

Supplementary Materials for  
**Gas-phase detection of oxirene**

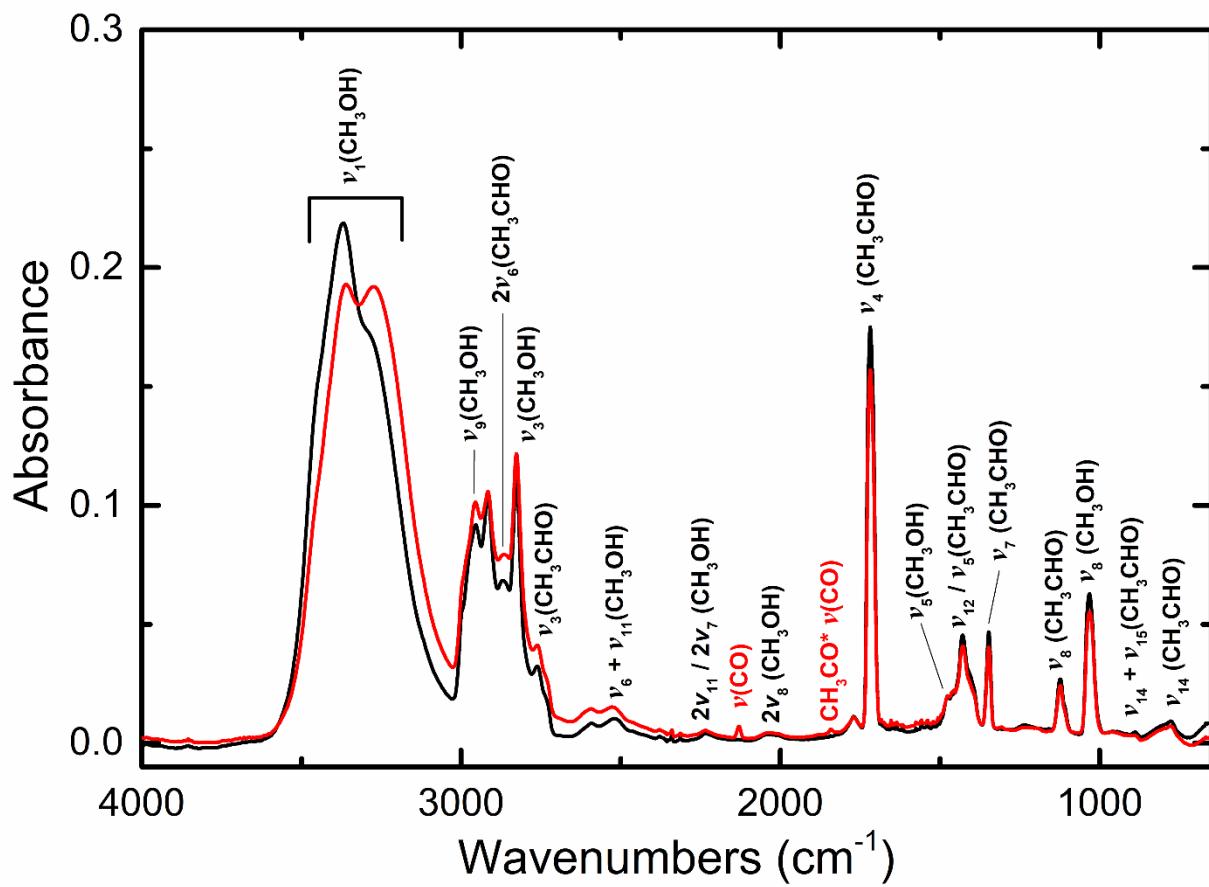
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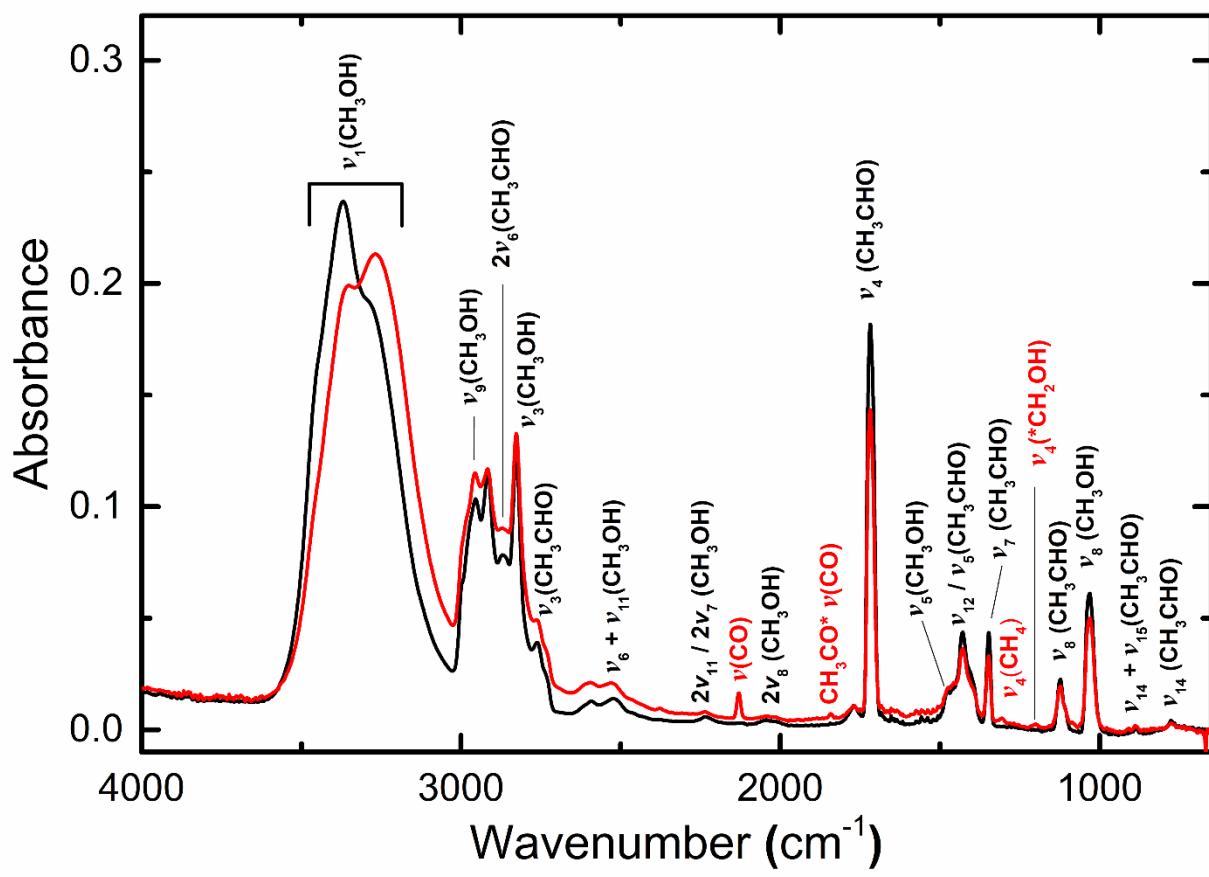
**This PDF file includes:**

