# **Supplementary Material**

# Synthesis and evaluation of benzochalcogenazole-benzimidazole derivatives as potential DNA-binding radioprotectors

### Thomas Fellowes,<sup>a</sup> Colin E. Skene,<sup>a</sup> Roger F. Martin,<sup>a</sup> Pavel Lobachevsky,<sup>b,c</sup> Tze Cin Owyong,<sup>a,d</sup> Yuning Hong,<sup>d</sup> and Jonathan M. White<sup>\*a</sup>

School of Chemistry and Bio-21 Institute, University of Melbourne, Australia <sup>b</sup>Molecular Radiation Biology Laboratory, Cancer Research Division, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia <sup>c</sup>Advanced Analytical Technologies, Melbourne, Australia <sup>d</sup>Department of Chemistry and Physics, La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science, La Trobe University, Australia Email: whitejm@unimelb.edu.au

## **Table of Contents**

S2
S3
S4
S5
S6
S7
S8
S9
S10
S10
S11
S12

#### Compound 6.



#### Compound 7.





#### Compound 11<sub>0</sub>



#### **Compound 11**s



#### Compound 12-H2



#### Compound 13<sub>0</sub>











#### **Ligand-DNA binding Analysis**

#### 1 Theoretical approach

The purpose of the analysis described in the following section is to calculate the ligand-DNA binding parameters, namely the binding dissociation constant  $K_d$  (measured in M – molar) and the frequency of binding sites N (measured in 1/bp – per base pair of DNA), from the changes in the absorbance spectrum of the ligand upon binding to DNA.

#### 1.1 General formalism

The basic equilibrium equation for binding of species A to species B is described by the equation:

$$K_d = \frac{[A][B]}{[AB]}$$
 S1

where [A] is the concentration of free species A, [B] is the concentration of free species B, [AB] is the concentration of AB complexes and  $K_d$  is the binding dissociation constant. Application of the equation S1 to the case of ligand-DNA binding produces the following equation:

$$K_{d} = \frac{(Nx - \alpha h)(1 - \alpha)h}{\alpha h}$$
 S2

where x is the DNA concentration, h is the total ligand concentration,  $\mathbb{P}$  is the fraction of the bound ligand and N is the frequency of binding sites.

In the equation S2,  $(Nx - \alpha h)$  is the concentration of the free (not occupied) binding sites (species A in equation S1), (1-  $\alpha$ )h is the concentration of free ligand (species B in equation S1), and  $\alpha$ h is the concentration of complexes (equals to the concentration of bound ligand). Equation S2 is easily converted to the standard quadratic equation relative to unknown variable  $\alpha$ :

$$h\alpha^{2} - (K_{d} + Nx + h)\alpha + Nx = 0.$$
 S3

The positive solution of this equation relative to 2 produces the following expression:

$$\alpha = \frac{K_d + Nx + h - \sqrt{(K_d + Nx + h)^2 - 4Nxh}}{2h}.$$
 S4

Expression S4 can be regarded as a basis for non-linear regression analysis of the experimental data for the measured fraction of the bound ligand  $\alpha$  assuming K<sub>d</sub> and N as free parameters to be estimated as a result of the regression, and x and h as experimentally measurable variables.

#### 1.2 Data Analysis Method

Experimental data for evaluation of DNA-ligand binding parameters consists of a range of absorbance spectra obtained following titration of the ligand solution with DNA. Two variables are under control: the DNA concentration (denoted as x) and the total ligand concentration (denoted as h). In a general case, both variables may change for each titration point. Assuming that there are *n* titration points, we can denote the absorbance spectrum for each titration point  $x_i$  and  $h_i$  as  $\mathbf{Y}_i$ , (i = 0, 1, ..., n). We consider spectrum  $\mathbf{Y}_i$  as a vector (or an array) each element of which is the absorbance at a particular wavelength. The DNA concentration at the first titration point (i = 0)  $x_0 = 0$ , so  $Y_0$  is the spectrum of free ligand. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to achieve conditions providing 100% binding of the ligand, so at the titration point with the highest DNA concentration  $x_n$  the measured spectrum  $Y_n$  is not the spectrum of bound ligand. Therefore we denote the spectrum of bound ligand which is usually unknown as  $Y_b$ . Any spectrum Y of a ligand-DNA solution at particular values of x and h can be then represented as a linear combination of the Y<sub>0</sub> and Y<sub>b</sub> spectra by the following expression: S5

$$\mathbf{Y} = (1 - \alpha)\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{0}} + \alpha\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{b}}$$

