

# Competitive counterion complexation allows the true host:guest binding constants from a single titration by ionic receptors,

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### 1- Single binding model

The model used is based on the assumption that a 1:1 complex is formed between the SC4 and the BTA, neglecting the effect of sodium counterions.



Scheme S- 1

The stability of the inclusion complex can be described as an association constant,  $K_{\text{BTA}}$

$$K_{\text{BTA}} = \frac{[\text{H-G}]}{[\text{H}][\text{G}]}$$

where [H] and [G] represent the equilibrium concentration of free species, SC4 and BTA, respectively, and [H-G] is the concentration of the 1:1 complex.

The mass balance for the total concentrations of SC4 and BTA are given by

$$[\text{H}]_0 = [\text{H}] + [\text{H-G}]$$

$$[\text{G}]_0 = [\text{G}] + [\text{H-G}]$$

The combination of these equations with the binding constant gives a second order equation for the concentration of uncomplexed G.

$$a[\text{G}]^2 + b[\text{G}] + c = 0$$

Where

$$a = K_{\text{BTA}}$$

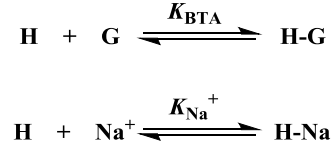
$$b = 1 + K_{\text{BTA}}([\text{H}]_0 - [\text{G}]_0)$$

$$c = -[\text{G}]_0$$

This second order equation was solved for different values of  $K_{\text{BTA}}$  in order to obtain the [G]. The value of  $K_{\text{BTA}}$  for which we obtain the best root-mean-square deviation values in the fitting of the experimental results, was taken as optimal.

## 2- Competitive complexation binding model

On the assumption that a competitive complexation occurs between  $\text{Na}^+$  and BTA for the SC4 cavity, a second equilibrium should be considered.



Scheme S- 2

The complexation constants of the  $\text{Na}^+$  and BTA are expressed as:

$$K_{\text{Na}^+} = \frac{[\text{H} - \text{Na}]}{[\text{H}][\text{Na}]}$$

$$K_{\text{BTA}} = \frac{[\text{H} - \text{G}]}{[\text{H}][\text{G}]}$$

where  $[\text{H}]$ ,  $[\text{G}]$  and  $[\text{Na}]$  represent the equilibrium concentration of free species, SC4, BTA and  $\text{Na}^+$ .

The mass balance for the total concentrations of SC4, BTA and  $\text{Na}^+$  are given by

$$[\text{H}]_0 = [\text{H}] + [\text{H} - \text{G}] + [\text{H} - \text{Na}]$$

$$[\text{G}]_0 = [\text{G}] + [\text{H} - \text{G}]$$

$$[\text{Na}]_0 = [\text{Na}] + [\text{H} - \text{Na}]$$

The combination of these equations with the binding constants gives a third order equation for the concentration of free H.

$$a[\text{H}]^3 + b[\text{H}]^2 + c[\text{H}] + e = 0$$

Where

$$a = K_{\text{BTA}}K_{\text{Na}}$$

$$b = K_{\text{BTA}} + K_{\text{Na}} + K_{\text{BTA}}K_{\text{Na}}([\text{Na}]_0 + [\text{G}]_0 - [\text{H}]_0)$$

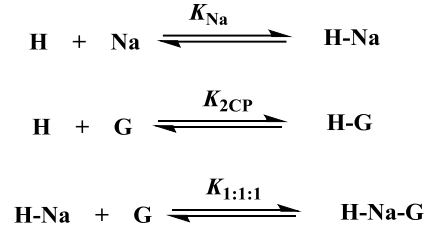
$$c = 1 + K_{\text{Na}}([\text{Na}]_0 - [\text{H}]_0) + K_{\text{BTA}}([\text{G}]_0 - [\text{H}]_0)$$

$$e = -[\text{H}]_0$$

This third order equation was solved for different values of  $K_{BTA}$ , keeping constant the  $K_{Na}=183 \text{ M}^{-1}$ . The value of  $K_{BTA}$  for which we obtain the best root-mean-square deviation values in the fitting of the experimental results, was taken as optimal, in order to obtain the [H].

