SYNTHESIS OF 1,7-DIDEAZA-2'-DEOXYADENOSINE AND RELATED PYRROLO[2,3-b] PYRIDINE 2'-DEOXY- β -D-RIBONUCLEOSIDES: STEREOSELECTIVE PHASE-TRANSFER GLYCOSYLATION VIA THE NUCLEOBASE ANION

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<u>Abstract</u> The synthesis of 1,7-dideaza-2'-deoxyadenosine (<u>1</u>) and related pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine 2'-deoxy- β -D-ribofuranosides is described. Glycosylation of the anions of the pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridines <u>5a</u> or <u>5b</u> with 2-deoxy-3,5-di-O-(p-toluoyl)- α -D-erythro-pentofuranosyl chloride (<u>6</u>) has been carried out under phase-transfer conditions (MeCN, solid KOH, TDA-1, 25°C) and was complete within less than 15 min. The reaction was stereoselective and β -nucleosides were formed exclusively. The position of glycosylation as well as the anomeric configuration were assigned by NOE difference spectroscopy. Compound <u>1</u> was extremely stable against acid or base and was not deaminated by adenosine deaminase.

INTRODUCTION

Pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine (1,7-dideazapurine) nucleosides are isosteric to purine nucleosides but have a reduced number of proton acceptor sites (nitrogens 1 and 7). According to that one can expect differences in protonation, glycosylic bond stability, formation of Watson-Crick base pairs, and interaction with nucleosidemetabolizing enzymes.

The synthesis of dideazapurine nucleosides was encountered with difficulties resulting from problems of regio- and stereoselectivity during the application of conventional glycosylation techniques ¹. In 1983 our laboratory has developed a regio- and stereoselective method for pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyridine 2'-deoxy- β -Dribonucleoside synthesis ². The protocol uses phase-transfer conditions and depends on the glycosylation of a nucleobase anion ³. Recently, nucleobase anion glycosylation has been applied to other heterocyclic systems ^{4,5}, including 3,7dideazapurines ⁶. We are now employing this technique for the synthesis of 1,7dideaza-2'-deoxyadenosine ⁷ and related pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine 2'deoxyribofuranosides.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Apart from 1,7-dideazapurine ribonucleosides $^{8-11}$ no 2'-deoxynucleoside was known in the beginning of our studies. As pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridines are only weak nucleophiles at the pyrrole moiety 12 , pyrroline derivatives have been used during glycosylation reaction $^{8-11}$. However, from our experience with pyrrole-fused heterocycles it is more advantageous to generate the pyrrolyl anion which is highly nucleophilic and has the ability to react regio- and diastereoselectively with appropriately protected halogenoses 13 . As the reaction is carried out in acetonitrile with excess KOH and the cryptand TDA-1 as catalyst 14 we have searched for a suitable 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine which is readily soluble in the reaction mixture, forms an anion under that conditions and carries an 4substituent which can be easily converted into that of the final molecule.





2a : X = N

b : X = CH



3a : R = H

: R = NO.



4a : R = H; R' = H b : R = NO₂; R' = H c : R = H; R' = NO₃



4-Nitro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine $(\underline{5b})$ ^{11,15} shows such favourable properties as the nitro group enhances acidity of the pyrrole system and the molecule is soluble in the reaction mixture. Compound <u>5b</u> is accessible from 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine (<u>5a</u>) by a three step reaction sequence. Oxidation of <u>5a</u> with m-chloroperbenzoic acid in dichloromethane furnished the N-oxide <u>4a</u> ¹⁵. The latter was subjected to nitration to give the two isomeric nitro compounds <u>4b</u> and <u>4c</u> 11,16 . Compound <u>4b</u> was separated from <u>4c</u> by column chromatography and was isolated as main product. Deoxygenation of the nitro N-oxide <u>4b</u> with PCl₃ gave <u>5b</u>, which was subjected to solid-liquid phase-transfer glycosylation.

