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Diastereoselective annulation of 4-hydroxypyran-2*H*-ones with enantiopure 2,3-dideoxy-α,β-unsaturated sugar aldehydes derived from respective glycals[†]

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Abstract—One-pot condensations of 4-hydroxypyran-2H-ones 1 and 2, respectively, with various enantiopure 2,3-dideoxy-α,β-unsaturated carbohydrate enals in the presence of L-proline in EtOAc at room temperature generated pyrano-pyrones. It was observed that, while benzyl-protected carbohydrate enals on condensation with 1 or 2 under the above conditions produced an inseparable diastereomeric mixture in a ratio of 1:1, the acyl-protected carbohydrate enals on treatment with 1 or 2 under identical conditions yielded products with moderate to very high diastereoselectivity. A remarkable asymmetric induction was noticed from the C-4 stereogenic center of the acyl-protected carbohydrate enals. An almost complete diastereoselectivity was observed in those reactions that involved condensation of 1 with acetyl-protected enals 5 and 7. The reaction of 2 with 5 also proceeded diastereoselectively to furnish the corresponding annulated product. The reaction presumably took place by C-1,2-addition of the pyrone onto the iminium salt of the α , β -unsaturated carbohydrate enal generated in situ, followed by β -elimination and cyclization of the 1-oxatriene involving a β -electron electrocyclic process to yield a β -electron electrocyclic process to yield a β -electron derivative.

Keywords: 4-Hydroxycoumarin; 4-Hydroxy-6-methylpyran-2H-ones; Carbohydrate enals; L-Proline; Diastereoselective

1. Introduction

A great deal of interest among synthetic and medicinal chemists to recognize the importance of the naturally occurring polyketide derivatives originating from 4-hydroxycoumarin (4-hydroxy-2*H*-benzopyran-2-one) (1) and 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2*H*-pyran-2-one (2) has been seen during the last decades. These molecules are well known for their unique structural features and pharmacological properties. There has been an ongoing effort in the synthesis of 3-alkyl/aryl-substituted 4-hydroxycoumarins and 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2*H*-pyran-2-ones³⁻⁶ owing to their synthetic and pharmacological importance. Similarly, several derivatives of pyran or

Cycloaddition and annulation reactions are most versatile methods in organic synthesis due to their ability to provide multiple bond formations with regio- and stereochemical control leading to the formation of polycyclic carbocycles and heterocycles through a concerted, stepwise or sequential process. ¹⁵ An annulation reaction of the anticoagulant rodenticide, warfarin, 3-(α -acetonylbenzyl)-4-hydroxycoumarin (A, Fig. 1) with alcohols

fused pyran ring systems have been shown to possess different types of biological activities^{7a} such as antidiabetic^{7b} and anti-Alzheimer^{7c,d} activities. Various other medicinal activities exhibited by pyran derivatives, including antimicrobial,⁸ antifungal,⁹ antitumor,^{10a-c} hypotensive,¹¹ platelet antiaggregating,¹² local anesthetic,¹³ and antidepressant¹⁴ activities, are also noteworthy. Thus, it is evident from the literature reports that extensive research efforts have been directed toward the development of 4-hydroxycoumarin and pyrone derivatives.

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Figure 1. Some pyran and fused pyran systems of importance.

containing 4% hydrogen chloride under refluxing conditions to form cyclic alkyl ketals was pioneered by Link and co-workers¹⁶ about 60 years ago. For the last few decades, much interest has been shown toward several systematic studies on condensation reactions of 1^{17-20} and $2^{21,22}$ respectively, with acyclic α,β -unsaturated enones and enals to generate various angular pyran-fused pyrone derivatives owing to different types of biological activities associated with them. 7 After Link's first report on the annulation reaction of 4-hydroxycoumarin and an α,β-unsaturated ketone, ^{16a} Moreno-Maňas and coworkers reported a detailed study on the reactions of 2 and crotyl aldehyde in the presence of a secondary amine leading to the formation of 2*H*-pyrano-pyrones.²¹ The first total synthesis of (-)-arisugacin A (B, Fig. 1) that was isolated from a *Penicillium* sp. Fo-4259 by Ömura et al.²³ and identified as an inhibitor of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) with highest potency and selectivity among all known inhibitors of AChE, thereby possessing significance in treatment of dementia diseases.²⁴ was archived by Cole and Hsung.²⁵ A formal [3+3] cycloaddition reaction of an α,β-unsaturated iminium salt with 4-hydroxy-2*H*-pyrone that proceeded through a highly diastereoselective 6π -electron electrocyclic ring closure^{22,26,27} of a 1-oxatriene was the key feature of its synthesis. Hua et al. reported²² that, while the L-proline-catalyzed condensation of 2 with cyclohexene carboxaldehyde in EtOAc at 70 °C produced the racemic tricyclic pyrone, the condensation of 2 with (S)-(-)-perillaldehyde, 4-β-isopropenyl-1-cyclohexene carboxaldehyde, led to the formation of the tricyclic pyrone as a single diastereomer. They have also shown that several of the tricyclic pyrones synthesized by them strongly inhibited acetylcholineesterase (AChE) activity, DNA

synthesis, and tumor cell growth in vitro. Cravotto et al. 19 recently reported the exclusive formation of tricyclic pyrones by 1,2-addition of 4-hydroxycoumarin to α,β-unsaturated iminium salts derived from various enals. Mechanistically, it has been proposed that the annulation reaction of 2 with α,β -unsaturated aldehydes in the presence of a secondary amine involves a C-1,2-addition to an iminium salt generated in situ, followed by βelimination that gives a 1-oxatriene (i.e., a Knoevenagel condensation). The 6π -electron electrocyclic ring closure of them forms two σ -bonds and a new stereocenter adjacent to the oxygen atom, thereby constituting a sequential anionic-pericyclic process that is formally the equivalent of a [3+3] cycloaddition. 22,26,27 The other synthetic approaches to 2H-pyran-fused pyrone derivatives include the recent report by Cravotto et al.²⁰ on the synthesis of pyranocoumarins from the annulation of 4-hydroxycoumarin with different enals under heterogeneous, high-intensity sonochemical conditions and the stereoselective reactions of naturally occurring terpenoids, merulidial (C) and isovelleral (D) with 2, respectively, in refluxing EtOAc. This process forms pentacyclic pyrone adducts involving a 6π -electron electrocyclic ring closure of a hypothetical 1-oxatriene intermediate reported by Sterner and co-workers.²⁷ Recently Sunazuka et al. reported the total synthesis of (+)-arisugacin A and (+)-arisugacin B (F) by applying this methodology.²⁸ Thus, the above precedents in the literature on annulations of 4-hydroxycoumarin or 4-hydroxy-6-methylpyran-2H-one with various enals under different experimental conditions and also our growing interest on the synthetic applications of α,β -unsaturated carbohydrate enals of the type 3 derived from different glycals²⁹ for construction of chain extended higher acyclic sugar derivatives of biological importance³⁰ prompted us to study the coupling reaction of enantiopure carbohydrate enals **3–10**, respectively, with 4-hydroxycoumarin and 4-hydroxy-6-methylpyran-2*H*-ones. To our knowledge, such a highly diastereoselective condensation reaction of either **1** or **2** with any type of carbohydrate enal has not been reported.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Chemical syntheses

Several coupling reactions of **1** with **3** under different conditions were carried out. The first attempt of this reaction was made by treating 1.2 equiv of **1** with 1 equiv of **3** in the presence of TiCl₄ (1.2 equiv) in acetonitrile at 0 °C (Scheme 1). The tricyclic pyrones **3a/3b** were isolated as an inseparable 1:1 diastereomeric mixture in 46% yield after chromatographic purification of the crude product mixture. It can be presumed that the reaction was initiated by 1,2-addition of **1** onto titanium-coordinated enal **3**, followed by dehydration and intramolecular 6π -electron electrocyclic cyclization 22,26 to furnish **3a/3b**. The structure of the tricyclic pyrone **3a/3b** was established by analytical and spectral data.

The ¹H NMR spectrum of **3a/3b** displayed two doublets at δ 6.63 and 6.59 (each $J_{4,3}$ 9.0 Hz) and two broad doublets at δ 5.57 and 5.47 (each $J_{3,4}$ 9.0 Hz) for the protons at C-4 and C-3, respectively, of the two diastereomers. Similarly, the diastereomeric mixture **3a/3b** also showed two doublets at δ 5.53 ($J_{2,3}$ 4.0 Hz) and 5.44 ($J_{2,3}$ 3.3 Hz) assigned to protons at C-2. Its ¹³C and DEPT NMR spectra displayed signals to confirm that the product was a mixture of two diastereomers **3a/3b**. Their FAB mass spectra showed the molecular ion peak at m/z 561 [M+1]⁺ and a base peak at m/z 199 due to the cleavage of side chain [M-C₂₄H₂₅O₃]⁺.

