



# Synthesis and evaluation of a C-glycosyl nucleoside as an inhibitor of chitin synthase

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## Abstract

As part of our ongoing program devoted to inhibit chitin synthases, we have prepared a novel C-glycosyl nucleoside as metabolically stable substrate analog of UDP-GlcNAc. The synthetic strategy relies on the consecutive coupling of nucleoside and amino C-glycosyl moieties with L-tartaric acid. However, this compound inhibited only weakly chitin synthase I, with an IC<sub>50</sub> value of 20 mM. © 2001 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

**Keywords:** C-Glycosyl nucleoside; Amino C-glycosyl compound; Substrate analog; Chitin synthase inhibitor

## 1. Introduction

Complex oligosaccharides are involved in a wide variety of biological function and consequently show enormous potential as therapeutic agents for a number of cases ranging from infectious diseases to cancer therapies.<sup>1–5</sup> Inhibition of glycosyltransferases, which are responsible for the biosynthesis of oligosaccharides, represents a valuable target.<sup>6–12</sup>

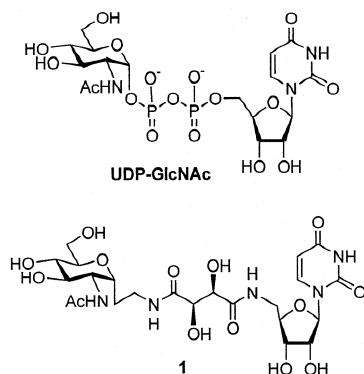
Chitin, the  $\beta$ -(1  $\rightarrow$  4)-linked homopolymer of N-acetyl-D-glucosamine (GlcNAc), is the second most abundant biological polymer after cellulose and is found in a wide diversity of invertebrates and fungi. Since chitin is an essential structural component of the cell wall of most fungi and is absent in plants and mammals,<sup>13</sup> its biosynthesis seems to be an

attractive target for novel fungicides lacking host toxicity. Chitin synthases (EC 2.4.1.16) are inverting, processive  $\beta$ -(1  $\rightarrow$  4)-N-acetylaminoglucosaminyltransferases which catalyze the synthesis of chitin by transferring an N-acetyl-D-glucosamine (GlcNAc) residue from uridine-5'-diphosphoGlcNAc (UDP-GlcNAc) to a growing chain of  $\beta$ -(1  $\rightarrow$  4)-linked GlcNAc residues.<sup>14</sup> The efficiency of chitin biosynthesis inhibition approach for antifungal therapeutics was exemplified by peptidyl nucleosides polyoxin D and nikkomycin Z. These natural nucleoside antibiotics have been demonstrated to be competitive inhibitors of chitin synthases and exhibit antifungal, insecticidal and acaricidal activities.<sup>15,16</sup>

As part of an ongoing program directed towards the design of potential chitin synthases inhibitors,<sup>17</sup> we have synthesized a novel C-glycosyl nucleoside **1** (Scheme 1) as a metabolically stable donor substrate analog. Since no data is still available concerning the

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Scheme 1.

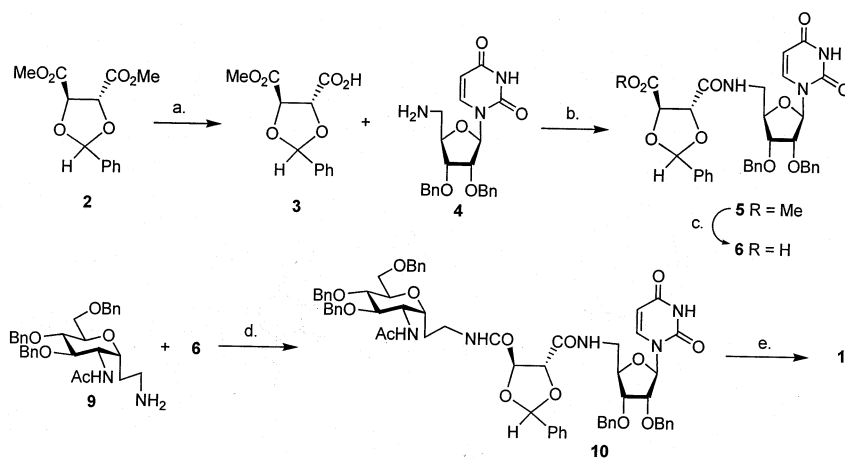
active site structure of any processive glycosyl-transferase, the suitable spacer to be introduced between the C-linked *N*-acetyl-D-glucosamine residue and the uridine moiety to maximize interaction had to be found. A tartaric residue was introduced in the molecule to mimic the diphosphate moiety in the substrate for the chelating of divalent ion present at the active site of enzyme. Recently, an 1-*N*-iminosugar-based UDP-galactose analog bearing a vicinal diol linker has been shown to be a potent inhibitor of  $\alpha$ -(1 $\rightarrow$ 3)-galactosyltransferase.<sup>12</sup> We report herein the synthesis of compound **1** and biological evaluation of this C-glycosyl nucleoside as inhibitor of chitin synthase.