Figs. S1 to S9  
Tables S1 to S11  
References



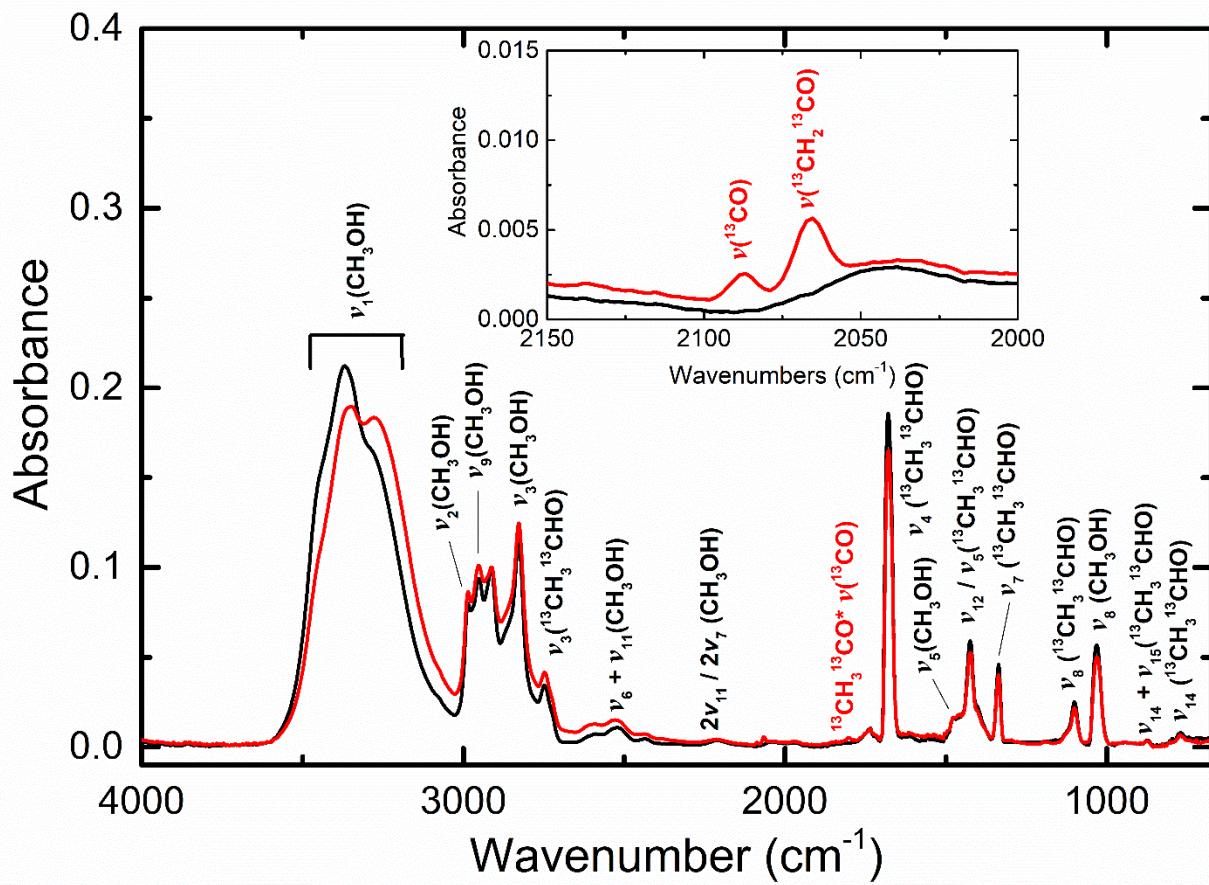
**Fig. S1.**

FTIR spectra of  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}-\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$  ices at 5 K before (black line) and after (red line) irradiation at 20 nA for 15 minutes. Detailed assignments are listed in table S1.



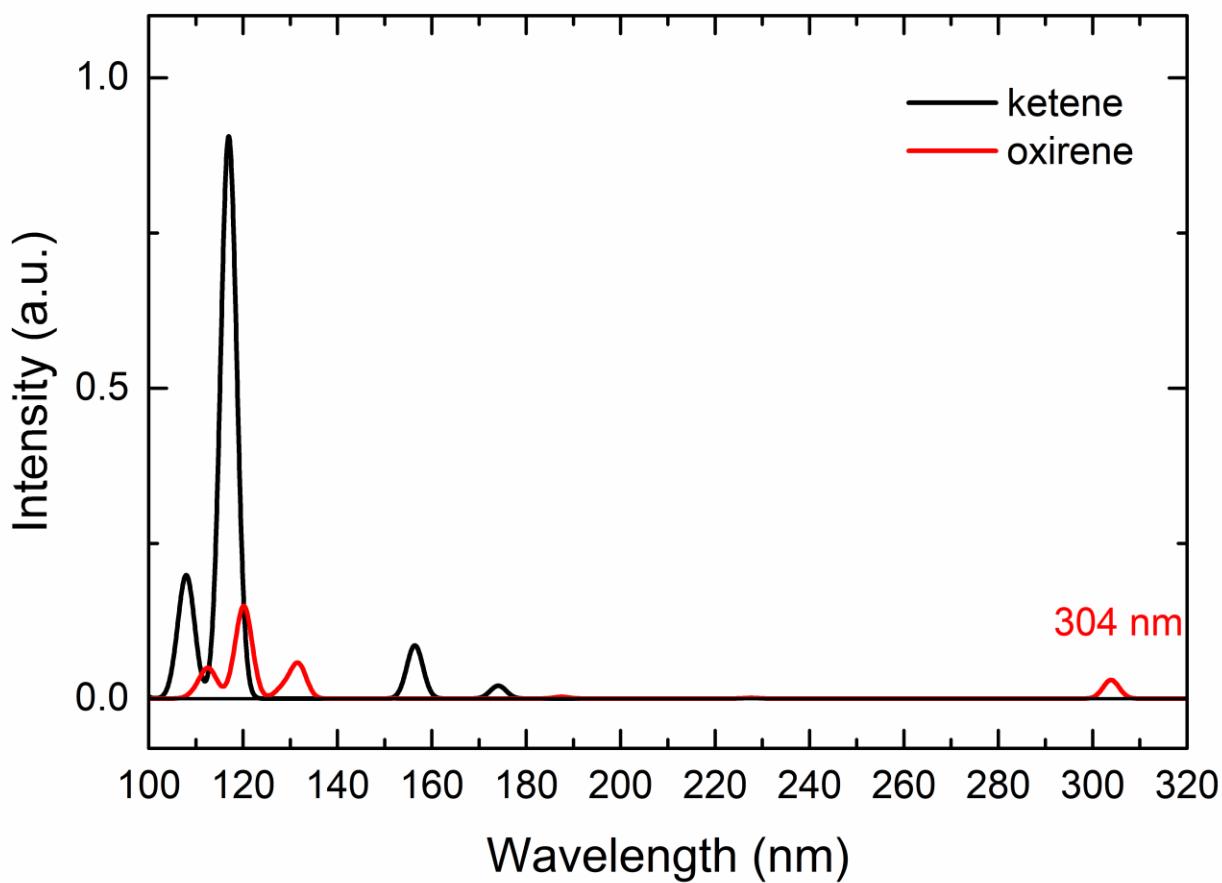
**Fig. S2.**

FTIR spectra of  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}-\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$  ice at 5 K before (black line) and after (red line) irradiation at 20 nA for 60 minutes. Detailed assignments are listed in table S2.



