

Synthesis and Biological Activity of Certain 4'-Thio-D-arabinofuranosylpurine Nucleosides

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A series of 4'-thio-D-arabinofuranosylpurine nucleosides was prepared and evaluated as potential anticancer agents. The details of a convenient and high-yielding synthesis of the carbohydrate precursor 1-*O*-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzyl-4-thio-D-arabinofuranose (**6**) are presented. Proof of structure and configuration at all chiral centers of the nucleosides was obtained through an X-ray crystal structure of **9** α as well as through NOE experiments on **9** β and **9** α . All six target compounds were evaluated in a series of human cancer cell lines in culture. Two target compounds, β anomers with diaminopurine (**12**) and guanine (**16**) as the bases, had significant cytotoxicity. One of these compounds (**12**) was selected for animal studies but was found to have no selectivity at the maximum tolerated dose in the murine colon 36 tumor model.

Interest in the synthesis and biological evaluation of purine nucleosides and their analogues has continued in recent years as new structures have been found to have clinical activity as both anticancer¹ and antiviral agents.² Fludarabine phosphate, which was developed in our laboratory,³ has shown activity in a number of human cancers⁴ and has been approved by the FDA for the treatment of refractory lymphocytic leukemia. The 2-bromo-, 2-chloro-, and 2-fluoro-2'-deoxyadenosines all have shown outstanding activity in murine leukemia models,⁵ and the 2-chloro compound, known as cladribine,⁶ has received FDA approval for the treatment of hairy cell leukemia. All of these 2-halo-adenine nucleosides are resistant to deamination by adenosine deaminase⁵ and are converted to the corresponding triphosphates. The 2-halo-2'-deoxyadenosines are readily cleaved by *Escherichia coli* purine nucleoside phosphorylase (PNP) to the 2-halo-adenines, which have no selective cytotoxicity.⁷ 2-Fluoro-adenine has been detected as a metabolite of fludarabine phosphate in animals⁸ and humans,⁹ though the *arabino* nucleosides are considerably more stable to enzymatic and hydrolytic degradation than the 2'-deoxy compounds. Some years ago the resistance of 4'-thioinosine to cleavage by PNP was reported,¹⁰ suggesting that this simple structural modification might impart resistance to phospholytic cleavage to nucleosides.

On the basis of these considerations, we have undertaken the synthesis and biological evaluation of a broad series of 4'-thionucleosides with modifications in both the nitrogen heterocyclic and the carbohydrate moieties.^{11–16} A few 4'-thionucleosides were prepared some years ago, though researchers were hampered by laborious synthetic procedures.^{17–24} Interest by many laboratories in the synthesis of various 4'-thionucleosides has heightened recently as it has become clear that this modification imparts desirable physical and biologi-

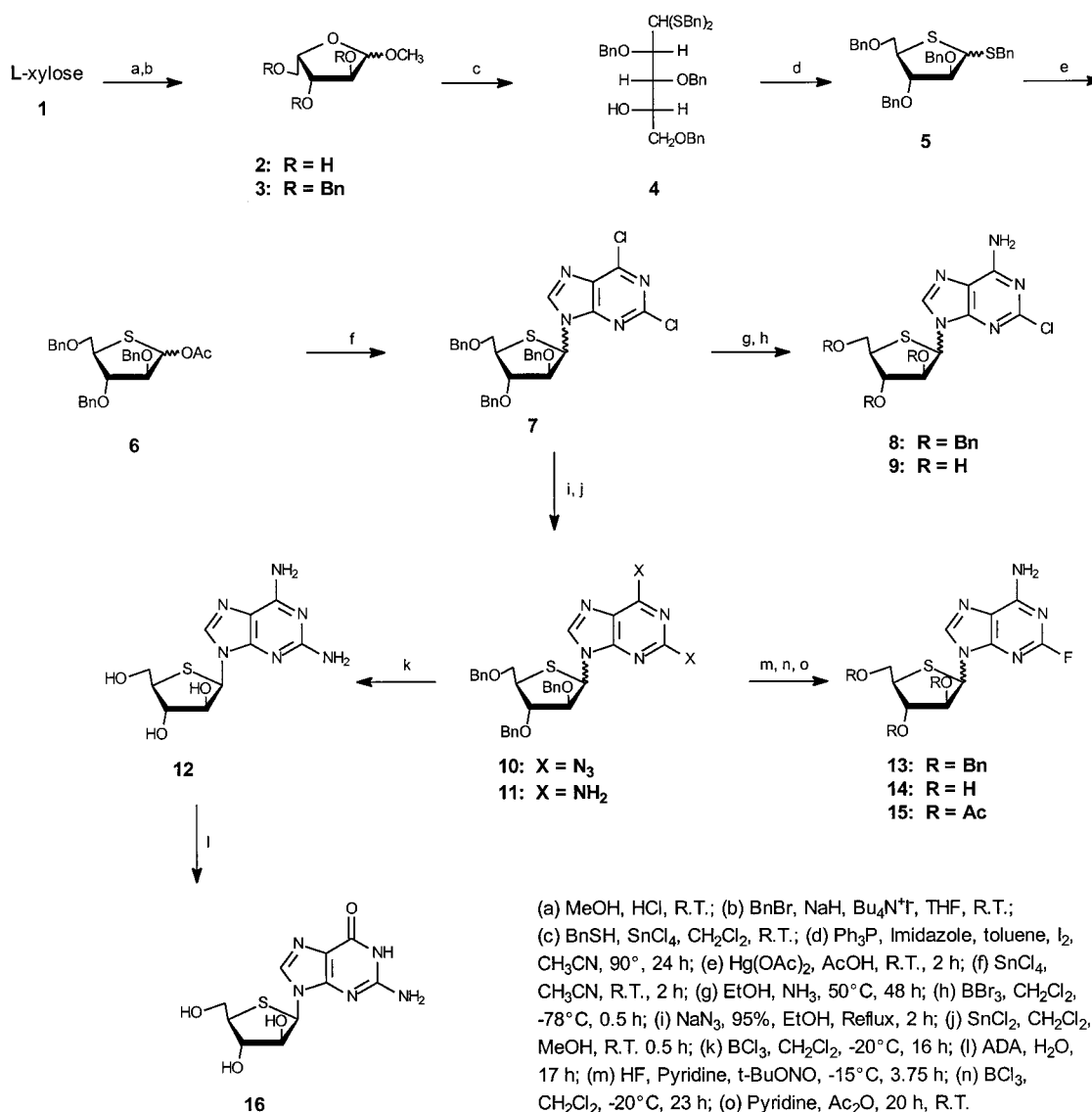
cal properties to certain members of the class, as either the nucleoside or incorporated into oligonucleotide chains.²⁵ As a part of our research focused on the development of new anticancer agents, we decided to pursue the synthesis of certain 4'-thionucleosides with the *arabino* configuration in the carbohydrate. Some structures of this type were made over 20 years ago,^{18,20,22} and in particular our interest was prompted by the significant cytotoxicity reported for 4'-thio-ara-C.²² As noted above, a significant problem in obtaining these compounds is the laborious synthetic routes,²⁶ which have been a major deterrent to obtaining sufficient quantities to carry out both cell culture and animal investigations. Our work in the area of 4'-thioarabinofuranosyl nucleosides was initially disclosed several years ago.¹⁵ Since then, another synthesis of 4'-thioarabinofuranosyl nucleosides has been reported, utilizing a very different and much longer synthetic approach to the key carbohydrate intermediate.²⁷

