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## Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids

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### Methylene and Halomethylene Analogues of Diadenosine 5',5''-P<sup>1</sup>, P<sup>3</sup>-Triphosphate (ApppA) as Substrates or Inhibitors of ApppA-Degrading Enzymes

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METHYLENE AND HALOMETHYLENE ANALOGUES OF DIADENOSINE  
5',5'''-P<sup>1</sup>,P<sup>3</sup>-TRIPHOSPHATE (ApppA) AS SUBSTRATES OR INHIBITORS  
OF ApppA-DEGRADING ENZYMES

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**Abstract:** Relative velocities and inhibition constants have been determined for three ApppA-degrading enzymes using six chemically synthesized analogues of ApppA.

Dinucleoside polyphosphates (Np<sub>n</sub>N's) in which common nucleosides, N and N', are linked at their C5' *via* a polyphosphate chain (n=3-6) occur in both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. (For recent reviews see 1-3). The most common Np<sub>n</sub>N's seem to be dinucleoside tri- and tetraphosphates (Np<sub>3</sub>N's and Np<sub>4</sub>N's). Adenylylated compounds, Ap<sub>3</sub>Ns and Ap<sub>4</sub>Ns, can be synthesized chiefly but not exclusively by some aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases which transfer an adenylylate moiety from a mixed anhydride intermediate back onto NDP or NTP respectively<sup>4,5</sup>. Catabolism of Ap<sub>3</sub>Ns and Ap<sub>4</sub>Ns commences usually with cleavage at their polyphosphate chains catalyzed either by hydrolases or phosphorylases, depending on the organism<sup>6,7</sup>. Several Np<sub>4</sub>N-degrading enzymes have been purified to homogeneity and characterized. The characterization also comprised studies on the interaction of these enzymes with analogues of natural substrates; mainly analogues of Ap<sub>4</sub>A<sup>8</sup>. Our knowledge about specific enzymes that degrade Np<sub>3</sub>N's is much poorer. So far, none of them has been purified to homogeneity. Analogues of Ap<sub>3</sub>A, synthesized in one of our laboratories<sup>9</sup>, allowed us to perform studies presented in this communication on the recognition of those compounds by the following three enzymes which degrade the naturally occurring Ap<sub>3</sub>A: (a) Ap<sub>3</sub>A hydrolase (EC 3.6.1.29) from yellow lupin seeds which cleaves its substrates (Np<sub>3</sub>N's > Np<sub>4</sub>N's) at the phosphate proximate to the bound nucleoside (adenosine) moiety to give always NMP (AMP) and corresponding NDP or NTP<sup>1</sup>; (b) (*symmetrical*) Ap<sub>4</sub>A hydrolase (EC 3.6.1.41) from *Escherichia coli* which hydrolyzes its substrates (Np<sub>4</sub>N's > Np<sub>3</sub>N's > Np<sub>3</sub>N's) at the second (β) phosphate to give always NDP (ADP) and the corresponding NDP, NTP or NMP, respectively<sup>3</sup>; and (c) Ap<sub>3</sub>A/Ap<sub>4</sub>A phosphorylase (EC 2.7.7.53) from *Acanthamoeba castellanii* which,

in contrast to other  $\text{Np}_n\text{N}'$ -phosphorylases from yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*<sup>10</sup>, *Euglena gracilis*<sup>11</sup> and *Scenedesmus obliquus*<sup>7</sup>, exhibits slightly higher specificity for  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  than for  $\text{Ap}_4\text{A}$  and splits the anhydride bond between the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  phosphates by phosphorolysis.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Chemicals** AMP, ADP, ATP,  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  and  $\text{Ap}_4\text{A}$  were from Sigma.  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  analogues and respective analogues of ADP were synthesized as described<sup>9</sup>. Labelled  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  was synthesized enzymatically<sup>12</sup> from [2,5,8-<sup>3</sup>H]-ATP (45 Ci/mmol, Amersham) with yeast lysyl-tRNA synthetase kindly supplied by Dr. Pierre Kerjan (CNRS, Gif-sur-Yvette).

**Enzymes** Yellow lupin  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  hydrolase<sup>12</sup> and (*symmetrical*)  $\text{Ap}_4\text{A}$  hydrolase from *E. coli*<sup>13</sup> were isolated as described previously. Specific phosphorylase which splits both  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  and  $\text{Ap}_4\text{A}$  has been purified from *Acanthamoeba castellanii*. The cells grown for 48 h at 28°C in a medium containing yeast extract, peptone and glucose were collected by centrifugation, suspended in 50 mM potassium phosphate (pH 6.8) and homogenized in a glass/teflon homogenizer.

The phosphorylase was precipitated from the crude extract with ammonium sulfate (30-50% saturation). Resolubilized proteins were chromatographed on Sephadex G-75 superfine. Active fractions which eluted at  $V_e/V_0=1.8$  were applied onto DEAE-Sephacel column equilibrated with the same buffer. The enzyme was not adsorbed under these conditions. It was concentrated and kept frozen for further work.

