

Thermal Degradation of Sugar-modified Uridine N-Oxides: Olefination, Oxazolidination and Rearrangements q

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Abstract: The degradation pattern of the *N*-oxides of various tertiary aminouridines is established. The *N*-oxide of 3'-deoxy-3'-morpholino-arauridine generated double bonds in the carbohydrate moiety without much selectivity, whereas epimino uridine *N*-oxides generated only d_4U . Oxazolidine derivatives were formed from the *N*-oxides of 3'-deoxy-3'-N-pyrrolidino/morpholino-2,2'-O-anhydrouridines and 3'-deoxy-3'-N-pyrrolidino/morpholino-2'-O-mesylarauridines. 2'-Deoxy-2'-N-pyrrolidino/morpholino-2'-O-mesylaylouridines produced rearranged products 3'-O-N-pyrrolidino/morpholino-2,2'-O-anhydrouridines. © 1999 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: nucleosides; N-oxides; elimination reactions; rearrangements

Introduction

The enzymatic oxidation of tertiary and heterocyclic aromatic nitrogen compounds to the corresponding *N*-oxides is one of the standard routes for the metabolism of such compounds in mammalian systems. Tertiary amine *N*-oxides, on the other hand, under pyrolytic conditions, undergo a Cope elimination reaction to generate olefins. A plethora of modified nucleosides equipped with secondary, tertiary and aromatic amino groups at the 2'- and/or 3'-sites have been synthesized^{3,4} since 3'-amino-3'-deoxythymidine has been a) detected as one of the metabolites of AZT⁵ and b) found to exhibit wide ranging biological activities. It is expected that some of these aminonucleosides would undergo *N*-oxidation in the biological systems. Although there are quite a few reports on the synthesis and behavior of *N*-oxides derived from purine nucleobases and nucleosides, to the best of our knowledge no study has been done on the synthesis and properties of *N*-oxides of the sugar modified aminonucleosides. In continuation of our interest in the area of sugar modified aminonucleosides at the tertiary amine *N*-oxides attached to the sugar moieties of pyrimidine nucleosides at ambient as well as elevated temperatures to gain information on the breakdown patterns of *N*-oxides of aminonucleosides. We also envisaged that the in-built reactivities of aminonucleosides and their derivatives, such as intramolecular participation of pyrimidine

[¶]Dedicated to Prof. Jyoti Chattopadhyaya on occasion of his 50th birthday

nucleobases, would lead to novel reactions other than or in addition to simple Cope elimination. These reactions would also generate new modified nucleosides. The series of sugar modified aminonucleosides, that we have synthesized by opening the known 5'-O-trityl-2',3'-O-anhydro-lyxouridine 3 by amines under controlled conditions⁴ were taken up as substrates for the present study. In general, aminonucleosides were converted to the corresponding N-oxides by reacting with m-CPBA. Crude N-oxides were used directly for degradation studies.

Results and Discussion

Conversion of Nucleoside N-oxides to Olefinic Nucleosides: 9-12 As the N-oxide derived from 5'-deoxy-5'-N-piperidino-3'-O-tritylthymidine 1 did not produce the desired product 2 when heated in pyridine (Scheme 1) 13, it was envisaged that an amine oxide connected to the 2' or 3' sites of the carbohydrate moiety

Scheme 1

of nucleosides would be better suited to initiate proton abstraction from the β -position because of the conformational flexibilities of the furanose rings. The amine oxide **5** derived from the known⁴ aminoalcohol **4**, when heated in pyridine, underwent elimination to produce a mixture of compounds (**Scheme 2**). Analysis of the mixture revealed the presence of three products, namely a mixture of the α - and β -anomers of the 2'-keto uridine $7^{13,14}$ (63%) and the 3'-deoxy-3'-ene derivative **8** (29%). Formation of **7** and **8** may be explained by invoking two different reaction pathways as depicted in **Scheme 2**. As both H-1' and H-4' were β to the amine oxide **5**, removal of either proton was possible. A mixture of 2'-keto uridines **7** would be formed if the reaction followed *path a* whereas *path b* would generate **8**. It may be assumed from the ratio of products that five membered transition state² formation between H-2'/ C-2'/ C-3'/ N⁺-O⁻ was more facile than between H-4'/ C-4'/ C-3'/ N⁺-O⁻.

