

Palladium-Catalysed Attachment of Labels with Acetylenic Linker Arms to Biological Molecules

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Abstract: Palladium-catalysed coupling has been used to attach a series of fluorescent (acridonyl, pyrenyl, fluoresceinyl, dansyl and ruthenium phenanthrolyl) and enzymic (biotinyl) labels containing a terminal alkyne to electrophilic biological molecules based on amino acids, nucleosides and steroids.
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INTRODUCTION

The detection of biomolecules at concentrations in the subnanogram range is now routinely achieved with labels based on enzymes, fluorophores and luminophores.¹ Techniques based on luminescent labels are replacing those based on radioisotopes which have contributed greatly to the elucidation of biochemical mechanisms and the routine availability of immunoassays.² Detection systems generally consist of three components, the biomolecule, the spacer arm and the signal generator or label (**Figure 1**).

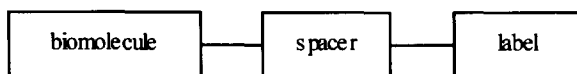


Figure 1

The formation of a covalent bond between a label and a biomolecule generally requires a nucleophilic substitution or electrophilic addition type of reaction in which polar functional groups are used.³ However, the use of palladium-catalysed couplings of terminal alkynes with aryl or vinyl halides and triflates⁴ should allow low polarity covalent bonds to be formed between the label and the biomolecule. Hence a label molecule may be attached to one terminus of a spacer which is further functionalised with a terminal alkyne and then reacted under palladium catalysis with a bromo-, iodo- or triflate arene or alkene on a derivatised biomolecule. The use of this type of reaction for labelling biomolecules offers a complementary methodology to the existing protocols for labelling lipophilic sites on biomolecules.⁵ Thus the aromatic side-chains of amino acids such as

phenylalanine or tyrosine, the purine and pyrimidine bases of nucleosides and the A and D rings of steroids should all be able to be derivatised with alkynyl labels. A predominately hydrocarbon spacer arm should be more resistant to enzymatic hydrolysis if used *in vivo* compared to functional groups such as esters and amides which result from standard labelling protocols.

In addition, for peptides conformational differences between the labelled and unlabelled biomolecules may be reduced if potential hydrogen bonding interactions of the side-chains caused by the linking heteroatoms are minimised by hydrocarbon spacer arms. The use of a hydrocarbon spacer may offer advantages when preparing labelled biomolecules for use in lipophilic systems such as steroids.

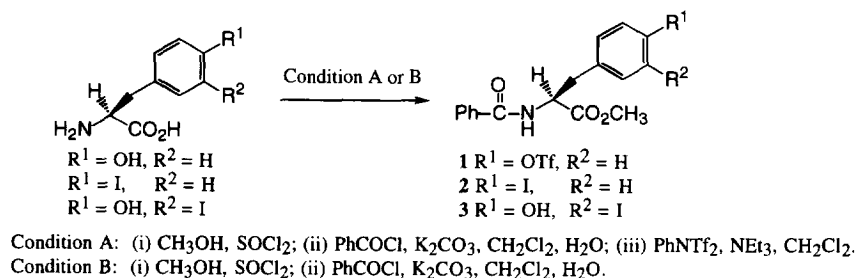
A potential problem with the palladium-catalysed coupling of an alkyne with an organic electrophile is the production of the homocoupled alkyne in preference to the cross-coupled product. Recovery of the homocoupled alkyne in a significant amount has been reported when the oxidative addition of the aryl halide species is slow (generally due to the use of an aryl bromide or electron rich aryl iodide).⁶

We wish to report in this paper the palladium-catalysed coupling of a representative group of labels based on acridone, pyrene, fluorescein, dimethylaminonaphthalenesulfonamide, a ruthenium complex of 1,10-phenanthroline and an enzymatic probe based on biotin attached to spacers containing a terminal alkyne⁷ with suitably derivatised biomolecules. The terminal alkyne group offers the opportunity to form a non-polar covalent bond between the linker arm and the biomolecule and to position the label in a remote position from essential functional groups on the biomolecule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Coupling with Amino Acids

The protection of the amino and carboxylic acid groups was accomplished by the standard esterification with methanol and thionyl chloride followed by reaction with benzoyl chloride under Schotten-Bauman conditions (**Scheme 1**, Condition B)⁸.



Scheme 1

The conversion of the hydroxyl group of L-tyrosine to the corresponding triflate followed a standard literature procedure (**Scheme 1**, Condition A).⁹ The labels used to attach to the biomolecules are shown in **Figure 2**. They include a selection of fluorescent labels (**4**, **5**, **6**, **7**, **8** and **11**), a time-resolved fluorescent label (**9**) and the well used biotin label (**10**). The preparation of these alkyne containing labels was discussed in the preceding paper.⁷

Reaction of triflate **1** with acridone **4** under standard alkyne coupling conditions at room temperature⁴ (**Scheme 2**, Condition A) showed no coupled product after 60 minutes (TLC examination of the mixture showed only starting materials). Increasing the temperature sequentially to 35°, 50° and 60° at 60 minute intervals again showed only one new fluorescent spot due to the homocoupled alkyne dimer **12** in increasing quantity. Repeating the reactions with either increasing amounts of catalyst (10%, 15% and 30%) or increasing temperature gave only the homocoupled product **12**.

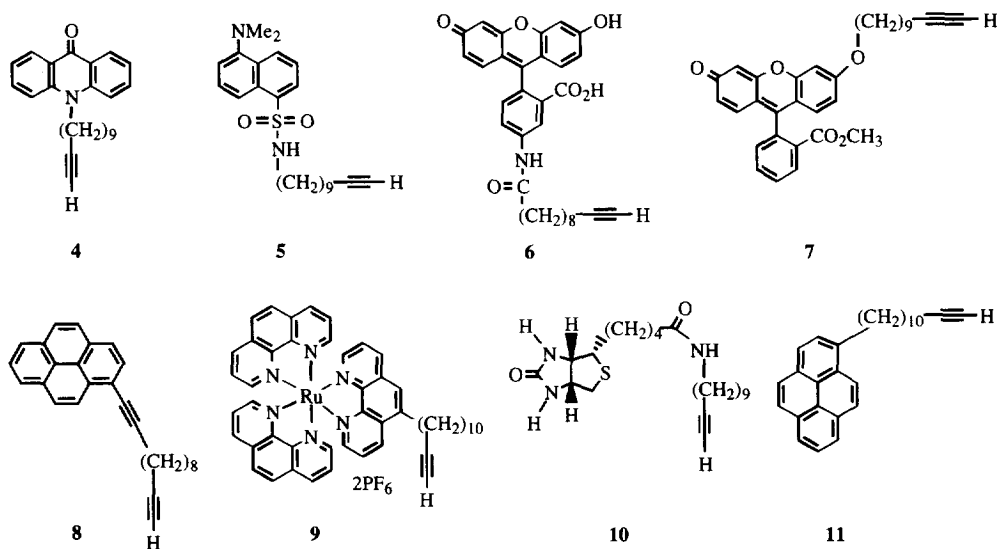
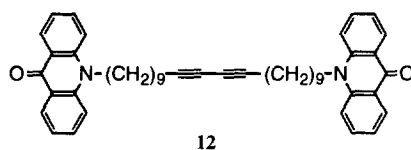


Figure 2

As triflate **1** was still present in the reaction mixture, the homocoupling of the alkyne was occurring at a rate faster than formation of the cross-coupled product. In palladium-catalysed cross coupling reactions, the rate determining step is either the oxidative addition of the electrophile to PdL_2 , or transmetalation of the nucleophile onto a palladium (II) intermediate.¹⁰ The use of the catalytic system $\text{Pd}_2\text{dba}_3/\text{AsPh}_3$ has been shown to increase the rate of the transmetalation step.¹¹ However TLC analysis of the mixture from the reaction between **1** and **4** (stirred at room temperature overnight) in the presence of this catalyst (**Scheme 2**, Condition B) showed only alkyne dimer **12** and residual **1** and **4**. Increasing the temperature to 50° and

stirring until the catalyst decomposed (about 30 hours) showed only an increase in the amount of **12** and the consumption of **1** and **4**.

The rate of oxidative addition of aryl triflates and aryl bromides in palladium catalysed cross-coupling reactions is relatively slow compared to aryl iodides, and so conditions reported to effect efficient coupling of aryl bromides were tested¹² (**Scheme 2**, Condition C). Reaction of **1** and **4** at 100° in piperidine gave only unreacted starting alkyne (28%) and dimer **12** (32%). The triflate was consumed in the reaction but no identifiable compound(s) were isolated.

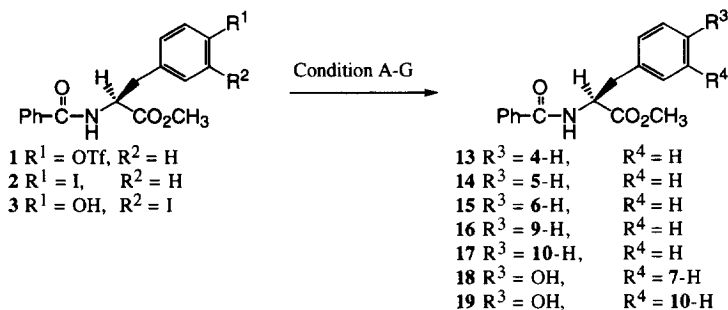


Thus it appeared that the oxidative addition of the aryl triflate was slow, which allowed the (normally) slower homocoupling process to predominate.¹³ This problem may be overcome if the stoichiometric reaction between the triflate and Pd(PPh₃)₄ to form the σ -bonded intermediate were possible, followed by reaction with the alkyne label.¹⁴ Reaction of **1** with a stoichiometric amount of Pd(PPh₃)₄ in DMF (**Scheme 2**, Condition D) at room temperature gave rise to a green precipitate (which decomposed upon exposure to the atmosphere). After 3.5 hours TLC (EtOAc/hexanes 50/50) analysis showed the absence of **1** at R_f = 0.25 and a new spot at R_f = 0.05. Assuming this new spot to be the required σ -complex the acridone label **4**, CuI and Et₃N were added to the mixture. The green precipitate was immediately consumed and the reaction turned dark brown. After stirring at 50° for 30 minutes, TLC analysis showed the absence of the low R_f spot, and spots corresponding to unreacted **4** (R_f = 0.63), dimer **12** (R_f = 0.37) and coupled product **13** (R_f = 0.22). After separation by flash chromatography **13** was recovered in 68% yield.

