

Versatile Picklocks to Access All Opioid Receptors: Tuning the Selectivity and Functional Profile of the Cyclotetrapeptide c[Phe-D-Pro-Phe-Trp] (CJ-15,208)

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Table of contents

Peptide synthesis	p. S2
Table S1. Analysis of the linear precursors, and cyclization yields	p. S4
Analytical characterization of CTPs 1 , 5-8	p. S5
Figure S1. RP-HPLC/ESI MS of 9	p. S7
Figure S2. ¹ H NMR of 1 and 9	p. S8
Biochemical characterizations	p. S9
Conformational analysis of 1 , 9A , 9B , 10	p. S11
References	p. S15

General Methods.

Standard chemicals and biological reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. Cell culture media, phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and fetal bovine serum (FBS), from Lonza; black 96-well clear-bottom plates were purchased from Corning Costar. HEK-293 cells from ATCC, USA; plasmids from UMR cDNA Research Center, USA; cAMP EIA kit from Cayman Chemical Co., Ann Arbor, MI, U.S. Adult male CD-1 mice from Charles River, Calco, Como, Italy. The MW-assisted synthesis was performed using a MicroSYNTH microwave lab station equipped with a built-in ATC-FO advanced fiber optic automatic temperature control. Flash chromatography was performed on silica gel (230-400 mesh), using mixtures of distilled solvents. Purities were determined to be >95% by analytical RP HPLC and elemental analysis. RP HPLC was performed on an Agilent 1100 series apparatus, using a RP column Phenomenex mod. Gemini 3 μ C18 110 Å 100 3 3.0 mm (P/No 00D-4439-Y0); column description: stationary phase octadecyl carbon chain-bonded silica (C18) with TMS endcapping, fully porous organo-silica solid support, particle size 3 mm, pore size 110 Å, length 100 mm, internal diameter 3 mm; DAD 210 nm; mobile phase from 9:1 H₂O/CH₃CN to 2:8 H₂O/CH₃CN in 20 min at a flow rate of 1.0 mL min⁻¹, followed by 10 min at the same composition. Direct-phase HPLC analysis was performed on an Agilent 1100 series apparatus, using a Kromasil 60-5Diol column (P/No E42500); column description: stationary phase silica, particle size 5 μ m, pore size 60 Å, length 250 mm, internal diameter 4.6 mm, DAD 210 nm; mobile phase hexane/2-propanol 60:40, at a flow rate of 0.6 mL min⁻¹. Semi-preparative RP-HPLC of cyclic compounds was performed on an Agilent 1100 series apparatus, using a RP column ZORBAX mod. Eclipse XDBC18 PrepHT cartridge 21.2 3 150 mm 7 μ (P/No 977150-102); column description: stationary phase octadecyl carbon chain-bonded silica (C18), double end-capped, particle size 7 mm, pore size 80 Å, length 150 mm, internal diameter 21.2 mm; DAD 210 nm; mobile phase from 8:2 H₂O-CH₃CN to 100% CH₃CN, in 10 min, at a flow rate of 12 mL min⁻¹. ESI analysis was performed using a MS single quadrupole HP 1100MSD detector, with a drying gas flow of 12.5 L min⁻¹, nebulizer pressure 30 psgi, drying gas temp. 350°C, capillary voltage 4500 (1) and 4000 (2), scan 50-2600 amu. Elemental analyses were performed using a Thermo Flash 2000 CHNS/O analyzer. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded using a Varian Gemini apparatus at 400 MHz in 5 mm tubes, using 0.01 M peptide in 8:2 [D₆]DMSO/H₂O at r.t. Water suppression was performed by the solvent presaturation procedure implemented in Varian (PRESAT). ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz. Chemical shifts are reported as δ values relative to residual DMSO δ H (2.50 p.p.m.) as internal standard. The unambiguous assignment of ¹H NMR resonances was performed by 2D gCOSY. VT-¹H NMR experiments were performed over the range of 298-348 K; temperature calibration was done with the ethylene glycol OHCH_n chemical-shift separation method.

Solid-phase synthesis of the linear precursors. The linear peptides were assembled by MW-assisted SPPS on a commercially available Wang resin preloaded with the first residue, using Fmoc-protected amino acids, and TBTU/HOBt/DIPEA as coupling agents. All steps were performed according to the following general procedures.

Fmoc deprotection. The Fmoc-Phe-preloaded resin (0.5 g, Phe loading 0.4-0.8 mmol/g) was treated with 20% piperidine in DMF (5 mL) for 2 min under MW irradiation at 40 W, monitoring the internal temperature at 45°C with a built-in ATC-FO advanced fiber optic automatic temperature control. The suspension was filtered and the resin was washed with DCM (5 mL) and treated with a second portion of 20% piperidine in DMF under MW irradiation as described above. The suspension was then filtered, and the resin was washed three times in sequence with DCM (5 mL), MeOH (5 mL), and DMF (5mL).

Peptide bond formation. The resin was swollen in DCM (5 mL), and Fmoc-amino acid (0.6 mmol), the coupling reagents HBTU (0.6 mmol), HOBt (0.6 mmol), DIPEA (1.2 mmol), were added under a nitrogen atmosphere to the resin, and the mixture was reacted while bubbling N₂ for 10 min, under MW irradiation at 45°C as described above. The resin was washed in sequence 3 times with DCM (5 mL), MeOH (5 mL), and DMF (5mL), and coupling efficacy was determined by means of the Kaiser or chloranil tests (for coupling on Pro).

Peptide cleavage. The resulted peptidyl resin was treated with a mixture of TFA and TIPS/water/PhOH as scavengers (7:1:1:1 v/v, 15 mL), for 2 hours at r.t. The mixture was filtered, and the resin was washed 3 times with 5% TFA in Et₂O (10 mL). The filtrate and the washes were collected and solvent and volatiles were removed at r.t. under N₂ flow. The resulting residue was suspended in ice-cold Et₂O, and the crude solid which precipitated was triturated and collected by centrifuge. The purity of the product was determined 69-84% by RP HPLC (for the conditions, see General Methods), and their identity was assessed by electrospray ESI MS (Table S1).

Cyclization. The crude linear peptide (0.1 mmol) in DMF (5 mL) was added over 12 h using a KD Scientific single infusion syringe pump and a 10 mL syringe, to a solution of HATU (0.4 mmol) and DIEA (1.0 mmol) in DMF (20 mL). The reaction was allowed to stir for an additional 12 h. The solvent was removed at reduced pressure, the residue was dissolved in EtOAc (25 mL), and the mixture was washed twice with 1N citric acid (5 mL), saturated bicarbonate (5 mL) and brine (5 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The resulting crude residues were purified by semi-preparative RP HPLC (see General Methods). Purities were determined to be >95% by analytical RP HPLC and elemental analysis (for the conditions, see General Methods). The identity of the compounds was confirmed by ¹H NMR, 2D gCOSY, ¹³C NMR, and ESI MS analyses.

