


 Cite this: *RSC Adv.*, 2024, 14, 12303

# Kinetic and reactivity of gas-phase reaction of acyclic dienes with hydroxyl radical in the 273–318 K temperature range†

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As dienes contain two C=C bonds, theoretically, they are much more chemically reactive with hydroxyl radical ( $\cdot\text{OH}$ ) than alkenes and alkanes, and the reaction with  $\cdot\text{OH}$  is one of the main atmospheric degradation routes of dienes during the daytime. In our work, rate coefficients of three types of acyclic dienes: conjugated as 3-methyl-1,3-pentadiene (3M13PD), isolated as 1,4-hexadiene (14HD), and cumulated as 1,2-pentadiene (12PD) reaction with  $\cdot\text{OH}$  were measured in the temperature range of 273–318 K and 1 atm using the relative rate method. At  $298 \pm 3$  K, the rate coefficients for those reactions were determined to be  $k_{3\text{M13PD}+\text{OH}} = (15.09 \pm 0.72) \times 10^{-11}$ ,  $k_{14\text{HD}+\text{OH}} = (9.13 \pm 0.62) \times 10^{-11}$ ,  $k_{12\text{PD}+\text{OH}} = (3.34 \pm 0.40) \times 10^{-11}$  (as units of  $\text{cm}^3$  per molecule per s), in the excellent agreement with values of previously reported. The first measured temperature dependence for 3M13PD, 14HD and 12PD reaction with  $\cdot\text{OH}$  can be expressed by the following Arrhenius expressions in units of  $\text{cm}^3$  per molecule per s:  $k_{3\text{M13PD}+\text{OH}} = (8.10 \pm 2.23) \times 10^{-11} \exp[(173 \pm 71)/T]$ ;  $k_{14\text{HD}+\text{OH}} = (9.82 \pm 5.10) \times 10^{-12} \exp[(666 \pm 123)/T]$ ;  $k_{12\text{PD}+\text{OH}} = (1.13 \pm 0.87) \times 10^{-12} \exp[(1038 \pm 167)/T]$  (as units of  $\text{cm}^3$  per molecule per s). The kinetic discussion revealed that the relative position between these two C=C could significantly affect the reactivity of acyclic dienes toward  $\cdot\text{OH}$ . A simple structure–activity relationship (SAR) method was proposed to estimate the reaction rate coefficients of acyclic dienes with  $\cdot\text{OH}$ .

 Received 22nd December 2023  
 Accepted 23rd March 2024

DOI: 10.1039/d3ra08750f

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## 1 Introduction

Dienes are unsaturated hydrocarbons containing two carbon–carbon double bonds in the molecule. The general formula for the acyclic ones is  $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{(2n-2)}$ . Depending on whether the two

C=C bonds are adjacent to each other, separated by one single bond or by more than one, the acyclic dienes are named and classified by IUPAC to be cumulated dienes, conjugated dienes, and isolated dienes.<sup>1,2</sup> Isoprene is one of the most important representatives of conjugated diene found in the atmosphere. It counts for about half of the total amount of biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) released from vegetation, around 600 teragrams of carbon per year (Tg C per year).<sup>3–5</sup> 1,3-Butadiene is another important acyclic diene in the atmosphere, and it is listed as a critical hazardous air pollutant due to its carcinogenic and mutagenic properties. Its concentration can reach up to 1 ppbv measured in urban areas.<sup>6,7</sup> Acyclic dienes are also essential raw materials for organic synthesis,<sup>8,9</sup> e.g., 1,3-butadiene, 1,2-pentadiene, 1,4-hexadiene, and 3-methyl-1,3-pentadiene are used in the synthesis of rubbers,<sup>10</sup> polymers,<sup>11</sup> coatings,<sup>12</sup> and biodiesel.<sup>13,14</sup> Hence, large amounts of acyclic dienes could be released into the atmosphere during production, transportation, and usage.<sup>15–18</sup> The main removal pathway of acyclic dienes in the atmosphere could be their reaction with  $\cdot\text{OH}$ .<sup>19–21</sup> The rate coefficients for the reactions of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  and the subsequent degradation mechanism with isoprene<sup>22–25</sup> and 1,3-butadiene<sup>26–28</sup> have been widely studied. Several previous investigations have shown that the reaction of acyclic dienes with  $\cdot\text{OH}$  in the presence of  $\text{NO}_x$  could produce critical atmospheric pollutants such as peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN), organic

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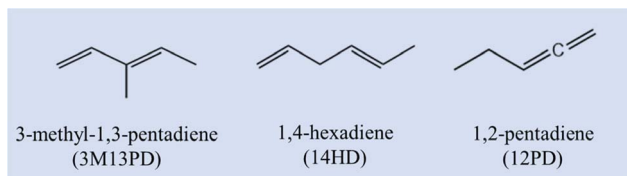
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† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Time profile of reactants during the reaction time; experimental conditions at temperatures of 273–318 K; rate coefficients for the reaction of OH radicals with dienes and corresponding mono-alkenes; rate coefficients for the reaction with OH of a series of straight-chain dienes; rate coefficients of dienes reaction with OH radical vs. the alkyl groups on the diene. See DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1039/d3ra08750f>



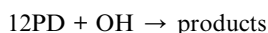
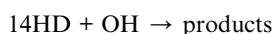


Scheme 1 Structures and abbreviations for the three dienes.

nitrate and carbonyl compounds.<sup>29–34</sup> However, the reactivity of most of the acyclic dienes towards  $\cdot\text{OH}$  still not well investigated.<sup>35–38</sup> It is, indeed, of interest to conduct comprehensive studies on a more extensive set of acyclic dienes with various chemical structures in order to improve the knowledge of their atmospheric fate and impacts.

3-Methyl-1,3-pentadiene (3M13PD), 1,4-hexadiene (14HD), and 1,2-pentadiene (12PD) are three critical acyclic dienes, which are widely used in industry,<sup>13,14</sup> as shown in Scheme 1. Based on the molecular structure, 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD are categorized as conjugated, isolated, and cumulated diene, respectively. However, only one study conducted by Ohta in 1983<sup>39</sup> reported the rate coefficients of 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD reaction with  $\cdot\text{OH}$  at  $297 \pm 2$  K. Ohta 1983<sup>39</sup> also proposed one structure–activity relationship (SAR) method to estimate the rate coefficients of conjugated diene and isolated diene, but not cumulated diene. To the best of our knowledge, no available temperature-dependence data on the reaction of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  with 3M13PD, 14HD, or 12PD has been reported so far.