We herein report the details of a convenient synthesis of a 4-thioarabinofuranose intermediate suitable for conversion to nucleosides and its conversion to a series of purine nucleoside analogues. These compounds have been examined in anticancer screens, and both in vitro and in vivo data are presented herein. To firmly establish the identity of the carbohydrate as well as the anomeric configuration of the nucleoside, the structure of one compound (**9** α) has been determined by X-ray crystallography, and that compound along with its anomer (**9** β) have been examined in detail using NMR spectroscopy.

Chemistry

We have developed a five-step sequence to the versatile carbohydrate precursor **6** using a strategy similar to that previously used in our laboratory¹³ to prepare 2'-deoxy-4'-thionucleosides. The attractive features of intermediate **6** include its ready accessibility as well as

Scheme 1



the availability of both α and β anomers for biological evaluation. Conversion of L-xylose to methyl 2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzyl-L-xylofuranoside (**3**) was accomplished in two steps by the usual method (Scheme 1). Conversion to dibenzyl dithioacetal **4** employing benzyl mercaptan and stannic chloride proceeded in 57% yield after chromatographic purification. Cyclization at C-4 involving a single inversion, thus converting the L-xylo to the *D*-arabino configuration, was accomplished with triphenylphosphine, iodine, and imidazole as previously described.¹³ The final step, replacement of the benzylthio group at C-1 by an acetoxy group, involved treatment of **5** with mercuric acetate in acetic acid at room temperature. The overall yield of **6** from **1**, including four column purifications, was 30%, and afforded a ca. 1:1 mixture of α and β anomers. The other recently reported synthesis of **6** requires 13 steps with an overall yield of <10%.²⁷

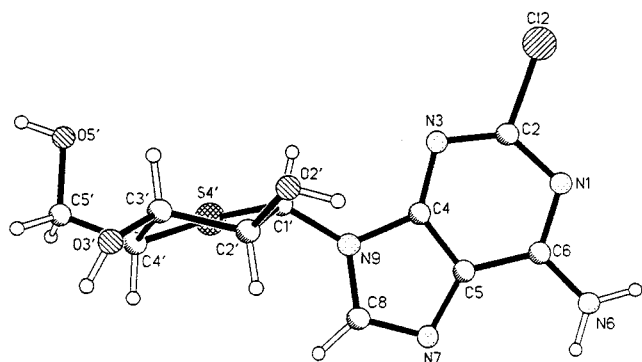
A series of purine nucleoside analogues were prepared through the coupling of **6** and 2,6-dichloropurine. A Lewis acid-catalyzed reaction utilizing SnCl₄ in acetonitrile was found to be an efficient method to achieve this coupling, and 40% and 35% yields of β and α anomers of **7** were obtained after chromatographic

purification/separation. After treatment with ethanolic ammonia to produce the respective blocked 2-chloroadenine nucleosides **8 β** and **8 α** , removal of the *O*-benzyl groups was accomplished with BBr₃ in CH₂Cl₂ at -78 °C to yield the final nucleoside targets **9 β** and **9 α** . Treatment of **7 β** and **7 α** with sodium azide in aqueous ethanol at reflux produced the corresponding 2,6-diazido intermediates **10**, which were subjected to reduction with SnCl₂ in CH₂Cl₂ to afford the blocked diaminopurine nucleosides **11 β** and **11 α** in good yields. Deblocking **11 β** with BCl₃ in CH₂Cl₂ produced the target diamino nucleoside **12**. Conversion of **12** to the corresponding guanine nucleoside **16** was accomplished by treatment with adenosine deaminase. Though the deamination was slow, it went to completion at room temperature in 15–20 h. The 2-fluoroadenine nucleosides **14 β** and **14 α** were also prepared starting from the separated diaminopurine nucleoside anomers **11 β** and **11 α** . These compounds were treated with HF–pyridine and *tert*-butyl nitrite to produce the blocked 2-fluoroadenine nucleosides **13 β** and **13 α** , which were deblocked with BCl₃ to the final target nucleosides. An acetylation/deacetylation sequence via **15 α** was used to facilitate the purification of the intractable solid **13 α** .

Table 1. NOE Data (Hz)^a

| compd | atom irradiated | H-8 | H-1' | H-2' | H-3' | H-4' |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|------|------|------|------|
| 9α | H-8 | | 2.1 | 3.8 | | |
| | H-1' | 2.0 | | 2.0 | 1.2 | |
| | H-2' | 3.7 | 2.7 | | 1.7 | 1.9 |
| | H-3' | | 1.3 | 1.0 | | |
| | H-4' | | | 1.9 | | |
| 9β | H-8 | | 1.0 | | 7.3 | |
| | H-1' | 1.0 | | 8.7 | | |
| | H-2' | | 9.7 | | | 3.8 |
| | H-3' | 7.8 | | | | 1.5 |
| | H-4' | | 5.4 | | 1.7 | |

^a See Experimental Section for details.