## 2. Results and discussion

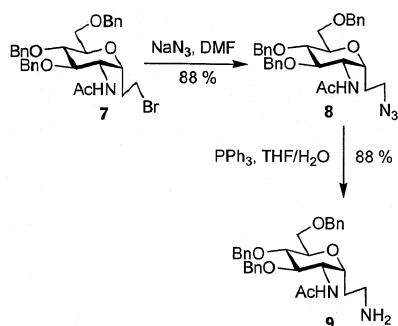
The synthesis of compound **1** can be accomplished by successive coupling of protected

L-tartaric acid **3** with the nucleoside **4** and the amino C-glycosyl compound **9** (Scheme 2).

The methyl hydrogen 2,3-*O*-benzylidene L-tartrate (**3**) was selected as the key building block so as to remove simultaneously all the protecting groups. Partial hydrolysis of the dimethyl 2,3-*O*-benzylidene L-tartrate (**2**) with potassium hydroxide at room temperature produced **3**<sup>18</sup>, accompanied by some racemization product that can be easily eliminated by chromatography. The monoester **3** was obtained in 54% yield after purification. The asymmetry of the benzylidene group leads to each compound existing as an inseparable mixture of two diastereomers, complicating the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra. For example, in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **3**, two methyl protons ( $\delta$  3.76, 3.82) and two benzylidene protons ( $\delta$  6.07, 6.09) were observed in quasi-equivalent proportions. Successful coupling of the acid **3** with 5'-amino-2',3'-di-*O*-benzyl-5'-deoxyuridine (**4**)<sup>17</sup> was carried out with the DCC–HOBt method, affording **5** in 66% yield. The amide proton in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **5** resonated at  $\delta$  6.74, 7.04 (t,  $J_{\text{NH},5'}$ , 6.0 Hz). Saponification of **5** with LiOH in MeOH yielded **6** in 91% yield. The amino C-glycosyl compound **9** was prepared from the bromo C-glycosyl derivative **7**<sup>19</sup> (Scheme 3). Treatment of **7** with an excess of NaN<sub>3</sub> in DMF afforded **8** in 88% yield. Selective reduction of the azido group is possible only with PPh<sub>3</sub>–water, which gave **9** in 88% yield. Other reducing systems such as Raney Ni, Lindlar Pd or HS(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>SH–NaBH<sub>4</sub> were unsuccessful



Scheme 2. (a) KOH, MeOH, THF, rt, 54%; (b) DCC, HOBt, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, THF, 0 °C to rt, 66%; (c) LiOH, MeOH, rt, 91%; (d) DCC, HOBt, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, THF, 0 °C to rt, 79%; (e) Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub>, cyclohexene, MeOH, 90 °C, 100%.



Scheme 3.

ful; the starting material remained unchanged. Condensation of the acid **6** with the amino C-glycosyl compound **9** in the presence of DCC–HOBt afforded **10** in 79% yield. Finally, hydrogenolysis of **10** with Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub> in a mixture of cyclohexene and MeOH at 90 °C led to the target compound **1** in quantitative yield (Scheme 2).

