Modulation of Protein-Ligand Interactions by Photocleavage of a Cyclic Peptide using Phosphatidylinositol 3-Kinase SH3 Domain as Model System

# Short title

Photocleavable cyclic peptide for modifying protein-peptide interaction

Isao Takahashi,<sup>a‡</sup> Shigeki Kuroiwa,<sup>b‡</sup> Hanna E. Lindfors,<sup>c</sup> Lionel A. Ndamba,<sup>c</sup> Yoshitaka Hiruma,<sup>c</sup> Tatsuo Yajima,<sup>b</sup> Nobuyuki Okishio,<sup>d</sup> Marcellus Ubbink<sup>c\*</sup> and Shun Hirota<sup>a,b\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Graduate School of Materials Science, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, 8916-5 Takayama, Ikoma, Nara, 630-0192, Japan

<sup>b</sup> Department of Physical Chemistry, Kyoto Pharmaceutical University, 5 Nakauchi-cho, Misasagi, Yamashina-ku, Kyoto, 607-8414, Japan

<sup>c</sup> Leiden Institute of Chemistry, Leiden University, P.O. Box 9502, 2300 RA, Leiden, The Netherlands

<sup>d</sup> Faculty of Medicine, Kanazawa University, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, 920-8640, Japan

\* Corresponded to: Shun Hirota, Graduate School of Materials Science, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, 8916-5 Takayama, Ikoma, Nara, 630-0192, Japan; e-mail: hirota@ms.naist.jp; Marcellus Ubbink, Leiden Institute of Chemistry, Leiden University, P.O. Box 9502, 2300 RA, Leiden, The Netherlands; e-mail: m.ubbink@chem.leidenuniv.nl

<sup>‡</sup> Both authors contributed equally to the work

# **Short Abstract**

We synthesized a photocleavable cyclic peptide (*cyclic-1*) by chemical modification of the SH3 domain interacting peptide with a photolabile linker. The conformation of *cyclic-1* was different from the original linear peptide but could be converted to a flexible linear-like structure by UV-irradiation. The binding constant of *cyclic-1* with the SH3 domain increased after irradiation. These data suggest that a photocleavable peptide could be used to control the interaction with a protein by modifying the peptide structure.



### Abstract

To photomodulate the interaction of the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase SH3 domain with a peptide ligand, a cyclic peptide (*cyclic-1*) with a photolabile side chain-to-side chain linker was synthesized. The conformation of *cyclic-1* differs from that of the parent linear peptide, but becomes identical by UV-irradiation. Accordingly, the binding affinity of *cyclic-1* to the SH3 domain increased upon conversion of the cyclic to a linear flexible structure by irradiation ( $K_d$ : 3.4 ± 1.7 and 0.9 ± 0.3 mM, respectively). These results confirm the usefulness of a photocleavable peptide for photocontrol of peptide-protein interactions.

### Keywords

Protein-peptide interaction; Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase SH3 domain; RLP1 peptide; Photocleavage; Cyclic peptide; Photomodulation

# **INTRODUCTION**

Photoactive molecules have attracted much interest, since they can be used with high space and time selectivity [1-21]. For example, photocleavable molecules have been introduced into proteins to study the folding mechanism, whereby the native protein structure is produced instantly by irradiation of the modified protein with light [9-11]. A photoisomerizable intramolecular cross-linker has been used to optically control not only the peptide conformation [12-17] but also its complex formation with biomolecules [18-21]. To optically modify the protein–peptide interaction, we chemically modified a protein interacting peptide with a photolabile linker and produced a photocleavable cyclic peptide (Figure 1a). Cyclization of the peptide restricts its conformation and reduces its interaction with the protein. By light irradiation, the cyclic peptide was converted to a linear flexible peptide, which increased the binding affinity to the protein (Figure 1b).

