

Fig. 1. Structural model of bovine proinsulin.

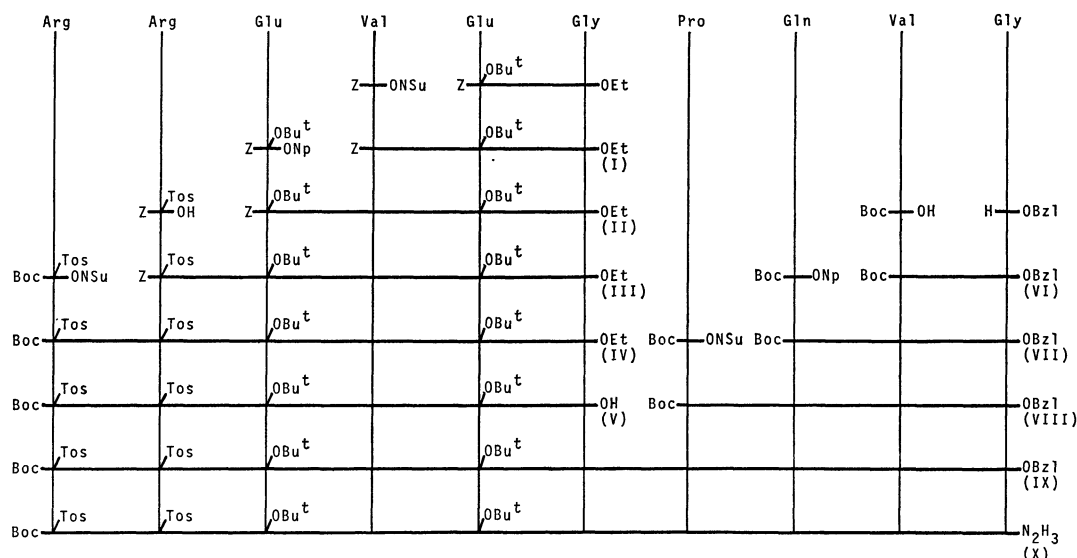


Fig. 2. Scheme for synthesis of protected decapeptide (sequence corresponding to positions BC₁ to C₈ in bovine proinsulin).

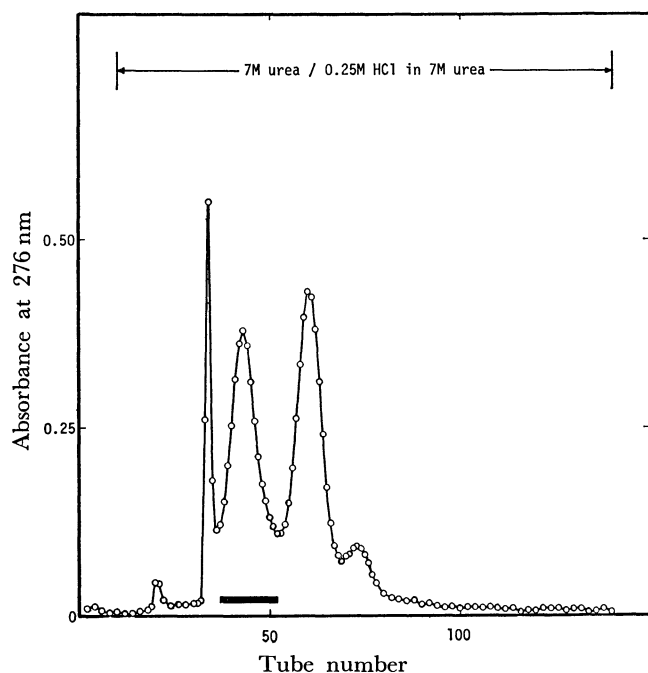


Fig. 3. Chromatography of the *S*-sulfonate of the Arg(Tos)-Arg(Tos)-Glu-Val-Glu-Gly-Pro-Gln-Val-Gly-Ala-Leu-Glu-Leu-Ala-Gly-Gly-Pro-Gly-Ala-Gly-Gly-Leu-Glu-Gly-Pro-Pro-Gln-Lys[Z(2-Cl)]-Arg-A-chain on QAE-Sephadex A-25 under the conditions described in the text.