Chitin synthase inhibition studies were performed using *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* microsomal preparations obtained as previously described.<sup>20</sup> Chitin synthase activity was assayed by measuring the rate of formation of <sup>14</sup>C-chitin from UDP-<sup>14</sup>C-GlcNAc in the presence of the Mg<sup>2+</sup> cation and trypsin. Activation of enzyme present as zymogen was performed by addition of trypsin in the assay. Using these conditions, ensuring a measure of mainly chitin synthase I activity, the *K<sub>m</sub>* value for UDP-GlcNAc was 0.3 mM and the IC<sub>50</sub> value for the compound **1** was 20 mM.

In summary, a new C-glycosyl nucleoside has been efficiently prepared, which appeared to be a very poor inhibitor of chitin synthase I.

### 3. Experimental

**General procedures.**—Melting points were measured with a Thomas–Hoover apparatus. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AGH-250 spectrometer unless noted in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solutions. Optical rotations were measured using a Perkin–Elmer 141 polarimeter and a 10-cm cell. Column chromatography was performed on E. Merck Silica Gel 60 (230–400 mesh). Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed on E. Merck alu-

minum percolated plates of Silica Gel 60F-254 with detection by UV and by spraying with 6 N H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and heating about 2 min at 300 °C. THF was distilled over Na and benzophenone prior to use. Dichloromethane was distilled over CaH<sub>2</sub>. Microanalyses were performed at the Service de Microanalyse de l'Université Pierre et Marie Curie. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded using fast-atom bombardement (FAB) method at the Service de Spectrométrie de Masse de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure de Paris.

**(4R,5R)-2-Phenyl-[1,3]dioxolane-4,5-dicarboxylic acid monomethyl ester (3)**<sup>18</sup>.—To a solution of KOH (231 mg, 4.135 mmol) in MeOH (2 mL), was added dropwise a solution of dimethyl 2,3-*O*-benzylidene-L-tartrate (**2**, 1 g, 3.759 mmol) in THF (10 mL) during 1 h. The solution was stirred at rt for 15 h. After concentration, the residue was dissolved in a mixture of 1:1 EtOAc–water (100 mL), neutralized with 10% HCl. The organic layer was washed with water (50 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated. The crude product was chromatographed (1:3 EtOAc–hexane to pure EtOAc) to give **3** as an oil (508 mg, 54%): *R<sub>f</sub>* 0.41 (EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ 7.51–7.34 (m, 5 H, Ph), 6.09 and 6.07 (2s, 1 H, H-2), 6.00 (s, 1 H, OH), 4.97 (d, 1 H, H-5), 4.84 (d, 1 H, *J*<sub>4,5</sub> 2.5 Hz, H-4), 3.82 and 3.76 (2s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: C, 57.14; H, 4.80. Found: C, 57.28; H, 4.71.

**(4R,5R)-5-[(3',4'-di-*O*-benzyl-5'-deoxyuridin-5'-yl)-carbamoyl]-2-phenyl-[1,3]dioxolane-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester (5)**.—To a solution of acid **3** (100 mg, 0.397 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at 0 °C, were added successively 5'-amino-2',3'-di-*O*-benzyl-5'-deoxy-uridine (**4**)<sup>17</sup> (168 mg, 0.397 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL), HOBt (54 mg, 0.397 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) and DCC (82 mg, 0.397 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL). The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h and at rt for 15 h. The precipitated DCU was then filtered and the solution was diluted in EtOAc (20 mL), washed with water (20 mL), brine (20 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated. The crude product was chromatographed with 3:2 EtOAc–hexane to give **5** as a white solid (172 mg, 66%): mp (dec) 74–75 °C, *R<sub>f</sub>* 0.31 (2:1 EtOAc–hexane); <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ 8.81 (s, 0.5 H, NH), 8.47 (s, 0.5 H,