Glycosylation of <u>5b</u> was carried out in acetonitrile with a five-fold excess of powdered KOH and in the presence of the cryptand TDA-1 ¹⁴. The reaction proceeded at room temperature under vigorous stirring. Tlc-monitoring showed that the glycosylation was complete within less than 15 min by formation of only one glycosylation product. Chromatographic work-up gave yellow needles (78%) with an elemental analysis of compound <u>7b</u>. The small ¹H nmr chemical shift-difference between H-4' and H₂-5' pointed to β -configuration ¹⁷. As it was difficult to carry out structural assignment on the protected molecule Zemplen-deprotection (MeONa/MeOH) was performed, which furnished a crystalline nucleoside being then subjected to rigorous nmr-analysis.

The position of glycosylation as well as the anomeric configuration of this nucleoside was determined by the combination of ¹H nmr and NOE difference spectroscopy. ¹H Nmr data of 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine (7-azaindole) (<u>5a</u>) have been already reported by Cox and Sankar ¹⁸. The chemical shifts of <u>5b</u> were calculated from increments of substituents ¹⁹. As we have shown that only β -nucleosides give a NOE of H-4' if H-1' is irradiated ²⁰ this technique was employed on the deprotected glycosylation product of <u>5b</u>. The NOE data of Table 1 immediately confirmed β -configuration. As an NOE was also observed for H-2 the glycosylation position was N-1.

<u>Table 1</u>. NOE Difference Data (%) of Pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine and Pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine 2'-Deoxyribonucleosides upon Irraditaion of 1'-H ^{a)}.

Compd	H-2 (H-4)C)	H _a -2'	H-4 '	Compd	H-2	H _a -2'	н-4'	
<u>1</u> b)	9.8	5.0	2.4	<u>3a</u>	3.0	6.3	2.4	
<u>2b</u> 20	2.5	5.6	2.0	<u>3b</u>	2.5	6.7	2.1	

a) DMSO-d₆; 23°C; ^{b)} 63°C; simultaneous saturation of H-1' and H-3; ^{c)} pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine numbering in parenthesis. Thus the glycosylation product of <u>5b</u> was <u>7b</u> which yielded <u>3b</u> upon deprotection. Next, <u>3b</u> was subjected to catalytic hydrogenation. Chromatographic purification yielded crystalline <u>1</u>. Compound <u>1</u> migrates faster on tlc (CH_2Cl_2 -MeOH, 9:1) than the parent <u>2a</u>, which was expected from its more lipophilic character.

Compd	C-2(C-6) ^b	0 C- 3(C-5)	C-3a(C-4a	a) C-4	C-5	C-6(C-2)	C-7a
<u>1</u>	122.0	98.6	108.4	148.6	100.2	143.4	148.1
<u>2b</u> 21	121.4	99.4	102.8	157.3	-	151.3	149.5
<u>3a</u>	126.4	100.8	120.8	128.9	116.4	142.4	147.2
<u>3b</u>	132.0	100.4	113.0	145.0	110.4	142.9	150.5
<u>4a</u>	126.7	102.4	124.2	120.1	116.3	131.3	138.5
<u>4b</u>	131.5	102.5	116.8	135.7	113.6	131.3	140.7
<u>4c</u> c)	120.3	117.4	128.4	118.7	131.6	133.4	138.3
<u>5a</u>	126.1	99.7	119.7	128.1	115.5	142.5	148.5
<u>5b</u>	132.5	99.7	112.0	144.8	109.5	142.7	152.2
<u>5c</u> 16	121.1	98.3	107.6	148.7	99.5	142.9	148.6
<u>7a</u>	126.1	101.5	120.9	129.0	116.8	142.7	147.5
<u>7b</u>	132.0	100.9	113.3	145.2	110.8	143.3	150.6
	c-1'	C-2'	C-3' C	-4'	C-5' C=0	CH3	

<u>Table 2</u>. ¹³C Nmr Chemical Shifts of Pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridines and Related Nucleosides in DMSO-d₆.

