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## Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids

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### NOVEL NUCLEOSIDES WITH VINYL FLUORIDE OR VINYL BROMIDE MOIETY AS OPEN-CHAIN ANALOGS OF NEPLANOCIN A

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## NOVEL NUCLEOSIDES WITH VINYL FLUORIDE OR VINYL BROMIDE MOIETY AS OPEN-CHAIN ANALOGS OF NEPLANOCIN A

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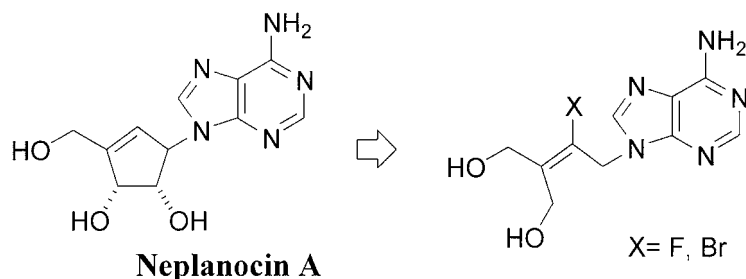
### ABSTRACT

Novel nucleosides with vinyl fluoride and vinyl bromide were designed, synthesized and evaluated their antiviral activities against poliovirus, HSV, HIV, and HBV.

Neplanocin A and penciclovir are the most well known carbonucleosides to date. Because of the unusual presence of the double bond in neplanocin A and acyclic nature of penciclovir (1,2), these two compounds have stimulated extensive research in the synthesis of new cyclic and acyclic carbonucleoside analogues mimicking the sugar portion of naturally occurring nucleosides (3). In an effort to obtain more chemically and enzymatically stable carbonucleosides, while causing minimal structural disturbance, we designed the 2-halo-4-hydroxy-3-hydroxymethyl-2-butenyl nucleosides, which mimic both features of neplanocin A and penciclovir. The incorporation of halogen atoms into organic molecules has often been associated with profound changes in the biological profiles of the halogenated analogues compared to their hydrocarbon counterparts (4). It has also been suggested that

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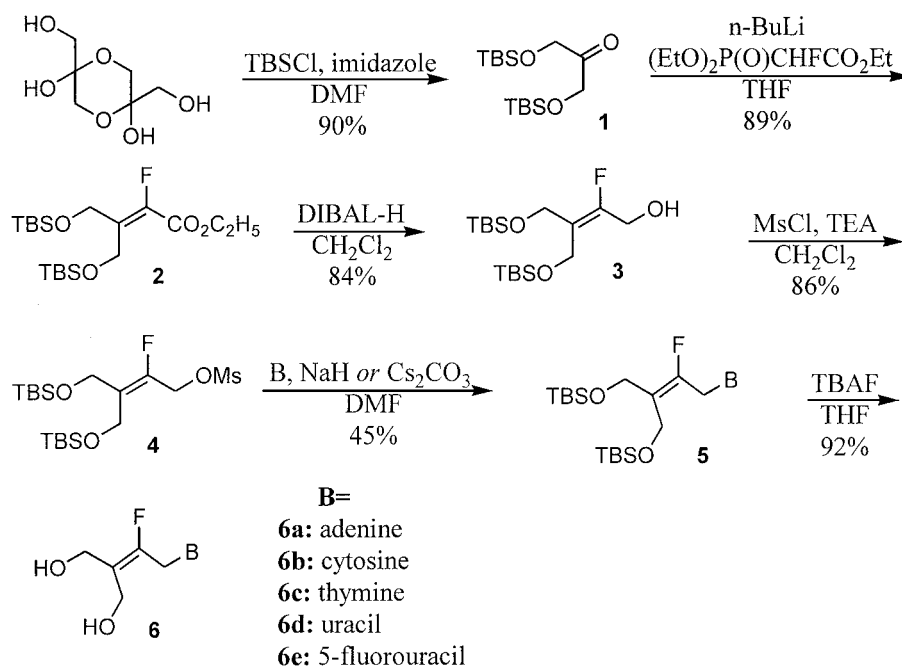


*Figure 1.*

a fluoromethylene group is a better isostere of oxygen than the methylene group (5) and therefore carboacyclic derivatives substituted by halogen at the 1'a position were also attractive targets.

