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### 2-Chloro-2'-deoxyadenosine: Synthesis and Antileukemic Activity of 8-Substituted Derivatives

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## 2-CHLORO-2'-DEOXYADENOSINE: SYNTHESIS AND ANTILEUKEMIC ACTIVITY OF 8-SUBSTITUTED DERIVATIVES

Zygmunt Kazimierczuk<sup>b</sup>, Juhani A. Vilpo<sup>c</sup>, and Frank Seela<sup>a\*</sup>

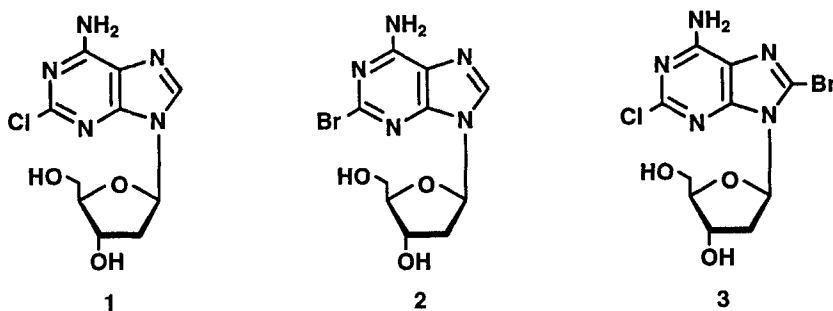
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**ABSTRACT:** A series of 8-substituted 2-chloro-2'-deoxyadenosine (2-CdA, **1**) derivatives were prepared as potential anticancer agents. They were synthesized stereoselectively by the anion glycosylation of 2,6,8-trichloropurine or obtained by nucleophilic displacement reactions on 8-bromo-2-chloro-2'-deoxyadenosine (**3**). Within the 8-substituted CdA derivatives the 8-thioxo compound **11** was cytotoxic to several leukemia cell lines.

### INTRODUCTION

The 2'-deoxyadenosine analogue 2-chloro-2'-deoxyadenosine (**1**) (2-CdA, Cladribine, Leustatin) has found clinical application for the treatment of lymphoid and immunoaggressive diseases<sup>1,2</sup>. Recently, we have reported on the synthesis and antileukemic activity of base-modified derivatives of 2-chloro-2'-deoxyadenosine<sup>3</sup>. It was observed that nucleosides having the same substituent pattern as **1** but containing the 1-deaza-, 3-deaza-, 7-deaza- or 8-aza-7-deazapurine moiety were inactive against a number of leukemic cell lines. The replacement of the 6-amino group of **1** by a secondary amino function also decreased cytotoxic activity<sup>3</sup>. The sugar modified 2-chloroadenine 2'-deoxy-4'-thioribofuranoside<sup>4</sup> as well as the 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoroarabinofuranoside<sup>5,6</sup> show also cytotoxicity to several human tumor cells.

Previously, we have observed that the 8-bromo derivative **3** shows cytotoxicity<sup>3</sup> comparable to that of 2-bromo-2'-deoxyadenosine (**2**)<sup>7</sup> in leukemia cell lines. In the following we report on the synthesis and properties of other 2-chloro-2'-deoxyadenosine derivatives carrying various substituents at position 8.