	C-1'	C-2'	C-3'	C-4'	C-5'	C=0	сн ₃	
1	84.4	a	71.5	87.4	62.5			
<u>2b</u>	83.2	39.6	70.9	81.7	62.0			
<u>3a</u>	83.0	a	71.2	87.2	62.2			
<u>3b</u>	83.3	a	71.0	87.6	61.7			
<u>7a</u>	81.0	36.0	75.3	83.2	64.4	21.2/3	165.4/6	
<u>7b</u>	81.4	36.2	75.1	83.7	64.2	21.2/3	165.4/6	

a) Superimposed by DMSO; b) () pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine numbering; c) tentative.

As no unequivocal proof of 13 C nmr chemical shifts of the pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridines <u>4a-c</u> and <u>5a-c</u> was available and data of corresponding nucleosides were unknown we have assigned those spectra (Table 2) by the [¹H, ¹³C] nmr correlation spectroscopy in combination with the COLOC-spectra. Cross-peak correlation of the spectra of compounds <u>1</u>, <u>3b</u>, and <u>4a</u> allowed the assignment of carbons 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. As the signal of carbon-4 of compound <u>1</u> was more intensive than those of the bridge-head carbons it was assigned on that basis. The bridge-head carbons of compound <u>1</u> showed almost the same chemical shifts as those of 2'-deoxytubercidin (<u>2b</u>). Therefore, C-3a and C-7a assignment followed that of <u>2b</u>. The same method was employed in case of the bridge-head carbons of compound <u>3b</u>. For the assignment of carbon-4 the COLOC-spectrum was measured, which showed long-range couplings of C-4 with H-5 and H-6. As the chemical shifts of the aglycons were similar to those of base moieties of the nucleosides aglycon-assignment was deduced from the glycosylation products.

Apart from the nucleosides <u>1</u> and <u>3b</u> the nebularine derivative <u>3a</u> has been prepared under the same conditions as desribed for <u>3b</u>. The glycosylation yield of <u>7a</u> was somewhat lower than in case of <u>7b</u> but nevertheless the reaction proceeded without α -nucleoside formation. The glycosylation position as well as the anomeric configuration were assigned by NOE difference spectroscopy (Table 1). ¹³C Nmr signal assignment of <u>5a</u> was possible using the coupling pattern of table 3.

J _{C,H}	<u>1</u>	<u>5a</u>	J _{C,H}	<u>1</u>	<u>5a</u>	
C(2), H-C(2)	186.1	184.2	C(4), H-C(4)		161.5	
H-C(3)	8.0	7.6	H-C(5)	8.1	6.8	
H-C(1)	-	3.5	C(5), H-C(5)	158.9	161.6	
H-C(1')	4.3	-	H-C(4/6)	8.5	8.9	
C(3), H-C(3)	174.6	173.7	C(6), H-C(6)	173.3	176.7	
H-C(2)	6.9	9.9	H-C(5)	3.1	7.0	
H-C(4)	-	3.0	H-C(4)	-	4.2	

<u>Table 3</u>. $J_{C.H}$ Values [Hz]^a of Compounds <u>1</u> and <u>5a</u>.

a) Data taken from ¹³C nmr spectra measured in DMSO-d₆.

Zemplen-deprotection of 7a yielded 3a, which was obtained crystalline after chromatographic purification. Compound 3a as 2'-deoxynebularine itself shows strong fluorescence (MeOH) at 376 nm if exitated at 317 nm. 2'-Deoxyadenosine (2a) exhibits a pK_a value of 3.8 and is protonated at N-1 ²² (for this chapter purine numbering is used). We have determined the pK_a value of $\underline{1}$ in Teorell-Stenhagen buffer and have found a pK_a of 3.6 (Table 4). As compound <u>1</u> lacks two nitrogens compared to dA and increasing pKa values were found from dA over $c^{7}A_{d}$ (2b) to $c^{3}c^{7}A_{d}$ (Table 4) one would expect a higher pK_{a} value. In order to show that N-3 and not N-9 is the first protonation site of pyrrolo[2,3b]pyridines we have measured the ¹⁵N nmr INEPT spectra of the neutral and protonated species of 5a in DMSO-d₆. The pyrrole nitrogen of the neutral form of 5a is located at -241.9 ppm exhibiting two coupling constants: $1_J(N(9), H-N(9)) =$ 105.2 Hz and ${}^{2}J(N(9))$, H-C(8)) = 8.7 Hz. The pyridine nitrogen-3 showed a ${}^{2}J(N(3))$, H-C(2) = 11.8 and was located at -110.73 ppm. By addition of an equivalent of CF₃COOH N-3 showed an upfield shift of 61.3 ppm, now located at -172.05 ppm whereas the pyrrole nitrogen was almost unaffected (0.5 ppm upfield shift; located at -241.9 ppm). This demonstrates that in case of 5a N-3 is the first protonation site, a result which is expected to be the same in case of compounds 1 and 3a.

