

Design and synthesis of anti-cancer cyclopeptides containing triazole skeleton

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Abstract We describe the design and synthesis of some hypothetical heptapeptides specifically to overcome the neoplastic activity of ras oncogene and their anti-cancer activities were studied. To improve the anti-cancer activity of the synthesized peptides, their structure modifications were done based on a sequential Ugi/Huisgen 1,3-Dipolar cyclization reaction. The cyclopeptides which contained triazole skeleton showed significant anti-cancer activity against cancer cells with mutated ras oncogene such as A549, PC3 and C26 cells. This study clearly shows the importance of triazole skeleton in biological activity of the peptides. It might be possible to overcome the difficulties involved in making complex peptides by employing this elegant chemistry.

Keywords Ugi ligation · Ligation of peptides · Anti-cancer activity · Cyclopeptides · Click reaction · Huisgen 1,3-Dipolar reaction

Introduction

Several monoclonal antibodies such as Rituximab (anti-CD20 antibody) and Herceptin (anti-HER-2 antibody) have

been approved for the treatment of some cancers. The efficacy of this cancer immunotherapy is, however, limited by its large size and its nonspecific binding to the reticuloendothelial system that causes many undesirable side effects (Aina et al. 2007). Furthermore, the drug research and development has become very expensive and the number of approved drugs has been declining in recent years. Therefore, the demands for alternative approaches are very high. This has contributed to the revival of peptides as potential therapeutic drugs. A large number of peptide-based drugs are now being marketed because new synthetic strategies have been developed in recent years (Vlieghe et al. 2010).

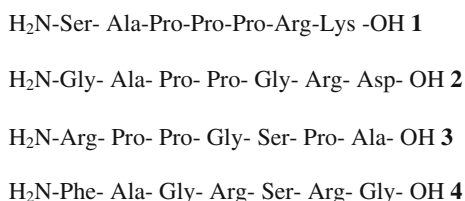
One classical strategy used in drug design is based on the structure of receptor-binding pocket, called “rational structure-based design” (Shoichet et al. 1993; Von Itzstein et al. 1993). Most peptide drugs are designed this way. Here we have used a novel strategy based on DNA–protein binding criteria to design anti-cancer drugs. We focused our interest on finding specific DNA–protein binding sites along the promoter elements of ras oncogene. The precise interactions between amino acid motifs of our designed peptides and ras-specific regulatory sites within the CpG islands might interfere with ras activity at transcriptional level. The most active peptide is then selected based on its in vitro anti-cancer activity to optimize its pharmaceutical value by means of different chemical approaches. One such approach would be the reduction of conformational space by cyclization.

Several hypothetical heptapeptides were designed based on DNA–protein binding criteria known for regulation of gene expression at transcriptional level. These peptides designed to perhaps suppress ras oncogenic activities in human cancer cells. The designed peptides 1–4 were tested for their anti-cancer activities against A549, human lung

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Scheme 1 Compositions of the designed heptapeptides **1–4**

64 cancer cells in vitro. The most active compound **1** is pro-
 65 line-rich peptide (Ball et al. 2005) selected to further
 66 improve its pharmaceutical potential with some specific
 67 chemical modifications to create a cyclic peptide
 68 (Scheme 1).

69 Cyclic peptides are a unique class of compounds that
 70 have made great contributions to the treatment of certain
 71 diseases such as cancer. Penicillin, vancomycin, cyclo-
 72 sporin, and echinocandins are well-known cyclic peptides.
 73 Cilengitide is also a cyclic pentapeptide currently in clin-
 74 ical trial for brain cancer, glioblastomas, and some other
 75 cancers (Katsara et al. 2006; Mas-Moruno et al. 2010;
 76 Boger 2001; Nicolaou et al. 1999; Rao et al. 1995; Chat-
 77 terjee et al. 2005). Cyclic peptides, compared to linear
 78 peptides, have been considered to have greater potential as
 79 therapeutic agents. This may be due to their increased
 80 chemical stability, receptor selectivity, as well as improved
 81 pharmaco-dynamic properties. Considering these facts, we
 82 decided to use one of the known cyclization methods to
 83 prepare a unique cyclic heptapeptide. A reaction that would
 84 seem ideal for conjugation of peptides and oligonucleo-
 85 tides, due to the compatibility with many other functional
 86 groups, is the copper(I) catalyzed 1,3-Dipolar cycloaddi-
 87 tion between an azide and an alkyne, commonly referred to
 88 as click chemistry (Rostovtsev et al. 2002; Kolb et al. 2001;
 89 Moses and Moorhouse 2007; Wu and Fokin 2007; Kolb
 90 and Sharpless 2003; Meldal and Tornøe 2008; Tornøe et al.
 91 2002). Moreover, triazole-modified peptidomimetics have
 92 been shown as assembling protein-like oligomers and
 93 nonpeptidic protein-mimetic foldamers (Angelo and Arora
 94 2005, 2007). Therefore, triazole-modified peptidomimetics
 95 have gained considerable attention for designing biological
 96 effectors or foldamers (Horne et al. 2004; Kuijpers et al.
 97 2004; Cantel et al. 2008). The synthesis of 1,2,3-triazoles
 98 has grown in importance in medicinal (Chabre and Roy
 99 2008; Colombo and Peretto 2008; Hanselmann et al. 2010;
 100 Moumne et al. 2010), material (Li et al. 2005; Rozkiewicz
 101 et al. 2006; Wyszogrodzka and Haag 2008; Gadzikwa et al.
 102 2009; Golas and Matyjaszewski 2010; Bronisz 2005; Yue
 103 et al. 2007; Fazio et al. 2008; Fletcher et al. 2008; Hua and
 104 Flood 2010; Rawal et al. 2010), and biological researches
 105 (Hahn and Muir 2005; Heal et al. 2008; Ahsanullah et al.
 106 2009; Schneider 2010; Chemama et al. 2009; Nahrwold
 107 et al. 2010; Michaels et al. 2010; Mamidyala and Finn

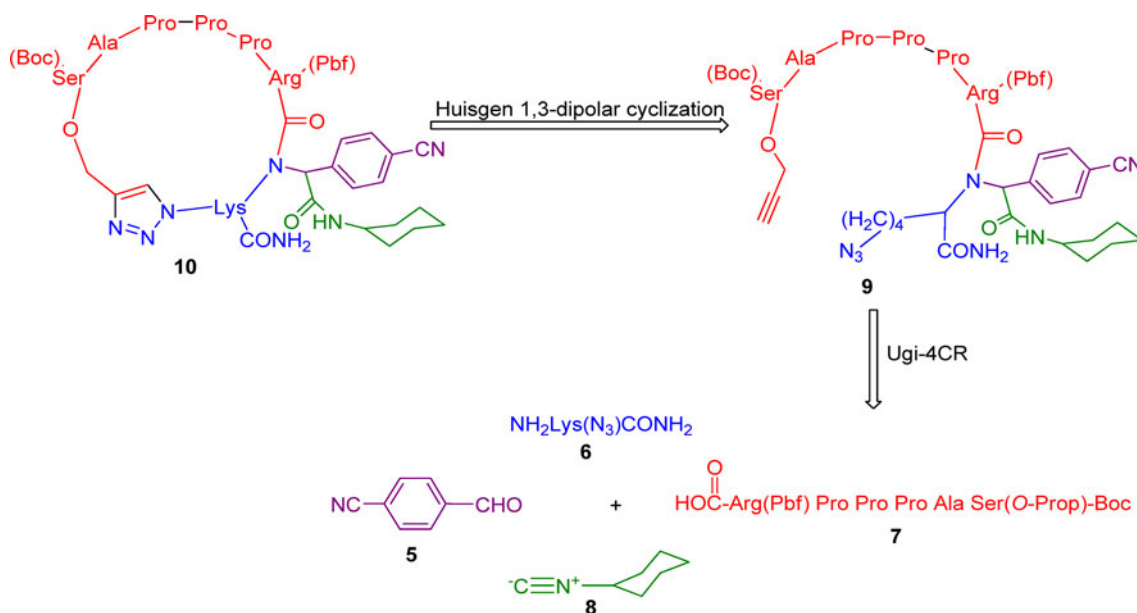
2010). Furthermore, a number of these compounds show a
 broad spectrum of biological activities, displaying, for
 example, antibacterial (Genin et al. 2000), herbicidal,
 fungicidal (Wamhoff 1984), antiallergic (Buckle et al.
 1986), or anti-HIV (Alvarez et al. 1994) properties.
 Recently, 1,2,3-triazoles have also been used as catalysts
 and ligands in transition metal-based catalyst systems
 (Chan et al. 2004; Liu et al. 2005; Detz et al. 2006; Co-
 lasson et al. 2007; Beyer et al. 2009; Hein et al. 2009; Duan
 et al. 2009; Mager and Zeiler 2010). Since peptide **1**
 showed the best anti-cancer activity, we decided to modify
 its structure using functionalized amino acids which could
 form triazole scaffold.

