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Synthesis and Pharmacology of Halogenated δ-Opioid Selective \([D\text{Ala}^2]\) Deltorphin II Peptide Analogs

Robyn Pescatore  
*Wingate University*

Gina F. Marrone  
*Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center*

Seth Sedberry  
*Wingate University*

Daniel Vinton  
*Wingate University*

Netanel Finkelstein  
*Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center*

See next page for additional authors.

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At the time of this publication, Dr. Katlowitz was affiliated with the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, but Dr. Katlowitz is now affiliated with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).

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Synthesis and Pharmacology of Halogenated δ-Opioid Selective [dAla\(^2\)] Deltorphin II Peptide Analogs

Abstract
Deltorphins are naturally occurring peptides produced by the skin of the giant monkey frog (Phyllomedusa bicolor). They are δ-opioid receptor-selective agonists. Herein, we report the design and synthesis of a peptide, Tyr-d-Ala-(pI)Phe-Glu-Ile-Ile-Gly-NH\(^2\)\(^2\) (GATE3-8), based on the [d-Ala\(^2\)]deltorphin II template, which is δ-selective in in vitro radioligand binding assays over the μ- and κ-opioid receptors. It is a full agonist in \(^{35}\)S\(\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}\) functional assays and analgesic when administered supraspinally to mice. Analgesia of 3 (GATE3-8) is blocked by the selective δ receptor antagonist naltrindole, indicating that the analgesic action of 3 is mediated by the δ-opioid receptor. We have established a radioligand in which \(^{125}\)I is incorporated into 3 (GATE3-8). The radioligand has a \(K_D\) of 0.1 nM in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells expressing the δ receptor. Additionally, a series of peptides based on 3 (GATE3-8) was synthesized by incorporating various halogens in the para position on the aromatic ring of Phe\(^3\). The peptides were characterized for binding affinity at the μ-, δ-, and κ-opioid receptors, which showed a linear correlation between binding affinity and the size of the halogen substituent. These peptides may be interesting tools for probing δ-opioid receptor pharmacology.

Keywords
delta opioid receptor, deltorphin, radioiodination, sandmeyer

Disciplines
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Comments
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Author(s)
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| Complete List of Authors: | Pescatore, Robyn; Wingate University, Chemistry  
Marrone, Gina; Weil Cornell Medical College, Neuroscience; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Neurology  
Sedberry, Seth; Wingate University, Chemistry  
Vinton, Daniel; Wingate Univ, Chemistry  
Finkelstein, Netanel; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Neurology  
Katlowitz, Yitzchak; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Neurology  
Pasternak, Gavril; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Ctr., Department of Neurology  
Wilson, Krista; Wingate University, Chemistry  
MAJUMDAR, SUSRUTA; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, |
Synthesis and pharmacology of halogenated δ-opioid selective \([\text{DAla}^2]\) Deltorphin II peptide analogs

Robyn Pescatore\(^e\*\), Gina F. Marrone \(^{a,b}\*\), Seth Sedberry\(^c\), Daniel Vinton\(^c\), Netanel Finkelstein\(^b\), Yitzchak E. Katlowitz\(^b\), Gavril W. Pasternak\(^{a,b}\), Krista R. Wilson\(^c\*) and Susruta Majumdar\(^b\*)

\(^a\)Department of Neuroscience, Weil Cornell Medical College, 1300 York Avenue, NY, NY 10065
\(^b\)Department of Neurology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, 1275 York Avenue, NY, NY 10065
\(^c\)Department of Chemistry, Wingate University, PO Box 159, Wingate, NC 28174

