# ORIGINAL PAPER

# Crystal Structures of Dipeptides Derived from the $\beta$ -Amino Acids (1*R*,2*S*)-2-Aminocyclopentanecarboxylic Acid and (1*S*,2*R*,3*S*)-2-Amino-3-methylcyclopentanecarboxylic Acid

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Abstract Crystals of the dimeric  $\beta$ -peptides 13 and 20, derived from (1*R*,2*S*)-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid and (1*S*,2*R*,3*S*)-2-amino-3-methylcyclopentanecarboxylic acid, respectively, were synthesised and studied by X-ray diffraction in order to establish their solid state secondary structural characteristics. Compound 13 crystallises in the monoclinic space group P 2<sub>1</sub> with cell parameters of a = 5.2682(1) Å, b = 9.1211(2) Å, c = 22.4467(6) Å,  $\beta = 91.3855(9)^\circ$ , V = 1078.29(4) Å<sup>3</sup> and Z = 2. Compound 20 crystallizes in the orthorhombic space group P 2<sub>1</sub> 2<sub>1</sub> 2<sub>1</sub> with cell parameters of a = 5.0968(1) Å, b =11.5546(2) Å, c = 43.5414(8) Å, V = 2564.22(8) Å<sup>3</sup> and Z = 4. In both cases adjacent molecules are linked by a series of N–H···O=C hydrogen bonds to form  $\beta$ -sheet like structures.

**Keywords**  $\beta$ -Peptides  $\cdot \beta$ -Sheet  $\cdot$  Asymmetric synthesis  $\cdot$  Lithium amide  $\cdot$  Parallel kinetic resolution

### Introduction

Within the field of peptidomimetics,  $\beta$ -peptides are known to offer improved bioavailability and therapeutic lifetimes when compared to the  $\alpha$ -amino acid derived analogues [1– 5] whilst still displaying potent biological activity [6–8]; as such they have been the subject of several investigations [9–28]. Within this area we have recently reported studies concerning the secondary structural characteristics of  $\beta$ -peptides from (S,S)-2-aminocyclopentanederived carboxylic acid [(S,S)-ACPC or (S,S)-transpentacin] [29]. These studies indicated that hexamer 5 and pentamer 4 persist as a 12-helix in both the solid state and solution phase. The conformational traits of a 12-helix were also exhibited by oligomers with as few as three residues in the solid state, although in solution trimer 2 was found to exist as an equilibrium of many alternative conformers whilst tetramer 3 has been shown to predominantly exist in either a 12-helix or turn-type conformation. Furthermore, the introduction of C(3)-alkyl substitution around the 2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid scaffold did not affect the secondary structural preferences and, for example a 12-helical secondary structure was adopted in the solid state and solution phase conformations of C(3)-substituted hexamers  $\mathbf{6}$  and  $\mathbf{7}$  (Fig. 1) [30].

Fülöp et al. [31] have reported that pentamer 8, derived from (1*R*,2*S*)-ACPC [(1*R*,2*S*)-cispentacin], forms a nonpolar strand and adopts a sheet-like structure in solution. We therefore proposed to investigate the effect of introducing C(3)-alkyl substituents around the 2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid scaffold on the secondary structure of this class of  $\beta$ -peptides 9 and report herein our crystallographic studies on both the substituted and unsubstituted dimers (n = 2, R = Me or H) (Fig. 2).

#### Experimental

Boc-[(1*R*,2*S*)-ACPC]<sub>2</sub>-O<sup>t</sup>Bu 13

Step 1: A stirred solution of **11** [32] (2.76 g, 14.9 mmol, 97:3 dr, >98% ee) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (25 mL) was successively treated with Et<sub>3</sub>N (10.4 mL, 74.5 mmol), HOBt (2.42 g,

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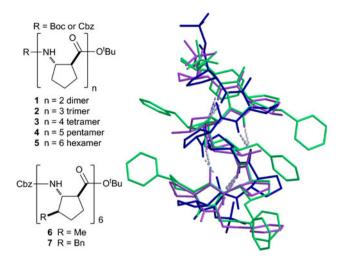