Table S1. RP HPLC and ESI MS analyses of the linear precursors and of the CTPs **1** and **5-10**, and respective cyclization yields.

Linear peptide sequence	Rt (min) ^[a]	Purity (%) ^[a]	ESI MS [M+1] found/calcd. ^[b]	CTP	CTP sequence	Cyclization Yield (%) ^[c]	ES-MS [M+1] found/calcd. ^[b]	Rt (min) ^[d]	Purity (%) ^[d]
H-Trp-Phe-D-Pro-Phe-OH	1.74	70	596.3/596.3	1	c[Phe-D-Pro-Phe-Trp]	77	578.5/578.3	7.28	98
H-(1-MeTrp)-Phe-D-Pro-Phe-OH	1.94	72	610.2/610.3	5	c[Phe-D-Pro-Phe-(1-MeTrp)]	75	592.4/592.3	8.82	97
H-D-(1-MeTrp)-Phe-D-Pro-Phe-OH	1.96	73	610.2/610.3	6	c[Phe-D-Pro-Phe-D-(1-MeTrp)]	74	592.5/592.3	10.79	96
H-Trp-D-Ala-D-Pro-Phe-OH	1.30	79	520.3/520.3	7	c[ala-D-Pro-Phe-Trp]	65	502.4/502.3	5.84	95
H-Trp-Ala-D-Pro-D-Phe-OH	1.36	78	520.2/520.3	8	c[Ala-D-Pro-D-Phe-Trp]	traces	502.4/502.3	5.30	-
H-Ala-D-Pro-D-Phe-Trp-OH ^[e]	1.44	82	520.2/520.3	8	c[Ala-D-Pro-D-Phe-Trp] ^[e]	55 ^[e]	502.4/502.3	5.31	95% ^[f]
H-Trp-β-Ala-D-Pro-Phe-OH	1.49	84	520.2/520.3	9	c[β-Ala-D-Pro-Phe-Trp]	95	502.2/502.3	6.63	98
H-Trp-GABA-D-Pro-Phe-OH	1.55	69	534.3/534.3	10	c[GABA-D-Pro-Phe-Trp]	94	516.3/516.3	6.02	97

[a] Determined by analytical RP-HPLC on a C18 column Phenomenex Gemini 3 μ C18 110 Å 100 3 3.0 mm, mobile phase from 9:1 H₂O/CH₃CN/0.1% HCOOH to 2:8 H₂O/CH₃CN/0.1% HCOOH in 20 min at a flow rate of 1.0 mL min⁻¹. [b] MS single quadrupole HP 1100MSD detector. [c] Determined after semi-preparative RP HPLC on a C18 RP column ZORBAX Eclipse XDBC18 PrepHT cartridge 21.2 3 150 mm 7 μ , mobile phase from 8:2 H₂O-CH₃CN to 100% CH₃CN, in 10 min, flow rate 12 mL min⁻¹. [d] Same stationary phase as for [a], mobile phase from 9:1 H₂O/CH₃CN to 2:8 H₂O/CH₃CN in 20 min, flow rate 1.0 mL min⁻¹. [e] In the presence of 10 equiv of NaHCO₃, and heating the reaction mixture by MW irradiation (45°C) for 10 min before quenching. [f] To improve purity, **8** was pre-purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (eluent: MeOH/EtOAc 95:5) prior to semi-preparative RP HPLC.

c[Trp-Phe-D-Pro-Phe] (CJ-15,208) **1**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O) δ : 1.67 (m, 1H, D-ProH γ), 1.78 (m, 1H, D-ProH γ), 1.93 (m, 1H, D-ProH β), 2.22 (m, 1H, D-ProH β), 2.54 (dd, J = 3.9, 14.0 Hz, 1H, TrpH β), 2.83-2.93 (m, 2H, Phe¹H β +TrpH β), 2.95-3.00 (m, 2H, Phe¹H β +Phe³H β), 3.11 (dd, J = 1.5, 11.6 Hz, 1H, Phe³H β), 3.35-3.45 (m, 2H, D-ProH δ), 3.92 (dt, J = 7.6, 8.8 Hz, 1H, Phe¹H α), 4.19 (ddd, J = 3.9, 7.2, 10.6 Hz, 1H, TrpH α), 4.64 (dt, J = 1.5, 8.2 Hz, 1H, Phe³H α), 5.32 (dd, J = 1.0, 6.4 Hz, 1H, D-ProH α), 6.88 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H, Phe¹ArH_{2,6}), 6.92 (s, 1H, TrpArH₂), 6.97 (dd, J = 7.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H, TrpArH₅), 7.01-7.11 (m, 4H, Phe¹ArH_{3,5}+TrpArH₆), 7.21 (dd, J = 7.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H, Phe³ArH₄), 7.30 (dd, J = 7.2, 7.6 Hz, 2H, Phe³ArH_{3,5}), 7.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, TrpArH₇), 7.54 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, Phe³ArH_{2,6}), 7.63 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, TrpArH₄), 8.30 (br.d, 1H, Phe³NH), 8.75 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, TrpNH), 9.02 (br.s, 1H, Phe¹NH), 10.83 (s, 1H, TrpH₁); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O) δ : 20.8, 27.3, 32.8, 36.1, 37.7, 49.1, 57.3, 58.4, 58.9, 60.0, 79.7, 111.1, 111.7, 118.8, 118.9, 121.3, 123.7, 126.8, 127.0, 127.8, 128.6, 136.6, 172.8, 173.1; ESI MS (m/z) 578.5 [M+1], calcd 578.3; Elem. Anal. for C₃₄H₃₅N₅O₄: calcd C 70.69, H 6.11, N 12.12; found C 69.73, H 6.06, N 12.16.

c[Phe-D-Pro-Phe-(1-Me-Trp)] **5**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O) δ : 1.68 (m, 1H, D-ProH γ), 1.79 (m, 1H, D-ProH γ), 1.90 (m, 1H, D-ProH β), 2.20 (m, 1H, D-ProH β), 2.55 (dd, J = 4.0, 13.8 Hz, 1H, TrpH β), 2.80-3.00 (m, 4H, Phe¹H β +TrpH β +Phe³H β), 3.10 (dd, J = 2.0, 11.4 Hz, 1H, Phe³H β), 3.37-3.46 (m, 2H, D-ProH δ), 3.73 (s, 3H, NMe), 3.92 (q, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, Phe¹H α), 4.20 (m, 1H, TrpH α), 4.64 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H, Phe³H α), 5.32 (br.d, 1H, D-ProH α), 6.90 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H, Phe¹ArH_{2,6}), 6.90 (s, 1H, TrpArH₂), 6.98-7.11 (m, 5H, Phe¹ArH_{3,5}TrpArH₅+TrpArH₆), 7.20 (dd, J = 7.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H, Phe³ArH₄), 7.30-7.36 (3H, Phe³ArH_{3,5}+TrpArH₇), 7.55 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, Phe³ArH_{2,6}), 7.63 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H, TrpArH₄), 8.32 (br.d, 1H, Phe³NH), 8.78 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, TrpNH), 8.99 (br.s, 1H, Phe¹NH); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O) δ : 24.1, 28.0, 29.5, 33.9, 37.6, 37.8, 48.4, 56.3, 59.3, 60.2, 68.1, 108.2, 110.0, 119.0, 119.3, 122.0, 124.2, 126.0, 128.3, 128.6, 128.7, 136.9, 137.4, 171.4, 172.5, 172.7, 173.0; ESI MS (m/z) 592.4 [M+1], calcd 592.3; Elem. Anal. for C₃₅H₃₇N₅O₄: calcd C 71.05, H 6.30, N 11.84; found: C 70.99, H 6.26, N 11.85.

