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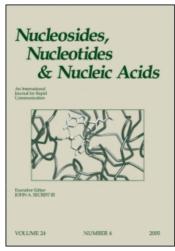
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Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713597286

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To cite this Article Samuel, A. George , Mereyala, Hari Babu and Ganesh, K. N.(1992) 'Synthesis Of 6-Alkoxy-5-bromo-5,6-dihydropyrimidine Nucleosides Using Dibutyltin Alkoxide-Bromine', Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids, 11: 1, 49-60

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/07328319208021152 URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07328319208021152

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SYNTHESIS OF 6-ALKOXY-5-BROMO-5,6-DIHYDROPYRIMIDINE NUCLEOSIDES USING DIBUTYLTIN ALKOXIDE-BROMINE

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ABSTRACT: The pyrimidine nucleosides (1-3), on reaction with bromine and dibutyltin oxide in appropriate alcohols gave the titled compounds (5-7), which were characterised by derivatisation to 8-10, ¹H and ¹³C NMR. The reported method of bromination of nucleosides in presence of DBTO under neutral and mild conditions facilitates the isolation of acid-labile 6-alkoxy-5-bromo-5,6-dihydro addition compounds of nucleosides which are otherwise difficult to obtain.

INTRODUCTION

Pyrimidine nucleosides functionally modified at the 5,6 double bond, have attracted significant attention, as antiviral and anticancer agents¹⁻⁴. The 5-halopyrimidine nucleosides are known to effect inhibition of nucleic acid synthesis and to possess potential cytotoxic activity³. They have also recently emerged as useful intermediates for a variety of synthetic transformations^{4,5}, including introduction of non-radioactive labels in nucleic acids^{6,7}. Besides, being present as unusual components of t-RNA, the 5,6-dihydropyrimidine nucleosides are also involved as key intermediates in photoinduced dimerizations and lesions^{2,9}. Consequently, there is considerable interest in selective

⁺NCL Communication No. 4796

and efficient synthesis of 5-halo and 5,6-dihydropyrimidine nucleosides and their analogues.

pyrimidine nucleosides 1 and 3 on direct reaction with either halogens or with electrophilic sources halogens such as N-halosuccinimide in alcoholic/non-aqueous media are known⁵ to yield 5-halopyrimidine nucleosides 4. In non-aqueous media, reaction where the proceeds by electrophilic addition of halogen at C5, the acidic reaction conditions often lead to cleavage of sensitive glycosidic linkage. In alcoholic media, the reaction involves addition an alkoxide moiety at C6 to yield 5-halo-6-alkoxy-5,6-dihydropyrimidines (5-7). However, under the reaction conditions, these undergo a facile elimination of elements alcohol from C5-C6 to yield 5-halopyrimidines 4. current methodologies are therefore not satisfactory isolation of the intermediate 5,6-dihydro addition compounds

In this paper, we report a novel method for synthesis of 6-alkoxy-5-bromo-5,6-dihydropyrimidine nucleosides (5-7) by reaction of nucleosides with bromine and dibutyltin oxide in alcoholic media. The essentially neutral reaction conditions prevent the side reactions such as deglycosylation and elimination enabling a facile isolation of 5,6-addition intermediates (5-7). The versatality of this method is illustrated by the synthesis of 6-methoxy (5a-7a), 6-ethoxy (5b-7b) and 6-isopropyloxy (5c-7c) derivatives. These were characterized by ¹H and ¹³C NMR after conversion into their corresponding acetates (8-10).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Reaction of ribo and arabinonucleosides with DBTO and Bro

The nucleosides uridine (1), thymidine (2) and the arabinofuranosyl uracil (3) on refluxing with methanol and dibutyltin oxide (DBTO) gave a homogeneous solution, to which on cooling at 0° C, was added a molar equivalent of either bromine or dioxane dibromide. The reactions were complete within 15min, as seen by the which showed in each

