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The Chemistry of Glucal Halohydrins: The Effect of the Halide on Epoxide Formation

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Abstract: Chlorohydrins, bromohydrins, and iodohydrins, formed by hydroxyhalogenation of tri-O-methyl glucal, undergo base induced cyclization to give glucal epoxides. The mechanism of the cyclization reaction was probed using ¹H NMR and deuterium incorporation studies. Cyclization and *in situ* trapping with Cs₂CO₃ in MeOD gave deuterated methyl 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-α-D-mannoside and methyl 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-β-D-glucoside, and an unsaturated aldehyde. These studies led to optimized stereoselectivity for the epoxide formation. Reaction of gluco bromohydrins with NaH or LiHMDS in THF at 5 °C gave β-epoxide, and reaction of manno iodohydrins with KH and 18-crown-6 in toluene at -70 °C gave α-epoxide. The epoxides were opened by reaction with sodium phenylthiolate to give phenyl 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-1-thio-α-D-mannosyde (single isomer), and phenyl 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-1-thio-β-D-glucopyranoside (>18:1), respectively.

INTRODUCTION

We recently reported an alternative approach to the stereoselective formation of 1,2-anhydro sugars (glycal epoxides) involving the formation and cyclization of bromohydrins.¹ We observed that either the α or β epoxides can be formed with moderate selectivity depending upon the cyclization conditions (Scheme 1). A diastereomeric mixture of bromohydrins 1, prepared from tri-O-methyl-D-glucal and NBA in 10 % aqueous THF (manno : gluco, 2:1), reacted with KH in toluene and 18-crown-6 at -72 °C to give predominantly the α -epoxide 2a. Trapping of the intermediate epoxide with a variety of nucleophiles (SPh, N₃, OBn, OMe) gave the β -glucosides 3 as the major product (1:10, α -manno : β -gluco). Conversely, reaction of the bromohydrin mixture with NaH in THF at 5 °C gave predominantly the β -epoxide 2b, and trapping with nucleophiles gave the α -mannosides 4 as the major product (3:1, α -manno : β -gluco). The distribution of anomers obtained from trapping with nucleophiles was not that expected from a 2:1 ratio of manno and gluco bromohydrins. Epoxide formation would be expected to proceed with inversion of C-2 stereochemistry, and the subsequent ring opening² with inversion of configuration at C-1. Thus, one would predict that bromohydrins with a manno:gluco ratio of 2:1 would produce α and β epoxides in a ratio of 2:1, and the products of nucleophilic attack in a ratio of 1:2 (manno:gluco). To account for the observed product ratios, it seemed probable that a pathway existed which permits interconversion of the four isomeric bromohydrins. We proposed¹ a reaction

mechanism involving stereochemical scrambling at C-2 prior to the cyclization step. To support this proposal, a careful study of the reaction was performed using ¹H NMR spectroscopy, deuterium incorporation, and by observing the effect of changing halide.



RESULTS

Formation of the Halohydrins. In general, diastereomeric mixtures of chlorohydrins 6, iodohydrins 7, and bromohydrins 1 were prepared by reaction of tri-O-methyl glucal with a halogenating agent in aqueous solvent (Scheme 2). Chlorohydrins 6a-d were prepared using N-chlorosuccinimide in 10% aqueous THF and consisted of predominantly gluco diastereoisomers (1 : 2.3, manno:gluco). Iodohydrins 7a-d were prepared using N-iodosuccinimide in 10% aqueous THF and consisted of predominantly gluco. Several experiments were performed to determine the effect of solvent and halogen source on the selectivity of the hydroxyhalogenation reaction (see experimental section, Table 2). In general, there were only small variations in the product ratios. Chlorination tended to favor gluco, and iodination and bromination tended to favor manno.³ Optimized selectivity for the gluco bromohydrins 1 (93% overall yield, manno:gluco ratio, 1:2) was achieved by dibromination of tri-O-methyl glucal with bromine in CCl₄ and hydrolysis of the anomeric bromide with silver carbonate in aqueous THF (Table, entry 8).⁴ The pure α -gluco bromohydrins 7c and 7d were prepared with high selectivity (>18:1 manno:gluco by ¹H NMR, entry 12) using a variation on glycosidation conditions (NIS/ 10% aqueous propionitrile/-78° C) recently reported by Roush and co-workers.⁵

¹H NMR Spectroscopy: Monitoring the Cyclization Reaction of the Bromohydrins. Glucal epoxides are relatively labile and are not easily isolated. Since the ratio of substituted glycosides 3 and 4 are easily determined, it was necessary to ascertain that the ratio of these glycosides was indeed the same as the ratio of epoxides. This would allow a correlation of the ratio of the glycosides formed with the ratio of the intermediate epoxides. Therefore, the course of the cyclization reaction was followed using low temperature ¹H NMR to observe the epoxide formation *in situ*. NaH was added to the bromohydrin mixture in THF-dg at -60° C, and

