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The reactions IO + NO $_3 \rightarrow$ OIO + NO $_2$, and I + NO $_3 \rightarrow$ IO + NO $_2$, - rate coefficients and product yields by LIF detection of IO

T.J. Dillon (1), M.E. Tucceri (1,2), and J.N. Crowley (1)

(1) Max-Planck-Institut für Chemie, Division of Atmospheric Chemistry, Postfach 3060, D - 55020 Mainz, Germany, (2) now at Instituto de Investigaciones Fisicoquímicas, Teóricas y Aplicadas, La Plata, Argentina.(dillon@mpch-mainz.mpg.de / phone +49 6131 305313)

The technique of pulsed laser photolysis coupled to LIF detection of IO was used to study the reactions (R1a) IO + NO₃ \rightarrow OIO + NO₂ and (R2) I + NO₃ \rightarrow (products) at ambient temperature. The reaction (R1) was observed for the 1st time in the laboratory, and a lower-limit for the rate coefficient of $k_{1a} > 7 \times 10^{-12}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹ is reported, which may explain anomalous ratios of OIO:IO observed in the night-time marine boundary layer. Other important results included the identification of IO (*via* laser excitation spectra around $\lambda = 445$ nm) as the product of (R2) at approximately unity yield, and $k_2 = (1.0 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-10}$ cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹. The implications of these results for the night-time chemistry of the marine boundary layer are discussed.