

## МОЛЕКУЛЯРНАЯ СТРУКТУРА ТРИС-АЦЕТИЛАЦЕТОНАТА МАРГАНЦА В РАЗНЫХ СПИНОВЫХ СОСТОЯНИЯХ

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*Электронное и геометрическое строение, силовое поле и колебательный спектр молекулы трис-ацетилацетоната марганца в электронных состояниях с мультиплетностью  $M = 1, 3$  и  $5$  были изучены с помощью квантово-химических расчетов, выполненных методом DFT/UB3LYP при использовании корреляционно-согласованного набора базисных функций cc-pVTZ. Структура молекулы в высокоспиновом состоянии  $S=2$  (тип симметрии электронного состояния  ${}^5B$ ) и с типом симметрии равновесной конфигурации  $C_2$  характеризуется наименьшей энергией. При этом, координационный полиэдр  $MnO_6$  имеет форму вытянутого октаэдра. Высокоспиновое состояние  ${}^5A$  соответствует седловой точке на ППЭ, при этом координационный полиэдр приобретает форму сжатого октаэдра. Искажение октаэдрической структуры координационного полиэдра значительно, и этот факт свидетельствует о проявлении сильного эффекта Яна-Теллера (вибронного эффекта) в электронном состоянии  ${}^5E$ . Расчеты для низкоспинового состояния с  $S=0$  завершились получением неожиданного результата. Оптимизация структуры симметрии  $C_2$  для электронного состояния  ${}^1B$  привела к структурным параметрам молекулы, близким к параметрам, полученным для электронного состояния  ${}^3A_2$ . При этом межъядерные расстояния  $Mn-O$  в пределах  $0,001 \text{ \AA}$  оказались совпадающими с расстояниями, полученными для структуры  $D_3$ -симметрии со спином  $S=1$ . Этот результат соответствует ситуации, когда два электрона заселяют разные орбитали  $1e$ , обладая противоположными спинами. Электронные состояния  ${}^3A_2$  и  ${}^1B$  лежат выше, чем высокоспиновое состояние на  $5,2$  и  $17,3$  ккал/моль, соответственно. Заселенность молекулярных орбиталей находится в хорошем согласии с предсказаниями теории кристаллического поля, свидетельствуя о том, что  $d$ -орбитали иона  $Mn^{3+}$  подвергаются заметному воздействию поля лигандов.*

**Ключевые слова:** эффект Яна-Теллера, вибронный эффект, трис-ацетилацетонат марганца, спиновое состояние

## MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF MANGANESE *TRIS*-ACETYLACETONATE IN DIFFERENT SPIN STATES

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*Quantum chemical calculations of the geometric structure, force fields and harmonic vibration frequencies of the molecule  $Mn(acac)_3$  for electronic states with multiplicities  $M = 1, 3$  and  $5$  were performed using the GAUSSIAN 09 program in the framework of density functional theory (DFT/UB3LYP) with correlation-consistent valence three-exponential basis functions cc-pVTZ. The structure with high-spin state  $S=2$  (symmetry of electronic state  $^5B$ ) possesses the lowest energy and it is characterized by  $C_2$  symmetry. The coordination polyhedron  $MnO_6$  possesses the shape of “elongated octahedron”. The high-spin state  $^5A$  is characterized by structure of compressed octahedron. The distortion of octahedral structure of coordination polyhedron in the states  $^5A$  and  $^5B$  is significant, and this fact testifies to the strong Jahn-Teller effect, or vibronic effect, in  $^5E$  electronic state. The calculations for low-spin state  $S=0$  are notable for some specifics. The optimization resulted in  $C_2$  symmetry of molecule having the symmetry of electronic state  $^1B$ . The bond distances  $Mn-O$  within  $0.001 \text{ \AA}$  were equal to values obtained for structure with  $D_3$  symmetry with  $S=1$ . This result corresponds to the situation if two electrons occupy different  $1e$  orbitals possessing opposite spins. The spin states  $^3A_2$  and  $^1B$  lie higher than the high-spin state by  $5.2$  and  $17.3 \text{ kcal/mol}$ , respectively. The structural features are explained well in a framework of simple crystal field theory indicating that  $d$ -orbitals of  $Mn^{3+}$  ion undergo the significant influence of ligand field.*

