



***SOLUTION PHASE SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF PEPTIDYL
CHEMOSENSORS FOR Pb(II) AND As(III) DETECTION***

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By

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A new fluorescent dipeptide Dansyl-Ala-Val-OMe (**5**) has been synthesized and characterized. Peptide **5** was synthesized based on sulfonation reaction between dipeptide and 5-(dimethylamino)naphthalene-1-sulfonyl chloride (Dns-Cl) with molecular weight of m/z 435.2. Peptide **5** was obtained as a greenish solid in 80% yield. This compound was in a form of diastereomer in a 1:5 mixture ratio and it was not separated. Peptide **5** was characterized by melting point, IR, NMR, UPLC, GC-MS and HR-MS. Meanwhile another fluorescent dipeptide, Dansyl-Ala-Gly-OH (**6**) was purchased. The fluorescence intensity of peptide **5** was measured at pH 5 with excitation and emission wavelengths of 289 nm and 487 nm, respectively where as the excitation and emission wavelengths of peptide **6** at pH 12 were 331 nm and 524 nm, respectively. Fluorescence difference measurement was used for measurement. Effect of amount of reagent, different pH, dynamic range, reproducibility, interference and validation were studied. 4.0 μM of peptide **5** in a mixture of methanol:water (4:1) was observed to be the optimum concentration for detection of Pb(II). Meanwhile 1.5 μM of peptide **6** in 100% aqueous solution was needed for optimum detection of As(III). The working

medium of peptide **5** is at pH 5, meanwhile peptide **6** at pH 12. Limit of detection (LOD) for detection of Pb(II) and As(III) were calculated to be 0.08 μM and 1.86 μM respectively. The RSD of the reproducibility were 2.03% and 9.66% for 4.00 μM Pb(II) and 7.84 μM As(III). The presence of foreign ions at 1:1 molar ratio of interfering ion: studied metals did not affect the determination of Pb(II) and As(III) based on the low percentage of interference. The developed detection systems were validated with the established method of inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES).

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**SINTESIS FASA LARUTAN
DAN PENCIRIAN PEPTIDA PNDARFLUOR PENGESAN KIMIA
UNTUK PENGESANAN Pb (II) DAN As(III)**

Oleh

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Satu dipeptida pendarfluor baru iaitu Dansyl-Ala-Val-OMe (**5**) telah disintesis dan dicirikan. Peptida **5** telah disintesis berdasarkan tindak balas persulfonan antara dipeptida dan 5 - (dimetilamino) naftalena-1-sulfonil klorida (Dns-Cl) dengan berat molekul m/z 435.2. Peptida **5** telah diperolehi sebagai pepejal kehijauan dalam 80% hasil. Peptida **5** adalah dalam bentuk diastereomer dalam nisbah campuran 1:5 dan ia tidak diasingkan. Peptida **5** dicirikan menggunakan takat lebur, NMR, UPLC, GC-MS dan HR-MS. Sementara itu, satu lagi dipeptida pendarfluor, Dansyl-Ala-Gly-OH (**6**) telah dibeli. Keamatan pendarfluor peptida **5** adalah diukur pada pH 5 dengan pengujaan dan pelepasan jarak gelombang 289 nm dan 487 nm, masing-masing di mana panjang gelombang pengujaan dan pancaran peptida **6** pada pH 12 ialah 331 nm dan 524 nm, masing-masing. Perbezaan pengukuran pendarfluor telah digunakan untuk pengukuran. Kesan jumlah reagen, perbezaan pH, julat dinamik, kebolehulangan gangguan dan kajian pengesanan telah di kaji. Untuk jumlah reagen, 4 μ M peptida **5** dalam campuran metanol: air (4:1) adalah kepekatan optimum untuk mengesan