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¹H NMR spectra were obtained periodically until the reaction was complete. The spectra (Figure 1) clearly show the clean conversion of the bromohydrins into two new compounds with resonances at δ 4.82 (br s) and 4.79 ppm (d, J = 2.7 Hz) in a 3:1 ratio. The chemical shifts are consistent with those expected for a glucal epoxide,² and they were assigned as the α and β epoxides, respectively. The addition of an excess of sodium phenyl thiolate to the reaction resulted in the appearance of two new resonances (not shown) in the anomeric region at δ 5.59 (d, J = 1.5 Hz) and 4.47 (d, J = 9.6 Hz) in a 3:1 ratio corresponding to the known¹ α and β phenyl thioglycosides 4a and 3a, respectively. Reaction of the α -gluco bromohydrin 1a was also studied by low temperature ¹H NMR (Figure 2). Addition of NaH to a THF-d₈ solution of the α -gluco bromohydrin 1a led to a rapid equilibration to an α/β mixture of gluco bromohydrins, as evidenced by the new broad peak at δ 4.77 (Fig.2, spectrum b). In addition, a resonance at δ 9.6 ppm (not shown), assigned the open chain aldehyde, was observed. The resonances due to the anomeric protons of the bromohydrins slowly decreased while a new resonance at δ 4.79 ppm, assigned to the β epoxide, grew in.



Figure 1: ¹H NMR spectra (δ 4.3-5.3 ppm) of the reaction of bromohydrins 1a-d with NaH in THF-dg a) Bromohydrins 4a-d in THF; b) NaH added, time =45 mins., temp. = 0 °C; c) time = 60 mins, temp. = 0 °C; d) time = 4 hrs, temp. =22 °C



Figure 2: ¹H NMR spectra (δ 4.6-5.3 ppm) of the reaction of the α -gluco bromohydrin 1a with NaH in THF-d₈

a) α -gluco bromohydrin in THF (coupling to O-<u>H</u> observed), b) NaH added, time = 15 mins., temp. = -38 °C; c) time = 50 mins., temp. = 1 °C; d) time = 22 hrs., temp. = 24 °C.

It was apparent that a similar study on the manno bromohydrins 1c and 1d was necessary. The crude bromohydrin mixture was converted into the corresponding anomeric acetates, which were easily separated by chromatography on silica gel. Hydrolysis of the α -manno bromohydrin acetate with aqueous HCl in THF gave a mixture of the α and β manno bromohydrins 1c and 1d. NaHMDS was added to a mixture of the manno bromohydrins in THF-d₈ and the reaction was followed by ¹H NMR (spectra not shown). A clean conversion to the α and β epoxides was again observed. However, integration of the epoxide anomeric resonances gave a ratio of 1.4 : 1. Unfortunately, all efforts to perform a complimentary series of ¹H NMR experiments on the KH system, which is selective for the α -epoxide, failed. The spectra suffered from severe line broadening and a poor signal to noise ratio, and could not be interpreted. Reaction of Halohydrins with Cesium Carbonate in MeOD. We had reported that the epoxides could be formed and trapped in situ by reaction of the bromohydrins 1a-d in methanol solution.^{1,6} Methyl glycosides 3d and 4d were formed by the *in situ* reaction (Scheme 2) of bromohydrins 1 with Cs₂CO₃ or NaOCH₃ in methanol (1:3, α -manno : β -gluco). In addition, an α , β -unsaturated aldehyde 5 was also isolated in up to 24 % yield from these *in situ* reactions. If substantial enolization was occurring under the cyclization conditions, then reactions performed in MeOD should result in the incorporation of deuterium in the glycoside products. Thus, the halohydrins 1, 6, and 7 were reacted with Cs₂CO₃ in methanol-d₁ (Scheme 2). Deuterated methyl glycosides 8a and 8b were isolated by column chromatography on silica gel and their yields determined (Table 1). Deuterium incorporation was confirmed with ²H NMR spectroscopy. The extent of deuterium incorporation was then determined by acetylation of the methylglycosides 8 with acetic anhydride-d₆ in pyridine. The purified acetates 9a and 9b were examined by ²H NMR, and a comparison of the areas of the C-2 resonance versus the acetate-d₃ resonance afforded a means of quantifying the extent of incorporation.



Table 1: %²H-Incorporation Into Methyl Glycosides Derived from 2-Halo-2-deoxy Sugars

Entry	Halohydrin	Starting Ratio manno : gluco	Reaction time	Yield 5	Yield 8a+8b	Product Ratio manno : gluco	% ² Η α- manno	% ² H β-gluco
1	Cl	1:2.3	4 days	trace	49 %	1:7	88 %	79 %
2	Br	1.8:1	18 hrs	24%	37 %	1:4	71 %	20 %
3	I	3.7:1	42 hrs	13%	37 %	1:3	59 %	14 %

Reaction of the chlorohydrins in MeOD (Table 1, entry 1) led to a substantial amount of deuterium incorporation in both the α -methyl mannoside **8a** (88%), and the β -methyl glucoside **8b** (79%) and only trace quantities of aldehyde **5**. In addition, the change in ratio from the chlorohydrins (manno:gluco, 1:2.3) to the methyl glycosides (1:7), indicated considerable C-2 epimerization. The bromohydrins (entry 2) gave α -methyl

mannoside with high deuterium content (71%), and β -methyl glucoside with low incorporation (20%). Again, the ratio of methyl glycosides formed required some C-2 epimerization. Reaction of the iodohydrins (entry 3) in MeOD resulted in α -methyl mannoside and β -methyl glucoside with much lower levels of deuterium, 59% and 14% respectively. The ratio of methyl glycosides (manno:gluco, 3:1) was close to that expected based on a simple S_N2 mechanism (1:3.7). The bromohydrins 1 and iodohydrins 7 both yielded significant quantities (up to 24%) of aldehyde 5.