Compd	рКа	Compd	рК _а
2-Deoxyadenosine (<u>2a</u>) ²³	3.8	2'-Deoxynebularine	2.1
7-Deaza-2'-deoxyadenosine (<u>2b</u>)	5.3	7-Deaza-2'-deoxynebularine	4.3
3,7-Dideaza-2'-deoxyadenosine ⁶	8.6	3,7-Dideaza-2'-deoxynebularine 6	8.1
1,7-Dideaza-2'-deoxyadenosine (<u>1</u>)	3.6	1,7-Dideaza-2'-deoxynebularine	3.6
		1H-Pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine (<u>5a</u>)	4.1

Table 4. pKa-Values of Base-Modified 2'-Deoxyribofuranosides a).

a) Measured in Teorell-Stenhagen buffer ²⁴.

Compound <u>1</u> is extremely stable against acid or base. This is shown by an experiment in which <u>1</u> is treated with 1 N HCl for 1 h not leading to N-glycosylic bond hydrolysis a process which rapidly occurs on 2'-deoxyadenosine ²⁴. Moreover,

compound $\underline{1}$ is stable during heating in 1 N NaOH a process which would lead to imidazole ring opening of 2.

Apart from the hydrolytic stability compound $\underline{1}$ as its ribonucleoside 2^5 is resistant against adenosine deaminase which rapidly deaminates $\underline{2}$. Further work which investigates the synthetic and biosynthetic incorporation of $\underline{1}$ into DNA-fragments is in progress.

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined on a Linström apparatus (Wagner & Munz, W. Germany) and are not corrected. Elemental analysis were performed by Mikroanalytisches Laboratorium Beller, Göttingen, West Germany). ¹H Nmr and ¹³C nmr spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC-250 spectrometer; & values are in ppm relative to Me_4Si or HNO₃ as the internal standard. Uv spectra were measured on a 150-20spectrophotometer (Hitachi, Japan); Thin-layer chromatography (tlc) was carried out on silica gel plates Sil G-25 UV₂₅₄ (Macherey-Nagel & Co, West Germany); visualization was made by 254 nm-irradiation. Solvent systems : (A), CH_2Cl_2 ; (B), CH_2Cl_2 -MeOH 9:1; (C) CH_2Cl_2 -EtOAc 95:5; (D) CH_2Cl_2 -EtOAc 3:2. Powdered KOH was bought from Fluka (Buchs, Switzerland) and TDA-1 from Aldrich (Steinheim, West Germany). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 H (Merck, Darmstadt, West Germany). The columns were connected with a Uvicord S detector and an UltroRac II fraction collector (LKB Instruments, Sweden).

$1-(2-\text{Deoxy}-3, 5-\text{di}-0-(p-\text{toluoy}1)-\beta-D-\text{erythro-pentofuranosy}1)-4-\text{nitro-1H-}$ pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine_(7b).

