

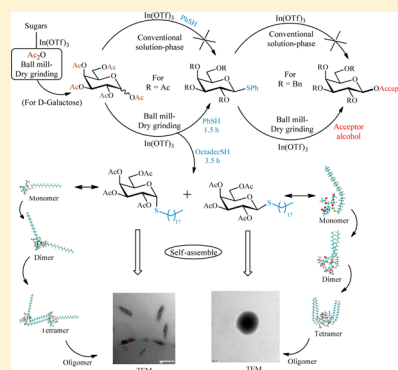
# In(III) Triflate-Mediated Solvent-Free Synthesis and Activation of Thioglycosides by Ball Milling and Structural Analysis of Long Chain Alkyl Thioglycosides by TEM and Quantum Chemical Methods

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## Supporting Information

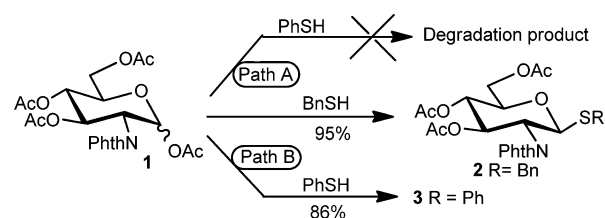
**ABSTRACT:** Conventional solution-phase synthesis of thioglycosides from glycosyl acetates and thiols in the presence of In(III) triflate as reported for benzyl thioglycoside failed when applied to the synthesis of phenolic and alkyl thioglycosides. But, it was achieved in high efficiency and diastereospecificity with ease by solvent-free grinding in a ball mill. The acetates in turn were also obtained by the homogenization of free sugars with stoichiometric amounts of acetic anhydride and catalytic In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> in the mill as neat products. Per-*O*-benzylated thioglycosides on grinding with an acceptor sugar in the presence of In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> yield the corresponding *O*-glycosides efficiently. The latter in the case of a difficult secondary alcohol was nearly exclusive (>98%) in 1,2-*cis*-selectivity. In contrast, the conventional methods for this purpose require use of a coreagent such as NIS along with the Lewis acid to help generate the electrophilic species that actually is responsible for the activation of the thioglycoside donor in situ. The distinctly different self-assembling features of the peracetylated octadecyl 1-thio- $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosides observed by TEM could be rationalized by molecular modeling.



## INTRODUCTION

The excellent potential that In(III) triflate holds for promoting various carbohydrate reactions became evident from the highly efficient acyl transfer reactions as well as the formation and hydrolysis of cyclic acetals of various carbohydrates reported some time ago.<sup>1</sup> A case of thioglycosylation reaction noted involved treatment of the glycosyl acetate **1** with benzyl mercaptan at 50 °C in dichloroethane to form the desired 1,2-*trans*-linked benzyl 1-thio-glycoside **2** in 2 h in virtually quantitative yield (Scheme 1, Path A). On the basis of the latter observation and from a need for synthesizing multigram quantities of the phenyl thio- $\beta$ -D-galactoside derivative **5** in the context of an ongoing work, we recently tried to extend the

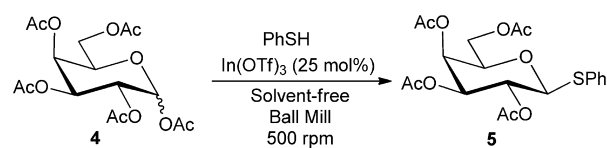
### Scheme 1. Comparison of In(OTf)<sub>3</sub>-Mediated Reaction of a Glycosyl Acetate with BnSH/PhSH under Conventional and Mechanochemical Conditions



Path A: Conventional - Thiol, In(OTf)<sub>3</sub>, dichloroethane, 50 °C, 2 h  
Path B: Mechanochemical - Thiol, In(OTf)<sub>3</sub>, Ball Mill, 550 rpm 1.5 h

above reaction to thiophenol as an acceptor for reaction with per-*O*-acetylated  $\beta$ -D-galactose **4** (for structures see Scheme 2,

### Scheme 2. In(OTf)<sub>3</sub>-Mediated Mechanochemical Activation of Galactosyl Acetate for Thioglycosylation



to follow later). It was disappointing to see that, while at room temperature virtually no reaction took place, it was found to be accompanied by degradation products at 50 °C in dichloroethane, as a result of which the yields were drastically affected unlike in the preparation of **2**. The latter reaction, when repeated using acetate **1** in place of **4**, was also proved unsuccessful (Scheme 1, Path A). This led us to think of the reaction in solid state instead. Our own observations in this regard as well as those in the literature showed that the chemical reactivity and selectivity exhibited by many solid state reactions are often better than their corresponding solution-phase counterpart.<sup>2</sup> As an alternative therefore, the reaction was held under solvent-free conditions mechanochemically using a

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Table 1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions for the  $\text{In}(\text{OTf})_3$ -Mediated Solvent-Free Mechanochemical Thiogalactosylation<sup>a</sup>

entry	$\text{In}(\text{OTf})_3$ (mol equiv)	time (h)	yield (%) of 5	remarks
1	0.25	1.5	84	complete consumption of 4; only the $\beta$ -glycoside (5) was formed
2	0.25	2.5	78	some $\alpha$ -glycoside was also formed along with 5 but separated efficiently on silica gel chromatographically
3	0.15	2.0	45	50% of 4 had been consumed; only the $\beta$ -glycoside (5) was formed
4	0.15	10.0	65	70% of 4 had been consumed; only the $\beta$ -glycoside (5) was formed
5	0.10	10.0	–	only 20% of 4 had been consumed (TLC); attempt to isolate 5 was not made
6	0.05	10.0	–	no reaction was observed

<sup>a</sup>1 mmol (390.5 mg) of 4 was ground in a stainless steel (SS) bowl containing SS balls along with thiophenol (3 mmol) and  $\text{In}(\text{OTf})_3$ .<sup>3,4</sup>

planetary ball mill (Scheme 2) and the results were indeed very interesting. Under the optimized conditions the acetate 4 reacted with thiophenol effectively, giving the desired phenyl thioglycoside 5 in 84% yield in 90 min. The details on the optimization of the reaction conditions as well as a comparison of the current method with that of a set of important conventional thioglycosylation methods are as follows.

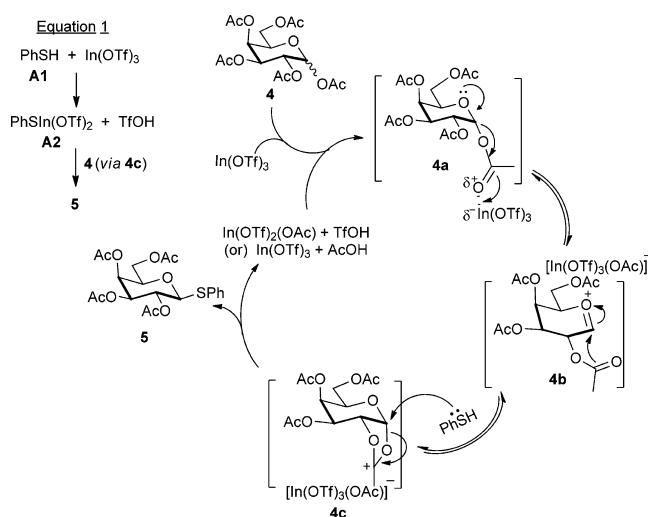
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Homogenization of galactosyl acetate 4 with mercaptophenol in the presence of  $\text{In}(\text{OTf})_3$  (25 mol %) for 1.5 h in the ball mill resulted in the complete disappearance of 4 from the reaction mixture as ascertained by TLC (EtOAc–hexanes, 1:1, entry 1, Table 1). A new compound with  $R_f$  value marginally higher than that of the acetate 4, and unlike 4 detectable under the UV detection lamp, had been formed instead. The solids were therefore subjected to an aqueous work-up, and the crude product so obtained was purified on a short column of silica (eluent, EtOAc–hexanes, 2:8). Spectroscopic analysis showed the crystalline product obtained to be the desired phenyl thiogalactoside 5.<sup>3,4</sup> The requirement of  $\text{In}(\text{OTf})_3$  was subsequently optimized by experiments as tabulated in Table 1. It was found that performing the reaction using 25 mol % of the metal triflate was sufficient for satisfactory results. At lower levels of the metal triflate and at shorter reaction times, it was found that the 1,2-*trans*-linked thioglycoside was the only product formed. Longer periods of grinding beyond the completion of reaction led essentially to the anomerization product (1,2-*cis*-linked glycoside corresponding to 5).