Pb(II). Sementara itu, hanya 1.5 μM peptida **6** dalam 100% larutan akueus diperlukan untuk pengesanan optimum As(III). Medium kerja peptida **5** ialah pH 5 dan peptida **6** ialah pH 12. Had pengesanan (LOD) untuk pengesanan Pb(II) dan As(III) telah ditentukan; 0.08 μM dan 1.86 μM masing-masing. RSD keboleholangan gangguan ialah 2.03% dan 9.66% untuk 4.00 μM Pb(II) dan 7.84 μM As(III). Kehadiran ion asing pada nisbah 1:1 molar ion penganggu atau Pb(II) dan peptida **6**-As(III) ion penganggu tidak menjejaskan penentuan Pb(II) dan As(III) berdasarkan peratusan rendah gangguan. Sistem pengesanan yang dibangunkan telah disahkan dengan kaedah induktif plasma berganding aruhan spektroskopi pemancaran optik (ICP-OES) yang sedia ada.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

app d	apparently doublet (spectral)
dd	double of doublet (spectral)
Boc	<i>tert</i> -butoxycarbonyl
br	broad
br s	broad singlet
°C	degrees Celsius
cm ⁻¹	wavenumber(s)
COSY	correlation spectroscopy
δ	chemical shift in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane
d	doublet (spectral)
dansyl	5-(dimethylamino)-1-naphtalenesulfonyl
DCC	<i>N,N'</i> -dicyclohexylcarbodiimide
DCM	dichloromethane
DEPT	distortionless enhancement by downfield from tetramethylsilane
EDTA	ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
equiv	equivalent
FT	Fourier transform
g	gram(s)
GC	gas chromatography
HMBC	Heteronuclear multiple bond correlation
HMQC	Heteronuclear multiple quantum correlation
HPLC	High-performance liquid chromatography
HRMS	High-resolution mass spectrometry
Hz	hertz
IR	infrared
<i>J</i>	coupling constant (in NMR)
L	liter(s)
LOD	Limit of detection
LOQ	Limit of quantification
μ	micro
m	multiplet (spectral); mili
M	molar (moles per liter)
M ⁺	parent molecular ion
Me	methyl
MHz	megahertz
mL	mililiter
mM	milimolar (milimoles per liter)
mol	mole(s); molecular (as in mol wt)
mp	melting point
MS	mass spectrometry
MW	mol wt molecular weight
<i>m/z</i>	mass-to-charge ratio
NMR	Nuclear magnetic resonance
NOESY	Nuclear overhauser effect spectroscopy
ppb	part(s) per billion
ppm	part(s) per million

rt	room temperature
s	singlet (spectral)
t	triplet (spectral)
temp	temperature
TLC	thin-layer chromatography
TMS	trimethylsilyl; tetramethylsilane
UPLC	Ultra-performance liquid chromatography
t_R	retention time (in chromatography)
UV	ultraviolet
vis	visible



LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1. ICP-OES condition	32
Table 2. Comparison ^1H and ^{13}C of dipeptide 3 in CDCl_3 with reference	42
Table 3. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data of peptide 5 in CDCl_3 (500 MHz)	74
Table 4. Solubility of peptide 5 in various solvents at 25.0 °C and 60.0 °C	80
Table 5. Determination of Pb(II) in electroplating waste using peptide 5	90
Table 6. Determination of As(III) in electroplating waste using peptide 6	100
Table 7. Comparison of Pb(II) detection limit obtained in the present study with the reported fluorophores	100
Table 8. Comparison of As(III) detection limit obtained in the present study with the reported fluorophores	101
Table 9. Fluorescence data at 487 nm and statistical analysis of (5) for pH study	121
Table 10. Fluorescence intensity at 487 nm of (5) for amount of reagent	122
Table 11. Statistical analysis of (5) for amount of reagent	122
Table 12. Fluorescence data at 487 nm and statistical analysis of (5) for dynamic range	123
Table 13. Fluorescence data at 487 nm and statistical analysis of (5) for reproducibility	124
Table 14. Fluorescence data at 524 nm and of (5) for Interference Study	125
Table 15. Statistical analysis of (5)- for Interference Study	125
Table 16. Percentage interference of (5)	126
Table 17. ICP-OES data of (5) for Pb(II)	127