Our attempts to improve the yield and selectivity of the annulation by changing the reagent from the Lewis acid, titanium tetrachloride, to L-proline and ethylenediamine diacetate (EDDA)¹⁸ as mentioned in Table 1, and performing the reaction at room temperature as well as at the refluxing temperature of the solvent did not give much success. The heterocyclization also occurred in boiling EtOAc, but the yield of the product was low (30%, Table 1, entry 3). Further, when the same reaction was carried out in methanol at room temperature, the yield was reduced to 18% compared to 51% in EtOAc (Table 1, entries 2 and 4). Other bases like cinchonidine, piperidine, and *N*, *N*, *N'*, *N'*-tetramethylenediamine (TME-DA) did not work here. These results thus indicated

OH

1

3:
$$R^1 = H$$
, $R^2 = R^3 = OBn$,
 $R^4 = CH_2OBn$

4: $R^1 = OBn$,
 $R^4 = CH_2OBn$
 $R^4 = CH_2OBn$

Scheme 1.

Table 1. Reaction of 4-hydroxycoumarin (1) with alkyl-protected carbohydrate enals

Entry	Enals	Catalyst (0.5 equiv)	Solvent	Temperature	Time (h)	Product	Yield (%)	Dr ^a
1	3	TiCl ₄ ^b	CH ₃ CN	0 °C	6	3a/3b	46	1:1
2	3	L-Proline	EtOAc	Rt	1	3a/3b	51	1:1
3	3	L-Proline	EtOAc	70 °C	1	3a/3b	30	1:1
4	3	L-Proline	CH ₃ OH	Rt	4	3a/3b	18	1:1
5	3	Cinchonidine	EtOAc	Rt	4	3a/3b	NR	
6	3	Piperidine	EtOAc	Rt	3	3a/3b	NR	_
7	3	Piperidine	EtOAc	70 °C	6	3a/3b	NR	
8	3	EDDA	EtOAc	Rt	5	3a/3b	43	1:1
9	4	L-Proline	EtOAc	Rt	3	4a/4b	47	1:1
10	4	L-Proline	EtOAc	70 °C	1	4a/4b	20	1:1

^a Diastereomeric ratio (dr) determined by ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy of the crude product. NR = no reaction.

^b 1.2 equiv of TiCl₄ was used in this example.

that the coupling reagent, either TiCl₄ or L-proline, did not influence the yield and diastereoselectivity of the reaction. Among the various reaction conditions employed in the present study as mentioned in Table 1, the preparation of 3a/3b from 1 and 3 using 0.5 equiv of L-proline in EtOAc²² at room temperature was most convenient. Similarly, the L-proline-catalyzed condensation of 1 with enal 4 (Scheme 1) derived from the benzylated galactal in EtOAc at room temperature furnished 4a/4b as an inseparable diastereomeric mixture in 47% yield (Table 1, entry 9). Heating the reaction mixture in EtOAc at 70 °C reduced the yield significantly (Table 1, entry 10). Thus heating conditions probably favor polymerization or degradation of these enals. In all the experiments, the tricyclic pyrone was the only product that could be isolated as an inseparable diastereomeric mixture. The identification of mixture 4a/4b was also completed with the help of NMR and FAB mass spectra. Its mass fragmentation was similar to the pattern observed in 3a/3b.

In order to improve the yield of the product and selectivity of the process, the protocol of the reaction disclosed herein was modified. Therefore, the L-proline-catalyzed, one-pot experiment was also applied to acylprotected enals 5–10 (Scheme 2) derived from their respective acyl-protected glycals. The yields ranged from 43% to 49% and very high to moderate diastereoselectiv-

ity was observed in each case. Almost complete stereoselectivity was observed in the annulation of 1 with 5 and 7 producing 5a and 7a, respectively, as single diastereomers. But the condensation of 1 with enals 6, 8, and 9 showed moderate to good selectivity to produce their corresponding products 6a/6b, 8a/8b, and 9a/9b in diastereomeric ratios (dr) of 70:30, 75:25, and 80:20, respectively. These compounds were isolated as an inseparable diastereomeric mixture after column chromatographic purification of crude product mixture. At this point we noticed a few things that deserve detailed discussion. Both 5 and 6 are fully acyl protected, and the selectivity was found lower in the reaction of 1 with 6 producing 6a/6b (70:30) in comparison to its reaction with 5 to furnish 5a as a single diastereomer. Similarly, when enals 7 and 8, with an unprotected hydroxyl at C-5 derived from 3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-D-glucal and 3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-Dgalactal, respectively, were treated with 1 (Scheme 2) in presence of L-proline in EtOAc at room temperature, their respective products 7a/7b and 8a/8b were produced in almost the same yield, but in different dr's, >99:1 and 75:25, respectively. Further, the 5-O-acetyl-4,6-di-O-pnitrobenzoyl-protected enal (i.e., the fully acyl-protected derivative) 9 under the same reaction conditions furnished 9a/9b in 47% yield in a dr of 80:20 (Table 2). Condensation of enal 10 derived from 3,4-di-O-acetyl-Darabinal with pyrone 1 provided an inseparable mixture

Scheme 2.

Table 2. Reaction of 4-hydroxycoumarin (1) with acyl-protected carbohydrate enals in EtOAc

Entry	Enals	Catalyst (0.5 equiv)	Temperature	Time (h)	Product	Yield (%)	Dr ^a
1	5	L-Proline	Rt	9	5a/5b	49	>99:1
2	5	EDDA	Rt	10	5a/5b	47	>99:1
3	5	TiCl ₄	0 °C	5	5a/5b	43	>99:1
4	6	L-Proline	Rt	24	6a/6b	46	70:30 ^b
5	7	L-Proline	Rt	8	7a/7b	43	>99:1
6	8	L-Proline	Rt	7	8a/8b	46	75:25 ^b
7	9	L-Proline	Rt	13	9a/9b	47	80:20
8	10	L-Proline	Rt	17	10a/10b	45	66:44

^a Diastereomeric ratio determined by ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy of the crude product.

^b Diastereomeric ratio may be reversed.

Scheme 3.

of 10a and 10b in a ratio of 66:34. These results thus clearly indicate that the necessary requirement for a high degree of stereoselectivity in the annulation of 1 with 5– 9 is acyl protection of their hydroxyl functionalities. Furthermore, these must be derived from hexoses, as it was evident from the case of 10, which was obtained from the pentose sugar, p-arabinose, and showed a lower order of selectivity in its condensation with 1 under identical conditions to yield a mixture of 10a and 10b. At this time it is not possible to explain why the condensation of 10 with 1 proceeded much less selectively compared to the same reaction of 5 (completely acyl protected) and 7 (acyl protected with 5-OH unprotected) with 1, which showed almost complete diastereoselectivity. However, the lack of selectivity in this reaction with 9 to produce mixture of 9a and 9b may be attributed to the bulky nature of p-nitrobenzoyl-protected hydroxyl groups, respectively, at C-4 and C-6 in 9. Thus we found from these observations of the present study that annulation reactions of 1 with 3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-D-glucal-derived enals 5 (completely acyl protected) and 7 (acyl protected with 5-OH unprotected) were highly stereoselective (Table 2, entries 1 and 5), whereas these reactions with 3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-D-galactal-derived enals 6 (fully acyl protected) and 8 (5-OH unprotected), respectively, met with only moderate selectivity. Therefore, it can be argued that the hydroxyl group at C-5, whether it is either protected or unprotected, does not influence the selectivity in the process of ring closure via a 6π -electron electrocyclic process. All compounds were characterized by means of their ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra and mass fragmentations.