In accordance with a general Lewis acid-catalyzed reaction,  $\text{In}(\text{OTf})_3$  can be considered to activate the glycosyl acetate 4 as shown in Scheme 3. Coordination of the metal center in the catalyst with the carbonyl oxygen of the anomeric acetyl group can render the acyl group departure possible, with the assistance of the lone pair of electrons on ring oxygen (O-5) as represented in the structure 4a. This must lead to the successive formation of ion pairs 4b and 4c. Nucleophilic attack of the thiol can then result in the formation of the desired thioglycoside 5 stereospecifically. The formation of the thioglycoside (5) must also lead to the release of the metal salt suggesting that, in principle, the reaction must be catalytic in  $\text{In}(\text{III})$ , although in practice it was observed (see above) that 0.25 mol equiv of the salt was needed for the reaction to proceed in a reasonably short period of grinding.

Alternatively, the thiol activation by the metal triflate as represented in eq 1 (Scheme 3) if considered shall also culminate in the satisfactory formation of 5 upon reaction of the metalated thiol derivative A2, formed as an activated intermediate, on the cyclic oxocarbenium ion 4c described

## Scheme 3. Indium Triflate-Assisted Thioglycosylation of Galactose Pentaacetate 4



earlier. However, circumstantial evidence suggests that the former mechanism is operative. It was observed that on terminating the reaction upon complete consumption of the glycosyl acetate leaves the thioglycoside formed stereospecifically. But on continued grinding for long periods beyond the completion of the reaction, acid-catalyzed anomerization product could also be obtained.

A comparison of the current method for the preparation of 1,2-*trans*-linked 1-thioglycosides with the classical method that makes use of the more reactive glycosyl  $\beta$ -acetate preferably has been presented in Table 2 below. Thus, while the  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ -promoted thioglycoside preparation reported by Ferrier and Furneaux, which is still used quite extensively, typically takes nearly 1.5–2 days for completion of the reaction (entries 1, 3 and 4, Table 2), the current method allows it in 1.5 h with better efficiency (entry 9, Table 2; see also later). The current method is also more effective than the well-accepted modified method later introduced by Pozsgay and Jennings (entries 2 and 5, Table 2). Again, while the current procedure is solvent-free, the iodine-promoted reactions (entries 6–8, Table 2), though faster, of wide acceptance, and of equal efficiency (product yield) as the current method, require use of the poisonous solvent, MeCN, to be best successful. Clearly, the method reported herein is thus superior in many respects.

Under the conditions optimized for 4 when the glucosamine derivative 1 was allowed to react with thiophenol, the reaction took place effectively, and the corresponding  $\beta$ -thioglycoside 3<sup>6</sup> was obtained in 86% yield as colorless solid by crystallization

Table 2. Comparison of the Reported Thioglycosylation Methods with the Current Method

Entry	Transformation	Method <sup>a</sup>					Lit ref
		Thiol reagent	Promoter (mol%)	Solvent	Time (h)	Yield (%)	
1	R = OAc → R = SPh	PhSH	BF <sub>3</sub> ·Et <sub>2</sub> O (300)	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	43	69	5(a)
2	R = OAc → R = SMe	TMS-SMe	BF <sub>3</sub> ·Et <sub>2</sub> O (60)	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	5	84	5(b)
3	R = OAc → R = SEt	EtSH	BF <sub>3</sub> ·Et <sub>2</sub> O (22)	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	35	83	5(a)
4	R = OAc → R = SBn	BnSH	BF <sub>3</sub> ·Et <sub>2</sub> O (20)	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	46	70	5(a)
5	R = OAc → R = SMe	TMS-SMe	TMSOTf (60)	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	48	93	5(b)
6	R = OAc → R = SPh	TMS-SPh	I <sub>2</sub> (120)	MeCN	2 min	80	5(c)
7	R = OAc → R = SEt	TMS-SEt	I <sub>2</sub> (120)	MeCN	2 min	85	5(c)
8	R = OAc → R = SEt	EtSH	I <sub>2</sub> (120)	MeCN	5 min	80	5(c)
9	R = OAc → R = SPh	PhSH	In(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (25)	None	1.5	86	-

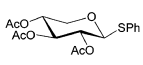
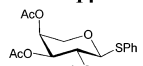
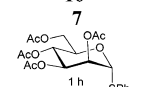
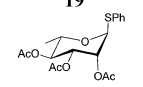
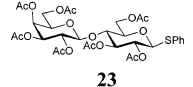
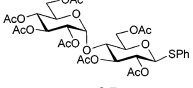
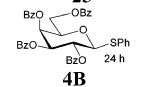
<sup>a</sup>A 3–50% (w/v, based on the sugar substrate) solution in the desired solvent is employed for the reaction.

Table 3. Indium Triflate-Mediated Mechanochemical Thioglycosylation of Glycosyl Acetates<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Substrate	Product	Time (h)	Yield (%)
1			1.5	86
	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>		
2			1.5	79
	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>		
3	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b> X = NO <sub>2</sub>	1.5	90
4		<b>9</b> X = Me	1.0	84
5	Compound <b>3</b>		3.5	70–80 <sup>b</sup>
6		<b>10</b> n = 17	3.5	
		<b>11</b> n = 13		

<sup>a</sup>A mixture of the per-O-acetylated monosaccharides (1 mmol), thiophenol (2.2 mmol), and In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (0.25 mmol) was ground in a SS bowl containing SS balls using a planetary ball mill. <sup>b</sup>7–8% of the α-anomer corresponding to **10/11** were also isolated.

Table 4. Indium Triflate-Mediated Mechanochemical Thioglycosylation of Sugars<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Substrate	Product (Lit reference)	Yield (%)
1a	D-Galactose ( <b>12</b> ) on 1 g scale	<b>5</b>	78
1b	D-Galactose ( <b>12</b> ) on 5 g scale	<b>5</b>	85
2	D-Xylose ( <b>13</b> )	 <b>14</b>	74
3	L-Arabinose ( <b>15</b> )	 <b>16</b>	68
4	D-Glucose ( <b>17</b> )	<b>7</b>	77
5	D-Mannose ( <b>18</b> )	 <b>19</b>	88
6	L-Rhamnose ( <b>20</b> )	 <b>21</b>	74
7	D-Lactose ( <b>22</b> )	 <b>23</b>	64
8	D-Maltose ( <b>24</b> )	 <b>25</b>	65
9 <sup>b</sup>	D-Galactose ( <b>12</b> )	 <b>4B</b>	67

<sup>a</sup>A mixture of the monosaccharides/disaccharides (1 mmol), Ac<sub>2</sub>O (1.1 mol equiv per OH group) and In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (2–5 mg/g of sugar) was ground in a SS bowl containing SS balls using a planetary ball mill for 30 min, and the product after aqueous work-up was directly subjected to the thioglycosylation as in Table 3. <sup>b</sup>The sugar was subjected to per-*O*-benzoylation by treatment with Bz<sub>2</sub>O (instead of Ac<sub>2</sub>O) before subjecting to thioglycosylation as in other cases.

