Chromatographic Separation of Aromatic Guest Compounds by a Gel-Immobilized Water-Soluble Cyclophane

Kei Manabe, Kazunori Odashima, 1) and Kenji Koga*

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Tokyo, Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113, Japan. Received July 17, 1991

An agarose gel upon which a water-soluble cyclophane having three quaternary nitrogens was immobilized, Gel-QCP (3), was synthesized and its properties as a chromatographic stationary phase were studied. The affinity of Gel-QCP for several neutral and anionic aromatic guests was broadly consistent with that of the parent cyclophane (2). This suggests that the guest separation is attributable to the formation of inclusion complexes between the cyclophane moiety of Gel-QCP and the guests. Non-specific electrostatic interaction also influences anionic guests, but this effect is reduced by using an aqueous solution of NaCl as an eluent.

Keywords macrocycle; water-soluble cyclophane; hydrophobic cavity; immobilization; agarose gel; inclusion chromatography; separation; aromatic guest

Water-soluble cyclophanes constitute a promising class of totally synthetic hosts having hydrophobic cavities to capture organic guests in water.²⁾ We have previously reported that a series of paracyclophanes having diphenylmethane skeletons, represented by CP44 (1), form inclusion complexes with neutral and anionic aromatic guest molecules in acidic water (pH<2).^{3a)} The guest inclusion by these hosts was found to occur with particular geometry and remarkable selectivity, based on host-guest recognition of steric structure and charge.^{3b,c)} It has also been shown that the N-quaternized derivative (QCP44, 2) of 1 retains binding ability and selectivity comparable to those of 1.^{3d,e)} Host 2 is a versatile modification of 1, since it is highly soluble in water over the whole pH range.

Application of host molecules to chromatography provides an efficient means for separation based on inclusion of the guest molecule in the well-defined cavity of the host. By host-guest inclusion chromatography based on such a principle, separation of guest molecules having similar structures that are difficult to separate by ordinary chromatographic methods would be possible, as exemplified by inclusion chromatography using cyclodextrin-immobilized silica gel columns.4) Water-soluble cyclophanes are another class of host compounds having well-defined hydrophobic cavities, and are totally synthetic hosts which may be modifiable as required to include a wide range of organic guests. Accordingly, the chromatographic application of this class of host compounds is expected to afford a versatile system for separation of organic guests with similar structures.⁵⁾ In this paper we describe the synthesis of a new type of gel upon which water-soluble cyclophane

having diphenylmethane units is immobilized (3, Gel-QCP), and its application to the separation of aromatic guest compounds.

Host 4 having one amide nitrogen and three quaternary ammonium nitrogens was found essentially to retain the ability of cyclophane 2 having four quaternary ammonium nitrogens to form inclusion complexes with aromatic guests. The tendencies of guest selectivity were also retained. Hence, Gel-QCP having three quaternary ammonium nitrogens, like 4, was also expected to have the ability to form inclusion complexes with selectivity. As a solid support we chose ECH Sepharose 4B, which is an agarose gel bearing carboxyl group through a spacer, and which in itself scarcely shows non-specific adsorption of solutes.

Results and Discussion

Synthesis Gel-QCP (3) was synthesized from compound 5^{6b)} as shown in Chart 2. Compound 6, having one deprotected nitrogen, was prepared by partial hydrolysis of 5, using a limited amount of base to avoid hydrolysis of more than one trifluoroacetyl group. Thus, treatment of 5 with 0.5 eq of KOH in tetrahydrofuran (THF)-MeOH gave a mixture containing mostly 5 and 6.^{6b)} Since these were difficult to separate from each other, the mixture was reacted directly with di-tert-butyl dicarbonate (Boc₂O). The resulting mixture of 5 and 7 was treated with benzene, and undissolved 5 was filtered off. Retreatment with benzene, followed by silica gel column chromatography, gave pure 7 in 28% yield from 5. Hydrolysis of the trifluoroacetyl groups of 7 afforded the triamine 8. The exhaustive

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Chart 2

N-quaternization of 8 was carried out by the procedure of Sommer et al. (methyl iodide, tri-n-butylamine).7) The quaternized compound (iodide) was converted to the corresponding perchlorate by ion exchange column chromatography using Dowex 1 (ClO₄ form) and purified by recrystallization from H₂O. This quaternized compound (9) was deprotected with HCl and then coupled with ECH Sepharose 4B in the presence of 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC; watersoluble carbodiimide). Based on the microanalysis of nitrogen of the resulting gel (Gel-QCP) and ECH Sepharose 4B, about 66% of the carboxyl group attached to ECH Sepharose 4B was found to be coupled with the cyclophane.

