Energetic and Structural Studies of Two Biomass-Derived Compounds: 6- and 7-hydroxy-1-indanones

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Featured Application: This is a contribution for enlarging the thermodynamic database of organic compounds and ketone derivatives. These data are very relevant to controlling experimental investigations to produce value-added chemical products from biomass. Moreover, the knowledge from such data can be used in the development of schemes for the prediction of homologous properties of related compounds, in particular, modeling studies for the prediction of bio-oil composition.

Abstract: The energetic study of 6-hydroxy-1-indanone and 7-hydroxy-1-indanone was performed using experimental techniques and computational calculations. The enthalpies of combustion and sublimation of the two compounds were determined and allowed to derive the corresponding gas-phase standard molar enthalpies of formation. For this purpose, static-bomb combustion calorimetry and drop-method Calvet microcalorimetry were the experimental techniques used. Further, the enthalpy of fusion of each compound was obtained from scanning differential calorimetry measurements. Additionally, the gas-phase standard molar enthalpies of formation of these compounds were calculated through high-level ab initio calculations. The computational study of the molecular structures of the indanones was carried out and two possible conformers were observed for 6-hydroxy-1-indanone. Furthermore, the energetic effects associated with the presence of one hydroxyl group as a substituent on the benzenic ring of 1-indanone were also evaluated. Both experimental and theoretical methods show that 7-hydroxy-1-indanone is thermodynamically more stable than the 6-isomer in the gaseous phase and these results provide evidence for the existence of a strong intramolecular H-bond in 7-hydroxy-1-indanone. Finally, the intramolecular proton transfer in 7-hydroxy-1-indanone has been evaluated and as expected, it is not energetically favorable.

1. Introduction

Accurate data about thermochemical and thermophysical properties of biomass-derived compounds are essential for the evaluation of the corresponding chemical behavior. These data are very relevant when controlling experimental investigations to produce value-added chemical products from biomass. Moreover, data can be used in the development of schemes for the prediction of the homologous properties of related compounds [1,2], in particular, modeling studies for the prediction of bio-oil composition [3]. In this context, our research group has been involved in an extensive experimental and theoretical thermodynamic study on key biomass-derived compounds, namely, vanillyl alcohol [1], levoglucosan [4], cellulose allomorphs [5], α-D-xylose [6], and more

recently, cyclopentenones [7], indanones [2], and other classes of relevant compounds extracted from biomass.

The purpose of this study is to contribute to enlarging the thermodynamic database of this class of compounds, as well as to establish some energy-structure relationships for the prediction of the same properties and to evaluate their reactivity. Thus, we present a detailed experimental and computational study on the energetics of the 6- and 7-hydroxy-1-indanone, whose structural formulae are depicted in Figure 1. The experimental data are determined from calorimetric measurements focusing on the determination of the standard molar enthalpy of formation in the gaseous phase, an essential thermodynamic parameter associated with molecular energy. This property was also obtained by G3(MP2)//B3LYP calculations, using several working reactions. This composite method was also used to perform a conformational analysis of the studied compounds. In addition, we addressed the energetic effects associated with the presence of a hydroxyl group on the core of the benzenic ring of 1-indanone, and the hydrogen bond network was also evaluated.
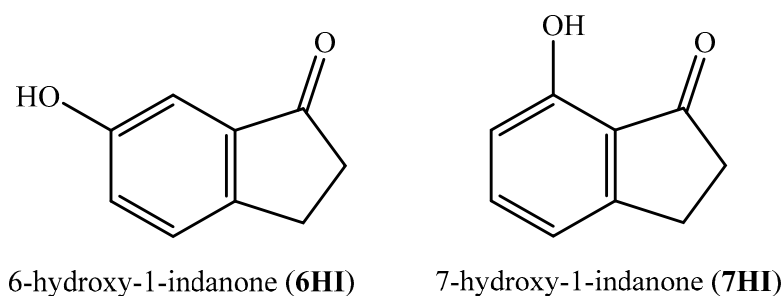

6-hydroxy-1-indanone (**6HI**)   7-hydroxy-1-indanone (**7HI**)

Figure 1. Structural formulae of the compounds studied.

