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A General Synthesis of N-Glycosides. II.¹

Synthesis of 6-Methyluridines

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The reaction of silylated 6-methyl- as well as 5,6-dimethyluracil with 1-*O*-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranose and 1,2,3,4,6-penta-*O*-acetyl- β -D-glucopyranose gave strikingly varying yields of N₁- and N₃-glycosides depending on the use of either 1,2-dichloroethane or acetonitrile as solvents. Silylated 2-thio-6-methyl- as well as 5,6-dimethyluracil afforded only mixture of S- and N₃-glycosides. The steric as well as mechanistic implications of these results are discussed.

The synthesis of the chemically² as well as biologically³ interesting 6-methyl substituted pyrimidine nucleosides has recently been investigated by different groups.⁴⁻⁷

The data obtained by the previous workers^{5,7} indicate that very subtle steric as well as energetic factors seem to determine whether the thermodynamically more stable N₁ or (in the presence of a 6 substituent) the sterically and, apparently kinetically, favored N₃ product is formed. Furthermore any excess of the halo sugar seems to lead to N₁,N₃-bisglycoside formation.

Since the Hilbert-Johnson reaction of silylated pyrimidines with 1-*O*-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranose (**2**) and SnCl₄ had given exclusively the natural β -N₁-pyrimidine nucleosides (compare part I of this series), we were curious how silylated 6-methyl- as well as 5,6-dimethyluracil would behave under these reaction conditions.

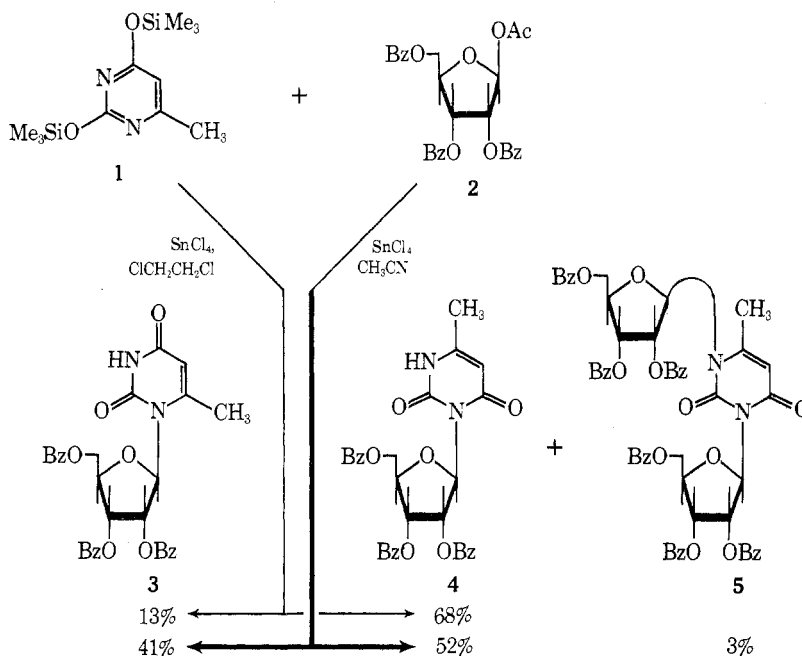
Our first results are summarized in Scheme I. In the less polar solvent 1,2-dichloroethane 6-methyl-2,4-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)pyrimidine (**1**) reacted with 1-*O*-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-

O-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranose (**2**) and SnCl₄ to give only 13% crystalline benzoylated N₁-riboside **3** and 68% crystalline benzoylated N₃-riboside **4**, whereas in the more polar acetonitrile ~41% **3** and ~52% **4** were obtained as well as 3% benzoylated N₁,N₃-bisriboside **5**. As described earlier⁵ the N₁- and N₃-nucleosides can be readily separated by column chromatography on alumina or silica gel.

