71. Synthesis of the Glycopeptide Partial Sequence A⁸⁰-A⁸⁴ of Human Fibroblast Interferon

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The glycopentapeptide H-(GlcNAc β 1-)Asn-Glu-Thr-Ile-Val-OH (10) representing the partial sequence A^{80} – A^{84} of human fibroblast interferon was synthesized using the newly developed allyl-ester protection of carboxy functions. The allyl esters, which are stable to acids and to bases, can be cleaved under very mild, neutral conditions using tris(triphenylphosphine)rhodium(I) chloride or tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) as a catalyst. This synthetic method opens up a preparative route to glycopeptide model structures of glycoproteins of high biological interest.

Glycoproteins are currently receiving increasing attention, due to their central roles in biological processes, especially in biological recognition [1]. In the field of the glycoproteins, the cell-protecting principle consisting of interferons has been extensively investigated in recent years. Despite of the numerous biochemical, microbiological, and immunological studies concerning interferons, the role of the glycosidation in their production, secretion, antiviral, and antitumor activity remains not fully clarified [2] [3]. Therefore, synthetic glycopeptides which represent partial sequences of the linkage region of natural interferons may be of interest as standards in structural analysis as well as in immunological tests and as model compounds in mechanistic investigations of the activities of glycosidases and glycosyl transferases.

In contrast to peptides, glycopeptides are not directly available by gene-technological procedures. The chemical synthesis of such glycopeptide structures is more difficult than a peptide synthesis, since many different functional groups have to be selectively blocked, and the chemically labile glycoside and saccharide bonds must be conserved during the whole synthesis [4].

The selective deprotection is a central problem in glycopeptide synthesis [5]. A second difficulty arises from the low efficiencies in condensation reactions with this complex compounds. Using our recently developed allyl-ester protection of the carboxy function of amino acids and peptides [6] [7] we now have succeeded in synthesizing the glycopentapeptide partial sequence A^{80} – A^{84} of human fibroblast interferon [8].

Starting with the fully protected N^4 -glycosylated asparagine allyl ester 1 [6], the selective carboxyl deblocking is achieved by Rh(I)-catalyzed isomerization of the allyl group followed by hydrolysis of the propenyl ester [6] [9] affording 2 nearly quantitatively (Scheme 1).

The condensation of **2** with the dipeptide allyl ester **6** using ethyl 2-ethoxy-1,2-dihydroquinoline-1-carboxylate (EEDQ) [10] gives the glycotripeptide allyl ester **3** in 90%

yield. The dipeptide allyl esters 6 and 7 were obtained from their N-Boc and N-Z derivatives, respectively, according to the general procedures described earlier [6] (Scheme 2). Rh-catalyzed cleavage of the glycotripeptide allyl ester 3 gives the selectively carboxy-deblocked product 4 in high yield, which then is elongated at the C-terminus with 7 by means of the EEDQ method to give the fully protected glycopentapeptide 5. The high efficiency in both condensation reactions forming the complex products 3 and 5 demonstrates the advantageous properties of the small allyl ester as protecting group, which does not disturb the peptide-bond formation, neither by steric hinderance nor by decreasing the solubility.

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Finally, we carried out the successive and selective removal of all protecting groups of glycopeptide 5. To remove the allyl group, we applied the gentle but highly effective allyl transfer [11] to morpholine in tetrahydrofuran at room temperature. This method has been shown to be successful in the synthesis of O-glycopeptides containing the labile glycosyl-serine bond [7]. The selectively C-terminal deprotected product 8 is formed from 5 in high yield. In contrast, the classical hydrogenolytic removal of the γ -benzyl group of the glutamic acid ester turned out to be surprisingly critical. Therefore, we performed the benzyl-ester splitting together with the removal of the Boc group using H_2F_2 in CH_2Cl_2 at low temperature. Under these conditions, the N-glycosidic bond is not attacked and the

