Chemical synthesis of 5'- $\beta$ -glycoconjugates of vitamin B<sub>6</sub>

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## 1 Chemical synthesis of 5'- $\beta$ -glycoconjugates of vitamin **B**<sub>6</sub>

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Abstract: Various 5'-β-saccharides of pyridoxine, namely the mannoside, galactoside, arabinoside, maltoside, cellobioside and glucuronide, were synthesized chemically according to KOENIGS-KNORR conditions using  $\alpha 4,3$ -*O*-isopropylidene pyridoxine and the respective acetobromo glycosyl donors with AgOTf (3.0 eq.) and NIS (3.0 eq.) as promoters at 0 °C. Furthermore, 5'-β-[<sup>13</sup>C<sub>6</sub>]-labeled pyridoxine glucoside (PNG) was prepared starting from [<sup>13</sup>C<sub>6</sub>]-glucose and pyridoxine. Additionally, two strategies were examined for the synthesis of 5'-β-pyridoxal glycoside (PLG).

Keywords: Glycosylation, Chemical Synthesis, Labeled, Glycoconjugates, Pyridoxine,
Pyridoxal, Vitamin B<sub>6</sub>, PNG, PLG.

## 16 1. Introduction

The formation of glycoconjugates belongs to the most important mechanisms of post-translational modification and takes place in various species and cell types.[1-9] Hence, it is highly relevant to a number of medical fields, *e.g.* topics regarding the nervous[10, 11] or immune system[12-14], alcoholism[15], inflammation[16], apoptosis[17] and cancer[12, 18, 19]. Fascinatingly, merely ten nucleotides suffice as building blocks in the manufacturing of the mammalian glycome in its plethora of substrates.[2, 20]

Although glycoconjugates find purpose in a manifold of different aspects of biological processes, the knowledge about the full spectrum of their impact still resides in its infancy. In plants, glycosylation fulfills not only a function of storage, but shows a significant influence on the signaling processes in cells, where the complexity of the information transfer results from the structural variety of glycans.[21-29]

When glycosylations are carried out in plants that contribute to the human diet, glycoconjugates become a subject of food-related consumers' health.[30-33] Wheat, infected with fungi of the genus *Fusarium*, was found to detoxify the mycotoxin deoxynivalenol (DON) by converting it into the less toxic deoxynivalenol-3-glucoside (D3G).[34, 35] The

32 assessment of the mycotoxin contamination in food, therefore, must include the modified 33 mycotoxin D3G, since cleavage of the glycosidic bond during digestions releases the free 34 toxin DON.[31-33, 36-41] What is crucial for the analytics of toxic substances also applies to 35 beneficial secondary metabolites. Micronutrients like vitamins occur in glycosylated forms, 36 as well, which affects the bioavailability in the human body.[30] The group of vitamin  $B_6$ 37 constitutes an interesting example hereby, since it consists of six in vivo interconvertible[42, 38 43] vitamers, namely pyridoxine (PN), pyridoxal (PL), pyridoxamine (PM) and their 39 respective phosphorylated compounds pyridoxine 5'-phosphate (PNP), pyridoxal 40 5'-phosphate (PLP) and pyridoxamine 5'-phosphate (PMP), and an additional glucosylated 41 derivative, pyridoxine-5'- $\beta$ -D-glucoside (5'- $\beta$ -PNG, Figure 1), which can be found as a major 42 part of the B<sub>6</sub> content (5 - 70 %) in plants.[44-49]



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Pyridoxine-5'- $\beta$ -glucoside (PNG)