Fig. 1  $\beta$ -Peptides 1-7 and the overlaid X-ray crystal structures of 5 (*blue*, R = Boc), 6 (*purple*) and 7 (*green*) (selected H atoms are omitted for clarity) (Color figure online)

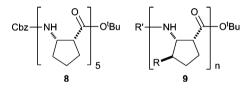


Fig. 2 Pentamer 8 [derived from (1R,2S)-ACPC] and C(3)-substituted  $\beta$ -peptides 9

17.9 mmol), **10** [33] (3.92 g, 14.9 mmol, >99:1 dr, >98% ee) and EDC·HCl (3.43 g, 17.9 mmol) under anhydrous conditions. After 16 h, the reaction mixture was washed sequentially with 1.0 M aq HCl (20 mL), satd aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) and brine (20 mL), then dried and concentrated in vacuo. Purification via recrystallisation (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/heptane) gave 12 as a white crystalline solid (3.88 g, 61%, >99:1 dr); mp 92–94 °C (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/heptane);  $[\alpha]_D^{18} - 64.4$  (c 1.1 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); *v*<sub>max</sub> (KBr) 3335 (N–H), 1717, 1697, 1655 (C=O);  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.43 (9H, s, CMe<sub>3</sub>), 1.47–2.07 (12H, m,  $2 \times C(3)H_2$ ,  $2 \times C(4)H_2$ ,  $2 \times C(5)H_2$ ), 2.69–2.78 (1H, m, C(1)H), 2.84 (1H, app q, J 7.5, C(1)H), 4.11-4.23 (1H, m, C(2)H), 4.38-4.48 (1H, m, C(2)H), 5.04 (1H, d, J 12.5, OCH<sub>A</sub>H<sub>B</sub>Ph), 5.11 (1H, d, J 12.5, OCH<sub>A</sub>H<sub>B</sub>Ph), 5.43 (1H, d, J 7.5 NH), 6.20 (1H, d, J 8.5 NH), 7.28-7.39 (5H, m, *Ph*);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 22.2, 22.7, 28.0, 28.3, 32.4,  $32.8 \ (2 \times C(3), \ 2 \times C(4), \ 2 \times C(5)), \ 28.1 \ (CMe_3), \ 47.3,$ 48.2  $(2 \times C(1))$ , 52.0, 54.6  $(2 \times C(2))$ , 66.2 (OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 80.8 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 128.0, 128.0, 128.4 (*o*,*m*,*p*-Ph), 136.5 (*i*-Ph), 156.1 (NCO [carbamate]), 173.0, 173.7 (NCO [amide],  $CO_2^{t}Bu$ ; m/z (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 453 ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS  $(ESI^{+}) C_{24}H_{34}N_2NaO_5^{+} ([M + Na]^{+})$  requires 453.2360; found 453.2360.

Step 2: Pd(OH<sub>2</sub>)/C (25% by wt., 34 mg) was added to a stirred, degassed solution of **12** (134 mg, 0.31 mmol,

>99:1 dr) and Boc<sub>2</sub>O (75 mg, 0.34 mmol) in MeOH (5 mL). The resulting suspension was stirred under  $H_2$ (1 atm) for 16 h, after which time the reaction mixture was filtered through Celite® (eluent MeOH) and concentrated in vacuo. Purification via recrystallisation (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/heptane) gave 13 as a white crystalline solid (70 mg, 57%, >99:1 dr); mp 149–150 °C (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/heptane);  $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{21}$  – 74.2 (c 0.6 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); v<sub>max</sub> (KBr) 3376, 3342 (N–H), 1715, 1687, 1653, 1525 (C=O);  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.35–2.05 (12H, m,  $2 \times C(3)H_2$ ,  $2 \times C(4)H_2$ ,  $2 \times C(5)H_2$ ) overlapping 1.42 (9H, s, CMe<sub>3</sub>) and 1.43 (9H, s, CMe<sub>3</sub>), 2.64-2.75 (1H, m, C(1)H), 2.82-2.91 (1H, m, C(1)H), 4.05-4.17 (1H, m, C(2)H), 4.40–4.51 (1H, m, C(2)H), 5.12 (1H, d, J 7.9, NH), 6.19 (1H, d, J 8.5, NH); δ<sub>C</sub> (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 22.2, 22.6, 28.0, 28.2, 32.5, 32.7  $(2 \times C(3), 2 \times C(4), 2 \times C(5)),$ 28.1, 28.4 (2 × CMe<sub>3</sub>), 47.3, 47.8 (2 × C(1)), 52.0, 54.1  $(2 \times C(2))$ , 79.0, 80.8  $(2 \times CMe_3)$ , 155.6 (NCO [carbamate]), 173.2, 173.7 (NCO [amide],  $CO_2^tBu$ ); m/z (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 419 ( $[M + Na]^+$ , 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup>  $([M + Na]^+)$  requires 419.2516; found 419.2515.