**Key words:** Jahn-Teller effect, vibronic effect, manganese tris-acetylacetonate, spin state

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### INTRODUCTION

The Jahn–Teller, or vibronic coupling effect (JTE), manifests as a distortion of molecular structure if some electronic state is associated with degeneracy. The structure of manganese *tris*-beta-diketonato complexes is a typical example of the manifestation of a

Jahn-Teller effect, although the authors of early work [1] suppose that the distortion of the octahedral configuration of oxygen ligands about the manganese atom appears to be the result of altered oxygen-metal-oxygen bond angles rather than of a Jahn-Teller mechanism. According to later works [2–4], octahedral manganese *tris*-beta-diketonato complexes are high-spin

complexes that can undergo Jahn–Teller distortion due to the partial filling of the two-fold degenerate  $e$  orbitals. The character of distortion can be different. For example, in references [5–8] it is reported, that coordination polyhedron  $MO_6$  in the crystalline phase of some compounds is elongation, whereas the works [3,9] testify the opposite type of deformation for other compounds. The authors of [4] draw attention to the results of the work [3], according to which the manganese *tris*-acetylacetonato demonstrates an irreversible solid–solid phase transition with temperature lowering. At the temperature about 100 K the solid phase shows the Jahn–Teller orthorhombic distortion while at the room temperature the large errors in the bond lengths do not allow to assign the type of Jahn–Teller distortion with any certainty.

It should be noted that the intermolecular interaction in crystal can affect the distortion of coordination polyhedron, which, in turn, predetermines the realized electronic state.

Authors of [2] give an overall description of the vibronic problem in case of  $Mn(acac)_3$ . The coordination polyhedron  $MO_6$  in a molecule possessing  $D_3$  symmetry decreases this symmetry to  $C_2$  in accordance with the Jahn–Teller theorem getting the elongated or compressed shape which corresponds, in turn, to the minimum or a saddle point on the PES. The calculations at B3LYP/6-31G\*(H, O, C), VTZ(Mn) resulted in the structure with elongated polyhedron  $MnO_6$ .

Authors of [4] carrying out the calculations at OLYP/TZP approximation have got also the structures with elongated and compressed coordination polyhedron for  ${}^5A$  and  ${}^5B$  electronic states of  $Mn(acac)_3$  correspondingly. However, they did not study the character of the stationary point on PES for electronic state  ${}^5A$  and considering this structure as equilibrium one

and using the Boltzmann equation found that the population of  $Mn(acac)_3$  will occur with the elongation-distortion is 79%, relative to the 21% population found to have compression-distortion.

The theoretical works [2,4] studied only high-spin state of *tris*-beta-diketonato complexes of Mn paying the attention to Jahn–Teller effect. In this connection it seems to be interesting to study the structures in all possible spin states arising from electronic states of free cation  $Mn^{3+}$  corresponding to different occupations of  $d$ -orbitals by four electrons. The manganese *tris*-acetylacetonato complex, in further referred as  $Mn(acac)_3$ , was studied aiming this purpose.

#### COMPUTATIONAL METHODS

Quantum chemical calculations of the geometric structure, force fields and harmonic vibration frequencies of the  $Mn(acac)_3$  for states with multiplicities  $M = 1, 3$  and  $5$  were performed using the GAUSSIAN 09 program [10] in the framework of density functional theory (DFT/UB3LYP) [11–13] with correlation-consistent valence three-exponential basis functions cc-pVTZ [14, 15]. The composition of canonic MOs were obtained on the base of calculations at the theory level ROHF/cc-pvtz and fixed geometries which were optimized by UB3LYP/cc-pVTZ. The program ChemCraft [16] was used for visualization of MOs.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the crystal field theory, the ground and low-lying excited electronic states of  $Mn(acac)_3$  molecule arise from the states of isolated cation  $Mn^{3+}$  with open valence  $3d^4$ -shell. In the high symmetrical  $D_3$  structure of  $Mn(acac)_3$ , fivefold degenerated  $3d$ -orbitals of  $Mn^{3+}$  cation are split and form the  $a_1$  molecular orbital and two couples of  $1e$  and  $2e$  orbitals.

