Pergamon

Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters 8 (1998) 1585–1588

BIOORGANIC & MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY LETTERS

ASYMMETRIC SYNTHESIS AND ANTI-HIV ACTIVITY OF L-CARBOCYCLIC 2′,3′-DIDEHYDRO-2′,3′-DIDEOXYADENOSINE

Peiyuan Wang,[a] Raymond F. Schinazi,[b] and Chung K. Chu*[,a]

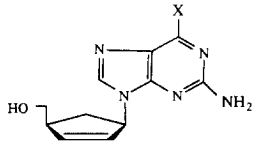
[a]Center for Drug Discovery and Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences, The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy, Athens, GA 30602, U.S.A. and [b]Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine/VA Medical Center, Decatur, GA 30033, U.S.A.

Received 18 April 1998; accepted 1 May 1998

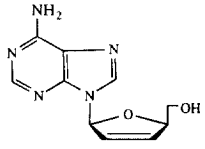
Abstract: Asymmetric synthesis of L-carbocyclic 2′,3′-didehydro-2′,3′-dideoxyadenosine and its analogs were accomplished and their anti-HIV activities were evaluated. It was found that L-carbocyclic 2′,3′-didehydro-2′,3′-dideoxyadenosine exhibited moderately potent anti-HIV (EC_{50} = 2.4 μM) activity in human PBM cells without cytotoxicity up to 100 μM.

A number of carbocyclic nucleosides have shown interesting antiviral and antitumor activities.[1,2] Among them, carbovir[3] **1** and its 6-cyclopropylaminopurine analog 1592U89[4] **2** (abacavir) are of particular interest since they both exhibit potent anti-HIV activity and 1592U89 is currently undergoing phase III clinical trials. Furthermore, a novel carbocyclic nucleoside, BMS-200475[5] has shown potent anti-hepatitis B virus activity, which is currently undergoing phase II clinical trials.

Recently, a number of L-nucleosides have proven to be of great importance as antiviral and antitumor agents, among which 3TC,[6] L-FTC,[7] L-OddC,[8] and L-FMAU,[9] have shown to be the most promising L-nucleosides. Some of these L-nucleosides are more potent and less toxic than that of their L-counterparts.[10,11] The racemic carbocyclic 2′, 3′-didehydro-2′, 3′-dideoxyadenosine also showed anti-HIV activity.[12] Therefore, it was of interest to synthesize the corresponding L-enantiomers in the search for novel antiviral agents. Previously, we have reported that β-L-2′, 3′-didehydro-2′,3′-dideoxyadenosine (β-L-d4A) (**3**) exibited significant anti-HIV and anti-HBV activities.[13] Herein, we wish to report preliminary results of synthesis of carbocyclic β-L-2′, 3′-didehydro-2′, 3′-dideoxyadenosine (**4**) and its analogs as well as results of in vitro biological evaluation.



1 X = O
2 X = NH



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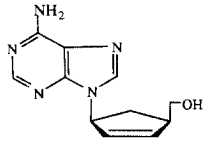
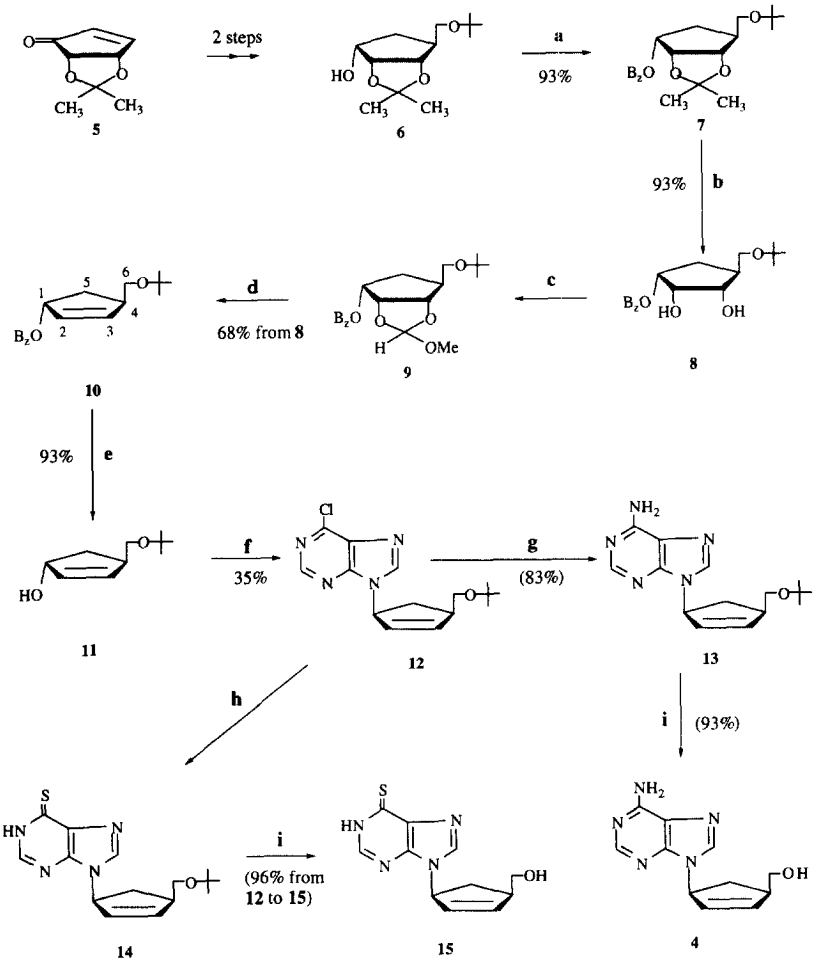


