ANALYSIS OF LIPID SIGNALING CLASS ANALYTES USING A TRAVELLING WAVE CYCLIC ION MOBILITY SEPARATOR

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INTRODUCTION

Lipid signaling analytes represent a diverse group of biomolecules that have essential roles in structural, storage and signaling processes in living systems. Class separation is readily achieved using chromatographic and MS based identification techniques; however, the analysis remains challenging due to the chemical structure diversity and isobaric nature of these types of compounds. The addition of IMS to discovery workflows enhances system peak capacity and improves isomer resolution. IM separation was achieved using a multi-pass travelling-wave cyclic IM (cIM) device, where increasing the number of passes around the device allows of the increase in both mobility resolution and ion residence time. MS and CID fragmentation data were obtained on precursor IM separated analytes followed by ToF mass measurement.

METHODS

IM-MS

Data were collected on a SELECT SERIES Cyclic IMS (Q-cIM-oaTOF) instrument. Ion mobility separation was achieved using a multi-pass travelling-wave cIM separator, where increasing number of passes results in an increase in both mobility resolution and ion residence time. MS and CID fragmentation data were obtained post IMS on the precursors of separated lipids, followed by TOF mass measurement. The cIM device1, is shown in Figure 1, consisting of a 98 cm path length RF ion guide comprising over 600 electrodes around which T-Waves circulate to provide mobility separation.

	но	trans-Oleic acid	но	
		cis-Ol	eic acid	
# carbons/	# double			
chain length	bond(s)	double bond position(s)		
C14	1	Δ 9 cis/ Δ 9 trans		
C15	1	Δ 10 cis/ Δ 10 trans		
C16	1	Δ 9 cis/ Δ 9 trans		
C17	1	Δ 10 cis/ Δ 10 trans		
C18	1	Δ 6 cis/ Δ 6 trans		
C22	1	Δ 13 cis/ Δ 13 trans		
C18	2	Δ 9 cis 12 cis/ Δ 9 trans 12 trans		
C18	3	Δ 9 cis 12 cis 15 cis/ Δ 6 cis 9 cis 12 cis		

Figure 3. Chemical structure and free fatty acids double bond positions.











Figure 1. Geometry and design of the cyclic ion mobility cell.

The circular path minimizes instrument footprint whilst providing a longer, variable separation that results in higher ion mobility resolutions. The multi -pass capability provides significantly higher resolution over a selected mobility range. The device can either be enabled for mobility separation or by-passed if not required. The multifunctional ion entry/exit array can eject species within a range of mobility values, providing additional functionality such as IMSn. The separation performance of the cIM device is illustrated Figure 4. Cyclic ion mobility separation of protonated fatty acids with distinct double bond orientations.

Shown above in Figure 4 is the cyclic IM separation of cis and trans oriented 9-palmitoleic acid (9Z/E-hexadecenoic acid), which required 20 cycles, equating to an estimated IM resolution of 335 ($\Omega/\Delta\Omega$) to separate the conformational pair to 10% valley.

All other single double bond FFA's listed in Figure 3 were analyzed in a similar fashion, i.e. the number of cycles was varied to achieve a comparable degree of separation. The results summary in Figure 5 suggest a correlation between length/double bond position and orientation, affecting the analyte gas-phase structure, and the IM resolution required to separate cis/trans configurations.



Figure 8. Cyclic ion mobility separation and CID spectra of protonated of 17-OHP and 21-OHP at $\Omega/\Delta\Omega > 200$.



Figure 9. Cyclic ion mobility separation and CID spectra of protonated 21-deoxycortisol (1), corticosterone (2), and 11-deoxycortisol (3). Arrival time

in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Resolution and performance characteristics of cyclic ion mobility

Sample preparation

Fatty acid (FA) and glycerophosphocholines (PC) standards were obtained from Nu-Chek Prep, Elysian, MN and Avanti Polar Lipids, Alabaster, AL and dissolved in chloroform/methanol (1:1, v/v). The stock solutions were diluted in 0.1% formic acid in MeOH/water (1:1, v/v) or MeOH/ water (1:1, v/v) and measured in both positive or negative ion ESI, with *cis/trans* oriented isomeric species pairwise combined and sample concentrations adjusted to provide an equivalent response.

Steroid standards were donated by Clinical and Forensics, Scientific Operations, Waters Corporation and the prostaglandin standards purchased from Cayman Chemical, Ann Arbor, MI. Both were desolved in methanol, diluted in 0.1% formic acid in MeOH/water (1:1, v/v) or MeOH/ water (1:1, v/v) and measured in positive or negative ion ESI.

Figure 5. Cyclic IM separation of protonated fatty acids with distinct double bond orientations as a function of chain length and double bond position. Blue circles = observed IM resolution; red circles = observed IM resolution $(\Omega/\Delta\Omega)/$ separation resolution (R_s) (measure for the required IM resolution to separate a cis/trans FA pair).

Multi-double bond FA and PC cyclic IM analysis

An example cyclic IM separation of FFA's comprising two double bonds is shown in Figure 6, with similar results obtained for the other multiple bond FA's and PC's tested (data not shown). Broader, non-resolved IM arrival time distributions, as previously reported2,3, were typically observed. Moreover, species in the trans configuration ionized less efficiently.



distributions were extracted for the * marked product/adduct ions.





Figure 10. 2D cyclic IM-MS separations of TxB2, 6k-PGF1a and a TxB2/ 6k-PGF1a mixture (bottom) at $\Omega/\Delta\Omega > 125$. Shown top right and bottom are the production spectra of deprotonated TxB2 and a TxB2 contamination (spectra 1 and 2) and a 1D representation of the cyclic IM-MS analysis of the TxB2/6k-PGF1 PG mixture, respectively.

CONCLUSION

- . The Select Series Cyclic IMS has been characterized and successfully applied for the IM separation of isomeric, cis/ trans oriented, mono unsaturated FA's, steroids and prostaglandin sample mixtures.
- The required IM resolution, as afforded by variable resolution

RESULTS

Chain length vs. resolution

Unsaturated FA standards, differing in chain length and number of cis/ trans conformations, summarized in Figure 3, were chosen to determine the degree of IM separation required to separate lipid isomers. FA's represent the simplest class of lipid components, and are a core structural component of lipids.

FA's with cis-double bond orientations were found to be more compact than those with trans-orientations. Moreover, the cis- and transorientations for the monounsaturated FA's were distinguishable. A different number of cycles through the cyclic IM separator were required to achieve a similar degree of IM separation for mono unsaturated FAs of differing chain length.

Figure 6. Cyclic ion mobility separation of protonated fatty acids with multiple double bonds. Blue = Δ 9 trans 12 trans C18:2, white = Δ 9 cis 12 cis C18:2.

Cyclic ion mobility - CID

The results shown in Figures 7 to 10 demonstrate the ability of the multifunction cyclic IM device to collect product ion spectra post IM separation where analyte activation was achieved in the (transfer) region between the cyclic IM cell and the oa-ToF entrance region for various isomeric mixtures of representative lipid signaling classes as well as steroids.

cIM, was found to be a function of FA chain length. Shorter, more compact and more rigid FA's required reduced resolution, as well as longer chain mono unsaturated FA's, as a result of partial chain back-folding. Multiple double bond FA's and PC's were not resolved.

- . The majority of the investigated isomeric steroid and prostaglandin mixtures were fully or partially separated, requiring about half of the IM resolving power compared to free FA's.
- . CID fragmentation was successfully obtained following IM separation of all analyte types, affording the structural elucidation of isomeric species.

References

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