Synchrotron Photoionization Studies of Reaction Products and Intermediates of Biofuel Molecules Combustion

Giovanni Meloni, Department of Chemistry, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA 94117

The experiments are carried out using a novel combination of a side-sampled slow flow reactor and flash photolysis initiation of reactions coupled with a time- and energy-resolved time-of-flight mass spectrometer.

The branched C₅ alcohol isopentanol (3-methylbutan-1-ol) has been investigated in low-pressure (8 Torr) experiments in the 550–750 K temperature range. The mass-spectrometric experiments reveal a rich chemistry for the initial steps of isopentanol oxidation and give new insight into the low-temperature oxidation mechanism of medium-chain alcohols.