ABSTRACT

Deltorphins are naturally occurring peptides produced by the skin of the giant monkey frog \((\text{Phyllomedusa bicolor})\). They are δ-opioid receptor selective agonists. We herein report the design and synthesis of a peptide, Tyr-D-Ala-(pI)Phe-Glu-Ile-Ile-Gly-NH\(_2\) 3 (GATE3-8), based on the \([\text{DAla}^2]\)deltorphin II template, which is δ-selective in \textit{in vitro} radioligand binding assays over the \(\mu\) and \(\kappa\) opioid receptors. It is a full agonist in \([\text{S}^{35}]\)GTP\(_\gamma\)S functional assays and analgesic when administered supraspinally to mice. Analgesia of 3 (GATE3-8) is blocked by the
selective δ receptor antagonist naltrindole, indicating that the analgesia is mediated by the δ opioid receptor. We have established a radioligand in which $^{125}$I is incorporated into 3 (GATE3-8). The radioligand has a $K_D$ of 0.1 nM in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells expressing the δ receptor. Additionally, a series of peptides based on 3 (GATE3-8) were synthesized incorporating various halogens in the para position on the aromatic ring of Phe$^3$. The peptides were characterized for binding affinity at the μ-, δ-, and κ-opioid receptors, which showed a linear correlation between binding affinity and the size of the halogen substituent. These peptides may be interesting tools for probing δ-opioid receptor pharmacology.

**Introduction**

Opioid analgesics have been used for their pain-relieving properties for centuries. These compounds decrease the sensation of pain by binding opioid receptors found in the central and peripheral nervous system.\(^1\) Morphine, the most widely used opioid analgesic, has served as a structural template for the design and synthesis of novel opioids. Unfortunately, morphine and its clinically used analogs have deleterious side-effects, such as respiratory depression and a high potential for addiction. Therefore, it is desirable to design a drug that is able to retain the pain-relieving properties of morphine without causing dangerous side-effects.

Three classes of opioid receptors have been cloned: μ (MOR), δ (DOR), and κ (KOR). Subtypes of MOR, DOR, and KOR have also been proposed on the basis of a variety of biochemical and pharmacological approaches.\(^2\) Radiolabeled peptides have been useful in the characterization of opioid receptors. Endogenous enkephalin analog probes with tritium such as $[\text{d-Ala}^2,\text{MePhe}^4,\text{Gly(ol)}^5]\text{enkephalin}$ (DAMGO) and $[\text{d-Pen}^2,\text{d-Pen}^5]\text{enkephalin}$ (DPDPE) are commercially available MOR and DOR-selective ligands, respectively. However, most tritiated
probes have limitations for identifying high affinity binding sites with low expression levels, given the specific activity of 28.8 Ci/mmol of tritium. For example, Zhu et al. could not detect binding in brains of DOR knockout mice using [3H]DPDPE and [3H]deltorphin-II, despite findings that both of these compounds retain their analgesic effects when administered supraspinally to this mouse.

Radioiodinated compounds have numerous other clinically and scientifically relevant uses, which include tissue ablation, tumor imaging, autoradiography, and binding assays. High specific activity, such as that of 125I or 131I, has major advantages when visualizing small receptor populations. This is illustrated by our recent studies with [125I]iodobenzoynaltrexamide ([125I]IBNtxA). [125I]IBNtxA binds with high affinity to the novel opioid target, 6TM/E11.

Since there are currently no iodinated small molecules or peptides commercially available to target DOR, our primary goal was to synthesize a DOR-selective, analgesic opioid peptide bearing an iodine atom. The radioiodinated analog could be used for radioligand binding assays in rodent brain homogenates, whereas the non-radioactive counterpart could be used as a DOR analgesic model compound in rodents, thus creating a useful probe for DOR pharmacology.

Secretions on the skin of the amphibian Phyllomedusa bicolor, contain opioid peptides such as deltorphins, which are highly selective for DOR and analgesic. In an attempt to synthesize a selective radioiodinated probe for DOR we decided to use the DAla2-deltorphin II amino acid sequence as a template. All peptides synthesized were characterized in radioligand binding assays in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cell lines stably transfected with opioid receptors. The non-radioactive iodinated deltorphin analog, Tyr-DAla-(p-I)Phe-Glu-Ile-Gly-NH2 3 (GATE3-8) was further characterized in in vitro [35S]GTPγS functional assays and in vivo tail flick analgesia assays. The radioiodinated analog, [125I]-3, Tyr-DAla-(p-125I)Phe-Glu-Ile-Gly-NH2
(I\textsuperscript{25}I-GATE3-8) was made by the introduction of an amino group at the 4’ position of Phe\textsuperscript{3}, 5 and followed by a subsequent Sandmeyer reaction.\textsuperscript{8} This radioligand was further characterized in saturation binding assays and competition assays confirming its selectivity for DOR.

