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Synthesis of *N*-Substituted 1-Amino-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione-*N*-nucleosides and *S*-Glycosylated Derivatives

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Synthesis of *N*-Substituted 1-Amino-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione-*N*-nucleosides and *S*-Glycosylated Derivatives

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ABSTRACT

Fusion of the *N*-substituted 1-amino-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-imidazole-2-thiones **1–4** with the peracylated ribose **5** in the presence of iodine afforded the *N*-nucleosides **6–9** in moderate yields. Deblocking with NaOMe/MeOH gave the free nucleosides **10–13**. Alternatively, silylation of **4** followed by ribosylation with **5** in the presence of TMSOTf as catalyst afforded **9** in moderate yield. Ribosylation of **4** with the chlorodeoxyribose derivative **15** as well as **5** in the presence of NaH in DMF afforded the thioglycosides **16** and **18**, respectively. Deblocking of **16** and **18** with NaOMe/MeOH gave the free *S*-thioglycosides **17** and **19**, respectively. Thermal rearrangement of **19** at high temperature in the presence of iodine furnished **13** in low yield. The new free nucleosides and thioglycosides were

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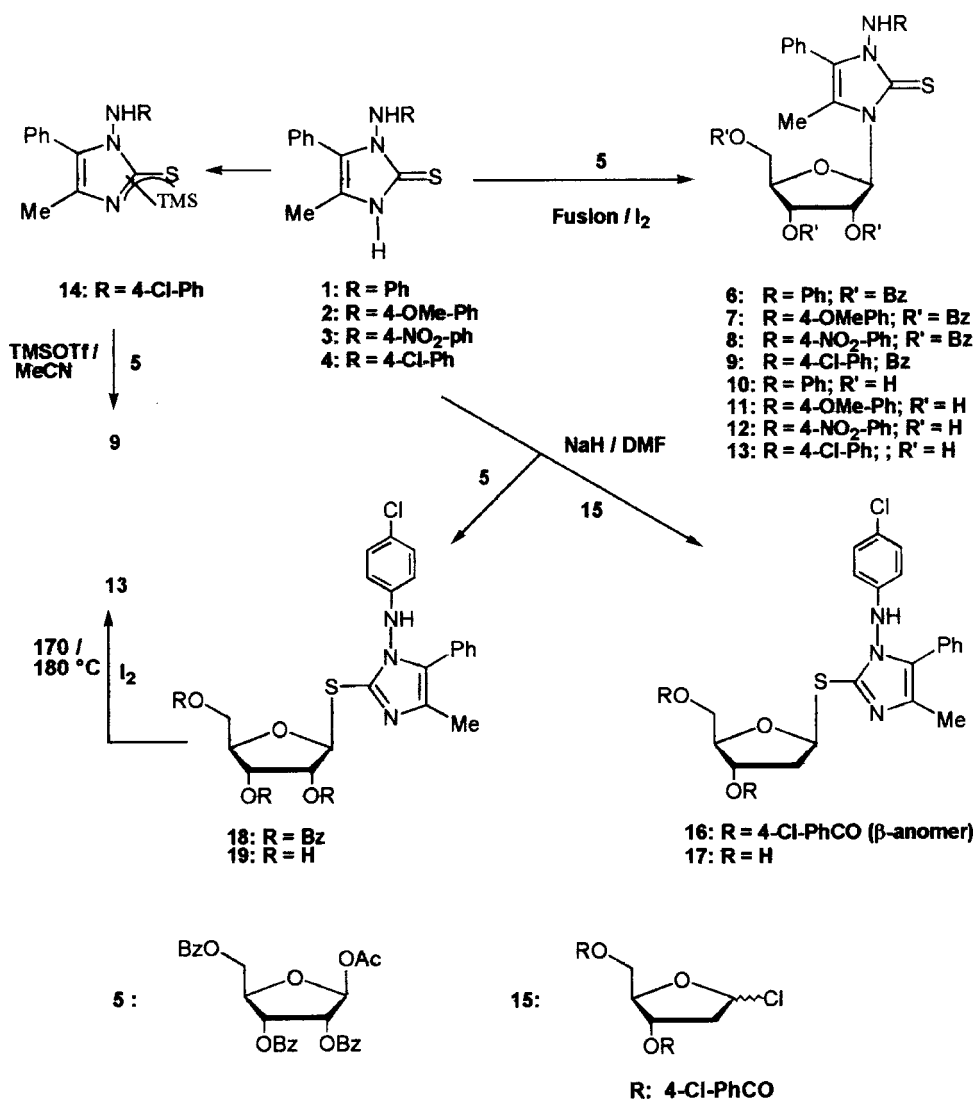
inactive against HIV-1 and HIV-2 induced cytopathicity in human MT-4 lymphocyte cells.