(entry 1, Table 3; Scheme 1, Path B). Extending the reaction to  $\alpha$ -D-glucose pentaacetate (**6**) also gave the desired 1,2-*trans*-linked thioglycoside **7** in good yield (entry 2, Table 3).<sup>3,7</sup> *p*-Nitrothiophenol (phenyl ring bearing an electron-withdrawing substituent) and *p*-thiocresol (phenyl ring bearing an electron-donating substituent) were also evaluated as acceptors for the thioglycosylation reaction. The desired respective thioglycosides **8**<sup>3</sup> and **9**<sup>3</sup> were also obtained stereospecifically in excellent yields on 60–90 min of grinding (entries 3–4, Table 3). The solution-phase method employing the relatively more toxic MoO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> is not only comparatively more sluggish but also requires the more reactive glycosyl  $\beta$ -acetate for the above reactions.<sup>10b</sup> In the context of another ongoing work in our laboratory, we needed 1-thio- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosides having long chain alkyl residues on the sulfur. Therefore, the preparation of the desired galactosides **10**<sup>8</sup> and **11**<sup>9</sup> was also attempted under the above optimized reaction condition to successful completion (entries 5–6, Table 3).

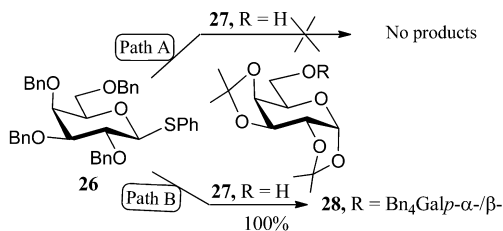
As the preparation of the per-*O*-acetylated monosaccharides can also be carried out in quantitative yields in the presence of indium triflate,<sup>1</sup> the acetylation step was also carried out in the ball mill. Thus, anhydrous D-galactose (**12**) was mixed in a stainless steel (SS) bowl with acetic anhydride in the ball mill for about half an hour in the presence of In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (2–5 mg/g of sugar, that is,  $\leq 0.16$  mol %), and the clear acetylation product was subjected to an alkaline aqueous work-up. The solids obtained were dried and after putting back into the milling bowl were ground with thiophenol and the catalyst as

described above (entry 1a, Table 4). The product was then obtained in a yield of 78% after a quick column chromatographic purification.<sup>3,4,10</sup> The reaction was then repeated on a preparative scale with 5 g of the hexose (**12**) as the starting material and the glycoside **4** was obtained in 85% yield as crystals on crystallization of the crude product obtained after the aqueous work-up (entry 1b, Table 4). It has been consistently observed that solvent-free reactions in the ball mill work with higher efficiency when conducted on multigram quantities as better/more effective mixing can be achieved in such cases.<sup>3</sup> With this successful reaction, the method was extended to a range of other sugars (pentoses, entries 2–3, Table 4; hexoses, entries 4–5, Table 4; deoxyhexose, entry 6, Table 4; and disaccharides, entries 7–8, Table 4) to evaluate the general applicability of the reaction. It was found that the respective phenylthioglycosides were obtained efficiently in all the cases (Table 4). As must be expected, the per-*O*-benzoylated D-galactose (structure not shown), prepared from D-galactose (**12**) by dry-grinding with benzoic anhydride in the presence of In(OTf)<sub>3</sub>, also underwent facile solvent-free thioglycosylation upon grinding with thiophenol in the presence of the metal triflate to afford the respective thioglycoside **4B** in good yield (entry 9, Table 4).

On the basis of the above results and the proven catalytic efficiency (as a Lewis acid) of In(OTf)<sub>3</sub>, including its ability to cause anomericization of thioglycosides as has been observed above, the *O*-glycosylation using an “armed” thioglycoside (**26**) was performed in the absence of a co-promoter such as NIS,

which was proven impossible by the conventional procedure (Path A, Scheme 4). Thus, when the benzylated thiogalactoside

#### Scheme 4. In(III) Triflate-Mediated Disaccharide Synthesis



Path A: Conventional - In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (up to 100 mol%), Et<sub>2</sub>O, 25 °C, up to 48 h  
Path B: Mechanochemical - In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (25 mol%), Ball mill, 500 rpm, 1.5 h

**26** and the acetonide **27** were ground at 500 rpm in the presence of In(OTf)<sub>3</sub>, complete consumption of the acceptor **27** occurred in a relatively short period of 1.5 h (Scheme 4, Path B) and the desired disaccharide product **27** was formed in excellent yield. As could be expected from the nonparticipatory group located on O-2 of the donor substrate, the product was a mixture of 1,2-*cis*-/*trans*-linked glycosides (**28α/β**, as typical of these reactions)<sup>17,18</sup> obtained in a ratio of 1:9. During the process of monitoring the progress of the above reactions in the ball mill, it was noted that the initial chromatograms (TLC) showed the near-exclusive presence of the β-glycoside (**28β**) in the reaction mixture, although at the end of the 1.5 h reaction

the ratio of **28α:28β** was 1:9. Most interestingly the α/β ratio for **28** could be altered effectively by controlling the conditions of grinding (for details, see Table 5).

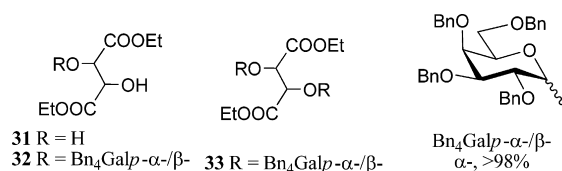
The In(OTf)<sub>3</sub>-mediated glycosylation therefore was also tried at lower speeds of mixing in the ball mill. Thus, at 450 rpm at the end of a 1 h mixing period in the planetary ball mill the only glycoside product detected by TLC was **28β**, though 40% of the starting materials were still left (entry 1, Table 5). Continuing grinding for another 30 min could bring only marginal improvement in the consumption of the donor (entry 2, Table 5). However, by then the formation of **28α** had been started. In another experiment when mixing was allowed for 30 min at 500 rpm, following an initial 1.5 h at 450 rpm, complete consumption of the thioglycoside occurred (entry not shown in the Table). Therefore, another reaction at 500 rpm was carried out with 1.5 h as the mixing period. Again, the reaction was found to be complete, but 10% of **28α** was also obtained along with the major β-product (**28β**, entry 3, Table 5), which at 550 rpm (entry 4, Table 5) was found obtainable in a shorter time of 0.75 h of grinding. Under the latter conditions while with a grinding time of 1 h the ratio of **28α:28β** isolated was found to be 2:3 (entry 5, Table 5), it was found to be 5:3 (entry 6, Table 5) for a grinding period of 1.25 h. Thus, a clear qualitative difference in the onset as well as rate of anomerization was visible as a function of grinding speed. Considering the significance of this observation, a detailed investigation on these factors is currently being pursued in our laboratory.

Table 5. In(III) Triflate-Promoted Solvent-Free Armed Thioglycoside Activation

Entry	In(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (mmol)	Grinding speed (rpm)	Time (h)	Consumption of <b>26</b> (%)	Combined yield (%)	α:β
1	0.25	450	1	60	51	neat β-
2	0.25	450	1.5	65	55	β-, ≥95
3	0.25	500	1.5	100	61	1 : 9
4	0.25	550	0.75	100	66	1 : 9
5	0.25	550	1.0	100	40-45	2 : 3
6	0.25	550	1.25	100	40-45	5 : 3

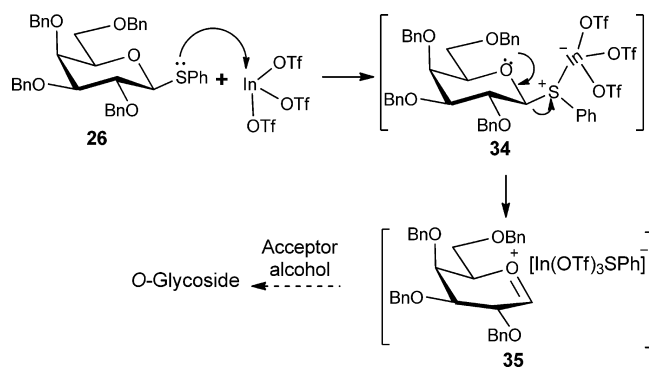
7	0.25	500	1	50	40	1 : 4
8	0.25	500	2	100	64	1 : 1.2

The partially acetylated glucose derivative **29**,<sup>19</sup> in which a possibility for acyl migration existed, was also examined as a typical acceptor for the above glycosylation. At 500 rpm when the glycosylation was allowed to take place in the ball mill for 1 h, at which time approximately 50% of the starting materials had been consumed, the disaccharide **30** was obtained in 40% yield with  $\alpha:\beta = 1:4$ . No acetyl migration was observed. And at the end of a 2 h reaction, during which the complete consumption of the starting materials had taken place, the disaccharides **30 $\alpha$**  and **30 $\beta$**  were obtained in a ratio of 1:1.2. The combined yield of the disaccharide was 64%. A small amount of 2,3,4,6-tetra-*O*-benzyl galactopyranose was also obtained as a byproduct. The reaction was subsequently extended to a difficult secondary alcohol case, the diol substrate **31**, to obtain the mono- and di-*O*-glycosylated products **32** and **33** in excellent yields (80–83%) in which the  $\alpha$ -linked disaccharide was present in excess of 98%. On purification, **32 $\alpha$**  and **33 $\alpha$**  (required in connection with our work on synthetic polyvalent protein inhibitors) were obtained pure.