In the literature, several studies have been conducted involving 7-hydroxi-1-indanone [8–10], since it is a prototype in the excited-state intramolecular proton transfer process (ESIPT, Figure 2). These important characteristics of 7-hydroxi-1-indanone and its derivatives confer several applications, namely, as laser dyes, probe sensors, and molecular devices [11,12]. Thus, in this study, the gas-phase intramolecular proton transfer process of 7-hydroxy-1-indanone was evaluated.
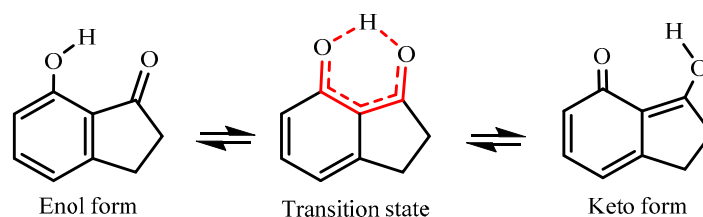

Enol form   Transition state   Keto form

Figure 2. Diagram for the structures of 7HI and the excited-state intramolecular proton transfer (ESIPT) process between the normal form and its tautomer.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Materials

6-Hydroxy-1-indanone (**6HI**, CAS No. 62803-47-8) and 7-hydroxy-1-indanone (**7HI**, CAS No. 6968-35-0) were obtained commercially. The samples were analyzed by a gas chromatography-flame ionization detector (Agilent 4890D) with a capillary column HP-5. For **7HI**, no purification process was applied due to the high purity of the commercial sample. For **6HI**, sublimation under reduced pressure was the purification method used in this study. The results obtained after the combustion experiments, particularly the carbon dioxide recovery ratios, were consistent with the high purity of the samples (Tables S1 and S2, Supplementary Materials).

2.2. Methods

2.2.1. Differential Scanning Calorimetry

The heat-flux DSC instrument (differential scanning calorimeter, Hitachi-DSC7020) was used to study the thermal behavior of each compound. It determined the respective onset temperature and enthalpy of fusion.

The samples (1 to 4 mg) were hermetically sealed in aluminum crucibles. Five independent runs in a flowing nitrogen atmosphere were performed, using a heating rate of 0.033 K s^{-1}, from T ≈ 298 K to a temperature approximately 20 K above the temperature of fusion.

The temperature and power scales of the apparatus were calibrated under the same conditions as the experimental determinations by using the onset and the area, respectively, of the fusion peaks of the recommended standard materials [13]: indium (Sigma-Aldrich, mass fraction > 0.99999), tin (Sigma-Aldrich, mass fraction > 0.99999), and benzoic acid (NIST SRM 39j).

2.2.2. Combustion Calorimetry

The standard ($p° = 0.1$ MPa) massic energies of combustion of the compounds studied were measured using a static-bomb combustion calorimeter. The twin-valve bomb (type 1108, Parr Instrument Company, Moline, IL, USA) with an internal volume of 0.342 dm^3 was used. The apparatus and technique have been previously described [14,15].

For each compound, the standard massic energy of combustion, $\Delta_c u°$, was calculated by a similar procedure to that developed by Hubbard et al. [16,17]. Further details about the experimental procedure are provided in Supplementary Materials.

2.2.3. Calvet Microcalorimetry

The enthalpy of sublimation of the two indanone derivatives was measured on a high-temperature Calvet microcalorimeter (Setaram HT 1000), using the "vacuum sublimation" drop method described by Skinner et al. [18]. The details of the apparatus and the technique were previously reported [19]. Samples of ~5 mg were dropped, simultaneously with the corresponding blank tube, at a known room temperature (T~298.15 K), into the reaction vessel of the microcalorimeter (at $T = 417$ K for **6HI** and $T = 375$ K for **7HI**). After thermal equilibrium was achieved, the sample was removed from the cell by vacuum sublimation. A correction, k, to the internal calibration constant of the calorimeter was obtained as the average of six independent experiments with anthracene, at $T = 417$ K, $k = (1.044 \pm 0.005)$. Six calibration experiments were made with naphthalene, at $T = 375$ K, obtaining $k = (1.020 \pm 0.005)$.

2.2.4. Computational Approach

The standard ab initio molecular orbital calculations for the compounds studied were performed using the composite G3(MP2)//B3LYP method [20] and the Gaussian 03 series of programs [21]. The geometry optimization of molecules is obtained from B3LYP density functional theory (B3LYP/6-31G(d)). Further information related with this method is reported in literature [20].

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Temperatures and Enthalpies of Fusion

The mean values of the temperature and enthalpy of fusion obtained from the DSC study for the solids **6HI** and **7HI** are presented in Table 1, as well as the available values from the literature with respect to the melting temperature of the compounds studied. The assigned uncertainties are twice the standard error of the mean of five independent runs and include the standard uncertainties allocated to the calibration results. No phase transitions were detected in the crystalline phase, between $T = 298$ K and the temperature of fusion of each compound.

