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# Cadmium(II) complexes of $\mathbf{5}$-bromo-salicylaldehyde and $\alpha$-diimines: Synthesis, structure and interaction with calf-thymus DNA and albumins 

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## Supplementary information

## S1. Interaction with CT DNA

The binding constant, $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}}$, can be obtained by monitoring the changes in the absorbance at the corresponding $\lambda_{\max }$ with increasing concentrations of CT DNA and it is given by the ratio of slope to the $y$ intercept in plots $\frac{[D N A]}{\left(\varepsilon_{\mathrm{A}}-\varepsilon_{\mathrm{f}}\right)}$ versus [DNA], according to the Wolfe-Shimer equation: [1]

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{[D N A]}{\left(\varepsilon_{\mathrm{A}}-\varepsilon_{\mathrm{f}}\right)}=\frac{[\mathrm{DNA}]}{\left(\varepsilon_{\mathrm{b}}-\varepsilon_{\mathrm{f}}\right)}+\frac{1}{\mathrm{~K}_{\mathrm{b}}\left(\varepsilon_{\mathrm{b}}-\varepsilon_{\mathrm{f}}\right)} \tag{eq.S1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where [DNA] is the concentration of DNA in base pairs, $\varepsilon_{\mathrm{A}}=\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{obsd}} /[$ compound $], \varepsilon_{\mathrm{f}}=$ the extinction coefficient for the free compound and $\varepsilon_{b}=$ the extinction coefficient for the compound in the fully bound form.

## S2. Competitive studies with EB

The Stern-Volmer constant $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{SV}}$ is used to evaluate the quenching efficiency for each compound according to the Stern-Volmer equation:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\text { Io }}{\mathrm{I}}=1+\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{sv}}[\mathrm{Q}] \tag{eq.S2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where Io and I are the emission intensities in the absence and the presence of the quencher, respectively, [Q] is the concentration of the quencher (i.e. complexes $\mathbf{1 - 5}$ ); $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{SV}}$ is obtained from the Stern-Volmer plots by the slope of the diagram $\frac{\mathrm{Io}}{\mathrm{I}}$ vs [Q].

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## S3. Interaction with serum albumins

The extent of the inner-filter effect can be roughly estimated with the following formula:

$$
\begin{equation*}
I_{\text {corr }}=I_{\text {meas }} \times 10^{\frac{\varepsilon\left(\lambda_{\text {ece }}\right) c d}{2}} \times 10^{\frac{\varepsilon\left(\lambda_{\text {en }}\right) \text { cd }}{2}} \tag{eq.S3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\mathrm{I}_{\text {corr }}=$ corrected intensity, $\mathrm{I}_{\text {meas }}=$ the measured intensity, $\mathrm{c}=$ the concentration of the quencher, $\mathrm{d}=$ the cuvette $(1 \mathrm{~cm}), \varepsilon\left(\lambda_{\text {exc }}\right)$ and $\varepsilon\left(\lambda_{\text {em }}\right)=$ the $\varepsilon$ of the quencher at the excitation and the emission wavelength, respectively, as calculated from the UV-Vis spectra of the complexes [2].

The Stern-Volmer and Scatchard graphs are used in order to study the interaction of a quencher with serum albumins. According to Stern-Volmer quenching equation: ${ }^{3}$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\mathrm{Io}}{\mathrm{I}}=1+\mathrm{k}_{\mathrm{q}} \tau_{0}[\mathrm{Q}]=1+\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{sv}}[\mathrm{Q}] \tag{eq.S4}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\mathrm{Io}=$ the initial tryptophan fluorescence intensity of SA, $\mathrm{I}=$ the tryptophan fluorescence intensity of SA after the addition of the quencher, $\mathrm{k}_{\mathrm{q}}=$ the quenching rate constants of $\mathrm{SA}, \mathrm{K}_{\text {SV }}=$ the dynamic quenching constant, $\tau_{0}=$ the average lifetime of SA without the quencher, $[\mathrm{Q}]=$ the concentration of the quencher, the dynamic quenching constant $\left(\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{SV}}, \mathrm{M}^{-1}\right)$ can be obtained by the slope of the diagram $\frac{\text { Io }}{\mathrm{I}}$ vs $[Q]$. From the equation:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{SV}}=\mathrm{k}_{\mathrm{q}} \tau_{\mathrm{o}} \tag{eq.S5}
\end{equation*}
$$

and taking $\tau_{0}=10^{-8} \mathrm{~s}$ as fluorescence lifetime of tryptophan in SA, the approximate quenching constant $\left(\mathrm{k}_{\mathrm{q}}, \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}\right)$ is calculated.

From the Scatchard equation: [3]

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\Delta \mathrm{I} / \mathrm{IO}}{[\mathrm{Q}]}=\mathrm{nK}-\mathrm{K} \frac{\Delta \mathrm{I}}{\mathrm{Io}} \tag{eq.S6}
\end{equation*}
$$

where n is the number of binding sites per albumin and K is the association binding constant, K (in $\mathrm{M}^{-1}$ ) is calculated from the slope in plots $\frac{\Delta \mathrm{I} / \mathrm{Io}}{[\mathrm{Q}]}$ versus $\frac{\Delta \mathrm{I}}{\text { Io }}$ and n is given by the ratio of y intercept to the slope [3].

