to the periodate-benzidine test.⁷⁾ Their NMR spectra were characteristic for the structures IVb and VI (Table I). In addition, 2',3'-O-isopropylidene derivatives of (S)-2,5', and (N)-2,5'-anhydronucleosides (IVb and VI) were also prepared from 2',3'-O-isopropylidene derivatives of IIIb and V in a similar way.

So far as is known, the work reported here is the first specifically designed to synthesize 2,5'-anhydro pyrimidine nucleosides directly from pyrimidine nucleosides. The studies of cleavage reaction of (S)-2,5'-and (N)-2,5'-anhydronucleosides are being undertaken.

Research Laboratory,
Yamasa Shoyu Co., Ltd.
Cho-shi, Chiba

SUSUMU SHIBUYA
AKIRA KUNINAKA
HIROSHI YOSHINO

Received October 12, 1973

[Chem. Pharm. Bull.]
22(3) 721-723 (1974)

UDC 547.466.1.057

Syntheses and Properties of Formyl Sarcosine¹-LH-RH and N-Methyl-L-pGlu¹-LH-RH¹⁾

In the course of our investigations on the structure-activity relationship of luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LH-RH), pGlu-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Gly-Leu-Arg-Pro-Gly-NH₂, acylated Gly¹-LH-RH such as formyl Gly¹-LH-RH was revealed to retain some biological activity in spite of the lack of the N-terminal pyrrolidone ring structure.²⁾ Time course study based on the serum level of luteinizing hormone (LH) after the administration of formyl Gly¹-LH-RH in rats suggested shorter life time of this compound than that of LH-RH in animal body (Fig. 1). In an attempt to suppress the rapid inactivation, we synthesized formyl Sar¹-LH-RH, in which methyl group was introduced to the nitrogen atom of formyl glycine part, and found a marked increase in LH-releasing activity (Table I). A prolonged high LH-level in serum was also observed distinctly (Fig. 1). This result prompted us to synthesize N-methyl-L-pGlu¹-LH-RH, and its LH-releasing activity remained at a half level of the natural LH-RH.

These analogs, formyl Sar¹-LH-RH and N-methyl-L-pGlu¹-LH-RH, were synthesized as follows. The protected nonapeptide amide, Z-His-Trp-Ser(Bu^t)-Tyr(Bu^t)-Gly-Leu-Arg(Tos)-Pro-Gly-NH₂ (I), synthesized according to the same procedure described in our previous communication,²⁾ was decarbobenzoxylated by hydrogenolysis and coupled with formyl sarcosine *p*-nitrophenyl ester to give the protected decapeptide amide (II) [mp 165-167°, [α]_D²⁰ -33.3° (*c*=0.47 in MeOH), *Anal.* Calcd. for C₆₉H₉₇O₁₅N₁₇S·1.5H₂O: C, 56.62; H, 6.89; N, 16.27. Found: C, 56.90; H, 6.97; N, 15.58]. Deprotection of II with anhydrous hydrogen fluoride,³⁾ followed by purification with column partition chromatography on Sephadex G-25

- 1) The amino acid residues (except glycine and sarcosine) mentioned in this communication are of the L-configuration. The abbreviations used to denote amino acids, peptides and peptide derivatives are those recommended by IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature, *Biochemistry*, **5**, 2485 (1966); **6**, 362 (1967).
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TABLE I. LH-Releasing Activity of the Synthesized Analogs

	% LH-releasing activity	95% confidence limits
LH-RH (synthetic)	assumed 100%	
Formyl Gly ¹ -LH-RH	1.5%	0.3—7.8
Formyl Sar ¹ -LH-RH	52.6%	66.2—41.8
N-methyl-L-pGlu ¹ -LH-RH	48.4%	73.3—32.0

(solvent system: *n*-BuOH: 0.1M AcONH₄=1: 1) produced chromatographically homogeneous formyl Sar¹-LH-RH $[\alpha]_D^{20} -69.4^\circ$ ($c=0.32$ in 0.1N AcOH), Rf^1 0.41, Rf^2 0.51, Rf^3 0.66.⁴⁾ Amino acid ratios (acid hydrolysate): Sar 1.09, His 0.93, Trp 0.71, Ser 0.82, Tyr 0.89, Gly 1.85, Leu 1.00, Arg 1.00, Pro 1.04. *Anal.* Calcd. for C₅₄H₇₅O₁₃N₁₇·2AcOH·2H₂O: C, 52.52; H, 6.61; N, 17.95. Found: C, 52.69; H, 7.27; N, 18.14].