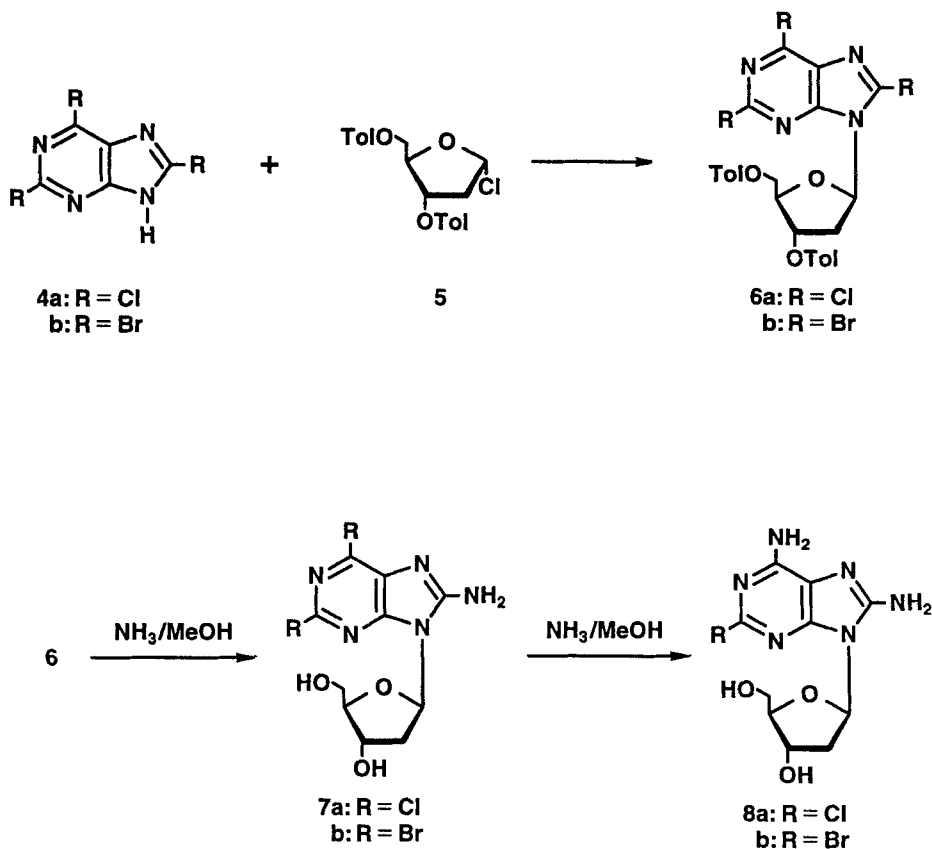
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Chemistry.** - Glycosylation of the anions of 2,6,8-trichloropurine (**4a**) or 2,6,8-tribromopurine (**4b**) with the halogenose **5** results in the protected N<sup>9</sup>-nucleosides **6a** (56%) and **6b** (59%), respectively. As the reaction proceeds stereoselectively no  $\alpha$ -D anomers are formed. Also N<sup>7</sup>-glycosylation products were not detected. The latter may result from the steric or electronic influence of the bulky 8-substituent. In addition, it cannot be excluded that the N<sup>7</sup>-glycosides are too labile at their N-glycosylic bonds and are hydrolysed during the work-up procedure. Compounds **6a** and **6b** were deblocked under subsequent displacement of halo substituents.

Reaction of **6a** and **6b** with methanolic ammonia at room temperature gave 8-amino-2,6-dichloropurine or 8-amino-2,6-dibromopurine deoxyribonucleosides **7a** and **7b**, respectively. However, at elevated temperature the second halogen displacement takes place at position 6 yielding the 6,8-diamino-2-halopurine deoxynucleosides **8a** and **8b**. Also in the case of the N<sup>9</sup>-tetrahydropyran-5-yl derivatives the first displacement occurs at C-8 followed by the reaction at C-6<sup>8</sup>. The structure of the reaction was confirmed by the catalytic hydrogenation of **8a** to give 8-amino-2'-deoxyadenosine. This was hydrolyzed in 1 M HCl at elevated temperature to give 6,8-diaminoadenine which was compared with an authentic sample<sup>9</sup>.

Triaminonucleosides are not formed under these conditions. The halogen displacement on this 9-substituted 2,6,8-halogenopurines is analogous to the reaction on 7-substituted compounds. Thus halogen displacement on 7-methyl-2,6,8-trichloropurine with ammonia furnishes 2-chloro-6,8-diamino-7-methylpurine<sup>10</sup>.

The order of displacement reactions is altered in the case of the 2,6,8-trihalogenopurine base. Here, the 6-substituent is displaced at first followed by that of position 8 and then by the 2-substituent<sup>11-13</sup>. In some cases small amounts of 6-substituted derivatives were found together with the compound already displaced at position 8.



