

Carbocyclic Analogues of Nucleosides from bis-(Hydroxymethyl)-cyclopentane: Synthesis, Antiviral and Cytostatic Activities of Adenosine, Inosine and Uridine Analogues

José Manuel BLANCO,^{*,a} Olga CAAMAÑO,^a Franco FERNÁNDEZ,^a José Enrique RODRÍGUEZ-BORGES,^b Jan BALZARINI,^c and Erik DE CLERCQ^c

^aDepartamento de Química Orgánica, Facultad de Farmacia, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela; Santiago de Compostela E-15782, Spain; ^bCIQ, Departamento de Química, Facultad de Ciencias do Porto; Rua do Campo Alegre, 687-4169007 Porto, Portugal; and ^cRega Institute for Medical Research, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; B-3000 Leuven, Belgium. Received May 6, 2003; accepted July 2, 2003

Six new carbocyclic nucleosides were prepared by constructing a purine base (in compounds 9—11) or pyrimidine base (in 6—8) on the amino groups of (\pm)-(1 β ,2 α ,4 β)-4-amino-1,2-cyclopentanedimethanol (**4**) and (\pm)-(1 β ,3 α ,4 β)-4-amino-1,3-cyclopentanedimethanol (**5**), and their activities against a variety of viruses and tumour cell lines were determined.

Key words carbocyclic nucleoside; adenosine analogue; uridine analogue; antiviral activity; cytostatic activity

Nucleoside analogues that inhibit the reverse transcriptase of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) continue to be the cornerstone of AIDS therapy.¹ Furthermore, although side effects limit the use of 3'-azido-3'-deoxythymidine (AZT), 2',3'-dideoxyinosine (ddI) and 2',3'-dideoxycytidine (ddC),²⁻⁴ and resistance to single agents has emerged,^{5,6} nucleoside analogues are still the compounds attracting most attention in the search for nontoxic agents capable of selectively inhibiting the replication of HIV and other viruses. In particular, carbocyclic analogues of nucleosides (CANs), which have no labile glycoside link between the base and the carbocycle replacing the sugar of true nucleosides, could offer an attractive *in vivo* stability advantage over the 2',3'-dideoxynucleosides, as well as being more lipophilic (and hence potentially more readily absorbed) because of the replacement of the endocyclic oxygen by a methylene group.

Among CANs with anti-HIV activity are the 2',3'-unsaturated compounds 2',3'-didehydro-ddA,⁷ 2',3'-didehydro-2',3'-dideoxyguanosine (carbovir)⁸ (**1**) and abacavir (Ziagen[®] (**2**)), which has better oral bioavailability and better penetration into the central nervous system than the other two and is currently being used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs to treat HIV infection in adults.^{7,9-11}

However, reports of significant antiviral activity by nucleoside analogues with more than one hydroxymethyl group on the "sugar" ring (whether furan^{12,13} or cyclobutane^{14,15}) soon led to investigation of a number of bis(hydroxymethyl)cyclopentane derivatives.¹⁶⁻¹⁸ It was found that although (3*S*,4*S*)- and *rac*-bis(hydroxymethyl)cyclopentyl adenine **3** are inactive against HIV-1,^{16,17} (3*S*,4*S*)-**3** is active against type 1 herpes simplex virus (HSV-1), with an IC₅₀ of less than 0.0001 μ g/ml.¹⁹

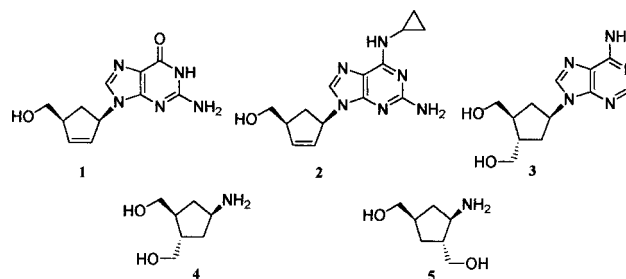
In this work we extended the search for bis(hydroxymethyl)cyclopentanes with antiviral and antitumour activities by preparing and screening seven that were chosen with a view to analysing the influence of various structural parameters on their biological activity. All these compounds were prepared by construction of the heterocyclic base on the amino group of either (\pm)-(1 β ,2 α ,4 β)-4-amino-1,2-cyclopentanedimethanol (**4**) or (\pm)-(1 β ,3 α ,4 β)-4-amino-1,3-cyclopentanedimethanol (**5**). Six—the uridine analogues **6—8**,

the inosine analogue **9**, and the adenosine analogues **10** and **11** (see Charts 1, 2)—have not been reported previously.

