AMINO ACID PLATINUM(II) COMPLEXES: SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERISATION AND **COUPLING TO PORPHYRINS**

by

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PLEASE NOTE

The greatest amount of care has been taken while scanning this thesis,

and the best possible result has been obtained.

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STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICATION

The work, presented in this thesis is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, original except as acknowledged in the text. I hereby declare that I have not submitted this material, either in whole or in part, for a degree at this or any other institution.

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ABBREVIATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Anti-cancer treatment using existing cytotoxic drugs is far from being tumour-specific. The ultimate way to achieve tumour-selectivity is to use the tumour-localising capabilities of porphyrins to direct the active platinum components. The present study describes the synthesis and characterisation of novel platinum-porphyrin conjugates that have the potential of binding specifically to the DNA of cancer cells.

The first stage involves the synthesis of a series of platinum(II) complexes. Initially, the 1:1 dichloro complexes of the formula $[Pt(ame-N, O)C]$ were isolated from reactions of $K₂[PtC]₄$ with the amino acids L-asp, L-glu, L-glu.OMe, L-serine and L-lysine. These complexes were characterised with elemental analysis, infrared, ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra. The X-ray structure of $[Pt(L-lysine)Cl_2]$ has been determined. Crystals of $[Pt(L-lysine)Cl_2]$ are monoclinic, spacer group P2(1), with two independent molecules in the asymmetric unit and unit dimensions $a = 9.634$ (8) Å, b = 11.113 (11) Å, c = 11.057 (9) Å and $\beta = 102.02$ (6)°. Many of the dichloro complexes were then used to produce $[Pt(amac-N,O)(A)]^+$ derivatives where A = 2 x NH₁, ethylenediamine or diaminocyclohexane (cs-R,S- and trans-R,R-). Various diamine platinum(II) complexes were also synthesied and characterised by ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy. The results were applied to the analysis of the $[Pt(amac-N,O)(A)]^+$ derivatives.

The second stage describes the synthesis of a set of four porphyrins containing suitable linker groups. Three of these porphyrins were prepared by mixed aldehyde condensations with pyrrole and substituted benzaldehydes. The other was prepared by aryl nitration of TPP followed by reduction to give an amino-porphyrin. Each porphyrin bears a functional group that can react directly in coupling reactions. These groups include an amine, a carboxyl and a methyl ester. All

porphyrins have been characterised by spectral methods such as UV-Visible, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and mass spectroscopy.

Finally, an investigation into the use of carbodiimide reagents in the coupling of TPP-NH₂ and TPPS₃-NH₂ with $[Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂]⁺$ has been explored. The reaction of TPP-NH₂ with $[Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)]$ ⁺ in the presence of DCC and HOBT afforded the amide linked platinumporphyrin conjugate in 43% yield. Correspondingly, the reaction of TPPS₃-NH₂, [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂⁺ and EDAC gave a water-soluble conjugate in 53% yield. The structures of the platinum-porphyrin conjugates were mainly determined by infrared, 'H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy.

\mathbb{C} H $\mathbf p$ $\mathbf A$ T $\mathbf F$ R

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The study of cancer plays an important role in modern medical science. Over the years, a lot has been learnt about the properties and treatment of cancer cells. Despite the remarkable progress made in understanding the genesis of cancer, the work so far has had very little impact in the clinic especially the design of new and improved drugs.

Platinum-based drugs such as cis-diamminedichloroplatinum(II) and its analogue, carboplatin, are the most effective chemotherapeutic agents used in the treatment of testicular, ovarian, bladder and lung cancers. Nevertheless, the emergence of toxic side-effects compromises its clinical effectiveness. It is generally agreed that most of the toxic effects of platinum-based drugs arise from their lack of selectivity.

This thesis reports on the development of new platinum(II) complexes bound to carrier molecules with the hope of obtaining compounds which display the cytotoxic effects only in tumour tissue. In addition, some information is included about what is known about the causes of cancer, how it kills and the current methods of treatment.

Cancer: A Review

Cancer is an ancient disease. It has afflicted our ancestors throughout history. Cancer has always been a much feared disease, but until recently it was seldom encountered. In the last decade, the situation has changed dramatically. Cancer is now Australia's leading cause of death followed by ischaemic heart disease. In 1998, cancer accounted for 27% (33 560 deaths) of total deaths.¹ The leading primary site of male cancer deaths was the trachea, bronchus and lung of which there were 4,820 deaths. For females, the primary site was the breast with 2,542 deaths. Other major sites are shown in the Diagram 1.1.

Diagram 1.1: Deaths due to cancer-main sites, Australia 1998.

There are many reasons for the substantial increase in the incidence of cancer. Firstly, many years of exposure to carcinogenic materials are usually required to produce cancer. The average life span of people in the 20th century has increased during the last fifty years, and therefore more people now live long enough to develop cancer. Secondly, modern life-styles and the contemporary environment result in longer exposures to more kinds of carcinogens and in greater amounts.

1.1 **CHARACTERISTICS OF A CANCER CELL**

Cancer results from the malfunctioning of one of the many cells that make up the body. Cancer generally begins when a single normal cell converts to a cancer cell, that is it undergoes transformation. Each descendant of the cell is also a cancer cell and all, in turn, produces more cancer cells. Whatever the nature of the conversion, it is transmitted from one cell generation to the next at each cell division.

Cancer cells have heritable properties^{2,3} that underlie the nature of the disease they cause. It is the combination of these features that makes cancers peculiarly dangerous.

- (a) Regulation of reproduction is defective in cancer cells. In an adult the reproduction of normal cells occurs only to replace cells that are lost. The insidious property of cancer cells is that they are unresponsive to feedback mechanisms from neighbouring cells. As a consequence, cell division is no longer regulated, leading to uncontrolled proliferation.
- (b) Cancer cells are effectively immortal. Many kinds of normal cells have limited life spans, for example, lymphocytes, intestinal epithelial cells and epidermal cells of skin. In cancer cells, the genetic control of life span is lost, resulting in immortality.

Cancer begins when a single cell becomes defective in the characteristics described above as a result of a change in its genetic make-up. These genetic changes appear to consist of mutations in the expressions of genes involved in the control of reproduction, differentiation and life span of a cell.

1.2 CANCER CELLS AND DISEASE

The two classes of genes² in which mutations cause transformation include proto-oncogenes and tumour suppressers.

Proto-oncogenes

Proto-oncogenes are normal cellular genes which are critical for normal cell proliferation and differentiation. Proto-oncogenes are present in every normal cell in the body, and encode for growth factors, nuclear proteins, regulatory enzymes and components of intracellular pathways of signal transduction. When proto-oncogenes are normally regulated, their functions are essential to the cell; it is only when they become transformed into an active oncogene that they contribute to the development of cancer. There are many conceivable modes of genetic disruption that can activate a proto-oncogene. The gene can be altered by point mutation, or through chromosomal abnormalities called "translocation," in which two chromosomes exchange segments. Expression of genes on that segment had been precisely regulated by virtue of its normal chromosomal location, but controls are lost at the new location. A change in the expression of a single amino acid is sufficient^{2,4} for conversion to an oncogene.

Tumour Suppressers

The emergence of cancer appears to involve the accumulation of genetic damage in a target cell. To help prevent such damage, cells have machinery to repair deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) after it has been damaged. Tumour suppressers such as the p53 protein have the job of temporarily stopping cell division, allowing the DNA to be repaired before copying.⁵ The p53 protein is also identified with a process of programmed cell death that may be important in killing cancer cells. It has been found that mutations in this gene contribute to the development of 50% of all human cancers.⁵ Cancer researchers have convincing evidence that shows that loss of the growth inhibition exerted by these genes plays a major role in cancer.

1.3 SPREAD OF CANCER CELLS AND DEATH

Cancer requires months or even years to give rise to a cancer mass that produces disease symptoms. Immortality and failure to stop reproducing causes cancer cells to accumulate. Accumulation of these functionally defective cells results in disease. Eventually the growing mass interferes with the function of an essential organ, leading to death. Commonly the function of the liver, lungs, brain or kidney is impaired.

The malignancy is often enhanced by the invasion of the cancer cells in to the adjacent normal tissue and by the spread of cancer cells to the other sites. This spreading occurs when detached cancer cells travel in the blood and lymphatic system, a process called *metastasis*.² Many of these wandering cancer cells are probably destroyed by the immune system. However, a minute proportion of these cells often succeed in founding metastatic colonies in the liver, bone, lungs, brain and lymph nodes. Development of new sites greatly complicates the problem of treatment.

A large number of cancer deaths result from infection. An impaired immune system means that patients are highly susceptible to bacteria, molds and other infectious organisms. These organisms which are normally destroyed by the immune system of a healthy individual can form fatal infections in cancer victims.

1.4 DNA REPAIR AND CANCER

DNA is a long polymer of nucleotide subunits. Each nucleotide contains phosphate, the sugar deoxyribose and one of four nucleic acid bases: adenine, thymine, guanine or cytosine.⁶ It is these bases that carry the information that specifies the composition of all the organisms protein molecules.

DNA is organised in two chains that form a double helix (Diagram 1.2). Given the structure and size of the bases this arrangement requires the sequence of bases to follow the Watson-Crick pairing rules.⁷ This specifies that wherever an adenine appears on one chain it is linked with thymine on the other. Similarly guanine is matched with cytosine. The adenine-thymine pair is stabilised by two hydrogen bonds whilst the guanine is stabilised by three hydrogen bonds.⁷ This consistent pairing of complementary bases is crucial for maintaining the genetic code.

Diagram 1.2: DNA strand.

Genetic material is at constant risk of malfunctioning, both because of errors introduced during its manufacture and damage caused by environmental insults such as chemicals and ultra-violet radiation. To deal with this threat, cells possess repair mechanisms that correct mutational lesions before they become part of the inherited genetic inventory. There are two types of repair systems, mismatch repair and excision repair.⁸

Mismatch Repair

Mismatch repair specialises in errors made during DNA replication. The common DNA biosynthetic errors include insertion of an incorrect base or the addition of an extra nucleotide, resulting in unpaired bases within the helix. It is the job of the mismatch repair system to scan newly synthesised DNA strands for violations of the Watson-Crick pairing rules, cut out mistakes and then fill in the gaps with the correct sequence.⁹

Nucleotide Excision Repair

Lesions made by outside agents such as ultra-violet light and chemicals are handled by nucleotide excision repair pathway (NER). NER recognises bulky lesions in the DNA strand and is crucial for humans. Individuals with defects in their NER processes have the genetic disease xeroderma pigmentosum (XP) and are so sensitive to ultra-violet radiation that the slightest exposure of the skin to sunlight is liable to provoke skin cancer.¹⁰ NER is much more complicated than mismatch repair using the production of twelve genes to recognise and clip out damaged DNA segments. The steps involved in the removal of a lesion by NER^{11,12} are shown in Diagram 1.3.

The loss of DNA repair proficiency may result in genetic destabilisation leading to mutations that activate proto-oncogenes or inactivate tumour suppresser genes, and thus cause cancer. Not only has the intense study of repair systems provided molecular geneticists with much needed information, but it also has an impact in the clinic. New anti-cancer drugs have to be designed so that insertion on a DNA strand produces lesions that are subtle enough to escape recognition by the cells repair systems.

Diagram 1.3: Steps of NER.

1.5 **TREATMENT OF CANCER**

Without treatment, virtually all cancers are sooner or later fatal. The objective of cancer treatment is to eliminate all cancer cells from an individual. Elimination of every trace of cancer cell is necessary because cancer can regrow from a single surviving cancer cell. The three traditional methods of treatment include:

- (a) Surgery: the surgical removal of discrete masses of cancerous tissue. This method works when a tumour is fully accessible and has not spread, but it offers little hope when the cancer cells have begun to disseminate through the body.
- (b) Radiation: shrinks or kills cancers not amenable to surgery.
- (c) Chemotherapy: drug regimes that systematically attack metastasis. Such treatments have severe side effects because the drugs are highly toxic and cannot discriminate between normal and cancer tissue.

Unfortunately, by the time the disease has been discovered clinically most cancers already consists of billions of cells and usually have already moved to other sites. To remove, or destroy every last cell is difficult and usually impossible with presently available methods. Development of new ways of treating cancer is centred on the manipulation of components that deliver a drug specifically to cancer cells. Without such specificity, drugs will also bind to normal cells, producing unacceptable side-effects.

Platinum Based Chemotherapeutic Drugs

1.6 DISCOVERY OF CISPLATIN

Platinum-based drugs are among the most active and commonly used clinical agents for the treatment of advanced cancer. The first platinum drug to be used clinically was cisdiamminedichloroplatinum(II), commonly known as cisplatin (Diagram 1.4).

Diagram 1.4: cis-Diamminedichloroplatinum(II).

Barnett Rosenberg serendipitously discovered the anti-cancer properties of cisplatin in 1965.¹³ Rosenberg was studying the influence of weak alternating currents on the growth of Escherichia coli. During the course of his experiments, he observed that when the current was applied across platinum electrodes immersed in media containing the bacteria and ammonium chloride (NH₄Cl), cell division ceased and the bacterial cells grew long filaments up to 300 times their normal length. This filamentous growth is indicative of the ability of an agent to react with DNA.³ Further studies revealed that it was not the electric current itself but trace amounts of a

cis-configurated chloro complex that were responsible for this biological effect. The complex that resulted from the oxidation of the platinum electrode was identified as cisplatin. Six years later, the anti-proliferative effect of cisplatin was applied to the treatment of human cancer.

Cisplatin is routinely used for the treatment of ovarian, testicular, bladder, head and neck, and small-cell lung carcinomas.^{7,14} Although cisplatin is an active anti-cancer agent, it is also extremely toxic. The major toxicities induced by cisplatin include nephrotoxicity, neurotoxicity, nausea and vomiting, myelosuppression (bone marrow suppression) and ototoxicity.^{3,15} All toxicities appear to be dose related, with neurotoxicity, nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity appearing to be cumulative. The maximum tolerated dose of cisplatin is 100mg/day for up to five consecutive days.¹⁶

Neurotoxicity is the major dose-limiting problem associated with cisplatin.^{14,17} After several treatment cycles patients experience a loss of vibration sense, paraethesia and sensory ataxia.¹⁸ The use of neuroprotective drugs has been explored as a potentially useful method to deliver higher doses of cisplatin without the development of cisplatin-induced peripheral neuropathy. Of those tried, the administration of glutathione concomitant with cisplatin was found to significantly reduce the incidence of neurotoxicity without lowering the therapeutic index of cisplatin.^{17,19}

In early clinical trials, nephrotoxicity was the primary dose-limiting adverse effect. Nowadays, nephrotoxic effects have become more manageable through the use of intravenous saline hydration¹⁴ and subsequent mannitol diuresis¹⁶ during cisplatin administration. Nucleophilic sulfur-containing compounds also appear promising in attenuating kidney and gastro-intestinal These include sodium thiosulfate,²⁰ thiourea²¹ and amifostine (WR2721)^{22,23} The problems. protective effect of these thiol compounds can be attributed to the formation of inactive mobile metabolites, resulting in a reduction in the amount of unchanged cisplatin in the kidney. Studies on animal systems have shown that diethyldithiocarbamate (DDTC) is also capable of protecting against cisplatin-induced nephrotoxicity.²⁰ Unfortunately, the usefulness of DDTC in the clinic is significantly reduced, partly due to chemotherapy-related toxicities. Toxicities related to DDTC infusion include burning of the mouth, chest tightness and central nervous toxicity.^{20,24}

Depression of bone marrow diminishes the body's ability to produce the white blood cells, leaving patients open to secondary infections. Protection from cisplatin-induced bone marrow suppression may be controlled by the prophylactic use of hematopoietic growth factors and bone marrow transplantation.²⁵

1.7 DEVELOPMENT OF CARBOPLATIN

Due to cisplatin's inherent activity but unfortunate side-effects, extensive research has been done to find a derivative with greater activity and/or decreased toxicity. Among the plethora of platinum agents synthesised and evaluated, only one additional compound, carboplatin has received worldwide acceptance in the clinic. Carboplatin (cis-diammine(1,1cyclobutanedicarboxylato)platinum(II), Diagram 1.5) was formally recognised as a secondgeneration platinum anti-cancer compound in 1990.²⁶

 $Diagram$ 1.5: cis-Diammine(1,1-cyclobutanedicarboxylato)platinum(II).

Like cisplatin, carboplatin shows similar activity against ovarian and small cell lung cancer but with significant reduction of side effects to the kidneys and the nervous system.³ The doselimiting toxicity of carboplatin is myelosuppression.²⁷ Carboplatin is said to be approximately

four times less toxic than cisplatin.²⁸ This lower toxicity means that doses of up to 400mg/day can be administered without a need for forced hydration and diuresis.^{28,29} The decreased toxicity appears to be strongly related to its greater pharmo-kinetic stability in solution.²⁵ Degradation of carboplatin to potentially damaging derivatives occurs at much slower rates.²⁶ Tests performed in vivo have shown that at 37°C the retention half-life in blood plasma for carboplatin is 30 hours compared with only 1.5-3.6 hours for cisplatin.^{3,30} In patients treated with carboplatin, 65% of the drug is excreted through the kidney within the first 24 hours (compared to 16-35% for cisplatin), with at least 32% in its free unchanged form.³¹

1.8 **CISPLATIN ANALOGUES**

While the side-effects of cisplatin have been reduced by the development of carboplatin, both drugs are limited by the emergence of acquired resistance.¹⁴ Resistance to platinum anti-cancer drugs has been investigated in many cell lines. From these studies the major mechanisms have been identified as reduced cellular drug transport, enhanced DNA repair of the critical platinum-DNA lesions and enhanced intracellular detoxification through glutathione and metallothioneins systems.^{27,28} To overcome this problem of resistance, efforts have focused on developing a thirdgeneration of platinum complexes with activity against cisplatin-resistant tumour systems preferentially with oral bioavailability. Advances in this area led to the development of JM216, the first orally administratable platinum(IV) drug to enter clinical trials.

JM216 entered into phase II clinical trials in 1994 after phase I trials proved encouraging. It showed superior activity against ovarian cancer xenographs compared to cisplatin and carboplatin.³² Moreover, it was capable of circumventing acquired cisplatin resistance in ovarian and cervical carcinoma cell lines. The toxicity profile is similar to that of carboplatin rather than

cisplatin. No neurotoxicity or nephrotoxicity was observed. Myleosuppression was the doselimiting adverse effect.²⁸

JM216 has the added advantage in that it can be administered orally, giving rise to the possibility of treatment on an outpatient basis. The first phase of testing demonstrated that the anti-tumour effect was schedule-dependant. Initial trials used an oral schedule consisting of a single dose given every 21 days without hyperhydration.³² However, further trials showed that a greater activity could be achieved when doses are administered on days 1 to 5, repeated every 21 days.²⁸ If phase II clinical trials are as encouraging as phase I trials then JM216 may emerge as the most interesting new drug to be developed since cisplatin and carboplatin.

Diagram 1.6: Structures of cisplatin analogues currently in clinical development.

At present, seven other platinum analogues are currently undergoing clinical evaluation. Five of these compounds (DWA2114R, Cl-973, 254-S, lobaplatin and enloplatin) are essentially 'carboplatin-like' drugs. Whilst the remaining drugs (oxaliplatin and L-NNP) are based on the 1,2-diaminocyclohexane ligand. The structures of these cisplatin analogues are displayed in Diagram 1.6.

1.9 STRUCTURE-ACTIVITY RELATIONSHIPS

Out of the large number of analogs that have been synthesised and tested, no drug has qualities superior to both cisplatin and carboplatin. The improved drugs still suffer narrow range of activity and from the phenomenon of acquired resistance. Thus, the search for more effective analogues still continues. A structure-activity relationship is yet to be unequivocally established, but according to the classical criteria³³ certain structural features appear necessary for their therapeutic activity.

Oxidation State

The platinum complexes may be square-planar platinum(II) or octahedrally configured platinum(IV). The platinum(IV) complexes show a lower cytostatic activity and it is thought that these complexes are reduced to platinum(II) in vivo by cysteine.³⁴

Geometry

The complexes must be cis-configured. Transplatin which differs from cisplatin only in its ligand coordination, is less toxic and ineffective as an anti-cancer agent. Cis-geometry is considered to be important for the formation of bifunctional DNA lesions that disrupt replication.

Charge

Electrical neutrality was once regarded as a criterion for anti-tumour activity on the basis that electrically neutral complexes would penetrate cell membranes more easily than charged compounds.³⁴ However, there are a number of cationic and anionic platinum complexes that contravene the original structure-activity rules in that they exhibit a low but significant degree of anti-tumour activity. The cationic platinum(II) complexes that display anti-tumour activity include cis- $[Pt(NH_3)_2$ (inosine)₂]Cl₂ and cis- $[Pt(NH_3)_2$ (guanosine)₂]Cl₂.³⁵ Anionic complexes such as $[PtCl₃NH₃]$ and $[Pt(tert-butylamine)Cl₃]$ also show promise as anti-tumour agents.^{34,36}

Physio-Chemical Properties

The complexes should possess favourable physio-chemical properties such as solubility and stability in aqueous solution. One of the problems associated with the use of cisplatin is its low solubility in water, which is less than 3 g per litre.³⁷

Components of Cisplatin Analogues

The components of active complexes consist of two non-leaving groups in the cis position and two monodentate or one bidentate leaving group. Refer to Diagram 1.7 for a schematic representation. The terms leaving and non-leaving refer only to the relative reactivity since no ligand is completely inert to substitution.

Diagram 1.7: Components of a cisplatin analogue where X is the leaving group and A is the non-leaving group.

The non-leaving groups should be inert amines. They range from the simplest one, ammonia, to linear, branched or cyclic amines and diaminocycloalkanes (see Table 1.1). Platinum complexes with ammonia and primary amines display the highest anti-tumour activity. Complexes with tertiary amines are inactive. The most promising alternatives to cisplatin appear to be the chelates in which the ammonia ligand has been replaced by ethylenediamine^{3,38} or cisdiaminocyclohexane.^{34,39}

The leaving groups are typically anionic with a restricted range of lability. They must exhibit intermediate bond stability with platinum allowing them to exchange under biological conditions. Complexes with very labile ligands are extremely toxic while those containing inert Pt-X bonds are rendered inactive.³⁴ Some typical leaving groups are shown in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: A selection of leaving and non-leaving groups.

1.10 MODE OF ACTION OF CISPLATIN

The pathways of cisplatin in the body are schematically outlined in Diagram 1.8. After administration by injection or infusion, cisplatin may be bound through the sulfur sites of a

variety of biomolecules. In fact, the dose-limiting nephrotoxicity of cisplatin may be attributed to the coordination of platinum(II) to the sulfhydryl group in enzymes and other proteins.^{40,41} Examples of sulfur-donor biomolecules include cysteine, histidine methionine, glutathione, and metalothioneine.^{3,16,42} The remaining fraction of cisplatin is circulated in the blood almost unchanged. Its reactivity is suppressed by the high chloride ion concentration of 100mM in b lood. $3,7$

Diagram 1.8: Pathways of cisplatin in the human body.

After passive transport of neutral cisplatin across the cytoplasmic membrane, it encounters a markedly lower chloride concentration of 4mM and undergoes a series of hydrolysis reactions (Diagram 1.9).^{3,43} Within the cell about 40% of the hydrated species exists as cis- $[Pt(NH₃)₂Cl(H₂O)]⁺.²⁶$ The positive charge on this substituted complex makes it a particularly
active form of the cytostatic agent because it is more likely to approach and coordinate to the negatively charged DNA helix.

Other species such as $[Pt(NH_3)_2(H_2O)(OH)]^+$ have been shown to oligomerize producing hydroxy-bridged polymeric species.^{44,45} These oligomeric species are extremely toxic and may be responsible for the severe toxic side-effects invivo.^{3,34} After interaction with the DNA, the degradation products are excreted via the liver and kidneys.

Diagram 1.9: Hydrolysis reactions of cisplatin.

1.11 **INTERACTIONS WITH DNA**

It is now widely accepted that cisplatin mediates its anti-neoplastic effects by binding to DNA and inhibiting replication in the cancer cell.^{3,7} When cisplatin reacts with DNA, there are several binding modes, including intrastrand, interstrand and DNA-protein crosslinking.²⁶ Exactly which one of these binding modes is primarily responsible for the displayed anti-cancer activity is unknown. An attractive explaination can be made by comparing the major differences in the binding of cis- and transplatin. The geometric isomer transplatin can bind to DNA and block replication, but it is ineffective as an anti-cancer agent.^{46,47} Stereochemical differences in the adducts formed by the two isomers imply that the anti-cancer activity of cisplatin arises from the formation of a specific platinum-DNA adduct.

Intrastrand Crosslinks

Several types of intrastrand interactions are possible. Cisplatin prefers to form 1,2-intrastrand crosslinks between adjacent bases.³ Approximately 65% of these intrastrand products involve platinum coordination to the $N(7)$ position of two guanine bases.^{3,48} Adenine-Guanine intrastrand crosslinks occur less frequently.⁴² The greater propensity to form guanine-guanine crosslinks results principally from kinetic effects.^{49,50}

1,2-Intrastrand crosslinks are a stereochemically unique mode of binding for cisplatin. This type of adduct cannot be formed by clinically ineffective transplatin due to geometric constraints, instead it forms 1,3- and 1,4-adducts.^{51,52} It has been suggested that the inactivity of transplatin may be related to this inability to form 1,2-intrastrand adducts.⁴⁶

Electrophoresis and two-dimensional nuclear magnetic resonance (2D-NMR) studies have shown that guanine-guanine intrastrand crosslinks result in an unwinding of 13° and bending of the duplex by an angle of 40°.^{16,47} Although this kink is clearly visible in models, the stacking and base pairing are only slightly distrupted.⁵³ Consensus is appearing that this kinked DNA is recognised by damage recognition proteins known as high-mobility group proteins (HMG). These HMG proteins bind only to DNA containing 1,2-intrastrand crosslinks.⁵⁴ Binding of HMG proteins increases the duplex bending creating a structure that mimics natural substrates.⁵¹ This shields the adducts from repair reactions, thereby inhibiting replication and eventually leading to cell death.^{54,55}

Interstrand Crosslinks

 $\overline{}$

Interstrand crosslinks were the first adducts recognised in early biological studies. Cisplatin preferentially forms interstrand crosslinks between guanine residues in the 5'-CG-3' sequence,³ however this mode of binding represents only a minor portion(<5%) of the total cisplatin adducts induced.²¹

In contrast, the most prominant adduct of transplatin is the

crosslink between guanine and complementary cytosine residues.⁴⁶ The fact that transplatin also forms interstrand crosslinks makes it unlikely that such adducts are responsible for the antitumour activity of cisplatin.⁵²

Protein Crosslinks

The formation of protein crosslinks by cisplatin has been reported. However, these events occur at such a low frequency in comparison to the other adducts that their contribution is assumed to be minimal.

Intercalators

Intercalators are of particular importance because of their pharmalogical utility as mutagens, antibacterials, antifungicides, antibiotics and anti-cancer agents.⁵² In the clinic, cisplatin is usually administered in combination with other intercalative drugs.³ It is thought that the simultaneous administration of the two classes of drugs affects the individual interactions with DNA, thereby increasing the therapeutic effects. For example, before the use of combination therapy, the survival rate for patients with testicular cancer was about only 5%. Today, treatment regimes have dramatically increased the survival rate to 80-90%.¹² Intercalators can be broken up into two general classes, classical and non-classical.