Results and Discussion

Five analogs of D\textsubscript{Ala}\textsuperscript{2}-deltorphin II were synthesized using Fmoc-based solid phase peptide synthesis.\textsuperscript{9} The Val\textsuperscript{5}-Val\textsuperscript{6} of [D\textsubscript{Ala}\textsuperscript{2}]Deltorphin II (Table 1) was replaced with Ile\textsuperscript{5}-Ile\textsuperscript{6} and pX-Phe\textsuperscript{3} where X at 4’ position of Phe varied from F, Cl, Br, I to NH\textsubscript{2} (Table 1 and Figure 2). Valines at positions 5 and 6 were replaced with isoleucine in order to increase hydrophobicity. Isoleucine is more branched than valine and increasing the hydrophobicity has been shown to increase activity at the \(\delta\)-receptor.\textsuperscript{10} Additionally the para hydrogen of phenylalanine was substituted with various halogens. The atomic radius of each halogen increases with molecular weight, resulting in an increase in size of the halogen substituent; F < Cl < Br < I. (Table 2).

In radioligand binding assays versus \([\text{I}\textsuperscript{25}]\)BNtxA in opioid transfected CHO membranes, all analogs showed selective binding for DOR over MOR, KOR and 6TM/E11 sites. As the size of the halogen substituent increased, the affinity of the peptide for DOR increased raising the possibility of the peptide forming weak halogen bonds in the protein pocket. There was also no significant difference between the affinity of 3 (\(K_\text{f}=0.76\text{ nM}\)) and 4 (\(K_\text{f}=0.74\text{ nM}\)) compounds (Table 3). 3 was further characterized in [\textsuperscript{35}S]GTP\textsubscript{\gamma}S functional assays in DOR transfected CHO cells. 3 was a full agonist, similar to the prototypic DOR agonist DPDPE, although it was about 18-fold less potent (\(\text{ED}_{50}=57\text{ nM}\)) than DPDPE (\(\text{EC}_{50}=3\text{ nM}\)) and 10-fold less potent than deltorphin II (Figure 1a). In \textit{in vivo} tail flick analgesia assays 3 was as potent (\(\text{ED}_{50}=0.3\text{ ug}\)) as DPDPE (\(\text{ED}_{50}=0.4\text{ ug}\)) when given supraspinally (Figure 1b). The analgesia was also
antagonized by the DOR selective opioid antagonist naltrindole (NTI), confirming that analgesia was exhibited through the activation of DOR (Figure 1c).

Direct iodination of opioids (tyrosine in position 1 in this case) presents a problem since incorporation of iodine usually leads to a loss of affinity. Thereby the precursor to $[^{125}\text{I}]-3$, 5, was radioiodinated using a modified Sandmeyer reaction (Scheme 1). In saturation binding assays to CHO-DOR cell membranes, the $K_D$ was 0.1±0.02 nM and the $B_{\text{max}}$ was 196.97±12.44 fmol/mg (Figure 2). We performed competitions assays to validate the site as DOR pharmacologically. The prototypic DOR agonists DPDPE ($K_i$=4.5±0.6 nM) and SNC80 ($K_i$=9.8±0.7 nM) bound the site with high affinity while DOR antagonists such as naltrindole ($K_i$=0.79±0.16 nM) and naltriben ($K_i$=0.14±0.04 nM) also displayed high affinities consistent with literature values (Table 4). We performed competitions assays to validate the site as DOR pharmacologically. The prototypic DOR agonists DPDPE ($K_i$=4.5±0.6 nM) and SNC80 ($K_i$=9.8±0.7 nM) bound the site with high affinity while DOR antagonists such as naltrindole ($K_i$=0.79±0.16 nM) and naltriben ($K_i$=0.14±0.04 nM) also displayed high affinities consistent with literature values (Table 4).

