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PUMMERER REARRANGEMENT OF SELENIUM-CONTAINING URACIL NUCLEOSIDES

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Abstract: Pummerer-type rearrangement of uracil nucleosides having a phenylseleno group in the 2'-, 3'-, and 5'-positions took place upon oxidation with MCPBA in CH_2Cl_2 followed by treatment with acid anhydrides to yield α -acyloxyselenides.

Recent reports from our laboratory show that reduction of $(\text{PhSe})_2$ with LiAlH_4 furnishes a highly nucleophilic phenylselenide anion which is capable of cleaving various types of anhydro structures in uracil nucleosides.¹⁻³⁾ Since oxidative elimination of selenides proceeds in a highly stereospecific manner under mild reaction conditions,⁴⁾ nucleosides bearing a phenylseleno group in the sugar portion have recently been used as starting materials for the preparation of 2',3'-didehydro-2',3'-dideoxy derivatives such as D4T.⁵⁻⁸⁾ The selenium-containing nucleosides also serve as versatile synthons for C-C bond forming reactions in the sugar moiety.^{9,10)}

During our study on the utilization of $(\text{PhSe})_2/\text{LiAlH}_4$ for synthetic purpose in nucleoside field, $O^2,2'$ -cyclouridine derivative **1** was converted to 3',5'-bis-*O*-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)-2'-deoxy-2'-phenylselenouridine (**2**)¹¹⁾ in high yield (Chart 1). In this article, Pummerer-type rearrangement of selenoxides derived from uracil

This paper is dedicated to the memory of Professor Tohru Ueda.

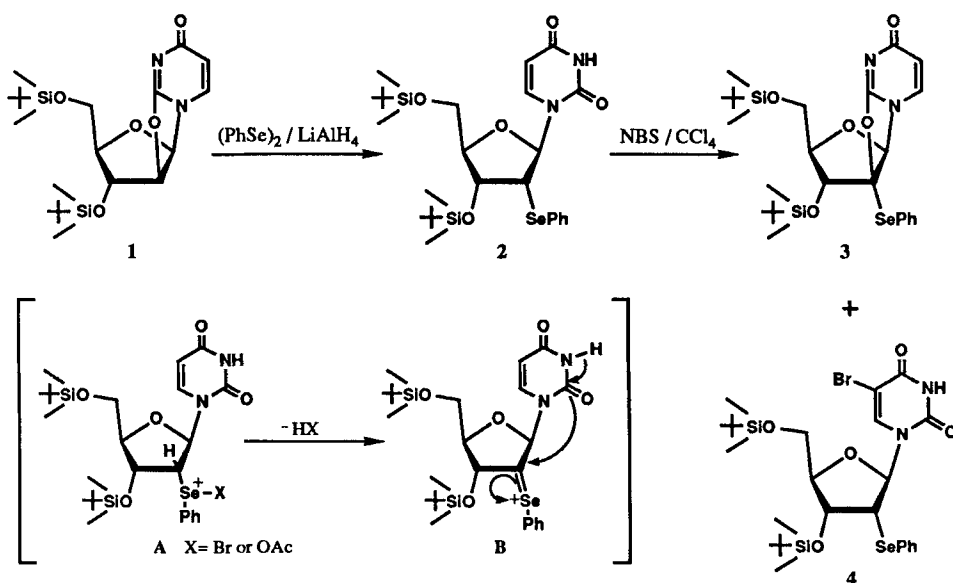


Chart 1

nucleosides such as 2 is described. The resulting products are stable acylated *O*,*Se*-hemiacetals and, as such, their utilization as a masked carbonyl equivalent would be expected.

Our present study was initiated with an attempt to brominate the 2'-position of 2.¹²⁾ However, as shown in Chart 1, when 2 was treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide in CCl_4 at room temperature for 24 h, two products formed turned out to be 3 (42%) and 4 (40%). Formation of the *O*²,2'-cyclonucleoside (3) can be rationalized by assuming sequential formation of intermediates A ($\text{X} = \text{Br}$) and B. The latter would subsequently undergo overwhelmingly advantageous intramolecular attack of the C-2 carbonyl group to produce 3.