1 R=Y=H, X=OH

2 R=CH3, X=Y=H

3 R=X=H, Y=OH

4 R=Br, X/Y=OH/H

R: $a=CH_3$, $b=CH_2CH_3$, $c=CHMe_2$

 $5 R=R^2=R^3=Y=H$, X=OH

6 $R=CH^3$, $R^2=R^3=X=Y=H$

 $7 R=R^2=R^3=X=H$, Y=OH

 $8 R=Y=H, R^2=R^3=X=OAc$

9 R=CH₃, X=Y=H, $R^2=R^3=OAc$

10 R=X=H, $R^2=R^3=Y=0Ac$

case a faster moving compound. The solvent was completely removed from reaction mixtures to obtain white residues which were extracted directly into D20 and characterised by ¹H NMR as **5a**, **6a** and **7a** respectively. On the other hand, treatment of the residues 5a, 6a and 7a separately with pyridine-acetic anhydride, gave the corresponding acetate derivatives 8a-10a as single products which could isolated and characterised by ¹H and ¹³C NMR. Attempts purify 5a-7a by complete removal of solvent, extraction and chromatography were not successful and led to isolation of the 5-bromo derivative 4 from 5a whereas 6a and 7a gave a mixture of decomposed products. The use of bis(tributyltin) oxide instead of DBTO, in combination with bromine in methanol, also yielded the 5,6 addition compounds 5a-7a. A similar reaction done on 1 without addition of DBTO gave 4, whereas reaction of 2 and 3 led to the formation of mixtures of products inseparable by silica gel chromatography.

According to t.1.c., the reaction of uridine (1) with bromine in methanol at low temperature (0°C) produces the 5,6-addition compound, which on work-up got converted into the 5-bromo derivative 4. The 5,6-addition compound also resulted by mere addition of solid DBTO to a reaction mixture of uridine, alcohol and bromine. Replacing methanol with ethanol or 2-propanol, under similar conditions, led to formation of the corresponding 6-alkoxy-5-bromo-5,6-dihydro derivatives (5b,c-7b,c).

Spectroscopic characterization

The formation of 5,6-addition compounds in all cases was indicated by the disappearence of the characteristic UV absorption in the region 250-290nm due to the 5,6-double bond. The 5,6-addition compounds obtained after the reaction were directly extracted into D_2O for 1H NMR in situ as these compounds could not be isolated for purification. However, the corresponding acetates could be isolated and fully characterised by 1H and ^{13}C NMR.

In ¹H NMR, the olefinic signals due to H5 and H6 in 1 and 3 and that due to H6 in 2 disappeared in the reaction products and new signals appeared at 3.38 ppm and 5.26 ppm due to H5 and H6 respectively. The incorporation of an alkoxy moiety was clearly indicated by signals around 3.50-3.60 ppm. With all nucleosides, the product obtained was a diastereomeric mixture as evidenced by double signals due to H5 and H6 and the product ratio as estimated from relative intensity of these signals was 3:1. However, the products 5c-7c from reaction of nucleosides 1-3 in 2-propanol were obtained as a single diastereomer as seen from ¹H NMR.

The 5,6-addition compounds 5-7 were converted into their corresponding 2',3',5'-tri-O-acetates 8-10 and characterised by both ¹H and ¹³C NMR. The ¹H NMR of these exhibited apart from the characteristic acetate peaks around 2.00ppm downfield shifts for H2',H3' and H5'5" protons. In addition, acetate formation was not accompanied by

eliminations at C5-C6 to generate 4 as indicated by the chemical shifts of H5 and H6 protons. The alkyl protons of the 6-alkoxy groups OCH_3 , OCH_2CH_3 , and $OCH(CH_3)_2$ showed signals as expected in the relevant chemical shift regions.

The ¹³C NMR spectrum of **8-10** also confirmed the structure of 5,6-addition compounds. The appearance of peaks around 39 ppm and 86 ppm respectively, due to C5 and C6 clearly prove the formation of 5,6-addition compounds. In the case of thymidine derivatives, the presence of methyl group caused chemical shift of C5 to be further downfield at 53 ppm. All other chemical shifts are according to the expected pattern, thus completely supporting the assigned structures.

Role of DBTO and reaction mechanism

The effective role of DBTO in the present reaction is realised by the fact that its absence led to (i) the formation of 5-halogenopyrimidine derivatives instead of the 5,6-addition compounds and (ii) slower overall rate of reaction. Alternatively, DBTO may be acting as a mild base in scavenging the acid liberated during the reaction.

$$R'OH + Br_2 = R'OBr + HBr$$

DBTO is also known to react with sugar hydroxyl groups to form cyclic 2':3'-dibutylstannylidene intermediates¹⁰, which in present case may help solubilization of the nucleosides in alcoholic solvents.