Conclusions

We synthesized halogenated analogs of [DAla$^2$] Deltorphin II, and all analogs maintained selectivity for DOR over MOR and KOR. As the size of the halogen substituent increased, the affinity of the peptide for the delta opioid receptor increased. Tyr-$\alpha$Ala-(p-I)Phe-Glu-Ile-Ile-Gly-NH$_2$ 3, a [DAla$^2$] Deltorphin II analog, was found to be highly DOR selective in in vitro radioligand binding assays and was a full agonist in [$^{35}$S]GTPγS functional assays. 3 was analgesic in mice when given supraspinally. Analgesia was blocked by the selective DOR antagonist naltrindole, indicating that the analgesia is mediated by DOR. The peptide 5 was
readily radioiodinated using a modified Sandmeyer reaction and bound DOR with high affinity. Competition assays confirmed the site is DOR, as prototypical DOR agonists and antagonists competed [\(^{125}\text{I}]\)-3\(^{125}\text{I-GATE 3-8}\) with affinities consistent with literature values. Together, our findings suggest the compound may be useful to elucidate the molecular mechanisms of DOR-mediated analgesia in the brain using radioimaging and \textit{in vivo} behavioral assays.

**Experimental**

**Chemistry:**

**Peptide Synthesis:** Peptide synthesis was performed according to standard Fmoc methodology\(^{11}\) using a Discover SPS microwave system and Accent cleavage system (CEM Corporation, Matthews, NC). Fmoc-Gly-CLEAR-Amide Resin was purchased from Peptides International (Louisville, KY). The solvents \(N,N\)-dimethylformamide (DMF), dichloromethane (DCM), acetonitrile, and trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) were purchased from Fisher Scientific (Fair Lawn, NJ). The reagents diisopropylcarbodiimide (DIC), phenol and piperidine were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO) and Oxyma pure was purchased from Advanced ChemTech (Louisville, KY). Amino acids Fmoc-D-Ala-OH·H\(\text{2O}\), Fmoc-Glu(OtBu)-OH·H\(\text{2O}\), and Fmoc-Ile-OH were purchased from Peptides International (Louisville, KY). The amino acids Fmoc-Tyr(tBu)-OH, and Fmoc-Phe(4-Cl)-OH were purchased from Novabiochem (Billerica, MA). The amino acid Fmoc-Phe(4-F)-OH was purchased from Advanced ChemTech (Louisville, KY). Amino acids Fmoc-(4-Br)-Phe-OH and Fmoc-(4-NHBoc)-Phe-OH were purchased from Chem-Impex (Wood Dale, IL). The amino acid Fmoc-(4-I)-Phe-OH was purchased from Anaspec (Fremont, CA). All reagents were ACS grade or better and used without further purification.