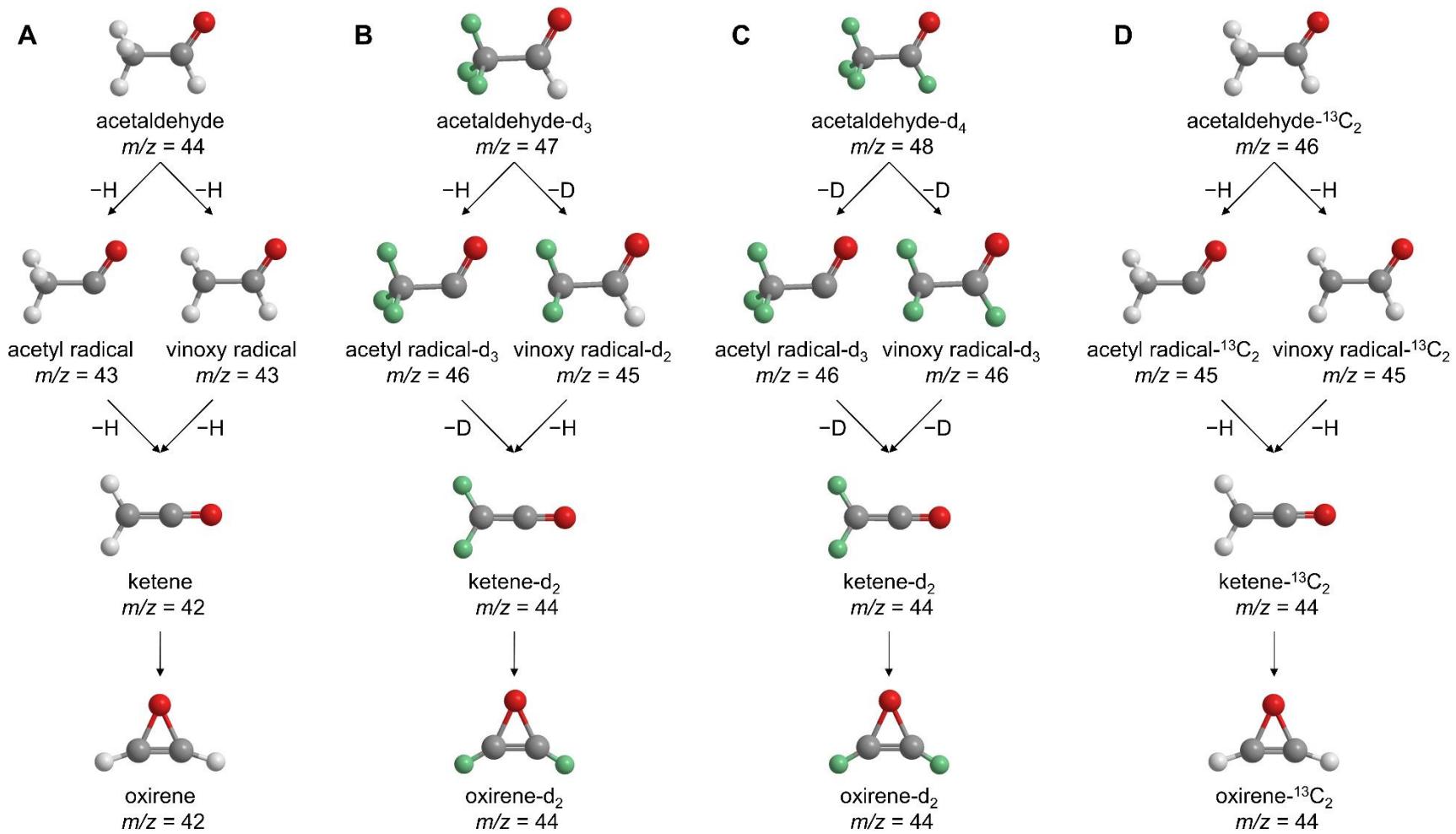
**Fig. S3.**

FTIR spectra of  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}-^{13}\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$  ices at 5 K before (black line) and after (red line) irradiation at 20 nA for 15 minutes. Detailed assignments are listed in table S3. Inset: Zoom in between 2150 and 2000 cm<sup>-1</sup> showing new peaks after irradiation corresponding to  $^{13}\text{CO}$  and ketene- $^{13}\text{C}_2$ .



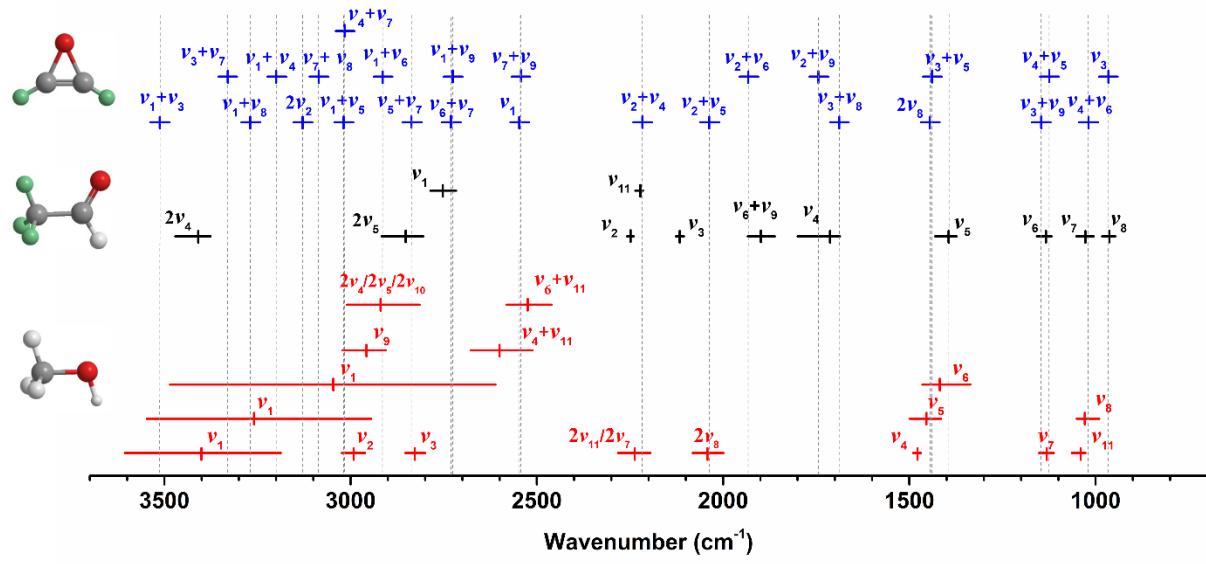
**Fig. S4.**

Simulated ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) spectra of ketene and oxirene calculated at the TD-PBE0/cc-pVTZ level of theory. The spectra were convoluted using a Gaussian line shape function with a full width at half maximum (FWHM) of 4 nm.

