

# Synthesis, Crystal Structure and Interaction with Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) of Two $\alpha$ -Aminophosphonic Acids Derivatives

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## Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Author WH synthesis the compound 1 & 2, performed the statistical analysis and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author WW designed the study, managed the analyses of the study and revised the manuscript. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Article Information

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## ABSTRACT

Two  $\alpha$ -amino-phosphonate derivatives (**1** & **2**) were synthesized and their compositions and structures were characterized by Elemental Analysis (EA), FT-IR Spectroscopy (FT-IR), Electrospray Ionization Mass Spectrometry (ESI-MS), Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR, <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>31</sup>P) and X-ray crystallography. Compound **1** & **2** were crystallized in monoclinic system with the space group P2(1)/n and P2(1)/c, respectively. The interaction effects of two  $\alpha$ -aminophosphonate derivatives (**1** & **2**) with BSA were investigated and the binding constants were  $1.07 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ,  $1.68 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$ , respectively. Besides, the values of n were indicated that 1:1 complex was formed between BSA and 1&2.

**Keywords:**  $\alpha$ -amino-phosphonate derivatives; characterizations; crystal structure; interaction; BSA.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

- 1, Diethyl (4-chlorophenylamino) (4-fluorophenyl) methylphosphonate ( $C_{17}H_{20}ClFNO_3P$ )
- 2, Diethyl (4-nitrophenylamino) (4-hydroxyphenyl) methylphosphonate ( $C_{17}H_{21}N_2O_6P$ )

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The formation of phosphorus-carbon bond has been received intense interest in recent years because the bond plays important role in a wide of biological properties and is able to function as  $\alpha$ -aminocarboxylic acid surrogates [1-4]. It is reported that  $\alpha$ -aminophosphonates could act as herbicides [5] or antibacterial [6], antiviral [7] and antitumor agents [8]. The potential of  $\alpha$ -aminophosphonates as enzyme inhibitors pharmacological agents has also been established [9-15]. Our previous studies have showed that some  $\alpha$ -aminophosphonates could potentially inhibit PTP1B and TCPTP with lower cytotoxicity [16]. Do the  $\alpha$ -aminophosphonate derivatives interact with BSA and lead to the antiproliferation and apoptosis of tumor cells?

Bovine serum albumin (BSA) is the most important carrier protein in the living body and the most abundant carrier protein in the plasma. Therefore, studying the interaction between drugs and BSA could provide a basis for drugs design and development [17-18]. BSA contains a variety of coordination groups and could bind to a number of both endogenous and exogenous compounds. Therefore, BSA could store and transport certain drugs and small bioactive small molecules. Therefore, target BSA for the design of drug have been paid to special attention.

In this paper, two new  $\alpha$ -aminophosphonate derivatives (**1 & 2**) with similar structure as the

reported compound [16,19,20] are synthesized and characterized (Scheme 1 and Supplementary Information). Structural identification of the compound **1 & 2** were confirmed by IR, EAs  $^1H$ -NMR,  $^{31}P$ -NMR, ESI-MS spectroscopy and X-ray single crystal diffraction (Supplementary Information Fig. S1-S8). The interaction with BSA were investigated.

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL

### 2.1 Materials and Instrumentation

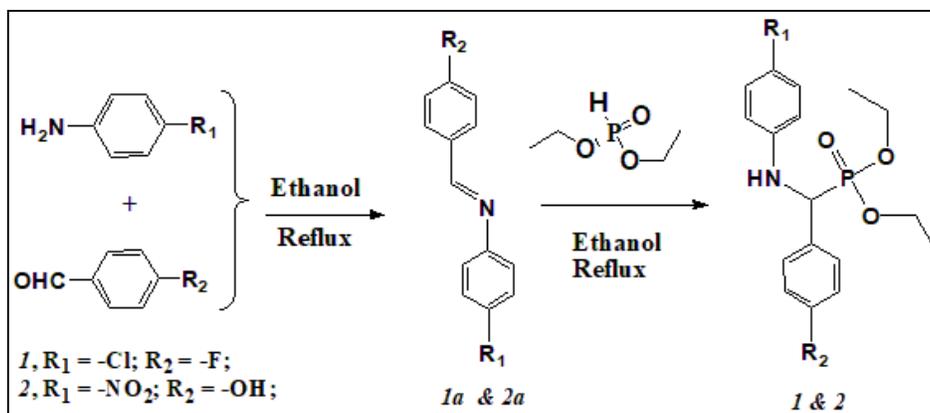
All the materials and instrumentations were purchased from commercial and used without further purification. Details information of materials and instrumentations were given in the Supplementary Material.

