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# Synthesis of 2',3'-Dideoxynucleosides from 5-Alkoxymethyluracils

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Summary. A modified synthesis of protected 2,3-dideoxyribose 5 starting from *L*-glutamic acid (1) is described. Reaction of 5 with silylated 5-hydroxymethyluracil 7a and 5-alkoxymethyluracils 7b-e in the presence of trimethylsilyl triflate afforded an anomeric mixture of 2',3'-dideoxyuridine derivatives 8a-e and 9a-e. Deprotection with methanolic ammonia and separation by chromatography gave the corresponding nucleosides 10a-e and 11a-e. Treatment of 9b-e with tri(1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)phosphine oxide and subsequent reaction of 12b-e with ammonia in dioxane afforded the cytosine derivatives 13b-e which on treatment with methanolic ammonia gave the corresponding 2',3'-dideoxycytidine derivatives 14b-e and 15b-e. In contrast with the parent compounds, these alkoxymethyl derivatives had no appreciable activity against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1).

**Keywords.** 2',3'-Dideoxycytidines; 2',3'-Dideoxyuridines; 5-Alkoxymethyluracils; Human immunodeficiency virus.

#### Synthese von 2',3'-Dideoxynucleosiden aus 5-Alkoxymethyluracilen

Zusammenfassung. Ausgehend von L-Glutaminsäure (1) wird eine modifizierte Synthese von geschützter 2,3-Dideoxyribose (5) beschrieben. Reaktion von 5 mit silyliertem 5-Alkoxymethyluracilen 7b-e in Gegenwart von Trimethylsilyltriflat ergab anomere Mischungen der 2',3'-Dideoxyuridinderivate 8a-e und 9a-e. Abspaltung der Schutzgruppe mit methanolischen Ammoniak und chromatographische Trennung ergab die entsprechenden Nucleoside 10a-e und 11a-e. Behandlung von 9b-e mit Tri(1 H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)phosphinoxid und nachfolgende Reaktion von 12b-e mit Ammoniak in Dioxan ergab die Cytosinderivate 13b-e, welche nach Behandlung mit methanolischem Ammoniak die entsprechenden 2',3'-Dideoxycytidinderivate 14b-e und 15b-e ergaben. Im Gegensatz zur Stammverbindung hatten diese Alkoxymethylderivate keine nennenswerte Wirksamkeit gegen den menschlichen Immunschwächevirus (HIV-1).

# Introduction

Aquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) has become the most important epidemic in modern times. It is caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which passes a number of steps in the replicative cycle which are adequate targets for antiviral agents. The virus is cytopathic for helper/inducer T-cells [1–4]. There is a need for new compounds that may be effective in the therapy of that disease although some compounds have been identified as having an inhibitory effect. First of all they include 2',3'-dideoxynucleosides [5] of which 2',3'-dideoxycytidine (ddC), 3'-azido-3'-deoxythymidine (AZT) and 3'-deoxy-3'-fluorothymidine (FddThd) were most potent, but they also caused difficulties due to side effects [6]. In the case of AZT, the key toxicity which should be obviated is the suppression of bone marrow; in the case of ddC, the key toxicity is peripheral neuropathy.

The present work describes the synthesis of some new 2',3'-dideoxynucleosides from 5-alkoxymethyluracils with the purpose to find new active compounds with less prominent side effects than those observed for AZT and ddC. Since analogues of ddC are rather difficult to prepare, very few examples with substituents in 5position of the nucleobase have been tested for their activity against HIV. Substitution with 5-fluoro resulted in slightly reduced activity, compared to the lead compound ddC, whereas the corresponding 5-methyl of 5-bromo compounds were devoid of protective effects [7]. In this investigation we have therefore selected 5alkoxymethyl substituents ( $\sigma_m = 0.02$  and  $\sigma_p = 0.03$ ) with no electron attracting or donating properties like hydrogen [8], but with lipophilicities [8] lower and higher than that of hydrogen.

# **Results and Discussion**

The lactone alcohol 2 was prepared following the method of Taniguchi et al. [9] in which nitrous acid deamination of *L*-glutamic acid (1) in aqueous solution gave a lactone acid which was converted to the corresponding lactone ester and subsequently reduced with sodium borohydride in ethanol at room temperature. Toluoylation of 2 was accomplished with 1 equivalent of toluoyl chloride at 0°C in pyridine yielding crystalline 3 in 42% yield from 2. The toluoyl ester 3 was treated with diisobutylaluminum hydride (*DIBAL*) in *THF* at  $-75^{\circ}$ C to give the lactol 4. The hemiacetal 4 was unstable and therefore treated immediately with methanolic hydrogen chloride to give the corresponding methyl furanoside 5 in 70% yield from 3. Furanosides of type 5 are important synthons for preparation of ddC analogues and this paper demonstrates that the synthesis of 5 can be accomplished in good yields using less sophisticated reagents.