**Figure 1.** ORTEP drawing of **9 α** .

To provide confirmatory evidence that the carbohydrate configuration and the anomeric configurations of our target compounds had been properly assigned, the NMR spectra of several compounds were examined by NOE difference spectroscopy (see Table 1). Specifically, NOE experiments were conducted on **9 α** in Me₂SO-*d*₆ with 1 drop of D₂O, while those of **9 β** were conducted in D₂O solution because of the severe overlap of the H-2' and H-3' resonances in Me₂SO-*d*₆. In both compounds, contacts between H-2' and H-4' demonstrated that the single inversion desired in converting **4** to **5** had indeed occurred. The NOE contacts between H-1' and H-3' confirm that **9 α** is the α isomer, while irradiation of the H-8 signal of **9 β** , causing enhancement of the H-3' signal, confirms it as the β anomer. Both **9 β** and **9 α** appear to adopt predominantly the N conformation in solution. In **9 β** , the large NOE between H-2' and H-4' and that between H-1' and H-8 as well as the large $J_{2,3'}$ of 9.5 Hz support the N conformation. Similarly, the moderate NOE between H-2' and H-4', the NOE between H-1' and H-3', and the $J_{2,3'}$ of 7.7 Hz show that **9 α** is also in the N conformation.

As a final structural proof for the series, and in order to corroborate the NMR assignments and to compare the carbohydrate conformation in solution and the solid state, the crystal structure of **9 α** was determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis (Figure 1). The N conformation found for **9 α** and shown in Figure 1 is consistent with the NMR data reported above. The X-ray analysis also confirms the α anomeric configuration. The arabinosyl group adopts a C2'-exo-C3'-endo pucker with a calculated pseudorotation of 8.22°. The substitution of a sulfur for an oxygen in the sugar ring does not significantly affect the ring's geometry or conformation, as has been noted previously.²⁹ The endocyclic torsion angles starting with S4' and proceeding around the S4'-C1'-C2'-C3'-C4' ring are 7.6°, -33.3°, 49.9°, -42.7°, and 20.4°, respectively. The

Table 2. Cytotoxicity Data: IC₅₀ (μ M)^{a,b}

| compd | CCRF-CEM (leukemia) | CAKI-1 (renal) | DLD-1 (colon) | NCI-H23 (lung) | SK-MEL-28 (melanoma) | SNB-7 (CNS) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 12 | 0.34 (>134) ^c | 20 | >25 | >25 | 0.34 | 1.0 |
| 14β | 30 | 10 | >90 | >90 | >90 | >90 |
| 14α | >130 | 20 | >100 | >100 | >100 | >100 |
| 16 | 0.57 | 14 | >20 | >20 | 1.1 | 1.1 |

^a Experimental details for the cell culture experiments on CCRF-CEM cells are in ref 32; experimental details for the other cell lines are in refs 33–35. ^b No cytotoxicity was seen for **9 β** or **9 α** at the highest concentration used: **9 β** , 100 μ M; **9 α** , 200 μ M. ^c In the presence of 2'-deoxycoformycin.

glycosidic torsion angle C8–N9–C1'–S4' has a value of -57.71°. Crystallographic analysis show that the O5'-hydroxyl of **9 α** is gauche-gauche with a torsion angle S4'-C4'-C5'-O5' equal to -59.15°. The C1' atom deviates from the mean plane through the purine base atoms by -0.14 Å, while the C3' atom deviates by 0.64 Å from the mean plane through the four remaining sugar atoms and is in agreement with standard values.²⁸ Intermolecular hydrogen bonds stabilize the crystal packing of the compound. Hydrogen bonds form between O3' and N1 atoms on two separate molecules (3.24 and 3.18 Å). The O5' position hydrogen bonds to both N1 and O3' (2.81 and 2.75 Å) and a final hydrogen bond joins O2' and N7 (2.67 Å).

Biological Data

The cell culture cytotoxicity of all six target compounds was determined against six different human cancer cell lines, identified in Table 2. Neither of the two 2-chloroadenine-substituted nucleosides **9 β** and **9 α** was found to be cytotoxic in any of the cell lines at the highest concentrations utilized (see Table 2 footnote). Significant cytotoxicity was seen with both **12** and **16**, the diaminopurine and guanine analogues with the β configuration. Yoshimura et al. also reported significant cytotoxicity for these compounds in one cell line.²⁷ To determine whether **12** was cytotoxic as the diaminopurine nucleoside, or whether it required deamination in order to exert its cytotoxicity, it was incubated with CEM cells in the presence of 2'-deoxycoformycin, a potent inhibitor of adenosine deaminase. Under those conditions, no cytotoxicity was seen for **12**, leading to the conclusion that **16** is the cytotoxic agent. Modest cytotoxicity was seen for both **14 β** and **14 α** against the CAKI-1 renal line, and **14 β** also had very modest activity against CEM cells. On the basis of these results, we prepared larger quantities of **12** for evaluation in an animal model. With nucleoside antimetabolites, we initiate animal evaluations using the murine colon 36 model in female CD2F1 mice, which has proven to be a good indicator of selectivity in compounds of this type. After subcutaneous tumor implantation, the drug was given by intraperitoneal injection three times a day at 4-h intervals for 9 days. The drug proved to be surprisingly toxic, and the maximum tolerated dose range was 0.004–0.016 mg/kg/dose. At these levels no selective inhibition of tumor growth was observed.

Experimental Section

Melting points were determined on a Mel-Temp apparatus and are uncorrected. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet NT-300 NB spectrometer operating at 300.635 MHz (¹H). Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million

downfield from tetramethylsilane. The NOE experiments were conducted on a degassed solution of DMSO-*d*₆. To minimize the effects of magnetic perturbations with the sample non-spinning, eight FIDs were acquired with the decoupler set to a desired frequency and eight FIDs were recorded with the decoupler off resonance. The process was repeated until 800 FIDs had been acquired. UV absorption spectra were determined on a Perkin-Elmer lambda 9 spectrometer by dissolving each compound in methanol or water and diluting 10-fold with 0.1 N HCl, pH 7 buffer, or 0.1 N NaOH. Numbers in parentheses are extinction coefficients ($\epsilon \times 10^{-3}$), sh = shoulder. Microanalyses were performed by Atlantic Microlab, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) or the Molecular Spectroscopy Section of Southern Research Institute. Analytical results indicated by elemental symbols were within $\pm 0.4\%$ of the theoretical values. Mass spectra were recorded on a Varian/MAT 311A double-focusing mass spectrometer in the fast atom bombardment (FAB) mode. HPLC analyses were carried out on a Hewlett-Packard HP1084B liquid chromatograph with a Waters Associates μ Bondapak C₁₈ column (3.9 mm \times 30 cm) and UV monitoring (254 nm). All chromatographic separations were carried out by flash chromatography using 230–400 mesh silica gel from E. Merck. TLC was carried out on Analtech precoated (250 μ m) silica gel (GF) plates.

