

The inclusion of cholesteryl hemisuccinate (CHS) during n-dodecyl- β -D-maltoside (DDM) solubilization stabilizes YMOR. YMOR was solubilized from the plasma membranes of Sf9 cells with 1% DDM in the presence or absence of 0.01% CHS and then enriched on a TalonTM IMAC column in either 0.1% DDM or 0.1% DDM plus 0.01% CHS. [³H]DPN binding to these detergent solubilized YMOR samples was then measured in the absence (total) or presence (NS) of 20 μ M naltrexone. Addition of CHS to solubilized YMOR increased [³H]DPN ~3.8-fold, suggesting an improvement in the amount of receptor in an active conformation. Error bars represent the Standard Error of the Mean of two experiments performed in duplicate. *P<0.05, significantly different from DDM total as calculated by a Student's t-test.



DAMGO displays low affinity binding to rHDL•YMOR. An estimated 15 fmoles of rHDL•YMOR was incubated with 1 nM [³H]DPN and increasing concentrations of DAMGO in 25 mM Tris•HCl, pH 7.7, 100 mM NaCl, 0.1% BSA. DAMGO competed [³H]DPN binding with a K_i of ~1.9 μ M, indicating that in the absence of G protein heterotrimer coupling DAMGO binds YMOR with low affinity. These data corroborate those in Figures 1d and 4b, which illustrated that DAMGO binds YMOR with low affinity when G_{i2} heterotrimer is uncoupled from the receptor by the addition of 10 μ M GTP γ S. Data is representative of three experiments performed in duplicate. Error bars represent the Standard Error of the Mean.

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[Lys⁷, Cys⁸]dermorphin was synthesized on Rink resin using an Applied Biosystems Peptide Synthesizer and Fmoc chemistry. Samples were resolved on a Waters reverse phase HPLC using a Vydac C18 10 micron column, run on a linear gradient of 0 to 45% acetonitrile containing 0.1% TFA in an aqueous phase containing 0.1% TFA at 35°C. Samples were monitored at 254 nm. [Lys⁷, Cys⁸]dermorphin (**A**) has a retention time of 25.9 min and was determined to be 98% pure before labeling. [Lys⁷, Cys⁸]dermorphin was labeled with Cy3-maleimide dye (GE Healthcare) at a ratio of 1.5:1 peptide:fluorophore. [Lys⁷, Cys⁸]dermorphin-Cy3 (**B**) has a retention time of 29.2 min and was determined to be 91% pure before use in binding assays and imaging experiments. A mixture and co-elution profile (**C**) shows that the two compounds are well separated.



A Cy3-labeled [Lys⁷, Cys⁸]dermorphin retains agonist properties at YMOR. Approximately 50 fmoles of receptor in HDL particles were coupled to purified G_{i2} heterotrimer at a ratio of 30:1 G protein:YMOR. (A) [Lys⁷, Cys⁸]dermorphin-Cy3 binds rHDL•YMOR+ G_{i2} with high affinity, displaying a K_i of 3.3 nM in competition assays against 0.75 nM [³H]DPN. The single high affinity binding site suggested by the monophasic competition curve is due to the high molar ratio of G protein addition to YMOR, which results in nearly all of the receptor being coupled to G_{i2} heterotrimer. Data is normalized to the maximal binding level as calculated by a one-site competition curve fit (Prism 5.0, GraphPad). (B) [Lys⁷, Cys⁸]dermorphin-Cy3 stimulated [³⁵S]GTP_γS binding to rHDL•YMOR+ G_{i2} with an EC₅₀ of 23.05 nM. Approximately 52 fmoles of [³⁵S]GTP_γS binding was stimulated, suggesting a 1:1 YMOR: G_{i2} coupling, confirming the fact that adding G_{i2} at a 30:1 molar ration results in complete coupling of YMOR. Data are representative of three experiments performed in duplicate are shown. Error bars represent the Standard Error of the Mean.