DISCUSSION

As stated earlier, epoxide formation would be expected to proceed with inversion of C-2 stereochemistry, and the subsequent ring opening² with inversion of configuration at C-1. Thus, one would predict that the halohydrin ratio would be reflected in the products of nucleophilic attack. Since cyclization of the halohydrins generally proceeds via an S_N^2 mechanism, the geometry requirements of the reaction are met when the substituents have a trans relationship.

¹H NMR Experiments. The NMR spectra obtained from the reaction of bromohydrins 1a-d with NaH in THF (Figure 1) showed clean conversion of the bromohydrins to both the α epoxide (δ 4.82 ppm) and β epoxide (δ 4.79 ppm). The ratio of epoxides was the same as the ratio of glycoside formed by addition of sodium phenyl thiolate. The gluco bromohydrins (Figure 2) cleanly converted to only the β epoxide, and therefore did not undergo epimerization at C-2. Whereas the manno bromohydrins gave both the α -epoxide and the β epoxide in a 1.4:1 ratio. Thus, with sodium as the counter ion only the manno isomers undergo epimerization at C-2. It is probable, based on the product ratios (1:10, manno:gluco), that reaction of the bromohydrin mixture with KH in toluene and 18-crown-6 results in C-2 epimerization for the gluco isomers.¹ The reactions appear to proceed via formation of an open-chain α -bromo aldehyde intermediate which closes to give appropriate 1,2 trans stereochemistry required for epoxide formation, as seen by the conversion of α -gluco to β -gluco in Figure 2.

Deuterium Incorporation. The product ratios (Table 1) indicate that a significant amount of methyl glucoside is formed via initial C-2 epimerization of the gluco halohydrin. In addition, the methyl mannoside consistently has the highest deuterium content, and is the minor product. Only in the cyclization of the chlorohydrins is the methyl glucoside also formed with high deuterium incorporation. The diaxial α -manno halohydrin C, leading to the methyl glucoside **8b**, is expected to react more rapidly than the diequatorial β -gluco halohydrin B, which leads to the methyl mannoside **8a** (Scheme 3). The rate difference is because a higher energy boat conformation is required for cyclization of the diequatorial (β -gluco) halohydrin. A study of the effects of conformation on halohydrin cyclization in steroids was conducted by Barton and coworkers.⁷ The diaxial 2 β -hydroxy-3 α -bromo cholestane reacted 10⁴ times faster the than the diequatorial 2 α -bromo-3 β -hydroxy cholestane under similar conditions. The α -manno halohydrin has the correct conformation for a efficient cyclization (anti periplanar) and probably cyclizes rapidly upon formation (Scheme 3) with little chance for equilibration. In comparison, cyclization of β -gluco halohydrin is slow and equilibration via the aldehyde is competitive. Thus, the cyclizing gluco halohydrin will have had ample opportunity for deuterium incorporation, accounting for the higher deuterium content of the methyl mannosides.

The epimerization of sugar derivatives at C-2 under basic conditions is a well known process which is generally considered to proceed through enolization of the acyclic aldehyde.⁸ Recently, Roush and coworkers reported significant amounts of C-2 epimerization when attempting to form a trichloroacetamide from a 2-deoxy-2-thiophenyl glucose with sodium hydride and trichloroacetonitrile.⁹ The base-catalyzed C-2 epimerization of N-acetylglucosamine has been studied by deuterium incorporation with NaOD in D₂O.¹⁰ An enolization pathway was proposed to account for incorporation of deuterium at C-2 A significant feature of both the N-acetylglucosamine and the thioglucose experiments was the lack of observed β elimination (loss of the C-3 oxygen). Therefore, a rational explanation for the epimerization at C-2 observed with bromohydrins is an enolization of the acyclic α -bromo aldehyde.



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The Effect of Halide. In general, the amount of deuterium incorporation in the methylmannoside increases in the order; iodide < bromide < chloride. Only in the cyclization of the chlorohydrins is the methyl glucoside also formed with high deuterium incorporation. The effect of the halide on deuterium incorporation can also be explained by a comparison of relative reaction rates. Chloride, of the three halides examined, is the least reactive in substitution reactions, whereas iodide is the most reactive. Therefore, reaction of the chlorohydrin, is slow, even for the favored diaxial α -manno isomer. Thus equilibration, and deuterium incorporation becomes competitive for both the gluco and manno chlorohydrins giving high deuterium content in both methyl glycosides. The bromides and iodides also yield significant quantities of aldehyde 5. Unsaturated aldehyde 5 is formed by attack of the C-5 OH on the α -haloaldehyde and subsequent elimination of the C-3 alkoxy, indicating a significant concentration of the ring open aldehyde.

