### **Plant Cyclopeptides**

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### **Contents**





#### **1. Introduction**

We define plant cyclopeptides [with the exception of the acyclic compounds lasiodine-A  $(1)$ ,<sup>13</sup> sanjoinine-G2  $(2)$ ,<sup>74</sup> astin-J (216),<sup>156</sup> asternin-A-C (217-219),<sup>157</sup> and MCoTI-III<br>(462)<sup>320</sup>l as evolic compounds formed mainly with the (**462**)320] as cyclic compounds formed mainly with the peptide bonds of  $2-37$  protein or non-protein amino acids and discovered in higher plants, mainly L-amino acids. Since cyclolinopeptide A (CLA, type VI, **295**) was isolated and



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Jun Zhou, born in 1932, graduated from East China College of Chemical Engineering in 1958. Since 1986 he has been a professor of natural products chemistry at Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences. He is also the former director of Kunming Institute of Botany. In 1999 he was elected to be an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. His research focuses on phytochemistry and plant resources, including new and active compound discovery, traditional Chinese medicine research, plant chemotaxonomy, and sustainable utilization. He has found over 400 new compounds from plants. Several bioactive compounds from Chinese officinal plants have been used in traditional Chinese medicine production. He has investigated plant cyclopeptides for 15 years. He has received several important awards, and has published over 200 papers.

determined from *Linum usitatissimum* (linseed oil, Linaceae) in 1959 by Kaufmann and Tobschirbel,<sup>206,207,250,251</sup> about 455 cyclopeptides have been discovered from higher plants during the past half century, belonging to 26 families, 65 genera, and 120 species. In particular, plants of the Caryophyllaceae and Rhamnaceae families commonly contain cyclopeptides. Researchers in Europe, America, Asia, Oceania, and Africa, especially France, Germany, the U.S.A., Japan, China, Australia, Sweden, and Korea, have made important contributions in this field.

On the basis of their structural skeletons and distributions in plants, herein we propose the systematic structural classification of plant cyclopeptides which are divided into two classes, five subclasses, and eight types. During the discovery of plant cyclopeptides, type I attracted more attention in the circle of natural product chemistry from the mid 1960s to the 1980s, type VII attracted more attention from the mid 1970s to the 1990s, and types VI and VIII attracted more attention during the past decade. Particularly, sedative sanjoinine-A (type I, frangufoline, 37),<sup>74</sup> immunosuppressive cycloleonurinin (type VI, 290),<sup>248</sup> antitumor RA-VII (type VII, **398**),265,271 and kalata B1 (type VIII, **424**)321 with the fascinating structural motif of a cyclic cystine knot have aroused new and important influences in the field of plant cyclopeptides. It is noteworthy that TLC protosite reaction with ninhydrin reagent is a good specific and sensitive chemical detection method for plant cyclopeptides. It can be used effectively not only to detect whether plant extracts contain cyclopeptides but also to guide cyclopeptide separation and purification.<sup>247</sup> Also, cyclotides (type VIII) are gene products verified by experiments<sup>345</sup> and may be plant defense molecules which need more experimental evidence for clarification in the future.<sup>344,346</sup>

Many reviews on the occurrence, isolation, properties, classification, structural determination, synthesis, biosynthesis, bioactivity, and biofunction of cyclopeptides have been published. The main reviews related to cyclopeptide alkaloids are as follows: Warnhoff1 mainly reviewed the cyclopeptide alkaloids found up to 1970 and their structural determination with 61 references. In 1975 Tschesche and Kaubmann<sup>2</sup> reported the research history, occurrence, isolation, properties, classification, structural determination, bioactivity, and biofunction of cyclopeptide alkaloids with 62 references, especially MS spectra. In 1985 Schmidt et al.<sup>3</sup> mainly described classification, new compounds, structural determination, synthesis, and biosynthesis of cyclopeptide alkaloids with 64 references, particularly focused on synthesis. The same year, Joullie and Nutt<sup>4</sup> mainly reported the occurrence, isolation, properties, classification, structural determination, synthesis, bioactivity, and biofunction of cyclopeptide alkaloids with 94 references, particularly focused on synthesis. In 1998 Gournelis et al.<sup>5</sup> reviewed mainly the classification, structural determination, synthesis, biosynthesis, bioactivity, and physical and spectral data of cyclopeptide alkaloids found up to 1995, especially MS and physical and spectral data. This is the most recent comprehensive review on cyclopeptide alkaloids, with 170 references. In 2004 Joullie and Richard<sup>6</sup> published a minireview, with 45 references, mainly about the synthesis, bioactivity, and biofunction of cyclopeptide alkaloids. The main reviews related to cyclopeptides are as follows: In 1997 and 2004 Tan et al. $7,8$  reported the research history, distribution, properties, isolation, classification, chemical detection method, structural determination, bioactivity, and synthesis of 189 and 98 cyclopeptides with 69 and 77 references during <sup>1966</sup>-1995 and 1994-2000, respectively, particularly focused on a structural classification proposal and physical and spectral data. In 1997 Itokawa et al.<sup>9</sup> described mainly cyclopeptide alkaloids from *Zizyphus* plants, Rubiaceae-type cyclopeptides from *Rubia* spp., Compositae-type cyclopeptides from *Aster tataricus*, and Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides from caryophyllaceae plants, with 286 references, especially of their own works. The main reviews related to cyclotides are as follows: In 2001 and 2002 Craik et al.<sup>10,11</sup>

briefly reviewed the definition, discovery, classification, structural charateristics, synthesis, biosynthesis, bioactivity, function, and application in drug design of cyclotides during the past decade. In *Natural Product Reports* (1984-2002), Lewis also introduced some new cyclopeptides.<sup>12</sup>

In this review we describe the progress in the chemistry and biology of 455 cyclopeptides discovered from higher plants during 1959-2005 with 347 references.

#### **2. Classification**

On the basis of their structural skeletons and distributions in plants, herein we propose the systematic structural classification of plant cyclopeptides which are divided into two classes, five subclasses, and eight types (Figure 1). According to the skeletons, whether formed with amino acid peptide bonds or not, cyclopeptides can be divided into two classes, i.e., heterocyclopeptides and homocyclopeptides. Then on the basis of the number of rings, these classes can be divided into five subclasses, i.e., heteromonocyclopeptides, heterodicyclopeptides, homomonocyclopeptides, homodicyclopeptides, and homopolycyclopeptides. Finally, according to the characteristics of rings and sources, cyclopeptides can be divided into the following eight types. The numbers of cyclopeptides discovered from higher plants up to 2005, which belong to types I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII are 185, 2, 4, 13, 9, 168, 23, and 51, respectively. Among them, types I and VI are the largest two types. These 455 cyclopeptides involve cyclic di- (2), tri- (3), tetra- (4), penta- (5), hexa- (6), hepta- (7), octa- (8), nona- (9), deca-



(10), undeca- (11), dodeca- (12), tetradeca- (14), octacosa- (28), nonacosa- (29), traconta- (30), hentriaconta- (31), tetratraconta- (34), and heptatraconta- (37) peptides, respectively.



#### **2.1. Heterocyclopeptides**

#### 2.1.1. Heteromonocylopeptides

**2.1.1.1. Cyclopeptide Alkaloids (Rhamnaceae-Type Cyclopeptides) (Type I).** We define cyclopeptide alkaloids2 [with the exception of lasiodine- $A^{13}$  (1) and sanjoinine- $G2^{74}$ (**2**)] as basic compounds embodying a *p*- or *m*-ansa structure with a 13-, 14-, or 15-membered ring, in which a 10- or 12-membered peptide-type bridge spans the 1, 3 or 1, 4 positions of a benzene ring.3 Cyclopeptide alkaloids were also called cyclic peptide alkaloids,<sup>3</sup> peptide alkaloids,<sup>1</sup> basic peptides,<sup>1</sup> ansapeptides,<sup>4</sup> and phencyclopeptines.<sup>47</sup> They are principally composed of one styrylaminine moiety, two or three ring-bonded  $\alpha$ -amino acid residues, and, or not, one or two side-chain *N*-methyl or *N*,*N*-dimethyl  $\alpha$ -amino acid residues. Their basicity is attributable to an N-terminal amino acid residue.4



**Figure 2.** Types of cyclopeptide alkaloids.

**Table 1. Summary of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids Isolated from Higher Plants during the Past Half Century**

period	type Ia1	type Ia2	type Ia3	type Ia4	type Ib	type Ic	acyclic	total
1960s	14	8	$\mathbf{0}$		$\mathbf{0}$	$\bf{0}$		25
1970s	17	11	16	$\mathbf{0}$	11	12	0	67
1980s	14	$\overline{4}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	21	$\mathbf{0}$		40
1990s	10	3		$\mathbf{0}$	10	$\bf{0}$	0	30
2000s	2	6	6	$\mathbf{0}$	11	$\bf{0}$	$\Omega$	25
total	57	32	29		53	12		187

The presence of alkaloids in *Ceanothus americanus* (Rhamnaceae), long used in folk medicines, was noted as early as 1884 by Clinch. In the 1920s and 1930s, Clark and **Figure 1.** Types of cyclopeptides. Bertho et al. started to explore this field; in particular, the

# Table 2. Cyclopeptide Alkaloids (Type I) Isolated from Higher Plants during 1966–2005<br>
OH



Lasiodine-A $(1)^{1,5,13}$ 

from Lasiodiscus marmoratus (Rhamnaceae, leaves).

C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>49</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, MW=699; mp 195,  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  +38° (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, c 1.0);

IR, UV, PMR, CMR;

hydrogenation, amino acid analysis after hydrolysis, methylation, acetylation.



Sanjoinine-G2  $(2)^{5,74,75}$ (Frangufoline-amido-aldehyde) from Zizyphus vulgaris var. spinosus (Rhamnaceae, seeds).  $C_{30}H_{42}N_4O_5$ ; 1.6×10<sup>-4</sup>%, needles, mp 182,  $[\alpha]_D^{26}$  -79.2° (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, c 0.275); IR, UV, EI-MS[538(M)<sup>+</sup>], PMR, CMR;

alkaline hydrolysis.



Type Ia1



**Table 2 (Continued)**



















Type Ia3



**Table 2 (Continued)**



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#### Type Ia4





#### Ceanothine-D $(121)^{1,22}$

from Ceanothus americanus (Rhamnaceae, root barks).

 $C_{26}H_{38}N_4O_4$ ; mp 227-229,  $[\alpha]_D$  –347° (CHCl<sub>3</sub>);

EI-MS[470(M<sup>+</sup>)], PMR;

hydrogenation, amino acid analysis after hydrolysis.

#### Hymenocardine  $(122)^{1.5}$

from Hymenocardia acida (Euphorbiaceae or Hymenocardiaceae, root barks).  $C_{37}H_{50}N_6O_6$ ; mp 261,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 124^\circ$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub> or CHCl<sub>3</sub> : CH<sub>3</sub>OH (9 : 1), c 1.0);

IR, UV, MS[674(M<sup>+</sup>)], PMR, CMR;

#### hydrogenation, alkaline hydrolysis.





**Table 2 (Continued)**





#### **Table 2 (Continued)**



\* Ala, Gly, Ile, OHIle, Leu, OHLeu, Phe, OHPhe, Pro, Thr, Trp, Tyr and Val are the abreviations of the following amino acids: alanine, glycine, isoleucine, hydroxyl isoleucine, hydroxyl leucine, hydroxyl leucine, phenylala hydroxyl phenylalanine, proline, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine and valine, respectively.

latter isolated pure ceanothine-B (ceanothine, **7**, subtype **Ia1**) from the alkaloid mixtures of *C. americanus* and just determined the correct empirical formula as  $C_{29}H_{36}N_4O_4$  in 1933. In 1965 Warnhoff et al.<sup>14</sup> succeeded in isolating ceanothine-B from the alkaloid mixtures of *C. americanus* and proposed the complete structure,<sup>15</sup> which was revised by Klein et al.<sup>16</sup> and Servis et al.<sup>17</sup> in 1968, respectively. The first discovery of the cyclopeptide alkaloids was made in 1963 by Pais et al., who isolated adouetines-X (ceanothamine-B, **4**, subtype **Ia1**), -Y (**65**, subtype **Ia2**), and -Z (adouetine, **84**, subtype **Ia2**) from *Waltheria americana* (Sterculiaceae), without proposing a complete structure, and just reported their structures in 1968.<sup>1</sup> In 1963 Menard et al. isolated zizyphine (zizyphine-A, **156**, subtype **Ib**) from *Zizyphus oenoplia* (Rhamnaceae) and just recognized isoleucine and proline as components. Two years later, Zbiral et al. proposed the complete structure of zizyphine, which was revised by Tschesche et al. in 1973. In 1964 Pais et al. first proposed the term peptide alkaloids and suggested the structure of pandamine (**33**, subtype **Ia1**) isolated from *Panda*

#### **Table 3. Sources of Some Cyclopeptide Alkaloids Isolated from More Higher Plants during the Past Half Century**



## **Table 3 (Continued)**



#### **Table 4. Depsicyclopeptides (Type II) Isolated from Higher Plants up to 2005**



#### FR900359 (188)<sup>13</sup>

from Ardisia crenata (Myrsinaceae, whole plants).  $C_{49}H_{75}N_7O_{15}$ ; 6.9×10<sup>-4</sup>%; IR, FAB-MS[1002(M+H)<sup>+</sup>], PMR, CMR;

reduction, amino acid analysis after hydrolysis, partial hydrolysis, ammonolysis, methanolysis.



Triptotin-L $(189)^{13}$ from Triptergium wilfordii (Celastraceae, root barks).  $C_{35}H_{63}N_5O_7$ ; 2.5×10<sup>-6</sup>%, amorphous powder,  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ -33.5° (CH<sub>3</sub>OH, c 0.025); IR, EI-MS[665(M)+], PMR, CMR, 2D NMR (COSY, TOCSY, HMQC, HMBC, NOESY).

*oleosa* (Pandaceae), which structure was confirmed in 1966 by them. In 1964 the occurrence of alkaloids in *Scutia*

*buxifolia* (Rhamnaceae) was reported by Wasicky et al., and three years later, Tschesche et al. reported the structure of scutianine-A (scutianine, **39**, subtype **Ia1**) from *S. buxifo*lia.<sup>1,2,4</sup> Since then the number of cyclopeptide alkaloids has risen to 185. Workers in Europe, America, Asia, and Africa, especially France, Germany, the U.S.A., and Korea, have made important contributions in this field.

