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Syntheses and Coupling Reactions of 1,2-Anhydro-3,5-Di-O-Benzyl-a-L-Ribofuranose and 1,2-Anhydro-5-O-Benzyl-3-O-Methyl-a-L-Ribofuranose

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# SYNTHESES AND COUPLING REACTIONS OF 1,2-ANHYDRO-3,5-DI-*O*-BENZYL-α-L-RIBOFURANOSE AND 1,2-ANHYDRO-5-*O*-BENZYL-3-*O*-METHYL-

α-L-RIBOFURANOSE

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## ABSTRACT

1,2-Anhydro-3,5-di-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -L-ribofuranose (7) and 1,2-anhydro-5-O-benzyl-3-O-methyl- $\alpha$ -L-ribofuranose (20) were synthesized from L-arabinose via the key intermediates 3,5-di-O-benzyl-2-O-tosyl- (5) and 5-O-benzyl-3-O-methyl-2-O-tosyl-Larabinofuranose (18) respectively. Condensation of the anhydro sugars with silylated uracil in the absence of catalyst gave the corresponding nucleoside derivatives with free 2'-OH in high yield. Selective glycosylation of 1,2-O-isopropylidene- $\alpha$ -D-xylofuranose with 7 afforded (1 $\rightarrow$ 5)- $\beta$ -linked disaccharide predominantly in a good yield.

## INTRODUCTION

In recent years, considerable attention has been paid to antisense oligonucleotides because such compounds are finding more and more applications in the design of chemotherapeutic agents and biochemical tools.<sup>1</sup> The synthesis of antisense oligonucleotides requires large quantities of L-nucleosides and L-2-deoxy-nucleosides as building blocks. In addition, L-nucleoside derivatives themselves are potential inhibitors of HIV.<sup>2</sup> Thus, efficient preparation of L-ribofuranose derivatives is needed.

Synthesis of L-ribofuranose derivatives, starting from D-ribono-1,4-lactone,<sup>3</sup> Larabinose<sup>4</sup> and L-xylofuranose,<sup>5</sup> are extensively described in the literature. Although some of these derivatives can be obtained in a high overall yield,<sup>6</sup> further reactions for the preparation of L-2-deoxy-nucleosides are found to be not very satisfactory because this procedure involves nonselective and troublesome protection of the 3',5'-OH groups. These facts prompted to us to develop a new method for the synthesis of L-ribofuranose derivatives.

In our research devoted to the synthesis of 1,2-anhydrosugars and their coupling reactions, we have found that in many cases the nucleophilic opening of this class of compounds takes place via C-1 attack to give 1,2-*trans*-glycoside derivatives in high yields under mild conditions.<sup>7</sup> The resulting 2'-hydroxy free compounds are useful intermediates for further preparation of other derivatives. Danishefsky's group reported the synthesis of 1,2-anhydro-D-ribose derivative by oxidative conversion of the corresponding glycal with 3,3-dimethyldioxirane.<sup>8</sup> However a mixture of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  1,2-anhydrides was obtained and it could not be separated and purified until their stable nucleoside derivatives were prepared. Here we wish to report the synthesis of 1,2-anhydro-3,5-di-*O*-benzyl- $\alpha$ -L-ribofuranose (7) and 1,2-anhydro-5-*O*-benzyl-3-*O*-methyl- $\alpha$ -L-ribofuranose (20), and their coupling reaction with silylated uracil giving in high yield the corresponding nucleosides, valuable intermediates for further chemical modification at C-2.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The title anhydrides 7 and 20 were synthesized by "inverse ring closure"<sup>7</sup> of the corresponding 2-O-tosylates 5 and 18 respectively. Thus 1,2-O-isopropylidene- $\beta$ -L-arabinofuranose (1) was prepared from L-arabinose according to the reported method.<sup>9</sup> Benzylation of 1 with sodium hydride and benzyl bromide in boiling oxolane yielded 3,5-di-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -L-arabinofuranose (2) in 93% yield. Hydrolysis of 2 in 30% acetic acid under reflux gave 3,5-di-O-benzyl-L-arabinofuranose (3) in 90% yield as a mixture of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  anomers. Acetylation of 3 with acetic anhydride in pyridine gave the 1,2-di-O-acetyl-3,5-di-O-benzyl-L-arabinofuranose (4) as an anomeric mixture in quantitative yield, which was separated by analytical LC and identified by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrometry.

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The key intermediate 3,5-di-O-benzyl-2-O-tosyl-L-arabinofuranose (5) was prepared from the reaction of 3 with tosyl chloride in anhydrous pyridine in the presence of potassium carbonate at 0 °C as an anomeric mixture in 60.5% yield. The pure  $\alpha$  isomer was obtained by analytical LC, but a neat <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum was not obtained because of anomerization during the determination in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Acetylation of 5 with acetic anhydride afforded 1-O-acetyl-3,5-di-O-benzyl-2-O-tosyl-L-arabinofuranose (6) in pyridine quantitatively as an anomeric mixture. Ring closure of 5 with potassium *tert*-butoxide in dry oxolane quantitatively gave syrupy 1,2-anhydro-3,5-di-O-benzyl- $\alpha$ -L-ribofuranose (7) within 10 min. Compound 7 was very sensitive to protic solvents, and attempts to obtain an accurate elemental analysis were unsuccessful. However, 7 was characterized via 'H NMR spectroscopy. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 7 showed an upfield peak for H-2 at  $\delta$  3.58 ppm, which is the salient feature for the 1,2-epoxide ring of carbohydrate compounds.<sup>10</sup> Further verification of the structure was performed by alcoholysis of 7 in dry MeOH at room temperature, quantitatively giving methyl 3,5-di-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -Lribofuranoside (8). The structure of 8 was confirmed from the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of its acetylated derivative 9. Reaction of the epoxide with silvlated uracil in the absence of Lewis acid provided a mixture of 10 (60%) and 11 (26%) in a total yield of 86%. Compound 10 was unstable and easily converted to 11 under weakly acidic conditions. No evidence of the other anomer was found using analytical LC or <sup>1</sup>H NMR methods. Compound 11 with a free C-2 OH can be used for further functionalization or glycosylation as an acceptor. Acetylation of 11 gave compound 12, further confirming the structure of 11.