In the case of *armed* thioglycosides, for example, **26**, it would seem possible that the nucleophilicity of sulfur is sufficient enough to allow the lone pair of electrons on the atom to complex with the metal center in In(III) triflate to give rise to an activated intermediate **34**, which after the departure of the modified aglycone moiety, a process that can be reasoned possible by the assistance of the O-5-lone pair of electrons, forms the oxocarbenium ion intermediate **35** that upon further reaction with an acceptor alcohol yields the desired glycosides in the conventional manner (Scheme 5). The fact that *disarmed*

#### Scheme 5. Possible Mechanism of Activation of an *Armed* Thioglycoside by In(III) Triflate



thioglycosides, for example, **4**, do not smoothly react in the same manner lends support to this hypothesis as does the lower reactivity of the *p*-nitrophenyl 2,3,4,6-tetra-*O*-benzyl-1-thio- $\beta$ -*D*-galactoside toward the same reaction. A clear advantage of the indium triflate-promoted solvent-free method of thioglycosylation was thus evident from a comparison of the observations noted in Schemes 1 and 4 and Table 1 (entry 1).

However, as a comparison of the current method with the conventional solution-phase protocol must also be worthwhile and in context, the preparation of the disaccharide **28** from

compounds **26** and **27** described above (see Scheme 4) was also performed in the conventional manner in solution-phase (Table 6). In the absence of a copromoter (NIS) in anhydrous

**Table 6. Conventional In(III) Triflate-Promoted Solution-Phase Synthesis of Disaccharide **28**<sup>a</sup>**

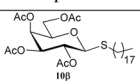
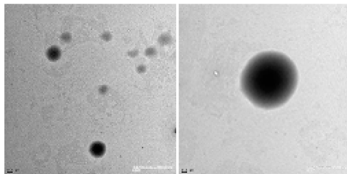
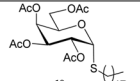
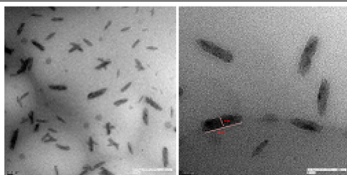
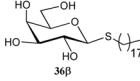
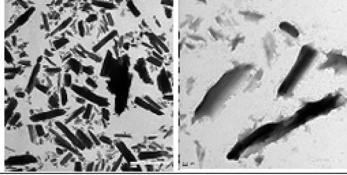
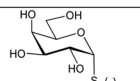
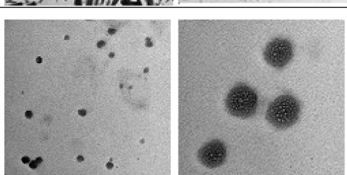
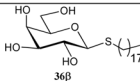
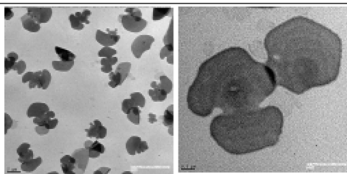
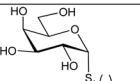
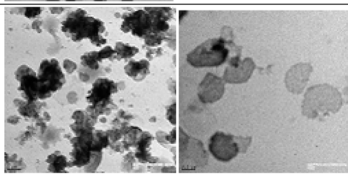
entry	In(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (mol equiv)	NIS (mol equiv)	solvent	time (min)	yield (%)	$\alpha:\beta$
1	0.25	–	Et <sub>2</sub> O	2 d	nil	–
2	0.5	–	Et <sub>2</sub> O	2 d	nil	–
3	1.0	–	Et <sub>2</sub> O	2 d	nil	–
4	0.25	1	Et <sub>2</sub> O	2	68	3:2
5	0.25	1	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	5–10	48	1:1
6	0.25	1	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	30	33	3:2
7	0.20	1	Et <sub>2</sub> O	2–5	65–75	7:3
8	0.15	1	Et <sub>2</sub> O	2–5	65–75	7:3
9	0.10	1	Et <sub>2</sub> O	10–15	65–75	7:3
10	0.05	1	Et <sub>2</sub> O	20–25	65–75	7:3

<sup>a</sup>The reaction was carried out by treating compounds **26** (1 mmol) and **27** (1 mmol) in the solvent (1 mL/100 mg of sugar derivative) specified in Table 5.

ether no disaccharide formation was observed even on continuing the reaction up to 2 days at room temperature (entries 1–3, Table 6) and in spite of using the metal triflate up to a level of 1 mol equiv. However, when the same reaction was carried out in the presence of added NIS it proceeded almost instantly giving rise to the expected disaccharide **28** in less than 2 min at rt. Although the reaction was neat, chromatographic isolation led to pure **28** in a yield of 68% (probably losing some product on the surface of silica) with the anomeric ratio of  $\alpha:\beta = 3:2$  (entry 4, Table 6). Under the same conditions, the reaction carried out in acetonitrile or dichloromethane led to poorer yields of the product (entries 5 and 6, Table 6). In ether, the glycosylation was effective with the use of the metal triflate catalyst up to a level of 5 mol % (entries 7–10, Table 6). The results thus amply demonstrate that In(III) triflate can indeed serve as an efficient Lewis acid catalyst in generating the activating species<sup>20</sup> (the iodonium species) when used with NIS in order to activate thioglycosides for *O*-glycosylation reactions. Compared to many of the other catalysts of this class such as AgOTf,<sup>21</sup> TfOH/TMSOTf,<sup>22</sup> etc., In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> holds distinct practical advantages in terms of its sensitivity to light, air, moisture, etc., and/or greenness and therefore must find wide acceptance in future.

Further, in the course of the preparation of the alkyl thioglycosides **10** and **11**, we noticed that considerable degree of foaming occurred during the aqueous work-up particularly when the organic solvent for extraction was shaken vigorously, as a consequence of which back extraction proved essential for securing complete recovery of the product present. Also, the foaming was considerably more prominent when dichloromethane was used in place of EtOAc for extraction. While the above observations were not surprising given the known surfactant-like properties of long chain alkyl glycosides as well as the poorer solubility of methylene chloride (compared to that of EtOAc) in water, it was certainly surprising that a qualitative difference in the foaming characteristic was observed during the processing of the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -thioglycosides. Intrigued by this, the above glycosides were subjected to analysis by TEM as well as quantum chemical studies, and the results are summarized below.

