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Enantioselective synthesis of stimulus-responsive amino acid via asymmetric α -amination of aldehyde

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Enantioselective synthesis of stimulus-responsive amino acid via asymmetric α -amination of aldehyde

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Article history:
Received
Received in revised form
Accepted

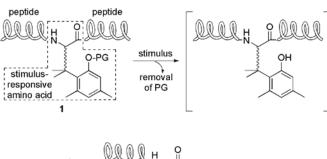
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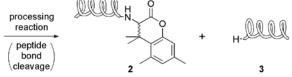
Keywords: Asymmetric α-amination Organocatalyst Peptide bond cleavage Stimulus-responsive UV-responsive Development of a methodology to control the function of peptides and proteins is an indispensable task in the field of chemical biology and drug delivery. Recently, we reported synthesis of racemic stimulus-responsive amino acids and their application for controlling peptidyl function. In this study, we report enantioselective synthesis of a key intermediate of stimulus-responsive amino acids via asymmetric α -amination reaction of an aldehyde. The obtained chiral intermediate was converted to an Fmoc protected UV-responsive amino acid with (S)-configuration, and it was successfully incorporated into a model peptide by Fmoc solid phase peptide synthesis.

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1. Introduction

Development of a methodology to control the function of peptides/proteins is an indispensable task in the field of chemical biology and drug delivery. Photo-responsive processing (peptide bond cleavage)^{1a-i} or conformational change^{1j} has been successfully applied for controlling peptide/protein function. Previously, we reported a stimulus responsive amino acid² including a photo-responsive one^{2a,c,d} and its application for controlling peptidyl function in living cells^{2d} (Scheme 1). Peptide 1, possessing the stimulus-responsive amino acid, was converted to processing products 2 and 3 by stimulus-induced removal of PG (protective group removable by a stimulus) followed by lactonization of the trimethyl lock moiety.³ In previous reports, the racemic material was used as a stimulus-responsive amino acid;² therefore, its incorporation into a peptide afforded a diastereomeric mixture of the peptide. Consequently, it has been desirable to synthesize a chiral stimulus-responsive amino acid for ease of purifying synthetic peptides. In this paper, we report enantioselective synthesis of a key intermediate of the stimulusresponsive amino acid and its application for preparing the Fmoc protected UV-responsive amino acid with (S)-configuration identical to that of naturally occurring amino acids. Incorporation of the UV-responsive amino acid into a model peptide is also reported.





Scheme 1. Stimulus-responsive processing system (PG: protective group removable by a stimulus).

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Enantioselective α -amination of aldehyde $\boldsymbol{4}$

An enantioselective α -amination of an aldehyde with a dialkyl azodicarboxylate in the presence of proline^{4,5} or its derivatives^{4,6}

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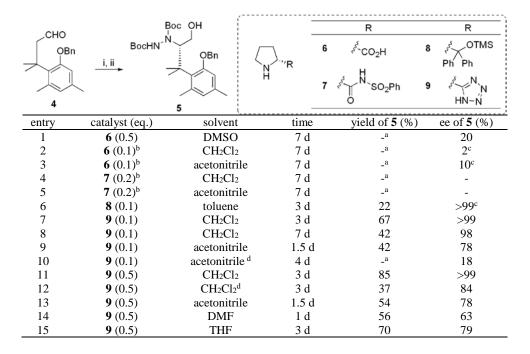


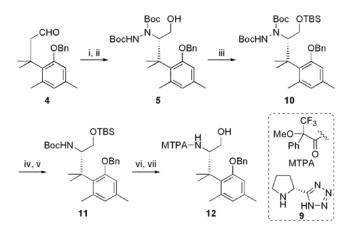
Table 1. Asymmetric α-amination of aldehyde **4.** Reagents and conditions. (i) di-*tert*-butyl azodicarboxylate, catalyst, solvent, rt. (ii) NaBH₄, MeOH. ^aAlmost all starting material was recovered. ^bAn enantiomer of the catalyst was used. ^cAn enantiomer of alcohol **5** was obtained as a major product. ^dWater (10% (v/v)) was added.