Regioselective coupling of the 1,2-anhydride 7 at 5-OH of a xylofuranose acceptor having free 3-OH and 5-OH was then carried out. Reaction of 7 with 1,2-Oisopropylidene- $\alpha$ -D-xylofuranose did not occur under the same conditions as that used for the preparation of nucleoside, but with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> as the catalyst, the starting material 7 disappeared in 3 h. The resultant mixture, after being acetylated with anhydride in pyridine, was subjected to silica gel chromatography to give O-(2-O-acetyl-3,5-di-Obenzyl- $\beta$ - and - $\alpha$ -L-ribofuranosyl)-(1 $\rightarrow$ 5)-3-O-acetyl-1,2-O-isopropylidene- $\alpha$ -Dxylofuranose (13 $\beta$  and 13 $\alpha$ , respectively) in a ratio of 6:1 with a total yield of 68%.

1,2-O-Isopropylidene-3-O-methyl- $\beta$ -L-arabinofuranose (14) was prepared from Larabinose according to the reported methods.<sup>9</sup> Benzylation of 14 with sodium hydride and







7 R<sup>3</sup> = Bn 20 R<sup>3</sup> = Me



8	R <sup>2</sup> = H; R <sup>3</sup> = Bn
9	$R^2 = Ac; R^3 = Bn$
21	R <sup>2</sup> = H; R <sup>3</sup> = Me
22	R <sup>2</sup> = Ac; R <sup>3</sup> ≓ Me



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$$R^2 = TMS; R^3 = Bn$$
  
11  $R^2 = H; R^3 = Bn$   
12  $R^2 = Ac; R^3 = Bn$   
23  $R^2 = TMS; R^3 = Me$   
24  $R^2 = H; R^3 = Me$ 

**25** 
$$R^2 = Ac; R^3 = Me$$



benzyl bromide in boiling oxolane afforded 15 (94%). Hydrolysis of 15 in boiling 30% acetic acid followed by tosylation with tosyl chloride in pyridine gave the 5-O-benzyl-3-O-methyl-2-O-tosyl-L-arabinofuranose (18). Ring closure of 18 under reaction conditions similar to those employed for 7 then provided the desired 1,2-anhydro compound 20 quantitatively. The structure of 20 was confirmed from its <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum ( $\delta$  3.70 ppm, H-2) and by methanolysis to give methyl 5-O-benzyl-3-O-methyl- $\beta$ -L-ribofuranoside (21). Condensation of 20 with silylated uracil in the absence of Lewis acid gave a mixture of nucleosides 23 (61%) and 24 (25%), with 23 being easily converted to 24 under weakly acidic conditions. Thus we have developed a convenient method for the synthesis of L-nucleoside and 3'-O-methylnucleoside derivatives via the corresponding 1,2-anhydro-L-ribofuranoses which were readily prepared from L-arabinose.

# **EXPERIMENTAL**

General methods. Melting points were determined with a "Mel-Temp" apparatus. Optical rotations were determined with a Perkin-Elmer model 241-MC automatic polarimeter for solutions in a 1dm, jacketed cell. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded with Varian XL-400 and XL-200 spectrometers, for solutions in CDCl<sub>3</sub> with tetramethylsilane (Me<sub>4</sub>Si) as the internal standard. Mass spectra were recorded with a VG PLATFORM mass spectrometer using an ESI technique to introduce the sample. Analytical LC was performed with a Gilson HPLC set consisting of pump (model 306), stainless-steel columns packed with silica gel (10 x 300 mm, or 4.6 x 250 mm), a differential refractometer (132 RI detector), a UV/VI detector (model 118), and ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (bp 60-90 °C) as the eluent at a flow rate of 1-4 mL/min. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel HF, detection being effected by charring with 30% (v/v) sulphuric acid in methanol or sometimes by UV detection. Column chromatography was conducted by elution of a column (16 x 240 mm, 18 x 300 mm, 35 x 400 mm) of silica gel (100-200 mesh). Solutions were concentrated at < 60 °C under diminished pressure.

