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Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

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Synthesis of 2',3'-Dideoxy-3'-C-Hydroxymethyl Nucleosides Having the L-Configuration as Potential Inhibitors of HIV

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To cite this Article Kvarnström, Ingemar , Svansson, Lars , Svensson, Carina , Stefan, Svensson, C. T. , Classon, Björn and Samuelsson, Bertil(1992) 'Synthesis of 2',3'-Dideoxy-3'-C-Hydroxymethyl Nucleosides Having the L-Configuration as Potential Inhibitors of HIV', *Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids*, 11: 7, 1367 – 1370

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/07328319208021179

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07328319208021179>

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SYNTHESIS OF 2',3'-DIDEOXY-3'-C-HYDROXYMETHYL NUCLEOSIDES HAVING THE L-CONFIGURATION AS POTENTIAL INHIBITORS OF HIV

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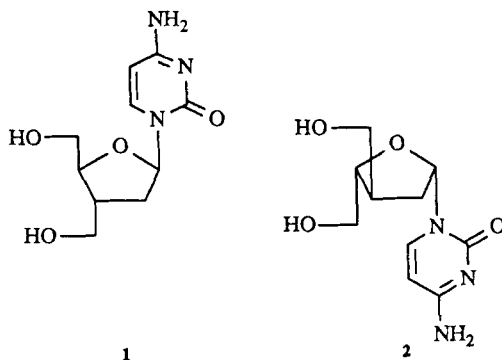
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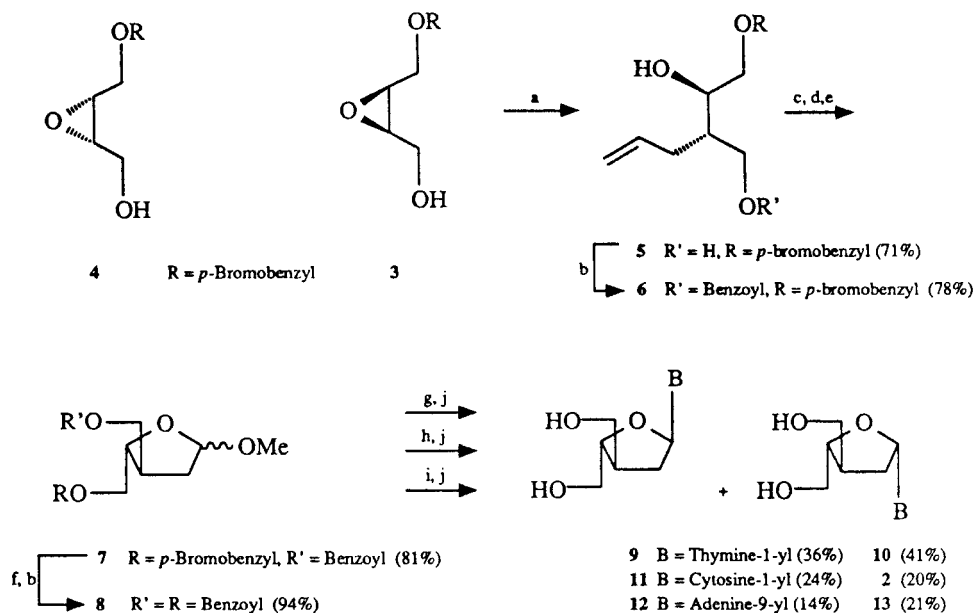
Abstract

Synthesis of 2',3'-Dideoxy-3'-C-(hydroxymethyl)- α - and β -L-erythro-pentofuranosyl nucleosides of thymine, cytosine and adenine is reported.

Recently we published¹ the synthesis of some 2',3'-dideoxy-3'-C-hydroxymethyl nucleosides. One of the compounds in this series, 2',3'-dideoxy-3'-C-hydroxymethylcytidine **1**, was found to be a potent inhibitor of HIV activity *in vitro*.