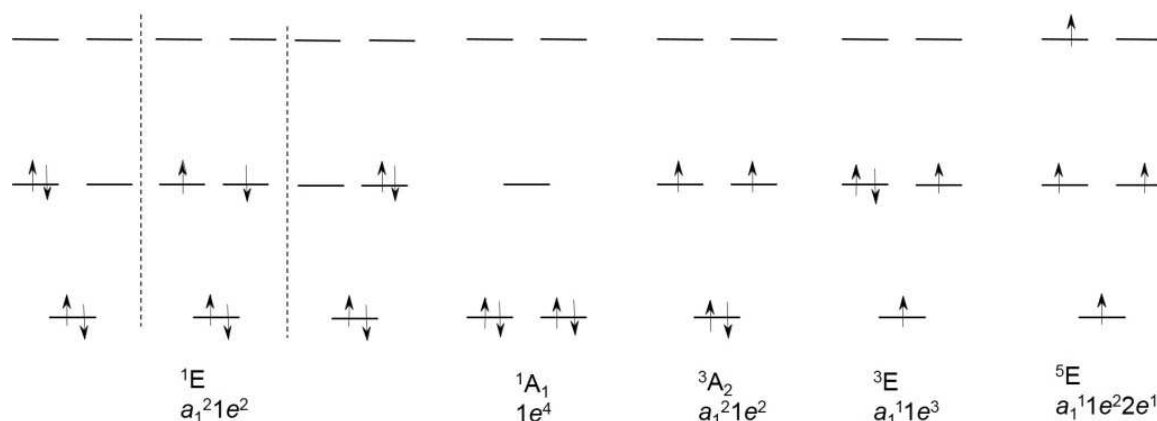


Fig. 1. Electronic configurations and d-orbital diagram for most energetically favorable electronic states of  $Mn(acac)_3$  with  $D_3$  structure  
Рис. 1. Электронные конфигурации и диаграмма d-орбиталей для молекулы  $Mn(acac)_3$  симметрии  $D_3$  в низших электронных состояниях

**Table**  
**Bond length of Mn-O, folding angle of chelate rings along O...O axes and relative electronic energy in structures, which are realized in different spin states of Mn(acac)<sub>3</sub> molecule (according to DFT/UB3LYP/cc-pVTZ calculations)**  
**Таблица. Длина связи Mn-O, угол складывания хелатных колец по оси O...O и относительная электронная энергия для структур молекулы Mn(acac)<sub>3</sub>, реализующихся в разных спиновых состояниях (по данным DFT/UB3LYP/cc-pVTZ расчетов)**

Parameter Å deg kcal/mol	Spin Electronic state Symmetry				
	S=0, <sup>1</sup> B, C <sub>2</sub>	S=1, <sup>3</sup> A <sub>2</sub> , D <sub>3</sub>	S=2, <sup>5</sup> B, C <sub>2</sub>		
			this work	[2] <sup>a</sup>	[4] <sup>b</sup>
Mn – O	1.938		2.168	2.147	2.245
Mn – O'	1.937	1.937	1.935	1.934	1.974
Mn – O''	1.938		1.949	1.951	1.993
Mn-O-O'-C(H)	179.3	180.0	177.2		
Mn-O''-O''-C(H)	180.0		180.0		
E <sub>rel</sub>	17.3	5.2	0		

Notes: <sup>a</sup> OLYP/TZP; <sup>b</sup> B3LYP/6-31G\* (H,C,O), Ahlrichs' VTZ (Mn)  
 Примечания: <sup>a</sup> OLYP/TZP; <sup>b</sup> B3LYP/6-31G\* (H,C,O), Ahlrichs' VTZ (Mn)