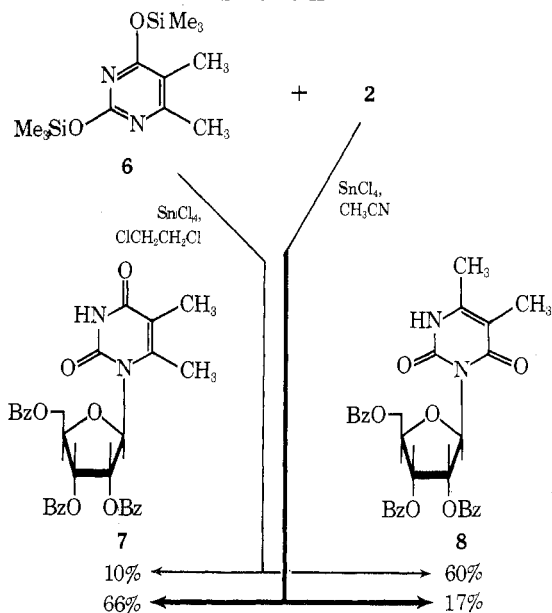
The structures of the N₁- as well as the N₃-nucleosides were established by the typical bathochromic shift of the uv spectra of the N₃-nucleosides in alkaline medium.⁸ Furthermore the N₃- β -D-ribofuranosides show a characteristic downfield shift of the H-1' proton of up to 1 ppm which is due to the two neighboring lactam carbonyls compared to the N₁-nucleosides with only one neighboring lactam carbonyl group.

The difference in yields on changing the solvents is even more striking for the reactions of 5,6-dimethyl-2,4-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)pyrimidine (**6**) (Scheme II). The yields of 10% N₁-nucleoside **7** and 60% N₃-nucleoside **8** in 1,2-di-

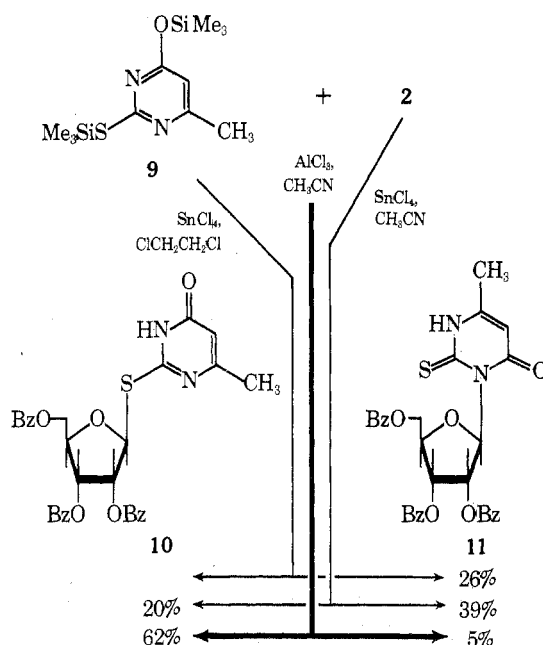
Scheme I



Scheme II



Scheme III



chloroethane were nearly reversed using acetonitrile as a solvent. There was obtained in this instance 66% 7 and 17% 8, both of which crystallized.

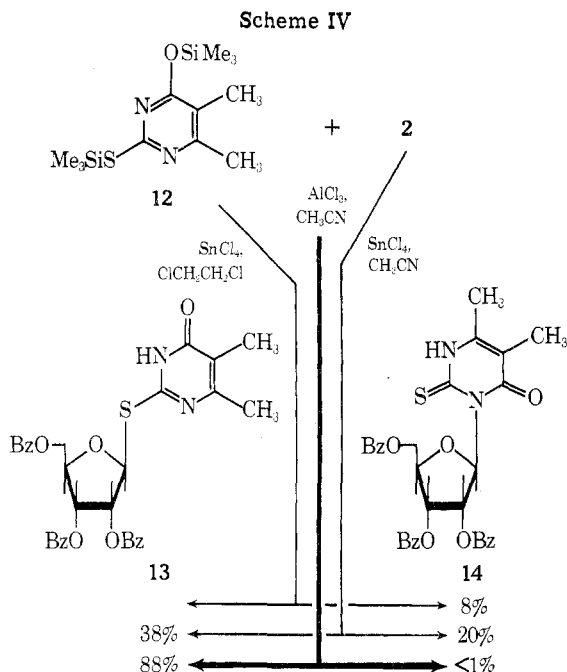
Saponification of the benzoylated N_1 -ribosides 3 and 7 gave the known^{4,5} corresponding crystalline 6-methyl- and 5,6-dimethyluridines which were identified by their physical data. Saponification of the benzoylated N_3 -ribosides 4 and 8 gave the corresponding free N_3 -ribosides, which could not be obtained in crystalline form.

