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Nikolaos Mourtzis^a; Kyriaki Eliadou^a; Konstantina Yannakopoulou^a

^a Institute of Physical Chemistry, National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos", Athens, Greece

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Influence of Host's Substitution on the Orientation of the Guest: Pseudo-rotaxanes of Charged Cyclodextrins with Methyl Orange in Solution

NIKOLAOS MOURTZIS, KYRIAKI ELIADOU and KONSTANTINA YANNAKOPOULOU*

Institute of Physical Chemistry, National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos", Aghia Paraskevi 15310, Athens, Greece

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Methyl Orange (MO), an azo-dye molecule with an inherent dipole moment, has been used as a probe to explore the influence of anionic or cationic substituents of cyclodextrins (CDs) on the mode of insertion to form pseudorotaxanes, using NMR spectroscopy. MO is oriented in a single mode inside the β CD cavity, with the dimethylamino group localized at the secondary side. This orientation is completely reversed when MO enters the anionic sodium *heptakis*[6-deoxy-6-(3-thiopropionate)]- β CD (β psp) cavity, whereas inside the cationic *heptakis*(6-deoxy-6-amino)- β CD hydrochloride, MO flips once more, to adopt the same orientation as in β CD. In the latter case the water solubility of MO is significantly lowered. The disposition of the guest in β CD and in each β CD derivative in a single mode was attributed principally to anti-parallel dipole–dipole stabilization. In the wider γ CD, the availability of more cavity space leads to 1:2 and 2:2 host/guest stoichiometries and the effect of dipoles is of secondary significance. In the anionic sodium *octakis*[6-deoxy-6-(3-thiopropionate)]- γ CD, MO is positioned as in β psp, but a 1:2 adduct is also detected. Finally, MO does not dissolve in *octakis*(6-deoxy-6-amino)- γ CD hydrochloride solution.

Keywords: 2D NMR; Methyl orange; Anionic–cationic cyclodextrin; Anti-parallel dipoles

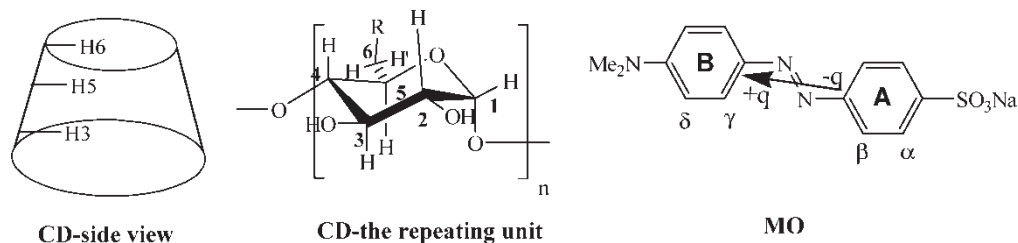
INTRODUCTION

The features that influence the structures of cyclodextrin (CD) [1] pseudorotaxanes in the solution using NMR spectroscopy and in the solid state using X-ray crystallography have been a subject of study in our laboratory [2–5]. Of particular interest has been the investigation of CD pseudorotaxanes with conjugated end-disubstituted guest molecules [6]. In the present work,

a non-symmetrically end-disubstituted conjugated molecule, methyl orange (MO), is studied as the insert in natural CD cavities (Scheme 1) as well as in synthetically modified CDs bearing either anionic or cationic groups on their primary (narrow) side. The guest molecule has the additional characteristic of possessing an overall dipole moment along its extended axis [7]. Our point of interest was to investigate whether the charge on the host can dictate the orientation of MO inside the cavity.

MO ($pK_a = 3.4$) is a common azo-dye indicator molecule known to form inclusion complexes with CDs, as studied previously mainly by spectrophotometric methods. In the crystalline state [8] the 2:1 host–guest complex formed with α CD, was characterized by high disorder of the guest. In solution, using UV–Vis spectroscopy, the α CD/MO complex has been regarded as a 1:1 species alone [9,10] or in coexistence with the 2:1 adduct [11]. Based on kinetic measurements, other researchers [12] have suggested that MO is included in α CD with its $-\text{SO}_3^-$ group exiting the primary side. No 2D NMR data exist to describe the structure in solution. With β CD, there seems to be an agreement that only the 1:1 complex is present, [9–11,13] however, no NMR data exist to unequivocally describe the orientation of MO, either. Finally, γ CD is generally accepted to form a strong 1:2 host–guest complex, [9,11,14] and detailed kinetics support a mechanism [14] where a weak 1:1 complex slowly draws up a second MO molecule to become a 1:2 adduct, which eventually develops into a 2:2 species by threading one more γ CD molecule. Again, structural evidence from NMR data is not available.

