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Stereoselective Synthesis Of Homo-Apioneplanocin A As Potential Inhibitor Of S-Adenosylhomocysteine Hydrolase

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STEREOSELECTIVE SYNTHESIS OF HOMO-APIONEPLANOCIN A AS POTENTIAL INHIBITOR OF S-ADENOSYLHOMOCYSTEINE HYDROLASE

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□ *Homo-apioneplanocin A (1) as a potential inhibitor of S-adenosylhomocysteine hydrolase was synthesized from D-ribose, employing stereoselective hydroxymethylation, regioselective oxidation, and regio- and chemoselective hydroboration as key steps.*

Keywords Ring-closing metathesis; S-adenosylhomocysteine hydrolase; homo-apioneplanocin A

INTRODUCTION

Neplanocin A^[1] and aristeromycin^[2] (Figure 1) are representative of carbocyclic nucleosides and showed potent antitumor and antiviral activities by inhibiting S-adenosylhomocysteine (AdoHcy) hydrolase.^[3] Inhibition of AdoHcy hydrolase induced inhibitory activity against methyltransferases, which are essential enzymes to formation of cap structure of viral mRNA. Therefore, inhibition of AdoHcy hydrolase results in antiviral activity by inhibiting the formation of viral mRNA cap structure. Neplanocin A has been known to be a potent inhibitor of AdoHcy hydrolase, but it was too cytotoxic to be developed as a clinically useful antiviral agent and was

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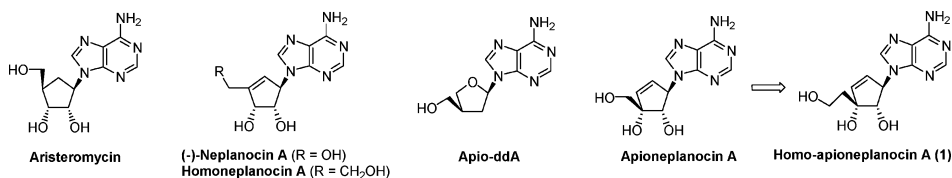


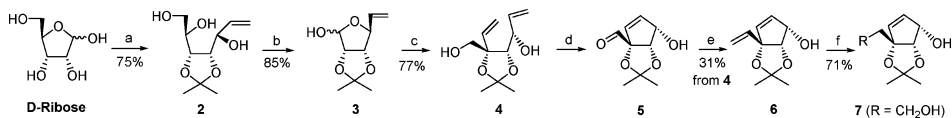
FIGURE 1 Rationale for the design of the desired nucleoside 1.

also metabolized by adenosine deaminase (ADA) to the biologically inactive compound, the inosine analogue.^[4]

Apio-ddA,^[5] in which 4'-hydroxymethyl group of ddA is moved to C3' position, was found to exhibit anti-HIV activity comparable to that of the parent nucleoside ddA and improved stability of glycosidic bond. From these findings, apio-neplanocin A^[6] was designed and synthesized by our laboratory for the purpose of searching for more potent antiviral agent with benefits such as resistance to ADA and increasing stability of glycosidic bond, but it showed neither antiviral activity nor inhibitory activity against AdoHcy hydrolase. However, the fact that homo-neplanocin A,^[7] another neplanocin A-modified nucleoside was reported to exhibit a significant inhibitory activity against AdoHcy hydrolase stimulated us to synthesize homo-apioneplanocin A (1). Here, we wish to report enantioselective synthesis of homo-apioneplanocin A (1) from D-ribose via regio- and chemoselective hydroboration and chemoselective oxidation as key steps.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