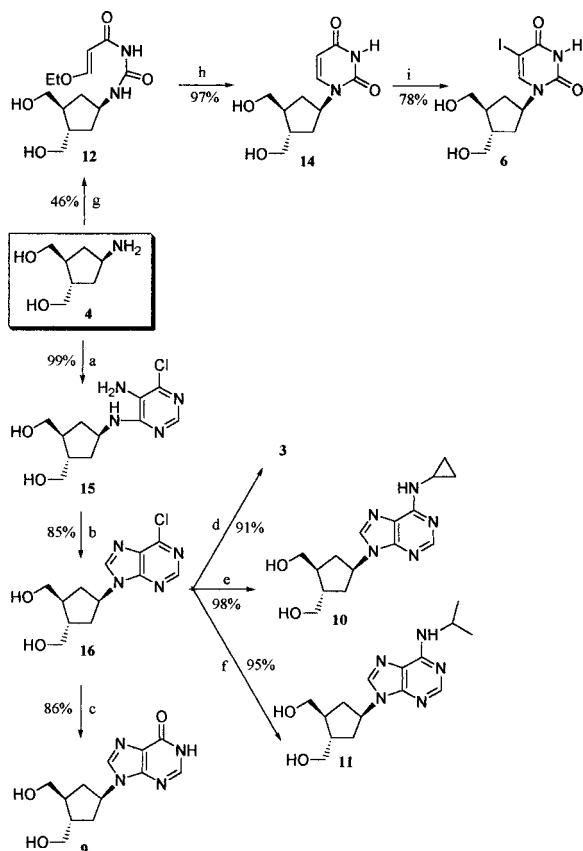
Preparation of the uridine analogues was based on the propenoylurea variant of Shaw's synthesis of pyrimidine-2,4-(1*H*,3*H*)-diones,²⁰ to which end 3-ethoxypropenoyl isocyanate was prepared by means of a two-step procedure that for this kind of analogues has performed better²¹ than alternative methods.²² Since the isocyanate is unstable, the resulting reaction solution was added, without prior isolation of the isocyanate, to the amino alcohols **4** and **5**. The resulting propenoylureas, **12** and **13**, respectively, were then cyclized under conventional acidic conditions,²² affording compounds **14** and **7** in practically quantitative yield. These compounds were finally converted into their 5-iodo derivatives **6** and **8** by treatment with iodine in a mixture of dioxane and nitric acid.²³

Compounds **9—11** were prepared using standard chemistry for purine CANs²⁴ (Chart 1): amino alcohol **4** was condensed with 5-amino-4,6-dichloropyrimidine, the resulting diamine **15** was cyclized with ethyl orthoformate to obtain the key intermediate **16** (in 84% yield from **4**), and this 9-substituted 6-chloropurine was further transformed into the final products in yields of 86—98%. Hydrolysis with 1 N HCl gave the inosine analogue **9**; nucleophilic substitution by ammonia gave the adenosine analogue **3**; and treatment with cyclopropylamine or isopropylamine in refluxing ethanol gave the *N*-alkyladenosine analogues **10** and **11**, respectively.

Using previously established procedures,^{25,26} the *in vitro* antiviral activities of compounds **6—11** were determined against a variety of DNA and RNA viruses, and their cytotoxicities for the host cell lines, were assayed in parallel with

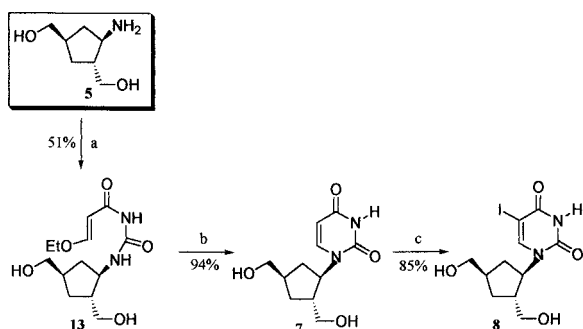


* To whom correspondence should be addressed. e-mail: qojb@usc.es



(a) 5-Amino-4,6-dichloropyrimidine, *n*-BuOH, Et₃N; (b) HC(OEt)₃, 12 N HCl; (c) 1 N HCl, reflux; (d) 14 N NH₄OH, reflux; (f) ^tPrNH₂, EtOH reflux; (g) ethoxypropenoyl isocyanate, DMF, -15 °C; (h) 2 N H₂SO₄; (i) I₂/HNO₃.

Chart 1



(a) Ethoxypropenoyl isocyanate, DMF, -15 °C; (b) 2 N H₂SO₄; (c) I₂/HNO₃.