Scheme 3

a)
$$((C_6H_5)_3P)_4Pd/THF/morpholine/20^{\circ}C$$
b) H_2F_2/CH_3Cl_2 at -20 to $0^{\circ}C$
c) $NH_2NH_2 \cdot H_2O$ in CH_2OH

$$R^3-HN-CH-CO-Glu(OR^2)-Thr-Ite-Val-OH$$

$$R^1O-CH_2 \quad CH_2 \quad CH_2$$

$$R^1O-CH_2 \quad CH_2 \quad CH_2$$

$$R^1O-CH_2 \quad CH_2 \quad CH_2 \quad CH_2$$

$$R^1O-CH_2 \quad CH_2 \quad CH_2 \quad CH_2$$

$$R^1O-CH_2 \quad CH_2 \quad CH_2 \quad CH_2 \quad CH_2$$

$$R^1O-CH_2 \quad CH_2 \quad C$$

deblocked compound 9 is obtained smoothly. Finally, the carbohydrate ester functions are hydrazinolyzed according to the procedure tested with O-glycosidic serine peptide derivatives [12].

Thus, based on the highly selective removal of the allyl-ester protection, the completely deblocked glycopentapeptide partial sequence A⁸⁰-A⁸⁴ 10 of human fibroblast interferon was synthesized in good yield. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra confirm the structures of the synthetic glycopeptides including the end product 10; 9 and 10 are additionally identified by their FAB mass spectra.

Glycopeptides, e.g. 10, of exactly specified structure are, therefore, now available in preparative amounts via these new techniques and may serve as model substances in biochemical and immunological investigations, e.g., in recognition processes on membranes or in investigations exploring the function of carbohydrates in biological processes of glycoproteins such as interferons.

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Experimental Part

- 1. General. FAB-MS were obtained on a Varian-MAT-312 spectrometer. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker-WH-90 (90 MHz (¹H) and 22,63 MHz (¹³C)), Bruker-WP-80-DS (20.15 MHz (¹³C)) and Bruker-AM-400 spectrometer (400 MHz (¹H) and 100.6 MHz (¹³C)).
- 2. N-Acyl-dipeptide Allyl Esters. To a soln. of amino acid allyl ester p-toluene sulfonate (10 mmol), Et₃N (1 g, 10 mmol), and N-(tert-butyl)oxycarbonyl- or N-benzyloxycarbonyl-amino acid (10 mmol), in CH₂Cl₂ (20 ml), EEDQ [10] (3 g, 12 mmol) was added. After 12 h at r.t. the mixture was worked up as described elsewhere [6].
- N-(tert-Butyl)oxycarbonyl-O⁵-benzyl-L-glutam-I-yl-L-threonine Allyl Ester (Boc-Glu(OBzl)-Thr-OAll): 71% yield, m.p. $99-100^{\circ}$, $[\alpha]_{D}^{D2}=-10.6^{\circ}$ (c=1, CH₂Cl₂). Anal. calc. for C₂₄H₃₄N₂O₈ (478.5): C 60.23, H 7.16, N 5.85; found: C 60.06, H 7.34, N 5.81.
- N-Benzyloxycarbonyl-L-isoleucyl-L-valine Allyl Ester (Z-Ile-Val-OAll): 56% yield, m.p. 96–99°, $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -4.6^\circ$ (c = 1, CH₂Cl₂). Anal. calc. for C₂₂H₃₂N₂O₅ (404.5): C 65.32, H 7.97, N 6.92; found: C 65.14, H 7.80, N 6.85.
- 3. O⁵-Benzyl-L-glutam-1-yl-L-threonine Allyl Ester Hydrochloride (6; HCl·H-Glu(OBzl)-Thr-OAll). A soln. of Boc-Glu(OBzl)-Thr-OAll (0.48 g, 1 mmol) in dry Et₂O (5 ml) was stirred with 10 ml of a sat. soln. of HCl in Et₂O for 2 h at r.t. After evaporation, the residue was extracted with Et₂O and recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂/petroleum ether: 0.42 g (100%) of amorphous 6, $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +4.5^{\circ}$ (c = 1, CH₃OH). Anal. calc. for C₁₉H₂₇ClN₂O₆ ·1.5H₂O (442.5): C 51.58, H 6.83, N 6.34; found: C 51.49, H 6.57, N 6.63.
- 4. L-Isoleucyl-L-valine Allyl Ester Hydrobromide (7; HBr·H-Ile-Val-OAll). At -10° , Z-Ile-Val-OAll (0.81 g, 2 mmol) was stirred in 10 ml of 30% HBr/AcOH for 1 h. The hydrobromide 7 was precipitated by addition of dry Et₂O (200 ml), filtered off, washed with Et₂O and dried in vacuo: 0.51 g (73%), m.p. $100-105^\circ$, [α] $_D^{22} = +5.4^\circ$ (c=1, CH₃OH). Anal. calc. for C₁₄H₂₇BrN₂O₃·2H₂O (387.3): C 43.41, H 8.07, N 7.23; found: C 43.56, H 8.00, N 7.54.
- 5. General Procedure for the Elongation at the C-Terminus of the Glycopeptide Chain. To a soln. of 1 mmol of N^4 -(2-acetamido-3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-2-deoxy- β -D-glucopyranosyl)- N^2 -[(tert-butyl)oxycarbonyl]-L-asparagine (1) or 4 (see below), of the corresponding dipeptide allyl ester hydrohalogenide (1 mmol) and of Et₃N (0,1 g, 1 mmol) in CHCl₃ (20 ml), EEDQ (0.4 g, 1.6 mmol) was added. After stirring at r.t. for 5 d, the mixture was extracted with 10 ml of 1n HCl, 1n NaHCO₃ and H₂O, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was recrystallized.
- N^4 -(2-Acetamido-3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-2-deoxy-\$\beta\$-D-glucopyranosyl)- N^2 -[(tert-butyl) oxycarbonyl]-L-asparaginyl- O^5 -benzyl-L-glutam-1-yl-L-threonine Allyl Ester (3; Boc-(GlcNAc3,4,6Ac3\$1-)Asn-Glu(OBzl)-Thr-OAll): 90% yield, m.p. 222° (dec., from CH2Cl2/Et2O), [α] $_0^{22}$ = 10.9° (c = 1, CH3OH). 13 C-NMR (22.63 MHz, (D)6DMSO): 172.3–169.2 (9s, 9 C=O); 155.2 (C=O, urethane); 136.2 (ipso-C); 132.2 (CH=CH2); 128.4–127.8 (3s, o-, m-, p-C); 117.7 (CH=CH2); 78.4 ((CH3)3C); 77.9 (C(1) of Glc); 73.3 (C(5) of Glc); 72.3 (C(3) of Glc); 29.7 (C(3) of Glu); 28.0 ((CH3)3C); 22.6 (CH3CONH); 20.4 (CH3COO); 20.1 (C(4) of Thr). Anal. calc. for C42H59N5O18 (922.0): C 54.67, H 6.45, N 7.60; found: C 54.66, H 6.46, N 7.46.