1,2-O-Isopropylidene-3,5-di-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -L-arabinofuranose(2). To a solution of 1,2-O-isopropylidene- $\beta$ -L-arabinofuranose (1) (1.5 g, 7.89 mmol) in anhydrous oxolane (30 mL) was added, with vigorous stirring in an ice-cold water bath, sodium hydride

(60% in oil; 1.89 g, 47.3 mmol) and benzyl bromide (2.3 mL, 19.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred and boiled under reflux for 4 h, at the end of which time TLC (3:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc) indicated that the reaction was complete. The mixture was directly subjected to steam distillation to remove the excess benzyl bromide and by-product dibenzyl ether, and then extracted with dichloromethane. The organic layer was concentrated to a syrup that was purified by column chromatography with 4:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc to give 2 (2.72 g, 93%);  $[\alpha]_D$  -10.4° (c 0.8, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.31 (s, 10H, 2 Ph), 5.89 (d, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.0 Hz, H-1), 4.64 (d, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.0 Hz, H-2), 4.60-4.54 (m, 4H, 2 PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.26 (m, 1H, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 3.0 Hz, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.3 Hz, H-4), 4.02 (d, 1H, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 3.0 Hz, H-3), 3.63 (d, 2H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.3 Hz, 2 H-5), 1.42, 1.33 (2s, 6H, 2 CCH<sub>3</sub>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 71.35; H, 7.00. Found: C, 71.54; H, 7.00.

3,5-Di-O-benzyl-L-arabinofuranose (3). The solution of 2 (4 g, 10.8 mmol) in 30% acetic acid (100 mL) was boiled under reflux with stirring for 5 h, at the end of which time TLC (2:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc) indicated that the reaction was complete. The mixture was concentrated to a syrup that was subjected to separation by column chromatography with 2:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc as the eluent. Compound **3** was obtained as a syrupy anomeric mixture (3.21 g, 90%,  $\alpha : \beta 1 : 1$ );  $[\alpha]_D$  -65.1° (*c* 3.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.43-7.22 (m, 10H, 2 Ph), 5.29 (d, 0.5H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 3.4 Hz, H-1 of  $\beta$  anomer), 5.22 (s, 0.5H, H-1 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 4.75-3.40 (m, 11H, H-2,3,4,5,5', 2 PhCH<sub>2</sub>, 2 OH).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 69.09; H, 6.67. Found: C, 69.23; H, 6.61.

1,2-Di-O-acetyl-3,5-di-O-benzyl-L-arabinofuranose(4). Acetylation of 3 (120 mg, 0.36 mmol) with acetic anhydride (4.5 mL) in pyridine (6 mL) at room temperature for 4 h gave compound 4 in a quantitative yield as a syrupy  $\alpha$ : $\beta$  mixture (2:1). The pure samples of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  isomer could be separated by the analytical LC with 4:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc as the eluent; for the  $\alpha$  isomer,  $[\alpha]_D$  -93.2° (*c* 2.6, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7,42-7.22 (m, 10H, Ph), 6.21 (s, 1H, H-1), 5.22 (d, 1H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 1.5 Hz, H-2), 4.80-4.50 (m, 4H, 2 PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.40 (m, 1H, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 4.8 Hz, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 4.4 Hz, H-4), 4.00 (dd, 1H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 1.5 Hz, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 4.8 Hz, H-3), 3.62 (d, 2H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 4.4 Hz, 2 H-5'), 2.14, 2.03 (2s, 6H, 2 COCH<sub>3</sub>).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: C, 66.67; H, 6.28. Found: C, 66,84; H, 6.30.

For the  $\beta$  isomer,  $[\alpha]_D$  +66.1° (c 1.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.40-7.22 (m, 10H, Ph), 6.37 (d, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.6 Hz, H-1), 5.25 (dd, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.6 Hz, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 6.7 Hz, H-2), 4.62 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.58 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.38 (m, 2H, H-3,4), 3.60 (d, 2H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 5.3 Hz, 2 H-5), 2.04, 1.97 (2s, 6H, 2 COCH<sub>3</sub>).

**3,5-Di-O-benzyl-2-O-tosyl-L-arabinofuranose** (5). To a solution of **3** (800 mg, 2.42 mmol) in pyridine (5 mL) was added TsCl (1.5 g, 7.87 mmol) and powdered K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (340 mg, 2.46 mmol) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for about 20 h, then poured into ice-cold water and extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL). The organic layer was washed with cold water (50 mL), 1 N HCl (4 x 20 mL), then dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solution was concentrated under diminished pressure, and the resultant residue was purified by column chromatography with 3:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc as the eluent. Compound **5** (708.6 mg, 60.5%) was obtained as an  $\alpha$ : $\beta$  mixture in a ratio of 1:3; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> -42.9° (*c* 2.4, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  7.85 (d, 0.5H, Ph-H of Ts for  $\alpha$  anomer), 7.78 (d, 1.5H, Ph-*H* of Ts for  $\beta$  anomer), 7.47-7.14 (m, 12H, Ph*H*), 5.26 (d, 0.75H, J<sub>H1,OH</sub> = 6.3 Hz, H-1 of  $\beta$  anomer), 5.15 (dd, 0.25H, J<sub>1.2</sub> = 9.7 Hz, J<sub>H1,OH</sub> = 4.3 Hz, H-1 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 4.79 (d, 0.75H, J<sub>2.3</sub> = 1.2 Hz, H-2 of  $\beta$  anomer), 4.82 (dd, 0.25H, H-2 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 4.70-4.50 (m, 4H, 2 PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.40-4.25 (m, 1H, H-4), 4.07-3.89 (m, 1H, H-3), 3.60-3.15 (m, 3H, 2 H-5, OH), 2.46 (s, 3H, PhCH<sub>3</sub>).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>7</sub>S<sub>1</sub>: C, 64.64; H, 5.79. Found: C, 64.83; H, 5.81.

