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ARTICLE

Investigations into the binding of jadomycin DS to human topoisomerase II β by WaterLOGSY NMR spectroscopy

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The jadomycons are a family of secondary metabolites produced by *S. venezuelae* ISP5230. Specific jadomycons have been shown to possess a variety of anticancer, antifungal, and antibacterial properties, with different molecular mechanisms of action. Herein we demonstrate qualitative and quantitative direct binding between the validated anticancer target human topoisomerase II β and jadomycin DS using WaterLOGSY NMR spectroscopy. Additionally, we report for the first time, that jadomycin DS also binds a variety of other proteins, likely in a non-specific manner. Such interactions may rationalize the potential polypharmacology of jadomycin DS.

Introduction

Identifying, isolating, and characterizing novel natural products is of significance as many clinically relevant medicines are derived from natural products.^{1,2} Natural products come from a variety of sources, with bacteria being a major contributor, and the genus *Streptomyces* being responsible for an estimated 32% of all known bioactive metabolites.^{3,4} The soil bacteria *Streptomyces venezuelae* ISP5230 (ATCC 10712) is an example, producing chloramphenicol⁵ jadomycons,^{6,7} venezuelin,⁸ and baduredin.⁹ *S. venezuelae* ISP5230 produces the jadomycons under stress conditions including heat, phage, or ethanol shock.^{10,11} It was these conditions that led to the serendipitous discovery of jadomycin A⁶ (1), followed closely by jadomycin B (2)¹⁰ (Figure 1). Since their initial discovery the jadomycin scaffold has been shown to be amenable to alteration through precursor-directed biosynthesis using proteinogenic and non-proteinogenic amino acids.¹²⁻¹⁴ This is accomplished by exploiting a non-enzymatic step within the biosynthetic pathway where an imine is postulated to form through reaction of a biosynthetic aldehyde and an amino acid, followed by cyclization and decarboxylation of the intermediate to yield an oxazolone ring, followed by glycosylation to furnish the jadomycin of interest.^{13,15-18} This

has been successful in furnishing a wide variety of jadomycin analogues with varying structures.^{11,19} Total synthesis has provided supporting evidence for the non-enzymatic imine formation and cyclization.^{15,20}

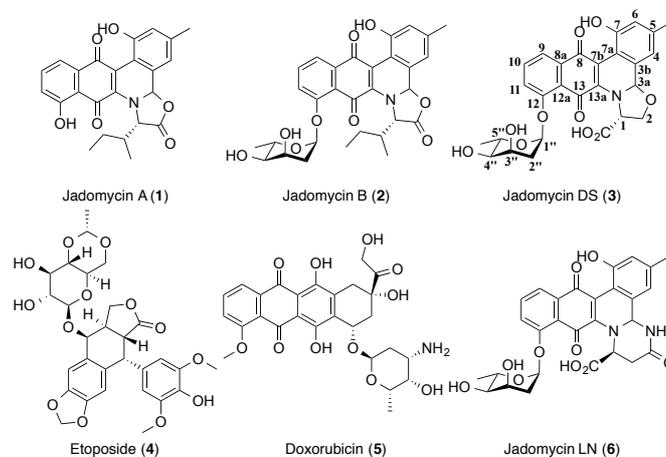


Figure 1 Structures of jadomycin A, jadomycin B, jadomycin DS, etoposide and doxorubicin.

Various jadomycin bioactivities have been measured including cytotoxicity profiles in the National Cancer Institute 60-cell line screening,²¹ copper-mediated DNA cleavage,²² photodynamic inactivation of bacteria,^{19,23} and aurora B kinase inhibition,²⁴ indicating that the jadomycons may function as polypharmacologic agents.²⁵⁻²⁷ The copper-mediated DNA cleavage activity, the presence of a lactone ring, and a quinone functionality, each a structural feature consistent with either etoposide (4) or doxorubicin (5) both known anti-cancer agents that act *via* inhibition of human topoisomerase II β , led us to hypothesize that the jadomycons

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may bind human topoisomerase II β . Topoisomerase II β is an enzyme that is responsible for relieving DNA tension during DNA replication, and inhibition of the enzyme leads to cell death. The structural basis for topoisomerase II β inhibition by etoposide has recently been reported.²⁸ For this reason, we chose to examine binding to human topoisomerase II β of a jadomycin, to provide insight into how this natural product interacts with a specific cytotoxic protein target.

