# Structural studies of model peptides containing $\beta$-, $\gamma$ - and $\delta$-amino acids $\dagger$ 

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Received 11th July 2006, Accepted 20th September 2006<br>First published as an Advance Article on the web 12th October 2006<br>DOI: 10.1039/b609863k


#### Abstract

The crystal structures of five model peptides Piv-Pro-Gly-NHMe (1), Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe (2), Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-OMe (3), Piv-Pro- $\delta A v a-O M e ~(4) ~ a n d ~ B o c-P r o-~ \gamma A b u-O H ~(5) ~ a r e ~ d e s c r i b e d ~(P i v: ~ p i v a l o y l ; ~ ;$ NHMe: $N$-methylamide; $\beta$ Gly: $\beta$-glycine; OMe: $O$-methyl ester; $\delta$ Ava: $\delta$-aminovaleric acid; $\gamma$ Abu: $\gamma$-aminobutyric acid). A comparison of the structures of peptides $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{2}$ illustrates the dramatic consequences upon backbone homologation in short sequences. $\mathbf{1}$ adopts a type II $\beta$-turn conformation in the solid state, while in $\mathbf{2}$, the molecule adopts an open conformation with the $\beta$-residue being fully extended. Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-OMe (3), which differs from 2 by replacement of the C-terminal NH group by an O-atom, adopts an almost identical molecular conformation and packing arrangement in the solid state. In peptide $\mathbf{4}$, the observed conformation resembles that determined for $\mathbf{2}$ and $\mathbf{3}$, with the $\delta A v a$ residue being fully extended. In peptide $\mathbf{5}$, the molecule undergoes a chain reversal, revealing a $\beta$-turn mimetic structure stabilized by a $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ hydrogen bond.


## Introduction

Recent interest in the conformational properties of oligopeptides formed by $\beta$-amino acids and higher omega amino acid analogues has been stimulated by the recognition that new classes of folded structures can be formed by homooligomers of backbone homologated amino acids. ${ }^{1-2}$ Hybrid sequences containing $\alpha$ - and $\omega$-amino acids are of special interest in the rational design of secondary structures generated by insertion of additional atoms into polypeptide backbones. ${ }^{3-7}$ As part of a systematic investigation, we have examined the effects of backbone homologation on the structures of simple proline containing peptides. $\beta$-turn formation is favorable in Pro- X sequences, because the two stable states for Pro residues, right handed helical, $\alpha_{\mathrm{R}}\left(\phi=-60^{\circ}, \psi=\right.$ $-30^{\circ}$ ) and polyproline II, $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{II}}\left(\phi=-60^{\circ}, \psi=120^{\circ}\right)$, are the conformations necessary at the $i+1$ position of type I/III and type II $\beta$-turns, respectively. ${ }^{8}$ In an earlier study, we have reported the characterization of the type II $\beta$-turn conformation in the model peptide Piv-Pro-Gly-NHMe (1) (Piv: pivaloyl; NHMe: $N$-methylamide), determined ab initio from powder diffraction data. ${ }^{9}$ In this report, we describe the structures of $\mathbf{1}$ and its backbone homologue Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe (2) ( $\beta$ Gly: $\beta$-glycine) determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction. The choice of the pivaloyl blocking group for proline was based on earlier studies, which establish that the use of a bulky N -terminus protecting group restricts the amide bond preceding proline to the trans conformation. ${ }^{10}$ A brief description of the crystal structure of Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe appeared as early as $1989 .{ }^{11}$ However, only

[^0]backbone dihedral angles were reported and no coordinates are available in the Cambridge Structural Database (note that in ref. 11 the $\beta$ Gly residue is referred to as $\beta$ Ala, which was the originally used nomenclature. Subsequent to the rapid growth of the field of $\beta$-peptides, the term $\beta$ HGly has been suggested, ${ }^{1}$ simplified here as $\beta$ Gly). The structures of $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{2}$ are dramatically different. The structures of Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-OMe (3) and Piv-Pro- $\delta A v a-O M e$ (4) ( $\delta$ Ava: $\delta$-aminovaleric acid; OMe: $O$-methyl ester) are shown to be remarkably similar to the extended conformation, characterized for Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe (2). Clearly, $\beta$-turn disruption occurs upon insertion of the additional methylene group $\left(-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\right)$ of $\beta$ Gly and the three $-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-$ groups of $\delta$ Ava into the polypeptide backbone. The structure of Boc-Pro- $\gamma$ Abu-OH (5) ( $\gamma$ Abu: $\gamma$ aminobutyric acid) is also described. Here, the observed $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ hydrogen bond stabilized the $\beta$-turn domain, closely resembling that established earlier in Piv-Pro- $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}$-NHMe (6), determined by powder X-ray diffraction. ${ }^{12}$