A Generalized Reaction Mechanism. The data obtained from the deuterium experiments in MeOD also give some indication of the factors which are responsible for the diastereoselective formation of glycal epoxides in non-protic solvent (THF and PhMe). However, there are major differences between these reaction conditions since the alkoxide formation is essentially irreversible in a non protic solvent. Whereas, the metal counter ion (Cs vs Na) showed little effect on product distribution in methanol solution, changing the metal ion in non protic solvents has a dramatic effect on product ratios.¹ Under such circumstances the metal ion must play a critical role in selecting the reaction pathway and thus controlling the resulting stereochemistry. Metal ion as well as solvent have been shown to have large effects on the stereoselectivity of both acylation¹¹ and alkylation¹² of anomeric alkoxides. A change in relative reactivity of the anomeric alkoxides was proposed for acylation using BuLi in either THF or benzene. Similarly, in the alkylation of glucopyranose sodium alkoxides the preference for the β -anomer at higher temperature was attributed to increased nucleophilicity of the β alkoxide relative to the α -alkoxide. Added crown ether showed little effect on the product distribution, but in the alkylation of the anomeric sodium alkoxides derived from furanose derivatives, added crown ether gave the α -product, and without crown ether the β -anomer was produced. Non-chelated versus chelated intermediates were proposed. We have previously observed¹ that addition of 15-crown-5 to the NaH/THF system caused a change in selectivity (from 3:1 to 1:1, manno : gluco) for cyclization of the bromohydrins 1. Addition of 18crown-6 to the cyclization of bromohydrins 1 with KH in THF also caused a change in selectivity. The alkoxide formed from KH and 18-crown-6 is extremely reactive and thus a kinetic pathway should be favored. The antiperiplanar conformation of the α -manno halohydrin is much more reactive than the competitive cyclization through the β -gluco halohydrin, which must adopt the boat conformation to react. Thus, the selectivity can be partially attributed to rate differences between the two competing cyclizations. In addition, the "naked" nature of the alkoxide could amplify the anomeric effect and favor the α -anomer.⁹ In contrast, the alkoxide formed from NaH in THF is cyclizing through the slower, diequatorial reaction pathway. The sodium ion is strongly associated with the alkoxide oxygen and may be coordinated to other oxygen atoms in the carbohydrate. This arrangement probably favors an equatorial alkoxide (β) which can only react in the gluco form and therefore effectively blocks the alternative pathway. Coordination may also stabilize the boat conformation.

Optimization of the Stereoselectivity. If coordination were important in formation of the β -epoxide, then lithium alkoxides should be more selective than sodium alkoxides through stronger coordination. While LiH was unreactive towards bromohydrins 1a-d, and n-BuLi resulted in decomposition, LiHMDS reacted rapidly at 5 °C with bromohydrins 1 (2:1 manno : gluco) in THF to form epoxide 2. Addition of sodium phenylthiolate to the epoxide 2 gave α -phenylthio mannoside 4a and β -phenylthio glucoside 3a in a ratio of 10 : 1, an improvement over the results obtained with NaH or NaHMDS (3:1). It was clear from the NMR and deuterium experiments that the reaction of the pure gluco bromohydrins 1a,1b with NaH or LiHMDS in THF would give a high selectivity for the β epoxide. Also, reaction of the pure diaxial manno iodohydrins 7c, 7d with potassium hydride in toluene and 18-crown-6 would give a high selectivity for the α -epoxide. Thus, either the α or β epoxide can be formed selectively by careful choice of halohydrin and reaction conditions. Reaction of the gluco bromohydrin 1a with NaH in THF and trapping the epoxide with sodium phenylthiolate gave the α -thiophenyl mannoside (38%) as the only isolable product. Cyclization of the manno iodohydrins with KH/18-Crown-6 in PhCH₃ at -78^o C, and trapping of the intermediate epoxides with nucleophiles (SPh, N₃) gave high selectivities for the β anomers (>1:18 α : β) in modest yields (35-40%). Reaction of the manno iodohydrins with Cs2CO2 in methanol gave slightly higher yields (43% glycosides and 19% aldehyde), but only a 1:6 ratio of α and β methyl glycosides 4d and 3d.

