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**Abstract** – Highly *β*-selective mannosylations of glycosyl acceptors with an <sup>α</sup>-mannosyl 6-nitro-2-benzothiazoate donor (**1**α) were carried out smoothly in the presence of a catalytic amount of tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boric acid  $[HB(C_6F_5)_4]$  to afford the corresponding disaccharides in good to high yields: it was proved that high  $\beta$ -selectivity was entirely dependent on the characteristic properties of a donor  $(1\alpha)$  and a catalyst, HB $(C_6F_5)_4$ . Interestingly, it was observed that *in situ* anomerization from  $1\beta$  to  $1\alpha$  took place rapidly when β-mannosyl donor (1β) was treated with a catalytic amount of HB( $C_6F_5$ )<sub>4</sub> in  $CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>$ .

β-Mannopyranosyl units are the essential constituents of naturally-occurring biologically-active oligosaccharides and glycoconjugates.<sup>1</sup> However, formation of  $\beta$ -mannopyranoside is considered somewhat difficult in chemical synthesis because of the following three reasons: i)  $\alpha$ -mannopyranoside formation is favored by its anomeric effect; ii) steric repulsion of hydroxy group at *C*-2 position; and iii) opposite participation of its neighboring group. For the convenient construction of β-mannopyranoside, catalytic or stoichiometric direct mannosylation<sup>2-9</sup> turned out to be one of the most effective methods. Reactions using mannosyl donors such as mannosyl phosphinothioate,<sup>2</sup> phosphate,<sup>3</sup> halide,<sup>4,5</sup> or sulfoxide<sup>5</sup> in combination with suitable activators, and a donor having 1,2-stannylene acetal<sup>6</sup> were then reported. Best results were obtained when donors having an electron-withdrawing protecting group at *O*-2 position<sup>7</sup> or a cyclic acetal protecting group at  $O$ -4,6 position<sup>8</sup> were activated by trimethylsilyl triflate, benzenesulfenyl triflate / 2,6-di-*t*-butyl-4-methylpyridine (DTBMP), or trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride / DTBMP. Though the above methods were known well-effective, further development of a new and convenient method for the stereoselective synthesis of β-mannopyranosides is still important and challenging in carbohydrate chemistry. In the previous papers,<sup>10,11</sup> it was reported that highly  $\beta$ -selective mannosylations of glycosyl acceptors with an  $\alpha$ -mannosyl 6-nitro-2-benzothiazoate donor (1 $\alpha$ ) were carried out smoothly in the presence of a catalytic amount of tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boric acid<sup>12</sup>  $[HB(C_6F_5)_4]$  to afford the corresponding disaccharides in good to high yields (Table 1). To the best of our knowledge, these are the highest yields of β-disaccharides (**5** and **7**) by direct mannosylations between 2,3,4,6-tetra-*O*-benzyl-mannosyl donor and acceptors (**2** and **4**). In this communication, we would like to report on a mechanistic study for the induction of β-selectivity in mannosylation using **1**.

	<b>BnO</b> <b>BnO</b> BnO- BnO ∩ N Donor $(1\alpha)$ (1.2 mol. amt.) NO <sub>2</sub>	<b>ROH</b> Acceptor (1.0 mol. amt.) $HB(C_6F_5)_4$ (0.20 mol. amt.) MS 5A (3 g/mmol) $CH_2Cl_2$ , -78 °C, 0.5 h	BnO BnO- BnO- BnO ÒR Disaccharide
Entry	Acceptor (ROH)	Product	Yield /% $(\alpha/\beta)^a$
$\mathbf{1}$	HO BnO <sup>-</sup> BnC <b>BnO</b> <sup>b</sup> Me $\overline{2}$	<b>BnO</b> <b>BnO</b> BnO- BnC <sub>www</sub> () $BnO$ BnO 5 BnO <sub>OMe</sub>	96 (16/84)
$\mathfrak{2}$	HO BnO- AcO SEt 3 PhthN	<b>BnO</b> <b>BnO</b> BnO- BnC <sub>www</sub> w O <b>BnO</b> AcO 6	83 (10/90) <b>SEt</b> <b>NPhth</b>
3	OBn 0 ÒΗ $N_3$ $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	OBn ٠O <b>BnO</b> <b>BnO</b> BnO- BnC $N_3$ ೢೢೢ೦ 7	89 (30/70)

**Table 1**. β-Selective Mannosylation with  $\alpha$ -Mannosyl 6-Nitro-2-benzothiazoate<sup>11</sup>

<sup>a</sup>The  $\alpha/\beta$  ratios were determined by isolations of both stereoisomers.

2,3,4,6-Tetra-*O*-benzyl-D-mannopyranosyl 6-nitro-2-benzothiazoate (**1**) was prepared easily by the following procedure. That is, direct condensation between anomeric hydroxy group of 2,3,4,6-tetra-*O*-benzyl-D-mannopyranose (8) and 2-chloro-6-nitrobenzothiazole<sup>10</sup> (9) proceeded smoothly and gave  $\alpha$ -isomer (1) and  $\beta$ -one in 66% and 24% chemical vields, respectively, in the presence of potassium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (Scheme 1).