*Corresponding author. E-mail: dyanna@chem.demokritos.gr



SCHEME 1 General structure of the cyclodextrin hosts (β CD:R = OH, $n = 7$; γ CD:R = OH, $n = 8$; β psp:R = $\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COONa}$, $n = 7$; γ psp:R = $\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COONa}$, $n = 8$; β pNH₂:R = NH₂, $n = 7$; γ pNH₂:R = NH₂, $n = 8$) and methyl orange (MO).

We focused on using NMR spectroscopy in aqueous solution to determine the structures of the complexes between MO and β - and γ CD, as well as the anionic CDs, sodium *heptakis*[6-deoxy-6-(3-thiopropionate)]- β CD (β psp), and sodium *octakis*[6-deoxy-6-(3-thiopropionate)]- γ CD (γ psp) and cationic, *heptakis*(6-amino-6-deoxy)- β CD hydrochloride (β pNH₂) and *octakis*(6-amino-6-deoxy)- γ CD hydrochloride (γ pNH₂). We anticipated that the different charges on the host and the direction of their associated dipole would influence the orientation of the guest.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The NMR experiments were conducted at pH 7.3, where the natural CDs are not charged (pK_a of α CD is 12.3) [15] and MO and β psp, γ psp exist as the corresponding sodium salts. The experiments with per-amino cyclodextrins, β pNH₂ and γ pNH₂, were carried out at pH 6.0 where they are mostly protonated [16]. Preliminary investigation of the ¹H NMR spectra of α CD/MO revealed very broad signals of both guest and host protons at room temperature, not much influenced by changing the temperature from 278 K to 313 K. We chose, therefore, not to pursue α CD/MO further since clear and detailed data could be collected from complexes of β - and γ -CD and their derivatives, which all fell within the fast exchange condition.

β CD/MO COMPLEX

2D ROESY NMR experiments of β CD/MO, gave a clear picture of the non-covalent interactions between host and guest molecules. The N-methyl protons of MO show (Fig. 1a) very strong correlation with the cavity protons H3 only, immediately showing that this group is positioned at the secondary side of the host.

Similarly, protons H₈ of ring B (Fig. 1b) display very strong interaction with H3 and very weak with H5, supporting the above orientation.

In line with these, protons H_γ show a weaker cross-peak with H3 than with H5, but nothing with H6,6', indicating that these protons approach the primary side but are located below the primary rim. Protons H_β and H_α of ring A of MO give a very strong and a very weak correlation, respectively, with H6,6' only. The above data is consistent with an unambiguous orientation of MO inside the β CD cavity: the NMe₂ group is at the secondary face, ring B is completely inside, the azo-bridge is also inside but toward the primary face, and ring A is completely outside the primary side in the aqueous medium (Scheme 2a).

