# Supporting Information 

## Evidence of Strong Hydrogen Bonding by 8-Amino-Guanine

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S1-2: Coordinates for Hoogsteen paired, hemiprotonated 8-aminoguanine homodimer and proton shift transition state.
S3: Experimental details
S4: Thermal denaturation studies of $\mathrm{TX}_{4} \mathrm{~T}$, reversibility, and ion dependence
S5: Thermal denaturation of $\mathrm{TG}_{4} \mathrm{~T}$
S6: CD spectra of $\mathrm{TX}_{4} \mathrm{~T}$ and $\mathrm{TG}_{4} \mathrm{~T}$
S7: NMR of $\mathrm{TX}_{4} \mathrm{~T}$ in $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$

## Hoogsteen Proton-Bound Homodimer of 8-aminoguanine

| Stoichiometry | C10H13N1202(1+) |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Framework group | C1[X(C10H13N12O2) $]$ |  |
| Deg. of freedom | 105 |  |
| Full point group | C1 | NOp |

Standard orientation:

| Center | Atomic | Atomic | Coordinates (Ångstroms) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number | Number | Type | X | Y | Z |
| 1 | 6 | 0 | -5.194368 | -0.219603 | -0.101662 |
| 2 | 7 | 0 | -4.326756 | -1.285710 | -0.104282 |
| 3 | 6 | 0 | -2.916710 | -1.205681 | -0.034956 |
| 4 | 6 | 0 | -2.478046 | 0.141658 | 0.027503 |
| 5 | 6 | 0 | -3.443728 | 1.143922 | 0.019074 |
| 6 | 7 | 0 | -4.782420 | 1.030940 | -0.033376 |
| 7 | 8 | 0 | -2.270777 | -2.268357 | -0.041514 |
| 8 | 7 | 0 | -1.197771 | 0.695061 | 0.093198 |
| 9 | 7 | 0 | -2.739164 | 2.324242 | 0.087080 |
| 10 | 6 | 0 | -1.392666 | 2.005719 | 0.134204 |
| 11 | 1 | 0 | -3.149691 | 3.244692 | 0.146319 |
| 12 | 1 | 0 | -4.677322 | -2.232007 | -0.197881 |
| 13 | 7 | 0 | -0.437955 | 2.954305 | 0.266257 |
| 14 | 1 | 0 | -0.658696 | 3.897801 | -0.012889 |
| 15 | 1 | 0 | 0.535024 | 2.670762 | 0.135534 |
| 16 | 6 | 0 | 2.499706 | -0.103587 | 0.004215 |
| 17 | 6 | 0 | 3.415411 | -1.138504 | 0.026919 |
| 18 | 7 | 0 | 2.672879 | -2.308178 | 0.095743 |
| 19 | 6 | 0 | 1.337616 | -1.990705 | 0.110269 |
| 20 | 7 | 0 | 1.213907 | -0.655077 | 0.056025 |
| 21 | 1 | 0 | 3.063163 | -3.239255 | 0.122642 |
| 22 | 6 | 0 | 2.963316 | 1.238419 | -0.075715 |
| 23 | 8 | 0 | 2.338247 | 2.298134 | -0.114486 |
| 24 | 7 | 0 | 4.383450 | 1.262037 | -0.117386 |
| 25 | 1 | 0 | 4.768894 | 2.196129 | -0.200741 |
| 26 | 7 | 0 | 0.343150 | -2.865882 | 0.177481 |
| 27 | 1 | 0 | -0.653217 | -2.559885 | 0.107822 |
| 28 | 1 | 0 | 0.542868 | -3.853498 | 0.177579 |
| 29 | 6 | 0 | 5.211491 | 0.166002 | -0.085208 |
| 30 | 7 | 0 | 4.753135 | -1.073623 | -0.007788 |
| 31 | 1 | 0 | 0.284016 | -0.124487 | 0.069040 |
| 32 | 7 | 0 | 6.544305 | 0.373788 | -0.164564 |
| 33 | 1 | 0 | 7.138589 | -0.434062 | -0.057448 |
| 34 | 1 | 0 | 6.955312 | 1.284458 | -0.038544 |
| 35 | 7 | 0 | -6.523267 | -0.486188 | -0.221713 |
| 36 | 1 | 0 | -7.133085 | 0.308049 | -0.093472 |
| 37 | 1 | 0 | -6.892198 | -1.382755 | 0.055459 |
| Standard basis: 6-31G(d,p) (6D, 7F) |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| There are 425 symmetry adapted basis functions of $A$ symmetry. |  |  |  |  |  |
| SCF Done | $E($ RB+HF-LYP $)=-1196.33343039$ |  |  | $-\mathrm{V} / \mathrm{T}=2.0092$ |  |

