Structural Importance of the Amino-Terminal Residue of Pancreatic Phospholipase A_2^{\dagger}

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To study the structural importance of the NH₂-terminal Ala¹ residue of pancreatic phospholipase A₂, several mutants were prepared by a stepwise semisynthetic approach. ¹³C NMR spectroscopy of 90%-enriched [[3-¹³C]Ala¹]phospholipases A₂ shows the pK values of the α -NH₃⁺ groups of porcine enzyme, porcine isoenzyme, bovine enzyme, and equine enzyme to be 8.4, 8.8, 8.9, and 8.8, respectively. A group titrating with a pK of \sim 6.3, present only in the porcine and equine phospholipases A2, presumably originating from Glu⁷¹, disappears in the presence of 0.2 M Ca²⁺, while the pK values of their α -NH₃⁺ groups shift to 9.3 and 9.0, respectively. No such effects were observed for the porcine isoenzyme and bovine enzyme, which lack an acidic side chain in position 71. It can thus be concluded that the equine phospholipase A₂, like the porcine enzyme, possesses in addition to the catalytic Ca²⁺ binding site also a second, low-affinity Ca²⁺ binding site, which is not present in the porcine isophospholipase A_2 and bovine phospholipase A_2 . From the titration behavior of the α -NH₃⁺ group of equine and porcine [[3-13C]-Ala1] phospholipases A2 in the presence of micelles of n-hexadecylphosphocholine, it seems very likely that at alkaline pH the equine phospholipase A2, like the porcine enzyme, requires the second Ca2+ ion for optimal

binding to neutral lipid-water interfaces. Semisynthetic porcine phospholipase A₂ analogues in which the position of the α -NH₃⁺ group is varied have lost their affinity toward neutral lipid-water interfaces and consequently their catalytic activity on micellar substrates. Most of these phospholipase A₂ analogues retain, however, some of their enzymatic activity on monomeric substrate. Substitution of the side chain of Ala¹ in porcine phospholipase A₂ by hydrophobic side chains abolishes almost all activity due to the loss of affinity for neutral lipid-water interfaces. In contrast, NH2-terminal residues having more polar side chains affect only slightly phospholipase A₂ activity. Compared to the native enzyme, these latter phospholipase A₂ analogues show an increased penetration capacity for monolayers of 1,2-didecanoyl-snglycero-3-phosphocholine. Probably, the interaction of hydrophobic amino acid residues at the 1-position with other hydrophobic side chains present in their vicinity prevents the correct positioning of the α -NH₃⁺ group, thereby leading to loss of catalytic activity. Finally, [Gly¹] phospholipase A₂ possesses an intermediate position between native [L-Ala¹]phospholipase A₂ and [D-Ala¹]phospholipase A₂ as concluded from kinetic, direct binding, ¹H NMR photo-CIDNP, fluorescence, and ¹³C NMR studies.

Phospholipase A₂ (EC 3.1.1.4) catalyzes in the presence of Ca^{2+} ions the hydrolysis of the ester bond at the C_2 position of 3-sn-phosphoglycerides (van Deenen & de Haas, 1964). In the mammalian pancreas the enzyme is synthesized as a precursor, called prophospholipase A₂. Just as the precursors of proteolytic enzymes (Neurath & Walsh, 1976), the zymogens of pancreatic phospholipases A2 differ from the active enzymes by the presence of short activation peptides covalently linked to the N-terminal amino acids of the enzymes. In the duodenum, the prophospholipase A2 is converted into the active enzyme by liberation of the N-terminal heptapeptide upon tryptic cleavage of the Arg⁻¹-Ala¹ bond (de Haas et al., 1968, 1969). During this tryptic activation, there is a conformational change in the protein, which can easily be monitored by fluorescence spectroscopy of the unique Trp at position 3 (Abita et al., 1972). According to proton titration studies, the newly generated α -NH₃⁺ group of the N-terminal Ala¹ of the porcine enzyme has a pK of 8.3 (Janssen et al., 1972). Both the proenzyme and the active enzyme have low, com-

parable activities toward monomeric substrates, indicating the presence of a functionally active site in the zymogen as well (Pieterson et al., 1974; Volwerk et al., 1979). Only the active enzyme, however, is able to display its full enzymatic activity when present in substrate-protein complexes (Pieterson et al., 1974; Hille et al., 1983). For the porcine pancreatic enzyme, it has been shown that the affinity for neutral lipid-water interfaces is critically dependent on the presence of an α -ammonium group (Slotboom & de Haas, 1975; van Dam-Mieras et al., 1975). Semisynthetic studies clearly showed that the amino acid residues Leu², Trp³, and Arg⁶ located in the Nterminal part of the pancreatic enzymes are important for optimal lipid binding properties (van Scharrenburg et al., 1981, 1983). Modification studies revealed that also Tyr⁶⁹, Leu¹⁹ (=Tyr¹⁹ in equine phospholipase A₂), and Met²⁰ are involved in the interaction of the porcine enzyme with lipid-water interfaces (Meijer et al., 1979; Meijer, 1979). Verheij et al. (1981) used the transamination procedure (Dixon & Fields, 1972) to selectively modify the α -amino group of three snake venom phospholipases A2. These modified snake venom phospholipases A_2 , having an α -keto acid instead of an α -amino group, still bind, though with decreased affinity, to neutral lipid-water interfaces but do not hydrolyze these micellar substrates. Transamination of the snake venom phospholipase A₂ from Naja naja oxiana leads to the loss of enzymatic activity toward organized substrates (Aianyan et al., 1982). The X-ray structure of both the bovine (1.7 Å) and the porcine (2.6 Å) enzymes showed that the α -amino group is buried in the protein and fixed to other protein atoms via H bridges (Dijkstra et al., 1981, 1983). In both cases, hydrogen bonds

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exist between the α -NH₃⁺ function, the O^{e1} of the nearly invariant Gln,4 and a fully enclosed H2O molecule, which is also in contact with the active site residues Asp⁹⁹, His⁴⁸, and Asp⁴⁹·Ca²⁺ (Verheij et al., 1980). A recent semisynthetic study revealed, however, that in contrast to the bovine enzyme the porcine phospholipase A₂ does not require the O^{e1} of a Glx at position 4 for enzymatic activity or affinity toward neutral aggregated substrates (van Scharrenburg et al., 1984). This result demonstrates that even between these two very homologous pancreatic enzymes striking differences exist in the microenvironment of the essential α -amino group. The present paper describes a comparative study of the titration behavior of the N-terminal Ala of four different [3-13C]Ala1-labeled pancreatic enzymes, prepared by a stepwise semisynthetic approach (Slotboom & de Haas, 1975; DiMarchi et al., 1979). The titration behavior of the α -NH₃⁺ group of labeled equine phospholipase A₂ in the presence of micellar n-hexadecylphosphocholine is also investigated. Until now, all studies concerning the N-terminus of phospholipase were focused on the α -amino group. In this paper, also the influence of the side chain of the N-terminal amino acid residue on the enzymatic properties of phospholipase A2 has been investigated. For this purpose, the N-terminal Ala1 of the best characterized pancreatic enzyme, viz., porcine phospholipase A2, has been replaced by Nle, Leu, Phe, AibU, Gly, Asn, Asp, and Asp-(OBu').^{1,2} Special attention has been paid to the porcine [[1-13C]Gly¹]enzyme, a fully active mutant displaying a clearly different titration behavior compared to that of the native enzyme.