### 3- Competitive cooperative binding model

Considering the formation of a ternary complex between SC4, 2CP and Na<sup>+</sup>, a third equilibrium should be considered.



Scheme S- 3

The complexation constants of the Na<sup>+</sup>, 2CP and 1:1:1 are expressed as:

$$K_{Na^+} = \frac{[H - Na]}{[H][Na]}$$

$$K_{2CP} = \frac{[H - G]}{[H][G]}$$

$$K_{1:1:1} = \frac{[H - Na - G]}{[H - Na][G]}$$

where [H],[G] and [Na] represent the equilibrium concentration of free species, SC4, 2CP and Na<sup>+</sup>.

The mass balance for the total concentrations of SC4, 2CP and Na<sup>+</sup> are given by

$$[H]_0 = [H] + [H - G] + [H - Na] + [H - Na - G]$$

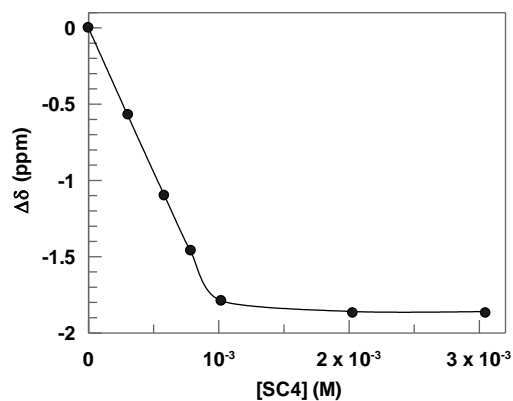
$$[G]_0 = [G] + [H - G] + [H - Na - G]$$

$$[Na]_0 = [Na] + [H - Na] + [H - Na - G]$$

These equations were solved using the Newton Raphson method.

#### 4- Titration of TMA by SC4

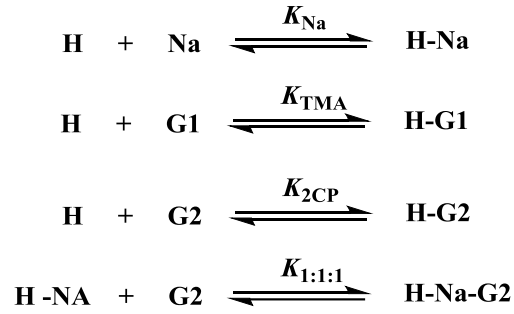
**Sulfonocalixarene** titration of TMA was carried out keeping constant the  $[TMA]=0.985$  mM. Figure S- 1 show the complexation induced chemical shift for the TMA hydrogen atoms as well as their fit to the competitive complexation binding model, allowing us to obtain the binding constant,  $K_{TMA}=5.50 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$ .



**Figure S- 1:** Plots of  $\Delta\delta_{obs}$  (ppm) for the TMA resonance signal vs SC4 concentrations in D<sub>2</sub>O at 25°C. Solid line represents the fitting process to the competitive complexation binding model.

### 5- NMR displacement assays

Taking into account that adding TMA to the mixture of 2CP and SC4, should be considered the competitive binding process of TMA, Na<sup>+</sup> and 2CP to the SC4, and the formation of a ternary complex (SC4-NA-2CP), allow us to propose this complexation scheme:



Scheme S- 4

The complexation constants of the Na<sup>+</sup>, 2CP, 1:1:1 and TMA are expressed as:

$$K_{\text{Na}^+} = \frac{[\text{H-Na}]}{[\text{H}][\text{Na}]}$$

$$K_{2\text{CP}} = \frac{[\text{H-G2}]}{[\text{H}][\text{G2}]}$$

$$K_{1:1:1} = \frac{[\text{H-Na-G2}]}{[\text{H-Na}][\text{G2}]}$$

$$K_{\text{TMA}} = \frac{[\text{H-G1}]}{[\text{H}][\text{G1}]}$$

where [H], [G1], [G2] and [Na] represent the equilibrium concentration of free species, SC4, TMA, 2CP and Na<sup>+</sup>, respectively.