4

Our synthetic strategy for **4** utilized the known (+)-cyclopentenone **5** as a chiral starting material, which was prepared in 3 steps from D-ribose.[14] The alcohol **6** was synthesized by regioselective addition to the enone **5** followed by DIBAL-H reduction.[15] The hydroxyl group of compound **6** was benzoylated to give benzoate **7** in

0960-894X/98/$19.00
PII: S0960-894X(98)00278-9

Scheme 1



a: BzCl, Pyr, rt, 12 h. **b**: concd HCl: MeOH (1:70, v/v), rt, 2.5 h. **c**: $CH(OMe)_3$, pyridinium toluene-*p*-sulphonate, rt, 2 h. **d**: Ac_2O, 120-130°C, 3 h. **e**: 2 N NaOH/MeOH, rt, 1.5 h. **f**: 6-chloropurine, Ph_3P, diethyl azodicarboxylate, dioxane, rt, 10 h . **g**: NH_3/MeOH, 80-90 °C, 20 h. **h**: thiourea, EtOH, reflux, 1 h. **i**: CF_3CO_2H/ H_2O (2:1), 50 °C, 3 h.

93% yield. The isopropylidene protection group of compound 7 was removed using a mixture of HCl and methanol (1:70, v/v) at room temperature for 2.5 h to give the diol **8** in 93% yield. Treatment of compound **8** with trimethyl orthoformate in the presence of catalytic pyridinium toluene-*p*-sulphonate at room temperature for 2 h gave the cyclic orthoester **9**, which was subjected to a thermal elimination reaction[16] with acetic anhydride at 120–130 °C for 6 h to give the required cyclopentene **10**.[17] Stereochemical assignments was determined based on NOESY experiments, in which a correlation between H-1 and H-6 of compound **10** was observed, indicating that

they are on the same side. Deblocking of compound **10** with 2 N NaOH in methanol gave alcohol **11**, which was then reacted without isolation with nucleobase by Mitsunobu-type condensation.[18] Reaction of the alcohol **11** with 6-chloropurine in the presence of triphenylphosphine and diethyl azodicarboxylate (DEAD) at room temperature gave **12** in 35% yield. The compound **12** was then treated with saturated ammonia in methanol in a steel bomb at 80 to 90 °C to provide the adenine derivative **13** in 83%. Deprotection of **13** with CF_3CO_2H/H_2O (2:1, v/v) at 50 °C afforded **4**[19] in 86% yield. The 6-mercaptopurine analog **15**[20] was obtained by the treatment of **12** with thiourea in refluxing ethanol followed by deprotection. (Scheme 1).