A solution of compound <u>5b</u> (400 mg, 2.5 mmol) ¹¹ in anhydrous MeCN (50 ml) containing KOH (0.67 g, 12 mmol) and TDA-1 (0.04 ml, 0.1 mmol) was stirred for 1h at room temperature under argon atmosphere. 2-Deoxy-3,5-di-O-(p-toluoyl)-a-Derythro-pentofuranosyl chloride (<u>6</u>) (1.16 g, 3.0 mmol) ²⁶ was added while stirring was continued for another 20 min. Insoluble material was removed by filtration and the filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure to give a dark oil. This was chromatographed on silica gel (column: 20 x 4 cm, A). The content of the main zone was isolated and crystallized from i-PrOH yielding yellow needles (990 mg, 78%), mp 120°C; tlc (A) R_f 0.5. Uv λ_{max} (MeOH) 355, 338, 239 nm ($\varepsilon =$ 3400, 3200, 4500). Anal. calcd for C₂₈H₂₅N₃O₇: C, 65.24; H, 4.89; N, 8.15. Found C, 65.39; H, 4.95; N, 8.01. ¹H Nmr (DMSO-d₆): δ = 2.37 and 2.40 (2s, 6H, 2 CH₃), 2.78 (m, 1H, H-2'_b), 3.19 (m, 1H, H-2'_a), 4.59 (m, 3H, H-4' and H-5'), 5.77 (m, 1H, H-3'), 6.92 (pt, 1H, J = 6.5 Hz, H-3'), 7.09 (d, 1H, J = 3.5 Hz, H-3), 7.97 (d, 1H, J = 5.4 Hz, H-5), 8.21 (d, 2H, J = 3.5 Hz, H-2), 8.55 (d, 1H, J = 5.4 Hz, H-6) and other aromatic protons.

$1-(2-\text{Deoxy}-\beta-\text{D-erythro-pentofuranosyl})-4-\text{nitro-1H-pyrrolo}[2,3-b]pyridine (3b).$

Compound <u>7b</u> (400 mg, 0.85 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH saturated with ammonia (100 ml) and stirred at 50°C for 24 h. The solution was evaporated to dryness, the residue adsorbed on silica gel 60 (3 g) and applied to the top of a silica gel column (12 x 4 cm). Eluation with solvent (D) gave a main zone from which compound <u>3b</u> was isolated and crystallized (i-PrOH) yielding yellow crystals (160 mg, 67.4%); mp 155°C; tlc (D) R_f 0.1. Uv λ_{max} (MeOH) 357, 339, 283 nm (ε = 4600, 4200, 1300). Anal. calcd for C₁₂H₁₃N₃O₅: C, 51.61; H, 4.69; N, 15.05. Found: C, 51.65; H, 4.85; N, 14.99.

¹H Nmr (DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 2.30$ (m, 1H, H_b-2'), 2.57 (m, 1H, H_a-2'), 3.57 (m, 2H, H-5'), 3.87 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.41 (m, 1H, H-3'), 4.98 (t, 1H, J = 5.4 Hz, OH-5'), 5.34 (d, 1H, J = 4.1 Hz, OH-3'), 6.79 (pt, 1H, J = 6.7 Hz, H-1'), 7.07 (d, 1H, J = 3.6 Hz, H-3), 7.96 (d, 1H, J = 5.3 Hz, H-5), 8.22 (d, 2H, J = 3.6 Hz, H-2), 8.54 (d, 1H, J = 5.3 Hz, H-6).

<u>4-Amino-1-(2-deoxy-β-D-erythro-pentofuranosyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine (1).</u>

A solution of compound <u>3b</u> (200 mg, 0.72 mmol) in MeOH (200 ml) containing MeOH/NH₃ (saturated at 0°C, 1 ml) was hydrogenated in the presence of Pd-charcoal (55 mg, 10% Pd) at room temperature for 3h. The reaction mixture was warmed up and filtered. The filter residue was washed twice with hot MeOH (200 ml) and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness. The colorless residue crystallized from water yielding colorless needles (140 mg, 78%); mp > 265°C; tlc (B) R_f 0.6. Uv λ_{max} (MeOH) 298, 292, 271 nm (ε = 9800, 11000, 9100). Anal. calcd for C₁₂H₁₅N₃O₃: C, 57.82; H, 6.07; N, 16.86. Found: C, 57.99; H, 6.18; N, 16.68. ¹H Nmr (DMSO-d₆): δ = 2.01 (m, 1H, H_b-2'), 2.60 (m, 1H, H_a-2'), 3.55 (m, 2H, H-5'), 3.83 (m, 1H, H-4') 4.34 (m, 1H, H-3'), 5.21 (m, 1H, OH-5'), 5.62 (m, 1H, OH-3'), 6.19 (d, 1H, J = 5.4 Hz, H-5), 6.27 (s, 2H, NH₂), 6.49 (dd, 1H, J = 5.9 Hz and 8.5Hz, H-1'), 6.55 (d, 1H, J = 3.5 Hz, H-3), 7.29 (d, 1H, J = 3.5 Hz, H-2), 7.70 (d, 1H, J = 5.4 Hz, H-6).