CLASSICAL INTERCALATORS 1.12

Classical intercalators are flat, planar, aromatic molecules which bind by insertion of the fused aromatic ring system between the base pairs along the DNA backbone.^{56,57} As seen in Diagram 1.10, the planar molecule is orientated roughly perpendicular to the DNA helix and is in very close contact to the DNA bases.

Diagram 1.10: Schematic representation

of intercalation and groove binding.

Groove binding involving direct interactions of the bound molecule with the edges of base pairs in either the minor or major grooves of DNA⁶¹ often completes with intercalation. Many drugs fit snugly into the minor groove to form a tight complex without intercalating. Whilst others do not fall into a single category and may bind to DNA using a combination of intercalation and groove binding interactions.

Diagram 1.11: Some intercalating agents.

Intercalating agents come in many guises. The drugs with an established place in the clinic include actinomycin, daunomycin, Adriamycin and mitoxantrone. The structures of some intercalators are given in Diagram 1.11. Also shown in Diagram 1.11 is the complex 2hydroxyethanethiolato-2,2',2"-terepyridineplatinum(II) ($[(\text{terpy})$ -Pt $(\text{HET})]$ ⁺). This was the first metallointercalation reagent to display the capacity for intercalative binding.⁵⁸

Intercalation of planar chromophores between stacked duplex bases in DNA and RNA was first recognised by Lerman in 1961.⁵⁹ Intercalation results in substantial changes in the DNA structure. Firstly, there is a separation of base pairs and a lengthening of the double helix.⁵⁷ This can be detected experimentally by hydrodynamic methods such as viscosity and sedimentation measurements.⁶⁰ The distance between adjacent base pairs (contour length) in DNA is typically near 3.4 A.⁵⁸ This contour length can be increased by as much as 3.0 A, depending on the type of intercalating ring system that is to be inserted. The increases in contour length for some common intercalating agents are shown in Table 1.2. To compensate for the structural distortions, the helix also unwinds and the usual 36° helical twist of one base to the next is decreased. The amount of unwinding ranges from 12 to 26° depending on the drug type. The unwinding angles of a number of intercalating drugs have been determined by closed circular supercoiled DNA experiments,⁶¹ and are shown in Table 1.2.

Intercalator	Unwinding	Contour		
	Angle	Length (A)		
Ethidium and Propidium	26	2.7		
Proflavin and 9-Aminoacridine	17	3.0		
Adriamycin and Daunomycin	11	17		

Table 1.2: The unwinding angles and increases in contour length for several intercalating drugs.

1.13 NON-CLASSICAL INTERCALATORS

Compounds with bulky substituents on opposite sides of the ring system make up the class of non-classical intercalators. Porphyrins are an example of this type.⁶¹ The nature of the porphyrin-DNA interaction is sensitive to the porphyrin structure.⁶² Those porphyrins possessing bulky substituents on the porphyrin framework exhibit external groove binding, whilst simpler porphyrins intercalate between the base pairs of DNA.^{61,62}

Porphyrins are of particular interest because they tend to be located preferentially in tumour tissue as compared with normal tissue.⁶³ This concept originated from the observation of a characteristic red fluorescence, attributable to the porphyrin, in the tumour.⁶³ The exact processes by which tumour localisation occurs are not known. Based upon the characteristics of tumours and the chemical properties of porphyrins the following hypotheses are generally accepted in the scientific community.

- (a) It has been shown that, once injected, porphyrins penetrate the vascular compartment to reach the interstitial fluid compartment (Diagram 1.12). In normal cells the porphyrins are cleared by vascular and lymphatic drainage. In tumours, a number of factors contribute to the apparent localisation of the porphyrin. These factors include high vascular permeability, the lack of lymphatic drainage and sluggish venous flow.⁶³
- (b) The concentration of collagen is significantly high in the tumour interstitial compartment.⁶³ Tumour localising porphyrins show a high affinity for collagen, a property not shared by non-localising porphyrins.
- (c) The cellular uptake of porphyrins depend upon binding to low density lipoproteins (LDL). Thus specific enrichment occurs in tumour tissue because tumour cells show a higher LDL receptor activity than normal cells.^{64,65}
- (d) Accumulation of porphyrins in the large interstitial water space in tumours is favoured owing largely to their size and potential for aggregation.⁶³

Diagram 1.12: Cancer tissue is presented schematically

as a three-compartment system.

It is the tumour localising ability that is exploited by diagnostic and clinical oncologists who use porphyrins as photosensitisers in phototherapy. Phototherapy originated in the 1890s when lupus *vulgaris*, a tubercular condition of the skin, was treated with heat-filtered light from a carbon arc lamp.⁶⁶ Phototherapy now plays a significant role in the treatment of cancer, where it is better known as photodynamic therapy (PDT).

PDT uses the interaction between light and a non-toxic photosensitising agent to destroy cancerous cells.^{65,67} The patient is injected intravenously with 100-400mg/kg of the sensitising agent. This is followed by a short period of time (48-72 hours) whereby the photosensitising agent is absorbed into the cell.⁶⁸ Although it is taken up by both normal and cancer cells, it is eliminated from cancer cells at a much slower rate. As a consequence, cancer cells treated with the agent remain sensitive to photodynamic effects for longer periods of time.⁶⁹ The tumour area is then exposed to light from a laser. The interval between injection and light exposure is carefully timed to give the maximum differential concentration of agent in the tumour.⁶⁶ At present, the most effective results are achieved using red light from an argon pumped dye laser tuned to a wavelength of 630nm.⁶⁴

Once the photosensitiser has been activated by absorbing the light, one of three processes can occur (Diagram 1.13).⁷⁰

- (a) The activated photosensitiser can react with tissue oxygen to produce singlet oxygen. This very reactive free radical diffuses into the surrounding cancer tissue causing irreversible oxidation of some essential cellular components and leads to tumour destruction. This activated state is short-lived and the photosensitised molecule returns back to the ground state whereupon it can be activated again.
- (b) A portion of the activated photosensitiser molecules may emit light (fluoresce) and decay back to the ground state. These molecules can the be activated again.
- (c) The activated photosensitiser may undergo photodegradation whereby they are destroyed by the activating light.

Diagram 1.13: Outline mechanism of photodynamic action.

Hematoporphyrin derivative (HPD) was the first photosensitiser used in clinical trials. HPD is a complex mixture of products whose composition varies in different preparations and with time of storage. The active components that produce the desired photosensitising properties have been described as a dihematoporphyrin ether/ester (DHE).⁷¹ Over the ensuing years a number of improved sensitisers have been developed. These show a 50-fold increase in localisation, and include tetra(3-hydroxyphenyl)porphyrin (3THPP) and tetraphenylporphyrin tetrasulfonate (TPPS₄).⁷² The structures of HPD, 3THPP and TPPS₄ are shown in Diagram 1.14.

Diagram 1.14: Structural diagram of selected photosensitisers.

The major side-effect of these drugs is skin sensitivity. The skin in the treated area remains sensitive to light for up to six weeks after treatment. Other side-effects include nausea, vomiting, a metallic taste in the mouth and eye sensitivity to light.

Overall PDT has several advantages. Firstly, cancer cells can be selectively destroyed with relatively little damage to the surrounding normal tissue. Secondly, the damaging effect of the photosensitising agent occurs only when the treated area is exposed to light. In turn, these features reduce the side-effects. In spite of the utility of the technique, PDT is restricted to the treatment of surface tumours such as those on or just under the skin or on the lining of internal organs such as the lung or bladder. This is due to the fact that laser light cannot pass through more than 1cm of tissue.

Linked Platinum-Intercalator Complexes

As mentioned in section 2, the major limitations of the platinum-based drugs that are used today is the occurrence of toxic side effects produced by the lack of selectivity. Attempts to limit this problem have incorporated strategies which include the tethering of carrier molecules to a chemically reactive platinum functionality. It is believed that the incorporation of the two different drugs into a single compound may lead to a conjugate with the essential characteristics contributed from both precursors.

The first bifunctional molecule to be synthesised was $[Pt(AO(CH₂), en)Cl₂]$; it comprised of the DNA intercalator acridine orange (AO) linked to the platinum complex, [Pt(en)Cl₂] via a hexamethylene chain.⁵⁶ Mapping studies revealed that the platinum portion binds independently to DNA and that the acridine orange moiety intercalates one or two bases away.⁷³ $[Pt(AO(CH₂₀₆en)Cl₂]$ has been reported to be slightly active against cisplatin-resistant tumours.³²

A series of bifunctional drugs have also been made by binding the active platinum components directly to an intercalator. One such complex is $[Pt(tba)(adria)Cl_2]$, where tha is tert-butylamine and adria is the intercalator adriamycin.³² This compound binds intercalatively, but no covalent binding of the platinum is observed. It is thought that the simultaneous intercalation and covalent binding in the major groove may be steroechemically difficult for the [Pt(tba)(adria)Cl₂] complex.⁵⁶ Another directly bound Pt-intercalator complex is cis-[Pt(NH₃)₂(N(9)-9-AA)Cl]⁺, in which a cisplatin moiety is bound to 9-aminoacridine orange (9-AA) through the N(9) position of the imino tautomer. Platinum complexes of ethidium and anthraquinone (AQ) have also been synthesised (Diagram 1.15).⁵⁶

Diagram 1.15: Structures of some platinum complexes linked to DNA intercalators.

The majority of the Pt-Intercalator complexes incorporate classical intercalators. There have been very few reports on the use of porphyrins as carrier molecules.^{74,75} The demonstrated localisation property of porphyrins was an incentive for using porphyrins as carrier ligands. In order to mitigate unwanted distribution and increase the tumour uptake of platinum anti-cancer drugs, our efforts have focused on linking porphyrins to various platinum derivatives. Our objective was to develop novel bifunctional drugs that take advantage of the tumour selectivity of porphyrins and the inherent cytotoxicity of platinum based drugs. Hence, the platinumporphyrin conjugates represent a class of fourth generation compounds that use the tumour selectivity of porphyrins to convey the active platinum components to tumour tissue sparing normal tissue.

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PLATINUM(II) COMPLEXES OF **AMINO ACIDS**

Introduction

In an effort to overcome the drawbacks of cisplatin, many platinum(II) complexes have been synthesised and screened for anti-cancer activity. Many of these studies have been devoted to the coordination compounds of platinum with amino acids.^{1,2} The use of amino acids is attractive for two main reasons. Firstly, amino acids are used for the growth of cells, and secondly their complexes with platinum generally display favourable solubility properties. These factors open up the possibility that the active moiety may be easily transported through cell membranes into the interior of the cancerous tissue.

Amino acids are interesting ligands, not only because of their biological importance, but also for their versatility in forming a large variety of complexes with metals. Consider aspartic acid, for example. It is capable of binding to the metal in three different bonding modes. These include O,O-, N, α O- or N, β O-chelation, as shown in Diagram 2.1.

Diagram 2.1: Three possible modes of chelation for aspartic acid.

Although O,O-chelation is a well-known mode of binding for metals such as cobalt(II), for platinum(II), which is generally accepted as a 'soft' metal, bonds to nitrogen will be much more thermodynamically stable than bonds to oxygen.³ In addition, five-membered rings are also preferred.⁴ Thus N,O chelation through the α -carboxylate is the most commonly encountered species.

Structural formulas of the neutral forms of the amino acids whose platinum(II) complexes are described in this chapter are given in Diagram 2.3. These particular compounds represent a series of simple amino acids capable of N,O-chelation under controlled conditions, each containing a terminal R-group through which a suitable carrier group will be bound.

Experimental

MATERIALS 2.1

L-Aspartic acid (L-asp), L-glutamic acid (L-glu), L-glutamic acid-methyl ester (L-glu.OMe), L-Chemical Company. Potassium and L-lysine were obtained from Aldrich serine tetrachloroplatinate(II) (K₂[PtCl₁], 98%) was purchased from Johnson Matthey and used without further purification. All other reagents were purchased from Ajax Chemicals.

MEASUREMENTS 2.2

Elemental analysis of carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen for the platinum complexes were performed by the Microchemical Unit of the Australian National University, Canberra, ACT. Infrared spectra (IR) were recorded as nujol mulls on sodium chloride plates in the range of 4000-500 cm⁻¹ using a BioRad FTS-7 Fourier Transform spectrometer.

Electrospray ionisation (ESI) mass spectra were recorded at 50eV on a VG-Quattro mass spectrometer at the University of Wollongong (Department of Chemistry). Both positive and Samples were analysed by direct injection of sample negative ion spectra were obtained. prepared in acetonitrile.

The ¹H (300 MHz) and ¹³C (75 MHz) nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectral data were acquired on a Varian Unity-Plus 300 spectrometer at room temperature. The NMR samples were freshly prepared in deuterium oxide (D_2O) . Chemical shifts are referenced to an internal standard, sodium 2,2,3,3-tetradeutero-3-(trimethylsily)propionate (TMSP) and are expressed in parts per million (ppm). The Heteronuclear Correlation through Multiple Quantum Coherence (HMQC) experiment on [Pt(L-asp)Cl₂] was recorded at 30°C. For the HMQC experiment, data sets with 1024 x 1024 complex points were acquired with sweep width of 1800 Hz in the proton dimension and 20000 Hz in the carbon dimension. A total of 512 scans were collected per t_1 increment. Computer simulations were performed on a LC475 Macintosh using the computer program gNMR.

The pH measurements were made using a Hanna H18519 pH meter with a combination glass electrode calibrated with T.P.S pH 4.0 and pH 6.88 standard buffer solutions. Readings from the pH meter in D_2O were converted to pD values by addition of 0.4 to the reading.⁵

X-RAY STRUCTURE DETERMINATION 2.3

X-ray quality crystals of [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂] were obtained by slow evaporation of a concentrated aqueous solution over P_2O_5 . X-ray data was collected at 173K on a Siemans P4 diffractometer using graphite monochromated Mo Ka radiation. The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares methods using the SHELXTL PLUS (VMS) program package. Hydrogen atoms were included using a riding model.

SYNTHESIS OF PLATINUM COMPLEXES 2.4

Dichloro(L-aspartic acid)platinum(II). K[Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂].

K₂[PtCl₁] (1.00 g, 2.41 mmol) was dissolved in water (30 mL). The solution was filtered and Laspartic acid (0.318 g, 2.41 mmol) in water (20 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was heated at 40-50°C on a water bath. The pH of the solution was kept constant at 3.0 with KOH (0.1 M). The reaction reached completion when a total of 24 mL of KOH had been added. The final yellow solution was evaporated to dryness on a water bath to give a yellow-orange solid consisting of the product mixed with K₂[PtCl₄] and potassium chloride. The solid was transferred into a small glass sinter and washed with small volumes of water, leaving the product as a bright yellow precipitate on the sinter. The yellow residue was air-dried, and placed in a desiccator over silica gel.

Yield: 0.55 g (52%).

Anal. Calcd for C₄H₆NO₄PtCl₂K (437): C, 10.99; H, 1.38; N, 3.20. Found: C, 11.04; H, 1.34; N, 2.91. ¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.93 (q, 1H, H¹), 2.84, 2.92 (2 x m, J₂₁ = 4.8 Hz, J₃₁ = 5.7 Hz and J_{23} = 18 Hz, H², H³). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 40.6 (s, β-CH₂), 58.5 (s, α-CH), 179.6 (s, β-COOH), 191.4 (s, α -COO). ESI-MS: m/e = 398.0 (100%, M⁺), 362.0 (65, C₄H_aNO₄PtCl), 318.0 (38, C₃H₆NO₂PtCl). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3600-3400 (br, vOH), 3260-3200 (br, v(N-H)), 1716, 1609 (2 x s, C=O).

Dichloro(L-serine)platinum(II). K[Pt(L-serine)Cl₂].

An aqueous solution of K₂[PtCl₄] (1.00 g, 2.41 mmol) and L-serine (0.25 g, 2.41 mmol) was heated on a water bath preheated to 35-40°C. After 30 minutes, KOH (0.1 M) was added to raise the pH to 2.5. Periodic adjustments were performed until the pH remained constant. Overall the reaction required a total of 19 mL of KOH. The solution was concentrated to approximately 2.5 mL on the water bath and then placed in a desiccator over phosphorus pentoxide. After 12 hours, yellow needles were afforded.

Yield: 0.158 g (16%)

Anal. Calcd for C₁H₆NO₃PtCl₂K (409): C, 8.80; H, 1.48; N, 3.42. Found: C, 8.54; H, 1.33; N, 3.50. ¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.73 (q, 1H, H¹), 3.84, 3.94 (2 x m, J₁₂ = 3.7 Hz, J₁₃ = 5.3 Hz and J_{23} = 12.1 Hz, H², H³). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, ppm) δ = 64.4 (s, β-CH₂), 62.9 (s, α-CH), 190.4 (s, α-COO). ESI-MS: m/e = 370 (100%, M⁺), 333 (8, C₃H₆NO₃PtCl). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3507-3300 (br, vOH), 3240-3100 (br, v(N-H)), 1649 (s, C=O), 1581 (s, δ_s(N-H)).

Dichloro(L-glutamic acid)platinum(II). K[Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl2].

A solution containing K₂[PtCl₁] (1.00 g, 2.41 mmol) and L-glutamic acid (0.35 g, 2.41 mmol) was prepared in water (40 mL). It was heated on a water bath for 15 minutes. The pH was then carefully adjusted to 4.0 using KOH (0.1 M) and placed back onto the water bath for further heating. Similar adjustments were made periodically until a total of 24 mL of KOH had been added, during which time the solution colour changed from a deep red to yellow. The solution was concentrated on a water bath, to give the product as a yellow powder, which was filtered and air-dried.

Yield: 0.52 g (46%).

Anal. Calcd for C₅H₈NO₄PtCl₂K.H₂O (469): C, 12.80; H, 2.13; N, 2.99. Found: C, 12.83; H, 2.12; N, 3.31. ¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.53 (q, 1H, H¹), 2.10, 1.95 (2 x m, J₁₂ = 4.8 Hz, J₁₃ = 6.7 Hz and J_{23} = 15 Hz, H², H³), 2.46, 2.36 (2 x m, J_{24} = 7.1 Hz, J_{25} = J_{34} = 8.7 Hz, J_{35} = 6.7 Hz and J_{45} = 15 Hz, H⁴, H⁵). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 31.5 (s, β -CH₂), 35.6 (s, γ -CH₂), 58.9 (s, α -CH), 183.7 (s, β -COOH), 192.7 (s, α -COO). ESI-MS: m/e = 411.8 (80%, M⁺), 376.6 (19, $C_5H_8NO_4Cl$, 112 (100, $C_5H_6NO_2$). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3600-3400 (br, vOH), 3253-3105 (br, v(N-H)), 1710, 1633 (2 x s, C=O), 1594 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Dichloro(L-glutamic acid-methyl ester)platinum(II). K[Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl2].

To a hot saturated aqueous solution (15 mL) of L-glutamic acid-methyl ester (0.3882 g, 2.41 mmol) was added $K_2[PtCl_4]$ (1.00 g, 2.41 mmol). The resulting solution was heated on a water bath for 15 minutes after which time the pH fell to 2.5. KOH solution (0.1 M) was then added to increase the pH to 3.4. The solution was continually heated at 50°C on a water bath with parallel monitoring of the pH. The pH was kept at 3.4 with 0.1 M KOH. After 24 mL of KOH had been added a small amount of unreacted ligand was removed by filtration, and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness. The yellow product was extracted from other solid products with hot 90% ethanol (3 x 15 mL). The suspension was filtered, to give a fine yellow powder. This was air-dried and placed in a desiccator over silica gel.

Yield: 0.35 g (31%)

Anal. Calcd for C₆H₁₀NO₄PtCl₂K.3KCl (689): C, 10.46; H, 1.45; N, 2.03. Found: C, 10.48; H, 1.41; N, 2.21. ¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.72 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 3.66 (q, 1H, H¹), 2.27, 2.10 (2 x m, J_{12} = 5.4 Hz, J_{13} = 7.2 Hz and J_{23} = 14.4 Hz, H², H³), 2.72, 2.65 (2 x m, J_{24} = J_{35} = 6.8 Hz, J_{25} = 7.3 Hz, J_{34} = 7.5 Hz and J_{45} = 14.4 Hz, H⁴, H³). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 30.0 (s, β-CH₂), 32.3 (s, γ-CH₂), 55.4 (s, -OCH₃), 60.4 (s, α-CH), 178.4 (s, β-COOCH₃), 191.5 (s, α-COO⁻). ESI-MS: m/e = 426 (100%, M⁺), 390 (48, C₆H₁₀NO₄PtCl). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3500-3400 (br, vOH), 3260-3100 (br, $v(N-H)$, 1738, 1682 (2 x s, C=O), 1657 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Dichloro(L-lysine)platinum(II). H[Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂].

Method A.

An aqueous solution (10 mL) of L-lysine (0.440 g, 2.41 mmol) was added to a freshly prepared solution of K₂[PtCl₄] (1.00 g, 2.41 mmol) in water (30 mL). The reaction mixture was heated on a water bath at 40°C for approximately 2.5 hours. During this time the pH of the solution was constantly adjusted to 6.0 by the addition of KOH (0.1 M). When the temperature and pH were carefully controlled, a colour change from red to yellow was observed. On occasions, platinum metal was deposited. In such cases the solution was cooled and filtered through a fine glass sinter. After a total of 24 mL had been added, the solution was allowed to evaporate at room temperature in a desiccator until a yellow solid deposited.

Yield: 0.16 g (15%)

Anal. Calcd for C₆H₁₄N₂O₂PtCl₂.1.5H₂O (439): C, 16.40; H, 3.87; N, 6.38. Found: C, 16.22; H, 3.57; N, 6.36. ¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.58 (q, 1H, H¹), 1.73, 1.89 (2 x m, J₁₂ = 5.31 Hz, J₁₃ = 6.8 Hz and J_{23} = 19.2 Hz, H², H³), 1.51, 1.68 (2 x m, $J_{24} = J_{25} = J_{34} = J_{35} = 7.1$ Hz and $J_{45} = 15.0$ Hz, H⁴, H⁵), 1.68, 1.69 (2 x m, $J_{46} = J_{47} = J_{56} = J_{57} = 6.0$ Hz and $J_{67} = 15.2$ Hz, H⁶, H⁷), 3.1 (t, $J_{68} =$ $J_{68} = J_{78} = J_{78} = 7.0$ Hz, H⁸, H⁸). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, ppm): $\delta = 24.7$ (s, γ -CH₂), 29.7 (s, β -CH₂), 34.1 (s, δ -CH₂), 42.0 (s, ϵ -CH₂), 61.0 (s, α -CH), 193.6 (s, α -COO⁻). ESI-MS: m/e = 411 (75%, M⁺), 375 (7, C₆H₁₃N₂O₂PtCl), 145 (12, C₆H₁₃N₂O₂), 89 (100, fragmentation of lysine). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3615-3400, 3245-3000 (2 x br, v(N-H)), 1642 (s, C=O), 1599 (s, δ_s(N-H)).

Method B.

The same product was also obtained by carrying out the reaction at room temperature over a period of 3 days, with occasional additions of 0.1 M KOH to maintain the pH at 6.0. After a total of 24 mL of KOH had been added, the solution was filtered, and the filtrate was placed in a refrigerator for several weeks until large yellow crystals formed.

Yield: 0.38 g (38%)

Anal. Calcd for C₆H₁₄N₂O₂PtCl₂.H₂O (430): C, 16.74; H, 3.72; N, 6.51. Found: C, 16.90; H, 3.95; N, 6.52. ¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.59 (q, 1H, H¹), 1.72, 1.89 (2 x m, J₁₂ = 5.3 Hz, J₁₃ = 6.8 Hz and J_{23} = 19.0 Hz, H², H³), 1.50, 1.67 (2 x m, $J_{24} = J_{25} = J_{34} = J_{35} = 7.1$ Hz and J_{45} = 15.0 Hz, H⁴, H⁵), 1.67, 1.68 (2 x m, $J_{46} = J_{47} = J_{56} = J_{57} = 6.0$ Hz and $J_{67} = 15.2$ Hz, H⁶, H⁷), 3.0 (t, $J_{68} = J_{68} = J_{78}$ $=$ J₇₈ = 7.0 Hz, H⁸, H⁸). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 24.4 (s, γ-CH₂), 29.3 (s, β-CH₂), 34.5 (s, δ-CH₂), 42.1 (s, ε -CH₂), 61.0 (s, α -CH), 192.8 (s, α -COO⁻). ESI-MS: m/ $c = 411$ (100%, M⁺), 374 (11, C₆H₁₃N₂O₂PtCl), 145 (10, C₆H₁₃N₂O₂), 90 (50, fragmentation of lysine). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3615-3400, 3245-3000 (2 x br, v(N-H)), 1642 (s, C=O), 1599, 1502 (2 x s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Results and Discussion

The five amino acid complexes of platinum, of the general formula, [Pt(amino acid)Cl₂], were prepared by reacting $K_2[PtCl_4]$ with the amino acid in water at 40-50°C. The amino acids used were L-aspartic acid, L-glutamic acid, L-glutamic acid-methyl ester, L-serine and L-lysine.

The likely modes of binding of the amino acids are governed primarily by the pH of the solutions. In strong acidic solutions the amino acids will be present as a cation because the amino group(s) will be protonated. The first proton to be lost as the pH is raised is a proton on the α -carboxyl group. Careful maintenance at a specific pH will ensure that only the α -carboxyl group remains deprotonated and available for binding.

Based on studies done on similar systems⁶ and by consideration of the experimental pH conditions used, it is likely that K₂[PtCl₄] reacts with amino acids to give initially [Pt(amacH-O)Cl₃] in which the amino acid (amac) is an oxygen bound unidentate ligand. Subsequent ring closure to the [Pt(amac-N,O)Cl₂] chelate occurs upon heating. In each of our compounds, the N,O-chelate ring which is formed by facile ring closure is five-membered (Diagram 2.2). Therefore, shorthand references made to a compound, for example [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] refer to the N, α O-chelate unless otherwise stated.

Reaction of $K_2[PtCl_4]$ with L-lysine at 40°C (method A) often resulted in precipitation of platinum metal. In order to prevent this deposition of platinum metal, the same reaction was carried out at room temperature over a three-day period (method B). Apart from a small difference in the yields obtained (c. f. method A; 15% with method B; 38%) both methods gave essentially the desired product. By consideration of the yields and the observed heat-sensitivity of the reaction, method B was considered to be the most effective method for the preparation of [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂]. The following discussion therefore only applies to the product obtained by method B. For specific data relating to the results of method A refer to the Experimental section.

For the description of individual protons and carbons in the amino acids, a nomenclature has been adopted. This nomenclature involves allocating numbers to the protons and Greek symbols to the carbon atoms. This has been illustrated in Diagram 2.3.