c[Phe-D-Pro-Phe-D-(1-MeTrp)] **6**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O) δ : 1.60 (m, 1H, D-ProH β), 1.76 (m, 1H, D-ProH γ), 1.96 (m, 1H, D-ProH γ), 2.15 (m, 1H, D-ProH β), 2.69-2.79 (m, 2H, D-TrpH β +Phe³H β), 2.86 (dd, J = 7.0, 13.0 Hz, 1H, Phe¹H β), 2.99-3.06 (m, 2H, Phe¹H β +Phe³H β), 3.08 (dd, J = 7.6, 16.5 Hz, 1H, D-TrpH β), 3.20 (m, 1H, D-ProH δ), 3.64 (s, 3H, NMe), 3.78 (m, 1H, D-ProH δ), 4.55-4.64 (m, 2H, Phe³H α +D-TrpH α), 4.67 (dd, J = 1.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H, D-ProH α), 4.90 (dt, J = 7.2, 9.6 Hz, 1H, Phe¹H α), 6.86 (s, 1H, D-TrpArH₂), 6.98 (dd, J = 7.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H, D-TrpArH₅), 7.12 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H, D-TrpArH₆), 7.14-7.29 (Phe¹ArH+Phe³ArH), 7.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, D-TrpArH₇), 7.47 (m, 3H, Phe¹NH+Phe³NH+TrpArH₄), 8.63 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H, D-TrpNH); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O) δ : 24.1, 25.8, 30.2, 33.6, 36.4, 36.8, 50.0, 55.1, 58.1, 62.2, 65.2, 110.7, 118.8, 119.6, 121.7, 127.5, 127.7, 128.4, 128.7, 129.5, 129.6, 137.5, 138.7, 167.7, 172.3, 173.8, 174.0; ESI MS (m/z) 592.3 [M+1], calcd 592.3; Elem. Anal. for C₃₅H₃₇N₅O₄: calcd C 71.05, H 6.30, N 11.84; found: C 70.94, H 6.26, N 11.85.

c[D-Ala-D-Pro-Phe-Trp] **7**. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O) δ: 1.05 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H, D-AlaMe), 1.40-1.55 (m, 2H, D-ProH_γ), 1.59 (m, 1H, D-ProH_β), 1.92 (m, 1H, D-ProH_β), 2.80-3.15 (m, 4H, TrpH_β+PheH_β), 3.38-3.56 (m, 2H, D-ProH_δ), 3.95-4.01 (m, 2H, TrpH_α+PheH_α), 4.55 (m, 1H, D-AlaH_α), 5.40 (m, 1H, D-ProH_α), 7.03 (br.t, 1H, TrpArH₅), 7.09 (br.t, 1H, TrpArH₆), 7.12-7.20 (m, 3H, PheArH_{2,4,6}), 7.20-7.36 (m, 3H, TrpArH₂+PheArH_{3,5}), 7.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, TrpArH₇), 7.47 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H, TrpArH₄), 7.84 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H, D-AlaNH), 8.18 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H, PheNH), 8.33 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, TrpNH), 10.81 (s, 1H, TrpArH₁); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O) δ: 19.9, 25.0, 28.9, 31.0, 37.1, 48.9, 49.2, 61.0, 61.5, 66.6, 110.0, 112.0, 119.2, 120.1, 122.4, 123.0, 126.0, 128.3, 129.5, 134.7, 135.8, 170.1, 171.6, 173.0, 173.5; ES-MS (m/z) 502.3 [M+1], calcd 502.2; Elem. Anal. for C₂₈H₃₁N₅O₄: calcd C 67.05, H 6.23, N 13.96; found C 66.99, H 6.21, N 14.00.

c[Ala-D-Pro-D-Phe-Trp] **8**. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O) δ: 1.10 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, AlaMe), 1.40-1.95 (m, 4H, D-ProH_γ+D-ProH_β), 2.82-3.25 (m, 4H, TrpH_β+D-PheH_β), 3.40-3.55 (m, 2H, D-ProH_δ), 3.94 (m, 1H, TrpH_α), 4.10 (m, 1H, D-PheH_α), 4.50 (m, 1H, AlaH_α), 5.38 (m, 1H, D-ProH_α), 6.99 (br.t, 1H, TrpArH₅), 7.05 (br.t, 1H, TrpArH₆), 7.12-7.34 (m, 6H, TrpArH₂+D-PheArH), 7.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, TrpArH₇), 7.49 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, TrpArH₄), 7.80 (br.d, 1H, AlaNH), 8.20 (br.d, D-PheNH), 8.40 (br.d, 1H, TrpNH), 10.03 (s, 1H, TrpArH₁); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O) δ: 19.0, 25.0, 28.2, 28.7, 37.1, 49.6, 49.9, 58.8, 59.9, 66.5, 108.4, 110.5, 119.0, 119.3, 121.3, 122.5, 124.6, 127.4, 127.5, 128.0, 135.7, 135.8, 171.3, 172.1, 172.8, 172.9; ES-MS (m/z) 502.4 [M+1], calcd 502.2; Elem. Anal. for C₂₈H₃₁N₅O₄: calcd C 67.05, H 6.23, N 13.96; found C 66.94, H 6.19, N 14.04.