Experimental Procedures

Materials

Porcine prophospholipase A₂, porcine isoprophospholipase A2, bovine prophospholipase A2, and equine pancreatic prophospholipase A2 were purified and converted into their corresponding phospholipases A2 as described previously [see Nieuwenhuizen et al. (1974), van Wezel & de Haas (1975), Dutilh et al. (1975), and Evenberg et al. (1977), respectively]. The pancreatic prophospholipases A_2 were ϵ -amidinated (AMPRECs), purified, and converted into the corresponding ϵ -amidinated phospholipases A_2 (AMPAs) as described (Slotboom & de Haas, 1975; van Scharrenburg et al., 1981). N-t-Boc-Asn-ONp, N-t-Boc-Asp(OBu t), and N-t-Boc-NlediCHA salt were purchased from Sigma. α-Aminoisobutyric acid (AibU) was from Aldrich (Belgium). N-tert-Butyloxycarbonyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide esters of Leu and Phe were obtained from Fluka A.G. (Switzerland). [3-13C]Ala and [1-13C]Gly (90% enriched) were purchased from Merck Sharp & Dohme (Canada). N-tert-Butyloxycarbonyl-N-methylalanine was purchased from Bachem (Switzerland). n-Alkylphosphocholines were prepared as described before (van Dam-Mieras et al., 1975). 1,2-Didecanoyl- and 1,2-dioctanoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholines were prepared as described by Cubero Robles & van den Berg (1969). [2,3-Bis(hexa-

noylthio)propyl]phosphocholine was synthesized as described by Volwerk et al. (1979). Porcine des-Ala¹-AMPA, des-Ala¹,Leu²-AMPA, des-Ala¹,Leu²,Trp³-AMPA, des-Ala¹- Arg^{6} -AMPA, [[3- 13 C]Ala 1]AMPA, [[1- 13 C]Gly 1]AMPA, $[[1-^{13}C]Gly^{-1}]AMPA, [[3-^{13}C]-D-Ala^{1}]AMPA, [Asp^{1}]AMPA,$ [Asp¹(OBu')]AMPA, [Phe¹]AMPA, [Nle¹]AMPA, [N-Me-Ala¹]AMPA, [Leu¹]AMPA, and [AibU¹]AMPA were prepared and purified according to the procedures described by Slotboom & de Haas (1975). Porcine [Asn1]AMPA was prepared by coupling of N-t-Boc-Asn o-nitrophenyl ester to des-Ala¹-AMPA. Bovine and equine [[3-¹³C]Ala¹]AMPAs and porcine [[3-13C]Ala1]-iso-AMPA were prepared as described for the porcine AMPA analogues (Slotboom et al., 1977; Jansen et al., 1979). These enzymes were purified on CM- and DEAE-cellulose columns as described for the native phospholipases A₂ (Dutilh et al., 1975; Evenberg et al., 1977; van Wezel & de Haas, 1975). All the AMPA analogues were homogeneous on slab gel electrophoresis at pH 9.6, and dansylation showed in all cases exclusively the expected N-terminal amino acid. The kinetic parameters of the different [[3-¹³C|Ala¹|AMPAs were found to be identical within the experimental error with those of the corresponding native AM-PAs. All other chemicals used were of the highest purity available.

Methods

Amino acid analyses were performed by the method of Spackman et al. (1958), on a Kontron liquid chromatograph Liquimat III. Samples were hydrolyzed for 24 h at 110 °C in evacuated, sealed tubes with 5.8 N HCl. Tryptophan was determined similarly by addition of 4% of thioglycollic acid as described by Matsubara & Sasaki (1969). Protein concentrations were determined from the absorbances at 280 nm by using an $E_{lom}(1\%)$ of 13.0 for the ϵ -amidinated porcine and bovine phospholipase A_2 analogues and porcine ϵ -amidinated isophospholipase analogues, except for porcine des-Ala¹-Trp³and des-Ala¹-Arg⁶-AMPA, for which a value of 8.8 was used. Calculations of the protein concentration of ϵ -amidinated equine phospholipase A_2 and porcine prophospholipase A_2 were done with an $E_{1cm}(1\%) = 12.3$, whereas the concentration of equine ϵ -amidinated prophospholipase A_2 was calculated with an $E_{1cm}(1\%) = 11.8$. Slab gel electrophoresis was performed for 1 h at 50 mA on 7.5% polyacrylamide gels at pH 9.6 with the apparatus as described by Studier (1973). The N-terminal amino acids were determined by dansylation according to Gray (1972). The amino acids [3-13C]Ala, [1-13C]Gly, [3-13C]-D-Ala, and α -aminoisobutyric acid were reacted with di-tert-butyl dicarbonate according to the procedure of Moroder et al. (1976), to yield their N-t-Boc-protected derivatives. N-Hydroxysuccinimide esters of the N-t-Boc-protected [3-¹³C]Ala, [3-¹³C]-D-Ala, [1-¹³C]Gly, AibU, Nle, and Asp-(OBu') were prepared by using the procedure of Anderson et al. (1964). The purity of all N-t-Boc-protected amino acid N-hydroxysuccinimide esters was checked by thin-layer chromatography on silicic acid with CHCl₃-MeOH-concentrated NH₃ (85:20:2 v/v). The undesired presence of [(succinimidooxy)carbonyl]-β-alanine N-hydroxysuccinimide ester in the N-t-Boc-protected amino acid N-hydroxysuccinimide ester preparations (Gross & Bilk, 1968a,b) was checked. The usual 6 N HCl hydrolysates of all the N-t-Boc-protected amino acid N-hydroxysuccinimide esters used were subjected to amino acid analyses, and the β -alanine content in each sample was determined. When β -alanine was found to be present, the N-t-Boc-protected amino acid N-hydroxysuccinimide esters were further purified by crystallization and/or SiO2 chromatography with CHCl₃-MeOH mixtures until no β -alanine

¹ Abbreviations: PLA, phospholipase A2; AMPREC, ε-amidinated prophospholipase A2; AMPA, ε-amidinated phospholipase A2; t-Boc, tert-butyloxycarbonyl; CIDNP, chemically induced dynamic nuclear polarization; [²H]TSP, sodium trimethylsilyl[2,2,3,3-²H4]propionate; NMR, nuclear magnetic resonance; ppm, parts per million; CHA, cyclohexylammonium; ONp, o-nitrophenyl; Bu¹, tert-butyl; C1ePN, n-hexadecylphosphocholine; C1ePN, n-octadecylphosphocholine; CPK model, Corey-Pauling-Koltun space-filling molecular model; Me, methyl; AibU, α -aminoisobutyric acid; Hepes, N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-piperazine-N-2-ethanesulfonic acid; Tris, tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane; pH*, uncorrected pH meter readings in 2 H2O. 2 All amino acid residues except Gly and AibU have the L configu-

² All amino acid residues except Gly and AibU have the L configuration unless stated otherwise.

was present in the hydrolysates.

