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Investigation of the σ-bond linear-chain molecular structure in 14C

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A recent inelastic-excitation and cluster-decay experiment, 2 H(14 C, 14 C*-> 10 Be+ 4 He) 2 H, was conducted at an incident beam energy of 27.5 MeV/A. Neutron-rich 14C projectile were inelastically excited to high-lying states beyond 20 MeV, which cover the theoretically predicted linear chain molecular rotational band with the σ -bond configuration. All three final particles in this reaction were detected, allowing the selection of the decay paths from the 14 C-resonances to various states of 10 Be fragment, based on the Q value spectrum. And the detection in most forward angle raises the chance for observing the near-threshold states with small relative energies. The 22.2 MeV state of 14 C primarily decays to a state near 6 MeV in its daughter nucleus 10 Be, consistent with previous experimental observations and theoretical predictions. This state is very likely the predicted band head of the σ -bond linear-chain molecular states of 14 C. Further spin-parity analysis is still on the way which may provide stronger evidence.

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