is one of the most attractive methods for preparing chiral amino acid derivatives. Therefore, we applied these systems for enantioselective α -amination of aldehyde $\mathbf{4}^{2d}$ (Table 1). Aldehyde 4 was treated with di-tert-butyl azodicarboxylate in the presence of proline or its derivatives, and the resulting mixture was immediately reduced to alcohol 5 with sodium borohydride to prevent a racemization reaction. An enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC analysis of alcohol 5. Determination of the absolute configuration of alcohol 5 will be mentioned later. When proline 6 or sulfonamide $7^{6n,7}$ was used as a catalyst, almost all starting material was recovered after a week of reaction (entries 1-5). In the presence of 0.1 equivalents of silyl ether 8,6j,7 an enantiomer of 5 was obtained enantioselectively (>99% ee); however, the chemical yield after 72 h of reaction was not sufficient (entry 6). A moderate chemical yield and high enantioselectivity were achieved using 0.1 equivalents of tetrazole 96m,7 in CH2Cl2 (entry 7). Prolonged reaction time decreased the chemical yield and enantioselectivity presumably due to side reactions of the generated aldehyde (entries 7 and 8). After optimization of reaction conditions (entries 7-15), alcohol 5 with high enantiomeric purity was obtained in high yield using 0.5 equivalents of tetrazole 9 in CH₂Cl₂ (entry 11, 85% yield, >99% ee).

2.2. Determination of absolute configuration

Next, we attempted to determine the absolute configuration of alcohol 5 using Kusumi's method, also known as a modified Mosher's method (Scheme 2).8 Aldehyde 4 was converted to alcohol 5 under the reaction conditions of entry 11 in Table 1. According to the previous report, 2d crude alcohol 5 was derivatized to protected amino alcohol 11. Briefly, the hydroxyl group of 5 was protected with a tert-butyldimethylsilyl (TBS) group. Then, trifluoroacetylation of the terminal nitrogen of 10 and subsequent reductive cleavage of the activated N-N bond afforded protected amino alcohol 11. Deprotection of the Boc group and the TBS group of 11 under acidic conditions followed acylation with (R)or (S)-1-methoxy-1-phenyl-1trifluoromethylacetic acid afforded (R) or (S)-MTPA amide 12,

respectively. For calculation of $\Delta\delta$ values, which was obtained by subtracting the chemical shift of (R)-MTPA derivative from that of (S)-MTPA derivative ($\Delta\delta = \delta_{(S)\text{-MTPA}} - \delta_{(R)\text{-MTPA}}$), H_a , H_b , H_c and H_d were assigned on the basis of NOE experiment (Figure 1a). Then, the $\Delta\delta$ values were calculated and the absolute configuration of amide 12 was ascertained as (S) (Figure 1b). It is widely accepted that tetrazole 9-mediated α -amination of an aldehyde proceeds via hydrogen bonding of a tetrazole moiety of an enamine intermediate to a dialkyl azodicarboxylate to generate an aminated product with (S)-configuration (Figure 2). 4a,6m Therefore, the enantioselectivity observed in our experiments agrees well with that of the previous report.



Scheme 2. Reagents and conditions: (i) di-*tert*-butyl azodicarboxylate, 9 (0.5 eq.), CH₂Cl₂. (ii) NaBH₄, MeOH. (iii) TBSOTf, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C, 75% (3 steps). (iv) trifluoroacetic anhydride, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂. (v) Sml₂, *tert*-BuOH, HMPA, THF, 64% (2 steps). (vi) HCl, 1,4-dioxane. (vii) (S) or (R)-1-methoxy-1-phenyl-1-trifluoromethylacetic acid, EDC·HCl, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, 36% (2 steps) for (R)-MTPA derivative, 38% (2 steps) for (S)-MTPA derivative.

Figure 1. Determination of the absolute configuration using Kusumi's method. (a) Observed NOEs (arrows) with MTPA amide **12**. (b) $\Delta \delta$ values ($\delta_{(S)\text{-MTPA}} - \delta_{(R)\text{-MTPA}}$) obtained for (*S*)- and (*R*)-MTPA amide **12** in CDCl₃ with 5% (v/v) D₂O.

