5-ALKOXYMETHYGl-HYDROXYALKYLURACILS WITH POTENTIAL ANTI-HIV ACTIVITY

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Abstract $-$ Acid catalyzed etherification of 5-hydroxymethyluracil (3) afforded the corresponding 5-alkoxymethyluracils **(4a-h).** Treatment of the sodium salt of compounds **(4a-g)** with 4-bromohutyl acetate afforded **1,3-bis-(4-aeetyloxybutyl)- (5a-g)** and **1-4-acetyloxybutyluracil** derivatives **(6a-b).** Alkylation of **4h** with 5-chloropentyl benzoate gave **1,3-bis-(bbenzoyloxypentyl)-** (8) and **1-(5-benzoyloxypentyI)-5-t-butyl**oxymethyluracil (9). Ammonolysis of $6a-g$ and 9 at room temperature gave the correspouding hydroxyalkyl derivatives **(7a-g** and 10).

The economic impact of AIDS will be a serious problem if the disease begins to spread rapidly through the general heterosexual population.1 Even if case loads do not grow rapidly, AIDS will continue to he a serious concern. A major contributor to the expenses in treating this disease is the costly 3'-azido-3'-deoxythymidine (AZT) which represents a first step in the development of pratical chemotherapy against pathogenic human retrovirus. Therefore, it is important to consider low cost compounds as possible candidates with activity against AIDS. At the same time they will offer a new chance to find compounds with less prominent side effects than those observed for AZT.2

The synthesis of 1-hydroxyalkyluracils (2) will be straightforward and for $n = 5$ these compounds still have the carbon backbone found in 2',3'dideoxynucleosides **(1)** which have protective activity against HIV in $MT-4$, ATH8 and PBM cells.^{3,4} Removal of the hydrophilic sugar ring oxygen will increase the lipophilic properties of 2 compared to **1.5** The change in lipophilic properties may influence the biological activity and should be compensated. This can easily be done by using proper alkoxymethyl as substituents in the S position of 2. The lipophilic π -parameter has been reported to -0.78 for CH₂OCH₃ and 0.84 for CH₂OC₄H₉ which roughly correspond to increments of 0.5 for each $CH₂$ group.⁵ This approach is not overthrown by the steric requirements of the substituent in the 5-position of the uracil since in vitro activity against HIV also has heen reported for **3'-azido-5-henzyl-2',3'dideoxyuridine.6** To choose the alkoxymethyl group for adjusting the lipophilic property of the compounds (2) has ordinary common sense because this group can be considered as an ether derivative of the hydroxymethyl group found in naturally occurring hypermodified nucleotides. This has interesting perspectives since it has heen claimed that 5-hydroxymethyl-2'deoxyuridine triphosphate and not thymidine triphosphate, is a substrate for SPlOc DNA replication and is present in SP10c phage-infected Bacillus subtilis.⁷

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this report we describe the synthesis of 5-alkoxymethyluracils and their 1-hydroxyalkyl derivatives as shown in Schemes 1 and 2. The starting material 5hydroxymethyluracil **(3)** was prepared from uracil and paraformaldehyde by the method of Cline and co-workers.⁸ In this report 5-alkyloxymethyluracils were prepared by the reaction of 5-hydroxymethyluracil with methanol, n-butanol,⁹ iso-butanol¹⁰ and benzyl alcohol¹¹ as previously described. The new compounds 5-(2,5-dioxaheptyl)uracil (4e), 5-(1-phenylethoxymethyl)uracil ($4g$) and 5-t-butoxymethyluracil ($4h$) were obtained by the method of Bubber and Gupta⁹ in 5043% yields whereas **5(4-methylheuzyloxymethyl)uracil (49** was obtained from 3 and 4-methylbenzyl alcohol by the method of Farkas and Sorm.¹¹ For preparation of $1-(4-hydroxybutyl)$ uracil derivatives (6) , the compounds $(4a-g)$ were alkylated with 4-bromobutyl acetate by the method of Sasaki et al.¹² In all the reactions, hisalkylation at N1 and **N3** inevitably took place along with the formation of the desired 1-(4 acetyloxybutyl)uracil derivatives $(6a-g)$. Treatment of $6a-g$ with 1:1 mixture of methanol and conc. ammonia at room temperature for 12-24 h resulted in complete deprotection of the hydroxy group and the corresponding **1-(4-hydroxybutyl)uracil** derivatives (7a-g) were ohtained in good yields (Scheme 1).

