

Exploring reversible reactions between CO₂ and amines

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Abstract—The ‘old’ chemistry between CO₂ and primary alkylamines has been revisited. Amines **1** and **2**, with appended aromatic fluorophores, reversibly reacted with CO₂ in polar aprotic solvent (e.g. DMSO, DMF) with the formation of carbamic acids **3** and **4**. As a result, strong fluorescence occurred, thus directly reporting on the CO₂ entrapment. Carbamic acids were studied by ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy in DMSO-*d*₆. The carbamate bond, despite being covalent, is reversible and can be broken upon heating or simply flashing solutions with inert gases. Synthesis and evaluation of a CO₂-sensing amino acid- α -naphthylglycine **7** is also reported for potential CO₂ monitoring under biorelevant conditions in aqueous solutions.

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1. Introduction

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the major greenhouse gas.¹ It constantly circulates in the environment through a variety of processes known as the carbon cycle. Both volcanic eruptions and the decay of plants and animals release CO₂ into the atmosphere.

Oceans, lakes, and rivers absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere. Through photosynthesis, plants collect CO₂ and use it to make their own food, in the process incorporating carbon into new plant tissues and releasing oxygen to the environment as a byproduct. Upon burning of fossil fuels, oil, coal, and natural gas, and wood, huge amounts of CO₂ are released into the air. As a result of these activities, CO₂ in the atmosphere is accumulating faster than the Earth's

natural processes can absorb this gas. The CO₂ levels in the atmosphere have risen by 31% over the last 250 years and these concentrations may double or even triple in the next century. Extensive CO₂ circulation in atmosphere, biological systems, industry and agriculture necessitates the development of novel methods of CO₂ monitoring. Another important and still unresolved issue is chemical fixation of CO₂.^{2,3}

CO₂ is generally an unreactive molecule, but it does combine rapidly with amines at ordinary temperatures and pressures to form carbamates. The chemistry between CO₂ and amines is essentially an acid–base equilibrium (Fig. 1).⁴ Two molecules of an amine, in presence of CO₂, react to form a carbamic salt, presumably by way of the corresponding carbamic acid. Carbamate anions can be further

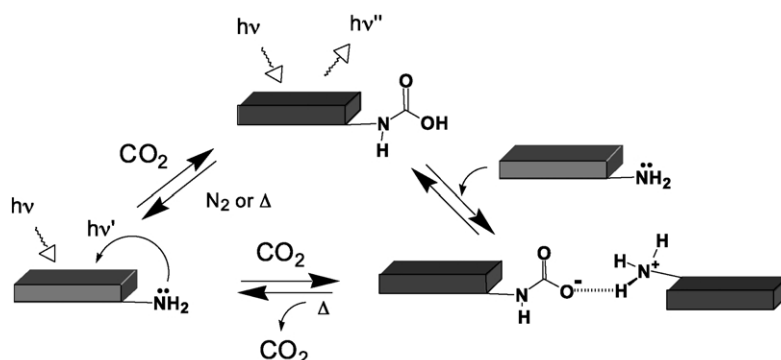


Figure 1. Reversible covalent chemistry between CO₂ and amines.

Keywords: amines; amino acids; carbon dioxide fixation; fluorescence.

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converted to isocyanates⁵ or may react with alkyl halides to yield urethanes,^{4,6,7} thus providing an alternative synthetic equivalent to highly toxic phosgene. Furthermore, carbamates are thermally unstable and release CO₂ upon heating. This can be useful under several circumstances. Polymer-bound amines are employed in industry as reusable 'CO₂ scrubbers,' removing CO₂ from industrial exhaust streams.^{8,9} By reacting with amino groups, CO₂ is absorbed into solutions of an amine or an amine-containing ionic liquid.¹⁰ This method has also been extended to use of multiple amine-containing dendrimers.¹¹ Exposure of solutions of some long-chain alkyl amines to CO₂ results in the reversible formation of organogels.¹² Thermally reversible carbamate chemistry has been recently employed for molecular imprinting of polymers.¹³