## Results and discussion

## Peptide conformations in crystals

The conformations characterized for peptides $\mathbf{1 - 5}$ in crystals are shown in Fig. 1. The backbone torsion angles are summarized in Table 1. Table 2 lists the observed intra- and intermolecular hydrogen bond parameters. The structure observed for Piv-Pro-Gly-NHMe (1) is an almost ideal type II $\beta$-turn stabilized by a $4 \rightarrow 1$ hydrogen bond between the $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ of the Piv group and NH of the methylamide group ( $\mathrm{N} 3 \cdots \mathrm{O} 0=2.962 \AA ; \mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O} 0=$ $2.266 \AA ; \angle \mathrm{NH} \cdots \mathrm{O}=154.9^{\circ}$ ). The RMSD obtained upon superposing the non-hydrogen atoms in the structures determined by powder diffraction ${ }^{9}$ and single crystal (present work) methods is $0.09 \AA$. The near identity of the structures obtained using different datasets, powder and single crystal, is gratifying. The structure of peptide $\mathbf{2}$ provides insights into the effect of insertion of atoms into a folded peptide backbone, revealing disruption of

a




f

Fig. 1 Molecular conformations of a) Piv-Pro-Gly-NHMe (1), b) Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe (2), c) Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-OMe (3), d) Piv-Pro- $\delta A v a-O M e ~(4)$, e) Boc-Pro- $\gamma$ Abu-OH (5), f) Piv-Pro- $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}-\mathrm{NHMe}^{12}$ (6) in crystals.
the $\beta$-turn conformation and loss of the intramolecular $4 \rightarrow 1$ hydrogen bond. The backbone torsion angles correspond closely to those determined in an earlier study. ${ }^{11}$ While the Pro residue conformation is retained $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{II}}$ (polyproline), the $\beta$ Gly residue adopts an extended geometry of $\theta \sim-179.4^{\circ}$, very close to the ideal trans conformation of the $\mathrm{C}^{\beta}-\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ bond. The structure of Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-OMe (3) is remarkably similar to that of (2), suggesting that the hydrogen bond involving the C-terminal NH group may not have a predominant influence in determining the molecular conformation and crystal packing. Interestingly, the Pro residue
in Piv-Pro-סAva-OMe (4) also adopts the $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{II}}$ conformation. Inspection of the structures shown in Fig. 1b, $c$ and $d$ reveals that there is a gross overall similarity between peptides 2,3 and 4 . The $\delta A v a$ residue adopts an all trans conformation about the $\mathrm{C}^{\delta}-\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}$, $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}-\mathrm{C}^{\beta}$ and $\mathrm{C}^{\beta}-\mathrm{C}^{a}$ bonds. The structure of peptide 5, Boc-Pro$\gamma$ Abu-OH reveals a folded conformation stabilized by a $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ hydrogen bond involving one of the $\alpha$-methylene hydrogen atoms of the $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}$ residue and the $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ group of Boc. A similar reverse turn has been observed in the structure of Piv-Pro- $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}-\mathrm{NHMe}$ determined from powder X-ray diffraction data (Fig. 1f). ${ }^{12}$ Fig. 2

Table 1 Torsion angles (deg) ${ }^{a}$ for peptides 1-5

| Peptide | Residue | $\phi$ | $\theta_{1}$ | $\theta_{2}$ | $\theta_{3}$ | $\psi$ | $\omega$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Pro | -59.5 | - | - | - | 133.5 | -178.7 |
|  | Gly | 72.3 | - | - | - | 13.4 | -178.4 |
| 2 | Pro | -53.4 | - | - | - | 140.5 | -175.8 |
|  | $\beta$ Gly | 87.3 | -179.4 | - | - | -158.3 | -179.0 |
| 3 | Pro | -54.1 | - | - | - | 144.9 | 178.3 |
|  | $\beta$ Gly | 99.6 | 179.0 |  |  | -164.1 | -178.1 |
| 4 | Pro | -54.9 | - | - | - | 142.9 | 177.3 |
|  | §Ava | 94.2 | -179.9 | 179.3 | 175.7 | -147.4 | -178.8 |
| 5 | Pro | -56.0 | 60. | 68. | - | 141.5 | 180.0 |
|  | $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}$ | 100.4 | -60.8 | -68.9 | - | 169.1 | - |

${ }^{a}$ For $\alpha$-residue nomenclature see ref. 8 c and for $\omega$-residue nomenclature see ref. 7a.