In this work, we conducted a comprehensive investigation into the rate coefficients of the reaction of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  with 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD over a wide temperature range of 273–318 K. Our research yielded crucial insights into the underlying mechanisms of these reactions and a deeper understanding of the factors that influence their rate coefficients. Furthermore, this work enables us to recommend a novel and simple SAR approach to estimate the rate coefficients of dienes with  $\cdot\text{OH}$ , which can be used effectively in atmospheric models to advance our understanding of these reactions.



## 2 Materials and methods

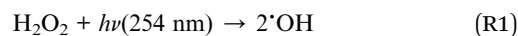
### 2.1 Atmospheric simulation chamber

A Teflon chamber with a volume of 300 liters is suspended in the middle of the climatic incubator, which was designed to maintain a constant temperature ( $\pm 1$  K) and relative humidity ( $\pm 2\%$ ). Two 254 nm UV lamps were used to initiate photo-oxidation in the chamber, and the reflective internal stainless-steel material ensured that the UV light was homogeneously spread. In this work, the temperature range was set to 273–318 K. Zero air to fill and purge the Teflon chamber was made by

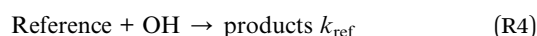
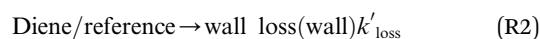
mixing pure nitrogen and oxygen in the ratio of  $\text{N}_2 : \text{O}_2 = 4 : 1$ . Known concentrations of the gas-phase chemicals were injected into the chamber through a mass flow controller (MFC). The chemicals in the liquid phase were introduced into the chamber by injecting a known volume into a three-way bubbler and then flushed with zero air. The inlet line was purged with 5 L of zero air after each chemical introduction to ensure the sample was completely introduced into the chamber. The Teflon chamber was also well-cleaned by inflating, shaking, and pumping three times. The time profiles of the concentration of the species of interest were monitored using an on-line gas chromatography-photoionization detector (GC-PID) (GC-4400, East & West Analytical Instruments, Inc., China). The packed column was operated at 45 °C, and  $\text{N}_2$  was used as the carrier gas.

### 2.2 Kinetic study method

During the experiments, the diene (3M13PD or 14HD or 12PD) and references (propene and 1,3-butadiene) were introduced into the 300 L Teflon chamber and kept for 1 hour to estimate their wall loss rates. Then  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  was injected into the chamber and photolyzed at 254 nm to initiate  $\cdot\text{OH}$ . The photolysis rate of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  can be calculated from the precursor cross section, quantum yield and the actinic flux at 254 nm, in this work, the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  photolysis rate was calculated to be  $\sim 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , ensure a fast decay of the dienes and references.



The loss of the studied dienes and references, including wall loss and reaction with  $\cdot\text{OH}$ , can be represented by the following reactions:



The following equation can express the changes in the concentrations of the studied dienes and references:

$$\ln\left(\frac{[\text{diene}]_0}{[\text{diene}]_t}\right) - k'_{\text{loss\_diene}}t = \frac{k_{\text{diene}}}{k_{\text{ref}}} \left\{ \ln\left(\frac{[\text{ref}]_0}{[\text{ref}]_t}\right) - k'_{\text{loss\_ref}}t \right\} \quad (1)$$

where  $[\text{diene}]_0$  and  $[\text{ref}]_0$  represent the initial concentration of diene and reference compounds, while  $[\text{diene}]_t$  and  $[\text{ref}]_t$  are the concentrations at reaction time. The  $k_{\text{ref}}$  and  $k_{\text{diene}}$  are the rate coefficients of the  $\cdot\text{OH}$  reactions with reference and diene, respectively. The ratio  $\frac{k_{\text{diene}}}{k_{\text{ref}}}$ , can be derived from the

linear least regression of  $\ln\left(\frac{[\text{diene}]_0}{[\text{diene}]_t}\right) - k'_{\text{loss\_diene}}t$  vs.

$$\ln\left(\frac{[\text{ref}]_0}{[\text{ref}]_t}\right) - k'_{\text{loss\_ref}}t.$$

### 2.3 Materials

The acyclic dienes used in this work and their stated purities are 3-methyl-1,3-pentadiene (99%, from Macklin), 1,4-hexadiene

(99%, from Rhawn), 1,2-pentadiene (95%, from Aladdin), and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (30%, from SCR Co., Ltd). Propene (1%) and 1,3-butadiene (1%), both used as references, were supplied by Air Liquide. N<sub>2</sub> (99.999%) and O<sub>2</sub> (99.999%) were provided by Beijing Haike Co.

### 3 Results

#### 3.1 Rate coefficient determination at 298 ± 3 K

Table 1 provides a summary of the experimental conditions and the obtained rate coefficients at the temperature of 298 ± 3 K. The concentrations of the studied dienes and references were in the range of (5–11) × 10<sup>12</sup> molecule per cm<sup>3</sup>. As shown in Fig. S1,† both acyclic dienes and references began to decrease after ·OH formed from the photolysis of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Fig. 1 presents the plots of  $\ln\left(\frac{[\text{diene}]_0}{[\text{diene}]_t}\right) - k'_{\text{loss,diene}}t$  as the function of  $\ln\left(\frac{[\text{ref}]_0}{[\text{ref}]_t}\right) - k'_{\text{loss,ref}}t$  for all the experiments from which the ratios of  $\frac{k_{\text{diene}}}{k_{\text{ref}}}$  were obtained (Table 1). We repeated the experiments for each reference at least three times to ensure reproducibility. The uncertainties of  $\frac{k_{\text{diene}}}{k_{\text{ref}}}$  were taken as 2σ of the linear fitting of Fig. 1 when plotting all the experimental results together. The rate coefficients of reference compounds reacting with ·OH are:  $k_{\text{propene+OH}} = 4.85 \times 10^{-12} \exp[504/T]$ ,<sup>40</sup>  $k_{1,3\text{-butadiene+OH}} = 1.48 \times 10^{-11} \exp[448/T]$ ,<sup>40</sup> in units of cm<sup>3</sup> per molecule per s. Hence, the rate coefficients of 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD reaction with ·OH were calculated through eqn (1), as shown in Table 1. The obtained rate coefficients using propene and 1,3-butadiene agreed well with each other (differences < 15%). The error of  $k_{\text{diene}}$  was calculated using the equation of

$$\sigma_k = \frac{k_{\text{diene}}}{k_{\text{ref}}} k_{\text{ref}} \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sigma_{\text{ref}}}{k_{\text{ref}}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\sigma_{k_{\text{diene}}/k_{\text{ref}}}}{\frac{k_{\text{diene}}}{k_{\text{ref}}}}\right)^2}. \text{ Finally, the derived}$$

rate coefficients of studied dienes reaction ·OH were weighted average of  $k_{\text{diene\_ref}}$  (Table 1) and calculated as follows:

$k_{\text{av}} = (w_{\text{diene\_ref1}}k_{\text{diene\_ref1}} + w_{\text{diene\_ref2}}k_{\text{diene\_ref2}} + \dots)/(w_{\text{diene\_ref1}} + w_{\text{diene\_ref2}} + \dots)$ , where  $w_{\text{diene\_ref1}} = 1/\sigma_{\text{diene\_ref1}}^2$ , etc. The error,  $\sigma_{\text{av}}$ , was given by:  $\sigma_{\text{av}} = (1/\sigma_{\text{diene\_ref1}} + 1/\sigma_{\text{diene\_ref2}} + \dots)^{-0.5}$ , as units of cm<sup>3</sup> per molecule per s.

The rate coefficients of 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD reaction with ·OH were measured at 297 K and 1 atm by Ohta (1983).<sup>39</sup> The reported rate coefficients were  $(13.9 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{-11}$ ,  $(9.25 \pm 0.55) \times 10^{-11}$ , and  $(3.63 \pm 0.13) \times 10^{-11}$ , respectively, where the experiments were conducted using propene, 1,3-butadiene and 1,3-pentadiene as the references compounds in a ~200 L cylindrical reaction cell. The values obtained in this work are consistent with those of Ohta (1983)<sup>39</sup> within a bias of less than 7%. As a result, the reaction rates of 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD with ·OH follow the order of  $k_{3\text{M13PD+OH}} > k_{14\text{HD+OH}} > k_{12\text{PD+OH}}$ . It is widely accepted that ·OH addition to the C=C bond is the primary mechanism for ·OH reaction with alkenes.<sup>20,41</sup> An explanation of alkene reactivity has been studied and reported is that the more specific-addition sites an alkene can provide, the more reactive the alkene is for its reaction with ·OH.<sup>35,42</sup> Cumulated diene, 12PD contains a propadiene group (C=C=C-), and the intermolecular addition of ·OH to 12PD takes place at three potential sites due to the two tightly linked double bonds forming a unique π-bond structure.<sup>43,44</sup> In contrast, conjugated diene 3M13PD and isolated diene 14HD can provide four addition sites, which explains why 12PD is less reactive toward ·OH than 3M13PD, 14HD, where  $k_{12\text{PD+OH}}$  is 3–5 times lower than  $k_{3\text{M13PD+OH}}$  and  $k_{14\text{HD+OH}}$ . It has been reported in related experiments that the substitution of alkyl groups on the C=C bond increases the reactivity of alkene toward ·OH because -CH<sub>3</sub> groups are supposed to increase the electron density in the neighbor C=C bond as well as decrease the ionization energy and, therefore increase the reactivity.<sup>40,45–47</sup> Hence, although both 3M13PD and 14HD contain four addition sites for ·OH, more alkyl groups on 3M13PD than on 14HD could be an important reason why  $k_{3\text{M13PD+OH}}$  is 1.6 times greater than  $k_{14\text{HD+OH}}$ . The reactivity of conjugated diene, isolated diene, and cumulated diene will be further discussed in the following sections.

Table 1 Summary of the experimental conditions and results in the relative rate method at 298 K and 1 atm

Diene	[Diene] × 10 <sup>12</sup> molecule per cm <sup>3</sup>	Ref	No. of exps	$\frac{k_{\text{diene}_a}}{k_{\text{ref}}}$	$k_{\text{diene\_ref}}^b \times 10^{-11}$ cm <sup>3</sup> per molecule per s	$k_{\text{av}}^c \times 10^{-11}$ cm <sup>3</sup> per molecule per s
3M13PD	5.13–7.69	1,3-Butadiene	4	2.15 ± 0.07	14.41 ± 0.85	15.09 ± 0.72
		Propene	3	6.51 ± 0.17	16.66 ± 1.29	
14HD	6.69–11.15	1,3-Butadiene	3	1.27 ± 0.04	8.44 ± 0.75	9.13 ± 0.62
		Propene	3	3.79 ± 0.07	9.94 ± 0.81	
12PD	5.48–9.13	1,3-Butadiene	7	0.46 ± 0.02	3.07 ± 0.30	3.34 ± 0.40
		Propene	6	1.42 ± 0.05	3.72 ± 0.35	

<sup>a</sup>  $k_{\text{ref}}$  extracted from Calvert, Jack G. *et al.* "The Mechanisms of Atmospheric Oxidation of the Alkenes." (2000).<sup>40</sup> <sup>b</sup> The error was calculated as

follows:  $\sigma_k = \frac{k}{k_{\text{ref}}} k_{\text{ref}} \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sigma_{\text{ref}}}{k_{\text{ref}}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\sigma_{k/k_{\text{ref}}}}{\frac{k}{k_{\text{ref}}}}\right)^2}$ .<sup>48</sup> <sup>c</sup> Weighted average<sup>49</sup>  $k_{\text{av}} = (w_{\text{diene\_ref1}}k_{\text{diene\_ref1}} + w_{\text{diene\_ref2}}k_{\text{diene\_ref2}} + \dots)/(w_{\text{diene\_ref1}} + w_{\text{diene\_ref2}} + \dots)$ , where  $w_{\text{diene\_ref1}} = 1/\sigma_{\text{diene\_ref1}}^2$ , etc. The error,  $\sigma_{\text{av}}$ , was given by:  $\sigma_{\text{av}} = (1/\sigma_{\text{diene\_ref1}} + 1/\sigma_{\text{diene\_ref2}} + \dots)^{-0.5}$ .