The **1-(5-hydroxypentyl)uracil** derivative (10) was prepared by alkylation of the uracil **(4h)** with 5-chloropentyl benzoate13 and subsequent deprotection by reaction with ammonia in methanol. The l-hydroxyalkylthymines (11) and (12) have previously been prepared and tested for their biological activity against herpes simplex virus¹⁴ and mouse leukemia L 1210,¹⁵ respectively. In this investigation the compound (12) was prepared via the corresponding benzoyl derivative (13) which was synthesized by alkylation of thymine with Schloropentyl benzoate.

The compounds $(6b-g)$, $(7a-g)$ and $(9-13)$ did not show any significant acitivty against HIV when tested in the **MT-4** cell system.

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Table I. Preparation of Compounds (4-10).

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Table **11.** 1H-Nmr (250 MHz, CDCIa/TMS) and **ms** (m/z) of the Compounds **(?a-g** and 10).

 $^{\rm a}$ ıH–Nmr was recorded in DMSO–d $_{\rm 6}.$

	No. Pyrimidine				$N-(CH2)nO$	5 -CH ₂ OR
	$C-2$	$C-4$	$C - 5$ $C - 6$			
					$7a^2$ 150.7 163.1 109.3 144.2 25.2, 29.2, 47.3, 60.2	57.2, 66.0,
					7b 151.0 163.1 111.8 141.7 25.5, 28.9, 48.4, 61.5	13.7, 19.1, 31.4, 64.4, 70.9
					$7c^b$ 150.8 162.7 111.9 141.4 25.6, 29.0, 48.5, 61.8	19.3, 28.3, 64.7, 74.8
					7d 151.1 163.2 111.8 142.2 25.7, 29.1, 48.6, 61.6	64.4, 73.2, 127.9, 128.5, 137.7
					7e 151.3 163.5 111.5 142.5 25.7, 29.2, 48.5, 61.7	15.1, 65.1, 66.6, 69.6, 70.3
7f					151.0 163.1 111.6 142.0 25.5, 28.9, 48.4, 61.5	20.9, 64.0, 72.8, 127.8, 128.6, 134.5, 137.4
7g					151.0 163.0 111.9 143.0 25.5, 28.9, 48.4, 61.6	23.7, 62.7, 78.3, 126.0, 127.5, 128.3, 141.7
10					150.6 162.9 110.9 142.9 22.3, 28.3, 31.9, 47.4, 60.5	27.2, 56.0, 72.8

Table III. ¹³C-Nmr (δ 62.5 MHz, CDCl₃)/TMS; δ -values of Compounds (7a-g and 10).

 a In DMSO-d₆. b Recorded at 15 MHz.

EXPERIMENTAL

~AJkoxymethyluracil derivatives (4e,g,h).

Conc. HCI (1 ml) and the compound **(3)** (2 g) were added to the ethanol (100 ml). The suspension was stirred at room temperature for 15 min and then kept on an oil bath for 24 h at 100'C. The reaction mixture became homogeneous after 20-30 min. The reaction mixture was cooled to -20 °C and after standing for a few days the crystals were collected by filtration and recrystallized.

5-(4-Methylbenzy!oxymethyl)uracil (4f).

From a mixture of 5-hydroxymethyluraciI (4.7 g, 33 mmol), 4-metylhenzyl alcohol (20.7 g, 0.17 mol), benzene (30 ml) and concentrated hydrochloric acid (0.1 ml), the azeotropic mixture of benzene and water was removed by distillation. After the removal of water, the oil-bath temperature was gradually raised to 170'C and held at this temperature for additional 1 h. The crystals which separated on cooling were collected by filtration, washed with ether and recrystallized from dioxane. Yield, 1.2 g (15%); mp 226-227°C. Ms: m/z $(\%) = 246$ (M⁺, 0.6); ¹H-nmr (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆/TMS): δ 2.30 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.45 (1H, br s, OH), 4.15 (2H, s, CHz), 4.45 (2H, s, CHz), 7.17 (4H, m, ArH), 7.45 (lH, s, GH), 10.90 (lH, hr s, N1-H), 11.15 (lH, br s, N3-H); ¹³C-nmr (62.5 MHz, DMSO-d₆/TMS): δ 20.6 (CH₃), 64.0 (CH₂), 71.2 (O-CH₂), 109.0 (C-5), 127.4, 128.6, 135.3, 136.4 (C₆H₄), 140.4 (C-6), 151.2 (C-2), 163.7 (C-4). Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₄N₂O₃: C, 63.40; H, 5.73; N, 11.37. Found: C, 63.26; H, 5.82; N, 11.34.