1-O-Acetyl-3,5-di-O-benzyl-2-O-tosyl-L-arabinofuranose (6). Compound 5 (70 mg, 0.14 mmol) was treated with acetic anhydride (1.5 mL) in pyridine (2.5 mL) to afford 6 (53 mg, 98%) as a syrup ( $\alpha$ : $\beta$  = 4:1); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> -30.9° (*c* 0.8, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.81 (d, 2 x 0.2H, Ph-*H* of Ts for  $\beta$  isomer), 7.80 (d, 2 x 0.8H, Ph-*H* of Ts for  $\alpha$  anomer), 7.42-7.16 (m, 12H, Ph), 6.08 (d, 0.2H. J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.2 Hz, H-1 of  $\beta$  anomer), 6.05 (s, 0.8H, H-1 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 5.00 (d, 0.8H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 2.0 Hz, H-2 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 4.9 (dd, 0.2H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.2 Hz, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 7.0 Hz, H-2 of  $\beta$  anomer), 4.62-4.40 (m, 4H, 2 PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.37-4.20 (m, 1H, H-4), 4.18-4.10 (m, 1H, H-3), 3.58-3.44 (m, 2H, 2 H-5), 2.47 (s, 3H, PhCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.02 (s, 3 x 0.8H, COCH<sub>3</sub> of  $\alpha$  anomer), 1.88 (s, 3 x 0.2H, COCH<sub>3</sub> of  $\beta$  anomer).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>8</sub>S<sub>1</sub>: C, 63.88; H, 5.70. Found: C, 64.11; H, 5.74.

**1,2-Anhydro-3,5-di-O-benzyl-\alpha-L-ribofuranose (7)**. To a solution of 5 (300 mg, 0.62 mmol) in dry oxolane (6 mL) was added potassium *tert*-butoxide (85 mg, 0.76

mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min, at the end of which time TLC (3:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc) indicated that the starting material had disappeared. The mixture was concentrated to dryness, and the residue was repeatedly extracted with 3:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc. Concentration of the combined extracts yielded 7 as a syrup (193.7 mg, 95%);  $[\alpha]_D$  -63° (*c* 1.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.41-7.26 (m, 10H, 2 Ph), 5.22 (d, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 2.0 Hz, H-1), 4.72, 4.63 (ABq, 2H, J = 12.0 Hz, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.56, 4.48 (ABq, 2H, J = 12.2 Hz, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.17 (dd, 1H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 1.7 Hz, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 6.6 Hz, H-3), 3.92 (m, 1H, H-4), 3.63 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4.5</sub> = 2.8 Hz, J<sub>5.5</sub> = 11.0 Hz, H-5), 3.58 (t, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 2.0 Hz, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 1.7 Hz, H-2), 3.51 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4.5</sub> = 4.0 Hz, J<sub>5.5</sub> = 11.0 Hz, H-5').

Methyl 3,5-di-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -D-ribofuranoside (8). Compound 7 (50 mg, 0.15 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous methanol (4 mL) and the solution kept for 1 h at room temperature. TLC (2:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc) indicated that the reaction was complete. The solution was concentrated to afford 8 quantitatively as a syrup;  $[\alpha]_D$  -18.6° (c 0.8, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.40-7.20 (m, 10H, 2 Ph), 4.88 (s, 1H, H-1), 4.59 (s, 4H, 2 PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.22 (t, 1H, J<sub>3,4</sub> = J<sub>4,5</sub> = 4.4 Hz, H-4), 4.12-4.03 (m, 2H, H-2,3), 3.55 (d, 2H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 4.4 Hz, 2 H-5), 3.35 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 69.77; H, 6.98. Found: C, 70.22; H, 7.01.

Methyl 2-O-acetyl-3,5-di-O-benzyl-β-L-ribofuranoside(9). Compound 8 (80 mg, 0.23 mmol) was treated with acetic anhydride (1.8 mL) in pyridine (3 mL) to afford 9 (87.1 mg, 97%) as a syrup;  $[\alpha]_D$  -13.6° (c 1.9, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ 7.40-7.20 (m, 10H, 2 Ph), 5.20 (d, 1H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 6.0 Hz, H-2), 4.88 (s, 1H, H-1), 4.60-4.40 (m, 4H, 2 PHCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.23 (m, 1H, H-4), 4.12 (dd, 1H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 6.0 Hz, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 9.5 Hz, H-3), 3.60 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 2.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H-5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H\_5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H\_5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 6.4 Hz, J\_5,5) = 10.0 Hz, H\_5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J\_4,5 = 6.4 Hz, J\_5,5) = 10.0 Hz, H\_5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J\_4,5 = 6.4 Hz, J\_5,5) = 10.0 Hz, H\_5), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J\_4,5 = 6.4 Hz, J\_5,

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: C, 68.39; H, 6.74. Found: C, 68.23; H, 6.75.