#### Cbz-[(1*S*,2*R*,3*S*)-3-Me-ACPC]<sub>2</sub>-O<sup>t</sup>Bu 20

Step 1: DDQ (8.60 g, 370 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 15 [34] (8.60 g, 190 mmol, >99:1 dr) in MeCN/ water (v/v 5:1, 190 mL). The resultant mixture was stirred at rt for 32 h then satd aq K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (200 mL) was added. The organic layer was washed sequentially with satd aq K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>  $(2 \times 100 \text{ mL})$  and brine (100 mL), then dried and concentrated in vacuo. Purification via flash column chromatography (gradient elution,  $2\% \rightarrow 33\%$  EtOAc in 40-60 °C petrol) gave 16 as a colourless oil (2.81 g, 49%, >99:1 dr);  $[\alpha]_{D}^{18}$  + 183 (c 1.0 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $v_{max}$  (film) 3331, 2957, 1722, 1455, 1366, 1147, 761, 701;  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 0.94 (3H, d, J 6.1, C(3)Me), 0.96–1.08 (1H, m,  $C(5)H_A$ , 1.29 (3H, d, J 6.5,  $C(\alpha)Me$ ), 1.52 (9H, s,  $CMe_3$ ), 1.58 (1H, br s, NH), 1.67-1.95 (4H, m, C(3)H, C(4)H<sub>2</sub>,  $C(5)H_B$ , 2.35–2.44 (1H, m, C(1)H), 2.85–2.94 (1H, m, C(2)H, 3.91 (1H, q, J 6.5,  $C(\alpha)H$ ), 7.81–7.46 (5H, m, Ph);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 17.8 (C(3)Me), 25.3 (C( $\alpha$ )Me), 27.9  $(CMe_3)$ , 28.3 (C(5)), 32.4 (C(4)), 42.3 (C(3)), 53.3 (C(1)), 56.2 (C(2)), 67.6 (C(α)), 79.9 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 126.9, 126.9, 128.3 (o,m,p-Ph), 146.1 (i-Ph), 176.4  $(CO_2^tBu)$ ; m/z (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 304  $([M + H]^+,$ 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>)  $C_{19}H_{30}NO_2^+$  $([M + H]^+)$  requires 304.2271; found 304.2276.

Step 2: Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C (25% by wt., 870 mg) was added to a stirred, degassed solution of **16** (3.48 g, 11.5 mmol, >99:1 dr) in MeOH/AcOH (v/v 40:1, 41 mL). The resulting suspension was stirred under H<sub>2</sub> (5 atm) for 36 h. The reaction mixture was then filtered through Celite<sup>®</sup> (eluent MeOH) and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was redissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (40 mL) and washed with satd aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (3 × 40 mL) and brine (40 mL), then dried and

concentrated in vacuo to give **17** as a colourless oil (1.88 g, 82%, >99:1 dr) [34];  $[\alpha]_{D}^{21} - 46.4$  (*c* 1.2 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); {lit. [34] for enantiomer  $[\alpha]_{D}^{22} + 51.8$  (*c* 1.0 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>)};  $\delta_{H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.20 (3H, d, *J* 6.5, C(3)*Me*), 1.08–1.21 (1H, m, C(4)*H*<sub>A</sub>), 1.44 (2H, br s, N*H*<sub>2</sub>), 1.47 (9H, s, *CMe*<sub>3</sub>), 1.72–2.00 (4H, m, C(3)*H*, C(4)*H*<sub>B</sub>, C(5)*H*<sub>2</sub>), 2.80–2.88 (1H, m, C(1)*H*), 2.92 (1H, app t, *J* 7.5, C(2)*H*).