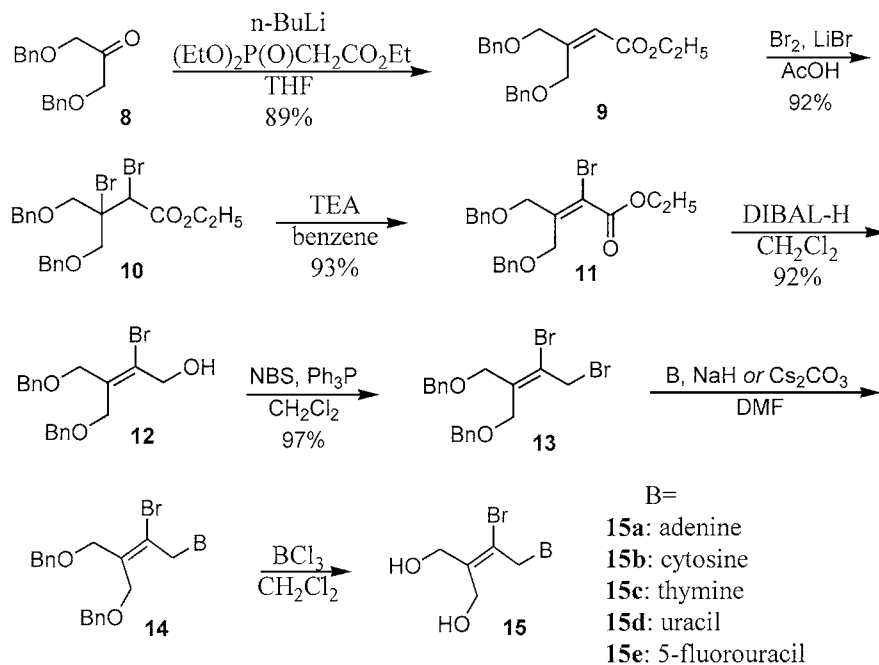
At first, our attention had been directed to the design and synthesis of nucleoside **6** in an attempt to mimic the natural nucleoside most closely by installing a fluorine at the 1'a position.

As shown in Scheme I, the key synthetic intermediate **3** for nucleoside **6** with vinyl fluoride was synthesized by Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons reaction using triethyl 2-fluoro-2-phosphonoacetate and **1**, followed by Dibal-H reduction. The fluorinated allyl alcohol **3** was, then, converted to the corresponding mesylates **4**,



*Scheme I.*





Scheme II.

which was used for the coupling with adenine (NaH, DMF) or pyrimidine bases ( $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$ , DMF) under basic conditions, followed by deprotection of silyl group with TBAF to afford the desired nucleosides **6a-e**. In a similar way, as shown in Scheme II, we were able to synthesize the corresponding bromonucleosides **15a-e**.

Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons reaction of ketone **8** with triethyl phosphonoacetate gave the  $\alpha, \beta$ -unsaturated ester **9** in 89% yield. The bromination of ester **9** under basic conditions was unsuccessful, but did give dibromoester **10** with  $\text{Br}_2$  and LiBr in acetic acid. Treatment of **10** with TEA followed by reduction with DIBAL-H afforded the allylic alcohol **12** via **11** in good yield. Conversion of **12** to **13** was accomplished by addition of NBS to a solution of the alcohol and triphenylphosphine in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  in 97% yield. The coupling of **13** with adenine or pyrimidine bases in basic conditions, followed by the removal of benzyl group with  $\text{BCl}_3$  gave **15a** (58%), **15b** (88%), **15c** (83%), **15d** (62%), and **15e** (67%), respectively. The synthesized nucleosides (**15a-e**) were evaluated for their antiviral activity against poliovirus, HSV-1, HSV-2 and HIV. However, all compounds were found to be inactive in the assay.

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