Although the stoichiometric coupling of triflate **1** was successful, conditions for catalytic couplings were still sought as palladium reagents are expensive. A literature report revealed that phenyl triflate could be coupled with a variety of terminal alkynes under palladium catalysis in DMF at 90° without CuI.¹⁵ However reaction of **1** with **4** under these conditions resulted in alkyne dimer **12** being isolated in 33% as the only identifiable product (**Scheme 2**, Condition E). The remainder of the starting materials appeared to undergo decomposition.

DMSO has been used as a solvent in coupling reactions where the temperature has been raised to facilitate reaction of an unreactive substrate¹⁶, and so reaction of **1** with **4** at 70° under these conditions gave the coupled product **13** in 86% yield (**Scheme 2**, Condition F). A small amount of alkyne dimer **12** (3%) was

also recovered. Repeating the reaction in DMF under standard conditions (**Scheme 2**, Conditions G) with the temperature at 70° from the beginning of the reaction resulted in a yield of 80% of the desired coupled product **13**, showing that the temperature of reaction is critical to the coupling.



Condition A: Label (1.5 eq), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.1eq), CuI (0.2 eq), Et₃N, DMF, 20°.

Condition B: Label (2.5 eq), Pd₂dba₃ (0.025 eq), AsPh₃ (0.2 eq), CuI (0.1 eq), Et₃N, DMF.

Condition C: Label (1.5 eq), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.1 eq), CuI (0.2 eq), PPh₃ (0.2 eq), piperidine.

Condition D: (i) Pd(PPh₃)₄ (1.0 eq), DMF. (ii) Label (1.5 eq), CuI (0.2 eq), Et₃N.

Condition E: Label (1.5 eq), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.1 eq), Et₃N, DMF, 90°.

Condition F: Label (1.5 eq), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.1eq), CuI (0.2 eq), Et₃N, DMSO.

Condition G: Label (1.5 eq), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.1eq), CuI (0.2 eq), Et₃N, DMF, 70°.

Scheme 2

Presumably, as the temperature rises the rate of oxidative addition of the aryl triflate to the palladium catalyst becomes significant and hence can react further in the catalytic cycle to give the coupled product. This approach is, however, limited by the thermal stabilities of the substrates and catalyst.

Reaction of iodophenylalanine **2** with the acridone label **4** proceeded at room temperature under the standard conditions (**Scheme 2**, Condition A) and gave the expected coupled product **13** in an excellent yield of 96% and only 3% of **12**. Reaction of **2** with the dansyl **5**, aminofluorescein **6**, *tris*-1,10-phenanthroline ruthenium **9** and biotin **10**, labels all proceeded under the standard conditions (**Scheme 2**, Condition A) at room temperature in less than four hours to give the coupled products **14** (82%), **15** (75%), **16** (65%) and **17** (in 84%), respectively.

Reaction of **3** with the fluorescein label **7** proceeded at room temperature under the standard conditions (**Scheme 2**, Condition A). The reaction was complete within 4 hours, as indicated by the absence of starting material by TLC (*R_f* 0.71, 10/90 MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) and a new fluorescent ($\lambda = 365$ nm) spot at *R_f* 0.33. A small fluorescent spot presumably corresponding to the alkyne dimer was also observed at *R_f* 0.21 but was not isolated. Purification by flash chromatography gave the labelled compound **18** in 91% yield. Reaction of **3** with the biotin label **10** under the standard conditions (**Scheme 2**, Condition A) again proceeded at room temperature and gave the labelled compound **19** in 76% yield. Thus conditions were identified where both the

The palladium catalysed cross coupling reactions between 5-halo or 5-triflyluridine derivatives and terminal alkynes has been used to prepare 5-alkynyl substituted compounds, which may have antiviral or anticancer activity^{18,13} and in the preparation of 5-propargylamine adducts, which were reacted with fluorescent labels¹⁶. Also, 8-alkynyl substituted adenosine and guanosine derivatives have been synthesised from the respective 8-bromo derivatives, which has allowed the preparation of compounds which have been tested for

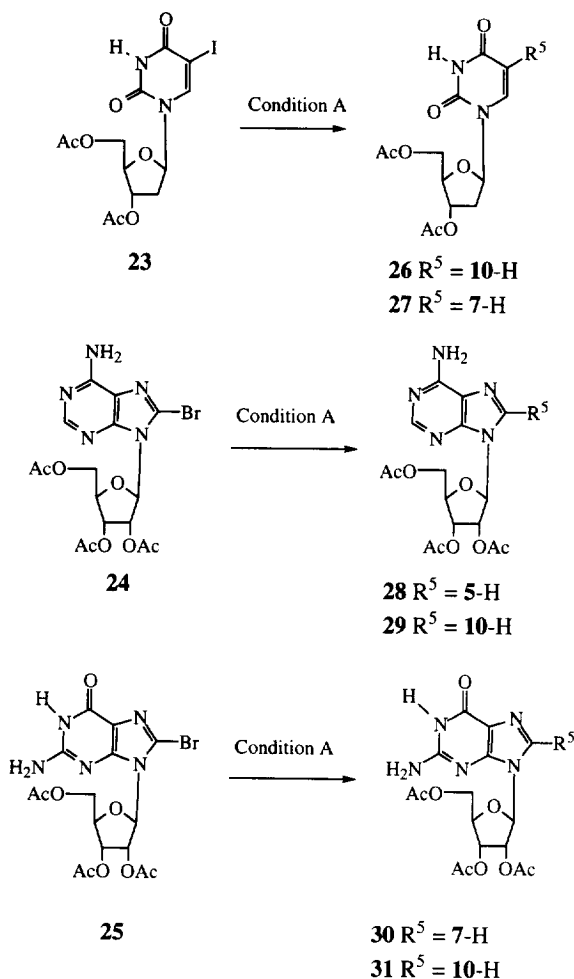
cytokinin activity¹⁶ and A₁ adenosine receptor activity¹⁹. These reactions generally occurred in high yields and under mild conditions; protection of the sugar hydroxyl groups, characterisation purposes.²⁰

Thus the nucleoside derivatives 5-iodouridine, 8-bromoadenosine and 8-bromoguanosine were selected for coupling reactions and protected as their di- or triacetates by reaction with acetic anhydride in pyridine^{21,22} to give the protected compounds **23**, **24** and **25** respectively. A mole ratio of 2:1 copper to palladium has been shown to offer the best coupling conditions for alkynes with uridine derivatives as the production of sideproducts is minimised^{13,18,16}. The reaction of protected 5-iododeoxyuridine **23** with the biotin label **10** as shown in **Scheme 4** (Condition A) gave a dark brown reaction mixture after stirring at 40° for 3 hours. TLC (10/90 MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) showed the absence of **23** at R_f 0.64, and a new fluorescent spot (λ_{ex} = 365 nm) at R_f 0.20. After workup and chromatography, ¹H NMR showed the expected resonances for the product **26** which was formed in 86% yield, and no trace of products resulting from unwanted cyclization¹³. Similarly, reaction of **23** with the fluorescein label **7** (**Scheme 4**) gave the adduct **27** in 76% yield. Coupling of protected 8-bromoadenosine **24** with the acridone label **5** (**Scheme 4**, Condition A) gave the product **28** in 89% yield. Similarly, reaction of **24** with the biotin label **10** under the same conditions (**Scheme 4**) gave the biotin adduct **29** in 88% yield.

Guanosine derivative **25** was reacted with the fluorescein label **7** under standard conditions (**Scheme 4**, Condition A). After 5 hours stirring, TLC (10/90 MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) showed yellow fluorescent spots at R_f 0.68, 0.27 and 0.17 corresponding to the label, homocoupled label dimer and product respectively, and the absence of a spot at R_f 0.22 corresponding to **25**. After removal of solvent, chromatographic separation of the residue gave the fluorescein dimer in 12% yield (based on starting label), followed by the coupled product **30**, which was impure. A large amount of low R_f material was observed on the column, which failed to elute with a higher polarity solvent mixture.

Upon repeating the chromatography, **30** was obtained in 51% yield as a bright orange glass. The low yield may be due to the partial complexation of the metal catalysts. Any such complex formed would be charged and hence presumably would bind strongly to silica; this may account for the majority of the mass balance of starting materials. Similarly, reaction of **25** with the biotin label **10** under the previous conditions (**Scheme 4**) and workup gave the labelled compound **31** in 58% yield.

The results of these coupling reactions show that large label-spacer adducts may be coupled easily and in very good yields for the 5-iododeoxyuridine derivative **23** and 8-bromoadenosine derivative **24**; however the 8-bromoguanosine derivative **25** couples in only average yields. The preparation of labelled deoxynucleosides for incorporation into oligonucleotides via standard solid phase methodology should easily be achieved.