hexapeptide acid V by DCC in the presence of HOBt¹²⁾ to give the protected decapeptide ester (IX), Boc-Arg(Tos)-Arg(Tos)-Glu(OBu^t)-Val-Glu(OBu^t)-Gly-Pro-Gln-Val-Gly-OBzl, which was then converted to its corresponding hydrazide (X) by the usual method.

Boc-Arg(Tos)-Arg(Tos)-Glu(OBu^t)-Val-Glu(OBu^t)-Gly-Pro-Gln-Val-Gly-N₃, prepared from its corresponding hydrazide (X) by Rudinger's method¹³⁾ without being isolated, was coupled with the *S*-sulfonate of the Ala-Leu-Glu-Leu-Ala-Gly-Gly-Pro-Gly-Ala-Gly-Gly-Leu-Glu-Gly-Pro-Pro-Gln-Lys[Z(2-Cl)]-

TABLE 1. AMINO ACID RATIOS OF PEPTIDES SYNTHESIZED^{a)}

Amino acid	Protected [31—40]	<i>S</i> -Sulfonate of [41—81] ^{b)}	<i>S</i> -Sulfonate of [31—81]
Lys		0.92 (1)	1.00 (1)
Arg	1.87 (2)	1.00 (1)	2.76 (3)
Asp		1.96 (2)	2.04 (2)
Ser		1.94 (2)	1.99 (2)
Glu	3.14 (3)	7.62 (7)	11.27 (10)
Pro	1.02 (1)	2.88 (3)	4.40 (4)
Gly	2.00 (2)	7.10 (7)	9.15 (9)
Ala		4.00 (4)	4.00 (4)
Cys		nd ^{c)}	1.39 (2)
Val	2.09 (2)	1.67 (2)	3.52 (4)
Ile		0.55 (1)	0.60 (1)
Leu		5.00 (5)	5.23 (5)
Tyr		1.72 (2)	1.98 (2)

a) Molar ratios of individual amino acids are shown relative to that of glycine or alanine. Numbers in parentheses are theoretical values. b) Cited from Ref. 1. c) Cystine was not determined.

Arg-A-chain.¹⁾ Azide couplings in the synthesis of peptides corresponding to positions 53—81³⁾ and 41—81¹⁾ of bovine proinsulin mainly gave the target material, leaving only a little unchanged starting material. On the other hand, on azide coupling starting material remained considerably unreacted, even though the coupling reaction was performed under similar conditions to those described in the preceding papers.^{1,3)} However, the target product, the *S*-sulfonate of a peptide corresponding to positions 31—81 of bovine proinsulin, Arg(Tos)-Arg(Tos)-Glu-Val-Glu-Gly-Pro-Gln-Val-Gly-Ala-Leu-Glu-Leu-Ala-Gly-Gly-Pro-Gly-Ala-Gly-Gly-Leu-Glu-Gly-Pro-Pro-Gln-Lys[Z(2-Cl)]-Arg-A-chain, could be easily separated from the starting material and the side-reaction product by ion-exchange chromatography on QAE-Sephadex A-25 after treatment of the reaction product with TFA (Fig. 3). The amino acid ratio of the acid

hydrolysate of the purified *S*-sulfonate is given in Table 1. Edman-degradation¹⁴ of the purified material released the phenylthiohydantoin derivative of ω -tosylarginine as the N-terminal amino acid residue, which was identified on polyamide thin-layer by comparison with an authentic sample.

Thus a peptide with 51 amino acid residues, which shares a little over 62% of the 81 amino acid residues of bovine proinsulin, could be prepared in a homogeneous reaction system and purified easily by chromatography on an ion-exchanger.

