## **Supporting Information**

A Thermodynamic Insight into the Recognition of Hydrophilic and Hydrophobic Amino Acids in Pure Water by Aza-scorpiand Type Receptors

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- Table S1 Thermodynamic data for the formation of amino acid complexes with L1 in 0.15 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at 298.1 K.

-Table S2 Stepwise stability constants for the formation of selected amino acid complexes with L2 in 0.15 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at 298.1 K.

Table S3 Thermodynamic data for the protonation of amino acids in 0.15 M NaClO<sub>4</sub>,
298.1 K

- Fig. S1. Aromatic zone <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of solutions containing L2 and Glu in 1:4 molar ratio recorded in  $D_2O$  at pD = 4.5 (a) and pD = 7.3 (b)

Fig. S2 Minimum energy structures calculated for the complexes [HL1(Asp)]<sup>-</sup> (a), [HL1(HAsp)] (b), [H<sub>2</sub>L1(HAsp)]<sup>+</sup> (c), [H<sub>3</sub>L1(HAsp)]<sup>2+</sup> (d), [H<sub>3</sub>L1(H<sub>2</sub>Asp)]<sup>3+</sup> (e).

Fig. S3. Minimum energy structures calculated for the complexes [HL1(HAla)]<sup>+</sup> (a), [H<sub>2</sub>L1(HAla)]<sup>2+</sup> (b), [H<sub>3</sub>L(HAla)]<sup>3+</sup> (c).

- **Fig.S4**. Minimum energy structures calculated for the complexes [HL1(Trp)] (a), [HL1(HTrp)]<sup>+</sup> (b), [H<sub>2</sub>L1(HTrp)]<sup>2+</sup> (c), [H<sub>3</sub>L1(HTrp)]<sup>3+</sup> (d).

- **Fig. S5**. Minimum energy structures calculated for the complexes [HL1(His)] (a), [H<sub>2</sub>L1(His)]<sup>+</sup> (b), [H<sub>2</sub>L1(HHis)]<sup>2+</sup> (c), [H<sub>3</sub>L1(HHis)]<sup>3+</sup> (d), [H<sub>3</sub>L1(H<sub>2</sub>His)]<sup>4+</sup> (e).

Fig. S6. Minimum energy structures calculated for the complexes [HL1(Phe)] (a),
[H<sub>2</sub>L1(Phe)]<sup>+</sup> (b), H<sub>2</sub>L1(HPhe)]<sup>2+</sup> (c), [H<sub>3</sub>L1(HPhe)]<sup>3+</sup> (d).

Fig. S7. Minimum energy structures calculated for the complexes [L2(Ala)]<sup>-</sup> (a), [HL2(Ala)] (b), [L2(HAla)] (c), [HL2(HAla)]<sup>+</sup> (d), [H<sub>2</sub>L2(HAla)]<sup>2+</sup> (e).

