Pergamon

Tetrahedron: *Asymmetry* 9 (1998) 911–914

TETRAHEDRON: *ASYMMETRY*

Enantio- and diastereoselective synthesis of 4′-α-substituted carbocyclic nucleosides

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Received 16 January 1998; accepted 2 February 1998

Abstract

Enantio- and diastereoselective synthesis of 4-α-alkylcarbovir derivatives **5** were achieved based on Sakai's asymmetric alkylation of β-keto esters. The key carbocyclic intermediate **14** was synthesized from **8** *via* an eleven-step sequence. Coupling of **14** with 2-amino-6-chloropurine followed by desilylation and subsequent hydrolysis gave the target compounds **5** in moderate yields.

In recent years, carbocyclic nucleoside analogues have emerged as a promising group of compounds for antiviral and antitumor agents. Carbovir **1** and other 2-cyclopentenyl nucleoside analogues have been extensively investigated for their potential as anti-HIV agents.[1] The numerous syntheses of carbovir and other carbocyclic nucleosides have been reported.[2] The most common approach to carbocyclic nucleosides is a convergent synthesis which couples a purine or pyrimidine base with a cyclopentene moiety, thus the former is easy to modify[3] but the latter is generally little functionalized. Recently, Magg[4] and Meguro[5] reported the anti-HIV activity of various 4-α-substituted nucleosides **2** and **3** (Fig. 1).

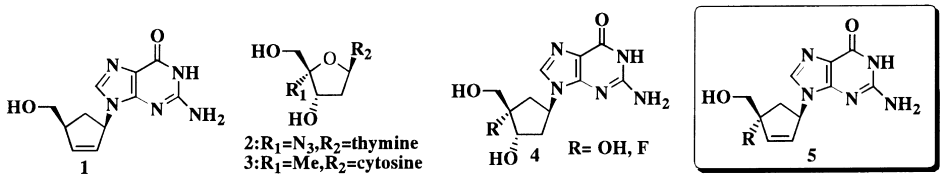

Fig. 1.

On the other hand, few examples have been reported for the synthesis and biological evaluation of 4′-α-substituted carbocyclic nucleosides.[6] For example, 4′-α-hydroxyl and 4′-α-fluoro derivatives **4** have been synthesised by aristeromycin, which show potent anti-herpetic activity.[6b] The most common synthesis of the 4′-α-substituted carbocyclic nucleosides is transformation from a natural product,[6a–d]

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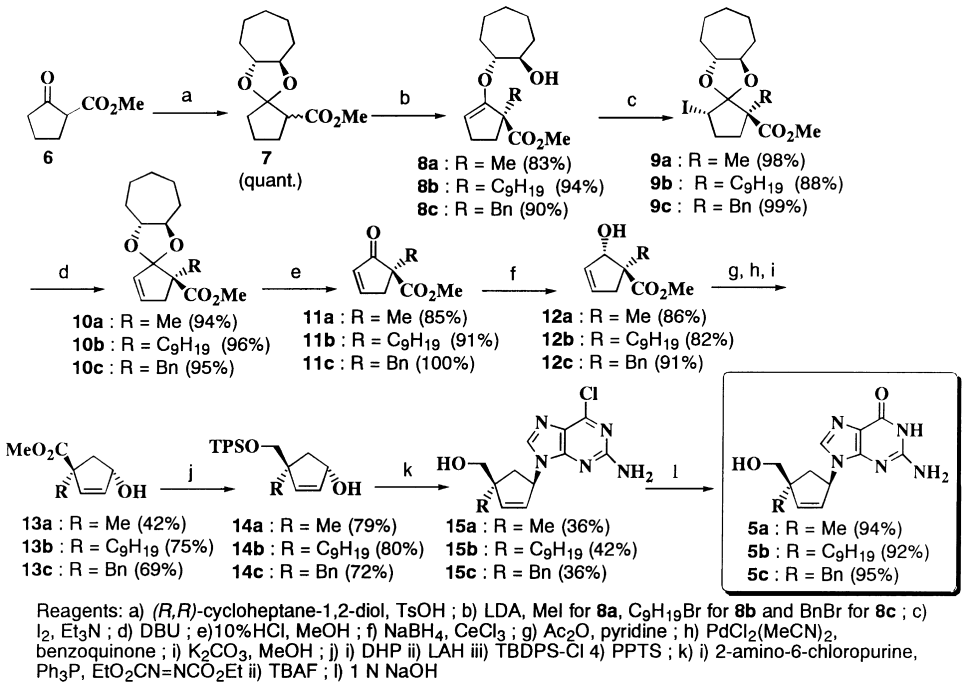
0957-4166/98/$19.00
PII: S0957-4166(98)00065-2

therefore the functionalization of the cyclopentene moiety is restricted. We wish to report here the enantio- and diastereoselective synthesis of 4′-α-alkyl carbocyclic nucleosides **5**.