The first classification of cyclopeptide alkaloids was proposed by Pais et al. in 1971, on the basis of the various residues that constituted the molecule.4 Later, according to the ring size, in 1975 Tschesche et al. divided cyclopeptide alkaloids into three types: **Ia**, **Ib**, and **Ic**, in which type **Ia** includes four subtypes **Ia1**, **Ia2**, **Ia3**, and **Ia4** based on the  $\beta$ -hydroxyl amino acid residue (Figure 2).<sup>2-4</sup> So far about 57, 32, 29, 2, 53, and 12 cyclopeptide alkaloids which belong to types **Ia1**, **Ia2**, **Ia3**, **Ia4**, **Ib**, and **Ic** were isolated respectively. Type **Ia** is the largest type, and the 1970s is the gold period of investigating of it (Table 1). Details of cyclopeptide alkaloids isolated during the past half century are listed in Tables 2 and 3.



**2.1.1.2. Depsicyclopeptides (Type II).** Up to 2005, only two depsicyclopeptides, FR900359 (**188**) and triptotin-L (**189**), have been isolated from higher plants (Table 4). **188** was isolated from the MeOH extract of the whole plants of *Ardisia crenata* (Myrsinaceae), and its structure was deter-

#### **Table 5. Solanaceae-Type Cyclopeptides (Type III) Isolated from Higher Plants up to 2005**



#### **Table 6. Urticaceae-Type Cyclopeptides (Type IV) Isolated from Higher Plants up to 2005**





amino acid analysis after hydrolysis, methylation,<br>absolute configuration (chiral HPLC, NOE).

 $C_{39}H_{50}N_6O_8$ ; white powder,  $1.1\times10^{-3}\%$ ,  $[\alpha]_D$  -38°<br>(CHCl<sub>3</sub>:CH<sub>3</sub>OH (1:1), c 0.21);

IR, UV, FAB-MS[731(M+H)<sup>+</sup>], PMR, CMR, 2D NMR (DEPT, DQF-COSY, HMQC, HMBC);

amino acid analysis after hydrolysis, absolute configuration (chiral TLC).

from Hibiscus syriacus (Malvaceae, root barks). C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>52</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>8</sub>; white powder,  $3.8 \times 10^{-4}$ %, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub>-42.7°<br>(CHCl<sub>3</sub>:CH<sub>3</sub>OH (1:1), c 0.75); IR, UV, FAB-MS[697(M+H)<sup>+</sup>], PMR, CMR, 2D NMR<br>(DEPT, DQF-COSY, HMQC, HMBC); amino acid analysis after hydrolysis, absolute configuration (chiral TLC).

mined by hydrolytic, NMR, and MS studies, which inhibited platelet aggregation in rabbits *in vitro*, decreased the blood pressure, and caused dose-related hypotension in anesthetized normotensive rats. It is cytotoxic to cultured rat fibroblasts and myelocytic leukemia cells. Of particular significance for this depsicyclopeptide is the uncommon amino acid *N*-methyldehydroalanine found previously in a toxin from the blue-green alga *Microcystis aeruginosa* and the novel amino acid *N*,*O*-dimethylthreonine.137 **189** was isolated from the EtOH extract of root barks of *Tripterygium wilfordii* (Celastraceae), and its structure was established on the basis of spectroscopic studies, especially 2D NMR techniques.138

**2.1.1.3. Solanaceae-Type Cyclopeptides (Type III).** Up to 2005, only four Solanaceae-type cyclopeptides, lyciumins-A (**190**), -B (**191**), -C (**192**), and -D (**193**), have been isolated from the MeOH extract of *Lycium chinense* (Solanaceae), and their structures were elucidated by a combination of chemical, NMR, and MS studies, which show them to have inhibitory activity on ACE and renin (Table 5). Lyciumins are interesting because of their monocyclic octapeptides containing a novel  $C-N$  linkage between<br>tryprophan N<sub>1</sub> and glycine  $C_{\gamma}$ <sup>139,140</sup> Itokawa and co-workers tryprophan  $N_1$  and glycine  $C_\alpha$ .<sup>139,140</sup> Itokawa and co-workers studied the configuration and conformation of **190** by spectroscopic and computational chemical methods. Results indicated that the major solution form of 190 in pyridine- $d_5$ has a type II *â*-turn-like conformation between the Val and Gly residues constituting the cyclic backbone.<sup>141</sup> Schmidt et al. have accomplished the first total synthesis of **190** and **191**. 142

#### 2.1.2. Heterodicyclopeptides

**2.1.2.1. Urticaceae-Type Cyclopeptides (Type IV).** Up to 2005, only 13 Urticaceae-type cyclopeptides, celogentins-A (**194**), -B (**195**), -C (**196**), -D (**197**), -E (**198**), -F (**199**), -G (**200**), -H (**201**), and -J (**202**), moroidin (**203**), stephanotic acid (**204**), and hibispeptins-A (**205**) and -B (**206**), have been isolated from higher plants (Table 6). Moroidin (**203**) is the first one of this kind of cyclopeptide, it was isolated from the leaves and leaf atallus of *Laportea moroides* (Urticaceae), and its structure was elucidated by a combination of chemical, NMR, MS, molecular modeling, and molecular dynamics simulation studies. An important feature of **<sup>203</sup>** is an unusual C-N linkage between tryptophan  $(C_2)$  and histidine  $(N_1)$  residues which completes its bicyclic structure. Meanwhile, it gave a positive test with chlorine-starch-iodine. It is noteworthy that **<sup>203</sup>** was also discovered from the MeOH extract of seeds of *Celosia argentea* (Amaranthaeae) and strongly inhibited the polymerization of tubulin, i.e., antimitotic activity, which was more potent than that of colchicine. These results suggested that **203** is a new class of microtubule inhibitor.<sup>145-147</sup> Later, Kobayashi et al.<sup>143,144</sup> found antimitotic celogentins (194–202) of Urticaceae-type cyclopentides from the MeOH **202**) of Urticaceae-type cyclopeptides from the MeOH extract of seeds of *C. argentea*, in which celogentin-C (**196**) was four times more potent than **203** in inhibitory activity. The SAR study indicated that the bicyclic ring system including unusual non-peptide connections among  $\beta^s$ -Leu, Trp, and His residues characteristic of **<sup>194</sup>**-**203**, ring size, and conformations would be important for their interaction with tubulin. The same group<sup>148</sup> found stephanotic acid (204) from the stems of *Stephanotis floribunda* (Asclepiadaceae), which is a monocyclopeptide from cleaving the right-hand ring of **203**. Hibispeptins-A (**205**) and -B (**206**), isolated from the MeOH extract of root barks of *Hibiscus syriacus* (Malvaceae), are moroidin-like cyclopeptides with the unusual non-peptide connection of Ahabpa, and the geometry of the proline amide bond was determined to be *cis*-form, in which only  $205$  inhibited lipid peroxidation.<sup>149,150</sup>

#### **2.2. Homocyclopeptides**

#### 2.2.1. Homomonocyclopeptides

**2.2.1.1. Compositae-Type Cyclopeptides (Type V).** Up to 2005, only 13 Compositae-type cyclopeptides, astins-A (**207**), -B (**208**), -C (**209**), -D (**210**), -E (**211**), -F (**212**), -G (**213**), -H (**214**), -I (**215**), and -J (**216**) and asternins-A (**217**), -B (**218**), and -C (**219**), have been isolated from higher plants (Table 7). Astin-C (asterin, **209**) is the first one of this kind of cyclopeptide, it was isolated from the roots of *Aster tataricus* (Compositae), and its structure was elucidated on the basis of spectral data coupled with some chemical evidence. It gave positive Beilstein and Dragendorff tests. **<sup>207</sup>**-**<sup>215</sup>** are cyclic peptides, and **<sup>216</sup>**-**<sup>219</sup>** are acyclic peptides, and the latter may be the artifacts of the former under mild basic conditions. These cyclopeptides have only been found in the roots of *A. tataricus* now. It is noteworthy that Compositae-type cyclopeptides are halogenated cyclic pentapeptides containing one chlorinated proline, *allo*theronine (*allo*-Thr),  $\beta$ -phenylalanine ( $\beta$ -Phe),  $\alpha$ -aminobutyric acid (Abu), and serine (Ser) with one *cis* configuration in the proline peptide bond. Their structures are very similar to that of cyclochlorotine, a toxic principle isolated from *Penicillium islandicum*. Among them, **<sup>207</sup>**-**<sup>209</sup>** showed antitumor activity.151-<sup>157</sup>

Due to the interesting structures and antitumor activity, the conformations of **<sup>207</sup>**-**<sup>209</sup>** and **<sup>218</sup>**-**<sup>219</sup>** were studied by X-ray, 2D NMR techniques, molecular mechanics, and molecular dynamics calculations. Results indicated that the conformation of **208** in the solution was homologous to that observed in the solid state; the conformation in solution of **207** possessed a backbone conformation similar to that of **209**; **207** and **209,** with weaker activity than **208**, took different backbone conformations from that of **208**. <sup>158</sup>-<sup>160</sup> The solution conformation of **218** was characterized as a nonclassic  $\beta$ -turn structure at the ( $\Delta$ Pro-Thr-Ser- $\beta$ -Phe) region with an amphiphilic feature, and that of **219** was more flexible with multiple conformational averaging.<sup>161,162</sup> Itokawa and co-workers investigated the chemical conversion and a hepatic microsomal biotransformation in rats of astins. Results suggested that 1,2-*cis* dichlorinated proline residues of astins-A (**207**), -B (**208**), and -C (**209**) play an important role in the antitumor activity.163 They also reported that the produced thioastins after replacing the serine amide bonds in **<sup>207</sup>**-**<sup>209</sup>** with thioamide bonds showed more promising antitumor activities than their parent compounds.164 Joullie and co-workers synthesized three important non-protein amino acids of  $(+)$ - $(S)$ -2-aminobutanoic acid, the methyl ester of L- $\beta$ -phenylalanine and  $(-)$ - $(3S,4R)$ -dichloro-L-proline, and one tripeptide of *N*-Boc-L-Abu-*O*-Bn-L-Ser-L-*â*-Phe. Finally, they accomplished the first total synthesis of astin-G (**213**) in 1999.165-<sup>167</sup>

**2.2.1.2. Caryophyllaceae-Type Cyclopeptides (Type VI).** We define Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides as homomonocyclopeptides formed with the peptide bonds of protein or non-protein  $\alpha$ -amino acids, which include cyclic di-, penta-, hexa-, hepta-, octa-, nona-, deca-, undeca-, and dodecapeptides. Cyclolinopeptide A (CLA, **295**) is the first Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptide isolated from higher plants. It is a cyclic nonapeptide with potent immunosuppressive activity. It was isolated from the seeds of *Linum usitatissimum* (linseed oil, Linaceae) in 1959 by Kaufmann and Tobschirbel and was subsequently synthesized by Porx et al. in 1966 by classical solution methods. Soon after its

**Table 7. Compositae-Type Cyclopeptides (Type V) Isolated from Higher Plants up to 2005**









synthesis, it became the object of intensive structural studies.<sup>206,207,250,251</sup> Up to 1989, other Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides such as cleromyrine I (**256**)184 and labaditin (**284**) <sup>200</sup> were discovered. In total about 168 Caryophyllaceaetype cyclopeptides have been discovered from higher plants during the past half century (Table 8). The 1990s was the gold period of investigation of them. Workers in Asia, Europe, and America, especially Japan, China, and France, made important contributions in this field.

#### 2.2.2. Homodicyclopeptides

**2.2.2.1. Rubiaceae-Type Cyclopeptides.** Rubiaceae-type cyclopeptides are homodicyclohexapeptides formed with one D-R-alanine (rarely D-R-aminobutyric acid), one *<sup>N</sup>*-methyl-

**Table 8. Caryophyllaceae-Type Cyclopeptides (Type VI) Isolated from Higher Plants during 1959**-**<sup>2005</sup>**

 $X = N$  or NH; n = 0, 3 - 10; R<sub>1</sub> = side chain of amino acids.



**Table 8 (Continued)**



COSY);<br>amino acid analysis after acid hydrolysis.



**Table 8 (Continued)**



Bioactivity

Reference

Structural and spectral data





**Table 8 (Continued)**



## Table 8 (Continued)<br>No. Source



**Table 8 (Continued)**





**Table 8 (Continued)**

No.	<b>Source</b> Cyclopeptide (No.) (family, part) (synonym)		Structure <sup>'</sup>	Structural and spectral data	<b>Bioactivity</b>	Reference
	(seeds)	Segetalin D (384) (Vaccarin B)	Cyclo-(L-Pro <sup>7</sup> -Gly <sup>1</sup> -L-Leu <sup>2</sup> -L-Ser <sup>3</sup> -L-Phe <sup>4</sup> -L-Ala <sup>5</sup> -L-Ph	(HMQC, HMBC, NOESY); amino acid analysis after acid hydrolysis, absolute configuration (HPLC). $C_{37}H_{49}N_7O_8;$ 4.0×10 <sup>-3</sup> %, colorless needles, mp 165-167, $[\alpha]_D$ +13.7° $(CH3OH, c 0.41)$ ; IR, UV, pos. FAB-MS[720(M+H) <sup>+</sup> ], PMR, CMR, 2D NMR		241,256
	(seeds)	Segetalin E (385) (Vaccarin C)	Cyclo- $(L$ -Pro <sup>7</sup> -Gly <sup>1</sup> -L-Tyr <sup>2</sup> -L-Val <sup>3</sup> -L-Pro <sup>4</sup> -L-Leu <sup>5</sup> -L-Trp	(PFG-HMBC); amino acid analysis after acid hydrolysis, absolute configuration (HPLC), solution conformation (NMR). $C_{43}H_{56}N_8O_8$ ; $4.0\times10^{-3}\%$ , needles, mp 166-168, [ $\alpha$ ] <sub>D</sub> -59° (CH <sub>3</sub> OH, c 0.4); IR, UV, pos. FAB-MS[813(M+H) <sup>+</sup> ], PMR, CMR, 2D NMR (HMOC, PFG-HMBC, HMBC, ROESY);	cytotoxic	244,256
	(seeds)	Segetalin G (386)	Cyclo-(Gly <sup>1</sup> -L-Val <sup>2</sup> -L-Lys <sup>3</sup> -L-Tyr <sup>4</sup> -L-Ala <sup>5</sup> )	amino acid analysis after acid hydrolysis, absolute configuration (HPLC), solution conformation (NMR). $C_{25}H_{38}N_6O_6$ ; $1.1 \times 10^{-3}$ %, colorless powder, $\alpha$ <sub>D</sub> -89.0° (CH <sub>3</sub> OH, c 0.4); IR, pos. FAB-MS[519(M+H) <sup>+</sup> ], PMR, CMR, 2D NMR ('H-'H COSY, HMQC, HMBC, ROESY);	estrogen-like activity	245,260
	(seeds)	Segetalin H (387)	Cyclo-(Gly <sup>1</sup> -L-Tyr <sup>2</sup> -L-Arg <sup>3</sup> -L-Phe <sup>4</sup> -L-Ser <sup>5</sup> )	amino acid analysis after acid hydrolysis, absolute configuration (HPLC), solid-phase synthesis. $C_{29}H_{38}N_8O_7$ : 1.8×10 <sup>-3</sup> %, colorless powder, $[\alpha]_D - 79.0^\circ$ (CH <sub>3</sub> OH, c 0.4); IR, pos. FAB-MS[611(M+H) <sup>+</sup> ], PMR, CMR, 2D NMR ( <sup>1</sup> H <sub>-</sub> <sup>1</sup> H COSY, HMQC, HMBC, ROESY); amino acid analysis after acid hydrolysis, absolute configuration (HPLC).	estrogen-like activity	245

glutamic acid, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, hydroxyl isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, S-oxomethionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine and valine, respectively.

