

Synthesis, Molecular Structure, HOMO-LUMO and Spectroscopic Investigation of (*E*)-1-(2,4-Dichloro-5-fluorophenyl)-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one: A DFT Based Computational Exploration

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ABSTRACT

In present study, the synthesis, molecular structure, HOMO-LUMO and spectroscopic investigation of (*E*)-1-(2,4-dichloro-5-fluorophenyl)-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (CFPCP) is reported. The structure of the title compound was affirmed based on FTIR, ¹H NMR & ¹³C NMR spectroscopic techniques. The computational examination has been performed by employing density functional theory (DFT) method at B3LYP/6-311G++(d,p) basis set. The geometry of the title molecule has been optimized and established at the same level of theory. The various structural and quantum chemical parameters have been investigated for the title molecule at the 6-311G++(d,p) basis set. To explore the electron distribution, Mulliken atomic charges and molecular electrostatic potential surface are discussed. Besides, vibrational assignments were made and the scaled frequencies have been compared with the experimental frequencies. For the investigation of the absorption wavelength, excitation energy and the oscillator strength TD-DFT method using B3LYP/6-311G++(d,p) basis set is used. Some thermochemical functions have also been investigated using harmonic vibrational frequencies.

KEYWORDS

(*E*)-1-(2,4-Dichloro-5-fluorophenyl)-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one, DFT, 6-311++G(d,p), FMO.

INTRODUCTION

Chalcones serve as versatile intermediates for the synthesis of a variety of heterocyclic compounds with the diverse pattern of pharmacological properties [1-4]. The chalcone route is the most common to synthesize vital pharmacological motifs like pyrazolines [5], benzodiazepines [6], benzothiazepines [7], pyrimidines [8], etc. Natural as well as synthetic chalcone and their analogs exhibit an excellent variety of pharmacological and biological impacts [9-14]. They are found to demonstrate significant anticancer [15], antimycobacterial [16], antibacterial [17], antifungal [18], antiviral [19,20], anti-inflammatory [21], antitumour [22], antihypertensive [23,24], antioxidant [25-27] and anticonvulsant properties [28]. Importantly, the halogen bearing chalcones have been studied as pharmaco-

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logically potent molecules [29,30]. Halogen bearing chalcones have been found display medicinal applications like modulators of multidrug resistance, antimicrobial agents, antidiabetic, antiproliferative, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anticancer and analgesic properties [31-37].

The role of green chemistry and its applications in organic synthesis has seen a tremendous rise in the past few years [38-40]. Many methodologies have been accounted for the synthesis of chalcones. However, still, the most simple and common reaction method for the synthesis of chalcone is Claisen-Schmidt condensation between an aromatic ketone and aromatic aldehyde. The methods like microwave and ultrasound irradiation are also adequate in terms of yield, time and purity. Theoretical chemistry is a great tool for the study of many molecular properties [41-45]. Along with this, the study on spectral properties has become easy access due to the theoretical calculations [46-57]. The DFT has been used for the investigation of many vital aspects in the past decade. The crucial facets like geometrical entities, reactivity positions, reaction pathways and study on spectral properties are the most studied *via* DFT computations. By looking at these crucial aspects discussed above, we wish to report the synthesis of the title compound, its structural and spectroscopic exploration by using DFT at B3LYP/6-311++G (d,p) basis set. The properties like bond length, bond angle, HOMO-LUMO energies and thermochemical functions have been discussed in the present research.

EXPERIMENTAL

All chemicals and solvents were purchased from Sigma laboratory, Nashik (Sigma-Aldrich, SD Fine chemicals and Avra Synthesis). Melting points were determined in open capillaries and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on the Shimadzu-FTIR spectrophotometer using KBr pellets. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR were recorded on BRUKER ADVANCE III HD NMR 500 MHz instrument. The progress of the reactions was monitored by TLC on Merck silica plates. All the apparatus were washed and dried in an oven before use.