Key Words: Antiviral activity; Imidazole-2-thiones; *N*-Nucleosides; *S*-Glycosides; Ribosylation.

Various heterocycles bearing the thioureylene group are known to possess interesting biological properties.^[1] For example, methimazole (1-methylimidazole-2-thione, Tapazole[®]) is currently used for the treatment of thyroid gland disorder.^[2] Other derivatives are used for the treatment of arthritis^[3,4], cardiovascular diseases^[5,6], antiinflammatory activity^[7] as well as anti-HIV agents.^[8] It is well known that various nucleoside analogues played an important role in the field of cancer chemotherapy and viral diseases.^[9] Imbach et al.^[10] have reported the first imidazole nucleosides possessing the thioureylene group and evaluated their chemotherapeutic properties in comparison to the methimazole. These prompted us to synthesize new 2-mercapto imidazole nucleosides by ribosylation of some selected imidazole bases namely, the *N*-substituted 1-amino-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-imidazole-2-thiones.^[11]

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The site of ribosylation of the imidazole bases^[11] **1-4** were first examined by the fusion procedure, following Imbach et al. method.^[10] Thus, **1-4** (1.1 equivalents) fused with 1-*O*-acetyl-2,3,5-tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranose (**5**) in the presence of iodine afforded, after chromatographic purification, the *N*-nucleosides **6-9** in 41, 45, 40 and 55% yields, respectively, with some other products which are presumably the *S*-ribosides, *N,S*-ribosides or decomposed products. 1-(4-Chlorophenylamino)-2,3-dihydro-4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione (**4**) has been selected for the Hilbert-Johnson-Birkofer procedure^[12] to improve the selective *N*-ribosylation. Thus, silylation of **4** with hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) gave the silylated product **14**, which was treated with the sugar derivative **5** in dry MeCN as solvent, and trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (TMSOTf)^[13] as catalyst at 75°C for 3 h to give, after column chromatography, **9** in 53% yield. Deblocking of **6-9** with NaOMe/MeOH at room temperature for 16 h afforded the free nucleosides **10-13** in 73, 70, 68 and 78% yields, respectively (Sch. 1). The structures of **6-13** were characterized from their ¹H NMR and mass spectra. The anomeric coupling constants of **6-13** are typical for β -configured ribofuranoses (between 5.1 and 5.5 Hz). The rotating frame nuclear overhauser effect (ROE)^[14] between H-1' and H-4' is an additional proof for β -configuration. The proton spin systems were identified from DQF-COSY^[15] and ROESY spectra, since showed a good evidence for ribosylation of **1-4** via the *N*-site of the imidazole molecule. This was confirmed by the ³J_{C,H} correlation of C-2 at δ_C 162.2 and H-1' at δ_H 6.45 of **9**. The nucleoside **9** was selected for further NMR study. The signal at δ_C 120.9, assigned to C-4, has a cross peak to δ_H 6.45 of H-1' in the HMQC^[16] spectrum. Moreover, C-2 resonated at highest field (δ_C 162.2) due to the shielding nature around (C=S) bond, and these data showed an additional proof for the *N*-glycosylation and excluded the substitution at the sulfur atom. The above



Scheme 1.

argument is in agreement with the spectral data obtained by Shantle et al.^[11] during the *N*³-methylation of *N*¹-substituted-4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione.