Step 3: Et<sub>3</sub>N (1.04 mL, 7.48 mmol) and CbzCl (1.07 mL, 7.48 mol) were added sequentially to a stirred solution of 17 (1.36 g, 6.80 mmol, >99:1 dr) in anhydrous THF (200 mL) at 0 °C. The resultant mixture was then allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 16 h before the addition of brine (200 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (2 × 200 mL) and the combined organic extracts were then dried and concentrated in vacuo. Purification via flash column chromatography (gradient elution,  $2\% \rightarrow 18\%$  EtOAc in 40–60 °C petrol) gave **18** as a colourless oil (2.09 g, 92%, >99:1 dr);  $[\alpha]_{D}^{21}$  + 74.2 (c 1.1 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $v_{\text{max}}$  (film) 3337 (N–H), 1725 (br), 1512 (C=O);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)1.02 (3H, d, J 6.3, C(3)Me), 1.11-1.27 (1H, m, C(4)H<sub>A</sub>), 1.40 (9H, s, CMe<sub>3</sub>), 1.80-2.02 (4H, m, C(3)H, C(4)H<sub>B</sub>, C(5)H<sub>2</sub>), 2.96–3.06 (1H, m, C(1)H), 3.76 (1H, app q, J 9.4, C(2)H), 5.10 (2H, s, OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 5.21 (1H, d, J 9.4, NH), 7.26-7.42 (5H, m, Ph);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 17.8 (C(3)Me), 26.8, 39.7 (C(4), C(5)), 28.0 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 31.1 (C(3)), 46.9 (C(1)), 60.2 (C(2)), 66.6 (OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 80.7 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 128.0, 128.1, 128.5 (*o*,*m*,*p*-Ph), 136.6 (*i*-Ph), 156.2 (NCO), 174.2 ( $CO_2^{t}Bu$ ); m/z (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 334 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>)  $C_{19}H_{28}NO_4^+$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>) requires 334.2013; found 334.2022.

Step 4: TFA (3 mL) was added to a stirred solution of 18 (1.73 g, 5.20 mmol, >99:1 dr) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (9 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 3 h before being concentrated in vacuo and dried under high vacuum to give 19 as a colourless oil (1.19 g, 83%, >99:1 dr);  $[\alpha]_{D}^{23}$  + 44.3 (c 0.9 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $v_{max}$  (film) 3290 (br, N–H, O–H), 1714, 1517 (C=O);  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (400 MHz, MeOH*d*<sub>4</sub>) 0.99 (3H, d, *J* 6.5, C(3)*Me*), 1.09–1.24 (1H, m, C(4)*H*<sub>A</sub>), 1.83–2.13 (4H, m, C(3)H, C(4)H<sub>B</sub>, C(5)H<sub>2</sub>), 2.90 (1H, app q, J 7.6, C(1)H), 3.70 (1H, app t, J 7.6, C(2)H) 5.02 (1H, d, J 12.3, OCH<sub>A</sub>H<sub>B</sub>Ph), 5.12 (1H, d, J 12.3, OCH<sub>A</sub>H<sub>B</sub>Ph), 7.26–7.40 (5H, m, Ph);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (100 MHz, MeOH- $d_4$ ) 17.1 (C(3)Me), 26.4 (C(5)), 31.3 (C(4)), 38.8 (C(3)), 46.8 (C(1)),61.0 (C(2)), 66.4 (OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 127.7, 127.9, 128.4 (o,m,p-*Ph*), 137.4 (*i*-*Ph*), 157.8 (NCO), 176.9 (CO<sub>2</sub>H); *m*/*z* (ESI<sup>-</sup>) 276 ( $[M - H]^-$ , 100%); HRMS (ESI<sup>-</sup>) C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> ( $[M - M]^-$ H]<sup>-</sup>) requires 276.1241; found 276.1240.