The 8-substituted derivatives **10-12** were obtained by nucleophilic displacement performed on compound **3**. Treatment with sodium methoxide or ethoxide provides compounds **10a** and **10b**, respectively. However, when using the bulky potassium tert-butoxide as a base the 8,5'-cyclo derivative **9** is formed. A similar observation was made on 7-deazapurine nucleosides<sup>14</sup>.

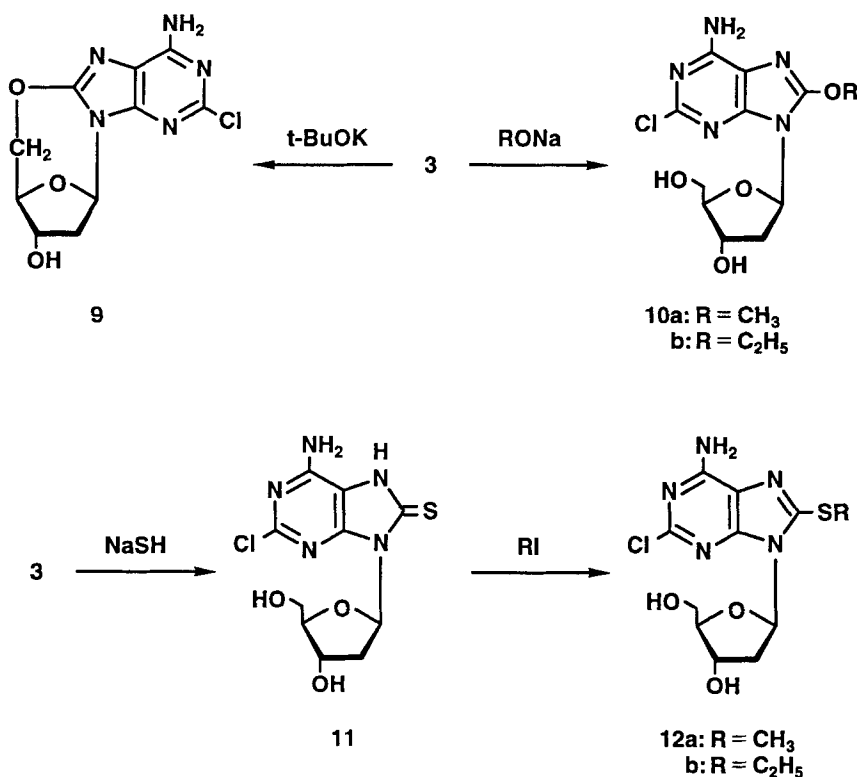
The introduction of sulphur into position 8 of the purine ring was realized by reaction of **3** with sodium hydrogen sulphide providing compound **11**. The latter reagent has been shown to be more useful than thiourea. According to the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum the structure of **11** is represented by the thiooxo compound and not by the tautomeric thiol. The thioalkyl derivatives **12a** and **12b** were obtained by reaction of **11** with methyl or ethyl iodide in slightly alkaline medium.

The new derivatives of compound **1** were characterized in detail. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR chemical shifts are summarized in Table 1. According to the substituent pattern of the

TABLE 1.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR Chemical Shifts of Purine 2'-Deoxyribonucleosides in DMSO- $\text{d}_6$  at 23°C<sup>a</sup>.