NMR Spectroscopy. All ¹³C NMR and ¹H photo-CIDNP NMR spectra were obtained with a Bruker HX-360 spectrometer at the S.O.N.-Facility in Groningen. The Netherlands. Photo-CIDNP spectra (Kaptein, 1978) were recorded at 360 MHz as previously described (Jansen et al., 1978; Egmond et al., 1980), with 3-(carboxymethyl)lumiflavin as the dye. Chemical shifts were calculated relative to TSP, with dioxane as internal standard. All ¹³C spectra were recorded at 90.5 MHz with quadrupole detection. Two-thousand transients were accumulated with a repetition time of 0.82 s and a spectral width of 10000 Hz. An exponential multiplication of the free-inducation decay corresponding to a line broadening of 6 Hz was applied to improve the signal to noise ratio. Chemical shifts were measured at 25 °C from benzene for 1.0-2.0 mM protein solutions, dissolved in 50 mM Hepes or Tris buffer, containing 10% D₂O. Adjustment of the pH was performed with 2 M NaOH or HCl in 10% D₂O. In the plots of the ¹³C resonance as function of the pH (Figures 1 and 2), the drawn curves have been calculated by using an iterative least-squares fitting procedure, which was based on the program of Fletcher & Powell (1963), with as adjustable parameters the upper and lower chemical shift levels, the pK, and the Hill coefficient of the titration curve.

The enzymatic activities of the pancreatic (ϵ -amidinated) phospholipases A2 and their semisynthetic analogues were routinely determined by using the titrimetric assay procedure with egg yolk lecithin as substrate (Nieuwenhuizen et al., 1974). In contrast to this procedure, 2-fold higher Ca²⁺ and 1.5-fold higher sodium deoxycholate concentrations were used. Kinetic measurements with micellar 1,2-dioctanovl-snglycero-3-phosphocholine and monomeric [2,3-bis(hexanoylthio)propyl]phosphocholine were performed as described before [see de Haas et al. (1971) and Volwerk et al. (1979), respectively]. Direct binding studies were carried out by using ultraviolet difference spectroscopy as previously described by Hille et al. (1981). The ultraviolet difference spectra were recorded at 25 °C on an Aminco DW-2a spectrophotometer equipped with a MIDAN data analyzer, coupled to an Apple II desk-top computer. Fluorescence spectroscopy was done with a Perkin-Elmer MPF3 spectrofluorometer as described by van Dam-Mieras et al. (1975).

Monolayer Experiments. The zero-order trough with two compartments and the surface barostat technique used to measure substrate hydrolysis were identical with those described by Verger & de Haas (1973). Calculation of the induction time (τ) was performed as previously described by Verger et al. (1973). Surface pressure π was measured by the Wilhelmy plate method, with a thin platinum plate (perimeter 3.94 cm) attached to a Beckman R II C Model LM 600 microbalance.

Results

The lysine residues in porcine isoprophospholipase A_2 and porcine, bovine, and equine prophospholipases A_2 can be converted into ϵ -acetimidolysines by treatment of these precursors with methyl acetimidate. The ϵ -amidinated phospholipases A_2 (AMPAs) possessing only one free amino group, viz. the α -NH₂ of Ala¹, are obtained by limited tryptic treatment of the ϵ -amidinated precursors (AMPRECs). The bovine, equine, and porcine AMPAs as well as porcine iso-AMPA possess enzymatic activities of about 70–80% of the native PLAs on micellar short-chain lecithins: $V_{\rm max}$ values of the various AMPAs on L-dioctanoyllecithin are 2300, 4500, 2000, and 2000 μ equiv min⁻¹ (mg of protein)⁻¹, respectively. The Ca²⁺ and substrate binding properties of the AMPAs as

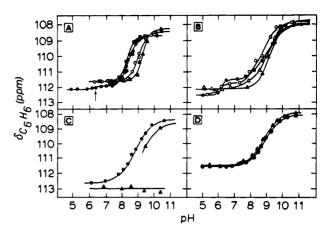


FIGURE 1: Plots of the chemical shifts (ppm from C_6H_6) of the 90%-enriched ¹³C nuclei in the different pancreatic [[3-¹³C]Ala¹]-AMPAs as a function of the pH at various Ca^{2+} concentrations: (A) (porcine AMPA) no Ca^{2+} (\spadesuit), 5 mM Ca^{2+} (\blacksquare), 50 mM Ca^{2+} (\blacksquare), and 200 mM Ca^{2+} (\blacksquare), 6 (equine AMPA) no Ca^{2+} (\blacksquare), 5 mM Ca^{2+} (\blacksquare), 5 mM Ca^{2+} (\blacksquare), and 200 mM Ca^{2+} (\blacksquare); (C) (porcine iso-AMPA) no Ca^{2+} (\blacksquare) and 200 mM Ca^{2+} (\blacksquare); (D) (bovine AMPA) no Ca^{2+} (\blacksquare) and 200 mM Ca^{2+} (\blacksquare).

well as their kinetic behavior on monolayers are almost the same as those for the native enzymes (van Scharrenburg et al., 1981; Pattus et al., 1979a). This selective blocking of the ϵ -NH₂ groups permits specific substitution or labeling of amino acid residues at the N-terminus by a preparative Edman procedure and subsequent replacement with activated N-protected amino acid residues. The feasibility of the procedures applied during this semisynthetic approach was already shown by Slotboom & de Haas (1975).

¹³C NMR Spectroscopy. (A) Titration Behavior of Porcine, Equine, and Bovine [[3-13C]Ala1]AMPAs and Porcine Iso-[[3-13C]Ala1]AMPA. Replacement of the N-terminal amino acid Ala1 of pancreatic AMPA by a 90%-enriched [3-13C]Ala1 allows a direct determination of the pK value of the α -NH₃⁺ function under dynamic conditions. The pH titration curves of porcine, equine, and bovine [[3-13C]Ala1]AMPAs and porcine iso-[[3-13C]AMPA are shown in Figure 1. The α amino group of porcine AMPA appears to have a pK of 8.4 in the absence of Ca²⁺ ions, which is rather high as compared to the pK value of 7.8, measured for the α -amino group of the N-terminal hexapeptide Ala¹-Arg⁶ of porcine AMPA. Furthermore, the curve in Figure 1A shows the titration of a group with a pK of 6.3 \pm 0.2 and a chemical shift difference of 15 Hz (0.17 ppm). Addition of 5 mM Ca²⁺, enough to saturate the catalytic Ca²⁺ binding site of porcine AMPA at basic pH values, has hardly any effect on the pK of the α -NH₃⁺ function. In the presence of 200 mM Ca^{2+} ions, the pK of the N-terminus of porcine AMPA shifts to 9.3, and the group titrating with a pK value of 6.3 is no longer observed. Addition of 250 mM NaCl instead of 200 mM Ca2+ has no influence on the pK of the N-terminus, and the group titrating with a pK of 6.3 does not disappear. These effects of Ca^{2+} ions on the titration behavior of the N-terminus, together with other evidence (Slotboom et al., 1978; Pattus et al., 1979b), indicate the presence of a second calcium binding site in this porcine enzyme, which influences the N-terminal region. The equine [[3-13C]Ala1]AMPA shows a titration behavior (Figure 1B) comparable to that of the porcine enzyme. As compared to the porcine enzyme, the equine AMPA possesses a more basic α -amino group with a pK of 8.8 in the absence of Ca²⁺ ions. Upon saturation of the first catalytic Ca²⁺ binding site with 5 mM Ca²⁺, there is a small decrease in pK of the α -NH₃⁺ group to 8.6. The presence of 200 mM Ca^{2+} increases the pK to 9.0. In the absence of Ca²⁺, there is again a group titrating