The condensation reactions of carbohydrate enals 3–10 with pyrone 2 in presence of 0.5 equiv of L-proline²² following the above reaction conditions were also performed (Scheme 3). The trend of the reaction of 2 with each enal in terms of yield and selectivity was found similar as it was observed in the case of L-proline-catalyzed

condensation of enals 3–10 with 1 in EtOAc. The details of the outcome of the reaction are provided in Table 3. Here also the L-proline-catalyzed condensation of 2 with enal 3 in EtOAc either at room temperature or refluxing temperature of the solvent did not show any selectivity, and the product 3c/3d was isolated as an inseparable but pure 1:1 diastereomeric mixture. Similarly, no selectivity was observed in the reaction of 2 with 4 catalyzed by either L-proline²² or EDDA[‡] in EtOAc at room temperature to furnish 4c/4d as an inseparable diastereomeric mixture. However, almost complete diastereoselectivity (>99:1) was observed in the condensation of 2 with fully acetyl-protected enal 5 in the presence of L-proline or EDDA in EtOAc at room temperature to yield 5c as the almost pure single isomer. Further good-to-moderate stereoselective annulation reactions of 2 with enals 6, 7, and 10 proceeded to generate the corresponding pyrano-pyrones 6c/6d and 10c/10d in diastereomeric ratios of 75:25 and 60:40, respectively (Table 3). Unfortunately, the reactions of 2 with enals 7 and 8 under the same conditions were not clean. These reactions were also studied at -40 °C, but the reactions did not proceed, even after continuous stirring for several hours, whereas at 0 °C the reaction was very slow with L-proline, only.

2.2. Proposed mechanism

The structures of **5a** and **5c** were established unambiguously by single-crystal X-ray analysis. The X-ray structures showing the molecular conformation of **5a** and **5c**, respectively, with the atomic numbering scheme are shown in Figure 2. The structure of **5a** (Fig. 2) shows the pyrano-benzopyrone fused rings (A/B/C) to be

[‡]Change of catalyst from L-proline to ethylenediamine diacetate (EDDA) did not influence either yield or selectivity in the annulation reaction.

9

10

11

Entry	Enals	Catalyst (0.5 equiv)	Temperature	Time (h)	Product	Yield (%)	Dr ^a
1	3	L-Proline	Rt	2	3c/3d	57	1:1
2	3	L-Proline	70 °C	1.5	3c/3d	14	1:1
3	4	L-Proline	Rt	3	4c/4d	40	1:1
4	4	EDDA	Rt	7	4c/4d	34	1:1
5	5	L-Proline	Rt	12	5c/5d	45	>99:1
6	5	EDDA	Rt	10	5c/5d	48	>99:1
7	5	TiCl ₄	0 °C	8	5c/5d	27	>99:1
8	6	L-Proline	Rt	18	6c/6d	46	75:25 ^b

24

24

20

2.5

Table 3. Reaction of 4-hydroxy-6-methylpyran-2*H*-one (2) with alkyl/acyl-protected carbohydrate enals in EtOAc

Rt

Rt

Rt

Rt

10

L-Proline

L-Proline

L-Proline

L-Proline

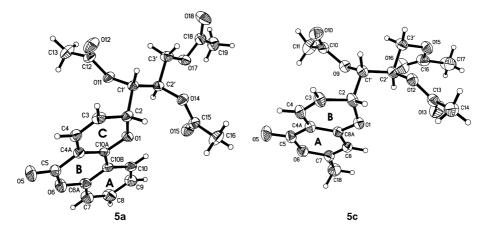


Figure 2. ORTEP diagrams (displacement ellipsoids at 30% probability) showing the molecular structures of 5a and 5c.

planar to which a side chain C1'-C2'-C3' system is attached at C-2 with β-orientation. While the pyranopyrone fused rings (A/B) in structure 5c (Fig. 2) are non-planar, a methyl side chain is attached at C-7, and C1'-C2'-C3' the side-chain system is attached at C-2 with β-orientation. Ring B of 5c adopts a puckered conformation with the C-2 atom deviated by 0.331(5) A from the least-squares mean plane through atoms C-3, C-4, C-4A, C-8A, and O-1. Although the present study did not establish the absolute configuration of the molecule, the stereochemistry of the newly generated stereocenter C-2 in both 5a and 5c has been assigned as the R-configuration through known stereochemistry of the other stereocenters, C-1' and C-2' having S- and R-configuration, respectively, in both compounds. These stereocenters remained unaltered during the course of reaction.

Based on the X-ray structures of **5a** and **5c**, it can be presumed that an identical mechanistic pathway is operative in the L-proline-catalyzed one-pot condensation of both 4-hydroxycoumarin and 4-hydroxy-6-methylpyran-2*H*-one with carbohydrate enals (Fig. 2). This reaction presumably involves the generation of the iminium

salt in situ, thus making the whole process a one-pot reaction leading to the formation of the 2H-pyranyl product exclusively via the C-1,2-addition pathway. The reaction proceeds as follows: first, the carbinolamine I is formed, which then releases a molecule of water to equilibrate with the iminium salt II. 19,31 The next step involves the C-1,2-addition of 1 or 2 to II to form III, followed by formation of the conjugated intermediate (1-oxatriene)^{22,27} IV, along with the regeneration of L-proline. The 1-oxatriene IV then undergoes cyclization through a 6π -electron electrocyclic process forming the pyrano-pyrone (Scheme 4). The diastereoselectivities observed here are moderate (Table 2, entries 4, 6, and 7 and Table 3, entries 8 and 9) to high (Table 2 entries 1 and 5 and Table 3, entry 5) with acyl-protected enals, which is quite surprising. At this time we are unable to explain exact reason(s) behind the observed products. However, it may be hypothesized here that the diastereofacial cyclization of IV obtained from condensation of pyrone 1 or 2 with acetylated enals can be attributed to the formation of a close cyclic transition state, TS-I, (Fig. 3) that will not be possible with alkyl-protected enal 3 or 4, and therefore, 3a and 3b, as

7c/7d

8c/8d

9c/9d

10c/10d

NI

NI

57

44

64:36

60:40

^a Diastereomeric ratio determined by ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy on the crude product. NI = not isolated.

^b Diastereomeric ratio may be reversed.

Scheme 4. Proposed mechanism of L-proline-catalyzed condensation of 4-hydroxypyran-2H-ones with carbohydrate enals.

Figure 3. Proposed mechanism for cyclization involving the putative cyclic transition state, TS-I.

well as **4a** and **4b** were obtained as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers in the same amount in these reactions. These results lead one to argue that the annulation reactions of **1** or **2** with alkyl-protected enals **3** or **4**, which lead to the formation of the corresponding diastereomeric products in a ratio of 1:1, represent the best evidence for the reversibility of this ring closure.

Similarly the formation of 6a/6b, 8a/8b, 9a/9b, and 10a/10b, respectively, in various diastereomeric ratios suggests that the stereoselective annulation reaction is facilitated through a reversible electrocyclic ring closure of 1-oxatriene, ³² and thus the observed selectivity is usu-

ally a result of thermodynamic distribution. However, the exclusive formation of 5a or 7a as a single diastereomer via 6π -electron electrocyclic ring closure of its 1-oxatriene intermediate IV is irreversible, and thus the whole process is kinetically controlled. Here the observed high diastereoselectivity can be presumed to be a result of the rotational preference in the 1-oxatriene IV.³² The rotation of the vinyl strand in IVa along a direction 'a' leading to single diastereomer 5a via a closed cyclic transition state, ³³ TS-I (Fig. 3) can be presumed on the basis of its X-ray crystal structural analysis (Fig. 2), which showed that the side chain was β in

Figure 4. Proposed mechanism for cyclization with rotation to give diastereomers.

both 5a and 7a. The formation of 6a and 6b as a mixture of diastereomers could be attributed to the rotation of the vinyl strand in its 1-oxatriene intermediate IVb in directions 'a' and 'b', which would lead to a mixture of diastereomers 6a and 6b in a ratio 70:30 or 30:70, respectively (Fig. 4). The same arguments hold for the other diastereomeric mixtures, 8a/8b and 9a/9b. The above mechanistic explanation on a stereoselective condensation of 1 with various enals (3–10) could also be applied to reactions of 2 with enals 3–10. In both the cases rotational preference played the key role in stereoselective ring closure. The stereochemistry of newly formed stereocenter (C-2) in both 5a and 5c was unambiguously resolved through their X-ray structural analysis.