Chemical reactions between CO₂ and amines have also been employed for the gas sensing.^{14–16} This is for a good reason. Although CO₂ sensing and environmental monitoring is well documented,^{17,18} many significant problems remain. One of them is a direct detection. Others¹⁵ and we¹⁶ recently demonstrated the ability of some amines to function as direct and reusable, fluorescent CO₂ sensors (Fig. 1). In this paper, we disclose the chemistry behind these processes and identify the corresponding carbamic acids as the species causing the fluorescence. We provide NMR spectroscopic evidence of the formation of free (!) carbamic acid as an observable intermediate in carbamate formation. Finally, we report on the synthesis and evaluation of CO₂-sensing amino acids for potential use in biocompatible environments. Taken together, our results open more possibilities to detect and chemically utilize CO₂.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. UV–vis and fluorescent spectroscopy

Primary amines **1** and **2**, used in this work, possess naphthalene and pyrene fluorophores, respectively, separated from the NH₂ group by a methylene unit. Bubbling CO₂ for 1–2 h through solutions of 1-(aminomethyl)naphthalene

1 or 1-(aminomethyl)pyrene **2** in polar aprotic solvents such as DMSO and DMF did not affect their UV–vis characteristics, but resulted in dramatic changes in their fluorescence emissions. Specifically, upon excitation of **1** at $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=282$ nm, the fluorescence emission at $\lambda_{\text{em}}=334$ nm in DMF increased by more than 10 times (Fig. 2A). The fluorescence at $\lambda_{\text{em}}=408$ nm of pyrene derivative **2** in DMF increased similarly, at $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=341$ nm (Fig. 2B).

We found, that the species responsible for the observed fluorescence are the corresponding carbamic acids **3** and **4**. Free amines **1** and **2** only weakly emit fluorescence under ambient conditions. This is due to photo-induced electron transfer (PET) quenching of the excited fluorophore by the intramolecular amino group lone pair. Upon reaction of dissolved CO₂ with amines **1** and **2**, carbamic acids **3** and **4** are formed. PET quenching no longer takes place: the lone pair of electrons on the nitrogen atom is now involved in a conjugation with the carbonyl oxygen. This leads to an overall increase in observed fluorescence. PET of this type is known and has been exploited for pH sensing.¹⁹ In fluorescent pH sensors, protonation of the amine in acidic solutions prevents intramolecular PET from occurring. Bubbling N₂ through solutions of **3** and **4** resulted in loss of fluorescence.

2.2. NMR spectroscopy

Reactions, involving amines **1**, **2**, and CO₂, were then monitored in the NMR tube in DMSO-*d*₆. The solvent was first purged with dried N₂ before addition of amines. In the presence of dissolved CO₂ (10–15 equiv.), **1** and **2** cleanly and quantitatively reacted to form the corresponding carbamic acids **3** and **4**. These appeared to be reasonably stable and can be studied by ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy (Figs. 3 and 4).

Specifically, prior to CO₂ exposure, benzylic protons of **1** and **2** were seen as singlets at 4.19 and 4.46 ppm, respectively. After CO₂ bubbling, these were transformed into doublets (*J*=6.0 Hz) at 4.63 and 4.91 ppm, respectively. In both cases, a very broad signal appeared at