Table 18. Statistical analysis at 487 nm of (5) for Validation Test	127
Table 19. Fluorescence data at 524 nm and statistical analysis of (6) for pH study	129
Table 20. Fluorescence intensity at 524 nm of (6) for amount of reagent	130
Table 21. Statistical analysis of (6) for amount of reagent	130
Table 22. Fluorescence data at 524 nm and statistical analysis of (6) for dynamic range	131
Table 23. Fluorescence data at 524 nm and statistical analysis of (6) for reproducibility	132
Table 24. Fluorescence data at 524 nm and of (6) for Interference Study	133
Table 25. Statistical analysis of (6) for Interference Study	133
Table 26. Percentage Interference of (6)	134
Table 27. ICP-OES data of (6) for As(III)	135
Table 28. Statistical analysis at 524 nm of (6) for Validation Test	135

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1. Fabrication of MPA-Gly-Gly-His gold electrode and complexation with Cu(II)	10
Figure 2. Structure of Ionophore I and Ionophore II	12
Figure 3. Dansyl chloride or 5-(dimethylamino)naphthalene-1-sulfonyl chloride	19
Figure 4. Sulfonamide bond	20
Figure 5. Dansyl derivative	22
Figure 6. Molecular structure of dipeptide 3	42
Figure 7. ^{13}C of dipeptide 3 in CDCl_3	45
Figure 8. ^1H spectrum of dipeptide 3 in CDCl_3	46
Figure 9. Expansion of ^1H spectrum of dipeptide 3 in between 0.58 ppm to 1.87 ppm	47
Figure 10. Expansion of ^1H spectrum of dipeptide 3 in between 3.39 ppm to 7.24 ppm	48
Figure 11. FT-IR spectrum of dipeptide 3	50
Figure 12. GCMS spectrum of dipeptide 3	51
Figure 13. FTIR spectrum of peptide 4	53
Figure 14. DIMS of hydrochloride salt 4	54
Figure 15. Expansion of ^1H spectrum showing diastereomer of peptide 5 at δ_{H} 8.47 ppm and δ_{H} 8.57 ppm	57
Figure 16. Expansion of ^1H spectrum of peptide 5 in Dansyl region	58
Figure 17. ^{13}C DEPT 90 and DEPT 135 spectra of peptide 5	59

Figure 18. Expansion of ^{13}C spectrum of peptide 5 in Dansyl region	60
Figure 19. Molecular structure of peptide 5	61
Figure 20. COSY (—) correlations of peptide 5	62
Figure 21. Expansion of HMQC spectrum of peptide 5 in Dansyl region	63
Figure 22. FTIR spectrum of peptide 5	64
Figure 23. COSY spectrum of peptide 5	65
Figure 24. Expansion of COSY spectrum of peptide 5 in Dansyl region	66
Figure 25. Selected HMBC (—) correlations of peptide 5	68
Figure 26. HMBC spectrum of peptide 5	69
Figure 27. HMQC spectrum of peptide 5	70
Figure 28. Expansion of HMQC spectrum of peptide 5 at δ_{H} 2.81 ppm	71
Figure 29. ^{13}C spectrum of peptide 5 in CDCl_3	72
Figure 30. ^1H spectrum of peptide 5 in CDCl_3	73
Figure 31. Molecular structure of peptide 5	74
Figure 32. GCMS of peptide 5	76
Figure 33. Selective fragmentation ion of 5-Dimethylamino-naphthalene-1-sulfonic acid diethylamide	77
Figure 34. GCMS of 5-Dimethylamino-naphthalene-1-sulfonic acid diethylamide	78
Figure 35. UPLC Chromatogram of 100 mg/L of peptide 5 at a) 289 nm and b) 327 nm in methanol	79
Figure 36. UV absorption spectrum of peptide 5 (10 μM , 10 mM HEPES, pH 5) in methanol/water mixture (4:1)	82