Synthesis was performed on solid support in a Discover SPS microwave synthesizer. Approximately 250mg (0.1mmol) of Fmoc-Gly-CLEAR-Amide Resin was placed in a 50mL
fritted plastic reaction vessel and the resin was swelled in 50% DMF and 50% DCM for one hour. The initial deprotection was performed with about 6mL of 20% piperidine in DMF for 30 seconds at 70°C followed by 30 seconds at 75°C. The resin was washed with DMF and a Kaiser test performed to confirm the presence of a primary amine. A 3-fold excess of the first amino acid was dissolved in DMF along with a 5-fold excess of Oxyma pure. A 5-fold excess of DIC was added to the amino acid mixture and then the entire volume was added to the resin. Coupling was performed for five minutes at 75°C. Another Kaiser test was then performed to confirm completion of the coupling reaction. The deprotection and coupling cycle was repeated as necessary until all amino acids were added to the growing peptide chain. After addition of the last amino acid, the deprotection was repeated one last time and the resin was washed with DCM. Cleavage of the peptide was performed using the Discover SPS microwave in addition to the Accent cleavage system. Approximately 6mL of cleavage cocktail (90% TFA/5% water/5% phenol) was added to the dried resin and cleavage was performed for 30 minutes at 38°C. Cleaved peptide was collected by filtration and ether precipitation followed by centrifugation for 30 minutes at 4°C. The peptide was dissolved in water and lyophilized to a powder. HPLC analysis revealed crude peptide purity as greater than 95% pure as demonstrated by area under the curve. Peptides were analyzed for purity and molecular weight by LC-MS. Purity was greater than 95% for all peptides with an M+1 mass spectral analysis within equipment error.

**Iodination**: 5 was iodinated using a modified Sandmeyer reaction.\(^8,^{12}\) 18-Crown-6 (303mM) and tetrakis copper(I)tetrafluoroborate (254 nM) were dissolved in 40 uL water and incubated with 4mCi Na\(^{125}\)I on ice. A second reaction vial containing 8 mM 5 was incubated with 2 N sulfuric acid on ice. 50mM sodium nitrite was added and incubated on ice for 5 minutes. The
reaction was quenched with 290 mM sulfamic acid. The reactions were combined and placed on ice. Following a 3 hour incubation, the reaction was centrifuged and the supernatant was injected onto a reverse-phase HPLC C18 column (Thermo Scientific, 150x4.6mm, 5µm). The gradient started at 5% acetonitrile containing 0.1% TFA (1mL/min). During the first 5 min, the gradient was increased to 30%, held at 30% for 5 min, increased to 50% during the following 10 min, and finally increased to 95% during the final 5 min. The desired product eluted at 15 min and was obtained with an unoptimized radiochemical yield of 1.3%. The product was confirmed by running 3 as a standard (S1). The yields obtained were lower than expected; we have used the Sandmeyer reaction on a different peptide alpha-neoendorphin with yields around ~29%.

Efforts are underway to improve the radiochemical yields so this protocol can be used on a variety of peptides.

Pharmacology:

Receptor-Binding Assays. Competition-binding assays in CHO cells stably expressing MOR, DOR, or KOR were performed at 25 °C in potassium phosphate buffer (50 mM; pH 7.4), with the inclusion of MgSO₄ (5 mM) in the MOR assays. Competition assays were carried out using [¹²⁵I]BNtxA⁶a as described. Specific binding was defined as the difference between total binding and nonspecific binding, determined in the presence of levallorphan (8 µM). Protein concentration was determined as described by Lowry et al., using bovine serum albumin as the standard. Protein concentrations of MOR-CHO, DOR-CHO, and KOR-CHO membranes were between 20 and 90 µg/mL, and incubation times were 90 min. [¹²⁵I]3 (¹²⁵I-GATE 3-8) assays (0.25mL; 0.045 mg protein) were performed in the presence of a protease inhibitor containing 2 ug/ml each leupeptin, pepstatin, aprotinin, and bestatin and 0.2mM PMSF.
6TM/E11 competition binding assays using $[^{125}]$I\text{BNtxA} (1; 0.15 nM) were carried out in whole brain membrane homogenates (0.5 mL; 0.5 mg protein) at 25°C in potassium phosphate buffer (50 mM; pH 7.4) with magnesium sulfate (5 mM) for 90 min in the presence of CTAP, U50488H, and DPDPE, all at 200 nM, to block traditional opioid binding sites.