Comp.	C-2 <sup>b</sup>	C-4	C-5	C-6 <sup>b</sup>	C-8	CH <sub>3</sub> /CH <sub>2</sub>
<b>1</b>	153.0	150.0	118.1	156.8	139.8	-
<b>2<sup>15</sup></b>	144.1	149.9	118.5	156.6	139.6	-
<b>7a</b>	145.6	156.2 <sup>b</sup>	131.1 <sup>b</sup>	139.8	154.2 <sup>b</sup>	-
<b>7b</b>	135.4	155.8 <sup>b</sup>	131.3 <sup>b</sup>	134.2	152.8 <sup>b</sup>	-
<b>8a</b>	148.3	151.7 <sup>b</sup>	115.9 <sup>b</sup>	153.3	150.0 <sup>b</sup>	-
<b>8b</b>	139.1	151.5 <sup>b</sup>	116.1	153.1	149.9 <sup>b</sup>	-
<b>9</b>	151.8	148.0 <sup>b</sup>	112.9	155.6	153.5	-
<b>10a</b>	149.1	148.1	112.1	153.3	152.8	57.3
<b>10b</b>	150.5	149.5	113.6	154.7	153.6	14.3/66.3
<b>11</b>	148.2	149.3 <sup>b</sup>	106.8	152.1	167.5	-
<b>12a</b>	151.6	151.9	118.5	155.0	149.8	14.6
<b>12b</b>	151.6	151.7	118.6	155.2	148.7	14.9/26.7
	C-1'	C-2'	C-3'	C-4'	C-5'	
<b>1</b>	83.5	DMSO	70.7	87.9	61.6	
<b>2<sup>15</sup></b>	83.5	39.3	70.7	87.7	61.6	
<b>7a</b>	83.6	37.6	71.1	87.8	61.4	
<b>7b</b>	83.5	37.6	71.2	87.9	61.4	
<b>8a</b>	83.0	37.6	71.3	87.6	61.6	
<b>8b</b>	83.0	37.5	71.3	87.6	61.5	
<b>9</b>	82.3	43.4	70.7	87.5	75.0	
<b>1a</b>	82.2	36.5	70.9	87.7	62.0	
<b>10b</b>	82.1	36.5	70.9	87.6	62.0	
<b>11</b>	84.8	36.6	71.3	88.1	62.2	
<b>12a</b>	84.4	37.1	71.1	88.2	62.1	
<b>12b</b>	84.5	37.1	71.1	88.2	62.1	

<sup>a</sup>Assignment from gated-decoupled spectra. <sup>b</sup>Tentative.



8-substituted derivatives the number of  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  couplings is limited. This results in tentative assignments of various  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR signals.

**Biological Evaluation.** - Compounds **7a** - **12b** were tested against several leukemia cell lines. From the series of 8-modified CdA-derivatives only a few show cytotoxicity. Table 2 shows data of the cytotoxic compounds **10a** and **11**. The ID<sub>50</sub>-value was exceeded with the high test dose (10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) of compound **10a** only with the most sensitive cell line or U-937. Similarly, this dose was close to the ID<sub>50</sub> of the IM-9 and Raji lines, when compound **11** was tested. The Molt-3 and the U-937 lines were more sensitive, but the ID<sub>50</sub> was not obtained with PHA-stimulated lymphocytes (Table 2). The toxicity of compounds **10a** and **11** is significantly weaker than that of 8-bromo CdA, CdA or 2-bromo-2'-deoxyadenosine. The higher toxicity of CdA vs 2-bromo-2'-deoxyadenosine is in contrast to earlier reports. Quite similar toxicities against human cell lines have been recorded with the 2-halo-2'-deoxyadenosines, if tested in the same experiment<sup>16</sup>.

TABLE 2. Toxicity Data of 2-Chloro-2'-deoxyadenosine Derivatives (10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) against Malignant and Normal Hematopoietic Cells in vitro.

Compound	$^{14}\text{C}$ -leucine incorporation (% of control) <sup>a</sup>				
	IM-9 <sup>b</sup>	Raji	MOLT-3	U-937	PHA-Ly
<b>10a</b>	104	79	72	28	110
<b>11</b>	46	57	4.5	4.5	72

<sup>a</sup>Determined as described. Mean value of three determinations. <sup>b</sup>Abbreviations are as follows: IM-9, myeloma cell line; Raji, Burkitt's lymphoma (B-cell); MOLT-3, acute T cell leukemia; U-937, histiocytic lymphoma; PHA-Ly phytohemagglutinin-stimulated peripheral blood lymphocytes.

It has been observed that 8-substituted adenine 2',3'-dideoxynucleosides are remarkably stable with respect to hydrolytic cleavage<sup>17</sup>. All of the 8-substituted compounds described in the manuscript are resistant towards cleavage by mammalian or *E. coli* purine nucleoside phosphorylase<sup>18</sup> which may be an advantage from the viewpoint of pharmacological action.

