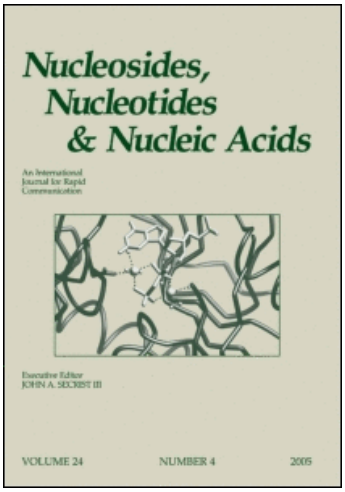

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Albert Nguyen Van Nhien[a]; Cyrille Tomassi[a]; Christophe Len[a]; José Luis Marco-Contelles[b]; Denis Postel[ac]

[a] Laboratoire des Glucides, Université de Picardie-Jules Verne, Amiens, France [b] Laboratorio de Los Radicales Libres Instituto de Química Orgánica General, Juan de la Cierva, Madrid, Spain [c] Laboratoire des Glucides, Université de Picardie, 33, rue Saint Leu, Amiens, France

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Synthesis of AZA Analogues of TSAO

Albert Nguyen Van Nhien,[1] Cyrille Tomassi,[1] Christophe Len,[1] José Luis Marco-Contelles,[2] and Denis Postel[1,*]

[1]Laboratoire des Glucides, Université de Picardie-Jules Verne, Amiens, France
[2]Laboratorio de Los Radicales Libres Instituto de Química Orgánica General, Juan de la Cierva, Madrid, Spain

ABSTRACT

TSAO derivatives which were first synthesized in 1992 have shown strong inhibitory effect and selectivity against HIV-1 (Camarasa, M.J.; Pérez-Pérez, M.J.; San-Félix, A.; Balzarini, J.; De Clercq, E. J. Med. Chem. **1992**, *35*, 2721–2727). The structure-activity relationship of these derivatives has shown strong binding between the amino acids constituting the reverse transcriptase and the different pharmacophore (tert-butyldimethylsilyl group, amino and sulfonate groups of the TSAO derivatives) (Camarasa, M.J.; San-Félix, A.; Pérez-Pérez, M.J.; Velázquez, S., Alvarez, R.; Chamorro, C.; Jimeno, M.L.; Pérez, C.; Gago, F.; De Clercq, E.; Balzarini, J. J. Carbohydr. Chem. **2000**, *19*, 6403–6406). We described the synthesis of an original TSAO analogue where, basically, the *O*-1″ atom is replaced by a nitrogen atom.

*Correspondence: Denis Postel, Laboratoire des Glucides, Université de Picardie, 33, rue Saint Leu, 80039 Amiens, France; Fax: +33 3 2282 7568; E-mail: denis.postel@sc.u-picardie.fr.

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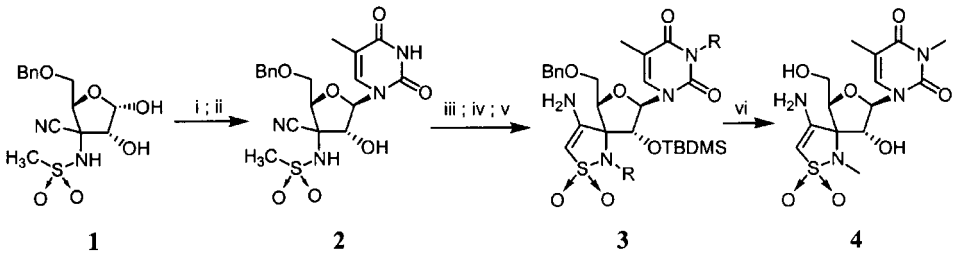

Scheme 1. Reagents and conditions: (i) $SO(Im)_2$, THF; (ii) silylated thymine, 130°C; (iii) TBDMSCl, imidazole, DMF; (iv) MeI, K_2CO_3, MeCN; (v) Cs_2CO_3, MeCN; (vi) C_6H_{10}-$Pd(OH)_2$, EtOH.

Starting from glyco-α-aminonitrile precursors which have been intensively studied in our laboratory and obtained in a stereospecific way,[3,4] successive mesylation and deprotection of a ribo derivative lead to the sulfonamido derivative **1** with an overall yield higher than 95%. Attempts to introduce a nucleic base such as thymine by a Vorbrüggen procedure did not lead to the corresponding nucleoside. This could be obtained, however, by the fusion method. The 1,2-*O*-sulfinyle derivative was prepared with $SO(Im)_2$ in THF with about 85% yield as its exo/endo cyclic form. Finally, condensation of a silylated thymine at 130°C with the 1,2-*O*-sulfinyle resulted in nucleoside **2** with 82% yield. Methylation on the *N*-positions created the precursor for the CSIC reaction. Cyclisation with Cs_2CO_3 afforded 45% yield of the isothiazolic derivative **3**. Deprotection of the benzyl group with C_6H_{10}-$Pd(OH)_2$ followed by silylation with TBDMSCl gave the A-TSAO-m^3T (**4**) in 65% yield.

In a similar way, A-TSAO-T analogue (non alkylated base) was obtained by selective protection of thymine with a BOC group. Then, the cyclisation followed by the one-pot deprotection of both the benzyl and BOC groups with C_6H_{10}-$Pd(OH)_2$ gave the leading compound, after silylation, with 55% yield.

Biological tests have shown selective inhibition on HIV-1 RT.

Investigations to obtain both non alkylated *N*-sulfonamide and substitution on the 5″-*C* are also in progress. In order to investigate SARs different substituents should be introduced on both the nucleic base and the sulfonamide cyclic moiety.

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