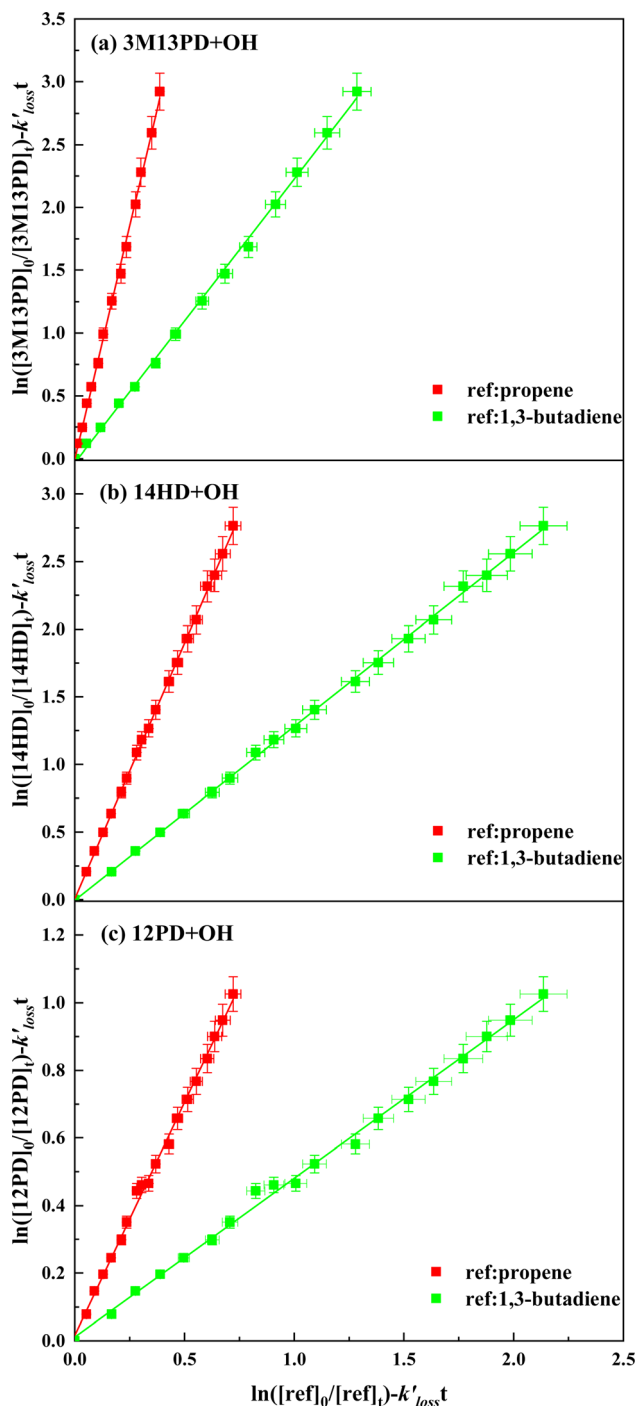


Fig. 1 Plots of relative kinetic data obtained from the reaction of (a) 3M13PD, (b) 14HD, and (c) 12PD with  $\cdot\text{OH}$  using 1,3-butadiene (green square) and propene (red square) as the reference compounds.

### 3.2 Temperature dependence

The rate coefficients for the reactions of 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD with  $\cdot\text{OH}$  were studied at temperatures ranging from 273 K to 318 K. The experimental conditions and results are presented in Table S1.† Fig. 2 shows the rate coefficients for each reaction as a function of  $1/T$ . Using the results from this study and a previous one by Ohta (1983),<sup>39</sup> we derived an Arrhenius expression,  $k = A e^{-E_a/RT}$ , for the temperature range of 273–318

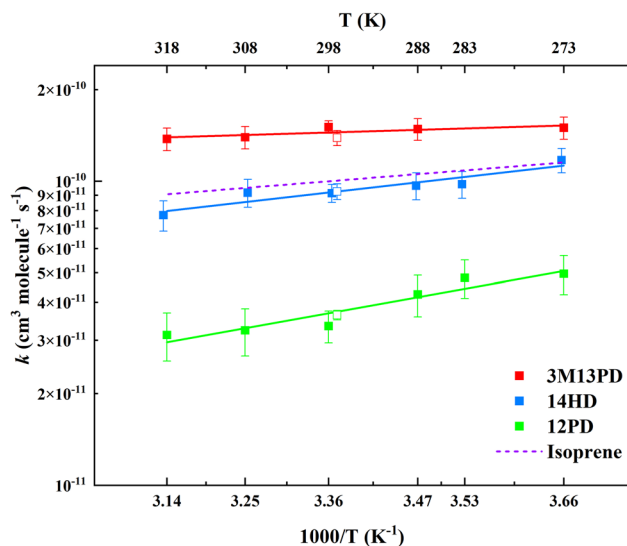


Fig. 2 Arrhenius plots of data from Table 2 as well as the data from Ohta (1983).<sup>39</sup> The solid lines represent the Arrhenius parameter least-squares fits to the individual data points for each diene. The error bars of the individual points are calculated as above  $\sigma_{\text{av}}$ . The dashed line expresses the Arrhenius expression for isoprene at temperatures of 273–318 K with data from IUPAC.<sup>50</sup>

K. The units for the rate coefficients are  $\text{cm}^3$  per molecule per s and are listed in Table 2.

$$k_{3\text{M13PD}+\text{OH}} = (8.10 \pm 2.23) \times 10^{-11} \exp[(173 \pm 71)/T]$$

$$k_{14\text{HD}+\text{OH}} = (9.82 \pm 5.10) \times 10^{-12} \exp[(666 \pm 123)/T]$$

$$k_{12\text{PD}+\text{OH}} = (1.13 \pm 0.87) \times 10^{-12} \exp[(1038 \pm 167)/T]$$

