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## Experimental and DFT studies on Structure, spectroscopic and thermal properties of N-Methyl-N,N,N-trioctylammonium chloride ionic liquid

Mohammed Amin Assenine <sup>1</sup>, Boumediene Haddad <sup>2,3,4</sup>, Annalisa Paolone <sup>5</sup>, Silvia Antonia Brandán<sup>6,\*</sup> Didier Villemin <sup>3</sup>, Mostefa Boumediene <sup>2</sup>, Mustapha Rahmouni <sup>4</sup>, Serge Bresson<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Université Djillali Liabes, BP 89, 22000 Sidi-Bel-Abbes, Algeria

<sup>2</sup> Chemistry Laboratory of Synthesis, Properties, and Applications (CLSPA-Saida), 20000 Saida, Algeria.

<sup>3</sup> LCMT, ENSICAEN, UMR 6507 CNRS, University of Caen, 6 bd Ml Juin, 14050 Caen, France

<sup>4</sup> Synthesis and Catalysis Laboratory LSCT, Tiaret University, Tiaret, Algeria

<sup>5</sup> CNR-ISC, U.O.S. La Sapienza, Piazzale A. Moro 5, 00185 Roma, Italy

<sup>6</sup> Cátedra de Química General, Instituto de Química Inorgánica, Facultad de Bioquímica. Química y Farmacia, Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Ayacucho 471, (4000) San Miguel de Tucumán, Tucumán, Argentina.

<sup>7</sup> Laboratoire de Physique des Systèmes Complexes, Université Picardie Jules Verne, 33 rue St Leu 80039 Amiens cedex, France.

\*Corresponding author: Tel.: +54-381-4247752; fax: +54-381-4248169;

E- mail: [silvia.brandan@fbqf.unt.edu.ar](mailto:silvia.brandan@fbqf.unt.edu.ar) (S.A. Brandán).

### ABSTRACT

The [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] ionic liquid (IL) has been structural and vibrationally characterized combining experimental FT-IR, FT-Raman and <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectroscopies with theoretical studies based on the hybrid B3LYP/6-31G\* method. The theoretical determination of structure of IL **in gas phase and aqueous solution** by using that level of theory shows three ionic C-H...Cl bonds, as supported by atomic Merz-Kollman (MK) charges, bond orders, natural bond orbital (NBO) and atoms in molecules (AIM) calculations. Hence, a monodentate coordination between the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>] cation and Cl anion has been proposed for IL because only one of three ionic C-H...Cl bonds presents higher energy and lower distance. **The optimized structure confirmed by NMR measurements** has allowed the assignments of 237 normal vibration modes to the bands observed in the infrared and Raman spectra with the aid of scaled quantum mechanical force field (SQMFF) methodology and the normal internal coordinates. **The effect of Cl in the IL is the shifting of vibration modes corresponding to the CH<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub> groups, as compared with the cation.** The mapped MEP surface evidence a strong concentration of charges around the chloride anion compatible with nucleophilic sites

in these regions while the frontier orbital analyses suggest that IL is most reactive than the cation probably due to the low values of both global electrophilicity and nucleophilicity indexes. The thermal stability shows that  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  start to decompose just above  $200^\circ\text{C}$ . Comparisons between  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  and  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{NTf}_2^-]$  ILs show that the IL containing chloride is most reactive than the other one while  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{NTf}_2^-]$  is thermally more stable than  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$ . These results suggest that the properties of an IL containing the  $[\text{Aliquat}^+]$  cation are strongly dependent of anion. In addition, the scaled force constants for the  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  IL are also calculated and compared with the reported for the cation. The Cl anion modifies in notable form the properties of cation.

**KEYWORDS:** Aliquat 336, ionic liquid; FT-IR, FT-Raman; thermal analysis; DFT calculations.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

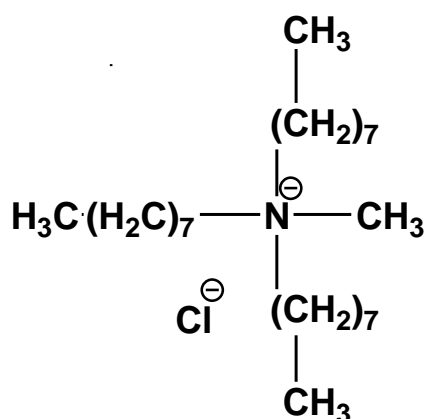
The interesting physicochemical properties and applications that present the ionic liquids (ILs) have allowed the gradual growth in the investigations of these species from different points of view [1-14]. For instance, the quaternary ammonium salt, known as Aliquat 336, presents characteristics properties and major applications [15-20]. Besides, the synthesis reactions of these ionic liquids are environmentally benign and friendly due to its stability against air and moisture and; in addition, these salts are easy to handle [16,17,20]. Studies on Aliquat 336 containing chloride anion have suggested that its use is limited by the strong coordination effect of that halogen [17]. Hence, the cation-anion interactions play a very important role in the properties of ILs [4,5,9,12]. Currently, the elucidations of all types of interactions in ILs are carried out combining theoretical calculations with different spectroscopic techniques [9,12,14,15]. So far, various quaternary ammoniums ILs with different cations and anions have been reported for Aliquat 336, including a recent study on the synthesis and structural and thermal properties of  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{NTF}_2^-]$  IL [15-31] but the structural, electronic, vibrational and topological properties of  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  IL was not reported yet. Hence, the aims of this work are: (i) to optimize the structure of  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  IL in order to predict structural, electronic, topological and vibrational properties, (ii) to find the coordination mode between cation and anion by using natural bond orbital (NBO) and atoms in molecules (AIM) calculations, (iii) to characterize experimentally  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  IL by using the infrared, Raman,  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra and, (vi) to perform comparisons of this IL with the reported for  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{NTF}_2^-]$  IL [15]. In this work, the experimental infrared (FTIR/ATR) and Raman spectra of  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  IL were recorded and its structure in gas

phase was optimized by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method [32,33]. Then, the structure of it was confirmed by using  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}$ -NMR spectroscopies. The combinations of vibrational spectra with the DFT calculations and the scaled mechanical force field (SQMFF) methodology have allowed the determination of harmonic force field and the scaled force constants [34-36]. The normal internal coordinates for the cation were taken of those proposed for [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][NTF<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>] IL [15] while the used transferable scaling factors were those recommended for the method employed by Rauhut and Pulay [35]. The investigations of reactivity and behaviours of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL were evaluated taking into account the frontier orbitals and some interesting descriptors [9,12,15]. Then, all obtained properties were compared with compounds with similar cations [15] while the complete assignments of 237 vibration modes expected for [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL were reported for first time in the present work.

## 2. Experimental

### 2.1. Materials and methods

The chemicals used in this study are N-Methyl-N,N,N-trioctylammonium chloride (> 99%) and lithium bis (trifluoromethylsulfonyl) Imide (99%). They were purchased from Aldrich and used as received. Deionized H<sub>2</sub>O was obtained with a Millipore ion-exchange resin deionizer. The structures of the ionic liquids prepared and studied in the present work are shown in **Scheme 1**.



**Scheme 1:** Structure of investigated IL [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>].

### 2.2. General procedure for the synthesis of Aliquat 336 ILs

Firstly, the quaternary ammonium salt ([Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>]) is obtained commercially and was used as received. Before use ([Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>]) was dried in phosphorus pentoxide, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, to remove residual water. The water content was below 300 ppm; this measure was carried out by coulometric Karl Fischer titration performed by means of a Metrohm 831.

### **2.3. NMR analysis**

The structure of investigated IL ([Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>]) was checked by NMR in order to probe the desired structure and confirm their purity. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz) spectra were recorded on a DRX 400 MHz spectrometer (400 MHz). The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are given in ppm and referred to the internal solvent signal namely tetramethylsilane (TMS) and CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

### **2.4. Thermal analysis**

Concomitant measurements of thermogravimetry (TGA) and differential thermal analysis (DTA) were performed by means of a Setaram Setsys Evolution 1200 TG System, with a fixed temperature rate of 5°C/min, in an argon flux of 60 ml/min. For each sample, an initial mass of ~20 mg was used.

### **2.5. Vibrational spectroscopy**

#### **2.5.1. FTIR/ATR measurements**

The FTIR/ATR measurements were acquired on a Bruker Vertex II-70RAM Spectrometer (Bruker Analytical, Madison, WI) operating with a Golden Gate diamond ATR accessory TM (Specac Ltd, Slough, United Kingdom). The FTIR/ATR spectra were collected with 1 cm<sup>-1</sup> nominal resolution by co-adding 64 scans for each spectrum in the range 600-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The OPUS Software 6.0 for Windows was used for the management of the instrument.