Chart 2

those of standard drugs with known antiviral activities. The viruses and cells used were type 1 herpes simplex virus (strain KOS), type 2 herpes simplex virus (strain G), vaccinia virus, vesicular stomatitis virus and thymidine-kinase-deficient (TK⁻) KOS in E₆SM cells; type 3 parainfluenza virus, type 1 reovirus, Sindbis virus, Coxsackie B4 virus and Punta Toro virus in Vero cells; respiratory syncytial virus in HeLa cells; cytomegalovirus (strains AD-169 and DAVIS), varicella zoster virus (strains OKA and YS) and thymidine-kinase-deficient (TK⁻) varicella zoster virus (strains 07/1 and YS/R) in human embryonic lung (HEL) cells; and HIV-1 and HIV-2 in human T-lymphocyte (CEM) cells (at compound concentrations up to 100 μg/ml). At subtoxic concentrations

the new compounds generally showed no activity against any of these viruses. The antitumoral activities of compounds 6–11 were assayed against murine leukaemia cells (L1210/0) and human T-lymphocytes (Molt4/C8 and CEM/0) using procedures described elsewhere.²⁶ The concentrations required to reduce cell growth by 50% (IC₅₀) were >200 μg/ml in all cases.

Experimental

Melting points are uncorrected and were determined in a Reichert Kofler Thermopan or in capillary tubes in a Büchi 510 apparatus. Infrared spectra of samples in KBr discs (solids) or of films between NaCl plates (oils) were recorded in a Perkin-Elmer 1640 FTIR spectrophotometer. ¹H-NMR spectra (300 MHz) and ¹³C-NMR spectra (75 MHz) were recorded in a Bruker AMX 300 spectrometer using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal reference (chemical shifts in δ values, *J* in Hz). Mass spectra were recorded on a Kratos MS-59 spectrometer. Microanalyses were performed in a Perkin-Elmer 240B element analyser by the Microanalysis Service of the University of Santiago. Flash chromatography was performed on silica gel (Merck 60, 230–240 mesh) and analytical TLC on pre-coated silica gel plates (Merck 60 F254, 0.25 mm). Reagents and solvents were supplied by Aldrich Chemical Co. Starting materials 4 and 5 were prepared as previously described.²⁷

(±)-(1β,2α,4β)-4-[(5-Amino-6-chloropyrimidin-4-yl)amino]-1,2-cyclopentanedimethanol (15) A solution of (±)-4 (0.1 g, 0.69 mmol), 5-amino-4,6-dichloropyrimidine (0.17 g, 1.04 mmol) and triethylamine (0.9 ml) in dry *n*-butanol (8 ml) was refluxed under argon for 48 h. After cooling, the solvents were removed under reduced pressure and purification of the residue by column chromatography with 10:1 CH₂Cl₂/MeOH as eluent afforded (±)-15 as a viscous paste (0.19 g, 99%). IR (film) γ_{max}: 3359, 3300, 2937, 1704, 1651, 1583, 1505, 1470, 1422, 1231 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆), as previously reported.¹⁶ ¹³C-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 30.61 and 36.65 (C3+C5), 38.69 and 47.05 (C1+C2), 54.13 (C4), 63.04 (CH₂O), 65.63 (CH₂O), 123.71 (C5_{arom}), 137.42 (C4_{arom}), 145.82 (C2_{arom}), 152.98 (C6_{arom}). Electron impact (EI)-MS *m/z* (%): 273 (12, (M+1)⁺), 272 (30, M⁺), 256 (20), 241 (33), 144 (100), 127 (6). *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₁H₁₁ClN₄O₂: C, 48.44; H, 6.28; Cl, 13; N, 20.54. Found: C, 48.55; H, 6.33; Cl, 12.88; N, 20.48.

(±)-(1β,2α,4β)-4-(6-Chloro-9H-purin-9-yl)-1,2-cyclopentanedimethanol (16) A mixture of (±)-15 (0.76 g, 2.79 mmol), triethyl orthoformate (16.2 ml, 144.3 mmol) and 12 N HCl (0.84 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 18 h and then condensed to dryness under reduced pressure. The residue was treated for 2 h with 0.5 N HCl (25 ml), this mixture was brought to pH 7 with 1 N NaOH, the solvent was evaporated, and the semisolid residue was chromatographed on silica gel with 10:1 CHCl₃/MeOH as eluent, affording (±)-16 as a viscous paste (0.67 g, 85%). IR (film) γ_{max}: 3379, 2937, 1592, 1557, 1494, 1394, 1336, 1200 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆), as previously reported.¹⁶ ¹³C-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 29.99 and 36.08 (C3+C5), 38.74 and 45.33 (C1+C2), 58.90 (C4), 62.70 (CH₂O), 65.28 (CH₂O), 131.62 (C5_{arom}), 147.10 (C8_{arom}), 149.31 (C6_{arom}), 151.49 (C2_{arom}), 152.23 (C4_{arom}). EI-MS *m/z* (%): 283 (1, (M+1)⁺), 282 (7, M⁺), 251 (16), 222 (2), 181 (18), 155 (100), 119 (13). *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₂H₁₅ClN₄O₂: C, 50.98; H, 5.35; Cl, 12.54; N, 19.82. Found: C, 50.89; H, 5.39; Cl, 12.67; N, 19.68.