Table 2 Hydrogen bond parameters in peptides 1-5 ${ }^{a}$

| Peptide | Type | Donor (D) | Acceptor (A) | D...A (Å) | $\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{A}(\AA)$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O} \cdots \mathrm{H}(\mathrm{deg})$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O} \cdots \mathrm{D}(\mathrm{deg})$ | D-H... A (deg) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Intramolecular 4 $\rightarrow$ 1 | N0M | O0 | 2.962 | 2.266 | 136.4 | 133.7 | 154.9 |
|  | Intermolecular | N2 | $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {b }}$ | 2.938 | 2.081 | 127.6 | 128.9 | 174.6 |
| 2 | Intermolecular | N2 | OW | 2.874 | 2.014 |  |  | 178.7 |
|  |  | N0M | O1 ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | 3.088 | 2.185 | 126.7 | 126.9 | 171.0 |
|  |  | C1A | OW | 3.472 | 2.641 |  |  | 140.5 |
|  |  | OW | $\mathrm{O} 0{ }^{\text {c }}$ | 2.841 | 1.854 | 144.0 | 143.3 | 177.1 |
|  |  | OW | $\mathrm{Ol}^{\text {d }}$ | 2.816 | 1.971 | 130.6 | 132.5 | 172.9 |
| 3 | Intermolecular | N2 | OW | 2.877 | 2.042 |  |  | 174.8 |
|  |  | C1A | OW | 3.414 | 2.658 |  |  | 133.5 |
|  |  | OW | O1 ${ }^{\text {e }}$ | 2.770 | 1.954 | 134.5 | 136.7 | 171.0 |
|  |  | OW | O0f | 2.812 | 1.971 | 145.6 | 144.0 | 174.1 |
| 4 | Intermolecular | N2 | OW | 2.890 | 2.041 |  |  | $169.0$ |
|  |  | C1A | OW | 3.301 | 2.499 |  |  | 138.9 |
|  |  | OW | $\mathrm{Ol}^{\text {g }}$ | 2.775 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | OW | $\mathrm{O} 0^{h}$ | 2.785 |  |  |  |  |
| 5 |  | C2A | O0 | 3.573 | 2.632 | 124.3 | 125.3 | 174.4 |
|  | Intermolecular | N2 | O1 ${ }^{i}$ | 2.908 | 2.116 | 175.5 | 171.3 | 157.8 |
|  |  | O3 | $\mathrm{O}^{j}{ }^{1}$ | 2.691 | 1.780 | 128.8 | 125.6 | 170.3 |
|  |  | C1D | $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{k}$ | 3.613 | 2.648 | 152.3 | 152.2 | 173.5 |

${ }^{a}$ Estimated standard deviations in the hydrogen bond lengths and angles are approximately $0.004 \AA$ and $0.5^{\circ}$ respectively. ${ }^{b}$ Symmetry related by $(x+1$, $y, z) \cdot{ }^{c}$ Symmetry related by $(x-1, y, z) \cdot{ }^{d}$ Symmetry related by $(-x-1, y+1 / 2,-z+1 / 2) \cdot{ }^{e}$ Symmetry related by $(-x, y+1 / 2,-z+1 / 2) .{ }^{f}$ Symmetry related by $(-x, y-1 / 2,-z+3 / 2) .{ }^{g}$ Symmetry related by $(-x-1, y-1 / 2,-z+3 / 2) .{ }^{h}$ Symmetry related by $(x+1 / 2,-y+1 / 2,-z) .{ }^{i}$ Symmetry related by $(x+1 / 2,-y+1 / 2,-z+1) .{ }^{j}$ Symmetry related by $(y,-x+y, z-1 / 6) .{ }^{k}$ Symmetry related by $(x-y, x, z+1 / 6)$. ${ }^{\prime}$ Symmetry related by $(x+$ $1, y, z$.


