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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 298 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.010 Å R factor = 0.052 wR factor = 0.151 Data-to-parameter ratio = 8.1

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# 1-(2',3'-Anhydro-5'-O-benzoyl-β-Dlyxofuransoyl)-5-fluorouracil

The crystal structure of the title compound,  $C_{16}H_{13}FN_2O_6$ , was determined in order to establish the relative stereochemistry between the nucleoside base and the epoxide ring oxygen. This analysis allowed us to establish that the relationship of these two groups is *cis*. The furanose ring adopts an envelope conformation in which the oxygen is displaced above the plane (°*E*). The pseudorotational phase angle (*P*) is 88.5° and the puckering amplitude ( $\tau_m$ ) is 29.8°. The conformation about the C4–C5 bond is *gauche-trans* (*ap*) and the nucleoside base adopts the *anti* orientation.

#### Comment

2',3'-Anhydro- $\beta$ -D-lyxofuranosyl nucleosides are important intermediates in the synthesis of nucleoside derivatives. Modification of these structures can be readily performed through reactions involving the epoxide moiety (Huryn & Okabe, 1992; Roussev *et al.*, 1997; Miah *et al.*, 1998; Hirota *et al.*, 1999; Hirota *et al.*, 2000). Because nucleophilic opening of the epoxide ring in these compounds usually proceeds such that the nucleophile attacks regioselectively at C3', they have found particular application in the synthesis of  $\beta$ -*arabino*furanosyl nucleosides (Codington *et al.*, 1962; Hollenberg *et al.*, 1977). Some 2',3'-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-*lyxo*furanosyl nucleosides, or their corresponding 5' triphosphates, have also been shown to possess antiviral activity (Krayevsky *et al.*, 1988; Dimoglo *et al.*, 1997; Webb *et al.*, 1988).



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Figure 1

A plot of the molecular structure of (I), with the atom-numbering scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms are shown as small circles of an arbitrary radius.

We have recently developed a highly convergent method for the synthesis of 2',3'-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-lyxofuranosyl nucleosides that proceeds *via* the coupling of glycosyl sulfoxide (II) and a silvlated nucleoside base, e.g. (III), mediated by trifluoromethanesulfonic acid anhydride (Callam et al., 2003). This approach is significantly more efficient than previously developed methods for the synthesis of compounds of this type, of which all have involved the installation of the epoxide ring on a preformed nucleoside. However, unambiguously determining the stereochemistry at the anomeric center in (I) was not possible using NMR spectroscopy and we therefore crystallized this compound so that the structure could be proven. The key issue was the relative stereochemistry between the epoxide oxygen and the nucleoside base.

The structure of (I) in the crystal is given in Fig. 1 and it is clear that there is a *cis* relationship between the nucleoside base and the epoxide oxygen. This is the relative stereochemistry that would have been predicted for a product formed by condensation of (II) and (III), given previous results on the glycosylation of alcohols by (II) (Gadikota et al., 2003). Note also that the absolute configuration for the structure was assigned on the basis of the known configuration of (II), which was synthesized from D-arabinose (Gadikota et al., 2003). The furanose ring in (I) adopts an envelope conformation, in which the ring oxygen is displaced above the plane (°*E*). The pseudorotational phase angle (*P*) is  $88.5^{\circ}$  and the puckering amplitude  $(\tau_m)$  is 29.8° (Altona & Sundaralingam, 1972). In this regard, the structure is similar to other 2',3'-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-lyxofuranosyl nucleotides for which crystal structures have been determined, e.g. (IV) and (V) (Gurskaya et al., 1990, 1996) or for which molecular-mechanics calculations have been carried out, e.g. (IV), (VI) and (VII) (Koole et al., 1991). In these compounds, the furanose and epoxide O atoms are on the same side of the furanose ring, resulting in a boat-like structure. In addition, the five-membered rings in these systems are generally less puckered than other nucleoside derivatives, which typically have  $\tau_m$  magnitudes in the range 34-40° (Sanger, 1984). Similar structural features have been observed in ab initio and density functional theory calculations on 2,3-anhydro-*D-lyxo*furanosyl glycosides

(Callam et al., 2001) and in the crystal structure of a 2,3anhydro-p-lyxofuranosyl thioglycoside (Gallucci et al., 2000).

The orientation about the C4-C5 bond in (I) is gauchetrans (ap) (Sanger, 1984). This bond adopts the same orientation in the crystal structure of (IV) and in low-energy geometries obtained from molecular mechanics calculations of (IV), (VI) and (VII), thus indicating that the presence of the benzoate ester on O3 in (I) does not alter the favored rotamer around the C4-C5 bond, as compared to the unprotected nucleosides. In the crystal structure of (V), however, the orientation of this bond differs from that in (I), (IV), (VI) and (VII), which is likely due to the presence of the additional hydroxymethyl group substituent at C4. Finally, in (I) the nucleoside base adopts the anti-conformation, which is the same as in compounds (IV)-(VII).