Table 1. Mean values of the temperature and enthalpy of fusion obtained from the DSC study for the indanones studied.

Compound	T_{fus}(exp.)/K	T_{fus}(lit.)/K	$\Delta_{cr}^{l}H_{m}^{\circ}(T_{fus})$/kJ·mol^{-1}
6HI	426.8 ± 0.9	430.0 [a]	21.7 ± 1.0
7HI	382.8 ± 0.8	384.8 [a]	25.6 ± 0.5

[a] Values referred to in the certificate of analysis of the manufacturer.

3.2. Enthalpies of Formation in the Crystalline Phase

Results of all the combustion experiments and the individual values of the massic energy of combustion, $\Delta_c u^{\circ}$, with the mean value and the corresponding standard deviation of the mean, for the compounds studied, are given in Supplementary Materials (Tables S1 and S2).

The internal energy for the isothermal bomb process, ΔU(IBP), was calculated through Equation (1), where Δm(H_2O) is the deviation of the mass of water added to the calorimeter from 3119.6 g, ΔT_{ad} is the corrected temperature rise obtained in each experiment, ε_f is the energy equivalent of contents in the final state, and ΔU(ign) is the electrical energy for ignition.

$$\Delta U(\text{IBP}) = -\{\varepsilon_{cal} + C_p(\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{l}) \cdot \Delta m(\text{H}_2\text{O}) + \varepsilon_f\}\,\Delta T_{ad} + \Delta U(\text{ign}) \tag{1}$$

The standard massic energies of combustion, $\Delta_c u^{\circ}$, for hydroxyl-indanones refer to the quantitative combustion reaction (2).

$$\text{C}_9\text{H}_8\text{O}_2 \text{ (cr)} + 10\text{O}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 9\text{CO}_2(\text{g}) + 4\text{H}_2\text{O(l)} \tag{2}$$
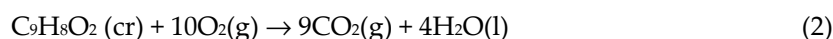
The mean value of the standard (p° = 0.1 MPa) massic energy of combustion of each compound, as well as the derived standard molar internal energy of combustion, $\Delta_c U_m^{\circ}$(cr), and enthalpy of combustion, $\Delta_c H_m^{\circ}$(cr), and the standard molar enthalpy of formation in the crystalline phase, $\Delta_f H_m^{\circ}$(cr), at T = 298.15 K, are reported in Table 2. The uncertainties associated with the standard molar energy and enthalpy of combustion are twice the overall standard deviation of the mean and include the uncertainties in calibration with benzoic acid [22,23]. To derive $\Delta_f H_m^{\circ}$(cr) from $\Delta_c H_m^{\circ}$(cr), the standard molar enthalpies of formation, at T = 298.15 K, were used for H_2O(l), −(285.830 ± 0.040) kJ·mol^{-1} [24] and CO_2(g), −(393.51 ± 0.13) kJ·mol^{-1} [24].

Table 2. Standard ($p° = 0.1$ MPa) massic energy of combustion, $\Delta_c u°(cr)$, molar energy of combustion, $\Delta_c U_m°(cr)$, enthalpy of combustion, $\Delta_c H_m°(cr)$, and enthalpy of formation, $\Delta_f H_m°(cr)$, for the compounds studied, at $T = 298.15$ K [a].

Compound	$\Delta_c u°(cr)/\text{kJ·mol}^{-1}$	$\Delta_c U_m°(cr)/\text{kJ·mol}^{-1}$	$\Delta_c H_m°(cr)/\text{kJ·mol}^{-1}$	$\Delta_f H_m°(cr)/\text{kJ·mol}^{-1}$
6HI	−29211.1 ± 6.8	−4327.9 ± 2.3	−4330.3 ± 2.3	−354.6 ± 2.6
7HI	−29192.6 ± 5.6	−4325.1 ± 2.0	−4327.6 ± 2.0	−357.3 ± 2.3

[a] Uncertainties are twice the overall standard deviation of the mean and include the contributions from the calibration and from the auxiliary materials used.