# <Figure 1>

As a model of the protein–peptide interaction, we utilized the Src homology 3 (SH3) domain of phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) and its peptide ligand, RKLPPRPSK (RLP1) [22]. PI3K is a heterodimeric enzyme composed of a noncatalytic 85 kDa (p85) subunit, which has an SH3 domain, and a catalytic 110 kDa (p110) subunit, which is essential for the kinase activity. It is well-known that the SH3 domain is important in signal transduction and cytoskeletal architecture. The SH3 domain interacts with proline-rich sequences to mediate specific protein–protein interactions [23-25], and the association process between the SH3 domain and the proline-rich peptide has been widely studied, in which long-range electrostatic attraction and hydrophobic interaction play key roles [22, 26-29]. We introduced a cysteine to both N-and C-termini of the acetylated RLP1 peptide (Ac-C-*RKLPPRPSK*-C; *linear*-1) and converted the linear peptide to a photocleavable cyclic peptide (*cyclic*-1) by modification with a photolabile linker, 2,5-bis(bromomethyl)nitrobenzene (Figure 1a). The binding affinity of *cyclic*-1 to the PI3K SH3 domain was weaker compared to that

of *linear-1*. However, irradiation of *cyclic-1* with light of appropriate wavelength cleaved the peptide at the linker position and produced a *linear-1*-like peptide, which showed an increased binding affinity to the SH3 domain.

# **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### Synthesis of 2,5-bis(bromomethyl)nitrobenzene

Synthesis of 2,5-bis(bromomethyl)nitrobenzene was performed by stirring the mixture of 2,5-bis(hydroxymethyl)nitrobenzene (0.9 g, 5 mmol), triphenylphosphine (2.6 g, 10 mmol) and carbon tetrabromide (3.3 g, 10 mmol) in anhydrous diethyl ether (20 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The resulting solution was evaporated and purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane). After evaporation of the solution, the resulting yellow oil was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane). After evaporation of the solution, the resulting yellow oil was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, ethyl acetate/hexane, 1:5). Fractions containing the purified product were evaporated and the residue recrystalized from ethyl acetate/hexane. The colorless crystals were collected and dried in vacuo. Yield: 470 mg (30 %). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.08 (d, 1H), 7.64 (dd, 1H), 7.57 (d, 1H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 4.50 (s, 2H); elemental analysis: calcd. (%) for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NBr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C 31.10, H 2.28, N 4.53; found: C 31.23, H 2.30, N 4.48.

# Synthesis of cyclic-1

The linear peptide (Ac-CRKLPPRPSKC, *linear-1*) was synthesized by the solid phase method (Shimadzu). *Linear-1* in 10 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) was mixed with an equimolar amount of 2,5-bis(bromomethyl)nitrobenzene in DMF (buffer/DMF = 9/1 (v/v)). The mixed solution was stirred at 50 °C for 40 min under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere in the dark to avoid disulfide formation and photocleavage. The crude compound was purified by HPLC using a Shim-pack PREP-ODS(H) column (2 cm $\phi \times 25$  cm, Shimadzu). The peptide was eluted at 32.9 min with a linear gradient from 100 % solution A/0 % solution B (0 min) to 80 % A/20 % B (30 min) and finally 70 % A/30 % B (60 min) (flow rate, 1 mL/min; solution A, H<sub>2</sub>O with 5 % MeCN and 0.1 % TFA; solution B, 100 % MeCN with 0.1 % TFA). The absorbance of the eluted solution was monitored at 230, 280 and 315 nm. Fractions containing the desired

product were lyophilized and the product was stored in a deep freezer until used. Yield: *ca.* 30 %.

# Photocleavage of cyclic-1

Photo-irradiation of *cyclic*-1 in the presence and absence of the SH3 domain was performed in aqueous solution at 4 °C for 20 min by 355-nm pulses obtained from the third harmonic of an Nd:YAG laser (7 mJ, 10 Hz).

# Expression and purification of PI3K SH3 domain

Unlabelled PI3K SH3 domain was expressed and purified by using the expression vector pLM1 according to the reported method [22]. The <sup>15</sup>N-labelled PI3K SH3 domain was expressed and purified as described below.