Synthesis of the title compound: Previously reported [24] ultrasound method has been employed for the synthesis of the title compound CFPCP (**Scheme-I**). In a typical synthesis, 1-(2,4-dichloro-5-fluorophenyl)ethan-1-one (0.01 mol), 2,6-dichlorobenzaldehyde (0.01 mol) were mixed in a conical flask containing ethanol solvent. To this reaction mixture, 2 mL of 40% NaOH was added and the resulting mixture was exposed to ultrasound irradiation until formation of the title compound (checked by TLC). The contents of the flask were poured into the beaker containing crushed ice and acidified by using dilute HCl. The resulting crude product was filtered, dried and recrystallized to furnish white colour product. The structure

of the title compound was confirmed based on FT-IR, PMR and CMR spectroscopic analysis.

Computational investigation: DFT calculations were performed using Gaussian-03(W) program package without any constraint on the geometry [58]. The geometry of the CFPCP molecule is optimized by DFT method using a 6-311G++(d,p) basis set. The FMO analysis and quantum chemical study have been performed using the same basis set. Molecular electrostatic surface potential (MESP) was computed using the same method. All the calculations were carried out for the optimized structure in the gas phase.

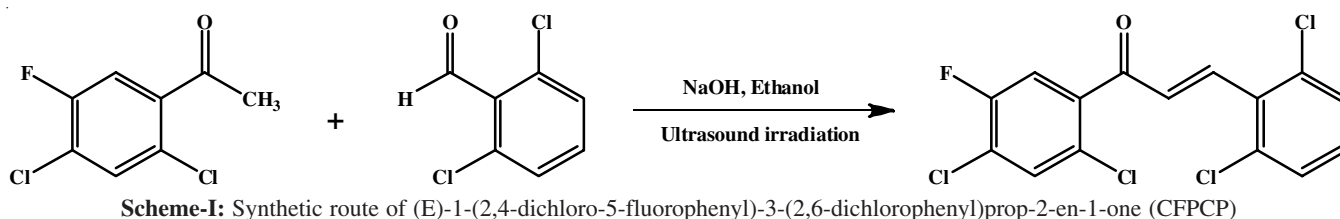
Spectral data: FT-IR (KBr, ν_{max} , cm^{-1}): 3062.96, 2916.37, 1666.50, 1581.63, 1489.05, 1350.17, 1234.44, 1087.85, 823.25, 763.81, 694.37; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ ppm): 7.23 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.54 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ ppm): 117.53, 117.72, 124.54, 124.69, 127.16, 127.19, 128.98, 130.46, 131.67, 132.16, 132.84, 135.31, 138.09, 138.13, 140.14, 155.80, 157.81, 190.74.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The title compound (CFPCP) is synthesized by ultrasound method and characterized by FT-IR, ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic methods. The presence of the IR absorption peak at 1666.50 cm^{-1} affirms the presence of a conjugated ketone carbonyl group. The other two important IR signals at 1581.63 cm^{-1} and 1489.05 cm^{-1} are acquired due to double bond stretching vibrations. Other signals are also in good agreement with the structure of the title compound. In ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic methods also, the signals have appeared as expected. The very important coupling constant value, $J = 16.5$ Hz suggests *trans*-stereochemistry around the olefinic double bond.

Molecular structure, bond length, bond angle study:

The optimized molecular structure of the CFPCP molecule is shown in Fig. 1 while the optimized molecular structure of the title molecule along x, y, and z Cartesian axes is depicted in Fig. 2. The optimized structural arrangement indicates the structure has overall non-planarity of the rings. However, individual rings are planar. The dipole moment of the title molecule is 4.48 Debye which indicates a molecule is highly polar. This is ascribed to the presence of the halogen substituents in the molecule. The geometrical parameters of the title molecule obtained using the DFT method at 6-311++G(d,p) basis set are presented in Tables 1 and 2. The carbonyl bond is 1.2173 \AA and the alkene double bond is 1.3419 \AA long. These values are ideally matching with the structural framework. The C10-C12-C14 has a bond angle value of 118.7508° whereas C8-C10-C12 is 118.9965° . The important dihedral bond angle is H9-C8-C10-H11 and it



