Hydrophobic Modifications at 1-Phosphate of Inositol 1,4,5-Trisphosphate Analogues Enhance Receptor Binding

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Abstract—Inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP_3) analogues were synthesized in order to investigate the importance of the environment of 1-phosphate of IP_3 for strong binding to the IP_3 receptor. Our results show that hydrophobic modifications of the 1-phosphate moiety enhance the binding affinity, with considerable latitude of substituent structure. © 2002 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

Inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP_3) is an important second messenger that evokes the release of Ca^{2+} from the intracellular stores through the IP_3 receptor (IP_3R). The Ca^{2+} signals thus generated regulate many aspects of cellular responses, such as secretion, fertilization, muscle contraction, neuronal signaling, cell growth and death.[1–3] Many IP_3 analogues have been synthesized to investigate their structure–activity relationship with respect to IP_3R. The recognition of ligands by IP_3R is stereospecific, the vicinal 4,5-bisphosphate and 6-hydroxyl motif being the crucial structural features, and the 1-phosphate further contributing to receptor binding specificity.[4,5] Most of the IP_3 analogues synthesized showed reduced affinity to IP_3,[6] though we have reported an IP_3 analogue that has high affinity for IP_3R.[7] Our analogue carries a hydrophobic and charged moiety located near the 1-phosphate of IP_3. To investigate the importance of the hydrophobicity, the bulkiness and the charge at this location, four analogues modified at the 1-position were newly synthesized and their binding affinity was measured using surface plasmon resonance (SPR). Our results suggest that highly hydrophobic substitution at the 1-phosphate position of IP_3 enhances the affinity to IP_3R, with a wide latitude of substituent structure. Additionally, cationic charge further contributes to strong interaction with IP_3R.

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Method

Synthesis

1-O-(3-Aminopropyl) ester of IP_3, **2**, was synthesized from DL-*myo*-inositol by the method previously reported.[8–10] Other IP_3 analogues were synthesized by coupling *N*-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS)-activated substituents with **2**. 1-Naphthoic acid *N*-hydroxysuccinimide ester (SE) was coupled to produce **3**, 1-pyrenebutyric acid SE to give **4**, leuco malachite green SE to give **5**, and 5-carboxytetramethyl-rhodamine to give **6** (Fig. 1). Enantiomers of **3** (**3′**), **4** (**4′**) and **5** (**5′**) were synthesized by a similar method. The synthesized compounds were all characterized by ^1H NMR and by MS(FAB).

Spectral data of newly synthesized compounds. 3 ^1H NMR (CD_3OD) 1.93 (m, 2H), 3.44–3.53 (m, 3H), 3.88–4.42 (m, 7H), 7.40–7.55 (m, 3H), 7.83 (dd, $J = 2.0, 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), MS(FAB) 632 $(M+1)^+$; **4** ^1H NMR (CD_3OD) 1.77 (m, 2H), 2.05 (m, 2H), 2.28 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.27 (m, 2H), 3.50–4.45 (m, 10H), 7.88–8.32 (m, 9H); MS(FAB) 748 $(M+1)^+$; **5** ^1H NMR (D_2O) 1.75 (m, 2H), 3.08 (s, 12H), 3.23–4.21 (11H), 7.03 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 4H), 7.36 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 4H), 7.52 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), MS(FAB) 834 $(M+1)^+$; **6** ^1H NMR (D_2O) 1.92 (m, 2H), 3.03 (s, 12H), 3.46–4.15 (m, 12H), 6.39 (s, 2H), 6.77 (dd, $J = 10$ Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, $J = 10$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.10 (s, 1H), MS(FAB) 890 $(M)^+$.

Figure 1. Structures of IP$_3$ (**1**) and novel (**3–6**) or reported (**2**, **7**) IP$_3$ analogues.