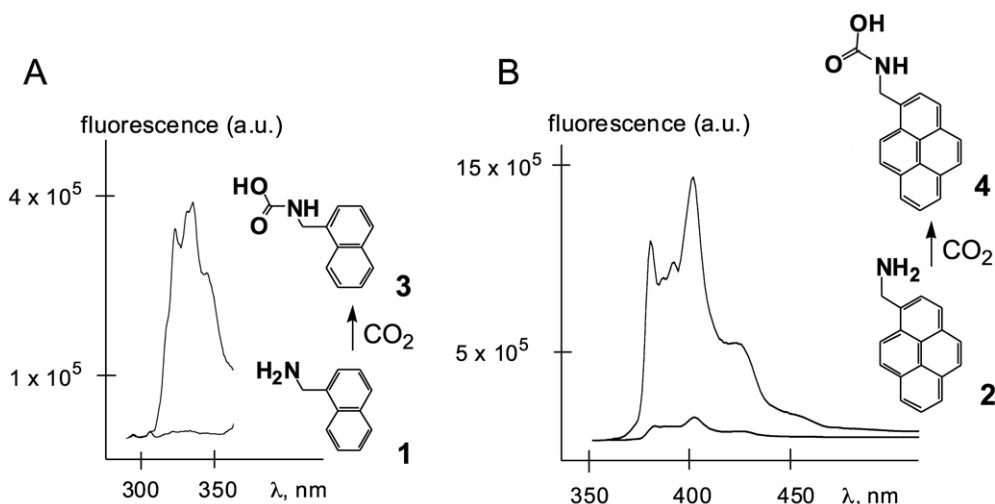


Figure 2. Fluorescence measurements (DMF, 295±1 K) before and after saturation with CO₂ with: (A) aminomethylnaphthalene **1**, $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=282$ nm; (B) aminomethylpyrene **2**, $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=341$ nm. All solutions were deoxygenated with N₂ prior measurements. [1]=[2]=10⁻⁶ M.

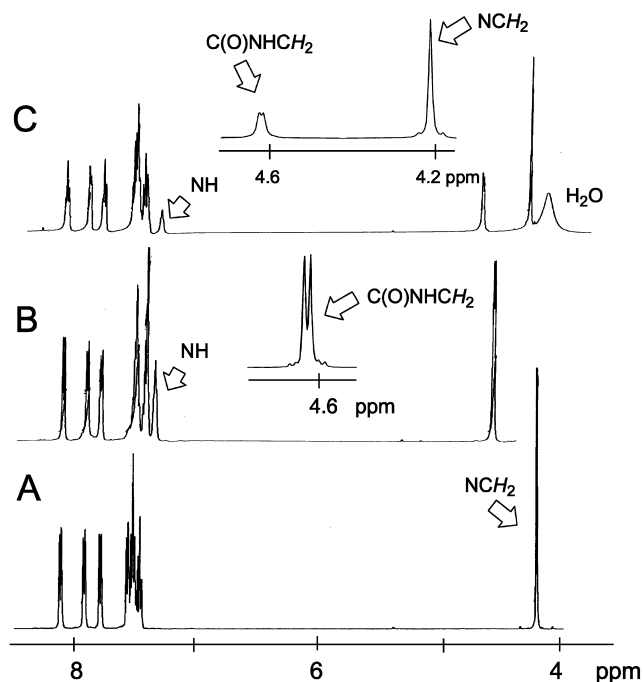


Figure 3. CO₂ induced spectral changes of aminomethylnaphthalene **1**. ¹H NMR spectra (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 295 K) of: (A) **1**; (B) **1** after saturation with CO₂; formation of carbamic acid **3**; (C) independently prepared carbamate salt **5**. The NH and benzylic CH₂ signals are marked. The initial solutions were deoxygenated with dried N₂ prior measurements.

~10.6 ppm, which was assigned to the C(O)OH. The carbamate NH signals also emerged as triplets ($J=6.0$ Hz) at 7.37 and 7.54 ppm, respectively. Furthermore, resonances at ~158 ppm in the ¹³C NMR spectra of **3** and **4** identified the carbamic (C=O) carbon atom.

Bubbling N₂ through these solutions resulted in loss of CO₂ from some carbamic acid molecules to form the free amines **1** or **2**, which then quickly abstracted a proton from remaining carbamic acid. Alkylammonium carbamic salts **5** and **6** partially precipitated from solution. Further CO₂ loss cannot be achieved by prolonged bubbling of N₂, but the carbamic salts can lose CO₂ at elevated temperatures to reform the amines **1** and **2**, and this was in fact achieved by brief reflux in toluene.

The identities of the precipitated salts were confirmed by comparison to separately prepared samples of the salts **5** and **6** (Fig. 5). These samples were prepared by bubbling CO₂ through solutions of **1** and **2** in a less polar solvent such as CHCl₃ or MeCN. ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and CHN elemental analysis confirmed the structure and composition of the salts **5** and **6**. For instance, benzylic protons were seen in DMSO-*d*₆ as two separate signals in their ¹H spectra: a singlet at 4.22 and a doublet at 4.62 ppm ($J=5.5$ Hz) for **5**, and a singlet at 4.48 and a doublet at 4.90 ppm ($J=5.5$ Hz) for **6**. The carbamate NH signals were seen as triplets ($J=5.5$ Hz) at 7.32 and 7.53 ppm, respectively. A resonance at 158 ppm in the ¹³C NMR spectrum of **5** identified the carbamic (C=O) carbon atom.

