

Coenzyme Models. 30. On the Unusual Spectroscopic Behaviors of Amphiphilic Flavins and 5-Deazaflavins

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At room temperature in aqueous solution, isoalloxazines and 5-dezaialloalloxazines with 10- dodecyl substituent gave a well-resolved, three-banded S1 peak which has been believed to appear only in nonpolar solvents or in enzymic hydrophobic pockets where isoalloxazines and 5-dezaialloalloxazines become free of hydrogen-bonding effects. On the other hand, 3-methyl-10-ethylisoalloxazine and 5-dezaialloalloxazines with 10- ethyl or 10- octyl group did not give such a fine-structured S1 peak. We have found that (i) the fine structure disappears on the addition of organic solvents (ethanol > 40 vol% or pyridine > 20 vol%), (ii) the fine structure also disappears on the addition of surfactants (CTAB, Brij-35, and SDS) above the critical micelle concentrations, (iii) 10-dodecylisoalloxazine with hydrophilic 3-(thiazolinio)propyl group at 3-position has not the fine structure, and (iv) the fluorescent intensity of 3-methyl-10-dodecyl-5-dezaialloalloxazine is much weaker than that of 3-methyl-10-ethyl-5-dezaialloalloxazine in aqueous solution but these intensities become comparable above 40 vol% ethanol. These findings are consistently rationalized in terms of an aggregation-deaggregation equilibrium of amphiphilic flavin analogues, supporting that the fine structure in aqueous solution is due to the "stacking" association of (5-deaza)isoalloxazine nuclei, like that of dye molecules. The aggregation-deaggregation phenomenon is sensitively reflected by the reactivity: the reaction of 3-methyl-10-ethyl-5-dezaialloalloxazine and cyanide ion gave $k_2 = 1.27 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ in aqueous solution at 30 °C, whereas aggregated 3-methyl-10-dodecyl-5-dezaialloalloxazine did not react with cyanide ion. These findings have significant implications on the chemistry of flavoproteins, because the absorption spectra of enzyme-bound flavins and 5-deazaflavins have frequently been cited to discuss the flavin reactivities.

The light absorption spectra of a flavin (vitamin B₂) family have characteristic dependence upon the medium polarity and have been used as a useful probe in enzymic and membrane biology. Flavins usually have two characteristic absorption maxima at the ultraviolet region (around 330 nm: peak S2) and the visible region (440 nm: peak S1). The absorption spectra can be classified into three categories on the basis of solvent effects on the S1 peak: a simple gaussian-type peak in aqueous solution (type A), two-to-three shoulders in dipolar solvents (DMF, acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran, *etc.*) (type B), and a three-banded fine structure in nonpolar solvents (benzene, 3-methylpentane, *etc.*) (type C).^{1–5} It is also known that the absorption maximum of S2 shifts to shorter wavelengths in nonpolar solvents.^{1,2} Thus, the S2 band is frequently used as an indicator of solvent polarity.

We previously found that the S1 peak of 3-methyl-10-dodecylisoalloxazine (amphiphilic flavin analogue) gives a well-resolved, three-banded fine structure even in aqueous solution at room temperature.⁶ Since the fine structure of S1 has been believed to appear only in nonpolar solvents or in enzymic hydrophobic pockets where isoalloxazine becomes free of hydrogen-bonding effects,^{1–5,7,8} the novel finding in the nonenzymatic aqueous solution helps understanding the origin of the fine structure in enzymatic systems. Based on the spectral examination, we proposed that the fine structure is attributable to "stacking" association of the isoalloxazine nuclei which is induced by hydrophobic aggregation of 10-dodecyl groups.^{6,9}

As an extension of the study, we examined the spectral characteristics of following isoalloxazines (**1**) and 5-dezaialloalloxazines (**2**) (see Table 1 for their 3- and 10- substituents) in aqueous solution. The results support again the importance of the aggregation in the absorption and the fluorescent spectrum.