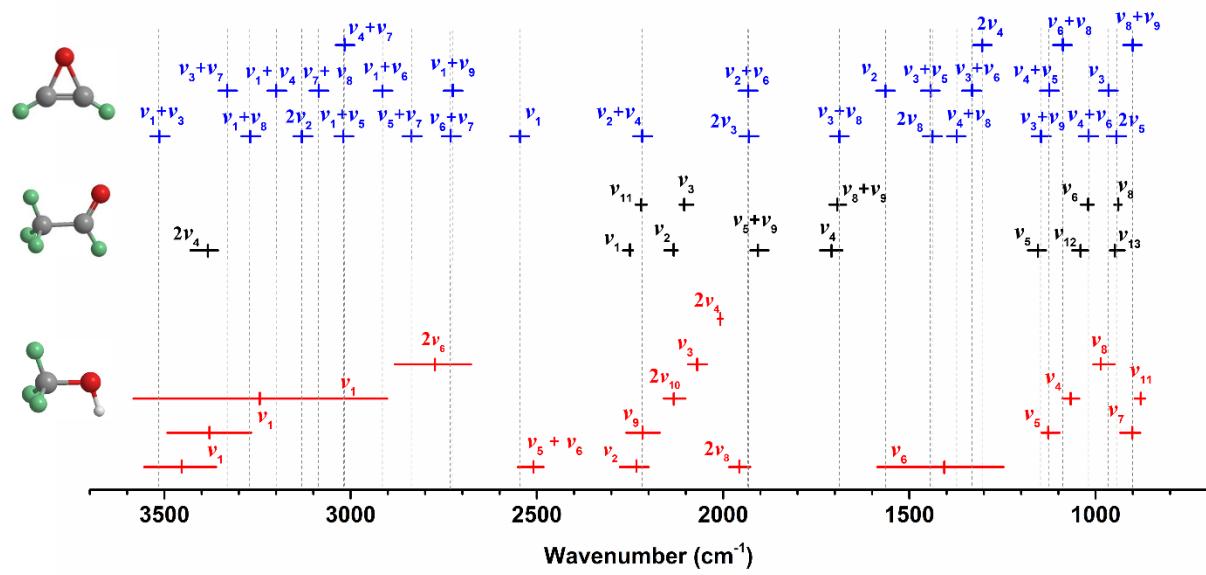


**Fig. S5.**

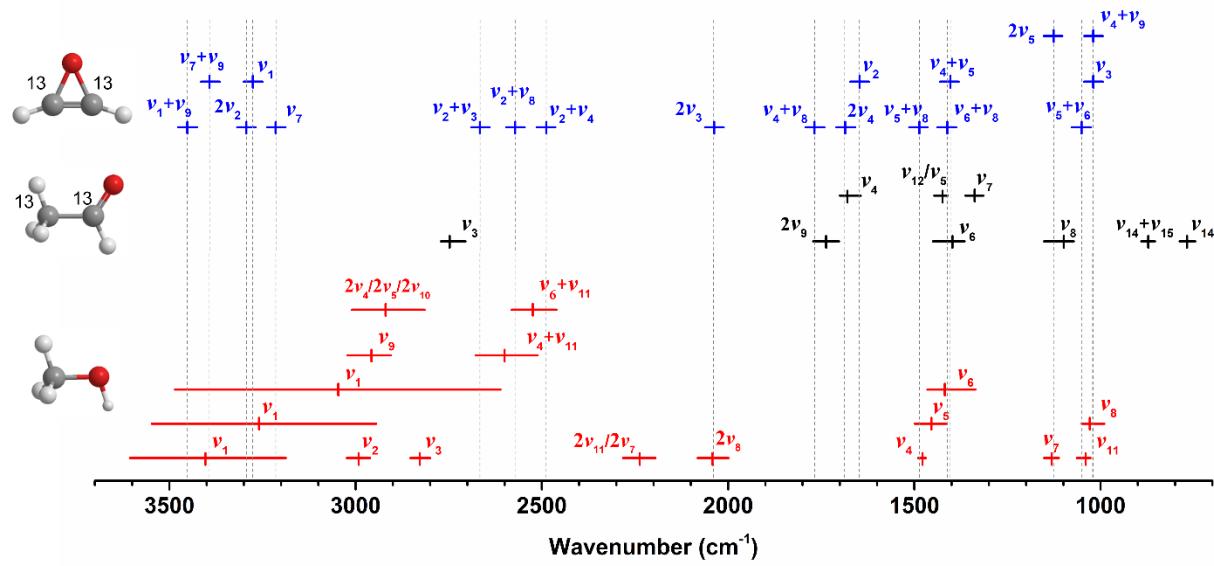
Formation schemes of ketene and oxirene. Reaction schemes showing pathways from acetaldehyde (**A**), acetaldehyde- $d_3$  (**B**), acetaldehyde- $d_4$  (**C**), and acetaldehyde- $^{13}C_2$  (**D**) to ketene and oxirene. The atoms are color-coded in white (hydrogen), light blue (deuterium), gray (carbon), and red (oxygen).



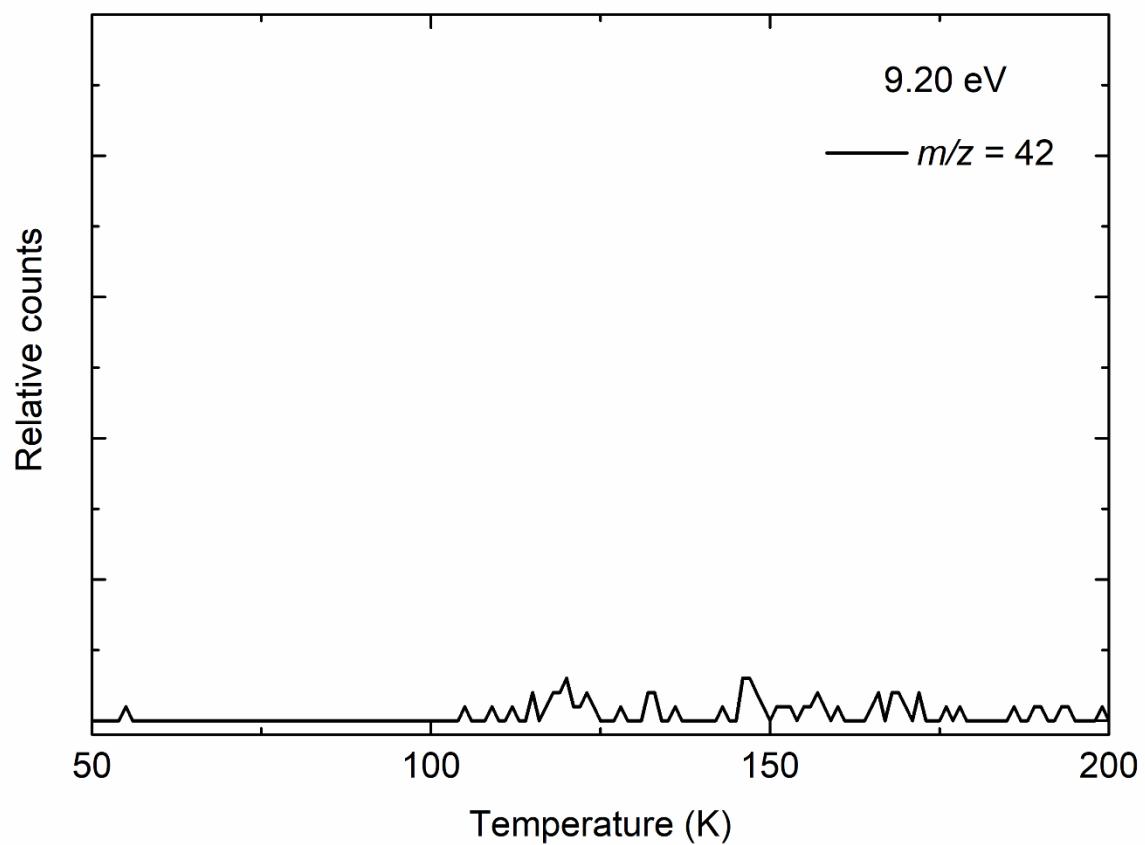
**Fig. S6. Peak absorptions (solid vertical lines) and absorption ranges (solid horizontal lines) of methanol ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ , red), acetaldehyde-d<sub>3</sub> ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CHO}$ , black), and oxirene-d<sub>2</sub> ( $c\text{-C}_2\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , blue). Dotted vertical lines indicate the overlap positions between the absorption peaks of oxirene-d<sub>2</sub> and reactants ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ , red;  $\text{CD}_3\text{CHO}$ , black). Detailed absorption positions and assignments for experimentally measured pure methanol and acetaldehyde-d<sub>3</sub> ices as well as calculated oxirene-d<sub>2</sub> are listed in table S6.**



**Fig. S7. Peak absorptions (solid vertical lines) and absorption ranges (solid horizontal lines) of methanol-d<sub>3</sub> (CD<sub>3</sub>OH, red), acetaldehyde-d<sub>4</sub> (CD<sub>3</sub>CDO, black), and oxirene-d<sub>2</sub> (*c*-C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub>O, blue). Dotted vertical lines indicate the overlap positions between the absorption peaks of oxirene-d<sub>2</sub> and reactants (CD<sub>3</sub>OH, red; CD<sub>3</sub>CDO, black). Detailed absorption positions and assignments for experimentally measured pure methanol-d<sub>3</sub> and acetaldehyde-d<sub>4</sub> ices as well as calculated oxirene-d<sub>2</sub> are listed in table S7.**



**Fig. S8. Peak absorptions (solid vertical lines) and absorption ranges (solid horizontal lines) of methanol ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ , red), acetaldehyde- $^{13}\text{C}_2$  ( $^{13}\text{CH}_3^{13}\text{CHO}$ , black), and oxirene- $^{13}\text{C}_2$  ( $c\text{-}^{13}\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , blue).** Dotted vertical lines indicate the overlap positions between the absorption peaks of oxirene- $^{13}\text{C}_2$  and reactants ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ , red;  $^{13}\text{CH}_3^{13}\text{CHO}$ , black). Detailed absorption positions and assignments for experimentally measured methanol and acetaldehyde- $^{13}\text{C}_2$  ices as well as calculated oxirene- $^{13}\text{C}_2$  are listed in table S8.