I-(4-Acetyloxybutyl)uracil derivatives **(5a-g)** and **(6a-g).**

A mixture of an 5-alkoxymethyluracil derivative **(4)** (14 mmol) and 50% oil-immersed sodium hydride (680 mg, 14 mmol) in DMF (75 ml) was stirred at $70-80^{\circ}$ C for 1 h and cooled to room temperature. 4-Bromobutyl acetate (3.17 g, 16 mrnol) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h (compounds **4a,c** were stirred at 90'C for 2-5 h). TIC with CHC13/CH30H (9:l) showed two products and the starting material. The mixture was neutralized with AcOH, evaporated and the residue was partitioned between CHC13 (100 ml) and water (50 ml). The sparingly soluble starting materials **(4)** was recovered by filtration (0.4–0.9 g). The organic layer was dried over $Na₂SO₄$, evaporated and chromatographed on silica gel (40 g, 0.044063 mm) with CHC13/CH30H (982) to give **1,3-bis<4-acetyloxybutyl)uracil** derivatives **(5a-g)** in 948% yields as oils and **1<4-acetyloxyhutyl)uracil** derivatives **(6a-g)** in 17-55% yields as solids.

I-(kHydroxybutyl)uracil derivatives **(7a-g).**

Compound **(6)** (5 mmol) in a mixture of MeOH (60 ml) and conc. ammonia (60 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 12-24 h and evaporated. The residue was coevaporated with ethanol two times, triturated with a small volume of ether and recrystallized.

l,%Bis(5-benzoyloxypenty1)-St-butoxymethyluracil (8) and **I-(5-benzoyloxypentyI)-5-(t-butoxymethy1)ura**cil (9).

Uracil derivative **(4h)** (2.78 g, **14** mmol) and 50% oil immersed sodium hydride (680 mg, 14 mmol) in DMF (75 ml) was stirred at 70'C for 4 h and then cooled to room temperature. 5Chloropentyl benzoate (3.17 **g,** 14 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h and then at 90'C for 7 h. After evaporation ice-water (100 ml) was added to the residue and the mixture was neutralized with AcOH under stirring. Unreacted **4h** (0.49 g) was collected by filtration and washed with CHC13. After extraction of the water phase with $CHCl₃$ (150 ml) the combined $CHCl₃$ phases were evaporated after drying with Na₂SO₄. Preparative silica tlc with CHCl₃/CH₃OH (95:5, v/v) afforded as the first fraction 2.0 g (25%) of **1,3-bis<5-benzoyloxypentyl)-5-t-butoxymethyluracil (8)** as a colorless oil. Ms: m/z (%) = 578 **(Mf,** 0.1), 521 (63) . $H-Mmr$ (250 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS: δ 1.25 (9H, s, CH₃), 1.43-1.84 (12H, m, CH₂), 3.76 (2H, t, J = 7.3 Hz, CH₂), 3.98 (2H, t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, CH₂), 4.22 (2H, s, CH₂), 4.31 (4H, m, CH₂), 7.20 (1H, s, 6-H), 7.41-8.02 (10H, m, C₆H₅). ¹³C-Nmr (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS): δ 22.3, 22.8, 27.7, 27.9, 40.2, 48.7, 63.7, 63.9 $(10 \times CH_2)$, 26.8 $(3 \times CH_3)$, 56.2 (CH_2-O) , 72.8 $(C(CH_3)_3)$, 111.0 $(C-5)$, 138.7 $(C-6)$, 150.2 $(C-2)$, 161.3 $(C-4)$, 127.8, 128.6, 129.5, 131.9 (aryl), 165.3 (C=O).

The second fraction was 2.01 g (37%) of 1-(5-benzoyloxypentyl)-5-t-butoxymethyluracil (9), mp 108-109[°]C (ether). FAB ms: $(DMSO, glycerol, TCA)$ m/z $(\%)$ = 389 (M⁺ + 1, 0.8). ¹H-Nmr (250 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS): δ 1.30 (9H, s, CH₃), 1.45-1.89 (6H, m, CH₂), 3.76 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, CH₂), 4.22 (2H, s, CH₂), 4.33 (2H, t, J $= 6.4$ Hz, CH₂), 7.21 (1H, s, 6–H), 7.44–8.03 (5H, m, benzoyl), 9.04 (1H, br s, N3–H). ¹³C–Nmr (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS): δ 23.0, 28.3, 28.7, 48.6, 64.4 (5 x CH₂), 27.5 (3 x CH₃), 56.3 (CH₂), 73.2 (C(CH₃)₃), 112.81 (C-5), 140.6 (C-6), 150.4 (C-2), 162.4 (C-4), 128.1, 129.3, 130.1, 132.6 (aryl), 166.3 (C=O). Anal. Calcd for $C_{21}H_{28}N_{2}O_{5}$: C, 64.93; H, 7.26; N, 7.21. Found: C, 64.84; H, 7.33; N, 7.11.