NH), 7.25–7.17 (m, 15 H, Ph), 7.04 (t, 0.5 H,  $J_{\text{NH},5'}$  6.0 Hz, NH), 7.01 (d, 0.5 H,  $J$  8.0 Hz, CH=), 6.85 (d, 0.5 H,  $J$  8.0 Hz, CH=), 6.74 (t, 0.5 H,  $J_{\text{NH},5'}$  6.0 Hz, NH), 6.04 (s, 0.5 H, H-2), 5.77 (s, 0.5 H, H-2), 5.56 (d, 0.5 H,  $J_{1',2'}$  3.0 Hz, H-1'), 5.48 (d, 0.5 H, CH=), 5.47 (d, 0.5 H, CH=), 5.34 (d, 0.5 H,  $J_{1',2'}$  3.3 Hz, H-1'), 4.90 (d, 0.5 H,  $J_{4,5}$  4.6 Hz, H-4), 4.80 (d, 0.5 H,  $J_{4,5}$  3.8 Hz, H-4), 4.74 (d, 0.5 H, H-5), 4.64 (d, 0.5 H, H-5), 4.63–4.35 (m, 4 H,  $2 \times \text{OCH}_2$ ), 4.22–3.66 (m, 3 H, H-2',3',4'), 3.77 and 3.70 (2s, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.48–3.45 (m, 2 H, H-5').  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  169.3, 168.7, 168.6, 162.6, 162.5, 149.0 (CO); 141.0, 139.8 (C=); 136.2, 136.0, 134.4, 134.2 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ); 129.2, 129.1, 127.5, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 126.1, 125.8 (CH–Ph); 105.1, 105.0 (C-2); 101.4 (C=), 92.4, 90.5 (C-1'); 79.4, 79.3, 77.3, 77.2, 77.0, 76.9 (CH); 71.8, 71.6, 71.5, 71.4 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 51.8 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 39.9, 39.6 (C-5'). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{35}\text{N}_3\text{O}_{10}$ : C, 63.92; H, 5.36; N, 6.39. Found: C, 63.78; H, 5.32; N, 6.47.

(4R,5R)-5-[(3',4'-di-O-benzyl-5'-deoxyuridin-5'-yl)-carbamoyl]-2-phenyl-[1,3]dioxolane-4-carboxylic acid (**6**).—To a solution of ester **5** (100 mg, 0.152 mmol) in MeOH (1 mL), was added LiOH·H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mg, 0.228 mmol). The reaction was allowed to continue 15 h at rt. After concentration, EtOAc (20 mL) and water (10 mL) were added. The mixture was neutralized with HCl 10%. The resulting organic layer was washed with water (20 mL), dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and concentrated to give the title compound as white solid (89 mg, 91%): mp (dec) 86–88 °C,  $R_f$  0.22 (9:1  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ –MeOH);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  9.60 and 9.48 (2s, 1 H, NH), 7.46–7.15 (m, 15 H, Ph), 6.97 and 6.84 (2d, 1 H,  $J$  8.0 Hz, CH=), 6.00 and 5.85 (2s, 1 H, H-2), 5.50 (d, 1 H, CH=), 5.42 and 5.25 (2d, 1 H,  $J_{1',2'}$  3.0 Hz, H-1'), 4.83–4.31 (m, 6 H, H-4,5,  $2 \times \text{OCH}_2$ ), 4.13–3.44 (m, 5 H, H-2',3',4',5').

1-Azido-2-(2'-N-acetylamino-3',4',6'-tri-O-benzyl-2'-deoxy- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl) ethane (**8**).—A mixture of bromide **7**<sup>19</sup> (600 mg, 1.033 mmol) and  $\text{NaN}_3$  (1.342 g, 20.654 mmol) in anhyd DMF (5 mL) was heated at 70 °C for 15 h. Water (50 mL) was then added before extraction with EtOAc ( $3 \times 50$  mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered and con-