Amino Acid	α -Carboxylate	Main Chain	Terminal R-Group
L-Serine	HO	O H ¹ H ² ∥ α β <mark> </mark> C—C—C—OН $\frac{1}{11^3}$ NH ₂	
L-Aspartic acid	HO [.]	$\begin{array}{ll} \mathsf{O} & \mathsf{H}^1 & \mathsf{H}^2 & \mathsf{O} \\ \ & \ & \ & \ \\ -\mathsf{C} & -\mathsf{C} & -\mathsf{C} & -\mathsf{O} \\ \ & \ & \ \end{array}$ $NH2$ $H3$	
L-Glutamic acid	HO		$C \n\begin{array}{c}\nO & H^1 & H^2 & H^4 & O \\ C & 0 & H & \parallel \\ C & -C & -C & -C & -O \\ I & I_3 & I_5 & -O\n\end{array}$
L-Glutamic acid, 5-methyl ester	HO	Н ³ NH ₂	$\begin{array}{ll} \begin{array}{ll} \displaystyle Q & H^1 & H^2 & H^4 & \displaystyle Q \\ \displaystyle H & \alpha & \beta & I^1 \\ \end{array} & \begin{array}{ll} \displaystyle H^2 & H^4 & \displaystyle Q \\ \displaystyle H & \ddots & \displaystyle H^2 \\ \end{array} & \begin{array}{ll} \displaystyle H & \displaystyle Q \\ \displaystyle H & \ddots & \displaystyle Q \\ \end{array} & \begin{array}{ll} \displaystyle Q & \displaystyle Q \\ \displaystyle Q & \ddots & \displaystyle Q \\ \end{array} & \begin{array}{ll} \displaystyle Q & \displaystyle Q \\ \displaystyle Q & \ddots & \displaystyle Q \\ \end{array} & \begin{array}{ll}$ H^5
L-Lysine	႐ို HO- NH ₂	H^1 H^2 H^4 H^6 H^8 H^1 H^2 H^4 H^6 H^8 H^1 H^2 H^4 H^6 H^8 H^3 H^5	$-NH2$

Diagram 2.3: Chemical structures of the amino acids.

The elemental analyses for K[Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂], K[Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl₂], K[Pt(L-glu-OMe)Cl₂], K[Pt(L-serine)Cl₂] and H[Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂] are in good agreement with the suggested empirical formulas, given in Table 2.1. The elemental analyses results for K[Pt(L-glu-OMe)Cl₂] indicate a small amount of KCl impurity. [Pt(L-glu-OMe)Cl₂]⁻, however, was pure in its ¹H NMR and Mass Spectra. The structures and conformation of the complexes in this series are mainly deduced from the NMR studies, infrared and mass spectra, which are discussed below.

Compound	$\%$ Carbon			% Hydrogen		$\%$ Nitrogen	
	Calc	Found	Calc	Found	Calc	Found	
K[Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl ₂]	10.99	11.04	1.38	1.34	3.20	2.91	
K[Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl,].H,O	12.80	12.83	2.13	2.12	2.99	3.31	
K[Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl,].3KCl	10.45	10.48	1.45	1.41	2.03	2.21	
K[Pt(L-serine)Cl ₂]	8.80	8.54	1.48	1.33	3.42	3.50	
H[Pt(L-lysine)Cl ₂]. 1.5H ₂ O	16.46	16.22	3.88	3.57	6.40	6.36	
$H[Pt(L-lysine)Cl2]$	17.48	17.43	3.30	2.86	6.80	6.75	

Table 2.1: Elemental analysis of amino acid platinum complexes.

INFRARED SPECTRA 2.5

The (NH₂, COO) bidentate chelation of the amino acids with Pt(II) can be ascertained readily from their infrared spectra.⁷ Of the various modes in the infrared spectra, particular attention is focused on the stretching vibrations of the NH₂ group(s), and the OH and C=O of the carboxylic acid group(s) of the complex. It is these groups which are most likely to change as a consequence of complexation. Table 2.2 gives the wavenumbers of the absorption bands in the infrared spectra of the compounds in the 4000-1000 cm⁻¹ region.

Amino acid complexes of L-serine, L-aspartic and L-glutamic acid display very broad, intense OH stretching absorptions covering the region of 3600-3400 cm⁻¹. The OH stretching band disappeared in the spectrum of [Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl₂]. This disappearance can serve as confirmation of coordination through the α -carboxylate.

The N-H stretching region ($v(N-H) = 3300-3000$ cm⁻¹) of all amino acid complexes contains two distinct, sharp peaks corresponding to the asymmetric and symmetric stretching in the amine In the spectra of [Pt(L-serine)Cl₂]⁻, [Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl₂]⁻ and [Pt(L-glu-OMe)Cl₂]⁻ a groups. shoulder appears on the low-frequency side of the N-H stretching band. This shoulder arises from the overtone of the N-H bending band $(\delta_s(N-H))$ intensified by Fermi resonances.⁸ The infrared spectrum of [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂] displays an additional strong, broad absorption in the 3615-3400 cm⁻¹ region because of the N-H stretching vibrations of the uncoordinated amine group.

Compound	VOH	$v(N-FI)$	$\delta_s(N-H)$	Coord.	Uncoord.
				COO-	COOR ^a
$K[Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl_2]$	3600-3400	3260-3200		1609	1716
K[Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl,].H,O	3600-3400	3253-3105	1594	1633	1710
K[Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl,]	3500-3400	3260-3100	1657	1689	1738
K[Pt(L-serine)Cl,]	3507-3300	3240-3100	1581	1649	N/A
$H[\mathrm{Pt(L-lysine)Cl}_2]$	N/A	3615-3400b	1599	1642	N/A
		$3245 - 3000$ °			

Table 2.2: Characteristic infrared frequencies of the amino acid compounds.

 $R = H$ for L-aspartic and L-glutamic acid, $R = CH_3$ for L-glutamic acid, 5-methyl ester.

^b Refers to the terminal NH₂ group. ^c Refers to the coordinated NH₂ group.

In the complex [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂], the broad band at 1609 cm⁻¹ is assigned to the overlapping of the coordinated carboxylate motion and the N-H bending band. This N-H motion can be seen as a shoulder at the lower frequency. In other amino acids, the N-H bending band and the carboxylate band of the coordinated complex are shown as two different bands. For example, in the IR spectra of [Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl₂]⁻, the N-H bending motion occurs at 1594 cm⁻¹ and the carboxylate at 1633 cm⁻¹. In [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂]⁻, the band at 1502 cm⁻¹ results from the N-H bending of the free amine group.

As expected, the IR spectrum of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] and [Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl₂] also exhibits an uncoordinated carboxyl group. These bands occur near 1716 cm⁻¹ and 1710 cm⁻¹, respectively.. In the [Pt(L-glu-OMe)Cl₂] complex, a free methyl ester group is seen at 1738 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR 2.6

The ¹H NMR spectra of the platinum complexes and free ligands have been recorded in D_2O referenced to TMSP. A summary of the chemical shifts and coupling constant data are presented at the end of this section in Tables 2.4 and 2.5.

The 'H NMR spectra of aspartic acid and its Pt(II) chelate were recorded in aqueous solution at different pH values. The spectra are that of a three-spin ABX type system. An example is shown in Diagram 2.4. The eight-line portion assignable to the methylene protons is made up of two AB sub-spectra due to the magnetic non-equivalence of protons H² and H³. Two factors could contribute to this non-equivalence. The first is an incomplete averaging out of the electronic environment at the α -carbon atom,⁹ even in the presence of free rotation. The second is restricted rotation leading to the existence of preferred rotamers. The X part (or methine resonances) consists of four detectable lines. This resonance always appears downfield due to the deshielding produced by the amino and carboxylate group. Most spectra exhibit sharp peaks, however some broadening of the methine resonance occurs in the Pt(II) chelates at low pH. Selective broadening of the methine peak may be attributed to decreased motional freedom of that particular part of the aspartic acid ligand.

Diagram 2.4: The ¹H NMR spectrum of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] at 300 MHz (A) and the AB-portion at 200MHz (B).

It is of interest to note that a first-order analysis of the 200 MHz 'H NMR spectra of the series of pH solutions was difficult because the H² and H³ resonances overlap producing completely distorted spectra. However, at 300 MHz, a well-defined ABX pattern is observed, making analysis much easier. Selected chemical shifts and coupling constants obtained from these analyses are given in Table 2.3.

In aspartic acid, as the molecule goes from pH 2.8 to pH 12, the following changes are noted:

- (a) All protons experience an upfield shift
- (b) The chemical shift distance between the methylene protons increases. The major factor in effecting a large chemical shift difference between the methylene protons is due to the asymmetric amino group.

(c) The geminal coupling constant J_{23} decreases. The significant change in the geminal coupling constant between pH 8-12 is due to the change in electronegativity of the amino and carboxylate group.

Species	pD	-CH- proton			$-CH_{2}$ - protons		
		δH^1	\int ₂₁	J_{31}	δH^2	δH^3	\int_{23}
$[Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl2]$	3.2	3.93	4.8	5.7	2.84	2.92	18.0
	4.4	3.87	4.0	5.6	2.77	2.83	17.7
	6.4	3.77	4.0	5.6	2.62	2.69	17.2
	8.5	3.77	4.0	5.8	2.61	2.69	17.4
	12.4	3.77	4.0	5.8	2.61	2.69	17.4
H ₃ asp ⁺	3.2	4.03	4.2	6.9	3.00	2.90	18.0
	4.4	3.94	4.2	8.1	2.88	2.76	17.7
	6.4	3.89	3.9	8.4	2.81	2.67	17.4
	8.5	3.88	3.9	8.7	2.80	2.66	17.4
	12.4	3.53	3.6	9.9	2.63	2.23	15.3

Table 2.3: ¹H NMR^a Data for [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] and the free aspartic acid ligand at various pD values.

^a Chemical shifts in ppm and coupling constants in Hz

Platinum binding to amino acids invariably produces a downfield shift of their proton resonances.¹⁰ In our pH experiments on [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂]⁻, only the H³ methylene proton shifts downfield as a consequence of coordination. The chemical shifts of the remaining aspartic acid protons appear to be the average of downfield shifts due to platinum(II) chelation and upfield shifts due to hydrophobic interaction of the side-chain of the aspartic acid with the fivemembered chelate ring. The result is an upfield shift ranging from 0.07 to 0.24 ppm.

When the pH of a aqueous solution of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] was increased to 12, the ¹H NMR spectrum of the solution shows two quartets in the α -proton region with an intensity ratio of 1:2. The two methine quartets were assigned to the isomers [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] and [Pt(L-asp-O,O)Cl₂] with that at 3.77 ppm corresponding to the N,O-chelate and that at 3.63 ppm to the Several hours later, the methine quartet belonging to [Pt(L-asp-O,O)Cl₂] O.O-chelate. disappeared from the spectrum. This suggests that upon standing [Pt(L-asp-O,O)Cl₂] slowly isomerises to give the thermodynamically more stable five-membered N,O-chelate.

Diagram 2.5: Titration curves for aspartic acid and [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂]. The chemical shifts of), H²(\leftarrow) and H³(\leftarrow) resonances are all relative to D₂O. the H^1 (

The pH dependence of the chemical shifts is shown in Diagram 2.5. These chemical shifts were found to vary with pH in a manner that reflects a titration curve. The free aspartic acid ligand shows three steps in the graph. The pH at the midpoint of a step corresponds to the pKa value of the group. The first step is due to the ionisation of the α -carboxyl group, the next from the β carboxyl and the last from the NH₃⁺ group. In Diagram 2.5, the midpoints for aspartic acid occur at pH values 2.0, 3.9 and 10.0. These values are in agreement with dissociation constants given in the literature.¹¹ Only a single pK_a value was obtained for [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂]⁻. Obtaining a single pK_a value of 3.9 for the Pt(II) chelate is consistent with the idea that the complex is an N,O-chelate in which the second carboxylate is unbound.

Like [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂], the ¹H NMR spectra of [Pt(L-serine)Cl₂] display a pronounced ABX character. This is not surprising, for serine differs from aspartic acid only in the replacement of the terminal carboxylate of the latter with a hydroxy group. It is the presence of this hydroxy moiety which causes the methylene protons to appear furthermost downfield. Comparison of the protons in the free ligand and their complex shows only a slight upfield shift due to complexation. The resonances in the ¹H NMR of [Pt(L-serine)Cl₂] are somewhat broader than that of the free ligand particularly the methine quartet. Broad 'H NMR signals for the methine and methylene protons indicate that the complex may exhibit a pronounce degree of conformational flexibility. The proton chemical shifts and coupling constants are given in Tables 2.4 and 2.5.

Diagram 2.6: ¹H NMR of $[Pt(L\text{-glu-N},O)Cl_2]$.

Diagram 2.6 shows the ¹H NMR spectrum of [Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl₂]⁻. The spectrum clearly consists of four groups of lines for the five magnetically non-equivalent protons. Closer inspection of the splitting shows that the thirteen-line portion centred around 2.4 ppm is made up of two subspectra, thus all five interacting nuclei have different chemical shifts. Following the normal nomenclature, the spectrum can be described as a five spin ABXYR type system.^{12, 13} Each of the γ CH₂ protons will couple to the β CH₂ protons to give 16 lines (resembles two ABX type patterns), and similarly the β CH₂ protons couple to the α CH and γ CH₂ protons to give a complex splitting pattern consisting of 32 lines (resembles two ABXR patterns). This simplification to two sets of ABX and ABXR type patterns enable a complete analysis to be performed. The spin coupling constants obtained from these analyses are:

(a) For the ABXR type systems J_{gem} = J_{23} = 15 Hz $J_{trans} = J_{13} = 8.4 \text{ Hz}$ J_{cis} = J_{12} = 4.8 Hz (b) For the ABX type systems J_{gem} = J_{45} = 15 Hz $J_{trans} = J_{25} = J_{34} = 8.7$ Hz $=$ J₂₄ = 7.1 Hz

 \int_{cis}

 J_{cis} = J_{35} = 6.7 Hz

The complex splitting pattern originating from all five non-equivalent protons in the 'H NMR of [Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl₂] is not seen in the spectrum of the free glutamic acid ligand. The spectrum can easily be mistaken as an AA'BB'X type system because the pairs of protons on the β - and γ carbon are so close in chemical shift. On closer inspection of the fine splitting, what appeared to be only an average signal is actually a crossover of the splitting patterns. In addition, Table 2.5 shows that the 3 J(6 CH₂- 7 CH₂) proton coupling constants of L-glutamic acid do not change on coordination. This indicates equally populated rotamer distribution, due to free rotation around the β - and γ -carbon bond.¹⁴

With [Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl₂] and the corresponding free methyl ester, determination of the proton coupling constants was complicated due to the extensive overlapping of resonances. In view of the difficulty of locating the necessary signals, all values were confirmed by computer simulation. The simulated spectra were remarkably similar to those observed. The observed and computersimulated ¹H NMR spectra of [Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl₂] are presented in Diagram 2.7. Tables 2.4 and 2.5 contain the refined chemical shift and coupling constant data.

Diagram 2.7: ¹H NMR of the observed spectrum (A) and the simulated spectrum (B) of [Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl₂] at 300 MHz.

The general appearance of the 'H NMR spectrum of [Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl₂] is very similar to that of [Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl₂] with the additional resonance at 3.72 ppm corresponding to the methyl ester This methyl resonance does not shift significantly on coordination due to the moiety.

considerable distance away from the binding site. In contrast, the methine proton adjacent to the Pt(II) binding site undergoes a pronounced upfield shift of 0.12 ppm on coordination.

When comparing the ¹H NMR of [Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl₂]⁻ and its corresponding free methyl ester, two major differences are clearly evident. Firstly, in the 'H NMR of [Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl₂] the methine resonance is a quartet indicating unequal coupling between the methine and the two This methine is also expected to appear as a doublet of methylene protons (H^2 and H^3). doublets in the 'H NMR of the free methyl ester due the non-equivalence of the methylene protons. In actuality, the methine resonance resembles a 1:2:1 triplet, which indicates that the couplings between the α -CH proton and β -CH₂ protons are approximately equal $(J_{21} = J_{31} = 6.3)$ Hz). Secondly, the AB region of [Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl₂]⁻ clearly shows splittings due to each of the methylene protons on the β -carbon. In the spectrum of the free methyl ester, the chemical shift difference between the methylene protons on the β -carbon is so small that the splittings crossover causing the spectrum to appear deceptively simple.

The ¹H NMR of [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂]⁻ and the free ligand show five major resonances due to the methine and the four methylene protons. As indicated by the splitting patterns the ε -CH₂ protons appear to be equivalent. All other methylene protons appear to be non-equivalent. Despite the complexity brought about by an eight-spin system a total analysis of the spectra was achieved with the aid of the simulation program gNMR. Coupling constants and proton chemical shifts for [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂] are presented in Tables 2.4 and 2.5, together with that of free lysine for comparison.
When comparing the ¹H NMR of [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂] with free lysine, the following aspects are noted.

- (a) The resonances in the ¹H NMR of [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂] are somewhat broader than that of the free ligand, suggesting the there is some degree of flexibility in the complex.
- (b) The methine resonance experiences a substantial shift to lower field on formation of the complex. As already observed with [Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl₂]', this methine resonance is seen as a quartet (i.e $J_{21} \neq J_{31}$) in the spectrum of $[Pt(L-lysine)Cl_2]$. However, a 'H NMR spectrum showing a 1:2:1 methine triplet (i.e $J_{21} = J_{31}$) was obtained for free lysine.
- (c) An effectively unchanged position around 3.0 ppm for the ε -CH₂ protons rule out coordination through the terminal amine. The complex may therefore be formulated as containing a N,O-chelate ring.
- (d) In the methylene region (1.5 -1.9 ppm) of the complex there is a small degree of overlapping. For example, the resonances due to H3 and H5 are located directly beneath the broad δ -CH₂ peak.

Table 2.4: ¹H NMR chemical shifts.^a

^a Chemical Shifts in ppm, spectra run in D₂O referenced to TMSP. ^b The spectra of [Pt(L-serine)(NH₃)₂Cl] and [Pt(L-lysine)(NH₃)2Cl]were recorded after the NH₃ protons had exchanged with deuterium in order to observe other resonances.

Table 2.5: 'H NMR coupling constants.^a

^a Coupling constants in Hz, recorded at 300 MHz.

CONFORMATIONAL STUDIES 2.7

The determination of the conformations of amino acids in solution using ¹H NMR spectra is now well recognised. It is based on the use of the Karplus equation,^{15,16} which relates the proton coupling constants in a fragment to the dihedral angle, ϕ , between relevant C-H bonds. The originally proposed relationship is of the form:

$$
J_{HH} = J_o \cos^2 \phi - B \tag{1}
$$

where $J_0 = 8.5$ Hz (0< ϕ <90), $J_0 = 9.5$ Hz (90< ϕ <180) and B = 0.28 Hz. A modified yet equivalent three-parameter equation^{17,18} is commonly used. It is valid for the entire range 0<6<180, and written in the following form:

$$
J = A \cos^2 \phi - B \cos \phi + C \tag{2}
$$

The theoretical Karplus constants adjusted to equation (2) now become: $A = 9.0$, $B = 0.5$ and C = - 0.3 Hz. It appears that, whilst equation (2) gives the form of the angular dependence of coupling constants, the parameters A, B, and C are regarded as empirically adjustable parameters, to be extracted from geometrical data on the system to be investigated.¹⁹ Different systems require different parameters to yield consistent and reasonable results. Thus, the significance of the equation is difficult to assess, causing some uncertainty in the conclusions deduced from its use. The results of these Karplus calculations for aspartic acid and its Pt(II) chelate using the modified form of the equation are shown in Tables 2.6. An example is also represented as a 3Dillustration in Diagram 2.8. The observed deviations of the dihedral angles from the ideal trans (180°) and gauche (60°) conformations may in fact be due to the uncertainty in the value of the constants used in the Karplus equation.

Species	J_{21}	J_{31}	Dihedral angle, ϕ		
			H ²	H ³	
$[Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl2]$	4.8	5.7	43.0	37.9	49.0%
	4.0	5.6	48.4	37.9	
	4.0	5.8	48.4	37.3	\bigcirc
H ₃ asp ⁺	4.8	6.9	43.5	157.3	162.9°
	4.2	8.1	47.2	159.8	Diagram 2.8: 3D-Illustration
	3.9	8.4	49.0	162.9	showing the orientation of $H1$, $H2$ and $H3$ in aspartic
	3.9	8.7	49.0	166.6	acid at pD 6.4.
	3.6	9.9	50.9		

Tables 2.6: Dihedral angles^ª for [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl,]

and the free aspartic acid ligand.

aDihedral angles calculated form the modified Karplus equation.

A simplified procedure for the conformational analysis of aspartic acid can also be used. The coupling constants displayed in Table 2.3 are considered to be the weighed average of three rotational isomers.²⁰ If the population of these three rotational isomers were equal, the two methylene protons would be magnetically equivalent since each of them spends the same time in the same environment. The pronounced ABX character in the 'H NMR clearly demonstrates that this is not the case for aspartic acid and its Pt(II) chelate. The methylene protons are nonequivalent, with each appearing at a different chemical shift with individual vicinal coupling constants. This indicates that in solution an unequal population of rotational isomers exists. The three predominant staggered rotamers of aspartic acid, designated for the purpose of labelling and expressing mole fractions as t, g, and h are shown in Diagram 2.9. The disposition of the side-chain is trans to the carboxyl group in the t rotamer, trans to nitrogen in rotamer g, and trans to the α -hydrogen in rotamer h.

Diagram 2.9: Three staggered rotamers of α-amino acid with two β -hydrogens (H² and H³).

The population of each of the three rotamers of amino acids is related to the vicinal coupling constants J_G and J_T for the gauche and trans positions of proton H^1 with respect to H^2 and H^3 , by means of the equations^{20,21,22}

$$
I_{\alpha} = t \left[c + g \left[r + h \right]_0 \right] \tag{3}
$$

$$
I_{\infty} = t I_{\infty} + g I_{\infty} + h I_{\infty}
$$
 (4)

Solutions of equations (3) and (4) with $t + g + h = 1$ gives

$$
t = (J_{31} - J_G) / (J_T - J_G) \tag{5}
$$

$$
\mathbf{g} = \left(\mathbf{J}_{21} - \mathbf{J}_{\text{C}}\right) / \left(\mathbf{J}_{\text{T}} - \mathbf{J}_{\text{C}}\right) \tag{6}
$$

$$
h = 1 - t - g \tag{7}
$$

These expressions allow rotamer populations to be deduced from the observed vicinial coupling constants J_{21} and J_{31} , provided one has reliable values for J_G and J_T. Values of $J_G = 2.5$ Hz and J_T $= 12.8$ Hz have been recommended for L-aspartic acid.²³

Using the data in Table 2.3, the relative populations of the different conformers in solution were calculated. Tables 2.7 tabulates vicinal coupling constants and rotamer mole percentages. The data indicate that across the pH range examined, unbound aspartic acid displays a strong preference for the trans conformation in which the proton H^1 is gauche to H^2 and trans to H^3 (Diagram 2.9). It may also be noted that raising the pH results in a dramatic increase in rotamer t, with percentages increasing from 46% to 72%. The greater thermodynamic stability of rotamer t over g and h in basic solutions is expected for spacial and electrostatic repulsions between the α -carboxylate and the terminal carboxylate on the β -carbon are at a minimum. Inspection of the chemical shift data illustrates that as the pH is increased the H3 proton experiences a greater upfield shift than H², suggesting that H³ is closer to the amino group. This gives further support to the assignment of the preferred conformation as the t isomer.

Species	pH	J_{21}	J_{31}	$^\mathrm{t}$	g	$\mathbf h$
[Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl ₂]-	2.8	4.8	5.7	0.31	0.22	0.46
	4.0	4.0	5.6	0.30	0.15	0.55
	6.0	4.0	5.6	0.30	0.15	0.55
	8.1	4.0	5.8	0.32	0.15	0.49
	12.0	4.0	5.8	0.34	0.15	0.49
H_3 asp ⁺	2.8	4.8	6.9	0.42	0.22	0.36
	4.0	4.2	8.1	0.54	0.17	0.29
	$6.0\,$	3.9	8.4	0.57	0.14	0.29
	8.1	3.9	8.7	0.60	0.14	0.26
	12.0	3.6	9.9	0.72	0.11	0.17

Tables 2.7: Vicinial coupling constants (Hz) and rotamer mole populations for [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] and the free aspartic acid ligand at various pH values.

It should be emphasised that the conclusion that rotamer t is the predominant rotameric form for free aspartic acid is a direct consequence of the assignments of the H^2 and H^3 hydrogens. Reversal of these assignments results in a reversal of the population of rotamers t and g. Many researchers simply state that the highest field proton is taken as the H³ proton.^{20,23,24,25} Rather than assign the H^2 and H^3 protons exclusively on the basis of chemical shifts, this labelling of H^2 and H^3 involves a commitment to the designation of H^3 as the proton more strongly coupled to H¹. Assignments were made by analogy with coupling data on cysteine and histidine derivatives.²⁴ Cysteine is a good comparative model for it differs from aspartic acid only in the replacement of the terminal carboxylate function of the latter by a sulfhydryl group.

The platinum complex of aspartic acid displays relatively low coupling constants, and a preponderance of the structure with a conformation about the α - and β -carbons similar to the hindered gauche appears to prevail. This implies that the aliphatic side-chain is directed toward the platinum metal-ion chelated between the amino and carboxylate groups (Diagram 2.10). This conclusion is corroborated by the observation that the methine and one of the methylene protons undergoes an upfield shift on coordination. Similar side-chain-metal interactions have been observed elsewhere.¹⁴

Diagram 2.10: The most stable rotamer of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂].

${}^{13}C$ NMR 2.8

The ¹³C NMR of the platinum complexes and free ligands were run with the instrument internally locked on D₂O and with ¹H decoupling. The shifts were measured relative to TMSP. ¹³C NMR data are listed in Table 2.8.

Table 2.8: ¹³C NMR data.²

^a Chemical shifts in ppm relative to TMSP, spectra run in D_2O .

 $R = H$ for L-aspartic and L-glutamic acid, $R = CH_3$ for L-glutamic acid, 5-methyl ester.

 c_{E-CH} ^d δ -CH

The ¹³C NMR spectrum of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] shows the expected four peaks. Two of these peaks that occur at lower frequency (58.5 and 40.6 ppm) may be confidently assigned to the methine and methylene carbon atoms respectively. Assignments of these resonances were confirmed by the HMQC spectrum. The remaining two peaks at higher frequency (191.4 and 179.6 ppm) correspond to the carboxylate carbon atoms. The peak at 191.4 ppm, shifted significantly from the peak for the free ligand (176.8 ppm), is assigned to the coordinated carboxylate. Such high frequency is characteristic of a carboxylate group being incorporated into a five-membered chelate ring.^{26,27} In six-membered chelate ring complexes, the carboxylate resonances are more shielded. For example, in β -alanine analogues the carboxylate carbon nucleus occurs at 181 ppm.^{28,29} The peak at 179.6 ppm is only shifted slightly from that of the free ligand (179.4 ppm), providing additional evidence that the β-carboxylate is not coordinated in this complex.

Similarly, the ¹³C NMR spectrum of [Pt(L-serine)Cl₂]⁻ is consistent with the formation of an N, α O-chelate complex. In the carboxlyate region the spectrum shows a peak at 190.4 ppm. This peak is shifted significantly from the carboxyl resonance of the free ligand (175.3 ppm) and is characteristic of a carboxylate group that is part of a five-membered chelate ring. The spectrum also shows a methine and a methylene carbon. The methine carbon, 62.9 ppm, was deshielded by 3.7 ppm relative to the free ligand, and the methylene carbon, 64.4 ppm, by 1.4 ppm.

The ¹³C NMR spectrum of [Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl₂] shows a singlet at 58.9 ppm from the methine carbon, two singlets from the methylene carbon atoms at 35.6 ppm and 31.5 ppm, and two singlets at 192.7 ppm and 183.7 ppm. Especially notable was the presence of a carboxylate peak at relatively high frequency (192.7 ppm), confirming the presence of a five-membered chelate ring. The methine and methylene carbon resonances were assigned by comparison with [Pt(L $asp-N,O)Cl_2$.