**Fig. S9.** PI-ReTOF-MS data recorded at 9.20 eV during the temperature-TPD phase of irradiated (20 nA, 15 minutes) CH<sub>3</sub>CHO ice. TPD desorption profile of ion signal for  $m/z = 42$  shows no evidence for the formation of oxirene.

**Table S1.**

Absorption peaks observed in CH<sub>3</sub>OH–CH<sub>3</sub>CHO ice before and after electron irradiation (20 nA, 15 minutes) at 5 K.

Pristine ice, before irradiation (cm <sup>-1</sup> )		
CH <sub>3</sub> OH		Assignment <sup>a</sup>
3402, 3261, 3048		v <sub>1</sub>
2991		v <sub>2</sub>
2955		v <sub>9</sub>
2914		2v <sub>4</sub> / 2v <sub>5</sub> / 2v <sub>10</sub>
2825		v <sub>3</sub>
2594		v <sub>4</sub> + v <sub>11</sub>
2517		v <sub>6</sub> + v <sub>11</sub>
2233		2v <sub>11</sub> /2v <sub>7</sub>
2038		2v <sub>8</sub>
1475		v <sub>4</sub>
1455		v <sub>5</sub>
1420		v <sub>6</sub>
1033		v <sub>8</sub>
CH <sub>3</sub> CHO		Assignment <sup>b</sup>
2866		2v <sub>6</sub>
2760		v <sub>3</sub>
1767		2v <sub>9</sub>
1718		v <sub>4</sub>
1430		v <sub>12</sub> / v <sub>5</sub>
1392		v <sub>6</sub>
1345		v <sub>7</sub>
1122		v <sub>8</sub>
887		v <sub>14</sub> + v <sub>15</sub>
777		v <sub>14</sub>
New absorption after irradiation (cm <sup>-1</sup> )		Assignment <sup>b</sup>
2130		v(CO)
1842		CH <sub>3</sub> C $\dot{O}$ v(CO)

<sup>a</sup> Assignments based on references (29, 71).

<sup>b</sup> Assignments based on reference (30).

**Table S2.**

Absorption peaks observed in CH<sub>3</sub>OH–CH<sub>3</sub>CHO ice before and after electron irradiation (20 nA, 60 minutes) at 5 K.

Pristine ice, before irradiation (cm <sup>-1</sup> )		
CH <sub>3</sub> OH		Assignment <sup>a</sup>
3402, 3261, 3048		v <sub>1</sub>
2993		v <sub>2</sub>
2955		v <sub>9</sub>
2920		2v <sub>4</sub> / 2v <sub>5</sub> / 2v <sub>10</sub>
2824		v <sub>3</sub>
2598		v <sub>4</sub> + v <sub>11</sub>
2521		v <sub>6</sub> + v <sub>11</sub>
2237		2v <sub>11</sub> /2v <sub>7</sub>
2038		2v <sub>8</sub>
1475		v <sub>4</sub>
1455		v <sub>5</sub>
1420		v <sub>6</sub>
1029		v <sub>8</sub>
CH <sub>3</sub> CHO		Assignment <sup>b</sup>
2866		2v <sub>6</sub>
2760		v <sub>3</sub>
1767		2v <sub>9</sub>
1718		v <sub>4</sub>
1431		v <sub>12</sub> / v <sub>5</sub>
1392		v <sub>6</sub>
1345		v <sub>7</sub>
1122		v <sub>8</sub>
887		v <sub>14</sub> + v <sub>15</sub>
773		v <sub>14</sub>
New absorption after irradiation (cm <sup>-1</sup> )		Assignment <sup>c</sup>
2129		v(CO)
1840		CH <sub>3</sub> C <sup>•</sup> O v(CO)
1306		v <sub>4</sub> (CH <sub>4</sub> )
1199		v <sub>4</sub> (C <sup>•</sup> H <sub>2</sub> OH)

<sup>a</sup> Assignments based on references (29, 71).

<sup>b</sup> Assignments based on reference (30).

<sup>c</sup> Assignments based on references (29, 30).

**Table S3.**

Absorption peaks observed in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}-^{13}\text{CH}_3^{13}\text{CHO}$  ice before and after electron irradiation (20 nA, 15 minutes) at 5 K.

Pristine ice, before irradiation ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )		Assignment <sup>a</sup>
$\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$		
3402, 3261, 3048		$\nu_1$
2983		$\nu_2$
2954		$\nu_9$
2912		$2\nu_4 / 2\nu_5 / 2\nu_{10}$
2826		$\nu_3$
2596		$\nu_4 + \nu_{11}$
2520		$\nu_6 + \nu_{11}$
2229		$2\nu_{11}/2\nu_7$
1476		$\nu_4$
1455		$\nu_5$
1032		$\nu_8$
$^{13}\text{CH}_3^{13}\text{CHO}$		Assignment
2748		$\nu_3$
1738		$2\nu_9$
1678		$\nu_4$
1423		$\nu_{12} / \nu_5$
1397		$\nu_6$
1336		$\nu_7$
1102		$\nu_8$
871		$\nu_{14} + \nu_{15}$
768		$\nu_{14}$
New absorption after irradiation ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )		Assignment
2087		$\nu(^{13}\text{CO})^b$
2066		$\nu(^{13}\text{CH}_2^{13}\text{CO})^b$
1802		$^{13}\text{CH}_3^{13}\text{C}\ddot{\text{O}} \nu(^{13}\text{CO})$

<sup>a</sup> Assignments based on references (29, 71).

<sup>b</sup> Assignments based on reference (31).

**Table S4.**

Absorption positions of methanol ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ), acetaldehyde ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$ ), and oxirene ( $c\text{-C}_2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). The numbers in brackets show the widths of the peaks observed in pure methanol or acetaldehyde ice (54, 72).

Absorptions of methanol ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Assignment <sup>a</sup>
3402 (419), 3261 (602), 3048 (874)	$\nu_1$
2993 (63)	$\nu_2$
2956 (116)	$\nu_9$
2920 (195)	$2\nu_4 / 2\nu_5 / 2\nu_{10}$
2828 (53)	$\nu_3$
2600 (166)	$\nu_4 + \nu_{11}$
2525 (120)	$\nu_6 + \nu_{11}$
2237 (87)	$2\nu_{11}/2\nu_7$
2042 (83)	$2\nu_8$
1478 (21)	$\nu_4$
1455 (84)	$\nu_5$
1420 (129)	$\nu_6$
1130 (40)	$\nu_7$
1040 (37)	$\nu_{11}$
1030 (61)	$\nu_8$

Absorptions of acetaldehyde ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Assignment <sup>b</sup>
3416 (58)	$2\nu_4$
3001 (51)	$\nu_1$
2916 (35)	$\nu_2$
2865 (97)	$2\nu_6$
2759 (85)	$\nu_3$
1769 (55)	$2\nu_9$
1718 (46)	$\nu_4$
1430 (50)	$\nu_{12} / \nu_5$
1392 (27)	$\nu_6$
1347 (39)	$\nu_7$
1123 (45)	$\nu_8$
886 (38)	$\nu_{14} + \nu_{15}$
772 (43)	$\nu_{14}$

Calculated absorptions of oxirene ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) <sup>c</sup>	Assignment <sup>c</sup>
3419	$\nu_1 + \nu_9$
3402	$2\nu_2$
3338	$\nu_7 + \nu_9$
3282	$\nu_1$
3201	$\nu_7$
2740	$\nu_2 + \nu_3$
2625	$\nu_2 + \nu_8$
2549	$\nu_2 + \nu_4$
2244	$\nu_2 + \nu_5$
1772	$\nu_4 + \nu_8$

1701	$\nu_2$
1696	$2\nu_4$
1467	$\nu_5 + \nu_8$
1401	$\nu_6 + \nu_8$
1391	$\nu_4 + \nu_5$
1325	$\nu_4 + \nu_6$
1061	$\nu_8 + \nu_9$
1039	$\nu_3$
1020	$\nu_5 + \nu_6$
924	$\nu_8$
848	$\nu_4$
543	$\nu_5$
477	$\nu_6$
137	$\nu_9$

<sup>a</sup> Assignments based on references (29, 71).