## Proton shift TS in Hoogsteen Proton-Bound Homodimer of 8-aminoguanine

| Stoichiometry | C10H13N12O2(1+) |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Framework group | C2[C2(H), X(C10H12N12O2)] |  |
| Deg. of freedom | 53 |  |
| Full point group | C2 NOp |  |

Standard orientation:

| Center | Atomic | Atomic | Coordinates (Ångstroms) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number | Number | Type | X | Y | Z |
| 1 | 6 | 0 | -0.152426 | 5.146374 | -0.172773 |
| 2 | 7 | 0 | -1.241504 | 4.314492 | -0.261215 |
| 3 | 6 | 0 | -1.218490 | 2.900420 | -0.173316 |
| 4 | 6 | 0 | 0.108142 | 2.423230 | 0.001839 |
| 5 | 6 | 0 | 1.135363 | 3.352851 | 0.079576 |
| 6 | 7 | 0 | 1.073999 | 4.691699 | 0.009664 |
| 7 | 8 | 0 | -2.290137 | 2.287297 | -0.257879 |
| 8 | 7 | 0 | 0.636963 | 1.129555 | 0.121132 |
| 9 | 7 | 0 | 2.290137 | 2.618098 | 0.252186 |
| 10 | 6 | 0 | 1.955763 | 1.282488 | 0.268782 |
| 11 | 1 | 0 | 3.216609 | 3.008319 | 0.347308 |
| 12 | 1 | 0 | -2.167195 | 4.693400 | -0.425970 |
| 13 | 7 | 0 | 2.855400 | 0.306478 | 0.451741 |
| 14 | 1 | 0 | 3.835044 | 0.536225 | 0.388679 |
| 15 | 1 | 0 | 2.595485 | -0.664199 | 0.215887 |
| 16 | 6 | 0 | -0.108142 | -2.423230 | 0.001839 |
| 17 | 6 | 0 | -1.135363 | -3.352851 | 0.079576 |
| 18 | 7 | 0 | -2.290137 | -2.618098 | 0.252186 |
| 19 | 6 | 0 | -1.955763 | -1.282488 | 0.268782 |
| 20 | 7 | 0 | -0.636963 | -1.129555 | 0.121132 |
| 21 | 1 | 0 | -3.216609 | -3.008319 | 0.347308 |
| 22 | 6 | 0 | 1.218490 | -2.900420 | -0.173316 |
| 23 | 8 | 0 | 2.290137 | -2.287297 | -0.257879 |
| 24 | 7 | 0 | 1.241504 | -4.314492 | -0.261215 |
| 25 | 1 | 0 | 2.167195 | -4.693400 | -0.425970 |
| 26 | 7 | 0 | -2.855400 | -0.306478 | 0.451741 |
| 27 | 1 | 0 | -2.595485 | 0.664199 | 0.215887 |
| 28 | 1 | 0 | -3.835044 | -0.536225 | 0.388679 |
| 29 | 6 | 0 | 0.152426 | -5.146374 | -0.172773 |
| 30 | 7 | 0 | -1.073999 | -4.691699 | 0.009664 |
| 31 | 1 | 0 | 0.000000 | 0.000000 | 0.112242 |
| 32 | 7 | 0 | 0.356795 | -6.478780 | -0.317385 |
| 33 | 1 | 0 | -0.440657 | -7.071328 | -0.141219 |
| 34 | 1 | 0 | 1.270303 | -6.886189 | -0.195273 |
| 35 | 7 | 0 | -0.356795 | 6.478780 | -0.317385 |
| 36 | 1 | 0 | 0.440657 | 7.071328 | -0.141219 |
| 37 | 1 | 0 | -1.270303 | 6.886189 | -0.195273 |
| Rotational constants (GHZ) : |  |  | 0.5684964 | 0.1181191 | 0.0985323 |
| Standard basis: 6-31G(d,p) (6D, 7F) |  |  |  |  |  |
| There are | 213 symmetry adap |  | is functions of A sym |  | etry. |
| There are | 212 symmetry adapted basis function$E(R B+H F-L Y P)=-1196.32944490$ |  |  | of B sy | symmetry. |
| SCF Done: |  |  |  | $-\mathrm{V} / \mathrm{T}=2$. |  |

## Experimental Details

## DNA Preparation

DNA was prepared on an Expedite Synthesizer using standard protocols. Deprotection was performed over 20 hr in concentrated aqueous ammonia with 2-mercaptoethanol as recommended by the manufacturer for the 8 -amino-dG phosphoramidite (Glen Research).