The ¹³C NMR spectrum of [Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl₂] shows six singlets, one signal corresponding to a methyl group (55.4 ppm), two methylene signals (30.0 and 32.3 ppm), two carboxylate signals (178.4 and 191.5 ppm) and a methine signal (60.4 ppm). The presence of both the methyl resonance and a carboxylate peak at high frequency (191.5 ppm) gives a good indication of the N, α O- bidentate nature of platinum chelation.

The ¹³C NMR spectrum of [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂] shows the expected six peaks. The most significant features include the carboxyl resonance at 192.7 ppm and the methine carbon at 61 ppm. Each peak is further downfield relative to the free ligand (177.5 and 57.4 ppm respectively). Such a strong downfield progression indicates the formation of a five-membered $N, \alpha O$ -chelate. The methylene resonances do not shift as significantly as the carboxyl and methine resonances on coordination due to their considerable distances from the binding site. Shifts for the four methylene carbons are given in Table 2.8.

MASS SPECTRA 2.9

The mass spectra of all platinum complexes were scanned from 0 to 1000 amu. An example of a typical mass spectrum is depicted in Diagram 2.11. The spectrum of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] shows the intense molecular ion peak as a base peak at $m/e=398$, along with appreciable peaks. This molecular ion base peak highlights that the molecular ion of the N,O-isomer is very stable. Diagram 2.11 also shows that the isotopic peak cluster ratio of this molecular ion was consistent with a dichloro species, since a dichloroplatinum fragment ion should give rise to a cluster of 7 peaks separated by 1 mass unit in the approximate ratio (70:73:100:46:57:8:16).

The molecular ion also emerged as a base peak in the mass spectra of [Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl₂], [Pt(Lserine)Cl₂] and [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂]. For [Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl₂], the mass spectrum of showed a prominent molecular ion peak at $m/e = 411.8$, and is consistent with the expected mass. The base peak at m/e= 112 is probably due to the cleavage and fragmentation of the glutamic acid ligand. The mass spectrum of $[Pt(L-lysine)Cl_2]$ also show some additional peaks at m/e = 145 and 90, presumably due to the cleavage and fragmentation of the lysine ligand.

Diagram 2.11: Mass spectra of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂]

It is worth noting that in addition to a molecular ion peak consistent with the expected mass, all mass spectra show a prominent peak corresponding to the loss of chlorine. A summary of the mass spectral data is listed in Table 2.9.

Compound	Base Peak [M ⁺]	$[M^*$ - Cl	Others
$[Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl_2]$	398.0	362.0	318.0
[Pt(L-serine)Cl ₂] ⁻	370.0	333.0	
$[Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl2]$	411.8	376.6	112.0
$[Pt(L-glu.OMe)Cl2]$	42.6.0	390.0	
$[Pt(L-lysine)Cl_2]$	411.0	374.0	145.0
			50

Table 2.9: Summary of mass spectral data.

The solid state structure of [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂] was determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction. [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂] crystallised as yellow needles in the monoclinic space group P2(1) with two independent molecules in the asymmetric unit and unit dimensions $a = 9.634(8)$ Å, b = 11.113(11) A, c = 11.057(9) A and β = 102.02(6)°. The space group P2(1) is noncentrosymmetric therefore the molecules are chiral. The crystal data and selected experimental parameters used are summarised in Table 2.10. Selected bond lengths and bond angles are listed Table 2.11. Additional crystallographic details are provided in the Appendix.

Table 2.10: Crystallographic data and experimental parameters for the crystal structure analysis of [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂].

An ORTEP drawing of the crystal structure is presented in Diagram 2.12. The structure shows that in each discrete molecule the lysine ligand is coordinated to the central platinum atom via the α -carboxylate and NH₂ group to form a five-membered chelate ring. The absolute configurations of the two molecules in the unit cell are the same, as expected. The square planar entities are "stacked" above each other in such a way that the carbonyl oxygen of each lysine interacts in a pseudo-axial fashion with the platinum atom of the other molecule in the unit cell. These Pt-O distances are between 3.2 to 3.3 Å.

Angles of Cl-Pt-Cl, Cl-Pt-N, Cl-Pt-O and N-Pt-O all deviate from 90° indicating that the platinum atoms are in a slightly distorted square-planar environment. Geometrical parameters worthy of note include the Pt-N distances from the primary amine nitrogen to the platinum center (2.061 and 1.984 Å), the Pt-O distances from the carboxylate and the platinum center (2.006 Å) and the Pt-Cl bond lengths which vary between 2.316 to 2.297 Å. The N-Pt-O angles in the two molecules (82.3(6)° and 83.2(6)°) agree well with the value of 83°, predicted for a mean metal-donor bond distance of 2.0 Å.³⁰

Diagram 2.12: ORTEP drawing of [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂].

The H_3O^+ counterions are not shown.

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DICHLORO DIAMINE PLATINUM(II) COMPLEXES

Introduction

It is now widely accepted that the anti-cancer properties of cisplatin are the result of specific interactions of the $\sin{\left[\text{Pt(NH_3)}_2\right]}^{2+}$ fragment with DNA. The possible binding sites on DNA include the N(7) atom of guanine and adenine, the N(1) atom of adenine and the N(3) atom of cytosine (Diagram 3.1).¹ Out of these four possible sites, cisplatin shows a strong preference for the N(7) site of guanine.^{2,3} This preference seems to be related to the stronger basicity of guanine-N(7) atom and hydrogen bonding.^{1,4} Secondary interactions between the hydrogens on the amine and the nearby O(6) atom may influence the kinetics of the reaction and thermodynamic stabilisation after binding to the N(7) atom.

Diagram 3.1: Schematic diagram showing the possible platinum binding sites on DNA. Inset shows the hydrogen bonding interactions upon binding to guanine.

From these observations on cisplatin, it appears that having at least one hydrogen attached to each of the amines is an important feature that may influence the overall activity of the platinum analogue.⁵ A panoply of Pt(II) complexes containing a variety of amine ligands have been From these structure-activity relationship studies the anti-cancer activity has been studied. reported to decrease following the order NH₃ \ge RNH₂ \ge R₂NH \ge R₃N.⁶

The most promising analogues are platinum(II) complexes containing a 1,2-diaminocyclohexane (dach) substituent in the non-leaving position. The dach-Pt complexes have been the focus of considerable research, primarily due to their potential activity against cisplatin-resistant cells⁷ and their reduced nephrotoxicity and myelotoxicity compared to cisplatin and carboplatin. Structurally, the dach ligand has two asymmetric carbon centres. Thus, it can exist as three isomers, the trans-R,R, trans-S,S or cis isomers. An intriguing observation is that each of the platinum(II) complexes containing the different chiral structures exhibits markedly different anticancer activities. The trans isomers are generally considered to be more effective than the as isomer, with the trans-R,R isomer being somewhat more effective than the trans-S,S isomer.^{8,9} However, these differences are small and moderately dependent on both the in vivo tumour models employed and the leaving groups attached. For example, anti-tumour tests revealed that [Pt(trans-R,R-dach)Cl₂] was more active against Leukemia L1210 tumour cells implanted in mice. However, against an in vivo Sarcoma-180 murine tumour, [Pt(cis-R,S-dach)Cl₂]^{9,10,11,12} is more active. Similarly, anti-tumour activity studies using isomers bearing either sulfate or cyclobutanedicarboxylate (CBDCA) as the leaving group show that the trans-R,R form of [Pt(dach)(SO₄)(H₂O)] was more effective against an L1210 tumour model than [Pt(trans-R,Rdach)(CBDCA)].¹²

Diagram 3.2: Schematic diagram showing the orientation of the cisand trans-dach ligand upon binding to DNA.¹³

The differences in biological activity between trans and cis isomers has been explained of in terms of the stability of the Pt-DNA adduct and/or the degree of distortion of the DNA. On formation of the most common type of adduct (ie binding at the $N(7)$ position of two adjacent guanines) the cyclohexane ring is orientated perpendicular to the DNA helical axis in both the trans diastereomers and one of the cis diastereomers. In this arrangement there is only minor steric hindrance as the coplanarity of the dach-Pt complexes gives them easy access to the major grooves of the DNA allowing them to interact readily with the DNA bases. On the other hand, for one of the *as* diastereomers, the cyclohexane ring is aligned almost parallel with the DNA axis (Diagram 3.2). In this conformation, the cis-R,S-dach-Pt adduct is not easily accommodated in the major groove due to steric hinderance and as a result would produce a significantly larger distortion of the DNA strand.^{7,13}

Differences in anti-tumour activity also exist between the trans-dach-Pt isomers, and this isomeric difference may be modulated moderately by secondary hydrogen bonding interactions. Like cisplatin, for the trans-R,R-dach-Pt adduct, the axial amino proton is closer to the O(6) atom on the 5'-guanine. However, for the trans-S,S-dach-Pt adduct, the axial amino proton is closer to the O(6) on the 3'-guanine. Both hydrogen bonding interactions would stabilise the Pt-DNA adduct, but the degree of stabilisation is slightly different for the two diastereomeric forms.⁷

Oxaliplatin and ormaplatin (formerly called tetraplatin) are two examples of this dach-structural class that have been under clinical evaluation. Oxaliplatin is currently in phase II and III clinical trials.¹⁴ Clinical data have shown that it is active against a variety of tumour models and is more potent in vivo than cisplatin.^{15,16} The agent is less nephrotoxic than cisplatin and lacks auditory toxic effects.¹⁴ The dose-limiting toxicity is peripheral neuropathy, however this neurologic toxicity is highly reversible, with the majority of patients experiencing a complete recovery within 4-8 months on cessation of oxaliplatin. Other toxicities are myelosuppression, nausea, vomiting and fever.^{15,16} Ormaplatin, a structurally related complex, was also introduced to circumvent cisplatin tumour resistance. It is a platinum(IV) analogue that has reactive leaving groups on the Z axis. Cisplatin and carboplatin are platinum(II) analogues, with reactive leaving groups in the X and Y planes, not the Z axis. Clinically used ormaplatin is a mixture of the two trans stereoisomers. This racemic mixture was used because of only minor differences between the trans-R,R and trans-S,S isomers in relation to their solubility, stability and biological activity. Unfortunately, it had to be withdrawn from clinical trials due to severe and dose-limiting peripheral neurotoxicty.^{17,18}

Diagram 3.3: Chemical structures of the common platinum compounds containing dach or en.

In addition to the dach-platinum complexes, agents containing ethylenediamine (en) also display favourable anti-tumour activity. Dichloro(ethylenediamine)platinum(II) ([Pt(en)Cl₂]) is one of the most famous examples. Following the success of [Pt(en)Cl₂] various derivatives were developed. [Pt(malonato)(en)] (JM-40, Diagram 3.3) showed higher activity than [Pt(en)Cl₂] and was introduced into clinical studies due to its favourable preclinical toxicity in dogs, being less emetic and less nephrotoxic than cisplatin.¹⁹ However, in humans, where the maximum tolerated dose is much higher than for animals (c. f. Humans 1200 mg/m² with mouse 276 mg/m²), the dose limiting toxicities were found to be nausea, vomiting and nephrotoxicity.¹⁹ Nephrotoxicity is reversible in 4 weeks up to a dose level of 1200 mg/m². JM-40 did not exhibit any other dose related side-effects. Another compound is [Pt(oxalato)(en)], which unfortunately has extremely high neurological damage as the chief limiting toxicity.

Diamineplatinum(II) complexes with active dach or en non-leaving groups are required for subsequent experiments. For this reason effort was invested determining the best procedure for synthesising [Pt(en)Cl₂]. Ethylenediamine was the ligand of choice for these trials for it is relatively inexpensive compared to the dach isomers. Based on these experimental results the selected method will then be employed in the synthesis of the three different dach-Pt complexes. In selecting the synthesis of diamine complexes, three considerations were important. A method is desirable in which the sequence involves a small number of steps, the product is produced in a reasonably high yield and of high purity, preferably without the need of lengthy recrystallisation steps. Guided by these considerations, a number of experimental methods have been explored. The methods used to obtain [Pt(en)Cl₂] are outlined in Diagram 3.4.

Diagram 3.4: The four different synthetic methods for the preparation of [Pt(en)Cl₂].

In this chapter, the synthetic details and characterisation of [Pt(en)Cl₂] and [Pt(dach)Cl₂] are presented. Two additional dach-related complexes, [Pt(diaminobenzoic acid)Cl₂] and [Pt(o-nitrophenylenediamine)Cl₂] have also been synthesised and characterised.

Experimental

MATERIALS 3.4

o-Nitro-phenylenediamine (o-nitro-phen), 3,4-diaminobenzoic acid (dbn), ethylenediamine and its dihydrochloride were supplied by Aldrich and used without further purification. R,R, S,S and the *as* forms of dach were also purchased from Aldrich. Potassium tetrachloroplatinate(II) (98%) was obtained from Johnson Matthey. All other reagents and solvents were purchased for Ajax Chemicals. $[Pt(DMSO)_2Cl_2]$ was prepared by previously reported procedures.²⁰

3.4 **MEASUREMENTS**

Elemental analyses of the platinum complexes were performed by the Microanalytical Unit, Australian National University (Canberra, ACT). Infrared spectra were obtained as nujol mulls on NaCl plates using a Biorad FTS-7 Fourier Transform spectrometer. NMR spectra were recorded on solutions in d₆-dimethylsulfoxide (d₆-DMSO) on a Varian Unity-Plus 300 spectrometer.

ESI mass spectra of [Pt(o-nitro-phen)Cl₂] and [Pt(dbn)Cl₂] were performed at the University of Wollongong on a VG-Quattro mass spectrometer. Each listed m/e value for the platinumcontaining ions (which has more than one isotope) is the most intense peak of a cluster with an isotopic pattern in good agreement with the calculated pattern. Diagram 3.5 shows the expected isotopic pattern for an R-PtCl₂ and R-PtCl fragment where R is the diamine. Ethylenediamine and diaminocyclohexane complexes had insufficient solubility properties in appropriate solvents, thus no ESI mass spectra were obtained.

Diagram 3.5: Calculated isotopic pattern for (a) R-PtCl₂ and (b) R-PtCl where R is a diamine.

NOMENCLATURE 3.3

The nomenclature used to describe the various protons on the dach ligand has been adopted. This system is illustrated in Diagram below. In some cases axial and equatorial protons are indistinguishable and references are made simply to H³, for example.

Diagram 3.6: Nomenclature used to describe the protons on dach.

SYNTHESIS OF PLATINUM COMPLEXES 3.4

Dichloro(ethylenediamine)platinum(II). [Pt(en)Cl₂].

Method A. [Pt(en)Cl₂] was initially synthesised by a slight modification of a published method.²¹ A slight excess of ethylenediamine (93.8 mg, 1.57 mmol) was added to an aqueous solution of K₂[PtCl₄] (500 mg, 1.21 mmol). Precipitation of the desired [Pt(en)Cl₂] occurred on standing at room temperature. This precipitate was collected every 10-15 minutes to prevent further reaction. As the reaction progressed the period between collections was extended to 30-40 minutes. Whenever the product ceased to separate more ethylenediamine was added to the solution. Collection was continued until the solution becomes clear. The combined precipitates were washed with water, ethanol and ether, and suction dried for 10-15 minutes to give a yellow product.

Yield: 210 mg (53%)

Anal. Calcd for C₂H₈N₂PtCl₂ (326): C, 7.37; H, 2.47; N, 8.59. Found: C, 7.43; H, 2.49; N, 8.53. ¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 2.56 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 47.6 (s, CH₂). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3273-3188 (br, $v(N-H)$), 1557 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Method B.

[Pt(en)Cl₂] was prepared by the method of Johnson²², with the liquid ammonia recrystallisation step omitted. An aqueous solution (7 mL) of K2[PtCl₄] (503 mg, 1.21 mmol) was mixed with a solution of ethylenediamine dihydrochloride (167 mg, 1.26 mmol) and heated on a water bath for 1 hour 45 minutes. During this time, the solution was kept constant at pH 6 by the dropwise addition of a solution of sodium hydroxide (113 mg, 2.75 mmol in 4 mL H_2O). It is worth noting that the addition of sodium hydroxide causes the pH to rise as free ethylenediamine is liberated from its hydrochloride and then slowly decreases as the ligand reacts with tetrachloroplatinum(II) ion. Care must be taken not to allow the solution to become more alkaline than pH 7, otherwise metallic platinum black forms. Mechanical stirring of the solution helped prevent the precipitation of platinum during the addition of base.

Yellow [Pt(en)Cl₂] precipitated out of solution before the addition of base was complete. The reaction was considered to be complete when the solution remained constant at pH 6. After cooling in ice water, the solid was filtered off, washed with cold water, ethanol and ether, and airdried.

Yield: 268 mg (68%)

Anal. Calcd for C₂H₈N₂PtCl₂ (326): C, 7.37; H, 2.47; N, 8.59. Found: C, 7.27; H, 2.41; N, 8.63. ¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 2.56 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 47.7 (s, CH₂). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3268-3194 (br, $v(N-H)$), 1557 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Method C.

[Pt(en)Cl₂] was synthesised by using an adaption of the Dhara method²³ for the preparation of cisplatin in which NH₃ is replaced by ethylendiamine. An aqueous solution (10 mL) of K₂[PtCl₄] (500 mg, 1.21 mmol) was allowed to react with potassium iodide (1.63 g, 9.84 mmol) for 15 minutes at 25°C to yield K₂[PtI₄]. Ethylenediamine (70 mg, 1.21 mmol) was added and the dark yellow [Pt(en)I₂] was collected after 2 hours, washed with water and ethanol, and air-dried under vacuum. Typical yields are in excess of 74%.

The [Pt(en)I₂] (460 mg, 0.9 mmol) was suspended in water (20 mL) and added to a solution of silver nitrate (310 g, 1.7 mmol) in water (30 mL). The mixture was protected from light and heated on a water bath at 60°C for 10-15 minutes. The solution was taken off the water bath and stirred for an additional 2 hours. Insoluble AgI was removed by filtration and the filtrate was treated with an 10% excess of potassium chloride (relative to $[Pt(en)(H_2O)_2](NO_3)_2$). The solution was heated on a water bath and within 5 minutes [Pt(en)Cl₂] began to precipitate out of solution. The heating was continued for 10 minutes for completion of the reaction. The mixture was cooled in an ice-bath for 24 hours, and the resulting yellow needles were filtered off, washed with water, ethanol and ether, and dried in air.

Yield: 655 mg (22.3% relative to $[Pt(en)I_2]$)

Anal. Calcd for C₂H₈N₂PtCl₂ (326): C, 7.37; H, 2.47; N, 8.59. Found: C, 7.30; H, 2.33; N, 8.52. ¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 2.54 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 47.7 (s, CH₂). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3279-3198 (br, $v(N-H)$), 1556 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Method D.

[Pt(en)Cl₂] was prepared by thermal decomposition of the ionic species [Pt(en)(DMSO)Cl]Cl as described in the literature.²⁴ A solution of ethylendiamine (60 mg, 1 mmol) in 10 mL of methanol was added to a suspension of [Pt(DMSO)₂Cl₂] (422 mg, 1 mmol) in 40 mL of methanol. The yellow mixture was stirred at room temperature until a clear solution was formed. The solution was cooled and filtered to remove a small amount of unreacted [Pt(DMSO)₂Cl₂]. The filtrate was reduced to 5 mL volume and diethyl ether was added to precipitate [Pt(en)(DMSO)Cl]Cl. This fine cream powder was filtered, washed with ether and air-dried. Typical yields were in excess of 90%.

A solution of [Pt(en)(DMSO)Cl]Cl (362 mg, 0.9 mmol) and lithium chloride (190 mg, 4.5 mmol) in water (16 mL) was placed in a small flask fitted with a reflux condenser. The mixture was heated at 70°C with stirring for 2 hours. The yellow solid that precipitated was filtered off, washed with water and dried in a vacuum desiccator over silica gel.

Yield: 60 mg (22%)

Anal. Calcd for C₂H₈N₂PtCl₂ (326): C, 7.37; H, 2.47; N, 8.59. Found: C, 7.46; H, 2.41; N, 8.52. ¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 2.54 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 47.7 (s, CH₂). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3278-3199 (br, $v(N-H)$), 1565 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

A second crop of product was gained by evaporating the filtrate. The yellow needles were filtered and recrystallised twice from hydrochloric acid (0.1 M).

Yield: $100 \text{ mg } (36\%)$

Anal. Calcd for C₂H₈N₂PtCl₂ (326): C, 7.37; H, 2.47; N, 8.59. Found: C, 7.59; H, 2.52; N, 8.66. ¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 2.55 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 47.8 (s, CH₂). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3275-3198 (br, $v(N-H)$, 1566 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Dichloro(cis-R,S-1,2-diaminocyclohexane)platinum(II). [Pt(cis-R,S-dach)Cl₂].

An excess of cis-R,S-1,2-diaminocyclohexane (0.826 g, 7.233 mmol) was added to an aqueous solution of K₂[PtCl₄] (0.5 g, 1.21 mmol). Precipitation of the desired [Pt(cis-R,S-dach)Cl₂] occurred on standing at room temperature. This precipitate was collected every 2-3 minutes to prevent any further reaction with the free ligand. As the reaction progressed the time interval between collections was increased to 12-15 minutes. Collection was continued until the solution was clear and the product ceased to separate. The combined precipitates were then washed with water, ethanol, ether and suction dried for 15 minutes to give fine cream coloured needles.

Yield: 250 mg (57%)

Anal. Calcd for C₆H₁₄N₂PtCl₂ (380): C, 18.95; H, 3.68; N, 7.37. Found: C, 18.74; H, 3.67; N, 7.21. ¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 2.9, 2.57 (2 x s, 2 x (H¹ + H²)), 1.77, 1.66 (2 x s, 2 x (H³ + H⁶)), 1.30, 1.14 (2 x s, 2 x (H⁴ + H⁵)). ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 58.18, 57.84 (2 x s, 2 x α -CH), 58.97, 57.26 (2 x s, 2 x β-CH), 25.77, 25.64 (2 x s, 2 x (γ-CH₂ + ζ-CH₂)), 21.14, 19.77 (2 x s, 2 x $(8-CH, + \varepsilon-CH)$). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3250-3180 (br, v(N-H)), 1566 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Dichloro(trans-R,R-1,2-diaminocyclohexane)platinum(II). [Pt(trans-R,R-dach)Cl2].

Trans-R,R-1,2-diaminocyclohexane (0.275 g, 2.41 mmol) dissolved in water (15 mL) was added dropwise to an aqueous solution of $K_2[PtCl_4]$ (1.0 g, 2.41 mmol). After 1 hour, the yellow solid that had precipitated out of solution was filtered, washed with water, ethanol, ether and air-dried.

Yield: 518 mg (57%)

Anal. Calcd for C₆H₁₄N₂PtCl₂ (380): C, 18.95; H, 3.68; N, 7.37. Found: C, 18.90; H, 3.64; N, 7.48. ¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): $\delta = 2.11$ (m, $H^1 + H^2$), 1.83 (m, $H^{3eq} + H^{6eq}$), 1.42 (m, $H^{3ax} + H^{6ax}$), 1.20 (m, H^{4eq} + H^{5eq}), 0.94 (m, H^{4ax} + H^{5ax}). ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 62.8 (s, α -CH + β -CH), 31.5 (s, γ -CH₂ + ζ -CH₂), 24.3 (s, δ -CH₂ + ϵ -CH₂). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3254-3174 (br, ν (N-H)), 1564 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Dichloro(trans-S,S-1,2-diaminocyclohexane)platinum(II). [Pt(trans-S,S-dach)Cl2].

Pt(trans-S,S-dach)Cl₂] was synthesised in a manner identical to that described for [Pt(trans-R,Rdach)Cl₂], using 0.275 g (2.41 mmol) of trans-S,S-1,2-diaminocyclohexane and 1.0 g (2.41 mmol) of $K_2[PtCl_4]$.

Yield: 370 mg (40%)

Anal. Calcd for C₆H₁₄N₂PtCl₂ (380): C, 18.95; H, 3.68; N, 7.37. Found: C, 18.76; H, 3.80; N, 7.36. ¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): $\delta = 2.11$ (m, $H^1 + H^2$), 1.83 (m, $H^{3eq} + H^{6eq}$), 1.42 (m, $H^{3ax} + H^{6ax}$), 1.20 (m, H^{4eq} + H^{5eq}), 0.94 (m, H^{4ax} + H^{5ax}). ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 62.8 (s, α-CH + β-CH), 31.5 (s, γ -CH₂ + ζ -CH₂), 24.3 (s, δ -CH₂ + ϵ -CH₂). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3254-3174 (br, ν (N-H)), 1564 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Dichloro(3,4-diaminobenzoic acid)platinum(II). [Pt(dbn)Cl2]

An aqueous solution (10 mL) of K₂[PtCl₄] (500 mg, 1.21 mmol) in was allowed to react with potassium iodide (1.63 g, 9.84 mmol) for 15 minutes at 25°C to yield K2[PtI₄]. 3,4-Diaminobenzoic acid (184 mg, 1.21 mmol) was added and the dark brown [Pt(dbn)I₂] was collected after 24 hours.

The [Pt(dbn)I₂] (652 mg, 1.09 mmol) was suspended in water (25 mL) and added to a solution of silver nitrate (327 mg, 2.2 mmol) in water (25 mL). The mixture was protected from light and heated on a water bath at 60°C for 10-15 minutes. The solution was taken off the water bath and stirred for an additional 24 hours. Insoluble AgI was filtered off and the filtrate was treated with an 10% excess of potassium chloride (relative to $[Pt(dbn)(H_2O)_2](NO_3)_2)$. The solution was heated on a water bath for 15 minutes. The mixture was cooled in an ice-bath for 24 hours, and then evaporated to about 2 mL in a vacuum desiccator over P_2O_5 . The dark precipitate was filtered and air-dried.

Yield: 160 mg (35% relative to [Pt(dbn)I₂])

Anal. Calcd for C₇H₈N₂O₂PtCl₂ (418): C, 20.10; H, 1.91; N, 6.70. Found: C, 20.14; H, 1.98; N, 6.63. ¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 7.26 (d, J₂₃ = 7.9 Hz, H³), 7.74 (s, H¹), 7.83 (d, H²). ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 126.3 (s, ε-CH), 127.0 (s, γ-CH), 128.2 (s, ε-CH), 130.0 (s, δ-C), 143.9 (s, β -C), 148.0 (s, α -C), 166.0 (s, COOH). ESI-MS: m/e = 417 (100%, C₇H₇N₂O₂PtCl₂), 382 (14, C₇H₇N₂O₂PtCl). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3318-3074 (br, v(N-H)), 1625 (s, C=O).

Dichloro(o-nitro-phenylenediamine)platinum(II). [Pt(o-nitro-phen)Cl₂]

K₂PtCl₄ (415 mg, 1 mmol) was dissolved in a 1:1 mixture of DMF/H₂O (200 mL) and a suspension of o-nitro-phenylenediamine (153 mg, 1 mmol) in DMF/H₂O (200 mL) was added. The mixture was protected from light and stirred at room temperature for 3 days. After this period, the brown precipitate that formed was removed by filtration and air-dried.