N-Methyl-L-pGlu¹-LH-RH was prepared by the coupling of N-methyl-L-pyroglutamic acid 1-succinimidyl ester with the deprotected nonapeptide amide (III) which was derived from II by treatment with anhydrous hydrogen fluoride. The resulting decapeptide amide (IV) was purified by column partition chromatography on Sephadex G-25 (solvent system: *n*-BuOH: 0.1M AcONH₄: CCl₄=10: 10: 1) to give the pure material $[\alpha]_D^{20} -54.9^\circ$ ($c=0.27$ in 0.1N AcOH), Rf^1 0.39, Rf^2 0.51, Rf^3 0.63. Amino acid ratios (acid hydrolysate): His 0.92, Trp 0.78, Tyr 0.97, Ser, 0.81, Gly, 2.00, Leu, 1.00, Arg, 0.98, Pro, 1.01. *Anal.* Calcd. for C₅₆H₇₇O₁₃N₁₇·2AcOH·7H₂O: C, 49.96; H, 6.92; N, 16.51. Found: C, 49.83; H, 6.88; N, 16.21]. N-Methyl-L-pyroglutamic acid⁵⁾ [mp 150—151°, $[\alpha]_D^{20} -33.6^\circ$ ($c=1.1$ in H₂O), *Anal.* Calcd. for C₆H₉O₃N: C, 50.34; H, 6.34; N, 9.79. Found: C, 50.08; H, 6.27; N, 9.74] used herein, was obtained by resolution⁶⁾ of N-methyl-DL-pyroglutamic acid⁷⁾ with quinidine.

The LH-releasing activity of the synthesized analogs was estimated at two dose levels by the stimulation of release of LH in ovariectomized rats pretreated with estrogen and progesterone.⁸⁾ The duration of the LH-releasing activity was evaluated by a single s.c. injection in male immature rats (25—27 days

Fig. 1. Serum LH Concentrations (mean $\pm$ SE) after s.c. Injection of LH-RH and Its Analogs

s.c. injection of LH-RH and its analogs
 —●—: LH-RH (0.5 μ g per rat)
 —○—: formyl Gly¹-LH-RH (50 μ g per rat)
 —□—: formyl Sar¹-LH-RH (1 μ g per rat)

- ⁴⁾ Rf values of thin-layer chromatography refer to the following solvent systems: Rf^1 , *n*-BuOH-AcOH-H₂O (60: 15: 25); Rf^2 , *n*-BuOH-AcOH-H₂O-pyridine (30: 6: 24: 20); Rf^3 , CHCl₃-MeOH-32% AcOH (60: 45: 20).
- ⁵⁾ The absolute configuration of this N-methyl-pyroglutamic acid was determined to be of the L-configuration by hydrolyzing to known N-methyl-L-glutamic acid (J.C. Watkins, *J. Med. Pharm. Chem.*, **5**, 1187 (1962)).
- ⁶⁾ N-Methyl-L-pyroglutamic acid-quinidine salt: mp 201—202°, $[\alpha]_D^{20} +158^\circ$ ($c=1.0$ in EtOH), *Anal.* Calcd. for C₂₆H₃₃O₅N₃: C, 66.79; H, 7.11; N, 8.99. Found: C, 66.80; H, 6.80; N, 9.06.
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old).⁹⁾ The serum LH concentrations were measured by radioimmunoassay according to Niswender, *et al.*¹⁰⁾

Acknowledgement We are indebted to the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism and Digestive Diseases for the supply of rat LH immunoassay kit, and to Dr. G. Niswender for his generous supply of rabbit anti-sheep LH serum. Thanks are also due to Misses C. Miura and H. Miyakawa for their technical assistances.

Central Research Laboratories,
Sankyo Co., Ltd.
1-2-58, Hiromachi, Shinagawa, Tokyo

YUTAKA OKADA
HIROYOSHI HORIKOSHI
YOSHIHIKO BABA

Received October 13, 1973

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[Chem. Pharm. Bull.]
22(3) 723-726 (1974)

UDC 547.665.02 : 581.192

The Absolute Configurations of Pterosins, 1-Indanone Derivatives from Bracken, *Pteridium aquilinum* var. *latiusculum*¹⁾

In the previous communications²⁻⁴⁾ the isolation and the structural elucidations of seventeen pterosins, sesquiterpenoids having 1-indanone nucleus, from methanol extract of air-dried young leaves of bracken were reported. This communication concerns with the absolute configurations of these compounds.¹⁾

Pterosin B²⁾ (**1**) was proved to be identical with the aglycone of pteroside B⁵⁾ (**2**) and the absolute configuration at C-2 was proposed to be *R* on the basis of the circular dichroism (CD) curve by Hikino.⁵⁾ Since the direct application of the method to the indanone system is assumed to have some limitation,⁶⁾ the confirmation by an unequivocal method was carried out as follows.

The ozonolysis of pterosin B (**1**) afforded methylsuccinic acid (**3**), mp 109–111°, which showed $[\alpha]_D +7.8^\circ$ (H₂O) and a positive Cotton effect (peak, 218 nm), indicating its *R*-configuration.⁷⁾ This result showed the *R*-configuration of the 2-position of pterosin B (**1**).

The *trans*-configuration of the methyl at C-2 and the hydroxyl at C-3 in pterosin C³⁾ (**4**) was shown in the previous communications.^{3,4)} The Clemmensen reduction of pterosin C (**4**) gave a product (**5**), mp 68°, $[\alpha]_D +3.0^\circ$, $[\alpha]_{350} +10.5^\circ$ (MeOH), which was proved to be identical with the Clemmensen reduction product²⁾ (**6**) of pterosin B, mp 67–68°, $[\alpha]_D -2.0^\circ$,

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