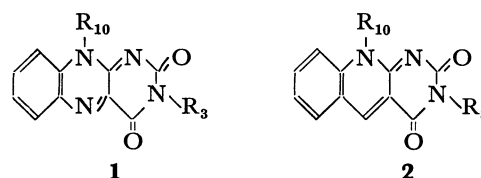


TABLE 1. ABBREVIATIONS OF ISOALLOXAZINES AND 5-DEAZAISOALLOXAZINES

Abbreviation	R ₃	R ₁₀
1MeEt	CH ₃ -	CH ₃ CH ₂ -
1MeDod	CH ₃ -	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₁₁ -
1HDod	H-	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₁₁ -
1ThDod	Br ⁻ S $\begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \text{N}^+(\text{CH}_2)_3- \end{array}$	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₁₁ -
2MeEt	CH ₃ -	CH ₃ CH ₂ -
2MeOct	CH ₃ -	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₇ -
2MeDod	CH ₃ -	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₁₁ -

Experimental

Preparations of isoalloxazine derivatives (**1MeEt**, **1MeDod**, **1HDod**, and **1ThDod**) were described previously.^{9–11} The preparation method of **2MeEt** was also reported.¹² Preparations of **2MeOct** and **2MeDod** will be described soon in a separate paper.

The absorption spectra of isoalloxazines and 5-dezaialloalloxazines were taken at 30 ± 0.1 °C on a Hitachi 200 spectrophotometer equipped with a thermostated cell-holder. The concentration was usually 5.00 × 10⁻⁵ M.^{††} The fluorescent spectra were taken at 30 ± 0.1 °C on a Hitachi 650-10S spectrophotometer equipped with a thermostated cell-holder. The concentration was usually 5.00 × 10⁻⁷ M. The excitation wavelengths for isoalloxazines and 5-dezaialloalloxazines were 380 and 330 nm, respectively, and the slit widths of excitation and emission were 3 and

†† 1 M = 1 mol dm⁻³.

15 nm, respectively.

The reaction of cyanide ion and 5-deazaisoalloxazines was monitored spectrophotometrically at $30 \pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$ by following the disappearance of 5-deazaisoalloxazines at their λ_{max} . The typical conditions were: $[\text{CN}^-] = 1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$ and $[5\text{-deazaisoalloxazine}] = 5.00 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ in aqueous 2 vol% DMF solution. The first-order behavior was observed for at least up to three half-lives. The pseudo-first-order rate constants thus obtained were proportional to the cyanide ion concentration. Hence, the reaction is first-order in cyanide ion and 5-deazaisoalloxazine.

Results and Discussion

Absorption Spectra in Various Solvents. The typical absorption maxima of isoalloxazines and 5-deazaisoalloxazines are summarized in Tables 2 and 3, respectively. Table 2 shows that **1MeEt** is subject to typical solvent effects:¹⁻⁵⁾ S1 is a gaussian-type peak in aqueous solution (type A), has shoulders in polar solvents (type B), and has a three-banded fine structure in nonpolar solvents (type C). The λ_{max} of S2 shifted to shorter wavelengths with lowering the solvent polarity, as reported by Koziol and others.¹⁻⁵⁾ On the other hand, S1 of **1MeDod** and **1HDod** was a well-resolved fine structure even in aqueous solution (*i.e.*, type C: Fig. 1). The shape of the S1 peak was almost unaffected at the concentration range $(0.10\text{--}2.40) \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$. Although these fine-structured peaks in aqueous solution are similar to that of **1MeEt** in benzene, the blue shift of S2 was not observed for aqueous **1MeDod** and **1HDod** (*e.g.*, 340 and 343 nm, respec-

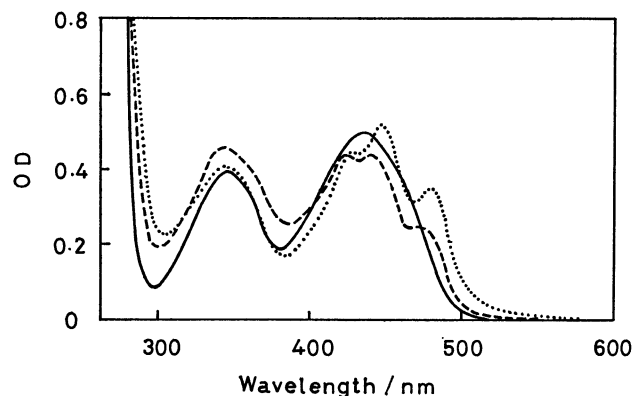


Fig. 1. Absorption spectra of **1HDod**(---), **1MeDod**(.....), and **1ThDod**(—) in water. $[\text{isoalloxazine}] = 5.00 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$.

tively; compare with the blue shift of **1MeEt**, 341 (water) \rightarrow 328 (benzene)). The result suggests that the fine structure observed in the aqueous system cannot be rationalized in terms of the simple solvent effect.