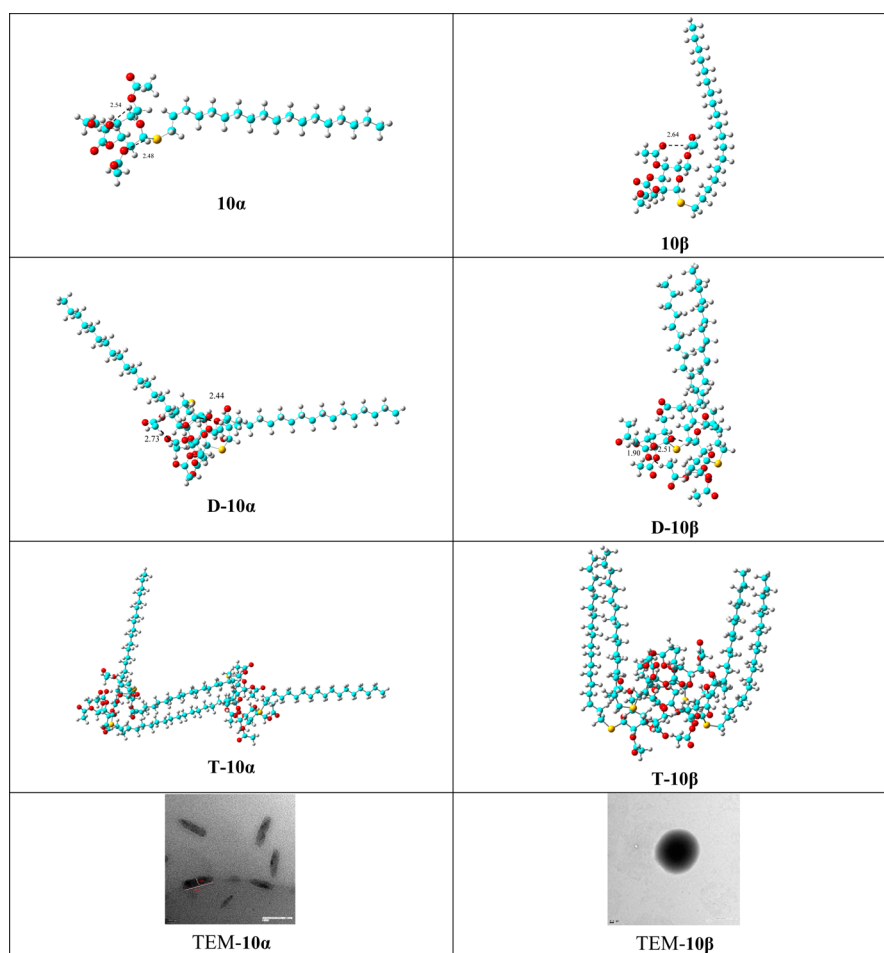
Table 7. Transmission Electron Microscopic Analysis of Octadecyl 1-Thiogalactopyranosides **10** ( $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ) and **36** ( $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ )

Entry	Compound structure	TEM images
1	 <p>A solution of <b>10<math>\beta</math></b> in hexane containing traces of <math>\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2</math> was used for TEM. Magnification: X1700. Particle diameter: 325 nm to 650 nm.</p>	
2	 <p>A solution of <b>10<math>\alpha</math></b> in hexane containing traces of <math>\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2</math> was used for TEM. Magnification: X7800 (Left), X19000 (Right). Particle length: 500 nm to 1500 nm.</p>	
3	 <p>A solution of <b>36<math>\beta</math></b> in hexane containing traces of <math>\text{H}_2\text{O}</math> was used for TEM. Magnification: X330 (Left), X1700 (Right). Particle length: 335 nm to 1 <math>\mu</math></p>	
4	 <p>A solution of <b>36<math>\alpha</math></b> in hexane containing traces of <math>\text{H}_2\text{O}</math> was used for TEM. Magnification: X9600 (Left), X29000 (Right). Particle diameter: 96 nm to 258 nm</p>	
5	 <p>A solution of <b>36<math>\beta</math></b> in MeOH containing traces of <math>\text{H}_2\text{O}</math> was used for TEM. Magnification: X420 (Left), X1700 (Right).</p>	
6	 <p>A solution of <b>36<math>\alpha</math></b> in MeOH containing traces of <math>\text{H}_2\text{O}</math> was used for TEM. Magnification: X420 (Left), X1700 (Right).</p>	

Study of the literature shows that carbohydrate-based surfactants have been studied widely with respect to their surface active properties and liquid crystalline behavior.<sup>23</sup> In the former, the glycosides used for the studies have been otherwise unprotected. Also, until now the aggregation behavior of these surfactants has been investigated as a function of the alkyl chain length, nature of the headgroup, and its geometry.<sup>24</sup> Observations we made during the preparation of the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - anomers of **10** and **11** seemed to suggest that it could also be dependent upon the stereochemistry at the anomeric center. TEM imaging showed that the self-assembly of octadecyl 2,3,4,6-tetraacetyl- $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -thiogalactosides (**10 $\alpha$**  and **10 $\beta$** ) possessed distinct organizational patterns. Not unexpectedly though, it was also dependent upon the nature of the solvent used for the study (Table 7). Thus, when a solution of the anomers **10 $\alpha$**  and **10 $\beta$**  in hexane containing traces of methylene chloride was used for loading the sample onto the copper grid for TEM, while the  $\beta$ -anomer assembled into spherical particles the  $\alpha$ -anomer organized to give ellipsoid particles (entries 1 and 2, Table 7). Most interestingly, upon deprotection of the acetyl groups on **10 $\alpha/\beta$**  (to give **36 $\alpha/\beta$** ) a reversal of the

organizational patterns obtained was observed (entries 3 and 4, Table 7). Thus, while **36 $\beta$**  gave rise to longitudinal pattern, spherical particles were produced in the case of the corresponding  $\alpha$ -anomer. Further, upon changing the solvent system for the sample preparation from hexane to MeOH, the former organized into particles possessing morphological features akin to polygons, whereas the  $\alpha$ -anomer seemed to retain the spherical pattern, though it was rather irregular in nature. Therefore, in an attempt to rationalize these behavioral differences obtained above, semiempirical calculations on these molecules were carried out.

**Electronic Structure, Interaction Analysis, and Rationalization of the TEM Morphological Features.**<sup>25</sup> In order to understand the structural details of the protected  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -thiogalactosides (**10 $\alpha$**  and **10 $\beta$** ) and to determine the distinct intermolecular and intramolecular interactions present in them, their structures were optimized employing the dispersion-corrected semiempirical quantum chemical method, PM3-D using Gaussian09 package. The optimized 3D structures of the monomers of these thioglycosides obtained are shown in Figure 1 (for the details of the methodology, see Supporting



**Figure 1.** Optimized geometries of  $10\alpha$  and  $10\beta$  in their monomeric, dimeric, and tetrameric arrangements by PM3-D method. The self-assembly of the thioglycosides are shown in the form of dimer and tetramer structures showing distinct interactions and arrangement. The corresponding TEM images of the respective thioglycosides are also shown. All the distances indicating intermolecular and intramolecular interactions are given in Å. Color code: carbon, sky blue; oxygen, red; hydrogen, gray; sulfur, yellow.

Information, S1). Two predominant intramolecular hydrogen bonding interactions (Figure 1) were observed in  $10\alpha$  as compared to one (only) intramolecular hydrogen bonding interaction observed in the  $\beta$ -anomer ( $10\beta$ ). Several intramolecular van der Waals contacts are noticeable in the  $\beta$ -anomer ( $10\beta$ ) giving rise to the “ $\delta$ -shaped” geometry, which are absent in the  $\alpha$ -anomer. The monomeric structure  $10\beta$  was observed to be comparatively more stable than  $10\alpha$  by 2.42 kcal/mol (Table 8). To confirm this fact, B3LYP/3-21G single point energy calculations were carried out, which showed that  $10\beta$  is more stable than  $10\alpha$  by  $\sim 7$  kcal/mol. To examine the self-assembling character of these molecules, dimeric structures were constructed from the optimized geometries of the monomers and were optimized using the PM3-D method. The optimized 3D geometries of the dimers are also shown in Figure 1. It is clear from Figure 1 that  $10\alpha$  and  $10\beta$  exhibit distinct intermolecular interactions;  $10\alpha$  is driven by the hydrogen bonding forces arising from the galactose moiety, while  $10\beta$  is driven by the hydrophobic interactions.

There are two different intermolecular interactions in the structure  $D-10\alpha$ , namely H-bond interaction between the anomeric hydrogen of one monomer and the ester oxygen atom of the other [(C1)H—O(CO)-C6] and the acetyl (methyl) hydrogen atom of one monomer and the carbonyl oxygen atom of the other [C6-O-C(O)-CH—O=C-O-C4].

