

pH-Dependent random coil ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁵N chemical shifts of the ionizable amino acids: a guide for protein pK_a measurements

Gerald Platzer, Mark Okon, and Lawrence P. McIntosh

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Department of Chemistry, and Michael Smith Laboratories, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, V6T 1Z3, Canada

A summary of the pH-dependent chemical shift changes upon *deprotonation* of the ionizable amino acid functional groups within the context of the blocked acetyl-Gly-X-Gly-amide (X = Asp, Glu, His, Cys, Tyr, or Lys) tripeptides. Alanine amide and N-acetyl alanine are models of the N- and C-termini, respectively. The atoms and $\Delta\delta$ values (ppm; negative is upfield) are colored as: acidic protons, red; oxygens and non-labile protons, black within the named residue and grey in flanking blocked glycines; carbons, green; nitrogens, blue; sulfurs, yellow; and phosphates, magenta. Results for ¹³C₆/¹⁵N₄-Larginine are due to deprotonation of the guanidinium moiety in the context of deprontonated α -amino (p*K*_a 9.15) and α -carboxyl groups. Values for the neutral forms of the Gly-His-Gly tripeptide and arginine are tautomer averaged.

The tripeptides and alanine derivatives were initially in 50 mM NaCl with 5% D_2O (D = ²H). DSS (4,4dimethyl-4-silapentane-1-sulfonic acid; 1 mM) was included as a pH-independent internal reference. For the cysteine tripeptide, 10 mM TCEP (tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine) was also present as a reductant. The ¹³C₆/¹⁵N₄-L-arginine was initially 10 or 100 mM in 50 mM NaCl with 1 mM DSS and 5% D₂O. Spectra were recorded at 25 °C.

The data are from Platzer et al. *J Biomol NMR* 60:109-129 (2014), or in the case of the phosphoamino acid peptides (second ionization step for acetyl-Gly-Gly-Gly-Gly-amide, X=pSer, pThr, or pTyr), from Bienkiewicz & Lumb, *J Biomol NMR* 15:203-206 (1999).