Crystallography. Crystals of **9a** suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were obtained by recrystallization from a 50% EtOH/H₂O solution. The crystal chosen for data collection was thin and platelike with approximate dimensions of 0.30 \times 0.08 \times 0.01 mm. The crystal belongs to the orthorhombic space group *P*₂₁₂₁₂₁ with *a* = 5.1470(10) Å, *b* = 10.826(2) Å, *c* = 23.187(3) Å, *V* = 1292.0(4) Å³, *Z* = 4, and *D*_{calc} = 1.634 g/cm³. Intensities were measured on a Nicolet P3 single-crystal X-ray diffractometer using graphite monochromatized Cu K α radiation (λ = 1.5418 Å) and ω - 2θ scans. Corrections were made for Lorentz and polarization effects but not for absorption (μ = 4.301 mm⁻¹). All crystallographic data collection was carried out using the Nicolet P3/V data collection system. A total of 1055 intensities were measured with $2\theta < 110.04^\circ$. Of these reflections, 16 had a net intensity less than zero and were omitted from further calculations.

The structure was determined by direct methods using the computer program SHELXS-86³⁰ and refined using the computer program SHELXL-93.³¹ All computations were performed using a Digital Equipment Corp. Alpha computer station. All non-hydrogen atoms were located from an *E*-map and their positions partially refined. All hydrogen atom positions were located using difference Fourier maps. The structure was refined using full-matrix least-squares analysis on *F*² in which all non-hydrogen atoms were given anisotropic thermal parameters. Hydrogen atoms were constrained to have idealized geometry with tetrahedral angles. The hydrogen atom coordinates were reidealized before each cycle and were tethered to the atoms to which they were attached. The final *R* factor for 1039 independent reflections and 181 variables was 0.0704, and the goodness-of-fit was 1.102. Figure 1 shows a computer-generated model of **9a**. Positional parameters and thermal parameters have been deposited as Supporting Information.

2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzyl-L-xylose Dibenzyloxy Dithioacetal (4). L-Xylose (**1**; 25 g, 167 mmol) was stirred for 5 h in 0.5% HCl in MeOH (675 mL) at room temperature and then neutralized with Amberlite IRA-400 OH anion-exchange resin. The filtrate and washings were combined and evaporated to dryness, and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (CHCl₃/MeOH, 92:8) to afford 26.2 g of methyl L-xylofuranoside (**2**; 95% yield) as an α and β (1:1) mixture: MS 164 (M)⁺, 165 (M + H)⁺, 133 (M - OCH₃)⁺.

To an ice-cold solution of **2** (10 g, 60.9 mmol) in dry THF (350 mL) was added sodium hydride (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 14.8 g, 370 mmol), and the reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min under N₂. To this reaction mixture was added solid tetrabutylammonium iodide (0.36 g, 0.96 mmol) followed by a dropwise addition of benzyl bromide (36.6 g, 214 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 days at room

temperature. After the addition of CH₃OH (25 mL) the solution was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cyclohexane/EtOAc, 9:1) to afford pure methyl 2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzyl-L-xylofuranoside (**3**; 23 g, 87% yield): MS 435 (M + H)⁺, 433 (M - H)⁺, 403 (M - OCH₃)⁺; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.38–7.25 (m, 30H, aromatic *H*s), 4.94 (d, 1H, H-1 α , *J*_{1,2} = 4.3 Hz), 4.87 (d, 1H, H-1 β , *J*_{1,2} = 0.9 Hz), 4.64–4.45 (m, 10H, PhCH₂'s), 4.37 (m, 1H, H-4 α), 4.27 (dt, 1H, H-4 β , *J*_{4,5a} = 3.7 Hz, *J*_{4,5b} = 6.5 Hz, *J*_{3,4} = 6.2 Hz), 4.17 (t, 1H, H-3 α , *J*_{3,4} = 6.9 Hz, *J*_{2,3} = 5.6 Hz), 4.07 (dd, 1H, H-3 β , *J*_{3,4} = 6.2 Hz, *J*_{2,3} = 2.5 Hz), 4.00 (dd, 1H, H-2 α , *J*_{2,3} = 5.6 Hz), 3.95 (t, 1H, H-2 β , *J*_{2,3} = 2.5 Hz), 3.70 (dd, 1H, H-5 α , *J*_{4,5a} = 4.5 Hz, *J*_{5a,5b} = 10.4 Hz), 3.66 (dd, 1H, H-5 β , *J*_{4,5a} = 3.7 Hz, *J*_{5a,5b} = 10.7 Hz), 3.54 (dd, 1H, H-5 β , *J*_{4,5b} = 7.5 Hz), 3.49 (dd, 1H, H-5 β , *J*_{4,5b} = 6.5 Hz).

To a solution of **3** (42 g, 97 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1000 mL) were added benzyl mercaptan (49.6 g, 400 mmol) and SnCl₄ (4.93 g, 18.9 mmol), and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. After neutralization with 5% aqueous NaHCO₃ (750 mL), the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (500 mL). The combined organic layers were evaporated, and crude **4** was purified by silica gel chromatography (cyclohexane/EtOAc, 99:1) to afford **4** (8.53 g, 57%) of sufficient purity to carry forward: MS 657 (M + Li)⁺; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.35–7.29 (m, 19H, aromatic *H*s), 7.19–7.13 (m, 4H, aromatic *H*s), 7.01–6.96 (m, 2H aromatic *H*s), 4.86 (d, 1H, PhCHH, *J* = 11.1 Hz), 4.70 (two overlapping d's, 2H, PhCHH, PhCHH, *J* = 11.1 Hz, *J* = 11.2 Hz), 4.43 (d, 1H, PhCHH, 11.2 Hz), 4.40 (d, 1H, PhCHH, *J* = 11.9 Hz), 4.36 (d, 1H, PhCHH, *J* = 11.9 Hz), 4.07 (dd, 1H, H-2, *J*_{1,2} = 3.0 Hz, *J*_{2,3} = 7.5 Hz), 3.75–3.67 (m, 4H, two PhCH₂'s), 3.68 (d, 1H, H-1, *J*_{1,2} = 3.0 Hz), 3.36–3.25 (m, 2H, H-4, H-5a), 3.15–3.12 (m, 1H, H-5b), 2.22 (d, 1H, 4-OH, *J* = 6.2 Hz).