To improve the yield of 3, we thought that acetylation of selenoxide derived from 2 with Ac_2O , which does not react at the C-5 position, would form A ($\text{X} = \text{OAc}$) more efficiently and acetate anion generated in this step could act as a base in the two consecutive proton abstractions ($\text{H}-2'$ of A and $\text{N}^3\text{-H}$ of B). Compound 2 was oxidized with MCPBA (1.2 equiv) in CH_2Cl_2 at room temperature to

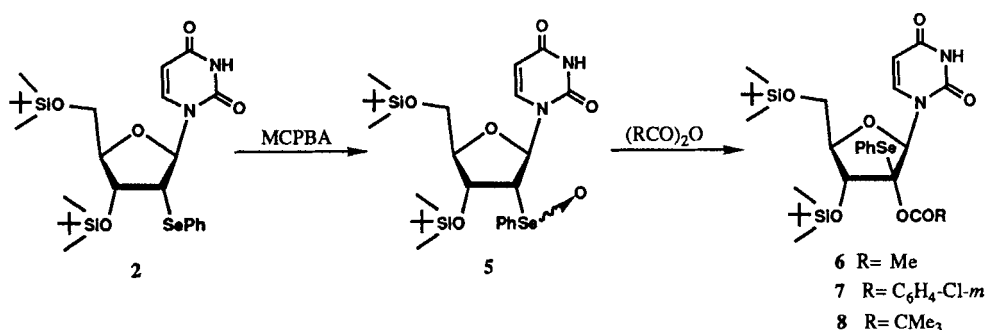
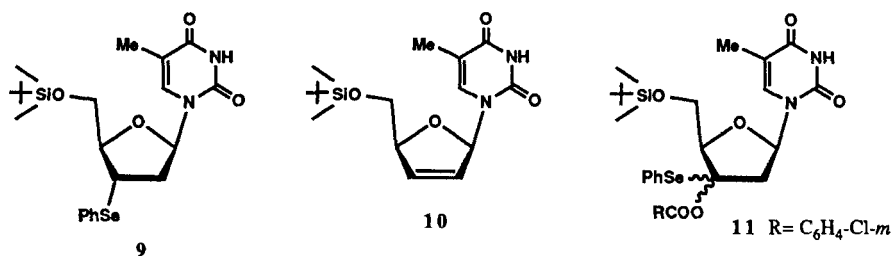


Chart 2

give **5**, which was then treated in a one-pot manner with Ac₂O (10 equiv) for 12 h. ¹H NMR spectrum of a product isolated by silica gel column chromatography showed the presence of D₂O-exchangeable NH proton (δ : 7.88 ppm) and one methyl group (δ : 2.15 ppm). Together with its MS spectrum [m/z : 670 (M⁺)], the structure of this product was determined to be **6**, which apparently resulted from Pummerer-type rearrangement^{13,14} of the selenoxide **5**. The yield was 62%. Another product obtained in this reaction was **7** (25%).¹⁵ When a diastereomeric mixture of **5** was isolated by short column chromatography and then treated with Ac₂O, **6** was obtained in an improved yield of 80%. Similar treatment of **5** with pivalic anhydride gave **8** in 73% yield.

From the ¹H NMR spectra of **6** and **8**, it was clear that these products consisted of practically only one isomer. Stereochemistry about the 2'-position was examined in the case of **8** by measuring its NOESY spectrum, wherein a NOE correlation was observed between the COCMe₃ and H-1'.¹⁶

The expected synthetic utility of the Pummerer product led us to extend the reaction to other phenylseleno derivatives. We have already reported that the selenoxide of **9** has a higher propensity to