Further study was made with the 2-deoxyribose. When compound **4** was reacted with 1.1 equivalent of NaH in anhyd. DMF followed by 1.1 equivalent of chlorodeoxysugar **15** at 60°C for 2 h gave, after chromatographic separation, the thio-glycoside **16** in 35% yield. The structure of **16** was confirmed by the COSY, ROESY, HMQC and HMBC NMR experiments as well as the mass spectrum. The ¹H-NMR spectrum of **16** showed the anomeric ratio (α:β) to be about 1:3, since H-1' (β-anomer, from HMBC experiment) appeared as a doublet of doublets at δ_H

7.07 ($J_{1',2'a} = 5.5$ Hz; $J_{1',2'b} = 3.5$ Hz). The β -configuration of **16** was further confirmed by NOE experiment.^[16] Thus, irradiation of the H-1' signal led to enhancement of the signal for H-4' (2.8%). C-2 resonated at lower field δ_C 142.1, indicating the *S*-glycosylation and excluded the *N*-substitution, and these data again is in agreement with those of the *S*-methyl-imidazole derivative obtained by Schantle et al.^[11] Similarly, treatment of **4** with the sugar derivative **5** in DMF and NaH gave, after chromatography, the thioglycoside **18** in 38% yield. Removal of the benzoyl groups of **18** with NaOMe/MeOH afforded the free thioglycoside **19** in 78% yield. The anomeric coupling constants of **18** and **19** (5.3, 4.9 Hz, respectively) are indicated for the β -configuration. The signals at δ_C 142.5 and 146.3, which attributed to C-2 of **18** and **19**, respectively, are characteristic for the site of ribosylation at the sulfur atom rather than nitrogen. Proton bearing carbon of **18** was detected by ^1H - ^1H and ^1H - ^{13}C COSY spectra as well as the HMQC spectra.^[16] The assignment of the *S*-glycosylation was further studied by gradient selected HMBC^[17] via the $^3J_{C,H}$ coupling between H-1' (δ_H 6.10) and C-2 (δ_C 142.5), along with disappearance of such coupling between H-1' and C-4. The residual sugar protons of both **18** and **19** were fully analysed (see experimental part).

When the *S*-glycoside **19** was subjected to the high temperature (170–180°C) by applying Halasa et al. method^[18] in the presence of iodine as catalyst, it was rearranged into the *N*-nucleoside **13** (18% yield). The low yield of **13** is presumably due to the thermal decomposition of **19** into an unidentified products, separated by the chromatography.

The imidazole *N*-nucleosides and *S*-thioglycosides **9–13**, **16** and **19** were evaluated in vitro for their inhibitory activity of HIV-1 (III B) and HIV-2 (ROD) in human MT-4 lymphocyte cells. All compounds were inactive against both HIV-1 and HIV-2 up to 100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. Furthermore, compounds **9–13** are under investigation for the treatment of thyroid gland disorder.

Experimental

General procedure. Melting points are uncorrected. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR spectra were recorded on AC 250 and 600 MHz spectrometers, using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard, with δ : chemical shift in ppm, and coupling constants in Hz. Mass spectra were measured in glycerol as matrix, meanwhile, some molecular ions were measured with sodium ions.

Preparation of *N*-substituted 1-amino-4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione-*N*-nucleosides. **General procedure.** The desired bases **1–4** (2.21 mmol), the sugar derivative **5** (1.22 g, 2.43 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and iodine (5.2% mole per mole of an imidazole base) was fused at 160°C for 20 min. under vacuum. After cooling, the brown residue was dissolved in CHCl_3 (10 mL), filtered and poured onto SiO_2 column (50 g). Elution first with CHCl_3 , then with CHCl_3 -MeOH (49 : 1) afforded two compounds. The first eluted compounds were unidentified products. The second eluted compounds were characterized as the *N*-nucleosides **6–9**, mostly as foam.