Condition A: Label 1.2 eq, $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ (0.1 eq), CuI (0.2 eq), Et_3N (1.2 eq), DMF, 40°

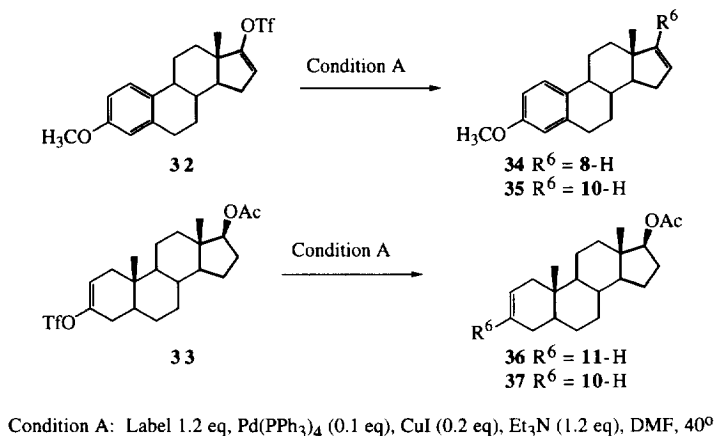
Scheme 4

Coupling with Steroids

Steroids with carbonyl groups such as estrone and epiandosterone are easily converted to triflate derivatives and have been shown to undergo a variety of palladium catalysed processes; the cross coupling with terminal alkynes has been well investigated²³. As labelled steroidal derivatives have been used as probes in biological systems²⁴, (particularly in the study of membrane structures²⁵), the possibility of coupling estrone triflate derivative **32** and epiandrosterone triflate derivative **33** with the developed pyrene labels **8** and **11**, and biotin label **10** was investigated.

Reaction of **32** with pyrene label **8** under standard conditions (Scheme 5) proceeded readily. TLC (20/80 CH_2Cl_2 /hexanes) of the reaction mixture after 3 hours stirring at room temperature showed a new

fluorescent spot at R_f 0.31 corresponding to product, and the absence of the triflate at R_f 0.10. After workup and chromatography, the product **34** was recovered in 92% yield. Similarly, reaction of **32** with biotin label **10** under standard conditions (**Scheme 5**) gave the labelled product **35** in 89% yield. The reaction occurred in less than three hours, as indicated by the absence of starting triflate by TLC, and the spectral data (MS, ^1H , ^{13}C NMR) were in agreement with the expected structure.



Scheme 5

Reaction of androsterone derivative **33** with pyrene label **11** under standard conditions (**Scheme 5**) to give **36** occurred in 85% yield, and the spectral data were consistent with the proposed structure. Repeating the reaction with the biotin label **10** (**Scheme 5**) gave the adduct **37** in 88% yield; again the spectral data were consistent with the expected product.

These results showed that the selected steroidal triflates may be labelled readily and in high yield using PdCC methodology. Other steroidal triflates have been shown to have similar reactivity²⁶, and so this may be a general method for the labelling of steroids which are functionalised with a carbonyl group. As a hydrocarbon spacer unit can be incorporated with the label, the lipophilicity of adducts may be enhanced, which could prove advantageous in some systems.

EXPERIMENTAL

All reactions were performed in oven dried glassware under a nitrogen atmosphere (unless in aqueous solution). Melting points were recorded on a Reichert hot stage apparatus and are uncorrected. Proton and carbon NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker ACP-300 or a Varian Gemini 200 spectrometer in CDCl_3 as solvent with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. Mass spectra were recorded on VG ZAB 2HF mass spectrometer with either electron impact (EI) or fast atom bombardment (FAB) ionisation, or on an AEI-GEC MS 3074 instrument with EI ionisation. Ultraviolet spectra were recorded on a Pye Unicam SP8-100

spectrometer. Fluorescence spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer 3000 spectrometer. IR spectra were recorded on a Hitachi 270-30 spectrometer. Triethylamine, pyrrolidine, piperidine and CH_2Cl_2 were distilled from CaH_2 under nitrogen and stored over 4Å molecular sieves. DMF was distilled from CaH_2 (ca. 80° at 20mmHg) and stored over 4Å molecular sieves. Analytical thin layer chromatography was carried out using Merck aluminium sheets precoated with kieselgel 60 F₂₅₄ or (when stated) with Alumina 150 F₂₅₄, and visualised using either a 254 nm or 365 nm lamp, or with a 4% solution of phosphomolybdic acid in ethanol. Flash chromatography was carried using Merck kieselgel 60 (230-400 mesh) or (when stated) on Alumina UG, and solvents used were distilled before use. The following compounds were synthesised according to literature procedures: 1-bromopyrene²⁷, 1-iodopyrene²⁸, N-benzoyl-4-iodo-L-phenylalanine methyl ester (**2**)²⁹, N-benzoyl-3-iodo-L-tyrosine methyl ester (**3**)⁸, N-benzoyl-L-tyrosine methyl ester³⁰, N-benzoyl(4-O-trifluoromethanesulfonyl)-L-phenylalanine methyl ester (**1**)³¹, ethyl 2-acetamidopent-4-ynoate (**20**)¹⁶, 5-iodo-3',5'-di-O-acetyldeoxyuridine (**23**)²¹, 8-bromo-2',3',5'-tri-O-acetyl adenosine (**24**)²², 8-bromo-2',3',5'-tri-O-acetylguanosine (**25**)²², estrone triflate(**32**)³², androsterone triflate(**33**)²⁶, 10-(undec-10-ynyl)-9-(10*H*)-acridone (**4**)⁷, 11-(1-pyrenyl)undec-10-yn-1-ol (**7**)⁷, 1-(1-pyrenyl)dodeca-11-yne (**8**)⁷, 1-(1-pyrenyl)-dodeca-1,11-diyn-1-ol (**9**)⁷, 6-O-(1-undec-10-ynyl)fluorescein methyl ester (**11**)⁷, *N*-(1-oxoundec-10-ynyl)-5-aminofluorescein (**12**)⁷, 5-dimethylamino-*N*-(11-undec-1-ynyl)-1-naphthalenesulphonamide (**13**)⁷, biotin-*N*-(undec-10-ynyl)amide (**14**)⁷, *bis*-1,10-phenanthroline-5-[(dodec-11-ynyl)-1,10-phenanthroline]ruthenium(II) hexafluorophosphate (**21**)⁷.

Due to the lack of reproducibility with microanalytical data the labelled biomolecules were characterised by ¹H and ¹³C NMR, with high resolution mass spectroscopy (EI and LSIMS) confirming the molecular formulae.

***N*-Benzoyl-4-[[11-(10-(10*H*)-9-acridonyl)]undec-1-ynyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester (**13**):** Method A.

To a stirred solution of triflate **1** (50mg, 0.16 mmol) in DMF (1.5ml) was added Pd(PPh₃)₄ (29mg, 0.16 mmol). A green/brown suspension slowly formed. TLC analysis after 3.5 hours showed a minor amount of starting material at *R*_f = 0.32 (30/70 EtOAc/hexanes) and a major spot on baseline. Alkyne **5** (60mg, 0.17mmol), CuI (4.4 mg, 0.023mmol) and Et₃N (0.5ml) were added and stirring continued at 50° for 30 minutes. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue separated by flash chromatography eluant 50/50 EtOAc/hexanes, to give the title compound as light green crystals in 51mg (68%) yield mp 66-67°. HRMS Calculated for C₄₁H₄₂N₂O₄: 626.339. Found: 626.3148. MS: 626 (M⁺, 5), 208, 195, 167. IR (nujol): ν_{max} 3272, 1732, 1642, 1606, 1538 cm⁻¹. UV (EtOH): λ_{max} 257 (87 700), 387 (10 400), 405 (12 400) nm

(ϵ). Fluorescence (EtOH, λ_{ex} = 387 nm): 420 (100), 440 (70) nm. ^1H NMR: δ 1.17-1.65 (*m*, 12H, $(\text{CH}_2)_6$); 1.92 (*quintet*, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-acridone}$); 2.40 (*t*, 2H, J 7.0 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}\equiv\text{C-Ar}$); 3.19 and 3.27 (2 \times *dd*, 1H, J = 13.8, 5.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-Ar}$); 3.75 (*s*, 3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{O}_2\text{C}$); 4.31 (*m*, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{-N}$); 5.07 (*dt*, 1H, J = 7.4, 5.6 Hz, C-H); 6.67 (*d*, 1H, J = 7.4 Hz, N-H); 7.04 (*d*, 2H, J = 8.2 Hz, C3'-H and C5'-H); 7.25-7.33 (*m*, 4H, C2-H, C2'-H and C6'-H); 7.38-7.52 (*m*, 5H, C4-H and PhCON); 7.5-7.75 (*m*, 4H, C3-H and PhCON); 8.57 (*dd*, 2H, J = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, C1-H). ^{13}C NMR: δ 19.3, 26.8, 27.1, 28.6, 28.8, 29.0, 29.2, 29.4, 37.6, 46.1, 52.4, 53.4, 80.2, 90.6 (alkynyl), 114.5, 17.1, 18.4, 18.8, 22.9, 23.9, 24.6, 25.2, 26.6, 26.8, 28.7, 28.8, 30.3, 36.7, 166.7, 171.8, 177.9.

***N*-Benzoyl-4-[[11-(10-(10*H*)-9-acridonyl)]undec-1-ynyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester (13):** Method B.