### **Experimental**

Sulfoxide (II) (0.5 mmol), 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methyl pyridine (2.5 mmol), and 4 Å molecular sieves (0.1 g) were dried for 3 h under vacuum in the presence of P2O5. To this mixture was added CH2Cl2 (10 ml) and the reaction mixture was cooled to 195 K. Triflic anhydride (0.6 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for 10 min before a solution of the persilylated nucleoside [(III), 0.6 mmol; Nishimura & Iwai, 1964] in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.0 ml) was added dropwise by syringe over 2 min. After 15 min, the reaction mixture turned dark brown-green and a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO3 was added, before the solution was allowed to warm to room temperature. The resulting solution was filtered through Celite, dried, filtered, and concentrated, to yield a crude oil that was purified by chromatography (2:1, hexanes/EtOAc), yielding (I) (0.35 mmol, 70%) as an oil. The product was recrystallized from 10:1 dichloromethanehexane (m.p.: 366–367 K).

Crystal data

C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>13</sub> FN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	$D_x = 1.506 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$
$M_r = 348.28$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
Monoclinic, P2 <sub>1</sub>	Cell parameters from 96
a = 7.3537 (8) Å	reflections
b = 5.5149 (8) Å	$\theta = 2.8-25.3^{\circ}$
c = 19.290 (2)  Å	$\mu = 0.12 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
$\beta = 100.928 \ (9)^{\circ}$	T = 298 (2) K
$V = 768.13 (17) \text{ Å}^3$	Plate, colorless
Z = 2	$0.32 \times 0.20 \times 0.07 \text{ mm}$

Data collection

Bruker P4 diffractometer  $\theta/2\theta$  scans Absorption correction:  $\psi$  scan (*XPREP*; Bruker, 2001)  $T_{\min} = 0.834, \ T_{\max} = 0.981$ 3910 measured reflections 1839 independent reflections 980 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ 

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$  $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.052$  $wR(F^2) = 0.151$ S = 1.051839 reflections 227 parameters H-atom parameters constrained

 $R_{\rm int} = 0.048$  $\theta_{\rm max} = 27.5^{\circ}$  $h = -9 \rightarrow 9$  $k = -7 \rightarrow 7$  $l = -25 \rightarrow 25$ 3 standard reflections every 97 reflections intensity decay: none

 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0707P)^2]$ where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$  $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001$  $\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.27 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$  $\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.27 \ \rm e \ \AA^{-3}$ Extinction correction: SHELXL97 Extinction coefficient: 0.039 (8)

Table 1Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

01-C1	1.404 (5)	N1-C1	1.453 (6)
O1-C4	1.450 (6)	C1-C2	1.507 (7)
O2-C3	1.441 (6)	C2-C3	1.457 (7)
O2-C2	1.452 (7)	C3-C4	1.506 (8)
O3-C5	1.445 (8)	C4-C5	1.469 (7)
C1 - O1 - C4	109.0 (3)	02 - C2 - C3	59.4 (3)
$C_{3}-O_{2}-C_{2}$	60.5 (3)	$C_{3}-C_{2}-C_{1}$	105.2 (4)
O1-C1-N1	108.3 (3)	O2-C3-C2	60.1 (4)
O1-C1-C2	105.7 (4)	C2-C3-C4	108.3 (4)
N1 - C1 - C2 115.2 (4)		O1-C4-C3	102.8 (4)
C4-O1-C1-C2	-30.4(5)	C1-O1-C4-C3	29.2 (5)
C13-N1-C1-O1	57.7 (5)	C2-C3-C4-O1	-16.5(5)
C16-N1-C1-O1	-126.0(5)	01-C4-C5-O3	58.9 (6)
01-C1-C2-C3	18.6 (5)	C3-C4-C5-O3	174.1 (5)
C1-C2-C3-C4	-0.8(6)		

Table 2

Hydrogen-bonding geometry (Å, °).

$D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdots A$
$N2-H2\cdots O5^{i}$	0.86	2.01	2.846 (5)	165
Summatry and (i)	2 1 1 1 7			

Symmetry code: (i)  $2 - x, \frac{1}{2} + y, -z$ .

All H atoms were refined using a riding model, with bond lengths of 0.86 (N–H), 0.93 (aryl H), 0.97 (CH<sub>2</sub>), and 0.98 Å (epoxide ring H). For all H atoms,  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(parent)$ . Friedel pair reflections were merged prior to final refinement, as the refined Flack (1983) parameter was meaningless.

Data collection: *XSCANS* (Bruker, 1996); cell refinement: *XSCANS*; data reduction: *XSCANS*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS*97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL*97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *XP* (Bruker, 2001); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL*97.

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