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### Regioselective Hydrolysis of Carbohydrate Secondary Acyl Esters By Lipases<sup>1</sup>

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REGIOSELECTIVE HYDROLYSIS OF CARBOHYDRATE SECONDARY ACYL ESTERS  
BY LIPASES<sup>1</sup>

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ABSTRACT

Treatment of 1,6-anhydro-2,3,4-tri-O-n-butanoyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose (3) with lipase preparations of *Pseudomonas* sp., *Mucor miehei* or *Chromobacterium viscosum* in aqueous media resulted in regioselective removal of the acylester at C-4 to afford 1,6-anhydro-2,3-di-O-n-butanoyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose (5). The C-2 acylester of compound 5 was efficiently removed with lipase of *Candida cylindracea* to give 1,6-anhydro-3-O-n-butanoyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose (6). For 1,6-anhydro-2,3,4-tri-O-n-butanoyl- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranose (4) a different pattern of enzymatic hydrolysis was observed, indicating that the stereochemistry at C-4 is important for enzymatic hydrolysis.

INTRODUCTION

Carbohydrates can be used as cheap, renewable raw materials<sup>2</sup> in the preparation of e.g. acylated glycosides,<sup>3</sup> alkyl (poly)glycosides<sup>4</sup> and microbial biosurfactants.<sup>5</sup> Such compounds vary widely in their hydrophilicity-lipophilicity balance (i.e. HLB values),<sup>6</sup> are usually biodegradable,<sup>7</sup> and are used mainly in feed, cosmetics and in the manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations.

Lipases (triacylglycerol ester hydrolases, E.C. 3.1.1.3) are versatile hydrolytic enzymes which are active at interfacial oil-water micro-emulsions.<sup>8</sup> In this respect lipases are distinguished from esterases, which show higher hydrolytic activity in homogeneous acyl ester solutions in water. Having in general a broad substrate specificity, together with a high regio- and stereo-selectivity, lipases have been used in the preparation of chiral intermediates to optically active pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals.<sup>9-10</sup> We have already shown that for lipase-catalysed regioselective hydrolysis of acylated glycosides it is not always necessary to use an oil in water emulsion. Thus, sometimes it may be advantageous in terms of selectivity and enzyme-activity to use the substrate in an (amorphous) flocculated form, or to use hydrophobic cosolvents.<sup>11</sup> We now report the treatment of 1,6-anhydro-2,3,4-tri-O-n-butanoyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose (3)<sup>12</sup> with various lipolytic enzymes originating from yeast (*Candida cylindracea*), mold (*Mucor miehei*), bacteria (*Chromobacterium viscosum*, *Pseudomonas sp.*), plant (wheat germ) and animal tissue (porcine liver and pancreas)<sup>13</sup> in order to investigate:

- if regioselective hydrolysis of one out of three secondary axially orientated acyl esters occurs,
- if the compound thus produced shows interesting surface-tension lowering properties.

1,6-Anhydro-2,3,4-tri-O-n-butanoyl- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranose (4) was used for comparison.