Scheme 1

5-Pentyloxymethyluracil (6 d) was obtained by the method of Bubbar and Gupta [10] by heating 5-hydroxymethyluracil (6 a) in *n*-pentanol in the presence of conc. hydrogen chloride in 81% yield. Coupling of 5-hydroxymethyluracil (6 a) and its ether derivatives 6 b-e after silylation with hexamethyldisilazane (*HMDS*) by the trimethylsilyl triflate method of Vorbrüggen [11] gave anomeric mixtures of N 3-coupled nucleosides 8 a-e (20-34%) and N 1-coupled nucleosides 9 a-e (37-54%). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR shift values of  $\alpha/\beta$ -anomers of N-3 coupled nucleosides are typical of the sugar moiety of 8 a (*Me*<sub>2</sub>SO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  28.3 (C-3'), 30.1 and 30.2 (C-2'), 67.2 and 67.3 (C-5'), 68.1 and 68.2 (C-4'), 85.5 and 85.6 (C-1'). In all cases the  $\beta/\alpha$  ratio of 9 was close to 2:3. Treatment of 9 a-e with a 1:1 mixture of methanol and conc. ammonia at room temperature for 48-72 h resulted in complete deprotection of the hydroxy group. The anomeric mixtures were separated by chromatography on silica gel to give 16-39% of the  $\alpha$ -anomers and 9-24% of the  $\beta$ -anomers.

4-(1,2,4-Triazol-1-yl)pyrimidin-2-ones 12 b-e ( $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -anomers) were prepared by treating 9 b-e with putative tris(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)phosphine oxide [12] in the presence of 1,2,4-triazole and triethylamine in acetonitrile at room temperature. Reaction of the 4-triazolo derivatives 12 b-e with aqueous ammonia in dioxane solution at room temperature yielded the cytosine derivatives 13 b-e. Subsequent removal of the toluoyl group by treatment with methanolic ammonia at room





temperature, followed by chromatographic purification, afforded the deprotected  $\alpha$ -anomers **14b**-e (21-32%) and the  $\beta$ -anomers **15b**-e (14-29%).



The  $\beta$ -anomer assignment of compound 11 was made by comparison of <sup>13</sup>C-NMR and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra with those of 5-ethyl-2',3'-dideoxyuridine [13]. The  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -isomer assignments of 14 and 15 were made by comparison with the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -anomers of 2',3'-dideoxycytidine [14], for which the 4'-H proton of an  $\alpha$ -anomer appears at a lower field than that of  $\beta$ -anomer and 5'-H protons of an  $\alpha$ -anomer appear at a higher field than those of a  $\beta$ -anomer.

# **Biological Evaluation**

5-Alkoxymethyl substituted 2,3-dideoxyuridines 11 a-e, cytidines 15 b-e and their  $\alpha$ -anomers 10 a-e and 14 c-e, respectively, as well as their 5-O protected analogues 9 a-e and 13 b, d, e were devoid of any anti-HIV activity, strain HTLV-IIIB in MT-4 cells. Cytotoxicity against MT-cells was found for compound 9 b (TD<sub>50</sub> = 200  $\mu$ M) and when the growth medium was 0.1 × was saturated with 13 d and 0.16 saturated with 13 e.

# **Experimental Part**

Melting points were determined in glass capillary tubes on a Büchi apparatus. Silica gel TLC was performed on 60 F-254 precoated plates (Merck) and column chromatography was performed on Merck silica gel (0.040–0.063 mm). Elemental analyses were carried out at NOVO Microanalytical Laboratory, Novo Allé, DK-2880 Bagsvaerd. Mass spectra were obtained on a Varian MAT 311 A mass spectrometer, the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR were determined on a Bruker AC 250 FT-NMR spectrometer using tetramethylsilane as the internal standard; chemical shifts are recorded in parts per million.

#### (S)- $\gamma$ -(4-Methylbenzoyloxymethyl)- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone [3; C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub>]

To a stirred solution of 2 (23.2 g, 0.20 mol) in dry pyridine (300 ml) at 0°C, *p*-toluoyl chloride (30.9 g, 0.20 mol) was added during 15 min. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h, heated at 80°C for 3 h, and then evaporated in vacuo to dryness. The residue was shaken with water

(250 ml), CHCl<sub>3</sub> (500 ml) was added and the organic layer was separated, washed with 10% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> aq., H<sub>2</sub>O, 10% HCl aq., H<sub>2</sub>O, dried, and evaporated under reduced pressure to give a syrup, ether (150 ml) was added to afford 19.72 g (42%) of pure **3** as a crystalline compound: M.p. 102–103°C; MS, m/z 235 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.05–2.70 (m, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub> and -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-), 4.42 (dd, J = 12.2 and 5.2 Hz, 5-H), 4.53 (dd, J = 12.2 and 3.0 Hz, 5-H), 4.87 (m, 4-H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2 *Ar*H), 7.91 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2 *Ar*H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  21.5 (*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 23.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 65.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>O-), 7.4 (CH), 126.5 (C-1'), 129.1 (C-3'), 129.6 (C-2'), 144.0 (C-4'), 166.0 (C=O), 176.3 (C=O).