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**General.** Elemental analyses were performed by Mikroanalytisches Labor Beller (Göttingen, Germany). NMR-Spectra were measured on a AC 250 spectrometer (Bruker, Germany). Chemical shifts are in ppm relative to TMS as internal standard. UV-spectra were recorded on a U3200 spectrometer (Hitachi, Japan). Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> plates (Merck, Germany) and preparative TLC (layer: 2 mm). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 (Merck, Germany).

**Cytotoxicity tests:** Toxicity of the compounds was determined by their effects on protein synthesis ([ $^{14}\text{C}$ ]-L-leucine incorporation). The cell lines were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection. Test compounds were added to triplicate cultures in 96-well microplates containing  $2 \times 10^4$  cells per a 200  $\mu\text{l}$  well (or  $2.5 \times$

$10^5$  peripheral blood lymphocytes, stimulated with phytohemagglutinin. Cells were cultured in RPMI 1640, medium containing fetal calf serum (10%), in humidified atmosphere containing 5%  $\text{CO}_2$  at  $37^\circ\text{C}$ . [ $^{14}\text{C}$ ] L-leucine (specific activity 1.3 mCi/mmol and 0.5  $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ ) was added to the culture for the final 24 h of the 4-day culture period. After incubation the proteins were precipitated with 0.2 N  $\text{HClO}_4$  and collected on glass fibre filters using a multiple cell harvester (Wallac, Finland). The radioactivity incorporated into proteins was measured in a scintillation counter (LKB-Wallac; 1410, Finland). The incorporation of [ $^{14}\text{C}$ ] leucine per cell remain constant during the final 24h of culture. A good correlation between cell number and [ $^{14}\text{C}$ ] leucine incorporation has been demonstrated<sup>19,20</sup>.

**9-[2-Deoxy-(3,5-di-O-p-toluoyl)- $\beta$ -D-erythro-pentofuranosyl]-2,6,8-trichloropurine (6a).**

A solution of compound **4a**<sup>21</sup> (1.11 g, 5.0 mmol) in MeCN (50 ml) was treated with NaH (280 mg, 5.8 mmol, 50% in oil) at  $50^\circ\text{C}$  under stirring. The reaction was brought to room temperature and the stirring was continued for 15 min. The halogenose **5**<sup>22</sup> (1.95 g, 5.0 mmol) was added at room temperature. After 20 min the reaction mixture was filtered through Celite, the solvent was evaporated to give an oil and chromatographed on a silica gel 60 column (3 x 25 cm) with toluene-acetone (9:1) as eluent. The nucleoside-containing fractions were pooled and evaporated. The residue was dissolved in cold MeOH and upon reduction of the volume a colourless powder (1.61 g, 56%) was obtained. M.p.  $147\text{--}149^\circ\text{C}$ . TLC (silica gel, toluene-acetone 9:1):  $R_f$  0.56.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ): 2.33 and 2.38 (2s, 2  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.80 and 3.50 (2m,  $\text{H}_{a,b}\text{-}2'$ ), 4.60 (m, 4'-H and 5'-H), 5.97 (q, 3'-H), 6.49 (t,  $J = 5.3\text{ Hz}$ , 1'-H), 7.0 - 8.0 (arom. H). Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_4\text{O}_5\text{Cl}_3$  (575.8): C 54.23, H 3.68, N 9.73. Found: C 54.20, H 3.78, N 9.60.

