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Synthesis of the tetrasaccharide repeating unit of the antigen from *Klebsiella* type 20

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Abstract

Starting from D-mannose, D-galactose and D-glucuronolactone, two disaccharide blocks, namely methyl 4,6-di-O-benzyl-2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- β -D-galactopyranosyl)- α -D-mannopyranoside, acting as acceptor, and ethyl 4,6-di-O-acetyl-2-O-allyl-3-O-(methyl 2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl- β -D-glucopyranosyluronate)-1-thio- β -D-galactopyranoside, acting as donor, were synthesised. The two disaccharides were then allowed to react to give, after deprotection, methyl 2-O- β -D-galactopyranosyluronic acid- α -D-galactopyranosyl)- α -D-mannopyranoside which is the methyl glycoside of the tetrasaccharide repeating unit of the said antigen.

Keywords: Synthesis; Tetrasaccharide repeating unit; Klebsiella type 20

1. Introduction

The structure of the tetrasaccharide repeating unit of the capsular polysaccharide from Klebsiella type 20 was established by Choy and Dutton [1] and this structure is identical with the structure of the K-antigen from E. coli type 30 [2]. As a part of our programme to determine the relation between the structure and the immunological specificity of the carbohydrate moieties, it was necessary to synthesise the repeating unit of the specific antigen which is now reported.

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2. Results and discussion

Methyl 4,6-di-O-benzyl- α -D-mannopyranoside [3] (1) was selectively allylated at C-3 via a 2,3-stannylidene complex [4] to give the 3-O-allyl derivative (2). Compound 2 was allowed to condense with 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl- α -D-galactopyranosyl bromide [5] in the presence of mercury (II) cyanide [6] in acetonitrile to give methyl 2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-Oacetyl- β -D-galactopyranosyl)-3-O-allyl-4,6-di-O-benzyl- α -D-mannopyranoside (3). This compound could not be purified by column chromatography. The mixture was therefore deacetylated [7] and the product was then purified by chromatography to give methyl 3-O-allyl-4,6-di-O-benzyl-2- $O-\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl- α -D-mannopyranoside (4) in good yield. A portion of 4 was reacetylated to obtain pure 3 which was characterised by its specific rotation, ¹H NMR spectrum and elemental analysis. The remaining portion of 4 was benzylated using benzyl bromide, and sodium hydride in N,N-dimethylformamide [8] to give the hexa-O-benzyl derivative 5 which, on deally lation [9] with palladium (II) chloride in methanol, gave the disaccharide acceptor, methyl 4,6-di-O-benzyl-2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- β -D-galactopyranosyl)- α -D-mannopyranoside (6). A portion of 6 was hydrogenolysed to afford methyl 2-O- β -D-galactopyranosyl- α -D-mannopyranoside (7). The ¹³C NMR spectrum of the compound exhibited signals for 13 carbons. The signals at δ 99.31 (C-1) and 102.97 (C-1') proved the presence of α -mannosidic and β -galactosidic anomeric carbon atoms.

Ethyl 4,6-O-benzylidene-1-thio-β-D-galactopyranoside [10] (8) was allylated at C-2 using phase transfer catalysis [11] to give ethyl 2-O-allyl-4,6-O-benzylidene-1-thio-β-D-galactopyranoside (9). Compound 9 was allowed to react with methyl (2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl-α-D-glucopyranosyl bromide)uronate [12] (10) in nitromethane at -30° C using silver triflate [13] as promoter to give ethyl 2-O-allyl-4,6-O-benzylidene-3-O-(methyl 2,3,4-O-acetyl-β-D-glucopyranosyluronate)-1-thio-β-D-galactopyranoside (11) in 50% yield. This compound exhibited ¹H NMR signals for SCH₂CH₃, COOMe, PhCH and CH₂-CH=CH₂ groups together with a doublet at δ 4.59 (J = 9.0 Hz) for a single proton (H-1') confirming its β-glucuronosidic linkage. Benzylidene group of 11 was then removed with 85% acetic acid at 70°C and the product (12) was acetylated to obtain the acetate 13 as the donor.