**Figure 1**. Plants store vitamin  $B_6$  as pyridoxine-5'- $\beta$ -D-glucoside.

45 PNG was first identified in 1977 after its isolation from rice bran and later prepared by 46 chemical synthesis according KOENIGS-KNORR conditions to implementing 47  $\alpha$ 4,3-*O*-isopropylidene pyridoxine, 2,3,4,6-tetra-*O*-acetyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl bromide and 48 silver carbonate.[50] Other strategies regarding the chemical preparation of this molecule are 49 scarce and numerous methods rely on biotechnological techniques. Here, the two main paths 50 being followed comprise either the assistance of isolated enzymes [47, 51, 52] or the 51 utilization of seeds.[53-58] Regarding the latter, alfalfa seeds present a convenient way to 52 produce unlabeled PNG with yields ranging from 35 to 60 % and also allow the synthesis of 53  $[^{2}\text{H}]$ - and  $[^{3}\text{H}]$ - $\beta$ -PNG.[57, 59-62]

 $B_6$  in its active form (PLP) functions as a cofactor in a variety of processes in the human metabolism.[63] Consequently, the relation between the amount of modified vitamin in food and the total  $B_6$  intake includes important information regarding the impact on the nutrition. Studies with deuterated PNG suggested, that the bioavailability is substantially higher in humans (50 - 58 % relative to PN)[64, 65] than in rats (20 - 30 %).[57, 66]

Although PNG remains in the spotlight of research because of its abundant occurrence[49], other glycoconjugated derivatives of PN were also found in nature. More than 50 % of the glycosylated compounds in rice bran were found to be composed of

62 5'-O-( $\beta$ -cellobiosyl) pyridoxine, 4'-O-( $\beta$ -D-glucosyl)-5'-O-( $\beta$ -cellobiosyl) pyridoxine and 63 5'-O-( $\beta$ -glucotriosyl) pyridoxine.[67] Additionally, 38 % of the total PN-content in rice bran 64 were assigned to 5'-O-[6-O-((+)-5-hydroxy-dioxindole-3-acetyl)- $\beta$ -cellobiosyl] pyridoxine 65 after enzymatic and chemical hydrolysis procedures.[68] In wheat bran, popped pea and 66 soybeans, another compound, namely B<sub>6</sub>X, exists in small amounts. Although the structure 67 could not be derived from the isolate, treatment of the latter with alkaline solution and 68  $\beta$ -glycosidase released vitamin B<sub>6</sub>, which indicates a glycosylated derivate.[69, 70] Further 69 studies revealed, that podded pea Pisum sativum L[71,72] produces 70 5'-O-[6-O-(3-hydroxy-3-methyl-4-carboxybutanoyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl)]-pyridoxine (HM 71 GPNG) and 5'-O-(6-O-malonyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl)-pyridoxine (MalonylPNG) during 72 germination. Furthermore, the potential occurrence of PN-oligosaccharides in potatoes was 73 proposed, but not further specified.[73]

74 Identification of new PN-saccharides proceeded not only through the process of 75 isolation, but was also accomplished *via* biotechnological approaches. Experiments with an 76 isolated marine exo- $\alpha$ -glucosidase (EC 3.2.1.20) from the anaspidean mollusk Aplysia 77 fasciata showed transglycosylating properties and were successfully utilized in the 78 preparation of  $4'-/5'-\alpha$ -PNG and the respective isomaltosides.[74] Suzuki et al. found a 79 glucuronic acid-like derivative while incubating a mixture of uridine 80 5'-diphosphoglucuronyltranserfase from rabbit liver, uridine phosphoglucuronic acid and 81 pyridoxine. [75] The three galactosyl conjugates 5'-O-( $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-pyridoxine, 82 4'-O-( $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-pyridoxine and

83 4'-O-( $\beta$ -O-galactopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl)-pyridoxine were reportedly 84 produced in a culture of *Sporobolomyces singularis* growing on a medium containing 5 % 85 lactose, 0.75 % yeast extract and 2 % pyridoxine.[76, 77] Moreover, two fructose derivatives, 86 5'-O-( $\beta$ -D-fructofuranosyl)-pyridoxine and