Results and Discussion

Jadomycin DS was chosen to test as a potential binder to human topoisomerase II β because of its high water solubility in contrast to other jadomycins. Binding studies were conducted using Water-Ligand Observed *via* Gradient Spectroscopy (WaterLOGSY) Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy.²⁸ This experiment was chosen because of the good signal-to-noise and the clarity between binders and non-binders: opposite phasing is observed between binders and non-binders in a single NMR spectrum. Furthermore, it does not require highly purified materials since each assigned proton is interrogated independently. Indeed, the presence of an impurity may function as a non-binding control. We have recently used WaterLOGSY NMR spectroscopy to measure enzyme-substrate and enzyme-inhibitor interactions.^{29,30}

Incubation of jadomycin DS and recombinant human topoisomerase II β ²⁸ allowed for the qualitative assessment that human topoisomerase II β binds jadomycin DS, as a result of the change of phase of the jadomycin DS resonances in the WaterLOGSY NMR spectrum (Figure 2). This interaction was then quantified using a series of WaterLOGSY spectra. Dissociation constants (K_D) can be obtained for enzyme-ligand complexes under fast exchange processes using WaterLOGSY NMR.^{29,31} This quantitation is accomplished by monitoring the change in signal intensity as a function of ligand concentration in a two-part experiment. The first experiment is conducted by monitoring the change in signal intensity as a function of increasing ligand concentration in the presence of constant enzyme, producing a binding-curve.²⁹ However, signals are dampened by the presence of ligand that has not yet bound to the enzyme.³² To correct for this intensity, a second control experiment is conducted by monitoring change in signal intensity as a function of increasing ligand concentration in the absence of enzyme, producing a non-binding negative linear-standard. The standard is subtracted from the binding-curve in order to correct for any possible signal dampening, to produce a dose-response curve. Regression analysis is used to fit Equation 1 to the data, where I is the observed signal intensity, I_{\max} is the maximal signal intensity, L is the ligand concentration, and K_D is the dissociation constant.³²

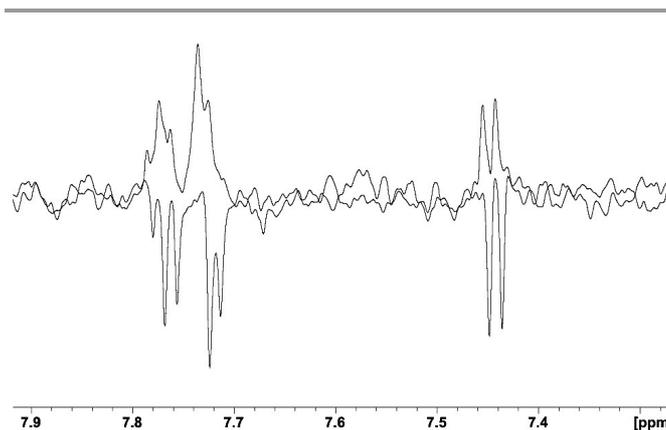


Figure 2 Two WaterLOGSY NMR spectra illustrating jadomycin DS (1 mM) binding in the presence of human topoisomerase II β (0.02 mM) (positive signal) and non-binding in its absence (negative signal). Signals highlighted correspond to protons at positions 10, 9, and 11.

$$I = \frac{-I_{\max}}{1 + \left(\frac{L}{K_D}\right)} + I_{\max} \text{ Equation 1}$$