Compound 6 was allowed to react with 13 in the presence of methyl triflate [14] as promoter to give methyl 3-O-[4,6-di-O-acetyl-2-O-allyl-3-O-(methyl 2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl- β -D-glucopyranosyluronate)- α -D-galactopyranosyl]-4,6-di-O-benzyl-2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- β -D-galactopyranosyl)- α -D-mannopyranoside (14) in 66% yield. ¹H NMR spectrum of the compound showed the presence of glycosidic and ester methyl groups and allylic protons. The tetrasaccharide derivative (14) was deallylated using palladium (II) chloride in methanol [9] to afford the corresponding hydroxy compound 15. Compound 15 was hydrogenolysed in acetic acid using 10% Pd-C to afford 16 which, on acetylation, gave the peracetate 17 as fine crystals which was characterised by proton NMR and analysis. Deacetylation [7] and subsequent saponification of 17 gave methyl 2-O- β -D-galactopyranosyl-3-O-(3-O- β -D-glucopyranosyluronic acid- α -D-galactopyranosyl)- α -D-mannopyranoside (18). The signals in the ¹H NMR spectrum at δ 3.4, 4.42 (d, J = 7.2 Hz), 4.77 (d, J = 7.8 Hz), 4.84 (s) and 5.32 (br s) indicated the presence of methoxyl group, H-1', H-1''', H-1 and H-1'', respectively. The ¹³C NMR spectrum of 18

exhibited the presence of 25 carbon atoms. The four anomeric carbon signals appearing at δ 99.63 (C-1), 101.00 (C-1"), 103.01 (C-1'), 104.90 (C-1") and the acidic carbon signal appearing at δ 173.52 (COOH) confirmed the structure.

3. Experimental

General. — All reactions were monitored by TLC on Silica Gel G (E. Merck). Column chromatography was performed using 100–200 mesh silica gel (SRL, India). The weight of silica gel taken for individual separations was approximately 10 to 25 times that of the weight of crude reaction mixture, depending on the extent of separation. All solvents were dried and/or distilled before use, and all evaporations were conducted below 40°C unless otherwise stated. Optical rotations were measured with a Perkin–Elmer 241 MC polarimeter. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded (internal standard tetramethylsilane) with a Jeol FX-100 and Bruker 300 MHz spectrometer, using CDCl₃ as solvent unless stated otherwise. The organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄.

Methyl 3-O-allyl-4,6-di-O-benzyl-α-D-mannopyranoside (2). — Methyl 4,6-di-O-benzyl-α-D-mannopyranoside [3] (1, 10.7 g, 28.6 mmol) was refluxed in benzene (170 mL) with dibutyltin oxide (8.5 g, 34.3 mmol) with azeotropic removal of water for 12 h. Allyl bromide (30 mL, 42.9 mmol) and Bu₄NBr (11.1 g, 34.3 mmol) were then added and the mixture was stirred at 63°C for 6 h. The solvent was removed by evaporation. The unwanted solids obtained on addition of cold MeOH were filtered off and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness. This residue was chromatographed using 5:3 toluene-ether as eluent to give pure 2 (9.36 g, 79%); $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{30}$ + 79.8° (c 2.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR: δ 3.36 (s, 3 H, OMe), 4.12–4.24 (m, 2 H, CH₂–CH=CH₂), 4.82 (d, 1 H, $J_{1,2}$ = 2.0 Hz, H-1), 5.14–5.42 (m, 2 H, CH₂–CH=CH₂), 5.78–6.18 (m, 1 H, CH₂–CH=CH₂), 7.24–7.42 (m, 10 H, 2 Ph). Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₃₀O₆: C, 69.54; H, 7.29. Found: C, 69.32; H, 7.39.