5'-O-[ $\beta$ -D-fructofuranosyl-( $2 \rightarrow 1$ )- $\beta$ -D-fructofuranosyl]-pyridoxine, were detected in a culture 87 88 medium of Aspergillus niger and A. sydowi containing sucrose and pyridoxine.[78] While 89 examining a series of glycosidases for their synthetic potential regarding pyridoxine as a 90 substrate,  $4'-/5'-O-(2-acetamido-2-deoxy-\beta-D-glucopyranosyl)$  pyridoxine,  $5'-\alpha$ - and 4'-/5'-O-( $\beta$ -D-galactopyranosyl) pyridoxine and 4'-/5'-O-( $\alpha$ -D-mannopyranosyl) pyridoxine 91 92 4-nitrophenyl-2-acetamido2-deoxy- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside, were prepared using 93 4-nitrophenyl- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside and mannose as sugar donors.[79]

Although a variety of studies were dedicated to the isolation and identification of a manifold of glycoconjugated derivatives of PN, indications about their related content in

96 food, in particular when PN-glucoside is excluded, are sparsely sown. Therefore, with raising 97 awareness of the relevance of glycosylated natural compounds in the scientific field, the 98 present study pursued to expand the catalogue of known PN-saccharides *via* chemical 99 synthesis and pave the way for further analytical studies revolving around their occurrence in 100 food.

## 101 **2. Results and discussion**

## 102 2.1. Synthesis of the starting materials

103 In order to fulfill this task, glycosyl donors and the acceptor had to be prepared as 104 starting materials, first, before implementing them into glycosylation reactions (Scheme 1).





105

Scheme 1. General synthetic strategy for the preparation of the PN-saccharides.

107 The preparation of the glycosyl donors started with the installation of protection groups. 108 Hereby, acetate groups were chosen because of their neighbouring group effect.[80-82] The 109 anomeric outcome of the acetylation reaction was directed using either pyridine (py,  $\alpha$ -Glc) 110 or sodium acetate ( $\beta$ -Glc) (Scheme 2).[83] Since glucuronidation constitutes an important 111 phase II metabolic pathway for a broad spectrum of substances, the preparation of 112 glucuronides was enclosed in this study.[84-91] Acetylated glucuronic methyl ester was 113 prepared from glucuronic acid y-lactone.[92] Installation of bromine as leaving group was 114 accomplished with hydrogen bromide (HBr).[93-95]



118 The selective protection of pyridoxine was undertaken with 2,2-dimethoxypropane and 119 p-toluenesulfonic acid (pTSA) in order to increase the regioselectivity towards the desired 120 5'-position and to allow the solubility of PN in organic solvents (**1**, 96 %, Scheme 3).



Scheme 3. The protection of pyridoxine was accomplished with 2,2-dimethoxypropane and pTSA in

acetone.

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- 122

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## 124 2.2. Glycosylation reactions

The preparation of the glycosides followed the guidelines of KOENIGS-KNORR 125 126 conditions[96], but was performed with an increased amount of promoter AgOTf/NIS (3.0 127 eq.). The application of NIS, although presenting a well-established additive with regards to 128 the reaction of thioglycosides, usually doesn't find utilization under KOENIGS-KNORR 129 conditions. Preliminary experiments revolving around the glucosylation of PN under these 130 conditions, however, resulted exclusively in the formation of orthoester-structures when low 131 amounts (0.1 - 0.3 eq.) of promoter (AgOTf, Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, Ag<sub>2</sub>O, Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub>, TMSOTf, BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub>) 132 were used in combination with NIS.



133

Scheme 4. Preliminary experiments resulted exclusively in the orthoester formation, when low amounts of
promoter were added.

Additionally, no conversion of the starting material was observed when NIS was missing from the reaction, suggesting an NIS-mediated formation of the orthoester. Interestingly, an increased amount of promoter/NIS (3.0 eq.) resulted both in a complete shift from orthoester structure to the desired glycoconjugate and furthermore in the selective formation of the  $\beta$ -epimer. Hence, the glycosylation of PN with various glycosyl donors was performed using 3.0 eq. of AgOTf/NIS in order to obtain the protected glycosides (Scheme 4).