Full length DNA was separated from truncation products by PAGE, excised from the gel and extracted by the crush-and-soak method. Desalting was effected by SPE. The identity of the oligonucleotide was confirmed by ESI-MS: found $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}=1922(\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{H})$, expected $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}=1922$.

Solid phase extraction was performed on an ODS Sep-Pak Plus (Waters). The following solutions were pulled through the bed using a peristaltic pump at $1 \mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{min}$. $10 \mathrm{~mL} 100 \% \mathrm{MeCN}$; $10 \mathrm{ml} 50 \% \mathrm{MeCN}, 50 \% 100 \mathrm{mM}$ triethylammonium acetate, pH 7 (TEAA); 100\% TEAA; and the salt-containing DNA in ca. 50 mL TEAA. The bed was then washed twice with 5 ml portions of nanopure water. The DNA was then eluted with $5 \mathrm{~mL} 40 \%$ aqueous acetonitrile, the volume was reduced by half on a vacuum centrifuge, and the remaining organic-depleted fraction was frozen and lyophilized.

The purified DNA was resuspended in nanopure and equilibrated over $>100$ equivalents of lithium sulfonate resin (Dowex 50X8). The resin was washed several times with nanopure water and the lithium-exchanged DNA was concentrated two-fold and then lyophilized.

## Sample Preparation

The buffers used were 10 mM acetate or cacodylate with 100 mM metal chloride and were prepared at the desired pH at $5-10 \times$. All samples were placed in boiling water for 5 min and annealed at $5 \times$ final concentration ( $50 \mu \mathrm{M}$ total oligonucleotide, 50 mM buffer, 500 mM salt) at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ overnight.

## Circular Dichroism

CD was performed on a JASCO J-810, at $10 \mu \mathrm{M}$ total oligonucleotide, 10 mM buffer, 100 mM salt with $350-200 \mathrm{~nm}$ scans and $1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ steps, with a temperature ramp rate of $0.16^{\circ} \mathrm{C}-1^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{min}$. The full-wavelength spectrum at each temperature was fit to a two-state model, using the assumption that the $5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ spectrum in the first heating corresponded to $100 \%$ duplex and the $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ spectrum corresponded to $0 \%$ duplex.

## NMR

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ spectra were collected on a Bruker DRX-500 at $275 \mathrm{~K}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)$ or $280 \mathrm{~K}\left(\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)$ and were the sum of 1024 transients. Spectra in $10 \% \mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ were observed using a 3-9-19 WATERGATE pulse sequence. Those in $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ were $99.96 \% \mathrm{D}$ and observed using a presaturation pulse.

## Circular Dichroism Studies of $\mathrm{TX}_{4} \mathbf{T}$ Thermal Denaturation, Reversibility, and Ion Dependence



The partial loss of spectral intensity observed is not due to irreversible dissociation of a secondary structure, but, likely, partial depurination of $\mathrm{d} \mathbf{X}$ residues. Extended heating resulted in further loss of ellipticity, supporting this hypothesis. The reaction appears to be salt-catalyzed, based on the cation dependence and lack of depurination in the salt-free NMR samples.

Circular Dichroism Studies of Thermal Denaturation of $\mathrm{TG}_{4} \mathrm{~T}$


Irreversible changes in the CD spectrum persisted even after overnight incubation at $5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, due to the slow, tetramolecular association of the G-quadruplex.

## CD spectra of $\mathrm{TX}_{4} \mathrm{~T}$ and $\mathrm{TG}_{4} \mathrm{~T}$



Spectra were acquired at 278 K . Information on oligonucleotide and buffer concentrations is given above.

## ${ }^{1} H$ NMR of $\mathrm{TX}_{4} \mathrm{~T}$ in $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$



Consistent with a single predominant structure, two major aromatic (T1 and T6 H6) resonances (A), six H1' resonances ( $\mathbf{B}$ ), and two methyl ( T 1 and T 6 H 5 ) resonances ( $\mathbf{C}$ ) are observed. 1 mM lithium-exchanged $\mathrm{TX}_{4} \mathrm{~T}$ with no added salt in $99.96 \% \mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 280 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{pD} 5$

