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Synthesis of Carbocyclic Nucleosides

Luigi Agrofoglio,^{1,*} Edouard Suhas,¹ Audrey Farese,¹ Roger Condom,¹ S. Richard Challand,² Robert A. Earl³ and Roger Guedj¹

¹ Laboratoire de Chimie Bio-Organique, Université de Nice-Sophia Antipolis 06108 Nice Cedex 2, France.

² Wellcome Research Laboratories, Langley Court, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3BS, Great Britain.

³ North Island College, 2300 Ryan Road, Courtenay, B. C., Canada V9N 8N6(2).

Contents

1.	Introduction	10612
2.	Coupling Procedures of the Heterocycle Moiety	10614
	2.1. Direct introduction of the heterocycle onto the carbocyclic moiety	10615
	2.2. Construction of purine and pyrimidine carbocyclics via precusors	
	to these heterocycles	10620
3.	Synthesis of Functionalized Cyclopentylamine with Ribo, Arabino, or	
	Xylo C-2',3' Configurations	10622
	3.1. Carbocyclic analogs of ribofuranosylnucleosides: aristeromycin	10622
	3.2. Carbocyclic analogs of deoxyribofuranosylnucleosides	10630
	3.3. Carbocyclic analogs of arabino and xylofuranosyl nucleosides	10634
	3.4. Carbovir and neplanocin	10635
4.	The Fluorinated Carbocyclic Analogs of Nucleosides	10638
	4.1. Synthesis of C-6'-fluorinated carbocyclic nucleosides	10642
	4.2. Synthesis of C-2'-fluorinated carbocyclic nucleosides	10644
	4.3. Synthesis of C-3'-fluorinated carbocyclic nucleosides	10645
	4.4. Synthesis of gem-difluorinated carbocyclic nucleosides	10646
5.	Carbocycles Substituted by Other Functional Groups	10646
	5.1. The azido and amino carbocyclic nucleoside analogs	10646
	5.2. Synthesis of 6'-β-hydroxyribonucleosides	10647
	5.3. Carbocycles without the 5'-methyl	10649
	5.4. Synthesis of a carbocyclic analog derivated from carbovir	10650

^{*} To whom all correspondence should be addressed.

Present address : Dr. Luigi Agrofoglio, Department of Pharmacology, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, 111 Volker Hall, Birmingham, Al 35294, USA. Tel. (205) 934-5217; Fax : (205) 975-4871

6.	Biological Activity of Carbocyclic Nucleosides	10650
	6.1. The carbocyclic analogs of 2'-deoxyuridine	10651
	6.2. The carbocyclic analog of 2'-deoxyguanosine	10652
	6.3. Carbovir	10653
	6.4. Neplanocin A	10654
	6.5. Conclusion	10655
7.	Synoptic Table	10656

Abbreviations : A. Adenine: ADA, Adenosine deaminase: AdoHcy, S-Adenosyl-L-homocysteine: AdoMet. S-Adenosyl-L-methionine; AIDS, Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; ara-C, Arabinocytidine; AZT, 3'-Azido-3'-deoxythymidine; Bn, Benzyl; BVDU, 5-Bromovinyl-2'-deoxyuridine; Bz, Benzoyl; C, Cytosine; CaraFGua, Carbocyclic arabino-5-fluoroguanosine: C-BVDU, Carbocyclic 5-Bromovinyl-deoxyuridine: 2'-CdG, Carbocyclic 2'-deoxyguanosine: C-IDU, Carbocyclic 5-Iodo-deoxygridine; C-NECA, Carbocyclic 5'-N-Ethylcarboxamidoadenosine; DAST, Diethylaminosulfur trifluoride; DBU, 1,8-Diazabicyclo-[5.4.0]undec-7-ene: DCC, 1.3-Dicvclohexylcarbodiimide: DEAD, Diethylazodicarboxylate: ddC, 2',3'-Dideoxycytidine: ddI, 2',3'-Dideoxyinosine; DHP, 3,4-Dihydro-2H-pyran; DIBAL-H, Diisobutylaluminium hydride; DMF, Dimethylformamide; DMSO, Dimethyl sulfoxide; DNP, 2,4-Dinitrophenol; DPPA, Diphenylphosphoryl azide; EBV, Epstein-Bart virus; FIAC, 2'-Fluoro-5-iodo-1-β-D-arabinofuranosylcytosine; FIAU, 2'-Fluoro-5iodo-1-β-D-arabinofuranosyluracil; FMAU, 2'-Fluoro-5-methyl-1-β-D-arabinofuranosyluracil; G, Guanosine; H, Hypoxanthine; HCMV, Human cytomegalovirus; HIV, Human immunodeficiency virus; HSV, Herpes simplex virus; HMPA, Hexamethylphosphoramide; IBDA, Iodobenzene diacetate; IDU, 5-Iodo-2'deoxyuridine; IVDU, 5-Iodovinyl-2'-deoxyuridine; LDA, Lithium diisopropylamide; mCPBA, m-Chloroperbenzoic acid; Ms, Mesyl; NBA, N-Bromoacetamide; NBS, N-bromosuccinimide; PCC, Pyridinium chlorochromate; PDC, Pyridinium dichromate; PLE, Pig liver esterase; pTS acid, p-Toluenesulfonic acid; T, Thymine; TBAF, Tetrabutylammonium fluoride; TBDPSCI, tert-Butyl-diphenylsilyl chloride; TIPS, 1,1,3,3tetraisopropyl-disiloxane; TrCl, Trityl chloride; Ts, Tosyl; U, Uracil; VO(acac)2, Vanadyl acetylacetonate; VZV, Varicella zooster virus.

1. INTRODUCTION

The chemistry of natural nucleosides and their analogs has been widely studied as potential anti-viral, fungicidal, and anti-cancer agents. For example, 1- β -D-arabinofuranosylcytosine (ara-C)¹ 1 and 5-fluoro-2'-deoxyuridine²⁻⁵ 2 display some anti-cancer activities (Figure 1); 2'-fluoro-5-iodo-1- β -D-arabinofuranosyl cytosine (FIAC) 3, 2'-fluoro-5-methyl-1- β -D-arabinofuranosyluracil (FMAU) 4, and 2'-fluoro-5-iodo-1- β -D-arabinofuranosyluracil (FIAU) 5, exhibited anti HSV properties⁶⁻⁹. And lastly, some nucleosidic substances showing activity against HIV-1^{10,11}, at least *in vivo*, have been described, but only 3'-azido-3'-deoxythymine (AZT)¹² 6, 2',3'-dideoxycytidine (ddC) 7a and 2',3'-dideoxyinosine (ddI) 7b have been used for the treatment of HIV infection.





anti-HIV activity

The inhibition of herpes virus by certain nucleosides is well known. The selectivity of these compounds, inhibitors of the replication of HSV-1 virus, depends on their preferential activation (phosphorylation) by the viral enzyme thymidine kinase.¹⁴ However, these nucleosides are also substrates for phosphorylases, enzymes which cleave the N-glycosidic bond between the heterocycle moiety and the sugar,¹⁵ In order to avoid these enzymatic degradations and to improve the antiviral activities of nucleosides, a great number of modifications has been carried out on both the sugar and the heterocycle. The replacement of the oxygen of the furan ring by a methylene group, leads to the synthesis of carbocyclic analogs of nucleosides. Thus, many carbocyclic nucleosides have been synthesized that exhibit biological activity as well as resistance to phosphorylases. As expected, the carbocyclic analogs of BVDU 8, C-BVDU 9, IDU 10, and C-IDU 11 (Figure 2) are not substrates for phosphorylases^{16,17} while they maintain their in vitro activities against HSV-1.¹⁸ Similarly, the cyclopentane analog of adenosine 12, C-adenosine or aristeromycin 13 is far less active as substrate of the S-adenosylhomocysteine hydrolase than adenosine. The fact that C-adenosine 13 is a potent inhibitor of this enzyme (Ki = 5×10^{-9} M) shows the necessity of the 3'-hydroxyl group for the enzymatic reaction, the replacement of the furanose ring with a cyclopentane ring does not affect binding by the enzyme.¹⁹ De Clercq et al.²⁰ have shown that the isosteric replacement of the oxygen of furanose by a CH2 results in a better enzymic resistance²⁰ and a decrease in the toxicity²¹ of the carbocyclic analogs.



For the past six years, research on the chemistry of the carbocyclic nucleoside analogs has directed towards the development of agents showing activities against HIV, HSV types 1 & 2, VZV, HCMV and EBV. The carbocyclic analog of BVDU 9 has some activity against HSV and VZV²² and carbocyclic 2'-ara-fluoroguanosine 14 is more active against HSV-1 and HSV- 2^{23} ,²⁴ than its natural nucleoside analog 15 (Figure 3). Carbovir, 16 (C-2',3'-didehydro-2',3'-dideoxyguanosine)²⁵ shows interesting anti-HIV activity in vitro and neplanocin A, 17, is an antibiotic with anti-cancer activity (especially against leukemia).

FIGURE 3



The pharmaceutical importance of carbocyclic nucleoside analogs prompted new syntheses of these compounds. We describe below a new approach for the chemistry of these compounds possessing the ribo, arabino, and xylo-configuration (by analogy with the natural nucleosides) of the cyclopentane ring. We will review the strategies of synthesis reported in the literature up to end 1993, for each configuration of the five membered ring carbocyclic nucleosides. We will focused on the synthesis of aristeromycin, C-deoxyribo-nucleosides, carbovir, and neplanocin A which have important biological properties.

