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Prashantha Gunaga^a; Hea Ok Kim^a; Hyun Ji Kim^a; Moon Woo Chun^b; Lak Shin Jeong^a

^a Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea ^b College of Pharmacy, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

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STEREOSELECTIVE SYNTHESIS OF NOVEL *THIOISO* DIDEOXY NUCLEOSIDES WITH EXOCYCLIC METHYLENE AS POTENTIAL ANTIVIRAL AGENTS

Prashantha Gunaga, Hea Ok Kim, and Hyun Ji Kim □ *Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea*

Moon Woo Chun □ *College of Pharmacy, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea*

Lak Shin Jeong □ *Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea*

□ *Novel thioiso pyrimidine and purine nucleosides substituted with exocyclic methylene have been synthesized, starting from D-xylose. Cyclization of the dimesylate to the 4-thiosugar **6a** proceeded in pure S_N2 reaction in the presence of allylic functional group.*

INTRODUCTION

BMS-200475 (**1**, entecavir),^[1] has shown potent anti-HBV activity and was found to be 100 times more potent than lamivudine and is in phase III clinical trials. On the basis of the chemical structure of **1**, we have designed and synthesized iso dideoxynucleosides among which adenine analogue **2** exhibited potent anti-HBV activity^[2] (Figure 1).

Based on the potent anti-HBV activity of **2**, and the principle of bioisosterism, we designed the target nucleoside **3** to compare its anti-HBV activity with that of compound **2**. Here, we wish to report the stereoselective synthesis of novel thioiso dideoxynucleosides **3** with exocyclic methylene as potential antiviral agents and their related chemistry.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis of the glycosyl donors, **10** and **11**, starting from D-xylose is shown in Scheme 1. D-Xylose was converted to methylene derivative **4** according to the

Address correspondence to Lak Shin Jeong, Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy, Ewha Womans University, Seoul 120-750, Korea.

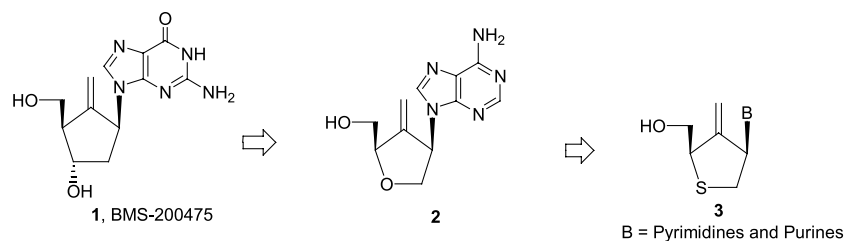
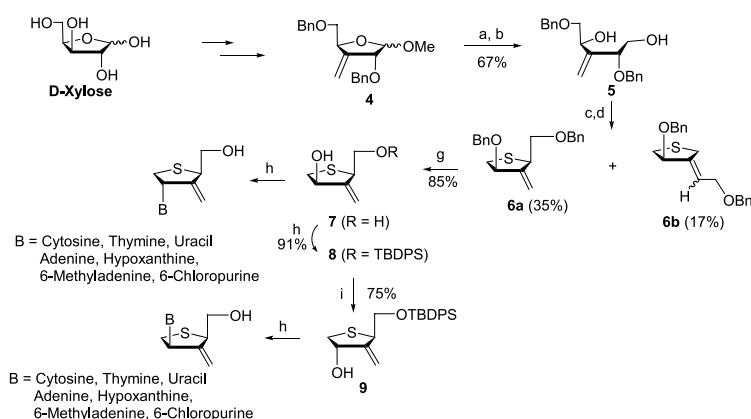


FIGURE 1 The rationale for the design of the target nucleosides.

known procedures.^[2–5] Hydrolysis of **4** under acidic conditions followed by reduction of the lactol with lithium borohydride gave diol **5**. Treatment of **5** with mesyl chloride followed by treating with sodium sulfide in DMF afforded the desired thiosugar **6a** along with S_N2' product **6b** as a mixture of (*E*)- and (*Z*)-isomers. The optimum yield of **6a** was obtained on stirring in DMF at 0°C for 4 h. It is interesting to note that cyclization proceeded in pure S_N2 reaction, not S_N1 reaction in the presence of allylic functional group. Thiosugar **6** was debenzylated and selectively protected with TBDPS group to give the glycosyl donor **8**. For the synthesis of cis-nucleosides, another glycosyl donor **9** was obtained by the inversion of the stereochemistry of C3-hydroxyl group using Mitsunobu reaction.^[6]

For the synthesis of trans-purine nucleosides, glycosyl donor **8** was condensed with 6-chloropurine under the Mitsunobu conditions^[6] to give the protected nucleoside which in turn was desilylated and converted to adenine derivative, *N*⁶-methyladenine derivative, and hypoxanthine derivative. Condensation of **8** with *N*³-benzoylthymine and *N*³-benzoyluracil under the standard Mitsunobu conditions followed by removal of the protecting groups also yielded cis-pyrimidine nucleosides, thymine, and uracil derivatives. Unlike cyclization to get 4-thiosugar



SCHEME 1 Reagents: (a) HCl/Dioxane; (b) LiBH₄, THF; (c) MsCl, Pyridine, CH₂Cl₂; (d) Na₂S, DMF, 0°C; (e) BCl₃, CH₂Cl₂; (f) TBDPSCI, Imidazole, DMF; (g) BzOH, PPh₃, DEAD, THF then MeOH/NH₃; (h) Base, PPh₃, DEAD, 0°C.

6a, Mitsunobu condensation reaction proceeded in pure S_N2 fashion without the formation of S_N2' product. Cis-uracil derivative was converted to the cis-cytosine derivative according to the conventional method. Similarly, another glycosyl donor **9** was converted to the trans-purine and pyrimidine nucleosides.

All synthesized final nucleosides were tested against several viruses such as HIV-1, HBV, HCV, and HCMV. The 6-chloropurine derivatives only exhibited very weak anti-HCV activity.

In summary, we have accomplished the asymmetric synthesis of novel thioiso nucleosides with exocyclic methylene, starting from D-xylose. The pure S_N2 cyclization reaction in the presence of allylic mesylate was obtained by stirring a solution of dimesylate in DMF at low temperature.

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