#### Methyl 2,3-Dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-D-glycero-pentofuranoside [5; C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub>]

To a solution of 3 (10 g, 42.7 mmol) in 100 ml of dry THF at  $-75^{\circ}$ C under nitrogen with magnetic stirring for 2h was added dropwise a 1 M solution of DIBAL in hexane (78 ml, 76.5 mmol). After stirring for additional 0.5 h the excess of reagent was destroyed by cautious addition of water, then 6 M hydrochloric acid was added to dissolve the gelatinous precipitate. The aqueous solution was extracted with ether  $(3 \times 150 \text{ ml})$ , the organic solution was dried  $(Na_2SO_4)$  and evaporated at room temperature to give 4 as a syrup which at once was dissolved in 0.2% HCl-MeOH (60 ml). The solution was left for 15 min at room temperature with stirring, 5% KOH-MeOH was added to neutralize the mixture and the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Benzene (100 ml) was added to the residue and the insoluble material was filtered off. Evaporation of the filtrate under reduced pressure gave a syrup (9.8 g) which was chromatographed on silica gel with petroleum ether-ether (98:2). This afforded 7.47 g (70%) of 5 as a colourless oil: MS, m/z 250 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.97 (m, 2-H, and 3-H), 2.40 (s, p-CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.31 (s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.36 (s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.26-4.46 (m, 4-H and 5-H), 5.06 (dd, J = 2.8 and 4.6 Hz, 1-H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.94 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.98 (d, J = 7.ArH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), § 21.5 (p-CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.7 (C-3), 31.8 and 32.7 (C-2), 54.2 and 54.5 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 66.2 and 67.5 (C-5), 75.6 and 77.7 (C-4), 105.1 and 105.4 (C-1), 127.2 and 127.3 (C-1'), 128.9 (C-3'), 129.5 and 129.6 (C-2'), 143.4 and 143.5 (C-4'), 166.4 (C=O).

#### 5-Pentyloxymethyluracil [6d; C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]

Conc. HCl (4 ml) and 5-hydroxymethyluracil (6 a) (8 g, 56.3 mmol) were added to *n*-pentanol (400 ml). The suspension was stirred at room temperature for 15 min and then kept on an oil bath for 3 h at 100°C. The reaction mixture became homogenous after 20 min. The reaction mixture was cooled at  $-20^{\circ}$ C. The crystals were collected by filtration and recrystallized from ethanol to afford 9.7 g (81%): M.p. 220–221°C; MS *m*/*z* 212 (*M*<sup>+</sup>); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (*Me*<sub>2</sub>SO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  0.86 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.26 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.47 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.36 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.06 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 7.41 (s, 6-H), 9.87 (b, NH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (*Me*<sub>2</sub>SO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 64.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 69.4 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 108.9 (C-5), 141.5 (C-6), 152 (C-4), 163.9 (C-2).

#### *I-(2,3-Dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)uracils, a- and \beta-Anomers 9 a–e*

To a stirred solution of compound 5 (3.75 g, 15 mmol) and the silylated uracil derivatives [15] 7a–e (17 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (50 ml) was added dropwise trimethylsilyl triflate (3.1 ml, 17 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 ml) at 0°C. After the addition, the reaction solutions were stirred for 2–3 h at room temperature. The reaction solutions were diluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (250 ml) and extracted with ice-cold saturated aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution. The aqueous solutions were extracted with dichloromethane (2 × 150 ml). The combined organic solutions were washed with cold H<sub>2</sub>O (300 ml), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated under reduced pressure to give a syrup which was chromatographed on silica gel with CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH (98:2) to give 20–37% of 8a–e and 37–54% of 9a–e [compound 9e with ether-petroleum ether (8:2)]. The anomers of compound 9a, b, e were separated by HPLC with isocratic 29–40% ethanol in water on a reverse phase column (RP-4, 15–20 µm, 300 A) to give pure  $\alpha$ - und  $\beta$ -anomers.

#### 1-(2,3-Dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-hydroxymethyluracil [9 a (a)]

0.97 g (18%): M.p. 118–120°C; MS, m/z 360 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.93–2.59 (m, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>, 2'-H and 3'-H), 4.29–4.48 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>O, 5'-H), 4.74 (m, 4'-H), 6.13 (t, J = 4.9 Hz, 1'-H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.44 (s, 6-H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  20.4 (*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.2 (C-3'), 31.2 (C-2'), 57.1 (5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 64.8 (C-5'), 77.8 (C-4'), 86.7 (C-1'), 112.4 (C-5), 125.7 (C-1"), 128.0 (C-3"), 128.5 (C-2"), 135.8 (C-6), 142.8 (C-4"), 149.0 (C-2), 162.8 (C-4), 165.2 (C=O).

#### 2',3'-Dideoxy-5'-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-5-hydroxymethyluridine [9 a ( $\beta$ )]

0.65 g (12%): M.p. 79–81°C; MS, m/z 360 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.99–2.40 (m, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>, 2'-H and 3'-H), 4.23 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.43 (br s, 4'-H), 4.55 (br s, 5'-H), 6.08 (br s, 1'-H), 7.46 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, ArH), 7.90 (s, 6-H), 7.92 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  21.5 (*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.9 (C-3'), 32.2 (C-2'), 58.2 (5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 65.1 (C-5'), 78.7 (C-4'), 86.5 (C-1'), 113.7 (C-5), 126.6 (C-1''), 129.2 (C-3''), 129.5 (C-2''), 136.9 (C-6), 144.2 (C-4''), 150.3 (C-2), 163.9 (C-2), 166.3 (C=O).