3.3. Enthalpies of Sublimation

The standard molar enthalpies of sublimation, $\Delta_{\mathrm{cr}}^{\mathrm{g}} H_{\mathrm{m}}^{\circ}$, of indanones were determined by Calvet microcalorimetry. Table 3 presents the results of these experiments. The observed enthalpies of sublimation at the experimental temperature T, $\Delta_{\mathrm{cr,\,298.15\,K}}^{\mathrm{g},\,T} H_{\mathrm{m}}^{\circ}$, were converted to $T = 298.15$ K, $\Delta_{\mathrm{cr}}^{\mathrm{g}} H_{\mathrm{m}}^{\circ}$, through Equation (3), using the enthalpic term $\Delta_{298.15\,K}^{T} H_{\mathrm{m}}^{\circ}(\mathrm{g})$. This enthalpic term is calculated from the gas-phase molar heat capacities, $C_{p,\,\mathrm{m}}^{\circ}$ (g), whose values are derived from statistical thermodynamics using the vibrational frequencies obtained from DFT calculations with the B3LYP functional and the 6-31G(d) basis set (scaled by a factor of 0.9613 [25]). These computed $C_{p,\,\mathrm{m}}^{\circ}$ (g) values in the range of 200–600 K are collected in Tables S3 and S4.

$$\Delta_{298.15\,K}^{T} H_{\mathrm{m}}^{\circ}(\mathrm{g}) = \int_{298.15\,K}^{T} C_{p,\mathrm{m}}^{\circ}(\mathrm{g}) \, \mathrm{d}T \tag{3}$$

Table 3. Standard ($p° = 0.1$ MPa) molar enthalpies of sublimation, $\Delta_{cr}^{g}H_{m}^{\circ}$, at $T = 298.15$ K for the compounds studied, as determined by Calvet microcalorimetry.

Compound	No. Exp.	$T_{exp}/(K)$	$\Delta_{cr, 298.15 K}^{g, T}H_{m}^{\circ}/kJ \cdot mol^{-1}$	$\Delta_{298.15 K}^{T}H_{m}^{\circ}(g)/kJ \cdot mol^{-1}$	$\Delta_{cr}^{g}H_{m}^{\circ}/kJ \cdot mol^{-1}$ [a]
6HI	6	416.87 ± 0.04	136.58 ± 0.52	22.18 ± 0.01	114.4 ± 1.7
7HI	6	375.50 ± 0.05	105.05 ± 0.48	13.39 ± 0.01	91.7 ± 2.0

[a] Uncertainties are twice the overall standard deviation of the mean of six experiments and include the uncertainties in calibration.

3.4. Conformational Analysis

The optimized structures of the most stable conformation of each compound are presented in Figure 3. The geometry optimization was performed at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory. All the conformations are planar existing, and in the case of **6HI**, two possible conformations associated with geometrical changes of the hydroxyl group exist, while for **7HI**, there is only one stable conformer that corresponds to the global minimum energy. The conformational analysis of the hydroxy-1-indanones studied and their corresponding total electronic energy, plus the internal thermal energy, are presented in Table S5.
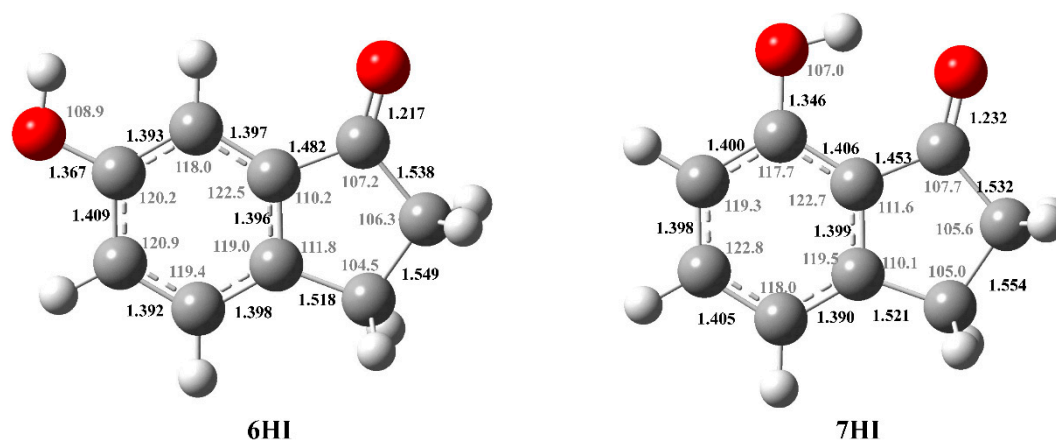

Figure 3. Molecular structures of the most stable conformation of **6HI** and **7HI** in the gaseous phase, optimized by B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory, with the corresponding calculated bond distances (10^{-10} m) and angles (°).