2. COUPLING PROCEDURES OF THE HETEROCYCLE MOIETY

All the syntheses of carbocyclic nucleosides are carried out first by formation of a functionalized cyclopentane and then by coupling of a purine or pyrimidine heterocycle or of one of their precursors. The

functionalized cyclopentane, by analogy with β -D-nucleosides, must have certain structural features that will direct the design of the precursors. It must have :

* an hydroxymethyl group or derivatices in the 4' position

* in the 1' position, a group that could react with a precursor of the heterocycle (amine, leaving group, epoxide, etc).

Remarks:

i) By analogy with the natural nucleosides, a substituent is designated to be in β orientation if it is <u>cis</u> to the 4'-hydroxy-methyl group in the cyclopentane. It is said to be α if it is <u>trans</u> to this function.

ii) In the structures of nucleoside analogs, bases are indicated adenine 18, guanine 19, cytosine 20, hypoxanthine 21, thymine 22, and uracil 23, by the abbreviations A, G, C, H, T, U, respectively, whereas the abbreviation B will be used in general to represent a heterocycle moiety (Figure 4).

iii) The numbering system of the carbocyclic analogs agrees with the numbering employed for nucleosides.

FIGURE 4



 $Z, W = H, OH, N_3, F, ...$

Two approaches can be used to couple a purine or a pyrimidine to the carbocycle :

1) Nucleophilic substitution of a labile α group on the carbocycle by the heterocycle moiety,

2) Construction of heterocyclic bases around a 1'- β -amino function or a 1'- β -acidic function on the carbocycle.

2-1. Direct introduction of the heterocycle onto the carbocyclic moiety

Generally the literature distinguishes four main ways to introduce a purine or a pyrimidine directly to a functionalized cyclopentane :

a) by nucleophilic displacement of an activated α hydroxyl group (MsO, TsO)



b) by ring opening of an epoxide



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c) by a Mitsunobu reaction
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X, Y = H, OH, F, ...





Specific examples of these approaches are given below :

a) Nucleophilic substitution of an activated hydroxyl group :

The first synthesis of a carbocyclic nucleoside by coupling of a heterocycle moiety to a functionalized cyclopentane by means of a tosylate was reported by Marquez et al.^{27,28} and led to the formation of (-)-neplanocin 17 (Scheme 1). Alcohol 24 has been prepared stereospecifically from D-ribonolactone. The formation of the tosylate 25 and its coupling with the sodium salt of 6-chloropurine 26 in acetonitrile gave 27. Ammonolysis of the chloro group and then deprotection of the hydroxyl groups gave (-)-17 neplanocin . The use of pyrimidine allowed the preparation of neplanocin analogs 28 by the same route. Also this method has been used to prepare nucleosides with modified carbocyclic nucleosides.²⁹⁻³⁴ as shown in scheme 2.





Reagents : a) 26, CH₃CN, 50°C b) NH₃/MeOH, 60°C c) BCl₃, -75°C d) Uracil, K₂CO₃

Thus, Copp et al.³³ have synthesized C-3-deazacytosine, 32, and C-3-deazauridine 36 neplanocin analogs.



b) By opening of an α epoxide :

Opening of an α epoxide is effected by a purine or a pyrimidine salt under basic catalysis. This method is interesting since it leads to the formation of an hydroxyl in the α position. Nucleophilic attack on the epoxide can occur at two sites and leads to a mixture of isomers. The opening of the cyclopentoxide by uracil, thymine, or even adenine is well documented.³⁵⁻³⁸ The only example described in the literature of reaction of the epoxide and a guanine³⁷ salt indicates a poor yield for the reaction. Biggadike et al.³⁹ have improved this synthesis using the protected guanine, **37**, 2-amino-6-methoxyethoxypurine (Scheme 3). The reaction of the protected guanine **37** with the epoxide **38** gave the predominating protected derivative **39** in 60% yield. In contrast, under the same conditions, opening of the racemic epoxide **40** is far less regioselective and leads to a mixture of alcohols **41** and **42** in a ratio of 3:2.

The limits of this method employed elsewhere⁴⁰⁻⁴³ are lack of regioselectivity in the opening of the epoxide; the stereochemical course of the opening is governed by steric and electronic effects of groups (in an α position relative to the oxirane). At present, only the <u>anti</u>-epoxide (relative to the 4'-OH group) is of interest for the synthesis of carbocyclic analogs of nucleosides.





The opening of an epoxide in the presence of an acid catalyst has been far less studied.^{44,45} Epoxide 43 has been treated with bis(trimethylsilyl)thymine 44 and a Lewis acid catalysis to give the cyclopentane nucleoside 45 in 58% yield (Scheme 4).



c) By a Mitsunobu reaction :

A secondary alcohol can be replaced by a purine using Mitsunobu conditions [(Ph)3P, DEAD]; the reaction takes place with an inversion of configuration. The addition of 6-chloropurine 46 to the α -alcohol 47 under standard Mitsunobu conditions⁴⁶ (room temperature, 20% excess of the heterocycle, (Ph)3P, DEAD) leads to derivative 48 in 80% yield (Scheme 5). This method has been applied to other heterocycles (guanine⁴⁷, thymine⁴⁶); in these cases the 6-oxo- and 2-amino- functional groups of guanine and the 3-NH of thymine must first be protected.

SCHEME 5



d) By a Michael addition

Kitagawa et al.^{48,49} have developed a new aproach for the synthesis of carbocycles. They utilized the Michael addition of a purine to a nitrocyclopentene derivative, **49**, prepared from D-glucose (Scheme 6).

SCHEME 6





The addition of the N⁶-benzoyl adenine is carried out using KF and a crown ether (KF,

18-crown-6) in DMF. The expected product 50 is obtained in 15 steps from D-glucose.

2-2. Construction of purine and pyrimidine carbocyclics via precursors to these heterocycles a) Construction of purines :

Purine carbocycles⁵⁰⁻⁵⁴ are synthesized by reaction of purine precursors of these heterocycles and a functionalized cyclopentylamine RNH₂ (Scheme 7). The cyclopentylamine, RNH₂, can be converted into pyrimidylamino derivative 52 with the pyrimidine derivative 51. Depending on the choice of Y and Z, ringclosure leads to the formation of modified 6-chloropurines, 53, containing pyrrole, imidazole or triazole rings. Reaction of the chlorine with ammonia or hydroxide leads to derivatives of adenine or hypoxanthine, 54. Ring closure of the bicyclic system 52 is effected by : (i) spontaneous cyclization under acid catalysis. In the case of 52c; 7-deazapurine analog 53c is obtained. (ii) by reaction of 52a, 52c, with triethylorthoformate and an acid catalysis to produce imidazole products 53a and 53d. (iii) by diazotition of 52a to give the 8-azapurine analogue 53b.

SCHEME 7



Carbocycles with a guanine heterocycle and related analogs are obtained by similar procedures and from 2-amino-4,6-dichloropyrimidine 55 (Scheme 8). The 5-amino function was introduced by a phenyldiazo coupling followed by reduction with nascent hydrogen to yield compound 56. Heterocyclic ring closure leads to derivative 57, and substitution of the 6-chlorine allows the preparation of various guanine derivatives.



b) Construction of pyrimidines :

Pyrimidines⁵⁵⁻⁵⁷ are often synthesized by the method reported by Shaw and Warrener^{58,59} (Scheme 9). Isocyanate 59 reacts with a cyclopentylamine RNH₂ to give an acryloylurea intermediate 60, which leads to the cyclic compound 61 under acidic or basic conditions. When X = H in 59, the heterocycle will be uracil, and when X = Me, it will be thymine. The same result is obtained by reaction of RNH₂ with 3-ethoxy-N-2-bis(ethoxycarbonyl)acrylamide 62, which leads to analog 61 in which $X = CO_2Et$.

SCHEME 9



Few publications⁶⁰⁻⁶³ report formation of a pyrimidine by the Curtius degradation. Balzarini et al.⁶³ use this method to synthesise the carbocyclic analog of the 2'-deoxyribouracil 65 (Scheme 10). The Curtius degradation transforms a 1'- β -carboxylic acid group, *via* a carboxylic chloride, into a carboxylic azido group with diphenylphosphoryl azide (DPPA). This intermediate heated in an inert solvent (toluene) forms an isocyanate which reacts *in situ* with ammonia to give the substituted urea 63. The acylation of 63 by a 3-ethoxyacroyloyl chloride gives 64, which closes under basic conditions. The carbocyclic analog of the uracil 65 is then obtained.



Reagents : a) DPPA; NH₃ b) 3-ethoxyacroyloyl chloride c) aqueous NH₃

3. SYNTHESIS OF FUNCTIONALIZED CYCLOPENTYLAMINE WITH RIBO, ARABINO, OR XYLO C-2',3' CONFIGURATIONS

Recently, many carbocyclic nucleoside analogs with various configurations (ribo, arabino, xylo, lyxo) have been synthesized⁶⁴⁻⁶⁶ as well as other derivatives. The biological properties of these new compounds have also been evaluated (Figure 5). Having described the methods for coupling purine and pyrimidine with functionalized cyclopentylamines, we will now discuss methods for the syntheses of carbocycles with different configurations at C-2' and C-3'.