Although olefination of N-alkyl-aziridines via N-oxide formation has been reported in the literature, ¹⁵ the reaction, to the best of our knowledge, has never been used in case of carbohydrates in general and nucleosides in particular. 2', 3'-Dideoxy-2', 3'-(N-isobutyl)-epiminouridine ⁴ 11a was easily accessible from a mixture of 2'-deoxy-2'-N-isobutylamino-xylo- and 3'-deoxy-3'-N-isobutylamino-arauridines 9a and 10a

Scheme 2

respectively. Compounds 11b and 11c were synthesized from the mixtures of 9b/10b⁴ and 9c/10c,⁴ respectively following the same methodology. It should be noted that except for compound 11a,⁴ 11b and 11c could not be obtained in pure form as they were always contaminated with triphenylphosphine oxide. Compounds 11a-c were treated with m-CPBA in dichloromethane at ambient temperature; the only nucleoside based product that was isolated from all these reactions was 1-(2,3-dideoxy-5-O-trityl-β-D-glycero-pent-2-enofuranosyl) uracil 13¹⁶ in 45%, 62% and 52% yields, respectively, after two steps. The formation of an *N*-oxide of general structure 12 may be assumed which collapsed to 13 through an elimination process (Scheme 3). Since almost all the reactions applicable to uridine are also applicable to ribothymidine, it may be argued that the above synthetic route could be an alternative method of choice for the preparation of d₄T from ribothymidine.

Oxazolidination and Rearrangement Reactions of Nucleoside N-oxides: As there was no specificity of proton abstraction in case of N-oxides such as 5, we decided to introduce rigidity in the molecule to see whether the lack of conformational mobility dictated the type of product formation. We have reported earlier that compounds of the type 14a could be easily synthesized⁴ from a mixture of 5'-O-trityl-2'-deoxy-2'-

pyrrolidino-xylo- and 5'-O-trityl-3'-deoxy-3'-pyrrolidino-arauridines. Compound 14a was oxidized with m-CPBA and the N-oxide was heated in pyridine at elevated temperature. An oxazolidine derivative 15a was

Scheme 3

Tro

OH

NHR

NHR

$$3$$
 $9a-c$
 $10a-c$

Tro

U

R

 $11a-c$
 $12a-c$

R: $a = H_2C$
 $b = H_2C$
 $c = C$

isolated from the reaction mixture in 72% yield. The same product was isolated in 74% yield when 16a⁴ was oxidized and heated in pyridine. Similarly, 14b or 16b^{8c} was converted to 15b in 80% or 54% yield respectively (Scheme 4).

Scheme 4

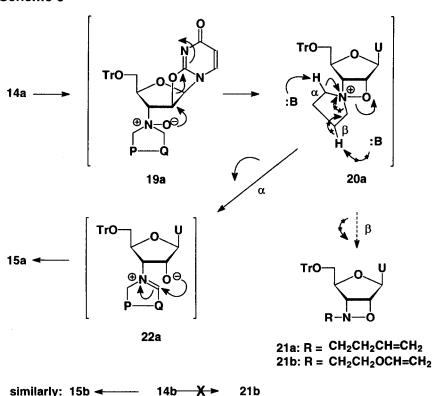
a: $P-Q = CH_2CH_2$; b: $P-Q = CH_2OCH_2$

Attempted acetylation (pyridine/acetic anhydride) of 15b failed, therefore indicating the absence of any free amino- or hydroxyl groups in 15b. However, the following experiments were performed to establish the structures of the oxazolidine derivatives unambiguously. We expected that under catalytic hydrogenation/hydrogenolysis the C-O bonds of compounds 15a,b would cleave to generate 3'-deoxy-3'-N-alkylaminouridines. Therefore, we subjected 15a to catalytic transfer hydrogenation using 4% formic acid as the hydrogen source. The product which was formed following the C-O bond scission was *not* similar to the ara- and xylo- derivatives obtained by the ring opening of 3 by morpholine. This product, on mesylation followed by DBU treatment at room temperature produced the known 2,2'-O-anhydro derivative 14a. The product was, therefore, 3'-deoxy-3'-pyrrolidino-5'-O-trityluridine 17a. Similarly, 15b was converted to 14b via 17b and 18b (Scheme 5) to establish its structure.