3. Conclusions

In summary, L-proline-catalyzed diastereoselective onepot condensations of 4-hydroxypyran-2H-ones 1 and 2, respectively, with enantiopure carbohydrate enals 3– 10 in EtOAc at room temperature have been described. The 1,2-addition reaction, followed by dehydration and then in situ ring closure via a 6π -electron electrocyclic process, ^{22,26} are the main features of this reaction. A stereoselective ring-closure reaction was observed when carbohydrate enals were acyl protected, indicating that acyl protection of enals played the key role in the diastereoselectivity, and thus the two remaining centers of asymmetry were carried through to the product. High diastereoselectivity was observed in the condensation reaction of 4-hydroxycoumarin (1) with enals 5 and 7 to furnish 5a and 7a, respectively. Similarly the reaction of 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2*H*-pyran-2-one (2) with 5 to produce 5c proceeded with high stereoselectively. Both the above enals were derived from 3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-Dglucal.²⁹ The stereochemistry of the newly generated stereocenter was established unambiguously on the basis of X-ray structural analysis of 5a and 7a, showing that the side chains were attached at C-2 with a β -orientation. The acyl-protected enals 6 and 8 derived from 3,4,6tri-O-acetyl-D-galactal²⁹ underwent condensation reactions with 1 leading to the formation of diastereomeric mixtures 6a/6b and 8a/8b, respectively, with moderate selectivity. The marked difference in selectivity in the reactions of 1 with enals derived from glucal and galactal, respectively, might be due to the opposite configuration of C-4 in glycals (or in respective enals), for example, the 'S' configuration in 5 and 7 and the 'R' configuration in 6 and 8, respectively, thus resulting in conformationally different transition states. But the moderate selectivity in the annulation of 1 with enal 9 prepared from the 3,4,6-tri-O-p-nitrobenzoyl (pNB)protected glucal, to produce an inseparable diastereomeric mixture of 9a and 9b compared to what was observed in the condensation of 1 with 5 and 7, respectively, was presumably due to the bulky nature of the pNB substituent at the 4-O and 6-O positions of 9.

The protected or free OH at C-5 in 5 or 7 and 6 or 8 did not influence the selectivity in their reactions with 1 (Table 2). Similarly, the reaction of 4-hydroxy-6-methylpyran-2*H*-one (2) with enal 5 under identical conditions furnished compound 5c with a very high diastereoselectivity (>99:1, Table 3, entries 5 or 6). It is worth mentioning that the rotation preferences played the key role in the stereoselective 6π -electron electrocyclic ring closure of the intermediate 1-oxatriene IVa and IVb, respectively. Although the yields of all the new compounds are satisfactory, the synthetic protocol for the construction of 2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c]pyran-5one derivatives described herein from easily available low cost enantiopure 2,3-dideoxy-α,β-unsaturated sugar aldehydes of type 5 and 7 will find wide application in the stereoselective synthesis of many biologically active tricyclic compounds with nitrogen or sulfur as the heteroatom³⁴ at the 1-position.

4. Experimental

4.1. General procedures

All reactions were monitored by TLC using precoated silica gel plates, with visualization by warming a CeSO₄

 $^{^{\}S}$ Our explanation on rotational preferences leading to diastereoselective induction during 6π -electron electrocyclic ring closure was based on the recent report on highly stereoselective 6π -electron electrocyclic ring closure of 1-azatrienes by Hsung and co-workers. 32

(1% in 2 N H₂SO₄) sprayed plate to 100 °C. NMR spectra were recorded on either a Bruker Avance DPX 200 FT or a Bruker Robotics and Bruker DRX 300 spectrometers at 200, 300 MHz (¹H) and 50, 75 MHz (¹³C). In the ¹³C NMR determinations, CDCl₃, which appeared at 77.4 ppm, was used as the reference unless otherwise stated. Fast-atom bombardment mass spectra (FABMSs) were recorded on a JEOL SX 102/DA 6000 mass spectrometer using argon/xenon (6 kV, 100 mA) as the gas. Organic solvents used were dried by standard methods. Carbohydrate enals²⁹ used were prepared in the laboratory, and 4-hydroxycoumarin (1) and 4-hydroxy-6-methylpyran-2-one (2) were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer model 881 or on a Shimadzu FTIR-8210 PC spectrophotometer. Optical rotations were determined on an Autopol III polarimeter using a 1-dm cell at 28 °C in chloroform. Concentrations are in g/100 mL. Elemental analyses were carried out on a Carlo-Erba model 1108 or a Vario EL III elemental analyzer. The designation 'Rt' indicates 'room temperature' of 30 °C. All solvents used for column chromatography were freshly distilled. The minor diastereomers are arbitrarily named as D in the assignment of ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra of diastereomeric mixtures. These mixtures are indicated by (*) in Section 4.

4.2. Single-crystal X-ray structural analyses

Crystals of **5a** and **5c** were obtained by slow evaporation from a 1:3 acetone–hexane solution at room temperature. Diffraction-quality crystals were selected after examination under a polarizing microscope, and these were then mounted on a Bruker P4 diffractometer for unit cell measurement and intensity data collection. The data were collected and reduced using xscans. Structures were solved by direct methods and refined anisotropically for the non-H atoms by a full-matrix-least-squares methods using shelxtl. All H-atoms were placed in calculated positions and allowed to ride on their parent atoms during refinements. Table 4 shows the X-ray crystallographic experimental data.

Data for the X-ray studies have been filed with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (see Section 5).

Table 4. X-ray crystallographic experimental data

Compound no.	5a	5c		
Crystal data				
Chemical formula	$C_{21}H_{20}O_9$	$C_{18}H_{20}O_9$		
Chemical formula weight (M_r)	416.4	380.3		
Cell setting, space group	Monoclinic, P2 ₁	Orthorhombic, $P2_12_12_1$		
a (Å)	5.416(1)	8.533(1)		
b (Å)	18.071(2)	10.490(2)		
c (Å)	10.242(1)	21.045(3)		
β (°)	95.77(1)	_		
$V(\mathring{A}^3)$	997.3(2)	1884.6(5)		
Z	2	4		
$D_x (\text{Mg/m}^3)$	1.386	1.341		
$\mu (\mathrm{mm}^{-1})$	0.11	0.109		
Radiation type; λ (Å)	Mo-Kα; 0.71073	Mo-Kα; 0.71073		
No. of reflection for cell parameters	47	47		
Θ range (°)	2.5–12.5	1.9–15.7		
Temperature (K)	293(2)	293(2)		
Crystal form, color	Block, light yellow	Block, transparent		
Crystal size (mm)	$0.35 \times 0.17 \times 0.1$	$0.42 \times 0.25 \times 0.22$		
Data collection				
Diffractometer	Bruker P4	Bruker P4		
Data collection method	$\theta/2\theta$ -scan	ω-scan		
No. of measured, independent, and observed reflections	2601, 1951, and 1342	2550, 2365, and 1695		
Criterion for observed reflection	$I > 2\sigma(I)$	$I > 2\sigma(I)$		
$R_{ m int}$	0.02	0.037		
θ_{\max} (°)	25	25		
Range of h, k, l	$-1 \rightarrow 6, \ -1 \rightarrow 21, \ -12 \rightarrow 12$	$-1 \to 10, \ -1 \to 12, \ -1 \to 25$		
Absorption correction	None	None		
Extinction correction	None	None		
Refinement				
Refinement on	F^2	F^2		
R, wR, S	0.042, 0.085, 0.989	0.047, 0.107, 1.032		
No. of reflections and parameters used in refinement	1951 and 274	2365 and 248		
H-atom treatment	Constrained	Constrained		
$\Delta ho_{ m max}, \Delta ho_{ m min} ({ m e}{ m \AA}^3)$	0.16, -0.18	0.18, -0.19		

4.3. Typical reaction procedure for the synthesis of compounds 3a/3b-10a/10b and 3c/3d-10c/10d

To a stirred solution of carbohydrate enals 3–10 (1 equiv each), in dry solvent (10 mL, see Tables 1–3) was added catalyst (TiCl₄, L-proline or EDDA), and after stirring at temperature as specified in the tables for 2 min, 4-hydroxy-2*H*-pyrone 1 or 2 (1.2 equiv) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for the specified time depending on the 4-hydroxy-2*H*-pyrones, carbohydrate enals and catalyst used. A satd aq NaHCO₃ was added to quench the reaction, and the mixture was filtered through a Celite pad. The organic layer from the filtrate was separated, and the aq layer was again extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The organic layers were then combined, washed with brine, and dried over Na₂SO₄. The crude product obtained after evaporation of the solvent was chromatographed to yield pure compounds.