 $L-\alpha$ -alanine, three modified *N*-methyl- $L-\alpha$ -tyrosines (rarely one modified *N*-methyl-D-tyrosine), and one other protein  $L-\alpha$ -amino acid. The most unusual feature is a 14-membered ring formed by oxidative coupling of the phenolic oxygen of one tyrosine with a carbon ortho to the phenolic hydroxyl group of an adjacent tyrosine with a *cis* peptide bond, and the 14-membered ring was fused to the 18-membered cylic hexapeptide ring. Even with a *cis* peptide bond, the molecular models indicated that the 14-membered ring, which also contains a paracyclophane and a metacyclophane ring system, possesses some angle strain and very little flexibility. Bouvardin (**388**) and deoxybouvardin (**389**) are the first two Rubiaceae-type cyclopeptides, which were isolated and identified from the stems, leaves, and flowers of *Bouvardia ternifolia* (Rubiaceae) in 1977. **388** and **389** gave a positive test with chlorine-*o*-toluidine reagent.<sup>262</sup> Later, RAs were found from *Rubia cordifolia* and *R. akane* (Rubiaceae), in which RA-XII (**403**), -XIII (**404**), -XIV (**405**), -XV (**406**), and -XVI (**407**) are cyclopeptide glucosides discovered in higher plants for the first time.<sup>269</sup> RA-dimer A (410) is a dimer.275 Rubiaceae-type cyclopeptides possess a promising antitumor activity, and the major active principle RA-VII (**398**) was reported to have undergone phase I clinical trials at the NCI as an anticancer drug in Japan in 1990s, whose therapeutic ratio was 400.9 The distribution and quantitative variations of RA-V (deoxybouvardin, **389**) and **398** in *Rubia* and related species were investigated by means of HPLC.<sup>276</sup> Up to 2005, 23 Rubiaceae-type cyclopeptides were isolated from higher plants (Table 9). Rubiaceae-type cyclopeptides have attracted much attention for their potent antitumor activity *in vitro* and *in vivo* coupled with their characteristic bicyclic structure incorporating the isodityrosine moiety. Workers in Asia, America, and Europe, especially Japan and the U.S.A., have made important contributions in this field.

#### 2.2.3. Homopolycyclopeptides

**2.2.3.1. Cyclotides (Violaceae-Type Cyclopeptides).** Cyclotides (*cyclo*pep*tides*)322 [with the exception of SFTI-1 (**461**)331 and MCoTI-III (**462**)320] are plant disulfide-rich macrocyclic proteins with  $28-37$  amino acids (Table 10), which not only contain a unique amide head to tail cyclized peptide backbone but also incorporate a cyclic cystine knot

(CCK). The CCK is a fascinating structural motif in which a small embedded ring formed by two disulfide bonds and their connecting back-bond segments is threaded by a third disulfide bond, which produces a unique protein fold that is topologically complex and has exceptional resistance to enzymatic breakdown and high chemical stability.<sup>322,339</sup> Cyclotides were also called macrocyclic peptides,<sup>10</sup> circular proteins,<sup>10</sup> cyclic mini-proteins,<sup>10</sup> and cyclic proteins.<sup>322</sup> The first cyclotide to be structurally characterized was kalata B1 (**424**), a 29-residue cyclopeptide from the tropical African plant *Oldenlandia affinis* with uterotonic activity. **424** had been discovered in 1970 as the active agent in a native medicine used by women in Africa to accelerate labor and childbirth. The medicine was prepared by boiling the plant to make a tea, which was orally ingested during labor. At that time, although the structure had not been determined, the fact that it was cyclic had been described. In 1995 its structure was finally determined.<sup>10,321</sup> In 1993-1994 other cyclotides such as circulins A and B  $(411 \text{ and } 412)^{315}$ cyclopsychotride A (**433**),324 and violapeptide I (**442**) <sup>326</sup> were discovered. Since then about 50 cyclotides have been discovered from higher plants up to 2005 (Table 10). Workers in Oceania, Europe, and America, especially Australia, the U.S.A., and Sweden, have made important contributions in this field.

Fifty cyclotides have been isolated from 8 genera and 12 plants in the Cucurbitaceae, Rubiaceae, and Violaceae families now. About 20 protein amino acids were found in cyclotides. They occur in aerial parts, stems, barks, roots, seeds, and whole plants. Their yield varies from  $(1 \times 10^{-4})\%$  to 1% and depends not only upon the plant source but also upon the method of isolation (Table 10). With LC-MS analysis Craik and co-workers investigated the expression patterns of cyclotides in different plant parts of *Viola hederacea*, the native Australian violet, and various other *Viola* species (Violaceae). All *Viola* species and tissue types of *V. hederacea* examined contained complex mixtures of cyclotides, with individual profiles differing significantly. This study revealed at least 57 novel cyclotides present in *V. hederacea*. Although these species only constitute a comparatively small part of the genus *Viola*, expression of cyclotides can probably be regarded as a common theme in the genus.<sup>328</sup>

 $-OR<sub>2</sub>$ 

#### **Table 9. Rubiaceae-Type Cyclopeptides (Type VII) Isolated from Higher Plants up to 2005**





RA-dimer A (410)<sup>2</sup>

from Rubia cordifolia (Rubiaceae, roots).

 $\rm C_{80}H_{94}N_{12}O_{18};$  5.0×10<sup>-6</sup>%, amorp  $er, [\alpha]_0^{25}$  –247° (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, e 0.09)

IR, pos. FAB-MS[1511(M+H)'], PMR, CMR, 2D NMR (DQF-COSY, HMQC, HMBC, NOESY); synthesis

 $\begin{array}{cccccccccc} & R_1 & O & R_1 & O & R_1 \\ & | & || & & | & & | \\ & -X & Ch & -C & - (X & -CH & -C)_n & -X & -CH \\ \end{array}$  $\begin{matrix} 0 \\ -C \end{matrix}$ 

 $X = N$  or NH; n = 12, 26 - 29, 32, 35;  $R_1$  = side chain of amino acids.



#### **Table 10 (Continued)**







A, R, N, D, C, Q, E, G, H, I, L, K, M, F, P, S, T, W, Y and V are the abreviations of the following amino acids: alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic adid, cysteine, glutamine, glutamic acid, glycine, histidine, interdi isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine and valine, respectively. Four disulfide bonds are formed between C<sup>1</sup>-C<sup>IV</sup>, C<sup>II</sup>-C<sup>V</sup>, C<sup>III</sup>-CV<sup>I</sup> for cyclotides and  $C^{VII}$ - $C^{VIII}$  for cyclotide 461



Figure 3. Structural features of cyclotides.<sup>322</sup> (A) Schematic representation of the cyclic cystine knot motif showing the arrangement of the connected disulfide bonds and the general topology of the knot. The backbone regions between successive Cys residues are labeled loops 1-6. The *β*-strands which form a *β*-hairpin are labeled strands 1 and 2. The third strand, shown in lighter shading, is often distorted. (B) Summary of the conserved and variable residues in the known cyclotides. Conserved residues are indicated by their one-letter code, and in some cases they may be replaced by highly homologous residues. For example, the Thr adjacent to Cys II is a Ser in the bracelet cyclotides, and the Ile in loop 6 is often replaced by a Leu. Residues which make up the embedded ring are shown as shaded circles. Blank circles indicate variable residues.

Cyclotides can be divided into the following four subfamilies (Table 10).<sup>337</sup> The conservation of loop spacings in the cyclotides is  $C^{I}X_{3-6}C^{II}X_{4-5}C^{II}X_{3-7}C^{IV}X_{1}C^{V}X_{4-7}C^{VI}X_{5-8}$ in which loops 1 and 4 are absolutely conserved, and within the Bracelet and Moebius cyclotides there is a high degree of conservation in loop sizes (Table 10).<sup>11</sup> Figure 3 summarizes the structural features (cystine knot, turns, and sheet) common to the cyclotides and highlights regions of conserved sequence.<sup>322</sup>



#### **3. Distribution and Chemotaxonomy**

Up till now, 455 cyclopeptides have been found in 26 families, 65 genera, and 120 species; in particular, plants of the Caryophyllaceae and Rhamnaceae families commonly contain cyclopeptides. These 26 families include Amaranthaceae, Annonaceae, Araliaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Asteraceae, Caryophyllaceae, Celastraceae, Compositae, Cucurbitaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Labiatae, Linaceae, Malvaceae, Myrsinaceae, Olacaceae, Pandaceae, Phytolaccaceae, Rhamnaceae, Rubiaceae, Rutaceae, Schizandraceae, Solanaceae, Sterculiaceae, Urticaceae, Verbenaceae, and Violaceae.

#### **3.1. Distribution of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids**

185 cyclopeptide alkaloids have been found in 9 families, 23 genera, and 52 species. They are particularly common in plants of the family Rhamnaceae, especially the genus *Zizyphus*, but they have also been found in plants of the families Asteraceae, Celastraceae, Euphorbiaceae, Olacaceae, Pandaceae, Rubiaceae, Sterculiaceae, and Urticaceae (Table 11). They occur almost in all plant parts, including barks, root barks, stem barks, roots, stems, leaves, terminal branches, woody parts, aerial parts, flowers, fruits, seeds, and whole plants, most commonly in barks, root barks, and stem barks (Tables 2 and 3). Their yield varies from  $(1 \times 10^{-6})\%$  to  $(1 \times 10^{-6})\%$  $\times$  10<sup>-2</sup>)% and depends not only upon the plant source but also upon the method of isolation (Table 2).

#### **3.2. Distribution of Caryophyllaceae-Type Cyclopeptides**

168 Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides have been found in 10 families, 23 genera, and 43 species. They are





particularly common in plants of the family Caryophyllaceae, but they have also been found in plants of the families Annonaceae, Araliaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Labiatae, Linaceae, Phytolaccaceae, Rutaceae, Schizandraceae, and Verbenaceae. They occur mainly in roots, seeds, and whole plants but rarely in latex, fruit peels, fruits, and stems. Their yield varies from  $(1 \times 10^{-5})\%$  to  $(1 \times 10^{-2})\%$  and depends not only

upon the plant source but also upon the method of isolation (Table 8).

### **3.3. Chemotaxonomy of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids**

Only a few papers involved the chemotaxonomic considerations of cyclopeptide alkaloids.<sup>31,47,70</sup>

**Table 12. Amino Acids in Cyclopeptide Alkaloids**



#### **3.4. Chemotaxonomy of Caryophyllaceae-Type Cyclopeptides**

Only a few papers involved the chemotaxonomic considerations of Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides. On the basis of the chemical studies of Caryophyllaceae plants, we found cyclopeptides are present in the three subfamilies of Caryophyllaceae: Paronychioideae Vierh., Alsinoideae Vierh., and Silenoideae A. Br., rich in Alsinoideae Vierh. Thus, we thought cyclopeptides are characteristic components of Caryophyllaceae plants, which can be used as a marker of secondary metabolites for Caryophyllaceae plants.<sup>180,246</sup>

#### **4. Chemical and Physical Properties**

#### **4.1. Chemical and Physical Properties of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids**

Cyclopeptide alkaloids generally crystallize easily. The melting points are mostly over 200 °C. Most of them are levorotatory. Cyclopeptide alkaloids are rather weak bases and sparingly soluble in water but readily so in alcohols,  $CHCl<sub>3</sub>$ , and some other organic solvents (Table 2).<sup>2</sup>

About 34 amino acids are found in cyclopeptide alkaloids, including  $5 \beta$ -hydroxyl amino acids, 12 ring bond amino acids, 7 intermediate amino acids, and 24 basic end amino acids, which usually belong to the L-amino acids. Ring bond amino acids are usually common amino acids and rarely  $\beta$ -hydroxyl amino acids. Intermediate amino acids are usually common amino acids and rarely *N*-methyl amino acids. Basic end amino acids are often mono- or dimethylated and sometime are common amino acids, *N*-aldehyde, or *N*-oxo amino acids (Table 12).

#### **4.2. Chemical and Physical Properties of Caryophyllaceae-Type Cyclopeptides**

Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides are generally crystals or powders. The melting points are mostly around 200 °C. Most of them are levorotatory. Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides are sparingly soluble in water but readily so in DMSO, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>N, CH<sub>3</sub>OH, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, and some other organic solvents (Table 8).

About 23 amino acids are found in Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides, including 19 protein  $\alpha$ -amino acids and 4 nonprotein  $\alpha$ -amino acids, which usually belong to the L-amino acids. Protein  $\alpha$ -amino acids include alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, glutamine, glutamic acid, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, and valine. Non-protein R-amino acids include *<sup>γ</sup>*-hydroxyl isoleucine, *δ*-hydroxyl isoleucine, *S*-oxomethionine, and Dtryptophan (Table 8).

#### **5. Chemical Detection Methods**

#### **5.1. Chemical Detection Methods of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids**

The following reagents or methods were used to detect cyclopeptide alkaloids nonspecifically: a fluorescent indicator,<sup>14,81,94,104</sup> 10% or 30% aqueous sulfuric acid,<sup>14,102,104</sup> vanillin-sulfuric acid reagent,  $94$  anisaldehyde-H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> reagent,  $105$ diazo reagent,<sup>43</sup> cerium(IV) reagent,<sup>81</sup> Mayer's reagent,<sup>73</sup> and Dragendorff's reagent;20,55,58,64,69,77,80-82,85-87,89,91,94,100,104,105 Dragendorff's reagent was the most common one.

#### **5.2. Chemical Detection Methods of Caryophyllaceae-Type Cyclopeptides**

The following reagents or methods were used to detect Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides: UV at 254 nm,<sup>200</sup> vanillin-sulfuric acid reagent,<sup>200</sup> chlorine-*o*-<br>toluidine reagent,<sup>168,193-199,201,202 Dragendorff's re-</sup> toluidine reagent, $168,193-199,201,202$ agent,<sup>203,205,206,219,221,227,229,230,238,241,245</sup> and TLC protosite reaction with ninhydrin reagent;176,177,179,180,209,210,217,247 TLC protosite reaction with ninhydrin reagent was the most specific one.