Multicomponent reactions (MCR) have become
 important tools in the preparation of structurally diverse
 chemical libraries of drug-like polyfunctional compounds.
 However, to ensure sufficient molecular diversity and
 complexity of new chemical entities, there is a continuous
 need for novel reactions with high efficiency and selec-
 tivity in novel reaction media (Dömling 2005, 2006;
 Slobbe et al. 2012; Ruijter et al. 2011; Dömling et al.
 2012; Tietze et al. 2006; Tietze and Hauner 2000). We
 intend to use the Ugi-4CR to construct products with
 further functional groups which are prone to additional
 ring closure reactions. This strategy allows us to prepare
 in a very economic and ecologic way complex systems
 (Bararjanian et al. 2010, 2011; Balalaie et al. 2011, 2012).
 Recently, we showed that the Ugi-4CR is an efficient
 approach for the synthesis of some novel GnRH analogs
 with better anti-cancer activity (Arabianian et al. 2009;
 Saleh-Abady et al. 2010). The 2D-NMR spectroscopic
 data showed that this reaction affects the structure of
 molecule on folding (Tahoori et al. 2010).

We report the design and synthesis of novel cyclopep-
 tides through the Ugi ligation/click reaction to construct
 cyclopeptides which have a triazole moiety and also lipo-
 philic moieties (Scheme 2).

Results and discussion

Reduction of conformational flexibility is important to
 increase the affinity of a peptide for its natural receptor.
 The first convenient approach to achieve this goal is head-
 to-tail cyclization. To achieve this goal, chemical modifi-
 cation of starting materials is important for many appli-
 cations in biology and biotechnology. In order to
 synthesize cyclopeptides, different strategies were studied.
 Applying the well-known click chemistry is a known
 approach to synthesize cyclopeptides with triazole moiety.
 Functionalizing the scaffold with an alkyne moiety, and
 also an azide group, to form triazole skeleton is an
 approach to the synthesis of cyclopeptides.



Scheme 2 Retrosynthetic approach for the synthesis of cyclopeptide **10** through sequential Ugi ligation/Huisgen 1,3-Dipolar reaction

158 The click reactions have the potential to be further
 159 fortified when combined with multicomponent reactions.
 160 The idea of using MCRs followed by a Huisgen [3+2]
 161 copper-catalyzed reaction was investigated and a number
 162 of pharmaceutically relevant heterocyclic compounds were
 163 synthesized via classical multicomponent reactions combined
 164 with click chemistry in separate steps such as
 165 sequential Ugi/intermolecular alkyne–azide cycloaddition
 166 (IAAC) (Ramachary and Barbas 2004; Akritopoulou-Zanze
 167 et al. 2004).

168 The sequence of Ugi isocyanide multicomponent reaction,
 169 followed by post-condensation transformations, constitutes
 170 an extremely powerful synthetic tool for the preparation
 171 of structurally diverse complex molecules, especially
 172 heterocyclic compounds (Orri and Ruijter 2010;
 173 Aravind et al. 2011; De Graaff et al. 2012). Ultimately,
 174 this one-pot sequential combination of multi-catalysis and
 175 multicomponent approach should reduce the cost and waste
 176 associated with pharmaceutical synthesis.

177 The wide variation in starting materials available for
 178 IMCRs (isocyanide multicomponent reactions) opens up
 179 versatile opportunities for the synthesis of compound
 180 libraries. The significant potential of isocyanides for the
 181 development of multicomponent reactions is a result of
 182 their ability to take part in diverse bond formation
 183 processes, their functional group tolerance, and the high
 184 levels of chemo-, regio-, and stereoselectivity often
 185 observed. According to our design, the copper(I)-catalyzed
 186 1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition between an azide and an alkyne
 187 was used. The first moiety to be inserted in the Huisgen
 188 reaction is an alkyne group. The alkyne moiety was added
 189 to the side chain of serine and the other moiety which was

190 prepared for click chemistry is the amino acid which
 191 contains the azide group.

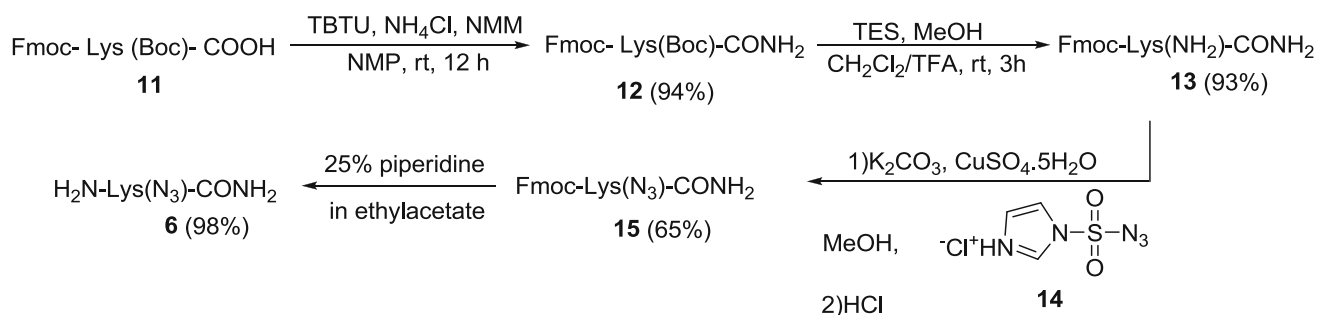
192 Since peptide **1** showed better anti-cancer activity
 193 compared to other heptapeptides, compound **1** was selected
 194 as a druggable molecule to be chemically modified. At first,
 195 heptapeptide **1** was divided into a hexapeptide **7** which
 196 contained an alkyne moiety and an amidated C-terminal
 197 Lysine **6** which contains an azide moiety.

198 The procedure for the synthesis of Fmoc-Lys(N₃)-
 199 CONH₂ **6** is shown in Scheme 3 in which the amine group
 200 in the side chain was converted to azide moiety. To access
 201 this molecule, Fmoc-Lys(Boc)-OH was selected as starting
 202 material and the synthesis was done in four steps: (a) Am-
 203 idation of terminal carboxylic acid was done using
 204 ammonium chloride in the presence of TBTU as coupling
 205 reagent and NMM as base to form compound **12**. (b) The
 206 Boc-protecting group was removed with trifluoroacetic
 207 acid **13**. (c) The conversion of side-chain amine group to
 208 azide could be done using imidazoliumsulfonilazide **14**
 209 to obtain compound **15**. (d) Fmoc deprotection using 25 %
 210 piperidine afforded H₂N-Lys(N₃)-CONH₂ **6**.

211 The imidazoliumsulfonilazide **14** was synthesized
 212 according to the reported method (Johnsson and Pedersen
 213 2012).

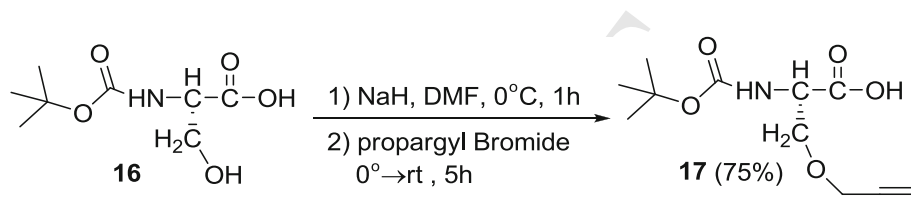
214 As shown in Scheme 4, Boc-Ser(O-Prop)-OH was pre-
 215 pared through the reaction of Boc-Ser-OH and sodium
 216 hydride followed by propargyl bromide reaction which led
 217 to the desired Boc(O-Prop)-OH with 72 % yield.

218 The linear peptide analogue Boc-Ser(O-Prop)-Ala-Pro-
 219 Pro–Pro–Arg(pbf)-OH was synthesized by standard solid-
 220 phase peptide synthesis (SPPS) strategy on resin. It should
 221 be noted that the initial experiments with Fmoc-Arg(Pbf)-