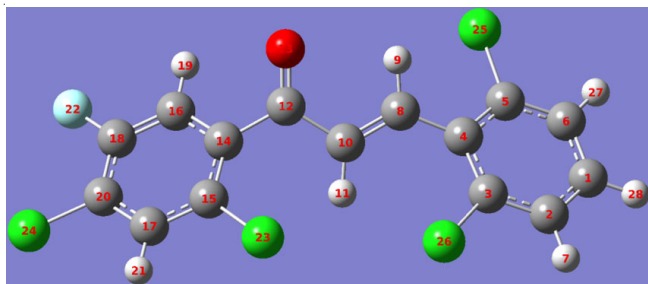


Fig. 1. Optimized molecular structure of the title molecule at B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) basis set

TABLE-1 OPTIMIZED BOND LENGTHS OF THE TITLE MOLECULE AT B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) BASIS			
Bond lengths (Å)			
C1-C2	1.3889	C10-C12	1.4860
C1-C6	1.3895	C12-O13	1.2173
C1-H28	1.0833	C12-C14	1.5126
C2-C3	1.3901	C14-C15	1.4002
C2-H7	1.0816	C14-C16	1.4001
C3-C4	1.4113	C15-C17	1.3918
C3-C1	1.7569	C15-C123	1.7577
C4-C5	1.4134	C16-C18	1.3804
C4-C8	1.4672	C16-H19	1.0823
C5-C6	1.3874	C17-C20	1.3889
C5-C125	1.7583	C17-H21	1.0810
C6-H27	1.0816	C18-C20	1.3941
C8-H9	1.0855	C18-F22	1.3396
C8-C10	1.3419	C20-C124	1.7406
C10-H11	1.0798	—	—

TABLE-2 OPTIMIZED BOND ANGLES OF THE TITLE MOLECULE AT B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) BASIS			
Bond angles (°)			
C2-C1-C6	120.0764	H11-C10-C12	118.4636
C2-C1-H28	119.9321	C10-C12-O13	122.3955
C6-C1-H28	119.9907	C10-C12-C14	118.7508
C1-C2-C3	119.8497	O13-C12-C14	118.6141
C1-C2-H7	120.8845	C12-C14-C15	126.6034
C3-C2-H7	119.2639	C12-C14-C16	115.6180
C2-C3-C4	122.3980	C15-C14-C16	117.7583
C2-C3-C126	116.2359	C14-C15-C17	121.3406
C4-C3-C2	121.3198	C14-C15-C123	121.7384
C3-C4-C5	115.3571	C17-C15-C123	116.8131
C3-C4-C8	125.4558	C14-C16-C18	121.0705
C5-C4-C8	119.1576	C14-C16-H19	119.4272
C4-C5-C6	123.0698	C18-C16-H19	119.5022
C4-C5-C125	119.7857	C15-C17-C20	119.8733
C6-C5-C125	117.1273	C15-C17-H21	120.2751
C1-C6-C5	119.2425	C20-C17-H21	119.8473
C1-C6-H27	121.1457	C16-C18-C20	120.5624
C5-C6-H27	119.6114	C16-C18-F22	119.5882
C4-C8-H9	115.5807	C20-C18-F22	119.8491
C4-C8-C10	128.2938	C17-C20-C18	119.3498
H9-C8-C10	116.0382	C17-C20-C124	120.4812
C8-C10-H11	122.4118	C18-C20-C124	120.1655
C8-C10-C12	118.9965	—	—

is 176.4171°. The other important dihedral bond angles are O13-C12-C14-C16 (39.0386°), C8-C10-C12-O13 (1.6161°), C3-C4-C8-C10 (40.2228°) and C5-C4-C8-C10 (141.8489°). The other bond lengths, bond angles and dihedral bond angles