## $I-(2,3-Dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-methoxymethyluracil [9b (<math>\alpha$ )]

1.35 g (24%), M.p. 89–92°C; MS, m/z 374 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.99–2.59 (m, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.44 (s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.20 (d, J = 12.7 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.27 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.39 (m, 5'-H), 4.75 (br s, 4'-H), 6.16 (br s, 1'-H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, ArH), 7.43 (s, 6-H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, ArH), 9.23 (br s, N 3-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  21.0 (*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 26.1 (C-3'), 31.0 (C-2'), 57.2 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 65.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 66.1 (C-5'), 78.0 (C-4'), 86.4 (C-1'), 110.1 (C-5), 126.7 (C-1"), 129.1 (C-3"), 129.2 (C-2"), 139.0 (C-6), 143.7 (C-4"), 150.1 (C-2), 162.7 (C-4), 165.5 (C=O).

#### 2',3'-Dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-5-methoxymethyluridine [9 b ( $\beta$ )]

0.89 g (16%); M.p. 119–120°C; m/z 374 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.02–2.51 (m, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>, 2'-H, and 3'-H), 3.25 (s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.05 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.48–4.63 (m, 4'-H and 5'-H), 6.11 (br s, 1'-H), 7.26 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.64 (s, 6-H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, ArH), 9.17 (s, N 3-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  21.0 (p-CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.6 (C-3'), 30.7 (C-2'), 57.1 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 65.5 (C-5'), 65.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 77.6 (C-4'), 85.3 (C-1'), 110.1 (C-5), 126.6 (C-1''), 129.1 (C-3''), 129.2 (C-2''), 138.2 (C-6), 143.7 (C-4''), 150.1 (C-2), 162.7 (C-4), 165.5 (C=O).

#### 5-Benzyloxymethyl-1-(2,3-dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)uracil [9 e (a)]

1.63 g (24%): M.p. 120–121°C; MS, m/z 344 ( $M^+$ -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CHO); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  1.86–2.51 (m, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>, 2'-H and 3'-H), 4.23–4.29 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>O and 5'-H), 4.36 (dd, J = 11.8 and 3.4 Hz, 5'-H), 4.51 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.73 (m, 4'-H), 6.09 (t, J = 5.4 Hz, 1'-H), 7.33 (m, 7 *Ar*H), 7.68 (s, 6-H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 *Ar*H), 11.42 (br, N 3-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  21.1 (*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 26.1 (C-3'), 31.0 (C-2'), 64.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 66.1 (C-5'), 71.4 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 78.4 (C-4'), 86.5 (C-1'), 110.3 (C-5'), 126.7 (C-1''), 127.3 (C-2'''), 128.1 (C-3'''), 129.2 (C-3''), 129.3 (C-2''), 138.4 (C-1'''), 139.1 (C-6), 143.7 (C-4''), 150.1 (C-2), 162.7 (C-4), 165.5 (C=O).

#### 5-Benzyloxymethyl-2',3'-dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)uridine [9 $e(\beta)$ ]

1.09 g (16%); M.p. 119–120°C; MS, m/z 344 ( $M^+$ -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CHO); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  1.84–2.45 (m, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>, 2'-H and 3'-H), 4.03 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.10 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.26–4.54 (m, OCH<sub>2</sub>, 4'-H, 5'-H), 6.03 (dd, J = 6.7 and 3.9 Hz, 1'-H), 7.28 (m, 7 *Ar*H), 7.65 (s, 6-H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 *Ar*H), 11.43 (br, N 3-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  21.1 (*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.8 (C-3'), 30.9 (C-2'), 64.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 65.6 (C-5'), 71.3 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 77.8 (C-4'), 85.5 (C-1'), 110.5 (C-5), 126.7 (C-1''), 127.3 (C-2'''), 128.1 (C-3'''), 129.2 (C-2'''), 129.3 (C-3''), 138.3 (C-6), 138.4 (C-1'''), 143.8 (C-4''), 150.2 (C-2), 162.6 (C-4), 165.6 (C=O).

#### 5-Alkoxy and 5-Hydroxymethyl-2',3'-dideoxyuridines 10 a-e, 11 a-e

A solution of 9a-e (1.6 mmol) in a 1:1 mixture (50 ml) of methanol and conc. ammonia was stirred at room temperature for 48–72 h. The reaction mixtures were concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain 10a+11a,  $C_{10}H_{14}N_2O_5 \cdot \frac{1}{4}H_2O$ ; 10b+11b,  $C_{11}H_{16}N_2O_5$ ; 10c+11c,  $C_{14}H_{22}N_2O_5$ ; 10d+11d,  $C_{15}H_{24}N_2O_5 \cdot \frac{1}{2}H_2O$ ; 10e+11e,  $C_{17}H_{20}N_2O_5$ . The anomeric mixtures were chromatographed on silica gel with CHCl<sub>3</sub> as eluent [compound 9a with CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH (98:2) to give pure  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -anomers.

#### 1-(2,3-Dideoxy-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-hydroxymethyluracil (10 a)

101 mg (26%), M.p. 161–163°C; MS m/z 242 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  1.78–2.37 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.41 (m, 5'-H), 4.16 (s, 5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.36 (m, 4'-H), 4.84 (br s, OH), 6.03 (t, J = 5.1 Hz, 1'-H), 7.45 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  25.7 (C-3'), 31.3 (C-2'), 55.8 (5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 63.4 (C-5'), 81.4 (C-4'), 86.0 (C-1'), 113.8 (C-5), 136.3 (C-6), 150.1 (C-2), 162.7 (C-4).