FIGURE 5



3-1. Carbocyclic analogs of ribofuranosylnucleosides : aristeromycin

The ribofuranosyl carbocyclic analogs have been widely studied, especially the carbocyclic analog of adenosine, aristeromycin 13 (Figure 2). This compound was first synthetized by Shealy and Clayton^{67,68} in 1966 in the racemic form. Aristeromycin 13 is the most known potent inhibitor of the enzyme, S-adenosyl-L-homocysteine (AdoHcy) hydrolase, which plays an important role in methylation (AdoMet) dependant biological reactions. For several years, this enzyme represented a target for antiviral chemotherapy.⁶⁹ A close correlation exists between the antiviral potential of analogs of adenosine and their inhibition of AdoHcy Hydrolase.^{19,70}

Various strategies have been developed to synthesize this compound (Figure 6a). The majority of the literature methods start with rigid bicyclic systems. The precursors of these syntheses fall into five groups that define the strategy of the synthesis.

<u>Route a</u>: Utilizes a bicyclic system of type [C-C] obtained from a Diels-Alder cycloaddition of dienophile of type [C=C] and cyclopentadiene (Syntheses of Shealy, of Arita, etc).

<u>Route b</u>: Utilizes a bicyclic system of type [C-N] obtained by a Diels-Alder cycloaddition of a dienophile of type [C=N] and a cyclopentadiene (Syntheses of Vince, of Saksena, etc).

<u>Route c</u>: Utilizes a bicyclic system of type [O-O] obtained by a Diels-Alder cycloaddition of singlet oxygen ${}^{1}O_{2}$ and cyclopentadiene (Synthesis of Madhavan).

Route d : Utilizes a functionalized cyclopentane (Syntheses of Holy, etc).

Route e : From D-glucose and its derivatives (Syntheses of Tadano, etc).

We will present below several examples to illustrate each approach and will concentrate on the functionalized cyclopentane that will be coupled later with the heterocycle base.





Method a : Bicyclic system of type [C-C] i) Procedure of Shealy and Clayton^{67,68}

The cis hydroxylation of 2,5-norbornadiene (66) followed by protection of the hydroxyl groups led to the diacetate 67 (Scheme 11). Oxidative cleavage of the double bond of 67 by a solution of potassium permanganate led to diacid 68.



Reagents : a) KMnO4 then Ac₂O/pyridine b) KMnO4 c) ethoxyacetylene d) NH₃/MeOH e) Br₂/NaOH, MeOH/HCl then Ac₂O/pyridine f) LiBH4 then HCl

Treatment of 68 with ethoxyacetylene yielded the anhydride 69. Ammonolysis under anhydrous conditions gives the (\pm) -2 α ,3 α -diacetoxy-4- β -carbamoyl-1- β -cyclopentanecarboxylic acid 70. It is worth mentioning that the opening of the anhydro ring of 69 led to racemic 70. After Hofmann degradation of 70, protection of the acid and amine groups, compound 71 was reduced by lithium borohydride to 72. The cyclopentylamine 72 with a ribo configuration was then treated with an adenine precursor 51. A precursor of type 72 has also been prepared by Marschner et al..¹⁶⁷

ii) Procedure of Ohno⁷¹

Ohno et al. have improved the procedure of Shealy using an enantioselective synthesis to prepare an asymmetric compound by means of an hydrolase (*Pig Liver Esterase*, PLE) on a prochiral⁷² or on a meso compound⁷³ (Scheme 12). The main step of this synthesis is the asymmetric hydrolysis of meso diester 73 by means of PLE to an asymmetric acid 74 (80% yield). After ozonolysis of 74, the α -ketoester 75 is obtained quantitatively. After a series of reductions, the alcohol 78 was obtained by reaction with acetic anhydride; (S)-lactone 79 was then isolated. Ammonolysis, followed by acetylation of the hydroxyl group, provided the carbamoyl derivative 80. Hofmann degradation of 80 to 81 with lead tetraacetate and deprotection gave the cyclopentylamine 72 in good enantiomeric purity.

SCHEME 12



Reagents : a) O3, b) NaBH4; NaIO4 c) Me₂CO, H⁺ d) NH₃ then Ac₂O/pyridine e) Pb(OAc)4 then tBuOH f) aqueous HCl

iii) Synthesis by Koïzumi74,75

This chiral synthesis is a new approach to the enantiomerically pure 74. The asymmetric reaction of (Rs)-2-(10-isobornylsulphinyl)maleate 82 with cyclopentadiene yielded the cycloadduct 83, which was transformed after six steps to the asymmetric acid 74 (Scheme 13). The Ohno procedure was then used to transform of 74 to the chiral 72 cyclo-pentylamine.



Reagents : a) ZnCl₂, -20°C; AlBr₃, Me₂S; BnBr, NaH b) DBU c) OsO₄; Me₂CO, H⁺; H₂, Pd/C

Method b : Bicyclic system of type [C-N]

i) Synthesis by Vince

The Vince method⁷⁶ (Scheme 14) is one of several direct approaches to access carbocycles with the ribo configuration. Diels-Alder cycloaddition of cyclopentadiene and p-toluenesulfonylcyanide^{77,78} led to lactam 85. cis-Hydroxylation of 85 by osmium tetroxide gave cis-diol 86. Methanolysis of this diol gave (\pm) methyl-4- β -amino-2 α ,3 α -dihydroxy-1- β -cyclopentanecarboxylate hydrochloride 87. Acetylation, reduction, and acetylation then produced 88.

SCHEME 14



Reagents : a) OsO4 b) MeOH/HCl c) Ac2O/pyridine; LiBH4; Ac2O/pyridine d) aqueous HCl

Acid hydrolysis of the aminotriol **88** provided the cyclopentylamine **72**. This method is rapid and, depending on the type of heterocycle base used, it allows access to a great number of carbocyclic analogs of nucleosides⁷⁹⁻⁸¹. It has been used for the synthesis of the carbocyclic 5'-N-ethyl-carboxamido-adenosine⁸² (C-NECA) **89** (Figure 6b).

FIGURE 6b



ii) Synthesis by Saksena

In 1980, Saksena⁸³ described the synthesis of racemic aristeromycin from racemic 2-azabicyclo-[2,2,1]-heptene 90 and 91. After catalytic osmolysis of 90 and the formation of acetamide 92, a reductive cleavage in the presence of activated zinc produced alkene 93. Finally a sequence of reactions (ozonolysis, reduction, hydrolysis) leads to the carbocyclic ribo-NH₂ 72 (Scheme 15).

SCHEME 15



Reagents : a) OsO4; Me2CO, H⁺ b) Zn, H⁺ c) O3, NaBH4, H⁺

In 1990, Maggini et al.⁸⁴ improved Saksena's synthesis by using a stereoselective Diels-Alder reaction (Scheme 16). This cycloaddition was carried out between dienophile 94 and cyclopentadiene.



Reagents : a) OsO4; Me₂CO, H⁺; NaOH; SOCl₂; NaN₃; toluene b) BzOH; H₂, Pd/C 10% c) NaBH₄

The chiral cycloaddition yielded azanorbornene 95, which was carried through a sequence of reactions (osmolysis, acetylation, basic hydrolysis, Curtius rearrangement) to yield isocyanate 96. After catalytic hydrogenation and reduction, the alcohol 97 was isolated. Basic and acid hydrolysis then provided 72. This approach to a carbocycle from the bicyclic system 2-azabicyclo-[2,2,1]-hept-5-ene has been applied by Katagiri et al.⁸⁵ to the synthesis of various carbocycles of ribofuranosyl structure.

Method c : Bicyclic system of type [O-O]

The addition of singlet oxygen to substituted cyclopentadiene 99, followed by reduction *in situ* led to diol 100. Stereoselective epoxidation then provided the symmetric epoxy-diol 101 (Scheme 17). Ring opening of the epoxide by azide ion, followed by hydrogenation, led to the trans aminoalcohol 102. After a series of chemical steps to form the adenine moiety, the protected carbocycle 103 was obtained.³⁸ 6'-Dehydroxylation by preliminary reaction of the hydroxyl with N-N'-thiocarbonyldiimidazole gave 104. Reduction of 104 by tributyl tin hydride followed by deprotection provided aristeromycin 13. This method is very interesting since allows the preparation of a cyclopentane functionalized in positions 2',3' and 6'.

SCHEME 17



Reagents : a) BnOCH₂Cl b) ¹O₂, hv c) mCPBA d) NaN₃; H₂, Pd/C e) N,N'-thiocarbonyldiimidazole f) nBu₃SnH; H₂, Pd(OH)₂/C; H⁺

Method d : Synthesis from functionalized cyclopentane

Up to now we have described the use of bicyclic [2,2,1] precursors for the synthesis of functionalized cyclopentylamines. The advantage of these rigid systems is the fixed configuration at C-1' and C-4'. Therefore, the synthetic problem addressed in the synthesis of carbocyclic-ribo-NH₂, where the precursors are cyclopentane structures, is the regioselectivity of various steps required to produce desired configurations at C-1' and C-4'. A synthesis described by $Holy^{86}$ using 2,3-cyclopentanedione-1,4-ethyl-dicarboxylate 105 is not regioselective (Scheme 18). In fact, catalytic hydrogenation (Pt or Raney Ni) leads, after acetylation, to a mixture of diastereoisomeric 2,3-dihydroxycyclopentane-1,4-diethyl-dicarboxylates (106 and 107), in which only the isomer 107 is used for the synthesis of a carbocyclic analog.