Since we accidentally isolated heterophyllins A and B (**327** and **328**) from the roots of *Pseudostellaria heterophylla* in 1991 and published their structures determined by chemical, spectral, and enzymatic methods in  $1993$ ,<sup>215</sup> we have been looking for a specific and sensitive TLC detection method for plant cyclopeptides. Although some reagents or methods have been used to detect plant cyclopeptides in the literature, such as chlorine-*o*-toluidine reagent and Dragendorff's reagent, there have not been any special TLC chemical methods for detecting plant cyclopeptides. Because there are no free amino groups (NH or  $NH<sub>2</sub>$ ) in structures of most cyclopeptides, they cannot react with ninhydrin reagent.

Later, we gradually established a special chemical detection method for plant cyclopeptides and reported it in 2000.<sup>247</sup> This method is a new TLC protosite reaction with ninhydrin reagent. By this method, 73 cyclopeptides were isolated by our group, and their structures were elucidated from 17 plants which belong to 5 families and 14 genera, from dicyclopeptides to undecacyclopeptides, including 68 new ones. After application of this method for the past 10 years, we have found that it is a good specific and sensitive chemical detection method for plant cyclopeptides. It can be used effectively not only to detect whether plant extracts contain cyclopeptides but also to guide cyclopeptide separation and purification.

The details of this new method are as follows: The sample was dotted at one corner of each of two identical 25 mm  $\times$ 50 mm silica gel G plates (plates 1 and 2), and these plates were developed with  $CHCl<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>OH$  (8.5:1.5 or 9:1). After removal of the solvent, plate 2 was hung in a sealed glass vessel with about 1 mL of concentrated HCl and hydrolyzed in a drying incubator (110 °C) for  $1-2$  h. After it was cooled for a few minutes, plate 2 was taken out, and the HCl was volatilized with a ventilator. Then plates 1 (nonhydrolyzed plate) and 2 (hydrolyzed plate) were sprayed with 0.2% ninhydrin-acetone reagent and colored after heating with a drier for several minutes. The above-mentioned process was repeated once more. If there are some purplish red spots in most cases and/or yellow spots in a few cases for plate 2, but there are no spots in the same locations on plate 1, this indicates that the detected samples contain cyclopeptides.<sup>247</sup>

#### **6. Extraction and Isolation**

#### **6.1. Extraction and Isolation of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids**

The dried ground plants are sometimes treated with a dilute basic solution (10% aqueous ammonia or 1% aqueous sodium carbonate) and then extracted with an organic solvent such as ether. Conversely, they may be treated directly with a solvent such as methanol or ethanol. The resulting solution is acidified with 0.4 N sulfuric acid or 2 N chlorhydric acid to pH 1.5. The acidified mixture is shaken with ether, then basified with 20% aqueous sodium hydroxide or aqueous ammonia to  $pH 9-10$ , and extracted with chloroform, ether, or benzene. In some instances, the dried material is simply heated with benzene-concentrated aqueous ammoniamethanol (100:1:1). The bases are usually separated from the extracts by treatment with 5% aqueous citric acid.<sup>2,4,14,26,47</sup>

Further purification and separation of the individual bases are accomplished by standard chromatographic methods including preparative TLC, CC, centrifugal partition chromatography, semipreparative HPLC, HPLC, and recrystallization. Chromatographic separations may be effected on alumina or, more commonly, on silica gel columns using solvents such as chloroform, acetone, ethyl acetate, dioxane, acetonitrile, and ether as well as chloroform-methanol mixtures. Fractions may be detected with an ultraviolet light source.2,4,14,26,47,97

#### **6.2. Extraction and Isolation of Caryophyllaceae-Type Cyclopeptides**

The dried ground plants are treated directly with a solvent such as CH<sub>3</sub>OH or EtOH, and the extracts are partitioned with CHCl3, EtOAc, or *n*-BuOH. Then the fractions are

repeatedly chromatographed on a silica gel  $\rm (CHCl_3–CH_3-$ OH, EtOAc-CH<sub>3</sub>OH, petrol-CHCl<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>OH), Diaion HP-20 (CH<sub>3</sub>OH-H<sub>2</sub>O), Sephadex LH-20 (CH<sub>3</sub>OH-H<sub>2</sub>O), and/ or HPLC or MPLC on an ODS or  $C_{18}$  (CH<sub>3</sub>OH-H<sub>2</sub>O,  $CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O$ ) column. If the plant materials are seeds or fruits, the materials are usually defatted with petrol, *n*-hexane, or cyclohexane at first. If the plant materials are latex, the materials are dissolved in water and then extracted with EtOAc.168,173,174,202,205,215,229

#### **6.3. Extraction and Isolation of Cyclotides**

The dried ground plants are treated with a solvent such as  $CHCl<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>OH$  (1:1) or  $CH<sub>3</sub>OH$ , and the extracts are partitioned in H2O with *n*-BuOH. Then the fractions are fractionated by gel permeation on Sephadex LH-20 (CH3- OH,  $CH<sub>3</sub>OH-H<sub>2</sub>O$ , centrifugal partition chromatography (H2O-*n*-BuOH-HOAc-EtOH, 10:8:1:1), vacuum-liquid chromatography (CH<sub>3</sub>OH-H<sub>2</sub>O), or HPLC on a C<sub>18</sub> (CH<sub>3</sub>-CN-H2O) column.315,317,319,323

Claeson et al. have developed a fractionation protocol for cyclotide separation from plants, which efficiently dereplicates most ubiquitous plant constituents and enables isolation of a highly purified polypeptide fraction from plant biomass.325 The protocol is as follows: The dried ground plants were first defatted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  and then treated with a solvent such as  $EtOH-H<sub>2</sub>O$  (1:1). The acidified extract was filtered through polyamide gel to remove tannins before being partitioned between H2O and *n*-BuOH. The *n*-BuOH fractions were fractionated by gel filtration on Sephadex G-10 for removal of low-molecular-weight components, solidphase extraction on RP-18 silica for removal of salts and polysaccharides, ion exchange chromatography, Sephadex LH-20 (CH<sub>3</sub>OH-H<sub>2</sub>O), and HPLC on a C<sub>18</sub> (CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O) column for final purification. On the basis of this protocol, Hypa A (**417**),318 vary peptides A-H (**434**-**441**),325,326 vico A and B (443 and 444),<sup>327</sup> vodo M and N (458 and 459),<sup>329</sup> and vitri  $\hat{A}$  (460)<sup>330</sup> were isolated by the group.

#### **7. Structural Elucidation**

#### **7.1. Structural Elucidation of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids**

Structures of cyclopeptide alkaloids have been determined by chemical degradation reactions and spectroscopic methods. Chemical degradation reactions include elemental analysis, oxidization, acetylation, methylation, formylation, hydrogenation, and amino acid analysis after acid or alkaline hydrolysis with PC, TLC, GC, LC, and MS. Spectral methods include IR, UV, NMR, MS, CD, and X-ray diffraction. MS and amino acid analysis after hydrolysis are particularly informative.2,4,18,22,26

#### 7.1.1. Chemical Degradation

Acid hydrolysis is the most commonly used method for amino acid determination. Hydrolysis is often carried out after reduction or ozonolysis of the styrylamine functionality. Direct acidic hydrolysis has been used also. Alkaline hydrolysis has been used to ascertain the tryptophan content in cyclopeptide alkaloids and the substituents on the aromatic ring of the aryl ether moiety. Amino acid components have also been determined quantitatively directly by PC, TLC,



Figure 4. <sup>13</sup>C NMR data of some cyclopeptide alkaloids. <sup>a</sup> Data were corrected by us.



Figure 5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data of some cyclopeptide alkaloids. <sup>a</sup> Data were corrected by us.

HPLC, and MS or as their derivatives by GC. Partial hydrolysis with 6 N  $H_2SO_4$  or HCl-HOAc-H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1:1) has been used to obtain the intact macrocycle.4,82,100

#### 7.1.2. UV

The UV spectra of type **Ia** cyclopeptide alkaloids exhibit only an end absorption with shoulders at 250 and 270 nm

because the conjugation was reduced because in the macrocycle the *p*-orbitals of the aryloxy and enamide chromophores cannot overlap to any extent and each group must therefore absorb independently. The UV spectra of type **Ib** and **Ic** cyclopeptide alkaloids exhibit the maximum absorptions of the aryloxyenamide chromophore at 210, 270, and/ or 320 nm. Lasiodine-A (**1**), one acyclopeptide alkaloid, exhibits the maximum absorption of the aryloxyenamide chromophore at 280 nm. Of the other UV absorbing groups found in cyclopeptide alkaloids, a tryptophan moiety is revealed by the maxima in the 220, 270, and 290 nm region.1,2,4,18,26,32,33,38,40,41,46,54,55,59,66,84,97,103

#### 7.1.3. IR

The IR spectra of cyclopeptide alkaloids exhibit the typical bands for NH (3285-3400 cm<sup>-1</sup>), methoxyl (2830 cm<sup>-1</sup>), <br>
N-methyl (2780-2790 cm<sup>-1</sup>) amide (1690-1630 cm<sup>-1</sup>) *N*-methyl (2780–2790 cm<sup>-1</sup>), amide (1690–1630 cm<sup>-1</sup>), double bond (1625 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and phenol ether (1230–1240 double bond (1625 cm<sup>-1</sup>), and phenol ether (1230-1240 cm-<sup>1</sup> ) groups.2,23,32,42,54,55,59,97,103

#### 7.1.4. CD

The CD measurements on **Ia1** reveal a weak positive band at 285 nm and a strong negative one at 237 nm, while those on **Ib** reveal a weak positive one at 232 nm and strong negative ones at 324, 276, 254, and 218 nm<sup>2,23</sup> and those on **Ic** reveal a strong positive one at 228 nm and a strong negative one at 206 nm.32,97,98,103

#### 7.1.5. NMR

NMR started to be used for structure elucidations of cyclopeptide alkaloids in the 1970s and was widely applied in the 1990s. Now about one-third of cyclopeptide alkaloids have NMR data available which show H and C atom signal characteristics of a styrylaminine moiety, a *â*-hydroxyl amino acid residue, a ring bond  $\alpha$ -amino acid residue, an intermediate  $\alpha$ -amino acid residue, and a basic end  $\alpha$ -amino acid<br>residue 61,67,73,80,81,83,84,86,87,89,91,93,95–98,103,106–110 13C NMR and residue.<sup>61,67,73,80,81,83,84,86,87,89,91,93,95–98,103,106–110 13</sup>C NMR and 1H NMR data of some cyclopentide alkaloids are given in <sup>1</sup>H NMR data of some cyclopeptide alkaloids are given in Figures 4 and 5.

#### 7.1.6. MS

MS with the electron impact mean has been used more extensively than any other method for structural determination of cyclopeptide alkaloids. Many cyclopeptide alkaloids have been identified and characterized solely by MS. Highresolution MS readily gives the elemental composition. The fragmentation patterns as follows depend on the *â*-hydroxy amino acid present in cyclopeptide alkaloids.4

The structures of **Ia1** and **Ia2** cyclopeptide alkaloids can largely be determined by their MS data. With the earlier investigations on the mass spectra of cyclopeptide alkaloids as guides, Fehlhaber used high-resolution mass spectroscopy to formulate the general breakdown pattern (Figure 6) of the **Ia1** and **Ia2** cyclopeptide alkaloids in 1968.1,2

The base peak of the MS is the ion **a**, which results from the facile splitting of the  $C_{\alpha}$ -CO bond of the basic end  $\alpha$ -amino acid residue. The fragment **b**, formed by cleaving the side chain of the basic end  $\alpha$ -amino acid residue, decomposes thermally to ions **c** and **d**. The ring may open via the scission at the  $C_{\alpha}-C_{\beta}$  and  $C_{\alpha}-CO$  bonds of the  $\beta$ -hydroxyl amino acid residue and the CO-NH bond of the  $\beta$ -hydroxyl amino acid residue and the ring bond  $\alpha$ -amino



**Figure 6.** Mass spectrometric fragmentation patterns of types **Ia1** and **Ia2**.

acid residue, which leads to ions **e**, **f, h**, and **i**. The fragment **g**, formed by the scission of the  $C_\alpha$ -CO bond of the basic end  $\alpha$ -amino acid residue, decomposes to ions **j**, **k**, **l**, and **m**. Therefore, the separate building units of cyclopeptide alkaloids are recognizable as follows: ion **a** represents the end  $\alpha$ -amino acid residue, ion **m** represents the  $\beta$ -hydroxyl amino acid residue, ion **i** represents the styrylamine unit, and the typical amino fragment  $(\mathbf{H}_2N^+ = \mathbf{CH} - \mathbf{R}^{\prime\prime})$  represents the ring  $\alpha$ -amino acid residue. Fragmentation of cyclopeptide alkaloids with a proline residue, another amino acid residue in the basic end  $\alpha$ -amino acid residue, and a nonprotein amino acid residue in the ring bond amino acid residue brings about a variation shown in Figure 6. However, the positions of the substituents on the aromatic ring cannot be determined nor can leucine be distinguished from isoleucine.2,34,47,87

The MS fragmentation patterns of **Ia3** cyclopeptide alkaloids are summarized in Figure 7. In addition to ions **a**, **b**, and **h**, which are the same as those for **Ia1** and **Ia2** (Figure 6), there are some special ions  $n-t$  due to the presence of the  $\beta$ -hydroxyl proline residue in the ring system, which prevents the normal scission at the  $C_{\alpha}-C_{\beta}$  bond of the  $\beta$ -hydroxyl amino acid residue. The ions  $\mathbf{n}$ -**s** establish the structure of the ring system, and the ion **t** identifies the basic end  $\alpha$ -amino acid residue and the  $\beta$ -hydroxyl proline residue.2

The MS fragmentation patterns of **Ib** cyclopeptide alkaloids are largely analogous to those of **Ia3**. 2,6,56

In the MS of **Ic** cyclopeptide alkaloids in which the basic nitrogen carries two methyl groups, the base peak is usually the molecular peak. The primary fragmentation is a  $\alpha$  scission at the basic nitrogen to generate isocyanic acid and the radical ion. Further stepwise degradation of the peptide fraction leads to ions which permit the sequence of both ring bond  $\alpha$ -amino acids.2



**Figure 7.** Mass spectrometric fragmentation patterns of type **Ia3**.

#### **7.2. Structural Elucidation of Caryophyllaceae-Type Cyclopeptides**

Structures of Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides have been determined by chemical, enzymatic, and spectral methods. Chemical methods include mainly amino acid analysis after acid hydrolysis, rarely elemental analysis, thionation, hydrogenation, and reduction. Enzymatic methods include hydrolysis with  $\alpha$ -chymotrypsin and sequence determination by the Edman sequencing method and MS/ MS, and oxidation with amino acid oxidases. Spectral methods include IR, UV, NMR, MS, CD, and X-ray diffraction. NMR is particularly informative (Table 8).168,173,174,189,199,203-206,215,218,219,225,229,230,232,235,240

#### 7.2.1. Strategies of Structural Elucidation

There are no standard protocols leading to structural elucidation of Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides. On the basis of works by us and the literature, we proposed the following strategies for the structure determination dealing with the planar structure, configuration, and conformation of Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides on the basis of chemical, enzymatic, and spectral methods, which can be used as a guide for assigning an isolated compound to be one Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptide.7,8

**7.2.1.1. Planar Structure.** *A. Composition of Amino Acid* Residues. At first take <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra in  $C_5D_5N$ , DMSO- $d_5$ , or CD<sub>3</sub>OD, that are more important for the next structure elucidation. If the compound can provide one set of sharp  ${}^{1}H$  and  ${}^{13}C$  signals in a suitable solvent and at suitable temperature and other conditions, the composition can be determined using 2D NMR techniques including DEPT, <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY, DQF-COSY, <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H relayed, TOC-<br>SY HOHAHA <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C COSY <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C relayed *L*-modu-SY, HOHAHA, <sup>1</sup>H<sup>-13</sup>C COSY, <sup>1</sup>H<sup>-13</sup>C relayed, *J-*modu-<br>lated <sup>13</sup>C HMOC HSOC HMOC-TOCSY COLOC lated <sup>13</sup>C, HMQC, HSQC, HMQC-TOCSY, COLOC, HMBC, PFG-HMBC, and so on. Sometimes cyclopeptides can give broad <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C signals under certain experimental conditions because more conformers exit in solution. In this case the composition can be measured by amino acid analysis with standard methods after total acid hydrolysis, which can give a definite confirmation to the results of NMR data.

