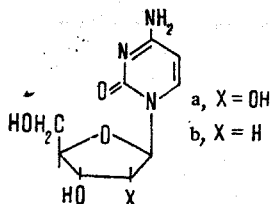


SELECTIVE N-BENZOYLATION OF DESOXYCYTIDINE AND CYTIDINE

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We have shown that a simple and direct method for the benzylation of amino groups in nucleosides is their reaction with benzoylazide at 20°–30° C in absolute pyridine.



When cytidine (a) and deoxycytidine (b) were thermostated for 40 hr with a tenfold excess of benzoylazide, the N-benzoyl derivatives were formed quantitatively, and were isolated by evaporation in vacuum at room temperature and subsequent crystallization from water. The benzoyl derivatives were identified chromatographically in a thin layer of silica gel in the butanol–acetic acid–water (4:1:1) system, and spectroscopically. The R_f values corresponded to those of the benzoyl derivatives of cytidine and deoxycytidine obtained by other methods. The UV spectra corresponded to those given in the literature: λ_{max} 260 and 303 m μ , λ_{min} 330 and 284 m μ [1].

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