Reaction	logK	$\Delta H^{\circ}$ (kcal/mol)	$T\Delta S^{\circ}$
$HI^{+} + HA1a \otimes [HI (HA1a)]^{+}$	$3.15(4)^{a}$	-0.1(2)	4 2(2)
$\frac{112^{+} + 1144 + 112}{112^{+} + 1144 + 112} \frac{112}{112} \frac{112}$	2.13(4) 2.94(5)	-0.1(2)	3.9(2)
$\frac{\Pi_2 \mathcal{L}^{3+} + \Pi_1 \Pi_2 \mathcal{L}^{3+} + \Pi_2 \Pi_$	$\frac{2.31(3)}{3.31(4)}$	0.1(2)	5.9(2) 5.4(2)
	5.51(1)	0.9(2)	5.1(2)
$HL^+ + Phe^- $ [HL (Phe)]	2 81(2)	3 8(2)	7 7(2)
$H_2L^{2+} + Phe^{-} $ [ $H_2L(Phe)$ ] <sup>+</sup>	3.08(2)	3.4(2)	8.0(2)
$H_2L^{2+} + HPhe \ (H_2L(HPhe))^{2+}$	2.84(2)	2.3(1)	6.2(1)
$H_{3}L^{3+} + HPhe \ (H_{3}L(HPhe))^{3+}$	2.87(2)	3.0(2)	6.9(2)
$HL^+ + Tyr^{2-} \Im [HL(Tyr)]^{-}$	3.27(1)	9.0(4)	13.5(4)
HL <sup>+</sup> + HTyr <sup>-</sup> (HL(HTyr)]	3.61(1)	5.0(3)	9.9(3)
$H_2L^{2+} + HTyr ~ (H_2L(HTyr))^+$	3.79(1)	7.2(4)	12.3(4)
$H_2L^{2+} + H_2Tyr  \Im  [H_2L(H_2Tyr)]^{2+}$	3.31(1)	6.2(3)	10.7(3)
$H_3L^{3+} + H_2Tyr  \Im  [H_3L(H_2Tyr)]^{3+}$	3.39(1)	7.0(4)	11.6(4)
HL <sup>+</sup> + Trp <sup>-</sup> ♥ [HL(Trp)]	2.83(3)	3.8(2)	7.7(2)
$HL^+ + HTrp  \Im  [HL(HTrp)]^+$	3.30(2)	1.1(2)	5.6(2)
$H_2L^{2+} + HTrp \Im [H_2L(HTrp)]^{2+}$	3.22(2)	1.5(2)	5.9(2)
$H_3L^{3+} + HTrp  \Im  [H_3L(HTrp)]^{3+}$	3.42(2)	2.1(2)	6.8(2)
$HL^+ + Asp^{2-} $ [HL(Asp)] <sup>-</sup>	3.2(1)	5.1(2)	9.5(2)
HL <sup>+</sup> + HAsp <sup>-</sup> ♥ [HL(HAsp)]	3.48(6)	3.4(2)	8.2(2)
$H_2L^{2+} + HAsp^{-} $ $(H_2L(HAsp))^+$	3.47(6)	4.1(2)	8.9(2)
$H_3L^{3+} + HAsp^{-} \otimes [H_3L(HAsp)]^{2+}$	3.72(6)	4.6(2)	8.3(2)
$H_3L^{3+} + H_2Asp  \Im  [H_3L(H_2Asp)]^{3+}$	4.26(6)	4.3(2)	10.2(2)
$HL^+ + Glu^{2-} $ [HL(Glu)] <sup>-</sup>	3.27(6)	6.0(3)	10.5(3)
HL <sup>+</sup> + HGlu <sup>-</sup> ♥ [HL(HGlu)]	3.66(3)	3.1(2)	8.1(2)
$H_2L^{2+} + HGlu^- $ $(H_2L(HGlu))^+$	3.67(4)	4.1(2)	9.1(2)
$H_3L^{3+} + HGlu^{-} \Im [H_2L(H_2Glu)]^{2+}$	3.91(3)	4.6(2)	9.9(2)
$H_3L^{3+} + H_2Glu \ (H_3L(H_2Glu))^{3+}$	4.42(4)	1.1(2)	7.1(2)
$HL^+ + His^- \Im [HL(His)]$	2.97(3)	-3.0(2)	1.1(2)
$H_2L^{2+} + His^{-} \Im [H_2L(His)]^{+}$	3.33(2)	1.8(1)	5.1(1)
$H_2L^{2+} + HHis \Im [H_2L(HHis)]^{2+}$	3.12(3)	-1.3(2)	3.0(2)
$H_3L^{3+} + HHis \Im [H_3L(HHis)]^{3+}$	3.38(2)	-1.1(1)	3.5(1)
$H_{3}L^{3+} + H_{2}His^{+} $ [ $H_{3}L(H_{2}His)$ ] <sup>4+</sup>	3.79(2)	-5.5(1)	-0.3(1)

**Table S1** Thermodynamic data for the formation of amino acid complexes with L1 in0.15 M NaClO4 at 298.1 K.

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are standard deviations in the last significant figure

**Table S2** Stepwise stability constants for the formation of selected amino acidcomplexes with L2 in 0.15 M NaClO<sub>4</sub> at 298.1 K.

Reaction	Ala	Phe	Trp	Tyr	His	Asp	Glu
L + A <sup>2-</sup> 🖓 [LA] <sup>2-</sup>	-	-	-	3.11(3)	-	4.09(1)	4.68(2)
L + A <sup>-</sup> 🔅 [LA] <sup>-</sup>	$3.11(5)^{a}$	2.62(4)	3.26(3)	-	3.46(4)	-	-
L + HA <sup>-</sup> 👎 [L(HA)] <sup>-</sup>	-	-	-	3.25(5)	-	4.28(2)	4.98(2)
HL <sup>+</sup> + A <sup>2-</sup> 🔅 [HLA] <sup>-</sup>	-	-	-	3.17(5)	-	3.92(2)	4.44(2)
$L + HA $ $\Im [L(HA)]$	3.33(8)	3.0(1)	3.92(3)	-	4.25(4)	-	-
$HL^+ + A^- $ [HLA]	3.05(8)	2.0(1)	3.20(3)	-	3.40(4)	-	-
HL <sup>+</sup> + HA <sup>-</sup> ♥ [HL(HA)]	-	-	-	3.30(2)	-	3.79(1)	4.38(2)
$HL^+ + HA $ $ (HL(HA))^+ $	3.01(6)	2.27(9)	3.03(4)	-	4.06(5)	-	-
$H_2L^{2+} + HA^- $ $(H_2L(HA))^+$	-	-	-	3.29(5)	-	3.29(2)	3.83(2)
$H_2L^{2+} + HA $ $ (H_2L(HA))^{2+}$	2.5(1)	_	2.42(6)	-	2.80(6)	_	-
$H_3L^{3+} + HA^- \Im [H_3L(HA)]^{2+}$	-	-	-	-	-	2.38(3)	2.98(2)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are standard deviations in the last significant figure