Since 6-nitro-2-benzothiazolinone (**11**) formed together with the desired mannoside, the influence of **11**

on β-selectivity and yield was considered. In order to study the induction of  $\beta$ -selectivity, mannosylation of methyl 2,3,4-tri-*O*-benzyl-α-D-glucopyranoside (2) with  $1\alpha$  or the corresponding  $\alpha$ -mannosyl trichloroacetimidate donor  $(10)^{13}$  was tried in the presence of 11 by which neither  $\beta$ -selectivity nor yield were influenced (Table 2). This may be due to the extreme insolubility of the 6-nitro-2-benzothiazolinone (**11**) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, a nonpolar solvent. It was noted that mannosylation using  $HB(C_6F_5)_4$  was carried out with moderate β-selectivity by using **10**. Thus, high β-selectivity proved to be entirely dependent on the characteristic property of a combination of a donor  $(1\alpha)$  and a catalyst HB( $C_6F_5$ )<sub>4</sub>.



Scheme 1. Preparation of Mannosyl 6-Nitro-2-benzothiazoate





<sup>a</sup>The  $\alpha/\beta$  ratios were determined by isolations of both stereoisomers.



Next, mannosylation of 2 with a  $\beta$ -isomer of donor (1 $\beta$ ) was tried under the above-mentioned conditions (Scheme 2). Interestingly, β-selective mannosylation also proceeded smoothly to give disaccharide in high yield similar to the case using  $\alpha$ -donor (**1** $\alpha$ ). In order to study its mechanism, a reaction using **1** $\beta$ 

was tried in the absence of glycosyl acceptor (**2**) under the same conditions. After stirring for only 5 min, the reaction mixture was swiftly quenched with a proton scavenger, 2,6-di-*t*-butylpyridine. It was interesting to note that the  $\alpha$ -isomer (**1** $\alpha$ ) was obtained in 47% yield while  $\beta$ -isomer (**1** $\beta$ ) was not detected at all. This result possibly indicates the *in situ* anomerization to take place rapidly. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report on *in situ* anomerization in which the imidate-type glycosyl donor was treated with acids.





As shown in Table 2, mannosyl 6-nitro-2-benzothiazoate donor enabled the mannosylation to achieve higher β-selectivity than mannosyl trichloroacetimidate. It may be considered that the mannosylation reaction using β-donor (**1**β) proceeded *via* rapid *in situ* anomerization to **1**α before forming disaccharide with glycosyl acceptor (**2**) and that the mannosylation consequently took place more dominantly *via*  $S_N$ 2-like concerted process between an  $\alpha$ -isomer (1 $\alpha$ ) and a glycosyl acceptor (Scheme 3).

Additionally, it was found that the  $\beta$ -selective mannosylation could be performed by using a mixture of α- and β-donors (**1**) ( $α/β = 73/27$ : obtained by the condensation reaction) as shown in Scheme 4. This result may extend the utility of mannosyl 6-nitro-2-benzothiazoate donor because there was no need for a separation procedure of the two isomers  $(1\alpha)$  and  $(1\beta)$ .

The mannosyl 6-nitro-2-benzothiazoate was found to behave as an efficient donor and to have a potent feature for the construction of stereoselective  $\beta$ -mannoside linkage. Further study on applying a glycosyl benzothiazoate for an oligosaccharide synthesis is now in progress.



Scheme 3. Postulated Mechanism of  $\beta$ -Selective Mannosylation



*Mannosylation Using HB(C6F5)4 as Catalyst:* To a stirred suspension of MS 5A (150 mg), mannosyl donor (1) or (10) (0.06 mmol), and glycosyl acceptor (2) (0.050 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (1.25 mL) was successively added HB( $C_6F_5$ ) 4 (0.050 M toluene-Et<sub>2</sub>O (1:1), 0.20 mL, 0.01 mmol) at −78 °C. After the completion of the mannosylation reaction by monitoring TLC, the reaction was quenched by adding of sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. Then, the mixture was filtered through Celite and the aqueous layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The combined organic layer was washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration and evaporation, the resulting residue was purified by preparative TLC (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc/acetone = 10/10/1) and afforded the corresponding disaccharide (**5**). The ratio was determined by isolating of both isomers.

*in situ Anomerization Reaction Using HB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>4</sub> as Catalyst: To a stirred suspension of MS 5A (113 mg)* 

and  $1\beta$  (0.045 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.94 mL) was successively added HB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>) 4 (0.050 M toluene-Et<sub>2</sub>O (1:1), 0.15 mL, 7.50 µmol) at −78 °C. After stirring for 5 min, the reaction was quenched by adding of 2,6-di-*t*-butylpyridine (20.2 µL, 0.090 mmol). Then, the mixture was added sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, filtered through Celite and the aqueous layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The combined organic layer was washed with brine and dried over  $Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>$ . After filtration and evaporation, the resulting residue was purified by preparative TLC (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc/Et<sub>3</sub>N =  $3/1/0.04$ ) to afford  $1\alpha$  (15.3 mg, 47%) as a single isomer.

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## **REFERENCES AND NOTES**

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