Organic Reactivity in Ionic Liquids: Nucleophilic Substitutions on Methyl *p*-Nitrobenezenesulphonate

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The relative nucleophilicity of chloride, bromide and iodide anions in a range of ionic liquids have been determined by studying the reaction of these anions with methyl p-nitrobenzenesulphonate. Values of ΔH^{\ddagger} and ΔS^{\ddagger} for this reaction have been estimated. This reaction is illustrated (scheme 1) below.

$$O_2N - \left\langle \begin{array}{c} O \\ | \\ S \\ O \end{array} \right\rangle - O - Me \quad \begin{array}{c} Halide \\ O \\ O \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} O \\ S \\ O \end{array} - O - Me \\ O \end{array}$$

Scheme 1

The reaction was followed by UV spectroscopy, the ionic liquids being prepared to high quality, and exhibiting UV cut off points <240 nm. The range of ionic liquids studied is quite extensive and is outlined (figure 1) below.

$$Bu-N$$
 $N-Me$
 $Bmim$
 $Cl^-, Br, I^ BF_4^ Bu-N$
 $N-Me$
 Bm_2im
 $PF_6^-, SbF_6^ OSO_2CF_3^-, OSO_2Me^ OSO_2CF_3^-, OSO_2CF_3^ OSO_2CF_3^-$