To a stirred mixture of DMF (1.0 ml) and Et_3N (0.2 ml) was added sequentially the iodide **3** (50mg, 0.12 mmol), alkyne **5** (63mg, 0.18 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ (14mg, 0.012mmol), and CuI (4.5mg, 0.024mmol). After stirring overnight at room temperature TLC (EtOAc/hexanes 50/50) showed the absence of **3** at R_f 0.65 and new compounds at R_f 0.51 and R_f 0.37. The mixture was separated by flash chromatography using EtOAc/hexanes 40/60 as eluant. First to elute was the alkyne dimer **12** in 2.0mg yield. [^1H NMR δ 1.23-1.37 (*m*, 12H, $(\text{CH}_2)_6$); 1.95 (*quintet*, 2H, J = 7.8 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{-N}$); 2.24 (*t*, 1H, J = 6.7 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}\equiv\text{C}$); 4.33 (*m*, 1H, $\text{CH}_2\text{-N}$); 7.29 (*t*, 2H, J = 7.1 Hz, C2-H); 7.49 (*d*, 2H, J = 8.7 Hz, C4-H); 7.74 (*ddd*, 2H, J = 8.7, 7.1, 1.7 Hz, C3-H); 8.59 (*dd*, 2H, J = 8.1, 1.7 Hz, C1-H).] Next to elute was the title compound, which was recrystallised from CH_2Cl_2 /hexanes in 74mg (96%) yield. The ^1H NMR data were identical with those reported in the previous method.

Compounds **14**, **16**, **17**, **18**, **19**, **20** and **21** were prepared in a similar manner by Method A except for the difference stated. The scale was based on 50mg of the iodide or triflate.

***N*-benzoyl-4-[*N*-(5-dimethylamino-1-naphthalenesulphonyl)-11-aminoundec-1-ynyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester (14)**

Eluant 40/60 EtOAc/hexanes; fluorescent green viscous oil; 82% yield. Calculated for $\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{47}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5\text{S}$: 681.3236. Found: 681.3253. MS: 681 (M^+ , 68), 649, 560, 203, 169, 105. IR (thin film): ν_{max} 3300, 1736, 1652, 1578, 1512, 1316, 1144, 910, 738 cm^{-1} . UV (EtOH): λ_{max} 227 (36 200), 247 (39 600), 338 (5 700) nm. Fluorescence (EtOH, λ_{ex} = 338 nm): 503 nm. ^1H NMR: δ 1.30-1.21 (*m*, 12H, $(\text{CH}_2)_6$); 1.47

(*quintet*, 2H, $J = 7.3$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-NHSO}_2$); 2.29 (*t*, 2H, $J = 7.1$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}\equiv\text{C-Ar}$); 2.79 (*q*, 2H, $J = 6.5$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-NHSO}_2$); 2.80 (*s*, 6H, $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{-N}$); 3.13 and 3.21 (2 x *dd*, 1H, $J = 13.8, 5.6$ Hz, C3-H); 3.5 (*s*, 3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{O}_2\text{C}$); 4.58 (*t*, 1H, $J = 6.5$ Hz, $\text{SO}_2\text{NH-CH}_2$); 5.01 (*dt*, 1H, $J = 7.5, 5.6$ Hz, C-H); 6.53 (*d*, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz, CONH); 6.97 (*d*, 2H, $J = 8.2$ Hz, C3'-H and C5'-H); 7.10 (*d*, 1H, $J = 7.4$ Hz, C6-H); 7.24 (*d*, 2H, $J = 8.2$ Hz, C2'-H and C6'-H); 7.32-7.51 (*m*, 5H, Ar-H); 7.63-7.67 (*m*, 2H, Ar-H); 8.17 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 7.5, 1.1$ Hz, C3-H); 8.21 (*d*, 1H, $J = 8.6$ Hz, C4-H); 8.46 (*d*, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz, C2-H). ^{13}C NMR: δ 19.3, 26.3, 28.6, 28.7, 28.8, 28.9, 29.1, 29.4, 37.7, 43.2, 45.4, 52.4, 53.4, 80.2, 90.7 (alkynyl), 115.1, 13.7, 18.9, 19.1, 23.0, 24.3, 24.6, 25.2, 25.2, 25.6, 25.8, 130.3, 26.7, 26.8, 28.7, 29.7, 30.3, 152.0, 166.8, 171.9.

***N*-Benzoyl-4-[11-(*N*-5'-fluoresceinyl)-11-carboxylaminoundec-1-ynyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester (15)**

Eluant 5/95 MeOH/ CH_2Cl_2 ; bright orange glass; 75%. HRMS (LSIMS) Calculated for $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{45}\text{N}_2\text{O}_9$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 793.321. Found: 793.3096. MS: 793 ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$, 100), 594, 402, 347. IR (CDCl_3): ν_{max} 3500-3000, 3080, 1742, 1644, 1602 cm^{-1} . UV (EtOH): λ_{max} 231 (39 900), 257 (31 100), 457 (5 600), 483 (5 900) nm (ϵ). Fluorescence (EtOH, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 483$ nm): 518 nm. *The NMR data are for the lactone structure.* ^1H NMR (d_6 -DMSO): δ 1.21-1.61 (*m*, 12H, $(\text{CH}_2)_6$); 2.36 (*t*, 2H, $J = 6.7$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}\equiv\text{C-Ar}$); 3.08 and 3.16 (2 x *dd*, 1H, $J = 13.7, 5.4$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-Ar}$); 3.63 (*s*, 3H, $\text{CH}_3\text{O}_2\text{C}$); 4.64 (*dt*, 1H, $J = 7.9, 5.4$ Hz, C-H); 6.52 (*dd*, 2H, $J = 8.7, 1.9$ Hz, C2-H); 6.58 (*d*, 2H, $J = 8.7$ Hz, C1-H); 6.61 (*d*, 2H, $J = 1.9$ Hz, C4-H); 7.17 (*d*, 1H, $J = 8.4$ Hz, C3'-H); 7.26 (*bs*, 4H, C2"-H, C3"-H, C5"-H, C6"-H); 7.41-7.37 (*m*, 3H, PhCON); 7.77 (*m*, 2H, PhCON); 7.82 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 8.4, 1.6$ Hz, C4'-H); 8.33 (*d*, 1H, $J = 1.6$ Hz, C6'-H); 8.85 (*d*, 1H, $J = 7.9$ Hz, PhCONH); 10.20 (*bs*, 2H, Ar-OH); 10.40 (*bs*, 1H, 5'-NH). ^{13}C NMR (d_6 -DMSO): δ 18.6, 25.0, 28.2, 28.3, 28.4, 28.6, 28.7, 29.0, 36.0, 36.5, 37.0, 51.9, 80.5, 83.0, 90.4, 102.1, 3.8, 1.8, 17.5, 22.2, 23.2, 23.6, 24.3, 25.1, 25.5, 130.9, 26.3, 26.5, 28.6, 32.6, 35.9, 152.0, 159.9, 166.4, 168.7, 172.0, 172.1.

***N*-Benzoyl-4-(12-{5-[1,10-phenanthroline-bis-1,10-phenanthroline]ruthenium(II)}dodec-1-ynyl)phenylalanine methyl ester hexafluorophosphate (16)**

Chromatography on alumina with eluant CHCl_3 ; bright orange glass; 65%. MS (LSIMS): 192 ($[^{102}\text{RuM-PF}_6\text{J}^+$, 82), 37 ($^{102}\text{RuM-2PF}_6$, 100). UV (CHCl_3): λ_{max} 263 (87 600), 418 (12 000), 451 (12 800) nm (ϵ). Fluorescence (CHCl_3 , $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 451$ nm): 573 nm. ^1H NMR: δ 1.22-1.61 (*m*, 14H, $(\text{CH}_2)_7$); 1.86 (*quintet*, 2H, $J = 7.2$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-Ar}$); 2.38 (*t*, 2H, $J = 6.9$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}\equiv\text{C-Ar}$); 3.17-3.31 (*m*, 4H, $\text{CH}_2\text{-Ar}$ and $\text{CH}_2\text{-}$

phen); 3.76 (*s*, 3H, CH₃O₂C); 5.05 (*dt*, 1H, *J* = 7.3, 5.8 Hz, C-H); 6.58 (*bd*, 1H, *J* = 7.3 Hz, PhCONH); 7.05 (*d*, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, C3"-H and C5"-H); 7.31 (*d*, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, C2"-H and C6"-H); 7.40-7.86 (*m*, H); 7.89 (*s*, 1H, C6-H); 8.04 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 5.3 Hz, C_x-H); 8.10-8.13 (*m*, 8H); 8.35 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, C2'-H); 8.45 (*d*, 4H, *J* = 8.2 Hz, C2-H and C9-H); 8.57(*d*, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, C9'-H).

***N*-Benzoyl-4-[(*N*-biotinyl)-11-aminoundec-1-ynyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester (17)**

Eluant 5/95 MeOH/CH₂Cl₂; recrystallisation from MeOH; light yellow crystals mp 142°; (84%) yield. HRMS

Calculated for C₃₈H₅₀N₄O₅S: 674.3502. Found: 674.3520. MS: 674 (M⁺, 9), 615, 521, 461, 227, 105.