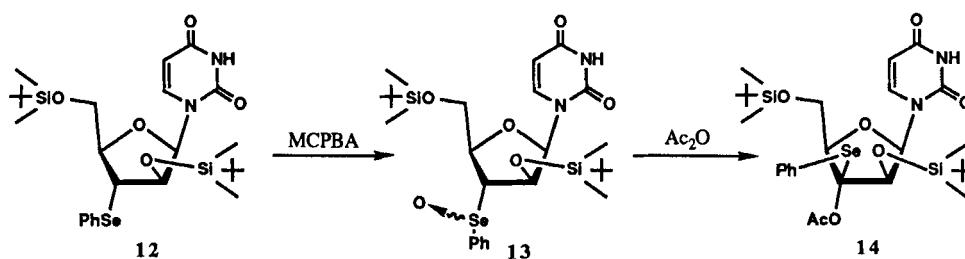


Chart 3

undergo *syn*-elimination.⁸⁾ Consequently, even when the MCPBA oxidation of **9** was carried out at 0 °C, the main reaction path was its conversion to a D4T analogue **10**. Although an additional product assumed to be **11**¹⁷⁾ was isolated after addition of Ac₂O and warming the reaction mixture to room temperature, we were unable to obtain the desired 3'-acetylated product of **9**.

The rearrangement at the 3'-position was, therefore, examined by using **12** which was prepared from the reaction of 1-(2,3-anhydro-5-*O*-trityl-β-D-lyxofuranosyl)uracil with (PhSe)₂/LiAlH₄.⁸⁾ Although the corresponding selenoxide (**13**) had been expected to be stable due to the presence of two electronegative β-oxygen atoms (*O*1' and *O*2'), the isolated **13** was found to be considerably susceptible to the *syn*-elimination between the 3'- and 4'-positions. Thus, treatment of freshly prepared **13** with Ac₂O (5 equiv, in CH₂Cl₂ overnight at room temperature) gave **14** in only 44% yield. As can be anticipated from the fact that α-face of the selenonium intermediate derived from **13** is much less hindered, the stereochemistry of **14** about the 3'-position was deduced as depicted — a NOE correlation was observed between H-4' and COMe.

Finally, 5'-phenylselenide **15**, prepared by anhydro bond cleavage of 2',3'-bis-*O*-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)-*O*2',5'-cyclouridine with (PhSe)₂/NaBH₄,^{8,18)} was converted to **16** (78%). Selenoxide **16** is stable and can be kept at room temperature for at least one week. Treatment of **16** with Ac₂O under similar reaction conditions to the case of **13** gave a mixture of two products (**17**) containing an acetoxy group in 61% yield. These were separated by preparative

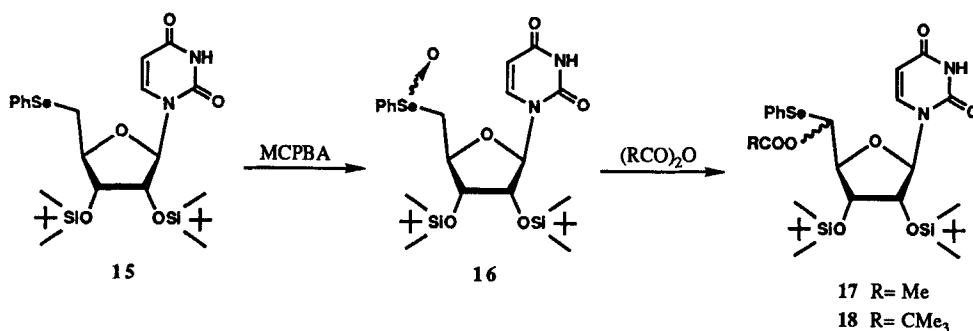


Chart 4

TLC and confirmed to be diastereomeric each other (*ca.* 1:1.7) based on ^1H NMR and MS spectrometries. Similarly, 18 was obtained as an inseparable mixture of two diastereomers (*ca.* 2:1) in 59% yield.¹⁹⁾

In conclusion, the present work shows that selenium-containing nucleosides can be transformed to α -acyloxy selenides through Pummerer rearrangement. By the use of the Pummerer products, it would be possible to generate an oxygen-stabilized carbenium ion or radical upon cleavage of their C-Se bond and, therefore, they could serve as an useful synthon for C-C bond formation in the sugar portion of nucleosides. We are currently investigating along this line.

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined with a Yanagimoto micro-melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. ^1H NMR spectra were measured with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard, with either a JEOL JNM-FX 100 (100 MHz) or a JEOL JNM-GX 400 (400 MHz) NMR spectrometer. Mass spectra were taken on a JEOL JMS-D 300 spectrometer. UV spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-240 spectrophotometer. Column chromatography was carried out on a silica gel (Wakogel® C-200). TLC was performed on precoated silica gel plates F₂₅₄, Merck.