Yield: 59 mg (12%)

Anal. Calcd for C₆H₇N₃O₂PtCl₂ .HCON(CH₃)₂ (492): C, 21.95; H, 2.85; N, 11.38. Found: C, 22.38; H, 2.68; N, 11.95. ¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 7.39 (d, J₂₃ = 13.2 Hz, H³), 7.88 (d, J₁₂ = 3.6 Hz, H¹), 8.08 (q, H²). ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO, ppm): δ = 112.5 (s, γ -CH), 117.9 (s, ε -CH), 122.8 (s, ζ -CH), 146.2 (s, β -C), 148.1 (s, δ -C), 150.3 (s, α -C). ESI-MS: m/e = 418 (100%, $C_6H_6N_3O_2PtCl_2$), 382 (14, $C_6H_6N_3O_2PtCl$), 301 (6, $C_6H_6N_2PtCl$). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3391-3329 (br, $v(N-H)$, 1607 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$), 1515 (s, $v_{as}(NO)$), 1333 (s, $v_s(NO)$).

Results and Discussion

DICHLORO(ETHYLENEDIAMINE)PLATIMUN(II) COMPLEXES 3.5

Synthetic Strategies

[Pt(en)Cl₂] was prepared and described as early as 1950 by Basolo, Bailar and Tarr²¹ who synthesised the compound by slow addition of a 5% solution of ethylenediamine to a cold aqueous solution of potassium tetrachloroplatinate. This method is very time-consuming and only produces yields of up to 45-55%. Contrary to some published opinion,²² the product obtained is of high purity, provided the precipitated [Pt(en)Cl₂] is filtered at short intervals to prevent any further reaction.

In an alternative approach, Johnson²² has produced [Pt(en)Cl₂] in yields of up to 68%. The preparation involves the liberation of free ethylenediamine from its dihydrochloride by the The ligand then reacts with tetrachloroplatinate(II) to give addition of sodium hydroxide. [Pt(en)Cl₂] and the chief by-product of the reaction, [Pt(en)₂][PtCl₄] (Magnus salt). The author then describes the purification of the crude [Pt(en)Cl₂] by recrystallisation in liquid ammonia. However, purification in liquid ammonia proved problematic for ammonia could exchange with the chloro ligands during evaporation of the solvent to produce a bisammine species (namely The ammonia recrystallisation step was eliminated from subsequent $[Pt(en)(NH_3)_2]^{2+}$). preparations using this method. Microanalysis results of the yellow product gained from the modified preparation were within the acceptable limits.

In a later paper,²³ the authors suggest that the formation of a Magnus salt by-product could be completely avoided by controlling the chloride ion concentration. By a modification of the preparation for the synthesis of [Pt(NH₃)₂Cl₂], the equivalent en complex can be prepared according to the following reaction sequence.

$$
K_2[PtCl_4] + 4KI + en \longrightarrow [Pt(en)I_2] + 2KI + 4KCl
$$

$$
[Pt(en)I_2] + 2AgNO_3 \xrightarrow{H_2O} [Pt(en)(H_2O)_2](NO_3)_2 + 2AgI
$$

$$
[Pt(en)(H_2O)_2](NO_3)_2 + 2KCl \longrightarrow [Pt(en)Cl_2] + 2KNO_3 + 2H_2O
$$

This preparation only produces [Pt(en)Cl₂] in yields of up to 20%. Together with the fact that this approach requires a large number of steps compared to the other experimental procedures, this method is not considered as a viable method for the synthesis of large amounts of $[Pt(en)Cl₂].$

Synthetic Method ^a	Yield (%)	Microanalytical Results b			
		Carbon	Hydrogen	Nitrogen	
Method A	53	7.43	2.49	8.53	
Method B	68	7.27	2.41	8.63	
Method C	22	7.30	2.33	8.52	
Method D^c	22	7.46	2.41	8.36	
	36	7.29	2.43	8.11	

Table 3.1: Yields and Microanalytical results for [Pt(en)Cl₂]

^a Synthetic methods A, B, C and D: refer to experimental section

^b Calculated Values: C, 7.37; H, 2.47; N, 8.59.

^c Two crops of product were obtained from this method.

Finally the method of Coluccia, Giordano, Loseto, Intini, Maresca and Natile²⁴ was used to Unlike the previous synthetic methods, the starting material is prepare $[Pt(en)Cl₂].$ $[Pt(DMSO)_2Cl_2]$ not $K_2[PtCl_4]$. The procedure is based on two key steps; an initial reaction between [Pt(DMSO)₂Cl₂] and en to give [Pt(DMSO)(en)Cl]. Secondly the intermediate species undergoes thermal decomposition with lithium chloride producing the desired product in yields of up to a total of 58%. Despite this reasonably high yield, the second precipitate needed recrystallising twice to reach a suitable level of purity.

The purity of the products gained by each of the different methods cannot be measured solely by the microanalytical results. This is because the [Pt(en)₂][PtCl₄] salt will analyse the same as However, a major physical difference between the two compounds is their $[Pt(en)Cl₂].$ colouration. [Pt(en)₂][PtCl₄] salts are violet in colour indicating some cation-anion electronic interactions²⁵ whilst [Pt(en)Cl₂] is yellow. Since no violet coloured contaminant was visable in any of the products the microanalytical results listed in Table 3.1 can be regarded as [Pt(en)Cl₂]. In addition, conductivity measurements were performed in order to verify the neutrality of the compounds. Molar conductivities were recorded for 1mM aqueous solutions of the products immediately after the solutions were prepared. All products were found to have molar conductivities ranging from 18-21 cm⁻¹ mol⁻¹ Ω ¹. These results fall well below the 118-131 cm⁻¹ mol⁻¹ Ω ⁻¹ range expected for a 1:1 electrolyte.²⁶ Thus, the products are neutral in solution. The NMR and IR spectra of all the products are also in accord with the formation of the desired [Pt(en)Cl₂] complexes. These spectral studies are discussed below.

Overall, the simple one-step method of Basolo et al. and the alternative method of Johnson were recognised as the most effective methods for the formation of analytically pure [Pt(en)Cl₂]. Yields and the microanalytical results for each of the methods evaluated are summarised in Table $3.1.$

Spectral Studies

All methods produced the desired [Pt(en)Cl₂] complex. Characterisation by infrared was very simple, for ethylenediamine complexes have strong absorptions in the region of 3300-3100 cm⁻¹, which can be assigned to the N-H stretching vibrations (v(N-H)). This occured at a lower frequency than the corresponding vibrations in the free ligand and is consistent with the formation of the platinum-nitrogen bond. These N-H vibrations are relatively sharp and rather complex in terms of splitting. Instead of displaying the two bands expected from asymmetrical and symmetrical stretching in the amine groups, the infrared showed three peaks with an additional shoulder on the low frequency side (Diagram 3.7). The presence of the third band may be influenced by intramolecular hydrogen bonding, whilst the shoulder arises from Fermi interactions between the stretching modes and the overtones of the N-H bending modes (δ_s (N-H)).²⁷ The N-H bending (scissoring) vibrations were observed in the 1570-1550 cm⁻¹ region of the spectra. IR data is summarised in Table 3.2.

Since [Pt(en)Cl₂] is only sparingly soluble in water, the NMR spectra of the ethylenediamine platinum(II) complexes were obtained in d₆-DMSO. The NMR spectra were also straightforward in that there is the usual single resonance around 2.56 ppm in the ¹H NMR and at 47.6 ppm in the ¹³C NMR, due to the equivalent methine protons.

Diagram 3.7: IR spectrum of $[Pt(en)Cl₂]$ as a nujol mull.

DICHLORO(DIAMINOCYCLOHEXANE)PLATINUM(II) COMPLEXES 3.6

NMR Data

Examination of the ¹³C NMR spectrum of $Pt($ is-R,S-dach)Cl₂ shows that the number of ¹³C resonances observed is twice that expected for a single dach complex. This indicates the coexistence of two conformers. When the same reaction is carried out with trans-R,R-dach or trans-S,S-dach, the ¹³C NMR spectra disclose that only one conformer is present. This result is consistent with the fact that the five-membered chelate ring in the R,S-configured dach complex can adopt λ or δ conformations, which can easily interconvert. A schematic drawing of these conformations is depicted in Diagram 3.8. This structural property sharply contrasts with that of the enantiomeric pair Pt(trans-R,R-dach)Cl₂ and Pt(trans-S,S-dach)Cl₂, where the dach, on complexation, yields rigid structures that do not allow facile interconversion between λ and δ conformations. Instead the trans-R,R and trans-S,S-configured chelates exist exclusively in the energetically favoured λ and δ conformations, respectively.

Diagram 3.8: The λ and δ conformations of trans-dach complexes.

The ¹H NMR of Pt(trans-R,R-dach)Cl₂ and Pt(trans-S,S-dach)Cl₂ were essentially the same, each giving five broad peaks corresponding to the ten protons of the cyclohexane ring. This similarity was to be expected, for Pt(trans-R,R-dach)Cl₂ and Pt(trans-S,S-dach)Cl₂ are optical isomers and the NMR technique cannot discriminate between the isomers. Table 3.3 shows the chemical shift data for the Pt(trans-R,R/S,S-dach)Cl₂ compounds. The H¹ and H² protons of the dach ring are equivalent because both the isomers have a C_2 axis through the platinum and the middle of the two-chloro groups. Furthermore, the presence of the fixed cyclohexane and chelate rings means that the axial and equatorial protons of the cyclohexane ring are non-equivalent, thus displaying different chemical shifts.

In the spectrum of Pt(cis-R,S-dach)Cl₂, six broad resonance peaks are observed, three of which are at a considerably lower intensity. Like the ¹³C NMR spectrum, the ¹H NMR spectrum of Pt(cis -R,S-dach)Cl₂ is expected to display resonances due to both to λ and δ conformations. Inversion between the two λ and δ conformations alone does not result in the observed resonances. It is most likely that the observed peaks are the result of the inversion of the 5membered chelate ring $(\lambda$ and $\delta)$ coupled to the inversion of the cyclohexane ring into a chair or Structures of the four possible conformations are shown in Diagram boat-type arrangement. 3.9.

 $5\frac{6}{1}$ NH₂ Pt CI

Table 3.3: ¹H and ¹³C NMR data for the dach complexes.²

^a Values in ppm. ^b Refer to Diagram 3.6 for schematic structures of 1a, 1b, 2a and 2b.

^c Refers to [Pt(trans-R,R-dach)Cl2] and [Pt(trans-S,S-dach)Cl2]

It is unknown as to which peaks in the ¹H NMR spectrum correspond to which conformation. The spectrum does however, reveal that the three resonance peaks at 2.90, 1.77 and 1.31 ppm have half-height widths larger than the remaining peaks, suggesting that the rate of inversion between λ and δ conformations is relatively slow. Inspection of molecular models reveal that the structures containing a boat arrangement (2a and 2b) seem to be more sterically crowded compared to the other conformations. This is likely to slow the inversion rate and may lead to an increase of the half-height width of the cyclohexane ring protons. By contrast the conformations featuring the cyclohexane ring in a chair-type arrangement (1a and 1b) have no unfavourable interactions between the chelate ring and the H⁵ proton on the cyclohexane ring. Thus making them the more thermodynamically stable and in turn may lead to an increase in the rate of interconversion between λ and δ conformations. On the basis of this consideration, it is reasonable to assign the peaks at 2.90, 1.77 and 1.31 ppm to conformation 2a and/or 2b, thus the peaks at 2.57, 1.66, and 1.31 ppm are due to conformation 1a and/or 1b. Further support for the existence of two distereomers comes from the appearance of four NH₂ resonances at 6.23, 5.66, 5.30 and 4.90 ppm in the spectrum of Pt(cis-R,S-dach)Cl₂. In contrast, the spectra of Pt(trans-R,Rdach)Cl₂ and Pt(trans-S,S-dach)Cl₂ show only two peaks due to the NH₂ groups. Selected chemical shift data appear in Table 3.3. Coupling constants can be found in the Experimental Section under the individual complexes.

Diagram 3.9: Schematic drawings of the conformations of coordinated cis-dach.

Infrared Data

Infrared measurements made on the three distereomers show the characteristic bands around 3246 cm⁻¹ and 3182 cm⁻¹ assigned to asymmetric and symmetric N-H stretching vibrations respectively. The N-H bending vibrations of the products appear around 1566 cm⁻¹. This band is moved to slightly higher frequencies compared to the free ligand. The shoulder on the low frequency side of the N-H stretching band seems to be due to Fermi resonance with the overtone of band at 1566 cm⁻¹. Infrared data for the optically active and meso forms of the compounds is displayed in Table 3.2.
OTHER RELATED PLATINUM COMPLEXES 3.6

[Pt(dbn)Cl₂] and [Pt(o-nitro-phen)Cl₂] which are structurally related to the previously mentioned dach complexes were prepared and characterised by mass spectrometry and NMR spectral studies. Diagram 3.10 illustrates the nomenclature used to describe the individual protons and carbons in the two substituted benzenes.

[Pt(o-nitro-phen)Cl₂] was prepared by a simple reaction between K₂[PtCl₄] and o-nitrophenylenediamine. Surprisingly, attempted synthesis of [Pt(dbn)Cl₂] by a similar reaction with K₂[PtCl₄] was unsuccessful. Instead an adaptation of the Dhara method was used to give [Pt(dbn)Cl₂] in 35% yield.

NMR Spectral Studies

Coupling interactions among nuclei are transmitted via the spins of electrons in the intervening bonds. Four or five bond couplings are rare in saturated compounds but they do arise in π bonded systems such as aromatic rings.²⁸ This long range coupling is observed in the ¹H NMR spectra of 3,4-diaminobenzoic acid, o-nitro-phenylenediamine and its corresponding platinum complex.

Table 3.4: ¹H NMR data for [Pt(dbn)Cl₂] and [Pt(o-nitro-phen)Cl₂]

	Chemical Shifts (ppm)			Coupling Constants (Hz)		
Compound	H^1	H^2	H^3	3 \int_{23}	1_{12}	
dbn	7.13	-7.06	6.49	8.1	2.0	
[Pt(dbn)Cl ₂]	7 74	7.83	7.26	7.9		
o-nitro-phen	7.40	7.38	6.52	8.4	2.7	
$[Pt(o-nitro-phen)Cl2]$	7.88	8.08	739	13.2	3.6	

R=COOH for dbn R=NO₂ for o-nitro-phen

Diagram 3.10: Proton and carbon labelling scheme.

The ¹H NMR spectrum of o-nitro-phenylenediamine shows a doublet of doublets at 7.38 ppm due to H^2 and two doublets at 7.40 and 6.52 ppm due to H^1 and H^3 respectively. In addition, the signals for the amine protons are found at 6.0 and 5.0 ppm. The splitting patterns reveal a 4 J₁₂ coupling constant of 2.7 Hz, which was verified by simulation. In substituted benzenes, the meta coupling constant is listed as being between 2-3 Hz.²⁸ Thus a 4 J₁₂ coupling constant of 2.7 Hz lies within the characteristic range.

As expected the ¹H NMR of [Pt(o-nitro-phen)Cl₂] was similar to that of the free ligand. Assignments are given in Table 3.4. It should be pointed out that all three resonances have moved considerably downfield on complexation and the ${}^4J_{12}$ coupling constant is larger than 3 Hz.

In similar experiments with diaminobenzoic acid, the ¹H NMR shows a doublet of doublets at 7.06 ppm due to H^2 and two doublets at 7.13 and 6.49 ppm due to H^1 and H^3 respectively with a ⁴J₁₂ coupling constant of 2.0 Hz. Although, in principle, the long range coupling observed in the ¹H NMR of diaminobenzoic acid might be expected to occur in the NMR of [Pt(dbn)Cl₂], no measurable splitting was observed. This is probably due to line broadening of the proton signals. The absence of measurable long range coupling in the ¹H NMR spectrum of [Pt(dbn)Cl₂] simply reduces the spectrum to a singlet at 7.74 ppm due to H¹ and two doublets at 7.83 and 7.26 ppm due to H² and H³ respectively. The ¹H NMR chemical shifts of both [Pt(dbn)Cl₂] and its metal free ligand are summarised in Table 3.4. A comparison of the spectral data revealed downfield shifts of around 0.6-0.9 ppm when platinum coordination occurs.

[Pt(o-nitro-phen)Cl₂] and [Pt(dbn)Cl₂] were also characterised using ¹³C NMR spectroscopy. The ¹³C-assignments were straightforward and do not merit special comment. Details can be found in the Experimental Section.

Mass Spectra

The proposed structures were confirmed by ESI-mass spectroscopy. The mass spectrum of [Pt(o-nitro-phen)Cl₂] shows a molecular ion peak of $[C_6H_7N_3O_2PtCl_2 - H]^+$ at m/e=418 and a signal at $m/e = 382$ due to the loss of one chlorine. The spectrum also shows a very small signal at 6% base height at 301 probably due to the fragment $[M^+ - Cl_2NO_2]$.

The mass spectrum of [Pt(dbn)Cl₂] shows a molecular ion peak of $[C_7H_8N_2O_2PtCl_2 - H]^+$ at $m/e=417$ and a signal at $m/e=382$ due to the loss of one chlorine. All isotopic pattern clusters are in agreement with the calculated pattern (Refer to Experimental Section).

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AMMINE/DIAMINE PLATINUM(II) **COMPLEXES WITH AMINO ACIDS AS LEAVING GROUPS**

Introduction

Cisplatin and carboplatin are the most commonly used drugs in cancer chemotherapy. Their therapeutic efficacy, however, is limited by the emergence of drug resistance. Thus, one of the key selection criterion for the clinical development of a third generation platinum complex is based upon the ability of an agent to overcome cisplatin and/or carboplatin resistance.

As described in the previous chapter, it was the potential ability of platinum(1,2diaminocyclohexane)complexes to overcome cisplatin-resistance in tumour cells that led to their clinical development. With the exception of oxaliplatin and ormaplatin, many complexes incorporating the various forms of the dach ligand were impeded by low aqueous solubility and molecular instability. In an attempt to redress these problems, work is now directed toward the synthesis of a series of derivatives incorporating amino acids with the aim of improving both the anti-tumour and solubility properties of the original diamine complexes. This class of chelate complexes are mainly of the type [Pt(amac)(A)]Cl where amac represents one of the selected amino acids and A signifies a 1,2-dach ligand (cis-, trans-R,R- or trans-S,S-), ethylenediamine or two ammonia groups.

Experimental

4.1 **MATERIALS**

All reagents were purchased from Aldrich. The [Pt(amac-N,O)Cl₂] starting materials were prepared by reaction of the free amino acids with K₂[PtCl₄] in a 1:1 mole ratio as described earlier in Chapter 2.

MEASUREMENTS 4.2

The 75 MHz ¹³C and 300 MHz ¹H NMR spectra were run on a Varian Unity-Plus 300 spectrometer in D₂O using TMSP as internal reference. Typically, 20-30 mg of compound was dissolved in 1 mL of D₂O. Infrared data (4000-500 cm⁻¹) were obtained for nujol mulls between NaCl plates with a Biorad FTS-7 Fourier Transform spectrometer.

Elemental Analyses were performed by the Microchemical Unit, Australian National University, Canberra. ESI mass spectra were measured using a VG-Quattro mass spectrometer at the University of Wollongong (Department of Chemistry).

4.3 **NOMENCLATURE**

A modified version of the nomenclature used to describe the amino acid and dach protons in Chapters 2 and 3 has been adopted. Since the new compounds contain each of these groups, it is necessary to use a system that differentiates between the protons in the amino acid from the protons in the dach component. An example of this system is illustrated below.

Diagram 4.1: Nomenclature used to describe the protons of the amino acid and dach components.

SYNTHESIS OF PLATINUM COMPLEXES 4.4

Bis(ammine)(L-aspartic acid)platinum(II) chloride. [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃₎₂]Cl.

Ammonia solution (4 mL, 28%) was added to a heated, stirrred suspension of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] (437 mg, 1 mmol) in water (1 mL). After 10 minutes, the solution lost its initial yellow colour. Evaporation to dryness yielded a colourless, glassy solid. Trituration under acetone produced a white solid. This solid was quickly collected and immediately placed in a desiccator over P_2O_5 due to its hygroscopic nature.

Yield: 0.274 g (69%).

¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.97 (br s, 6H, NH₃), 3.56 (m, 1H, H¹), 2.63, 2.40 (m, J₁₂ = 9.0 Hz, J_{13} = 9.6 Hz and J_{23} = 17.2 Hz, 2H, H², H³). ESI-MS: m/e = 361 (30%, M⁺), 344 (18, $C_4H_{11}N_3O_3Pt$, 245 (44, H_8N_3Pt). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3500-3250 (br, vOH and v(N-H)), 1717, 1615 $(2 \times s, C=O), 1574 (s, \delta_s(N-H)).$

Bis(ammine)(L-serine)platinum(II) chloride. [Pt(L-serine)(NH₃)₂]Cl.

This complex was prepared from [Pt(L-serine)Cl₂]⁻ (100 mg, 0.3 mmol), and an excess of ammonia solution by the general method described for [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂]Cl. In some cases, trituration under acetone was not required as evaporation to dryness produced a white powder.

Yield: 64 mg (58%)

¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.49 (q, 1H, H¹), 3.88, 4.09 (2 x m, J₁₂ = J₁₃ = 6.0 Hz and J₂₃ = 12.0 Hz, 2H, H², H³). ESI-MS: m/e = 333 (30%, M⁺), 316 (25, C₃H₁₁N₃O₂Pt), 261 (18, H₈N₃OPt), 245 (18, H₈N₃Pt). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3507-3270 (br, vOH and v(N-H)), 1644 (s, C=O), 1598 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Bis(ammine)(L-glutamic acid)platinum(II) chloride. [Pt(L-glu-N,O)(NH₃)₂]Cl.

Ammonia solution (3 mL, 28%) was added to a heated, stirrred suspension of [Pt(L-glu-N,O)Cl₂] (226 mg, 0.5 mmol) in water (1 mL). After 10 minutes, the solution lost its initial yellow colour. Evaporation to dryness yielded a colourless, glassy solid. Trituration under acetone produced a white solid. This solid was quickly collected and dried (P_2O_5) .

Yield: $110 \text{ mg } (54\%)$.

¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.93 (br s, 6H, NH₃), 3.25 (m, 1H, H¹), 2.31, 2.32 (2 x m, J₁₂ = J₁₃ = 7.5 Hz and $J_{23} = 13.5$ Hz, 2H, H², H³) 1.95, 1.83 (2 x m, $J_{24} = J_{35} = 7.4$ Hz, $J_{25} = J_{34} = 7.5$ Hz and J_{45} = 13.5 Hz, 2H, H⁴, H⁵). ESI-MS: m/e = 375 (40%, M⁺), 358 (18, C₅H₁₃N₃O₃Pt), 245 (44, H₈N₃Pt). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3500-3250 (br, vOH and v(N-H)), 1716, 1615 (2 x s, C=O), 1578 (s, $\delta_{\rm s}(N-H)$).

Bis(ammine)(L-lysine)platinum(II) chloride. [Pt(L-lysine)(NH₃)₂]Cl.

This complex was prepared by mixing [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂] (220 mg, 0.53 mmol) with ammonia solution (5 mL, 28%). The mixture was evaporated to dryness and triturated under acetone. The white solid was filtered and placed in a desiccator.

Yield: 0.176 g (80%)

¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.37(q, 1H, H¹), 1.77, 1.91 (2 x m, J₁₂ = 5.1 Hz, J₁₃ = 8.1 Hz and J₂₃ = 19.0 Hz, 2H, H², H³), 1.44, 1.43 (2 x m, $J_{24} = J_{25} = J_{34} = J_{35} = 7.8$ Hz and $J_{45} = 15.6$ Hz, 2H, H⁴, H⁵), 1.69, 1.74 (2 x m, $J_{46} = J_{47} = J_{56} = J_{57} = 7.8$ Hz and $J_{67} = 15.5$ Hz, 2H, H⁶, H⁷), 2.98, 3.03 (2 x m, $J_{68} = J_{69} = J_{78} = J_{79} = 7.0$ Hz and $J_{45} = 15.5$ Hz, 2H, H^8 , H^9). ESI-MS: m/e = 374 (20%, M⁺), 357 (13, C₆H₁₆N₃O₂Pt), 340 (21, C₆H₁₃N₂O₂Pt), 323 (8, C₆H₁₂NO₂Pt), 58 (100, fragmentation of lysine). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3245-3000 (br, v(N-H)), 1649 (s, C=O), 1592 (s, δ_s (N-H)).

(L-Aspartic acid)(ethylenediamine)platinum(II) chloride. [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(en)]Cl.

Method 1.

An aqueous solution containing [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] (437 mg, 1 mmol) and ethylenediamine (60 mg, 1 mmol) was heated gently on a water bath for approximately 40 minutes. The completion of the reaction was indicated by the loss of yellow colour. Addition of excess ethanol to the solution yielded a white solid. This solid was filtered, washed with acetone and dried.

Yield: $20 \text{ mg } (13\%)$.

Anal. Calcd for C₆H₁₄N₃O₄PtCl (423): C, 17.05; H, 3.34; N, 9.94. Found: C, 16.81; H, 3.35; N, 9.78. ¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.93 (q, 1H, H¹), 2.84, 2.92 (2 x m, J₁₂ = 4.8 Hz, J₁₃ = 5.7 Hz and J_{23} = 18.0 Hz, 2H, H², H³), 2.61 (s, 4H, CH_{2(cn)}). ESI-MS: m/e = 387 (100%, M⁺). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3420 (br, OH), 3106 (br, v(N-H)), 1635 (C=O), 1583 (br, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Method 2.

An aqueous solution containing [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] (437 mg, 1 mmol) and ethylenediamine dihydrochloride (133 mg, 1 mmol) was brought to the boil on a water bath. After 15 minutes, NaOH (1M) was added to increase the pH to 6, and the solution was heated gently at 50°C. The pH was continually adjusted until the pH value became constant, signifying the end of the reaction. This reaction required 4 mL NaOH and took about 45 minutes. The completion of the reaction was also indicated by the loss of yellow colour. The reaction mixture was cooled, filtered and evaporated to dryness.

Yield: 0.327 g (77%).

Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₂₆N₆O₈Pt₂ (772): C, 18.65; H, 3.37; N, 10.88. Found: C, 18.39; H, 3.36; N, 10.72. ¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.77 (q, 1H, H¹), 3.90 (q, 1H, H¹), 2.61, 2.70 (2 x m, J₁₂ = 3.9 Hz, $J_{13} = 6.3$ Hz and $J_{23} = 17.0$ Hz, 2H, H², H³), 2.63, 2.72 (2 x m, $J_{12} = 3.9$ Hz, $J_{13} = 6.3$ Hz and J_{23} = 17.0 Hz, 2H, H²', H^{3'}), 2.61 (s, 4H, CH_{2(en)}), 2.67 (s, 4H, CH_{2(en'}). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 48.9 (s, CH_{2(en'}), 49.8 (s, CH_{2(en)}), 50.4 (s, β -CH₂'), 51.2 (s, β -CH₂), 56.9 (s, α -CH + α -CH'), 57.2 (s, CH_{2(en'}), 188.6, 187.8, 187.1, 185.0 (4 x s, COO). ESI-MS: m/e = 387 (100%, C₆H₁₄N₃O₄Pt), 773 (2.5, M⁺ + 1). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3209-3106 (br, v(N-H)), 1639 (C=O), 1573 (br, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

(Ethylenediamine)(L-serine)platinum(II) chloride. [Pt(L-serine)(en)]Cl.