The purchased recombinant DNA encoding the His-tagged PI3K SH3 domain (GENE ART) was ligated into pet28a vector and verified by DNA sequencing as follows;

agatetegatecegegaaattaatacgacteactataggggaattgtgageggataacaatteeetetagaaataattttgtttaa etttaagaaggagatataceatggetgaaggetateagtategtgegetgtatgattaeaaaaaagaaegegaagaagatattg atetgeatetgggegatattetgaeegtgaacaaaggeageetggtggegetgggegtttagegatggeeaggaagegegtee ggaagaaattggetggetgaaeggetataaegaaaceaeeggegaaegtggegatttteegggeaeetatgtggaatatateg geegeaaaaaaetegageaeeaeecaeecaeetgagateeggetgetaaeaaageeggaaggagetgagttgget getgeeaeegetgageaataaetageataaeceettggggeetetaaaegggtettgaggggtttttg

<sup>15</sup>N-labelled recombinant PI3K SH3 domain was prepared from culturing freshly transformed *Escherichia coli* BL21 (DE3) cells in M9 minimal medium containing <sup>15</sup>NH<sub>4</sub>Cl as the sole nitrogen source. Cells were incubated at 37 °C to OD<sub>600</sub>  $\approx 0.8$ , induced with IPTG (0.5 mM) and allowed to grow for a further 20 h at 22 °C.

The harvested cells were resuspended in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0; 500 mM NaCl/1 mM PMSF/50  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup> DNase) and disrupted by sonication. After centrifugation for 1 h at 15000 rpm, the crude extract was loaded onto a Ni affinity chromatography equilibrated with 5 mM imidazole buffer (pH 7.6, 5 mM imidazole/500 mM NaCl/20 mM Tris), washed with 60 mM imidazole buffer and eluted with 500 mM imidazole buffer. Finally, gel filtration chromatography (Superose12 column)

equilibrated with 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0, including 100 mM NaCl) was performed. Protein concentrations were determined from the absorbance at 280 nm ( $\varepsilon = 15.93 \text{ mM}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).

# Absorption, CD and mass measurements

UV-vis and CD spectra were measured with a UV-2450 spectrophotometer (Shimadzu) and a J-720WI spectropolarimeter (Jasco) with 1 cm and 2 mm path-length quartz cells, respectively. Sample conditions are described in each figure caption. MALDI-TOF mass spectra were recorded on a AXIMA-CFR (Shimadzu) in the positive ion reflection mode using  $\alpha$ -cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid as a matrix. ESI-TOF mass spectra were obtained with a JMS-T100LC AccuTOF (JEOL) in the positive ion mode.

# NMR measurements of the <sup>15</sup>N-labelled SH3 domain

All NMR experiments were recorded at 298 K on a Bruker DMX600 spectrometer equipped with a TXI-Z-GRAD (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>15</sup>N) probe. NMR samples contained 0.12 mM <sup>15</sup>N-labeled SH3 domain in 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0, 100 mM NaCl/6% D<sub>2</sub>O for lock). *Cyclic-1* and photo-irradiated *cyclic-1* were dissolved in 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0, 100 mM NaCl) to a concentration of 5 mM. For the assignment of amide backbone resonances of the <sup>15</sup>N-labelled SH3 domain, 2D [<sup>15</sup>N,<sup>1</sup>H] HSQC, 3D [<sup>15</sup>N,<sup>1</sup>H] NOESY-HSQC and 3D [<sup>15</sup>N,<sup>1</sup>H] TOCSY-HSQC were recorded. The data were processed in AZARA (http://www.bio.cam.ac.uk/azara).

A series of 2D [<sup>15</sup>N,<sup>1</sup>H] HSQC spectra were recorded with the addition of microliter aliquots of the *cyclic-1* or photo-irradiated *cyclic-1* solution to the SH3 domain sample. Before addition of the peptides, reference 2D [<sup>15</sup>N,<sup>1</sup>H] HSQC spectra were recorded with the free <sup>15</sup>N-labelled SH3 domain. Data processing was performed in AZARA. Chemical shift changes of amide resonances for the <sup>15</sup>N-labeled SH3 domain in the presence of the unlabeled peptides were analyzed by overlaying the spectra of the bound form with the free SH3 domain in ANSIG [30]. After NMR titrations, the sample containing the <sup>15</sup>N-labelled SH3 domain and *cyclic-1* was transferred into an eppendorf tube and irradiated with 365 nm UV/VIS lamp for 20 min

on ice. Low-intensity 365 nm was obtained from the Spectroline E-series lamp (EF-260C). The irradiated sample was immediately transferred back to an NMR tube and 2D [<sup>15</sup>N,<sup>1</sup>H] HSQC spectrum was recorded.

