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Kinetics and Mechanism for Acid-Catalyzed Hydrolysis of Regioisomeric 2'-Deoxyribonucleosides of 8-Azaadenine and Substituted Benzotriazoles

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KINETICS AND MECHANISM FOR ACID-CATALYZED HYDROLYSIS OF REGIOISOMERIC 2'-DEOXYRIBONUCLEOSIDES OF 8-AZAADENINE AND SUBSTITUTED BENZOTRIAZOLES

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Abstract: Kinetics for the acid-catalyzed hydrolysis of regioisomeric 2'-deoxyribonucleosides of 8-azaadenine and various substituted benzotriazoles have been studied.

Regioisomeric 2'-deoxyribonucleosides of benzotriazole $(\underline{1}-\underline{3})$ and 8-azaadenine $(\underline{4}-\underline{6})$ constitute two sets of isosteric analogs of purine nucleosides, both of which exhibit significant biological activity. These nucleoside analogs all undergo acid-catalyzed hydrolysis to free base and sugar at a rate comparable to that of purine 2'-deoxyribosides.

The following observations suggest that $\underline{1}-\underline{3}$ are hydrolyzed \underline{via} rate-limiting formation of a cyclic glycosyl oxocarbenium ion, \underline{i} . \underline{e} . analogously to purine nucleosides. (i) The hydrolysis rate depends on acidity in a manner con-

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sistent with rate-limiting departure of the mono- and/or diprotonated base moiety. (ii) Polar substituents on the base moiety exert opposite effects on protonation and heterolysis steps. (iii) The starting materials do not undergo anomerization concurrent with hydrolysis.

N2-Glycosylated benzotriazoles ($\underline{2}$) are hydrolyzed considerably faster than their N1 counterparts ($\underline{1}$). Their rate profiles remain linear on passing the pK_a value of substrate monocation, indicating that hydrolysis via the dicationic species predominates at pH < pK_a. By contrast, this reaction appears to be impeded with N1 nucleosides, since the hydrolysis rates of these compounds (except that of $\underline{1b}$) become pH-independent at pH < pK_a.

N3-Glycosylated benzotriazoles ($\underline{3}$) are less stable than the N1 nucleosides, as well. For example, the 4-methyl derivative of $\underline{3}$ decomposes 11 times as fast as that of $\underline{1}$. This relatively modest rate-enhancement argues against steric acceleration as the main reason for the well known hydrolytic instability of N3-alkylated purine nucleosides.

The pH-rate profile obtained with 8-aza-2'-deoxyadenosine (4) passes through an inflection point at pH < pK_a. The reaction \underline{via} substrate monocation is approximately as rapid as that of 2'-deoxyadenosine, whereas the reaction \underline{via} dicationic species is more than one order of magnitude slower than with the adenine derivative. The N8-glycosylated 8-azaadenine (5) is hydrolyzed 8 times and the corresponding N7-glycosylated derivative (6) 75 times as fast as 4 under conditions where hydrolysis \underline{via} the substrate monocation prevails.