SCHEME 18



Hutchison et al.⁸⁷ have developed a rapid and stereoselective method for the synthesis of aristeromycin (Scheme 19). The main step in this synthesis is formation of an <u>anti</u> (or <u>trans</u>) epoxide relative to the 4'hydroxymethyl group. The regioselective and stereoselective oxidation by SeO₂ of 1-hydroxymethyl-3cyclopentene **108** produced diol **109**. Due to the presence of the allylic OH, the epoxidation of **109** by a peroxyacid led to the trans epoxide **110**. Nucleophilic opening of this epoxide gave a low yield of compound **13**.

SCHEME 19



An original method has been described by Deardorff⁸⁸ and by Trost.⁸⁹ It consists of the formation of aristeromycin from a monoepoxy-cyclopentadiene *via* the generation of a cationic (Π -allyl)Pd complex (Scheme 20). Reaction of the monoepoxy-cyclopentene 111 with nitromethane, under Pd(0)^{90,91} catalysis, led to the nitromethyl adduct 112 by a 1,4 addition. After conversion to the acetate 113, a reaction between 113 and NaN3 (catalysed by Pd(0) complexes) led to the cis-azido compound 114. A sequence of reactions (oxidation, protection) afforded the azido-nitro 115. Four more steps then led to the carbocyclic-ribo-NH2 72.

SCHEME 20



Method e : From the D-glucose. D-erythrose or the γ-lactone-D-ribonic acid Another strategy for the synthesis of the aminotriol 72 has been described by Tadano et al.^{92,93}

starting from D-erythrose (Scheme 21).

SCHEME 21



o) NaN₃ p) TBAF q) H⁺ r) H₂/Raney Ni

This reaction scheme needs 24 steps to produce the cyclopentylamine 72. However, it is worth mentioning that the intramolecular aldol condensation $116 \rightarrow 117$ (step b) forms the cyclopentane derivative. The intermediate 119 is obtained after 12 steps, and its conversion to (-)-72 needs an additional 12 steps, after inversions of three of the four asymmetric centers. This synthesis leads therefore to a single enantiomer.

Starting from D-glucose, various teams⁹⁴⁻⁹⁶ have obtained (-)-aristeromycin in 20 steps. A more direct way⁹⁷ begins with cyclopentenone 124 which is obtained from γ -lactone-D-ribonic acid 123 after four steps⁹⁸ (Scheme 22). Enone 124 treated with lithium cuprate generates the 4'-hydroxymethyl derivative 125. After reduction of the cyclopentenone 125 and activation of the hydroxyl via triflate 127, the coupling is carried out by addition of the adenine salt.



Reagents : a) cyclohexane, FeCl3; NaIO4, NaOH b) 2-propanol, pTS acid c) CH3PO(OMe)2, nBuLi, THF d) (tBuOCH2)2CuLi e) DIBAL-H f) (CF3SO2)2O/pyridine g) adenine, NaH h) CF3CO2H/H2O

After deprotection, the chiral aristeromycin is isolated. This method has been widely applied.^{29,32,34,99} The pyrimidine analogs¹⁰⁰⁻¹⁰² have been obtained by the Shealy method.⁵⁵ They are, however, far less studied. Two patents¹⁰³ describe the chemistry of aristeromycin and of the 3'-deazapurine derivative, obtained by enzymatic resolution of the racemic aristeromycin in a 5'-monophosphate form by an alkaline phosphatase.¹⁸⁰

3-2. Carbocyclic analogs of deoxyribofuranosylnucleosides

Our introduction mentioned that carbocyclic analogs of deoxyribofuranosylnucleosides (C-BVDU 9, C-IDU 11, etc) had antiviral properties^{18,23,24} especially of HSV type 1 & 2. The mechanism of inhibition of viral replication of hepatitis B by the 2'-deoxyguanosine carbocyclic analog (2'-CdG) 128 (Figure 7) was analyzed by Price et al.¹⁰⁴ Hepatitis B affects almost 300 million people around the world and increases the probability of developing liver cancer.

FIGURE 7



Additionally, this compound has anti-parasitical activities : it inhibits deoxyribonuclease, an enzyme that is essential for *Leishmania donovani*. The carbocyclic analogs of the deoxyribofuranosyl type comprise an important family of active compounds. The literature reports three important synthetic strategies to these compounds, each of which will be illustrated by examples:

Method a: From 5-norbornen-2-ol, endo or exo

Method b : From a chiral bicyclic [3,3,0] lactone

Method c : By dehydroxylation of a carbocyclic analog of the ribofuranosyl type

Method a : From the 5-norbornen-2-ol

Shealy and Clayton¹⁰⁶ were the first to use exo-5-norbornen-2-ol 129 as a precursor of a carbocycle (Scheme 23). Oxidation of the acetate (130) of exo-5-norbornen-2-ol with sodium permangante led to racemic cyclopentanedicarboxylic acid 131. Treatment of 131 with acetic anhydride led to the cyclic anhydride 132. A reaction sequence from 132 (opening of the anhydro, formation of an acid chloride, reaction with NH₃) allowed isolation of a mixture of amido-acid 133 and 134 which has given 2'- and 3'-C-deoxyribonucleosides respectively. A Hofmann degradation of the mixture gave, after protection of the formed amine, a mixture of acetamido ester 135 and 136. After separation of the isomers, reduction by lithium borohydride of 135 gave the C-2'-deoxyribo-R-NH₂, 137; and reduction of 136 led to the C-3'-deoxy isomer 138.

This method has been employed for the synthesis of analogs with purines¹⁰⁶ and modified purines,¹⁰⁷ as well as for the synthesis of analogs with pyrimidines^{55,56,100,108} and modified pyrimidines.^{101,109} These methods are limited by the lack of regioselectivity at the stage of opening the cyclic anhydride which leads to a racemic mixture (133, 134).

SCHEME 23



Reagents : a) Ac₂O/pyridine b) NaMnO4 c) Ac₂O d) MeOH/H+; SOCl₂; NH₃ e) LiBH₄ f) Br₂ / NaOH; MeOH/H+

A new chiral approach has been developed by Griengl et al.60,61,63 via a chemico-enzymatic step (Scheme 24). The endo-norbornenyl acetate 139 is obtained in large enantiomeric excess by an enzymatic resolution utilizing *Candida Cylindracea*.¹¹⁰ By this approach, the (-)-acetate-(1R,2R,4R)-endo-bicyclo-[2,2,1]-hept-5-en-2-yl 139 has been isolated. Ozonolysis of 139 to 140 followed by reduction produced 141 with retention of configuration. A series of selective protections of this triol provides the protected carbocycle 142 (where R₁ = CH₂Ph, R₂ = Bz, R₃ = Ms). Inversion of configuration on the mesylated secondary alcohol 142 gave 143. At this point, the compound becomes dextro (+) as in the natural series. After catalytic hydrogenation of the benzylether 143b and oxidation, the acid, 144 was obtained. After a series of reactions (Curtius degradation, formation of an isocyanide, etc) the derivative of uracil 145 was isolated.



Reagents : a) O3 b) AlLiH4 c) PhCH(OMe)2; HBF4 d) KF, PhCH2Br e) H2SO4 f) BzCl/pyridine g) MsCl. Et₃N h) CsOAc, DMSO i) H₂, Pd/C j) PDC k) DPPA, toluene, 3-ethoxyacryloic acid chloride; NH₄OH

Method b : From a chiral bicyclic [3.3.0] lactone

Recently, Beres et al.^{57,111,112} have developed an enantioselective synthesis of carbocycles by use of the chiral unsaturated lactone 146 (Scheme 25). The first approach¹¹¹⁻¹¹² (way A) uses regioselective and stereoselective Prins addition of formaldehyde to the double bond of (\pm) -146 to introduce 3-hydroxy and 4hydroxymethyl functions and to give, after protection, the product 147. Hydrolysis of the cyclic lactone produces a 1- α -hydroxyl derivative which, after mesylation, is substituted by azide ion to 149, with concomitant formation of a group at C-5. Seven steps are needed to take this group off (using among others, iododecarboxylation reactions) and to obtain compound 153. Catalytic hydrogenation of the iodoazide 153 led to the cyclopentylamine (\pm) -137.

The second approach^{57,112} (way B) uses the lactone ring as a potential 4'-hydroxymethyl group. Azido group at C-1- β , introduced to 154 by a double inversion via a 1- α -iodo intermediate, produces 155. The formation of the C-4-hydroxymethyl is carried out with a loss of one carbon atom by iododecarboxylation of 155. The product 156 is transformed to azidodiol 157 and the inversion at C-3' is accomplished by a Mitsunobu's reaction which gives after protection, 159. After deprotection and reduction of 159, the chiral cyclopentylamine (+)-137 is obtained.