4.4. Physiochemical and spectral data of compounds 3a/3b-10a/10b and 3c/3d-10c/10d

4.4.1. (1'S,2'R)-2-(1',2',3'-Tri-O-benzyl-D-erythritol-1'vl)-2*H*,5*H*-pyrano[3,2-*c*|benzopyran-5-one Amorphous solid. Isolated as a diastereomeric mixture*. Purification was by column chromatography using 1:9 EtOAc-hexane. R_f 0.52 (1:4 EtOAc-hexane). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): v = 3027 (=C-H str), 2906 (-C-H str), 1734 (C=O str), 1607, 1488, 1451 (C=C str); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.72–7.08 (m, 19H, Ar*H*), 6.63 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 9.0 Hz, 1H, H-4), 6.59 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 9.0 Hz, 1H, H_D-4), 5.57 (br d, $J_{3,4}$ 9.0 Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.53 (d, $J_{2,3}$ 4.0 Hz, 1H, H-2), 5.47 (br d, $J_{3,4}$ 9.0 Hz, 1H, H_D-3), 5.44 (d, $J_{2,3}$ 3.3 Hz, 1H, H_D -2), 4.81–4.58 (m, 6H, $3 \times CH_2Ph$), 4.58 (m, 1H, H_D-1'), 4.56 (m, 1H, H-1'), 3.90–3.82 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-3'a), 3.63 (dd, $J_{3'b,3'a}$ 10.2 Hz and $J_{3'b,2'}$ 3.0 Hz, 1H, H-3'b); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.0, 160.4, 159.7, 153.6, 153.5 (C-6a, C-10b, C-10a, and C-5), 138.4, 138.0 (ArqC), 132.4 (C-8), 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 128.1 (ArC), 124.4 (C-9), 123.2 (C_D-9), 123.0 (C-10), 122.9 (C_D-10), 120.3 (C-7), 120.2 (C_D-7), 119.3 (C-4), 118.4 (C_D-4), 117.8 (C-3), 117.1 (C_D-3), 101.2 (C-4a), 101.1 (C_D-4a), 81.2 (C_D-1'), 80.5 (C-1'), 78.7 (C-2'), 77.3 (C_D -2'), 76.8 (C-2), 76.0 (C_D -2), 75.6, 72.5, 73.9 ($3 \times CH_2Ph$), 68.7 (C-3'), 68.1 (C_D-3'); FABMS: m/z (%) 561 (50) [M+1]⁺, 331 (20), 199 (100) $[M-C_{24}H_{25}O_3]^+$. Anal. Calcd for $C_{36}H_{32}O_6 \cdot H_2O$: C, 74.72; H, 5.92. Found: C, 74.57; H, 6.18.

4.4.2. (1'R,2'R)-2-(1',3'-Di-O-benzyl-2'-hydroxy-D-thre-itol-1'-yl)-2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c]benzopyran-5-one (4a/4b). Sticky solid. Isolated as a diastereomeric mixture*. Purification was by column chromatography using 1:4 EtOAc-hexane. R_f 0.48 (3:7 EtOAc-hexane). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): v 3448 (O-H str), 3066 (=C-H str), 2918 (-C-

H str), 1709 (C=O str), 1568, 1492, 1454 (C=C str); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.71 (t, $J_{10.9 \text{ or } 10.8}$ 6.7 Hz, 1H, H-10), 7.52 (br t, J 7.7 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.30–7.25 (br m, 12H, ArH), 6.70 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 10.8 Hz, 1H, H-4), 6.65 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 10.0 Hz, 1H, H_D-4), 5.80 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.2 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 3.5 Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.67 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.1 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 4.0 Hz, 1H, H_D-3), 5.45 (m, 1H, H-2), 5.38 (d, $J_{2.3}$ 4.2 Hz, 1H, H_{D} -2), 4.75–4.50 (m, 4H, $2 \times CH_2$ Ph), 4.13–4.04 (m, 1H, H-1'), 3.93 (dd, $J_{2',3'a}$ 6.0 Hz and $J_{2',3'b}$ 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 3.82 (dd, $J_{2',3'a}$ 6.0 Hz and $J_{2',3'b}$ 3.0 Hz, 1H, H_D -2'), 3.59 (dd, $J_{3'a,3'b}$ 10.0 Hz and $J_{3'a,2'}$ 5.1 Hz, 1H, H-3'a), 3.49 (m, 1H, H-3'b); 13 C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.0, 153.6, 153.5 (C-6a, C-10b, C-10a, and C-5), 138.4, 138.0 (ArqC) 132.7 (C-8), 128.8, 128.4, 128.3 (ArC), 124.5 (C-9), 122.9 (C-10), 120.2 (C-7), 119.7 (C-4), 119.5 (C_D-4), 117.3 (C_D-3), 117.2 (C-3), 101.3 (C-4a), 101.2 (C_D-4a) , 80.3 (C-1'), 80.2 (C_D-1') , 78.9 (C-2'), 76.8 75.6, 71.3 $(2 \times CH_2Ph_D)$, 73.9, $(C_{D}-2'),$ $(2 \times CH_2Ph)$, 69.5 (C-3'), 69.4 (C_D-3'); FABMS: m/z(%) 471 (50) $[M+1]^+$, 307 (10), 199 (100) $[M-C_{17}H_{19}O_3]^+$. Anal. Calcd for $C_{29}H_{26}O_6$:2 H_2O : C, 68.76; H, 5.96. Found: C, 69.07; H, 5.67.

4.4.3. (1'S,2'R)-2-(1',2',3'-Tri-O-acetyl-D-erythritol-1'yl)-2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c]benzopyran-5-one (5a). Solid. Mp 118-20 °C. Purification was by column chromatography using 11:39 EtOAc–hexane. R_f 0.40 (3:7 EtOAc– hexane). $[\alpha]_D$ +144 (c 0.225, CHCl₃); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): v 3076 (=C-H str), 1740 (C=O str), 1653 (O-C=O str), 1222 (C–O str); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.80 (dd, $J_{10,9}$ 7.8 Hz and $J_{10,8}$ 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-10), 7.56 (dt, $J_{9,10 \text{ or } 9,8}$ 7.9 Hz and $J_{9,7}$ 1.5 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.36– 7.28 (m, 2H, H-7 and H-8), 6.71 (dd, $J_{4,3}$ 10.0 Hz and $J_{4,2}$ 1.0 Hz, 1H, H-4), 5.58 (ddd, $J_{2',1'}$ 9.0 Hz, $J_{2',3'a}$ 2.4 Hz, and $J_{2',3'b}$ 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 5.50 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.0 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 3.6 Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.46 (m, 1H, H-2), 5.40 (dd, $J_{1',2'}$ 9.0 Hz and $J_{1',2}$ 1.8 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 4.35 (dd, $J_{3'a,3'b}$ 12.6 Hz and $J_{3'a,2'}$ 2.4 Hz, 2H, H-3'a), 4.18 (dd, $J_{3'b,3'a}$ 12.6 Hz and $J_{3'b,2'}$ 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-3'b), 2.17 (s, 3H, OCOC H_3), 2.08 (s, 3H, OCOC H_3) 2.01 (s, 3H, OCOC H_3); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.0, 170.1, 170.0 ($3 \times COCH_3$), 161.4 (C-5), 153.0 (C-6a and C-10b), 133.0 (C-8), 125.0 (C-9), 123.2 (C-10), 121.1 (C-7), 117.2 (C-3 and C-4), 115.0 (C-10a), 100.5 (C-4a), 76.0 (C-2), 71.7 (C-2'), 67.8 (C-1'), 62.1 (C-3'), 21.3, 21.0 (3 × COCH₃); FABMS: m/z (%) 417 (100) $[M+1]^+$, 375 (10) $[M-CH_2=C=O]^+$, 255 (40) $[M-C_6H_9O_5]^+$, 199 (90) $[M-C_9H_{13}O_6]^+$. Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₀O₉·0.5H₂O: C, 59.29; H, 4.97. Found: C, 59.79; H 5.03.

4.4.4. (1'R,2'R)-2-(1',2',3'-Tri-*O*-acetyl-D-*threitol*-1'-yl)-2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c]benzopyran-5-one (6a/6b). Solid. Isolated as a diastereomeric mixture*. Purification was by column chromatography using 13:37 EtOAc-hexane.