N⁴-(2-Acetamido-3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-2-deoxy-β-D-glucopyranosyl)- N²-[(tert-butyl) oxycarbonyl]-L-asparaginyl-O⁵-benzyl-L-glutam-1-yl-L-threonyl-L-isoleucyl-L-valine Allyl Ester (5; Boc-(GlcNAc3,4,6Ac₃β1-)Asn-Glu(OBzl)-Thr-Ile-Val-OAll): 78% yield, m.p. 273° (dec., from acetone/Et₂O), [α]_D²² = 9.5° (c = 0.32, DMSO). ¹³C-NMR (22.63 MHz, (D)₆DMSO): 171.1-169.0 (C=O); 156.5 (C=O, urethane); 135.2 (ipso-C); 131.4 (CH=CH₂); 128.2, 127.6 (o-, m-, p-C); 119.1 (CH=CH₂); 78.3 ((CH₃)₃C); 78.0 (C(1) of Glc); 73.7 (C(5) of Glc); 72.9 (C(3) of Glc); 27.9 ((CH₃)₃C); 22.5 (CH₃CONH); 20.2 (CH₃COO); 19.3 (C(4) of Thr); 18.9, 18.3 (C(4), C(4') of Val); 15.7, 11.9 (C(3'), C(5) of Ile). FAB-MS: 1135 ((M + 1)⁺). Anal. calc. for C₅₃H₇₉N₇O₂₀. 1.5 H₂O (1161.3)¹): C 54.82, H 7.11, N 8.44; found: C 54.35, H 6.69, N 8.49.