Reaction of 2 with NBS A CH_2Cl_2 (4 ml) solution of **2** (40 mg, 0.07 mmol) was treated with NBS (23 mg, 0.13 mmol) at room temperature for 12 h. Neutralization with Et_3N followed by column chromatography (17-25% EtOAc in hexane) gave **4** (16 mg, 40%) as a syrup and crude **3** contaminated with succinimide. The crude **3** was dissolved in CHCl_3 and washed with cold 0.1 *N* NaOH. This gave pure **3** (19 mg, 42%), which was crystallized from EtOAc-hexane (mp 228-229 °C). *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{42}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{SeSi}_2$: C, 53.20; H, 6.95; N, 4.60. Found: C, 53.39; H, 7.02; N, 4.54. UV absorption in MeOH: $\lambda_{\text{shoulder}}$ 246 nm (ϵ 8100). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ : 0.18 and 0.31 (12H, each as s, SiMe), 0.80 and 0.98 (18H, each as s, SiBu-*t*), 3.69 (2H, m, CH_2 -5'), 4.04 (1H, m, H-4'), 4.67 (1H, d, $J_{3',4'} = 6.3$ Hz, H-3'), 5.71 (1H, s, H-1'), 5.77 (1H, d, $J_{5,6} = 7.3$ Hz, H-5), 6.83 (1H, d, H-6), 7.30 (3H, m, Ph), 7.64 (2H, m, Ph). MS m/z : 553 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{Bu-}t$).

Physical data of **4** are as follows. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{43}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_5\text{SeSi}_2$: C, 46.97; H, 6.28; N, 4.06. Found: C, 46.71; H, 6.34; N, 3.92. UV absorption in MeOH: λ_{max} 273 nm (ϵ 8600), λ_{min} 243 nm (ϵ 3100). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ : 0.13 (3H, s, SiMe), 0.15 (6H, s, SiMe), 0.20 (3H, s, SiMe), 0.96 (18H, s, SiBu-*t*), 3.55 (1H, dd, $J_{1',2'} = 9.3$, $J_{2',3'} = 4.9$ Hz, H-2'), 3.80 (2H, m, CH_2 -5'), 4.04 (1H, m, H-4'), 4.50 (1H, d, H-3'), 6.52 (1H, d, H-1'), 7.22 (3H, m, Ph), 7.45 (3H, m, Ph and H-6), 8.52 (1H, br, NH). MS m/z : 692 and 690 (M^+), 635 and 633 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{Bu-}t$).

2'-O-Acetyl-3',5'-bis-O-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)-2'-phenylselenouridine (6) A mixture of **2** (500 mg, 0.82 mmol) and MCPBA (169 mg, 0.98 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (25 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 5 h. The reaction mixture was neutralized with Et_3N and partitioned between CHCl_3 and aqueous saturated NaHCO_3 . The organic layer was dried (Na_2SO_4) and evaporated to dryness. Column chromatography (2% EtOH in CHCl_3) of the residue gave **5**, which was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (25 ml) and treated with Ac_2O (387 μl , 4.1 mmol) at room temperature overnight. The mixture was partitioned between CHCl_3 and saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 . Column chromatography (20% EtOAc in hexane) of the organic layer gave **6** (445 mg, 80%) as a foam, which was analytically pure. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{46}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{SeSi}_2$: C, 52.02; H, 6.92; N, 4.18. Found: C, 52.39; H, 7.01; N, 4.49. UV absorption in MeOH: λ_{max} 263 nm (ϵ 11200), λ_{min} 239 nm (ϵ 5600). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ : 0.12 and 0.18 (12H, each as s,