Methyl 2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-galactopyranosyl)-3-O-allyl-4,6-di-O-benzylα-D-mannopyranoside (3). — Compound 2 (7.4 g, 17.85 mmol) and mercury(II) cyanide (9.1 g, 35.46 mmol) were dissolved in MeCN (90 mL) and 3 Å molecular sieves (10 g) were added to it. The mixture was stirred for 1 h under Ar. 2,3,4,6-Tetra-Oacetyl-α-D-galactopyranosyl bromide [5] (13.2 g, 32.1 mmol) in MeCN (10 mL) was then injected into the reaction flask. After 24 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and filtered through Celite. The filtrate was washed with 5% KI solution, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution and water in succession. The organic layer was dried and evaporated to dryness. Column chromatography with 3:2 ether-petroleum ether (bp 60-80°C) gave 3 together with some impurities which could not be separated at this stage. This mixture was then treated with 0.05 M NaOMe (80 mL) for 3 h and decationised with Dowex 50W-X8 (H⁺) resin. Column chromatography with 5% MeOH in EtOAc gave pure 4 (7.05 g, 68.4% from 2). A small amount of 4 was reacetylated as usual with pyridine-Ac₂O giving 3; $[\alpha]_p^{24} + 2.7^\circ$ (c 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR: δ 2.00, 2.08, 2.12 and 2.20 (4s, 12 H, 4 Ac), 3.4 (s, 3 H, OMe), 4.4 (d, 1 H, $J_{1',2'} = 7.0$ Hz, H-1'), 4.68 (d, 1 H, $J_{1,2} = 2.0$ Hz, H-1), 5.80-6.20 (m, 1 H, $CH_2-CH=CH_2$), 7.24-7.40 (m, 10 H, 2 Ph). Anal. Calcd for C₃₈H₄₈O₁₅: C, 61.28; H, 6.5. Found: C, 61.13; H, 6.7.

Methyl 3-O-allyl-4,6-di-O-benzyl-2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-β-D-galactopyranosyl)-α-D-mannopyranoside (5). — Compound 4 (7 g, 12.1 mmol) in DMF (50 mL) was cooled and NaH (3.67 g, 50% oil coated) and benzyl bromide (7 mL, 58.0 mmol) were added. The mixture was stirred for 6 h at room temperature. Excess NaH was decomposed by adding MeOH (3 mL). Water (400 mL) was then added and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 × 150 mL). The dichloromethane extract was washed with water, dried and evaporated to dryness. Column chromatography with 6:1 toluene-ether gave pure 5 as a syrup (10.7 g, 94%); $[\alpha]_D^{24} + 2.9^\circ$ (c 1.5, CHCl₃). HNMR: δ 3.34 (s, 3 H, OMe), 4.68 (d, 1 H, $J_{1',2'} = 8.0$ Hz, H-1'), 4.9 (br s, 1 H, H-1), 5.76-6.20 (m, 1 H, $CH_2-CH=CH_2$), 7.24-7.40 (m, 30 H, 6 Ph). Anal. Calcd for $C_{58}H_{64}O_{11}$: C, 74.34; H, 6.88. Found: C, 74.30; H, 6.90.

Methyl 4,6-di-O-benzyl-2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- β -D-galactopyranosyl)- α -D-mannopyranoside (6). — To a solution of 5 (10 g, 10.67 mmol) in MeOH (130 mL), PdCl₂ (935 mg, 5.3 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 2.5 h. After evaporation of MeOH, the crude product was immediately charged on a

column and eluted with 7:1 toluene–ether to give pure syrupy **6** (9.19 g, 96%); $[\alpha]_D^{24} + 20.41^\circ$ (c 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR: δ 3.31 (s, 3 H, OMe), 4.63 (d, 1 H, $J_{1',2'} = 6.0$ Hz, H-1'), 4.93 (br s, 1 H, H-1), 7.22–7.42 (m, 30 H, 6 Ph). Anal. Calcd for $C_{55}H_{60}O_{11}$: C, 73.64; H, 6.74. Found: C, 73.50; H, 6.90.