Carbamic acids, with NH₂C(O)OH as a simplest representative, have been the subject of considerable speculation and are still elusive. These are often suggested as intermediates

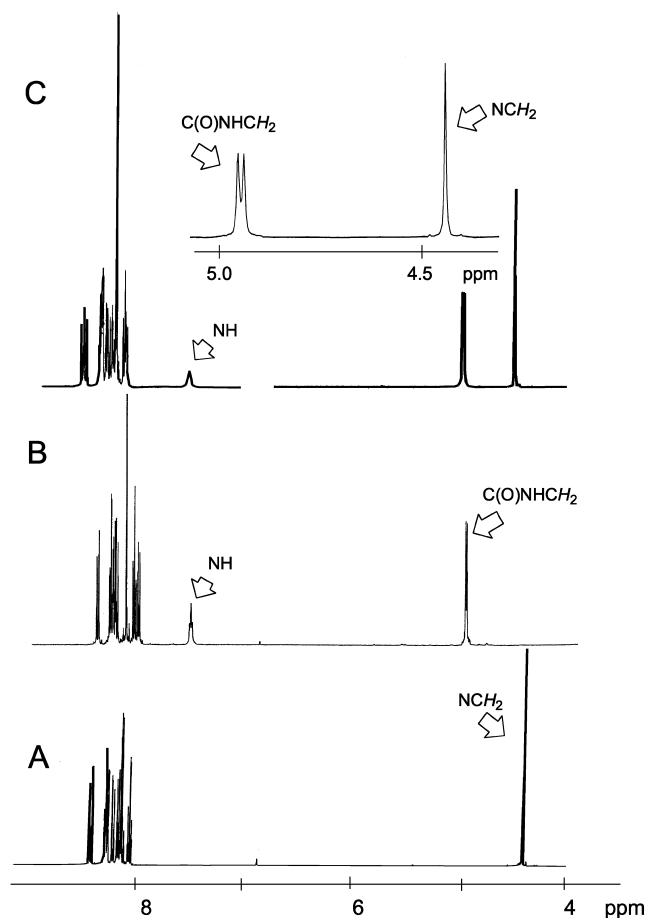


Figure 4. CO₂ induced spectral changes of aminomethylpyrene **2**. ¹H NMR spectra (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 295 K) of: (A) **2**; (B) **2** after saturation with CO₂; formation of carbamic acid **4**; (C) independently prepared carbamate salt **6**. The NH and benzylic CH₂ signals are marked. The initial solutions were deoxygenated with dried N₂ prior measurements.

in the decomposition of carbamates, hydrolysis of isocyanates, in the Hofmann and Curtius rearrangements. There is little direct evidence, however, to support this. Up to now, carbamic acids were thought to be highly unstable and have only been observed by somewhat unconventional methods. Composite ices of NH₃, H₂O, and CO₂ have been studied by IR, suggesting the formation of carbamic acid upon irradiation with a 1 MeV proton source.²⁰ Several protonated carbamic acids have been characterized by Olah and co-workers under superacidic conditions.²¹ In a spectacular case, the solid-state structure of dibenzylamine carbamic acid was published.²² However in solution, prior

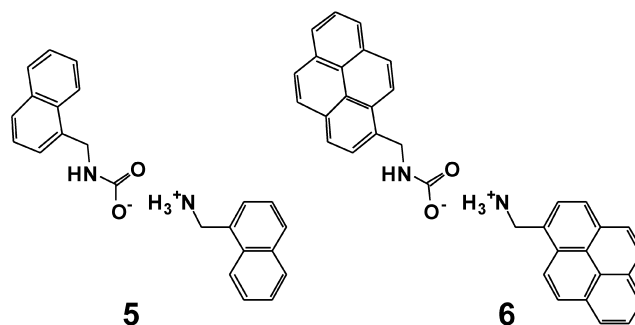


Figure 5. Carbamic salts **5** and **6**.

to our studies, no free carbamic acids had been observed. Chemistry of carbamic acids is important, since they may form in biological systems in presence of CO₂. Our results indicate that facile atmospheric control can allow the observation and study of carbamic acids using conventional spectroscopic techniques such as NMR and fluorescence spectroscopy.