This compound was prepared by the a procedure similar to that of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(en)]Cl. The reactant concentrations were [Pt(L-serine)Cl₂] (100 mg, 0.24 mmol) and ethylenediamine dihydrochloride (32 mg, 0.24 mmol). About 1.5 mL of NaOH (1M) was added over a period of 1 hour.

Yield: 0.76 g (80%)

Anal. Calcd for C₅H₁₄N₃O₃PtCl (395): C, 15.21; H, 3.55; N, 10.65. Found: C, 15.42; H, 3.72; N, 10.55. ¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.84 (q, 1H, H¹), 3.94, 4.00 (2 x m, J₁₂ = 4.2 Hz, J₁₃ = 5.1 Hz and $J_{23} = 12.0$ Hz, 2H, H², H³). ESI-MS: m/e = 360 (30%, M⁺), 314 (100, C₃H₉N₃O₂Pt), 255 (40, C₂H₈N₂Pt). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3507-3340 (br, vOH) 3251-3110 (br, v(N-H)), 1645 (s, C=O), 1584 $(s, \delta_s(N-H)).$

(L-Aspartic acid)(trans-R,R-diaminocyclohexane)platinum(II). [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(trans-R,R-dach)].

trans-R,R-Diaminocyclohexane (79.3 mg, 0.63 mmol) was added to an aqueous solution of [Pt(Lasp-N,O)Cl₂] (275 mg, 0.63 mmol) in water. The combined solution was heated on a water bath until the solution became colourless. The solution was placed in a refrigerator for 24 hours and then evaporated to dryness. The residual solid was washed with cold water and dried (silica gel).

Yield: 129 mg (43%).

Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₉N₃O₄Pt.0.5H₂O (450): C, 26.72; H, 4.23; N, 9.35. Found: C, 26.71; H, 4.28; N, 8.98. ¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.66 (q, 1H, H¹), 2.53, 2.62 (2 x m, J₁₂ = 3.9 Hz, J₁₃ = 6.3 Hz and J_{23} = 17.0 Hz, 2H, H², H³), 2.54 (m, 2H, H^{d1} + H^{d2}), 1.93 (m, 2H, H^{d3eq} + H^{d6eq}), 1.45 (m, 2H, H^{d3ax} + H^{d6ax}), 1.15 (m, 2H, H^{d4cq} + H^{d5cq}), 1.02 (m, 2H, H^{d4ax} + H^{d5ax}). IR (Nujol, cm^{-l}): 3558-3110 (br, vOH), 3209-3048 (br, v(N-H)), 1654, 1630 (2 x s, C=O), 1546 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

(L-Aspartic acid)(cis-R,S-1,2-diaminocyclohexane)platinum(II). $[Pt(L-asp-N,O)(cis-R,S-dach)].$

cis-R,S-1,2-Diaminocyclohexane (79.3 mg, 0.63 mmol) was added to an aqueous solution of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂]⁻ (275 mg, 0.63 mmol) in water. The solution was heated on a water bath until it became colourless. The solution was placed in a refrigerator for 48 hours. The white solid that precipitated was filtered, washed with cold water and dried (silica gel). Occasionally, evaporation was required to isolate the white product.

Yield: 211 mg (83%).

Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₉N₃O₄Pt.H₂O (458): C, 26.20; H, 4.58; N, 9.16. Found: C, 26.40; H, 4.38; N, 8.99. ¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.89 (q, 1H, H¹), 2.87 (m, 2H, H^{d1} + H^{d2}), 2.67, 2.84 (2 x m, J_{12} = 3.6 Hz, J_{13} = 5.4 Hz and J_{23} = 14.1 Hz, 2H, H², H³), 1.68 (m, 4H, H^{d3eq} + H^{d6eq} + H^{d3eq} + H^{d6eq} , 1.44 (m, 2H, H^{d4eq} + H^{d5eq}), 1.32 (m, 2H, H^{d4ax} + H^{d5ax}). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3558-3109 (br, vOH), 3249-3108 (br, v(N-H)), 1668, 1613 (2 x s, C=O), 1568 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Results and Discussion

BIS(AMMINE) COMPLEXES 4.5

A series of bis(ammine) derivatives were prepared using a standard method.^{1,2} The procedure was found by repetition to give variable yields which were sometimes low. It involved heating an aqueous solution of [Pt(amac-N,O)Cl₂] and ammonia at 50-60°C for 10-15 minutes. Displacement of the two-chloro groups was indicated by the loss of yellow colour. Evaporation of the aqueous solutions always yielded 'glasses', which by trituration under acetone were converted into fine powders. These powders were very hygroscopic and tended to lose ammonia on heating or long standing in solution to reform the respective [Pt(amac-N,O)Cl2] starting material. These factors made characterisation in the solid state (i.e microanalysis) very difficult. However, ¹H NMR and mass spectra of solutions of these solids are consistent with the presence of $[Pt(amac-N,O)(NH₃)₂]⁺$.

Spectral Data

Because of the relatively long time required to obtain suitable ¹³C NMR spectra, and the instability of the bis(ammine) complexes in solution, it was not practicable to obtain ¹³C NMR spectra for this series of complexes. However, with the much shorter time required to obtain a ¹H NMR spectrum, it was possible to get well-resolved proton spectra for the series. These spectra provide sufficient structural information concerning the formation of bis(ammines). The formation of bis(ammine) derivatives is manifested in the ¹H NMR spectra both by the slight changes in chemical shifts (as compared to the dichloro complexes) and by the appearance of a very broad signal around 3.9 ppm in freshly prepared solutions due to the coordinated ammine ligands. This ammine peak is lost through deuterium exchange on standing in D₂O solutions.

The NMR spectra of the bis(ammine) derivatives resemble those of their dichloro counterparts with respect to splitting patterns and require no detailed description. Diagnostic ¹H NMR data for the bis(ammine) series are summarized in Tables 4.1 and 4.2. When compared to data on the dichloro complexes (cf. Table 2.4), all signals have shifted upfield upon exchange of the labile chloro ligands with ammonia.

Table 4.2: ¹H NMR chemical shifts.^a

^a Chemical Shifts in ppm, spectra run in D₂O referenced to TMSP. ^b The spectra of [Pt(L-serine)(NH₃)₂]Cl and [Pt(L-lysine)(NH₃)₂]Cl were recorded after the NH₃ protons had exchanged with deuterium in order to observe other resonances.

Table 4.3: ¹H NMR coupling constants.²

^a Coupling constants in Hz, recorded at 300 MHz.

ETHYLENEDIAMINE COMPLEXES 4.6

The two synthetic routes adopted for the preparation of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(en)]Cl were based on similar procedures used for the synthesis of [Pt(en)Cl₂].^{3,4} In these cases the K₂[PtCl₄] starting material was replaced by [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] and the products were isolated either by addition of ethanol or by evaporation.

The ¹H NMR spectrum of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(en)]Cl prepared from ethylenediamine, [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl2] and precipitated with ethanol (method 1) is very straightforward. It displays the expected eight-line portion assignable to the methylene protons of the aspartic acid ligand in the 2.58-2.78 ppm region, along with a quartet downfield at 3.74 ppm due to the methine protons of aspartic acid. These methylene and methine resonances have shifted upfield as compared to the dichloro complex. The presence of coordinated ethylendiamine was readily apparent by the appearance of a strong singlet at 2.61 ppm. ¹H NMR data on this compound have been included in Tables 4.1 and 4.2.

From the reaction of ethylenediamine dihydrochloride with [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl2] and sodium hydroxide to generate free ethylendiamine (method 2), a mixture of two slightly spectroscopically different species was detected. The ¹H NMR spectrum shows two methine peaks in the downfield region and two strong singlets attributable to the methylene protons of coordinated ethylenediamine. A series of other peaks, which are obviously the superposition of two or more methylene resonances from the aspartic acid components, are also evident. In the ¹³C NMR, four distinct carbonyl resonances at 188.6, 187.8, 187.1 and 185 ppm were observed. As previously mentioned in Chapter 2, aspartic acid belongs to a class of compounds that are capable of binding to the metal in three different ways; O,O-, N, β O- and N, α O-chelation. Under the conditions used in method 2 (i.e. pH 6) and despite the preference platinum has for nitrogens, it is concievable that the coordinated aspartic acid has become bound to a second platinum atom via the terminal carboxyl to produce a bis(platinum) complex. The proposed structure along with the ¹H NMR chemical shift data are shown in Diagram 4.2. The fact that the signals for the carbonyl carbons showed high field shifts are strong evidence for the bis(platinum) structure shown in Diagram 4.2. The microanalysis and mass spectrum (with its molecular ion at m/e 773) are in complete harmony with the proposed structure.

Diagram 4.2: Proposed structure for the product prepared by method 2.

The infrared spectrum for the N, α O-chelate (method 1) and the proposed bis(platinum) species (method 2) is shown in Diagram 4.3. Comparison of the two spectra show that the bands of the N,aO-chelate are relatively strong and clear whereas those of the bis(platinum) species are blunt

Despite this difference, both spectra show the characteristic band near and unresolved. 1630 cm⁻¹ assigned to the asymmetric stretching frequencies of the carboxyl group. The bands at 1573 and 1583 cm⁻¹ seem to be the N-H bending vibrations of the amines.

The ¹H NMR of [Pt(L-serine)(en)]Cl also consists of an eight-line pattern due to the nonequivalent methylene protons in the 3.9-4.0 ppm region, a methine quartet at 3.8 ppm and a very strong singlet at 3.2 ppm due to the methylene protons of ethylenediamine. Chemical shifts and coupling constants are listed in Tables 4.1 and 4.2. All other data are consistent with the proposed structure and can be found in the Experimental Section.

Diagram 4.3: Infrared spectra of the proposed bis(platinum) species (a) and the $N,\alpha O$ -chelate [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(en)]Cl (b).

DIAMINOCYCLOHEXANE COMPLEXES 4.7

For the synthesis of the diaminocyclohexane platinum complexes, [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(trans-R,Rdach)] and [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(cis-R,S-dach)], 1:1 mixtures of the appropriate dach ligand and [Pt(Lasp-N,O)Cl₂] were heated until the intense yellow colour of the solutions faded. The platinum complexes either precipitated out of solution (e.g [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(cis-R,S-dach)]) or were isolated by evaporation (e.g [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(trans-R,R-dach)]). The structures of the complexes were mainly deduced from the ¹H NMR and infrared spectra, and microanalytical data.

Infrared Data.

The infrared spectra of both complexes are dominated by strong $v(N-H)$ stretching bands between 3250-3040 cm⁻¹. Uncoordinated carboxyl groups usually show a strong infrared peak above 1700 cm^{-1.5} No such peak was seen in the infrared of either of the complexes. However two strong bands at 1654 and 1630 cm⁻¹ for [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(trans-R,R-dach)] and at 1668 and 1613 cm⁻¹ for [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(cis-R,S-dach)] were observed. These bands are consistent with a coordinated carboxylate motion and a free ionised carboxylate.⁵ This is supported by the microanalysis which also suggest that the complexes have a deprotonated terminal carboxylate group.

¹H NMR Data

The most revealing structural information of the reaction of dach with [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂] was gained from the ¹H NMR spectra. The assignments for resonances were made based on the integrated intensity of the resonances and by analogy to spectra in Chapters 2 and 3.

The ¹H NMR spectrum of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(trans-R,R-dach)] shows eight main peaks. Of these, the methine proton of the aspartic acid ligand is found at 3.66 ppm, while the methylene protons diplay a typical ABX-type splitting pattern in which the H^2 protons lie at 2.53 ppm and the H^3 protons at 2.62 ppm. The trans-R,R-dach component shows a series of complicated multiplets in the 1.03-1.93 ppm region integrated for eight protons, and an additional peak at 2.54 ppm integrated for two protons. A summary of the ¹H NMR data for [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(trans-R,R-dach)] is presented in Table 4.4.

Protons	$Pt(L-asp-N,O)$ - (trans-R,R-dach)]	$[Pt(L-asp-N,O)-$ $(cis-R,S-dach)]$
Dach $H^{d1} + H^{d2}$ $H^{d3eq} + H^{d6eq}$ $H^{d3ax} + H^{d3ax}$ H^{d4eq} + H^{d5eq} $H^{d4ax} + H^{d5ax}$	2.54 1.93 1.45 1.15 1.02	2.87 1.68 1.68 1.44 1.32
Aspartic Acid H^1 H^2 H^3	3.66 2.53 $1_{12} = 3.9$ 2.63 J ₁₃ = 6.3 $J_{23} = 17.0$	3.89 2.67 J ₁₂ = 3.6 2.84 $J_{13} = 5.4$ $J_{23} = 14.0$

Table 4.4: ¹H NMR^a Data for [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(trans-R,R-dach)] and [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(cis-R,S-dach)].

^aChemical Shifts in ppm and coupling constants in Hz

It is worth noting that in the ¹H NMR spectrum of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(trans-R,R-dach)], the (H^{d1} + H^{d2}) and (H^{d3eq} + H^{d6eq}) protons were shifted downfield by 0.43 and 0.10 ppm respectively, relative to the same protons in the [Pt(trans-R,R-dach)Cl₂] compound. Similarly, the methine and methylene protons of the aspartic acid component have shifted upfield by about 0.30 ppm relative to $[Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂]$.

Table 4.4 gives the ¹H NMR data for the [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(cis-R,S-dach)] derivative. The spectrum shows a peak at 2.87 ppm attributable to the $(H^{d1} + H^{d2})$ protons of the *ds*-R,S-dach moiety. These protons are equivalent on the NMR time scale between the limiting conformations of λ and δ . The four protons at H^{d4} and H^{d5} gave two splitting peaks even under rapid interconversion because the axial and equatorial protons are inequivalent. This should have also been the case for the four protons at H^{d3} and H^{d6}, however coincidental overlap or averaging out prevented the two individual resonances from being observed. Instead one broad resonance, integrated for four protons was observed at 1.68 ppm.

The spectrum of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(cis-R,S-dach)] also shows the expected eight-line pattern in the 2.6-2.9 ppm region assignable to the methylene protons of the aspartic acid ligand. In addition, the methine quartet of aspartic acid is seen at 3.89 ppm. Like [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(trans-R,R-dach)], these protons also exhibit a pronounced upfield shift relative to [Pt(L-asp-N,O)Cl₂]. The proton chemical shifts and coupling constants are given in Table 4.4.

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SYNTHESIS OF TETRASUBSTITUTED PORPHYRINS FOR LINKING WITH PLATINUM(II) COMPLEXES

Introduction

As the knowledge about both natural and synthetic porphyrins expands, so does the number of applications. Initial interest in porphyrins arose primarily due to their use as photosensitisers in photodynamic therapy,^{1,2} however, in the early 90's interest stemmed from the exhibited antiviral activity against HIV-1- the virus responsible for AIDS.³ Other fields of research which have received significant attention include solar energy conversion,^{4,5} catalysis,⁶ photo-induced energy and electron transfer particularly in relation to photosynthesis,7 and the cleavage of doublestranded DNA by their metallo derivatives.8

The word porphyrin originated from the Greek word porphura which was used to describe the colour purple. This immediately highlights one of the most characteristic features of porphyrins: their intense purple colour. Chemically porphyrins are complex macrocyclic ring products composed of four pyrrole units joined at the α position by four methine bridging groups. The basic ring structure is called porphin (Diagram 5.1). The numbering of ring positions including nitrogen is also shown in Diagram 5.1. The porphin nucleus is planar and contains a conjugating system of 18 delocalisable π -electrons. It is the presence of such a large number of conjugated double bonds which make porphyrin compounds absorb light strongly and are therefore highly Porphyrins form complexes (Diagram 5.1) with suitable metal ions. In these coloured. complexes, the insertion of the metal ion occurs by displacement of a proton from each of two opposing nitrogen atoms to generate a square planar complex.

Diagram 5.1: Porphin and a metal chelate.

Porphin itself does not occur in nature, but several analogous compounds with various sidechains on the pyrrole rings are of great biological importance. The best known examples are heme, an iron complex present in the red blood pigment hemoglobin and chlorophyll, the green plant pigment essential to photosynthesis (Diagram 5.2). It was the discovery of naturally occurring pigments which motivated researchers to create a variety of porphyrin derivatives carrying functional groups attached to the periphery of the macrocycle. One famous example is 5,10,15,20-tetraphenylporphyrin (TPP).

TPP was first reported in 1935 by Rothemund, who prepared it by heating a mixture of pyrrole and benzaldehyde at 220°C under nitrogen for 48 hours.9,10,11 The Rothemund reaction was carried out anaerobically in a sealed tube in pyridine solution. The yield of porphyrin is generally less than 5%¹² and the conditions are so severe that few substituted benzaldehydes can be converted to the corresponding porphyrins. Adler and Longo later developed an improved synthesis of TPP. Adler and Longo obtained a 20% yield of TPP from the reaction of equimolar amounts of benzaldehyde and pyrrole in refluxing propionic acid for 30 minutes at 141°C, open to the air.¹³ These comparatively milder reaction conditions allow a wider range of substituted benzaldehydes to be converted into porphyrins, however problems still occur with benzaldehydes bearing sensitive functional groups. The Adler and Longo method is also beset with purification problems especially with those porphyrins that do not precipitate out at the end of the reaction.¹⁴ In addition, the batch-to-batch reproducibility of the reaction is often rather poor.

Diagram 5.2: Heme and some chlorophylls.

Due to the problems involved with the Rothemund and Adler and Longo methods, milder, cleaner and more convenient synthetic procedures were developed.^{14,15} With the new synthetic strategy pyrrole and the desired benzaldehyde were reacted at room temperature with trace amounts of an acid catalyst to form tetraphenylporphyrinogens, which in turn oxidise to porphyrins. The mechanism of the reaction is thought to involve formation of a carbonium ion (Equation 1). 12

This carbonium ion then attacks the free α -position of another pyrrole to give a dipyrrylmethane. Chain building continues until tetrapyrrylcarbinols are formed. Ring closure follows to give porphyrinogens which are oxidised to give the porphyrin (Diagram 5.3).⁸

Diagram 5.3: Mechanism of TPP synthesis

Several acid catalysts can be used. These include boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (BF₃-etherate), trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and boron trichloride (BCl₃). The rate of porphyrinogen formation is proportional to the concentration of the acid catalyst and although the rate of reaction is different for each of the catalysts the yields are only slightly altered. The oxidation of porphyrinogen to porphyrin can be performed with either p-chloranil or 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyanobenzoquinone (DDQ). p-Chloranil is a much milder oxidant requiring an exposure time of one-hour for complete reaction. On the other hand, instantaneous conversion of porphyrinogen to porphyrin occurs upon addition of DDQ at room temperature. Generally, higher yields can be obtained using p-chloranil. DDQ is more useful for rapid quenching when monitoring the progress of the reaction.¹⁴

Our long-term goals are to build better, more specific anticancer drugs. A step towards this goal is to prepare a set of porphyrins with each porphyrin bearing one or more peripheral functional These groups can be used as handles for joining the porphyrin with a platinum groups. containing drug. This chapter describes the synthesis and characterisation of tetra-substituted porphyrins featuring various para-substituents for linking with platinum complexes.

Our approach to porphyrin synthesis makes use of mild reaction conditions, which convert the aldehyde and pyrrole to the corresponding porphyrin. The use of pre-functionalised benzaldehydes wherever possible minimises the synthetic manipulations of the porphyrin structure, which in turn minimises the by-products. The three functional groups selected are those that can be used in direct-coupling reactions. These functional groups include an amine, a carboxylic acid and a methyl ester.

Experimental

MATERIALS 5.1

4-Methoxybenzaldehyde dimethyl acetal was purchased from Lancaster. All solvents employed were Ajax Chemicals analytical grade materials, which were used without further purification unless noted otherwise. All references to chloroform (CHCl₃) contain ethanol (1-2%) as the stabiliser. Pyrrole was freshly distilled directly before use. All other chemicals were of reagent grade and obtained from Aldrich. Stock solutions (2.5 M) of BF₃ etherate were prepared in CHCl, and were used for approximately one week. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (Kieselgel 60G, Merck) using CHCl₃, CH₂Cl₂, or CH₂Cl₂/hexane (2:1) as the eluent. A column size of 180 mm by 12 mm in diameter or 360 mm by 50 mm in diameter was used under gravity. Merck precoated plates (silica gel 60, 2 mm) were used for thin layer chromatography (TLC) .

MEASUREMENTS 5.2

ESI mass spectra were measured with a VG-Quattro mass spectrometer at the University of Wollongong (Department of Chemistry). UV-visible spectra were taken on a Shimadzu 160 UV-Visible recording spectrophotometer. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained in CDCl₃ and recorded with a Varian Unity-Plus 300 spectrometer. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded from -3 to 10 ppm. The NMR samples were prepared by dissolving 7 mg in 1.0 mL of CDCl₃. Higher concentrations were not recommended owing to the potential for porphyrins to aggregate in solution. Chemical shift values are given in ppm relative to TMS. Coupling constants are expressed in Hz.

NOMENCLATURE 5.3

For the description of individual protons and carbons in the porphyrins, a nomenclature has been adopted. The protons and carbons (ortho, meta and para) on the phenyl rings are identified with respect to their positions relative to the porphyrin ring system. This nomenclature is illustrated in the diagram below.

Diagram 5.4: Nomenclature adopted to describe protons and carbons in the porphyrins.

SYNTHESIS OF PORPHYRINS 5.4

5,10-15,20-tetraphenylporphyrin. TPP

Benzaldehyde (11.3 g, 107 mmol) and pyrrole (7.2 g, 107 mmol) were added to refluxing propionic acid (400 mL). The mixture was heated under reflux for 30 minutes. The dark brown reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature. The purple lustrous precipitate was filtered, washed with methanol (2 x 50 mL) and dried under vacuum.

Yield: $2.8 \text{ g} (18\%)$ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = -2.74 (br s, 2H, pyrrole NH), 7.77 (m, 12H, H_m + H_p), 8.24 (m, 8H, H₀), 8.87 (s, 8H, β -pyrrole). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): $\delta = 120.1$ (s, C_{meso}), 126.7 (s, C_m), 127.7 (s, C_p), 131.1 (br s, β-pyrrole), 134.6 (s, C_o), 142.2 (s, C_{ipso}). ESI-MS: m/e = 615 (45%, M⁺ + 1). UV-Vis (CHCl₃, nm): $\lambda = 417, 514, 550, 590, 646$.

5-(4-Nitrophenyl)-10,15,20-triphenylporphyrin. TPP-NO₂

Tetraphenylporphyrin (2.0 g, 3.25 mmol) was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (300 mL) under nitrogen. Red fuming nitric acid (3.4 g, 54 mmol) was added carefully to the stirred solution of the porphyrin at 0-5°C through a pressure-equalising dropping funnel over a period of 2 hours. The reaction was monitored at intervals by TLC (silica, CHCl₃) to insure total conversion of the starting material $(R_f = 0.88)$ to product $(R_f = 0.78)$. The dark green solution was extracted with water (5 x 300) mL) and dried over magnesium sulfate (MgSO₄) and sodium carbonate (Na₂CO₃). The solution was then evaporated to about 70 mL and chromatographed on silica with CHCl₃ as the eluent. Fractions containing only the mono-nitro derivative were combined. Evaporation of the solvent afforded the desired product as a dark purple powder.

Yield: 1.09 $g(50%)$

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = -2.71 (br s, 2H, pyrrole NH), 7.72 (m, 9H, H_m + H_p), 8.22 (m, 6H, H₀), 8.33 (d, 2H, J = 8.7 Hz, H₀), 8.54 (d, 2H, J = 8.7 Hz, H_m), 8.72 (d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, β -pyrrole (H² + H³)), 8.88 (d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, β -pyrrole (H³ + H⁷)), 8.90 (s, 4H, β -pyrrole (H¹² + H¹³ + H¹⁷ + $H^{(8)}$). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): $\delta = 120.3$ (s, C_{meso}), 121.7 (s, C_m), 126.7 (s, C_m), 127.7 (s, C_p), 131.9 (br s, β -pyrrole), 134.6 (s, C₀), 135.6 (s, C₀), 142.2 (s, C_{pso}), 147.7 (s, C_p), 148.2 (s, C_{pso}). ESI-MS: $m/e = 660 (48\%, M^+ + 1)$. UV-Vis (CH₂Cl₂, nm): $\lambda = 418, 515, 550, 592, 646$.

5-(p-Aminophenyl)-10,15,20-triphenylporphyrin. TPP-NH₂

5-(4-Nitrophenyl)-10,15,20-triphenylporphyrin (1.0 g, 1.52 mmol) was dissolved in concentrated hydrochloric acid (32 mL) under nitrogen. Tin(II) chloride dihydrate (1.04 g, 4.6 mmol) was added to the solution, and the reaction was heated to 65°C for 1 hour. The porphyrin mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into cold water (120 mL). The pH was adjusted to pH8 with concentrated ammonia. The aqueous phase was extracted with CHCl₃ (6 x 120 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and evaporated to 100 mL. The desired product was isolated by column chromatography on silica, with CH₂Cl₂ as the eluent.

Yield: $671 \text{ mg } (71\%)$

¹HNMR (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = -2.70 (br s, 2H, pyrrole NH), 3.97 (br s, 2H, amino), 7.00 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz, H_m), 7.77 (m, 9H, H_m + H_p), 8.00 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz, H₀), 8.25 (m, 6H, H₀), 8.87 (d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, β-pyrrole (H³ + H⁷)), 8.88 (s, 4H, β-pyrrole ((H¹² + H¹³ + H¹⁷ + H¹⁸)), 8.97 (d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, β-pyrrole (H^2 + H^8)). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 113.4 (s, C_m), 119.7, 120.0, 120.9 (3 x s, C_{meso} + C_{meso}), 126.7 (s, C_{m}), 127.7 (s, C_{p}), 131.1 (br s, β-pyrrole), 132.3 (s, C_{meso}), 134.6 (s, C_{o}), 135.7 (s, C_o), 142.2 (s, C_{pso}), 146.0 (s, C_p). ESI-MS: m/e = 630 (13%, M⁺ + 1). UV-Vis (CH₂Cl₂, nm): $\lambda = 407, 422, 521, 557, 651.$

5-(p-Methoxycarbonylphenyl)-10,15,20-tri(p-methylphenyl)porphyrin. TMePP-COOMe

Methyl 4-formylbenzoate (0.970 g, 5.91 mmol) and 4-tolualdehyde (3.56 g, 29.6 mmol) in propionic acid (70 mL) were added to a solution of pyrrole (2.38 g, 35.5 mmol) in propionic acid (370 mL) preheated to 130°C. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 1 hour and then propionic acid (300 mL) was removed by distillation. The solution was refrigerated for 36 hours, after which a purple precipitate formed. This precipitate was filtered, rinsed with methanol (150 mL) and dried at the pump for 15 minutes. Purification was achieved by chromatography on silica with $CH₂Cl₂/hexane$ (2:1) as the eluent.