**Table 8. Relative and Stabilization Energies of Thiogalactosides,  $10\alpha$  and  $10\beta$ , and Their Dimers and Tetramers, Calculated Using PM3-D Method**

thioglycoside	relative energy (kcal/mol)	formulas	dimerization energy <sup>a</sup> (kcal/mol)
$10\alpha$	2.42	—	—
$10\beta$	0.00	—	—
$D-10\alpha$	45.82	$E_{D-10\alpha} - 2E_{10\alpha}$	-28.75
$D-10\beta$	0.00	$E_{D-10\beta} - 2E_{10\beta}$	-69.73
$T-10\alpha$	81.02	$E_{T-10\alpha} - 2E_{D-10\alpha}$	-81.18
$T-10\beta$	0.00	$E_{T-10\beta} - 2E_{D-10\beta}$	-70.55

<sup>a</sup>Dimerization energies were calculated by subtracting the summation of energies of monomers and dimers from the energies of the dimers and tetramers, respectively, as given in the formulas.

The H-bond distances were observed to be 2.44 and 2.73 Å, respectively, for these interactions. These intermolecular interactions provide a twisted L-shaped geometry to  $D-10\alpha$ . On the other hand, the dimeric structure of  $10\beta$ , represented as  $D-10\beta$  (“ $\delta$ -shaped”) in Figure 1, is observed to possess a headgroup containing the sugar portions and the tail containing side chains. This orientation of  $D-10\beta$  is due to two important



intermolecular H-bonding interactions and hydrophobic interactions. The H-bonding interactions are (i) [C4-O-C=O—H-CH<sub>2</sub>-C(O)-O-C3, 1.90 Å], and (ii) [C6-O-C(O)-CH—O (sugar ring), 2.51 Å], as shown in Figure 1. The strong hydrophobic interactions observed because of dispersion effects result in the spiral-shaped orientation of the side chains in **D-10β**. These interactions stabilize the dimeric structure **D-10α** and **D-10β** in which **D-10β** was observed to be more stable (by ~46 kcal/mol) than **D-10α**. The higher stability of **D-10β** can be inferred because of the presence of many intramolecular and intermolecular hydrophobic interactions. However, the hydrophobic interactions are less pronounced in **D-10α**. Also, the energy gain due to the dimer formation in **D-10α** and **D-10β**, respectively, is 28.75 and 69.73 kcal/mol, respectively (Table 8). This indicates a higher stability of dimer **D-10β** as compared to **D-10α**. The stabilization energies of both the dimers, **D-10α** and **D-10β**, suggest the clear possibility of self-assembling character in them.

The optimized geometries of the dimeric structures were further utilized to construct the tetrameric structures, **T-10α** and **T-10β**. **T-10α** was found to adopt an irregular linear arrangement, showing the side-chains in parallel orientation with each other, controlled mostly by van der Waals contacts. This indicated the presence of predominant hydrophobic interactions, contributing substantially to the stability of the tetrameric structure **T-10α** and, hence, to the self-assembling property. This arrangement could also be considered to corroborate the TEM image of **10α** showing an organized pattern of rectangular/ellipsoidal sheets (Figure 1 and Supporting Information Figure S1). **T-10β** on the other hand adopts a spherical (globular) pattern, where the sugar portion of the dimers are oriented inward (forming the head), while the long alkyl side chains are oriented outwardly (forming the tail). These tetramers can be extended further to the octameric structures where a more precise spherical arrangement, like a micelle, can be observed (as shown in Supporting Information Figure S2). This also is in line with the spherical pattern observed in the TEM images of **10β**.

Hence, the relative stabilization energies, different intramolecular, intermolecular interactions, hydrophobic, van der Waals interactions, and different arrangements of the geometries arising from these interactions confirm the self-assembling property and the relative stabilities of these thiogalactosides. Thus, a relation between the polymeric arrangement of these thiogalactosides and their TEM analytical data could be identified using the dispersion-corrected semiempirical quantum chemical methods. The self-assembling nature of these molecules could be judged to be due to the energy gain on thermodynamic grounds, along with the electrostatic factors, as well as hydrophobic forces.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we have demonstrated that In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> can be profitably employed in the formation and activation of thioglycosides under solvent-free conditions and without the aid of an additional copromoter as in the conventional methods. The In(OTf)<sub>3</sub>-promoted *O*-glycosylation in solution-phase was, however, ineffective in the absence of added NIS. Using NIS as a coreagent the *O*-glycosylation was also facile and effective in ether although the desired stereoselectivity was poorer compared to the solvent-free reaction. Further work exploring wider applications of the solvent-free methodology is in progress in our laboratory. The distinct

morphological features observed in the transmission electron micrographs of thiogalactosides **10α** and **10β** clearly suggest their self-assembly properties that must be distinctly different from each other. Optimization of their structures by semiempirical quantum chemical methods has revealed the clearly distinguishing features of their association up to the size of tetrameric units and are thus supportive of the differently organized structures obtained on TEM imaging.

## EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

All the reagents used were as purchased without further purification. Solvents used for reactions were dried according to standard methods. Reactions were monitored by TLC, which was performed with 0.2 mm precoated silica gel 60 F254 aluminum sheets. Compounds were detected by dipping the TLC plates in an ethanolic solution of sulfuric acid (5%, v/v) and heating them. Melting points were determined on a melting point apparatus. Specific rotations were recorded on a digital Polarimeter at room temperature (approximately 20–25 °C). NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were referenced using either residual solvent signals, or tetramethylsilane in the respective deuterated solvents. Wherever necessary <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H COSY and <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>13</sup>C HMQC spectra were used additionally to confirm the NMR peak assignments. Splitting patterns are described as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), and broad (br); the value of chemical shifts (δ) are given in ppm, and coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz). Mass spectra were recorded on a MALDI TOF/TOF or HRMS (TOF) spectrometer.

**General Procedure for the Thioglycosylation of Per-O-acetylated Monosaccharides by Planetary Ball Mill.** The glycosyl acetate (1/3/6, 0.391 g, 1 mmol), thiophenol (0.250 g, 2.2 mmol) and In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (0.141 g, 0.25 mmol) were allowed to mix in a stainless steel (SS) jar (capacity, 50 mL) containing SS balls (10 numbers, 10 mm o.d.) for 1.5 h (or until the reaction was complete: TLC, EtOAc–hexanes, 1:1) in a planetary ball mill (Retsch PM-100, Retsch GmbH & Co. KG, Germany) at 550 rpm. [For reactions on a scale of 15 g or more of the glycosyl acetate, 2.0 mol equiv of the thiol were mixed in the SS jar (125 mL capacity) using SS balls (6 numbers, 20 mm o.d.) for about 80–90 min.] EtOAc followed by water were then added to the mixture, and the organic layer was separated and washed successively with aq Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution (10%, w/v) and water, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the respective crude thioglycoside that was purified by column chromatography on silica using EtOAc–hexanes (2:3) as eluent. In the case of preparations on multigram scale, the products where they are crystalline could be isolated by crystallization from diethyl ether–*n*-hex to obtain analytically pure product. The spectral data were in accordance with the expected structure and in agreement with the literature values (3,<sup>6</sup> 7,<sup>3,7</sup> 8, 9,<sup>3</sup> 10,<sup>8</sup> and 11<sup>9</sup>).

