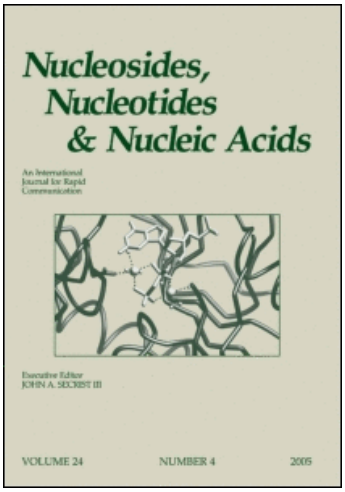

Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713597286

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To cite this Article Efimtseva, Ekaterina V. , Victorova, Lubov S. , Rodionov, Andrei A. , Ermolinsky, Boris S. , Fomitcheva, Marina V. , Tunitskaya, Vera L. , Mikhailov, Sergey N. , Oivanen, Mikko , Van Aerschot, Arthur and Herdewijn, Piet(1998) 'Disaccharide Nucleosides And Their Enzymatic And Chemical Incorporation Into Oligonucleotides', Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids, 17: 9, 1681 — 1684

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/07328319808004701

URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07328319808004701

NUCLEOSIDES & NUCLEOTIDES, 17(9-11), 1681-1684 (1998)

DISACCHARIDE NUCLEOSIDES AND THEIR ENZYMATIC AND CHEMICAL INCORPORATION INTO OLIGONUCLEOTIDES

Ekaterina V.Efimtseva[1]*, Lubov S.Victorova[1], Andrei A.Rodionov[1], Boris S. Ermolinsky[1], Marina V.Fomitcheva[1], Vera L.Tunitskaya[1], Sergey N.Mikhailov[1], Mikko Oivanen[2], Arthur Van Aerschot[3], Piet Herdewijn[3]

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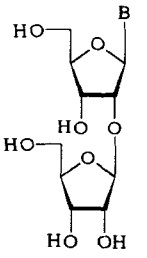
Abstract. A high yield synthesis of different *O*-ribofuranosylnucleosides has been achieved. Kinetics of the acid-catalysed hydrolysis of disaccharide nucleosides has been studied. Chemical and enzymatic incorporation of 2'-*O*-ribofuranosyl-nucleoside residue into oligonucleotides was investigated.

Purine nucleosides with additional D-ribofuranosyl residue at 2'-hydroxyl function of the natural nucleoside have been isolated from yeast methionine tRNA[1]. Several disaccharide nucleosides have shown biological activities, and some antibiotics have this type of structure[2]. Recently a general method has been developed[3-7] for the preparation of 2'/3'-*O*-ribofuranosylnucleosides **1a-e** and **2b,c**. Condensation of partially protected ribo- or deoxynucleosides with a slight excess of 1-*O*-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranose was accomplished in the presence of tin tetrachloride (dichloroethane, 0°C, under nitrogen). The glycosylation reactions stereospecifically yielded the β-anomers. The yields for the analogues **1** and **2** were in the range from 70% to 80%[4-7], which was higher than previously reported for similar condensation reactions between blocked nucleosides and monosaccharides[2]. The structure of these compounds was proven by NMR,

mass spectrometry and X-ray analysis[4,5,7]. The similar conformation of uridine derivative **1a** was observed in crystal and in solution[7]. In crystal the additional ribose residue was located nearby to the uracil moiety. NOE interactions were observed between base protons and H-5'a and H-5'b of the extra ribose residue.



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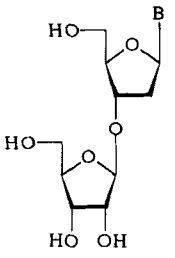
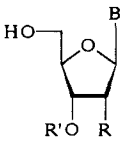
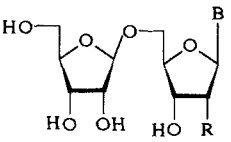


2

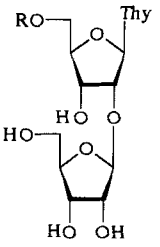
a. B=Ura **b.** B=Thy **c.** B=Cyt **d.** B=Ade **e.** B=Gua



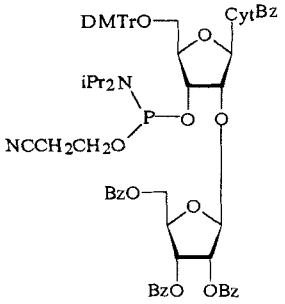
3a R=OBz, R'=Bz
3b R=OAc, R'=Ac
4b,c R=H, R'=SiPh2t-Bu
a. B=Ura **b.** B=CytBz **c.** B=Thy



