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COUPLING OF 2,6-DISUBSTITUTED PURINES TO RIBOSE-MODIFIED SUGARS

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ABSTRACT

1,2,3-Tri-O-acetyl-N-ethyl- β -D-ribofuranuronamide was synthesized in three steps starting from 1-O-methyl-(2,3-O-isopropylidene)- β -D-ribofuranuronic acid. Both the triacetyl and the 1-O-methyl-2,3-di-O-acetyl derivatives were coupled to the 2,6-dichloropurine to obtain the acetylated 1-(2,6-dichloro-9H-purin-9-yl)-1-deoxy-N-ethyl- β -D-erythro-pentofuranuronamide. 1 H NMR and n.O.e. data accounted for both anomeric and N-7/N-9 isomeric configuration.

INTRODUCTION

In the last years growing efforts have been dedicated to the discovery of adenosine receptor (AdoR) ligands as therapeutic drugs, especially in the cardio-vascular system and in the CNS (1). Furthermore, purine nucleoside and deoxynucleoside analogues substituted in 2 and 6 position have been shown to possess to various extent affinity and selectivity for AdoR subtypes and to potently interact with different biological systems (2,3). In recent papers we demonstrated that 2-alkynyl-5'-N-ethylcarboxamidoadenosines (2-alkynylNECAs) possess high affinity for AdoRs combined, in some cases, with good selectivity (4–6). Taking into account these data, we set up a program to prepare 2,6-disubstituted purines coupled to N-alkylribofuranuronamide, 2'-deoxy-N-alkylribofuranuronamide and 3'-deoxy-N-alkylribofuranuronamide. Recently we reported that, in the coupling of 2,6-dichloropurine to 2'- and 3'-deoxy-N-alkylribofuranuronamides, 1-O-acetyl

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deoxyribose derivatives gave much higher yield in nucleosides than the corresponding 1-O-methyl sugars (7,8). On these bases we decided to prepare 1,2,3-tri-O-acetyl-N-ethyl-D-ribofuranuronamide, to be coupled with 2,6-dichloropurine to obtain the useful intermediate 2,3-di-O-acetyl-1-deoxy-1-(2,6-dichloro-9H-purin-9-yl) N-ethyl- β -D-ribofuranuronamide.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The synthesis of 1,2,3-tri-O-acetyl-N-ethyl- β -D-ribofuranuronamide was performed as reported in Scheme 1. Methyl-(2,3-O-isopropyliden)- β -D-ribofuranuronic acid (1) (9) was reacted first with tionyl chloride in dry DMF, followed by treatement with ethylamine in dry dichloromethane, to give the ethylamide derivative 2 in 90% yield. Stirring of 2 in a mixture of acetic acid, acetic anhydride, and catalytic sulfuric acid yielded 24% of the triacetyl ribofuranuronamide 4. The same final product has been obtained from 2 also in two steps, in an attempt to improve the final yield. The isopropylidene derivative 2 was first deprotected by heating it in methanol in the presence of resin Dowex 50 (H⁺), and then the two free hydroxyl groups were acetylated with acetic anhydride and dry pyridine to obtain the diacetyl sugar 3 in 43% yield; treatement of 3 with acetic anhydride and catalytic sulfuric acid gave 4 in moderate yield. All analytical data were consistent with the structure of compounds reported in Scheme 1; in particular, the β -anomeric configuration was supported by ¹H NMR data and n.O.e. experiments.

Both sugars 3 and 4 were coupled to commercially available 2,6-dichloropurine (Scheme 2), to compare reactivity between 1-O-methyl- and 1-O-acetyl-ribofuranuronamide derivatives. 2,6-Dichloropurine was refluxed with hexamethyldisilazane

Scheme 1. a) 1. Dry DMF, SOCl₂; 2. Dry CH₂Cl₂, EtNH₂; b) AcOH, Ac₂O, cat. H₂SO₄; c) 1. MeOH, Dowex 50 (H⁺); 2. Dry CH₂Cl₂, dry Pyr., Ac₂O; d)Ac₂O, cat. H₂SO₄.







COUPLING OF 2,6-DISUBSTITUTED PURINES

Scheme 2. a) 1. Hexamethyldisilazane, ammonium sulfate, heating; 2. Dry CH₂Cl₂, 3, TMS triflate; b) HMDS, ammonium sulfate, heating; 2. Dry CH₂Cl₂, 4, TMS triflate.

in the presence of a catalytic amount of ammonium sulphate; the silylated base was reacted with the sugar 3 in dry dichloromethane in the presence of HMDS. After usual work-up the desired nucleoside 6 was obtained in 23% yield.

The reaction of the 1-O-acetyl sugar **4** with 2,6-dichloropurine was performed in a very similar manner, giving 78% of the β -nucleoside **6** after chromatographic purification.

Analytical data were consistent with the structure of compound **6** proposed in Scheme 2; in particular, the β -anomeric configuration was supported by 1H NMR data and n.O.e. experiments. In fact, the H-1' proton signal appears as a doublet (J = 5.9 Hz) at 6.43 ppm, doublet typical of β configuration; furthermore, saturation of H-1' signal gave an n.O.e. effect of 4% on H-4', clearly establishing the β configuration. In the same n.O.e. experiment the enhancement of the H-8 signal upon saturation of the H-1' one resulted to be 14.4%; this very high value is possible only when the two protons are very close, i.e. when the sugar and the heterocyclic moiety are in the *endo* configuration; this configuration would not be possible in the case of the N-7 isomer, since the 6-chloro substituent would push the nucleoside toward the *exo* configuration. Thus, these n.O.e. data also account for N-9 substitution.

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