**General Procedure for the Thioglycosylation Starting from Free Sugars by Planetary Ball Mill.** The desired free sugar, 12/13/15/17/18/20/22/24 (1 g), acetic anhydride (1.1 mol equiv per –OH group; typically 2.9 mL/g of hexose or 2.2 mL/g of a disaccharide made of hexose units) and In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (catalytic, 0.1–0.2 mol %; typically 5 mg/g of sugar)<sup>26</sup> were allowed to mix in a stainless steel (SS) jar (capacity, 50 mL) containing SS balls (10 numbers, 10 mm o.d.) for 30 min (or until the reaction was complete: TLC, EtOAc–hexanes, 1:1) at 550 rpm as described above. The mixture was added to crushed ice, and after stirring well the precipitated per-*O*-acetylated sugar was separated by filtration at the pump, washed successively with cold aq Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution (10%, w/v) and water, and dried. The dried product was transferred back to the milling bowl, and after adding thiophenol (typically, 1.35 g in the case of a hexose) and In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (typically, 0.78 g, 25 mol % in the case of a hexose) the mixture was milled for 1.5 h. The product (5,<sup>3,4,10</sup> 14,<sup>11</sup> 16,<sup>12</sup> 7,<sup>3,6,7</sup> 19,<sup>6</sup> 21,<sup>13</sup> 23,<sup>14</sup> 25,<sup>15</sup> 4B,<sup>16</sup> respectively) was isolated and purified as described above. The details are given in Table 4.

**Phenyl 3,4,6-tetra-*O*-acetyl-2-deoxy 2-phthaliimido-1-thio-β-D-galactopyranoside (3).** Yield 86% (0.45 g). White solid: mp 136.1 °C; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +61.4 (c 1.0 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>), (lit +70.5 c 1.5 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);



Ph-H) 7.34–7.27 (m, 3H, Ph-H), 5.50 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 1.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 3.3$  Hz, H-2), 5.41 (d,  $J_1 = 1.6$  Hz, 1H, H-1), 5.29 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 10.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 3.3$  Hz, H-3), 5.17 (t, 1H,  $J_1 = 9.8$  Hz, H-4), 4.39–4.32 (m, 1H, H-5), 2.20, 2.09, 2.01 (3s, 9H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.25 (d, 3H,  $J_1 = 6.2$  Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.1 (2  $\times$  COCH<sub>3</sub>), 169.9 (COCH<sub>3</sub>), 133.3, 131.8, 129.2, 127.9, 85.7, 71.3, 71.1, 69.4, 67.8, 20.9 ( $\times 2$ ), 20.7 (CHSCO), 17.3 (C-6); M.W. (C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>7</sub>S) 383.45; ESI-MS  $m/z$  405.10 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>.

**Phenyl 2,3,6-tri-O-acetyl-4-O-(2',3',4',6'-tetra-O-acetyl- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-1-thio- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (23).** Yield 64% (0.47 g). White solid: mp 89–90 °C; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> –21.7 (c 1 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.49–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.27 (m, 3H), 5.35 (d,  $J_1 = 3.2$  Hz, 1H, H-4'), 5.22 (t,  $J = 9.1$  Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.11 (dd,  $J_1 = 10.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 7.8$  Hz, 1H, H-2'), 4.95 (dd,  $J_1 = 10.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 3.1$  Hz, H-3'), 4.90 (t,  $J_1 = 9.5$  Hz, 1H, H-2), 4.68 (d,  $J_1 = 10.1$  Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.54 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 1.8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.9$  Hz, H-6), 4.47 (d, 1H,  $J_1 = 7.8$ , H-1'), 4.15–4.05 (m, 3H, 2xH-6', H-6), 3.88–3.85 (m, 1H, H-5'), 3.78–3.73 (m, 1H, H-4), 3.67–3.63 (m, 1H, H-5), 2.17, 2.15, 2.13, 2.10, 2.09, 1.98, 1.97 (7s, 21H, COCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.3, 170.3, 170.1, 170.1, 169.7, 169.1, 169.0, 133.1, 131.8, 128.9, 128.3, 101.0, 85.5, 76.7, 76.1, 73.8, 71.0, 70.7, 69.1, 66.6, 62.1, 60.8, 20.8, 20.6, 20.5; M.W. (C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>40</sub>O<sub>17</sub>S) 728.19; ESI-MS  $m/z$  751.20 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>.

**Phenyl 2,3,6-tri-O-acetyl-4-O-(2',3',4',6'-tetra-O-acetyl- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-1-thio- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (25).** Yield 65% (0.48 g). White solid: mp 89–90 °C; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +42.2 (c 1 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.50–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 3H), 5.41 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.36 (t,  $J = 9.8$  Hz, 1H), 5.30 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.06 (t,  $J = 9.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.86 (dd,  $J_1 = 4.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 10.5$  Hz, H-1), 4.84 (t,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.75 (d,  $J = 10.1$  Hz), 4.55 (dd,  $J_1 = 2.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 12.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.27–4.21 (m, 2H), 4.06 (dd,  $J_1 = 12.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.98–3.93 (m, 2H), 3.76–3.71 (m, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.12, 2.08, 2.06, 2.05, 2.01, 1.99 (7s, 21H, COCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.6, 170.4, 170.2, 170.0, 169.6, 169.5, 133.4, 131.3, 129.2, 128.9, 128.5, 95.6, 85.1, 76.5, 76.1, 72.4, 70.7, 70.0, 69.3, 68.5, 68.0, 62.8, 61.9, 20.9, 20.8, 20.7, 20.6, 20.5; M.W. (C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>40</sub>O<sub>17</sub>S) 728.19; ESI-MS  $m/z$  751.21 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>.

**Phenyl 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzoyl- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside (4B).** Yield 67% (0.43 g). White solid: mp 81.3 °C; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +81.7 (c 1 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>), (lit. +81.5 c 1 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2926, 1728, 1601, 1266, 1094, 1069, 1026, 749, 707; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.05–7.22 (m, 25H, Ph-H), 6.02 (bd,  $J = 2.9$  Hz, 1H, H-4), 5.77 (t,  $J = 9.9$  Hz, 1H, H-2), 5.61 (dd,  $J_1 = 3.2$  Hz,  $J_2 = 9.9$  Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.05 (d,  $J = 9.9$  Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.69–4.64 (m, 1H, H-5), 4.48–4.39 (m, 2H, H-6); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.1, 165.5, 165.4, 165.2, 134.0, 133.6, 133.4, 133.3, 131.2, 130.0, 129.8, 129.8, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 85.9, 76.7, 75.1, 73.0, 68.3, 67.8, 62.5; MS (MALDI-TOF) for C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>10</sub>S, calculated  $m/z$  688.05, found  $m/z$  726.987 [M + K]<sup>+</sup>, 711.013 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>.

**General Procedure for the Activation of Thioglycosides under Solvent-Free Conditions.** A mixture of the desired benzylated phenyl thioglycoside (for 26, 0.632 g, 1 mmol), the acceptor alcohol (for 27, 0.310 g, 1.2 mmol), and In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (0.141 g, 0.25 mmol) were allowed to mix in a stainless steel (SS) jar (capacity, 50 mL) containing SS balls (10 numbers, 10 mm o.d.) for 90 min (or until the reaction was complete: TLC, EtOAc–hexanes, 1:1) at 500 rpm. The mixture was taken up in EtOAc and was transferred to a separatory funnel containing crushed ice. The organic layer was washed successively with cold aq Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution (10%, w/v) and water and after drying (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) was concentrated to dryness under reduced pressure to afford the respective crude disaccharide that was purified by column chromatography on silica using EtOAc–hexanes (1:4) as eluent.

**General Procedure for the Activation of Thioglycosides in Solution-Phase.** To a solution of the desired benzylated phenyl thioglycoside (for 26, 0.632 g, 1 mmol) and the acceptor alcohol 27, (0.260 g, 1 mmol) was added NIS (0.225 g, 1 mmol) followed by In(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (0.030 g, 0.05 mmol), and the mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 5–10 min (or until the reaction was complete: TLC, EtOAc–hexanes, 1:1). The mixture was diluted with EtOAc and was

transferred to a separatory funnel containing crushed ice. The organic layer was washed successively with cold aq Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution (10%, w/v) and water and after drying (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) was concentrated to dryness under reduced pressure to afford the respective crude disaccharide that was purified by column chromatography on silica using EtOAc–hexanes (1:4) as eluent.