### 2.2 X-ray Crystallographic Studies

Single crystals of compound **1 & 2** were mounted on glass fibers for data collection. Detailed information were given in the Supplementary Material.

### 2.3 Synthesis of $\alpha$ -aminophosphonates

From Scheme 1,  $\alpha$ -aminophosphonates **1 & 2** were prepared by the early reported methods with certain modified [16,19,20]. First, 20 mmol of aromatic amine and 20 mmol of aromatic benzaldehyde derivative were added to a 20 mL of  $C_2H_5OH$  and allowed to react for 2h. Schiff



Scheme 1. Synthesis of **1 & 2** in two-step by Pudovik reaction

Bases were obtained after being cooled to room temperature (Yield: 1a 84.2%, 2a 79.8% ); Second, 22 mmol of diethyl phosphonate diluted in 10 mL of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH was added into 20 mmol Schiff base compounds in 20 mL of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH. Left the mixture refluxed for another 15-18 h with constant stirring. Yellow solids of 1 or 2 were obtained. The yellow block crystal (**1** & **2**) were collected after a week from C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH (**1**) and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH/H<sub>2</sub>O(**2**).

**Diethyl (4-chlorophenylamino) (4-fluorophenyl) methylphosphonate (1)**

Yield: 2.92 g, 38.4%. Colorless crystals were obtained from ethanol. EAs: calcd/found (%) for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>ClFNO<sub>3</sub>P(**1**): C 54.92/54.88, H 5.42/6.04, N 3.77/3.77. IR(cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3290 ν(O-H, N-H), 2982 ν(C<sub>α</sub>-H), 1221 ν(P=O), 1053 and 1025 ν(P-O-C), 973 (C-P). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O/ethanol, ppm): δ 24.774. <sup>1</sup>H NMR(CD<sub>3</sub>OD, ppm): δ 0.949-1.116(t, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.811(m, 2H, -OCH<sub>2</sub>-), 5.200 (s, 1H, Ar-NHR), 6.518-7.794 (m, 8H, aromatic H). Exact mass for **1**: 371.0853, ESI-MS: [**1**-H]<sup>+</sup> (m/z, 370.0984).

**Diethyl (4-nitrophenylamino) (4-hydroxyphenyl) methylphosphonate (2)**

Yield: 2.24 g, 30%. Colorless crystals were obtained from ethanol/H<sub>2</sub>O. EAs: calcd/found(%) for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>P: C 53.69/53.74, H 5.57/5.94, N 7.37/7.37. IR(cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3422 and 3318 ν(O-H, N-H), 2983 ν(C<sub>α</sub>-H), 1220 ν(P=O), 1056 and 1016 ν(P-O-C), 970 ν(C-P). <sup>31</sup>P NMR(D<sub>2</sub>O/ethanol, ppm): δ 22.283. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR(DMSO, ppm): δ 0.949-1.116 (t, 6H, 2-CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.518-7.794 (m, 8H, aromatic H),

5.11(m, 2H, -OCH<sub>2</sub>-), 5.11 (s, 1H, NH-), 4.811 (d, 1H, -CH-). Exact mass for **2**: 380.1137, ESI-MS: [**2**+H]<sup>+</sup> (m/z, 381.1121).

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Crystal Structure of **1** & **2**

The Crystal structures of **1** & **2** were experimented to grow in different organic solvents or mix-solvents and the suitable crystals were obtained. Crystallographic data and hydrogen bonds are listed in Table 1 and Table S1 (shown in Supplementary information).

**1** & **2** were monoclinic system with the space group P 21/n, P2 (1)/c, respectively. From Fig.1&2, two -O-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> groups, one C<sub>α</sub> atom, and a double bond O atom to form the tetrahedral geometries of P atoms. Besides, C<sub>α</sub> atoms were responsible for the existence of optical activity, similar to the early report [16,19,20].

The plane of the arylamine and benzaldehyde derivatives form a dihedral angle of 88.44 (0.19)° and 81.84 (0.10)°, respectively. When the -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> bonded to P was substituted by hydroxy group, the dihedral angle between the 2-hydroxyphenyl and pyridine rings is 54.9 (1)° [21]. The bond lengths of C<sub>α</sub>-P and P=O were almost comparable to the similar structures [16,19,20,22]. There were a lot of weak interactions existed in compound **1** & **2**, such as N-H...O, O-H...O, C-H...O, C-H...π and N-O...π, resulting in stabilization in the structures (shown in Figs. 4-5).