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Scheme 5. The glycosylation reaction for the preparation of the PN-saccharides was undertaken based on KOENIGS-KNORR conditions followed by a two-step deprotection procedure. The listed yields refer to the deprotected glycosides obtained after three steps (glycosylation and deprotection).

146 The robustness of the acetonide group in basic milieu and stability of the acetate groups 147 towards acidic conditions demanded a two-step procedure for the subsequent removal of the 148 protection groups. Thus, the acetate groups were cleaved by application of 1 N KOH/NaOH 149 first, followed by reflux in 1 % HCOOH in order to deprotect the acetonide functionality. 150 Following this procedure, PN-saccharides containing mannose **9**, galactose **10**, glucuronic 151 acid **11**, maltose **12**, cellobiose **13**, xylose **14** and arabinose **15** were synthesized with a 152 selective anomeric ( $\beta$ ) outcome, which was verified through NMR experiments.

153 The deprotected glycosides were obtained after three steps (glycosylation and 154 deprotection) in approximately the same range of yields (10 - 25 %) except for PN-xyloside 155 (<3%) and PN-glucuronide (50\%). The low yield of the xyloside arose from a stronger 156 tendency to decomposition resulting from a higher instability of the molecule compared to 157 the other saccharides. This aspect was particularly salient in NMR measurements of the glycoconjugate (which was purified by preparative HPLC and confirmed by ESI-MS 158 159 beforehand), where the signals of pyridoxine and xylose overshadowed those of the 160 glycoside. Storing the substrate at lowered temperatures  $(-28 \text{ }^\circ\text{C})$  did not improve this 161 aspect. By contrast, the preparation of the glucuronide worked well and resulted in the 162 highest yield among the reacted sugar donors. Overall, most losses occurred during the 163 glycosylation reaction rather than the deprotection steps. Preliminary experiments including 164 the variation of reaction conditions, next to promoter quantity and type, such as temperature  $(-78, -30, 0 \,^{\circ}\text{C} \text{ or rt})$  and time, although successfully shifting the formation of orthoester 165

166 structures completely towards the  $\beta$ -epimer of the desired product, didn't manage to improve 167 the reaction outcome over a certain point, qualifying the chosen reaction conditions (3.0 eq. 168 AgOTf/NIS; 0 °C; CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) as best variant using PN as substrate under KOENIGS-KNORR 169 conditions. On the other hand, there consequently lies much potential for improvement with 170 regards to aspects like increased reaction outcome in the variation of the glycosylation 171 method and exploration of further leaving groups.

172 The literature mainly focuses on the synthesis of the abundantly present PN-glucoside. 173 Only few preparations of other PN-saccharides are reported, among them mostly via 174 biotechnological methods. Charles and Divakar optimized reaction conditions for the 175 preparation of PN-glucoside ( $36 \pm 10$  %), -mannoside ( $23 \pm 10$  % of which being  $4'\alpha/5'\alpha/5'\beta$ 176 = 24/34/42) and -galactoside (40 ± 10 % of which being 4' $\alpha/5'\alpha/5'\beta$  = 47/27/26) with the aid 177 of  $\beta$ -glucosidase from sweet almonds starting from the respective saccharides, but struggled 178 with bad regio- and anomeric selectivity resulting in a mixture of 4'/5'-saccharides and 179  $\alpha/\beta$ -anomers. [52] Weignerova et al. utilized specific glycosidases and could improve the 180 regioselectivity. Here, 4'/5'- $\beta$ -PN-galactosides were obtained in 32 % yield (related to the 181 sugar donor) utilizing  $\beta$ -galactosidase from A. oryzae and 4'/5'- $\alpha$ -PN-mannosides were 182 received in 2 % yield (also related to the sugar donor) with mannosidase from Canavalia 183 *ensiformis* (jack beans).[79] Tadera et al. isolated 53 mg of 5'- $\beta$ -PN-cellobioside from 10 kg 184 defatted rice.[67] The yields of the chemical synthesis proposed in the study presented here 185 aligned with the results from the literature, but laborious separation of regio-isomers could be 186 omitted since 5'-selectivity was promoted through the acetonide protecting group. 187 Furthermore, contrary to many biotechnological strategies, upscaling constitutes a simple 188 and non-time-consuming operation because the starting materials are inexpensive and easily prepared. The remaining PN-saccharides (glucuronide, maltoside, xyloside and arabinoside) 189 190 have not been reported in the literature to date.