Chemical shift perturbations of amide resonances were plotted against the molar ratio of peptides to protein. A single-site binding model that corrects the influence of the dilution effect was used and a two-parameter nonlinear least-squares fit was performed in the program Origin version 7.5 (Microcal Software, Northampton, MA).

$$\Delta \delta_{binding} = \frac{1}{2} \Delta \delta_{max} \left( A - \sqrt{A^2 - 4R} \right)$$
(1)  
$$A = 1 + R + \frac{PR + C}{PCK_a}$$
(2)

in which *R* is the [peptide]/[protein] ratio,  $\Delta \delta_{\text{binding}}$  is the chemical shift perturbation at a given [peptide]/[protein] ratio,  $\Delta \delta_{\text{max}}$  is the chemical shift perturbation at 100 % bound SH3 domain, *P* is the initial concentration of the <sup>15</sup>N-labelled SH3 domain (0.12 mM), *C* is the concentration of the stock peptide solution (5 mM) and *K*<sub>a</sub> is the association constant, respectively.

The average chemical shift perturbation  $(\Delta \delta_{avg})$  of amide resonance was calculated from

$$\Delta \delta_{avg} = \sqrt{\frac{\left(\Delta \delta_{binding}^{N} / 5\right)^{2} + \Delta \delta_{binding}^{H}^{2}}{2}}$$
(3)

in which  $\Delta \delta^{N}_{\text{binding}}$  and  $\Delta \delta^{H}_{\text{binding}}$  represent the chemical shift perturbations of amide <sup>15</sup>N and amide <sup>1</sup>H, respectively.

The observed chemical shift changes at a molecular ratio of [peptide]/[protein] = 8.4 ( $\Delta \delta^{N}_{binding}$ ,  $\Delta \delta^{H}_{binding}$ ) were extrapolated to 100 % bound protein using the  $K_{a}$  values from the titrations, and the average values ( $\Delta \delta_{avg,max}$ ) were calculated from eq. (3).

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

*Cyclic-1* was synthesized by reacting *linear-1* with 2,5-bis(bromomethyl)nitrobenzene and purifying the reaction mixture by reversed phase

HPLC. The MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of *cyclic*-1 showed a mass peak at 1473.79 (1+), as well as the ESI-TOF mass spectrum at 1473.75 (1+), 737.38 (2+) and 491.92 (3+). These mass peaks were consistent with the calculated mass numbers and isotopic patterns ( $[M + H^+]^+ = 1473.75$ ,  $[M + 2H^+]^{2+} = 737.38$  and  $[M + 3H^+]^{3+} = 491.92$ ; Figure S1). Ellman's test and Edman degradation of *cyclic*-1 indicated that there was no free thiol group and no modified amino acid except the cysteine. These results confirm the cyclic structure of the purified peptide. In addition, the CD spectrum of *cyclic*-1 was clearly different from that of *linear*-1 (Figure 2a). This difference results from a decrease in the amount of type II polyproline helix making the conformation of *cyclic*-1 less favorable for binding to the SH3 domain compared to *linear*-1.

