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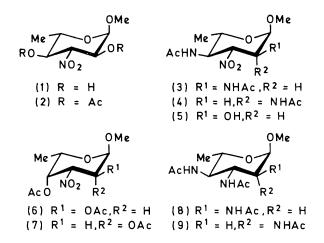
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Summary Methyl 2,3,4-triacetamido-2,3,4,6-tetradeoxy-a-L-hexosides of gluco- and manno-configuration are obtained from methyl 2,4-di-O-acetyl-3-deoxy-3-nitro-a-L-rhamnoside in three steps, involving as the crucial stage a diamination with ammonia, the course of which is strongly dependent on the conditions used.

CONSIDERABLE interest has recently been shown in the smooth diamination of cyclic nitro- $\beta\beta'$ -diacetoxy-compounds on treatment with ammonia. When followed by hydrogenation this procedure provides a general synthetic approach to inosatriamines,1,2 triaminosugars,1,3 and triaminosugar nucleosides.<sup>4</sup> The results presented below on the reaction of methyl 2,4-di-O-acetyl-3,6-dideoxy-3-nitro- $\alpha$ -L-hexopyranosides (2), (6), and (7) with ammonia demonstrate that the steric course of the diamination is in fact strongly dependent on the conditions used and to some extent on the stereochemistry of the acetoxy-functions in the starting material.

When the nitro-diacetate (2), m.p. 109-110°,  $[\alpha]_n$ -154° (c 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>), readily obtained from methyl 3-deoxy-3-nitro- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranoside (1)<sup>5</sup> by acid-catalysed acetylation, is treated with ammonia in dioxan  $(1.5 \text{ h}, 25^\circ)$ , the acetoxy-functions vicinal to the nitro-group are replaced by amino-groups via an elimination-addition mechanism.6 Subsequent N-acetylation with acetic anhydride in methanol affords, in addition to a trace of another compound,<sup>†</sup> an approximately 3:2 mixture of methyl 2,4-diacetamido-2,3,4,6-tetradeoxy-3-nitro- $\alpha$ -L-glucopyranoside (3) and the corresponding manno-isomer (4). The gluco-compound (3),  $[\alpha]_{\rm p}$  -113° (c 0.5, MeOH), m.p. 309° (decomp.) crystallizes on standing (49%) and is removed by filtration. The rhamnoside (4), m.p. 241–242°,  $[\alpha]_{D} = 80^{\circ}$  (c 1, MeOH) is isolated from the filtrate in 21% yield by chromatography over Kieselgel (chloroform-methanol 10:1). In an analogous reaction sequence using liquid ammonia for the amination of (2) (1 h,  $-50^{\circ}$ ), the ratio of the gluco- and manno-isomers is reversed to 2:3. The use of protic solvents in the amination step again changes the product distribution; aqueous ammonia (3 h, 25°) or aqueous ammonia-tetrahydrofuran<sup>7</sup> afford the C-2 epimers in equal amounts, whereas ammonia in methanol yields a 3:1 mixture of (3) and (4). Any further products can only be detected in trace amounts.<sup>†</sup> However, on subjecting a mixture of (6) and (7)—obtained as a syrup by acetylation of the galacto- and talo-fractions from the nitromethane cyclization mixture<sup>5</sup>-to amination with methanolic ammonia and subsequent N-acetylation, apart from (3) and (4) a third product, methyl 4-acetamido-3,4,6-trideoxy-3nitro- $\alpha$ -L-glucopyranoside (5), m.p. 201–203°,  $[\alpha]_{\rm p}$  –159°

(c 0.5, MeOH) can be isolated in yields of 4-5%. Since (5) is not encountered in aminations of (2) under identical conditions, its formation from (6)-(7) must be due to different steric arrangements of the acetoxy-groups. It seems probable that (5) arises primarily from the galactoisomer (6), in which a diaxial 3,4-elimination of acetic acidand thus amination-should be considerably enhanced over elimination of the equatorial 2-acetoxy-group, allowing de-O-acetylation at C-2 to become a competitive reaction.



The nitro-groups in (3) and (4) can readily be hydrogenated over palladium-charcoal in an acidic medium, to afford, after subsequent N-acetylation, methyl 2,3,4-triacetamido-2,3,4,6-tetradeoxy- $\alpha$ -L-glucopyranoside (8),  $[\alpha]_{\mathbf{p}}$  $-124^{\circ}$  (c 0.5, HOAc), m.p. >320°, and the rhamnoside (9), m.p. 248–250°,  $[\alpha]_{D} = -98^{\circ}$  (c 0.5, MeOH) in yields over 85%.

The configurations assigned were deduced from 100 MHz n.m.r. spectra. In (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO, compounds (2), (3), and (5) exhibited 10-11 Hz triplets for the nitromethine proton (3-H) at  $\tau$  5.08, 5.13, and 5.25 respectively, clearly indicating the equatorial orientation of the substituents at C-2 to C-4. The manno-derivative (4) exhibits a quartet at  $\tau$  4.93 with  $J_{2,3}$  4 and  $J_{3,4}$  11 Hz, which together with the 2 Hz doublet for the anomeric proton at  $\tau$  5.47 proves the acetamido-group at C-2 to be axial. The assignments were sustained by double resonance and are additionally supported by the chemical shift of the acetyl resonances of (8) and (9), which are in accord with the "acetyl resonance rule".8

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† T.l.c. on Kieselgel Merck F 254 with chloroform-methanol (10:1).

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