The first step of the above conversion of 14a to 15a is the intramolecular nucleophilic attack (instead of Cope elimination into the furanose ring) at C-2' (intermediate 19a, Scheme 6) resulting in the formation of the oxazetidinium ion 20a. It may be argued that in the presence of a leaving group at the β -position (in this case, C-2'), an attack by the nucleophilic O of N-oxide is preferred to Cope elimination. Formation of 15a from 16a also supports this view (Scheme 4). There were two possible pathways for the neutralization of the positive charge on the nitrogen atom of the intermediate 20a; the abstraction of a) an α -hydrogen to generate an iminium intermediate 22a or b) a β -hydrogen to produce the oxazetidine derivative 21a. Formation of

compound 21a, having the same molecular formula as that of the actual product 15a, was ruled out by the absence of any olefinic carbons in the ¹³C NMR spectra. For example, all four carbon signals arising from the methylene groups of 15a appeared at 63.6, 54.0, 31.0 and 23.9 ppm. Those of 15b appeared at 65.6, 65.1, 64.3 and 48.8 ppm. The terminal methylene carbons of 21a,b, had those been the products, would have had appeared above 100 ppm. ¹⁷ Conversions of 15a,b to 17a,b (Scheme 5) also ruled out structure 21a,b. The abstraction of an α-hydrogen was, therefore, the preferred route. The iminium ion intermediate 22a underwent intramolecular attack to produce the oxazolidine derivatives 15a. Similarly, 14b was converted to 15b and not to 21b (Scheme 6).

Scheme 6



The interesting conversion of 14a,b to 15a,b or 16a,b to 15a,b (Scheme 4) led us to study the behavior of the regioisomers of 16a,b, namely compounds 23a,b under the similar reaction conditions. Thus, compound 23a⁴ was oxidized and the *N*-oxide was heated in pyridine. To our surprise, we found that a product completely unrelated (1 H NMR) to compound 15a was obtained (Scheme 7). The 1 H NMR and 13 C NMR data of product 26a were identical to those⁴ of compound 14a except for the downward movement of the peaks arising from H-3' (δ 4.42 for 26a; δ 3.35 for 14a⁴) and C-3' (δ 84.5 for 26a; δ 70.1 for 14a⁴). It may be

assumed that an oxazetidine intermediate **25a** was formed by the direct displacement of the C-3' mesylate and subsequently the C-2 oxygen attacked the C-2' position from the top as 2,2'-O-anhydro ring formation is known¹⁸ to be a highly facile reaction in the presence of a leaving group at C-2' position; the electron deficient pyrrolidinium moiety acted as a leaving group and remained connected to the C-3' position through the oxygen atom after C2'-N(+) bond scission took place. The 2'-deoxy-2'-N-morpholino-xylo derivative **23b**^{8c} under the same reaction conditions rearranged to **26b** in a similar fashion (**Scheme 7**).

Conclusion

We have established for the first time the degradation patterns of the N-oxides of various aminonucleosides at ambient as well as high temperatures. Some of these N-oxides may be useful intermediates for generating new and structurally interesting compounds. More importantly, it has emerged from this study that proper functionalization of the pentose moiety or imposition of rigidity on the ring leads to selectivity in the reaction pattern of N-oxides (Scheme 2 vs Schemes 4 and 7) although the mode of reactions turned out to be very different.

Experimental

General Infornation: See refs. 4 and 8a-d. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 200 MHz and ¹³C NMR at 50 or 75 MHz. HRMS were recorded using the LSIMS technique with cesium ion (22Kv); glycerol was used as matrix. All compounds were purified starting with a mixture of petroleum ether (60-80) and ETOAc (4:1, v/v); polarity of the solvent was increased with EtOAc until the desired product was eluted.