191 In order to evaluate fragmentation patterns of the PN-saccharides and to affirm their 192 structure additionally to NMR-experiments, the deproteced PN-saccharides were measured 193 via ESI-MS (Figure 2). Protonated PN-maltoside (12, m/z 494, A) dissociated through loss of 194 a glucose moiety (m/z 314), followed by loss of another glucose fragment (m/z 170) and 195 water (m/z 152). Protonated PN-cellobioside (13, m/z 494, B) showed a similar pattern, 196 confirming the disaccharidic structure of the product. Fragmentation of protonated 197 PN-glucuronide (11, m/z 346, C) resulted in the loss of water (m/z 328) and loss of the 198 glucuronic moiety (m/z 152). Further fragmentation steps of PN (m/z 108) are detailed 199 elsewhere.[97] The ESI-MS spectrum of protonated PN-arabinoside (15, m/z 302, D)

- showed fragments after the loss of water (m/z 284), the sugar moiety (m/z 152) and further
- 201 fragmentations (m/z 108).

202





205 2.3. Synthesis of 5'- $\beta$ -pyridoxal glucoside (5'- $\beta$ -PLG)

206 An additional branch of this study was directed towards the question, whether other 207 vitamers of the B<sub>6</sub> group occur as glycosylated derivatives in nature. Since PLP plays an 208 important role as a cofactor in many enzymatic reactions in the human metabolism[63, 98], 209 PL was chosen as the target substrate. The vitamer shows the same solubility properties as 210 PN, thus being insoluble in organic liquids. For solving this problem, the strategy outlined 211 above involving the installation of an acetonide group was not available due to the aldehyde 212 group. Masking the latter with imine functionalities[99, 100] enhanced the solubility of the 213 molecule in dichloromethane, but did not result in the formation of product during 214 glycosylation reactions further down the road. Hence, the first step revolved around a 215 solubility study, where the hydrochloric salt (HCl) of PL was suspended in various solvents 216 suitable for glycosylation reactions. In accordance to unprotected PN, no dissolution of the 217 white solid was observed, and the thought arose, whether and to what extent the HCl-salt was 218 inhibiting a proper dissolution in certain solvents. Since vitamin B<sub>6</sub> is based on a pyridine

- 219 moiety, a stronger non-nucleophilic base was employed in order to test this hypothesis. Upon
- addition of imidazole (1.1 eq.), the solid completely dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide and
- 221 dimethylformamide (DMF), mediocrely in dichloromethane (DCM) and no dissolution was
- 222 observed in diethyl ether (Et<sub>2</sub>O), tetrahydrofuran (THF) and toluene (Tol) (Figure 3).
- 223 Additional imidazole did not result in an improved solubility in the other solvents.



224 225

Figure 3. Solubility screening of PL·HCl in various solvents with the addition of imidazole (1.1 eq.).

After finishing the solubility experiments, a preliminary glycosylation was undertaken in DMSO and DMF according to KOENIGS-KNORR conditions (AgOTf/NIS 3.0 eq., 0 °C). Hereby, no product formation was detected *via* ESI-MS in aliquots taken during the reaction and after work-up. Since the synthesis of the PN-saccharides was successful in dichloromethane, but an unsatisfying solubility of PL was observed in that solvent during the screening, a mixture of  $CH_2Cl_2$  and DMF (v/v = 1/1) was tested in the next approach (Scheme 5).