 $R_{\rm f}$ 0.30 (3:7 EtOAc-hexane). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): v 3021 (=C-H str), 1730 (C=O), 1645 (-C=O), 1212 (C-O str); 1 H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.80 (dd, $J_{10.9}$ 7.9 Hz and $J_{10,8}$ 1.6 Hz, 1H, H_D-10), 7.67 (dd, $J_{10,9}$ 8.5 Hz and $J_{10,8}$ 1.8 Hz, 1H, H-10), 7.56 (dt, $J_{9,10 \text{ or } 9,8}$ 7.8 Hz and $J_{9.7}$ 1.5 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.36–7.30 (m, 2H, H-7 and H-8), 6.76 (dd, $J_{4,3}$ 9.0 Hz and $J_{4,2}$ 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-4), 6.71 (dd, $J_{4,3}$ 9.7 Hz and $J_{4,2}$ 1.5 Hz, 1H, H_D -4), 5.51 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.0 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 3.7 Hz 1H, H-3), 5.57 (dd, $J_{2,3}$ 3.7 Hz and $J_{2,4}$ 1.5 Hz, 1H, H-2), 5.35 (dd, $J_{1',2'}$ 3.8 Hz and $J_{1',2}$ 1.1 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 5.42 (m, 1H, H-2'), 4.40 (dd, $J_{3'a,3'b}$ 11.8 Hz and $J_{3'a,2'}$ 4.3 Hz, 1H, H-3'a), 4.25 (dd, $J_{3'b,3'a}$ 11.8 Hz and $J_{3'b,2'}$ 5.3 Hz, 1H, H_D-3'a), 4.13 (br t, J 7.0 Hz, 1H, H_D-3'b), 4.02 (dd, $J_{3'b,3'a}$ 11.6 Hz and $J_{3'b,2'}$ 6.7 Hz, 1H, H-3'b), 2.13 (s, 3H, $COCH_3$), 2.09 (s, 3H, $COCH_3$), 2.07 (s, 3H, $COCH_3$); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.8, 170.2, 170.0 ($3 \times COCH_3$), 159.4 (C-5), 153.7 (C-6a and C-10b), 133.0 (C-8), 124.6 (C-9), 124.3 (C_D-9), 123.3 (C_D-10), 122.7 (C-10), 121.5 (C-7), 120.9 (C_D-7), 117.4 (C-4), 116.5 (C-3), 115.0 (C-10a), 101.3 (C-4a), 76.0 (C-2), 74.5 (C_D-2), 71.7 (C-2'), 68.7 (C-1'), 68.3 (C_D-1'), 62.2 (C-3'), 21.1, 21.0, 20.9 (3 × COCH₃); FABMS: m/z (%) 417 (15) $[M+1]^+$, 255 (25), 199 (35) $[M-C_9H_{15}O_{16}]^+$. Anal. Calcd for $C_{21}H_{20}O_9\cdot 0.5H_2O$: C, 59.29; H, 4.97. Found: C, 59.71; H, 4.82.

4.4.5. (1'S,2'R)-2-(1',3'-Di-O-acetyl-2'-hydroxy-D-erythritol-1'-yl)-2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c]benzopyran-5-one (7a). Sticky solid. Purification was by column chromatography using 7:13 EtOAc-hexane. R_f 0.43 (1:1 EtOAc-hexane). $[\alpha]_D$ +96.4 (c 0.225, CHCl₃); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): v 3449 (O-H str), 3077 (=C-H str), 1739 (C=O str), 1495, 1456, 1422 (C=C str), 1230 (C-O str); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.78 (dd, $J_{10.9}$ 8.0 Hz and $J_{10.8}$ 1.0 Hz, 1H, H-10), 7.56 (dt, $J_{9,10 \text{ or } 9.8}$ 8.0 Hz and $J_{9,7}$ 1.5 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.34–7.15 (m, 2H, H-7 and H-8), 6.69 (dd, $J_{4,3}$ 10.2 Hz and $J_{4,2}$ 1.5 Hz, 1H, H-4), 5.69 (m, 1H, H-2), 5.52 (dd, $J_{3.4}$ 10.2 Hz and $J_{3.2}$ 3.7 Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.10 (dd, $J_{1',2'}$ 9.0 Hz and $J_{1',2}$ 2.0 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 4.33-4.12 (m, 3H, H-2', H-3'a, and H-3'b); 13C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.5, 170.3 (2 × COCH₃), 161.0 (C-5), 153.6 (C-10b), 152.7 (C-6a), 133.3 (C-8), 124.6 (C-9), 122.8 (C-10), 120.8 (C-7), 117.3 (C-4), 117.0 (C-3), 115.1 (C-10a), 100.7 (C-4a), 76.1 (C-2), 74.0 (C-2'), 67.2 (C-1'), 66.0 (C-3'), 21.1 and 21.0 $(2 \times COCH_3)$; FABMS: m/z (%) 375 (100) [M+1]⁺, 255 (30), 241 (25), 199 (60) $[M-C_7H_{11}O_5]^+$, 149 (65). Anal. Calcd for $C_{19}H_{18}O_8 \cdot 1.5H_2O$: C, 56.85; H, 5.27. Found: C, 56.87; H, 4.88.

4.4.6. (1'R,2'R)-2-(1',3'-Di-O-acetyl-2'-hydroxy-D-thre-itol-1'-yl)-2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c]benzopyran-5-one (8a/8b). Solid. Isolated as a diastereomeric mixture*. Purification was by column chromatography using 2:3 EtOAc-hexane. R_f 0.36 (1:1 EtOAc-hexane). IR (KBr,

cm $^{-1}$): v 3448 (O–H str), 1739 (C=O str), 1690 (O– C=O str), 1567, 1454, 1419 (C=C str), 1228 (C-O str); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.76 (dt, $J_{9,10 \text{ or } 9,8}$ 8.5 Hz and $J_{9,7}$ 1.8 Hz, 1H, H_D-9), 7.63 (br d, J 8.0 Hz, 1H, H-10), 7.55 (dt, $J_{9,10 \text{ or } 9,8}$ 8.0 Hz and $J_{9,7}$ 1.5 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.32-7.25 (m, 2H, H-7 and H-8), 7.22–7.15 (m, 2H, H_D -7 and H_D -8), 6.76 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 10.6 Hz, 1H, H-4), 6.70 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 9.7 Hz, 1H, H_D -4), 5.66 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.0 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 4.2 Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.50 (m, 1H, H-2), 5.27 (dd, $J_{1',2}$ 6.7 Hz and $J_{1',2'}$ 3.0 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 4.15-4.07 (m, 3H, H-2', 3'a, and 3'b), 2.12 (s, 3H, $COCH_3$), 2.09 (s, 3H, $COCH_3$) 2.07 (s, 3H, $COCH_{3D}$), 2.05 (s, 3H, $COCH_{3D}$); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.5, 170.3 (2×COCH₃), 161.0 (C-5), 153.6 (C-6a and C-10b), 133.0 (C-8), 124.7 (C_D-9), 124.6 (C-9), 123.0 (C_D-10), 122.8 (C-10), 121.3 (C-7), 117.4 (C-4), 117.0 (C-3), 115.1 (C-10a), 101.6 (C-4a), 101.0 (C_D-4a), 76.5 (C-2), 75.7 (C_D-2), 73.5 (C-2'), 68.1 (C-1'), 65.5 (C-3'), 21.1, 21.0 $(3 \times COCH_3)$; FABMS: m/z (%) 375 (45) $[M+1]^+$, 199 (55) $[M-C_7H_{11}O_5]^+$, 147 (100). Anal. Calcd C₁₉H₁₈O₈·1.5H₂O: C, 56.85; H, 5.27. Found: C, 57.09; H, 4.62.

4.4.7. (1'S,2'R)-2-(2'-O-Acetyl-1',3'-di-O-p-nitrobenzoyl-D-erythritol-1'-yl)-2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c]benzopyran-5-one (9a/9b). Amorphous solid. Isolated as a diastereomeric mixture*. Purification was by column chromatography using 11:39 EtOAc-hexane. Rf 0.42 (3:7 EtOAc-hexane). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): v 3022 (=C-H str), 2927 (-C-H str), 1731 (C=O str), 1608, 1529, 1495 (C=C str); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.34–7.35 (m, 14H, Ar*H*), 6.85 (dd, $J_{4,3}$ 9.2 Hz and $J_{4,2}$ 1.5 Hz, 1H, H_D-4), 6.63 (dd, $J_{4,3}$ 9.2 Hz and $J_{4,2}$ 1.0 Hz, 1H, H-4), 5.89 (ddd, $J_{2',1'}$ 9.0 Hz, $J_{2',3'a}$ 2.2 Hz and $J_{2',3'b}$ 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 5.79 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 9.1 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 2.9 Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.77 (m, 1H, H-2), 5.56 (dd, $J_{1',2'}$ 6.0 Hz and $J_{1',2}$ 3.6 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 4.85 (dd, $J_{3'a,3'b}$ 12.5 Hz and $J_{3'a,2'}$ 2.1 Hz, 1H, H-3'a), 4.51 (dd, $J_{3'b,3'a}$ 12.4 Hz and $J_{3'b,2'}$ 5.3 Hz, 1H, H_D -3'b), 4.38 (dd, $J_{3'b,3'a}$ 12.5 Hz and $J_{3'b,2'}$ 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-3'b), 2.22 (s, 3H, COC H_3), 2.14 (s, 3H, COC H_{3D}); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.0 (OCOCH₃), 164.6 (C-5), 164.0 (C_D-5), 153.6 (C-6a and C-10b), 151.4 (ArqC), 135.0 (ArqC), 134.0 (ArqC), 133.4 (C-8), 131.3 (ArC), 125.1 (C-9), 124.1 (ArC), 123.1 (C-10), 121.8 (C-7), 117.4 (C-4), 116.8 (C-3), 114.7 (C-10a), 101.3 (C-4a), 75.7 (C-2), 73.3 (C-2'), 67.5 (C-1'), 63.5 (C-3'), 21.3 $(OCOCH_3)$; FABMS: m/z (%) 631 (20) [M+1]⁺, 307 (10), 199 (100) $[M-C_{19}H_{15}N_2O_{10}]^+$. Anal. Calcd for $C_{31}H_{22}N_2O_{13}$: C, 59.05; H, 3.51; N, 4.44. Found: C, 58.84; H, 4.13; N, 4.56.