**Tail Flick Analgesia Assays.** Male CD-1 mice (25–35 g; Charles River Breeding Laboratories, Wilmington, MA) were maintained on a 12 h light/dark cycle with Purina rodent chow and water available ad libitum. Mice were housed in groups of five until testing. All animal experiments were reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Analgesia was determined using the radiant heat tail flick technique using a machine (Ugo Basile; model 37360). The intensity was set to achieve a baseline between 2 and 3 s. The latency to withdraw the tail from a focused light stimulus was measured electronically using a photocell. Baseline latencies (2.0–3.0 s) were determined before experimental treatments for all animals. Post-treatment tail flick latencies were determined as indicated for each experiment, and a maximal latency of 10 s for tail flick was used to minimize tissue damage. Naltrindole was given subcutaneously and cumulative dose–response experiments carried out with two independent assays with each group (n = 10). GATE3-8 was delivered intracerebroventricularly (i.c.v.) as previously described. Briefly, the mice were anesthetized by isoflurane. A small incision was made, and GATE3-8 (2 ul/mouse) was injected using a 10 uL Hamilton syringe fitted to a 27 gauge needle. Injections were made into the right lateral ventricle at the following coordinates: 2 mm caudal to bregma, 2 mm lateral to sagittal suture, and 2 mm in depth. Mice were tested for analgesia 15 minutes post injection. The combined results are presented as the ED$_{50}$ with 95% confidence limits (n = 20). Analgesia was defined quantitatively as a doubling, or greater, of the baseline latency. Similar results were obtained
analyzing the data in a graded response manner. Analgesic ED$_{50}$s and confidence limits were determined using nonlinear regression analysis Graph Pad Prism (Graphpad Software, La Jolla, CA).

$[^{35}]$GTP$_{S}$-Binding Assay: $[^{35}]$GTP$_{S}$ binding was performed on membranes (60 ug; 1 ml) prepared from transfected cells in the presence and absence of the indicated opioid for 60 min at 30°C in the assay buffer (50 mM Tris-$\text{HCl}$, pH 7.4, 3 mM MgCl$_{2}$, 0.2 mM EGTA, and 10 mM NaCl) containing 0.05nM $[^{35}]$GTP$_{S}$; 2 µg/ml each leupeptin, pepstatin, aprotinin, and bestatin; and 30µMGDP, as previously reported.$^{15}$ After the incubation, the reaction was filtered through glass-fiber filters (Whatman Schleicher & Schuell, Keene, NH) and washed three times with 3 ml of ice-cold 50 mM Tris-$\text{HCl}$, pH 7.4, on a semiautomatic cell harvester. Filters were transferred into vials with 5 ml of Liquiscent (National Diagnostics, Atlanta, GA), and the radioactivity in vials was determined by scintillation spectroscopy in a Tri-Carb 2900TR counter (PerkinElmer Life and Analytical Sciences). Basal binding was determined in the presence of GDP and the absence of drug.
Scheme 1. Radioiodination of 5 to $^{125}$I-3 ($^{125}$I-GATE3-8)

Tyr-DAla-(pNH$_2$)Phe-Glu-Ile-Ile-Gly-NH$_2$

5

\[ \text{a), b)} \]

Tyr-DAla-(p$^{125}$I)Phe-Glu-Ile-Ile-Gly-NH$_2$

125

\[ \text{I-3 (}^{125}\text{I-GATE3-8)} \]

\[ \text{a) NaNO}_2, \ 2\text{N} \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4, \ \text{H}_3\text{NSO}_3, \ 0^\circ\text{C, 5 min}} \ 	ext{b) 18-Crown-6, H}_2\text{O, Na}^{125}\text{I,} \ 
\text{Cu(I)(CH}_3\text{CN)}_4\text{BF}_4, \ 3\text{h}} \]
Figure 1: Pharmacology of (Tyr-DAla-(pI)Phe-Glu-Ile-Ile-Gly-NH₂) 3 (GATE3-8)