233



with an increased amount of promoter in a solvent mixture.

With this procedure, the product (17) was verified in the reaction mixture via ESI-MS (m/z 236 237 498.1  $[M + H]^+$ ). After the work-up, the crude substance was deprotected as described for the PN-saccharides to obtain the desired PLG  $(m/z 330.0 [M + H]^+)$  in 15 % yield after two steps 238 239 starting from PL·HCl. Hereby, in accordance to the reaction outcome of the PN-saccharides, 240 most losses occurred during the glycosylation step rather than the deprotection steps. A 241 crucial part influencing the reactivity of this particular glucosylation lies in the solvent 242 mixture, that had to be applied in order to guarantee the complete dissolution of the starting 243 materials. Since DMSO and DMF, when used solely as solvent, didn't lead to a conversion of 244 starting material, they could have an impact on the overall reactivity and yield. Furthermore, 245 as results from preliminary experiments stated, pyridine-derivatives with basic properties 246 exhibit an influence on the reactivity of the promoter. Imidazole, in the same way as PN, 247 could inhibit the formation of product due to interaction with the promoter. A furtherly 248 increased addition of promoter didn't lead to an improvement regarding the reaction 249 outcome. The mild treatment with NaOH/KOH did not have an impact on the aldehyde 250 group, leaving it intact during the deprotection procedure.

A singlet at  $\delta = 10.3$  ppm and absence of a signal group correlating to a third CH<sub>2</sub>-group in the NMR-spectra affirmed the integrity of the aldehyde-group. A doublet at 4.55 ppm (J =8.0 Hz) confirmed the selective formation of the  $\beta$ -anomer. The fragmentation pattern of the product in LC-ESI(+)-MS/MS showed the loss of the sugar moiety (m/z 168) affirming the structure as well (Figure 4).



256 257

Figure 4. LC-ESI(+)-MS/MS spectrum of PLG (21, CE = -26 V).

This method presents a strategy for the direct synthesis of PLG starting from the commercially available hydrochloric salt of the vitamer while simultaneously proposing a way to dissolve the substrate.

A further conceivable route for the preparation of PLG, beside the preparation starting from the hydrochloric salt, involves the assignment of PNG (**18**) as the starting substrate (Scheme 6).



264

Scheme 7. An alternative route for the synthesis of PLG led through an additional oxidation step
during the deprotection procedure.

267 Because the aldehyde functionality in 4'-position constitutes the sole difference between 268 PNG and PLG, the implementation of an oxidation step into the deprotection procedure 269 presents a convenient way for the preparation of the desired glycoconjugate. Hereby, the 270 acetonide group was removed by reflux in accordance to the procedure for PN-saccharides 271 described above unveiling the hydroxyl functionality (19) in 4'-position. Oxidation with 272 manganese oxide  $(MnO_2)$  in dichloromethane led to the selective formation of the aldehyde group (20), whose integrity was assured by ESI-MS measurements  $(m/z 498.1 [M + H]^+)$ . 273 274 Lastly, the acetate groups were cleaved in basic milieu to obtain PLG (21) in 35 % yield after 275 three steps starting from the protected PNG. Although the yield increased compared to the 276 synthesis starting from PL at first glance, it has to be noted, that a multistep procedure for the 277 preparation of PNG preceded the proposed strategy, increasing the overall working effort and 278 hampering the accessibility of the method. Additionally, the oxidation of PN reportedly 279 poses a challenging reaction, often accompanied by the transformation into an oxime and 280 subsequent acid hydrolysis in order to obtain the aldehyde.[101-103] Both methods - direct 281 glycosylation of PL and oxidation of PNG - were carried out under non-optimized reaction 282 conditions, and comprise the potential for higher yields. In this regard, other glycosylation 283 methods involving different protecting- and leaving groups or promoters should be tested for

the direct glycosylation. Additionally, other oxidation reagents like potassiumpermanganate[104] can be examined for the multistep method.