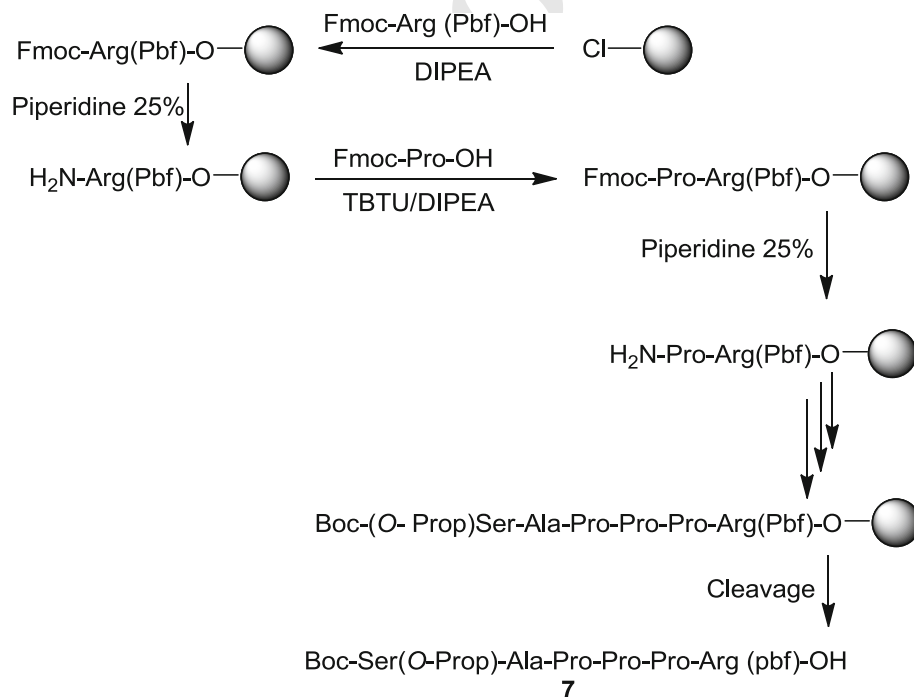


Scheme 3 Synthesis of $\text{H}_2\text{N-Lys}(\text{N}_3)\text{-CONH}_2$ **6**

Scheme 4 Synthesis of Boc-Ser(*O*-Prop)-OH **17**



Scheme 5 Solid phase hexapeptide synthesis of **7**

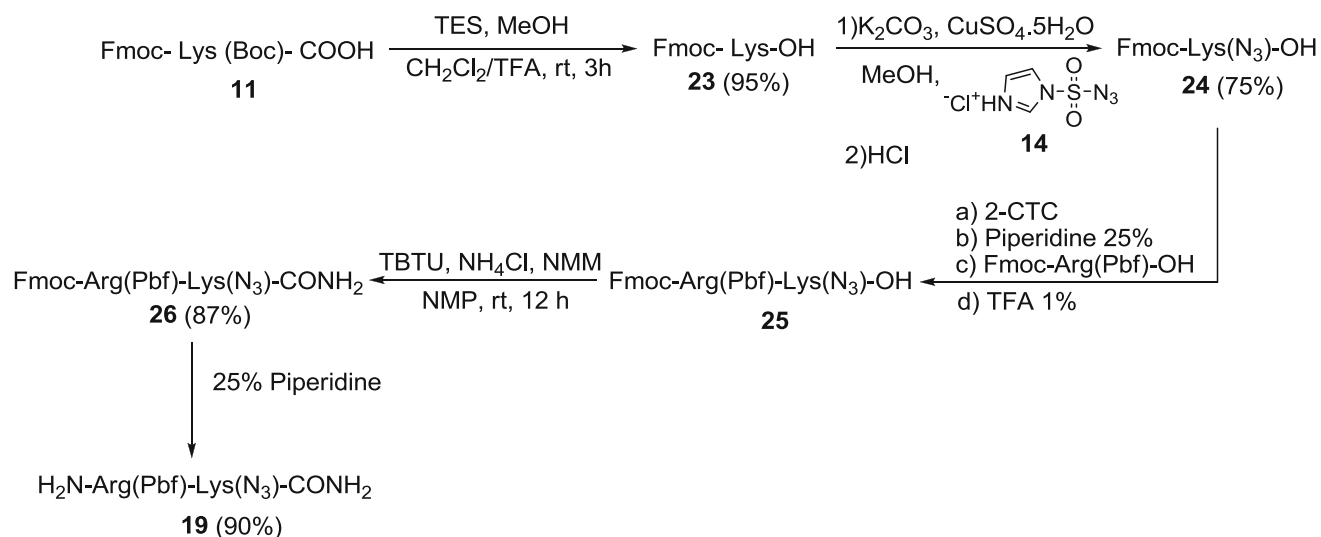


OH coupled to the 2-chlorotrityl chloride resin (2-CTC resin) and the peptides elongated more efficiently with high purity. Coupling reactions were performed using protected amino acids, activated with TBTU in the presence of diisopropyl ethyl amine (DIPEA). Then, three *S*-proline and one *L*-alanine was used in this sequence of the desired peptide and finally Boc-Ser(*O*-Prop)-OH was added to the peptide sequence to afford the protected hexapeptide **7**. Cleavage of the peptide from the surface of resin was done using TFA (1 %) (Scheme 5).

To twist and bring the two ends closer together for the click reaction, based on our previous experience, we

decided to use Ugi ligation. Four-component reaction of hexapeptide with carboxylic acid containing the propargyl group, amidated functionalized lysine containing azide moiety in the side chain as an amine group, 4-cyano-benzaldehyde and cyclohexyl isocyanide in methanol led to Ugi-ligated product **9**.

All structures were confirmed based on spectroscopic data and also high resolution mass spectrometry. Using Ugi-4CR, a new stereocenter was created in the product and the products formed as two diastereomers; the ratio of diastereomers was 80:20. The diastereomers were separated using column chromatography and compound **10** was



Scheme 6 Synthesis of functionalized dipeptide $\text{H}_2\text{N-Arg(Pbf)-Lys(N}_3\text{)-CONH}_2$ **19**

246 separated as a major and pure stereoisomer. The anti-cancer
247 activity of major and minor diastereomers was investigated
248 and only the major diastereomer showed good biological
249 activity and will be discussed. The minor diastereomer
250 did not show good biological activity.

251 1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition reaction between an azide and
252 alkyne takes place in the presence of a Cu (I) catalyst under
253 mild conditions, resulting in the formation of a triazole link
254 connecting the two molecules. In peptide chemistry, the
255 increasing popularity of the click reaction is largely a result
256 of the unique properties of both azides and the resulting
257 triazoles. Interestingly, the triazole moiety formed by click
258 reaction has a unique similarity to an amide bond. The relative
259 planarity, strong dipole moments, and hydrogen bonding
260 ability of triazole linkage make it as attractive as an amide
261 bond with added advantage that it is less prone to hydrolytic
262 cleavage. Triazole unit may impart rigidity, lipophilicity,
263 enhanced absorption and protease stability, and act as an
264 amide bond. Thus, the incorporation of the triazole unit in
265 the structure of peptide is an added advantage.

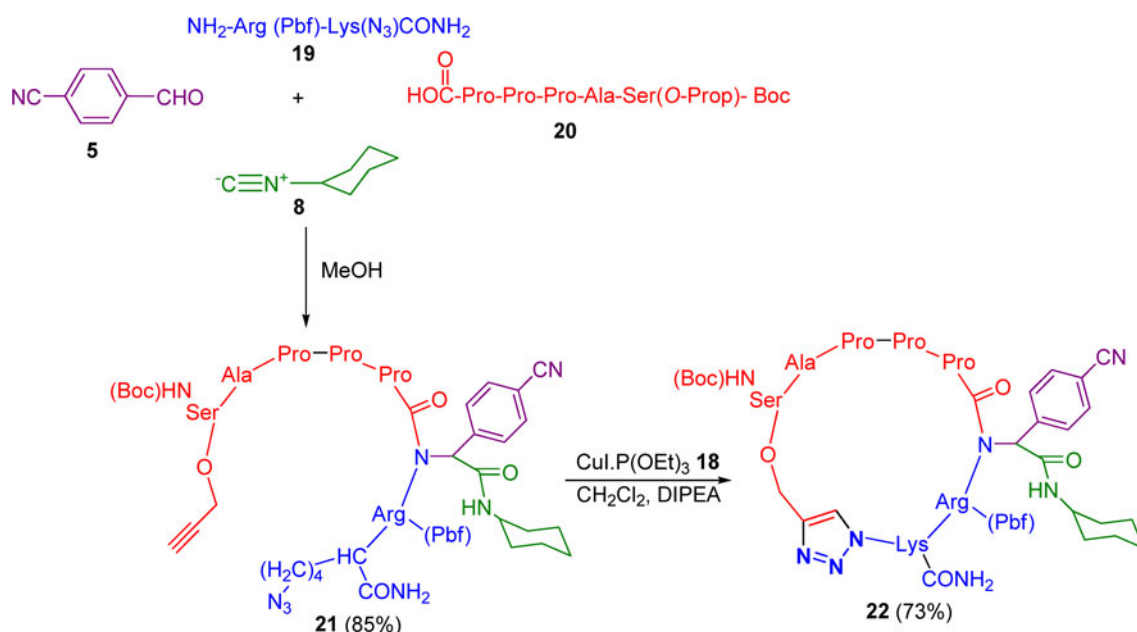
266 There are many reports for the cycloaddition of azides and
267 acetylenes which was done in the presence of CuI or
268 Cu(OAc)_2 /sodium ascorbate. The reaction was checked
269 according to the reported methods based on CuI and
270 Cu(OAc)_2 , but the yields were low (Johnsson and Pedersen
271 2012). Finally, CuI.P(OEt)_3 was used as a reagent for the
272 click reaction and cyclopeptide **10** was obtained in 75 %
273 yield.