1'-(3',5'-Di-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -L-ribofuranosyl)uracil(11) and 1'-(2'-O-acetyl-3',5'-di-O-benzyl- $\beta$ -L-ribofuranosyl)uracil-(12). To a stirred solution of O,O-bis-(trimethylsilyl)uracil (254 mg, 0.90 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) with molecular sieves (4 A, 0.8 g) was added compound 7 (135.2 mg, 0.42 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6 mL). The mixture was stirred for 8 h at room temperature, at the end of which time TLC (1:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc) indicated that the starting material 7 had disappeared. The mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30 mL), filtered, and the filtrate concentrated to a syrup that was subjected to column chromatography with 1:2 petroleum ether-EtOAc as the eluent. Compounds **10** (123.3 mg, 60%) and **11** (45.5 mg, 26%) were obtained. Compound **10** was quantitatively converted to **11** within 5 min in a solution of CH<sub>3</sub>CN (10 mL) containing HCOOH (0.4 mL). Compound **11** was isolated as white needles; mp 71-73 °C;  $[\alpha]_D$  -33.1° (*c* 3.4, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  8.80 (s, 1H, N-H), 7.70 (d, 1H, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 8.1 Hz, H-6), 7.38 (s, 10H, 2 Ph), 5.95 (d, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.1 Hz, H-1'), 5.27 (d, 1H, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 8.05 Hz, H-5), 4.70, 4.60 (ABq, 2H, J = 11.7 Hz. PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.50 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.30-4.18 (m, 2H, H-3,4'), 4.10 (t, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = J<sub>2',3</sub> = 4.1 Hz, H-2'), 3.82 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4',5'</sub> = 2.4 Hz, J<sub>5',5''</sub> = 10.5 Hz, H-5'), 3.58 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4',5''</sub> = 1.7 Hz, J<sub>5',5''</sub> = 10.5 Hz, H-5''), 2.50 (s, 1H, OH).

Anal. Calcd for  $C_{23}H_{24}O_6N_2$ . 0.5  $H_2O$ : C, 63.74; H, 5.54. Found: C, 63.77; H, 5.59.

Compound 11 (30 mg, 0.069 mmol) was treated with acetic anhydride (0.8 mL) in pyridine (1.2 mL) to afford 12 (27.9 mg, 91%) as a syrup;  $[\alpha]_D$  -18.7° (*c* 0.4, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  8.15 (s, 1H, N-*H*), 7.75 (d, 1H, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 8.2 Hz, H-6), 7.40-7.10 (m, 10H, 2 Ph), 6.03 (d, 1H, J<sub>1',2'</sub> = 2.5 Hz, H-1'), 5.28-5.20 (m, 2H, H-2',5), 4.60-4.30 (m, 4H, 2 PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.20-4.10 (m, 2H, H-3',4'), 3.80 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4',5'</sub> = 1.3 Hz, J<sub>5',5''</sub> = 10.2 Hz, H-5'), 3.50 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4',5''</sub> = 1.0 Hz, J<sub>5',5''</sub> = 10.2 Hz, H-5''), 2.10 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>).

 $O-(2-O-Acetyl-3,5-di-O-benzyl-\beta-L-ribofuranosyl)-(1\rightarrow 5)-3-O-acetyl-1,2-O-isopropylidene-<math>\alpha$ -D-xylofuranose (13 $\beta$ ) and  $O-(2-O-acetyl-3,5-di-O-benzyl-<math>\alpha$ -L-ribofuranosyl)-(1 $\rightarrow$ 5)-1,2-O-isopropylidene-3-O-acetyl- $\alpha$ -L-xylofuranose (13 $\alpha$ ). To a solution of 1,2-O-isopropylidene- $\alpha$ -D-xylofuranose (210 mg, 1.1 mmol) in anhydrous methylene chloride (4 mL) was added 4A molecular sieves (1 g) and ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 g). The mixture was stirred for 10 min at room temperature, and then a solution of 7 (180 mg, 0.55 mmol) in methylene chloride (2 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h, at the end of which time TLC (2:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc) indicated that 7 had disappeared. The mixture was filtered to remove the solid material, and the filtrate was washed with water (3 x 50 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, then

concentrated to a syrup. The syrup was dissolved in pyridine (5 mL) and to the solution was added acetic anhydride (4 mL) at room temperature. After 2 h, the mixture was poured into ice-cold water, extracted with dichloromethane (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with cold 1 N HCl (3 x 20 mL), then dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solution was concentrated to a syrup that was subjected to analytical LC with 4:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc as the eluent to afford 13 $\beta$  (187.9 mg, 58.3%) and 13 $\alpha$  (31.3 mg, 9.7%) as syrups; for the 13 $\beta$ ,[ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> -13.0° (*c* 1.4, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.38-7.22 (m, 10H, 2 Ph), 5.89 (d, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 3.9 Hz, H-1), 5.22 (d, 1H, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 3.2 Hz, H-3), 5.18 (d, 1H, J<sub>1',2'</sub> = 4.2 Hz, H-2'), 4.97 (s, 1H, H-1'), 4.59-3.44 (12H, 2 PhCH<sub>2</sub>, H-2,4,5a,5b,3',4,'5'a, and 5'b), 2.12, 2.08 (2s, 6H, 2COCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.51, 1.30 (2s, 6H, 2 CCH<sub>3</sub>).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>38</sub>O<sub>11</sub>: C, 63.48; H, 6.48. Found: C, 68.46; H, 6.51.