5-(t-Butoxymethyl)-1-(5-hydroxypentyl)uracil (10).

Compound (9) (1.05 g, 2.7 mmol) in a 1:1 mixture (80 ml) of MeOH and conc. ammonia was stirred at room temperature for one week. After evaporation, the residue was partitioned between ethyl acetate (50 ml) and water (25 ml). The aqueous layer was evaporated and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel (60 g, $0.04-0.063$ mm) with CHCl₃/CH₃OH (9:1, v/v) to give 0.59 g (77%) of 5-(t-butoxymethyl)-1-(5-hydroxypentyl)uracil (10).

1,3-Bis(5-benzoyloxypentyl)thymine and **1-(5-benzoyloxypenty1)thymine** (13).

Thymine was alkylated according to the procedure described for alkylation of 5-t-butoxymethyluracil (4h). Unreacted thymine (0.46 g) was collected by filtration. Chromatography of the crude product on a silica column using CHCl₃/CH₃OH (99:1, v/v) gave as the first fraction 1.66 g (23%) of 1,3-bis(5-benzoyloxypentyl)thymine as a colorless oil. Ms: m/z (%) = 506 (M⁺, 12), 105 (100). ¹H-Nmr (250 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS: δ 1.51 (4H, m, CH₂), 1.65-1.88 (8H, m, CH₂), 1.91 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.72 (2H, t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, CH₂), 3.98 (2H, t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, CH₂), 4.31 (2H, t, $J = 5.9$ Hz, CH₂), 4.33 (2H, t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, CH₂), 6.96 (1H, s, 6–H), 7.43 (4H, t, $J = 7$ Hz, m-ArH), 7.54 (2H, m, p-ArH), 8.03 (4H, dd, $J = 7$ and 1.3 Hz, o-ArH). ¹³C-Nmr (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS): δ 13.0 (CH₃), 23.0, 23.5, 27.3, 28.3, 28.4, 28.7, 41.2, 49.2, 64.5, 64.8 (10 x CH₂), 109.8 (C-5), 128.3, 128.4, 129.5, 129.6, 130.3, 130.5, 132.9, 132.9 (2 x aryl), 138.3 (C-6), 151.4 (C-2), 163.7 (C-4), 166.6 $(C=O)$, peak matching for $C_{29}H_{34}N_{2}O_{6}$: Calcd 506.2417. Found: 506.2437.

The second fraction was 0.97 g (22%) of 1-(5-benzoyloxypentyl)thymine (13), mp 125-126^oC (ether). Ms: m/z (%) = 316 (M⁺, 38), 105 (100). ¹H-Nmr (250 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS): δ 1.50 (2H, m, CH₂), 1.71–1.85 (4H, m, CHz), 1.90 (3H, s, CH3), 3.73 (2H, t, **3** = 7.1 Hz, CHz), 4.33 (2H, t, J = 6.3 Hz, CHz), 7.00 (lH, S, 6-H), 7.45 (2H, t, $J = 8$ Hz, m-ArH), 7.56 (1H, m, p-ArH), 8.03 (2H, d, $J = 8$ Hz, o-ArH), 9.92 (1H, s, N3-H). $13C-Nmr$ (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃/TMS): δ 12.1 (CH₃), 22.8, 28.1, 28.5, 48.0, 64.3 (5 x CH₂), 110.5 (C-5), 128.2, 129.3, 130.1, 132.7 (aryl), 140.1 (C-6), 150.9 (C-2), 164.3 (C-4), 166.4 (C=O). Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{20}N_2O_4$: C, 64.54; H, 6.37; N, 8.85. Found: C, 64.58; H, 6.44; N, 8.75.

I-(5Hydroxypentyl)thymine (12).

Deprotection of **13 was** performed in a similar manner as for **10** to afford **12:** mp 142-143'C (Lit.,l5 mp $140 - 142$ ^{*}C).

Table IV. Microanalyses or Peak Matchings of Compounds (4-10).

^a FAB (glycerol, TCA): m/z (%) = 461 (M⁺ + 1, 0.4), 91 (100).

FAB (glycerol, TCA): m/z (%) = 475 (M⁺ + 1, 1.2), 105 (100).

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