Oxidative degradation of 5'-O-trityl-3'-deoxy-3'-N-morpholino-ara-uridine 4. To a solution of 4⁴ (0.34 g, 0.61 mmol) in chloroform (20 ml), m-CPBA (0.27 g, 1.5 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5h. Chloroform was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in pyridine (20 ml). The pyridine solution was heated at 100°C for 10h. Pyridine was removed under reduced pressure and residual pyridine was coevaporated with toluene. The oily residue was dissolved in EtOAc (60 ml) and the solution was washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (2 x 20 ml) solution followed by water (2 x 50 ml). The organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified over silica gel to give 5'-O-trityl-3'-deoxy-2'-ketouridines 7^{13,14} (0.18 g, 63%) and 5'-O-trityl-3'-deoxy-3',4'- didehydro-ara-uridine 8¹³ (0.085g, 29%) as white solids. Compound 8: mp 99-101°C; ¹H NMR(CDCl₃): 8 10.65 (s, 1H); 7.55-7.20 (m, 16H); 6.52 (d, 6.4Hz, 1H); 5.62 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H); 5.42 (s, 1H); 5.27 (d, 6.3Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃): 8 165.4, 158.5, 150.8, 143.6, 143.2, 128.8, 128.2, 127.5, 101.3, 101.1, 87.6, 87.1, 71.9, 59.4; HRMS (FAB+, M+Na⁺): for C₂₈H₂₄N₂O₅Na calcd. 491.1582 obsd. 491.1569.

1-(2,3-Dideoxy-5-O-trityl-β-D-glycero-pent-2-enofuranosyl)uracil 13. General Method: A mixture of 3⁴ and the appropriate amine (5 eq) in DMSO (3 ml/mmol) was heated at 90-95°C. After the disappearance of the starting material (tlc) the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (40 ml/mmol) and washed with water. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness and the solid residue was purified by column chromatography to furnish a mixture of 9a-c and 10a-c. The mixture of 9a-c and 10a-c and triphenylphosphine (1.5 eq) was dissolved in dichloromethane (20 ml/mmol) and the solution was cooled using an ice-bath under argon. To this ice-cold solution, diisopropyl azodicarboxylate (2 eq) was added slowly. The ice-bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 6-8 h. The solution was evaporated to dryness and the mixture was purified over silica gel to produce 1-[2,3-dideoxy-2,3-(N-alkyl)-epimino-5-O-trityl-β-D-ribo-furanosyl]-uracil 11a-c as white solids. Compounds 11a-c were treated with m-CPBA (1 eq) in dichloromethane (15 ml/mmol). After 2-8 h at ambient temperature, dichloromethane was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in EtOAc (25 ml/mmol). The EtOAc solution was washed with saturated aqueous K₂CO₃ solution (3 x 25 ml) followed by water (3 x 25 ml). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated to dryness. The colored material was purified by column chromatography to obtain 13 as white solid in 45%,

62% and 52% overall (based on 3⁴ in 3 steps) yield from 11a, 11b and 11c respectively. The product was identical to the reported 16 compound in every respect (mp 189-191°C, lit 16 188-191°C).

5'-O-Trityl-3'-deoxy-3'-N-pyrrolidino-2,2'-O-anhydrouridine 14a. The compound was synthesized following the literature procedure.⁴

5'-O-Trityl-3'-deoxy-3'-N-morpholino-2,2'-O-anhydrouridine 14b. This compound was prepared following the same literature procedure⁴ for the synthesis of **14a** in 61% overall yield as a pale yellow foam from **3**. mp 96-98°C; ¹H NMR(CDCl₃): δ 7.38-7.24 (m, 16H), 6.09 (d, 6.0Hz, 1H), 5.96 (d, 7.6Hz, 1H), 5.35 (dd, 1.4Hz, 5.9Hz, 1H), 4.45 (m, 1H), 3.71 (t, 4H), 3.37 (m, 1H), 3.01 (m, 2H), 2.60-2.40 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃): δ 171.8, 159.5, 143.5, 134.9, 128.6, 128.0, 127.4, 110.1, 90.6, 87.3, 84.6, 81.6, 71.9, 66.8, 64.3, 50.3; **HRMS** (FAB+, M+Na⁺): for $C_{32}H_{31}N_3O_5Na$ calcd. 560.2161 obsd. 560.2145.