3-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosyl)-4-methyl-5-phenyl-1-phenylamino-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione (6**).** From **1** (0.62 g). Yield: 0.66 g, (41%); foam. δ_H (CDCl_3):

8.89 (s, 1H, NH); 7.40–7.27 (m, 5H, C₅-Ph); 7.11 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.1$ Hz, NH-Ph); 6.72 (t, 2H, $J = 7.5$ Hz, NH-Ph); 6.51 (d, 1H, $J_{1',2'} = 5.4$ Hz, H-1'); 6.48 (d, 2H, $J = 8.2$ Hz, NH-Ph); 5.90 (t, 1H $J_{2',3'} = 5.5$ Hz, H-2'); 5.85 (t, 1H, $J_{3',4'} = 4.2$ Hz, H-3'); 4.97 (dd, 1H, $J_{4',5''} = 3.5$ Hz, H-4'); 4.95 (dd, 1H, $J_{4',5'} = 3.0$ Hz, H-5'); 4.85 (dd, 1H, $J_{5',5''} = 12.5$ Hz, H-5''); 2.17 (s, 3H, Me). Anal. calc. for C₄₂H₃₅SN₃O₇ (725.8): C, 69.50; H, 4.86; N, 5.79. Found: C, 69.46; H, 4.76; N, 5.57. MS: m/z (FAB) 726 (MH)⁺.

3-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenylamino)-4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione (7). From **2** (0.67 g). Yield: 0.75 g; (45%); m.p. 80–86°C. δ_H (CDCl₃): 9.20 (s, 1H, NH); 7.38–7.31 (m, 5H, C₅-Ph); 7.17, 7.15 (2d, 2H, $J = 8.9$ Hz, NH-4-OMePh); 6.62 (d, 1H, $J_{1',2'} = 5.5$ Hz, H-1'); 6.48 (2d, 2H, $J = 8.9$ Hz, NH-4-OMePh); 5.88 (m, 2H, H-2', H-3'); 4.99 (t, 1H, $J_{4',5''} = 2.9$ Hz, H-4'); 4.96–4.90 (m, 2H, H-5', H-5''); 2.15 (s, 3H, Me). Anal. calc. for C₄₃H₃₈SN₃O₈ (756.9): C, 68.24; H, 5.06; N, 5.55. Found: C, 68.02; H, 4.98; N, 5.24. MS: m/z (FAB) 780 (MNa)⁺.

3-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-4-methyl-1-(4-nitrophenylamino)-5-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione (8). From **3** (0.72 g). Yield: 0.68 g, (40%); m.p. 110–115°C. δ_H (CDCl₃): 10.32 (s, 1H, NH); 7.28–7.21 (m, 5H, C₅-Ph); 8.11, 8.14 (2d, 2H, $J = 9.5$ Hz, NH-4-NO₂Ph); 6.59 (2d, 2H, $J = 9.5$ Hz, NH-4-NO₂Ph); 6.47 (d, 1H, $J_{1',2'} = 5.3$ Hz, H-1'); 5.82–5.77 (m, 2H, H-2', H-3'); 4.94 (t, 1H, $J_{4',5''} = 3.5$ Hz, H-4'); 4.99 (dd, 1H $J_{4',5'} = 3.0$ Hz, H-5'); 4.96 (dd, 1H, $J_{5',5''} = 12.3$ Hz, H-5''); 2.17 (s, 3H, Me). Anal. calc. for C₄₂H₃₄SN₄O₉ (770.8): C, 65.45; H, 4.45; N, 7.27. Found: C, 65.33; H, 4.36; N, 7.05. MS: m/z (FAB) 793 (MNa)⁺.