The conformational composition of **6HI** in the gas phase, at $T = 298$ K, can be calculated through Equation (4), where $\Delta G_{\text{rel}}(i)$ is the relative Gibbs energy of conformer i to the lowest energy conformer I and can be calculated from Equation (5).

$$\chi_i = \frac{e^{-\frac{\Delta G_{\text{rel}}(i)}{RT}}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} e^{-\frac{\Delta G_{\text{rel}}(i)}{RT}}} \tag{4}$$

$$\Delta G_{\text{rel}}(i) = G_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(i) - G_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{conformer I}) \tag{5}$$

The $\Delta G_{\text{rel}}(i)$ values calculated at the G3(MP2)//B3LYP level are collected in Table S6, as well as the Boltzmann weighted populations derived from Gibbs energies. The lowest-energy conformer of **6HI** accounts for more than 73% of the composition in the gas phase.

Using Equation (6), the final value for the absolute enthalpy of **6HI** is calculated at the G3(MP2)//B3LYP level. Consequently, these values were finally applied for the theoretical gaseous enthalpy of formation calculation, $\Delta_{\text{f}} H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{g})$ for **6HI**, at $T = 298.15$ K. As discussed above, the conformer I of **7HI** accounts for more than 99.9% of the composition in the gas phase. Therefore, conformer II was not considered in the present study.

$$H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \chi_i H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(i) \tag{6}$$