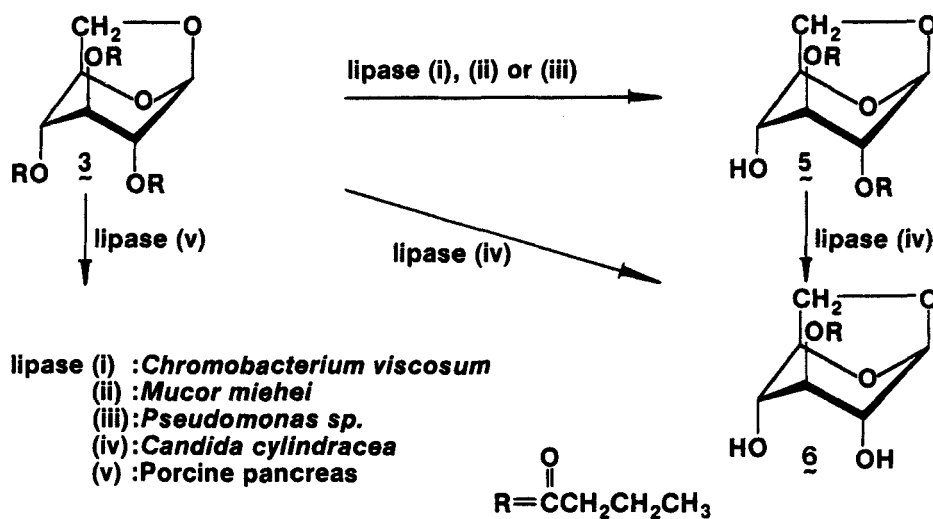
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Treatment of compound 3 (0.4 g, 1.07 mmol) with varying amounts of porcine pancreatic lipase (50-200 mg) in phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 8), resulted in a mixture of products [(5), (6) and 1,6-anhydro-2-O-butanyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose]. With porcine liver esterase and an experimental esterase from NOVO-Industries (SP-122) hardly any conversion was observed. When treated with a lipase preparation of *Chromobacterium viscosum* (4.6 mg) at 20 °C in phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 8), compound 3 (2 g, 5.36 mmol) was transformed into one product exclusively after stirring overnight. After work-up, analysis

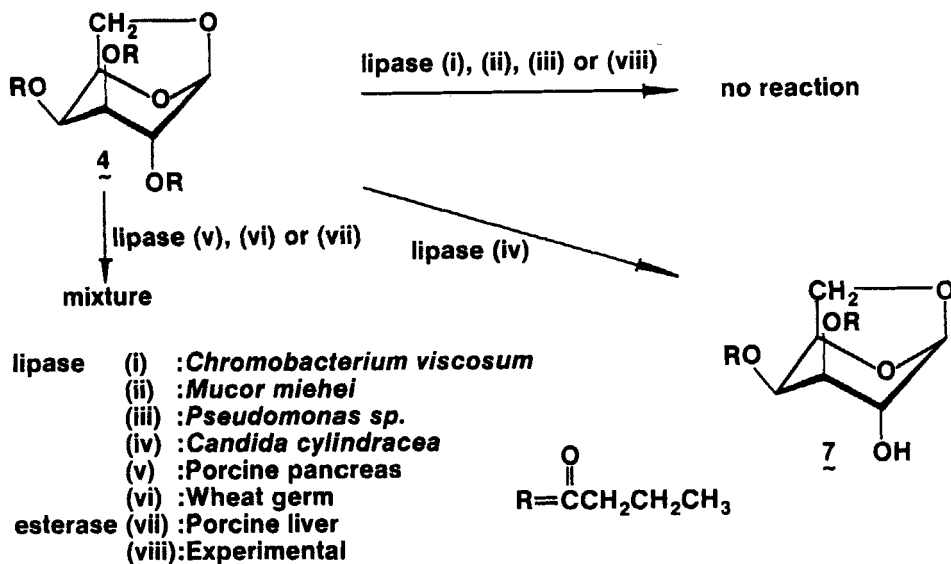
( $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ , XH corr. NMR) proved that a free hydroxyl group was positioned at C-4, indicating that regioselective enzymatic hydrolysis of the acyl ester at C-4 had taken place, to afford compound **5** in a 91 % isolated yield. With crude lipase preparations from *Mucor miehei*, and *Pseudomonas* species the same phenomenon was observed, resulting in exclusive formation of **5**. Simultaneous acyl migration through formation of acyl-oxonium ions on the vicinal trans-diaxial system<sup>12,14</sup> was not observed.