# <Figure 2>

Since cyclic-1 exhibited a broad absorption band around 320 nm (Figure S2), the peptide was irradiated with 355-nm pulses obtained from the third harmonic of a Nd:YAG laser to cleave the photoresponsive linker of cyclic-1. Upon UV-irradiation of cyclic-1 in the presence of DTT, the absorption spectrum immediately showed bands at 272 and 375 nm and then exhibited a band at 309 nm after 2.5 h of irradiation. These absorption changes were similar to the photolytic behavior of caged ATP in the presence of DTT, in which the conversion from a 4-formyl-3-nitrosobenzyl to an anthranyl structure by DTT has been reported [31]. The expected mass peaks of the peptide attached to an anthranyl group were also observed in the ESI-TOF mass spectrum of photo-irradiated cyclic-1 (observed mass numbers: 1457.76 (1+), 729.38 (2+) and 486.58 (3+), calculated ones:  $[M + H^+]^+ = 1457.75$ ,  $[M + 2H^+]^{2+} = 729.38$  and  $[M + 2H^+]^{2+} = 729.38$  $3H^+$ ]<sup>3+</sup> = 486.59, Figure S3a). The CD spectrum of photo-irradiated *cyclic*-1 compares well to that of *linear-1* (Figure 2a). In the absence of DTT, the ESI-TOF mass spectrum of photo-irradiated *cyclic-1* gave the expected mass peaks of the peptide attached to a hydrolytic derivative of the 4-formyl-3-nitrosobenzyl group (observed mass numbers: 1491.74 (1+), 746.38 (2+) and 497.93 (3+), calculated ones:  $[M + H^+]^+ = 1491.76$ ,  $[M + H^+]$  $2H^{+}I^{2+} = 746.38$  and  $[M + 3H^{+}]^{3+} = 497.92$ , Figure S3b). All of these data suggest that cyclic-1 was converted to a linear-1-like structure by UV-irradiation both in the presence and absence of DTT.

The CD spectra of the SH3 domain and *cyclic-1* were recorded in 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) to determine their interactions. The difference CD spectrum of the SH3 domain complexed with and in absence of *linear-1* showed relatively strong bands around 221, 279, 285 and 291 nm and a weaker broad band at 250-300 nm (Figure 2b). This spectral behaviour was similar to that reported for the SH3 domain–RLP1 peptide system, and results from a decrease in the helical content (around 221 nm) and the environmental and/or structural changes of the aromatic residues Tyr12, Tyr14, Tyr73 and Trp55 of the SH3 domain (around 279, 285, 291 and 250-300 nm) induced by association with the peptide [26-28]. As clearly seen in Figure 2b, *cyclic-1* did not induce these bands in the corresponding difference CD spectrum, whereas photo-irradiated *cyclic-1* binds stronger with the SH3 domain upon photo-irradiation.

Simulation studies suggest that the interaction between the SH3 domain and a proline-rich motif is initiated by long-range electrostatic attraction between negatively charged residues of the protein and the positively charged arginine side chains of the peptide, followed by hydrophobic interactions between ligand and protein together with an interfacial dewetting [29]. When the CD spectra were measured under low ionic strength conditions (10 mM potassium phosphate buffer, Figure S4), photo-irradiated cyclic-1 showed a similar difference spectrum to that of *linear-1*, indicating strong binding with the SH3 domain. However, under low ionic strength even cyclic-1 gave similar bands (221 (weak), 279, 285 and 291 nm) except for the broad band (250-300 nm). These results allow for three important conclusions: (i) Intermolecular electrostatic interaction plays an important role in binding of both cyclic and linear peptides to the SH3 domain. (ii) Although cyclic-1 and the linear peptide bind at the same site on the SH3 domain, the interactions with the aromatic residues are not entirely the same, since the broad CD band (250-300 nm) is not detected in the cyclic-1 difference spectrum. (iii) The binding constants with the SH3 domain are different between the cyclic and linear peptides (vide infra).