3.5. Experimental and Computational Enthalpies of Formation in the Gaseous Phase

The experimental gas-phase standard molar enthalpy of formation, $\Delta_{\text{f}} H_{\text{m}}^{\circ}(\text{g})$, at $T = 298.15$ K, of each compound was derived from the combination of the standard molar enthalpy of formation in the crystalline phase with its standard molar enthalpy of sublimation. These data are summarized in Table 4.
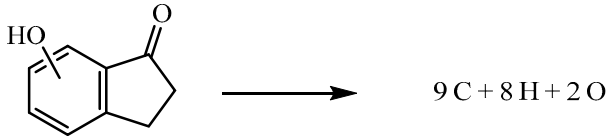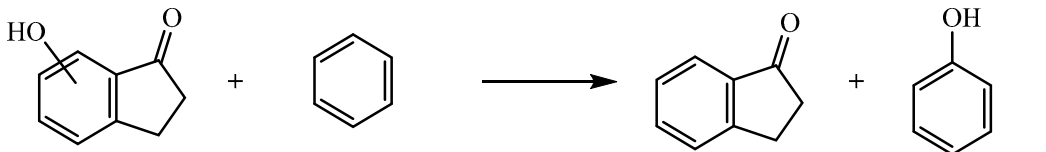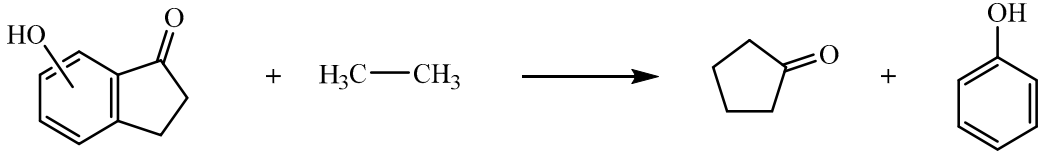
The computational gas-phase enthalpies of formation of the two indanone derivatives were calculated at the G3(MP2)//B3LYP level of theory, using the atomization reaction and the isodesmic reactions (8) to (13) presented in Table 5. The working reaction (13) was applied to 7-hydroxy-α-tetralone and also to three more isomers, namely, 5-hydroxy-α-tetralone, 6-hydroxy-α-tetralone, and 8-hydroxy-α-tetralone [26]. In this study, we present results only for 7-hydroxy-α-tetralone, since for the other isomers, there is a large discrepancy between the experimental value and the results obtained, higher than 8 kJ·mol^{-1} for **6HI** or **7HI** molecules. Despite this, as can be seen in Table 6, there is an excellent agreement between the values of the gaseous enthalpy of formation of both compounds derived from the experimental data and the mean value obtained by the composite method. Data related to the G3(MP2)//B3LYP absolute enthalpies and literature values of $\Delta_f H_m^\circ(g)$, at T = 298.15 K, for all the atoms and molecules involved herein are given in SI (Table S7).
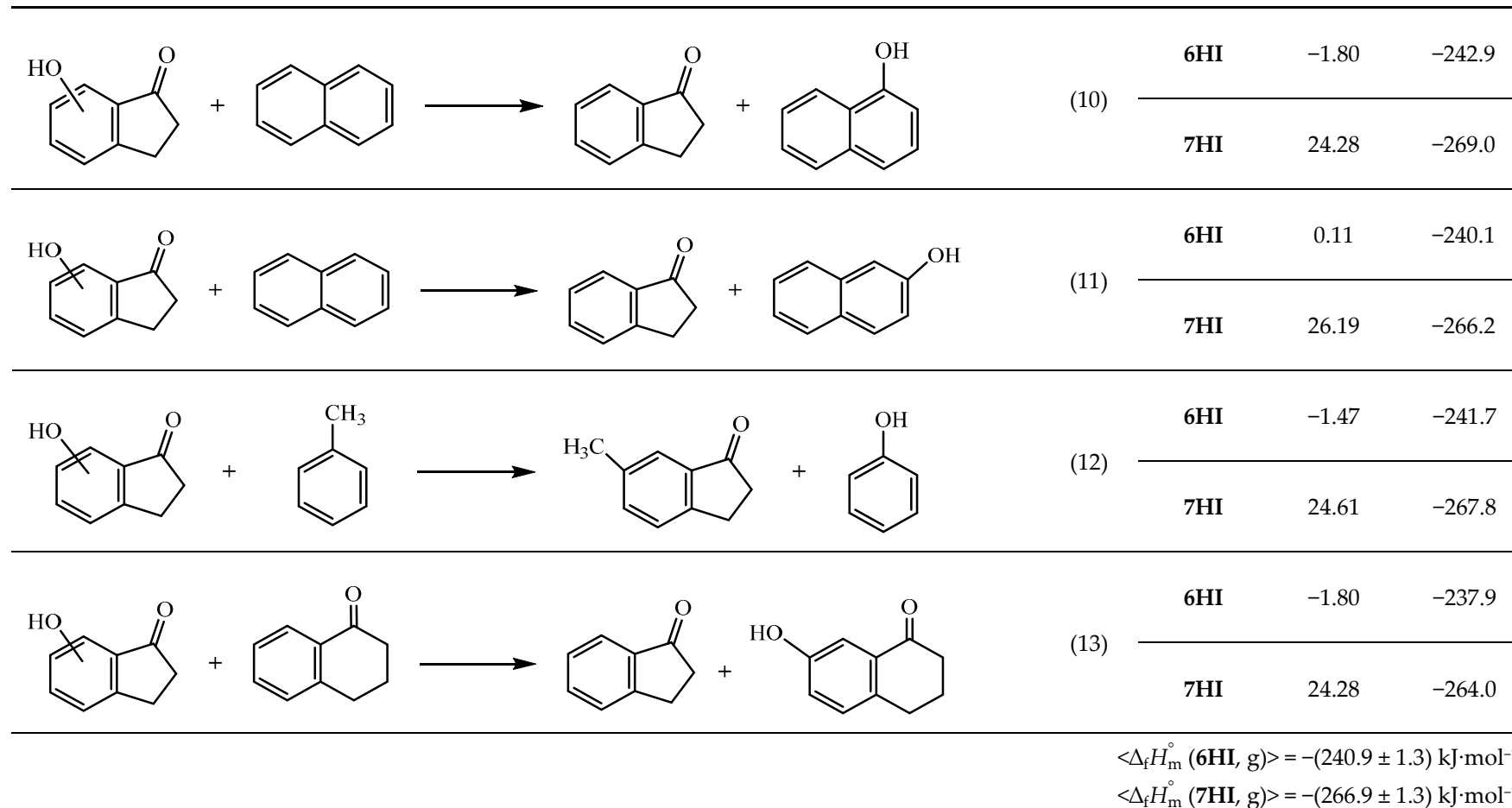
To the best of our knowledge, there are no experimental or computational data available to compare with those obtained in this study. However, the consistency of the results described here gives us the confidence to use an identical methodology to estimate the values of the corresponding properties for related compounds.

Table 4. Experimental derived standard ($p° = 0.1$ MPa) molar enthalpies of formation, in the gaseous phase, at $T = 298.15$ K, for the compounds studied.