Chart 3

For control experiments the gel (10, Gel-EA) in which ethanolamine was coupled with ECH Sepharose 4B was prepared.

Separation of Aromatic Guests We investigated the chromatographic behavior of neutral and anionic aromatic guests (11-21, Chart 3). The chromatographic separation experiments using Gel-QCP, Gel-EA and ECH Sepharose 4B columns were carried out under the following conditions: column size, $10 \text{ mm} \times 68 \text{ or } 72 \text{ mm}$; flow rate, 0.62 ml/min; temperature, 23 °C; detection, ultraviolet (UV) at 254 nm.

TABLE I. Retention Times of Aromatic Guests on Gel-QCP, Gel-EA and ECH Sepharose 4B Columns^{a)}

Guest	Eluent	Retention time (min)			
		Gel-QCP	Gel-EA	ECH Sepharose 4B	
11	H₂O	12	11		
12	H ₂ O	12	10		
13	H ₂ O	12	10		
14	H ₂ O	18	11		
15	H ₂ O	22	11		
16	H ₂ O	19	12		
17	H_2O	25	12		
$11^{b)}$	1 M NaCl in H2O	12	12		
14 ^{b)}	1 M NaCl in H ₂ O	21	12		
15 ^{b)}	1 M NaCl in H ₂ O	25	12		
18 ^{b)}	0.01 M NaCl in H ₂ O	34	15	15	
19 ^{b)}	0.01 M NaCl in H ₂ O	47	15	15	
$20^{b)}$	0.01 M NaCl in H ₂ O	59	19	15	
21 ^{b)}	0.01 M NaCl in H ₂ O	>70	19	15	

a) Column size, $10 \text{ mm} \times 72 \text{ mm}$ unless otherwise noted; flow rate, 0.62 ml/min; temperature, 23 °C; detection, UV (254 nm). b) Column size, 10 mm × 68 mm.

Under these conditions the retention time of acetone was 10 min (eluent, H₂O) regardless of the gel used.

Retention times of the guests are shown in Table I. When water was used as an eluent for the neutral aromatic guests 11-17, all of these neutral guests were retained more strongly (showed longer retention times) in Gel-QCP than in Gel-EA column. Furthermore, the naphthyl derivatives (14-17) were retained in Gel-QCP more strongly than the phenyl derivatives (11—13), and the β -substituted naphthalenes (15, 17) were retained more strongly than the α substituted naphthalenes (14, 16). When Gel-EA was used, all of the neutral guests showed almost the same retention times.

The anionic aromatic guests 18—21 were not eluted from Gel-QCP within 2h when water was used as an eluent. Therefore, an aqueous solution of NaCl was used. The retention times of the sulfonates (18—21) eluted with 0.01 M NaCl are shown in Table I. Of these anionic aromatic guests, the naphthyl derivatives (20, 21) were retained in Gel-QCP more strongly than the phenyl derivatives (18, 19), and the β -substituted naphthalene 21 was retained

TABLE II. Retention Times of 18 and 20 on Gel-QCP Column Using Different Eluents^{a)}

	Retention time (min)			
	1 M NaCl in H ₂ O	0.05 M NaCl in H ₂ O	0.05 M NaCl in MeOH-H ₂ O 1:1 (v/v)	
18	12	16	14	
20	14	23	14	

a) Column size, $10 \text{ mm} \times 68 \text{ mm}$; flow rate, 0.62 ml/min; temperature, $23 \,^{\circ}\text{C}$; detection, UV (254 nm).

