## **Supporting Information**

for

## Sequence Recognition and Self-Sorting of Dipeptide by Cucurbit[6]uril and Cucurbit[7]uril

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<b>Table S1.</b> Stability constant ( <i>K</i> ), standard enthalpy ( $\Delta H^{\circ}$ ) and entropy changes ( $T\Delta S^{\circ}$ ) for complexation reactions of cucurbit[7]uril (CB[7]) with
zwitterionic Ala-Phe and Phe-Ala in pure water and selected dipeptide amides in 0.1 M NaCl <sup>a)</sup> at $T = 298.15$ K

Complexation reaction	Solvent	$K/M^{-1}$	$K_{ m Phe-X}$ / $K_{ m X-Phe}$	$\Delta H^{\circ}$ /kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	<i>T</i> Δ <i>S</i> ° /kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>
$CB[7]^{0} + Ala-Phe^{+-} = [CB[7] \cdot Ala-Phe]^{(+-)}$	H <sub>2</sub> O	$(1.3 \pm 0.1) \times 10^3$		$-34.6 \pm 0.3$	$-16.8 \pm 0.4$
$CB[7]^0 + Phe-Ala^{+-} = [CB[7] \cdot Phe-Ala]^{(+-)}$	$\mathrm{H}_{2}\mathrm{O}$	$(1.9 \pm 0.3) \times 10^7$	$1.5 \times 10^4$	$-49.4 \pm 0.5$	$-7.9 \pm 0.5$
$[CB[7] \cdot 2Na]^{2+} + Gly-Phe-NH_2 = [CB[7] \cdot Gly-Phe-NH_2 \cdot Na]^{2+} + Na^{+}$	0.1M NaCl	$(4.4 \pm 0.3) \times 10^4$		$-30.7 \pm 0.3$	$-4.2 \pm 0.3$
$[CB[7] \cdot 2Na]^{2+} + Phe-Gly-NH_2 = [CB[7] \cdot Phe-Gly-NH_2 \cdot Na]^{2+} + Na^{+}$	0.1M NaCl	$(3.7 \pm 0.3) \times 10^6$	84	$-30.9 \pm 0.3$	$6.5 \pm 0.3$
$[CB[7] \cdot 2Na]^{2+} + Ala-Phe-NH_2 = [CB[7] \cdot Ala-Phe-NH_2 \cdot Na]^{2+} + Na^{+}$	0.1M NaCl	$(4.5 \pm 0.3) \times 10^4$		$-32.3 \pm 0.3$	$-5.7 \pm 0.4$
$[CB[7] \cdot 2Na]^{2+} + Phe-Ala-NH_2 = [CB[7] \cdot Phe-Ala-NH_2 \cdot Na]^{2+} + Na^{+}$	0.1M NaCl	$(8.1 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{6}$	180	$-41.4 \pm 0.4$	$-2.0 \pm 0.4$
$[CB[7] \cdot 2Na]^{2+} + Gly - Tyr - NH_2 = [CB[7] \cdot Gly - Tyr - NH_2 \cdot Na]^{2+} + Na^{+}$	0.1M NaCl	$(7.5 \pm 0.4) \times 10^4$		$-39.2 \pm 0.4$	$-11.4 \pm 0.4$
$[CB[7] \cdot 2Na]^{2+} + Tyr-Gly-NH_2 = [CB[7] \cdot Tyr-Gly-NH_2 \cdot Na]^{2+} + Na^{+}$	0.1M NaCl	$(1.1 \pm 0.2) \times 10^7$	147	$-42.7 \pm 0.4$	$-2.6 \pm 0.4$
a) It is widely recognized that addition of hydrophobic residues and/or positive charges	to a quest leads	in general to a large ent	ancement of t	he affinity towar	de CB[7] and

a) It is widely recognized that addition of hydrophobic residues and/or positive charges to a guest leads in general to a large enhancement of the affinity towards CB[7] and other CB homologues (see references below). Thus, we may expect much higher affinities for the selected dipeptide amides compared to zwitterionic analogs. Taking into account the instrumental upper limit of ITC in affinity determination of about  $10^7-10^8$  M<sup>-1</sup>, we used aqueous 0.1 M NaCl solution rather than pure water. Sodium cations serve as competitive guest for CB[7] portal and thus reduce complex stability in about 20 times as it is demonstrated by the data presented Table S2.

