{-1}\) (Fig. 5). Both systems showed negative salt

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>([\text{ClO}_2^-]/\text{M})</th>
<th>([\text{H}^+]/\text{M})</th>
<th>(k_0'/10^3\text{s}^{-1})</th>
<th>(k_0/F\text{mol}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I = 1.27 M</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td>0.159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>0.156</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<td>0.8</td>
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<td>0.155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>7.76</td>
<td>0.162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0.159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard deviation</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I = 1.25 M

| 0.05             | 0.2              | 1.61            | 0.161           |
| 0.05             | 0.3              | 2.38            | 0.159           |
| 0.05             | 0.4              | 3.12            | 0.156           |
| 0.05             | 0.6              | 4.78            | 0.160           |
| 0.05             | 0.8              | 6.23            | 0.155           |
| Mean             |                  | 0.158           |                 |
| Standard deviation |                | 0.002           |                 |

* Third-order rate constant, \( k_0 = k_0'[H^+][\text{ClO}_2^-] \).

### Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>([\text{ClO}_2^-]/\text{M})</th>
<th>([\text{H}^+]/\text{M})</th>
<th>(k'/10^3\text{s}^{-1})</th>
<th>(k_{ca}/\text{Fmol}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| \([\text{Ru(III)}]_0 = 1 \times 10^{-7} \) M, \(I = 1.25 \) M, Temperature 25.0 ± 0.5°C. Data are average values of duplicate experiments with coefficient of variance <3%.

\[
R^2 = 0.9867 \pm 1.5611; R^2 = 0.999; \text{equation of plot of ln } k \text{ versus ln [ClO}_2^-\text{]}: y = 0.9867x - 4.2996; R^2 = 0.9988.
\]
impact of initial concentrations of acid, chlorite and chloride on the chlorine dioxide formation was investigated. A hundred-fold increase in added chloride concentration resulted in only a 20% increase in the amount of ClO₂ formed, while a four-fold increase in [H⁺] doubled the chlorine dioxide yield. A five-fold increase in chloride concentration increased the amount of ClO₂ formed proportionately. This suggests that the initial concentration of chlorite has a profound effect on the ClO₂ formation, followed by acid and chloride with marginal effects. As chlorine dioxide is relatively inert at acidic pH, it accumulated continuously. The concentrations of ClO₂ were calculated using \( \text{[ClO}_2\text{]} \) = 0.05 M; catalysed reaction: same conditions, with [Ru(III)] = 1 × 10⁻⁷ M.


table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature /K</th>
<th>Uncatalysed</th>
<th>Catalysed: [Ru(III)] = 1 × 10⁻⁷ M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( k' \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} )</td>
<td>( k /\text{l}^2 \text{ mol}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>293</td>
<td>4.91</td>
<td>0.123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>298</td>
<td>6.31</td>
<td>0.158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>303</td>
<td>9.39</td>
<td>0.235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308</td>
<td>12.21</td>
<td>0.305</td>
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<tr>
<td>313</td>
<td>15.65</td>
<td>0.391</td>
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</table>

3.4. Activation Energies

The energy parameters for both the uncatalysed and Ru(III)-catalysed reactions were studied by measuring the rate constants at different temperatures and by using the Arrhenius and Eyring equations (Table 3). Table 4 summarizes the calculated values of four activation parameters, namely the activation energy, enthalpy, entropy and frequency factors for both reactions. Both reactions had high negative entropies of activation, suggesting the formation of an activated complex, resulting in a decrease in entropy. Obviously, the catalysed reaction had a lower energy of activation of 29.4 ± 0.9 kJ mol⁻¹ compared with 45.4 ± 1.4 kJ mol⁻¹ for the uncatalysed reaction.