c[β-Ala-D-Pro-Phe-Trp] **9**. ¹H NMR (two sets of signals in ~ 2:1 ratio, > = major isomer, < = minor isomer; see the SI) δ: 1.76 (m, 1H_<, D-ProH_{β<}), 1.78-1.93 (m, 3H_>+2H_<, 2×D-ProH_{β>}+D-ProH_{γ>}+2×D-ProH_{γ<}), 1.97 (m, 1H_<, βAlaH_{α<}), 2.09 (m, 1H_>, D-ProH_{γ>}), 2.23 (m, 1H_<, D-ProH_{β<}), 2.33 (m, 1H_<, βAlaH_{α<}), 2.45 (m, 1H_>, βAlaH_{α>}), 2.58 (m, 1H_>, βAlaH_{α>}), 2.81-2.86 (m, 2H_>, PheH_{β>}), 2.87-2.92 (m, 2H_<, PheH_{β<}), 2.92-3.00 (m, 2H_>+1H_<, βAlaH_{β>}+TrpH_{β>}+TrpH_{β<}), 3.02-3.12 (m, 2H_<, TrpH_{β<}+βAlaH_{β<}), 3.24 (dd, J = 7.8, 14.2 Hz, 1H_>, TrpH_{β>}), 3.35 (m, 1H_<, D-ProH_{δ<}), 3.45-3.52 (m, 2H_>+1H_<, 2×D-ProH_{δ>}+D-ProH_{δ<}), 3.69-3.76 (m, 1H_>+1H_<, βAlaH_{β>}+TrpH_{α<}), 3.81 (m, 1H_<, βAlaH_{β<}), 4.14 (m, 1H_>, PheH_{α>}), 4.19 (m, 1H_<, PheH_{α<}), 4.31 (m, 1H_>, TrpH_{α>}), 4.50 (m, 1H_<, D-ProH_{α<}), 4.53 (m, 1H_>, D-ProH_{α>}), 6.62-6.71 (m, 2H_<, TrpArH_{2<}+βAlaNH_<), 6.89 (br.t, 1H_>, βAlaNH_>), 6.94 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H_<, TrpArH_{5<}), 9.98 (dd, J = 7.2, 8.0 Hz, 1H_>, TrpArH_{5>}), 9.99-7.09 (m, 2H_>+1H_<, TrpArH_{6<}+TrpArH_{2>}+TrpArH_{6>}), 7.07-7.18 (m, 2H_>+2H_<, PheArH_{2,6>}+PheArH_{2,6<}), 7.18-7.23 (m, 3H_>+3H_<, PheArH_{3,5>}+PheArH_{3,5<}), 7.26-7.33 (m, 1H_>+1H_<, TrpArH_{7>}+TrpArH_{7<}), 7.40 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H_<, TrpArH_{4<}), 7.50 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H_>, TrpNH_>), 7.65 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H_>, TrpArH_{4>}), 8.52 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H_<, TrpNH_<), 8.91 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H_>, PheNH_>), 8.96 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H_<, PheNH_<), 10.64 (s, 1H_<, TrpArH_{1<}), 10.75 (s, 1H_>, TrpArH_{1>}); ¹³C NMR (two sets of signals) δ: 22.0, 23.2, 25.8, 26.7, 28.0, 29.9, 32.5, 34.5, 35.8, 36.2, 37.2, 47.4, 55.0, 55.8, 56.2, 57.0, 58.5, 59.5, 60.6, 64.6, 111.6, 112.2, 119.1, 119.4, 124.4, 126.3, 127.3, 129.1, 129.8, 129.9, 137.0, 138.0, 138.3, 138.8, 170.8, 171.6, 171.7, 171.8, 172.0, 174.5, 175.5; ESI MS (m/z)

502.2 [M+1], calcd: 502.2; Elem. Anal. for C₂₈H₃₁N₅O₄: calcd C 67.05, H 6.23, N 13.96; found C 67.14, H 6.19, N 14.0.

c[GABA-D-Pro-Phe-Trp] **10**. ¹H NMR δ: 1.54-1.62 (m, 2H, GABAHβ+D-ProHγ), 1.62-1.72 (m, 2H, GABAHβ+D-ProHβ), 1.98 (m, 1H, GABAHα), 2.04 (m, 1H, D-ProHγ), 2.12-2.21 (m, 2H, D-ProHβ+D-ProHγ), 2.42 (m, 1H, GABAHα), 2.67 (m, 1H, GABAHγ), 2.74 (dd, J = 6.0, 13.6 Hz, 1H, PheHβ), 2.86 (dd, J = 4.8, 13.6 Hz, 1H, PheHβ), 3.03 (dd, J = 9.2, 14.8, Hz, 1H, TrpHβ), 3.20-3.28 (m, 2H, D-ProHδ), 3.35 (m, 1H, TrpHβ), 3.45 (m, 1H, GABAHγ), 4.11 (m, 1H, PheHα), 4.16 (m, 1H, TrpHα), 4.38 (dd, J = 2.2, 6.8 Hz, 1H, D-ProHα), 6.94-7.02 (m, 2H, TrpArH_{2,5}), 7.02-7.08 (m, 3H, TrpArH₆+PheArH_{2,6}), 7.13 (m, 1H, PheArH₄), 7.16-7.21 (m, 2H, PheArH_{3,5}), 7.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, TrpArH₇), 7.42 (br.t, 1H, GABANH), 7.53 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H, TrpArH₄), 8.31 (br.d, 1H, TrpNH), 8.67 (br.d, 1H, PheNH), 10.76 (s, 1H, TrpArH₁); ¹³C NMR δ: 23.0, 23.1, 25.1, 26.4, 29.6, 32.2, 37.1, 47.2, 49.5, 57.5, 60.0, 70.7, 112.0, 112.2, 119.1, 119.2, 121.8, 124.0, 127.3, 128.3, 129.1, 129.7, 137.0, 138.1, 171.4, 172.4, 173.4, 174.4; ESI MS (m/z) 516.5 [M+1], calcd: 516.3; Elem. Anal. for C₂₉H₃₃N₅O₄: calcd C 67.55, H 6.45, N 13.58; found C 67.49, H 6.51, N 13.65.