centrated to give **8** as white solid (497 mg, 88%): mp 100 °C,  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}} + 11.1$  ( $c$  1,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ),  $R_f$  0.47 (1:1 EtOAc–hexane);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  7.47–7.35 (m, 15 H, Ph), 6.76 (d, 1 H,  $J_{\text{NH},2'}$  9.5 Hz, NH), 4.77–4.53 (m, 6 H,  $3 \times \text{OCH}_2$ ), 4.37 (m, 1 H, H-5'), 4.31–4.28 (m, 1 H, H-2'), 4.20–4.15 (m, 1 H, H-1'), 4.00 (dd, 1 H,  $J_{5',6'a}$  7.3,  $J_{\text{gem}}$  9.8 Hz, H-6'a), 3.87 (dd, 1 H,  $J_{5',6'b}$  6.8 Hz, H-6'b), 3.82–3.80 (m, 1 H, H-4'), 3.71–3.70 (m, 1 H, H-3'), 3.51–3.49 (m, 2 H, H-1), 2.01 (s, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.87–1.78 (m, 2 H, H-2).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  170.3 (CO), 138.5, 137.9, 137.7 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ); 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0 (CH–Ph), 75.4, 74.6, 73.5 (C-3',4',5'); 73.7, 72.5, 72.3 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ); 68.1 (C-6'), 65.5 (C-1'), 48.3 (C-1), 48.0 (C-2'), 31.3 (C-2), 23.7 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_4\text{O}_5$ : C, 68.35; H, 6.66; N, 10.29. Found: C, 68.58; H, 6.72; N, 10.20.

1-Amino-2-(2'-N-acetylamino-3',4',6'-tri-O-benzyl-2'-deoxy- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl) ethane (**9**).—To a solution of **8** (370 mg, 0.680 mmol) and  $\text{PPh}_3$  (196 mg, 0.748 mmol) in THF (3.4 mL), was added water (136  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.755 mmol). The reaction was allowed to continue at rt for 4 days. After concentration, the crude product was chromatographed (4:1 then 3:2  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ –MeOH) to give the title compound as a white solid (310 mg, 88%): mp 139–140 °C,  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}} + 12.2$  ( $c$  1,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ),  $R_f$  0.40 (4:1  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ –MeOH);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta$  7.45–7.30 (m, 15 H, Ph), 6.70 (d, 1 H,  $J_{\text{NH},2'}$  9.8 Hz, NH), 4.73–4.31 (m, 6 H,  $3 \times \text{OCH}_2$ ), 4.28 (m, 1 H, H-5'), 4.20 (m, 1 H, H-2'), 4.10 (m, 1 H, H-1'), 4.01 (dd, 1 H,  $J_{5',6'a}$  8.0,  $J_{\text{gem}}$  10.0 Hz, H-6'a), 3.76–3.67 (m, 2 H, H-4',6'b), 3.57 (m, 1 H, H-3'), 2.85 (t, 2 H,  $J_{1,2}$  6.5 Hz, H-1), 2.15 (s, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.91 (s, 2 H,  $\text{NH}_2$ ), 1.80–1.48 (m, 2 H, H-2).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:  $\delta$  170.4 (CO), 138.4, 138.0, 137.7 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ); 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0 (CH–Ph); 75.1 (C-5'), 74.8 (C-4'), 73.7 (C-3'), 73.6, 72.6, 72.3 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ); 67.8 (C-6'), 66.8 (C-1'), 48.5 (C-2'), 39.3 (C-2); 34.8 (C-1), 23.7 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ : C, 71.79; H, 7.38; N, 5.40. Found: C, 71.66; H, 7.42; N, 5.44.

(4R,5R)-2-Phenyl-[1,3]dioxolane-4,5-dicarboxylic acid 4-{[2-(2'-N-acetylamino-4',5',6'-tri-O-benzyl-2'-deoxy- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl)-ethyl]-amide}-5-[(3',4'-di-O-benzyl-5'-deoxyuridin-5'-yl)-amide] (**10**).—To a solution of