Experimental

The general experimental and analytical methods are the same as reported.³ UV-Absorption spectra were recorded on a Hitachi-spectrophotometer, type-124 and ¹H-NMR spectra on a JEOL PFT-100 pulse Fourier transform NMR spectrometer locked in deuterium and equipped with an FT-1a pulse control system. Chemical shifts were measured with TMS as an internal reference.

5-[3-[3-(*p*-Tolylsulfonyl)guanidino]propyl]-3-phenyl-2-thiohydantoin Hydrochloride (PTH-derivative of *H*-Arg(*Tos*)-OH).

The title compound was prepared from *H*-Arg(*Tos*)-OH,⁹ as reported¹⁴; mp 139—141 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ -9.7° (*c* 0.6, EtOH); UV (EtOH): λ_{max} 269.5 nm ($\epsilon=15.1 \times 10^3$), λ_{min} 252 (8.6 $\times 10^3$); ¹H-NMR (D₂O in DMSO-*d*₆): CH₂-CH₂ (1, 2) δ 1.47—1.75 (4H, m), CH₃(aromatic) 2.32 (3H, s), CH₂ (3) 3.11 (2H, t), CH(ring) 4.41 (1H, t), H(aromatic) 7.23—7.68 (9H, m); (DMSO-*d*₆): NH(ring) 10.57 (1H, s) ppm. Found: C, 49.47; H, 4.80; N, 14.50; S, 13.57; Cl, 7.05%. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₃O₃N₅S₂·HCl: C, 49.83; H, 5.02; N, 14.53; S, 13.30; Cl, 7.36%.

Z-Val-Glu(OBu^t)-Gly-OEt (I). *Z*-Glu(OBu^t)-Gly-OEt⁹ (16.5 g, 39.1 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (250 ml) and hydrogenated over 5% palladium-charcoal catalyst. The catalyst was filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated to an oil under reduced pressure. The oil was dissolved with *Z*-Val-ONSu⁷ (13.0 g, 37.4 mmol) in CHCl₃ (150 ml), stirred at room temperature for 2 d and then concentrated to a syrup. The syrup was dissolved in AcOEt and washed successively with 0.1 M HCl, 5% aqueous NaHCO₃ and water, dried and then concentrated to a crystalline solid, which was collected with AcOEt and hexane; wt 17.5 g. The crude material was recrystallized from EtOH; wt 16.2 g (83.1%), mp 141—143 °C, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -31.6° (*c* 2.2, EtOH).

Found: C, 59.89; H, 7.75; N, 8.09%. Calcd for C₂₆H₃₉O₈N₃: C, 59.87; H, 7.54; N, 8.06%.

Z-Glu(OBu^t)-Val-Glu(OBu^t)-Gly-OEt (II). Compound I (13.0 g, 24.9 mmol) was suspended in EtOH (250 ml), and hydrogenated over 5% palladium-charcoal at 40 °C. The catalyst was filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated to an oil. The oil was dissolved with *Z*-Glu(OBu^t)-ONP⁸ (12.0 g, 26.2 mmol) in CHCl₃ (150 ml) and stirred at room temperature for a day. The solution was washed successively with 0.1 M HCl, 5% aqueous NaHCO₃ and water, dried and then concentrated to a syrup. The syrup was triturated with hexane; wt 14.3 g. The crude material was recrystallized from AcOEt and hexane; wt 14.1 g (80.1%), mp 149—150 °C, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -8.8° (*c* 2.0, DMF).

Found: C, 59.33; H, 7.95; N, 7.83%. Calcd for C₃₅H₅₄O₁₁N₄: C, 59.47; H, 7.70; N, 7.93%.