5 R=OH
6 R=H
a. B=Ura **b.** B=Cyt **c.** B=Thy



7 R=P3H9O4



8

To get further insight into the scope and limitations of this reaction we examined ribosylation of N,2',3'-*O*-protected ribonucleosides **3a,b** and N,3'-*O*-protected 2'-deoxynucleosides **4b,c** under the previously developed conditions[4-7]. After deprotection the desired 5'-*O*-β-D-ribofuranosylnucleosides **5a,b** and **6b,c** were obtained in high overall yields[8]. It was shown also that triflate catalyst may substitute successfully tin tetrachloride in this reaction.

First-order rate constants for the acid-catalysed hydrolysis of different ribofuranosylnucleosides have been determined[8]. The *O*-glycosidic bond is susceptible to acid-catalysed hydrolysis. The ribofuranosyl moiety is cleaved nearly as fast from the primary 5'-*O* of uridine **5a** or thymidine **6c**, and from the secondary 3'-*O* of thymidine **2b**. At 2'-hydroxyl the ribofuranosyl substitution in compound

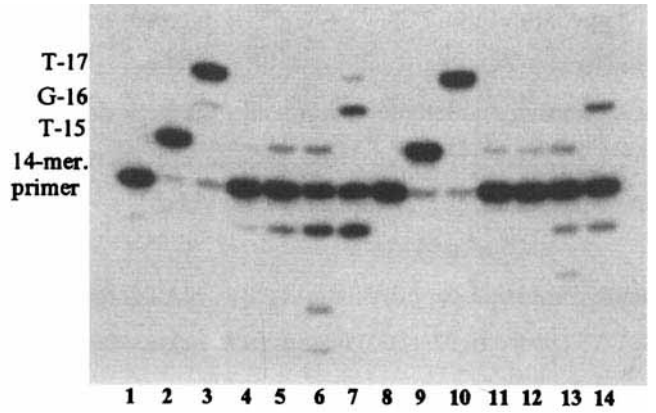


FIG. 1. Autoradiogram of [5'-^{32}P]primer elongation in the presence of dNTP and compound **7** catalysed by Klenow fragment (lanes 1-7) and reverse transcriptase of AMV (lanes 8-14): 1,8 - control ([primer + template] + enzyme); 2,9 - control + 2μM dTTP; 3,10 - control + 2μM dTTP + 2μM dGTP; 4,11 - control + 2μM of **7**; 5,12 - control + 20μM of **7**; 6,13 - control + 200μM of **7**; 7,14 - control + 200μM of **7** + 2μM dGTP.

1a is slightly, about 2 fold, more stable. With 2'-*O*-ribofuranosyladenosine **1d** depurination was found to compete with the rupture of the *O*-glycosidic bond.

Substrate properties of 1-(2-*O*-β-D-ribofuranosyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-thymine 5'-triphosphate **7** were studied in DNA and RNA synthesis reactions catalysed by different enzymes. It was found that **7** was a weak substrate for *E.coli* DNA polymerase I (Klenow fragment) and reverse transcriptase from avian myeloblastosis virus (Fig. 1). No incorporation of disaccharide nucleoside residue was observed in reactions catalysed by human DNA polymerases α and β and calf thymus terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase. The same results were obtained with periodate oxidised derivative of **7**. Compound **7** and dialdehyde derivative weakly inhibited the RNA synthesis catalysed by T7 RNA polymerase (wild type), mutant Tyr639Phe and double mutant Tyr639Phe, Ser641Ala[9]. These compounds were found not to be substrates of such enzymes.

Chemical incorporation of 2'-*O*-ribofuranosylnucleosides into oligonucleotides was accomplished starting from phosphoramidite **8**. The incorporation of disaccharide nucleoside residue into oligonucleotides destabilised the duplex

formation by approximately 2-3° C. The supplementary *cis* diol group in disaccharide nucleoside derivatives and oligonucleotide may be used for introduction of a reactive dialdehyde group using the periodate oxidation reaction. Oligonucleotides with reactive dialdehyde groups are currently used as affinity labels for different polymerases and restriction enzymes.

Acknowledgements. Financial support from RFBR, NATO (grant HTECH.LG 961324) and INTAS (projects 93-1500) is gratefully acknowledged.

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