SiMe), 0.91 and 0.94 (18H, each as s, SiBu-*t*), 2.15 (3H, s, OAc), 3.75 (1H, dd, $J_{\text{gem}} = 11.7$, $J_{4',5'} = 2.4$ Hz, H-5'), and 3.97 (1H, dd, $J_{4',5'} = 2.9$ Hz, H-5'), 4.26 (1H, m, H-4'), 4.39 (1H, d, $J_{3',4'} = 5.8$ Hz, H-3'), 5.66 (1H, dd, $J_{5,6} = 8.3$, $J_{5,\text{NH}} = 1.9$ Hz, H-5), 6.81 (1H, s, H-1'), 7.28 (3H, m, Ph), 7.45 (2H, m, Ph), 7.72 (1H, d, H-6), 7.88 (1H, br, NH). MS m/z : 670 (M^+), 613 ($M^+ - \text{Bu-}t$), 553 ($M^+ - \text{Bu-}t - \text{AcOH}$), 112 ($B+1$).

2'-*O*-(*m*-Chlorobenzoyl)-3',5'-bis-*O*-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)-2'-phenylselenouridine (7) This compound was obtained as a foam in 25% yield from **2** when treatment with Ac_2O was carried out without isolating **5**. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{47}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_7\text{SeSi}_2$: C, 53.30; H, 6.18; N, 3.66. Found: C, 53.37; H, 6.39; N, 3.53. UV absorption in MeOH: λ_{max} 260 nm (ϵ 12100), λ_{min} 249 nm (ϵ 11100). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ : 0.04 and 0.12 (6H, each as s, SiMe), 0.15 (6H, s, SiMe), 0.70 and 0.98 (18H, each as s, SiBu-*t*), 3.90 (2H, m, CH_2 -5'), 4.29 (1H, m, H-4'), 4.68 (1H, d, $J_{3',4'} = 4.4$ Hz, H-3'), 5.65 (1H, dd, $J_{5,6} = 8.3$, $J_{5,\text{NH}} = 2.4$ Hz, H-5), 6.83 (1H, s, H-1'), 7.11-8.01 (11H, m, Ph, H-6, and NH). MS m/z : 711 and 709 ($M^+ - \text{Bu-}t$).

3',5'-Bis-*O*-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)-2'-phenylseleno-2'-*O*-pivaloyluridine (8) This compound was prepared from **2** in 73% yield as a foam by the procedure described for the preparation of **6**. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{SeSi}_2$: C, 54.01; H, 7.37; N, 3.94. Found: C, 54.26; H, 7.56; N, 3.86. UV absorption in MeOH: λ_{max} 262 nm (ϵ 11400), λ_{min} 238 nm (ϵ 6300). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ : 0.12 and 0.18 (12H, each as s, SiMe), 0.90 and 0.97 (18H, each as s, SiBu-*t*), 1.24 (9H, s, COCMe_3), 3.74 (1H, dd, $J_{\text{gem}} = 11.8$, $J_{4',5'} = 1.9$ Hz, H-5'), 3.97 (1H, dd, $J_{4',5'} = 2.4$ Hz, H-5'), 4.31 (1H, m, H-4'), 4.43 (1H, d, $J_{3',4'} = 5.8$ Hz, H-3'), 5.66 (1H, dd, $J_{5,6} = 8.1$, $J_{5,\text{NH}} = 2.2$ Hz, H-5), 6.66 (1H, s, H-1'), 7.23-7.56 (5H, m, Ph), 7.64 (1H, br, NH), 7.75 (1H, d, H-6). MS m/z : 655 ($M^+ - \text{Bu-}t$), 553 ($M^+ - \text{Bu-}t - \text{Me}_3\text{CCO}_2\text{H}$), 112 ($B+1$).

1-[2,5-Bis-*O*-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)-3-deoxy-3-phenylseleno- β -D-arabinofuranosyl]uracil (12) A mixture of 1-(3-deoxy-3-phenylseleno- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)uracil⁸ (1.0 g), *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (1.37 g), and imidazole (619 mg) in DMF (20 ml) was stirred overnight at 110 °C. The reaction mixture was partitioned between H_2O and EtOAc. Column chromatography (33% EtOAc in hexane) of the organic layer gave **12** (1.59 g) as an analytically pure syrup in quantitative yield. *Anal.* Calcd for