EXPERIMENTAL

¹H and ¹³C spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ solution on a Varian XL-300 spectrometer at 300 and 75 MHz, respectively. ¹H chemical shifts are reported in ppm downfield from Me₄Si. The ¹³C chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to the center line of CDCl₃ (77.0 ppm). ²H NMR spectra were recorded in CHCl₃ at 46 MHz, and chemical shifts are reported relative to CDCl₃ (7.24 ppm). Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 1600 series FTIR. Melting points were determined on an Electrothermal melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Mass spectra were determined on a Varian Mat 331A spectrometer, and microanalyses were performed by Atlantic Microlab Inc. Optical rotations were recorded on an Autopol III polarimeter (Rudolph Research) under standard conditions. THF was distilled from sodium-benzophenone ketyl and CH₂Cl₂ was distilled from CaH₂. Methanol was distilled from Mg. The reactions were performed under argon. Column chromatography was performed on SiO₂ (Merck; 230-400 mesh) eluting with Et₂O/ hexanes mixtures. Tri-O-methyl -D-glucal¹³ was prepared from tri-O-acetyl-D-glucal by methanolysis (MeONa, MeOH) and methylation (NaH, DMF, MeI).

General Procedure for Hydroxyhalogenation of 3,4,6-Tri-O-Methyl-D-Glucal. A solution of 3,4,6-Tri-Omethyl-D-glucal (1.3 g, 6.9 mmol) in 10 % aqueous THF (26 mL) was cooled to 5° C, and the halogenating reagent (7.6 mmol) was added. The reaction progress was followed by thin layer chromatography (SiO₂, 1:1 hexanes/Et₂O) until consumption of trimethyl glucal was indicated. The mixture was diluted with water (30 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3x30 mL). The combined Et₂O extracts were washed with water (50 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a diastereomeric mixture of halohydrins.

	Halogen	Temperature	Solvent	Time	Yield	Ratio
	Source	°C			%	manno : gluco
1	NBS	5	DMF	4 hrs	96	2.8 : 1
2	NBS	5	CH ₃ CN	1 hr	92	4.2:1
3	NBS	5	THF	1 hr	36	3.5:1
4	NBS	5	Et ₂ O	2.5 hrs	52	5.2 : 1
5	NIRA	5	DMF	overnight	92	25.1
4	NDA	5	THE	4 hr	84	19.1
7	NDA			46 hre	56	25.1
,	NDA	foom temp.	£120	40 1113	50	2.5.1
	Br ₂	room temp.	CCI4	1 hr	100	1:2.1
8	then Ag ₂ CO ₃	room temp.	ТН F, H ₂ O	20 hrs	97	1 : 2.1
9	NIS	5	DMF	4.5 hrs	85	4.2:1
10	NIS	5	CH ₃ CN	25 mins	85	9:1
11	NIS	-20	CH ₃ CN	75 mins	91	18:1
12	NIS	-70 to room	CH ₃ CH ₂ CN	overnight	71	>18:1
		temp.				
13	NIS	room temp.	THF	1 hr	89	3.7:1
14	NIS	5	Et ₂ O	1.25 hrs	60	2.4 : 1
15	NCS	room temp.	DMF	3 days	91	1:1
16	NCS	room temp.	CH ₃ CN	4 days	30	1:2.1
17	NCS	room temp.	THF	6 days	89	1:2.3
18	NCS	45	THF	3 days	88	1: 2.4
19	NCS	room temp.	Et ₂ O	24 hrs	38	1:1

Table 2. Experimental Variation in the Hydroxyhalogenation of Tri-O-methyl-D-Glucal

Products from the entries in bold (6, 8, 12, 13, 17) were used for epoxide formation.

Bromohydrins 1a-d. 3,4,6-Tri-O-Methyl -D-glucal (1.3 g, 6.9 mmol) in 10 % aqueous THF (26 mL) and Nbromoacetamide (1.0 g, 7.6 mmol) gave a diastereomeric mixture of bromohydrins 4a-d (1.7 g, 5.8 mmol, 84 %): ¹H NMR (anomeric protons) δ 5.45(s) 4c (α-manno), 5.30 (d, J = 3.0 Hz) 4a (α-gluco), 4.75 (d, J = 8.6 Hz) 4b (β -gluco), 4.58 (d, J = 1.5 Hz) 4d (β -manno). Repeated recrystallization (3x, Et₂O/hexanes) produced a single diastereoisomer, 2-bromo-2-deoxy-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-a-D-glucopyranose (1a): mp 149-149.5 °C; $[\alpha]_{D}$ +145.2° (c = 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) 3401, 2992, 2917, 2842, 1451, 1379, 1189, 1128, 1048, and 1013 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR & 5.32 (t, 1H, J = 3.3 Hz), 4.04-3.99 (m, 1H), 3.80-3.69 (m, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.66-3.57 (m, 2H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 3.15 (t, 1H, J = 9 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ 92.9, 83.0, 81.4, 71.3, 70.4, 61.2, 60.6, 59.2, 51.9; MS (DP/CI) m/z 286, 284, 173, 141, 113, 101, 87, 71. Anal. Calcd. for C₉H₁₇O₅Br : C, 37.91; H, 6.01. Found: C, 38.00; H, 5.96. Acetylation of the bromohydrin mixture (1a-d) with Ac₂O in pyridine and CH₂Cl₂ at 5 °C gave a mixture of acetates (74 %). Column chromatography (SiO₂, EtOAc:hexanes, 1:4)) gave: 1-O-acetyl-2-bromo-2-deoxy-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-α-D-mannopyranose as an oil (13 %); IR (CHCl₃) 3010, 2932, 2836, 1749, 1373, 1149 and 1110 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 6.32 (d, 1 H, J = 1.9 Hz), 4.37 (dd, 1 H, J = 3.3, 1.8 Hz), 3.81-3.77 (m, 1 H), 3.71-3.52 (m, 4 H), 3.56 (s, 3 H), 3.47 (s, 3 H), 3.43 (s, 3 H), 2.11 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR δ 168.3, 93.9, 78.7, 75.8, 74.3, 71.1, 61.0, 59.5, 57.0, 49.1, 21.0, MS (DP/CI) *m/z* 327, 325, 269, 267, 237, 235, 155, 89. Further elution yielded 1-O-acetyl-2-bromo-2-deoxy-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-β-D-

