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Synthesis of 5-Phosphate-D-arabinohydroxamic Acid, a Potent Transition State Analogue Inhibitor of 6-Phosphate-D-glucose Isomerases

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Abstract: The first hydroxamate-based and potent transition state analogue (TSA) inhibitor of 6phosphate-D-glucose isomerases, 5-phosphate-D-arabinohydroxamic acid 3, has been synthesized by conversion of D-arabinose to a protected derivative of 5-phosphate-D-arabinonic acid and introduction of the hydroxamate group by coupling with O-benzylhydroxylamine.

Phosphoglucose isomerases (PGI's, or 6-phosphate-D-glucose isomerases, EC 5.3.1.9), which catalyze the first isomerization step in D-glucose fermentation pathway, are present in most organisms.¹ The enzyme interconverts 6-phosphate-D-glucose and 6-phosphate-D-fructose (**Fig. 1**). PGI isomerization mechanism, through a probable proton transfer, involves a cis-enediol(ate) intermediate², similar to that observed in the triosephosphate isomerase (TIM)-catalyzed isomerization of dihydroxyacetone-phosphate to Dglyceraldehyde-phosphate,³ while the hydride shift mechanism has been proposed to operate with some other isomerases, e.g. D-xylose isomerases.⁴



Figure 1. Isomerization reaction catalyzed by 6-phosphate-D-glucose isomerases.

By virtue of their structural similarity to the rearrangement transition state, hydroxamate-based inhibitors^{3,5} have been shown to exhibit exceptional inhibition properties, e.g. phosphoglycolohydroxamate 1 and D-threonohydroxamic acid 2 (Fig. 2), which are TSA inhibitors of TIM³ and D-xylose isomerase,^{5a}



Figure 2. Selected hydroxamate-based inhibitors.

respectively. Numerous reports have described the use of hydroxamate-based inhibitors with various other enzymes and proteins due in part to their metal-complexing properties.⁶

PGI plays a central role in the metabolism of phosphorylated sugars, since its substrates, 6-phosphate-D-glucose and 6-phosphate-D-fructose, are not only intermediate species in the glycolytic and gluconeogenic metabolic pathways, but also in the pentose phosphate pathway.⁷ PGI is involved in various and important pathologic processes,⁸ in particular in the development of parasitic diseases like malaria and sleeping sickness. Consequently, PGI is an attractive target for chemotherapeutic action.

The reported enzyme structures⁹ still need considerable refinement in order to identify active site residues involved in the isomerization mechanism, by contrast with other isomerases like TIM¹⁰ or D-xylose isomerase.^{4c-f}

The need for a very good TSA inhibitor for PGI led us to undergo the synthesis of 5-phosphate-Darabinohydroxamic acid 3 (Fig. 3) which, in addition to its structural similarity to the enediol(ate) intermediate, has the same stereochemistry as 6-phosphate-D-glucose (or 6-phosphate-D-fructose). To our knowledge, no hydroxamate-based phosphorylated sugar has ever been reported to date (except 1).



Figure 3. Synthesis of 5-phosphate-D-arabinohydroxamic acid 3.

The starting product for the synthesis of **3** was D-arabinose, which has the same absolute configuration of carbon atoms C₂, C₃ and C₄. Our strategy involved successive introduction of the phosphate group, and then of the hydroxamate group. D-Arabinose was first converted into the protected derivative **4**, which was selectively phosphorylated at C₅. Deacetalation followed by oxidation led to the protected 5-phosphate-D-arabinonic acid derivative **7**, the precursor of 5-phosphate-D-arabinohydroxamic acid **3**¹¹ (5-phosphate-D-arabinonic acid, a known PGI inhibitor,^{8e,12} might also probably be obtained from **7**).

2, 3, 4-Tri-O-benzyl-D-arabinose diethyl dithioacetal 4 was prepared from D-arabinose in four steps according to the reported procedure.¹³ 4 was also obtained in three steps from β -methyl-D-arabinopyranoside, which was first benzylated, then deacetalated and finally thioacetalated: however, the low overall yield (37%) and the high cost of the starting product led us to turn down this procedure.¹⁴ Phosphorylation of 4 was achieved using dibenzyloxy(diisopropylamino)phosphine¹⁵ to give 5 in 75% yield. Dethioacetalation¹³ of 5 with HgCl₂ in the presence of CaCO₃ gave the protected 5-phosphate-D-arabinose derivative 6, which was converted into the corresponding acid 7 by oxidation with pyridinium dichromate (PDC)¹⁶ with a yield of

62% (two steps). 7 was then reacted with O-benzylhydroxylamine in the presence of carbonyldiimidazole $(CDI)^{17}$ to give the protected phosphorylated hydroxamic acid derivative 8 in 84% yield. Hydrogenolysis of 8 using Pd/C 10 % catalyst in aqueous MeOH, followed by ion-exchange chromatography gave the disodium salt of 5-phosphate-D-arabinohydroxamic acid 3 in 74% yield. The spectroscopic data of 3 were in full agreement with the proposed structure. The presence of the hydroxamic function was further confirmed by its characteristic reaction with FeCl₃.¹⁸

The results of the inhibition studies using 3 and known inhibitors with 6-phosphate-D-glucose isomerases from *Plasmodium falciparum* and other sources will soon be reported. 3 might also be a very good inhibitor of other enzymes, e.g. 6-phosphate-D-mannose isomerase and 6-phosphate-D-glucosamine synthase, which makes 3 a very promising compound.

