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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 of 9-(2,3-Dideoxy-2,3-Difluoro- β -D- Arabinofuranosyl)Adenine

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To cite this Article Sivets, Grigori G. , Kalinichenko, Elena N. and Mikhailopulo, Igor A.(2007) 'Synthesis of 9-(2,3-Dideoxy-2,3-Difluoro- β -D- Arabinofuranosyl)Adenine', *Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids*, 26: 10, 1387 — 1389

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/15257770701534063

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15257770701534063>

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SYNTHESIS OF 9-(2,3-DIDEOXY-2,3-DIFLUORO- β -D-ARABINOFURANOSYL)ADENINE

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□ *Convergent synthesis of 9-(2,3-dideoxy-2,3-difluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)adenine is described starting from methyl 5-O-benzyl-2-deoxy-2-fluoro- α -D-arabinofuranoside.*

Keywords Dideoxydifluoro nucleosides; purine; convergent synthesis

INTRODUCTION

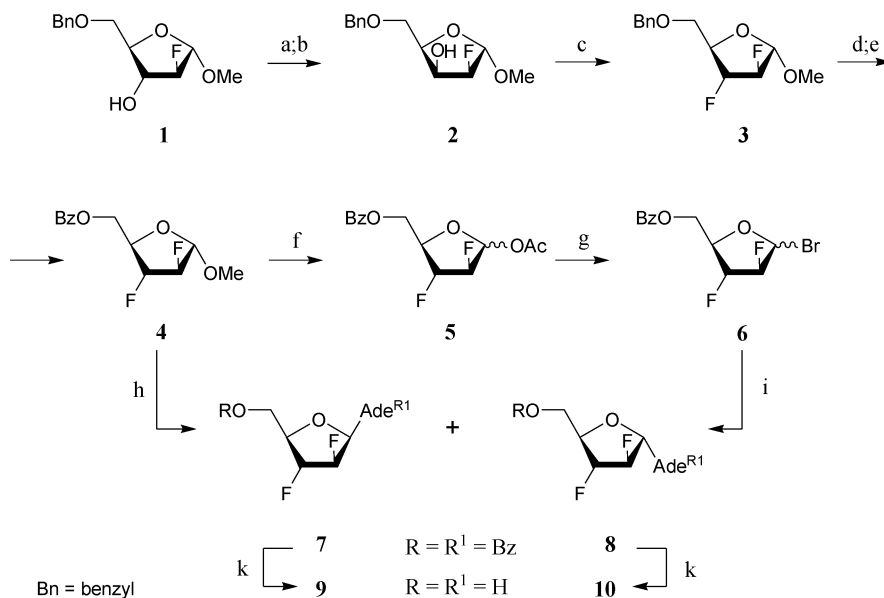
The replacement of the hydroxyl group in the sugar moiety of nucleosides with a fluorine atom results in nucleoside analogues which have interesting stereoelectronic properties and biological activities. Due to their broad chemotherapeutic potential, 2'- β -fluoro nucleosides have been extensively investigated in recent years.^[1] In continuation of our research on the synthesis of purine 2'-fluoroarabinonucleosides,^[2] we presently report the synthesis of the adenine nucleoside **9** containing two fluorine atoms in β -D-arabino-configuration by condensation of the nucleobase and sugar.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We investigated a synthetic route to target nucleoside **9** from methyl 5-O-benzyl-2-deoxy-2-fluoro- α -D-arabinofuranoside (**1**) that was prepared by the known method starting from D-xylose.^[3] Oxidation of **1** followed by reduction of intermediate 3-keto derivative gave rise to lyxoside **2** in

This work was supported from Belarus State Program of FOI "Physiological Active Compounds" (Grant 2.04).

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SCHEME 1 Reagents and conditions: a,b) Ref.^[4]; (Σ 22%); c) DAST, toluene, rt, 20 hours (45%; 42% of starting **2** was recovered); d) [H]/10% Pd/C, EtOH, rt; e) BzCl/Py, rt (d + e, Σ 90%); f) AcOH/Ac₂O/concn. H₂SO₄ (23:6:1, vol), 0°C, 30 minutes; 4°C, 18 hours (77%); g) TMS-Br/CDCl₃, 3 weeks, 15–16°C; hours **4**/silylated *N*⁶BzAde/SnCl₄/MeCN, reflux, 5 hours (**7**, 9%; **8**, 42%; calculated for consumed methyl glycoside **4**, 72% of which was recovered as a mixture of β - and α -anomers); i) **6**/Na-salt of *N*⁶BzAde/THF, reflux, 5 hours (**7**, 22%; **8**, 3%); k) saturated NH₃/MeOH, rt (**9**, 88%; **10**, 81%).

