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## Research Article

# Design of Peptide Models for $\beta$ -Hairpins and Equilibrating Helix-Hairpin Structures

Xxx = Aib, L-Ala, Gly, D-Ala. It was anticipated that the –Aib-Gly- and –Aib-D-Ala- containing peptides would also provide models for equilibration between well folded, helical and hairpin structures [1-7] (Figure 3).

The following sequences Boc-Leu-Phe-Val-Aib-Xxx-Leu-Phe-Val-OMe have been chosen for further study.

- (1) Boc-Leu-Phe-Val-Aib-Aib-Leu-Phe-Val-OMe
- (2) Boc-Leu-Phe-Val-Aib-<sup>D</sup>Ala-Leu-Phe-Val-OMe
- (3) Boc-Leu-Phe-Val-Aib-<sup>L</sup>Ala-Leu-Phe-Val-OMe
- (4) Boc-Leu-Phe-Val-Aib-Gly-Leu-Phe-Val-OMe

In addition smaller fragments are also being investigated to probe structure formation in the presence of a smaller number of internal (cross-strand) hydrogen bonds.

- (5) Boc-Aib-D-Ala-NHMe
- (6) Boc-Val-Aib-D-Ala-Leu-NHMe
- (7) Boc-Phe-Val-Aib-D-Ala-Leu-Phe-NHMe
- (8) Boc-Aib-Aib-NHMe
- (9) Boc-Val-Aib-Aib-Leu-NHMe
- (10) Boc-Phe-Val-Aib-Aib-Leu-Phe-NHMe

In the crystalline  $\beta$ -hairpin structure of the octapeptide shown in Figure 2, of the four anticipated cross-strand hydrogen bonds in an idealized  $\beta$ -hairpin, the terminal interaction Leu (1) NH--OC Val (8) is disrupted by a large re-orientation about the C <sup>$\alpha$</sup> --CO bond of Val (8) ( $\psi = -57.3^\circ$ ). Such fraying at hairpin termini is not uncommon.

The target peptides are being synthesized by solution phase procedures and characterized by NMR Spectroscopy. In addition, single crystals have been obtained for peptide sequence that Boc-Val-Aib-<sup>D</sup>Ala-Leu-NHMe and Boc-Val-Aib-Aib-Leu-NHMe and related peptides highly important in vaccine development [8-13].

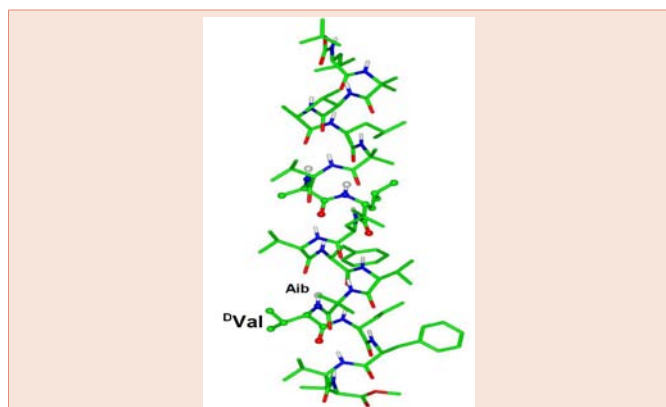
## Experimental section

Peptides synthesis has been undertaken by standard solution phase chemistry. A representative scheme is shown in Figure 4. The following sequences have been synthesized and purified by medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC), homogeneity established by HPLC and characterized by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometer.