The mass balance for the total concentrations of SC4, 2CP, TMA and Na<sup>+</sup> are given by:

$$[\text{H}]_0 = [\text{H}] + [\text{H-G2}] + [\text{H-Na}] + [\text{H-Na-G2}] + [\text{H-G1}]$$

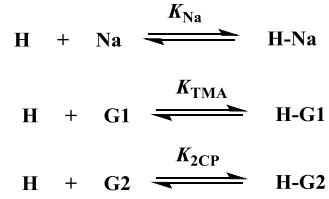
$$[\text{G2}]_0 = [\text{G2}] + [\text{H-G2}] + [\text{H-Na-G2}]$$

$$[\text{Na}]_0 = [\text{Na}] + [\text{H-Na}] + [\text{H-Na-G2}]$$

$$[G1]_0 = [G1] + [H - G1]$$

These equations were solved using the Newton Raphson method.

If we ignore the formation of a ternary complex (SC4-NA-2CP), the complexation procedure can be expressed as:



**Scheme S- 5**

The complexation constants of the Na<sup>+</sup>, 2CP and TMA are expressed as:

$$K_{Na^+} = \frac{[H - Na]}{[H][Na]}$$

$$K_{2CP} = \frac{[H - G2]}{[H][G2]}$$

$$K_{TMA} = \frac{[H - G1]}{[H][G1]}$$

where [H], [G1], [G2] and [Na] represent equilibrium concentration of free species, SC4, TMA, 2CP and Na<sup>+</sup>, respectively.

The mass balance for the total concentrations of SC4, 2CP, TMA and Na<sup>+</sup> are given by:

$$[H]_0 = [H] + [H - G2] + [H - Na] + [H - G1]$$

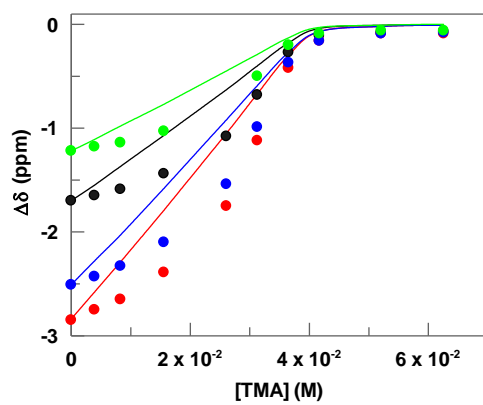
$$[G2]_0 = [G2] + [H - G2]$$

$$[Na]_0 = [Na] + [H - Na]$$

$$[G1]_0 = [G1] + [H - G1]$$

These equations were solved using the Newton Raphson method.





**Figure S- 2:** Plots of  $\Delta\delta_{\text{obs}}$  (ppm) for the different resonance signals of 2CP, [2CP]=4mM, vs. TMA concentration in the presence of [SC4]=40mM in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  at 25°C. Solid lines correspond to the binding model showed in scheme S-5.

## 6-Matlab code for cooperative competitive complexation method

```

clear all
kk=importdata('constantes.txt');
[m,n] = size(kk);
% open the results file
fileID = fopen('resultados.txt','w');
% Newton's iteration starting value
x0 =[2e-4;1e-3;5e-5;1e-3;1e-4;1e-4];
fprintf(fileID,' y1 || y2 || y3 || x || w || z \n');
for s = 1:m
    k=kk(s,:);
    k=k';
    % algorithm constants
    tol=1.e-10; maxiter =100;
    % Newton's iteration method
    [x,F,iter] = newtonsys(@Ffun ,@Jfun ,x0,k ,tol ,maxiter);
    fprintf(fileID,'%e||%e||%e||%e||%e||%e \n',x);
    fprintf('The constants are %e\n',k);
    fprintf('The solution is \n');
    fprintf(' y1=%e\n',x(1));
    fprintf(' y2=%e\n',x(2));
    fprintf(' y3=%e\n',x(3));
    fprintf(' x=%e\n',x(4));
    fprintf(' w=%e\n',x(5));
    fprintf(' z=%e\n',x(6));
    fprintf('The residual:\n');
    fprintf(' %e %e %e %e %e %e \n',feval(@Ffun,x,k));
    fprintf(' _____ \n');
end
% close the results file
fclose(fileID);
%
% Newton's function
%
function [x,F,iter ] = newtonsys(Ffun,Jfun,x0,k,tol,nmax,varargin)
%NEWTONSYS tries to get a zero of a nonlinear system.
% [ZERO ,F,ITER ]= NEWTONSYS(FFUN ,JFUN ,X0 ,TOL ,NMAX)
% The nonlinear system is defined
% in function FFUN with Jacobian matrix defined in JFUN.
% X0 is the Newton's iteration starting value
iter = 0; err = tol + 1; x = x0;
while err > tol & iter <= nmax
    J = feval(Jfun ,x,k,varargin {:});
    F = feval(Ffun ,x,k,varargin {:});
    delta = - J\F;
    x = x + delta;
    err = norm(delta );
    iter = iter + 1;
end
F = norm(feval(Ffun ,x,k,varargin {:}));
if iter >= nmax
    fprintf(' The algorithm exceeds the maximum number of iterations \n ');
    fprintf(' The residual is %e\n',F);
else
    fprintf(' The method converges at iteration %i with a residual %e\n',iter ,F);
end
return
%