Figure 2. Proposed transition state for the α -amination of aldehyde **4**.

2.3. Synthesis of chiral stimulus-responsive amino acid derivative

Having chiral intermediate 11 with (S)-configuration, we then attempted to synthesize a chiral UV-responsive amino acid possessing an o-nitrobenzyl group as a phenolic protective group (Scheme 3).2d The benzyl group of 11 was removed by hydrogenolysis to afford phenol 13. In this reaction, accidental removal of the TBS group was sometimes observed;9 however, it was suppressed by the addition of sodium bicarbonate. Phenol 13 is a key synthetic intermediate of stimulus-responsive amino acids. 2a,b,d Therefore, an enantiomeric excess of 13 was ascertained by chiral HPLC and was determined as >99% ee. To demonstrate the applicability of chiral synthetic intermediate 13 for synthesis of the stimulus-responsive amino acids, it was converted to UV-responsive amino acid derivative 16. Phenol 13 was alkylated with o-nitrobenzyl bromide to afford ether 14 (oNB: o-nitrobenzyl). Then, the silyl group of 14 was removed under acidic conditions to generate alcohol 15. Oxidation of alcohol 15 using pyridinium dichromate (PDC) in DMF was examined; however, a mixture of corresponding aldehyde and a small amount of the carboxylic acid was obtained. The use of PDC in DMF for oxidation of primary alcohols has been well documented to afford corresponding carboxylic acids. 10 However in our case, the second step for the carboxylic acid did not proceed well, presumably due to the presence of a sterically hindered side chain functionality. Therefore, the obtained crude material was subjected to subsequent oxidation with NaClO₂, followed by deprotection of the Boc group and protection of the generated amine with an Fmoc group to yield Fmoc amino acid 16 in 84% yield over 4 steps.

Unfortunately, attempts to determine the enantiomeric excess of 16 using chiral HPLC (ChiralPak IA, *i*PrOH/hexane system) were unsuccessful. In the previous report, we noted that peptide 17 and its diastereomer 17' derived from racemic 16 can be easily separated by reverse phase HPLC (Scheme 4). Therefore, we decided to estimate an enantiomeric excess of amino acid derivative 16 on the basis of a diastereomeric excess of the peptide. Peptide 17 was synthesized by Fmoc solid phase peptide synthesis according to the previous report. The obtained crude material was analyzed by reverse phase HPLC, and peptide 17 was eluted at 21.0 min (Figure 3a). When racemic 16 was incorporated in the peptide, 17 and its diastereomer 17' were eluted separately (retention time of 17': 22.6 min) (Figure 3b). Based on these results, a diastereomeric excess of the peptide

derived from **16** was calculated as >99% de. Therefore, an enantiomeric excess of Fmoc amino acid **16** was estimated as >99% ee.

3. Conclusions and summary

In conclusion, enantioselective synthesis of a key intermediate of stimulus-responsive amino acids via asymmetric α -amination reaction of the aldehyde was reported. An absolute configuration of the intermediate was ascertained as (S) using Kusumi's method. The obtained chiral intermediate was applied for preparing the Fmoc protected UV-responsive amino acid with (S)-configuration and was successfully incorporated into a model peptide by Fmoc solid phase peptide synthesis. These results enable us to prepare chiral stimulus-responsive amino acids, not just the UV-responsive compound. Its application in synthesizing other stimulus-responsive amino acids is in progress.