Further, when compound **3** (2 g, 5.37 mmol) was treated with lipase from *Candida cylindracea* (1 g) in aqueous medium formation of two products was observed after 1.5 hours. After work-up, the product migrating faster on Kieselgel 60 was identified as compound **5**, whereas the more polar product was shown to be 1,6-anhydro-3-O-n-butanoyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose (**6**) (47 % yield;  $[\alpha]^{20} - 62.3$  (C1,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ )).

Upon extension of reaction time compound **5** was further converted into (**6**) with concomitant formation of 1,6-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose (**1**). These results indicate that for lipase of *Candida cylindracea* enzymatic deacylation of **3** first takes place at C-4 after which the



Scheme 1



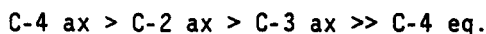
Scheme 2

acyl ester at C-2 is being hydrolysed subsequently, the C-3 acyl ester being removed at a very low rate. In fact, when compound 5 (2.51 g, 8.30 mmol) was treated with lipase from *Candida cylindracea* (2 x 250 mg) for 8 hours in phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 7.5, 50 ml) compound 6 could indeed be isolated in 77 % yield.

Next we investigated the influence of the stereochemistry at C-4 on the rate of enzymatic hydrolysis, by using the butyrylated derivative of 1,6-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranose 2 (i.e. 4) instead of 3 as substrate. With the lipolytic enzymes from porcine pancreas, porcine liver and wheat germ compound 4 was transformed into a mixture of products.

Further experiments indicated that with lipase preparations from *Chromobacterium viscosum*, *Mucor miehei*, *Pseudomonas sp.* (or experimental esterase from NOVO) no conversion took place on compound 4. This suggests that the presence of an axially orientated *n*-butyryl ester at C-4 (as in 3) instead of an equatorial one (as in 4) is a prerequisite for recognition by lipases (i), (ii) and (iii) (see Schemes 1 and 2).

Thus these lipases function not only regio-, but also stereo-selectively at C-4 of compounds 3 and 4. In conclusion, the results reported here indicate the following order of decreasing reactivity of *n*-butyryl esters in 1,6-anhydroaldohexopyranoses towards enzymatic lipolytic action:<sup>15</sup>



This pattern is distinct from the reported preferential order of removal of acetyl groups in per-O-acylated D-glucose exerted by lipase of wheat germ<sup>16</sup> and *Aspergillus niger*<sup>17</sup>, which is most probably due to the different conformations adopted by compound 3 (<sup>1</sup>C<sub>4</sub> (D)) and acylated D-glucose (<sup>4</sup>C<sub>1</sub> (D)). Notably, the described pattern was observed for the chemical hydrolysis of 2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl-1,6-anhydro- $\beta$ -D-glucofuranose in methanolic hydrogen chloride (though with less selectivity).<sup>17</sup>

On acid hydrolysis with methanolic hydrogen chloride the esterified hydroxyl group at C-3 was found to be the most stable one when compared with C-2 and C-4, but it was the most labile one upon hydrolysis with hydrazine hydrate.<sup>18</sup>

As the enzyme reactions described in this paper were performed at (nearly) neutral pH, it is more conceivable that the ester group at C-3 (in compounds 3 and 4) is less accessible for the investigated lipases due to steric hindrance exerted by the 1,6-anhydro bridge. This would explain the relative stability of the C-3 acyl ester towards lipolytic action.

Finally, some relevant data for the enzymatic hydrolysis of compound 3 into 5 by lipase from *Pseudomonas* sp. were investigated.

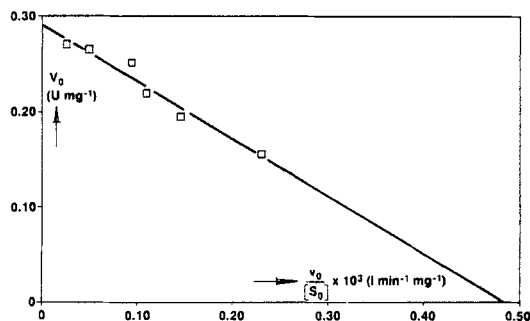


Fig. 1

Suspensions of given concentrations of compound 3 in 100 ml demineralised water (pH 7.5) were emulsified at 20.000 rpm with an Ultra-Turrax (Janke & Kunkel KG) for 20 seconds.