When we tried to prepare 6-methyluridine in larger amounts we encountered difficulties. It turned out that the yield of the benzoylated N_1 -riboside 3 was extremely dependent on the purity of the solvents and reagents. As already emphasized in the preceding paper¹ the acetonitrile had to be distilled twice over phosphorus pentoxide, the SnCl_4 had to be fresh or to be redistilled, and the 1-O-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranose (2) had to be recrystallized from 2-propanol or ethanol and subsequently dried carefully in high vacuum.

Traces of acetic acid or 2-propanol in 2 or humidity in the solvents resulted in a dramatic lowering of the yield of the desired benzoylated N_1 -riboside 3 and a corresponding increase of the yield of the benzoylated N_3 -riboside 4 and N_1, N_3 -diriboside 5. The yield of 3 also decreased on addition of ethereal HCl to the reaction mixture. Furthermore pretreatment of SnCl_4 in acetonitrile with small amounts of acetic acid and subsequent addition of 1 and 2 did not give any protected N_1 -nucleoside 3 but only a 80% yield of the benzoylated N_3 -nucleoside 4.

When the optimal reaction time of ~3–5 hr was exceeded, the yield of the N_1 product 3 decreased in favor of less polar products. Replacement of SnCl_4 by fresh AlCl_3 did not improve the yield of 3. Thus products and yields are dependent on very subtle changes in the reaction conditions and care has to be exercised in order to insure that the reactions proceed optimally.

The reaction of silylated 2-thio-6-methyluracil (9)



(Scheme III) with 2 and SnCl₄ or AlCl₃ in 1,2-dichloroethane and acetonitrile did not give any of the desired benzoylated N₁-riboside. Instead, only the crystalline benzoylated S-riboside 10 as well as the crystalline benzoylated N₃-riboside 11⁹ were obtained in varying amounts. With increasing polarity of the solvent and strength of the Friedel-Crafts catalyst surprisingly¹⁰ more S-riboside 11 was formed.

The reaction of silylated 2-thio-5,6-dimethyluracil (12) with 2 (Scheme IV) gave analogously only the benzoylated S-nucleoside 13 as well as some N₃-nucleoside 14.

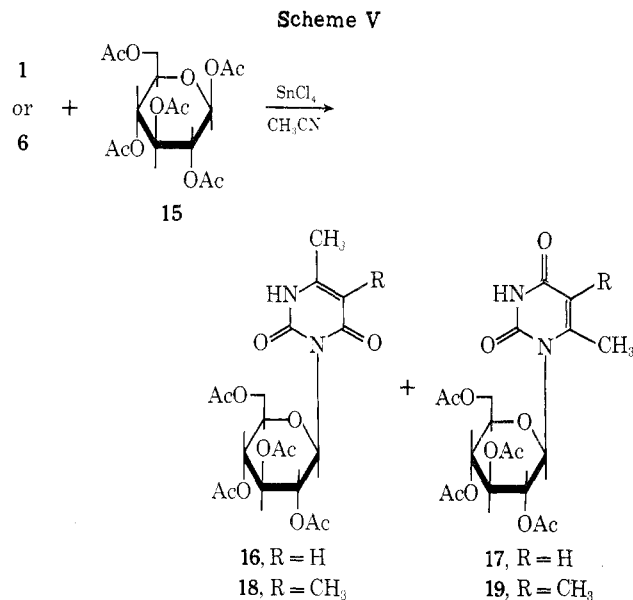
S-Alkylation of silylated 2-thiouracils has been observed before¹⁰ and might be especially favored here because of the steric hindrance of the N₁ position by the 6-methyl group. Thus steric hindrance not only blocks the rearrangement of the S-nucleoside to the N₁-nucleoside, but even the rearrangement to the sterically favored N₃-nucleoside seems to be impeded and dependent on the catalyst-solvent complex.