2.3. A CO₂-sensing amino acid

For potential application in sensing, receptor molecules must not only be preparatively available, but also readily immobilizable on other (macro)molecules, solid supports, or surfaces. Importantly, they should also be properly configured to sufficiently respond to the presence of an analyte. Existing literature protocols on synthesis of naphthalenes and pyrenes, containing two or more functional groups, typically require many steps and are time-consuming. Aminomethyl naphthalenes and pyrenes containing other functional fragments are not known. Following the natural strategy to employ amino acids as universal building blocks for a huge variety of proteins and enzymes, we identified α -naphthylglycine **7** (Scheme 1) as an immobilizable CO₂-sensing module. Indeed, similar to **1** and **2**, structure **7** contains aminomethyl units attached to the fluorescently active aromatic fragment. At the same time, the carboxylic groups in **7** can be effectively used for further attachments and/or incorporation into larger macrostructures. For example, it can react with commercially available polymeric supports such as chloromethyl, hydroxymethyl or aminomethyl polystyrenes, or be incorporated within the oligopeptide nanostructures.

The simplest route to α -arylglycines is through the racemic Strecker synthesis, known in the literature for over a century.²³ While racemic synthesis is both cost and time efficient, it may prove useful for future biological applications to acquire enantiomerically pure biocompatible structures, particularly if they can be used to monitor enzyme–CO₂ interactions. Modifications of the Strecker procedure employ a chiral auxiliary to induce diastereoselectivity in an intermediate. The chiral auxiliary can be further removed to yield the enantiomerically enriched amino acid. Thus, the method chosen here reflects consideration for experimental ease and a high yield of enantio-enriched products.

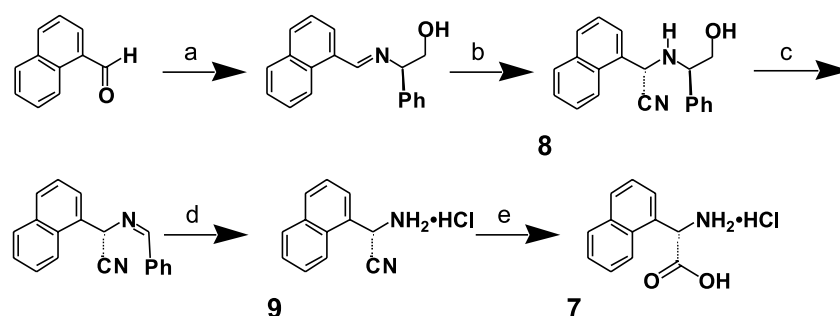
In the synthesis of **7** we initially followed the diastereoselective Strecker method (Scheme 1), recently reported by

Hosangadi and Dave.²⁴ In short, reaction of 1-naphthaldehyde with (*R*)-2-amino-2-phenylethanol in CHCl₃, followed by addition of trimethylsilylcyanide (TMSCN), generated the intermediate **8** with a diastereomeric yield [(*S,R*)-(*R,R*)] of 84:16, determined by integration of the α -methine proton in the ¹H NMR spectrum. The (*S,R*)-**8** diastereomer was further purified by successive recrystallizations from EtOAc/hexanes, 1:4. This procedure provided (*S,R*)-**8** with >98% diastereomeric purity by ¹H NMR. After oxidative cleavage of formaldehyde by Pb(OAc)₄, hydrolysis of the imine was attempted by stirring in 6 M HCl, as reported,²⁴ at rt for 1 h, followed by stirring at 90°C for 1 h. The FTIR and ¹³C NMR spectral analysis of the crude product revealed, however, that the nitrile functional group still remains. A carbon resonance at ~116 ppm was assigned for the nitrile, and the resonance for a carboxylic acid was not found. Accordingly, not acid **7**, as reported earlier,²⁴ but instead nitrile **9** was formed under these conditions. This compound was further unambiguously characterized by FTIR, ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy and CHN elemental analysis.

Obviously, while it is easy to cleave the imine, more effort is needed to hydrolyze the nitrile group. After several optimization experiments, we found that vigorous treatment of **9** with concentrated HCl in a sealed vessel for 4 h at 90°C resulted in 70% formation of 1-naphthylglycine **7** as a hydrochloric salt.