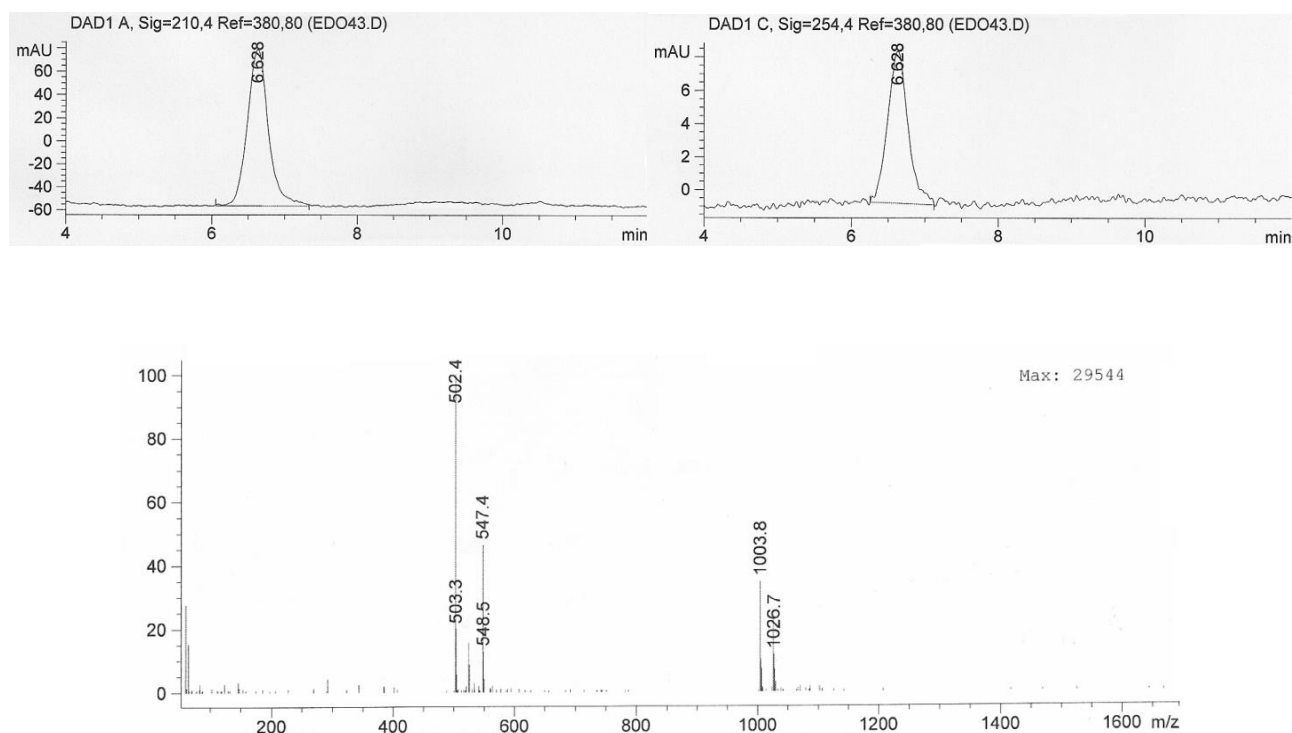


Figure S1 Top: RP-HPLC of **9** on a C18 column Phenomenex Gemini 3 μ C18 110 Å 100 3 3.0 mm, mobile phase from 9:1 H₂O/CH₃CN to 2:8 H₂O/CH₃CN in 20 min at a flow rate of 1.0 mL min⁻¹. Bottom: ESI MS of **9** performed on a single quadrupole HP 1100MSD detector.

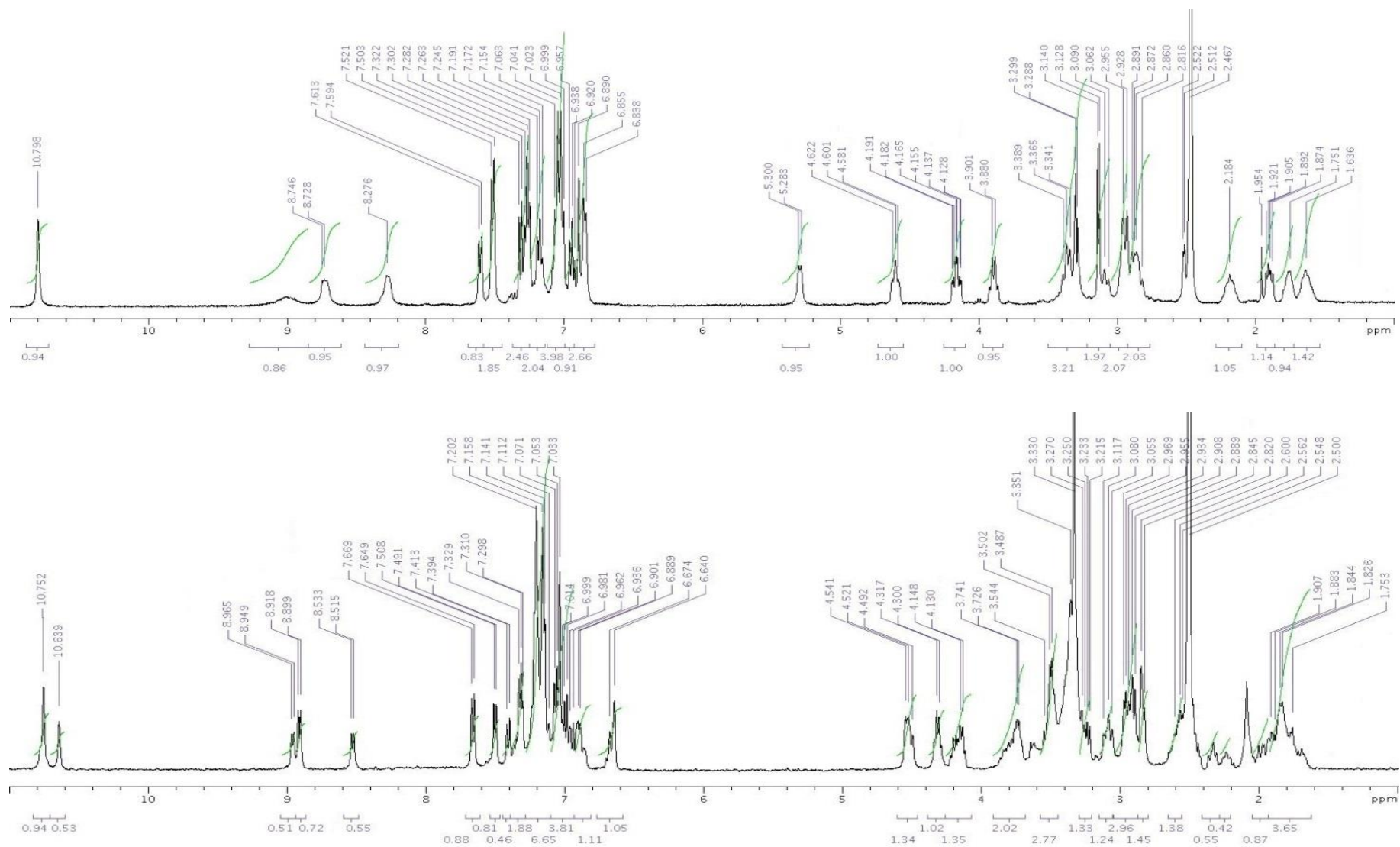


Figure S2 400 MHz ¹H NMR of c[Phe-D-Pro-Phe-Trp] CJ-15,208 **1** and c[β-Ala-D-Pro-Phe-Trp] **9**, 0.01 M in 8:2 [D₆]DMSO/H₂O at r.t. (water suppression).