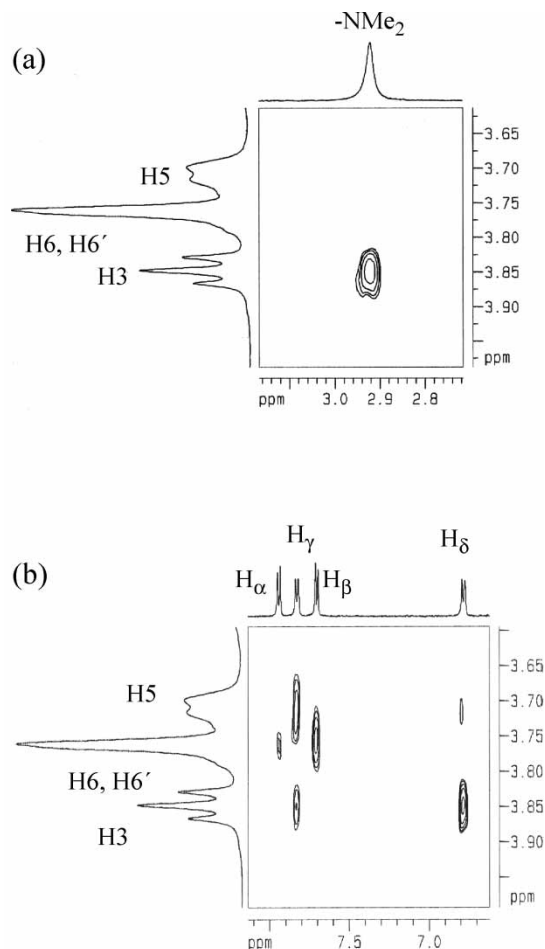
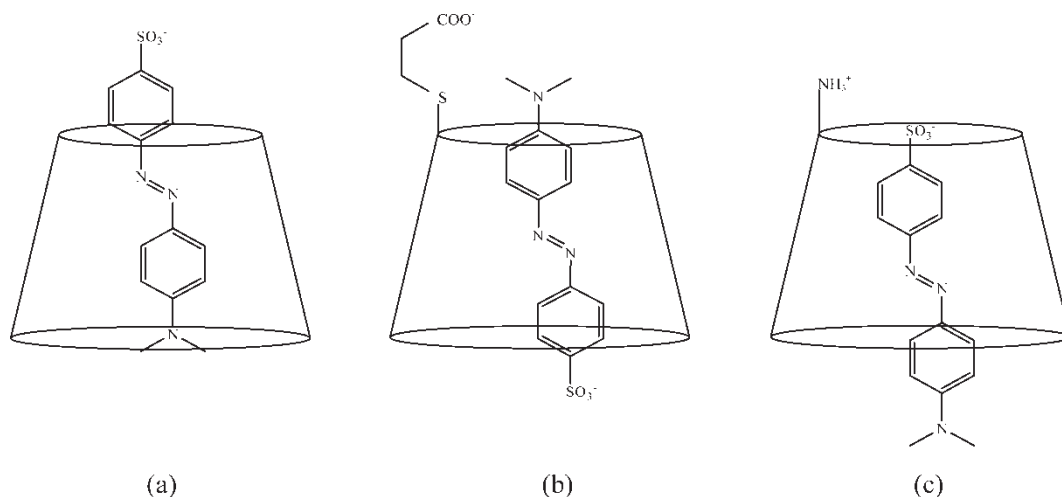


FIGURE 1 2D ROESY spectrum of the β CD/MO complex (pH = 7.3, 298 K), (a) aliphatic and (b) aromatic region.



SCHEME 2 Proposed structures of (a) β CD/MO, (b) β sp/MO, (c) β pNH₂/MO.

When excess MO was used, there was no evidence for dimerisation of the guest, unlike Congo Red [4] or other azo-dyes, [11] which strongly aggregate in solution. Besides, no interaction between the NMe₂ group and protons H_α–H_γ was found, no dependence of the ¹H NMR chemical shifts of MO on its concentration (0.3 mM to 3.0 mM), and no evidence for 2:1 host/guest complex, even at concentration ratio 12 mM/3 mM. The observed structure in solution is due to a single complex, that is, unlike previous examples of aliphatic end-disubstituted guests, [2] MO has a unique direction inside β CD and no orientational isomerism is observed. A possible stabilization of the $-\text{SO}_3^-$ group of the guest, through extensive hydration from the aqueous medium explains only why one MO ring is included, resulting in a complex rather than a pseudorotaxane. What seems to be of definite importance is that the guest orients itself inside the cavity with its dipole moment anti-parallel to that of β CD. We have previously demonstrated [17] by semi-empirical MO calculations that β CD has a dipole moment directed from the secondary towards the primary side, the value of which varies from 2.9 Debye to 14.9 Debye, depending upon the orientation of the primary hydroxyl groups relative to the cavity axis. Earlier computational work has shown [18] that aromatic guests should enter the CD cavity with their dipole moment anti-parallel to that of cyclodextrins. Screening of several of the published crystal structures of 1:1 β CD complexes confirms that host-guest anti-parallel dipoles are found in many of them, as in β CD/*n*-nonanoic acid, [19] β CD/*trans*-cinnamic acid, [20] β CD/*t*-butyl benzoic acid, [21] β CD/*m*-nitroaniline, [22] although the strong tendency of β CD to form dimers and crystal packing forces are very important factors in the solid that do not exist in solution and may dominate over dipole considerations.