**Enzyme Assays** Inhibitory properties of the  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  analogues were estimated in the incubation mixtures, 50  $\mu\text{l}$  final volume, containing 50 mM Hepes/KOH (pH 8.0), 0.1 mM dithiothreitol, 0.1 mM [<sup>3</sup>H]- $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  (about 100,000 cpm), 5 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$  [or 1 mM  $\text{MnCl}_2$  in case of the (*symmetrical*)  $\text{Ap}_4\text{A}$  hydrolase], varied concentrations of an  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  analogue, (5 mM  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  in case of the  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}/\text{Ap}_4\text{A}$  phosphorylase) and rate-limiting amounts of the enzyme tested. The incubation was carried out at 30°C. Rates were determined by taking 5- $\mu\text{l}$  aliquots at set times and spotting them onto thin layer aluminium plates precoated with silica gel (Merck). An ADP standard was added and the chromatogram developed in dioxane: ammonia:water (6;1:4, v/v). ADP spots were cut out and the radioactivity counted. Assaying of the  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  analogues as the enzyme substrates was performed by ion-exchange chromatography on a MonoQ column as described earlier<sup>3</sup>. Velocities of the degradation reactions were calculated based on the linearity between concentration of the appearing product, AMP or ADP, and peak area.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As shown in Table 1, the  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  analogues in which one of the P-O-P bridging oxygens was substituted with  $-\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CHF}-$  or  $-\text{CF}_2-$  were substrates of all three  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$ -degrading enzymes studied. Slight cleavage was also observed for two  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  analogues with bulkier substituents,  $-\text{CHCl}-$  or  $-\text{CCl}_2-$ , when tested with the (*symmetrical*)  $\text{Ap}_4\text{A}$  hydrolase from *E. coli*. In the latter system, the relative degradation rates for three more susceptible  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  analogues exhibited much lower values than those obtained in the lupin or *Acanthamoeba* systems. It can be explained by the fact that  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  itself is much poorer substrate for the *E. coli* hydrolase than is  $\text{Ap}_4\text{A}$ . In the presence of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  is hydrolyzed 7-fold slower than  $\text{Ap}_4\text{A}$  and in the presence of  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ , 50-fold slower. The  $K_m$  value of  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  estimated in the presence of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  is 50 times higher than that for  $\text{Ap}_4\text{A}$ <sup>14</sup>. So, any modification in the structure of such a poor substrate as  $\text{Ap}_3\text{A}$  additionally decreases the effectiveness of catalysis. In line with this conclusion we observed that the (*symmetrical*)  $\text{Ap}_4\text{A}$  hydrolase preferentially recognizes unmodified ADP-moiety of potential substrates and cleaves

TABLE 1. Kinetics for ApppA and some ApppA analogues with ApppA-degrading enzymes.

Dinucleotide	Ap <sub>3</sub> A hydrolase		Ap <sub>4</sub> A hydrolase		Ap <sub>3</sub> A/Ap <sub>4</sub> A phosphorylase	
	<i>Lupinus luteus</i>		<i>Escherichia coli</i>		<i>Acanthamoeba castellanii</i>	
	$V_{rel}$	$K_m$ or $K_i$ ( $\mu$ M)	$V_{rel}$	$K_m$ or $K_i$ ( $\mu$ M)	$V_{rel}$	$K_m$ or $K_i$ ( $\mu$ M)
ApppA	100	1.2	100	600	100	9
ApCH <sub>2</sub> ppA	20	117	4	25	4	12
ApCHFppA	37	90	1.5	88	10	3.5
ApCF <sub>2</sub> ppA	23	212	1.8	71	13	4
ApCHClppA	0	260	0.5	211	0	8
ApCCl <sub>2</sub> ppA	0	126	0.5	266	0	14
ApCH <sub>2</sub> pCH <sub>2</sub> pA	0	>2000	0	32	0	n.d.

the polyphosphate chain at the second phosphate from the bound adenosine moiety<sup>3</sup>.

The compounds tested here have modifications precisely at that crucial phosphorus. The Ap<sub>3</sub>A hydrolase, which cleaves its substrates at the phosphate proximate to the bound adenosine moiety<sup>3</sup>, tolerates the -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CHF- or -CF<sub>2</sub>- substitutions and hydrolyzes the respective analogues only 3-5-fold slower than the natural substrate, Ap<sub>3</sub>A. From the analysis of the  $V_{rel}$  values, one can conclude that the *Acanthamoeba* enzyme exhibits moderate tolerance with respect to the structure of its substrates. The susceptible Ap<sub>3</sub>A analogues were degraded 8-25-fold slower than Ap<sub>3</sub>A itself. It should be mentioned here that, in contrast to the *Euglena* counterpart<sup>11</sup>, the *Acanthamoeba* enzyme degrades Ap<sub>3</sub>A slightly faster than Ap<sub>4</sub>A (about 1.5-fold). Thus, the *Acanthamoeba* phosphorylase is clearly less strict than the yeast Ap<sub>4</sub>A phosphorylase which degrades neither Ap<sub>3</sub>A nor the Ap<sub>4</sub>A analogues bearing a methylene group between the  $\beta$  and  $\beta'$  phosphorus atoms<sup>15</sup>. As concerns the  $K_i$  versus  $K_m$  values, it is clear that the largest difference was demonstrated for the Ap<sub>3</sub>A hydrolase system. All the Ap<sub>3</sub>A analogues were poorly recognized by this hydrolase and the analogue with two methylene groups was not recognized at all. The  $K_i$  values for the *Acanthamoeba* phosphorylase are within a factor of three of the  $K_m$  for Ap<sub>3</sub>A. ApCHClppA and ApCCl<sub>2</sub>ppA seem to be the best candidates for being true inhibitors of the phosphorylase.

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