Fig. 2 Superposition of the structures Boc-Pro- $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}-\mathrm{OH}$ (black) and Piv-Pro- $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}-\mathrm{NHMe}$ (grey). The representation was generated by using the program MolMol. ${ }^{45}$


Fig. 3 Superposition of the peptides Boc-Pro- $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}-\mathrm{OH}$ (grey) and Piv-Pro-Gly-NHMe (black), RMSD $=0.32 \AA$. The representation was generated by using the program MolMol. ${ }^{45}$


Fig. 4 A view of crystal packing in a) Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe (2), b) Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-OMe (3) and c) Piv-Pro- $\delta A v a-O M e$ (4). The intermolecular hydrogen bond for peptide $\mathbf{2}$ is shown as dotted lines.
shows a superposition of these two closely related structures. While the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ hydrogen bond orientations in the two peptides superpose reasonably well, significant differences are observed in the orientation of the central peptide unit (Pro- $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}$ ). In 5, Pro adopts a $\mathrm{P}_{\text {II }}$ conformation while the $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}$ residue adopts the gauche, gauche ( $g^{-} g^{-}$) conformation about the $\mathrm{C}^{\gamma}-\mathrm{C}^{\beta}$ and $\mathrm{C}^{\beta}-\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ bonds (Table 1). In contrast, the $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}$ residue in Piv-Pro- $\gamma$ Abu-NHMe, has the following torsion angles $\left(\phi_{\text {Pro }}=\right.$ $-71.0^{\circ}, \psi_{\text {Pro }}=-26.1^{\circ}, \phi_{\gamma \mathrm{Abu}}=-77.2^{\circ}, \theta^{1}{ }_{\gamma \mathrm{Abu}}=-50.2^{\circ}, \theta^{2}{ }_{\gamma \mathrm{Abu}}=$ $-172.2^{\circ}$ and $\left.\psi_{\gamma \mathrm{Abu}}=140.0^{\circ}\right) .{ }^{12}$ The notable difference is that in this peptide, the $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}$ residue adopts a $g^{-} t$ conformation. The central peptide unit is flipped in peptide $\mathbf{5}$ as compared
to Piv-Pro- $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}-\mathrm{NHMe}$ and the comparison of $\phi$ and $\theta_{1}$ torsion angles reveals a compensating effect, which permits retention of the overall fold of the peptide chain. The $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ hydrogen bond mediated chain reversal in 5 mimics the $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ hydrogen bonded $\beta$-turn structure determined in $\mathbf{1}$. Fig. 3 shows a superposition of the structures of peptides $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{5}$, displaying the remarkable similarity of the overall fold of the backbone.

## Molecular packing

A view of the packing motif in the three structures (2-4) is illustrated in Fig. 4. Peptides 2 and 3, which differ only by
replacement of an NH group in 2 and an O-atom in $\mathbf{3}$ pack in an almost identical manner. Both peptides crystallized as monohydrate with water molecules linking symmetry related peptides. In addition, the single peptide hydrogen bond between the methylamide NH and the Pro $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ group of a symmetry related molecule is observed in the crystal structure of 2. Replacement of the methylamide NH group by O in $\mathbf{3}$ does not disturb the packing arrangement, suggesting that this hydrogen bond may not be a major determinant of the solid state packing. Retention of the molecular conformation upon replacement of a hydrogen bonded NH by an O -atom has been earlier demonstrated in depsipeptide analogues in which an alanine residue is replaced by a lactic acid residue. ${ }^{13}$ The co-crystallized water molecule is clearly an important determinant of the molecular packing in crystals of peptides 2 and 3. An expanded view of the water environment in these two cases is shown schematically in Fig. 5a and 5b. In both cases, the water molecule forms three hydrogen bonds, acting as a hydrogen donor in two instances and as an acceptor in the third. The packing arrangement in peptide $\mathbf{4}$ is very similar with a single water molecule bridging three symmetry related peptides. A similarity of the water environment is also evident in Fig. 5c. There is no solvent molecule in the crystal structure of peptide 5. Two independent hydrogen bonds $\operatorname{Pro(1)~} \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O} \cdots \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{N} \gamma \mathrm{Abu}(2)$ and $\operatorname{Boc}(0) \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O} \cdots \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{O} \gamma \mathrm{Abu}(2)$ hold the peptide molecules in columns along the $c$-axis. The right-handed $6_{1}$-screw axis results in generation of the peptide columns in crystals, shown in Fig. 6.

