

**Supporting Information**

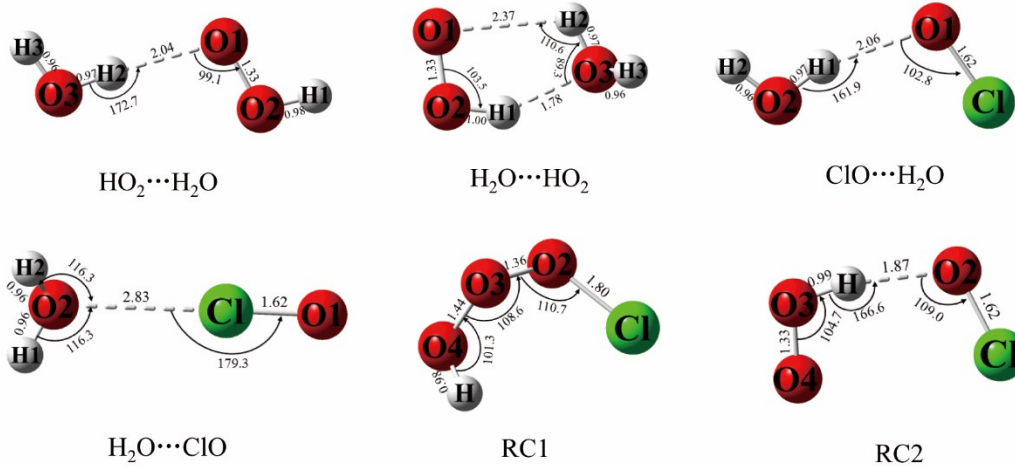
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**Effect of a single water molecule on the HO<sub>2</sub> + ClO reaction**

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**Figure S1** Geometrical parameters for the binary complexes optimized at the B3LYP-D3/aug-cc-pVDZ level of theory.

**Table S1** Equilibrium constants ( $K_{\text{eq}}$  in units of  $\text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1}$ ) for the formation of  $\text{HO}_2 \cdots \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdots \text{HO}_2$ ,  $\text{ClO} \cdots \text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdots \text{ClO}$  complexes at different heights in the Earth atmosphere

$H$ (km)	T (K)	$[\text{H}_2\text{O}]^{\text{a}}$	$K_{\text{eq}}(\text{HO}_2 \cdots \text{H}_2\text{O})$	$K_{\text{eq}}(\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdots \text{HO}_2)$	$K_{\text{eq}}(\text{ClO} \cdots \text{H}_2\text{O})$	$K_{\text{eq}}(\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdots \text{ClO})$
0	298.15	$7.72 \times 10^{17}$	$1.74 \times 10^{-24}$	$1.04 \times 10^{-22}$	$1.86 \times 10^{-23}$	$2.51 \times 10^{-23}$
0	288.19	$4.03 \times 10^{17}$	$1.71 \times 10^{-24}$	$1.35 \times 10^{-22}$	$1.91 \times 10^{-23}$	$2.65 \times 10^{-23}$
2	275.21	$1.86 \times 10^{17}$	$1.67 \times 10^{-24}$	$1.93 \times 10^{-22}$	$1.99 \times 10^{-23}$	$2.87 \times 10^{-23}$
4	262.23	$7.34 \times 10^{16}$	$1.63 \times 10^{-24}$	$2.89 \times 10^{-22}$	$2.09 \times 10^{-23}$	$3.13 \times 10^{-23}$
6	249.25	$2.60 \times 10^{16}$	$1.60 \times 10^{-24}$	$4.50 \times 10^{-22}$	$2.20 \times 10^{-23}$	$3.45 \times 10^{-23}$
8	236.27	$8.02 \times 10^{15}$	$1.56 \times 10^{-24}$	$7.40 \times 10^{-22}$	$2.35 \times 10^{-23}$	$3.87 \times 10^{-23}$
10	223.29	$2.11 \times 10^{15}$	$1.53 \times 10^{-24}$	$1.29 \times 10^{-21}$	$2.53 \times 10^{-23}$	$4.40 \times 10^{-23}$
12	216.69	$9.98 \times 10^{14}$	$1.51 \times 10^{-24}$	$1.76 \times 10^{-21}$	$2.64 \times 10^{-23}$	$4.74 \times 10^{-23}$