Methyl 2-O-β-D-galactopyranosyl-α-D-mannopyranoside (7). — Compound 6 (300 mg, 0.33 mmol) was hydrogenolysed using 10% Pd–C in AcOH (10 mL) at room temperature for 76 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite and evaporated to dryness. The traces of acid were removed by co-evaporation with toluene. Column chromatography with 10:5:1 CHCl₃-MeOH-H₂O gave pure 7 (98 mg, 82%); $[\alpha]_D^{28}$ + 22.95° (c 0.6, H₂O). ¹H NMR (D₂O, internal standard 1,4-dioxane): δ 3.44 (s, 3 H, OMe), 4.49 (d, 1 H, $J_{1',2'}$ = 7.0 Hz, H-1'), 4.9 (br s, 1 H, H-1). ¹³C NMR (D₂O, internal standard 1,4-dioxane): δ 55.64 (OCH₃), 61.32 (C-6), 61.96 (C-6'), 67.75, 69.45, 70.62, 71.38, 73.31 (2C), 76.06, 77.99, 99.31 (C-1), 102.97 (C-1').

Ethyl 2-O-allyl-4,6-O-benzylidene-1-thio-β-D-galactopyranoside (9). — To a solution of **8** (10 g, 32.0 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (175 mL), 10% NaOH solution (70 mL), tetrabutylammonium bromide (12 g, 36.8 mmol) and allyl bromide (3.1 mL, 36.6 mmol) were added and the mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 48 h. The mixture was washed thrice with water and the organic layer was dried and concentrated to a syrup. Column chromatography of the residue using 7:1 toluene-ether gave pure **9** (4.51 g, 40%) together with some 3-O-allyl and 2,3-di-O-allyl compounds. Compound **9** was crystallised from CH₂Cl₂-petroleum ether (bp 60–80°C); mp 92.5–93.5°C; [α]_D²⁵ + 47.98° (c 1.0, CHCl₃). H NMR: δ 1.32 (t, 3 H, t = 8.0 Hz, SCH₂CH₃), 2.78 (t = 7.5 Hz, SCH₂CH₃), 4.39 (t = 10.0 Hz, H-1), 5.54 (t = 11, PhCH), 5.83–6.24 (t = 11, Calcd for C₁₈H₂₄O₅S: C, 61.34; H, 6.86. Found: C, 61.21; H, 6.94.

Ethyl-2-O-allyl-4,6-O-benzylidene-3-O-(methyl 2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl-β-D-glucopyrano-syluronate)-1-thio-β-D-galactopyranoside (11). — A solution of silver triflate (1.95 g, 7.54 mmol) in toluene-benzene (5:1, 6 mL) was added to a stirred mixture of 9 (970 mg, 2.75 mmol), methyl (2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl-α-D-glucopyranosyl bromide) uronate (10, 949 mg, 2.39 mmol) and molecular sieves (4 Å, 2 g) in dry nitromethane (10 mL) at -30° C under nitrogen. Stirring was continued for 30 min at that temperature. Pyridine (3.9 mL) and aqueous sodium thiosulphate (10%, 40 mL) were then added; the reaction mixture was allowed to attain room temperature and filtered through Celite. The filtrate was washed with water, dried and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography using 3:1 toluene–EtOAc to give pure 11 (799 mg, 50%); $[\alpha]_{\rm b}^{28} + 0.93^{\circ}$ (c 1.5, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR: δ 1.31 (t, 3 H, J = 8.0 Hz, SCH₂CH₃), 2.01, 2.02 and 2.06 (3s, 9 H, 3 Ac), 2.8 (q, 2 H, J = 7.5 Hz, SCH₂CH₃), 3.74 (s, 3 H, COOMe), 4.39 (d, 1 H, $J_{1,2} = 10.0$ Hz, H-1), 4.59 (d, 1 H, $J_{1,2'} = 9.0$ Hz, H-1'), 5.54 (s, 1 H, PhCH), 5.82–6.20 (m, 1 H, CH₂–CH=CH₂), 7.31–7.56 (m, 5 H, Ph). Anal. Calcd for C₃₁H₄₀O₁₄S: C, 55.68; H, 6.03. Found: C, 55.70; H, 6.00.