Receptor Binding to Cloned Human OR. Displacement binding assays were performed in HEK-293 cells stably expressing human MOR, DOR, or KOR obtained as previously reported.^{1,2,3,4} Cell surface human MOR were measured on intact cells using [³H]DAMGO (0.1-5.0 nM) as radioligand and naloxone (30 μM) to determine nonspecific binding. For displacement binding assays, HEK-293 cells expressing human MOR were incubated at rt for 2 h with [³H]DAMGO (2.5 nM) in the presence or absence of compounds at various concentrations (10⁻¹²-10⁻⁴ M; compound **5** and **10** were assayed up to 10⁻² M); nonspecific binding was determined in the presence of naloxone (30 μM). After incubation with the ligands, cells were washed in PBS (pH 7.4) and lysed with 0.1 N NaOH. Lysed samples were buffered with an equal amount of 0.1 N HCl and left in scintillation fluid for 8 h before counting. Cell membranes from DOR and KOR expressing HEK-293 cells were prepared as previously reported.^{1,2,3,4} Receptor binding assays were carried out by using [³H]diprenorphine to label DOR and [³H]U69,593 (see Figure S3) to label KOR and by incubating the membrane preparations at 25°C for 90 min in buffer containing 100 mM Tris-HCl and 0.3% BSA. For saturation binding assays, the concentrations of [³H]diprenorphine and [³H]U69,593 ranged from 40 pM to 3 nM and from 20 pM to 5 nM, respectively. For competition binding assays, the concentration of [³H]diprenorphine or [³H]U69,593 was 1 and 2 nM, respectively. Nonspecific binding was determined in the presence of 10 μM DPDPE (DOR) or 10 μM U50,488 (KOR) and corresponded to 8-12% and 12-15% of total [³H]diprenorphine and [³H]U69,593 binding, respectively. Triplicate determinations were made for each experiment. Reactions were terminated by filtration through Whatman GF/C filters presoaked with 0.3% polyethylenimine, which were washed three times with 5 mL of ice-cold buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4. The radioactivity trapped was determined by liquid scintillation spectrometry. Data from at least three independent experiments were fitted by nonlinear regression analysis using GraphPad Prism. *K_i* values were calculated from the IC₅₀ using the Cheng-Prusoff equation. IC₅₀ values represent mean values from no less than four experiments. IC₅₀ values, relative potency estimates, and their associated standard errors were determined by fitting the data to the Hill equation by a computerized nonlinear least squares method.

The reference compounds DAMGO (H-Tyr-D-Ala-Gly-NMePhe-Glyol),⁵ DPDPE (H-Tyr-c[D-Pen-Gly-Phe-D-Pen]-OH),⁶ and U50,488 (see Figure S3),⁷ showed *K_i* values in the nM range and high selectivity to the respective receptors (Table 1), as expected.

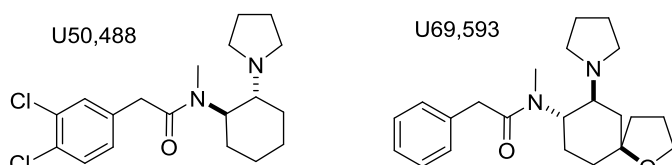


Figure S3. U50,488, U69,593

Determination of inhibition of cAMP accumulation for 9 and 10. The agonist activity of **9** and **10** was determined by measuring the inhibition of forskolin-stimulated cAMP accumulation in whole HEK-293 cells stably expressing MOR or DOR. Cells were grown at 37°C and 5% CO₂ in MEM, 2 mM Gln, and 1× nonessential amino acids supplemented with 10% FBS. Samples in a 75 cm² flask at 95-100% confluence

were split into 24 wells and incubated overnight. When the confluence became 85-95%, the medium was removed and the cells were washed three times with PBS; thereafter, cells were incubated in serum-free medium containing 0.5 mM 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine and exposed for 15 min to 10 μ M forskolin without and with each compound (0.001 nM to 100 μ M) at 37°C. Cells were then lysed in 0.1 N HCl, scraped off, and centrifuged (2000 g, 5 min). Supernatants were assayed for cAMP concentration by using a cAMP EIA kit (Caiman Chemicals) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The reference compounds morphine, DAMGO and DPDPE, inhibited forskolin-induced cAMP accumulation, with IC₅₀ values of 4.3 nM, 19 nM and 1.6 nM, and E_{max} of 77%, 95% and 89%, respectively, in agreement to the literature.⁸

To assess any potential activity as antagonists of the compounds under investigation, HEK-293 cells expressing DOR, KOR or MOR were incubated at 37°C in serum-free medium containing 0.5 mM 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine and exposed for 15 min to 10 μ M forskolin without and with 10 μ M of the reference agonist ligand (DAMGO for MOR; U50,488 for KOR and DPDPE for DOR) and 10 (0.001 nM-100 μ M) concentrations of the purported antagonist. Each well was determined individually. The triplicates were averaged, and IC₅₀ values were determined. Activities are expressed as percent inhibition of forskolin-induced cAMP production.

Assessment of enzymatic stability. The enzymatic stability of **9** was estimated by incubation in mouse serum for 3 h.⁹ During this period, samples of the incubation mixture were withdrawn and analyzed to check peptide hydrolysis. These assays were carried out in triplicate and repeated three times. To set the experiments, 10 μ L aliquots of 10 mM peptide stock solution in Tris buffer pH 7.4 were added to 190 μ L of mouse serum (Sigma-Aldrich) at 37°C. Aliquots of 20 μ L were withdrawn from the incubation mixtures and enzyme activity was terminated by precipitating proteins with 90 μ L of glacial acetonitrile. Samples were then diluted with 90 μ L of 0.5% AcOH to prevent further enzymatic activity and centrifuged at 13,000 \times g for 15 min. The supernatants were collected and the stability of peptide was determined by RP HPLC and ESI MS analysis. After 180 min, the CTPs were degraded <5 %.

Animals and treatments Adult male CD-1 mice weighing 25-30 g were housed in a light- and temperature-controlled room (light on 08.00-20.00 h, temperature 24°C) and had free access to food and water. This research was conducted in compliance with the guidelines of the Directive 2010/63/EU revising Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for scientific purpose. The procedures employed in this study were approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of the University of Bologna (Prot. n. 29-IX/9, 25th July 2012) and conformed to the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) guidelines on ethical standards for investigations of experimental pain in animals. For ip injections, the compounds were dissolved in a 1:1 v/v solution of propylene glycol and saline (vehicle) and injected in a volume of 0.1 ml/10 g body weight for ip administration.

Visceral pain test. Antinociception was evaluated, in the different groups of mice placed individually in a large glass cylinder for observation, by counting stretching or writhing responses during a 10-min period, after ip injection of AcOH acid (0.1 ml/10 g of a 0.6%, w/v solution in water). Each writhing typically consisted of a wave of contraction of the abdominal musculature followed by extension of the hind legs. Cyclopeptide **9** was administered before AcOH and the control group was treated with an equal amount of vehicle (propylene glycol and saline, 1:1 ratio) before administering the AcOH solution. The DOR selective antagonist naltrindole (NTD, 10 mg/kg; ip), the KOR selective antagonist norbinaltorphimine (nor-BNI, 10 mg/kg; ip) and the not selective opioid antagonist naloxone (30 mg/kg; ip) were injected 15 min, 30 min and 10 min prior to administering compound **9**, respectively.