Interestingly, the fine structure of **1MeDod** and **1HDod** has disappeared completely in aqueous solutions containing surfactants above the critical micelle concentrations (cmc), and the spectra were classified as type B (Table 2). Similarly, the fine structure disappeared on the addition of organic solvents (*vide infra*). The fine structure also disappeared by introducing a hydrophilic 3-(thiazolinio)propyl group at 3-position of 10-dodecylisoalloxazine (Fig. 1). These results, together with our previous findings,^{6,9)} strongly suggest that the fine structure of aqueous **1MeDod** and **1HDod** stems from the association of the isoalloxazine nuclei which is induced by hydrophobic interaction between 10-dodecyl groups. The disappearance of the fine structure in the micellar system is accounted for by the loss of the interaction between the isoalloxazine nuclei in the micellar phase (*i.e.*, dilution effect). The phenomenon is similar to that of the absorption spectrum of dye molecules: "stacking" association of dye molecules induces the split of the absorption bands in aqueous solution, but it disappears in micellar solutions.¹³⁻¹⁶⁾ The disappearance of the fine structure by adding organic solvents is accounted for by deaggregation due to the enhanced solubility.

It occurred to us that if the fine structure is induced by the aggregation, the S1 peak of **1ThDod** may split above its cmc. The cmc of cationic C_{12} -surfactants is about 10 mM,¹⁷⁾ so that we measured the spectrum of **1ThDod** at 0.05–30 mM by using 1 cm–0.1 mm width cuvettes. As shown in Fig. 2, the shape of the S1 peak was almost identical below 10 mM while clear shoulders were observed above 20 mM. Probably, the cmc of **1ThDod** is at this concentration. The result supports that the split of the S1 peak is significantly associated with the aggregation phenomenon.

The solvent effect on the absorption spectrum of 5-deazaisoalloxazine has not been examined systematically. Table 3 and Fig. 3 show that in general, the solvent effects on S1 of **2MeEt** are quite similar

TABLE 2. ABSORPTION MAXIMA (nm) OF ISOALLOXAZINES IN VARIOUS MEDIA (30°C)^{a)}

Medium	1MeEt S2 S1	1MeDod S2 S1	1HDod S2 S1	1ThDod S2 S1
Water	341, 433	340, ^(427, 447, 480)	343, ^(423, 441, 472)	345, 437
CTAB (10 mM)	340, 433	338, 440 (S)	339, 438 (S)	337, 438 (S)
SDS (10 mM)		341, 440 (S)	343, 440 (S)	
Brij-35 (10 mM)		340, 445 (S)	346, 440 (S)	
Ethanol	332, 435 (S)	332, 435 (S)	332, 435 (S)	
Pyridine	327, 438 (S)	328, 438 (S)	327, 438 (S)	
Benzene	328, ^(418, 440, 466)	329, ^(420, 440, 467)	327, ^(417, 438, 464)	

a) (S) indicates that S1 has shoulders. Three values given for S1 indicate each absorption maximum for the fine structure split.

TABLE 3. ABSORPTION MAXIMA (nm) OF 5-DEAZAISOALLOXAZINES IN VARIOUS MEDIA (30°C)^{a)}

Medium	2MeEt S2 S1	2MeOct S2 S1	2MeDod S2 S1
Water	323, 392	325, 400	325, ^(386, 403, 428)
CTAB (10 mM)	322, 393	323, 399	322, 399 (S)
SDS (10 mM)	323, 392	323, 397	324, 397 (S)
Brij-35 (10 mM)	323, 391	323, 398	322, 400 (S)
Ethanol	318, 398 (S)	320, 398 (S)	320, 398 (S)
DMF	318, 400 (S)		318, 401 (S)
CH_3CN	316, 397 (S)		316, 398 (S)
<i>o</i> -Dichlorobenzene	321 (S), ^(404, 426)		322 (S), ^(405, 427)
Benzene	318 (S), ^(405, 427)		318 (S), ^(405, 428)

a) (S) indicates that the peak has shoulders. Two-to-three values given for S1 indicate each absorption maximum for the fine structure split.