## Single Crystal X-ray Diffraction

Single crystal diffraction data for 13 and 20 were collected using a Nonius  $\kappa$ -CCD diffractometer (Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation,

 $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) at 150(2) K with an Oxford Cryosystems Cryostream N<sub>2</sub> open-flow cooling device [35] and processed using the DENZO-SMN package [36], including unit cell parameter refinement and inter-frame scaling (which were carried out using SCALEPACK within DENZO-SMN).

The structures were solved using SIR92 [37]. Refinement was carried out using full-matrix least-squares within the CRYSTALS suite [38], on F<sup>2</sup>. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. Hydrogen atoms on nitrogen atoms were generally visible in the difference map and their positions and isotropic displacement parameters were refined using restraints prior to inclusion into the model with riding constraints [39]. The Flack x parameters [40, 41] for 13 and 20 were determined to be 0.5(17) and -1.4(14), and analysis [42, 43] of the Bijvoet pairs gave Hooft y parameters [44] of -0.3(7) and 0.01(5), respectively. The Bayesian analysis gave the probability that the structure of 13 is the correct enantiomer as 77% assuming enantiopurity and 49% allowing for the possibility of racemic twinning; the corresponding values of 82 and 53% were obtained for 20. In the absence of a significant anomalous signal, the Friedel pairs were merged for the final refinement for both structures.

Selected structural details for **13** and **20** are included in Table 1 and full crystallographic data have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication numbers CCDC 815399 and 815400, respectively. Copies of these data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\_request/cif.

## **Results and Discussion**

β-Peptides **13** and **20** were prepared in accordance with our previously optimised coupling procedures [29, 30].<sup>1</sup> Thus, coupling of the monomer acid **10** [33] and monomer amine **11** [34]<sup>2</sup> was achieved with HOBt/EDC·HCl to give dimer **12** in >97:3 dr. Purification of the reaction mixture via recrystallisation (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/heptane) gave dimer **12** in 61%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> It was found that 2,6-di-*tert*-butylphenol (2,6-DTBP) was not compatible with preparing large quantities (>10 g) of the prerequisite  $\beta$ -amino ester in the lithium amide conjugate addition step. Thus, an alternative, scalable procedure was developed using 2-pyridone to quench the lithium  $\beta$ -amino enolate which produced a 97:3 mixture of C(2)-epimeric  $\beta$ -amino esters. For other diastereoselective protonations of lithium  $\beta$ -amino enolates with 2-pyridone from our laboratory, see Refs. [45–47].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> β-Amino ester (1*R*,2*S*)-**11** was converted to the corresponding (*R*)and (*RS*)-MTPA derivatives (Mosher's amides) and was determined to be >98% ee by both <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectroscopic analyses. See Refs. [48–50].

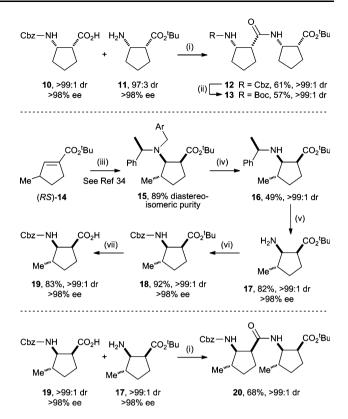
 Table 1
 Crystallographic data and refinement details for compounds