<sup>b</sup> Assignments based on reference (30).

<sup>c</sup> Calculated frequencies obtained from CCCBDB Vibrational Listing Page (nist.gov), computed at the CCSD(T)=FULL/cc-pVTZ level. The frequency error of oxirene is estimated to be 25 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table S5.**

Error analysis of adiabatic ionization energies (IEs) and relative energies ( $\Delta E$ ) of distinct  $C_2H_2O$  isomers; IEs and  $\Delta E$  were computed at the CCSD(T)/CBS(aug-T,Q)//CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ level of theory including the zero-point vibrational energy corrections. An offset of 0.03 eV was subtracted to correct for the electric field effect. The computed Cartesian coordinates and vibrational frequencies are shown in table S11. The combined error limits of  $-0.05 - +0.03$  eV were used based on the calculated ionization energies and experimental ionization energies of different carbon-, hydrogen-, and oxygen- containing compounds (73).

Isomer	Structure	$\Delta E$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	Experimental IE (eV)	Computed IE (eV)	IE range after error analysis (eV)	Corrected IE with electric field effect (eV)
<b>1</b> Oxirene		314		8.66	8.61 – 8.69	8.58 – 8.66
<b>2</b> Ketene		0	$9.617 \pm 0.003$ (25)	9.61	9.56 – 9.64	9.53 – 9.61
<b>3</b> Oxiranylidene		256		9.85	9.80 – 9.88	9.77 – 9.85
<b>4</b> Ethynol		139		10.03	9.98 – 10.06	9.95 – 10.03
<b>5</b> Formylcarbene (triplet)		311		6.38	6.33 – 6.41	6.30 – 6.38
Acetone			$9.703 \pm 0.006$	9.71		
Propanal			$9.96 \pm 0.01$	9.97		
Propylene oxide			$10.22 \pm 0.02$	10.24		
2-Propen-1-ol			$9.67 \pm 0.03$	9.65		
Methanol			$10.84 \pm 0.01$	10.86		
Propadienone			$9.12 \pm 0.05$	9.15		
Formaldehyde			$10.88 \pm 0.01$	10.89		
Acetaldehyde			$10.229 \pm 0.0007$	10.24		

**Table S6.**

Absorption positions of methanol ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ), acetaldehyde-d<sub>3</sub> ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CHO}$ ), and oxirene-d<sub>2</sub> (*c*- $\text{C}_2\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ). The numbers in brackets show the widths of the peaks observed in pure methanol or acetaldehyde-d<sub>3</sub> ice (55, 30).

Absorptions of methanol ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Assignment <sup>a</sup>
3402 (419), 3261 (602), 3048 (874)	$\nu_1$
2993 (63)	$\nu_2$
2956 (116)	$\nu_9$
2920 (195)	$2\nu_4 / 2\nu_5 / 2\nu_{10}$
2828 (53)	$\nu_3$
2600 (166)	$\nu_4 + \nu_{11}$
2525 (120)	$\nu_6 + \nu_{11}$
2237 (87)	$2\nu_{11}/2\nu_7$
2042 (83)	$2\nu_8$
1478 (21)	$\nu_4$
1455 (84)	$\nu_5$
1420 (129)	$\nu_6$
1130 (40)	$\nu_7$
1040 (37)	$\nu_{11}$
1030 (61)	$\nu_8$

Absorptions of acetaldehyde-d <sub>3</sub> ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Assignment <sup>b</sup>
3405 (95)	$2\nu_4$
2853 (112)	$2\nu_5$
2749 (69)	$\nu_1$
2252 (18)	$\nu_2$
2228 (21)	$\nu_{11}$
2118 (22)	$\nu_3$
1890 (73)	$\nu_6 + \nu_9$
1711 (114)	$\nu_4$
1397 (58)	$\nu_5$
1138 (40)	$\nu_6$
1029 (47)	$\nu_7$
963 (36)	$\nu_8$

Calculated absorptions of oxirene-d <sub>2</sub> ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) <sup>c</sup>	Assignment <sup>c</sup>
3512	$\nu_1 + \nu_3$
3330	$\nu_3 + \nu_7$
3268	$\nu_1 + \nu_8$
3198	$\nu_1 + \nu_4$
3128	$2\nu_2$
3085	$\nu_7 + \nu_8$
3018	$\nu_1 + \nu_5$
3015	$\nu_4 + \nu_7$
2913	$\nu_1 + \nu_6$
2835	$\nu_5 + \nu_7$
2730	$\nu_6 + \nu_7$

2725	$v_1 + v_9$
2546	$v_1$
2543	$v_7 + v_9$
2216	$v_2 + v_4$
2036	$v_2 + v_5$
1931	$v_2 + v_6$
1743	$v_2 + v_9$
1688	$v_3 + v_8$
1444	$2v_8$
1438	$v_3 + v_5$
1146	$v_3 + v_9$
1124	$v_4 + v_5$
1019	$v_4 + v_6$
966	$v_3$

<sup>a</sup> Assignments based on references (29, 71).

<sup>b</sup> Assignments based on reference (30).

<sup>c</sup> Calculated frequencies at CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ level of theory with scaled factor of 0.970. The frequency error is estimated to be 25 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table S7.**

Absorption positions of methanol-d<sub>3</sub> (CD<sub>3</sub>OH), acetaldehyde-d<sub>4</sub> (CD<sub>3</sub>CDO), and oxirene-d<sub>2</sub> (*c*-C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub>O). The numbers in brackets show the widths of the peaks observed in pure methanol-d<sub>3</sub> or acetaldehyde-d<sub>4</sub> ice (72, 74).

Absorptions of methanol-d <sub>3</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Assignment <sup>a</sup>
3460 (193), 3380 (225), 3250 (681)	v <sub>1</sub>
2780 (204)	2v <sub>6</sub>
2509 (69)	v <sub>5</sub> + v <sub>6</sub>
2233 (77)	v <sub>2</sub>
2214 (90)	v <sub>9</sub>
2140 (58)	2v <sub>10</sub>
2070 (50)	v <sub>3</sub>
2009 (12)	2v <sub>4</sub>
1958 (57)	2v <sub>8</sub>
1414 (339)	v <sub>6</sub>
1123 (48)	v <sub>5</sub>
1067 (45)	v <sub>4</sub>
987 (57)	v <sub>8</sub>
898 (54)	v <sub>7</sub>
880 (28)	v <sub>11</sub>

Absorptions of acetaldehyde-d <sub>4</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Assignment <sup>b</sup>
3384 (74)	2v <sub>4</sub>
2254 (27)	v <sub>1</sub>
2219 (30)	v <sub>11</sub>
2134 (36)	v <sub>2</sub>
2104 (37)	v <sub>3</sub>
1908 (49)	v <sub>5</sub> + v <sub>9</sub>
1709 (60)	v <sub>4</sub>
1693 (45)	v <sub>8</sub> + v <sub>9</sub>
1157 (49)	v <sub>5</sub>
1042 (43)	v <sub>12</sub>
1021 (35)	v <sub>6</sub>
952 (40)	v <sub>13</sub>
941 (20)	v <sub>8</sub>

Calculated absorptions of oxirene-d <sub>2</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>c</sup>	Assignment <sup>c</sup>
3512	v <sub>1</sub> + v <sub>3</sub>
3330	v <sub>3</sub> + v <sub>7</sub>
3268	v <sub>1</sub> + v <sub>8</sub>
3198	v <sub>1</sub> + v <sub>4</sub>
3128	2v <sub>2</sub>
3085	v <sub>7</sub> + v <sub>8</sub>
3018	v <sub>1</sub> + v <sub>5</sub>
3015	v <sub>4</sub> + v <sub>7</sub>
2913	v <sub>1</sub> + v <sub>6</sub>
2835	v <sub>5</sub> + v <sub>7</sub>

2730	$\nu_6 + \nu_7$
2725	$\nu_1 + \nu_9$
2546	$\nu_1$
2216	$\nu_2 + \nu_4$
1933	$2\nu_3$
1931	$\nu_2 + \nu_6$
1688	$\nu_3 + \nu_8$
1564	$\nu_2$
1444	$2\nu_8$
1438	$\nu_3 + \nu_5$
1374	$\nu_4 + \nu_8$
1333	$\nu_3 + \nu_6$
1304	$2\nu_4$
1146	$\nu_3 + \nu_9$
1124	$\nu_4 + \nu_5$
1089	$\nu_6 + \nu_8$
1019	$\nu_4 + \nu_6$
966	$\nu_3$
944	$2\nu_5$
901	$\nu_8 + \nu_9$

<sup>a</sup> Assignments based on references (74).