274 Based on the result of the experiment mentioned above
275 and based on the amino acid sequence in the structure of
276 peptide **1**, another Ugi-4CR was designed. The two
277 pentapeptide **20** and dipeptide **19** segments were selected
278 as the carboxylic acid **20** and amine moiety **19**, respectively.
The reaction sequences for the synthesis of dipeptide

$\text{H}_2\text{N-Arg(Pbf)-Lys(N}_3\text{)-CONH}_2$ **19** are shown in Scheme 6. 279
The amine group in the side chain of lysine was converted 280
to azide moiety using **14** and $\text{Fmoc-Lys(N}_3\text{)-OH}$ **23** was 281
loaded on the surface of 2-chlorotriyl chloride resin in the 282
presence of DIPEA. Then Fmoc deprotection was done 283
using piperidine 25 % in DMF and Fmoc-Arg(Pbf)-OH 284
was added to the sequence using TBTU as coupling reagent 285
in the presence of DIPEA. The cleavage of the protected 286
dipeptide was done using 1 % TFA. The amidation of 287
C-terminal was done using ammonium chloride and TBTU 288
in the presence of NMM as base. Finally, Fmoc deprotection 289
was carried out using 25 % piperidine and the 290
desired dipeptide **19** was formed. 291

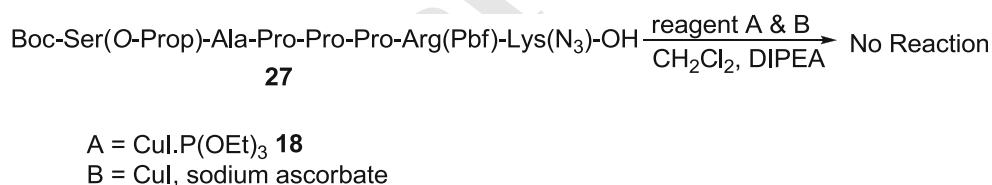
292 The pentapeptide **20** was synthesized based on the
293 standard SPPS method. The Ugi-4CR of pentapeptide **20** as
294 carboxylic acid, dipeptide **19** as amine, 4-cyano-benzal-
295 dehyde **5**, cyclohexyl isocyanide **8** led to the formation of
296 compound **21** and finally using CuI.P(OEt)_3 **18** (Langille
297 and Jamison 2006), cyclization was carried out and
298 cyclopeptide **22** was obtained (Scheme 7).

299 To access a cyclopeptide, at first the heptapeptide **27**
300 was synthesized based on SPPS strategy, the sequence of
301 amino acids in this compound is the same as heptapeptide
302 **1**. There are only two changes: instead of Lys and Ser in
303 the sequence, $\text{Fmoc-Lys(N}_3\text{)-OH}$ and $\text{Boc-Ser(O-Prop)-OH}$
304 were used in C- and N-terminal, respectively. The 1,3-
305 Dipolar cycloaddition of peptide **27** was done according to
306 the standard method (CuI) as well as CuI.P(OEt)_3 **18**, but
307 in both cases the cyclization was not successful
308 (Scheme 8). It seems that the distance between alkyne and
309 azide moieties is very far. It shows that the Ugi-4CR could
310 affect the folding of molecule and cause efficient
311 cyclization.



Scheme 7 Sequential Ugi ligation/Huisgen 1,3-Dipolar reaction to construct cyclopeptide **22**

Scheme 8 Try for cyclization of peptide **27**



312 Peptide **27** had no biological activity. The click reaction
 313 did not occur; perhaps due to the amino acid sequence of
 314 this peptide or because the two ends failed to connect.
 315 Compound **10** was highly active against lung cancer cells,
 316 which induced apoptosis at a much lower dose than the
 317 original heptapeptides. Yet, the same compound had no
 318 anti-cancer activity before the click reaction (compound **9**).
 319 The chemical modifications before click reaction actually
 320 affected the original heptapeptides **1** negatively. All pro-
 321 ducts were less soluble in water; therefore, they were dis-
 322 solved in a small volume of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)
 323 and then diluted with water for in vitro assays. Interest-
 324 ingly, the products **21** and **22** had no anti-cancer activities;
 325 this result shows that the selection of suitable segments for
 326 Ugi-4CR has an important role in the biological activity of
 327 products.

328 The biological activities of products **1** (the unmodified
 329 heptapeptide), **9**, **10**, **21**, **22**, and **27** were determined by
 330 their effects on A549, human lung cancer cell line. The
 331 results (Fig. 1) clearly indicate that cyclopeptide **10**, the
 332 final product in Scheme 9, shows significant anti-cancer
 333 activity. The cyclization of our original heptapeptides by
 334 this method has improved its biological activity up to

20-fold. The dose–response assay (Fig. 2) shows that 335
 0.5 μg of compound **10** had the same or greater anti- 336
 cancer activity than 10 μg of compound **1** (Fig. 1). The 337
 biological activity of compound **10** was further examined 338
 by its effect on different cell lines: A549 used was a well- 339
 characterized human lung carcinoma cell line, known to 340
 have mutated ras oncogene; C26, an aggressive colorectal 341
 cancer cell line that contains constitutively activated ras 342
 oncogene; PC3 is a cell line characteristic of prostatic 343
 small cell carcinoma that also has mutated ras oncogene; 344
 and noncancerous CHO, Chinese hamster ovary cell line 345
 that does not have mutated ras oncogene. Cyclopeptide **10** 346
 showed great specificity against these cell lines. The 347
 results (Fig. 3) show that **10** had significant anti-cancer 348
 activity against all the three different cancer cell lines 349
 that have mutated ras oncogene. Meanwhile, it had little or no 350
 effect on noncancerous CHO cells and normal human 351
 leukocytes. 352

In conclusion, we have designed a hypothetical hep- 353
 tapeptides specifically to overcome the neoplastic activity 354
 of ras oncogene. This peptide showed the potential to be 355
 druggable by inducing apoptosis in some specific cancer 356
 cells known to have mutated ras oncogene. To improve 357

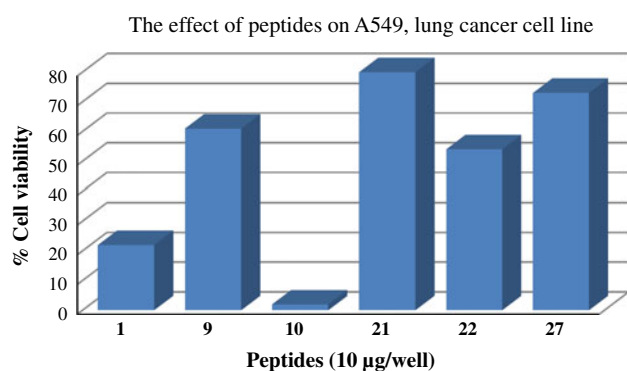


Fig. 1 The anti-cancer activities of synthesized peptides against human lung carcinoma cells, A549

358 the anti-cancer activity of this peptide, we chemically
 359 modified it by cyclization reaction. The reaction could be
 360 categorized as a sequential Ugi/Huisgen 1,3-Dipolar
 361 cyclization reaction. We have now constructed a cyclo-
 362 peptide that contains a triazole motif. The existence of a
 363 triple bond opens an avenue to a diversity of subsequent
 364 compounds accessible by different reactions. The anti-
 365 cancer activity of all products was examined in vitro and
 366 only cyclopeptide **10** with triazole skeleton showed sig-
 367 nificant anti-cancer activity against cancer cells with
 368 mutated ras oncogene such as A549, PC3 and C26 cells.
 369 Cyclopeptide **10** had little or no activity on Chinese
 370 hamster cells, CHO that does not express ras oncogene.
 371 This study clearly shows the importance of triazole
 372 skeleton in biological activity of the peptides. It might
 373 be possible to overcome the difficulties involved in
 374 making complex peptides by employing this elegant
 375 chemistry.