Such an example is the crystal structure of 4-amino-4'-nitrobiphenyl/ β CD, [23] where the nitro-group is located at the secondary side, but host *and* guest molecules exist as dimers, stable entities that make up the crystal. Therefore the consequence of the dipole–dipole interactions could be amplified and better assessed, if a charged host is used, such as the anionic β CD derivative, considered next.

β sp/MO COMPLEX

Sodium *heptakis*[6-deoxy-6-(3-thiopropionate)]- β CD (β sp), negatively charged at neutral pH, also forms a complex with MO. It was found that protons H_γ and H_δ of ring B show cross-peaks with H5 (Fig. 2a) and weaker with H6, H6' as well as with the $-\text{SCH}_2-$ and $-\text{CH}_2\text{COO}^-$ protons of the thiopropionate substituent (Fig. 2b). No correlation is found between β sp and protons of ring A.

Finally, the NMe₂ group shows medium interactions with H5 and $-\text{SCH}_2-$ and weak with $-\text{CH}_2\text{COO}^-$, suggesting that extension of the cavity beyond H6,6' has become useful in surrounding MO. The resulting complex is expected to have a 1:1 stoichiometry due to size restriction. The ROESY data show that the $-\text{NMe}_2$ group is outside the "normal" cavity, among the methylene arms of the primary side, ring B as well as the azo-bridge are inside the cavity but toward the secondary side, and ring A practically out in the aqueous medium. (Scheme 2b).

This positioning of MO can be easily explained if the repulsive electrostatic forces between the $-\text{SO}_3^-$ group (MO) and $-\text{COO}^-$ groups (β sp) are taken into consideration, together with the overall electrostatic stabilization through favorable anti-parallel orientation of dipoles, in agreement with the argument invoked previously. In fact, the dipole

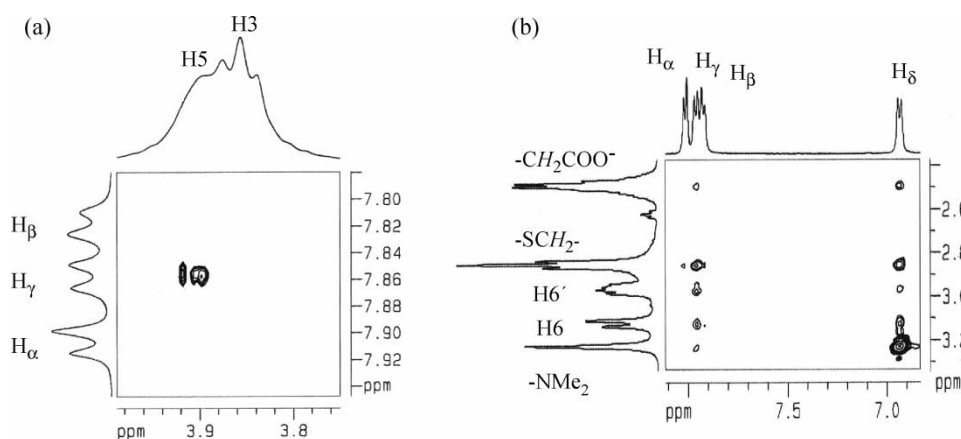


FIGURE 2 2D ROESY spectrum of the β psp/MO complex (pH = 7, 298 K) at (a) 5 mM/5 mM and (b) 10 mM/1 mM ratios.

moment of β psp was calculated (MOPAC, AM1) to be approximately -8 Debye, i.e. quite strong and opposite in direction of that of β CD. For the calculation, the thiopropionate substituents were clustered along the cavity axis, similarly to the reported X-ray structure of γ psp in a very stable drug complex [24]. The observed orientation of a charged guest, directed by the introduction of charged groups on the host's structure can be a useful tool in the design of supramolecular systems.