Scheme 3. Reagents and conditions: (i) H₂, Pd/C, NaHCO₃, MeOH, 83%, >99% ee. (ii) *o*-nitrobenzyl bromide, K₂CO₃, DMF, 84%. (iii) AcOH, H₂O, THF, 93%. (iv) PDC, DMF. (v) NaClO₂, 2-methyl-2-butene, NaH₂PO₄, acetonitrile, acetone, H₂O. (vi) HCl, AcOEt. (vii) FmocOSu, Na₂CO₃, acetonitrile, H₂O, 84% (4 steps). (*o*NB: *o*-nitrobenzyl)

Scheme 4. Reagents and conditions: (i) Fmoc solid phase peptide synthesis on a NovaSyn TGR resin. (ii) TFA/triethylsilane/H₂O = 95/2.5/2.5 (v/v/v). (oNB: o-nitrobenzyl; **F**: phenylalanine; **G**: glycine; **L**: leucine; **Y**: tyrosine)

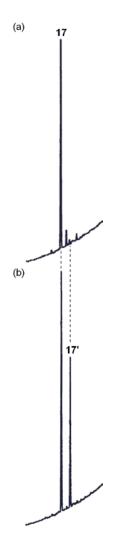


Figure 3. HPLC profiles of a crude material of the peptide derived from (a) **16**, or (b) racemic **16**. Peptide **17'** is a diastereomer of peptide **17**. Retention times, **17**: 21.0 min; **17'**: 22.6 min. Only a critical retention time region of the HPLC charts was enlarged. HPLC conditions: Cosmosil $5C_{18}$ -AR-II column (4.6 × 250 mm) with a linear gradient of 0.1% (v/v) TFA in acetonitrile/0.1% (v/v) aqueous TFA solution (20% to 80% over 30 min) at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min, detection at 220 nm.

4. Experimental section

4.1. General methods

All reactions were carried out under a positive pressure of argon unless otherwise noted. For column chromatography, silica gel (KANTO KAGAKU N-60) was employed. NMR spectra were measured using a JEOL GSX400, a Bruker AV400N, or a JEOL JNM-AL300 spectrometer. Exact mass spectra were recorded on a Waters MICROMASS® LCT PREMIERTM or a Bruker Esquire200T. Enantiomeric excesses were estimated by HPLC on a ChiralPak IA (Daicel Chiral Industries, Ltd., 4.6×250 mm, detection at 220 nm). For reverse phase HPLC analysis, a Cosmosil $5C_{18}$ -AR-II analytical column (Nacalai Tesque, 4.6×250 mm) was employed and eluting products were detected by UV at 220 nm. Optical rotations were measured using a JASCO P-2200 polarimeter (concentration in g/100 mL).

4.2. Typical procedure of α -amination reaction described in Table 1 (entry 11)

To a solution of aldehyde 4^{2d} (50.0 mg, 169 μ mol) in CH₂Cl₂ (250 μ L) were added di-*tert*-butyl azodicarboxylate (54.3 mg, 236 μ mol) and tetrazole $9^{6m,7}$ (11.7 mg, 84.0 μ mol), and the

reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 72 h. After addition of saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl, the resulting mixture was stirred for 30 min and then extracted with diethyl ether. The organic phase was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo. To the obtained crude material were successively added MeOH (2.00 mL) and sodium borohydride (8.0 mg, 210 µmol) at 0 °C. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. After addition of saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl, the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min and then extracted with AcOEt. The combined organic layer was washed with 5% (w/v) aqueous solution of KHSO4 followed by brine, dried over Na2SO4 and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by preparative TLC (SiO₂, hexane/AcOEt = 2/1 (v/v)), and 75.7 mg of alcohol 5 (143 µmol, 85%, >99% ee) was obtained as a white powder. ¹H NMR spectrum was identical with that of the racemic one.^{2d} HPLC conditions: ChiralPak IA (hexane/iPrOH = 95/5) (v/v), 0.25 mL/min). Retention times: 36.3 min (minor) and 57.6 min (major).

4.3. Asymmetric synthesis of Fmoc protected UV-responsive amino acid derivative

4.3.1. (S)-3-(2-Benzyloxy-4,6-dimethylphenyl)-2-(1,2-di-tert-butoxycarbonylhydrazinyl)-3,3-dimethylpropanol (5)

Aldehyde **4**^{2d} (1.33 g, 4.47 mmol) was converted to corresponding alcohol **5** according to the experiment 4.2. The crude product was reprecipitated from hexane, and 2.34 g of alcohol **5** was obtained as a white powder. It was used for a subsequent reaction without further purification. [α]¹⁹_D +5.47 (c 1.45, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR spectrum was identical with that of the racemic one.^{2d}