IP$_3$R binding assay

The IP$_3$-binding domain (IBD) of human IP$_3$ receptor type 1 was prepared in the same way as previously reported[7] except for purification using Talon^{TM} Metal Affinity Resin (Clontech). The purity of the protein was confirmed by SDS–PAGE. Measurements of SPR were carried out using **2**-immobilized chips. The dissociation constant (K_d) of each compound was calculated from the SPR signals obtained from a competition assay (Fig. 2).

Calculation of stable conformations

The structures of the substituents of **5**, **6** and **7** including the amide group were energy-minimized using MM2 molecular mechanics calculations to find energetically stable conformations. After the energy minimization, the substituents were overlaid to assess their structural similarity (Fig. 3).

We have previously reported a 1-phosphate-modified IP$_3$ analogue (**7**) that has high affinity for IBD (170-fold higher affinity than IP$_3$).[7] Compound **7** has a substituent with high hydrophobicity and cationic charge (Fig. 1).

To investigate the importance of steric factors and charges, **5** was synthesized. The substituent of **5** is a reduced form of that of **7**, and **5** was calculated to have a similar conformation to that of **7** [Fig. 3(b)]. The major difference between these analogues is that **7** has one cationic charge at the substitution site, but **5** does not. The binding affinity of **5** was estimated to be 90-fold lower than that of **7** [Table 1, Fig. 2(b)], indicating that cationic charge is important for the affinity to IP$_3$R.

Another analogue which has a similar structure [Fig. 3(c)] but has both cationic and anionic charges, **6**, was synthesized. Although **6** has a cationic charge, binding affinity was 300-fold lower than that of **7** (Table 1, Fig. 2(a)). The reduced affinity might be due to the

electronic repulsion between the anionic charge of **6** and IBD. However, the possibility remains that steric hindrance of oxygen at the bottom rings or the carboxyl moiety at the upper ring of the substituent [Fig. 1 (**6**)] might have lowered the affinity.
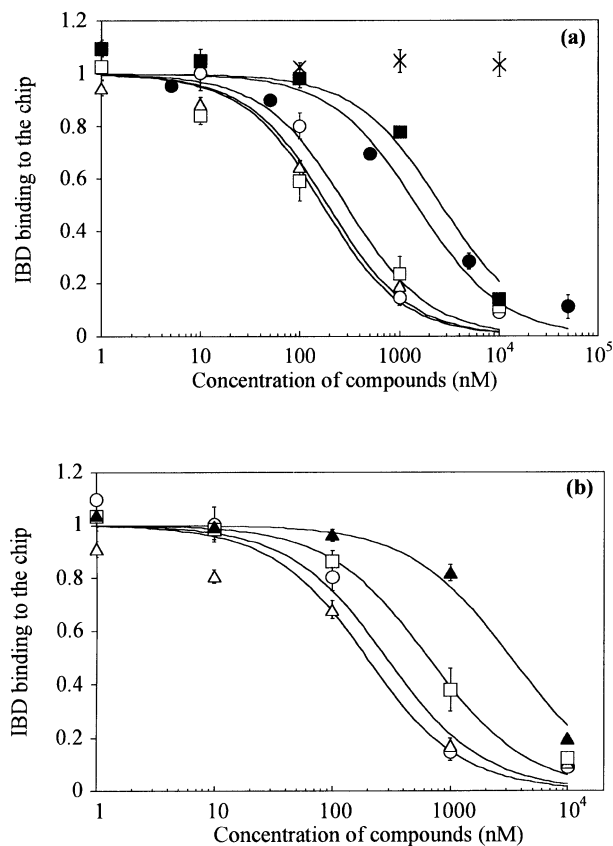