Reagents : a) (CH₂O)n, H⁺ b) amberlite H⁺ c) DHP H⁺ d) LiOH e) CH₂N₂ f) MsCl g) NaN₃ h) LiOH i) IBDA, I₂ j) pTsOH k) Ac₂O1) mCPBA m) PDC n) IBDA, I₂ o) K₂CO₃ p) H₂ Pd/C q) Hg(OAc)₂ r) Ph₃PI₂ s s) NaN₃ t) LiOH u) CH₂N₂ v) DHP, H⁺ w) LiOH x) IBDA, I₂ y) pTsOH z) Ac₂O, pyridine a') mCPBA b') K₂CO₃ c') TrCl, pyridine d') PPh₃, DEAD, PhCO₂H e') K₂CO₃ f') pTSOH g') H₂ Pd/C

Method c : By dehydroxylation of a carbocyclic nucleoside

This method^{39,102,113} consists of the reduction of O-phenoxy-thiocarbonyl ester (Scheme 26). Protection of the 3'-OH and 5'-OH of the C-ribothymine 160 has led to 161. After activation and reduction, the deoxyanalog 162 was isolated, then its deprotection led to the 2'-deoxyribothymine carbocycle 163.

Recently, Schneller et al²⁰⁰ have described the (\pm) -3'-deoxy-araristeromycin. We have also reported²⁰¹ the synthesis of 3'-deoxyribonucleosides and their derivatives using direct addition of an heterocycle moiety to a protected 3-hydroxymethyl-1.5-epoxycyclopentane.

Literature reports a single approach via a precursor of cyclopentane¹¹⁴ and two patents¹¹⁵ describe the carbocyclic analogs of the 2'-deoxyribopyrimidines.



Reagents : a) (iPr₂SiCl)₂O b) PhOC(S)Cl c) nBu₃SnH d) nBu₄NF

3-3. Carbocyclic analogs of arabino and xylofuranosyl nucleosides

Some arabino or xylo nucleosides show anticancer and antiviral activities. Important examples are ara-C 1 and ara-T 164 (Figure 8). The synthesis of carbocyclic analogues of these compounds, C-ara-C 166 and C-ara-T 167, were carried out to improve their enzymatic resistance. Cyclaradine 168 is a potent anti-HSV agent. Also, few xylopurine nucleosides have as much anti-HSV¹¹⁶ activity as the xyloguanosine carbocycle 169 (a few reports concern this configuration; and resulting compounds have no significant biological activity).

FIGURE 8



These syntheses were carried out using three methods.

Method a : Vince method

The hydrolysis of the epoxide 170, which is easily obtained⁷⁶ from the lactam 85, followed by an acetylation results in a mixture of compounds 171 and 172 (Scheme 27).



Deprotection of 171 gave a cyclopentylaminetriol 173 with a xylo configuration, whereas 172 provided the arabino isomer 174. These cyclopentylamines form the carbocycles by reacting with the precursors of heterocycles bases. The above short procedure has been frequently employed for the formation of carbocyclic derivatives of purines.^{78,116,117}

Method b : By inversion of configuration of the C-2'-OH

This method^{100,118} leads only to compounds of the *arabino* configuration. It consists of the formation of an anhydro function between C-2' of the cyclopentane and the pyrimidine heterocyclic moiety (Scheme 28). C-ribo-thymine **160** has been converted into a 2,2'-anhydro derivative **175** by heat in the presence of diphenylcarbonate and of sodium hydrogencarbonate¹¹⁹. Basic hydrolysis led to the derivative **167** with the expected *arabino* configuration. This method can be used only with pyrimidines capable of forming such anhydro rings. These two methods of synthesis are the shortest reported and they allow the formation of chiral products. We also note the synthesis of cyclaradine **168** from the bicyclic lactone **146** (used by Beres and Griengl^{57,111,112}) which was obtained from D-glucose or from 5-norbornen-2-one.⁴³ A patent¹²¹ describes the synthesis of cyclaradine and of a guanine derivative. The configuration at 2' and 3'-deoxythreo¹⁷² and 2',3'-dideoxyglycero¹⁷³ have been little studied, but examples of this series show little biological activity.

SCHEME 28



Reagents : a) PhOC(O)OPh, NaHCO3 b) NaOH

3-4. Carbovir and Neplanocin

<u>a) Carbovir</u>

Carbovir 16 (NCS 614846) (Figure 3) is a carbocyclic 2',3'-didehydro-2',3'-dideoxyguanosine derivative that has anti-HIV properties *in vitro*. This compound inhibits the infectivity and the replication of HIV in T cells at concentrations 200 to 400 fold below toxic levels. The anti-HIV activity of analogs of carbovir with purine (chloroadenine, adenine, hypoxanthine, 6-thiopurine, 6-chloroguanine) and pyrimidine groups has been evaluated by Vince et al.¹²² Only carbovir, 16, has significant activity *in vitro*.

The synthesis of (\pm) -carbovir starts with lactam, 2-azabicyclo-[2,2,1]-hept-5-en-3-one, 85 (Scheme 29). The lactam 85 is obtained⁷⁷ by the Diels-Alder reaction of p-toluenesulphonyl-cyanide and cyclopentadiene, followed by acid treatment of the cycloadduct. Hydrolysis of lactam 85 gives the amidoester 176b after esterification and acetylation. This compound is reduced to the alcohol 177 by lithium borohydride. Deacylation with acidic conditions leads to the amino alcohol 178, which can then be coupled with a guanine precursor.

SCHEME 29





An improvement in this synthesis has been carried out by introduction of an enzymatic resolution step. Thus, Evans et al.^{54,123} resolved the racemic lactam by incubation with *Pseudomonas Solanacearum* NCIB 40249 (ENZA-20), and obtained up to 55% of conversion (Scheme 30). The (+)-enantiomeric form is selectively hydrolyzed to (+)-aminoacid 85', whereas the (-)-lactam 85 is isolated unchanged and used for the synthesis of carbovir. The (\pm)-acetamidoester 176b can be resolved enzymaticallythanks to the PLE enzyme¹²⁴ (Scheme 31).

SCHEME 30



SCHEME 31



The PLE selectively hydrolyses the (-)-enantiomer to (-)-carboxylate amide 176a. The (-)-carbovir can be prepared by the action of *adenosine deaminase*¹²⁵ (ADA) on 2,6-diaminopurine (\pm)-179 (Scheme 32), which in turn can be synthesized as reported by Vince et al.²⁵ and, more recently by Exall et al.²⁶



Hanrahan et al.¹⁸¹ have worked out the enzymatic synthesis of antiviral agents such as carbovir. The biological activities of this compound prompted the synthesis of ¹⁴C-marked carbovir by Kepler et al.,¹²⁸ with the objective of studying its metabolic fate. Some patents¹²⁹ protect the chemistry and biological activities of carbovir and its purine or pyrimidine derivatives.

b) The neplanocins

The neplanocin family of antibiotics includes many molecules in which the modifications are on the cyclopentane (Figure 9). Among these various compounds, neplanocin A 17 has significant anti-leukemia activity.¹³⁰ The syntheses of compounds 180-184 are described in the literature^{131,132} along with many other carbocyclic derivatives of neplanocin.¹⁶⁶ Neplanocin A can be prepared from bicyclic⁷¹ systems or by asymmetric Diels-Alder reaction⁷⁴ of a dienophile on a cyclopentadiene. The most common synthesis of this compound is based on the preparation of 2-cyclopenten-1-one 186 from (+)- γ -lactone-D-ribonic acid¹⁶⁹ 185, whose synthesis is reported by Lim and Marquez.¹³³ The stereoselective reduction of 186 produces the allylic alcohol 24 (Scheme 33).

FIGURE 9



This procedure has been widely used^{30,33,134-136} for the synthesis of analogs of neplanocin A with purines or pyrimidines groups and is protected by a patent.¹³⁷ The literature also mentions⁴⁰ how to get 2'-deoxypyrimidic analogue **189** of the neplanocin A; the key step of the synthesis is an intramolecular elimination by action of potassium *tert*-butoxide on the anhydro derivative **187** (Scheme 34). After deprotection of the intermediate **188**, the derivative **189** is isolated.

SCHEME 34



4. THE FLUORINATED CARBOCYCLIC ANALOGS OF NUCLEOSIDES

In 1986, Blackburn et al.¹³⁸ suggested that a fluoromethylene would be a better isosteric group than the methyl to replace the ring oxygen. Various teams have paid attention to the synthesis of 6'-fluorocarbocycles.^{24,41,53,140,141} We have previously mentioned the anti-HSV activity of the fluorinated nucleosides FIAC 3, the FMAU 4, and FIAU 5 (Figure 1). A second interesting challenge for chemists, therefore, was the synthesis of carbocyclic analogs^{23,141-144} in which the fluorine is in the 2'-position. For example, some fluorinated analogues of 2'-deoxyribonucleosides or of neplanocin A have been synthesized^{60,145-146} and their biological properties have been evaluated. Figure 10 displays some of the active fluorinated carbocycles. Fluorine has been used in place of hydrogen or hydroxyl group at various sites, in place of the oxygen of the ose, and on the heterocyclic base of nucleosides¹⁴⁷⁻¹⁵¹ (Figure 11).