Sensing experiments, similar to those for **1** and **2**, were performed for **7** in D₂O and DMSO-*d*₆, in the presence of triethylamine (TEA). Addition of TEA effected neutralization of the hydrochloric salt of **7**, and as well prevented protonation of the amino group. Control experiments confirm that TEA does not react with CO₂ and its presence is innocuous. Upon exposure to CO₂, the fluorescent response of **7** was similar to that of **1**, showing an enhancement of monomer emission by four to five times in water or DMSO solution (Fig. 6).²⁵

When followed by ¹H NMR spectroscopy in D₂O, the α -methine signal of **7** was seen as a singlet at 5.04 ppm prior to CO₂ bubbling. After bubbling CO₂ for 5 h, the methine proton signal was shifted downfield to 5.52 ppm. In addition, the aromatic region of the spectrum totally changed (Fig. 7). These spectral data are in agreement with observations recorded for amines **1** and **2**, so at this stage we conclude that the carbamate formation definitely takes place with **7** in aqueous solution. The fate of the corresponding carbamic acid is not clear and requires more



Scheme 1. Diastereoselective Strecker synthesis of (*S*)- α -naphthylglycine **7**: (a) *R*-2-amino-2-phenylethanol, CHCl₃, rt, 4 h. (b) TMSCN, CHCl₃/MeOH, rt, 24 h, 76% (two steps). (c) Pb(OAc)₄, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 20 min. (d) 6 M HCl, rt, 1 h, 90°C, 45 min, >95% (two steps). (e) 6 M HCl, 90°C, 4 h, 70%.

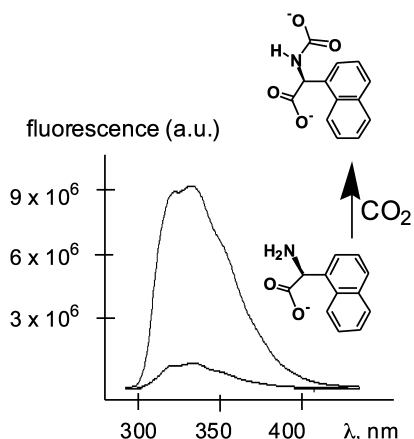


Figure 6. Fluorescence measurements with naphthylglycine **7** (4 equiv. TEA, H₂O, 295 ± 1 K) before and after saturation with CO₂. λ_{ex} = 282 nm; [7] = 10⁻⁶ M.

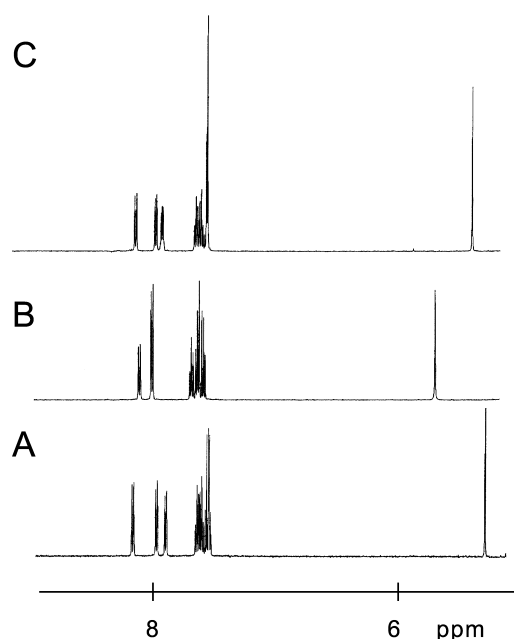


Figure 7. CO₂ induced spectral changes of naphthylglycine **7**. ¹H NMR spectra (500 MHz, D₂O, 4 equiv. TEA, 295 K) of: (A) **7**; (B) **7** after saturation with CO₂; (C) solution B after purging with N₂ at 70°C for 1 h.

detailed studies. The acidic proton is, most probably, transferred to a TEA molecule (pK_a (Et₃N⁺H) ~ 10.75), thus generating the corresponding carbamic anion (Fig. 6). This is a well-known scenario for carbamate salts formation in the presence of a base.^{4–14} Subsequent bubbling of N₂ for 3 h did not reverse the process. The amino acid **7** was however recovered by purging with N₂ at 70°C for 1 h (Fig. 7).