<sup>b</sup> Assignments based on reference (72).

<sup>c</sup> Calculated frequencies at CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ level of theory with scaled factor of 0.970. The frequency error is estimated to be 25 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table S8.**

Absorption positions of methanol ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ), acetaldehyde- $^{13}\text{C}_2$  ( $^{13}\text{CH}_3^{13}\text{CHO}$ ), and oxirene- $^{13}\text{C}_2$  ( $c\text{-}^{13}\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). The numbers in brackets show the widths of the peaks observed in pure methanol ice (55) or determined in mixed  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}-^{13}\text{CH}_3^{13}\text{CHO}$  ice in this work (acetaldehyde- $^{13}\text{C}_2$ ).

Absorptions of methanol ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Assignment <sup>a</sup>
3402 (419), 3261 (602), 3048 (874)	$\nu_1$
2993 (63)	$\nu_2$
2956 (116)	$\nu_9$
2920 (195)	$2\nu_4 / 2\nu_5 / 2\nu_{10}$
2828 (53)	$\nu_3$
2600 (166)	$\nu_4 + \nu_{11}$
2525 (120)	$\nu_6 + \nu_{11}$
2237 (87)	$2\nu_{11}/2\nu_7$
2042 (83)	$2\nu_8$
1478 (21)	$\nu_4$
1455 (84)	$\nu_5$
1420 (129)	$\nu_6$
1130 (40)	$\nu_7$
1040 (37)	$\nu_{11}$
1030 (61)	$\nu_8$

Absorptions of acetaldehyde- $^{13}\text{C}_2$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Assignment
2748 (66)	$\nu_3$
1738 (70)	$2\nu_9$
1678 (56)	$\nu_4$
1423 (36)	$\nu_{12} / \nu_5$
1397 (85)	$\nu_6$
1336 (48)	$\nu_7$
1102 (80)	$\nu_8$
871 (37)	$\nu_{14} + \nu_{15}$
768 (42)	$\nu_{14}$

Calculated absorptions of oxirene- $^{13}\text{C}_2$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) <sup>b</sup>	Assignment <sup>b</sup>
3451	$\nu_1 + \nu_9$
3390	$\nu_7 + \nu_9$
3293	$2\nu_2$
3275	$\nu_1$
3213	$\nu_7$
2665	$\nu_2 + \nu_3$
2571	$\nu_2 + \nu_8$
2489	$\nu_2 + \nu_4$
2037	$2\nu_3$
1767	$\nu_4 + \nu_8$
1684	$2\nu_4$
1647	$\nu_2$
1489	$\nu_5 + \nu_8$
1413	$\nu_6 + \nu_8$

1406	$v_4 + v_5$
1128	$2v_5$
1052	$v_5 + v_6$
1019	$v_4 + v_9$
1019	$v_3$

<sup>a</sup> Assignments based on references (29, 71).

<sup>b</sup> Calculated frequencies at CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ level of theory with scaled factor of 0.970. The frequency error is estimated to be 25 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table S9.** Calculated CASPT2(16,14) single-point relative energies of various stationary structures along the oxirene → formylcarbene → ketene isomerization pathway with different basis sets and extrapolated to the CBS limit.<sup>a</sup>

	oxirene	singlet formylcarbene	triplet formylcarbene	ketene	oxiranylidene	TS1	TS2	TS3
CASPT2/cc-pVTZ	0.0	0.6	-14.4	-318.0	-50.9	12.0	34.8	11.5
CASPT2/cc-pVQZ	0.0	19.2	-7.8	-314.6	-44.2	12.6	38.6	17.1
CASPT2/cc-pV5Z	0.0	21.3	0.3	-307.2	-41.1	13.5	44.1	20.5
CASPT2/CBS(T,Q) <sup>b</sup>	0.0	32.1	-3.2	-312.2	-39.6	13.1	41.2	21.0
CASPT2/CBS(Q,5) <sup>c</sup>	0.0	23.3	7.8	-300.3	-38.1	14.2	49.3	23.7
CASPT2/CBS(T,Q,5) <sup>d</sup>	0.0	17.3	9.3	-298.3	-38.6	14.5	50.8	23.7
CASPT2/aug-cc-pVTZ	0.0	19.2	-4.1	-305.4	-44.8	17.6	42.8	27.4
CASPT2/aug-cc-pVQZ	0.0	20.2	-0.9	-306.2	-42.8	17.9	44.9	29.3
CASPT2/aug-cc-pV5Z	0.0			-306.1				
<b>CASPT2/CBS(aug-T,Q)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-306.8</b>	<b>-41.5</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>30.7</b>
CASPT2/CBS(aug-Q,5) <sup>c</sup>	0.0			-305.9				
CASPT2/CBS(aug-T,Q,5) <sup>d</sup>	0.0			-305.6				

<sup>a</sup>Geometries of all structures were optimized at the CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ level of theory, harmonic ZPE were computed using the same method and anharmonic corrections were evaluated at the PBE0/aug-cc-pVTZ level. ZPE with anharmonic corrections are included in the calculations of relative energies.

<sup>b</sup>The CBS(T,Q) energy is extrapolated as  $E(VQZ) + 0.69377 * \{E(VQZ) - E(VTZ)\}$ .

<sup>c</sup>The CBS(Q,5) energy is extrapolated as  $E(V5Z) + 0.931445 * \{E(V5Z) - E(VQZ)\}$ .

<sup>d</sup>The CBS(T,Q,5) energy is extrapolated using the exponential decay function in terms of the basis set cardinal number x = 3, 4, and 5.

**Table S10.**

Parameters for the generation of vacuum ultraviolet (VUV) light used in this work. The uncertainty for VUV photon energies is less than 0.005 eV.

VUV energy (eV)	9.70 ( $2\omega_1 - \omega_2$ )	9.20 ( $2\omega_1 - \omega_2$ )	8.25 ( $2\omega_1 - \omega_2$ )
VUV wavelength (nm)	127.819	134.765	150.284
Nonlinear medium	Krypton	Xenon	Xenon
$\omega_1$ wavelength (nm)	202.316	222.566	249.628
Nd:YAG output (nm)	532	355	355
Dye laser output (nm)	606.948	445.132	499.256
Dye	Rhodamine 610/640 (0.17/0.04 g L <sup>-1</sup> ethanol)	Coumarin 450 (0.2 g L <sup>-1</sup> ethanol)	Coumarin 503 (0.4 g L <sup>-1</sup> ethanol)
$\omega_2$ wavelength (nm)	484.982	638.667	736.448
Nd:YAG output (nm)	355	532	532
Dye laser output (nm)	484.982	638.667	736.448
Dye	Coumarin 480 (0.4 g L <sup>-1</sup> ethanol)	DCM (0.3 g L <sup>-1</sup> DMSO)	LDS 722 (0.25 g L <sup>-1</sup> ethanol)

**Table S11.**

Cartesian coordinates for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O structures. CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ optimized geometry (distances in Angstrom), vibrational frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>) of neutral molecules, electronic energies E and E(CBS) (in hartree), zero-point vibrational energies (kcal/mol) as well as Anh. corr. (kcal/mol).

