



STUDIES OF MACROMOLECULAR INTERACTIONS

by

DONALD JOHN WINZOR B.Sc. Ph.D. (Adel)

Department of Biochemistry  
University of Queensland

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## PREFACE

This thesis contains published accounts of original research conducted in the period 1961-1974, during which time my interest has centred on the quantitative study of rapidly and reversibly associating macromolecular systems. Within the same time period two reviews on this subject have also been compiled, the first at the instigation of Professor S.J. Leach for inclusion in a volume of the Molecular Biology series published by Academic Press: the second, written in collaboration with Professor L.W. Nichol, was requested by Dr. A.R. Peacocke for the Clarendon Press series of Monographs in Physical Biochemistry. These two reviews are listed (by title only) as an Addendum.

Since the biological implications of rapid, reversible interactions in relation to metabolic control have been considered extensively, it is surprising that relatively little attention has been paid to the development of methods for the experimental detection and quantitative study of such equilibria. The initial stimulus for the present research endeavours stemmed from the observation of positive concentration dependence for the sedimentation coefficient of gluten proteins (paper III-1). At that time (1962) experimental studies of associating systems were in their infancy despite the fact that Gilbert [Discussions Faraday Soc. 20, 68 (1955)] had provided the mathematical solution to their migration behaviour some seven years earlier. Chapter I contains a collection of papers concerned with the development of methods for the quantitative study of associating

systems. Papers dealing with the consequences and study of preferential binding of ligands to macromolecules are collected in Chapter II. Chapter III contains studies of interacting systems by methods developed in the previous two Chapters, and the final Chapter presents a miscellany of manuscripts on non-interacting systems: papers dealing with the fractionation of wheat proteins are included in this section. Manuscripts within a Chapter are presented chronologically.

A major section of the research contained in this thesis is the development of methods for the study of reversibly interacting systems, a project that has been done largely in collaboration with Professors L.W. Nichol and A.G. Ogston, the present and former Heads of the Department of Physical Biochemistry at the Australian National University. My transfer in 1968 from the CSIRO Wheat Research Unit to the Biochemistry Department at Queensland University has heralded the commencement of a further fruitful research liaison - with Dr. C.J. Masters, who has introduced me to areas of biochemistry into which I would not otherwise have ventured. To all of my research colleagues, and to those three in particular, I am extremely grateful for their friendship, advice and assistance.

October, 1975

D.J.W.

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- I-1 Studies of Chemically Reacting Systems on Sephadex. 1. Chromatographic Demonstration of the Gilbert Theory, D.J. Winzor and H.A. Scheraga  
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- I-3 The Determination of Equilibrium Constants from Transport Data on Rapidly Reacting Systems of the Type  $A + B \rightleftharpoons C$ , L.W. Nichol and D.J. Winzor  
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- I-8 Interpretation of Zonal Asymmetry in Gel Filtration, M.V. Tracey and D.J. Winzor  
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- I-12 Enantiography of Elution Profiles in Frontal Gel Filtration,  
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- I-16 The Origins and Consequences of Concentration Dependence in Gel Chromatography,  
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Biochem. J. 133, 15 (1973)
- I-17 The Use of Gel Chromatography to Study Rapid Equilibria of the Type  $A + B \rightleftharpoons C + D$ ,  
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- IV-6 Estimation of Molecular Weight Distributions by Gel Chromatography, N.W.H. Cheetham and D.J. Winzor J. Chromatog. 48, 400 (1970)
- IV-7 Polysaccharides of Tropical Grass Species. 2. Electrophoretic Analysis and Fractionation of *Setaria sphacelata* Hemicellulose, N.W.H. Cheetham, R.J. McIlroy and D.J. Winzor Carbohyd. Res. 21, 479 (1972)
- IV-8 Polysaccharides of Tropical Grass Species. 3. Solution Properties of Hemicellulose B from *Setaria sphacelata*, N.W.H. Cheetham, R.J. McIlroy and D.J. Winzor Carbohyd. Res. 23, 57 (1972)
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- IV-10 Further Evidence for the Concept of Bovine Plasma Arylesterase as a Lipoprotein, M.M. Don, C.J. Masters and D.J. Winzor Biochem. J. (in press)