#### **2.5.2. FT-RAMAN measurements**

FT-RAMAN spectra were acquired on a Vertex 70-RAM II Bruker FT-Raman spectrometer. This instrument is equipped with a Nd:YAG laser (yttrium aluminium garnet crystal doped with triply ionized neodymium) with a wavelength of 1064 nm and a maximum power of 1.5 W. The measurement accessory is pre-aligned: only the Z-axis of the scattered light is adjusted to set the sample in the appropriate position regarding the local measurement point. The RAM II spectrometer is equipped with a liquid nitrogen cooled Ge detector. FT-Raman

spectra were collected with  $1\text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution by co-adding 128 scans for each spectrum at room temperature in the range  $45\text{-}4000\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The OPUS 6.0 software was used for the spectral acquisition, manipulation and transformation. These both measurements FTIR/ATR and FT-RAMAN were performed in the Walloon Agricultural Research Center (Craw) Belgium.

### 3. Computational details

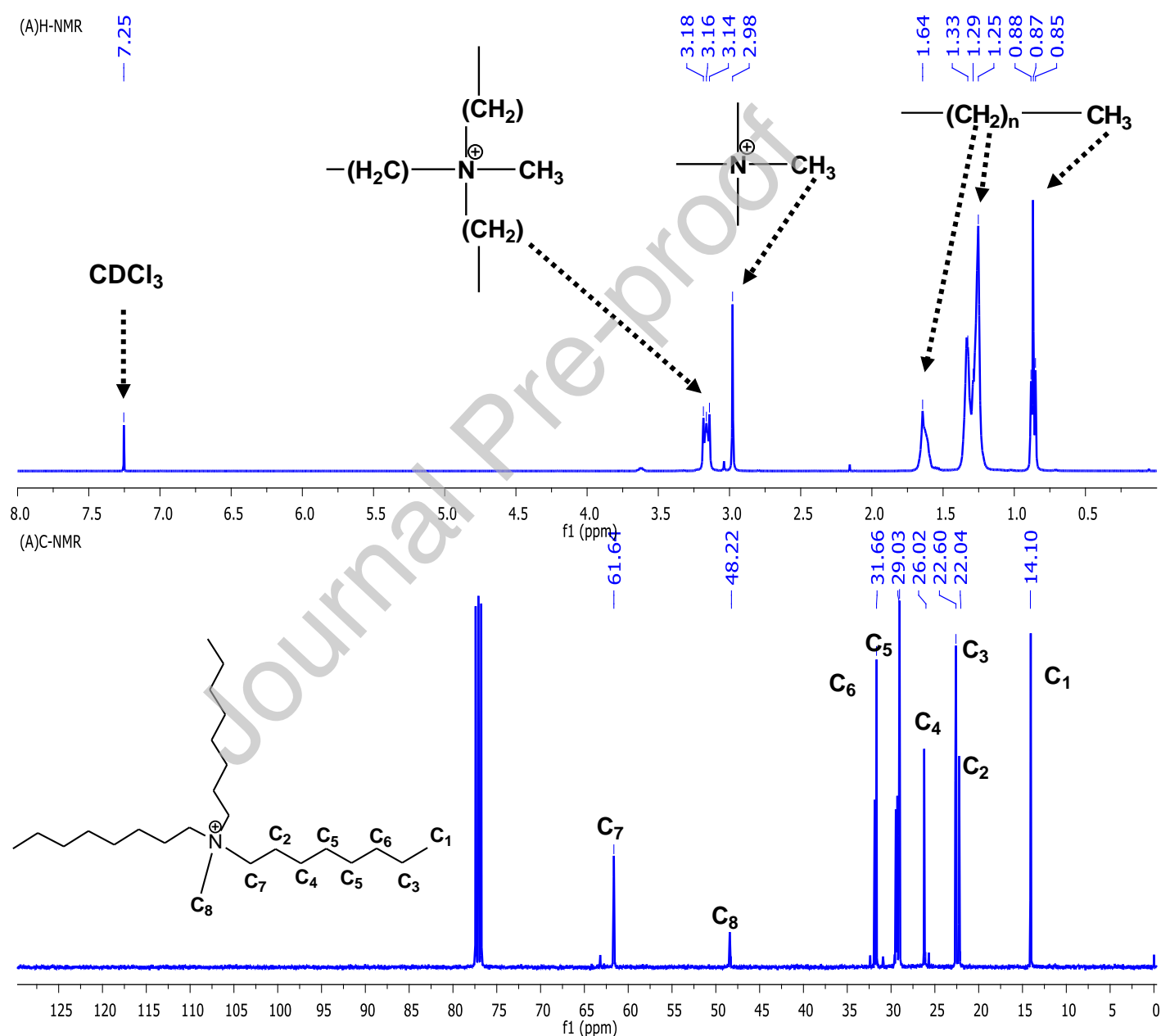
The modelled of  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  was carried out with the *GaussView* program [37] while its optimization in gas phase was performed by using the functional hybrid B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory with the Revision A.02 of Gaussian 09 program [32,33,38]. The determination of properties of  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  in gas phase were evaluated by using the natural bond orbital (NBO), the Bader's theory of atoms in molecules (AIM) 2000 programs [39-41] and atomic charges derived from semiempirical methods [42]. The frontier orbitals were used to obtain the energy gap values while with these parameters were computed the chemical potential ( $\mu$ ), electronegativity ( $\chi$ ), global hardness ( $\eta$ ), global softness ( $S$ ), global electrophilicity index ( $\omega$ ) and global nucleophilicity index ( $E$ ) descriptors [9,12,15]. After that, the complete vibrational assignments of  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  was performed by using the scaled mechanical force field (SQMFF) procedure with the normal internal coordinates of cation taken of Ref [15] for  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{NTf}_2^-]$  IL and with the Molvib program [34-36]. Potential energy distribution (PED) contributions  $\geq 10\%$  and transferable scaling factors were employed to perform the vibrational assignments of IL [35]. To a better correlation the Raman spectra predicted in activities were corrected to intensities by using typical equations [43,44]. Finally, the ultraviolet-Visible and  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were predicted by using Time-dependent DFT calculations (TD-DFT) together and the GIAO method at the same level of theory [45]. The volume calculations of cation and IL were computed the Moldraw program [46]. The calculations in solution were performed by using a methodology similar to other ionic liquids [9,12].

## 4. Results and discussion

### 4.1. NMR results

Figure 1 (a and b) shows the NMR spectra versus chemical shift dissolved in  $(\text{CDCl}_3)$  over the scan range 0 to 10  $\delta$  ppm for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and from 0 to 150  $\delta$  ppm for  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR for  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  IL.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra indicates and confirm the absence of any impurities in our investigated IL.

As shown in Figure 1 (a), the signals at  $\delta = 3.14\text{-}3.18$  ppm in  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  were assigned to the methylene protons on the alkyl rings  $\text{N}^+(\text{CH}_2)_n$ . The signal at  $\delta = 2.98$  ppm corresponding to the  $\text{N}^+\text{-CH}_3$ , thus, another three signals in the range of  $\delta = 1.64$ , broad at  $\delta = 1.25\text{-}1.33$  ppm and  $\delta = 0.85\text{-}0.88$  ppm were attributed to the methylene  $\text{N}^+(\text{CH}_2)\text{-(CH}_2)\text{-}$  and  $\text{-(CH}_2)_n\text{-}$  groups in octyl chains and terminal methyl group  $\text{-(CH}_2)_n\text{-CH}_3$  respectively.



**Figure 1.** Hydrogen atom labeling and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (a), carbon atom labeling and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (b) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , of  $([\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-])$ .

Moreover, the  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of  $([\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-])$  was found to have eight signals over the range  $\delta = 0 - 65$  ppm confirming the presence of the hydrocarbon skeleton.

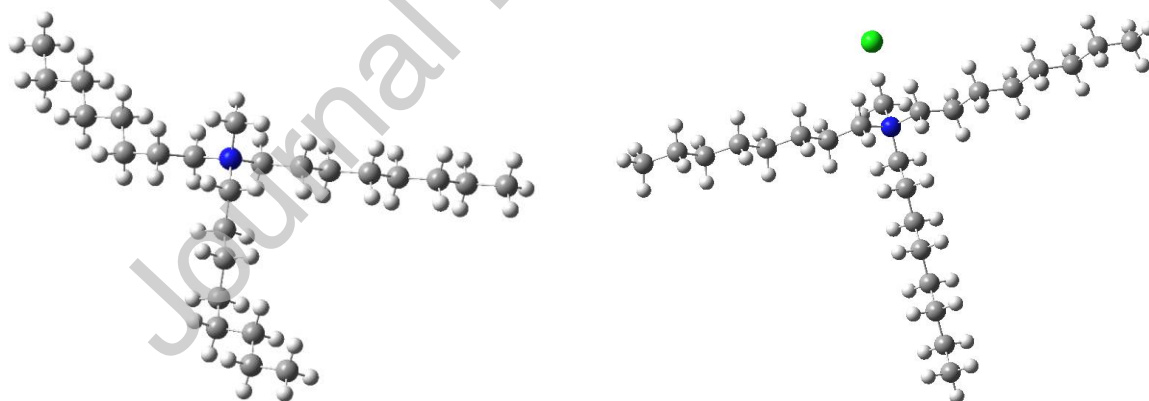
The spectroscopic data are given below and the H and C atom labeling and the corresponding spectra are shown in **Figure 1 (a and b)**.