The synthetic route that was developed for **1**¹ provides an easy access to the enantiomers of these 3'-C-hydroxymethyl nucleosides. Since enantiomers of biologically active compounds often differ in both potency and selectivity, we decided to synthesize **2** which is the enantiomer of **1** along with the adenosine and thymidine

Scheme I^a

^a (a) AllylMgBr , diethyl ether, -50°C ; (b) BzCl , pyridine; (c) OsO_4 , *N*-methylmorpholine *N*-oxide, $\text{THF-H}_2\text{O}$; (d) NaIO_4 , $\text{THF-H}_2\text{O}$; (e) HCl , MeOH ; (f) Na , NH_3 ; (g) Silylated thymine, TBDMSOTf , CH_2Cl_2 ; (h) Silylated cytosine, TBDMSOTf , CH_2Cl_2 ; (i) Silylated 6-Cl-purine, TBDMSOTf , CH_2Cl_2 ; (j) NH_3 , MeOH .

analogues and to evaluate their anti-HIV activity *in vitro*. An attempt to explore the chiral origin of recognition was recently explored in the synthesis of L-3'-azido-3'-deoxythymidine. The described anti-HIV activity of this compound was however very low.²

As starting material for the synthesis of 2, the chiral epoxide 3 was used in place of epoxide 4, both readily available using the Sharpless epoxidation procedure.³

The L-furanoside 8 thus obtained was condensed with silylated thymine, cytosine and 6-chloropurine respectively according to the Vorbrüggen procedure⁴ to give a mixture of α - and β -nucleoside derivatives. These intermediates were processed further as previously described¹ to give compounds 2 and 9-13. The optical rotations of the nucleosides 2 and 9-13 differ in absolute value from the enantiomeric nucleosides,

which most likely reflex a difference in water content. Compounds **2** and **9-13** were tested for inhibition of HIV multiplication in H-9⁵ cells but were all found to be inactive.

Experimental

General methods were the same as those previously described.¹ All substances were prepared and analysed following the same procedure as for the preparation of the enantiomeric compound.¹ The NMR spectra were identical with those for the enantiomeric compound.

(2R,3S)-1-O-(p-Bromobenzyl)-3-(2'-propenyl)-1,2,4-butanetriol (5).

Yield 71%. $[\alpha]^{22}_{\text{D}} -1.4^{\circ}$ (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).

(2R,3S)-4-O-Benzoyl-1-O-(p-bromobenzyl)-3-(2'-propenyl)-1,2,4-butanetriol (6).

Yield 78%. $[\alpha]^{22}_{\text{D}} -9.9^{\circ}$ (*c* 1.06, CHCl₃).

Methyl 3-C-[(Benzoyloxy)methyl]-5-O-(p-bromobenzyl)-2,3-dideoxy- α - and β -L-erythro-pentofuranoside (7).

Yield 81%.

Methyl 5-O-Benzoyl-3-C-[(benzoyloxy)methyl]-2,3-dideoxy- α - and β -L-erythro-pentofuranoside (8).

Yield 94%.

1-[2',3'-Dideoxy-3'-C-(hydroxymethyl)- α - and β -L-erythro-pentofuranosyl]-thymine (9 and 10).

9: Yield 36%. $[\alpha]^{22}_{\text{D}} +8.3^{\circ}$ (*c* 0.48, H₂O); UV (H₂O) λ_{max} 268 nm (ϵ 7976). **10:** Yield 41%. $[\alpha]^{22}_{\text{D}} -21.2^{\circ}$ (*c* 0.32, H₂O); UV (H₂O) λ_{max} 268 nm (ϵ 8123).

1-[2',3'-Dideoxy-3'-C-(hydroxymethyl)- α - and β -L-erythro-pentofuranosyl]-cytosine (11 and 2).

11: Yield 24%. $[\alpha]^{22}_{\text{D}} +57.3^{\circ}$ (*c* 0.61, H₂O); UV (H₂O) λ_{max} 272 nm (ϵ 7647). **2:** Yield 20%. $[\alpha]^{22}_{\text{D}} -76.3^{\circ}$ (*c* 1.14, H₂O); UV (H₂O) λ_{max} 272 nm (ϵ 5333).

9-[2',3'-Dideoxy-3'-C-(hydroxymethyl)- α - and β -L-erythro-pentofuranosyl]-adenine (12 and 13).

- 12:** Yield 14%. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{22} -45.2^0$ (*c* 0.37, H₂O); UV (H₂O) λ_{max} 260 nm (ϵ 10987).
13: Yield 21%. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{22} +22.5^0$ (*c* 0.44, H₂O); UV (H₂O) λ_{max} 260 nm (ϵ 11482).

Acknowledgement. We thank the Swedish National Board of Industrial Technical Development and Medivir AB for financial support, and Medivir AB for carrying out the biological testing.

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Received 12/17/91

Accepted 4/21/92