4.4.8. (1'S)-2-(1',2'-Di-O-acetyl-D-glyceritol-1'-yl)-2H, H-pyrano[3,2-c]benzopyran-5-one (10a/10b). Sticky solid. Isolated as a diastereomeric mixture*. Purification

was by column chromatography using 1:4 EtOAc-hexane. $R_{\rm f}$ 0.55 (3:7 EtOAc-hexane). IR (neat, cm⁻¹): ν 2928 (C-H str), 1629 (C=O), 1594, 1363; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.75 (dd, $J_{10,9}$ 8.0 Hz and $J_{10,8}$ 1.9 Hz, 1H, H_D -10), 7.71 (br d, $J_{10.9}$ 7.8 Hz, 1H, H-5), 7.56 (dt, $J_{9,10 \text{ or } 9.8}$ 8.5 Hz and $J_{9,7}$ 1.5 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.33–7.27 (m, 2H, H-7 and H-8), 6.74 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 10.0 Hz, 1H, H-4), 5.63 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.1 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 3.1 Hz 1H, H_D -3), 5.54 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.1 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 3.4 Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.42–5.32 (m, 2H, H-2 and H-1'), 4.51 (dd, $J_{2'a,2'b}$ 12.0 Hz and $J_{2'a,1'}$ 4.5 Hz, H-2'a), 4.30 (dd, $J_{2'b,2'a}$ 11.3 Hz and $J_{2'b,1'}$ 5.2 Hz, 1H, H-2'b), 2.09 (s, 3H, $COCH_3$), 2.05 (s, 3H, $COCH_3$), 2.10 (s, 3H, $COCH_{3D}$), 2.04 (s, 3H, COC H_{3D}); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.8, 170.3 ($2 \times COCH_3$), 153.6 (C-6a and C-10b), 159.5 (C-5), 133.0 (C-8), 124.6 (C-9), 123.0 (C_D-10), 122.8 (C-10), 121.2 (C-7), 121.0 (C_D-7), 117.3 (C-4), 116.8 (C-3), 115.0 (C-10a), 101.3 (C-4a), 76.4 (C-2), 76.2 (C_D-2), 72.7 (C_D-1'), 72.0 (C-1'), 61.6 (C-2'), 21.1 and 21.0 (2 × CH₃CO); FABMS: m/z (%) 345 (45) $[M+1]^+$, 225 (100), 199 (50) $[M-C_6H_9O_4]^+$, 163 (90), 121 (95). Anal. Calcd for $C_{18}H_{16}O_{7}\cdot 0.5H_{2}O$: C, 61.18; H, 4.85. Found: C, 60.57; H, 5.58.

4.4.9. (1'S,2'R)-7-Methyl-2-(1',2',3'-tri-*O*-benzyl-*D*-ery-thritol-1'-yl)-2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c]pyran-5-one (3c/3d). Oil. Isolated as a diastereomeric mixture*. Purification was by column chromatography using 3:17 EtOAc-hexane. R_f 0.43 (3:7 EtOAc-hexane). IR (neat, cm⁻¹): ν 3028, 3024 (=C-H str), 2920 (-C-H str), 1711 (C=O str), 1643, 1565 (C=C str), 1216 (C-O str); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.43–7.13 (m, 15H, Ar*H*), 6.50 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 10.0 Hz, 1H, H-4), 6.45 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 10.0 Hz, 1H, H_D-4), 5.64 (s, 1H, H-8), 5.60 (s, 1H, H_D-8), 5.40 (m, 1H, H-2), 5.34 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.0 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 3.7 Hz, 1H, H-3), 4.77–4.55 (m, 6H, $3 \times CH_2$ Ph), 4.47 (m, 1H, H-1'), 3.80 (m, 1H, H-2'), 3.69–3.59 (m, 2H, H-3'a and H-3'b), 2.19 (s, 3H, CH₃); FABMS: m/z (%) 525 (80) [M+1]⁺, 295 (30), 181 (40), 163 (100) [M-C₂₄H₂₅O₃]⁺.

4.4.10. (1'R,2'R)-7-Methyl-2-(1',3'-di-O-benzyl-2'-hydroxy-D-threitol-1'-yl)-2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c]pyran-5-one (4c/ 4d). Sticky solid. Isolated as a diastereomeric mixture*. Purification was by column chromatography using 1:3 EtOAc-hexane. R_f 0.39 (7:13 EtOAc-hexane). IR (neat, cm $^{-1}$): v 3428 (O–H str), 3030 (=C–H str), 2923 (-C-H str), 1710 (C=O str), 1645, 1564 (C=C str), 1216 (C–O str); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.30–7.20 (br m, 10H, ArH), 6.55 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 10.0 Hz, 1H, H_{D} -4), 6.52 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 10.0 Hz, 1H, H-4), 5.78 (s, 1H, H_D -8), 5.75 (s, 1H, H-8), 5.62 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.2 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 3.1 Hz, 1H, H_D-3), 5.52 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.0 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 4.0 Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.28 (m, 1H, H_D-2), 5.20 (m, 1H, H-2), 4.70–4.20 (m, 4H, $2 \times CH_2Ph$), 3.98 (m, 1H, H-1'), 3.74 (dd, $J_{2',3'a}$ 6.0 Hz and $J_{2',3'b \text{ or } 2',1'}$ 3.0 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 3.56 (dd, $J_{3'a,3'b}$ 9.3 Hz and $J_{3'a,2'}$ 6.0 Hz, 1H, H- 3'a), 3.44 (dd, $J_{3'b,3'a}$ 9.5 Hz and $J_{3'b,2'}$ 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-3'b), 2.19 (s, 3H, CH_3); C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.9 (C-7), 163.5 (C-8a), 163.3 (C_D -8a), 162.4 (C-5), 138.0 (Ar $_qC$), 137.7 (Ar $_qC_D$), 128.8, 128.4, 128.3 (Ar $_qC$), 119.8 (C-4), 119.3 (C_D -4), 118.0 (C_D -3), 117.3 (C-3), 100.2 (C-8), 99.3 (C-4a), 80.3, 80.1 (2 × $_qC$ CH₂Ph), 75.6 (C-2), 75.5 (C_D -2), 73.8 (C-1'), 71.2 (C-2'), 69.5 (C-3'), 69.3 (C_D -3'), 20.6 (C_D 3); FABMS: m/z (%) 435 (40) [M+1]⁺, 163 (60) [M- C_1 7H₁₉O₃]⁺, 149 (100) [M- C_1 7H₁₉O₃+ C_1 8H₁₉+ C_1 9H₁₉+ C_1 9H₁₉+ C_1 9H₁₉+ C_1 1H₁₉O₃+ C_1 9H₁₉+ C_1 9H₁₉+ C_1 1H₁₉+ C_1 1H₁₉O₃+ C_1 1H₁₉O₃+ C_1 1H₁₉+ C_1 1H₁₉O₃+ C_1 1H₁₉O₃+ C_1 1H₁₉+ C_1 1H₁₉O₃+ C_1 1H₁₉O

4.4.11. (1'S,2'R)-7-Methyl-2-(1',2',3'-tri-O-acetyl-D-erythritol-1'-yl)-2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c]pyran-5-one Solid. Mp 105 °C. Purification was by column chromatography using 1:3 EtOAc-hexane. R_f 0.61 (1:1 EtOAchexane). $[\alpha]_D$ +67.5 (c 0.080, CHCl₃). IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): v 2959 (C-H str), 1730, 1718 (C=O str), 1575 (C=C str), 1371 (C-H def. of CH₃), 1215 (C-O str); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.56 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 10.0 Hz, 1H, H-4), 5.82 (s, 1H, H-8), 5.45 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.2 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 3.2 Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.40 (m, 1H, H-2'), 5.30 (br t, $J_{2.1'} = 3$ 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-2), 5.24 (m, 1H, H-1'), 4.38 (dd, $J_{3'a,3'b}$ 12.3 Hz and $J_{3'a,2'}$ 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-3'a), 4.17 (dd, $J_{3'b,3'a}$ 12.0 Hz and $J_{3'b,2'}$ 6.6 Hz, 1H, H-3'b), 2.23 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.11 (s, 3H, $OCOCH_3$), 2.06 (s, 3H, $OCOCH_3$) 2.02 (s, 3H, $OCOCH_3$); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.9, 170.1 (3 × OCOCH₃), 165.0 (C-7), 163.8 (C-5 and C-8a), 120.8 (C-4), 115.7 (C-3), 100.0 (C-8), 98.3 (C-4a), 75.8 (C-2), 72.0 (C-2'), 68.6 (C-1'), 62.1 (C-3'), 21.2 (CH_3) , 21.1, 21.0, 20.6 $(3 \times COCH_3)$; FABMS: m/z (%) 381 (80) $[M+1]^+$, 219 (40), 163 (100) $[M-C_9H_{13}O_6]^+$. Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₂₀O₉: C, 56.84; H, 5.30. Found: C, 56.36; H, 5.25.

