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Carbamic acid produced by UV/EUV photon irradiation of interstellar ice analogues

Y. –J. Chen (1), M. Nuevo (1), J. –M. Shiue (1), **T. –S. Yih** (1), W. –H. Ip (2),

H. –S. Fung (3), S.-Y. Chiang (3), Y. –Y. Lee (3), J. –M. Chen (3), C. –Y. R. Wu (4)

 Department of Physics, National Central University, Taiwan, R.O.C., (2) Institute of Astronomy, National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan, R.O.C., (3) National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center, Taiwan, R.O.C., (4) Space Sciences Center and Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southern California Los Angeles, U.S.A.

(tsyih@phy.ncu.edu.tw/phone: +886-3-4227151#65314)

Carbamic acid (NH₂COOH) is the simplest amino acid, simpler than the simplest proteinaceous amino acid glycine. Previous experiments showed that carbamic acid is formed in a stable zwitterionic structure (NH $_3^+$ COO $^-$) when H₂O, 12 CO₂/ 13 CO₂ and NH₃ ice mixtures were subjected to 1 MeV proton irradiation.

In this work, we employed ultraviolet (UV)/extreme ultraviolet (EUV) photons provided by a synchrotron radiation in the 4-20 eV range to irradiate $\rm H_2O$, $\rm ^{12}CO_2/^{13}CO_2$ and NH $_3$ ice mixtures. We compare the results of mass spectra as well as infrared spectra and found that carbamic acid is formed around 250K in a neutral structure, we also identified the IR absorption features of HNCO, OCN $^-$, CO, NH $_4^+$ and NH $_2$ CHO at low temperature during UV/EUV photons irradiation process.