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- 11. All new compounds gave spectroscopic data and elemental analysis in agreement with the assigned structure; selected data are given for the following compounds (δ in ppm, J_i in Hz, *: exchangeable resonances): 7: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 3.93 (br q, 1H, H4, J34=5.9), 4.11 (d, 1H, H₂, J₂₃=5.9), 4.15 (ddd, 1H, H5, J55'=-11.1, Jp5=6.9, J45=4.9), 4.27 (m, 1H, H3), 4.29 (ddd, 1H, H5', Jp5'=6.4, J45'=3.9), 4.41 (d, 1H, COCHAHBPh, JAB=-11.5), 4.47 (d, 1H, COCHA'HB'Ph, JA'B'=-11.4), 4.57 (d, 1H, COCHA'<u>H</u>B'Ph), 4.60 (d, 1H, COCHA<u>H</u>BPh), 4.95 (d, 2H, POC<u>H</u>2Ph, JPH=7.9), 4.97 (d, 2H, POCH'2Ph, JpH'=8.0), 5.10 (s, 2H, COCH2Ph), 7.24-7.35 (m, 25H, Ph); ¹³C BB NMR (CDCl3, 62.9 MHz) &: 65.62 (C5, JPC=4.5), 66.92 (1COCH2Ph), 69.29 (2POCH2Ph, JPC=5.7), 72.70 and 72.84 (2COCH2Ph), 77.46, 78.15 and 78.27 (C2, C3 and C4)*, 127.46-128.58 (25CH Ph), 135.35, 135.73, 135.8, 136.85 and 137.51 (5Cq Ph), 170.39 (C1); MS (flight-time/²⁵²Cf) m/z : 697 (M)⁺ (6), 607 (8), 576 (15), 312 (27), 278 (100), 237 (85), 223 (29), 221 (28), 187 (55). 8: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 4.00 (br q, 1H, H4, J34=5.9, J45=5.9), 4.19 (d, 1H, H2, J23=5.9), 4.21 (m, 1H, H5), 4.36 (m, 2H, H3 and H5', J55'=-11.0, JP5'=6.0, J45'=4.0), 4.48 (d, 1H, COCHAHBPh, JAB=-11.5), 4.53 (d, 1H, COCHA'HB'Ph, JA'B'=-11.3), 4.64 (d, 1H, COCHAHBPh), 4.67 (d, 1H, COCHA'HB'Ph), 4.80 (br d, 1H, NHOCHH'Ph, JHH'=-12), 4.83 (br d, 1H, NHOCHH'Ph), 5.01 (d, 2H, POCH2Ph, JPH=7.5), 5.02 (d, 2H, POCH'2Ph, JPH'=7.7), 5.18 (s, 2H, COCH2Ph), 7.29-7.40 (m, 30H, Ph), 7.82 (br s, 1H, NH); 13 C BB NMR (CDCl₃, 50.3 MHz) δ: 65.68 (C₅), 66.92 (1CO<u>C</u>H₂Ph), 69.33 (2PO<u>C</u>H₂Ph, JPC=4.5), 72.73 and 72.86 (2COCH2Ph), 77.54, 78.20, 78.37 and 78.75 (C2, C3, C4 and NHOCH2Ph)*, 127.92-128.68 (30CH Ph), 135.18, 135.38, 135.74, 135.8, 136.89 and 137.55 (6Cq Ph), 170.37 (C1); MS $(\text{flight-time}/252\text{Cf}) m/z: 801.84 (M)^+ (2), 668.0 (2), 612.6 (6), 563.5 (23), 535.5 (5), 355.2 (8), 281$ (67), 221 (26), 207 (15), 147 (56), 91 (91), 73 (100). 3: FT-IR (ATR, solid film) v: 3204 (br), 2927, 2855, 1609 (br), 1415, 1275, 1067, 988, 931, 795 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (D₂O, 400 MHz) δ: 3.6-4.1 (m, 5H); ¹³C BB NMR (D₂O, 50.3 MHz) δ: 66.29 (C₅, J_{PC}=4.6), 72.22 and 73.91 (C₂ and C₃)*, 73.05 (C₄, JPC=7.9), 164.60 (C1, C(OH)=N-OH form), 178.83 (C1, C(=O)-NHOH form); ¹³C-{¹H} NMR (D2O, 100.6 MHz) &: 66.20 (C5, JCH=144), 72.30 (JCH=144) and 74.01 (JCH=147) (C2 and C3)*, 73.13 (C4, J_{CH}=147), 164.60 (C1, C(OH)=N-OH form), 178.94 (C1, C(=O)-NHOH form); MS (CI-D/NH3) m/z : 260 (M+1)⁺ (9), 241 (38), 182 (11), 158 (41), 141 (100), 124 (18).
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