Design and Synthesis of Cyclic ADP-4-Thioribose as a Stable Equivalent of Cyclic ADP-Ribose, a Calcium Ion-Mobilizing Second Messenger**

Takayoshi Tsuzuki, Natsumi Sakaguchi, Takashi Kudoh, Satoshi Takano, Masato Uehara, Takashi Murayama, Takashi Sakurai, Minako Hashii, Haruhiro Higashida, Karin Weber, Andreas H. Guse, Tomoshi Kameda, Takatsugu Hirokawa, Yasuhiro Kumaki, Barry V. L. Potter, Hayato Fukuda, Mitsuhiro Arisawa, and Satoshi Shuto*

Cyclic ADP-ribose (cADPR, 1, Scheme 1), originally isolated from sea urchins by Lee and co-workers,[1] is a general mediator of intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) ion signaling.[2] Analogues of cADPR have been extensively designed and synthesized[3,4] because of their potential usefulness for investigating the mechanisms of cADPR-mediated Ca\(^{2+}\) release and application as lead structures for the development of drug candidates.[2]

Scheme 1. cADPR (1), cADPcR (2), and cADPtR (3).

cADPR exists in an equilibrium between the \(N^6\)-protonated amino form and the \(N^6\)-deprotonated imino form (Scheme 1).

[cADPR is very unstable and can be hydrolyzed not only by cADPR hydrolase in cells but also in neutral aqueous solution at the labile N1-ribosyl linkage.[5] We previously synthesized cyclic ADP-carbocyclic-ribose (cADPcR, 2) as a stable mimic of cADPR, in which the oxygen in the N1-ribose ring of cADPR was replaced by methylene. cADPcR is both chemically and biologically stable and effectively mobilizes intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) ions in sea urchin eggs and neuronal cells.[4c] However, cADPcR is almost inactive in T cells.[4d] Although intensive studies of the signaling pathway that uses cADPR are still needed, its biological and chemical instability limits further studies of its physiological role. Therefore, stable analogues of cADPR mobilizing Ca\(^{2+}\) ions in various cells, including T cells, are needed. We designed a 4-thioribose analogue of cADPR, that is, cyclic ADP-4-thioribose (cADPtR, 3), in which the N1-ribose of cADPR was replaced by a 4-thioribose. Herein, we describe the design, synthesis, biological effects, and conformational analysis of cADPtR as a stable equivalent of cADPR.

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[1] T. Tsuzuki, N. Sakaguchi, Dr. T. Kudoh, S. Takano, M. Uehara, Dr. H. Fukuda, Dr. M. Arisawa  
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Hokkaido University  
Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-0812 (Japan)  
Prof. Dr. S. Shuto  
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Center for Research and Education on Drug Discovery, Hokkaido University  
Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-0812 (Japan)  
E-mail: shu@pharm.hokudai.ac.jp  
Dr. T. Murayama, Prof. Dr. T. Sakurai  
Department of Pharmacology, Juntendo University School of Medicine, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8421 (Japan)  
Dr. M. Hashii, Prof. Dr. H. Higashida  
Department of Biophysical Genetics, Kanazawa University Graduate School of Medicine, Kanazawa 920-8640 (Japan)  
K. Weber, Prof. Dr. A. H. Guse  
University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Center of Experimental Medicine, Department of Biochemistry and Signal Transduction, Martinistr. 52, 20246 Hamburg (Germany)  
Dr. T. Kameda, Dr. T. Hirokawa  
Computational Biology Research Center (CBRC), National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)  
Koutou-ku, Tokyo 135-0064 (Japan)  
Dr. Y. Kumaki  
Faculty of Sciences, Hokkaido University  
Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-0810 (Japan)  
Prof. Dr. B. V. L. Potter  
Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, University of Bath  
Bath BA2 7AY (UK)  
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The pKₐ of cADPcR (8.9) is somewhat higher than that of cADPR (8.3). Thus, under physiological conditions, cADPR exists in a mixture of the protonated form and the deprotonated form, whereas cADPcR should be present mostly in the protonated form, which could affect its interaction with the target proteins.

In cADPR and its analogues, the most stable conformation is the one with minimal steric repulsion between the adenine moiety and both of the N1- and N9-ribose moieties. It should be noted that, in cADPcR, the H6'β, which is absent in cADPR, is sterically repulsive to the adenine H2 (Scheme 2b). Accordingly, the stable conformation of cADPR, is sterically repulsive to the adenine H2 (Scheme 2b). Accordingly, the stable conformation of cADPcR might differ from that of cADPR owing to the steric effects, which might also affect its interaction with the target proteins.