286 So far, the glycosylation of PL was only accomplished at the 3'-position *via* 287 KOENIGS-KNORR synthesis utilizing pyridoxal-monoethylacetal hydrochloride, 288 acetobromoglucose and silver carbonate.[105]

289 2.4. Synthesis of  $[{}^{13}C_6]$ -5'- $\beta$ -PNG

Stable isotope dilution analysis (SIDA) marks a unique way of quantifying substrates in food, since, among other positive features, the loss of analyte during sample work-up can be exactly compensated for.[106, 107] Although being a promising method, SIDA demands isotopically labeled substrates, which are not always commercially available and thus have to be synthesized. Since this study revolved around the search for glycoconjugated derivatives of vitamin  $B_6$ , the last chapter involved the chemical synthesis of isotopically labeled  $5'-\beta$ -PNG for its application in SIDA.



297

Scheme 8. The synthesis of isotopically labeled 5'-β-PNG (26) was accomplished according to
KOENIGS-KNORR conditions. a) Ac<sub>2</sub>O, Py, DMAP; b) HBr; c) AgOTf/NIS; d) NaOH/KOH; e) 1 %
HCOOH.

301 The synthesis followed the strategy for the PN-saccharides mentioned above. Isotopic labeling was introduced through the glucose moiety starting from  $[^{13}C_6]$ -glucose (Scheme 7). 302 303 The preparation of the sugar donor proceeded through acetylation (quant.) using acetic 304 anhydride (Ac<sub>2</sub>O), pyridine (Py) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) and subsequent 305 bromination (92%), undertaken with hydrogen bromide (HBr). The glycosidic bond 306 between the sugar donor and  $\alpha 4,3$ -O-isopropylidene pyridoxine was established with 307 AgOTf/NIS (3.0 eq.) as promoter in dichloromethane at 0 °C. The following two-step 308 deprotection involved the application of NaOH/KOH and 1 % HCOOH to obtain the desired 5'- $\beta$ -[<sup>13</sup>C<sub>6</sub>]-PNG in 33 % yield after the three steps including glycosylation and deprotection. 309

310 The structural validity was confirmed through NMR spectroscopy - a doublet of doublets at

311 4.26 ppm with a J = 7.7 Hz affirmed the  $\beta$  conformation - and ESI-MS (m/z 338.1 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>). 312 Cleaving the glycosidic bond with  $\beta$ -glycosidase from almonds verified the  $\beta$ -selectivity of 313 the reaction.

314 The currently favored preparation of pyridoxine glycosides involves the addition of saccharides to sprouting alfalfa seeds and allows the isolation of  $[^{2}H]$ - (47 %) and 315 316  $[^{3}H]$ - $\beta$ -PNG beside unlabeled PNG (35 - 60 %).[57, 59-62, 64] Although the yield seems 317 comparingly higher by 10 % at first glance, the utilization of seeds involves the synthesis of 318 deuterated PN via a five step route[62, 104] beforehand in order to provide the starting material. By utilization of commercially available  $[^{13}C_6]$ -glucose and the simple strategy of 319 acetylation/bromination in order to prepare the starting materials, the overall costs in 320 321 preparation in the presented method are reduced. Additionally, utilizing seeds for the 322 preparation of glycosides is rather optimized at this point and losses occur mostly during 323 handling and chromatography[62], whereas the chemical synthesis promises high potential for optimization through variation of the reaction conditions. Furthermore,  $[^{13}C_6]$ -glucose 324 325 introduces a higher amount of labelling into the final molecule and hence reduces analytical 326 errors as a mass spectrometric overlap due to naturally occurring isotopologues is avoided.