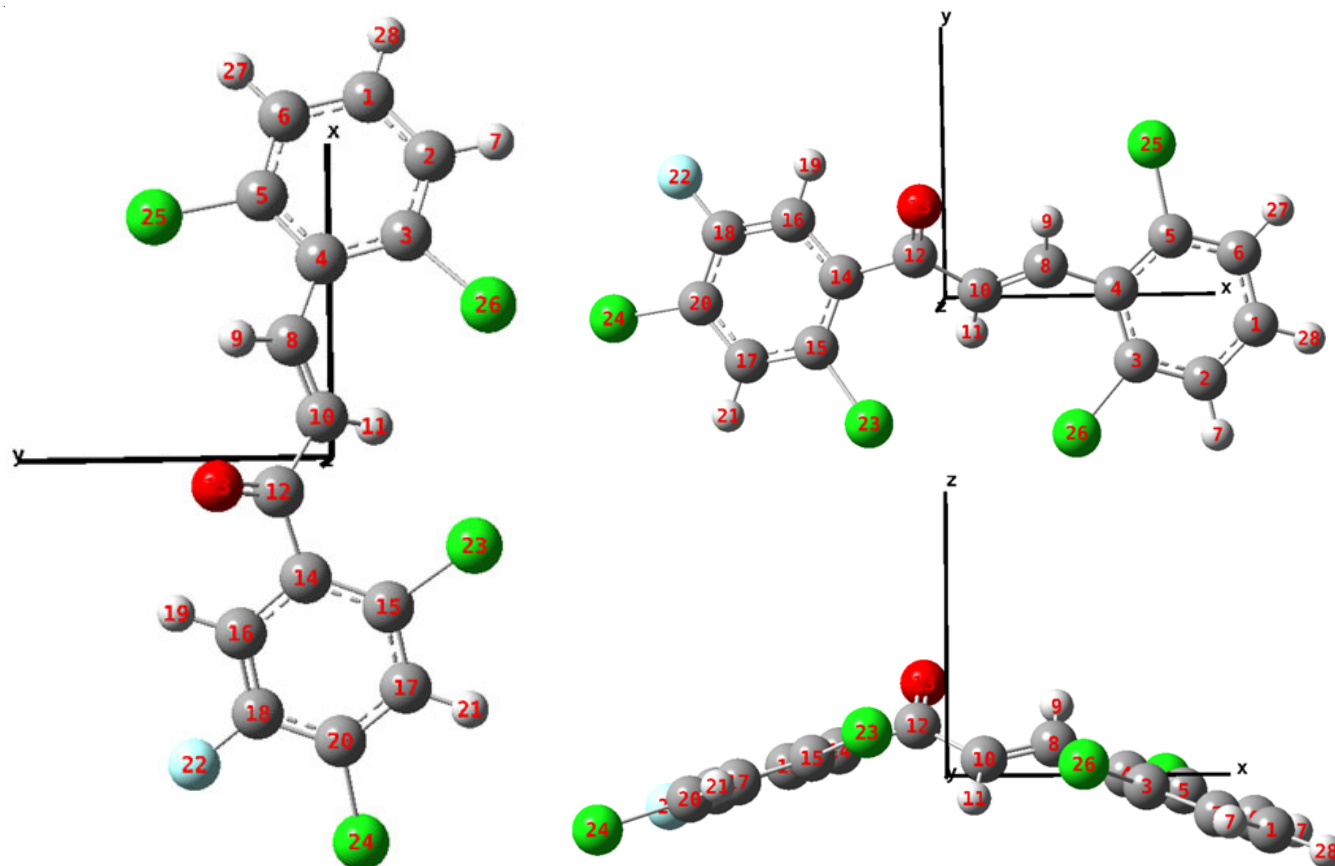


Fig. 2. Optimized molecular structure of the title molecule along x, y and z axes

are also in good agreement and matches with the optimized structure of the title compound.