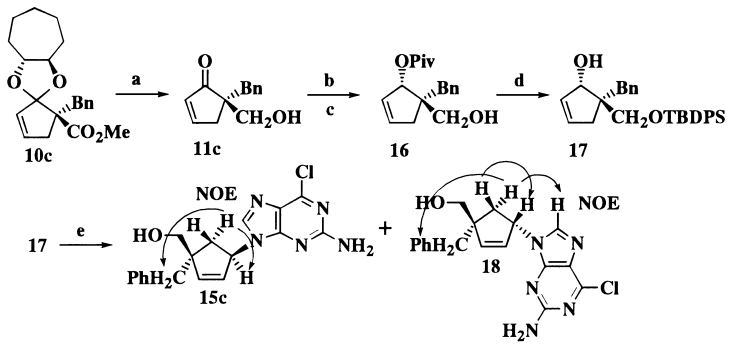
Our synthetic plan is as follows (Scheme 1): (1) The construction of the stereogenic quaternary carbon should be achieved by the asymmetric alkylation of chiral acetal **7**. (2) The double bond of **11** may be introduced utilizing the enol ether moiety of **8**. (3) The hydroxy ester **12** could be stereoselectively prepared from **11** by the regio- and diastereoselective Luche reduction. (4) The key carbocyclic intermediate **14** may be prepared from **12** *via* the stereospecific Pd-catalyzed allylic rearrangement. (5) The target compounds **5** would be obtained by the Mitsunobu reaction of **14**.



Scheme 1.

Asymmetric alkylation [LDA (3 equiv.), THF/HMPA (5 equiv.), RX (3 equiv.), −78 to −40°C] of chiral acetal **7** derived from readily available methyl 2-oxocyclopentanecarboxylate **6** and (*R*,*R*)-cycloheptane-1,2-diol,[7] with methyl iodide, nonyl bromide, and benzyl bromide afforded the corresponding alkylated enol ethers **8** in a completely diastereoselective manner (d.e.>99%).[8] Iodoacetalization of the enol ethers **8** using iodine (2 equiv.) in the presence of triethylamine (1 equiv.) in THF at −40°C for 12 h gave the iodoacetals **9** as a single diastereomer.[9] Treatment of the iodoacetals **9** with DBU at 95–100°C for 1 h afforded the olefinic acetals **10**. Acid hydrolysis of **10** gave the chiral enone esters **11**, accompanied by (*R*,*R*)-cycloheptane-1,2-diol (71–81%). Luche reduction[10] of **11** using $NaBH_4/CeCl_3$ in MeOH gave the hydroxy esters **12** in highly regio- and diastereoselective manner. Acetylation of **12** followed by treatment with Pd-catalyst in the presence of benzoquinone in THF gave the desired rearranged products.[11] Subsequent methanolysis of these products gave **13** as a single diastereomer. The hydroxy esters **13** were converted into the key intermediate **14** by a four-step sequence [(i) DHP, PPTS in CH_2Cl_2, r.t.; (ii) LAH in THF, r.t.; (iii) TBDPS-Cl, imidazole in DMF, r.t.; (iv) PPTS in MeOH, 40°C]. The Mitsunobu reaction[12] of **14** with 2-amino-6-chloropurine followed by desilylation afforded **15**,[13] which when hydrolyzed with 1 N NaOH gave the target compounds **5** in 34–39% yields.[14] The attachment of carbo-sugar to the base at N_9 is confirmed by the HMBC spectrum of **15**, which showed

long range coupling between the $C_{1'}$–H and the purine carbons C_4 and C_8. The biological activity studies are in progress.



Reagents: a) i) LAH, THF ii) 10% HCl, MeOH (90%); b) $NaBH_4$, $CeCl_3$ (70%); c) Me_3CCOCl, DMAP (80%); d) i) TBDPSCl, imidazole ii) KOH, MeOH (90 %); e) i) 2-amino-6-chloropurine, Ph_3P, $EtO_2CN{=}NCO_2Et$ ii) TBAF (36%)

Scheme 2.

Acknowledgements

Useful comments and suggestions by Professor H. Suemune (Kyushu University) are gratefully acknowledged.