Z-Arg(*Tos*)-Glu(OBu^t)-Val-Glu(OBu^t)-Gly-OEt (III). Compound II (2.80 g, 3.96 mmol) was dissolved in hot MeOH (150 ml), and hydrogenated over 5% palladium-charcoal catalyst at room temperature. The catalyst was

filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated to a solid. The solid was dissolved in THF (100 ml) with *Z*-Arg(*Tos*)-OH, which was prepared from its cyclohexylammonium salt⁹ (2.50 g, 4.45 mmol), cooled to -5°C — -10°C and mixed with HOBt (0.8 g, 5.93 mmol) and DCC (0.9 g, 4.37 mmol). The mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 1 h and at room temperature for 1 d. The precipitate formed was filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated to a syrup. The syrup was dissolved in AcOEt, washed successively with 0.1 M HCl, 5% aqueous NaHCO₃ and water, dried and concentrated to a crystalline residue; wt 3.60 g. The crude product was recrystallized from EtOH and hexane; wt 3.48 g (86.4%), mp 179.5—181.5 °C, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -7.5° (*c* 2.0, DMF).

Found: C, 56.51; H, 7.13; N, 10.95; S, 3.44%. Calcd for C₄₈H₇₂O₁₄N₈S: C, 56.67; H, 7.14; N, 11.02; S, 3.15%.

Boc-Arg(*Tos*)-Arg(*Tos*)-Glu(OBu^t)-Val-Glu(OBu^t)-Gly-OEt (IV). Compound III (5.10 g, 5.01 mmol) was dissolved in hot MeOH (200 ml) and hydrogenated over 5% palladium-charcoal catalyst at 35 °C. The catalyst was filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated to a solid.

The solid was dissolved with *Boc*-Arg(*Tos*)-ONSu⁹ (3.90 g, 7.41 mmol) in DMF (50 ml), stirred at room temperature for 1 d and then concentrated to a residue. The residue was dissolved in CHCl₃ and washed successively with 0.1 M HCl, 5% aqueous NaHCO₃ and water, dried, and concentrated to a residue. The residue was collected from CHCl₃ and ether; wt 6.06 g. The crude product was reprecipitated from CHCl₃ and ether; wt 4.69 g (70.4%), mp 141—142 °C, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -8.1° (*c* 2.0, DMF). Amino acid ratio in the acid hydrolysate: Glu, 2.13 (2); Gly, 1.00 (1); Val, 1.04 (1); Arg, 1.95 (2).

Found: C, 52.30; H, 7.15; N, 12.80; S, 4.91%. Calcd for C₅₈H₉₂O₁₇N₁₂S₂·2H₂O: C, 52.39; H, 7.28; N, 12.64; S, 4.82%.

Boc-Arg(*Tos*)-Arg(*Tos*)-Glu(OBu^t)-Val-Glu(OBu^t)-Gly-OH (V). Compound IV (1.30 g, 0.977 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (30 ml) and 1 M NaOH (3 ml) was added to the solution. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 2 h and then neutralized with 1 M HCl.

MeOH was evaporated from the solution and the residue was mixed with 0.1 M HCl. The precipitate formed was filtered and reprecipitated from MeOH and ether; wt 1.20 g (94.5%), mp 136—139 °C, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -7.5° (*c* 2.0, DMF).

Found: C, 51.46; H, 6.81; N, 12.86; S, 5.04%. Calcd for C₅₆H₈₈O₁₇N₁₂S₂·2H₂O: C, 51.67; H, 7.12; N, 12.92; S, 4.93%.

Boc-Val-Gly-OBzl (IV). *Boc*-Val-OH prepared from its dicyclohexylammonium salt¹⁰ (20.0 g, 50.1 mmol) was added to a solution of *H*-Gly-OBzl·*Tos*OH (20.2 g, 59.9 mmol) and TEA (8.4 ml) in THF (200 ml). The solution was cooled below 0 °C, mixed with a solution of DCC (11.3 g, 54.9 mmol) in THF (50 ml) and stirred at the same temperature for 1 h and at room temperature for 1 d. It was then concentrated to a syrupy residue, dissolved in AcOEt and washed successively with 0.1 M HCl, 5% aqueous NaHCO₃ and water. The washed solution was dried and then concentrated to a syrup, which was crystallized from hexane; wt 16.0 g. The crude material was recrystallized from EtOH and hexane; wt 10.5 g (57.7%), mp 74.5—76.5 °C, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -8.3° (*c* 2.0, DMF).