$[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$ :  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (ppm)= 3.14-3.18 ( $\text{N}^+-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$ , 6H), 2.98 ( $\text{N}^+-\text{CH}_3$ , 3H), 1.64 ( $\text{N}^+-(\text{CH}_2)-(\text{CH}_2)-$ , 6H), 1.25-1.33 ( $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$ , 30H), 0.85-0.88 ( $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CH}_3$ ,  $J=4$  Hz, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (ppm):  $\delta =$  61.64 (C7), 48.22 (C8), 31.66 (C6), 29.03 (C5), 26.02 (C4), 22.60 (C3), 22.04 (C2), 14.10 (C1).

## 4.2. Computational results

### 4.2.1. Geometrical parameters

Optimized structures of  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  and its cation in gas phase by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method can be seen in **Figure 2** while in **Table 1** are reported the uncorrected and corrected energy values by zero point vibrational energy (ZPVE) for those two species together with the dipole moment values and volumes by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method.



**Figure 2.** Optimized structures of  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  and its cation by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method.

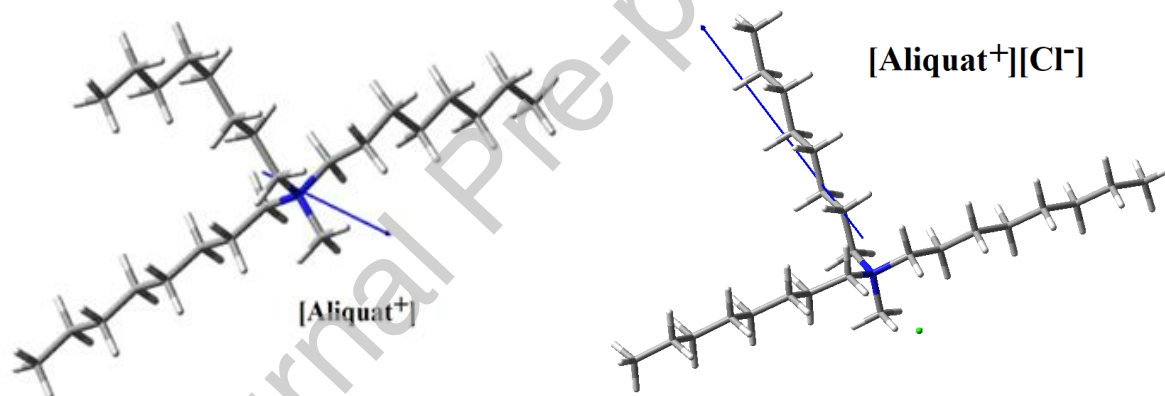
**Table 1.** Calculated uncorrected and corrected total energies ( $E$ ), dipole moments ( $\mu$ ) and volumes ( $V$ ) of  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  and its cation in gas phase by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method.

Species	B3LYP/6-31G* Method				
	$E$	ZPVE	$\mu$ (D)	$V$ ( $\text{\AA}^3$ )	$\Delta V$
$[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$	-1500.1637	-1499.3967	12.60	533.2	39.3



[Aliquat <sup>+</sup> ]	-1039.7644	-1038.9980	4.67	493.9
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The results show that the incorporation of Cl anion to cation generates a higher dipole moment value and a slight increase in the volume, with an expansion in the volume of 39.3 Å<sup>3</sup>. However, the position and orientation of dipole moment vector of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] ionic liquid in gas phase by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory is different from that observed for the cation, as shown in **Figures 3a** and **3b**. Thus, in the cation the vector is orientated from the N atom in direction to N-CH<sub>3</sub> group while in the IL it is oriented from the N atom but in the opposite direction, as clearly shows the **Fig. 3b**. Hence, the Cl anion modifies in notable form the properties of cation. Main moieties of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL and its cation showing the atoms labelling and the N, C, H and Cl atoms involved in cation-anion interactions are shown in **Figure S1** of supporting material. **The calculations performed in solution by using the PCM method evidence a compression in the volume and an increase in the dipole moment value (18.8 D).**



**Figure 3a.** Orientation and direction of dipole moment vector corresponding to cation of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] ionic liquid in gas phase by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.

**Figure 3b.** Orientation and direction of dipole moment vector of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] ionic liquid in gas phase by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.

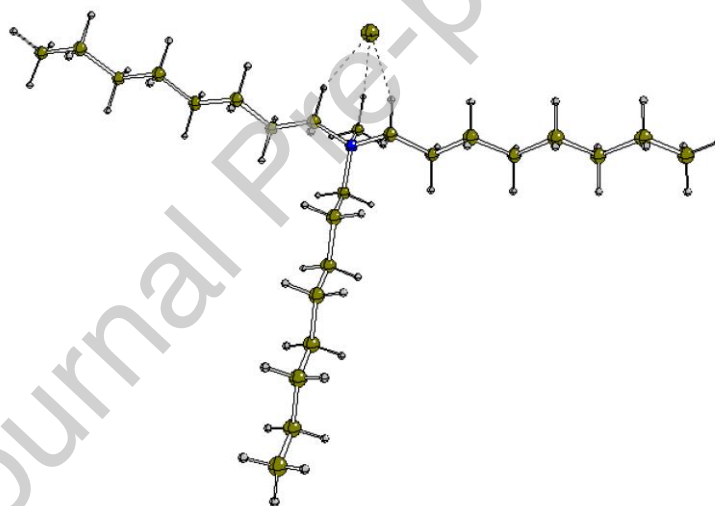
The values predicted for closest H6-Cl81, H31-Cl81 and H78-Cl81 distances between cation and anion these are distances between the Cl anion and the H atoms of CH<sub>3</sub> (H78) and two next CH<sub>2</sub> groups (H6 and H31) of cation, they are respectively 2.423, 2.380 and 2.404 Å, higher than the value 1.81 Å obtained computationally for the protic analogue of the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>] cation [47,48]. The distance between both N1 and Cl81 atoms is 3.661 Å. **Obviously, in solution the H6-Cl81, H31-Cl81 and H78-Cl81 distances of interactions increase at 2.783, 2.881 and 2.779 Å, respectively.**

#### 4.2.2. Atomic charges, molecular electrostatic potentials (MEP) and bond orders

Cation-anion interactions of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL were studied in gas phase by using the hybrid B3LYP/6-31G\* method and the atomic Mulliken, Merz-Kollman (MK) and NPA charges, molecular electrostatic potentials (MEP) and bond orders (BO), expressed as Wiberg indexes. The results only for the involved atoms in cation-anion interactions of IL, these are the N1, C5, C30, C77, H6, H31, H78 and Cl81 atoms are presented in **Table S1** of supporting material compared with the values corresponding to its cation. Comparisons between the moieties structures of IL and its cation with the numbering of main involved atoms in the cation-anion interactions can be observed in Fig S1 while the behaviours of calculated MK, Mulliken and NPA charges on the N1, C5, C30, C77, H6, H31 and H78 atoms of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL and its cation in gas phase by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method are given in **Figure S2**. This latter figure shows that the three types of charges on the atoms of both species present practically the same behaviours, however, the MK charges on the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL shows a significant difference, as compared with the other ones. The MK charge on N1 has a positive sign in cation while the other two charges on this atom present negative signs. Hence, the presence of Cl atom in the IL produces that MK charge on N1 become negative. In the same way, the MK charges on C5 and C30 have positive signs while the other two charges evidence negative values on these atoms of both species. These changes in the signs of charges on the C atoms obviously modify the values and signs of MK charges on the H6, H31 and H78 atoms. Thus, the MK charge on H6 atom has negative sign while on the H31 presents positive sign in the IL. These studies clearly reveal that the MK charges show differences between the IL and its cation due to the presence of Cl and to interactions cation-anion, for these reasons, these atomic MK charges could explain the different properties between both species.