3-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl-β-D-ribofuranosyl)-1-(4-chlorophenylamino)-4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione (9). *Method a.* From **4** (0.70 g). Yield: 0.93 g, (55%); m.p. 85–91°C. δ_H (600 MHz, COSY, ROESY, HMQC, HMBC, CDCl₃): 9.17 (s, 1H, NH); 7.37–7.33 (m, 5H, C₅-Ph); 6.98, 6.90 (2d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, NH-4-ClPh); 6.45 (d, 1H, $J_{1',2'} = 5.2$ Hz, H-1'); 6.39, 6.30 (2d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, NH-4-ClPh); 5.85–5.80 (m, 2H, H-2', H-3'); 4.96 (t, 1H, $J_{4',5''} = 3.3$ Hz, H-4'); 4.92 (dd, 1H $J_{4',5'} = 2.8$ Hz, H-5'); 4.87 (dd, 1H, $J_{5',5''} = 12.5$, H-5''); 2.14 (s, 3H, Me). δ_C(CDCl₃): 66.1; 165.1, 164.6 (C=O); 162.2 (C-2); 133.4–129.0 (Ar); 126.8 (C-5); 120.9 (C-4); 114.3, 112.5 (Ph); 90.6 (C-1'); 82.0 (C-4'); 74.6 (C-3'); 70.0 (C-3'); 62.8 (C-5'); 10.8 (C-4-Me). Anal. calc. for C₄₂H₃₄ClSN₃O₇ (760.3): C, 66.35; H, 4.51; N, 5.53. Found: C, 66.25; H, 4.21; N, 5.39. MS: m/z (FAB) 760/762 (MH)⁺.

Method b. To a suspended **4** (0.80 g, 2.50 mmol) in anhyd. MeCN (25 mL) was added hexamethyldisilazane (20 mL) and the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 16 h. After cooling, the solution was evaporated to dryness under anhyd. condition, then dissolved in MeCN (25 mL). To this, a solution of **5** (1.38 g, 2.7 mmol) in MeCN (20 mL) was added, followed by the addition of TMSOTf (1.1 mmol), dropwise and the mixture was heated at 75°C for 3 h. After cooling, a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ was added and the resulting mixture extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic fractions were washed with saturated NaCl solution, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and evaporated to dryness. The amorphous obtained was purified by flash chromatography, using MeOH, in



gradient, (0–2%) and CHCl_3 as eluent to give **9** (1.37 g, 72%) as amorphous compound. All the physical properties are similar to those of the authentic sample prepared in method a.

Preparation of free *N*-Nucleosides 10–13 derived from compounds (6–9). *General procedure.* A solution of the acylated nucleoside (0.80 mmol) in 0.20 M NaOMe/MeOH solution (20 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The solution was evaporated to dryness and the residue was partitioned between water (35 mL) and ether (3×30 mL). The aqueous layer was evaporated to dryness and the residue was co-evaporated with EtOH (3×30 mL) to give a crude product. Recrystallization from EtOH afforded the desired free *N*-nucleosides.

4-Methyl-5-phenyl-1-phenylamino-3-(β -D-ribofuranosyl)-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione (10). From **6** (0.58 g). Yield: 0.24 g, (73%); m.p. 200–205°C. δ_{H} (DMSO- d_6): 9.00 (s, 1H, NH); 7.42–7.34 (m, 5H, $\text{C}_5\text{-Ph}$); 7.15 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, NH- Ph); 6.81 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$ Hz, NH- Ph); 6.58 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, NH- Ph); 6.51 (d, 1H, $J_{1',2'} = 5.4$ Hz, H-1'); 5.83 (t, 1H, $J = 5.9$ Hz, $\text{C}_5'\text{-OH}$); 5.33 (d, 1H, $J = 5.7$ Hz, $\text{C}_2'\text{-OH}$); 5.11 (d, 1H, $J = 3.5$ Hz, $\text{C}_3'\text{-OH}$); 4.18 (dd, 1H, $J_{2',3'} = 5.3$ Hz, H-2'); 4.11–3.48 (m, 4H, H-3'-H-5''); 2.23 (s, 3H, Me). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$ (413.5): C, 61.00; H, 5.61; N, 10.16. Found: C, 60.82; H, 5.53; N, 9.89. MS: m/z (FAB) 436 (MNa) $^+$.