Found: C, 62.78; H, 7.97; N, 7.75%. Calcd for C₁₉H₂₈O₅N₂: C, 62.62; H, 7.74; N, 7.69%.

Boc-Gln-Val-Gly-OBzl (VII). Compound VI (8.40 g, 23.1 mmol) was dissolved in 3.65 M HCl in dioxane (63 ml) and stirred at room temperature. After 1 h the solution was mixed with 3.65 M HCl in dioxane (10 ml) and stirred at room temperature for 30 min. The solution then was

concentrated to a syrup, which was solidified in ether. The solid was dissolved with TEA (3.2 ml) and Boc-Gln-ONp¹¹ (8.40 g, 22.9 mmol) in DMF (200 ml), stirred at room temperature for 2 d and then concentrated to dryness. The residue was suspended in CHCl₃, washed successively with 0.1 M HCl, 5% aqueous NaHCO₃ and water, filtered, and then dried; wt 10.0 g. The crude material was crystallized from a mixture of EtOH and MeOH; wt 9.50 g (84.1%), mp 203.5–204.5 °C, $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –17.3° (*c* 2.0 DMF).

Found: C, 58.68; H, 7.35; N, 11.48%. Calcd for C₂₄H₃₆O₇N₄: C, 58.52; H, 7.37; N, 11.38%.

Boc-Pro-Gln-Val-Gly-OBzl (VIII). Compound VII (9.40 g, 19.1 mmol) was dissolved in 3.65 M HCl in dioxane (52 ml), stirred at room temperature for 60 min and then concentrated to a syrup. The syrup was triturated in ether, dissolved with TEA (2.7 ml) and Boc-Pro-ONSu⁷ (7.10 g, 22.8 mmol) in DMF (150 ml), stirred at room temperature for 2 d and then concentrated to a solid. The solid was suspended in CHCl₃, washed successively with 0.1 M HCl, 5% aqueous NaHCO₃ and water, filtered, and dried over P₂O₅; wt 9.71 g. The crude material was reprecipitated from DMF, EtOH, and water; wt 8.66 g (76.7%), mp 210 °C (sintered) and 216–217 °C (decomp), $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –38.2° (*c* 2.0, DMF). Amino acid ratio in the acid hydrolysate: Glu, 1.12 (1); Pro, 0.99 (1); Gly, 1.00 (1); Val, 1.04 (1).

Found: C, 59.02; H, 7.33; N, 11.89%. Calcd for C₂₉H₄₃O₈N₅: C, 59.07; H, 7.35; N, 11.88%.

Boc-Arg(Tos)-Arg(Tos)-Glu(OBu^t)-Val-Glu(OBu^t)-Gly-Pro-Gln-Val-Gly-OBzl (IX). Compound VIII (1.95 g, 3.31 mmol) was stirred in TFA (7 ml) at room temperature for 60 min. The solution was concentrated to a syrupy residue, which was triturated in ether. The material was dissolved with compound V (3.88 g, 2.98 mmol), *N*-methylmorpholine (0.43 ml) and HOBt (0.6 g) in DMF (50 ml). The solution was cooled below 0 °C, mixed with a solution of DCC (0.68 g, 3.30 mmol) in DMF (20 ml) and stirred at the same temperature for 1 h and at room temperature for 1 d. The mixture was stirred with HOBt (0.2 g), *N*-methylmorpholine (0.25 ml) and DCC (0.3 g) at room temperature for 2 d. The precipitate formed was filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated to dryness. The residue was collected with DMF and water and reprecipitated from MeOH and AcOEt; wt 4.54 g (86.0%), mp 201.5–203.5 °C (melt and dec), $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –30.8° (*c* 1.0, DMF).