If now the molecular electrostatic potentials (MEP) for the two species are analyzed from Table S1 it is observed that the Cl atom presents the most negative value, as expected, because it atom is the most electronegative atom while the remain ones present the following tendency: Cl > N > C > H. On the other hand, the less negative MEP values are observed on the H atoms. The MEP values between both species are practically the same, however, the mapped MEP surface, shown in **Figure S3**, suggests a highest electron density accumulate around the Cl atom in [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL. Hence, the strong red colour is observed on the most electronegative Cl atom revealing nucleophilic sites on the entire region. Then, slight light blue colours are observed on H atoms of some CH<sub>2</sub> groups of side chain while the other two side chains show green colours characteristics of inert regions.

Other interesting properties analyzed in both species are the bond orders (BO) expressed as Wiberg indexes which can be seen in Table S1. The BO values of N1 in both  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  IL and its cation practically are constant while change slightly the values for the other atoms. Here, a very important result is observed in the BO value for the Cl atom because it is 0.277, which reveals the important coordination modes that it atom present. Thus, when the Wiberg bond index matrix in the NAO basis values are analyzed we observed that the BO values for the H6, H31 and H78 are respectively of 0.0533, 0.0572 and 0.0545 while for the C5, C30 and C77 are respectively of 0.0245, 0.0269 and 0.0270 whose total value is 0.243, a few lower than the total by atom of 0.277. This way, the C5-H6, C30-H31 and C77-H78 bonds are engaged in certain form in cation-anion interactions. These important results evidence three ionic bonds between IL and its cation through the chlorine atom. The graphic with the Moldraw program presented in **Figure 4** shows a tridentate coordination mode of Cl atom to cation in the  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  IL [46].



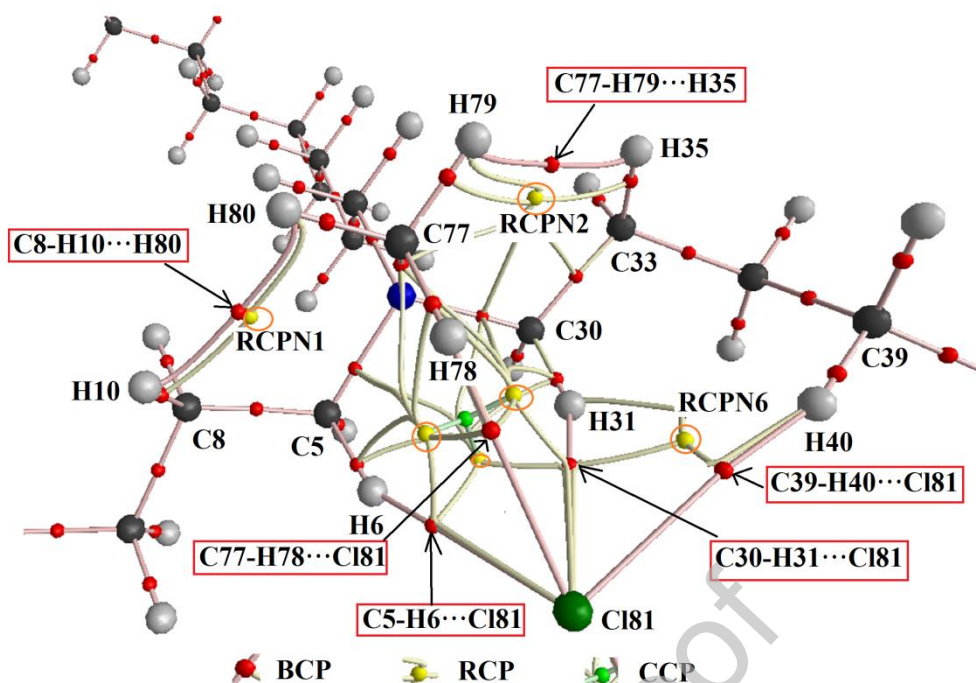
**Figure 4.** Coordination modes of Cl atoms to cation in the  $[\text{Aliquat}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$  IL.

#### 4.2.3. NBO and AIM studies

The above studies have evidenced clearly that the Cl atom is tri-coordinate to cation by means of the C2-H46, C11-H47 and C2-H65 bonds, as supported by atomic MK charges and bond orders values of involved atoms. For these reasons, it is necessary to investigate the formation of other intra-molecular or H bonds interactions in addition to those ionic bonds. Hence, the second order perturbation theory analyses of Fock matrix in NBO Basis by using the NBO program and the topological properties with the AIM 2000 program were used in order to

predict if some of those other interactions are observed in the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL in gas phase by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method [39-41]. Hence, the first analysis performed for the IL by using the NBO program shows only three interactions with higher energy values, which are the  $LP(4)Cl81 \rightarrow \sigma^*C5-H6$ ,  $LP(4)Cl81 \rightarrow \sigma^*C30-H31$  and  $LP(4)Cl81 \rightarrow \sigma^*C77-H78$  interactions with values respectively of 23.78, 31.27 and 24.91 kJ/mol with a total energy value of 79.96 kJ/mol. Note that the second interaction is stronger than the other ones because the distance between H31 and Cl81 is 2.308 Å. All these interactions are performed from lone pairs of Cl atom to antibonding sigma C5-H6, C30-H31 and C77-H78 orbitals. Here, it is necessary to clarify that the cation of IL does not show interactions in both media, as was evidenced in the study of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>] [NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>] [15]. These interactions correspond to those ionic predicted previously by MK charges and bond orders, supporting newly the characteristics ionic of these interactions.

The second analysis by AIM program using the topological properties and the Bader's theory of atoms in molecules is useful to investigate the characteristic or nature of intra-molecular, H bonds, ionic and covalent polar interactions [40,41]. Then, the electron density,  $\rho(r)$ , the Laplacian values,  $\nabla^2\rho(r)$ , the eigenvalues ( $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$ ) of the Hessian matrix and, the  $|\lambda_1|/\lambda_3$  ratio have been calculated in the bond critical points (BCPs) and ring critical points (RCPs) for the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL in gas phase by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method. In the cation of IL in gas phase are not observed new interactions while in the IL are observed six interactions (BCPs) which origin six RCPs and one cage critical point (CCP). The CCP is formed when several rings form a cage (see point green colour). The new interactions have different characteristics because the C8-H10...H80 and C77-H79...H35 interactions are of H bonds while the other four C5-H6...Cl81, C30-H31...Cl81, C77-H78...Cl81 and C39-H40...Cl81 are ionic interactions and, all of them can be clearly observed in **Figure 5**.



**Figure 5.** Molecular graphic for the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL in gas phase showing the geometry of all their bond critical points (BCPs), ring critical points (RCPs) and cage critical point (CCP) by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method.

The ionic or highly polar covalent interactions have  $\lambda_1/\lambda_3 < 1$  and  $\nabla^2\rho(r) > 0$  (closed-shell interaction) while the eigenvalues of the Hessian matrix in the CCPs have all positive signs. The topological properties of all those new interactions are presented in **Table S2** together with the distances between the two involved atoms in each interaction. RCPN1 and RCPN2 are named to the RCPs of both C8-H10...H80 and C77-H79...H35 interactions (see orange circles on yellow RCP in Fig. 5) while RCPN3, RCPN4 and RCPN5 are named to the RCPs formed between H6 and H31, H6 and H78 and H6 and H31, as can be easily seen from Figure 5. Finally, RCPN6 corresponds to that RCP generated by the C39-H40...Cl81 interaction. Note that the distances between the two atoms involved in both H...H interactions present lower values than the distances of the other ones. **In solution, only the C5-H6...Cl81, C30-H31...Cl81, C77-H78...Cl81 and C77-H79...H35 interactions are observed while the other two disappear in this medium.** These AIM studies have revealed two H bonds interactions and other ionic one in addition to those three ionic predicted also by NBO analysis.