Experimental section

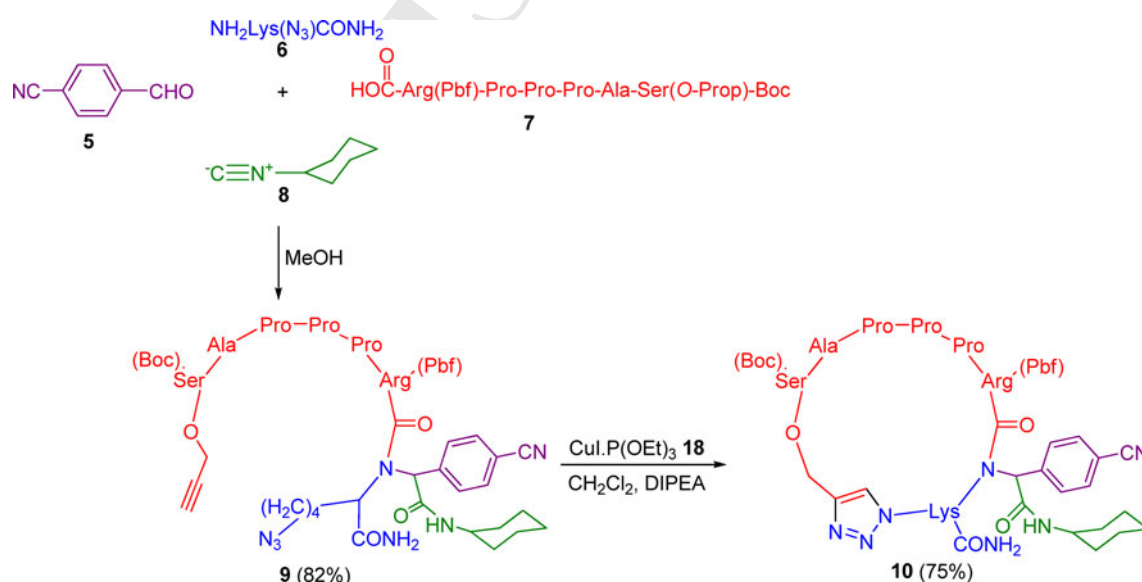
General

378 Commercially available chemicals were used as received
 379 unless otherwise stated. Flash column chromatography
 380 was carried out using silica Gel 60 (particle size
 381 0.04–0.06 mm/230–400 mesh). The abbreviations are
 382 given in separate place. The mass spectra were recorded
 383 by EI-mass (70 eV), mass (ESI-triple quadrupole), mass
 384 (ESI-ion trap), HRMS (ESI-FT-ICR), HRMS (MALDI-
 385 FT-ICR). The purification of peptides was done using
 386 preparative HPLC (column C18, 7 µm). NMR spectra
 387 were recorded at 500, 300 MHz in CDCl₃, DMSO-*d*₆ and
 388 D₂O.

Synthetic procedures

General procedure for the synthesis of heptapeptides-COOH (1–4)

392 Synthesis was carried out using 2-chlorotrityl chloride resin
 393 (1.0 mmol/g) following the standard Fmoc strategy. Fmoc-
 394 Lys(Boc)-OH (4.687 g, 10 mmol) was attached to the
 395 2-CTC resin (5.000 g) with DIPEA (6.85 mL, 40 mmol) in
 396 anhydrous DCM:DMF (50 mL, 1:1) at room temperature
 397 for 2 h. After filtration, the remaining trityl chloride groups
 398 were capped by a solution of DCM/MeOH/DIPEA (17:2:1,
 399 120 mL) for 30 min. Then, it was filtered and washed
 400 thoroughly with DCM (1 × 20 mL), DMF (4 × 20 mL)
 401 and MeOH (5 × 20 mL). The loading capacity was
 402 determined by weight after drying the resin under vacuum
 403 and was 1.0. The resin-bound Fmoc-amino acid was



Scheme 9 Sequential Ugi ligation/Huisgen 1,3-Dipolar reaction to construct cyclopeptide **10**

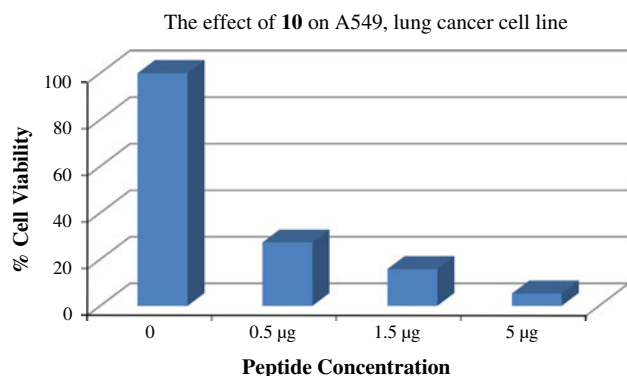


Fig. 2 The dose-dependent anti-cancer activity of cyclopeptide **10** against human lung carcinoma cells, A549

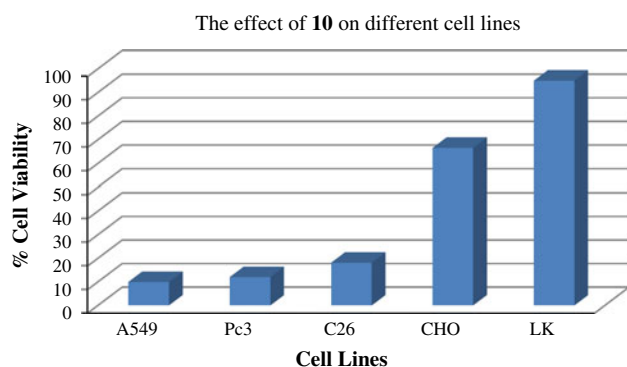


Fig. 3 The specificity of cyclopeptide **10** against different cell lines, A549, PC3, C26, CHO, and LK

404 washed with DMF (3 × 20 mL) and treated with 25 %
 405 piperidine in DMF (65 mL) for 30 min and the resin was
 406 washed with DMF (3 × 20 mL). Then a solution of Fmoc-
 407 Arg(Pbf)-OH (4.866 g, 7.5 mmol), TBTU (2.407 g,
 408 7.5 mmol), and DIPEA (3.0 mL, 17.5 mmol) in 30 mL
 409 DMF was added to the resin-bound free amine and shaken
 410 for 1 h at room temperature. After completion of coupling,
 411 resin was washed with DMF (4 × 20 mL). The coupling
 412 was repeated as in the same way as for other amino acids of
 413 their sequences. In all cases for the presence or absence of
 414 free primary amino groups, Kaiser Test was used. Fmoc
 415 determination was done using UV spectroscopy method.
 416 After completion of couplings, resin was washed with
 417 DMF (4 × 20 mL). The produced heptapeptide was
 418 cleaved from resin by treatment of TFA (1 %) in DCM
 419 (275 mL) and neutralization with pyridine (4 %) in MeOH
 420 (85 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure
 421 and precipitated in water. The precipitate was filtered and
 422 dried. Final deprotection was done using TFA (95 %) and
 423 reagent K (TFA/TES/Water 95:2.5:2.5). The excess TFA/
 424 DCM was removed under reduced pressure. The desired
 425 peptide was precipitated in diisopropyl ether. The purifi-
 426 cation was done using preparative HPLC (Column C18).

The same procedure was used for the synthesis of peptide
 2–4.

This procedure was used for the synthesis of hexapep-
 tide **7**, only Fmoc-Ser(*O*-prop)-OH was used instead of
 Fmoc-Ser(^tBu)-OH.

HRMS (ESI) heptapeptides

1 *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₃₃H₅₈N₁₁O₉ 752.44189, Found
 752.44183. [M+Na]⁺ Calcd for C₃₃H₅₇N₁₁NaO₉
 774.42409, Found 774.42400.

2 *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₇H₄₅N₁₀O₁₀ 669.33284,
 Found 669.33266.

3 *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₉H₄₉N₁₀O₉ 681.36893,
 Found 681.36879.

4 *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₃₁H₅₂N₁₃O₉ 750.40298,
 Found 750.40269.

HRMS (ESI-FT-ICR)

HRMS (ESI-FT-ICR) **7** *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for
 C₄₈H₇₂N₉O₁₃S 1,014.49667, Found 1,014.49665,
 [M+Na]⁺ Calcd for C₄₈H₇₁N₉NaO₁₃S 1,036.47904, Found
 1,036.47899, [M+K]⁺ Calcd for C₄₈H₇₁KN₉O₁₃S
 1,052.45305, Found 1,052.45299.

Fmoc-Lys(Boc)-CONH₂ **12**

A solution of Fmoc-Lys(Boc)-OH **11** (4.396 g, 9.4 mmol)
 and ammonium chloride (1.069 g, 20 mmol) in *N*-methyl-
 2-pyrrolidinone (3 mL) was magnetically stirred and then
 TBTU (4.815 g, 15 mmol) in *N*-methyl morpholine
 (5.5 mL, 50 mmol) was added to the mixture. The mixture
 was stirred for 12 h at room temperature.