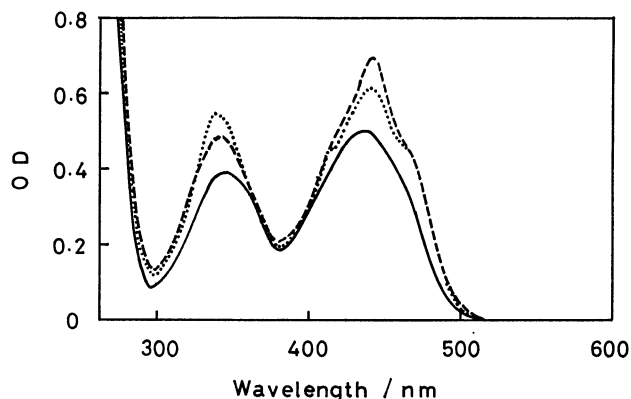


Fig. 2. Absorption spectra of 1ThDod in water at different concentrations.
—: 10 mM, ---: 20 mM,: 30 mM. The Y-axis is normalized to 5×10^{-5} M in 1 cm cell.

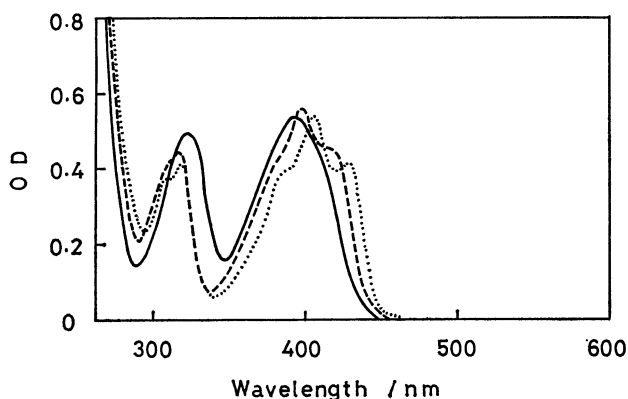


Fig. 3. Absorption spectra of 2MeEt in water (—), acetonitrile (---), and benzene (.....).
[2MeEt] = 5.00×10^{-5} M.

to those on 1MeEt. The following points are noticeable differences: (i) the blue shift of S2 in nonpolar solvents is smaller than that of S2 of isoalloxazines (*e.g.*, 323 nm in water \rightarrow 318 nm in benzene) and (ii) the S2 peak in benzene and *o*-dichlorobenzene (*o*-DCB) has a shoulder at 310 nm (Fig. 3). A similar shoulder on S2 has been observed for tetra-*O*-butyrylriboflavin in carbon tetrachloride.⁴ As expected, 2MeDod (amphiphilic 5-deazaisoalloxazine) gave a three-banded S1 peak. Being different from that of amphiphilic isoalloxazines, the ϵ_{\max} of S2 (12300) is greater than any of S1 (9000, 10400, and 6040). Since the fine structure disappeared in surfactant micellar solutions, the association of 5-deazaisoalloxazine nuclei is responsible for the appearance of the fine structure.

Another amphiphilic 5-deazaisoalloxazine, 2MeOct in water did not give a three-banded S1 peak but a broad absorption band spreading to 500–600 nm, and the ϵ_{\max} of S1 was smaller than that of S2 (Fig. 4). The longer-wavelength absorption band disappeared in 20 vol% ethanol. One may thus presume that 2MeOct forms some aggregate in aqueous solution though it is not stable enough to induce a fine structure split. Attempting to stabilize the aggregate, we measured the spectrum of 2MeOct (5.00×10^{-5} M) in KCl (0.25–2 mM) containing aqueous solutions and at high