FIGURE 10



Fluorine shows the following physico-chemical properties :

a) It is the most electronegative element among the halogens.

b) Its Van der Waals radius (1.35 x 10^{-10} m) is fairly close to that of hydrogen (1.10 x 10^{-10} m) so F will not disturb the geometry of the molecule.

c) The energy of a C-F bond (485 kJ/mole) is greater than that of C-H (413 kJ/mole) or of C-O (385 kJ/mole).

The introduction of a fluorine on the cyclopentane ring of a nucleosidic analog implies some modifications in the chemical and in its biological activity without an important change in the conformation of the fluorinated cyclopentane. Compound 14 (+)-C-*ara*FGua represents the first example of a fluorinated carbocyclic analog of an arabino purine nucleoside that has greater anti-HSV activity than the parent nucleoside 15 (cf Figure 3).

FIGURE 11



Methods for introducing the fluorine atom

Various methods can be employed :

<u>Method a</u>: Substitution of a nucleofuge^{41,53,139,153} by a fluoride ion.

The fluorination agent often employed is Bu4NF (Scheme 35) and by an SN₂ mechanism, gives a product with an inverted configuration. First, the azidoalcohol¹⁵³ 195 is activated by preparation of the triflate 196. The triflate group is then displaced by the fluoride ion of Bu4N+F- to yield the fluoro-azide 197.

SCHEME 35



Reagents : a) (CF3SO2)2O, pyridine b) TBAF, THF

<u>Method b</u>: By the combined action of hydrofluoric acid solution in pyridine (HF/Pyridine, Olah's reagent) and of N-bromosuccinimide on a double bond.^{152,153} A synthesis of fluorinated carbocycles has been reported by Nakayama et al.¹⁵² (Scheme 36) using this approach. *cis*-4-Acetamido-1-acetoxymethyl-2-cyclopentene **198** was treated with Olah's reagent¹⁵² which led to the formation of the *trans*-bromofluoro compound **199**. The reduction of **199** by tributyltin hydride gave the cyclofluoropentylamine **200**. This method has be reviewed by Palmer and al.¹⁵⁹



Method c : By opening of an epoxide.

The fluorination agent used to effect *trans*-addition is the HF-KF complex (Scheme 37). The selective tritylation of the primary alcohol of 201 and then epoxidation gave epoxide 202. After protection of the secondary alcohol by benzylation, 203 was treated with a solution of potassium hydrogen difluoride. It is noteworthy that in addition to fluorination, detritylation took place and the fluoro diol 204 was obtained.

SCHEME 37



Reagents : a) TrCl; tBuOOH, toluene, VO(acac)2 b) NaH, PhCH2Br, nBu4NI c) KHF2

Method d : By reaction of an alcohol with DAST.

DAST is a fluorination agent^{154,155} that allows conversion of an alcohol to a monofluorinated derivative, and of an aldehyde or a ketone to difluorinated derivatives. Fluorination by DAST is carried out under mild conditions and occurs normally with inversion of configuration; however, certain neighboring groups can result in retention of configuration¹⁵⁶ (Scheme 38).

SCHEME 38



The fluorination of azido-alcohol⁵³ 205 by DAST led to fluoro-azido compounds 207 with retention of configuration and also to 208. The transient intermediate 206 would explain the migration of the azido group

in 208. Azide migration during fluorination by DAST has been utilized by Nicolaou et al.¹⁵⁷ in the chemistry of carbohydrates. The success of the fluorination also depends on the protecting groups on the amine and alcohol functions. Thus, in the case of an aminoalcohol¹⁴² (Scheme 39), the amino function must be protected by an electrondrawing group to minimize participation of the amine nitrogen during fluorination.

SCHEME 39



After protection of the hydroxyls at C-3' and C-6' as their oxybis(diisopropylsilyl)ethers and the amine with a dinitrobenzene group (DNP), the fluorinated compound **210** with an inverted configuration was obtained as the main product. A small amount of **211** was also isolated. Its formation was explained as shown in Scheme 40. This mechanism implies migration of an α -hydrogen to stabilize carbocation **209a** and the attack by a fluoride ion (**209b**) from the less hindered side. On the other hand, if the amine is protected by a trityl group during the fluorination, only the aziridine **213** is isolated¹⁴² (Scheme 39). It is noteworthy that the silyl ether (OTIPS) remains intact in the presence of DAST, which demonstrates that there is no free fluoride ion in the mixture. In fact, with another fluorinating agent, nBu4NF, **211** is completely deprotected to **214**. It has been noted that some trialkylsilyl protecting groups are not resistant during fluorination by DAST.¹⁵⁸ Based on the various observations, the mechanism of fluorination by DAST cannot be classified as either SN₁ or SN₂.



<u>Method</u> e: the opening of a strained ring system¹⁴⁰.

The use of Et3N-HF¹⁶¹ opened the strained tricyclic ketone 216 (obtained from compound 215) (Scheme 41) to give the dihalogenated ketone 217. The use of other sources of fluoride ion gave inferior results for this type of ring opening.

SCHEME 41



We now describe in detail, several interesting classes of fluorinated carbocyclic nucleosides analogs. These syntheses have been classified on the basis of location of the fluorine on the cyclopentane ring as well as on the fluorination technique.

4-1. Synthesis of C-6'-fluorinated carbocyclic nucleosides

i) Fletcher Synthesis¹⁴⁰

This attractive synthesis allows preparation of C-6'- α and C-6'- β -fluorinated nucleosides (Scheme 42). Fluorine was introduced by method e.



Reagents : a) mCPBA, NaHCO₃ b) liq. NH₃ c) (Ph)₂tBuSiCl d) PhI(OCOCF₃)₂ e) MeOCH=C(Me)CONCO f) NaN₃ g) H⁺

The dihalogeno ketone 217, on Bayer-Villiger oxidation gave both 218 and 219. Lactone 219 was then converted to amide 220 by liquid ammonia. A Hofmann reaction on amide 220 provided cyclopentylamine 221. Initial condensation of an acrylic isocyanate derivative with 221 gave the bromo-fluoro intermediate 222. After substitution of bromine by an azido group (compound 223), deprotection, and then ring-closure gave 3'- β -azido-6'- α -fluorothymine 224. An enzymatic catalysis of the Bayer-Villiger oxidation of ketone 217 has also been accomplished by Levitt et al.¹⁶³ To obtain the 6'- β -fluorinated isomer, a ring in tricycle 225 is first opened by aqueous THF to 226. After a Bayer-Villiger reaction, the derived lactone 227 was fluorinated by DAST to yield 228 with an inverted configuration (Scheme 43).

SCHEME 43



Reagents : a) THF, H₂O b) Bayer-Villiger conditions c) DAST

ii) Synthesis by Roberts et al.23,24,53,141,162

A series of 2',3'-dideoxy-6'- α/β -fluorinated nucleosides has been synthesized. The key step in these syntheses is substitution of the hydroxyl by fluorine (Scheme 44), with α or β configurations depending on the type of fluorinating agent used. The fluorination of 195 with TBAF, via a triflate, gave β -fluoroazide 197. After a catalytic hydrogenation of the azide function, the fluorinated cyclopentylamine 229 can be coupled to yield purines or pyrimidines. Fluorination of the azido-alcohol 195 with DAST provided the azido-fluoro compound 230, with retention of configuration, which gave after hydrogenation of the azide, the 6'- α -fluorocyclopentylamine 231. This compound was then coupled with appropriate precursors to yield purines or pyrimidines.



Reagents : a) (CF₃SO₂)₂O / Pyridine b) TBAF c) DAST d) H₂, Lindlar cat.

* Synthesis by Payne et al. 139

This attractive synthesis produces a $6'-\alpha$ -fluorinated carbocycle from a bicyclic ketone (232, Scheme 45). The ketone 232 was converted to bromoacetate 233. Treatment of the ester 233 with potassium *tert*butoxide (resulting in a rearrangement and a Michaël addition) followed by substitution of a bromine by Et3N-HF gave the fluoroester 234. Bayer-Villiger oxidation then led to lactone 235, which was converted to amide 236 by liquid ammonia. Hydrolysis of 236 led to diol 237 which provided, under Mitsunobu conditions, the dibenzoate 238. Finally a Hofmann reaction on the amide yielded the fluorinated cyclopentylamine 239, which can be elaborated further to give various heterocyclic bases.

SCHEME 45



Reagents : a) NBA b) tBuOK, Et₃N-3HF c) mCPBA d) liq. NH₃ e) NH₃-MeOH f) PPh₃, PhCO₂H, EtO₂N=NCO₂Et g) Hofmann's conditions

4-2. Synthesis of C-2'-fluorinated carbocyclic nucleosides

Several syntheses^{23,141,142} have involved formation of carbocyclic nucleoside analogs possessing the C-2'-F-*arabino*-configuration. They all use the fluoro-aminodiol 72 (Scheme 46) whose synthesis we was described earlier^{67,68} (Scheme 11). After the many steps shown in scheme 36, 210 was obtained. Acidic hydrolysis of the fluorinated amine 210 provides the fluorinated arabino carbocycle 240.



Alternatively Borthwick et al.^{143,144} synthesized the 2'-deoxy-2'- β -fluoro-*arabino*-cyclopentylguanine 14 (+)-C-AFG¹⁶⁵ from aristeromycin 13 by a three steps synthesis that involved:

- (i) protection of the 3'-OH and 5'-OH (as the TIPSether),
- (ii) fluorination of the 2' hydroxyl with inversion of configuration by DAST,
- (iii) transformation of the adenine moiety to guanine.