## References

1. Mock, W. L. In Comprehensive Supramolecular Chemistry; Vögtle, Ed.; Pergamon: Oxford, 1996; Vol. 2, p 447.

2. Lee, J.W.; Samal, S.; Selvapalam, N.; Kim, H.-J.; Kim, K. Acc. Chem. Res. 2003, 36, 621.

3. Mock, W.L.; Shih, N.-Y. J. Org. Chem. 1986, 51, 4440.

<b>Table S2.</b> Comparison of stability constant ( <i>K</i> ), standard enthalpy ( $\Delta H^{\circ}$ ) and entropy changes ( $T\Delta S^{\circ}$ ) for con-	nplexation	
reactions of cucurbit[7]uril (CB[7]) with zwitterionic Phe-Gly and Phe-Ala in pure water and in 0.1 M NaCl	at <i>T</i> = 298.15 K	
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complexation reaction	solvent	$K/M^{-1}$	$\Delta H^{\circ}$ /kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	$T\Delta S^{\circ}$ /kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>
$CB[7]^0$ + Phe-Gly <sup>+-</sup> = $[CB[7] \cdot Phe-Gly]^{(+-)}$	H <sub>2</sub> O	$(3.0 \pm 0.4) \times 10^7$	$-47.4 \pm 0.5$	$-4.7 \pm 0.5$
$[CB[7] \cdot 2Na]^{2+} + Phe-Gly^{+-} = [CB[7] \cdot Phe-Gly \cdot Na]^{+(+-)} + Na^{+}$	0.1 M NaCl	$(1.7 \pm 0.2) \times 10^6$	$-32.0 \pm 0.3$	$3.7\pm0.4$
$CB[7]^0 + Phe-Ala^{+-} = [CB[7] \cdot Phe-Ala]^{(+-)}$	H <sub>2</sub> O	$(1.9 \pm 0.3) \times 10^7$	$-49.4 \pm 0.5$	$-7.9 \pm 0.5$
$[CB[7] \cdot 2Na]^{2+} + Phe-Ala^{+-} = [CB[7] \cdot Phe-Ala \cdot Na]^{+(+-)} + Na^{+}$	0.1 M NaCl	$(7.9 \pm 0.3) \times 10^5$	$-30.6 \pm 0.3$	$3.1 \pm 0.4$

**Table S3.** Stability constant (*K*), standard enthalpy ( $\Delta H^\circ$ ) and entropy changes ( $T\Delta S^\circ$ ) for complexation reactions of cucurbit[6]uril (CB[6]) with selected zwitterionic dipeptides and dipeptide amides in 0.1 M NaCl at *T* = 298.15 K

		1		۸H°	$T\Lambda S^{\circ}$
	complexation reaction	solvent	$K/M^{-1}$	$/kJ \text{ mol}^{-1}$	$/kJ \text{ mol}^{-1}$
[CB[6]•2N	$[a]^{2+} + {}^{+}Leu-Ala-NH_2 = [CB[6] \bullet Leu-Ala-NH_2 \bullet Na]^{2+} +$	Na <sup>+</sup> 0.1M NaCl	$650 \pm 10$	$-12.0 \pm 0.2$	$4.1\pm0.3$
[CB[6]•2	$Na]^{2+} + Leu-Phe-NH_2 = [CB[6] \cdot Leu-Phe-NH_2 \cdot Na]^{2+}$	+ Na <sup>+</sup> 0.1M NaCl	$400\pm~10$	$-11.3 \pm 0.2$	$3.6\pm0.3$
[CB[6]•21	$Na]^{2+} + {}^{+}Phe-Leu- NH_2 = [CB[6] \bullet Phe-Leu- NH_2 \bullet Na]^{2+}$	+ Na <sup>+</sup> 0.1M NaCl	$50\pm20$	-6 ± 1	$3 \pm 1$
[CB[6]•2	$Na]^{2+} + Lys - Ala - NH_2^{2+} = [CB[6] \cdot Lys - Ala - NH_2 \cdot Na]^{3+}$	+ Na <sup>+</sup> 0.1M NaCl	$16000 \pm 1000$	$-11.9 \pm 0.2$	$12.1 \pm 0.3$



**Fig. S1.** NMR spectra of (a) an aqueous solution of Tyr-Lys (1 mM) and Lys-Tyr (1 mM), (b) solution (a) + CB[7] (1 mM), (c) solution (b) + CB[6] (3 mM). Protons of Tyr-Lys and Lys-Tyr were marked in red and blue, respectively.

## Detailed description and explanation of NMR spectra presented in Fig. S1

We first prepared a solution containing the same concentration (1 mM) of Tyr-Lys and Lys-Tyr (Fig. S1a). Addition of an equimolar amount of CB[7] results in large differences in NMR spectrum indicating specific inclusion of Tyr-Lys into CB[7] (Fig. S1b). Indeed, the aromatic protons of Tyr-Lys were upfield shifted (up to 1 ppm) and  $\beta$ -CH<sub>2</sub> (next to the phenol moiety) of Tyr also revealed a significant shift, while small shifts of aliphatic protons of the Lys residue were also observed. At the same time, the positions of all Lys-Tyr protons are intact, indicating that Lys-Tyr remains in the bulk solution. Subsequent addition of an excess amount of CB[6] (1 mM Tyr-Lys + 1 mM Lys-Tyr + 1 mM CB[7] + 3 mM CB[6]) caused significant chemical shifts of protons of Lys-Tyr. In contrast, its aromatic protons remain mostly intact since it is expected that the large phenol ring remains in the bulk water after complex formation, all aliphatic protons of Lys moiety are shifted (Fig. S1c), in particular at the  $\gamma$ -,  $\delta$ - and  $\omega$ -protons. This clearly demonstrates that CB[6] interacts with Lys-Tyr and an aminobutyl moiety of the Lys was specifically included by CB[6] cavity.