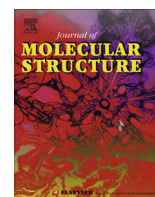




Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Molecular Structure

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/molstruc

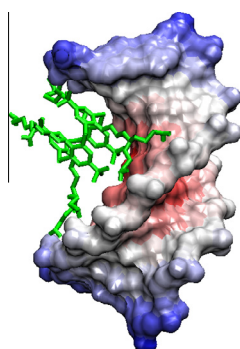
Supramolecular complex formed by DNA oligonucleotide and thiacalix[4]arene. NMR-spectroscopy and molecular docking

Bulat Khairutdinov^{a,b,*}, Elena Ermakova^a, Aleksandr Sitnitsky^a, Ivan Stoikov^{a,b}, Yuriy Zuev^{a,b}^a Kazan Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Kazan 420111, P.O. Box 30, Russian Federation^b Kazan Federal University, Kazan 420111, Kremlevskaya Str., 18, Russian Federation

HIGHLIGHTS

- Complexation of calixarene with DNA was studied using NMR and molecular docking.
- From docking simulations we select the complexes compatible with NMR constraints.
- Oligonucleotide in solution exists in double- and single-stranded helices.

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 13 March 2014

Received in revised form 28 May 2014

Accepted 28 May 2014

Available online 5 June 2014

Keywords:

DNA
Calixarene
Complex
Structure
NMR
Molecular docking

ABSTRACT

The combination of NMR-spectroscopy and molecular docking was applied to investigate the complexation of thiacalix[4]arene with DNA. We have studied the structure of supramolecular complex formed by palindromic decamer DNA d(GCGTTAACGC)₂ and tetrasubstituted at lower rim of *p-tert*-butyl thiacalix[4]arene in 1,3-*alternate* conformation. With the help of NMR it is shown that oligonucleotide in solution exists in two states: double-stranded helix (dominant structure in solution) and single-stranded form (minor structure) rolled up in a “hairpin” with equilibrium between them. Both complementary methods, NMR and molecular docking, revealed the formation of molecular complex by thiacalix[4]arene and palindromic decamer DNA. Different possible conformations of the complexes were analyzed by means of molecular docking. We used the experimental constraints in molecular docking to identify the complexes, which were in agreement with the NMR data.

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Introduction

Over the past decades, the combined use of both molecular docking and high-resolution NMR data in the study of receptor (DNA or protein) – ligand interactions has become a productive

* Corresponding author at: Kazan Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Kazan 420111, Lobachevsky Str., 2/31, P.O. Box 30, Russian Federation. Tel.: +7 843 2319030; fax: +7 843 2927347.

E-mail address: khayrutdinov@yahoo.com (B. Khairutdinov).

trend [1–18]. Both methods provide valuable information for determining the structure and dynamics of the biomacromolecular/ligand complexes. Moreover, they have proved to be perfectly complementary techniques. In particular, their combination is widely used in drug discovery research [15]. The experimental restraints provided by NMR are able to significantly improve the accuracy of docking experiments [14]. The NMR structures have the following advantages over the X-ray ones: the former can be resolved in solution and they incorporate dynamical information [2]. Thus, they are supposed to be of superior biological relevance.