6. N⁴-(2-Acetamido-3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-2-deoxy-β-D-glucopyranosyl)- N²-[(tert-butyl)oxycarbonyl]-L-asparaginyl-O⁵-benzyl-L-glutam-1-yl-L-threonine (4; Boc-(GlcNAc3,4,6Ac₃β1-)Asn-Glu(OBzl)-Thr-OH). At 70°, tris-(triphenylphosphine)rhodium(I) chloride (0.1 g, 0.11 mmol) was added to a soln. of 3 (0.92 g, 1 mmol) in EtOH/H₂O 9:1 (20 ml). After 2 h stirring, the mixture was filtered, the filtrate evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residue recrystallized from MeOH/Et₂O: 0.76 g (86%), m.p. 215°, [α]²⁰_D = -12.2° (c = 1, CH₃OH). ¹³C-NMR (22.63 MHz, CD₃OD): 174.5–171.3 (C=O); 157.4 (C=O, urethane); 137.5 (*ipso*-C); 129.5, 129.1 (o-, m-, p-C); 81.1 ((CH₃)₃C); 79.5 (C(1) of Gln); 38.3 (C(3) of Asn); 31.2 (C(3) of Glu); 28.7 ((CH₃)₃C); 22.9 (CH₃CONH); 20.6 (CH₃COO). Anal. calc. for C₃₀H₅₅N₅O₁₈·0.5(C₂H₅)₂O (919.0): C 53.58, H 6.58, N 7.62; found: C 53.77, H 6.64, N 7.56.

7. N⁴-(2-Acetamido-3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-2-deoxy-β-D-glucopyranosyl)- N²-[(tert-butyl) oxycarbonyl]- L-asparaginyl- O⁵-benzyl-L-glutam-1-yl-L-threonyl-L-isoleucyl-L-valine (8; Boc-(GlcNAc3,4,6Ac₃β1-)Asn-Glu(OBzl)-Thr-lle-Val-OH). Under Ar, tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (0.05 g, 4.4 · 10⁻⁵ mol) was added to a soln. of 5 (0.5 g, 4.4 · 10⁻⁴ mol) in THF/DMSO 10 · 1 (33 ml) followed by the addition of morpholine (0.44 ml, 4.4 · 10⁻³ mol). After 3 h at r.t., the solv. was evaporated in vacuo, the residue dissolved in CHCl₃ (100 ml), extracted twice with 50 ml of 2n HCl, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo. The crude 8 was recrystallized from MeOH/Et₂O: 0.39 g (81%), m.p. 252° (dec.), [α]_D²² = -21.2° (c = 0.14, CD₃OD). ¹³C-NMR (20.15 MHz, (D)₆DMSO): 177.3-169.2 (C=O); 155.9 (C=O, urethane); 136.2 (ipso-C); 128.6, 128.3 (o-, m-, p-C); 78.4 ((CH₃)₃C); 77.9 (C(1) of Glc); 73.3 (C(5) of Glc); 72.3 (C(3) of Glc); 28.0 ((CH₃)₃C); 22.5 (CH₃CONH); 20.3 (CH₃COO); 19.3 (C(4) of Thr); 19.0, 18.0 (C(4), C(4') of Val); 15.2, 11.0. (C(3'), C(5) of Ile). Anal. calc. for C₅₀H₇₅N₇O₂₀ (1094.2): C 54.88, H 6.91, N 8.96; found: C 54.69, H 6.78, N 8.75.

8. N⁴-(2-Acetamido-3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-2-deoxy- β -D-glucopyranosyl)-L-asparaginyl-L-glutam-1-yl-L-threonyl-L-isoleucyl-L-valine (9; H-(GlcNAc3,4,6Ac3 β 1-)Asn-Glu-Thr-Ile-Val-OH). At -20° , dry liq. H₂F₂ (1 ml) was added to 8 (0.18 g, $1.64 \cdot 10^{-4}$ mol) suspended in CH₂Cl₂ (5 ml). After 30 min at -5° , the solv. was allowed to evaporate in a fume hood. Then, Et₂O (30 ml) was added, the mixture evaporated in vacuo and the crude 9 recrystallized from MeOH/Et₂O giving 0.13 g (86%) of crystalline solid, m.p. 190–195° (dec.), $[\alpha]_{12}^{122} = -6.2^{\circ}$ (c = 0.13, DMSO). ¹H-NMR (90 MHz, (D₆)DMSO): 1.98, 1.96, 1.91, 1.76 (4s, 4 CH₃CO); 1.2–0.85 (m, CH₃(4) of Thr, 2 CH₃-C(3) of Val, CH₃(3') and CH₃(5) of Ile). FAB-MS: 904 ((M + 1)⁺).