Compound	$\Delta_f H_m^{\circ}(cr)$/kJ·mol^{-1}	$\Delta_{cr}^{g} H_m^{\circ}$/kJ·mol^{-1}	$\Delta_f H_m^{\circ}(g)$/kJ·mol^{-1} [a]
6HI	−354.6 ± 2.6	114.4 ± 1.7	−240.2 ± 3.1
7HI	−357.3 ± 2.3	91.7 ± 2.0	−265.6 ± 3.0

[a] Uncertainties calculated through the RSS method.

Table 5. Working reactions and computed enthalpies of reaction, $\Delta_r H_m^{\circ}$, and formation, $\Delta_f H_m^{\circ}$, in the gaseous state, of hydroxy-1-indanones, at $T = 298.15$ K [a].

Reaction		$\Delta_r H_m^{\circ}$/kJ·mol^{-1}	$\Delta_f H_m^{\circ}$/kJ·mol^{-1}
(7)	6HI	8933.89	−241.5
	7HI	8959.97	−267.6
(8)	6HI	−0.96	−242.0
	7HI	25.12	−268.1
(9)	6HI	35.08	−239.8
	7HI	61.16	−265.9

6HI	−1.80	−242.9
(10) **7HI**	24.28	−269.0
6HI	0.11	−240.1
(11) **7HI**	26.19	−266.2
6HI	−1.47	−241.7
(12) **7HI**	24.61	−267.8
6HI	−1.80	−237.9
(13) **7HI**	24.28	−264.0

$<\Delta_{f}H_{m}^{\circ}$ (**6HI**, g)$> = -(240.9 \pm 1.3)$ kJ·mol^{-1}

$<\Delta_{f}H_{m}^{\circ}$ (**7HI**, g)$> = -(266.9 \pm 1.3)$ kJ·mol^{-1}

[a] The uncertainties are expanded uncertainties of the mean (0.95 level of confidence).

Table 6. Comparison between the calculated and the experimental gas-phase enthalpies of formation of the compounds studied, at $T = 298.15$ K, through atomization and isodesmic reactions (8)–(13); all values are in kJ·mol^{-1}.

				Gas-Phase Enthalpy of Formation					
Compound	Atom.	Iso. (8)	Iso. (9)	Iso. (10)	Iso. (11)	Iso. (12)	Iso. (13)	Calculated Mean-Value	Experimental
6HI	−241.5	−242.0	−239.8	−242.9	−240.1	−241.7	−237.9	−240.9 ± 1.3	−240.2 ± 3.1
7HI	−267.6	−268.1	−265.9	−269.0	−266.2	−267.8	−264.0	−266.9 ± 1.3	−265.6 ± 3.0

3.6. Calculated Enthalpic Increments (H → OH) and Analysis of the Intramolecular H-Bond Interaction

The energetic effect involving the presence of a hydroxyl group in position 6 or 7 of 1-indanone was also analyzed by calculating the respective enthalpic increment (Figure 4). The enthalpic increment related to the hydroxyl group in position 6 is −(176.2 ± 4.9) kJ·mol⁻¹, instead of −(201.6 ± 4.8) kJ·mol⁻¹ obtained for position 7. As a comparison, the corresponding substitution in benzene gives −(179.0 ± 1.1) kJ·mol⁻¹ (for this calculation, the $\Delta_f H_m^{\circ}$(g) literature values for benzene, (82.6 ± 0.7) kJ·mol⁻¹ [27] and for phenol, −(96.4 ± 0.9) kJ·mol⁻¹ [27] were used). In the case of **7HI**, there is a difference of ~25 kJ·mol⁻¹ between the observed magnitude of the enthalpic increments, probably due to the existence of a strong intramolecular interaction O–H ··· O. Following our results, we have studied the intramolecular H-bond in this molecule using the *cis-trans* method [28], which compares energetically the H–bonded system and the homologous system with the O–H fragment rotated around the C–O bond toward the *trans* conformation, so that the H atom points away from the acceptor oxygen from the carbonyl group (Equation (7)). To obtain the intramolecular hydrogen bond energy, $\Delta E_{\text{intra-HB}}$, we used the energy values obtained at the G3(MP2)//B3LYP level (see Table S5). The $\Delta E_{\text{intra-HB}}$ value calculated with the *cis-trans* method is 33.8 kJ·mol⁻¹. This result is expected to be slightly overestimated, as seen with other studied compounds [29], in which the results with the same method provided overestimated values. Comparable results were also found by Estácio et al. [30] and Korth et al. [31], which could be associated with the additional steric or electronic interactions, or both.
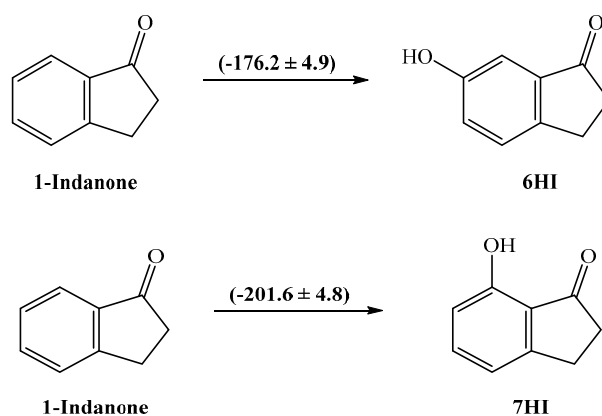