β pNH₂/MO

In the presence of the cationic β pNH₂ hydrochloride at pH 6 and 7, the solubility of MO was dramatically reduced to a value much lower than that of the free MO (~ 4 mM). As a consequence, the guest peaks' integrals were about 3–8% of those of the host and the corresponding 2D ROESY spectra showed weak cross-peaks. Correlation was observed (Fig. 3) between H _{α} and both cavity protons H3 and H5, whereas H _{β} and H _{γ} nearly overlapped and interacted with H3 only. No cross-peaks were observed

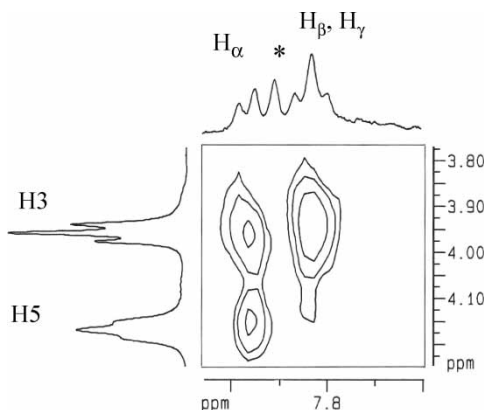


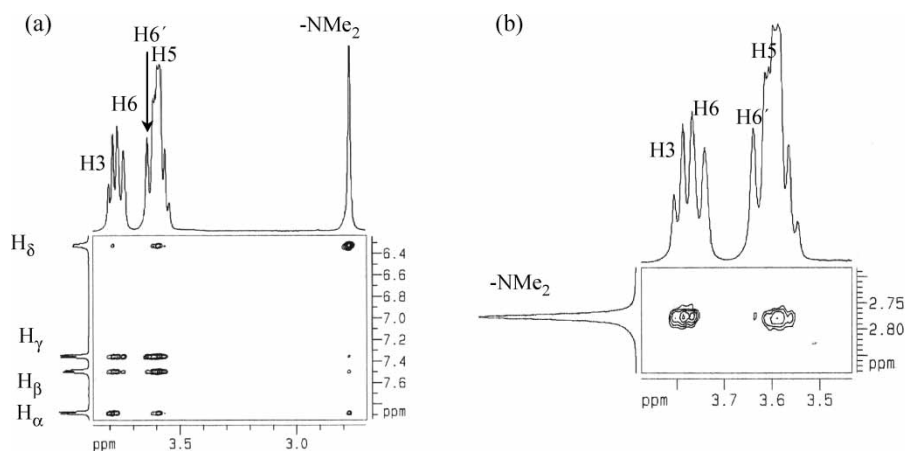
FIGURE 3 2D ROESY spectrum of the β pNH₂/MO complex (pH = 6, 298 K), *unremovable Ph₃PO impurity.

between H _{δ} , NMe₂ and protons of β pNH₂. This weak but definite data show that the small amount of MO that is retained in solution has its ring A inside the β pNH₂ cavity with the sulphonate group at the periphery of the amino-groups, which leaves the aromatic ring B completely outside the secondary face. Therefore, the orientation of MO is reversed compared to β psp, and is similar to that in β CD but here ring A is included as opposed to ring B. The very small solubility of MO in the aqueous solution of β pNH₂ observed in the present case is reminiscent of the precipitation of proteins by the addition of amine salts in their solution.

γ CD/MO COMPLEX

When MO was added to an aqueous solution of γ CD significant shifts of the cavity protons were observed, a clear indication of inclusion, as expected. Surprisingly, H6 and H6' appeared at different chemical shifts with gradual increase of MO concentration, indicating that there is a clear preference regarding their direction relative to the cavity. The 2D ROESY NMR spectra (Fig. 4) show that protons H _{α} interact strongly with H3 and moderately with H5, showing that they are inside the cavity and close to the secondary side. Both protons H _{β} and H _{γ} show strong correlation with H3 and H5 and medium with H6 and H6', which is unexpected for a 1:1 complex. Moreover, protons H _{δ} have weak correlation with H3 and stronger with H5. Lastly, the $-$ NMe₂ protons interact with both H3, H5 of γ CD (Fig. 4b) but also with H _{α} and H _{β} of ring A (Fig. 4a), clearly a result of dimerisation of MO inside the cavity.