A yellow solution was formed. The reaction progress
 was monitored using thin layer chromatography (1:2:10,
 H₂O:MeOH:ethyl acetate). The reaction was completed
 after 12 h. Then, by slow addition of 70 mL H₂O, a yellow
 discretion was formed. The deposition was filtered and
 dried. Mass of discretion was 4.830 g (9.4 mmol) with
 94 % yield (Arabian et al. 2010).

m.p. 158–161 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆)
 δ = 1.26–1.28 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.35 (s, 9H, ^tBu), 1.56–1.59
 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.89 (quin, 2H, CH₂), 2.85–2.90 (m, 2H,
 CH₂NH), 3.28 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH fluorene),
 4.20–4.29 (m, 3H, CH α and CH₂O), 6.76 (brs, 1H, NH-
 CO-CH₂fluorenyl), 6.96 (brs, 1H, NH-Boc), 7.31 (t, 1H,
 J = 7.3 Hz, H-Ar), 7.32–7.37 (m, 2H, H-Ar), 7.40 (t, 1H,
 J = 7.0 Hz, H-Ar), 7.71 (d, 1H, J = 6.3 Hz, H-Ar), 7.82
 (d, 1H, J = 7.5 Hz, H-Ar), 7.87 (d, 2H, J = 7.3 Hz, H-
 Ar) ppm; ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ = 17.2, 22.9
 (CH₂), 28.3 (C(CH₃)₃), 29.2 (CH₂), 31.5 (CH₂NH), 46.7
 (CH fluorene), 54.4 (CH ^{α} -CONH₂), 65.6 (CH₂O-), 77.3

- 474 (–OC(CH₃)₃), 120.1, 125.3, 127.0, 127.6, 140.7, 143.8,
475 143.9 (C Ar), 155.5 (fluorenyl-CH₂-CONH-), 155.9
476 (–OCO^tBu), 173.9 (CONH₂) ppm; IR_{v_{max}}(neat) 3,313,
477 3,055 (NH), 1,687 (C=O), 1,511 cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV): *m/z*
478 (%):467 (10) [M⁺], 394 (74) [M⁺-C₄H₉O], 366 (67) [M⁺-
479 C₅H₉NO₂].
- 480 Fmoc-Lys-CONH₂ **13**
- 481 Fmoc-Lys(Boc)-CONH₂ **12** (2.935 g, 8.0 mmol) was dis-
482 solved in 50 % (v/v) TFA in CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL). Then tri-
483 ethylsilane (1.4 mL, 9.0 mmol) was added to the mixture
484 as scavenger. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at
485 room temperature. Then, the solvent was removed under
486 the reduced pressure, the pH of the mixture was adjusted
487 via addition of NaOH (1 N). The precipitate was filtered
488 and washed with water. 2.490 g of product was achieved.
489 The yield at this step was 93 % (Diaz-Mochon et al. 2005).
490 ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ = 1.32–1.34 (m, 2H,
491 CH₂), 1.43–1.50 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.89 (quin, 2H, CH₂),
492 2.67–2.87 (m, 2H, CH₂-NH₂), 3.29 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH
493 fluorene), 3.50–3.81 (brs, 2H, NH₂), 4.20–4.27 (m, 3H,
494 –CH₂O, CHα) 6.26 (s, 1H, CONH), 6.95 (m, 2H, CONH,
495 fluorenyl CH₂CONH), 7.31 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.3 Hz, H–Ar),
496 7.32–7.37 (m, 2H, H–Ar), 7.40 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, H–Ar),
497 7.71 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.2 Hz, H–Ar), 7.82 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz,
498 H–Ar), 7.87 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.4 Hz, H–Ar) ppm; ¹³C
499 NMR(75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ = 17.2, 22.1, 28.9 (CH₂),
500 30.1 (CH₂-NH₂), 33.8 (CH fluorene), 53.9 (CH^α-CONH₂),
501 109.7, 111.2, 115.2, 119.1, 119.9, 121.3, 123.3, 127.3,
502 128.9, 137.4, 139.4, 142.5 (C Ar), 173.9 (fluorenyl-CH₂-
503 CONH-), 176.7 (CONH₂) ppm; IR_{v_{max}} (neat) 3,055, 2,984
504 (NH), 2,854 (CH), 1,681 (CO) cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV): *m/z* (%):
505 366 (6) [M⁺], 351 (16) [M⁺-NH₂], 337 (12) [M⁺-
506 (H₂C=NH₂)].
- 507 Imidazole-1-sulfonyl azide hydrochloride **14**
- 508 A round bottle containing suspension of sodium azide
509 (1.001 g, 15.4 mmol) and acetonitrile (20 mL) was placed
510 in ice bath. When the reaction mixture was cooled, sulfuryl
511 chloride (1.25 mL, 15.4 mmol) was dropped slowly. Then,
512 ice bath was removed. And reaction mixture was stirred for
513 20 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was cooled
514 to 0 °C (ice bath) again and imidazole (2.000 g,
515 29.3 mmol) was added over 10 min. The reaction mixture
516 was stirred for 4 h at room temperature. Then it was diluted
517 with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with H₂O (2 × 20 mL).
518 The organic phase was washed by saturated NaHCO₃
519 solution (2 × 20 mL). The organic phase was separated
520 and dried with anhydrous MgSO₄ and cooled to 0 °C (ice
521 bath). Acetyl chloride (2.098 mL, 29.4 mmol) was added
522 dropwise to ice cold EtOH (5 mL) over 10–15 min. After
stirring for 10 min at 0 °C, the solution was added to the
EtOAc solution over 20 min. After stirring for 10 min, the
resulting suspension was filtered and the precipitate washed
with EtOAc (4 × 10 mL) and dried under suction for
30 min affording the title compound as a white solid
(2.250 g, 70 %) with spectral characteristics in accordance
with literature data (Goddard-Borger and Stick 2007).
¹H NMR(300 MHz, D₂O) δ = 7.46 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.1 Hz,
J = 1.2 Hz, CH⁴), 7.88 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.1 Hz, CH⁵), 9.15 (t,
1H, *J* = 1.2 Hz, CH²) ppm; ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, D₂O)
δ = 119.8 (C⁴), 121.8 (C⁵), 137.0 (C²) ppm; IR_{v_{max}} (KBr)
3,111 (NH), 2,167 (N₃), 1,428 (SO₂) cm⁻¹.
- Fmoc-Lys(N₃)-CONH₂ **15**
- A suspension of Fmoc-Lys-CONH₂ **13** (2.910 g,
7.9 mmol) with potassium carbonate (2.722 g, 19.7 mmol)
and copper sulfate pentahydrate (0.017 g, 0.07 mmol) in
methanol (50 mL) was prepared in a proper round bottle.
The imidazole-1-sulfonyl azide hydrochloride (2.000 g,
9.5 mmol) was added to the suspension slowly. The above
mixture was stirred for 20 h at room temperature. After
completion of reaction, solvent was removed under vac-
uum, then 120 mL H₂O was added to reaction mixture and
pH was diminished to 2 by consumption of concentrated
HCl. The achieved acidic solution was extracted by eth-
ylacetate (3 × 20 mL) and finally the whole organic phase
was washed by brine. Organic phase was dried by anhy-
drous MgSO₄ and the solvent was distilled. Yellow oil
(2.000 g, 65 %) was formed.
¹H NMR(300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ = 1.29–1.37 (m, 2H,
CH₂), 1.42–1.59 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.59–1.71 (m, 2H, CH₂),
3.32 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.9 Hz, CH₂N₃), 3.68–3.73 (m, 1H, CH
fluorene), 3.85–3.92 (m, 1H, CH^α-CONH₂), 4.20–4.25 (m,
2H, -fluorenyl-CH₂-O), 6.99 (brs, 1H, NH-COOCH₂flu-
orenyl), 7.28–7.35 (m, 3H, H–Ar), 7.36–7.50 (m, 3H, H–Ar
and CONH₂), 7.59 (brs, 1H, CONH₂), 7.72 (d, 1H,
J = 7.2 Hz, H–Ar), 7.78 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.4 Hz, H–Ar) ppm;
¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ = 22.5, 28.3, 31.7
(CH₂), 47.1 (CH fluorene), 51.1 (CH₂N₃), 56.8 (CH^α-
CONH₂), 67.2 (CH₂-O–), 120.1, 125.1, 127.1, 127.8,
141.3, 143.6, 143.8 (C–Ar), 156.3 (COOCH₂fluorenyl),
177.0 (CONH₂) ppm; IR_{v_{max}} (neat) 3,380, 3,351, 2,943
(NH), 2,105 (N₃), 1,775, 1,681 (C=O) cm⁻¹; MS(70 eV):
m/z (%):393 (70) [M⁺].
- H₂N-Lys(N₃)-CONH₂ **6**
- Fmoc-Lys(N₃)-CONH₂ **15** (2.001 g, 5.1 mmol) was dis-
solved in ethylacetate (8 mL) and then piperidine (2.0 mL,
20 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at
room temperature. After 3 h, the reaction mixture was
extracted by water (3 × 10 mL). The aqueous phases were