glucopyranose as a crystalline solid (16 %): m.p. 82-85 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 3011, 2937, 2839, 1759, 1117, 1102 and 1061 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 5.68 (d, 1 H, J = 9 Hz), 3.79-3.67 (m, 1 H), 3.70 (s, 3 H), 3.64-3.59 (m, 2 H), 3.56 (s, 3 H), 3.47-3.42 (m, 1 H), 3.41-3.29 (m, 2 H), 3.39 (s, 3 H), 2.13 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR δ 168.7, 93.3, 86.7, 79.9, 75.4, 70.1, 61.3, 60.4, 59.2, 50.9, 20.8; MS (DP/CI) *m/z* 237, 235 (100).

Hydrolysis of 1-O-acetyl-2-bromo-2-deoxy-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl- α -D-mannopyranose. To the acetate (0.0271 g) in THF (5 mL) was added 1M aqueous HCl (1 mL). The mixture was stirred for 4 hrs and then additional aq. HCl (1 mL) was added. The mixture was heated to reflux for 10 hrs, it was then cooled and diluted with Et₂O (25ml). The organic solvents were washed with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ (2x25 mL) and H₂O (25 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated *in vacuo* to give a mixture of the manno bromohydrins 1c, 1d (0.017 g, 72%).

Chlorohydrins 6-d. 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-D-glucal (1.0 g, 5.3 mmol) in 10% aqueous THF (22 mL) and Nchlorosuccinimide (0.78 g, 5.9 mmol) gave chlorohydrins **6a-d** (1.14 g, 4.7 mmol, 89%) as a waxy solid: ¹H NMR (anomeric protons) δ 5.36 (d, J = 0.9 Hz) **6c** (α -manno), 5.27 (d, J = 3.3 Hz) **6a** (α -gluco), 4.67 (d, J = 8.1 Hz) **6b** (β -gluco), 4.47 (dd, J = 3.0, 1.5 Hz) **6d** (β -manno). Repeated recrystallization (3x, Et₂O/hexanes) produced a single diastereoisomer, **2-chloro-2-deoxy-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-\alpha-D-glucopyranose (6a)**: mp 149.3-150.0 °C; [α]_D +125.3° (c = 0.49, CHCl₃); IR (CHCl₃) 3407, 2989, 2919, 2841, 1448, 1379, 1188, 1131, 1100, 1052, and 1020 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 5.27 (t, 1H, J = 3.6 Hz), 4.04-3.98 (m, 1H), 3.78 (dd, 1H, J = 3.3, 1.2 Hz), 3.75-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.63-3.53 (m, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd, 1H, J = 10.2, 8.7 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ 92.7, 83.1, 80.8, 71.3, 70.2, 61.3, 60.6, 60.4, 59.2; MS (DP/CI) *m/z* 242, 240, 162, 105, 102, 101, 88, 87, 71, 45, 43; Anal. Calcd. for C₉H₁₇O₅Cl: C, 44.91; H, 7.12. Found: C, 44.97; H, 7.15.