**Table 1. Crystallographic data for **1** & **2****

Complex	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Empirical formula	C <sub>34</sub> H <sub>40</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> F <sub>2</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub> P <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub> P	a(Å)	13.4882(7)	12.2302(5)
CCDC	1405042	1405038	b(Å)	18.1802(8)	8.5754(3)
Formula weight	743.52	380.33	c(Å)	16.1967(8)	17.8559(7)
Temperature	296(2) K	296(2) K	α(°)	90	90
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	0.71073 Å	β(°)	98.244(2)	100.193(2)
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	γ(°)	90	90
space group	P2(1)/n	P2(1)/c	V(Å <sup>3</sup> )	3930.7(3)	1843.15(12)
Z	4	4	R <sub>int</sub>	0.0299	0.0297
D <sub>calc</sub> (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.256	1.371	R <sub>1</sub> , wR <sub>2</sub> [I>]	0.1479	0.0912
F(000)	1552	800	2σ(I)	0.4145	0.2378
Goodness of fit	1.324	1.111	R <sub>1</sub> , wR <sub>2</sub> (all data)	0.1939	0.1093
Completeness (%)	99.1	98.1	Reflections unique	0.4610	0.2648
Reflections collect	26371	14955		6864	4153



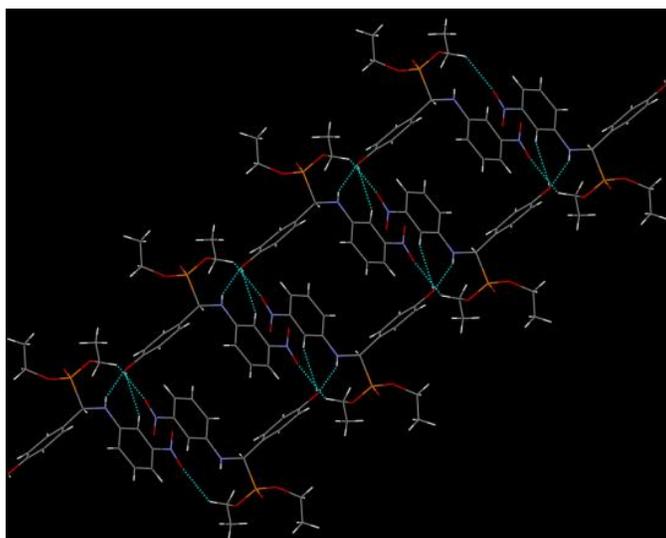


Fig. 4. Hydrogen bonding network for 2

### 3.2 BSA Interaction with Compound 1 & 2

As showed in Fig.5 & 6, with the increasing amount of compound 1 and compound 2, the fluorescence intensity of BSA at 336 nm regularly decreased. The results indicated that compound 1 & 2 could interact with BSA result in the fluorescence intensity quenching. Followed by the equation of Stern-Volmer,  $F_0/F = 1 + k_q \tau_0 [Q] = 1 + K_{sv} [Q]$  [23]. (where  $F_0$  and  $F$  are the fluorescence intensity of BSA before and after difference amount of 1&2 were added, respectively.  $K_q$ , reaction rate constant,  $K_{sv}$ , Kinetic quenching constant,  $\tau_0$ , about  $10^{-8}$ s), we

could find that the values of  $k_q$  for 1&2 were  $2.2 \times 10^{13} \text{ L} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  and  $2.8 \times 10^{13} \text{ L} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , respectively. The  $k_q$  values were higher than the maximum scatter collision-quenching, which told us that the interaction between 1&2 and BSA were static quenching, indicating the static quenching mechanism was existed [24].