We also point out the synthesis of Palmer et $al.^{159}$ which led to 3'-deoxy-2'- α -fluoro-*ribo*cyclopentylamine 242. The protected bicyclic lactam 241, was fluorinated by treatment with a mixture of NBS, Et₃N-3HF (Scheme 47). The substitution of bromine by hydrogen (by used of tributyltin hydride)left the fluorine intact. The other steps of this conversion to 242 are identical to those described in Scheme 29.

SCHEME 47



Reagents : a) 4-MeOC₆H₄CH₂Cl b) NBS, Et₃N-3HF

4-3. Synthesis of C-3'-fluorinated carbocyclic nucleosides

The fluorinations are accomplished by substitution of a mesylate in C-3'- β^{60} , by reaction of the C-3'- β -hydroxyl with DAST with inversion of configuration¹⁴⁵, or by replacement of a trimethylsilyl ether at C-3'- β by use of a DAST analog, the piperidine trifluorosulfide.¹⁵³ The synthesis of fluoro-neplanocin developed by Borthwick et al.¹⁴⁶ (Scheme 48) is representative of the approach.

SCHEME 48



Reagents : a) TIPSCI/ Et₃N b) DAST c) TBAF

Simultaneous protection of the 3'-OH and 5'-OH of neplanocin A 17 by TIPS led to the derivative 243. Reaction of 243 with DAST then provided a mixture of diol 244 and 3'-fluoro derivative 245. However, when the reaction was carried out at low temperature, the formation of 245 was mainly favored. Deprotection of 244 with a solution of $Bu_4N^+F^-$ gave the neplanocin 17 and deprotection of 245 gave the expected fluorinated product 246. One patent¹⁶⁴ describes the chemistry of carbocyclic analogs of 3'-fluoro-2'-deoxyribo nucleosides.

4-4. Synthesis of gem-difluorinated carbocyclic nucleosides

The only synthesis reported is the one of Borthwick et al.¹⁴¹ (Scheme 49). The oxidation 209 to 247 and fluorination of this ketone by DAST gave the difluorinated derivative 248. Deprotection and coupling of 249 with the thymine precursor provided the difluorinated carbocyclic analog 250.

SCHEME 49



Reagents : a) DCC, DMSO b) DAST c) OH-, then H+ d) DBU, EtOCH=C(Me)CONCO then H2SO4

5 - CARBOCYCLES SUBSTITUTED BY OTHER FUNCTIONAL GROUPS

We now outline several syntheses of carbocyclic analogs of nucleosides functionalized on the cyclopentane ring by amino, azido, or other groups.

5-1. The azido and amino carbocyclic nucleoside analogs

These compounds were synthesized for the first time by Daluge and Vince.¹⁷⁰ Their syntheses involve trans-opening of epoxide 170 by azide ion (Scheme 50). As expected both azido derivatives 251 and 252 were obtained due to the two possible sites of attack. After hydrogenation, the amino alcohols 253 and 254 were isolated. They were then coupled to precursors of purines or pyrimidines.

SCHEME 50



Reagents : a) NaN₃ b) H₂, Pd/C

The carbocyclic analog of AZT¹⁷¹ has also been synthesized (Scheme 51). Tritylation of the primary hydroxyl of carbocycle 255 to give 256 followed by activation of the secondary hydroxyl by mesylation gave the mesylate derivative 257. Displacement of the labile group at β -C-3' of 257 by azide ion gave the protected azido-carbocycle 258. Finally, deprotection led to the carbocyclic analog 259 of AZT. Hydrogenation of the azido function also provided the amino carbocycle 260.

SCHEME 51





Reagents : a) TrCl/pyridine b) MsCl/CH2Cl2 c) NaN3 d) H+ e) H2 Raney Ni

5-2. Synthesis of 6'-B-hydroxyribonucleosides

In view of the biological importance of aristeromycin and neplanocin A derivatives, the synthesis of 6'- β -hydroxyaristeromycin 270 was developed.¹⁷⁴⁻¹⁷⁵ One of the approaches described in literature started with 7-*tert*-butoxynorbornadiene 261. Oxidation with potassium permanganate led to exodiol 262 (Scheme 52). After protection of the 1,2-diol, oxidative cleavage of the double bond provided the *meso* diacid 263,

10648

which was transformed to the anhydride 264 by reaction with DCC in pyridine. The cyclic anhydride was then transformed, *in situ*, to the monoacid, which when esterified gave product 265. A Hofmann reaction gave the BOC amino-ester 266 with retention of configuration. Reduction of the ester followed by total deprotection gave the cyclopentylamine tetrol 267. This compound was transformed to intermediate 268 with 5-amino-4,6-dichloropyrimidine. Ring-closure to the imidazole cycle required protection of the 2', 3', 5' and 6'-OH. Ammonolysis of 269 and acidification of the derivative gave the expected carbocycle 270.

SCHEME 52



Reagents : a) KMnO4 b) Me₂CO, CuSO4; aq. KMnO4 c) DCC, pyridine d) NH₃; CH₂N₂ e) Pb(OAc)₄, t BuOH, △ f) Ca(BH₄)₂; HCI, MeOH g) 5-amino-4,6-dichloropyrimidine h) CH(OEt)₃ i) NH₃ then HCI

The synthesis of cytosine derivatives has also been accomplished¹⁷⁵ (Scheme 53). The heterocycle moiety was formed in two steps from the cyclopentylamine tetrol 267 via the reaction in situ of cyanoacetylene with oxazoline intermediate 272.



Reagents : a) BrCN b) cyanoacetylene, NH4OH c) cyanoacetylene, CH3CON(CH3)2 d) NH4OH

5-3. Carbocycles without the 5'-methyl

Carbocyclic nucleoside analogs possessing a C-4'- β -OH instead of the 4'-hydroxymethyl group were synthesized by Coe et al.¹⁷⁶ This route (Scheme 54) utilized the Pd(0) directed coupling of heterocycle bases to epoxy-cyclopentene 111 and led^{177a} to the corresponding cyclopentenol 275. Recently, a chemo-enzymatic^{177b} resolution of 275 led to the optically active 5'-noraristeromycin 276. The reaction of 275 with borane/basic hydrogen peroxide gave the 2'- and 3'-deoxy-noraristeromycin analogs^{178d}. The 5'- noraristeromycin¹⁷⁸ 276 has this type of structure (Figure 12) and has been synthesized using this procedure.

SCHEME 54



FIGURE 12



5-4. Synthesis of a carbocyclic analog derivated from carbovir

Compound 281 is another analog of carbovir. Its synthesis¹⁷⁹ is shown in Scheme 55.

SCHEME 55



Reagents : a) TsCN b) LDA / HMPA then ClCO₂Et c) NaBH₄ d) KOH, H₂O

The precursor 99, after reaction with tosylcyanide and acidification of the cycloadduct provided the lactam 277. Ethoxycarbonylation of 277 with diisopropyl lithium led to carbamate 278. A reductive cleavage of which gave 279. After total deprotection, the cyclopentylamine 280 was obtained. The classical method for the build-up of guanine around the amino function provided the carbovir analog 281.

6- Biological activity of carbocyclic nucleosides

The mechanism of action and metabolic fate of carbocyclic nucleosides are similar to those nucleosides. The antiviral activity depends on various factors including penetration into the cell, phosphorylation steps, catabolism, etc. A rational approach to antiviral chemotherapy exploits the biochemical differences that exist between viral and cellular properties. Most of the therapeutic agents used today for the treatment of viral infections are structural analogs known to block the metabolism of the viral nucleic acids. Different steps of the replication cycle of a virus are good potential targets for anti-viral agents :

1) adsorption of the virion to the cellular membrane by specific receptors of the host cell.

2) penetration and uncoating.

3) expression of the genome and synthesis of the proteins. [The genetic message is contained in the nucleus as DNA (or RNA). After its integration, the DNA is transcribed to mRNA which goes into the cytoplasm where the translation into proteins occurs *via* the tRNA. The mechanisms of replication and transcription involved the polymerisation of the nucleosides (in their triphosphate form) in the DNA monocatenar matrix utilizing viral and cellular polymerases.]

assembling of the new virion.

5) budding.

The main targets for the nucleoside analogs in anti-viral chemotherapy are the intracellular elements of replication of the genome and the synthesis of the proteins. The problems met by potential drugs are their selectivity, the possible cellular resistance towards these agents, the transport of the drug (transition through

cellular membranes) and their metabolism. The selectivity of agents in chemotherapy is due to the preferential inhibition of viral enzymes during nucleosidic metabolism. The active form of these compounds is the triphosphorylated analog. Nucleosides are phosphorylated by viral or cellular kinases. Thus acyclovir 282 (and also BVDU 8) is a potent anti-HSV agent, which is monophosphorylated by the herpes thymidine kinase (Figure 13).



The ACV-MP is then phosphorylated by cellular kinases (GMP) to ACV-DP, and then to ACV-TP by other cellular enzymes. The ACV-TP is an inhibitor of the DNA polymerase of HSV; it is a competitive inhibitor of the natural substrate dGTP. Furthermore ACV-TP can be incorporated and act as a chain terminator.