Iodohydrins 7a-d. 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-D-glucal (0.64 g, 3.4 mmol) in 10% aqueous THF (17 mL) and Niodosuccinimide (0.84 g, 3.7 mmol) gave a diastereomeric mixture of iodohydrins 7a-d (1.0 g, 89 %): ¹H NMR (anomeric protons) δ 5.59 (br s) 7c (α -manno), 5.33 (br s) 7a (α -gluco), 4.85 (d, J = 9 Hz) 7b (β -gluco), 4.73 (d, J = 2.1 Hz) 7d (β-manno). MS (DP/EI) m/z 332, 300, 197, 173, 127, 113, 101, 87, 71, 45. Acetylation of the iodohydrin mixture (7a-d) with Ac₂O in pyridine and CH₂Cl₂ at 5 °C gave a mixture of acetates (52 %). Column chromatography (SiO₂, Et₂O/hexanes, 2:3) gave 1-O-acetyl-2-deoxy-2-iodo-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-α-**D-mannopyranose** as an oil (22 %): [\alpha]_D + 19.3° (c = 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (neat) 2929, 2831, 1749, 1456, 1373, 1297, 1220, 1141, 1112, 1046, 1001 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 6.39 (d, 1H, J = 1.5 Hz), 4.47 (dd, 1H, J = 4.5, 1.5 Hz), 3.86-3.80 (m, 1H), 3.67-3.57 (m, 2H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.55-3.47 (m, 1H), 3.44 (s, 3H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 2.85 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 4.2 Hz), 2.10 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR δ 168.2, 95.3, 78.1, 76.4, 74.3, 71.1, 60.8, 59.4, 56.5, 30.3, 20.8; Anal. Calcd. for C11H19O6I: C, 35.31; H, 5.12. Found: C, 35.44; H, 5.13. Further elution yielded 1-O-acetyl-2-deoxy-2-iodo-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-β-D-glucopyranose (13 %): mp 108-109 °C; [α]_D + 57.4° (c = 0.54, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR δ 5.74 (d, 1H, J = 9.3 Hz), 3.82 (t, 1H, J = 10.2 Hz), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.65-3.57 (m, 1H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.49-3.40 (m, 2H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.40 - 3.32 (m, 1H), 2.13 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 168.8, 94.2, 87.2, 80.3, 75.5, 70.1, 61.0, 60.4, 59.3, 30.1, 20.9; Anal. Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₉O₆I: C, 35.31; H, 5.12. Found: C, 35.40; H, 5.13.

General Procedure for Deuterium Incorporation Studies. A solution of halohydrins (1.0 mmol) in CH₃OD (4 mL) was cooled to 5° C and Cs₂CO₃ (1.0 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 5° C for 4 hrs and then was warmed to room temperature and stirred until consumption of starting materials was indicated by thin layer chromatography (SiO₂, Et₂O/hexanes, 1:1). The mixture was quenched with H₂O, then extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3x25 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude mixtures were purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, Et₂O/hexanes, 1:1) and analyzed by ¹H and ²H NMR. Acetylation of the isolated diastereomers with d₆-Ac₂O in pyridine gave the fully deuterated C-2 acetates which were used to quantify the extent of ²H-incorporation in the C-2 position of the sugar.

Cyclization of Bromohydrins (4a-d). Bromohydrins (4a-d) (0.28g, 1.0 mmol) and Cs₂CO₃ (0.32 g, 1.0 mmol) in CH₃OD (9 mL) gave aldehyde 5 (0.05 g, 0.23 mmol, 23.8 %), partially deuterated methyl 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl- β -D-glucopyranoside (8b)¹⁴ (0.07 g, 0.29 mmol, 29.7 %), and partially deuterated methyl 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl- α -D-mannopyranoside (8a)¹⁵ (0.01 g, 0.06 mmol, 5.9 %). Acetylation (d₆-Ac₂O, pyridine) of 8b gave methyl 2-O-acetyl-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl- β -D-glucopyranoside (9b): ²H NMR δ 4.82 (br s); 20 % ²H-incorporation. Acetylation of 8a gave methyl 2-O-acetyl-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl- α -D-mannopyranoside (9a): ²H-NMR δ 5.24 (br s); 71 % ²H-incorporation.

Cyclization of Chlorohydrins (6a-d). Chlorohydrins (6a-d) (0.7 g, 2.8 mmol) and Cs_2CO_3 (0.9 g, 2.8 mmol) in CH₃OD (9 mL) gave aldehyde 5 (trace), 8b (0.28 g, 1.2 mmol, 42.9 %), and 8a (0.04 g, 0.17 mmol, 6.1 %). Acetylation under the described conditions gave 9b (79 % ²H-incorporation) and 9a (88 % ²H-incorporation).

Cyclization of the Iodohydrins (7a-d). Iodohydrins (7a-d) (0.8 g, 2.5 mmol) and Cs₂CO₃ (0.8 g, 2.5 mmol) in CH₃OD (11 mL) gave aldehyde 5 (0.08g, 0.32 mmol, 13.1 %), **8b** (0.16 g, 0.69 mmol, 28 %) and **8a** (0.05 g, 0.23 mmol, 9.2 %). Acetylation (d_6 -Ac₂O, pyridine) gave **9b** (14 % ²H-incorporation) and **9a** (59 % ²H-incorporation).

Cyclization of the Bromohydrins (1a-d) with LiHMDS and Trapping with Sodium Phenylthiolate. A solution of the bromohydrins 4a-d (210 mg, 0.73 mmol) in anhydrous THF (8 mL) was cooled to 5^o C. LiHMDS (0.73 mmol, 1.0 M in THF) was added over 5 minutes. The reaction progress was monitored by thin layer chromatography until the bromohydrins had been consumed. The sodium phenylthiolate (0.289 g, 2.1 mmol) was added and the solution was slowly warmed to room temperature (3 hrs.). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight (15 hrs), diluted with water (25 mL), and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3x50 mL). The combined CH₂Cl₂ extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* (0.14 g, 62%, 10 : 1 ratio). The products were purified by SiO₂ chromatography (50 % Et₂O in hexanes) to give phenyl 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-1-thio- β -D-glucopyranoside 3a (0.092 g 5.5%).