This work provides the first temperature dependence data for  $k_{3\text{M13PD}+\text{OH}}$ ,  $k_{14\text{HD}+\text{OH}}$ , and  $k_{12\text{PD}+\text{OH}}$ . We have determined the activation energy of  $-1.44$ ,  $-5.54$ , and  $-8.64$  for 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD reactions with  $\cdot\text{OH}$ , respectively, in units of  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ . As Fig. 2 shows, the temperature dependence of  $k_{14\text{HD}+\text{OH}}$  and  $k_{12\text{PD}+\text{OH}}$  are significantly negative compared to that of  $k_{3\text{M13PD}+\text{OH}}$ , which is slightly negative to near zero. The strong negative temperature dependence of  $k_{14\text{HD}+\text{OH}}$  and  $k_{12\text{PD}+\text{OH}}$  is consistent with the  $k_{\text{isoprene}}$  (rate coefficient of isoprene reaction with  $\cdot\text{OH}$ ), as shown by the dashed line in Fig. 2, with data from IUPAC.<sup>50</sup> The negative temperature dependence of the rate coefficient for the reaction of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  with alkenes has been extensively discussed.<sup>41,51–53</sup> Arguably, the most studied and reported example of an explanation for the negative temperature dependence is a pre-reaction complex reaction mechanism.<sup>47,54–56</sup> The OH-addition reaction is not a simple process and it involves the formation of a pre-reactive complex, which can either reverse back to the reactants or evolve irreversibly to an addition adduct known as R5 or  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkyl radical.<sup>45,57,58</sup> Hence, the overall rate coefficient ( $k_{\text{obs}}$ ) depends on the rates of three competitive reactions, *i.e.*,  $k_{\text{obs}} = k_{\text{R5a}}k_{\text{R5c}}/(k_{\text{R5b}} + k_{\text{R5c}})$ . Atkinson *et al.*, 1985 (ref. 58) noted that the negative temperature dependence would arise when  $k_{\text{R5b}} > k_{\text{R5c}}$  for  $E_{\text{R5b}} > E_{\text{R5c}}$  (activation energy).

Table 2 Rate coefficients and Arrhenius parameters of 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD reaction with OH at temperatures of 273–318 K

Diene	<i>T</i> (K)	<i>k</i> × 10 <sup>-11</sup> cm <sup>3</sup> per molecule per s	<i>A</i> × 10 <sup>-12</sup> cm <sup>3</sup> per molecule per s	− <i>E</i> <sub>a</sub> / <i>R</i> (K)	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>
3M13PD	273	15.01 ± 1.25	80.98 ± 22.30	173 ± 71	0.82
	288	14.86 ± 1.22			
	297 <sup>a</sup>	13.90 ± 0.80			
	298	15.09 ± 0.72			
	308	13.96 ± 1.19			
	318	13.78 ± 1.18			
14HD	273	11.74 ± 1.09	9.82 ± 5.1	666 ± 123	0.88
	283	9.78 ± 0.99			
	288	9.67 ± 0.99			
	297 <sup>a</sup>	9.25 ± 0.55			
	298	9.13 ± 0.62			
	308	9.17 ± 0.96			
12PD	273	4.96 ± 0.73	1.13 ± 0.87	1038 ± 167	0.90
	283	4.81 ± 0.70			
	288	4.24 ± 0.66			
	297 <sup>a</sup>	3.63 ± 0.13			
	298	3.34 ± 0.40			
	308	3.23 ± 0.57			
	318	3.12 ± 0.56			

<sup>a</sup> Cite from Ohta, T. (1983).<sup>39</sup>



where (alkene–OH) is the pre-reactive complex and alkene–OH\* is the addition adduct. According to Singleton and Cveticanovic's hypothesis,<sup>57</sup> there is no bond breaking in the process of the formation of the pre-reaction complex, so the *E*<sub>R5a</sub> is considered to be zero or near-zero. Then, the net activation energy for the overall reaction is *E*<sub>a</sub> = *E*<sub>R5c</sub> − *E*<sub>R5b</sub>. Because of the special molecular structure of 12PD, it may be unstable in its pre-reaction complex, which means that *E*<sub>R5b</sub> is lower. And R5b is more favored by an increase in temperature than R5c, which ultimately leads to a larger *E*<sub>a</sub>. This may explain why a stronger negative temperature dependence was observed for *k*<sub>12PD+OH</sub> than for *k*<sub>14HD+OH</sub> and *k*<sub>3M13PD+OH</sub> (Fig. 2). Also, if *k*<sub>R5b</sub> is greater than *k*<sub>R5c</sub> for *E*<sub>R5b</sub> > *E*<sub>R5c</sub>, the overall rate coefficient of the diene reaction with ·OH (*k*<sub>obs</sub>) will be smaller. This is consistent with the reaction order observed in this study at 298 K, which is *k*<sub>12PD+OH</sub> < *k*<sub>14HD+OH</sub> < *k*<sub>3M13PD+OH</sub>.

Similar to the Arrhenius equation, the Eyring equation, based on transition state theory, also describes the rate of reaction as a function of temperature.<sup>59,60</sup> The Eyring equation gives an idea of how the reaction progresses at the molecular level,<sup>46</sup> and the linear form equation is as follows:  $\ln \frac{k}{T} = \frac{-\Delta H^\ddagger}{R} \frac{1}{T} + \ln \frac{k_B}{h} + \frac{\Delta S^\ddagger}{R}$ . Where, *k* is the rate constant, *k*<sub>B</sub> is the Boltzmann's constant (1.381 × 10<sup>-23</sup> J K<sup>-1</sup>), *T* is the absolute temperature in Kelvin (K), *h* is plank's constant (6.626 × 10<sup>-34</sup> J s), *R* is the gas constant (8.314 J mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>), Δ*H*<sup>‡</sup> is the enthalpy of activation and Δ*S*<sup>‡</sup> is the entropy of activation.

As shown in Fig. S2 and Table S2,<sup>†</sup> the values for Δ*H*<sup>‡</sup> and Δ*S*<sup>‡</sup> can be determined from kinetic data obtained from a ln(*k*/

*T*) vs. 1/*T* plot. We find that the activation enthalpies of the reaction of 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD with OH are all negative, −3.91, −7.99, and −11.09, respectively, in kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. Negative activation enthalpies prove that the reaction is exothermic, which makes it easy to understand that the rate of the reaction slows down as the temperature increases. Similar to the standard enthalpy, negative values represent a more stable energy structure.<sup>61,62</sup> Thus, this again illustrates the rules of reactivity of dienes with ·OH: 3M13PD > 14HD > 12PD.