If a head-to-tail π - π -stacking arrangement occurred we would observe cross-peaks among aromatic protons of rings A and B, [4] at concentrations as high as 30 mM or above but there are no such signals. This obvious host-guest 1:2 stoichiometry is not the only one present. In the continuous

FIGURE 4 2D ROESY spectrum of the γ CD/MO complex (pH = 7, 298 K).

variation plots (Fig. 5a) of the three relevant γ CD protons, the chemical shift changes of H3 give a maximum at a ratio $[\gamma\text{CD}]/[\text{MO}] = 1:2$ and those of H5, H6' at 1:1. The corresponding plot for the MO protons (Fig. 5b) has a maximum at 1:1 ratio for H_{α} , whereas for H_{β} – H_{δ} and $-\text{NMe}_2$ it shows a mixed stoichiometry between 1:1 and 1:2.

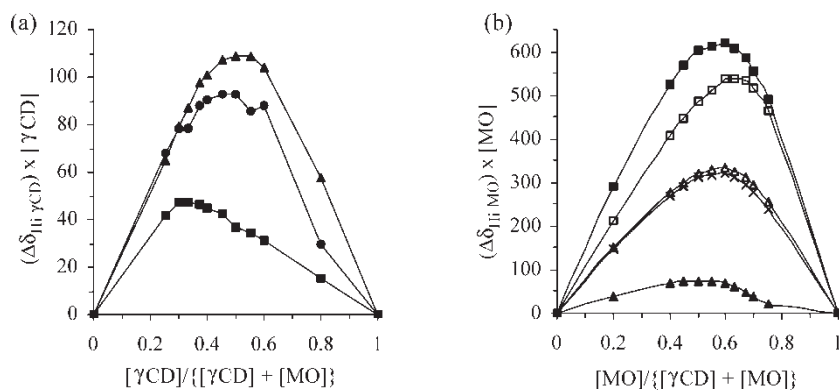
Similarly the plateau in the titration plot appears at $[\gamma\text{CD}]/[\text{MO}]$ ratio greater than 1:1 for H3 and exactly at 1:1 for H6' (Fig. 6). Based on all available data we propose that the first MO molecule is placed with the $-\text{NMe}_2$ group completely outside the primary side and the azo-linkage and ring A directed to the secondary side. The second MO molecule adopts a head-to-tail orientation with respect to the first one, with its $-\text{NMe}_2$ end inside the cavity, allowing the methyl protons to interact with H_{α} and H_{β} of the first MO, thus the rest of the second MO molecule remains outside (Scheme 3a).

Considering the size of the host and the length of the guest, in combination with the predominant 1:2 structure of Scheme 3a, additional complexation of a second γ CD ring to afford a 2:2 structure is visualized in Scheme 3b. This would nicely correspond to the Job plot data regarding the 1:1

ratio and would account for the non-uniform behavior of the protons in the titration and the observed NOE correlations. Besides, kinetic measurements have shown previously [14] the 1:2 and 2:2 stoichiometry for this system.

γ psp/MO COMPLEX

Similar experiments were carried out with the *octakis*[6-deoxy-6-(3-thiopropionate)]- γ CD (γ psp). As with β psp, here also chemical shift changes of the thiopropionate chain protons were observed, in addition to those of cavity protons H3, H5, and H6'. A line broadening effect disturbed both the host and the guest signals at room temperature resulting in poor spectral resolution. Cooling at 283 K increased the broadening of peaks. Therefore all experiments were conducted at 313 K, where the signals of H_{γ} and H_{δ} were broad singlets and those of H_{α} and H_{β} relatively sharp doublets. The corresponding continuous variation plots showed a nearly 1:1 stoichiometry, when observing the γ psp shifts (Fig. 7a) and protons of ring A, whereas protons of ring B showed a host:guest ratio nearly 1:2 (Fig. 7b).

FIGURE 5 Continuous variation plots for the γ CD/MO complex [(a) \blacksquare : H3, \blacktriangle : H5, \bullet : H6', (b) \blacktriangle : H_{α} , Δ : H_{β} , \square : H_{γ} , \blacksquare : H_{δ} , \times : $-\text{NMe}_2$].

