

The Acidity of Weak NH Acids: Expanding the pK_a Scale in Acetonitrile

Märt Lõkov, Carmen Kesküla, Sofja Tshepelevitsh, Marta-Lisette Pikma, Jaan Saame, Dmitri Trubitsõn, Tõnis Kanger, and Ivo Leito

ACS Org. Inorg. Au **2025**, 5 (2), 144-155

<https://doi.org/10.1021/acsorginorgau.4c00095>

Table 2. Acidities in different solvents and the gas phase.

Compound	CAS RN	pK _a (MeCN) ^a	pK _a (DMSO)	pK _a (H ₂ O)	Exp. GA, ^b kJ mol ⁻¹	Calc. GA, ^c kJ mol ⁻¹
2,3,5,6-Cl ₄ -Aniline	3481-20-7	33.51	21.0 ¹⁸	19.22 ¹⁹		1426
4-CF ₃ SO ₂ -Aniline	473-27-8	33.11	21.8 ⁷			1400
2,3,4,5,6-Cl ₅ -Aniline	527-20-8	32.79				1415
Indole	120-72-9	32.78	20.95 ³	16.97 ²⁰	1431 ²¹ ; 1440 ²²	1441
2-NO ₂ -Aniline	88-74-4	32.63		17.7 ²³		1436
N-Me-4-NO ₂ -Aniline	100-15-2	32.62		18.2 ²³		1488
4-NO ₂ -Aniline	100-01-6	32.58	20.9 ⁷	18.2 ²³	1407 ²⁴	1421
(2-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄)(Ph)NH ^g	119-75-5	31.79	19.2 ^d (17.7 ²⁵)	18.0 ²³		1421
2-MeO-Carbazole	6933-49-9	31.78				1417
Carbazole	86-74-8	31.74	19.9 ³	16.7 ²⁶	1412 ²¹	1420
2-NH ₂ -4-NO ₂ -Aniline	99-56-9	31.75				1416
3-Cl-4-NO ₂ -Aniline	825-41-2	31.53				1403
4-Cl-2-NO ₂ -Aniline	89-63-4	31.06	18.9 ³	17.1 ¹⁹		1412
5-Cl-2-NO ₂ -Aniline	1635-61-6	31.03				1411
1,3-Ph ₂ -Urea	102-07-8	30.96	19.6 ³			1396
(2-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄)(4-Cl-C ₆ H ₄)NH	23008-56-2	30.92				1402
2-Cl-6-NO ₂ -Aniline	769-11-9	30.84				1423
7-Azaindole	271-63-6	30.79		12.1 ^{27,f}		1437
4-Azaindole ^e	272-49-1	30.49		15.5 ^{28e} ; 16.1 ^{28e}		1422
2-Cl-4-NO ₂ -Aniline	121-87-9	30.38		18.06 ²⁹		1398
Benzo[c]carbazole	205-25-4	30.33				1401
3-MeCOO-Indole	608-08-2	30.2				1427
Benzo[a]carbazole	239-01-0	30.20				1400
7-NO ₂ -Indole	6960-42-5	30.12				1415
4-NH ₂ -C ₅ F ₄ N	1682-20-8	30.12	18.7 ^d (19.2 ³⁰)		1392 ³¹	1407
5-Azaindole	271-34-1	30.06				1414
Indolo[2,3- <i>a</i>]carbazole	60511-85-5	29.9				1387
(5-Cl-2-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₃)(Ph)NH	25781-92-4	29.88				1397
Indazole	271-44-3	29.79	18.2 ²⁶	13.86 ²⁶	1425 ³²	1433
6-Azaindole	271-29-4	29.75				1413
2,3-Cl ₂ -6-NO ₂ -Aniline	65078-77-5	29.43				1403
Norharman	244-63-3	29.33		14.53 ³³		1398
2,4-Cl ₂ -6-NO ₂ -Aniline	2683-43-4	29.26		16.39 ²⁹		1401
2,5-Cl ₂ -4-NO ₂ -Aniline	6627-34-5	29.20	17.4 ⁷	16.05 ³⁴		1380

(4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄)(Ph)NH ^g	836-30-6	28.87	16.85 ⁷	15.6 ²³	1374 ^{31g}	1384
4-NO ₂ -1-Naphthalenamine	776-34-1	28.85	17.4 ^d (18.0 ³⁵)			1385
2,6-Cl ₂ -4-NO ₂ -aniline	99-30-9	28.30		15.55 ³⁴		1387
Benzimidazole	51-17-2	27.92	16.4 ³	12.86 ³⁶		1403
2,4-(NO ₂) ₂ -Aniline	97-02-9	27.64	15.9 ⁷	15.0 ³⁴		1367
Benzotriazole	95-14-7	22.98	11.92 ³	8.57 ³⁷	1384 ³²	1383

^a pK_a values from this work (Table 1). ^b Experimental GA values. ^c Computational GA values (this work). ^d Original values from the respective publications (shown in parentheses) were corrected in ref 38. ^e In the abstract and the main text of ref 28 two different pK_a(H₂O) values were presented for 4-azaindole and it was not possible to tell which one is the correct one. ^f Highly doubtful value. ^g The GA value of 1374 kJ mol⁻¹, actually belonging to (4-NO₂-C₆H₄)(Ph)NH, is erroneously assigned to (2-NO₂-C₆H₄)(Ph)NH in the NIST Webbook.

Table 3. pK_a(MeCN) values predicted using conversion equations (eq 6 and eq 7).^a

Compound	pK _a (MeCN) ^d	Prediction from pK _a (DMSO)			
		NH ^b	Difference	All ^c	Difference
2,3,5,6-Cl ₄ -Aniline	33.51	33.30	-0.21	33.09	-0.42
4-CF ₃ SO ₂ -Aniline	33.11	34.10	0.99	33.94	0.83
4-NO ₂ -Aniline	32.58	32.90	0.32	32.98	0.40
(2-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄)(Ph)NH	31.79	31.20	-0.59	31.49	-0.30
Carbazole	31.74	32.20	0.46	32.23	0.49
4-Cl-2-NO ₂ -Aniline	31.06	30.90	-0.16	30.85	-0.21
1,3-Ph ₂ -Urea	30.96	31.60	0.64	30.74	-0.22
4-NH ₂ -C ₅ F ₄ N	30.12	30.70	0.58	30.64	0.52
Indazole	29.79	30.20	0.41	30.43	0.64
2,5-Cl ₂ -4-NO ₂ -Aniline	29.20	29.40	0.20	29.26	0.06
(4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄)(Ph)NH	28.87	28.85	-0.02	28.99	0.12
4-NO ₂ -1-Naphthalenamine	28.85	29.40	0.55	29.26	0.41
Benzimidazole	27.92	28.40	0.48	28.51	0.59
2,4-(NO ₂) ₂ -Aniline	27.64	27.60	-0.04	27.66	0.02
Benzotriazole	22.98	23.62	0.64	23.74	0.76
		RMSE ^e	0.49		0.46

^a Conversion equations taken from ref 6. ^b pK_a(MeCN) values predicted from pK_a(DMSO) using equation 6. ^c pK_a(MeCN) values predicted from pK_a(DMSO) using equation 7. ^d Experimental values from this work. ^e Root mean square error.