IR (nujol): ν_{\max} 3296, 1742, 1706, 1642, 1538 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 1.29-1.76 (*m*, 22H, (CH₂)₁₁); 2.17 (*t*, 2H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, CH₂CON); 2.38 (*t*, *J* = 6.9 Hz, CH₂-C \equiv C-Ar); 2.76 (*d*, 1H, *J*_{gem} = 12.8 Hz, C5-H β); 2.86 (*dd*, 1H, *J*_{gem} = 12.8, 4.9 Hz, C5-H α); 3.09-3.31 (4H, *m*, CH₂-Ar and CH₂NHCO); 3.75 (*s*, 3H, CH₃O₂C); 4.28 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 7.2, 4.5 Hz, C4-H); 4.48 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 7.6, 4.9 Hz, C3-H); 5.06 (*dt*, 1H, *J* = 7.4, 5.8 Hz, C-H); 5.40 (*bs*, 1H, N1'-H); 6.01 (*t*, 1H, *J* = 5.6 Hz, CH₂-NHC=O); 6.33 (*bs*, 1H, N3'-H); 6.85 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, C2-NHCO); 7.06 (*d*, 2H, *J* = 8.1 Hz, C3-H and C5-H); 7.31 (*d*, 2H, *J* = 8.1 Hz, C2-H and C6-H); 7.39-7.75 (*m*, 5H, PhCONH). ¹³C NMR: δ 19.4, 25.7, 26.9, 28.1, 28.2, 28.7, 28.8, 29.1, 29.3, 29.4, 29.6, 36.0, 37.6, 39.5, 40.5, 46.2, 52.5, 53.5, 40.6, 60.2, 61.8, 80.2, 90.8 (alkynyl), 18.9, 23.1, 24.6, 25.2, 26.7, 26.8, 28.7, 30.4, 163.8, 166.9, 172.2, 173.1.

***N*-Benzoyl -3-({11-[6-*O*-(methyl)fluoresceinyl]}undec-1-ynyl)-L-tyrosine methyl ester (18)**

Eluant 8/92 MeOH/CH₂Cl₂; bright orange glass; 91% yield. HRMS Calculated for C₄₉H₄₇NO₉: 793.3251.

Found: 793.3241. MS: 793 (M⁺, 31), 734, 673, 601, 326. IR (CDCl₃): ν_{\max} 3436, 1726, 1644, 1598, 1516 cm⁻¹. UV (EtOH): λ_{\max} 225 (72 500), 253 (36 200), 276 (20 600), 301 (13 900), 365 (9 200), 441 (23 700), 460 (33 000), 489 (26 100) nm (ϵ). Fluorescence (EtOH, λ_{ex} = 489 nm): 521 nm. ¹H NMR: δ 1.35-1.50 (*m*, 10H, (CH₂)₅); 1.65 (*quintet*, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz, CH₂CH₂-C \equiv C); 1.86 (*quintet*, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₂CH₂-OAr); 2.48 (*t*, 2H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH₂-C \equiv C-); 3.13 and 3.21 (2 x *dd*, 1H, *J* = 14.0, 5.6 Hz, CH₂-Ar); 4.09 (*t*, 2H, *J* = 6.5 Hz, CH₂-OAr); 5.05 (*dt*, 1H, *J* = 7.3, 5.5 Hz, H-C); 6.12 (*bs*, 1H, Ar-OH); 6.49 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 1.9 Hz, C4-H); 6.57 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 9.7, 1.9 Hz, C2-H); 6.65 (*bd*, 1H, *J* = 7.3 Hz, PhCONH); 6.75 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 8.9, 2.4 Hz, C7-H); 6.86-7.00 (*m*, 5H, C1-H, C5-H, C8-H, C5"-H, C6"-H); 7.11 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 2.1 Hz, C2"-H); 7.33 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 7.3, 1.2 Hz, C3'-H); 7.42-7.56 (*m*, 3H, PhCON); 7.68 (*dt*, 1H, *J* = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, C5'-H); 7.73 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 5.9, 1.5 Hz, C4'-H); 7.75-7.79 (*m*, 2H, PhCON); 8.27 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, C6'-H). ¹³C NMR: δ 19.6, 25.9, 28.4, 28.9, 29.0, 29.1, 29.2, 29.3, 36.9, 52.4, 53.7, 68.9.

74.9, 97.3 (alkynyl), 100.7, 105.7, 110.7, 114.0, 114.6, 114.8, 117.4, 23.1, 23.2, 24.4, 24.6, 24.8, 25.7, 25.9, 130.0, 130.3, 130.3, 130.5, 26.1, 26.7, 27.5, 27.7, 28.9, 29.6, 150.7, 137.4, 156.1, 159.0, 163.8, 165.6, 166.9, 172.0, 185.6.

***N*-Benzoyl-3-[*N*-(biotinyl)-11-aminoundec-1-ynyl]-L-tyrosine methyl ester (19)**

Eluant 8/92 MeOH/CH₂Cl₂; 76%; light yellow crystals mp 88-90°. HRMS Calculated for C₃₈H₅₀N₄O₆S: 50.3451. Found: 50.3464. MS: 50 (M⁺, 14), 631, 537, 477, 413, 105. IR (CDCl₃): ν_{max} 3500, 1706, 1656, 420 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 1.26-1.73 (*m*, 20H, (CH₂)₁₀); 2.17 (*t*, 2H, *J* = 7.4 Hz, CH₂-C=O); 2.45 (*t*, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₂-C≡C); 2.68 (*d*, 1H, *J*_{gem} = 12.8 Hz, C5-Hβ); 2.86 (*dd*, 1H, *J*_{gem} = 12.8, 4.8 Hz, C5-Hα); 3.07-3.24 (*m*, 5H, C2-H, CH₂-NHCO and CH₂-Ar); 3.78 (*s*, 3H, CH₃O₂C); 4.27 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 7.5, 4.8 Hz, C4-H); 4.46 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 7.5, 4.9 Hz, C3-H); 4.99 (*dt*, 1H, *J* = 7.5, 5.9 Hz, C2'-H); 5.46 (*bs*, 1H, N1'-H); 6.18 (*t*, 1H, *J* = 5.6 Hz, CH₂-NHCO); 6.26 (*bs*, 1H, N3'-H); 6.74 (*bs*, 1H, Ar-OH); 6.85 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, C5''-H); 6.92 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, NHCOAr); 6.96 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 2.1 Hz, C6''-H); 7.10 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 2.1 Hz, C2''-H); 7.40-7.53 (*m*, 3H) and 7.74-7.77 (*m*, 2H, PhCONH). ¹³C NMR: δ 19.5, 25.6, 26.8, 28.0, 28.1, 28.5, 28.6, 28.8, 29.0, 29.2, 29.5, 35.9, 36.8, 39.5, 40.5, 50.8, 52.4, 53.8, 40.4, 60.1, 61.8, 75.0, 97.2 (alkynyl), 110.7, 114.8, 23.1, 23.3, 24.6, 130.2, 26.8, 27.5, 28.8, 156.0, 163.7, 167.1, 172.3, 173.2.

Ethyl 5-(1-pyrenyl)-2-acetamidopent-4-ynoate (21): Method A.

A mixture of the alkyne **20** (100mg, 0.40 mmol), 1-bromopyrene (102mg, 0.37 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (63mg, 0.040 mmol), CuI (21mg, 0.011 mmol), Et₃N (1ml) and DMF (2ml) was stirred overnight at 50°, at which time the catalyst had decomposed. The solvent was removed under vacuum (oil pump), the residue separated by flash chromatography eluant 60/40 EtOAc/hexanes and recrystallised from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes to give the title compound as cream crystals mp 140-156° in 63mg (44%) yield. HRMS Calculated for C₂₅H₂₁NO₃: 383.1521. Found: 383.1509. MS: 383 (M⁺, 11), 323, 238. IR (nujol): ν_{max} 3320, 1736, 1644 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 1.35 (*t*, *J* = 7.4 Hz, CH₃-CH₂); 2.12 (*s*, 3H, CH₃-CON); 3.25 (*d*, 2H, *J* = 4.7 Hz, CH₂-C≡C); 4.36 (*m*, 2H, OCH₂CH₃); 4.95 (*dt*, 1H, *J* = 7.5, 4.7 Hz, C-H); 6.57 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, N-H); 7.99-8.49 (*m*, 9H, Ar-H). ¹³C NMR: 14.3, 23.3, 24.1, 51.2, 62.1, 82.6, 89.5 (alkynyl), 20.4, 21.1, 21.3, 21.5, 22.2, 22.8, 23.2, 23.8, 24.1, 24.3, 25.7, 130.3, 130.4, 26.0, 26.1, 27.0, 15.9, 170.8.

When the reaction was repeated using 1-iodopyrene the yield of product was 72%.

Ethyl 5-(1-pyrenyl)-2-acetamidopent-4-ynoate (21): Method B.

A mixture of the alkyne **20** (78mg, 0.43 mmol), 1-bromopyrene (100mg, 0.36 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (41mg,

0.036 mmol), CuI (13mg, 0.072mmol), PPh₃ (19mg, 0.072 mmol) and piperidine (10ml) was heated at reflux for 60 minutes, at which time analytical TLC showed the absence of the aryl bromide. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue separated by flash chromatography eluant 60/40 EtOAc/hexanes to give the title compound as white crystals in 76mg (51%) yield. After recrystallisation from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes the physical data were identical with that from the previous method. When the reaction was repeated using 1-iodopyrene the yield was 70%.