To determine the K_D value for jadomycin DS binding to human topoisomerase II β , a series of experiments were conducted, varying the jadomycin DS concentration (1.0 – 3.33 mM, the limit of jadomycin DS water solubility, see ESI) in the presence (0.02 mM) or absence of human topoisomerase II β . These experiments were carried out in phosphate buffered saline (PBS, 80% v/v, pH 7.6), deuterated PBS (10% v/v), and DMSO- d_6 (10% v/v). DMSO- d_6 was important to prevent aggregation of the jadomycin and enhance its solubility. Six different proton resonances, comprising of protons on the L-digitoxose (H1'', 5''-CH₃), the D-ring (H9, H10, H11) and the oxazolone ring (H3a), provided consistent data for fitting. Changes to the intensity of resonances close in chemical shift to the HOD resonance (H3'', H5'') were difficult to quantify due to the size of the HOD signal. Other signals appeared dispersive, and could not be quantified. Equation 1 was fitted to these data for each of the six individual resonances to determine I_{\max} and K_D values (Figure 3 & Table 1). These individual K_D values were averaged to obtain a mean K_D value for jadomycin DS (Table 1). The mean K_D calculated for the jadomycin DS–human topoisomerase II β complex was 9.4 mM. This suggests that human topoisomerase II β binds jadomycin DS, although not very tightly, demonstrating that the WaterLOGSY method is appropriate to analyse K_D values of this magnitude. By contrast, measuring the strength of the etoposide–human topoisomerase II β interaction by WaterLOGSY was not feasible due to observation of tight binding (data not shown). It is known from a nitrocellulose filter assay that the etoposide–human topoisomerase II β interaction is 5 μ M, albeit this was determined using a different protein source.³³ WaterLOGSY NMR spectroscopy was also attempted using jadomycin LN (at concentrations of 1 – 5 mM) in the presence of 0.02 mM human topoisomerase II β . Binding was not observed between jadomycin LN and human topoisomerase II β (data not shown). This demonstrates that not all jadomycins are able to bind human topoisomerase II β .

The millimolar binding constant calculated for jadomycin DS binding to human topoisomerase II β , and the fact that jadomycin LN was not found to bind human topoisomerase II β meant that jadomycin DS may exhibit promiscuous binding that may lend itself to the polypharmacologic nature of the jadomylicins. Thus, we turned our attention to probing the qualitative interaction between jadomycin DS and a series of unrelated enzymes to hand in our laboratory, and also bovine serum albumin, a known promiscuous binder. To this end, WaterLOGSY NMR spectroscopy was conducted using jadomycin DS (0.5 mM and 2 mM) along with either β -phosphoglucosyltransferase,³⁴ a family 3 glucosidase, DesR,³⁵ a thymidyltransferase, Cps2L,³⁶ or bovine serum albumin, each at 0.02 mM. Jadomycin DS appeared to bind all the proteins investigated (Figure 4). Interactions of jadomycin DS with plasma proteins, including bovine serum albumin, will potentially effect disposition in *in vivo* environments.³⁷ The evidence for this is the change of phase of the jadomycin DS resonances in the WaterLOGSY NMR spectrum. Thereby confirming the promiscuous protein binding nature of jadomycin DS.

Qualitative application of WaterLOGSY NMR spectroscopy determined that jadomycin DS binds human topoisomerase II β . Although quantification of this relationship resulted in individual K_D values for different proton signals, it was not apparent that any one portion of the molecule was responsible for the binding observed. Instead, a global K_D for the jadomycin DS–human topoisomerase II β complex was determined to be 9.44 mM. By contrast jadomycin LN did not appear to bind human topoisomerase II β indicating that the different ring features of the jadomylicins may govern interactions with protein targets. The extremely efficient acquisition of qualitative binding interactions between the jadomylicins and human topoisomerase II β provides opportunities to efficiently evaluate other jadomycin congeners, or other potential ligands, of human topoisomerase II β , for the development of structure-activity relationships.

Qualitative WaterLOGSY NMR spectroscopy was also conducted using four different proteins. Since all of them show the ability to bind jadomycin DS, this indicates that jadomycin DS is a non-specific protein binding natural product. This may lend itself towards the polypharmacologic nature of this specific natural product.

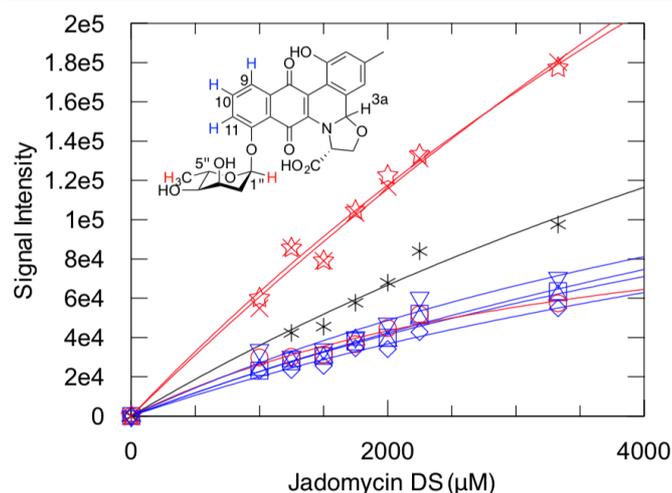


Figure 3 WaterLOGSY NMR peak intensity as a function of jadomycin DS concentration, in the presence of 0.02 μ M human topoisomerase II β , for protons H3a (*), H9 (∇), H10 (\square), H11 left signal (\square), H11 right signal (Δ), H11'' (\circ), 5''-CH₃ left resonance (\star), and 5''-CH₃ right resonance (\times).