Table III. Stability Constants (K_s) of the Host-Guest Complexes between 2 and Aromatic Guests^{a)}

Guest	Solvent	$K_{\rm s}/{\rm M}^{-1}$	
12	D ₂ O	1.1×10^{2}	
17	$D_2^{2}O$	$1.5\times10^{3} ^{b)}$	
17	1 M NaCl in D2O	6.9×10^{2}	
18	D_2O	1.0×10^3	
19	$D_2^{-}O$	9.0×10^2 b)	
20	$D_2^{2}O$	2.8×10^{3}	
21	D_2O	1.6×10^{4}	
21	1 M NaCl in D₂O	8.8×10^{2}	

a) K_{\star} of the 1:1 complexes in water (D₂O) determined by ¹H-NMR at $28\pm2\,^{\circ}$ C. b) Taken from reference 3e.

more strongly than the α -substituted naphthalene 20. Gel-EA showed slight selectivity for the naphthalene guests, and ECH Sepharose 4B itself showed no selectivity.

The effect of the eluent used on the anionic guests 18 and 20 was examined as shown in Table II. The higher the concentration of NaCl, the shorter the retention times of the anionic guests were. When an aqueous-methanol solution of NaCl was used in place of the aqueous solution, the retention times were shortened and 18 and 20 were eluted from Gel-QCP with the same retention time.

Stability constants of the 1:1 inclusion complexes between host 2 (QCP44) and the aromatic guests were determined by proton-nuclear magnetic resonance (1 H-NMR) (Table III). The following properties were observed as to the guest binding by this host. Host 2 forms more stable complexes (1) with the naphthyl derivatives than with the phenyl derivatives, (2) with the β -substituted naphthalenes than with the α -substituted naphthalenes, and (3) in $D_{2}O$ than in 1 M NaCl, especially for a sulfonate guest.

The trends of the affinity of the Gel-QCP column to the guests are consistent with the complexation selectivities exhibited by host 2. It is reasonable, therefore, to assume that the formation of inclusion complexes between the cyclophane moiety of Gel-QCP and the guests plays a major role in the chromatographic separation.

The formation of inclusion complexes by this type of cyclophane is based mainly on hydrophobic interaction as well as electrostatic interaction. $^{3c)}$ The order of the retention times with the H_2O eluent (20, 21>18, 19; 21>20; Table I) as well as the markedly stronger retention of guest 20 (but not of the less hydrophobic guest 18) with the H_2O -MeOH eluent of the same NaCl concentration clearly shows that hydrophobic interaction is the major factor in the guest separation by the Gel-QCP column.

However, non-specific electrostatic interaction works especially well for the anionic guests 18-21. In the case of using water as an eluent, the marked increase in the retention time for these anionic guests as compared with the neutral guests can be reasonably attributed to the electrostatic interaction between the ammonium groups of the cyclophane moiety and the sulfonate group of the guests. In turn, the decrease in retention time of the anionic guests with increasing concentration of NaCl in the eluent is probably due to a decreased host-guest interaction as a consequence of competition between the guest anions and chloride ions; that is supported by the much weaker complexation between 2 and 21 in 1 M NaCl/D₂O than in D₂O (Table III).8) The decreased retention time and the failure of separation when using the H₂O-MeOH eluent in place of H₂O eluent at the same NaCl concentration (Table II) is attributed to the weakened hydrophobic interaction, resulting in an increase in the relative importance of the non-specific electrostatic interaction as the controlling factor.

Some other factors must be taken into account for the interaction between Gel-QCP and the guests. In the case of using 1 M NaCl as an eluent, the retention times of the neutral guests 11, 14, and 15 were somewhat longer than in the case of using water (Table I). This result is in contrast with the case of the anionic guests (vide supra) and cannot be explained by the decrease in host-guest complexation in the presence of NaCl (Table III). Therefore, this increased retention time may be attributable to an increased adsorption of the neutral guests on the agarose gel.

Although guests 18 and 19 showed similar stability constants for the complexation with 2, guest 18 eluted out from Gel-QCP faster than 19 (34 min vs. 47 min, Table I). This indicates some difference in the guest selectivity between 2 and the cyclophane bound to the gel.