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<b>ethynol</b>			
H	-1.539319641	0.829856603	0.000000000
O	-1.175065699	-0.063647434	0.000000000
C	0.142513804	0.011189067	0.000000000
C	1.350437908	0.003324672	0.000000000
H	2.412144728	0.007461759	0.000000000
E = -152.3039861			
E(CBS) = -152.3776612			
ZPVE = 19.7228			
Anh. corr. = 0.238			
Frequency	Intensity		
355.1584	9.2506		
378.5624	5.3712		
527.2053	52.8696		
610.2357	45.2486		
1061.9691	78.9352		
1270.1902	86.8722		
2231.0818	128.804		
3474.4798	84.2645		
3799.153	114.2566		
<b>ethynol radical cation</b>			
H	-2.424138646	0.011228422	0.000000000
C	-1.349420840	-0.007434067	0.000000000
C	-0.102007022	0.037916682	0.000000000
O	1.139287507	-0.072916693	0.000000000
H	1.624721991	0.783061062	0.000000000
E = -151.9477262			
E(CBS) = -152.0081104			
ZPVE = 19.1948			
<b>formylcarbene singlet</b>			
H	-1.460937182	0.841630612	0.705032184
C	-1.034814858	0.243311122	-0.090299065
C	-0.000958848	-0.619432138	0.038600369

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O	0.856471853	0.335413094	-0.006169080
H	0.200887458	-1.686471298	0.008443092

E = -152.2342135

E(CBS) = -152.3072744

ZPVE = 18.5247

Anh. corr. = 0.251

Frequency	Intensity
296.6473	36.4084
451.6903	229.0214
690.0529	76.5703
972.971	7.3336
1157.7451	34.0687
1399.239	39.9735
1518.6785	15.1998
3165.2661	6.7598
3228.3475	9.1788

---

**formylcarbene triplet**

H	-2.276127960	0.152328439	0.0000000000
C	-1.271623243	-0.252112350	0.0000000000
C	0.011203868	0.381832802	0.0000000000
O	1.090966506	-0.200741892	0.0000000000
H	-0.030704594	1.489031800	0.0000000000

E = -152.2396046

E(CBS) = -152.3100130

ZPVE = 18.5967

Anh. corr. = 0.240

Frequency	Intensity
466.9951	11.4264
468.6682	1.1648
873.7371	11.0643
949.0429	0.2516
1115.5953	48.1644
1387.0736	5.6099
1585.4944	74.991
2910.3849	51.1827
3216.4299	0.0856

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**formylcarbene radical cation (quartet state)**

H	-2.273621608	0.072144698	0.0000000000
C	-1.240042633	-0.254296397	0.0000000000

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C	-0.003032170	0.414026168	0.000000000
O	1.069253697	-0.220096767	0.000000000
H	0.104868198	1.519075716	0.000000000

E = -151.8641170

E(CBS) = -151.9202896

ZPVE = 18.1417

---

### **ketene**

O	0.000000000	0.000000000	-1.188203868
C	0.000000000	0.000000000	-0.020833195
C	0.000000000	0.000000000	1.298512327
H	0.942940379	0.000000000	1.822275579
H	-0.942940379	0.000000000	1.822275579

E = -152.3691021

E(CBS) = -152.4307654

ZPVE = 19.6581

Anh. corr. = 0.216

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>
434.5529	2.6533
506.8637	60.6434
587.6051	46.3401
989.9896	2.0512
1148.6591	4.4311
1411.5277	13.1207
2181.6866	597.6073
3192.6388	25.5261
3297.527	6.9494

### **ketene radical cation**

O	0.000000000	0.000000000	-1.188535282
C	0.000000000	0.000000000	-0.060392428
C	0.000000000	0.000000000	1.334842625
H	0.959012275	0.000000000	1.844128657
H	-0.959012275	0.000000000	1.844128657

E = -152.0180054

E(CBS) = -152.0772688

ZPVE = 19.5556

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### **oxiranylidene**

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O	-0.501388802	0.544504297	0.000000000
C	-0.442094417	-0.747807189	0.000000000
C	0.875395211	-0.004714980	0.000000000
H	1.399082891	0.159237102	0.931289547
H	1.399082891	0.159237102	-0.931289547

E = -152.2626507

E(CBS) = -152.3334567

ZPVE = 20.2229

Anh. corr. = 0.251

Frequency	Intensity
817.9362	30.7101
838.855	41.6549
885.0955	1.845
1101.4491	13.5458
1116.652	1.7738
1399.8045	32.5565
1519.1688	22.043
3146.0007	2.1293
3260.5395	3.7728

### oxiranylidene radical cation

O	-0.742156619	0.387278417	0.000000000
C	-0.234199870	-0.706492660	0.000000000
C	0.989752801	0.117266964	0.000000000
H	1.391162394	0.434709955	0.957824939
H	1.391162394	0.434709955	-0.957824939

E = -151.9113247

E(CBS) = -151.9703272

ZPVE = 19.5899

---

### oxirene

H	0.000000000	1.655416097	0.833013394
C	0.000000000	0.637527386	0.502199978
O	0.000000000	0.000000000	-0.858514308
C	0.000000000	-0.637527386	0.502199978
H	0.000000000	-1.655416097	0.833013394

E = -152.2322559

E(CBS) = -152.3079364

ZPVE = 18.0425

Anh. corr. = 0.245

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E(CBS, vertical triplet energy) = -152.2041980

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>
187.6211	0.978
505.2871	77.4479
589.646	0
871.9501	56.0558
959.4067	6.8418
1063.3295	8.6286
1757.1488	3.622
3322.1987	47.295
3395.0532	2.7118

**oxirene-d<sub>2</sub>**

**Frequency**

184.9691
378.3504
486.5991
671.9708
744.0995
996.3052
1612.3625
2436.3624
2624.6654

ZPVE: 14.4898

**oxirene-<sup>13</sup>C<sub>2</sub>**

**Frequency**

182.1979
503.0574
581.3629
868.1942
953.3973
1050.0613
1697.5996
3312.6092
3376.0271

ZPVE: 17.9047

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**oxirene radical cation**

H	0.000000000	1.695689729	0.753383961
C	0.000000000	0.654300945	0.460958687
O	0.000000000	0.000000000	-0.786597940
C	0.000000000	-0.654300945	0.460958687
H	0.000000000	-1.695689729	0.753383961

E = -151.9319836

E(CBS) = -151.9917672

ZPVE = 19.2440

---

**TS1**

H	-1.543948397	1.082500300	0.283804056
C	-0.884778804	0.307549366	-0.041573996
O	0.816440171	0.337399837	0.000968929
C	-0.079728204	-0.699803198	0.014627189
H	0.070670087	-1.766781391	0.021669290

E = -152.2317062

E(CBS) = -152.3064973

ZPVE = 17.8351

Anh. corr. = 0.244

$v_i$  = 268.0464

---

**TS2**

H	-1.726214663	0.366910914	0.903209042
C	-1.293409365	0.200293197	-0.097767460
C	0.012518619	-0.394621461	0.015949355
O	1.072548598	0.217917731	0.003060475
H	-0.044563270	-1.511590102	0.022413133

E = -152.2255527

E(CBS) = -152.2981266

ZPVE = 17.3561

Anh. corr. = 0.240

$v_i$  = 402.5632

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**TS3**

O	-0.895020511	0.333300518	0.033919008
C	-0.232179735	-0.654870281	-0.040303235
C	1.194162738	0.111821762	-0.051833091
H	1.122618339	1.149446916	-0.391629519
H	1.627839871	0.026817629	0.950361704

E = -152.2358648

E(CBS)= -152.2952409

Anh. corr. = 0.240

ZPVE = 17.5871

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vi = 500.2473

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