## References

[1] A. Wolfe, G. Shimer and T. Meehan, Biochemistry, 1987, 26, 6392-6396.
[2] L. Stella, A.L. Capodilupo and M. Bietti, Chem. Commun., 2008, 4744-4746.
[3] Y. Wang, H. Zhang, G. Zhang, W. Tao and S. Tang, J. Luminescence, 2007, 126, 211-218.

Table S1. The HSA constants derived for complexes 1-5.

| Compound | $\mathbf{K s v}\left(\mathbf{M}^{-1}\right)$ | $\mathbf{k}_{\mathbf{q}}\left(\mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{s}^{-1}\right)$ | $\mathbf{K}\left(\mathbf{M}^{-1}\right)$ | $\mathbf{n}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\left[\mathrm{Cd}(5-\mathrm{Br}-\text { salo })_{2}\left(\mathrm{CH} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{OH}\right)\right]_{2},(\mathbf{1})$ | $1.47( \pm 0.12) \times 10^{4}$ | $1.47( \pm 0.12) \times 10^{12}$ | $1.06( \pm 0.08) \times 10^{5}$ | 0.35 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Cd}(5-\mathrm{Br}-\text { salo })_{2}(\text { bipy })\right]_{2},(\mathbf{2})$ | $4.11( \pm 0.26) \times 10^{4}$ | $4.11( \pm 0.26) \times 10^{12}$ | $1.74( \pm 0.15) \times 10^{5}$ | 0.60 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Cd}(5-\mathrm{Br}-\text { salo })_{2}(\text { phen })\right]_{2,( }(\mathbf{3})$ | $9.72( \pm 0.29) \times 10^{4}$ | $9.72( \pm 0.29) \times 10^{12}$ | $1.60( \pm 0.07) \times 10^{5}$ | 0.86 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Cd}(5-\mathrm{Br}-\text { salo })(\text { neoc })\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)\right]_{2,( }(\mathbf{4})$ | $1.03( \pm 0.46) \times 10^{5}$ | $1.03( \pm 0.46) \times 10^{13}$ | $1.35( \pm 0.12) \times 10^{5}$ | 0.90 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Cd}(5-\mathrm{Br}-\text { salo })_{2}(\right.$ dpamH $\left.)\right],(\mathbf{5})$ | $5.40( \pm 0.21) \times 10^{4}$ | $5.40( \pm 0.21) \times 10^{12}$ | $9.10( \pm 0.43) \times 10^{4}$ | 0.79 |

Table S2. The BSA constants derived for complexes 1-5.

| Compound | $\mathbf{K s v}\left(\mathbf{M}^{-1}\right)$ | $\mathbf{k}_{\mathbf{q}}\left(\mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{s}^{-1}\right)$ | $\mathbf{K}\left(\mathbf{M}^{-1}\right)$ | $\mathbf{n}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\left[\mathrm{Cd}(5-\mathrm{Br}-\text { salo })_{2}\left(\mathrm{CH} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{OH}\right)\right]_{2},(\mathbf{1})$ | $3.40( \pm 0.21) \times 10^{4}$ | $3.40( \pm 0.21) \times 10^{12}$ | $4.07( \pm 0.32) \times 10^{4}$ | 1.00 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Cd}(5-\mathrm{Br}-\text { salo })_{2}(\text { bipy })\right]_{2},(\mathbf{2})$ | $8.82( \pm 0.35) \times 10^{4}$ | $8.82( \pm 0.35) \times 10^{12}$ | $5.85( \pm 0.35) \times 10^{4}$ | 1.23 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Cd}(5-\mathrm{Br}-\text { salo })_{2}(\text { phen })\right]_{2,( }(\mathbf{3})$ | $6.16( \pm 0.34) \times 10^{5}$ | $6.16( \pm 0.34) \times 10^{13}$ | $2.42( \pm 0.12) \times 10^{5}$ | 1.13 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Cd}(5-\mathrm{Br}-\text { salo })(\text { neoc })\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)\right]_{2,( }(\mathbf{4})$ | $2.46( \pm 0.13) \times 10^{5}$ | $2.46( \pm 0.13) \times 10^{13}$ | $1.17( \pm 0.09) \times 10^{5}$ | 1.29 |
| $\left[\mathrm{Cd}(5-\mathrm{Br}-\text { salo })_{2}(\right.$ dpamH $\left.)\right],(\mathbf{5})$ | $9.37( \pm 0.29) \times 10^{4}$ | $9.37( \pm 0.29) \times 10^{12}$ | $1.10( \pm 0.06) \times 10^{5}$ | 0.94 |



Figure S1. Hydrogen bonds between two adjacent molecules in (5) (symmetry 1-x, 1-y, 1-z). Cd atoms are in yellow, O atoms in red, N atoms in light blue, Br atoms in orange, C atoms in grey and H atoms in white.


Figure S2. (A) - (E) Plot of $\frac{[D N A]}{\left(\varepsilon_{A}-\varepsilon_{f}\right)}$ vs [DNA] for complexes $\mathbf{1}-\mathbf{5}$, respectively.


Figure S3. (A) - (E) Stern-Volmer quenching plot of EB bound to CT DNA for complexes 1-5, respectively.


Figure S4. (A) - (E) Stern-Volmer quenching plot of BSA for complexes 1-5, respectively.






Figure S5. (A) - (E) Stern-Volmer quenching plot of HSA for complexes $\mathbf{1 - 5}$, respectively.


Figure S6. (A) - (E) Scatchard plot of BSA for complexes 1-5, respectively.


Figure S7. (A) - (E) Scatchard plot of HSA for complexes 1-5, respectively.


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