## Potential C-H... O interaction

Considerable recent discussion has centered on the role of stabilizing $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ interactions in determining the packing of organic molecules in crystals ${ }^{14}$ and in determining the folded structures of biological molecules. ${ }^{15}$ In the structure of peptide 5, attention has been drawn to an intramolecular $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ interaction, which appears to facilitate the formation of a $\beta$ turn mimetic conformation (Fig. 1e) as noted in earlier studies of $\alpha \gamma$ hybrid peptides. ${ }^{12,16}$ This intra chain hydrogen bond mimics the 10 -atom ( $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}_{i} \cdots \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{N}_{i+3}$ ) hydrogen bond observed in a conventional $\beta$-turn structure. ${ }^{17}$ In the structures described here, an additional $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ interaction involving the Pro $\mathrm{C}^{a} \mathrm{H}$ and $\mathrm{C}^{8} \mathrm{H}$ groups may also be identified. In peptide $\mathbf{5}$, there is a lateral $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ interaction involving the $\mathrm{C}^{\delta}$ atom of Pro and the $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ group of $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}$ with a symmetry related molecule (Table 2 ). This kind of weak $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ interaction is often observed in proteins. ${ }^{15 e}$ In peptides 2,3 and 4, potential $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ interactions involving the $\mathrm{C}^{a} \mathrm{H}$ Pro and the water molecule are observed (Table 2). Consideration of these possibilities would imply that the water molecule participates in two donor and two acceptor interactions.

## Conformations of $\boldsymbol{\beta} \mathbf{G l y}$ residues

$\beta$ Glycine, a glycine homolog (3-amino propanoic acid, referred to in the earlier literature as " $\beta$-alanine") is the simplest member of the omega amino acid series. Glycine occupies a special position in discussions of $\alpha$-peptide conformations, since it is the only achiral residue in proteins as it lacks substituents at the $\mathrm{C}^{a}$-atom. These features result in a symmetrical Ramachandran map for


Fig. 5 A schematic view of the environment of water molecule in peptides a) Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe (2), b) Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-OMe (3) and c) Piv-Pro- $\delta A v a-O M e$ (4).

Gly residues encompassing a significantly larger degree of the conformational space as compared to the $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$-trisubstituted chiral residues. ${ }^{18}$ By extension, $\beta$ Gly conformations serve as a starting point for a systematic understanding of $\beta$-peptide structures. The structure determination of peptides 2 and $\mathbf{3}$ prompted us to examine the conformational distribution of $\beta$ Gly residues in available peptide structures. Fig. 7 shows a distribution of observed conformations in $\phi, \psi$ space. Conformational families represented by three possible conformational states about the $\mathrm{C}^{\beta}-\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ bonds $[\theta \approx$ $180^{\circ}(t), \theta \approx-60^{\circ}\left(g^{-}\right)$and $\left.\theta \approx 60^{\circ}\left(g^{+}\right)\right]$are marked by different


Fig. 6 Packing of peptide molecules Boc-Pro- $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}-\mathrm{OH}(5)$ in the unit cell.


Fig. 7 Observed conformation of $\beta$ glycine residues in the crystal structures of synthetic acyclic peptides represented on a two-dimensional $\phi-\psi$ plot. $\square: \theta=180^{\circ}$ for achiral peptides; $\square: \theta=180^{\circ}$ for chiral peptides; $\triangle$ : $\theta=-60^{\circ}$ for achiral peptides; $\mathbf{\Delta}: \theta=-60^{\circ}$ for chiral peptides; $\bigcirc: \theta=+60^{\circ}$ for achiral peptides; © : $\theta=+60^{\circ}$ for chiral peptides. Note the observed $\theta$ values for achiral peptides are listed twice in the figure ensuring both + and - values.
symbols. The observed clustering is skewed towards extended values of $\phi$ and $\psi$ (Table 3).

## Conclusions

A comparison of the structures of Piv-Pro-Gly-NHMe (1) and Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe (2) reveals that insertion of a single $\mathrm{sp}^{3}$ carbon atom into the backbone can result in a dramatic change in the molecular conformation. In $\alpha \beta$-hybrid peptide sequences an expanded $\beta$-turn of the $\mathrm{C}_{11}$-type is possible, ${ }^{4,19,21,38,39}$ but this has not been observed in the case of $\mathbf{2}$. The near identity of the crystal structures of $\mathbf{2}$ and the analogue Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-OMe (3), suggests that the hydrogen bond involving the terminal NH group in $\mathbf{2}$ is not a determinant of the molecular packing in crystals. A similar molecular conformation is observed in the homologous peptide Piv-Pro- $\delta$ Ava-OMe (4). In peptides 2, 3 and 4, all of the $\omega$-amino acid residues adopt the trans conformation about the backbone $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ bonds ( $\theta$ ). In contrast, in Boc-Pro- $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}-\mathrm{OH}(\mathbf{5})$, the $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}$ residue adopts a gauche, gauche $\left(g^{-} g^{-}\right)$conformation. The structures of Boc-Pro- $\gamma$ Abu-OH (5) and Piv-Pro-Gly-NHMe (1) show a striking resemblance, with a reversal of backbone direction. In the Pro- $\gamma \mathrm{Abu}$ sequence, a $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ hydrogen bond