2-Bromo-2-deoxy-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-D-glucopyranose (1a, 1b). To a solution of trimethyl glucal (0.57 g, 3 mmol) in CCl₄ (5 mL) was added a 1M solution of bromine in CCl₄ (approx. 8.5 mL) over a period of 1 hr until the bromine color persisted. Argon was bubbled into the solution to remove the excess bromine and then the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* to give a mixture of dibromides (1.02 g). The crude dibromide (0.54 g) mixture was dissolved in 10% aq. THF (11 mL) and the solution was cooled to 5 °C. Silver carbonate (0.42 g) was added and the solution was warmed to room temp. After an additional 16 hrs, the suspension was filtered through celite. The celite was rinsed with Et₂O and the combined organic solvents were washed with H₂O (20 mL), dried and evaporated to give bromohydrins (0.315 g). The celite was rinsed with additional solvent, CH₂Cl₂ (2x20 mL), which was evaporated to give bromohydrins (0.098g); total recovery (0.414 g, 93%). Recrystallization (Et₂O hexane) gave **2-bromo-2-deoxy-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-\alpha-D-glucopyranose (1a)** (0.066g, 15%).

Cyclization of 2-Bromo-2-Deoxy-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl- α -D-glucopyranose (1a) with NaH and Trapping Sodium Phenylthiolate. NaH in mineral oil (60 %, 14 mg, 0.36 mmol) was washed 3x with hexanes under Ar. The oil-free NaH was suspended in dry THF (7 mL) and the resulting suspension was cooled to 5° C. The solid bromohydrin 1a (102 mg, 0.36 mmol) was added in portions to the stirred NaH suspension. The reaction progress was followed by thin-layer chromatography (SiO₂; 1:1 hexanes:Et₂O) until the starting material had been consumed (approx. 6 hrs). The nucleophile (140 mg, 1.07 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was gradually warmed to room temperature (3 hrs). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight (15 hrs), diluted with water (25 mL), and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3x50 mL). The combined CH₂Cl₂ extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to give phenyl 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-1-thio- α -Dmannopyranoside 4a (0.044 g, 38%) as the only product.

2-Deoxy-2-Iodo-3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-D-mannopyranose (7c,7d). A solution of 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-D-glucal (1.09 g, 5.8 mmol) in 10% aqueous propionitrile (30 mL) was cooled to -68 °C, and N-iodosuccinimide (1.43 g, 6.4 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at -68 °C for 6 hrs, then gradually warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight (14 hrs). The reaction mixture was worked up as in previously described hydroxy halogenations to afford a diastereomeric mixture of iodohydrins 7a-d (1.8 g, 92%). ¹H NMR of the anomeric protons indicated a manno : gluco ratio of 18 :1.

Cyclization of the Manno Iodohydrins (7c,7d) with KH. A mineral oil suspension of KH (35%, 1 equiv.) was washed 3x with hexanes under Ar. The washed KH was suspended in a solution of 18-crown-6 (1 equiv.) in anhydrous PhCH₃ (7 mL), and the suspension was cooled to -72 °C. The manno iodohydrin mixture 7c,7d (1 equiv.) was dissolved in anhydrous PhCH₃ (3 mL) and was added in portions to the KH suspension. The mixture was stirred at -72 °C for 4 hrs, and then was warmed to 5 °C over 30 min. The nucleophile (3 equiv) was added, and the mixture was slowly warmed to room temperature and was stirred overnight (18 hrs). The reaction mixture was diluted with water (25 mL), and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3x25 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The products were purified by SiO₂ chromatography (33-50% Et₂O in hexanes).

Trapping of the α -Epoxide with Sodium Azide. Iodohydrins 7c,7d (0.29 g, 0.9 mmol), KH (0.1 g, 0.9 mmol), 18-crown-6 (0.23 g, 0.9 mmol) and sodium azide (0.17 g, 2.6 mmol) afforded exclusively 3,4,6-tri-O-methyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl azide 3b (0.07 g, 0.3 mmol, 33%).

Cyclization of Manno Iodohydrins (7c,7d) with Cesium Carbonate and *in situ* Trapping with Methanol. A solution of iodohydrins 7c,7d (0.28 g, 0.8 mmol) in anhydrous methanol (6 mL) was cooled to 5 °C and cesium carbonate (0.28 g, 0.8 mmol) was added. The solution was maintained at 5° C for 4 hrs and then was gradually warmed to room temperature (3 hrs) and stirred overnight (15 hrs). The reaction mixture was diluted with water (25 mL) and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3x25 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. SiO₂ chromatography (50% Et₂O in hexanes) afforded methyl **3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-\alpha-D-mannopyranoside 4d** (0.01 g, 0.06 mmol, 6.7%), methyl **3,4,6-tri-O-methyl-\beta-D**glucopyranoside 3d (0.07 g, 0.3 mmol, 36.1%) and aldehyde 5 (0.03 g, 0.2 mmol, 19 %).

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