The stoichiometry of the overall reaction and the relative amounts of chlorine dioxide generated were observed to be dependent on the initial concentrations of reactants. Hence, the

Table 4 Arrhenius activation parameters. \([BB^+] = 2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{M}, [ClO}_2\text{] = 0.05 \text{M} \text{ and } [H^+] = 0.80 \text{M}\).  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Uncatalysed</th>
<th>Catalysed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activation energy, ( \Delta H )/kJ mol⁻¹</td>
<td>45.4 ± 1.4</td>
<td>29.4 ± 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency factor, ( A /10^6 \text{l}^3 \text{ mol}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} )</td>
<td>((1.5 ± 0.4) \times 10^7)</td>
<td>((3.5 ± 1.4) \times 10^6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthalpy of reaction, ( \Delta H /\text{kJ mol}^{-1} )</td>
<td>38.0 ± 1.2</td>
<td>19.5 ± 0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entropy of activation, ( \Delta S /\text{K} \text{ mol}^{-1} )</td>
<td>−247 ± 7</td>
<td>−230 ± 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5. Kinetics of Reaction between \( BB^+ \) and HOCl

Under acidic conditions, although the title reaction does not exhibit any autocatalytic behaviour, HOCl plays a vital role in the oxidations involving acidic chlorite. Therefore, the kinetics of the reaction between \( BB^+ \) and hypochlorous acid were studied under different pH conditions. To understand the reaction dynamics, a close look at the chemistry of hypochlorite is crucial. HOCl is a weak acid with \( pK_a = 7.4 \) and dissociation constant \( K_a = 4.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{mol L}^{-1} \), i.e. even at a basic pH of 7.4, the concentrations of hypochlorite and hypochlorous acid will be equal. Even very small acid concentrations will shift the equilibrium towards more HoCl. The preliminary experiments showed that at

Figure 5 Effect of ionic strength on uncatalysed and Ru(III)-catalysed reactions. In \( k'/k \) versus \( \text{v}^2 \) plots. Data are average values of duplicate experiments with coefficient of variance <3%. Uncatalysed reaction: \([BB^+] = 2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{M}, [ClO}_2\text{] = 0.4 \text{M} \text{ and } [H^+] = 0.80 \text{M}\). Catalysed reaction: same conditions, with [Ru(III)] = 1.0 × 10⁻⁷ M.
pH > 9, when the bulk of the oxidant is in the hypochlorite form, the reaction was very slow. The effect of varying the hypochlorite concentration on the reaction kinetics was hence studied at pH 8.5. Further, the effect of added acid on the reaction rate was also investigated using the stopped flow equipment. As the reaction rates were pH-dependent, and pH dropped with the progress of reaction, changes were of the order of 0.5 pH units near neutral/mild acidic conditions. A variety of buffers, including ammonium, borate, phthalate and phosphate were tried to buffer the systems. All these buffers significantly retarded the rates of the reactions. The kinetic salt effect could also have contributed to some extent to the sluggishness of the reactions. Even acetate buffer at high concentration had a retarding influence on the rate. Furthermore, as the addition of acid shifts the equilibrium towards formation of HOCl, the initial pH of the reaction mixture should be worked out based on the residual concentration of acid in the system. Hence, considering the implications, mild acetate buffer ([CH3COONa] = 0.005 M) with appropriate amounts of acetic acid to match the pH with residual [H+] were used only in the near-neutral pH experiments. In the experiments conducted at pH 8.5 and at low pH, no buffers were used. The absorbance-time data were analysed for rate constants. Both under alkaline and mild acidic conditions, the kinetic data had a better fit with a bi-exponential equation,

\[ y = A_1 \exp(-k_1x) + A_2 \exp(-k_2x) + Mx + C, \]

than with a simple first-order equation. This suggests the concurrent occurrence of two pseudo first-order pathways, i.e. a slow reaction initiated by hypochlorite (k1') and the other initiated by HOCl (k2'). With increase in added acid concentration, while the former constant decreased, the latter constant recorded an increase. The results obtained are summarized in Tables 5 and 6. At pH 8.5, 25% of the total hypochlorite exists in the form of HOCl, increasing to 60% at pH 7, and 99% at pH 3. The relative amounts of hypochlorite and HOCl for different amounts of acid were calculated using the Ka for the fast equilibrium between H+, OCl– and HOCl. A scrutiny of the overall second-order rate constants summarized in the last two columns of Tables 5 and 6 show that the rate constant of the HOCl-initiated reaction was much higher than for the hypochlorite-initiated reaction. At low pH (<3), only HOCl exists. Interestingly, a further increase in H+ concentration increased the pseudo first-order rate constant proportionately, suggesting a first-order dependence of the reaction rate on acid concentration under these conditions (Table 7). The plot of k' versus [H+]: y = 601.9x + 0.045, R² = 0.9968. The third-order rate constant is estimated to be (2.31 ± 0.06) × 10⁵ l² mol⁻² s⁻¹.