Statistical analysis. Data are expressed as mean±SEM. Statistical significance of the data was estimated by a mixed two-factor analysis of variance (ANOVA) or by one-way ANOVA and Dunnett post hoc test. $P \leq 0.05$ was accepted as significant. The EC_{50} value and their 95% confidence limits (CL95) were generated by nonlinear curve fitting of the **9** and **10** dose-response data performed by Prism through a nonweighted iterative process (Prism v3.0, Graph Pad Software, Inc., San Diego, CA).

Conformational analysis. 2D ROESY experiments in [D6]DMSO/H₂O (8:2) were performed in the phase-sensitive mode at r.t., spin-locking field (γb_2) was 2000 Hz, and mixing time was set to 250 ms; spectra were processed in the hypercomplex approach; peaks were calibrated on DMSO. Only ROESY-derived constraints were included in the restrained MD.¹⁰ Cross-peak intensities were classified as very strong, strong, medium, and weak, and were associated with distances of 2.3, 2.7, 3.3, and 5.0 Å, respectively.² The intensities of the cross peaks arising from protons separated by known distances (e.g., geminal) were found to match with these associations. Geminal and other clear correlations were discarded as constraints. For the absence of $H\alpha_{(i, i+1)}$ ROESY cross peaks, all of the ω bonds were set at 180° (f constant: 16 kcal mol⁻¹ Å⁻²).

MD simulations. The restrained MD simulations were conducted at 300 K and 1 atm by using the AMBER force field¹¹ in a 30×30×30 Å box of standard TIP3P models of equilibrated water.¹² Periodic boundary conditions were applied, a constant dielectric scale factor of 1 was used, and the cutoff distance for the nonbonded interactions was 12 Å. All water molecules with atoms that come closer than 2.3 Å to a solute atom were eliminated. A 100 ps simulation at 1200 K was used for generating 50 random structures that were subsequently subjected to a 50 ps restrained MD with a 50% scaled force field at the same temperature, followed by 50 ps with full restraints (distance force constant of 7 kcalmol⁻¹Å Å⁻²), after which the system was cooled in 20 ps to 50 K. Hydrogen-bond interactions were not included, nor were torsion angle restraints. The resulting structures were minimized with 3000 cycles of steepest descent and 3000 cycles of

conjugated gradient (convergence of 0.01 kcal Å⁻¹mol⁻¹). The backbones of the structures were clustered by the rmsd analysis.¹⁰

*Unrestrained MD simulations*¹⁰ were performed starting with the conformation derived from ROESY in a 30×30×30 Å box of standard TIP3P water for 10 ns at 298 K using periodic boundary conditions, at constant temperature and pressure (Berendsen scheme,¹³ bath relaxation constant of 0.2). For 1-4 scale factors, van der Waals and electrostatic interactions are scaled in AMBER to half their nominal value. The integration time step was set to 0.1 fs. The system coordinates were collected every picosecond.

Table S2. Non-obvious REOSY cross peaks for c[Phe¹-D-Pro-Phe³-Trp] **1** in 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O; vs = very strong, s = strong, m = medium, w = weak.

cross peak	intensity	cross peak	intensity
Phe ¹ NH-Phe ¹ Hβ _{2,9}	m	Phe ¹ NH-Phe ¹ Hβ _{3,0}	m
Phe ¹ NH-Phe ¹ Hα	m	Phe ¹ NH-Phe ³ Hα	m
Phe ¹ NH-D-Proα	m	Phe ¹ NH-TrpNH	s
TrpNH-TrpHβ _{2,5}	w	TrpNH-TrpHβ _{2,9}	s
TrpNH-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,0}	m	TrpNH-Phe ¹ Hα	w
TrpNH-TrpHα	m	TrpNH-TrpArH2	w
TrpNH-TrpArH4	m	TrpNH-Phe ³ NH	s
Phe ³ NH-TrpHβ _{2,5}	m	Phe ³ NH-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,0}	s
Phe ³ NH-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,2}	s	Phe ³ NH-TrpHα	w
Phe ³ NH-Phe ³ Hα	m	Phe ³ NH-D-Proα	s
Phe ³ NH-Phe ³ ArH	w	TrpArH4-TrpHβ _{2,5}	w
TrpArH4-TrpHβ _{2,9}	s	TrpArH4-TrpHα	m
Phe ³ ArH2,6-TrpHβ _{2,5}	w	Phe ³ ArH2,6-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,0}	s
Phe ³ ArH2,6-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,2}	m	Phe ³ ArH2,6-TrpHα	w
Phe ³ ArH2,6-Phe ³ Hα	s	Phe ³ ArH2,6-D-ProHα	w
Phe ³ ArH3,5-TrpHβ _{2,5}	w	Phe ³ ArH3,5-TrpHβ _{2,9}	w
Phe ³ ArH3,5-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,0}	m	Phe ³ ArH3,5-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,2}	w
Phe ³ ArH3,5-Phe ³ Hα	w	Phe ³ ArH3,5-D-ProHα	w
Phe ³ ArH4-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,0}	m	Phe ³ ArH4-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,2}	m
Phe ³ ArH4-Phe ³ Hα	w	Phe ¹ ArH3,4,5-Phe ¹ Hβ _{2,9}	m
Phe ¹ ArH3,4,5-Phe ¹ Hβ _{3,0}	m	Phe ¹ ArH3,4,5-Phe ¹ Hα	m
Phe ¹ ArH3,4,5-Phe ³ Hα	w	Phe ¹ ArH3,4,5-D-ProHα	w
TrpArH2-TrpHβ _{2,5}	m	TrpArH2-TrpHβ _{2,9}	m
TrpArH2-Phe ¹ Hβ _{3,0}	w	TrpArH2-TrpHα	m

Phe ¹ ArH ₂ ,6-Phe ¹ Hβ _{2,9}	m	Phe ¹ ArH ₂ ,6-Phe ¹ Hβ _{3,0}	m
Phe ¹ ArH ₂ ,6-Phe ¹ Hα	s	D-ProHα-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,0}	m
D-ProHα-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,2}	s	D-ProHα-Phe ¹ Hα	w
D-ProHα-TrpHα	w	Phe ³ Hα-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,0}	s
Phe ³ Hα-Phe ³ Hβ _{3,2}	m	TrpHα-TrpHβ _{2,5}	vs
TrpHα-TrpHβ _{2,9}	m	Phe ¹ Hα-D-ProHβ _{2,0}	w
Phe ¹ Hα-D-ProHβ _{2,2}	w	Phe ¹ Hα-Phe ¹ Hβ _{2,9}	m
Phe ¹ Hα-Phe ¹ Hβ _{3,0}	m		

Table S3. Non-obvious REOSY cross peaks for the major conformer **A** of c[β-Ala-D-Pro-Phe-Trp] **9** in 8:2 [D₆]DMSO/H₂O; vs = very strong, s = strong, m = medium, w = weak.