Ethyl 4,6-di-O-acetyl-2-O-allyl-3-O-(methyl 2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl- β -D-glucopyranosyluronate)-1-thio- β -D-galactopyranoside (13). — Compound 11 (750 mg, 1.12 mmol) was stirred in 85% AcOH (5 mL) at 70°C for 3 h. The acid was removed by evaporation to give 12. Compound 12 was acetylated with Ac_2O in pyridine in the presence of 4-dimethylaminopyridine (10 mg). The mixture was evaporated to dryness and traces of

Ac₂O and pyridine were removed by co-evaporation with toluene. The residue was chromatographed using 1:1 toluene–EtOAc to give pure **13** (597 mg, 80%). The product was crystallised from EtOH; mp 103–104°C; [α]_D²⁰ –5.09° (c 0.6, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR: δ 1.34 (t, 3 H, J = 7.5 Hz, SCH₂CH₃), 2.01–2.08 (3s, 15 H, 5 Ac), 2.73 (q, 2 H, J = 7.0 Hz, SCH₂CH₃), 3.77 (s, 3 H, COOMe), 4.09 (d, 1 H, J_{1,2} = 8.0 Hz, H-1), 4.39 (d, 1 H, J_{1,2} = 9.0 Hz, H-1'), 5.79–6.17 (m, 1 H, CH₂–CH=CH₂). Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₄₀O₁₆S: C, 50.60; H, 6.07. Found: C, 50.88; H, 6.10.

Methyl 3-O-[4,6-di-O-acetyl-2-O-allyl-3-O-(methyl 2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl-β-D-gluco-pyranosyluronate)-α-D-galactopyranosyl]-4,6-di-O-benzyl-2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-β-D-galactopyranosyl)-α-D-mannopyranoside (14). — Compound 13 (550 mg, 0.83 mmol) and 6 (496 mg, 0.55 mmol) in ether (20 mL) were stirred at room temperature under N₂ with 4 Å molecular sieves (2 g) for 45 min. Methyl triflate (0.45 mL, 4.15 mmol) was then injected into the mixture and stirring was continued at 22°C for 98 h. The reaction was then quenched with triethylamine, filtered through Celite and concentrated. The crude mixture was chromatographed with 9:1 toluene–ether to give syrupy 14 (547 mg, 66%); $[\alpha]_{\rm b}^{\rm 24}$ + 42.5° (c 1.4, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR: δ 1.96–2.06 (4s, 15 H, 5 Ac), 3.31 (s, 3 H, OMe), 3.6 (s, 3 H, COOMe), 4.66 (d, 1 H, $J_{1'',2''}$ = 6.5 Hz, H-1'), 4.86 (d, 1 H, $J_{1''',2'''}$ = 7.0 Hz, H-1'''), 5.00 (br s, 1 H, H-1), 5.19 (d, 1 H, $J_{1'',2''}$ = 3.0 Hz, H-1'''), 5.80–6.10 (m, 1 H, CH₂–CH=CH₂), 7.22–7.44 (m, 30 H, 6 Ph). Anal. Calcd for C₈₁H₉₄O₂₇: C, 64.88; H, 6.32. Found: C, 64.73; H, 6.41.