- 572 washed by fresh ethylacetate (1 × 10 mL) again. Aqueous
573 phase was dried. Yellow viscous oil (0.850 g, 98 %) was
574 obtained.
- 575 ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ = 1.32–1.45 (m, 2H,
576 CH₂), 1.47–1.60 (m, 4H, 2CH₂), 2.92 (m, 3H, CH-NH₂ and
577 CH²CONH₂), 3.29 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.7 Hz, CH₂N₃), 6.80 (brs,
578 2H, CONH₂) ppm; ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆)
579 δ = 22.5, 23.9, 28.3 (CH₂), 43.9 (CH₂N₃), 53.6 (CH^α),
580 178.2 (C=O) ppm; IR_v_{max} (neat) 3,485, 3,469, 3,420 (NH),
581 2,098 (N₃), 1,697 (C=O) cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV): *m/z* (%): 170
582 (5) [M⁺-H], 127 (14) [M⁺-CONH₂], 85 (90) [M⁺-
583 CH₂N₄O], 56 (94) [C₂H₄NO⁺].
- 584 Boc-Ser(*O*-Prop)-OH17
- 585 *N*-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-L-serine **16** (2.000 g, 10 mmol)
586 was dissolved in DMF (5 mL) and the solution was
587 placed in ice bath. Sodium hydride [0.880 g, 22 mmol,
588 60 % (w/w) dispersion in mineral oil] was added slowly
589 and the reaction mixture stirred for 1 h at 0 °C. Then,
590 propargyl bromide (1.3 mL, 11 mmol) was added drop-
591 wise to the mixture; yellow solution was formed. The
592 solution was placed in ice bath for 1 h. Then, ice bath
593 was removed and the solution was stirred at room tem-
594 perature for 4 h. The progress of reaction was followed
595 by thin layer chromatography (30:20:1, petro-
596 leum ether:ethylacetate:acetic acid). Water (15 mL) was
597 added to the mixture which was then washed with
598 diethylether (3 × 10 mL). The aqueous phase was acid-
599 ified to pH 3 by adding 10 % HCl. The solution was
600 extracted from acidic solution with ethylacetate
601 (3 × 25 mL). The organic phase was dried using mag-
602 nesium sulfate and the solvent was removed under vac-
603 uum. Orange viscous oil was achieved and purified by
604 column chromatography (30:20:1, petroleum ether:ethyl-
605 acetate:acetic acid). The solvent was evaporated afford-
606 ing a pale yellow, viscous oil (1.820 g, 75 %), with
607 spectral characteristics in accordance with literature data
608 (Brink et al. 2006; Jacobsen et al. 2011).
- 609 ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 1.44 (s, 9H, ¹Bu), 2.45
610 (t, 1H, *J* = 2.6 Hz, CCH, rotamer 1), 2.49 (t, 1H,
611 *J* = 2.4 Hz, CCH, rotamer 2) 3.78 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.4 Hz,
612 *J* = 3.6 Hz, CH₂ serine), 3.98 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.5 Hz,
613 *J* = 3.3 Hz, CH₂ serine), 4.14 (d, 2H, *J* = 2.3 Hz, O-
614 CH₂CCH, rotamer 1), 4.49–4.51 (m, 1H, CH^α), 4.75 (d, 2H,
615 *J* = 2.4 Hz, O-CH₂CCH, rotamer 2), 5.38 (d, 1H,
616 *J* = 8.6 Hz, NH) ppm; IR_v_{max} (neat) 3,440 (COOH), 3,294
617 (NH), 1,715, 1,692 (C=O) cm⁻¹.
- 618 Copper(I) iodide triethyl phosphate **18**
- 619 Copper iodide (1.000 g, 5.3 mmol) prepared by Nishiz-
620 awa method was added to a round bottle containing
triethylphosphite (0.9 mL, 5.3 mmol) and toluene 621
(5.5 mL) in 10 min. The round bottle was sealed to 622
protect from light; after 1 h stirring at room tempera- 623
ture, the reaction mixture was passed through Celite and was 624
concentrated in vacuum. Further purification was done 625
using recrystallization in toluene and hexane; the white 626
crystal (1.100 g, 57 %) was formed (Langille and Jami- 627
son 2006). 628
- ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 4.11 (quin, 2H, CH₂), 629
1.29 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH₃) ppm. [Compare to P (OEt)₃: 630
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 3.88 (6H, q, *J* = 7.0), 1.28 631
(9H, t, *J* = 7.0)]. 632
- General procedure for the synthesis of peptide **9** 633
via Ugi-4CR 634
- A solution of Fmoc-Lys(N₃)-CONH₂ **6** (0.260 g, 635
1.5 mmol) and 4-cyano-benzaldehyde (0.200 g, 1.5 mmol) 636
in MeOH (5 mL) was added for the formation of imine. 637
After 1 h, Boc-Ser(*O*-Prop)-Ala-Pro-Pro-Arg(Pbf)- 638
COOH **7** (1.520 g, 1.5 mmol) was added, this reaction 639
followed with addition of cyclohexyl isocyanide (0.2 mL, 640
1.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 48 h. After com- 641
pletion of the reaction, solvent was evaporated in vacuum. 642
The crude oil was purified by flash column chromatogra- 643
phy. The product **9** was obtained as a white solid (1.730 g, 644
82 %). 645
- HRMS (ESI-FT-ICR) *m/z*: [M+Na]⁺ Calcd for 646
C₆₉H₉₈N₁₆NaO₁₄S, 1,430.72662, Found 1,430.72659. 647
- General procedure for the synthesis of cyclopeptide **10** 648
through Huisgen 1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition reaction 649
- Freshly prepared **9** (1.500 g, 1.07 mmol) was dissolved in 650
CH₂Cl₂ (1,000 mL). *N,N*-Diisopropylethylamine (0.55 mL, 651
3.41 mmol) and copper(I) iodide triethylphosphite **18** 652
(0.370 g, 1.61 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture. 653
The reaction mixture was stirred and protected from light for 654
5 days at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated. 655
The residue was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and purified by flash 656
column chromatography (14:1:1 CH₂Cl₂:acetone:MeOH) 657
affording the title compound as a yellow solid (1.130 g, 658
75 %). HRMS (ESI-FT-ICR) *m/z*: [M+Na]⁺ Calcd for 659
C₆₉H₉₈N₁₆NaO₁₄S 1,430.57978; Found 1,430.57972. 660
- Fmoc-Lys-OH **23** 661
- A 50 % (v/v) solution of TFA in CH₂Cl₂ (16 mL) was 662
added to Fmoc-Lys(Boc)-OH **11** (4.680 g, 10 mmol) and 663
then triethylsilane (1.6 mL, 10 mmol) as a scavenger was 664
added to reaction mixture. The mixture was stirred for 2 h 665
at room temperature. The solvent and bulk of excess TFA 666
were removed under vacuum. The solution of sodium 667

668 hydroxide (1 M) was added to the residue; the product was
669 precipitated at pH 6. The precipitate was filtered and
670 washed with water and dried affording a white powder
671 (3.500 g, 95 %).

672 mp: 247–249 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)
673 δ = 1.41–1.83 (m, 4H, 2CH₂), 1.94 (quin, 2H, CH₂),
674 3.01–3.10 (m, 2H, CH₂NH₂), 3.36 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.1 Hz, CH
675 fluorene), 4.18 (t, 1H, *J* = 6.5 Hz, CHCOOH), 4.35–4.40 (m,
676 2H, –OCH₂), 4.76 (brs, 2H, NH₂), 5.94 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz,
677 NHCOOCH₂fluorenyl), 7.28 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.3 Hz, H–Ar), 7.37
678 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.3 Hz, H–Ar), 7.73 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.4 Hz, H–Ar),
679 7.57 (d, 2H, *J* = 6.9 Hz, H–Ar) ppm; IR_vmax (KBr): 3,330
680 (NH, COOH), 3,052 (CH aromatic), 2,940 (CH aliphatic),
681 1,689 (C=O), 1,596 (C=C) cm⁻¹.

682 Fmoc-Lys(N₃)-OH **24**

683 A suspension of Fmoc-Lys-OH **23** (2.947 g, 8 mmol) with
684 potassium carbonate (2.730 g, 19.7 mmol) and copper
685 sulfate pentahydrate (0.017 g, 0.07 mmol) in methanol
686 (50 mL) was prepared in a proper round bottle. The
687 imidazole-1-sulfonyl azide hydrochloride (2.000 g,
688 9.5 mmol) was added to the suspension slowly. The mix-
689 ture was stirred for 20 h at room temperature. After com-
690 pletion of reaction, the solvent was removed under
691 vacuum. Then 120 mL H₂O was added to reaction mixture
692 and the pH was diminished to 2 by consumption of con-
693 centrated HCl. The achieved acidic solution was extracted
694 by ethylacetate (3 × 20 mL) and finally the whole organic
695 phase was washed by brine. The organic phase was dried
696 by magnesium sulfate and the solvent was distilled. Yellow
697 oil (2.360 g, 75 %) was formed (Sabido 2009).

698 mp: 224–228 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆)
699 δ = 1.27–1.73 (m, 6H, 3CH₂), 3.26 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.5 Hz,
700 CH₂N₃), 4.22 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH fluorene), 4.43 (d, 2H,
701 *J* = 6.8 Hz, –OCH₂), 4.50–4.54 (m, 1H, CH^αCOOH), 5.58
702 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, fluorenylCH₂OOCNH), 7.32 (t, 2H,
703 *J* = 7.3 Hz, H–Ar), 7.41 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.3 Hz, H–Ar), 7.55
704 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.3 Hz, H–Ar), 7.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.3 Hz, H–
705 Ar), 7.76 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.3 Hz, H–Ar) ppm; ¹³C NMR
706 (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ = 22.9, 27.8, 30.3 (CH₂), 50.5 (CH
707 fluorene), 54.9 (CH₂N₃), 55.5 (CH^αCOOH), 61.1(OCH₂),
708 120.0, 120.1 121.2, 123.9, 125.3, 127.1, 127.6, 129.5,
709 135.3, 140.7, 143.8, 143.9 (C–Ar), 156.2 (CONH), 171.8
710 (COOH) ppm; IR_vmax (KBr): 3,455 (NH, COOH), 3,152
711 (CH aromatic), 2,089 (N₃), 1,743 (C=O carboxylic acid),
712 1,670 (CONH) cm⁻¹.

