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TRANSGLYCOSYLATION OF GUANINE NUCLEOSIDES

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Abstract: Tetraacetylguanosine was converted into fully acetylated derivatives of acyclovir and 9-A-D-xylofuranosyl guanine in a novel transglycosylation reaction.

Recent progress in application of nucleoside analogues as antiviral, antibacterial or antitumor agents creates the need for a simple and more general approach to synthesis of new nucleosides with a modified sugar portion. One of the possible solutions is the chemical transglycosylation of relatively accessible nucleosides, as it is exemplified here in the quanine series.

Refluxing of tetraacetylguanosine 1 /1/ and 2-acetoxyethylacetoxymethyl ether 2 /2, 3 eqs./ in chlorobenzene in the presence of p-toluenesulfonic acid /0.05 eqs./ yielded the diacetyl derivative /3, 38%/ of acyclovir, a potent antiherpetic drug 3 . The second product of this reaction was the respective 7-isomer /4, 36%/, so far useless in further synthesis.

The latter, however, could be transformed into the corresponding 9-isomer $\frac{3}{i}$ in the thermal $\frac{7}{4}$ 9 transglycosylation reaction. Heating of $\frac{4}{i}$ 4 at 200° for 10 min resulted in the mixture of $\frac{3}{i}$ 4 and $\frac{4}{i}$ 7 is 1, approximately/, from which the desired 9-isomer $\frac{3}{i}$ 4 was isolated in the yield of $\frac{43}{i}$ 8.

In the similar manner, reaction of $\underline{1}$ and 1,2,3,5-tetra-0-acetyl- $\underline{0}$ - $\underline{0}$ -xylofuranose $\underline{0}$ /5/ allowed to obtain the tetraacetate $\underline{0}$ of 9- $\underline{0}$ - $\underline{0}$ -xylofuranosylguanine; a guanosine analogue of antiviral and cytostatic activity.

Study on application of this convenient transglycosylation method for synthesis of other biologically active guanosine analogues is in progress.

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