2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzyl-1-*O*-acetyl-4-thio-D-arabinofuranose (6). To a solution of **4** (13.0 g, 20 mmol) in dry 2:1 toluene/acetonitrile (200 mL) were added triphenylphosphine (15.7 g, 60 mmol), iodine (12.7 g, 50 mmol), and imidazole (5.44 g, 80 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 24 h after which time the solution was evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (cyclohexane/EtOAc, 4:1) to afford benzyl 2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzyl-1,4-dithio-D-arabinofuranoside as a syrup (**5**; 9.0 g, 83%): MS 543 (M + H)⁺; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.40–7.20 (m, 20H, aromatic *H*s), 4.69–4.42 (m, 6H, three PhCH₂'s), 4.37 (m, 1H, H-1), 4.20 (m, 2H, H-2, H-3), 3.87 (s, 2H, PhCH₂-S), 3.80 (dd, 1H, H-5a, *J*_{4,5a} = 7.4 Hz, *J*_{5a,5b} = 9.3 Hz), 3.55 (dd, 1H, H-5b, *J*_{4,5b} = 7.1 Hz), 3.47 (m, 1H, H-4). Anal. (C₃₃H₃₄O₃S₂·0.25H₂O) C, H.

To a suspension of mercuric acetate (7.29 g, 22.9 mmol) in AcOH (96 g) was added **5** (5.42 g, 10 mmol), and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL) and washed successively with water, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and 5% aqueous KCN solution. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Chromatography of the crude product using cyclohexane/EtOAc (98:2) as eluent gave a mixture of α and β (1:1) anomers of **6** (3.73 g, 78%) as a colorless syrup: MS 479 (M + H)⁺; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.35–7.23 (m, 15H, aromatic *H*s), 6.07 (d, 0.25H, H-1 β , *J*_{1,2} = 4.0 Hz), 5.98 (d, 0.75H, H-1 α , *J*_{1,2} = 2.8 Hz), 4.83–4.45 (m, 6H, PhCH₂'s), 4.26 (dd, 0.75H, H-2 α , *J*_{2,3} = 5.4 Hz), 4.17–4.11 (m, 0.5H, H-2 β , H-3 β), 4.03 (t, 0.75H, H-3 α , *J*_{3,4} = 6 Hz), 3.80–3.67 (m, 1.25H, H-4 α , H-5 α , H-5 β), 3.53–3.39 (m, 1.75H, H-5 β , H-4 β , H-5 β), 2.06 (s, 3H, CH₃- α and CH₃- β). Anal. (C₂₈H₃₀O₅S·0.75H₂O) C, H.

9-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzyl-4-thio- β - and - α -D-arabinofuranosyl)-2,6-dichloropurine (7b and 7a). To a stirred mixture of **6** (0.956 g, 2 mmol) and 2,6-dichloropurine (0.568 g, 3 mmol) in acetonitrile (50 mL) at room temperature was added a solution of SnCl₄ in CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL of 1.0 M) over 1 min, and stirring was continued for 2 h. The reaction was quenched by pouring it into a mixture of 50 mL of CH₂Cl₂ and 25 mL of saturated NaHCO₃. The organic phase was dried (MgSO₄) and

concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (cyclohexane/EtOAc, 9:1) to afford **7 β** (485 mg, 40%) eluting first followed by **7 α** (425 mg, 35%).

Compound 7 β : MS 608 (M + H)⁺; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.91 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.36–7.17 (m, 13H, aromatic Hs), 6.94 (m, 2H, aromatic Hs), 6.22 (d, 1H, H-1', $J_{1',2'}$ = 4.9 Hz), 4.68 (d, 1H, PhCHH, J = 11.6 Hz), 4.54 (s, 2H, PhCH₂-), 4.52 (s, 2H, PhCH₂-), 4.50 (d, 1H, PhCHH, J = 11.6 Hz), 4.35–4.26 (m, 2H, H-2', H-3'), 3.68 (dd, 1H, H-5'a, $J_{4',5'a}$ = 4.6 Hz, $J_{5'a,5'b}$ = 10.0 Hz), 3.65 (dd, 1H, H-5'b, $J_{4',5'b}$ = 4.8 Hz), 3.54 (m, 1H, H-4', $J_{3',4'}$ = 5.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 153.3 (C-2), 152.5 (C-4), 151.3 (C-6), 146.8 (C-8), 137.4, 137.2, 136.1 (ipso C's), 130.7 (C-5), 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 128.21, 127.9, 127.6 (aromatic C's), 84.6 (C-3'), 80.7 (C-2'), 73.4, 73.3, 73.2 (three PhCH₂-s), 68.3 (C-5'), 57.4 (C-1', J = 162.0 Hz), 47.0 (C-4').

Compound 7 α : MS 608 (M + H)⁺; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.49 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.36–7.21 (m, 13H, aromatic Hs), 7.01 (m, 2H, aromatic Hs), 6.09 (d, 1H, H-1', $J_{1',2'}$ = 2.1 Hz), 4.69 (s, 2H, PhCH₂-), 4.57 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, J = 12.0 Hz), 4.51 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, J = 12.0 Hz), 4.48 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, J = 11.9 Hz), 4.33 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, J = 11.9 Hz), 4.26 (t, 1H, H-2', $J_{1',2'}$ = 2.1 Hz, $J_{2',3'}$ = 2.5 Hz), 4.23 (t, 1H, H-3', $J_{3',4'}$ = 2.5 Hz), 4.07 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.80 (dd, 1H, H-5'a, $J_{4',5'a}$ = 8.2 Hz, $J_{5'a,5'b}$ = 9.5 Hz), 3.56 (dd, 1H, H-5'b, $J_{4',5'b}$ = 6.7 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 152.5 (C-2), 152.4 (C-4), 151.3 (C-6), 146.2 (C-8), 137.7, 136.7, 136.5 (ipso C's), 131.2 (C-5), 128.4, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 127.6 (aromatic C's), 88.3 (C-3'), 85.2 (C-2'), 73.2, 72.7, 72.4 (three PhCH₂-s), 71.5 (C-5'), 64.5 (C-1', J = 160.0 Hz), 53.7 (C-4').