1a) [$^{35}$S]GTPγS in DOR-CHO

1b) Analgesia in mice

1c) Antagonism of analgesia
a) **GTPγS stimulation**: Efficacy data were obtained using agonist induced stimulation of 

\[ ^{35}\text{S}\text{GTPγS binding assay. Efficacy is represented as EC}_{50} \text{ (nM) and percent maximal stimulation relative to standard agonist DPDPE (DOR) at 100nM. All values are expressed as the mean ± SEM of three separate assays performed in triplicate.} \]

b) **Analgesia**: Groups of mice (n=10) received 3 (i.c.v.) at the indicated doses and were tested 15 min later at peak effect to generate the analgesic dose-response curve. ED\text{50} values (and 95% confidence limits) were 0.3 µg (0.1, 0.47) in CD1 mice by using the radiant heat tail-flick assay.

c) **Sensitivity of 3 to opioid antagonists**: Groups of mice (n=10) received a fixed dose of 3(GATE 3-8, 1 ug, i.c.v.) alone or NTI (20 mg/kg, s.c.) given 15 min before 3. Tail flick analgesia was measured 15 min after 3. Similar results were observed in two independent replications. Analgesia of 3 was antagonized by NTI (ANOVA followed by Bonferroni multiple comparison test (p < 0.05)).
Figure 2. Saturation curve of $[^{125}\text{I}]-3$ ($^{125}\text{I}$-GATE3-8) in DOR-CHO membranes

$[^{125}\text{I}]-3$ saturation studies were carried out on DOR-CHO membranes. Results are from a representative experiment, and only specific binding is reported. Ratios of total to nonspecific binding were 2.5:1. Experiments were replicated at least three times. $K_D$ and $B_{\text{max}}$ were determined by nonlinear regression analysis, and the means ± SEM of the replicates were determined. The $K_D$ value was best fit with a single site, $K_D = 0.11 \pm 0.02$ nM, $B_{\text{max}} = 196.97\pm12.44$ fmol/mg.

Table 1. Sequences of peptides synthesized

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<td>Tyr-$[^{125}\text{I}]-3$ Deltorphin II-(pI)Phe-Glu-Ile-Ile-Gly-NH$_2$</td>
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<td>Tyr-$[^{125}\text{I}]-3$ Deltorphin II-(pNH$_2$)Phe-Glu-Ile-Ile-Gly-NH$_2$</td>
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Table 2. HPLC data of Peptides Synthesized; Tyr-ĐAla-(pX)Phe-Glu-Ile-Ile-Gly-NH₂.

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<th>HPLC k’ (Solvent 2)</th>
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<th>Mass Spectral Analysis (M+1)</th>
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<td>2 (pCl)Phe</td>
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<td>13.86</td>
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<td>3 (pI)Phe</td>
<td>6.65</td>
<td>14.73</td>
<td>936.85</td>
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<td>&gt;95%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (pBr)Phe</td>
<td>5.87</td>
<td>14.24</td>
<td>889.85</td>
<td>890.10</td>
<td>&gt;98%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (pNH₂)Phe</td>
<td>3.35</td>
<td>7.99</td>
<td>825.96</td>
<td>825.68</td>
<td>&gt;98%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HPLC k’ = [peptide retention time-solvent retention time]/solvent retention time in Solvent 1 (10-90% acetonitrile in 0.01% TFA/water over 15 minutes) or Solvent 2 (10-90% methanol in 0.01% TFA/water over 15 minutes) with a flow rate of 1.5 mL/min. HPLC analysis was performed using a Perkin Elmer HPLC System with a Phenomenex Kinetex C18 column (2.6µm, 4.6x100mm) at a wavelength of 214nm. Mass spectral analysis took place at CEM Corporation (Matthews, NC) using a Thermoscientific LCQ Advantage System with an Atlantis dC18 analytical column (2.1x150mm). Peptide purity was determined by comparing the area under the main peptide peak as compared to other peaks present.