# <Figure 3>

### <Figure 4>

To evaluate the binding constants and the binding sites between the SH3 domain and the peptides, cyclic-1 and photo-irradiated cyclic-1 were titrated into the <sup>15</sup>N-labeled SH3 domain, and a series of 2D [<sup>15</sup>N, <sup>1</sup>H] HSQC spectra were recorded under 100 mM ionic strength. In both cases, significant chemical shift perturbations of the amide resonances of the SH3 domain were observed (Figure 3). HSQC spectrum of photo-irradiated cyclic-1 with the SH3 domain was essentially the same with that obtained by UV-irradiation of the mixture of *cyclic-1* and the SH3 domain (Figure 3). These results indicate that addition of the SH3 domain to cyclic-1 during light irradiation does not alter the binding effect of the photo-irradiated peptide. The chemical shift perturbation values for several amide nitrogen of the SH3 domain were plotted against the peptide to SH3 domain molar ratio, and fitted globally to a 1:1 binding model (Figure S5). The estimated dissociation constants ( $K_d$ ) were 3.4 (± 1.7) and 0.9 (± 0.3) mM for cyclic-1 and photo-irradiated cyclic-1, respectively. Therefore, UV-irradiation of cyclic-1 results in a 4-fold stronger binding of the peptide to the SH3 domain. From these dissociation constants, 23 % and 46 % of cyclic-1 and photo-irradiated *cyclic-1*, respectively, were estimated to bind to the SH3 domain at the peptide to SH3 domain molar ratio of 8.4. The observed amide chemical shift changes at the molar ratio of 8.4 were extrapolated to reflect the estimated changes when 100 % protein is complexed (Figures S6 and S7), and their average values ( $\Delta \delta_{avg,max}$ ) were color-coded according to the size of their shifts (Figure 4). From these binding maps, the majority of the affected amides laid on the reported peptide binding site of the SH3 domain for both cyclic-1 and photo-irradiated cyclic-1 [22]. Although the yellow color in the binding map of photo-irradiated *cyclic-1* seemed to be expanded, the  $\Delta \delta_{avg,max}$ values were similar to those of cyclic-1. In the case of photo-irradiated cyclic-1, the R18 residue was affected significantly by the binding of the peptide, but its signal was not observed at the ratio of [peptide]/[protein] = 8.4 due to exchange broadening. Accordingly, the peptides interact with similar sites of the SH3 domain, although the precise binding mode is slightly different as evidenced by the differences in the CD spectra.

Since the charges of the two peptides, *cyclic*-1 and photo-irradiated *cyclic*-1, are presumably the same at neutral pH, the difference in the dissociation constants should be attributed to the change in the hydrophobic rather than electrostatic interactions. Conformational restriction may also reduce the structural adjustment ability of the peptide for complexation with the SH3 domain, although the conformation stabilized by cyclization may increase the binding ability [32-34]. The photo-irradiated *cyclic*-1, which was converted to the linear flexible structure by light irradiation, should be able to adopt a conformation appropriate for protein binding. However, the calculated dissociation constant of photo-irradiated *cyclic*-1 (0.9 mM) were much higher than that of the RLP1 peptide (9.1  $\mu$ M) [22]. The structural repulsion between the polypeptide chain of the protein and the two cysteine residues and/or the attached benzyl derivatives of the peptide may have caused a weaker binding. This study shows the possibility to modulate the interaction of a photocleavable peptide with a protein by modifying the peptide structure.

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# **Figure captions**

**Figure 1** Schematic views of (a) production of a photocleavable cyclic peptide and (b) photocontrol of protein–peptide interaction.

**Figure 2** (a) CD spectra of the *linear*-1 (black line), *cyclic*-1 (blue line) and photo-irradiated *cyclic*-1 (red line) Peptide. Sample conditions were 40  $\mu$ M in an aqueous solution containing 1 mM DTT. (b) Difference CD spectra of the PI3K SH3 domain. The spectra were calculated between with and without *linear*-1 (with – without, black line), between with and without *cyclic*-1 (with – without, blue line) and between before and after irradiation in the presence of *cyclic*-1 (after – before, gray line). The sum of blue and gray lines is shown as a red line, which corresponds to the difference spectrum between with and without photo-irradiated *cyclic*-1. Sample conditions were 10  $\mu$ M (215-250 nm) and 100  $\mu$ M SH3 domain (250-315 nm) with and without 4 equivalents of peptide in 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) containing 1 mM DTT. Pulse irradiation (7 mJ, 10 Hz) was performed at 4 °C for 20 min for both a and b.

**Figure 3** Region of overlaid 2D [<sup>15</sup>N, <sup>1</sup>H] HSQC spectra: Titration of (a) photo-irradiated *cyclic-1* and (b) *cyclic-1* with the SH3 domain. Free <sup>15</sup>N-labelled SH3 domain is represented in black, and peak shifts upon titration of the SH3 domain with increasing amounts of each peptide (red, yellow, green and finally blue). Peak shifts upon irradiation of the solution of the SH3 domain titrated with *cyclic-1* are shown in purple in b.