For static quenching, the binding constant and stoichiometry between BSA and 1&2 were calculated by the equation [25]

$$\lg \frac{F_0 - F}{F} = \lg K_A + n \lg [Q]$$

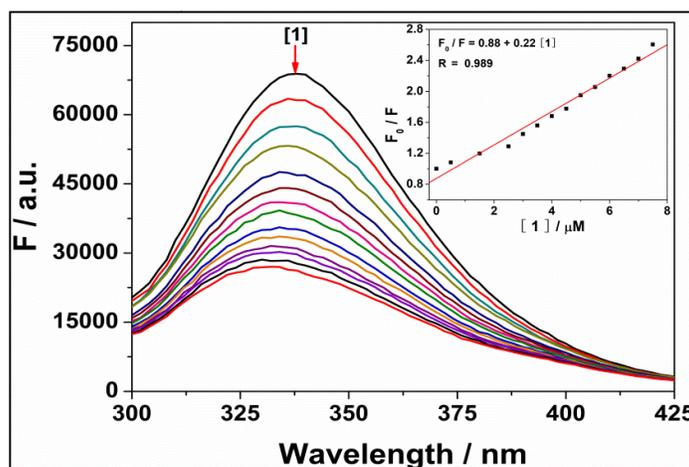


Fig. 5. The Fluorescence spectrum of BSA with different concentrations of compound 1 were added. Inset: Stern-Volmer plots for the concentration of compound 1 with the fluorescence intensity

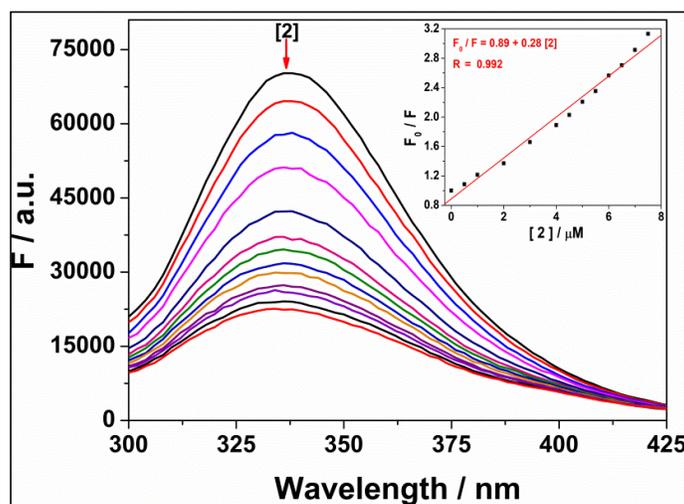


Fig. 6. The Fluorescence spectrum of BSA with different concentrations of compound 2 were added. Inset: Stern-Volmer plots for the concentration of compound 2 with the fluorescence intensity

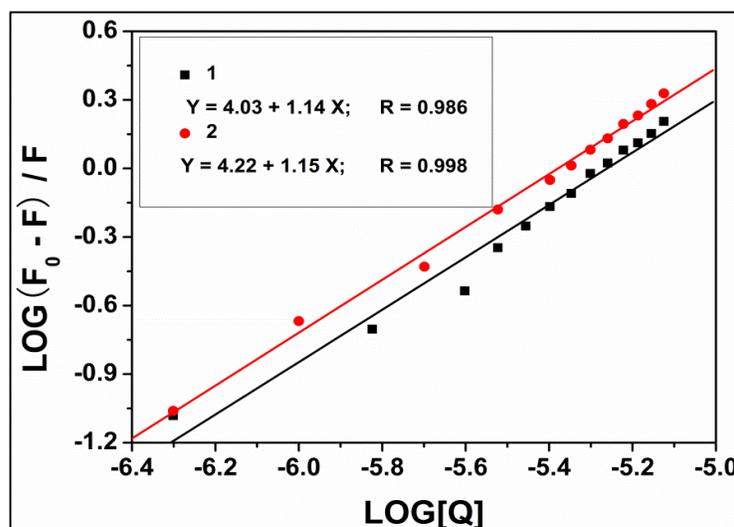


Fig. 7. Plot of  $\log[(F_0-F)/F]$  vs.  $\log[Q]$  (Q stand for compound 1 and compound 2)

From the slope and the intercept of the line of  $\log (F_0 - F)/F$  vs.  $\log [Q]$ , the value of  $n$  and  $K_A$  could be obtained (Fig. 7). Table 1 showed that a higher binding constants was found by **2** with BSA than **1**. As the reported results, the values of  $n$  were nearly 1, indicated that the formation of 1:1 complex were obtained between BSA and **1&2**.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our data indicate that the  $\alpha$ -aminophosphonates derivatives (**1&2**) can bind

to BSA and the fluorescence quenching mechanism of BSA with **1&2** were of static procedures. The binding constant of BSA and **1&2** were  $1.07 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$  and  $1.68 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$ , respectively. Besides, the values of  $n$  were manifested to reveal that the formation of 1:1 complex were obtained between BSA and **1&2**.

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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