$C_{27}H_{44}N_2O_5SeSi_2 \cdot H_2O$: C, 51.51; H, 7.37; N, 4.45. Found: C, 51.68; H, 7.26; N, 4.47. UV absorption in MeOH: λ_{max} 264 nm (ϵ 11800), λ_{min} 232 nm (ϵ 5000). 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ : 0.01 and 0.08 (12H, each as s, SiMe), 0.75 and 0.86 (18H, each as s, SiBu-*t*), 3.55 (1H, t, $J_{1',2'} = J_{2',3'} = 5.0$ Hz, H-2'), 3.80 (2H, m, CH_2 -5'), 3.98 (1H, m, H-4'), 4.44 (1H, t, H-3'), 5.62 (1H, dd, $J_{5,NH} = 1.9$, $J_{5,6} = 8.3$ Hz, H-5), 6.18 (1H, d, H-1'), 7.28 (3H, m, Ph), 7.61 (2H, m, Ph), 7.63 (1H, d, H-6), 8.41 (1H, br, NH). MS m/z : 555 ($M^+ - Bu-t$).

1-[3-*O*-Acetyl-2,5-bis-*O*-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)-3-phenylseleno- β -D-arabinofuranosyl]uracil (14) This compound was prepared from **12** via **13** by the procedure similar to that of the preparation of **6**. MCPBA oxidation of **12** was carried out for 30 min to give **13** which was isolated in 92% yield by column chromatography (2% EtOH in $CHCl_3$). Without being characterized, **13** was treated with Ac_2O (5 eq) in CH_2Cl_2 overnight at room temperature. Column chromatography (17% EtOAc in hexane) of the reaction mixture gave **14** in 44% yield as an analytically pure solid. *Anal.* Calcd for $C_{29}H_{46}N_2O_7SeSi_2$: C, 52.02; H, 6.92; N, 4.18. Found: C, 52.00; H, 6.89; N, 4.18. UV absorption in MeOH: λ_{max} 264 nm (ϵ 12600), λ_{min} 235 nm (ϵ 7000). 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ : 0.09 and 0.38 (12H, each as s, SiMe), 0.92 (18H, s, SiBu-*t*), 1.70 (3H, s, OAc), 4.12 (2H, m, CH_2 -5'), 4.47 (1H, dd, $J_{4',5'} = 3.9$ and 4.4 Hz, H-4'), 5.16 (1H, d, $J_{1',2'} = 3.4$ Hz, H-2'), 5.70 (1H, dd, $J_{5,NH} = 1.7$, $J_{5,6} = 8.5$ Hz, H-5), 6.16 (1H, d, H-1'), 7.26-7.69 (6H, m, Ph and H-6), 8.26 (1H, br, NH). MS m/z : 670 (M^+), 613 ($M^+ - Bu-t$), 553 ($M^+ - Bu-t - AcOH$), 112 ($B+1$).

5'-*O*-Acetyl-2',3'-bis-*O*-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)-5'-phenylselenouridine (17) This compound was prepared from **15** via **16** by the procedure similar to that of the preparation of **6**. MCPBA oxidation of **15** was carried out for 3 h to give **16** which was isolated in 78% yield by column chromatography (2% EtOH in $CHCl_3$). Treatment of **16** with Ac_2O (5 equiv) was carried out in CH_2Cl_2 overnight at room temperature. Column chromatography (17% EtOAc in hexane) gave **17** as a mixture of two diastereomers (*ca.* 1:1.7) in 61% yield. Preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc = 7:2) of the mixture gave a more polar isomer (major product) as an analytically pure foam. *Anal.* Calcd for $C_{29}H_{46}N_2O_7SeSi_2$: C, 52.02; H, 6.92; N, 4.18. Found: C, 52.19; H, 7.09; N, 3.95. UV absorption in MeOH: λ_{max} 260 nm (ϵ

11000), λ_{\min} 235 nm (ϵ 5500). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ : 0.02 (6H, s, SiMe), 0.04 and 0.06 (6H, each as s, SiMe), 0.86 and 0.87 (18H, each as s, SiBu-*t*), 2.05 (3H, s, OAc), 3.95 (1H, t, $J_{2',3'} = J_{3',4'} = 4.4$ Hz, H-3'), 4.14 (1H, t, $J_{3',4'} = J_{4',5'} = 4.4$ Hz, H-4'), 4.41 (1H, t, $J_{1',2'} = J_{2',3'} = 4.4$ Hz, H-2'), 5.70 (1H, d, $J_{5,6} = 8.3$ Hz, H-5), 5.85 (1H, d, H-5'), 6.35 (1H, d, H-1'), 7.29 (3H, m, Ph), 7.66 (3H, m, Ph and H-6), 8.55 (1H, br, NH). MS m/z : 613 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{Bu-}t$), 112 (B^+1).