The structures of 10 as well as 13 were proved by cleavage with H₂S-pyridine^{10,11} to 6-methyl-2-thiouracil as well as 5,6-dimethyl-2-thiouracil. The benzoylated S-riboside 10 rearranged furthermore on treatment with HgBr₂¹² in boiling toluene in moderate yield to the protected N₃-riboside 11.

Since steric factors seem to determine the formation of either N₁- or N₃-nucleosides in the case of a 6-methyl substituent, we studied the reactions of the silylated uracils 1 and 6 with 1,2,3,4,6-penta-*O*-acetyl-β-D-glucopyranose (15)¹³ which was expected to give a more bulky cation than 2 (Scheme V).

On reaction of 1 with 15 and SnCl₄ in acetonitrile we isolated in 42.3% yield the crystalline N₃-glucoside^{6,14} 16 but no N₁-glucoside 17 could be detected. However, 6 gave with 15 in acetonitrile besides 1.2% N₃-glucoside 18 a 22.4% yield of the crystalline N₁-glucoside 19.

Bärwolf, Kowolik, and Langen¹⁵ discovered recently that silylated 6-fluorothymine reacted with acetobromoglucose in the presence of SnCl₄ to afford the N₁-nucleosides in excellent yields. Thus the size of the 6 substituent is critical since Pichat and Chatelain¹⁶ found that silylated 6-chlorouracil gave with 2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl-D-ribofuranosyl chloride on heating to 190° only the 6-chloro N₃-riboside in low yield. Analogously Winkley and Robins¹⁷ allowed sily-



lated 6-methylmercaptouracil and 1-bromo-2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl-D-ribofuranose to react in acetonitrile and obtained only the corresponding 6-methylmercapto N₃-riboside in 75% yield, which could be desulfurized to 3-β-D-ribofuranosyluracil after saponification.

It can therefore be anticipated that silylated orotic acid or orotic esters will yield probably only the N₃-nucleosides thus limiting the chemical synthesis of orotidine at present to the efficient Ueda method¹⁸ starting from 2',3'-*O*-isopropylidene-5-bromouridine.

Experimental Section

For instruments and the purification of solvents as well as the work-up of the reaction mixtures compare part I.¹

Column chromatography was performed on neutral alumina Woelm and silica gel Merck (Darmstadt). Tlc system: A [ethyl acetate-hexane (2:1)].

6-Methyl- and 5,6-dimethyluracil were purchased from EGA-Chemie KG, Steinheim a. Albuch. 2-Thio-6-methyl- and 5,6-dimethyluracil were prepared according to Draminski and Fiszler.¹⁹

3-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-6-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidine-2,4-dione (4) and **1-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-6-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidine-2,4-dione (3)**. To 1 (12 mmol) and 2 (5.04 g, 10 mmol) in CH₃CN (150 ml), SnCl₄ (1.5 ml, 12.9 mmol) in CH₃CN (100 ml) was added under stirring at 14° and stirred 4 hr at 22°. After work-up,¹ chromatography on neutral alumina (300 g, activity III) gave on elution with *n*-hexane-ethyl acetate (9:1) a mixture of unreacted sugar and N₁,N₃-diriboside 5 (400 mg). 5 was purified by preparative tlc on silica gel using the same solvent system and obtained as a white foam: mp 110–112°; yield 0.170 g (3.4%); nmr (CDCl₃) δ 6.64 [d, 1, *J* = 2 Hz, H-1' (N₃)], 5.77 [s, 1, H-1' (N₁)], 5.65 (s, 1, H-5), 2.30 (s, 3, 6-CH₃).