cross peak	intensity	cross peak	intensity
PheNH-PheHβ	s	PheNH-PheNH	m
PheNH-D-ProHα	vs	PheNH-PheArH ₂ ,6	w
PheNH-TrpNH	s	TrpArH ₄ -PheHβ	w
TrpArH ₄ -TrpHβ _{3,0}	s	TrpArH ₄ -TrpHβ _{3,3}	w
TrpArH ₄ -β-AlaHβ	w	TrpArH ₄ -TrpHα	s
TrpNH-PheHβ	s	TrpNH-TrpHβ _{3,0}	m
TrpNH-TrpHβ _{3,3}	w	TrpNH-PheHα	w
TrpNH-TrpHα	s	TrpNH-D-ProHα	w
TrpNH-β-AlaNH	s	TrpNH-TrpArH ₂	w
PheArH ₂ ,6-PheHα	s	TrpArH ₂ -TrpHβ _{3,0}	m
TrpArH ₂ -TrpHβ _{3,3}	w	TrpArH ₂ -TrpHα	m
TrpArH ₇ -PheHβ	w	β-AlaNH-β-AlaHα _{2,5}	w
β-AlaNH-β-AlaHα _{2,6}	m	β-AlaNH-β-AlaHβ _{3,0}	vs
β-AlaNH-β-AlaHβ _{3,8}	s	β-AlaNH-D-ProHδ	w
β-AlaNH-PheHα	w	β-AlaNH-TrpHα	vs
D-ProHα-TrpHα	m	TrpHα-D-ProHβ	w
TrpHα-TrpHβ _{3,0}	s	TrpHα-TrpHβ _{3,3}	s
TrpHα-D-ProHδ	w	TrpHα-D-ProHα	m
PheHα-TrpHβ _{3,3}	w	PheHα-D-ProHδ	w
β-AlaHβ _{3,8} -β-AlaHα _{2,5}	s	β-AlaHβ _{3,8} -β-AlaHα _{2,6}	w
β-AlaHβ _{3,8} -TrpHβ _{3,3}	w	β-AlaHβ _{3,8} -D-ProHδ	m
D-ProHδ-β-AlaHα _{2,5}	w	D-ProHδ-β-AlaHα _{2,6}	s
D-ProHδ-β-AlaHβ _{3,0}	m	D-ProHδ-TrpHβ _{3,3}	w

Table S4. Non-obvious REOSY cross peaks for the minor conformer **B** of c[β -Ala-D-Pro-Phe-Trp] **9** in 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O; vs = very strong, s = strong, m = medium, w = weak.

cross peak	intensity	cross peak	intensity
PheNH-D-ProH $\beta_{1,8}$	w	PheNH-PheH β	s
PheNH-PheH α	m	PheNH-D-ProH α	vs
PheNH-PheArH _{2,6}	w	PheNH-TrpNH	w
TrpNH-PheH β	w	TrpNH-TrpH $\beta_{3,1}$	w
TrpNH-TrpH α	vs	TrpNH-PheH α	vs
TrpNH- β -AlaNH	s	TrpArH ₄ -TrpH $\beta_{2,9}$	w
TrpArH ₄ -TrpH $\beta_{3,2}$	m	TrpArH ₄ -TrpH α	s
PheArH _{2,6} -PheH α	s	PheArH _{2,6} -D-ProH α	m
TrpArH ₇ -PheH β	m	TrpArH ₂ -PheH β	w
TrpArH ₂ -TrpH $\beta_{3,2}$	vs	TrpArH ₂ -TrpH α	s
β -AlaNH-TrpH α	m	β -AlaNH- β -AlaH $\alpha_{2,0}$	s
β -AlaNH- β -AlaH $\beta_{3,9}$	m	β -AlaNH-D-ProH α	w
D-ProH α -PheH α	m	PheH α -D-ProH γ	w
PheH α -D-ProH $\delta_{3,4}$	w	β -AlaH $\beta_{3,9}$ - β -AlaH $\alpha_{2,0}$	w
β -AlaH $\beta_{3,9}$ - β -AlaH $\alpha_{2,4}$	s	TrpH α -D-ProH δ	w

Table S5. Non-obvious REOSY cross peaks for c[GABA-D-Pro-Phe-Trp] **10** in 8:2 [D6]DMSO/H₂O; vs = very strong, s = strong, m = medium, w = weak.

cross peak	intensity	cross peak	intensity
TrpArH ₁ -PheArH ₄	w	PheNH-D-ProH $\beta_{1,7}$	m
PheNH-PheH $\beta_{2,9}$	s	PheNH-D-ProH δ	w
PheNH-PheH α	m	PheNH-D-ProH α	vs
PheNH-PheArH _{2,6}	w	PheNH-TrpNH	w
TrpNH-TrpH $\beta_{3,0}$	m	TrpNH-PheH α	s
TrpNH-TrpH α	s	TrpNH-TrpArH ₄	m
TrpNH-GABANH	s	TrpArH ₄ -GABAH $\beta_{1,5}$	w
TrpArH ₄ -GABAH $\alpha_{2,4}$	w	TrpArH ₄ -TrpH $\beta_{3,0}$	m
TrpArH ₄ -TrpH $\beta_{3,3}$	w	TrpArH ₄ -TrpH α	m
TrpArH ₄ -PheArH ₄	w	TrpArH ₄ -GABANH	w
GABANH-GABAH $\alpha_{1,9}$	m	GABANH-GABAH $\gamma_{2,6}$	s
GABANH-TrpH $\beta_{3,3}$	w	GABANH-TrpH α	vs
TrpArH ₇ -GABAH $\gamma_{2,6}$	m	TrpArH ₇ -D-ProH α	m
PheArH _{3,5} -D-ProH $\beta_{2,2}$	w	PheArH _{3,5} -PheH $\beta_{2,8}$	w
PheArH _{3,5} -PheH α	w	PheArH ₄ -GABAH $\alpha_{1,9}$	w

PheArH4-TrpH β _{3.3}	w	PheArH4-TrpH α	w
PheArH2,6-PheH β _{2.7}	vs	PheArH2,6-PheH β _{2.8}	vs
PheArH2,6-PheH α	s	TrpArH2-TrpH β _{3.0}	m
TrpArH2-TrpH β _{3.3}	m	TrpArH2-TrpH α	m
TrpArH5-PheH β _{2.7}	m	D-ProH α -GABAH α _{1.9}	m
TrpH α -TrpH β _{3.0}	m	TrpH α -TrpH β _{3.3}	s
PheH α -PheH β _{2.7}	m	PheH α -PheH β _{2.8}	vs
GABAH γ _{3.5} -GABAH α _{2.4}	m	TrpH β _{3.0} -GABAH β _{1.5}	w
GABAH α _{2.4} -D-ProH β _{2.2}	m		

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