2-Chloro-9-(4-thio- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)adenine (9 β). A mixture of compound **7 β** (608 mg, 1 mmol) and saturated ethanolic ammonia (100 mL) was heated at 50 °C in a glass-lined stainless steel pressure vessel for 48 h. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness to afford a solid (**8 β**) that was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) and was treated at -78 °C under argon with a solution of 1 M BBr₃ in CH₂Cl₂ (12 mL). After the mixture stirred for 0.5 h at -78 °C, CH₃OH (10 mL) was added, followed by pyridine (10 mL), and the solution was evaporated to dryness. The brown-colored crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (CHCl₃/MeOH, 7:1) to afford compound **9 β** as a white powder that was crystallized from EtOH (257 mg, 81%): mp 207–209 °C; MS 318 (M + H)⁺; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.39 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.78 (br s, 2H, NH₂), 5.90 (d, 1H, H-1', $J_{1',2'}$ = 5.2 Hz), 5.74 (d, 1H, 2'-OH, J = 4.3 Hz), 5.51 (d, 1H, 3'-OH, J = 4.6 Hz), 5.18 (t, 1H, 5'-OH, J = 5.1 Hz), 4.12–4.08 (m, 2H, H-3', H-2'), 3.80 (dd, 1H, H-5'a, $J_{4',5'a}$ = 4.3 Hz, $J_{5'a,5'b}$ = 11.2 Hz), 3.77 (dd, 1H, H-5'b, $J_{4',5'b}$ = 6.5 Hz), 3.22 (mm, 1H, H-4', $J_{3',4'}$ = 6.4 Hz). Anal. (C₁₀H₁₂CIN₅O₃S) C, H, N.

2-Chloro-9-(4-thio- α -D-arabinofuranosyl)adenine (9 α). This compound was prepared from **7 α** by the same procedure as reported for **9 β** in 56% yield after two crystallizations from EtOH: mp 237 °C dec; TLC 3:1:0.1 CHCl₃-MeOH-NH₄OH, R_f 0.55; MS 318 (M + H)⁺; UV λ_{max} pH 1, 266 (14.7), pH 7, 265 (15.6), pH 13, 266 (15.3); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.47 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.82 (br s, 2H, NH₂), 5.83 (d, 1H, 2'-OH, J = 5.5 Hz), 5.66 (d, 1H, 3'-OH, J = 5.0 Hz), 5.65 (d, 1H, H-1', $J_{1',2'}$ = 7.1 Hz), 4.98 (dd, 1H, 5'-OH, $J_{5'a,OH}$ = 4.6 Hz, $J_{5'b,OH}$ = 6.0 Hz), 4.48 (m, 1H, H-2', $J_{2',3'}$ = 7.7 Hz), 3.90 (m, 1H, H-5'a, $J_{4',5'a}$ = 3.8 Hz, $J_{5'a,5'b}$ = 10.9 Hz), 3.75 (m, 1H, H-3', $J_{3',4'}$ = 8.2 Hz), 3.64 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.44 (m, 1H, H-5'b, $J_{4',5'b}$ = 8.3 Hz). Anal. (C₁₀H₁₂CIN₅O₃S) C, H, N.

9-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzyl-4-thio- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-9H-purine-2,6-diamine (11 β). A solution of **7 β** (303 mg, 0.5 mmol) and sodium azide (162.5 mg, 2.5 mmol) in 20 mL of 95% EtOH was heated at reflux for 2 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the residue was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and H₂O. The organic phase was dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated in vacuo to yield 290 mg of a yellowish solid (**10 β**) [TLC CHCl₃/MeOH, 97:3; R_f 0.45; MS m/z 621 (M + H)⁺], which was redissolved in 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂ and 2 mL of CH₃-OH. This solution was treated with SnCl₂ (190 mg, 1 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 30 min. After evaporation of solvent, purification was accomplished by silica

gel chromatography (CHCl₃/MeOH, 97:3) to afford **11 β** (225 mg, 79%), which was suitable for deblocking: MS 569 (M + H)⁺; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.37–7.20 (m, 13H, aromatic Hs), 7.01 (m, 2H, aromatic Hs), 6.15 (d, 1H, H-1', $J_{1',2'}$ = 5.3 Hz), 5.36 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 4.68 (d, 1H, PhCHH, J = 11.7 Hz), 4.67 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 4.58–4.50 (m, 4H, two PhCH₂-s), 4.32 (dd, 1H, H-3', $J_{3',4'}$ = 6.3 Hz), 4.22 (dd, 1H, H-2', $J_{2',3'}$ = 7.0 Hz), 3.72–3.62 (m, 2H, H-5'a, H-5'b), 3.53 (m, 1H, H-4').

9-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzyl-4-thio- α -D-arabinofuranosyl)-9H-purine-2,6-diamine (11 α). This compound was prepared in 75% yield by the same procedure as reported above for **11 β** but starting from **7 α** , affording material suitable for deblocking: MS 569 (M + H)⁺; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.35–7.24 (m, 13H, aromatic CH's), 7.13–7.18 (m, 2H, aromatic CH's), 6.00 (d, 1H, H-1', $J_{1',2'}$ = 4.0 Hz), 5.44 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 4.74 (bs, 1H, NH₂), 4.64 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, J = 12.1 Hz), 4.58 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, J = 12.1 Hz), 4.52–4.49 (m, 4H, PhCH₂-s), 4.41 (t, 1H, H-2', $J_{2',3'}$ = 3.2 Hz), 4.19 (t, 1H, H-3', $J_{3',4'}$ = 4.0 Hz), 4.01 (ddd, 1H, H-4'), 3.76 (dd, 1H, H-5'b, $J_{4',5'b}$ = 7.4 Hz, $J_{5'a,5'b}$ = 9.6 Hz), 3.54 (dd, 1H, H-5'a, $J_{4',5'a}$ = 6.7 Hz).