## 4 Discussion

As discussed above, the reaction order of three different types of dienes, namely conjugated diene, isolated diene, and cumulated diene, was determined. The results showed that the reactivity of conjugated diene (*k*<sub>3M13PD+OH</sub>) towards ·OH was higher than that of isolated diene (*k*<sub>14HD+OH</sub>), which in turn was higher than that of cumulated diene (*k*<sub>12PD+OH</sub>). To further explore the relationship between diene structure and its reactivity towards ·OH, as shown in Table S3,<sup>†</sup> we compiled data from a database<sup>63</sup> and this work and plotted the rate coefficients against the number of carbon atoms for a series of straight-chain dienes in Fig. 3. The data in Fig. 3 including conjugated dienes: 1,3-butadiene (C=CC=C), (*Z*)-1,3-pentadiene (C/C=C/C=C), (*3E*)-penta-1,3-diene (C/C=C/C=C), (*3E*)-hexa-1,3-diene (CC/C=C/C=C), (*Z/E*)-2,4-hexadiene (CC=CC=CC), isolated dienes: 1,4-pentadiene (C=CCC=C), 1,4-hexadiene (C=CC/C=C/C), 1,5-hexadiene (C=CCCC=C), and cumulated dienes: propadiene (C=C=C), methylallene (CC=C=C), 1,2-pentadiene (CCC=C=C). The results again showed that the reactivity of conjugated dienes toward ·OH is higher than expected for an isolated C=C bond and then cumulated C=C

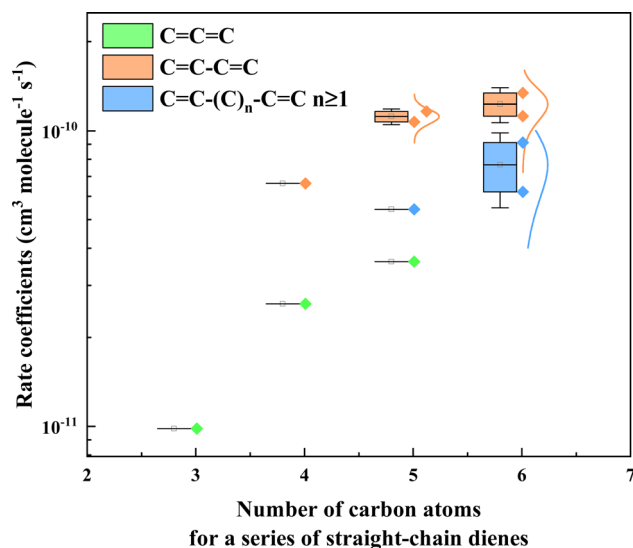


Fig. 3 Plots the rate coefficients *versus* the number of carbon atoms for a series of straight-chain dienes, including cumulated diene (C=C=C), conjugated diene (C=C-C=C), and isolated diene (C=C-(C)<sub>n</sub>-C=C, *n* ≥ 1). The rate coefficient values for dienes' reaction with OH radicals are from McGillen *et al.* (2020)<sup>65</sup> and are shown in Table S3.†

bond. This phenomenon could be explained by the relative position of the two C=C bonds on the acyclic diene.

According to the classical transition state theory, a certain energy barrier must be overcome for adding ·OH to a C=C bond to occur.<sup>28,64,65</sup> Hence, the relative position of two C=C bonds on an acyclic diene likely affects its energy barrier and then reactivity. To explain this further, we take the example of 1,3-, 1,4- and 1,2-pentadiene. The energy barriers for the reaction of the three dienes with ·OH have been calculated by utilizing the m062x/6-31+G(d,p) and m062x/6-311+G(3df,3pd) level of theory (see details in Fig. S3†). The stability of the initial OH adduct will ultimately affect the overall reactivity of the alkene with ·OH.<sup>42</sup> For example, in 1,3-pentadiene, the four pathways are grouped two by two, as IM1 and IM4 have similar potential heights and are lower than IM2 and IM3. For conjugated dienes, the pi-electron density overlap allows the electrons to “delocalise” over a larger area,<sup>1,66</sup> explaining why IM2 and IM3 are so similar. Likewise, the conjugated stabilized structure reduces the overall energy (−40.16 kcal mol<sup>−1</sup>) of this isomer, which accounts for the reactivity enhancement of conjugated dienes towards ·OH. Accordingly, the overall rate coefficient of 1,3-pentadiene is higher than the sum of two corresponding mono-alkene, *e.g.*  $k_{1,3\text{-pentadiene}}$  of  $11.60 \times 10^{-11}$  cm<sup>3</sup> per molecule per s is higher than the sum of the rate coefficients of 1-pentene ( $k_{1\text{-pentene}}$ ) and 2-pentene ( $k_{2\text{-pentene}}$ ) reaction with ·OH as  $9.72 \times 10^{-11}$  cm<sup>3</sup> per molecule per s, where  $k_{1\text{-pentene}}$  and  $k_{2\text{-pentene}}$  are  $3.22 \pm 0.48$  and  $6.50 \pm 2.00 \times 10^{-11}$  cm<sup>3</sup> per molecule per s,<sup>63</sup> respectively. This phenomenon could also be applied to other conjugated dienes (Table S3†).

In contrast, in 1,4-pentadiene of an isolated diene, the C=C bonds are separated by one (or more for other isolated dienes) sp<sup>3</sup>-hybridized carbon atom. As such, each C=C bond behaves independently of the other, and the electron density cannot

spread out as well or evenly. This also resulted in very similar potential barriers for all four channels (IM1 = IM4 = −30.33 kcal mol<sup>−1</sup>, IM2 = IM3 = −31.25 kcal mol<sup>−1</sup>), as shown in Fig. S3c.† Compared to 1,4-pentadiene, the conjugation effect makes IM1 and IM4 lower for 1,3-pentadiene. The adduct of 1,4-pentadiene with OH lacks resonance stabilization, which may affect the exothermic nature of the reaction and the height of the potential barriers for the formation of the internal transition states of the adduct. It will ultimately affect the overall reactivity of 1,4-pentadiene with ·OH.<sup>42,66</sup> Generally, the overall rate coefficients of 1,4-pentadiene are expected to be equal to the sum of two corresponding mono-alkenes, *e.g.*,  $k_{1,4\text{-pentadiene}}$  of  $5.41 \times 10^{-11}$  cm<sup>3</sup> per molecule per s is lower than  $k_{1\text{-pentene}} + k_{1\text{-pentene}}$  as  $6.44 \times 10^{-11}$  cm<sup>3</sup> per molecule per s, and it is same for other isolated dienes (Table S3†). This finding indicates that the interaction also exists between these two isolated C=C bonds, which was not expected before.