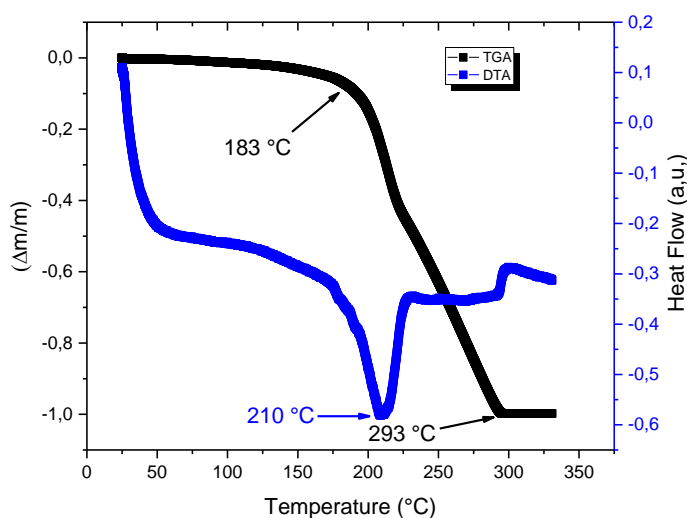
#### 4.2.4. Frontier orbitals and global descriptors analyses

The predictions of gap values and behaviour of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL by means of the frontier orbitals, HOMO and LUMO are very important taking into account that the quaternary

ammonium salts present characteristics properties and major applications [15-20]. This way, calculations of HOMO, LUMO, energy band gaps and chemical potential ( $\mu$ ), electronegativity ( $\chi$ ), global hardness ( $\eta$ ), global softness ( $S$ ), global electrophilicity index ( $\omega$ ) and global nucleophilicity index ( $E$ ) descriptors [9,12,15] are presented in **Table S3** for the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method together with the values for the cation and the equations used in the calculations of descriptors. These results are compared in the same table with the parameters reported for the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>] ionic liquid in gas phase at the same level of theory [15]. The gap value observed for the cation is 8.2152 eV, a value slightly higher than the observed for the IL (5.7329 eV) and, for this reason, the reactivity of IL increase with the addition of Cl atom to cation. The comparisons between the gap values for [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] and [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>] show that the IL containing chloride is most reactive than the other one. Evidently, the incorporations of Cl<sup>-</sup> and [NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>] anions increase the reactivities of both ILs. If now the descriptors are analyzed, it is observed that the two global electrophilicity ( $\omega$ ) and global nucleophilicity ( $E$ ) indexes have lower values in the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL than the cation, however, these two indexes for the cation have lower values, as compared with the corresponding to [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>] IL. This study shows that the properties of an IL formed by the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>] cation are strongly dependent of anion.

### 4.3. Thermal analysis

The thermal stability of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] studied in this work were investigated by means of concomitant TGA/DTA measurements (see Figure 6). This IL is thermally stable up to  $\approx$ 210 °C. The corresponding DTA signal shows an endothermic peak, attributed and confirm to the thermal decomposition.

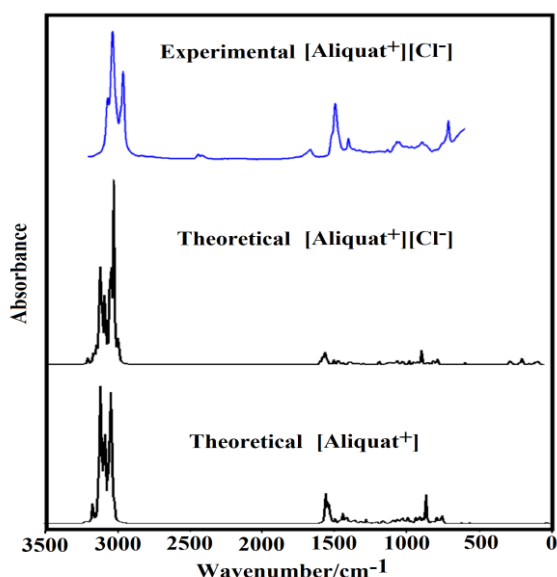


**Figure 6:** TGA and DTA curves of ([Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>]) IL.

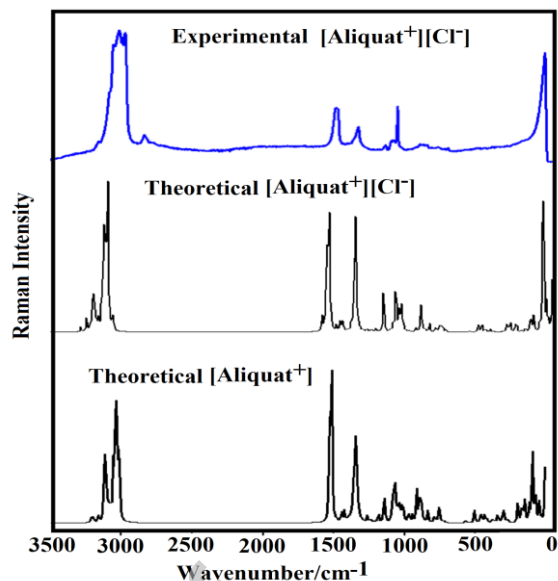
Differently from Mikkola et al [17], it seems that decomposition of this IL occurs at a higher temperature compared to the same cation [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>] with [BH<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>], T<sub>d</sub> : 144 °C; [SO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>], T<sub>d</sub> : 157 °C; [CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup>], T<sub>d</sub> : 175 °C, [H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>], T<sub>d</sub> : 176, [HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>] T<sub>d</sub> : 196, [HCOO<sup>-</sup>]; T<sub>d</sub> : 174 °C, and with [HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>] anion, T<sub>d</sub> : 176 °C and at a lower temperature compared to ([Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>]); T<sub>d</sub> : 274 °C, and ([Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]); T<sub>d</sub> : 367/383 °C [15, 17]. Indeed, this difference is strongly depends on the type of anion and due to related cation–anion interaction type.

#### 4.4. Vibrational study

Many works have evidenced that the FTIR/ATR and Raman spectroscopies are techniques perfectly suited for the analysis of ionic liquids [9,12,14,15]; hence, the vibrational measurements of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL have been carried out using FTIR-ATR and Raman spectra. Comparisons of experimental ATR and Raman spectra of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL in solid phase with the corresponding predicted for the IL and its cation in gas phase by using the hybrid B3LYP method can be seen in **Figures 7** and **8**, respectively. The [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL in the gas phase was optimized with C<sub>1</sub> symmetry by using B3LYP/6-31G\* calculations and, due to the 81 atoms present in its structure, 237 vibration modes are expected in this IL. All these expected vibration modes present activity in both infrared and Raman spectra. The vibrational analysis and the assignments for the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>] cation with their 234 vibration modes were reported in a previous work on the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>] IL and, for this reason, here the assignments performed for [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL were compared with that available previously for [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>] from Ref [15]. The determination of harmonic force field of IL was performed with the scaled quantum mechanical force field (SQMFF) procedure taking into account the normal internal coordinates of cation, transferable scaling factors and the Molvib program [15,34-36]. Here, the quaternary N atom of IL was considered with C<sub>3V</sub> symmetry, as in the definition of normal internal coordinates of cation [15] while a monodentate coordination between cation and anion was proposed for IL because the only interaction with higher energy and lower distance is the C30-H31...Cl81 interaction. In **Table 2** are summarized observed and calculated wavenumbers and assignments for the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL and its cation in gas phase by using the hybrid B3LYP Method. Then, assignments for the most important groups are discussed below.



**Figure 7.** Experimental Infrared spectra of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL in solid phase compared with the predicted for the cation and IL in gas phase by using the hybrid B3LYP method.



**Figure 8.** Experimental Raman spectra of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL in solid phase compared with the predicted for the cation and IL in gas phase by using the hybrid B3LYP method.

#### 4.4.1. Bands assignments

**4.4.1.1. 4000-2000 cm<sup>-1</sup> region.** In this region, the anti-symmetric and symmetric stretching modes of CH<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub> groups are expected for [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL and its cation. In both species there are four terminal CH<sub>3</sub> groups (C26, C51, C73, C77) where three of them belong to large side chains (C26, C51, C73) while the remains belong to N-CH<sub>3</sub> group (C77). The two anti-symmetric modes of N-CH<sub>3</sub> group of IL are predicted by SQM calculations between 3060 and 3026 cm<sup>-1</sup> while the symmetric one at 2875 cm<sup>-1</sup>, hence, these modes are assigned to the shoulders observed in Raman at 3067 and 2880 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Note that the anti-symmetric stretching modes of remain CH<sub>3</sub> groups of both species are predicted combined with anti-symmetric modes of CH<sub>2</sub> groups. In **Table 2** are presented the descriptions of these modes together with their corresponding assignments based on the SQM calculations.

**Table 2.** Observed and calculated wavenumbers (cm<sup>-1</sup>) and assignments for [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] ionic liquid and its cation in gas phase by using the hybrid B3LYP Method.