Figure 37. Fluorescence emission spectrum of peptide 5 (10 μ M, 10 mM HEPES, pH 5) in methanol/water mixture (4:1). Excitation at 289 nm	83
Figure 38. Fluorescence emission spectrum of peptide 5 (10 μ M, 10 mM HEPES, pH 5) with addition of metal ions (10 μ M) in methanol/water mixture (4:1)	84
Figure 39. Fluorescence intensity of peptide 5 (10 μ M, 10 mM HEPES) at different pH values	86
Figure 40. Fluorescence difference of peptide 5 (1, 2, 4, 12, 18 μ M) with 10 μ M of Pb(II) at pH 5	87
Figure 41. Calibration plot of peptide 5 (4 μ M, 4 mM HEPES, pH 5) at different concentrations of Pb(II)	88
Figure 42. Effect of interfering ions on detection Pb(II) using peptide 5	89
Figure 43. Molecular structure of peptide 6	91
Figure 44. UV absorption spectrum of peptide 6 (10 μ M, 10 mM HEPES, pH 5) in water	92
Figure 45. Fluorescence emission spectra of water and peptide 6 (10 μ M, 10 mM HEPES, pH 5) in water. Excitation at 331 nm	93
Figure 46. Fluorescence emission spectrum of peptide 6 (10 μ M, 10 mM HEPES, pH 5) with addition of metal ions (10 μ M) in water	94
Figure 47. Fluorescence intensity of peptide 6 (5 μ M, 5 mM HEPES) at different pH values	95
Figure 48. Fluorescence difference of peptide 6 (1 μ M to 3 μ M) with 10 μ M of As(III) at pH 12	96

Figure 49. Calibration plot of peptide **6** (1.5 μ M, 1.5 mM HEPES, pH 12) at different concentrations of As(III) 97

Figure 50. Effect of interfering ions on detection As(III) using peptide **6** 99



LIST OF SCHEMES

	Page
Scheme 1. General formation of amide bond	17
Scheme 2. Fragmentation ion of dipeptide 3	51
Scheme 3. Fragmentation ion of hydrochloride salt 4	54
Scheme 4. Dansylation	55
Scheme 5. Fragmentation ion of peptide 5	76
Scheme 6. Proposed binding mode of peptide 5 with Pb(II)	85
Scheme 7. Proposed binding mode of peptide 6 with As(III)	94

LIST OF APPENDICES

	Page
Appendix 1. GCMS of dipeptide 3	112
Appendix 3. DIMS of hydrochloride salt of 4	116
Appendix 4. HRMS of peptide 5	117
Appendix 5. UPLC-TUV parameters of peptide 5	118
Appendix 6. ^1H spectrum of Dansyl Chloride	119
Appendix 7. DIMS of Dansyl Chloride	126

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
APPROVAL	vi
DECLARATION	viii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	ix
LIST OF TABLES	xi
LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
LIST OF SCHEMES	xvii
LIST OF APPENDICES	xviii
 CHAPTER	
 INTRODUCTION	1
Research Problem	1
Objectives	3
 LITERATURE REVIEW	4
Heavy Metals in the Environment	4
Amino acids and peptides in Metal Ion Analysis	5
Short Peptide	8
Cyclic Peptide	11
Oligopeptide	12
Synthesis of Peptide <i>via</i> Solution Phase	15
Sulfonation of Fluorescent Peptide	19
Compound Profiling	24
Dansyl Fluorescent for Metal Ion Detection	25
 MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY	28
General	28
Synthesis	32
General	32
Characterization	34
 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	41
Synthesis of dipeptide, Boc-Ala-Val-OMe (3)	41
Deprotection of Boc group HCl. H ₂ N-Ala-Val-OMe (4)	52
Synthesis of dansyl-dipeptide, Dansyl-Ala-Val-OMe (5)	55
UV Absorption Spectrum	81
Emission Spectrum	82
Metal Screening	83