Anal. Calcd for C₅₇H₄₆N₂O₁₆ (1015.17): C, 67.44; H, 4.57; N, 2.78. Found: C, 67.54; H, 5.01; N, 2.74.

The less polar N₃-nucleoside was eluted from alumina with ethyl acetate-hexane (2:1) and crystallized from the same solvent giving 2.934 g (51.5%) of 4, mp 108–109°, [α]_D²⁰ 31.9° (c 1, CHCl₃).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₁H₂₆N₂O₉ (570.53): C, 65.26; H, 4.59; N, 4.91. Found: C, 65.10; H, 4.96; N, 4.92.

The N₁-nucleoside 3 was eluted from alumina with ethyl acetate-methanol (9:1) and crystallized (CH₂Cl₂-pentane) giving 2.316 g (40.6%) of 3, mp 126–129°, [α]_D²⁰ –5.0° (c 1, CHCl₃) (lit.⁵ 125–128°).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₁H₂₆N₂O₉ (570.53): C, 65.26; H, 4.59; N, 4.91. Found: C, 65.07; H, 4.78; N, 4.88.

The analogous reaction in 1,2-dichloroethane (4 hr at 22°) gave 67% 4 and 13% 3.

3-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-5,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidine-2,4-dione (8) and **1-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-5,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidine-2,4-dione (7)**. To 2 (7.56 g, 15 mmol) and 6 (18

mmol) in CH₃CN (250 ml), SnCl₄ (2.0 ml, 17.1 mmol) in CH₃CN (150 ml) was added under stirring at 0°. After stirring overnight at 22° and work-up,¹ the residue was chromatographed on neutral alumina (350 g, activity II). The less polar nucleoside 8 was eluted with *n*-hexane-ethyl acetate (1:1) and crystallized (ethanol) giving 1.46 g (16.7%) of platelets; mp 200–201°; [α]_D²⁰ 34.6° (*c* 1, CHCl₃); nmr (CDCl₃) δ 6.73 (d, 1, *J* \approx 1 Hz, H-1'), 2.17 (s, 3, 6-CH₃), 1.90 (s, 3, 5-CH₃).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₂H₂₈N₂O₉ (584.56): C, 65.75; H, 4.83; N, 4.79. Found: C, 65.82; H, 4.87; N, 4.62.

The N₁-nucleoside 7 was eluted with ethyl acetate. Crystallization (CH₂Cl₂-pentane) gave 5.77 g (65.9%) of 7 in needles; mp 176–178°; [α]_D²⁰ –10.3° (*c* 1, CHCl₃); nmr (CDCl₃) δ 5.81 (d, 1, *J* < 1 Hz, H-1'), 2.29 (s, 3, 6-CH₃), 1.99 (s, 3, 5-CH₃).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₂H₂₈N₂O₉ (584.56): C, 65.75; H, 4.83; N, 4.79. Found: C, 65.50; H, 4.99; N, 4.71.

The analogous reaction in 1,2-dichloroethane (addition of SnCl₄ at 0°, then 6 hr at 22°) gave 60.3% 8 and 10.3% 7.

3-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-6-methyl-2-thio-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-4-one (11) and 2-[(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)thio]-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidin-4-one (10). To 2 (12.6 g, 25 mmol) and 6-methyl-2,4-*S,O*-bis(trimethylsilyl)pyrimidine (9, 30 mmol) in CH₃CN (300 ml) SnCl₄ (10 ml, 85.6 mmol) in CH₃CN (300 ml) was added under stirring at 0°. After 3 hr at 22° and work-up¹ chromatography on neutral alumina (500 g, activity III) gave on elution with ethyl acetate the N₃-nucleoside 11. The S-riboside 10 was eluted with methanol-H₂O (2:1). 11 crystallized (ethanol) to give 5.75 g (39.3%); mp 192–193°; [α]_D²⁰ 32.8° (*c* 1, CHCl₃); nmr (CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (m, 1, H-1'), 5.75 (s, 1, H-5), 2.11 (s, 3, 6-CH₃).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₁H₂₆N₂O₈S (568.62): C, 63.50; H, 4.47; N, 4.77; S, 5.46. Found: C, 63.15; H, 4.48; N, 4.65; S, 5.68.