Mulliken atomic charges and molecular electrostatic surface potential analysis: The Mulliken atomic charges and molecular electrostatic surface potential analysis of CFPCP are given in Figs. 3 and 4, respectively. The Mulliken atomic charges are also given in Table-3. The H9 (0.164671) hydrogen atom is the most electropositive amongst all hydrogen atoms present in the title compound. This effect is due to the proximity of the carbonyl oxygen near the H9 hydrogen atom. On the other hand, the most electropositive carbon atom is C18 (0.374579). MESP analysis provides information regarding the chemical reactivity sites. The MESP suggests that the title compound is highly susceptible to nucleophilic attack and therefore will undergo attack nucleophile rather than electrophilic attacks. As per MESP, the positive potential is around hydrogen atoms. The enone system is prone to nucleophilic addition reactions.

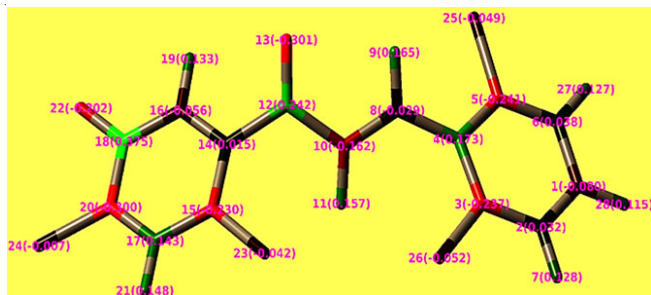


Fig. 3. Mulliken atomic charges of the title molecule at B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) basis set

Frontier molecular orbital investigation: The investigations of frontier molecular orbitals of CFPCP are discussed. The HOMO and LUMO orbitals of the title compound are presented in Fig. 5. The HOMO energy decides the nucleophilic power and the LUMO energy decides the electrophilic. The energy gap is a vital aspect to decide the chemical reactivity of the molecules. It also provides information about the charge transfer phenomenon. The HOMO-LUMO energies also provide the idea of various quantum chemical parameters. The HOMO-LUMO energy gap in the title compound is 4.28 eV. The absorption wavelength for the first singlet excitation of the electron is 371.10 nm with excitation energy 3.3410 eV and the oscillator strength, $f = 0.0322$. The maximum charge

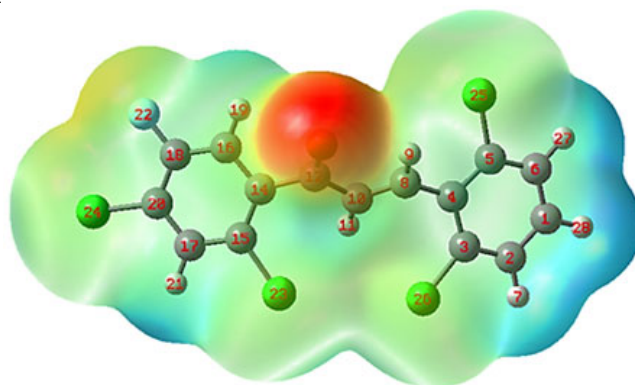


Fig. 4. MEP of the title molecule at B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) basis set

TABLE-3
MULLIKEN ATOMIC CHARGES

Atom	Charge	Atom	Charge
1 C	-0.080315	15 C	-0.230456
2 C	0.032288	16 C	-0.056269
3 C	-0.236714	17 C	0.142599
4 C	0.173171	18 C	0.374579
5 C	-0.240704	19 H	0.132708
6 C	0.038263	20 C	-0.299967
7 H	0.127664	21 H	0.147716
8 C	-0.029308	22 F	-0.202221
9 H	0.164671	23 Cl	-0.042273
10 C	-0.161803	24 Cl	-0.007462
11 H	0.157486	25 Cl	-0.048797
12 C	0.241790	26 Cl	-0.051815
13 O	-0.301362	27 H	0.126877
14 C	0.015021	28 H	0.114631

transfer value is 2.37. The absolute hardness value is 2.14 eV and the global softness 0.47 eV. The global electrophilicity index is 6.00 eV which indicates the molecule CFPCP is highly electrophilic.

