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## Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids

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## Novel Acyclic Analogues of Pyrimidine Nucleosides: 1-Methoxy-2, 3-Dihydroxypropyl and 1-Methoxy-3-hydroxypropyl Derivatives

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NOVEL ACYCLIC ANALOGUES OF PYRIMIDINE NUCLEOSIDES: 1-METHOXY-2,3-DIHYDROXYPROPYL AND 1-METHOXY-3-HYDROXYPROPYL DERIVATIVES.

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Summary The preparation of a series of novel pyrimidine nucleoside analogues in which the N-1 ribosyl moiety is replaced by 1-methoxy-2,3-dihydroxypropyl and 1-methoxy-3-hydroxypropyl substituents is described.

Synthesis of the uracil derivatives (1-11, 13-18) was achieved by reaction of the appropriate bis-trimethylsilylated pyrimidine base with either 2,3-diacetoxy-1,1-dimethoxypropane or 1,3-diacetoxy-1-methoxypropane in the presence of stannic chloride and subsequent removal of the O-acetyl groups with methanolic ammonia or sodium methoxide in methanol. Cytosine derivatives (12, 19) were prepared under similar conditions from the trimethylsilylated 4-N-acetyl base. Attempted deprotection of 1-(1-methoxy-2,3-diacetoxypropyl)-5-trifluoromethyluracil with methanolic ammonia gave the 5-cyanouracil 8 in high yield. With 1,3-diacetoxy-1-methoxypropane, 1,3-bis-substituted pyrimidines were sometimes obtained but, under the conditions used for deprotection of hydroxyl groups, these also yielded the required 1-monosubstituted pyrimidines. The <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H nmr spectra of the 1-methoxy-2,3-dihydroxy-propyl derivatives (1-12) indicated that in each case a mixture of diastereoisomers was obtained.

None of the acyclonucleosides was significantly active when tested against herpes simplex virus type 1 or influenza A virus in cell culture.