Yield: 590 mg (14%)

 $H NMR (CDCl₃, ppm):$ δ = -2.79 (br s, 2H, NH), 2.69 (s, ArCH₃), 4.09 (s, -OCH₃), 7.53 (d, 6H, J = 7.8 Hz, H_m), 8.08 (d, 6H, J = 7.8 Hz, H₀), 8.28 (d, 2H, J = 8.3 Hz, H₀), 8.42 (d, 2H, J = 8.3 Hz, H_a), 8.75 (d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, β-pyrrole (H³ + H⁷)), 8.84 (s, 4H, β-pyrrole ((H¹² + H¹³ + H¹⁷ + H¹⁸)), 8.86 (d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, β -pyrrole (H² + H⁸)). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 21.7 (s, ArCH₃), 52.5 (s, COOCH₃), 118.2, 120.1, 120.4 (3 x s, C_{meso}), 120.5 (s, C_{meso}), 127.4 (s, C_m), 127.9 (s, C_m), 129.5 (s, C_p), 131.1 (br s, β -pyrrole), 134.5 (s, C_o + C_o), 137.3 (s, C_p), 139.3 (s, C_{pso}), 147.3 (s, C_{qso}), 167.4 (s, COO). ESI-MS: m/e = 715 (20%, M⁺). UV-Vis (CH₂Cl₂, nm): λ = 418, 516, 553, 591, 648.

5,10,15-Trimesityl-20-(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)porphyrin. TMesPP-COOMe

A 1L three-neck round bottom flask fitted with a reflux condenser, septum seal and nitrogen inlet port was charged with CHCl₃ (800 mL), mesitaldehyde (0.89 g, 6 mmol), methyl 4-formylbenzoate (328 mg, 2 mmol) and pyrrole (1.61 g, 24 mmol). After the solution was purged for 5 minutes with nitrogen, 2.5 M BF₃-etherate (0.340 g, 2.4 mmol) was added via syringe. The reaction vessel was shielded from ambient light and the reaction was allowed to proceed at room temperature. After 1 hour, oxidation was initiated by addition of p-chloranil (1.35 g, 5.5 mmol, in 50 mL toluene) and the solution was refluxed (60-65°C) for a further 1 hour.

The solution was cooled to room temperature and triethylamine (0.243 g, 2.4 mmol) was added to liberate the free porphyrin base. The crude reaction mixture was then evaporated to dryness by rotary evaporation. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica with $CH₁Cl₂/hexane (2:1)$ as the eluent.

Yield: $188 \text{ mg } (12\%)$

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = -2.5 (br s, 2H, NH), 1.8 (s, o-CH₃), 2.6 (s, p-CH₃), 4.1 (s, -OCH₃), 7.25 (s, H_m), 8.26 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, H_m), 8.40 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, H_v), 8.61, 8.68 (m, 8H, β pyrrole). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): $\delta = 21.7$ (s, ArCH₃), 52.5 (s, -OCH₃), 118.1, 117.6 (2 x s, C_{meso}), 127.7 (s, C_m), 128.1 (s, C_m), 130.1 (br s, β -pyrrole), 132.4 (s, C_p), 134.4 (s, C₀), 137.6 (s, C_p), 139.4 (s, C_{pso}), 140.8 (s, C_o), 147.1 (s, C_{pso}), 167.7 (s, COO). ESI-MS: m/e = 799 (48%, M⁺ + 1). UV-Vis (CH₂Cl₂, nm): $\lambda = 418, 516, 548, 591, 644$.

5-(p-Methoxyphenyl)-10,15,20-tri(p-methylphenyl)porphyrin. TMePP-OMe

Pyrrole (2.38 g, 35.5 mmol) was added to a solution of 4-methoxybenzaldehyde dimethyl acetal (1.24 g, 5.91 mmol) and 4-tolualdehyde (3.56 g, 29.6 mmol) in propionic acid (370 mL). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 1 hour at 130°C. After standing for 24 hours, propionic acid (300 mL) was removed by distillation. The solution was left to stand for a further 3 days, after which a purple precipitate formed. This precipitate was filtered and dried at the pump for 15 minutes. Purification was achieved by chromatography on silica with CH₂Cl₂/hexane (2:1) as the eluent.

Yield: $239 \text{ mg } (5.8\%)$

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = -2.8 (br s, 2H, NH), 2.69 (s, ArCH₃), 4.07 (s, -OCH₃), 7.27 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz, H_m), 7.54 (d, 6H, J = 7.8 Hz, H_m), 8.09 (d, 6H, J = 7.8 Hz, H₀), 8.12 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz, H₀), 8.86 (br s, β -pyrrole). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = 21.5 (s, ArCH₃), 55.5 (s, -OCH₃), 112.2 (s, C_m), 120.1 (s, C_{meso} + C_{meso}), 127.4 (s, C_m), 131.1 (br s, β -pyrrole), 134.5 (s, C_o), 134.6 (s, C_{qso}), 135.6 (s, C_{o}), 137.3 (s, C_{p}), 139.3 (s, C_{qso}), 159.3 (s, C_{p}). ESI-MS: m/e = 687 (83%, M⁺ + 1). UV-Vis (CH₂Cl₂, nm): λ = 420, 517, 553, 592, 652.

5-(p-Carboxylphenyl)-10,15,20-tri(p-methylphenyl)porphyrin. TMePP-COOH

4-Carboxybenzaldehyde (0.900 g, 6 mmol) and 4-tolualdehyde (2.16 g, 18 mmol) in propionic acid (250 mL) were added to a solution of pyrrole (1.61 g, 24 mmol) in propionic acid (50 mL) preheated to 130°C. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 1 hour and then propionic acid (200 mL) was removed by distillation. The solution was refrigerated for 36 hours, after which a purple precipitate formed. This precipitate was filtered, rinsed with methanol (250 mL) and dried at the pump for 15 minutes. The precipitate was then chromatographed on silica with CH_2Cl_2 as the eluent.

Yield: 644 mg (15%)

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = -2.80 (br s, 2H, NH), 2.69 (s, ArCH₃), 7.53 (d, 2H, J = 7.8 Hz, H_n), 8.07 (d, 6H, J = 7.8 Hz, H₀), 8.32 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz, H₀), 8.47 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz, H_m), 8.76(d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, β-pyrrole (H³ + H²)), 8.83 (s, 4H, β-pyrrole ((H¹² + H¹³ + H¹⁷ + H¹⁸)), 8.87 (d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, β-pyrrole (H² + H⁸)). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, ppm):δ = 21.5 (s, ArCH₃), 118.0, 120.1, 120.5 $(3 \times s, C_{\text{meso}}), 127.4$ (s, C_m), 128.5 (s, C_m), 130.8 (s, C_p), 131.1 (br s, β -pyrrole), 134.5 (s, C_o), 134.7 (s, C_o), 137.3 (s, C_p), 139.3 (s, C_{pso}), 147.3 (s, C_{pso}), 167.4 (s, COOH). ESI-MS: m/e = 701 (10%, M^+ +1). UV-Vis (CH₂Cl₂, nm): $\lambda = 418, 514, 548, 592, 648$.

Results and Discussion

A selection of seven porphyrins were synthesised and characterised. Of these porphyrins 5,10,15,20-tetraphenylporphyrin (TPP) and 5-(4-nitrophenyl)-10,15,20-triphenyl-porphyrin (TPP-NO₂) served as synthetic intermediates for the preparation of an amino substituted porphyrin. Originally, 5,10,15-trimesityl-20-(4-methyoxycarbonylphenyl)porphyrin (TMesPP-COOMe) was also going to be used to prepare other derivatives, however, yields were too low to warrant use as a synthetic intermediate. 5-(p-Methoxycarbonylphenyl)-10,15,20-tri(p-methylphenyl)porphyrin (TMePP-COOMe) can be produced in slightly higher yields and was prepared as an alternative to TMesPP-COOMe. 5-(p-Methoxyphenyl)-10,15,20-tri(p-methylphenyl)porphyrin (TMePP-OMe) was also synthesised mainly for comparative purposes, however TMePP-OMe may undergo demethylation with boron tribromide to produce an alcohol⁵ which in turn may also be used for linking. This is, however, beyond the scope of this thesis and efforts were focused mainly on producing porphyrins containing an amine, a carboxylic acid and a methyl ester.

The structure determination of all the synthesised porphyrins is based mainly on ¹H and ¹³C NMR data. The UV-visible and mass spectral data also support the proposed structures. The general aspects of the NMR spectra are discussed below. For a more detailed assignment of the individual porphyrins refer to the Experimental Section.

TPP AND OTHER RELATED DERIVATIVES 5.5

TPP is the simplest porphyrin structurally. It was synthesised using the universal method of Adler and Longo by refluxing pyrrole with benzaldehyde in propionic acid for 30 minutes.¹³ The purple solid was filtered after cooling and washed free from soluble poly-pyrrolic impurities with methanol. The yield was not high, about 18-20%, but the synthesis was simple and direct.

When TPP reacted with fuming nitric acid in CHCl₃ selective and stepwise nitration of the aryl groups at the para position occured.¹⁶ The reaction progress was monitored closely by TLC to insure total conversion of TPP to the mono-nitro derivative, TPP-NO₂. Tin chloride reduction of TPP-NO₂ in concentrated hydrochloric acid gave the known amino derivative, 5-(paminophenyl)-10,15,20-triphenylporphyrin (TPP-NH₂) in 70% overall yield after column chromatography (Diagram 5.5).¹⁶

Diagram 5.5: Aryl nitration of TPP followed by reduction to the amino derivative.

¹H NMR spectroscopy was used for the characterisation of the three porphyrins. The NMR spectral properties are governed by the symmetry of the molecules. At room temperature, TPP possesses four-fold symmetry (D_{4h} symmetry), due to the rapid exchange of the inner two N-H protons about the four-pyrrole nitrogens.¹⁷ This property is reflected in the ¹H NMR of TPP, whereby the eight equivalent ß-pyrrole protons, which are deshielded by virtue of their location on the outskirts of the porphyrin π system, appear as a singlet at 8.87 ppm. In comparison, TPP- $NO₂$ possesses a symmetry plane defined by the nitro substituent (i.e $C₂$ symmetry). Thus, the β pyrrole protons appear as a doublet $(H^2 + H^8)$ at 8.72 ppm, as a doublet $(H^3 + H^7)$ at 8.88 ppm and as a singlet $(H^{12} + H^{13} + H^{17} + H^{18})$ at 8.90 ppm. A similar β -pyrrole pattern is also observed in the spectrum of TPP-NH₂.

In addition to showing changes in the β -pyrrolic region, mono-substitution in the para position also causes changes in the phenyl region. For example, the ¹H NMR spectrum of TPP-NO₂ showed two new signals corresponding the phenyl protons meta and ortho to the nitro substituent at 8.54 and 8.25 ppm, whilst the ¹H NMR spectrum of TPP-NH₂ showed two new signals at 7.00 and 8.00 ppm. The ¹H NMR chemical shifts of the three related porphyrins are summarised in Table 5.1.

Porphyrin	Pyrrole	Aromatic Region		β -Pyrrole Region				
	N-H	$H_m + H_p$	H _o	H_{m} ^b	$H^{p,p}$	H_2+H_8	H_3+H_7	$H_{12} + H_{13}$, $H_{17} + H_{18}$
TPP	-2.74	7.77	8.87				8.87^{a}	
TPP-NO ₂	-2.71	7.72	8.22	8.54	8.33	8.72	8.88	8.90
TPP-NH ₂	-2.70	7.77	825	7.00	8.00	8.97	8.87	8.88

Table 5.1: ¹H NMR chemical shifts for TPP, TPP-NO₂ and TPP-NH₂.

^a All β-pyrrole protons are equivalent in TPP. ^b Substituted phenyl ring.

The effects due to electron-donating and electron-withdrawing groups are readily apparent within this set of para-substituted porphyrins. An overlay of all the porphyrin spectra in the aromatic region are presented in Diagram 5.6. The NMR spectra show that the electron-donating properties of the NH₂ group in TPP-NH₂ causes the protons in the phenyl ring to be more shielded (upfield chemical shift), whereas electron-withdrawing groups at the para site (ie NO2) result in decreased shielding (downfield chemical shift). Shielding-deshielding effects are more pronounced in the meta protons on the substituted phenyl ring (labelled as H_m) than in the ortho protons (labelled as H_o) owing to the greater electron attracting inductive effects at the position in which the effects are minimal.

Diagram 5.6: An overlay of the aromatic region of TPP-NH₂ (1), TPP-NO₂ (2) and TPP (3). *CHCl₃

A₃B-PORPHYRINS 5.6

Synthesis

For the A₃B-porphyrins, TMePP-COOMe, TMePP-OMe, TMePP-COOH and TMesPP-COOMe the introduction of only one functional group on the porphyrin can be achieved by a mixed aldehyde condensation. Aldehyde B provides the reactive para substituent whilst aldehyde A serves to complete the construction of the porphyrin (Table 5.2).

Like TPP, the synthesis of TMePP-COOMe was achieved using the classical Adler condensation, from methyl 4-formylbenzoate, 4-tolualdehyde and pyrrole.¹⁸ No purification problems with respect to poly-pyrrolic impurities were encountered since the product readily precipitated out of solution at the end of the reaction. It was however, necessary to isolate the desired methyl ester from a mixture of porphyrin products via chromatography. Similarly, TMePP-OMe was prepared by an Adler condensation of 4-methoxybenzaldehyde dimethyl acetal, 4-tolualdehyde and pyrrole. In this reaction the dimethyl acetal group is removed to give the corresponding aldehyde which is then incorporated into the porphyrin ring via the usual mechanism (refer to Diagram 5.3). It is worth noting that in the synthesis of TMePP-COOMe and TMePP-OMe, the reactant concentrations were 29.6 mmol aldehyde A, 5.91 mmol aldehyde B and 35.5 mmol pyrrole. These reactant concentrations produce the best yields of the desired mono-substituted porphyrins. Deviations from these concentrations result in a larger amount of di-substituted porphyrin products.¹⁹

B٠	HŃ N А N٣ NН Α	
Porphyrins	Α	В
TMePP-COOMe	CH ₃	ОСНз
TMePP-OMe	CH ₃	OCH ₃
TMePP-COOH	CH ₃	ဂူ OН
TMesPP-COOMe	H_3C CH ₃ H_3C	ŭ OCH

Table 5.2: A₃B-Porphyrins bearing one functional group.

Unlike TMePP-COOMe, the porphyrinic carboxylic ester TMesPP-COOMe was not obtained by an Adler condensation of the appropriate aldehydes. When prepared by the Adler method, the porphyrin did not precipitate out at the end of the reaction. TLC showed numerous products and despite testing various solvent systems no definitive separation of the complex reaction mixture could be achieved. Consequently, TMesPP-COOMe was made by the Lindsey method.²⁰ With the Lindsey method, the yield of the porphyrin is not contingent on the precipitation of the product at the end of the reaction. This method involved treating a mixture of mesitaldehyde, methyl 4-formylbenzoate and pyrrole with a BF₃-etherate catalyst followed by slow oxidation of the intermediate porphyrinogens with p-chloranil. CHCl₃ containing at least 0.75% ethanol was the solvent of choice because porphyrins formed by mixed aldehyde condensations with substituted benzaldehydes require BF₃-ethanol co-catalysis.^{20,21} Chromatographic purification delivered the desired porphyrin in 12% yield.

Originally TMesPP-COOMe was to be hydrolysed to form a carboxylic acid for linking. Instead, the carboxyl porphyrin, 5-(p-carboxylphenyl)-10,15,20-tri(p-methylphenyl)porphyrin (TMePP-COOH) was prepared directly by an Adler condensation of 4-formylbenzoic acid, 4-tolualdehyde and pyrrole. TMePP-COOH could have been prepared by the Lindsey method, however this method requires the carboxylic acid group to be protected due to the limited solubility of 4formylbenzoic acid in CH₂Cl₂ and CHCl₃. One of the simplest methods of protecting the carboxyl group uses 2-(trimethylsilyl)ethanol in the presence of DCC and DMAP. The resulting benzaldehyde bearing an ester may be deprotected under gentle conditions to give the desired carboxy-substituted porphyrin (Diagram 5.7).²⁰ 4-Formylbenzoic acid was, however, found to be soluble in propionic acid with the aid of sonication. Thus, rather than follow the multi-step Lindsey method, an Adler condensation was considered to be the better method for synthesising In addition, 4-tolualdehyde was chosen over mesitaldehyde because TMePP-COOH. introduction of methyl groups into the ortho-phenyl positions enhances solubility and the porphyrin does not precipitate out of solution at the end of the reaction. This in turn makes it more difficult to wash poly-pyrrolic impurities from the desired porphyrin (as experienced with the synthesis of TMePP-COOMe via an Adler condensation).

Diagram 5.7: Schematic diagram outlining the synthesis of TMePP-COOH via the Lindsey method and an Adler condensation.

Characterisation

A mixture of six porphyrins is possible from a mixed aldehyde condensation. These are depicted in Diagram 5.8. The mixture can usually be separated by column chromatography and the products are sufficiently dissimilar in the ß-pyrrole region to allow identification by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.

The best separation of a porphyrin mixture was observed during the purification of TMePP-COOMe, where four out of the six possible porphyrins were isolated. TMePP-COOMe was chromatographed on silica gel with CH₂Cl₂/hexane (2:1) as the eluent. The first porphyrinic
Inction was identified as tetratolyporphyrin (TTP). The ¹H NMR of TTP is relatively simple wing to its high symmetry. It shows the para-substituted methyl group as a singlet at 2.70 ppm, mo doublets at 7.53 and 8.08 ppm (J=7.8 Hz) due to the meta and ortho-phenyl protons and a *hroad* singlet due to the β-pyrrole protons at 8.86 ppm.

Diagram 5.8: Possible six porphyrins from a mixed aldehyde condesation. Porphyrins 2 and 3 are the cis- and trans- di-substituted porphyrins respectively.

The second fraction was the desired methyl ester, TMePP-COOMe. The most characteristic feature of the ¹H NMR spectrum of TMePP-COOMe is the singlet at 4.09 ppm, which arises liom the methyl ester moiety. The ¹H NMR spectrum of TMePP-COOMe in the aromatic region is presented in Diagram 5.8 (spectrum 2). The diagram shows the β -pyrrole protons as a doublet $*8.75$ ppm (H³ + H⁷), a singlet at 8.84 ppm ((H¹² + H¹³) and (H¹⁷ + H¹⁸)) and a doublet at 8.86 ppm (H^3 + H^7). It is interesting to note that the protons $(H^{12} + H^{13})$ and $(H^{17} + H^{18})$ which possessed a quasi-equivalent environment, are incidentally equivalent. The spectrum also features two AB-type splitting patterns belonging to the two different ortho and meta phenyl protons.

Finally, the third porphyrin fraction was a mixture of di-substituted porphyrins. These pophyrins were later separated on a second silica gel column and identified as 5,10-di(pnethoxycarbonyl)-15,20-di(p-methylphenyl)porphyrin (DMePP-cisCOOMe) and the 5,15-di(pmethoxycarbonyl)-10,20-di(p-methylphenyl)porphyrin (DMePP-transCOOMe). These products are the cis and trans isomers respectively. Cis and trans isomers are readily distinguished by their ¹H NMR spectra. For the cis isomer, the β -pyrrole region shows a doublet at 8.76 ppm ($H^3 + H^{12}$, I=6.4 Hz), two singlets at 8.78 and 8.86 ppm $(H^7 + H^8$ and $H^{17} + H^{18})$ and another doublet at 8.87 ppm (H^2 + H^{13} , J=5.3 Hz). Such a pattern is indicative of four different β -hydrogen environments, only possible with a cis configuration of the meso substituents. In contrast, the trans-configured product shows an AB-type spin system, indicative of only two different ßhydrogen environments. An overlay of the aromatic region for each of the different porphyrins isolated during the synthesis of TMePP-COOMe is presented in Diagram 5.9.

Diagram 5.9: Aromatic region of the ¹H NMR spectra of TTP (1), TMePP-COOMe (2), DMePP-cisCOOMe (3) and DMePP-transCOOMe (4). A-D, β -pyrrole protons; R, p-methylphenyl; R', p-methoxyphenyl.

The main purpose for this reaction was to isolate relatively pure TMePP-COOMe. The spectroscopic data for TMePP-COOMe was identical in all respects with that found in the literature.¹⁸

The structure of TMePP-OMe is evident from the ¹H NMR spectrum. In the aliphatic region, it showed a singlet at 2.70 ppm due to the para-substituted methyl groups and a singlet at 4.07 ppm due to the methyoxy group. In the aromatic region, the protons ortho and meta to the methyl substituents (labelled H_m and H_o) appear as a typical AB-type pattern at 7.5 and 8.0 ppm. Similarly, the protons ortho and meta to the methoxy substituent (labelled H_m and H_o) also produce a well defined AB-type pattern at 7.3 and 8.1 ppm. These resonances lie further upfield compared to that of TMePP-COOMe due to the presence of the methoxy substituent as opposed to a methyl ester moiety. It is worth noting that the doublet due to the protons next to the methoxy group (H₀) are slightly obscured by the doublet due to the protons next to the methyl group (H₀). In addition the ¹H NMR spectrum displays a very broad singlet at 8.86 ppm due to the ß-pyrrole protons. This indicates that the methoxy substituent does not appear to induce important electronic and/or steric contributions to modify the chemical shifts of the adjacent ß-pyrrole protons. Thus, no differentiation between the eight ß-pyrrole protons is observed.

Supporting evidence for the formation of TMePP-OMe has been obtained by ¹³C NMR studies. The ¹³C NMR spectrum of TMePP-OMe showed 12 carbon signals, which were resolved through a DEPT experiment into two methyl, five methine and five quaternary carbons. The key carbon signals include the methine signal at 112 ppm attributable to the carbons ortho to the methoxy substituent (C_m) and the quaternary carbon signal at 159 ppm assigned to the carbon bearing the methoxy substituent (C_{p}) .

As expected, the ¹H NMR of TMePP-COOH is remarkably similar to that of TMePP-COOMe, it differs merely by the absence of the methyl signal of the ester group at 4.07 ppm. The ¹³C NMR spectrum recorded for TMePP-COOH is in complete harmony with the proposed constitution. Assignments do not merit special comment and can be found listed in the **Experimental Section.**

For TMesPP-COOMe, the introduction of methyl groups into the ortho-phenyl positions not only affects the solubility of the porphyrin but it also significantly changes the appearance of the ¹H NMR spectrum. The spectrum exhibits two singlets for the ortho and para-substituted methyl groups at 1.8 and 2.6 ppm, a singlet at 4.1 ppm attributable to the methyl ester moiety and another singlet at 7.25 ppm due to the protons on the meta position of the mesityl rings (H_m) . Even though the H_m protons lie very close to the CDCl, signal they are still visible. The protons on the methyoxycarbonyl substituted phenyl ring (H_m and H_o) are seen as two doublets at 8.3 and 8.4 ppm. In addition the ß-pyrrole protons give a series of multiplets centred around 8.6 and 8.7 ppm. In the ¹³C NMR spectrum of TMesPP-COOMe, 12 signals were observed. The observed chemical shifts compare well with that of TMePP-COOMe. All ¹³C NMR data can be found in the Experimental Section.

One characteristic feature of all the porphyrin ¹H NMR spectra described above is the broad signal at very high field (around -2.6 ppm). This signal arises from the inner N-H protons located in the shielded core of the porphyrin ring.

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SYNTHESIS OF NEW AMINO ACID PLATINUM-PORPHYRIN CONJUGATES

Introduction

The design and construction of new anti-cancer drugs with tailor made structural and functional properties is a goal that is currently being vigorously pursued. A promising approach toward this goal would be to take advantage of the existing chemotherapeutic/photosensitising agents by incorporating selective components into one structural ensemble. Our research has taken on this approach by coupling porphyrins to platinum-based derivatives. It is hoped that the new platinum-porphyrin conjugates would display enhanced tumor selectivity due to the porphyrin, whilst inheriting the cytotoxicity from the active platinum component.

Ideal chemistry would allow coupling to be carried out rapidly and quantitatively under mild conditions, avoiding side-reactions without challenging the integrity of other components and generating only easily removed by-products. With this in mind, there are a number of coupling chemistries to explore. The vast majority of these involve conjugation by formation of an amide bond, however linking may also be achieved through transesterification.

TRANSESTERIFICATION 6.1

Transesterification is the process by which one ester is converted into another (equation (1)). Transesterification is catalysed by either acids (H_2SO_4 or dry HCl) or bases (alkoxide ion).¹

Since transesterification requires the presence of acid catalysts, severe problems are usually encountered with acid-sensitive compounds. Furthermore, this reaction is reversible, often exhibiting an unfavourable equilibrium constant. As a consequence, it is necessary to remove water and/or use a large excess of alcohol in order to achieve reasonable yields of product. Finally, transesterification of tertiary or sterically hindered alcohols is generally ineffective because of the increased steric interaction in the tetrahedral intermediate. One method that claims to overcome these limitations uses lithium alkoxides in tetrahydrofuran (THF) for effecting transesterification (equation (2)).²

$$
R^{\text{2D}}\text{OMe} \xrightarrow{\text{R'}-OLi} R^{\text{2D}}\text{OMe} \xrightarrow{\text{R'}-OLi} R^{\text{2D}}\text{OMe} \xrightarrow{\text{OMe}} R^{\text{2D}}\text{OMe}
$$
\n
$$
\begin{array}{ccc}\n\text{OLi} & & \text{OLi} & \\
\downarrow & & \text{OLi} & \\
\downarrow & & \text{OMe} & \\
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\begin{array}{ccc}\n\text{OLi} & & \text{OLi} & \\
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\begin{array}{ccc}\n\text{OLi} & & \text{OLi} & \\
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\downarrow & & \text{OMe} & \\
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\begin{array}{ccc}\n\text{OLi} & & \text{OLi} & \\
\downarrow & & \text{OMe} & \\
\downarrow & &
$$

AMIDE BOND FORMATION 6.2

Amides are of great biological importance. The linkages that join individual amino acids to form proteins are primarily amide linkages. As a consequence, much research has been done on amide bond formation.

Ordinary carboxylic acids form salts with amines at ambient temperatures, and transformation of these dry salts directly into amides requires severe heating. This is generally a poor method for preparing amides and such harsh conditions are quite incompatible with structural subtleties of the molecule. Consequently, activation or attachment of a leaving group to the acyl carbon of the carbonyl component to enable attack by an amino group is necessary. The most common methods of activation and coupling are briefly described below.^{1,3,4,5}

Acyl chlorides

Conversion of a carbonyl group into an acyl chloride is one of the most classical methods of activating carboxylic acids for amide synthesis. Acyl chlorides are easily prepared from carboxylic acids and react rapidly with amines at low temperatures to produce amides in high yields $\left(\text{equation (3)}\right).$

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}\n0 & & \\
\downarrow & \\
\downarrow & \\
\hline\n\end{array}
$$

The reagents traditionally used for acyl chloride formation include thionyl chloride (SOCl2), oxalyl chloride ((COCl)2), phosphorus trichloride (PCl3) and phosphorus pentachloride (PCl5). Thionyl chloride is particularly useful for the by-products formed are gases and thus easily separated from the acyl chloride. In addition, thionyl chloride has low boiling point of 79°C so excess thionyl chloride is easily removed by distillation. Oxalyl chloride is quickly gaining popularity due to the milder reaction conditions allowed by the reagent.⁶ Aprotic solvents such as CHCl₃, DMF and pyridine must be applied in the chlorination.

Acyl Azides

Another widely used method for amide bond formation involves activation of the carboxyl group by conversion to an acyl azide. Conversion to the azide can be achieved by treating the ester with hydrazine to give the acyl hydrazide. Then the hydrazide is treated with nitrous acid to give the acyl azide. Acyl Azides are less reactive than acyl chlorides and more reactive than esters.