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13. In a preliminary experiment, the S_N1'-type Mitsunobu reaction of **17** derived from **10c** *via* six-step sequence [(i) LAH, (ii) H^+, (iii) $NaBH_4/CeCl_3$, (iv) pivaloyl chloride, (v) TBDPSCl, (vi) KOH, MeOH] with 2-amino-6-chloropurine, followed by desilylation afforded the β-isomer **15c** (18%) accompanied by the α-isomer **18** (18%). The relative stereochemistry of **15c** and **18** was determined by NOE experiments (Scheme 2). In the case of **15a** and **15b**, the similar results of NOE experiments with **15c** were observed.
14. Satisfactory analytical data were obtained for all new compounds. **5a**: white crystalline solid, m.p. 280–290°C (dec.); $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ −4.7 (c 0.2, MeOH); λ_{max}(MeOH)/nm 206.0 (ε=19310), 253.4 (ε=10211); ^{1}H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 1.05 (3H, s, Me), 1.87 (1H, dd, *J*=13.4, 5.8 Hz, $C_{5'}$–H-β), 2.12 (1H, dd, *J*=13.4, 8.5 Hz, $C_{5'}$–H-α), 3.26 (1H, d, *J*=10.4 Hz, $C_{6'}$–H), 3.34 (1H, d, *J*=10.7 Hz, $C_{6'}$–H), 4.72 (1H, s, $C_{6'}$–O*H*), 5.43 (1H, m, $C_{1'}$–H), 5.73 (1H, dd, *J*=5.5, 2.1 Hz, $C_{2'}$–H), 5.93 (1H, dd, *J*=5.5, 2.1 Hz, $C_{3'}$–H), 6.39 (2H, br s, NH_2), 7.59 (1H, s, C_8–H), 10.54 (1H, s, N*H*); ^{13}C-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 23.4 (q, Me), 41.5 (t, $C_{5'}$), 50.9 (s, $C_{4'}$), 58.3 (d, $C_{1'}$), 68.2 (t, $C_{6'}$), 116.4 (s, C_5), 127.7 (d, $C_{2'}$), 134.7 (d, C_8), 143.6 (d, $C_{3'}$), 150.6 (s, C_4), 153.4 (s, C_2 or C_6), 156.6 (s, C_2 or C_6); FAB-MS *m*/*z*: 262 (M^++1). **5b**: White crystalline solid, m.p. 280–290°C (dec.); $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ +59.9 (c 0.2, MeOH); λ_{max}(MeOH)/nm 206.2 (ε=18953), 254.8 (ε=9731); ^{1}H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 0.87 (3H, t, *J*=6.7 Hz, C_8H_{16}–C*H*$_3$), 1.25 (14H, m, CH_2–C_7H_{14}–C*H*$_3$), 1.36 (2H, t, *J*=7.9 Hz, C*H*$_2$–C_8H_{17}), 1.79 (1H, dd, *J*=14.0, 5.8 Hz, $C_{5'}$–H-β), 2.19 (1H, dd, *J*=14.0, 8.9 Hz, $C_{5'}$–H-α), 3.28 (1H, dd, *J*=10.4, 5.2 Hz, $C_{6'}$–H), 3.38 (1H, dd, *J*=10.4, 5.1 Hz, $C_{6'}$–H), 4.79 (1H, t, *J*=5.2 Hz, $C_{6'}$–O*H*), 5.35 (1H, m, $H_{1'}$), 5.75 (1H, dd, *J*=5.8, 2.1 Hz, $C_{2'}$–H), 5.87 (1H, dd, *J*=5.8, 2.1 Hz, $C_{3'}$–H), 6.77 (2H, s, NH_2), 7.57 (1H, s, H_8), 10.90 (1H, s, N*H*); ^{13}C-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 13.9 (q, C_8H_{16}–*C*H$_3$), 22.0, 23.9, 28.7, 29.0, 29.8, 31.2, 35.9 (each as t, *C*$_8H_{16}$–CH$_3$), 39.3 (t, $C_{5'}$), 54.8 (s, $C_{4'}$), 58.5 (d, $C_{1'}$), 67.2 (t, $C_{6'}$), 116.5 (s, C_5), 128.6 (d, $C_{2'}$), 134.7 (d, C_8), 142.2 (d, $C_{3'}$), 150.6 (s, C_4), 153.7 (s, C_6), 156.6 (s, C_2); FAB-MS *m*/*z*: 374 (M^++1). **5c**: White crystalline solid, m.p. 290–295°C; $[\alpha]_D^{23}$+112.0 (c 0.410, MeOH); λ_{max}(MeOH)/nm 206.8 (ε=23555), 255.2 (ε=9222); ^{1}H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 1.78 (1H, dd, *J*=14.0, 5.5 Hz, $C_{5'}$–H-β), 2.31 (1H, dd, *J*=14.0, 9.0 Hz, $C_{5'}$–H-α), 2.66, 2.77 (2H, each as d, *J*=13.2 Hz, C*H*$_2$–Ph), 3.34 (1H, dd, *J*=10.6, 5.5 Hz, $C_{6'}$–H), 3.41 (1H, dd, *J*=10.6, 5.1 Hz, $C_{6'}$–H), 4.93–4.98 (2H, m, $C_{1'}$–H and $C_{6'}$–O*H*), 5.71 (1H, dd, *J*=5.5, 2.2 Hz, $C_{2'}$–H), 5.94 (1H, dd, *J*=5.5, 2.1 Hz, $C_{3'}$–H), 6.71 (2H, s, NH_2), 7.15–7.30 (5H, m, Ph), 7.55 (1H, s, C_8–H), 10.83 (1H, s, N*H*); ^{13}C-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 38.3(t, $C_{5'}$), 41.4 (t, *C*H$_2$–Ph), 55.9 (s, $C_{4'}$), 58.2 (d, $C_{1'}$), 67.0 (t, $C_{6'}$), 116.5 (s, C_5), 129.4 (d, $C_{2'}$), 125.9, 127.7, 130.3 (each as d, Ph), 134.8 (d, C_8), 138.5 (s, Ph), 141.8 (d, $C_{3'}$), 150.6 (s, C_4), 153.6 (s, C_2 or C_6), 156.7 (s, C_2 or C_6), FAB-MS *m*/*z*: 376 (M^++K)