 13 and 20
 13

Compound	13	20
Empirical formula	$C_{21}H_{36}N_2O_5$	$C_{26}H_{38}N_2O_5$
Formula weight	396.53	458.60
Crystal habit, colour	Plate, colourless	Plate, colourless
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Orthorhombic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub>	P2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub>
<i>a</i> (Å)	5.2682(1)	5.0968(1)
<i>b</i> (Å)	9.1211(2)	11.5546(2)
<i>c</i> (Å)	22.4467(6)	43.5414(8)
α (°)	90	90
β (°)	91.3855(9)	90
γ (°)	90	90
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	1078.29(4)	2564.22(8)
Ζ	2	4
Density (calc. $g \text{ cm}^{-3}$ )	1.221	1.188
Temperature (K)	190	190
Radiation type/λ (Å)	Mo Kα/0.71073	Mo Kα/0.71073
Absorption coeff. $(mm^{-1})$	0.086	0.082
<i>F</i> (000)	432	992
Crystal size (mm)	$0.05\times0.10\times0.10$	$0.20\times0.30\times0.30$
Reflections measured	4833	5334
Independent reflections	2596	3272
R <sub>int</sub>	2.5%	2%
Observed reflues. [ $I > 2.0\sigma(I)$ ]	1595	2001
Number of parameters	253	298
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.112	1.103
Final <i>R</i> indices $[I > 2.0\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.038,$ $wR_2 = 0.067$	$R_1 = 0.042,$ $wR_2 = 0.091$
R indices [all data]	$R_1 = 0.083,$ $wR_2 = 0.076$	$R_1 = 0.082,$ $wR_2 = 0.103$
$\Delta \rho_{\rm max},  \Delta \rho_{\rm min} \ ({\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3})$	0.18, -0.16	0.19, -0.18
CCDC deposition no.	815399	815400

isolated yield as a single diastereoisomer (>99:1 dr). Subsequent treatment of dimer **12** with Boc<sub>2</sub>O and Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C under an atmosphere of H<sub>2</sub> gave Boc-[(1*R*,2*S*)-ACPC]<sub>2</sub>-O<sup>t</sup>Bu **13** in 57% yield and >99:1 dr. Recrystallisation of **13** from CHCl<sub>3</sub>/heptane gave colourless prisms which were subjected to X-ray diffraction analysis.

The monomeric units **19** and **17** were prepared from (*RS*)-**14** using our previously reported parallel kinetic resolution (PKR) methodology [30, 34, 51, 52]. Oxidative removal of the *N*-(3,4-dimethoxybenzyl) group within **15** was achieved upon treatment with DDQ [34]. Thus, under the optimised conditions for this transformation treatment of  $\beta$ -amino ester **15** (89% diastereoisomeric purity) [34] with DDQ gave **16** in 49% isolated yield and >99:1 dr after



Scheme 1 Reagents and conditions: (i) EDC·HCl, HOBt, NEt<sub>3</sub>, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, rt, 16 h; (*ii*) Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C, Boc<sub>2</sub>O, H<sub>2</sub> (1 atm), MeOH, rt, 16 h; (*iii*) lithium (*S*)-*N*-benzyl-*N*-( $\alpha$ -methylbenzyl)amide and lithium (*R*)-*N*-3,4-dimethoxybenzyl-*N*-( $\alpha$ -methylbenzyl)amide (50:50 mixture), THF, -78 °C, 3 h, then NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (satd, aq); (*iv*) DDQ, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O (5:1 v/v), rt, 32 h; (*v*) Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>/C, H<sub>2</sub> (5 atm), MeOH/AcOH (40:1 v/v), 36 h; (*vi*) CbzCl, NEt<sub>3</sub>, THF, 0 °C to rt, 16 h; (*vii*) TFA/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1:3 v/v), 0 °C to rt, 3 h. [Ar = 3,4-dimethoxyphenyl]

purification via flash column chromatography. Subsequent removal of the *N*- $\alpha$ -methylbenzyl group via hydrogenolysis gave **17** in 82% yield, >99:1 dr and >98% ee.<sup>3</sup> Treatment of **17** with CbzCl gave **18** in 92% yield followed by TFA promoted ester hydrolysis to give *N*-Cbz protected  $\beta$ -amino acid **19** in 83% yield, >99:1 dr and >98% ee. Utilising the HOBt/EDC·HCl/CHCl<sub>3</sub> mediated protocol, monomer acid **19** and monomer amine **17** were coupled to give Cbz-[(1*S*,2*R*,3*S*)-3-Me-ACPC]<sub>2</sub>-O<sup>t</sup>Bu **20** in 68% yield and >99:1 dr (Scheme 1). Recrystallisation of **20** from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/ pentane gave colourless prisms which were subjected to X-ray diffraction analysis. Unfortunately, all attempts at the recrystallisation of the corresponding trimers, tetramers and pentamers (which were all prepared using our standard coupling methodology) [29, 30] were unsuccessful.