Table I: $k_{\rm cat}/K_{\rm M}$ (s⁻¹ M⁻¹) of Hydrolysis of Monomeric Bis(thiohexanoyl)lecithin by Native and N-Terminally Modified Porcine Pancreatic ϵ -Amidinated Phospholipases A_2

AMPA analogues	monomeric bis(thiohexanoyl)lecithin $k_{\text{cat}}/K_{\text{M}} \ (\text{s}^{-1} \ \text{M}^{-1})^a$	AMPA analogues	monomeric bis(thiohexanoyl)lecithin $k_{\rm cat}/K_{\rm M}~({ m s}^{-1}~{ m M}^{-1})^a$
"native" AMPA	555	des-Ala1	150
AMPREC	274	des-Ala ¹ Leu ²	93
D-Ala ¹	122	des-Ala ¹ -Trp ³	nd^b
N-Me-Ala ¹	373	des-Ala ¹ -Arg ⁶	nd

^a Determined at pH 8.5 and 25 °C as described by Volwerk et al. (1979). ^b Not detectable.

with a pK of 6.3, causing a larger chemical shift of the [3-¹³C]Ala¹ resonance in the equine enzyme compared to the porcine enzyme. At high Ca2+ concentrations this group titrating between pH 5.5 and 7.0 disappears completely. This result points strongly to a relation between a group with pK= 6.3 and the binding of a second Ca²⁺ ion with low affinity. As shown in Figure 1C,D, both porcine iso-AMPA and bovine AMPA have rather basic α -NH₃⁺ functions, comparable to that of equine AMPA, with pK values of 8.8 and 8.9, respectively. In contrast to the equine AMPA, the pK values of the α -NH₃⁺ functions of bovine AMPA and porcine iso-AMPA are not influenced by the addition of 5 mM Ca²⁺ (data not shown). Furthermore, the group titrating with a pK of 6.3 is absent in the pH titration curves of porcine iso-[[3-¹³C]Ala¹]AMPA and bovine [[3-¹³C]Ala¹]AMPA. This result is already an indication that both the porcine iso-AMPA and bovine AMPA do not possess the group with a pK of approximately 6.3 involved in the binding of a second Ca2+ ion, as found for the porcine and equine AMPAs. The pK value of the α -NH₃⁺ group of bovine AMPA is hardly influenced by the addition of 200 mM Ca²⁺. In contrast, the titration behavior of the α-NH₃ group of Ala¹ of porcine iso-AMPA changes quite drastically in the presence of high Ca2+ concentrations. In the presence of 200 mM Ca²⁺, two ¹³C resonances of the Ala¹ of porcine iso-AMPA are visible at basic pH (Figure 1C). One ¹³C resonance is present at a fixed chemical shift of 113 ppm. The other resonance, which titrates, appears above pH 9 and grows in intensity with increasing pH at the expense of the ¹³C resonance at 113 ppm. Such a titration behavior is due to the presence of two populations of α-NH₃ groups in slow exchange on the NMR time scale (vide infra).

(B) Titration Behavior of Equine [[3-13C]Ala1]AMPA in the Presence of the Substrate Analogue n-Hexadecylphosphocholine $(C_{16}PN)$. Upon addition of the micellar substrate analogue C₁₆PN to the equine ¹³C-labeled AMPA, the ¹³C-signal of the methyl group of Ala¹ disappears completely at acidic and neutral pH (Figure 2). At these pH values, the enzyme binds to the lipid-water interfaces, which most likely causes a severe broadening of the ¹³C resonances, due to motional restrictions of the methyl group of Ala¹ in the enzyme-micelle complex. Figure 2 shows that the [3-13C]Ala¹ resonance of the equine AMPA appears again above pH 7.0 before the deprotonation of the α -NH₃⁺ function starts. The 3-13C resonance of the labeled porcine AMPA shows the same behavior in the presence of C₁₆PN micelles as the equine AMPA (data not shown). Recent binding and kinetic studies on the porcine and equine PLAs (Donné-Op den Kelder et al., 1981, 1983) revealed that above pH 6.25 there is a large decrease in the affinity toward neutral lipid-water interfaces and, as a consequence, a drop in the enzymatic activity of these enzymes on aggregated substrates at low Ca²⁺ concentrations. Addition of 200 mM Ca²⁺ at basic pH values, which means saturation of the second, low-affinity Ca²⁺ binding site, restores the affinity of both porcine and equine AMPA for C₁₆PN micelles.

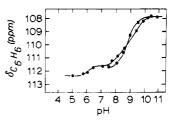


FIGURE 2: Plots of the chemical shifts (ppm from C_6H_6) of the 90%-enriched nucleus of equine [[3-¹³C]Ala¹]AMPA as a function of pH: (\bullet) no Ca²⁺; (\blacksquare) no Ca²⁺ + 100 mM $C_{16}PN$.

N-Terminally Modified Porcine ϵ -Amidinated Phospholipase A_2 Analogues. (A) Modifications and Substitutions That Affect the α -Amino Group of Porcine AMPA. The various N-terminally modified porcine AMPA derivatives, mentioned in Table I, possess only residual enzymatic activities toward micellar L-dioctanoyllecithin of about 5% compared to native AMPA. The α -NH₃⁺ function of pancreatic phospholipase A_2 is essential for the optimal enzymatic activity of the enzyme on micellar substrates. These N-terminally modified or shortened AMPA analogues, including AMPREC, possess furthermore no detectable binding to neutral micelles of the substrate analogue n-octadecylphosphocholine (C_{18} PN), indicating the absence of a functional lipid binding domain.