1-(4-Methoxyphenylamino)-4-methyl-5-phenyl-3-(β -D-ribofuranosyl)-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione (11). From **7** (0.61 g). Yield: 0.25 g, (70%); m.p. 205–209°C. δ_{H} (DMSO- d_6): 9.31 (s, 1H, NH); 7.48–7.37 (m, 5H, $\text{C}_5\text{-Ph}$); 7.20, 7.16 (2d, 2H, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 4-OMe Ph); 6.63 (d, 1H, $J_{1',2'} = 5.3$ Hz, H-1'); 6.54 (2d, 2H, $J = 9.0$ Hz, NH-4-OMe Ph); 5.84 (t, 1H, $J = 5.7$ Hz, $\text{C}_5'\text{-OH}$); 5.35 (d, 1H, $J = 5.5$ Hz, $\text{C}_2'\text{-OH}$); 5.13 (d, 1H, $J = 3.7$ Hz, $\text{C}_3'\text{-OH}$); 4.21 (dd, 1H, $J_{2',3'} = 5.2$ Hz, H-2'); 4.14–3.51 (m, 4H, H-3'-H-5''); 2.24 (s, 3H, Me). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5$ (443.5): C, 59.58; H, 5.68; N, 9.47. Found: C, 59.27; H, 5.59; N, 9.28. MS: m/z (FAB) 466 (MNa) $^+$.

4-Methyl-1-(4-nitrophenylamino)-5-phenyl-3-(β -D-ribofuranosyl)-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione (12). From **8** (0.62 g). Yield: 0.25 g, (68%); m.p. 239–242°C. δ_{H} (DMSO- d_6): 10.35 (s, 1H, NH); 7.34–7.29 (m, 5H, $\text{C}_5\text{-Ph}$); 8.15, 8.19 (2d, 2H, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 4-NO $_2\text{Ph}$); 6.63 (2d, 2H, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 4-NO $_2\text{Ph}$); 6.52 (d, 1H, $J_{1',2'} = 5.2$ Hz, H-1'); 5.75 (t, 1H, $J = 5.7$ Hz, $\text{C}_5'\text{-OH}$); 5.30 (d, 1H, $J = 5.6$ Hz, $\text{C}_2'\text{-OH}$); 4.98 (d, 1H, $J = 3.5$ Hz, $\text{C}_3'\text{-OH}$); 4.15 (dd, 1H, $J_{2',3'} = 5.2$ Hz, H-2'); 3.98–3.31 (m, 4H, H-3'-H-5''); 2.20 (s, 3H, Me). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_4\text{O}_6$ (455.5): C, 55.01; H, 4.84; N, 12.22. Found: C, 54.85; H, 4.74; N, 11.82. MS: m/z (FAB) 477/479 (MNa) $^+$.

1-(4-Chlorophenylamino)-4-methyl-5-phenyl-3-(β -D-ribofuranosyl)-1*H*-imidazole-2-thione (13). *Method a.* From **9** (0.61 g). Yield: 0.28 g, (78%); m.p. 189–193°C. δ_{H} (DMSO- d_6): 9.19 (s, 1H, NH); 7.39–7.37 (m, 5H, $\text{C}_5\text{-Ph}$); 7.01, 6.95 (2d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 4-Cl Ph); 6.53 (2d, 1H, $J_{1',2'} = 5.0$ Hz, H-1'); 6.42, 6.35 (2d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 4-Cl Ph); 2.17 (s, 3H, Me). 5.82 (t, 1H, $J = 5.9$ Hz, $\text{C}_5'\text{-OH}$); 5.30 (d, 1H, $J = 5.8$ Hz, $\text{C}_2'\text{-OH}$); 5.13 (d, 1H, $J = 3.6$ Hz, $\text{C}_3'\text{-OH}$); 4.13 (dd, 1H, $J_{2',3'} = 5.1$ Hz, H-2'); 4.09–3.38 (m, 4H, H-3'-H-5''); 2.23 (s, 3H, Me). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_4$

(447.9): C, 55.93; H, 5.59; N, 9.32. Found: C, 55.74; H, 5.49; N, 9.16. MS: *m/z* (FAB) 451/453 (MH)⁺.

Method b. A mixture of **19** (200 mg, 0.44 mmol) and iodine (20 mg) was heated at 170–180°C for 7 h. After cooling, the brown solid was partitioned between water (10 mL) and ether (3 × 10 mL) and the aqueous extract was evaporated to dryness. The residue was co-evaporated with EtOH (4 × 10 mL) and chromatographed on short column of silica gel (CHCl₃-MeOH 9:1, as eluent) to give **13** (35 mg, 18%), m.p., mixed m.p. and all the physical data were identical to those of the authentic sample prepared in method a.