### Table 5 Rate constants as functions of hypochlorite and hypochlorous acid concentrations. [BB⁺] = 2.0 × 10⁻⁵ M. pH = 8.5. Temperature = 25.0 ± 0.5°C. Kinetic data are mean values of duplicate experiments with coefficient of variance <3%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>([OCl⁻]T) /10⁻³ M</th>
<th>([OCl⁻]/10⁻³ M)</th>
<th>([HOCl]/10⁻³ M)</th>
<th>k'₁ /10⁻² s⁻¹</th>
<th>k'₂ /s⁻¹</th>
<th>k'₁ / l mol⁻¹ s⁻¹</th>
<th>k'₂ /10⁴ l mol⁻¹ s⁻¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.30</td>
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<td>0.36</td>
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### Table 6 Rate constants as functions of hypochlorite and hypochlorous acid concentrations. [BB⁺] = 2.0 × 10⁻⁵ M. Initial pH of OCl– solution = 7.0. [OCl–]T = 2.41 × 10⁻³ M. Temperature = 25.0 ± 0.5°C. Kinetic data are mean values of duplicate experiments with coefficient of variance <3%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>([H⁺])/10⁻⁴ M</th>
<th>([OCl–]/10⁻³ M)</th>
<th>([HOCl]/10⁻³ M)</th>
<th>k'₁ /10⁻² s⁻¹</th>
<th>k'₂ /10⁻² s⁻¹</th>
<th>k'₁ / l mol⁻¹ s⁻¹</th>
<th>k'₂ /10⁴ l mol⁻¹ s⁻¹</th>
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<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard deviation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 7 Rate constants at low pH. [BB⁺] = 2.0 × 10⁻⁵ M. Initial pH of OCl– solution = 7.0. [OCl–]T = 2.60 × 10⁻³ M. Temperature = 25.0 ± 0.5°C. Kinetic data are mean values of duplicate experiments with coefficient of variance <3%. Equation of plot of k' versus [H⁺]: y = 601.9x + 0.045, R² = 0.9968.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>([H⁺])/M</th>
<th>k' /s⁻¹</th>
<th>k' /10⁵ l mol⁻² s⁻¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>5.95</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>11.92</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>18.82</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>23.63</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>30.19</td>
<td>2.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard deviation</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ a k_1 = k_1' /[OCl⁻]. \]

\[ b k_2 = k_2' /[HOCl]. \]
position of chlorite, it is proposed that Ru(III) forms a complex catalysed reactions of alkanes by peracetic acid. Although have reported the formation of Ru(V) during the RuCl₃- et al, where I⁺H⁺ and P⁺H⁺ are protonated 3-ethylamino-8-methyl- HClO₂. On the basis of the experimental results, under the initial conditions the rate-limiting step is possibly the reaction between the reductant and oxidant, followed by protonation. The following additional reactions are proposed to explain the oxidation chemistry of brilliant cresyl blue by acidic chlorite.

\[
\text{BB}^+ + \text{ClO}_2^- + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{[Activated Complex]}
\]

(Rate-limiting step) B6

\[
\text{[Activated Complex]} \rightarrow \text{I}^+\text{H}^+ + \text{HOCI} + \text{CH}_3\text{CHO}
\]

B7

\[
\text{BB}^+ + \text{HOCI} + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{I}^+\text{H}^+ + \text{CH}_3\text{CHO} + \text{Cl}^- + 2\text{H}^+
\]

B8

\[
\text{I}^+\text{H}^+ + \text{HOCI} \rightarrow \text{P}^+\text{H}^+ + \text{Cl}^- + \text{H}^+
\]

B9

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CHO} + \text{HClO}_2 \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{COOH} + \text{HOCI}
\]

B10

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CHO} + \text{HOCI} \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{COOH} + \text{H}^+ + \text{Cl}^-
\]

B12

where I⁺H⁺ and P⁺H⁺ are protonated 3-ethylamino-8-methyl-7-phenoxazone and protonated 3-ethylamino-8-methyl-7-phenoxazone-10-N-oxide, respectively. The reaction of the metastable intermediate ClO₂⁻ with the organic intermediates enhances the generation of HClO₂, and in turn the faster formation of ClO₂⁻, as observed in the present studies.