These experiments confirm the capability of this unnatural amino acid to form carbamates in the presence of dissolved CO₂, and as such identify **7** as a possible CO₂ sensor.²⁶

3. Conclusions and outlook

The simple chemistry between CO₂ and amines can be used to directly detect dissolved CO₂ in polar solution through

the PET quenching effect. Free carbamic acids of amines can be observed by NMR and fluorescence spectroscopy in solution. The identification and evaluation of naphthylglycine as a CO₂-sensitive module widens possibilities for working in aqueous solution with an optical response and also for immobilization and incorporation into natural nanoscaffolds.

4. Experimental

4.1. General

Melting points were determined on a Mel-Temp apparatus (Laboratory Devices, Inc.) and a Buchi apparatus and are uncorrected. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 295 ± 1 K, unless stated otherwise, on JEOL Eclipse 500 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts were measured relative to residual non-deuterated solvent resonances. FTIR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Vector 22 FTIR spectrometer. UV–vis spectra were measured on a JASCO V-530 spectrophotometer. Fluorescence studies were performed on a Jobin Yvon Fluoromax 3 spectrometer. Elemental analysis was performed on a Perkin–Elmer 2400 CHN analyzer. For column chromatography, Silica Gel 60 Å (Sorbent Technologies, Inc.; 200–425 mesh) was used. All experiments with moisture- or air-sensitive compounds were run in freshly distilled, anhydrous solvents under a dried nitrogen atmosphere.

4.1.1. Aminomethylnaphthyl carbamic acid 3. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 10.60 (bs, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.6–7.4 (m, 4H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 158.1 (C=O), 136.0, 133.8, 131.4, 129.1, 127.9, 126.7, 126.3, 126.0, 125.4, 124.0, 42.4.

4.1.2. Aminomethylpyrenyl carbamic acid 4. 1-(Aminomethyl)-pyrene hydrochloride (0.268 g, 1 mmol) was shaken in THF (15 mL) with 10% NaOH (15 mL) in a separatory funnel. The organic layer was separated, dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 8.5–8.0 (m, 9H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 158.1 (C=O), 134.0, 131.3, 130.8, 130.5, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.5, 126.9, 126.7, 125.8, 125.7, 125.3, 124.7, 124.5, 124.4, 123.6, 42.5.

4.1.3. 1-(Aminomethyl)-naphthalene ammonium carbamate 5. CO₂ gas was bubbled through a solution of 1-(aminomethyl)-naphthalene **1** (0.47 mL, 3.2 mmol) in CHCl₃ (10 mL) for 15 min. The white precipitate was filtered and dried in vacuo. Yield >95%; mp 105°C (decomp.); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 8.12 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.6–7.4 (m, 8H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 4.22 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 158.5 (C=O), 139.4, 136.3, 133.8, 131.5, 131.4, 129.0, 127.8, 127.4, 126.6, 126.5, 126.2, 126.14, 126.10, 126.0, 125.3, 125.0, 124.1, 124.0, 43.3, 42.4. Anal. calcd for C₂₃H₂₂N₂O₂·0.2H₂O: C, 76.30; H, 6.24; N, 7.74. Found: C, 76.20; H, 6.59; N, 7.76.

4.1.4. 1-(Aminomethyl)-pyrene ammonium carbamate 6. 1-(Aminomethyl)-pyrene hydrochloride (0.268 g, 1 mmol)

was shaken in THF (15 mL) with 10% NaOH (15 mL) in a separatory funnel. CO₂ was then bubbled through the organic layer for 15 min. The off-white precipitate was filtered and dried in vacuo. Yield >95%; mp 80–95°C (decomp.); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ=8.5–8.0 (m, 18H), 7.53 (t, *J*=5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (d, *J*=5.5 Hz, 2H), 4.48 (s, 2H). Anal. calcd for C₃₅H₂₆N₂O₂: C, 82.98; H, 5.17; N, 5.53. Found: C, 83.03; H, 5.47; N, 5.35.