Ethyl 5-(1-pyrenyl)-2-acetamidopentanoate (22)

A mixture of the alkyne **21** (294mg, 0.77mmol), 5% Pd/C (100mg) and EtOAc (40ml) was stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere overnight. The reaction mixture was filtered through celite, the solvent removed and the residue recrystallised from EtOAc/hexanes to give the title compound as white microneedle crystals mp 140–156° in 278mg (94%) yield. HRMS Calculated for C₂₅H₂₅NO₃: 387.1834. Found: 387.1824. MS: 387 (M⁺, 68), 240, 228, 215, 149. IR (nujol): ν_{\max} 3316, 1748, 1650, 844 cm⁻¹. UV (EtOH): λ_{\max} 205 (12 200), 234 (19 700), 256 (6 300), 266 (13 500), 278 (20 200), 302 (2 600), 313 (6 100), 327 (12 300), 343 (14 800) nm (ε). Fluorescence (EtOH, λ_{ex} = 343 nm): 375 (100), 395 (61), 415 (19). ¹H NMR: δ 1.19 (*t*, 3H, *J* = 7.1 Hz, CH₃-CH₂); 1.75-2.05 (*m*, 4H, C4-H and C5-H); 2.00 (*s*, 3H, CH₃-CO); 3.26-3.42 (*m*, 2H, C5-H); 4.14 (*q*, 2H, *J* = 7.1 Hz, O-CH₂CH₃); 4.70 (*dt*, 1H, *J* = 7.7, 6.7 Hz, C2-H); 5.98 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 7.7 Hz, CONH); 7.82-8.26 (*m*, 9H, Ar-H). ¹³C NMR: 14.1, 23.2, 27.2, 32.5, 32.9, 52.0, 61.5, 19.3, 20.7, 20.8, 20.9, 21.9, 22.7, 23.2, 23.3, 23.5, 24.6, 26.4, 30.9, 15.8, 172.6.

5-[N-(Biotinyl)-1-aminoundec-1-ynyl]-3',5'-di-O-acetyl-2'-deoxyuridine (26)

To a stirred mixture of DMF (1.0 ml) and Et₃N (14mg, 0.14 mmol) at room temperature were added sequentially 5-iodo-2',3'-di-O-acetyldeoxyuridine **23** (50mg, 0.11 mmol), alkyne **10** (37mg, 0.14 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (13mg, 0.011 mmol) and CuI (4.3mg, 0.022 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature until TLC indicated the absence of the nucleoside. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*, the residue separated by flash chromatography using 10/90 MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ as eluant to give the title compound as a colourless glass in 60mg (76%) yield. HRMS Calculated for C₃₄H₅₀N₅O₉S (M+H⁺): 704.3329. Found: 704.3325. MS (FAB): 704 (M+H⁺, 31), 504, 394, 307, 227. ¹H NMR: δ 1.09-1.61 (*m*, 18H, (CH₂)₉); 1.95 and 2.01 (2 *s*, 3H, CH₃CO); 1.96-2.13 (*m*, 3H, CH₂CONH and C2'-Hβ); 2.21 (*t*, 2H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH₂-C≡C); 2.31 (*ddd*, 1H, *J*_{gem} = 14.3, 5.9, 2.4 Hz, C2'-Hα); 2.58 (*d*, 1H, *J*_{gem} = 12.8 Hz, C5''-Hβ); 2.74 (*dd*, 1H, *J*_{gem} = 12.8, 5.0 Hz, C5''-Hα); 2.96-3.06 (*m*, 3H, C2''-H and CH₂NHCO); 4.10-4.15 (*m*, 2H, C4'-H and C4''-H);

4.19 (*d*, 2H, $J = 3.2$ Hz, C5'-H); 4.31 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 7.7, 5.1$ Hz, C3''-H); 5.08 (*dt*, 1H, $J = 6.7, 3.9$ Hz, C3'-H); 5.42 (*bs*, 1H, N1'-H); 5.56 (*bs*, 1H, N3'-H); 6.15 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 7.9, 5.9$ Hz, C1'-H); 6.39 (*bt*, 1H, $J = 5.2$ Hz, CH₂NHCO); 7.37 (*s*, 1H, C6-H); 11.20 (*bs*, 1H, N3-H). ¹³C NMR: δ 18.8, 20.5, 20.7, 25.3, 26.4, 28.0, 28.2, 28.3, 28.5, 28.8, 28.9, 29.2, 35.2, 36.2, 38.3, 39.8, 45.9, 40.4, 59.2, 61.0, 63.5, 72.5, 73.8, 81.5, 84.8, 93.5, 99.7 (alkynyl), 142.1, 149.3, 161.5, 162.7, 15.8, 15.9, 171.8.

Compounds **27**, **28**, **29**, **30** and **31** were prepared using the appropriate alkyne in a similar manner, except for the differences stated. The scale was based on 50mg of the nucleoside base.

5-{11-[6-*O*-(Methyl)fluoresceinyl]-1-undec-1-ynyl}-3', 5'-di-*O*-acetyl-2'-deoxyuridine (27)

Eluant 7:93 MeOH:CH₂Cl₂; bright orange glass; 76%. HRMS Calculated for C₄₅H₁₆N₂O₁₂ (M+H⁺): 807.325. Found: 807.3115. MS (FAB): 807 (M+H⁺, 100), 747, 607, 347. IR (CDCl₃): ν_{\max} 3400, 1760-1680, 1644, 1598 cm⁻¹. UV (EtOH): λ_{\max} 232 (66 400), 279 (28 900), 435 (23 000), 460 (32 900), 489 (25 800) nm (ϵ). Fluorescence (EtOH) (λ_{ex} = 489 nm): 521 nm. ¹H NMR: δ 1.36-1.62 (*m*, 12H, (CH₂)₆); 1.85 (*quintet*, 2H, $J = 7.2$ Hz, CH₂CH₂O); 2.14 and 2.20 (2 *s*, 3H, CH₃CO); 2.24 (*dd*, 1H, $J_{\text{gem}} = 14.4, 6.7$ Hz, C2'-H β); 2.41 (*t*, 2H, $J = 7.1$ Hz, CH₂-C \equiv C); 2.37 (*ddd*, 1H, $J_{\text{gem}} = 14.4, 5.8, 2.4$ Hz, C2'-H α); 3.66 (*s*, 3H, CH₃-O₂C); 4.08 (*t*, 2H, $J = 6.6$ Hz, CH₂-OAr); 4.30 (*q*, 1H, $J = 2.9$ Hz, C4'-H); 4.38 (*d*, 2H, $J = 3.0$ Hz, C5'-H); 5.26 (*dt*, 1H, $J = 6.4, 2.4$ Hz, C3'-H); 6.32 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 8.0, 5.8$ Hz, C1'-H); 6.47 (*d*, 1H, $J = 1.9$ Hz, C4''-H); 6.40 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 9.7, 1.9$ Hz, C2''-H); 6.73 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 8.8, 2.4$ Hz, C7''-H); 6.85 (*d*, 1H, $J = 9.3$ Hz, C1''-H); 6.88 (*d*, 1H, $J = 8.7$ Hz, C8''-H); 6.95 (*d*, 1H, $J = 2.4$ Hz, C5''-H); 7.31 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 7.5, 1.4$ Hz, C3'''-H); 7.67 (*dt*, 1H, $J = 7.5, 1.4$ Hz, C5'''-H); 7.72 (*s*, 1H, C4-H); 7.74 (*dt*, 1H, $J = 7.4, 1.5$ Hz, C4'''-H); 8.23 (*bs*, 1H, N3-H); 8.25 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 7.7, 1.2$ Hz, C6'''-H). ¹³C NMR: 19.5, 20.7, 20.8, 25.8, 28.4, 28.8, 28.9, 29.0, 29.2, 29.3, 38.0, 52.4, 63.8, 68.8, 71.0, 74.0, 82.4, 85.2, 95.4 (alkynyl), 100.6, 101.4, 105.6, 2.8, 114.6, 117.4, 24.7, 25.6, 25.7, 130.1, 130.2, 130.5, 26.0, 27.6, 29.6, 35.5, 149.2, 150.3, 137.3, 158.9, 161.4, 163.6, 165.6, 170.0, 170.3, 185.6.

8-[11-(10-(10*H*)-9-Acridonyl)undec-1-ynyl]-2', 3',5'-tri-*O*-acetyladenosine (28)

Reaction at 50° for 24 hours; Eluant 50/50 EtOAc/hexanes; pale green glass; 89%. HRMS (LSIMS) Calculated for C₄₀H₄₅N₆O₈ (M+H⁺): 737.3299. Found: 737.3295. MS: 737 (M+H⁺, 37), 479, 208. IR (nujol): ν_{\max} 3312, 3164, 2232, 1748, 1634, 1600, 1496, 192 cm⁻¹. UV (EtOH): λ_{\max} 218 (30 700), 234 (30 100), 257 (46 700), 293 (17 800), 386 (7 060), 405 (7 830) nm (ϵ). Fluorescence (EtOH, λ_{ex} = 386 nm):

418 (100), 439 (70) nm. ^1H NMR: δ 1.41-1.61 (*m*, 10H, $(\text{CH}_2)_5$); 1.73 (*quintet*, 2H, $J = 7.1$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{-C}\equiv\text{C}$); 1.97 (*quintet*, 2H, $J = 7.9$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{-N}$); 2.06, 2.11 and 2.15 (3 *x s*, 3H, CH_3CO); 2.58 (*t*, 2H, $J = 7.1$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}\equiv\text{C}$); 4.31-4.43 (*m*, H,); 4.37 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 11.4$, 3.3 Hz,); 5.73 (*bs*, 2H, $\text{C}_2\text{-NH}_2$); 5.99 (*m*, 1H, $\text{C}_3'\text{-H}$); 6.24-6.27 (*m*, 2H, $\text{C}_1'\text{-H}$ and $\text{C}_2'\text{-H}$); 7.32 (*dd*, 2H, $J = 8.7$, 7.8 Hz, $\text{C}_2''\text{-H}$); 7.52 (*d*, 2H, $J = 8.7$ Hz, $\text{C}_4''\text{-H}$); 7.75 (*ddd*, 2H, $J = 8.7$, 6.9, 1.5 Hz, $\text{C}_3''\text{-H}$); 8.37 (*s*, 1H, $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$); 8.61 (*dd*, 2H, $J = 7.8$, 1.5 Hz, $\text{C}_1''\text{-H}$). ^{13}C NMR: δ 19.37, 20.46, 20.37, 20.70, 26.91, 27.20, 27.86, 28.88, 28.98, 29.32, 29.40, 46.15, 63.12, 5.70, 70.43, 72.51, 79.73, 87.32, 98.91, 114.51, 17.19, 18.46, 24.01, 28.88, 29.77, 36.74, 149.24, 153.76, 140.00, 15.28, 15.46, 170.60, 177.98.