Table 1 Dissociation constant obtained for each proton signal analysed by WaterLOGSY NMR.

Proton	Chemical Shift δ (ppm)	K_D (mM)
3a	5.59	11.89
9	7.56	7.97
10	7.61	7.89
11	7.28	12.74
11''	5.71	3.82
5''-CH ₃	1.24	12.35
Average		9.44

Conclusions

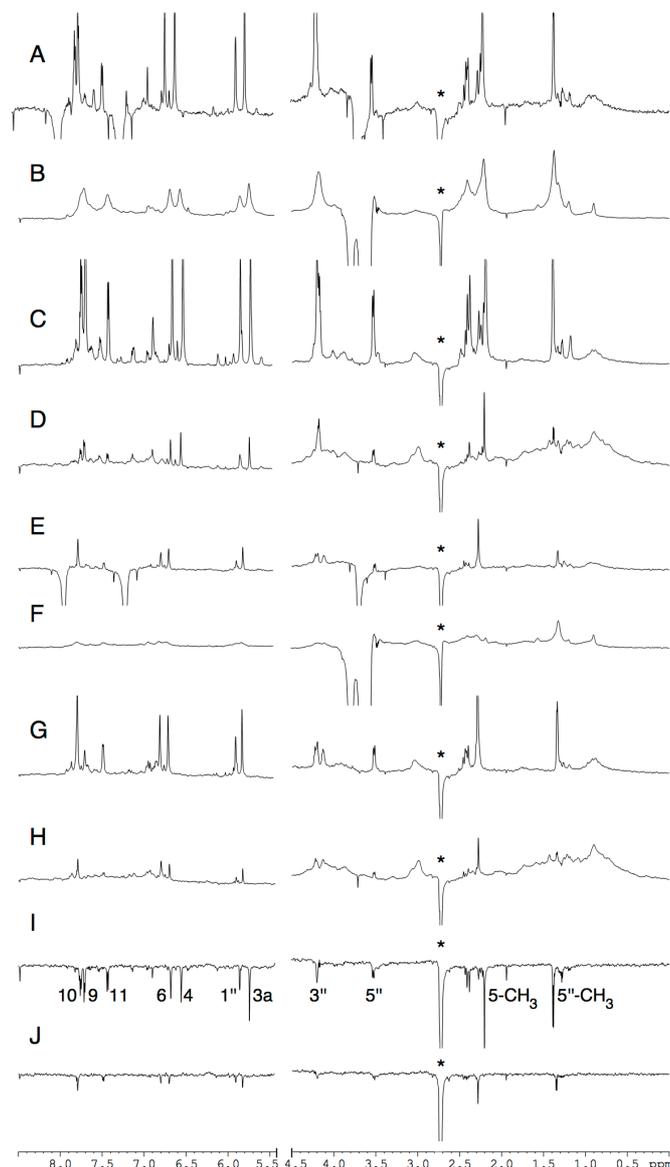


Figure 4 WaterLOGSY NMR spectra of (A) 2 mM jadomycin DS with β -phosphoglucosyltransferase, (B) 2 mM jadomycin DS with bovine serum albumin, (C) 2 mM jadomycin DS with cps2L, (D) 2 mM jadomycin DS with DesR, (E) 0.5 mM jadomycin DS with β -phosphoglucosyltransferase, (F) 0.5 mM jadomycin DS with bovine serum albumin, (G) 0.5 mM jadomycin DS with Cps2L, (H) 0.5 mM jadomycin DS with DesR, (I) 2 mM jadomycin DS in the absence of protein, and (J) 0.5 mM jadomycin DS in the absence of protein. All protein was present at 0.02 mM. The DMSO signal has been highlighted in all cases (*). The non-binding negatively phased signals in spectra A to H correspond to the buffer in which the protein was suspended. The intensity of spectra I and J were increased two-fold, in comparison to the other spectra, for clarity. All other spectra were processed identically.

Acknowledgements

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