In conclusion, Gel-QCP shows guest selectivity on the basis of recognition by the formation of inclusion complexes with the cyclophane moiety. In addition, non-specific electrostatic interaction operates for anionic guests; it can be reduced by using an aqueous solution of NaCl as an eluent.

Experimental

General N,N-Dimethylformamide (DMF) was distilled under reduced pressure. CH₂Cl₂ was distilled over P₂O₅ before use. THF was freshly distilled from sodium-benzophenone ketyl under argon. Melting points were measured on a Büchi 510 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a JASCO DS-701G diffraction grating IR spectrophotometer. 1H-NMR spectra were measured on a JEOL JNM-FX 100 Fourier transform NMR spectrometer (100 MHz). Chemical shifts are reported in δ values in ppm with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. In cases where D2O was used as a solvent, a TMS capillary was used as an external standard. Mass spectra (MS) were recorded on a JEOL JMS-01 SG-2 or a JEOL JMS-DX 300 mass spectrometer. High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was conducted with a Hitachi 635 liquid chromatograph using a Radial Pak 8PSC \times 10 μ (Waters Associates), with 0.15 M aqueous Et₃N·HBr in 45% CH₃CN (v/v) (pH adjusted to 7) as an eluent. Detection was done at 254 nm. Gel filtration chromatography was performed on a column packed with Toyopearl HW-40S. Anion exchange chromatography was carried out on a column packed with Dowex 1 (ClO₄ form). ECH Sepharose 4B (3 ml) (Pharmacia) was washed with 0.5 m NaCl (240 ml) on a glass filter before use. Standard buffer solutions (pH 4.01, 10.02) were purchased from Nacalai Tesque, Inc.

1-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-6,20,25-tris(trifluoroacetyl)-1,6,20,25-tetraaza-[6.1.6.1]paracyclophane (7)⁹⁾ A solution of KOH (111 mg, 1.7 mmol) in

THF-MeOH (1:1, 84 ml) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 5 (3.01 g, 3.4 mmol) in THF (420 ml) over a period of 35 min. After being stirred at room temperature overnight, the reaction mixture was evaporated. CH₂Cl₂ (400 ml) and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (300 ml) were added to the residue, and the organic layer was washed successively with water (300 ml) and brine (300 ml), dried over anhydrous K₂CO₃, filtered and evaporated to give a white solid (2.73 g). This solid (2.60 g) was dissolved in hot CH₂Cl₂ (13 ml), and a solution of Boc₂O (0.49 g, 2.3 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 66 h and then evaporated to give a white solid (2.88 g). A part (1.74 g) of this solid was stirred in benzene (100 ml) for 4.5 h, and the residual solid was filtered off. The filtrate was evaporated to give a pale yellow solid (0.83 g). This solid was taken up in benzene (50 ml), and the mixture was stirred for 2 h then filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to give a white amorphous solid (0.79 g). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂-Et₂O (40:1)) to give 7 as a white amorphous solid (0.48 g, 28% from 5), which was reprecipitated from CH₂Cl₂-hexane. White powder, mp 210.5-211.5 °C(dec.). IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 1690 (CF₃CONR₂, $ROCONR_2$). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.43 (9H, s, CH₃), 1.53 (8H, m, NCH_2CH_2), 3.69 (8H, m, NCH_2CH_2), 3.95, 4.01 (2H×2, two s, $ArCH_2Ar$), 7.10 (16H, m, ArH). FAB-MS m/z: 893 (M⁺ + 1). Anal. Calcd for C₄₅H₄₅F₉N₄O₅: C, 60.54; H, 5.08; N, 6.27. Found: C, 60.77; H, 5.10; N, 6.56.