Compound 15a. Method A: To a solution of 14a (0.54 g, 1 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 ml), m-CPBA (0.41 g, 2.4 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Dichloromethane was removed and the residue was dissolved in pyridine (25 ml). The pyridine solution was heated at 75°C for 9h. Pyridine was removed under reduced pressure by coevaporation with toluene. The residue was dissolved in EtOAc (100 ml) and washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (3 x 25 ml) and water (50 ml). The EtOAc part was dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified over silica gel to give 15a (0.4 g, 72%). Method B: To a solution of 5'-O-trityl-3'-deoxy-3'-N-pyrrolidinoarauridine (0.46 g, 0.85 mmol) in pyridine (10 ml), mesyl chloride (0.5 g, 4.2 mmol) was added dropwise at 0°C. After the addition, the reaction mixture was kept at +4°C overnight. The brown solution was poured into cold saturated NaHCO₃ solution. The precipitate was filtered and washed thoroughly with water. The residue was dissolved in dichloromethane, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to dryness at <30°C to generate 5'-O-trityl-3'-deoxy-3'pyrrolidino-2'-O-mesylarauridine 16a. Compound 16a was dissolved in chloroform (25 ml), m-CPBA (0.35 g, 2 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature. After 1h, the solvent was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in pyridine (20 ml). The pyridine solution was heated at 75°C. After 4.5h the solution was poured into saturated NaHCO3 solution. The precipitate was filtered and washed with water. The residue was dissolved in EtOAc, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified over silica gel to give 15a as a white solid (0.35 g, 74% for three steps); mp 107-109°C; ¹H NMR(CDCl₃): 8 9.01 (bs, 1H), 7.60-7.23 (m, 16H), 5.89 (d, 1.7Hz, 1H), 5.53 (dd, 8.0Hz, 2.0Hz, 1H), 5.12 (d, 3.9Hz, 1H), 4.52 (dd, 6.0Hz, 1.8HZ, 1H), 4.08 (m, 2H), 3.54 (m, 2H), 3.08 (m, 1H), 2.54 (q, 1H), 2.0 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃): δ 163.6, 150.2, 143.7, 141.3, 128.8, 128.0, 127.3, 102.6, 98.9, 92.5, 87.3, 83.3, 83.1, 70.0, 63.6, 54.0, 31.0, 23.9; **HRMS** (FAB+, MH $^{+}$): for $C_{32}H_{32}N_3O_5$ calcd. 538.2341 obsd. 538.2375.

Compound 15b. Method A: Compound 14b (0.27 g, 0.5 mmol) was oxidized as above described for 14a and the N-oxide was heated in pyridine at 75°C for 8h. After usual work-up the crude product was purified over silica gel (0.22 g, 80%). Method B: 5'-O-Trityl-3'-deoxy-3'-N-morpholino-2'-O-mesylarauridine 16b was synthesized from 4 (0.41 g, 0.73 mmol) using a literature procedure 8c. Compound 16b was oxidized

as described for **16a** and the *N*-oxide was heated in pyridine at 75°C for 4h. After usual work-up and purification over silica gel, **15b** was obtained as a white solid (0.22 g, 54% for three steps); mp 127-130°C; 1 H NMR(CDCl₃): δ 9.20 (bs, 1H, NH); 7.47-7.21 (m, 16H, H-6), 5.80 (d, 1.6Hz, 1H), 5.58 (dd, 8.0Hz, 1.8Hz, 1H), 4.75 (d, 6.4Hz, 1H), 4.44 (s, 1H), 4.22 (d, 13.2Hz, 1H), 4.03 (m, 1H), 3.84 (m, 3H), 3.53 (m, 3H), 2.61 (m, 2H); 13 C NMR(CDCl₃): δ 163.7, 150.2, 143.6, 141.8, 128.8, 127.9, 127.3, 102.7, 94.05, 87.6, 87.1, 82.4, 82.1, 71.9, 65.6, 65.1, 64.3, 48.8; HRMS (FAB+, MH $^{+}$): for C₃₂H₃₂N₃O₆ calcd. 554.2291 obsd. 554.2293.