10 crystallized (ethanol-ether) to give 2.89 g (19.7%); mp 151–153°; [α]_D²⁰ –22.8° (*c* 1, CHCl₃); uv²⁰ (CH₃OH) λ _{max} 275 nm (ϵ 9620), 281 (sh, 8980); nmr (CDCl₃) δ 6.45 (d, 1, *J* = 2.5 Hz, H-1'), 6.04 (s, 1, H-5), 2.21 (s, 3, 6-CH₃).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₁H₂₆N₂O₈S (568.62): C, 63.50; H, 4.47; N, 4.77; S, 5.46. Found: C, 63.23; H, 4.37; N, 4.81; S, 5.67.

The analogous reaction with SnCl₄ in 1,2-dichloroethane (4 hr, 22°) gave 26% 11. In CH₃CN-AlCl₃ (addition of 1.5 equiv of AlCl₃ at 0°, 5 hr at 22°) 62% 10 and ~5% 11 were obtained.

3-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-5,6-dimethyl-2-thio-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-4-one (14) and 2-[(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)thio]-5,6-dimethyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidin-4-one (13). To 2 (5.04 g, 10 mmol) and 12 (12.0 mmol) in CH₃CN (200 ml) SnCl₄ (3.2 ml, 27.4 mmol) in CH₃CN (80 ml) was added at 14°. After 20 hr at 22° and work-up¹ the residue (5.3 g) was chromatographed on silica gel (260 g). The products were eluted with hexane-ethyl acetate (6:4). The less polar 14 was crystallized (ethanol) giving 1.20 g (20%) of 14; mp 191–193°; [α]_D²⁰ –22.7° (*c* 1, CHCl₃); nmr (CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (d, 1, *J* = 3 Hz, H-1'), 2.12 (s, 3, 6-CH₃), 1.89 (s, 3, 5-CH₃).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₂H₂₈N₂O₈S (600.56): C, 63.99; H, 4.70; N, 4.66; S, 5.30. Found: C, 63.74; H, 5.10; N, 4.88; S, 5.32.

The more polar 13 crystallized (ethanol-ethyl acetate) giving 2.30 g (38.4%) of 13; mp 135–137°; [α]_D²⁰ –20.5° (*c* 1, CHCl₃); uv²⁰ (CH₃OH) λ _{max} 276 nm (10,600), 280 (sh, 10,300); nmr (CDCl₃) δ 6.42 (d, 1, *J* = 2.5 Hz, H-1'), 2.23 (s, 3, 6-CH₃), 1.99 (s, 3, 5-CH₃).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₂H₂₈N₂O₈S (600.56): C, 63.99; H, 4.70; N, 4.66; S, 5.30. Found: C, 64.03; H, 5.21; N, 4.99; S, 5.55.

The analogous reaction with SnCl₄ in 1,2-dichloroethane (5 hr at 22°) gave 7.7% 14, whereas with AlCl₃ in CH₃CN (2 hr, 20°) 88% 14 and ~1% 13 were obtained.