*B. Sequence of Amino Acid Residues.* If the composition can be deduced from NMR data, the sequence of amino acid residues can be determined by 2D NMR techniques including COLOC,  ${}^{1}$ H $-{}^{13}$ C relayed, HMBC, NOEs, NOESY, ROESY, NOESYPH and so on If the  ${}^{1}$ H and  ${}^{13}$ C signals are NOESYPH, and so on. If the  ${}^{1}H$  and  ${}^{13}C$  signals are broadened, the sequence of amino acid residues can be determined by sequence analysis after enzymatic hydrolysis with  $\alpha$ -chymotrypsin and ESI-qTOF, FAB, or ESI MS/MS techniques with or without enzymatic hydrolysis with  $\alpha$ -chymotrypsin.

*C. Planar Structure.* MS can give the molecular weight, molecular formula, and important fragmentation peaks, usually by positive or negative FAB, positive ESI-qTOF, positive LSI, and EI-MS means. Finally, the planar structure of the cyclopeptide can be elucidated by the combination of the above-mentioned evidence.

**7.2.2.2. Configuration.** The configuration can be determined by chiral GC, chiral HPLC, and enzymatic oxidation (see section 8.1.2).

**7.2.2.3. Conformation.** The conformation can be investigated by NMR, CD, a computational chemical method, and X-ray diffraction (see section 8.2.2).

#### 7.2.2. NMR

Most papers on Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides also reported their NMR data, which show  ${}^{1}H$  and  ${}^{13}C$  atom signal characteristics of 19 protein  $\alpha$ -amino acids and 4 non-protein  $\alpha$ -amino acids (see section 4.2). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR and <sup>1</sup>H NMR data of these  $\alpha$ -amino acid residues picked up from some data of these  $\alpha$ -amino acid residues picked up from some Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides are given in Figures 8 and 9.

#### **7.3. Structural Elucidation of Cyclotides**

Because of the exceptional resistance to enzymatic breakdown and high chemical stability of the cyclic backbone and CCK motif of cyclotides, their structures have been determined by sequence analyses after enzymatic hydrolysis of the reduced and alkylated derivatives or partial acidic hydrolysis. The detailed methods include amino acid analyses, proteinase digestion of PEC derivatives after reduction and alkylation, partial acid hydrolysis, N-terminal Edman degradation, FAB-MS, ESI-MS, or MALDI-TOF MS analyses, MS/MS, and 2D NMR (DQF-COSY, HOHAHA, NOESY).315-<sup>330</sup>

Recently Goransson et al. have developed a strategy for analysis of cyclotide total-expression profiles of *Viola* cyclotides (*V. ar*V*ensis*, *V. biflora*, *V. cotyledon*, *V. odorata*, *V. ri*V*iniana*, *V. tricolor*) with LC-MS and tandem MS sequencing of intercysteine loops after introduction of charges and cleavage sites by aminoethylation. All were found to express notably complex mixtures, with single species containing  $>50$  cyclotides.<sup>327</sup>

#### **8. Configuration and Conformation Study**

#### **8.1. Configuration Study**

#### 8.1.1. Configuration Study of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids

The configuration of cyclopeptide alkaloids has been studied by chemical conversions, enzymic oxidation, and spectroscopic methods. Chemical conversions of amino acids into diastereomeric derivatives and subsequent identification by amino acid analysis, GC, and GLC have been used



**Figure 8.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR data of amino acid residues picked up from some Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides. <sup>a</sup> In C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N. <sup>b</sup> In DMSO- $d_5$ .

successfully to determine the chirality of amino acids. Enzymic oxidation with amino acid oxidase is one of the useful methods too.<sup>44,49</sup> Spectral methods include NMR, CD, and X-ray diffraction. Chiral GC and NMR are particularly informative.

Amino acids in cyclopeptide alkaloids generally occur in the L-form (Table 2).<sup>2,112,113</sup> In 1972 Sierra et al. showed that the *â*-hydroxyleucine, from which the aryl ether function in **Ia1** is constructed, is present in the L-*erythro* (3*S*/4*S*)-form with <sup>1</sup> H NMR, GC, amino acid oxidase, and X-ray analysis.4,111,112 The characteristic feature of **Ia3** and **Ib** is the *trans*  $(3S/4S)$ - $\beta$ -hydroxyproline as a constituent of the 14- or 13membered ring system.4,97,98,113 Chemical conversion of amino acids into diastereomeric derivatives and subsequent identification by GLC have been used successfully to determine the chirality of *N*,*N*-dimethylamino acids.4

The configurations of the ring bond  $\alpha$ -amino acid residue, the basic end  $\alpha$ -amino acid residue, and the  $\beta$ -hydroxyl amino acid residue of waltherine-C (**51**) were determined to be L- $(S)$ -Ala, L- $(S)$ -*N*,*N*-Me<sub>2</sub>Trp, and L-*erythro*- $(3S/4S)$ - $\beta$ -OHLeu;96 those of sanjoinine-G1 (**59**) were determined to be L- $(S)$ -Leu, L- $(S)$ -*N*,*N*-Me<sub>2</sub>Phe, and L-*erythro*- $(3S/4S)$ - $\beta$ -OHPhe; $90$  those of scutianine-L  $(83)$  were determined to be L- $(S)$ -Ile, L- $(S)$ -*N*,*N*-Me<sub>2</sub>Phe, and L-*erythro*- $(3S/4S)$ - $\beta$ -OHPhe;<sup>93</sup> those of mucronine-J (**117**) were determined to be L-(*S*)-Ile,  $L-(S)-N$ , $N$ -Me<sub>2</sub>Leu, and *trans*-(3*S*/4*S*)- $\beta$ -OHPro;<sup>91</sup> those of paliurine-A (**123**) were determined to be L-(*S*)-Ile, L-(*S*)-*N*,*N*- $Me_2$ Ile-L-(*S*)-Phe, and *trans*-(3*S*/4*S*)- $\beta$ -OHPro;<sup>97</sup> and those of paliurine-G (**128**) were determined to be L-(*S*)-Ile, L-(*S*)-  $N$ , $N$ -Me<sub>2</sub>Phe-L-(*S*)-Val, and *trans*-(3*S*/4*S*)- $\beta$ -OHPro<sup>98</sup> by chiral GC, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, COSY, NOESY, and CD.

Exceptions are lasiodine-A  $(1)$  with the ring bond  $\alpha$ -amino acid of  $D$ - $\beta$ -OHPhe,<sup>2</sup> pubescine-A (24) with the ring bond  $\alpha$ -amino acid of D-Leu,<sup>49</sup> scutianine-G (45) with the ring bond  $\alpha$ -amino acid of D- $\beta$ -OHPhe,<sup>44,92</sup> scutianine-K (48) with the ring bond  $\alpha$ -amino acid residue of D-threo- $(\alpha R/\beta S)$ - $\beta$ -OHPhe,<sup>93</sup> condaline-A (73) with the  $\beta$ -hydroxyl amino acid residue of L-*threo*-(3*S*/4*S*)-*â*-OHPhe,101 and discarene-C (**74**) and  $-D$  (75) with the  $\beta$ -hydroxyl amino acid residues of L-*threo*-(3*S*/4*S*)-*â*-OHPhe and D-*threo*-(3*S*/4*S*)-*â*-OHPhe.99

#### 8.1.2. Configuration Study of Caryophyllaceae-Type **Cyclopeptides**

The configurations of Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides have been studied mainly by chiral GC, chiral HPLC, and enzymatic oxidation.

**Chiral GC.** The amino acids in the hydrolysate after total acidic hydrolysis were converted into the propyl or butyl esters of their *N*-trifluoroacetyl derivatives. These esters were analyzed by GC on a chiral capillary column, and their retention times were compared with those of standards.168,184,193,195-199,201,202

**Chiral HPLC.** The amino acids in the hydrolysate after total acidic hydrolysis were analyzed by HPLC on a chiral column,174 or the derivatives of the acid hydrolysate were analyzed by treating with Marfey's reagent, and their retention times were compared with those of standards.181,182,189,204-207,218-221,227,229-231,238-241,244,245

**Enzymatic Oxidation:** amino acid oxidase.203

Amino acids in Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides generally occur in the L-form (Table 8). The only exception is schnabepeptide (345) containing D-Trp.<sup>223</sup>



Figure 9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data of amino acid residues picked up from some Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides. <sup>a</sup>In C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N. <sup>b</sup>In DMSO-d<sub>5</sub>.

#### **8.2. Conformation Study**

#### 8.2.1. Conformation Study of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids

Conformational studies of cyclopeptide alkaloids have aroused great interest because the restricted molecular mobility of these compounds severely limits the numbers of possible conformers. Their conformations have been investigated by a variety of physicochemical techniques such as NMR and X-ray diffraction.<sup>3</sup>

NMR spectroscopy supplied the first clues to the simultaneous existence of several conformations in solution. Integerrenine (**70**) and adouetine-Z (**84**) exist as mixtures of two conformers in trifluoroacetic acid and  $CCl<sub>4</sub>$  solution, respectively. A detailed study has been made of the conformations of discarine-B (**22**), frangulanine (**38**), and paliurine-B (**124**).3,4,106,107,114

The **Ia** cyclopeptide alkaloid structures of mauritine-A (**109**) and *N*,*N*,*N*-trimethylfrangulanine methiodide have been confirmed by X-ray analyses. In both, all of the amino acids were found to be of L-configuration, with the amide bonds having a *trans*-geometry. Ring strain in the 14-membered macrocycles was clearly evident in the crystlals. In frangulanine (**38**) the L-*erythro*-(3*S*/4*S*)-stereochemistry of hydroxyleucine was confirmed, the benzene ring and neighboring double bond are twisted as much as 73°, and the conformation of the peptide units is of the  $\beta$ -pleated sheets structure. X-ray diffraction showed **38** to have largely the same conformation whether in crystal form or in solution. In **109** the benzene ring in the central ring system is slightly bent and the attached atoms are considerably out of the benzene plane. A pronounced deviation from coplanarity is apparent in the styrylamide system, preventing *π*-orbital overlap. The *trans*-stereochemistry of *â*-hydroxyproline was clearly established.3,4,112,113

#### 8.2.2. Conformation Study of Caryophyllaceae-Type Cyclopeptides

Conformational studies of Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides have aroused great interest because these cyclopeptides exhibit a wide range of biological activities. The cyclopeptide backbone is generally considered to be quite flexible with more conformers. But higher plants tend to be rich in proline (Pro) residues, which results in formation of some turns, which are often stabilized by intramolecular hydrogen bonds. So the backbone is constrained and the presence of Pro residues leads to a number of possible stable conformations due to *cis*-*trans* isomerization of a Pro amide bond, which makes the conformational studies in solution or crystals possible.174 Their conformations have been investigated by a variety of physicochemical techniques such as NMR, CD, computational chemical methods, and X-ray diffraction.

**Solution Conformation.** Cherimolacyclopeptide A (**220**) is one cyclic octapeptide. Its 3D solution structure was determined by NMR (NOESY) and molecular modeling, and it was characterized by the presence of two  $\beta$  turns and a new type of  $\beta$ -bulge.<sup>168</sup> Diandrines A (266), C (268), and D (**269**) are cyclic hexapeptides, and diandrine B (**267**) is one

cyclic octapeptide. In **266** the amide bonds of both Pro residues adopted a *cis* geometry and a type IV *â* turn formed between Phe<sup>6</sup> and Trp<sup>3</sup>, as determined by NMR (ROESY), CD, and molecular modeling. In **267** the amide bonds of both Pro residues adopted a *trans* geometry, and it had an  $L_{+2}$  helix conformation by NMR and CD. It is more interesting that **268** and **269** are stable conformational isomers. Among them, the amide bonds of both Pro residues adopted a *trans* geometry, and they had a *â*-pleated sheet conformation by NMR and CD.189 Mahafacyclin A (**282**) is one cyclic heptapeptide without Pro residues. The solution conformation was shown to have  $\beta$ -bulge characteristics by NMR (ROESY).198 Segetalin B (**382**) is one cyclic pentapeptide without Pro residues. The solution conformation was shown to have a type II  $\beta$  turn between Trp<sup>4</sup> and Ala<sup>5</sup>, and none of the five amide protons was involved in intramolecular hydrogen bondings by NMR (ROESY) and using stimulated annealing calculations.<sup>241</sup> Cycloleonurinin (**290**) is one cyclic dodecapeptide. The solution conformation was examined by NMR methods (ROESY), distance geometry calculations, and restrained energy minimization from NMR data. The backbone structure consisted of two *â* turns: a type VI  $\beta$  turn at Pro<sup>2</sup>-Pro<sup>3</sup> and a type I  $\beta$  turn at Pro<sup>4</sup>-Ala. In addition to two transannular  $4\rightarrow 1$  backbone hydrogen bonds between Tyr<sup>2</sup>-NH and Pro<sup>3</sup>-CO and between Thr<sup>1</sup>-NH and Tyr<sup>1</sup>-CO, γ turns between Thr<sup>2</sup>-NH and Tyr<sup>1</sup>-CO and between Ala-NH and Thr<sup>1</sup>-OH were observed. Pro<sup>1</sup>, Pro<sup>2</sup>, and Pro<sup>4</sup> residues adopted a *trans* geometry, but the Pro<sup>3</sup> residue adopted a *cis* one.<sup>248</sup> Cycloleonuripeptides A-C (**291**-**293**) are cyclic nonapeptides with five Pro residues with Pro-Pro and Pro-Pro-Pro sequences. It is more interesting that **292** and **293** are stable conformational isomers. Their 3D structures were determined by distance geometry calculations and restrained energy minimizations from NMR data (ROESY). Their backbone structures consisted of two *â* turns: a type VI  $\beta$  turn at Pro<sup>3</sup>-Pro<sup>4</sup> and a type I  $\beta$  turn at Pro<sup>7</sup>-Met<sup>8</sup> or OMet<sup>8</sup>. In addition to a transannular  $4\rightarrow 1$ backbone hydrogen bond between Tyr<sup>5</sup>-NH and Pro<sup>2</sup>-CO, two intramolecular hydrogen bonds between Gly<sup>1</sup>-NH and Pro<sup>6</sup>-CO and between Ile<sup>9</sup>-NH and Pro<sup>6</sup>-CO, which constructed a  $\beta$ -bulge conformation, were observed. The Pro<sup>1</sup>, Pro<sup>2</sup>, Pro<sup>3</sup>, and Pro<sup>5</sup> residues adopted a *trans* geometry, but the Pro<sup>4</sup> residue adopted a *cis* one.<sup>249</sup> Pseudostellarin A (331) is one cyclic pentapeptide. Its conformational studies were performed by NMR (ROESY) and computational chemical evidences, and it was characterized by the presence of one transannular hydrogen bond between Gly and Leu, one *â* turn, and one  $\gamma$  turn.<sup>252</sup> Segetalins D and E (384 and 385) are cyclic hepapeptides. Their conformational studies were performed by NMR (ROESY) and computational methods. Each had two  $\beta$  turns: a type II  $\beta$  turn at Pro<sup>7</sup>-Gly<sup>1</sup> and a type I  $\beta$  turn at Phe<sup>4</sup>-Ala<sup>5</sup> for **384**, and a type II  $\beta$  turn at Pro<sup>7</sup>-Gly<sup>1</sup> and a type VI  $\beta$  turn at Val<sup>3</sup>-Pro<sup>4</sup> for **385**, respectively. In addition, each had three intramolecular hydrogen bonds, which constructed a classical *â*-bulge motif.<sup>256</sup>