(±)-6,9-Dihydro-9[(1β,3α,4β)-3,4-bis(hydroxymethyl)cyclopentyl]-1H-purin-6-one (9) (±)-16 (0.15 g, 0.53 mmol) was refluxed for 4 h in 1 N HCl (15 ml). After cooling, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the solid residue (0.28 g) was suspended in water (10 ml), and this suspension was brought to pH 7 with 1 N NaOH. The solvents were then evaporated, and the semisolid residue was chromatographed on silica gel with 10:3 CH₂Cl₂/MeOH as eluent, which afforded (±)-9 as a white solid (0.12 g, 86%). An analytic sample was obtained by recrystallization from ethanol. mp 208–210 °C. IR (KBr) γ_{max}: 3384, 2868, 1694, 1591, 1546, 1415, 1340, 1217 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 1.73–1.76 (2H, m), 1.80–1.92 (1H, m), 2.20–2.29 (2H, m), 2.56–2.63 (1H, m), 3.34–3.49 (4H, m, 2×CH₂O), 4.37–4.58 (3H, m, 1-H+2×OH (D₂O exchange)), 8.07 and 8.22 (2H, 2s, (2-H+8-H)_{arom}), 12.30 (1H, br s, D₂O exchange, 1-H_{arom}). ¹³C-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 35.46 and 41.85 (C2+C5), 44.03 and 51.07 (C3+C4), 63.04 (C1), 67.65 (CH₂O), 70.61 (CH₂O), 129.96 (C5_{arom}), 144.87 (C8_{arom}), 150.69 (C4_{arom}), 153.96 (C2_{arom}), 162.31 (C6_{arom}). EI-MS *m/z* (%): 265 (5, (M+1)⁺), 264 (33, M⁺), 247 (3), 233 (21), 194 (18), 163 (26), 137 (100), 109 (25). *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₂H₁₆N₄O₃: C, 54.54; H, 6.10; N, 21.20. Found: C, 54.41; H, 5.99; N, 21.24.

(±)-(1β,2α,4β)-4-(6-Amino-9H-purin-9-yl)-1,2-cyclopentanedimethanol

(17), 192 (66), 148 (6), 113 (100). *Anal.* Calcd for $C_{11}H_{16}N_2O_4$: C, 54.99; H, 6.71; N, 11.66. Found: C, 55.12; H, 6.79; N, 11.57.

(±)-1-[(1β,2α,4β)-2,4-bis(Hydroxymethyl)cyclopentyl]-5-iodo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidine-2,4-dione (**8**) A mixture of (±)-**7** (0.14 g, 0.58 mmol), dioxane (9 ml), I₂ (0.3 g, 1.18 mmol) and 0.75 N HNO₃ (0.8 ml) was refluxed for 3 h. After cooling, the solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel with 50:1 EtOAc/MeOH as eluent, which afforded (±)-**8** (0.17 g, 85%) as a white solid. mp 80–82 °C. IR (KBr) γ_{max} : 3433, 3404, 2927, 1684, 1604, 1448, 1345, 1271, 1044 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 1.57–1.61 (1H, m), 1.74–1.78 (3H, m), 1.81–1.98 (2H, m), 3.33–3.43 (4H, m, 2×CH₂O), 4.64–4.72 (3H, m, 1-H+2×OH (D₂O exchang.)), 8.16 (1H, s, CH=CI), 11.57 (1H, br s, D₂O exchang., CONHCO). ¹³C-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 33.55 and 35.01 (C3+C5), 42.14 and 42.90 (C2+C4), 55.39 (C1), 64.36 (CH₂O), 64.48 (CH₂O), 69.11 (CI), 146.89 (CI=CH), 150.57 (NCONH), 160.75 (NHCOCl). EI-MS *m/z* (%): 367 (4, (M+1)⁺), 366 (29, M⁺), 336 (4), 239 (100), 195 (31). *Anal.* Calcd for $C_{11}H_{15}IN_2O_4$: C, 36.08; H, 4.13; I, 34.66; N, 7.65. Found: C, 36.17; H, 4.01; I, 34.52; N, 7.73.

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