713 General procedure for preparation of dipeptide **25**

714 The synthesis of dipeptide was carried out using 2-chlo-
715 rotrityl chloride resin (1.0 mmol/g) following the standard
716 Fmoc strategy. Fmoc-Lys(N₃)-OH (0.790 g, 2 mmol) was

717 attached to the 2-CTC resin (1.000 g) with DIPEA 717
718 (1.37 mL, 8 mmol) in anhydrous DCM:DMF (10 mL, 1:1)
719 at room temperature for 2 h. After filtration, the resin was
720 capped by a solution of DCM/MeOH/DIPEA (17:2:1,
721 24 mL) for 30 min. Then, it was filtered and washed
722 thoroughly with DCM (1 × 7 mL), DMF (4 × 7 mL). The
723 resin-bound Fmoc-amino acid was treated with 25 %
724 piperidine in DMF (15 mL) for 30 min and the resin was
725 washed with DMF (3 × 7 mL). Then a solution of Fmoc-
726 Arg(Pbf)-OH (0.971 g, 1.5 mmol), TBTU (0.480 g,
727 1.5 mmol), and DIPEA (0.6 mL, 3.5 mmol) in 7 mL DMF
728 was added to the resin-bound free amine and shaken for 1 h
729 at room temperature. After completion of coupling, resin
730 was washed with DMF (4 × 7 mL) and DCM (3 × 7 mL).
731 The produced dipeptide was cleaved from resin by treat-
732 ment of TFA (1 %) in DCM (55 mL) and neutralization
733 with pyridine (4 %) in MeOH (17 mL). The solvent was
734 removed under reduced pressure and precipitated in water
735 and dried affording a powder (1.202 g).

736 Mass (ESI-triple quadrupole) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Found for
737 C₄₀H₅₁N₈O₈S 803.10000.

Amidation of C-terminal of dipeptide **26**

738
739 The dipeptide **25** (1.200 g, 1.5 mmol) and *N*-methyl mor-
740 pholine (0.8 mL, 7.5 mmol) were added to a solution of
741 TBTU (0.740 g, 2.3 mmol) and NH₄Cl (0.160 g,
742 3.0 mmol) in NMP (3 mL). The mixture was stirred
743 overnight. The dipeptide was precipitated in water and the
744 C-terminal amidated dipeptide **26** was dried affording a
745 yellow powder (1.040 g, 87 %).

General procedure for Fmoc deprotection of amidated dipeptide **19**

746
747
748 Purified amidated dipeptide **26** (0.96 g, 1.2 mmol) was
749 added to ethylacetate (2 mL), and then piperidine (0.5 mL,
750 5 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at
751 room temperature. After 3 h, reaction mixture was
752 extracted by water (3 × 10 mL). The aqueous phases were
753 washed by fresh ethylacetate (1 × 10 mL) again. Aqueous
754 phase was dried using natrium sulfate. Yellow viscous oil
755 (0.62 g, 90 %) was obtained.

756 Mass (ESI-triple quadrupole) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Found for
757 C₂₅H₄₂N₉O₅S 580.10000.

General procedure for the synthesis of pentapeptides-COOH **20**

760 The synthesis of pentapeptide **25** was done using the
761 standard Fmoc SPPS strategy. At first, Fmoc-Pro-OH was
762 loaded on the surface of resin. The two times Fmoc-Pro-
763 OH, Fmoc-Ala-OH, and Boc-Ser(*O*-Prop)-OH were loaded

- 764 on the surface of resin. The peptide was removed from the surface of 2-CTC resin using 1 % TFA based on the known
765 surface of 2-CTC resin using 1 % TFA based on the known procedure.
766 procedure.
- 767 HRMS (ESI-FT-ICR) $m/z = C_{29}H_{44}N_6O_9$ $[M+H]^+$
768 Found 606.31390, Calc. 606.31399, $C_{29}H_{43}N_6NaO_9$
769 $[M+Na]^+$ Found 628.29535, Calc. 628.29536, $C_{29}H_{44}KN_6$
770 O_9 $[M+K]^+$ Found 644.26965, Calc. 644.26971.
- 771 General procedure for the synthesis of peptide **21**
772 via Ugi-4CR
- 773 A solution of H_2N -Arg(Pbf)-Lys(N_3)- NH_2 **19** (0.500 g,
774 0.86 mmol) and 4-cyano-benzaldehyde (0.120 g,
775 0.86 mmol) in MeOH (3 mL) was added for the formation
776 of imine. After 1 h, Boc-Ser(*O*-Prop)-Ala-Pro-Pro-
777 COOH **20** (0.520 g, 0.86 mmol) was added, this reaction
778 was followed with addition of cyclohexyl isocyanide
779 (0.11 mL, 0.86 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 48 h.
780 Further purification was done using flash column chroma-
781 tography. The desired product was achieved as yellow oil
782 (1.030 g, 85 %).
- 783 Mass (ESI-ion trap) m/z : $[M+Na]^+$ Found for
784 $C_{69}H_{98}N_{16}NaO_{14}S$ 1430.33.
- 785 General procedure for the synthesis of cyclopeptide **22**
786 via Huisgen 1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition reaction
- 787 Freshly prepared **21** (1.100 g, 0.8 mmol) was dissolved in
788 CH_2Cl_2 (900 mL). Then, *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine
789 (0.4 mL, 2.4 mmol) and copper(I) iodide triethylphosphite
790 (0.272 g, 1.2 mmol) were added to reaction mixture. The
791 reaction mixture was stirred and protected from light for
792 5 days at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated.
793 The residue was redissolved in CH_2Cl_2 and purified by
794 flash column chromatography (14:1:1 CH_2Cl_2 :ace-
795 tone:MeOH) affording the title compound as a yellow solid
796 (0.820 g, 73 %).
- 797 Mass (ESI-ion trap) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ Found for $C_{69}H_{98}$
798 $N_{16}O_{14}S$ 1408.13.
- 799 HRMS (ESI-FT-ICR) m/z : $[M-(C_6H_{10}N_3)]^+$ Calcd for
800 $C_{63}H_{88}N_{13}O_{14}S$ 1,282.55259, Found 1,282.55248; $[M-$
801 $(C_{18}H_{29}N_3O_2S)]^+$ Calcd for $C_{51}H_{69}N_{12}O_{10}$ 1009.49428,
802 Found 1,009.49420; $[M-(C_{31}H_{50}N_8O_4S)]^+$ Calcd for
803 $C_{38}H_{48}N_8O_{10}$ 776.24264, Found 776.24257.
- 804 General procedure for the synthesis of heptapeptides-
805 COOH (**27**)
- 806 The synthesis of heptapeptide **27** was carried out using the
807 general Fmoc SPPS strategy using 2-CTC. At first, Fmoc-
808 Lys(N_3)-OH **24** was attached on the surface of resin and then
809 Fmoc-Arg(Pbf)-OH, three times Fmoc-Pro-OH, Fmoc-Ala-
810 OH and finally Fmoc-Ser(*O*-Prop)-OH were added on the
811 surface. The peptide was removed from the surface of resin
812 using TFA (1 %) based on the known procedure.
- 813 HRMS (MALDI-FT-ICR) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ Calcd for
814 $C_{54}H_{82}N_{13}O_{14}S$ 1168.58514, Found 1,168.58489;
815 $[M+Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{54}H_{81}N_{13}NaO_{14}S$ 1,190.57059,
816 Found 1,190.57048; $[M+K]^+$ Calcd for $C_{54}H_{81}KN_{13}O_{14}S$
817 1,206.52828, Found 1,206.52901.
- 818 General in vitro experiments
- 819 Cancer cells were all seeded at 5,000 cells/well in a
820 96-well plate and the culture was maintained in RPMI 1640
821 supplemented with 10 % fetal bovine serum, 1 % L-gluta-
822 mine, 100 units/mL penicillin, and 100 μ g/mL streptomycin
823 overnight. The media was replaced with fresh media
824 containing up to 50 μ g of peptides and incubated for 48 h
825 in a humidified atmosphere of 95 % air and 5 % CO_2 at
826 37 °C until the control cultures were confluent. The media
827 was then removed and the plate was washed two times with
828 phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). Serum-free media
829 (100 μ L) containing 0.5 mg/mL MTT dye was added into
830 each well and incubated at 37 °C for 2 h. The media with
831 dye was removed, washed with PBS and the reactive dye
832 was solved by addition of 100 μ L dimethylsulfoxide
833 (DMSO). The absorbance was read using an automatic
834 multiwell spectrophotometer. The experiment was always
835 performed in triplicates.
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843
- 844 **References**
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