As can be seen from Table I, most of these porcine AMPA analogues, of which the α -amino group is affected, are still able to hydrolyze monomeric substrate. The active sites of most of these porcine analogues seem to be rather intact. The [N-Me-Ala¹]AMPA, for example, possesses over 60% of the $k_{\rm cat}/K_{\rm M}$ value of the native enzyme on the monomeric substrate. Upon shortening of the N-terminus of porcine AMPA by more than two amino acid residues, no enzymatic activity on monomeric substrate could be detected. The effect of the removal of amino acid residues from the N-terminus was also studied by laser photo-CIDNP 1H NMR (Egmond et al., 1980). The photo-CIDNP ¹H NMR technique monitors only the resonances originating from aromatic residues, like Tyr, Trp, and His, which are exposed to the solvent. Figure 3 shows the CIDNP spectra obtained with the porcine AMPA and the N-terminally shortened analogues. The CIDNP spectrum of native porcine AMPA (Figure 3A) shows absorptive signals at approximately 7.3-7.7 ppm arising from Trp³ aromatic resonances. The strong signal at 6.9 ppm is assigned to the H-3 and -5 protons of Tyr⁶⁹ and Tyr¹²³, which overlap. Removal of the N-terminal Ala1 induces a shift of H-3 and -5 proton resonances of Tyr⁶⁹ downfield of approximately 0.2 ppm (Figure 3B). This downfield shift indicates a change in the conformation of the des-Ala¹-AMPA in the region of Tyr⁶⁹, which is part of the lipid binding domain (Dijkstra et al., 1984). The Trp³ resonances of des-Ala¹-AMPA are rather weak compared to those of the native enzyme. The des-Ala¹-Trp3-AMPA spectrum (Figure 3C) of course does not show Trp³ resonances. Furthermore, in the CIDNP spectrum of this latter protein, a broad emissive signal of tyrosines is present at 6.8 ppm. This signal cannot only arise from Tyr⁶⁹, but other tyrosine residues, which become exposed upon removal of the

Table II: Kinetic Parameters and Micellar Binding Properties of Native and N-Terminally Modified Porcine ε-Amidinated Pancreatic Phospholipases A₂

AMPA analogues	egg yolk assay sp act.a	micellar dioctanoyllecithin V_{\max}^b	monomeric bis(thiohexanoyl)lecithin $k_{\rm cat}/K_{ m M}{}^c$	binding of micellar <i>n</i> -octadecylphosphocholine, $NK_{\rm D}~({\rm mM})^d$
native AMPA	300	2000	555	0.40
Asn ¹	146	930	408	0.63
Asp ¹	30	590	306	0.20
Asp ¹ OBu ¹	25	770	360	0.07
$AibU^1$	nd*	90	506	nd
Phe ¹	nd	110	71	nd
Nle ¹	10	240	129	nd
Leu ¹	nd	40	265	nd
Gly^1	100	1600	141	2.0

^aDetermined at pH 8.0 and 40 °C as described under Methods and expressed in microequiv min⁻¹ (mg of protein)⁻¹. ^bDetermined by titration of fatty acids liberated with 10.05 mM NaOH at pH 6.0 and 45 °C (50 mM CaCl₂, 10 mM acetate, and 0.1 M NaCl) as described previously (de Haas et al., 1971). Appropriate aliquots of enzyme solutions were added from stock solutions (0.2–0.4 mg of enzyme/ml) and when necessary diluted 50–100-fold in distilled H₂O containing bovine serum albumin (10 mg/mL) to avoid irreversible adsorption to the glass. Expressed in microequiv min⁻¹ (mg of protein)⁻¹. ^cDetermined at pH 8.5 and 25 °C as described by Volwerk et al. (1979) and expressed in s⁻¹ M⁻¹. ^dDetermined by ultraviolet difference spectroscopy (van Dam-Mieras et al., 1975). Conditions used were as follows: 50 mM acetate, 0.1 M NaCl, 0.1 M CaCl₂, pH 6.0, 25 °C. N represents the ratio of lipid to protein in the complex and NK_D can be considered as a measure for the effective affinity of the protein for the micelle (Hille et al., 1981; Donnē-Op den Kelder et al., 1981). *Not detectable.

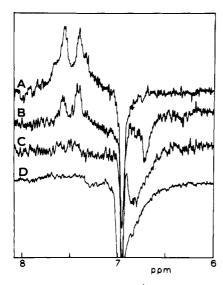


FIGURE 3: The 360-MHz photo-CIDNP ¹H NMR spectra of porcine AMPA (A), des-Ala¹-AMPA (B), des-Ala¹-Trp³-AMPA (C), and des-Ala¹-Arg⁶-AMPA (D).

N-terminal tripeptide, must also contribute. The des-Ala¹-Arg⁶-AMPA CIDNP difference spectrum (Figure 3D) indicates an even greater loss of native tertiary structure. A very strong emissive signal, arising from several tyrosine residues, is observed at 6.9 ppm, the random-coil position for tyrosine aromatic resonances.

(B) Substitution of Ala¹ of Porcine AMPA by Other Amino Acid Residues. Substitutions in the side chain of Ala¹ in porcine AMPA have different consequences for the kinetic and binding properties of the porcine analogues. The [Asn¹]-, [Asp¹]-, and [Asp¹(OBu¹)]AMPAs bind to micelles of the substrate analogue n-octadecylphosphocholine (C₁₈PN) with a dissociation constant in the same order as that found for "native" AMPA. The esterification of the side chain of Asp¹ with 2-methyl-2-propanol clearly improves the affinity toward lipid—water interfaces. The N-terminal substitutions of Ala¹ by Asn, Asp, or Asp(OBu¹) cause, however, a decrease in catalytic activity in all three assay systems used, compared to native AMPA. This decrease in enzymatic activity is most pronounced in the egg yolk assay.

Compared to native AMPA, $[Gly^1]AMPA$ has also a low specific activity in the egg yolk assay and a low second-order rate constant (k_{cat}/K_M) in the assay with monomeric substrate. On micelles of L-dioctanoyllecithin, however, $[Gly^1]AMPA$

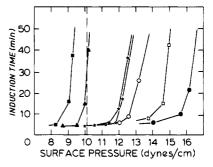


FIGURE 4: Influence of surface pressure of a 1,2-didecanoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine monolayer on the induction time of hydrolysis, by porcine AMPA (\Rightarrow), [Gly¹]AMPA (solid star), [Asn¹]AMPA (\square), [Asp¹]AMPA (\bigcirc), [Asp¹(OBu¹)]AMPA (\bigcirc), [Nle¹]AMPA (\triangle), and [Leu¹]AMPA (\square). The dashed line (--) marks the upper limit of the penetration capacity of porcine AMPA analogues lacking detectable affinity for micelles of C₁₈PN.

possesses 80% of the $V_{\rm max}$ value of native AMPA (Table II). The affinity of [Gly¹]AMPA for micelles of $C_{18}PN$ is decreased by a factor of 5 compared to native AMPA.

Substitution of the N-terminal Ala¹ by amino acid residues having hydrophobic side chains like Phe, Leu, or Nle or an additional methyl group, like AibU, completely eliminates the affinity toward neutral lipid—water interfaces. No binding of the [Phe¹]-, [Leu¹]-, [Nle¹]-, and [AibU¹]AMPA analogues to micelles of $C_{18}PN$ can be detected, and this result explains the very low enzymatic activities of these analogues on micellar substrates. All these analogues possess catalytic activity on the monomeric substrate [2,3-bis(hexanoylthio)propyl]-phosphocholine. The AibU¹ analogue shows even over 95% of the catalytic activity of native porcine AMPA. In contrast, [Phe¹]- and [Nle¹]AMPas have low $k_{\rm cat}/K_{\rm M}$ values for the hydrolysis of the monomeric substrate as compared to the $k_{\rm cat}/K_{\rm M}$ value found for the native enzyme.