For the  $13\alpha$ ,  $[\alpha]_D -115.9^\circ$  (c 1.4, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.41-7.22 (m, 10H, 2 Ph), 5.91 (d, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 3.9 Hz, H-1), 5.28 (d, 1H, J<sub>1',2'</sub> = 4.6 Hz, H-1'), 5.22 (d, 1H, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 3.2 Hz, H-3), 4.90 (dd, 1H, J<sub>1',2'</sub> = 4.6 Hz, J<sub>2',3'</sub> = 6.9 Hz, H-2'), 4.69-4.38 (m, 6H, H-2,4, 2 PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.14 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.06 (dd, 1H, J<sub>2',3'</sub> = 6.9 Hz, J<sub>3',4'</sub> = 4.3 Hz, H-3'), 3.92 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5a</sub> = 5.9 Hz, J<sub>5a,5b</sub> = 10.7 Hz, H-5a), 3.78 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5b</sub> = 6.2 Hz, J<sub>5a,5b</sub> = 10.7 Hz, H-5b), 3.45 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4',5'a</sub> = 3.4 Hz, J<sub>5'a,5'b</sub> = 10.5 Hz, H-5'a), 3.31 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4',5'b</sub> = 4.0 Hz, J<sub>5'a,5'b</sub> = 10.5 Hz, H-5'b), 2.19, 2.04 (2s, 6H, 2 COCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.52, 1.30 (2s, 6H, 2 CCH<sub>3</sub>).

**1,2-O-Isopropylidene-5-O-benzyl-3-O-methyl-** $\beta$ **-L-arabinofuranose** (15). To a solution of 1,2-O-isopropylidene-3-O-methyl- $\beta$ -L-arabinofuranose<sup>9</sup> (14) (1.66 g, 5.65 mmol) in anhydrous oxolane (20 mL) was added, with vigorous stirring in an ice-cold water bath, sodium hydride (60% in oil; 1.17 g, 29.3 mmol) and benzyl bromide (0.84 mL, 6.78 mmol). Then the mixture was stirred and boiled under reflux for 4 h, at the end of which time TLC (3:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc) indicated that the reaction was complete. The mixture was directly subjected to steam distillation to remove the excess benzyl bromide and by-product dibenzyl ether, and then extracted with dichloromethane. The organic layer was concentrated to a syrup that was purified by column chromatography with 4:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc to give 15 (2.24 g, 94%); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> -11.8° (c 10.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.38-7.25 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.86 (d, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.2 Hz, H-1), 4.61, 4.58 (ABq, 2H, J = 12.0 Hz, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.57 (d, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.2 Hz, H-2), 4.17 (m,

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 65.30; H, 7.48. Found: C, 65.43; H,7.49.

5-O-Benzyl-3-O-methyl-L-arabinofuranose (16). The solution of 15 (1.5 g, 3.91 mmol) in 30% acetic acid (80 mL) was boiled under reflux with stirring for 5 h, at the end of which time TLC (2:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc) indicated that the reaction was complete. The mixture was concentrated to a syrup that was subjected to column chromatography with 2:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc as the eluent. Compound 16 was obtained as a syrupy anomeric mixture (1.2 g, 90%,  $\alpha:\beta$  1:1);  $[\alpha]_D$  -52.8° (*c* 1.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.38-7.23 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.26 (d, 0.5H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 3.6 Hz, H-1 of  $\beta$  anomer), 5.24 (s, 0.5H, H-1 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 4.72-3.56 (m, 9H, H-2,3,4,5,5',PhCH<sub>2</sub>, 2 OH), 3.41 (s, 0.5 x 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub> of  $\beta$  anomer), 3.38 (s, 0.5 x 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub> of  $\alpha$  anomer).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 61.42; H, 7.09. Found: C, 61.60; H, 7.11.

**1,2-Di-O-acetyl-5-O-benzyl-3-O-methyl-L-arabinofuranose** (17). Acetylation of **16** (100 mg, 0.39 mmol) with acetic anhydride (4 mL) in pyridine (5 mL) at room temperature for 4 h gave compound **17** in a quantitative yield as a syrup consisting of  $\alpha$ and  $\beta$  anomers in a ratio of 1:1;  $[\alpha]_D$  +3.4° (*c* 7.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.38-7.26 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.32 (d, 0.5H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.2 Hz, H-1 of  $\beta$  anomer), 6.19 (s, 0.5H, H-1 of  $\alpha$ anomer), 5.18 (dd, 0.5H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.2 Hz, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 6.5 Hz, H-2 of  $\beta$  anomer), 5.14 (d, 0.5H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 1.7 Hz, H-2 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 4.60 (m, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.30 (m, 0.5H, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 4.7 Hz, J<sub>4.5</sub> = 4.5 Hz, H-4 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 4.18-4.03 (m, 2 x 0.5H, H-3,4 of  $\beta$  anomer), 3.78 (dd, 0.5H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 1.7 Hz, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 4.7 Hz, H-3 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 3.66 (d, 2 x 0.5H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 5.1 Hz, 2 H-5 of  $\beta$  anomer), 3.63 (d, 2 x 0.5H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 4.2 Hz, 2 H-5 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 3.42 (s, 3 x 0.5H, OCH<sub>3</sub> of  $\beta$  anomer), 3.40 (s, 3 x 0.5H, OCH<sub>3</sub> of  $\alpha$  anomer), 2.10, 2.04 (2s, 6 x 0.5H, 2 COCH<sub>3</sub> of  $\beta$  anomer), 2.08, 1.96 (2s, 6 x 0.5H, 2 COCH<sub>3</sub> of  $\alpha$ anomer).

Anal.Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: C, 60.35; H, 6.51. Found: C, 60.50; H, 6.49.

5-O-Benzyl-3-O-methyl-2-O-tosyl-L-arabinofuranose (18). To a solution of 16 (519 mg, 2.04 mmol) in pyridine (5 mL) was added TsCl (775 mg, 4.07 mmol) and powdered  $K_2CO_3$  (366 mg, 2.65 mmol) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for about 20 h, then poured into ice-cold water, extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL).