2-(3,5-Di-*O*-4-chlorobenzoyl-2-deoxy-β-*D*-erythropentofuranosylsulfanyl)-1-(4-chlorophenylamino)-4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole (16**).** To a solution of **4** (0.50 g, 1.58 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was added NaH (0.11 g, 4.76 mmol) under argon and the suspension was stirred at 60°C. After 2 h, the chloro sugar **15** (0.58 g, 1.45 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was partitioned between CHCl₃ (3 × 30 mL) and water (30 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and evaporated to dryness. The crude residue was dissolved in CHCl₃ (5 mL) and poured onto SiO₂ column (50 g). Elution, in gradient, with MeOH (0–2%) and CHCl₃ afforded **16** (0.28 g, 25%) as amorphous, m.p. 75–81°C. δ_H (600 MHz, COSY, ROESY, HMQC, HMBC, CDCl₃): 9.17 (s, 1H, NH); 8.00–7.96 (m, 4H, Ar); 7.45–6.89 (m, 8H, Ar); 7.07 (dd, 1H, *J*_{1',2'a} = 3.5 Hz, *J*_{1',2'b} = 5.5 Hz, H-1'); 6.62, 6.53 (2d, 4H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4-ClPh); 5.67 (dt, *J*_{3',4'} = 7.6 Hz, H-3'); 4.46 (m, 1H, H-4'); 4.80 (m, 1H, H-5''); 4.58 (m 1H, H-5'); 2.90 (ddd, 1H, H-2'a); 2.70 (dt, 1H, H-2'b); 2.35 (s, 3H, Me). δ_C(CDCl₃): 165.0, 165.2 (C=O); 142.1 (C-2); 133.2–129.0 (Ar); 126.3 (C-5); 120.0 (C-4); 114.4, 112.5 (Ph); 86.2 (C-1'); 81.0 (C-4'); 73.8 (C-3'); 64.0 (C-5'); 35.9 (C-2'); 10.9 (C₄-Me). Anal. calc. for C₃₅H₂₈Cl₃SN₃O₅ (709.1): C, 59.29; H, 3.98; N, 5.93. Found: C, 59.01; H, 5.81.; N, 5.72. MS: *m/z* (FAB) 708/710 (MH)⁺.

1-(4-Chlorophenylamino)-2-(2-deoxy-β-*D*-erythropentofuranosylsulfanyl)-4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole (17**).** A suspension of **16** (0.40 g, 0.56 mmol) in 0.2 M NaOMe/MeOH (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The solution was evaporated to dryness and the residue was partitioned between ether (3 × 30 mL) and water (20 mL). The aqueous layer was evaporated to dryness and the residue was co-evaporated with EtOH (3 × 20 mL). The residue was dissolved in MeOH (2 mL) and co-evaporated with SiO₂ (2 g), and then poured on SiO₂ column (10 g). Elution, in gradient, with MeOH (0–10%) and CHCl₃ gave **17** (0.21 g, 85%); m.p. 179–183°C (from EtOH). δ_C (DMSO-*d*₆): 9.21 (s, 1H, NH); 7.39–7.31 (m, 5H, Ph); 6.73, 6.59 (2d, 4H, *J* = 8.1 Hz; 4-ClPh); 6.61 (dd, 1H, *J*_{1',2'a} = 4.2 Hz, *J*_{1',2'b} = 5.5 Hz, H-1'); 5.15 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.5 Hz, C_{3'}-OH); 5.00 (t, 1H, *J* = 3.5 Hz, C_{5'}-OH); 4.55 (m, 1H, H-4''); 4.30 (m, 1H, H-3'); 2.48–3.52 (m, 2H, H-5', H-5''); 2.84 (m, 1H, H-2'); 2.10 (m, 1H, H-2''); 2.37 (s, 3H, C₄-Me). δ_C (DMSO-*d*₆): 142.0 (C-2); 134.1–130.2 (Ar); 126.5 (C-5); 120.1 (C-4); 114.9, 112.5 (Ph); 87.3 (C-1'); 90.0 (C-4'); 70.1 (C-3'); 60.3 (C-5'); 37.1 (C-2'); 11.1 (C₄-Me). Anal. calc. for C₂₁H₂₂ClSN₃O₃ (431.9):