As can be seen in Figure 4, the N-terminally substituted AMPA analogues, which have no detectable affinity for micelles of $C_{18}PN$, are only able to penetrate monolayers of 1,2-didecanoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine up to 10 dyn/cm, about 2 dyn/cm lower than the native porcine AMPA. The [Asn¹]-, [Asp¹]-, and [Asp¹(OBu¹)]AMPA analogues have significantly higher penetrating capacities of the lecithin monolayer than the native enzyme (Figure 4). Probably due to the presence of the tert-butyl moiety, [Asp¹(OBu¹)]AMPA is able to penetrate the lecithin monolayer, till a surface pressure of 16 dyn/cm, which is a striking improvement

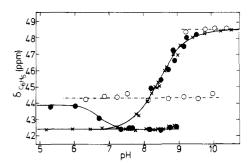


FIGURE 5: Plot of chemical shift of 90%-enriched ¹³C nucleus in [[1-13C]Gly1]AMPA as a function of the pH in the absence (×) and presence () of 100 mM C₁₆PN or with 100 mM C₁₆PN + 60 mM Ca²⁺ (O).

compared with porcine AMPA.

¹³C NMR and Photo-CIDNP ¹H NMR Studies of Porcine $[[I^{-13}C]Gly^1]AMPA$. pH titration of porcine $[[1^{-13}C]Gly^1]$ -AMPA (Figure 5) shows a behavior quite different from that of the native enzyme (Figure 1A). The Gly at position 1 induces at pH values above 7.0 two ¹³C resonances. Apparently, two different conformations are present.³ In one conformation of [Gly¹]AMPA, the N-terminus shows a normal titration curve with a pK value of 8.4 of the α -NH₃⁺ function, while in the other conformation the α -NH₃⁺ function remains protonated to high pH values. The intensity of the ¹³C resonance titrating with a pK of 8.4 increases at the expense of the ¹³C resonance at the chemical shift of 42.5 ppm. Addition of small and high amounts of Ca2+ ions has hardly any effect on the pK values of the two states (data not shown). No group titrating with a pK of 6.3 affects the chemical shift of the ¹³C resonance observed. These results could suggest the absence of a second Ca²⁺ binding site in this [Gly¹]AMPA in contrast to the native enzyme. Titrations of [[1-13C]Gly1]AMPA in the presence of micelles show, however, that the presence of Ca²⁺ ions is essential for binding to lipid-water interfaces at basic pH, just as found for the native enzyme. Addition of micelles of C₁₆PN to [[1-13C]Gly¹]AMPA in the absence of Ca²⁺ ions appears to have no effect on the titration curve above pH 7.0 (Figure 5). Below pH 6.0, the chemical shift of the ¹³C resonance of [[1-¹³C]Gly¹]AMPA becomes 44 ppm. It is known from direct binding studies that [Gly¹]AMPA binds to micelles in the absence of Ca2+ ions at acidic pH values. Apparently, the affinity toward micelles in the absence of Ca²⁺ ions is lost between pH 6.0 and 7.2, as found for the native porcine enzyme. Addition of 50 mM Ca²⁺ restores the affinity of [Gly¹]AMPA toward lipid-water interfaces at basic pH values, as can be concluded from the chemical shift of the $[1-^{13}C]Gly^1$ resonance (Figure 5). The pK of the amino group in the lipid-protein complex is increased to a value above 9.0 and, in addition, a slow exchange is observed between the α -NH₂ and the α -NH₃⁺ forms. No gradual shift of the resonance positions is observed but a change in the intensity ratio of the two ¹³C resonances. These results strongly suggest the presence of a second Ca2+ binding site regulating the lipid binding properties of [Gly¹]AMPA at basic pH as found for native porcine AMPA. In the absence of Ca²⁺ ions, a group with a pK value of about 6.3 is directly involved in the loss of affinity of [Gly¹]AMPA toward micelles. This group is presumably the same as that observed in the titration curves

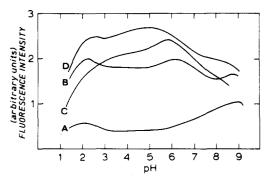


FIGURE 6: Fluorescence intensities (arbitrary units) of porcine AMPA (A), [Gly¹]AMPA (B), [D-Ala¹]AMPA (C), and AMPREC (D) as a function of the pH. Protein concentrations were 0.01 mM.

of both porcine and equine [[3-13C]Ala1]AMPAs (Figure 1A,B) in the absence of Ca²⁺ ions. It is surprising that the increase in the pK of the α -NH₃⁺ group as well as the disappearance of the group titrating with a pK of 6.3 by Ca^{2+} ions can be observed only in the presence of lipids. The rather low pK value of the α -NH₃⁺ function of [Gly¹]AMPA of 8.4 in the absence of lipids and the high pK value (9.0) in the presence of lipids and Ca2+ ions indicate the induction of a functional lipid binding domain upon addition of micelles, as was already suggested by Pattus et al. (1979c).

The Trp³ present in porcine AMPREC, [D-Ala¹]AMPA, and [Gly1]AMPA shows a high fluorescence intensity as compared to the Trp³ of native porcine AMPA (Figure 6). These data suggest that the Trp3 of [Gly1]AMPA is in a less quenching environment like the Trp3 of AMPREC and [D-Ala¹]AMPA as compared to the Trp³ present in the native enzyme. On the basis of the pK value of the α -NH₃⁺ function of 8.4 in the absence and presence of Ca2+ ions and the high fluorescence intensity of Trp3, the N-terminal part of [Gly¹]AMPA has a conformation resembling that of the N-terminus of [D-Ala¹]AMPA and AMPREC. These latter two proteins have no affinity for neutral lipid-water interfaces in contrast to [Gly1]AMPA.

The photo-CIDNP ¹H NMR spectra of Figure 7 indicate that the H-3 and -5 resonances of Tyr⁶⁹ of both [Gly¹]AMPA and native AMPA overlap with the resonances of Tyr¹²³ at approximately 6.9 ppm. In contrast, the H-3 and -5 resonances of Tyr⁶⁹ of [D-Ala¹]AMPA and AMPREC are shifted 0.2 ppm downfield. This NMR result indicates, that under the conditions used (1 mM enzyme, pH* 5.5), porcine [Gly¹]AMPA possesses in the environment of Tyr69 a conformation comparable to that of the native enzyme, suggesting the presence of a functional lipid binding domain (Dijkstra et al., 1984).