4.3.2. (S)-3-(2-Benzyloxy-4,6-dimethylphenyl)-2-(1,2-di-tert-butoxycarbonylhydrazinyl)-3,3-dimethylpropanol tert-butyldimethylsilyl ether (10)

Alcohol **5** (2.34 g) was converted to corresponding silyl ether **10** (2.16 g, 3.36 mmol, 75% over 3 steps) according to the previous report. 2d [α] 19 _D +17.1 (c 1.03, CHCl₃); 1 H NMR spectrum was identical with that of the racemic one.

4.3.3. (S)-3-(2-Benzyloxy-4,6-dimethylphenyl)-2-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-3,3-dimethylpropanol tert-butyldimethylsilyl ether (11)

Hydrazine derivative **10** (2.16 g, 3.36 mmol) was converted to corresponding amine **11** (1.14 g, 2.16 mmol, 64% over 2 steps) according to the previous report.^{2d} [α]²¹_D -29.3 (c 1.06, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR spectrum was identical with that of the racemic one.

4.3.4. (S)-2-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-3,3-dimethyl-3-(4,6-dimethyl-2-hydroxyphenyl)propanol tert-butyldimethylsilyl ether (13)

Benzyl ether **11** (1.14 g, 2.16 mmol) was converted to corresponding phenol **13** (0.782 g, 1.79 mmol, 83%) according to the previous report.^{2d} When desilylation had been observed, sodium bicarbonate (50 mg/MeOH 1.0 mL) was added to the reaction mixture. The enantiomeric excess was estimated as >99% ee. HPLC conditions: ChiralPak IA (hexane/*i*PrOH = 99/1 (v/v), 0.25 mL/min). Retention times: 32.4 min (minor) and 37.4 min (major). [α]²⁰_D -36.7 (c 0.95, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR spectrum was identical with that of the racemic one.

4.3.5. (S)-2-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-3,3-dimethyl-3-[2,4-dimethyl-6-(2-nitrobenzyloxy)phenyl]propanol tert-butyldimethylsilyl ether (14)

Phenol **13** (0.770 g, 1.76 mmol) was converted to corresponding nitrobenzyl ether **14** (0.840 g, 1.47 mmol, 84%) according to the previous report. 2d [α] 20 D -35.5 (c 1.02, CHCl₃); 1 H NMR spectrum was identical with that of the racemic one.

4.3.6. (S)-2-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-3,3-dimethyl-3-[2,4-dimethyl-6-(2-nitrobenzyloxy)phenyl]propanol (15)

Silyl ether **14** (0.840 g, 1.47 mmol) was converted to corresponding alcohol **15** (0.623 g, 1.36 mmol, 93%) according to the previous report. 2d [α] 19 D -18.9 (c 0.93, CHCl₃); 1 H NMR spectrum was identical with that of the racemic one.

4.3.7. (S)-3,3-Dimethyl-3-[2,4-dimethyl-6-(2-nitrobenzyloxy)phenyl]-2-(9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonylamino)propionic acid (16)

Pyridinium dichromate (1.93 g, 5.13 mmol) was added to a solution of alcohol **15** (470 mg, 1.02 mmol) in DMF (5.20 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight. After addition of 5% (v/v) aqueous solution of KHSO₄, the obtained mixture was extracted with diethyl ether. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo. The obtained crude material was subjected to subsequent reactions without purification according to the literature. ^{2d} Fmoc protected amino acid derivative **16** was obtained as a pale yellow amorphousness (514 mg, 84% over 4 steps). [α]²³_D -6.69 (c 1.12, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR spectrum was identical with that of the racemic one.