BVDU, 8, is mono and diphosphorylated by viral kinases into BVDU-DP. After triphosphorylation by means of a cellular enzyme, BVDU-TP inhibits viral DNA-polymerases. Added to the problems of resistance, due to the genetic mutations of the virus, it is easy to understand the difficulty in developing an agent active toward virus (HSV, HCMV, HIV) which only partially utilize cellular mechanisms. The nucleoside analogs, as agents of antiviral chemotherapy, have been very thoroughly reported in recent literature.^{64-66,182-186} We will mention a few biological properties of the carbocyclic analogs, which are most active against viruses and retroviruses.

6-1. The carbocyclic analogs of 2'-deoxyuridine

The carbocyclic analogs of both BVDU 9 and IVDU 283 (Figure 14) are good inhibitors^{187,188} of HSV-1 replication. Both are also completely resistant toward cleavage by dThd and uridine phosphorylases¹⁷. The (+) and (-) enantiomers of these two compounds inhibit viral replication. The (+) enantiomer is 10 times

more active than the (-). Despite this fact, the two enantiomers have similar affinities for HSV-1 thymidine kinase (Ki = 0.09μ M and 0.09μ M, respectively, for (+)-C-BVDU and (+)-C-IVDU; and Ki = 0.16μ M and 0.19μ M, respectively, for the (-)-C-BVDU and (-)-C-IVDU). The inhibition of thymidine kinase is competitive. It is the first example in which both enantiomeric forms have important enzymatic affinities.

FIGURE 14



6-2. The carbocyclic analog of 2'-deoxyguanosine

The carbocyclic analog of 2'-deoxyguanosine (Figure 15) (CdG) shows a broad spectrum of antiviral activity and is active against HSV, HCMV and HBV. To try to understand the mechanism of action of this compound against HSV, studies have been conducted, based on the rate of incorporation of [³H]-CdG in cellular or viral DNA and of the interaction of CdG-TP with cellular or HSV α , β , γ -DNA polymerases.¹⁸⁹ These tests show that CdG.TP is a better substrate for viral DNA polymerases than for cellular polymerases. Moreover, it is a competitive inhibitor for the incorporation of the natural nucleoside analog into the DNA by cellular or viral polymerase DNA. Price et al.¹⁰⁴ have shown that this compound inhibits hepatitis B viral replication. It is incorporated into the DNA and does not act as a chain terminator. Kinetic analyses of dG-TP and CdG-TP show that it is a competitive inhibitor of the natural analog. At low concentrations, hepatitis B viral polymerase seems to be selectively inhibited. Finally, we note the inhibition *in vitro* of the growth of promastigotes¹⁰⁵ of *Leishmania donovani*.

FIGURE 15



6-3. Carbovir

The anti-HIV activity of carbovir (Figure 16) has been compared to activities of other substances used in the treatment of AIDS. The accompanying table¹⁹⁰ lists the IC50 and CD50 values for the principal nucleoside analogs used in anti-retroviral (anti-HIV) chemotherapy. The (-)-enantiomer of carbovir is twice as active as the racemic form¹⁹⁰ and 75 times more active than the (+)-enantiomer.¹⁹¹ This fact indicates that the major part of the antiviral activity is found in the (-)-enantiomer.

FIGURE 16



cells	MT-4		C8166		ЛМ	
	IC50	ID ₅₀	IC50	ID ₅₀	IC ₅₀	ID ₅₀
	µg/ml		µg/ml		µg/ml	
(-) carbovir	0.31	100	0.12	>100	0.13	100
(±) carbovir	0.52	100	-	-	-	-
ddC	0.001	100	0.004	>100	0.005	10
AZT	0.003	10	0.03	>100	>100	>100

The selectivity is probably due to the specific inhibition of viral reverse transcriptase by the triphosphorylated form of carbovir. Shannon and Vince¹⁹² have shown that carbovir is anabolized to the mono, di, and triphosphates and to G-TP in CEM cells *via* the hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyl-transferase enzyme (HGPRT). However, the mechanism has not been completely elucidated yet. (-)-Carbovir TP is a potent inhibitor of the HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, with a Ki similar to that found for AZT. Study of the chain elongation,¹⁹⁴ shows that (-)-carbovir-TP terminates transcription at identical positions to those found for the dideoxyguanosine-TP nucleoside analog. Carbovir acts as a competitive inhibitor of natural dNu-TP. Finally, Patanella et *al.*¹⁹³ have pointed out that oxidation of the 4'-CH₂OH to the corresponding 4'-COOH **284** metabolite (Scheme 56) is the main route of metabolisation of carbovir. Alcohol-dehydrogenase and aldehyde-dehydrogenase would be responsible for this bio-transformation. Another metabolic pathway of carbovir leads to the glucoronide **285**. Recent studies have reported some metabolisms of carbovir.²⁰³

SCHEME 56



6-4. Neplanocin A

Neplanocin A 117 (Scheme 57) has a wide range of biological activities.¹⁹⁵ It likely is an inhibitor of S-adenosyl-L-homocysteine hydrolase (AdoHcy hydrolase). This enzyme is very important in regulating S-adenosylmethionine (SAM) dependent methylation reactions. The methyltransferases can be considered as potential targets for therapeutic agents. These transferases are necessary for the maturation of the mRNA. Inhibition of methyl transferases via alteration of metabolism of the AdoHcy can therefore induce inhibition of methylation reactions used for mRNA viral processes¹⁹⁵.



Finally it should be noted that the cytosine analog (Ce-Cyd) 183 of neplanocin A also has a wide range of antiviral activities^{166f,h} (Figure 17).

FIGURE 17



6-5. Conclusion

The carbocyclic analogs of nucleosides have a wide field of application in antiviral chemotherapy. The mode of action is mainly in the inhibition of a replication step of the virus, by direct inhibition of a viral enzyme as a chain terminator and/or by competitive inhibition. On top of this, these compounds are not substrates of phosphorylases, in contrast to the nucleoside analogs and have similar or superior biological activities. The existence of these agents as potents drugs in the treatment of various DNA and RNA viruses indicates that these compounds compose a very promising family. Studies on their metabolism²⁰⁴ and on various active site requirements (of viral enzyme) should allow a better understanding of structure-activity relationships. With this better understanding at hand the development of new, improved, antiviral compound should be possible.

7-SYNOPTIC TABLE

The tables on the following pages summarize the cyclopentane analogs of nucleosides reported up to 1993. The columns list the heterocyclic bases (classical bases A/C/G/T/U or others I-XVI) and the rows identify the functionalised cyclopentanes. At the intersections, bibliographical references are noted.

Structures of heterocyclic bases of unusual functionalized cyclopentanes (column "others")



	Adenine	Guanine	Cytosine	Thymine	Uracil	Others
но — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	29-30,34, 38,45,46, 68,71,76, 79-84, 86-89,92, 94-96,99, 167,173,	39	100,109, 166	102 108-109	55,101 109,173	I-> 68 II->79 IIIa-j->109 IIIc->101 IV->81,103 XIV->38b
но он	117,120	116		43		II->116 IV->117 V->116
HO HO OH	78,117,120 121	121	100	118		IV->20
но	106, 112-113 178	104-105 113,117 174	100 109 115	57,60,102 108-109 111,115	39,55,56 63,101,109 114,115	IIIc,e,k,l-> 39,63,101, 114 V->107 VI->102
но	106		100,109	108-109	55-56 101,109	IIIa-i->109 IIIc->101 XIV->201 XV->201
но	200		100		172	VII->172
HO OH					61-62 172	VII->172
но он					171	IIId-e->171
но он он он он он он	174		175			

	Adenine	Guanine	Cytosine	Thymine	Uracil	Others
но он он	87					
Но	122,129	54,85 122,123, 125,127 128,129	122	122	122	
но	166		166	44		
но				145		
но	42		173	108,173	173	VIII->173
HO OH OH	30,32,34 40,71,74 133-135 137	137	31,33 136,137 166	137	137	IX->98 IV->30,33 X->136
но			166			
но	166					
но	199					

	Adenine	Guanine	Cytosine	Thymine	Uracil	Others
HOHO			166			
он он он он	31,166		31			
OH F OH	146					
	153,164	164	164	145,153 164	164	
HO						XII->159
HO	53	53		53	53	
HO OH F		24	141	141	141	
HO F OH	143,144	23,24,144 165	141,142	142	141,142	IIIe->141 142

	Adenine	Guanine	Cytosine	Thymine	Uracil	Others
HO-F				141		
HO F OH	153	153b		153b	153b	
нотр		24			162	IIIe->141 162
HO	139	24		139	141,162	IIIe->141 162
HO OH				139		
HO Y OH X=F, Y=OH X=OH, Y=F	41					
				140		
				140,163		

	Adenine	Guanine	Cytosine	Thymine	Uracil	Others
HO				163		
но-	179	179				
HO F OH		141b				
но				57,171	171	IIIe,j->171
HO H ₂ N OI	170 I					XI->170
					171	IIIe,l->171
HO HO N ₃		198				XI->198
HO OH N ₃				44		

	Adenine	Guanine	Cytosine	Thymine	Uracil	Others
HO-F				145		
OH OH OH	178 Noraristero mycin 177b					XVI->178c
ОН	176,177 179			176		
R P O OH	42a,b					
R P	42b					

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