8-[*N*-(Biotinyl)-11-aminoundec-1-ynyl]-2',3',5'-tri-*O*-acetyladenosine (29)

Eluant 10/90 MeOH/ CH_2Cl_2 ; recrystallisation from EtOAc/hexanes; pale yellow crystals mp 88-90°; 88%.

Calculated for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{51}\text{N}_8\text{O}_9\text{S}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 785.3656. Found: 785.3680. MS (FAB): 785 ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$, 62), 527, 301, 259. IR (CDCl_3): ν_{max} 3500, 1740, 1708, 1632, 420 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR: δ 1.23-1.75 (*m*, 20H, $(\text{CH}_2)_{10}$); 2.04, 2.10 and 2.13 (3 *x s*, 3H, CH_3CO); 2.17 (*t*, 2H, $J = 7.3$ Hz, CH_2CONH); 2.37 (*t*, 2H, $J = 6.9$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}\equiv\text{C}$); 2.74 (*d*, 1H, $J_{\text{gem}} = 12.7$ Hz, $\text{C}_5''\text{-H}\beta$); 2.89 (*dd*, 1H, $J_{\text{gem}} = 12.7$, 4.8 Hz, $\text{C}_5''\text{-H}\alpha$); 3.14 (*dt*, 1H, $J = 6.0$, 4.6 Hz, $\text{C}_2''\text{-H}$); 3.19 (*q*, 2H, $J = 6.6$ Hz, CH_2NHCO); 4.28-4.40 (*m*, 3H, $\text{C}_4'\text{-H}$, $\text{C}_5\beta'\text{-H}$ and $\text{C}_4''\text{-H}$); 4.51 (*m*, 2H, $\text{C}_5'\text{-H}\alpha$ and $\text{C}_3''\text{-H}$); 5.95 (*t*, 1H, $J = 5.5$ Hz, $\text{C}_3'\text{-H}$); 6.08 (*bs*, 1H, $\text{N}_1''\text{-H}$); 6.17 (*bt*, 1H, $J = 5.4$ Hz, CH_2NHCO); 6.22 (*m*, 2H, $\text{C}_1'\text{-H}$ and $\text{C}_2'\text{-H}$); 6.33 (*bs*, 2H, $\text{C}_2\text{-NH}_2$); 6.52 (*bs*, 1H, $\text{N}_3''\text{-H}$); 8.30 (*s*, 1H, $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$). ^{13}C NMR δ 19.46, 20.43, 20.51, 20.67, 25.60, 26.80, 27.76, 28.06, 28.19, 28.74, 28.85, 29.10, 29.21, 29.51, 36.02, 39.40, 40.56, 40.62, 60.16, 61.85, 63.08, 5.62, 70.40, 72.39, 79.5, 87.28, 99.00 (alkynyl), 14.25, 29.37, 149.05, 153.5, 140.26, 164.22, 15.30, 15.46, 170.60, 173.07.

8-{11-[6-*O*-(Methyl)fluoresceinyl]-1-undec-1-ynyl}-tri-*O*-acetylguanosine (30)

Reaction at 50° for 5 hours; eluant 7.5/92.5 MeOH/ CH_2Cl_2 ; recrystallisation from MeOH; bright orange glass;

51%. HRMS (LSIMS) Calculated for $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{50}\text{N}_5\text{O}_{13}$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 904.3405. Found: 904.3411. MS: 904 ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$, 100), 646, 347, 259. IR (CDCl_3): ν_{max} 327, 1748, 1720, 1688, 1644, 1596 cm^{-1} . UV (EtOH) λ_{max} : 230 (25 200), 279 (18 400), 363 (3 900), 437*sh* (9 600), 460 (13 600), 489 (10 800) nm (ϵ). Fluorescence (EtOH, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 489$ nm): 522 nm. ^1H NMR: δ 1.26-1.48 (*m*, 10H, $(\text{CH}_2)_5$); 1.65 (*quintet*, 2H, $J = 7.2$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}=\text{C}$); 1.84 (*quintet*, 2H, $J = 7.1$, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OAr}$); 2.05, 2.11 and 2.12 (3 *x s*, 3H, CH_3CO); 2.51 (*t*, 2H, $J = 6.9$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}\equiv\text{C}$); 3.65 (*s*, 3H, CH_3OAr); 4.32 (*m*, 2H, $\text{C}_4'\text{-H}$ and $\text{C}_5'\text{-H}\beta$); 4.51 (*m*, 1H, $\text{C}_5'\text{-H}\alpha$); 5.88 (*br s*, 2H, $\text{C}_3\text{-NH}_2$); 5.93 (*t*, 1H, $J = 5.8$ Hz, $\text{C}_3'\text{-H}$); 6.09 (*m*, 2H, $\text{C}_1'\text{-H}$ and $\text{C}_2'\text{-H}$); 6.39 (*d*,

1H, $J = 1.5$ Hz, C4-H); 6.48 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 9.8, 1.5$ Hz, C2-H); 6.76 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 9.0, 2.2$ Hz, C7-H); 6.86 (*d*, 1H, $J = 7.7$ Hz, C1-H); 6.89 (*d*, 1H, $J = 7.1$ Hz, C8-H); 6.99 (*d*, 1H, $J = 2.3$ Hz, C5-H); 7.34 (*d*, 1H, $J = 7.3$ Hz, C3"-H); 7.70 (*t*, 1H, $J = 7.0$ Hz, C5"-H); 7.78 (*t*, 1H, $J = 6.9$ Hz, C4"-H); 8.25 (*d*, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz, C6"-H); 10.5 (*bs*, 1H, N3-H). ^{13}C NMR (d_6 -DMSO): δ 19.2, 20.4, 20.4, 20.6, 25.7, 27.8, 28.6, 28.7, 28.8, 29.0, 29.2, 52.2, 53.7, 62.9, 68.8, 70.0, 70.2, 72.1, 78.1, 79.2, 87.0, 96.3, 100.7, 105.2, 2.8, 114.4, 117.0, 117.4, 24.8, 25.7, 25.9, 130.3, 130.4, 26.0, 27.8, 29.3, 150.8, 153.8, 137.1, 156.6, 158.9, 163.7, 165.4, 15.1, 15.3, 170.4, 185.1.

8-[*N*-(Biotinyl)-11-aminoundec-1-ynyl]-2',3',5'-tri-*O*-acetylguanosine (31)

Reaction at 50° for 6 hours; Eluant 10/90 MeOH/CH₂Cl₂; recrystallisation from MeOH; pale yellow crystals mp 157-160°; 58%. HRMS (LSIMS) Calculated for C₃₇H₅₃N₈O₁₀S (M+H⁺): 801.3605. Found: 801.3597. MS: 801 (M+H⁺, 65), 373, 261. ^1H NMR (CDCl₃/ d_6 -DMSO): 1.20-1.58 (*m*, 20H, (CH₂)₁₀); 1.99, 2.05, 2.09 (3 \times *s*, 3H, CH₃CO); 2.03 (*t*, 2H, $J = 7.8$ Hz, CH₂CONH); 2.53 (*t*, 2H, $J = 6.2$ Hz, CH₂-C \equiv C); 2.64 (*d*, 1H, $J_{\text{gem}} = 12.3$ Hz, C5"-H β); 2.80 (*dd*, 1H, $J_{\text{gem}} = 12.3, 5.1$ Hz, C5"-H α); 2.99 (*q*, 1H, $J = 6.2$ Hz, C2"-H); 3.06 (*q*, 2H, $J = 7.2$ Hz, CH₂NHCO); 4.09-4.31 (*m*, 4H, C3"-H, C4"-H, C5'-H β , C4'-H); 4.41 (*dd*, 1H, $J = 11.7, 3.8$ Hz, C5'-H α); 5.58 (*t*, 1H, $J = 6.0$ Hz, C3'-H); 5.97 (*m*, 2H, C1'-H and C2'-H); 6.35 (*bs*, 1H, N1"-H); 6.42 (*bs*, 1H, N3"-H); 6.73 (*bs*, 2H, C3-NH₂); 7.74 (*bt*, 1H, $J = 5.5$ Hz, CH₂NHCO); 10.97 (*bs*, 1H, N3-H). ^{13}C NMR (d_6 -DMSO): 8.5 18.50, 20.2, 20.4, 25.3, 26.4, 27.5, 28.0, 28.2, 28.5, 28.7, 28.9, 29.2, 35.2, 38.4, 45.5, 40.5, 59.2, 61.0, 62.8, 70.2, 78.9, 96.3, 16.4, 25.3, 150.6, 137.2, 156.0, 162.7, 15.3, 15.4, 170.1, 171.8.