It should be pointed out that deglycosylation is retarded when the reaction of nucleosides with bromine methanol is conducted in the presence of silver carbonate4. The mild basicity of DBTO seems to be an important factor in reaction after the addition step arresting the elimination reaction. It is difficult permitting any surmise on the origin of basicity of DBTO or its alkoxides, as their exact molecular structures are not known, although aggregates of dimeric to polymeric forms are reported to exist¹³⁻¹⁵. We have recently reported regional regions reported regions exist 13-15. silylation of ribonucleosides 16 exploiting the mild basicity of DBTO.

Dibutyltin oxide is known to give dibutyltin alkoxides when heated with alcohols under reflux $^{10-12}$.

 $(Bu_2SnO)_n + R'OH = Bu_2Sn(OR')_2$

It is also possible that these alkoxides on reaction with bromine, may generate alkyl hypobromites which add across the 5,6-double bond of nucleosides.

 $Bu_2Sn(OR')_2 + 2 Br_2 = Bu_2SnBr_2 + 2 R'OBr$ However, at present, we do not have any direct evidence to support such a mechanistic path.

interesting aspect of the reactions in presence of is the total non-observance of elimination reactions. initially a syn addition occurs, then final elimination which would be anti can take place without difficulty. However, if initially, a anti addition happens, then erization at C5 must take place before the final elimination takes place. Such epimerizations are occur mainly under acidic conditions 17. The presence of DBTO a mild base within the reaction medium may eliminations. allowing the isolation of 5,6-addition compounds. Another movel feature of the present reaction is non-participation of internal hydroxyls of moiety. The 5,6-bromonium ion intermediate formed initially can, in principle, be attacked intramolecularly by 5'-OH to give 5',6-dihydro cyclonucleoside. However, this noticed during reactions in presence of DBTO. To this possibility, we did a similar reaction arabinonucleosides 3 where the 2'-hydroxyl is orientated ideally for such an addition reaction. However, we failed to notice any intramolecular addition to form 2'6-anhydro nucleosides. The determination of stereochemistry of products is under progress.

CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have reported a mild method for synthesis and isolation of 6-alkoxy-5-bromo-5,6-dihydro addition derivatives of nucleosides, using bromine in

presence of DBTO. These mild conditions enabled the isolation of 5,6-addition compounds of nucleosides characterized by chemical derivatization, ¹H and of the internal sugar hydroxyls participate NMR. intramolecular Michael type addition to the 5,6-double bond. The presently reported mild method of alkyl hypobromite addition to 5,6-double bond of pyrimidine nucleosides under neutral conditions may be valuable in preparation of haloalkoxy derivatives of acid-labile compounds. It also opens up ways to synthesize varieties of 5,6-addition compounds of pyrimidine nucleosides which may have pharmacological and medicinal relevance.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

All nucleosides were obtained from Aldrich, USA. Dibutyltin oxide was procured from Fluka bis(tributyl)tin oxide was from E.Merck. The precoated sheets were from E.Merck and the solvent system used acetate for 5-bromo addition compounds petroleum ether(60°-80°C):ethyl acetate and (1:1, v/v)acetate derivatives (8-10). The spots were visualised by spray with perchloric acid-ethanol (60%, v/v) followed by charring. All ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded Bruker ACF-200. All compounds (8-10) gave satisfactory C,H analysis.

General procedure for synthesis of 5-7

The nucleoside (lmmol) was heated under reflux in methanol (25ml) containing dibutyltin oxide (lmmol) until a homogeneous solution was obtained. The solution was then cooled to 0° C and either bromine (1.6mmol) or dioxane dibromide (1.6mmol) was added to the solution and stirred at 0° C until a pale yellow colour persisted. T.L.C showed a faster moving single spot indicating the completion of the reaction. A portion of the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum at low temperature and then extracted into D₂O for spectroscopic characterization (NMR, UV).

5-Bromo-6-methoxy-5,6-dihydrouridine(5a): Yield=85%,R_f=0.50,

1H NMR: 5.75(1H,d,5Hz,H1'), 5.24(1H,d,3Hz,H6), 4.26(1H,m,

H3'), 4.05(2H,m,H4',H2'), 3.85(2H,m,H5'5"), 3.49(3H,s,OCH₃),

3.32(1H,d,3Hz,H5).