Experimental <sup>a</sup>		B3LYP/6-31G* Method			
IR	Raman	[Aliquat <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>b</sup>		[Aliquat <sup>+</sup> ][Cl <sup>-</sup> ]	
		SQM <sup>c</sup>	Assignments <sup>b</sup>	SQM <sup>c</sup>	Assignments <sup>d</sup>
		3081	v <sub>s</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> (C77)	3060	v <sub>s</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> (C77)
	3067sh	3068	v <sub>a</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> (C77)	3026	v <sub>a</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> (C77)
		3032	v <sub>a</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> (C30)	3016	v <sub>a</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> (C2)
	3029sh	3030	v <sub>a</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> (C2)	3002	v <sub>a</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> (C5)



3004m	3019sh	3023	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}5)$	2994	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}30)$
	2995sh	2993	$\nu_a\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51)$	2985	$\nu_a\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73)$
2992sh		2992	$\nu_a\text{CH}_3(\text{C}26)$	2983	$\nu_a\text{CH}_3(\text{C}26)$
		2992	$\nu_a\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73)$	2981	$\nu_a\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51)$
2986sh	2987sh	2987	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}2)$	2978	$\nu_a\text{CH}_3(\text{C}26)$
2983sh		2984	$\nu_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}77)$	2978	$\nu_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73)$
		2982	$\nu_a\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51)$	2977	$\nu_a\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51)$
		2982	$\nu_a\text{CH}_3(\text{C}26)$	2974	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}55)$
		2980	$\nu_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73)$	2973	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}2)$
		2980	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}30)$	2969	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}8)$
2977sh		2976	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}55)$	2958	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}39)$
		2975	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}8)$	2954	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}33)$
2971vs	2970s	2973	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}33)$	2953	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}11)$
2965sh		2967	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}5)$	2949	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}67), \nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}64)$
		2962	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}36)$	2948	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}58)$
2956sh		2953	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}58)$	2945	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}45)$
		2953	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}17)$	2944	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}17)$
		2952	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}64)$	2933	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}55)$
2947sh		2949	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}42)$	2931	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}23)$
		2942	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}11)$	2930	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}70)$
		2936	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}70)$	2930	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}36)$
		2935	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}48)$	2927	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}61)$
		2933	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}55)$	2920	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}48)$
		2932	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}8)$	2918	$\nu_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73)$
		2932	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}33)$	2917	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}14)$
		2931	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}23)$	2916	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}42)$
2924sh	2928vs	2930	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}61)$	2916	$\nu_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}26)$
		2920	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}14)$	2916	$\nu_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73), \nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}67)$
		2920	$\nu_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}26)$	2915	$\nu_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51)$
		2920	$\nu_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51)$	2913	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}33)$
		2919	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}36)$	2911	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}8)$
		2919	$\nu_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73)$	2911	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}20)$
2915sh		2916	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}67)$	2905	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}70)$
		2914	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}45)$	2904	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}23)$
		2913	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}20)$	2904	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}58)$
2912sh		2910	$\nu_a\text{CH}_2(\text{C}39)$	2901	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}36)$
		2909	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}11)$	2901	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}11)$
		2909	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}58)$	2897	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}61)$
		2908	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}70)$	2897	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}48)$
		2907	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}48)$	2897	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}30), \nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}30)$
2903s		2904	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}23)$	2896	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}64)$
		2901	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}64)$	2895	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}17)$
		2900	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}42)$	2891	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}45)$
		2898	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}61)$	2890	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}67)$
		2898	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}14)$	2889	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}14)$
2894sh	2893vs	2893	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}17)$	2886	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}20)$
		2890	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}67)$	2886	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}39)$
2890sh		2890	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}45)$	2881	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}42)$
2887sh	2880sh	2890	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}20)$	2875	$\nu_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}77), \nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}30)$

2887sh	2880sh	2886	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}39)$	2868	$\nu_s\text{CH}_2(\text{C}5)$
1547sh	1507sh	1496	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}42), \delta\text{C}39\text{C}42\text{C}45$	1508	$\delta\text{C}30\text{H}31\text{C}181$
1526m	1497sh	1486	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}77)$	1483	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}77)$
	1476m	1476	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}17), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}14)$	1478	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}30)$
		1475	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}55), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}58)$	1477	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}26)$
		1474	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73)$	1476	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}39), \delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51)$
		1473	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}26)$	1474	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}55)$
		1472	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51)$	1474	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73)$
		1465	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51)$	1472	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}39)$
		1465	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73)$	1471	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}30)$
		1465	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}30), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}2)$	1468	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}77), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}2)$
		1464	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}8)$	1465	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}8)\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}17)$
		1464	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}26)$	1464	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73), \rho'\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73)$
		1462	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}36), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}39)$	1464	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51)$
		1462	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}64)$	1464	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}26)$
		1461	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}77)$	1463	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}67), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}64)$
		1459	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}39), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}58)$	1462	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}33)$
	1455sh	1457	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}33)$	1461	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}33), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}45)$
		1457	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}45)$	1458	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}5)$
		1454	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}2)$	1457	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}8), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}55)$
1452sh		1453	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}55), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}8)$	1453	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}36)$
		1450	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}70), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}48)$	1453	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}23)$
		1450	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}48)$	1451	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}70)$
		1450	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}70), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}23)$	1450	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}11)$
1448sh	1448sh	1447	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}17), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}14)$	1449	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}42)$
		1447	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}67)$	1449	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}48)$
		1446	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}36), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}39)$	1447	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}67), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}64)$
		1446	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}61)$	1447	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}20)$
1443w		1446	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}20), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}11)$	1447	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}14)$
		1441	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}5), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}30)$	1447	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}45)$
		1432	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C30)	1446	$\delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}61), \delta\text{CH}_2(\text{C}58)$
		1423	$\rho\text{CH}_2(\text{C}2)$	1423	$\rho\text{CH}_2(\text{C}2)$
1407vw		1407	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C45)	1420	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C39)
		1406	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C67)	1415	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C30), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C5)
		1404	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C39), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C42)	1407	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C67), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C61)
		1402	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C58), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C61)	1405	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C11)
	1399vw	1401	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C20), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	1404	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C58)
		1395	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C14)	1404	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C45) wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C48)
		1394	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}77)$	1402	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}77)$
		1388	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C5)	1396	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C20) wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C23)
		1385	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73)$	1384	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}73)$
		1383	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51)$	1382	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}26)$
		1381	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}26)$	1381	$\delta_s\text{CH}_3(\text{C}51)$
		1372	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C36)	1379	$\rho\text{CH}_2(\text{C}5)$
1368w		1371	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C64), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C70)	1370	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C64)
	1365sh	1365	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C14), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C5)	1370	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C14), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C8)
		1362	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C55)	1366	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C36), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C42)
		1359	$\rho\text{CH}_2(\text{C}5), \rho\text{CH}_2(\text{C}30)$	1360	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C61), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C55)
	1347sh	1344	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C33), $\rho\text{CH}_2(\text{C}36)$	1348	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C33)

	1333w	1336	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C23)	1339	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C23)
		1329	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C2), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C55)	1336	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C2), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C23)
1326vw		1328	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C48)	1331	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C2), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C55)
	1320sh	1324	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C58), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C61)	1325	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C58), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C61)
	1316sh	1316	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C39), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C48)	1320	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C39)
	1316sh	1316	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C67)	1318	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C11)
	1316sh	1315	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C11)	1317	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C30)
		1314	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C45), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C42)	1313	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C67)
	1309sh	1310	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C23), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C8)	1312	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C45), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C42)
		1307	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C70), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C64)	1308	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C23), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C20)
		1304	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C23), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C30)	1306	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C70), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C64)
	1291sh	1297	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C67), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C55)	1295	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C67)
		1292	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C48), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C36)	1293	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C48)
		1285	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C8)	1289	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C8)
		1280	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C14)	1281	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C14), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C8)
		1272	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C70)	1271	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C70)
		1265	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C30)	1269	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C42), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C45)
		1263	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C58)	1264	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C64), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C55)
		1247	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C36), wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C42)	1250	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C36)
1237vw	1232sh	1237	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C20)	1238	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C20), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C23)
		1230	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C14)	1231	wagCH <sub>2</sub> (C14)
		1226	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C33)	1222	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C33)
		1220	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C64), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C67)	1220	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C64), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C67)
		1188	ρ'CH <sub>3</sub> (C77)	1195	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C77)
1183vw		1181	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C14)	1185	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C77)
		1168	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C39)	1174	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C14), ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C11)
	1156sh	1164	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C77)	1166	ρCH <sub>2</sub> (C36)
1141sh	1145w	1143	ρ'CH <sub>3</sub> (C77)	1150	ρ'CH <sub>3</sub> (C77)
		1128	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C51)	1128	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C26)
1126w		1126	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C51)	1123	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C51)
1108w		1109	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C73)	1109	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C73)
1102sh	1100w	1101	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C73)	1101	δ <sub>s</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>
1096sh		1096	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C36)	1095	vC30-C33
	1072sh	1083	ρ'CH <sub>3</sub> (C26)	1080	ρ'CH <sub>3</sub> (C26)
1069sh	1068m	1063	vC2-C55	1068	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C30)
	1055sh	1059	vC5-C8	1064	vC5-C8
		1050	vC61-C64, vC64-C67	1050	vC61-C64, vC64-C67
	1041sh	1042	vC36-C39, vC39-C42	1040	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C5)
		1039	vC45-C48, vC42-C45	1038	vC36-C39, vC33-C36
		1037	vC58-C61	1038	vC45-C48, vC42-C45
		1034	vC17-C20	1034	vC17-C20, vC20-C23
1028w		1029	δC33C36C39	1032	vC48-C51
		1026	vC11-C14, vC14-C17	1029	vC11-C14, vC14-C17
	1023sh	1025	vC67-C70	1026	vC67-C70
		1013	vC30-C33	1017	vC39-C42, vC30-C33
		1013	vC70-C73	1015	vC55-C58, vC2-C55
		1008	vC55-C58	1013	vC70-C73
		1005	vC8-C11, vC23-C26	1009	vC8-C11
		1000	vC55-C58	1005	vC55-C58, vC48-C51