The anti-HIV activity of the synthesized nucleosides were evaluated in vitro in peripheral blood mononuclear (PBM) cells. The adenine analog **4** exhibited moderately potent anti-HIV activity (EC_{50} = 2.4 μM) without cytotoxicity up to 100 μM in PBM, CEM, and Vero cells. (Table 1)

Table 1. Anti-HIV-1 activity and cytotoxicity of compound **4** and **15** in vitro

Compound	Anti-HIV Activity in PBM Cells		Toxicity (IC_{50} μM)		
	(EC_{50} μM)	(EC_{90} μM)	PBM	CEM	Vero
4	2.4	11.7	>100	>100	>100
15	>100	ND	>100	>100	>100
AZT	0.004	ND	>100	14.0	27.7

ND: not determined

In summary, the asymmetric synthesis of several carbocyclic β-L-2′, 3′-didehydro-2′, 3′-dideoxy-nucleosides has been accomplished. Among the nucleosides synthesized the adenosine analog **4** exhibited moderately potent anti-HIV activity. Synthesis of other enantiomerically pure carbocyclic L-2′, 3′-didehydro-2′, 3′-dideoxy-pyrimidine and purine nucleosides are in progress.

Acknowledgement: This research was supported by the U.S. Public Health Research grants (AI 32351 and AI 25899) and the Department of Veterans Affairs. We thank Dr. Michael G. Bartlett for performing mass spectroscopy.

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17. Compound **10**: $[\alpha]^{27}_{D}$ 259.89° (*c* 1.45, $CHCl_3$). ^1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 7.40–8.03 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 6.15 (m, 1H, 2 H), 5.98 (m, 1H, 3-H), 5.95 (m, 1H, 1-H), 3.28 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H, 6-H), 3.13 (m, 1H, 4-H), 2.10 (m, 1H, 5-Hab), 1.19 (s, 9H, *tert*-Butyl). Anal. calcd for $C_{17}H_{22}O_3$: C, 74.42; H, 8.08. Found: C, 74.53; H, 8.21. HR-FABMS: Obsd; *m/z* 275.1645. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{23}O_3$; *m/z* 275.1647 $(M + H)^+$.
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19. Compound **4**: mp 189–192 °C. $[\alpha]^{24}_{D}$ 4.81° (*c* 0.52, MeOH). UV (H_2O) λ_{max} 260.5 (ε 14944) (pH 2), 261.5 (ε 16043) (pH 7), 261.5 nm (ε 15151) (pH 11); ^1H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 8.13 (s, 1H, 2-H), 8.04 (s, 1H, 8-H), 7.21(br s, 2H, NH_2, D_2O exchangeable), 6.14 (m, 1H, 2′-H), 5.92 (m, 1H, 3′-H), 5.58 (m, 1H, 1′-H), 4.75 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H, OH, D_2O exchangeable), 3.46 (m, 2H, 6′-Ha,b), 2.90 (m, 1H, 4′-H), 2.67 (dt, *J* = 13.7, 8.8, 8.6 Hz, 1H, 5′-Ha), 1.63 (m, 1H, 5′-Hb). Anal. calcd for $C_{11}H_{13}N_5O$: C, 57.13; H, 5.67; N, 30.28. Found: C, 57.19; H, 5.69; N, 30.21. HR-FABMS: Obsd: *m/z* 232.1181. Calcd for $C_{11}H_{14}N_5O$; *m/z* 232.1198 $(M + H)^+$.
20. Compound **15**: mp 235–237 °C. $[\alpha]^{24}_{D}$ –41.61° (*c* 0.22, Pyr). UV (H_2O) λ_{max} 322.5 (ε 12953) (pH 2), 320.0 (ε 19421) (pH 7), 310.5 nm (ε 20659) (pH 11); ^1H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 13.72 (br s, 1H, NH, D_2O exchangeable), 8.20 (s, 1H, 2-H), 8.19 (s, 1H, 8-H), 6.17 (m, 1H, 2′-H), 5.92 (m, 1H, 3′-H), 5.58 (m, 1H, 1′-H), 4.74 (t, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H, OH, D_2O exchangeable), 3.45 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H, 6′-Ha,b), 2.90 (m, 1H, 4′H), 2.67 (dt, *J* = 13.8, 8.8, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 5′-Ha), 1.63 (dt, *J* = 13.8, 5 6, 5.6 Hz, 1H, 5′-Hb). Anal. calcd for $C_{11}H_{12}N_4OS$: C, 53.21; H, 4.87; N, 22.56. Found: C, 53.12; H, 4.90; N, 22.53. HR-FABMS: Obsd; *m/z* 249.0821. Calcd for $C_{11}H_{13}N_4OS$; *m/z* 249.0810 $(M + H)^+$.