The organic layer was washed with cold water (50 mL), 1 N HCl (4 x 20 mL), then dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solution was concentrated under diminished pressure and the resultant residue was separated by column chromatography with 3:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc as the eluent to give **18** (532.7 mg, 64%) as an  $\alpha$ : $\beta$  mixture in a ratio of 1:3;  $[\alpha]_D$  -25.1° (*c* 1.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  7.85 (d, 0.5H, Ph-*H* of Ts for  $\alpha$  anomer), 7.81 (d, 1.5H, Ph-*H* of Ts for  $\beta$  anomer), 7.38-7.24 (m, 7H, Ph*H*), 5.26 (d, 0.75H, *J*<sub>H1.0H</sub> 5.86 Hz, H-1 of  $\beta$  anomer), 5.10 (dd, 0.25H, J<sub>1.2</sub> = 9.4 Hz, J<sub>H1.0H</sub> = 4.0 Hz, H-1 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 4.73 (d, 0.75H, J<sub>2.3</sub> = 1.5 Hz, H-2 of  $\beta$  anomer), 4.71 (dd, 0.25H, H-2 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 4.62-4.54 (m, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.36-3.76 (2H, H-3,4), 3.56 (m, 2H, 2 H-5), 3.28 (s, 3 x 0.75H OCH<sub>3</sub> of  $\beta$  anomer), 3.26 (s, 3 x 0.25H, OCH<sub>3</sub> of  $\alpha$  anomer), 3.14 (1H, OH), 2.43 (s, 3H, PhCH<sub>3</sub>).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>7</sub>S<sub>1</sub>: C, 58.82; H, 5.88. Found: C, 58.93; H, 5.85.

1-*O*-Acetyl-5-*O*-benzyl-3-*O*-methyl-2-*O*-tosyl-L-arabinofuranose (19). Compound 18 (50 mg, 0.12 mmol) was acetylated with acetic anhydride (1 mL) in pyridine (1.5 mL) to afford 19 (52.9 mg, 98%) as a syrup ( $\alpha$ : $\beta$  4:1); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> -22.4° (*c* 1.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.81 (m, 2H, Ph-*H* of Ts), 7.42-7.25 (m, 7H, Ph), 6.03 (d, 0.2H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.4 Hz, H-1 of  $\beta$  anomer), 6.01 (s, 0.8H, H-1 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 4.92 (d, 0.8H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 1.5 Hz, H-2 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 4.82 (dd, 0.2H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 4.4 Hz, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 6.7 Hz, H-2 of  $\beta$  anomer), 4.64-4.50 (m, 2H, PhC*H*<sub>2</sub>), 4.19 (m, 0.8H, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 5.9 Hz, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 4.64 Hz, H-4 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 4.12-3.95 (m, 0.4H, H-3,4 of  $\beta$  anomer), 3.91 (dd, 0.8H, J<sub>2,3</sub> 1.5 Hz, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 5.9 Hz, H-3 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 3.62 (d, 2 x 0.8H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 4.6 Hz, 2 H-5 of  $\alpha$  anomer), 3.55 (d, 2 x 0.2H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 4.9 Hz, 2 H-5 of  $\beta$  anomer), 3.35 (s, 3 x 0.8H, OCH<sub>3</sub> of  $\alpha$  anomer), 1.88 (s, 3 x 0.2H, COCH<sub>3</sub> of  $\beta$  anomer).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>8</sub>S<sub>1</sub>: C, 58.67; H, 5.78. Found: C, 58.88; H, 5.73.

1,2-Anhydro-5-O-benzyl-3-O-methyl-5- $\alpha$ -L-ribofuranose (20). To a solution of 18 (170 mg, 0.42 mmol) in dry oxolane (6 mL) was added potassium *tert*-butoxide (70 mg, 0.62 mmol), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min, at the end of which time TLC (3:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc) indicated that the starting material had disappeared. The mixture was concentrated to dryness, and the residue was repeatedly extracted with 3:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc. Concentration of the combined extracts yielded **20** as a syrup (99.3 mg, 94%);  $[\alpha]_D$  -70.8° (c 0.34, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.32 (s, 5H, Ph), 5.25 (d, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 2.2 Hz, H-1), 4.62, 4.54 (ABq, 2H, J = 12.2 Hz, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.01 (dd, 1H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 2.2 Hz, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 6.7 Hz, H-3), 3.85 (m, 1H, H-4), 3.70 (t, 1H, J<sub>1,2</sub> = 2.2 Hz, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 2.2 Hz, H-2), 3.66 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 2.6 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 11.4 Hz, H-5), 3.55 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 4.2 Hz, J<sub>5,5</sub> = 11.4 Hz, H-5'), 3.48 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>).

Methyl 5-O-benzyl-3-O-methyl- $\beta$ -L-ribofuranoside (21). Compound 20 (50 mg, 0.196 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous methanol (4 mL) and the solution kept for 1 h at room temperature. TLC (2:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc) indicated that the reaction was complete. The solution was concentrated to afford 21 quantitatively as a syrup;  $[\alpha]_D$  - 31.3° (c 1.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.28 (s, 5H, Ph), 4.80 (s, 1H, H-1), 4.55 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.08 (m, 1H, H-4), 4.03 (d, 1H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 4.9 Hz, H-2), 3.80 (dd, 1H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 4.9 Hz, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 6.2 Hz, H-3), 3.51 (d, 2H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 4.4 Hz, 2 H-5), 3.35, 3.26 (2s, 6H, 2 OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.60 (s, 1H, OH).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 62.69; H, 7.46. Found: C, 62.90; H, 7.49.