	985sh	988	vC5-C8	992	vC11-C14,vC5-C8
983sh		981	vC58-C61	983	vC58-C61
		977	v <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>	981	v <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>
		970	vC17-C20	971	vC17-C20,vC23-C26
959w		958	vN1-C77	952	v <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>
935sh		933	vC61-C64	949	vN1-C77
		926	v <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>	934	vC61-C64
917sh	912w	920	vC33-C36, ρ'CH <sub>3</sub> (C51)	926	ρ'CH <sub>3</sub> (C51)
		893	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C73) vC67-C70	898	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C30)
		885	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C51)	891	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C73), vC67-C70
881sh		881	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C26), vC20-C23	878	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C26)
	877sh	872	ρCH <sub>3</sub> (C51)	875	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C5)
861sh		865	ρ'CH <sub>3</sub> (C73)	868	vC45-C48,τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C30)
		858	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C20)	861	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C20)
	839vw	844	v <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>	850	v <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>
		835	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C20), τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C14)	838	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C20)
828sh		825	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C36)	828	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C45), τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C36)
804sh	797vw	801	v <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>	801	v <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>
789m	752vw	758	v <sub>s</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>	766	v <sub>s</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>
	731vw	732	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C64)	738	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C14)
729sh	731vw	730	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C30),τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C36)	732	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C64)
		725	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C5)	728	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C36)
		706	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C2), τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C61)	712	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C30), τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C33)
696w		702	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C33),τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C30)	707	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C2)τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C61)
		686	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C23), τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C20)	687	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C23)
		675	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C58),τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C55)	676	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C39), τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C48)
		671	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C48)	675	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C11), τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C8)
		669	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C11), τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C8)	672	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C58),τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C55)
	665vw	663	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C67), τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C70)	663	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C45), τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C42)
		660	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C42),τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C39)	662	τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C67), τwCH <sub>2</sub> (C70)
	574vw	585	δC8C5N1, δN1C30C33	585	δC8C5N1,δN1C30C33
	529vw	533	δN1C2C55, δC58C61C64	536	δN1C2C55
		509	δ <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>	508	ρNC <sub>3</sub> ,δ <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub> ,δC5C8C11
	484vw	499	δC36C39C42	500	δC8C11C14, δC11C14C17 δC17C20C23
		475	δC36C39C42	472	δ <sub>s</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>
		460	δ <sub>s</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>	463	δ <sub>s</sub> NC <sub>3</sub> ,δC20C23C26
	431vw	433	δC33C36C39, δC45C48C51	432	δC14C17C20
		428	δC2C55C58	428	τC11-C14
		416	τC11-C14	422	δC39C42C45 δC45C48C51,δC33C36C39
		396	δC67C70C73,δC61C64C67	398	δC67C70C73, δC61C64C67
	375vw	373	δC30C33C36	376	δC30C33C36
		360	δC42C45C48	364	δC8C5N1
		359	ρ'NC <sub>3</sub>	360	ρ'NC <sub>3</sub>
		341	δ <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub> δ <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>	344	δ <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>
	337vw	335	δ <sub>a</sub> NC <sub>3</sub>	340	δC58C61C64, δC2C55C58
	288vw	278	δC11C14C17,δC20C23C26	291	τ <sub>w</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> (C77) τ <sub>w</sub> N1-C5
	257vw	269	δC55C58C61	279	δC55C58C61
		248	δC36C39C42,τC30-C33	270	τ <sub>w</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> (C77)
		240	τ <sub>w</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> (C77)	246	δC42C45C48, δC36C39C42

229sh	228	$\tau$ C61-C64	241	$\delta_a$ NC <sub>3</sub>
	225	$\tau_w$ CH <sub>3</sub> (C51), $\delta$ C33C36C39	234	$\tau_w$ N1-C30
	223	$\tau_w$ CH <sub>3</sub> (C26)	225	$\tau_w$ CH <sub>3</sub> (C26)
	223	$\tau_w$ CH <sub>3</sub> (C51)	223	$\tau_w$ CH <sub>3</sub> (C51)
	213	$\tau_w$ CH <sub>3</sub> (C73)	217	$\tau_w$ CH <sub>3</sub> (C73)
208sh			205	$\tau_w$ N1-C5
	197	$\tau$ C14-C17	199	$\tau$ C14-C17
	195	$\tau$ C58-C61, $\delta$ C64C67C70	197	$\delta$ C64C67C70
184sh	183	$\delta$ C17C20C23	194	$\tau_w$ N1C30-H31
	172	$\tau$ C33-C36	172	$\tau_w$ N1-C5
	158	$\tau$ C5-C8	155	$\nu$ H31-C181
			145	$\tau$ C8-C11, $\delta$ C30H31C181
139sh	137	$\tau$ C39-C42	140	$\tau$ C39-C42 $\tau$ C33-C36
128sh	132	$\tau$ C45-C48	123	$\tau$ C42-C45
121sh	118	$\tau$ C42-C45	116	$\tau$ C8-C11, $\tau_w$ NC <sub>3</sub> , $\tau$ C55-C58
114sh	112	$\tau$ C67-C70	114	$\tau$ C67-C70
110sh	109	$\tau$ C8-C11	110	$\tau$ C5-C8, $\tau_w$ N1-C30
107sh	105	$\tau$ C2-C55, $\tau$ C30-C33	106	$\tau$ C14-C17, $\tau$ C5-C8
100sh	99	$\tau$ C5-C8, $\tau$ C30-C33	101	$\tau$ C5-C8, $\tau$ C11-C14
	95	$\tau$ C5-C8, $\tau$ C2-C55	99	$\tau$ C5-C8
83vs	88	$\tau$ C5-C8, $\tau$ C8-C11	91	$\tau$ C11-C14, $\tau$ C5-C8
	78	$\tau$ C11-C14, $\tau$ C5-C8	79	$\tau$ C45-C48, $\tau$ C17-C20
72sh	74	$\tau$ C20-C23	77	$\tau$ C20-C23
72sh			67	$\delta$ C30H31C181, $\nu$ H31-C181
	62	$\tau$ C30-C33	61	$\tau$ C64-C67, $\tau_w$ C30-H31
	55	$\tau$ C64-C67	56	$\tau$ C11-C14, $\tau$ C14-C17
	48	$\tau$ C58-C61, $\tau_w$ NC <sub>3</sub>	52	$\tau$ C61-C64
	45	$\tau$ C36-C39	44	$\tau_w$ NC <sub>3</sub> , $\tau_w$ N1-C5
	40	$\tau$ C17-C20	41	$\tau$ C36-C39
			36	$\tau$ C5-C8, $\tau$ C8-C11
	30	$\tau$ C58-C61, $\tau$ C5-C8	33	$\tau$ C5-C8
			24	$\tau$ C5-C8, $\tau_w$ NC <sub>3</sub>
	18	$\tau_w$ NC <sub>3</sub> , $\tau$ C2-C55	18	$\tau$ C11-C14, $\tau$ C14-C17
			12	$\tau$ C30-C33
			10	$\tau$ C2-C55, $\tau$ C58-C61

Abbreviations:  $\nu$ , stretching; wag, wagging;  $\tau$ , torsion;  $\rho$ , rocking;  $\tau_w$ , twisting;  $\delta$ , deformation; a, antisymmetric; s, symmetric; <sup>a</sup>This work, <sup>b</sup>From Ref [15], <sup>c</sup>From scaled quantum mechanics force field with B3LYP/6-31G\* method.

