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2'-DEOXYADENOSINE BEARING HYDROPHOBIC CARBORANE PHARMACOPHORE

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□ *Modification of 2'-deoxyadenosine at position 8 with para-carborane boron cluster is described. Incorporation of boron cluster into nucleic base has been accomplished using Sonogashira palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction or, alternatively, Huisgen “click” type reaction. These are the first examples of adenosine derivatives with hydrophobic carborane pharmacophore attached to purine base.*

Keywords Carborane; nucleoside; pharmacophor; “click” chemistry

INTRODUCTION

Purine nucleosides play central role in many biological processes. Structural modification of the purine bases, nucleosides and nucleotides resulted in discovery of many biologically active compounds. Purines and purine nucleosides modified at positions 2, 6, or 8 show a broad spectrum of clinically relevant biological activities such as antiviral activity, A₂, A₃-receptor modulation, antioxidant and cytostatic activity or antihypertensive properties.^[1] Lipophilic modifications have proved especially useful in generating modulators of adenosine receptors. Herein, methods for incorporation of the lipophilic carborane pharmacophore into adenosine at position 8 are presented for the first time.

Polyhedral clusters containing boron have been known for several decades and their structures, bonding, and reactivity have been studied extensively. The icosahedral carboranes (dicarba-*closo*-dodecaboranes, C₂B₁₀H₁₂), in which the carbon and boron atoms are hexacoordinated are

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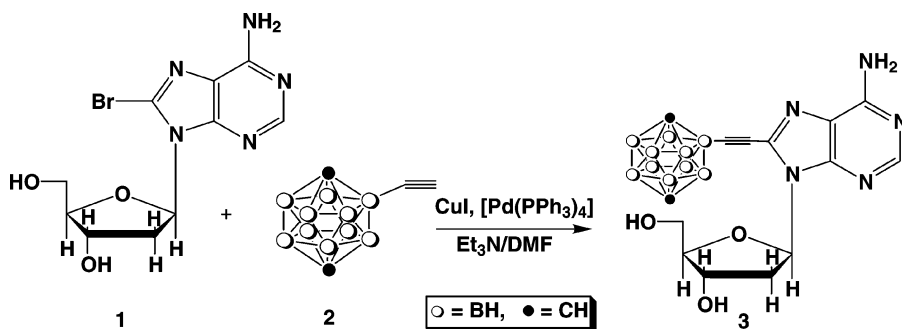


FIGURE 1 Synthesis of 8-ethynyl-(2-*para*-carboran)-2'-deoxyadenosine (**3**).

characterized by high boron content, remarkable thermal and chemical stability, spherical geometry, and exceptional hydrophobic character.^[2] These properties have been utilized in preparation of catalysts, radiopharmaceuticals, coordination compounds, and materials for nanotechnology. In medicinal chemistry they led to development of several new boron carriers for boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT) of tumors. The recent boron cluster studies in this area are focused on using caged boron compounds as a hydrophobic component in biologically active molecules to modulate and enhance their hydrophobic interaction with receptors.^[3,4]

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

2'-Deoxyadenosine containing *para*-carborane group at 8 position was obtained as shown in Figure 1. The target 8-ethynyl-(2-*para*-carboran)-2'-deoxyadenosine (**3**) was obtained from 8-Br-2'-deoxyadenosine (**1**) in palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling^[5] with 2-ethynyl-*para*-carborane (**2**) (lipophilic modification). Compound **1** was obtained directly from 2'-deoxyadenosine and bromine water, following the literature procedure, with 80% yield.^[6] The reversed Sonogashira reaction of ethynyl-substituted 2'-deoxyadenosine (**4**) with 2-*I-para*-carborane gave expected product **3** with 27% yield. Compound **4** also proved to be a useful synthon in the synthesis of boron cluster modified adenosine at position 8 via Huisgen type reaction.

Briefly, 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of adenosine derivative **4** with azide **5** (containing *ortho*-carborane in *nido* form attached through ether linker) in the presence of Cu (I) salt as catalyst at room temperature ("click reaction")^[7] provides boron cluster modified 2'-deoxyadenosine **6** with 60% yield (Figure 2).

All new compounds have been fully characterized by means of UV, MS, ¹H-, ¹³C-, and ¹¹B-NMR. The evaluation of the obtained adenosine conjugates as potential agonists of adenosine receptors is in progress in our laboratory.

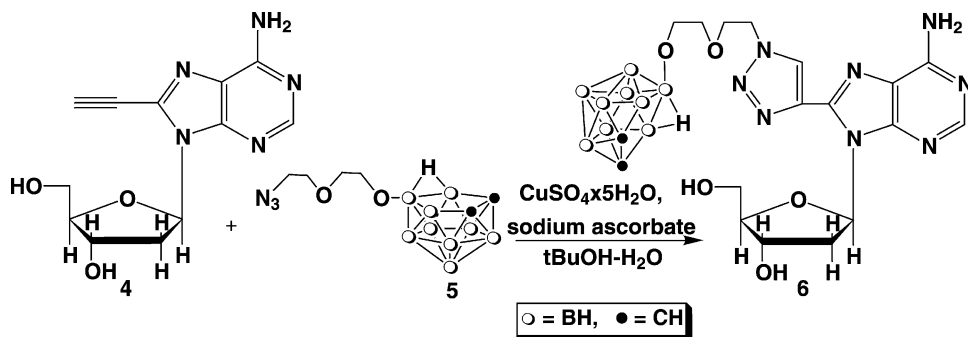


FIGURE 2 Synthesis of 8-[(1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)-1-N-{5-[(7,8-dicarba-*nido*-undecaborane)-10-yl]-3-oxapentoxyl}] -2'-O-deoxyadenosine (**6**).

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