We hypothesized that the above-mentioned pKₐ value and conformational properties of cADPcR might explain its inactivity in T cells, and therefore designed cADPtR, because 4-thionucleosides are useful bioisosteres of natural nucleosides in which the N-4-thioribopyranosyl linkage is more stable against both chemical and enzymatic hydrolysis than the N-ribose linkage of the natural nucleosides. Furthermore, the pKₐ value of cADPtR should be similar to that of cADPR owing to the electron-withdrawing property of the sulfur atom. Also, the conformation of cADPtR, particularly, the spatial positioning of the N1-thioribose and adenine moieties, would be similar to that of cADPR because of the similar sp³ configuration of the oxygen and sulfur atoms. Thus, we predicted that cADPtR would be a stable cADPR equivalent.

In the synthesis of cADPcR (3), the key step was achieving stereoselective construction of the N1-β-thioribosyladenosine structure. Although no 1-amino-4-thioribose derivatives such as 4 have been reported to date, 4 is likely to be present as an equilibrated anomic mixture 4α and 4β (Scheme 3) owing to the electron-donating property of the hemiaminal ether nitrogen at the 1-position. We speculated that stereoselective construction of the N1-β-thioribosyladenosine structure could be achieved, because the α-face of 4 would be more sterically hindered than the β-face owing to its 5,5-cis ring system, so that the β-anomer 4β might preferentially react with a nucleoside derivative 5. Thus, over the course of the reaction, the relatively less reactive α-anomer 4α would not undergo the condensation reaction, but rather would be converted into the more reactive 4β through the equilibrium reaction, which would lead to an accumulation of the desired β-product 6β (Scheme 3).

The synthesis of 4 is shown in Scheme 4. Oxidation of 7 with a subsequent Pummerer rearrangement afforded the 1-acytoxy product 9 (α/β = 1:5). Treatment of 9 with TMSN₅/SnCl₄ gave the β-azide 10 stereoselectively, probably because of the steric demand of the reaction intermediate. Reduction of the azido group of 10, followed by deprotection of the O-acetyl group gave 4, which was an anomic mixture (α/β = 1:2) as expected.

The key step, the condensation between 4 and 5, was then examined. We found that treatment of 4 with 5 (2.1 equiv) in MeOH at room temperature produced the β-product 6β in 61% yield, along with 9% of the α-product 6α, which was recovered in 17% yield (Scheme 5). Thus, the desired β-product 6β was successfully obtained in 73% conversion yield from 4, probably owing to the α/β-equilibrium between 4α and 4β.

Synthesis of cADPtR was investigated next (Scheme 6). After protecting group manipulation of 6β, treatment of the resulting 12 with S,S′-diphenylphosphorodithioate (PSS)/2,4,6-trisopropylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (TPSCl) in pyridine, followed by removal of the S′-O-DMTr group gave the 5′-bis-S-(phenyl)phosphorothioate 14. Phosphorylation of

(Scheme 2a).[6] The pKₐ of cADPcR (8.9) is somewhat higher than that of cADPR (8.3).[6] Thus, under physiological conditions, cADPR exists in a mixture of the protonated form and the deprotonated form, whereas cADPcR should be present mostly in the protonated form, which could affect its interaction with the target proteins.

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14 by the normal Yoshikawa method with POCl₃ was unsuccessful. However, treatment of 14 with a zwitterionic phosphorylating reagent 15 in pyridine at −30 °C led to the corresponding phosphorylation product (detected by HPLC analysis), which was further treated with H₃PO₂ and Et₃N in pyridine to afford the phosphorylated 16.

Cyclization of the 18-membered pyrophosphate ring was achieved using the phosphorothioate 16 as a substrate, by the Ag⁺ promoted intramolecular condensation that we developed previously.[4b,c] Thus, when a solution of 16 in pyridine was slowly added to a mixture of a large excess of AgNO₃ and Et₃N in the presence of 3 Å molecular sieves in pyridine at room temperature,[4b,c,13] the desired product 17 was obtained in 76% yield. Finally, removal of the isopropylidene groups of 17 produced the target cADPtR.