The *a<sub>1</sub>* molecular orbital contains *d<sub>z<sup>2</sup></sub>*-AO while the combinations of *d<sub>x<sup>2</sup>-y<sup>2</sup></sub>*, *d<sub>xy</sub>*, *d<sub>xz</sub>* and *d<sub>yz</sub>* atomic orbitals are involved in degenerate *1e* and *2e* orbitals. Spatial orientations of *d*-orbitals into coordination polyhedron MnO<sub>6</sub> of D<sub>3</sub> symmetry allow us to range the MO energies as  $\epsilon(a_1) < \epsilon(1e) < \epsilon(2e)$ . Four electrons are dis-

tributed among five molecular orbitals (*a<sub>1</sub>*, *1e* and *2e*) resulting in the electronic states with multiplicities (M) 1, 3 and 5. Most energetically favorable electronic states <sup>1</sup>E(*a<sub>1</sub><sup>2</sup>1e<sup>2</sup>*), <sup>1</sup>A<sub>1</sub>(*1e<sup>4</sup>*), <sup>3</sup>A<sub>2</sub>(*a<sub>1</sub><sup>2</sup>1e<sup>2</sup>*), <sup>3</sup>E(*a<sub>1</sub><sup>1</sup>1e<sup>3</sup>*) and <sup>5</sup>E(*a<sub>1</sub><sup>1</sup>1e<sup>2</sup>2e<sup>1</sup>*) can be constructed by consecutive occupation of the orbitals *a<sub>1</sub>*, *1e* and *2e* (Fig. 1).

Electronic states <sup>1</sup>E, <sup>3</sup>E and <sup>5</sup>E are the orbital degenerated, and their geometry configuration symmetry D<sub>3</sub> must go down to C<sub>2</sub> in accordance with Jahn-Teller theorem. The optimization of initial molecular geometry C<sub>2</sub> for the multiplicities M=1 and M=3 resulted in the structures with six equal (within 0.001 Å) Mn-O bonds giving the structure D<sub>3</sub> practically and corresponding the orbital occupations *a<sub>1</sub><sup>2</sup>1e<sup>2</sup>* (<sup>1</sup>E and <sup>3</sup>A<sub>2</sub>). The optimization at D<sub>3</sub> symmetry was successful for M=3 giving the state *a<sub>1</sub><sup>2</sup>1e<sup>2</sup>* (<sup>3</sup>A<sub>2</sub>) but resulted in C<sub>2</sub> structure with practically equal bond lengths Mn-O for M=1.

For the multiplicity M=5 the optimization under symmetry D<sub>3</sub> was unsuccessful. In turn, the structure optimization at C<sub>2</sub> symmetry resulted in the structure with compressed or elongated coordination polyhedron MO<sub>6</sub> and corresponding to the electronic states <sup>5</sup>A or <sup>5</sup>B, respectively. The analysis of the Hessian matrix showed, that the compressed structure of Mn(acac)<sub>3</sub> in the electronic state <sup>5</sup>A is characterized by first order saddle point on PES being the transition state between two equivalent minima corresponded to <sup>5</sup>B states.