C, 58.39; H, 5.13; N, 9.73. Found: C, 58.13; H, 5.02.; N, 9.58. MS: m/z (FAB) 474/456 (MNa)⁺.

2-(2,3,5-Tri-*O*-benzoyl- β -D-ribofuranosylsulfanyl)-1-(4-chlorophenylamino)-4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole (18). This compound was prepared from condensation of **4** (0.50 g, 1.58 mmol) with **5** (0.87 g, 1.74 mmol), in the similar manner of preparation of **9**. Yield: 0.34 g, (28%); m.p. 85–91°C. δ_H (CDCl₃): 9.20 (s, 1H, NH); 7.36–7.31 (m, 5H, C₅-Ph); 6.37, 6.28 (2d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz, 4-ClPh); Ar); 6.10 (dd, 1H, $J_{1',2'} = 5.3$ Hz, H-1'); 6.60, 6.52 (2d, 4H, J = 8.0 Hz, 4-ClPh); 5.56–5.49 (m, 2H, H-2', H-3'); 4.56 (dd, 1H, $J_{4',5''} = 3.0$ Hz, H-4'); 4.32–4.18 (m, 2H, H-5', H-5''); 2.34 (s, 3H, Me). δ_C (DMSO-*d*₆): 169.2, 169.0, 168.5 (C=O); 142.5 (C-2); 133.3–128.8 (Ar); 126.4 (C-5); 120.2 (C-4); 114.5, 112.7 (Ph); 86.6 (C-1'); 80.2 (C-4'); 74.4 (C-2'); 70.5 (C-3'); 62.5 (C-5'); 11.1 (C₄-Me). Anal. calc. for C₄₂H₃₄ClN₃O₇ (760.3): C, 66.35; H, 4.51; N, 5.53. Found: C, 66.24; H, 4.43; N, 5.35. MS: m/z (FAB) 760/762 (MH)⁺.

1-(4-Chlorophenylamino)-4-methyl-5-phenyl-2-(β -D-ribofuranosylsulfanyl)-1*H*-imidazole (19). This compound was prepared from **18** (0.50 g, 0.66 mmol), in the similar manner of preparation of **17**. Yield: 0.23 g, (78%); m.p. 178–180°C decom. δ_H (CDCl₃): 9.25 (s, 1H, NH); 7.41–7.38 (m, 5H, C₅-Ph); 7.03, 6.98 (2d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz, 4-ClPh); 5.81 (2d, 1H, $J_{1',2'} = 4.9$ Hz, H-1'); 6.46, 6.38 (2d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz, NH-4-ClPh); 5.84 (t, 1H J = 5.8 Hz, C_{5'}-OH); 5.33 (d, 1H, J = 5.7 Hz, C_{2'}-OH); 5.14 (d, 1H, J = 3.7 Hz, C_{3'}-OH); 4.15 (dd, 1H, $J_{2',3'} = 5.0$ Hz, H-2'); 4.12–3.39 (m, 4H, H-3'-H-5''); 2.33 (s, 3H, Me). δ_C (DMSO-*d*₆): 146.3 (C-2); 134.0–129.5 (Ar); 126.8 (C-5); 120.8 (C-4); 115.2, 113.2 (Ph); 89.6 (C-1'); 84.4 (C-4'); 74.8 (C-2'); 70.9 (C-3'); 62.9 (C-5'); 11.2 (C₄-Me). Anal. calc. for C₂₁H₂₂ClN₃O₄ (447.9): C, 56.31; H, 4.95; N, 9.38. Found: C, 56.16; H, 4.87; N, 9.16. MS: m/z (FAB) 471/473 (MNa)⁺.

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