**Solid Conformation.** Brachystemin C (**241**) is one cyclic octapeptide. The stereochemistry was clarified by an X-ray crystallographic study. The cyclic octapeptide backbone contained three  $\beta$  turns. Two of them are type I  $\beta$  turns, and one is a type III  $\beta$  turn (right-handed 3<sub>10</sub> helix). There were intermolecular hydrogen bonds between the cyclopeptide and the solvent molecules which maintained the steady spatial arrangement in the crystal.178 Cycloleonuripeptide D (**294**)

is one cyclic decapeptide with three successive Pro residues. The solid state conformation was clarified by an X-ray diffraction study. The cyclic decapeptide backbone contained two  $\beta$  turns: one type I  $\beta$  turn at Pro<sup>9</sup>-Ile<sup>10</sup> and one III  $\beta$ turn at Pro<sup>4</sup>-Tyr<sup>5</sup>. A transannular  $4\rightarrow 1$  backbone hydrogen bond between Ser<sup>1</sup>-NH and Thr<sup>8</sup>-CO, and a 5<sup> $\rightarrow$ </sup>1 hydrogen bond between Phe<sup>6</sup>-NH and Pro<sup>2</sup>-CO encompassing Pro<sup>3</sup>-Pro<sup>4</sup>-Tyr<sup>5</sup>, in which the peptide linkage between the two Pro residues was shown to be in the *cis* conformation, were observed.205 Dichotomin A (**358**) is one cyclic hexapeptide without Pro residues. Single-crystal X-ray analysis was conducted. The cyclic hexapeptide backbone contained two  $\beta$  turns: one type I  $\beta$  turn at Phe<sup>3</sup>-Leu<sup>4</sup> without a transannular intramolecular hydrogen bond and one type II  $\beta$  turn at Val<sup>6</sup>- $Gly<sup>1</sup>$  with the intramolecular hydrogen bond between Thr<sup>2</sup>-NH and Tyr<sup>5</sup>-CO. Additionally, a side chain—main chain<br>interaction was observed between the backbone NH group interaction was observed between the backbone NH group of Leu<sup>4</sup> and the side chain oxygen of Thr<sup>2</sup>.<sup>229</sup>

**Solution and Solid State Conformations.** Cyclolinopeptides A and B (**295** and **296**) are cyclic nonapeptides. Their solid state and solution conformations were examined by X-ray, NMR, and distance geometry calculations by several groups. The solid conformation of **295** by X-ray was characterized by the presence of five intramolecular hydrogen bonds and four turns (a type III  $\beta$  turn, a type I  $\beta$  turn, an inverse  $γ$  turn, and an  $α$  turn). The amide bonds except the Pro<sup>1</sup>-Pro<sup>2</sup> bond had *trans* geometry. The conformation in the solid state of **295** was similar to those in the solution state of **295** and **296**. 250,251 Pseudostellarin D (**334**) is one cyclic heptapeptide. The solid and solution conformations were examined by X-ray and NMR (ROESY). The solid conformation of 334 possessed a type II  $\beta$  turn between Leu<sup>7</sup> and Gly<sup>1</sup>, a type I  $\beta$  turn between Pro<sup>4</sup> and Leu<sup>5</sup>, one transannular  $4\rightarrow 1$  hydrogen bond between Ile<sup>6</sup>-NH and Gly<sup>3</sup>-CO, and two bifurcated hydrogen bonds between Tyr<sup>2</sup>-NH and Ile<sup>6</sup>-CO and between  $\text{Gly}^3\text{-NH}$  and Ile<sup>6</sup>-CO, forming a classical *â*-bulge. The amide bonds had *trans* geometry. The conformation in the solution state of **334** was homologous to that in the solid state.<sup>253</sup> Yunnanin A  $(375)$  is one cyclic heptapeptide. The solid and solution conformations were examined by X-ray, NMR (ROESY), and Monte Carlo (MC) and restrained molecular dynamics (MD) calculations. The solid conformation of **375** possessed three intramolucular hydrogen bonds forming one type II *â* turn, one type II′ *â* turn, and a classical *â*-bulge unit with all *trans* amide bonds. The conformation in the solution state of **375** was homologous to that in the solid state.254 Segetalin A (**381**) is one cyclic hexapeptide. The solid and solution conformations were examined by X-ray, NMR (ROESY), and computational chemical evidence. The solid conformation of **381** was characterized by two  $\beta$  turns (a type I  $\beta$  turn and a type VI  $\beta$  turn), fixed by two transannular hydrogen bonds formed between Gly and Val<sup>2</sup>. On the other hand, in solution, the molecule was shown to have two  $\beta$  turns (a type II  $\beta$  turn and a type VI  $\beta$  turn). Results demonstrated that **381** took different backbone conformations in solid and solution states.<sup>255</sup>

#### 8.2.3. Conformational Study of Rubiaceae-Type Cyclopeptides

Usually Rubiaceae-type cyclopeptides have more conformers in solution, which are produced by the isomerization about one or more *N*-methyl amide bonds and which make their NMR spectra more complicated and difficult for <sup>1</sup>H



**Figure 10.** Molecular structures of three different conformers, A, B, and C, of RA-VII (**398**) in DMSO-*d*6.

and 13C signal assignments and solution conformational study.

The <sup>1</sup> H NMR spectrum of RA-VII (**398**) suggested the presence of two stable conformational states in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, i.e., conformers A and B, and of three different conformers, A, B, and C, in a polar solvent, e.g., in DMSO- $d_6$ . The conformational analysis of **398** in solution states was conducted by spectroscopic (NMR and CD) and computational chemical methods (molecular dynamics and molecular mechanics calculations). The predominant conformer, A, exhibited a typical type II  $\beta$  turn with a *trans* peptide bond at  $L-Ala<sup>2</sup>$  and  $L-Tyr<sup>3</sup>$  by stabilization of the intramolecular hydrogen bond between D-Ala<sup>1</sup>-CO and L-Ala<sup>4</sup>-NH, which is similar to the crystal structure analyzed by X-ray diffraction. Conformer B exhibited a type IV *â* turn with a *cis* peptide bond at L-Ala<sup>2</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>3</sup>. Conformer C adopted three *cis* peptide bonds at L-Ala<sup>2</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>3</sup>, L-Ala<sup>4</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>5</sup>, and L-Tyr<sup>5</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>6</sup>. Thus, conformers A, B, and C of **398** are *trans* $-cis$  isomers about the L-Ala<sup>2</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>3</sup>, L-Ala<sup>4</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>5</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>5</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>5</sup> pentide bonds L-Ala<sup>4</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>5</sup>, and L-Tyr<sup>5</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>6</sup> peptide bonds (Figure 10).277,278 The LiCl complexed solution conformation of **398** closely resembles the X-ray structure conformation.279

The solid conformational analysis of RA-V (deoxybouvardin, **389**) indicated that **389** can be divided into two structurally distinct moieties: one, the more characteristic moiety, is a highly strained 14-membered ring consisting of a diaryl ether, L-Tyr<sup>5</sup>, and L-Tyr<sup>6</sup>, and the other is 18membered ring which forms an antiparallel  $\beta$ -pleated sheet with a type II  $\beta$  turn at L-Ala<sup>2</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>3</sup>. Two weak intramolecular hydrogen bonds between D-Ala<sup>1</sup>-CO and L-Ala<sup>4</sup>-NH and between D-Ala<sup>1</sup>-NH and L-Ala<sup>4</sup>-CO stabilize this  $\beta$  turn.<sup>277</sup>

The solid conformation of bouvardin (**388**) was studied by X-ray diffraction. It contained a *cis* peptide bond in the 14-membered ring and had a weak intramolecular hydrogen bond between D-Ala<sup>1</sup>-CO and L-Ala<sup>4</sup>-NH.<sup>255</sup> 388, deoxybouvardin (**389**), and 6-*O*-methylbouvardin (**390**) were observed to be two conformers  $(85:15)$  in CHCl<sub>3</sub>, in which the barrier is about 20 kcal/mol. The major conformation of **388** in solution is the same as that in the crystal.<sup>263</sup>

By the conformational analysis of RA-VI (**396**) in its crystalline state using the X-ray diffractometric technique, **396** was shown to have, in its solid state, a type V  $\beta$  turn structure at the residues  $L$ -Ser<sup>2</sup> and  $D$ -Tyr<sup>3</sup>, while other RAs have type II  $\beta$  turns. In a solution of CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 396 was shown to exist only as conformer A and RA-VIII (**398**) was shown to exist as conformers A, B, and C. A combination of 2D NMR and NOE relationships showed that the amino acids constituting the  $\beta$  turn of **396** are L-Ser<sup>2</sup> and D-Tyr<sup>3</sup> and those of **398** are L-Thr<sup>2</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>3</sup>.<sup>266</sup>

More interestingly, RAI-III (**394**) and -VI (**397**) are conformational isomers of RA-III (**393**) and -VI (**396**), respectively. By the conformational analysis of **394** and **397**

using spectroscopic and computational chemical methods, they were shown to have  $\gamma$  turn structures at L-Ser<sup>2</sup>, D-Tyr<sup>3</sup>, and L-Ala4 , which were stabilized by a hydrogen bond between  $L$ -Ser<sup>2</sup>-OH and  $L$ -Ala<sup>1</sup>-CO.<sup>267</sup>

The NMR spectroscopic data indicated that RA-IX (**400**) has a single stable conformational state in solution, i.e., a type II  $\beta$  turn at L-pyroGlu<sup>2</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>3</sup>, which was considered to be due to the constrained structure of the five-membered ring of the pyroGlu2 residue. But RA-X (**401**) has two conformational states  $(85:15)$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.<sup>268</sup>

#### 8.2.4. Conformational Study of Cyclotides

Using 2D NMR and distance-restrained simulated annealing, the three-dimensional solution structure of kalata B1 (**424**) has been determined. Results indicated that **424** was composed mainly of  $\beta$ -strands connected by tight turns, forming regions of  $\beta$ -sheets, except in the case of one section which forms a longer, less structured loop. The tertiary fold, together with the disulfides that form a sulfur core, produces a striking and unusual surface in which the majority of the hydrophobic residues form a solvent-exposed patch. The hydrophobic side of **424** is flanked by two diametrically opposed and opposite-charged residues. Three disulfide bonding patterns are  $C^I$ - $C^V$ ,  $C^II$ - $C^V$ , and  $C^{III}$ - $C^{VI}$ . Its cyclic peptide backbone is folded back onto itself and braced with disulfide pairs across diagonally opposed *â*-strands. This structure involves the third disulfide bond of C<sup>III</sup>-C<sup>VI</sup> threading through the eight amino acid loop formed by the other two disulfide bonds of  $C^I$ - $C^V$  and  $C^I$ - $C^V$  and the peptide fragments connecting them (CCK motif).<sup>321</sup> Later, Volkman and co-workers proposed different three disulfide bonding patterns of C<sup>I</sup>-C<sup>VI</sup>, C<sup>II</sup>-C<sup>V</sup>, and C<sup>III</sup>-C<sup>IV</sup> based on 2D NMR, a laddered arrangement.335 Recently, Craik and co-workers provided more evidence in favor of the originally proposed knotted topology with oxidative refolding and reductive unfolding,  $336$  using 2D NMR $337$  and disulfide analysis.  $338$ 

The three-dimensional solution structure of circulin A (**411**) was determined using 2D NMR (TOCSY, NOESY). **411** adopted a compact structure consisting of  $\beta$ -turns and a distorted segment of triple-stranded *â*-sheets and contained a CCK motif.332

The solution structure of MCoTI-II (**423**) was determined using 2D NMR (TOCSY, NOESY) and simulated annealing calculations. **423** consisted of a small  $\beta$ -sheet, several turns, and a CCK motif.333,334

The three-dimensional solution structure of palicourein (**432**), the largest known cyclotide, was determined using 2D NMR (TOCSY, NOESY) and simulated annealing calculations. The structural data showed that an increase in size of a loop did not perturb the core fold. **432** contained a CCK motif also.340

The solution structure of vhr1 (**446**) was determined using 2D NMR (COSY, TOCSY, NOESY) combined with simulated annealing calculations. Results indicated that **446** contained a CCK motif also.<sup>328</sup>

The three-dimensional structure of cycloviolacin O1 (**447**), determined by 2D NMR and distance-restrained simulated annealing, is compact and contains a number of  $\beta$ -turns, three  $\beta$ -strands arranged in a triple-stranded  $\beta$ -sheet, a short helical segment, and a network of disulfide bonds which form a CCK motif.322,337

The solid structure of SFTI-1 (**461**) was determined by X-ray diffraction. Its structure formed two antiparallel *-strands connected at the reactive site end by an extended* 



