

[<https://doi.org/10.69646/aob250938>]

[Abstract]

The role of excited states in Solar-Terrestrial Interactions: MOLEsS consortium

Bratislav P. Marinković¹, Jelena B. Maljković¹, Matija Zlatař², Felipe Fantuzzi³ and Nigel J. Mason³

¹Institute of Physics Belgrade, University of Belgrade, 11080 Belgrade, Pregrevica 118, Serbia

ORCID number: 0000-0002-6904-6360

ORCID number: 0000-0001-9176-2673

²Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy, University of Belgrade, 110800 Belgrade, Njegoševa 12, Serbia

³School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NH, United Kingdom

*Correspondence: bratislav.marinkovic@ipb.ac.rs

Abstract: Particles from the solar wind interact with molecules from the Earth's atmosphere creating ionized species (Marinković et al. 2025) and species with excited states. These states are responsible for Auroral formation, atmospheric chemistry and chemical species production or ozone depletion. The interactions involving excited states affect the overall energy balance and heating/cooling of the atmosphere (Campbell & Brunger 2018, Kirillov 2012). Long ago, the excited states of molecules have been reviewed in the three-volume series by Melvin Robin (1974, 1975, 1985). We are establishing the consortium of researchers aiming to rewrite the classic series and update data. New collection should include new laser methods, spectra in the solid (ice) phase and new theoretical calculations. These data have become so important in recent years for astronomical and space studies, whilst data for biomolecules are largely missing. We have established a webpage of MOLEsS consortium (MOlecular Excited

State spectroscopy) <https://www.moless-spectroscopy.org/project/>
The MOLEsS consortium will meet annually in Belgrade. Our intention is to publish data in both e-book format and on-line with recommended data sets. Data-sets will be uploaded and curated in specified databases within VAMDC (Virtual Atomic and Molecular Data Centre) portal <https://vamdc.org/structure/databases/> (Dubernet et al. 2016, Albert et al. 2020, Vujčić et al. 2023, Srećković et al. 2025).

Keywords: molecules, excited states, MOLEsS consortium

Acknowledgement

BPM. & JBM. acknowledge support of the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia, Grant No. 6821, 'Atoms and (bio)molecules-dynamics and collisional processes on short time scale ATMOLCOL'.

References

Albert D, Antony B, Ba YA, Babikov YL, Bollard P, Boudon V, Delahaye F, Del Zanna G, Dimitrijević MS, Drouin BJ, et al. 2020, 'A Decade with VAMDC: Results and Ambitions', *Atoms* vol. 8, no. 4 pp.76.

Campbell, L & Brunger, MJ 2018, 'Electron-impact vibrational excitation of the hydroxyl radical in the nighttime upper atmosphere', *Planetary and Space Science*, vol. 151, pp.11-18.

Dubernet, M-L, Antony, B, Ba, Y, et al. 2016, 'The virtual atomic and molecular data centre (VAMDC) consortium', *J. Phys. B: At. Mol. Opt. Phys.* Vol. 49, no.7, pp.074003.

Kirillov, AS 2012, 'Influence of electronically excited N₂ and O₂ on vibrational kinetics of these molecules in the lower thermosphere and mesosphere during auroral electron precipitation', *Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics*, vol. 81-82, pp.9-19.

Marinković, BP, Srećković, VA, Dujko, S, Tošić, S, Maljković, JB, Vujčić, V & Mason, NJ 2025, 'Collisional ionization data for research of interstellar medium and planetary atmospheres', *Physica Scripta*, vol. 100 no.7, p.072002.

Robin, M. 1974 Vol. 1, 1975 Vol.2, 1985 Vol.3, 'Higher Excited States of Polyatomic Molecules' Academic Press

Srećković, VA, Marinković, BP, Ignjatović, L, & Vujčić, V 2025, 'MoID, EMol and ACol atomic and molecular databases for astrophysics: current stage and new directions of development', *Contributions of the Astronomical Observatory Skalnaté Pleso*, vol. 55 no. 2, pp.81-87.

Vujčić, V, Marinković, BP, Srećković, VA, Tošić, S, Jevremović, D, Ignjatović, L, Rabasović, MS, Šević, D, Simonović, N & Mason, NJ 2023, 'Current stage and future development of Belgrade collisional and radiative databases/datasets of importance for molecular dynamics', *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, vol. 25, no.40, pp.26972-26985.