**Figure 4** Perturbed residue maps of the SH3 domain upon interaction with (a) *cyclic*-1 and (b) photo-irradiated *cyclic*-1. The averaged chemical shift changes ( $\Delta \delta_{avg,max}$ ) are calculated from the values extrapolated to 100 % bound proteins and are color-coded according to the size of shift:  $\Delta \delta_{avg,max} \ge 0.35$  ppm represented by red,  $0.35 > \Delta \delta_{avg,max} \ge$ 0.20 ppm by orange,  $0.20 > \Delta \delta_{avg,max} \ge 0.10$  ppm by yellow and 0.10 ppm >  $\Delta \delta_{avg,max}$  by blue. Gray-colored residues were not assignable.





*linear-1* (AcC-*RKLPPRPSK*-C)

cyclic-1

(b)







(a)



(b)



# **Supporting information**

"Optical control of protein-peptide interaction using a photocleavable cyclic peptide: Recognition by Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase SH3 domain"

Isao Takahashi, Shigeki Kuroiwa, Hanna E. Lindfors, Lionel A. Ndamba, Yoshitaka Hiruma, Tatsuo Yajima, Nobuyuki Okishio, Marcellus Ubbink<sup>\*</sup> and Shun Hirota<sup>\*</sup>

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**Figure S1** (a) MALDI-TOF and (b) ESI-TOF mass spectra of *cyclic-1*. Black lines represent the calculated isotopic patterns of *cyclic-1* ( $[M + H^+]^+ = 1473.75$ ,  $[M + 2H^+]^{2+} = 737.38$  and  $[M + 3H^+]^{3+} = 491.92$ ). The mass peak at 1457.63 (1+) in the MALDI-TOF mass spectrum can be attributed to the photoproduct of *cyclic-1* by the irradiation with the N<sub>2</sub> laser (337 nm), because its peak intensity increased with the increase of the laser power.



**Figure S2** Absorption spectra of the peptides: *linear-1* (dotted line), *cyclic-1* (black line) and photo-irradiated *cyclic-1* (immediately after irradiation, red line; after 2.5 h, blue line). Sample conditions were 20 µM in 10 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) containing 1 mM DTT.



**Figure S3** ESI-TOF mass spectra of photo-irradiated *cyclic-1* in (a) the presence and (b) absence of DTT. The black lines represent the calculated isotopic patterns of the peptide attached to an anthranil group (a;  $[M + H^+]^+ = 1457.75$ ,  $[M + 2H^+]^{2+} = 729.38$  and  $[M + 3H^+]^{3+} = 486.59$ ) and the peptide attached to a hydrolytic derivative of the 4-formyl-3-nitrosobenzyl group (b;  $[M + H^+]^+ = 1491.76$ ,  $[M + 2H^+]^{2+} = 746.38$  and  $[M + 3H^+]^{3+} = 497.92$ ).



**Figure S4** Difference CD spectra of the PI3K SH3 domain. The spectra were calculated between with and without *linear-1* (with – without, black line), between with and without *cyclic-1* (with – without, blue line) and between before and after irradiation in the presence of *cyclic-1* (after – before, gray line). The sum of the blue and gray lines is shown as a red line, which corresponds to the difference spectrum between with and without photo-irradiated *cyclic-1*. Sample conditions were the same as those listed in **Fig. 2b**, except for the buffer concentration (10 mM).



**Figure S5** Chemical shift perturbations for amide nitrogen of the SH3 domain upon titration: (a) Photo-irradiated *cyclic-1* and (b) *cyclic-1*. Each symbol (e.g. square, circular, triangular) represents the observed SH3 residue for a given residue number. A 1:1 binding model was used to fit the non-linear curves.



Figure S6 Comparison of the average chemical shift perturbations in each residue of the SH3 domain observed at a molecular ratio of [peptide]/[protein] = 8.4 for photo-irradiated *cyclic-1* (filled bar) and *cyclic-1* (open bar).



**Figure S7** Average chemical shift perturbations extrapolated to 100 % bound protein for the SH3 domain in complex with photo-irradiated *cyclic-1* (filled bar) and *cyclic-1* (open bar).