The molecular structures of **13** and **20** are illustrated in (Fig. 3). In both cases the adjacent molecules are linked by

 $<sup>\</sup>frac{3}{\beta}$ -Amino ester (1*S*,2*R*,3*S*)-**17** was converted to the corresponding (*R*)- and (*RS*)-MTPA derivatives (Mosher's amides) and was determined to be >98% ee by both <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectroscopic analyses. See Refs. [48–50].

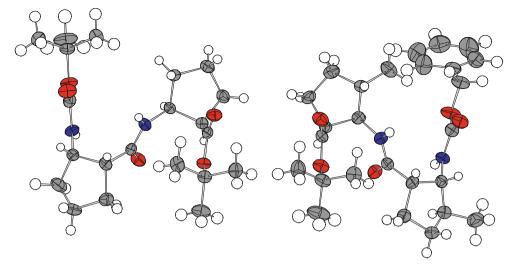
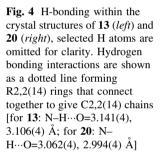
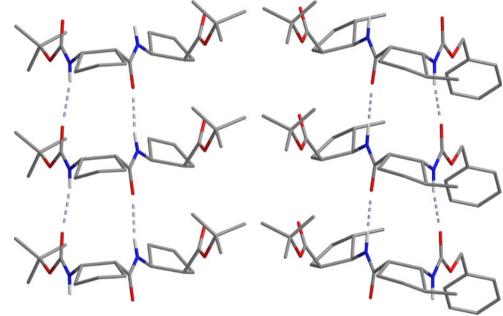


Fig. 3 Molecular structure of 13 (left) and 20 (right), showing the displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level





a series of intermolecular N–H···O=C hydrogen bonds to form tape-like arrangements in the crystal structure formed from R2,2(14) rings (Fig. 4) [53]. There is excellent parity between the two structures despite them possessing different N-protecting groups and differing by virtue of the additional C(3)-methyl group in each of the monomeric units within **20**. As the two peptides were synthesised in the opposite enantiomeric series (with respect to the parent 2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid scaffold), **20** has been represented as its antipode so that the two structures can be overlaid<sup>4</sup> for comparison (Fig. 5). The C(3)-methyl groups within **20** do not, therefore, disrupt the hydrogen bonding in the solid state. This finding is consistent with our observations that C(3)-methyl substitution does not disrupt the helical secondary structure of  $\beta$ -peptides derived from the epimeric  $\beta$ -amino acid (1*S*,2*S*,3*R*)-2-amino-3-methylcyclopentanecarboxylic acid [30].

Whilst it was not possible to produce crystals of the corresponding trimers, tetramers or pentamers which were suitable for X-ray crystallographic analyses, a combination of IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR and CD spectroscopic analyses confirmed that these oligomers display traits indicative of *intermolecular* hydrogen bonding and are therefore consistent with a similar conformation in solution.

 $<sup>\</sup>overline{}^{4}$  The structures of **13** and *ent*-**20** were overlaid using the Chem-3D structure mapping function.

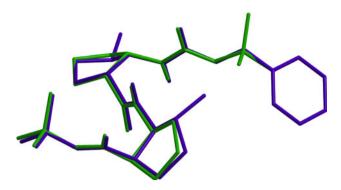


Fig. 5 Overlaid molecular structures of 13 (green) and ent-20 (purple), selected H atoms are omitted for clarity

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, the crystal structures of the  $\beta$ -peptides Boc-[(1*R*, 2*S*)-ACPC]<sub>2</sub>-O<sup>t</sup>Bu **13** and Cbz-[(1*S*,2*R*,3*S*)-3-Me-ACPC]<sub>2</sub>-O<sup>t</sup>Bu **20**, derived from (1*R*,2*S*)-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid and (1*S*,2*R*,3*S*)-2-amino-3-methylcyclopentanecarboxylic acid respectively, were studied by X-ray diffraction. In both cases adjacent molecules are linked by a series of N–H…O=C hydrogen bonds to form sheet like structures.

## **Supporting Information**

Full crystallographic data for **13** and **20** have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication numbers CCDC 815399 and 815400, respectively. Copies of these data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data request/cif.

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