#### 2',3'-Dideoxy-5-hydroxymethyluridine (11 a)

93 mg (24%), M.p. 142–143°C; MS, m/z 242 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  1.81–2.28 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.61 (m, 5'-H), 4.02 (s, 4'-H), 4.14 (s, 5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.95 (br, OH), 6.00 (s, 1'-H), 7.78 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  25.3 (C-3'), 31.4 (C-2'), 56.0 (5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 62.4 (C-5'), 81.2 (C-4'), 84.9 (C-1'), 113.6 (C-5), 136.8 (C-6), 150.2 (C-2), 162.7 (C-4).

#### 1-(2,3-Dideoxy-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-methoxymethyluracil (10b)

115 mg (28%); M.p. 110–111°C; MS, m/z 256 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.80–2.54 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.36 (s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.52 (dd, J = 12.0 and 5.3 Hz, 5'-H), 3.69 (dd, J = 11.93 and 3.2 Hz, 5'-H), 4.13 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.19 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.45 (m, 4'-H), 6.07 (dd, J = 5.7 and 4.2 Hz, 1'-H), 7.41 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  25.4 (C-3'), 32.1 (C-2'), 58.2 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 64.1 (C-5'), 66.3 (5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 81.7 (C-4'), 87.1 (C-1'), 111.0 (C-5), 137.4 (C-6), 150.3 (C-2), 163.0 (C-4).

#### 2',3'-Dideoxy-5-methoxymethyluridine (11 b)

37 mg (9%); M.p. 123–124°C; MS, m/z 256 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  1.81–2.36 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.22 (s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.54 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 5'-H), 3.70 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 5'-H), 4.03 (m, 5-CH<sub>2</sub> and 4'-H), 5.06 (br s, OH), 5.96 (dd, J = 6.6 and 3.3 Hz, 1'-H), 8.03 (s, 6-H), 11.31 (br s, N3-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  24.7 (C-3'), 31.8 (C-2'), 57.1 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 61.9 (C-5'), 66.2 (5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 81.5 (C-4'), 85.1 (C-1'), 109.3 (C-5), 139.3 (C-6), 150.1 (C-2), 162.7 (C-4).

#### 1-(2,3-Dideoxy-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-(1-methylpropoxymethyl)uracil (10 c)

186 mg (39%); M.p. 86–88°C; MS m/z 298 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.91 and 0.92 (2 xt, J = 7.4 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.17 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.54 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.85–2.59 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.46 (hex, J = 6.1 Hz, OCH), 3.57 (dd, J = 12.0 and 5.4 Hz, 5'-H), 3.75 (dd, J = 12.0 and 3.2 Hz, 5'-H), 4.27 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.46 (br s, 4'-H), 6.15 (dd, J = 5.9 and 4.1 Hz, 1'-H), 7.44 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.7 (C-3'), 29.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.3 (C-2'), 62.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 64.4 (C-5'), 77.2 (OCH), 81.8 (C-4'), 87.3 (C-1'), 112.4 (C-5), 136.5 (C-6), 150.3 (C-2), 162.7 (C-4).

## 2',3'-Dideoxy-5-(1-methylpropoxymethyl)uridine (11 c)

67 mg (14%); hygroscopic (solid); MS, m/z 298 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.91 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.17 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.54 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.93–2.48 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.48 (hex, J = 6.0 Hz, OCH), 3.71 (dd, J = 12.2 and 4.4 Hz, 5'-H) 3.94 (dd, J = 12 and 2.4 Hz, 5'-H), 4.18–4.35 (m, 5-CH<sub>2</sub> and 4'-H), 5.34 (br s, OH), 6.10 (dd, J = 6.6 and 3.6 Hz, 1'-H), 7.78 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.1 (C-3'), 28.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.1 (C-2'), 62.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 63.3 (C-5'), 77.1 (OCH), 81.6 (C-4'), 86.3 (C-1'), 111.9 (C-5), 137.7 (C-6), 150.4 (C-2), 163.0 (C-4).

#### 1-(2,3-Dideoxy-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-pentyloxymethyluracil (10 d)

80 mg (16%): M.p. 86–89°C; MS, m/z 312 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.92 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.33 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.63 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.92–2.56 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.53–3.63 (m, OCH<sub>2</sub> and 5'-H), 3.77 (dd, J = 11.9 and 3.1 Hz, 5'-H), 4.24 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O, 4.31 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.51 (br s, 4'-H), 6.16 (t, J = 4.9 Hz, 1'-H), 7.44 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.6 (C-3'), 28.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.3 (C-2'), 64.3 (C-5'), 64.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 71.1 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 81.8 (C-4'), 87.2 (C-1'), 111.8 (C-5), 136.9 (C-6), 150.4 (C-2), 162.8 (C-4).

#### 2',3'-Dideoxy-5-pentyloxymethyluridine (11 d)

70 mg (14%): M.p. 83–85°C; MS, m/z 312 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.89 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.30 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.60 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.87–2.48 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.51 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.71 (dd, J = 12.0 and 4.3 Hz, 5'-H), 3.93 (dd, J = 12.0 and 2.7 Hz, 5'-H), 4.16–4.29 (m, 5-CH<sub>2</sub> and 4'-H), 6.09 (dd, J = 6.7 and 3.6 Hz, 1'-H), 7.83 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.9 (C-3'), 28.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.1 (C-2'), 63.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 64.6 (C-5'), 70.9 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 81.6 (C-4'), 86.3 (C-1'), 111.3 (C-5), 138.1 (C-6), 150.3 (C-2), 162.9 (C-4).