 $\begin{array}{lll} \underline{\text{5-Bromo-6-ethoxy-5,6-dihydrothymidine}} & \textbf{(6b)}: \text{ Yield=85\%,} & \text{R}_{f} \\ \hline \text{0.56,} & \textbf{^1h NMR:} & \textbf{6.04(1H,dd,6Hz,H1'),} & \textbf{5.26(1H,s,H6),} & \textbf{4.32(1H,m,H3'),} & \textbf{4.20(1H,m,H4'),} & \textbf{3.78(2H,q,OCH}_2\text{CH}_3,\text{overlapping with m} \\ \hline \text{for H5'5"),} & \textbf{2.38(2H,m,H2'2"),} & \textbf{1.96(3H,s,5CH}_3), & \textbf{1.12(3H,t,OCH}_2\text{CH}_3). \\ \end{array}$

 $\begin{array}{l} \underline{\text{5-Bromo-6-ethoxy-5,6-dihydroarabinofuranosyluracil}} \ (\textbf{7b}): \\ \underline{\text{Yield=70\%, R}_{f}=0.54, \ \ }^{\textbf{1}} \underline{\text{HNMR:5.89(1H,d,6Hz,H1'), 5.75(1H,d,3Hz,H6), 4.34(1H,m,H3'), 4.08(2H,m,H4',H2'), 3.74(2H,m,H5'5"), 3.64 (2H,q,7Hz,0CH_{2}CH_{3}), 3.35(1H,d,3Hz,H5), 1.17(3H,t,7Hz,0CH_{2}CH_{3}). \\ \end{array}$

5-Bromo-6-isopropyloxy-5,6-dihydroarabinofuranosyluracil(7c): Yield=75%, R_f=0.46, ¹H NMR: 5.70(1H,d, Hz,H1'), 5.55(1H,d, 3Hz,H6), 4.38(1H,m,H3'), 4.12(2H,m,H2',H4'), 3.85(1H,m,

 $OCH(CH_3)_2$), 3.78(2H,m,H5',5"), 3.42(1H,d,3Hz,H5), 1.13(6H,d,6Hz,OCH(CH_3)₂).

Preparation of acetates (8-10)

The reaction mixture from preparations of 5-7 was concentrated and dried under vaccum and treated with pyridine (2ml) and acetic anhydride (1ml) for 4h. at 25° C. TLC at this stage showed a faster moving single spot indicating the completion of reaction. The mixture was extracted with chloroform (10-15ml). The chloroform extract were concentrated and chromatographed over a silica gel column (i.d. 3cm). Elution with petroleum ether($60^{\circ}-80^{\circ}$ C)/ethyl acetate (1:1,v/v) yielded the triacetates (8-10) as inseparable diastereomeric mixtures, which were then characterized by 1 H and 13 C NMR.

2',3',5'-Tri-O-acetyl-5-bromo-6-methoxy-5,6-dihydrouridine (8a): Yield=82%, R_f =0.60, ¹H NMR: 9.10(1H,br,NH), 6.00(1H,d,5.5Hz,H1'), 5.24(2H,m,H2',H3'),4.78(1H,d,2.7Hz,H6), 4.27(4H,m,H4',H5'5" overlapping with signal at 4.2,m,H2'), 3.32 (3H,s,OCH₃), 1.98, 2.05 and 2.1(each 3H,s,3xOCOCH₃). ¹³CNMR: 170.41, 169.82 and 169.62 (3xOCOCH₃), 165.21 and 150.7 (CONHCO), 86.24(C6), 84.75(C1'), 79.61(C2'), 72.34(C3'), 70.13(C4'), 63.37(C5'), 56.99(CH₃), 38.41(C5), 20.41-20.80(OCOCH₃).