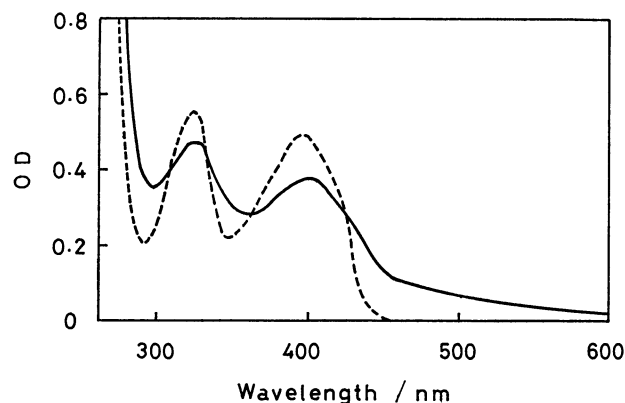


Fig. 4. Absorption spectra of 2MeOct in water (—) and 20 vol% aqueous ethanol (---).
[2MeOct] = 5.00×10^{-5} M.

2MeOct concentrations ($\approx 2.40 \times 10^{-4}$ M). However, the spectra were apparently identical under these measurement conditions.

Absorption Spectra in Water–Ethanol and Water–Pyridine Mixed Solvents.

Since the fine structure of amphiphilic isoalloxazines and 5-deazaisoalloxazines stems from the association of the nuclei, addition of organic solvents which causes the deaggregation of these amphiphiles would change the shape of the S1 speak. The spectral results are summarized in Tables 4 and 5. Addition of ethanol or pyridine changed the spectral shape of S1 of 2MeEt from type A to type B (ethanol) or to type C (pyridine). More peculiar spectral changes were observed for 2MeDod: a new, broad absorption band appeared at 500–600 nm region below 40 vol% ethanol and 20 vol% pyridine, and both the fine structure and the longer-wavelength absorption band disappeared above these solvent compositions (Fig. 5). We previously reported that a similar longer-wavelength absorption band is observed for 1MeDod in ethanol (<45 vol%) and pyridine (<20 vol%) solutions.^{6,9} In particular, the absorption band in aqueous pyridine was so strong (*e.g.*, ϵ_{550} 4420 in

TABLE 4. ABSORPTION MAXIMA (nm) OF 5-DEAZAISOLLOXAZINES IN ETHANOL–WATER MIXED SOLVENTS (30 °C)^a

Ethanol (vol%)	2MeEt		2MeOct		2MeDod	
	S2	S1	S2	S1	S2	S1
0	323,	392	325,	400	325,	{386 403 428
20	324,	393	325,	395	326,	{386 402 428
30					333,	{404 (S) 428
40	323,	395	324,	397	324,	397 (S)
60	322,	396	323,	397	323,	397 (S)
80	321,	397 (S)	322,	398 (S)	322,	398 (S)
100	318,	398 (S)	320,	398 (S)	320,	398 (S)

a) (S) indicates that the peak has shoulders. Two-to-three values given for S1 indicate each absorption maximum for the fine structure split.

TABLE 5. ABSORPTION MAXIMA(nm) OF 5-DEAZAISOALLOXAZINES IN PYRIDINE-WATER MIXED SOLVENTS (30 °C)^a

Pyridine (vol%)	2MeEt		2MeDod	
	S2	S1	S2	S1
0	323,	392	325,	{386 403 428
5			328,	{388 403 429
7			328,	{388 403 429
10	327,	395	329,	{404 (S) 429
14			330,	{405 (S) 430
20	326,	396	325,	398
40	323,	397	323,	399
60	322,	399	322,	400
80	321,	400	323,	402
100	319,	{402 423	320,	{403 423

a) (S) indicates that the peak has shoulders. Two-to-three values given for S1 indicate each absorption maximum for the fine structure split.

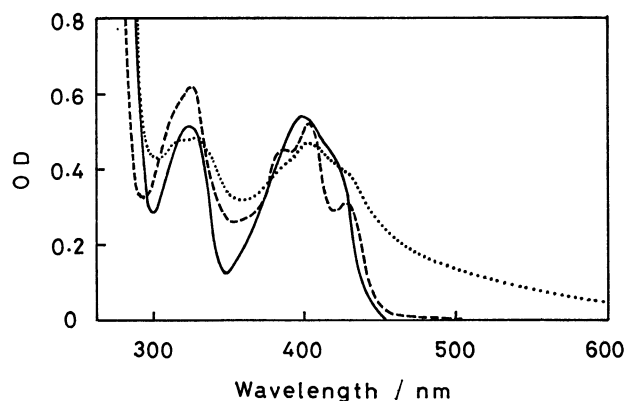


Fig. 5. Absorption spectra of 2MeDod in water (---), 15 vol% pyridine(.....), and 40 vol% pyridine(—). [2MeDod] = 5.00×10^{-5} M.