Figure 4. Enthalpic increments (values in kJ·mol⁻¹) for the presence of one −OH group in position 6 or 7 of 1-indanone.

Finally, the intramolecular proton transfer process of **7HI** was evaluated (Equation (8)), using its G3(MP2)//B3LYP calculated tautomerization enthalpy (absolute enthalpies of 7HI and its tautomer are calculated as −497.486145 hartrees and −497.462180 hartrees, respectively). The G3(MP2)//B3LYP calculated tautomerization enthalpy of 62.9 kJ·mol⁻¹ clearly shows that the tautomeric equilibrium is not energetically favorable for its tautomer conversion.

(7)

$$7\text{HI} \longrightarrow \text{Tautomer I} \tag{8}$$
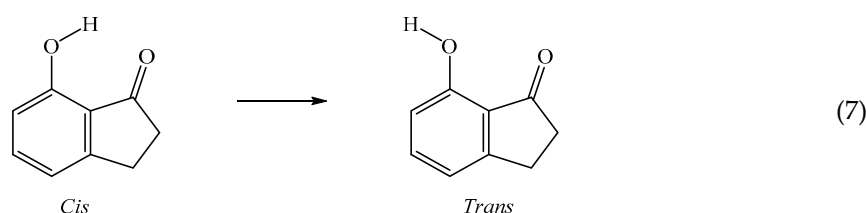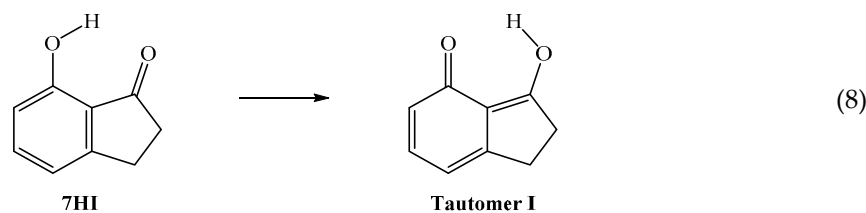
4. Conclusions

The gas-phase enthalpies of formation of **6HI** and **7HI**, at T = 298.15 K, were derived from experimental data of the enthalpies of formation of the crystalline compounds and of sublimation, as determined by combustion calorimetry and Calvet microcalorimetry, respectively. The phase behavior of the two hydroxy-1-indanones was also studied.

Computational calculations at the G3(MP2)//B3LYP level were carried out, and the estimated gas-phase enthalpies of formation of the two referred compounds compared very well with the experimental data. This methodology can be used to estimate the values of the corresponding property for related compounds.

The energetic effect associated with the insertion of a hydroxyl group in position 6 or 7 of 1-indanone was analyzed, and this effect was compared with the same effect in the benzene molecule.

In this study, it was confirmed that the **7HI** molecule presents a strong H-bond interaction, being thermodynamically more stable than the 6-isomer in the gaseous phase. In addition, the intramolecular proton transfer in **7HI** structure was evaluated and was not energetically favorable.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at www.mdpi.com/2076-3417/10/23/8512/s1, Data of combustion calorimetry experiments of 6HI and 7HI (Tables S1 and S2); the values of standard molar heat capacities in the gaseous phase for the compounds studied (Table S3 and S4); Conformational analysis of the hydroxy-1-indanones studied and their corresponding total electronic energy plus the internal thermal energy (Table S5); G3(MP2)//B3LYP results for 6HI and 7HI conformers (Table S6); G3(MP2)//B3LYP calculated absolute enthalpies, at T = 298.15 K, and experimental gas-phase values for all the atoms/molecules used (Table S7).

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