4.4. Determination of absolute configuration using Kusumi's method

4.4.1. General procedure for synthesis of MTPA derivatives

Hydrogen chloride in 1,4-dioxane (4 M, 1.0 mL) was added to substrate 11 (51 mg, 95 µmol) and the resulting mixture was stirred for 6 h. After being quenched with 1 M aqueous NaOH, the reaction mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo to give a crude product. To the crude product in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) were added 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC·HCl, 1.2 eq.), (R) or (S)-1-methoxy-1phenyl-1-trifluoromethylacetic acid (1.2 eq.) and triethylamine (1.0 eq.), and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight. After being quenched with saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl, the reaction mixture was extracted with AcOEt. The organic phase was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo. The obtained product was purified by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 6/1 (v/v)), and MTPA amide (R)-12 or (S)-12 was obtained respectively as a yellow oil.

4.4.2. (R)-MTPA derivative ((R)-12)

[α]²⁸_D -9.89 (c 2.17, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ with 5% (v/v) D₂O, 400 MHz) δ = 1.495 (3H, s), 1.566 (3H, s), 2.228 (3H_c, s), 2.507 (3H_a, s), 3.17 (3H, s), 3.533 (1H, dd, J = 11.6 and 8.0 Hz), 3.687 (1H, dd, J = 11.6 and 2.8 Hz), 4.912 (1H, td, J = 8.0 and 2.8 Hz), 5.060 (1H, d, J = 11.8 Hz), 5.133 (1H, d, J = 12.0 Hz), 6.594 (1H_b, s), 6.673 (1H_d, s), 7.25-7.45 (8H, m), 7.54 (2H, m); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ = 20.7 (CH₃), 25.9 (CH₃), 27.9 (CH₃), 29.0 (CH₃), 43.3 (C), 54.8 (CH₃), 58.9 (CH), 64.7 (CH₂), 71.1 (CH₂), 112.9 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 128.5 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 129.4 (CH), 129.5 (C), 132.8 (C), 136.8 (C), 137.0 (C), 138.1 (C), 158.4 (C), 168.0 (C); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calc. for C₃₀H₃₄F₃NNaO₄ ([M+Na]⁺): 552.2338, found: 552.2357.

4.4.3. (S)-MTPA derivative ((S)-12)

[α]²⁸_D +11.3 (c 1.19, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ with 5% (v/v) D₂O, 400 MHz) δ = 1.492 (3H, s), 1.540 (3H, s), 2.243 (3H_c, s), 2.484 (3H_a, s), 3.27 (3H, s), 3.589 (1H, dd, J = 11.2 and 8.0 Hz), 3.791 (1H, dd, J = 11.2 and 2.4 Hz), 4.927 (1H, td, J = 8.0 and 2.4 Hz), 4.955 (1H, d, J = 12.4 Hz), 4.985 (1H, d, J = 12.4 Hz), 6.571 (1H_b, s), 6.579 (1H_d, s), 7.09 (2H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.21 (2H, t, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.28-7.46 (6H, m); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 Hz) δ = 20.8 (CH₃), 25.8 (CH₃), 28.4 (CH₃), 28.7 (CH₃), 43.3 (C), 54.8 (CH₃), 58.8 (CH), 64.4 (CH), 71.2 (CH₂), 100.5 (C), 112.9 (CH), 127.5 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 129.8 (C), 1323 (C), 136.8 (C), 136.8 (C), 137.8 (C), 158.4 (C), 167.9 (C); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calc. for C₃₀H₃₄F₃NNaO₄ ([M+Na]⁺): 552.2338, found: 552.2321.

4.5. Synthesis of peptide 17

Peptide **17** was synthesized on NovaSyn TGR resin using Fmoc solid phase peptide synthesis reported in the previous report.^{2d} The resulting crude material was analyzed by reverse phase HPLC. HPLC conditions: Cosmosil $5C_{18}$ -AR-II analytical column (0.1% (v/v) TFA in acetonitrile/0.1% (v/v) aqueous TFA solution = 20 to 80% over 30 min, 1.0 mL/min). Retention times, **17**: 21.0 min; **17**': 22.6 min. MS (ESI-IT) calc. for $C_{76}H_{96}N_{13}O_{16}$ ([M+H] $^+$): 1446.7, **17**: found 1446.5, **17**': found 1446.4.

Acknowledgements

We thank Prof. T. Ooi, The University of Tokushima, for valuable discussions. This research was supported in part by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI).

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