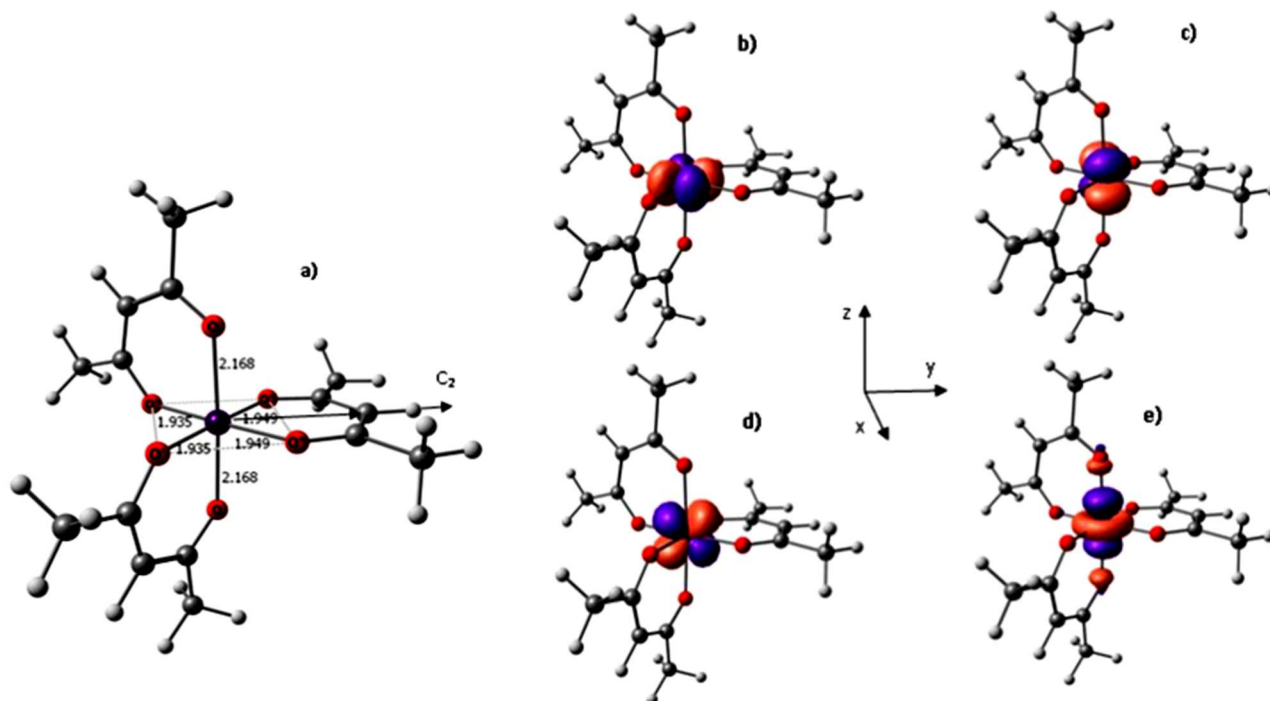


Fig. 2. Mn(acac)<sub>3</sub> structure in high-spin state (M=5, <sup>5</sup>B): a) parameters of coordination polyhedron; occupied d-orbitals in local Cartesian coordinates: b) *d<sub>x<sup>2</sup>-y<sup>2</sup></sub>*, c) *d<sub>xz</sub>*, d) *d<sub>yz</sub>*, e) *d<sub>z<sup>2</sup></sub>*. Orbital *d<sub>z<sup>2</sup></sub>* is responsible for elongation of Mn-O bonds; axes y coincides with symmetry axes C<sub>2</sub>  
 Рис. 2. Структура молекулы Mn(acac)<sub>3</sub> в высокоспиновом состоянии (M=5, <sup>5</sup>B): а) параметры координационного полиэдра; заселенные d-орбитали в локальной системе координат: б) *d<sub>x<sup>2</sup>-y<sup>2</sup></sub>*, в) *d<sub>xz</sub>*, д) *d<sub>yz</sub>*, е) *d<sub>z<sup>2</sup></sub>*. Орбиталь *d<sub>z<sup>2</sup></sub>* ответственна за удлинение связи Mn-O; ось y совпадает с осью симметрии C<sub>2</sub>