Cumulated dienes are a class of dienes with adjacent double bonds, where these two C=C bonds are shorter than those in typical alkene according to a high level of bond energy.<sup>43,67</sup> These bonds form a special pi bond that leads to a possible stronger reactivity at the C2 position, but less reactive for C1 and C3. This seems surprising considering that the energy of IM2 is −56.69 kcal mol<sup>−1</sup> (Fig. S3c†). However, laboratory results suggest that this bonding may reduce the reactivity of cumene to ·OH. Meanwhile, the fact that there are only three specific addition sites may be another reason why the reaction rate coefficient of 1,2-pentadiene is lower than that of 1,3- and 1,4-pentadiene. For example, the  $k_{12\text{PD}}$  of  $3.34 \times 10^{-11}$  cm<sup>3</sup> per molecule per s (this work) is almost three times lower than the sum of rate coefficients of the according mono-alkenes 1-pentene and 2-pentene reaction with ·OH  $k_{1\text{-pentene}} + k_{2\text{-pentene}} = 9.72 \times 10^{-11}$  cm<sup>3</sup> per molecule per s. Calvert *et al.*, (2000) noted that the rate coefficient values for cumulated dienes reaction with ·OH are very similar to those of the corresponding mono-alkene by replacing the C=C=C with a single C=C.<sup>40</sup> Therefore, the second adjacent C=C bond probably has a strong interaction on the “tradition” C=C bond, which needs further research.

It is, however, of interest to ascertain other factors to affect the reactivity of acyclic dienes toward ·OH. The number of available sites for ·OH addition directly relates to the alkene's reactivity. For instance, 1-hexene has two reaction sites, while 1,4-hexadiene has four sites, making 1,4-hexadiene more than twice as reactive as 1-hexene.<sup>37</sup> Although cumulated dienes have two C=C bonds, they can only provide up to three addition sites, which may be why 1,2-pentadiene has a lower rate coefficient than 1,3-pentadiene and 1,4-pentadiene for reacting with ·OH. Additionally, studies have shown that more alkyl substitutions on the C=C bond would increase the ·OH addition reactivity of alkene.<sup>40,46</sup> For example,  $k_{3\text{M13PD}+\text{OH}} > k_{1,3\text{-pentadiene}+\text{OH}} > k_{1,3\text{-butadiene}+\text{OH}}$ , with increasing numbers of −CH<sub>3</sub> group from 1,3-butadiene (C=C-C=C), 1,3-pentadiene (C=C-C=C-C), to 3-methyl-1,3-pentadiene (C=C-C-C(C)=C-C). We categorized the rate coefficient values for acyclic dienes into three base structures: C=C=C, C=C-C=C, and C=C-(C)<sub>n</sub>-C=C. Fig. 4 illustrates the relationship between the rate coefficients of acyclic dienes' reaction with ·OH and the number of

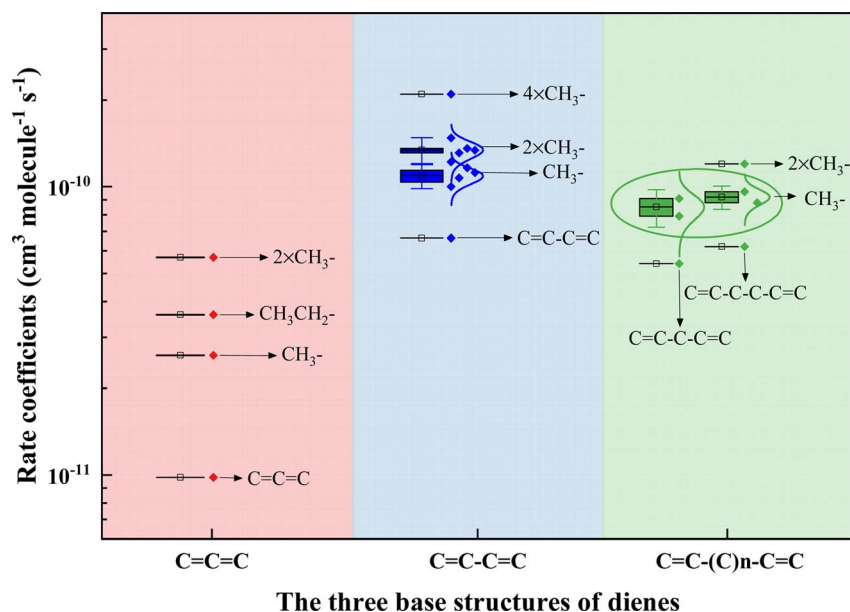


Fig. 4 Plot of the relationship between the rate coefficients of dienes reacting with the OH radical and the number of alkyl groups on the acyclic diene. The rate coefficient values for acyclic dienes have been categorized into three base structures:  $C=C=C$ ,  $C=C-C=C$ , and  $C=C-(C)_n-C=C$ , based on information from this study and existing literature.<sup>39,63</sup>

alkyl groups on the acyclic diene (see detail in Table S4†). It shows that the more alkyl groups attached to the  $C=C$  bond, the higher the  $\cdot OH$  addition reactivity of the acyclic diene, with the  $-CH_3$  group having a stronger effect than  $-CH_2CH_3$ . The effect of alkyl groups is to increase the electron density in the adjacent double bond, lowering the ionization energy and thus increasing the reactivity with  $\cdot OH$ .<sup>46</sup>

Applying the relations found here, we could predict the rate coefficients ( $k_{pred}$ ) of conjugated diene and isolated diene reaction with  $\cdot OH$  by summing up the rate coefficients ( $k_{cal}$ ) of corresponding mono-alkene that we derived by converting one  $C=C$  bond to a  $C-C$  bond, *e.g.*, 1,4-hexadiene  $\rightarrow$  1-hexene + 2-hexene (see detail in Table S3†). We plotted the rate coefficients of the dienes reaction with  $\cdot OH$  ( $k_{exp}$ ) as a function of the sum of