Found: C, 54.31; H, 7.02; N, 13.07; S, 3.74%. Calcd for C₈₀H₁₂₁O₂₂N₁₇S₂·2H₂O: C, 54.19; H, 7.10; N, 13.43; S, 3.62%.

Boc-Arg(Tos)-Arg(Tos)-Glu(OBu^t)-Val-Glu(OBu^t)-Gly-Pro-Gln-Val-Gly-N₂H₃ (X). Compound IX (1.42 g, 0.802 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (10 ml) and mixed with 100% hydrazine hydrate (0.5 g). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 4 h and concentrated to a syrup, which was triturated in ether; wt 1.35 g (100%), mp 207.5–209.5 °C (dec).

Found: C, 52.07; H, 7.34; N, 16.07; S, 4.01%. Calcd for C₇₃H₁₁₇O₂₁N₁₉S₂·H₂O: C, 52.22; H, 7.14; N, 15.85; S, 3.82%.

S-Sulfonate of the Arg(Tos)-Arg(Tos)-Glu-Val-Gly-Pro-Gln-Val-Gly-Ala-Leu-Glu-Leu-Ala-Gly-Gly-Pro-Gly-Ala-Gly-Gly-Leu-Gly-Gly-Pro-Pro-Gln-Lys[Z(2-Cl)]-Arg-A-Chain.

Compound X (0.83 g, 0.5 mmol) was dissolved in *N*-methylpyrrolidone (8 ml) and mixed with 3.0 M HCl in

dioxane (1 ml) and then isopentyl nitrite (70 mg) in *N*-methylpyrrolidone (1 ml) at –20 °C. The solution was stirred at –20 °C–25 °C for 75 min, mixed with *N*-methylmorpholine (0.4 ml) and the *S*-sulfonate of the Ala-Leu-Glu-Leu-Ala-Gly-Gly-Pro-Gly-Ala-Gly-Gly-Leu-Glu-Gly-Pro-Pro-Gln-Lys[Z(2-Cl)]-Arg-A-chain¹⁾ (236 mg, *ca.* 50 μmol), and stirred at 2–3 °C for a week in a refrigerator.

The solution then was mixed with 0.1 M NH₄HCO₃ (20 ml) and subjected to gel-filtration on Sephadex G-25 (3×60 cm) in 0.1 M NH₄HCO₃. The eluate with absorption at 280 nm was collected and lyophilized. The lyophilized material was dissolved in TFA (10 ml) in an ice-water bath, stirred at room temperature for an hour and concentrated to a syrup. The syrupy material was dissolved in 0.1 M NH₄HCO₃ (50 ml) with a small amount of ammonia water, lyophilized and redissolved with Na₂SO₃ (0.4 g), Na₂S₄O₆ (0.4 g) and EDTA·2Na (0.01 g) in 8 M urea (10 ml) at pH 8.0. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 2 d and then charged on a column (3×60 cm) of Sephadex G-25 in 0.1 M NH₄HCO₃. The eluate with absorption at 280 nm was collected and lyophilized. The lyophilized material was charged on a column (9×140 mm) of QAE-Sephadex A-25 (acetate cycle), equilibrated with 7 M urea, and material was eluted with a linear gradient of 7 M urea (250 ml) to 0.25 M HCl in 7 M urea (250 ml) (Fig. 3). The fraction (shown by a bar), with an absorption at 276 nm, was desalted on a column (3×60 cm) of Sephadex G-25 using 0.1 M NH₄HCO₃ and lyophilized; 87.6 mg.

References

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- 6) The abbreviations used are as follows: DMF, *N,N*-dimethylformamide; DMSO, dimethyl sulfoxide; DCC, dicyclohexylcarbodiimide; HOBt, 1-hydroxybenzotriazole; TFA, trifluoroacetic acid; THF, tetrahydrofuran; TEA, triethylamine; Other abbreviations used are those recommended by the IUPAC-IUB: *J. Biol. Chem.*, **247**, 977 (1972).
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