Discussion

The pK values of the N-terminal α -NH₃⁺ function of porcine and especially of porcine isophospholipase A2 and bovine and equine phospholipases A2 are rather high as compared with those of the N-terminal alanine in small peptides that range from 7.8 to 8.0 (Wilbur & Allerhand, 1977). In general, such a rise in pK is induced by interaction with a negative charge in a hydrophobic environment. The X-ray structure of both the porcine phospholipase A₂ (2.6 Å) (Dijkstra et al., 1983) and the bovine phospholipase A₂ (1.7 Å) (Dijkstra et al., 1981) showed that the α -NH₃⁺ groups of Ala1 are buried in the interior of the enzymes but they do not directly interact with carboxylates. Direct interaction exists, e.g., in the case of porcine phospholipase A₂, between the α -NH₃⁺ group and the O^{ϵ_1} of Gln⁴, the carbonyl oxygen of Glu⁷¹, and a fully enclosed water molecule, which is also linked with Tyr⁵² and the active site residue Asp⁹⁹ (Figure 8). Such

³ The inactive porcine [[1-¹³C]Gly⁻¹]AMPA shows a normal titration behavior with a single pK of 8.4, which is decreased upon addition of Ca2+ ions or NaCl (data not shown). This result proves that the two conformations of [[1-13C]Gly1]AMPA above pH 7.0 are a consequence of the Gly at position 1 of the enzyme.

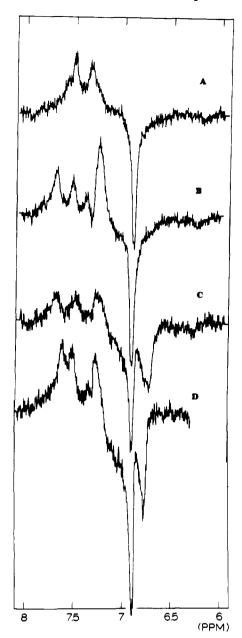


FIGURE 7: The 360-MHz ¹H NMR photo-CIDNP spectra of porcine AMPA (A), [Gly¹]AMPA (B), [D-Ala¹]AMPA (C), and AMPREC (D).

a hydrogen-bonded system around the α -NH₃⁺ group will, however, mimic an interaction with a carboxylate.

In addition to the catalytic Ca2+ binding site, porcine and equine pancreatic phospholipases A₂ possess another, lowaffinity, Ca²⁺ binding site (Slotboom et al., 1978; Donné-Op den Kelder et al., 1983). Without binding of this second Ca2+ ion, both the equine and the porcine enzyme lose their affinity toward neutral lipid-water interfaces above pH 6.3 (Figure 2). Taking into account the influence on the pK of the α -amino group, this second Ca2+ ion must be located in the direct vicinity of the α -NH₃⁺ group. Indeed, the ¹³C titrations of porcine and equine AMPAs show the relation of a group with a pK of 6.3 and the binding of a second Ca^{2+} ion. Donné-Op den Kelder et al. (1983) recently showed that the acidic side chain of Glu⁷¹ present in equine and porcine phospholipases A₂ is one of the ligands of the second Ca²⁺ ion. Deprotonation of the Glu⁷¹ (pK = ± 6.3) will affect the hydrogen-bonded system around the α -NH₃⁺ and subsequently the structure of the N-terminal part of porcine and equine phospholipases A2, important for the lipid binding properties of these enzymes.

FIGURE 8: Schematic drawing of interaction between the N-terminus and active site of porcine phospholipase A₂ (Dijkstra et al., 1983).

This Glu⁷¹ controls directly the binding of porcine and equine phospholipases to neutral lipid—water interfaces. Neutralization of the negative charge of the carboxylate moiety of Glu⁷¹ by a proton or Ca²⁺ ion is essential for optimal binding.

In contrast to the porcine and equine phospholipases A₂, porcine isoenzyme does not require Ca2+ ions for optimal binding of neutral lipid-water interfaces (Donné-Op den Kelder et al., 1983). Furthermore, the ¹³C titration curve of porcine [[3-13C]Ala¹]iso-AMPA and the protein titration experiments with porcine isophospholipase A₂ indicate the absence of a carboxylate having a pK of ± 6.3 . These findings are thus in good agreement with the fact that porcine isophospholipase A₂ like the bovine phospholipase A₂ possesses at position 71 an Asn instead of a Glu residue (Puijk et al., 1979). The unexpected titration behavior of porcine iso-AMPA in the presence of 200 mM Ca2+ is quite different from the effect of high Ca²⁺ concentrations in the ¹³C titration of porcine and equine AMPAs. Two populations of porcine iso-AMPA seem to be present at high protein (1 mM) and high Ca2+ concentrations (200 mM). One population has an α-NH₃⁺ function in fast exchange with the deprotonated state, and another population with an α -NH₃⁺ function is in slow exchange with the deprotonated form. This slow exchange in the presence of Ca²⁺ ions of a part of the porcine iso-AMPA is most likely due to motional restrictions of the N-terminus. Partial aggregation of the porcine isophospholipase A₂ facilitated by the high protein concentration (1 mM) and aspecific binding of Ca²⁺ ions to the iso-enzyme at these huge concentrations of Ca2+ ions (200 mM) might offer an explanation for the restricted mobility of the N-terminus of part of the porcine isoenzyme.

The titration curves of bovine [[3- 13 C]Ala¹]AMPA indicate the absence of a second, low-affinity Ca²⁺ binding site in this enzyme. Neither the group having a pK of about 6.3 is observed nor is the pK of the α -NH₃⁺ function of the bovine enzyme affected by the addition of Ca²⁺ ions (Figure 1). Proton titration experiments with bovine phospholipase A₂ also showed that the abnormal carboxylate (pK = \pm 6.3) is lacking (Donné-Op den Kelder et al., 1983).

Modification, blocking, or removal of the α -NH₃⁺ function of Ala¹ of pancreatic phospholipase A₂ results in an enzyme that has lost its ability to hydrolyze or to bind to micellar neutral substrates.

Even the substitution of Ala¹ by D-Ala distorts the conformation of the enzyme, necessary for effective binding to lipid-water interfaces. The pK of the α -amino group of [D-[3-\dagger13C]Ala\dagger1]AMPA has previously been reported to be 7.8 in the presence of 50 mM CaCl₂ or 200 mM NaCl (Slotboom et al., 1978). Under the same conditions the α -amino group

of the N-terminal peptide of porcine AMPA, Ala¹-Arg⁶, also has a pK of 7.8. The pK of the α -NH₃⁺ function of porcine AMPA, however, ranges from 8.3 to 9.3, depending on the Ca²⁺ concentration (Figure 1A). These findings suggest that the α -amino group of [D-Ala¹]AMPA and probably that of most of the analogues in Table I are in a position different from that of native AMPA. Consequently, the extended H-bonded network (Figure 8) around the α -NH₂ group is distorted, leading to the loss of affinity for lipid-water interfaces. Most likely, the loss of lipid binding properties is due to an enhanced flexibility of the lipid binding domain as found for the X-ray structure of α -NH₂-transaminated bovine phospholipase A₂ (Dijkstra et al., 1984).

In contrast, the monomeric activity of pancreatic phospholipase A_2 is in most cases largely retained upon modification or blocking of the α -NH₃+ function. The different values obtained for $k_{\rm cat}/K_{\rm M}$ on monomeric substrates with the various AMPA analogues, of which the α -amino group is affected, point to a possible involvement of the N-terminus in monomer binding. Removal of more than two amino acid residues from the N-terminus of porcine AMPA leads, according to the NMR results, to a severe loss of native tertiary structure. The absence of any detectable catalytic activity is therefore not surprising.