**1,2,3,4-Di-O-isopropylidene-6-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranose (28 $\alpha$ ).** Yield 7% (0.045 g). Oil: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +51.0 (c 2 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.4–7.2 (m, 20H), 5.51 (d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.00 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.92 (d,  $J = 11.4$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.82 (d,  $J = 11.7$  Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.74–4.71 (m, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.58–4.55 (m, 2H, Ph-H, H-3), 4.48–4.38 (q,  $J = 11.8$  Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.32–4.28 (m, 2H, H-4 and H-2) 4.06–3.93 (m, 5H, H-2, H-3, H-4, H-5, H-5'), 3.80–3.70 (m, 2H, H-6'), 3.58–3.49 (m, 2H, H-6); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  139.3, 139.0, 138.8, 128.3 ( $\times 2$ ), 128.2, 127.6, 109.2, 108.6, 97.6, 96.4, 92.0, 79.0, 76.8, 74.8, 73.4, 73.1, 72.7, 70.9, 70.7, 70.6, 69.2, 68.7, 66.4, 30.2, 29.7, 29.6, 29.4; MS (MALDI-TOF) for C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>54</sub>O<sub>11</sub>Na, calculated  $m/z$  782.366, found 821.330 [M + K]<sup>+</sup>, 805.356 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>.

**1,2,3,4-Di-O-isopropylidene-6-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranose (28 $\beta$ ).** Yield 54% (0.42 g). Oil: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> –107.4 (c 1 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.5–7.2 (m, 20H), 5.58 (d, 1H, H-1'), 5.06 (d, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.94 (d, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.81–4.70 (m, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.62 (d, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.58 (d, 1H, H-3'), 4.46–4.39 (m, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph, H-1), 4.33 (dd, 1H, H-2'), 4.23 (dd, 1H, H-4'), 4.14 (dd, 1H, H-6a'), 4.10–4.08 (m, 1H, H-5'), 3.90–3.89 (m, 1H, H-4), 3.85 (dd, 1H, H-2), 3.72 (dd, 1H, H-6b'), 3.62–3.57 (m, 2H, H-5, H-3), 3.54–3.50 (m, 2H, H-6a, H-6b), 1.50 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.45 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.35 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.32 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  139.2, 138.6, 139.9, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.5, 109.3, 108.6, 104.7, 96.4, 81.9, 79.1, 76.7, 74.7, 74.5, 73.5, 73.3, 73.1, 71.5, 70.8, 70.5, 69.6, 68.6, 67.4, 29.7, 29.4, 26.0, 25.9, 25.1, 24.4. MS (MALDI-TOF) for C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>54</sub>O<sub>11</sub>Na, calculated  $m/z$  782.366, found 805.356 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 821.330 [M + K]<sup>+</sup>.

**Methyl 2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl-6-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ / $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside (30 $\alpha$ / $\beta$ ).** Yield 64% (0.54 g). Oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, for 30 $\beta$ )  $\delta$  7.41–7.27 (m, 20H, Ph-H of benzyl), 5.48 (t, 1H, H-3), 5.07 (t, 1H, H-4), 4.97–4.85 (m, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph, H-1), 4.84–4.79 (m, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph, H-1', H-2), 4.77 (d, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.70 (d, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.59 (d, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.45 (d, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.40 (d, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.07 (bdd, 1H, H-6a), 4.01–3.90 (m, 4H, H-5, H-6b, H-2', H-4'), 3.77–3.73 (q, 1H, H-3), 3.51–3.47 (m, 3H, H-5', H-6a', H-6b'), 3.31 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.06, 2.05, 2.03 (s, 9H, 3  $\times$  COCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.1, 169.8, 138.8, 138.7, 138.0, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 127.7, 127.6, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 97.7 (C-1 $\beta$ ), 96.5, 78.6, 75.1, 75.0, 74.7, 73.4, 73.1, 72.9, 71.0, 70.4, 69.6, 69.2, 69.1, 67.9, 66.2, 55.2, 20.8, 20.7, 20.7; MS (MALDI-TOF) for C<sub>48</sub>H<sub>58</sub>O<sub>11</sub>Na, calculated  $m/z$  842.351, found 881.315 [M + K]<sup>+</sup>, 865.346 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>.

**2-O-(2,3,4,6-Tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl) diethyl tartrate (32).** Yield 36% (0.26 g). Oil: racemate; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.44–7.22 (m, 20H, Ph-H), 5.35 (d,  $J_1 = 3.6$  Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.93 (d, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.84 (d, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.73–4.65 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph, C–H of diethyl tartrate), 4.55 (d, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.45 (d, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.38 (d, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.25–4.21 (m, 3H, COOCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.10 (dd,  $J_1 = 3.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 10.1$  Hz, 1H, H-2), 4.02–3.94 (m, 1H, COOCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.89 (m, 1H, H-4), 3.84 (dd,  $J_1 = 2.7$  Hz,  $J_2 = 10.1$  Hz, 1H, H-3), 3.68 (bt, 1H, H-5), 3.53 (t, 1H, H-6a), 3.46 (t, 1H, H-6b), 1.29 (t, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.18 (t, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.1, 168.4, 138.8, 138.6, 138.2, 137.9, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2 ( $\times 2$ ), 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 127.6, 127.6, 127.5, 95.3, 78.0, 77.4, 77.3, 77.1, 76.8, 75.9, 74.9, 74.8, 74.2, 73.5, 73.4, 72.5, 72.4, 70.1, 68.4, 61.9, 61.6, 14.2, 14.1; MS (ESI HRMS-TOF) C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>48</sub>O<sub>11</sub>Na, calculated  $m/z$  751.3094 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, found  $m/z$  751.3094 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>.

**2,3-Di-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranosyl) diethyl tartrate (33).** Yield 47% (0.57 g). Oil: racemate; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.49–7.23 (m, 20H), 5.31 (d,  $J_1 = 3.4$  Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.98 (t, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.86–4.80 (m, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph, C–H of diethyl tartrate), 4.72 (d, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.59 (d, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.49 (d,

1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.43 (d, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.28–4.23 (dd, 1H, COOCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.19 (dd,  $J_1 = 3.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 10.1$  Hz, 1H, H-2), 4.13–4.08 (m, 1H, COOCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.04–4.01 (m, 2H, H-3, H-4), 3.97–3.92 (bm, 1H, H-5), 3.61–3.54 (m, 2H, H-6<sub>a</sub>, H-6<sub>b</sub>), 1.23 (t, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  168.4, 139.2, 138.8, 138.7, 138.5, 138.1, 138.0, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.22, 128.21, 128.2, 128.1, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 127.3, 127.3, 96.3, 78.8, 75.8, 75.2, 74.8, 74.6, 74.0, 73.7, 73.6, 73.4, 73.1, 71.8, 70.1, 68.5, 61.6, 61.3, 14.2; MS (ESI HRMS-TOF) C<sub>76</sub>H<sub>82</sub>O<sub>16</sub>Na, calculated  $m/z$  1273.5501 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, found  $m/z$  1273.5500 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>.

**Computational Details.** The monomeric geometries were optimized using the dispersion-corrected semiempirical PM3-D method,<sup>27</sup> using the G09 package.<sup>28</sup> All the other geometries were optimized using PM3-D method. This method has been reported to be helpful, reliable, and applicable in the optimization studies of large molecules, and save considerable computing time. PM3-D method incorporates dispersion effects, used to model hydrophobic and dispersion interactions, at reduced computational expense. The detailed studies using PM3-D method provides insights into the structural details of dimers, polymeric structures and supramolecular systems. Initially, the geometry optimizations of monomers, **10 $\alpha$**  and **10 $\beta$** , were computed. These optimized geometries were employed for the dimer construction, and thereafter, the dimers were optimized. The dimerization energies were also calculated for both the anomers. The optimized geometries of dimers were utilized for the construction of the tetramers and further optimized. The optimized tetrameric geometries of **10 $\alpha$**  and **10 $\beta$**  provide a clear depiction of the arrangement, which was correlated with TEM analysis. The energy and geometric parameters used in the discussion are based on PM3-D method unless otherwise specifically mentioned. Single point calculations were carried out on the two monomers of **10 $\alpha$**  and **10 $\beta$**  using B3LYP/3-21G method.<sup>29</sup>

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### ● Supporting Information

Experimental procedures, compound characterization data, and computational details. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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