Methyl 2-*O*-acetyl-5-*O*-benzyl-3-*O*-methyl-β-L-ribofuranoside (22). Compound 21 (60 mg, 0.22 mmol) was treated with acetic anhydride (1.5 mL) in pyridine (3 mL) to afford 22 (67.9 mg, 98%) as a syrup;  $[\alpha]_D$  -28.6° (*c* 0.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ 7.35 (s, 5H, Ph), 5.20 (d, 1H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 4.4 Hz, H-2), 4.86 (s, 1H, H-1), 4.62 (s, 2H, PHCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.15 (m, 1H, H-4), 3.95 (dd, 1H, J<sub>2,3</sub> = 4.4 Hz, J<sub>3,4</sub> = 7.3 Hz, H-3), 3.66 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5</sub> = 3.5 Hz, J<sub>5,5'</sub> = 10.2 Hz, H-5), 3.58 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,5'</sub> = 5.9 Hz, J<sub>5,5'</sub> = 10.2 Hz, H-5'), 3.35 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.34 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.15 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: C, 61.94; H, 7.10. Found: C, 62.01; H, 7.14.

1'-(5'-O-Benzyl-3'-O-methyl-2'-O-trimethylsilyl- $\beta$ -L-ribofuranosyl)uracil (23), 1'-(5'-O-benzyl-3'-O-methyl- $\beta$ -L-ribofuranosyl)uracil (24) and 1'-(2'-O-acetyl-5'-Obenzyl-3'-O-methyl- $\beta$ -L-ribofuranosyl)uracil (25). To a stirred solution of O,O-bis-(trimethylsilyl)uracil (235 mg, 0.83 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4 mL) with molecular sieves (4 A, 0.5 g) was added compound 20 (106 mg, 0.415 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4 mL). The mixture was stirred for 8 h at room temperature, at the end of which time TLC (1:1 petroleum ether-EtOAc) indicated that the starting material 20 disappeared. The mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30 mL), filtered, and filtrate concentrated to a syrup that was subjected to column chromatography with 1:2 petroleum ether-EtOAc as the eluent. Compounds 23 (106.3 mg, 61%) and 24 (36.1 mg, 25%) were obtained. For compound 23, <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  8.55 (s, 1H, N-H), 7.85 (d, 1H, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 8.3 Hz, H-6), 7.38-7.15 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.75 (d, 1H, J<sub>1',2'</sub> = 3.2 Hz, H-1'), 5.23 (d, 1H, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 8.3 Hz, H-5), 4.55-4.42 (m, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.30-3.48 (m, 6H, H-2', 3', 4', 5', 5'', OH), 3.36 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 0.09 (s, 9H, Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>).

Compound 23 was quantitatively converted to 24 within 5 min in a solution of CH<sub>3</sub>CN (10 mL) containing HCOOH (0.4 mL). Compound 24 was obtained as white needles; mp 50-53 °C;  $[\alpha]_D$  -10.4° (*c* 1.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  9.43 (s, 1H, N-*H*), 7.79 (d, 1H, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 8.1 Hz, H-6), 7.44-7.28 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.92 (d, 1H, J<sub>1,'2'</sub> = 4.4 Hz, H-1'), 5.40 (d, 1H, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 8.1 Hz, H-5), 4.58 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.32-4.23 (m, 2H, H-3',4'), 3.89 (dd, 1H, H-2'), 3.87 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4,'5'</sub> = 2.6 Hz, J<sub>5',5''</sub> = 10.2 Hz, H-5'), 3.69 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4',5''</sub> = 1.9 Hz, J<sub>5',5''</sub> = 10.2 Hz, H-5''), 3.48 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>).

Anal. Calcd for  $C_{17}H_{20}O_6N_2$ . 0.5  $H_2O$ : C, 57.14; H, 5.60. Found: C, 57.20; H, 5.63.

Compound 24 (25 mg, 0.072 mmol) was treated with acetic anhydride (0.5 mL) in pyridine (1 mL) to afford 25 (26.6 mg, 95%);  $[\alpha]_D$  -71.1° (*c* 0.45, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  8.59 (s, 1H, N-*H*), 7.82 (d, 1H, J<sub>5,6</sub> 8.3 Hz, H-6), 7.44-7.30 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.08 (d, 1H, J<sub>1',2'</sub> = 4.2 Hz, H-1'), 5.38 (d, 1H, J<sub>5,6</sub> = 8.3 Hz, H-5), 5.30 (t, 1H, J<sub>1',2'</sub> = 4.2 Hz, J<sub>2',3'</sub> = 4.2 Hz, H-2'), 4.61, 4.58 (ABq, 2H, J = 11.2 Hz, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.19 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.02 (t, 1H, J<sub>2',3'</sub> = J<sub>3',4'</sub> = 4.2 Hz, H-3'), 3.92 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4',5'</sub> = 2.2 Hz, J<sub>5',5''</sub> = 10.2 Hz, H-5'), 3.70 (dd, 1H, J<sub>4',5''</sub> = 2.0 Hz, J<sub>5',5''</sub> = 10.2 Hz, H-5''), 3.38 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.15 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>).

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