3.6. Mechanism: Uncatalysed Reaction

The observed negative salt effect for the chlorite-initiated reaction indicates that the rate-determining step is the reaction between the two oppositely-charged species, possibly the nucleophlic attack of ClO₂⁻ on BB⁺ rather than the reaction of HClO₂. On the basis of the experimental results, under the initial conditions the rate-limiting step is possibly the reaction between the reductant and oxidant, followed by protonation. The following additional reactions are proposed to explain the oxidation chemistry of brilliant cresyl blue by acidic chlorite.

\[
\text{BB}^+ + \text{ClO}_2^- + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{[Activated Complex]}
\]

(Rate-limiting step) B6

\[
\text{[Activated Complex]} \rightarrow \text{I}^+\text{H}^+ + \text{HOCI} + \text{CH}_3\text{CHO}
\]

B7

\[
\text{BB}^+ + \text{HOCI} + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{I}^+\text{H}^+ + \text{CH}_3\text{CHO} + \text{Cl}^- + 2\text{H}^+
\]

B8

\[
\text{I}^+\text{H}^+ + \text{HOCI} \rightarrow \text{P}^+\text{H}^+ + \text{Cl}^- + \text{H}^+
\]

B9

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CHO} + \text{HClO}_2 \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{COOH} + \text{HOCI}
\]

B10

\[
\text{CH}_3\text{CHO} + \text{HOCI} \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{COOH} + \text{H}^+ + \text{Cl}^-
\]

B12

where I⁺H⁺ and P⁺H⁺ are protonated 3-ethylamino-8-methyl-7-phenoxazone and protonated 3-ethylamino-8-methyl-7-phenoxazone-10-N-oxide, respectively. The reaction of the metastable intermediate ClO₂⁻ with the organic intermediates enhances the generation of HClO₂, and in turn the faster formation of ClO₂⁻, as observed in the present studies.

3.7. Mechanism: Catalysed Reaction

Even in the absence of the dye, the presence of catalytic amounts of Ru(III) can initiate the rapid disproportionation of chlorite in acidic solution, which confirms that Ru(III) is oxidized to a higher state in the catalytic cycle. Ru(III) does not oxidize BB⁺ in a direct reaction, which excludes the reduction of Ru(III) to lower oxidation states in the catalytic cycle. Higher oxidation states of ruthenium are involved in the catalysis. Aerobic oxidation of primary amines to nitriles under oxygen pressure with RuCl₃ as catalyst has been observed. Both Lee et al. and Kumiya et al. have reported the formation of Ru(V) during the RuCl₃-catalysed reactions of alkanes by peracetic acid. Although Ru(V) oxo complexes are rare, a few have been isolated and characterized.

Analogous to the literature reports of complex formation between Fe(II), ClO₂⁻ and H⁺, during the Fe(II)-catalysed decomposition of chlorite, it is proposed that Ru(III) forms a complex with acidic chlorite in a rapid reaction and oxidizes Ru(III) to Ru(V). The rate-limiting step for the catalysed path is the reaction between the binary complex and the organic substrate (Equation C2) to from a ternary complex, in which Ru(V) abstracts electrons from the substrate and transfers them to chlorite ion in the complex. It is possible that ruthenium ion acts as an electron mediator only in the ternary complex. Thus, the following steps for the catalysed reaction need to be included in the mechanism, in addition to the uncatalysed reaction steps.

\[
\text{Ru(III)} + \text{ClO}_2^- \rightarrow \text{[Binary complex]} \quad \text{C1}
\]

\[
\text{[Binary complex]} + \text{BB}^+ \rightarrow \text{[Ternary complex]} \quad \text{C2}
\]

\[
\text{[Ternary complex]} + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{Ru(III)} + \text{I}^+\text{H}^+ + \text{HOCI} + \text{CH}_3\text{CHO} \quad \text{C3}
\]

3.8. Rate Laws

The rate equation for the uncatalysed reaction between BB⁺ and acidic chlorite can be represented by the equation

\[
-d[BB^+]/dt = k_0[BB^+][ClO_2^-][H^+] \quad \text{E1}
\]

When [ClO₂⁻] and [H⁺] are in excess, the Equation E1 reduces to

\[
r = k_0 \cdot [BB^+] \quad \text{E2}
\]

where the pseudo first-order rate constant for the uncatalysed reaction is given by k₀ = k₀[ClO₂⁻][H⁺]. The third-order rate constant for the uncatalysed reaction, k₀, obtained for different kinetic runs supports the proposed rate expression.