^1H NMR data of the other isomer are given below. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ : 0.04 (6H, s, SiMe), 0.05 and 0.07 (6H, each as s, SiMe), 0.86 and 0.89 (18H, each as s, SiBu-*t*), 2.08 (3H, s, Ac), 4.07 (1H, dd, $J_{2',3'} = 2.4$, $J_{3',4'} = 4.7$ Hz, H-3'), 4.19 (1H, dd, $J_{1',2'} = 5.0$ Hz, H-2'), 4.35 (1H, dd, $J_{4',5'} = 6.8$ Hz, H-4'), 5.75 (1H, d, $J_{5,6} = 8.0$ Hz, H-5), 5.85 (1H, d, H-5'), 6.37 (1H, d, H-1'), 7.29-7.37 (4H, m, H-6 and Ph), 7.65-7.67 (2H, m, Ph), 8.88 (1H, br, NH).

2',3'-*O*-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)-5'-phenylseleno-5'-pivaloyluridine (18) This compound was prepared from **16** by the procedure described for the preparation of **17**. Column chromatography (17-20% EtOAc in hexane) of the reaction mixture gave **18** (a mixture of two diastereomers, *ca.* 2:1) in 59% yield as an analytically pure syrup. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{SeSi}_2$: C, 54.01; H, 7.37; N, 3.94. Found: C, 54.00; H, 7.60; N, 3.87. UV absorption in MeOH: λ_{\max} 261 nm (ϵ 13000), λ_{\min} 230 nm (ϵ 6000). The following ^1H NMR data of each isomer are collected based on COSY spectrum of the mixture. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) of the major isomer δ : 0.03 and 0.04 (6H, each as s, SiMe), 0.07 (6H, s, SiMe), 0.86 and 0.89 (18H, each as s, SiBu-*t*), 1.16 (9H, s, COCMe_3), 3.96 (1H, t, $J_{2',3'} = J_{3',4'} = 4.4$ Hz, H-3'), 4.08 (1H, t, $J_{3',4'} = J_{4',5'} = 4.4$ Hz, H-4'), 4.45 (1H, t, $J_{1',2'} = J_{2',3'} = 4.4$ Hz, H-2'), 5.74 (1H, d, $J_{5,6} = 8.1$ Hz, H-5), 5.90 (1H, d, H-5'), 6.42 (1H, d, H-1'), 7.28-7.35 (3H, m, Ph), 7.62-7.68 (3H, m, H-6 and Ph), 9.48 (1H, br, NH). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) of the minor isomer δ : 0.03 and 0.04 (6H, each as s, SiMe), 0.07 (6H, s, SiMe), 0.86 and 0.89 (18H, each as s, SiBu-*t*), 1.24 (9H, s, CO-CMe_3), 4.05 (1H, dd, $J_{2',3'} = 2.0$, $J_{3',4'} = 4.4$ Hz, H-3'), 4.17 (1H, dd, $J_{1',2'} = 5.8$, $J_{2',3'} = 2.0$ Hz, H-2'), 4.33 (1H, dd, $J_{4',5'} = 6.8$ Hz, H-4'), 5.74 (1H, d, $J_{5,6} = 8.1$ Hz, H-5), 5.89 (1H, d, H-5'), 6.42 (1H, d, H-1'), 7.28-7.35 (3H, m, Ph), 7.62-7.68 (3H, m, H-6 and Ph), 9.29 (1H, br, NH). MS m/z : 712 (M^+), 655 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{Bu-}t$), 553 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{Bu-}t - \text{Me}_3\text{CCO}_2\text{H}$).

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