Figure 2. Binding assay of compounds. Dose–response relationship in competition assay of: (a) IP$_3$ (○), **2** (●), **3** (△), **4** (□), **4′** (■) and 1-naphthoic acid (×); (b) IP$_3$ (○), **5** (△), **5′** (▲) and **6** (□). Inhibition of IBD binding to **2**-immobilized chip by these compounds is shown. The values are mean±SEM of at least three experiments.
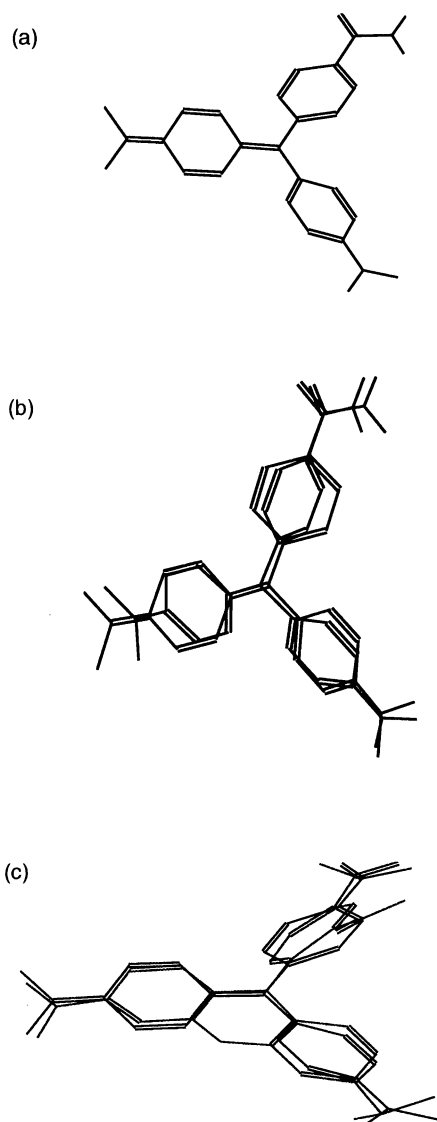
Figure 3. Substituent of **7** (a) and comparison of substituents between **7** and **5** (b) or **6** (c). These structures were all energy-minimized using MM2.

Table 1. Dissociation constant of test compounds

Compound	K_d (nM)	Relative affinity compared with 2^b
1	260 ± 82^a	5.8
2	1500 ± 350^a	1
3	160 ± 47^a	9.4
3′	8400 ± 2700^a	0.18
4	140 ± 58^a	11
4′	2600 ± 720^a	0.58
5	170 ± 70^a	8.8
5′	3200 ± 510^a	0.47
6	620 ± 87^a	2.4
7	1.17	950

[a] Data are presented as mean $\pm$ standard error of at least three experiments.
[b] $(K_d$ of **2**$)/(K_d$ of the compound).

Enantiomers **3′**, **4′** and **5′** had about 20- to 50-fold lower affinity than their respective isomers [Table 1, Fig. 2(a) and (b)]. No non-specific interaction with 1-naphthoic acid was seen [Fig. 2(a)]. These results are consistent with highly specific ligand recognition by IP$_3$R.

In conclusion, linking a hydrophobic moiety to 1-phosphate of IP$_3$ enhances the binding of IP$_3$ analogues to IP$_3$R with considerable latitude of substituent structure. For strong interaction with IP$_3$R, a cationic charge adjacent to the 1-phosphate of IP$_3$ is important.

In order to analyze the importance of a hydrophobic substituent for increasing the affinity to IP$_3$R, **3** and **4** were synthesized. Though the modification of 1-phosphate to 1-*O*-(3-aminopropyl) ester (**2**) resulted in a 6-fold lower affinity than IP$_3$, modification of amine to naphthalene amide restored the affinity to the same level as that of IP$_3$. A more hydrophobic substituent, for example butyl pyrene, further enhanced the affinity. So far, adenophostins A and B are the most potent agonists to be reported.[11] Adenophostins have a bulky hydrophobic moiety at the putative 1-phosphate position. It was suggested that long-range interaction at this position might enhance the activity of adenophostins. Our finding that hydrophobic substitution at 1-phosphate enhanced the affinity for IP$_3$R supports the above suggestion, and also suggests that there might be a wide hydrophobic pocket proximal to the 1-phosphate site of IP$_3$R. By modifying the length of the linker, it should be possible to determine the size of the hydrophobic pocket.

References and Notes

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