Then the steady state kinetics for the hydrolysis of compound 3 catalysed by lipase from Pseudomonas sp. (100 mg, lipase P from Amano) were determined when stirring at 37 °C and 250 rpm. From the Eadie-Hoffstee plot, depicted in Figure 1, the apparent  $K_m$  value (6.0 mmol/l) and  $V_{max}$  (290 IU/g) were deduced, indicating that Michaelis-Menten kinetics are applicable for this heterogeneous lipolytic reaction.<sup>19</sup> Additionally the ability of compounds 3 and 5 to reduce the surface tension (air-water) in aqueous medium was examined. By using a  $\gamma/lnc$  plot, compound 5 was shown to be surface active and capable of reducing the surface tension of water to 47.2 mN/m. The critical micelle concentration, at which the minimum was reached, was 1.08 g/l. Thus, in order to reduce the critical micelle concentration and to increase the surface-activity, clearly acyl esters of longer chain-length should be used on compounds 1 and 2.

The results reported in this paper show that regioselective hydrolysis of one out of two (5 → 6) or three (3 → 5, and 4 → 7) secondary n-butyryl esters can be performed easily on 1,6-anhydroaldohexopyranoses by using lipases (i) - (iv). Furthermore, along with regioselectivity lipases (i) - (iii) also exhibit a high degree of stereoselectivity (e.g. 3 → 5; 4), features which are not limited to the described D-glucose and D-galactose derivatives 3 and 4.<sup>20</sup> The compounds thus obtained are valuable synthons for the preparation of aminosugars, oligosaccharides and macrolide antibiotics. At the moment we are investigating the factors that influence the regioselective and stereo-specific hydrolysis of acyl esters (cq. esterification) of carbohydrates and optically active pharmaceuticals mediated by lipases and esterases.<sup>21</sup> In fact, the regioselective hydrolysis of either two primary and one secondary acyl ester or only one secondary acyl ester on a per-O-acetylated disaccharide will be reported soon.<sup>22</sup>

## EXPERIMENTAL

Compound 3 (2.0 g, 5.36 mmol) was suspended in 65 ml phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 7.5), after which lipase from Chromobacterium viscosum (4.6 mg) was added. After stirring overnight at room tem-

perature, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), and concentrated to dryness. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent dichloromethane/methanol, 99/1, v/v) to give 1.48 g of compound 5 as a syrup: yield 91 %;  $[\alpha]^{20}_D -24.4^\circ$  (c1, chloroform);  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.96 (dt, 6H, 2x  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.66 (m, 4H, 2x  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.33 (m, 4H, 2x  $\text{CH}_2\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), 2.91 (d, 1H, OH, J H4, OH 10.27 Hz), 3.55 (dd, 1H, H4), 3.82 (dd, 1H, H6 exo, J6exo, 6endo -7.62 Hz; J5,6 exo 5.81 Hz), 4.10 (dd, 1H, H6 endo), 4.59 (d, 1H, H5), 4.61 (d, 1H, H2, J2,3 1.38 Hz), 4.80 (t, 1H, H3), 5.44 (s, 1H, H1);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.70 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 19.43 ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2$ ), 36.97, 37.21 (2x  $\text{CH}_2\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), 66.06 (C6), 69.74 (C4), 69.93 (C2), 72.73 (C3), 77.26 (C5), 100.25 (C1) and 173.21 (C=O). For lipase-catalysed hydrolyses on substrate solutions more concentrated as reported in this example, it is preferable to perform the reaction under pH-stat conditions as otherwise the pH will drop too much, resulting in enzyme inactivation and incomplete conversion.

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