<sup>a</sup> Water concentrations are taken from Ref 1.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>b</sup> U.S. standard atmosphere.<sup>2</sup>

**Table S2** Rate constant ( $\text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) for the  $\text{HO}_2 + \text{ClO}$  reaction and effective rate constants ( $\text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) for reactions with water at different altitudes in the Earth atmosphere

$H$ (km)	$T$ (K)	$k'_{\text{RC1W1}}$	$k'_{\text{RC1W2}}$	$k'_{\text{RC2W1}}$	$k'_{\text{RC2W2}}$
0	298.15	$1.09 \times 10^{-25}$	$1.07 \times 10^{-23}$	$2.61 \times 10^{-23}$	$7.06 \times 10^{-29}$
0	288.19	$3.88 \times 10^{-26}$	$4.66 \times 10^{-24}$	$1.14 \times 10^{-23}$	$1.96 \times 10^{-29}$
2	275.21	$9.01 \times 10^{-27}$	$1.43 \times 10^{-24}$	$3.55 \times 10^{-24}$	$3.21 \times 10^{-30}$
4	262.23	$1.80 \times 10^{-27}$	$3.87 \times 10^{-25}$	$9.71 \times 10^{-25}$	$4.34 \times 10^{-31}$
6	249.25	$3.04 \times 10^{-28}$	$9.15 \times 10^{-26}$	$2.32 \times 10^{-25}$	$4.81 \times 10^{-32}$
8	236.27	$4.11 \times 10^{-29}$	$1.80 \times 10^{-26}$	$4.63 \times 10^{-26}$	$4.05 \times 10^{-33}$
10	223.29	$4.34 \times 10^{-30}$	$2.89 \times 10^{-27}$	$7.55 \times 10^{-27}$	$2.52 \times 10^{-34}$
12	216.69	$1.24 \times 10^{-30}$	$1.04 \times 10^{-27}$	$2.75 \times 10^{-27}$	$5.39 \times 10^{-35}$

$k'_{\text{RC1W1}}$ ,  $k'_{\text{RC1W2}}$ ,  $k'_{\text{RC2W1}}$  and  $k'_{\text{RC2W2}}$  are effective rate constants of Paths RW1, RW2, RW3 and RW4, respectively.

**Table S3** Ratios of effective rate constants ( $\text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) to corresponding rate constants for the  $\text{HO}_2 + \text{ClO}$  reaction with and without water at different heights in the Earth atmosphere

$H$ (km)	$T$ (K)	$k'_{\text{RC1W1}}/k_{\text{R1}}$	$k'_{\text{RC1W2}}/k_{\text{R2}}$	$k'_{\text{RC2W1}}/k_{\text{R2}}$	$k'_{\text{RC2W2}}/k_{\text{R2}}$
0	298.15	$1.02 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.69 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.14 \times 10^{-6}$	$3.10 \times 10^{-12}$
0	288.19	$5.91 \times 10^{-6}$	$2.56 \times 10^{-7}$	$6.26 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.08 \times 10^{-12}$
2	275.21	$2.71 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.08 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.69 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.43 \times 10^{-13}$
4	262.23	$1.15 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.16 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.04 \times 10^{-7}$	$4.67 \times 10^{-14}$
6	249.25	$4.40 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.44 \times 10^{-8}$	$3.65 \times 10^{-8}$	$7.56 \times 10^{-15}$
8	236.27	$1.48 \times 10^{-7}$	$4.32 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.11 \times 10^{-8}$	$9.71 \times 10^{-16}$
10	223.29	$4.30 \times 10^{-8}$	$5.12 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.89 \times 10^{-9}$	$9.66 \times 10^{-17}$
12	216.69	$2.16 \times 10^{-8}$	$5.15 \times 10^{-10}$	$1.36 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.67 \times 10^{-17}$

The values of  $k_{\text{R1}}$  and  $k_{\text{R2}}$  are given in Table 4 in the main manuscript.