The pKₐ value of cADPR (3) was determined based on the pH-dependent UV spectral change owing to protonation/deprotonation at the N₆ position of the adenine ring. Thus, the pKₐ of cADPR was determined to be 8.0, which is similar to that of cADPR (pKₐ = 8.3)[6a] and about one pH unit lower than that of cADPcR (pKₐ = 8.9).[4c]

Structures of cADPR (1), cADPcR (2), and cADPtR (3) were constructed from molecular dynamics calculations using a simulated annealing method based on the NOE constraints of the intramolecular proton pairs measured in D₂O (for details, see Supporting Information), which are shown in Figure 1 a–c. To clarify the structural differences in detail, the three obtained structures were superimposed (Figure 1 d), revealing that the cADPR structure (red) resembles that of cADPR (blue). The cADPcR structure (green), however, is not similar to those of the other two compounds, and the relative special arrangement of the N1-carbocyclic ribose and the adenine of cADPcR clearly differs from those of the other two compounds, as expected. The distances between the 6'' C and the adenine H₂ of cADPtR (3.6 Å) is significantly longer than the corresponding distances of cADPR (2.3 Å) and cADPtR (2.5 Å). To confirm the validity of the obtained structures, the cADPR structure solved by X-ray crystallographic analysis (white)[2c,6a] was superimposed onto the three calculated structures (Figure 1 e). This crystal cADPR structure resembles the calculated cADPR and cADPtR structures, which suggests our computational structure determination was appropriate. Therefore, the pKₐ and conforma-

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**Figure 1.** Structures of a) cADPR, b) cADPcR, c) cADPtR from molecular dynamics calculations with a simulated annealing method using the NOE data in D₂O; adenine H₂ (white sphere), O₄'' in cADPR (red sphere), C₆'' in cADPcR (green sphere) and S₄'' in cADPtR (yellow sphere). d) Superimposed displays of the calculated structures; cADPR (blue), cADPcR (green), cADPtR (red). e) The crystal structure of cADPR (white) was also superimposed onto the three structures.
ditional properties of cADPtR precisely mimic those of cADPR.

The biological stability of cADPtR (3) was investigated with a rat brain microsomal extract that contained cADPR degradation enzymes.[5] cADPtR was completely resistant to degradation in the extract, whereas cADPR was rapidly degraded (Figure 2).

We tested the Ca$^{2+}$ ion-mobilizing ability of cADPtR (3), cADPR (1), and cADPcR (2) with a sea urchin egg homogenate[17] (Figure 3). cADPR and cADPcR induced the release of Ca$^{2+}$ ions in a concentration-dependent manner with an EC$_{50}$ value of 214 nM and 54 nM, respectively. cADPtR was highly active (EC$_{50}$ = 36 nM), and was about sixfold more potent than cADPR and even more potent than cADPcR.

The effect of cADPtR (3) on cytosolic Ca$^{2+}$ ion mobilization in NG108-15 neuronal cells was tested.[18] Application of 100 µM cADPtR induced persistent increases in the Ca$^{2+}$ level within the cells: the mean Ca$^{2+}$ ion level measured four minutes after application of cADPtR was 116 ± 2.3% of the resting level (mean ± SEM, n = 6). The amplitude produced by cADPtR addition was equivalent to or significantly greater than that induced by cADPR (Figure S3).

The Ca$^{2+}$ ion-mobilizing effect of cADPtR (3) was evaluated using saponin-permeabilized Jurkat T cells.[19] Both cADPtR and cADPR (1) evoked rapid Ca$^{2+}$ ion release upon addition to the permeabilized cell suspension indicating that they induce similar mechanisms of Ca$^{2+}$ release (Figure 4a). cADPR and cADPtR had very similar concentration-response curves (Figure 4b). Our previous work revealed that cADPcR shifted its Ca$^{2+}$ ion-mobilizing activity to much higher concentrations.[4d,19b] In contrast, cADPtR was almost as active as cADPR. The structural and electrostatic features of cADPtR, analogous to cADPR, would make it as biologically active as cADPR in various systems including T cells, although the target proteins of cADPR in these systems are thought to be different.[4d]

In summary, we have synthesized cADPtR and demonstrated that it is stable and functions similar to cADPR in various biological systems. Because of its stability and high potency, cADPtR should be an effective biological tool as the first stable equivalent of cADPR.

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Figure 2. Stability of cADPR in rat brain microsomal extract.

Figure 3. Ca$^{2+}$ ion-mobilizing activity of cADPR, cADPcR, and cADPtR in sea urchin egg homogenate. Data are the mean ± SEM of 3–6 experiments.

Figure 4. Effect of cADPR and cADPtR on Ca$^{2+}$ ion signaling in permeabilized Jurkat T cells. a) Representative traces. b) Data presented as the mean ± SEM (n = 2–8).
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