# 5-Benzyloxymethyl-1-(2,3-dideoxy-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)uracil (10 e)

160 mg (30%): M.p. 72–74°C; MS, m/z 332 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.98–2.46 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.56 (br s, 5'-H), 3.69 (br s, 5'-H), 4.31 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.39 (br s, 4'-H), 4.59 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.10 (br s, 1'-H), 7.33 (br s, ArH), 7.44 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  25.4 (C-3'), 32.1 (C-2'), 64.0 (C-5'), 64.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 72.6 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 81.7 (C-4'), 87.2 (C-1'), 111.2 (C-5), 127.3 (C-4"), 127.5 (C-2"), 128.1 (C-3"), 137.3 (C-6), 137.6 (C-1"), 150.2 (C-2), 162.9 (C-4).

#### 5-Benzyloxymethyl-2',3'-dideoxyuridine (11 e)

128 mg (24%): M.p. 75–77°C; MS, m/z 332 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.87–2.39 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.62 (dd, J = 12.0 and 4.0 Hz, 5'-H), 3.85 (dd, J = 12.0 and 2.4 Hz, 5'-H), 4.09 (br s, 4'-H), 4.27 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.56 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.04 (dd, J = 6.5 and 3.3 Hz, 1'-H), 7.27 (m, ArH), 7.89 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  24.7 (C-3'), 32.0 (C-2'), 62.9 (C-5'), 64.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 72.4 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 81.5 (C-4'), 86.2 (C-1'), 110.7 (C-5), 127.3 (C-6''), 127.4 (C-2''), 128.0 (C-3''), 137.6 (C-1''), 138.5 (C-6), 150.2 (C-2), 163.0 (C-4).

# *1-(2,3-Dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-alkoxymethyl-4-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)pyrimidin-2-one* **12 b-e**

Triethylamine (6.48 g, 46 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred, cooled (ice-water bath) mixture of 1,2,4-triazole (3.4 g, 48 mmol), phosphoryl chloride (0.97 ml, 10 mmol) and acetonitrile (30 ml). Compounds **9b–e** (5 mmol) in acetonitrile (20 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3–4 h. Triethylamine (4.5 ml, 32 mmol) and water (1.2 ml) were then added and the solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was partitioned between CHCl<sub>3</sub> (250 ml) and saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated to give **12 b–e** in 83–89%.

#### 5-Alkoxymethyl-1-(2,3-dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)cytosine 13b-e

A solution of 12b-e (4.6 mmol) and 20% aqueous ammonia (26 ml) in dioxane (80 ml) were stirred at room temperature. After 0.5–2 h the mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure. The anomers of compound 13b, d, e were separated by HPLC with isocratic 29–41% ethanol in water on a reverse phase solumn (RP-4, 15–20 µm, 300 A).

# 1-(2,3-Dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-methoxymethylcytosine [13 b ( $\alpha$ )]

0.82 g (48%): M.p. 161–162°C; MS, m/z 373 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.90–2.67 (m, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.33 (s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.23 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.36 (dd, J = 11.8 and 5.4 Hz, 5'-H), 4.43 (dd, J = 11.8 and 4.0 Hz, 5'-H), 4.74 (m, 4'-H), 6.12 (dd, J = 6.0 and 3.4 Hz, 1'-H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.41 (s, 6-H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  21.5 (*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 26.0 (C-3'), 32.7 (C-2'), 57.3 (OCH<sub>3</sub>) 65.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 69.5 (C-5'), 78.7 (C-4'), 88.5 (C-1'), 101.7 (C-5), 126.8 (C-1''), 129.0 (C-3''), 129.5 (C-2''), 138.9 (C-6), 143.8 (C-4''), 155.5 (C-2), 165.4 (C-4), 166.3 (C=O).

#### 2,3-Dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-5-methoxymethylcytidine [13 b ( $\beta$ )]

0.38 g (22%): M.p. 70–71°C; MS, m/z 373 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.90–2.54 (m, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.16 (s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.96 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.48–4.66 (m, 4'-H and 5'-H), 6.05 (br s, 1'-H), 7.26 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, ArH), 7.65 (s, 6-H), 7.93 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  21.1 (*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.6 (C-3'), 31.6 (C-2'), 56.6 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 65.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 67.4 (C-5'), 77.6 (C-4'), 85.8 (C-1') 102.0 (C-5), 126.7 (C-1"), 129.2 (C-3"), 129.3 (C-2"), 140.0 (C-6), 143.8 (C-4"), 154.7 (C-2), 164.4 (C-4), 165.5 (C = O).

# 1-(2',3'-Dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-pentyloxymethylcytosine[13d ( $\alpha$ )]

0.91 g (46%): M.p. 110–111°C; MS, m/z 429 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.89 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.30 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.59 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.90–2.67 (m, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.41 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.26 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.35 (dd, J = 11.8 and 5.4 Hz, 5'-H), 4.43 (dd, J = 11.8 and 4.0 Hz, 5'-H), 4.73 (t, J = 5.1 Hz, 4'-H), 5.85 (br, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.12 (dd, J = 5.9 and 3.2 Hz, 1'-H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.39 (s, 6-H), 7.64 (br, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.95 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2 ArH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.5 (*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.0 (C-3'), 28.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.7 (C-2'), 65.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 67.9 (C-5'), 70.0 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 78.7 (C-4'), 88.5 (C-1'), 102.0 (C-5), 126.8 (C-1''), 129.0 (C-3''), 129.5 (C-2''), 138.6 (C-6), 143.8 (C-4''), 155.5 (C-2), 165.4 (C-4), 166.4 (C=O).