acid **6** (84 mg, 0.131 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at 0 °C, were added successively amine **9** (68 mg, 0.131 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL), HOBt (18 mg, 0.131 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) and DCC (27 mg, 0.131 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL). The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h and at rt for 15 h. The precipitated DCU was then filtered and the crude product was purified by preparative TLC with 15:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH as eluent to give **10** as a white solid (117 mg, 79%): mp 90–92 °C; *R<sub>f</sub>* 0.51 (9:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ 9.15 (s, 1 H, NH), 7.98–7.91 (m, 1 H, NH), 7.76–7.31 (m, 31 H, NH and 6 × Ph), 7.21 and 7.16 (2d, 1 H, *J* 7.3 Hz, CH=), 6.86 and 6.84 (2d, 1 H, *J*<sub>NH,2'</sub> 9.6 Hz, NHAc), 6.18 and 6.08 (2s, 1 H, H-2), 5.74 and 5.71 (2d, 1 H, *J* 7.3 Hz, CH=), 5.67 and 5.59 (2d, 1 H, *J*<sub>1',2'</sub> 3.8 Hz, H-1' uridine), 4.93–4.31 (m, 14 H), 4.20–3.25 (m, 10 H), 2.15 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.03–1.92 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub> ethylene). <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ 170.6, 170.5, 169.7, 169.4, 163.7, 150.3 (CO); 142.2, 141.6 (C=uridine), 138.3, 138.0, 137.7, 136.0 (C<sub>ipso</sub>); 130.4, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.3 (CH–Ph); 106.1, 105.5 (C-2); 102.9 (C=uridine), 93.3, 92.4 (C-1' uridine); 81.3, 80.9, 78.7, 78.5, 75.0, 74.4 (CH); 73.4, 73.2, 72.9, 72.6, 72.2 (OCH<sub>2</sub>); 68.1, 67.9 (CH); 67.5, 66.8 (OCH<sub>2</sub>); 48.5 (CH–N), 40.6, 38.0, 37.7, 30.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>); 23.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>65</sub>H<sub>69</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>14</sub>: C, 68.23; H, 6.08; N, 6.12. Found: C, 68.01; H, 6.17; N, 6.23. FAB-HRMS Calcd for C<sub>65</sub>H<sub>70</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>14</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 1144.4919. Found 1144.4908.

(2R,3R)-N-[2-(2'-N-Acetyl-amino-2'-deoxy-α-D-glucopyranosyl)-ethyl]-N'-(5'-deoxyuridin-5'-yl)-2,3-dihydroxysuccinamide (**1**).—To a solution of **10** (50 mg, 0.044 mmol) in MeOH (3 mL), were added cyclohexene (7 mL) and 20% Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub> (48 mg). The suspension was heated at 90 °C for 17 h. After filtration and concentration, the title compound was obtained as a white solid (27 mg, 100%): mp 200–203 °C, [α]<sub>D</sub> +78 (*c* 0.5, water), *R<sub>f</sub>* 0.28 (3:2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 7.62 (d, 1 H, *J* 8.0 Hz, CH=), 5.71 (d, 1 H, *J*<sub>1',2'</sub> 5.0 Hz, H-1' uridine), 5.67 (d, 1 H, CH=), 4.49 (m, 2 H), 4.23 (t, 1 H, *J*<sub>1',2'</sub> = *J*<sub>2',3'</sub> = 5.0 Hz, H-2' uridine), 4.20–3.90 (m, 4 H), 3.85 (dd, 1 H, *J*<sub>5',6'</sub> 2.0, *J*<sub>gem</sub> 11.5 Hz, H-6'), 3.76–3.49 (m, 6 H), 3.32–3.25 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>N

ethylene), 1.83 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.82–1.50 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub> ethylene). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 175.5, 175.0, 174.0, 166.6, 152.8 (CO); 143.8, 103.7 (C= uridine); 92.2 (C-1' uridine), 84.3, 75.6, 75.1, 74.6, 73.3, 73.0, 72.7, 72.3 (CH), 63.7 (C-6'), 55.2, 50.2 (CH), 41.6, 37.6, 26.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>); 23.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>). FAB-HRMS Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>14</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 628.2078. Found 628.2092.

**Chitin synthase assay.**—Chitin synthase assays were performed in a standard 50 μL volume containing 50 mM Tris–HCl pH 7.4, 1 mM UDP-GlcNAc, 0.01 mCi UDP[U-<sup>14</sup>C]-GlcNAc, 40 mM GlcNAc, 0.2% digitonine, 5 mM Mg(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 1 mg trypsin and 200 mg protein. Incubations were performed at 30 °C for 20 min and terminated by adding 1 mL of 10% trichloroacetic acid. After filtration through a glass fiber filter (GF/C Whatman) and washing with 3:7 AcOH–EtOH, discs were dried and radioactivity measured in a liquid scintillation counter.

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