2',3',5'-Tri-O-acetyl-5-bromo-6-ethoxy-5,6-dihydrouridine (8b): Yield=85%, R_f =0.55; ¹H NMR: 9.40(1H,br,NH), 6.00(1H,d,5Hz,H1'), 5.29(2H,m,H2',H3'), 4.91(1H,d,3Hz,H6), 4.32-4.40 (4H,m, overlapping signals for H5,H4',H5'5"), 3.72(2H,q,7HzOCH_2CH_3), 2.10, 2.13 and 2.16 (each 3H,s,3xCOCH_3), 1.13 (2H,t,7Hz,OCH_2CH_3). ¹³CNMR: 170.47, 169.88 and 169.62(3xOCOCH_3), 165.46 and 150.97(CONHCO),86.17(C6), 83.44(C1'), 79.48(C2'), 72.33(C3'), 70.05(C4'), 63.36(C5'), 38.79(C5), 20.73 and 20.34(OCOCH_3), 15.1(CH_2CH_3)

H6), 4.23(3H,m,H4',H5'5"), 3.90(1H,m,OCH(CH₃)₂), 2.01 and 2.00(9H,s,3xOCOCH₃), 1.01(6H,d,6Hz,CH(CH₃)₂). ¹³CNMR: 170.32 170.81 and 169.61(3xOCOCH₃), 165.23 and 150.84 (2xCONHCO), 86.04(C6), 81.67(C1'), 79.62(C2'), 72.54(C3'), 71.75(C4'), 70.00(CHMe₂), 63.41(C5'), 39.67(C5), 22.95, 22.32 (CH(CH₃)₂) 20.98, 20.71 and 20.61 (3xOCOCH₃).

3',5'-Di-O-acetyl-5-bromo-6-methoxy-5,6-dihydrothymidine (9a) Yield=78%, R_f =0.68, ¹H NMR: 7.55(1H,br,NH), 6.12(1H,t, 7Hz, H1'), 5.20(1H,m,H3'), 4.75(1H,s,H6), 4.23(3H,m,H4',H5'5"), 3.42(3H,s,OCH₃), 2.37(1H,m,H3'), 2.00,2.11(6H,2xs,OCOCH₃), 1.97(3H,s,5CH₃). ¹³C NMR: 170.59, 170.42(2xOCOCH₃), 167.35 and 150.87(CONHCO), 87.47(C6), 84.79(C1'), 81.60(C3'), 74.19 (C4'), 64.00(C5'), 58.08(OCH₃), 53.64(C5), 36.74(C2'), 22.86 (5CH₃), 21.73 and 21.22(OCOCH₃).

3',5'-Di-O-acetyl-5-bromo-6-ethoxy-5,6-dihydrothymidine (9b): Yield=75%, R_f=0.60.
¹H NMR: 7.57(1H,br,NH), 6.08(1H,t,7Hz,H1'), 5.13(1H,m,H3'), 4.82(1H,s,H6), 4.22(2H,m,H4',H5'),3.77 (2H,q,OCH₂CH₃), 2.33(1H,m,H2'), 2.0(6H,s,2xCOCH₃), 1.95(3H,s 5CH₃), 1.06(3H,t,OCH₂CH₃).
¹³C NMR: 170.61 and 170.43(6H,s,2xOCOCH₃), 167.20 and 150.80(CONHCO), 86.29(C6), 84.97(C1'), 81.67(C3'), 74.23(C4'), 66.4(OCH₂CH₃), 64.0(C5'), 53.87(C5), 36.94(C2'), 23.45(5CH₃), 21.61 and 21.07(6H,2xs,OCOCH₃).

3'5'-Di-O-acetyl-5-bromo-6-isopropyloxy-5,6-dihydrothymidine (9c): Yield=70%, R_f =0.55, ¹H NMR: 8.00(1H,brs,NH), 6.11(1H,t,7Hz,H1'), 5.18(1H,m,H3'), 4.97(1H,s,H6), 4.22(3H,m,H4',H5'5"), 4.09(1H,q,6Hz,OCH(CH₃)₂), 2.38(2H,m,H2'2"), 2.12 and 2.10(6H,2xs,OCOCH₃), 1.95(3H,s,5CH₃), 1.0(6H,d,6Hz,OCH(CH₃)₂) 13c NMR: 170.61, 170.47(2xs,2xCOCH₃), 167.5, 151.22(CONHCO) 85.06(C6), 83.94(C1'), 81.62(C3'), 74.12(C4'), 70.93(OCHMe₂) 64.01(C5'), 54.21(C5) 37.19(C2'), 23.84(CH(CH₃)₂, 21.52 and 21.52(2xOCOCH₃).

 80.41(C2'), 76.36(C3'), 75.37(C4'), 63.08(C5'), 57.08(OCH₃), 37.62(C5), 21.43(OCO<u>CH₃</u>).

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Received 3/13/91 Accepted 7/29/91