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SYNTHESIS OF DERIVATIVES OF 3-METHYLXANTHINE AND 1-METHYL-3-ISOBUTYLXANTHINE 7-β-D-RIBOFURANOSIDES

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Abstract. Methods of synthesis of 7-(2',3',5'-tri-O-acetyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-8-chloro-3-methylxanthine (5a) and 1-methyl-3-isobutylxanthine (5b) were reported. Further nucleophilic displacement of chlorine has provided the corresponding 8-alkylamino and 8-benzylamino derivatives (6a,b-9a,b). Several 5'-acyl analogues of 3-methylxanthine-7- β -D-ribofuranoside (15-18) were synthesized using 7-(2',3'-di-O-isopropylidene- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-3-methylxanthine (10) as intermediate.

Akylxanthines and their C-8 substituted derivatives represent a major class of adenosine receptors antagonists. Modification of xanthine 7-ribosides with various alkyl substituents at 1- and 3-positions, as well as with uronamide group at the 5'-position was reported and the synthesized compounds were tested on adenosine A_1 , A_{2a} and A_3 receptors¹.

Synthesis of the C-8 derivatives of theophylline nucleosides has been a subject of our studies in previous years^{2,3}. Now we have extended our studies on the synthesis of various derivatives of alkylxanthine nucleosides.

According to Vorbrüggen's procedure⁴, after silylation of 3-methylxanthine 1a and 1-methyl-3-isobutylxanthine 1b with N,O-bis(trimethylsilyl)-acetamide (BSA) in 1,2-dichloroethane (Scheme 1), the corresponding trimethylsilyl derivatives were glycosylated with 1,2,3,5-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-ribofuranose 2 in the presence of trimethylsilyl triflate or potassium nonafluorobutane sulfonate with trimethylsilyl chloride as catalyst and 1,2-dichloroethane as solvent (60°C, 2h). After

chromatographic purification we obtained the protected nucleosides $\bf 3a$ (91% yield) and $\bf 3b$ (75% yield). Deacetylation of $\bf 3a,b$ with methanolic ammonia produced xanthine 7-ribosides $\bf 4a$ and $\bf 4b$. For the synthesis of alkylxanthine ribofuranosides bearing alkylamino group at C-8 of purine ring, alkylxanthine (3-methylxanthine or 1-methyl-3-isobutylxanthine) β -D-ribofuranosides $\bf 3a$ and $\bf 3b$ were first converted to the corresponding 8-chloroderivatives $\bf 5a$ (84% yield) and $\bf 5b$ (71% yield) by the chlorination with N-chlorosuccinimide. Nucleophilic displacement of halogen atom gave 8-methylamino-, 8-ethylamino-, 8-heptylamino-, 8-benzylaminoderivatives of 3-

SCHEME 1

SCHEME 2

methylxanthine- β -D-ribofuranoside **6a-9a** and 1-methyl-3-isobutylxanthine- β -D-ribofuranoside **6b,7b, 9b** in moderate to good yields.

Higher fatty acid esters of inosine and 2'-deoxyinosine has been found to be useful immunosuppresants for the treatment of atopic dermatitis⁵. This prompted us to synthesize 3-methylxanthine 7-riboside analogues modified at the ribose 5'-position.

In order to synthesize 5'-acyl modified xanthine nucleosides (Scheme 2), the 2'-and 3'-hydroxyl groups of 7- $(\beta$ -D-ribofuranosyl)-3-methylxanthine 4a were selectively protected by isopropylidenation with acetone and 2,2-dimetoxypropane using

perchloric acid as a catalyst, a method previously reported by M.Sharma et al.⁶. In the reaction of protected nucleoside 10 with acid chlorides (acetyl, isobutyryl, pivaloyl, palmitoyl) and subsequent acid hydrolysis (90% trifluoroacetic acid, 0.5h) of isopropylidene group a series of 5'-acylderivatives of 7-(β-D-ribofuranosyl)-3-methylxanthine 15-18 were obtained.

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