# 2',3'-Dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-5-pentyloxymethylcytidine [13 d ( $\beta$ )]

0.67 g (34%): M.p. 82–84°C; MS, m/z 429 ( $M^+$ ), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.88 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.28 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.52 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.84–2.68 (m, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.23 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.98 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.04 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.48–4.66 (m, 4'-H and 5'-H), 6.06 (dd, J = 6.4 and 3.4 Hz, 1'-H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.64 (s, 6-H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.5 (*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.6 (C-3'), 28.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.0 (C-2'), 65.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 67.7 (C-5'), 69.9 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 78.8 (C-4'), 87.4 (C-1'), 102.1 (C-5), 126.8 (C-1''), 129.2 (C-3''), 129.5 (C-2''), 138.9 (C-6), 144.0 (C-4''), 155.5 (C-2), 165.2 (C-4), 166.2 (C=O).

5-Benzyloxymethyl-1-(2,3-dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)cytosine [13e (a)]

0.91 g (44%): M.p. 162–163°C; MS, m/z 449 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  1.93–2.51 (m, p-CH<sub>3</sub>, 2'-H and 3'-H), 4.28 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>O, 5'-H), 4.48 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.76 (br s, 4'-H), 6.06 (br s, 1'-H), 6.70 (br s, 4'-H), 70 (br s

NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.33–7.45 (m, NH<sub>2</sub> and 7 *Ar*H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 *Ar*H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (*Me*<sub>2</sub>SO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  21.1 (*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.9 (C-3'), 31.6 (C-2'), 65.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 66.2 (C-5'), 70.8 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 77.8 (C-4'), 87.0 (C-1'), 102.0 (C-5), 126.7 (C-1''), 127.3 (C-2'''), 127.5 (C-4'''), 128.1 (C-3'''), 129.1 (C-3''), 129.3 (C-2''), 138.2 (C-6), 140.7 (C-1'''), 143.7 (C-4''), 154.8 (C-2), 164.6 (C-4), 165.5 (C=O).

#### 5-Benzyloxymethyl-1-(2',3'-dideoxy-5-O-(4-methylbenzoyl)cytidine [13e ( $\beta$ )]

0.50 g (24%): M.p. 138–139°C; MS, m/z 449 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.85–2.62 (m, *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>, 2'-H and 3'-H), 4.07 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.13 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.32 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.49–4.66 (m, 4'-H and 5'-H), 6.07 (dd, J = 6.3 and 3.3 Hz, 1'-H), 7.22–7.36 (m, 7 *Ar*H), 7.67 (s, 6-H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2 *Ar*H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (*Me*<sub>2</sub>SO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  21.1 (*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.9 (C-3'), 31.6 (C-2'), 65.8 (C-5'), 65.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 70.8 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 77.7 (C-4'), 85.9 (C-1'), 102.0 (C-5), 127.4 (C-2'''), 128.1 (C-3'''), 129.2 (C-3''), 129.3 (C-2''), 138.1 (C-6), 140.1 (C-1'''), 143.7 (C-4''), 154.7 (C-2), 164.4 (C-4), 165.5 (C=O).

#### 5-Alkoxymethyl-1-(2,3-dideoxy-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)cytosines 14 b-e and 15 b-e

A solution of 13 b-e in half saturated solution of methanolic ammonia (120 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 24-48 h. The solvent was evaporated to give 14b+15b,  $C_{11}H_{17}N_3O_4$ ; 14c+15c,  $C_{14}H_{23}N_3O_4$ ; 14d+15d,  $C_{15}H_{25}N_3O_4$ ; 14e+15e,  $C_{17}H_{21}N_3O_4$ . The anomeric mixture was chromatographed on silica gel with 5-10% methanol in ether to give pure  $\alpha$ -anomer (14) and  $\beta$ -anomer (15).

#### 1-(2,3-Dideoxy-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-methoxymethylcytosine (14b)

376 mg (32%): M.p. 135–138°C; MS, m/z 255 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.89–2.63 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.32 (s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.59 (dd, J = 11.8 and 5.8 Hz, 5'-H), 3.72 (dd, J = 11.9 and 3.0 Hz, 5'-H), 4.22 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.47 (br s, 4'-H), 6.09 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1'-H), 7.42 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  25.4 (C-3'), 32.9 (C-2'), 57.3 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 64.5 (C-5'), 69.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 81.8 (C-4'), 88.0 (C-1'), 101.9 (C-5), 139.0 (C-6), 155.8 (C-2), 165.2 (C-4).

#### 2',3'-Dideoxy-5-methoxymethylcytidine (15b)

340 mg (29%): M.p. 170–171°C; MS m/z 255 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  1.70–2.30 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.21 (s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.55 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 5'-H), 3.72 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 5'-H), 4.02–4.16 (m, 4'-H and CH<sub>2</sub>O), 5.06 (s, OH), 5.91 (t, J = 3.6 Hz, 1'-H), 6.58 (br s, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.27 (br s, NH<sub>2</sub>), 8.01 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ ),  $\delta$  24.4 (C-3'), 32.4 (C-2'), 56.6 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 61.8 (C-5'), 67.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 81.5 (C-4'), 85.6 (C-1'), 101.2 (C-5), 141.0 (C-6), 154.8 (C-2), 164.4 (C-4).