Since absorbance of the ligand is proportional to the ligand concentration h, we assume that in expression S5 all spectra are normalised to the same ligand concentration. When applied to the spectra Y<sub>i</sub>, normalisation is

S6

#### **Regional Issue 'Organic Chemistry in Australia'**

done to the concentration at the first point (measured spectrum multiplied by  $h_0/h_i$ ). To compensate the contribution of DNA absorbance, we perform the titration using the dual beam mode and add DNA to both the reference and sample cuvette. Since the spectrum  $Y_b$  in expression S5 is not available, direct calculation of  $\square$  from experimental data using this expression is not possible. However it is easy to demonstrate that any spectrum Y can be represented by a linear combination of any two fixed spectra from the  $Y_i$  range. An obvious choice of these two spectra is  $Y_0$  and  $Y_n$ , since one of them is the spectrum of the first species (free ligand) and the second one has the largest contribution of the second species (bound ligand). Then:

$$=\beta_0 \mathbf{Y}_0 + \beta_1 \mathbf{Y}_n$$

where 
$$\beta_0$$
 and  $\beta_1$  are coefficients.

To establish the relationship between coefficients  $\mathbb{D}_0$  and  $\mathbb{D}_1$  and  $\mathbb{D}$ , we can substitute for  $\mathbf{Y}_n$  in expression S6 using the following expression:

$$\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{n}} = (1 - \alpha_n) \mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{0}} + \alpha_n \mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{b}}.$$
 S7

This substitution transforms expression S6 into:

Y

$$\mathbf{Y} = (\beta_0 + \beta_1 (1 - \alpha_n)) \mathbf{Y}_0 + \beta_1 \alpha_n \mathbf{Y}_b, \qquad S8$$

Comparison of expressions S5 and S8 allows deriving following expressions for  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$ :

$$\beta_0 = 1 - \frac{\alpha}{\alpha_n}$$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha_n}$$
S9

Considering that  $\beta_1 = 1 - \beta_0$ , (as follows from expressions S9), and provided that both spectra in expression S6  $Y_0$  and  $Y_n$ , are available from the titration experiment, we applied the non-linear regression analysis for each experimental spectrum  $Y_i$  according to expression S6 using  $Y_0$  and  $Y_n$ , as independent variables to obtain the best fit values of coefficient  $\beta_1$  for each titration point ( $\beta_1^i$ ).

A substitution in expression S9 for  $\alpha$  from expression S4 produces the following expression for  $\beta_1$ :

$$\beta_{1} = \frac{h_{n} \Big( K_{d} + Nx + h - \sqrt{(K_{d} + Nx + h)^{2} - 4Nxh} \Big)}{h \Big( K_{d} + Nx_{n} + h_{n} - \sqrt{(K_{d} + Nx_{n} + h_{n})^{2} - 4Nx_{n}h_{n}} \Big)}.$$
 S10

We used expression S10 for the non-linear regression analysis of values  $\beta_1^i$  obtained at the previous step, considering *h* and *x* as independent variables and  $K_d$  and *N* as fitting parameters values of which are obtained as a result of this analysis. The spectrum of bound ligand **Y**<sub>b</sub> can be calculated from expression S7 as follows:

$$\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{b}} = \frac{\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{n}} - (1 - \alpha_n) \mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{0}}}{\alpha_n} \,.$$

2 Experimental



Figure S1. M2PB DNA binding analysis.

Left panel - experimental absorbance spectra of M2PB following titration with DLB16A DNA (symbols) and the results of regression analysis (lines). The range of DNA concentrations is from 0 to 730  $\mu$ M bp. The range of ligand concentration is from 8.1 to 5.7  $\mu$ M.

Right panel - non-linear regression analysis of fractions of bound ligand  $\alpha$ . Values of DNA binding parameters are:  $K_d = 3.92 \pm 0.30 \mu$ M,  $N = 0.0451 \pm 0.002$  1/bp.