18 vol% pyridine) that we ascribed the new absorption band to a specific charge transfer interaction between pyridine and isoalloxazine. A similar band was observable in aqueous solutions containing 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine, 3-indoleacetic acid, and *o*-aminobenzoic acid. Since the longer-wavelength absorption band of 2MeDod in aqueous pyridine was not so strong and was rather comparable with that in aqueous ethanol, this band may not be ascribed to a simple charge transfer interaction. Probably, the electron-acceptability of 2MeDod may be weaker than that of 1MeDod.

In Fig. 6, OD_{500} as a measure of the strength of the longer-wavelength absorption band is plotted as a function of solvent compositions. The OD_{500} became largest at 33 vol% ethanol and 13 vol% pyridine and decreased sharply at higher solvent compositions.

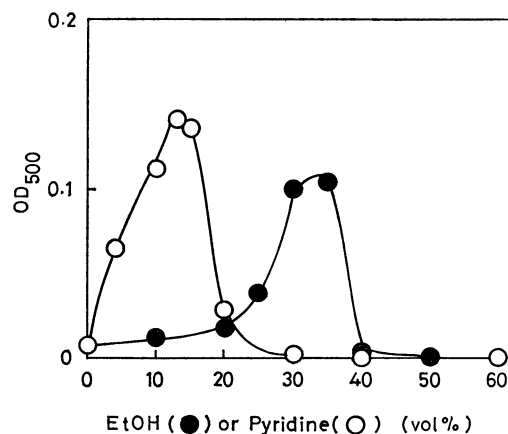


Fig. 6. OD_{500} vs. solvent concentration. [2MeDod] = 5.00×10^{-5} M.

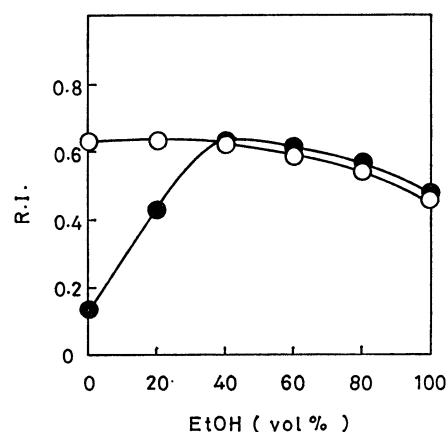


Fig. 7. Relative intensity(R.I.) of emission maxima vs. ethanol concentration. ○: 2MeEt(5.00×10^{-7} M), ●: 2MeDod(5.00×10^{-7}).

These results indicate that there is a critical transition from the aggregated form to the monomeric form at 40 vol% ethanol or 20 vol% pyridine. In 1MeDod and 2MeDod as amphiphiles, (5-deaza)isoalloxazines are hydrophilic head groups. The "stacking" association between the head groups induces the fine structure split of S1. On the other hand, addition of organic solvents, more or less, would disturb the orientation of the aggregation form, and probably, the disturbed orientation would be responsible for the longer-wavelength absorption band. At the transition points, both the fine structure and the longer-wavelength absorption disappear because of the deaggregation to the monomeric forms.

Fluorescent Spectra. Figure 7 shows the influence of added ethanol on the relative intensity (R.I.) of fluorescent maxima (about 460 nm) of 2MeEt and 2MeDod in aqueous solution. The R.I. value of 2MeEt was affected to a smaller extent by added ethanol, slightly decreasing with increasing ethanol concentration. On the other hand, the R.I. of 2MeDod in water was very small, increasing rapidly with increasing ethanol concentration. The value at 40 vol% was almost equal to that of 2MeEt. The results indicate that the fluorescent spectra of 2MeDod

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