ADDENDUM. REVIEW ARTICLES (by title only)

Analytical Gel Filtration,  
D.J. Winzor

Physical Principles and Techniques of Protein Chemistry  
(S.J. Leach, ed.), Vol. A, p. 451. Academic Press,  
New York, 1969

Migration of Interacting Systems,  
L.W. Nichol and D.J. Winzor  
Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1972

## STUDIES OF MACROMOLECULAR INTERACTIONS

Summary of Thesis presented by D.J. Winzor for the Degree  
of D.Sc. at the University of Adelaide

The thesis comprises fifty two accounts of original research performed in the period 1961-1974. Chapter I contains twenty three manuscripts dealing with methodological aspects of the study of associating systems that are either rapidly equilibrating or subject to kinetic control. Included in this Chapter are papers on the development of frontal gel chromatography as a method for detecting and studying quantitatively rapid interactions of the type  $nA \rightleftharpoons C$ ,  $A + B \rightleftharpoons C$  and  $A + B \rightleftharpoons C + D$ . Osmotic and Donnan effects are shown to operate in gel chromatography, and quantitative expressions developed for their descriptions. An experimental gel chromatographic method of obtaining ligand binding data that are corrected for Donnan effects is presented. The Chapter concludes with a manuscript on the validity of current procedures of allowing for thermodynamic non-ideality in studies of reversibly polymerizing solutes.

Chapter II considers specifically the preferential binding of ligands to macromolecular systems, with major emphasis on the consequences of such binding and on methods for quantitative study of the pertinent equilibria. A model for allosteric behaviour based on protein polymerization is presented, and

methods described for distinction between this model and those based on protein isomerization. The feasibility of obtaining a complete quantitative characterization of a preferential binding system is illustrated with the  $\alpha$ -chymotrypsin - phenylpropionate system, in which the association constant for the binding of ligand to dimer is shown to be four-fifths of that for the ligand-monomer interaction. Also included in this Chapter are three manuscripts on the use of affinity chromatography for the quantitative study of the interactions responsible for the specific ligand effect. The final paper on ligand binding outlines the thermodynamic requirements of the cross-linking theory of lymphocyte activation by mitogens, a theory that has antagonists as well as supporters within the ranks of immunochemists.

Chapter III encompasses seven papers on protein systems that have proved to be associating systems under the conditions of study: gluten, thrombin, alkaline phosphatase (*E. coli*), aldolase, rabbit muscle lactate dehydrogenase and pig liver carboxylesterase. In addition there is a brief report of a velocity sedimentation study of the interaction between aldolase and the troponin-tropomyosin complex of beef muscle.

Chapter IV presents a miscellany of manuscripts on non-interacting systems, including three on the purification of gluten fractions. Also included is an experimental study of boundary spreading in gel chromatography that led to the formulation of an alternative random walk theory of solute migration. Three papers on the physicochemical characterization of polysaccharides are also presented. The Chapter concludes

with two manuscripts on bovine plasma arylesterase, which has been investigated to determine whether the arylesterase is an enzymic polypeptide in association equilibrium with lipid and/or lipoprotein fractions of plasma, or whether the enzyme should be regarded as a lipoprotein in its own right: the latter alternative is favoured.

To the author's knowledge this thesis contains no material published or written by any other person, except when due reference is made in the text. No part of this work has been submitted previously by the author for a degree at the University of Adelaide or at any other University.

Of the joint publications included in this thesis the author considers that he has been a major contributor to manuscripts I-1, I-2, I-5, I-11, I-12, I-14, I-17, I-21, II-2, II-10, III-3, III-7, III-8, IV-6, IV-7 and IV-8; a minor contributor to manuscripts I-19 and II-1; and an equal contributor to the remainder.

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