22% isolated yield.^[4] Fluorination of the latter with DAST in toluene at room temperature afforded methyl 5-*O*-benzyl-2,3-dideoxy-2,3-difluoro- α -D-arabinofuranoside (**3**). Using two conventional steps, benzoate **4** was prepared from **3**. The condensation of difluoride **4** with persilylated *N*⁶-benzoyladenine in presence of SnCl₄ in acetonitrile resulted in a mixture of β - and α -nucleosides **7** and **8** (*ca.* 1:5 according to the ¹H NMR data) which was separated into individual anomers by column chromatography on silica gel (Scheme 1). It may be noted that α -methyl arabinoside **4** showed significantly lower reactivity *versus* the *ribo* isomer^[5] in the glycosylation reaction of persilylated *N*⁶-benzoyladenine and was mainly recovered from the reaction by column chromatography as a mixture of α - and β -methyl glycosides. Moreover, we have not detected by TLC the formation of *N*⁷-glycosides that may be explained by the use of excess SnCl₄ in the reaction in order to minimize their formation (*cf.*, refs.^[4,5] and refs. cited therein).

The low yield of desired nucleoside **7** prompted us to study another approach (Scheme 1). Acetolysis of **4** gave a mixture of acetates **5** after chromatography on silica gel. Bromination of **5** under mild conditions (TMSiBr/CDCl₃)^[6] generated intermediate glycosyl bromide **6** that was reacted with the sodium salt of *N*⁶-benzoyladenine in tetrahydrofuran^[7] to

afford a mixture of β - and α -nucleosides **7** and **8** (ca. 7:1 according to the ^1H NMR data), the β -nucleoside **7** being the main product which was isolated by chromatography in moderate yield (22%). TLC of the reaction mixture displays some additional spots of lower intensity compared to that of nucleosides **7** and **8** but the corresponding compounds have not been isolated (cf. ref.^[7]).

Standard deprotection of individual blocked nucleosides **7** and **8** with methanolic ammonia gave pure amorphous 9-(2,3-dideoxy-2,3-difluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)adenine (**9**) and its α -anomer **10**, respectively. Thus, we have complemented a set of known 2',3'-dideoxy-2',3'-difluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl pyrimidine nucleosides^[8] with the first purine nucleoside of this class.

The structure of all compounds was verified by ^1H ^[9] and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy, and by UV and mass spectroscopy in the case of nucleosides **9** and **10**.

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9. ^1H NMR (CD_3OD ; δ_{TMS} , ppm; J , Hz): compound **9**–8.30 (d, 1H, $J_{8,2'\text{F}}$ = 2.3; H-8); 8.21 (s, 1H; H-2); 6.53 (ddd, 1H, $J_{1',2'}$ = 3.97; $J_{1',2'\text{F}}$ = 17.67; $J_{1',3'\text{F}}$ = 1.86; H-1'); 5.50 (dddd, 1H, $J_{2',3'}$ = 2.17; $J_{2',3'\text{F}}$ = 12.82; $^{\text{gem}}J_{2',2'\text{F}}$ = 50.52; H-2'); 5.46 (dddd, 1H, $J_{3',4'}$ = 3.76; $J_{3',2'\text{F}}$ = 15.29; $^{\text{gem}}J_{3',3'\text{F}}$ = 51.24; H-3'); 4.30 (dm, 1H, $J_{4',5'}$ = 4.27; $J_{4',5''}$ = 4.85; $J_{4',3'\text{F}}$ = 24.80; H-4'); 3.89 (ddd, 1H, $^{\text{gem}}J_{5',5''}$ = 12.80; $J_{5',3'\text{F}}(2\text{F}) \approx 1.0$; H-5'); 3.85 (m, 1H; H-5''). Compound **10**: 8.40 & 8.39 (2s, 2H; H-8 & H-2); 6.53 (dd, 1H, $J_{1',2'}$ = 2.42; $J_{1',2'\text{F}}$ = 15.90; H-1'); 6.04 (ddt, 1H, $J_{2',3'}$ = 2.74; $J_{2',3'\text{F}}$ = 14.00; $^{\text{gem}}J_{2',2'\text{F}}$ = 49.70; H-2'); 5.47 (dddd, 1H, $J_{3',4'}$ = 3.90; $J_{3',2'\text{F}}$ = 15.90; $^{\text{gem}}J_{3',3'\text{F}}$ = 51.70; H-3'); 4.81 (ddt 1H, $J_{4',5'}$ = 5.04; $J_{4',5''}$ = 4.98; $J_{4',3'\text{F}}$ = 21.16; H-4'); 3.83 (dd, 1H, $^{\text{gem}}J_{5',5''}$ = 12.85; H-5'); 3.79 (ddd, 1H; $J_{5',3'\text{F}}$ = 1.15; H-5'').