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## Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids

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### Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of 3-Chloro-4-(D-Ribofuranosyl)-Pyridine and 3-(D-Ribofuranosyl)-2- Pyridone

M. Belmans<sup>a</sup>; I. Vrijens<sup>a</sup>; E. L. Esmans<sup>a</sup>; J. A. Lepoivre<sup>a</sup>; F. C. Alderweireldt<sup>a</sup>; L. L. Wotring<sup>b</sup>; L. B. Townsend<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Laboratory for Organic Chemistry, University of Antwerp, <sup>b</sup> University of Michigan,

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SYNTHESIS AND BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF 3-CHLORO-4-(D-RIBOFURANOSYL)-PYRIDINE AND 3-(D-RIBOFURANOSYL)-2-PYRIDONE.

M. Belmans\*, I. Vrijens, E. L. Esmans, J. A. Lepoivre and  
F. C. Alderweireldt,  
Laboratory for Organic Chemistry,  
University of Antwerp,  
and  
L. L. Wotring and L. B. Townsend,  
University of Michigan.

Abstract : Condensation of 2-fluoro-3-lithio pyridine and 3-chloro-4-lithio pyridine with 2,4:3,5-di-O-benzylidene-aldehyde-D-ribose gives the corresponding D-allo- and D-altro-addition products. These were converted into the corresponding mesylates and cyclized to the ribofuranosyl nucleosides with an overall yield of 60-70 %. Both nucleosides did not show any inhibitory effect on L<sub>1210</sub>-cells.

INTRODUCTION

The observation that the active form of the cytostatic C-nucleoside tiazafurin was the corresponding NAD<sup>+</sup>-analog<sup>1</sup>, initiated a project aiming at the synthesis of isosteric NAD<sup>+</sup>-analogs. Therefore, the synthesis of a series of pyridine-C-nucleosides is investigated<sup>2,3,4</sup>.

In this paper we wish to discuss the synthesis of 3-chloro-4-(D-ribofuranosyl)-pyridine and 3-(D-ribofuranosyl)-2-pyridone (FIG. 1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Since it is known that monohalopyridines can be lithiated in good to excellent yields by LDA<sup>5</sup> at -78°C, these lithio products were used as starting material for a

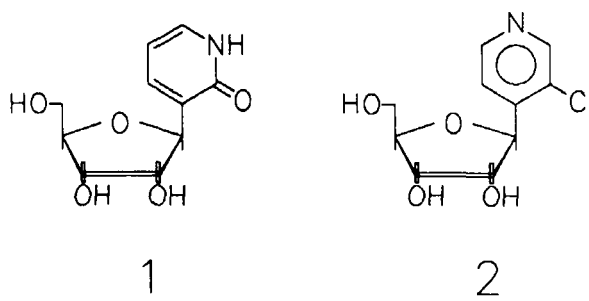


FIG. 1.

coupling reaction with 2,4:3,5-di-O-benzylidene-aldehydo-D-ribose. The lithiation occurs with a high regioselectivity at the ortho position with regard to the halogen atom. In the case of 3-chloro-pyridine, the lithiation appears to be 95 % regioselective at the C<sub>4</sub>-position. This is expected, since the relative kinetic acidity of the protons in pyridine have the following sequencey (4>3>2).

The addition reactions were performed by adding a solution of 2,4:3,5-di-O-benzylidene-aldehydo-D-ribose in THF to the lithioderivatives at -78°C. In both cases we obtained D-allo/altro mixtures which were not separated. These addition products were converted into the mesylates using methanesulphonic acid chloride in dry pyridine. On treatment of these mesylates with 1 N hydrochloric acid for 50 minutes at reflux temperature, we obtained a crude reaction mixture of both nucleosides 1 and 2 (see FIG. 2). Purification was done by affinity chromatography on an Affigel boronate column. Analysis of the reaction mixture resulting from the cyclisation of D-allo- and D-altro-2-fluoro-3-(1-O-mesyl-2,4:3,5-di-O-benzylidene-pentitol-1-yl)-pyridine by DLI/LC-MS revealed the presence of 3-(D-ribofuranosyl)-2-pyridone instead of 2-fluoro-(D-ribofuranosyl)-3-pyridine. This conclusion was based upon the occurrence of a protonated molecular ion [MH]<sup>+</sup> at a m/z-value 2 amu below the expected value for the fluoro-compound. the replacement

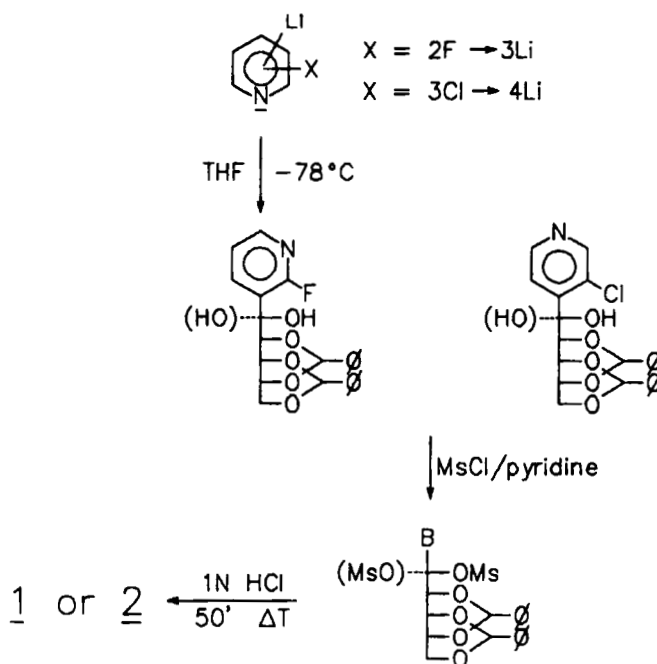


FIG. 2.

of the fluorine atom by a hydroxyl group was also confirmed by N.M.R. spectroscopy. A more detailed paper, together with N.M.R.-data and anti-viral screening results is in progress.

#### Achnowledgement

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