When acyl azides are mixed with an amine, typical nucleophilic substitution occurs. The essential chemistry of the approach is summarised in equation (4).

Anhydrides

The reaction of ammonia and amines with anhydrides is analogous to that of acyl chlorides. The reaction yields an amide and one equivalent of carboxylic acid. Since the liberated acid reacts to form a salt with the ammonia or the amine, it is necessary to employ an excess of that reagent (equations (5) and (6)). Anhydrides are generally more reactive than esters in their reactions with ammonia and amines but less reactive than acyl chlorides.

$$
R \xrightarrow{O} C \xrightarrow{O} R + 2NH_3 \xrightarrow{O} R \xrightarrow{O} NH_2 + RCO_2:R'NH_4^*
$$
 (5)
\n
$$
R \xrightarrow{O} C \xrightarrow{O} R + 2R'NH_2 \xrightarrow{O} R \xrightarrow{O} NHR'
$$
 (6)

Active Esters

Esters also react with ammonia and amines to yield the corresponding amide and the alcohol of the ester (equation (7)). This reaction takes place more slowly than those of acyl chlorides and anhydrides, but they are synthetically useful in cases where the corresponding acyl chloride or anhydride is unstable or not easily available. An example of such a case is when the molecule contains a hydroxyl group. Since the hydroxyl group reacts rapidly with an acyl chloride, all attempts to prepare the acyl chloride would lead to a polymer.

$$
R \xrightarrow{O} R^+ R^{\prime\prime}NH_2 \xrightarrow{O} R^+ R^{\prime\prime}OH \qquad (7)
$$

The reaction between esters and ammonia or amines is facilitated by the leaving ability of the ester group. A large number of active esters have been investigated. From these, the esters of phenols and other acidic functionalities are considered to be especially reactive. A selection of active esters is shown in Diagram 6.1.

Diagram 6.1: Active esters.

When deciding on which active ester to use, as well as reactivity, the ease of co-product removal is also an important consideration. For example, in the synthesis of a water-insoluble product, a succinimido ester coupling is especially convenient, since N-hydrosuccinimide is very watersoluble. If on the other hand, the product is water-soluble, a halophenyl ester is the best choice, for halophenyls are ether soluble.

Carbodiimide reagents

One especially useful coupling reagent for amide synthesis is N,N-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide DCC is commercially available and is prepared from cyclohexylamine and (DCC). carbondisulfide. DCC is an effective catalyst for the condensation of carboxylic acids with alcohols and amines. The reagent promotes amide formation by reacting with the carboxyl group of an acid and activating it toward nucleophilic substitution.

Diagram 6.2: Reactions of DCC with carboxylic acids.

The probable mechanism for the DCC coupling reaction was first suggested in 1953⁷ and is schematically outlined in Diagram 6.2. The initial reaction takes place between the free carboxyl group and the carbodiimide to give an O-acylisourea. The intermediate O-acylisourea is an activated carboxylic acid derivative that is similar in reactivity to an anhydride or an acyl chloride. The amine then attacks at the carbonyl group of the O-acylisourea, generating the product with concomitant formation of an N,N-dicyclohexylurea. Since N,N-dicyclohexylurea is highly insoluble in most solvents, its separation from the desired product is very easy. Alternatively, the Oacylisourea can be attacked by a second carboxylate to give the anhydride, which can then be attacked by the amine, giving the amide and regenerating one of the carboxylates.⁷

DCC activation is very dependent on the solvent. In solvents such as CHCl₃ and CH₂Cl₂ activation is rapid, however activation is sluggish in dipolar solvents such as DMF. In aqueous the water-soluble carbodiimide, 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide solutions, hydrochloride (EDAC) may be used as an alternative to DCC.

The intermediate O-acylisourea species shown in Diagram 6.2 is highly reactive and significant side-reactions may occur. One of the most disturbing side-reactions in DCC-mediated coupling is the formation of N-acylurea (Diagram 6.3). N-acylurea results from extensive racemisation of the carboxyl components or by collapse of the O-acylisourea by intramolecular acyl transfer.

$$
C_6H_{11}-N-C-NH-C_6H_{11}\nC=O\nR'
$$

Diagram 6.3: N-Acylurea.

N-acylurea formation not only severely limits the yield but it may also give rise to purification problems. These difficulties may be greatly reduced by performing the coupling in the presence of a suitable α -nucleophile that is able to react rapidly with the O-acylisourea before any sidereactions take place. An acylating agent of lower potency is formed. These are still reactive with respect to aminolysis but do not lead to racemisation or other side reactions. Two of the most commonly used additives, which in effect generate an active ester in situ, include Nhydrosuccinimide (NHS) and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate (HOBT). The reaction of Oacylisourea with HOBT has been illustrated in Diagram 6.4.

Diagram 6.4: Reaction of O-acylisourea with HOBT.

Out of the many different coupling chemistries described above, our research has focused on creating a platinum-porphyrin conjugate through ester aminolysis, transesterification, and by standard carbodiimide-mediated coupling. From these, the procedures utilising coupling reagents were the most successful. The great advantage to these procedures is that the sensitive platinum complex is not exposed to harsh reaction conditions.

Experimental

MATERIALS 6.3

The porphyrins, TMePP-COOMe and TPP-NH₂ were prepared according to the procedures described in Chapter 5. The platinum derivatives, $[Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂]⁺$ and $[Pt(L-arp-N,O)(NH₃)₂]$ serine)(NH₃)₂]⁺ used in the coupling reactions were synthesised according to the procedures described in Chapter 4. 5-(4-Aminophenyl)-10,15,20-tris(4-sulfonatophenyl)porphyrin (TPPS₃-NH₂) was kindly donated by Dr Michael Antolovich at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga.

All solvents and reagents were of reagent grade quality and were purchased from Aldrich and Dry THF (sodium and benzophenone) was employed. A commercially Ajax Chemicals. available solution of n-butyllithium (n-BuLi) in hexane (1.6 M) was used without further purification.

Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (Kieselgel 60G, Merck) using CHCl₃, or CH₂Cl₂ as the eluent. A column size of 180 mm by 12 mm in diameter or 360 mm by 50 mm in diameter was used under gravity. Merck precoated plates (silica gel 60, 2 mm) were used for TLC. For the water-soluble products, column chromatography was performed on Sephadex-G10 column purchased from Pharmacia.

MEASUREMENTS 6.4

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained in the indicated deuteriated solvents with a Varian Unity-Plus 300 spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to TMSP or TMS. Coupling constants are expressed in Hz.

PREPARATION OF A TETRAPHENYLBORATE SALT 6.5

A tetraphenylborate salt was prepared by adding an equimolar aqueous solution of sodium tetraphenylborate ($(C_6H_5)_4$ BNa) to a concentrated solution of $[Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH_3)_2]^+$ in water. The fine white precipitate, which separated out immediately, was filtered, protected from ambient light and dried over P_2O_5 .

Conjugation of $[Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂](C₆H₅)₄B$ to TPP-NH₂ using the carbodiimide, N,N-Dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC). Conjugate 1.

[Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂](C₆H₅)₄B (142 mg, 220 µmol) was added to a solution of HOBT (29.7 mg in 220 µL of DMF) and DCC (220 µL, 1 M in CH₂Cl₂). The combined mixture was stirred vigorously for 15 minutes. The reaction mixture was centrifuged to remove a small amount of dicyclohexylurea and the supernatant was added dropwise to a solution of TPP-NH₂ (69.3 mg, 110 μ mol) in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL). The solution was protected from ambient light and stirred overnight at room temperature.

Unreacted $[Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂](C₆H₅)₄B$ was removed by filtration and the red filtrate was evaporated to dryness. The residue was chromatographed on silica using CHCl₃ as the eluent. Yield: $63.5 \text{ mg } (45\%)$

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, ppm): δ = -2.80 (br s, 2H, pyrrole NH), 3.73 (br s, 6H, NH₃), 4.00 (m, 1H, H¹), 3.43 (m, 2H, H², H³), 7.00-7.20 (m, 12H, (C₆H₅)₄B), 7.38 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, H_m), 7.61 (m, 8H, $(C_6H_5)_4B$, 7.76 (m, 9H, H_m + H_p), 8.08 (s, 1H, amide NH), 8.13 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, H₀), 8.20 (m, 6H, H₀), 8.72 (d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, β-pyrrole (H³ + H⁷)), 8.84 (s, 4H, β-pyrrole ((H¹² + H¹³ + H¹⁷ + H¹⁸)), 8.85 (d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, β-pyrrole (H² + H⁸)). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, ppm):δ = 49.2 (s, β-CH₂), 53.3 (a-CH), 120.3 (s, C_m), 121.8 (s, C_{mcso}+ C_{mcso}), 126.7 (s, C_m), 127.7 (s, C_p), 131.1 (br s, βpyrrole), 133.6 (s, C₀), 134.6 (s, C₀), 138.2 (s, C_{1pso} + C_p), 142.2 (s, C_{1pso}), 193.3 (s, α -COO), 222.5 (s, CONH). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3467-3250 (br, $v(N-H)$), 1637 (s, C=O), 1576 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Conjugation of $[Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂]Cl$ to $TPPS₃-NH₂$ using the water-soluble carbodiimide, 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDAC). Conjugate 2.

A solution containing [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂]Cl (36.2 mg, 91.4 µmol) and EDAC (17.5 mg, 91.4 µL) in water (5 mL) was stirred vigorously for 15-20 minutes. This was then added dropwise to an aqueous solution (20 mL) of TPPS₃-NH₂ (70.7 mg, 91.4 µmol). The combined mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature before being evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on sephadex-G10 with water as the eluent.

Yield:59.2 mg (52%)

¹H NMR (D₂O, ppm): δ = 3.57 (q, 1H, H¹), 2.54, 2.29 (2 x m, J₁₂ = 3 Hz, J₁₃ = 10.2 Hz and J₂₃ = 17.1 Hz, 2H, H², H³), 6.93 (br m, 2H, β -pyrrole $(H^3 + H^7)$), 7.08 (br m, 2H, β -pyrrole $(H^2 + H^3)$) 7.20 (br s, 4H, β -pyrrole (($H^{12} + H^{13} + H^{17} + H^{18}$)), 7.69 (br m, 2H, H₀), 7.91 (br m, 8H, H_{m'} + H_n), 8.11 (br m, 6H, H₀). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, ppm):δ = 49.8 (s, β-CH₂), 52.6 (α-CH), 120.7 (s, C_m), 122.4 (s, C_{meso}+ C_{meso}), 126.6 (s, C_m), 131.1 (br s, β -pyrrole), 133.6 (s, C_o), 134.6 (s, C_o), 137.7 (s, $C_p + C_p$), 138.4 (s, C_{pso}), 146.2 (s, C_{pso}), 191.3 (s, α -COO), 220.1 (s, CONH). IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹): 3513-3260 (br, $v(N-H)$), 1642 (s, C=O), 1577 (s, $\delta_s(N-H)$).

Attempted Transesterification of TMePP-COOMe with [Pt(L-serine)(NH₃)₂](C₆H₅)₄B.

[Pt(L-serine)(NH₃)₂](C₆H₅)₄B (48.9 mg, 750 µmol) in THF (1 mL) was placed in a dried 10 mL round bottom flask. Then n-BuLi (24.8 mg, 240 umol of a 1.6 M hexane solution) was added at 3-5°C. The reaction mixture was gently warmed up to room temperature, then a solution of TMePP-COOMe (53.5 mg, 750 µmol) in THF (3 mL) was added. The combined mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. Then CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL) and NH₄Cl (50 mL of a 2 M solution) were added. The organic layer was separated and dried over sodium sulfate (Na2SO4). The solvent was evaporated and the residue chromatographed on silica with CH_2Cl_2/h exane (2:1) as the eluent.

Yield: No detectable amount of a linked platinum-porphyrin conjugate.

Results and Discussion

Attempts to use ester aminolysis for amide bond formation was first made in the infancy of the project with very little success (equations (8) and (9)). It was envisaged that the methyl esters employed were not of sufficient reactivity. If this approach were to be successful more reactive esters would have to be made. Attempts to synthesise platinum derivatives containing a benzyl ester moiety were fruitless. The limitation of making porphyrins with more reactive esters (e.g. pentafluorophenyl esters or succinimidyl esters, Diagram 6.1) relates to their laborious preparation, usually involving numerous clean-up steps plagued with low yields. Therefore alternative procedures which utilised the range of porphyrins and platinum derivatives already synthesised were adopted.

TRANSESTERIFICATION 6.7

The second coupling strategy that has been explored involved the reaction of TMePP-COOMe The literature method^{2,8} that was with [Pt(L-serine)(NH₃)₂]⁺ through transesterification. employed claimed that methyl esters undergo efficient transesterification with alcohols in the presence of butyllithium in THF. However, even after considerable experimentation, no detectable yields of a linked platinum-porphyrin conjugate were afforded. Although inclusion of this method in the Experimental section is unconventional, details have been given for easy reference.

The lack of success with the transesterification reaction may be due to a number of factors. Firstly the extreme basicity of the butyllithium may adversely affect the integrity of the platinum complex. Secondly, a major limitation of transesterification with lithium alkoxides involves alcohols that strongly complex to the lithium, thus preventing further reaction of the lithium alcoholate (refer to equation (2)) with the ester. It is possible that the $[Pt(L\textrm{-}serine)(NH₃)₂]^+$ complex has become strongly bound to the lithium and has subsequently passed through the column undetected.

CARBODIIMIDE-MEDIATED COUPLING 6.8

Over the years carbodiimides have proven to be useful reagents and are frequently employed in The great advantages of carbodiimide-mediated coupling are that the coupling reactions. procedures are extremely convenient and mild. For example, DCC-mediated coupling is effected by stirring a CH₂Cl₂/DMF solution of the carboxylic acid, HOBT and DCC for 15 minutes. The dicyclohexylurea by-product is easily removed by centrifugation and the supernatant is allowed to react with an amine for 18 hours. Evaporation of the solvent and purification by simple column chromatography provides the amide in reasonable yields. Similar reactions can be carried out in aqueous solutions using a water-soluble carbodiimide such as EDAC. Coupling procedures which use both DCC and EDAC in the conjugation of [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂]⁺ and an aminoporphyrin have been explored. Both reactions have proven to be successful and are briefly discussed below.

DCC-Mediated Coupling

TPP-NH₂ and [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂](C₆H₅)₄B were subjected to standard DCC-mediated coupling conditions to apparently give a single compound as demonstrated by TLC. Chromatography on silica, however, indicated inhomogenity, a dark brown leading band followed by a second band that streaked. The ¹H NMR of the leading band revealed that it was simply unreacted porphyrin.

The ¹H NMR of conjugate 1 (band 2) can be divided into three regions: the β -pyrrole region, aromatic region and the aliphatic region. The β -pyrrole region showed a doublet at 8.85 ppm (H^2 + H⁸, J = 8.1 Hz), a strong singlet at 8.84 ppm (H^{12} + H^{13} + H^{17} + H^{18}) and another doublet at 8.74 ppm (H^3 + H^7 , J = 8.1 Hz). In the aromatic region, the protons ortho and meta to the amide bond (labelled H_m and H_o) produced a well-defined AB-type pattern at 7.4 and 8.1 ppm. These resonances lie further downfield compared to that of TPP-NH₂ due to the deshielding effects of the amide carbonyl. The aromatic protons on the unsubstituted phenyl rings (i.e. those in positions 10, 15 and 20 on the porphyrin ring) remained essentially constant. This is not surprising for they are a considerable distance away from the amide bond. Outlined in Diagram 6.5 is a schematic representation of the resonances in the β -pyrrole and aromatic region that undergo significant changes as a result of the amide linkage.

In the aliphatic region, the methine and methylene protons of the aspartic acid appeared as multiplets around 4.0 and 3.4 ppm respectively. A more detailed inspection of the structural parameters is impeded by the poor resolution. The ¹H NMR spectrum also featured a broad signal at -2.8 ppm due to the pyrrole N-H protons, a series of multiplets in the 7.0-7.6 ppm region due to the tetraphenlyborate counterion and a singlet at 8.1 ppm due to the amide N-H proton.

Diagram 6.5: Schematic representation of selected changes in the ¹H NMR of TPP-NH₂ on formation of conjugate 1.

The infrared spectrum of conjugate 1 completely lacked the absorption band of the free carboxylic acid of the parent platinum complex at 1717 cm¹ and showed a very strong band at 1637 cm¹ which may be associated with a mixture of the coordinated carboxylate group and the amide bond carboxylate.

Water-Soluble Carbodiimide Coupling

Many of the platinum derivatives synthesised to date make poor anticancer drugs largely because of water insolubility. Thus, if the new platinum-porphyrin conjugates are to be effective as anticancer agents, it is of interest to synthesise conjugates with favourable water-solubility properties. This was achieved by linking a water-soluble porphyrin, TPPS₃-NH₂ to the platinum derivative, [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH3)2]Cl, using EDAC.

The ¹H NMR spectrum of conjugate 2 in D₂O exhibits signals at 6.9 ppm (H^3 + H^7), 7.1 ppm (H^2 + H⁸) and 7.2 ppm (H^{12} + H^{13} + H^{17} + H^{18}). These β -pyrrole protons remained essentially constant upon linking. The porphyrin aromatic protons appear at 7.7 ppm (H_o) , 7.9 ppm $(H_m +$

 H_m) and 8.1 ppm (H_o). It is worth noting that the peak at 7.9 ppm integrates to eight protons supporting the conclusion that the protons ortho to the amide bond (labelled H_m) overlap with the protons ortho to the SO₃H groups (labelled H_m). The most dramatic effect arising from coupling TPPS₃-NH₂ with [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂]Cl is the shift of the protons ortho to the amide link. Like conjugate 1, this signal has shifted significantly downfield $(\sim 1.2$ ppm) due to the deshielding effect of the amide carbonyl. Unfortunately, it was difficult to calculate reliable coupling constants due to line broadening.

In the aliphatic region, the ¹H NMR of conjugate 2, showed the expected eight-line portion assignable to the methylene protons of the aspartic acid ligand in the 2.24-2.58 ppm region, along with a quartet downfield at 3.57 ppm due to the methine protons of aspartic acid. These methylene resonances have shifted slightly upfield when compared to the bis(ammine) complex. The peaks assignable to the ammine, amide and pyrrole N-H protons are all absent due to proton exchange with deuterium.

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Many platinum anticancer drugs developed to date lack the ability to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy tissue. As a result they have often created dangerous side-effects. Future drugs of will need to be more specific. One method to achieve this specificity is to attach the cytotoxic drug to a carrier molecule. Such molecules can seek out cancer cells in the body and integrate the active components to the DNA of these cells. Specificity of the drug would limit the needless side-effects caused by the use of ineffective drugs. This thesis describes a direct contribution to this goal. The project can summarily be categorised into three stages:

- (1) The Synthesis of a Series of Platinum(II) Complexes
- (2) The Synthesis of Porphyrins Containing Suitable Linker Groups
- (3) The Coupling of Platinum and Porphyrin Components to Produce a Superior Drug

Stage 1: The Synthesis of a Series of Platinum(II) Complexes

The first stage involved the isolation of a series of 1:1 dichloro platinum(II) complexes using a variety of amino acids. These amino acid form part of the leaving group, and their primary roles are to firstly provide a terminal linker group through which a carrier molecule can be attached, and secondly, to aid with the water solubility of the platinum complex. The range of amino acids selected includes L-serine, L-lysine, L-glutamic acid-methyl ester, aspartic and glutamic acid. These amino acids provide a carboxyl, a methyl ester, a hydroxyl and an amine linker group, all of which can be used in direct-coupling reactions.

Overall, six [Pt(amac-N,O)Cl₂] derivatives were successfully synthesised and characterised. These complexes were prepared by simply reacting $K_2[PtCl_4]$ with the amino acid at 40-50°C whilst controlling the pH with KOH in order to deprotonate the α -carboxylate. The reaction of K₂[PtCl₄] with L-lysine was found to be particularly heat-sensitive so the reaction was carried out at room temperature to avoid precipitation of platinum metal. The crystal structure of [Pt(Llysine)Cl₂] has been determined by X-ray diffraction. [Pt(L-lysine)Cl₂] crystallised as yellow needles in the monoclinic spacer group P2(1) with two independent molecules in the asymmetric unit and lattice parameters a = 9.63(8) A, b = 11.11(11) A, c = 11.05(9) A and β = 102.02(6)°. Crystals of [Pt(L-serine)Cl₂] were also obtained by slow evaporation of aqueous solutions over P₂O₅ and X-ray structure determination is in progress. A hallmark of these experimentally simple reactions is the marked increase in complexity in the ¹H NMR spectra on formation of [Pt(amac-N,O)Cl₂]. Despite this complexity, a total analysis of the structural parameters was achieved with the aid of the simulation program gNMR.

Once fully characterised, a number of these dichloro platinum(II) complexes were modified to include an active component. This active component is the non-leaving group and is mainly responsible for the cytotoxicity of the complex. Modification was achieved by exchanging the labile chloride ions with ammonia, ethylenediamine or diaminocyclohexane. In this series, eight new [Pt(amac-N,O)(A)] complexes have been prepared. Of these four contain an active bis(ammine) component, two contain ethylenediamine, one contains cis-R,S-diaminocyclohexane and the last contains trans-R,R-diaminocyclohexane. Refer to Table 7.1 for specific details. It is worth noting that a complete examination of the spectroscopic features displayed by the dichloro diamine platinum(II) complexes of ethylenediamine and diaminocyclohexane was carried out prior to the synthesis of the [Pt(amac-N,O)(A)] complexes.

Ligand 1	Ligand 2				
	$2 \times Cl$	$2 \times NH_3$	en	cis-R,S-dach	trans-R,R-dach
L-asp	v	✔	✓	v	v
L-serine	✓	✔	✓		
L-glu	✔	✔			
L-glu.OMe	v				
L-lysine	✔	✔			

Table 7.1: Platinum(II) derivatives developed for linking

Stage 2: The Synthesis of Porphyrins Containing Suitable Linker Groups

Porphyrins are very versatile molecules that are well known due to their use as photosensitisers in photodynamic therapy. In this project, porphyrins were used as carrier molecules. The primary interest in porphyrins as carrier ligands derives from the findings that a number of porphyrins possessed tumour-localising properties. In this new generation of compounds, the porphyrin is anticipated to play a key role in directing the cytotoxic agent toward the tumour site.

A series of tetra-substituted porphyrins of basically the same shape but with a range of linker groups were created. The three linker groups selected were those that can be used in direct coupling reactions. These linker groups include an amine, a carboxylic acid and a methyl ester.

It was of interest to prepare porphyrins in gram quantities for use in coupling reactions. Unfortunately, most of the commonly used synthetic routes give porphyrins in only small yield, moreover many routes even lead to very complicated mixtures which are difficult to separate. The most successful synthesis was that of TPP-NH₂. This porphyrin was synthesised in three successive steps. Firstly, TPP was prepared by heating a mixture of pyrrole with benzaldehyde in propionic acid. TPP was then reacted with fuming nitric acid in CHCl₃ to give the mono-nitro derivative, TPP-NO₂ which after tin chloride reduction in hydrochloric acid gave TPP-NH₂ in 70% overall yield.

Three additional A₃B-porphryins were also synthesised and characterised. Two of these contain a methyl ester moiety (TMePP-COOMe and TMesPP-COOMe) and the third a carboxyl group (TMePP-COOH). TMePP-COOMe and TMePP-COOH were prepared using the classical Adler condensation whilst TMesPP-COOMe was made by the Lindsey's method.¹ All three porphyrins were produced in yields ranging from 12-15%. In the A₃B-porphyrins the tolualdehyde group (serving as A) is superior in terms of ease of isolation.

Stage 3: The Coupling of Platinum and Porphyrin Components to Produce a Superior Drug

The final stage involved coupling the porphyrins to the platinum-based derivatives. It is proposed that the tethering of a molecule with an independent affinity for cancer cells such as a porphyrin would enhance the efficacy of the agent by delivering a much larger concentration of the cytotoxic platinum component to cancer infected cells. In the linkage of porphyrin and platinum components three different coupling strategies were explored. From these, the procedures utilising coupling reagents were the most successful.

Standard carbodiimide-mediated coupling has been applied successfully to the synthesis of two conjugates (Diagram 7.1). Conjugate 1 was prepared by stirring [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃)₂]⁺, DC and HOBT in CHCl₂/DMF for 15 minutes. The dicyclohexylurea by-product was removed b centrifugation and the resulting HOBT ester was allowed to react with TPP-NH₂ for 18 hour Evaporation of the solvent followed by column chromatography provided the conjugate in 45^c yield.

Conjugate 2, a water-soluble version, was also prepared by carbodiimide-mediated coupling using [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃₎₂]⁺, EDAC and TPPS₃-NH₂ in 52% yield. [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃₎₂]⁺ was used in both preparations primarily because the active ligands $(2 \times NH₃)$ are the same as the parent compound cisplatin-a known potent anticancer agent.

Diagram 7.1: Structural diagram of Conjugate 1 and Conjugate 2.

Attempts to link [Pt(L-serine)(NH₃₎₂]⁺ and TMePP-COOMe through transesterification were fruitless. Also a number of ester aminolysis reactions proved unsuccessful.

Although the carbodiimide-mediated experiments have been specifically demonstrated with [Pt(L-asp-N,O)(NH₃₎₂]⁺, TPP-NH₂ and TPPS₃-NH₂, it is undoubtedly not limited to these reagents. This approach lends itself to the synthesis of a larger range of conjugates by:

> (a) Alternating the porphyrin and platinum derivatives featured in this thesis. For example, TMePP-COOH can be reacted with [Pt(L-lysine)(NH₃₎₂]⁺.

- (b) Using A₃B porphyrins containing different types of meso-substituents (A). A number of different meso-groups are shown in Diagram 7.2. The selection of meso-substituents is important, for the porphryin must maintain a high level of solubility. In general, the pentyl, methyl and methoxy substituents impart much greater solubility in non-polar solvents than does the phenyl group. The paraglycosylated porphyrins are appealing because they would have relatively good solubility in aqueous solutions. Aqueous solubility being a pertinent physical property to the use of platinum-porphyrin conjugates as agents in cancer therapy.
- (c) Inserting different metal centres such as copper and zinc into free base porphyrins. Metalation would increase the charge of the platinum-porphyrin conjugates.

Diagram 7.2: A selection of various meso-substituents.

Although the parent porphyrins are known to localise, the two newly designed platinumporphyrin conjugates may not mimic this behaviour. By screening the two conjugates for DNA binding, ability to sensitise formation of singlet oxygen, ability to cleave plasmid DNA and cytotoxic activity against various tumour cell lines, valuable information on their biological activity would be provided and thus identify their potential therapeutic value. Such studies are beyond the scope of this thesis but represent a crucial step toward the development of these conjugates. Overall, with respect to the structural components, the two new platinum-porphyrin conjugates have the potential to be more specific, safer drugs.

References

J. S. Lindsey, S. Prathapan, T. E. Johnson and R. W. Wagner, Tetrahedron, 1994, 50, $\mathbf{1}$ 8941-8968.

APPENDIX

SUPPLEMENTARY

X-RAY CRYSTAL DATA

Equivalent isotropic U defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized Uij tensor

Table I.2: Anisotropic displacement coefficients.

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 $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$

 $\frac{1}{2}$

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