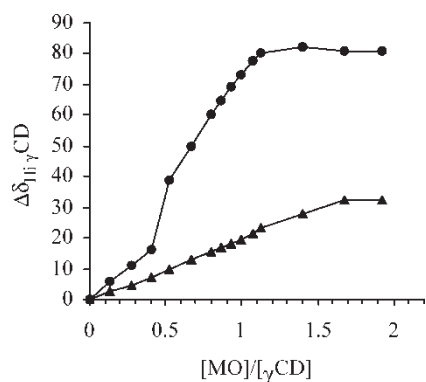


FIGURE 6 Molar ratio plot for the γ CD/MO complex (\blacktriangle : H3, \bullet : H6').

The above data indicate that the main complexation event leading to a 1:1 adduct, is followed by a second process to a 1:2 adduct mostly involving ring B of MO. The 2D ROESY interactions are generally weaker than those observed in the previous complexes, expected under the unfavorable temperature conditions (313 K) and the marginally fast rate of exchange that governs the various processes. Thus H_α protons correlate weakly only with H3. Protons H_β give a stronger cross-peak with H3 than with H5 (Fig. 8), indicating that ring A is placed at the secondary side. Protons H_γ correlate with H5, H6, H6' and $-\text{SCH}_2-$ and only weakly with H3, whereas H_δ interact with H5, H6' and $-\text{SCH}_2-$. Ring B is thus located at the primary side and beyond. Increased flexibility of the substituent arms of the larger γ psp apparently prevents the development of an observable noe effect with the $-\text{NMe}_2$ group.

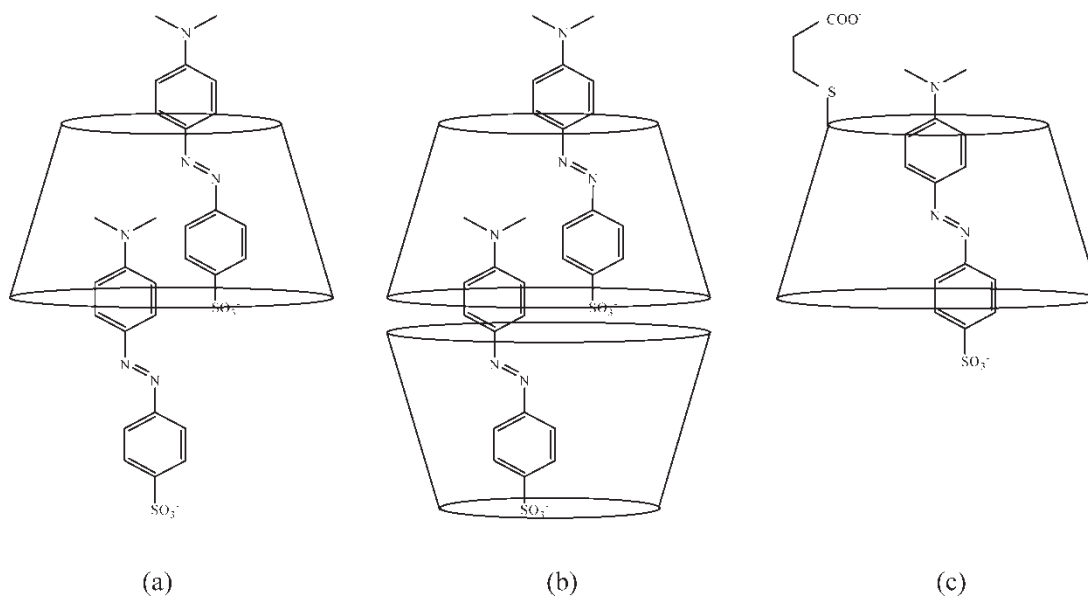
The above information sums up a picture where MO is positioned in the γ psp cavity with the dimethylamino-end at the primary side (Scheme 3c),

as in β psp. A second, practically not-included, MO molecule participates to form a 1:2 host:guest adduct, as we proposed for the γ CD 1:2 complex above. Finally, the solubility of MO in the presence of γ pNH₂ was very low and no data were collected.