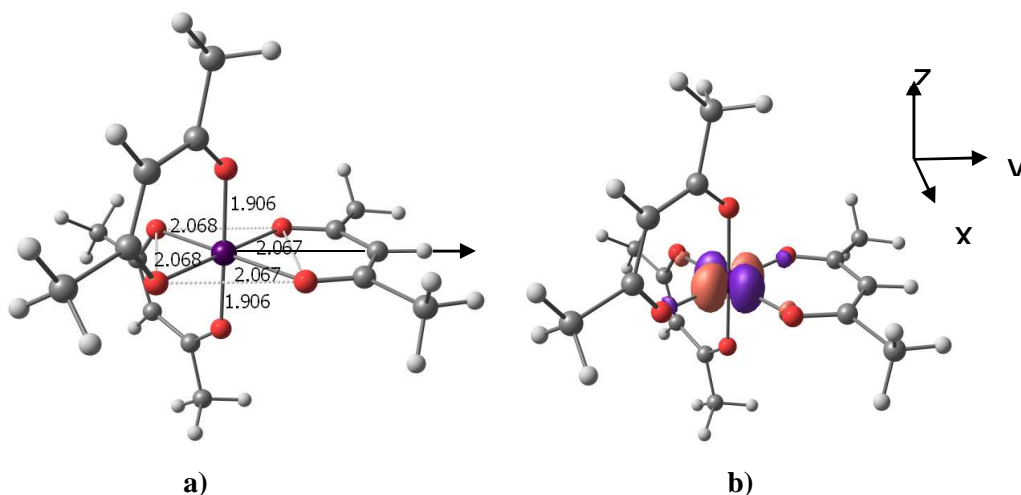


Fig. 3. The structure of  $Mn(acac)_3$  in high-spin state  $^5A$  (corresponding to first order saddle point on PES). a) parameters of coordination polyhedron; b) occupied  $d_{x^2-y^2}$ -orbital in local Cartesian coordinates

Рис. 3. Структура молекулы  $Mn(acac)_3$  в высокоспиновом состоянии  $^5A$  (соответствует седловой точке первого порядка на ППЭ). а) параметры координационного полиэдра; б) заселенная  $d_{x^2-y^2}$ -орбиталь в локальной декартовой системе координат

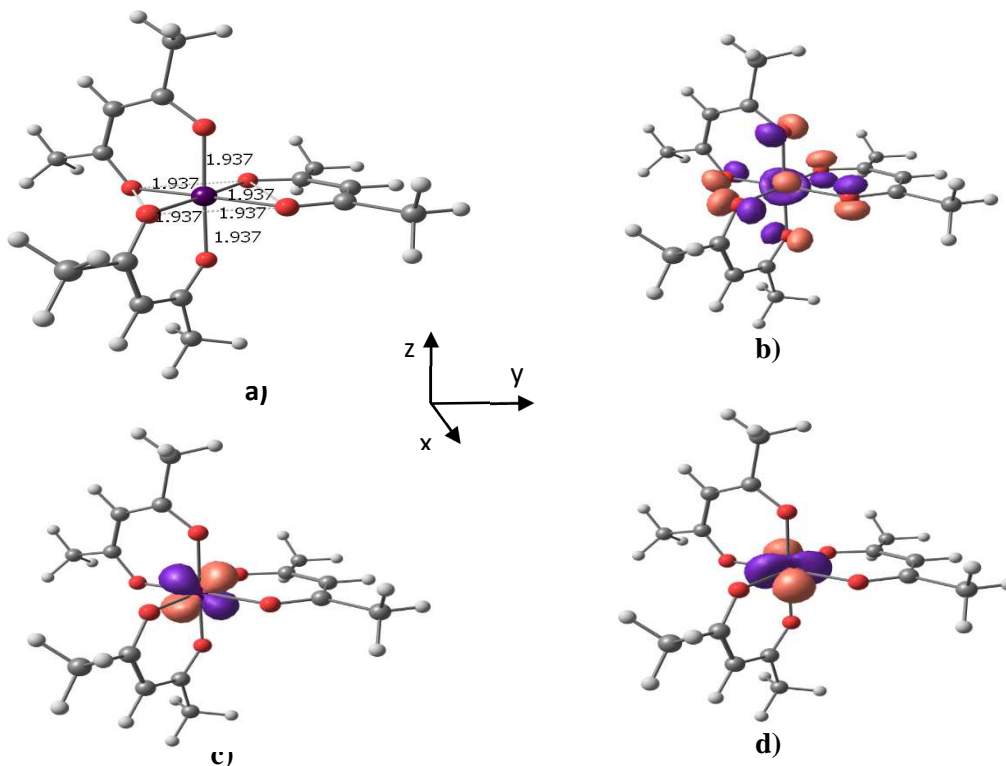


Fig. 4. The structure of  $Mn(acac)_3$  in electronic state  $^3A_2$  (middle-spin state  $M=3$ ) and occupied d-orbitals: a) parameters of coordination polyhedron; occupied d-orbitals in local Cartesian coordinates: b) mixed, c)  $d_{yz}$ , d)  $d_{x^2-y^2}$