9-(4-Thio- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-9H-purine-2,6-diamine (12). An ice-cold solution of **11 β** (654 mg, 1.15 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2.6 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of 1 M BCl₃ in CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL) at -50 °C. Solid precipitated from the solution near the end of addition. The reaction in a tightly sealed flask was stored at -20 °C for 16 h. The resulting clear solution was evaporated to dryness at -20 °C to give a dark residue. A solution of this material in ice-cold CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL) was evaporated to dryness four times to provide a foam. Ice-cold saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (20 mL) was added to the foam, and the mixture was stirred vigorously until the pH remained stable (pH 7–8). Water (150 mL) was added to form a clear solution that was extracted with two portions of CH₂-Cl₂ (50 mL, 25 mL) to remove color and impurities. The colorless aqueous layer was held briefly under vacuum to remove residual CH₂Cl₂ before being applied to a column (13 × 190 mm) of Bio Beads SM-4 (100–200 mesh; Bio-Rad Laboratories) equilibrated in water. Water elution with fractions monitored at 254 nm provided pure **12** that was crystallized from hot H₂O (233 mg, 68%). More **12** was obtained from the column with a MeOH wash (33 mg, 10%): mp 285 °C dec (lit.²⁷ mp 292–295 °C); TLC 3:1:0.1 CHCl₃-MeOH-NH₄OH, R_f 0.30; HPLC 100%, 3:1 NH₄H₂PO₄ (0.01 M, pH 5.1)-MeOH; MS 299 (M + H)⁺; UV λ_{max} pH 1, 255 (11.1), 291 (10.9), pH 7, 257 (9.72), 280 (11.6), pH 13, 258 (9.67), 280 (11.8); ¹H NMR and microanalytical data have been previously reported.²⁷

2-Fluoro-9-(2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzyl-4-thio- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)adenine (13 β). Diamino compound **11 β** (91 mg, 0.16 mmol) was dissolved in 1:1 HF-pyridine at 0–5 °C by vigorous stirring and sonication. To this cloudy solution at -20 °C was added *tert*-butyl nitrite (30 μ L, 0.24 mmol). After 2.75 h, more *tert*-butyl nitrite (8 μ L, 0.065 mmol) was added, and the reaction was held at -15 °C for an additional 1 h. The cold reaction solution was added dropwise over 0.5 h to a vigorously stirred mixture of saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and ice (400 mL). The mixture was stirred until most of the ice had melted. Small portions of solid NaHCO₃ were added to stabilize the pH at 7–8 (monitor with pH paper). CHCl₃ (50 mL) was added, the layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with more CHCl₃ (2 × 50 mL). The combined CHCl₃ layers were washed with H₂O (2 × 50 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated to dryness. The resulting residue was taken up in CHCl₃ and applied to two Analtech GF plates (20 × 20 cm, 1000 μ m) that were developed in 95:5 CHCl₃/MeOH. Extraction of the desired band with 1:1 CHCl₃/MeOH yielded upon evaporation essentially pure **13 β** (70 mg, 76%). This residue was used directly in the deprotection step described below. Crystallization of a small sample from MeOH gave pure **13 β** : mp 196–197 °C; TLC 98:2 CHCl₃-MeOH, R_f 0.50; HPLC 100%, 9:1 MeCN/H₂O; MS 572 (M + H)⁺; UV (EtOH) λ_{max} 263 (16.8), 271 (sh); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.48 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.36–7.18 (m, 13H, aromatic CH's), 6.99 (m, 2H, aromatic

CH's), 6.16 (d, 1H, H-1', $J_{1,2'} = 5.3$ Hz), 5.76 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 4.69 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, $J = 11.7$ Hz), 4.55 (dd, 1H, PhCHH-, $J = 11.3$ Hz), 4.53 (s, 2H, PhCHH-), 4.47 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, $J = 11.7$ Hz), 4.44 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, $J = 11.3$ Hz), 4.33 (dd, 1H, H-3', $J_{3,4'} = 6.3$ Hz), 4.20 (dd, 1H, H-2', $J_{2,3'} = 7.4$ Hz), 3.70 (m, 1H, H-5'b, $J_{4,5'b} = 4.7$ Hz), 3.68 (m, 1H, H-5'a, $J_{4,5'a} = 4.6$ Hz), 3.53 (m, 1H, H-4'). Anal. (C₃₁H₃₀FN₅O₃S·0.25H₂O) C, H, N.

2-Fluoro-9-(2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzyl-4-thio-2-*D*-arabinofuranosyl)adenine (13 α). Conversion of 11 α to 13 α was accomplished in 62% yield by the procedure reported above for 13 β : mp 135–136 °C; TLC 98:2 CHCl₃–MeOH, R_f 0.40; HPLC 100%, 9:1 MeCN–H₂O; MS 572 (M + H)⁺; UV (EtOH) λ_{\max} 263 (16.7), 270 (sh); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.34–7.19 (m, 13H, aromatic CH's), 7.06–7.09 (m, 2H, aromatic CH's), 6.04 (d, 1H, H-1', $J_{1,2'} = 2.5$ Hz), 5.95 (bd, 1H, NH₂), 4.70 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, $J = 12.3$ Hz), 4.64 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, $J = 12.3$ Hz), 4.55 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, $J = 12.0$ Hz), 4.50 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, $J = 12.0$ Hz), 4.47 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, $J = 12.1$ Hz), 4.40 (d, 1H, PhCHH-, $J = 12.1$ Hz), 4.33 (t, 1H, H-2', $J_{2,3'} = 2.9$ Hz), 4.22 (t, 1H, H-3', $J_{3,4'} = 3.1$ Hz), 4.05 (ddd, 1H, H-4'), 3.78 (dd, 1H, H-5'b, $J_{4,5'b} = 8.0$ Hz, $J_{4,5'a} = 9.6$ Hz), 3.56 (dd, 1H, H-5'a, $J_{4,5'a} = 6.7$ Hz). Anal. (C₃₁H₃₀FN₅O₃S) C, H, N.