Vibrational assignments and thermochemical properties: The theoretical and experimental IR spectra are presented in Figs. 6, respectively. The title molecule CFPCP contains 28 atoms and therefore 78 fundamental modes of vibrations. The molecule is non-linear and thus $3N-6$ formula is applied to deduce the total fundamental modes of vibrations. The selected vibrational assignments were made and presented in Table-4. The DFT computations overestimate the computed IR frequencies and therefore they are scaled by the 0.96 scaling factor [46]. In present study, a good agreement between the

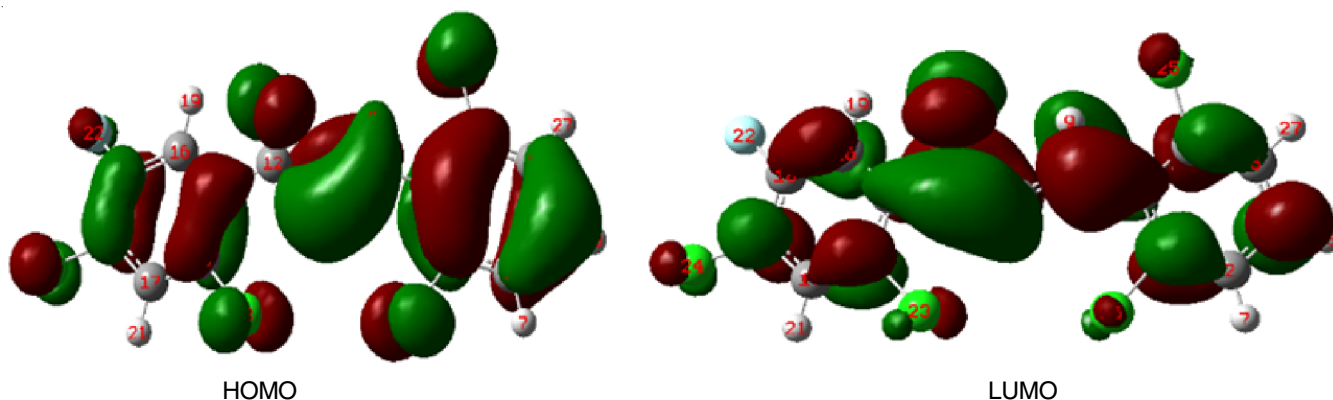


Fig. 5. HOMO-LUMO pictures of the title molecule at B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) basis set

