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Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713597286>

Synthesis, Stability, and Biological Evaluation of 1,3-Dihydrobenzo[c]furan Analogue of d4T and Its SATE Pronucleotide

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Online publication date: 09 August 2003

To cite this Article Len, Christophe , Selouane, Abdelmajid , Postel, Denis , Villa, Pierre , Aubertin, Anne-Marie , Egron, David , Gosselin, Gilles and Périgaud, Christian(2003) 'Synthesis, Stability, and Biological Evaluation of 1,3-Dihydrobenzo[c]furan Analogue of d4T and Its SATE Pronucleotide', *Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids*, 22: 5, 943 — 945

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1081/NCN-120022691

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1081/NCN-120022691>

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Synthesis, Stability, and Biological Evaluation of 1,3-Dihydrobenzo[c]furan Analogue of d4T and Its SATE Pronucleotide

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ABSTRACT

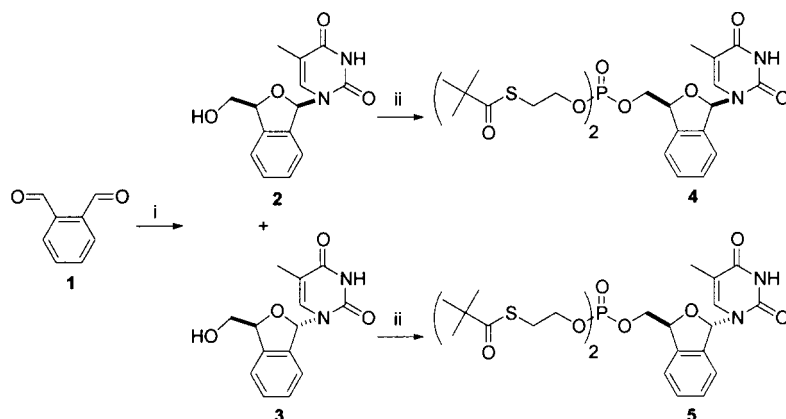
The anti-HIV activity and stability studies of 1,3-dihydrobenzo[c]furan analogue of d4T are reported. The corresponding mononucleoside phosphotriester derivative bearing a *S*-pivaloyl-2-thioethyl (*t*BuSATE) group, as biolabile phosphate protection, is also studied.

Key Words: 1,3-Dihydrobenzo[c]furane; d4T; SATE pronucleotide.

In order to improve the physico-chemical parameters of 2',3'-didehydro-3'-deoxythymidine (d4T), we have recently reported the synthesis of its 1,3-dihydro-

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Scheme 1. Reagents and conditions: (i) Ref. 1; (ii) bis(*S*-pivaloyl-2-thioethyl) *N,N*-diisopropyl phosphoramidite, 1*H*-tetrazole, CH₃CN then *t*BuOOH, toluene.

Table 1. Chemical stability and lipophilicity of nucleoside 2 compared to d4T.

Compounds		2	d4T
$t_{1/2}$	pH 7.3	34 days	6 days
	pH 2.0	31 days	5 days
	pH 1.2	18 days	3 days
Log P ^a		0.55	-0.77

^aLog P determinations were performed using log P dB 4.5 calculations (ACD, Canada).

benzo[*c*]furan derivative (BcFT).^[1,2] Briefly, starting from the readily available phthalaldehyde 1, the enantiomerically pure nucleosides 2 and 3 were obtained in 8% overall yield (Sch. 1).

The chemical hydrolysis of nucleoside 2 and d4T gives rise to the formation of thymine but BcFT was more stable than d4T in all the studied buffers (Table 1). As expected, the introduction of a benzene ring on the sugar residue increases the lipophilicity of the resulting structure.

The possibility to improve the anti-HIV efficiency of nucleoside analogues 2 and 3 using a pronucleotide approach was evaluated. Thus, the mononucleoside phosphotriesters 4 and 5 (Scheme) incorporating the *S*-pivaloyl-2-thioethyl (*t*BuSATE) group as biolabile phosphate protection were synthesised according to a previously published method.^[3]

Compounds 2–5 were evaluated for their inhibitory effects on the replication of HIV-1 in human T4-lymphoblastoid cells, CEM-SS and MT-4. All compounds were found to be inactive at concentration up to 100 μ M.

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