Рис. 4. Структура молекулы  $Mn(acac)_3$  в электронном состоянии  $^3A_2$  (среднеспиновое состояние  $M=3$ ) и заселенные d-орбитали: а) параметры координационного полиэдра; б) смешанная, в)  $d_{yz}$ , д)  $d_{x^2-y^2}$

The bond distances  $r(Mn-O)$  and relative energy for discussed electronic states of  $Mn(acac)_3$  are listed in the Table. Calculated bond distances Mn-O confirm the conclusion [2, 4] about the character of Jahn-Teller distortion of the molecule  $Mn(acac)_3$ . Atom designation is given in Fig. 2.

Fig. 2-4 show the shape of occupied canonic MOs of  $Mn(acac)_3$  with dominating contribution of d-orbitals of  $Mn^{3+}$  ion for the equilibrium structures at different spin states.

Fig. 2 shows, if the symmetry of molecule goes down from  $D_3$  to  $C_2$ , an occupation by one electron  $3d_z^2$

AO leads to the elongation of two axial Mn-O bonds for high-spin state  ${}^5B$  as it was obtained in Ref. 4. In opposite, in the state  ${}^5A$  the elongation of four equatorial bonds Mn-O takes place due to an occupation of  $3d_{x^2-y^2}$  AO instead of  $3d_{z^2}$  AO (Fig. 3).

For excited electronic states  ${}^1B$  ( $C_2$  symmetry) and  ${}^3A_2$  ( $D_3$  symmetry), the distances  $r(\text{Mn-O})$  are equal and shorter than for high-spin state  ${}^5B$ . Table reports that in spite of the fact that the average bond Mn-O in the high-spin complex is longer, the energy of this complex is lower than the energy of the low-spin complexes due to the high energy electron coupling in the last two.

The calculations for low-spin state  $M=1$  met some uncertainty. The optimization at the theory level UB3LYP/cc-pVTZ resulted formally in  $C_2$  symmetry of molecule having the symmetry of electronic state  ${}^1B$ . The bond distances Mn-O within 0.001 Å were equal to values obtained for structure  $M=3$  with  $D_3$  symmetry. This result does not contradict the situation if two electrons occupy different  $1e$  orbitals possessing opposite spins.

According to Table, the structural parameters of the  $\text{MnO}_6$  polyhedron in complexes with  $M=1$  and  $M=3$  are practically equal because in both spin states the lobes of occupied  $3d$ -AOs are directed between bonds Mn-O and do not affect significantly the chemical bonding.

The energy difference for electronic states  ${}^3A_2$  and  ${}^5B$  is equal to 5.2 kcal/mol only, and complex  $\text{Mn}(\text{acac})_3$  in some crystals possesses the structures with

six close bond lengths Mn-O because the state  ${}^3A_2$  is realized possibly due to packing forces. In this connection it is interesting to study by gas-phase electron diffraction the structure, which is realized in the gas phase.

## CONCLUSIONS

The high-spin electronic state  ${}^5B$  was found to be preferable for  $\text{Mn}(\text{acac})_3$  molecule as calculated at the theory level UB3LYP/cc-pVTZ. In this state the molecule has  $C_2$  symmetry with two long and four short Mn-O bonds. The state  ${}^5A$  lies higher than state  ${}^5B$  by 1 kcal/mol and corresponds to the first order saddle point. Obviously, these states appear due to Jahn-Teller distortion of  $D_3$  structure possessed  ${}^5E$  electronic state. The distortion of octahedral structure of  $\text{MnO}_6$  polyhedron in the states  ${}^5A$  and  ${}^5B$  is significant, and this fact testifies to strong Jahn-Teller effect in  ${}^5E$  electronic state. The spin states  ${}^3A_2$  and  ${}^1B$  lie higher than the high-spin state by 5.2 and 17.3 kcal/mol, correspondingly. The coordination polyhedron is characterized by  $D_3$  symmetry for state  ${}^3A_2$  and very close to this symmetry for  ${}^1B$  state. The structural features are explained well in framework of simple crystal field theory indicating that  $d$ -orbitals of  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  ion undergoes the influence of crystal field.

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