## 327 **3. Materials and Methods**

## 328 3.1. General information

Reactions sensitive to air or moisture were carried out in dried glassware under a positive pressure of argon using standard *Schlenk* techniques. Solvents were distilled and stored over molecular sieves prior to use. Chemicals received from commercial sources (*Acros*, *Sigma-Aldrich, Fluka, Fisher Scientific*) were used without further purification unless stated otherwise. D-[ $^{13}C_6$ ]-glucose was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Detailed preparations of the sugar donors and glycosides can be found in the supplementary information. The optical rotation was measured on a P3000 polarimeter (Fa. Kruess).

336 *3.2. Column chromatography/TLC* 

337 Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 (Merck, 230 - 240 mesh) with 338 the eluent mixtures given for the corresponding procedures. Thin-layer chromatography 339 (TLC) was performed using silica-coated aluminium plates (silica gel 60). The substances 340 were detected by UV ( $\lambda = 254$  nm, 366 nm) or after visualization with CAM (cerium 341 ammonium molybdate)/potassium permanganate (KMnO<sub>4</sub>) solution.

NMR spectra were recorded either on a *Bruker* AV III system (400 MHz, Bruker, Rheinstetten, Germany) or on a Bruker AV III system (500 MHz, Bruker, Rheinstetten, Germany). <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 400 or 500 MHz and at 101 or 126 MHz, respectively. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopic chemical shifts  $\delta$  are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to residual proton signal. All coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz). The following abbreviations were used to explain multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublets, t = triplet, m = multiplet.

## 350 *3.4. LC-MS/MS*

351 LC-MS/MS was carried out on a Shimadzu Nexera X2 UHPLC system (Shimadzu, 352 Kyoto, Japan) with the mobile phase combinations water/acetonitrile or water/methanol. The 353 injection volume was 1  $\mu$ L. The LC was interfaced with a triple quadrupole ion trap mass 354 spectrometer (LCMS-8050, Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan). Data acquisition was performed with 355 LabSolutions software 5.80 (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan).

## 356 4. Conclusions

357 The motivation to understand the full extent of the involvement of glycoconjugates in 358 nature has become the driving force to a variety of research fields. Especially in terms of 359 vitamins, the influence of the respective glycosidic conjugates on the human metabolism 360 remains not thoroughly explored to this day. Studies revolving around these frontiers in 361 research show a demand for respective standards, but commercial availability is often the decisive road block. Hence, this study focused on the chemical synthesis of various 362 5'- $\beta$ -saccharides of PN and isotopically labeled 5'- $\beta$ -[<sup>13</sup>C<sub>6</sub>]-PNG. Furthermore, strategies to 363 create other B<sub>6</sub> glycosides (*e.g.* PLG) were illuminated. So far, the main focus in literature 364 365 lies on the isolation and preparation of PN-saccharides, but data on their content in food is 366 scarce. The synthesized substrates herein can find their purpose in future experiments 367 involving analytical surveys of natural samples.

368 Supplementary Materials: Experimental procedures and NMR-spectra of the new
369 substances are available in the supplementary information.

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- 371 performed the experiments and analyzed the data; L.Z. contributed to the synthesis of PLG;
- 372 C.S. contributed to the evaluation of the NMRs; T.B. wrote the manuscript; M.R. revised the
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## Chemical synthesis of 5'- $\beta$ -glycoconjugates of vitamin B<sub>6</sub>

Highlights

- The chemical synthesis of the 5'- $\beta$ -saccharides of pyridoxine, namely the mannoside, galactoside, arabinoside, maltoside, cellobioside and glucuronide, was accomplished.
- New strategies for the chemical glucosylation of pyridoxal were investigated.
- The chemical synthesis of 5'- $\beta$ -[<sup>13</sup>C<sub>6</sub>]-labeled pyridoxine glucoside (PNG) was done according to KOENIGS-KNORR conditions.

#### **Declaration of interests**

 $\boxtimes$  The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

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