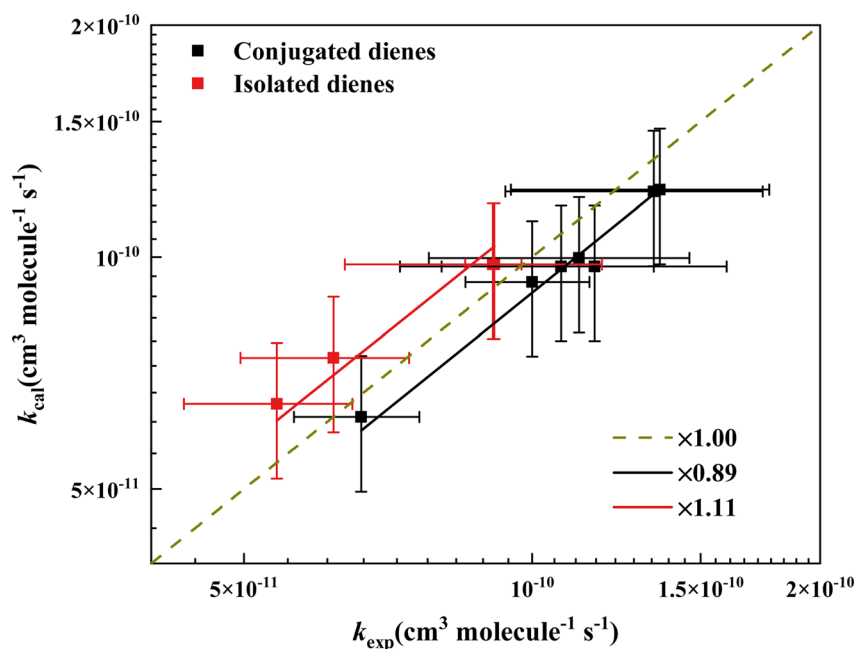


Fig. 5 Comparison of the calculated and experimental rate coefficients for reaction of  $\cdot OH$  with acyclic dienes. The black and red squares represent conjugated and isolated dienes. The brown dashed line shows the 1 : 1 line. The black and red solid lines indicate the correction factors of 0.89 and 1.11 for predicting the rate coefficients of conjugated and isolated dienes reaction with  $\cdot OH$ .

corresponding mono-alkenes ( $k_{\text{cal}}$ ) in Fig. 5. The plot clearly shows that the slopes of conjugated dienes and isolated dienes are 0.89 and 1.11, respectively. Therefore, we believe that a factor should be multiplied to the sum to obtain an accurate rate coefficient estimate. The factor for conjugated diene and isolated diene is the slope obtained from Fig. 5. The effect of the relative positions of the two C=C bonds of a diene on its energy barrier and reactivity can also be demonstrated intuitively by the factor. For example, the factor for conjugated diene is 0.89 (<1), meaning  $k_{\text{exp}} > k_{\text{cal}}$ , which indicates a possible positive effect between the two C=C bonds of the conjugated diene. On the contrary, the effect may be negative. This result is also in agreement with our earlier discussion of the reactivity of the three species of dienes.

For cumulated dienes estimate, their reaction rate coefficients are in excellent agreement with those of the corresponding mono-alkene (within 1.2 times difference) by treating C=C=C as a single “traditional” C=C bond, as suggested by Calvert in 2000.<sup>40</sup> In summary, the agreement between the SAR predictions and the experimental value is very excellent, with an average deviation of less than 8%.

## 5 Conclusions

Studies of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  attack on diverse dienes are still rare, with most interest centering on the isoprene, 1,3-butadiene. In this work, rate coefficients for three kinds of acyclic dienes including conjugated, isolated, and cumulated, accordingly, 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD reaction of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  were measured in the temperature range of 273–318 K and 1 atm using the relative rate method. At  $298 \pm 3$  K, we discovered that the rate coefficients for those reactions were  $k_{3\text{M13PD}+\text{OH}} = (15.09 \pm 0.72) \times 10^{-11}$ ,  $k_{14\text{HD}+\text{OH}} = (9.13 \pm 0.62) \times 10^{-11}$ ,  $k_{12\text{PD}+\text{OH}} = (3.34 \pm 0.40) \times 10^{-11}$  (units of  $\text{cm}^3$  per molecule per s). These values are in excellent agreement with the only previously reported value. Based on these rates, we calculated the lifetime of 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD to be 1.84 h, 3.04 h, and 8.32 h, respectively, due to their reaction with  $\cdot\text{OH}$ . This study also provides the first temperature dependence of the reaction of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  with 3M13PD, 14HD, and 12PD. The temperature dependence can be expressed by the following Arrhenius expressions in units of  $\text{cm}^3$  per molecule per s:

$$k_{3\text{M13PD}+\text{OH}} = (8.10 \pm 2.23) \times 10^{-11} \exp[(173 \pm 71)/T]$$

$$k_{14\text{HD}+\text{OH}} = (9.82 \pm 5.10) \times 10^{-12} \exp[(666 \pm 123)/T]$$

$$k_{12\text{PD}+\text{OH}} = (1.13 \pm 0.87) \times 10^{-12} \exp[(1038 \pm 167)/T]$$

This kinetic measurement over an extended temperature range of 298 K provides new insights into the reactivity of the acyclic dienes functional group. The OH addition reactivity order of conjugated diene > isolated diene > cumulated diene is observed, which suggests that the relative position of two C=C on the acyclic dienes could determine its reactivity. The number and type of alkyl group and the number of addition sites on

diene could also strongly affect its reactivity. The more alkyl substituents on the C=C bond, the faster the reaction rate coefficient is. Following the reactivity discussion, we proposed that the rate coefficients of conjugated diene and isolated diene reaction with  $\cdot\text{OH}$  could be calculated from a simple SAR method by summing up the rate coefficients of corresponding mono-alkenes and multiplying a correction factor. The present SAR method has the advantage of being easy to compute without the need for complex parameters. Our work provides a simple idea to estimate the reaction coefficients of dienes or poly-alkenes with  $\cdot\text{OH}$ . We must state that the SAR proposed in this paper are reasonably reliable (within <8% of the experimental values) when used within the database used in its derivation, but the reliability of the method may not be guaranteed when extrapolated to dienes outside of this database. Therefore, we will continue to validate this estimation technique in future studies.

## Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

## Acknowledgements

This research was supported by the National Key R&D Program of China (No. 2022YFC3701100), National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 21976106), funding of youth scientist from Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences – Chinese Academy of Sciences (RCEES-CAS), One Hundred Person Project of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Science Fund Program for Distinguished Young Scholars of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Overseas).

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