1-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-1,6,20,25-tetraaza[6.1.6.1]paracyclophane (8) A solution of KOH (295 mg, 4.5 mmol) in MeOH (14 ml) was added to a solution of 7 (331 mg, 0.37 mmol) in THF (14 ml), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (100 ml). This solution was successively washed with water (100 ml × 2) and brine (100 ml), dried over K₂CO₃, filtered, and evaporated to give 8 as a white amorphous solid (210 mg, 94%). An analytical sample was obtained by reprecipitation from CH₂Cl₂-hexane. White powder, mp 168—168.5 °C (dec.). IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 3380 (NH), 1690 (ROCONR₂). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 1.40 (12H, s, CH₃, NH), 1.50—1.70 (8H, m, NCH₂CH₂), 3.00—3.60 (8H, m, NCH₂CH₂), 3.70 (2H, s, ArCH₂Ar), 3.80 (2H, m, ArCH₂Ar), 6.40—7.20 (16H, m, ArH). MS m/z: 604 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₃₉H₄₈N₄O₂: C, 77.45; H, 8.00; N, 9.26. Found: C, 77.16; H, 7.97; N, 9.42.

1-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-6,6,20,20,25,25-hexamethyl-1-aza-6,20,25-triazonia[6.1.6.1]paracyclophane Triperchlorate (9) n-Bu₃N (135 ml, 567 mmol) and CH₃I (35 ml, 562 mmol) were added in several portions to a stirred solution of 8 (0.58 g, 0.96 mmol) in DMF (10 ml) over a period of 7 d. Since stirring was difficult due to the precipitate that separated during the reaction, approximately 50 ml of water was added to dissolve the precipitate. The progress of quaternization was checked by HPLC using 0.15 m Et₃N·HBr in CH₃CN-H₂O as an eluent, as described above (general). The reaction mixture was evaporated, then the resulting yellow solid (2.27 g) was dissolved in water (1000 ml), and washed with CH₂Cl₂ $(500 \,\mathrm{ml} \times 5)$. Water was removed in vacuo, and the residue was purified by gel filtration chromatography (Toyopearl HW40S, MeOH as an eluent) to give a yellow solid (666 mg). This was applied to an anion exchange column (Dowex 1, ClO₄ form, MeOH-H₂O (1:1) as an eluent) to exchange the counter anion from iodide to perchlorate. After evaporation of the eluate, the residue was recrystallized from water to give 9 as colorless fine needles (329 mg, 34%). This product was hygroscopic and hence was air-dried until the weight became constant, mp 176.5—179°C (dec.). An analytical sample was obtained by additional recrystallization from water and air-drying over a period of 2d, mp 177.5-180.5 °C (dec.). IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 3420 (OH), 1680 (ROCONR₂), 1395 (N+CH₃, CCH₃), 1080, 620 (ClO_4^-) . ¹H-NMR (acetone- d_6) δ : 1.36 (9H, s, CCH_3), 1.50 (8H, br, NCH_2CH_2), 3.69, 3.76, 3.82 (6H × 3, three s, N^+CH_3), 4.00 (8H, br, NCH_2CH_2 , 4.05, 4.19 (2H × 2, two s, $ArCH_2Ar$), 7.03 (2H, d, J=8.4 Hz, BocNArH (ortho)), 7.26 (2H, d, J=8.4 Hz, BocNArH (meta)), 7.47—7.96 (14H, m, the rest of the aromatic protons). Anal. Calcd for $C_{45}H_{63}Cl_3N_4O_{14} \cdot 1.5H_2O$: C, 53.13; H, 6.54; Cl, 10.45; N, 5.51. Found: C, 53.16; H, 6.43; Cl, 10.47; N, 5.53.

Gel-QCP (3) A solution of 9 (58.5 mg, $58 \mu mol$) in H_2O -MeOH (1:1, 5 ml) was treated with 1 n HCl (2.5 ml). The mixture was stirred for 5 min, then the solvent was removed in vacuo to give a white solid. Water (10 ml) was added to a solution of this solid in acetone (2 ml), and the pH of the solution was adjusted to 4.2—4.4 with 1 n HCl and 1 n NaOH. To this was added a suspension of ECH Sepharose 4B (3 ml of a swollen gel) in water (15 ml). Then a solution of 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride (water-soluble carbodiimide, 0.72 g, 3.8 mmol) in water (15 ml) adjusted to pH 4.4—4.6 was added. After shaking of the reaction mixture for 1 n, the pH was adjusted again to 4.4 n with 1 n NaOH

and 1 N HCl, and shaking was continued at room temperature for 23 h. The gel was collected on a glass filter (3G) and washed successively with water (150 ml), standard buffer solutions of pH 10.02 and 4.01 (6 ml \times 3, 6 ml \times 3, applied alternately) and water (150 ml). The resulting gel (Gel-QCP) was used for the chromatographic experiments.