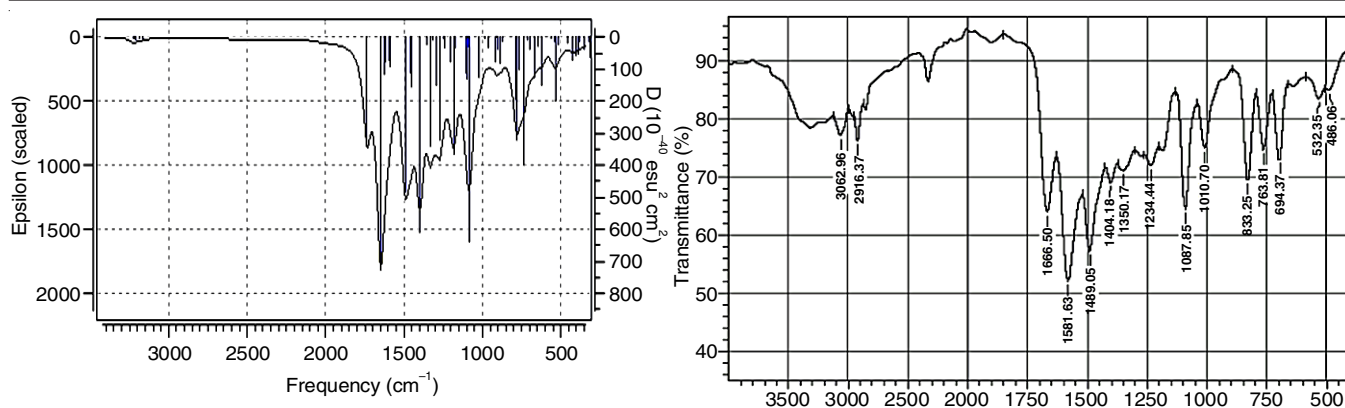


Fig. 6. Theoretical and the experimental IR spectra of (*E*)-1-(2,4-dichloro-5-fluorophenyl)-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (CFPCP)

TABLE-4
SELECTED EXPERIMENTAL AND THEORETICAL VIBRATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS
OF THE TITLE MOLECULE CALCULATED AT 6-311++ G(d,p) LEVEL

Mode	Computed scaled frequencies (cm ⁻¹)	IR intensity (km (mol ⁻¹))	Observed frequencies (cm ⁻¹)	Assignments
78	3098.10	1.16	–	ν C10-H
74	0	0.19	–	asym C2-H-C6-H
73	3058.95	2.59	3062.96	ν C1-H + sym C2-H-C6-H
71	1665.89	136.24	1666.50	ν C=O
70	1584.16	300.72	1581.63	ν C=C (alkene)
66	1525.01	35.85	1489.05	ν C=C (ring B)
62	1342.35	213.66	1350.17	ν C=C (ring A)
58	1240.63	47.94	1234.44	def (ring B)
51	1058.17	30.44	1087.85	β C2-H + β C6-H + β C16-H
47	978.70	31.66	–	γ C8-H + γ C10-H
40	838.57	3.01	823.25	β C17-H
39	755.63	37.87	763.81	def (ring A) + def (ring B)
35	704.95	73.65	694.37	def (ring A)

ν-stretching; sym-symmetric; asym-asymmetric; def-deformation; β-In-plane bending; γ-out of plane bending

theoretical and experimental absorption frequencies is found. Thus, the correct assignment of vibrational frequencies has been made. The thermochemical data are given in Table-5. The important thermodynamic functions such as total energy (E_{thermal}), total heat capacity (C_v) and total entropy is discussed. The title molecule has 151.146 cal/mol-Kelvin entropy which indicates the total degree of freedom in the title compound. Based on the thermodynamic data, other important thermochemical data could be derived by using suitable thermodynamic relationships.

TABLE-5
THERMOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES

	E (thermal) (Kcal/mol)	C_v (cal/mol Kelvin)	S (cal/mol Kelvin)
Total	122.908	69.302	151.146
Translational	0.889	2.98	43.552
Rotational	0.889	2.981	35.777
Vibrational	121.131	63.340	71.817

Conclusions

In the present work, DFT/B3LYP method at 6-311++G(d,p) basis set has been used for the exploration of various important structural, electronic and quantum chemical parameters of (*E*)-1-(2,4-dichloro-5-fluorophenyl)-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (CFPCP) molecule. The results are summarized below:

- The title compound was synthesized and its structure of was affirmed based on Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H NMR) and carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (¹³C NMR) spectroscopic techniques.

- The geometry of the CFPCP molecule was optimized by DFT/B3LYP method at 6-311++G(d,p) basis set and established at the same level of theory. The various structural and quantum chemical parameters have been investigated for the title molecule at the 6-311G++(d,p) basis set.

- To explore the electron distribution, Mulliken atomic charges and molecular electrostatic potential surfaces are discussed. The study revealed that the title molecule is electrophilic and more prone to nucleophilic attacks.

- The vibrational assignments were made and the scaled frequencies have been compared with the experimental frequencies. A good agreement between the theoretical and experimental IR frequencies was found.

- Some significant thermochemical functions are explored using harmonic vibrational frequencies. This data is valuable for the further assessment of the thermodynamic functions.

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