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SYNTHESIS OF NOVEL PYRENE-BEARING C-NUCLEOSIDE AND ITS INCORPORATION INTO OLIGONUCLEOTIDES

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Abstract: Phosphoramidite of (1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-4-[(4-pyren-1-ylbutyl)amino]-5-(2-O-methyl-5-dimethoxytrityl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)pyrimidine has been synthesized, incorporated into polypyrimidine oligonucleotides, and studied for thier triplex forming capacity.

There is an increasing interest in chemical synthesis of oligonucleotides containing modified bases. A variety of N4-substituted pyrimidine nucleosides have been reported as monomeric units for oligonucleotide synthesis¹⁻³. We are interested in preparation of oligonucleotides containing C2-modified nucleotides. To our best knowledge, no convenient methods have been developed to prepare C2 substituted pyrimidine N-nucleosides. However, geometrical shapes of C2 substituted pyrimidine N-nucleosides is quite similar to that of C4 substituted C-nucleosides (Fig.1). We, thus, embarked on the synthesis of N4-substituted ψ -cytidine derivatives from ψ -uridine.

Treatment of thymine (1a) with phosphoro-tris-(1,2,4-triazolide)⁴ was found to lead to 2,4-ditriazolyl-derivatives (2a), which were isolated in good yield after column

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chromatography (Scheme 1). The triazolyl groups in derivatives 2a exhibited completely different reactivity. Upon treatment of 2a (65°C, 25 h) with large excess of nucleophilic agents such as ammonia or aminobutylpyrene only the triazolyl group at C4 was substituted, leaving the triazole at C2 intact (3a and 3b, respectively). The structure of all new compounds was confirmed with NMR and FAB-mass spectra. The regiochemistry of substitution was established based on NOEDS for compounds 3b. Thus, we have developed a method which selectively modify the C4 position of thymine.

Scheme 1

1-2 a: R=CH₃ b: R= 5'-O-Dimethoxytrityl-2'-O-methyl-3'-O-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)-β-D-ribofuranosyl

3 a: $R=CH_3$, $Z=NH_2$; b: $R=CH_3$, Z=(4-pyren-1-yl)butylamino c: R=5'-O-Dimethoxytrityl-2'-O-methyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl; Z=(4-pyren-1-yl)butylamino

We applied the same approach to ψ-uridine derivative 1b⁵ and successfully synthesized the C-nucleoside 3c bearing an intercalator at C4 position. Phosphoramidite prepared from 3c was compatible for DNA synthesis. The coupling time for the amidite was 5 min, and the coupling was repeated twice to achieve the coupling yield of 97%. Incorporation of the intact modified bases and the integrity of the resulting oligonucleotides were confirmed by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry. Triplex-forming capacity of the synthesized oligomers was tested in a pyrimidine parallel motif. Base 3c demonstrated CG-, GC- and TA-specificity, and no AT-binding was determined.

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