**Table 2** shows clearly that in this region the positions and assignments of bands corresponding to CH<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub> groups in the IL are different from the corresponding to cation due to effect of Cl anion that shift the bands at lower wavenumbers, as observed in the anti-symmetric CH<sub>3</sub> stretching modes ( $\nu_a$ CH<sub>3</sub>(C77)). Besides, the anti-symmetric CH<sub>2</sub> mode of C30 atom linked to H31 in the IL is predicted at 2994 cm<sup>-1</sup> while in the cation it mode is predicted at 2980 cm<sup>-1</sup>. In this case in particular is notable the effect of Cl atom in the IL.

**4.4.1.2. 1500-1000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region.** In this region, the effect of Cl also has influence on the positions of bands and assignments of IL, as compared with the cation. Thus, the SQM calculations predict the deformation, wagging and rocking modes of  $\text{CH}_2$  groups and, the anti-symmetric and symmetric deformation and rocking modes of  $\text{CH}_3$  groups for the cation different from those for the IL, as shown in Table 2. Here, in the 1508-1381  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region it is possible to observe coupling in the deformation modes of both groups. Therefore, the bands and shoulders observed in the IR and Raman spectra in that region are assigned to those deformation modes. The wagging modes of  $\text{CH}_2$  groups for cation and IL are predicted from 1432 up to 1230  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  while the rocking modes between 1423 and 1166  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and, for these reasons, these vibration modes can be assigned according to the SQM calculations and to assignments for species with similar groups [12,14,15]. In the cation, the rocking modes of  $\text{CH}_3$  groups are predicted between 1188 and 1083  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  while in the IL between 1195 and 1080  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Also, in the cation, between 920 and 865  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are predicted other rocking modes while in the IL between 926 and 875  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Consequently, the bands observed in both IR and Raman spectra in those regions are assigned to rocking modes. In addition in this region, C-C stretching modes and CCC and  $\text{NC}_3$  deformation modes are predicted for both species by SQM calculations.

**4.4.1.3. 1000-10  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region.** For cation and IL, C-C, N-C stretching and twisting modes of  $\text{CH}_2$  and  $\text{CH}_3$  groups are expected in this region together with the H31...Cl81 stretching mode. In the cation, the N- $\text{CH}_3$  stretching mode is predicted at 958  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  while in the IL at 949  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  due to the presence of Cl anion. Hence, the weak Raman band at 959  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is assigned to that vibration mode of cation and to anti-symmetric N-C stretching mode of IL. The three N-C stretching modes considered with  $C_{3v}$  symmetries are predicted at 844, 801 and 758  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in the cation while in the IL at 850, 801 and 766  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Note that the  $\text{NC}_3$  deformation modes of cation and IL are predicted and assigned in practically the same regions. In cation and IL, the twisting  $\text{CH}_2$  modes of different groups are predicted by SQM calculations in different regions while the three twisting  $\text{CH}_3$  modes in both species are predicted in the same regions (234-213  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) although the  $\tau_w\text{CH}_3(\text{C77})$  appear coupled with other modes in the IL, as detailed in Table 3. Here, the H31...Cl81 stretching mode is predicted by SQM calculations at 67  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , for which, it mode can be assigned to the shoulder observed in the Raman spectrum at 72  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

## 4.5. Force Fields

In this work, the determination of harmonic force field of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL in the gas phase was computed with the SQMFF methodology and the Molvib program by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method while, for the cation it was taken of a previous work reported for the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>] IL in gas phase at the same level of theory [15]. Then, the scaled force constants for both species were calculated from their corresponding force fields and compared with reported for the [BMIM][OTF] IL and its cationic species in Table 3 [12].

**Table 3.** Scaled internal force constants for [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] and its cation in gas phase compared with reported for [BMIM][OTF] by using the B3LYP method and different basis sets.

Force constants	B3LYP method			
	6-31G* <sup>a</sup>		6-311++G**	
	[Aliquat <sup>+</sup> ][Cl <sup>-</sup> ] <sup>a</sup>	[Aliquat <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>b</sup>	[BMIM] <sup>c</sup>	[BMIM][OTF] <sup>c</sup>
$f(\nu N-CH_3)$	3.86	3.95	4.40	5.06
$f(\nu N-C_3)$	2.45	3.49		
$f(\nu CH_2)$	4.73	4.75	4.73	4.73
$f(\nu CH_3)$	4.85	4.91	4.87	4.84
$f(\delta CH_2)$	0.81	0.79	0.77	1.28
$f(\delta CH_3)$	0.56	0.56	0.52	0.54

Units are mdyne Å<sup>-1</sup> for stretching and mdyne Å rad<sup>-2</sup> for angle deformations. <sup>a</sup>This work, <sup>b</sup>From Ref [15], <sup>c</sup>From Ref [12] for [BMIM][OTF].

Regarding first the force constants of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL and its cation, it is observed higher values in the  $f(\nu N-CH_3)$ ,  $f(\nu N-C_3)$ ,  $f(\nu CH_2)$  and  $f(\nu CH_3)$  force constants of cation, as compared with the corresponding to IL because the presence of Cl anion with higher electronegativity in the IL produces three new ionic H...Cl bonds decreasing the forces of other bonds, as was evidenced by NBO and AIM studies. Then, the effect of anion is higher in the quaternary N linked to the three side chains, as compared with the corresponding to N-CH<sub>3</sub> group. A very important observation is that despite of three large side chains present in [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>] and IL the values of  $f(\nu CH_2)$ ,  $f(\nu CH_3)$ ,  $f(\delta CH_2)$  and  $f(\delta CH_3)$  force constants are practically the same for both species and only slight differences are observed due to Cl in IL. When the values are compared with the [BMIM][OTF] IL and its cation we observed higher values in the  $f(\nu N-CH_3)$  force constant of these two species because the N atoms are linked to rings [12].

## 5. Conclusions

In this work, the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL was structural and vibrationally characterized combining experimental FT-IR, FT-Raman and <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectroscopies with theoretical studies based on hybrid B3LYP/6-31G\* method. The theoretical structure of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL determined in gas phase has shown three ionic H...Cl bonds but only one of them with higher energy and lower distance between the involved atoms, as supported by atomic MK charges,

bond orders, NBO and AIM calculations. Hence, monodentate coordination between the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>] cation and Cl anion has been proposed to perform the vibrational assignments. The confirmation of optimized structure by NMR measurements has allowed the complete assignments of all bands observed in the infrared and Raman spectra with the aid of SQMFF methodology and the normal internal coordinates. The thermal stability shows that [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] start to decompose just above 200°C. The mapped MEP surface evidence a strong concentration of charges around the chloride anion compatible with nucleophilic sites in these regions while the frontier orbital analyses suggest that IL is most reactive than the cation probably due to the low values of both global electrophilicity and nucleophilicity indexes. Comparisons of gap values between [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] and [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>] ILs show that the IL containing chloride is most reactive than the other one suggesting that the properties of an IL containing [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>] are strongly dependent of anion. In addition, the scaled force constants for the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL are reported while the comparisons with the corresponding to cation evidence the effect of Cl anion on its values.

### **Supplementary Information (SI).**

Supplementary Information: **Tables S1-S3 and Figures S1-S3.**

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### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

Mohammed Amin Assenine: Methodology; Data curation.

Boumediene Haddad: Conceptualization; Data curation; Supervision.

Annalisa Paolone: Conceptualization; Data curation.

Silvia Antonia Brandán: Validation; Visualization; Writing - original draft; Writing - review & editing.



Didier Villemin: Conceptualization; Project administration.

Mostefa Boumediene: Conceptualization; Data curation.

Mustapha Rahmouni: Conceptualization; Data curation.

Serge Bresson: Methodology; Resources.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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## Figure Captions

**Scheme 1:** Structure of investigated IL [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>].

**Figure 1.** Hydrogen atom labeling and <sup>1</sup>H NMR (a), carbon atom labeling and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (b) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> of ([Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>]).

**Figure 2.** Optimized structures of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] and its cation by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method.

**Figure 3a.** Orientation and direction of dipole moment vector corresponding to cation of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] ionic liquid in gas phase by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.

**Figure 3b.** Orientation and direction of dipole moment vector of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] ionic liquid in gas phase by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory.

**Figure 4.** Coordination modes of Cl atoms to cation in the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL.

**Figure 5.** Molecular graphic for the [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL in gas phase showing the geometry of all their bond critical points (BCPs), ring critical points (RCPs) and cage critical point (CCP) by using the B3LYP/6-31G\* method.

**Figure 6:** TGA and DTA curves of ([Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>]) IL.

**Figure 7.** Experimental Infrared spectra of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL in solid phase compared with the predicted for the cation and IL in gas phase by using the hybrid B3LYP method.

**Figure 8.** Experimental Raman spectra of [Aliquat<sup>+</sup>][Cl<sup>-</sup>] IL in solid phase compared with the predicted for the cation and IL in gas phase by using the hybrid B3LYP method.