pH Study	85
Peptide Concentration	86
Dynamic Range	87
Reproducibility	88
Interference	89
Validation	90
Dansyl-Ala-Gly-OH (6)	90
UV Absorption Spectrum	91
Emission Spectra	92
Metal Screening	93
pH Study	95
Peptide Concentration	96
Dynamic Range	97
Reproducibility	98
Interference	98
Validation	99
Comparison with previous works	100
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH	102
REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY	104
APPENDICES	112
BIODATA OF STUDENT	137
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	138

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Research Problem

Heavy metal ions such as As(III), Pb(II), Zn(II), Ni(II) and Hg(II) are easily found in the environment especially in industrial waste, agriculture and mining industry. These inorganic chemicals are usually present at low concentration in the environment either free or complexed with organic or inorganic ligand (Pesavento et al., 2009).

Unlike organic contaminants, these inorganic chemicals have high solubility in the aquatic environments. As a result, it can easily penetrate the food chain and stored in living organism. Moreover, these inorganic chemicals are non-biodegradable in nature, and on top of that it has long biological half life for elimination from body. It results in negative major problems to living organisms (Chen et al., 2008). Fu and Wang (2011) reported on a few heavy metal ions such as Zn(II), Ni(II), Cd(II) and Pb(II) which affect human's health such as vomiting, kidney failure and skin dermatitis.

Electronic configuration of metal ions are different from each other based on its oxidation state. Based on this properties, some of the metals can give spectroscopic due to its electronic configuration. However, some of them can not give spectroscopic signal.

For example, Zn(II) can not be detected directly using common analytic techniques such as UV-Vis spectroscopy or nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) due to its $3d^{10}4s^0$ electronic configuration (Jiang and Guo, 2004). Thus the fluorescence method stands out as a method of choice. Fluorescent method offers high sensitivity compared to other methods.

Dansyl groups were widely used as fluorophore due to its intense absorption in the UV region and emits in the visible range with high fluorescence quantum yield. In addition, the dansyl molecule can undergo sulfonation reaction and it is suitable for the synthesis of peptide derivative (Chao et al., 2011). There were many fluorescent peptides that have been synthesized *via* Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis (SPPS) and used as a chemosensor (Joshi et al., 2007; White and Holcombe, 2007). Solution phase offers fast preparation of a small sequence of peptide and fast synthesis, meanwhile SPPS is most suitable for bulky and large scale of peptide.

It has been described that peptide formed complex with metal ion (Chekmeneva et al., 2006). There are a great number of potential donor atoms through the peptide backbone such as on nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, side chain, carbonyl on terminal or amide hydrogen. Owing to its great structural variety, peptide is suitable for complex formation. Metal binding is achieved with a high degree of selectivity using peptide motifs. Glycine and valine were chosen because of the non polar side chains. Glycine side chain is weakly hydrophobic meanwhile

valine side chain is strongly hydrophobic. This properties make the chemosensor works in different medium of solvents.

Therefore, the idea of this research is to synthesize a peptide which consists of a fluorophore which acts as a recognition molecule in metal ions detection. The fluorescent peptide will be synthesized *via* solution phase method.

Two different fluorescent peptides (synthesized and purchased) were tested as recognition molecule for analysis in different mediums (mixture solvent and single solvent). Several parameters were studied such as selectivity, pH, reagent concentration, dynamic range, reproducibility, interference and validation.

Objectives

The objectives of this research are:

- 1) To synthesize a fluorescent dipeptide *via* solution phase method
- 2) To characterize the synthesized fluorescent dipeptide by spectroscopic methods
- 3) To characterize fluorescent dipeptides for metal ion detection

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