Table 3. Competition assays against [¹²⁵I]BNtxA, Tyr-ĐAla-(pX)Phe-Glu-Ile-Ile-Gly-NH₂.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peptide</th>
<th>(pX)Phe</th>
<th>MOR (nM)</th>
<th>DOR (nM)</th>
<th>KOR (nM)</th>
<th>6TM/E11 (nM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(ĐAla-2)DeltorphinII</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>0.34±0.1</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 (pF)Phe</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>6±2.47</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (pCl)Phe</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>2.44±0.08</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (pI)Phe</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>0.76±0.45</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (pBr)Phe</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>0.74±0.36</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (pNH₂)Phe</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>26±4.16</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Competition studies were performed with the indicated compounds against [¹²⁵I]BNtxA (0.1 nM) in membranes from CHO cells stably expressing the indicated cloned opioid receptor or in mouse brain membranes for 6TM/E11 sites with blockers to prevent binding to traditional mu,
kappa_1 and delta receptors as described in the methods section. K_i values were calculated from the IC_{50} values and represent the means ± SEM of at least three independent replications. K_D’s used for calculating K_i’s were 0.11, 0.03, 0.24 and 0.16 nM for MOR-1, KOR-1, DOR-1 and 6TM/E11 respectively.

Table 4. Competition assays against [^{125}I]-3 (^{125}I-GATE3-8) in DOR-CHO.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>DOR-CHO K_i (nM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DPDPE</td>
<td>4.5±0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNC80</td>
<td>9.8±0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naltrindole</td>
<td>0.79±0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naltriben</td>
<td>0.14±0.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Competition studies were performed with the indicated compounds against [^{125}I]3 (0.2 nM) in membranes from CHO cells stably expressing DOR. K_i values were calculated from the IC_{50} values\(^{16}\) and represent the means ± SEM of at least three independent replications. The K_D used for calculating K_i’s was 0.1nM.
AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Authors

*Krista R. Wilson, PO Box 159 Wingate, NC 28174; k.wilson@wingate.edu

*Susruta Majumdar, 1275 York Avenue, NY, NY 10065; majumdas@mskcc.org

Author Contributions

+ RP and GFM contributed equally. The manuscript was written through contributions of all authors. All authors have given approval to the final version of the manuscript.

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Supporting Information

This information is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org/.

ABBREVIATIONS

6TM/E11, six transmembrane exon 11; MOR, mu opioid receptor; KOR, kappa opioid receptor; DOR, delta opioid receptor; IBNtxA, 3’-iodobenzoylnaltrexamide; s.c., subcutaneous; CHO, Chinese hamster ovary cells; DPDPE, [D-Pen²,D-Pen⁵]Enkephalin; K₂CO₃, potassium carbonate; DMF, N,N-dimethylformamide; DCM, dichloromethane; TFA, trifluoroacetic acid; Tyr, tyrosine; D-Ala, D-Alanine; Phe, phenylalanine; (pF)Phe, para-fluoro-phenylalanine; (pCl)Phe, para-chloro-phenylalanine; (pBr)Phe, para-bromo-phenylalanine; (pI)Phe, para-iodo-phenylalanine; (pNH₂)Phe, para-amino-phenylalanine; Glu, glutamic acid; Ile, isoleucine; Gly, glycine; HPLC, high pressure liquid chromatography; diisopropylcarbodiimide (DIC)
REFERENCES


Synthesis and pharmacology of halogenated δ-opioid selective

[\text{DAla}^2] \text{Deltorphin II peptide analogs}

\textit{Robyn Pescatore}^{c*}, \textit{Gina F. Marrone}^{a,b+}, \textit{Seth Sedberry}^{c}, \textit{Daniel Vinton}^{c}, \textit{Netanel Finkelstein}^{b}, \textit{Yitzchak E. Katlowitz}^{b}, \textit{Gavril W. Pasternak}^{a,b}, \textit{Krista R. Wilson}^{c*} and \textit{Susruta Majumdar}^{b*}

\textsuperscript{a}Department of Neuroscience, Weil Cornell Medical College, 1300 York Avenue, NY, NY 10065

\textsuperscript{b}Department of Neurology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, 1275 York Avenue, NY, NY 10065

\textsuperscript{c}Department of Chemistry, Wingate University, PO Box 159, Wingate, NC 28174