**9-[2-Deoxy-(3,5-di-O-p-toluoyl)- $\beta$ -D-erythro-pentofuranosyl]-2,6,8-tribromopurine (6b).**

Compound **6b** was prepared from **4b**<sup>23</sup> (1.78 g, 5.0 mmol) as described for **6a**. Crystallization from MeOH gave a white powder (2.1 g, 59%). M.p.  $131^\circ\text{C}$ . TLC (silica gel, toluene-acetone 9:1):  $R_f$  0.60.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ): 2.34 and 2.38 (2s, 2  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.80 and 2.55 (2m,  $\text{H}_{a,b}\text{-}2'$ ), 4.60 (2m, H-4' and H-5'), 5.95 (q, H-3'); 6.55 (pt,  $J = 5.4\text{ Hz}$ , 1'-H), 7.0 - 8.0 (arom. H). Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{21}\text{Br}_3\text{N}_4\text{O}_5$  (709.2): C 44.03, H 2.98, N 7.90. Found: C 44.18, H 3.07, N 7.77.

**8-Amino-9-(2-deoxy- $\beta$ -D-erythro-pentofuranosyl)-2,6-dichloropurine (7a).**

A suspension of **6a** (700 mg, 1.2 mmol) in methanolic ammonia (50 ml, saturated at



0°C) was stirred for 3 days at room temperature. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness and the residue chromatographed on a silica gel 60 column (3 x 15 cm) with chloroform (200 ml) and chloroform-methanol (9:1, 500 ml). The nucleoside containing fractions were pooled, evaporated, and the residue crystallized from EtOH-EtOAc (1:2) to yield a white powder (240 mg, 61%). M.p. 180°C (decomp.). TLC (silica gel, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH, 9:1): R<sub>f</sub> 0.40. UV (H<sub>2</sub>O): 221 (14900), 265 (7200), 300 (12000). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 2.10 and 2.65 (2m, H<sub>a,b</sub>-2'), 3.65 (m, H-5'), 3.90 (q, H-4'), 4.35 (bs, H-3'), 5.36 (d, OH-3'), 5.52 (t, OH-5'), 6.33 (pt, J = 6.1 Hz, H-1'), 7.79 (s, NH<sub>2</sub>). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (320.1): C 37.52, H 3.46, N 21.88. Found: C 37.68, H 3.55, N 21.82.

**8-Amino-9-(2-deoxy-β-D-erythro-pentofuranosyl)-2,6-dibromopurine (7b).**

Compound **6b** (800 mg, 1.2 mmol) was treated as described for **7a**. Crystallization from EtOH/EtOAc (1:2) afforded colourless crystals (280 mg, 62%) with m.p. 190°C (decomp.). TLC (silica gel, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH 9:1): R<sub>f</sub> 0.45. UV (H<sub>2</sub>O): 222 (15400), 267 (7400), 302 (11500). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 2.10 and 2.63 (2m, H<sub>a,b</sub>-2'), 3.65 (m, H-5'), 3.91 (bs, H-4'), 4.41 (bs, H-3'), 5.38 and 5.52 (2bs, OH-3' and OH-5'), 6.32 (pt, J = 7.1 Hz, H-1'), 7.80 (s, NH<sub>2</sub>). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>11</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (409.04): C 29.36, H 2.71, N 17.12. Found: C 29.49, H 2.77, N 17.22.

**2-Chloro-9-(2-deoxy-β-D-erythro-pentofuranosyl)-6,8-diaminopurine (8a).**

The solution of **6a** (700 mg, 1.1 mmol) in methanolic ammonia (60 ml, saturated at 0°C) was heated in a steel vessel for 12 h at 100°C. The light yellow solution was evaporated, the residue applied on 4 preparative silica gel plates (20 x 20 cm, layer 2 mm) and developed in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH 9:1. From the main zone compound **8a** was isolated and colourless needles (215 mg, 59%) were obtained from a small volume of EtOH. M.p. 152-155°C. TLC (silica gel, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH 9:1): R<sub>f</sub> 0.18. UV(H<sub>2</sub>O): 280 (14600). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 2.05 and 2.65 (2m, H<sub>a,b</sub>-2'), 3.60 (bs, H-5'), 3.87 (bs, H-4'), 4.50 (d, H-3'), 5.30 and 5.40 (2bs, OH-3' and OH-5'), 6.24 (pt, J = 6.05 Hz, H-1'), 6.68 and 6.93 (2s, NH<sub>2</sub>-6 and NH<sub>2</sub>-8). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClN<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (300.7): C 39.94, H 4.36, N 27.95. Found: C 40.05, H 4.42, N 27.76.