17-[12-(1-Pyrenyl)dodeca-1,11-diynyl]-3-*O*-methylestr-16-ene (34)

To a stirred mixture of DMF (1.0 ml) and Et₃N (0.2 ml) was added sequentially the triflate **32** (50mg, 0.12 mmol), alkyne **8** (52mg, 0.14mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (14mg, 0.012 mmol) and CuI (4.6mg, 0.024 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours, at which time TLC (30/70 CH₂Cl₂/hexanes) indicated the absence of the triflate. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue subjected to flash chromatography using 30/70 CH₂Cl₂/hexanes as eluant to give the title compound as a viscous oil in 5mg (92%) yield. HRMS Calculated for C₄₇H₄₈O: 628.3705. Found: 628.3700. MS: 628 (M⁺, 100), 239. IR (thin film): 3040, 2250, 2216, 1610, 1502, 216, 908, 846, 734 cm⁻¹. UV (CHCl₃): 251 (29 400), 265 (11 900), 275 (23 900), 285 (28 700) 316 $_{sh}$ (4 800), 331 (12 400), 348 (21 600), 365 (23 700) nm (ϵ). Fluorescence (CHCl₃, $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 365$ nm): 388 (100), 396 $_{sh}$ (75), 407 (80). ^1H NMR: δ 0.84 (*s*, 3H, CH₃-);

1.37-2.31 (*m*, CH₂ and CH); 2.38 (*t*, 2H, *J* = 6.6 Hz, CH₂-C≡C); 2.65 (*t*, 2H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH₂-C≡C); 2.85 (*m*, 2H, CH₂-CH=); 3.74 (*s*, 3H, CH₃-OAr); 5.91 (*t*, 1H, *J* = 1.2 Hz, HC≡C); 6.61 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 2.6 Hz, C4-H); 6.65 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 2.6 Hz, C2-H); 7.15 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz, C1-H). ¹³C NMR: δ 16.2, 19.7, 20.0, 26.6, 27.8, 28.8, 29.0, 29.0, 29.1, 29.1, 29.2, 29.5, 31.6, 34.7, 37.6, 44.3, 48.1, 40.2, 40.3, 76.1, 77.6, 79.7, 93.9 (alkynyl), 96.4, 111.4, 2.9, 13.9, 20.5, 21.3, 21.4, 21.7, 22.1, 22.1, 23.3, 23.7, 24.0, 25.6, 130.7, 26.2, 26.3, 26.9, 27.9, 28.6 32.91, 33.0, 157.4.

Compounds **35**, **36** and **37** were prepared in a similar manner to that described for compound **34**, apart from the differences stated.

17-[*N*-(Biotinyl)-11-aminoundec-1-ynyl]-3-*O*-methylestr-16-ene (**35**)

Reaction of compound **32** (50mg, 0.12mmol) with alkyne **10** (57mg, 0.14mmol) under standard conditions and purification by flash chromatography using 6/94 MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ as eluant gave the title compound as colourless crystals mp 150-152° in 70mg (89%) yield. HRMS Calculated for C₄₀H₅₇N₃O₃S: 659.417. Found: 659.4087. MS : 659 (M⁺, 29), 644, 459, 416. ¹H NMR: δ 0.86 (*s*, 3H, CH₃-); 1.22-2.35 (*m*, CH₂ and CH); 2.20 (*t*, 2H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, CH₂-CONH); 2.36 (*t*, 2H, *J* = 6.9 Hz, CH₂-C≡C); 2.73 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 12.9 Hz, C5-Hβ); 2.91 (*m*, 3H, C5-Hα and CH₂-C=); 3.16 (*dt*, 1H, *J* = 7.3, 4.5 Hz, C2-H); 3.23 (*q*, 2H, *J* = 6.5 Hz, CH₂-NH); 3.79 (*s*, 3H, CH₃-OAr); 4.31 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 7.5, 4.7 Hz, C4-H); 4.52 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 7.5, 4.8 Hz, C3-H); 5.21 (*br s*, 1H, N1'-H); 5.93 (*br t*, 1H, *J* = 5.7 Hz, NHCO); 5.93 (*m*, 1H, HC=); 6.03 (*br s*, 1H, N3'-H); 6.64 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 2.7 Hz, C4''-H); 6.72 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 8.6, 2.7 Hz, C2''-H); 7.21 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 8.6 Hz, C1''-H). ¹³C NMR (*d*₆-DMSO): 16.0, 18.7, 25.2, 25.3, 26.0, 26.4, 27.2, 28.0, 28.1, 28.2, 28.3, 28.4, 28.7, 28.9, 29.1, 29.2, 31.1, 34.2, 35.2, 37.1, 38.3, 43.7, 47.6, 37.8, 37.8, 40.4, 59.2, 61.0, 76.0, 93.7 (alkynyl), 111.4, 2.4, 21.8, 27.0, 28.2, 32.2, 32.3, 157.0, 162.6, 171.7.

3-[12-(1-Pyrenyl)dodec-1-ynyl]-17β-acetyloxyandrost-2-ene (**36**)

Reaction of triflate **33** (mixture of Δ² and Δ³ isomers, *ca.* 5:1 ratio) (50mg, 0.11mmol) with alkyne **11** (48mg, 0.13 mmol) under standard conditions and purification by flash chromatography eluant 40/60 CH₂Cl₂/hexanes gave the title compound as a fluorescent light green viscous oil in 65mg (85%) yield. HRMS Calculated for C₄₉H₆₀O₂: 680.4593. Found: 680.4611. MS: 680 (M⁺, 76), 620, 326, 215. IR (thin film): 3040, 1732, 386, 210, 1030, 844, 740 cm⁻¹. UV (CHCl₃): λ_{max} 248 (35 000), 258 (11 800), 25 (22 400), 279 (35 300), 317 (10 300), 330 (21300), 346 (26 600) nm (ε). Fluorescence (CHCl₃, λ_{ex} = 346 nm): 379 (100), 397 (67),

418sh (22). ^1H NMR: δ 0.73 and 0.76 (2 x s, 3H, CH_3 -); 0.56-2.19 (m, CH_2 and CH); 2.05 (s, 3H, CH_3CO_2); 2.30 (t, 2H, $J = 6.9$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}\equiv\text{C}$); 3.34 (t, 2H, $J = 7.8$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-Ar}$); 4.57 (dd, 1H, $J = 9.1$, 7.8 Hz, CH-OAc); 5.91 (d, 1H, $J = 4.9$ Hz, HC=); 7.86-8.30 (m, 9H, Ar-H). ^{13}C NMR: 11.8, 12.0, 12.1, 19.3, 20.4, 21.2, 23.4, 27.4, 28.1, 28.8, 28.9, 29.1, 29.4, 29.5, 29.8, 31.0, 31.3, 33.6, 34.0, 34.1, 34.4, 35.2, 36.8, 40.1, 41.2, 42.4, 50.5, 53.5, 81.8, 82.8, 87.5, 14.7 (alkynyl and vinyl), 19.5, 20.6, 20.7, 21.0, 21.7, 22.4, 23.0, 23.2, 23.5, 24.6, 25.6, 130.9, 26.4, 26.8, 32.2, 32.3, 171.2.

3-[N-(Biotinyl)-11-aminoundec-1-ynyl]-17 β -acetyloxyandrost-2-ene (37)

Reaction of triflate **33** (mixture of Δ^2 and Δ^3 isomers, ca. 5:1 ratio) (50mg, 0.11 mmol) with alkyne **10** (51mg, 0.13 mmol) under standard conditions, purification by flash chromatography eluant 5/95 MeOH/ CH_2Cl_2 and recrystallisation from MeOH gave the title compound as colourless crystals mp 162-164 $^\circ$ in 76mg (88%) yield. HRMS Calculated for $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{65}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}$: 707.456. Found: 707.456. MS: 707 (M^+ , 18), 632, 337, 227, 42. IR (nujol mull): ν_{max} 3296, 1738, 1704, 1642, 706 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR: δ 0.75 and 0.78 (2 x s, 3H, CH_3 -); 0.65-2.20 (m, CH_2 and CH); 2.04 (s, 3H, CH_3CO); 2.18 (t, 2H, $J = 7.3$ Hz, CH_2CONH); 2.28 (t, 2H, $J = 7.0$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}\equiv\text{C}$); 2.74 (d, 1H, $J = 12.8$ Hz, C5-H β); 2.93 (dd, 1H, $J = 12.8$, 5.0 Hz, C5-H α); 3.16 (dt, 1H, $J = 7.2$, 4.9 Hz, C2-H); 3.22 (q, 2H, $J = 6.5$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-NHCO}$); 4.33 (dd, 1H, $J = 7.4$, 4.9 Hz, C3-H); 4.52 (dd, 1H, $J = 7.4$, 5.0 Hz, C4-H); 4.58 (dd, 1H, $J = 9.1$, 7.8 Hz, CH-OAc); 5.07 (br s, 1H, N1'-H); 5.64 (s, HC= Δ^3 isomer); 5.73 (br t, 1H, $J = 5.5$ Hz, NHCO); 5.84 (br s, 1H, N3'-H); 5.91 (br d, 1H, $J = 4.8$ Hz, HC=, Δ^2 isomer). ^{13}C NMR: δ 11.8, 11.9, 19.2, 20.4, 21.1, 23.4, 25.6, 26.9, 27.4, 27.7, 28.0, 28.1, 28.8, 28.9, 29.0, 29.2, 29.3, 29.6, 31.1, 34.1, 34.4, 35.3, 36.0, 36.8, 39.5, 40.2, 40.4, 41.3, 42.4, 50.6, 53.6, 40.5, 60.1, 61.7, 81.7, 82.8, 87.4, 26.8, 163.8, 171.1, 173.0.

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