2-Fluoro-9-(4-thio- β -*D*-arabinofuranosyl)adenine (14 β). An ice-cold solution of 13 β (69 mg, 0.12 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.5 mL) was added dropwise under argon to 5 mL of 1.0 M BCl₃ in CH₂Cl₂ chilled to –40 °C. The mixture, which contained a small amount of undissolved solid, was stirred at –30 °C for 30 min and then allowed to stand at –20 °C for 23 h. The resulting clear solution was evaporated to dryness beginning at –20 °C. The residue was coevaporated with cold CH₂Cl₂ (4 × 3 mL) producing a solid that was suspended in cold aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ (5 mL). After addition of EtOH (5 mL) the mixture was heated to boiling, treated with charcoal, filtered (Celite), and concentrated to provide crude 14 β . This material was purified by preparative TLC (Analtech GF taper plates, 20 × 20 cm, 1000 μ m) with development in 3:1:0.1 CHCl₃/MeOH/NH₄OH. The isolated material was crystallized from EtOH to give pure 14 β (19 mg, 53%): mp 235 °C; TLC 3:1:0.1 CHCl₃–MeOH–NH₄OH, R_f 0.60; HPLC 99.6%, 9:1 NH₄H₂PO₄ (0.01 M, pH 5.1)–MeOH; MS 302 (M + H)⁺; UV λ_{\max} pH 1, 263 (15.4), 270 (sh), pH 7, 262 (16.5), 270 (sh), pH 13, 263 (16.8), 270 (sh); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.35 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.77 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 5.87 (d, 1H, H-1', $J_{1,2'} = 5.0$ Hz), 5.72, (bd, 1H, 2'-OH, $J = 4.1$ Hz), 5.49 (d, 1H, 3'-OH, $J = 4.8$ Hz), 5.17 (bt, 1H, 5'-OH, $J = 4.8$ Hz), 4.12–4.05 (m, 2H, H-2', H-3'), 3.82 (m, 1H, H-5'a, $J_{4,5'a} = 4.2$ Hz, $J_{5'a,5'b} = 11.2$ Hz), 3.76 (m, 1H, H-5'b, $J_{4,5'b} = 6.9$ Hz), 3.22 (m, 1H, H-4'). Anal. (C₁₀H₁₂FN₅O₃S·0.3C₂H₅OH·0.6H₂O) C, H, N.

2-Fluoro-9-(4-thio- α -*D*-arabinofuranosyl)adenine (14 α). Treatment of 13 α (357 mg, 0.62 mmol) with BCl₃ as reported above for 13 β provided crude 14 α (222 mg) as an intractable solid containing 10% of an unknown impurity. This material was dissolved in pyridine (10 mL) at 5 °C and treated with acetic anhydride (0.63 mL, 6.5 mmol). This solution was stirred at room temperature for 20 h and then poured into ice water (300 mL). CHCl₃ (50 mL) was added, the layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with additional CHCl₃ (2 × 50 mL). The combined CHCl₃ layers were washed with H₂O (2 × 25 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated to give 196 mg of crude acetylated nucleoside 15 α . Purification of 15 α was accomplished by preparative TLC (Analtech GF, 20 × 20 cm, 2000 μ m) developed twice in 4:1 EtOAc/cyclohexane. The EtOAc extract of the plate bands was evaporated and then crystallized from hot 2-propanol to yield a white solid (116 mg): mp 175–176 °C; TLC 4:1 EtOAc/cyclohexane, R_f 0.50; MS 428 (M + H)⁺; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (s, 1H, H-8), 6.07 (d, 1H, H-1', $J_{1,2'} = 4.1$ Hz), 6.02 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 5.73 (t, 1H, H-2', $J_{2,3'} = 5.2$ Hz), 5.48 (t, 1H, H-3', $J_{3,4'} = 4.8$ Hz), 4.39 (dd, 1H, H-5'a, $J_{4,5'a} = 7.0$ Hz, $J_{5'a,5'b} = 11.2$ Hz), 4.21 (m, 1H, H-5'b, $J_{4,5'b} = 6.5$ Hz), 4.13 (m, 1H, H-4'), 2.12 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.10 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.07 (s, 3H, CH₃).

Acetylated nucleoside 15 α (109 mg, 0.25 mmol) was treated with 25 mL of EtOH saturated with NH₃ at 5 °C. The reaction

mixture was refrigerated for 5 days and then evaporated. The white solid residue was crystallized from boiling EtOH (10 mL) to give pure 14 α (72 mg, 38% from 13 α): mp 290 °C dec; TLC 3:1:0.1 CHCl₃–MeOH–NH₄OH, R_f 0.60; HPLC 99%, 7:3 NH₄H₂PO₄ (0.01 M, pH 5.1)–MeOH; MS 302 (M + H)⁺; UV λ_{\max} pH 1, 262 (14.8), 270 (sh), pH 7, 262 (15.6), 270 (sh), pH 13, 262 (15.7), 270 (sh); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.39 (s, 1H, H-8), 7.83 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 5.81 (d, 1H, 2'-OH, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 5.63 (d, 1H, 3'-OH, $J = 5.0$ Hz), 5.61 (d, 1H, H-1', $J_{1,2'} = 7.1$ Hz), 4.96 (t, 1H, 5'-OH, $J = 4.7$, 6.0 Hz), 4.48 (dd, 1H, H-2', $J_{2,3'} = 7.7$ Hz), 3.89 (dd, 1H, H-5'b, $J_{4,5'b} = 3.7$ Hz, $J_{5'a,5'b} = 10.8$ Hz), 3.73 (t, 1H, H-3', $J_{3,4'} = 7.1$ Hz), 3.64 (dt, 1H, H-4'), 3.42 (dd, 1H, H-5'a, $J_{4,5'a} = 8.1$ Hz). Anal. (C₁₀H₁₂FN₅O₃S·0.15C₂H₅-OH) C, H, N.

9-(4-Thio- β -*D*-arabinofuranosyl)guanine (16). To a solution of 12 (51 mg, 0.17 mmol) in 20 mL of water was added 100 units of calf intestine adenosine deaminase type VIII (40 μ L; Boehringer Mannheim GmbH). The reaction was stirred for 17 h, the solution was boiled for 3 min to deactivate the enzyme, and the suspension was treated with charcoal and filtered through Celite. The filtrate was concentrated to give gelatinous 16 which was dissolved in hot H₂O (4 mL) and filtered through a 0.45- μ m filter (25 mm; Gelman Acrodisc GHP-GF). The clear filtrate was lyophilized to provide 16 as a fluffy white solid (44 mg, 73%): mp >250 °C dec (lit.²⁷ mp 260–264 °C); TLC 4:1 MeCN/1 N NH₄OH, R_f 0.40; HPLC 99.6%, 9:1 NH₄H₂PO₄ (0.01 M, pH 5.1)–MeOH; MS 300 (M + H)⁺; UV λ_{\max} pH 1, 257 (12.5), 282 (sh), pH 7, 255 (14.8), 273 (sh), pH 13, 257 (sh), 268 (12.3); ¹H NMR and microanalytical data have been reported.²⁷

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Supporting Information Available: Listings of atomic coordinates, bond lengths, bond angles, anisotropic displacement parameters, hydrogen coordinates, and isotropic displacement parameters (6 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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