EXPERIMENTAL

β CD, γ CD and Methyl Orange (MO, 96% dye content) were commercially available. Buffered aqueous solutions were prepared using Na_2HPO_4 and NaH_2PO_4 in D_2O to maintain pH 6 (β pNH₂-HCl), 7 (β psp, γ CD, γ psp and γ pNH₂-HCl) or 7.3 (β CD). The NMR spectra were recorded on 500 MHz instrument at 298 K (β CD, β psp, β pNH₂, γ CD and γ pNH₂) or 313 K (γ psp). For the 2D ROESY NMR spectra 300–350 ms mixing times were used at transmitter attenuation of ~ 30 dB using β CD, γ CD, β psp, γ psp, β pNH₂ and γ pNH₂ solutions of [host]/[guest] 2:4, 30:26, 5:5 (and 10:1), 10:10, 5:5 and 2:2 mM, respectively, were used. Titrations were carried out by adding solid MO to a 30 mM solution of γ CD in buffered D_2O . For the continuous variation plots solutions of 4 mM in each γ CD and MO were mixed to create ten solutions with proportions from 80% to 25% for γ CD and 20% to 75% MO, respectively.

Heptakis(6-deoxy-6-amino)- β CD hydrochloride (β pNH₂), and *octakis*(6-deoxy-6-amino)- γ CD hydrochloride (γ pNH₂), were prepared according to the literature [25,26]. Thus the per-bromo derivatives were prepared from the parent β CD and γ CD in 96% and 80% yield, respectively. Then the corresponding per-azido derivatives were prepared in 98% and 64% yield, respectively which were reduced to β pNH₂ (78%)



SCHEME 3 Proposed structures of (a) γ CD/MO 1:2, (b) γ psp/MO 2:2, (c) γ psp/MO.

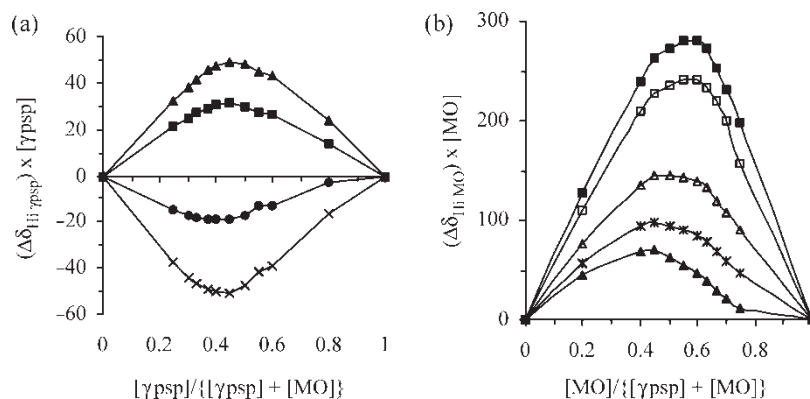


FIGURE 7 Continuous variation plots for the γ psp/MO complex [(a) \blacksquare : H3, \blacktriangle : H5, \bullet : H6', \times : $-\text{CH}_2\text{S}-$, (b) \blacktriangle : H_α , Δ : H_β , \square : H_γ , \blacksquare : H_δ , \times : $-\text{NMe}_2$].

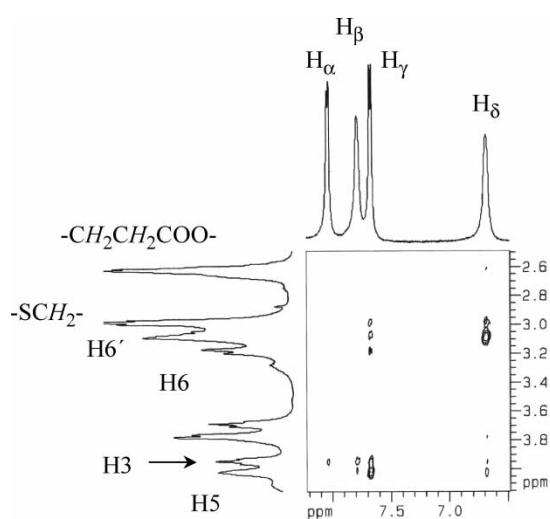


FIGURE 8 2D ROESY spectrum of the γ psp/MO complex (pH = 7,313 K).

and γpNH_2 (80%). Sodium heptakis[6-deoxy-6-(3-thiopropionate)]- β CD (β psp) and sodium octakis[6-deoxy-6-(3-thiopropionate)]- γ CD (γ psp) were synthesized as reported [27] and dialyzed to afford pure β psp (57%) and γ psp (73%). Their ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR and ESI-MS data agreed with literature data.

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