Table 3 Conformations of $\beta$ Gly residues in the crystal structure of acyclic peptides

| Sequences |  | Residue | Torsion angles/deg |  |  | References |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | $\phi$ | $\theta$ | $\psi$ |  |
|  |  | $\theta=180^{\circ}$ |  |  |  |  |
| Boc- $\beta$ Gly-mABA-OMe |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (1) | -139.2 | 173.1 | 142.8 | 20 |
| Boc-Aib- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(2) | -132.8 | 165.0 | 131.7 | 21 |
| Boc-ßGly-Aib-OMe | Mol B | $\beta$ Gly(1) | - 106.4 | 161.2 | 142.7 | 22 |
| Boc-ßGly-Pda |  | $\beta$ Gly(1) | -115.3 | 173.1 | 121.6 | 23 |
| Boc-3Gly- ${ }^{\text {D }}$ Ala-NHMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(1) | -120.9 | 167.2 | 117.7 | 24 |
| Boc-3Gly-NHMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(1) | -145.5 | 171.6 | 154.5 | 25 |
| Ac-Gly- $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$-Gly- $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$-NHpropyl |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (4) | 175.0 | -177.2 | -170.5 | 26 |
| Ac-Gly- $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$-Gly- $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$-NHpropyl |  | $\beta$ Gly(2) | 169.0 | 180.0 | -164.0 | 26 |
| Boc- 3 Gly -Aib- 3 Gly -NHMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(3) | 82.7 | -177.4 | -117.3 | 27 |
| Boc-Aib- $\beta$ Gly-Aib-OMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(2) | -87.0 | -177.2 | 91.1 | 28 |
| Ac- $\beta$ Gly-( $R$ )-Nip-( $S$ )-Nip- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe | Mol A | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (1) | 176.2 | 174.7 | -173.4 | 29 |
|  |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (4) | -161.1 | -178.4 | 160.5 | 29 |
| Ac- $\beta$ Gly-(R)-Nip-(S)-Nip- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe | Mol B | $\beta$ Gly(1) | -171.5 | 171.4 | -168.3 | 29 |
|  |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (4) | -176.9 | 175.6 | -172.9 | 29 |
| Boc-Ala- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(2) | 135.9 | -175.8 | -163.4 | 21 |
| Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-OMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(2) | 99.5 | 178.9 | -164.0 | Present study |
| Piv-Pro- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (2) | 87.3 | -179.3 | -158.3 | Present study |
| Boc-ßGly-Ala-NHMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(1) | 120.6 | -167.1 | -118.2 | 30 |
| Boc-Leu-Aib-3Gly-OMe | Mol A | $\beta$ Gly(3) | 69.2 | 163.3 | 166.7 | 31 |
| Boc-Leu-Aib-ßGly-OMe | Mol B | $\beta$ Gly(3) | -125.5 | -177.3 | -112.4 | 31 |
| Boc-Ala-Aib- $\beta$ Gly-OMe |  | ¢Gly(3) | -81.4 | -173.0 | -99.3 | 32 |
| Boc- $\beta$ Gly-Aib- $\beta$ Gly-OMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(3) | 84.1 | -175.6 | 77.5 | 33 |
| Boc-3Gly-Leu-Aib-Val-OMe |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}(1)$ | -78.7 | 172.1 | 103.3 | 34 |
|  |  | $\theta=-60^{\circ}$ |  |  |  |  |
| Boc-Aib-Val-Aib- $\beta$ Gly-OMe |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (4) | -81.0 | -65.4 | -35.7 | 35 |
| Piv- $\beta$ Gly-OH |  | $\beta$ Gly(1) | -78.5 | -68.2 | 166.1 | Unpublished result |
| Boc- $\beta$ Gly-Aib- $\beta$ Gly-OMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(1) | -83.8 | -77.6 | 146.8 | 33 |
| Boc- $\beta$ Gly-Aib- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(1) | 136.3 | -61.9 | 100.1 | 27 |
| Boc-Ala-Gly- $\beta$ Gly-OMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(3) | -79.3 | -60.4 | -177.9 | 32 |
| Boc- $\beta$ Gly-Ac $\mathrm{c}_{6} \mathrm{c}-\mathrm{OMe}$ |  | $\beta$ Gly(1) | 134.2 | -64.8 | 145.8 | 36 |
| Boc- $\beta \mathrm{Gly}-\mathrm{Ac}_{5} \mathrm{c}-\mathrm{OMe}$ | Mol B | $\beta$ Gly(1) | 115.7 | -61.2 | 123.4 | 42 |
| Boc-ßGly-Aib-OMe | Mol A | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (1) | 138.8 | -71.0 | 137.8 | 22 |
| Boc- ${ }^{\text {LPip- }}$ - ${ }^{\text {Gly-NHMe }}$ |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (2) | 123.0 | -60.2 | 134.7 | 37 |
|  |  | $\theta=60^{\circ}$ |  |  |  |  |
| Boc-Leu-Aib-Val- $\beta$ Gly- $\gamma$ Abu-Leu-Aib-Val-Ala-Leu-Aib-OMe |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (4) | -102.6 | 78.5 | -106.9 | 3d |
| Boc-Leu-Aib-Val- $\beta \mathrm{Gly}-\gamma \mathrm{\gamma}$ bu-Leu-Aib-Val-OMe |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (4) | -130.3 | 75.9 | -162.3 | $3 d$ |
| Boc-3Gly-Aib-Leu-Aib-OMe |  | $\beta$ Gly(1) | -103.8 | 83.7 | -84.7 | 38 |
| LeucinostatinA, acyclic nonapeptide from Paecilomyces marquandii |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}(9)$ | -103.0 | 80.0 | -78.0 | 39 |
| Boc- $\beta \mathrm{Gly}^{\text {- }} \mathrm{Ac}_{5} \mathrm{c}$-OMe | Mol A | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}(1)$ | -112.6 | 67.8 | -130.6 | 42 |
| Boc- $\beta$ Gly-OH |  | $\beta$ Gly(1) | 87.0 | 67.0 | -175.0 | 40 |
| $N$-Chloroacetyl- $\beta$ Gly |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (1) | 80.5 | 73.1 | 174.2 | 41 |
| Boc-Aib-Aib- $\beta$ Gly-NHMe |  | $\beta \mathrm{Gly}$ (3) | -88.0 | 71.0 | -101.3 | 21 |