Methyl 3-O-[4,6-di-O-acetyl-3-O-(methyl 2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl-β-D-glucopyranosyluronate)-α-D-galactopyranosyl]-4,6-di-O-benzyl-2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl-β-D-galactopyranosyl)-α-D-mannopyranoside (15). — Compound 14 (245 mg, 0.16 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (5 mL) and PdCl₂ (14.5 mg) was added and stirred at room temperature for 2.5 h. The mixture was evaporated to dryness and column chromatographed using 5:1 toluene-ether to give 15 (216 mg, 91%); [α]_D²⁴ + 40.2° (c 1.4, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR: δ 1.96, 2.00 and 2.07 (3s, 15 H, 5 Ac), 3.3 (s, 3 H, OMe), 3.61 (s, 3 H, COOMe), 4.5 (d, 1 H, $J_{1',2'}$ = 6.0 Hz, H-1'), 4.84 (d, 1 H, $J_{1'',2'''}$ = 7.5 Hz, H-1'''), 5.06 (br s, 1 H, H-1), 5.22 (d, 1 H, $J_{1'',2''}$ = 2.5 Hz, H-1''), 7.20–7.40 (m, 30 H, 6 Ph). Anal. Calcd for C₇₈H₉₀O₂₇: C, 64.19; H, 6.21. Found: C, 64.02; H, 6.37.

Methyl 4,6-di-O-acetyl-3-O-[2,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-3-O-(methyl 2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl-β-D-glucopyranosyluronate)-α-D-galactopyranosyl]-2-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-galactopyranosyl)-α-D-mannopyranoside (17). — Compound 15 (200 mg, 0.14 mmol) was dissolved in AcOH (6 mL) and hydrogenolysed in 10% Pd–C (100 mg) for 3 days at room temperature. The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite and concentrated to afford 16. Crude 16 was acetylated using Ac₂O and pyridine in the usual manner. Chromatographic separation gave pure 17 (151 mg, 91%); mp 205°C (EtOH); [α]_D + 54.11° (c 0.6, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR: δ 2.00–2.25 (6s, 36 H, 12 Ac), 3.38 (s, 3 H, OMe), 3.7 (s, 3 H, COOMe), 4.46 (d, 1 H, $J_{1',2'}$ = 6.5 Hz, H-1'), 4.84 (d, 1 H, $J_{1'',2'''}$ = 7.0 Hz, H-1'''), 5.08 (br s, 1 H, H-1), 5.24 (d, 1 H, $J_{1'',2''}$ = 3.0 Hz, H-1''). Anal. Calcd for $C_{50}H_{68}O_{34}$: C, 49.51; H, 5.65. Found: C, 49.49; H, 5.67.

Methyl 2-O- β -D-galactopyranosyl-3-O-(3-O- β -D-glucopyranosyluronic acid- α -D-galactopyranosyl)- α -D-mannopyranoside (18). — Compound 17 (135 mg, 0.11 mmol) was stirred with 0.05 M NaOMe (2 mL) for 4 h at room temperature. Two drops of water were then added and the solution was stirred for 2 h. The solution was

decationised with Dowex 50W-X8 (H⁺) resin, filtered and concentrated. The residue was dissolved in water and membrane filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness to give pure **18** (71 mg, 92%); $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ + 50.0° (c 0.85, H₂O). ¹H NMR (D₂O): δ 3.4 (s, 3 H, OMe), 4.42 (d, 1 H, $J_{1',2'}$ = 7.2 Hz, H-1'), 4.77 (d, 1 H, $J_{1'',2'''}$ = 7.8 Hz, H-1'''), 4.84 (s, 1 H, H-1), 5.32 (br s, 1 H, H-1"). ¹³C NMR (D₂O): δ 55.73 (OCH₃), 60.99 (C-6"), 62.08 (C-6), 62.24 (C-6'), 66.19, 67.35, 68.47, 69.41, 70.33, 71.38, 71.98, 72.22, 73.37, 73.49, 73.80, 75.35, 75.88, 76.04, 77.55, 80.56, 99.63 (C-1), 101.00 (C-1"), 103.01 (C-1'), 104.90 (C-1"), 173.52 (COOH).

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