$\underline{1-(2-Deoxy-3,5-di-0-(p-toluoy1)-\beta-D-erythro-pentofuranosy1)-1H-pyrrolo-$

[2,3-b]pyridine (7a).

To a stirred suspension of powdered KOH (0.7 g, 13 mmol) in dry MeCN (100 ml) and TDA-1 (30 mg, 0.1 mmol) compound <u>5a</u> (500 mg, 4.2 mmol) was added under stirring. After 30 min the halogenose <u>6</u> (1.7 g, 4.4 mmol) was added and stirring was continued for another 20 min. Insoluble material was removed by filtration and washed with MeCN. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness yielding an oil which was chromatographed on silica gel (column: 10 x 4 cm). Eluation with solvent (C) gave a colorless foam (1.1 g, 55%); tlc (C) R_f 0.6. Uv λ_{max} (MeOH) 222, 240, 282 nm (ϵ = 36300, 36300, 9100). Anal. calcd for C₂₈H₂₆N₂O₅: C, 71.48; H, 5.57; N, 5.95. Found: C, 71.62; H, 5.60; N, 5.95.

¹H Nmr (DMSO-d₆): δ = 2.37 and 2.40, (2s, 6H, 2 CH₃), 2.67 (m, 1H, H_b-2'), 3.15 (m, 1H, H_a-2'), 4.58 (m, 3H, H-4' and H-5'), 5.75 (m, 1H, H-3'), 6.57 (d, 1H, J = 3.7 Hz, H-3), 6.88 (m, 1H, H-1'), 7.15 (m, 1H, H-5), 7.73 (d, 1H, J = 3.7 Hz, H-2), 8.01 (d, 1H, J=1.4 Hz, H4), 8.27 (m, 1H, H-6), and other aromatic protons.

<u>1-(2-Deoxy-β-D-erythro-pentofuranosyl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine (3a).</u>

A solution of $\underline{7a}$ (1.0 g, 2.1 mmol) in MeOH (saturated with NH₃ at 0°C) was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The solution was evaporated to dryness, the solid adsorbed on silica gel 60 (4 g), and applied to the top of a silica gel column (15 x 4 cm; B). From the main zone compound <u>3a</u> was isolated as a colorless solid, which crystallized from i-PrOH in colorless needles. Yield: 340 mg, (68%); mp 203-205°C; tlc (B) R_f 0.3. Uv λ_{max} (MeOH) 287 nm (ε = 8700). Anal. calcd for C₁₂H₁₄N₂O₃: C, 61.53; H, 6.02; N, 11.96. Found: C, 61.65; H, 6.18; N, 11.80. ¹H Nmr (DMSO-d₆): 6 = 2.20 (m, 1H, H_D-2'), 2.58 (m, 1H, H_a-2'), 3.55 (m, 2H, H-5'), 3.85 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.37 (m, 1H, H-3'), 5.07 (t, 1H, J = 5.6 Hz, OH-5'), 5.28 (d, 1H, J = 4.1 Hz, OH-3'), 6.54 (d, 1H, J = 3.6 Hz, H-3), 6.71 (dd, 1H, J = 5.9 Hz and 8.5 Hz, H-1') 7.12 (dd, 1H, J = 7.8 Hz and 4.7 Hz, H-5), 7.75 (d, 1H, J = 3.6 Hz H-2), 7.97 (dd, 1H, J = 7.8 Hz, J = 1.5 Hz, H-4), 8.24 (dd, 1H, J = 4.7 Hz, J = 1.5 Hz, H-6).

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