acts as a mimetic of the $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ hydrogen bond in the classical peptide $\beta$-turn.

## Experimental

## Synthesis of peptides 1-5

Peptides $\mathbf{1 - 5}$ were synthesized by a conventional solution phase procedure, purified by reverse phase $\left(\mathrm{C}_{18}\right)$ medium pressure liquid chromatography and were characterized by electrospray ionization mass spectrometry. ${ }^{43}$

## X-Ray diffraction

Crystals of peptides $\mathbf{1 - 5}$ were grown by slow evaporation from the solvents water (peptide 1), dimethylsulfoxide-water (peptide 2), methanol-water (peptide 3) and ethyl acetate (peptides 4 and 5). X-Ray intensity data for crystals $\mathbf{1 - 5}$ were collected
at room temperature on a Bruker AXS SMART APEX CCD diffractometer with graphite monochromated $\operatorname{MoK}_{u}(\lambda=0.71073$ $\AA$ ) radiation. The $\omega$ scan type was used. The structures of $\mathbf{1 - 5}$ were determined by direct phase determination using the program SHELXS-97. ${ }^{44 a}$ Refinements of all five structures were carried out against $F^{2}$, with a full matrix anisotropic least-squares method using the program SHELXL-97..$^{44 b}$ The single water molecule was located from the difference Fourier maps in peptides 2, 3 and 4. Hydrogen atoms bonded to C1A(Pro); N2(Gly); N0M(NHMe) for peptide 1, C1A(Pro); N0M(NHMe); OW for peptide 2, C1A(Pro); N 2 ( $\beta$ Gly); OW for peptide 3 and $\mathrm{C} 1 \mathrm{~A}($ Pro $) ; \mathrm{N} 2, \mathrm{C} 2 \mathrm{~A}, \mathrm{C} 2 \mathrm{~B}(\gamma \mathrm{Abu})$; $\mathrm{O} 3(\mathrm{OH})$ for peptide 5 were located from the difference Fourier maps. The remaining hydrogen atoms of peptides $\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}, \mathbf{3}, \mathbf{5}$ and all the hydrogens of peptide $\mathbf{4}$, which could not be located, were fixed geometrically in the idealized positions and refined in the final cycle as riding over the heavier atom to which they were bonded. In these all-light-atom structures with no significant anomalous