Compound 14a from 15a. To a solution of 15a (0.23 g, 0.43 mmol) in 4% formic acid in methanol (25 ml), Pd/C (0.22 g, 10% Pd) was added. The suspension was heated at 80°C for 15 mins. The mixture was cooled at room temperature and filtered. Pyridine (5 ml) was added to the filtrate and solvents were evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure to obtain crude 17a. Mesyl chloride (1 ml, 13 mmol) in pyridine (5 ml) was added to a solution of 17a in pyridine (15 ml) at 0°C. The reaction mixture was left at +4°C overnight. The brown solution was poured into saturated NaHCO₃ solution. The precipitate was filtered, washed with water and dried. The residue was dissolved in EtOAc. The solution was dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness. The brown residue was purified over silica gel to obtain 18a. To a solution of 18a in chloroform (20 ml), DBU (0.1 g, 0.6 mmol) was added. The solution was left at room temperature for 1.75 h. The solution was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The residue was purified over silica gel to give 14a (0.14 g, 62% for three steps).

Compound 14b from 15b. To a solution of 15b (0.25 g, 0.45 mmol) in 4% formic acid in methanol (50 ml), Pd/C (0.3 g, 10% Pd) was added. The suspension was heated at 80°C for 8 hrs. After usual work-up and purification (described for 17a) 17b was obtained. Compound 17b was mesylated to 18b as above. Compound 18b was converted to 14b by treatment with DBU (0.06 g, 25% for three steps).

5'-O-Trityl-3'-O-N-pyrrolidino-2,2'-O-anhydrouridine 26a. 5'-O-Trityl-2'-deoxy-2'-pyrrolidino-xylouridine⁴ (0.37 g, 0.68 mmol) was mesylated following the literature procedure.^{8c} The crude mesylated product **23a**¹³ was oxidized as above and the *N*-oxide was heated in pyridine at 75°C for 4.5h. After usual work-up and purification over silica gel, **26a** was obtained as a pale yellow solid (0.21 g, 57%); mp 89-91°C; ¹H NMR(CDCl₃): δ 7.38-7.23 (m, 16H), 6.09 (d, 5.7Hz, 1H), 5.95 (d, 7.4Hz, 1H), 5.38 (d, 5.7Hz, 1H), 4.42 (m, 2H), 2.99 (m, 6H), 1.81 (bs, 4H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃): δ 171.8, 159.5, 143.3, 134.8, 128.5, 128.1, 127.4, 110.1, 90.4, 87.0, 86.2, 84.5, 63.2, 56.9, 21.9; HRMS (FAB+, MH⁺): for C₃₂H₃₂N₃O₅ calcd. 538.2341 obsd. 538.2344.

5'-O-Trityl-3'-O-N-morpholino-2,2'-O-anhydrouridine 26b. 5'-O-Trityl-2'-deoxy-2'-morpholino-xylouridine⁴ (0.31 g, 0.55 mmol) was mesylated following the literature procedure.^{8c} The crude mesylated product 23b¹³ was oxidized as above and the *N*-oxide was heated in pyridine at 75°C for 4.5h. After usual work-up and purification over silica gel, 26b was obtained as a off-white solid (0.21g, 69%); mp 95-98°C; ¹H NMR(CDCl₃): δ 7.45-7.25 (m, 16H), 6.13 (d, 5.8Hz, 1H), 5.95 (d, 7.4Hz, 1H), 5.29 (d, 5.8Hz, 1H), 4.54 (m,

1H), 4.41 (m, 1H), 3.91 (d, 2H), 3.58 (t, 2H), 3.10 (m, 3H), 2.92(m, 1H), 2.72 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃): 8 171.7, 159.4, 143.3, 134.8, 128.4, 128.1, 127.5, 110.2, 90.3, 87.1, 86.1, 84.5, 83.7, 66.1; 62.9; 56.8; 56.3; HRMS (FAB+, MH⁺): for C₃₂H₃₂N₃O₆ calcd. 554.2291 obsd. 554.2306.

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