```

```

% Function Ffun which defines the nonlinear system
%
function F=Ffun(x,k)
F(1,1) = k(1)*x(5)*x(4)-x(2);
F(2,1) = k(2)*x(5)*x(6)-x(1);
F(3,1) = k(1)*k(3)*x(5)*x(4)*x(6)-x(3);
F(4,1) = x(4)+x(2)+x(3)-k(6);
F(5,1) = x(6)+x(1)+x(3)-k(4);
F(6,1) = x(5)+x(1)+x(3)+x(2)-k(5);
return
%
% Function Jfun which defines the Jacobian matrix
%
function J=Jfun(x,k)
J(1,1) = 0; J(1,2) = -1; J(1,3) = 0; J(1,4) = k(1)*x(5);...
J(1,5) = k(1)*x(4); J(1,6) = 0;...
J(2,1) = -1; J(2,2) = 0; J(2,3) = 0; J(2,4) = 0;...
J(2,5) = k(2)*x(6); J(2,6) = k(2)*x(5);...
J(3,1) = 0; J(3,2) = 0; J(3,3) = -1; J(3,4) = k(1)*k(3)*x(5)*x(6);...
J(3,5) = k(1)*k(3)*x(4)*x(6); J(3,6) = k(1)*k(3)*x(5)*x(4);...
J(4,1) = 0; J(4,2) = 1; J(4,3) = 1; J(4,4) = 1;...
J(4,5) = 0; J(4,6) = 0;...
J(5,1) = 1; J(5,2) = 0; J(5,3) = 1; J(5,4) = 0;...
J(5,5) = 0; J(5,6) = 1;...
J(6,1) = 1; J(6,2) = 1; J(6,3) = 1; J(6,4) = 0;...
J(6,5) = 1; J(6,6) = 0;...
return

```

**7-Matlab code for displacement assay of competitive complexation method with cooperative competitive complexation model.**

```

clear all
kk=importdata('constantes.txt');
[m,n] = size(kk);
% open the results file
fileID = fopen('resultados.txt','w');
% Newton's iteration starting value
x0 =[3e-4;3e-2;5e-5;1e-4;2e-1;2e-5;3e-3;4e-3];
fprintf(fileID,' y1 || y2 || y3 || y4 || a || b || c || d \n');
for s = 1:m
    k=kk(s,:);
    k=k';
    % algorithm constants
    tol=1.e-10; maxiter =100;
    % Newton's iteration method
    [x,F,iter] = newtonsys(@Ffun,@Jfun,x0,k,tol,maxiter);
    fprintf(fileID,'%e||%e||%e||%e||%e||%e||%e \n',x);
    fprintf('Las constantes son %e\n',k);
    fprintf('La solucion es \n');
    fprintf(' y1=%e\n',x(1));
    fprintf(' y2=%e\n',x(2));
    fprintf(' y3=%e\n',x(3));
    fprintf(' y4=%e\n',x(4));
    fprintf(' a=%e\n',x(5));
    fprintf(' b=%e\n',x(6));
    fprintf(' c=%e\n',x(7));
    fprintf(' d=%e\n',x(8));
    fprintf('The residual:\n');
    fprintf(' %e %e %e %e %e %e %e %e \n',feval(@Ffun,x,k));
    fprintf('_____ \n');
end

% close the results file
fclose(fileID);
%
% Newton's function
%
function [x,F,iter ] = newtonsys(Ffun,Jfun,x0,k,tol,nmax,varargin)
%NEWTONSYS tries to get a zero of a nonlinear system.
% [ZERO ,F,ITER ]= NEWTONSYS(FFUN ,JFUN ,X0 ,TOL ,NMAX)
% The nonlinear system is defined
% in function FFUN with Jacobian matrix defined in JFUN.
% X0 is the Newton's iteration starting value
iter = 0; err = tol + 1; x = x0;
while err > tol & iter <= nmax
J = feval(Jfun ,x,k,varargin {:});
F = feval(Ffun ,x,k,varargin {:});
delta = - J\F;
x = x + delta;
err = norm(delta );
iter = iter + 1;
end
F = norm(feval(Ffun ,x,k,varargin {:}));
if iter >= nmax
fprintf(' The algorithm exceeds the maximum number of iterations \n ');