**2-Bromo-9-(2-deoxy-β-D-erythro-pentofuranosyl)-6,8-diaminopurine (8b).**

A suspension of **6b** (800 mg, 1.2 mmol) in methanolic ammonia (60 ml) was heated in a steel vessel at 80°C overnight. Work-up was as described for **8a**. Colourless

powder (260 mg, 67%) from EtOH-EtOAc (1:1). M.p. 121-123°C. TLC (silica gel, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH 9:1): R<sub>f</sub> 0.18. UV(H<sub>2</sub>O): 281 (14500). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 1.80 and 2.40 (2m, H<sub>a,b</sub>-2'), 3.40 (bs, H-5'), 3.63 (bs, H-4'), 4.16 (bs, H-3'), 5.06 and 5.14 (2bs, OH-3' and OH-5'), 5.99 (pt, J = 6.0 Hz, H-1'), 6.46 and 6.69 (2s, NH<sub>2</sub>-6 and NH<sub>2</sub>-8). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrN<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (345.2): C 34.80, H 3.80, N 24.35. Found: C 34.65, H 3.88, N 24.52.

**6-Amino-2-chloro-9-(2-deoxy-β-D-erythro-pentofuranosyl)-8-methoxy-9H-purine (10a).**

A suspension of compound **3** (365 mg, 1.0 mmol) in MeOH (30 ml) was treated with NaOMe (1N in MeOH, 3 ml, 3.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux for 2h. Then it was cooled and neutralized with AcOH (0.12 ml). Evaporation to dryness and crystallization from MeOH-water (1:1) gives colourless needles (227 mg, 72%). M.p. 210-212°C. TLC (silica gel, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH, 9:1): R<sub>f</sub> 0.57. UV (water): 268 (15400). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 2.12 and 2.91 (2m, H<sub>a,b</sub>-2'), 3.44 and 3.56 (2m, H-5'), 3.80 (q, H-4'), 4.05 (s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.47 (bs, H-3'), 4.79 (t, OH-5'), 5.24 (d, OH-3') 6.14 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, H-1'), 7.30 (s, NH<sub>2</sub>). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (315.7): C 41.84, H 4.47, N 22.18. Found: C 41.96, H 4.44, N 22.31.

**6-Amino-2-chloro-9-(2-deoxy-β-D-erythro-pentofuranosyl)-8-ethoxy-9H-purine (10b).**

Compound **10b** was prepared as described for **10a**. Colourless needles (225 mg, 68%) from EtOH-water (1:1). M.p. 226-228°C. TLC (silica gel, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH 9:1): R<sub>f</sub> 0.60. UV (water) 268 (15500). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 1.41 and 4.42 (t and q, OC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 2.12 and 2.92 (2m, H<sub>a,b</sub>-2'), 3.45 and 3.57 (2m, H-5'), 3.77 (bs, H-4'), 4.22 (bs, H-3'), 4.79 (t, OH-5'), 5.25 (d, OH-3'), 6.15 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, H-1'), 7.37 (s, NH<sub>2</sub>). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ClN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (329.7): C 43.71, H 4.89, N 21.24. Found: C 43.82, H 4.82, N 21.33.

**6-Amino-2-chloro-8,5'-O-cyclo-9-β-D-(2-deoxy-erythro-pentofuranosyl)-9H-purine (9).**

The suspension of **3**<sup>3</sup> (365 mg, 1.0 mmol) in tert-BuOH (35 ml) was treated with tert-BuOK (235 mg, 3.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 70°C for 24 h. Then it was evaporated to dryness and chromatographed on a silica gel 60 column (3 x 15 cm) with chloroform (200 ml) and chloroform-methanol (9:1, 500 ml). The nucleoside containing fractions were evaporated to dryness and crystallized from

water to give colourless needles (141 mg, 50%). M.p. 172-175°C. TLC (silica gel, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH 9:1): R<sub>f</sub> 0.52. UV (water) 266 (12900). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 2.42 (d, H<sub>a,b</sub>-2'), 4.07 and 4.60 (2m, H-5'), 4.47 (bs, H-3'), 5.35 (s, OH-3'), 6.40 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, H-1'), 7.53 (s, NH<sub>2</sub>). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>ClN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (283.7): C 42.34, H 3.55, N 24.69. Found: C 42.19, H 3.50, N 24.52.