 N⁴-(2-Acetamido-2-deoxy-β-D-glucopyranosyl)-L-asparaginyl-L-glutam-1-yl-L-threonyl-L-isoleucyl-L-valine (10; H-(GlcNAc β 1-)Asn-Glu-Thr-Ile-Val-OH). At r.t., 9 (0.11 g, 1.19 · 10⁻⁴ mol) suspended in MeOH (15 ml) was stirred with NH2NH2·H2O (3 ml) for 3 h. Acetone (20 ml) was dropped into the mixture (at 0°) and, after a further 30 min, it was evaporated to dryness at r.t. The residue was dissolved in H_2O (5 ml) and i-PrOH (20 ml) and precipitated by AcOEt: 0.082 g (87%), m.p. 210° (dec.), $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -21.2^\circ$ (c = 0.115, H₂O). ¹H-NMR²) (400 MHz, D_2O_1 , (D_2O_2) (D_2O_3) H-C(2) of Glu); $4.39 (dd, J_{2,3a} = 4.5, J_{2,3b} = 8, H-C(2)$ of Asn); 4.28 (d, J = 6.5, H-C(2)) of Thr); 4.20 (d, J = 9.5, H-C(2))H-C(2) of Val); 4.09 (d, J = 6, H-C(2) of Ile); 4.085 (m, H-C(3) of Thr); 3.83 (dd, $J_{6a,6b} = 13$, $J_{6a,5} = 2.5$, $H_a-C(6)$ of Glc); 3.79 (dd, $J_{2,3}=10.1$, H-C(2) of Glc); 3.72 (dd, $J_{6b,5}=5$, $H_b-C(6)$ of Glc); 3.57 (dd, $J_{3,4}=9$, H-C(3) of Glc); 3.49–3.41 (m, H-C(4) and H-C(5) of Glc); 3.0 (dd, $J_{gem}=17.5$, $H_a-C(3)$ of Asn); 2.87 (dd, H_b -C(3) of Asn); 2.43–2.36 (m, 2H–C(4) of Glu); 2.15–2.0 (m, 2H–C(3) of Glu); 1.98 (s, CH₃CO); 1.9–1.8 (m, H-C(3) of Val); 1.5-1.4 (m, H-C(3) of Ile); 1.25-1.15 (m, 2H-C(4) of Ile); 1.16 (d, J=6.5, $CH_3(4)$ of Thr); 0.92-0.86 (m, CH₃(3') of Iie, 2 CH₃-C(3) of Val); 0.82 (t, J = 6, CH₃(5) of Iie). 13 C-NMR²) (100.6 MHz, (D₂O, (D₆)acetone as internal standard): 175.1-168.8 (C=O); 78.66 (C(1) of Glc); 60.87 (C(6) of Glc); 49.85 (C(2) of Asn); 36.39 (C(3) of Ile); 35.63 (C(3) of Asn); 30.59 (C(3) of Val); 27.04 (C(4) of Ile); 26.9 (C(4) of Glu); 24.75 (C(3) of Glu); 22.43 (CH₃CO); 19.2 (C(4) of Thr); 18.88, 17.72 (C(4), C(4') of Val); 15.0 (C(3') of Ile); 10.25 (C(5) of Ile). FAB-MSM²): 778 (72, M^+), 800 (100, $M^+ - 1 + Na^+$).

¹⁾ Compound 5 obstinately retained H₂O and traces of solvs. This causes the deviations in the anal. values.

The free glycopentapeptide 10 exhibits a remarkable complexation ability indicated by the base peak of the FAB-MS. Since it can be recrystallized only from H₂O containing solvents, small amounts of inorganic impurities are not removable. The high field NMR spectra show that 10 is free of org. impurities.

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