## Introduction

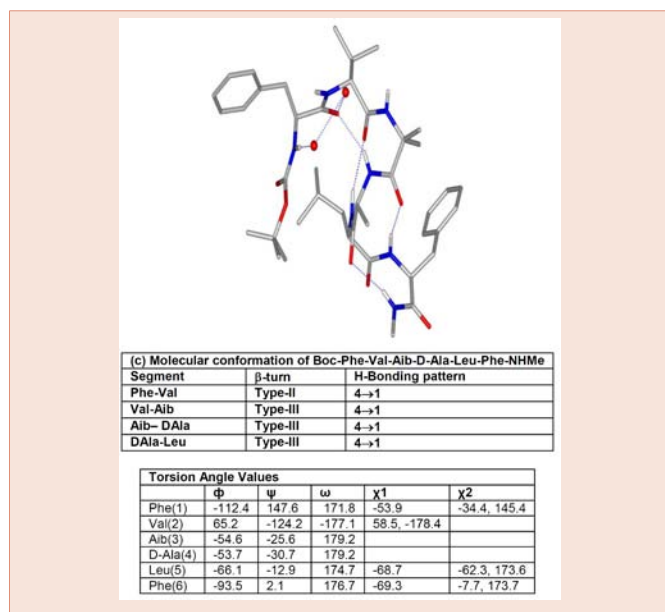
It is well established that synthetic peptides containing a centrally positioned Type-I or Type-II  $\beta$ -turn can form well folded peptide hairpins (1). Earlier studies from this laboratory have established that D-Pro-Xxx segments nucleate  $\beta$ -hairpin structures, with formation of a central Type-II  $\beta$ -turn (2). The octapeptide (Boc-Leu-Phe-Val-Aib-D-Ala-Leu-Phe-Val-OMe) is a rare example of a synthetic peptide hairpin, containing a central Type-I  $\beta$ -turn. Hairpins with Type-I turns are considerably more twisted than their Type-II counterparts. The Aib-Xxx segment has also been shown to adopt a Type-I  $\beta$ -turn structure, resulting in incorporation into the centre of a long synthetic, helical peptide (3) (Figures 1,2).

This observation prompted further studies on the context dependent conformational preferences of -Aib-Xxx- segments, where

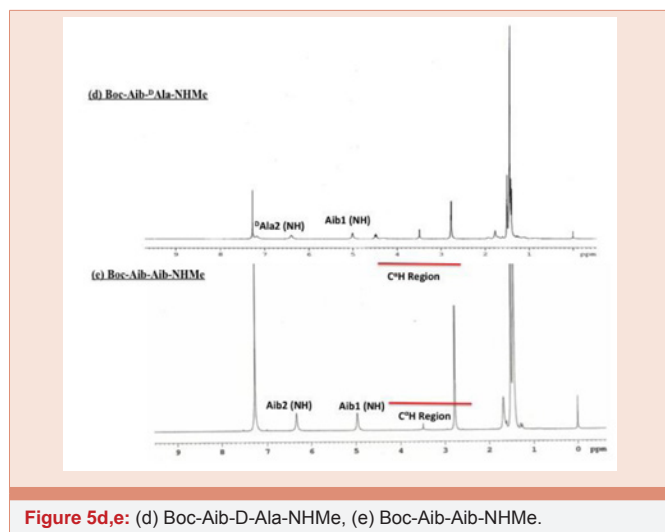


**Figure 1:** The 19-residue peptide that contains three D residues,  $\alpha$ R of Boc-LUVALUV-DA-DL-LVLFV-U-<sup>D</sup>V-LFVV-OMe.

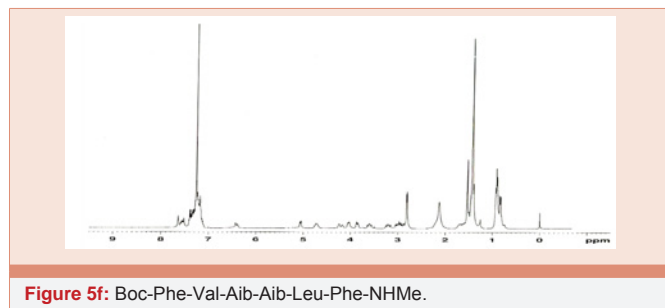




**Figure 5c:** Crystal structure of Boc-Phe-Val-Aib-D-Ala-Leu-Phe-NHMe.



**Figure 5d,e:** (d) Boc-Aib-D-Ala-NHMe, (e) Boc-Aib-Aib-NHMe.



**Figure 5f:** Boc-Phe-Val-Aib-Aib-Leu-Phe-NHMe.

the non-coding amino acid in protein synthesis. Moreover this amino acid well known to be nucleating  $\alpha$ -helix in designed peptides. The assigned proton NMR spectra have been shown above. The crystal grew by MeOH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> solvent system at room temperature by slow evaporation method (Figure 5f).

The characteristic 1D proton NMR spectra were shown. Approximately, Proton 1D spectrum can be assigned the backbone of the Ca-H protons, amide groups of N-H protons and side chain of the aromatics so. But interest motivated towards crystallization of the peptides. The crystal set up is carried by different kind of solvent medium but the crystal growth not obtained yet. The above said peptides no interaction binding with metal ions due to hydrophobic interactions.

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