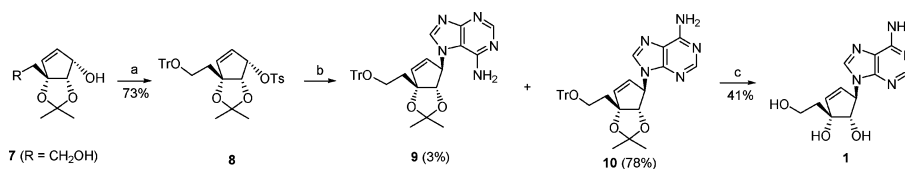
Synthesis of the key intermediate **7** for the synthesis of homo-apioneplanocin A (1) is shown in Scheme 1. Treatment of D-ribose with anhydrous acetone in the presence of *c*-H₂SO₄ gave 2,3-*O*-isopropylidene-D-ribose, which was reacted with vinylmagnesium bromide to give (*S*)-allylic alcohol **2** as a single stereoisomer. Oxidative diol cleavage of **2** gave lactol **3**, which was converted to diene **4** by stereoselective hydroxymethylation followed by Wittig reaction. Stereoselective hydroxymethylation was explained by an aldol-retroaldol reaction mechanism.^[6] Chemoselective oxidation of **4** with TEMPO followed by ring-closing metathesis (RCM) with second



SCHEME 1 Reagents and conditions: a) i. acetone, *c*-H₂SO₄; ii. CH₂=CHMgBr, THF; b) NaIO₄, CH₂Cl₂, H₂O; c) i. CH₂O, K₂CO₃, MeOH; ii. CH₃PPh₃Br, KO*t*-Bu, THF; d) i. TEMPO, TBACl, NCS, aqueous NaHCO₃ and K₂CO₃ (pH = 8.6), CH₂Cl₂; ii. Second generation Grubbs catalyst, CH₂Cl₂; e) CH₃Ph₃PBr, KO*t*-Bu, THF; f) i. Sia₂BH, THF; ii. NaBO₃, H₂O.

generation Grubbs catalyst afforded cyclopentenol **5**. However, reverse reaction sequence (RCM followed by chemoselective oxidation) failed to give the desired product **5**. Wittig reaction of **5** with methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide in the presence of potassium *tert*-butoxide smoothly generated olefin **6**, which was subjected to hydroboration and oxidation. Several hydroboration reagents (9-BBN in THF or catecholborane and Wilkinson catalyst, etc.) were attempted to achieve chemo- and regioselective hydroboration, but only Sia_2BH afforded the desired product **7** after oxidation with sodium perborate.

Protection of the primary hydroxyl group of **7** as trityl ether followed by conversion of the remaining secondary hydroxyl group into the tosylate gave **8**, which could be an appropriate glycosyl donor for the synthesis of **1**, as shown in Scheme 2. Condensation of **8** with adenine base in the presence of potassium carbonate and 18-Crown-6 in DMF at 80°C gave two separable regioisomers, *N*-7 isomer **9** (3%) and *N*-9 isomer **10** (78%). Anomeric assignments of regioisomers **9** and **10** were easily determined by comparison of their UV data with UV literature data.^[8] Removal of trityl and isopropylidene groups of **10** with 1% aqueous HCl in methanol afforded the final homo-apioneplanocin A (**1**).



SCHEME 2 Reagents and conditions: a) i. TrCl , pyridine, DMAP; ii. TsCl , DMAP, CH_2Cl_2 ; b) adenine, K_2CO_3 , 18-Crown-6, DMF, 80°C; c) 1% HCl , MeOH.

Unfortunately, compound **1** did not show significant inhibition of AdoHcy hydrolase, maybe due to the inability of hydroxyethyl group to induce the favorable binding to AdoHcy hydrolase and/or the presence of tertiary hydroxyl group, which cannot be oxidized by cofactor-bound NAD^+ .

In conclusion, enantioselective synthesis of homo-apioneplanocin A (**1**) as potential AdoHcy hydrolase inhibitor was accomplished from D-ribose, using stereoselective hydroxymethylation, regioselective oxidation, and regio- and chemoselective hydroboration as key steps. Although the final compound **1** did not exhibit significant inhibitory activity against AdoHcy hydrolase, all chemistries employed here will contribute to the discovery of new carbocyclic nucleosides.

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