Treatment of the S-Ribosides with H₂S-Pyridine. A slow stream of H₂S gas was bubbled through 10 (2.0 g, 3.41 mmol) in dry pyridine (30 ml) and stirred for 2 hr at 22°. After evaporation *in vacuo* the residue was extracted with ethyl acetate and the insoluble material crystallized (ethanol) to give 6-methyl-2-thiouracil (440 mg, 90.8%) with mp 300°, which was identical with an authentic sample.¹⁹

The analogous treatment of 13 (600 mg, 1 mmol) in dry pyridine (30 ml) with H₂S for 3 hr at 40° gave after evaporation and pouring the ethanolic solution into pentane a precipitate, which afforded after crystallization (ethanol) and sublimation [130° (0.001 mm)] 5,6-dimethyl-2-thiouracil (115 mg, 73.7%), mp 225°, which was identical with an authentic sample.¹⁹

Rearrangement of 2-[(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)thio]-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrimidin-4-one (10) with HgBr₂. 10 (400 mg, 0.684 mmol) was heated for 2 hr at 100° under argon in benzene-toluene (50 ml, 1:2) with HgBr₂ (1.8 g, 4.98

mmol). After filtering and washing with benzene, the filtrate was extracted with KI solution (30%), dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Tlc (system A) showed that 10 had disappeared and that, beside a sugar derivative, only 11 could be detected in ~10% yield.

3-(2,3,4,6-Tetra-*O*-acetyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl)-6-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidine-2,4-dione (16). To 15 (13.2 g, 33.9 mmol) in CH₃CN (100 ml) and 1 (200 ml, 40 mmol) in CH₃CN, SnCl₄ (5.3 ml, 45.3 mmol) in CH₃CN (200 ml) was added. After 3 hr at 22° and work-up¹ the crude nucleoside (8.5 g) was crystallized (ethanol) with charcoal to give 6.54 g (42.3%) of 16; mp 153–154°; [α]_D²³ –10.1° (*c* 0.595, CHCl₃); nmr (CDCl₃) δ 6.30 (d, 1, *J* = 9 Hz, H-1').

Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₂₄N₂O₁₁ (456.42): C, 49.98; H, 5.30; N, 6.14. Found: C, 49.72; H, 5.44; N, 6.11.

1-(2,3,4,6-Tetra-*O*-acetyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl)-5,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidine-2,4-dione (19) and 3-(2,3,4,6-Tetra-*O*-acetyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl)-5,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidine-2,4-dione (18). To 15 (3.89 g, 10 mmol) and 6 (12 mmol) in dry CH₃CN (120 ml), SnCl₄ (2 ml, 17.1 mmol) in CH₃CN (100 ml) was added at 15°. After 15 hr at 22° and work-up¹ the residue (3.84 g) was dissolved in ethyl acetate and poured into *n*-hexane (1.2 l.). The precipitate was collected and the procedure was repeated twice to give 2.83 g of product, which was chromatographed in ethyl acetate on silica gel (150 g). The first eluate fractions afforded 19 which crystallized (ethanol) to give 1.053 g (22.4%); mp 202–204°; [α]_D²³ 20.1° (*c* 1.02, CHCl₃); nmr (CDCl₃) δ 6.35 (d, 1, *J* = 9 Hz, H-1'), 2.48 (s, 3, 6-CH₃), 2.06 (s, 3, 5-CH₃).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₆N₂O₁₁ (470.60): C, 51.05; H, 5.57; N, 5.99. Found: C, 51.06; H, 5.57; N, 6.17.

Following 19 impure 18 (56.4 mg, 1.2%) was eluted: uv (CH₃OH + H₂O) λ _{max} (pH 1) 270 nm, λ _{min} (pH 1) 242 nm, λ _{max} (pH 13) 299 nm, λ _{min} (pH 13) 253 nm; nmr (CDCl₃) δ 6.18 (d, 1, *J* = 7 Hz, H-1').

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Registry No.—1, 31111-31-6; 2, 6974-32-9; 3, 23316-76-9; 4, 24744-17-0; 5, 25691-87-6; 6, 31111-32-7; 7, 25691-82-1; 8, 52523-05-4; 9, 32865-97-7; 10, 52523-06-5; 11, 29881-44-5; 12, 52523-07-6; 13, 52523-08-7; 14, 52523-09-8; 15, 604-69-3; 16, 52554-31-1; 18, 52523-10-1; 19, 52523-11-2.

References and Notes

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