#### 1-(2,3-Dideoxy-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-(1-methylpropoxymethyl)cytosine (14c)

287 mg (21%): M.p. 119–121°C; MS, m/z 297 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  0.83 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.09 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.44 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.76–2.32 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.36–3.68 (m, OCH, 5'-H), 4.17 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.28 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.40 (br s, 4'-H), 4.80 (br s, OH), 5.98 (br s, 1'-H), 6.40 (br s, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.30 (br s, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.55 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  9.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.4 (C-3'), 28.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.9 (C-2'), 63.4 (C-5'), 63.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 74.6 (OCH), 81.2 (C-4'), 86.7 (C-1'), 102.5 (C-5), 139.5 (C-6), 154.8 (C-2), 164.5 (C-4).

#### 2',3'-Dideoxy-5-(1-methylpropoxymethyl)cytidine (15 c)

191 mg (14%): M.p. 150–152°C; MS, m/z 297 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  0.82 and 0.83 (2×t, J = 7.3 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.08 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.36 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.73–2.37 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.39 (m, OCH), 3.55 (dd, J = 11.7 and 3.8 Hz, 5'-H), 3.70 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 5'-H), 4.02–4.26 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>O and

4'-H), 5.05 (br s, OH), 5.92 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1'-H), 6.41 (br s, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.31 (br s, NH<sub>2</sub>) 7.97 and 7.99 (2×s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  9.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.5 (C-3'), 28.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.4 (C-2'), 62.0 (C-5'), 63.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 74.4 (OCH), 81.5 (C-4'), 85.6 (C-1'), 101.9 (C-5), 140.2 (C-6), 154.8 (C-2), 164.5 (C-4).

#### 1-(2,3-Dideoxy-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-pentyloxymethylcytosine (14d)

444 mg (31%): M.p. 90–92°C; MS, m/z 311 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  0.86 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.28 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.50 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.74–2.34 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.34–3.68 (m, OCH<sub>2</sub> and 5'-H), 4.20 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.40 (m, 4'-H), 4.82 (br s, OH), 5.98 (dd, J = 6.0 and 3.6 Hz, 1'-H), 6.53 (br s, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.33 (br s, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.55 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.4 (C-3'), 27.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.9 (C-2'), 63.4 (C-5'), 65.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 68.8 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 81.2 (C-4'), 86.7 (C-1'), 102.0 (C-5), 140.0 (C-6), 154.8 (C-2), 164.3 (C-4).

#### 2',3'-Dideoxy-5-pentyloxymethylcytidine (15 d)

329 mg (23%): M.p. 128–129°C; MS, m/z 311 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  0.86 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.19 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.49 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.69–2.32 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.35 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.55 (dd, J = 11.9 and 3.5 Hz, 5-H), 3.71 (dd, J = 11.9 and 2.9 Hz, 5'-H), 4.03 (m, 4'-H), 4.15 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 5.08 (brs, OH), 5.92 (dd, J = 6.5 and 2.5 Hz, 1'-H), 6.52 (brs, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.31 (brs, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.99 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.5 (C-3'), 27.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.4 (C-2'), 61.9 (C-5'), 66.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 68.8 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 81.5 (C-4'), 85.6 (C-1'), 101.5 (C-5), 140.6 (C-6), 154.8 (C-2), 164.4 (C-4).

#### 1-(2,3-Dideoxy-a-D-glycero-pentofuranosyl)-5-benzyloxymethylcytosine (14e)

381 mg (25%): M.p. 181–183°C; MS, m/z 331 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  1.76–2.35 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.45 (m, 5'-H), 4.33 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.41 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 4'-H), 4.49 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.85 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, OH), 5.99 (dd, J = 5.9 and 3.5 Hz, 1'-H), 6.69 (br, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.34 (m, ArH), 7.59 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  25.5 (C-3'), 31.9 (C-2'), 63.4 (C-5'), 65.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 70.7 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 81.3 (C-4'), 86.7 (C-1'), 101.8 (C-5), 127.3 (C-4''), 127.5 (C-2''), 128.1 (C-3''), 138.2 (C-1''), 140.2 (C-6), 154.8 (C-2), 164.5 (C-4).

# 5-Benzyloxymethyl-2',3'-dideoxycytidine (15e)

274 mg (18%): M.p. 156–158°C; MS, m/z 331 ( $M^+$ ); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  1.73–2.30 (m, 2'-H and 3'-H), 3.55 (m, 5'-H), 3.71 (m, 5'-H), 4.02 (m, 4'-H), 4.27 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.46 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 5.07 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, OH), 5.92 (t, J = 3.6 Hz, 1'-H), 6.65 (br s, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.33 (m, ArH), 8.02 (s, 6-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR ( $Me_2$ SO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  24.5 (C-3'), 32.4 (C-2'), 61.9 (C-5'), 66.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>O), 70.7 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 81.5 (C-4'), 85.7 (C-1'), 101.3 (C-5), 127.3 (C-4''), 127.5 (C-2''), 128.1 (C-3'), 138.2 (C-1''), 141.0 (C-6), 154.8 (C-2), 164.4 (C-4).

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