Preparation of Analytical Sample of ECH Sepharose 4B An analytical sample of ECH Sepharose 4B was obtained as follows. ECH Sepharose 4B (0.5 ml) was washed successively with water (20 ml), MeOH $(2 \text{ ml} \times 6)$ and Et₂O $(2 \text{ ml} \times 6)$. The resulting white solid was dried *in vacuo* for 24h and air-dried until the weight became constant. *Anal.* Found: N, 0.64 ± 0.03 (the average of two samples).

Preparation of Analytical Sample of Gel-QCP Gel-QCP $(0.5 \,\mathrm{ml})$ was washed successively with 1 M NaCl $(20 \,\mathrm{ml})$, water $(20 \,\mathrm{ml})$, MeOH $(2 \,\mathrm{ml} \times 6)$ and Et₂O $(2 \,\mathrm{ml} \times 6)$ on a glass filter (3G). The resulting white solid was dried in vacuo for 5 h and air-dried until the weight became constant. Anal. Found: N, 1.94. On the basis of this microanalysis, about 66% of the carboxyl group attached to ECH Sepharose 4B was calculated to be derivatized with the cyclophane unit (9).

Gel-EA (10) Ethanolamine $(8.5 \,\mu l, 141 \,\mu mol)$ was dissolved in water (25 ml), and the pH of the solution was adjusted to 4.4-4.6 with $1 \,\mathrm{N}$ HCl and $1 \,\mathrm{N}$ NaOH. This solution was added to a suspension of ECH Sepharose 4B (3 ml) in water (20 ml). Then a solution of EDC (1.34 g, 7.0 mmol) in water (25 ml) adjusted to pH 4.4-4.6 was added. After shaking of the reaction mixture for $1 \,\mathrm{h}$, the pH was adjusted again to 4.4 with $1 \,\mathrm{N}$ NaOH and $1 \,\mathrm{N}$ HCl, and shaking was continued at room temperature for 24 h. The gel was collected on a glass filter (3G) and washed successively with water (400 ml), standard buffer solutions of pH 10.02 and 4.01 (5 ml × 3, 5 ml × 3, applied alternately) and water (10 ml). The resulting gel (Gel-EA) was used for the chromatographic experiments.

Chromatographic Separation Using Gels Columns of 10 mm diameter and 68 or 72 mm length was made with the gels (Gel-QCP, Gel-EA and ECH Sepharose 4B). Separation experiments were carried out at 23 °C and the detection of guests was done at 254 nm. Aqueous guest solutions (5 mm, 3 μ l) were injected into the column. To prevent collapse of the gel owing to pressure, the flow rate was adjusted to 0.62 ml/min under the control of a peristaltic pump (Pharmacia). Reproducibility of the retention time was within $\pm 6\%$.

Determination of Stability Constants of Complexes between 2 and Guests D_2O solutions containing a fixed amount of guest and various amounts of 2 were prepared, and their 1H -NMR spectra were recorded. The stability constants were calculated from the host-induced upfield shifts of the guest proton signals (TMS was used as an external standard) by non-linear least-squares fitting of the saturation plot. $^{10)}$ In the case of the complexation between 2 and 21 in 1 M NaCl, the guest signals were broad and not assignable. Therefore, 1 M NaCl in D_2O solutions containing a fixed amount of 2 and various amounts of 21 were prepared, and the stability constant was calculated from the guest-induced upfield shifts of the methyl proton signal of 2. The experiments were carried out below the critical aggregation concentration of $2 (> 1 \times 10^{-1} \, \text{M})$ determined by the ring method (surface tension measurement) and the 1H -NMR method.

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