4.4.12. (1'R,2'R)-7-Methyl-2-(1',2',3'-tri-O-acetyl-D-threitol-1'-yl)-2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c|pyran-5-one (6c/6d). Oil. Isolated as a diastereomeric mixture*. Purification was by column chromatography using 1:3 EtOAc-hexane. $R_{\rm f}$ 0.60 (1:1 EtOAc-hexane). IR (neat, cm⁻¹): v 2961 (C-H str), 1746, 1720 (C=O str), 1371 (C-H def. of CH₃), 1218 (C–O str); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.60 (d, J_{4,3} 9.8 Hz, 1H, H-4), 6.56 (d, J_{4,3} 8.3 Hz, 1H, H_D-4), 5.82 (s, 1H, H_D-8), 5.76 (s, 1H, H-8), 5.39 (dd, $J_{3.4}$ 10.0 Hz and $J_{3.2}$ 3.0 Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.34 (m, 1H, H-2'), 5.30 (m, 1H, H-2), 5.14 (m, 1H, H-1'), 4.33 (dd $J_{3'a,3'b}$ 11.9 Hz and $J_{3'a,2'}$ 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-3'a), 4.12 (dd, $J_{3'b,3'a}$ 11.6 Hz and $J_{3'b,2'}$ 3.1 Hz, 1H, H-3'b), 2.23 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.15 (s, 3H, CH_{3D}), 2.11 (s, 3H, $OCOCH_3$), 2.09 (s, 3H, OCOC H_3), 2.06 (s, 3H, OCOC H_3); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.8, 170.2, (3 × OCOCH₃), 164.6 (C-7), 163.8 (C-5 and C-8a), 121.0 (C-4), 120.5 (C_D-4) , 115.3 (C_D-3) , 115.0 (C-3), 100.0 (C-8), 99.9 (C_D-8), 98.3 (C-4a), 76.0 (C-2), 71.8 (C-2'), 71.0 (C_D-2'), 70.3 (C_D-1'), 68.9 (C-1'), 62.1 (C-3'), 21.0 (CH₃), 21.0, 20.6 (3 × OCO CH_3); FABMS: m/z (%) 381 (100) $[M+1]^+$, 219 (50), 163 (90), $[M-C_9H_{13}O_6]^+$. Anal. Calcd for $C_{18}H_{20}O_9$: C, 56.84; H, 5.30. Found: C, 56.22; H, 4.92.

(1'S,2'R)-7-Methyl-2-(2'-O-acetyl-1',3'-di-O-p-4.4.13. nitrobenzoyl-D-erythritol-1'-yl)-2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c]pyran-5-one (9c/9d). Solid. Isolated as a diastereomeric mixture*. Purification was by column chromatography using 1:3 EtOAc-hexane. R_f 0.45 (2:3 EtOAc-hexane). IR (KBr, cm $^{-1}$): v 3113 (=C-H str), 1728 (C=O str), 1575 (C=C str), 1220 (C-O str); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.34–8.01 (m, 8H, ArH), 6.67 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 10.8 Hz, 1H, H_D -4), 6.47 (d, $J_{4,3}$ 10.0 Hz, 1H, H-4), 5.92 (s, 1H, H-8), 5.77 (s, 1H, H_D-8), 5.74–5.68 (m, 2H, H-3 and H-2'), 5.58 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.0 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 3.3 Hz, 1H, H_D-3), 5.42–5.30 (m, 2H, H-1' and H-2), 4.77 (dd $J_{3'a,3'b}$ 12.5 Hz and $J_{3'a,2'}$ 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-3'a), 4.37 (dd, $J_{3'b,3'a}$ 12.0 Hz and $J_{3'b,2'}$ 3.4 Hz, 1H, H-3'b), 2.29 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.16 (s, 3H, OCOCH₃), 2.12 (s, 3H, OCOC H_{3D}); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.0 $(3 \times COCH_3)$, 164.8 (C-7), 164.3 (C_D-7), 164.0 (C-8a and C-5), 135.0, 134.2 (ArgC), 131.2 (ArC), 124.2, 124.1 (ArC), 121.4 (C-4), 115.3 (C-3), 114.5 (C_D-3), 99.7 (C-8), 98.4 (C-4a), 75.6 (C-2), 74.2 (C_D-1'), 73.6 (C-1'), 68.3 (C-2'), 63.5 (C-3'), 21.2 (CH₃), 20.7 $(COCH_3)$; FABMS: m/z (%) 595 (30) $[M+1]^+$, 219 (30) $[M-C_{16}H_{11}N_2O_9]^+$, 163 (100) $[M-C_{19}H_{15}N_2O_{10}]^+$, 149 (100). Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₂₂N₂O₁₃·0.5H₂O: C, 55.72; H, 3.84; N, 4.64. Found: C, 55.32; H, 4.30; N, 4.19.

4.4.14. (1'S)-7-Methyl-2-(1',2'-di-O-acetyl-D-glyceritol-1'-yl)-2H,5H-pyrano[3,2-c] pyran-5-one (10c/10d). Oil. Isolated as a diastereomeric mixture*. Purification was by column chromatography using 3:7 EtOAc-hexane. $R_{\rm f}$ 0.34 (7:13 EtOAc-hexane). IR (neat, cm⁻¹): v 2959 (C-H str), 1745 (C=O str), 1567 (C=C str), 1372 (C-H def. of CH₃), 1222 (C–O str); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.58 (br d, $J_{4,3}$ 10.0 Hz, 1H, H-4), 5.83 (s, 1H, H_D-8), 5.80 (s, 1H, H-8), 5.45 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.3 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 3.0 Hz, 1H, H_D-3), 5.37 (dd, $J_{3,4}$ 10.1 Hz and $J_{3,2}$ 3.6 Hz, 1H, H-3), 5.31 (m, 1H, H-2), 5.21 (m, 1H, H-1'), 4.37 (dd, $J_{2'a,2'b}$ 11.9 Hz and $J_{2'a,1'}$ 4.2 Hz, 1H, H-2'a), 4.21 (dd, $J_{2'b,2'a}$ 11.8 Hz and $J_{2'b,1'}$ 6.3 Hz, 1H, H-2'b), 2.23 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.15 (s, 3H, CH_{3D}), 2.08 (s, 3H, OCOC H_3), 2.07 (s, 3H, OCOC H_3); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.8, 170.4 (2 × OCOCH₃), 164.8 (C-7), 163.8 (C_D-8a), 163.7 (C-8a), 162.2 (C-5), 162.1 (C_D-5) , 120.8 (C-4), 120.5 (C_D-4) , 115.3 (C-3), 100.0 (C-8), 99.8 (C_D-8), 98.6 (C-4a), 76.2 (C-2), 72.8 (C_D-1'), 72.0 (C-1'), 62.0 (C-2'), 61.6 (C_D-2'), 21.0 (CH_3) , 21.0, 20.6 (2 × CO CH_3); FABMS: m/z (%) 309 $(30) [M+1]^+$, 163 (30) $[M-C_6H_9O_4]^+$, 105 (100). Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{16}O_7 \cdot H_2O$: C, 55.21; H, 5.56. Found: C, 54.92; H, 5.04.

5. Supplemental data

Complete crystallographic data for the structural analyses have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, CCDC no. 262608 (for compound **5a**) and CCDC no. 262609 (for compound **5c**). Copies of this information may be obtained free of charge from the Director, Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1EZ, UK (fax: +44 1223 336033, e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk or http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

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