Table 4 Crystal and diffraction parameters

|  | Peptide 1 | Peptide 2 | Peptide 3 | Peptide 4 | Peptide 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{13} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{25} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{3} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{24} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{24} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{5}$ |
| Formula weight | 269.0 | 301.0 | 302.0 | 330.0 | 300.0 |
| Crystal habit | Rectangular | Rectangular | Rectangular | Plate | Rod |
| Crystal size (mm) | $0.55 \times 0.45 \times 0.15$ | $0.52 \times 0.35 \times 0.1$ | $0.53 \times 0.4 \times 0.1$ | $0.37 \times 0.17 \times 0.05$ | $0.55 \times 0.14 \times 0.1$ |
| Crystallizing solvent | Water | Dimethylsulfoxide-water | Methanol-water | Ethyl acetate | Ethyl acetate |
| Space group | P1 | $P 2_{1} 2_{1} 2_{1}$ | $P 22_{1} 2_{1} 2_{1}$ | $P 2,2,2$ | $P 6{ }_{1}$ |
| Cell parameters |  |  |  |  |  |
| $a / \AA$ | 5.8431(12) | 6.297(3) | 6.157(2) | 11.330(10) | 9.7591(16) |
| $b / A ̊$ | 7.9668(17) | 11.589(5) | 11.547(4) | 25.56(2) | 9.7591(16) |
| $c / \AA$ | $9.1733(19)$ | 22.503(9) | 23.404(8) | 6.243(6) | 29.158(10) |
| $a /$ deg | 114.831(3) | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| $\beta /$ deg | 97.043(3) | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| $\gamma /$ deg | 99.449(3) | 90 | 90 | 90 | 120 |
| Volume/A ${ }^{3}$ | 373.43(13) | 1642.2(11) | 1663.9(10) | 1808(3) | 2405.0(10) |
| Z | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Molecules/asym. unit | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Co-crystallized solvent | None | One water | One water | One water | None |
| Molecular weight | 269.34 | 301.39 | 302.37 | 328.40 | 300.35 |
| Density/ $\mathrm{g} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ (calc) | 1.198 | 1.219 | 1.207 | 1.206 | 1.244 |
| $F(000) /$ radiation | $146 / \mathrm{MoK}_{a}$ | $656 / \mathrm{MoK}_{a}$ | $656 / \mathrm{MoK}_{a}$ | $712 / \mathrm{MoK}_{a}$ | $972 / \mathrm{MoK}_{a}$ |
| Temperature $/{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |  |
| $2 \theta \max \left({ }^{\circ}\right) / R_{\text {int }}$ | 54.38/0.0265 | 54.90/0.0409 | 55.0/0.0364 | 46.52/0.0368 | 54.8/0.1109 |
| Measured reflections | 3984 | 12803 | 13048 | 7348 | 19265 |
| Independent reflections | 2893 | 3455 | 3482 | 2578 | 3431 |
| Unique reflections | 1528 | 2054 | 2078 | 1533 | 1809 |
| Observed reflections | 1496 | 1861 | 1874 | 1406 | 1537 |
| $\left[\left\|F_{\mathrm{o}}\right\|>4 \sigma\left(\left\|F_{\mathrm{o}}\right\|\right)\right]$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Final $R(\%) / w R_{2}(\%)$ | 3.65/9.79 | 4.39/12.11 | 5.00/13.79 | 9.19/23.44 | 7.73/12.43 |
| Goodness-of-fit | 1.069 | 1.076 | 1.124 | 1.143 | 1.263 |
| $\Delta \rho_{\text {max }}\left(e \AA^{-3}\right) / \Delta \rho_{\text {min }}\left(e \AA^{-3}\right)$ | 0.180/-0.183 | 0.294/-0.151 | 0.325/-0.155 | 0.307/-0.285 | 0.187/-0.153 |
| Restraints/parameters | 3/184 | 0/206 | 0/206 | 1/208 | 1/218 |
| Data-to-parameter ratio | 8.1:1 | 9.0:1 | 9.1:1 | 6.8:1 | 7.1:1 |

scatterers the Friedel pairs were merged before the final refinement cycles. The relevant crystallographic data collection parameters and structures refinement details are summarized in Table $4 . \ddagger$

## Acknowledgements

This research was supported by a grant from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India and a program grant from the Department of Biotechnology, India in the area of Molecular Diversity and Design. S. Aravinda thanks the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India for Research Associateship. XRay diffraction data were collected on the CCD facility funded under the IRHPA program of the Department of Science and Technology, India.

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    $\dagger$ Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Synthesis of peptides $\mathbf{1}-\mathbf{5}$. See DOI: 10.1039/b609863k