4.1.5. (*S,R*)-2-[(2-Hydroxy-1-phenylethyl)amino]-2-(1-naphthyl)ethanenitrile **8.** A solution of 1-naphthaldehyde (1.36 mL, 10 mmol) and (*R*)-2-phenylglycinol (2.0 g, 15 mmol) in CHCl₃ (35 mL) was stirred in presence of 4 Å molecular sieves at rt in air for 4 h. The solvent was removed at reduced pressure to leave a pale-yellow oil, which was then redissolved in CHCl₃ (20 mL) and MeOH (3 mL). The solution was cooled to 0°C and trimethylsilylcyanide (2.8 mL, 20 mmol) was added slowly by syringe. The mixture was then allowed to stir for 24 h at rt. The solvents were removed at reduced pressure to afford crude **8** as a yellow oil that crystallized upon standing. The solids were recrystallized twice from EtOAc–hexanes, 1:4 (20 mL) and separated by vacuum filtration to give a shiny off-white powder (2.29 g, 76%): mp 120–122°C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ=8.85 (m, 3H), 8.7 (m, 1H), 8.4–8.6 (m, 8H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 4.35 (dd, *J*=9.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (dd, *J*=11, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (t, *J*=10 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (br s, 1H), 1.77 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 138.1, 134.0, 130.7, 130.3, 130.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.3, 126.9, 126.3, 126.0, 125.4, 123.0, 118.9, 67.0, 63.8, 50.1. Anal. calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O: C, 79.44; H, 6.00; N, 9.26. Found: C, 79.34; H, 5.94; N, 9.27.

4.1.6. (*S*)-α-1-Naphthylglycine **7.** A mixture of **8** (1.5 g, 5 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) and MeOH (10 mL) was stirred to dissolve. After cooling to 0°C, lead tetraacetate (2.22 g, 5 mmol) was added in one portion, darkening the solution from pale yellow to orange. After stirring for 20 min, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (50 mL) was added in portions with swirling. Insoluble impurities were removed by filtration over Celite and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL). The filtrate was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2×10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated at reduced pressure to leave a yellow oil, which was subjected to hydrolysis without purification. Several attempts to reproduce the published procedure²² for the hydrolysis, employing 6 M HCl at rt for 1 h, and then at 90°C for 45 min, resulted only in nitrile **9** as a hydrochloric salt. Yield >95%; mp 180°C (decomp.); ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ=8.10 (m, 3H), 7.90 (d, *J*=7 Hz, 1H), 7.7 (m, 3H), 6.52 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (D₂O): δ=133.8, 132.2, 129.5, 129.1, 128.3, 127.4, 127.3, 125.6, 124.0, 121.6, 115.6, 41.9; FT-IR (oil mull, cm⁻¹, HCl salt): ν=2364 (CN). Anal. calcd for C₁₂H₁₁N₂Cl: C, 65.90; H, 5.03; N, 12.81. Found: C, 65.98; H, 5.35; N, 12.91.

In the modified procedure, a suspension of the oil in concentrated HCl (10 mL) was stirred at 90°C in a sealed vessel. The solids dissolved at temperatures greater than 80°C and then began to precipitate as the amino acid salt began to form after ~1 h. After 4 h of stirring, the mixture was cooled to 0°C and solids were filtered and washed with small portions of cold H₂O, followed by cold ether to yield (*S*)-α-1-naphthylglycine hydrochloride **7** as a white powder

(0.828 g, 70%): mp >250°C; [α]_D²³=+155 (*c*=1.0, 1 M HCl) [lit.²⁴ [α]_D²⁰=+166 (*c*=1.0, 1 M HCl)]; ¹H NMR (D₂O, Et₃N): δ=8.18 (d, *J*=7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.9 (m, 2H), 8.55 (m, 4H), 5.04 (s, 1H); ¹H NMR ([D₆]DMSO-*d*₆, Et₃N): δ=8.32 (d, *J*=8 Hz, 1H), 8.9 (m, 2H), 7.5–7.6 (m, 4H), 5.03 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (D₂O, Et₃N): δ 181.5, 138.6, 133.9, 130.9, 129.0, 128.1, 126.7, 126.1, 126.0, 123.7, 57.8; FTIR (KBr, ⁻¹, HCl salt): ν=3425, 2989, 1733, 1599, 1497. Anal. calcd for C₁₂H₁₂NCl: C, 60.64; H, 5.09; N, 5.89. Found: C, 60.34; H, 5.30; N, 6.26.

4.2. Fluorescence measurements

Fluorescence measurements were performed at 295±1 K using solvents that had been previously degassed with dried N₂. All fluorescence spectra were recorded at 10⁻⁶ M concentration. The excimer emission was seen at >10⁻⁴ M. Solutions of **7** were prepared by dilution of a stock solutions of **7** (10⁻³ M) and TEA (10⁻² M).

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