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Letter to the Editor

Chemical shift assignments of *Leishmania mexicana* ICP, a novel cysteine peptidase inhibitor

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The ICP family of cysteine peptidase (CP) inhibitors (founder: chagasin) share no sequence similarity with known CP inhibitors e.g. the cystatins. ICPs are the first CP inhibitors to be identified in prokaryotes. ICPs inhibit clan CA family C1 CPs with K_is in the sub-nM range. The role of the ICPs remains uncertain: in the protozoan species where they were first discovered they may have a protective role against endogenous CPs such as cruzain and CPB, or they may be directed against host CPs (Besteiro et al., 2004). The discovery of an ICP in the prokaryote *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, whose genome contains no clan CA family C1 CP genes, supports the latter hypothesis (Sanderson et al., 2003). All *L.mexicana* ICP polypeptide backbone resonances were assigned, with the exception of the N-terminal amides of the two fragments (residues −2 and 6). Assignment of non-labile amino acid sidechain positions is essentially complete. Assignments deposited with the BMRB accession number 6794.

References; Besteiro et al. (2004) *Mol. Microbiol.*, **54**, 1224–1236; Sanderson et al. (2003) *FEBS Lett.*, **542**, 12–16

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Supplementary material is available in electronic format at http://dx.dio.org/10.1007/10858-005-4739-8.