**Table S4** Vibrational frequencies of the reactant complexes and transition states predicted at the B3LYP-D3/aug-cc-pVDZ level.

<b>species</b>	<b>Frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>
<b>RC1</b>	161, 310, 400, 530, 590, 758, 925, 1390, 3688
<b>RC2</b>	28, 49, 147, 183, 404, 857, 1163, 1500, 3386
<b>TS1</b>	i1032, 196, 368, 455, 735, 888, 1033, 1251, 1543
<b>TS2</b>	i543, 205, 260, 452, 491, 830, 1213, 1523, 2365
<b>RC1W1</b>	72, 104, 128, 156, 258, 277, 357, 391, 511, 584, 763, 844, 935, 1517, 1614, 3346, 3764, 3876
<b>RC1W2</b>	68, 152, 189, 241, 263, 272, 335, 409, 466, 683, 869, 962, 995, 1575, 1635, 3153, 3555, 3857
<b>TS1W1</b>	i925, 31, 64, 87, 128, 155, 191, 304, 354, 460, 740, 922, 1050, 1261, 1505, 1618, 3778, 3890
<b>TS1W2</b>	i897, 50, 87, 111, 136, 182, 207, 255, 335, 458, 481, 814, 1281, 1495, 1615, 1983, 3786, 3895
<b>RC2W1</b>	97, 128, 179, 226, 269, 324, 335, 441, 493, 642, 864, 1052, 1162, 1601, 1626, 2997, 3509, 3859
<b>RC2W2</b>	44, 99, 131, 152, 236, 269, 350, 381, 521, 590, 757, 823, 918, 1526, 1617, 3390, 3773, 3882
<b>TS2W1</b>	i882, 51, 73, 106, 116, 179, 208, 250, 278, 462, 487, 817, 1275, 1497, 1614, 2003, 3789, 3898
<b>TS2W2</b>	i984, 47, 91, 97, 120, 142, 195, 217, 290, 327, 480, 768, 1359, 1553, 1616, 2216, 3786, 3892

**Table S5** Quantum mechanical tunneling coefficient for different paths at 298 K.

<b>TS</b>	<b>Frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	<b><math>\kappa</math></b>
<b>TS1</b>	i1032	2.04
<b>TS2</b>	i543	1.29
<b>TS1W1</b>	i925	1.83
<b>TS1W2</b>	i897	1.78
<b>TS2W1</b>	i882	1.76
<b>TS2W2</b>	i984	1.94

### Details of the rate constants calculation of the barrierless path

For the barrierless reaction, a semi-empirical equation is used to obtain the rate constant, in which some experimental data were used to fit in the theoretical calculation:

$$k(T) = A(T / 298K)^n e^{-Ea/RT}$$

where n is the order of the reaction, it is 2 here because our title reaction is a second order reaction.  $Ea$  is the activation energy barrier of the reaction, for this barrierless path, it is 0. A is the pre-exponential factor, determined by experiments. According to the experimental research of Leck et al, the value of A is  $4.53 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .<sup>3</sup> Different values of the rate constant of this barrierless path ( $k_{R4}$ ) are listed in Table 4.

### References

1. P. R. Lowe, *J. Appl. Meteorol.*, 1977, **16**, 100-103.
2. J. H. Seinfeld and S. N. Pandis, *Atmospheric chemistry and physics: from air pollution to climate change*, John Wiley & Sons, 2016.
3. T. J. Leck, J. E. L. Cook and J. W. Birks, *J. Chem. Phys.*, 1980, **72**, 2364-2373.