**6-Amino-2-chloro-9-(2-deoxy-β-D-erythro-pentofuranosyl)-8-thioxo-9H-purine (11).**

The mixture of **3** (440 mg, 1.25 mmol) and NaSH x H<sub>2</sub>O (400 mg) in ethanol (96%, 40 ml) was stirred under reflux for 2 h. The pale yellow solution was adsorbed on a silica gel and placed on the top of a silica gel 60 column. The elution was performed with chloroform (100 ml) and chloroform-methanol (9:1, 600 ml). The nucleoside containing fractions were evaporated to dryness and the residue crystallized from ethanol-water (4:1) to yield white powder (245 mg, 62%). M.p. higher than 200°C (decomp.). TLC (silica gel, CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH 9:1): R<sub>f</sub> 0.20. UV (water): 233 (18300), 310 (28000). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 2.10 (2m, H<sub>ab</sub>-2'), 3.50 and 3.65 (2m, H-5'), 3.81 (bs, H-4'), 4.43 (bs, H-3'), 4.78 (t, OH-5'), 5.26 (OH-3'), 6.67 (pt, J = 7.2 Hz, H-1'), 7.31 (bs, NH<sub>2</sub>), 12.56 (bs, N-H). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>ClN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S (317.8): C 37.80, H 3.81, N 22.04. Found: C 37.66, H 3.73, N 21.85.

**6-Amino-2-chloro-9-(2-deoxy-β-D-erythro-pentofuranosyl)-8-methylthio-9H-purine (12a).**

To a solution of **11** (220 mg, 0.7 mmol) in 0.2 M K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (10 ml) methyl iodide (0.1 ml, 230 mg, 1.6 mmol) was added under stirring. The stirring was continued for 8h and the solution was stored at 4°C overnight. The white precipitate was filtered and crystallized from MeOH-water (1:1) to give colourless needles (155 mg, 67%). M.p. higher than 250°C (decomp.). TLC (silica gel, CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH 9:1): R<sub>f</sub> 0.36. UV (water): 284 (21800). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 2.12 and 2.95 (2m, H<sub>a,b</sub>-2'), 2.69 (s, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.48 and 3.62 (2m, H-5'), 3.82 (bs, H-4'), 4.40 (bs, H-3'), 4.87 (t, OH-5'), 5.32 (d, OH-3'), 6.14 (pt, J = 7.0 Hz, H-1'), 7.66 (s, NH<sub>2</sub>). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S (331.8): C 39.82, H 4.25, N 21.11. Found: C 39.68, H 4.17, N 20.94.

**2-Amino-2-chloro-9-(2-deoxy-β-D-erythro-pentofuranosyl)-8-ethylthio-9H-purine (12b).**

Compound **12b** was prepared from **11** (220 mg, 0.7 mmol) as described for **12a** but using ethyl iodide (0.1 ml, 195 mg, 1.25 mmol). Colourless needles (175 mg, 72%).

M.p. 169-171°C. TLC (silica gel, CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH 9:1): R<sub>f</sub> 0.40. UV (water): 285 (21300). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 1.34 and 3.26 (t and q, SC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 2.12 and 3.00 (2m, H<sub>a,b</sub>-2'), 3.48 and 3.62 (2m, H-5'), 3.83 (bs, H-4'), 3.41 (bs, H-3'), 4.88 (t, OH-5'), 5.32 (d, OH-3'), 6.17 (pt, J = 7.0 Hz, H-1'), 7.69 (s, NH<sub>2</sub>). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ClN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S (345.8): C 41.68, H 4.66, N 20.25. Found: C 41.51, H 4.58, N 20.12.

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