**Figure 11.** Structures of representative cyclotides kalata B1 (**424**, Moebius) and cycloviolacin O1 (**447**, Bracelet). Parts A and B show the orientation used to view the surfaces of **424** (C) and **447** (D), respectively. The surface of individual residues is colored based on their properties, with green, blue, yellow, white, red, and purple representing hydrophobic, glycine, cysteine, hydrophilic, negative, and positive residues, respectively. From parts C and D it is clear that a major hydrophobic patch involving loops 2, 5, and 6 is present in **424** and **447**. In contrast, on the other face of the molecules (shown in parts E and F, respectively, for **424** and **447**), there are clearly differences in the surface nature, with **447** incorporating an additional hydrophobic patch because of the hydrophobic nature of the extended loop 3. E and F are rotated 180° in relation to C and D.337

loop region and connected by a hairpin turn at the opposite end. These strands were constrained by the single disulfide bond (between  $C<sup>VII</sup>$  and  $C<sup>VIII</sup>$ ), dividing 461 into a nineresidue loop region (the "reactive loop") and a five-residue turn (the "cyclic loop"). There is a sharp turn in the peptide chain at -N-Ile-Pro-CO- with *cis* conformation. There were three intramolecular main-chain hydrogen bonds stabilizing the backbone. **461** showed clear parallels with the trypsinreactive loop region of the Bowman-Birk inhibitor family of inhibitors in amino acid sequence, conformation, and mechanism of inhibition, but it differed from this family in size and its cyclic nature.<sup>331</sup> Its solution structure is similar to the crystal structure of **461** in complex with trypsin.341

Figure 11 presents the structures of the representative cyclotides kalata B1 (**424**, Moebius) and cycloviolacin O1 (**447**, Bracelet).337

#### **9. Synthesis**

#### **9.1. Synthesis of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids**

During the past three decades, synthesis of cyclopeptide alkaloids has been paid more attention because of the importance of their structures, biological activities and functions, and sources. Schmidt<sup>3</sup> and Joullie<sup>4,6</sup> have reviewed the synthesis of cyclopeptide alkaloids. Compared with the cases of types **Ib** and **Ic**, synthesis of type **Ia** cyclopeptide alkaloids is more difficult as a result of the rigid structure in the 14-membered ring with two *s-trans* amide groups. The primary synthetic challenges that must be overcome in such an endeavor are formation of the alkyl-aryl ether, introduction of unsaturation, and macrocyclization.<sup>6</sup> Pioneering works of synthetic chemistry related to cyclopeptide alkaloids were carried out by the Pais<sup>122</sup> and Rapoport<sup>123</sup> groups in the 1970s. Later, the Schmidt,  $124-128$  Joullie,  $129-132$  Lipshutz,  $133$ Han,<sup>134</sup> and Zhu<sup>135,136</sup> groups made great contributions to the field, especially the Schmidt group.

The Schmidt group discovered that activation of a carboxyl group as a pentafluorophenyl ester is particularly efficient for the desired macrolactamization. On the basis of this methodology, they accomplished the first total synthesis of types **Ia**, **Ib**, and **Ic** cyclopeptide alkaloids or dihydrocyclopeptide alkaloids (Figure 12): **Ia**, dihydrozizyphine-G124 and frangulanine (**38**);128 **Ib**, dihydrozizyphine-A,125 dihydrozizy-



**Figure 12.** Summary of the Schmidt syntheses of frangulanine (**38**), zizyphine-A (**156**), and mucronine-B (**180**).

phine-B,<sup>125</sup> and zizyphine-A (156);<sup>126</sup> Ic, mucronine-B (**180**).127

Upon the basis of a similar macrolactamization strategy to that of the Schmidt group, the Joullie group accomplished the total syntheses of type **Ia** cyclopeptide alkaloids or dihydrocyclopeptide alkaloids (Figure 13), dihydromauritine-A,129 frangufoline (**37**),131 sanjoinine-G1 (**59**),132 sanjoinine G1 C-11 epimer,<sup>132</sup> and nummularine-F  $(118)$ ,<sup>130</sup> in which **59** was synthesized by the Han group at first in 1995.134

The Zhu group developed the macrocyclization protocol featuring a key intramolecular  $S<sub>N</sub>Ar$  reaction. On the basis of this methodology, they accomplished the total syntheses of type **Ia** cyclopeptide alkaloids (Figure 14): sanjoinine-G1 (**59**)136 and mauritine-A (**109**).135

#### **9.2. Synthesis of Caryophyllaceae-Type Cyclopeptides**

Only a few publications dealt with the synthesis of Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides by SPPS methods. To confirm the proposed sequence of chevalierins A-C (**275**- **277**) and mahafacyclin B (**283**) and to make available sufficient amounts of these cyclopeptides for bioassays, in which  $275$  and  $283$  showed antimalarial activity (IC<sub>50</sub> = 8.9) and 2.2 *µ*M), Auvin-Guette and co-workers synthesized these four cyclopeptides by a solid-phase technique with the glycine residue in the C-terminal position to prevent racemization in the cyclization. The cyclization step was ac-



**Figure 13.** Summary of the Joullie syntheses of frangufoline (**37**), sanjoinine-G1 (**59**), and nummularine-F (**118**).



**Figure 14.** Summary of the Zhu syntheses of sanjoinine-G1 (**59**) and mauritine-A (**109**).

complished in DMF under high dilution conditions  $(10^{-3} M)$ with 1.5 equiv of HBTU and 10 equiv of Net<sub>3</sub>.<sup>193,199</sup> Poojary et al. synthesized pseudostellarin G (**337**) using the *p*nitrophenyl ester method for cyclization. The synthetic **337** showed antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and anthelmintic acitivities.257 Gomez-Paloma and co-workers synthesized

yunnanins A (**375**) and C (**377**) with antitumor activity, using a combination of solid and solution techniques with the Fmoc/*t*-Bu chemistry and a 2-chlorotrityl chloride resin as solid support. The cyclization reaction was allowed to proceed in solution using HATU and DIEA in  $CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>$ . Interestingly, the synthetic cyclopeptides, although found to be chemically identical with their natural counterparts, did not display antitumor activity.258 Sonnet et al. synthesized segetalins A (**381**), B (**382**), and G (**386**) with estrogen-like activity, using standard automated continuous-flow SPPS methods with the alanine or glycine residues in the Cterminal position. DPPA in acetonitrile gave the best results for the ring closures without epimerization.259,260 Itokawa and co-workers provided four derivatives of thionation of **381** and **382** with Lawesson's reagent. Results indicated that only thiosegetalin A2 took the similar solution conformation to that of parent **381** and showed estrogen-like activity.261

#### **9.3. Synthesis of Rubiaceae-Type Cyclopeptides**

The molecular architecture and interesting biological activity made Rubiaceae-type cyclopeptides attractive synthetic targets. Realizing that ring closure of the 18-membered macrocycle at  $D-Ala<sup>1</sup>$  and  $L-Tyr<sup>6</sup>$  was relatively easy, all synthetic efforts had thus far concentrated on synthesis of the key subunit, L,L-*N*,*N*-dimethylcycloisodityrosine, which relied on formation of the biaryl ether bond. The Inoue,  $280,281$ Boger,<sup>282-285</sup> and Zhu<sup>286</sup> groups have made great contributions to the synthesis of Rubiaceae-type cyclopeptides.

The Inoue group accomplished the first total synthesis of deoxybouvardin (**389**) and RA-VII (**398**) in low yields. The first step was an intramolecular oxidative coupling reaction of two phenolic parts of a L-tyrosyl-L-tyrosyl derivative with TTN, which was crucial to the synthesis and afforded a highly strained 14-membered ring system. The subsequent coupling with a tetrapeptide followed by ring closure at D-Ala1 and L-Tyr6 with DCC led to **398**. Selective demethylation of **398** with AlCl<sub>3</sub> afforded **389** (Figure 15).<sup>280,281</sup>

Later, The Boger group accomplished the synthesis of bouvardin (**388**), deoxybouvardin (**389**), and RA-VII (**398**) based on the intramolecular Ullmann reaction with NaH and  $CuBr-SMe<sub>2</sub>$  as the key macrocyclization reaction in the preparation of the elusive 14-membered cycloisodityrosine subunit. Subsequent coupling with a tetrapeptide and macrocyclization at D-Ala1 and L-Tyr6 provided **398**. Selective demethylation of **398** with BBr<sub>3</sub> afforded **389**.<sup>282-284</sup> Then the authors indicated that their past 14-membered intermediates possessed the unnatural (9*R*,12*S*)-stereochemistry and that their conversion to **388**, **389**, and **398** required reepimerization of the C $\alpha$  of L-Tyr<sup>6</sup> to the natural (*S*)-configuration. They synthesized two 14-membered intermediates: natural (9*S*,12*S*)-cycloisodityrosine derivatives and unnatural (9*R*,12*S*)-diastereomers. This approach developed by the Zhu group<sup>286</sup> was based on an intramolecular  $S<sub>N</sub>Ar$  reaction for formation of the key biaryl ether with 14-membered ring macrocyclization with NaH and included the documentation of a facile C9 base-catalyzed epimerization within the natural 9*S* series.285 But the syntheses of **388**, **389**, and **398** had not been reported by them.

The Zhu group accomplished the synthesis of RA-VII (**398**) in which the conditions were much milder and the yield was much higher than those of Inoue's and Boger's works. This method was based on an intramolecular  $S<sub>N</sub>Ar$ -based cycloetherification reaction to form the key ring-closure step for construction of the illusive 14-membered *m*,*p*-cyclophane



**Figure 15.** Summary of the Inoue syntheses of deoxybouvardin (**389**) and RA-VII (**398**).



**Figure 16.** Summary of the Zhu synthesis of RA-VII (**398**).

with K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. Subsequent coupling with a L-N-Boc-Ala and a tripeptide and macrocyclization at  $D-Ala<sup>1</sup>$  and  $L-Tyr<sup>6</sup>$ provided **398** (Figure 16).286



**Figure 17.** Pathways for the production of cyclotides.<sup>11</sup> (A) Two general synthetic strategies for cyclotides involve either oxidation followed by cyclization, or cyclization followed by oxidation. The concept of acyclic permutation is also shown in the top right-hand region of the panel, with the four acyclic permutants that can form a cystine knot illustrated.<sup>343</sup> (B) This section shows the synthetic approach to cyclization by the thia zip mechanism. Facile thioester/thiol exchange allows serial by the thia zip mechanism. Facile thioester/thiol exchange allows serial thioester ring expansion and is indicated with arrows labeled 1–5.<br>The final step involves an S,N-acyl migration to form a cyclic product.<sup>342</sup> (C) T reported. A schematic representation of the cyclotide gene structure is shown at the bottom of the panel. The ER signal peptide is followed by a prodomain. This domain is followed by an N-terminal (N-T) repeat fragment (wide hashed area) that precedes the cyclotide domain. A small C-terminal tail follows the cyclotide domain (close hashed area). Some genes contain multiple copies of the N-T repeat and mature domains. A schematic representation of a precursor protein with a single mature domain is shown above the gene structure. The mature domain is shown as a solid line with disulfide bonds formed, and the  $N-T$  repeat fragment and the C-terminal tail are dashed to correspond to the hashing in the gene structure. The linear multidomain precursor protein is cleaved and ligated to give mature cyclotides. The ligation sites required to produce the mature domain are indicated with small arrows.<sup>345</sup>

#### **9.4. Synthesis of Cyclotides**

Investigation of the synthesis and folding of cyclotides is somewhat more challenging because of their cyclic nature with three disulfide bonds, i.e., the CCK motif.

The Craik group has synthesized kalata B1 (**424**) using two separate methods, one of which involved formation of the disulfide bonds prior to cyclization and one of which involved cyclization prior to formation of the disulfide bonds. The latter was the preferred strategy (Figure 17A).<sup>11,343</sup>

The Tam group has synthesized circulin B (**412**) and cyclopsychotride A (**433**) using the thia zip mechanism for cyclization (Figure 17B).<sup>11,342</sup>

#### **10. Biosynthesis**

#### **10.1. Biosynthesis of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids**

Types **Ia** and **Ib** of cyclopeptide alkaloids may be formed biogenetically from a tripeptide containing two dehydroamino acids by addition of a phenolic group to the double bond of one of the latter. This assumption is supported by the isolation from *Lasiodiscus marmoratus* (Rhamnaceae) of a linear alkaloid, lasiodine-A (**1**, Table 2), which was shown to have both a free phenolic group and a dehydroamino acid unit. Biogenesis of **Ic** cyclopeptide alkaloids may involve a *m*-phenylenedialanine precursor or the corresponding dehydro compound (Figure 18).<sup>3</sup> In 1993 Baig et al. provided the preliminary experimental results of tetrapeptide precursors by callus of *Ceanothus americanus*. 115

#### **10.2. Biosynthesis of Cyclotides**

Cyclotides may be gene products derived from the processing of a larger precursor protein, whose sequence is encoded by DNA. Anderson and co-workers have isolated a cDNA clone that encodes the cyclotide kalata B1 (**424**) as well as three other clones for related cyclotides from the African plant *Oldenlandia affinis*. The cDNA clones encode





**Figure 18.** Possible biosynthetic pathway of cyclopeptide alkaloids.

prepropeptides with a 20-aa signal sequence, an N-terminal prosequence of 46-68 amino acids, and one, two, or three cyclotide domains separated by regions of about 25 aa. The corresponding cyclotides have been isolated from plant material, indicating that the cyclotide domains are excised and cyclized from all four predicted precursor proteins. The exact processing site is likely to lie on the N-terminal side of the strongly conserved GlyLeuPro or SerLeuPro sequence that flanks both sides of the cyclotide domain (Figure 17C).11,345

#### **11. Biological Activity and Biological Functions**

#### **11.1. Biological Activity**

#### 11.1.1. Biological Activity of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids

Although some cyclopeptide alkaloids showed antibacterial, antifungal, antiplasmodial, antimycobacterial, sedative, and immunostimulant activities (Table 2), there have not been any potential cyclopeptide alkaloids for new drug research and development. It is noteworthy that discarine-A  $(21)$ ,<sup>104</sup> discarine-B (**22**),104 frangufoline (**37**),76 scutianine-B (**40**),101 nummularine-K  $(54)$ ,<sup>76</sup> condaline-A  $(73)$ ,<sup>101</sup> amphibine-H (**133**),76 nummularine-B (**147**),76 nummularine-R (**153**),76 nummularine-S (154),<sup>76</sup> rugosanine-A (166),<sup>76</sup> rugosanine-B (**167**),76 abyssenine-C (**178**),32 mucronine-F (**183**),32 mucronine-G  $(184)$ ,<sup>32</sup> and mucronine-H  $(185)$ <sup>32</sup> showed antibacterial activity; **37**, <sup>76</sup> **54**, <sup>76</sup> **133**, <sup>76</sup> **147**, <sup>76</sup> **153**, <sup>76</sup> **154**, <sup>76</sup> **166**, 76 **167**, <sup>76</sup> and **178**<sup>32</sup> showed antifungal activity; Ziziphine-N  $(162)^{105}$  and -Q  $(165)^{105}$  showed antiplasmodial and antimycobacterial activity; and **37** (sanjoinine-A) showed strong sedative activity by measuring the hexobarbital-induced sleeping time.74 Naturally occurring **37** and sanjoinine-G2 (**2**), along with synthetically derived sanjoinine AH-1 and sanjoinine A dialdehyde, were reported to be effective inhibitors of calmodulin-induced activation of  $Ca^{2+}$  ATPase, which was found to correlate well with their sedative properties. In addition, sanjoinine D (**57**) was shown to act as an inhibitor of calmoduolin-induced activation of phophodiesterase.6 But studies by Lee and co-workers have shown that nummularine-H (**149**) could shorten the mextho-

**Figure 19.** Possible mechanism for the ring cleavage of frangufoline (**37**).

hexital-induced sleeping time instead of prolonging for paliurine-A (**123**) and paliurine-F (**127**),98 and **123**, paliurine-B (**124**), paliurine-C (**125**), paliurine-D (**126**), **127**, and sativanine-G (172) possessed immunostimulant activity.<sup>97</sup>

Han and co-workers<sup>116</sup> reported that frangufoline (37), a sedative **Ia1** cyclopeptide alkaloid, was converted to a linear compound sanjoinine-G2 (**2**) via unusual enamide cleavage under mild acidic conditions (2 N HCl, 55 °C, 10 h). Air oxidation of the vinylic double bond followed by the liberation of formaldehyde is proposed for a possible mechanism for the ring cleavage (Figure 19, A). One year later, Han and co-workers<sup>117</sup> reported that  $37$  was found to be rapidly converted, via an enzymatic process, *in vitro* and *in vivo* in rodents to **M1**, which was also formed by acid treatment of **37**. <sup>116</sup> They thought the enamide bond is the site being cleaved and proposed a possible mechanism for the conversion, in which oxidation of the vinyl group and enzyme-catalyzed hydrolysis of the adjacent amide bond, possibly by a B-esterase-like enzyme, proceed in a concerted manner (Figure 19, B).