In contrast to the essential α -amino group of Ala¹ of porcine phospholipase A2, the side chain of this amino acid residue is less important for enzymatic activity on neutral aggregated substrates. This is not surprising because the snake venom phospholipases A₂ possess N-terminal amino acid residues like Ser, Asn, Asp, and His [e.g., Heinrikson et al. (1977), Joubert (1975), Botes & Viljoen (1974), and Fraenkel-Conrat et al. (1980), respectively). The porcine AMPA analogues, in which Ala¹ is substituted by polar amino acid residues, like Asn or Asp, are enzymes with an affinity toward neutral lipid-water interfaces and a penetrating capacity of lecithin monolayers comparable or better than those of native porcine AMPA. The esterification of the side chain of Asp1 with a tert-butyl group considerably improves the affinity for lipid-water interfaces and the penetrating capacity of lecithin monolayers. The hydrophobic tert-butyl moiety contributes clearly to the lipid binding domain of porcine [Asp¹(OBu')]AMPA. Therefore, one would expect that a phospholipase A2 with an N-terminal amino acid residue having a more hydrophobic side chain than Ala or Asn will show improved lipid binding properties compared to the native enzyme. Surprisingly, the substitution of Ala¹ by Phe, Nle, and Leu resulted in enzymes unable to bind to neutral lipid-water interfaces and consequently to hydrolyze efficiently micellar lipids. Most likely, the interaction of the α -NH₃⁺ function of these mutants within the protein structures is prevented by the presence of the hydrophobic side chains of the N-terminal amino acid residues. Consequently, the N-terminal tertiary structures, necessary for a functional lipid binding domain, are absent. It seems unlikely that the steric constraints of these hydrophobic side chains of Leu¹, Phe¹, and Nle¹ prevent the hydrogen-bonded systems around the α -amino groups of these mutants. The linear chain of Nle will cause less steric hindrance than, for instance, the side chain of Asp(OBu'). A more plausible explanation would be that the hydrophobic side chains of Leu¹, Phe¹, and Nle¹ interact with another hydrophobic amino acid residue, e.g., the nearby Trp³ of the lipid binding domain, thereby disrupting the desired tertiary structures of these enzymes.

The N-terminus of [Gly¹]AMPA exists in two conformations, which are in slow exchange on the time scale of NMR (Figure 9). The "pro-D" configuration of the Gly¹ residue

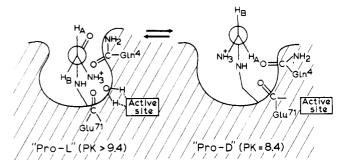


FIGURE 9: Schematic drawing showing the Newman projections of the two configurations of Gly¹ in porcine [Gly¹]AMPA.

is expected to have the rather low pK value of 8.4 found for the α -NH₃⁺ form of a part of [Gly¹]AMPA. This population will not possess an N-terminal conformation favorable for binding to neutral lipid-water interfaces. The "pro-L" configuration of the N-terminal glycine will have a pK value >9.4. The absence of the methyl group of Ala¹ in the case of Gly¹ permits an even stronger interaction of the α-NH₃+ function of [Gly¹]AMPA, within the protein structure. The Gly¹ in the pro-L form will induce an N-terminal conformation necessary for a functional lipid binding domain. The intensities of the two ¹³C resonances of the [1-¹³C]Gly¹ of the porcine mutant indicate that at pH values below 8.5 most of the Gly¹ is in the pro-L configuration. Also, the CIDNP ¹H NMR difference spectrum of [Gly1]AMPA recorded at pH 5.5 indicates the presence of a lipid binding domain that will be induced by a pro-L form of Gly¹. In contrast, the fluorescence intensity of Trp³ of [Gly¹]AMPA suggests the absence of a lipid binding domain also at pH 5.0 or 6.0, which most likely is the result of the presence of the pro-D form of Gly1. The high concentrations of 1 mM [Gly¹]AMPA necessary to obtain the ¹³C and ¹H NMR spectra as compared to the concentration of 0.01 mM used for the fluorescence intensity measurements might be the reason for the apparently contradictory results. In contrast to most pancreatic phospholipases, the porcine phospholipase A2 has an enhanced tendency to aggregate at high protein concentrations (Aguiar et al., 1979) at pH values above 5. Porcine [Gly¹]AMPA will probably have a similar tendency to form protein aggregates at high protein concentrations, if a functional lipid binding domain is present. This tendency to aggregate at high protein concentrations and neutral pH values will favor the pro-L form of Gly1 essential for optimal lipid binding properties at the expense of the pro-D form of Gly¹. Direct binding studies showed that [Gly¹]-AMPA binds to C₁₆PN micelles in the presence of Ca²⁺ with a dissociation constant of 2.0 mM. According to the pH titration behavior of [[1-13C]Gly1]AMPA in the presence of Ca^{2+} and excess $C_{16}PN$ (Figure 5), all the Gly enzyme with a protonated α -NH₃⁺ is present in lipid-protein complexes. Binding occurs only when the Gly1 adopts the pro-L configuration, necessary for a functional lipid binding domain. The presence of micelles apparently shifts the equilibrium between the pro-L and pro-D form of Gly1 completely to the pro-L configuration. The binding of [Gly¹]AMPA to the micellar substrate analogue in the presence of Ca2+ is lost at pH values >> 9. The slow exchange between the ¹³C resonances, due to α -NH₂ and α -NH₃⁺ forms of [Gly¹]AMPA, both present at fixed chemical shifts at every pH value indicates that only deprotonation of the α-amino group of [Gly¹]AMPA is responsible for the loss of affinity toward neutral lipid-water interfaces.

The [Gly¹]AMPA seems to combine the properties of [L-Ala¹]- and [D-Ala¹]AMPA. The pro-L configuration is

strongly favored by the substitution of proton H_A by a methyl group (Figure 9), thus changing [Gly¹]- into [L-Ala¹]AMPA. The methyl group of L-Ala¹ must be responsible for the fact that the α -NH₃⁺ group of the native enzyme is always in a buried position in contrast to the α-NH₃+ function of [Gly¹]AMPA. The presence of the hydrophobic side chain of Trp3 in the direct vicinity of this methyl group of L-Ala1, when the α -NH₃⁺ group is buried within the protein structure, might be an important factor for the fixation of L-Ala¹ in native AMPA. If the proton H_B of Gly¹ (Figure 9) is substituted by a methyl group, [D-Ala1] AMPA is obtained, and only for the lipid binding properties undesired pro-D conformation seems possible. Also [AibU¹]AMPA in which both the protons H_A and H_B are replaced by methyl groups does not possess a functional lipid binding domain (Table II). These findings indicate that in the pro-L configuration it is energetically very unfavorable or sterically impossible to occupy the position of the H_B proton by a methyl group. Which conformation at the N-terminal Gly residue of the porcine mutant is favored depends on the protein concentration, the pH, the presence of substrate, and Ca²⁺ ions.

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Registry No. PLA, 9001-84-7; C₁₈PN, 65956-63-0; bis(thio-hexanoyl)lecithin, 76622-79-2; dioctanoyllecithin, 4539-70-2.

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