In the presence of the catalyst, the oxidation reaction proceeds through both uncatalysed and catalysed pathways. Therefore, the following represents the rate of depletion of BB⁺ in presence of catalyst under excess chlorite and acid concentrations:

\[
-d[BB^+]/dt = \{k_0 + k_{\text{CAT}}[\text{Ru(III)}]\}[BB^+] \quad \text{E3}
\]

\[
=k'[BB^+] \quad \text{E4}
\]

where k_{\text{CAT}} = k_{\text{CAT}}[\text{ClO}_2^-][\text{H}^+] and k' = \{k_0 + k_{\text{CAT}}'[\text{Ru(III)}]\}.

If Equation E4 holds good, a plot of the observed pseudo first-order rate constant in presence of catalyst, k', versus [Ru(III)] should give a straight line with intercept equal to k₀ (Table 2). The intercept of the plot, as illustrated in Fig. 4, has a value comparable with the experimental pseudo first-order rate constant for the uncatalysed reaction, which supports the assumption.

3.9. Simulations

Simulations were conducted using the proposed mechanism and the Simkine software. Simkine uses the Delphi 5 program-

### Table 8 Rate constants used for computations. Data in bold are the experimental values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reaction no.</th>
<th>Equation</th>
<th>Rate constant *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forward</td>
<td>Reverse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>H^+ + ClO₂⁻ ⇌ HClO₂</td>
<td>1.0 × 10⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>HOCl + Cl^- + H^+ ⇌ Cl₂ + H₂O</td>
<td>8.9 × 10⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cl₂ + 2ClO₂⁻ ⇌ 2ClO₂⁻ + 2Cl⁻</td>
<td>9.8 × 10⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>HOCl + ClO₂⁻ + H^⁺ ⇌ ClO₂⁻ + H₂O</td>
<td>5.0 × 10⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ClO₂⁻ + 2ClO₂⁻ + 2H^⁺ ⇌ 2ClO₂⁻ + 2HClO₂</td>
<td>5.4 × 10⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>BB⁺⁻¹H⁺ + ClO₂⁻⁻¹H⁺ + HOCl + CH₃CHO</td>
<td>0.158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>I⁺H⁺ + ClO₂⁻⁻¹H⁺ + P⁺H⁺ + HOCI + H⁺</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>BB⁺⁺ HOCl + H⁺⁻¹H⁺ + CH₃CHO + Cl⁻ + 2H⁺</td>
<td>2.3 × 10⁶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>I⁺H⁺⁺ HOCl → P⁺H⁺⁺ Cl⁻ + H⁺</td>
<td>2.0 × 10⁷</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>CH₃CHO + HClO₂ → CH₃COOH + HOCI</td>
<td>5.0 × 10⁻⁷</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>CH₃CHO + HOCI → CH₃COOH + H⁺ + Cl⁻</td>
<td>1.3 × 10²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Units of rate constants: Equations 1, 9, and 10: l mol⁻¹ s⁻¹; Equations 2, 3, 4, and 6: l² mol⁻² s⁻¹; Equation 5: l⁴ mol⁻⁴ s⁻¹.
4. Conclusions

Figure 2 shows the simulated curves with varying initial concentrations of chloride. They agree fairly well with the five experimental curves. The computed chlorine dioxide concentration were lower than the values expected from the experiments. Probably, other reactions such as

$$\text{HClO}_2 + \text{Cl}^- + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow 2\text{HOCI}, \quad \text{B13}$$

which are not included in these simulations may have to be considered in the mechanism to improve the scheme. Further, Fig. 6 and its insert show the kinetic concentration profiles generated through the computation, for depletion of BB⁺ and the formation and consumption of reaction intermediates together with the formation of reaction products. A good agreement between the experimental and simulated curves for BB⁺ and a fair match in the trends in the simulated and experimental curves for ClO₂ support the plausibility of the proposed mechanism for the title reaction.

Acknowledgements

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References