#### 11.1.2. Biological Activity of Caryophyllaceae-Type Cyclopeptides

It has been reported that some Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptides showed interesting biological activities including cytotoxic, antiplatelet, antimalarial, immunomodulating, immunosuppressive,  $Ca^{2+}$  antagonistic, inhibiting cyclooxgenase and tyrosinase, enhancing rotamase, and estrogenlike activity (Table 8). It is noteworthy that cherimolacyclopeptides A and B (**220** and **221**),168 dianthin E (**261**),186 cycloleonuripeptides B and C (292 and 293),<sup>204</sup> dichotomins  $A-C$  (358–360), E (362), H (365), and I (366),<sup>229,231</sup> <sup>A</sup>-C (**358**-**360**), E (**362**), H (**365)**, and I (**366**),229,231 yunnanins A-D (375–378),<sup>238,239</sup> and segetalin E (385)<sup>338</sup><br>showed cell growth inhibitory activity against tumoral KB showed cell growth inhibitory activity against tumoral KB or P-388 cells. Only diandrine A (**266**) showed a selective inhibitory effect on collagen-induced platelet aggregation.<sup>189</sup> Chevalierin A (**275**),193 mahafacyclins A and B (**282** and **283**),<sup>198,199</sup> and pohlianins A–C  $(287-289)^{202}$  showed antimalarial activity. Curcacyline A (**278**)194 and labaditin

**Table 13. Activity Summary of Rubiaceae-Type Cyclopeptides**



(284)<sup>200</sup> showed inhibition of the classical pathway activity of human complement, but cyclolinopeptides A and B (**295** and **296**) and E (**299**)206,207 and schnabepeptide (**345**)223 showed immunosuppressive activity. Only **340** showed Ca2<sup>+</sup> antagonistic activity.<sup>222</sup> Cycloleonuripeptide D  $(294)$ <sup>205</sup> and dichotomins D, F, and G (**361**, **363**, and **364**)229,230 showed inhibition of cyclooxgensase activity. Only pseudostellarins A-H  $(331-338)^{218-221}$  showed inhibition of tyrosinase activity. Only curcacycline B (**279**) showed enhancing rotamase activity of human cyclophilin B.195 Only segetalins A and B (**381** and **382**) and G and H (**386** and **387**) showed estrogen-like activity *in vivo*.<sup>240,243,245</sup> The most potentially active Carvonbyllaceae-type cyclonentide is cycloleonurinin active Caryophyllaceae-type cyclopeptide is cycloleonurinin (**290**). It showed a potent immunosuppressive effect on the mitogen (concanavalin A)-induced response of human peripheral blood lymphocytes (IC<sub>50</sub>: 28 ng/mL). The IC<sub>50</sub> in this system of a well-known immunosuppressive agent, cyclosporine A, was shown to be 3 ng/mL, which is comparable to that of **290**. Meantime, **290** may not be lymphocytotoxic but rather only inhibitory toward DNA synthesis.<sup>248</sup>

#### 11.1.3. Biological Activity of Rubiaceae-Type Cyclopeptides

Rubiaceae-type cyclopeptides showed potent antitumor activities against various experimental murine tumors *in vivo* and cultured cells *in vitro* (Table 13). The major active principle RA-VII (**398**) was reported to have undergone phase I clinical trials as an anticancer drug in Japan in the 1990s.271 The sodium salt of RA-X (**401**), containing glutamic acid at residue  $2,^{268}$  and RA-XII (403), with a glucosyl moiety at residue 5,269 showed water solubility and were recently nominated as antitumor principles. Studies on a spectrum of experimental tumors in mice revealed that **398** amd RA-V (**389**) exhibited significant activity against leukemias and ascites tumors, P-388, L1210, B-16 melanoma and solid tumors, colon 38, Lewis lung carcinoma, and Ehrlich carcinoma.287 Metabolites of **398** and **401** were studied by hepatic microsomal biotransformation in rats and in the bile juice of rabbits to which these drugs were administered intravascularly. Results indicated that the hydroxylation and demethylation reactions *in vivo* are considered to be a bioinactivation process, especially specific N-demethylation of L-Tyr<sup>3</sup> and O-demethylation and hydroxylation at the aromatic rings of  $L-Tyr<sup>3</sup>$  and  $L-Tyr<sup>5</sup>$ .<sup>288</sup>

Bouvardin (388) inhibited protein synthesis<sup>288</sup> in intact eukaryotic cells and cell-free systems. Results indicated that **388** acted at the level of the 80S ribosome in a site somehow involved with the interaction of EF1 and EF2. It inhibited EF1-dependent binding of aminoacyl-tRNA and EF2-dependent translocation of peptidyl-tRNA, but it did not affect the nonenzymic translocation since this reaction does not require EF2. The site of the 80S ribosome involved in the interaction with **388** appeared to be independent from the cycloheximide and crytopleurine binding sites since yeast mutants resistant to cycloheximide or cryptopleurine were sensitive to **388**. <sup>290</sup> RA-VII (**398**) completely inhibited *in* V*itro* protein synthesis in rabbit reticulocyte lysates at a concentration of 5  $\mu$ M, with an IC<sub>50</sub> of 80 nM. Unlike 388, **398** had no effect upon aminoacyl-tRNA binding, but it inhibited the peptidyltransferase step. No effect of **398** upon translocation had been observed. Results indicated that **398** also interacted directly with 80S ribosomes.<sup>291</sup> Experiments indicated that in the presence of rat liver ribosomes the <sup>1</sup> H NMR signals of RA-XII (**403**) tended to broaden. This is considered to correlate with bind formation between **403** and ribosome in a fast exchange process, preferentially of the major conformer.292

Various studies of the SAR in the RAs and their derivatives indicated that the ring systems;277,293,295,296,302,306,312 substitutions in the  $\beta$ -positions of L-Ala<sup>2</sup>,<sup>297,300,301</sup> L-Tyr<sup>5</sup>,<sup>310</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>6</sup>;<sup>264</sup> substitutions in the *o*-positions of L-Tyr<sup>3</sup>,<sup>299,307</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>6</sup>;<sup>294,299</sup> substitutions in the  $\alpha$ -position of L-Tyr<sup>6</sup>;<sup>309</sup> and L-Tyr<sup>6</sup>;<sup>294,299</sup> substitutions in the  $\alpha$ -position of L-Tyr<sup>6</sup>;<sup>309</sup> substitutions in the N-positions of amino acid residues;266,277,283,284,298,304,305 the conformations;266,277,297 the configuration; $311$  and thionation $303,308$  could increase or decrease the antitumor activities of Rubiaceae-type cyclopeptides, in which particularly a 14-membered ring, a type II  $\beta$  turn with a *cis* peptide bond at L-Ala2 and L-Tyr3 , and *o*-OMe substitution of  $L-Tyr<sup>3</sup>$  play more important roles in their antitumor activities *in vitro* and *in vivo*.<sup>9,277,299,313,314</sup>

#### 11.1.4. Biological Activity of Cyclotides

Cyclotides displayed an interesting range of biological activities, i.e., anti-HIV (**411**-**416**, 315,317 **<sup>418</sup>**-**421**, <sup>319</sup> **432**323), inhibiting neurotensin binding (**433**324), inhibiting trypsin (**422** and **423**, <sup>320</sup> **461**331), uterotonic (**424**321), haemolytic (**412**, <sup>343</sup> **424**, <sup>343</sup> **442**326), antimicrobial (**411** and **412**, <sup>346</sup> **424**, 346 **433**344,346), insecticidal (**424**345), cytotoxic (**411** and **412**, 346 **424**, <sup>346</sup> **433**, <sup>346</sup> **434**, 330,347 **438**, <sup>330</sup> **439**, <sup>347</sup> **448**, <sup>347</sup> **460**330), and

cardiotoxic (**424**321) activities. These activities lend to their potential as leads for drug development. Of perhaps greater interest is their potential application as stable peptide-based templates for the presentation of a diverse range of introduced bioactivities.11 Two major strategies are currently being used to exploit the favorable characteristics of the CCK framework of the cyclotides in drug design applications. The first involves conferring the advantages of a circular backbone onto linear proteins that have pharmaceutically important bioactivities. The second involves the grafting of small peptide epitopes onto a generic CCK framework to introduce a desired bioactivity to the stable scaffold. Both strategies have been exemplified in recent patent applications.<sup>11</sup>

#### **11.2. Biological Functions**

#### 11.2.1. Biological Functions of Cyclopeptide Alkaloids

The effect of frangulanine (**38**) on mitochondrial swelling has been investigated. **38** induced mitochondrial swelling in 0.15 M KCl solution at a 6.5  $\mu$ M concentration. The cyclopeptide alkaloid showed ion selectivity on the induction of mitochondrial swelling. Mitochondria underwent swelling in 0.15 M KCl or RbCl solution but not in either NaCl or LiCl solution. The ion selectivity might be caused by the formation of a complex with  $K^+$  or  $Rb^+$ , which would act as an ionophore in the mitochondrial inner membranes in a manner similar to that for valinomycin. Such a complex could have biological significance in plants, perhaps being involved in absorption of nutrients from the soil, especially alkali metals.<sup>4,119</sup> In another study by Rapoport and co-workers, ceanothine-B (7) exhibited binding with  $Mg^{2+}$ , Ca<sup>2+</sup>, and Li<sup>+</sup> but not Na<sup>+</sup>. Therefore, cyclopeptide alkaloids may function as ionophores in plants. $121$ 

Andreo and Vallejos discovered that discarine-B (**22**) is a specific inhibitor of energy transfer in spinach chloroplasts while discarine-A  $(21)$  behaves as a mixed-type inhibitor.<sup>118</sup> Four years later, they reported the further works of photophosphorylation in isolated spinach chloroplasts, which was inhibited by 21 cyclopeptide alkaloids. Scutianine-A (**39**), adouetine-Z (**84**), amphibines-B (**97**), -C (**98**), and -D (**99**), and zizyphines-A (**156**) and -B (**157**) inhibited the coupled but not the uncoupled electron transport. The other alkaloids stimulated nonphosphorylating electron flow, behaving like uncouplers. Lasiodine-A (**1**), aralionine-A (**60**), and mucronine-B (**180**) were the strongest inhibitors and uncouplers. **1** stimulated by several times the light-induced proton uptake by chloroplasts. All of the cyclopeptide alkaloids assayed inhibited photophosporylation. Some of them specifically affected ATP synthesis while others behaved like uncouplers. Cyclopeptide alkaloids may become useful tools in the study of energy conservation in chloroplasts. The sensitivity of the photosynthetic energy conservation machinery to cyclopeptide alkaloids may be related to their still unknown biological role in plants.4,120

#### 11.2.2. Biological Functions of Cyclotides

Recent reports have shown that cyclotides act as insecticidal345 and antimicrobial agents,344,346 implying a role in the plant's defense system. On the basis of tissue-specific expression of cyclotides in *Viola* species, Craik and coworkers proposed that cyclotides might be regarded as a new family of plant defense peptides.<sup>328</sup> On the basis of the observation of haemolytic activity for kalata B1 (**424**) and circulin B (**412**), the same group proposed that the natural

function of these molecules might involve a defense mechanism for the plants.343

#### **12. Perspectives and Concluding Remarks**

In this review, we have systematically described the progress in the chemistry and biology of cyclopeptides discovered from higher plants during the past 120 years, especially the recent half century. Since Clinch noted the presence of alkaloids in *Ceanothus americanus* (Rhamnaceae) in 1884 and Kaufmann et al. isolated cyclolinopeptide A (CLA, **295**) from *Linum usitatissimum* (linseed oil, Linaceae) and determined its structure in 1959, exploration of plant cyclopeptides by human beings has not stopped. It is noteworthy that some important discoveries and breakthroughs on plant cyclopeptides have been acquired during the past decade. On the basis of the recent known understanding of plant cyclopeptides, we preliminarily infer that cyclotides (type VIII) with 28-37 amino acids are gene products and other cyclopeptides (types I, II, III, IV, V, VI, and VII) may be not gene products. The sequence of cyclotides is encoded by DNA, and thus, we think that cyclotides may be the preliminary metabolites in plants which are derived from the processing of a larger precursor protein. Other types of cyclopeptides with  $2-14$  amino acids may be synthesized through a multienzyme pathway *in vivo*, which may be the secondary metabolites in plants. We believe that some significant accomplishments in the study of both the chemistry and biology of cyclopeptides from higher plants will continue to be made, especially new cyclopeptide discoveries. Despite this fact, important biological functions, potential biological activity, efficient synthesis methods, and further configuration and conformation studies of plant cyclopeptides remain to be valuably explored in the future. Just recently, Craik said that "there is no end in sight" in the field of plant cyclopeptides.

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#### **14. Abbreviations**





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