AMINO ACID: STRUCTURE AND CLASSIFICATION.



Amino Acids:

- Building units of proteins
- There are about 300 amino acids occur in nature.
- Only 20 of them occur in proteins
- 20 standard amino acids correspond to codons.



AMINO ACID STRUCTURE



<u>Amino Acid Structure</u> <u>α – Carbon:</u>

- The carboxyl carbon of an amino acid is numbered as C-1 and the α-carbon is C-2
- In Latin numbers
 - Central chiral carbon is $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$
 - Carbon next to it is β and so on
 - Carboxylic carbon is not numbered in this system.



Chiral Center:

- The α-carbon atom is a chiral (asymmetric) center
- When a carbon atom has four different substituent groups (A, B, X,Y), they can be arranged in two ways that represent nonsuperimposable mirror images of each other (enantiomers).



Zwitter lon:

- At physiological PH (7.4)
 - COOH group (weak acid/proton donor) is dissociated forming a negatively charged carboxylate ion (COO-)
 - amino group (weak base/proton acceptor) is protonated forming positively charged ion (NH3+) forming.



- The molecule attains both +ve and –ve charges with NO NET charge
- A zwitterion can act as either an acid (proton donor) or a base (proton acceptor)



Zwitter Ion: Significance

Buffer Acid Base Balance

Classification of Amino Acids:

- I. Classification by R group
- II. Chemical Classification
- III. Nutritional Classification
- IV. Metabolic Classification.

Classification: R Group:



I. Classification by R-Group



II. Chemical Classification

- <u>A. Neutral Amino Acid</u>
- Glycine
- Alanine
- Valine
- Leucine
- <u>B. Basic Amino Acid</u>
- Lysine
- Arginine
- Histidine
- <u>C. Acidic Amino Acid</u>
- Aspartic Acid
- Glutamic Acid

III. Nutritional Classification

Essential amino acids	Non-essential amino acids
Histidine	Alanine
Isoleucine	Arginine
Leucine	Asparagine
Lysine	Aspartic acid
Methionine	Cysteine
Phenylalanine	Glutamic acid
Threonine	Glutamine
Tryptophan	Glycine
Valine	Proline
	Serine
	Tyrosine

- Essential Amino Acids
 - 10 in number
 - Can't be synthesized in the body
 - Essential to be taken in diet.
 - Arginine and histidine are semi-essential
- Non-essential
 - Can be synthesized in the body

IV. Metabolic Classification

Glucogenic and Ketogenic Amino Acids



The Peptide Bond

- In proteins, amino acids are joined covalently by peptide bonds.
- These are amide linkages between the αcarboxyl group of one amino acid and the αamino group of another



The Peptide Bond: Direction



<u>The Peptide Bond: Modified Amide</u> <u>Bond:</u>

- Formed at the ribosomes by ribozymes
- Partial double bond character
- Not broken by conditions that denature proteins, such as heating or high concentrations of urea
- Prolonged exposure to a strong acid or base at elevated temperatures is required to hydrolyze these bonds non-enzymatically.



THANK YOU