Depation	logV	ΔH°	T∆S° (kcal/mol)	
Reaction	logK	(kcal/mol)		
Ala- + H+ 🗞 HAla	9.73(1)	-10.2(1)	3.1(1)	
HAla + H <sup>+</sup> $\oplus$ H <sub>2</sub> Ala <sup>+</sup>	2.48(1)	0.0(2)	3.4(2)	
Phe <sup>-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup> HPhe	9.08(1)	-10.28(1)	2.11(3)	
HPhe + H <sup>+</sup> $\oplus$ H <sub>2</sub> Phe <sup>+</sup>	2.35(1)	-0.59(6)	2.62(6)	
Tyr <sup>2-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup> 𝔅 HTyr <sup>-</sup>	9.93(1)	-7.1(1)	6.4(1)	
$HTyr + H^{+} H_{2}Tyr$	9.24(1)	-9.2(1)	3.4(1)	
$H_2Tyr + H^+ \Im H_3Tyr^+$	2.48(1)	-0.2(1)	4.0(1)	
Trp⁻ + H⁺ � HTrp	9.27(1)	-9.8(1)	2.8(3)	
$HTrp + H^+ \otimes H_2Trp^+$	2.46(1)	-0.2(6)	3.1(6)	
Asp <sup>2-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup> 𝔅 HAsp <sup>-</sup>	9.65(1)	-9.56(7)	3.60(7)	
$HAsp^- + H^+ \otimes H_2Asp$	3.82(1)	-1.10(6)	4.11(6)	
$H_2Asp + H^+ \ (H_3Asp^+)$	1.53(1)	1.67(8)	0.42(8)	
Glu <sup>2-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup> 𝔅 HGlu <sup>-</sup>	9.47 (1)	-9.07(9)	3.85(9)	
$HGlu^- + H^+ \otimes H_2Glu$	4.20(1)	-0.1(1)	5.6(1)	
$H_2Glu + H^+ \Im H_3Glu^+$	2.31(1)	2.0(2)	5.1(2)	
His- + H <sup>+</sup> 🕫 HHis	9.16(1)	-10.19(6)	2.31(6)	
HHis + H <sup>+</sup> H <sub>2</sub> His <sup>+</sup>	6.13(1)	-6.9(1)	1.4(1)	
$H_2His^+ + H^+ \circ H_3His^{2+}$	1.92(1)	2.2(2)	4.8(2)	

**Table S3** Thermodynamic data for the protonation of amino acids in 0.15 M NaClO<sub>4</sub>, 298.1 K

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are standard deviations in the last significant figure

Fig. S1. Aromatic zone <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of solutions containing L2 and Glu in 1:4 molar ratio recorded in  $D_2O$  at pD = 4.5 (a) and pD = 7.3 (b)



**Fig. S2.** Minimum energy structures calculated for the complexes  $[HL1(Asp)]^-$  (a), [HL1(HAsp)] (b),  $[H_2L1(HAsp)]^+$  (c),  $[H_3L1(HAsp)]^{2+}$  (d),  $[H_3L1(H_2Asp)]^{3+}$  (e).



**Fig. S3.** Minimum energy structures calculated for the complexes  $[HL1(HAla)]^+$  (a),  $[H_2L1(HAla)]^{2+}$  (b),  $[H_3L(HAla)]^{3+}$  (c).





**Fig.S4.** Minimum energy structures calculated for the complexes [HL1(Trp)] (a),  $[HL1(HTrp)]^+$  (b),  $[H_2L1(HTrp)]^{2+}$  (c),  $[H_3L1(HTrp)]^{3+}$  (d).



**Fig. S5**. Minimum energy structures calculated for the complexes [HL1(His)] (a),  $[H_2L1(His)]^+$  (b),  $[H_2L1(HHis)]^{2+}$  (c),  $[H_3L1(HHis)]^{3+}$  (d),  $[H_3L1(H_2His)]^{4+}$  (e).



**Fig. S6.** Minimum energy structures calculated for the complexes [HL1(Phe)] (a),  $[H_2L1(Phe)]^+$  (b),  $[H_2L1(HPhe)]^{2+}$  (c),  $[H_3L1(HPhe)]^{3+}$  (d).



**Fig. S7.** Minimum energy structures calculated for the complexes  $[L2(Ala)]^-$  (a), [HL2(Ala)] (b), [L2(HAla)] (c),  $[HL2(HAla)]^+$  (d),  $[H_2L2(HAla)]^{2+}$  (e).