```

```

fprintf(' The residual is %e\n',F);
else
fprintf(' The method converges at iteration %i with a residual %e\n',iter ,F);
end
return

%
% Function Ffun which defines the nonlinear system
%
function F=Ffun(x,k)
F(1 ,1) = k(1)*x(6)*x(5)-x(1);
F(2 ,1) = k(2)*x(6)*x(7)-x(2);
F(3 ,1) = k(3)*x(6)*x(8)-x(3);
F(4 ,1) = k(1)*k(4)*x(6)*x(8)*x(5)-x(4);
F(5 ,1) = x(5)+x(1)+x(4)-k(5);
F(6 ,1) = x(6)+x(2)+x(3)+x(4)+x(1)-k(6);
F(7 ,1) = x(7)+x(2)-k(7);
F(8 ,1) = x(8)+x(3)+x(4)-k(8);
return

%
% Function Jfun which defines the Jacobian matrix
%
function J=Jfun(x,k)
J(1 ,1) = -1; J(1 ,2) = 0; J(1 ,3) = 0; J(1 ,4) = 0; J(1 ,5) = k(1)*x(6);...
J(1 ,6) = k(1)*x(5); J(1 ,7) = 0; J(1 ,8) = 0;...
J(2 ,1) = 0; J(2 ,2) = -1; J(2 ,3) = 0; J(2 ,4) = 0; J(2 ,5) = 0;...
J(2 ,6) = k(2)*x(7); J(2 ,7) = k(2)*x(6); J(2 ,8) = 0;...
J(3 ,1) = 0; J(3 ,2) = 0; J(3 ,3) = -1; J(3 ,4) = 0; J(3 ,5) = 0;...
J(3 ,6) = k(3)*x(8); J(3 ,7) = 0; J(3 ,8) = k(3)*x(6);...
J(4 ,1) = 0; J(4 ,2) = 0; J(4 ,3) = 0; J(4 ,4) = -1; J(4 ,5) = k(1)*k(4)*x(6)*x(8);...
J(4 ,6) = k(1)*k(4)*x(8)*x(5); J(4 ,7) = 0; J(4 ,8) = k(1)*k(4)*x(6)*x(5);...
J(5 ,1) = 1; J(5 ,2) = 0; J(5 ,3) = 0; J(5 ,4) = 0;...
J(5 ,5) = 1; J(5 ,6) = 0; J(5 ,7) = 0; J(5 ,8) = 0;...
J(6 ,1) = 1; J(6 ,2) = 1; J(6 ,3) = 1; J(6 ,4) = 1;...
J(6 ,5) = 0; J(6 ,6) = 1; J(6 ,7) = 0; J(6 ,8) = 0;...
J(7 ,1) = 0; J(7 ,2) = 1; J(7 ,3) = 0; J(7 ,4) = 0;...
J(7 ,5) = 0; J(7 ,6) = 0; J(7 ,7) = 1; J(7 ,8) = 0;...
J(8 ,1) = 0; J(8 ,2) = 0; J(8 ,3) = 1; J(8 ,4) = 1;...
J(8 ,5) = 0; J(8 ,6) = 1; J(8 ,7) = 0; J(8 ,8) = 1;...
return

```